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…OF THE
…LLENNIUM

J. CHARLES MOKRISKI REVIEWS MAISON ROBERT • WHERE WILD WOMEN GO

…E IMPROPER BOSTONIAN®

…TON'S FLEXIBLE GUIDE TO ENTERTAINMENT AND CULTURE

…OCUS ON FILM

…OFF ON SLEEPY HOLLOW'S
…SPER VAN DIEN

…INONA RYDER
…LATES TO GIRL,
…TERRUPTED

…L SHERMAN
…IEWS SNOW
…ING ON
…ARS

WINTER BARS AND BREWS

OUR GUIDE TO THE TOP LOCAL SEASONAL BEERS AND GREAT PUBS TO COZY UP IN

MEET THE NEW

…G U R U

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By Jennifer Jordan

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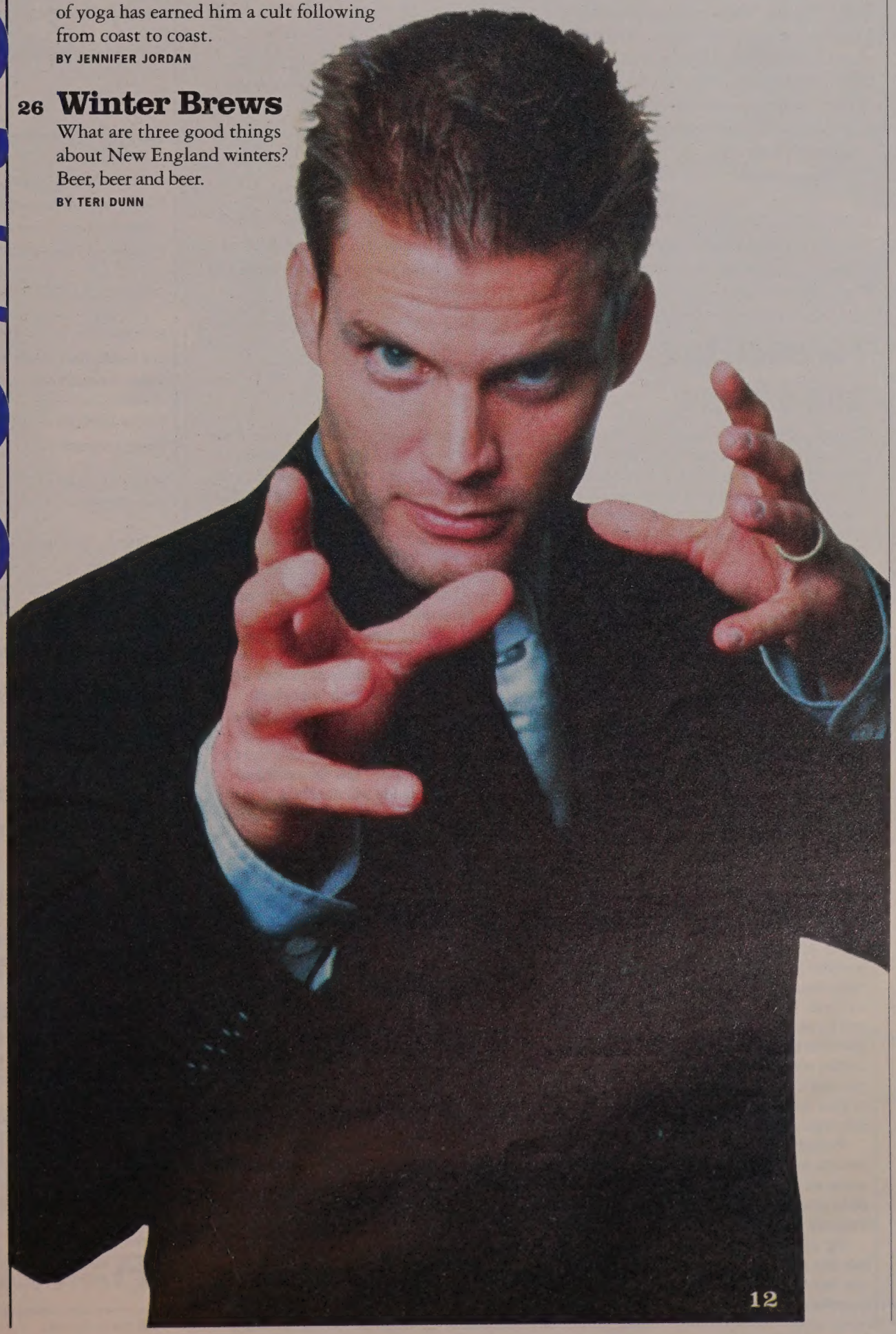

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JANUARY 12-25, 2000

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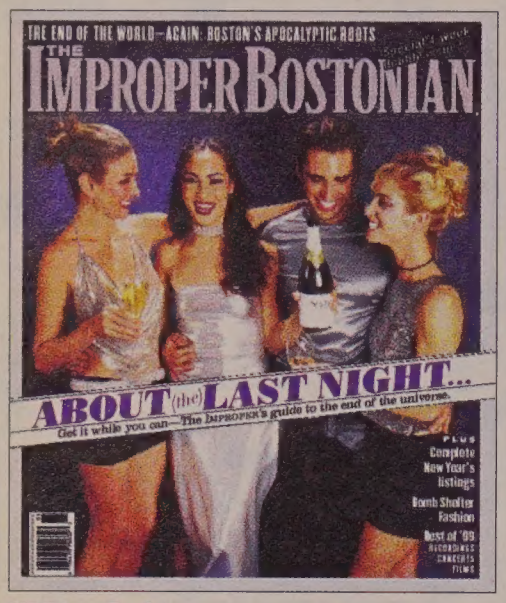

"We fail to see how promoting the killing of a vital, keystone species, or any species for that matter, could be considered an appropriate gift. The thought of giving a dead animal as a 'stocking stuffer' is abhorrent."

—Melinda Everett
Director of Media and Public Relations
Ethical Science and Education Coalition

Meat is Murder

Being regular readers of THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN, we were dismayed to come upon your promotion of Flyrabbit's dead and chemically preserved frogs as "delightful" holiday presents (Holiday Gift Guide, Dec. 1). We fail to see how promoting the killing of a vital, keystone species, or any species for that matter, could be considered an appropriate gift. The thought of giving a dead animal as a "stocking stuffer" is abhorrent. An estimated six-12 million animals are cruelly killed every year for classroom dissection. Such suffering can easily be stopped by replacing specimens with cost effective computer programs.

MELINDA EVERETT
Director of Media and Public Relations
Ethical Science and Education Coalition

Live Free With Style

As an avid reader of your magazine, I did enjoy Beth Forrest's article "Apocalypse Now," but could not help but notice your photo credit on page 20. "Y2K/Gun Show" was credited as a product of New Hampshire, in reality the Gun Show was in Georgia. I realize most Bostonians think of us as "pick-up driving, gun toting and plaid wearing," but some of us Granite Staters will be bringing in the new millennium with style and grace.

GUN FREE DAVE DODGE
Part-time Charlestown Resident

Call for Emerson on the Clue Phone: It Was a Joke

In your last issue, an article was published called "Millennial Bostonians." You listed Ralph Waldo Emerson as the founder of Emerson College. The college was named after Charles Wesley Emerson. Also, although we tormented, "artsy" types are known to consume excess coffee, I've never witnessed traffic jams due to the habit.

LAUREN MAZUREK
Emerson College

Editor's Note: The entire "Millennial Bostonians" feature was, of course, a joke, and no harm was intended to the memory of Charles Wesley Emerson, or anyone else for that matter.

Light Up or Leave Me Alone

I am a long time resident of the Back Bay, and I like the shining lights down Comm. Ave. (Improper Speaking, Dec. 15). As a matter of fact, I would like to see more lights. I was surprised that THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN would take such a conservative stance against something that frankly brightens up such a weather weary city.

GREGORY D. CANN
Back Bay

Tell Us What You Think

Send Letters to the Editor to:
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Letters must be signed; please include your town and phone number. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

Farewell to an employee, a sister and a friend

As many of you in the community have already heard, December 14, 1999, marked the passing of yet another former member of THE IMPROPER team, Leslie Semonian. For close to a decade, Leslie had been fighting a long and arduous struggle with Ewing's Sarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer.

I remember quite vividly the shock I felt in 1991 when she first revealed her illness to me. Leslie was 24, young and ambitious, full of vitality and plans for an elaborate future.

What began as a routine check for a pain in her leg resulted in a diagnosis of bone cancer. Due to the cancer's aggressiveness, the doctors informed her that she may lose part of her leg, and at best, she was given a low chance of long-term survival.

THE IMPROPER was in its infancy at that time and consumed all my focus and energy. Starting a magazine had made visible to me many obstacles and fears which seemed larger than anything conceivable. When Leslie's illness was announced, all was put in perspective and my struggles made infinitesimal by comparison.

Leslie, faced with her options, bravely chose not to give in to her disease and pleaded with me to fight with the same determination to make THE IMPROPER a success. For years, when I felt humiliated and beaten by the many defeats we suffered in the early days of the business, Leslie, with a polite scolding, would inform me that if she could have the courage not to give up in life, I certainly could have the courage not to give up in business.

Though her illness was the far more serious issue, Leslie attempted to make it seem as though we were involved in parallel struggles. When she put it that way, failure became an unacceptable option.

Her conviction in matters of health flowed into the work she contributed to THE IMPROPER and her extensive charity involvement in the community. Leslie, among other passions she pursued during her illness, created our popular "Woman on the Street" column and worked as our calendar editor. Additionally, she played highly active roles in the Snow Ball and Pan Mass Challenge charities while earning an MBA and helping launch an Internet startup.

In all these roles, Leslie set an example with her creativity, contagious spirit and fierce determination to do her very best. She had a strong desire to help others and her gift for connecting people together created a vast community of people who, over the years, have been important contributors to the life of this magazine. During her time at THE IMPROPER, she brought fun and hope to what was then a very stressful period. The memories of Leslie's dynamic life will continue to inspire me and the many others who were touched by her presence.

Rest in peace Leslie, you will be sorely missed. —Mark Semonian

THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE

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improper SPEAKING

A NEW CASINO?

Creeping up on the Massachusetts gambling radar screen is something likely to surprise the **Wampanoag Tribe of Aquinah**, which heretofore has considered itself the only local organization in the running for the right to open a gambling casino in the Commonwealth. The tribe's efforts to open a casino somewhere in Southeastern Massachusetts have gone nowhere, if not backwards, over the course of the last five years. When last heard from, the tribe was wandering around various abandoned dog tracks in Bristol County looking for a place to set up something called a "high stakes" bingo parlor.

Viva Salisbury Beach! If State Sen. James Jajuga (D-Methuen) has his way, we could have our own mini-Vegas on the North Shore.

Now looming on the legislative agenda sometime early this year is a bill filed by State Sen. **James Jajuga** (D-Methuen) to allow an authentic gambling casino to open in Salisbury Beach.

For those unfamiliar with Massachusetts geography, Salisbury is a suburb of Seabrook, NH, and comes complete with all of southern New Hampshire's tastes—which means it would be the perfect place for a casino. At present, for example, Salisbury residents support the Seabrook economy by going there for tattoos and discount dangerous fireworks; Seabrook residents go to Salisbury to partake in its major service industry: Keno parlors.

And where is this all likely to leave the Wampanoags? Still wandering in the wilderness looking for a place to play.

Patrick Lyons (left) and the rest of Boston's major club owners came out to celebrate Dennis Quilty (right) Day in Boston.

JUST LIKE HOME

Apparently, commentary in this space last month about the hideous lights on Comm. Ave. did not deter a another improper Bostonian from taking up digs on the Mall.

The latest move-in is Boston Celtics Coach **Rick Pitino**, who joins horror-meister **Stephen King** as the newest celeb on the block. But get in your looks on Pitino soon—before he finishes his third consecutive losing season and decamps to Bluegrass Country and his race horses.

Welcome to Comm. Ave., Rick. Plan on staying long?

NOT KEEPING TABS

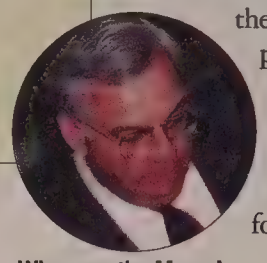
The revolving door at the **TAB Newspapers** continues to turn as fast as your Aunt Sally's eggbeater. The latest departure: Publisher **Carol Brennan**, who up and quit her job last month without any place to go.

For those keeping score, since October of 1998, the following departures have taken place. Editor-in-chief **George Donnelly** took a job at *CFO* magazine; both ad manager **Eric Joseph** and ad director **Chris Warren** took jobs at the *Phoenix*; art director **Mark Gabrenya** went to an on-line publisher; Boston *TAB* editor **Peter Panapento** took a job in school sports; Watertown *TAB* editor **Michelle Netto** went to a PR agency; and the Brookline *TAB* editor's post was handled by freelancers most of the year.

The *TAB* actually used to be a fun place to work, before it was bought by Fidelity's Community Newspaper Company.**iB**

MOVING UP?

Until 1997, **Seth Andrea McCoy** was an aide to Boston **Mayor Tom Menino**, working in the area of Neighborhood Services. She left the employ of the city and has since landed a gig as director of public relations for Wicked Entertainment, one of the bigger triple-X porn production companies in the world. So maybe working at City Hall is good training for pushing such titles as *The Pushover* and *Serenity in Denim*. Who knows?



Who says the Mayor's connections don't lead to high places?

FIREWORKS ON MORRISSEY BLVD.

Take a look south as the new year begins for a spot of fireworks coming from the *Boston Globe*. The issue: Names and Faces co-columnist **Carol Beggy**'s contract comes up this month. Inside word says she's to be replaced by music writer **Jim Sullivan**. Putting a music writer on page two of the Living/Arts section has a lot of people in high dudgeon. But why? You can find out the top grossing movie of the weekend on Channel 5 Sunday night. You needn't be reminded in the *Globe* on Tuesday.

Speaking of Boston

Got an inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to *speaking@improper.com*

LOOKING FOR CONSISTENCY

Meanwhile, **Jajuga** has to qualify for an award for contrarian of the new century. He's a conservative Democrat who wants to legalize gambling in the state. And he supported **Paul Cellucci** for governor two years ago, against his own party nominee, **Scott Harshbarger**. Yet only last month Jajuga announced he was backing former New Jersey Sen. **Bill Bradley** for the Democratic presidential nomination over the more conservative Vice President **Al Gore**.

Jajuga: A Democrat who supported Cellucci and now supports...Bradley? Go figure.

Does any of this make sense? Of course not. Welcome to Massachusetts politics.

PARTY LINES

In case you missed them, some of the underreported holiday parties of the season just passed: **Mayor Tom Menino** declared one day last month **Dennis A. Quilty** Day in the city of Boston. More than 250 well wishers, family and friends attended the private party, held to honor the man who has probably secured more entertainment licenses than the city's licensing commission. Among the guests were **Don Law**, **Patrick Lyons** and **Pam McDermott**, as well as Quilty's partners **Terry McDermott** and **Steve Miller**.

And apparently feeling themselves better entertainers

A DOG'S LIFE

You have to wonder how they get any work done over at **Regan Communications**, what with all the attention paid to the proprietor's eponymous golden retriever, **Regan**. Employees walk the dog, take care of the dog, de-worm the dog, make threatening gestures toward the place where the proprietor bought the dog in the first place and feed stories about the eponymous dog to the *Boston Globe*.

But nothing prepared Regan staffers for the visit of former Boston Mayor **Kevin White** one day last month. Taking advantage of the unseasonably warm weather, Regan staffers tied the eponymous dog to a drainpipe outside their offices on Union Wharf so the dog could sun himself. Up comes the former mayor, dropping by to pay a visit to his former press secretary. Spotting the eponymous, famous dog, the former mayor releases the canine from the drain pipe, slips him into the back seat of his car and disappears. Dog-napping in process. Code blue.

A place in the sun proved dangerous for Regan. No word on charges being filed against Kevin White.

Regan staffers notice the eponymous dog is gone. Pandemonium ensues. Reagan staffers blanket the waterfront, searching frantically for the eponymous, missing dog. Despair follows. Fear. Luckily, the proprietor is in a meeting. He knows nothing of the drama unfolding outside his digs.

That is, until the former mayor picks up his car phone and calls his former press secretary to give him the news: "I've got your dog." Proprietor laughs, hiding cluelessness. Staff laughs, hiding sheer terror. Eponymous dog returns, oblivious.

And this is a going business concern?

VEGAS: PHOTODISC, QUILTY: PETER SMITH

Okay gang, lawyer dress-up week is over.
Time to get Improper again.

Happy New Year from all of us at The Improper Bostonian Magazine

city limits

BY ERIN HAGEDORN AND JULIE SHORT

Good stuff, glamour, goings-on

New in Town

Attention Wild Women

Woodsy women love the outdoors just as much their male counterparts. Why is it, then, that when they try to purchase a backpack for an upcoming hike, there are 10 selections fit for men and only two designed for women?

Wild Women Outfitters, a new store in Arlington, aims to solve that problem. "Women have long had to compromise when it comes to fit or selection," says Lisa Austin (above right), who owns the store with her sister Terry (above left). "We're offering a place that totally caters to the independent, outdoorsy woman."

The selection goes far beyond what's offered in your average sports store. There's an extensive line of North Face shells and fleece jackets, Champion sportswear, snowshoes, hiking boots and camping equipment, to name only an iota of Wild Women's wares. And with its pine wood floors and floor-to-ceiling windows, the shop, located on a corner along bustling Mass. Ave., has the feel of a cozy ski lodge.

In the spring, Austin plans to offer sea kayaking and fly fishing workshops, among others, for women only. Sexist? Maybe, but women are lining up. Watch for their upcoming on-line catalog. *397 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington (641-5776). Opened Nov. 15. Hours: Mon.-Wed., 10am-7pm; Thu.-Fri. 10am-9pm; Sat. 10am-7pm; Sun. 10am-6pm.*

FUN FACT America's first public library was established in Boston in the year 1653.

Just how far can New England Patriot, Adam Vinatieri, punt that little sausage?

All the Buzz

Sausage 2000

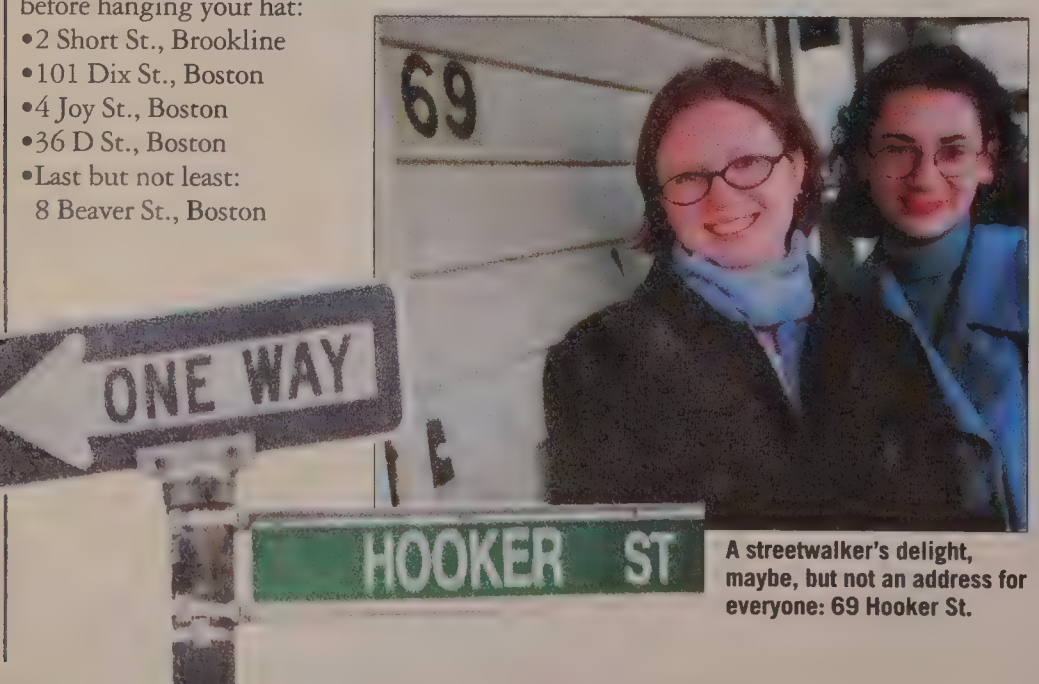
If you've ever seen **David Littlefield** hawking sauggies and peppers *à la carte* on Lansdowne Street late at night, you'll know that the "Sausage Guy" is famous for satisfying even the most severe case of the drunken munchies. Thus, it's no surprise that Littlefield now has his own calendar, **Sausage Guy 2000**, which will be unveiled Jan. 11 at Salsa's Mexican Grill in South Boston. Each month features a different celebrity biting into a hunk of meat—including Patriots kicker **Adam Vinatieri**, KISS 108 and *Phantom Gourmet*'s **Billy Costa**, Howard Stern's **Jackie the Joke Man** and *The Real World Hawaii*'s **Ruthie**, among others. Proceeds from the party will benefit Stop Hand Gun Violence, the American Cancer Association and the South Boston Neighborhood House. *118 Dorchester St., South Boston (269-7878). Jan. 11, 8pm. $15.*

This Just In

Street Smarts

We recently received an odd call from a woman who is new to the area and just beginning a job hunt. She was worried that potential employers wouldn't take her seriously. The problem? Her street address: 69 Hooker St. Her plight got us thinking. We came up with a list of other local addresses we recommend you weigh carefully before hanging your hat:

- 2 Short St., Brookline
- 101 Dix St., Boston
- 4 Joy St., Boston
- 36 D St., Boston
- Last but not least: 8 Beaver St., Boston



A streetwalker's delight, maybe, but not an address for everyone: 69 Hooker St.

Around Town

In Memoriam

Once upon a time, there was a little tree that lived outside **eat** restaurant in Somerville's Union Square. In the spring of '97, an April Fool's Day snow storm killed the poor sap. The city planned to pour concrete into the 5-by-5-foot ditch where the little tree had lived, but eat owner **Charlie Robinson** (pictured right) had another idea.

Turning away the steel truck in favor of an artsy addition to the neighborhood, Robinson replaced the tree with a man-made version—an 18-foot steel tree created by **David Tonnesen**, a prominent metal artist at Somerville's Brickbottom studios, whose resume boasts installations at the **B-Side Lounge**, **Zaftigs** and **Anago**, among others. Now, the little tree lingers in the collective memory of eat patrons, and especially in the heart of owner Robinson. The tree sculpture was unveiled and dedicated to the city in mid-December. The end. *253 Washington St., Somerville (776-2889).*

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM RIGHT: JENNIFER TAYLOR (3), WENDY MIMRAN

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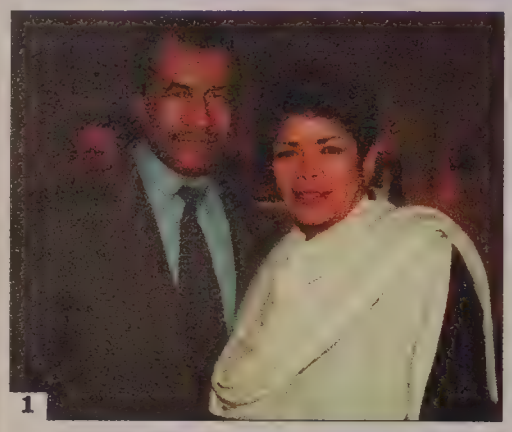
Proper Bostonians

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

The 16th annual **A Company Christmas at Pops** was held Dec. 15 at Symphony Hall. The honorary chairs at this year's sold-out benefit were Jim Cleary, advisory director at Paine Webber, his wife Barbara, and Harvey Chet Krentzman, founder of Presidents at Pops and A Company Christmas and president of Advanced Management Associates. The pre-performance cocktail party, gourmet boxed dinner and concert were sponsored by more than 100 New England companies that raised $850,000 for the Boston Symphony Orchestra and its programs. As a highlight of the evening, actor Ben Affleck read Clement Moore's "A Visit From St. Nicholas."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5

1. **Wayne Bud**, president of Bell Atlantic, and his wife **Jacqui**.
2. From left, fine art photographer **Christine Hotarek**, and her husband **Brian**, executive vice president and CFO for Stop and Shop, with **Terry Murray**, CEO of FleetBoston, and his wife **Suzanne**.
3. **Catherine Curtin**, director of client community relations at Bingham & Dana, and **Chad Gifford**, president of FleetBoston.
4. Actor **Ben Affleck** (l) and Boston Pops conductor, **Keith Lockhart**.
5. From left, **Thomas Hollister**, chairman, president and CEO of Citizen's Bank, **Nancy McCarthy**, managing director of CSC Consulting in Newton, and **George Lombard**, chairman of Signal Technology Corporation in Danvers.
6. From left, **Greg Summe**, chairman & CEO of PerkinElmer Inc. in Wellesley, **Tom May**, chairman & CEO of NSTAR Companies, and **Jim DiStasio**, managing partner at Ernst & Young.

6

More than 2,000 people attended the 13th annual **Snowball**, Boston's largest all-volunteer-run, black-tie fundraiser, held Dec. 17 at the World Trade Center. Guests enjoyed the Black Diamond VIP reception in the Waterfront Ballroom with host Robin Young from WBOS. Tickets were $60, and more than $100,000 was raised to benefit the Santa Claus Anonymous charity, which supports many Boston-area youth programs.

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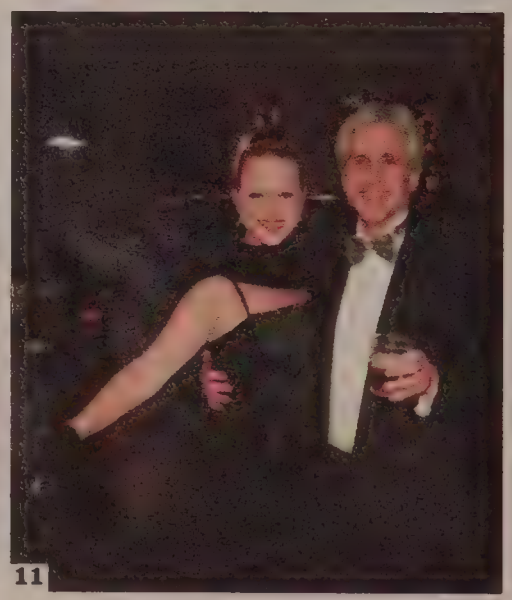
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7. From left, **Suzin Koehler**, graphic designer and owner of Zin Designs in South Boston, **Jon Samuels**, president of Boston Professional Search, **Lisa Callahan**, a preschool teacher at Lasell College, and **Kerry McNamara**, admissions director at Barbizon School of Modeling.
8. From left, **Christina Cestari**, **Victor Chiang** and **Ellen Roach**, respectively financial analyst, manager and consultant at Andersen Consulting.
9. From left, **Christy Pfannenstiehl**, a recruiter for State Street Bank, with attorneys **Kristin Greeley**, **Sarah McLaughlin** and **Lisa Donahue** of Sullivan & Worcester LLP.
10. **James J. Williams**, product manager for J &J Enterprise, and **Carmen Muresan**, anesthesiologist at Harvard Medical School.
11. **Mary Layne Madfis** and her husband **John Madfis**, a private investor.
12. From left, **Diane Damphousse**, data base director, with **Stephen Macary** and **Donna Foster**, treasurer and president of Santa Claus Anonymous.

Impolitic BY CRAIG SANDLER

LOOKING FOR LOVE

But Gov. Cellucci's not finding it.

It's time for Paul Cellucci to start lobbying the big spenders in the Legislature—the ones he thinks are too generous on education. Then he can go to work on the Democrats. Cellucci's promising a lot: a tax cut and continuing support for education reform that already has Education spending $1.7 billion more than 1993.

To keep those promises, he'd like a little help from his friends in the House and Senate, who voted "yes" to tax cuts *and* "yes" to higher spending—a lot of it—after Cellucci tried to veto $250 million worth of added spending in November. Cellucci, in other words, doesn't have any friends in the House and the Senate.

A look back shows the magnitude of Republican disagreement with Cellucci on his budget overrides: 30 of the Senate's 74 veto votes were unanimous, meaning Republicans, when given the opportunity, voted in a bloc against their governor 41 percent of the time. The House ratio was 26 percent—still pretty high. In all, GOP lawmakers voted unanimously to replace about half of the $250 million Cellucci vetoed.

The Republican line on what happened is summed up succinctly: "Are you still harassing us about that?" They'd like to be, as they say in new-speak, "moving forward." But there's a reason to linger on the GOP spectacle for reasons other than the sheer joy of causing trouble.

Historic decisions have to be made in 2000 about whether to keep the education reform dollars flowing. Will the GOP be as divided against itself this spring and summer?

Republican State Sen. Brian Lees—like many in his party—has trouble supporting Gov. Cellucci.

While we're on it, other questions arise: When Republicans put the interests of their districts first and overrode vetoes like $94 million in education funding, were the interests of their districts at odds with Republican philosophy or with Cellucci's philosophy? And should observers conclude that Republican policy, when the interests of the district are at stake, is to vote Democratic?

If Paul Cellucci were still in the Senate, would those override votes still have been unanimous? (Hint: yes.)

Senate Minority Leader Brian Lees (R-E. Longmeadow) didn't take the bait. "That's not something I can presume to say for Paul Cellucci or Jane Swift," he said, referring to the lieutenant governor, who, like Cellucci, is a former state senator.

But he did note that a senator's agenda and constituency are different from that of a governor. "The fact of the matter is, everybody has priorities," Lees said. For the governor, it's the overall size of the budget: "I believe Paul and Jane try to keep fiscal discipline the most important thing they do."

The future of the intra-party debate is unclear, but one thing's sure: Democrats will try to exploit the division. Certainly Randi Woods, spokeswoman for the Democratic State Committee, has her sights trained and a full load of ammunition. She gave a preview of 2000:

"It's going to happen in every major funding issue that comes up," Woods said. "You can say you're fiscally conservative, but you can't be the education governor when you're cutting funding to make sure kids that are left behind now don't get left behind more. The legislators know that. They don't have a figurehead to look up to.

"If that sort of thing went on in Washington, people like (House Majority Leader) Tom DeLay would be twisting arms quicker than you can say 'Republican National Committee,'" Woods added. "A lot of the legislators don't have the same faith in Paul Cellucci. A lot of them feel they can't trust his judgment. He says it's fiscal conservatism, but it's just bad public policy." **iB**

Craig Sandler is co-owner of the State House News Service.

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Casper Van Dien

BY JONATHAN SOROFF • PORTRAIT BY JENNIFER TAYLOR

Born and raised in New Jersey, actor Casper Van Dien, 31, spent his childhood summers in New England and remains an avid Boston sports fan. The scion of a distinguished naval family and a descendant of Mark Twain, he attended military academy and then began studying pre-med at Florida State University, where he discovered a passion for acting.

After moving to Los Angeles, he landed roles on *One Life to Live* and *Beverly Hills, 90210*. In 1997, he starred in Paul Verhoeven's sci-fi romp *Starship Troopers*. The following year, he played the king of the jungle in *Tarzan and the Lost City*. His other film credits include *Romantic Moritz* with Roger Daltrey, *James Dean: Race With Destiny* and *The Code*, but he can currently be seen as Brom in Tim Burton's *Sleepy Hollow*. Divorced from (granddaughter of Robert) Carrie Mitchum, with whom he has two children, he is married to actress Catherine Oxenberg. They live in Tarzana, CA.

Jonathan Soroff: *OK. First and foremost—do you wanna make out?*
Casper Van Dien: Ummm. My wife would kill me.
JS: *When you die, do you plan on being a friendly ghost?*
CVD: The friendliest ghost you know, coast to coast, your host, let's raise a toast, to Casper, the friendly ghost, the ghost with the most...
JS: *Wow. Pop quiz: Who was Ronald Reagan's Secretary of Defense?*
CVD: Was it Caspar Weinberger?
JS: *It was! I wonder why you knew that.*
CVD: I wonder why you asked me.
JS: *You were that annoying kid: Captain of every team, straight-A student...*
CVD: Yeah, but I was also the shortest. I'd go to ask a girl out and I'd get, "Oh, you're so cute." Not what you want to hear.
JS: *What was the worst thing that you ever did when you were a kid?*
CVD: When we'd go sailing on the lake, I'd disassemble the docks and steal them. I think it was a Tom Sawyer thing.
JS: *What's the biggest acting role you didn't get?*
CVD: I haven't gotten Spiderman yet, and I'd love that. But I was up for *The X-Men* and I didn't get it.
JS: *I saw* Starship Troopers. *Can I have my eight bucks back?*
CVD: (Laughs) You didn't like it?
JS: *It was entertaining, I guess, but it got a little long.*
CVD: You were bored in that movie?
JS: *Yeah. I was like, "Kill the friggin' bugs and let's get outta here."*
CVD: I chipped two teeth and cracked two ribs doin' that.
JS: *Ouch. How do you feel about the fact that the only reason people rent that movie is to freeze frame on the shower scene to look at your ass?*
CVD: Fine with me.
JS: *You played Tarzan. How tough did you find it to fill Johnny Weismuller's loincloth?*
CVD: It was fun to do. I read 24 of the Edgar Rice Burroughs novels to prepare for it, and it was supposed to be true to them, but they edited out 20 minutes because *George of the Jungle* had done so well and they wanted another kid movie and a hit. So they kinda changed it. I learned to speak some conversational Zulu, though.
JS: *To prove you're not just a pretty face with rock hard abs, explain $E=MC^2$.*
CVD: Einstein's Theory of Relativity. It's the square root of Pi.
JS: *Yeah, right. So you're married to Catherine Oxenberg, who was on* Dynasty. *You two are like some kind of scary Aaron Spelling couple.*
CVD: Why? Cause I was on *90210* for five minutes? I was only on the show for seven episodes and then Tori Spelling left me for Ray, the singer with the pick-up truck.

On his mother-in-law: "I call her Your Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth of Yugoslavia, and she goes, 'You don't have to call me that.' I love it though. How many boys dream of marrying a princess?"

JS: *Are her breasts real?*
CVD: I never...I wasn't one of the guys she dated.
JS: *Princess Elizabeth of Yugoslavia is your mother-in-law. Do you call her Your Highness?*
CVD: I call her Your Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth of Yugoslavia, and she goes, "You don't have to call me that." I love it though. How many little boys dream of growing up to marry a princess? I did, and I got to. I have the picture of Catherine in her jewels and all the regalia on my bedside table and she asks me to take it down. I'm like, "No! This is my bedside table and I'm having my princess picture here!"
JS: *Which title would you pick for yourself if you had to choose one of these: The Pikachu of Young Hollywood, Aaron Spelling's answer to James Dean, or the Sexiest Bug Crusher in the Galaxy?*
CVD: I guess I'd have to go with the last one. But you know what a friend of mine told me was my nickname in Hollywood? The Face.
JS: *Could be worse.*
CVD: I know. And who cares?
JS: *The cast of* Sleepy Hollow *includes some major thespians, like Michael Gambon...*
CVD: Maybe the greatest living actor. On the set, I'd walk by a headless corpse and hear a farting noise. I look over, and it's Michael Gambon, pressing the button on a little fart machine. So he told me where to get one, in London, and I put one in Catherine's bag, and I followed her around, making it sound like she was farting. She didn't think it was funny, but I was doubled over, laughing.
JS: *Lovely. So is Tim Burton as twisted as he seems?*
CVD: You step on his set, and it feels like you're walking into his head. But he's totally friendly and totally calm. To get a call from him, it was just so cool.
JS: *So if you were a headless horseman, what would you do to get head?*
CVD: (Laughs) I guess it'd be like that old dog joke....Cause he can?
JS: *You almost became a doctor. Aside from your wife, who would you most want to play doctor with?*
CVD: Natalie Wood. I instantly fell in love with her when I saw *West Side Story*. That's what made me want to become an actor.
JS: *You went to military school?*
CVD: Yup. Admiral Farragut. They called us Admiral Faggots.
JS: *Worst part of that?*
CVD: No girls.
JS: *You were on* One Life to Live. *Weirdest fan experience?*
CVD: We were at a soap opera event and these girls broke into our hotel room while we were gone and literally filled it with roses. I've never seen so many roses.
JS: *Goofiest thing you ever did for a role?*
CVD: The first role I ever got, I had to sing a song and dance around wearing a bathing suit. So I imitated John Travolta in *Saturday Night Fever*.
JS: *Yikes. So if you could change one thing about your appearance, what would it be and why?*
CVD: Nothing. I'm pretty happy with the way I look.
JS: *In* Sleepy Hollow, *you're Johnny Depp's rival for Christina Ricci. In real life, who would get the girl?*
CVD: Johnny Depp. Hands down. He's cool. He's hugely talented. He's a big star. And, c'mon. He's Johnny Depp.
JS: *One last question. When you eventually win an Oscar, will you mention me in your acceptance speech?*
CVD: Are you kidding? You'll be the *only* person I mention.**iB**

Above: Van Dien is a scene from the recently released film *Sleepy Hollow*.

"There was a time when I was 19, when I really, really thought I was going crazy. I realized that what happened to me is not uncommon."
—Winona Ryder

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Winona Ryder
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BY KIM MCGRATH

"I imagined my character as a plate or shirt that had been manufactured incorrectly and was therefore useless."
—Susanna Kaysen

Lisa, a seductive sociopath (Angelina Jolie), befriends Kaysen (Ryder) in *Girl Interrupted.*

Such was actress Winona Ryder's reaction to Susanna Kaysen's 1993 best selling memoir *Girl, Interrupted.* The movie version of the book—in which Ryder played Kaysen and acted as producer—debuts on screens this month.

Girl, Interrupted chronicles Kaysen's 18-month stay at McLean Psychiatric Hospital in Belmont, Mass., home to the rich and crazy. Ray Charles, James, Livingston and Kate Taylor, Robert Lowell and Sylvia Plath all spent time there. And in 1967, at age 18, after a single session with a psychiatrist, Kaysen signed herself in as well.

"I signed myself in. I had to, because I was of age. It was that or a court order, though they could never have gotten a court order against me. I didn't know that, so I signed myself in," Kaysen recalls. And that was the beginning—or the midpoint—to her story and the movie that was made of her story.

PARALLELS

Ryder felt so connected to the work that she immediately tried to option the film rights—only to learn that two weeks earlier Columbia Pictures producer Douglas Wick had already done so.

The story goes that Ryder immediately called Wick and asked to join the production. Wick, who was having a difficult time convincing Columbia on the merits of the project, said yes. With Ryder attached, the studio gave Wick the green light. Others who fought for parts in the film but didn't get them—Rose McGowan, Christina Ricci, Alicia Witt, Katie Holmes and Sarah Polley—had to stand in line for the next call.

And all of this occurred while Kaysen was still on tour promoting the book.

"It was surprising! I wasn't even at home," Kaysen recalls of hearing the news of the Hollywood feeding frenzy around her book. But the Cambridge native, who is also the author of two previous books—*Asa, As I Knew Him* and *Far Afield*—took it all in stride.

"Well, I didn't think they would ever make it into a movie," Kaysen, 51, laughs today. "I mean many, many, many books are optioned and they're never even bought.

And the truth is, they almost didn't make it into a movie. It took five years for Wick and Ryder to find just the right writer and director for the project, and then get it done.

Adds the modest and often irreverent Kaysen, "And I really didn't think it would make such a particularly good movie, because nothing happens in the book."

That's not entirely true. Things do happen in the book. Kaysen recalls her youth before and during her stay at McLean; and woven throughout this simple narrative, she explores and subtly questions the often-nebulous definition of "normal behavior."

Normal behavior was, as anyone between the ages of 45 and 55 today will attest, a particularly iffy proposition in the 1960s. It was a volatile time to be a teenager—and it was particularly challenging to be a teenager in Cambridge.

FREE AND "EASY" TIMES

Cambridge of the 1960s was a political and social hotbed. Activists fervently debated and protested issues such as racism, sexism and the nation's foreign policy in Vietnam. It was also the heyday of psychedelic music and experimentation with recreational pharmaceuticals. And it wasn't always the kids who led the questioning and experimenting; it was often the adults: professors at Harvard and MIT like Timothy Leary, George Wald, Noam Chomsky. (In a great irony, Ryder's godfather was Timothy Leary. He and Ryder's father once operated a bookstore together called Flashback Books.)

Ryder felt so connected to the work that she immediately tried to option the film rights—only to learn that just two weeks earlier Columbia Pictures had already done so.

This was the backdrop to Susanna Kaysen's privileged world. Her father was an MIT professor who took various leaves of absence to serve on the National Security Council staff during the Kennedy administration and as Director of the Princeton Institute for Advanced Studies. Kaysen was like countless other children of MIT and Harvard faculty: brainy, talented, motivated—and experimenting with everything from radical politics to drugs.

Perhaps surprisingly, Kaysen scarcely mentions her parents in *Girl, Interrupted.* She explains: "I didn't want to expose private issues to the world. I just didn't think it was anybody's business. My desire to give them a little privacy really pushed a lot of buttons and continues to do so."

For a time Kaysen attended the Commonwealth School in Boston's Back Bay—Wall Street heir Charles Merrill's pioneering project in alternative education—until she was asked not to come back. She then switched to another "alternative" school, the Cambridge School of Weston, and became, as she wrote in *Girl, Interrupted*, "the first person in the history of the school not to go to college."

While at the Cambrige school, she had an affair with her English teacher (who coincidentally took her on a trip to New York and the Metropolitan Museum of Art where Kaysen first saw the Vermeer painting that inspired the name of her book, *Girl, Interrupted at her Music*). The relationship, as she recalls in her book, was matter-of-fact and rather unemotional.

"This is the difference between the '90s and the '60s," she says today. "He was supplying me with marijuana, and I was fucking him. And that's just how it was. It was a different world."

THE DIAGNOSIS

After only 20 minutes with a psychiatrist in 1967, her first and last visit, Kaysen was diagnosed with a borderline personality disorder, an affliction with symptoms so vague—"instability of self-image, interpersonal relationships, and 'mood uncertainty' about long-term goals

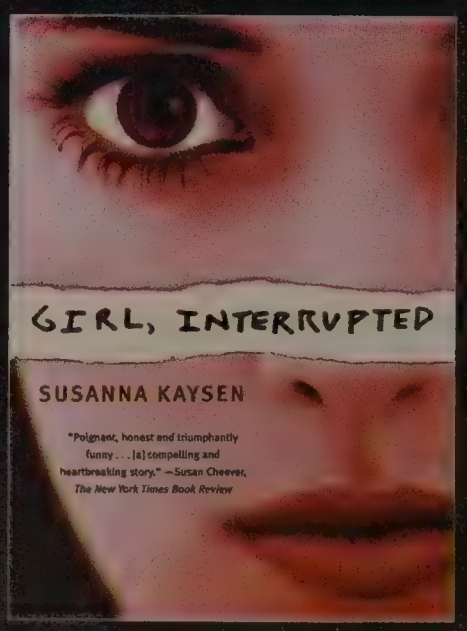
EXCERPTS FROM *GIRL, INTERRUPTED*

I was living a life based on my incapacities, which were numerous. A partial list follows. I could not and did not want to: ski, play tennis, or go to gym class; attend any subject in school other than English and biology; write papers on any assigned topics, plan to go or apply to college, give any reasonable explanation for these refusals.

My self-image was not unstable. I saw myself, quite correctly, as unfit for the educational and social systems. But my parents and teachers did not share my self-image. Their image of me was unstable, since it was out of kilter with reality and based on my needs and wishes. They did not put much value on my capacities, which were admittedly few, but genuine. I read everything, I wrote constantly, and I had boyfriends by the barrelful.

How can you make a life out of those two things? As it turns out, I did. Back then I didn't know that I—or anyone—could make a life out of boyfriends and literature. As far as I could see, life demanded skills I didn't have. The result was chronic emptiness and boredom. There were more pernicious results as well.

My ambition was to negate. When I was supposed to be awake, I was asleep; when I was supposed to speak, I was silent. They proved my existence. All my integrity seemed to lie in saying "No." So the opportunity to be incarcerated was just too good to resist. It was a very big "No"—the biggest "No" this side of suicide. Perverse reasoning. But back of that perversity, I knew I wasn't mad and that they wouldn't keep me there, locked up in a loony bin.



Another odd feature of the parallel universe is that although it is invisible from this side, once you are in it you can easily see the world you came from. Sometimes the world you came from looks huge and menacing, quivering like a vast pile of jelly; at other times it is miniaturized and alluring, a-spin and shining in its orbit. Either way, it can't be discounted. Every window on Alcatraz has a view of San Francisco.

I read the title of the painting: *Girl, Interrupted at Her Music.* Interrupted at her music; as my life had been, interrupted in the music of being 17, as her life had been, snatched and fixed on canvas: one moment made to stand still and to stand for all the other moments, whatever they would be or might have been. What life can recover from that?

PREVIOUS SPREAD: RYDER, JESSE FROHMAN/OUTLINE; KAYSEN, MARION ETTLINGER; THIS PAGE: TOP, SUZZANNE TENNER

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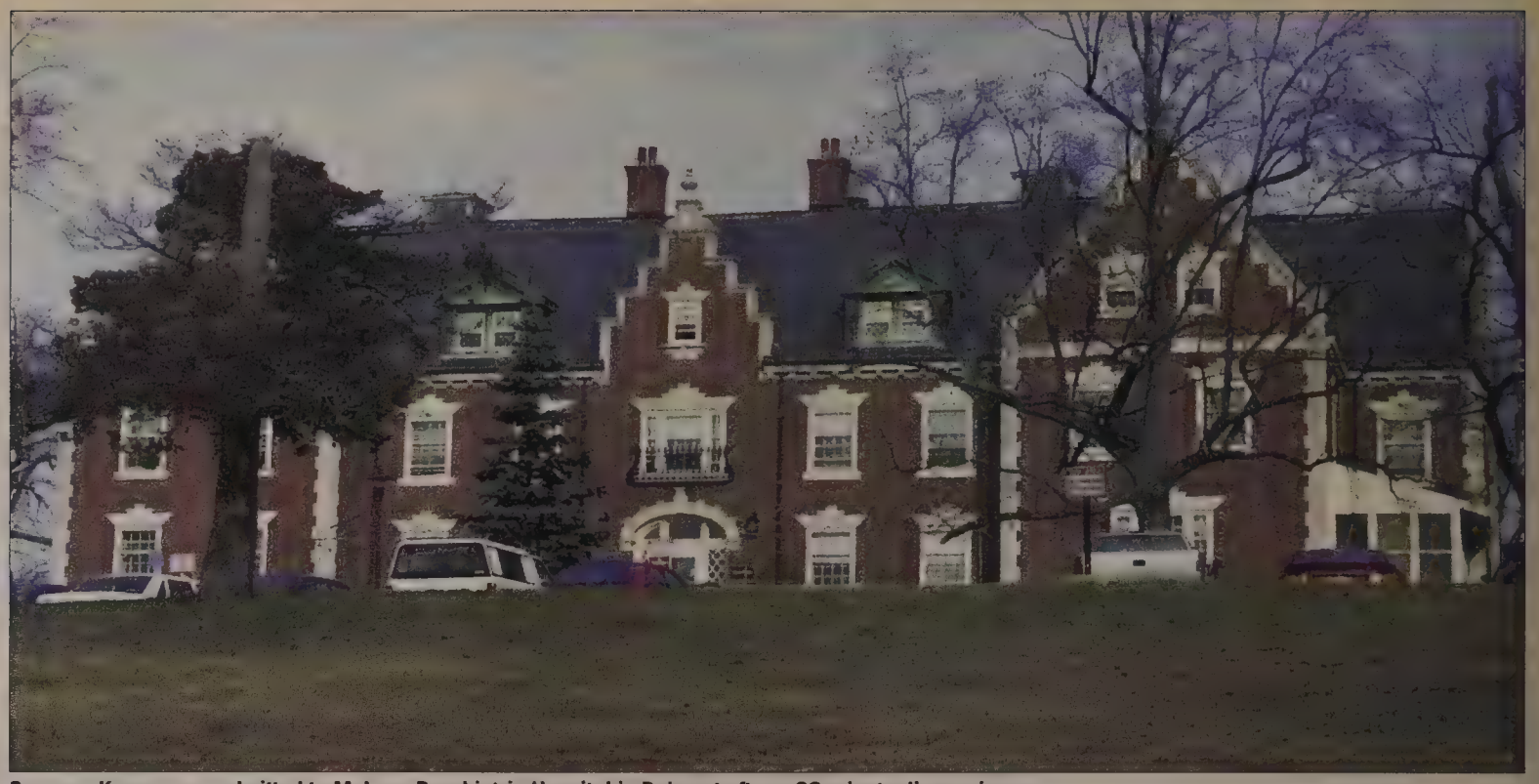
THE DIRECTOR SPEAKS

Screenwriter/director James Mangold made his feature film debut in 1996 with *Heavy*, which he followed up with the critically acclaimed *Copland*. He recently discussed *Girl, Interrupted* with the IMPROPER BOSTONIAN:

Q: Was translating the book difficult?
A: It was because it's episodic and Susanna delights in leaving a lot of holes. I can't do that with a movie. I needed to somehow capture the thematic points that she makes in her beautiful prose and put those thoughts and philosophies into conflict and action.

Q: You used *The Wizard of Oz* as a template for the film?
A: It is a profoundly psychological story. It is also a story about a depressed young woman who, let's face it, is upset about more than just her dog. And she's whisked, via cyclone in that story, via cabdriver in our movie, into this new magical universe where each character is missing a different part of themselves. In *Oz*, they're missing a brain, a heart, courage. They go on this great journey in search of those things, which ultimately turn out to be meaningless or fake. But the journey itself nourishes them.
Q: Winona has said that you "just got it." Susanna said the same thing of Winona.
A: I think we all have moments in adolescence when we question how tightly we're holding on. The only way society measures if we go crazy is if we stop playing by the rules. Stop waiting in line. Stop going home to bed at night. Just simple rules of contact we're all supposed to obey. That's how we really judge craziness. Not how someone feels internally.
Q: You've never made a movie without at least one Oscar winning actor?
A: I try to populate my movies with especially strong and driven supporting characters. I enjoy making movies about central figures who are profoundly torn. I identify with that. Most of us aren't Bruce Willis in *Diehard*—we're usually not faced with split-second decisions about the fate of man. We're usually faced with more lose-lose propositions about hurting a family member or a loved one.
Q: What do you want people to get out of *Girl, Interrupted*?
A: I'd like the film to stay with them after they walk away. Nothing is more terrifying than working for two years on a movie that can leave your system as quickly as a McDonald's meal. So many movies cost so much money and I can't even remember them the next day. That's what I don't want. In *Girl*, I would love to know that the questions Susanna asked in her book are raised effectively enough that they linger with the audience. IB



Susanna Kaysen was admitted to McLean Psychiatric Hospital in Belmont after a 20-minute diagnosis.

or career choice"—that nearly any teenage girl of any era might fit the diagnosis.

It was clear, however, that Kaysen suffered from severe emotional strain. At one point, she attempted suicide by swallowing fifty aspirin. And in *Girl, Interrupted*, she admits: "I had a character disorder. Sometimes they called it a personality disorder. When I got my diagnosis it didn't sound serious, but after a while it sounded more ominous than other people's. I imagined my character as a plate or shirt that had been manufactured incorrectly and was therefore useless."

Kaysen's account is intermittently disturbing ("One girl among us had set herself on fire") and funny ("The hospital was on a hill outside of town, the way hospitals are in movies about the insane"), but always poignant. It is full of distinct and unforgettable characters. There's Polly, the burn patient; Lisa, the mischievous sociopath, who on one occasion wraps all the furniture in the ward in toilet paper; and Daisy, who "had two passions: laxatives and chicken."

THE OTHER GIRL

Complex roles for women in Hollywood draw lots of attention, and *Girl, Interrupted* was a clarion call to famous actresses who wanted a piece of the interesting and well-developed role. This list of contenders is long—a populated with famous names.

Those who ran—and won—include Oscar winners Whoopi Goldberg and Vanessa Redgrave, Golden Globe winner Angelina Jolie and on-the-rise young actresses Clea Duvall, Elizabeth Moss and Brittany Murphy. Jared Leto, who played Claire Danes' successful love interest in the too-brief television series "My So-Called Life," also has a part in the film. And then there's Ryder, who not only wanted to act in the film, but wanted a piece of the action.

"My main reason for wanting to produce the film myself was to not let anyone else go in and fuck up the material," Ryder said in a recent interview.

For Ryder, who has built her career on alternating roles that portray dark yet witty characters outside of the mainstream (*Lucas*, *Beetlejuice*, *Heathers*) and characters taken from books she cherishes (*The Crucible*, *The Age of Innocence*, *Little Women*), *Girl, Interrupted* seemed a perfect combination of the two.

"There are tremendous parallels between Winona's experience and Susanna's," says the director and screenwriter of *Girl, Interrupted*, James Mangold (*Copland*, *Heavy*). Indeed, the book struck a chord with Ryder, who has recently been vocal about her own battle with mental illness, panic attacks and insomnia—and her stay, albeit a short one, at a psychiatric hospital.

"There was a time when I was 19, when I really, really thought I was going crazy," says Ryder. Though she left the mental hospital quickly, Ryder continues therapy and says now, "I just made a choice to have a life. And I realized that what happened to me is not that unusual."

"I just made a choice to have a life. I realized what happened to me is not that unusual," Ryder says about her own mental illness.

Ryder says that during her bout with mental illness, she told her mother, "Don't worry, I'm not going to kill myself. This isn't about suicide. It's about not wanting to be here"—a sentiment that echoes Kaysen's words almost perfectly.

"I would like to go away," Kaysen recalls thinking while at McLean. "That was basically what I was thinking. I would like to go away, please."

There are also physical similarities between Kaysen and Ryder. The book jacket of *Girl, Interrupted* features an eighteen-year-old Kaysen. Waif-like. Short dark hair. Large dark eyes. All qualities shared by Ryder.

Kaysen says "[Ryder] asked me if I thought we looked alike and I said, 'I wish we did,' because she is so pretty."

TRANSITIONS

Kaysen admits she's excited and a little nervous about seeing the film, but she remains coolly distant. "It's not my show," she says simply, although she did spend time on the set with Ryder.

"It was a way to get to see what she does, and that was illuminating and interesting and impressive," Kaysen says. "It was nice to be with her. I wish I could have been with her more. I think she's a very appealing and charming actress." Kaysen graciously adds, "She didn't need me. She just got it."

Ironically, Ryder in turn says the same of director and screenwriter Mangold: "He really got it. You either get it or you don't. It's like a weird secret handshake."

And it's a handshake Ryder and Kaysen share with many adolescent girls.

"I think that it's very difficult to be a teenager," Kaysen says. "All the teenagers I know are miserable, to a greater or lesser extent. Some people are more miserable than others. Some people have a rough transition to adulthood, if they ever achieve it."

"I wish a movie like this had been around when I was a teenager," says Ryder. "I hope that it can offer something to other kids. Maybe if they think they're crazy, at least they'll know they're not alone."

Kaysen adds, "If I hadn't managed to somehow opt out of a lot of things and feel like it was all right to be an oddball and very broke and not have a career and work at writing, if I hadn't been able to do that, I don't think I would have ended up being okay—whatever okay is."

"I learned how to do it in the loony bin," Kaysen concludes. "That was good. It put a lot of things into perspective." IB

MANGOLD: SUZANNE TENNER; HOSPITAL: CHRISTINA CATURANO

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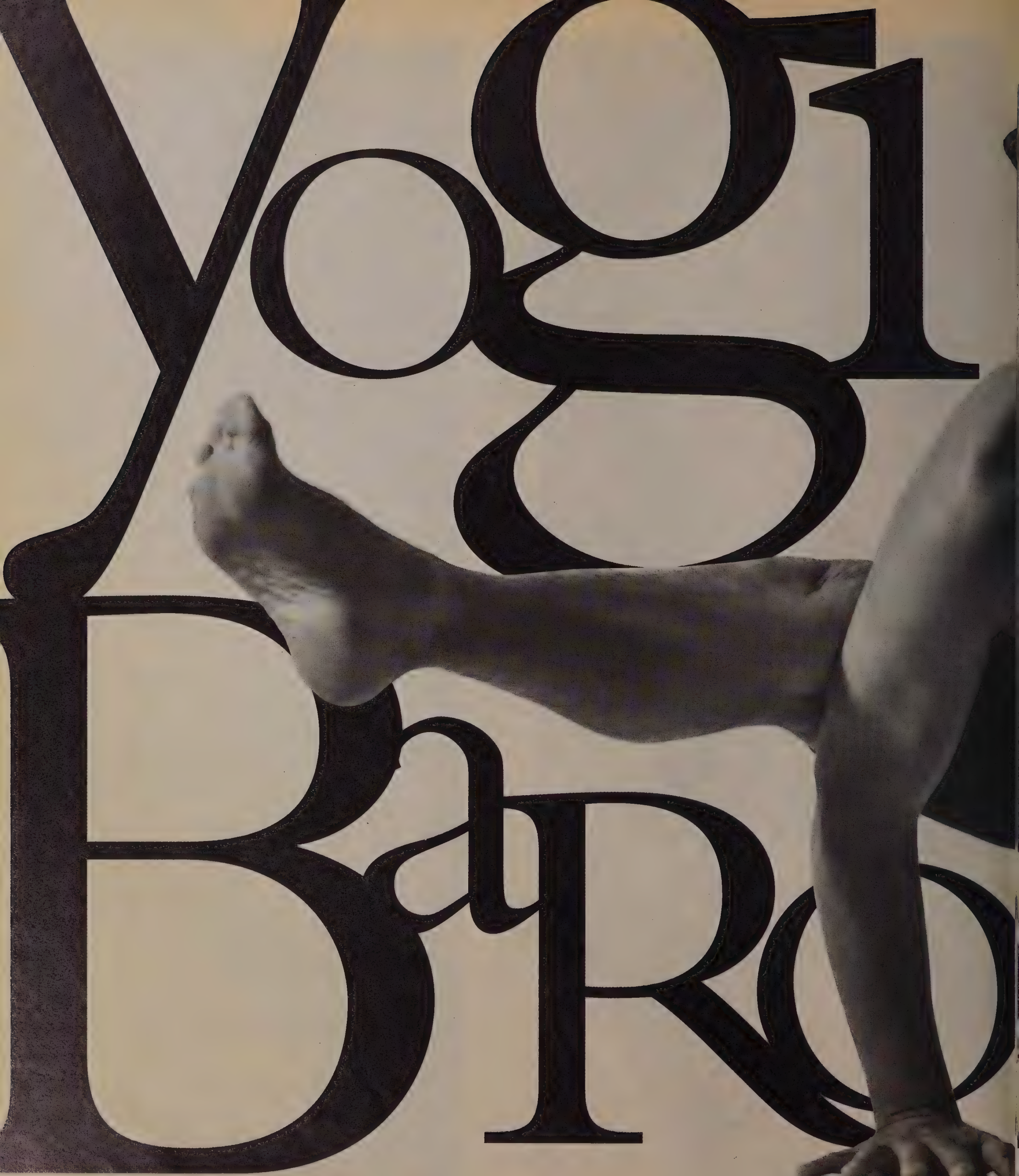
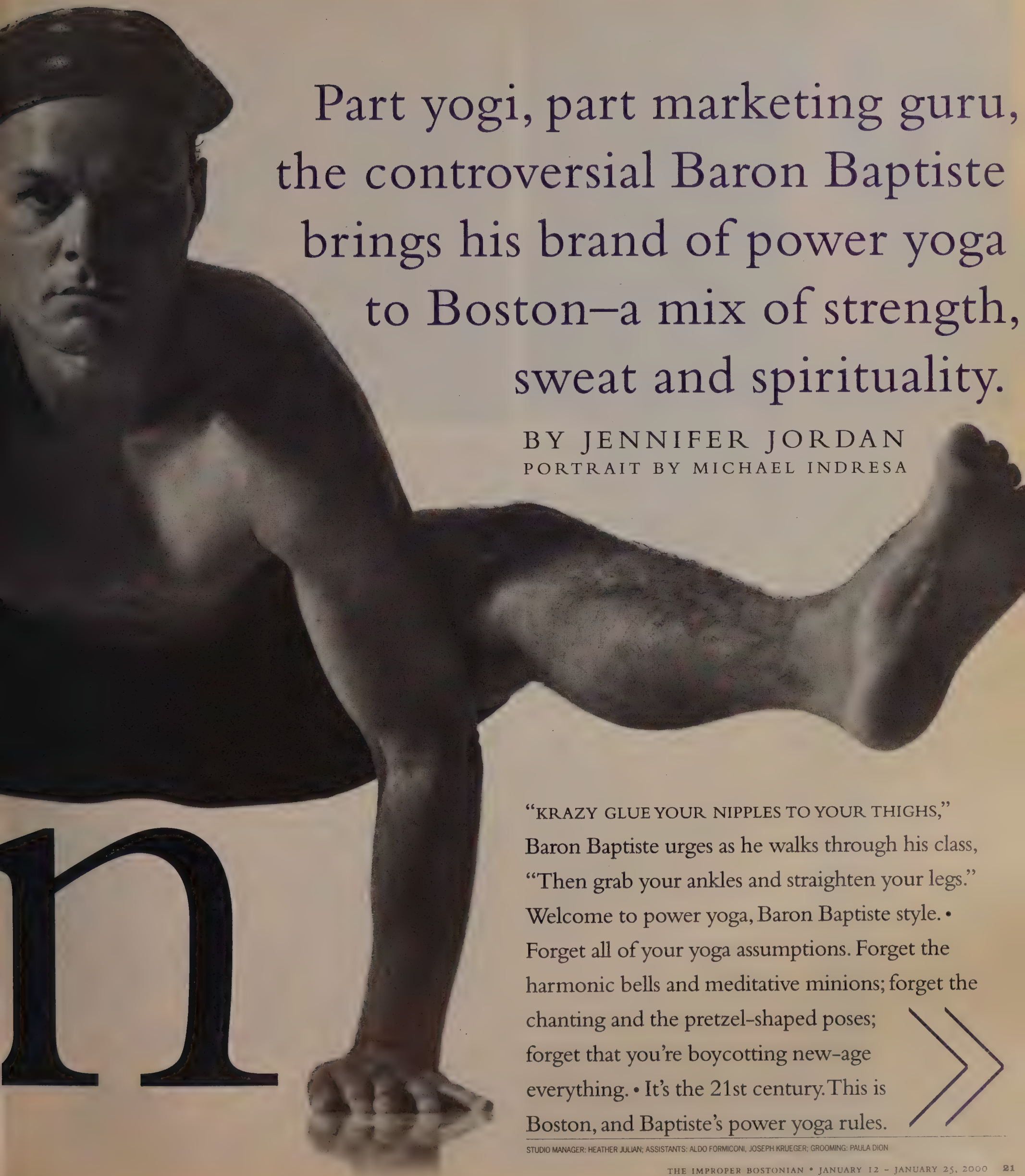




Part yogi, part marketing guru, the controversial Baron Baptiste brings his brand of power yoga to Boston—a mix of strength, sweat and spirituality.

BY JENNIFER JORDAN

PORTRAIT BY MICHAEL INDRESA

"KRAZY GLUE YOUR NIPPLES TO YOUR THIGHS," Baron Baptiste urges as he walks through his class, "Then grab your ankles and straighten your legs." Welcome to power yoga, Baron Baptiste style. • Forget all of your yoga assumptions. Forget the harmonic bells and meditative minions; forget the chanting and the pretzel-shaped poses; forget that you're boycotting new-age everything. • It's the 21st century. This is Boston, and Baptiste's power yoga rules.

STUDIO MANAGER: HEATHER JULIAN; ASSISTANTS: ALDO FORMICONI, JOSEPH KRUEGER; GROOMING: PAULA DION

Some Like it Hot

For centuries the ancient yoga masters and mystics ruled minds and bodies with a physical and mental discipline that required a lifetime of near-monastic study to perfect. But some in the American fitness industry realized that their Type A clients would respond to the inherent benefits of yoga—flexibility, strength, stamina, stress-reduction and weight loss—if it was packaged more like a workout than a religion. Voilà: power yoga!

"This is a new yoga," says Baptiste, sitting cross-legged on the studio's wooden floor, "a non-dogmatic, progressive yoga," and one that focuses on results, not ritual.

For starters, it's not like any workout you have ever done. Forget such meager amenities as air conditioning, cooling fans, or even open windows. The studio—on Mass. Ave. in Cambridge—is heated to 90 degrees—more like a convection oven than a gym, actually. That's your first tip this isn't going to be the kind, gentle, contemplate-your-navel type of yoga.

Instead, you sweat. You sweat a lot.

Stinging in your eyes, soaking through your clothes, dripping off the end of your nose and splashing onto your mat—it's that kind of sweat. And you don't stop for nearly two hours as the class keeps going and going and going.

"Healing heat," is how Baptiste explains the sweltering class. "When solid heats, it becomes liquid, and you are more able to move. Shaking and baking your muscles, I call it."

What brings the power to power yoga is Baptiste's adaptation and transformation of traditional yoga poses into a workout of constant motion. It's more like aerobic yoga or slow calisthenics. Call it what you will, Baptiste has demystified the discipline, given it a very American availability, and teaches each class less as strict eastern discipline than as exercise with a little enlightenment on the side.

It's yoga as exercise and exercise as therapy, and many are finding it in the nick of time, having battered their bodies in traditional workouts and sports—particularly professional athletes.

A Power Following

"I'm kicking myself for not discovering yoga sooner," says former Boston Bruins great Cam Neely, only 34. Forced into early retirement because of persistent hip and knee injuries, Neely continues, "Now I'm just looking to improve the quality of my everyday life through greater flexibility in my hip."

Neely is just one on a star list of Baptiste clients that stretches from coast to coast and includes Helen Hunt, Raquel Welch, Chynna Philips, the offensive line of the Philadelphia Eagles and members of the Kennedy clan.

The secret of Power Yoga's success, Baptiste says, is in taking the best of Eastern traditions while recognizing Americans' need for a vigorous workout that doesn't destroy aging joints in the process.

"The old fitness mentality is over because it failed us, leaving us a nation of aerobic refugees," he says.

"Yoga is philosophy in motion," adds Baptiste. "There just is no quick fix, no real short cut to physical health and fitness, just a process; and in yoga, the goal is the process."

Standing at a fit but by no means thin 5'11" and wearing an untucked T-shirt, baggy shorts and a bandana wrapped around his head, Baptiste, 36, looks more like your weekend squash buddy than a yogi who started training in the Ashrams of India when he was twelve.

But don't be fooled. Baptiste knows he's part of a 5,000 -year-old tradition, even if he doesn't buy into all of its trappings.

"I feel no obligation to tradition, to India or to any certain teachers. I have to be true to myself, and hopefully that helps others be true to themselves. To thine own self be true," he says, the smile spreading across his tan face, his brown eyes crinkling in a knowing, almost private confidence.

Beyond Spandex

Okay, it sounds a little new-new agey, and yes, there is some chanting and a hint of sandalwood in the air, but Baptiste has more clients move through his studio in a day than most area yoga centers service in a week—24 classes of about 45 students each, to be exact. Many in his classes will tell you it's the unique workout, not the wisdoms, that bring them back.

What strikes you when you walk into the studio is how different it is from other health club environments. Instead of a roomful of exuberant twenty-something hardbodies and a handful of older middle-agers and old-niks hanging on for dear life, clients seem to span all ages, shapes and sizes as they spread out on their mats.

So what is it about this workout that satisfies the exercise demands of the X generation without intimidating the old-nik baby boomers?

"Power yoga is not for wimps," says Larry D'Onofrio, 44, a television marketing consultant in Cambridge who found yoga after years of abusing his rapidly aging joints with running, cycling and spinning. "Here I am, middle-aged, and I finally find an exercise that is non-competitive and allows me to get stronger and more flexible without the joint pain and fancy footwear."

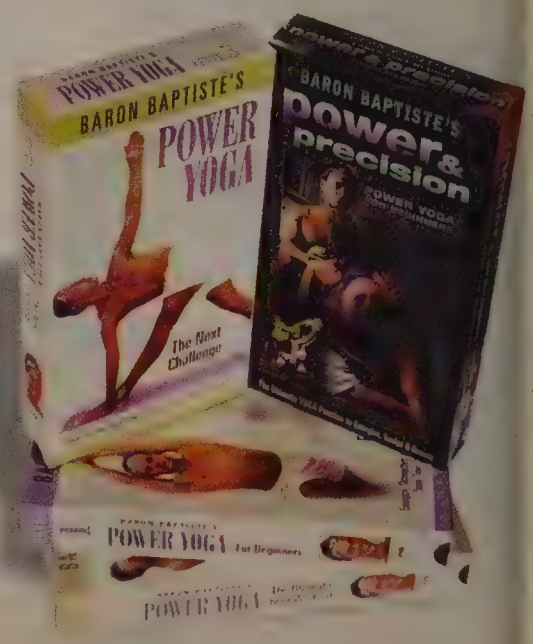
And indeed, this is bare-naked modern exercise: There are no mirrors, no blaring music, no egos flexing for effect. In fact it's just the opposite of the glittery spandex health club experience. But hey. Disco died, too.

With Power Yoga there is an emphasis on concentration. When you're in the middle of your practice—sweating up a storm and pushing yourself into poses you'd thought unattainable—it's like you're alone in the room. Just you and Baron's voice.

From the Ashram to Mainstream

Although Baptiste has introduced hundreds, perhaps thousands, regimen they never before considered, he is thought of as a bit of a loose cannon in the lemming-like world of traditional yoga. But the black sheep is proud of his distinction.

"If the yoga purists don't like me, maybe it's because I'm just more honest about who I am and what I think yoga is," he says. "I'm



Baptiste's classes are packed, and he's sold hundreds of thousands of yoga videos as well.

KERRY BRETT HURLEY (CLASSES)

Baptiste in his sweltering Cambridge studio, leading and teaching. "Yoga is philosophy in motion," he says.

not putting on this holier-than-thou packaging—that yoga can make you holier." He turns to fiddle with the studio's heat gauge.

Instead, he says, he's selling whole versus holy. You have a body, and in his yoga class you're gonna use it. Or at least sweat like hell trying to.

Unlike most American yogis, Baptiste didn't discover yoga: he was born into it. His father was a world famous bodybuilder and Mr. America, who studied the Eastern religions and ancient disciplines of yoga with his father. Baron's mother demonstrated the benefits of yoga during pregnancy in a San Francisco magazine while he was still in her womb. By age 12, Baron was fasting, studying and meditating in a Himalayan ashram. By 15 he was teaching yoga for children in San Francisco (a program he recently started in his Cambridge studio). He eventually decided he didn't need the degree in Health Sciences he was pursuing at UCLA, so he dropped out and never looked back.

"God has given me the ability to teach yoga, so why not?" he asks rhetorically. He doesn't need an answer.

And neither do his co-instructors. For example, there's Tara Carey, 30, a bubbly and enthusiastic former school teacher from the Montessori schools, who has studied many of the more traditional forms of yoga and meditation for 10 years.

"Baron has all the knowledge of the purist view of yoga and he's able to translate it in a way that people understand," says Carey, flush from teaching a recent class and from talking of her passion. "Yoga is my life."

And then there's Rolf.

If the incense image continues to haunt you and you can't see yourself signing up for a class because it's, well, not the stuff of real men, meet Rolf Glessner Gates—36, yogi, social work student and ex-Army Ranger. Yes, Army Ranger. These ground-based US Navy Seals represent the most elite soldiers in the Armed Forces and their training is more strenuous and demanding than any on the planet. Athleticism is survival. So how does a man who trained with the world's ultimate killing machines find harmony in a studio in Cambridge?

"I believe I am a recovering soldier," Gates says, sipping his strawberry protein smoothie between classes, "I didn't know what yoga was, but I've always expressed my spirituality through physical discipline. Now I see yoga as social work."

"I FEEL NO OBLIGATION TO TRADITION, TO INDIA OR TO ANY CERTAIN TEACHERS. I HAVE TO BE TRUE TO MYSELF, AND HOPEFULLY THAT HELPS OTHERS BE TRUE TO THEMSELVES."

KERRY BRETT HURLEY (CLASS); MICHAEL INDRESANO, STUDIO MANAGER; HEATHER JULIAN; ASSISTANTS: ALDO FORMICONI, JOSEPH KRUEGER; GROOMING: PAULA DION

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Marketing Maneuvers

Along with his studio's phenomenal successes, Baptiste has also sold hundreds of thousands of his videos on the QVC infomercial circuit and organized sold-out yoga retreats all over the world. This merchandising has led to charges (again from the yoga purists) that he is huckstering an adulterated yoga, and missing the whole point—that yoga is an ancient process taught over a lifetime, not 90 minutes.

Hooey, he says.

"Why should I be held back by some tribal standard?" he asks. "I can't even give energy to that asinine stuff. Life is short, why not live it to the fullest?"

That's the question that brought the retired Cam Neely to Baron.

"Because of my [old injuries] I'm really limited as to what I can do to get a good workout," says Neely, who swears he's soon to be a regular at the studio. "And yoga is a real workout with Baron."

But even as Baptiste is bringing yoga to the mainstream, Neely and others admit, yoga is still fighting a perception of being somehow "out there."

"Yoga is still thought of in a very new-new agey, chanting, burn-some-incense mind-set," says Mike Boyle, a strength and conditioning coach who works with individual, collegiate and professional athletes. Nevertheless, he says, "A lot of the stretching we're doing now is yoga-based stuff. Yoga is a well-thought-out method of stretching, but there's this persistent mysticism about it that turns off the conventional sports community."

But apparently not Jeffrey Lurie, owner of the Philadelphia Eagles, who was a Baptiste client in Los Angeles before moving to Philly to take over the Eagles. Lurie solved the problem of missing Baptiste by bringing him to Philadelphia to work with the football team.

"For me it is a tremendous method of becoming not just stronger, but also more flexible," Lurie says. "And I wanted to offer the players an adjunct to their traditional strength and conditioning training, for both fitness and injury prevention."

From Philadelphia, Baptiste found his way to Cambridge at the urging and assistance of his friend and student Max Kennedy. But don't expect the vagabond Baptiste to grow roots. He'll only be here "another year or so, although I like Boston more than I thought I would."

And Boston appears to like him. Most of his 12 classes a week are filled mat-to-mat with upwards of 50 people and more classes are being added to the schedule to accommodate the demand, not only for the workout he offers, but yes, for the serenity as well, if only for 90 minutes of your day.

Rolf guides a student through some simple poses. He gives short shrift to traditional methods. "Yoga can set you free," he says, "but if it's taught dogmatically, it can enslave."

"I find most other forms of exercise as hectic as life is hectic," says D'Onofrio. "But yoga offers those of us frightened of the aging process finally something to do that really pays off physically and with peace of mind. Baron has mainstreamed yoga, so that people like me keep coming back."

"Stress is the enemy, yoga is the enema," Baptiste says, only somewhat jokingly, because he says he does believe in shedding the shit—all of it—from yoga's culty image as well as from your body and your life.

"I think those traditionalists who feel the unwashed masses aren't ready for yoga because it's something so pure and clean, don't know what they're talking about," Baptiste says. "In yoga there's this guru, the leader, and you are not taught to think for yourself. You're taught to regurgitate. But being exposed to the masters when I was a little boy, watching all of this [hero worship], it looked strange to me, like they were under some kind of a spell or hypnosis.

"Yoga can set you free, but then if it's taught dogmatically, it can enslave," he says.

My Karma ran over your Dogma?

"Yes," Baptiste laughs. "It is something like that." IB

Jennifer Jordan is a freelance writer living and stretching in Cambridge. She can also be seen and heard on WGBH Channel 2 and 89.7FM, where she anchors the afternoon news. She recently profiled the New England Revolution for the IMPROPER BOSTONIAN.

KERRY BRETT HURLEY (3)

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beyond the pale

The best local winter beers—why they're special and where to find them.

BY TERI DUNN · PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEVEN BILLUPS

Above: At the Northeast Brewing Company, winter beers are something to get excited about; above right: Darrah Bryans at Cambridge's brew moon pours a winter brew from a vintage bourbon cask.

winter in a bottle

The poster shows a snow-blasted intersection with traffic lights askew in the bitter wind. A public service announcement from your local utility company? An advertisement for Godzilla-strength tires? No, it's an ad for a holiday beer, Geary's of Maine's Hampshire Ale. "Winter is just too short. Available only while the weather sucks," blares the merry slogan below this chilly image.

A visit to any stocked liquor store or local pub that has more than three piddling tap handles reveals the good news: The winter beers are in. These are the beers that appear only from late fall through the winter months, and so supplies are limited.

Traditionally, a winter beer is a brewer's chance not only to make something different and special, but to show off his or her skill to other brewers. What does this mean for the consumer? Fabulous beer.

In New England, beer varieties faithfully follow the calendar. 'Tis the season for the winter beers now, but when spring returns, you'll find smooth, full-flavored beers called "bocks." By summer, the brews are light, so you can quaff more to quench your thirst.

WHERE TO FIND THEM AROUND TOWN

Six-pack prices for these bottled beers range from $5.99 on up to $10.99—they may vary from store to store. Don't be shy to ask about singles, a mixed six pack, and mixed cases. Some may also be available in the bottle at upscale or well-stocked bars. Try: the Sunset Grille, Allston; the Joshua Tree, the Burren, and Redbones, Somerville; Doyle's, Jamaica Plain; Boston Beer Garden, Boston. Retail store sources include:

Kappy's Liquors Rte. 16/Revere Beach Pkwy (steps from Wellington Circle T stop on the Orange Line), Medford (781-395-8888)

Blanchard's 103 Harvard Ave., Allston (782-5588)

Downtown Wine and Spirits 225 Elm St., Somerville (625-7777)

Tremont Winter Ale
(Atlantic Coast Brewing)
hails from Charlestown
description No spices or fruit, just top-quality English ingredients plus a dash of raw cane sugar to add character

Samuel Adams Winter Lager
hails from Cincinnati, Ohio (although many think it's brewed here)
description A lovely, dark wheat lager redolent with cinnamon, fresh crushed ginger and Valencia and curacao orange peel

Harpoon Winter Warmer
(Mass. Bay Brewing Co.)
hails from South Boston
description Medium-body ale spiced with cinnamon and nutmeg

Geary's Hampshire Ale
hails from Portland, Maine
description Perhaps the finest winter beer in the region, eagerly anticipated each year; very strong, tasty, malty ale, approaching a barley wine in potency; copper colored

ERIN NEDELL

Come fall, heavier Oktoberfest beers arrive. Ah, but winter beers are the ones brewers and beer aficionados anticipate the most. As Will Meyers of Cambridge Brewing puts it, "these are complex beers, ones to cozy up to on Boston's cold winter nights."

With the exception of something called Coors Winterfest (which has more character than you might think), these beers are the domain of the microbrewing industry. Yoland Bator, assistant brewer at Watch City Brewing in Waltham says, "we've seized this opportunity. Micros are small and flexible enough to experiment." Shawn Dunn, beer sales manager at Kappy's Liquors, agrees that winter beers dominate. "This time of year, I have at least 20 different ones. I get a handful by comparison in the spring."

He observes that winter beers are "a time for inventiveness." Common to all the inventive winter beers, exclaims brewer Tod Mott of Back Bay Brewing, "is higher alcohol content!" This generally is achieved with more or darker malts and sugars, which contribute heft and a certain sweetness. Some brews are ruby red in color, others are so dark that when you hold them aloft, no light shines through. Mott's award-winning MacSpootin Scotch Ale is a husky 8 percent; the bar wisely serves it in smaller, half-pint glasses. Over at Cambridge Brewing, you'll find a barley wine style, weighing in at 11.7 percent or so. This intense, delicious creation is called Blunderbuss 2000, and comes in a brandy snifter to encourage savoring and moderation. "It's a huge freaking beer," declares Will Meyers.

A few brewers gain special effects from the way they store the beer prior to serving it. Darrah Bryans at Cambridge's brew moon was delighted to get her hands on a few vintage Maker's Mark bourbon casks. She diverts some of her hearty Scotch Ale into these and rhapsodizes about the result, her Bourbon St. Ale. "The beer gained a really nice mocha character, with a touch of vanilla."

Some winter beers, like the perennially popular Harpoon Winter Warmer, are spiced with cinnamon and nutmeg. Fruit also makes cameo appearances this time of year. Watch City Brewing's delicious Frostbite is flavored not only with honey and spices, but a dash of bitter orange peel, resulting in a fragrant, mulled flavor. Commonwealth Fish & Beer Company's Winter Welcome was steeped with chopped dates, which contributes a wonderful yet subtle fruit aroma. North East Brewing's beautiful Cherry 2000, a Belgian style kreik ale, contains two pounds of fresh cherries per gallon and was aged for a year in oak. It is served at the bar in champagne bottles, so bring a few friends along.

Just as the snow must finally melt, winter will stagger to an end and these beers will be gone. So rouse yourself now, bundle up, and go out and try these beers while you still can. IB

Brew Pubs

Back Bay Brewing
755 Boylston St., Boston (424-8300)
atmosphere Dark, intimate mood at night; handsome exposed brick, wood and copper
brewers Tod Mott, Chuck Page
winter brews on tap MacSpootin Scotch Ale (husky, 8 percent alcohol; won a Gold Medal at Great American Beer Festival), Russian Imperial Stout
price $3.95 a pint
hours Mon.-Sat., 11:30am-1am; Sun., 11:30-12am

Watch City Brewing Co.
256 Moody St., Waltham (781-647-4000)
atmosphere Art-deco decor, casual feel
brewers Aaron Mateychuck, Yoland Bator
winter brews on tap Frostbite Ale (with bitter orange peel, allspice and cardamom)
price $3.50 a pint
hours Mon.-Sat., 11:30am-1am, Sun., 3pm-12am

Cambridge Brewing Co.
1 Kendall Square, Cambridge (494-1994)
atmosphere Casual; a clean, well-lighted place, conducive to hanging out for hours
brewers Will Meyers, John Sutherland
winter brews on tap Blunderbuss 2000, a higher-alcohol barley wine; Rye 2K, a dark, hopped ale brewed with rye
price $3.50 a pint
hours Mon.-Sat., 11:30am-1am, Sun., 3pm-12am

John Harvard's Brewhouse
33 Dunster St., Cambridge (868-3585)
atmosphere Old wood, comfy pub feel
brewers Geoff DeBisschop, Matthew Steinberg
winter brews on tap Imperial Stout (dark, full-bodied), double Belgian Ale
price $2.95 to $3.75 a pint
hours 11:30am-12:30am or 1am

brew moon
50 Church St., Cambridge (499-2739)
brewer Darrah Bryans
atmosphere: Modern, atrium setting; blond wood and celestial motifs in blue
winter brews on tap Scotch Ale, Bourbon St. Ale (vanilla, mocha flavor)
price $3.50 a pint; Bourbon St. Ale is $4 a pint
hours 11:30am-1am
also: 115 Stuart Street, Boston (741-2739)

Commonwealth Fish & Beer House
138 Portland St., Boston, (523-8383)
brewers Jeff Charnick, John Jaynes
atmosphere Newly renovated, still lots of copper and brass, but now with blue ocean-like accents and stylish fish decorations. Brewery is downstairs.
winter brew on tap Winter Welcome (steeped with dates), Scotch Ale
prices $3.75 a pint
hours Mon.-Fri., 11:30am-11pm, Sat.-Sun., 11:30-12am

North East Brewing
1314 Commonwealth Ave., Allston (566-6699)
atmosphere Fireplace with couches, lots of dark wood
brewers Dann Paquette, Aaron Hecker
winter brews on tap Christmas Keeper '99 and Cherry 2000 (aged in oak, flavored with cherries)
price $3.50 a pint, 750ml bottles are $10
hours Mon.-Fri., 4pm-1am, Sat., 11am-1am, Sun., 10 am-1am

Boston Beer Works
61 Brookline Ave., Brookline (536-2337)
atmosphere Neo-industrial warehouse-like setting; visible brewery
brewers Brian Allen, Jody Andrews
winter brews on tap Winter Works Ale, White Christmas Ale (brewed with figs)
prices $3.75 a pint
hours 11:30am-1am

GETAWAY

Nobody will ever find us—perfect! A weekend away can do wonders for a romance.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DANA HELLER

On her: Miu Miu jumper, $800; DKNY ribbed sweater, $175; Miu Miu boots, $270; available at Neiman Marcus

On him: knit vest, $620; olive wool pants, $430; suede shirt, $1,200; boots, $390; all by Prada, available at Neiman Marcus

This page, on him: quilted jacket, $700; driving shoe, $380; both by and available at Bottega Veneta; sweater, $375; gray pants, $295; both by and available at Emenegildo Zegna.

On her: angora sweater, $325; ball skirt, $750; wool blanket, $195; all by and available at Burberry; boots, $335; by and available at Stuart Weitzman.

Right, on him: leather pea coat, $1,725; cashmere crew shirt, $550; wool stretch pants, $325; all by and available at Emenegildo Zegna. Prada boot, $390; available at Neiman Marcus.

On her: vintage pea coat, $275; khaki flare pants, $695; vintage wool beret, $56; cream boots, $350; all by and available at Polo Sport. Sweater, $350; by and available at Eye of the Needle.

WHO WHAT WHERE

Bottega Veneta
4 Copley Square
236-1476

Burberry
2 Newbury St.
236-1000

Emenegildo Zegna
39 Newbury St.
424-9300

Emporio Armani
210 Newbury St.
262-7300

Eye of the Needle
85 Newbury St.
859-7999

Neiman Marcus
5 Copley Place
536-3660

Polo Sport
100 Huntington Ave.
266-4121

Stuart Weitzman
100 Huntington Ave.
266-8699

Stylist:
Mark Ellis

Assistant:
Jennifer Reale

Hair and makeup:
Cynthia Murphy/Ennis

Models:
Heidi Aschenbrener/Ford
Dave Forman/Click

Accommodations:
Shiretown Inn, Edgartown

Air accommodations:
Cape Air

Everybody Must Get Hot Stoned

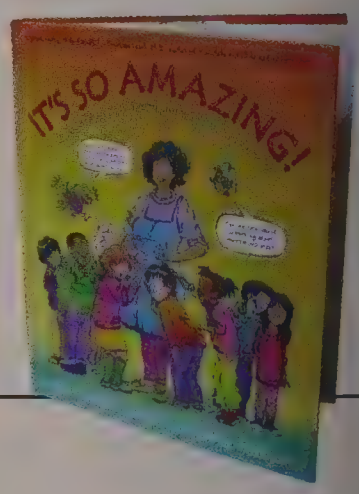
Bella Sante Spa at 38 Newbury Street (424-9930) is the place to get Hot Stone treatment, delivered soothingly by a woman named Max. $125 for an hour and a half.

As we float away, increasingly, from earthy reality into lighter Virtuality, focusing our meringue-light fingertip on that mouse clicker, our need for actual, deep touch becomes ever more essential. Massage therapist Max maintains, "We are starving to death for touch." Adapted from something called La Stone, which was developed in Arizona where the stones naturally drink in heat from the big sun, Max calls her interpretation "Hot Rock Reiki"—Reiki being a laying-on of hands. In her softly-lit temple of peace, you lie partially draped under a light, velvety duvet. The stones, big, round, numinous, earth-recalling, are warmed in aromatic oils. And no, they don't scorch as you lie on them; instead they make you feel goldenly magnetized toward the center of your being. Touching meridian points, and speaking softly of the emergence of "chi," a mystical Chinese energy, Max adds more hot stones. They feel light as a pouncing kitten at first, but achieve their own pleasant sort of heaviness, pressing you into what feels like the earth. The ritual quality of the experience, its all-together-bringingness, the warmth itself make this treatment wonderful for marking positive Turning Points. Or for soothing tormenting Twisting Points.

Squirming Sperm and Smiling Egg

It's So Amazing! by Robie H. Harris and Michael Emberley is about eggs, sperm, birth, babies and families.

The narrators of this colorful, friendly, and eminently readable-aloud book recounting the facts of life are a curious green bird wanting to know, and a fidgety bee, who doesn't want to know. These are canny polarities because children getting the "facts," often hilariously wrong, have both tendencies, juicy curiosity, as well as denial and aversion. Especially cute are the stars of the show here, reminiscent of Woody Allen dressed as a sperm, eager "swimmers" lunging by the millions towards the smug, discerning fortress of the egg, looking rather like a teapot. The authors, emphasizing both that "it's perfectly normal" and that it's an incredible trippy miracle, follow the story of conception, blending the interior story (the pregnant woman contains a see-through fetus) with quotidian externals (she is eating pizza, headed towards her also-visible stomach). The book is full of such look-ins, and uses cartoony jokes (a van called "Umbilical Delivery Service" makes its way towards the "Placenta Diner"). HIV is presented as calmly as possible, with myths and cautions carefully sorted into appropriate categories. In an atmosphere of multiculturalism and multichoice (abortion is touched on, and homosexual parenting) the themes throughout are warmth, love and security.



BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY

Mopsy

Serendipitous shopping: Our unfettered correspondent seeks out the salubrious and the cerebral.

Humble Provender

Edward Humble, resident cheese man, offers two Thirty Minute Gourmet classes at Fresh Pond Bread and Circus, Jan 11 and 25, 6:30-8pm. The first is on Hors D'oeuvres, the second on Oriental Seafood. Sign up in advance at Customer Service for $5 refund in store credit after attending. 491-0040.

The creamy dreamland of cheeses that fill the left-hand back section of Bread and Circus at Fresh Pond is, in part, the province of Edward Humble. This transplanted Englishman characterizes his job as "no-stress," and maybe that's because his customers are so entranced by the product, and his disquisitions on cheese. He will explain how the flavor of raw milk cheeses—from the milk of the goat, the sheep, and the usual cow—is subtler, less "subdued," thanks to the only-partial pasteurization involved. (This means that pregnant women and people of compromised immune systems should steer clear.) But for others, a white cheese such as the Chantal Plasse (almost as soft as ricotta, but more bitey) is so wonderful he says: "Eat it with pears and hear the angels sing." Explicating the provenance and appropriate serving-possibilities of each cheese as you taste a slithery sliver, Humble clears up what can be confusions among these white, white beauties, some more buttery, others drier and more crumbly. Some have a coating of vegetable ash adding the thinnest grittiness to the heavenly purity. The engaging Humble is teaching two cooking classes, the Thirty Minute Gourmet, in January, one on hors d'oeuvres, another on Asian cooking with seafood.

WENDY MIMRAN (SPA & COOKING); CHRISTINA CATURANO (BOOK)

NO PARKING

Any Time, Any Wear

BY EZRA DYER

Losing your driver's license sucks. Getting towed sucks. So I can now add two new items to the ongoing litany of stupid things that I've done to cause myself heartache and strife.

I lost my license first. This is not to say that I no longer have a driver's license, it's just that my particular copy has been temporarily misplaced somewhere between my apartment and the FleetCenter. Fortunately, I still have a passport (and a sweet receding hairline) to demonstrate that I'm not underage, just really stupid.

"This person doesn't know the difference between "are" and "our," (as in, "Are next auction is..."), so I enjoy a feeling of superiority—until I realize I'm the jackass who got his car towed."

After I lost my license, I was smart enough to park on the side of the street designated for cleaning that night. The next morning, there was a nice clean piece of street right where my car had been. I had parked with good intentions but failed to obey one of the approximately 75 "No Parking" signs affixed to the post next to my former space. I remember reading the one that said, "No parking from 1 to 3am on the second Wednesday of the month, or on even-numbered days unless they begin with the letter T," but I guess I failed to notice the other sign warning against parking during a full moon if the Celtics have a home game.

Back at my apartment, I called the police to find out what they did with the offending vehicle. The helpful and courteous man I spoke with informed me that they don't have my car, that I should report it stolen, and that I could go have sex with myself. Upon further questioning, he conceded that I might also try calling the tow lot.

So I did, and there I went. My license-having roommate Wilson was enlisted to accompany me on the trip to Dorchester. We stepped out of Andrews Station and walked across the street to Lil' Peach to ask directions, per the instructions of the tow lot lady. The woman behind the counter asks if I am driving or walking. "Well, if I were driving then I probably wouldn't be looking for the TOW LOT, now would I?" I somehow manage not to scream at her. When she learns that I want to walk, the Lil' Peach lady suddenly gets the Thousand Yard Stare and informs me that nobody ever walks to the tow lot. Okaaay. Although nobody walks there, she still gives me directions, and soon enough Wilson and I are finding out firsthand why you really need to have a car to get to the place where they take yours.

By car, it's just a short jaunt from Andrews down the highway to the tow lot. On foot, it's a short jaunt through the parking lot of a wholesale fish warehouse (where, if you happen to be traveling with an extremely disgruntled roommate, you endure repeated suggestions to "close your legs"). After that, you go through a train yard, all of which appears to be on the wrong side of the tracks. Then you climb over a barbed-wire fence, and voilà, you're there. (Note: you can also walk around the fence, but if you really want to feel like you're "rescuing" your car, you should climb it.)

Once inside the BTD compound, you get to wait in line behind the other miserable slobs who got the hook. I bitterly watch the electronic message board, which cheerily proclaims "Welcome to Boston!" immediately after announcing the upcoming auction for impounded cars. The person who programmed this sign doesn't know the difference between "are" and "our," (as in, "Are next auction is...") so I enjoy a feeling of smug superiority—until I realize I'm the jackass who got his car towed.

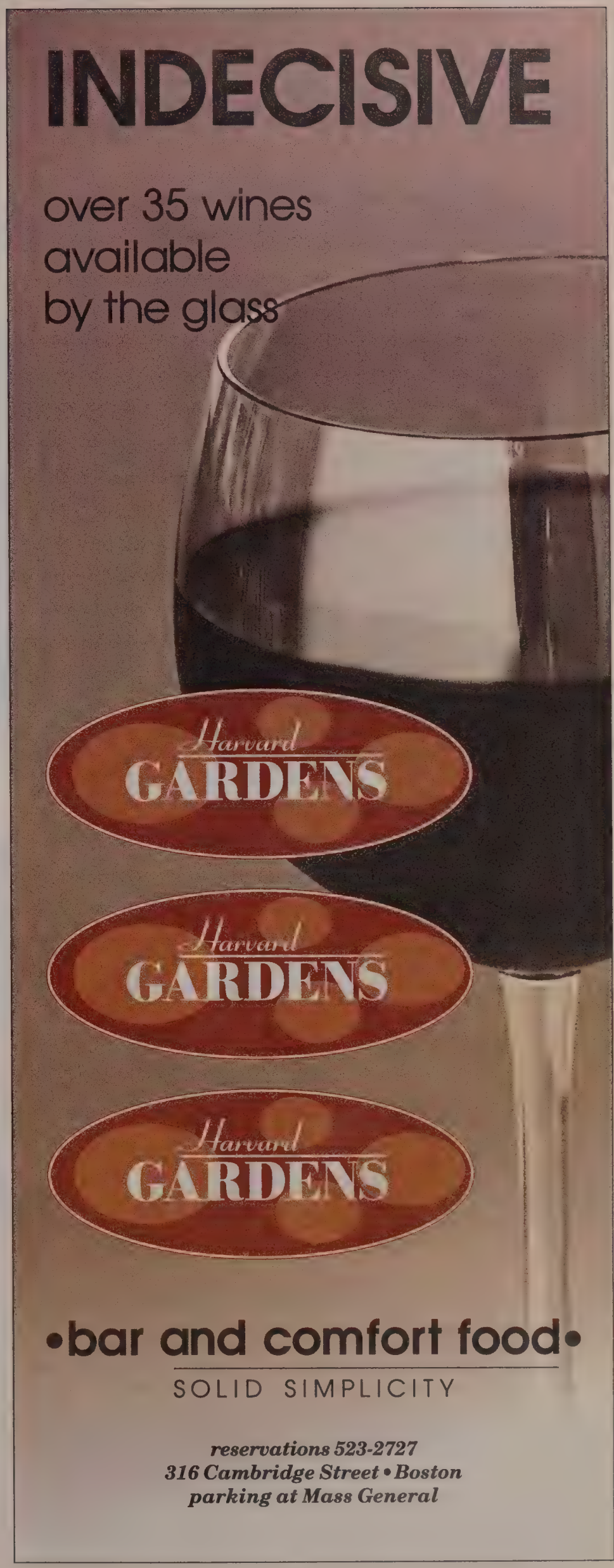
You have time for reflection while waiting for the privilege to pay your ticket. For instance, you may wish to contemplate how lucky you are to have a car. Or maybe you meditate on the need for rules in a civilized society. Or you can do what I did, which is stare angrily at the woman behind the counter while hoping that all of the tow truck drivers contract a virulent social disease.

It took some hard lessons, but I think I've finally picked up the intricacies of parking around here. One trick I learned is that during rush hour you can leave your car out on the central artery without seriously impeding anyone's progress. And to protect my car from getting towed, I've hired an antitheft company named Frankie. You toucha my car, he breaka you face. But above all, I've learned not to get mad at the tow people. After all, they're intelligent folks who are just doing their jobs. Right you our.IB

You think that's funny?

If you do, email Ezra at ezra@improper.com.

CHRISTINA CATURANO



Review

COME TO BOB'S HOUSE

Maison Robert remains a Boston treasure.

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI

Above, the stately dining room of Maison Robert; opposite page (inset): chef Jacky Robert; "Homard Cuit à la Fumée et Roulade de Maïs en Laitue Braisée."

Ann Robert, the tall, soft-spoken, dignified hostess of Maison Robert, embodies the attributes that have made this restaurant such a success for the last quarter century. Whether showing a party to a table in the elegant main dining room, directing them downstairs to the less prepossessing Ben's Café, or leading them to one of the private dining rooms, she treats visitors to this gastronomic landmark not so much like customers as honored guests.

I first met Ann, whose culinary credentials have an academic grounding via the history department at Radcliffe College, almost 10 years ago when I first moved to Boston. Almost by accident I wandered into Maison Robert to savor a four course, $15 prix fix dinner of well executed, straightforward French bistro classics—one of the best dining bargains I had ever encountered. Ben's Café still offers the same value—although the salad course has been dropped, and the price has risen to $18.

I count Ann a friend, and therefore it was difficult for me to visit the restaurant anonymously. On one evening, however, I managed to slip into Ben's Café, unannounced and unseen by anyone who recognized me. This is a pleasant room on the lower level, with a high brick barrel vaulted ceiling, banquette seating, tables adorned with fresh flowers, tall windows with lacy, semi-sheer draperies, a combination of track and recessed lighting, and a scattering of photos.

The first course of the prix fix dinner was a bowl of clam chowder with an intensely flavored stock, rich but not thick, populated by clams, celery, carrots and potatoes. I elected the fish as the main course. What arrived at my table—an abysmally overcooked skate-wing—confirmed to me that my presence and mission had not been detected. The waiter observed my dismay over the sorry state of the fish, and promptly removed the offending creature.

The roast chicken that replaced it, two succulent joints of tender moist flesh, encased in golden brown skin and accompanied by a tarragon enlivened sauce, more than repaired the damage. Dessert was a classic crème caramel, served in a silver plated goblet. The creamy comfort of the custard, with its shimmering caramel glaze, transported me back to Paris' fifth arrondissement. A half bottle of Jadot 1994 Beaujolais Village was remarkable, both for the quality of the wine-rich, aromatic and even tannic (could this be the lowly Gamay grape?)—as well as the price, $11, a bargain anywhere, but particularly in pricey Boston.

More formal, and more expensive, Maison Robert's main dining room, the Bonhomme Richard Room, is grand, even stately (which is appropriate, since this used to be Boston's City Hall). The 40-foot ceiling is bordered with an ornate terra cotta molding. Long burgundy draperies with sheer liners dress the windows. Three huge crystal chandeliers in the shape of inverted pyramids and indirect lighting emanating from sconces covered in pecan wood boxes provide the illumination. Gleaming mirrors, elegant woodwork, a smattering of greenery and framed paintings complete the picture. As I perused the menu, the waiter unbidden brought a trio of treats as an *amuse bouche*: gravelax, a diminutive sushi roll and a sweet littleneck clam. From the appetizers, I chose the "Clams à la Moelle et Jambon de Virginie," Franglais for clams and Virginia ham baked in a large bone on puff pastry ($11). What arrived was a large hollow ham bone containing six small clams, combined with minced savory Virginia ham. It was accompanied by a small clamshell, one-half filled with chopped parsley and the other with a strong, pleasantly salty grated cheese. Although I am no fan of huge portions, I was taken aback by how little there was to eat in this elaborate production. Fortunately, what there was was quite tasty, and Maison Robert's bread (rolls and baguettes hailing from Clear-flour Bakery in Brookline) supplied a wonderful backstop for small portions.

Another starter we enjoyed at a recent Maison Robert dinner was the "Quenelles de Saumon Homardière" (salmon dumplings in lobster sauce) ($9). These velvety spheres of salmon pâté were light in texture but long on flavor, and the dark, aromatic lob-

DAN FURNESS (3)

ster sauce in which they arrived, accented with a dollop of crème fraiche, made the dish exquisite.

Main courses at Maison Robert's main dining room vary from the usual suspects, roast rack of lamb with a rosemary sauce ($32) and roast duck breast ($22), to more adventurous offerings like ostrich filet and veal roulade. The rack of lamb was perfectly executed, with three succulent ribs roasted to a pink, moist turn, and accompanied by al dente cauliflower and garlic mashed potatoes. The duck was tender and juicy, with a sprightly fruit-accented sauce.

The crowning glory of Maison Robert's kitchen in recent visits was the "Homard Cuit à la Fumée et Roulade de Maïs en Laitue Braisée" (lobster cooked in smoke, corn and braised lettuce) ($32). This meaty, 1¼ pound lobster was handsomely presented, removed from and then replaced in the shell, which had been sculpted so that the lobster's thorax became the platform for the shelled claw and knuckle meat. This dish was a kaleidoscope of flavors and textures, with smoky lobster meat, sweet corn, herbaceous lettuce, and a light but lively sauce evidencing a deft but restrained hand on the herbs.

Maison Robert has an extraordinary wine list, from the humble to the exalted. Besides the Beaujolais Village mentioned earlier, Ben's Café offers Macon-Veran as its "Maison Robert White" by the glass ($4.50), a good, crisp, well balanced French Chardonnay that proved the perfect accompaniment for the lobster. On a more ambitious level, but still quite reasonably priced, was the Domaine Latour 1996 Aloxe Corton ($40). Hailing from one of my favorite Burgundian communes, this sturdy Pinot Noir combined a good nose with substantial body and a fine balance of fruit and tannin.

On recent visits, we were somewhat disappointed with Maison Robert's desserts. Two bistro classics, the Crème caramel, described above, and the Tarte Tatin ($9.50) were excellent, the latter a rich, sweet confection of caramelized apples and pastry crust so tender it seems like filo. However, the Crème Brulée and Profiteroles (both $8.50) were less successful, the former resembling more a nutty pudding than a crème brulée, and the profiteroles dry and undistinguished.

Generally the service at Maison Robert is excellent, with occasional lapses. I watched a waiter bone Dover sole for a nearby party. He accomplished the task expertly enough, but I watched in dismay as the husband of the sole's recipient sat for three or four minutes waiting for his food while his wife's sole got cold. The quaint but practical custom of cloches should be resurrected for such situations.

For all its minor failings, Maison Robert remains a Boston treasure. Jacky Robert, nephew of Lucian (the founder and Ann's husband) spent two decades out West before returning to affirm Maison Robert's classicism and creativity. Unlike so many culinary superstars, the Roberts have not franchised or commercialized their good name. There are no Maison Roberts in Vegas or Florida. They are hard at work in Boston, doing what they have always done and done so well. **iB**

Maison Robert

45 School Street, Boston, 227-3370
Hours: Cafe: Lunch, Mon.-Fri., 11:30am-2:30pm; Dinner, Mon.-Sat.: 5:30-9:30pm
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Dish

DRIVE THROUGH

You may have to walk to Butterfish, but it's worth the exercise. BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

Christopher Bussell's Cambridge hideaway Butterfish is worth the trouble it takes to get there.

Question: Why is **Christopher Bussell**'s new Cambridge bistro called **Butterfish**? Answer: Because there's no place to PARK-ay. Okay, that hurts, but more painful than a bad pun is the parking situation just west of Harvard Square. Butterfish has only three parking spaces to call its own, though if you get really lucky you may be able to snag a legal spot down the road in front of the Armenian church.

Moreover, Butterfish is closed on Sundays, the only day resident parking restrictions are not enforced. And yet, this cozy little spot in the former Café Celador seems destined for success. Like several other recently-opened "neighborhood" restaurants (Beacon Hill's **Torch**, West Cambridge's **Aspasia**), Butterfish is owned by a chef with lots of local experience who's developed an upscale menu targeted at prosperous locals who live within walking distance.

Bussell, who's honed his culinary skills in the kitchens of Icarus, the Harvard Street Grill and Locke-Ober, is featuring entrées such as Oven Roasted Duck Breast, Risotto with Pine Nuts and Currants, Grilled Artichokes, Plum and Thyme Sauce; Grilled Pork Chop with Warm Corn Soufflé and Cranberry Demi Glace; and, for you Cambridge vegetarians, Black Lentil Dahl with Yogurt Rice and Coconut Green Beans. Most important, Bussell's wife, co-owner Samantha Overton Bussell, says her husband is committed to working behind the stove every night.

Come to think of it, that's where chef/owners *should* be spending most of their time, because what diners expect—and deserve—is a meal personally prepared, or at least closely supervised, by the chef whose reputation has drawn them (and their wallets) to the restaurant. In fact, a recent substandard dinner at a restaurant that will remain nameless sparked an idea: How about a 20 percent diner's discount on the chef's night off?

Offer expires when the pool of job applicants for restaurant staff eventually refills.

One restaurateur who's taking matters into his own hands on this front is **Frank Bell**. Just as some chefs grow their own herbs or vegetables, Bell decided to grow his own waitstaff. After closing The Small Planet in Copley Square, and while preparing to open The White Star Tavern in the same location, Bell ran an unusual ad in the Help Wanted section. It offered a four-day, 20 hour "service school," including lunch and wines, and promised "$100 and a great job if you graduate."

The response was "enough to staff the restaurant," says Bell, whose entire bar crew has returned to the new place. As for the curriculum, it included "team-building, wine tastings, food tastings, role-playing, a lot of fun, really," he adds.

Bell promises a "marvelous" menu from chef **Ken Goodman**, formerly of East Coast Grill and Tremont 647. "We'll give people the opportunity to indulge, with rack of lamb and veal chops at less than they'd expect to pay," he says. Also featured is a wine list with an emphasis on half-bottles and generously-portioned wines by the glass. "A glass of wine, to me, is six ounces," declares Bell. "I want a whole glass, and I want a fresh glass."

Speaking of fresh, if you have leftover Champagne in your refrigerator, drink up! Maitre Sommelier **Harold Toussaint** of the Wine School says bubbly should be kept in the fridge no longer than two weeks; otherwise, it acquires a metallic character. And if it's really high-end Champagne, let it reach almost room temperature before drinking. It's the perfect remedy for PMS—Post-Millennial Syndrome. Happy New Year! IB

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant? Send it to *dish@improper.com*

Tastings

BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors

Submit updated press releases for tastings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

EVENTS

Beacon Hill Sushi Workshop
Ma Soba, 156 Cambridge St., Beacon Hill (973-6680). MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. Begins Jan. 22, 2-4pm. Three classes. $40 per class/$110 for three classes. Ma Soba's sushi chef will teach the uninitiated the art of sushi preparation. Each class will focus on particular areas of sushi preparation that include rice treatment, fish selection and preparation, basic cutting techniques, roll and nigiri sushi-making and presentation formats.

Boston Wine Festival 2000
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE). www.bhh.com. *Jan. 15-April 7.* An annual three-month celebration of food and wine. See preview in CityScope for more information on events.

Celebrity Chefs Culinary Program
Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Ave., Boston (267-5300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Jan. 15-March 11, 1-3pm. $240/nine-weeks or $30/class. The hotel has brought together nine chefs and cookbook authors, including Ming Tsai, Jasper White and Mary Ann Esposito, for a nine-week program designed for all food lovers. Participants will learn the secrets of master chefs as well as some of the basic techniques in cooking. •Jan. 15: **Jasper White**, author of Lobster at Home. •Jan. 22: **Joanne Weir**, author of *Weir Cooking in the Wine Country*.

Foie Gras Invitational
B-Side Lounge, 92 Hampshire St., Cambridge (354-0766). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Jan. 18. Three seatings beginning at 5:30pm. $40. Chef **Jeff Unger** kicks off his guest chef series, "Three Cooks—Three Courses," for which he invites two other chefs to help prepare a meal with a particular ingredient or theme. January's food of choice? Foie gras.

Four Seasons Dinner: Winter
Westport Rivers Vineyard & Winery, 417 Hixbridge Road, Westport, Mass. (800-993-9695). Jan. 15, 4-6:30pm. $40. Winery chef **Kerry Downey Romaniello** prepares a "George's Bank in the Winter" seafood menu with special guest Foley Fish of New Bedford and Boston.

Guest Chef at Eat Restaurant
eat, 253 Washington St., Somerville (776-2889). Enjoy a menu prepared by well-known local chefs. •Jan. 17: **Steven Oliveto** from the Four Seasons. •Jan. 24: **Eric Jarmon** of Salts.

Hunger Brunch

On Jan. 22-23, more than 60 restaurants in Greater Boston will host brunch, with 100 percent of the proceeds benefiting the Greater Boston Food Bank, Oxfam America and Share Our Strength. Brunch will cost $15, $25 or $35, depending on the restaurant. Participating eat spots include L' Espalier, La Bettola, East Coast Grill (chef Chris Schlesinger pictured above), Clio, Les Zygomates and PF Chang's. For a complete list, visit *www.gbfb.org* or call 427-5200.

Maison Robert with Al Stankus
Elizabeth Bishop Wine Resource Center, 808 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-9852). Jan. 12, 6pm. $100. Executive chef **Jacky Robert** creates a special meal as food writer **Al Stankus** describes the menu and ambience.

North End Market Tour
(523-6032). Wed. and Sat. 10am-1pm and 2-5pm. $35. Learn to recognize the best pasta, olive oil, balsamic vinegar, biscotti, grappa and more as you join Italian food expert Michele Topor of one of the nation's oldest Italian communities.

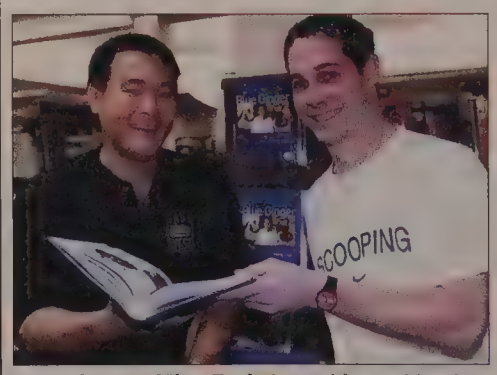
Regional French Cuisine and Wine Seminar
The French Library and Cultural Center, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (266-4351). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Jan. 12, 6:30pm. $85. A focus on the Burgundy region of France. No. 9 Park chef **Barbara Lynch** and wine director **Catherine Sillrie**, share behind-the-scenes secrets, with a cooking demo, wine information and a three-course tasting.

Wine Appreciation for Cheapskates
Cambridge Community Center, 5 Callendar St., Cambridge (864-6326). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wednesday, 6:30-8pm. Jan. 12-Feb. 2. $99. Learn all about cheap but good wines from instructor **Eden Stone**.

Tasty Tidbit

Boston Cooks!

Boston's culinary scene really heats up this month with Boston Cooks!, a 10-day celebration of food, wine and cooking. The festival begins with the Kitchen & Culinary Expo at the World Trade Center, Jan. 21-23. Enjoy three days of interactive demos featuring the latest trends and innovations in the kitchen. There'll be cooking demonstrations by celebrity chefs, cookbook signings, food and wine tasting seminars and chef panels. On the evening of Jan. 24, attend the Dine Around Opening Gala at Le Meridien with celebrity cookbook authors and some of Boston's own stellar chefs. From Jan. 25-30, Boston Cooks! has organized the Dine Around. More than 35 restaurants and cookbook authors combine their talents to create unique meals. Guest authors will sign cookbooks and meet fans. Hop aboard Old Town Trolley's Dine Around Trolley Tour for an excursion to the restaurants, Jan. 22-23 and Jan. 29-30. Learn the food history of Boston and its acclaimed restaurants while tasting dishes that put Boston on the culinary map. *For more details, call (888-SEE-BOSTON) or visit www.bostoncooks.com.*



Blue Ginger's Ming Tsai shows his cookbook to fellow chef, Ken Oringer, of Clio.

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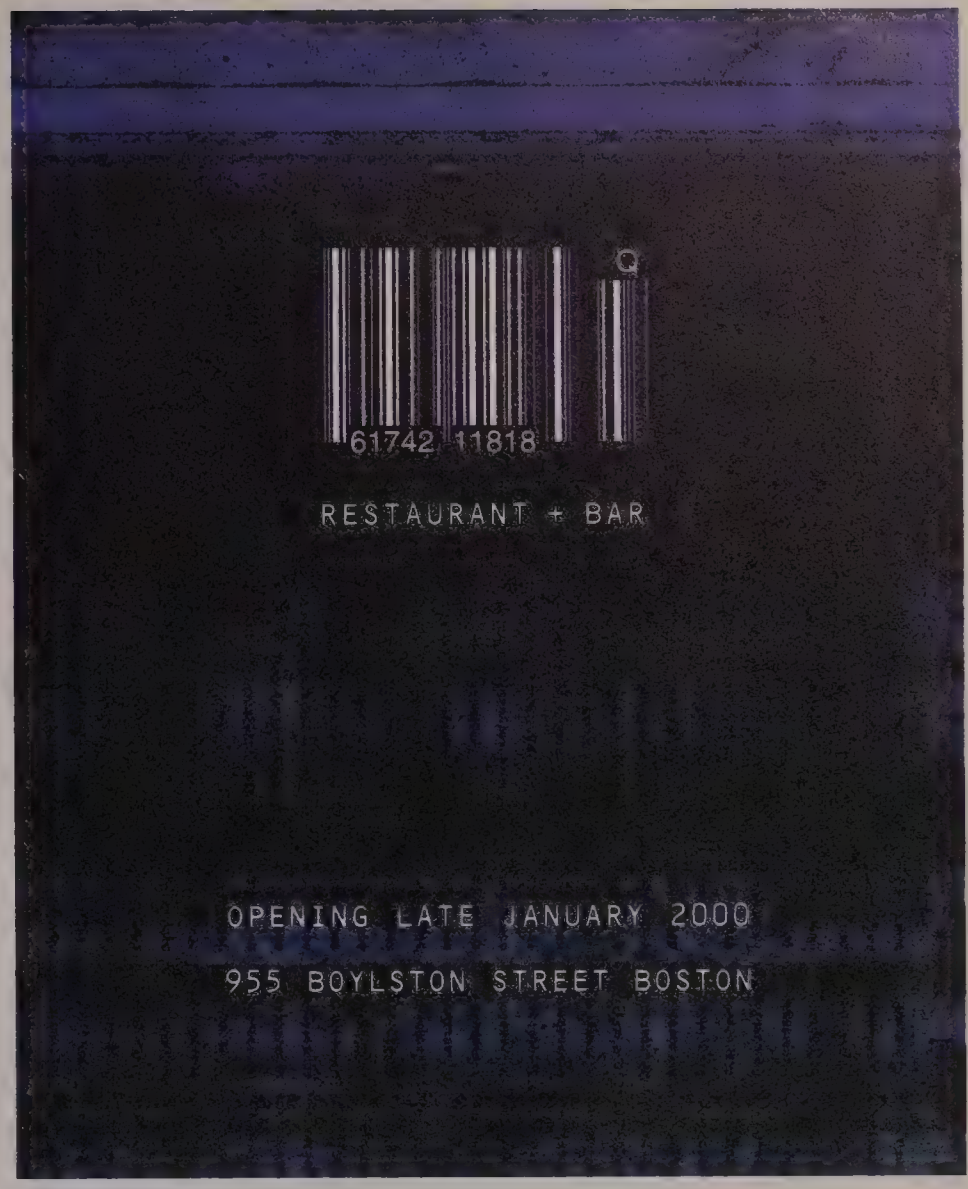
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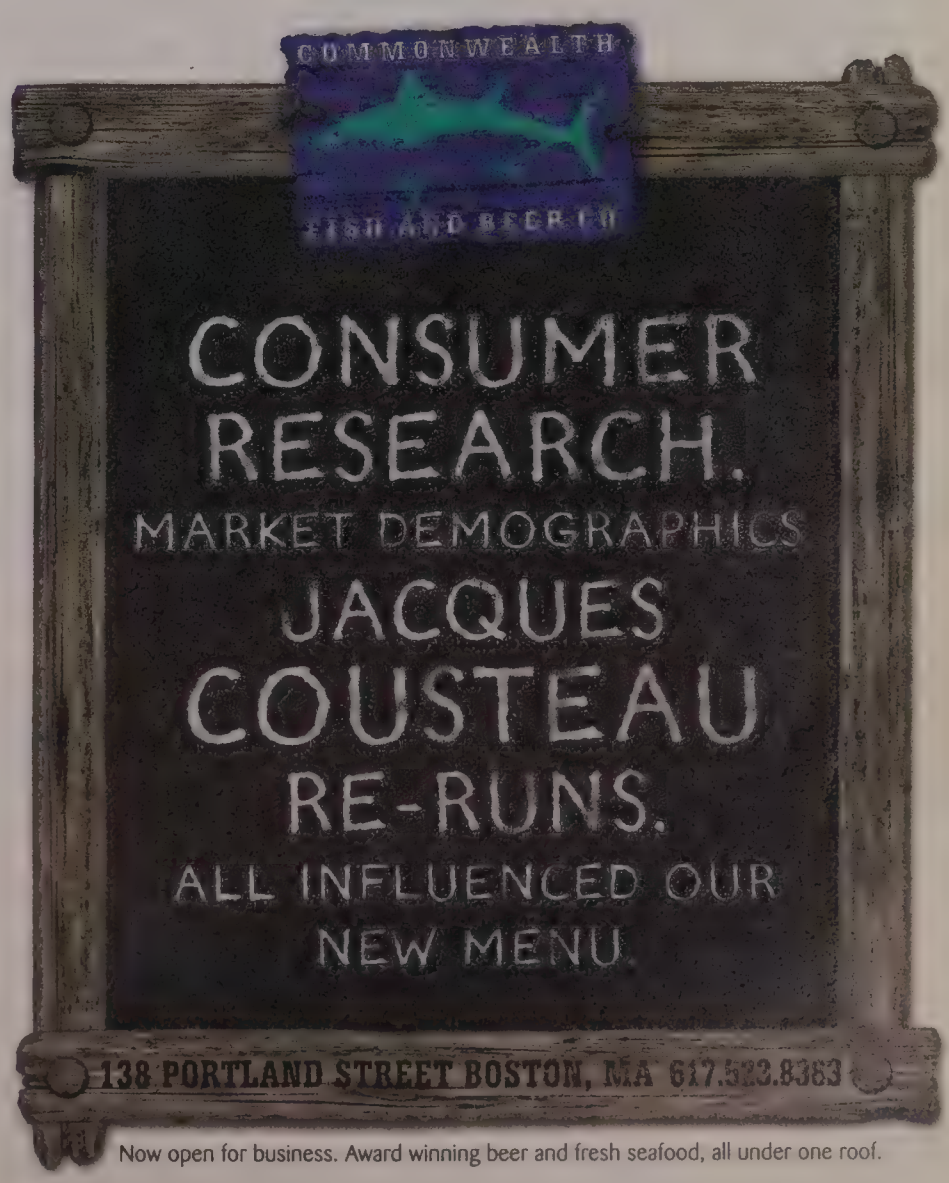
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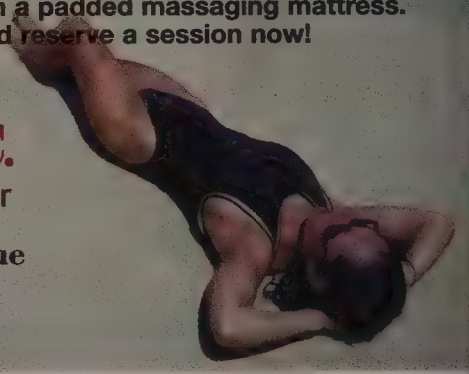

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agenda

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN OR OUT IN BOSTON.

Erin & Julie

THE CALENDAR GIRLS'

improper picks

Too busy (or just too lazy) to plan your own schedule? Life don't get easier than this.

Wednesday, Jan. 12

Erin: Dance to all your favorite *Grease* songs at **Grease on Ice** at the Worcester Centrum Centre. (See Performing Arts.)
Julie: If you're a wine novice and want to learn more, take Eden Stone's **Wine for Cheapskates** class at the Cambridge Community Center. (See Tastings.)

Thursday, Jan. 13

Erin: The Old South Meeting House's lunchtime series holds a lecture, **"True Manhood in the Victorian Era,"** which discusses the close affectionate bonds that men enjoyed during the Victorian era. What a change, eh?
Julie: Yup. Debra Winger and Arliss Howard star in Anton Chekhov's **Ivanov** at the American Repertory Theatre. (See Performing Arts).

Friday, Jan. 14

Julie: Andrew Lloyd Webber's passionate love story, ***Sunset Boulevard***, is only here for six days—at the Wang Theatre. (See Performing Arts.)
Erin: Or catch the dreamy young lad in his super snazzy get-up in ***Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat***. (See Performing Arts.)

Saturday, Jan. 15

Erin: Wim Wender's classic film, ***Wings of Desire***, screens at the Somerville Theatre with local music ensemble the Boston Secession. (See Film.)
Julie: Tonight's the kickoff of the three-month long **Boston Wine Festival 2000** at the Boston Harbor Hotel. (See CityScope.)

Sunday, Jan. 16

Julie: ***Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo*** is a playful mock-traditional classical ballet performed by dancers in drag. (See Dance.)
Erin: Elvis fans shouldn't miss the hilarious whodunit, ***The Elvis Files***, at Club Cafe. I caught it the last time it was in town and had a blast. (See Performing Arts.)

Monday, Jan. 17

Julie: It's **Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday**. There's a bunch of events taking place around town to honor this Civil Rights leader. (See CityScope.)
Erin: See Bogart and Bacall in Maxwell Anderson's play- turned-film noir, ***Key Largo***, on the Wang Theatre's giant screen. (See Film.)

Tuesday, Jan. 18

Erin: Check out **Another Planet** tonight at Harper's Ferry. (See Music.)
Julie: If you're a fan of foie gras, head over to the B-Side Lounge for the **Foie Gras Invitational**. Guest chefs will whip up their own versions of this French delectable. (See Tastings.)

Wednesday, Jan. 19

Julie and **Erin**: **Kindertransport** at the New Repertory Theatre deals with the 1938 rescue of Jewish children from Germany. We see Eva Schlesinger, now a proper English woman, deal with an attic full of memories. (See Performing Arts.)

Thursday, Jan. 20

Erin: **Millennium Funk** is at the House of Blues tonight—only 10 bucks. (See Music.)
Julie: Tonight's the kickoff to **WGBH's Wine & Food Weekend** at the Boston Harbor Hotel. Mingle with PBS celebrities and taste fine wines and fine food. (See CityScope.)

Friday, Jan. 21

Julie: Up-and-coming band, **Jump Little Children**, will be at the Paradise. (See Music.)
Erin: The winners of *Boston Review*'s seventh annual **Short Story Contest** (chosen from nearly 500 entries) read their work. (See Books & Poetry.)

Saturday, Jan. 22

Julie: It's the beginning of Boston Cooks!, a ten-day celebration of food, wine and cooking. This weekend is the **Kitchen & Culinary Expo** at the World Trade Center. (See CityScope.)
Erin: Don't miss this year's **NeWorks Festival** which features new work from established and first-time playwrights. (See Performing Arts.) Also, **Mr. Airplane Man** is upstairs at the Middle East tonight. (See Music.)

Sunday, Jan. 23

Erin: ***Csaardas—The Tango of the East***, is energetic folkloric dancing accompanied by fiery gypsy music at Symphony Hall. (See Dance.)
Julie: Invite your friends out for brunch and support the **Greater Boston Food Bank**—all of the proceeds go to helping fight hunger. (See Tastings.)

Monday, Jan. 24

Julie: **Boston Cooks! Opening Night Culinary Gala** takes place at Le Meridien Hotel. Meet chefs and authors, sample their cuisine, and purchase autographed cookbooks. (See CityScope.)
Erin: Internationally known environmentalist **Bill McKinnen** laments the state of the world and the environment at the Newton Free Library. (See Books & Poetry.)

Tuesday, Jan. 25

Erin and **Julie**: Tonight we're going out to dinner as a part of **Boston Cooks! Dine Around**. Enjoy dinner prepared by a guest cookbook author/chef at one of more than 35 restaurants around town. (See Tastings.)

A Dose of TLC

Catch the girl group with Christina Aguilera Jan. 20 at the FleetCenter.

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Submit updated press releases for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a list of festivals, events and benefits taking place in the Boston area by date.

Festivals, Events & Benefits

Friday, January 14

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Fridays, through January. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

Vacation Expo 2000
Bayside Expo Center, 200 Mt. Vernon St., Boston (424-7790). Fri. 5-10pm, Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. and Mon. 10am-5pm. Jan. 14-17. $8. The largest consumer travel show New England has ever seen. You'll find vacation packages starting as low as $399 for seven-day trips. There'll be hourly trip giveaways, live radio broadcasts, a charity vacation auction, educational seminars and a vacation "video wall" featuring destinations projected onto a huge wall.

Tuesday, January 15

Baystate Bridal Expo
Bayside Expo Center, 200 Mt. Vernon St., Boston (860-563-2111). Jan. 15-16, 11am-6pm. $8. Everything you could possibly need for a wedding...from limousines, caterers and banquet facilities to travel and invitations. Bonus: Each day will feature three fashion shows.

Celebrity Chefs Culinary Program
Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Ave., Boston (267-5300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Jan. 15-March 11, 1-3pm. $240/nine-weeks or $30/class. The hotel has brought together nine chefs and cookbook authors, including Ming Tsai, Jasper White and Mary Ann Esposito, for a nine-week program designed for all food lovers. Participants will learn the secrets of master chefs as well as some of the basic techniques in cooking. The kickoff on Jan. 15 features **Jasper White**, author of *Lobster at Home*.

Thursday, January 17

Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Celebration
Greater Boston (888-SEE-BOSTON). Commemoration of the 71st anniversary of Dr. King's birth: concerts, breakfasts and other special events are scheduled to take place in the city.

It's one-stop shopping at the Baystate Bridal Expo at the Bayside Expo Center, Jan. 15-16.

Thursday, January 20

WGBH Wine & Food Weekend
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE). www.bhh.com. *Jan. 20-23.* Enjoy fine wines and delectable foods, meet PBS luminaries and expert chefs, attend a choice of culinary classes and tap your feet to swinging jazz. The festivities are all part of the Boston Wine Festival. •Jan. 20, 7pm, $175: **WGBH Vintner Dinner**. The Wharf Room. Taste wines from Robert Mondavi Vineyards and enjoy the company of PBS celebrities like Joanne Weir and Jacques Pepin. This wine dinner kicks off the annual four-day festival of events to benefit WGBH.

Friday, January 21

Boston Cooks! Kitchen & Culinary Expo
World Trade Center, 164 Northern Ave., Boston (385-5000). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Jan. 21-22. Fri. 5-9pm; Sat.-Sun. 10am-6pm. $12. Now in its third year, Boston Cooks features the latest trends and innovations in the kitchen and culinary industries. Watch local and national celebrity chefs cook up their signature dishes, as well as cookbook signings, an interactive kids' kitchen, culinary round tables and kitchen design seminars. You can sample the newest foods and buy the latest kitchen gadgets. See Tastings section for more information.

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Fridays, through January. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

WGBH Wine & Food Weekend
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE). www.bhh.com. *Jan. 20-23.* •Jan. 21, 6pm, $150. **WGBH Champagne Reception and Wine Tasting**. The Rotunda. Sip Champagne sparklers and sample Boyajian caviar, smoked salmon and other culinary delicacies with your favorite PBS personalities. •Jan. 21, 7pm, $100. **WGBH Wine Tasting**. The Wharf Room. Taste a tempting array of wines from around the world while enjoy a buffet, live music and discussions with vintner representatives.

Saturday, January 22

Boston Cooks! Kitchen & Culinary Expo
World Trade Center, 164 Northern Ave., Boston (385-5000). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. 10am-6pm. $12. See Jan. 21 for more information.

Celebrity Chefs Culinary Program
Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Ave., Boston (267-5300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Jan. 15-March 11, 1-3pm. $240/nine-weeks or $30/class. See Jan. 15 for more information. •Jan. 22: **Joanne Weir**, author of *Weir Cooking in the Wine Country*.

34th Annual New England Camping & RV Show
Bayside Expo Center, 200 Mt. Vernon St., Boston (800-225-1577). Mon.-Fri. 1-9pm; Sat. 11am-9pm; Sun. 11am-7pm. Jan. 22-30. $7. New England's oldest exclusive recreational vehicle show features the latest in recreational vehicles and campgrounds as well as associated products. There will be over 150 exhibitors, mostly campground owners and RV dealers.

WGBH Wine & Food Weekend
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE). www.bhh.com. *Jan. 20-23.* •Jan. 22, 2pm, $50. **WGBH Master Wine and Food Classes**. John Foster Salon and John Adams Salon. Choose from two unique classes about the world of food with local experts and celebrity chefs. •Jan. 22, 6pm, $60. **WGBH Rare and Fine Wine Auction**. The Wharf Room. Join Stephen Mould, wine expert from Sotheby's London, as he guides the group through 120 lots of hard-to-find bottlings. An elegant wine and hors d'oeuvres reception precedes the auction.

Sunday, January 23

Boston Cooks! Kitchen & Culinary Expo
World Trade Center, 164 Northern Ave., Boston (385-5000). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. 10am-6pm. $12. See Jan. 21 for more information.

WGBH Wine & Food Weekend
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE). www.bhh.com. *Jan. 20-23.* •Jan. 23, 10am, $75. **WGBH Jazz Brunch**. The Wharf Room. WGBH Radio personality Eric Jackson hosts this jazz brunch with a culinary New England feast.

Monday, January 24

Boston Cooks! Opening Night Culinary Gala
Hotel Meridien, 250 Franklin St., Boston (451-1900, ext. 7062). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. 5:30-8:30pm. $50. Boston Cooks! kicks off the week of Dine Arounds with this fabulous reception benefiting the Anthony Spinazzola Foundation and the Greater Boston Food Bank. The public is invited to attend the gala as Boston's own celebrity chefs welcome nationally acclaimed cookbook authors to their city. Live music will entertain as guests are invited to meet the chefs and authors, sample their cuisine, and purchase autographed cookbooks.

Renowned chef Daniel Bruce is the driving force behind the successful Boston Wine Festival 2000. The festival kicks off Jan. 14 with a grand opening reception in the Boston Harbor Hotel.

Preview

Boston Wine Festival 2000

Friday, Jan. 14, marks the kickoff of the Boston Wine Festival 2000, a three-month celebration of the joy of the grape. "If you're someone who's seriously into wine—or someone who has no idea but just likes to drink it—you'll want to make reservations," says chef/host Daniel Bruce. The hotel has put together more than 40 events, from tastings, seminars and celebrity guests to wine and food pairing dinners that are the signature of the celebration. •Jan. 14, 7pm, $75. The Wharf Room. Grand Opening Reception. Here is your opportunity to preview some of the wines to be featured during the festival. Learn from knowledgeable winery representatives and enjoy a bountiful buffet prepared by chef Daniel Bruce. •Jan. 19, 6pm, $160. John Rowes Salon. 1994 Port Tasting and Dinner with Sandy Block, MW. Join the IMPROPER's own wine educator, Sandy Block, for a three-course dinner showcasing some of Portugal's cutting-edge quintas, followed by a tutored tasting of the most legendary Port vintages. •Jan. 20-23: WBGH Wine and Food Weekend Vivacious vintages, tasty treats and dazzling demonstrations. See individual dates (left) for more information. •Jan. 25-26, 7pm, $175. John Rowes Salon. The Battle of the Cabernets. One of the festival's trademarks, this event pits an anonymous lineup of world-class cabernets against one another. Join moderator Sandy Block, syndicated wine columnist Frederic Koeppel, Joshua Greene of Wine & Spirits and Mark Vaughan of *Sante Magazine*, who will evaluate and discuss the wines in a blind context. *Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE).* www.bhh.com. *Jan. 15-April 7.*

Volunteer

Adult Literacy
Learning Works, 19 Temple Place, Boston (357-6000, ext. 7508). Seeks adults to tutor just two hours per week.

Aids Action Committee
131 Clarendon St., 4th Floor, Boston (450-1235). •Donate your old car, truck or motorcycle and receive a tax deduction. Call 800-332-AUTO.

Big Sister Association
161 Massachusetts Ave., Floor 2, Boston (236-8060). Seeks women to act as Big Sisters.

Boston-New York AIDS Ride
(859-8282, ext. 230). Volunteers needed for work on mass mailings, phone banking and other projects.

Boston Partners in Education
(451-6145). Seeks tutors and classroom assistants.

Cambridge Cares About Aids
(661-3040). Telephone receptionists, drivers, data entry and clerical assistants needed immediately.

Cambridge School Volunteers
(349-6794). Recruits, trains, places and provides support services to volunteers in grades K-12.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

ESL/Office Skill Training
One With One (254-1691). Tutor/mentor a newcomer.

Friday Night Supper Program
Arlington Street Church, corner of Arlington and Boylston Streets, Boston (536-7050, ext. 22). Need volunteers to help prepare, cook and serve meals on Fridays, 5-7pm.

Giving Back Fund
(566-2820). Seeks volunteers to assist in coordination of special events, aid in development/maintenance of sports and entertainment industry contact database, follow-up on trade publication leads and provide general administrative support.

The Greater Boston Food Bank
(617.427.5200). Groups of volunteers needed to sort donated food.

Horizons Initiative
(287-1900). Playspace activity leaders needed for children living in homeless family shelters. Training session: Jan. 12 and Jan. 13.

Jewish Community Volunteer Program
(558-6585). Make a difference in the life of a lonely and isolated person.

Mass Substance Abuse Helpline
(536-0501, ext. 201). Volunteers needed to answer helpline aimed at caring for persons affected by alcoholism and substance abuse.

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(536-3557). Seeks caring people to offer help and companionship to homebound and isolated elders.

Samaritans Suicide Prevention Helpline
(536-2460). Seeks volunteers to help staff telephone services for depressed, lonely, suicidal individuals.

Share Our Strength's Taste of the Nation Boston 2000
(781-958-6766). Seeks volunteers to help plan this year's food and wine charity event.

Victory Programs
(357-8182, ext. 624). Volunteers needed for residential substance abuse treatment program.

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Seeks individuals to assist legal immigrants and refugees to become naturalized citizens.

Youth Enrichment Services (YES)
412 Mass. Ave., Boston (267-5877). Seeks role models and outdoor leaders for Operation Ski Lift to take urban young people ages 8-18 skiing and snowboarding.

Sights to See

Boston Tea Party Ship and Museum
Congress St. Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Open daily, June-Aug., 9am-6pm; March-May and Sept.-Nov., 9am-5pm; closed Dec.-March. $8, $7 students, $4 children. You can dump your own bale into the harbor—and watch a museum guide scramble to retrieve it—at this replica of one of the ships emptied by colonists (disguised as Indians) during the Dec. 16, 1773, tea raid. Afterward, enjoy a cup of tax-free tea.

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Fifth Floor, Boston (353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), 8:30pm. Free. BU's astronomers are available to answer questions and assist with telescopes as you check out Orion, Cassiopeia and the Big Dipper.

Bunker Hill Monument
Monument Square, Charlestown (242-5641). Open daily 9am-5pm. Free. What's long and hard and shaped like a pencil? It's not what you think. It's the 221-foot monument that honors the men who died in the Battle of Bunker Hill. But an exhausting climb up 294 stairs reveals little more than a stunning view of I-93.

Christian Science World Headquarters
Mass. and Huntington Avenues, Boston (450-2000). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential. Tue.-Sat. 9:30am-4pm, Sun. 11am-2pm. Tour the Mother Church—a giant basilica that seats 3,000 worshippers—the Maparium, a cool, walk-through, stained-glass globe; a 700-foot-long reflecting pool; and a photo exhibit.

Copp's Hill Burial Ground
Hull and Snowhill Streets, Boston. MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Open dawn-dusk. Admission free. From Boston's second-oldest cemetery, you can see all the way across the Inner Harbor to Charlestown. Famous residents include the well-known Puritanical Mather family and Prince Hall, a prominent member of the free black community.

John Hancock Observatory
200 Clarendon St., Boston (572-6429). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open Mon.-Sat. 9am-11pm, Sun. 10am-11pm (May-Oct.) and noon-11pm (Nov.-April). Admission $4.50. The tallest building in New England (62 floors) offers much more than an awesome view. Listen to air-traffic controllers at Logan, test your knowledge of the city with a computer quiz, or relive some of Boston's most famous and infamous events—including the "Great Molasses Flood" of 1919, when a tank holding 3-4 million gallons of the sticky stuff exploded and turned the North End into a sea of molasses.

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (566-7937). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Wed.-Sun. 10 am-4:30pm. The birthplace and boyhood home of the nation's 35th president.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat. 10am-2pm. Admission free. Alongside Boston's first Anglican church—a gloomy, granite apparition—you'll find a burial ground with equally ominous-looking headstones dating back to 1630. On Sundays, listen for the distinctive peal of the church bell cast by Paul Revere's foundry.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (635-3105). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Open daily 9am-5pm. Guided tours every half-hour, starting at 9am. Free. Known as the "Cradle of Liberty," Faneuil Hall—we're talking about the part above the eatery—was the site of many an angry man ranting and raving about the damn British in the mid-1700s. Today, you can check out the white-walled assembly room, but most people come here for the marketplace.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily 9 am-5pm. Free. Here, Paul Revere saw two lanterns shining on April 18, 1775, indicating that the British troops were crossing the Charles River to Lexington and Concord via boat. You remember... "One if by land, two if by sea."

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays 10am-4pm, weekends 10am-5pm. $3. A thousand fed-up men gathered in this church to decide whether or not to send three ships full of tea back to England. Guess what? They didn't. •Middays at the Meeting House, a lunchtime music series. Thursdays, 12:15-1pm. $4. •Dec. 16: **The Shoemaker and the Tea Party**. Al Young, author of *The Shoemaker and the Tea Party*, talks about how the term "Boston Tea Party."

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-10pm, Sun. noon-10pm. $4, $3 seniors and students. After that 50-floor elevator ascent, you deserve a drink at the Top of the Hub lounge before you check out Boston's only 360-degree view tower. On a good day, you can see New Hampshire.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8am-6pm. Free. Designed by H.H. Richardson and constructed in 1877, the huge Romanesque church in Copley Square rests upon 4,500 submerged wooden pilings, which help hold up the church's massive tower. A shaded courtyard offers respite from the heavily-trafficked plaza. On Fridays at 12:15pm, stop by for a free organ concert.

Cruises

Massachusetts Bay Lines
60 Rowes Wharf, Gate C, Boston (542-8000). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Daily 55-minute harbor tours sail Sun.-Sat. on the hour from 12-6pm. $8. Nightly sunset cruises also available from 7-8:30pm for $15. •Jan.1, 5-8pm: **Family Cruise**. $60 adults, $30 children. 6-9pm: **21+ Cruise**. $60. Both cruises include hot and cold buffet, DJ and dancing, cash bar, champagne toast, party favors and fireworks. •Jan. 2, 6pm-9pm: **Fireworks Cruise**. $25. Includes cash bar, DJ and dancing, and fireworks.

Odyssey Cruise Lines
Rowes Wharf, Boston (654-9744). •Jan. 1, cruising 8pm-11pm. $199: **New Year's Dinner Celebration**. A three-hour cruise with live entertainment, dinner, champagne toast and fireworks. •Jan. 2, cruising 11am-2pm. $99. **New Year's Brunch**. A three-hour cruise with live entertainment, brunch and a mimosa toast.

Tours

Ghost Tours
Meet at Boston Common Visitor Information Center, 147 Tremont St., Boston (781-235-7149). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street. Selected evenings, 7:30pm. $12. Tour downtown Boston's most infamous haunted locations.

The Literary Trail
Tour begins at the Omni Parker House, corner of Tremont and School Streets, Boston (574-5950). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street. Saturdays 12:30-5:30pm. $35. Explore the heritage of some of the country's greatest authors, poets and social activists at eight literary historical landmarks in the Boston area. The climate-controlled bus stops at the Boston Athenaeum, the BPL, Longfellow National Historic Site, the home of the Hawthornes, Alcotts, Lothrops and Walden Pond.

Museums

Boston Tea Party Ship & Museum
Congress Street Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. March-Nov., 9am-dusk. $7, $5.50 students, $3.50. Colonial-clad take you aboard *The Beaver*, a replica of the smallest of the three ships involved in the infamous tea rebellion. Paul Revere leads the hourly tea throwing and explains all about the fateful day irate Bostonians poured out the tea in protest of the tax decree issued by British parliament. Try your hand at rope-tying too.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June Tue.-Sat. 10 am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm; June-Aug. daily 10am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm. $5, children and seniors $3: Follow the red and white signs to the mother of all milk bottles. As you walk under it you'll feel as diminutive as your munchkin companion. See *Arthur's World* from the popular television series and children's books. This infamous aardvark is one of many hands-on favorites. •*Build It!* •*Giant's Desktop* •*Hall of Toys* •*Boats Float!* •*Climbing Sculpture* and •*Japanese House*. •Opened Oct. 31: **Sesame Street Exhibition**. Three decades of the revolutionary children's television series. Step into one of the world's most famous TV neighborhoods.

Harriet Tubman House
566 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-8610). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. Weekdays 8am-8pm. Free admission. The Harriet Tubman Museum exhibits a collection of this influential black leader's achievements.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (929-4523). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily 9am-5pm (last film begins at 3:55pm). $8, students and seniors $6, children $4. Everything you ever wanted to know about JFK and more. Re-live the Camelot years (when Presidential womanizing was still acceptable) and the subsequent decline of America's favorite dynasty. *John Glenn and the Space Race*, an exhibit about the man with the mission is now showing. •*Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy: First Lady*. Ongoing •*Treasures of the Kennedy Library.* A selection of the treasures, including sculpture, jewelry, paintings and documents. Through May 2000. •*Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy*. New ongoing exhibit.

Boston Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (739-1200) www.afroamericanmuseum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays 10am-4pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.* The place is bustling after their recent endowment of more than one million dollars to restore the meeting house's hallowed sanctuary. See the African Meeting House, the oldest black church in America. •Dec. 15-16, Dec. 18, Dec. 28-30, 10am: Celebrate Kwanza.

Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, students and seniors $4, children $3; free to all Sat. 9am-12pm.* This Harvard museum is made up of four factions: The **Botanical Museum**, **The Museum of Comparative Zoology**, the **Mineral & Geological Museum**, and the **Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology**. A number of exhibitions tie together all four of these distinct collections. The most famous is the Botanical Museum for its glass flowers collection—more than 3,000 models of more than 480 plant species. At the Museum of Comparative Zoology, check out the 42-foot-long mounted Kronosaurus (a really big lizard) and countless stuffed insects. The Mineral & Geological Museum's got a 16,000 pound Brazilian amethyst geode, and there's the dollhouse-esque Worlds in Miniature display at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnography.

Museum of Our National Heritage
33 Marrett Road., Route 2A, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.mnh.org. *Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 12-5pm. Free admission.* Explore history through pop culture. Topics range from Revolutionary War artifacts to the latest in jigsaw puzzle-solving techniques and vintage American circus posters. •*Initiating America*, presents a historical look at fraternal organizations. Ongoing.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu. 9am-5pm; Fri. 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children. Omni Theater, Hayden Planetarium or laser shows all $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children.* Find out how much you weigh on the moon, strap yourself into a space module or sift through sand on an archaeological dig. Enjoy 600 hands-on exhibits, including the *Theater of Electricity*, *Seeing Is Deceiving* and *Science in the Park* (Newtonian physics introduced through such accessible items as playground equipment and skateboards.) •*To See the Sea* explores the ocean from the perspective of a deep sea diver. •Now open: *Messages:* Discover why communication is central to everyday life. *Human Body Connection*: exhibits on anatomy, physiology and health. *The Light House: Beaming, Bouncing and Bending Light*: Learn the principles of optics, color and the nature of light with 18 hands-on activities. •Mugar Omni Theater: *Mysteries of Egypt*. Through Feb. 29. *Olympic Glory*, opened Oct. 29. (See Film for more information.)

Charles Hayden Planetarium
Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children. Time of show changes daily.* Get high! High up, that is. And (then) go see the stars and rock-music laser shows. Check out the ongoing out-of-this- world multimedia installations *Life and Death of the Sun* and *The Sky Tonight*, and enjoy daily laser shows to the music of the Beastie Boys, Pink Floyd, Korn, Tool, Jimi Hendrix, Nine Inch Nail, among others. It's a trip. •*Journey to the Edge of Space and Time*: Ideas once considered crazy (like black holes) are now the building blocks of new knowledge. What next? •Friday Night Stargazing, 8:30-10pm. Free.

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St. (in Larz Anderson Park), Brookline (522-6547). MBTA: D Green Line to Reservoir, to bus 51. April-Oct., Wed.-Sun. 10am-5pm; Nov.-March, Wed.-Sun. 10am-4pm. $5, $3 seniors and students. This 1888 carriage house is the automobile buff's paradise—and the country's oldest private collection of antique autos. Featured cars range from Fords and Corvettes to Cadillacs and Italian imports.

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (720-3290). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily 9am-5pm. $3. Built in 1713, this original seat of colonial government was the place Bostonians first heard the Declaration of Independence read.

Re-live the Camelot years at the JFK Museum's ongoing exhibition, *Treasures of the Kennedy Library.*

COURTESY OF THE JFK LIBRARY

performing arts

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Theater. Or e-mail information to performing@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Theater

JUST OPENED

Grease On Ice
Worcester Centrum Centre, 50 Foster St., Worcester (931-2000). Jan. 12, 7:30pm. $21 and $41 (VIP). Get ready to dance in the aisles to all your favorite *Grease* songs and see the magic of this '50s story as you've never seen it before in this hand-jiving, finger-snapping, figure skating celebration.

Kindertransport
New Repertory Theatre, 54 Lincoln St., Newton (332-1646). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. Wed., 2pm and 7pm; Thu.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 4:30pm and 8:30pm; Sun., 3pm. Jan. 12-19. In 1938, following Kristallnacht, a rescue operation began to save Jewish children. Nine-year-old Eva Schlesinger was one of the 10,000 children who rode a train out of Germany to safety. In this haunting and powerful story of loss and survival, we see Eva, now a middle-aged, proper Englishwoman, with an attic full of memories, attempt to resolve the pain of her hidden past and struggle to save her relationship with her 20-year-old daughter.

NeWorks Festival
New Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Fri., 8pm; Sat. 3pm and 8pm; Sun. 3pm. Through Jan. 22. $15. This festival features new work from established playwrights and first-time teen-aged playwrights. This year, the festival will include three new plays by deaf community groups. Among the contributing playwrights are Lois Roach, Thomas Grimes, Barbara Blatner, Michael Hammond and Rick Desrochers.

Night and Shakespeare
Orpheum Foxborough, One School Street, Foxborough, Mass. (508-543-2787). Jan. 14-23. $26. Playwright Ricardo Pitts-Wiley combines selected scenes and sonnets from the works of William Shakespeare with his own "blues poetry" and songs. This moving exploration of men and women and their relationship to the night expresses a range of emotions about life, love, fear, desire and our need to understand our place in the world.

Andrew Lloyd Webber's passionate love story, *Sunset Boulevard*, plays at the Wang, Jan. 11-16.

Sisters Matsumoto
Huntington Theatre Company, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (266-0800). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue.-Thu. 7:30pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. Through Jan 30. $10-$52. A multifaceted, lively and moving tale of a Japanese-American family returning home after being forced to spend most of World War II in a government internment camp, as 120,000 people did under US Executive Order 9066.

Sunset Boulevard
Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Thu. and Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Jan. 11-16. $28.50-$68.50. Based on Billy Wilder's acclaimed 1950 film, Andrew Lloyd Webber's passionate love story is set on Hollywood's street of dreams and tells the story of a young, down-on-his-luck screenwriter, and his fateful meeting with Norma Desmond, a legendary star of the silent screen.

XXX
The Peabody House Theatre, 277 Broadway, Somerville (625-1300). Fri.-Sat. 8pm. Jan. 14, 15, 21 and 22. $15. Joe Mazza erects a triptych of turpitude and titillation stuck somewhere between the terror of loneliness and the agony of being with other people. Through puppetry, metallurgy and movement, *XXX* gropes into the licentious and bizarre.

NOW RUNNING

A Couple of Blaguards
Terrace Room, Boston Park Plaza Hotel, Arlington St., Boston (931-2787). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. Through March. $38.50. This two-man comedy by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Frank McCourt and his brother, best-selling author Malachy McCourt, is an autobiographical tale spanning the brothers' years growing up poor in Ireland and their journey to a better life in America.

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed.-Thu. 8pm; Fri.-Sat. 7pm and 10pm; Sun. 3pm and 6pm. Call for special holiday performances. $39-$49. A truly unique theater experience. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to get its point across with tribal rock music, performance art, humorous antics, props (including plastic tubes, day-glo PVC pipes and twinkies) and three men painted blue.

Chic and Sassy
Tremont Theater, 276 Tremont St., Boston (542-4599). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Through Jan. 30. Thu.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm. A modern coming-of-age tale about two "girls" from a small town. Chic Ana and Miss Sassy, a pair of naive, fresh-faced drag queens, make their way to the big city for a better life. Instead they get into one mishap after another.

Comedy of Errors
Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Thu. 7:30pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 4pm and 8pm; Sun. 3pm. Through Feb. 6. $22-$35. This classic Shakespearean comedy involves two sets of twins separated at birth and brought up in two different cities at war. Sparks fly when both sets of twins are in the same town on the same day. This production will be set in the age of silent film and will feature an original score by Steven Bergman.

The Cryptogram
Trinity Repertory Company, 201 Washington St., Providence, RI (401-521-1100). Wed.-Sat,. 8pm; Tue., 7pm; Sun,. 2pm and 7pm. Through Jan. 16. $26-$38. It's 1959, and a 10-year-old boy is packed and ready to leave on a camping trip with his dad. He waits for his father to get home. It's not long before we all realize that Jon's dad isn't coming home anytime soon.

The Idiots Karamazov
American Repertory Theatre, Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-8300). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. Through Jan. 16. Renowned translator Constance Garnett is a little—shall we say?—past her prime. When she translates Dostoevsky, the Brothers Karamazov become expert plumbers and Anais Nin has Mary Tyrone over for eggshell salad sandwiches. Watch the whole Western canon get skewered by Christopher Durang and Albert Innaurato.

Ivanov
American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-8300). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. Through Jan. 22. $37. Anton Chekhov's portrait of Nikolai Ivanov (**Arliss Howard**), a man too intelligent to endure his provincial life and plagued with guilt and frustration when he finds himself drawn to a beautiful young girl who threatens to destroy the moral foundations of his world. **Debra Winger** plays his wife, Anna.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (931-2787). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri. 7:30pm; Sat.-Sun. 2pm and 7:30pm; Sun. 1pm and 6pm. Through Jan. 16.

***The Idiots Karamazov* draw laughs at the American Repertory Theatre, playing through Jan. 16.**

$26-$68.50. At first glance, you might not recognize the names on the cast list. But look more carefully and you'll see Deborah Gibson (yes, the recording star formerly known as "Debbie" is all grown up) and the five sons of Alan Osmond, eldest member and leader of the famed '70s singing group, the Osmond Brothers. Along with Patrick Cassidy, this Gen-X crew tells the story of Israel's favorite son, Joseph. Based on the last 13 chapters of Genesis, it is the story of Joseph's rise to power in Egypt after being sold into slavery by his 11 jealous brothers—jealous because their father Jacob had given him a fabulous coat of many colors.

Secrets Every Smart Traveler Should Know
57 Theatre, 200 Stuart St., Boston (426-4499). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Thu. 2pm and 8pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 5pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 5pm. Through Jan. 23. $42.50 (Fri.-Sat.); $38 (Thu. and Sun. matinee); $25 (Sunday eve.). The is a critically-acclaimed parody of Wendy Perrin's bestselling Fodor's travel guide of the same name. Inspired by *Conde Nast Traveler* magazine's Ombudsman column, the revue features more than 20 original songs and sketches that take the audience around the globe in 100 minutes. Along the way, the cast encounters a hilarious variety of travel mishaps, fiascoes and cultural embarrassments.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri. 8pm ; Sat. 6:30pm and 9:30pm; Sun. 3pm and 7:30pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This hilarious whodunit is set in a unisex hair salon. The production holds the record as the longest-running play in the history of the Boston theater.

UNIVERSITY THEATER

The Importance of Being Earnest
Agassiz Theatre, Radcliffe Yard, 10 Garden St., Cambridge (496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sat. 8pm. Jan. 12-15. $7. Double Edge Drama presents this classic comedy of manners, marriage and wit, replete with British accents, social satire and cucumber sandwiches. A Wilde way to start the millennium.

COMING SOON

Loot
Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Thu. 7:30pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 4pm and 8pm; Sun. 3pm. Jan. 28-March 15. $22-$35.

WIT
Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont St., Boston (931-2787). Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7:30pm. Feb. 1-20. $25-$62.50.

INTERACTIVE THEATER

The Elvis Files
Club Cabaret at Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave., South End, Boston (931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Jan. 16, 7:30pm. $25 (includes light dinner). Find out what really happened to "the King" in this interactive, hilarious, intergalactic murder mystery. Come watch special agents Wolf Molder and Deena Sully team up with Lt. Colombus to help solve the Crime Scene of the Millennium. Guest list includes look-a-likes Madonna, Cher, Michael Jackson, Austin Powers, Joan Quivers and the guest of honor, the King.

Medieval Manor
246 East Berkeley St., Boston (423-4900). Red Line to Broadway. Mon., Wed., Thu., Fri. 8pm ; Sat. 5pm and 9:30pm; Sun. 6pm. Ongoing. $9.60-$32. Eat, drink and be merry at a Renaissance dining experience. Don't worry about etiquette. You won't find knives and forks, and the soup of the day is in your face—literally.

Mystery Cafe
290 Congress St., Boston (781-320-0040). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Dinner and show: Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm. Ongoing. $34. Saturdays: The interactive murder mystery, *The Devil Made Me Do It*, a heavenly mystery in a tropical setting. Solve the crime and win the super sleuth prize.

Mystery Cruise
Long Wharf, Boston (781-320-0040). June 25, 7pm (boarding). Cruise departs 7:30pm. $49/person, includes dinner and cruise. Gather clues during a cruise through the Harbor, meet characters and interrogate suspects as you attempt to piece together the mystery.

Nonna's Cruise to Nowhere
Locations around the Greater Boston area (781-933-1363). $35/includes dinner. These folks have taken everyone's favorite Italian grandmother (Nonna) and placed her on an imaginary cruise ship, along with her zany family, after misleading Nonna into thinking she's going back home to Italy. The audience laughs, dances and plays along with the cast.

CLASSES

Actors Workshop Open House
40 Boylston St., Boston (423-7313). Green Line to Boylston. Jan. 19, 6-8pm; Jan. 22, 1-3pm. Classes will include a full-time day program, evening and Saturday classes for TV commercials and on-camera acting.

Dance

SHOWS AND EVENTS

Csáardás—The Tango of the East
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: Green Line to Symphony. Jan. 23, 3pm. $38, $35, $32. More than 200 years ago a new dance fashion took Central Europe by storm—a dance for the common people, accompanied by fiery Gypsy music. Join the dancers and musicians to celebrate the exciting folkloric dance developed by Hungarians and Slovaks, Romanians, Poles, Croatians and the Gypsies.

Great... Anything Else?
The Dance Complex, 536 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (781-395-9428.) Red Line to Central. Jan. 15, 8pm. $12, $10 students and seniors. Patrick Crowley performs improvisational works in dance. Joining him are Andrew Harwood, Olivier Besson, Debra Bluth and Neige Christensen.

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo
Emerson Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (824-8000). Green Line to Boylston. Jan. 14 and 15, 8pm; Jan. 16, 3pm. Bank Boston Celebrity Series presents Les Ballets Trockadero, a troupe founded in '74 as a mock-traditional classical ballet. Their skillful satire has earned them an international rep as one of the leading contemporary dance companies.

RICHARD FELDMAN (IDIOTS); JOAN MARCUS (SUNSET BOULEVARD)

Jose McIntyre's

160 Milk Street, Boston

451-9460

www.irishconnection.com

Anton Chekhov's portrait of Nikolai Ivanov plays at American Repertory Theatre, through Jan. 22.

JOIN IN

Club Juliana
22 Hudson St., Boston (354-5780). MBTA: Boston's newest Latin night spot now offers classes. Jam'nastics staff teaches salsa, merengue, bachata and more. Classes feature La Reudo de Casino, a Cuban salsa game.

Dance Caliente
Congregational Church, 400 High St (route 60), West Medford (781-646-1233). MBTA: Commuter Rail to West Medford. Beginners lesson 7:15pm, dancing from 8-11pm. $12 (includes lesson), after 8pm $10. On site child care $5/hour (call to reserve). www.DanceCaliente.com. The lively group is gearing up for winter 2000 programs. • On Jan. 22, Raul Nieves and Eileen Herman Haase present a swing dance party and lesson session.

The Dance Complex
536 Mass Ave., Cambridge (547-9363). MBTA: Red Line to Central. $5-$12. The complex offers an incredible breadth of drop-in classes for the young and old.

International Folk Dance
1st Unitarian Church, 404 Concord Ave., Belmont (491-6083). Thursdays and Fridays, teaching 8-8:30pm, instruction and requests 8:30-11pm, $6. Come and learn a range of folk dances from around the world, with instructors sponsored by the Folk Arts Center. Experienced dancers on Thursdays, beginners on Fridays.

Israeli Dance
Temple Israel, Longwood Ave. and Plymouth St., Boston (566-3960). MBTA: C Green Line to Longwood. Sundays 11am-12pm. $5. Experience the aerobic side of Judaism. Vladimir Foygelman can cure the worst case of the "two left feet" syndrome.

Latin Jazz
Cafe Ole, 11 Springfield St., Cambridge (492-4495). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thursdays 10pm-1am. Free. Mingle, eat, drink and dance to the music of a live Latin jazz band at this authentic Mexican restaurant.

New England Contras and Squares
Thursdays: VFW Hall, 688 Huron Ave., Cambridge (354-1430); 8-11pm, $5. Saturdays: Scout House, 74 Walden St., Concord (547-7781), 8-11pm, $6. Mondays: Scout House, 74 Walden St., Concord (781-272-0396); 8-11pm, $6. With square dancing three nights a week, you can dance 'til you can't dance no more. Yankee Ingenuity plays Mondays, live bands vary on Thursday and there's a variety of music on Saturday nights.

Royal Scottish Country Dance
Every Monday 7:45pm at the YWCA, 7 Temple St., Cambridge (491-6050). MBTA: Red Line to Central. $6. Every Sunday 6:30-8:30pm at The Church of Our Savior, 25 Monmouth St., Brookline (277-7334). MBTA: C Green Line to St. Mary's. $4. For the beginner and experienced Scottish dancer. You don't need for kilts or a partner, but don't forget to bring soft-soled shoes.

Saturdays at Ryles Jazz Club
Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Saturdays, 9pm-1:30am, $12; $10 after 11:30pm. $12 Join in a variety of dance moves—here you'll find jazzy mambos, swing dancing, cheeky cha chas and sassy salsa numbers—always with live music and an energetic crowd.

Swing City
Mt. Auburn Post, VFW, 688 Huron Ave., Cambridge (277-3777). Every Friday night, 7:30pm-12:30am, $10. Find yourself a partner at this swingin' night spot—with free appetizers and a cash bar. Dress is casual to vintage. Beginners welcome.

Temporada Latina
Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thursdays 8:30-11pm. $10-$12. Salsa and merengue dance.

TICKETS

Bostix
(723-5181) www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall Marketplace; Copley Square; and Harvard Square.* Same-day tickets are half price.

Next Ticketing
(423-NEXT). www.boston.com/next.

Out of Town Tickets
(247-1300 or 800-442-1854). This is a good place to get tickets if your show is sold out at the box office.

Ticketmaster
(931-2000) www.ticketmaster.com.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail information to comedy@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the performances or comedians. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (248-9700). www.comedyconnectionboston. com. *MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed. 8pm; Thu. 8:30pm; Fri. and Sat. 8pm, 10:15pm; Sun. 7pm. $8-$10 (weekend prices vary).* The oldest comedy club in Boston draws big-name, national comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •Jan. 12: Boston Headliners. •Jan. 13, 8:30pm: Frank Santos, the "R-rated Hypnotist," $10. •Jan. 14: Bob Marley. •Jan. 15: Bob Marley. •Jan. 16: Boston Headliners. •Jan. 17: Showcase. •Jan. 17: Showcase. •Jan. 18: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz. •Jan. 19: Boston Headliners. •Jan. 20: Frank Santos, the "R-rated Hypnotist." •Jan. 23: Boston Headliners. •Jan. 24: Showcase. •Jan. 25: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz.

The Comedy Studio at the Hong Kong
1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu.-Sun. 8pm. $5-$7. Sketch comedy troops and local comedians perform. •Jan. 13: Thursday Night Fights starring Tim McIntire. •Jan. 14: PS Absurdo, alternative comedy. •Jan. 15: Steve Harris, Ross Garmil and Rick Jenkins. •Jan. 16: Thank Gladys sketch comedy troupe. •Jan. 20: Thursday Night Fights, Round II. Jan. 21: PS Absurdo with Eugene. •Jan. 22: Stand-up Comedy with Sam Walter and Dave Stevens. •Jan. 23: Comics Workout starring Laura Colling.

Dick Doherty's Comedy Escape Comedy Vault
Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun. 9pm. $10. Features local stand-up comedians. Every Thursday night: Stand-up comedy. Friday and Saturday nights: Dick Doherty's Comedy Pro Tour. Every Sunday evening: Open mike night. •Jan. 13 and 27, 9pm ($10): Special guests the **Comedie du Jour** improv theater troupe.

Nick's Comedy Stop
100 Warrenton St., Boston (482-0930). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Fri. 8:30pm; Sat. 7:45pm and 10pm; Sun. 8pm. $8-$14. The talent here is not quite as big-name as the Comedy Connection, but the crowds are just as enthusiastic, and you're guaranteed to leave with a smile on your face. Wednesdays: Open mike at 8:30pm. •Jan. 13, 8:30pm: Kevin Knox, Paul Gilligan and Matt Blake. •Jan. 14, 9pm: Kevin Knox, Paul Gilligan and Matt Blake. •Jan. 15, 9pm: Kevin Knox, Paul Gilligan and Matt Blake. •Jan. 20, 8:30pm: Ed Regine, Steve Hurley and Dave Russo. •Jan. 21, 9pm: Ed Regine, Steve Hurley and Dave Russo. •Jan. 22, 9pm: Ed Regine, Steve Hurley and Dave Russo.

IMPROVISATIONAL COMEDY & MAGIC

Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston (263-6887). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket Square. Shows: Thu. 8pm; Fri. and Sat. 8pm and 10pm. Main Stage: $10-$15. Now playing on the main stage is the critically acclaimed improvisational and sketch comedy show—voted one of Boston's best improvisational comedy troops.

ImprovBoston at Back Alley Theater
1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1253). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troop makes things up as they go along. Fri.-Sat. 8pm ($12) and 10:30pm ($12). Sun, 2pm ($7). •Fridays and Saturdays: 90 minutes of wholesome fun with scenes, games, original music and lots of audience participation. Sundays: family matinee. •Jan. 13 and Jan. 20, 8pm: **Sitcom**. A fully-improvised show that is improvised on the basis of suggestions from the studio audience and an on-stage computer. 10pm: **Open Improv Jam**. All visitors of any skill level are invited to participate in a no-pressure, fun-filled atmosphere where everybody gets to play. •Jan. 14 and Jan. 21, 8pm: ImprovBoston. 10:30pm: TheatreSports Boston vs. Sitcom. Best of five match. •Jan. 15 and Jan. 22: ImprovBoston, shows at 8pm and 10:30pm.

Magicians & Spirits at the Green Street Grill
280 Green Street, Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. Shows every Tuesday evening at 9pm. $10 cabaret show ($5 does not include dinner). Billed as "Intimate Nights of Sleights of Hand," Green Street Grill patrons can enjoy close-up magic as two or three magicians perform tricks behind the bar and mingle among the crowd. At 10pm, the cabaret show begins upstairs, with local and national magicians reading minds, telling fortunes, doing card tricks, making birds appear out of nowhere and floating objects above the stage. If you're expecting to come here and just see rabbits being pulled out of hats, you'd better prepare for more than that.

COMEDY SHOWS

Joey & Maria's Comedy Wedding
Tremont House Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston Station or Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Fri. and Sat. 7:30pm. Ongoing. $39-$45. Join the fun at this absolutely zany Italian wedding. Big hair and blue tuxedos are optional, but be sure to bring a big appetite with you .

SitcomBoston
The Works Theater, 255 Elm Street, Somerville (538-3205). MBTA: Red Line to Davis Square. Fridays and Saturdays, 8pm and 10:30pm. A fully improvised show that looks exactly like an hour of prime-time television. Two half-hour episodes, complete with commercials and catchy jingles, of a brand-new sitcom improvised on the spot solely on the basis of suggestions taken from a studio audience. The end result is hilarious.

Csàardàs—Tango of the East, comes to Symphony Hall on Jan. 23.

T.C. ERICKSON (IVANOV); PETER KORNISS (DANCE)

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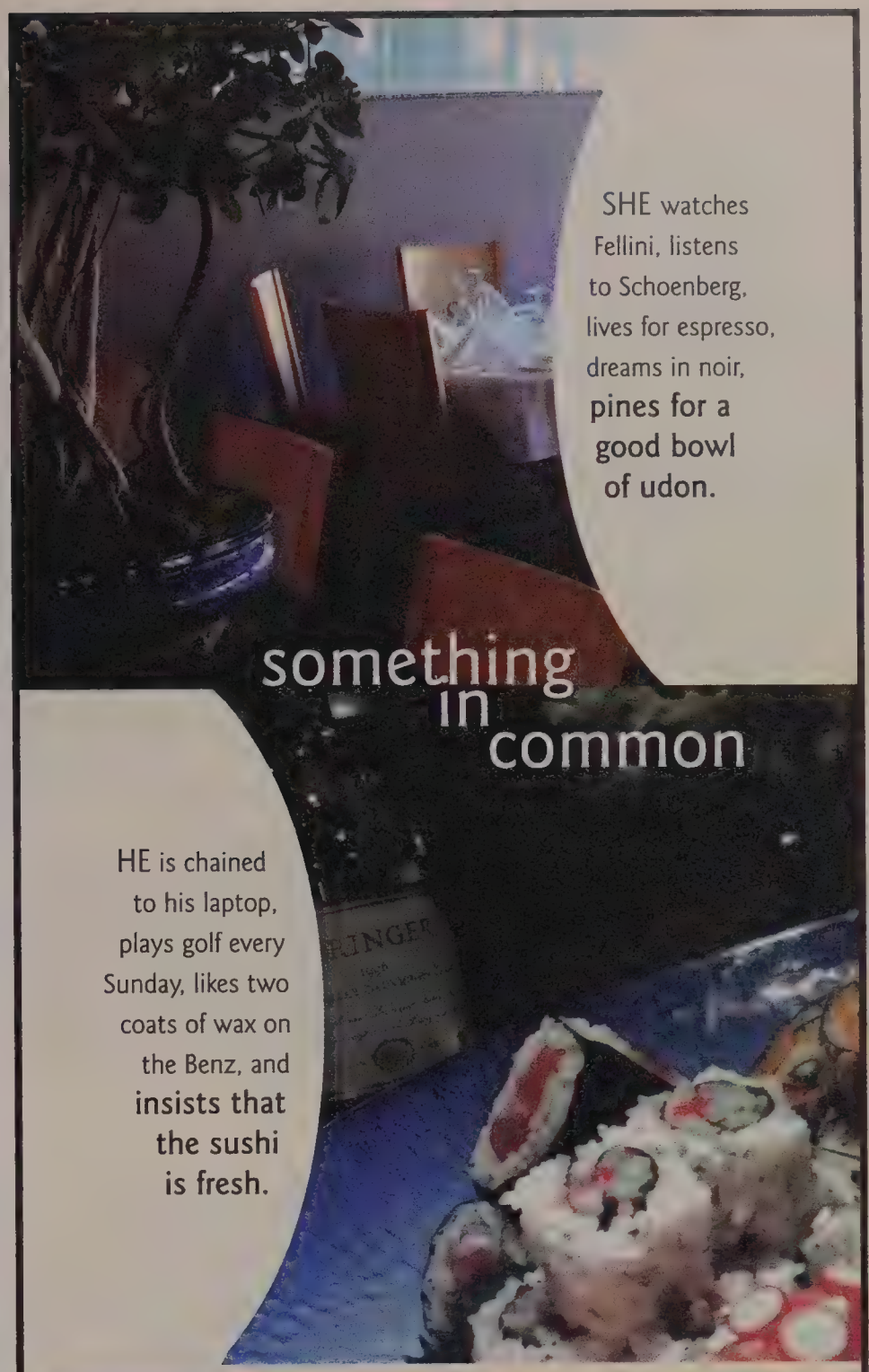

SHE watches Fellini, listens to Schoenberg, lives for espresso, dreams in noir, pines for a good bowl of udon.

something in common

HE is chained to his laptop, plays golf every Sunday, likes two coats of wax on the Benz, and insists that the sushi is fresh.

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sushi bar
fine wines

ma soba

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art

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information for gallery and museum listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail to arts@improper.com. *Include opening and closing dates, nearest T stops and price of admission, if any, and telephone numbers. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a partial list of the largest art museums, art institutes and galleries in the Boston area. Listings following bullets are temporary exhibitions.

Museums

Art Institute of Boston
700 Beacon St., Boston (262-1223). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun. 12-5pm. •*Stamp Art and Artists' Stamps*. Through Jan. 19. •An upcoming exhibitions is 19th- and 20th-century *Photographic Views of Giza*, which will be on view Feb. 3-March 19.

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat. 10am-12pm. The Sackler houses ancient Islamic and Asian art, an array of Neolithic bronze Buddhas, Greek pottery, and Hellenistic and Roman sculpture. •*Wall Drawing #830* features four isometric figures with dynamic colors. Ongoing. •*Nature as Metaphor* features art from China, Korea and Japan. Through Feb. 13.

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat. 10am-12pm. It's better to visit the Fogg the same day you go to the Sackler, as admission includes all of Harvard's museums. Highlights include van Gogh's self portrait and Bellini's clay figures. •*Lifeworld: Portrait and Landscape in Netherlandish Prints, 1550-1650* features 18 Van Dyck etchings as well as several of Rembrandt's most intimate landscapes. Through Jan. 23.

Gibson House Museum
137 Beacon St., Boston (267-6338). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Guided tours every Sat. and Sun. at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm. $5. With 75 percent of its original items in place, the museum allows visitors to understand 19th-century domestic life and design. Ongoing.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (266-5152). Green Line to Hynes. Wed.-Sun. 12-5pm; Thu. 12-9pm. $6, $4 students and seniors. •The first in-depth survey presentation of New York photographer Shimon Attie comes to the ICA in *Sites Unseen: Shimon Attie—Photographs and Public Projects 1992-1998*, through Jan. 16. •Synchronized laser and slide projections of text and pictures from Division 16 files will be projected onto the Boylston facade of the ICA, as well as the firehouse, illuminating Attie's interpretation of the building's existence.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (566-1401). www.boston.com/gardner. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun. 11am-5pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, under 18 free. Guided on Fridays 2:30pm.* This 15th-century Venetian palace is home to more than 2,500 objects and twice as many flowers. Boston's most famous museum is named for the house's owner, Isabella Stewart Gardner (1840-1924), an infamously incorrigible individualist. Only after her death was her house opened to the public. Now everyone can see the works of Titian, Botticelli and Matisse, as well as furniture and architectural details from European churches and palaces.

MIT Museum
265 Mass Ave., Cambridge (253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5pm, weekends 12-5pm. $3, $1 for students, seniors and children. Where else would you be but at MIT when you contemplate Morton G. Bradley Junior's *Math in 3-D: Geometric Sculptures*? Other permanent exhibits include *Flashes of Inspiration: The Work of Harold Edgerton*, and *Gestural Engineering*. Ongoing. •*Cultural Engineering: The Sculptures of Arthut Ganson*, the mechanical engineer/choreographer. Ongoing. •Selections from the holography collection. Ongoing. •On the last Sunday of the month, explore oceanography, astronomy, the science of buildings and other mysteries through interactive activities for all ages from 2-4pm, no reservations required. Call 452-2827.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Mon.-Tue. 10am-4:45pm; Wed. 10am-9:45pm, Thu.-Fri. 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. 10am-5:45pm. West Wing only Thu.-Fri. 5-9:45pm. $12, students and seniors $10.* The MFA has earned its rep as the second-best run art museum in the nation (after the Metropolitan Museum of Art) with its top-notch exhibitions, educational programs and galleries of African, Oceanic and American art. •*Secret Gardens: Paisley and Kashmir Shawls* explores the growth of this design motif over four centuries. Through Jan. 23. •*The Paintings of Martin Johnson Heade*, the stylistically original works of the 19th-century artist who was considered the greatest American still-life painters of his day, shows through Jan. 16. •*Susan Rothenberg: Paintings from the '90s* shows through Jan. 17. •*The Photographs of Bradford Washburn* show through April 30. •*Pharoahs of the Sun: Akhenaten, Nefertiti, Tutankhamen*, one of the most important international presentations of Egyptian art and culture in recent decades, is drawn from more than 35 museums and private collections around the world. It reconstructs the Amarna Age and the vanished city of Amarna through 250 pieces of sculpture, reliefs, ceramics, jewelry, clothing, tools and furniture, including two colossal statues from Cairo which have never before left Egypt. Through Feb. 6.

Museum of Bad Art
580 High St., Dedham (325-8224). Mon.-Fri. 6:30-10pm, Sat. and Sun. 1-10pm. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. The one and only museum that boasts "art too bad to be ignored." A favorite is *Lady Chardonnay*, a piece illuminating a poodle-head dancer.

The Peabody House Museum
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (496-1027). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5 adults; $4 students and seniors; $3 children 3-13. No fee Sat. mornings until 12pm. •A brand new exhibit, *Heads and Tales: Adornments from Africa*, is an exhibition of rarely seen sculptures and artifacts from the Peabody Museum collections, many of them more than 100 years old, which highlight the messages communicated by adornments of the head in sub-Saharan Africa. Through Oct. 1, 2001.

The Revolving Museum
288-300 A St., Boston (439-8617). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed.-Fri., 12-5pm. •*Wayne Veins: New World, New Work, New Year*, a collection of his work described as "gods and goddesses, nightmares and dreams" are all made from thrift store and trash material. The works show in the museum's Little White Box gallery Jan. 17-Feb. 18. •The next show is *Revelation for Revolution*, a millennial exhibition of members' work juried by Rebecca Hoffberger, the founder of the American Visionary Art Museum in Baltimore. Jan. 26-May 1.

Galleries
FINE ART

Allston Skirt Gallery
119 Braintree St., Allston (254-7027). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Street Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm and open by appointment. •*Here Comes Rhody*, an exhibition guest-curated by Dike Blair, features the works of artists Matthew Chase, Maia Cannon, Molly V. Smith, Joe Bradley and Tori Duncan. Shows through Feb. 26.

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (536-4465). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •Susanna Coffey's *Self Portraits* show through Feb. 2.

Preview

Transcendental Art

These days, the word "rapture" primarily is used to convey emotional ecstasy. But Webster's reveals a more arcane definition of the word: "the bodily ascent into heaven just before Armageddon." Beginning Jan. 20, both the Bakalar and Huntington galleries at Mass. College of Art will exhibit contemporary art that explores rapture in both senses of the word—the sublime and the apocalyptic. "The more optimistic, transcendent pieces are downstairs," says curatorial associate Amy van der Hiel. "The more destructive, apocalyptic images are upstairs." A cheeky inversion of heaven and hell? "Yes, it's a visual pun—but it also had to do with spacing issues," says van der Hiel.

***Angel Go Round* by David Ireland will be part of Mass. College of Art's upcoming exhibition, *Rapture*. The provocative show will run from Jan. 20 through March 4.**

The Rapture exhibit, curated by director of exhibitions Jeffrey Keough, brings together pieces by such renowned artists as Kiki Smith, Gary Simmons and David Ireland. Smith's haunting black and white prints of lunar landscapes hang downstairs. A highlight upstairs is the surprisingly beautiful installation by Boston artist Larimer Richards: several drills, set on timers, drill holes through the ceiling and walls, leaving behind small mountains of sawdust. The provocative exhibit juxtaposes beauty, wit and destruction—and is sure to leave visitors rapt. —*Rachel Strutt*

Bakalar and Huntington Galleries, Mass. College of Art, 621 Huntington Ave. (232-1555, x716). MBTA: E Green Line to Longwood. From Jan. 20-March 4. Mon.-Fri., 10am-6pm, Sat., 11am-5pm. Free.

Andrea Marquit Fine Arts
38 Newbury St., Boston (859-0190). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Wed.-Sat. 11am-5pm. Open by appointment only through February. Shows contemporary masters and emerging artists and acts as a consulting group for corporate and private collectors.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (247-0610). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 11am-5:30pm; Sun. 1-5pm. Representing an eclectic mix of styles, from abstract to super-realist. •Anne Packard's *New Paintings*, a series of abstracted landscapes of the Cape and New England, shows through Jan. 30.

The Artists Foundation Galleries
516 East Second St., Boston (464-3559). MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. Sat., 12-5pm and by appointment. •In the Main Gallery: *Articles of Faith: Lawn Martyrs & Front Yard Saints*, photographs by Gary Duehr. •*New Work* by Linda Leslie Brown. •*New Sculpture* by Marcella Stasa. •*New Video* by Zach Feuer. Through Feb. 12.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., 5th Floor, Boston (262-4490). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. Paintings, drawings, prints and sculpture by emerging and established artists. •*Print Publishers Spotlight* features the works of print publishers IC Editions, Lincoln Center and Villani Editions. Through Jan. 29.

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (482-2477). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. •Christopher Bucklow and Garry Fabian Miller show *New British Photography*. Through Jan. 29.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm. •Boston's only gallery dedicated to contemporary folk and self-taught art features *Fins, Furs and Feathers: Animals by Self-Taught Artists* is an exhibition of drawings, paintings and sculptures by 11 artists. Through Jan. 22.

Bromfield Gallery
560 Harrison Ave., Boston (451-3605). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm. •Betsyann Duval's *Memory Stories* shows in Gallery I and Elaine Mendelson's *Living Memories* shows in Gallery II. Through Jan. 29.

Cambridge Art Association
25 Rear Lowell St., Cambridge (876-0246). Tue.-Sat. 11am-5pm., Sun. 1-5pm. A small gallery with a permanent collection of local art. •*Blue*, a show of works by members and non-members is guest juried by Cheryl Brutvan, Beal Curator of Art at the MFA, shows through Feb. 6.

Cambridge City Hall
795 Mass. Ave., Cambridge. MBTA: Red Line to Central. •*Through Their Eyes*, a photographic exhibition featuring members of the Cambridge Senior Center, is currently travelling around the city. This extraordinary artistic event was the idea of photographer Robert W. Castagna who approached the directors of the center in order to teach a class to the seniors. Numerous of the center's members worked to create stunning photographic images. Members participating in the show inlcude Lillian Henslet, a great-grandmother, and Sylvia Bridgeman, a grandmother of 24 and great-grandmother of 32. Through Jan 17. •The exhibition moves to the South Rotunda Gallery in the Hynes Convention Cnnter Jan. 21 through Feb. and the BPL April 3-28.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (236-2255). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm. Jewelry in Glass by Sydney Cash and Yoko Kuramoto shows through Jan. 8. •*Illusive Glass* by six artists is on display through Feb. 5.

Child's Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (266-1108). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri. 9am-6pm; Mon. and Sat. 10am-5pm. American and European paintings, prints, drawings and sculpture, from 1500 through 1950. •Upcoming exhibitions include *Pleasures of Winter*, *Selections from the Print Annual* and *Prints of Francisco Goya*, Jan. 18-March 4.

Clark Gallery
145 Lincoln St., Lincoln (781-259-8303). Tue.-Sat. 10am-5pm. The gallery represents 30 artists, primarily regional. Media regularly include glass, ceramics, oil, acrylic on canvas, wood and studio furniture. •The new year brings in two shows: *Michael Wilson: New Paintings* and *American Ceramic Sculpture*, featuring a select group of major works from around the country. Through Jan. 27.

Clifford•Smith Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 3rd Floor, Boston (695-0255). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing, transfer to bus #49, get off at Washington and East Berkeley. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5pm. Gallery artists display their works throughout the month.

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***Bridges: the 21st Century*, paintings by Jason Berger, shows at the Rotenberg Gallery through Jan. 29.**

Copley Society of Boston
158 Newbury St., Boston (536-5049). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat. 10:30am-5:30pm; Sun. 1-5pm. America's oldest non-profit art association is a platform for young and established artists alike. •A *Winter Members Show* is on display through Jan. 29.

Creiger Dane Gallery
36 Newbury St., Boston (536-8088). www.creigerdane.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm.* •*TimeXposure: exploration in time, space & movement* exhibits images that appear to contain motion as well as three-dimensionality in lenticular prints that explore the mysteries of time, space and movement. Through Jan. 29.

Crystal Art Gallery
93 Summer St., Suite 4L, Boston (728-9818). www.crystalfineart.com. *MBTA: Red and Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Tue.-Sat. 11am-6pm.* A multicultural gallery that regularly displays the work of national, international and local artists. •A new rotating exhibition highlighting the works of Viktor Anufriev and Li Xudo shows through January.

Dyansen Gallery
132 A Newbury St., Boston (262-4800). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. You'll always find paintings, bronzes and fine art prints. Collections include Rembrandt, Picasso, Chagall, Miro, Dali, Cassatt, Snowden and more. •The gallery displays their ongoing collection throughout January.

Eclipse Gallery
167 Newbury St., Boston (247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9am-6pm. •Matthew Zirakian displays his black and white photography through Jan. 29.

Elias Fine Arts
120 Braintree St., Brighton (783-1888). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. •This month, the gallery displays *The Constructed Real*, co-curated by Mario Russo, which explores contemporary photographers from Belgium, Germany, Holand and the US who build environments and photograph them.

Gallery Bershad
99 Dover St., Somerville (629-9400 ex.3). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Wed., Thu., Sun., 12-6pm; Fri. and Sat. 12-8pm. •*Gallery Bershad at One*, a multi-media exhibition showing the work of several new artists shows through Feb. 6.

Gallery NAGA
67 Newbury St., Boston (267-9060). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. Paintings, studio furniture, sculpture, photography and holography. •Robert Siegeiman shows *Manuscript: New 20x24 Polaroid Photographs* with Alan Klien's exhibition, *Moment: New Works in Glass*. Jan. 29.

Gibbs Gallery
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm. •*Artifact: Past, Present, Future* features the work of more than 25 artists from Greater Boston. Through Jan. 28.

Genovese Sullivan Gallery
47 Thayer St., Boston (426-9738). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. •Charles Cohen's color photographs display through Feb. 2.

Gurari Collections
91 Charles St., Boston (367-9800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington or Red Line to Charles MGH. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. This new gallery, which opened Dec. 3, has an impressive collection of 16th- to early 20th-century etchings, engravings and drawings of architecture and urbanism, classical figures, antiquarian fantasies and unusual objects. Also showing the work of Wendy Artin, an artist living in Rome. Ongoing.

Guild of Boston Artists
162 Newbury St., Boston (536-7660). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri. 9:30am-4:30pm; Sat. 10am-5pm. Established in 1914 as a traditional non-profit art gallery, the guild aims to keep traditional art open for the public. •*Watercolor for the 21st Century*, an exhibition by the New England Watercolor Society, shows through Jan. 29.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St. Boston (536-6339). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 10am-6pm; Sat. 10am-5pm. •Assortment of 18th- and 19th-century historic and decorative antique engravings and lithographs. •The gallery shows an ongoing collection for the next month.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (262-0550). Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. www.hyg.com. •Rudolf de Crignis and Bonnie Porter display their works through Feb. 1.

Hurst Gallery
53 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (491-6888). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tues.-Sat. 12-6pm. Visitors are greeted with art and artifacts from six continents. •An exhibition of Chinese and Japanese scroll paintings is on display throughout January.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (375-0076). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. The gallery's exhibition features a wide variety of vintage posters from Europe and Russia. •*The Last Poster Show...of the Millennium*, a celebration of festive Italian, Swiss, French, American and other posters throughout the 20th century. Through Jan. 31.

Judy Ann Goldman
14 Newbury St., Boston (424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. Call for an appointment. Paintings, sculpture and works on paper by gallery artists. •Tom Bambarger: *Visual Field's Landscape photographs of the American Heartland* shows through Feb. 12.

Kingdom Fine Arts
173 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1997). MBTA: Green Line to Symphony. Tue.-Sat. 11am-7pm. •*Fear No Art*, an exhibition by four artists, includes the works of Wombat and Matt Clark. Jan. 12-Feb. 14.

Kougeas Gallery
88 White St., Boston (569-9317). MBTA: Blue Line to Maverick Square. Thurs.-Sat. 2-6pm and by appointment. This art gallery in the neighborhood of East Boston features realist and illusionistic fine art. •*Nervous Beauty*, an exhibition by Marc Dennis, consists of small, hyper-realistic oil paintings. Jan. 15-Feb. 26. •*Explicit, part two* is comprised of 18 photographs, 13 paintings and nine works on paper in various media. March 4-April 1.

Mercury Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (859-0054). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm. Specializes in American and European figurative expressionism. •*Joseph Solman: A Retrospective of Works from 1935-1999* is an exhibition of portraits, street scenes and still lives. Through Feb. 12.

Mobius
354 Congress St., Boston (542-7416). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm. An artist-run group known for a wide range of arts. •*Fortress*, an installation by Jon Luckett, incorporates sound, video and a fort inspired by those of children, using household furniture and sheets to explore the psychic necessity of forts to grown-ups. Through Jan. 29.

MPG
285 Newbury St., Boston (437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •*New Art 2000*, a national juried show, features the works of emerging artists. Through Jan. 31.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm.* Founded in 1964. •The gallery's *35th Exhibition Part II: New Works* by 22 gallery artists shows through Jan. 15. •In Gallery I, Mario Kon displays his *Addition/Subtraction/Regeneration*. •*New Work* by five artists in Gallery II. Jan. 22-Feb. 19.

Out of the Blue Gallery
168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun., 12-7pm. This artist-owned and-operated gallery always has a variety of interesting artwork up and art-related events going on. •Christmas Show runs through Jan. 31. •Jan. 15, 8pm and Jan. 22, 8pm Open mike poetry hosted by Deb Priestley and live music. •

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (236-4497). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. •Howard Silberthau's abstract paintings show Jan. 21-Feb 26.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (267-9473). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun. 1pm-5pm. •*Inuit Collection* shows through Jan. 31.

Qingping Gallery Teahouse
216 Newbury St., Boston (236-4846). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open every day, 9am-12am. This authentic Chinese teahouse—and the only local gallery to focus solely on art from China—specializes in avant-garde and contemporary antiques, teapots and furniture.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (266-3321). www.richardson-clarke.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tues.-Sat. 10am-5pm.* •American and European 19th- and 20th-century paintings, drawings and sculpture. •A rotating exhibition resumes in February.

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (437-1518). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm. •Jason Berger's *Bridges: The 21st Century*, a collection of his bright, colorful paintings, shows through Jan. 29.

Barbara Singer Gallery
18 Sparks St., Cambridge (491-5525). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.barbarasingerfineart.com. *Sat. 1-4pm and by appointment.* •The current show features the work of Robert Kelly and Stephanie Chubbuck.

Space 12 Gallery
12 Union Park St., Boston (423-9760). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed. 6-9pm; Thu.-Sat. 1-5pm. •*Dan Fox: New Work*, new abstracts in acrylic on canvas and paper, shows through Feb. 12.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (450-0321). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. William St. George displays his colorful interpretations of Boston cityscapes, bold equestrian scenes and semi-abstract works at his recently opened gallery.

Via Gallery
83 Newbury St., 2nd Floor (424-6200). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri. 10am-4pm. •Teresa McCue's pastels *Here & There*, works of New England, Mexico and Italy, show through Feb. 11.

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (536-6176). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 8am-5:30pm; Sat. 9am-4pm. Run by twin brothers Bill and Terry Vose, the gallery specializes in American paintings. •A *Winter Exhibition* shows through the month of January.

Zeitgeist Gallery
312 Broadway St., Cambridge (876-2182). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu.-Sun., 2pm-7pm. •The gallery displays a variety of local artists' work all month.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2051). Tues.-Sat. 11am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. The Multiple is a gallery investigation that explores works of art produced more than once. Ongoing.

Gallery One
537 Comm. Ave., Boston (437-1868). Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm. Affiliated with the New England School of Photography. A gallery devoted to displaying photography of Boston artists. •Upcoming is James Spada's *Men*, black-and-white photography. Jan. 17-Feb. 18.

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (423-4299). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Fri., 10am-3pm; Sat., 12-5pm. •*Say it with Flowers*, works with floral imagery by Jennifer Amadeo-Holl, Anne Beresford, Sheila Gallagher and Elaine Spatz-Rabinowitz, show through Jan. 23. •*For the Time, Being*, a collaborative installation from Asa Chibás, Liz Sweibel and Traci Wile, shows Jan. 28-March 3.

Panopticon Gallery
187 Bay State Rd., Boston (267-8929). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford. Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm. This gallety offers fine art photographic prints and media licensing of images for print, video and stock photography.

Photographic Resource Center
602 Commonwealth. Ave., Boston (353-0700). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford. Tue.-Sun., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-8pm. •*Particle Accelerators*: At the intersection of photography, science and technology looks at the efforts of contemporary artists working across the disciplines of science, technology and photography. Through Feb. 25. •*Photography in Human Experience* features photographs dating from the 1860s to the 1920s. Through April 28.

Head to the MFA to see this Head of Nefertiti, part of the Museum's Pharoahs of the Sun exhibit, which runs through Feb 6.

CRAFTS

Cambridge Artists Cooperative
59A Church St., Cambridge (868-4434). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; 10am-8pm; Sun. 1-6pm. Twelve artists own and operate this gallery which features 2D design and jewelry.

Clayground
91 Hampshire St., Cambridge (661-7376). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 12-6pm; Sat. 11am-5pm. Porcelain and stone objects galore. Classes available.

Fresh Pond Clay Works
368 Huron Ave., Cambridge (492-1907). Red Line to Harvard to Bus 72. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm. A range of firing techniques, from terracotta to porcelain.

Gateway Gallery
62 Harvard St., Brookline Village, Brookline (734-1577). MBTA: C Green Line to Brookline Village. Mon.-Sat., 11am-6pm. All sorts of arts and crafts.

Infinity Gallery
24 Union Park St., Boston (423-5555). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat 11am-7pm; Sun 11am-6pm. This small gallery features Wayne Fuerst's work.

Signature Gallery
Dock Square, Boston (227-4885). Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Thu., 10am-7pm; Fri. and Sat., 10am-9pm; Sun., 12-6pm. Pottery, metal and glass works.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (266-1810). Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm; Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. •*Sculptural Works* by Peter Haines and Nancy Hayes shows with Robert Forman's *Yarn Paintings* Jan. 13-Feb. 27.

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THE LITTLE CHILL

Snow Falling on Cedars is half of a great movie.

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Tragedy does not always equal drama. You get a lot of the first, but only a little of the second in Scott (*Shine*) Hicks' adaptation of David Guterson's novel, *Snow Falling on Cedars*. And that's where this often luxurious, pleasingly challenging movie's big problems lie. Set between the 1930s and 1950s, it's about the relationship between several white and Japanese-American characters on Washington's fictional San Pedro Island (based on that state's real Bainbridge Island). It's there that the Anglo residents and the significant Japanese-American population (immigrants and their American-born offspring) co-exist in the 1930s, find that distanced friendship squashed by World War II in the 1940s and then have to deal with the unhealed wounds in the 1950s.

The story uses an early-1950s murder trial, in which a Japanese fisherman (Rick Yune) is being charged with killing a white fisherman (Eric Thal), as the framework with which to touch upon these larger relationships. It touches particularly upon the relationship of two characters—Ishmael (Ethan Hawke), before (Oliver Stone's *JFK* and Errol Morris' *Fast, Cheap and Out of Control*), dazzles again. But if the action that circles around and hovers over the trial is strong, the trial itself is a dud.

It's pretty appalling that anyone whose "story" is not related to Hawkes' Ishmael gets short shrift here, including defendant Kazuo. We do see some flashbacks involving him and his family, when Kazuo's father buys some land from the dead man's father, and the seller forecloses on it after the defendant's family is sent to an internment camp and misses the last two payments. But Kazuo is almost a faceless victim of the courtroom maneuverings of a prosecutor (James Rebhorn) and several witnesses who play the race card, like the dead man's mother (Celia Weston). To further frustrate, the conscience-tweaking defense attorney, given a very Oscar-friendly turn by Max Von Sydow, is a stereotypical smarter-than-he-lets-on country lawyer (think Sam Ervin meets Columbo).

There's also a big hole in the story in that, despite the small-town setting, it gives you no indication there's ever been any contact between Ishmael and Kazuo. For a movie that has an omniscient perspective on its action, rather than the point-of-view of one character, it's also odd to see Ishmael given a number of personal issues to work through over the course of the trial, like his relationship with his more idealistic, late father (Sam Shepard), who's seen in flashbacks, yet nothing so substantial for the defendant.

All of this makes *Snow Falling on Cedars* an ambitious disappointment. As a tale of regret about two young lovers who let the larger world turn themselves against each other, but who get a chance to come to some sort of mutual understanding years later, it's often a striking blend of cinematic technique and emotion (if only *The Cider House Rules* had some of its non-verbal emotional sweep). But that's only part of a slow-moving, larger story that feels hollow at its core. IB

Youki Kudoh and Ethan Hawke find themselves thrown together in Scott Hicks' tale of regret, *Snow Falling on Cedars*.

the reporter covering the trial for the local newspaper, and Hatsua (Youki Kudoh), the defendant's wife. But *Snow Falling on Cedars* isn't simply a courtroom drama with some flashbacks mixed in. It's a pastiche of action from before the war, when Ishmael and Kudoh (played then by, respectively, Reeve Carney and Anne Suzuki) were puppy lovers, from during the war, when pressure from her mother causes Kudoh to send soldier Ishmael a "Dear John" letter, and during the trial, when the two find themselves thrown together after years of keeping a respectful distance.

This impressionistic narrative adds a lyrical, moody quality to the story, and the work of Cape Cod cinematographer Robert Richardson, who's given other directors the raw materials to work in this style

Snow Falling on Cedars ★★

Directed by Scott Hicks. Written by Hicks and Ron Bass. Based on David Guterson's novel. With Ethan Hawke, Youki Kudoh, Max Von Sydow, James Cromwell, Rick Yune and Eric Thal. Rated PG-13. Universal Pictures.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

All About My Mother ★★½
Pedro (*Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*) Almodovar sticks to very familiar territory for his latest: suffering women, actresses, pre-operative transsexuals, bright sets. He offers some colorful characters, including a nurse (Cecilia Roth) whose teen son has just died, a theater diva (Marisa Paredes), a pregnant run (Penelope Cruz) and a transsexual prostitute (Antonia San Juan). An element of maternity and parenthood runs through most of the relationships and the specter of *All About Eve* and *A Streetcar Named Desire* hang over the story. It's all mildly involving, though Almodovar just pushes his usual buttons.

Angela's Ashes ★★
Death by the carful, poverty, the drink, strident Catholicism, starvation, typhoid, consumption, unemployment, conjunctivitis and every imaginable body fluid grace Alan Parker's tediously long adaptation of Frank McCourt's Pulitzer-Prize-winning memoir of growing up in Ireland. Although there are occasional sparks of humor or tenderness, there's little thrust to the miseryfest, and little that hasn't been seen before in a dozen similar Irish tales. All this does is make you long to revisit *The Butcher Boy*, Neil Jordan's cliche-busting antidote to movies like this.

Any Given Sunday ★★
There's often an exhilarating cinematic energy to Oliver Stone's football movie, but it's also terribly overinflated and self-important. With Al Pacino as a veteran coach trying to balance the egos of players (like Jamie Foxx, Dennis Quaid and LL Cool J) and the bottom-line demands of management (like owner Cameron Diaz), the movie often seems like one long shouting match (who's Al arguing with *this* scene?). At its best, Stone's quick-cutting, music-drenched style adds adrenaline to the drama, at its worst it's obnoxious and gimmicky and drags the movie out to nearly three hours. Or is this all just Stone's metaphorical commentary on working in Hollywood, with the idealistic coach standing in for him, the players for self-centered actors and the management for Hollywood suits?

The Cider House Rules ★★
John Irving wrote the script for director Lasse Hallstrom's flat adaptation of his novel. Stripped of the detail of the book but keeping the occasional "big speech," the coming-of-age story of a Maine orphan (an outstanding *Tobey Maguire*) torn between the father-figure doctor who runs the orphanage he grew up in (Michael Caine) and the world beyond it (including lover Charlize Theron) lacks the emotional oomph to make you really feel his dilemmas. Irving and Hallstrom (*My Life as a Dog*) fail to transform the novel into a cinematic experience instead of just an abridgment.

Cradle Will Rock ★★★
With such real figures as Orson Welles (Angus Macfadyen), Nelson Rockefeller (John Cusack) and Diego Rivera (Ruben Blades) in its ensemble, Tim Robbins' panoramic 1930s story blends fact and invention as it looks back at when the government financed the arts when our depression economy could not. But when Washington didn't like the anti-fascist, anti-greed message such art often espoused, it backed out. In the climax—centering on a performance of the banned play that gives the movie its title—Robbins turns heavy-handed, though, when he might have let the events speak more for themselves.

Girl, Interrupted ★★★
Susanna Kaysen's memoir of a year spent in a mental institution becomes an involving drama, a sort of somber *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Although it's a little skimpy on the background of its young heroine (Winona Ryder), you sense her troubles and her being committed stem more from her rejection of the 1960s suburban, middle-class life laid out before her than from any genuine sickness. It's director James (*Copland*) Mangold's no-nonsense rendering of her gradual realization of her own inner struggles—a realization both hindered and helped by the free-spirited fellow patient played by Angelina Jolie—that makes this emotional journey rewarding.

Holy Smoke ★★
Despite a bold performance by Kate Winslet, Jane (*The Piano*) Campion's latest is a muddled stew of spirituality and sexuality. Winslet plays a young Australian who's extended a stay in India because she's found spiritual enlightenment with a guru. Her disbelieving family gets her home and forces her into deprogramming with an American anti-cult specialist (Harvey Keitel). These two then play out a power struggle, with the woman using her sexual power as a trump card. Campion presents this struggle as its own spiritual experience for the pair, but the story goes a long way to make a little point, and is never very involving.

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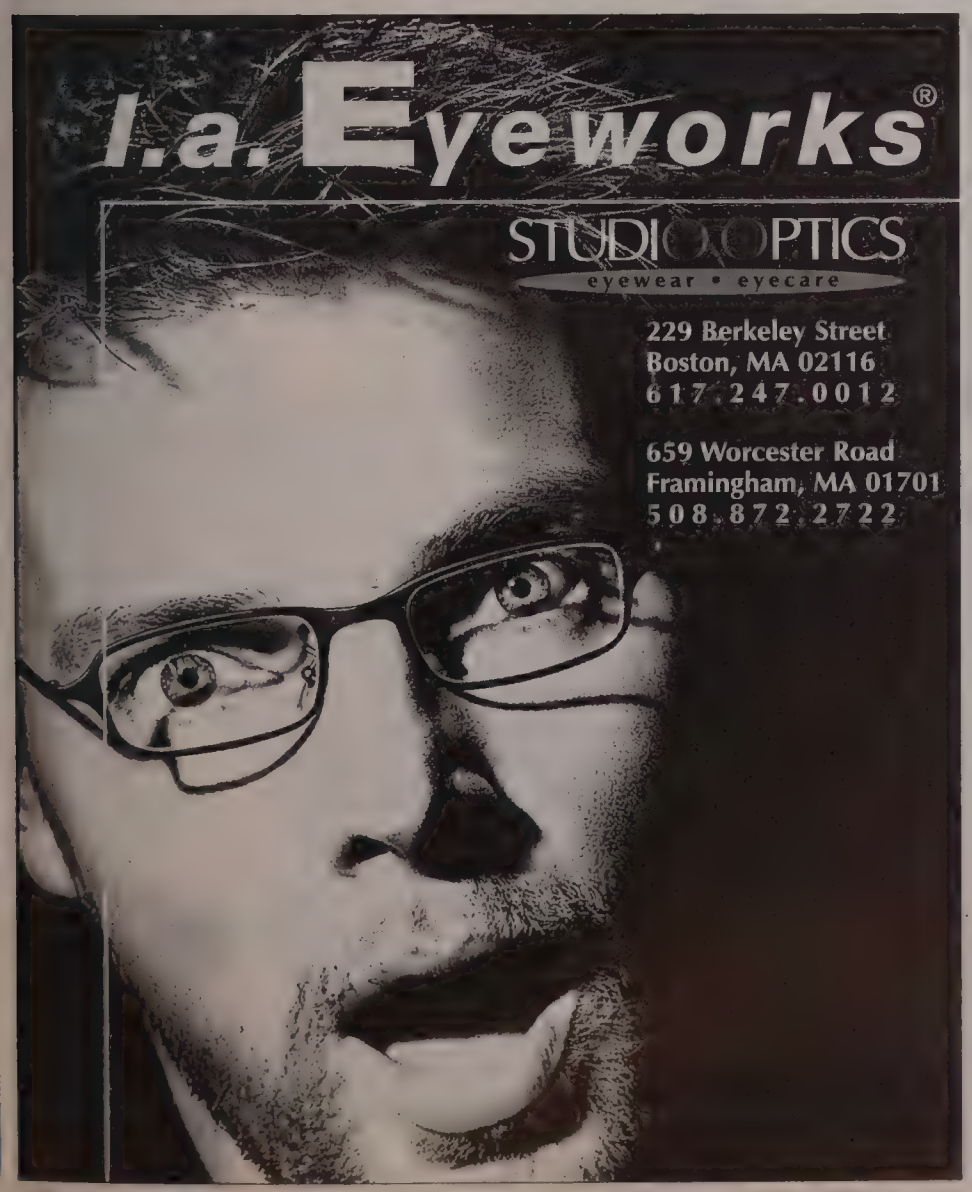

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Antonio Banderas, Woody Harrelson and Lolita Davidovich team up in the new *Play it to the Bone.*

The Hurricane ★★★
Tragedy and triumph, character study and legal story mingle, sometimes awkwardly, in the story of Rubin "Hurricane" Carter. The welterweight boxing contender, unjustly-convicted prisoner, 1970s cause célèbre and, eventually, 1980s free man is a compelling character, especially in his attempt to mentally transcend the prison around him (and, as Carter, Denzel Washington gives his best performance since *Devil in a Blue Dress*). But such moments are too often interrupted by scenes with a quartet of Canadians who befriend him and ultimately help uncover the evidence that frees him. They're important, but are often dead weight to the 145-minute story. And, yes, Bob Dylan's song about Carter is here.

Man On The Moon ★★★½
Jim Carrey and writers Scott Alexander and Larry Karaszewski, who penned Tom Burton's *Ed Wood*, outdo themselves in director Milos Forman's biography of the late comic Andy Kaufman, which really "gets" its subject. Carrey is uncanny at capturing Kaufman in memorable onstage routines, but he goes beyond mere mimicry in the offstage scenes and easily tops his performance in *The Truman Show*. And the writers—despite some sloppy fiddling with chronology—brilliantly tap into the spirit of Kaufman, who lived to confound audiences, whether it was through his joke-free comedy or his abrasive alter ego, Tony Clifton. Also with Danny DeVito, Courtney Love and Paul Giamatti, several of Kaufman's *Taxi* co-stars and Jerry "The King" Lawler.

Play It to the Bone ★★½
Two men, one woman, a sport. Writer-director Ron Shelton revisits his *Bull Durham*, *White Men Can't Jump* and *Tin Cup* formula, and yet again manages to make it fairly interesting. This time the specifics are washed-up, best friend boxers (Woody Harrelson, Antonio Banderas) hired as last-minute fill-ins to fight each other on the undercard of a Vegas title bout. As the two ride to Vegas from LA in the muscle car of the woman they've both dated (Lolita Davidovich), the verbal sparring is colorful and amusing. But it takes a dive, though, once the trio get to Vegas, where celebrity cameos and a weak ending sour the strong start.

Ride With the Devil ★★
The story in Ang (*The Ice Storm*) Lee's latest is too schizophrenic to hold together. The Civil War western about a group of Confederate-supporting Missouri bushwhackers often potently portrays the suffering of war, as on this western frontier the war takes on a very personal form, often house burnings instead of genuine battles. Such scenes are chilling and thrilling, though they sometimes engulf the characters. Conversely, there's some great character interplay in the quieter scenes, especially between Tobey Maguire and Jeffrey Wright, but those scenes sometimes drag, often when Jewel is around as a young war widow. If only the action and the character drama were more integrated.

The Talented Mr. Ripley ★★★
Anthony (*The English Patient*) Minghella's adaptation of Patricia Highsmith's novel—previously filmed as the French minor classic, *Purple Noon*—is a well-crafted, albeit long-winded psychological thriller. Tapping into the same self-loathing as *Being John Malkovich*, it's about a working-class dreamer turned schemer (Matt Damon), who insinuates himself into the lives of a hedonistic shipping heir (Jude Law) abroad and his fiancee (Gwyneth Paltrow). When the friendship starts to cool and the couple starts to leave him behind, after the upstart has tasted the good life and developed a crush on the "brother he never had," he kills the heir and tries to assume his first-class identity. In the tradition of Redford or Beatty, Damon shines as the morally-flawed person inside a handsome facade, and you really feel him being seduced by the lush Italian setting. The last third drags, though.

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Cinemas
214 Harvard Ave. (277-2140). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
Trapelo Rd. (484-1706). Red Line to Harvard Square, then take the 73 bus.

BOSTON

Boston Film and Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (536-1540). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (536-5400). Green Line to Copley.

Cheri
50 Dalton St. (536-2870) www.loewstheaters.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center.*

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum Of Science, Omni Theater
Science Park (723-2500). MBTA: Green Line to Science Park.

Nickelodeon
606 Comm. Ave. (424-1500). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford St.

Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle.

Coolidge Corner
290 Harvard St. (734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theater
40 Brattle St. (876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard Square.

Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (495-4700). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard Square.

Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Square (494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony Theater
10 Church St. (864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston. (277-2500). B Green Line to Chestnut Hill.

West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (964-6060).

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan.

Somerville Theater
55 Davis Square (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

Alternatives & Revivals

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Although film listings are correct at the time of publication, they are subject to change. Doublecheck showtimes by calling the theater or 333-FILM.

Brattle Theater

Most shows are $7, including double features.

Playtime: Chaplin, Keaton and Tati—Sundays
•Jan. 16 **Modern Times** *1936.* In Charlie Chaplin's last silent film, he plays a factory worker who struggles to live in modern industrial society. Charlie turns against modern society, the machine age and progress.
•Jan. 16 **Playtime** *1967.* Jaques Tati's famous character, M. Hulot, wanders through a very modern Paris constructed of steel and glass skyscrapers.
•Jan. 23 **The Great Dictator** *1940.* Chaplin plays two characters in his first full talkie. Adenoid Hynkel, the dictator of Tomania, and a Jewish barber.
•Jan. 23 **The General** *1927.* Keaton's best silent features sets comedy against the true Civil War story of a stolen train and Union spies.

Mad Love—Mondays
•Jan. 17 **Young Frankenstein** *1974.* Mel Brooks' comedy is the story of a young neurosurgeon (Gene Wilder) who inherits the castle of his grandfather, the famous Dr. Victor von Frankenstein.
•Jan. 17 **Nosferatu the Vampire** *1922.* F.W. Murnau directs this traditional tale of Count Orloc, who moves from his ruined castle to the city after the visit of Jonathan Harker.
•Jan. 24 **Lost Highway** *1997.* Bill Pullman and Patricia Arquette star in David Lynch's bizarre, sexy, masterful and wholly un-summarizable film.

Black & White & on the Edge—Tuesdays
•Jan. 18 **Raging Bull** *1980.* Martin Scorsese loosely based his film on the life and career of boxer Jake LaMotta. Robert De Niro and editor Thelma Schoonmaker won Academy Awards for their efforts.
•Jan. 18 **Dance with a Stranger** 1985. This British drama is a tale of tragic love with Miranda Richardson as a nightclub hostess who falls for an upper-class snooty man (Rupert Everett).
•Jan. 25 **Eraserhead** *1978.* A film that bounces between nightmare, hallucination and reality, David Lynch's long-time-in-the-making, black-and-white creation stars Jack Nance, Charlotte Stewart and Jeanne Bates.
•Jan. 25 **Institute Benjamenta** *1995.* Stephen Quay and Timothy Quay direct this film about a man who arrives at the Institute Benjamenta to learn to become a servant.

Recent Raves—Wednesdays
•Jan. 12 **Black Cat, White Cat** *1998.* Emir Kusturica directs this story of a small-time hustler, living by the Danube with his son. He attempts to pay off a failed business deal with a gangster in some bizarre ways.
•Jan. 19 **The Limey** *1999.* An ex-con (Terence Stamp), goes to LA to try to solve the mystery of who murdered his daughter. Directed by Steven Soderbergh.
•Jan. 19 **The Strait Story** *1999.* David Lynch's spell-binding tale is the story of 73-year-old Alvin Straight, an old-time cowboy who won't let anyone tell him what he can't do. When he gets a call that his brother is ill, he boards a riding mower for a cross country journey.

A Century of World Cinema—Thursdays
•Jan. 13 **A Better Tomorrow** *1986.* Jon Woo's thriller about a gangster who wants to reform and his brother, a dedicated police inspector. It's Woo's breakthrough and one of Hong Kong's most successful films ever.
•Jan. 13 **City on Fire** *1987.* Ringo Lam directs Chow Yun Fat as he plays an under cover cop who infiltrates a gang and gets tangled up in a heist gone wrong.
•Jan. 20 **A Better Tomorrow II** *1987.* In this sequel, a man (Ti Lung) refuses to go undercover to bust the gang he used to work for in exchange for parole. He accepts after his little brother, the policeman, accepts the assignment. Starring Chow Yun-Fat.

Special Engagements—Fridays and Saturdays
•Jan. 14 and 15 **Being John Malkovich** *1999.* Here's another chance to see Spike Jonze's much bally-hooed movie. It's the off-kilter story of a puppeteer (John Cusack) who discovers a door in his office that allows him to enter the mind of John Malkovich for 15 minutes.
•Jan. 21 and 22 **Trouble In Paradise** *1932.* Two jewel thieves (Marshall and Hopkins) fall in love, but find their relationship threatened when one of them gets too close to their newest (female) victim. Directed by Directed by Ernst Lubitsch. It is followed by a late screening of **Brazil**, the director's cut.

Coolidge Corner Theater

Call ahead for a complete list of films and showtimes.

Culture Shock
•Jan. 17, 7:30pm **The Last Temptation of Christ** *1988.* An examination of the final year of Christ's life, this Martin Scorsese adaptation of Nikos Kazantzakis' controversial novel. The acclaimed cast including Willem Dafoe, Harvey Keitel and David Bowie.
•Jan. 24, 7:30pm **The Tin Drum** *1979.* Based on Gunter Grass' Nobel Prize-winning novel, this is the tale of a 3-year old who stops growing during the Nazi rise to power. Directed by Volker Schlondorff.

Special Engagements
•Now playing **American Movie** *1999.* Directed by Chris Smith, this film provides a humorous glimpse into the ins and outs of independent filmmaking, using the example of fictional director Mark Borschardt's attempts to make his latest film.
•Now playing **Sweet and Lowdown** *1999.* Woody Allen's latest is a period piece highlighting the adventures of eccentric jazz guitarist Emmett Ray in the '30s. Sean Penn, Uma Thurman and Samantha Morton star.

Preview

Masters of Slapstick

Chaplin's *Easy Street*

Keaton's *One Week*

Big Business

The most famous of the silent comedians—Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton and Laurel and Hardy—come to life with the choreographed music of the Alloy Orchestra in a night of not-so-silent film. The comedians' short films, which are all chock-full of hilarious gags and clowning around, are Chaplin's *Easy Street* (1916), Buster Keaton's *One Week* (1920) and Laurel and Hardy's *Big Business* (1929) .

The Boston-based Alloy Orchestra is a three-man group comprised of Terry Sonahue (percussion, accordion and vocals), Ken Winokur (more percussion) and Roger Miller (synthesizer). Their style—which is a barrage of drums, hubcaps, truck springs and various metal—is combined with electronics to create nearly every sound, a delightful ruckus perfect for classic comedies. *Jan. 22, 4pm and 8pm $12. Somerville Theatre (876-4275).*

The Alloy Orchestra

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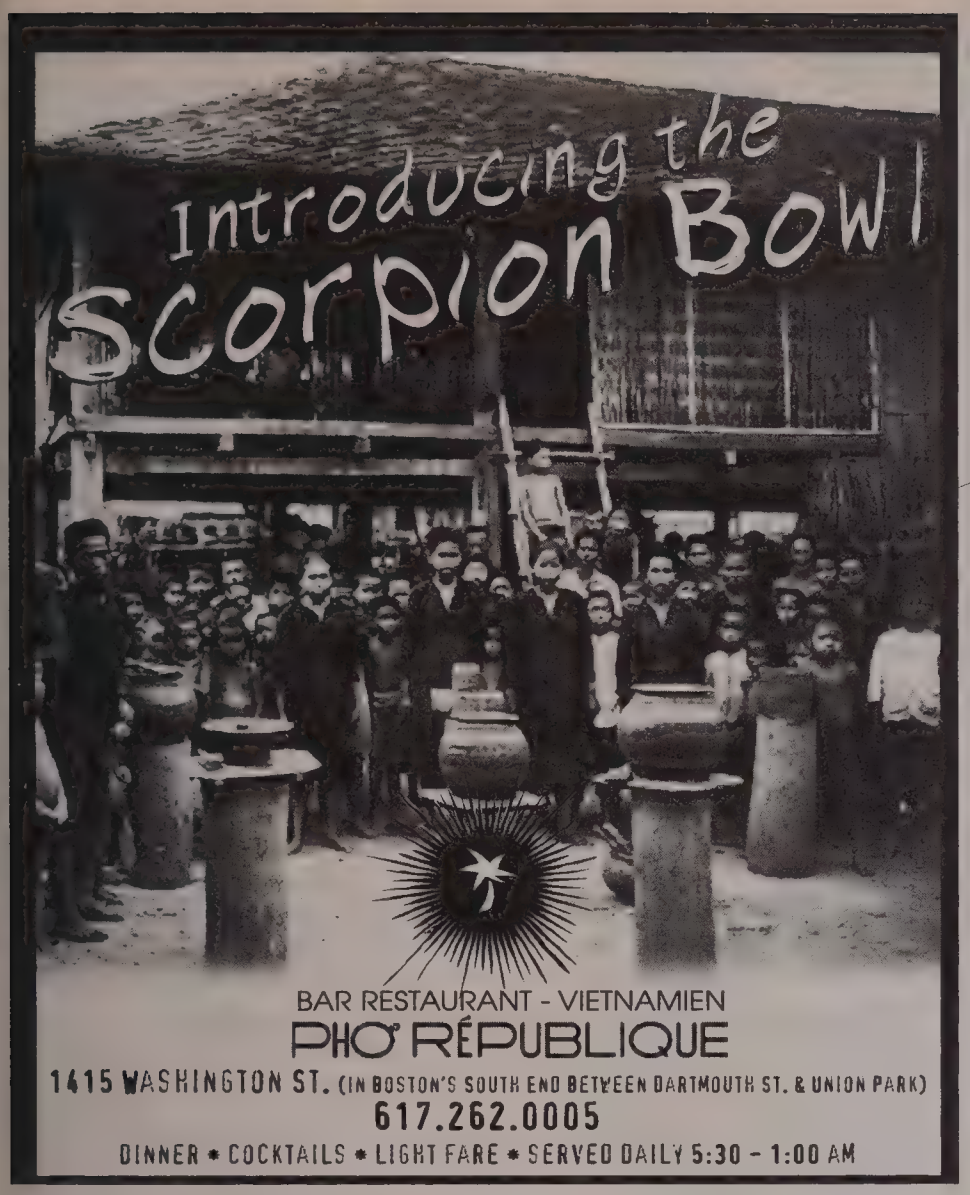

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Harvard Film Archive

The Films of Robert Kramer

•Jan. 12, 7pm and Jan. 14, 7pm **Walk the Walk** *1996.* Robert Kramer's story of an interracial couple is a cross between diary notes, travelogue and drama.

•Jan. 12, 9pm **Scenes from a Class Struggle in Portugal** *1993.* Kramer combines newsreel footage with photographs in this documentary that focuses on the anti-fascist efforts of labor groups and soldiers to liberate Portugal from the Salazar government from 1974 to 1976.

•Jan. 13, 7pm **Route One** *1989.* Acclaimed American independent filmmaker Robert Kramer crafted this epic of the famous highway that runs from Maine to Key West. In French with English subtitles.

•Jan. 15, 7pm **Milestones** *1975.* Kramer teams up with director John Douglas to create a portrait of those individuals who sought radical solutions to social problems in the US during the '60s and '70s. It touches upon subjects such as Native American rights, communal farming, sexual alternatives, drugs and regional politics.

•Jan. 16, 8pm and Jan. 18, 8:30pm **The Edge** *1967.* This early Kramer film explores the plight of a troubled activist who plans to assassinate the president.

The Late Films of Akira Kurosawa

•Jan. 14, 9pm **Dodes 'ka-den** *1970.* Kurosawa portrays an environment of a Tokyo down and out that combines realism, social comment, melodrama and fantasy. In Japanese with English subtitles.

•Jan. 16, 6pm **Rhapsody in August** *1990.* A grandmother recalls her husband's death when the atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, questioning where the blame should be placed.

•Jan. 17, 7pm **Dersu Uzala** *1975.* Based on the autobiographical novel by Vladimir Arsenyev, the film is the story of a Russian scientist who is sent with soldiers to make a topographical map of the wilds of Siberia.

•Jan. 21, 9:30pm and Jan. 22, 9:30pm **After the Rain** *1999.* A Boston premiere, the film is based on Kurosawa's final screenplay. It follows a group of travelers who are stranded after a heavy rain.

•Jan. 24, 8pm **Kagemusha** (*The Shadow Warrior*) *1980.* Kurosawa's film is a complex story: a thief is employed as the double of a clan leader who later dies. When the falsehood is uncovered, he is banished.

Avant-Garde Media Arts from Mexico

•Jan. 21, 7pm **Program 1: Surveying the Terrain**. Ten short films from different directors show tonight.

•Jan. 22, 7pm **Program 2: Mexicanidad**. Co-curator Rita González presents two 45-minute films and one three-minute short in this program that explores the dimensions of Mexican national identity. The films are **Bleeding Heart** (1995) by Ximena Cuevas, **The Secret Formula** (1965) by Rubén Gámez and **Simón of the Desert** (1964) by Luis Bunuel.

•Jan. 23, 6pm **Program 3: The City**. This installment of the series explores the massive internal migrations from the rural to urban areas and the transformation of the economy from a agricultural to industrial.

Museum of Fine Arts

Art on Film

•Jan. 22, 12:45pm **Wrapped** *1996.* Wolfram Hissen's film is about the '95 "wrapping" of the Berlin Reichstag by Christo and Jeanne-Claude.

Boston Film Artists Present

•Jan. 13, 6:30pm **94 Years and 1 Nursing Home Later** *1999.* This documentary begins with filmmaker Laurel Greenberg watching videos of her grandmother in a nursing home. She then sets out with her own camera to probe this emotionally-charged issue.

New German Cinema

•Jan. 20, 7:45pm **Aimée & Jaguar** *1999.* Nominated for Best Film in Germany, it is based on a true story of two women in Berlin during WW II. It is based on Erica Fischer's best-selling book of the same title.

•Jan. 21, 8:15pm **Trains 'n' Roses** *1997.* This award-winning film involves one man's adventures on a train ride to Finland.

•Jan. 22, 10:45pm **Annaluise and Anton** *1999.* Caroline Link (*Beyond Silence*) directs this contemporary version of a children's classic.

Premiere Engagements

•Jan. 12, 8:30pm, Jan. 15, 10:30am and Jan. 19, 5:30pm **Old Man River** *1999.* Cynthia Gates Fujikawa stars in is adaptation of her acclaimed one-woman show about the life of her father. Directed by Allan Holzman.

•Jan. 14, 5:30pm and Jan. 15, 3:40pm **L'ennui** *1998.* From the French word for "boredom," this film unfolds a tale of sexual obsession between a philosophy professor and a young woman. Directed by Cedric Kahn.

•Jan. 12, 7:30pm, Jan. 13, 5:30pm, Jan. 15, 1:45pm, Jan. 21, 7:15pm, Jan. 22, 3:15pm and Jan. 29, 11am **The Little Girl Who Sold the Sun** *1999.* Djibril Diop Mambety's film follows the experiences of a Sili Laam, a 12-year-old paraplegic selling newspapers in the marketplace of Dakar. The film is Mambety's last masterpiece, as he died during post-production.

Return Engagements

Special Screenings

•Jan. 19, 8pm **A Map of the World** *1999.* Based on Jane Hamilton's landmark novel, Scott Elliott's directorial debut is about the healing power of family and friendship. Starring Sigourney Weaver, Julianne Moore and David Stratharin. The director will be present for the screening.

•Jan. 12, 5:45pm, Jan. 13, 8pm, Jan. 15, 12pm, Jan. 20, 6pm, Jan. 21, 5:30pm and Jan. 22, 4:15pm **The Silence** *1998.* Mohsen Makhmalbaf directs this tale of a blind boy who experiences the world through sound.

Museum of Science

Screened daily at the Omni Theatre. Call ahead for times.

•Through March. 2000 **Mysteries of Egypt**. Explore the secrets of this fascinating empire. This *National Geographic* film brings ancient Egypt to life with views of pyramids, panoramas of the Nile and the treasures of ancient royalty.

•Through Feb. 28 **Olympic Glory**. This film showcases the splendor and emotion of the last Winter Olympics of the 20th Century. Whether alpine skiing or racing down the bobsled chute, one will feel, not just witness, the action and excitement.

The Classic Film Series

All films except the double feature are $6. The Dances with Wolves Celebration is $10 and the Saturday double bill is $12. The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston.

•Jan. 17 **Key Largo** *1948.* Maxwell Anderson's play-turned-film noir stars Bogart and Bacall. A tough gangster holds people captive during a tropical storm.

•Jan. 22 **To Sir, with Love** *1967.* Sidney Poitier portrays a brave schoolteacher who wants to be an engineer.

Special Cinematic Events

•Jan. 15, 7pm and 9:30pm Wim Wender's classic film, **Wings of Desire**, screens at the Somerville Theatre with local music ensemble the Boston Secession, a 30-member live musical soundscape featuring vocal and instrumental music from a wide range of composers. $14-$25. Call 931-2000 for info.

***L'ennui*, French director Cedric Kahn's tale of sexual obsession, screens at the MFA Jan. 14 and 15.**

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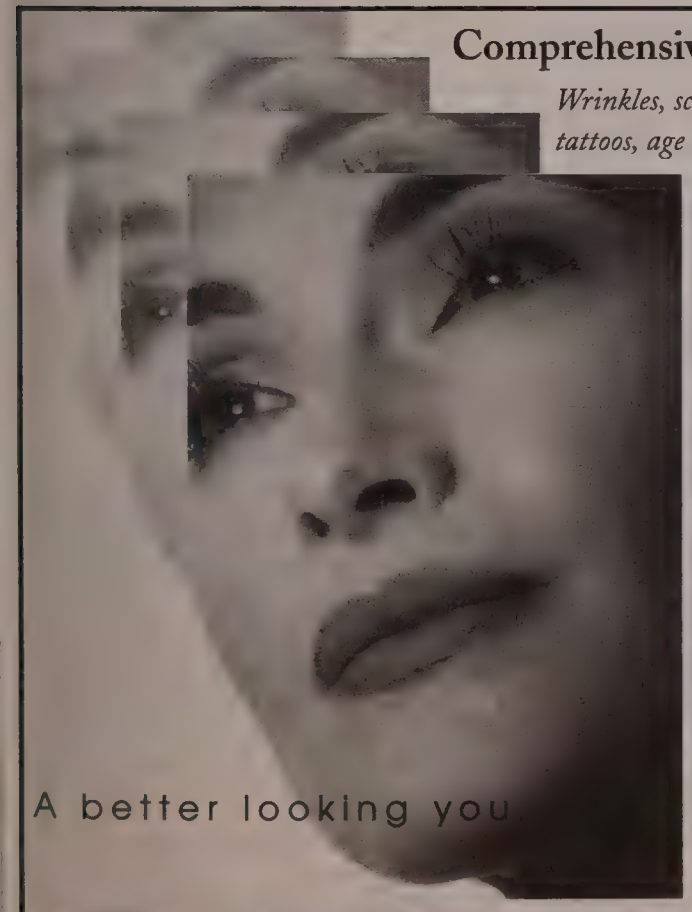

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CLASSES/LECTURES

Wednesday, January 12

So You Think You Want My Job?
Ad Club, 38 Newbury St., 7th floor, Boston (262-1100, ext. 13). Wednesdays, beginning Jan. 12, 6-8pm. $375. Has someone said you're creative? Take this course and learn what it takes to be a writer or art director today. Get a behind-the-scenes perspective of who does what and how. Instructor **Tim Brunelle** currently works on Volkswagen and Hush Puppies at Arnold Communications and teaches copywriting at Emerson College.

The Global Economy: Implications for International Business
Enterprise Room, Fifth Floor, State Street Corp. Building, 225 Franklin St., Boston (720-3622). 8am (includes breakfast). This breakfast seminar will feature **Dr. Christopher Probyn**, chief economist for State Street. He will focus on prospects for trade, business evolution and the effect of regional economies around the world.

Thursday, January 13

An American Family: Where Did You Come From?
115 Greenough St., Brookline High School, Room 101, Brookline (730-2700). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. 7-8:30pm. $5. When her 10-year-old granddaughter asked her "Where do I come from?" writer **Natalie Rothstein** was determined to tell her. Her book, *An American Family*, is the telling of a shared history. She'll share how you can research your family roots without being an expert genealogist. Enjoy the tale of one American family's journey from Czarist Russia to Beantown.

Natalie Rothstein speaks on family roots, Thurs. Jan. 13.

I Never Knew How Much I Loved Him: True Manhood in the Victorian Era
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State Street. 12:15-1pm. Images of stoic mountain men, rugged pioneers and merciless Indian fighters dominate our current view of manhood in the 19th century. **Donald Yacovone** of the Massachusetts Historical Society, discusses that nothing could be further from the truth. Victorian-era men enjoyed close affectionate bonds with other men that defy modern notions of masculinity.

Tuesday, January 18

The Effect of E-Commerce on Holiday Shopping
Massachusetts Interactive Media Council, One Main Street, Kendall Square, Cambridge (227-2822). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. 7-9pm. Free. A monthly interactive discussion lead by a panel of experts who relate important sales/marketing and business issues relevant to the interactive media industry.

Internet Recruiting Series
Charles River Internet Center, Waltham (781-684-0880). 7:30-10am. $35. The Massachusetts Telecommunications Council holds their third session in the series. The co-sponsors of the event are Benchmark, Hire.com, Monster.com and Webhire.com.

Life Work Transitions.com: Putting Your Spirit Online
330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). 7:30pm. Free. Authors **Sandra Butzel** and **Deborah Knox**'s new book offers an integrated, on-line approach to spiritual development as it relates to finding meaningful work. The pair will talk on how to use the Internet in one's job search and career assessment.

Wednesday, January 19

Classical Architecture Today
Boston Public Library, Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (951-1433, ext. 221). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6pm. Free. Partner in the New York City architecture firm of Ferguson Shamamian & Rattner, **Donald Rattner** was the founder and long-time president of the Institute for the Study of Classical Architecture. In this slide/lecture he'll speak about contemporary classicism and its viability today.

Architect Donald Rattner discusses "Classical Architecture Today" at the BPL, Jan. 19.

Eyeballs
Massachusetts Interactive Media Council, The Atrium, 25 First St., Ground Floor, Cambridge (227-2822, ext. 206). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. 6-8pm. $50. Eyeballs is an interest group that concentrates on the world of on-line advertising and is geared toward those creating, buying, selling or personalizing on-line space.

Thursday, January 20

Private Spaces, Public Places: Revisiting the Home in History
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State Street. 12:15-1pm. **Catherine Allgor**, assistant professor of history at Simmons College, examines how homes of the local elites served less as "havens in a heartless world" than places of public power.

Friday, January 21

Building Landscapes
Cronkhite Graduate Center, Radcliffe College, 6 Ash St., Cambridge (524-1718, ext. 162). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 9am-3:30pm. $95 (includes lunch). Landscape professionals are more and more being asked to move away from the traditional garden to create and maintain specialized landscapes or ecosystems. Meadows, pools and woodlands are in high demand; however there are responsibilities that go along with these environments and their ecology. Can one of these created environments be sustained over the years?

Saturday, January 22

Financial Planning for Women: Getting Started
BCAE, 5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 10am-1:30pm. $49. Whether you're single, married, widowed or divorced, this workshop helps you create an action plan for managing personal or family finances. Learn the basic components of financial planning with an emphasis on cash-flow management, tax strategies, retirement, savings and investment. Acquire the basic knowledge to make investment decisions with confidence.

ONGOING

Boston Center for Adult Education
5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. One-shot classes and two-month courses.

Boston Learning Society
1089 Great Plain Ave., Needham (781-453-9800). MBTA: Commuter Rail to Needham Center. Seminars and workshops for inquisitive minds.

Boston Toastmasters
640 Comm. Ave., Boston (367-3463). MBTA: B Green Line to BU Central. First and third Tuesdays, 5:45pm. Public speaking techniques. •**Boston Speech Party**, *185 Franklin St., Boston (265-4757). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.* Second and fourth Wed., 6-8pm.

Brookline Adult & Community Education
115 Greenough St., Brookline High School, Room 101, Brookline (730-2700). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. Classes in liberal arts, cooking, sewing, computers, crafts and exercise.

Brookline Arts Center
86 Monmouth St., Brookline (566-5715). MBTA: C Green Line to St. Mary's or D Green Line to Fenway. This school for the visual arts offers art classes and workshops.

Cambridge Center for Adult Education
42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). www.ccae.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.* Call for a catalog.

Grub Street Writers
26 West St., Boston (623-8100). Writing workshops in downtown Boston and Brookline.

books& poetry

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READINGS & SIGNINGS

Wednesday, January 12

Brookline Booksmith Presents
Coolidge Corner Theater 290 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 6pm. $2. **Carl Hiaasen**, author of *Striptease*, reads from his novel, *Sick Puppy*, prior to a booksale and signing session.

Radcliffe College Presents
Bunting Institute, Radcliffe University, 34 Concord Ave., Cambridge (495-8212). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 4pm. Readings from a novel-in-progress, *The Light Well: A Novel of Stepsisters* by **Mako Yoshikawa**, professor of creative writing.

Friday, January 14

Brookline Booksmith Presents
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Generation X novelist **Douglas Coupland** reads from his novel, *Miss Wyoming*.

Tuesday, January 18

Brookline Booksmith Presents
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. National Book Award winner **Ha Jin** reads from her essay collection *Seeing Through Places: Reflections on Geography and Identity*.

Wednesday, January 19

Radcliffe College Presents
Bunting Institute, Radcliffe University, 34 Concord Ave., Cambridge (495-8212). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 4pm. Readings from a work-in-progress entitled *The Caprices* by **Sabina Murray**, professor of creative writing.

Thursday, January 20

Harvard Coop Author Event
1400 Mass. Ave, Cambridge (499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. **Sheldon Krimsky** talks about *Hormonal Chaos: the Scientific and Social Origins of the Environmental Endocrine Hypothesis.*

Friday, January 21

Brookline Booksmith Presents
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. The winners of *Boston Review*'s seventh annual short story contest—which were chosen from nearly 500 entries—come together for a reading. **Pauls Toutonghi**, the winner of the contest, reads from his story, "Regeneration." **Molly Melina Sultan**, the runner-up, reads from her story, "Five Ways to Propose Marriage."

Monday, January 24

Newton Free Library Presents
330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). 7pm. Internationally known environmentalist **Bill McKinnen** addresses the state of the world and reviews what other cities are doing to improve the environment. His writings have appeared in periodicals ranging from the *New York Times* and *Natural History* to *Rolling Stone*. He's best known for *The End of Nature*, his ground-breaking account of global environmental problems.

Tuesday, January 25

Barnes and Noble Presents
660 Beacon St., Boston (267-8484). MBTA: B, C or D Green Line to Kenmore. 7pm. Join **Phyllis Karas** as she discusses *The Onassis Women: An Eye Witness Account*. Written by Kiki Feroudi Moutsatsos, Phyllis Karas talks about her contributions to the book, which is Moutsatsos' insider account of her employment by the Onassis family for almost 30 years.

Brookline Booksmith Presents
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Poets **Debra Dean Kang**, **Laure-Anne Bosselaar** and **Wendy Mnookin** read from their works.

XXX Eh?

Canadian author and appointed spokesperson for his generation **Douglas Coupland** (*Generation X, Girlfriend in a Coma*) reads from his fifth novel, *Miss Wyoming*, at Brookline Booksmith, Fri., Jan. 14, 7pm.

ONGOING

Agape, Tuesdays
Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (266-6710). Green Line to Copley. 8-10pm. Every Tuesday, this somewhat sophisticated poetry group gathers to share their latest work. Everyone is welcome.

Cantab Lounge
738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8-10pm. $3. Wednesday nights at the Cantab always packs in more than 30 poets in just two hours, first at an open mike, followed by a featured poet and a slam.

Club Passim, Tuesdays
47 Palmer St., Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. $5. All open mike fanatics must experience this open mike night—a training ground for up-and-coming performers, poets and storytellers. Sign up Tuesdays, 7:30pm.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Night, Sundays
1667 Mass Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. $4 cover. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes every Sunday to the featured poet of the week.

Stone Soup Poetry Night, Mondays
Zeitgeist Gallery, 312 Broadway St., Cambridge (227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. $3. The Stone Soup's poetry night has a new locale after being booted out of their old one and an ever-changing lineup of authors followed by an open mike session.

Bestsellers

HARDCOVER FICTION
1. **Harry Potter & the Chamber of Secrets** by J.K. Rowling
2. **Harry Potter & the Prisoner of Azkaban** by J.K. Rowling
3. **Atlantis Found** by Clive Cussler
4. **Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's Stone** by J.K. Rowling
5. **Timeline** by Michael Crichton
6. **Make Way for Ducklings** by Robert McCloskey
7. **The Giving Tree** by Shel Silverstein
8. **Personal Injuries** by Scott Turow
9. **Disgrace** by J.M. Coetzee
10. **Plainsong** by Kent Haruf

HARDCOVER NON-FICTION
1. **Tuesdays With Morrie** by Mitch Albom
2. **Tis** by Frank McCourt
3. **Mapping Boston** by Alex Kreiger
4. **The Greatest Generation** by Tom Brokaw
5. **The Greatest Generation Speaks** by Tom Brokaw
6. **Have a Nice Day** by Mick Foley
7. **Galileo's Daughter** by Dava Sobel
8. **Boston: Then & Now** by Elizabeth P. McNulty
9. **Life: Our Century in Pictures** by Richard Stolley
10. **All Souls** by Michael MacDonald

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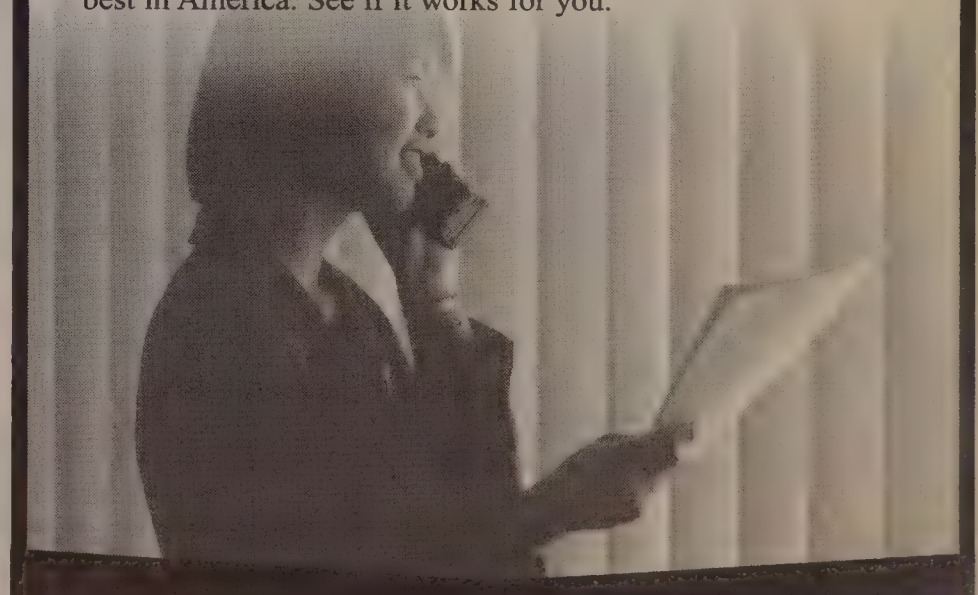

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TRUSTING A HIRE POWER

Conductor Paul McCreesh comes to town to audition for the Handel & Haydn Society directorship. BY KEITH POWERS

With three major local institutions—the BSO, the Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra and the venerable Handel & Haydn Society—all searching for new music directors in the next few years, the face of Boston music is about to change dramatically. H&H is replacing outgoing conductor Christopher Hogwood, and like Pro Arte, they are bringing in candidates all year long to guest conduct and "face the music," as it were.

A leading candidate for the H&H position is Englishman Paul McCreesh. A cellist by training, for 17 years he's led the Gabrieli Consort, whose recordings for Deutsche Grammophon have received international acclaim. Gabrieli was in town in December, giving a well-received reading of the Praetorius *Christmas Mass*. He'll return in April. Both concerts are sponsored by the Boston Early Music Festival. His guest appearance with H&H comes next month, presenting Haydn's *St. Theresa Mass* and Mozart's "Ave Verum Corpus"—"some of the music that I'm most well known for," McCreesh admits.

McCreesh is coy about his feelings for the job: "I just can't make any comment about it," he said in a phone interview, before spending the next 20 minutes doing just that. "I'm sure I'm in the running. It's a great organization.

"Of course it's presumptuous to begin talking about what one might do with a group before you're offered a job. Christopher has done a wonderful job, and Boston is lucky to have had him. But if it does get to where they are interested in me and I am interested in them, I wouldn't want to cover ground that had been covered before, either material that the group has done in the past or the same music that I've been doing in Europe for the last 20 years.

There is some speculation that H&H, which has given period performance almost exclusively during the Hogwood years, might be ready to branch out to the Romantic, Classical or perhaps even 20th century repertory. Given the increased competition among Baroque orchestras in Boston—what other city, apart from New York or the European capitals, can boast three such groups with annual concert series?—branching out might be a good thing. McCreesh is up for it.

"I would want to create something very special, with a wide range of repertoire. I have created a name for myself in 17th- and 18th-century repertoire, but I consider myself a Classical and Romantic conductor as well. And I began performing 20th-century music. With great respect to Chris, who has been at the vanguard of early music performance for so long, I'm a very different musician than he is.

"But I have to keep thinking that it's a long shot. It really would have to be the right situation for me, and I'm sure they will be equally discerning as well."

McCreesh would continue the Gabrieli Consort "in some form. Without too much public discussion of these things, the Consort is my trade; it's what I'm known for. But that said, I would really want to be music director. I'm not going to be one of these guest conductor types that flies in for a couple of rehearsals and the performance, takes checks and runs.

"Too many appointments end in tears. I want to see it work—maybe it's not like a marriage, but it has to be a reasonable relationship—not a one night stand.

"But you never know: After one rehearsal I could say 'This will never work,' or they could say, 'Who is this guy? We can't work with him!'"

Paul McCreesh (standing, at center, with striped sweater) and his Gabrieli Consort. The world-class Renaissance ensemble returns to Boston in April; McCreesh leads the Handel & Hadyn Society next month in a program of Mozart and Haydn.

"Too many appointments end in tears. I want to see it work—maybe it's not like a marriage, but it has to be a reasonable relationship—not a one night stand."

Coda

Frauds onstage and off: The **New York City Ballet,** faced with a strike by the pit musicians just as cash cow *The Nutcracker* was about to open, turned on the tape recorders, and the show went on with not-so-live music. At least the dancers—who crossed the picket lines—were real. Just to prove that fakes aren't limited to performers, *Baltimore Sun* critic **Stephen Wigler** was fired last month after admitting he plagiarized parts of his *La Traviata* review from the *Metropolitan Opera Guide to Recorded Opera*. One way of making a deadline, I guess. Hold on there: **Luciano Pavarotti** is rescheduling his Boston solo recital from Jan. 26 to April 5. So those of you who paid the oxygen-inducing $250 for top tickets will have to wait a few more months. No reason was given for the postponement. Long-time Longy School director **Victor Rosenbaum** announced his retirement, set for June, 2001. The elegant pianist will devote more time to performance. iB

HANYA CHLALA

Preview

Variations Supreme

Yo-Yo Ma presents a special concert.

Music lovers Judy and Robert Goldberg had a special affinity for Bach's *Goldberg Variations*, for obvious reasons. Acclaimed pianist Robert Levin actually played the *Variations* at their wedding, and Robert Goldberg conceived of commissioning a new variation for their 25th wedding anniversary. Sadly, he died before the work could be completed, but his wife continued the project, commissioning six composers—Kenneth Frazelle, Christopher Rouse, Peter Lieberson, John Corigliano, Peter Schickele and Richard Danielpour—to write variations for piano and cello. "Judy's spirit and love led her to transform what might have been a requiem into a celebration of her husband's life," writes Corigliano in notes that accompany the program. The inspiration of Corigliano's variation is "the love of two extraordinary people for each other...for me, definitive of all that is beautiful in life." The works are presented in a special concert on Friday, Jan. 21 at Symphony Hall as part of the BankBoston Celebrity Series, featuring cellist Yo-Yo Ma (pictured at right) and pianist Kathryn Stott.

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled Classical by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Music or e-mail to music@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers Web site information and nearest T stops. Deadline is four weeks prior to deadline. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from many different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to doublecheck dates and times.

Thursday, January 13

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm, $24-$74. James DePriest conducts works by Rochberg, Prokofiev and Mozart, with guest soloist Kyung-Wha Chung on violin.

Friday, January 14

Boston Modern Orchestra Project
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (536-2412). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. 8pm. BMOP performs a free concert with works by Schnittke, Heiss, DiDomenica and Berger.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony, 1:30pm, $24-$74. Same program as Jan. 13.

Handel & Haydn Society
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-3605). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm, $19-$49. Jazz saxophonist Joshua Redman and his band play with the H&H Orchestra.

Saturday, January 15

Boston Early Music Festival Concerts
All Saints Parish, 1773 Beacon St., Brookline (661-1812). MBTA: Green Line to C Green Line to Dean Road. 8pm, $18-$42. Local favorites Favella Lyrica perform vocal works of Barbara Strozzi, Monteverdi and Nicolo Fontei.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony, 8pm, $24-$74. Same program as Jan. 13.

Handel & Haydn Society
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-3605). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony, 3pm, $19-$49. Same program as Jan 14.

Tuesday, January 18

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony, 8pm, $24-$74. Same program as Jan. 13.

Thursday, January 20

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony, 8pm, $24-$74. Illan Volkov conducts the orchestra in performances of works by Anderson, Mozart and Dvorak, with guest soloists Thomas Zehetmair (violin) and Ruth Killus (viola).

Friday, January 21

BankBoston Celebrity Series
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-3605). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm, $30-$55. Cellist Yo-Yo Ma performs with Kathryn Stott on piano, with the entire program dedicated to variations on Bach's *Goldberg Variations* (see box).

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 1:30pm, $24-$74. Same program as Jan. 20.

Cantata Singers and Ensemble
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (267-6502). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. 8pm, $15-$42. The ensemble performs J.S. Bach's Cantata "Wie Schon Leuchtet der Morgenstern" and the world premiere of *World Wheel* by Boston composer Andy Vores.

Saturday, January 22

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm, $24-$74. Same program as Jan. 20.

Boston Women's Rainbow Chorus
Church of the Covenant, Berkeley and Newbury Streets, Boston (424-8900). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 8pm. $15-$25. Ellen Oak leads the 40-member chorus in a diverse program of music by Albritton, Larsen, Brahms, Ferron and others.

Sunday, January 23

Cantata Singers and Ensemble
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (912-9142). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. 3pm, $15-$42. Same program as Jan. 21.

New York Collegium
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (912-9142). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. 7:30pm, $18-$25. Christophe Rousset conducts the Parisian Ballet Opera and soloists Isabelle Poulenard and Jerome Correas in operatic works of Rameau and Cassanea de Mondonville.

Boston Women's Rainbow Chorus
Church of the Covenant, Berkeley and Newbury Streets, Boston (424-8900). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 3pm. $15-$25. Same program as Jan. 22.

Tuesday, January 25

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm, $24-$74. Same program as Jan. 20.

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dance clubs

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For a girls' night out, head to Atlas Dance on Thursdays—where you'll find a sea of sweet young thangs dancing to top-40, straight through until 2am.

Nights

Tuesdays

Cigar and Jazz night
The Exchange. Smoke, lounge and listen to the smooth sounds of jazz. Plus, you score a free Gina cigar and complimentary buffet. No cover.

Fat Tuesdays
Bill's. This off-the-hook night features DJ Chaos scratching out hip-hop music to college clubbers while house masters DJ Justin Hoffman and WBCN's DJ Jynx spin dance tunes. Doors open at 11pm, $10 cover.

Hibernia Tuesdays
Hibernia. Get jiggy at "Flow" with DJ Craig Kapilow and Sava Kelesidis, where you'll find masses of dancers grooving to tribal house. 9pm. 21+. Cover varies.

Milk
Venu. Boston promoters from seven clubs unite to bring you the hottest house night all week. Resident DJ Osheen spins deep to hard house. Dress is funky.

Modern
The Modern. This fancy schmancy new spot is très chic. More low-key than its Lansdowne street neighbors, it's got a raw bar, vodka bar and late lounge. 10pm. 21+.

Zanzibar Tuesdays
The Big Easy. Dress to impress for Boston's premiere International Night. The Big Easy's got DJ Manola, who spins Latin and international music from 11pm on. 19+. $10.

Wednesdays

Good Karma
Karma/Mambo. Misery plays host to a roster of rotating DJs. Expect a mixed crowd and special guest performers. 10pm. 19+. $5 cover.

Gotham
M-80. Prepare to party with the beautiful people dressed in black as DJ Eddy K. dominates the airwaves with NY house. Leave the hats, but bring your wallet for the $10 cover. It all begins at 11:30pm. 21+.

Hibernia Wednesdays
Hibernia. DJ C.T.O. is the Godfather of Say Word night—with plenty of funk, rare groove, soul and old school hip-hop. 9pm. 21+. Cover varies.

IT
The Sugar Shack. If you're 19+ and a woman, you get in for free before 11pm—otherwise the cover is $10. Located in the bottom of the Big Easy, there is most certainly funk, disco and a lot of hip-hop. 10pm.

Modern Living
The Modern. DJ Raffy spins while minglers much away on a raw bar and sip martinis. 10pm. 21+.

Musical Mayhem
The Exchange. WBCN's DJ Jynx of Cybersounds plays bangin' funky house in the vault while Sir kel and LA's hot percussionist Stanley Benders take you on a journey upstairs. Party starts at 10pm.

Thursdays

Atlas Dance
Tonight is Girl's Night Out—almost as much fun as Atlas Dance's Friday and Saturday nights—filled with top 40 dancing from 10:30pm-2am. $5, 21+.

Chrome
Axis John Debo and Buro Ajami host, spin and all-around have a good time. Head upstairs to hear DJ Chaos spin soul, funk and house beats. Leave your attitude at the door—DJ is god here. 10pm, $10 cover, 19+.

Funkalicious Thursdays
The Exchange. DJ G squared takes you on a blast from the past as he spins the sounds of '70s and '80s. Added bonus: free after work buffet. No cover.

Hibernia Thursdays
Hibernia. Experience the full rockin' spectrum of sound on Spectrum night with DJ Kid Ray. 9pm, 21+, cover varies.

International Thursday
Avalon. An overwhelmingly Asian crowd fills up this nightspot as DJ Manolo spins Eurohaus and DJ Anthony spins Latin in the Playhouse Latin Lounge. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover. Next door, the Modern's Downtempo Lounging night's got DJ Ricky Fatts, 9pm, 21+.

Kit Kat Klub
Sugar Shack. This new night features guest DJs spinning hip hop to college clubbers, 10pm, 19+.

Latin Quarter
The Roxy. Time to get down as the Roxy breaks out hip shaking salsa, merengue and Latin dance mixes.

Lava Bar
Lavabar.com. The Underground just got a penthouse address. DJ Essential and friends spin old school hip hop, soul and rare groove for your freakish pleasure. Doors open at 10pm.

Speed
Karma/Mambo. DJ Chaos spins the latest Hip-Hop and R&B while DJ Johnny Scrofani spins house in the Mambo Lounge. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover.

Fridays

Avaland
Avalon. Everything about the room screams party. With world famous DJs spinning, this has become the single most NY-style club night in Boston. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover. Plus, DJ Hoffman is next door at the Modern's Ultra Lounge. 9pm, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans themed nightspot has some of the best mainstream DJs in town. Offering four bars, two lounges as well as billiards and a wraparound balcony, the Big Easy is a staple in Boston's weekend nightlife.

Absolute
Buzz. Two rooms of cocktail delights: Roger M lays down both traditional Latin and international house tracks while upstairs visiting DJs pay homage to the house music gods. 11pm, $15 cover, 19+.

Emily's
An after work venue during the week, this spot transforms itself into a dance kingdom on weekends. Resident DJ Kaboom infuses funk, dance, pop and disco. Door s open at 4pm. Get there early and avoid a cover.

Envy
This extraordinarily popular Friday night hot spot is filled with a swarming mass of sweaty 'n' ready dancers. You'll have plenty of choice dance partners. 9pm, $5 cover after 10pm, 21+.

Exchange Fridays
The Exchange. Up High, mixtress Lakana, Boston's hottest Lady DJ, guides you on a house trip while DJ G squared opens the vault door with mainstream dance and hip hop. Doors at 9pm.

Focus
Hibernia. How can you go wrong with DJs Chuck Caseroc, Keith Kene and Skot Havens. 9pm, 21+. cover varies.

Lava Bar
Life. *lavabar.com*. From the creators of Soul Revival, DJ Fran Englehardt spins ambient, soulful and deep house—transition your night from loungy beats to deep soulful rhythms doors at 10pm.

Latinhaus and International Night
M-80. Always dominated by no less than 1,000 international students, this is the must-be place for the I-20 scene. DJ JC throws out classic Latinhaus and DJ Eddy K. spins House. 11pm, $15 cover, 21+.

Nocturnal Fridays
Bill's Bar. WBCN day guy and football swami, Bill Abbate, spins up a delectable smorgasbord of rock with a pinch of roll. Nocturnal Friday is the perfect place to chug a beer and chill. 9pm. $5 cover, 21+.

Sonic
Karma/Mambo. DJ Venom shakes the Main Room spinning rave, while DJ Myth rings the sound of Jungle in the Mambo . Bring your dancing shoes and a damn good pick-up line. 10pm. 19+. $15.

Rewind
Roxy. Get retro with '70s '80s and '90s top dance music featuring the Go-Go Babes and DJ Tonto Groove Entertainment.

Techno Trance
Axis. Glitzed out club hoppers and an active scam scene mix to make the progressive house beats of DJ Tim Ryan downstairs or DJ David James '80s and retro tunes upstairs. 10pm, $10, 21+; $12, 19+.

Venu International
Venu. Igor, Heather, Alex and Caeser host this international night where DJs Alex and Tassos share the decks. Table reservations are possible if you can get in—but only the very chic gain entry. 11:30pm.

Saturdays

Avalon Saturdays
Downtown DJ Manolo and Matti O. gyrate your ass. 10pm. 21+. $15 cover. Feeling mischievous? Bop on over to the Modern for Mischief Saturday—with decadent deserts and erotic electronica. 9pm. 21+.

Bill's Bar
DJ Laurie Gail with guest DJs promise to make Bill's a night full of dancing to the best of the '70s, '80s and '90s. 9pm, $3 cover, 19+.

Classic Saturday
M-80. DJ JC and DJ Eddie K spin Latinhaus, International and House music. 11pm, $15, 21+.

Club Juliana
Club Juliana. Boogying cuties converge on Boston's newest Latin Night starting at 10pm. Dress to impress—no jeans or sneakers. $10. All ladies free before 11pm.

Elements of Life
Karma/Mambo. World class DJs spin House music in the main room while DJ Hoffman lays down the funk in the Mambo Lounge. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover.

Emily's
Serious disco and high-energy dance. DJs spice up Saturday nights and transform this after work venue into a dance kingdom. 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Envy
From 9pm-2am, DJ Tom Baxter blasts Top 40, house and dance throughout the night. 9pm, $5 cover after 10pm, 21+.

Exchange Saturdays
The Exchange. DJ Diesel renovates the upper level with full on house while DJ Jynx spins all the funky beats in the Vault lounge.

Hibernia Saturdays
Hibernia. Masters of house, techno and dance, DJs Dino and David West, take the reins and whip the crowd into a frenzy. 9pm, 21+. cover varies.

Sugar Shack
Spice up your night with '70s, '80s, '90s dance music as DJ Rich Centi spins the hottest sounds in town.

Lava Bar
575 Commonwealth. Ave., Boston (267-7707). lavabar.com. Tabu night means anything goes with DJ Fran. High energy house with a taste of Latin beats— Open Minds Free Souls, doors at 10pm.

X night
Axis. Axis is taken over by DJ Mike Gioscia who spins Top 40 and '80s hits while DJ David James spins alternative upstairs. 10pm, $10 cover, 21+.

Sundays

Exchange Sundays
A fusion of the best Drum & Bass, Hip-Hop, Breaks, House, Trance, Techno and special live performances. 9pm, 19+.

Il Panino
This is where the people from Oskar's go to spend their final hour of partying. Mainly attracting Euros, this night features music by DJ Alex of Boston Beat and DJ Roger M. 21+, no cover.

Salavation
This new Boston vibe serves up an intimate evening of soul provided by DJ Soul. $5, until 10pm.

The Velvet Lounge
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Club Venues

Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (338-7080). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center.*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (437-0300). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424) MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Buzz Boston/Europa *51-67 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park St.*
Club Juliana *20 Hudson St., Boston (542-4411).*
Club Stella *1234 Soldiers Field Rd., Brighton (254-0554).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Upstairs, Boston (423-3649). MBTA: Red or Green Lines to Park Street.*
Envy *25 Boylston Place, Boston (542-3689). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Exchange *148 State St., Boston (723-7755). MBTA: Orange Line to State Street.*
Hibernia *25 Kingston St., Boston (292-2333). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Karma *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9595). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Lava Bar *575 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-7707). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
M-80 *969 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant Street.*
Mercury Bar *116 Boylston St., Boston (482-7799). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Oskar's *107 South St., Leather District, Boston (542-6756). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Salavation *20 Hudson St., Boston (781-668-2392). MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown.*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Theatre District, Boston (338-8061). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*

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The Boston Globe

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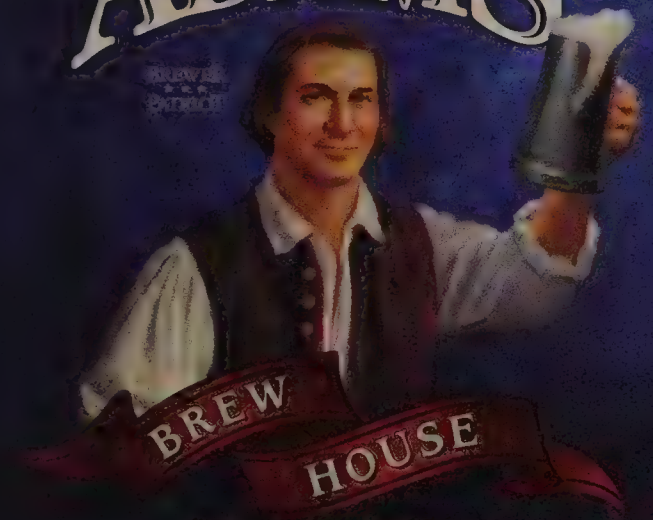

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Music

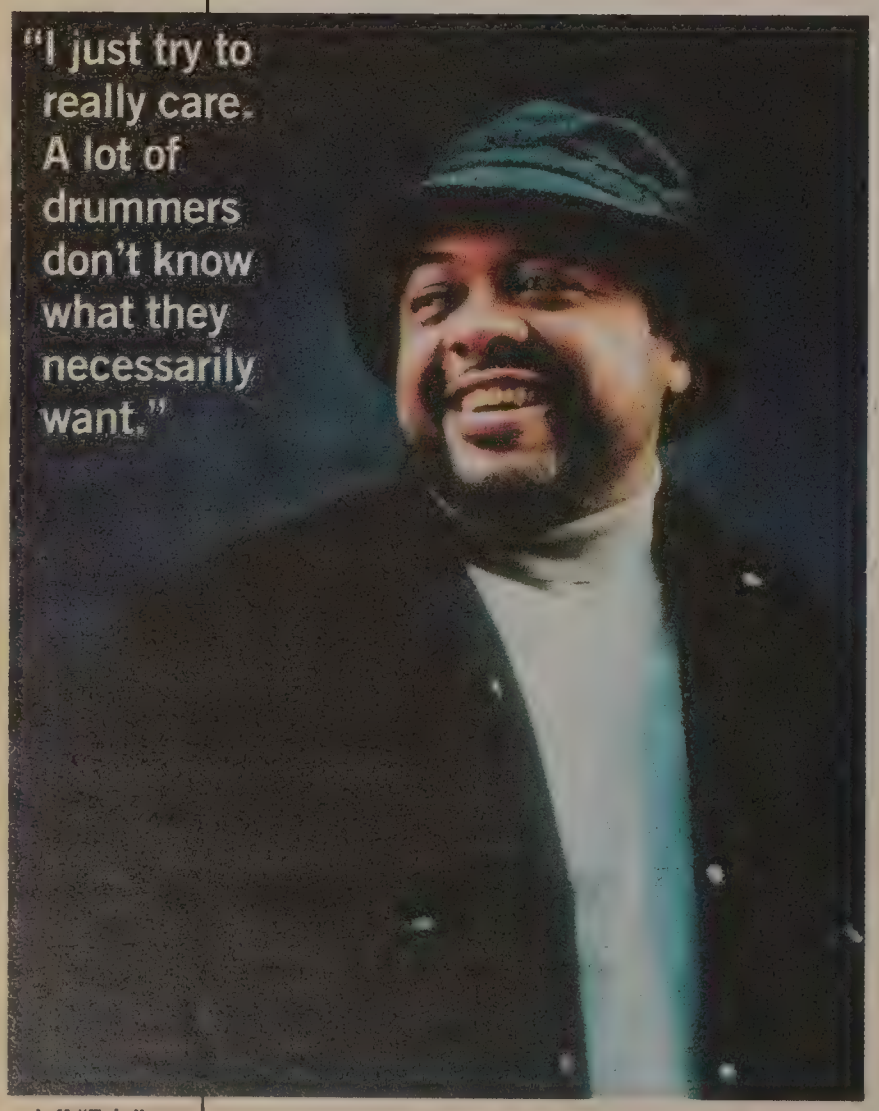
TAIN MAN

One of the great young lions of jazz—Jeff "Tain" Watts—releases his first solo album. BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

In the 18 years since he left Berklee College of Music to join Wynton Marsalis' first band, Jeff "Tain" Watts has earned a reputation for his swinging finesse and explosive drive behind the drum kit. He has anchored groups led by Branford Marsalis, Kenny Garrett, Michael Brecker and Danilo Perez as well. But only now has he released his solo debut, *Citizen Tain*, and toured with his own band, which hits Scullers Jazz Club Jan. 26-27.

"It wasn't really a priority 'cause I've had a lot of input in the bands that I've been in," says Watts, 39, admitting he was also shy about composing. "I really didn't want to disrespect the music and put my little ideas out there, and be picked apart by the great musicians I've been working with."

However, one of those musicians was the late pianist Kenny Kirkland, who played with Watts in the bands of both Marsalis brothers, and lived next door to the drummer when they served in Branford's *Tonight Show* band during the early '90s. "He gave me a few tips, but mostly just sat back and listened to stuff I was trying to write, and would let me know it was cool," Watts says. "He just gave me faith."



Jeff "Tain" Watts takes to the drums for two Boston performances at Scullers Jazz Club, on Jan. 26 and 27.

"I wrote during my three years in LA because of the artistic void that you find out there," says Watts, on the phone from his home in Brooklyn. "When I came back to New York in the spring of '95, I felt like I had pretty much exhausted this sideman thing and already done the TV stuff, so I should at least start to initiate some bandleader things."

Nobody was biting at his demo tapes, Watts says, until Branford—now in charge of signing jazz talent at Columbia—pulled the drummer aboard. It wasn't just about friendship, as *Citizen Tain* is a probing, tradition-rooted outing in the vein of Watts' work with Branford, who played on the CD along with Wynton, Garrett and Kirkland. The disc includes originals inspired by John Coltrane (combined with the Ohio Players and Afro-Cuban music on lead track "The Impaler") and Ornette Coleman. There's also a version of "Trieste" by Paul Motian, one of many drummers whom Watts admires, a group which also includes Elvin Jones and Ed Blackwell.

"There's a lot of art that's great in its simplicity," Watts says. "You've always got this balance in development as a musician, between ideas you want to bring to the music—personal touches—and fundamentals, something as simple as playing a snare drum roll or ride cymbal pattern, or a good brush beat. These are things you work on the rest of your life.

"I have a thing with rhythm that's really like harmony, a certain density or angularity of rhythm," he suggests. "It creates that kind of tension that a very dense chord would also create. And the key to playing stuff that's kinda strange is all in the resolution, so people will follow you. Like Coltrane—at his most out moment—can be bizarre. But when he resolves it into some blues, it justifies all the stuff that he played before."

Watts began his career as a classically trained percussionist ("It gives you a kind of template for studying and discipline"), performing as a leading timpani player around his native Pittsburgh before investigating jazz. And when he arrived at Berklee in 1979, he hooked into a scene with newcomers like Branford, Donald Harrison and Marvin "Smitty" Smith.

"Before that, it was pretty much a fusion and progressive rock thing going on for the better musicians," Watts says. "The straightahead thing was happening, but it was kinda secondary. But it was kinda like a groundswell, 'cause when I got there, there were all these musicians who were trying to find out about the tradition and getting it right. There were a lot of jam sessions, and people really working on blues in different keys and rhythm changes, and learning Bird tunes and Bud Powell and Coltrane's music."

Now Watts is headed full-circle—to a degree—with his band, slated to include saxophonist Ravi Coltrane (John's son), guitarist Paul Bollenbeck, pianist David Budway and bassist James Genus at Scullers. "My group is going to end up being a mixture of what is on the record and moving towards like a Weather Report world [music] thing," reveals Watts, laughing at the thought he's inching toward fusion, "the evil F word."

So what's the bottom line on his reputation? "I just try to really care," Watts says. "A lot of drummers don't know what they necessarily want. They want the bombastic thing or some exciting stuff, but sometimes the music doesn't call for it. I'll just try to communicate that through the music, and not force it. There's nothing worse than fake energy." IB

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fax (859-1446); by mail to Calendar/Music; or by email to music@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, phone numbers and nearest T stops. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to doublecheck dates and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

Concerts

Anthrax
Jan. 19, Axis
Csaardas
Jan. 23, Symphony Hall
Harry Connick, Jr.
January 20 and 21, Wang Center
TLC and Christina Aguilera
January 20, FleetCenter

CONCERT HALLS

Axis
13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.
FleetCenter
150 Causeway St., Boston (931-2000). www.fleetcenter.com. MBTA: Green Line to North Station.
Symphony Hall
301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony.
Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

Rock, Jazz and Blues

Wednesday, January 12

Bristol Lounge
Joe Barbato, 8pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
The Scharff Brothers and Aye, 8pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm, no cover.
Encore
Michelle Currie, 9pm, no cover.
The Grand Canal
Dave Foley, no cover.
House of Blues
Troy Gonyea, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Johnny D's
Brian Templeton, 8:30pm, cover varies.
Kendall Cafe
Yaya, 11pm, no cover.
Kirkland Cafe
The Kind, Kevin MacDonald and the Complaints, $5.
Lizard Lounge
Dan Sumber Band, the Pat Burtis Band and Joe Deveau.
The Middle East
Upstairs: Buzzbomb, Zippergirl, Buck 50 and Nothing Yet, $6, 18+. Downstairs: Giant Sand, 5ive Style and Buttercup, $10, 18+.
The Rack
Hung Jury, 9pm.
The Sugar Shack
Biscuithead, cover varies.
Toad
Magonia, no cover.
Top of the Hub
The Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's
Nancy's Mroczek PhD, Search Engine and Fixation, 10pm, $4.
Wally's Cafe
Wally's Step-children II, 9pm, no cover.
Warren Tavern
Kevin Kirraine, 9pm, $3.
Les Zygomates
The John Kordalewski Trio, 8pm.

Thursday, January 13

Bayou Blues Cafe
Monica Lynk Trio, 8pm.
Bristol Lounge
Joe Barbato, 8pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
Erin McKeown and Ben Arnold, 8pm, $10.

THE RACK

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TLC, the sassy female trio from Atlanta, play their hit hip hop dance-pop Jan. 20 at the FleetCenter.

Common Ground Bar and Grill
The Joint Chiefs, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff
Novakane, 9pm, no cover.
Dick's Last Resort
Jenerators, 7pm, no cover.
Encore
Michelle Currie, 9pm, no cover.
The Grand Canal
The Spitting Vinnies, no cover.
House of Blues
Eon Russel, 9pm, $22, 21+.
Johnny D's
Peter Mulvey and Tim Mason, 9pm, cover varies.
Jose McIntyre's
Syndicate, 9pm, $3.
The Kendall Cafe
Ed Jurdi and Tara MacLean, 9pm, $7.
The Linwood
Half Cocked, the Decals and Fuzzy Pinks, 10pm, $5.
Lizard Lounge
Holt Hopkins and special guests.
The Middle East
Upstairs: Papas Fritas, Capitol City and the Douglas Fir, $7, 18+.
Milky Way
Lovewhip and Buck Dewey Big Band.
The Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett, 9pm, $3.
The Rack
The Return, 6:30pm.
Regattabar
Panorama, 8:30pm, $10.
The Sky Bar
The Shelley Winters Project and G is for Franklin, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Toad
Hot Tamale Brass Band, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's
Volition, 10pm, $6.
Les Zygomates
Joel Laurie Smith, 8pm.

Friday, January 14

Bayou Blues Cafe
The Monica Lynk Trio, 8pm.
Bristol Lounge
The Suzanne Davis Jazz Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies. Downstairs: Big City Beat, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
Lynn Miles and Alastair Moock, 8pm, $12.
Common Ground Bar and Grill
The Pressure Cooker, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff
Second Story, 9pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band and Classic Trax, 7pm, no cover.
Encore
John O'Neil, 9pm.
House of Blues
NRBQ, 10pm, $15, 21+.
Johnny D's
Four Piece Suit, 9:45pm, cover varies.
Jose McIntyre's
The Return, 9pm, $5.
The Kendall Cafe
Lincolnville, Stefano and Tara MacLean, 9:30pm, $7.
Kirkland Cafe
Doom Buggies Classic Ruins, Colorfast and Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
The Linwood
Honeyglazed, Quick Fiz and Planet Mosquito, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Lizard Lounge
Mother Brothers, Reverse and Creme Brulee.
The Middle East
Downstairs: Red Krayola, $8, 18+.
The Purple Shamrock
Mother Funk, 9pm, $5.
The Rack
Beat Soup, 6:30pm.
Regattabar
Sergio Brandao and Manga-Rosa, 8pm, 10pm, $10.
Sculler's Jazz Club
Earl Klugh, 8pm and 10:30pm, cover varies.
Toad
Amphibian, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Chris Taylor Quartet, 9pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's
The Popgun Seven, Slide, Goodboy and Pennywheat, 10pm, $7.
Wally's Cafe
John Lankin Quintet, 9pm, no cover.
Les Zygomates
The Issi Rosen Trio, 9pm.

Saturday, January 15

Bayou Blues Cafe
True Colors, 8pm.
Bristol Lounge
Suzanne Davis Jazz Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Upstairs: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies. Downstairs: Big City Beat, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
Jim Kweskin and Samoa and the Gin House Heroes, 8pm, $12.
Coogan's Bluff
Pig Pen, 9pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort
Jenerators and Booty, 7pm, no cover.
Encore
Lisa "Lucky" Stetor, 9pm, no cover.
The Good Life
Karin Parker and Her New Band, 9pm, no cover.
House of Blues
Dr. Al Kooper and the Funky Faculty, 10pm, $12, 21+.
Johnny D's
Beatle Juice, 9:45pm, cover varies.
Jose McIntyre's
Cape Fear, 9pm, $5.
The Kendall Cafe
Mo' Matching Drapes, Pierce Woodward and Tara MacLean, 9:30pm, $7.
Kirkland Cafe
Chris Conty and Random Access Memory, $5.
The Linwood
Chubby, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Lizard Lounge
The Spurs.
The Middle East
Upstairs: Stocklan, Purr, Woodland Creatures and Tryptonite, $7, 18+.
Milky Way
Seana Carmody, Mona Elliot, Very Special, Un Cuerpo Exquisito, Transmitting, Vanessa & Alyssa and Can't, 1pm.
The Purple Shamrock
The Return, 9pm, $5.
Regattabar
Ronnie Earl and the Broadcasters, 8pm and 10pm, $18.
Rhythm & Spice
Kolors, 10pm, no cover.
Sculler's Jazz Club
Earl Klugh, 8pm and 10:30pm, cover varies.
Top of the Hub
The Chris Taylor Quartet, 9pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's
Boy wonder, the Gravy, Den Mothers, Calendar Girls and Corin and Dave of the Pills, 10pm, $7.
WERS Studios
Les Sampou, no cover.
Les Zygomates
The Jim Bridges Trio, 9pm.

Sunday, January 16

Bill's Bar
Shaka Black and Dub Station, 10pm.
Bullfinch's Pub
Jimmy Mazzy, 11am, no cover.
The Burren
Pat Burtis, 8:30pm; Burt and Mike, 9:30pm; Honeysuckle Vine, 10:30pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
Laura Higgins, Oen Kennedy and Libby Kirkpatrick, 7:30pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort
Bible Tones, 10am; Rob Gonzalez, 7pm, no cover.
Encore
Dottie Dean, 7pm.
House of Blues
Stevie Ray Vaughn Tribute, $10, 9pm, 18+.
The Kendall Cafe
Diana Williams and Allyson Casey, 9pm, no cover.
The Kirkland Cafe
Le Cous Cous, no cover.
The Middle East
Upstairs: Six Going on Seven, Vic Firecracker, Error Type: 11 and the Bismark, $7, 18+.
The Rack
Chad Lamarsh, 9pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Diana Fischer Duo, 8pm, no cover.
Wally's Cafe
John Lankin Quintet, 9pm, no cover.

Monday, January 17

B-Side Lounge
Michael Tarbox, no cover.
Bristol Lounge
Joe Barbato, 8pm, no cover.
Bullfinch's Pub
Paul Broadnax, Peter Kontrimas, 6:30pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Mark Purcell, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band, 7pm, no cover.
Encore
Michael Kreutz, 9pm, no cover.
House of Blues
Weepin' Willie, 9pm, $6, 18+.
Johnny D's
Hot Tamale Brass Band, 8pm, cover varies.
The Kendall Cafe
Robby Baier and Rama Winslow, no cover.
Lizard Lounge
The Fringe, no cover.
The Middle East
Upstairs: Atomic Fanfare, the Curbies, Azurtech and Thought Brigade, $6, 18+. Downstairs: Guided by Voices and the American Flag, $14, 18+.
The Purple Shamrock
Dave Smyth, 9pm, no cover.

Preview

Anthrax on Tour

A case of nostalgia for heavy metal purists

**After thrash metal pioneers Anthrax shake up the Roxy in New York, Jan. 19, the fearless foursome head to Lansdowne's Axis to promote their new release, "Return of the Killer Β's A's." This Best of Anthrax release boasts classics like "I'm the Man," "Got the Time" and "Bring in the Noise" (featuring Public Enemy's Chuck D. and Flava Flav)—a follow-up of sorts to their '91 "Attack of the Killer B's" album, a compilation of b-sides and rarities. Because the metal mavens have been around for 18 years, Anthrax has learned to approach the music biz as they see fit (remember their ousting of lead singer, Joey Belladonna, at the height of their success in the late '80s?). Although the band members and the sounds have changed over the years, the group's live performances are wild and crazy—they've still got the act to support the speed metal that made them famous. The show will be a split set with former lead singer Belladonna headlining the older songs and John Bush the newer ones. Scott Ian (guitars), Frank Bello (bass), Charlie Benante (drums, guitars, percussion) share the stage. *Jan. 19, Axis, 13 Lansdowne St., Boston.*
*—Erin Hagedorn***

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men seeking women

Half-Irish, Half-Italian. Hey ladies, this is Mike. I'm a SWM, 28, 5'8", with short brown hair, hazel/brown eyes and freckles. I'm a real nice guy with a good sense of humor. I'm little heavy set but I'm attractive. I'm currently employed at a gas station and I live in Quincy. Box 14742

I'm quit sincere and very real. My name is David. I'm 53. 6' and 185 lbs. I'm also very romantic, sensuous, adventurous, compassionate, kind and understanding. I'm looking for a very special lady who would like to go out on some dates and see how it goes from there. Box 14747

Seeking a beautiful lady. I'm a SHM, divorced, 36, 6'1", 190 lbs., clean cut with black hair and brown eyes. The lady I'm looking for must not only be beautiful from the outside, but from the inside as well. Box 18544

Slave to corporate America... unfortunately. My name is Chris. I'm 21 and living in north Boston. What I really want to be doing is studying film. I'm into art, music, philosophy and coffee. I'm just looking for somebody who likes life and is interesting, attractive, sexy and intelligent. Box 21763

Tall and attractive. Hey, this is Andrew. I'm 30, tall and attractive, with blond hair and blue eyes. I'm in great physical shape, open minded, adventurous, honest, down-to-earth and a gentleman. If you share these same qualities, leave me a message. Box 22146

Looking for a female pretty, smart, wild and likes to have a good time. Hi, my name's Ryan. I'm 22, 6'1", good looking and currently residing in the Boston area. Box 22177

Recently divorced. Hey ladies, how you doing? I'm a SWM, 33, 6' 185 lbs., clean cut, with short brown hair and blue eyes. I'm looking to meet people to have some fun…nothing too serious right now. Box 22200

Professionally employed and college educated. My name is Derek. I'm Canadian/ Dominican/Indian mixed, 5'11" handsome with light skin and a nice body. I'm seeking a SWF or a SHF. Box 22221

I like to take my lady out and treat her like a queen. Howya doing? This is Frankie. I'm looking for a steady relationship. I'm a boxer and I'm a very fun person to be with. Box 22260

women seeking men

My many interests include bowling, biking, dancing, movies and eating in and out. Hello, this is Jean. I'm 41, 5'2", with short brown hair, blue eyes and a medium build. I'm currently living in the north of Boston. I'm looking for a man who is honest, sweet, kind and considerate. Box 15196

I've been told that I'm attractive. Hello. I'm a full-figured, 36, 5'6" with long blonde hair and blue eyes. I'm honest, intelligent, vicarious and opened minded. I live a little north of Boston. Box 22155

Living in Alston. Hi, this is Jennifer. I'm 27, curvy, with long curly red hair, blue eyes and a nose ring. I'm looking for some cool and intelligent conversation. Box 15588

I like football, basketball and almost any kind of sports. Hi, my name is Sparkle. I'm a SBF, 5'5" with brown eyes and colorful hair. I'm currently living in the Boston area. I'm not into head game…I want something real. I'm having the hardest of luck finding the right man. Box 22175

You gotta be honest. Hi, my name is Renaisa. I'm looking for a man who is strong, sensitive, honest, caring, compassionate and loving. If you're looking for a serious relationship like I am, get back to me. Box 22189

I've been compared to a young Liz Taylor. Hi, my name's Elaine. I'm Italian with a full figure but proportionate, and busty. I'm looking for a man between the ages of 45-50 for casual dating, possibly more. Box 22223

Freshman at M.C.C. This is Sydney. I'm a SWF, 18, 5'6", 100 lbs., with reddish blonde hair and baby blue eyes. I'm currently studying early childhood education. I am no ugly, but I'm not a bombshell either…guys tell me I'm cute. I like movies, chill-out at home, talk on the phone and hangout with my three younger siblings. I'm looking for someone between the ages of 19-23. Box 22246

Clear skin and straight teeth. What's up? This is Mimi. I'm attractive, 150 lbs., thick (all in the right places), with brown hair, brown eyes and light skin. I like the outdoors and the simple things in life. I'm looking for friends…nothing too serious. Box 22247

Love cooking, dancing, movies, sports, the outdoors and having fun. Hey guys. I'm a SWF, 27 and currently living on the South Shore. Box 18021.

New to the Boston area. This is Judy. I'm divorced and I'm looking to meet someone nice. I'm 5'6", with blonde hair, a nice face and figure. I was a housewife for many years, so I'm pretty good at that. I'm currently working 35 hours a week, but leave me a message anyway. Box 22029

I have many interests. Hello. My name is Donna. I'm 5'3", 120 lbs., with light brown hair and dark brown eyes. I am honest, compassionate, sincere and am sick of the dating scene. I like bowling, hiking and volunteering for the Audubon Society. I also like mountain biking, music, cooking, the ocean and movies. Box 22061

This is the first time I've ever done this. My name's Ana. I'm looking for a long-term relationship. I'm pretty – at least I think so – and I have a lot of interests in my life. I am intelligent, sensitive and very honest. I would like to meet someone who is willing to fall in love. Box 22121

I'm looking for a really nice guy. Hi, this is Veronica. I'm 5'10" and 135 lbs. I love playing sports and going to football games. I'm looking for someone who likes a variety of things, is spontaneous and likes romantic evenings. Race doesn't matter. Box 21778

Visit Nightline on the web at www.nightlinepersonals.com ***and check out more local ads!***

The Nightline service does not prescreen callers and assumes no responsibility for personal meetings . Callers must be 18 or over. Toll charges may apply. Optional paid services. Call for details.

Helicopter Helicopter will land at the Paradise Jan. 20 to perform its brand of electric pop. They'll share the stage with other local bands—the Pills, the Shods and the Outlets.

Preview

Rock Paradise

Four local bands make for a fabulous bill.

Ease winter doldrums with a whopping dose of Boston rock at the Paradise, Thursday, Jan. 20. The Pills, a band that evokes the Kinks and the Jam with a healthy dose of power pop thrown in the mix, will take the stage first. When the Shods jump onstage and rev up the audience with their straight-ahead, unpretentious rock 'n' roll, the Jam may spring to mind once again, or perhaps the Clash. Next, it's the Outlets, old-school punk rockers from the late '70s/early '80s, re-formed and looking pretty darn good. Helicopter Helicopter, a band whose members are likely half the age of Outlets rockers, will headline the show. This up-and-coming foursome has a pop sensibility—think Letters to Cleo or Flaming Lips—and an impressive new CD, *Analog and Electric Fields*.

As long as the Paradise manages to keep underaged club goers out, and its doors open until the night of the show, this line-up will offer you a big bang for your buck, and a whole lotta local rock.—*Rachel Strutt*

Jan. 20, Paradise, 967 Comm. Ave., Boston (562-8804). MBTA: Green Line to Pleasant St.

Top of the Hub
Diana Fischer Duo, 8pm, no cover.
Wally's Cafe
The Jose Ramos and Special Blend Band, 9pm.

Tuesday, January 18

The Black Rose
Frank Ryan, 9:30pm, no cover.
Bristol Lounge
Joe Barbato, 8pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Bluegrass Pickin' Party, Adam Dewey, Crazy Creek 9pm, no cover.
Dick's Last Resort
Search Party, 7pm, no cover.
Encore
Bobby Femino, 9pm, no cover.
Harpers Ferry
Another Planet, 9:30pm, $3.
House of Blues
Rick Russel Blues Buffet and Jam, 9pm, $6, 18+.
Johnny D's
Margot Leverett, 8:30pm, cover varies.
The Kendall Cafe
Orbit, 9pm, $5.
The Middle East
Upstairs: Boardwalk Arcade, Ember Swift and Sorry Jar, $6, 18+. Downstairs: Guided by Voices and the American Flag, $14, 18+.
The Rack
Nate Wadkins, 8pm.
Regattabar
The Lee Kontz Trio with Ron McClure and Jeff Williams, 8:30pm, $14.
Top of the Hub
Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
Wally's Cafe
Wally's Step-children I, 9pm, no cover.
Les Zygomates
The Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm.

Wednesday, January 19

Bristol Lounge
Joe Barbato, 8pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
Lown & Navarro and Venice, 8pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm, no cover.
Encore
Michelle Currie, 9pm, no cover.
The Grand Canal
Dave Foley, no cover.
House of Blues
Venice, 8pm, $7, 18+. Johnny A and the Bamboo Ensemble, 10pm, $7, 18+.
Johnny D's
Brian Templeton, 8:30pm, cover varies.
The Kendall Cafe
Den of Thieves, 11pm, no cover.
Kirkland Cafe
Ken Clark Organ Trio, $4.
Lizard Lounge
The Bubble, featuring Billy and Dana from Morphine and friends.
The Middle East
Skeleton Killers with special guests the Bourbon Princess, $6, 18+.
Milky Way
Solaris, 10pm, cover varies.
The Rack
Big City Beat, 9pm.
Regattabar
The Lee Kontz Trio with Ron McClure and Jeff Williams, 8:30pm, $16.
The Sugar Shack
Biscuithead, cover varies.
Top of the Hub
Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's
J & PC,, the Troubadours and Marie's Children, 10pm, $4.
Wally's Cafe
Wally's Step-children II with special guests, 9pm, no cover.
Les Zygomates
The Hakam Law Trio, 8pm.

Thursday, January 20

Bayou Blues Cafe
Monica Lynk Trio, 8pm.
Bristol Lounge
Joe Barbato, 8pm, no cover.
Cantab
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff
The Beloved Few, 9pm, no cover.
Club Passim
The Loomers, Linda Shara, Summer Pierre, Nate Borofsky, Alastair Moock, Quay & O'Connor, Stuart Ferguson and Brian Doser, 7pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm, no cover.
Encore
Michelle Currie, 9pm, no cover.
The Grand Canal
The Spitting Vinnies, no cover.
Harpers Ferry
Crash 22, 9:30pm, cover varies.
House of Blues
Millennium Funk, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Johnny D's
Pat Burtis and Mary Lee's Corvette, 9pm, cover varies.
Jose McIntyre's
Syndicate, 9pm, $3.
The Kendall Cafe
The International Hotspots, Beth Boucher and Dave Schwartz, 9pm, $5.
The Linwood
Wonderdrug, Trust Fall, Colepitz, Simple and Tonic Field Mice, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Lizard Lounge
Club d'Elf.
The Middle East
Upstairs: Victory at Sea, Bratnar DeAtley & That Other Girl and Kat McClaughlin, $7, 18+. Downstairs: Rocket From the Crypt, Swingin' Neckbreakers, Jonny Chan & the New Dynasty and Six, $10, 18+.
Milky Way
Astrosulut and Lars Vegas, cover varies.
The Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett, 9pm, $3.
The Rack
Vykki Vox, 6:30pm.
Regattabar
Jim Hall, Joe Lovano, George Mraz and Lewis Nash, 8pm and 10pm, $16.
Ryles Jazz Club
Laszlo Gardony, Jesse Flack and Ron Savage, 8pm, $6-$8.
Top of the Hub
Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's
The Control Group, Skinny Tee, the Dubnicks and Hi Steppin Nickel Kids. 10pm, $6.
Warren Tavern
Matt Browne, 9pm, no cover.
Les Zygomates
The Jinga Trio, 8pm.

Friday, January 21

Bayou Blues Cafe
Monica Lynk Trio, 8pm.
Bristol Lounge
Suzanne Davis Jazz Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies. Downstairs: Phil Pemberton Band, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
Cliff Everhardt, Ann Heaton and Frank Marotta, Jr., 8pm, $12.
Coogan's Bluff
Novakane, 9pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band and Classic Trax, 7pm, no cover.
Encore
John O'Neil, 9pm, no cover.
Harpers Ferry
Superhoney.
House of Blues
Carey Bell, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Johnny D's
River Road and the Darlings, 9:45pm, cover varies.
Jose McIntyre's
Second Story, 9pm, $5.
The Kendall Cafe
Josh Lederman y Los Diablos, Jeanne Ciampa and Kristen Cifelli and Carla and Tom of the Mudhens, 9:30pm, $5.
The Linwood
The Gravy, Francine and Major Major, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Lizard Lounge
Auto 66 and Church of Betty.
The Middle East
Ustairs: Mark Eitzel, $8, 18+.
Milky Way
The Shelley Winter's Project and the Revolutionary Snake Ensemble.
Paradise
The Pushstars and Jump Little Children, 6:30pm, $10.
Private Function
Love Dogs.
The Purple Shamrock
Pig Pen, 9pm, $5.
The Rack
Hit Squad, 6:30pm.
Regattabar
Jim Hall, Joe Lovano, George Mraz and Lewis Nash, 8pm and 10pm, $18.
Sculler's Jazz Club
Larry Harlow and the Latin Legends Band, 8pm and 10:30pm, cover varies.
Top of the Hub
Chris Taylor Quartet, 7pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's
Missing Joe, Accidental Groove, Sterling and Honest Bob, 10pm, $7.
Wally's Cafe
John Lankin Quintet, 9pm, no cover.
Les Zygomates
Chiara Givello, 9pm.

Saturday, January 22

Atrium Lounge
Bert Seager Jazz Duo, 9pm, no cover.
Bayou Blues Cafe
True Colors, 8pm.
Bristol Lounge
Suzanne Davis Jazz Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies. Downstairs: Phil Pemberton Band, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
Katrina & Nerissa Nields and Ben Demerath, 7pm, $15.
Coogan's Bluff
Guy Smiley, 9pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators and Blue Soul, 7pm, no cover.
Encore
Lisa "Lucky" Stetor, 9pm, no cover.
Harpers Ferry
Crash 22, 9:30pm.
House of Blues
Milo-Z, 10pm, $12, 21+.
Jose McIntyre's
Thomas Park, 9pm, $5.
The Kendall Cafe
John Haydon Band, Ten Commandos and Grass Cowboy, 9:30pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe
Violet Tide, $5.
The Linwood
Upper Crust, Caged Heat and Aviso Hara, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Lizard Lounge
Lockgroove, Charlene and Wheat.
The Middle East
Upstairs: 20 Miles, Bob Log III and Mr. Airplane Man, $8, 18+.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Dave Smyth and Friends, 9:30pm, Matt Brown, 10pm.
The Purple Shamrock
Bacchanalia, 9pm, $5.
Regattabar
Jim Hall, Joe Lovano, George Mraz and Lewis Nash, 8pm and 10pm, $18.
Sculler's Jazz Club
Larry Harlow and the Latin Legends Band, 8pm and 10:30pm, cover varies.
St. John's Church
Vox Humana Millennial Concert series with Laszlo Gardony, Genevieve Rose and Gregory Caputo, 8pm, $8-$10.
Wally's Cafe
The John Lankin Quintet, 9pm, no cover.
Les Zygomates
Eula Lawrence, 9pm.

Harry Connick, Jr. brings his crooner-style pop to the Wang Center, Jan. 20 and 21.

HELICOPTER: SHARI ELEFTHERION, CONNICK, PEGGY SIROTA

Sunday, January 23

Bullfinch's Pub
Eric Bindman, 11am, no cover.
The Burren
Kristin Cifelli, 8:30pm; Andy Kalt, 9:30pm; Melissa Morris, 10:30pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
Carolyn Hester, 7:30pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort
The Evelyn McDonald Gospel Group, 10am; Rob Gonzalez, 7pm, no cover.
Encore
Dottie Dean, 7pm, no cover.
The Grand Canal
The Swinging Johnsons, no cover.
Harpers Ferry
Coal Boilers. 9:30pm, $3.
House of Blues
Princes of Babylon, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Kirkland Cafe
Les Cous Cous, no cover.
Lizard Lounge
Live Bird (about the life and music of Charlie Parker) by Jeff Robinson, 5pm, $10.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Matt Brown, 8pm.
The Rack
Chad Lamarsh, 9pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Diana Fischer Duo, 8pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's
Zippergirl, 10pm, $4.
Wally's Cafe
Wally's Step-children III, 9pm, no cover.

Monday, January 24

Bristol Lounge
Joe Barbato, 8pm, no cover.
Bullfinch's Pub
Paul Broadnax and Peter Kontrimas, 6:30pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Miss Fortune, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band, 7pm, no cover.
Encore
Michael Kreutz, 9pm, no cover.
Harper's Ferry
Ron Levy's Wild Kigdon, 9:30pm, $3.
House of Blues
Stovall Brown Band, 9pm, $6, 18+.
The Kendall Cafe
Robby Baier and Pamela Means, 9pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge
The Fringe.
The Middle East
Upstairs: Room with a View, Kevorkian, Freelance Bishops and Megan Toohey, $6, 18+.
The Purple Shamrock
Dave Smyth, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Rack
Nate Wadkins, 8pm.
Top of the Hub
Diana Fischer Duo, 8pm, no cover.
Wally's Cafe
Jose Ramos and the Special Blend Band, 9pm, no cover.

Tuesday, January 25

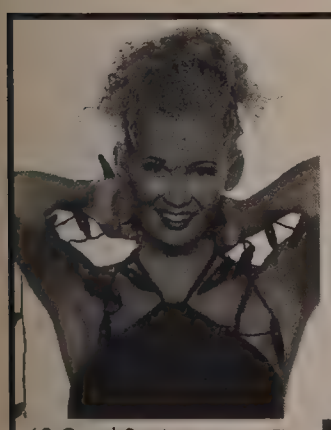
Bristol Lounge
Joe Barbato, 8pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Blue Union and Bluegrass and Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 9pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort
Booty, 7pm, no cover.
Encore
Bobby Femino, 9pm, no cover.
Harpers Ferry
Another Planet, 9:30pm, $3.
House of Blues
Rick Russel Blues Buffet with special guest Jamo, 9pm, $6, 18+.
Kendall Cafe
Orbit, 9pm, $5.
Lizard Lounge
Shivaree, 9pm.
The Rack
Stu Sinclair, 8pm.
Regattabar
Dan Moretti's Brazilia, 8:30pm, $10.
Top of the Hub
Jeff Auger, Bob Nieske and Rick Considine, 8:30pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's
Joe Deveau, 10pm, $4.
Wally's Cafe
Wally's Step-children I, 9pm, no cover.

Music Venues

B-Side Lounge *92 Hampshire St., East Cambridge (354-0766). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Bristol Lounge *Four Seasons Hotel, 200 Boylston St., Boston (338-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
Bullfinch's Pub *730 Boston Post Road, Sudbury (978-443-4094).*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Club Passim *47 Palmer St., Harvard Square, Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). MBTA: Any Green Line to Prudential.*
The Good Life *28 Kingston St., Boston 451-2622). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing/*
Green Street Grill *280 Green Street, Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Grand Canal *57 Canal Street, Boston (523-1112).*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Avenue, Allston (254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Harvard Square, Cambridge (491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Davis Square, Somerville (776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (451-9460). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Kendall Cafe *233 Cardinal Medeiros Ave., Cambridge (661-0993). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (783-9400). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
The Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (267-8644).*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Milky Way Lounge *405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-3740).*
Paddy Burke's Pub *132 Portland Street, Boston (367-8370). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Paradise *967 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (562-8804). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant St.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (725-1051). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Road, Cambridge (562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (536-1775). MBTA: Green Line to Prudential.*
T.T. the Bear's *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Wally's Cafe *427 Mass. Ave., Boston (424-1408). MBTA: Green Line to Symphony.*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard Ave., Allston (351-COOL). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Les Zygomates *129 South Street, Boston (542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*

Battle of the Bands

The fourth NEMO Music Showcase and Conference is coming up fast—April 13-15—and all of you local bands and solo artists can apply now for one of the 200 slots. Showcase artists have the opportunity for their music to be heard by thousands of industry professionals, fans and musicians. Log on to www.nemo99.com, call 781-306-0441 or email cavery@ultranet.com for applications. Hurry—the deadline for entries is Jan. 21.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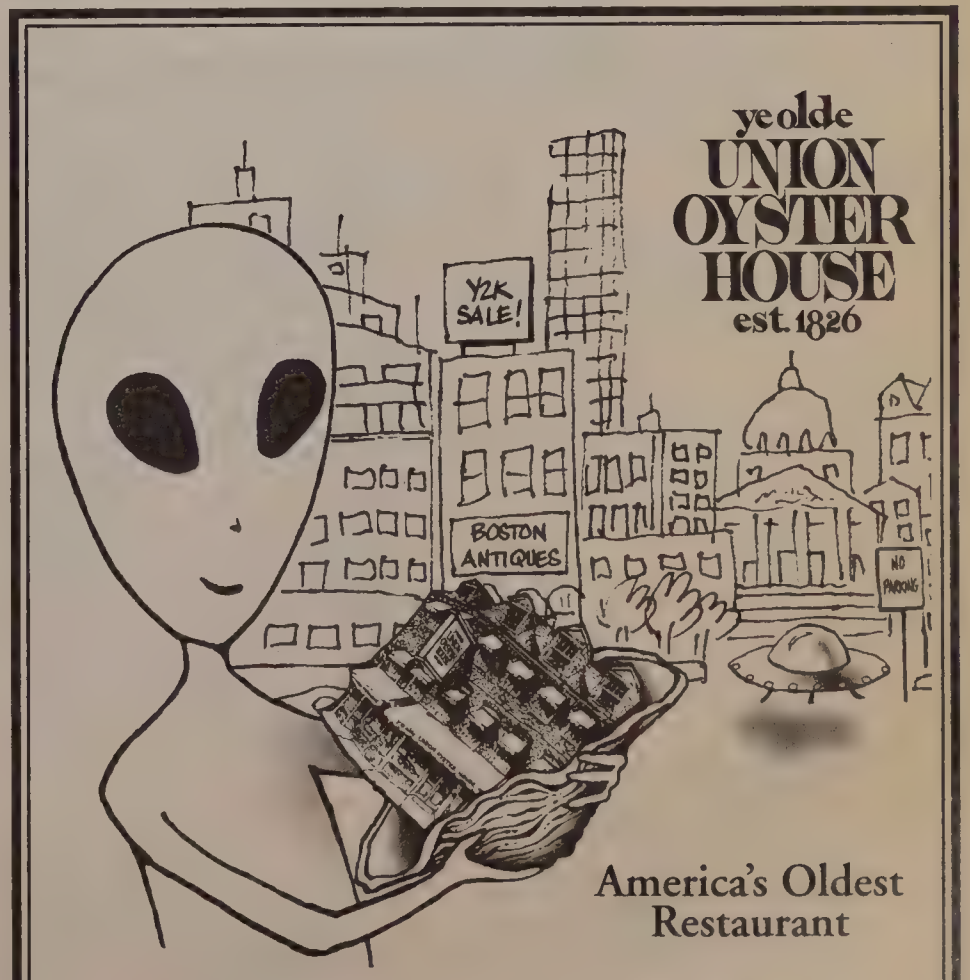

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Submit information including telephone numbers and nearest T stops by fax to (859-1446), mail or e-mail to gay.lesbian@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted by phone.*

How to use this section
The following listings contain information that is subject to change. Contact the organization for changes in specific events.

CLUBS, BARS & HANGOUTS

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years these folks have been crankin' out some of the best Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. It's well worth a visit—if not for the three separate dance floors then for all of the male dancers. 9pm, $15, 21+.

Buzz (Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays)
51 Stuart St. in the Theatre District, Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. On Saturday nights this place boasts two dance floors, two DJs, a pool room and a lounge. Two levels of dancing and schmoozing will keep the boys busy until 2am. 10pm, $5, 21+.

Chaps (Daily)
*100 Warrenton St., Boston (695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boyl*ston. www.chapsofboston.com. Sun.: Dance music of DJ Danae Jacovidis; Mon.: Grand Baby and Grand Piano night; Tue.: Retro DJ night; Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adielson Caesar; Thu.: DJs Billy and Fran: High Energy Dance; Fri.: Taboo Erotique with DJ Sammy; Sat.: High Energy Dance, DJ Danae Jacovidis.

City Girl Cafe (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tues.-Fri: 11am- 9pm; Sat: 10am-9pm; Sun: 10am-7pm. A small (5 tables) laid-back cafe in Inman Square, lesbian-owned and operated. This cozy spot is home to a mixed gay/hetero crowd that lounges about, munching on sandwiches. Brunch on Saturday and Sunday from 10am-2pm.

Club Cafe (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-0966). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri 11:30am-2am; Sat. 2pm-2am; Sun. 11am-2am. This trendy South End spot draws a mixed crowd that comes for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back (Moonshine). A dressy bunch that likes to mingle. No cover, 21+. •Carol O'Shaughnessy performs with Steve Heck, Dottie Dean or David Sparr, Thursdays. •Michael Kreutz performs every Sunday, 8:30pm.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (542-4494). Mon.-Fri. 3pm-2am; Sat. 1pm-2am; Sun. 12pm-2am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This is your friendly neighborhood bar with a quiet setting. It's best known for scrumptious Sunday brunches (12-4pm). A simple joint with all of the trappings of a true bar, smoky and dark. The place starts hopping as it gets closer to 2am.

Fritz (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Stroll in for a quiet drink or a rowdy night on the town. The folks here are friendly—and really into sports. Not only does Fritz have Direct TV set up with sets scattered everywhere, it's also home base to a great softball league. 12pm, no cover, 21+.

Jacques (Daily)
79 Broadway, Boston (426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. If you're looking for a friendly crowd of gays and straights and you're in the mood to mix with disco-dancing drag queens, this is the place. Sun. and Mon. are local band nights when acts rock into the wee hours. Tues. through Sat., however, divas rule the stage. 10:30pm, $4, weekends $6, 21+.

Lava Bar (Saturdays)
575 Commonwealth. Ave., Boston (267-7707). The Lava Bar's Tabu night boasts DJ Fran spinning out high energy house with a taste of Latin beats. Doors open at 10pm.

The Lizard Lounge (Wednesdays)
1667 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). "Marlene Loses It at the Lizard" is the title of this eclectic evening of poetry, live music, theater and cabaret in front of a diverse crowd. Shows begin at 10pm. $5 cover, 21+.

Luxor (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (423-6969). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from the latest music scenes and classic old movies—compiled by the bar's own VJ. Downstairs is Jox, a sports bar. 4pm, no cover, 21+.

This "frock-u-mentary," *Days in the Life of Fresh Fruit*, follows the mad-capped days and strapless nights of Ho, Hilda and Becky as the gender-bending drag trio Fresh Fruit. At the ICA Jan. 20-23.

Man Ray (Thursdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (864-0400). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed.-Fri. at 9pm; Sat. at 10pm. A bustling S/M hot spot caters to a young alternative clientele. Two dance floors fill up on Thursdays for Campus, a predominately male night where DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen take over. 9pm, 21+.

119 Merrimac (Daily)
119 Merrimac St., Boston (367-0713). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Sat., 10:30am-2am; Sun. 12pm-2am. This male cruise bar is the place to stop for drinks before or after FleetCenter events. Shoot a leisurely game of pool or the hit the video games. Merrimac features DJs playing hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s. 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. On Thursday nights the Lesbian AIDS Project of Mass. unofficially takes over this laid-back cafe for "dyke nyte." The cafe always has something brewing—live bands, DJs and drag queen parties. Party stars at 8pm, no cover, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (494-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Central. On Monday, a bartender not only mixes drinks, but he'll strip too. Male strippers are featured Wed.-Sat. Monday is Gothic night; Tuesday is techno and Thursday is college night. On Fridays DJ Sam Sampson spins, and on Saturday DJ Brad Gwynn helps you tear up the dance floor. 5pm, no cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (266-2986). Green Line to Kenmore. 12-2am daily. The largest leather bar in the East enforces a tight dress code (but leather is obligatory for the back room). Downstairs on Fri., Sat. (10pm-2am) and Sun. (7pm-12am) is the Machine, the sleekest hard-core club in town. Fri. has NYC DJ Darrin Friedman, Sat. DJ Brad Gwynn and Sun. is "Dragon Tea Dance," an Asian inspiration night with DJ James Hughes, a dragon show at 10pm and performances by Palace Princess Corvette and Diamond Dunhill. $6-$8, 21+.

Safari Club (Daily)
90 Wareham, Boston (292-0011). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Always open. It's 3am and you're craving a workout. Whether you want to lift weights (yeah, right) or just "socialize." Entrance is about $19.

BOOKS & READINGS

Glad Day Bookshop
673 Boylston St., Boston (267-3010). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu. 9:30am-10pm, Fri. and Sat. 9:30am-11pm, Sun. 12-9pm. This exclusively gay/lesbian bookstore has erotic mags, calendars and videos.

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge. (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Fri. 10am-8pm, Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 12-6pm. New England's oldest women's book shop pffers a comprehensive selection of books. It's monthly author series will resume in the spring.

We Think The World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6:30pm; Sun., 11:30am-5:30pm. Boston's literary gay and lesbian bookstore. Call Paul Rehme for details.

SHOWS & EVENTS

Chic and Sassy
Tremont Theater, 276 Tremont St., Boston (542-4599). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Through Jan. 30. Thu.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm. A modern coming-of-age tale about two "girls" from a small town. Chic Ana and Miss Sassy, a pair of naive, fresh-faced drag queens, make their way to the big city hoping to find a better life. Instead they get into one mishap after another in this comedy of errors.

Days in the Life of Fresh Fruit
Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA), 955 Boylston Street, Boston (566-6584). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center/ICA. Jan. 20-22, 8pm and Jan. 23, 2pm. $12 with reservations, $15 at the door. You won't want to miss this "frock-umentary" following the mad-capped days and strapless nights of the gender bending trio Fresh Fruit. This multi-media production combines larger than life costumes with twists on old favorites which prove that the Fruits are not just your average drag show.

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo
Emerson Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (824-8000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Jan. 14 and 15, 8pm; Jan. 16, 3pm. The BankBoston Celebrity Series presents Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, a dance troupe founded in New York City in '74 as a playful, entertaining, mock-traditional classical ballet. Their skillful satire (not to mention stellar drag costumes) has earned them an international rep as one of the leading contemporary dance companies.

ONGOING

Bawl
This lesbian softball league offers opportunities to join teams in both the recreational and competitive divisions. Call Liz (508-628-5477).

Best Foot Forward
Ballet Etc. Dance Studios, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (522-1444). MBTA: B Green Line to Washington St. Everyone knows that swing is the thing. For gays/lesbians/bisexuals of all skill levels.

Boston Glass
Community Center, 93 Mass Ave., Boston (266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center. Daily from 8-10pm. Support groups and social activities for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender adolescents between the ages of 13-25.

The Boston Rainbow Gospel Choir
The BRGC is about to launch its second season and periodically holds auditions. Call 424-6740.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). A 1,500-member gay club with hiking, biking, camping, skiing and other outdoor activities for men and women.

Common Bond
(781-433-7023). www.dwellings.com/acb. An international support group for gay/lesbian/bisexual current or former Jehovah's Witnesses.

Community Rainbow
Boston Living Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston. 7:45 pm. An organization whose mission is to advocate for the community. Meets Thursdays.

Dykes Who Hike
(522-6185). This brand spankin' new hiking group for lesbians in Boston and surrounding areas conquers the wilderness.

East Coast Wrestling Club
With more than 160 members, this is an extraordinarily popular NE spot for gay male wrestlers. Call Marc at (401) 467-6737, or go online at *http://members.tripod.com/~ecwc* or email *ecwc@juno.com*.

Encounters
Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston. An informal social evening for HIV positive gay and bisexual men held the first Tuesday of every month, 7-9pm.

Faith Community
Metropolitan Community Church, 131 Cambridge St., Boston (973-0404). A faith community of gay, lesbian, transgendered and bisexual people looking to affirm spirituality and sexuality.

Gay Volleyball
Cambridge (822-2148). Sundays, 6pm, $7. Typically seven teams play on three courts. Teams are made up each week depending on who shows up. Mostly men, but women are welcome.

Gender Free Contra Dancing
First Church of Jamaica Plain (522-1115). www.piac.net/users/latte/lcfd/. Come one, come all to evenings of contra and square dancing.

Hump Day
Skupper Jacks in Acton. Every third Wednesday at 5:30pm, Boston's gay, lesbian and transgendered come together to hang. For information contact *Tom.Evans@digital.com*.

Latino Social Groups
Latino Gay Men's Project (350-6900 ex.125) and the Women's Social Groups (350-6900 ex. 124).

Long Yang Club
Various locations, (825-5677). www.longyang club.org/boston. A club for gay Asian men and their friends. For more information call Ron (661-9165) or Steve at (401-941-1978).

Oops
Melting Pot Coffee House, 2 Belgrade Ave., Roslindale (323-4123). Out on the Parkways, a gay and lesbian organization, invites one and all to come on down for some coffee and dinner.

PFLAG
Fenway Community Health Center, 7 Haviland St., Boston (547-2440). Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets on the fourth Monday of the month, 6:30-8:30pm.

QAPA
This group holds monthly brunches on the first Sunday of every month at Ta-sheng Restaurant, 16 Eliot St., 2nd floor, in Harvard Square. Email *qapa@ccae.org.* for more information.

Queer Corps
131 Clarendon St., 4th floor, Boston (450-1676). A community mobilization project by and for queer men 25 and under. Meetings are held every Tuesday night from 6-8pm.

Tennis4all
Boston's gay and lesbian tennis club, with monthly tournaments and pizza socials. Call Ted at 779-7231.

Philip Glass

Akhnaten

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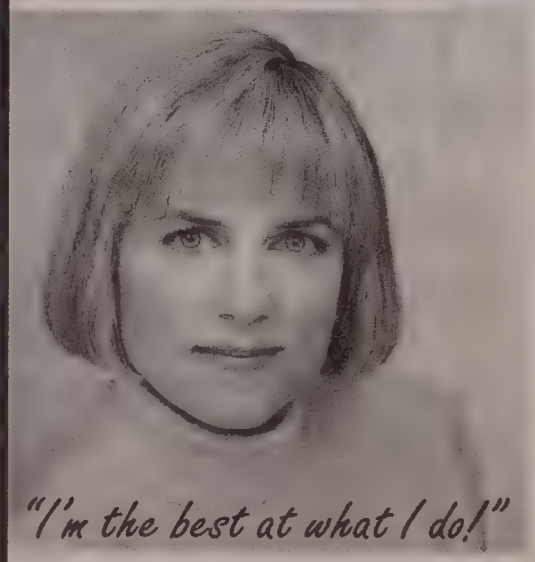

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EVENTS

Drum and Dance Saturday
Eagle Drum Council, First Church Congregational, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (978-371-2502). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Jan. 15, 8-11:30pm. $6. An open night of drumming and dancing for anyone, whether you're a closet rhythm man, a constant dancer, or just curious. All you'll need to bring is stomping feet and clapping hands, but drums, spoons and tambourines are invited as well.

The Relevance of Spirituality
Omega Institute in Boston, Arlington Street Church, 351 Boylston St., Boston (1-800-944-1001). www.omega-inst.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Jan. 15, 9am-4pm. $119.* Many people, like **Neale Donald Walsh**, have had conversations with God. But what does it all mean? What practical function can it have in our everyday lives and even life on earth? Walsh, author of the best-selling trilogy, *Conversations with God*, leads us on an in-depth exploration through lecture, guided meditation and a question-and-answer session. This will be a journey of soul-searching to help you find out how your life can make a difference.

CLASSES/ WORKSHOPS

Health Care Humor 101
In the Moment Wellness Center, 106 Access Road, Norwood (781-762-9281). www.inthemoment.org. *Jan. 23, 7-8pm. $9.* Join **Marilyn Vecchio** for an amusing opportunity to release stress, boost your immune system and get a "grip" on life. Share your jokes and stories about the foibles of the health care system and laugh your health worries away.

Get a good laugh at Health Care Humor 101, Jan. 23.

Holotropic Breathwork
Taconic Mountians, Pawlet, Vt. (1-800-404-7261). Jan. 15-16. $95. Nothing like fresh mountain air to assist you in practicing breathwork. Using the framework of Stanislav Grof's theories, doctors **Jenny Gibson** and **Elizabeth Gibson** teach how to use your breathing to heal and travel towards self-discovery. Optional retreat days before and after the workshop are available.

Meet Your Feet (and free your sole)
BKS Iyengar Center, 240A Elm St., Suite 23, Somerville (666-9551). http://world.std.com/~yogactr. *MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Jan. 16, 2-4:30pm. $28.* Let's get to the root of the situation with **Annie Hoffman**. Examine posture and alignment from the standpoint of the foot. See the relationship between foot, ankle, calf, thigh and hip in various standing poses and inversions.

Past Life Regression
Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Jan. 22, 9:30am-4:30pm. $71. Before going forward in the new millennium, why not take one quick step back...in time. You don't have to believe in reincarnation to benefit from the guided visualization used to uncover past lives. The symbols and sights that arise from your subconscious are a valuable tool in understanding yourself.

LECTURES/FORUMS

All About Love
Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston Street, (536-5400) Rabb Lecture Hall (Ext. 336). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Jan. 13, 6pm.* The Harvard Book Store author series presents **Bell Hooks**. The cultural critic, feminist and writer will talk about her new book, *All About Love: New Visions*, which explores how we think about love and act upon it.

Quantum Touch Energy Healing
Harvest Co-op Market, 581 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (661-1580). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Jan. 11, 6-8 pm. Quantum touch is a form of hands-on energy healing that enables you to access your own ability to assist yourself and others. (Talk about impressing a date, eh?) **Henri Furgiuele**, certified Quantum Touch practitioner, will teach you how to realign your bones, reduce inflammation and bring inner clarity.

Transformational Kinesiology
Theosophical Society in Boston, 21 Maple Street, Arlington (781) 942-1899. http://townonline.koz.com/visit/ts. *Jan. 14, 7:30pm. $5.* Join **Carol Hetrick** for a demonstration of the transformational kinesiology process. Inspired by ageless wisdom, transformational kinesiology combines applied kinesiology with esoteric healing, counseling, visualization and meditation to create a tool for healing and awakening inner wisdom.

Vitamins and You
Wellspace, Fresh Pond Mall, Cambridge (876-2660). www.inthemoment.org. *Jan. 20, 7-8:30pm. $15.* Everyone takes vitamins or at least thinks about it. But all the information available can be overwhelming, and who really knows whats best for you? Well, **Dr. Bradley Bongiovanni**, naturopathic physician, will lecture your confusion away. Come with questions, leave with answers.

What is Enlightenment
Impersonal Enlightenment Fellowship, 38 Cameron Ave., Cambridge (492-2848). Jan. 16, 4pm. Join spiritual teacher **Andrew Cohen** in a revolutionary investigation into the nature of enlightenment and the liberating potential of true spiritual inquiry.

GETAWAYS

Trip to Kaua'i
In the Moment Wellness Center, 106 Access Road, Norwood (781-762-9281). www.inthemoment.org. *Jan. 27-Feb. 3. $455.* Just being in the environment of Hawaii's waterfalls, foliage and beaches is a grand spiritual experience. It makes sense Kaua'i is one of the center's yoga and adventure trips. Take advantage of this opportunity for a yogic spiritual retreat. Kayaking and surfing options are available as well because there's nothing like a little adventure to hone the soul.

Zen Retreat
Cambridge Zen Center, 199 Auburn St., Cambridge (576-3229). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.cambridgezen.com. *Jan. 14-16. $50.* This monthly retreat is an excellent opportunity to clear the mind of habitual thinking and generate energy to practice in everyday life. **Mark Houghton**, JDPSN, one of the guiding teachers at the center, will lead the weekend's activities: zen practice, work and rest periods, formal vegetarian meals and a private interview with the retreat leader. Beginners are very welcome. Contact the center for information.

ONGOING

The Complete Teachings of Buddha
Shambhala Meditation Center, 646 Brookline Ave., Brookline (734-1498). www.shambhala.org. *MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. Every Tues. and Wed., 8pm. Free.* Two separate on-going classes attempt to cover the spiritual material Buddha has passed on.

Yoga/South End
Union United Methodist Church, 485 Columbus Ave., (522-7199). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Prudential. $15/class. Certified kripalu yoga teacher **Patrice Flesch** teaches mixed-level classes in a spiritual setting. Increase flexibility, relieve stress, build strength, relax and enjoy at any of these ongoing classes: Tuesdays at 7pm, Wednesdays at noon and on Saturdays at 9am.

Progessive Health Groups and Classes
The Marino Center for Progressive Health, 2500 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (661-6225). www.marinocenter.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Porter.* The Marino Center has the following ongoing groups and classes: •Women's self-esteem, self care and stress reduction, Wednesdays: 7-8:15pm. •Co-ed psychotherapy, Wednesdays: 8:30-9:45pm. •Men's discussion group, Tuesdays: 7:15-8:30pm. •Multi-level yoga classes, Mondays and Wednesdays: 6-7:30pm. •Tai Chi and Qi Gong, Mondays: 7:30-8:30pm, Tuesdays: 12:30-1:30pm, Fridays: 5:30-6:30pm. •Progressive stress reduction program, Tuesdays: 6-8:30pm, Fridays: 9:30am-noon.

Qi Gong
Woolf Holistic Health Center, 651 Washington St., Brookline (738-9144). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Square. Thursdays, 7:30pm. Free. Have you ever wondered what Qi Gong, a ancient form of exercise from China, really is? Well your chance to experience what Qi Gong has manifested at the Woolf Center's drop-in session. Discover this time-tested art for maximizing your well-being and increasing your knowledge of mind and body.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Children. Or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Who the heck is Sir Isaac Newton? Find out at the Museum of Transportation, Jan. 16.

TO SEE

Children's Hour at the Kennedy Library
Columbia Point, Boston (929-1250). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Jan. 15, 10:30am and 1pm. Free. Ages 5 and older. Listen to the Children: A Tribute to Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This interactive performance allows famlies to ezperience a unique musical journey from the African continent to America. Janice Allen brings to life songs, dances, stories and history from Africa, the days of slavery and the civil rights movement.

Animal Tales
Druker Auditorium, Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). Jan. 23, 2pm. Ages five and older. What do monkeys, crocodiles, turtles and tigers have in common? They all appear in "Animal Tales," storyteller Cindy Rivka Marshall's program of stories from around the world.

THINGS TO DO

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. $5, children and seniors $3. •**Sesame Street Exhibition**. Three decades of the revolutionary children's television series. Step into one of the world's most famous TV neighborhoods and experience the activities first-hand.

Creative Arts Classes
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). Begins Jan. 18. $10-$115. Classes for children and famlies in drawing, painting, clay and wood-working, as well as drama, parent-toddler art and Friday family art nights. For older children there is hip-hop dance, cartooning and improvisation classes.

Dance Classes for Children
Peanut Butter & Jelly Dance Company, Church of Our Savior, corner of Monmouth and Carlton Streets, Brookline (738-7688). Jan. 12, 10-week session. Ages 3-10 years. $90. These creative movement classes begin with dance warm-up exercises, followed by a combination of improvisational challenges and fun dances that explore a different movement theme each week.

Hip Kids
Rose Art Museum at Brandeis University, Waltham (736-3438). Thursdays, 3-4:30pm. Jan. 27-Feb. 24. Free. Call for an application. This free after-school program creates a fun and relaxed atmosphere in the museum setting that uses viewing, storytelling and discussion to inspire young people to make their own art.

Ice Skating Classes
15 MDC Ice Rinks, Boston (781-890-8480). www.iceskatingclasses.com. *Seven-week series $90.* Group classes for children age five and older.

Museum of Transportation Family Programs
15 Newton St., Brookline (522-6547). Sundays, 2pm. $5, $3 children. •Jan. 16: **What Goes Up**. Who the heck is Sir Isaac Newton? Take part in the fun activities and learn about gravity and motion. •Jan. 23: **Art Car Pins**. Sometimes a car can be a work of art. Make a crazy car and wear it home.

Science Magic
Druker Auditorium, Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). Jan. 25, 3:30pm. Ages six and older. Magician Stephen Lechner will demonstrate science concepts through magic.

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

To Watch

Boston Bruins
•FleetCenter. Tickets: 931-2000.
Jan. 13 (Home): Buffalo, 7:30pm, CTV.
Jan. 15 (Away): Montreal, 7pm, UPN 38/CBC.
Jan. 17 (Home): Atlanta, 1:30pm.
Jan. 19 (Away): Atlanta, 7:30pm, UPN 38.
Jan. 20 (Away): Tampa Bay, 7:30pm, UPN38.
Jan. 22 (Away): Florida, 7:30pm, UPN38/ESPN2.
Jan. 24 (Home): Calgary, 7pm.

Celtics
•FleetCenter. Tickets: 931-2000.
Jan. 12 (Home): LA Clippers, 7pm, Fox Sports Net.
Jan. 13 (Away): Minnesota, 8pm, Fox Sports Net.
Jan. 15 (Away): New Jersey, 7:30pm, Fox Sports Net.
Jan. 17 (Away): Washington, 1pm, Fox Sports Net.
Jan. 19 (Home): Toronto, 7pm, Fox Sports Net.
Jan. 21 (Home): Seattle, 7pm, Fox Sports Net.
Jan. 22 (Away): Charlotte, 7:30pm, Fox Sports Net.
Jan. 25 (Away): Miami, 7:30pm, Fox Sports Net.

Ski Events

•Jan. 15-17: **Snowfest Weekend** at Gunstock. (800-GUNSTOCK). A celebration of all stuff on snow, fun races, music and family events.
•Jan. 15-17: **Independence Day Weekend** at Loon Mountain. (603-745-8111). Weekend of activities, including snowcat rides, fireworks and more.
•Jan. 15: **Superhits** at Attitash Bear Peak. (603-374-2368). "Grass roots" snowboard air and style event, great for first-time competitors.
•Jan. 15: **WAAF/Stimilon Air and Style Challenge** at Loon Mountain. (603-745-8111). Pros and amateurs compete in New England's premier big air series.
•Jan. 15 and Jan. 23: **Supercross** at Waterville Valley. (603-236-8311). A series of Boardercross events for both skiers and rider.
•Jan. 16: **Holiday Weekend Fireworks** at Attitash Bear Peak. (603-374-2368). Celebrate MLK weekend with fireworks.
•Jan. 16: **Tubbs Snowshoe Demo Day** at Mount Sunapee. (603-763-2356). Join Tubbs to demo their latest products. Snowshoe games and prizes.
•Jan. 22-23: **Bud Light Boarderfest** at Attitash Bear Peak. (603-374-2368). Two days of top-notch snowboard competition.
•Jan. 22: **Beach Party** at Cannon Mountain. (603-823-8800). Bikini contest, limbo and other beach activities.
•Jan. 22: **Third Annual Lunch Tray Rodeo** at Tenney Mountain (888-TENNEY2). A competition on cafeteria trays in speed and style.
•Jan. 22: **WMUR Celebrity Challenge** at Waterville Valley. (603-236-8311). Raise money for the Waterville Valley Adaptive Ski Program.
•Jan. 23: **Boston Globe Race Clinic** at Cranmore. (800-SUN-N-SKI). Demo the latest ski equipment and register for a complimentary fun race.

To Play

BASKETBALL

Adult Baskeball League
Waltham YMCA (781-894-5295). Wednesday nights. All levels welcome.

Basketball City
Adjacent to North Station and the FleetCenter (742-6700). Corporate, midday and weekend leagues.

Co-Ed Indoor Basketball
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 224). Sun.-Thu. nights at various locations. All levels welcome. Leagues in Waltham, Dedham and Brookline.

The Corporate League of Boston
(566-7808).

Men's Basketball League
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990). Begins Jan. 10-11.

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333). Practice and workout programs for all levels in Greater Boston.

Catch the grass roots snowboard air and style event, Superhits, at Attitash Bear Peak, Jan. 15.

South End Fitness Center League
(534-5823).
Women's Basketball League
(661-9622).

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Boston Ski & Sports Club
Weston Ski Track (789-4070). $85. •**Snow Glide**: *Begins Jan. 13, 6:45pm, or Jan. 31, 6pm. Three weeks.* Gradual introduction for beginners. •**Classical**: *Begins Feb. 2, 6:30pm. Three weeks.* A little faster-paced, concentrating on stride and technique for those with some cross-country experience.

DOWNHILL SKIING

Boston Ski & Sports Club
(789-4070, ext. 222). •Daytrips leave every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday and include roundtrip transportation plus lift tickets. •Weekend trips include resort accommodations, meals, lift tickets and bus transportation. Jan. 14-17: Montreal. Jan. 21-23: Sugarloaf. •Weeklong: Jan. 22-29: Jackson Hole, WY. Jan. 28-Feb. 5: Cervinia, Italy.
Ski Market/Underground Snowboard
(731-6100). Sundays, $45; Thursdays, $40 (includes dinner and tour of the Redhook Brewery). Ski/snowboard trips to Killington, Sunday River, Loon and Waterville every Sunday and Thursday. Trips include roundtrip transportation and lift ticket.
S-Kimos Ski Club
Jackson, NH (388-8135 or 781-209-1189). Ski club located in Jackson, NH. Members participate in various winter and summer activities, such as alpine and cross-country skiing, snowboarding and hiking.

FOOTBALL

Australian Rules Football
Boston Australian Rules Football Club. Thu. evenings and Sat. mornings, Cambridge (781-440-9266). www.BostonDemons.org. No experience necessary.
Indoor Flag Football
BSSC, Indoor Sports Center in Revere (789-4070). Sundays.
Co-ed Touch Football
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990).

HIKING/WALKING

The Appalachian Mountain Club
Gorham, N.H. (603-466-2727). Hikes and huts in the White Mountains. •Monthly AMC Young Members meetings at AMC headquarters, 4 Joy St., Beacon Hill (523-0655). Second Thursday of every month, 6-10pm, $3. Potluck. BYOB.
New England Walkers
39 Oakland Rd., Brookline (731-9889). members.tripod.com/NEWALKERS. This 200-member club hosts race-walk events and clinics. Weekly walks at M.I.T. indoor track on Wednesdays at 7pm.

HOCKEY

Co-ed Floor Hockey
BSSC (789-4070). Individuals and teams, co-eds, all levels in Newton.
Co-ed Floor Hockey
Sport & Social Club of Boston, (262-8990). Begins Jan. 10 and Jan. 12.

ICE CLIMBING

Boston Ski and Sports Club
Mountain Lynx, Central Mass., (789-4070). Jan. 16, 8am-4pm. $90 (includes guide, instruction, all equipment and lunch). This course is designed to teach complete novices how to safely climb vertical ice flows and frozen waterfalls, while also giving intermediate ice climbers the opportunity to further develop their skills.

ICE SKATING

MDC Ice Skating classes
Bay State Ice Skating School (781-890-8480). www.iceskatingclasses.com. Registration is underway for fall classes at 17 MDC rinks in Greater Boston.

RUNNING

Boston Road Club Weekly Races
(781-646-8955). Sundays. Starts at Wells Ave. in Newton.
Fresh Pond Weekly Road Races
Fresh Pond Reservation. Saturdays, 10am. Choose between a 2.5- or 5-mile run.
NIKETOWN Boston Running Club
200 Newbury St., Boston (267-3400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Three- to five-mile loops. Starts at 6:30pm. Monthly mini-clinics as well.
Boston Hash House Harriers
(499-4835). Weekly runs year-round. Serious drinkers with a running problem.
Khoury's Thursday Night Runs
East Somerville. (354-3534). 4.13 miles. 7pm at Khoury's Bar.
Somerville Road Runners Weekly Run
Cambridge Boat House Parking Lot, Cambridge (923-2378). Fridays at 7 pm.

SOCCER

BSSC Indoor/Outdoor Soccer
BSSC (789-4070, ext. 225). Coed teams.
Sport & Social Club Indoor Soccer
(262-8990). Begins Jan. 10 and Jan. 13.

SOFTBALL

Indoor Coed Softball
BSSC, (789-4070, ext. 222). Mon. or Tues. evenings. Play in Danvers.
Coed Softball
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990).
Henry's Softball League
(781-891-0621). Waltham. Seeking players ages 17-30.

SWIMMING

The Mason Masters Swim Program
The Mason Pool, 159 Norfolk Avenue, Roxbury. (236-4923 or 450-9810) Mon.-Fri. 7:30-8:30pm. Led by Alex Primilsky, coach of world, national and Olympic champions.
M.I.T. Masters Swimming
M.I.T., Cambridge (253-8803). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. Mon., Wed., Fri. 8:30-10pm.
Boston Athletic Club Swim Workouts
653 Summer St., Boston (269-4300). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon. and Wed. 6:15-7:15am.
The Charles River Park Club Morning Masters
Charles River Park, Boston (450-9810). Mon., Wed., Fri. 6:30-7:45am.

VOLLEYBALL

Adult Co-ed Volleyball League
Waltham YMCA (781-894-5295). Monday nights, began Sept. 13. All levels welcome at this friendly league.
BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. Coed indoor 6 on 6 leagues. Four different levels of play. •Co-ed pickup games Tuesdays and Fridays at West Newton Armory, 1137 Washington St. $5.
Co-ed Volleyball League
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990). Begins Jan. 12 and Jan. 13.

WRESTLING

Men's Adult Wrestling
L Street Gym, 1663 Columbia Road, South Boston (635-5104). Mon. 6-8:30pm. All skill levels.

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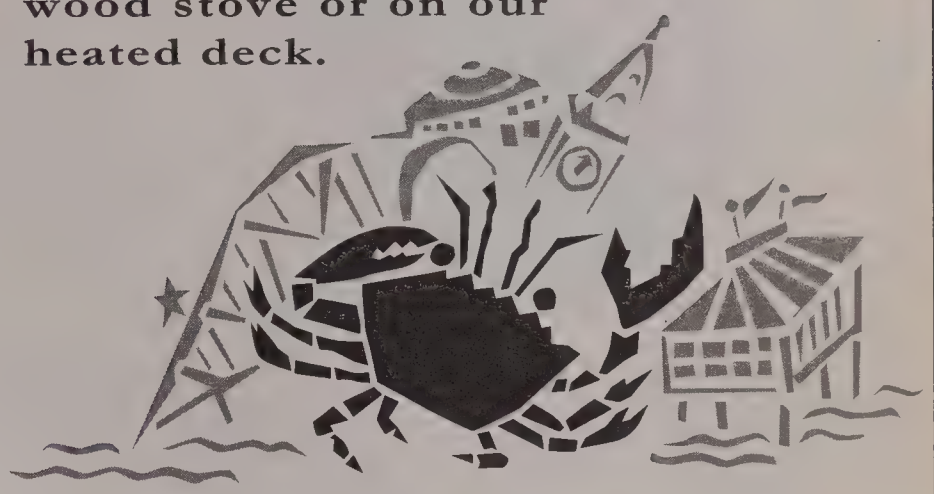

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sales& fashion

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AUCTIONS

Skinner Auctioneers
357 Main St., Bolton (978-779-6241). www.skinner-inc.com. •*Discovery Auction. Jan. 20, 7pm; Jan. 21, 10am. Previews: Jan. 20, 2-6:30pm; Jan. 21, 8-9:30am.* The Discovery auctions focus on estate property in an intermediate price range, offering a variety of collecting categories culled from Skinner's 16 specialty departments, including the 18th-, 19th- and 20th-century furniture and decorative arts, Asian works of art, advertising, ephemera and Civil War items, clocks, jewelry, collectibles and Oriental rugs and carpets.

BEAUTY

Cyberdust by Debra Macki Cosmetics
Demiche, 423 Main St., Melrose (781-662-1796). Jan. 15, 10am-3pm. If you don't know what it is, don't be left out. This is the product of the millennium.

OPENINGS

Crate and Barrel Home Store
777 Boylston St., Boston (262-8700). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. In addition to the usual dishware and decorating knicknacks, this huge new store sells furniture.

Renee's Destiny International Hair Care System
782 Tremont St., Boston (267-5903). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave. Opened Nov. 21. Renee's Destiny is the only salon in the area that offers hair care, manicures and pedicures, facials and massage therapy under one roof.

Maksou
125 Broad St., Boston (292-3322). MBTA: Orange Line to State Street or Blue Line to Aquarium. Opened Nov. 18. A new hair and makeup day spa. Owner Charles Maksou uses the special dry-cut method so stylists are able to carve out shapes that are impossible with wet ones.

OUTLETS

Freeport, Maine
I-95, exit 17, 19 or 20, Freeport, Maine (207-865-1212). www. freeportusa.com. Best known for its giant L.L. Bean, Freeport is also home to Gap, Banana Republic, J Crew, Ralph Lauren, Jones NY, Timberland and Nine West. Two hours north of Boston.

Kittery Outlets
Exit 3 off I-95 to Route 1, Kittery, Maine (888-KITTERY). www.thekitteryoutlets.com. More than 120 outlets for prices up to 70 percent off.

Settlers' Green Outlet Village Plus
OVP, Route 16, North Conway, NH (603-356-7031). www.settlersgreen.com. Just 2½ hours north of Boston, this outlet center has over 50 stores including J.Crew, Banana Republic and Nine West.

The day spa, Maksou, opened Nov. 18.

go away

TRAVELING NEAR AND FAR

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by fax (859-1446)or mail to Calendar: Sales and Fashion. Or e-mail information to goaway@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the event or items. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

NORTH SHORE

Business Expo
Sheraton Ferncroft Conference Resort, Danvers, Mass. (978-774-8565). Jan. 25-26. This annual 2,000-person, business-to-business conference and expo features more than 100 exhibitors and speakers. The get-together includes thousands of business leaders interested in business-related products and services. Top keynote speakers and seminar leaders draw business professionals from throughout the region.

SOUTH SHORE

Annual Railroad Show
Durfee High School Gym, 360 Elsbree St., Fall River, Mass. (508-674-9340). Jan. 16, 10am-4pm. $3, children $1. Sponsored by the Old Colony & Fall River Railroad Museum, this show is sure to delight everyone from "both sides of the tracks." Enjoy displays of railroad memorabilia and experience the past history of railroading in southern New England.

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

It's Magic
Old Sturbridge Village, 1 Old Sturbridge Village Rd., Sturbridge (508-347-3362, ext. 325). Reservations recommended. Through Jan. 29. Nightly, 8:30pm. $10. Robert Olson portrays Harry Ames, a magician from 18th-century London, and Richard Potter, America's very first magician.

NEW YORK

Fangoria's "Weekend of Horrors"
New Yorker Hotel, New York, NY (818-409-0960, ext. 213). Jan. 15-16. Take a walk on the "dark side" with *Fangoria Magazine* members, who present the ultimate event for horror-genre enthusiasts. For those who get a rise out of blood, gore and mayhem, take part in this festival which features horror filmmakers and musicians. Past guests have included George Romero (*Night of the Living Dead*), legendary creator of the *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, Richard O'Brien; the Misfits; and the infamous DeeDee Snyder of Twisted Sister. There are also plenty of vendors, collectibles, and dealers to satisfy even the most bloodthirsty fans.

Big Apple Comic Book & Toy Show
St. Paul the Apostle Church, New York, NY (718-326-2713). Jan. 22. www.bigapplecomiccon.com. Relive your childhood at this extensive show featuring more than 150 tables selling, buying and trading comics, toys, figurines, t-shirts, original art and more. If you play your cards right, you just might win a Hulk #181 (the first appearance of Wolverine!) and other prizes.

MIAMI

First Modernism Extravaganza of the Millennium
The Radisson Deauville Resort, Miami Beach, Fla. (305-861-0108). Jan 15-16, 11am-8pm, $10. Coinciding with Art Deco weekend, this modernist art show hosts more than 65 dealers presenting funky items ranging from furniture and glassware to photography and ceramics. Now in its seventh year, it features modernist styles such as Art Deco, Cubism, streamline and moderne.

Downtown Boca Festival of the Arts
Boca Cente,. Boca Raton, Fla.(954-472-3755). Through Jan. 16. 10am-5pm. Free. Live la vida loca in the heart of Boca at this juried art festival featuring 300 of the nation's top artists. Feast on fine international food and enjoy the live entertainment of all sorts—minus Ricky Martin.

Downtown Delray Festival of the Arts
Downtown Delray, Delray Beach, Fla. (561-278-0424) Through Jan. 23. 10am-5pm. Free. If Boca's festival has not yet stayed your appetite for fine art, this other distinguished artfest will satisfy any artistic craving. This art festival also features a collection of art from more than 200 artists. Stroll by the sidewalk specials offered by the upscale area merchants and antique shops and partake in eclectic food and live entertainment.

Heading south? You have two options: Downtown Delray's (left) or Boca Raton's (right) arts festivals.

VERMONT

Stowe Winter Carnival
Stowe, Vermont (802-253-9437 or 802-253-7321). Jan. 26-30. Free admission. Walk in the winter wonderland of Vermont during this fun-filled, five-day carnival of events for the whole family. Activities and events include snow golf, village night with fireworks, ski and snowshoe races and snow volleyball.

TEXAS

Janis Joplin Birthday Bash
Port Arthur, Texas (409-722-3699). Jan. 15. Since 1988, Port Arthur has celebrated the birthday of famous daughter Janis Joplin in a big way, paying homage to her special brand of '60s West Coast and Gulf Coast rock 'n' roll. This live musical tribute tips its hat to other Texas/Louisiana border musicians as well, such as J.P. "Big Bopper" Richardson, Tex Ritter, Edgar and Johnny Winter and Clarence Gatemouth Brown. Old-timers like Phil Phillips ("Sea of Love") and Cookie & the Cup Cakes ("Matilda") recreate the tunes that served as the rock queen's inspiration.

MONTREAL

The Bridal Show 2000
Palais des Congrès de Montréal, Montreal, Canada (514-871-3170). Jan. 14-16. All blushing brides will want to sashay up to Canada for the biggest show of its kind in the province.

Montréal International Auto Show
Place Bonaventure, Montreal, Canada (514-397-2222). Jan. 16-23. Shift into first gear and cruise over to this annual exposition of new vehicles, dream cars, prototypes and automobile-related products and services.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

International Dinners
Rte. 16, Gorham, NH (603-466-2727). Wednesdays through March 15. Dinner is at 6pm, program at 7:30pm. $14.50, children $8.25, lodging from $24 per night. BYOB. The best way to work up an appetite for the Appalachian Mountain Club dinner series is to go snowshoeing beforehand. From Pinkham Notch, follow the Appalachian Trail to Old Jackson Trail and George's Gorge, then take Liebeskind's Loop for views of the snow-covered valley. Then you'll really enjoy the seven-course French meal followed by slides and stories about hiking Mont Blanc in France.

Madrigal Dinners
Monroe Town Hall, Rte. 135, Monroe, NH (603-444-1104). Jan. 21-23. $20. Trade the winter eve for a spring day in 14th-century Chaucerian England with the North Country Chorus. Follow the pilgrims journey to Canterbury Cathedral, with plenty of entertainment en route from troubadours, jugglers, tumblers and troupes of minstrels. You'll feast on Old English cuisine—"meete pye," "pooddyng," and other specialties cooked by scullery and served by wenches.

MAINE

White White World Week
Sugarloaf, off Rte. 27 (800-843-5623). Various times and prices. Lodging packages available. Jan. 24-28. New England's largest ski mountain is a long drive, but well-worth the treck. Especially this week, when tickets prices are discounted and the Loaf hosts dozens of fun events, from waiter-bartender races (they complete in a tricky obstacle course wearing ski boots) and live music to minigolf tournaments and turbo-tubing after nightfall.

LONDON

London International Mime Festival
Various venues, London (0171-637 5661). Jan. 15-30. For those fearful of people wearing whiteface and grasping invisible objects, take cover as the mimefest of mimefests makes its way to London. This festival (Erin's idea of five days in mime hell) features a program of the best international visual theater, including mime, masks, acrobatics, circus skills, animation and puppetry. Noise pollution won't be a problem.

MELBOURNE

Venus Rising
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia (61-0394-282332). Jan. 23. Check out Australia's near-equivalent to our Lilith Fair. Venus Rising is a women's day of musicians, performers, dancers, artists, poets, writers and designers. Enjoy performances by more established Australian artists like Munday and Astrid.

mark your daytimer

UPCOMING EVENTS

CITYSCOPE

Chinese New Year Parade
Feb. 20, Chinatown

Spinazzola Gala Festival of Food and Wine
Feb. 4, World Trade Center

MUSIC

Joan Baez and Eliza Carthy
March 27 and 28, Somerville Theatre

Beck
Feb. 11 and 12, Orpheum Theatre

Cher with Lou Bega
March 3, FleetCenter

Bruce Cockburn
March 18, Berklee Performance Center

Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young
March 27, The FleetCenter

Tom Jones
April 1, Lowell Memorial Auditorium

Luciano Pavarotti
Apr. 5, Symphony Hall

FILM

Boston International Festival of Women's Cinema
April 13 - 17, Brattle Theatre

COMEDY

Kids in the Hall
Feb. 19, The Orpheum

THEATER

Loot
Jan. 28-March 15, Lyric Stage Company

WIT
Feb. 1-20, Wilbur Theatre

SALON: JOHN KARAMBALAS

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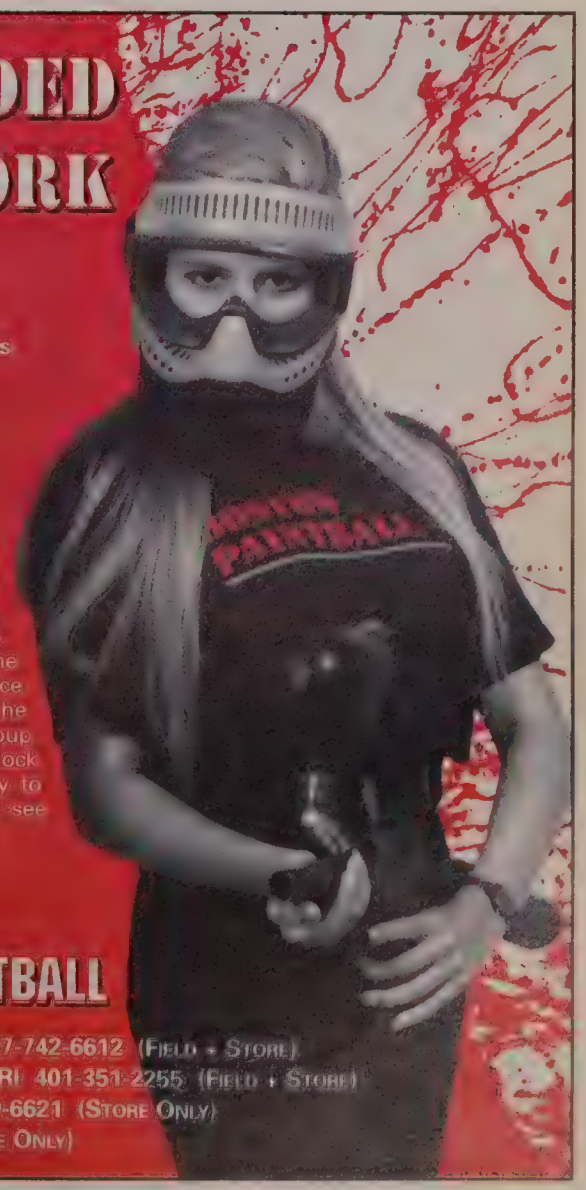

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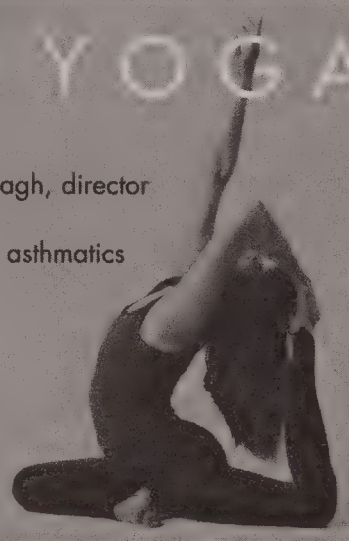

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Improper Impersonals

If everyone kept their feelings bottled up like warm beer we'd soon have antisocial behavior exploding all over the place and ruining the upholstery. That's why we have the Improper Impersonals, a column written by you, the reader. Send us your letters of love and spleen, and we'll print them for the world to see. Heck, it's better than making a fool of yourself in person. And **IT'S FREE!** Pick up a pen and tell that babe on the T you like his butt by writing to:

Improper Impersonals
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN
75 Arlington Street, 7th Floor
Boston, MA 02116

Fax: 859-1446 or e-mail us at *impersonals@improper.com*.
Recent correspondence follows.

Summer Street, Dec. 1
9:15am, odd# side.
I was in a blue overcoat, looking cold. You, a brunette, vision in green, with sparkly makeup, flashed me a grin that warmed me all day. Thank you whoever you are.
—cjnewton45@hotmail.com

Where are all the adventurous men?!?
Creative, spontaneous, energetic, almost 26yo woman seeks one for joint adventures (esp. on New Years) and ?. Must be fun, athletic, outgoing, like watching Hockey and Football (esp. College), Simpsons; like variety of music, outdoors and wear worn baseball caps on a regular basis (huge turn-on)(so are silver rings). Great sense of humor a must (esp. Kevin Smith flicks—*Chasing Amy, Dogma...*)
—soozeycue@hotmail.com

Lil Nicki
"You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone." I had to learn this the hard way but now I know that I have the sweetest, most thoughtful and beautiful girlfriend in the world. Thank you for giving me another chance.
—Fits

At the BCA party, Sunday night Dec. 12
You were by far, hands down, with no debate the coolest chick in the place, short hair, long red skirt and sexy, smooth moves on the dance floor. Every inch of you spelled trouble and heartache for sure. Sign me up! Our paths crossed briefly at the buffet, I, tall in the tux and blue bow tie with honeybees, looking for a bird to complete the story. I watched you dance, and then you disappeared. I looked all over for you, are you an apparition? Too neat for words and Boston itself you probably never worry for a date (but why no paramour at the ball?) but should you ever need a toy or slave you have a willing fan. Let's meet coffee or absinthe as you probably prefer send your reply with all haste, the new millennium awaits.
—Sucker for punishment at jpepster1@netscape.netnet

To the Brown-haired Beauty at the Dec. 12 Percy Hill Show
You were wearing a wool sweater and a bag across your back. Oh yeah, an amazing smile and hair short to your ears. You graced the front of the stage, mid-left. I was at your 8 o'clock when we caught eyes. This is my lottery ticket: slim odds, but worth the risk for the great payoff. I was hoping to ask you to catch some eats, but my friends (ex-friends) dragged me out. If you remember, I'd love to meet, you and your amazing smile.
—guyatpercyhill@hotmail.com

Young American
Be where you are.
You can be happy there.
Be where you want to be.
You can be happy there.
There is no "right" place to be.

Haiku for you:
Oh life is too short
I am a very tall soul
Sometimes is hurts some.

This is advice for both of us.

Angela. I love you with my entire being.

Red Line on December 13 1999 about 12:30 at night.
I got on at Harvard Sq. and you were already on the train. We sat opposite each other exchanging glances awkwardly. I wanted to say something to you but I could not find the right time or thing to say. I knew that you would get off at Park St. to connect to the D line, I would have taken the D line too however my train came first and I was too chicken to approach you. You were wearing a dark blue maybe black fall/winter jacket, blue jeans and brown Doc Martens. I am pretty sure that you go to Simmons, because of your lanyard. I would like another chance to meet you and I hope that you read this, if so please e-mail me.
—Redline_guy@yahoo.com

Sometime around December 7
You got on the green line at Park Street. You're sort of a rude boy, punk kid, wearing tan pants, chain wallet, blue checkered shirt, blue coat, and on your wrist, a studded bracelet. Your hair-straight up...how do you get it to do that? You were with two of your buddies. You sat down and pretended that you were on a roller-coaster. Immature? Yup...that's why I noticed. Well, I was the girl...the one laughing at you guys, before getting off at Haymarket. Don't freak out, you just look like the kind of guy I could hang out with...ya know, annoy people, laugh hysterically, and possibly get kicked out of public places. Well, there you go.
—obnoxious3@hotmail.com

Heart Breaker
To the beautiful Stephanie whom I played Hearts with on Friday night, December 10, at AMC Headquarters. Our eyes locked several times and I was taken with your enchanting smile and strategic card play. When we finished playing cards I had to make a phone call and foolishly let you out of my sight for a few minutes. When I returned, you were gone. I would really like to get to know you and hopefully see that incredible smile again. Hope you see this. Write to me here.
—Mike

Mr. Mason,
You sat near me as I waited to get my oil changed at the Jiffy Lube on Route 9 on December 4. You were wearing a college sweatshirt and had the most beautiful eyes I've seen in a while. Our eyes met a few times but unfortunately that's as far as it got. Do I have to wait 3000 miles before I can see you again?
—j0di@yahoo.com

Vienna Choir Boys, Jordan Hall, Dec. 10
We were standing out in the rain with our "Need 2 tickets" sign. You conferred for a minute, then walked up and held out your tickets, saying, "We got these free and we're not really that interested anyway." When I tried to pay you, you shook your head, said "Merry Christmas," and walked away. The concert was wonderful and the seats were incredible. Thanks for making our Christmas!
—K&C from Boston

Austin
You make my trek into Boston worth the trip. I enjoy the times we share together whether it is a walk at lunch, an "elevator ride," or "working after hours."

I can tell you anything; you are like one of my girlfriends (except for our stolen kisses). Your desire for me has made me feel like a passionate, sensual woman, something I have never felt before.

I love to catch you watching me with those blue eyes of yours. It is almost like I can feel you undressing me. I wait in anticipation for our next stolen encounter, when we can be alone and I can feel you pressed hard against me, our hearts racing with passion and fury, yearning for so much more. Although we both love someone else, I must admit that I enjoy being your passion pal. But most of all, I enjoy our joking, laughter, honesty and most of all friendship.
—Martha

Dee
You are the rarest of treasures! Your day is coming. Have a truly magical birthday.
—Your fond admirer

Rockie Horoscope

January 12 - January 25, 2000
BY ROCKIE GARDINER

Capricorn
DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20
If you loved the feeling you had on January 1 when the Capricorn sun was favoring your Saturn ruler in Taurus, you should like the rest of the year. The rewarding trine relationship between two earth signs becomes even stronger during Virgo, the other earth sign. Consider putting all your eco-eggs in one basket to save the planet and the parcel you lay claim to. As jolly Jupiter joins Saturn in May, your focus may shift to children, an educated lover and really rich entertainers.

Aquarius
JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18
Your Uranus ruler continues on course, advancing from 14 degrees to almost 21 Aquarius, this year. Neptune's progress is slower, from 3 to 6+ Aquarius. If you have planets on your natal chart close to these numbers, expect sudden, brilliant changes from rebellious Uranus and artistry, greater spirituality (psychic ability or spaciness, too) from Neptune. Stay plugged into the ever-expanding Internet, experiment with something brand-new to you, and work on your glamorous persona. Lucky at love on January 12th.

Pisces
FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19
Energetic Mars in Pisces bestows curiosity and courage until February 11; go off on an adventure, if only in your mind. Venus drops in for a visit on March 13 and leaves on April 6, so if you want an active social life, plan your parties then. That's also the time aesthetic tastes and artistic talents thrive. Mercury flips in water signs this year; the messenger transits Pisces from February 5, the Chinese New Year, to April 12. It will be retrograde from Feb. 21, Presidents' Day, until March 14, Tie-Dye Annie's birthday.

Aries
MARCH 20-APRIL 19
In the year 2000 your Mars ruler opens in watery Pisces, so you'll be drinking with pals, playing guitar until February 11. While Mars transits Aries until March 22, you'll focus on your body and intrinsic needs, like surgery. After Mars enters Taurus, it'll be money, honey; sensual awareness and sartorial splendor. Come May, Mars in gadabout Gemini packs your bags, sells your stuff, etc. Family conscious Cancer brings you home for Father's Day. August is hot; Mars plays in Leo until the pristine Virgo vibe takes over in mid-September. Marriage-minded Libra sets in just before Election Day, and for Christmas, there'll be a sexy Scorpionic you.

Taurus
APRIL 20-MAY 20
Since your Venus ruler transits all the signs, some twice, in the course of the year, starting with early Sag on 1/1 and ending in late Aquarius next New Year's Eve, you can pretty much expect the course of true love and real money—matters ruled by Venus—to run smoothly, albeit swiftly. However, in May when Venus is in Taurus (as are the sun, moon, Mercury, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn) major changes take place, new cycles begin. This is a big year for the Bull, even if it should turn bearish.

Gemini
MAY 21-JUNE 20
Plotting Mercury's forward-backward course through 2000: Direct in early Capricorn until February 21 when it turns retrograde in watery Pisces. Direct on March 14 until June 23, then retrograde in Cancer until July 17. (Figure your Fourth of July plans will be complicated, if not compromised.) Mercury moves ahead until October 18 when it flips in mid-Scorpio; Halloween should be wonderfully creepy. On Election Day, your ruling planet turns direct (9:28pm EST) by which time the polls will be closed, so if you wait until late, your vote will hardly matter.

Cancer
JUNE 21-JULY 22
Your moon ruler is the orb that calls the shots so eclipses, both solar and lunar, have special significance for Cancerians. Besides the first total lunar eclipse on January 21 mentioned last week, there is a second one on July 16 visible in the West, Hawaii, Australia, etc. Partial solar eclipses (when the moon dominates the sun and Crabs lord it over Lions) occur on February 5, (when the Chinese Lunar Year of the Dragon 4698 begins), July 1, July 31 and December 25. Plan your trips accordingly.

Leo
JULY 23-AUGUST 22
Read the Cancer forecast for a schedule of eclipses due this year. There are lots of partial solars that could knock your energy level down, especially the ones in February (new moon opposing your sun ruler) and July (new moon in Leo). And the total lunar eclipses are nothing to sneeze at either. You might want to take a peek. May is major, not only because of the Great Alignment (sun, moon and five planets within 26 degrees of each other), but because this unusual event takes place in your Taurus midheaven. That's where your stellar reputation is made.

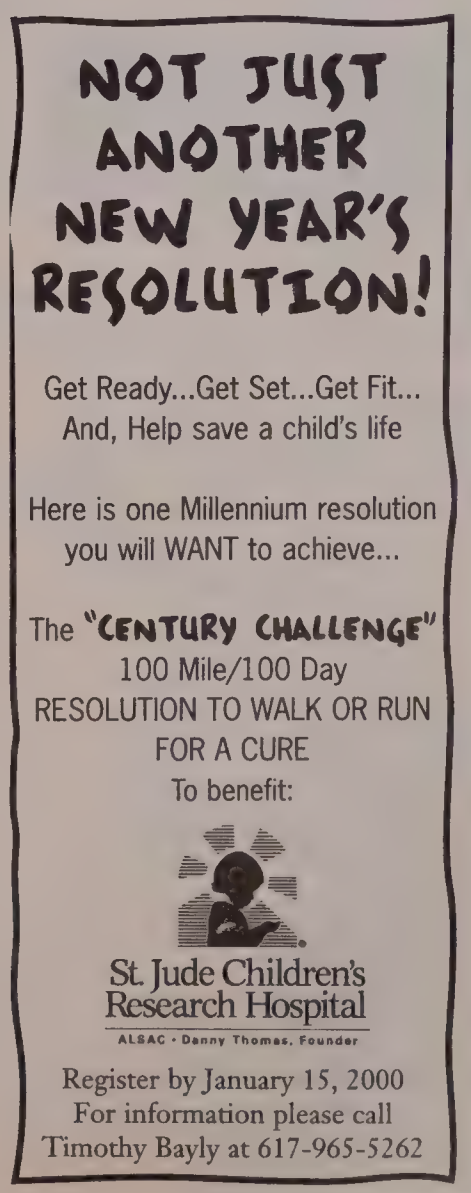
Virgo
AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22
Read for Gemini. Then you'll know your Mercury ruler's retrograde periods, those three weeks three times a year when things go down the toilet and even Virgins don't function well. Mark the dates on your calendars (have two because you may misplace one during the first retrogression) and refer to them before making travel arrangements or crucial appointments. Since very little new stuff happens during Mercury retrograde, you could use those weeks to catch up with old friends or to revise (as in perfect) ideas you've already come up with.

Libra
SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22
You may have been overcome by an intense desire, stunned by the depth of your passion while your Venus ruler merged with Pluto last weekend. But for what? A thing of beauty that should be a joy forever? A principle that begs for your heartfelt defense? It's difficult to predict what can happen when mysterious Pluto rises to the surface and reveals hidden motivation. Now, doesn't that sound interesting? To know the general tenor of the year, read every sign's forecast; that'll keep you in tune with your dearly beloveds.

Scorpio
OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21
Your slow-moving Pluto co-ruler advances a mere three degrees into Sagittarius and is retrograde from mid-March to mid-August, so not much changes on that front. Mars, your other ruler, barely makes it to Scorpio before the year is over. Figure that dynamic Martian energy will be felt most strongly when it opposes your sun while in Taurus (mid-March and April) and squares when in Leo (August to mid-September). Partnerships benefit, primarily financially from having lucky Jupiter in Taurus (mid-February through June).

Sagittarius
NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21
The main ingredient in the Great Alignment in Taurus is Jupiter's placement there. And it's Jupiter's conjunction with Saturn on May 28 that inaugurates a 20-year financial cycle. This aspect also accounts for the habit of US Presidents dying in office, the Lincoln (elected 1860) through JFK (1960) curse. Whether Reagan (1980) who was wounded was a conscious Chief Executive is still in question. Think before you vote. Jupiter, your ruling planet, enters Gemini on June 30, flips as September ends and goes direct in Gemini early next year. Do I hear wedding bells?

Curious about the future? Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30 to 40+ pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise over the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $42.50 per report to ROCKIE GARDINER, 1021 N. Genesee, #1, West Hollywood, CA 90046, *www.rockiehoroscope.com*. Read my daily forecast online at *www.laweekly.com*.



improperazzi

The Improper Bostonian's client-related promotions and events

1

2

3

American Airlines hosted a Make-A-Wish Foundation Party at **The Rack** on December 6. Attendees enjoyed free pool, food, and live music.

4

5

1. Rather than go to Cheers on a visit to Boston, **John Ratzenburger** joined **Heather Michalowski**, director of marketing the Rack (left), and **Lisa Canale**, the Rack's corporate function manager (right) at the Rack.
2. **Lisa Robertson** and **Myra Beth Hoban**, American Airlines flight attendants.
3. Make-A-Wish Kids poster
4. **Paul Barclay**, owner of the Rack, and his wife **Heidi**, an American Airlines flight attendant, join **Lou Tasiopoulos**, an investor at the Rack.
5. **Barbara Vandeltel**, **Wendy DeVito**, and **Gail Bryans**, American Airlines flight attendants.

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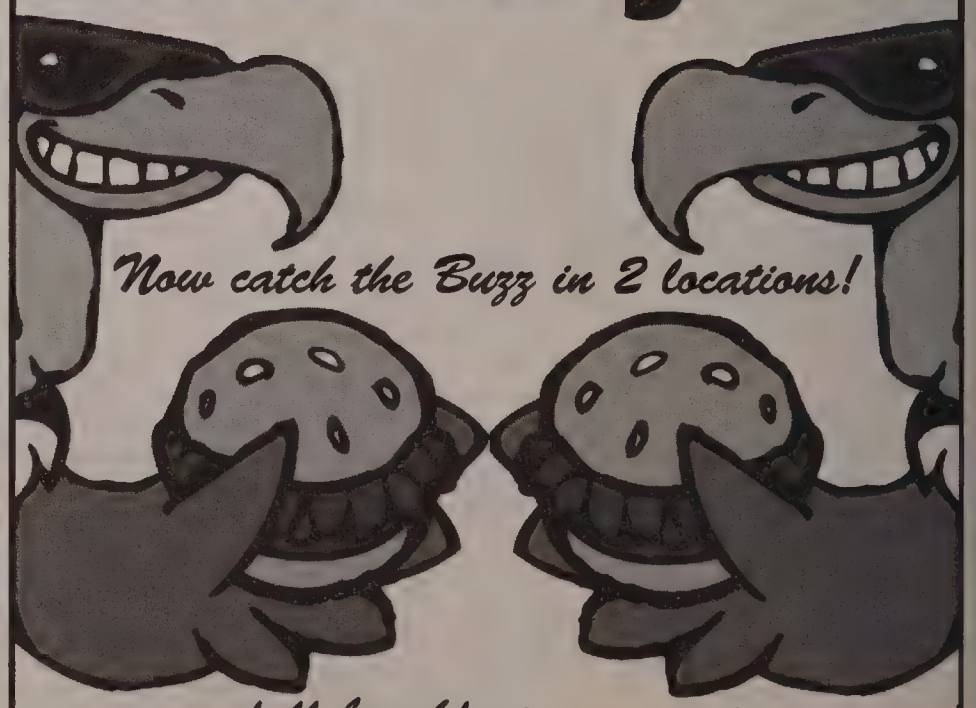

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CHRISTINA CATURANO (THE RACK)

BARS, CLUBS, RESTAURANTS & BRUNCH

The following are paid advertisements. Please check times and prices in advance. If you'd like to have your restaurant listed, please call The Improper Bostonian Advertising Dept. at 859-1400.

BARS

Billiards

Boston Billiard Club
126 Brookline Ave., 536-POOL. Ranked #1 in the country by Billiards Digest. Free lessons on Mon., 7:30 pm - 9 pm. Boston Billiard Club House Leagues on Mon. and Tues. "In The Biz" night on Sun. and Mon. for patrons in the hospitality industry. Ladies' night on Wed. Featuring a menu of light fare such as grilled chicken sandwiches and appetizers, along with beer, wine, cocktails and a variety of non-alcoholic beverages.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, The Allstonians and Beat Soup.

Brew Pubs

Back Bay Brewing Company
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center. $7-$18. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Bi-level restaurant/ brewery offers an inspirational pairing of outstanding innovative cuisine and award-winning ales and lagers. Upbeat first floor bar and café, second floor dining room and bar with comfortable couches and overstuffed chairs. Mon. - Sun. 11:30am - 1am. Brunch Sun. from 11am - 3pm.

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Company
138 Portland St., Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is now the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, a block from the FleetCenter and steps from Faneuil Hall, Commonwealth Fish & Beer features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

General

Dick's Last Resort
55 Huntington Ave., Prudential Center, Boston, 267-8080. www.dickslastresort.com. Dick's has live music 7 nights a week, no cover, no dress code and certainly no class. They have 74 kinds of beer for the novice or serious/ sudsman, or a full bar for the hard core. Dick's also is a restaurant of sorts with buckets of ribs, shrimp, lobster, chicken, catfish and crab legs. This is the place your Mama warned you about. Free parking after 5pm, cheap til 5 with validation.

The Good Life
Uptown - 99 St. Botolph St., 266-3030; Downtown - 28 Kingston St., 451-2622. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1999 Boston's Best Martini award. The Good Life is a retro lounge that Frank Dean and Sammy would have hung at. Big Drinks, Great American Comfort Food, Hot Jazz and Plenty of Boy Meets Girl. Never a cover, always a good time.

Harvard Gardens
316 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114, 617-523-2727. A wonderfully relaxed haven located opposite MGH on the back side of Beacon Hill. Serving the finest cocktails and most comfortable food in town. Plant yourself in a comfy booth, a cozy banquette, or at our fully loaded bar and escape from your everyday troubles. Doing it nice & easy 7 days a week - 11am-2am.

Sweetwater Cafe
3 Boylston Place, 351-2515. A classic American bar featuring Boston's best bands and DJ's nightly. A favorite Boston bar for 15 years with two floors of entertainment, an outdoor patio and world class margaritas. Always great music and cold beer, never a dress code. Available for private functions of any kind. (Credit cards: Am Ex, Visa, MC, Diner's) Tues. - Sat. 5 pm - 2 am. Located in "The Alley."

The Big Easy Bar
1 Boylston Place, Boston, 351-7000. Informal. Located in Boston's version of Bourbon Street, "The Alley." The Big Easy Bar is a hot new New Orleans style bar featuring Boston's best live bands and disc jockeys nightly playing music you know and love. Relax in a lounge, listen to the band, play billiards, hang at the bar or dance the night away. The Big Easy Bar has something fun for everyone. Great beer selection, 22 oz. Hurricanes, 4 huge bars, 2 lounges, a balcony, plenty of seating, and a large dance floor. Wed. - Sat. 8 pm - 2 am. Major credit cards accepted. Valet parking available.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, The Allstonians and Beat Soup.

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Wine Bars

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar
105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-0966. The hip meeting spot in the Financial District for after work, dinner, late night, or a seductive tryst. The Vault offers some of the most exclusive wines in Boston, which complement the creative American Cuisine prepared by Chef Rebecca Esty. Can't decide on a wine? Relax and compare with our Tasting Flights featuring selections from different reds and whites. So what are you waiting for? Call an old friend, a client, or a co-worker and meet for cocktails at The Vault today.

RESTAURANTS

29 Newbury Street Restaurant
29 Newbury St., Boston, 617-536-0290. Savor new American cuisine that is ingeniously prepared only with the freshest, most healthful ingredients available. The moderately priced seasonal menu is served in a casually elegant setting enhanced by the works of local artists. The restaurant and bar, located on the first block of Newbury Street in Back Bay, provide an intimate and sophisticated atmosphere. Valet parking. Reservations recommended.

Ajanta
145 First St., Cambridge, MA (617) 491-0075 (across from the Galleria Mall). Cambridge's newest Indian restaurant specializing in South Indian vegetarian cooking. We serve the best Dosai (crepes) in town: paper thin Dosai, Rava Dosai, Iddly, Uthapam and Vadas. We also serve North Indian Tandoori and meat curries, as well as mouth-watering chef specials such as lamb and chicken kabobs. Ajanta serves fine wine and Imported Beers in a high ceiling and contemporary atmosphere. Try our lunch buffet or our very popular Sunday South Indian Vegetarian Brunch. Hours: Lunch: Tues.-Fri. 11:30am-2:30pm, Sat. & Sun. 12-3pm; Dinner: Tues.-Sun.5-10pm.

Back Bay Brewing Company
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center. $7-$18. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Bi-level restaurant/ brewery offers an inspirational pairing of Chef Michael Burgess's innovative cuisine and Tod Mott's hand-crafted ales and lagers. Upbeat first floor bar and café, second floor dining room and bar with comfortable couches and overstuffed chairs. Sunday Buffet Brunch 11am - 3pm, $14.95. Mon. - Sun. 11:30am - 1am.

Butterfish, An American Bistro
5 Craigie Circle, Harvard Square, Cambridge, 497-5511. Chef/Owner Christopher Bussell opened Butterfish on December 4, 1999, at the former site of Cafe Celador. Nestled between Brattle St. and Concord Ave., Butterfish's charming bistro setting is a perfect venue for Chef Christopher's fine American cuisine with international accents. Dishes such as "Monkfish with Moroccan Spices and Grilled Peaches," and "Double Thick Pork Chop with a Warm Corn Souffle" are complimented by an extensive choice of wines. Hours: Tues-Thurs 5-10pm; Fri & Sat 5-11pm.

Cactus Club
939 Boylston St., 236-0200. Get a taste of the Southwest in Boston. Specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, Cajun Catfish. Save 1/2 off entire menu Mon. - Fri., 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm in the bar. Sample the firewater menu while you are there, including Coyote Killer (Light and dark rum, peach schnapps, ginger beer and mixed juices), or a Chambord Margarita. Only the daring may go for a dip in the Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Amex, Diners Club, MC and Visa accepted.

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Company
138 Portland Street, Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is now the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, a block from the FleetCenter and steps from Faneuil Hall, Commonwealth Fish & Beer features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

Harvard Gardens
316 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114, 617-523-2727. A wonderfully relaxed haven located opposite MGH on the back side of Beacon Hill. Serving the finest cocktails and most comfortable food in town. Plant yourself in a comfy booth, a cozy banquette, or at our fully loaded bar and escape from your everyday troubles. Doing it nice & easy 7 days a week - 11am-2am.

Jillian's Boston
Behind Fenway Park, 437-0300. An upscale 70,000 Sq. ft. megaplex of interactive entertainment. Play breakthrough interactive communication games, participate in a five game show & watch a giant video wall while dining on innovative American cuisine at Atlas Grill on Jillian's new 1st floor. Jillian's offers motion simulator rides, more than 250 cutting edge electronic & virtual reality games, 50 billiard tables, table tennis, & "just for fun" black jack. There are five full bars & 50 TVs that broadcast sporting events. Great for late night dining & private parties 25-3000. Open Daily.

Kashmir
279 Newbury St., Boston, 536-1695. Kashmir has been raising the bar of Indian restaurants in quality, style and service since it opened. Its well deserved Best of Boston, Boston's Best and Readers' Choice awards are a result of great execution where it counts. Indoors in three elegantly styled dining rooms and outdoors on the best people watching corner in town, Kashmir serves the finest Tandoori and curry dishes and most imaginative specials and the best lunch and brunch buffet in town. Wine and beer are available as well as takeout, delivery, private parties and catering.

Ma Soba Asian Cuisine & Sushi
156 Cambridge Street on Beacon Hill, Boston, 973-6680. Enjoy premium sushi and Ma Soba's unique blend of contemporary and traditional Asian cuisine prepared by award-winning chefs. Relax with a fine wine selection from Ma Soba's comprehensive wine cellar in a setting described as "strikingly attractive and ultra urbane" by the Boston Herald. Open daily: Sun-Wed until 10:30pm, Thurs-Sat until 11:00pm. When in Harvard Square/Cambridge, visit Ma Soba Express at 30 Dunster Street for quick-service pan Asian noodles and rice platters.

Ocean Wealth
8 Tyler Street, Boston, MA, 02111, (617) 423-1338. We know that people appreciate only the freshest seafood. So we introduced the concept of picking your seafood live out of the tanks in Boston in 1990 with the opening of Ocean Wealth. Upon entering our restaurant, patrons are greeted by a myriad of fish tanks, filled with codfish, black sea bass, blackfish, and lobsters. But what is different are geoduck clams from Seattle, Dungeness crabs from San Francisco, and live saltwater shrimp from Florida. Come and enjoy the Ocean's Wealth. Full liquor license. Reservations recommended. Open daily until 4 am.

Shenandoah Restaurant, Marketplace Cafe, Brewskellar Pub
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston 227-1272. Located in the North Market Building of Faneuil Hall, Shenandoah Restaurant, The Marketplace Cafe, and Brewskellar Pub have something for everyone. Whether you're interested in a casual dinner on one of Boston's largest outdoor patios or the quiet more elegant surroundings of Shenandoah Restaurant, we offer it all. Having a function? We cater personally to all events you may be planning. Visit us soon and let us surprise you.

Tea-Tray in the Sky
1796 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, 492-TEAS. Offers over 80 specialty teas, an array of flavored coffees, french & italian sodas, light meals, and extensive desserts. "A must try for desserts" - Boston Globe, "Best tea and treats in Boston" - Harpers Bazaar, "Best Chai" - Boston Globe. Extensive selection of loose teas and accessories also available. Come in to see our exclusive Alice in Wonderland products from Oxford, England today!

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve both lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar
105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-9966. A wonderful secret hidden in Boston's Financial District. The Vault offers contemporary American cuisine and an extensive and exclusive affordable wine list. Come in and enjoy our new summer menu, including an expanded raw bar, Maine crab cakes, seared tuna and much more. Lunch Mon. - Fri. from 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Dinner Mon. - Wed. from 5:30 - 10:30 pm, Thurs. - Sat. from 5:30 - 11 pm. Closed Sun.

The Wrap & Smoothie Bar
137 Mass Ave., Boston (at Berklee School of Music), 369-9087; 71 Mt. Auburn St., Harvard Square, 354-5838; 1940 Beacon St., Cleveland Circle, 739-0340; 82 Water St., Financial District, 357-9013. The Wrap serves delicious, freshly prepared wraps, burritos and salads as well as healthy and refreshing smoothies. Voted Boston's Best 1998 & 1999 by The Improper Bostonian. Fresh ingredients, great taste, healthy options - words we live by!

BRUNCH

Anago
65 Exeter Street, Boston, 266-6222. Anago, in the historic Lenox Hotel, presents a live Sunday Brunch from 11-2pm, prepared by Boston's whiz kid chef, Jamie "Shaky" Liberge, featuring a sumptuous buffet of appetizers with exquisite freshly baked desserts and breads created by award winning pastry chef, Lee Napoli, to accompany your choice of exceptional entree selections. Reservations are recommended.

Back Bay Brewing Company
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Featuring Chef Michael Burgess's Neo-Continental selections, including Eggs Benedict with Canadian bacon & herbed hollandaise, blueberry pancakes with almond maple syrup, omelet station, French toast, roasted meat carving station, house smoked salmon, and assorted desserts. Sunday Brunch Buffet 11 am - 3 pm. $14.95

Dick's Last Resort
55 Huntington Ave., Prudential Center, Boston, 267-8080. www.dickslastresort.com. On Sunday, Dick got religion and has a Heavenly Gospel Brunch from 10am to 3pm. They serve fruit, salads, eggs benedict, fried chicken with a ham and roast beef station. Help yourself to the waffle or omelet stations and the dessert bar while listening to old fashion uplifting live gospel music. Open for Lunch, Dinner and late night entertainment 7 days a week, no cover.

Museum of Science - Skyline Room
Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston, MA 02114. Egypt comes to Boston! Enjoy Sunday brunch in the beautiful Skyline Room overlooking the Charles River at noon and then experience the amazing Omni film Mysteries of Egypt at 2pm. Tickets are $28 for Adults, $26 for Seniors/Children. Brunch only is $20. On-site parking is included. Reservations recommended, call (617)723-2500.

The Wrap & Smoothie Bar
137 Mass Ave., Boston (at Berklee School of Music), 369-9087; 71 Mt. Auburn St., Harvard Square, 354-5838; 1940 Beacon St., Cleveland Circle, 739-0340; 82 Water St., Financial District, 357-9013. The Wrap serves delicious, freshly prepared wraps, burritos and salads as well as healthy and refreshing smoothies. Voted Boston's Best 1998 & 1999 by The Improper Bostonian. Fresh ingredients, great taste, healthy options - words we live by!

MISC.

Fitness

North Point Club
North Point Club, 6 Museum Way, Cambridge, 617-523-2900. The newest fitness club in Cambridge, North Point Club is also a great value. Join now for only $69 per month and enjoy swimming, group exercise, cardiovascular conditioning, strength training and the motivation to reach your fitness goals. Conveniently located across the street from Boston's Museum of Science, it is easily accessed from Charlestown, Cambridge, and the T's Science Park and Lechmere stops.

Sports

Boston Paintball
131 Beverly St., Boston, 742-6612. The rules are simple. There are teams and everyone has paintball guns. You are inside of a large warehouse (near the Boston Garden). They are firing balls straight at you. You scream, dodge, hide, wipeout and have a blast!!! Great for bachelor/bachelorette parties, corporate outings, birthday parties, and much more.

Improper Sightings

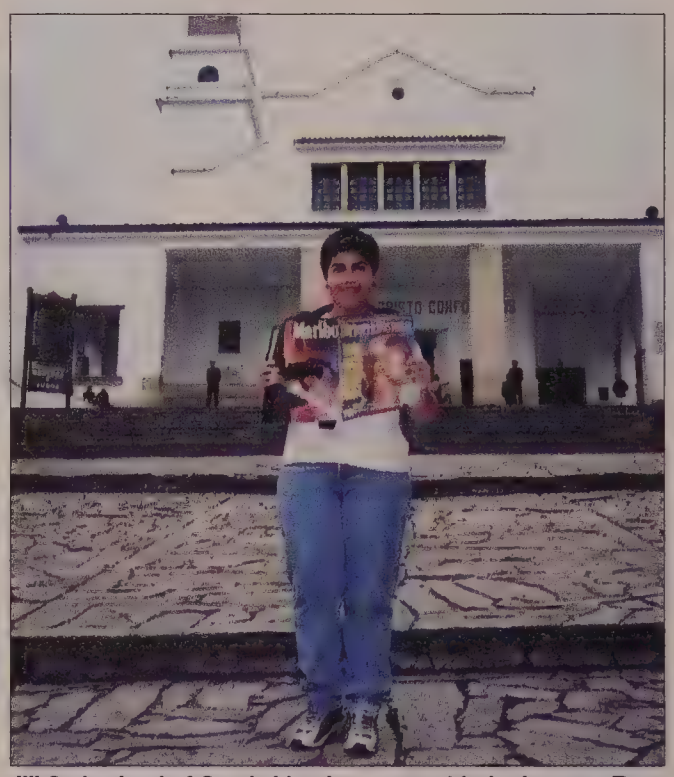
Unlike the rest of your friends, we want to see the photos from your next trip.

Where do you take us? We want to know! Send us a picture of you or a friend, or better yet, someone famous reading THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN and tell us where you were. The more creative you are, the faster we'll publish your pic! (Hey, we have no shame!)

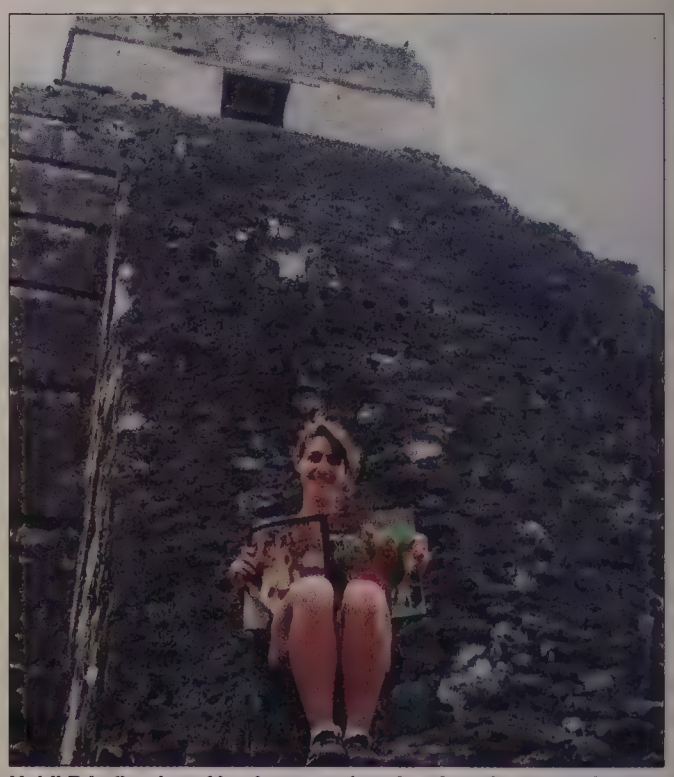
Newlyweds Curtis Gooch and Jennifer Chamberlain Gooch of Boston relax on their honeymoon on the island of Rangiroa, in French Polynesia.

Tom, Mike (the IMPROPER's own Jeff Gill's cousin) and Steve of Boston's Cruizin' Tours check out the soccer studs on their way to Montreal.

Jeff McManus and Nicole Silva of Boston give Rocky a look at the IMPROPER during a recent trip to Philadelphia.



Jill Sutherland of Cambridge keeps up with the Internet Top 40 at Monserrate in Bogota, Colombia.



Heidi Friedlander of Lexington enjoys her favorite magazine on the steps of the Temple of the Giant Jaguar in Tikal, Guatemala.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:
At the First Modernism Extravaganza of the Millennium in Miami; at the Mime Fest in London; at the Janis Joplin birthday bash in Port Arthur, Texas.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 75 Arlington St., 7th floor, Boston, MA 02116. Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail and photo location. All photos become property of The Improper Bostonian Magazine and will not be returned.

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HELP WANTED

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Art Director with a minimum of 5 years experience in magazine design and publications wanted. Must be able to work in an intensive environment with tight deadlines and have a fresh, energetic sense of design and photographic art direction. Mastery of Quark, Photoshop and Illustrator a must.

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We are looking for an energetic and lively individual to work in the fast paced, exciting environment of our sales and marketing department. Qualifications include proficiency in both Mac and PC processing programs. Must have knowledge of Microsoft Office and knowledge of Adobe Photoshop and Quark is preferable. An interest in digital photography is also a plus. This unpaid sales intern is expected to commit to 10-15 hours a week.

Senior Account Executive
Experienced self starter with proven track record sought. Must have a minimum of 4 years in media sales with a reputable organization and thorough industry knowledge. Strong organizational, planning and leadership skills a must. Competitive compensation package.

Traffic Director
Experienced self starter sought to manage new and pre-existing client relationships for established city magazine. The position requires a detailed oriented individual with strong administrative, project management and client service experience; at least four years work history in a respected ad agency or publishing company, and a personable, outgoing nature. The position entails managing customer relationships through all phases of the advertising process including customer service, account administration trafficking materials and collections. The Traffic Director is a newly created position, so the candidate will have a high degree of input structuring their environment and responsibilities. We offer an energetic workplace, full benefits including 401k.

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Reliable individual sought to manage front desk activities, including answering and screening phone calls, handling shipping and receiving, maintaining office equipment and supplies, as well as providing administrative support to the staff. The ideal candidate will be an organized, efficient, friendly, enthusiastic team player with a great sense of humor. PC/Mac proficiency, 50wpm, experience with Word, Excel and Filemaker required.

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN

Last Scene Here

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

At the Realists AIDS Action Committee benefit at Bomboa: top, Joel Benjamin (left) and Dan Norman; left, Angela Peri

Get Real...

The **Realists**—a junior council of the **AIDS Action Committee**—threw a party at **Bomboa**, the new Franco-Brazilian eatery, that was part French Impressionist and contemporary Latin American (as in, the food and wine), part Absurdist (as in, people saying things like, "Let's get together before the holidays") and part Cubist (as in, I had three drinks too many).

Prominent in the festive throng were such inveterate revelers as Bomboa's most congenial co-owner, **Carlos Hidalgo**, amiable food scribbler **Alex Shapiro**, lunachick casting director **Angela Peri**, hunky fashion photographer **Joel Benjamin**, Venezuelan playboy **Robert Zdanis**, recruiting cutie **Jamie Palmer**, daffy flack **Kate Shamon** (whose PR acumen was extolled in an article in that day's *Globe*), party pair **Jake** and **Cynthia Katz**, and numerous good-looking others, who sipped, supped and socialized as if their lives depended on it.

A special thanks to the anonymous attendee who whipped out her wallet and dashed off a check for $1,000 after listening to the powerfully moving letters that were read aloud from AIDS patients who rely on the organization.

A few more people like her, and maybe we'd be celebrating cures, instead of attending fund-raisers to find them.

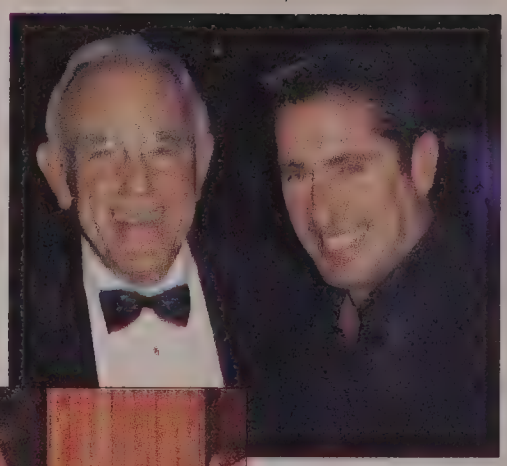
And the Award for Last Major Bash of the Year Goes To...

It was a bit like a black-tie party at Epcot Center. For its **Last Ball of the Millennium**, the **Boston Center for the Arts** hosted a hoo-ha of epic proportions at the **Cyclorama**, which had been transformed into a globe-trotting time-warp for the occasion.

At the top of the main stairway, guests arrived in ancient Rome, complete with pillars and plinths, hunky gladiators and a rotund Bacchus encouraging everyone to eat, drink and be merry. To the left was a perfect replica of a Parisian cafe in the 1890s, accurate down to the wine-colored draperies and the Toulouse-Lautrec posters. To the right was a recreation of a 1960s mod scene in swinging London, with a green Naugahyde sofa and giant cubes for furniture, and trippy colors in geometric shapes on the walls. And throughout, restaurateurs like **Gordon** and **Fiona Hamersley**, **Jack Bardy** of Pho Republique and **Mo McLaughlin** of the Franklin Cafe manned serving stations dishing up delicious eats. The *pièce de résistance*, however, was the futuristic New York nightclub that had been built (right behind ancient Rome) at the center of the building, which is where most of the guests mixed, mingled and muttered at the extravagance of it all.

For those who didn't hear, the spectacular settings were created by party planner **Bryan Rafanelli** for boutique owner and socialite **Barbara Jordan**, who had hosted a party there the night before and then donated everything to the BCA. (Rumors on the cost ranged from $250,000 to half a million dollars.)

At the BCA Last Ball: above, Santa in swinging "London"; (below, l to r): Tim Grafft, Caeri Bertrand, Oedipus and David Haan; Esmond Harmsworth in "Paris"; Santa dances with an admirer



More BCA Millennium Party: top, Ed Ansin (l) and Tony Corey; Bacchus (l) welcomes guests; Christopher Hardwick has stars in his eyes.

Spotted at the BCA soiree: white-hot literary agent **Esmond Harmsworth** and his sailing champion SO, **Jim Richardson**, art dealers **Bernie** and **Sue Pucker**, tie designer **Tony Corey** and media mogul **Ed Ansin**, the effervescent **Thaleia Tsongas Schlesinger** (sister of the late senator Paul), real estate developer **Joseph Eldridge** and the stunning **Mary Maloy**, Mass Film Office factotum **Tim Grafft** and architectural wunderkind **David Hacin**, South End fairy godfather **Harry Collings** and the awfully suave **David Berarducci**, WBCN deity **Oedipus** and the impish **Caeri Bertrand**, man-about-town **Greg Norgent**, attorney at large **Austin "Scott" O'Toole**, star of stage and screen **Ryan Landry** (who arrived after the performance of his cult hit *Mrs. Grinchley*), a guy dressed as Santa who carried on with the ladies, and one woman who said, "I went to the coat check to get my little wool jacket and they tried to give me a fur coat...not once, but twice. Imagine if I'd accepted."

"After this, New Year's Eve is going to seem anti-climactic," said one guest. "Maybe that means I should stay home."

Deck the Halls With Snotty Comments...

Yet another holiday blow-out, this one to benefit the **Franciscan Children's Hospital**, was hosted at **Venu** by PR insaniac **Jeannie Flynn** (who did the catering herself and did a yoeman's job).

Present and accounted for: studly Bruin **Steve Heinze** and his lovely wife, **Lori**, Patriots defensive back **Lawyer Milloy**, state senator **Robert Hedlund**, city councillor-at-large **Steve Murphy**, boxer-turned-model/actor **Richie LaMontagne**, videographer **Suki Finnerty** (who left in May to sail halfway round the world and just returned), junior socialite **Alexandra Zapp**, Back Bay bachelor **Bob Palmer**, investment babe **Jennifer Touissant**, the ubiquitous **Westley Tyrell**, lovable shutterbug **Cheryl Richards**, hyperactive tractor heir **Stephens Dunne** and his statuesque other half, **Molly**, and the ever-affable **Rick Arena**, who had the winning raffle ticket and said, "So I won Jeannie?"

"No. You won a Bruins jersey autographed by Jason Allison," he was told, to which someone else snidely replied, "Same thing." iB

Children's Hospital: top, Lori and Steve Heinze; Lawyer Milloy and Jeannie Flynn; Suki Finnerty

Avez-vous dish?

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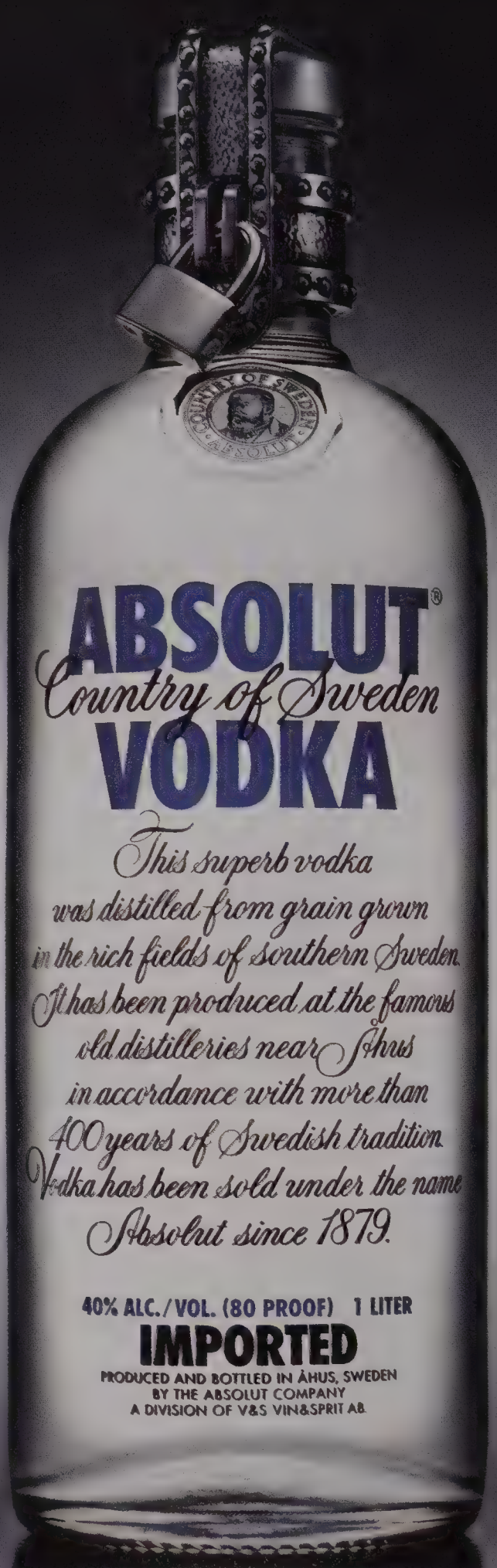

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Regina Haskell/John Santini
Errin Babine/John Santini
Band (left to right):
Chris Weinberg, Leah Callahan, Gordon Withers, Tom Devaney.

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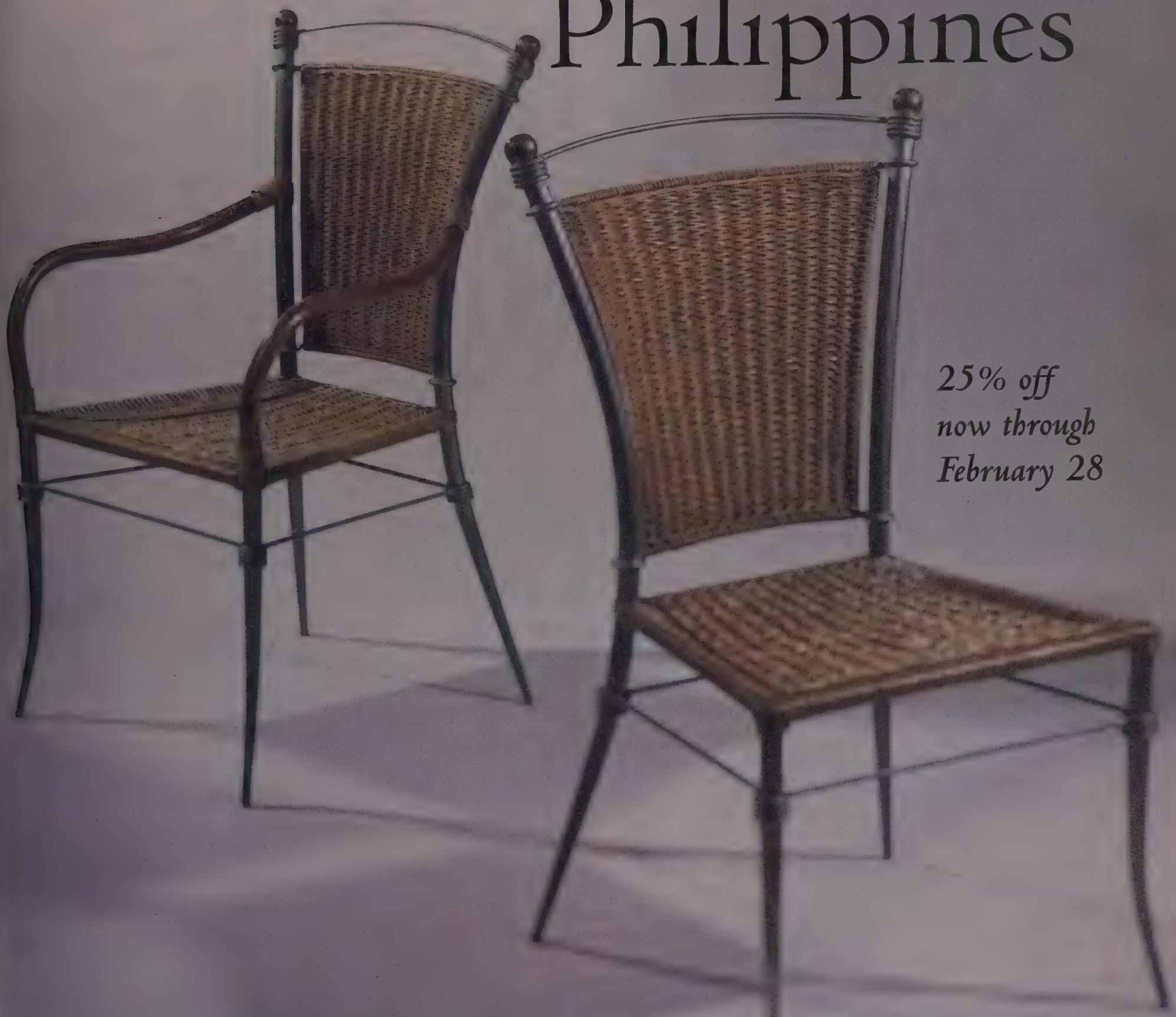
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE
JANUARY 26—FEBRUARY 8, 2000

BETH SCHNECKENBURGER

Steel and Wicker Chairs...

origin Philippines



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letters

Jim Jajuga Responds

I was pleased to highlight your "Improper Speaking" page for the debut issue of the new millennium (Jan. 12). I especially enjoyed your report on casino gambling and its great potential for the town of Salisbury—as well as the rest of Massachusetts. However, you seem to find my support of casino gambling "contrarian," as well as my endorsement of Paul Cellucci in 1998 and Bill Bradley in 2000.

"Does it make sense?" You bet it does! Independence has been the hallmark of my career since entering the State Senate nine years ago. I've been able to accomplish as much as I have because I'm not bound by the old ideas of "right vs. left" and "Democrat vs. Republican." As an independent Democrat since becoming Senator (and Public Safety Committee Chair) in 1991, I've worked with colleagues and leaders on issues from welfare reform to clean needles, from the death penalty to reforming higher education. The record speaks for itself.

I hope the IMPROPER BOSTONIAN will continue to discuss the issues of the day. However, it *is* a new millennium. Let's leave the old labels and limitations on our politics in the past one!

SEN. JIM JAJUGA
State House
Boston

One More for the List

I just finished your article on Bostonians of the Millennium (Dec. 1). What a hoot. It is good to know there are still quality writers in Boston publications.

I thought that you should have included Theodor S. Geisel (Dr. Seuss) in the list.

"Independence has been the hallmark of my career...I've been able to accomplish as much as I have because I'm not bound by the old ideas of ..."Democrat vs. Republican."
—Sen. Jim Jajuga D-Methuen

While he was born in Springfield, MA, he made no less of an impact than some of the other people within the confines of Massachusetts that you considered to be adopted Bostonians. Certainly, no other author of children's books has been as widely read by both children and adults.

CARL G. ZIMBA, PH.D
photons@mediaone.net

Ezra: On Y2K

Tell Ezra not to blame the programmers for Y2K; they just thought the managers of the future would have the good sense to use NEW software by then!

NAT STAHL
natstahl@yahoo.com

Ezra: On Driving

Congrats to Ezra for sticking it out and keeping your car. There is an alternative though. A year ago I gave myself a Christmas present: Freedom from the hassles of car ownership. I knew if I didn't lose the car someone would lose a headlight or two as a result of my building road rage. Keep the car though...maybe I'll hitch a ride from you sometime ;-)

AUBREE LAWRENCE
Boston, MA

Credits

For clothes/accessories on page 2: Dave (l) Prada jacket, $1650; top, $290;pant, $410. Kris: Missoni tank ($365) and pant ($440). Tim Prada suit, $1770; knit shirt, $240. All clothes from Saks Fifth Avenue. Furniture from Machine Age, 354 Congress St. (482-0448).

Tell Us What You Think

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Letters to the editor must be signed; include your town and phone number. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

Contributors

Mary Nobile-King

Mary Nobile-King joins the IMPROPER staff as our Fashion Editor (see her work on page 32). Nobile-King has vast experience in the fashion retail marketplace, having spent five years at Saks Fifth Avenue as Director of Marketing, where she planned events and developed campaigns and collateral material for convention and international business. For three years she was general manager at Emporio Armani, running the staff and managing the merchandise and inventory. While she was at Armani she was chair of the Boston chapter of Fashion Group International. She was also the recipient of the Q.T. Award for Excellence from Saks, and was inducted into the Chairman's Club of Excellence at Saks as well.

Geoffrey James

In this issue the IMPROPER debuts Boston Internet, a new column written by Geoffrey James. James is the author of numerous books on technology and business, including the recently-published *Success Secrets from Silicon Valley* (Times Books, 1998) and *The Tao of Programming* (InfoBooks, 1986). James has contributed to *Upside*, *Marketing Computers*, *Forbes ASAP*, and the *New York Times*. He is a frequent guest on broadcast media and a speaker at national and international conferences. Geoffrey has two decades of experience working with high tech companies and has taught courses in technology and office automation at the University of Washington and at the University of California. He's also the co-host of Funny Business, a talk radio program heard Saturday nights at 10pm on WRKO, AM680.

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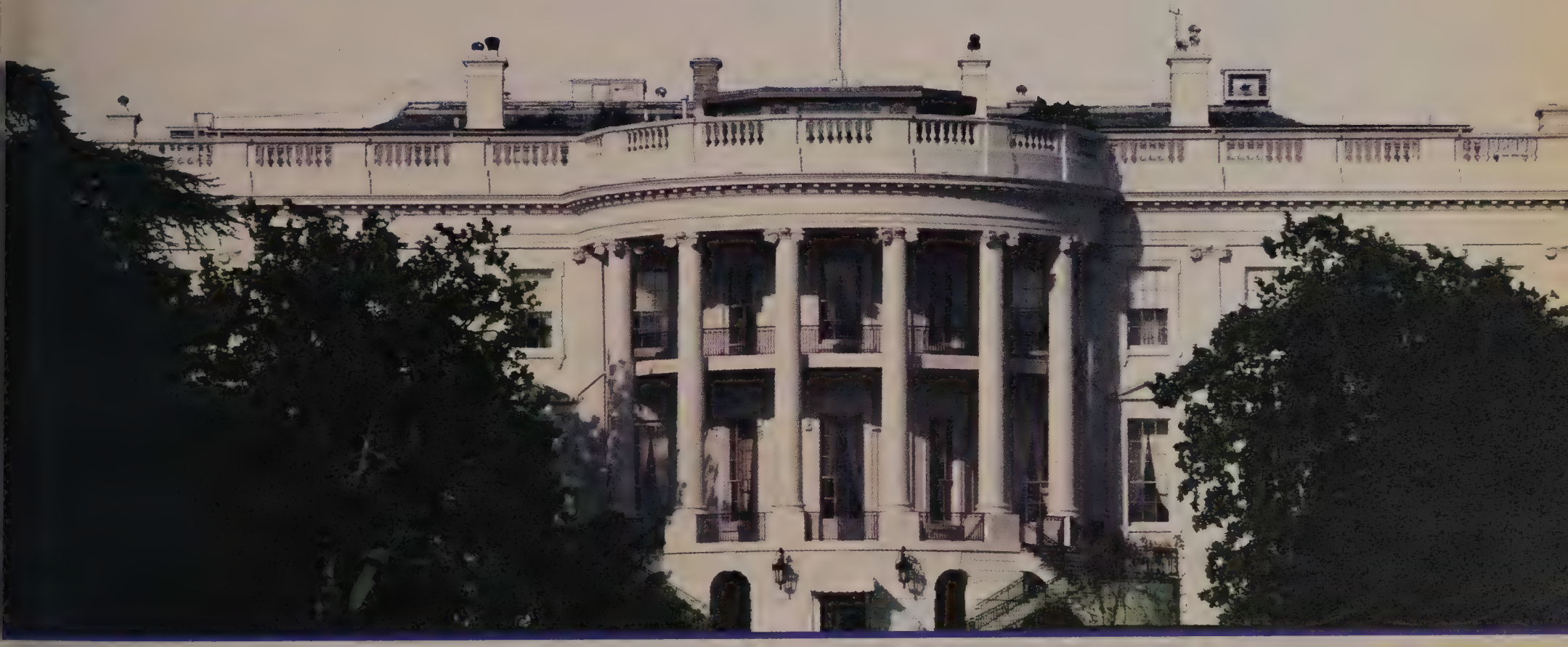
I'd dial the white house just to see if he'd take my call.



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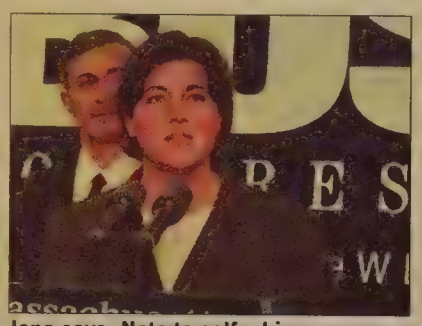
improper SPEAKING

THE POT AND THE KETTLE

Probably the best reaction to the **Jane Swift** Turkey Trot helicopter trip cum free baby sitting scandal earlier this month came from ousted Massachusetts Port Authority boss **Peter Blute** and his normally intellectually unencumbered WRKO sidekick **Andy Moes**.

Swift, who won the privilege of announcing Blute's firing last summer in the wake of the infamous Booze Cruise froofraw, said at the time that "this administration will not tolerate any misuse of public funds, anytime, anywhere." So Blute and Moes simply put Swift's words on a tape loop and played it over and over and over again on the air.

Swift malfeasance? Maybe. Swift boneheadedness? Almost certainly. An IMPROPER friend reminds us of his days as a researcher at one of the national newsweeklies many years ago. His boss, the foreign news editor, was in the midst of a messy divorce and child custody fight with his wife, who happened to be Japanese. The foreign editor routinely sent his researchers up to the library to do "research on the unsuitability of Japanese women to be mothers—for a major cover story planned for next month."



Jane says: Note to self—hire a nanny. And skip the helicopter rides home.

Malfeasance? Boneheadedness? Suffice it to say the guy lost the respect of his entire staff and was marked a fraud forever. Jane, take notice.

CAN I HAVE ONE TOO?

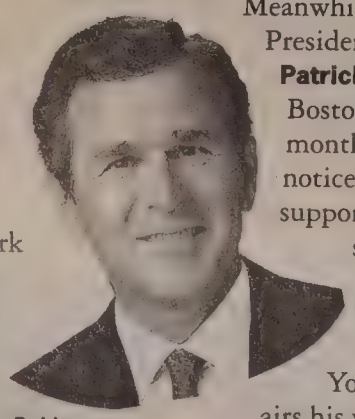
Another IMPROPER friend returned from the holidays with a story of the best Christmas present of 1999.

Our friend grew up in Cooperstown, NY, and his mother runs a catering business there during the summertime, mostly feeding the crowd that flocks to Cooperstown for the ceremonies surrounding inductions to the Baseball Hall of Fame in July.

Last summer former Texas Ranger pitcher **Nolan Ryan** was inducted into the Hall, so his former boss, **George W. Bush**, showed up for the ceremonies. Realizing that the likely GOP presidential nominee was going to be in his state for a full weekend, New York Governor **George Pataki** also made a trip up to Cooperstown, where our IMPROPER friend's mother waited on them hand and foot for a full weekend.

And our friend's Christmas present? Probably the only baseball in existence autographed by both members of what will probably be this year's Republican party national ticket.

And our friend's response? "What the hell am I going to do with it? I'm a Democratic consultant!" But more importantly, can his mother score a **Carlton Fisk** autograph for us next summer?

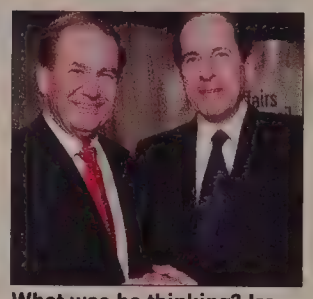


We'll trade you all our Dubbya autographed baseballs for just one Pudge Fisk. Deal?

UNDER THE RADAR SCREEN?

Meanwhile, Reform Party Presidential candidate **Patrick Buchanan** was in Boston earlier this month (though no one noticed) to try to raise support for his non-starter campaign and promote his book, *A Republic Not An Empire*. You know the one: it airs his views on such non-controversial subjects as the lack of a need to fight against **Adolph Hitler**'s Third Reich over 50 years ago.

Our questions: why did the World Affairs Council of Boston invite this lunatic to speak in the first place—and why did former BankBoston vice-president and WAC president **Ira Jackson** sit on the same stage with the man? Has he lost his mind?



What was he thinking? Ira Jackson (r) with special guest Pat Buchanan.

BLOOD ON THE FLOOR

The most recent bloodletting at Boston journalism's answer to the Chicago stockyards—**Community Newspaper Company**—has insiders wondering whether this month's announcement that 150 people would lose their jobs is finally the last sign that the company is about to be put up for sale or sold piecemeal, a ham hock here and a pork chop there.

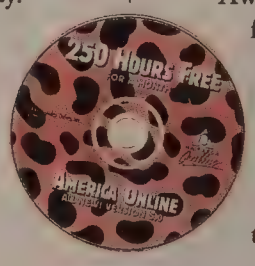
"This was their taking the scalpel to Needham (headquarters)," says one insider. "They could slice and dice on the Cape, and in the north and elsewhere. But these were people they see everyday. This was the last thing they had to do."

And despite company president **Kirk Davis**'s protestations to the contrary, not a whole lot of profitable companies cut 11 percent of their work force when they're entering an expansionist zone. They might as well put up the "For Sale By Owner" lawn signs now and spare employees the agony of suspense.

EVER UPWARD

A quick tip of the hat to **Joel Sherman**, director and officer at the Boston law firm of Goulston & Storrs, who earlier this month was named the chair of the Greater Boston Region of the National Conference for Community and Justice, formerly known as the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Sherman is a longtime Jewish community leader and philanthropist, former chair of the Combined Jewish Philanthropies and a host of other activities who, among other things, co-chaired the Emma Lazarus Statue of Liberty Award Dinner for his friend and client, **Aaron Feuerstein**, in 1996.



ANY THERE THERE?

A final thought—on the **AOL/Time-Warner** merger earlier this month. Much was made at the time about how AOL would now have "content." Which leads us to the inescapable observation: in its present configuration, there is nothing in AOL. So something with nothing in it paid $160 billion for something with something in it. And does any of this make any sense at all?

In AOL's search for "content," will we be getting Bugs Bunny with this disk soon?

Wonder what Russell Robbat is planning for next football season?

WILLIE—PENCIL IT IN

Waterfront resident **Russell Robbat**, best known as owner of the Palace in Saugus (and less well known as the nightclub owner who singlehandedly presided over the demise of the New England Patriots' recent season) spent the holidays in Paris and London gathering what an aide called "cutting-edge ideas" to bring back to his Route One Xanadu.

Memo to **Willie McGinest**: reserve your team's places now for the night before Thanksgiving before it's too late. You might actually end up with a coach who makes his players go to bed at night during weeks before games. IB

Speaking of Boston

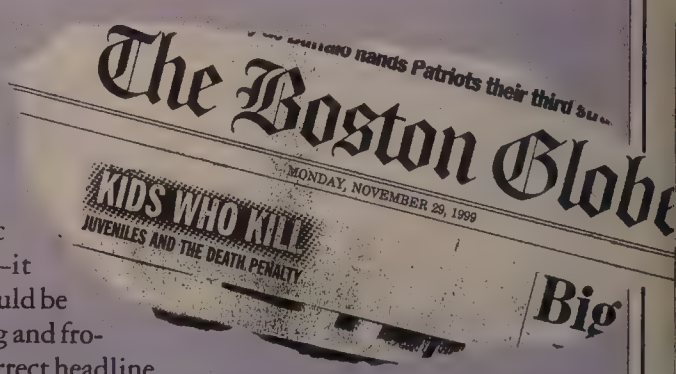
Got a inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to *speaking@improper.com*

WHO NEEDS COPY EDITORS?

Boston Globe subeditor **Ben Bradlee Jr.**—not known in *Globe* circles for high candlepower—recently got into a shouting scuffle with a graphic designer—over grammar.

Bradlee was editing a two-part **Stan Grossfeld** piece, "Kids Who Kill." Bradlee had submitted a headline that ran: "Kids That Kill." The graphic designer said no way; the grammar is wrong—it should be "Kids Who Kill." Bradlee said no, it should be "Kids That Kill." Finally, after much public to-ing and fro-ing, the story ended up with the grammatically correct headline.

Graphic designers—not copy editors—save us all from our worst mistakes.



The offending headline. Who's holding the red pen at the *Globe*, anyway?

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Boston Speaks

The Napmaster

Fear not, closet mid-day nappers—you are not alone. According to a recent on-line survey by nap expert and BU professor Bill Anthony, 70 percent of you secretly take naps at work. Anthony, author of the '97 book, *The Art of Napping*, has just released a follow-up, *The Art of Napping At Work*, with his wife Camille. Much to the delight of snooze-sneakers everywhere, the couple laments our nation's collective loss of sleep and urges employees to promote at-work nap time.

Their findings are encouraging—no longer do you have to hide under your desk for a mid-day powernap. As the Boston couple strives to help readers overcome attitudinal barriers the workplace napper faces, their efforts are paying off. Several companies are realizing the benefits of workplace napping—namely an increase in productivity, safety and morale. Participate in their on-line napping survey and find lots of sleepy-time knickknacks at *www.napping.com*.

city limits

BY ERIN HAGEDORN AND JULIE SHORT

Good stuff, glamour, goings-on.

New In Town

Another Pub in the Hub

John J. Somers, Boston's "Dean of Taverns" has done it again. The owner of Mr. Dooley's Tavern, the Grand Canal and the Green Dragon has a new Celtic pub to add to his impressive collection: Hennessey's of Boston in Faneuil Hall.

Aspiring to create a "village pub" like one he knew of from his early years in County Kerry, Ireland, Somers recalls that the pub "offered foodstuffs, wine, spirits and large pints of frothy Guinness" [editor's note: Don't they all?]. Somers adds that "Patrons would enter the pub for bread and leave three hours later."

The result is a cozy Irish pub sure to lure tourists walking the Freedom Trail and locals who will park themselves on a stool at the dark wooden bar or pull up a mug to the turf-burning fireplace. Somers' wife Ann has furnished the bar with antiques and artifacts collected during their trips to Ireland, lending the bar a homey feel. The highlight of the menu has to be the kilmacalog (cockle and mussel) chowder, a country-inspired recipe from the coast of Ireland. There'll also be live entertainment five nights a week. *25 Union St., Boston (742-2121).*

Fill up with a frothy pint of your favorite ale at Boston's newest Celtic pub, Hennessey's of Boston.

All the Buzz

Something Fishy at Davis Square

Yet another attack on the quaint, keeping-it-real charm of Davis Square?" we asked skeptically as we heard about Somerville's newest dance club, Aquarium. Rest assured: This club maybe a bit glitzy and glam for the Square, but it fits right in.

Newly opened (on New Year's Eve) and hilariously thematic, the joint bubbles (literally) with under-the-sea icons—from the Pepperidge Farm goldfish served at the bar and the giant aquarium tanks filled with fishies to the sea green floors and the giant underwater mural painted on an outside wall. Need a mental picture? Try a frat house basement primed for a blow-out beach party.

The club/restaurant was a joint effort by Somervillian mother-and-son tag-team, Cathy and Nick Gatto. According to the younger Gatto, the theme stemmed from a homemade recipe of spiked—and brightly hued—punch. (Don't ask what's in it—they won't tell.) Others liked the punch so much, they decided to serve it in plastic fish bowls, *à la* scorpion bowls at a Chinese restaurant. Many hours of labor later, an aquatically themed restaurant/nightclub was born.

Word-of-mouth advertising has worked for Aquarium. Already, large herds of curiosity-seekers have tromped into the digs to appreciate live music brunch Sundays, no cover College Night Wednesdays, Dance Party Thursdays ($3-$5), Boston band Fridays ($5-$10) and Night Dance Party Saturdays ($3). "We're trying to bring something new to Davis, without competing with other local institutions," says manager Joe Werzanski. *65 Holland St., Somerville (623-3200).*

FUN FACT The Big Dig will excavate a total of 13 million cubic yards of dirt, enough to fill Foxboro Stadium.

Boston On-line

Party Favors

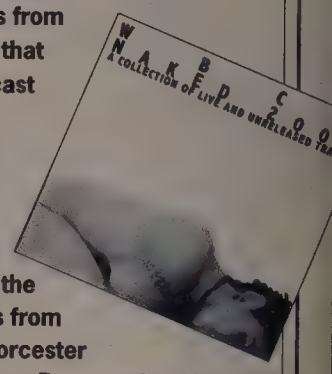
Does party planning leave you needing a little help from your friends? A new Web site, Evite.com, is a much better pal, making party planning a piece of cake. Not only does this cyber bad boy deliver your invites through a mass mailing, it sets up a party site so that invitees can log on to get the details, RSVP and chat about who's going to be there.

Users need only complete a few simple steps. It's one of those neat ideas that you never thought you would have needed, but since it's there, what the hell? So get hip, get on-line and save money on stationery and stamps.

Around Town

Radio-free WBCN

WBCN just announced the release of their Naked 2000 CD compilation, which features typically unavailable tracks from the hottest bands that have been broadcast live or have performed in the WBCN studios. You'll find live recordings of both Everlast and the Lo Fidelity Allstars from concerts at the Worcester Palladium, the Dante Ross remix of Korn's "Freak on a Leash," Orgy performing live from Avalon and Lenny Kravitz from the Fort Apache Studios in Cambridge. Other performances include 311, Limp Bizkit, Silverchair, Blink 182, Kid Rock, Moby and a bonus track: The Jim Carroll Band, live from the Paradise in '80s. CDs are available at Strawberries, Newbury Comics and Tower Records.



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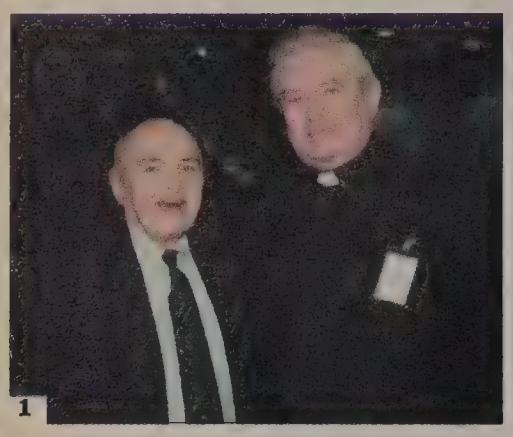
Proper Bostonians

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

A special charity screening of ***Angela's Ashes***—the film based on the childhood memoir of Pulitzer Prize-winner Frank McCourt—was held at Randolph Showcase Cinema, Jan. 5. Immediately following the screening, McCourt read excerpts from his newest book *'Tis*. $16,000 for the international relief organization Proceeds from all ticket sales benefited Concern Worldwide, an international relief organization that responds to the famine and educational needs of 23 countries, including Rwanda, Haiti and Kosovo. addressed the crowd on more than 350 immediately after the screening and tickets sold for $50.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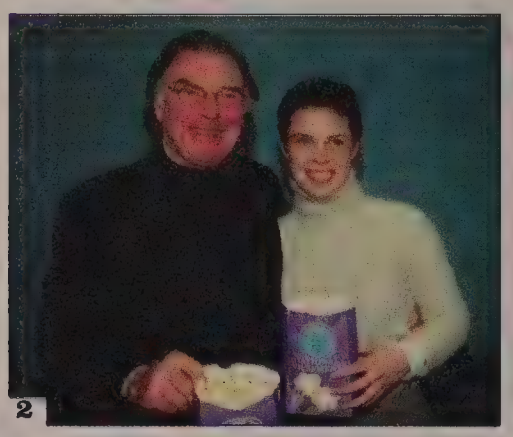
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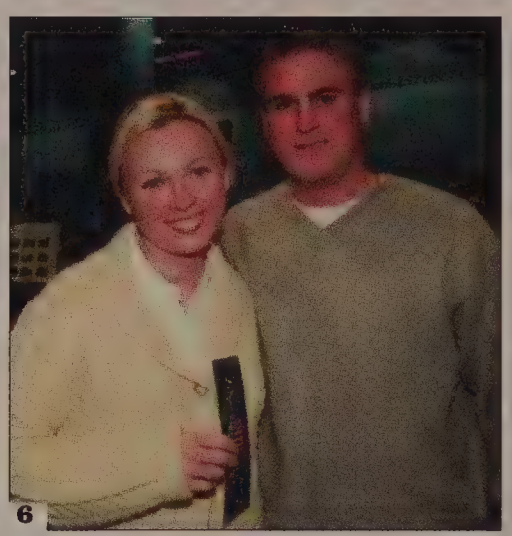
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1. **Tom Durant** (l), assistant director of Mass. General Hospital, and **Aengus Finucane**, former chief executive of Concern Worldwide.
2. **Bill Reilly**, director of the Irish American Partnership, with daughter **Colleen**, an English teacher at the Teachers University in China.
3. From left, publisher **Ed Forry** and his wife, **Mary**, president of the *Boston Irish Reporter* and the *Dorchester Reporter,* with **Mimi LaCamera** and husband **Paul**, president and general manager of Channel 5.
4. **Billy Costa** (l), morning personality for Kiss 108's *Matty in the Morning Show*, and **David Faulkner**, senior publicist of UK Promotions & Publicity in Dedham.
5. *Angela's Ashes* author **Frank McCourt**.
6. Law student **Jessica Downey** with **Kenny Poschmann**, of DRM Construction in Easton.

Cast members and theatre-goers alike celebrated the opening night of **Broadway in Boston's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*** at Maggiano's Restaurant, Jan. 5. The production's stars, Deborah Gibson, Patrick Cassidy and the Osmond 2nd Generation, were in attendance.

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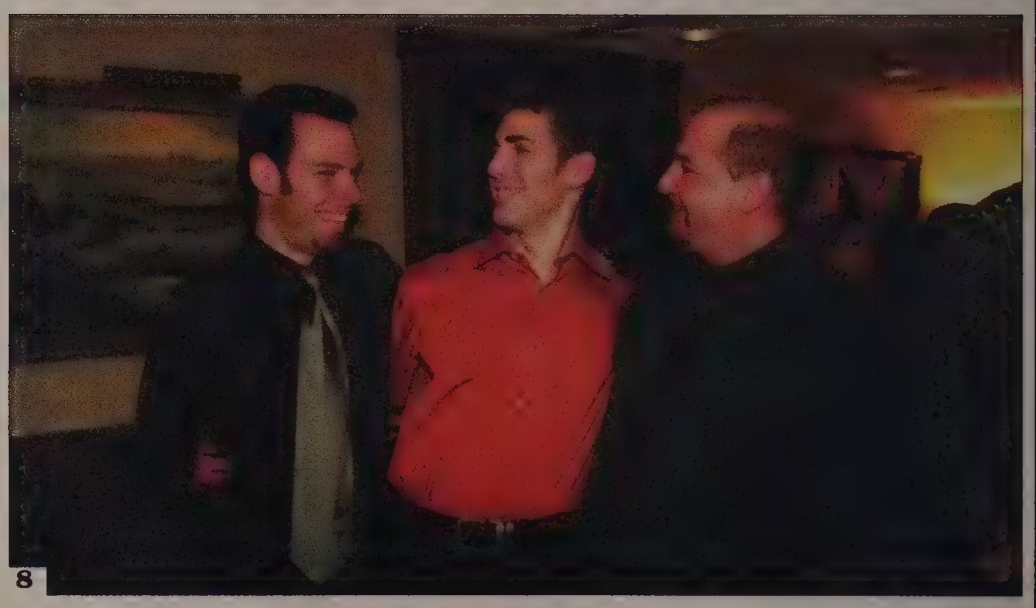
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7. From left, stage manager **Doug Osmond**, actress/singer **Deborah Gibson** and **Jon Osmond**, who plays the part of Joseph's brother Benjamin.
8. *Joseph* actors **Thom Warren**, **Adam Williams** and **Scott Davidson**.
9. From left, **David Kososki**, managing partner of Maggiano's, with Broadway in Boston's public relations/sales manager **Anne Sheehan** and president **Bill Conner**.
10. **Shane Hudson**, theater manager for the Charles Playhouse and company manager for *The Blue Man Group*, with **Kim Haach**, general manager for *Sheer Madness*.
11. **Debra MacKinnon** (l), owner of Debra Macki Cosmetics, and **Michelle King**, account executive for Bishoff Solomon.

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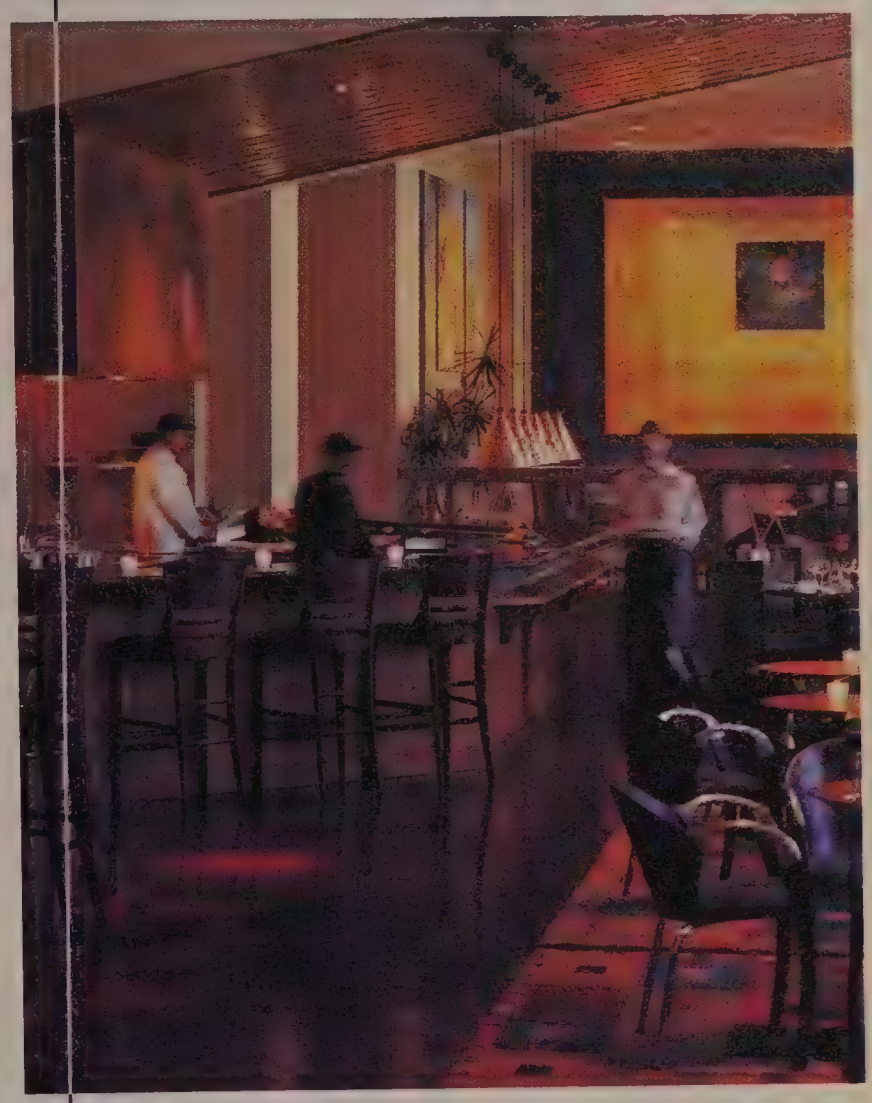

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A SITE FOR SORE HEADS

Hacker Zack Exley Raises Dubbya's Hackles.

Somerville resident Zack Exley riled none other than George W. Bush by posting a satirical Web site (*www.gwbush.com*) that, among other things, contains a faked-up picture of Bush snorting cocaine. Exley purchased the Web name in April 1999 when he noticed that the Bush campaign had foolishly neglected to reserve it for themselves.

He put up a copy of the official Bush Web site, making a few changes—such as turning "Paid for by the Bush for President Campaign" into "Paid for by Filthy Rich Texas Oilmen." His motives were more a matter of jest than of politics. "I thought it would be fun to try to confuse a national election committee," he says.

The Bush campaign responded by sending him a "cease and desist" letter. Having displayed the stick, they then held out the carrot and asked whether Exley would consider selling the Web site. Exley, understandably annoyed at the strong-arm tactics, asked for $350,000. "I was just yanking their chain," he says, "I would have taken a few hundred dollars for it."

Bush responded by attacking Exley personally at a May 21 press conference in Austin, calling him a "garbage man" (he's actually a freelance programmer) and saying that "there ought to be limits on freedom." Bush's remarks naturally transformed Exley's site from a minor annoyance into one of the most heavily visited sites on the Web, which was probably not the impact that Bush intended. The Bush people then asked the Federal Election Commission (FEC) to declare the site a political action committee, which would make it subject to federal regulation. That means that Exley—who's pretty much your average semi-employed hacker—would have to spend thousands of dollars on bureaucratic red tape. Predictably, Bush has come out looking like a bully trying to squelch free speech, resulting in positive coverage of Exley's site in *USA Today* and the *New York Times*.

In a rather obvious attempt to re-spin the story, the Bush people have claimed that the site contained links to pornography. That accusation, however, turned out to be false; the links in question were to parody sites that contained no graphic images. In addition, it's not clear whether Exley's page ever contained the links in the first place. "The Bush campaign knows I never linked to pornographic sites," says Exley, "It's slander." What's ironic about the porno brouhaha is that if Bush wins the election, he'll eventually discover that *www.whitehouse.com* is the URL of a pornography site that features members-only areas like "Hollywood Hooters" and "Teen Buffet." That's been the case for several years now, but President Clinton, unlike Bush, apparently knows when it's wiser to let sleeping sites lie. Bush, however, seems determined to make a hero out of Exley, whose site would normally have remained a curiosity. But with Bush acting as the site's unofficial marketing flack, *www.gwbush.com* had clocked over a million visitors by the end of 1999.

As for Exley, he seems a bit bemused by all the fuss. "I never wanted to be some sort of free-speech hero," he says. Now that Bush has (in Exley's opinion) shown his true colors, Exley now considers it his duty to point out not only the allegations of drug usage in Bush's past, but the governor's dubious war record, as well as his acceptance to Yale and Harvard Business School despite bad grades. "At first I just thought the most I could get out of this was a good story to tell my friends and maybe a couple hundred dollars," says Exley, "But now that Bush has turned my site into one of the most popular political publications on the Web, I feel I have a responsibility to tell the truth about the guy." IB

Exley, understandably annoyed at the strong-arm tactics, asked for $350,000. "I was just yanking their chain," he says, "I would have taken a few hundred dollars for it."

Zack Exley "volunteering" at the Bush campaign headquarters. "I thought it would be fun to try to confuse a national election committee," he says.

Internetworking

Now that Y2K has come and gone with barely a whimper of disaster, at least one Boston-area resident, **John Gantz**, chief research officer at Framingham-based **International Data Corp.** (*www.idcresearch.com*), has a particular reason to celebrate. Unlike most other computer industry experts—who were predicting varying degrees of catastrophe—Gantz consistently downplayed the potential impact of the infamous Y2K bug. "For the past two years we've been saying that Y2K would result in minor annoyances at most," he says.

By contrast, other hub gurus of high tech aren't in any position to tout their predictive powers. Westborough resident **Lou Marcoccio**, vice president at San Jose-based **Gartner Group**, told congress back in fall of 1998 that Y2K would be a big problem, starting with "fiscal year system failures" in 1999. And **Capers Jones**, chairman of Burlington-based **Software Productivity Research**, (*www.spr.com*) is on record saying that Y2K will eventually cost $3.2 trillion!

"They should have known better," says Gantz, who estimates that Y2K spending worldwide was only around $282 billion. Even then, a large amount of the money spent was wasted, as much as $76 billion according to Gantz, who points out that Y2K had minimal impact in countries like Russia, Bulgaria and Vietnam where there was virtually no Y2K preparation. "The hype generated over Y2K came at a price," says Gantz, who blames his colleagues at other market research firms for blowing the Y2K problem way out of proportion.

Oh, and for the record, yours truly was one of the first computer industry journalists to argue that Y2K wasn't going to be any great shakes. Those interested can check out the articles on my Web site. I may not be a guru like Gantz, but I do know a load of codswoddle when I see it. IB

Geoffrey James (*www.geoffreyjames.com*) is the author of numerous business books as well as the co-host of the radio show "Funny Business," heard Saturdays 10pm-12am on WRKO, AM 680.

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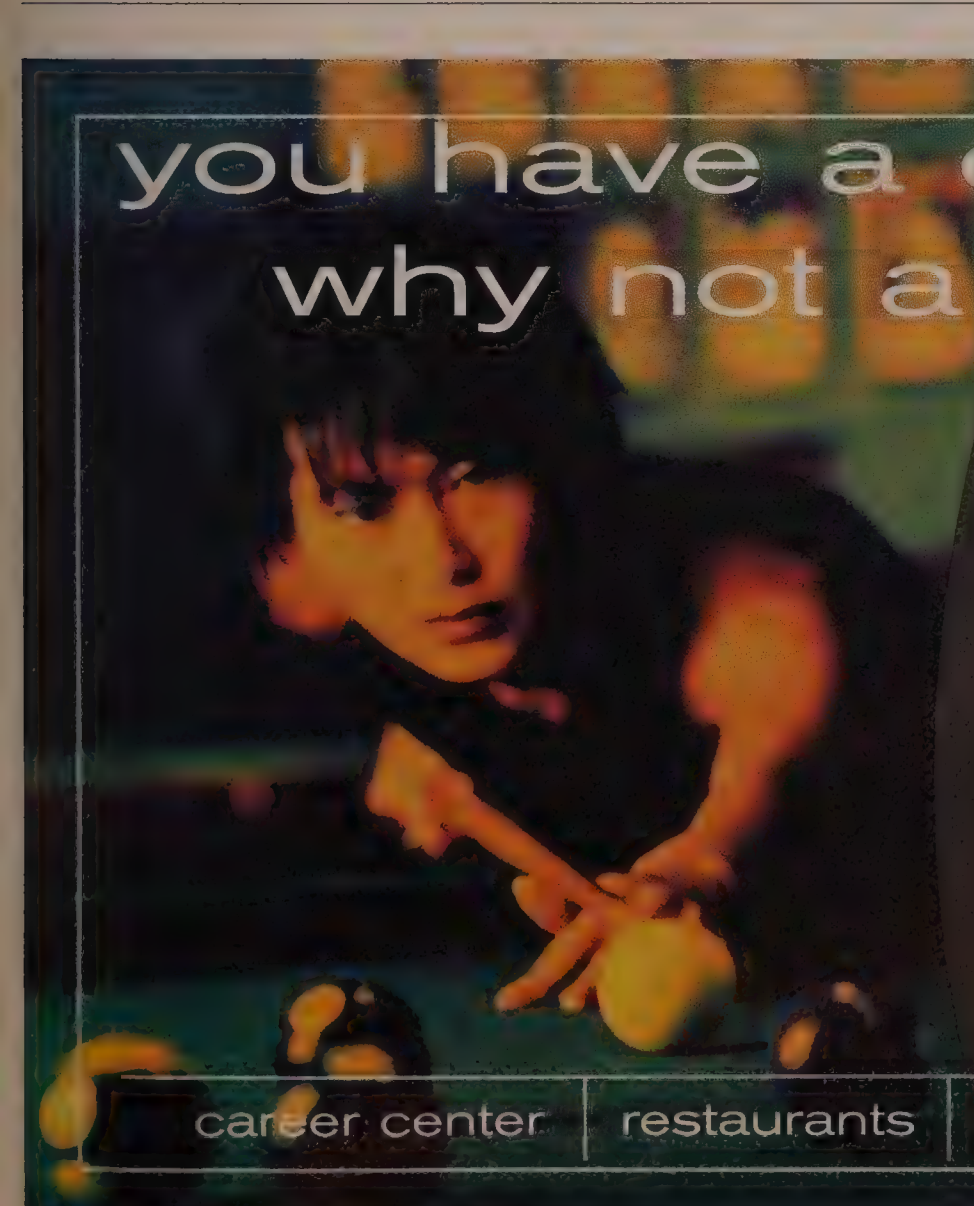

A game of pool at Jillian's. Martinis at Cosmopolitan. Midnight sushi at Ginza. Whatever you're into, find it on your online guide to the best stuff in Boston.

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Impolitic BY CRAIG SANDLER

GOVERNMENT WORKS

But Paul Cellucci certainly isn't getting any credit for it.

Y2K was a success for the government—in some sense, the biggest in decades. No one really thought the Establishment was going to be up to the job of keeping the world running right in the face of you-know-what, but it happened. The 21st century works. It will be interesting to see if any of our political candidates can project the general sense of well-being that came with the global celebration, the lack of calamity and the effective response to a common problem.

This isn't the first or last time you'll read this in Impolitic: Today's public suffers from reverse cynicism—the naïve, childlike belief that the government is fully inept and that politicians are universally crooked. People who observe carefully come to learn it isn't true. A Pew Center poll a few years ago found that the public is more cynical than journalists, and it's hard to imagine the toughest public problems being solved until that attitude changes. Y2K might help—if one of the candidates can articulate why it means the government can do things right.

The State House press corps has submitted its picks to the News Service for the Top Ten stories of 1999 in state government. The winner was the Booze Cruise, in which a beery Peter Blute lost his job as the head of Massport (one reporter said Gidget Churchill's participation made this the top two stories of '99).

The cynics have spoken. The top story of 1999? Peter Blute (l) and his booze cruise.

It's a telling choice, illustrative of both the Cellucci administration's problems and the foibles of the modern press. A state official embarrassing himself and getting fired would not have been selected the top story by the State House press of 1979. Most entertaining, maybe, but not "biggest." A retreat on standards for our children to graduate high school under the $1.7 billion plan we paid for to improve their education: that was a couple of notches down the list. The struggle of the governor, mostly unsuccessful, to claim any accomplishment as truly his own—that would probably have beaten out Gidget Does Boston not too long ago.

It is evidence of the circle in which "sexy" is deemed more valuable than "significant," and the reporters can't help but accept it if they like their jobs.

Sexy is fun too, so the hunt for dirt subsumes the effort to develop information from which people can derive real meaning about the world's problems. The Blute story was one of the better ones of the year—but its topping the list as judged by the reporters themselves signals that tabloid news is basically now simply news. It's what you get.

A story connected to the Blute idiocy, and that was a major part of '99, is going to carry forward into this year in a big way. The Republicans are only a few months away from looking really, really bad. They don't have congressional candidates. They're not going to make a noticeable dent in the steel Democratic casing around the Legislature. Cellucci is still looking, as a member of his own administration said last month, for "the Accomplishment" (i.e., the first one, and he's been governor for a long time). This story will grow as the year goes on, and the connection will probably be made: Cellucci was never interested in getting really big things done governmentally, but he did want to build up the party. He and his party are in for a pounding—and they know it. Cellucci will push really hard for an income tax cut, but even that will come several years after the national party noticed people don't really care that much. It's the cutting edge of 1992 Republican thinking. **iB**

Craig Sandler is co-owner of the State House News Service.

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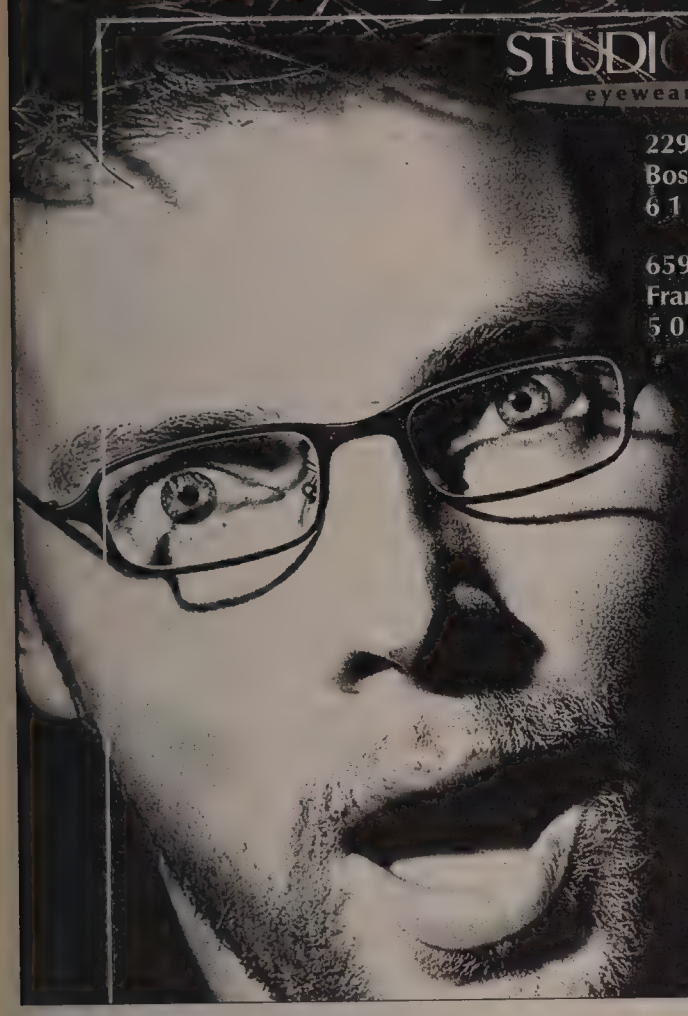

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Robert Pinsky

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

The 39th poet laureate of the United States, Robert Pinsky, 59, was born and raised in Long Branch, NJ. After graduating from Rutgers, he received a Stegner Fellowship in creative writing at Stanford University, where he received his masters degree and Ph.D. About his first book of poems, Robert Lowell wrote, "It is refreshing to find a poet who is intellectually interesting and technically first-rate." Pinsky has published 13 books, including the prize-winning *An Explanation of America* and *History of My Heart*, a best-selling translation of Dante's *Inferno*, and this year's *Americans' Favorite Poems*, which grew out of the Favorite Poem Project. His work has appeared in numerous anthologies, as well as such publications as *The Atlantic Monthly*, the *New Yorker* and the *Paris Review*. His many awards and honors include a Pulitzer-Prize nomination, Fulbright, National Endowment for the Arts and Guggenheim Foundation fellowships, and an unprecedented three terms in the post of poet laureate. He has taught at Harvard, Wellesley, the University of Chicago and Berkeley, but since 1988 has been a professor of English at Boston University. In addition, he was poetry editor of *The New Republic* from 1978-1987 and is currently poetry editor of the on-line journal *Slate* and a contributor to *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer* on PBS. Married with three children, he lives in Newton.

Jonathan Soroff: *What are the perks of being poet laureate—limo, Lear jet, front-row seats at the Celtics?*

Robert Pinsky: Mostly, none. I did get to sit ringside at the de la Hoya/Rivera fight. I was even announced from the ring, right ahead of Pete Rose. And the office, which is always described as "in the attic" of the Jefferson building [in Washington, DC], is very beautiful, with an amazing view of the Capitol dome. But the greatest thrill of the job, truly, is the Favorite Poem project. We've had events everywhere from the White House and New York's Town Hall, to libraries in small towns like Oxford, Mississippi...By the way, I hardly ever use the Lear jet. It feels ostentatious, for one thing.

JS: *Is the pay comparable to a professional athlete's, and if not, why not?*

RP: The pay is comparable to an athlete's monthly budget for foot powder and Corvette-waxing, but I don't think that's unjust. It's a largely honorary post, with few duties, so there's no reason it should pay a lot.

JS: *Do people expect you to talk like Nipsey Russell, rhyming all the time?*

RP: Many do. Such as you?

JS: *How do you feel about the New York cathedral where people are opposing a memorial to Ezra Pound in poet's corner because of his anti-Semitism?*

RP: The poets who suggested him were absolutely within their rights in naming him as an excellent poet, and the Dean of the Cathedral and his congregation were absolutely within their rights in deciding that they didn't want a Jew-baiting, fascist traitor honored in St. John's. No conflict, in my opinion.

JS: *What rhymes with "orange?"*

RP: Rhyme is a matter of degree, not absolute: there must be some likeness and some unlikeness to the sounds. "Orange" does not rhyme with "orange" because the two sounds are identical. "Orange" rhymes with, say, "syringe"—or more than it does with "apple," anyway.

JS: *Favorite parody haiku?*

RP: I'm not sure who wrote it, but it goes something like: Single lettuce leaf/Clinging to the rim of/the salad bowl; Who cares.

JS: *Agree or disagree: Rap music is one of the most vital forms of poetry in America today?*

RP: Poetry is when the words sound good as the ordinary reader says them to herself, without music or expert performance. It's the sounds of the language in the reader's own voice. For what I mean, visit the Web site *favoritepoem.org*.

JS: *As a poet, does the verse in the average greeting card make you cringe?*

RP: Isn't that question obsolete? It's my impression that they've abandoned verse for jokes and prose sentiments, and I think that, in retrospect, we've lost something. Like the amateur poem for someone's birthday or retirement, or the occasional poem between lovers, greeting card verse used to provide a cultural approach or context for poetry of all kinds. Why should the makers of excellent goat cheese scorn Velveeta?

JS: *What did your parents say when you told them you were going to become a poet?*

RP: I never did. Our household wasn't an ordinary one. We didn't say "What's for dinner, Mom?" let alone "I'm going to become a poet." There were a few years when my mother wasn't often awake.

JS: *On a scale of 1 to 10, rank Dr. Seuss' abilities as a poet.*

RP: He's very good. Not as good as Robert Louis Stevenson, who really has chops, or Lewis Carroll, but nearly as good as Edward Lear and much better than Shel Silverstein.

JS: *If you set your poetry to music, what genre would it fall into?*

RP: When I was young, I dreamed of being a jazz musician, and in poems like "Ginza Samba," I've tried to achieve something like a be-bop rhythm. But setting poetry to music hasn't been of great interest to me, so far.

"Should the Department of Defense spend more on marching bands than the entire NEA budget?"

JS: *If you could say one thing to William Shakespeare, what would it be?*

RP: What was Ben Jonson really like?

JS: *Don't you think it was really cruel of the Williamses to name their son William Carlos?*

RP: He had an unexpectedly exotic background for such a quintessentially American figure. Besides being distinctive, his name recalls that fact—Puerto Rican grandmother, English father—which in a sense is quite American, isn't it?

JS: *Which is cooler: being poet laureate or a rock star?*

RP: In my opinion, neither phrase necessarily denotes anything cool. There are very, very square rock stars, and many mediocrities have won poetry prizes and held titles like "laureate." The truly cool isn't subject to labels.

JS: *Funniest bit of poetry you ever read on a bathroom wall?*

RP: There are some good ones in the *Greek Anthology*, which in Dudley Fitts's translation is still in print, I think. Insults and laments about particular prostitutes, things like that.

JS: *Do you think that the National Endowment for the Arts should be required to fund artworks that some people consider obscene or pornographic?*

RP: Should the Department of Defense be required to spend more money on marching bands than the entire NEA budget spends at its peak? Or should Congress just give away rights to the airwaves so that corporations can broadcast comedies and golf tournaments that some people consider stupid?

JS: *Did your childhood, growing up in New Jersey, prepare you in any way for the life of a poet?*

RP: As a student who never studied, I had to get through the eighth and ninth grades by faking it, using rhetoric, scraps of information and shrewd guesses to remedy deficiencies in scholarship, wherever possible. Later, those years of carving baloney provided valuable expertise. I was also surrounded by good talkers and a small-town tradition of story-telling. Long Branch, my hometown, was near an ocean and a racetrack—far enough from New York to have its own culture, and close enough to breathe some of the glamour and class from the Boardwalk.

JS: *One last question. Why are so many poets named Seamus?*

RP: It's a custom. Actually, there are a lot of "Roberts" too, but only one William Carlos, as far as I know. IB

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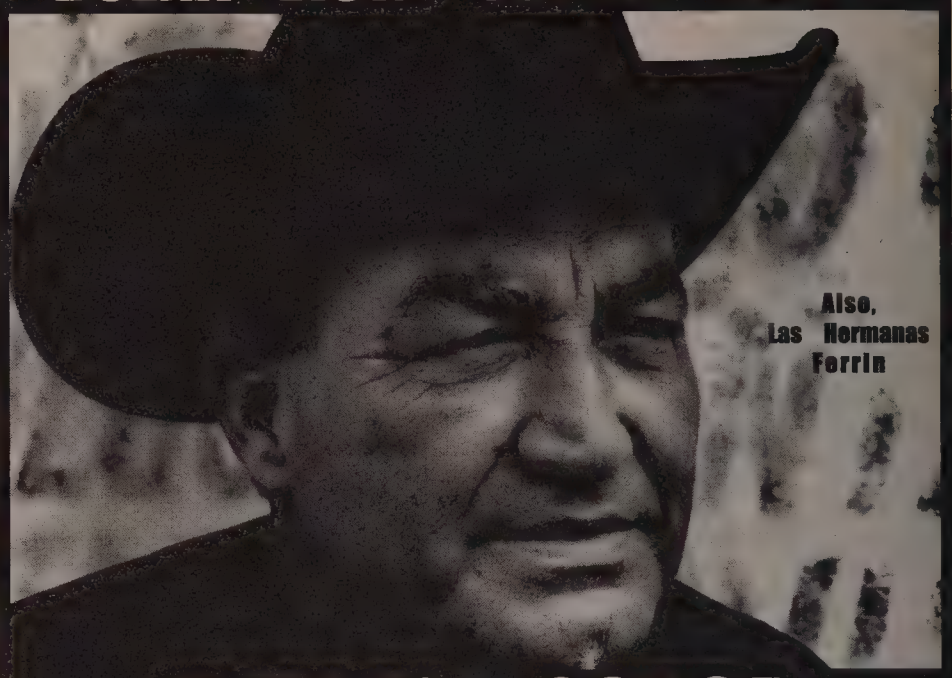

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The Upper Crust perform for the peasants at the Middle East downstairs.

boston rocks

WRITTEN & EDITED BY PAUL ROBICHEAU & RACHEL STRUTT

the IMPROPER'S insider guide to the Boston rock scene

Left: This is what the rock scene is all about—fired-up fans; above: one night's aftermath on a guitar amp.

it may have its droughts, but it can also be lush. Overall, Boston is lucky to have a consistently fertile rock scene. "I've been all over the country," says Mikey Dee of the Planetary Group, "and this city has a better scene and more diversity than anywhere else. We've got all the colleges turning out bands and great college radio. We also have great 'zines."

Following a relatively quiet few years, it looks like things are starting to percolate once again. "I think there's a little bit of a renaissance going on right now." says Peter Ducharme, a local musician and producer (Jack Drag and Star Ghost Dog). "There's just so much interesting stuff coming out," he continues, "I'm hoping it's the beginning of a new wave." With acts like the Sheila Divine, Wheat and Mr. Lif poised to break out nationally, it looks like the wave is already beginning to swell.

Another indication that the city rock scene is looking up is that clubs keep opening up—some in the most surprising of locations. Apart from the year-old Milky Way in Jamaica Plain, the newest venues in town are on the other side of the river. Of course Central Square, with the Middle East and T.T. the Bear's Place, still sits at the epicenter of Boston's rock landscape, but the scene is expanding outwards, with the Abbey Lounge in Inman Square and the Sky Bar on Somerville Ave. And come this spring, Lilli Dennison (with partners Brother Cleve and B-Side Lounge owner Patrick Sullivan) will unveil her new hot spot just down the street in the old Club 3 digs. Then there's the new Aquarium, bringing a little bit of Lansdowne glitz to Davis Square. And there's also Q Division Records, which is in the process of moving from downtown Boston to Davis Square, making the whole area—along with Fort Apache and Rounder Records—something of local record-making Mecca. "There's a lot happening over there right now; it's very exciting," says Q Division's Mike Denneen. "There are new clubs, and great things are happening at Rounder—new alliances are being formed."

In this issue, we're offering an overview of all that's shifting and shaking in the scene. To help us check the local rock pulse, we informally polled Boston's music gurus (DJs, booking agents and scenesters), listened to many a CD and caught many a show.

When profiling the city's local rock clubs, we're not even counting hip Irish bars like the Burren, O'Brien's and Brendan Behan, or posh showcase venues like the Paradise (still a sign that you've made it as a local band), House of Blues, the Roxy and Avalon—places that focus more on national acts. It was not an easy job whittling down any of our lineups—especially the bands, and as it is, we ended up with one split decision. Ultimately, we gave space mostly to original bands we haven't featured before (as opposed to worthy veterans like Slide and the Gravel Pit). Some of the acts we profile are at the top of their game, others are just warming up. Together they're making a big, beautiful din. Check 'em out.

FROM TOP: ERIC JOHANSON (2), TRACY POWELL

10 bands making

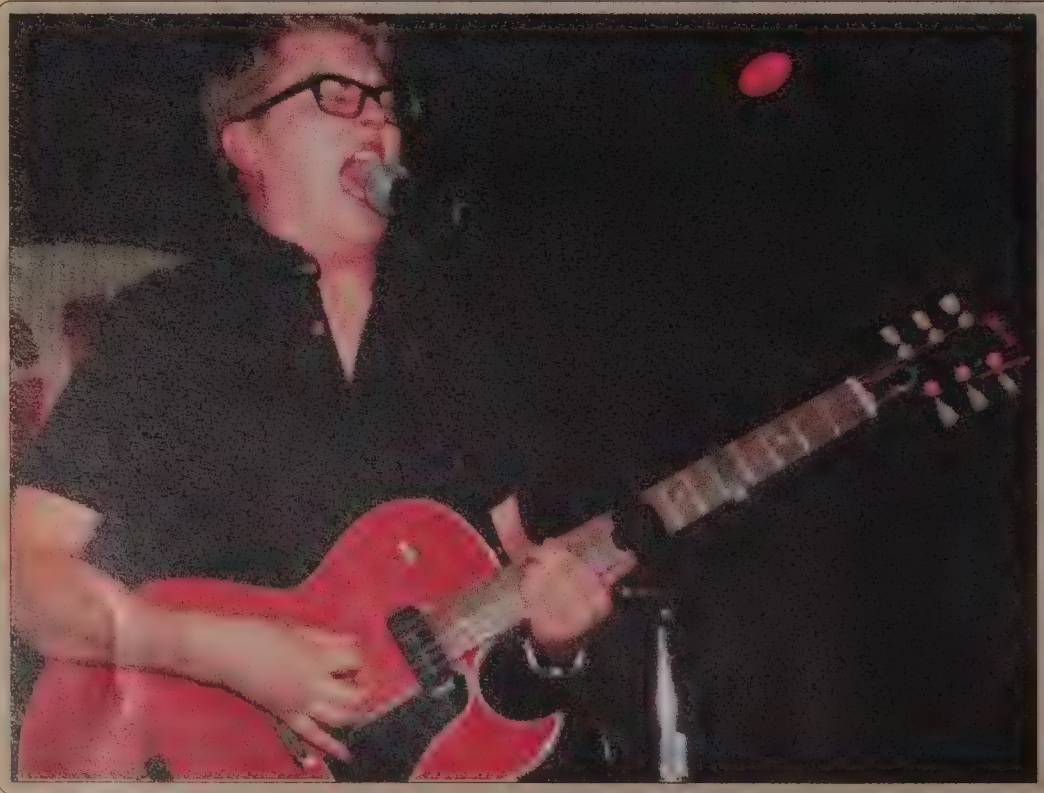
Wheat

Sometimes a band gets more attention on foreign soil than in its own home town—for shame! Until recently, this was the case for the pop trio Wheat, which had a successful European tour last November, and two singles, "Don't I Hold You" and "Off the Pedestal," receiving moderate airplay in England over the past year. "I think it's because there's a different sensibility over there," says Ricky Brennan, the band's drummer. "They tend to appreciate a lot of things that are overlooked here."

More recently, Wheat has made a splash this side of the Atlantic as well. The band's second CD, *Hope and Adams* has earned the band plenty of glowing reviews—not to mention a *Spin* feature last fall. With tracks like "Slow Fade" or "Be Brave"—two lush,leisurely indie pop songs sung with understated yearning—it's no wonder critics are cooing. "We often joke around about trying to do modern soft rock, as opposed to hard rock," says Brennan. "But basically, we're just trying to make pretty songs that have interesting atmosphere and texture ."

The band also includes Scott Levesque (guitar, vocals) and Brendan Harney (guitar)—and when playing out, a guest bassist who fills out their sound. "We tend not to hit people over the head," says Brennan of their shows. "We try to entice the audience, so they have to dig in to it a bit." Wheat has grown quickly since forming back in '96, and has weathered several lineup changes along the way. It may have taken a while, but Boston has finally caught on—*Hope and Adams* is all over local college radio and the band's last two shows sold out by 10pm. Rock on, softly.—*RS*

Wheat plays upstairs at the Middle East, Mar. 10.



The Sheila Divine

If you're going to be a wimp, you might as well be the ultimate example. That's the idea behind the Australian slang-derived name of The Sheila Divine. But there's nothing wimpy about the bespectacled trio's empassioned power-pop delivery, especially onstage.

"If you're not going to give it your all, then why are you up there?" singer-guitarist Aaron Perrino says. "I swear to God, I almost throw up half the time I play, because I'm pushing too hard." That kind of emotive immediacy quickly catapulted Perrino, bassist Jim Gilbert and drummer Shawn Sears—all friends from college in upstate New York—to the winner's circle of the 1999 WBCN Rock 'n Roll Rumble, and accolades for debut album *New Parade*, on Roadrunner, a New York label better known for metal bands.

"I like a little drama in my music," Perrino says in understatement of his two-year-old band's cleanly sculpted swells, influenced by modern-day emoters like the Afghan Whigs and Buffalo Tom as well as '80s heroes the Smiths, U2 and Echo & the Bunnymen. Granted, the past year of touring has taken its toll on Perrino's voice, and made him reassess his dynamic style in newer songs. "I'm trying to sing a little more," he says, "but I'm still going to scream and stuff." Instead of wimping out, one might consider it the maturing of The Sheila Divine.—*PR*

The Sheila Divine play T.T. the Bear's Place, Feb. 25 and 26.

WHEAT: CHERYL RICHARDS, SHEILA DIVINE'S AARON PERRINO: PAUL ROBICHEAU

noise

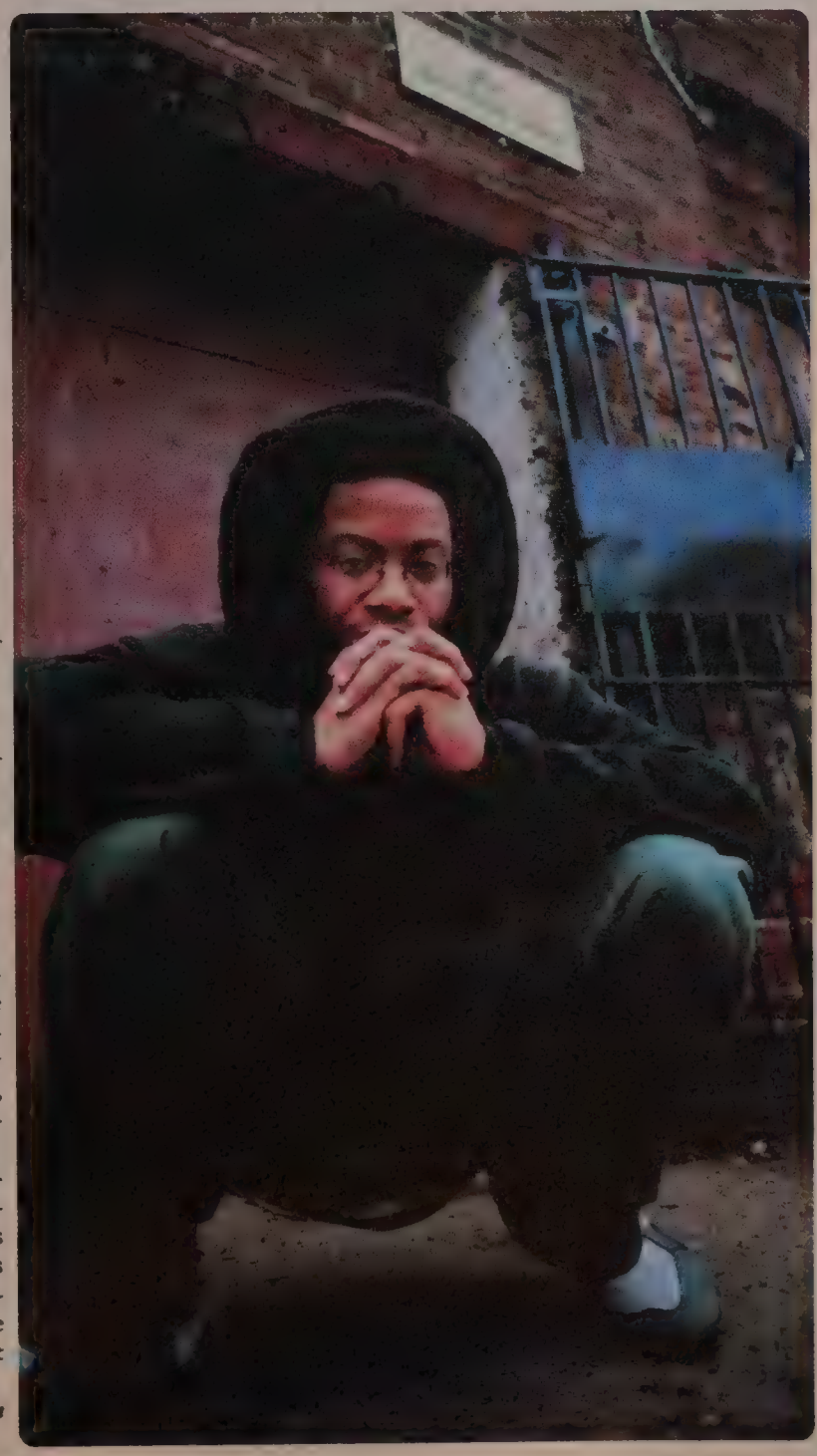
The Shods

With their punky verve and singer-guitarist Kevin Stevenson's sometimes-dyed Joe Strummer hair, the Shods fall prey to assumptions based on style instead of substance. "I always have some young punks come up to me and say, 'What are you listening to lately?'" Stevenson says. "I say, 'Sinatra, man,' and they say, 'No, really.' We love so much music. It's not just punk rock." Indeed, with inspirations from the Real Kids and Sex Pistols to Carole King and Johnny Cash, the Shods are simply fans of great songs. And great songs are what they turn out, both onstage and on the Lowell-rooted band's latest CD *Thanks For Nuthin.'* "When I'm writing a song, a hook will pop into my head and seconds later, the verse will come and, in my head, it's finished," Stevenson says of a spontaneity which might explain those natural hooks.

Not that it's been an easy road for the band, which slugged it out in clubs from Lowell to Boston for four years before getting its break as a runner-up in the 1999 WBCN Rock 'n Roll Rumble. "The only time people really get us is when we play live," he says, and while there are hints of pure pop and even lounge in the Shods' music, it's an attack as no-nonsense as a power chord in the garage—like many great Boston groups. "We all play rock 'n roll," Stevenson says, adding of his outfit with bassist Dave Livingston, drummer Scott Pittman, keyboardist Jay Buckley and (through the CD) guitarist Dave Aaronoff. "We just play it our own way."—*PR*

The Shods play Bill's Bar, Feb. 24.

Mr. Lif



A decade ago, Boston didn't really have a hip-hop scene—and whatever existed was based in the city's black neighborhoods. Times have changed, and a local indie scene has emerged. At the head of that scene is Mr. Lif (Jeff Haynes), who is not only a fluid rapper, but produces his own eerie beats, while fashioning lyrics in a sociopolitic style akin to late '80s models Public Enemy, Rakim and Boogie Down Productions—and his favorites, Gang Starr Posse.

"Back in the day, if you made a party jam, you'd still say intelligent things," says Lif, 25, who looks to local peers like Akrobatik, Esoteric and Virtuoso for inspiration today. "You have these [national] artists now that are just promoting the image of being wealthy way beyond imagination. And rather than people not being able to relate to it, they just fantasize about it." They'd be better off listening to Lif rip rhymes in tracks like "Arise," about escaping the grip of the societal machine. "I want to make sure after any song that anyone hears from me, they leave with at least a little bit of brain food," he says. "I'm very interested in people's relationship with the government, why we saw God's world as not perfect and decided to create our own societies, how life within those societies affects us, and how we function within the institutions we created."

And while he jots down observations in a notebook to lay the foundations of his tracks, Lif also raps freestyle, at rock and hip-hop shows alike. "You have to be able to freestyle," he says, "for credibility in the hip-hop industry, but also, it just keeps you sharp."—*PR*

Mr. Lif is currently on tour in Japan and Australia.

Betwixt

Betwixt stands apart from other Boston bands for many reasons. But perhaps the most obvious distinction is that they boast a cellist. A Brandeis undergrad, cellist Gordon Withers was joined up with local guitar god Tom Devaney (ex-Bulkhead) and singer Leah Callahan (ex-Turkish Delight) in 1997 to form an avant-garde art rock band. Rounded out by new drummer Dave Nelson, Betwixt has honed a singular style that ranges from melodic and subtle to the more dissonant and ominous. Between Devaney's tweaked-out guitar, Withers' somber cello and Callahan's provocative lilt—and influences ranging from Hawaiian to Gypsy folk music—Betwixt has a strangely beguiling sound all its own. And the sound is catching on, as the band's latest CD, *The Salty Tang*, continues to receive glowing reviews locally and nationally.

Live, Betwixt puts on one of the best shows around town—thanks in large part to the theatrical rock chanteuse Callahan. "Whenever I perform, I like to feed off the vibe of the audience," she says. At a Sky Bar show a few months ago, this entailed jumping on a pool table so she could see the people at the bar across the crowd—unfortunately, she hit her head on a lamp and did the rest of the show with blood streaming down her face. "The injury was very punk rock," she says, adding, "I guess I'm a little weird, but I enjoyed the whole experience—it seemed very ritualistic."—*RS*

Betwixt plays the Milky Way, Jan. 28.

Scissorfight

Talking with Ironlung, the larger-than-life frontman for the full-tilt rock 'n' roll band Scissorfight, is an interesting experience. Among late-night stragglers at the Middle East, he is an articulate conversationalist—but one prone to periodically turning his neck and yelling: "Chaos and destruction nationwide!" Onstage, Scissorfight's bad-ass redneck posturing is equally entertaining. "The thing that sets us apart," says Lung, "is you're gonna know you were there. You're not gonna forget about it."

And then there's the music. Against a backdrop of kickin' guitars and rhythms like a crunchy update of old-school rockers ZZ Top and Led Zeppelin, the Lung belts out curious lyrics—tales of the bizarre and often brutal aspects of American history. "I'm interested in offering a different perspective of contemporary America; in the context of history, it's not as bad as we think it is." Clearly, there's more to Scissorfight than initially meets the eye—and as the Lung says, "it's not a big dumb rock show...and lately we've had a lot of people at our shows who've never seen us before—and that's great, we want to make it as inclusive as possible."

We're strictly playing for our own amusement," the Lung continues, "we're revelling in every rock cliché there is." Indeed, although the band takes its heavy sound seriously, it's all dished out with a healthy dose of irony. They may put on a poker-faced act, but when a boisterous woman yells "you pussy," at a recent show, the Lung can't help but crack a smile.—*RS*

Scissorfight plays the Linwood, Jan. 28.

BETWIXT: JOE GREENE, ASSISTANT: MATT CADMAN, STYLIST: JOSEPH SERPA/ENNIS, MAKEUP: ROBIN ERB/MITCHELL JOHN, HAIR: JOHN SANTINI, REGINA HASKELL/JOHN SANTINI, ERRIN BABINE/JOHN SANTINI, SHOES: PAUL ROBICHEAU; MR LIF: JENNIFER TAYLOR

Star Ghost Dog

You may know them as a quirky pop band with a loyal local fan base. And this *was* fairly accurate—but once Star Ghost Dog's second full-length CD, *The Great Indoors,* is released this February 22, a new definition will be in order. With 12 tracks of winsome indie pop and a downright discofied flair, this CD is destined to broaden the band's audience to the national scale. Already, "Underdrive" has hit college radio and the CD has broken into the CMJ charts.

"We hear the disco thing a lot," says singer-guitarist Ginny Weaver, "and we were definitely going for something danceable. I don't know if it's disco, but that's just fine if people want to call it that." The CD took about a month to record, working both at Fort Apache with Matthew Ellard and in the Natural Bionics studio with Peter Ducharme, a.k.a. "Master Cylinder" (see "Going in for the Score" on p. 24). "We did our first record in five days," says Weaver, "so a month felt really luxurious to us." She continues, "It was great working with Master Cylinder—he's obviously really talented and he's also a good friend of ours." One might think the band's live sound would differ substantially from the CD with it's samples and polished production. Surprisingly, it doesn't. Well, get down on it—this pop foursome is just getting started.—*RS*

Star Ghost Dog will have their CD release party upstairs at the Middle East, Feb 19.

Lockgroove

A few years back, Lockgroove had quite a buzz, following the release of their stunning debut EP, *Rewired*. If you haven't seen the band's name around as much recently, it's because they've been holed up, crafting their first full-length CD, *Sleeping on the Elephant Fog*, due out February 29. "We put a lot of pressure on ourselves. It took a lot of time, money and emotion," says singer-guitarist Ryan Rex of the recording experience, which took a little over a year. The ambitious CD will not disappoint impatient fans. A sonic collage that shifts—sometimes smoothly, sometimes abruptly—from moody dirge, to dreamy melody, to a cacophonous wall of sound, it is constantly surprising, and wholly seductive.

Then there's Lockgroove live. Much has been written about the band's exciting improvisation onstage. And there's no doubt these guys can jam—and as their name implies, they know how to lock into a groove. "We love morphing from one thing to another," says Rex, "we'll keep it going for 20 minutes or more, until we don't even know what's going on." But as much as the band members enjoy playing freeform—ranging from jazz-tinged jaunts to neo-psychedelia—they also know how to turn out a carefully-crafted pop song, and take equal pride in this aspect of their music. "Pop is often seen as a bad word," says bassist Dave Goodman, "but we don't think it is."

Whether it's meandering jams or mesmerizing pop, Lockgroove has a big sound and a pioneering spirit few bands can match. "Boston needs something new, it's past due," says Rex. "It need a shot in the arm, and we're determined to give it to them."—*RS*

Look for a CD release party in early March.

Hybrasil

A three-piece outfit that often expands to five, Hybrasil isn't easy to define—and this pleases the band's singer-songwriter Christian McNeill to no end. "People try to pigeonhole bands a lot, but we're not trying to be anyone else," says McNeill. At times, the band sounds rootsy and softly melodic. Other times, it's more like an acoustic punk-rock jam session with McNeill strumming aggressively, and bassist Jeremy Dryden and drummer Jeff Berlin creating driving machine-like rhythms. McNeill is particularly ardent on one point: "I'm very conscious of breaking the stereotype of Irish music. I hate Guinness," says the blasphemous Irishman, "and I have never seen leprechaun."

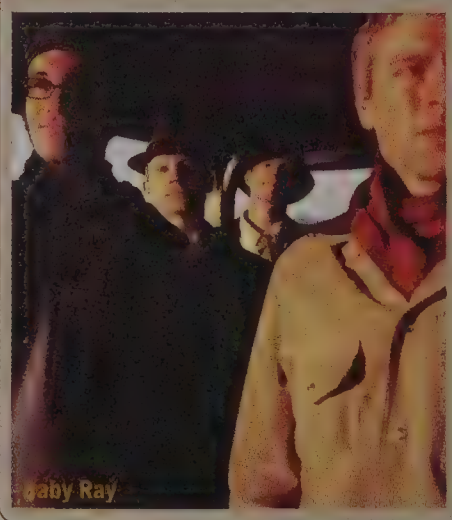
Hybrasil also shifts from one sound to another depending on who's sitting in with them. Often it's Dana Colley (from Morphine) who lends moody growls and barks with his baritone sax—both live and on their first CD, *Friendly Destroyer*. Another good friend and frequent contributor is mandolin player Jimmy Ryan from the Blood Oranges. McNeill, who has been fans of both musicians for years, says: "I'm absolutely honored to up on stage with these guys."

Deb Klein and Mark Hamilton of LMI are managing the year-old band, fresh on the heals of their success with Morphine. With such heavy hitters on their team, and a sound that screams mass appeal, Hybrasil is poised to win over Boston and beyond.—*RS*

Christian McNeill and Dana Colley will play in Orchestra Morphine; see p. 68.

Baby Ray/Tugboat Annie

Tugboat Annie has been chugging on the local scene for more than four years, while Baby Ray is a more recent addition. But both blend song and sonics in more thoughtful, shifting layers than most guitar-pop quartets. With Baby Ray, a continuing point of comparison is XTC (not a bad place to be), thanks to the quartet's angular style of rhythmic and melodic counterpoint. But there has been growth in the punchy dual-songwriting of singer-guitarists Erich Groat and Ken Lafler, while drummer Nathan Logus and bassist Paul Simonoff keep things equally interesting. "We just try to avoid things that have been done to death," Lafler says.



Tugboat Annie has seen its own changes in sound—and membership—since the once-grungier outfit recorded for local label Sonic Bubblegum in the mid-'90s. "It's been a natural evolution to make something that's not just loud, but had more to it," says bassist Jon Sulkow, an original member with singer-guitarist Mike Bethmann. And with guitarist Jay Celeste, who joined in 1997, and new drummer Josh Dalsimer (ex-Bosstones), Tugboat Annie has developed a honed, British-slanted attack (under locally based English producer Matthew Ellard) behind Bethmann's robust vocals. "Jay, Josh and I are all into Brit-pop, so that's definitely an influence," Sulkow says. "I like that edgier, brighter guitar sound."—*PR*

Baby Ray will play the Lizard Lounge every Wed. in Feb.

Gimme Shelter

Where Boston bands get their acts together

Members of Barbaro hone their sound in one of the RFT rehearsal spaces.

Some bands are lucky enough to have a basement and neighbors who'll put up with some sonic spill-over. Others have to fork out cash for a rehearsal space, which runs from a hefty $300 to $600 a month. Alvin Long, of Curve of the Earth Records, and manager of the RFT rehearsal spaces in the Fens, says, "it used to be two bands shared a space, but now it's more often three. Bands make less money at shows these days, and they have a harder time making rent." Speaking of RFT, with its 30 spaces, he adds, "we don't even keep a waiting list...someone could make a gold mine around here on rehearsal spaces. So many bands live in Allston, and they're all looking for something centrally located."

Other rehearsal spaces around town include the Empire Rehearsal Studios, also in the Fens, the massive Music Complex in Sullivan Square with 152 rooms (with only one room currently available), and three Sound Museums—one in rock central Allston, and two in the South End—which collectively add another 150-odd rooms to bang the night away.

You quickly get the picture: This city is bursting at the seams with bands—though some struggle with rising prices of Boston-area real estate. —*RS*

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: KIVA, CLAUDIA GALINDO, TIBOR NEMETH, JENNIFER TAYLOR (2), ERIN NEDELL

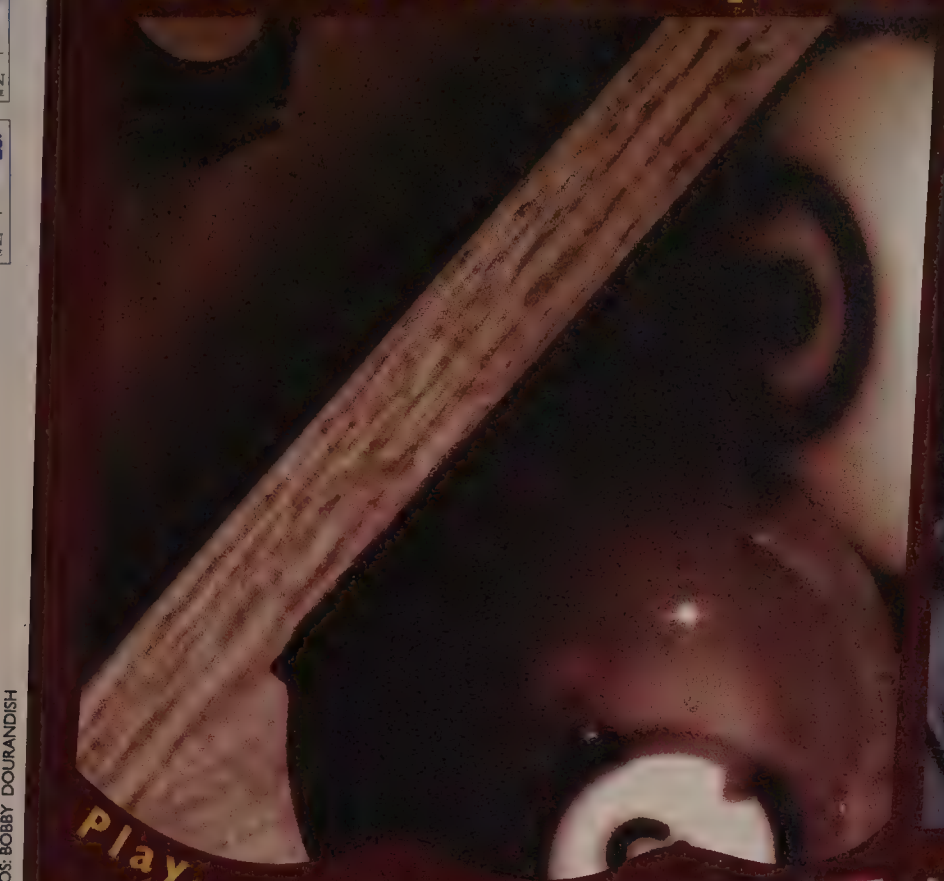
BOSTON'S BEST 1999
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE

BOSTON'S BEST 1998
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE

BOSTON'S BEST 1997
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE

PHOTOS: BOBBY DOURANDISH

Entertain your senses.



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Make it in Boston, or make it nationally—and every now and then, do both. From left, Aerosmith, Kristen Hersh with Throwing Muses, and the J. Geils Band.

Don't Look Back

SUCCESS IN THE BOSTON SCENE CAN BE A MIXED BLESSING FOR BANDS THAT WANT NATIONAL STARDOM.

By Paul Robicheau

If you want to be in a band, move to Boston. If you want to be a big rock star, move somewhere else.

Bostonians might not want to admit it, but for one of the most consistently vital music scenes in the country, this city doesn't have a great average for producing stars. Consider that Boston's biggest rock stars are still the guys in **Aerosmith**, who are beginning to resemble their idols the Rolling Stones in age as well as style, and you get the idea. But, apart from that fluke of grunge in Seattle, that's what New York and LA are there for (and per capita, your starry-eyed odds aren't high there either). When it comes to what really counts, having a great audience, and a base from which to grow, Boston offers the perfect digs. The college kids know it, and so do the bands, many of which relocate from other regions.

That doesn't mean that Boston rockers haven't earned fame as well as respect over the past few decades. But oftentimes, it's on a level that is either fleeting (making room for the next **New Kids on the Block**) or true-to-roots, which is why **Morphine** and the **Mighty Mighty Bosstones** fit among the Hub's hottest bands of the '90s. In any case, "hot" is a subjective term, but let's look back at some of the best in Boston rock.

Going back to the '60s, we first got the idea that specific trends don't fly in Boston when the so-marketed "Bosstown Sound" was a flop, involving bands that were like apples and oranges (or, in one case, **Ultimate Spinach**). Nonetheless, we had **Barry and the Remains**, who opened for the Beatles.

In many ways, it was the '70s that defined Boston rock for years to come (though you could say that for music in general). Along with sassy rockers Aerosmith, the **J. Geils Band** became one of this town's most beloved institutions with its steamrolling blues-pop, and a frontman to complement Aerosmith's Steven Tyler in jive-talking **Peter Wolf**. Both groups still hold up well in Boston history (and even the present, thanks to last year's welcome and overdue Geils Band reunion). You really can't say the same about our other late-'70s arena stars, the band **Boston** (whose studio-preened histrionics haven't held the test of time so well) and the **Cars**, who were music-video pioneers, but became even more dated.

Far more lasting from the late '70s was the impact of Boston's post-punk underground. **The Real Kids**, **DMZ** and **Willie Alexander** (once backed by the then-teenaged **Neighborhoods**) put the Rat on the map—in addition to appearances by the Police and Talking Heads at that now-closed Kenmore Square club. There was also an experimental streak alive in the theatrical **Human Sexual Response**, the jangly **Neats** and avant-punk **Mission of Burma**, whose "That's When I Reach For My Revolver" was covered by '90s techno-rocker Moby. Most of those bands lasted into the '80s, or their members found new acclaim, including hard-hitting Human's offshoot the **Zulus**, Mission of Burma's guitarist-turned-keyboardist **Roger Miller**, and DMZ veteran Jeff Conolly's garage-rocking **Lyres**. Garage rock was Boston's main trend of the '80s, and while bands like **Scruffy the Cat** (whose country tinge foreshadowed the '90s No Depression circuit) and the **Del Fuegos** broke nationally, it wasn't as mainstream stars—and that's the way the locals liked it.

Apart from the Cars, the closest that Boston got to producing a new-wave pop star was **Aimee Mann**, before her band **'Til Tuesday** became a passing flavor in the major-label combine that later chewed and spit out **O Positive** and **Big Dipper** (Mann reshaped herself into an exquisite singer-songwriter, enough to forgive her old spiked hairdo). And at the other end of the commercial spectrum, **Throwing Muses** and the **Pixies** broke big in England, then back in Boston, becoming highly influential. The female-fronted Muses combined poetry, punk and folk into an idiosyncratic pre-Riot Grrls blend, while the Pixies even inspired Nirvana with punk-pop that was sonically harsh but rich in dynamics.

The latter part of the '80s also signaled the rise of teen-pop, first with Roxbury's **New Edition**, then Dorchester's **New Kids on the Block**, whose members haven't quite been able to compete with the younger Backstreet Boys or N'Sync in recent comebacks. But the underground continued to nurture its own stars in the early '90s, graduating the **Lemonheads** (with alterna-hunk Evan Dando), **Juliana Hatfield**, **Buffalo Tom**, **Letters to Cleo**, **Tracy Bonham**, **Jen Trynin** and the **Dambuilders**. **Morphine** defined a bohemian local scene with its smoky jazz-blues cool before Mark Sandman's fatal heart attack last year, and the Bosstones predated, rode and outlasted the '90s ska-punk trend with their populist fervor. The past year has also seen the major label ascent of the poppy **Push Stars** and **Guster**, and especially the metallic rockers **Godsmack**. And when it comes to Boston's next across-the-boards star, put your money on Norwell's blues-rocking **Susan Tedeschi**—though, like idol Bonnie Raitt before her, Tedeschi has also bolted the confines of Boston residency to seal her fame. iB

Going In for the Score

Boston musicians find alternate ways to be heard.

BY RACHEL STRUTT

These days it's hard to find a flippin' video on MTV. Meanwhile, over at the WB and Fox networks, it's hard to find a show that doesn't resemble a video—what with shows like "Dawson's Creek" and "90210," soap-opera candy set against pop soundtracks. Dubious content aside, landing a song on such a show is huge for up-and-coming bands. And increasingly, Boston musicians are getting in on the act—not just breaking into TV, but commercials and film as well.

Jay Sweet, music supervisor at Fort Point Entertainment Group in South Boston, works full-time helping musicians do just this. "We work on the national scale," explains Sweet, "but we're especially kind to Boston bands," he adds quickly. Recently, Sweet got local band Angry Salad's poppy "The Milk Shake Song" into a "Felicity" episode, and the band's sound instantaneously reached a mass audience of teenagers and gen-Xers—precisely the demographic that represents the majority of music sales.

Similarly, Michael Creamer has clinched many TV and commercial deals for several of the big-name Boston acts he manages, including the Sheila Divine, the Gravel Pit and Todd Thibaud. You may have heard the Sheila Divine's "Opportune Moment" on Cambridge Soundwork's TV ad, the Gravel Pit's distinctive sound scoring ESPN's "X-Games," or Thibaud's songs on "JAG" or "The Promised Land." "I think it's an outlet for more exposure that bands need to find in this day and age—especially young bands," says Creamer. "It's a creative way to bring attention to your band, and it obviously brings in more income."

Angry Salad, one of many local bands breaking into TV.

What sort of income? One to five grand for a short TV or local commercial spot, up to 25 grand for a nationally broadcast ad, and well into the five figure range for a film score. Sweet says, "It used to be that a band had sold out if its music got into a commercial, but this has changed. Now it's a way to get noticed; there's no longer a negative stigma associated with it."

Beyond using media placement simply for promotion, there are many Bostonians creating music specifically for TV or the big screen. Take Peter Ducharme, a.k.a. "Master Cylinder," a local music producer and rocker (the Junior Communist Club). Over the past few years, he's worked on Arnold's Volkswagen campaign creating slick, hip instrumentals—including the score for an Emmy-nominated Jetta commercial. Then there's Brother Cleve, a musician (ex-Combustible Edison) and DJ, who has been working with Cinemax for over four years, creating music for the "interstitials," the breaks in between movies. "They want stuff that relates to soundtracks," he says, "and seeing that I have about 700 soundtracks, it's not too hard."

There's also "Skeggy" Kendall (ex-Tackle Box and Tough Skins), who has scored several films including *You Drive Me Crazy*, a 20th-Century Fox teen flick out last fall. In addition to writing two songs and scoring the film, he acted as a music consultant, instructing teen actors how to look like a real rock band. "I know it doesn't sound like real work," he laughs, "but I *was* useful. When I walked in, they had these silly little amps onstage, so I yell 'Props! Get some real amps in here—and a real drum set!'"

The list of Boston rockers exploring TV, advertising and film goes on and on, proving there are alternate ways to make a rock 'n' roll buck.

AEROSMITH, HERSH, J. GEILS: PAUL ROBICHEAU (3)

Clery's

Coogan's Bluff

Jose McIntyre's

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The Black Rose

RÓISÍN DUBH

The Purple Shamrock

10 players on the

T Max

There may be glossier 'zines in town, like *New England Performer*, or the impressive *Instant*, but the *Noise* brings together the local rock community like no other. T Max, the charmingly eccentric *Noise* editor, launched the publication some 18 years ago following a surprisingly fruitful session with a career counselor. From a stapled newsletter of five xeroxed pages to a 72-pager with a production run of 5,000 (which fits perfectly, notes T Max, into the back of his car/distribution vehicle), the *Noise* has evolved slowly but steadily. The 'zine is the ultimate guide to the scene, with its band profiles, CD and show reviews, a lively, often heated, letters section, and an enormously entertaining news-meets-gossip column.

T Max brings it to life every month, overseeing a small legion of writers, copyeditors, photographers and designers—who all work for free. Back in the '80s, T Max expanded his publishing enterprise by producing local rock trading cards and Rock Jocks, an oh-so-sexy line up of local rockers donning nothing but jockstraps. T Max is also a founding member of the Boston Rock Opera, which began back in 1991, with a low-budget performance of *Jesus Christ Superstar* in the Middle East bakery. In last year's operatic rock show, you may have caught him as S.F. Sorrow's drunken dad.—*RS*

Shred

He makes the rest of us look like slackers, going out some six nights a week, often criss-crossing town to catch several shows. Shred's dizzying career in the music biz all started with *Frontal Assault*, a hard-core/punk rock fan 'zine (one issue included an early interview with the Beastie Boys). At Emerson College, he made his foray into radio, starting with a hardcore radio show (he once played 52 songs in a half hour), went on to become rock coordinator, and and then music director. Around the same time, he started DJing at clubs like the Paradise and the now defunct Storyville. Later, he spent a year at WFNX before joining WBCN, where he's still co-local music director along with Juanita the Scene Queen. As part of his 'BCN gig with Juanita, he co-DJs "Boston Emissions" and orchestrates the station's annual Rock 'n' Roll Rumble, scouring the city for up-and-coming bands and serving as a judge.

Shred is also a regional A&R scout for Columbia; he DJs at the Paradise; he books the Sky Bar—and whenever possible, an all ages shows at venues like Karma and Bill's. Shred also has his own label, Espo Records, which boast budding acts like the World Is My Fuse and the Zips. "Obviously I draw pay checks from certain places," says the friendly Shred, "but the music scene is really important to me. Without it, life would be less fun." And without Shred, the local scene would be less fun.—*RS*

Nabil (left) and Joseph

Joseph and Nabil Sater

Lebanese brothers Joseph and Nabil Sater never set out to own a rock club. But you'd never know it from watching the generous, laid-back interaction they share with patrons of the Middle East. "We just make people comfortable," says Joseph, who can be seen every night at his corner table in the restaurant they first bought in 1974, and later slowly added an eclectic range of music.

A dozen family members work at the multi-room club, but when dayside guardian Nabil says, "We're just a big, happy family," he's including folks from the rock environs: "We're liberal people and just open to all different energies and styles and music." They're savvy, but also provide quiet, charitable support for everyone from musicians and visual artists to the Central Square community-at-large, giving a welcoming face to the center of the local rock scene. —*PR*

Mark Thompson and Aaron Turner

There are many great labels in town, but few can boast the rapid growth of five-year-old Hydrahead records, run by twenty-somethings Aaron Turner and Mark Thompson. Hydrahead's business doubles every six months, and their handsome, user-friendly Web site gets a whopping half million hits per month. Releasing primarily hardcore, it's obvious these guys know how to tap into their market of music-hungry 17- to 26-year-olds. "I fall into that demographic," says Thompson, and I buy an assload of records."

It started with a belief in treating bands well (passing along as much profit as possible) and superb packaging and sound. Following a few local hardcore releases, it has since expanded its roster to include national acts like Botch and Buzzo-ven. But the local up-and-coming band Cave In remains the label's showpiece, selling over 25,000 CDs—huge numbers for an indie label. Turner is the label's founder and creative force—a Mass Art graduate responsible for the label's stunning graphics (he also has works included in the upcoming "Polar Bar in the Snow" exhibit at the Mills Gallery) and a member of two local bands, Old Man Gloom and Isis. Thompson represents the label's business arm, and is also Scissorfight's manager, CEO of Tortuga Recordings (Milligram, Roadsaw) and a writer for *Instant* and *Hexbender* 'zines. Together, these guys represent the new (hard) guard of the Boston rock scene.—*RS*

Mark (left) and Aaron

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: CHRISTINA CATURANO, ERIN NEDELL, TRACY POWELL, CHRISTINA CATURANO

scene

Lilli Dennison

Wherever Lilli Dennison goes, hipness follows. "If you told me 20 years ago that I'd still be a person who's fueling the engine of what's going on in this city, I wouldn't have believed it," says Dennison, who arrived in 1979, and began booking at the Rat. She also managed such rising bands as the Del Fuegos, the Flies, the Turbines, Scruffy The Cat and the Titanics through the '80s, then moved to the Green Street Grill in 1989, establishing a scenesters' hang with free music on Mondays. Last year, she helped launch the Milky Way, then began a Monday series where local celebrities spin records at Cambridge's B-Side Lounge.

Now she just became a co-owner of the old Club 3 in Somerville, to be rechristened Lilli's this spring. As the Midas-touch gal says, "I've been in training for this a long time."—*PR*

Andrew Stahl

When Andrew Stahl was graduating from Northeastern in 1993, he was scared about getting a job. So he started Gamelan Productions to find gigs for groups in the jam-band community. Gamelan still manages Jiggle The Handle and books seven other bands, which each play 100-plus shows a year, in addition to annually promoting 125 concerts at venues from the Middle East and Roxy to the Orpheum and Somerville Theatres.

Besides steering dates for jam-groovers like Medeski Martin & Wood and .moe, he's delved into other styles, including hip-hop, booking the Roots at Gamelan's co-produced Berkshire Mountain Music Festival, which approaches its third summer. "If the music has soul, if it moves me, 'I'm gonna work with it," says Stahl, whose company has been redubbed Gamelan Interactive to reflect its interwoven departments and internet ticketing plans. "I'm all about experiences."—*PR*

Turn That Dial

Bob Dubrow's "The Pipeline" showcases purely local fare.

When your body starts to convulse upon hearing Britney or Korn for the umpteenth time, tune in one of the local rock shows listed here and find instant relief. In addition to spinning local music, all these DJs invite bands into the studio for interviews and live performances.

Sunday

WBCN 104.1
Juanita the Scene Queen and Shred, *Boston Emissions*
9pm-12am

WFNX 101.7
Mark Hamilton, *Boston Product*
9:30-11pm

WAAF 107.3
Carmelita, *Bay State Rock*
11pm-1am

Tuesday

WMBR (M.I.T.) 88.1
Bob Dubrow, *The Pipeline*
8-10pm

Wednesday

WMFO (Tufts) 91.5
Mikey Dee, *On the Town*
9pm-12am

WMWM (Salem State) 91.7
Shilo McDonald and Anngelle Wood, *The Nor'Easter*
9pm-12am

Friday

WZBC (Boston College) 90.3
Tracey Stark, *Mass. Ave and Beyond*
4-6pm—*RS*

Mike Denneen

"I was the band geek who liked recording—pushing buttons and turning knobs," says Denneen, who started out as a musician. More recently, he's produced bands like Morphine, Letters to Cleo, Gigolo Aunts and Guster. And although Denneen shies away from taking any credit, his technical craftsmanship and deft pop sensibility clearly served these bands well on their way to national fame. His career started back

in '86, when he and John Lupfer took a crack at a Cave dogs album—the first in a long line of successful recordings.

Four years ago, Denneen and Lupfer launched Q Division Records, now one of the city's premier labels and home to local talents like the Gravel Pit and the Sheila Divine. "We do everything from soups to nuts—producing, marketing and graphics," he says of Boston-based Q Division (soon to relocate to a larger studio in Davis Square). Denneen sums up his achievements simply: "I just try to get the best out of people, and make sure it's on tape," he adds with a laugh.—*RS*

Mikey Dee

"When most kids were collecting baseball cards, I was collecting 45s," says Mikey Dee, a tireless champion of homegrown rock. From nine to five, Dee works at the Planetary Group, doing radio promotion and music consulting for local clients like the Banjo Spiders and Amusia. But Dee also promotes local rock on his own time—and is famous for his entertaining mass emailings, which alert industry types and scenesters of noteworthy upcoming shows.

Then there's "On the Town," Dee's radio show on Tuft's WMFO. He spins purely local stuff, conducts lively interviews and dishes out local rock dirt—"I do have a tendency to talk," he laughs. Dee is also a writer—a long-time contributor to the *Noise*, and an amateur thespian—a frequent member of the of the annual Boston Rock Operas. "I get bored doing one thing very easily," he says. Evidently.—*RS*

Billy Ruane

Ever-modest, manic scenester Billy Ruane tries to turn attention to other bookers, from peers Joyce Linehan and Skeg Kendall to Jonathan LaMaster, head of avant-garde improvisers Saturnalia and Sublingual Records. But Ruane was the first to regularly book rock at the Middle East in the late '80s, and continued to program shows at the Green Street Grill. Now he's back at the Middle East Corner, presenting musicians who might play accordion, cello or African kora on non-weekend evenings, plus acoustic rockabilly Sunday afternoons.

He takes credit only for being "a spastic fan," noting, "I just feel lucky there is this community of musicians to work with." But when you see Ruane out at a show, especially in one of his uninhibited dance bursts (like our own Austin Powers), you know you're in the right place.—*PR*

Candace Avery

This April, more than 200 bands and hordes of music professionals will swarm Boston at the annual schmooze fest officially called the Kahlua Boston Music Awards Conference. Savvy business woman Candace Avery founded the awards 14 years at a sold-out Opera House with new wave bands like 'Til Tuesday performing—and has helped cast Boston acts in the national limelight ever since. Four years ago, Avery expanded the event by adding the New England Music Showcase (NEMO), a music industry conference with panels discussing topics like publishing rights and band management.

Avery is quick to point out, music *is* a business—and all 200 NEMO entrants (including all members of a band) are granted free admission to seminars, empowering them to make it in the rock biz they love.—RS

behind the

Meet Heidi. From left to right, it's bassist Sandy Monticello, guitarist Janet Egan, drummer Lisa Pimental and singer Jill Considine. We caught up with these punk-pop-metal rockers on the night of a Middle East gig, chronicling the hard work that goes along with every show—beyond the 30 glam-filled minutes onstage.

6pm. Load In

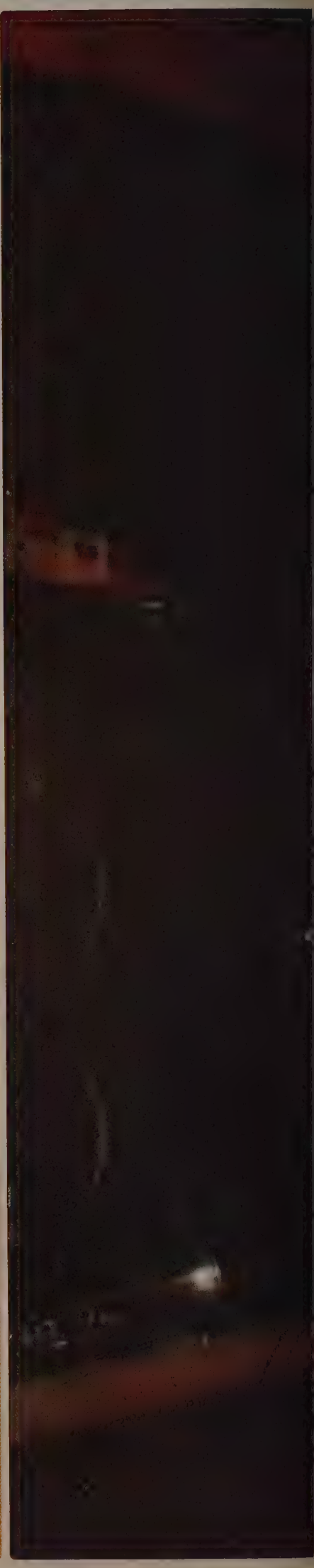
Heidi members pack their weighty musical loot into a van, find their way to Central Square, and proceed to load in. They're seen here cheerfully hauling their instruments and heavy equipment in the bitter cold.

7:30pm. Soundcheck

This is the band's chance to go over things with the house sound guy, hooking things up onstage, doing a slew of microphone checks and adjusting levels. Then there are a few hours to make up (or go over) the set list, practice some songs, prepare and tune instructions.

10pm. Backstage

Frantic last-minute phone calls, locating missing bandmates and, of course, sprucing up just minutes before showtime, are all part of the pre-show excitement (if not panic). Heidi uses the Middle East's upstairs office as a makeshift dressing room.



music

THERE'S A WHOLE LOTTA HAULING, TUNING AND PRIMPING THAT GOES WITH A BAND'S SHORT STINT ONSTAGE.

Photographs by Jackie Bayne

10:30pm. Showtime

The tube socks are on as Heidi takes the stage, tuned in and turned on. This is what it all comes down to—the performance—and the band puts on a energetic show that fires up fans.

1pm. Aftermath

The big payback: Two vocal chords and three glasses of water later, Heidi recovers enough to sit back, laugh and split up the dinero.

By Erin Hagedorn

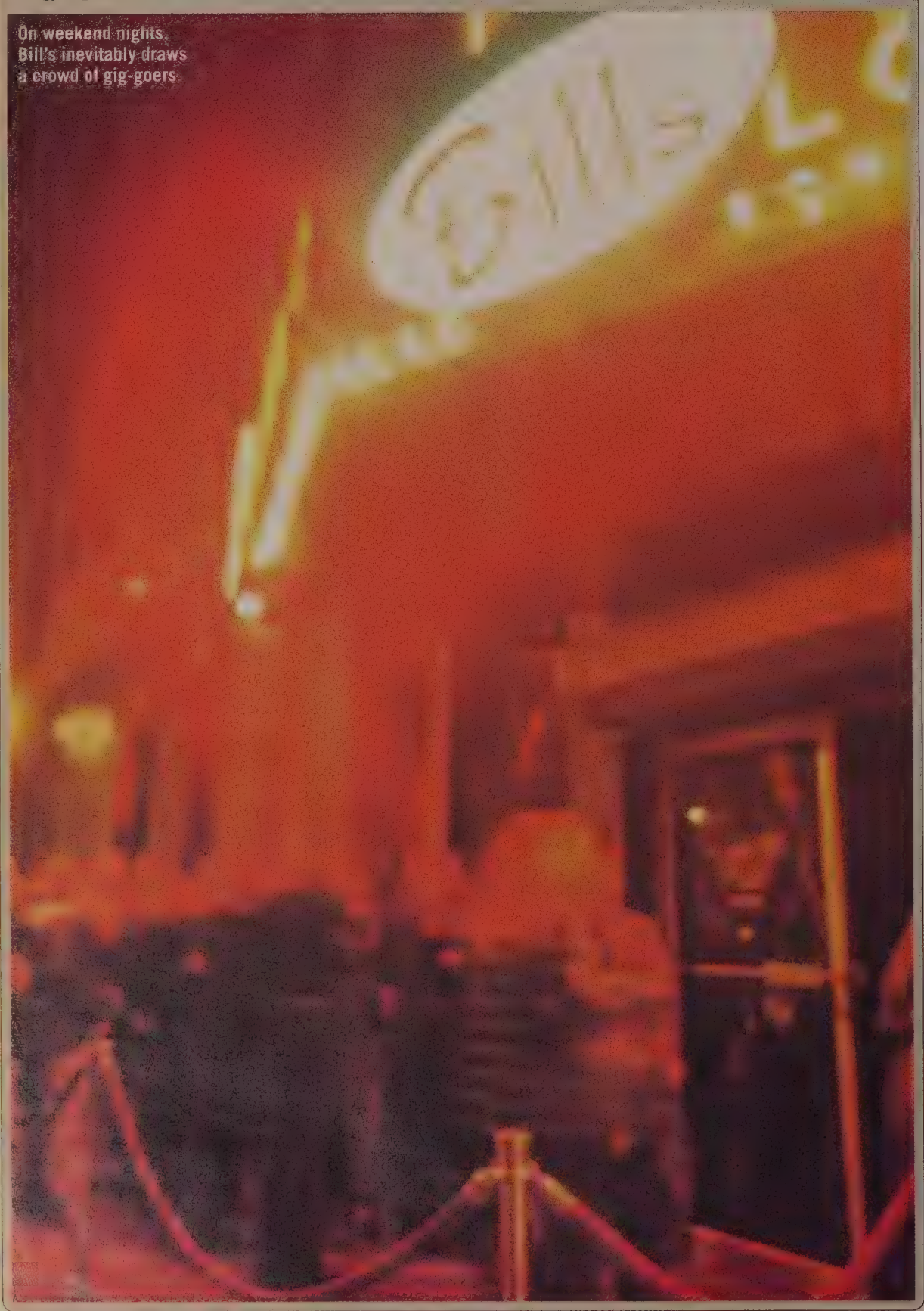
rockin' venues

Bill's Bar

5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (437-0117)

Sometimes a club is spawned by accident. In 1989, Patrick Lyons saw a sign—literally—discarded by a Mass. Ave. bar that was being demolished. He took it, and the Bill's Bar sign sat flashing outside of the storage room at Venus Di Milo. A week later, he got a call from Peter Wolf and Mick Jagger. They wanted to go to one of Patrick's places, but it was a Monday night in this town, and nothing was open (shocker). The idea came to life: a music club that stays open seven days a week.

The rest is history. Bill's attracts an 18-40 crowd—everything from rockers to dockers, midnight vultures to dancing queens, depending on the night. Other nights also see the regular roster of top groups. "When it comes down to it, these joints all book the same bands," says booking agent Jeff Marshall, who also works for Karma. "What sets Bill's apart is that we take the nightclub environment of Lansdowne Street and translate that to a live concert experience." What also sets Bill's apart is its ability to tap into the nostalgia market with a killer retro decor, wavy bar, funky lighting and black-and-white portraits of dead rock stars. That and high-energy regular rockers like the Pills, El Camino, My Favorite Relative, Seventeen and Ms. Pigeon.



On weekend nights, Bill's inevitably draws a crowd of gig-goers

The crowd pushes up against the stage at the Middle East, Upstairs.

The Middle East

472-480 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (864-EAST)

Hands down, this venue is the city's strong suit in fostering the indie music scene—and their showcase Monday is probably where half the bands in Boston get their start. It's a unique spot—a terrific ethnic restaurant, a rock club and an art gallery all rolled into one. The Middle East's three music rooms (Upstairs, Downstairs and the Corner) offer a deluge of live entertainment nightly—from the four sets Upstairs and the bigger-name Downstairs gigs to the acoustic and experimental acts in the Corner.

Its success is partly due to the efforts of owners Joseph and Nabil Sater. Their nurturing and inclusive attitude has earned them a rep: marketing manager Mahmood Shaikh says, "We take pride in the fact that our crowd includes folks of different walks of life. Artists, students, musicians and professionals."

Their rock roster regularly includes Tugboat Annie, Cherry 2000, Karate, Fuzzy and the Upper Crust. Getting bigger and better every year—several members of the staff launched Middle East Productions last year, booking shows at other venues around town.

T.T. the Bear's Place

10 Brookline St., Cambridge (492-2327).

Around the corner from the Middle East is T.T. the Bear's Place, whose claim to fame is that it was the first rock club in Central Square. (The Middle East only had jazz and belly dancing in its early days). It began as a restaurant in 1973, one block away from its present location. Upon its move, T.T.'s was immediately transformed into a hot spot for local rockers, and quickly earned a rep as a launching pad for up-and-coming local and national acts, partly due to the efforts of owners Miles Cares and Bonney Bouley. They've also carved out a niche in the rockabilly and alternative country scenes with the likes of the Old 97's, Blue Mountain and the Bottle Rockets.

T.T.'s provides a friendly and intimate atmosphere. "People feel like they're right on top of the bands, which is cool," says Randi Millman, who has been booking T.T.'s for the past four years. Up to four acts play per night—most bands stick around after their sets to hang out and watch the other bands. Regulars include the Sheila Divine, the Raging Teens and Damn Personals. Apart from the full bar, pinball machine and big-screen TV that attract distinctly unpretentious patrons and a handful of hipsters, regulars

BILL'S: WENDY MIMRAN; MIDDLE EAST: TRACY POWELL

claim that the Bear's most outstanding feature are the new acoustic Mondays, "The Other Side of the Bear," in which local rockers play with friends in a coffeehouse, bohemian atmosphere.

Johnny D's

17 Holland St., Somerville (776-2004)
Although Johnny D's is renowned for booking heavy hitters in the blues and roots genres, it also reserves time for great local acts. Johnny D's is best known for its spectacular roots music—on any given night you may see Cajun fiddle masters from Louisiana, British folk stars or some of Boston's finest rockers. Johnny D's (owned and operated by the Delellis family for the past 30 years) draws an all-age congenial and mature crowd. Mondays see a new residency with long-time Bostonian Mickey Bones and the Hot Tamale Brass Band. Through Jan. 29, catch regular roots rockers Brian Templeton (ex-Radio King) and Mike Welch.

Harper's Ferry

158 Brighton Ave., Allston (254-9743)
Across town in Allston is the newly renovated Harper's Ferry, whose fare is evenly divided between R&B, rock and blues (see page 70 for info on their annual blues fest). Its exposed brick walls, fully equipped kitchen, artboards and pool tables have seen what owner Charles Abel calls "15 years of bliss," as the rock keeps a-rollin' weekly. Formerly a men's bar named Riley's Pub, this laid back spot's occupants show up in casual dress and come for the friendly atmosphere to hear homegrown music from bands like Entrain, Giggle the Handle, Another Planet and Heavy Metal Horns. Another longtime bastion for roots music—particularly reggae and hip-hop—is the Western Front, just across the river.

The Milky Way

403 Centre Street, Jamaica Plain (524-3740)
The Milky Way opened on the eve of a blue moon last April in Jamaica Plain. In order to save a bowling alley from being converted into medical offices, Bella Luna—the restaurant next door, with the assistance of legendary Boston promoter/booking agent Lilli Dennison—transformed the space into a celestially-decorated fun house with pool tables, comfy couches, Bella Luna food, live shows, and of course, bowling. Booking agent Darcy Leonard, who doubles as a musician involved in JP's Bad Girrls Studio, explains the Milky Way concept: "The JP community is known for its diversity. This applies to the musicians and people who frequent the Milky Way. The crowd's everything from suits to art students—the unifying feature is open-minded people who want to chill and bowl and see good music."

On any given night, you'll find people moving to a combo of rock, pop, Latin, reggae, rockabilly, lounge, electronica and mod. Residencies rock the gamut from the Cha Cha Cha Allstars and Solaris to an electronic DJ night with WZBC's DJ Mark Flynn and Brother Cleve. Regular bands include Fuzzy, the Sterlings, Babaloo and the Fly Seville. When the shows are over, the Milky Way staff often heads on over to another JP gem for last call—the Midway Cafe, where musicians play six nights a week.

Shoot some pool, catch a band—the Sky Bar lets you do it all at once.

Sky Bar

518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (623-5223)
Who wouldn't welcome a unpretentious bar where you can expect the late-night unexpected? With zero attitude and an '80s flashback feel, Somerville's Sky Bar is one of the newer rock venues in town—much to the surprise of many. "It used to be this pool bar called TJ Snookers, a local watering hole where fights used to break out regularly—the owners had enough and decided to change everything around," says Shred, the boisterous booking agent. "It opened as a sports bar. During the day, it's sort of a local hangout." He continues, "Karaoke night on Wednesday is akin to the *Blair Witch Project* in the scariness factor. Then there's the rock bands in many of your favorite flavors." Bands play Thursday-Saturday, and Shred is optimistic about booking Monday and Tuesday in the near future. After you get a taste of Sky Bar, head to another new and equally surprising venue for bands: the wonderfully divey Abbey Lounge in Inman Square, which books bands Fri. and Sat. nights (a word of mouth club only as they don't have a phone number!). Or check out the posh, newly opened Aquarium in Davis Square, which has live music Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

The Linwood

69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (267-8644)
This Fenway Euro alternative totes the motto: Cheap Covers, Booze and Billiards. Right on. And beyond pool and drafts on the cheap, it has become a great spot to catch bands. The Linwood was opened by the McGrail Family, who named the bar after the Rhode Island street the family first lived on when they came to America from Ireland. For the past 10 years, the bar has assumed its garage rock club incarnation Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights with bands that have become staples in the local rock scene.

Jennifer Malone (also of Black & White PR), who has handled booking since last September, is credited with the club's recent success in the live entertainment department. "Pretty much all local bands stop at the Linwood to rock," she says. "For the past nine years, we've been a strong supporter of local music, offering a comfortable alternative to Lansdowne Street." The past year has seen some changes at the Linwood—an expanded and renovated stage, including the addition of a professional lighting system. Also, in June of last year, the Linwood Grill and BBQ opened next door.

Lizard Lounge

1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-0759)
Porter Square's pint-sized Toad, which boasts a huge range of local rockers, is to be thanked for the creation of the ultra-hip Lizard Lounge, which provides some of the most unique, avant-garde live music around. Toad was so successful right off the bat that the owners dreamt of a bigger place to showcase local bands—they found it beneath the Cambridge Common, up the street.

The Lizard Lounge is a mecca for the non-pretentious scenester—it's where local listeners, musicians, poets and artists conglomerate in mellow camaraderie. There's dim red lighting, intimate tables and wooden church pews and a smattering of oriental rugs. "I think of the Lounge as an experimental place—almost like having a live rehearsal of your high school band in your parents' basement. Your parents are out, a few friends come by, you drink some beers—or in this case, martinis—and hope you don't get caught," says booking agent Billy Beard, who has been involved since Toad's and the Lizard's inception.

Every other Thursday is Micro Vard's stunning Club d'Elf—a revolving forum for live dub-trance-groove excursions. IB

See page 71 for more music venues.

Mr. Airplane Man plays at the snug Plough & Stars.

Plough & Stars

912 Mass Ave., Cambridge (441-3455)
You won't find a more comfy intimate place to relax to some more mellow rock tunes than this tiny Irish pub which attracts worthy bands on a nightly basis. The Plough draws a motley crowd that routinely fill the place with gusto and then some. Since '69, patrons have been sitting at the bar drinking Guinness, Bass Ale and Harp Lager. Although country and R&B filter in on various nights, rock prevails. Graduates include G Love and Special Sauce, Morphine and Talking to Animals. These days, you'll see the Dave Johnson band, Firecat, Mr. Airplane Man and Paved Country. On Sundays, the instrumental surf-like Ray Corvair Trio plays, bringing with them their regular entourage of groupies. Speaking of charming little pubs in Cambridge, we can't forget about the Kendall Cafe whose folk, blues, alternative and pop greatly add the the local music scene. And up in Somerville is the Kirkland Cafe, whose Club Bohemia guise presents grass roots bands and personalities.

Rocking the E Waves

Before heading out, check out local bands by logging on

Bostonbands.com
One of the more comprehensive local rock sites out there, it has hundreds of Boston band bios and easy-to download songs by nearly all of them. With post-your-own reviews, links to the bands' personal Web sites and a concert calendar.

MP3.boston.com
Part of Boston.com, this site provides heaps of downloadable music from Boston and beyond. Best feature: a spotlight page every Monday with in-depth news on a featured band.

MP3.com
The most user-friendly of the bunch, this national music site has a local guide option where you can search by genre, artist or event—Boston rock alone produced three pages of bands, all of which have downloadable samples.

Radioboston.com
Live EJs spin the best of the vibrant Boston music scene from six channels. With many live shows from local rock clubs (including T.T. the Bear's, Kendall Cafe and Club Passim), you can select music from an online schedule.

www.thenoise-boston.com
Boston's beloved 'zine offers a significant handful of MP3s, along with reviews, features and profiles—plus a substantial amount of gossip. Download Betty Goo, Caged Heat, Firepig, Make Lisa Rich, among others. —*EH*

SKY BAR: WENDY MIMRAN; PLOUGH & STARS: PAUL ROBICHEAU

eat up

FASHION BY MARY NOBILE-KING · PHOTOGRAPHS BY BETH SCHNECKENBURGER

Two gorgeous women, two lanky brothers and one long-haired rocker.

HONEYGLAZED

look good enough to eat—and their sound is equally delicious. Check out the band's bass-happy, sultry rock music Friday, Feb. 4 at the Lizard Lounge in Cambridge.

(l to r): Collage wears D&G bustier, $110; matching jacket, $220; Iceberg Jeans floral pant, $230; Alexis Bihar necklace, $95; all from Saks Fifth Avenue. Tim wears Dolce & Gabbana red suede jacket, $865; Issey Miyake Men ice blue knit shirt, $90; both from Neiman Marcus. Kris wears Steven Digeronimo dress, $195, from Saks Fifth Avenue.

boston rocks

Left page (l to r): Tim wears Prada navy suit, $1690; pink ruffle shirt, $780; pink tie, $104; all from Neiman Marcus. Kris wears black strapless top, $125; black pant, $245; both from DKNY; DKNY black sequin slide, $168; Alexis Bihar red necklace, $140; rings, $34-$38; all from Saks Fifth Avenue; Nicky wears black suit, $328; red shirt $68; red tie, $38; shoe, $100; all from Benetton. Collage wears Kay Unger fuschia dress, $395; DKNY leather shoe, $160; both from Saks Fifth Avenue. Dave wears gray suit, $328; gray shirt, $68; gray tie, $38; shoe, $100; all from Benetton.

This page (l to r): Dave wears royal blue sweater, $198, from DKNY; Collage wears D&G sweater, $268; Laundry olive pant, $118; both from Neiman Marcus. Nicky wears camel knit shirt, $68; gray flat front pant, $118; shoe, $100; all from French Connection.

Who What Where

BENETTON MEN'S STORE
Copley Place
437-7745

DKNY
37 Newbury St.
236-0476

EMPORIO ARMANI
210-214 Newbury St.
262-7300

FRENCH CONNECTION
206-208 Newbury St.
247-1301

NEIMAN MARCUS
Copley Place
536-3660

SAKS FIFTH AVENUE
Prudential Center
262-8500

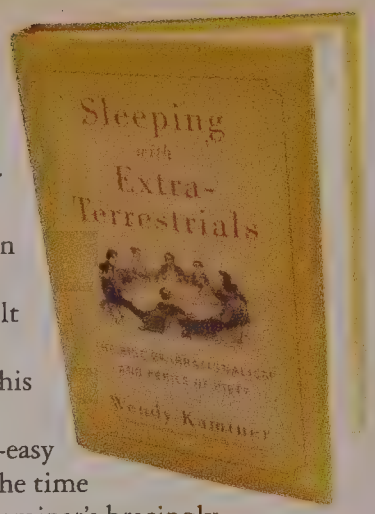
STYLIST
Kristin Hippe/TEAM

HAIR AND MAKEUP
Amy Kernahan/TEAM

HONEYGLAZED ARE:
Tim Catz, lead bass
Kris Canning, bass
Collage, keyboards/vocals
David Kuland, lead vocals
Nicky Kuland, drummer

Ticked Off By An Angel

A social critic, from liberal Cambridge,Wendy Kaminer takes on a bevy of believers in *Sleeping with Extra-Terrestrials.*



Ever since *I'm Dysfunctional, You're Dysfunctional*, her book that wittily skewered self-help and aspects of the recovery movement, Wendy Kaminer has been in an "en garde!" position in relation to many of the popular pious practices of our time. And if you've felt irritated and manipulated by such phenomena as Deepak Chopra's glib appropriation of "quantum" this or that, Marianne Williams' creamy narcissism, the angel fad, Saint Di, "past life regression," or the too-easy acceptance granted to "recovered memory" during the time when some therapists rode that wave uncritically, Kaminer's bracingly rational, proudly "irreligious" stance will hit the spot. She explores the many ways that un-skeptical credulity leads people astray, sometimes half-benignly, sometimes all the way into dangerous and crazy cults. Even feminism, frequently a hard-headed thing, contains pockets of belief in which women's alleged intuition and talent for emotional connection shades right over into squishy victimhood. In arguing against, Kaminer is simultaneously arguing for a broad liberal agenda which, she shows, gets worrisomely obscured by these drifters into mush.

The Tabby Valet

943-CATS for James Klash-Harrell of The Purrfect Groomer, cat-grooming chez vous. Group rates available, and senior citizen (the owners) discounts. $45 and up.

James Klash-Harrell's colorful van, The Barking Lot, has been an amusing fixture around the streets of Cambridge, funkily de-funking dogs in his van. Now he's added cats to his peripatetic grooming services, working on them in their tabby-friendly home lair, or out in the van. Originally a hairdresser, he says, "I've been around hair or fur forever." With his blues-singer voice, and smooth manner with animals, James approaches kitty glovelessly, fearlessly: He clips the nails and the hair between them that makes them slide on linoleum. He cleans the rear area and the ears. If necessary, Tabby is muzzled "Then if they bite me, it's by Braille." Some double-pawed cats have an ingrown nail that grows into a circle making then "cranky and mean." Snap! It's off. In that low-slung tummy zone where matting occurs, he uses his curry-comb style shedding blade to smooth out those "dreadlocks" curving it into the skin, and a slicker brush. A shaving-cream–like foam bath is followed by a lukewarm blow-drying for Farrah Fawcett-feline. Allopet, a dander treatment, is an extra as is Soft Paws, a waxy manicure that reduces furniture destruction.

Mopsy

Serendipitous shopping: Our unfettered correspondent seeks out the salubrious and the cerebral.

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY

Fine Chine-ing

Bliss, a store at 2257 Mass. Ave, Cambridge (497-4499) caters prettily to the needs of brides, grooms and other fine diners.

Is it the glittering sunshine of hopeful, pre-married love, or what? The merchandise at Bliss is at street level, not buried in a department store, and maybe that contributes to the sparkly look at this new shop featuring flatware, glassware, and china. Owner, Panamai, (truth in packaging; she's been married for three years!) gives cheerful, nurturing attention to the wedding-registering brides. Bliss also observes competitive pricing whereby prices, updated daily, stay at the new low numbers. Furthermore, she'll e-mail pictures so gift-sending friends can visually peruse the Limoges. The fine, fingernail-ping-ing china includes Bernardaud, Deshoulieres, Waterford, Wedgwood, and Rosenthal Classic by Fornasetti that juxtaposes a soulful face with architectural drawings. Thicker stoneware comes in merry European styles. The shiniest silver-colored dishes by Nambe, made from a 7-metal alloy used in the space shuttle, in sleekly swooping aerodynamic designs glide, amazingly, from stove to table. And Bliss's gorgeously rich Italian caramel colored glass bowls, and some other humorously decorated glass pieces with faces and attitude, may lure gift-givers off the beaten register. Other gifts are Zen-y and Asian in feel, like the shark-mouthed bottle opener.

CATS, BLISS: WENDY MiMRAN

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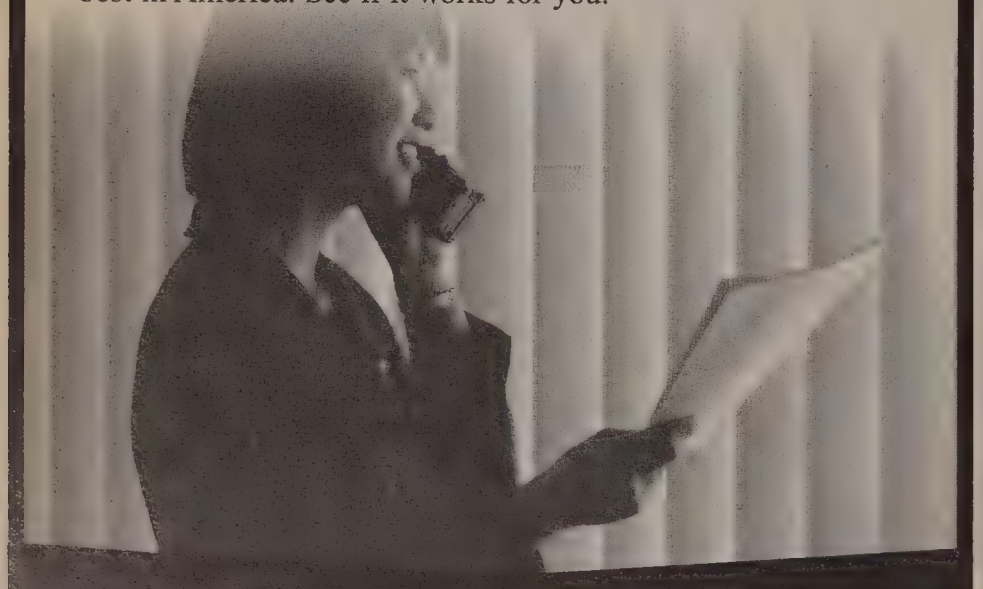

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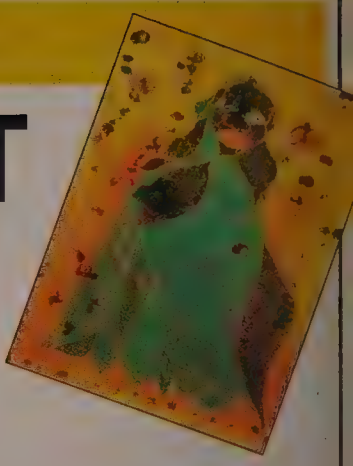

It must be the artwork.

BY EZRA DYER

What is art? This is a question that bothers me like a rash between the shoulder blades. I'm always asking people for their opinion on the subject, but they usually just give me a dirty look and move to a different urinal. So I took it upon myself to head down to the Brooklyn Museum of Art's *Sensation* exhibit to try to ascertain what defines "art" in the United States. And after viewing the entire show, I can confidently report that art is...poop.

That's right—I've seen the future of art, and it is poop. Down in New York, the art community is experiencing quite a movement (pardon the expression), and the star of *Sensation* is obviously the Virgin Mary painting with the elephant-dung breast (pictured above). For those patrons unsure of who this is supposed to be, it says "Virgin Mary" right there on the painting's stand, which incidentally is also made of elephant poo. And just in case the dung breast doesn't grab your attention, artist Chris Ofili has thoughtfully included a collage of butt pictures surrounding the good Virgin.

According to my audio tour, the butts suggest angels, although I suppose pictures of butts are certainly open to multiple interpretations. My audio tour also tells me that, when displayed outdoors, Ofili's works are "fragrant in the morning."

"Although I lack reliable access to an elephant, I have put my dog, George, on a high-fiber diet, and soon I will have finished sculpting a gay dung Jesus."

Moving on, we come to Jake Chapman's mannequin exhibit. Chapman's mannequins mimic those of your typical Sears items in that their genital areas are nothing more than smooth plastic. They depart from their more mundane brethren, however, in that the missing genitals down below have been prominently and realistically relocated to their faces—penis noses, anus mouths, and randomly-placed vaginas. I think we should all be grateful that Jake Chapman decided to become an artist and not a genetic scientist ("I give you Dolly, the penis-nosed sheep!").

I moved along to...the cow head covered in flies. In a large glass case, a rubber cow head is covered in flies, which are busy a) laying eggs, and b) crawling into a big bug zapper and dying. Contemplation of the Fly-O-Cuter might lead one to think, "Are we not all flies ourselves—living, reproducing, and dying—our own individual consciousnesses trivially insignificant entities in an environment far beyond our understanding or control?" Or alternately, you might conclude, "that thing sure is stinky for a fake cow head" before wandering across the room to check out the giant photocopied tabloid article about the topless midget. Which is what I did.

But even the bludgeoning irony of a towering midget gets old after awhile, so soon enough I joined the crowd shuffling past the boring old Rodin sculptures on their way to "Moo Chunks" (that might not be the actual title, technically), which comprised several cows cut into sections and placed in formaldehyde. That wacky Damien Hirst is at it again, and around the museum you'll find similar works, such as a pig cut in half and placed in formaldehyde, a sheep in formaldehyde, and a shark in—you guessed it—Coors Light.

But none of that is as disturbing as Richard Billingham's frightening photographs of his family. Billingham's parents make the rednecks from *Deliverance* look like the epitome of urban sophistication. "Unflattering Photo of the Year" award goes to Billingham's father, who doubtlessly now thinks twice before passing out drunk on the toilet when his picture-taking artist son is in the house. If I were Billingham's dad, I'd talk to Hirst about procuring some formaldehyde.

Well, all this art really fired up my own creative juices, as well as my taste for competition. I'm confident that Boston can give New York a resounding whupping in the controversial-art category if we all put our minds to it. Although I lack reliable access to an elephant, I have put my dog, George, on a high-fiber diet, and soon I will have finished sculpting a gay dung Jesus that I expect will cause religious protesters to burn down my house. But I've got a more immediate need at the moment. I've got to go take an art. iB

Think that's funny?

If so, email Ezra at *ezra@improper.com*.

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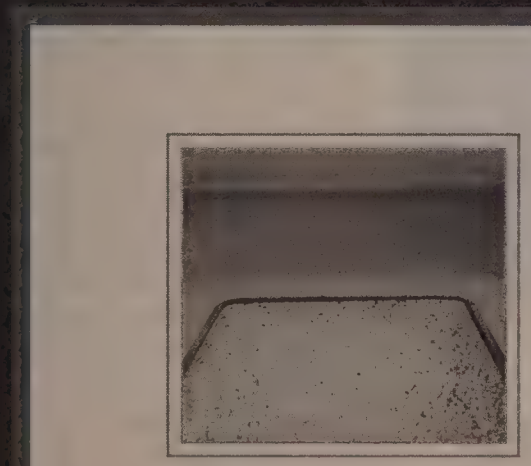

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Above, the main dining room at Ajanta, which seats about 100 guests; opposite page, left: restaurant partners Rufus P. Lewis (l) and Hiro T. Butaney; right: Fish Masala Platter: boneless rainbow trout served with mixed vegetables and rice.

Review

TEMPTATIONS OF THE TANDOOR

Ajanta brings Indian delicacies to Kendall Square. BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI

Very few people are neutral about Indian food. Its assertive aromas and exotic flavors are delightful to some and daunting to others. I count myself in the delighted camp, but my delight is tempered with relative ignorance. India is a huge country, with radical differences in foodstuffs and culinary traditions across its geographical expanse. Wheat, lamb, and dairy products, including yogurt and ghee (clarified butter), are staples of the northwest, while the cooking of Bengal and other eastern regions is based on mustard oil and dominated by seafood. Coconut, rice and chili peppers, the last introduced by the Portuguese in the early 16th century, mark the south. In fact, to say that one likes or dislikes "Indian food" is about as nonsensical as saying that one likes or dislikes "European food." The charm of Ajanta, a relatively new Indian restaurant in East Cambridge, is that it offers an opportunity to explore the entire spectrum of Indian cuisine, from north to south and east to west.

Ajanta is named for famous caves about 250 miles northeast of Bombay, which are decorated with frescos of the 5th and 6th century Gupta period. An example graces the cover of the restaurant's menu. Ajanta occupies a storefront across from the Cambridgeside Galleria, cheek by jowl with another Asian restaurant of note, the Helmand. Ajanta's large dining room accommodates almost 100 diners at tables smartly set with white tablecloths and napkins and paired with sturdy, upholstered seats on tubular metal chairs. From a high ceiling with exposed girders and ducts are suspended art deco lights, replicated by sconces along the dark green and sienna walls. While the light fixtures are tasteful, the light they provide is anemic, and the restaurant's illumination crosses the threshold from romantic to obscure, making it difficult to discern the details on one's plate.

For beverages, Ajanta offers a modest wine list and a more than serviceable selection of bottled beers, including Indian Kingfisher ($3.50) and Taj Mahal ($5.95 for a 22-ounce bottle). The latter is a full-bodied amber brew, a splendid accompaniment to Ajanta's food.

Ajanta's attentive, polite staff exhibited exemplary patience as we slowly negotiated the unfamiliar terrain of the exotic menu. Crisp, wafer-thin papadum, a bread made from lentils and accompanied by three dipping sauces—a tomato and onion salsa with a clean, hot bite, light green cilantro, soothing but exotic, and tamarind, at once sweet and tangy—assuaged our hunger as we perused the menu. Beyond the papadum, Ajanta offers a whole array of splendid Indian breads, from fluffy poori ($2.50) to multi-layered aloo paratha ($2.95), stuffed with potatoes.

In a Boston marked by double digit appetizer prices, the wonderful starters offered by Ajanta at $3 and $3.95 are true bargains. Vegetable Samosas, two hefty pyramids of seasoned potatoes and peas wrapped in a tender pastry, were superb, redolent of aromatic coriander. Fish Cutlet, consisting of ground fish flavored most pronouncedly with ginger, was deep fried to a dark brown—perhaps a trifle too brown—but its warm, spicy flavor persevered. Potato Bonda were large irregular spheres of lentil dumplings stuffed with onions and potatoes, also deep fried but with more finesse and refinement than the cutlet. Finally, Bhel Poori, a melange of vegetables and noodles, both soft and crisp, in sweet, sour and hot chutney, provided a whole range of tastes and textures.

Among the most noteworthy of Ajanta's

TANIA SCHNAPP (3)

main courses are the Tandoori selections: marinated meat or fish baked in a tandoor clay oven, the same oven used to make Ajanta's delightful breads. Tandoori Chicken ($7.50 for a half; $12.95 for a whole) was small but exquisite. The red crust, imparted by marinade of herb infused yogurt, sealed in the moisture. The dish arrived with an element of theatre, sizzling on an oval cast iron pan and accompanied by seared, near raw onions. Rogan Josh ($10.95), a specialty from India's northern province of Kashmir, consisted of chunks of lamb in a rich red pepper and yogurt sauce. Unfortunately, the quality of the lamb—some of the chunks were tough, others gristly—did not measure up to the wonderful, complex flavors of the sauce.

From the vegetarian menu choices, we elected the Saag Paneer ($7.95), cheese cubes in a spinach sauce. The sweetness of the cheese dominated the flavor of the spinach and gave the dish a slightly heavy cast. One page of the menu, designated "udupi corner," featured south Indian specialties. We relished in the Mysore Masala Dosai ($5.95), a large, paper thin rice crepe stuffed with hot chutney, potatoes and onions. This was a true, exotic delight, and even the fact that the hot chutney seemed to be aggregate in one corner of the crepe envelope, virtually exploding in the mouths when reached, did not detract from our overall enjoyment of this masterwork.

Dessert at Ajanta was far less impressive than what preceded it. We tried Gulab Jamun ($2.95), deep fried balls of generic dairy product served in a light sweet syrup and rose water. Pleasant enough, it was almost beside the point, leading us to conclude that we could well have stopped after the interesting and stimulating dishes that proceeded it.

Ajanta's fine food put me in mind of a conceit I articulated some years ago, on contemplating the popularity of Indian restaurants in England.

The conceit derives from my prior truncated career as a historian. The phenomenon of colonialism—that push by European powers, especially in the 18th and 19th centuries, to carve Asia and Africa into colonies and spheres of influence—was explained by thinkers like Marx, Mahan and Schumpeter as growing out of a search for markets and raw materials, or the product of strategists determined to maintain naval dominance, or an expression of the chauvinistic impulse to spread the "benefits" of English civilization. Nonsense. British colonialism, at least with respect to the island kingdom's adventures on the Indian subcontinent, was the product of some gourmandizing visionary who saw the depths to which English cuisine would fall. What better incentive to colonial adventures then the prospect of tapping the rich culinary heritage of India to satisfy the occasional urge of a resident or visitor in England to eat food with flavor? iB

Ajanta

145 First Street, Cambridge, 491-0075
Hours: Tue.-Fri.
Lunch: 11:30am-2:30pm;
Dinner: 5pm-10pm
Sat.-Sun. Lunch: 12am-3pm,
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Reservations: Yes
Credit Cards: All major cards except Discover
Handicapped Accessible: Yes
Parking: Available at the Cambridgeside Galleria
Liquor: Wine and beer only

Dish

TALK TO MR. FED

Don't forget the bankroll. BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

Left, a shrimp and avocado "smoothie,"one of the fanciful creations of chef Robert Fadiman (right).

It's open now. Really, truly, officially. Yes, the suspense was killing us, and yes, a couple of overexcited (or maybe psychic) food writers jumped the gun with premature praise for **The Federalist**.

But it's not open 'til the Fathman cooks. That's **Fathman** as in **Robert**, formerly of Grill 23 and currently heading up The Fed's kitchen on such a consuming schedule that he's practically living at XV Beacon. Which may not be such a hardship, given that the new "boutique hotel" that houses The Fed is decked out like Motel Six Hundred Million.

At XV Beacon, the lowest-priced room—just shy of $400 a night—is "classic," not "standard," thank you very much. The most tasteful furnishings money can buy include chrome bathroom fixtures that require meticulous polishing by hand, bed sheets with a stratospheric thread count, a gas fireplace that turns on and off by means of a convenient bedside switch, etc., etc.

As for The Fed, it's one of the most extravagantly appointed dining rooms in town. The color scheme is rich, refined, and masculine: deep brown and beige, with off-red accents. Weighty table linens have been specially woven to incorporate The Fed's logo. Flatware is by Christofle. The tiny domed silver butter dish, topped with a red glass bead, and the charming silver salt dish are so irresistible that they raise the specter of petty pilferage. Should diners put up a security deposit before being seated? Or can the Fed's clientele (Fed Heads?) be trusted to reach into their deep pockets only to pull out their platinum cards?

Probably. These are people with luxury, not larceny, in their souls. People who will appreciate a wine cellar that offers every single vintage of Opus One ever made, a bottle of 1795 Madeira, and a private dining room that seats 40.

Most importantly, they'll appreciate the cuisine of Robert Fathman. Because at The Fed, that's what it's really about: the food. If you've got this kind of money, this is your kind of dinner. The highest-priced starter ($34) is Kobe beef. It's specially flown in from Japan, where the cattle are massaged with sake and—like the clientele here—lead outrageously pampered lives on the way to the dinner table. Seared, sliced, and presented on platinum plates with braised cabbage, enoki mushrooms, and black trumpet jus, it's an eloquently compelling argument against vegetarianism.

Any of the appetizers, in fact, will excite your taste buds so much you'll be blushing before your entrée arrives. Blissfully rich and delicately sweet, lobster soup with puréed parsnip and fino sherry surrounds a large and tender nugget of lobster meat with a sensually creamy texture.

And then? A fanciful shrimp and avocado "smoothie," presented in a narrow slanted glass that looks like an artsy test tube. What first appears to be suspiciously whimsical turns out to pack an intense punch of flavor. Pick up the charred stick of sugar cane that looks like a straw, and you'll find it impales a grilled shrimp whose quick bath in the cool avocado liquid only briefly veils its peppery heat, which is further enhanced by juicy clinging bits of sugarcane.

Most impressive is Fathman's ability to combine luxury ingredients and inventive presentations in a way that never seems contrived or pretentious. It's not performance art; it's straightforward flavors created with confidence to appeal to the most discerning—and most monied—diners in Boston.

Detail: When The Fed first opened, the almonds served at the bar didn't meet chef Fathman's high standards. He quickly sought out better quality munchies. So when you overhear one bar staffer saying to another "careful with the chef's nuts!" they're simpy refilling the bowls. iB

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant? Send it to *dish@improper.com*

Tastings BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors

Submit updated press releases for tastings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings @improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

EVENTS

Anthony Spinazzola Foundation Gala Festival of Food and Wine

World Trade Center, 164 Northern Ave., Boston (344-4413). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Feb. 4, 7:30pm-12am. Creative black tie. $175. More than 120 restaurants will create their signature dishes alongside 90 international wineries. Proceeds benefit the Anthony Spinazzola Foundation's grants to hunger relief agencies, programs for the homeless and for culinary scholarships.

Boston Cooks! Dine Around

Various restaurants in Greater Boston (888-SEE-BOSTON). www.bostonusa.com. *Jan. 26-30.* More than 35 cookbook authors are paired with top local restaurants to create distinctive meals over the course of six days. Participating author/chefs include such local celebrities as **Colman Andrews** (*Saveur Cooks Authentic French*), **Deborah Madison** (*Vegetarian Cooking for Everyone*) and **Ming Tsai** (*Blue Ginger: East-Meets-West Cooking with Ming Tsai*).

Celebrity Chefs Culinary Program

Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Ave., Boston (267-5300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Through March 11, 1-3pm. $240/nine-weeks or $30/class. The hotel has brought together nine chefs and cookbook authors, including Ming Tsai, Jasper White and Mary Ann Esposito, for a nine-week program designed for all food lovers. Participants will learn the secrets of master chefs as well as some of the basic techniques in cooking. •Jan. 29: **Mary Ann Esposito**, host of the TV show "Ciao Italia" and author of *What You Knead* and *Mangia Pasta*. •Feb. 5: **Laurent Poulain**, executive chef at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel.

Boston Wine Festival 2000

Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE). www.bhh.com. *Jan. 15-April 7.* An annual three-month celebration of food and wine. See CityScope for more information on events.

Classes That Cook!

The Westin Copley Place, 10 Huntington Ave., Boston (262-9600). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Jan. 29-30. $199/two. Overnight only. Learn to cook from the pros at an overnight cooking weekend. **Georgeanne Brennan**, cookbook author of *Savoring France* and well-known authority on authentic French cuisine, gives a *tour de France*.

Guest Chef at Eat Restaurant

eat, 253 Washington St., Somerville (776-2889). Enjoy a menu prepared by a different, well-known local chef each evening. •Jan. 31: **Steve Bacykowski** from the EVOO. •Feb. 7: **Lindsay Gaffner** of Salts.

Linwood Grill Guest Chef Series: South of Hell Night

81 Kilmarnock St., Boston (247-8099). Feb. 7. Join guest chefs **Chris Schlesinger** and **Owen Tilley** from the East Coast Grill.

Wine Tasting with Lorenzo

Les Zygomates, 129 South St., Boston (542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Tue., 6pm and 8pm. $25. Enjoy a wine and food pairing at each tasting. •Feb. 1: Rhone Reds (France). •Feb. 8: Sherry (Spain).

Wine Suddenly it's OK to drink New Zealand wines

BY SANDY BLOCK, MW

Something's happened in the world of wine recently. I don't know whether to lay it on global warming, the depletion of the ozone layer, or the runaway stock market, but all of a sudden, Blandness is out and Flavor is way in. It's the most amazing thing, but today the more cheap thrills that are packed in the glass, the better people like it. Overnight it's become a sign of sophistication and status to drink the right wine and to trash anyone that doesn't know how to, so that in certain circles, people are rolling their eyes when they overhear some yokel ordering a Chardonnay or Merlot.

There's one wine I've always used to measure the excitement level an audience can stand: a New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc. Five years ago, you couldn't give this wine away to a hardcore wino. The best anyone ever said when I asked for an assessment at one of my tastings was "Sour!" The majority would rush to spit it out with accompanying sound effects whether there was a receptacle nearby or not. Those who were a little better bred would curse the winemaker under their breath. My favorite routine was the group who made cartoon-like grunts ("yuk!" "yiccchhhh") or thrust fingers in their mouth while sticking their tongues out. "Don't hold back," I always announced, "I picked this wine because it has a real long finish and I knew you would hate it."

Actually what I knew was that someday the world would come around. But it's weird because there was virtually no transition. How do you prepare for this: One month everyone's pretending the wine nauseates them even to think about it, and the next they can't sniff and swirl it enough, and there are knowing smiles and lip-smacking exclamations and squeals of delight, over the same Sauvignon Blanc, 'til all the euphoria is beginning to make me sick already. The wine hadn't aged that much longer. And then the spookiest thing started to happen: after writing and preaching for ten years and

Sure to elicit a strong reaction: a New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc.

DISH (2): WENDY MIMRAN

The Boston Wine Expo opens at the World Trade Center, Feb. 5 and 6. " Virtually nowhere else in the world offers such a comprehensive tasting experience," says show director Tracie Murray.

Tasty Tidbit

Boston Wine Expo

February is *the* month for wine lovers in this city. Not only is the Boston Wine Festival 2000 at the Boston Harbor Hotel (see listings), but the city is also hosting the Boston Wine Expo at the World Trade Center, Feb. 5 and 6. This weekend features more than 450 international and domestic wineries from 18 different countries pouring more than 1,800 different wines, along with seminars for all levels of wine-lovers led by world-renowned wine experts, celebrity chef demonstrations and a vintners dinner.

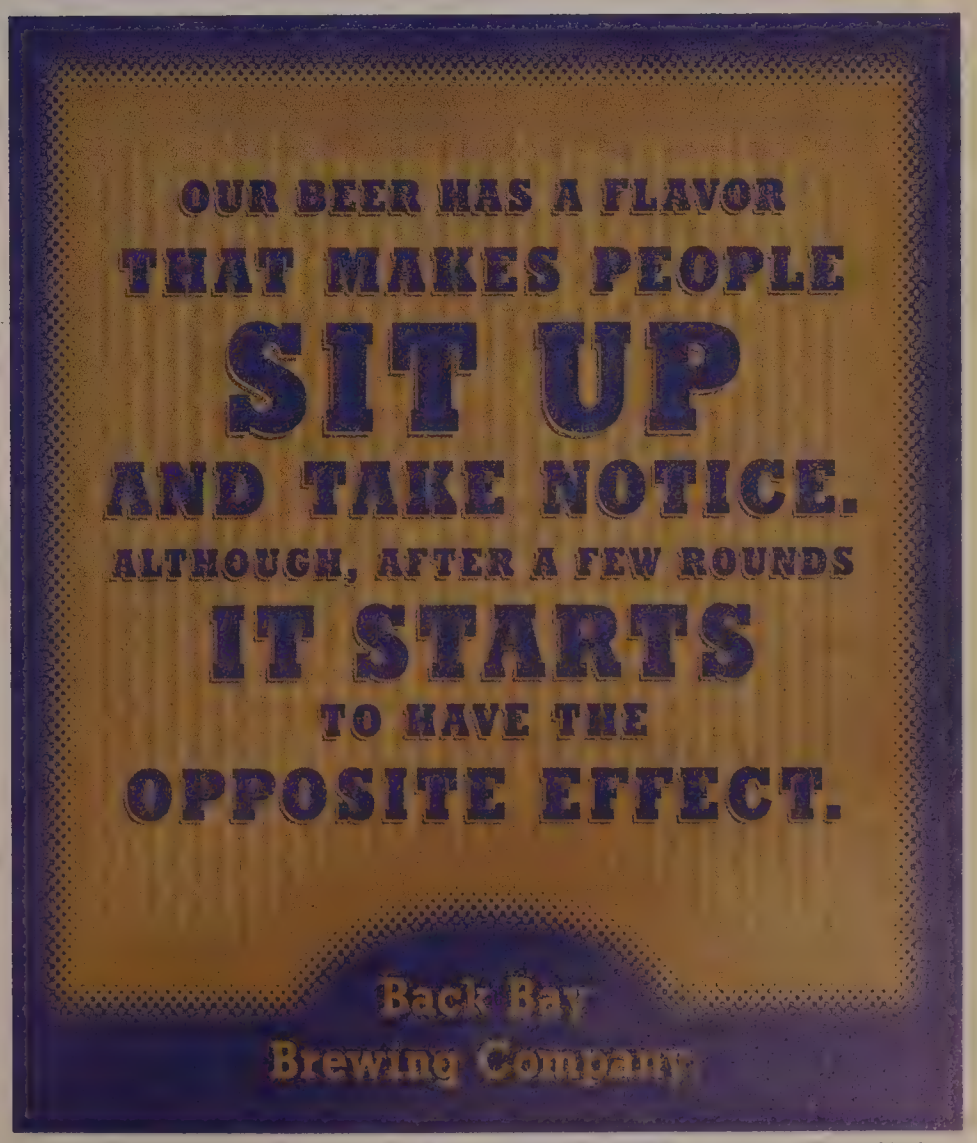
"Virtually nowhere else in the world offers such a comprehensive tasting experience," says show director Tracie Murray. In a single afternoon, the expo offers the opportunity for novice tasters along with the most seasoned wine connoisseur to experience the world's finest vintages from Napa and Sonoma and as far way as Chile, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, not to mention France, Spain, Italy and local wineries. Jancis Robinson, MW, acclaimed editor of *The Oxford Companion to Wine*, will headline the speaker roster for the 2000 show. For more information, plug into *www.wine-expos.com* or call 877-WINEXPO.

World Trade Center, 164 Northern Ave., Boston. Feb. 5 and 6, 1-5pm. $50 single day.

repeating myself until I was just going through the motions about how great Riesling is, how pure it tastes, I was floored when I started hearing Bostonians utter phrases like "not bad," "IN-teresting" and even "Wow!" while drinking one of those bizarrely Teutonic-sounding wines that give a whole new meaning to the term polysyllabic. Max Ferd Richter Brauneberger Juffer Sonnenuhr Spatlese Trocken from the Mosel-Saar-Ruwer, anyone?

So if you want to get in step, go get a Sauvignon Blanc from the extremely sunny but shiveringly cold New Zealand regions of Marlborough or Hawkes Bay and see what all of the fuss is about. This is the one category of wine that I have never been disappointed with, that I order confidently regardless of whether I've heard of the producer or not, provided the grapes are grown in either of the aforementioned two districts. But that's my palate, because I love the citrus and the bitter spicy mineral waves of flavor. If you don't enjoy an assault of sourness the second the wine hits your mouth though, it's not for you. But how many people really don't like tartness on a basic level at least sometimes? Regardless of how strong sourness is by itself, it's very complementary to other flavors. On the other hand, if you never use a vinaigrette, and you don't squeeze lemon on your fish, maybe New Zealand Sauvignon will taste too zingy for you, but for the rest of us, it works with food the same way these other sour flavors do, in combination.

What is it that makes Sauvignon Blanc from this country so extreme? The vineyards are far enough away from the Equator that during the growing season the vines bathe in sunlight until late in the evening, ensuring well-developed, intense fruit characteristics. The other aspect of New Zealand's ultra Southern location that impacts the grapes growing there is that they never lose the green, slightly unripe flavor edge that eventually finds it way into the wine. So for acid lovers, you've got the best of both worlds. And since few of the wines are aged in barrels, you're drinking straight, unadulterated, natural, in-your-face juice. For the most part, the wines are great to drink young. (Vintages are six months behind ours because of the opposite seasons, so it's not uncommon to see a 1999, harvested in April, on the market now.) And prices have moderated quite a bit, so that it's possible to buy a very tasty bottle, silencing the most determined enemies of blandness, for only $10. What's next, Rose?



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BEST OF BOSTON® 1999
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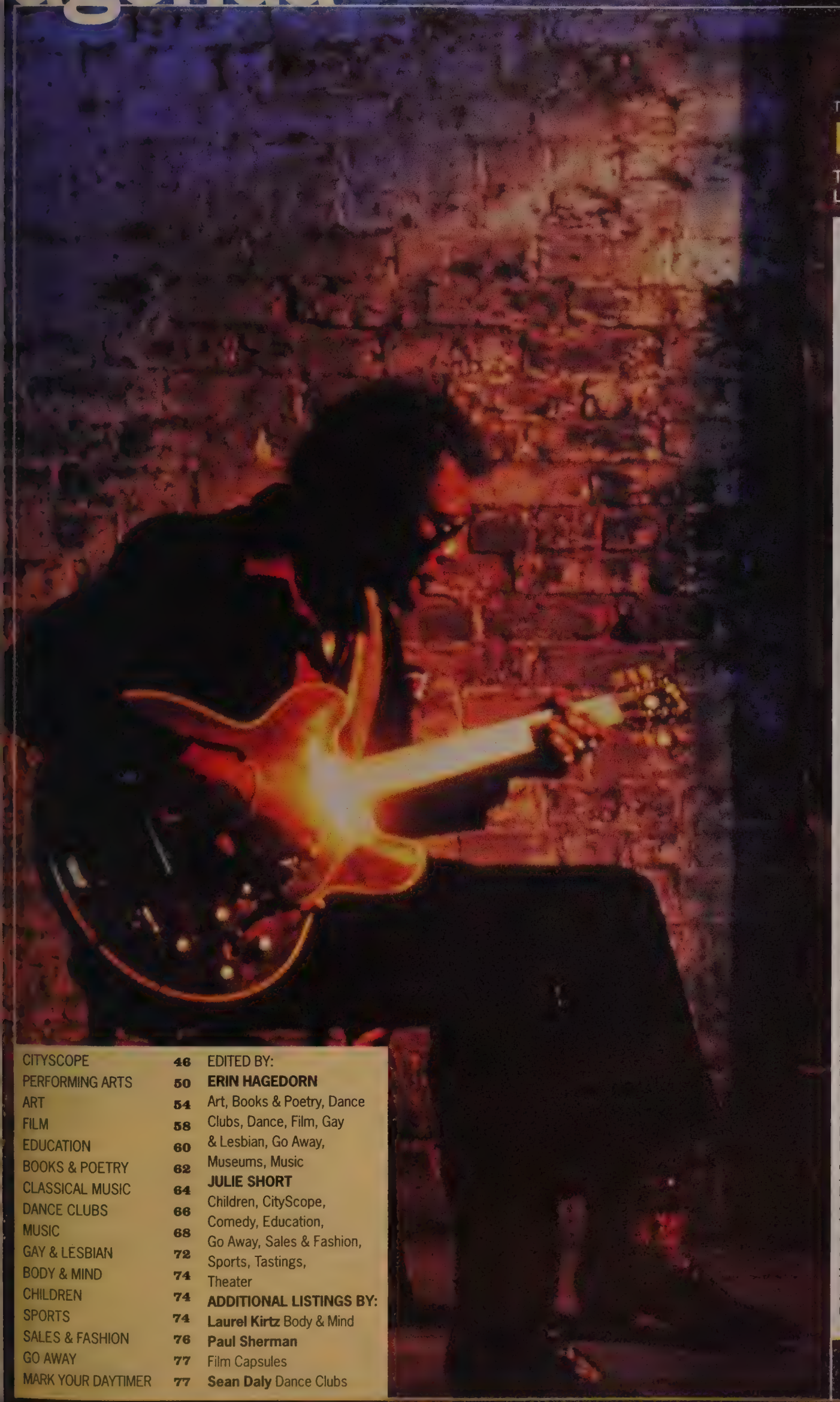
BEST DAY SPA-CITY

agenda

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN OR OUT IN BOSTON.



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Erin and Julie

THE CALENDAR GIRLS

improper picks

Too busy (or just too lazy) to plan your own schedule? Life don't get easier than this.

Wednesday, Jan. 26

Erin: Tonight's "The Bubble" features the surviving members of **Morphine** and guest musicians at the Lizard Lounge. (See Music.)
Julie: Lonely singles! Here's a chance to meet your athletic match. Join the **Boston Ski & Sports Club** for a happy hour at Union Street Pub. (See CityScope.)

Thursday, Jan. 27

Erin: It's opening night for Harpers Ferry's 15th Blues Fest—this year's a big one. Tonight, you can see **Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown**. (See Music.)
Julie: Another singles event: **Let It Show**, sponsored by the J Connection, is for young Jewish professionals. (See CityScope.)

Friday, Jan. 28

Julie: Eat out tonight at one of more than 35 restaurants participating in the **Boston Cooks! Dine Around**. (See Tastings.)
Erin: Or cultivate your psychic side. **Selena Rodriguez** teaches you how to use natural intuition at the BCAE. (See Body & Mind.)

Saturday, Jan. 29

Erin: The CCAE hosts an afternoon of Cuban music, dance and culture with **Ibrahim Ferrer and Rubén González**. (See CityScope.)
Julie: The ***Beijing Kunju Opera Theatre*** is filled with glorious costumes and wild acrobatics. At Sanders Theatre. (See Performing.)

Sunday, Jan. 30

Julie: It's **Superbowl Sunday**! Head to your local sports bar or watch the game at the International Restaurant and Club. (See CityScope.)
Erin: Or if you're just not into sports, Boston's celebration of all things Egyptian continues with Philip Glass' opera ***Akhnaten*** at the Boston Lyric Opera. (See Classical Music.)

Monday, Jan. 31

Erin and **Julie**: Brighten up from the end-of-January blahs during the short-lived blooming season for camellias. Head to the **Lyman Estate** to see these colorful beauties. (See CityScope.)

Tuesday, Feb. 1

Erin: As part of the Brattle's **Black & White & on the Edge** series, tonight features a double bill of ***Killer of Sheep*** and ***Chan is Missing***. (See Film.)
Julie: ***FOSSE*** at the Colonial Theatre is for true musical fans: an anthology of musical numbers. (See Performing Arts.)

Wednesday, Feb. 2

Julie: Chinese-American author **Gish Jen** speaks at the Cambridge Forum. (See Books & Poetry.)
Erin: Catch some excellent rockers Upstairs at the Middle East tonight: **Say Hi to Lisa** and **Boiler Room Six** among others. (See Music.)

Thursday, Feb. 3

Julie: The Brookline Center for Adult Ed. sponsors the lecture **Beantown's Big Dig: The Central Artery/Tunnel Project**. (See Education.)
Erin: ***The Breathing Show***, by one of the most controversial dance figures, **Bill T. Jones**, is at the Emerson Majestic. (See Performing.)

Friday, Feb. 4

Julie: Tonight's the annual **Anthony Spinazzola Foundation Gala Food and Wine Festival**. It's not-to-be-missed if you love good food. (See Tastings.)
Erin: It's opening night for the charming musical based on the L. M. Montgomery classic: **Anne of Green Gables** at the Wheelock Family Theatre. (See Performing.)

Saturday, Feb. 5

Julie: Jamaica Plain hosts the **Ship of Fools**, a multi-cultural carnival of performance art, music and dance. (See CityScope.)
Erin: In the anticipated sequel to last year's *The Cross of Changes*, Pandora dances her way back to the stage in ***Rivers of Belief***. At the Dance Complex. (See Performing.)

Sunday, Feb. 6

Julie: The **Boston Wine Expo** has an amazing assortment of wines worldwide. (See Tastings.)
Erin: Celebrate author **Lewis Nordan** appreciation week in an all-day Nordanian event. (See Books & Poetry.) Also, one of the best bluesists around, **Luther "Guitar Jr." Johnson**, is at Harpers Ferry. (See Music.)

Monday, Feb. 7

Julie: Check out the **Boston Wine Festival**'s events at the Boston Harbor Hotel. (See CityScope.)
Erin: Head to the Museum of Science to see the Omni film ***Olympic Glory***, which shows through the end of Feb. (See Film.)

Tuesday, Feb. 8

Julie: Don't miss *Who's the Boss* star Judith Light in ***WIT*** at the Wilbur Theatre. (See Performing.)
Erin: Ben Shahn's social documentary photographs show in a brand new collection at the Arthur M. Sackler Museum. (See Art.)

Harpers Ferry 15th Annual Blues Festival

Chicago bluesist Luther "Guitar Jr." Johnson plays Jan. 29

cityscope

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a list of festivals, events and benefits taking place in the Boston area by date.

Festivals, Events & Benefits

Wednesday, January 26

Boston Cooks! Dine Around
Various restaurants in Greater Boston (888-SEE-BOSTON). Jan. 26-30. More than 35 restaurants and cookbooks authors combine their talents to bring distinctive menus to your plate. Each cookbook author is paired with one of Boston's best restaurants.

BSSC Happy Hour
Union Street Pub, Newton Center (789-4070). MBTA: Green Line to Newton Center. 6-8pm. Free. The Boston Ski & Sports Club will host this happy hour sponsored by Harpoon Beer. Enjoy libations and socialize with the largest sport and social club in New England.

Boston Wine Festival 2000: The Battle of the Cabernets
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE). www.bhh.com. *Through April 7.* The Boston Harbor Hotel has put together more than 40 events—from tastings, seminars and celebrity guests to wine and food pairing dinners—that are signature of the celebration. •Jan. 26, 7pm, $175. John Rowes Salon. **The Battle of the Cabernets**. One of the festival's trademarks, this event pits an anonymous lineup of world-class cabernets against one another. Join moderator Sandy Block, syndicated wine columnist Frederic Koeppel, Joshua Greene of Wine & Spirits and Mark Vaughan of *Sante* magazine, who will evaluate and discuss the wines in a blind context.

Thursday, January 27

Boston Cooks! Dine Around
Various restaurants in Greater Boston (888-SEE-BOSTON). Nightly, through Jan. 30. See Jan. 26 for more information.

Boston Wine Festival: *Quarterly Review of Wines*—Boston's Best of the Best
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE). www.bhh.com. *Through April 7.* See Jan. 26 for more information. •Jan. 27, 7pm, $155. John Rowes Salon. ***Quarterly Review of Wines*: Best of the Best**. This annual award dinner highlights the greatest wines that the *Quarterly Review of Wines* has selected in its comparative tastings from among hundreds of entries.

Let It Snow
The Club, Il Panino, 295 Franklin St., Boston (338-1000). www.tjcboston.com. *8pm-2am. Free.* Learn more about the J Connection, a social organization for Jewish professionals in their 20s and 30s. The event features a DJ, dancing, munchies and a great social atmosphere.

Friday, January 28

Boston Cooks! Dine Around
Various restaurants in Greater Boston (888-SEE-BOSTON). Nightly, through Jan. 30. See Jan. 26 for more information.

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Fridays, through January. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

Saturday, January 29

A Million Girls, A Million Voices
Children's Museum, 300 Congress St., Boston (426-5505). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. 8pm-12am. $35. Teen Voices, the Boston-based, award-winning magazine written by and for teenage girls, is hosting a kick-off benefit to celebrate their 10-year anniversary. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, a tour of the museum and dancing are planned for the evening.

Boston Cooks! Dine Around
Various restaurants in Greater Boston (888-SEE-BOSTON). Nightly, through Jan. 30. See Jan. 26 for more information.

Preview

A Ship of Fools

Jamaica Plain will host a multi-cultural celebration featuring the best of JP's visual and performance art on Saturdays throughout the month of February. At the center of the festival is the Ship of Fools and its merry crew—a growing, changing, moveable craft created by JP artists that leads a flotilla of fun, from puppeteers and clowns to actors and musicians. The aim? To rejuvenate winter-weary souls. *Feb. 5: Centre Street, Jamaica Plain (522-3407).*

Boston Wine Festival 2000: The Making of Wine Dinner
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE). www.bhh.com. *Through April 7.* See Jan. 26 for more information. •Jan. 29, 6:30pm, 8pm, $160 (seminar and dinner), $115 (dinner only). John Foster Salon. **The Making of a Wine Dinner**. This event features a food component tasting, lecture and step-by-step discussion of how to pair wine with food, with chef Daniel Bruce and writer Bill Nesto, MW.

Buena Vista Social Club
Harvard Square (exact location TBA), Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 1-6pm. $18. The Buena Vista Social Club film and recording have ushered in a rapidly growing interest in Cuban music and greater opportunities for performance n the US by Cuban musicians. Join the Cambridge Center for Adult Education for an afternoon of discussions, workshops, performances and festivities celebrating Cuban music and culture. In collaboration with World Music.

Celebrity Chefs Culinary Program
Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Ave., Boston (267-5300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Jan. 15-March 11, 1-3pm. $240/nine-weeks or $30/class. The hotel has brought together nine chefs and cookbook authors, including Ming Tsai, Jasper White and Mary Ann Esposito, for a nine-week program designed for all food lovers. Participants will learn the secrets of master chefs as well as some of the basic techniques in cooking. Proceeds benefit the Share Our Strength/Operation Frontline and Boston Center for Adult Education. •Jan. 29: Mary Ann Esposito, host of "Ciao Italia" and author of *What You Knead* and *Mangia Pasta*. •Feb. 5: Laurent Poulain, executive chef at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel.

The Singles Executives Club Cocktail Party and Dance
Sheraton Hotel, Trophy Room, 100 Cabot St., Needham (781-283-0400). Exit 19A off Route 128. 9pm-1am. $15. Tie and jacket. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres, free door prizes and music by a DJ. Donations accepted to the American Red Cross for local orphanages.

Superbowl Sunday, January 30

Boston Cooks! Dine Around
Various restaurants in Greater Boston (888-SEE-BOSTON). Nightly, through Jan. 30. See Jan. 26 for info.

BSSC Super Bowl Party
Cambridge Racquet & Fitness Club, 215 First St., Cambridge (491-8989). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. 6pm. $15. Join the Boston Ski & Sports Club at the Bayou Cafe at Cambridge Racquet and Fitness Club. There will be special raffles, a half-time pool for prizes and a bountiful buffet of appetizers.

Super Bowl Party and Auction
The International Restaurant and Club, 184 High St., Boston (423-0913). 4pm. $30. Watch the Super Bowl and enjoy pre-game cocktails and entertainment as you support Public Action for the Arts. There'll be a complimentary buffet, cash bar, psychic readers, music, professional dance lessons and live and silent auctions.

Super Bowl 2000 at Dick's Last Resort
55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. 3:30pm (kick-off at 6pm). Free. Join WZLX's sports guru, Tank, and the Bud Girls. Big-screen TVs will capture every bone-crushing grunt and groan (hey, it's almost as good as being smack dab on the 50-yard line). Win big bucks by picking the winning team and correct score and win $2,000.

Tuesday, February 1

Boston Wine Festival 2000: Chalk Hill Dinner
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE). www.bhh.com. *Through April 7.* See Jan. 26 for more information. •Feb. 1, 7pm, $115. John Rowes Salon. **Chalk Hill Dinner**. Acclaimed for one of California's greatest chardonnays, winemaker Bill Knuttle leads this dinner showing the uniqueness of Chalk Hill's 1,200-acre Sonoma estate.

Tuesday, February 1

Boston Wine Festival: Guigal Dinner
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE). www.bhh.com. *Through April 7.* See Jan. 26 for more information. •Feb. 2, 7pm, $115. John Rowes Salon. **Guigal Dinner**. Crowned "King of the Rhone" by *The Wine Spectator*, Marcel Guigal is among the most illustrious vintners of the region. Join importer Fred Ek for an exploration of the Rhone's reigning superstar.

Thursday, February 3

The Friends of Spinazzola Grand Benefit Dinner
The Ritz-Carlton, Arlington and Newbury Streets (781-344-4413). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. $500. An intimate seven-course dinner featuring celebrity chefs from around the nation. Each course is complimented with specifically chosen wines. Proceeds benefit the Anthony Spinazzola Foundation.

Friday, February 4

The 5th Annual Great Escape Silent Auction
Fairmont Copley Plaza, 138 St. James Ave., Boston (563-7960). www.bostoncares.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8pm-2am. $40 in advance/$50 at the door.* The evening promises to be filled with dancing, auction item bidding and fun. The black-tie optional event will feature Edwin Pabon & Orchestra, a salsa band, playing from 8:30-10:30pm and PigPen playing from 10:30pm-2am. Hors d'oeuvres and desserts will be served. Proceeds benefit Boston Cares.

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Fridays, through January. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

Anthony Spinazzola Foundation Gala Festival of Food and Wine
World Trade Center, 164 Northern Ave., Boston (344-4413). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Feb. 4, 7:30pm-12am. Creative black tie. $175. More than 120 restaurants will create their signature dishes alongside 90 international wineries. Proceeds benefit the Anthony Spinazzola Foundation's grants to hunger relief agencies, programs for the homeless and for culinary apprenticeships and scholarships.

Saturday, February 5

Boston Wine Expo
World Trade Center, 164 Northern Ave., Boston (877-WIN-EXPO). www.wine-expos.com. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Feb. 5-6, 1-5pm. $50 single day.* Recognized as one of the top wine events in the nation, the Wine Expo offers seminars, tastings, cigar exhibits and purveyors of fine food. See Tastings section for more information.

A Ship of Fools
Centre Street, Jamaica Plain (522-3407). Feb. 5. A multi-cultural celebration. See box for more information.

Winter Ball
The Club at Locke-Ober, 3 Winter Place, Boston (227-2171). 7:30-10pm (reception) and 9:30pm-1am (ball). $25 (reception), $95 (reception and ball). Black tie optional. Dessert and dancing to the White Heat Swing Orchestra, sponsored by the beacon Hill Civic Association.

Sunday, February 6

Boston Wine Expo
World Trade Center, 164 Northern Ave., Boston (877-WINEXPO). www.wine-expos.com. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. 1-5pm. $50 single day.* See Feb. 5 for more information.

Monday, February 7

Boston Wine Festival 2000: Beaulieu Vineyards Centennial Celebration and Dinner
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE). www.bhh.com. *Through April 7.* See Jan. 26 for more information. •Feb. 7-8, 7pm, $135. John Rowes Salon. **Beaulieu Vineyards Centennial Celebration and Dinner**. Join Master of Wine Joel Butler and winemaker Joel Aiken for this retrospective dinner, feature Beaulieu Vineyards Private Reserve.

Volunteer

Adult Literacy
Learning Works, 19 Temple Place, Boston (357-6000, ext. 7508). Seeks adults to tutor just two hours per week.

Aids Action Committee
131 Clarendon St., 4th Floor, Boston (450-1235). •Donate your old car, truck or motorcycle and receive a tax deduction. Call 800-332-AUTO.

Big Sister Association
161 Massachusetts Ave., Floor 2, Boston (236-8060). Seeks women to act as Big Sisters.

Boston-New York AIDS Ride
(859-8282, ext. 230). Volunteers needed for work on mass mailings, phone banking and other projects. •AIDS Ride orientations: Jan. 27, 7pm; Jan. 29, 11am at St. Cecilia's Parish Hall, Belvidere Street, Boston.

THE RACK

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It's Blooming Cold Out There

Just when winter is at its bleakest, the Lyman Estate greenhouses burst into a blizzard of pink, red and white camellia blossoms. To celebrate the blooming season, the greenhouse will be open seven days a week, from Jan. 26-Feb. 19, 9am-4pm. *Lyman Estate, 185 Lyman St., Waltham (781-891-1985).*

Boston Partners in Education
(451-6145). Seeks tutors and classroom assistants.

Cambridge Cares About Aids
(661-3040). Telephone receptionists, drivers, data entry and clerical assistants needed immediately.

Cambridge School Volunteers
(349-6794). Recruits, trains, places and provides support services to volunteers ingrates K-12.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

ESL/Office Skill Training
One With One (254-1691). Tutor/mentor a newcomer.

Friday Night Supper Program
Arlington Street Church, corner of Arlington and Boylston streets, Boston (536-7050, ext. 22). Need volunteers to help prepare, cook and serve meals on Fridays, 5-7pm.

Giving Back Fund
(566-2820). Seeks volunteers to assist in coordination of special events, aid in development/maintenance of sports and entertainment industry contact database, follow-up on trade publication leads and provide general administrative support.

The Greater Boston Food Bank
(617.427.5200). Groups of volunteers needed to sort donated food.

Horizons Initiative
(287-1900). Playspace activity leaders needed for children living in homeless family shelters. Training session: Jan. 12 and Jan. 13.

Jewish Community Volunteer Program
(558-6585). Make a difference in the life of a lonely and isolated person.

Mass Substance Abuse Helpline
(536-0501, ext. 201). Volunteers needed for helpline for persons affected by alcoholism and substance abuse.

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(536-3557). Seeks caring people to offer help and companionship to homebound and isolated elders.

Samaritans Suicide Prevention Helpline
(536-2460). Seeks volunteers to help staff telephone services for depressed, lonely, suicidal individuals.

Share Our Strength's Taste of the Nation Boston 2000
(781-958-6766). Seeks volunteers to help plan this year's food and wine charity event.

Victory Programs
(357-8182, ext. 624). Volunteers needed for residential substance abuse treatment program.

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Seeks individuals to assist legal immigrants and refugees to become naturalized citizens.

Youth Enrichment Services (YES)
412 Mass. Ave., Boston (267-5877). Seeks role models and outdoor leaders for Operation Ski Lift to take urban young people ages 8-18 up north to go skiing and snowboarding.

Sights to See

Boston Tea Party Ship and Museum
Congress St. Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Open daily, June-Aug., 9am-6pm; March-May and Sept.-Nov., 9am-5pm; closed Dec.-March. $8, $7 students, $4 children. You can dump your own bale into the harbor—and watch a museum guide scramble to retrieve it—at this replica of one of the ships emptied by colonists (disguised as Indians) during the Dec. 16, 1773, tea raid. Afterward, enjoy a cup of tax-free tea.

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Fifth Floor, Boston (353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), 8:30pm. Free. BU's astronomers are available to answer questions and assist with telescopes as you check out Orion, Cassiopeia and the Big Dipper.

Bunker Hill Monument
Monument Square, Charlestown (242-5641). Open daily 9am-5pm. Free. What's long and hard and shaped like a pencil? It's not what you think. It's the 221-foot monument that honors the men who died in the Battle of Bunker Hill. But an exhausting climb up 294 stairs reveals little more than a stunning view of I-93.

Christian Science World Headquarters
Mass. and Huntington Avenues, Boston (450-2000). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential Center. Tue.-Sat. 9:30am-4pm, Sun. 11am-2pm. Tour the Mother Church—a giant basilica that seats 3,000 worshippers—the Maparium, a cool, walk-through, stained-glass globe; a 700-foot-long reflecting pool; and a photographic exhibit.

Copp's Hill Burial Ground
Hull and Snowhill Streets, Boston. MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Open dawn-dusk. Admission free. From Boston's second-oldest cemetery, you can see all the way across the Inner Harbor to Charlestown. Famous residents include the well-known Puritanical Mather family and Prince Hall, a prominent member of the free black community.

John Hancock Observatory
200 Clarendon St., Boston (572-6429). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open Mon.-Sat. 9am-11pm, Sun. 10am-11pm (May-Oct.) and noon-11pm (Nov.-April). Admission $4.50. The tallest building in New England (62 floors) offers much more than an awesome view. Listen to air-traffic controllers at Logan, test your knowledge of the city with a computer quiz, or relive some of Boston's most famous and infamous events—including the "Great Molasses Flood" of 1919, when a tank holding 3-4 million gallons of the sticky stuff exploded and turned the North End into a sea of molasses.

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (566-7937). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Wed.-Sun. 10 am-4:30pm. The birthplace and early boyhood home of the nation's 35th president.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State Street. Tue.-Sat. 10am-2pm. Admission free. Alongside Boston's first Anglican church—a gloomy, granite apparition—you'll find a burial ground with equally ominous-looking headstones dating back to 1630. On Sundays, listen for the distinctive peal of the church bell cast by Paul Revere's foundry.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (635-3105). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Open daily 9am-5pm. Guided tours every half-hour, starting at 9am. Free. Known as the "Cradle of Liberty," Faneuil Hall—we're talking about the part above the eatery—was the site of many an angry man ranting and raving about the damn British in the mid-1700s. Today, you can check out the white-walled assembly room, but most people come here for the marketplace.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily 9 am-5pm. Free. Here, Paul Revere saw two lanterns shining on April 18, 1775, indicating that the British troops were crossing the Charles River to Lexington and Concord via boat. You remember... "One if by land, two if by sea."

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays 10am-4pm, weekends 10am-5pm. $3. A thousand fed-up men gathered in this church to decide whether or not to send three ships full of tea back to England. Guess what? They didn't. • *Voices of Protest* traces the use of Old South Meeting House over three centuries for religious, political and social debate. • Middays at the Meeting House, a lunchtime music series. Thursdays, 12:15-1pm. $4. • Sundays are free of charge throughout the month of February.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (859-0648). Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-10pm, Sun. noon-10pm. $4, $3 seniors and students. After that tiring, 50-floor elevator ascent, you deserve a drink at the Top of the Hub lounge before you check out Boston's only 360-degree view. On a good day, you can see New Hampshire. The view here is slightly better than that of rival John Hancock.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8am-6pm. Free. Designed by H.H. Richardson and constructed in 1877, the huge Romanesque church in Copley Square rests upon 4,500 submerged wooden pilings, which help hold up the church's massive tower. A shaded courtyard offers respite from the heavily-trafficked plaza. On Fridays at 12:15pm, stop by for a free organ concert.

Tours

Chocolate Tour
Old Town Trolley, Charles and Boylston Streets, Boston (269-7150). Saturdays and Sundays, 11:30am and 2pm (tour lasts 2 1/2 hours). Through the end of March. $50. If you've got a sweet tooth, join Old Town Trolley for a tour from Le Meridien Hotel to the Ritz Carlton Hotel and the Hampshire House where you'll savor a chocolate buffet, hot chocolate drinks, decadent chocolate cake and a delightful chocolate soup.

Ghost Tours
Meet at Boston Common Visitor Information Center, 147 Tremont St., Boston (781-235-7149). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street. Selected evenings, 7:30pm. $12. Tour downtown Boston's most infamous haunted locations.

The Literary Trail
Tour begins at the Omni Parker House, corner of Tremont and School Streets, Boston (574-5950). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street. Saturdays 12:30-5:30pm. $35. Explore the heritage of some of the country's greatest authors, poets and social activists at eight literary historical landmarks in the Boston area. The climate-controlled bus stops at the Boston Athenaeum, the BPL, Longfellow National Historic Site, the home of the Hawthornes, the Alcotts and the Lothrops and Walden Pond.

Museums

Boston Public Library
700 Boylston St., Boston (536-5400). Mon.-Thu. 9am-9pm; Fri.-Sat. 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. • Free Art and Architecture Tours of the BPL. Mon. 2:30pm, Tue. and Thu. 6pm. Meet at the Dartmouth Street entrance.

Boston Tea Party Ship & Museum
Congress Street Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. March-Nov., 9am-dusk. $7, $5.50 students, $3.50. Colonial-clad sailors take you aboard *The Beaver*, a replica of the smallest of the three ships involved in the infamous tea rebellion. Paul Revere leads the hourly tea throwing and explains all about the fateful day irate Bostonians poured out the tea in protest of the tax decree issued by British parliament. Try your hand at rope-tying too.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June Tue.-Sat. 10 am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm; June-Aug. daily 10am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm. $5, children and seniors $3: Follow the red and white signs to the mother of all milk bottles. As you walk under it you'll feel as diminutive as your munchkin companion. See *Arthur's World* from the popular television series and children's books. This infamous aardvark is one of many hands-on favorites. • *Build It!* • *Giant's Desktop* • *Hall of Toys* • *Boats Float!* • *Climbing Sculpture* and • *Japanese House.* • Opened Oct. 31: **Sesame Street Exhibition**. Three decades of the revolutionary children's television series. Step into one of the world's most famous TV neighborhoods.

Harriet Tubman House
566 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-8610). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. Weekdays 8am-8pm. Free admission. The Harriet Tubman Museum exhibits a collection of this influential black leader's achievements.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (929-4523). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily 9am-5pm (last film begins at 3:55pm). $8, students and seniors $6, children $4. Everything you ever wanted to know about JFK and more. Re-live the Camelot years (when Presidential womanizing was still acceptable) and the subsequent decline of America's favorite dynasty. *John Glenn and the Space Race*, an exhibit about the man with the mission is now showing. • *Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy: First Lady*. Ongoing • *Treasures of the Kennedy Library.* A selection of the treasures, including sculpture, jewelry, paintings and documents. Through May 2000. • *Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy*. New ongoing exhibit.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (739-1200) www.afroam museum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays 10am-4pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.* The place is bustling after their recent endowment of more than $1 million to restore the meeting house's hallowed sanctuary. See the African Meeting House, the oldest black church in America.

Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, students and seniors $4, children $3; free to all Sat. 9am-12pm.* This Harvard museum is made up of four factions: The **Botanical Museum**, **The Museum of Comparative Zoology**, the **Mineral & Geological Museum**, and the **Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology**. A number of exhibitions tie together all four of these distinct collections. The most famous is the Botanical Museum for its glass flowers collection—more than 3,000 models of more than 480 plant species. At the Museum of Comparative Zoology, check out the 42-foot-long mounted Kronosaurus (a really big lizard) and countless stuffed insects. The Mineral & Geological Museum's got a 16,000 pound Brazilian amethyst geode, and there's the dollhouse-esque Worlds in Miniature display at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnography. • ***Orchids: A***

Celebrate Superbowl Sunday with the rowdy crew at Dick's Last Resort, Jan. 30 at 6pm.

Story of Seduction opens Feb. 14. Human beings seem to find orchids irresistible, even addicting (thefts are not uncommon. This exhibition will explore some of the flowers' most interesting pollination strategies and the long history of collecting and research by Harvard scientists.

Museum of Our National Heritage

33 Marrett Road., Route 2A, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.mnh.org. *Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 12-5pm. Free admission.* Explore history through pop culture. Topics range from Revolutionary artifacts to the latest in jigsaw puzzle-solving techniques and American circus posters. •*Initiating America*, a historical look at fraternal organizations. Ongoing. •*George Washington, American Symbol*. Through Feb. 27. •Feb. 6, 2-m, $6: The cello-piano duet of Elise Yun and Hekun Wu perform Stravinsky, Beethoven and Mendelssohn.

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu. 9am-5pm; Fri. 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children. Omni Theater, Hayden Planetarium or laser shows all $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children.* Find out how much you weigh on the moon, strap yourself into a space module or sift through sand on an archaeological dig. Enjoy 600 hands-on exhibits, including the *Theater of Electricity*, *Seeing Is Deceiving* and *Science in the Park* (Newtonian physics introduced through such accessible items as playground equipment and skateboards.) •*To See the Sea* explores the ocean from the perspective of a deep sea diver. •Now open: *Messages:* Discover why communication is central to everyday life. *Human Body Connection*: exhibits on anatomy, physiology and health. *The Light House: Beaming, Bouncing and Bending Light*: Learn the principles of optics, color and the nature of light with 18 hands-on activities. •*Reptiles: Real and Robotic*, opens Jan. 28. •Mugar Omni Theater: *Mysteries of Egypt*. Through Feb. 29. *Olympic Glory*, opened Oct. 29. (See Film for more information.)

Charles Hayden Planetarium

Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children. Time of show changes daily.* Get high! High up, that is. And (then) go see the stars and rock-music laser shows. Check out the ongoing

Jancis Robinson, Master of Wine, lectures on wine at the Boston Wine Expo, at the World Trade Center, Feb. 5-6.

out-of-this- world multimedia installations *Life and Death of the Sun* and *The Sky Tonight*, and enjoy daily laser shows to the rockin' music of the Beastie Boys, Pink Floyd, Korn, Tool, Jimi Hendrix, Nine Inch Nail, among others. It's a trip. •*Journey to the Edge of Space and Time*: Ideas once considered crazy (like black holes, muons and guons, and quasars) are now the building blocks of new knowledge. What will be next? •Friday Night Stargazing, 8:30-10pm. Free.

Museum of Transportation

15 Newton St. (in Larz Anderson Park), Brookline (522-6547). MBTA: D Green Line to Reservoir, to bus 51. April-Oct., Wed.-Sun. 10am-5pm; Nov.-March, Wed.-Sun. 10am-4pm. $5, $3 seniors and students. This 1888 carriage house is the automobile buff's paradise—and the country's oldest private collection of antique automobiles. Featured sports cars range from Fords and Corvettes to Cadillacs and and wide range of Italian imports.

Old State House Museum

206 Washington St., Boston (720-3290). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily 9am-5pm. $3, students and seniors $2. Built in 1713, this original seat of colonial government was the place pre-Independence Bostonians first heard the Declaration of Independence read.

Sports Museum of New England

FleetCenter, Boston (624-1234). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Adults, $5, Children and seniors, $4. Exhibits of the great sports traditions of the Boston Garden, FleetCenter and Celtics in addition to the New Balance Wall of Champions, Major League/Minor League by Jim Dow, the Boston Garden Theatre, Ted Williams—An American Hero and exhibits of boxing, hockey, football, baseball, soccer, collegiate basketball and the 75th anniversary of the Bruins.

USS Constitution & Museum

Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (426-1812). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, bus 93 to Navy Yard. Nov.-April 30: Open daily 10am-5pm. Free. The stories of the individuals who authorized, built and served on the *USS Constitution*, the oldest commissioned warship afloat. Learn about its 200-year history hands on—hoist a sail, take the wheel, fire a cannon or swing in a hammock.

Zoos & Gardens

Arnold Arboretum

125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain (524-1718). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open weekdays: 9am-4pm, weekends: 12-4pm. Free. More than 14,000 exotic trees, shrubs and flowers make this the place to go when you need to escape the hustle and bustle of city life. There's no picnicking allowed, but biking, dog-walking and frisbee-throwing are encouraged.

Boston Common Ice Skating Pond

Frog Pond, Boston Common, Boston (635-2120). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park. Sun.-Thu. 10am-9pm; Fri.-Sat. 10am-10pm. $3 plus $5 for rentals. It's not quite Rockefeller Center, but it's still a lot of fun. The Frog Pond has opened for the season, with concessions, skate rentals, rest rooms and a warming area. If you've never skated in the Common, then you're not a true Yankee.

Franklin Park Zoo

1 Franklin Park Rd., Boston (442-2002). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open Oct.-March daily 10am-4pm; April-Sept. weekdays 10am-5pm, weekends and holidays 10am-6pm. Admission $6. A 72-acre oasis of green in the city with waterfalls, lush vegetation, gorillas, leopards, hippos and free-flying birds. •New: Giraffe Savannah and a baby western lowland gorilla.

Garden in the Woods

New England Wild Flower Society, 180 Hemenway Road, Framingham, (508-877-7630). $6. The largest collection of wildflowers in the Northeast.

Mount Auburn Cemetery

580 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard, transfer to #71 or #73 bus. Open daily 8am-7pm (summer) and 8am-5pm (winter). Admission free. Rest in peace among the gravesites and crypts of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes, "Battle Hymn of the Republic" author Julia Ward Howe and Winslow Homer, among other famous Americans. A great place for bird watchers and botanists.

New England Aquarium

Central Wharf, Boston (973-5200). www.neaq. org. *MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Early Sept.-June: Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. and holidays 9am-6pm. $12.50 (as of Jan. 1).* Boston's biggest fish bowl has much more than just goldfish. In the three-story saltwater tank swim turtles, sharks, eels and the occasional mermaid (or mer-male), who entertains crowds as he or she cleans the tank. Be sure to visit with the seals on your way in. •*Storm Over Stellwagen*, a new 15-minute, interactive multimedia production allows you to control the outcome of the film.

Roger William's Zoo

1000 Elmwood Ave., Providence, R.I. (401-785-3510). South on 1-95 from Providence to exit 17 (Elmwood Ave.). $6, $3.50 seniors and children. Open every day except Dec. 25. Nov.-March 9am-4pm. April-Oct. 9am-5pm. Lions and tigers and a 150-pound baby polar bear named Triton. Oh my! More than 600 birds and mammals inhabit the African plains and rain forests.

Stone Zoo

149 Pond St., Stoneham , Rte. 93 North, Exit 34 (781-438-5100). $3. The polar bear remains, as he always has been, the star attraction at this 32-acre zoo, as he has for the last 33 years.

performing arts

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Theater. Or e-mail information to performing@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Theater

JUST OPENED

Anne of Green Gables
Wheelock Family Theatre, 200 The Riverway, Boston (734-4760). Fri. 7:30pm; Sat.-Sun. 3pm. Feb. 4-27. $10-$17. The enchanting family musical based on the L. M. Montgomery classic. A couple wants to adopt an orphan boy to help with the farm chores, but the orphanage sends Anne Shirley instead—an impish, fanciful, talkative girl who is not at all what the pair have in mind. Anne uses every ounce of her abundant charm to win the hearts of the couple.

Breaking Legs
Hovey Players, Abbott Memorial Theater, 9 Spring St., Waltham (781-893-9171). Fri.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Through Feb. 5. $12. The mob is fronting the money for a play, but the guy gets more than he bargains for when the mob boss' daughter offers more than wine and pasta.

Company Piece 2000: what he was when he was
Leverett Old Library Theatre, Mill Street, Cambridge (496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Jan. 28-29; Feb. 3-5, Feb. 10-12, 8pm; Jan. 30 and Feb. 6, 2pm. $12. An ensemble of actors explored the theme of "sophistry" (defined as "unsound or misleading but clever, plausible, and subtle argument or reasoning"), drawing on texts from the ancient Greeks to the modern-day Starr Report. Using these sources as a jumping-off point, the group generated a series of improvised scenes. The result is *Company Piece 2000*.

Death and the Maiden
Arlington Friends of the Drama, 22 Academy St., Arlington (781-646-5922). Feb. 4-5, 11-12, 8pm; Feb. 6, 7pm; Feb. 13, 2pm. $13. Formerly exiled playwright Ariel Dorfman's play is set in post-Pinochet Chile. It's a thought-provoking, political thriller about truth and memory, in which a woman (Sharon Mason) confronts the man (Gary Locke) she believes raped and tortured her as she lay blindfolded in a military detention center years before.

FOSSE
Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (426-9366). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri. 8pm, Sat. 2pm and 8pm., Sun. 2pm and 7:30pm. Jan. 27-Feb. 13. $44.50-$75. An anthology of musical numbers devised by the famous director-choreographer for theater, film, television and nightclubs. Hits include "Sweet Charity," "Damn Yankees," "Cabaret" and "Dancin.'"

Getting Married
Lyric West Theatre, 95 Freeport St., Boston (288-7889). MBTA: Orange Line to Community College. Wed.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 5pm and 8:30pm; Sun. 2pm. Jan. 28-Feb. 13. On their wedding morning a young man and woman refuse to marry because of the laws society imposes on them. Shaw's very wise and delightful exploration of the contract that touches us all. It's a comedy, a morality lesson and a seance all rolled into one.

Hallowed Ground
Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Comm. Ave., Boston (781-283-2029). MBTA: B Green Line to BU Central. Jan. 26-28, 8pm. $15. An area between Atlanta and the sea during Sherman's March in 1864 provides the setting for this play. Four characters—a 19-year-old slave woman, an injured union solder, a southern conscript and a 13-year-old girl—attempt to reevaluate their place within society in the face of the destruction wrought by the Civil War.

Loot
American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-8300). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. Jan. 28-March 15. $24-$57. Master of black comedy, Joe Orton, tells the tale of Hal, who robs a bank and hides the booty in his mother's coffin. Who will discover it first—the crooked detective or the homicidal nurse?

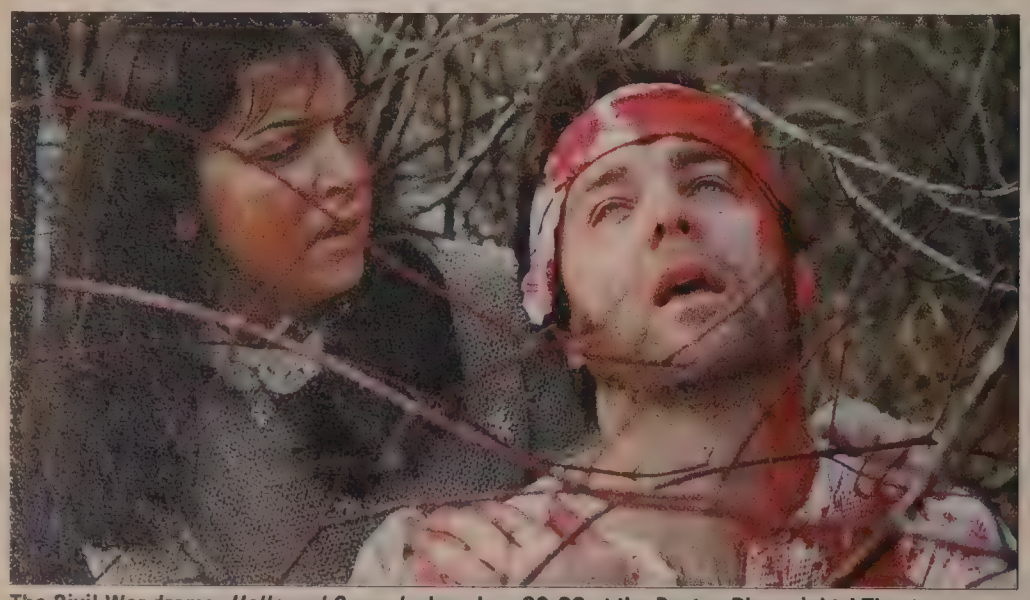
Miss Julie
Coyote Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Jan. 28-Feb. 19. $20. An aristocratic young woman engages in a heated sexual tryst with her father's servant. Their forbidden affair—fraught with embarrassment, guilt and shame—is equally condemned by her father, wealthy friends and family servants. Rather than face ridicule and scorn, they plot an escape.

Phantom
Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton (244-0169). Thu.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Feb. 4-March. 12. $19. Arthur Kopit and Maury Yeston are obsessed with the unanswered questions in Gaston Leroux's novel, *The Phantom of the Opera*. In this musical, they create characters of depth and substance—the way the story was mean to be heard with in the world of turn-of-the-century French opera.

Sisters Matsumoto
Huntington Theatre Company, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (266-0800). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue.-Thu. 7:30pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. Through Jan 30. $10-$52. A multifaceted, lively and moving tale of a Japanese-American family returning home after being forced to spend most of World War II in a government internment camp, as 120,000 people did under US Executive Order 9066.

Violet
SpeakEasy Stage Company, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Jan. 27-Feb. 19. $21-$23.50. Based on Doris Betts' short story, *The Ugliest Pilgrim*, tells the story of a young woman who sets out across the shadowy South in 1964 to see a famous televangelist she hopes will heal her face, which was badly scarred by an axe blade in a childhood accident. Along the way, she is joined by several traveling companions who teach her powerful lessons about beauty, love, racism and redemption. A powerful blues, folk and gospel-tinged score sets accompanies the tale.

WIT
Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont St., Boston (931-2787). Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7:30pm. Feb. 1-20. $25-$62.50. Former *Who's the Boss?* star **Judith Light** portrays Dr. Vivian Bearing, an uncompromising and brilliant poetry professor, who has been diagnosed with a life-threatening illness. Only the sonnets of John Donne provide her with a respite from the ferocity of modern medicine.



The Civil War drama, *Hallowed Ground*, plays Jan. 26-28 at the Boston Playwrights' Theatre.

Preview

Opera with a Twist

Beijing Kunju Opera Theatre entertains.

What kind of opera singer completes the final notes of a lilting aria, does a handstand and a double back flip, then joins the rest of the cast in a spectacular display of tumbling and cartwheels? Certainly not your ordinary opera diva, that's for sure. And the Beijing Kunju Opera Theatre, which appears at Sanders Theatre Jan. 28-29, is way far from ordinary. It's opera "Peking-style"—one of China's most celebrated opera troupes that features the classic 500-year-old Kunju style of Chinese theater. With glorious costumes, stylized acting and incredible make-up and masks, the 30-member company offers a dazzling display of music, song, mime, martial arts and acrobatics. *45 Quincy St., Cambridge (496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Jan. 28, 7pm; Jan. 29, 8pm. $20-$30.*

NOW RUNNING

A Couple of Blaguards
Terrace Room, Boston Park Plaza Hotel, Arlington St., Boston (931-2787). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. Through March. $38.50. This two-man comedy by author Frank McCourt and his brother, best-selling author Malachy McCourt, is an autobiographical tale spanning the brothers' years growing up poor in Ireland and their journey to a better life in America.

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed.-Thu. 8pm; Fri.-Sat. 7pm and 10pm; Sun. 3pm and 6pm. $39-$49. A unique theater experience. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to get its point across with tribal rock music, performance art, humorous antics, props (including plastic tubes, day-glo PVC pipes and twinkies) and three men painted blue.

Chic and Sassy
Tremont Theater, 276 Tremont St., Boston (542-4599). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Through Jan. 30. Thu.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm. A tale of two "girls" from a small town. Chic Ana and Miss Sassy, a pair of naive, fresh-faced drag queens, who make their way to the big city for a better life. Instead they get into mishaps.

Comedy of Errors
Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Thu. 7:30pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 4pm and 8pm; Sun. 3pm. Through Feb. 6. $22-$35. This classic Shakespearean comedy, set in the age of silent film with an original score by Steven Bergmen, involves two sets of twins separated at birth and brought up in two different cities at war. Sparks fly when both sets of twins are in the same town on the same day.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri. 8pm ; Sat. 6:30pm and 9:30pm; Sun. 3pm and 7:30pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This hilarious whodunit is set in a unisex hair salon. The production holds the record as the longest-running play in the history of the Boston theater.

INTERACTIVE THEATER

Medieval Manor
246 East Berkeley St., Boston (423-4900). Red Line to Broadway. Mon., Wed., Thu., Fri. 8pm ; Sat. 5pm and 9:30pm; Sun. 6pm. Ongoing. $9.60-$32. Eat, drink and be merry at a Renaissance dining experience. Don't worry about etiquette. You won't find knives and forks, and the soup of the day is in your face—literally.

Mystery Cafe
290 Congress St., Boston (781-320-0040). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Dinner and show: Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm. Ongoing. $34. Saturdays: The interactive murder mystery, *The Devil Made Me Do It*, a heavenly mystery in a tropical setting.

Mystery Cruise
Long Wharf, Boston (781-320-0040). June 25, 7pm (boarding). Cruise departs 7:30pm. $49/person, includes dinner and cruise. Gather clues during a cruise through the Harbor, meet characters and interrogate suspects as you attempt to piece together the mystery.

Nonna's Cruise to Nowhere
Locations around the Greater Boston area (781-933-1363). $35/includes dinner. These folks have taken everyone's favorite Italian grandmother (Nonna) and placed her on an imaginary cruise ship, along with her zany family, after misleading Nonna into thinking she's going back home to Italy.

Dance

SHOWS AND EVENTS

The Breathing Show
Emerson Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (824-8000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu. 7pm, Sat. 8pm, Sun. 2pm. Feb. 3, 5-6. $38-$50. The Boston premiere of Bill T. Jones' captivating solo performance is put on by one of the strongest and most controversial characters in contemporary dance. Jones performs a wide array of dance, dialogue, song and text.

N. HUSSEY (HALLOWED GROUND)

lunch

dinner

late night dining

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The Colonial's *FOSSE*, an anthology of musical numbers by the choreographer, plays Jan. 27-Feb. 13.

Ibrahima
Sorenson Center for the Arts, Babson College, Wellesley (864-8000) Feb. 5. 8pm. $6-$12. A multicultural experience. Ibrahima is performed by a West African troupe of dancers and vocalists with a 12 piece ensemble. The show integrates African rhythms with traditions from Cuba, France and America.

Rivers of Belief
The Dance Complex, 536 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (824-8000). Feb.4-5. 8pm. $12. The anticipated sequel to last year's *The Cross of Changes*. Pandora returns with one motive: To get revenge on Callas. Will Callas survive or is she doomed in Pandora's underground world of evil? With music by Enya, Enigma and Deep Forest.

JOIN IN

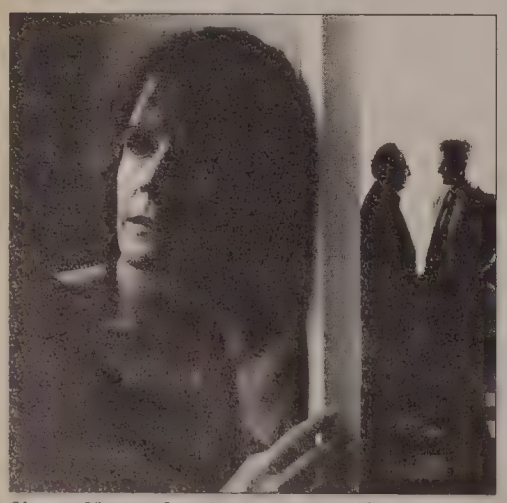
Balkan Dance
Dance Studio, 466 Franklin St., Melrose (840-2363). Fridays, 8-10:30. $7. Go wild with instructor Petre Petrov.

Club Joy
533 Washington Street (354-5780). Saturday nights. Boston's newest Latin night spot now offers classes. Jam'nastics staff teaches salsa, merengue, bachata and more. Classes feature La Reudo de Casino, a Cuban salsa game.

Dance Caliente
Congregational Church, 400 High St (Route 60), West Medford (781-646-1233). MBTA: Commuter Rail to West Medford. Monday and Wednesdays 5:30-8:45. www.DanceCaliente.com. The lively group is gearing up for winter 2000 programs. An array of dancing styles is explored throughout the night including salsa, tango, swing and the foxtrot. Monthly Saturday dance parties.

The Dance Complex
536 Mass Ave., Cambridge (547-9363). MBTA: Red Line to Central. $5-$12. www.cambridge.zami.com/dancecomplex. The complex offers an incredible breadth of classes for the young and old to keep you moving all year long. Check out the Web site for the various classes and times. All classes are drop-in.

International Folk Dance
Park Avenue Congregational Church, Park Ave. Paul Revers Rd,. Arlington Hts (491-6083). All Fridays 8-11pm. $6. Come and learn a range of folk dances from around the world, with instructors sponsored by the Folk Arts Center. Live music on occasion.



Sharon Mason, Gary Locke and Jeff Gill (l to r) star in *Death and the Maiden* in Arlington, Feb. 4-13.

International Dance Party
Fayville Village Hall, Central and Grove Sts., Southboro (508-879-7914). Special event one night only. Jan. 28, 6:30 potluck supper, 7:30-10:30 dance. Supper $1, dance $6. Music by Tom Pixton and friends.

Israeli Folk Dancing
Temple Kehillath Israel, 384 Harvard Ave., Brookline (484-4282). Mondays, lessons begin at 8 pm. $4. Come show off your moves with the best Israeli folk dancers.

Latin Jazz
Cafe Ole, 11 Springfield St., Cambridge (492-4495). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sundays 7:30-9:30pm. Free. Mingle, eat, drink and dance to the music of a live Latin jazz band at this authentic Mexican restaurant.

New England Contras and Squares
Thursdays: VFW Hall, 688 Huron Ave., Cambridge (354-1430); 8-11pm, $5. Saturdays: Scout House, 74 Walden St., Concord (547-7781), 8-11pm, $6. Mondays: Scout House, 74 Walden St., Concord (781-272-0396); 7:30-10:30pm, $6. With square dancing three nights a week, you can dance 'til you can't dance no more. Yankee Ingenuity plays Mondays, live bands vary on Thursday and there's a variety of music on Saturday nights. But don't forget to polish your dancing shoes as instructors specifically ask for you to "bring clean shoes."

Royal Scottish Country Dance
Every Monday 8-10:30pm at the YWCA, 7 Temple St., Cambridge (491-6050). MBTA: Red Line to Central. $6. Every Sunday 6:30-8:30pm at The Church of Our Savior, 25 Monmouth St., Brookline (277-7334). MBTA: C Green Line to St. Mary's. $4. For the beginner and experienced Scottish dancer. No need for kilts or a partner, but don't forget to bring soft-soled shoes.

Saturdays at Ryles Jazz Club
Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Saturdays, 9pm-1:30am, $12; $10 after 11:30pm. Join in a variety of dance moves—here you'll find jazzy mambos, swing dancing, cheeky cha chas and sassy salsa numbers.

Swing City
Mt. Auburn Post, VFW, 688 Huron Ave., Cambridge (277-3777). Every Friday night, 7:30pm-12:30am, $10. Find yourself a partner at this swingin' night spot—with free appetizers and a cash bar. Dress is casual to vintage. Beginners welcome.

Swinging Sunday's
Bulfinch's, 750 Boston Post Road, Sudbury (978-443-4094). Jan. 30. Tear it up with Bombay Jim and the Swinging Sapphires.

Temporada Latina
Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thursdays 8:30-11pm. $10-$12. Salsa and merengue dance.

TICKETS

Bostix
(723-5181) www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of Faneuil Hall); Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth); and Harvard Square (in the Holyoke Center arcade at 1350 Mass. Ave). Same-day tickets half price.*

Next Ticketing
(423-NEXT). www.boston.com/next.

Ticketmaster
(931-2000) www.ticketmaster.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(247-1300 or 800-442-1854). A good place to get tickets if a show is sold out at the box office.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail information to comedy@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the performances or comedians. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (248-9700). www.comedyconnectionboston. com. *MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket Square. Mon.-Wed. 8pm; Thu. 8:30pm; Fri. and Sat. 8pm, 10:15pm; Sun. 7pm. $8-$10 (weekend prices vary).* The oldest comedy club in Boston still draws big-name, national comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent for shows during the week. •Jan. 26: Boston Headliners. •Jan. 27, 8:30pm: Frank Santos, the "R-rated Hypnotist," $10. •Jan. 28, 8pm and 10:15pm: **Pauly Shore** from the *Encino Man*. •Jan. 29: Boston Headliners. •Jan. 30, 7pm: **Pauly Shore**, *Son-In-Law*. •Jan. 31: Showcase. •Feb. 4, 8pm and 10:15pm: **Richard Lewis**, "Anything But Love." •Feb. 5, 8pm and 10:15pm: **Richard Lewis**.

The Comedy Studio at the Hong Kong
1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu.-Sun. 8pm. $5-$7. Sketch comedy troops and local comedians perform. •Jan. 27: Thursday Night Fights starring Tim McIntire. Tournament of Champions, Super Bowl Final. •Jan. 28: Alternative comedy with Eugene, Brendon and Larry. Special guest Mike Bent. •Jan. 29: Mike "Boy Scientist" Bent with Glen Kunene and Benari Poulten. •Feb. 3: Tim McIntire's Thursday Night Fights with guests Steve Smith and Dan Levy. •Feb. 4: DJ Hazard, Eugene Mirman and John Keating. •Feb. 5: DJ Hazard special performance. •Feb. 6: Improv comedy with Comedie Du Jour, stand-up comedy with Lea Antonilli and JP Fialla.

Dick Doherty's Comedy Escape Comedy Vault
Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun. 9pm. $10. Features local stand-up comedians. Thursdays: Stand-up comedy. Fridays and Saturdays: Dick Doherty's Comedy Pro Tour. Sundays: Open mike night. •Jan. 27, 9pm ($10): **Comedie du Jour** improv theater troupe.

Nick's Comedy Stop
100 Warrenton St., Boston (482-0930). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Fri. 8:30pm; Sat. 7:45pm and 10pm; Sun. 8pm. $8-$14. The talent here is not quite as big-name as the Comedy Connection, but the crowds are just as enthusiastic, and you're guaranteed to leave with a smile on your face. Wednesdays: Open mike at 8:30pm. •Jan. 27, 8:30pm: Joe Yannetty, Tom Gilmore and Johnny K. •Jan. 28, 9pm: Jim McCue, Tom Gilmore and Johnny K. •Jan. 29, 9pm: Jim McCue, Tom Gilmore and Johnny K.

IMPROVISATIONAL COMEDY & MAGIC

Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston (263-6887). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket Square. Shows: Thu. 8pm; Fri. and Sat. 8pm and 10pm. Main Stage: $10-$15. Now playing on the main stage is the critically acclaimed improvisational and sketch comedy show—voted one of Boston's best improvisational comedy troupes.

ImprovBoston at Back Alley Theater
1253 Cambridge Street, Cambridge (576-1253). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe makes things up as they go along. Fri.-Sat. 8pm ($12) and 10:30pm ($12). Sun, 2pm ($7). •Fridays and Saturdays: 90 minutes of wholesome fun with scenes, games, original music and lots of audience participation. Sundays: family matinee. •Jan. 27 and Feb. 3, 8pm: **Sitcom**. A fully-improvised show based on suggestions that come from the studio audience as well as from an on-stage computer. 10pm: **Open Improv Jam**. All visitors of any skill level are invited to participate in a no-pressure, fun-filled atmosphere where everybody gets to play. •Jan. 28 and Feb. 4, 8pm: ImprovBoston. 10:30pm: TheatreSports Boston vs. Sitcom. Best of five match. •Jan. 29 and Feb. 5: ImprovBoston, 8pm and 10:30pm.

Magicians & Spirits at the Green Street Grill
280 Green St., Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Shows every Tuesday at 9pm. $10 cabaret show ($5 with dinner). Billed as "Intimate Nights of Sleights of Hand," Green Street Grill patrons enjoy close-up magic as two or three magicians perform tricks behind the bar and among the crowd. At 10pm, the cabaret show begins upstairs with local and national magicians reading minds, making birds appear out of nowhere and floating objects above the stage.

COMEDY SHOWS

Joey & Maria's Comedy Wedding
Tremont House Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston or Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Fri. and Sat. 7:30pm. Ongoing. $39-$45. Join the fun at this absolutely zany Italian wedding. Big hair and blue tuxedos optional.

Margaret Cho: I'm the One That I Want
Berklee Performance Center, 136 Mass. Ave., Boston (931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Feb. 4. For the first time, comedian Margaret Cho relates her experiences as the first Asian American to star in her own sitcom (or as she describes it, "my journey to hell and back.").

Matty Blake
Giggles, Prince's Restaurant, Route 1 South, Saugus (781-233-9950). Feb. 4, 9pm; Feb. 5, 8pm and 10:15pm. $10-$12. Boston comic Matty Blake offers up his take on the trails and tribulations of marriage from a 20-something perspective.

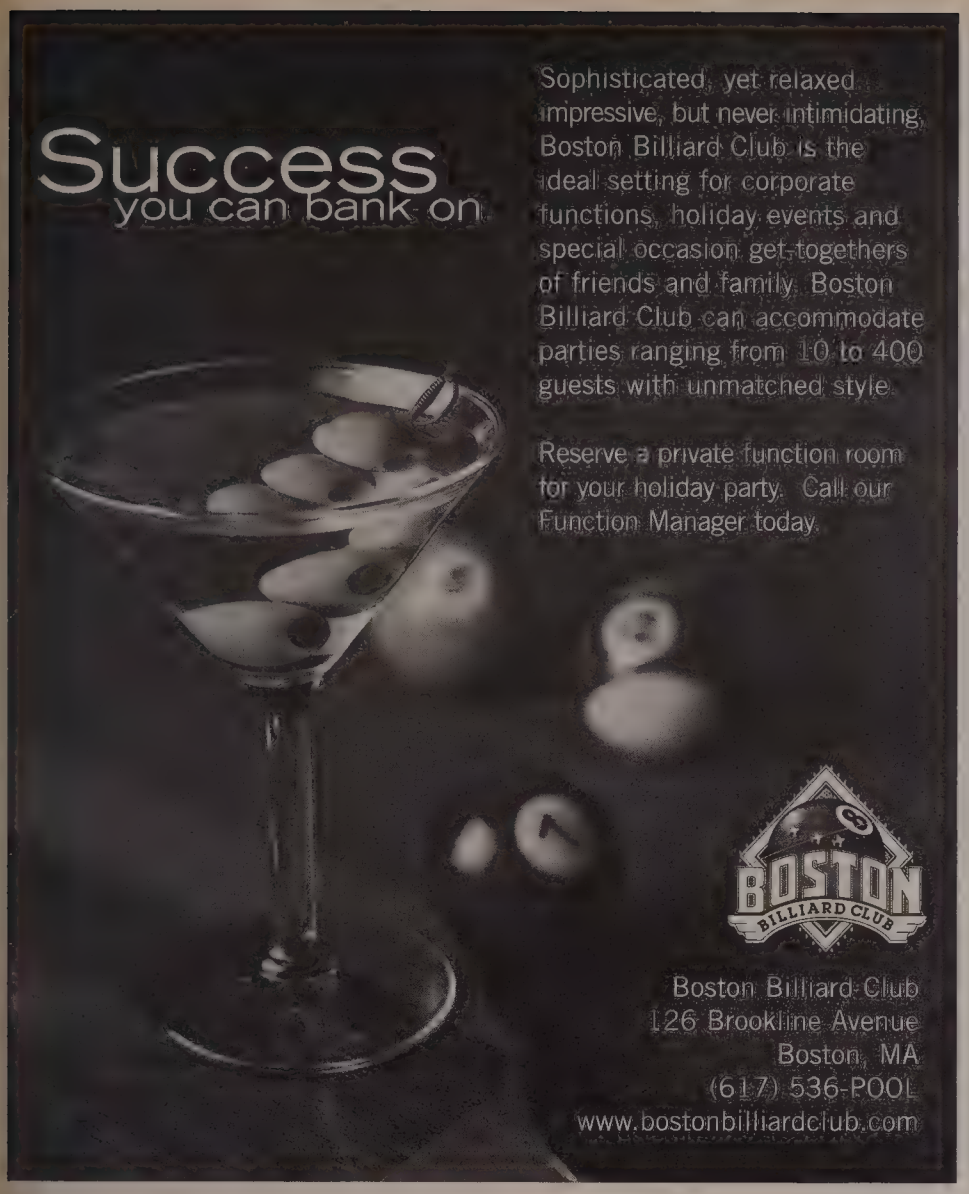
SitcomBoston
The Works Theater, 255 Elm St., Somerville (538-3205). MBTA: Red Line to Davis Square. Fridays and Saturdays, 8pm and 10:30pm. A fully improvised show that looks exactly like an hour of prime-time television, complete with commercials, and based on suggestions taken from a studio audience.

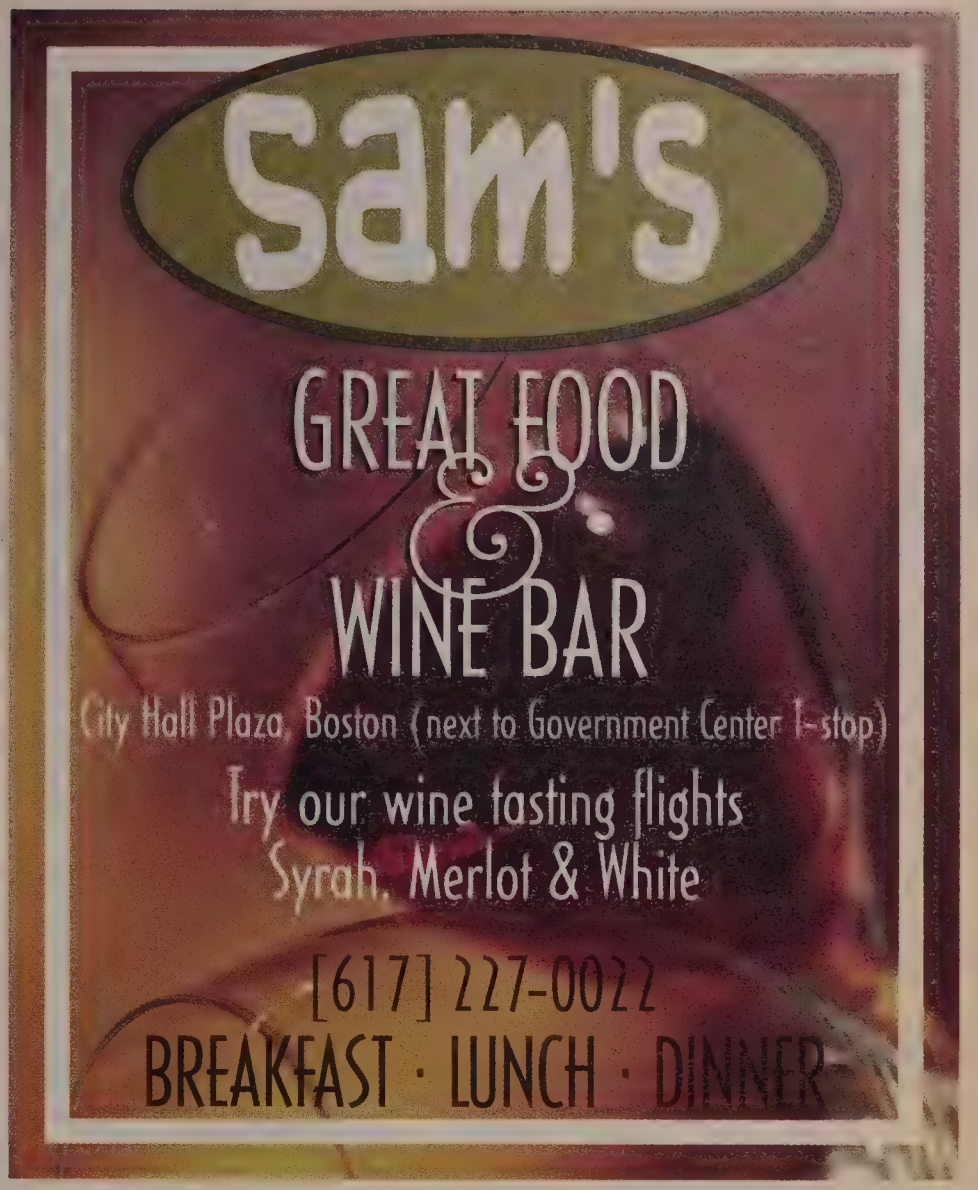
Preview

Laughs & Laments

Comedian Richard Lewis, named one of *GQ Magazine*'s 20th Century's Most Influential Humorists, will ride the laugh track into town on Feb. 4-5 at the the Comedy Connection. Best known for his all-black attire and trademark gesture of placing his hands to his temples as he "woefully catalogs his hypochondria," Lewis started out in the advertising business in New Jersey. Unsatisfied, he developed a stand-up act and began performing at comedy clubs in New York. Watch Lewis use his psychological make-up to draw laughs from the audience as he laments, "When I was a kid, I used to take M&Ms one at a time with water." *Comedy Connection, 245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (248-9700). MBTA: Green to Government Center. Feb. 4-5, 8pm and 10:15pm.*

JOAN MARCUS (FOSSE); FOGLE (DEATH AND THE MAIDEN)





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Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information for gallery and museum listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail to arts@improper.com. *Include opening and closing dates, nearest T stops and price of admission, if any, and telephone numbers. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a partial list of the largest art museums, art institutes and galleries in the Boston area. Listings following bullets are temporary exhibitions.

Museums

Art Institute of Boston
700 Beacon St., Boston (262-1223). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun. 12-5pm. •*19th- and 20th-century Photographic Views of Giza*, which will be on view Feb. 3-March 19.

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat. 10am-12pm. The Sackler houses ancient Islamic and Asian art, an array of Neolithic bronze Buddhas, Greek pottery, and Hellenistic and Roman sculpture. •*Wall Drawing #830* features four isometric figures with dynamic colors. Ongoing. •*Nature as Metaphor* features art from China, Korea and Japan. Through Feb. 13. •*Ben Shahn's New York: The Photography of Modern Times*, showcases the artist's experimentation with social documentary. It includes more than 150 photographs, ink drawings and easel paintings. Feb. 5-April 30.

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat. 10am-12pm. It's better to visit the Fogg the same day you go to the Sackler, as admission includes all of Harvard's museums. Highlights include van Gogh's self portrait and Bellini's clay figures.

Gibson House Museum
137 Beacon St., Boston (267-6338). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Guided tours every Sat. and Sun. at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm. $5. With 75 percent of its original items in place, the museum allows visitors to understand 19th-century domestic life and design. Ongoing.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (266-5152). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Wed.-Sun. 12-5pm; Thu. 12-9pm. $6, $4 students and seniors. •A new exhibition marks the first American museum survey exhibition of the work of the celebrated British artist Cornelia Parker. It includes more than 60 of works made in the last decade. Parker will also create a new charcoal installation specifically for this ICA exhibition. Feb. 2-April 9. Free guided walk-throughs take place every Thursday at 6:30pm.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (566-1401). www.boston.com/gardner. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun. 11am-5pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, under 18 free. Guided on Fridays 2:30pm.* This 15th-century Venetian palace is home to more than 2,500 objects and twice as many flowers. Boston's most famous museum is named for the house's owner, Isabella Stewart Gardner (1840-1924), an infamously incorrigible individualist. Only after her death was her house completely opened to the public. Now everyone can see the works of Titian, Botticelli and Matisse, as well as furniture and architectural details from European churches and palaces.

MIT Museum
265 Mass Ave., Cambridge (253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5pm, weekends 12-5pm. $3, $1 for students, seniors and children. Where else would you be but at MIT when you contemplate Morton G. Bradley Junior's *Math in 3-D: Geometric Sculptures?* The museum's other permanent exhibits include *Flashes of Inspiration: The Work of Harold Edgerton*, and *Gestural Engineering*. Ongoing. •*Cultural Engineering: The Sculptures of Arthur Ganson*, the mechanical engineer/choreographer. Ongoing. •Selections from the museum's holography collection. Ongoing. •Explore oceanography, astronomy, the science of buildings and other mysteries of science with interactive activities for all ages from 2-4pm. Call 452-2827 for details. •*Self-portrait.map*, new digitally manipulated chromogenic prints by Lilla LoCurto and Bill Outcault, includes large scale works as well as a computer station. Jan. 28-April 9. •*Jane and Louise Wilson: Stasi City and Crawl Space* is the presentation of two major video installations by these British twins. Jan. 28-April 9.

***Here and There*, pastel works by Teresa McCue, shows at the Via Gallery through Feb. 11.**

Museum of Bad Art
580 High St., Dedham (325-8224). Mon.-Fri. 6:30-10pm, Sat. and Sun. 1-10pm. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. The one and only museum that boasts "art too bad to be ignored." A favorite is *Lady Chardonnay*, a piece illuminating a poodle-head dancer.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Mon.-Tue. 10am-4:45pm; Wed. 10am-9:45pm, Thu.-Fri. 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. 10am-5:45pm. West Wing only Thu.-Fri. 5-9:45pm. $12, students and seniors $10.* The MFA has earned its rep as the second-best run art museum in the nation (after the Metropolitan Museum of Art) with its top-notch exhibitions, educational programs and galleries of African, Oceanic and American art. •*View From Above: The Photographs of Bradford Washburn* consists of some 80 black-and-white photographs by cartographer and aerial photographer Bradford Washburn. Through April 30. •*Pharoahs of the Sun: Akhenaten, Nefertiti, Tutankhamen*, one of the most important international presentations of Egyptian art and culture in recent decades, is drawn from more than 35 museums and private collections around the world. It reconstructs the Amarna Age and the vanished city of Amarna through 250 pieces of sculpture, reliefs, ceramics, clothing, tools and furniture, including two colossal statues from Cairo that have never before left Egypt. Through Feb. 6.

The Peabody House Museum
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (496-1027). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5 adults; $4 students and seniors; $3 children 3-13. No fee Sat. mornings until 12pm. •A brand new exhibit, *Heads and Tales: Adornments from Africa*, is an exhibition of rarely seen sculptures and artifacts from the Peabody Museum collections, many of them more than 100 years old, which highlight the messages communicated by adornments of the head in sub-Saharan Africa. Through Oct. 1, 2001.

The Revolving Museum
288-300 A St., Boston (439-8617). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed.-Fri. 12-5pm. •*Wayne Veins: New World, New Work, New Year*, a collection of gods and goddesses, nightmares and dreams—all made from thrift store and trash material, shows in the Little White Box Gallery through Feb. 18. •The next show is *Revelation for Revolution*, a millennial exhibition of members' work juried by Rebecca Hoffberger, the founder of the American Visionary Art Museum in Baltimore. Jan. 26-May 2.

Galleries
FINE ART

Allston Skirt Gallery
119 Braintree St., Allston (254-7027). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm. •*Here Comes Rhody*, curated by Dike Blair, features work by Matthew Chase, Maia Cannon, Molly V. Smith, Joe Bradley and Tori Duncan. Through Feb. 26.

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (536-4465). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •Susanna Coffey's *Self Portraits* show through Feb. 2. •*New Paintings* by Reed Kay shows Feb. 5-March 1.

Andrea Marquit Fine Arts
38 Newbury St., Boston (859-0190). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Wed.-Sat. 11am-5pm. Open by appointment only through February. Shows contemporary masters and emerging artists and acts as a consulting group for corporate and private collectors.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (247-0610). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 11am-5:30pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •Anne Packard's *New Paintings*, abstracted landscapes of the Cape and New England, shows through Jan. 30. •Anthony James' *Paintings* show Feb. 1-28.

The Artists Foundation Galleries
516 East Second St., Boston (464-3559). MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. Sat., 12-5pm and by appointment. •In the Main Gallery: *Articles of Faith: Lawn Martyrs & Front Yard Saints*, photographs by Gary Duehr. •*New Work* by Linda Leslie Brown. •*New Sculpture* by Marcella Stasa. •*New Video* by Zach Feuer. Through Feb. 12.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., 5th Floor, Boston (262-4490). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. Paintings, drawings, prints and sculpture by emerging and established artists. •*Print Publishers Spotlight* features the works of print publishers IC Editions, Lincoln Center and Villani Editions. Through Jan. 29. •Saol LeWitt: *Sculpture Gouaches*. Feb. 5-March 15.

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (482-2477). Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. •Christopher Bucklow and Garry Fabian Miller show *New British Photography*. Through Jan. 29. •David Hilliard's *New Photographs* show Feb. 2-March 4.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm. •Boston's only gallery dedicated to contemporary folk and self-taught art features *Southern Accents: Contemporary Southern Folk Art Part II* is paintings, drawings and sculptures by nine artists including Mary Whitfield, Woodie Long, R.A. Miller and Purvis Young. Jan. 26-March 4.

Bromfield Gallery
560 Harrison Ave., Boston (451-3605). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm. •Betsyann Duval's *Memory Stories* shows in Gallery I and Elaine Mendelson's *Living Memories* shows in Gallery II. Through Jan. 29. •David Frazer's *New Paintings* display in Gallery I and Teresa Dietrich's *Boston Architecture Collages* in Gallery II. Feb. 2-26.

Cambridge Art Association
25 Rear Lowell St., Cambridge (876-0246). Tue.-Sat. 11am-5pm., Sun. 1-5pm. A small gallery with a permanent collection of local art. •*Blue*, a show of works by members and non-members is guest-juried by Cheryl Brutvan, Beal Curator of Art at the MFA. Shows through Feb. 6.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (236-2255). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm. •*Illusive Glass* by six artists is on display through Feb. 5.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (859-7222). Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •A solo exhibition of Dean Richardson's work from the past two years shows through Jan. 30. •*Revealing the Nude: A Timeless Passion*, paintings by 14 artists. Feb. 2-28.

Child's Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (266-1108). Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri. 9am-6pm; Mon. and Sat. 10am-5pm. American and European paintings, prints, drawings and sculpture, from 1500 through 1950. •Upcoming exhibitions include *Pleasures of Winter*, *Selections from the Print Annual* and *Prints of Francisco Goya*, through March 4.

Clark Gallery
145 Lincoln St., Lincoln (781-259-8303). Tue.-Sat. 10am-5pm. •The new year brings in two shows: *Michael Wilson: New Paintings* and *American Ceramic Sculpture*, featuring a select group of major works from around the country. Through Jan. 27. •*New Sculpture* by Bruce Barry and *Paintings* by Illana Manelson show Feb. 1-24.

Clifford•Smith Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 3rd Floor, Boston (695-0255). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing, transfer to bus #49, get off at Washington and East Berkeley. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5pm. Gallery artists throughout January. •Jason Young's *New Paintings* show Feb. 1-26.

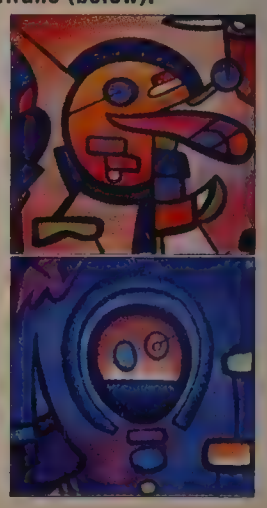
Preview

Galleries Galore

Art comes in threes.

Three new galleries have recently made their home in town and are well worth a visit. You can find them all in the "Art District" on two of the city's most prestigious streets. Here's an overview: A Touch of France, a new concept addition to the Newbury Street art scene which opened at the end of November, imports contemporary French artists' images of rolling lavender fields, provencal villages and distinctive stone architecture to Boston. Headed up by Philip Bonamico, the cosmopolitan-esque gallery brings in a variety of artists' works that draw on diverse subjects. Complimenting the paintings—and to complete the imagery of the South of France—are numerous striking dried flower arrangements, themselves made by renown French artists.

A Touch of France gallery presents the abstract paintings of Tirane (below).



Another gallery catering to art enthusiasts from across the globe is Gurari Collections on Charles Street, run by Russ Gerard, who has been involved with the Boston Architectural Center for the past 10 years. There's also the St. George Gallery also recently made its home on Boston's "Avenue of the Arts." It showcases William St. George's work, including a new series of local cityscapes.

A Touch of France, 173 Newbury St., Boston (247-6966). Gurari Collections, 91 Charles St., Boston (367-9800). St. George Gallery, 245 Newbury St., Boston (450-0321).

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The Boston Globe

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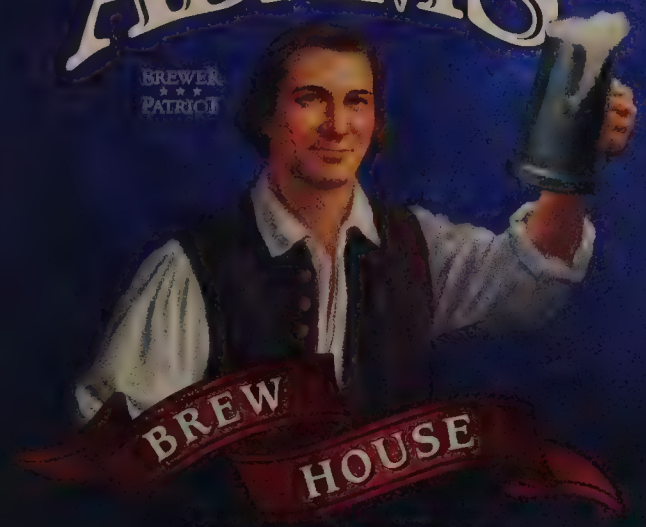

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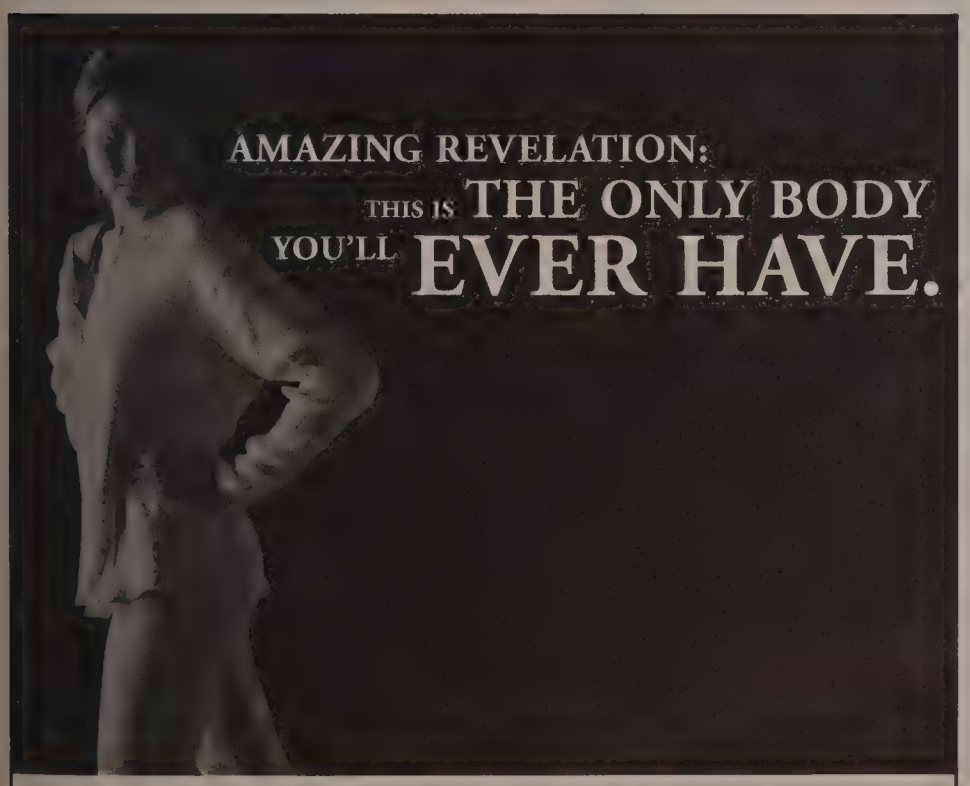

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Copley Society of Boston
158 Newbury St., Boston (536-5049). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat. 10:30am-5:30pm; Sun. 1-5pm. America's oldest non-profit art association is a platform for young and established artists alike. •A *Winter Members Show* is on display through Jan. 29. •*Copley Artists*, a juried exhibition, shows Feb. 3-26.

Creiger Dane Gallery
36 Newbury St., Boston (536-8088). www.creigerdane.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm.* •*TimeXposure: exploration in time, space & movement* exhibits images that appear to contain motion as well as three-dimensionality in lenticular prints that explore the mysteries of time, space and movement. Through Jan. 29. •*New Work, New York* is a group exhibition featuring the works of emerging artists based in New York. Feb. 2-26.

Crystal Art Gallery
93 Summer St., Suite 4L, Boston (728-9818). www.crystalfineart.com. *MBTA: Red and Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Tue.-Sat. 11am-6pm.* A multicultural gallery that regularly displays the work of national, international and local artists. •Currently showing *Americana*, by David Harrison, oil paintings that explore American urban landscapes.

Dyansen Gallery
132 A Newbury St., Boston (262-4800). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. You'll always find paintings, bronzes and fine art prints. Collections include Rembrandt, Picasso, Chagall, Miro, Dali, Cassatt, Snowden and more. •The gallery displays their ongoing collection.

Eclipse Gallery
167 Newbury St., Boston (247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9am-6pm. •Matthew Zirakian displays his black-and-white photography through Jan. 29.

Elias Fine Arts
120 Braintree St., Brighton (783-1888). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. •The gallery displays *The Constructed Real*, co-curated by Mario Russo, which explores contemporary photographers from Belgium, Germany, Holland and the US who build environments and photograph them. Through Feb. 26.

A solo exhibition of Dean Richardson's work shows through Jan. 30 at the Chase Gallery.

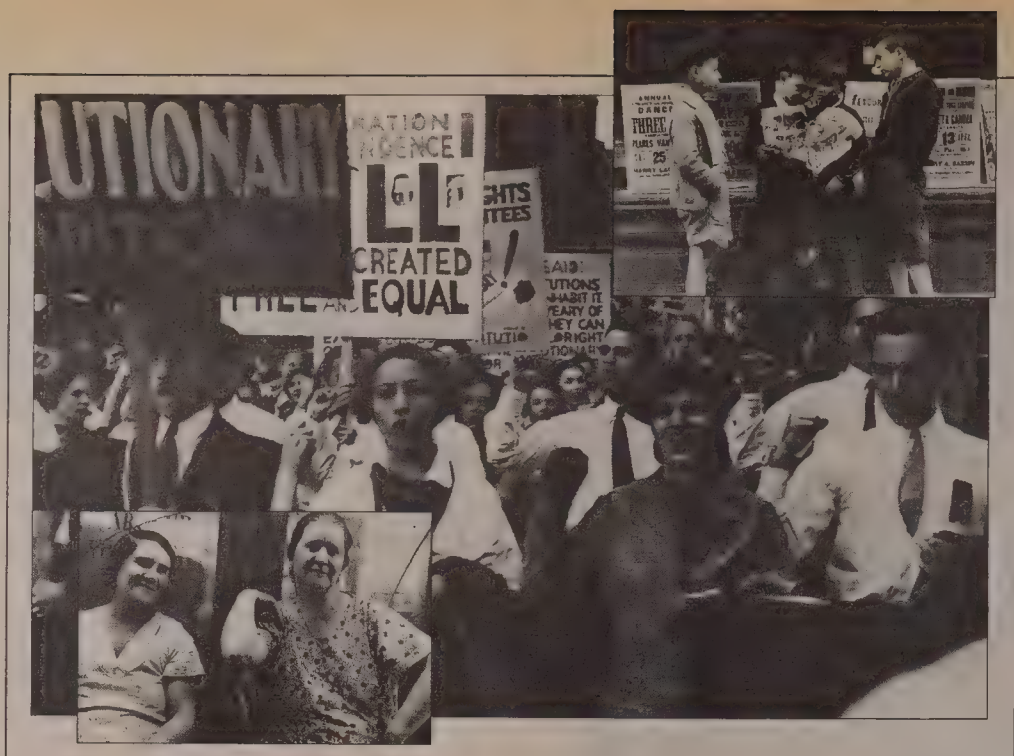
Gallery Bershad
99 Dover St., Somerville (629-9400 ex. 3). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Wed., Thu., Sun., 12-6pm; Fri. and Sat. 12-8pm. •*Gallery Bershad at One*, a multi-media exhibition showing the work of several new artists shows through Feb. 6.

Gallery NAGA
67 Newbury St., Boston (267-9060). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. Paintings, studio furniture, sculpture, photography and holography. •Robert Siegelman shows *Manuscript: New 20x24 Polaroid Photographs* with Alan Klein's exhibition, *Moment: New Works in Glass*. Jan. 29. •Brenda Star and Sam Earle display their new work Feb. 4-26.

Gibbs Gallery
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm. •*Artifact: Past, Present, Future* features the work of more than 25 artists from Greater Boston. Through Jan. 28. •*Females You Can Only Imagine*, paintings and sculpture by Joan Baldwin and Mary Craig McLane, shows Feb. 7-March 24.

Genovese Sullivan Gallery
47 Thayer St., Boston (426-9738). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. •Charles Cohen's color photographs display through Feb. 2.

Guild of Boston Artists
162 Newbury St., Boston (536-7660). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri. 9:30am-4:30pm; Sat. 10am-5pm. Established in 1914 as a traditional non-profit art gallery, the guild aims to keep traditional art open for the public. •*Watercolor for the 21st Century*, an exhibition by the New England Watercolor Society, shows through Jan. 29. •A *Winter Members Exhibit* includes oils, watercolors and pastels. Feb. 2-26.



Ben Shahn's New York: The Photography of Modern Times

Shahn's *Photography of Modern Times* showcases the artist's provocative experimentation with the social documentary tradition. It includes more than 150 of his photographs, ink drawings and easel paintings. At the Arthur M. Sackler Museum. Feb. 5-April 30.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St. Boston (536-6339). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 10am-6pm; Sat. 10am-5pm. •Assortment of 18th- and 19th-century historic and decorative antique engravings and lithographs. •The gallery shows an ongoing collection in January and February.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (262-0550). Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. www.hyg.com. •Rudolf de Crignis and Bonnie Porter display their works through Feb. 1. John Coplans' *Self Portrait: Finger* shows with Andrea Means's *Plant Light*. Feb. 4-29.

Hurst Gallery
53 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (491-6888). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sat. 12-6pm. Thu, 12-7pm. Visitors are greeted with art and artifacts from six continents. •An exhibition of Chinese and Japanese scroll paintings is on display throughout January. •A special exhibition of African art opens Feb. 1.

Hynes Convention Center
South Rotunda Gallery 900 Boylston St., Boston (954-2000). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center. •*Through Their Eyes*, a photographic exhibition featuring members of the Cambridge Senior Center, is currently travelling around the city. This extraordinary artistic event was the idea of photographer Robert W. Castagna, who approached the directors of the center in order to teach a class to the seniors. Numerous of the center's members worked to create stunning photographic images. Members participating in the show include Lillian Henslet, a great-grandmother, and Sylvia Bridgeman, a grandmother of 24 and great-grandmother of 32. Throughout February. Then the exhibition moves to the BPL April 3-28.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (375-0076). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. The gallery's exhibition features a wide variety of vintage posters from Europe and Russia. •*The Last Poster Show...of the Millennium*, a celebration of festive Italian, Swiss, French, American and other posters throughout the 20th century. Through February.•

Judy Ann Goldman
14 Newbury St., Boston (424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. Call for an appointment. Paintings and works on paper by gallery artists. •Tom Bambarger: *Visual Field's Landscape Photographs of the American Heartland* shows through Feb. 12.

Kingdom Fine Arts
173 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1997). MBTA: Green Line to Symphony. Tue.-Sat. 11am-7pm. •*Fear No Art*, an exhibition by four artists, includes the works of Wombat and Matt Clark. Through Feb. 14.

Kougeas Gallery
88 White St., Boston (569-9317). MBTA: Blue Line to Maverick Square. Thurs.-Sat. 2-6pm and by appointment. This art gallery in the neighborhood of East Boston features realist and illusionistic fine art. •*Nervous Beauty*, an exhibition by Marc Dennis, consists of small, hyper-realistic oil paintings. Through Feb. 26. •*Explicit, part two* is comprised of 18 photographs, 13 paintings and nine works on paper in various media. March 4-April 1.

Mercury Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (859-0054). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm. Specializes in American and European figurative expressionism. •*Joseph Solman: A Retrospective of Works from 1935-1999* is an exhibition of portraits, street scenes and still lives. Through Feb. 12.

Mobius
354 Congress St., Boston (542-7416). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm. An artist-run group known for a wide range of arts. •*Fortress*, an installation by Jon Luckett, incorporates sound, video and a fort, using household furniture and sheets to explore the psychic necessity of forts to grown-ups. Through Jan. 29. •*Eating the Wall St. Journal and Other Current Consumptions*, an exhibition performance by William Pope that explores the old adage "You are what you eat," shows through Feb. 5.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm.* Founded in 1964. •In Gallery I, Mario Kon displays *Addition/Subtraction/Regeneration*. •*New Work* by five artists are in Gallery II. Through Feb. 19.

Out of the Blue Gallery
168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun., 12-7pm. This artist-owned and-operated gallery always has a variety of interesting artwork up and art-related events going on. •*Christmas Show* runs through Jan. 31.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (236-4497). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. •Howard Silberthau's abstract paintings show through Feb 26.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (267-9473). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun. 1pm-5pm. •*Inuit Collection*, a collection of contemporary Inuit sculpture from the recently united Nunavut Territories of Northwest Canada, shows through Feb. 2. •Opening Feb. 5 is a show of Polish artist Samuel Bak's work, *The Game Continues*. Through March 1.

Qingping Gallery Teahouse
216 Newbury St., Boston (236-4846). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open every day, 9am-12am. This authentic Chinese teahouse—and the only local gallery to focus solely on art from China—specializes in avant-garde and contemporary antiques, teapots and furniture.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (266-3321). www.richardson-clarke.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tues.-Sat. 10am-5pm.* •American and European 19th- and 20th-century paintings, drawings and sculpture. Ongoing.

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (437-1518). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm. •Jason Berger's *Bridges: The 21st Century*, a collection of his bright, colorful paintings, shows through Jan. 29. •Carty Bledsoe will have a three-day show of recent oil paintings and watercolors titled *Trouble in Paradise* Jan. 30-Feb. 1. •Zygmund Jankowski and other artists display all their large paintings Feb. 5-25.

Barbara Singer Gallery
18 Sparks St., Cambridge (491-5525). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.barbarasingerfineart.com. *Sat. 1-4pm and by appointment.* •The current show features the work of Robert Kelly and Stephanie Chubbuck. •An upcoming show is Robert Kelly's Gouaches and Monotypes. Feb. 19-April 1.

Space 12 Gallery
12 Union Park St., Boston (423-9760). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed. 6-9pm; Thu.-Sat. 1-5pm. •*Dan Fox: New Work*, new abstracts in acrylic on canvas and paper, shows through Feb. 12.

Via Gallery
83 Newbury St., 2nd Floor (424-6200). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri. 10am-4pm. •Teresa McCue's pastels, *Here and There*, show through Feb. 11.

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (536-6176). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 8am-5:30pm; Sat. 9am-4pm. Run by twin brothers Bill and Terry Vose, the gallery specializes in American paintings. •The work of Charles Woodbry is on display through January. •A *Winter Exhibition* of paintings from their regular collection shows through the month of February.

Zeitgeist Gallery
312 Broadway St., Cambridge (876-2182). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu.-Sun., 2pm-7pm. •The gallery displays a variety of local artists' work.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2051). Tues.-Sat. 11am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm; Closed Mondays. The Multiple is a gallery investigation that explores works of art produced more than once. Ongoing.

Gallery 57
Cambridge Arts Council, 57 Inman St., Cambridge (349-4380). www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~cac. *Mon.-Fri., 8:30am-5pm and by appointment.* •Suara Welitoff's *Mercury Eyes*, new video work and photographic portraits, shows through Feb. 4.

Gallery One
537 Comm. Ave., Boston (437-1868). Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm. Affiliated with the New England School of Photography. A gallery devoted to displaying photography of Boston artists. • Upcoming is James Spada's *Men*, black-and-white photography. Through Feb. 18.

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (423-4299). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Fri., 10am-3pm; Sat., 12-5pm. •*For the Time, Being*, an installation from Asa Chibás, Liz Sweibel and Traci Wile, shows Jan. 28-March 3.

Panopticon Gallery
187 Bay State Rd., Boston (267-8929). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford. Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm. This gallery offers fine art photographic prints and media licensing of images for print, video and stock photography.

Photographic Resource Center
602 Commonwealth. Ave., Boston (353-0700). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford. Tue.-Sun., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-8pm. •*Particle Accelerators* looks at the efforts of contemporary artists working across the disciplines of science, technology and photography. Through Feb. 25. •*Photography in Human Experience* features photographs dating from the 1860s to the 1920s. Through April 28.

CRAFTS

Cambridge Artists Cooperative
59A Church St., Cambridge (868-4434). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; 10am-8pm; Sun. 1-6pm. Twelve artists own and operate this gallery which features 2D design and jewelry.

Clayground
91 Hampshire St., Cambridge (661-7376). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 12-6pm; Sat. 11am-5pm. Porcelain and stone objects galore. Classes available.

Fresh Pond Clay Works
368 Huron Ave., Cambridge (492-1907). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard to Bus 72. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm. A wide range of different firing techniques, from terracotta to porcelain.

Infinity Gallery
24 Union Park St., Boston (423-5555). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat 11am-7pm; Sun 11am-6pm. This small gallery features Wayne Fuerst's work.

Signature Gallery
Dock Square, Boston (227-4885). Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Thu., 10am-7pm; Fri. and Sat., 10am-9pm; Sun., 12-6pm. Pottery, metal and glass works.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (266-1810). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm; Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. •*Sculptural Works* by Peter Haines and Nancy Hayes show with Robert Forman's *Yarn Paintings* through Feb. 27.

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GREAT WAIL OF CHINA

Absolute power corrupts absolutely entertainingly in *The Emperor and the Assassin*. BY PAUL SHERMAN

The movie business is *so* sixth grade. Remember when you were that age and thought the longer your book report was, the better? So you'd pad your papers out as much as possible, writing verbose sentences with unnecessarily long words because you were too insecure to be to the point. You thought that made *you* look stupid.

With current movies like *The Green Mile*, *Any Given Sunday*, *Angela's Ashes* and *Magnolia* all hovering around the three-hour mark to show us how important they are, it's easy to see how the folks in Hollywood still have that sixth-grade mindset. But you have to turn to the 160-minute Chinese epic *The Emperor and the Assassin* to finally reach a long movie where you feel your time is not at least partially being wasted to serve somebody's inflated ego.

Li Xuejian plays the emperor in Chen Kaige's epic *The Emperor and the Assassin.*

This historical tale set in the third century BC is a grand Shakespearean-style pressure-cooker of power, revenge and intrigue, so much so that it outdoes the similarly-themed current adaptation of the Bard's *Titus Andronicus* (see capsule review in this issue). It's based around the real-life character of Ying Zheng (Li Xuejian), king of Qin, one of the seven dominant kingdoms in China at that time. Ying Zheng believed he was destined to unify China into a single kingdom by conquering the others, but in order to do so this emperor became a ruthless tyrant who alienated all his supporters (his Nixonian story was also dramatized, albeit differently, in another recent Chinese film, *The Emperor's Shadow*).

Organized in chapters, Chen (*Farewell, My Concubine*) Kaige's epic makes up for its occasionally choppy narrative flow—in which any one of the three major characters might not appear for 20 minutes—by having some phenomenally-staged set pieces that brand themselves into your head. Starting with the emperor's victory over one neighboring kingdom, it also introduces Lady Zhao (Gong Li, of *Concubine* and *To Live*), the former teen lover of the emperor who helps him hatch a plan for him to increase his empire. She'll befriend a neighboring kingdom's prince (Sun Zhou), convince him she wants the emperor murdered and help send an assassin back to carry out the murder. The prepared emperor can then thwart the murder and have an excuse to invade yet another kingdom.

But there are so many cross-currents of allegiances, self-interests and transgressions at work that this plan implodes. And here's where Kaige's great set pieces come in. The first comes in the second chapter, about the assassin, Jing Ke (Zhang Fengyi), in the haunting flashback when we see how this once coldly-proficient killer was humbled during a "hit" on a family, when a blind girl he decides to spare begs him to kill her. He won't do it, but is regrettably driven to do so when she attacks him.

The next chapter, in which the emperor discovers his mother (Gu Yongfei) has two sons with a devious Marquis (Wang Zhiwen), offers such brutally emotional moments as the disposal of those boys (who would have a claim on the emperor's throne) and the Marquis' ill-fated coup attempt, a storming of the palace which Kaige dazzlingly unfurls like a fast-paced game of chess.

As the story progresses, *The Emperor and the Assassin* becomes more than just a collection of intermittently great sequences. The assassin becomes a soulful warrior worthy of one played by Toshiro Mifune in a classic samurai film, Lady Zhao finds her allegiance swinging to him instead of the emperor (a bond which drives the assassin into taking on the murder plot, for real) and the emperor deteriorates into an ineffectual ruler waiting for death to arrive, suggesting *Apocalypse Now*'s Col. Kurtz. The intrigue, emotion and widescreen visual splendor will kick around in your head for days after you've seen the movie. **IB**

The Emperor and the Assassin ★★★1/2

Directed by Chen Kaige. Written by Kaige and Wang Peigong. With Li Xuejian, Gong Li and Zhang Fengyi. In Mandarin with subtitles. Not Rated. Sony Pictures Classics.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Angela's Ashes ★★
Death by the carful, poverty, the drink, strident Catholicism, starvation, typhoid, consumption, unemployment, conjunctivitis and every imaginable body fluid grace Alan Parker's tediously long adaptation of Frank McCourt's Pulitzer-Prize-winning memoir of growing up in Ireland. Although there are occasional sparks of humor or tenderness, there's little thrust to the miseryfest, and little that hasn't been seen before in a dozen similar Irish tales. All this does is make you long to revisit *The Butcher Boy*, Neil Jordan's cliche-busting antidote to movies like this.

Any Given Sunday ★★
There's often an exhilarating cinematic energy to Oliver Stone's football movie, but it's also terribly overinflated and self-important. With Al Pacino as a veteran coach trying to balance the egos of players (like Jamie Foxx, Dennis Quaid and LL Cool J) and the bottom-line demands of management (like owner Cameron Diaz), the movie often seems like one long shouting match (who's Al arguing with *this* scene?). At its best, Stone's quick-cutting, music-drenched style adds adrenaline to the drama, at its worst it's obnoxious and gimmicky and drags the movie out to nearly three hours. Or is this all just Stone's metaphorical commentary on working in Hollywood, with the idealistic coach standing in for him, the players for self-centered actors and the management for Hollywood suits?

Galaxy Quest ★★★
This comedy about life imitating art, or at least life imitating sci-fi, is the most purely fun movie around. The story—in which the cast of a long-cancelled, "Star Trek"-like TV series is whisked away by aliens in need of help, who think the TV episodes were "historical documents" and the actors really are heroic—is ingenious and endearingly-executed. Although the resolution is a bit dragged out, both the cast (including Tim Allen, Sigourney Weaver and Alan Rickman) and their characters are A-OK.

Girl, Interrupted ★★★
Susanna Kaysen's memoir of a year spent in a mental institution becomes an involving drama, a sort of somber *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Although it's a little skimpy on the background of its young heroine (Winona Ryder), you sense that her troubles and her being committed stem more from her rejection of the 1960s suburban, middle-class life laid out before her than from any genuine sickness. It's director James (*Copland*) Mangold's no-nonsense rendering of her gradual realization of her own inner struggles—a realization both hindered and helped by the free-spirited fellow patient played by Angelina Jolie—that makes this emotional journey rewarding.

The Hurricane ★★★
Tragedy and triumph, character study and legal story mingle, sometimes awkwardly, in the story of Rubin "Hurricane" Carter. The welterweight boxing contender, unjustly-convicted prisoner, 1970s *cause célèbre* and, eventually, 1980s free man is a compelling character, especially in his attempt to mentally transcend the prison around him (and, as Carter, Denzel Washington gives his best performance since *Devil in a Blue Dress*). But such moments are too often interrupted by scenes with a quartet of Canadians who befriend him and ultimately help uncover the evidence that frees him. They're important, but are often dead weight to the 145-minute story. And, yes, Bob Dylan's song about Carter is here.

Man On The Moon ★★★½
Jim Carrey and writers Scott Alexander and Larry Karaszewski, who penned Tom Burton's *Ed Wood*, outdo themselves in director Milos Forman's biography of the late comic Andy Kaufman, which really "gets" its subject. Carrey is uncanny at capturing

Coach Al Pacino and owner Cameron Diaz have it out in Oliver Stone's *Any Given Sunday.*

EMPEROR: SONY PICTURES CLASSICS, SUNDAY: ROBERT ZUCKERMAN

Kaufman in memorable onstage routines, but he goes beyond mere mimicry in the offstage scenes and easily tops his performance in *The Truman Show*. And the writers—despite some sloppy fiddling with chronology—brilliantly tap into the spirit of Kaufman, who lived to confound audiences, whether it was through his joke-free comedy or his abrasive alter ego, Tony Clifton. Also with Danny DeVito, Courtney Love and Paul Giamatti and, as themselves, several of Kaufman's *Taxi* co-stars and Jerry "The King" Lawler.

Mr. Death ★★
Cambridge nonfiction filmmaker Errol (*Fast, Cheap and Out of Control*) Morris' sharp and clever visuals juice up his latest, but only to a certain extent. He's chosen an initially interesting subject in one-time Malden resident Fred Leuchter, an engineer who designs and builds electric chairs, lethal injection machines and gallows for prisons. But the somewhat amusingly creepy Leuchter turns out to be just creepy, period. When the movie gets to his dubious activities as a Holocaust denier. We see him collecting samples at Auschwitz to analyze, and when his conclusions—disputed by others Morris interviews—cause his business and marriage to suffer, you rightfully feel little sympathy for the guy. If only Leuchter were a more watchable lout, and offered the sort of ironic self-deception Morris was after.

Snow Falling on Cedars ★★
Scott (*Shine*) Hicks' adaptation of David Guterson's novel centers around the 1950s murder trial of a Japanese-American (Rick Yune) accused of killing a white man on fictional San Pedro Island (based on Washington state's real Bainbridge Island). But the story is a pastiche of flashbacks, internal thoughts and non-linear progressions covering pre-World War II harmony, the imprisonment of the island's Japanese immigrants and their American-born children in internment camps and the open wounds that remained. Despite lyrical touches and Robert Richardson's striking cinematography, there aren't enough interesting twists to make this more than a simple story of persecutors and victims. The main character is actually Ethan Hawke's reporter, the first love of the defendant's wife (Youki Kudoh), and he works out several personal issues over the course of the trial. If only the story devoted as much energy to its Japanese characters, who are barely developed.

The Talented Mr. Ripley ★★★
Anthony (*The English Patient*) Minghella's adaptation of Patricia Highsmith's novel—previously filmed as the French minor classic, *Purple Noon*—is a well-crafted, albeit long-winded psychological thriller. Tapping into the same self-loathing as *Being John Malkovich*, it's about a working-class dreamer turned schemer (Matt Damon), who insinuates himself into the lives of a hedonistic shipping heir (Jude Law) abroad and his fiancée (Gwyneth Paltrow). When the friendship starts to cool and the couple starts to leave him behind, after the upstart has tasted the good life and developed a crush on the "brother he never had," he kills the heir and tries to assume his first-class identity. In the tradition of Redford or Beatty, Damon shines as the morally-flawed person inside a handsome facade, and you really feel him being seduced by the lush Italian setting. The last third drags, though.

Titus ★★½
Titus Andronicus, perhaps Shakespeare's most physically extreme play, has long been overdue for a movie adaptation. But in her film debut, *Lion King* stage director Julie Taymor's muddled experimentation dulls some of the spark in the ancient Roman story of murder, rape, dismemberment, adultery and enough intrigue and revenge for three movies. Anchored by a well-cast Anthony Hopkins as the Roman general Titus and Jessica Lange as the Goth queen who plots against him, it stumbles on its modern touches (cars, electricity, allusions to Fellini and *Silence of the Lambs*, etc.), since Taymor's given them little rhyme or reason. And her visual allusions to 1930s fascism were done more potently in 1995's *Richard III*, while those to rock 'n' roll were done more harmoniously in 1997's *Romeo and Juliet*. Although still a good yarn, Taymor's post-modernism is too haphazard to add more than flash.

Topsy-Turvy ★★★
After a sluggish start, Mike (*Secrets & Lies*) Leigh's 160-minute Gilbert and Sullivan movie turns out to be an outstanding look at the process of artistic creation. It opens at a point when the operetta duo—whose partnership seems to have been mostly a business one—are close to splitting, but once Gilbert (a marvelous Jim Broadbent) happens upon an exposition of Japanese culture, it then turns to the genesis of *The Mikado*, and picks up considerably. Leigh manages to touch upon the emotional perspectives of all involved, including vain actors, stern Gilbert, easy-going Sullivan and money-conscious producers, with both humor and genuine respect. Ultimately, you sense G & S worked so well together because they were opposite yet complementary sides of a complete artistic temperament.

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Cinemas
214 Harvard Ave. (277-2140). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
Trapelo Rd. (484-1706). Red Line to Harvard, 73 bus.

BOSTON

Boston Film and Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (536-1540). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (536-5400). Green Line to Copley.

Cheri
50 Dalton St. (536-2870) www.loewstheaters.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center.*

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum Of Science, Omni Theater
Science Park (723-2500). Green Line to Science Park.

Nickelodeon
606 Comm. Ave. (424-1500). B Green Line to Blanford St.

Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle.

Coolidge Corner
290 Harvard St. (734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theater
40 Brattle St. (876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (495-4700). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Square (494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony Theater
10 Church St. (864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan.

Somerville Theater
55 Davis Square (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston. (277-2500). B Green Line to Chestnut Hill.

West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (964-6060).

Alternatives & Revivals

Advice to Contributors
Submit film listings by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Although film listings are correct at the time of publication, they are subject to change. Double check showtimes by calling the theater or 333-FILM.

Boston Public Library

Rabb Lecture Hall, Mondays at 6pm.

A Rhapsody of Jazz Film Series
•Jan. 31, 6pm **The Last of the Blue Devils** *1979.* The screening will be introduced by producer and director, Bruce Ricker, who will be available for questions after the screening.

Brattle Theater

Most shows are $7, including double features.

Playtime: Chaplin, Keaton and Tati—Sundays
•Jan. 30, 3pm and 7pm **City Lights** *1931.* Chaplin directs and stars in this funny story of a vagrant tramp who is struck by the beauty of a blind flower-girl.

Arthur Sullivan (Allan Corduner) and W.S. Gilbert (Jim Broadbent) take a bow in front of *The Mikado* cast in the Mike Leigh film *Topsy-Turvy*.

•Jan. 30, 1pm, 5pm and 9pm **Holiday** *1953.* This film, which Tati spent four years preparing, marks the first appearance of Tati's alter ego, the charmingly awkward M. Hulot.
•Feb. 6, 1pm, 4:20pm and 8pm **The Gold Rush** *1928.* Chaplin plays a gold prospector snow-bound in Alaska. It contains some of his most revered scenes—from the gourmet dinner of boiled boot to the hallucinations of Charlie as a chicken.
•Feb. 6, 2:45pm, 6pm and 9:35pm **The Navigator** *1924.* Keaton's biggest box office success during the '20s is the story of Rollo Treadway and his estranged sweetheart who find themselves on a premature honeymoon, drifting on a gigantic deserted ocean liner.

Mad Love—Mondays
•Jan. 31, 4:15pm, 7pm and 9:30pm **Vertigo** *1958.* In this Hitchcock classic, Jimmy Stewart is a detective who is hired by an old friend to keep an eye on his wife, played by Kim Novak. Of course, a forbidden and very strange romance ensues.
•Feb. 7, 4:30pm and 8pm **Camille Claudel** *1989.* Bruno Nuytten's darkly passionate film tells the story of French sculptor Camille Claudel, August Rodin's student and lover.

Black & White & on the Edge—Tuesdays
•Feb. 1, 4:15pm and 7:45pm **Killer of Sheep** *1977.* Charles Burnett's first feature film evokes the life and times of a black man employed in an LA slaughterhouse, relaying disturbing social and historical truths.
•Feb. 1, 6pm and 9:30pm **Chan is Missing** *1982.* A modern-day Charlie Chan sets out across San Francisco's Chinatown to solve an inscrutable mystery.
•Feb. 8, 4:30pm and 7:30pm **Damned If You Don't** *1987.* Su Friedrich's award-winning filmmaking has made her renowned in the lesbian, gay and avant-garde film community. The film shows with two of her shorts, *Gently Down the Stream* and *First Comes Love*.
•Feb. 8, 6pm and 9:15pm **Black & White & Short**. A complex mix of varying styles and techniques, this program includes Bruce Conner's humorous *A Movie* (1958), Gunvor Nelson's depiction of a young girl's coming-of-age in *My Name is Oona* (1969), Peter Bokanowski's grotesque *La Femme Qui Se Poundre* and Jay Rosenblatt's boyhood reverie *The Smell of Burning Ants*.

Recent Raves—Wednesdays
• Jan. 26, 5pm, 7:15pm and 9:30pm **The Strait Story** *1999.* David Lynch's first and probably last G-rated film tells the story of Alvin Straight, a 73-year-old man who, upon hearing of his brother's illness, sets out on a six-week journey aboard a tractor.
•Feb. 2, 3pm and 7:30pm **Romance** *1999.* This highly controversial and sexually explicit film explores the life of Marie, a young French woman on a journey to gain control of her life. Directed by Catherine Breillet.
•Feb. 2, 5pm and 9:30pm **Those Who Love Me Can Take the Train** *1998.* Patrice Chereau's film tells what happens when a charismatic artist and teacher dies. His friends, lovers, relatives and acquaintances gather to take the train from Paris to his burial site in the unfashionably provincial city of Limoges.

The Hong Kong Films of Chow Yun-Fat—Thursdays
•Jan. 27, 7:30pm **A Better Tomorrow** *1989.* Tsui Hark's film illustrates the story of a très chic man who goes to Vietnam to meet his friend who is just getting out of prison. There, he hooks up with a mercenary chick who teaches him how to shoot straight.
•Jan. 27, 5pm and 9:40pm **God of Gamblers** *1989.* When the super-suave gambler (Chow) is takes a blow to the head, he is taken in by an opportunistic hustler. Directed by Wong Jing.
•Feb. 3, 7:30pm **Once a Thief** *1991.* John Woo's romantic caper flick is a slick homage to Hollywood classics. The film features a trio of art thieves as they jet set around Europe stealing paintings until Chow's character is apparently killed during a spectacular car chase.
•Feb. 3, 5pm and 9:40pm **Hard-Boiled** *1992.* In John Woo's film, Chow is a hotheaded, clarinet playing supercop determined to take down a ruthless gunrunner.

Special Engagements—Fridays and Saturdays
•Jan. 28 and 29, 3:30pm and 7:45pm **The Third Man** *1949.* Perhaps the best-known screen adaptation of a Graham Greene novel, this is the story of an American pulp fiction writer who arrives in post-war Europe to learn that his old friend has been killed.
•Jan. 28, 5:30pm and 9:45pm **End of the Affair** *1954.* Edward Dmytryk, the original director of this Greene novel. This version stars Deborah Kerr. It's about a woman's infidelity during World War II which takes a surprising turn for all involved.
•Jan. 29, 1:30pm, 5:40pm and 9:45pm **The Fallen Idol** *1948.* Carol Reed's interpretation of Graham Greene's novel is about a butler accused of killing his wife. His intense relationship with the young boy who lives in the house where he works is at the centerpiece.
•Feb. 4 and 5, 4pm, 7pm and 9:50pm **North by Northwest** *1959.* Cary Grant and Eva Marie Saint team up for this mistaken identity case—Cary gets wrapped up in one memorable scene after another, including the legendary crop-dusting and Mount Rushmore sequences.

Coolidge Corner Theater

Call ahead for a complete list of films and showtimes.

Culture Shock
•Feb. 6, 12pm . This free screening and discussion of the **Hollywood Censorship** episode of WGBH's Culture Shock series is followed by a discussion of the complete television and film series.

Midnight Movies
•Feb. 4-12 **My Breakfast with Blassie** *1983.* Wrestling champ Fred Blassie and Andy Kaufman discuss everything from food to the best insults over a southern California breakfast in a coffee shop.

Special Engagements
•Opening Feb. 4 **The Emperor and the Assassin** *1999.* Acclaimed director Chen Kaige, who brought us **Farewell My Concubine**, brings life to this stunning epic which details the efforts of a king who will do anything to unify the kingdoms of China. In Mandarin with English subtitles.
•Opening Jan. 21 **Mr. Death: The Rise and Fall of Fred A. Leuchter Jr**. *1999.* Errol Morris' story involves an engineer who builds prison execution devices. He is enlisted by a Neo-Nazi to take samples from the gas chambers at Auschwitz and provide evidence that the Holocaust never happened.

Special Events
•Jan. 23, at 11am **An Alien Sneezed on Brook Street.** Two aliens land in a quiet little park in Brookline Village and the local children are intrigued. Events turn mysterious when the children start to disappear. Local filmmaker Peter Rhodes has joined forces with families in Brookline Village to create a short sci-fi comedy for kids—and a great big pizza party.

Harvard Film Archive

Danish Filmmakers Look at Our America
•Feb. 4, 7 pm **Under New York** *1996.* A Danish film crew follows two New Yorkers through the subways. One is a homeless man, the other spends his days as a Transit Authority Policeman evicting the homeless from the subways. Directed by Jacob Thuesen.

•Feb. 4, 7 pm **By the Dawn's Early Light** *1993.* The prolific Knud Vesterkov has created more than 30 independent films and videos, almost all of them focusing on issues of gay culture.
•Feb. 5, 7 pm **66 Scenes from America** *1994.* Combining Dan Holmberg's poetic cinematography with his own intense curiosity about everything American, director Jorgen Leth gives a Whitmanesque ode to American workers and American spaces.
•Feb. 5, 7 pm **Haiti Untitled** *1996.* An American Army sergeant, a New York photographer, and Jesse Jackson struggle to maintain their bearings during the US effort to return Haiti's president Aristide to power in 1994. Directed by Jorgen Leth Denmark.

Film in the Third Reich: The Power of Images and Illusions

•Feb. 2, 7 pm **The Architecture of Doom** *1995.* This award-winning documentary explores the inner workings of the Third Reich and illuminates the Nazi aesthetics in the visual arts, architecture and popular culture. Directed by Peter Cohen.
•Feb. 7, 9 pm **The Blue Light** *1932.* Leni Riefenstahl's her first feature was shot on location in the Alps. The film emphasizes a Germanic mystical union with nature, a vision which so impressed Hitler that he offered Riefenstahl the opportunity to make films for the Nazi party.
•Feb. 8, 9 pm **Triumph of the Will** *1936.* Approved by Hitler as the official film record of the sixth Nazi-party Congress held in 1934 at Nuremberg, this infamous film provides a case study of cinema as a means of propaganda that, nonetheless, preserves its integrity as an art form.

The Late Films of Akira Kurosawa

•Jan. 28, 9:30pm **Rhapsody in August** *1990.* A grandmother recalls her husband's death when an atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, questioning whether blame should be placed on foreign "enemies" or on war itself.
•Jan. 29, 9pm **Kagemusha** (*The Shadow Warrior*) *1980.* Kurosawa's film is a complex story: a thief is employed as the double of a clan leader who later dies. When the falsehood is uncovered, he is banished.
•Jan. 26, 7 pm and Jan. 30, 8pm **Akira Kurosawa's Dreams** *1990.* The eight episodes of this lyrical film depict a number of dreams that are vaguely intended to reflect the life and abiding obsessions of its director. Moving from childhood through war to the terror of nuclear pollution.
•Jan. 27, 7 pm **Ran** (*Chaos*) *1985.* This is an interpretation of King Lear which retains many of the main themes of Shakespeare's play as it transforms the daughters into sons and transposes the action to sixteenth-century Japan.

Mapping and Fashioning Space

•Feb. 8, 6:30pm **The Man with the Movie Camera** *1928.* An experimental documentary, Dziga Vertov's masterpiece exemplifies the montage aesthetic of the Soviet avant-garde of the 1920s as he depicts a day in the life of the Moscow metropolis.

Mexperimental Cinema: 60 Years of Avant-Garde Media Arts from Mexico

•Jan. 28, 7 pm and Feb. 1, 7 pm **Program 4: Day Tripping**. In the late '60s, a new generation of radical filmmakers began to make provocative work that reflected the preoccupations of the counterculture. The highlight of this program, **Anti-Climax** is a feature-length experimental film comprised of a series of countercultural vignettes that examine the conflicting values of divergent generations.
•Jan. 29, 7pm **Program 5: Mexicanidad: Part II.** Tonight's program features the 1991 film *Tequila* by Rubén Gámez, an impressionistic portrait of modern-day Mexico.
•Jan. 30, 6pm **Program 6: El Grito** (*The Cry*). During the cultural and political upheavals of 1968, students from the Centro Universitario de Estudios Cinematograficos (CUEC) documented protests and confrontations as participants.

Seance Screenings

•Feb. 6, 7 pm **Way Down East** *1920.* D.W. Griffith's classic Victorian melodrama vividly adapted to the screen takes place in New England and revolves around a naive young woman who is seduced and abandoned by a city slicker. It's accompanied by live piano music by Yukov Gubanov.

Topics in Film: Five Directors

•Jan. 31, 7 pm and Feb. 1, 9 pm **The Silence** *1963.* Two women and a little boy journey by train to the mysterious city of Timoka, where a heretofore unheard language is spoken and where signs of war keep cropping up.
•Feb. 7, 7 pm **Shame** *1968.* This is Ingmar Bergman's reaction to the Vietnam War as well as to all the trauma of war that has defined twentieth-century experience. The film tells of a married couple who are living on a farm to escape war but are ultimately overtaken by it.

Titus **is Julie Taymor's adaptation of Shakespeare's play. With Anthony Hopkins and Jessica Lange.**

Museum of Fine Arts

Most film screenings are $6.

African Cinema 2000

•Feb. 3, 8pm **Pieces D'Identites** *1998.* From the director of the hugely entertaining and popular comedy *La vie est belle* comes this new film that sports a zany cast of characters. Set in the African-émigré domain of contemporary Europe, *Pièces d'Identités* tells the timeless story of an old king and his wayward daughter.
•Feb. 4, 8pm **Testamento** *1998.* From one of the world's most culturally complex societies—Cape Verde—comes this classic tale of the hollowness at the core of provincial bourgeois life. Based on a novel by Cape Verdean Germano Almeid.

Art on Film

•Jan. 29, 12pm and Feb. 3, 7pm **A Hero for Daisy** *1999.* By Mary Mazzio. This is a portrait of Yale rowing legend Chris Ernst.
•Jan. 27, 6pm **Wrapped** *1996.* Wolfram Hissen's film is about the '95 "wrapping" of the Berlin Reichstag by Christo and Jeanne-Claude, one of the most spectacular artistic events in recent history.
•Feb. 5, 2pm **Unorthodox Geometry** *1998.* Unorthodox Geometry follows the work of Ursula von Rydingsvard over a two-year period (1997–98). During this time she has a gallery show in NY and is commissioned to do two outdoor pieces.

Boston Film Artists Present

•Jan. 28 and 29, 8pm; Feb. 3, 5:45pm and Feb. 5, 3:45pm **Same Old Song** *1998.* By Alain Resnais. In the spirit of Woody Allen's *Everyone Says I Love You*, Resnais' main characters are run through a modernist maze of frustration and failure .

New German Cinema

•Jan. 27, 8pm **The Volcano** *1999.* Set in the Paris émigré community during the Nazi era, *The Volcano*, based on a Klaus Mann novel, is the story of two German sisters dealing with the effects of the Nazi regime. By Ottokar Runze.
•Jan. 28, 6pm **Paths in the Night** *1999.* Hilmar Thate plays an ex-communist in his mid-'50s who was once powerful but now adrift in post-unification Germany.
•Jan. 29, 1:30pm **Life is the Main Thing** *1999.* Corinna, a 38-year-old, successful fashion designer and single mother suddenly finds out that she has breast cancer. After a successful mastectomy, she must still confront her fears of death and her altered body.

Premiere Engagements

•Jan. 29, 11am **The Little Girl Who Sold the Sun** *1999.* Djibril Diop Mambety's film follows the experiences of a Sili Laam, a 12-year-old paraplegic selling newspapers in the marketplace of Dakar. The film is Mambety's last masterpiece, as he died during post-production.

Films by Abbas Kiarostami

•Feb. 4, 6pm and Feb. 5, 12pm **Close-Up** *1989.* This fascinating mix of fiction and reality was based on real events. An unemployed young man passed himself off as Mohsen Makhmalbaf (one of Iran's leading film directors) to the daughter of a well-to-do family.

Museum of Science

Screened daily at the Omni Theatre. Call ahead for times.
•Through March. 2000 **Mysteries of Egypt**. Explore the secrets of a civilization that built a fascinating empire. This *National Geographic* film brings ancient Egypt to life with aerial views of pyramids, sweeping panoramas of the Nile and the treasures of ancient royalty.
•Through Feb. 28 **Olympic Glory**. This film showcases the splendor and emotion of the last Winter Olympics of the 20th Century (Winter 1998). It takes the viewer inside the games like never before. Whether skiing down the alpine downhill slope or racing down the Bobsled chute, one will feel, not just witness, the action and excitement.

The Classic Film Series

All films except the double feature are $6. *The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (1-88-447-7400).*
•Jan. 31 **An American in Paris** *1951.* A special appearance by Leslie Caron accompanies Vincente Minnelli's film starring Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron.

education

Advice to Contributors

Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Education. Or e-mail information to education@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

CLASSES/LECTURES

Wednesday, January 26

Breakfast With Champions

FleetBank, One Federal Street, 37th Floor, Boston (536-0770). 8-9am. $15. The Center for Women & Enterprise presents speaker **Pamela McDermott**, founder and president of McDermott Ventures, a multi-service firm focusing on strategic marketing and communications, specializing in entertainment and art & culture.

Field Astronomy: The Winter Sky

Boston Learning Society, 1089 Great Plain Ave., Needham (781-453-9800). Jan. 26, 7-8:30pm, and Feb. 2, 7-9pm. $75. Join **Tania Ruiz**, an astronomer from the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, for a two session introduction to astronomy. Learn about stellar groupings, size and scale and the mythology of the major constellations. On the second night, head outdoors for a night of serious stargazing.

Global Matters: An International Business Perspective

Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). 8-9:30pm. $8. In 1973, **Jacquie Kay** founded Wu P'i Inc., an international management resource consulting firm. The company's focus is to maintain a business ecology, maximizing human resources and technology with imagination and economic practicality. Join Kay for an intimate discussion about the importance of maintaining the balance between corporate and human assets, between the modern and the traditional and of responding to emerging concerns.

Joyce K. Fletcher—Disappearing Acts: Gender, Power and Relational Practice at Work

Simmons College Graduate School of Management, 409 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (521-2363). 5-6:30pm. Free. Professor **Joyce K. Fletcher** discusses how collaboration and teamwork, skills that should be giving women an advantage in today's workplace—actually work against women's advancement.

The New Millennium: Looking Back As We Look Forward

Kehillath Israel, 384 Harvard St., Brookline (730-2700). Text study, 7-8pm; coffee, 8-8:15pm; lecture, 8:15pm. $12 per evening. A slate of speakers will look back and take stock of the past 1,000 years in order to measure our society's progress and clarify its values as we move forward into the future. •Jan. 26: **Mark Rosenthal**, Ph.d, Hollywood screenwriter. "Good Guys and Bad Guys: Why We Tell Stories." •Feb. 2: **Steve Rosen**, professor of government at Harvard University. "Empire and Ideology."

Norman Foster in Boston

Museum of Fine Arts, Remis Auditorium, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (369-3770). MBTA: Green Line to Museum. 7:30pm. $15. Internationally renowned British architect **Norman Foster** is currently designing a major renovation and addition to the MFA. This event promises an interesting discussion of his MFA project as well as his other work throughout the world.

Tuesday, February 1

Culture Shock—Born to Trouble: Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Boston Public Library, Rabb Theater, 700 Boylston St., Boston (787-2777). 6pm. Free. WGBH offers this free screening of Culture Shock's *Born to Trouble: Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* with a discussion of just what makes Huck Finn controversial, compelling and relevant to the times we live in.

Wednesday, February 2

The New Millennium: Looking Back As We Look Forward

Kehillath Israel, 384 Harvard St., Brookline (730-2700). Text study, 7-8pm; coffee, 8-8:15pm; lecture, 8:15pm. $12 per evening. See Jan. 26 listing for more information.

The Orchid Thief

Geological Lecture Hall, 24 Oxford St., Cambridge (495-1000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free. Be amazed by this true story by acclaimed *New Yorker* writer **Susan Orlean**, who weaves a seductive tale of plant smugglers, swamp explorers, the strange lure of orchids and the eccentric collectors who must possess them.

Radcliffe College Presents

Bunting Institute, Radcliffe University, 34 Concord Ave., Cambridge (495-8212). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 4pm. **Francesca Polleta**, professor of sociology, discusses "Is Freedom an Endless Meeting? Sustaining Democracy in Social Change Organizations."

Thursday, February 3

Beantown's Big Dig: The Central Artery/ Tunnel Project

Brookline Adult & Community Education Program, Brookline High School, 115 Greenough St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. 7-8:30pm. $5. The **Big Dig** was once considered a $10.8 billion federal boondoggle. Jason Gibbs of the Central Artery/Big Dig public affairs office will present an illustrated talk of the 11-year-long highway project. You'll hear how Boston's roadwork is paved with engineering feats and first, and interesting highlights of the dig, including political and environmental factors, litigation with area businesses and residents, and the artifacts that continue to be discovered beneath the streets.

Friday, February 4

An Evening of Women's Spoken Word

Room North 175, Massachusetts College of Art, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston (232-1555, ext. 469). MBTA: E Green Line to Longwood Medical. 8pm. $1. An evening of discussion about women's issues in art and society.

Bill T. Jones: Dancer, Author and Choreographer

Emerson Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (824-8000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 7pm. Free. Well-known dancer and choreographer **Bill T. Jones** presents a lecture entitled "Falling and Catching: Dancing Through the Other Door." Jones draws upon his experience leading workshops with people facing life-threatening illnesses. From an artist's point of view, he will explore what it is like to seek answers to timeless questions about illness and mortality through the medium of dance.

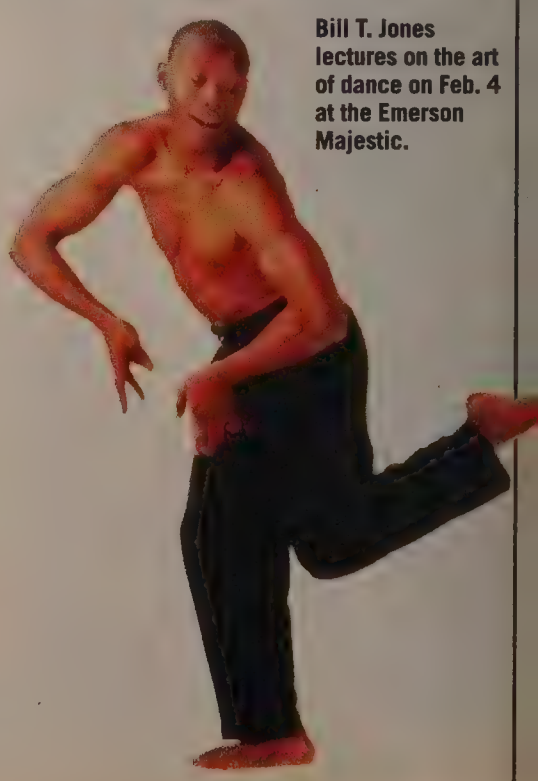
Monday, February 7

Basic HTML: Tags and Techniques

Interactive Factory Workshops, 368 Congress St., 4th Floor, Boston (426-0609). 9am-5pm. $400. Learn the basics of HTML for the design and layout of Web pages. Create hypertext links, embed images, define background color, format text and create lists and clickable image maps. Technical considerations will also be discussed, including the importance of file naming conventions, text vs. images, browsers and authoring files, file size, color, image and type constraints.

On-Line Trading: An Introduction

Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 6-9pm. $36. If you are leery of the world of stock investments, trading online might be the easiest way for you to get started. Internet daytrading is one of the fastest ways to make money on the Internet. Learn about the most user-friendly trading sites on the Web and how to choose a stock, buy it, turn it over in seven minutes and possibly make money. At your own pace from the comfort of your living room, experience the excitement of investing.



Bill T. Jones lectures on the art of dance on Feb. 4 at the Emerson Majestic.

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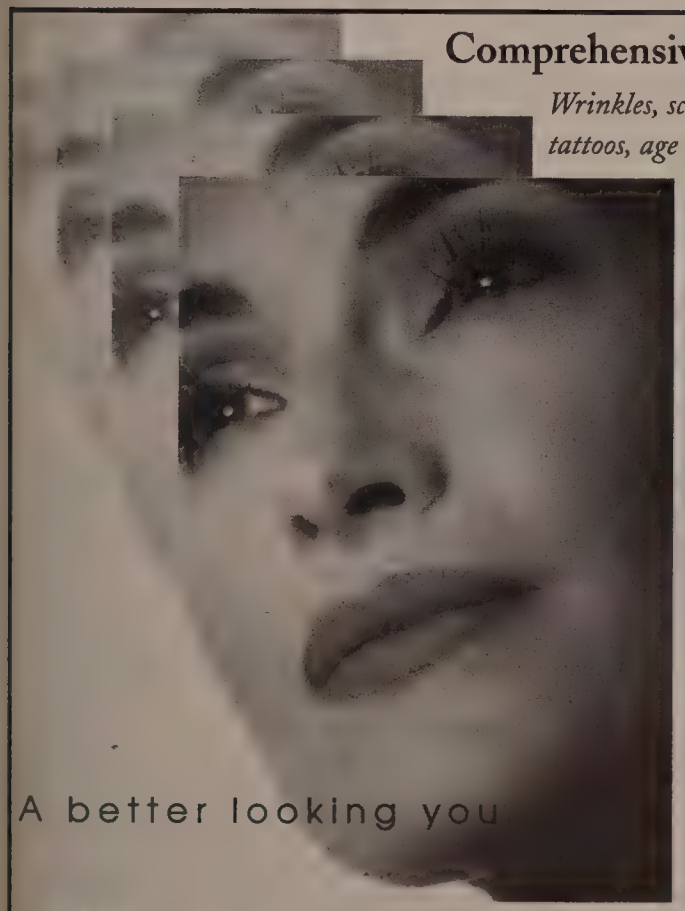

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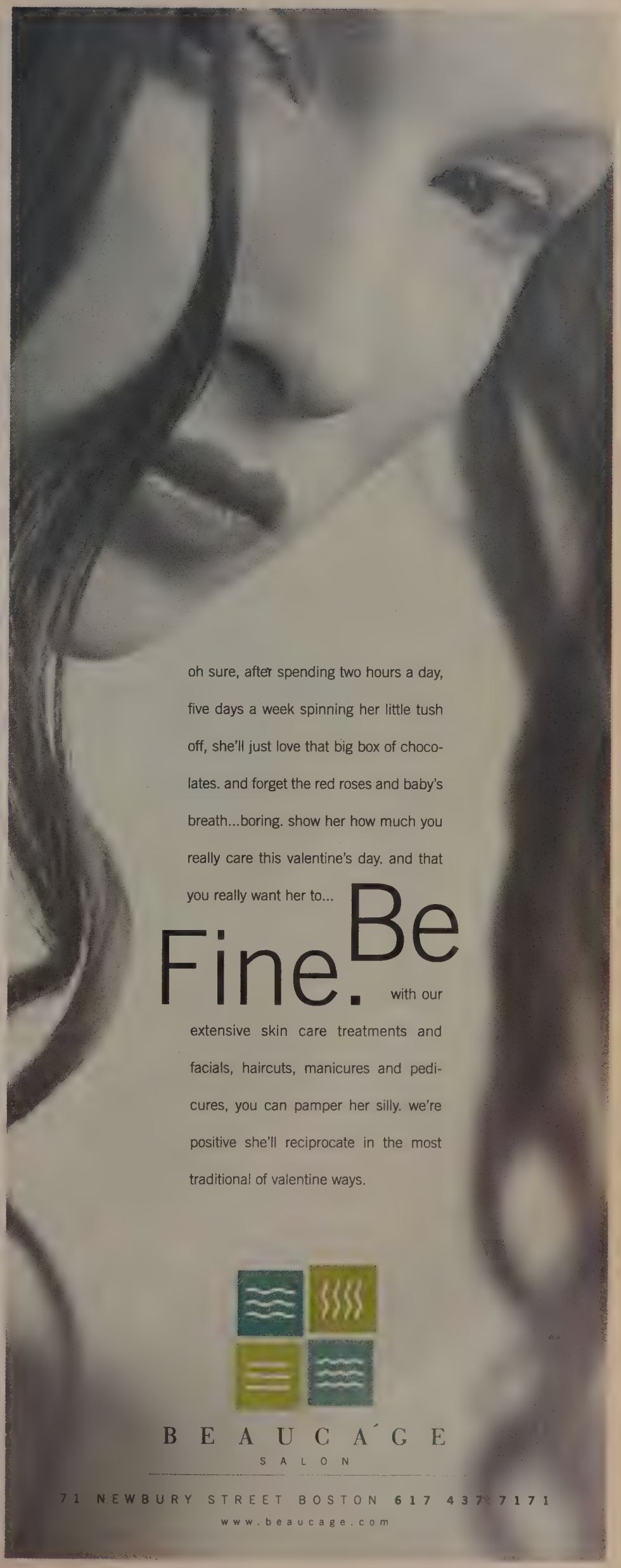
***COMPLIMENTARY SEMINAR ON COSMETIC & LASER SURGERY**
Tuesday, January 18, 6 pm. *Please rsvp for seating*



books& poetry

Advice to Contributors
Submit information by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Books. Or e-mail to books@improper.com. *Include details of dates, times, prices, nearest T stops and telephone numbers. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

READINGS & SIGNINGS

Wednesday, Jan. 26

Barnes and Noble Presents
One Worcester Road, Framingham, (508-636-2823). 7:30pm. Writer **Simson Garfinkel** discusses and signs his new book *Database Nation: The Death of Privacy in the 21st Century.* Garfinkel explores the difficulty of protecting one's private life when technology makes personal information all too accessible.

Borders BookShop Presents
85 Worcester Rd., Framingham (508-370-3138) 7:30pm. Sudbury author, National Book Award nominee and Tourette's syndrome sufferer **Amy Wilensky** discusses her book, *Passing for Normal, A Memoir of Compulsion*, recollections of her life.

Brookline Booksmith Presents
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Brookline 7pm. Author **Barbara Wallraff** discusses her new book, *Word Court: Wherein Verbal Virtue is Rewarded, Crimes Against Language are Punished and Poetic Justice is Done.*

The CCAE Discussion Series
42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). www.ccae.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 1-2pm. $115.* **Lori Toepel, Ph.D.** of Duke University discusses themes found in five modern novels about Ancient Greece and Rome including works by Mary Renault and Steven Saylor.

Thursday, Jan. 27

Barnes and Noble Presents
660 Beacon St., Boston (267-8484). MBTA: B, C or D Green Line to Kenmore. 7pm. Free. Writer **Thom Jones** reads from his newly published book, *Sonny Liston Was a Friend of Mine.*

Borders Books and Music Presents
10-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Orange Line to State St. 6pm. **Diane Wald,** author of *Double Mirror*, will read from her latest collection of fiction, *Lucid Suitcase.*

Brookline Booksmith Presents
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. **Sheri Holman** reads from her historical novel, *The Dress Lodger.* Set in an underclass, industrial English town, it depicts the outbreak of the first cholera epidemic to reach England.

The CCAE Author Seminar
56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). www.ccae.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7-8pm. $115.* **Michael Koran, M.A.** of University of Chicago, discusses readings from *Zohar, The Book of Splendor* and explores the great teachers of Kabbalah.

Saturday, Jan. 29

African Repertory Troupe's College Night
The Revolving Museum, A St., Boston (288-3000). 7pm. $5. The African Repertory Troupe presents **House of Verse** featuring current poets from Boston area college campuses. Collegiate poets can sign up via e-mail at *otherart@aol.*com or call (946-4656). This unique poetry event is replete with performance settings.

The CCAE Presents
56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). www.ccae.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 1-5pm. $115 and $57.50 for seniors.* If you're interested in Shakespeare, this workshop is interested in you. Each session of this acting and theater appreciation course is devoted to a different category of the big S's plays. Readings are assigned, discussed and acted out by participants.

The CCAE Poetry Jam
56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). www.ccae.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8-10pm. $7 and $3.50 for seniors.* Watch poetry dance to music as the **Jeff Robinson Trio** welcomes the Boston slammers. Hosts will perform their poems to counterpoint jazz.

Tuesday, Feb. 1

Barnes and Noble Presents
660 Beacon St., Boston (267-8484). MBTA: B, C or D Green Line to Kenmore. 7pm. Free. Writers **Persis M. Karim** and **Mohammad Mehdi Khorrami** discuss their books: *A World Between: Poems, Short Stories and Essays by Iranian Americans.*

Brookline Booksmith Presents
279 Harvard St., Brookline (739-6002). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. **Stephen Amidon**, author of *Thirst* and *Subdivision*, reads from his suburban novel, *The New City.*

The CCAE Reading Seminar
56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). www.ccae.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 1pm. $115.* **Michael Koran, M.A.** from the University of Chicago, reads passages of the Bible aloud, discussing why and how the books of the Bible are the most transforming books ever written.

The CCAE Author Event
56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). www.ccae.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 5:45-7:45pm. $139.* **Mark Mamigonian, M.A.** from Tufts University, gets readers to inhabit the universe of James Joyce's *Ulysses* and understand its workings in this series of discussions.

Wednesday, Feb. 2

Brookline Booksmith Presents
279 Harvard St., Brookline (739-6002). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. **Margot Livesey** presents her follow-up to *Criminals* with her new book, *The Missing World.*

Cambridge Forum Presents
The First Parish in Cambridge, 3 Church St., Cambridge (495-2727). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard Square. Chinese-American writer **Gish Jen** presents her recent work and reflects on the difficulties of re-creating a culture in literature.

The CCAE Presents
42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). www.ccae.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 2:15-4:15pm. $139.* **Daniel Mulcahie, M.L.A** from the Harvard Extension School and **M.A.** from Boston College, discusses 34 cantos of *Dante's Inferno.*

Thursday, Feb. 3

Brookline Booksmith Presents
279 Harvard St., Brookline (739-6002). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. New York Times reporter **Gina Kolata** talks about her bestseller, *Flu: The story of the Great Influenza Pandemic of 1918 and the Search for the Virus That Caused It.*

The CCAE Presents
56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). www.ccae.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7-8pm. $115.* **Michael Koran, M.A.** from University of Chicago, reads from the *Zohar, The Book of Splendor*, and explores the great teachers of Kabbalah.

Harvard Coop Author Event
1400 Mass. Ave, Cambridge (499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. **William Sargent,** author of *Storm Surge; A Coastal Village Battles the Rising Atlantic,* discusses his new book, *Shallow Waters: A Year on Cape Cod's Pleasant Bay.*

Bestsellers

HARDCOVER FICTION
1. **Harry Potter & the Chamber of Secrets** by J.K. Rowling
2. **Fortune's Rocks** by Anita Shreve
3. **Harry Potter & the Prisoner of Azkaban** by J.K. Rowling
4. **Timeline** by Michael Crichton
5. **The Lion's Game** by Nelson DeMille
6. **Sick Puppy** by Carl Hiassen
7. **Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's Stone** by J.K. Rowling
8. **Daughter of Fortune** by Isabel Allende
9. **A Walk to Remember** by Nicholas Sparks
10. **Atlantis Found** by Clive Cussler

HARDCOVER NON-FICTION
1. **Tuesdays With Morrie** by Mitch Albom
2. **The Rock Says** by Rock
3. **Tis** by Frank McCourt
4. **Galileo's Daughter** by Dava Sobel
5. **Blue Ginger** by Ming Tsai
6. **Mapping Boston** by Alex Kreiger
7. **Body for Life** by Bill Phillips
8. **The Greatest Generation** by Tom Brokaw
9. **New New Thing** by Michael Lewis
10. **Life: Our Century in Pictures** by Richard Stolley

Provided by Borders Books and Music at Downtown Crossing for the week of Jan 2-Jan 9.

Preview

Literary Sharpshooter

Boston celebrates Lewis Nordon.

Partly as a tribute to author Lewis Nordan, and partly in the spirit of healthy competition, two local bookstores are going all-out for the Boston chapter of the official Lewis Nordan Appreciation Week. Around the country, various bookstores are planning events during the week, trying to "out-do" each other with the extent of their appreciation.

For his dedicated fans, it is believed that no one deserves the recognition more. With seven novels under his belt including (personal favorites) *Lightning Song, Sugar Among the Freaks* and *Sharpshooter Blues*, Nordan's readership has developed into something of a cult fan club (in '97 the Lewis Nordan Fan Club was founded—and they soon established the appreciation week). Citing his influences as DC comics (Superman especially), nursery rhymes and the blues, Nordan recreates lovingly bizarre characters and places them in a fictional Southern town called Arrow Catcher. The anecdote-filled result borders on *Twilight Zone* episodes, as his stories are filled with a black humor coupled with stunningly honest insight into the human heart. And the small town Mississippi native does it all with the flair and insight of one who experienced it first hand.

Originally having planned two separate signings and discussions with the author, Brookline Booksmith and Newtonville Books decided to join forces to create one giant blow-out. People can attend one or both events on Feb. 6: a big yellow bus departs Newtonville Books at 1pm, bringing fans from those parts to Brookline Booksmith where Nordan reads from and signs copies of his new memoir, *Boy With Loaded Gun* at 2pm. Following the reading, attendees—along with Nordan—can board the bus back to Newtonville Books where there all can feast on a free barbecue. For those who want to go back to Brookline, the bus returns at 6:15pm. A bonus: all participants get a Lewis Nordan T-shirt. See you there. To reserve free tickets to the reading, call 566-6660. No tickets necessary for the barbecue. –EH

Jamaica Plain Arts Council Presents
Rhythm & Muse, 403A Centre St., Hyde Square, Jamaica Plain (522-3407). MBTA: Orange Line to Jackson Square. 7:30pm. Poet **Kurt Leland** will read from his work followed by a community open-mike poetry reading.

Saturday, Feb. 5

The CCAE Author Seminar
56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). www.ccae.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 1-5pm. $115 and $57.50 for seniors.* The Shakespeare workshop continues with readings, discussions and theatrical performance by workshop participants.

Sunday, Feb. 6

Brookline Booksmith Presents
279 Harvard St., Brookline (739-6002). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 2pm. **Lewis Nordan**, acclaimed author of *Delta Land* and *Lightning Song*, reads from his new memoir, *Boy With Loaded Gun.*

Tuesday, Feb. 8

Barnes and Noble Presents
660 Beacon St., Boston (267-8484). B, C or D Green Line to Kenmore. 7pm. Free. Writer **Daniel J. Monti Jr.** reads from *The American City: A Social & Cultural History.*

Brookline Booksmith Presents
279 Harvard St., Brookline (739-6002). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Author of *Mail*, **Mameve Medwed**, reads her latest novel, *Host Family.*

The French Library Author Event
53 Marlborough St., Boston (266-4351) MBTA: Green Line to Arlington 10:30am. **Alfred Duhamel** will discuss one of his favorite authors, **Michel Tournier**, and concentrate on two of Tournier's novels: *Les Meteores* and *Le Roi des Aulnes.* The discussion held in French.

O'Neill Branch Library Presents
70 Rindge Ave., Cambridge (349-4023). 7:30pm. Free admission. Local writer NoCa night shares her work with writer **John Hildebidle** and artist **Grace Peters.**

ONGOING

Agape, Tuesdays
Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (266-6710). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8-10pm. Every Tuesday, this somewhat sophisticated poetry group gathers to share versions of their latest work.

Cantab Lounge
738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8-10pm. $3. Wednesday nights at the Cantab always packs in more than 30 poets in just two hours, first at an open mike, followed by a featured poet and a slam.

Club Passim, Tuesdays
47 Palmer St., Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. $5. All open mike fanatics must experience this open mike night—a training ground for up-and-coming performers, poets and storytellers. Sign up Tuesdays, 7:30pm.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Night, Sundays
1667 Mass Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. $4 cover. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes every Sunday to the featured poet of the week.

Stone Soup Poetry Night, Mondays
Zeitgeist Gallery, 312 Broadway St., Cambridge (227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. $3. The Stone Soup's poetry night has a new locale after being booted out of their old one and an ever-changing lineup of authors followed by an open mike session. Every Monday, join in an open reading session with features. 7:30-10:30pm.

STEVE WILSON

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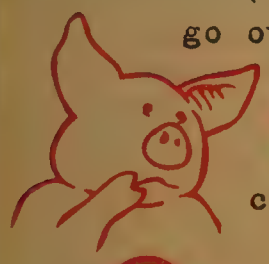

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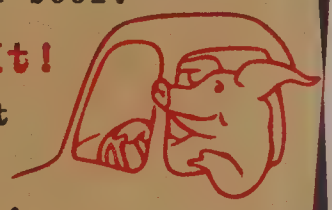

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classical music

EGYPTIAN INVASION CONTINUES

Philip Glass' opera *Akhnaten* opens this week at the Shubert Theater. BY KEITH POWERS

It may be a new millennium, but culturally, Boston is firmly rooted in ancient Egypt, the 5th century BC, these days. It's everywhere: at the MFA, with its *Pharaohs of the Sun* show; at the Museum of Science, with its *Mysteries of Egypt* exhibit. Even the Boston Ballet gets into it, presenting *Cleopatra* this May.

Not to be outdone, the Boston Lyric Opera is presenting three Egyptian-flavored operas this year. Verdi's *Aida* ran in November to favorable reviews, and in May Mozart's *The Magic Flute* comes to town. But next up is Philip Glass' *Akhnaten*, which opens this week.

Akhnaten is the third and last of Glass' "portrait operas," paying homage to great individuals. Completed in 1983, it was preceded by his musical portraits of Einstein (*Einstein of the Beach*) and Gandhi (*Satyagraha*). Akhnaten honors the radical pharaoh of the same name, whose brief reign (17 years) introduced changes in Egyptian art, religion and social customs, and whose wife, Nefertiti, is still synonymous with beauty.

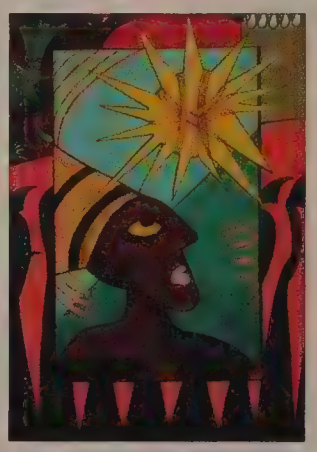
Adding to the buzz of this opening was the stunning announcement that the scheduled lead, countertenor Derek Lee Ragin, was withdrawing from the production due to illness, leaving the role to his understudy, New England Conservatory student Geoffrey Scott. We caught up with Scott in a break between rehearsals.

"I found out Jan. 4," he said. "I haven't had time yet to get nervous." Scott holds a master's in vocal performance from NEC, and is studying for a second master's, this one in opera performance, with vocal coach Susan Clickner.

"I first heard about the chance to cover [understudy] in mid-December," he says. "I came in and auditioned, and then I took the score back to my teacher to look it over. It's funny—a couple of years ago I was looking for some arias to learn, and I checked out the score of *Akhnaten*. At the time I didn't like it at all. The music was repetitive, and I thought it was boring. But now that I've gotten to know the work really well, I'm in love with it."

Outside of the Baroque repertory, lead roles for countertenors—male singers with unusually high ranges, like altos, or in Scott's case, mezzos—are rare. Scott, understandably, is delighted to get a crack at a starring role. What understudy wouldn't? "I don't feel like it's that difficult a part," he says. "It stays in one octave, and there really is only one aria, which has some tricky staccato singing. My favorite bit is the duet with Nefertiti."

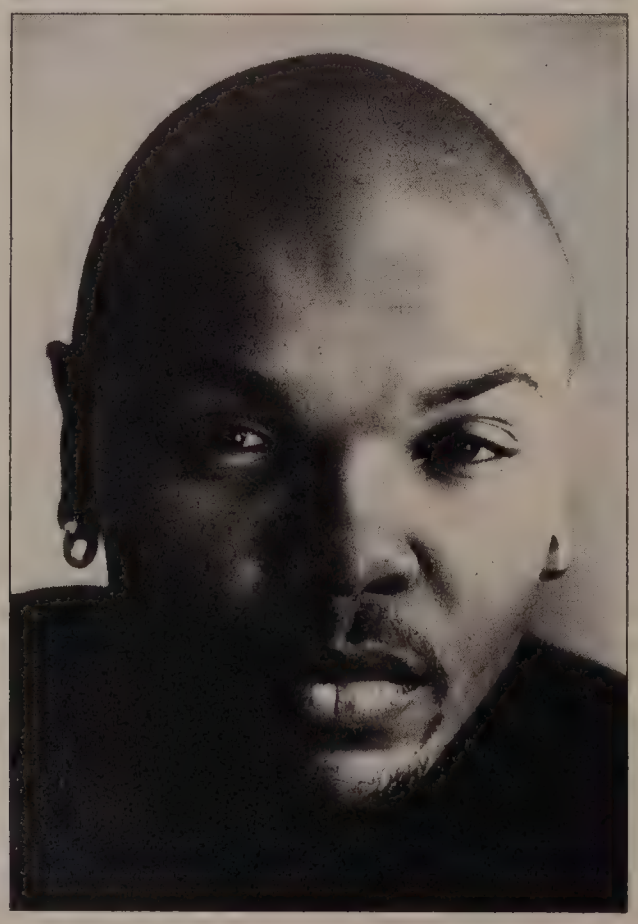
Glass' music is easily described with one word: minimalism. Most of his work is simple in melody and harmony, and rhythmically strong. Devotees find is mesmerizing, hypnotic and powerful. Detractors say it lacks creativity, and find it boring. Despite his earlier reservations, Scott thinks the music works well in *Akhnaten*. "The music for this opera is different, but it's very effective," he says. "There are no violins, for one thing; the highest part is the viola. And there's a synthesizer part as well. It really serves to build the drama through each act."



The opera has had two previous incarnations, both visually striking and highly dramatic. Boston audiences will not be treated to the version that portrayed the Pharaoh as a nude hermaphrodite, though, much to Scott's relief. "The costumes are magnificent—my costumes in particular. Hey, I am the Pharaoh after all. All of it is stunning, and Mary [Zimmerman, the stage Director] is pushing it as far as she can.

"I've never sung a role that had a run this long, but I'm just going to do my best and do justice to the music. I do get nervous, but they say that it doesn't show.

"And I'm definitely staying away from all my friends who have the flu."



Countertenor Geoffrey Scott, who took the job as understudy to *Akhnaten* lead Derek Lee Ragin, now finds himself in the starring role, after Ragin withdrew due to illness: "I get nervous, but they say it doesn't show."

"The costumes are really magnificent, my costumes in particular. Hey, I am the Pharaoh after all. All of it is really stunning."

Coda

Bad news for chamber music fans: the **Borromeo String Quartet** announced that second violinist **Ruggero Allifranchini** and violist **Hsin-Yun Huang** are quitting the group after this season, leaving husband and wife team **Nick Kitchen** (first violin) and **Yeesun Kim** (cello) left to reform the quartet. What well-known Boston conductor was nominated for a Grammy? Guess again. **Benjamin Zander** was nominated for his luminous recording of the Gustav Mahler 9th symphony on Telarc.■

Simon Rattle, soon-to-be music director of the Berlin Philharmonic, leads the BSO in a program of Bartok, Dvorak and Brahms Jan. 27.

Advice to Contributors

Submit information labeled Classical by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Music or e-mail to music@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers Web site information and nearest T stops. Deadline is four weeks prior to deadline. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers

Information for the music section is compiled from many different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to doublecheck dates and times.

Wednesday, January 26

Alea III
Tsai Performance Center, BU, 685 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-3349). MBTA: B Green Line to BU Central. 8pm. Free. Theodore Antoniou conducts the ensemble in works by Perle, Schuller, Takemitsu and others.

Boston Lyric Opera
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont Street, Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 7:30pm. $26-$108. Boston's celebration of all things Egyptian continues with Philip Glass' opera *Akhnaten*, conducted by Beatrice Jona Affron and starring Geoffrey Scott and Gail Dubinbaum.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (536-2412). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. 8pm. Free. Faculty recital with violinist James Buswell and friends performing Ravel and Schoenberg.

Thursday, January 27

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). E Green Line to Symphony, 1:30pm, $24-$74. Sir Simon Rattle guest conducts with soloist Peter Donohoe performing Bartok's Piano Concerto No. 1, and the orchestra performing works of Dvorak and Brahms.

Friday, January 28

Boston Early Music Festival Concerts
Church of the Advent, Brimmer Str. Beacon Hill, Boston (661-1812) MBTA: Red Line to Charles. 8pm. $18-$42. Ensemble Organum, conducted by Marcel Peres, performs Papal Vespers for Easter Sunday.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony, 8pm, $24-$74. Same program as Jan. 27.

Boston Lyric Opera
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont Street, Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 7:30pm. $26-$108. Same program as Jan 26.

Saturday, January 29

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony, 8pm, $24-$74. Same program as January 27.

BankBoston Celebrity Series
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (482-6661). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. 8pm, $18-$25. Anthony and Joseph Paratore perform various pieces for piano four hands and two pianos.

Sunday, January 30

Gardner Museum Sunday Series
Gardner Museum, 2 Palace Road, The Fenway, Boston (566-1401). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 1:30pm. $4-$17. Continuation of a series of Bach sonatas by violinist Corey Cerovsek and harpsichordist John Gibbons.

New England String Ensemble
First and Second Church, 66 Marlborough St., Boston (247-3200). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 4pm. $12-$15. Special performance of the world premiere of Douglas Johnson's "Il Terzodecimo Canto."

Boston Lyric Opera
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont Street, Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 3pm. $26-$108. Same program as Jan. 26.

Walden Chamber Players
First Parish Church, Weston, Mass. (508-358-4598). $8-$10. Chamber ensemble, with guests Bayla Keyes, Jennifer Elowitch and James Dunham, performs music of Hindemith, Kodaly and Mendelssohn.

Monday, January 31

Boston University Artist Diploma Recital
Tsai Performance, BU, 685 Comm. Ave., Boston (542-6772). MBTA: B Green Line to BU Central. 8pm. Free. Konstantinos Papadakis performs piano works of Webern, Chopin, Scarlatti and Stravinsky.

Tuesday, February 1

Boston Lyric Opera
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont Street, Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 7:30pm. $26-$108. Same program as Jan. 26.

Thursday, February 3

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony, 8pm, $24-$74. Bernard Haitink conducts the Orchestra and the Tanglewood Festival Chorus in music of Poulenc and Beethoven with guest pianist Murray Perahia.

Friday, February 4

Boston Baroque
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (484-9200). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. 8pm, $18-$47. All Beethoven concert, with guest soloist Stephanie Chase performing the violin concerto.

Boston Lyric Opera
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont Street, Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 8pm. $26-$108. Same program as Jan. 26.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 1:30pm, $24-$74. Same program as Feb. 3.

New England String Ensemble
First Parish Church, Wakefield (781-224-1117). 8pm, $16-$20. Susan Davenny Wynner leads the string orchestra in a family concert with works of Sibelius, Grieg, Bartok and Rota.

Saturday, February 5

BankBoston Celebrity Series
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (482-6661). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. 8pm, $13-$18. Jong-Gyung Park, piano, performs as part of the Emerging Artists series.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm, $24-$74. Same program as Feb. 3.

Newton Symphony Orchestra
Aquinas College, 15 Walnut Park, Newton Corner (965-2555). 2pm. Free. Jeffrey Rink conducts the annual Youth Concert.

Sunday, February 6

Edwin Barker
Tsai Performance, Boston University, 685 Comm. Ave., Boston (542-6772). MBTA: B Green Line to BU Central. 8pm. Free. BSO principal bassist performs Bach Suites for Cello Unaccompanied (transcribed by Barker).

Boston Musica Viva
Pickman Hall, Longy School of Music, One Fallon St. Cambridge (354-6910). Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. $5-$17. Annual children's concert, featuring a world premiere by Hale Smith and Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*.

Gardner Museum Sunday Series
Gardner Museum, 2 Palace Road, The Fenway, Boston, (566-1401). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 1:30pm. $4-$17. Benita Valente sings songs of Fauré and Debussy with Lydia Artymiw, piano accompanist.

Boston Lyric Opera
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont Street, Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 3pm. $26-$108. Same program as Jan. 26.

Boston Baroque
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (484-9200). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave. 3pm, $18-$47. Same program as Feb. 4.

New England String Ensemble
First Church, Cambridge (781-224-1117). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm, $16-$20. Same program as Feb. 4.

Tuesday, February 8

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm, $24-$74. Same program as Feb. 3.

dance clubs

Advice to Contributors
Submit information by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Clubs or email to clubs@improper.com. Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers and nearest T stops. Deadline is four weeks prior to pub date. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Nights

Tuesdays

Cigar and Jazz night
The Exchange. Smoke, lounge and listen to the smooth sounds of jazz. Plus, you score a free Gina Cigar and complimentary buffet. No cover.

Fat Tuesdays
Bill's. This off-the-hook night features DJ Chaos scratching out hip-hop music to college clubbers while house masters DJ Justin Hoffman and WBCN's DJ Jynx spin dance tunes. Doors open at 11pm, $10 cover.

Hibernia Tuesdays
Hibernia. Get jiggy at "Flow" with DJ Craig Kapilow and Sava Kelesidis, where you'll find masses of dancers grooving to tribal house. 9pm. 21+. Cover varies.

Milk
Venu. Boston promoters from seven clubs unite to bring you the hottest house night all week. Resident DJ Osheen spins deep to hard house. Dress is funky.

Mingle Tuesdays
The Modern. This fancy schmancy new spot is très chic. More low-key than its Lansdowne street neighbors, it's got a raw bar, vodka bar and late lounge. 10pm. 21+.

Zanzibar Tuesdays
The Big Easy. Dress to impress for Boston's premiere International Night. The Big Easy's got DJ Manola, who spins Latin and international music from 11pm on. 19+. $10.

Wednesdays

Good Karma
Karma/Mambo. Mizsery plays host to a roster of rotating DJs. Expect a mixed crowd and special guest performers. 10pm. 19+. $5 cover.

Gotham
M-80. Prepare to party with the beautiful people dressed in black as DJ Eddy K. dominates the airwaves with NY house. Leave the hats, but bring your wallet for the $10 cover. It all begins at 11:30pm. 21+.

Hibernia Wednesdays
Hibernia. DJ C.T.O. is the Godfather of Say Word night—with plenty of funk, rare groove, soul and old school hip-hop. 9pm. 21+. Cover varies.

The Sugar Shack
The Sugar Shack. If you're 19+ and a woman, you get in for free before 11pm—otherwise the cover is $10. Located in the bottom of the Big Easy, there is most certainly funk, disco and a lot of hip-hop. 10pm.

Modern Living
The Modern. DJ Raffy spins while minglers munch away on a raw bar and sip martinis. 10pm. 21+.

Musical Mayhem
The Exchange. WBCN's DJ Jynx of Cybersounds plays bangin' funky house in the vault while Sir kel and LA's hot percussionist Stanley Benders take you on a journey upstairs. Party starts at 10pm.

Thursdays

Atlas Dance
Tonight is Girl's Night Out—almost as much fun as Atlas Dance's Friday and Saturday nights—filled with top 40 dancing from 10:30pm-2am. $5, 21+.

Chrome
Axis John Debo and Buro Ajami host, spin and all-around have a good time. Head upstairs to hear DJ Chaos spin soul, funk and house beats. Leave your 'tude at the door—DJ is god here. 10pm, $10 cover, 19+. •Jan. 27 is DJ John Digweed •Feb. 3 is DJ John "OO" Fleming.

Funkalicious Thursdays
The Exchange. DJ G squared takes you on a blast from the past as he spins the sounds of '70s and '80s. Added bonus: free after work buffet. No cover.

Hibernia Thursdays
Hibernia. Experience the full rockin' spectrum of sound with DJ Kid Ray. 9pm, 21+, cover varies.

International Thursday
Avalon. An overwhelmingly Asian crowd fills up this nightspot as DJ Manolo spins Eurohaus and DJ Anthony spins Latin in the adjoining Playhouse Latin Lounge. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover. Next door, the Modern's Downtempo Thursday night has DJ Ricky Fatts, 9pm, 21+.

Top: A night in the life of Caprice-goers; Bottom: it's house night as Boston promoters unite for Milk at Venu. Opposite page: Sean Griffiths, Jessica Chen and Jeff Ingwersew at Caprice.

Très Chic Tuesdays

THE IMPROPER's new club kid goes to town

It's winter in Boston, and it gets pretty dark pretty early—a couple of hours after lunch, or at lunch depending on how late you were out last night. However, this should not come as an entirely bad thing. First off, it's only temporary. Second, it could be just the opposite. Consider cities in Iceland where it's light out 23 hours out of the day. What sort of night life is that? Don't complain about things closing too early. Remember there are seven nights to the week, and daily moderation is key.

I have but two gripes about nightlife. People who chain-smoke on the dance floor with a full drink and the people who pretend to be chain-smokers, but just hold their cigarette in my face. I don't smoke for my own reasons, and I ain't down with the second hand. The dance floor is that space sort of away from the bar where all we're all kind of close together. Let me advise you—it's not the best place to whip around little bits of fire or ice cold liquid, unless you're willing to share. Alright I'll shut up and do my job now.

This week, it seemed that everyone had finally recovered from a mix of the Hong Kong flu, and the post-holiday hangover just in time for Tuesday night. Here's where it was at: the ever-stylish crowd from Louis, Boston filled a table at Caprice to celebrate party-girl scenester Shala's birthday. Right now, the front lounge is the best meeting place for a night out right after the weekend—the guys at Caprice are busy renovating their upstairs to create an even cooler second floor. Upstairs will boast an additional bar and VIP lounge, there is also a rumor of a pool table or two going in as well. The addition is slated to be open just in time for Valentine's Day.

The Tuesday crowd kept the beat going around the Theater District as the line formed outside Venu, just around the corner from Caprice, for "Milk" night. The ubiquitous Bethany worked the door for a returning crowd. Venu packed it in on all sides with preppies, cool cats and hipsters alike and filled the floor. There were scene stealers like Trava and Nicole on hand, and other anonymous beauties who are too exclusive to pose for pictures.

In other news, let me be the last person to inform you that the old Mercury Bar has moved on. Now called Pravda 116, it's the same location, same owner, entirely different place. More to follow on this next time. Go out. And come home.

And remember, nothing is uglier than a bald man with somebody else's hair.—*Sean Daly*

Kit Kat Klub
Sugar Shack. This new night features guest DJs spinning hip hop to college clubbers, 10pm, 19+.

Latin Quarter
The Roxy. Time to get down as the Roxy breaks out hip shaking salsa, merengue and Latin dance mixes.

Lava Bar
Lavabar.com. The Underground just got a penthouse address. DJ Essential and friends spin old school hip hop, soul and rare groove for your freakish pleasure. Doors open at 10pm.

Speed
Karma/Mambo. DJ Chaos spins the latest Hip-Hop and R&B while DJ Johnny Scrofani spins house in the Mambo Lounge. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover. •Jan. 27 is DJ Clue.

Fridays

Avaland
Avalon. Everything about the room screams party. With world famous DJs spinning, this has become the single most NY-style club night in Boston. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover. •Jan. 28 is DJ Deep Dish •Feb. 4 is DJ Denny Tsettos. Plus, DJ Hoffman's next door at the Modern's Ultra Lounge. 9pm, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans themed nightspot has some of the best mainstream DJs in town. Offering four bars, two lounges as well as billiards and a wraparound balcony, the Big Easy is a staple in Boston's weekend nightlife.

Absolute
Buzz. Two rooms of cocktail delights: Roger M lays down both traditional Latin and international house tracks while upstairs visiting DJs pay homage to the house music gods. 11pm, $15 cover, 19+.

Emily's
An after work venue during the week, this spot transforms itself into a dance kingdom on weekends. Resident DJ Kaboom infuses funk, dance, pop and disco. Door s open at 4pm. Get there early and avoid a cover.

Envy
This extraordinarily popular Friday night hot spot is filled with a swarming mass of sweaty 'n' ready dancers. You'll have plenty of choice dance partners. 9pm, $5 cover after 10pm, 21+.

Exchange Fridays
The Exchange. Up High, mixtress Lakana, Boston's hottest Lady DJ, guides you on a house trip while DJ G Squared opens the vault door with mainstream dance and hip hop. Doors at 9pm.

Focus
Hibernia. How can you go wrong with DJs Chuck Caseroc, Keith Kene and Skot Havens. 9pm, 21+. cover varies.

Lava Bar
Life. *Lavabar.com*. From the creators of Soul Revival, DJ Fran Englehardt spins ambient, soulful and deep house—transition your night from loungy beats to deep soulful rhythms doors at 10pm.

Latinhaus and International Night
M-80. Always dominated by no less than 1,000 international students, this is the must-be place for the I-20 scene. DJ JC throws out classic Latinhaus and DJ Eddy K. spins House. 11pm, $15 cover, 21+.

Nocturnal Fridays
Bill's Bar. WBCN day guy and football swami, Bill Abbate, spins up a delectable smorgasbord of rock with a pinch of roll. Nocturnal Friday is the perfect place to chug a beer and chill. 9pm. $5 cover, 21+.

Sonic
Karma/Mambo. DJ Venom shakes the Main Room spinning rave, while DJ Myth rings the sound of Jungle in the Mambo Lounge . Bring your dancing shoes and a damn good pick-up line. 10pm. 19+. $15. •Jan. 28 is DJ Irene. •Feb. 4 is DJ Feelgood.

Roxy 2000
Roxy/Mondo Bar. What goes around, comes around. Go crazy as the intimacy of Roxy consumes you and DJ Felix spins house and international music throughout the night. 10:30pm $15, 21+.

Spin Cycle
Axis. Glitzed out club hoppers and an active scam scene mix to make the progressive house beats of DJ Tim Ryan downstairs or DJ David James '80s and retro tunes upstairs. 10pm, $12, 19+.

Venu International
Venu. Igor, Heather, Alex and Caeser host this international night where DJs Alex and Tassos share the decks. Table reservations are possible if you can get in—but only the very chic gain entry. 11:30pm.

Saturdays

Avalon Saturdays
Downtown DJ Manolo and Matti O. gyrate your ass. 10pm. 21+. $15 cover. Feeling mischievous? Bop on over to the Modern for Mischief Saturday—with decadent deserts and erotic electronica. 9pm. 21+.

SEAN DALY (4)

Bill's Bar
DJ Laurie Gail with guest DJs promise to make Bill's a night full of dancing to the best of the '70s, '80s and '90s. 9pm, $3 cover, 19+.

Classic Saturday
M-80. DJ JC and DJ Eddie K spin Latinhaus, International and House music. 11pm, $15, 21+.

Club Juliana
Club Juliana. Boogying cuties converge on Boston's newest Latin Night starting at 10pm. Dress to impress—no jeans or sneaks. $10. Ladies free before 11pm.

Elements of Life
Karma/Mambo. World class DJs spin House music in the main room while DJ Hoffman plays funk in the Mambo Lounge. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover. •Jan. 29 is DJ Richie Santana.

Emily's
Serious disco and high-energy dance. DJs spice up Saturday nights and transform this after work venue into a dance kingdom. 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Envy
From 9pm-2am, DJ Tom Baxter blasts Top 40, house and dance throughout the night. 9pm, $5 cover after 10pm, 21+.

Exchange Saturdays
The Exchange. DJ Diesel renovates the upper level with full on house while DJ Jynx spins all the funky beats in the lower Vault lounge.

Hibernia Saturdays
Hibernia. Masters of house, techno and dance, DJs Dino and David West, take the reins and whip the crowd into a frenzy. 9pm, 21+. cover varies.

Sugar Shack
Spice up your night with '70s, '80s, '90s dance music as DJ Rich Centi spins the hottest sounds in town.

Lava Bar
575 Commonwealth. Ave., Boston (267-7707). lavabar.com. Tabu night means anything goes with DJ Fran. High energy house with a taste of Latin beats—Open Minds Free Souls, doors at 10pm.

Miami Club Night
Club Joy/Yesterday's. *533 Washington St., Boston (350-5555).* Enjoy Boston's only Latin Night to feature La Rueda de Casino, a Cuban salsa game danced throughout clubs in Miami and Cuba, and get a taste of Miami nightlife. 9:30pm (ladies free before 11pm), $10 cover, men 21+, ladies, 19+.

X night
Axis. Axis is taken over by DJ Mike Gioscia who spins cutting edge favorites of 90's alternative while DJ David James spins the hottest 80's hits in the Left Over Lounge upstairs. 10pm, $10 cover, 21+.

Sundays

Exchange Sundays
A fusion of the best Drum & Bass, Hip-Hop, Breaks, House, Trance, Techno and special live performances. 9pm, 19+.

Il Panino
This is where the people from Oskar's go to spend their final hour of partying. Mainly attracting Euros, this night features music by DJ Alex of Boston Beat and DJ Roger M. 21+, no cover.

Salavation
This new Boston vibe serves up an intimate evening of soul provided by DJ Soul. $5, until 10pm.

The Velvet Lounge
Oskar's. Mellow acid jazz and deep house pump as the A-list sink into plush booths to chat before Aria and Il Panino. 9:30pm-1am, 21+, no cover.

Raves

No sleep till Brooklyn
Jan. 28, Brooklyn. Club Warehouse 1370 Ralph Ave. Email Gopeo357@aol.com with questions. G.O. Productions presents a benefit event for the Buddhist temple of Queens. The line up includes Jon the Dentist, Joey Beltrum, Lenny Dee and Delata 9, Nigel Richards, Fell Good, Micro and Xdream, Diesel Boy, J. Smooth, Odi, The Horrorist Live, Decipher, Joe Jeep, Mike Myers, Vitamins, Drae 192, Dr. Pepper and DJ Intel Eric.

Revival
Feb. 19, Verrillo's Convention Center, Portland, Maine (207-828-8767). $20 at the door w/3 canned goods, $15 at the door, 8pm. With "25,000-30,000 watts of sound and plenty intelligent lighting." DJs include Dutch, San Francisco Records, Shannon Shalako, 409 Crew, Hush and Chip, Laree Love, 409 Crew North, Bruce Flash and Dawn Patrol among others.

Club Venues

Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (338-7080). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center.*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (437-0300). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424) MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Buzz Boston/Europa *51-67 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park St.*
Club Juliana *20 Hudson St., Boston (542-4411).*
Club Stella *1234 Soldiers Field Rd., Brighton (254-0554).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Upstairs, Boston (423-3649). MBTA: Red or Green Lines to Park Street.*
Envy *25 Boylston Place, Boston (542-3689). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Exchange *148 State St., Boston (723-7755). MBTA: Orange Line to State Street.*
Hibernia *25 Kingston St., Boston (292-2333). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Karma *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9595). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Lava Bar *575 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-7707). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
M-80 *969 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant Street.*
Oskar's *107 South St., Leather District, Boston (542-6756). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (482-7799). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Salavation *20 Hudson St., Boston (781-668-2392). MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown.*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Theatre District, Boston (338-8061). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*

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MEMENTO MORI

Morphine releases its first album since the death of leader Mark Sandman. BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

The Night," the title track of the first Morphine album since singer-bassist-songwriter Mark Sandman collapsed from a fatal heart attack onstage in Italy last July, may be about romantic desires. But there's something prophetic about the CD opening with a song where Sandman sings, "I hope you're waiting for me, 'cause I can't make it on my own."

Just as eerie is the word that *The Night* was finished before his death—down to the order of songs. "That was one of the last songs to come together," adds drummer Billy Conway, sitting with saxophonist Dana Colley in Sandman's instrument-scattered loft, where the CD was made. "The fact that Mark's gone is pervasive in every way. But the music: he was proud of it, we're proud of it, and we want people to hear it."

So not only does *The Night* hit stores Feb. 1, but a cast of Sandman associates is joining Colley and Conway for a Northeast tour including a Feb. 6 concert at the Somerville Theatre—under the name Orchestra Morphine. "That just feels better than putting [the album] on the shelf," Conway says. "If the situation were different, if this record hadn't been finished, things would be very different. We don't want to be a revue of ourselves."

Unlike Movable Bubble, the cameo-studded collective that played a few Sandman tribute shows last year, Orchestra Morphine will shy away from resurrecting past Morphine favorites in favor of performing the new disc (probably in its entirety, even in the same sequence) and songs from Sandman side projects like the experimental-funk Hypnosonics. "With Orchestra Morphine, I'm sure as time goes by, we'll play something from the Morphine catalog, but that's difficult for everybody in some ways," Conway says, separating the touring band from the memorial concerts.

Nonetheless, many of the same players comprise the nine-piece Orchestra Morphine. Saxophonist Russ Gershon, trumpeter Tom Halter and bassist Mike Rivard are aboard from the Hypnosonics, while Evan Harriman will take over on keyboards. Original Morphine drummer Jerome Deupree is sharing kit duties with Conway, as they do on *The Night*. And Colley will split vocals with Laurie Sargent and Hybrasil's Christian McNeill. "By tossing a group of songs up in the air and dividing it up between three deliveries, it kinda defuses the whole idea of trying to replace or live up to [Mark]," says Colley, whose baritone voice most resembles Sandman's.

"The immediate thing that you miss the most is Mark's leadership in terms of singing the song," Colley says. "For us to try to learn and deliver it according to how we remember it, or what we hear on record, is going to fall short of the mark. There's no question about it. But I guess at the same time, the songs on their own, are capable of being performed. And to me, that's a larger contribution than if they're just not sung at all."

Sandman spent a lot of time bringing the CD into focus in his home studio, experimenting and reworking songs. "Perfectionism might be a good word, but he also knew the value of spontaneity, and a certain looseness," says Conway. "There were tracks where Jerome and I would just be jamming, and he'd be making coffee, and come storming across the room, gesticulating to keep playing. And he'd pick up his bass and turn the [recording] machine on."

In addition to his signature two-string slide bass (which he held onto as he fell to the stage that fateful July 3), Sandman augmented the recording with guitars, tritar (two guitar strings and a bass string), trombone and piano. "He was looking for the right one, with low end," Conway says of the grand piano—with a martini "tip" glass full of dollars—which now centers the room. Next to it is the man-size bass saxophone which Colley acquired two years ago, and plays on several tracks. And guests included Rivard, organist John Medeski, cellist Jane Scarpantoni, violinist Joseph Kessler and vocals from Mr. Airplane Man. The result is a layered work that builds on the moody simplicity of Morphine's jazzy film-noir rock.

"It so happens that much of the music is very arranged and orchestrated," Colley says. "How we would have approached this as a trio is something to think about as well. We could have done it, I'm sure, but I think the idea was to expand the [Morphine] sound at some point."

That point, with Sandman at least in spirit, is now. "I love playing music with all these people," Conway says. "At the moment, I really believe it's kind of an organic process. We've got something we're trying to do. We'll see if we can accomplish that, and out of that, we'll see if there's room for more." iB

Morphine members join friends of the late Mark Sandman (center) for a concert of new music Feb.6 at the Somerville Theatre.

"The fact that Mark's gone is pervasive in every way. But the music: He was proud of it, we're proud of it, and we want people to hear it."

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fax (859-1446); by mail to Calendar/Music; or by email to music@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, phone numbers and nearest T stops. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double check dates and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

Concerts

4 Him
Feb. 4, Hynes Convention Center
Beijing Kunju Opera Theatre
Jan. 28 and 29, Sanders Theatre
Equation
Feb. 3, Somerville Theatre
Ibrahim Ferrer and Rubén González
Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, Orpheum Theatre
Festival of Funny Songwriters
Jan. 29, Somerville Theatre
Guster
Jan. 28, the Palladium
Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar Festival
Feb. 5, Somerville Theatre
LadySmith Black Mambazo
Feb. 6, Sanders Theatre
Orchestra Morphine
Feb. 6, Somerville Theatre
Swingtime!
Jan. 30, Sanders Theatre

CONCERT HALLS

Hynes Convention Center
900 Boylston St., Boston, (954-1000). MBTA: Green line to Hynes Convention Center
Orpheum Theatre
1 Hamilton Place, Boston, (679-0810). Red Line to Park
The Palladium
26 Main St., Worcester, Mass, (800-477-6849).
Sanders Theatre
45 Quincy St., Cambridge (496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard
Somerville Theatre
55 Davis Square, Somerville (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

Rock, Jazz and Blues

Wednesday, January 26

Aquarium
Coppertree, 10pm, no cover.
Black Rose
Eugene Byrne.
Bristol Lounge
Joe Barbato, 8pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Boston Poetry Slam, 8pm.
Club Passim
Maria Sangiolo and Janet Feld, 8pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm, no cover.
Encore
Piano Bar featuring Michelle Currie, 9pm-1am, no cover.
The Grand Canal
Dave Foley.
Green Street Grill
Reggae with Brothers and Sisters and Sirs, 10:30pm.
House of Blues
Blue Hornets, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Johnny D's
Brian Templeton and Friends.
The Kells Cafe
Studio 54 Night.
The Kendall Cafe
Open Mic and One Elle, 11pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge
The Bubble featuring the surviving members of Morphine including Billy Conway and Dana Colley.
The Middle East
Upstairs: Groovetube, the Anonymous Richard and Dr. Akward, $6, 18+.
Midland Cafe
Stiff and Philly Roy.
Milky Way Lounge
Solaris and Courtney, 10pm, $3 for 18+, no cover, 21+.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Healy, 6pm.
The Rack
Hit Squad, 9pm-1am.

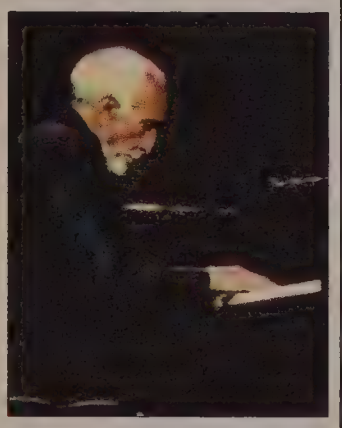
DANNY CLINCH

The Buena Vista Social Club tour features Ibrahim Ferrer (below) and Ruben Gonzáles.

Preview

Buena Vista Social Club Tour

Cuba's Living Legends



In '96, recording artist Ry Cooder gathered together some of the greatest names from the history of Cuban music to collaborate on the best-selling and Grammy-winning album *The Buena Vista Social Club*, inspired by German filmmaker Wim Wenders' ground-breaking documentary of the same name. It features the extraordinary music of legendary Cuban performers Ibrahim Ferrer and Ruben Gonzáles, among others—now known in Cuba as "los superablos" (the super-grandfathers).

Due to the popularity of the film and album, several of the musicians have gone on tour. Last November, their Boston Symphony Hall tour sold out in half a day. The second *Buena Vista Social Club* tour headlines Ferrer and Gonzáles for two shows at the Orpheum Jan. 31 and Feb. 1. Ferrer, a singer from Santiago, began his career early—in the '50s he played in Pancho Alonso's Orchestra and stayed there for 20 years. After a lengthy hiatus in the '80s scraping by as a shoe shiner, Ferrer delved back in the biz in '97 to make an album with the Afro-Cuban All Stars (*A Toda Cuba Le Gusta*) and of course, Cooder's *Buena Vista Social Club*. He has only recently come to the attention of audiences worldwide—he made his first solo album at the age of 77.

Cuba's national treasure, sprightly piano soloist Gonzáles, also came into fame late in life after returning from retirement to participate on the same two albums as Ferrer. Apart from their stunning displays of crowd-pleasing talent, both grandfathers are sure to bring their gusto back to Boston for bring-the-house-down live performances.—*Erin Hagedorn*

Scullers Jazz Club
Jeff "Tain" Watts, 8pm and 10pm, $18.
Sugar Shack
Biscuit Head.
Toad
Love Whip, 10pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's
Seeking Homer and Winefield, $6.
Wally's Cafe
Wally's Step-children II, 9pm, no cover.
Warren Tavern
Kevin Kirraine, 9pm, $3.
Les Zygomates
The Rusty Scott Trio, 8-11pm.

Thursday, January 27

Big Easy Bar
The Catunes.
Bill's Bar
Steady Earnest with the Agents and Jaya the Cat, $8.
Bob the Chef's
The Ed Jones Quartet, 7:30pm.
Bristol Lounge
Joe Barbato, 8pm, no cover.
Bullfinch's Pub
Jim Porcella.
Cantab Lounge
OSBC Folk off Competition, 8pm.
Club Passim
Wall of Grass, 8pm, $10.
Common Ground Bar and Grill
Edible Gray and Dreadnaught, 10pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm, no cover.
Encore
Michelle Currie, 9pm, no cover.
The Good Life
Jose Ramos and the Special Blend, no cover.
Toad
Patty Giurleo, no cover.
Top of the Hub
The Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
The Grand Canal
The Splitting Vinnies, no cover.
Green Street Grill
Latin night with Giancarlo Buscaglia, 11pm, $4.
Harpers Ferry
Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown, $18 in advance, $20 at the door.
House of Blues
The Seth Yacovone Band, 10pm, $8, 21+.
Johnny D's
The Chris McDermott Love Perimeter.
Jose McIntyre's
Syndicate.
The Kendall Cafe
Will Hawkins, Laurie Geltman and Todd Thibaud, 9pm, $7.
The Linwood
Rock City Crimewave, Claymore and and What.
Lizard Lounge
Northeast Performers "Midnight Mass."
Paradise
Max Creek, 8 pm, $8, 18+.
The Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett.
Regattabar
Ahmad Jamal 8:30pm, $10.
Scullers Jazz Club
Jeff "Tain" Watts, 8pm and 10pm, $18.
Sky Bar
Miss Fortune, 9:30pm.
Sweetwater Cafe
Tin Roof, cover varies.

Friday, January 28

Aquarium
Entrain, 10pm-1am, $10 cover.
Bayou Blues Cafe
Monica Lynk Trio, 8pm-12am.
Black Rose
Eugene Byrne and Sunday's Well.
Big Easy Bar
Catunes, $7.
Bill's Bar
Expanding Man with Senor Happy, $7, 19+.
Bristol Lounge
Suzanne Davis Jazz Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
Faith Soloway, 7pm and 10pm, $12.
Common Ground Bar and Grill
Labb, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff
Syndicate, 9pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band and Classic Trax, 7pm, no cover.
Encore
Piano Bar featuring John O'Neil, 9pm-1am.
The Good Life
Weepin' Willie and His All Star Band, no cover.
Green Street Grill
Tarbox Ramblers, 11pm, no cover.
Green Street Studios
Igor Tkachenko and Cast of Characters, 8pm, $15.
Harpers Ferry
Roomful of Blues with the Sky Blues, $12 in advance, $15 at the door.
House of Blues
Cabaret Diosa, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Johnny D's
Love Dogs.
The Kells
Cape Fear and DJ Dragg, 9:30pm.
Kendall Cafe
Weisstronauts and Hellcountry.
The Linwood
Scissorfight and Long Distance Runner.
Lizard Lounge
Jamie Dunphy Band, Kyler and the Goneboys.
The Middle East
Upstairs: Uncle Sammy, $7, 18+. Downstairs: the Slip and Blue Rags, $10, 18+.
Midway Cafe
Pitch Black, Jive Tonic and Jim.
Milky Way Lounge
Betwixt and the In/Out.
The Purple Shamrock
Felix Brown, 9pm, $5.
The Rack
Search Party 6:30pm-10pm.
Regattabar
Ahmad Jamal, 8pm and 10pm, $16.
Rhythm & Spice
Oceanic, 10:30-1am, $8.
Scullers Jazz Club
Marian McPartland Trio, 8pm and 10:30 pm, $20.
Sit 'n Bull Pub
Bluestime.
Toad
Nash Saterfield, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Chris Taylor Quartet, 9pm, no cover.
Wally's Cafe
John Lankin Quintet, 9pm, no cover.
The Western Front
The Winston Grennan and the Ska-Rocks Band, 9:30pm, $10.
Les Zygomates
The Skip Smith Trio, 9pm-12am.

Saturday, January 29

Bayou Blues Cafe
True Colors, 8pm-12am.
Big Easy Bar
Felix Brown, $7.
Bob the Chef's
Nat Simpkins Quartet, 7:30pm.
Black Rose
Sunday's Well and Eugene Byrne.
Bristol Lounge
The Suzanne Davis Jazz Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Upstairs: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
Greg Greenway and Jenny Reynolds, 7 and 10pm, $12.
Common Ground Bar and Grill
Pressure Cooker, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff
Bald Water, 9, $5.
Dick's Last Resort
Jenerators and Booty, 7pm, no cover.
Encore
Cabaret featuring Lisa "Lucky" Stetor, 9pm-1am.
Green Street Grill
Latin night with Giancarlo Buscaglia, 11pm, $4.
Green Street Studios
Igor Tkachenko and Cast of Characters, 8pm, suggested $15 donation.
The Good Life
Karin Parker and Her New Band, 9pm, no cover.
Harpers Ferry
Luther "Guitar Jr." Watson with special guests the Part Time Lovers.
House of Blues
Matt "Guitar" Murphy, 10pm, $15, 21+.
Johnny D's
Slipknot.
Jose McIntyre's
The Return.
The Kendall Cafe
Joel Aberbach, Shiner Jones and Winterboy 9:30pm.
The Linwood
Roadshaw back from Europe show and Barbaro.
Lizard Lounge
Buck Dewey Big band, Boods Velvets and Nipple.
The Middle East
Upstairs: Solpatch, Canine and Stuffis, $7, 18+.
Downstairs: D Rippopatomus, $8, 18+.
Midway Cafe
Bayou Gators Blues.
Milky Way
Mango's Latin Dance Party.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Focal and Matt Brown, 9:30pm, cover varies.
The Purple Shamrock
Syndicate, 9pm, $5.
The Rack
Superbowl party.
Regattabar
Ahmad Jamal, 8pm and 10pm, $18.
Rhythm & Spice
P3ppa Tr3e.
Scullers Jazz Club
Marian McPartland Trio, 8pm and 10:30 pm, $20.
Toad
Jennifer Matthews and special guess Longionez, 10pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub
The Chris Taylor Quartet, 9pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's
The Ragins Teens, Fuzzy Pinks, $8.
The Western Front
The Winston Grennan and the Ska-Rocks Band, 9:30pm, $10.
Les Zygomates
Stan Strickland, 9pm-12am, no cover.

Sunday, January 30

Bob the Chef's
Sonny Watson Quartet, no cover.
The Burren
Alistair Moock, Melissa Morris and Adrienne, 8:30pm, no cover.

Don White and Julie Barr in the Festival of Funny Songwriters Jan. 29 at the Somerville Theatre.

EBET ROBERTS (TOP 2), SUSAN WILSON (BOTTOM RIGHT)

The kings of *mbube* (a style of South African a cappella singing), Ladysmith Black Mambazo bring their powerful vocal harmonies to the Sanders Theatre for one show only on Feb. 6.

Cantab Lounge
Joe Cook's Blues Ja, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
Benefit show featuring Jan Luby, 7:30pm, $12.
Encore
Piano Bar featuring Doffie Dean, 7pm-11pm.
Harpers Ferry
The Coal Boilers.
House of Blues
Super Dig 2000, 9pm, $8, 18+.
The Kendall Cafe
Soma Holiday, 9pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge
Poetry Jam, 8pm.
The Middle East
Upstairs: Drexel, River City High, Mission 120 and Jerich, $7, 18+.
Midway Cafe
Chandler.
Milky Way Lounge
Roots Reggae Night.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Carroll, 8pm, cover varies.
The Rack
Chad Lamarsh, 9pm, no cover.
Toad
Milkshake, $5.

Monday, January 31

The Black Rose
Tony O'Riordan, 9pm, no cover..
Bill's Bar
Gage with guests, $7, 19+.
Cantab Lounge
Buddy Gibson, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
Open mike featuring Dylan Callahan, 8pm.
Encore
Piano Bar featuring Michael Kreutz, 9pm-1am.
Harpers Ferry
Wedding Band Showcase, no cover.
House of Blues
Screamin' Cheetah Wheelies, 9pm, $10, 18+.
Johnny D's
Hot Tamale Brass Band.
The Kendall Cafe
Meg Hutchinson, Robby Baler, 9pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge
The Fringe, cover varies.
The Middle East
Mindstatic, Colfield, Sun of Orange County and Who's the Fat Guy, $6, 18+.
Milky Way Lounge
Deb Klein, Ben Hall and Samule.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Dave Smith, 7pm, cover varies.
Paradise
M-Pact with guests Similar Jones, 8pm, $8, 18+.
The Purple Shamrock
Dave Smyth, 9pm.
The Rack
John Bowser 8pm-12am.
Scullers Jazz Club
Just the Sax featuring Gerald Albright, 8pm and 10pm, $28.
Toad
Time Gearan, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Diana Fischer Duo, 8pm, no cover.
Wally's Cafe
Jose Ramos and the Special Blend Band, 9pm, no cover.

Tuesday, February 1

Club Passim
Open mike, 9pm.
Encore
Piano Bar featuring Booby Femino, 9pm-1am.
Green Street Grill
Magicians and Spirits and Live magic, 10pm, $10.
House of Blues
Roger Steffens, 8:30pm-11pm, $12, 18+.
Johnny D's
Brooks Williams.
Lizard Lounge
Shivaree, cover varies.
The Middle East
Upstairs: Revelation, Fusambo, We're All Gonna Die and Headshot, $6, 18+.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Hegart, Boston Folk Singers Club and 6, cover varies.
Paradise
Macy Gray, 8pm, $13 in advance, $15 at the door, 18+.
Purple Shamrock
Dave Smyth.
Regattabar
The Cercie Miller Quintet featuring Tiger Okoshi, 8:30pm, $8.
T.T. Bear's
Acoustic Music with Ad Frank and friends.
Toad
Michael Tarbox and Todd Thibaud, no cover.

Wednesday, February 2

Bristol Lounge
Joe Barbato, 8pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
Deadline Poet and Chris and Meredith Thompson, 8pm, $10.
Common Ground Bar and Grill
What a Way To Go-Go.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm, no cover.
Encore
Piano Bar featuring Michelle Currie, 9pm-1am.
Green Street Grill
Brothers and Sisters and Sirs, 10:30pm, no cover.
Harpers Ferry
Johnny Winter.
Johnny D's
Cosmic Dilemma.
Kirkland Cafe
Baby Ray, Fernachur.
The Middle East
Upstairs: Say Hi to Lisa, Boiler Room Six, the Syphlloids and Panhea, $7, 18+.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Carroll, 8pm.
Regattabar
Toots Thielemans and Kenny Warner, 8:30pm, $12.
Scullers
Ray Santisi and and "The Real Thing," 8pm, $10.
Sugar Shack
Biscuithead, cover varies.
Toad
Hummer, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
Wally's Cafe
Wally's Step-children II, 9pm, no cover.

Thursday, February 3

Bristol Lounge
Joe Barbato, 8pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
Ferron, 8pm, $22.50.
Common Ground Bar and Grill
The Buckners and Typhoon Ferii, 10pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm, no cover.
Encore
Piano Bar featuring Michelle Currie, 9pm-1am.
Green Street Grill
Latin night with Giancarlo Buscaglia, 11pm, $4.
The Good Life
Yasco Kabuto and the Power Jazz Unit.
The Grand Canal
The Spitting Vinnies, no cover.
Johnny D's
Equation.
Lizard Lounge
Club d'Elf, cover varies.
Top of the Hub
The Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
Milky way Lounge
Tom Leach, Natalie Flanagan and the Eyesores.
O'Brien's
Weisstronauts.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Focal, and Tom Carroll, 9:30, cover varies.
Paradise
Rustic Overtones, 8pm, $8, 18+.
Regattabar
Toots Thielemans and Kenny Werner, 8:30pm, $13.
Ryles Jazz Club
Toots Thielemans and Kenny Werner, 8:30pm, $13.
Scullers Jazz Club
Carol Sloane and her trio with special guest trombonist Bobby Brookmeyer, 8pm and 10 pm, $18.
Toad
Pretty Cool Chair, no cover.

Friday, February 4

Big Easy Bar
Bob's Day Off, $7.
Bristol Lounge
Suzanne Davis Jazz Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
Common Ground Bar and Grill
Earl Shibe Five and Ollie Ollie.
Coogan's Bluff
Guy Smiley, 9pm, $3.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band and Classic Trax, 7pm, no cover.
Encore
John O'Neil, 9pm, no cover.
Green Street Grill
Tarbox Ramblers, 11pm, no cover.
Harpers Ferry
Johnny Johnson with special guests Walk That Walk, $10.
Johnny D's
Hubert Sumlin.
Jose McIntyre's
Cape Fear, 9pm, $5.
Lizard Lounge
Honeyglazed, 9pm.
The Middle East
Michigan Blacksnake, Sugar Daddy, $7, 18+.
Milky way Lounge
The Gravy and the Gentlemen.
O'Brien's Pub
Allston.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Focal and Tom Carroll, 9:30 pm, cover varies.
Paradise
Jump Little Children, 6:30pm, $8, 18+.
Purple Shamrock
The Return, 9pm, $5.
Regattabar
Toots Thielemans and Kenny Werner, 8pm and 10pm, $14.
Scullers Jazz Club
Carol Sloane and her Trio and special guest trombonist Bobby Brookmeyer, 8pm and 10:30 pm, $20.
Toad
The Chandler Travis Philharmonic, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Chris Taylor Quartet, 7pm, no cover.
Wally's Cafe
John Lankin Quintet, 9pm, no cover.

Saturday, February 5

Big Easy Bar
New Life Crisis, $7.
Bristol Lounge
The Suzanne Davis Jazz Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
Paul Rishell and Annie Raines, 8pm, $12.
Common Ground Bar and Grill
The Allstonians, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff
Second Story, 9pm, $3.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators and Blue Soul, 7pm, no cover.
Encore
Lisa "Lucky" Steton, 9pm, no cover.
Green Street Grill
Latin night with Giancarlo Buscaglia, 11pm, $4.
Harpers Ferry
Toni Lynn Washington with special guests Ron Levy's Wild Kingdom, $7.
Johnny D's
The Holmes Bothers.
Jose McIntyer's
Pig Pen, 9pm, $5..
Lizard Lounge
Ray Mason, Ware River Club and Tom Leach.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Focal and Tom Carroll, 9:30, cover varies.

Celebrating 40 years of performing, Bo Diddley rocks on at Harpers Ferry with Entrain, Feb. 11.

Preview

Get the Blues

The 15th annual Harpers Ferry Blues Festival ushers in the millennium on Jan. 27 with the legendary Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown. An extraordinary line-up follows: Luther "Guitar Jr." Johnson with special guests Part Time Lovers Jan. 29; Toni Lynn Washington Feb. 5; Bo Diddley with special guests Entrain Feb. 11; Duke Robillard Feb. 12; and Buckwheat Zydeco Feb. 16. Tickets are available for advance purchase at the club. *158 Brighton Avenue, Allston (254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard.*

RITA BARROS (TOP LEFT)

The Purple Shamrock
Cape Fear, 9pm, $5.
Regattabar
Toots Thielemans and Kenny Werner, 8pm and 10pm, $16. Jean Carne and Angela Bofill, 7pm and 9pm, $25.
Rhythm & Spice
Caribbean Cruize Band.
Scullers Jazz Club
Jean Carne and Angela Bofill, 8pm and 10:30pm, $25.
Toad
Asa Brebner, no cover.
Wally's Cafe
The John Lankin Quintet, 9pm, no cover.
Warren Tavern
Matt Browne, 9pm, no cover.

Sunday, February 6

Bill's Bar
Tribute to Bob Marley.
Cantab Lounge
Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
Danny Fox Quintet, 7:30pm, $6.
Dick's Last Resort
Rob Gonzalez, 7pm, no cover.
Encore
Dottie Dean, 7pm, no cover.
The Grand Canal
The Swinging Johnsons, no cover.
Harpers Ferry
Luther "Guitar Jr." Johnson.
Johnny D's
Blues Jam and Salsa dancing with Rumba Nama.
Jose McIntyre's
Pig Pen.
Lizard Lounge
Poetry Jam with the Jeff Robinson Group, 8pm.
The Middle East
Reks, Non-Profits, Insight Ripshop and DJ Fakts 1, $8, 18+.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Carrol, 8pm, cover varies.
The Rack
Chad Lamarsh, 9pm, no cover.
Roxy
A Bob Marley birthday celebration, Anthony B and Culture, 7pm, 18+.
Scullers Jazz Club
Jean Carne and Angela Bofill, 8pm and 10:30pm, $25.
Toad
Cookiehead featuring Dennis Brennan, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Diana Fischer Duo, 8pm, no cover.
Wally's Cafe
Wally's Step-children III, 9pm, no cover.

Monday February 7

The Black Rose
Tony O'Riordan, 9pm, no cover.
Bristol Lounge
Joe Barbato, 8pm, no cover.
Bullfinch's
Juliet Willoughby, no cover
Club Passim
Two Song Night featuring Teddy Goldstein.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band, 7pm, no cover.
Encore
Piano Bar featuring Michael Kreutz, 9pm-1am.
Harpers Ferry
Ron Levy's Wild Kingdom.
Johnny D's
Hot Tamale Brass Band.
Lizard Lounge
The Fringe.
The Middle East
Crooked Fingers and Empire Games, $7, 18+.
Toad
Tim Gearan, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Diana Fischer Duo, 8pm, no cover.
Wally's Cafe
Jose Ramos and the Special Blend Band, 9pm, no cover.

Tuesday, February 8

Bristol Lounge
Joe Barbato, 8pm, no cover.
Dick's Last Resort
Booty, 7pm, no cover.
Encore
Piano Bar featuring Bobby Femino, 9pm-1am.
Green Street Grill
Magicians and Spirits and Live magic, 10pm.
Johnny D's
Northern Lights.
The Middle East
Upstairs: New Wet Kojak, White Hassle, $7, 18+.
Milky Way Lounge
Phoenix, Cha Cha Cha Allstars, $5.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Carroll, 8pm.
Paradise
Max Creek, 8pm, $10, 18+.
The Purple Shamrock
Dave Smyth.
The Rack
Chad Lamarsh, 5:30pm-9pm.
Ryles Jazz Club
Brooke Sofferman with Jerry Bergonzi.
Scullers Jazz Club
Jeff "Tain" Watts.
The Regattabar
The Charlie Kolhase Quintet, 8:30pm, $10.
Toad
Michael Tarbox and Todd Thibaud, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Jeff Auger, Bob Nieske and Rick Considine, 8:30pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's
Federal Twist, Nook and Mockingbirds, $6.
Wally's Cafe
Wally's Step-children I, 9pm, no cover.

Music Venues

Aquarium *65 Holland St., Somerville (623-3200). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
B-Side Lounge *92 Hampshire St., East Cambridge (354-0766). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Bristol Lounge *Four Seasons Hotel, 200 Boylston St., Boston (338-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
Bullfinch's Pub *730 Boston Post Road, Sudbury (978-443-4094).*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Club Passim *47 Palmer St., Harvard Square, Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential Center.*
The Good Life *28 Kingston St., Boston 451-2622). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing/*
Green Street Grill *280 Green Street, Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square.*
Harpers Ferry *158 Brighton Avenue, Allston (254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
ICA *955 Boylston St., Boston (266-5152). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Davis Square, Somerville (776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis Square.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (451-9460). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Kendall Cafe *233 Cardinal Medeiros Ave., Cambridge (661-0993). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (783-9400). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
The Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (267-8644).*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Milky Way Lounge *405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-3740).*
Paddy Burke's Pub *132 Portland Street, Boston (367-8370). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Paradise *967 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston (562-8804). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant Street.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (725-1051). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Field Road, Cambridge (562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential Center.*
T.T. the Bear's *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square.*
Wally's Cafe *427 Mass. Ave., Boston (424-1408). MBTA: Green Line to Symphony.*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard Ave., Allston (351-COOL). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Les Zygomates *129 South Street, Boston (542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*

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How to use this section
The following listings contain information that is subject to change. Contact the organization for changes in specific events.

CLUBS, BARS & HANGOUTS

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years these folks have been crankin' out some of the best Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. It's well worth a visit—if not for the three separate dance floors then for all of the male dancers. 9pm, $15, 21+.

Buzz (Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays)
51 Stuart St. in the Theatre District, Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. On Saturday nights this place boasts two dance floors, two DJs, a pool room and a lounge. Two levels of dancing and schmoozing will keep the boys busy until 2am. 10pm, $5, 21+.

Chaps (Daily)
*100 Warrenton St., Boston (695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boyl*ston. www.chapsofboston.com. Sun.: Dance music of DJ Danae Jacovidis; Mon.: Grand Baby and Grand Piano night; Tue.: Retro DJ night; Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adielson Caesar; Thu.: DJs Billy and Fran: High Energy Dance; Fri.: Taboo Erotique with DJ Sammy; Sat.: High Energy Dance, DJ Danae Jacovidis.

City Girl Cafe (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tues.-Fri: 11am- 9pm; Sat: 10am-9pm; Sun: 10am-7pm. A small (5 tables) laid-back cafe in Inman Square, lesbian-owned and operated. This cozy spot is home to a mixed gay/hetero crowd that lounges about, munching on sandwiches. Brunch on Saturday and Sunday from 10am-2pm.

Club Cafe (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-0966). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri 11:30am-2am; Sat. 2pm-2am; Sun. 11am-2am. This trendy South End spot draws a mixed crowd that comes for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back (Moonshine). A dressy bunch that likes to mingle. No cover, 21+. •Carol O'Shaughnessy performs with Steve Heck, Dottie Dean or David Sparr, Thursdays. •Michael Kreutz performs every Sunday, 8:30pm.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (542-4494). Mon.-Fri. 3pm-2am; Sat. 1pm-2am; Sun. 12pm-2am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This is your friendly neighborhood bar with a quiet setting. It's best known for scrumptious Sunday brunches (12-4pm). A simple joint with all of the trappings of a true bar, smoky and dark. The place starts hopping as it gets closer to 2am.

Fritz (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Stroll in for a quiet drink or a rowdy night on the town. The folks here are friendly—and really into sports. Not only does Fritz have Direct TV set up with sets scattered everywhere, it's also home base to a great softball league. 12pm, no cover, 21+.

Jacques (Daily)
79 Broadway, Boston (426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. If you're looking for a friendly crowd of gays and straights and you're in the mood to mix with disco-dancing drag queens, this is the place. Sun. and Mon. are local band nights when acts rock into the wee hours. Tues. through Sat., however, divas rule the stage. 10:30pm, $4, weekends $6, 21+.

Lava Bar (Saturdays)
575 Commonwealth. Ave., Boston (267-7707). The Lava Bar's Tabu night boasts DJ Fran spinning out high energy house with a taste of Latin beats. Doors open at 10pm.

The Lizard Lounge (Wednesdays)
1667 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). "Marlene Loses It at the Lizard" is the title of this eclectic evening of poetry, live music, theater and cabaret in front of a diverse crowd. Shows begin at 10pm. $5 cover, 21+.

Luxor (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (423-6969). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from the latest music scenes and classic old movies—compiled by the bar's own VJ. Downstairs is Jox, a sports bar. 4pm, no cover, 21+.

Where the boys are: catch the *Chic and Sassy* comedy of errors—chock full o' glam drag queens—at the Tremont Theater through the end of January.

Man Ray (Thursdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (864-0400). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed.-Fri. at 9pm; Sat. at 10pm. A bustling S/M hot spot caters to a young alternative clientele. Two dance floors fill up on Thursdays for Campus, a predominately male night where DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen take over. 9pm, 21+.

119 Merrimac (Daily)
119 Merrimac St., Boston (367-0713). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Sat., 10:30am-2am; Sun. 12pm-2am. This male cruise bar is the place to stop for drinks before or after FleetCenter events. Shoot a leisurely game of pool or the hit the video games. Merrimac features DJs playing hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s. 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. On Thursday nights the Lesbian AIDS Project of Mass. unofficially takes over this laid-back cafe for "dyke nyte." The cafe always has something brewing—live bands, DJs and drag queen parties. Party stars at 8pm, no cover, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (494-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Central. On Monday, a bartender not only mixes drinks, but he'll strip too. Male strippers are featured Wed.-Sat. Monday is Gothic night; Tuesday is techno and Thursday is college night. On Fridays DJ Sam Sampson spins, and on Saturday DJ Brad Gwynn helps you tear up the dance floor. 5pm, no cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (266-2986). Green Line to Kenmore. 12-2am daily. The largest leather bar in the East enforces a tight dress code (but leather is obligatory for the back room). Downstairs on Fri., Sat. (10pm-2am) and Sun. (7pm-12am) is the Machine, the sleekest hardcore club in town. Fri. has NYC DJ Darrin Friedman, Sat. DJ Brad Gwynn and Sun. is "Dragon Tea Dance," an Asian inspiration night with DJ James Hughes, a dragon show at 10pm and performances by Palace Princess Corvette and Diamond Dunhill. $6-$8, 21+.

Safari Club (Daily)
90 Wareham, Boston (292-0011). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Always open. It's 3am and you're craving a workout. Whether you want to lift weights (yeah, right) or just "socialize." Entrance is about $19.

BOOKS & READINGS

Glad Day Bookshop
673 Boylston St., Boston (267-3010). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu. 9:30am-10pm, Fri. and Sat. 9:30am-11pm, Sun. 12-9pm. This exclusively gay/lesbian bookstore has erotic mags, calendars and videos.

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge. (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Fri. 10am-8pm, Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 12-6pm. New England's oldest women's book shop offers a comprehensive selection of books. It's monthly author series will resume in the spring.

We Think The World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6:30pm; Sun., 11:30am-5:30pm. Boston's literary gay and lesbian bookstore. Call Paul Rehme for details.

SHOWS & EVENTS

By the Dawn's Early Light
Harvard Film Archive, 24 Quincy St. (495-4700). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. •Feb. 4, 7pm. The prolific Knud Vesterkov has created more than 30 independent films and videos, almost all of them focusing on issues of gay culture.

Chic and Sassy
Tremont Theater, 276 Tremont St., Boston (542-4599). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Through Jan. 30. Thu.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm. A modern coming-of-age tale about two "girls" from a small town. Chic Ana and Miss Sassy, a pair of naive, fresh-faced drag queens, make their way to the big city hoping to find a better life. Instead they get into one mishap after another in this comedy of errors.

Damned If You Don't
Brattle Theatre, 40 Brattle St. (876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Feb. 8, 4:30pm and 7:30pm. Su Friedrich's award-winning filmmaking has made her renowned in the lesbian, gay and avant-garde film community. Her film, *Damned if You Don't,* shows as part of the Brattle Black & White & on the Edge series. The film shows with two of her shorts, *Gently Down the Stream* and *First Comes Love.*

ONGOING

Bawl
This lesbian softball league offers opportunities to join teams in both the recreational and competitive divisions. Call Liz (508-628-5477).

Best Foot Forward
Ballet Etc. Dance Studios, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (522-1444). MBTA: B Green Line to Washington St. Everyone knows that swing is the thing. For gays/lesbians/bisexuals of all skill levels.

Boston Glass
Community Center, 93 Mass Ave., Boston (266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center. Daily from 8-10pm. Support groups and social activities for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender adolescents between the ages of 13-25.

The Boston Rainbow Gospel Choir
The BRGC is about to launch its second season and periodically holds auditions. Call 424-6740.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). A 1,500-member gay club with hiking, biking, camping, skiing and other outdoor activities for men and women.

Common Bond
(781-433-7023). www.dwellings.com/acb. An international support group for gay/lesbian/bisexual current or former Jehovah's Witnesses.

Community Rainbow
Boston Living Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston. 7:45 pm. An organization whose mission is to advocate for the community. Meets Thursdays.

Cosmetically-Correct
Tremont Tea Room, 48-50 Winter St. 3rd floor, Boston. A social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Fri. of each month 7:30-10pm. Lipstick optional. For more info email *m.antoinette@ididitmyway.com.*

Dykes Who Hike
(522-6185). This brand spankin' new hiking group for lesbians in Boston and surrounding areas conquers the wilderness.

East Coast Wrestling Club
With more than 160 members, this is an extraordinarily popular NE spot for gay male wrestlers. Call Marc at (401) 467-6737, or go online at *http://members.tripod.com/~ecwc* or email *ecwc@juno.com.*

Encounters
Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston. An informal social evening for HIV positive gay and bisexual men held the first Tuesday of every month, 7-9pm.

Faith Community
Metropolitan Community Church, 131 Cambridge St., Boston (973-0404). A faith community of gay, lesbian, transgendered and bisexual people looking to affirm spirituality and sexuality.

Gay Volleyball
Cambridge (822-2148). Sundays, 6pm, $7. Typically seven teams play on three courts. Teams are made up each week depending on who shows up. Mostly men, but women are welcome.

Gender Free Contra Dancing
First Church of Jamaica Plain (522-1115). www.piac.net/users/latte/lcfd/. Come one, come all to evenings of contra and square dancing.

Hump Day
Skupper Jacks in Acton. Every third Wednesday at 5:30pm, Boston's gay, lesbian and transgendered come together to hang. For information contact *Tom.Evans@digital.com.*

Latino Social Groups
Latino Gay Men's Project (350-6900 ex.125) and the Women's Social Groups (350-6900 ex. 124).

Long Yang Club
Various locations, (825-5677). www.longyang club .org/boston. A club for gay Asian men and their friends. For more information call Ron (661-9165) or Steve at (401-941-1978).

Oops
Melting Pot Coffee House, 2 Belgrade Ave., Roslindale (323-4123). Out on the Parkways, a gay and lesbian organization, invites one and all to come on down for some coffee and dinner.

PFLAG
Fenway Community Health Center, 7 Haviland St., Boston (547-2440). Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets on the fourth Monday of the month, 6:30-8:30pm.

QAPA
This group holds monthly brunches on the first Sunday of every month at Ta-sheng Restaurant, 16 Eliot St., 2nd floor, in Harvard Square. Email *qapa@ccae.org.* for more information.

Queer Corps
131 Clarendon St., 4th floor, Boston (450-1676). A community mobilization project by and for queer men 25 and under. Meetings are held every Tuesday night from 6-8pm.

Tennis4all
Boston's gay and lesbian tennis club, with monthly tournaments and pizza socials. Call Ted at 779-7231.

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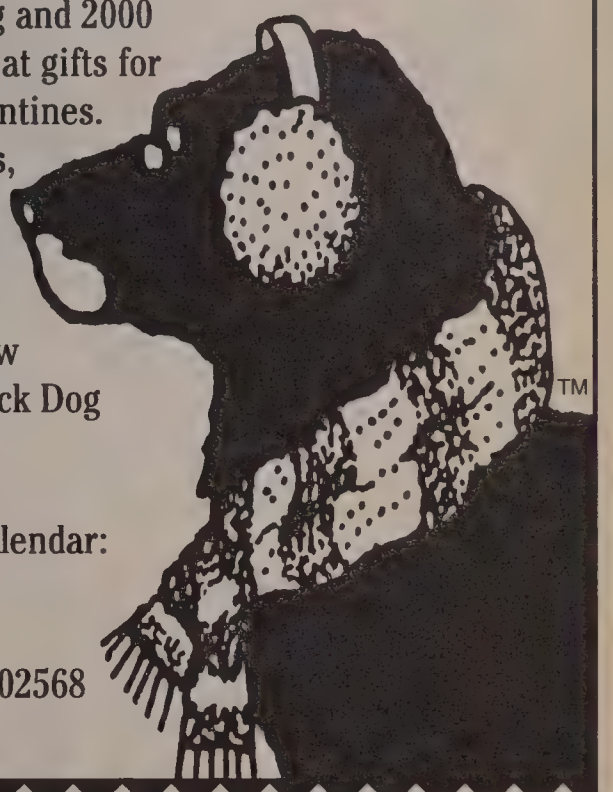

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body&mind

Advice to Contributors *Submit updated information by mail, fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/Mind, or e-mail* bodymind@improper.com. *Include a brief but thorough description of the event, time, date, location and directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.*

EVENTS

Drum and Dance Saturday

Eagle Drum Council, First Church Congregational, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (978-371-2502). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Feb. 5, 8-11:30pm. $6. An open night of drumming and dancing for anyone, whether you're a closet rhythm man, a constant dancer, or just curious. All you'll need to bring is stomping feet and clapping hands, but drums, spoons and tambourines are invited as well.

Meet the Practitioners

The Marino Center for Progressive Health, 2500 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (661-6225). www.marinocenter.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Porter Square. Feb. 3, 5:30-7:30pm.* This reception at the Marino Center is for learning more about integrative medicine and to meet the staff that carries it out. Panel discussions with those folks will include question-answer, as well as some one-on-one discussion. If that's not exciting enough, refreshments and catering provided by Ristorante Marino should satisfy.

Sexy Open House

Grand Opening Sexuality Boutique, 318 Harvard St., Suite 32, Brookline (731-2626). www.grandopening.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Coolidge. Feb. 6, 12-6pm.* If you have a Valentine, then here's a good reason to visit the Grand Opening sexuality boutique. They have a million ways to make your love life more loving, even if it's self-love. Arrive wearing a "heart on" and you'll get a free gift.

SoulShine Singles

Theosophical Society in Boston, 21 Maple Street, Arlington (781-942-1899). Feb. 6, 7:30-9:30pm. $5. All seeking companionship while on the spiritual path are welcome to this new, regular event. This evening's meeting will have the participants play fun games as a way to get to know each other in a simple and subtle fashion.

CLASSES/ WORKSHOPS

Access Your Psychic Sight

Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Jan. 28, 7-9:30pm. $31. Stop bothering with making decisions and worrying about the future. This class, with spiritual healer **Selena Rodriguez**, will teach you to use natural intuition to know if you're on the right path, talking to the right person and being the best you that you know you are.

Alignment and the Asymmetric Body

BKS Iyengar Center, 240A Elm St., Suite 23, Somerville (666-9551). http://world.std.com/~yogactr. *MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Jan. 29, 1-5pm. $45.* Strange pains arise in the body by not doing balanced physical activities. A prime example is driving a car. In this workshop, **Karin Stephan** and **Randy Payne** will teach you how to maintain a harmonious spine by studying your asymmetries. Using neuromuscular therapy techniques, learn how your body is being pulled in one direction or the other, and learn how to correct these tendencies towards misalignment through the practice of asana.

Body Image Workshop for Women

The Serpent's Mirror, 185 Corey St., Brookline (678-9163). Jan. 29, 2-6pm. $75. Have fun at this workshop integrating dance, music, chakra work, ritual, self-expression and journal writing to discover and heal your image of yourself. It's not just about "accepting yourself"—it's more fundamental than that. So get deep inside to get more out of your outside.

Feng Shui: The Art of Harmonious Living

Brookline Adult and Community Education, Brookline High School, 115 Greenough St., Brookline (730-2700). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. Jan. 31, 7-9pm. $30. "Chi" is the life force within us and all around us. The word "feng shui" means "wind and water." The aim of this ancient art is to allow our chi to circulate like wind and water do in nature. Settle down the psychic storms of your own creation with this integrative skill.

LECTURES/FORUMS

Cold and Flu Season

Harvest Co-op Market, 581 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (661-1580). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Jan. 25, 6-8 pm. **Henry McCann**, licensed acupuncturist and

Selena Rodriguez helps you "Access Your Psychic Sight" using natural intuition at the BCAE, Jan. 28.

Chinese herbalist, tells us that the Chinese believe being healthy is synonymous with being in balance internally and being in harmony with the seasons and environment. The idea is not to fight the cold but to fortify a barrier against it—that is, yourself.

Genetically Engineered Food: Changing the Nature of Nature

Spontaneous Celebrations Cultural Center, 45 Danforth St., Jamaica Plain (824-4225). Jan. 30, 4-7pm. $5-$7, dinner is an additional $10. Sponsored by Earth-Save International, this event hosts the authors **Martin Teitel** and **Kimberly Wilson**. They will discuss the ethical and spiritual results of transforming our food with the new genetic engineering technologies. Afterwards, enjoy open discussion and a delicious vegan dinner. Call ahead if you're planning to stay for dinner.

Naturopathic Medicine

Unicorn Books, 1210 Mass. Ave., Arlington (781-646-3680). www.unicornbooks.org. *Jan. 20, 7-9 pm. Free.* Come hear **James Belanger**, naturopathic physician, lecture on using herbs, nutrition, homeopathy, and spinal manipulation for healing whatever intensity your illness may be, ranging from bothersome to unbearable.

Sex Wednesdays (Hump Day)

Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Feb. 2, 8-10pm. $30. Good sex may be hard to find, but not if it's the name of a class over at the CCAE. This class offers ideas on ways to improve your sex life, resources, and a forum for questions and experience sharing. Sex educators **Marshall Miller** and **Dorian Solot** create a comfortable but not too tame discussion environment for their students.

Stress Reduction Using Mindfulness

Omega Institute in Boston, Arlington Street Church, 351 Boylston St., (1-800-944-1001). www.omega-inst.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Feb. 5, 9am-5pm. $119.* For decades, Dr. John Kabat-Zinn has used mindfulness meditation to heal people with a wide-range of conditions. John will present this practice fully, so come on down and hone the skill of finding inner clarity. Enjoy all that life has to offer by reclaiming your peace of mind.

GETAWAYS

Chakra Yoga: Journey to Wholeness

Kripalu Center, Lenox, Mass. (800-741-7353). www.kripalu.org. *Jan. 27-30. $189 tuition, plus three nights room and meals.* Kripalu provides a relaxing environment for healing the body. **Todd Norian**, in this weekend workshop, will teach you to heal by utilizing your chakras. You have insight on how current issues relate to your evolutionary journey and how you can utilize yogic tools to skillfully address changes you would like to make.

Zen Retreat

Cambridge Zen Center, 199 Auburn St., Cambridge (576-3229). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard Square. www.cambridgezen.com. *Feb. 5-6.* This monthly retreat is an excellent opportunity to clear the mind of habitual thinking and generate energy to practice in everyday life. Zen Master **Soeng Hyang** (Barbara Rhodes), will lead the weekend's activities: Zen practice, work and rest periods, formal vegetarian meals and a private interview with the retreat leader. Beginners are always very welcome.

children

Advice to Contributors *Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Children. Or e-mail information to* children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

TO SEE

Anne of Green Gables

Wheelock Family Theatre, 200 The Riverway, Boston (734-4760). Fri. 7:30pm; Sat.-Sun. 3pm. Feb. 4-27. $10-$17. The enchanting family musical based on the L. M. Montgomery classic. A couple wants to adopt an orphan boy to help with the farm chores, but the orphanage sends Anne Shirley instead—an impish, fanciful, talkative girl who is not at all what the pair have in mind. Anne uses every ounce of her abundant charm to win the hearts of the couple.

Arthur—A Live Adventure

The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). Feb. 2-13. $15.75-$30.75. Through Marc Brown's books and award-winning PBS show, Arthur the aardvark has blossomed into a favorite among children of all ages. All of Arthur's friends join him for this musical story. •Feb. 6, 10am, $130 (adults), $85: Join Arthur at the Ritz Carlton for games, storytelling and brunch. Trolleys will deliver you and your guests to the Wang Theatre for the performance at 12pm.

Cinderella

Concord Academy Performing Arts Center, 166 Main St., Concord (978-371-0678). Jan. 30, 1pm and 2:30pm. $7 in advance, $8 at door. The Tanglewood Marionettes perform this classic fairy tale using finely detailed period costumes and music. Will Cinderella make it home before midnight? Will the handsome Prince find the elusive beauty who owns the size-six glass slipper? Enjoy the drama of this timeless classic that has everything from a fairy godmother, to adorable mice who can sing and sew.

Oliver Twist

TheatreWorks, Orpheum Theatre, Foxborough Regional Center for the Performing Arts, 1 School St., Foxborough, Mass. (508-543-2787). Thu.-Sat. 7:30pm; Sun. 3pm. Feb. 3-6. $14. TheatreWorks/USA, the nation's largest youth-oriented non-profit theater organization, will present Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*. Kids and adults alike will love this timeless tale of the trials and tribulations of a poor orphan boy.

Puppet Showplace Theater

32 Station St., Brookline (731-6400). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. $8. Elaborate puppets perform favorite fables, ethnic legends and fairy tales. •Jan. 29,10am, 1pm and 3pm; Jan. 30, 1pm and 3 pm: **"Raccoon Tales"** by Paul Vincent Davis, Feb. 3,10:30am : **"Old Favorites"** by Sparky Davis.

***Arthur—A Live Adventure* features the lovable aardvark and a cast of friends in a musical story at the Wang Theatre, Feb. 2-13.**

THINGS TO DO

Aesop's Fables

Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). Jan. 30, 2pm. This live show features performances of Aesop's beloved fables. The show involves lively audience participation and is recommended for children ages six and up.

Museum of Transportation Family Programs

15 Newton St., Brookline (522-6547). Sundays, 2pm. $5, $3 children. •Jan. 30: **Paper Airplanes**. Learn how to make and fly your own paper airplanes.

sports

Advice to Contributors *Submit updated listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to* listings@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

To Watch

Boston Bruins

•FleetCenter. Tickets: 931-2000.
Jan. 29 (Home): Buffalo, 7pm, NESN.
Jan. 31 (Home): Anaheim, 7pm, NESN.
Feb. 1 (Away): Ottawa, 7pm, UPN 38.
Feb. 3 (Home): Toronto, 7pm, NESN

Celtics

•FleetCenter. Tickets: 931-2000.
Jan. 28 (Home): Phoenix, 7pm, Fox Sports Net.
Feb. 1 (Away): Indiana, 7pm, Fox Sports Net.
Feb. 2 (Home): Miami, 7pm, Fox Sports Net.
Feb. 4 (Home): New Jersey, 7pm, Fox Sports Net.
Feb. 6 (Home): Portland, 7pm, Fox Sports Net.

Superbowl Sunday

Jan. 30, 6pm, FoxSports Net.

Ski Events

•Jan. 29: **Northeast Passage Winter Carnival** at Attitash bear Peak. (603-374-2368).
•Jan. 29: **Mountain Dew Vertical Challenge** at Black Mountain. (603-383-4490). Fun filled family recreation activities including races, prizes, and giveaways.
•Jan. 29: **Poland Spring Winterfest 2000** at Loon Mountain. (603-745-8111). Dance and trivia contests and product sampling. Free.
•Jan. 30: **Super Bowl Two-for-One** at Cannon Mountain. (603-823-8800). Ski for reduced admission before watching the big game.
•Jan. 30: **Jeep Owners Appreciation Day** at Ragged Mountain. (603-768-3600). Trade car stories with fellow Jeep owners as you race down the slopes for a reduced price.
•Feb. 2: **"Wild Wednesday" Ground Hog Day Party** at Cannon Mountain. (603-823-8800). Grounhogs love to ski. Be the first to see its shadow on the snow.
•Feb. 3-6: **2000 Winter X Games** at Mount Snow. (888-604-0595). The best alternative sport athletes in snowboarding, snowmobile snowcross, skiboarding, snow mountain bike racing and skiing.
•Feb. 4-6: **A Swingin' Good Time** at Bretton Woods. (603-278-3300). Ski parties and swing bands.
•Feb. 5-6: **Genesis Fund Celebrity Ski classic** at Attitash Bear Peak. (603-374-2368). Genesis fund brings together local celebs and sports stars for this fundraiser.
•Feb. 5-6: **Coca-Cola/Surge Winter Fest Weekend** at Gunstock. (888-Gunstock). A Big Air competition for snowboarders and skiers.
•Feb. 5: **Mountain Dew Vertical Challenge** at Mount Sunapee. (603-763-2356). Recreational activities, such as race series, prizes and contests for the entire family.
•Feb. 5: **NEHSA 14th Annual Ski-a thon** at Mount Sunapee. (603-763-2356). Recreational skiing to benefit New England Handicapped Sports.
•Feb. 5: **Jeep Owners Appreciation Day** at Pats Peak. (888-PATS-PEAK). Borrow a Jeep and receive a discount on skiing.
•Feb. 6: **Mountain Dew Vertical Challenge** at Pats Peak. (888-PATS-PEAK). Recreational activities such as race series, prizes and contests.
•Feb. 7-9: **New Hampshire Special Olympics** at Waterville Valley. (603-236-8311). Come watch 400 athletes vying for medals.

To Play

BASKETBALL

Adult Basketball League

Waltham YMCA (781-894-5295). Wednesday nights. All levels welcome.

Basketball City

Adjacent to North Station and the FleetCenter (742-6700). Corporate, midday and weekend leagues.

Co-Ed Indoor Basketball

Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 224). Sun.-Thu. nights at various locations. All levels welcome. Leagues in Waltham, Dedham and Brookline.

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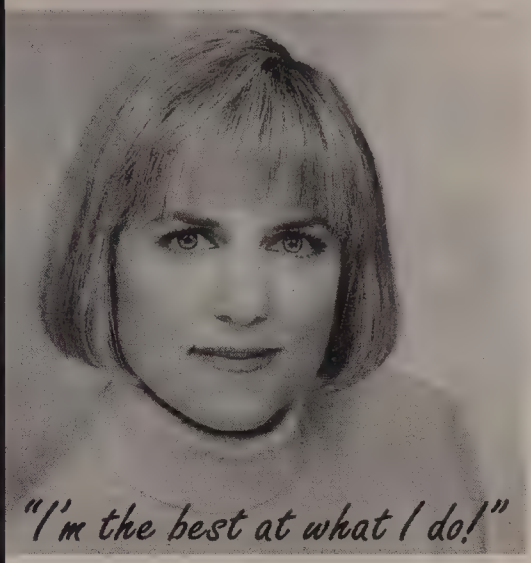

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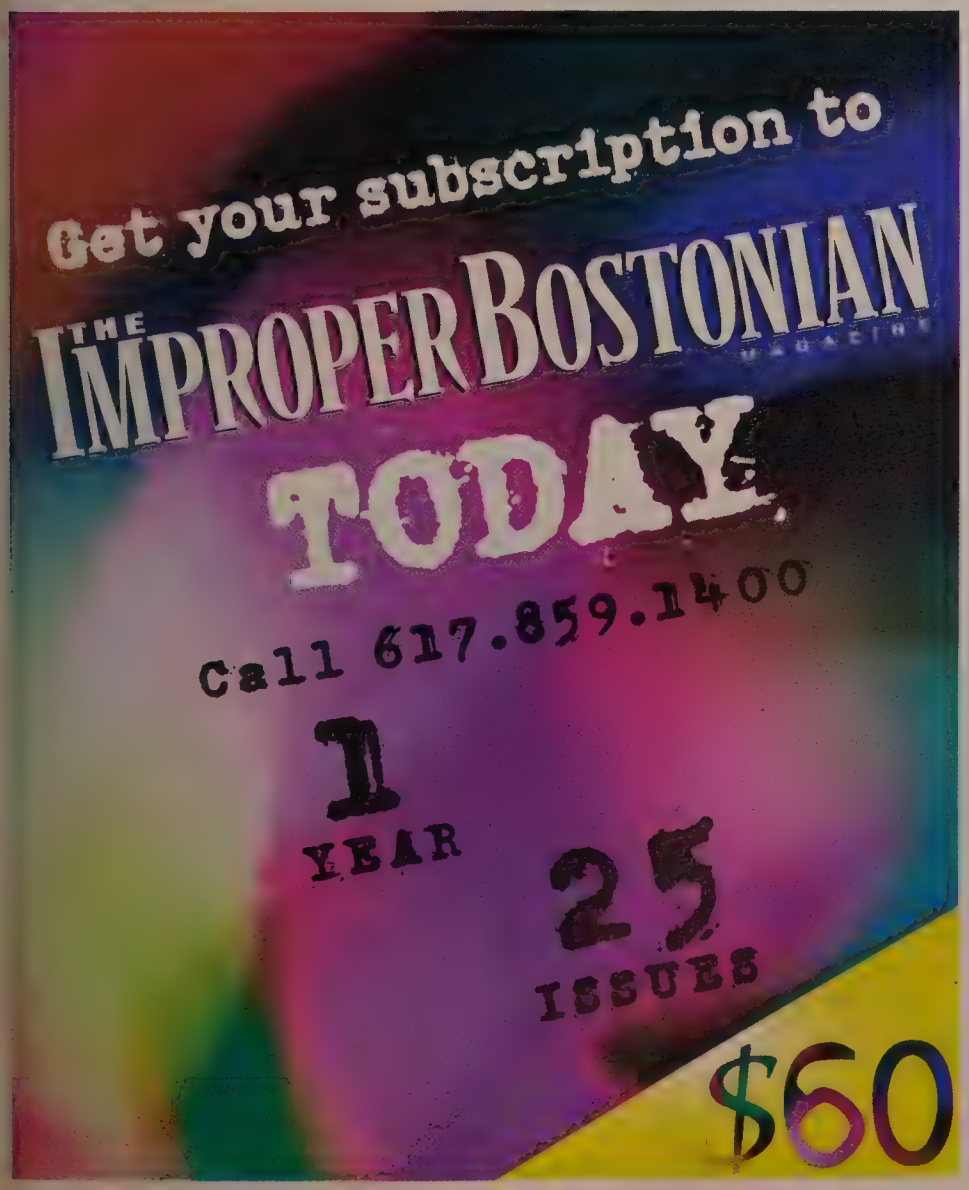

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The Corporate League of Boston
(566-7808).
Men's Basketball League
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990). Begins Jan. 10-11.
Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333). Practice and workout programs for all levels in Greater Boston.
South End Fitness Center League
(534-5823).
Women's Basketball League
(661-9622).

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Boston Ski & Sports Club
Weston Ski Track (789-4070). $85. •**Snow Glide**: *Begins Jan. 31, 6pm. Three weeks.* Gradual introduction for beginners. •**Classical**: *Begins Feb. 2, 6:30pm. Three weeks.* A little faster-paced, concentrating on stride and technique for those with some cross-country experience.

DOWNHILL SKIING

Boston Ski & Sports Club
(789-4070, ext. 222). •Daytrips leave every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday and include roundtrip transportation plus lift tickets. •Weekend trips include resort accommodations, meals, lift tickets and bus transportation.

There's a major tube pileup on the snow-bound expressway. Join the Boston Ski & Sports Club for a snow tubing adventure, Feb. 6.

Ski Market/Underground Snowboard
(731-6100). Sundays, $45; Thursdays, $40 (includes dinner and tour of the Redhook Brewery). Ski/snowboard trips to Killington, Sunday River, Loon and Waterville every Sunday and Thursday. Trips include roundtrip transportation and lift ticket.
S-Kimos Ski Club
Jackson, NH (388-8135 or 781-209-1189). Ski club located in Jackson, NH, central to many ski areas. Members participate in winter and summer activities, such as cross-country skiing, snowboarding and hiking.

FOOTBALL

Australian Rules Football
Boston Australian Rules Football Club. Thu. evenings and Sat. mornings, Cambridge (781-440-9266). www.Boston Demons.org. No experience necessary.
Indoor Flag Football
BSSC, Indoor Sports Center in Revere (789-4070). Sundays.
Co-ed Touch Football
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990).

GOLF

The Golf School
Radisson Hotel, 200 Stuart St., Boston (457-2699). Through March 31. An indoor driving range staffed by PGA pros.

HIKING/WALKING

The Appalachian Mountain Club
Gorham, N.H. (603-466-2727). Hikes and huts in the White Mountains. •Monthly AMC Young Members meetings at AMC headquarters, 4 Joy St., Beacon Hill (523-0655). Second Thursday of every month, 6-10pm, $3. Potluck. BYOB.
New England Walkers
39 Oakland Rd., Brookline (731-9889). members.tripod.com/NEWALKERS. This 200-member club hosts race-walk events and clinics. Weekly walks at M.I.T. indoor track on Wednesdays at 7pm.

HOCKEY

Co-ed Floor Hockey
BSSC (789-4070). Individuals and teams, co-eds, all levels in Newton.
Co-ed Floor Hockey
Sport & Social Club of Boston, (262-8990).

ICE SKATING

MDC Ice Skating classes
Bay State Ice Skating School (781-890-8480). www.iceskatingclasses.com. Registration is underway for fall classes at 17 MDC rinks in Greater Boston.

RUGBY

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
Cambridge (781-340-2192). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.bwrfc.org. *Tue. and Thu. evenings.* No experience necessary.

RUNNING

Boston Road Club Weekly Races
(781-646-8955). Sundays. Starts at Wells Ave. in Newton.
Fresh Pond Weekly Road Races
Fresh Pond Reservation. Saturdays, 10am. Choose between a 2.5- or 5-mile run.
NIKETOWN Boston Running Club
200 Newbury St., Boston (267-3400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Three- to five-mile loops. Starts at 6:30pm. Monthly mini-clinics as well.
Boston Hash House Harriers
(499-4835). Weekly runs year-round. Serious drinkers with a running problem.
Khoury's Thursday Night Runs
East Somerville. (354-3534). 4.13 miles. 7pm at Khoury's Bar.
Somerville Road Runners Weekly Run
Cambridge Boat House Parking Lot, Cambridge (923-2378). Fridays at 7 pm.

SNOW TUBING/ SHOEING

Snow Tubing
Boston Ski & Sports Club, (789-4070). Feb. 6, 6pm. $20. It's like sledding when you were a kid, only this time, there are lifts to the top of the hill.
Snowshoe Day Hike
Boston Ski & Sports Club, (789-4070). Feb. 5. $45 (snowshoes included). Explore southern Vermont's countryside in Calvin Coolidge State Forest with an experienced guide.

SOCCER

BSSC Indoor/Outdoor Soccer
BSSC (789-4070, ext. 225). Coed teams.
Sport & Social Club Indoor Soccer
(262-8990).

SOFTBALL

Indoor Coed Softball
BSSC, (789-4070, ext. 222). Mon. or Tues. evenings. Play in Danvers.
Coed Softball
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990).

SWIMMING

Boston Athletic Club Swim Workouts
653 Summer St., Boston (269-4300). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon. and Wed. 6:15-7:15am.
The Charles River Park Club Morning Masters
Charles River Park, Boston (450-9810). Mon., Wed., Fri. 6:30-7:45am.
The Mason Masters Swim Program
The Mason Pool, 159 Norfolk Avenue, Roxbury. (236-4923 or 450-9810) Mon.-Fri. 7:30-8:30pm. Led by Alex Primilsky, coach of world, national and Olympic champions.

TENNIS

Mixed Doubles
BSSC (789-4070). Saturday evenings in Waltham.

VOLLEYBALL

Adult Co-ed Volleyball League
Waltham YMCA (781-894-5295). Monday nights, began Sept. 13. All levels welcome at this friendly league.
BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club, (789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. at various locations. Coed indoor 6 on 6 leagues. Four different levels of play. Pick-up games, clinics and tournaments also available. •Co-ed pickup games Tuesdays and Fridays at West Newton Armory, 1137 Washington St. $5.
Co-ed Volleyball League
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990).

WRESTLING

Men's Adult Wrestling
Boston Union, 48 Boylston St., Boston (482-1122). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm; Saturdays 1-3:30pm. All skill levels. Coaching available.

sales& fashion

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for sales and bargains by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar:Sales and Fashion. Or e-mail information to goodbuys@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the event or items. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

AUCTIONS

Skinner Auctioneers—Bolton
357 Main St., Bolton (978-779-6241). www.skinnerinc.com. •**The Studio Auction**. *Feb. 3, 7pm. Previews: Feb. 2, 2-5pm; Feb. 3, 2-6pm.* Among the items for sale is Eleanor Parke Custis (American, 1897-1983), "Town Green In Winter, Concord, Massachusetts."
Skinner Auctioneers—Boston
The Heritage on the Garden, 63 Park Plaza, Boston (350-5400). www.skinnerinc.com. •**20th Century Furniture & Decorative Arts**. *Feb. 5, 11am. Previews: Feb. 3, 12-5pm; Feb. 4, 12-7pm; Feb. 5, 8:30-10am.* Sale includes glass, lamps, pottery and metalwork from the art nouveau, arts and crafts, art deco and modern movements.
Great Getaways and Other Good Stuff
Holiday Inn, Route 1 North, Peabody (877-662-9299). Feb. 5, 6pm. $5. The North of Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau will hold live and silent auctions of travel packages, including a Florida getaway, a weekend stay on Nantucket and tickets to the Lion King in NYC.

BRIDAL

Bridal Event
The Mall at Chestnut Hill, Route 9 at Hammond Pond Parkway, Chestnut Hill (965-3038, ext. 224). Feb. 5, 12-2pm. The agenda includes a fashion show featuring wedding gowns from Nikki of Framingham and trousseau fashions from Barneys and Eileen Fisher. You'll receive tips on registering your gift preferences, attendant gifts and more.
A Dream Wedding at Hilton Boston
Hilton Boston, Logan Airport, Boston (568-6700). MBTA: Blue Line to Airport. Through March 1. Any bride-to-be that tours the Hilton Boston Logan Airport before March 1 will be entered into a drawing for an all-inclusive wedding package worth $14,000.

EVENTS

Milliners Party
Brasserie Jo, 120 Huntington Ave., Boston (424-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Jan. 29, 12-3pm. $21. Chefs Joho and Payard offer a buffet of favorites. To complement the festivities, local milliners (that's hatmakers, by the way), Monika Lewis and Ann McMahon, will be on-site showcasing their hats. Guests are encouraged to wear their favorite chapeaux to the party.

CLASSES

Fashion for Men (and the Women Who Shop for Them)
1089 Great Plain Ave., Needham (781-453-9800). Jan. 26, 7-8:30pm. $45. Casual Fridays are giving way to year-round corporate casual, leaving men wondering if the new three-piece suit consists of khakis, a polo and a sweater. Hear the opinion of nationally recognized wardrobe consultant Mary Lou Andrew about what's new in fashion for men.
Choosing the Right Look for Your Hair
BCAE, 5 Comm. Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: GreenLine to Arlington. Feb. 8, 5:45-7:45pm. $36. End the frustration of disappointing haircuts and colorings. Get an individualized consultation on features, hair type and image style, and arrive at the perfect hairstyle. Note: This course is a community service and is not meant to replace your regular hairdresser.

OPENINGS

Laura Ashley
112 Newbury St., Boston (424-1235). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Opened Dec. 17. All those flowery prints you love can now be found in this new location.
UNICEF Shop
1330 Beacon St., Brookline (277-3334). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm. The UNICEF Shop is open year-round—with stationery, children's books and toys, gift items and international crafts.

SALES

Belle Maison
103 Charles St., Boston (263-4900). MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. Through the end of January. Belle Maison is offering 20 percent off every piece of their collection of home furnishings. Pieces range from antique farm tables to wall mirrors and vintage napkins.
Bjoux
141 Newbury St., Boston (424-8877). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Through January. Most of Bjoux's collection of party wear will be sold for 40-70 percent off.
CP Shades
139 B Newbury St., Boston (421-0846). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Through the end of January. During this awesome millennium sale, everything is $21. Unbelievable, eh?
L'Elite
264 Newbury St., Boston (424-1010). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. This bridal boutique will host its annual clearance in February.

BEAUTY

Be a Bond Girl
Demiche, 423 Main St., Melrose (781-662-1796). Feb. 3, 1-9pm. Ever wonder what you'd look like as one of those sexy Bond girls? Get a complimentary makeover inspired by 007's vixens.

FASHION

La Reine
134 Newbury St., Boston (262-4210). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. See these designers' millennium collections. •Jan. 28-29: Romona Keveza. •Feb. 4-5: Michael of Boston. Appointments required.

Receive 20 percent off Belle Maison's collection of home furnishings, through the end of January.

go away

TRAVELING NEAR AND FAR

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by fax (859-1446)or mail to Calendar: Go Away. Or e-mail information to goaway@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the event or items. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

NORTH OF BOSTON

Great Getaways and Other Good Stuff
Holiday Inn, Route 1 North, Peabody (877-662-9299). Feb. 5, 6pm. $5. The North of Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau will host both a live and silent auction of travel packages, including a Florida getaway, a weekend stay on Nantucket and tickets to the Lion King in NYC.

mark your daytimer

UPCOMING EVENTS

CITYSCOPE

Chinese New Year Parade
Feb. 20, Chinatown
Hasty Pudding Club's Woman of the Year/Man of the Year
Feb. 10 (woman) and Feb. 17 (man), Harvard Square
Valentine's Day
Feb. 14 at your own intimate table for two

FILM

Boston International Festival of Women's Cinema
April 13 - 17, Brattle Theatre

MUSIC

Joan Baez and Eliza Carthy
March 27 and 28, Somerville Theatre
Beck
Feb. 11 and 12, Orpheum Theatre
Cher with Lou Bega
March 3, FleetCenter
Bruce Cockburn
March 18, Berklee Performance Center
Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young
March 27, FleetCenter
Geno Delafose, Balfa Toujours and Henry Butler
March 5, The Roxy
Tom Jones
April 1, Lowell Memorial Auditorium

PERFORMING ARTS

Kids in the Hall
Feb. 19, The Orpheum
Smokey Joe's Cafe—The Songs of Leiber and Stoller
The Wang Theatre, Feb. 22-27

Geno Delafose (above), Balfa Toujours and Henry Butler perform at the Roxy, March 5.

Hollywood Costumes Show
American Textile History Museum, Lowell (978-441-0400). Through March 12. $10 adults. Tired of Hollywood blockbusters with unimaginative costumes and scantily clad actresses? Come appreciate more than 40 costumes from Hollywood classics such as *The Wizard of Oz* and *The Sound of Music*. From Bette Davis to Elizabeth Taylor, check out the always fashionable apparel of your favorite Hollywood starlets. In total more than 100 pieces of film memorabilia, dating from the silent era to the 1960s, are showcased. Escape the drudgery of today's Hollywood and bask in the nostalgia of the Golden Era of film.

CAPE COD

Family Blue Moon Walk
Green Briar Nature Center, Discovery Hill Road, East Sandwich, Cape Cod, Mass. (508-888-6870). Jan. 31, 6:30pm. Reservations required. Everyone knows a full moon signifies uncanny happenings. In January, be ready for twice the fright as we will witness two full moons. Celebrate the rare appearance of the blue moon by taking a night walk along the Cape and explore the Briar Patch of East Sandwich.

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

Quilts Galore
Springfield Museum, Springfield, Mass.(413-263-6800). Feb. 3-June 27. Is winter getting you down? Visit the quilts and textile exhibit in Springfield and feel warm and cozy all over. Admire hundreds of 19th century quilts and textiles.

VERMONT

ESPN Winter X Games
Mount Snow, Vt. (800-245-7669). Feb. 3- Feb. 6. Don't let the cold be a drag—visit the fourth annual Winter X Games. The games will bring together more than 250 top level athletes from around the world to compete in snowboarding, ice climbing, snow mountain bike racing, free skiing, skiboarding and snowmobile snow cross. The athletes will be trying to win their share of more than $250,000 in total cash prizes being given out. Be sure to bundle up for their snow-capped performance, baby, because it's sure to be cold out there.

NEW YORK

Shakespeare Festival
Public Theater, New York, NY (212-397-3165.) Through April 30. Don't let the name of the festival fool you. The widely acclaimed Public Theater group performs works by other playwrights, along with the obligatory range of Shakespearian works, from classic to new and unfinished texts. Upcoming plays are Nilo Cruz's *Two Sisters and a Piano*, and *House Arrest* by Anna Deavere Smith.
Kevin Bacon gets *Footloose*
Town Hall, Manhattan, N.Y. Jan.28 8pm. For those who were disappointed that Kevin Bacon was nowhere to be found in the recent musical production of *Footloose*, this is your chance to meet the '80s heartthrob. Kevin Bacon and his brother will be displaying their musical talents at the Town Hall in Manhattan. Maybe after the show you could challenge him to a thrilling round of Six Degrees Of Kevin Bacon.

TAMPA

Gasparilla Pirate Festival
Tampa, Fla. (813-353-8108). Feb. 5-6. Ahoy matey! Be wary of the pirates invading Tampa Bay this weekend. For nearly 100 years the unruly plunderers have taken over the city in honor of the mythical legendary pirate Jose Gaspar and his merry mates. More than 1,000 pirates with pistols and cannons ablaze sail into downtown Tampa aboard their fully rigged pirate ship, accompanied by a flotilla of hundreds of boats. Once they have conquered the city, they display their treasures in a colorful 2.5-mile parade. This truly unique festival celebrates of the spirit of adventure and has numerous live jazz and rhythm & blues performances to boot.

MIAMI

Las Vegas Style Musical Revue
Club Tropigala, Hotel Fontainebleu, Miami Beach, Fla. (305-672-7469). Through Feb. 6. Got a fixin' to see some show girls but can't make it to Vegas? Club Tropigala is the perfect solution. Club Tropigala features a Las Vegas-style musical revue with a latin theme. It also offers top recording artists, two live orchestras, dancing, a live floor show and fine dining.

FORT LAUDERDALE

Las Olas Art Fair
Las Olas Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (954-472-3755). Feb. 5-6. Free. Fort Lauderdale hosts its 12th annual art fair which features close to 300 of the finest artists in the country. There's also live musical entertainment and delicious food from local establishments.

ESPN Winter X Games will feature extreme winter sports at Mount Snow, Vt., Feb. 3-6.

MONTREAL

Winter Festival
Montreal, Canada (514-872-4537). Jan 29- Feb.13. Sick of this unseasonably mild weather? Wanna feel the frost of winter and throw a snowball? Head to Montreal for some old-fashioned cold, winter fun. Montreal's winter carnival on Ile Sainte-Hélène features a variety of outdoor activities for the entire family. A couple of days outdoors here, and you'll be ready to come home.
International Boat Show
Olympic Stadium, Montreal, Canada (514-252-3331). Feb. 5- 13. Calling all boating enthusiasts. Get psyched for the return of warm, boating weather at Montreal's annual boating show. The show features hundreds of boats of all types and sizes. There will also be representatives selling marine accessories and equipment. Don't miss this great chance to see a spectacular show and to meet other boating enthusiasts.

LONDON

London, England. Jan.30. Americans have their share of odd holidays (ie. Flag Day, Secretary's Day), but the English definitely have us beat. On Jan. 30, Brits will morbidly commemorate the day their king was beheaded. Every year on the last Sunday in January, folks celebrate the anniversary of the execution of King Charles I. During the festival, cavaliers march through London dressed in 17th-century garb. Later the rejoicers stop in the Banquet House in Whitehall to pray for better holidays. So if we beheaded our president, would we too, get a day off of work?

HONG KONG

Chinese New Year Flower Market and Carnival
Hong Kong, China (800-282-4582). Feb. 3-4. Begin the Year of the Dragon by visiting the largest and loveliest market in Victoria Park, on Hong Kong Island, during the Chinese New Year Carnival. The enchanting market will be filled with kumquat trees, narcissus and peonies, whose shapes and forms symbolize prosperity. Branches of perfectly pruned peach and plum blossoms signify good luck, especially in romantic relationships. Quit picking petals in the hopes that he loves you and instead make a floral purchase for a prosperous Year of the Dragon. The Chinese New Year Carnival will usher in the dragon with the Chinese New Year parade, which includes participants from all over the world. Representing the US is the Harlem Dance Theatre.

TIBET

Tibetan New Year
Nepal, Tibet. Feb. 6. Disappointed by millennium celebrations? Wish you had done more than sit at home and bitterly watch a never-aging Dick Clarke on television? Here's your chance to party like a rock star at Tibet's New Year celebration. The Tibetan Buddhist's New Year is marked by the celebration of the ox-like animal known as a yak who provides principle sources of material such as butter. Butter is not only an all purpose staple in Tibet but it is also widely used in the celebration to carve intricate sculptures and to light the tall towers. Snap out of your post millennium depression, grab a tub of Promise and join the festivities.

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Recent correspondence follows.

Kate with a lead pipe
in the conservatory. No, that's not whodunnit, but that's what I thought I was hit with when I first caught a glimpse of your china blues and your amazing dimples across the room. We were at a murder mystery (12/18), and you thought you should have been following me because I was getting all the good clues. But at the end of the night, I was so far off base you couldn't help but crack a polite smile. At least I was lucky enough to get your name. If you remember me, write and tell me if you'd like to spend a few hours investigating some coffee and conversation.
—notasherlock@bigfoot.com

Would the beautiful young lady
with the flowing blonde hair and festive red coat, with whom I made big-time eye contact with on Christmas Eve at the Newbury Street Starbuck's—please return my gaze. It was around 12:45 and I had just walked in, minding my own business, preparing to order a Skim Latte and Rice Krispie. Treat. Immediately I noticed you at the pick-up (no pun intended, of course) counter. You were awaiting your beverage—a Grande Hot Chocolate I believe. :o) It was a wonderful setting—further enhanced by the "Peanuts" Christmas music playing in the background. And this is where the whole process broke down. I don't want to point any fingers, but, because of our eye contact incidents, I went home without my Rice Krispie Treat. So, technically, I think "someone" owes me a Rice Krispie Treat. In return, I'd be happy to buy you a Grande Hot Chocolate. Hope to hear from you. You may reach me at
—grabthemcakes@yahoo.com

LS-8
I'm sorry for all the hurt and chaos I've brought into your life. I'm sorry that I can't find the strength to ever really walk away. But I know now, that I love you the same way as I did...the first time that I saw you, four years ago, brushing the snow from your beautiful face. I knew then, in that instant, that we were always meant to be together and that I will always love you with all my heart until I draw my final breath. My heart still pines for you and always will.
—1-4-3-Dookie

for my masses
I just want to take a brief moment to thank all mi jente, who have shown me much love and help in my many fun years. To all the women that I've pleasured in the past and in the future, welcome. You rumps and rats know who you be. I would like to thank all the status quo suckers, who keep me well fed with negative energy, which I use constructively. Those that are bitter, because we're better, chill, drink a lambic and study tantric. Until I have a chance to talk with each and everyone of you before last call, stay alert, Milfuegos is coming for 2000...
—NxM

Ben(?) at Tweeter on Boylston
I'm the blonde you sold headphones to and told about portable CD players in early November as I was on my way to Chicago for work. I wanted to chat more but the windy city called...and I've gone back looking for you but haven't seen you. The name Ben was on the receipt, but I don't know if that was you. You had short brown hair and wore several rings. I'd love to chat about more than electronics.

to fries
i told you this was gonna be your millennium—now i'm gonna show you with our love know—one can stand in our way lets not let these—haters try to hold us down i love you.
—ron

I would like to write this
in the hopes that the most beautiful angel to whom I am writing this about will respond. I have seen a vision from heaven. The last two times I have gone in for a trim at the Great Cuts shop in Harvard Square where she works. Her beautiful big brown eyes, long ebony hair and skin that looks like silk. She has a smile that melted my heart and that complements the most beautiful face. The first time I saw here, she was wearing a grey sweater blouse, black pants, and funky boots. Today (12/30) she came in at lunch with a black jacket and jeans. I was dying to say something to you. However, I was just caught in awe by your beauty. I would love to go out with you for a drink or two. I want to get to know you and go from there. I hope you read this and make my Millennium. Send me an email at
—shamrockv_1999@yahoo.com

Who Knows?
Hi, I am writing to all the men in Boston that think that they can tame people. I am a 20 year old living it up in Boston going to school and getting all my life together... you know the usual. Trying not to spazz about after-college etc. But recently, every male that i have come in contact with can't consistently share my thoughts or feelings. God forbid the word drama! Things happen to people and cause them distress and emotion... why can't guys understand and talk about it. Instead people just hide in their bodies and are too coward to ask questions or make the first move with feelings... If I have to make the move one more time... These stiff soldiers just won't do! Am I in the wrong city?? Blah. i have heard it all before. Just know, once a loser. always a loser. anyone care to share? Write me back. i would LOVE to hear your stories and especially from the guys who think i am wrong!
—starscorp@hotmail.com

m to marc & michelle in jp
now that you have wed will there—be a changing of the guard who—is the ceo in the new millennium.
—ra-shaun &breanna, your godkids

A Saturday morning at Kenmore IHOP.
Girl spies boy at checkout. Girl seeks lost wallet post 2am visit to one of Boston's "finest" nightspots. Boy patiently awaits settling his bill and offers a friendly smile not soon forgotten. Girl seeking contact and possible "meeting" with boy. Email me at
—ihopgirl2@email.com

To My HARP dance partner
We "did it all for the NOOKIE.." You knew all the words to the best songs and you were such the gentleman in a crowd of boys. I was your dance partner for part of the night—the blond in the blue v-neck—and you were wonderful. I didn't get your name but I had the best time dancing the night away. It ended too soon.
—CathyB

David West
Why don't you take some of that money you've been shoving up your ass and use it for some much needed therapy?
—Luv, M

Eliot Sarkamaga
Pussy cat, I am sure you would remember me. I am sorry I was rude to you yesterday in the subway, I screamed at you just because I needed to get out from the train. I have a big red face and a nasty pimple on the tip of my nose. I am not tall and kind of butchy, a bit bold (lost hair when I was fifteen), the left side of my body is bigger (my passion for fencing), and I have a rusty low voice. Let's meet soon and you can find out more about me! See ya' soon!
—Eliot

Rockie Horoscope

January 26 - February 8, 2000
BY ROCKIE GARDINER

Aquarius
JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18

If you've got something to say or an announcement to make, do it Friday when Mercury, the herald, meets your Uranus ruler. Then, by Sunday, as the sun and Saturn face off, you'll be poised to receive the flak coming from the family. Neighbors are not very cooperative then either, but they can be placated on Wednesday. A little charm to go with your contriteness and, if necessary, some currency can resolve the problem. However, you may still be steaming inside. If you don't find a suitable outlet beforehand, you're scheduled to erupt on February 5.

Pisces
FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19

Invigorated by energetic Mars in your sign, Fish can try to bypass the shit about to hit the fan by going skiing (and praying there is no avalanche) or skindiving (likewise, a tidal wave). Don't have the bucks? Ask a friend to bankroll you while the sun squares Saturn in your money house on Sunday. No matter what you do or say this week, money will be an issue...that can be resolved pleasantly on Wednesday. However, all bets are off for the new moon, solar eclipse, Chinese New Year on the 5th. Enter the unexpected.

Aries
MARCH 20-APRIL 19

Now is a good time to take a break from the daily grind, explore a new interest or simply hide out from the madding crowd. For the next few weeks, your work scene could be erratic—many changes to adapt to and not enough appreciation for your effort. Monday can be particularly tough, with anxieties spilling out all over the place, however a gentle touch midweek rewrites your worst case scenario. The Chinese Year of the Dragon comes in with a big bang; electrifying and earth-shaking and that's before the fireworks go off.

Taurus
APRIL 20-MAY 20

Pressure from a parent or your boss, maybe even the long arm of the law can be frustrating, burdensome and a dozen other draggy feelings thanks to restrictive Saturn in your sign. Happily, your Venus ruler comes to the rescue on Wednesday, kisses the boo-boo and makes whatever hurts (on the surface only) better. This is the calm before the storm that's due at the solar eclipse on the 5th, the Aquarius new moon that inaugurates the Chinese New Year. How much like the solar eclipse in August (the end-of-the-world eclipse) is it? Very.

Gemini
MAY 21-JUNE 20

Breathe deep, take your meds, run many miles; do whatever you can to keep your excitement level under control. Not that you shouldn't thrill to the possibilities that come out of the meeting of your Mercury ruler and unpredictable Uranus on the 28th, but the surprise you're hit with can be unnerving. However, if you're ready to set out in a new direction for the new year (4698 on the Chinese calendar), what ideas you come up with that day can point the way. New, off-the-wall, rebellious, rad and exceptionally clever, even for a Gemini.

Cancer
JUNE 21-JULY 22

Novel ways of dealing with a scientific project, a multi-media application or a political plank that finds favor—random thoughts that come to mind while Mercury and Uranus conjunct in Aquarius on Friday—can pay off, especially when other people provide the financing. You may hit a roadblock Sunday night/Monday morning, so don't go to a parent, boss or government agency with your idea yet. Instead of a direct confrontation, take a roundabout route and let your better half (a charming partner) navigate. By the full moon on the 5th, you should have your answer.

Leo
JULY 23-AUGUST 22

Remember the total solar eclipse in August and the Cassini spacecraft that was too close to Earth for comfort? Well, some of the planetary aspects in effect then are back. Cross the first hurdle put up by the square between your sun ruler and Saturn in stubborn Taurus as the work week begins. Once you know what (or who) is standing in your way, cut through the red tape when the sun meets innovative Uranus on the 5th. That's also the day of a partial solar eclipse (that can't be seen in the US) and the Chinese New Year. Enter the Dragon, exit the Cat.

Virgo
AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

The latest word about a medical procedure, a service project, even your pet's well-being might apply to you, so listen up this Friday. Breakthroughs in experiments can occur when your Mercury ruler and inventive Uranus merge; in less than a week, colleagues and co-workers take action, your vet calls back with the good news. Writers and content providers are inspired by this annual meeting because it puts you a step further into the future than the rest of the crowd. Next weekend, enchanted by a Pisces, you go off on another tangent.

Libra
SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

This weekend something that is NOT fun can present a problem for the Aquarius and the Taurus in your life, and there's nothing you can do about it until Wednesday. However, no matter what else is happening at home or with the neighbors, keep in mind that, come Groundhog Day, you (or another Libra with a vested interest) have the power to soothe the hurt, ease the burden of, if not both parties, then at least the Taurus'. A similar situation may have occurred last August at the spectacular solar eclipse, but who remembers?

Scorpio
OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

Although not as disastrous, we hope, as the earthquakes that followed the solar eclipse last August, the events of the next ten days can be quite dramatic in themselves. When the sun squares Saturn in your Taurus house of partners this weekend, the problem between you two, or between your parents and your spouse, might seem insurmountable. Yet you gather strength Tuesday from one of those "phoenix rising from the ashes" Scorpio rituals and marshal the resources to assuage the situation. Next weekend, a big surprise.

Sagittarius
NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

Money is the root of all evil as well as the reason to do good this week. So, what else is new? You could be stressed out by a child's or lover's need for more green, (maybe by your own Super bowl bet?), but even if you're strapped, you'll find a way out of the dilemma. Just don't let yourself get overwhelmed by the problem. Instead, dig into your wealth of experience and think creatively, so you can come up with a solution that works. That happens when clever Mercury and your far-seeing Jupiter ruler align on the 4th.

Capricorn
DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

Sunday is going to be tough, and you can't blame it on the Super Bowl. Acerbating a long-standing problem is a challenging connection between the sun and your Saturn ruler that can affect you where you live. Not to mention the damage it might do to the house. Your relationship to a parent may become more of a burden and costlier, to boot. However, all is not doom and gloom. Thanks to affectionate Venus in your sign, you'll attract well-established people who operate ethically. Is there a date for Valentine's Day among them?

Curious about the future? Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30 to 40+ pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise over the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $42.50 per report to ROCKIE GARDINER, 1021 N. Genesee, #1, West Hollywood, CA 90046, *www.rockiehoroscope.com*. Read my daily forecast online at *www.laweekly.com*.

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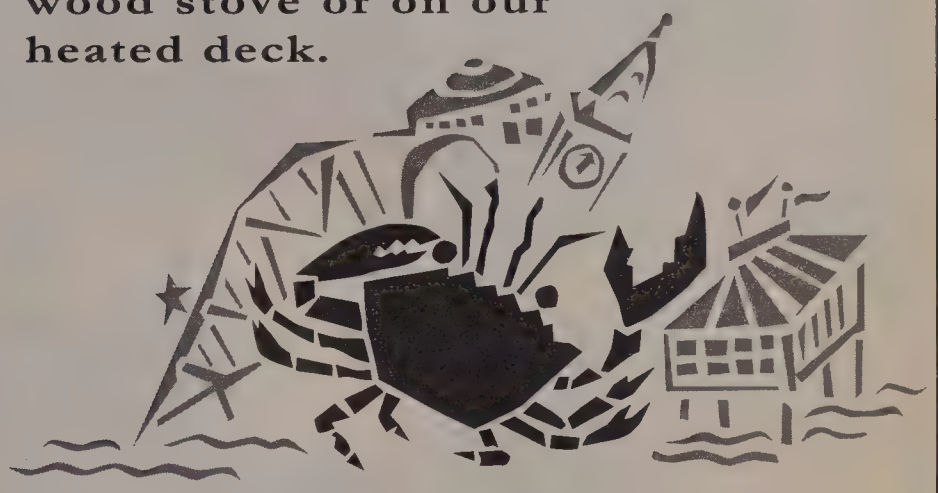

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Gillian Ginsberg of the North End beats the bushes in Beaujolais, France.

Glenn Cunha, prosecutor for Suffolk County, poses with friends after he finished the IronMan Triathalon in Hawaii. (Glenn's the guy with numbers on his legs.)

Liz Tobey (hidden), Maureen Ford and Kristina Weaver of Allston enjoy the rooms at Alcatraz.

Some young French Canadians brush up on their English, accompanied by their East Boston friends Maria and Lisa Capogreco.

Michael Akashian and Lori Stoico of Natick enjoy the sun and THE IMPROPER during their stay on the Caicos Islands.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:
In Nepal for the celebration of the Tibetan New Year; in Tampa for the Gasparilla Pirate Festival; at Mount Snow for the ESPN Winter X Games.

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men seeking women

Half-Irish, Half-Italian. Hey ladies, this is Mike. I'm a SWM, 28, 5'8", with short brown hair, hazel/brown eyes and freckles. I'm a real nice guy with a good sense of humor. I'm little heavy set but I'm attractive. I'm currently employed at a gas station and I live in Quincy. Box 14742

I'm quit sincere and very real. My name is David. I'm 53. 6' and 185 lbs. I'm also very romantic, sensuous, adventurous, compassionate, kind and understanding. I'm looking for a very special lady who would like to go out on some dates and see how it goes from there. Box 14747

Seeking a beautiful lady. I'm a SHM, divorced, 36, 6'1", 190 lbs., clean cut with black hair and brown eyes. The lady I'm looking for must not only be beautiful from the outside, but from the inside as well. Box 18544

Slave to corporate America... unfortunately. My name is Chris. I'm 21 and living in north Boston. What I really want to be doing is studying film. I'm into art, music, philosophy and coffee. I'm just looking for somebody who likes life and is interesting, attractive, sexy and intelligent. Box 21763

Tall and attractive. Hey, this is Andrew. I'm 30, tall and attractive, with blond hair and blue eyes. I'm in great physical shape, open minded, adventurous, honest, down-to-earth and a gentleman. If you share these same qualities, leave me a message. Box 22146

Looking for a female pretty, smart, wild and likes to have a good time. Hi, my name's Ryan. I'm 22, 6'1", good looking and currently residing in the Boston area. Box 22177

Recently divorced. Hey ladies, how you doing? I'm a SWM, 33, 6' 185 lbs., clean cut, with short brown hair and blue eyes. I'm looking to meet people to have some fun...nothing too serious right now. Box 22200

Professionally employed and college educated. My name is Derek. I'm Canadian/ Dominican/Indian mixed, 5'11" handsome with light skin and a nice body. I'm seeking a SWF or a SHF. Box 22221

I like to take my lady out and treat her like a queen. Howya doing? This is Frankie. I'm looking for a steady relationship. I'm a boxer and I'm a very fun person to be with. Box 22260

women seeking men

My many interests include bowling, biking, dancing, movies and eating in and out. Hello, this is Jean. I'm 41, 5'2", with short brown hair, blue eyes and a medium build. I'm currently living in the north of Boston. I'm looking for a man who is honest, sweet, kind and considerate. Box 15196

I've been told that I'm attractive. Hello. I'm a full-figured, 36, 5'6" with long blonde hair and blue eyes. I'm honest, intelligent, vicarious and opened minded. I live a little north of Boston. Box 22155

Living in Alston. Hi, this is Jennifer. I'm 27, curvy, with long curly red hair, blue eyes and a nose ring. I'm looking for some cool and intelligent conversation. Box 15588

I like football, basketball and almost any kind of sports. Hi, my name is Sparkle. I'm a SBF, 5'5" with brown eyes and colorful hair. I'm currently living in the Boston area. I'm not into head game...I want something real. I'm having the hardest of luck finding the right man. Box 22175

You gotta be honest. Hi, my name is Renaisa. I'm looking for a man who is strong, sensitive, honest, caring, compassionate and loving. If you're looking for a serious relationship like I am, get back to me. Box 22189

I've been compared to a young Liz Taylor. Hi, my name's Elaine. I'm Italian with a full figure but proportionate, and busty. I'm looking for a man between the ages of 45-50 for casual dating, possibly more. Box 22223

Freshman at M.C.C. This is Sydney. I'm a SWF, 18, 5'6", 100 lbs., with reddish blonde hair and baby blue eyes. I'm currently studying early childhood education. I am no ugly, but I'm not a bombshell either...guys tell me I'm cute. I like movies, chill-out at home, talk on the phone and hangout with my three younger siblings. I'm looking for someone between the ages of 19-23. Box 22246

Clear skin and straight teeth. What's up? This is Mimi. I'm attractive, 150 lbs., thick (all in the right places), with brown hair, brown eyes and light skin. I like the outdoors and the simple things in life. I'm looking for friends...nothing too serious. Box 22247

Love cooking, dancing, movies, sports, the outdoors and having fun. Hey guys. I'm a SWF, 27 and currently living on the South Shore. Box 18021.

New to the Boston area. This is Judy. I'm divorced and I'm looking to meet someone nice. I'm 5'6", with blonde hair, a nice face and figure. I was a housewife for many years, so I'm pretty good at that. I'm currently working 35 hours a week, but leave me a message anyway. Box 22029

I have many interests. Hello. My name is Donna. I'm 5'3", 120 lbs., with light brown hair and dark brown eyes. I am honest, compassionate, sincere and am sick of the dating scene. I like bowling, hiking and volunteering for the Audubon Society. I also like mountain biking, music, cooking, the ocean and movies. Box 22061

This is the first time I've ever done this. My name's Ana. I'm looking for a long-term relationship. I'm pretty – at least I think so – and I have a lot of interests in my life. I am intelligent, sensitive and very honest. I would like to meet someone who is willing to fall in love. Box 22121

I'm looking for a really nice guy. Hi, this is Veronica. I'm 5'10" and 135 lbs. I love playing sports and going to football games. I'm looking for someone who likes a variety of things, is spontaneous and likes romantic evenings. Race doesn't matter. Box 21778

Visit Nightline on the web at www.nightlinepersonals.com ***and check out more local ads!***

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BARS, CLUBS, RESTAURANTS & BRUNCH

The following are paid advertisements. Please check times and prices in advance. If you'd like to have your restaurant listed, please call The Improper Bostonian Advertising Dept. at 859-1400.

BARS

Billiards

Boston Billiard Club
126 Brookline Ave., 536-POOL. Ranked #1 in the country by Billiards Digest. Free lessons on Mon., 7:30 pm - 9 pm. Boston Billiard Club House Leagues on Mon. and Tues. "In The Biz" night on Sun. and Mon. for patrons in the hospitality industry. Ladies' night on Wed. Featuring a menu of light fare such as grilled chicken sandwiches and appetizers, along with beer, wine, cocktails and a variety of non-alcoholic beverages.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, The Allstonians and Beat Soup.

Brew Pubs

Back Bay Brewing Company
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center. $7-$18. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Bi-level restaurant/brewery offers an inspirational pairing of outstanding innovative cuisine and award-winning ales and lagers. Upbeat first floor bar and café, second floor dining room and bar with comfortable couches and overstuffed chairs. Mon. - Sun. 11:30am - 1am. Brunch Sun. from 11am - 3pm.

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Company
138 Portland St., Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is now the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, a block from the FleetCenter and steps from Faneuil Hall, Commonwealth Fish & Beer features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

General

Dick's Last Resort
55 Huntington Ave., Prudential Center, Boston, 267-8080. www.dickslastresort.com. Dick's has live music 7 nights a week, no cover, no dress code and certainly no class. They have 74 kinds of beer for the novice or serious/ sudsman, or a full bar for the hard core. Dick's also is a restaurant of sorts with buckets of ribs, shrimp, lobster, chicken, catfish and crab legs. This is the place your Mama warned you about. Free parking after 5pm, cheap til 5 with validation.

The Good Life
Uptown - 99 St. Botolph St., 266-3030; Downtown - 28 Kingston St., 451-2622. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1999 Boston's Best Martini award. The Good Life is a retro lounge that Frank Dean and Sammy would have hung at. Big Drinks, Great American Comfort Food, Hot Jazz and Plenty of Boy Meets Girl. Never a cover, always a good time.

Harvard Gardens
316 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114, 617-523-2727. A wonderfully relaxed haven located opposite MGH on the back side of Beacon Hill. Serving the finest cocktails and most comfortable food in town. Plant yourself in a comfy booth, a cozy banquette, or at our fully loaded bar and escape from your everyday troubles. Doing it nice & easy 7 days a week - 11am-2am.

Pravda 116
116 Boylston St., 617-482-7799. Pravda 116, located in the heart of Boston's theater district, offers not only one of Boston's hottest night clubs, but extraordinary cuisine as well. Pravda's restaurant/lounge boasts the longest bar in Boston, featuring a center ice surface to keep your cocktail cool. If sitting at the bar is not your forte, enjoy a meal at a private table in the dining room or in a plush, secluded booth. Pravda 116's contemporary American cuisine will be sure to please. Chef Chris Parsons prepares exquisite dishes with the latest seasonal ingredients. Once you have satisfied your hunger, feed your crave to rave in Pravda's newly remodeled dance club. Pravda's DJ's pack the dance floor spinning high-energy dance music, creating an ambiance that radiates with energy. Rest Hrs: Tues&Wed 5:30-10:30pm, Thurs-Sat 5:30-11pm; Club Hrs: Thurs-Sat 10pm-2am.

Sweetwater Cafe
3 Boylston Place, 351-2515. A classic American bar featuring Boston's best bands and DJ's nightly. A favorite Boston bar for 15 years with two floors of entertainment, an outdoor patio and world class margaritas. Always great music and cold beer, never a dress code. Available for private functions of any kind. (Credit cards: Am Ex, Visa, MC, Diner's) Tues. - Sat. 5 pm - 2 am. Located in "The Alley."

The Big Easy Bar
1 Boylston Place, Boston, 351-7000. Informal. Located in Boston's version of Bourbon Street, "The Alley." The Big Easy Bar is a hot new New Orleans style bar featuring Boston's best live bands and disc jockeys nightly playing music you know and love. Relax in a lounge, listen to the band, play billiards, hang at the bar or dance the night away. The Big Easy Bar has something fun for everyone. Great beer selection, 22 oz. Hurricanes, 4 huge bars, 2 lounges, a balcony, plenty of seating, and a large dance floor. Wed. - Sat. 8 pm - 2 am. Major credit cards accepted. Valet parking available.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/nightclub/billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, The Allstonians and Beat Soup.

The Sugar Shack
1 Boylston Place, 351-2510. "Home of Boston's Best Party." Set in the middle of a mini-Bourbon Street, The Sugar Shack celebrates Mardi-Gras year-round with a carefree, reckless, spontaneous and unpretentious attitude. Carnival lights, confetti, beads, specialty drinks, live bands and Disc Jockeys playing classics, motown, R&B, funk, disco, and old school hip hop from the last three decades mixed with the best of today's top 40. Home of young professional, young alumni, 20 something hipsters who desire cold beer, cocktails, classic party tunes and unadulterated fun!!

Wine Bars

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar
105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-0966. The hip meeting spot in the Financial District for after work, dinner, late night, or a seductive tryst. The Vault offers some of the most exclusive wines in Boston, which complement the creative American Cuisine prepared by Chef Rebecca Esty. Can't decide on a wine? Relax and compare with our Tasting Flights featuring selections from different reds and whites. So what are you waiting for? Call an old friend, a client, or a co-worker and meet for cocktails at The Vault today.

RESTAURANTS

29 Newbury Street Restaurant
29 Newbury St., Boston, 617-536-0290. Savor new American cuisine that is ingeniously prepared only with the freshest, most healthful ingredients available. The moderately priced seasonal menu is served in a casually elegant setting enhanced by the works of local artists. The restaurant and bar, located on the first block of Newbury Street in Back Bay, provide an intimate and sophisticated atmosphere. Valet parking. Reservations recommended.

Back Bay Brewing Company
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center. $7-$18. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Bi-level restaurant/ brewery offers an inspirational pairing of Chef Michael Burgess's innovative cuisine and Tod Mott's hand-crafted ales and lagers. Upbeat first floor bar and café, second floor dining room and bar with comfortable couches and overstuffed chairs. Sunday Buffet Brunch 11am - 3pm, $14.95. Mon. - Sun. 11:30am - 1am.

Butterfish, An American Bistro
5 Craigie Circle, Harvard Square, Cambridge, 497-5511. Chef/Owner Christopher Bussell opened Butterfish on December 4, 1999, at the former site of Cafe Celador. Nestled between Brattle St. and Concord Ave., Butterfish's charming bistro setting is a perfect venue for Chef Christopher's fine American cuisine with international accents. Dishes such as "Monkfish with Moroccan Spices and Grilled Peaches," and "Double Thick Pork Chop with a Warm Corn Souffle" are complimented by an extensive choice of wines. Hours: Tues-Thurs 5-10pm; Fri & Sat 5-11pm.

Cactus Club
939 Boylston St., 236-0200. Get a taste of the Southwest in Boston. Specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, Cajun Catfish. Save 1/2 off entire menu Mon. - Fri., 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm in the bar. Sample the firewater menu while you are there, including Coyote Killer (Light and dark rum, peach schnapps, ginger beer and mixed juices), or a Chambord Margarita. Only the daring may go for a dip in the Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Amex, Diners Club, MC and Visa accepted.

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Company
138 Portland Street, Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is now the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, a block from the FleetCenter and steps from Faneuil Hall, Commonwealth Fish & Beer features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

Harvard Gardens
316 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114, 617-523-2727. A wonderfully relaxed haven located opposite MGH on the back side of Beacon Hill. Serving the finest cocktails and most comfortable food in town. Plant yourself in a comfy booth, a cozy banquette, or at our fully loaded bar and escape from your everyday troubles. Doing it nice & easy 7 days a week - 11am-2am.

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Behind Fenway Park, 437-0300. An upscale 70,000 Sq. ft. megaplex of interactive entertainment. Play breakthrough interactive communication games, participate in a live game show & watch a giant video wall while dining on innovative American cuisine at Atlas Grill on Jillian's new 1st floor. Jillian's offers motion simulator rides, more than 250 cutting edge electronic & virtual reality games, 50 billiard tables, table tennis, & "just for fun" black jack. There are five full bars & 50 TVs that broadcast sporting events. Great for late night dining & private parties 25-3000. Open Daily.

Kashmir
279 Newbury St., Boston, 536-1695. Kashmir has been raising the bar of Indian restaurants in quality, style and service since it opened. Its well deserved Best of Boston, Boston's Best and Readers' Choice awards are a result of great execution where it counts. Indoors in three elegantly styled dining rooms and outdoors on the best people watching corner in town, Kashmir serves the finest Tandoori and curry dishes and most imaginative specials and the best lunch and brunch buffet in town. Wine and beer are available as well as takeout, delivery, private parties and catering.

Ma Soba Asian Cuisine & Sushi
156 Cambridge Street on Beacon Hill, Boston, 973-6680. Enjoy premium sushi and Ma Soba's unique blend of contemporary and traditional Asian cuisine prepared by award-winning chefs. Relax with a fine wine selection from Ma Soba's comprehensive wine cellar in a setting described as "strikingly attractive and ultra urbane" by the Boston Herald. Open daily: Sun-Wed until 10:30pm, Thurs-Sat until 11:00pm. When in Harvard Square/Cambridge, visit Ma Soba Express at 30 Dunster Street for quick-service pan Asian noodles and rice platters.

Ocean Wealth
8 Tyler Street, Boston, MA, 02111, (617) 423-1338. We know that people appreciate only the freshest seafood. So we introduced the concept of picking your seafood live out of the tanks in Boston in 1990 with the opening of Ocean Wealth. Upon entering our restaurant, patrons are greeted by a myriad of fish tanks, filled with codfish, black sea bass, blackfish, and lobsters. But what is different are geoduck clams from Seattle, Dungeness crabs from San Francisco, and live saltwater shrimp from Florida. Come and enjoy the Ocean's Wealth. Full liquor license. Reservations recommended. Open daily until 4 am.

Shenandoah Restaurant, Marketplace Cafe, Brewskellar Pub
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston 227-1272. Located in the North Market Building of Faneuil Hall, Shenandoah Restaurant, The Marketplace Cafe, and Brewskellar Pub have something for everyone. Whether you're interested in a casual dinner on one of Boston's largest outdoor patios or the quiet more elegant surroundings of Shenandoah Restaurant, we offer it all. Having a function? We cater personally to all events you may be planning. Visit us soon and let us surprise you.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. Whether you choose to dine in our street-side greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve both lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar
105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-9966. A wonderful secret hidden in Boston's Financial District. The Vault offers contemporary American cuisine and an extensive and exclusive affordable wine list. Come in and enjoy our new summer menu, including an expanded raw bar, Maine crab cakes, seared tuna and much more. Lunch Mon. - Fri. from 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Dinner Mon. - Wed. from 5:30 - 10:30 pm, Thurs. - Sat. from 5:30 - 11 pm. Closed Sun.

The Wrap & Smoothie Bar
137 Mass Ave., Boston (at Berklee School of Music), 369-9087; 71 Mt. Auburn St., Harvard Square, 354-5838; 1940 Beacon St., Cleveland Circle, 739-0340; 82 Water St., Financial District, 357-9013. The Wrap serves delicious, freshly prepared wraps, burritos and salads as well as healthy and refreshing smoothies. Voted Boston's Best 1998 & 1999 by The Improper Bostonian. Fresh ingredients, great taste, healthy options - words we live by!

BRUNCH

Anago
65 Exeter Street, Boston, 266-6222. Anago, in the historic Lenox Hotel, presents a live Sunday Brunch from 11-2pm, prepared by Boston's whiz kid chef, Jamie "Shaky" Liberge, featuring a sumptuous buffet of appetizers with exquisite freshly baked desserts and breads created by award winning pastry chef, Lee Napoli, to accompany your choice of exceptional entree selections. Reservations are recommended.

Back Bay Brewing Company
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Featuring Chef Michael Burgess's Neo-Continental selections, including Eggs Benedict with Canadian bacon & herbed hollandaise, blueberry pancakes with almond maple syrup, omelet station, French toast, roasted meat carving station, house smoked salmon, and assorted desserts. Sunday Brunch Buffet 11 am - 3 pm. $14.95

Dick's Last Resort
55 Huntington Ave., Prudential Center, Boston, 267-8080. www.dickslastresort.com. On Sunday, Dick got religion and has a Heavenly Gospel Brunch from 10am to 3pm. They serve fruit, salads, eggs benedict, fried chicken with a ham and roast beef station. Help yourself to the waffle or omelet stations and the dessert bar while listening to old fashion uplifting live gospel music. Open for Lunch, Dinner and late night entertainment 7 days a week, no cover.

Museum of Science - Skyline Room
Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston, MA 02114. Egypt comes to Boston! Enjoy Sunday brunch in the beautiful Skyline Room overlooking the Charles River at noon and then experience the amazing Omni film Mysteries of Egypt at 2pm. Tickets are $28 for Adults, $26 for Seniors/Children. Brunch only is $20. On-site parking is included. Reservations recommended, call (617)723-2500.

The Wrap & Smoothie Bar
137 Mass Ave., Boston (at Berklee School of Music), 369-9087; 71 Mt. Auburn St., Harvard Square, 354-5838; 1940 Beacon St., Cleveland Circle, 739-0340; 82 Water St., Financial District, 357-9013. The Wrap serves delicious, freshly prepared wraps, burritos and salads as well as healthy and refreshing smoothies. Voted Boston's Best 1998 & 1999 by The Improper Bostonian. Fresh ingredients, great taste, healthy options - words we live by!

MISC.

Fitness

North Point Club
North Point Club, 6 Museum Way, Cambridge, 617-523-2900. The newest fitness club in Cambridge, North Point Club is also a great value. Join now for only $69 per month and enjoy swimming, group exercise, cardiovascular conditioning, strength training and the motivation to reach your fitness goals. Conveniently located across the street from Boston's Museum of Science, it is easily accessed from Charlestown, Cambridge, and the T's Science Park and Lechmere stops.

Sports

Boston Paintball
131 Beverly St., Boston, 742-6612. The rules are simple. There are teams and everyone has paintball guns. You are inside of a large warehouse (near the Boston Garden). They are firing balls straight at you. You scream, dodge, hide, wipeout and have a blast!!! Great for bachelor/bachelorette parties, corporate outings, birthday parties, and much more.

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HELP WANTED

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Art Director with a minimum of 5 years experience in magazine design and publications wanted. Must be able to work in an intensive environment with tight deadlines and have a fresh, energetic sense of design and photographic art direction. Mastery of Quark, Photoshop and Illustrator a must.

Senior Account Executive

Experienced self starter with proven track record sought. Must have a minimum of 4 years in media sales with a reputable organization and thorough industry knowledge. Strong organizational, planning and leadership skills a must. Competitive compensation package.

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Established Boston based bi-weekly consumer magazine seeks a senior level, experienced pro to manage high volume editorial department. The ideal candidate would have a minimum of 6 years demonstrable experience in writing and editing at a reputable publishing company with at least two of those years in a ME or Assistant ME capacity. The base skills necessary to excel in this position are as follows: Exceptional organizational skills - this role is above all a management position and requires an individual who has the ability to create and improve upon workflow systems & strategic plans; detail oriented - prior copy-editing experience a must, this position is responsible for all editorial quality control initiatives, individual should have strong grounding in principles of Total Quality Management; proven leadership ability - individual must be able to hire, train, direct, critique and motivate a creative staff; broad & sophisticated vocabulary - must have literary sensibility, understanding of history and be able to communicate complicated subjects with wit and substance; ability to sum up complicated stories, write attention grabbing headlines and captions. The work environment is deadline intensive, youthful, fun and highly creative. Competitive salary commensurate with experience level of applicant, health insurance, 401k and various other benefits.

Receptionist

Reliable individual sought to manage front desk activities, including answering and screening phone calls, handling shipping and receiving, maintaining office equipment and supplies, as well as providing administrative support to the staff. The ideal candidate will be an organized, efficient, friendly, enthusiastic team player with a great sense of humor. PC/Mac proficiency, 50wpm, experience with Word, Excel and Filemaker required.

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN

Last Scene Here

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Y4Chile...

With all the predictions of disaster for the millennium, the least expected was an unreliable English friend who had invited seven of us to Chile to ring in the New Year. Assured that he had arranged everything—accommodations, itinerary, yachts, helicopters, the works—we boarded a twelve-hour flight for South America. Arriving in Santiago, we waited at the airport for an hour, then two, before calling London.

"He's off shooting," his mother said lightly. "He should be back shortly."

Obviously, the trip had slipped his mind. We were on our own, in a strange country, on the other side of the planet, with no plans, no reservations and no clue.

This is a story of survival, adventure, and an oddly potent cocktail known as a Pisco Sour.

Days 1-3

After checking into the Hotel Carrera, we repaired to the rooftop pool for a strategy session involving several of the aforementioned Pisco Sours. (In the interest of saving space, for the remainder of this story, please insert "Then we drank Pisco Sours" after every other sentence.) Gazing at the city, we noticed that our view of the presidential palace was exactly the same angle from which news photographers covered Pinochet's 1973 military coup. Obviously we weren't in Kansas anymore.

We toured the sights—the cathedral, the fountains, a plaza we renamed "The Park of Two Dogs Fucking" due to its main point of interest. We celebrated a friend's 40th birthday at Santiago's fanciest restaurant, where one of us made the unfortunate mistake of ordering something called "Lamb Fries." These turned out to be testicles in a cream sauce.

Somehow, we also managed to reserve a suite at a hotel in Vina del Mar—Chile's most popular coastal resort.

Days 4-7

We arrived at the beach and hunkered down for the last few days of the century. On New Year's Eve, we watched one of Latin America's largest fireworks displays exploding over the harbor, while we drank a half-dozen bottles or so of champagne. At the casino, we threw pesos around like they were play money. At the beach, we watched the surfers and ogled the endless parade of flesh.

On our balcony, we played cribbage and watched the sun set (at 9pm) over the Pacific. In the bathroom, we argued about whether water spiraled down the drain in the opposite direction from home.

After four days, we were ready to move on, and set our sights on a place called Marbella, an hour to the north.

Days 7-9

Our time in Marbella was a grueling round of massages, steam baths and jacuzzis, interspersed with horseback riding, golf, lounging by the pool and ingratiating ourselves with the local bartenders. One afternoon, we spotted what we were told was an Andean condor. Another afternoon, we decided to dial our putative host on his cell phone, and to our amazement, he answered.

Following some choice language on our part, he provided us with the names and telephone numbers of friends and family in Chile. As it turned out, most of them were staying near Zapallar—the place we were planning to visit next.

Days 9-14

Chile's slice of paradise, Zapallar is a tiny gem of a resort town with a picturesque little harbor, a perfect stretch of beach with spectacular houses piled up on the hills behind it, and absolutely nothing to do all day but vegetate, which we did with a vengeance. Our hotel—the only one in town—was reminiscent of the Riviera and offered breathtaking views of the ocean. With a few phone calls, we established contact with a network of Chileans who couldn't have been more welcoming. There were luncheons and dinner parties where everyone wanted to hear the story of our abandonment—we were, apparently, the hottest topic of gossip west of Buenos Aires.

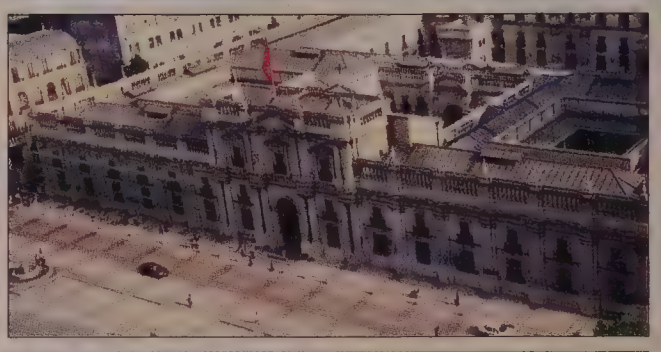
We spent one day on the 400-year-old ranch of an aristocratic and extremely charming family who let us leave only when it was time to go to the next party. Other afternoons, we spent at the polo club in Cachagua, watching our new friends trounce the opposing teams. We discovered a tarantula on the path to the beach, and one of us swam with a sea lion. We strolled along the cliff walk, between cascading flowers and crashing waves, and had drinks at a cafe, watching the pelicans fight over scraps from the fishing boats.

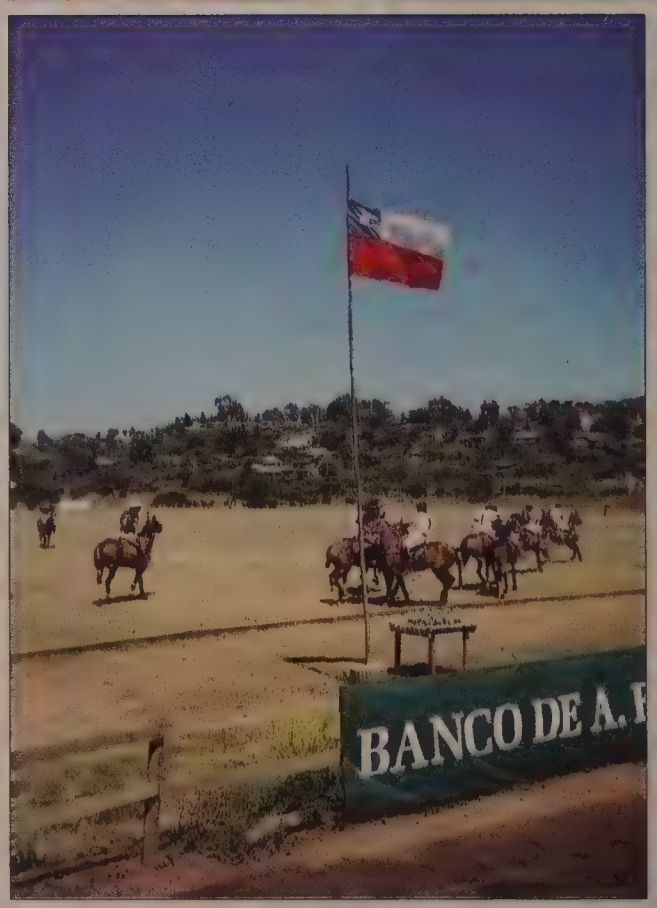
Sooner than anyone wanted, it was time to leave. We had a last hurrah in Santiago—attending a French circus production of *Frankenstein*, shopping, enjoying one last lunch at the home of a woman who defines the term Latin hospitality, and having a few more Pisco Sours.

In short, it wasn't at all what we expected. It was better. As for our English friend, a word of warning: There are seven people in Boston who'd like to serve you up as Lamb Fries, and many more in Chile who think you're a total jackass. iB

Avez-vous dish?

Dirt? A spectacular social occasion? Call J.S. at 859-1400 ext. 303 or e-mail at *jonathan@improper.com*





Clockwise from top: the girls all dolled up; roulette at the casino in Vina del Mar; riding in Marbella; the beach at Zapallar; Tina Tarantula; Jay and Paul on New Year's Eve; polo in Cachagua; Lisa and the Sun of the Sea; a historic scene from the 1973 coup in Santiago; our own view of the same presidential palace 27 years later.

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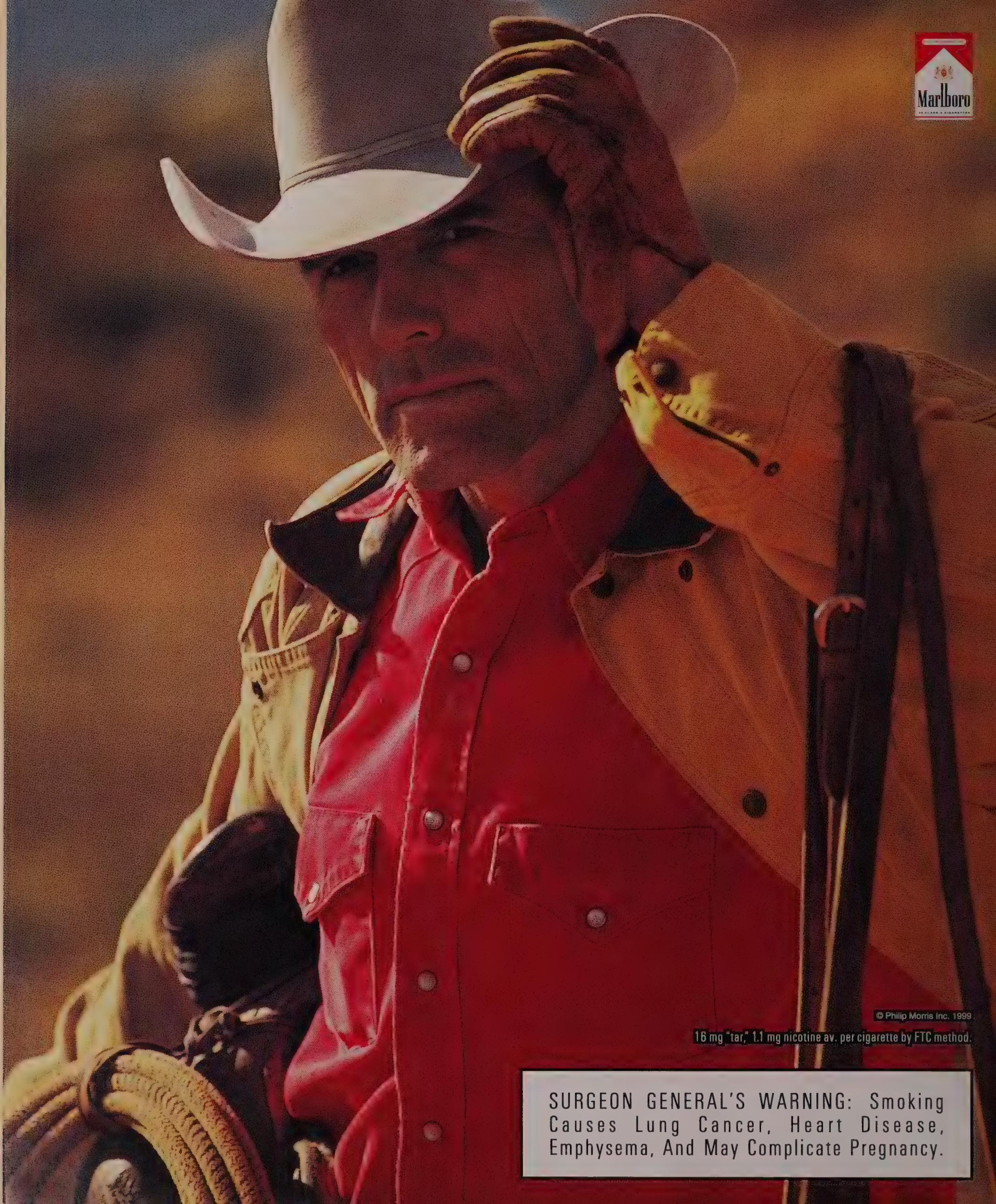
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BOSTON'S GUIDE TO ENTERTAINMENT, CULTURE AND BROKEN HEARTS

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Big Boston Break-Ups
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On the Cover:
Photograph for
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN
by **Michael Weber**

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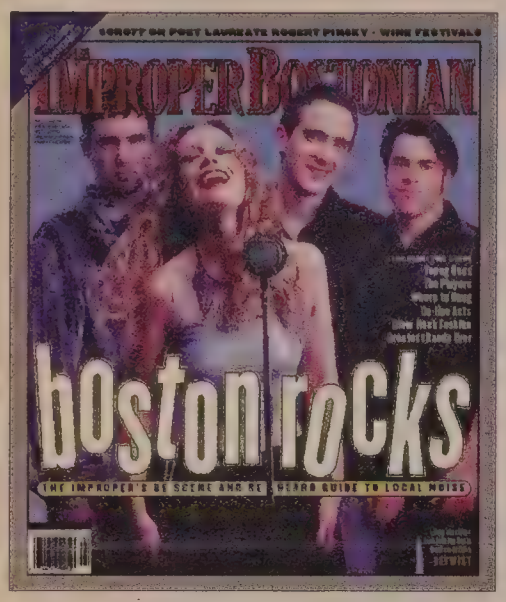
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE
FEBRUARY 9-22, 2000

PHOTOGRAPH BY BETH SCHNECKENBURGER

letters



Ezra on Art

Ezra Dyer's latest writing (January 26, p. 38) covering the *Sensation* Exhibit in Brooklyn leaves us with many questions, few answers—neither put well—mainly, "Where is THIS coming from?" I'm not surprised, Boston's Puritan history is rarely reserved and certainly predictable when it comes to the "new" as written in the column, "What's That Smell?"

And the piece couldn't be more untimely. This was breaking news when the Sox still had a chance. But Boston, true to itself, is late to jump on the art/design bandwagon, that is, New York's/the World's wagon. If you can't beat them, slight them. I was counting on something a little more, well, content-rich from the IMPROPER.

Ezra writes, "Although I lack reliable access to an elephant, I have put my dog, George, on a high-fiber diet, and soon I will have finished sculpting a gay dung Jesus." I mean, come on guys, save the trees. I have to say, I've not read such a sorry-ass writing since this *was* news last fall.

"Shame on THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN for including dead animal parts on its list of holiday gifts. How can the IMPROPER praise such tasteless, cruel and inhumane items as the ultimate festive favor?"
—A.L.
Boston

Boston has some of the greatest art and design resources and educational institutions—much of what is to come is happening within our own backyard studios/classrooms. It's troubling to think that many artists/designers will consider other cities for venues for artistic expression—articles such as Ezra's is like a pre-checking the flight. Perhaps it's time we began to ask some improper questions.
RICHARD STREITMATTER-TRAN
Massachusetts College of Art

Know Thy Neighbor

Richard Manning's *Millennial Bostonians* article (Dec. 15-Jan. 11) was very interesting to read. However, as a student from Emerson College I feel I must correct you on the history of my school.

You stated in your article that Ralph Waldo Emerson was "inspiration for Back Bay college that bears his name." This is a popular belief outside the school. I even thought it was true before I came here. However, it is not true. Charles Wesley Emerson founded the Emerson School of the Oratory in 1880.
JASON ROSSMAN
Asland

Outrage

Shame on THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN for including dead animal parts on its list of holiday gifts. How can the IMPROPER praise such tasteless, cruel and inhumane items as the ultimate festive favor?

To sell the part of any formerly living, breathing, feeling beings should never ever be the way to celebrate anything, much less a time of peace and good will and the day the Lord was born. The Lord that made all creatures, and for sure the beautiful animals he created. You all will have to answer to a higher power for your indifference and uncaring attitude.

When a survey was taken questioning hard core criminals they had all started with abusing animals. So be careful of your participation in promoting animal suffering. I'm sure you're all ignorant to the amount of animal suffering that goes on and on, and so-called holiday gifts of dead animals, only promotes and supports more and more suffering animals. Wise up.
A.L.
Boston

I am writing to voice my opposition to your magazine's including dead animal parts on a list of holiday gifts.

Apparently a store in Allston is selling these tasteless items such as preserved monkey's brains and embalmed rats. Selling parts of formerly living, breathing sentient creatures is certainly not a good way to celebrate anything especially a time of peace and good will. In a world already filled with violence, we do not yet need another example of killing and death. Please make this the last year that THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN promotes such ghastly "gifts."
BARBARA BONSIGNORE
Concord, NH

Plumbing

You claim, in your last issue's Table of Contents (Jan. 26), that a good thing about New England winters is beer. The best thing about winter in New England (or Minnesota or Spitzbergen or ...), actually, is indoor plumbing. I am sure a number of beer drinkers would agree.
DAVID AMES
Weymouth

Poetry: Y2K

tho' i not Estonian
i can't help but give props
to your good chops
howin' me sides of Boston i aint seen
tho' i was raised + ween'd here in
Lexington's vortex
couldn't help but laugh in appreciation
when i saw the Y2K model preparin' for
damnation
with her basmati and naughty bikini top
well, Y2K's comin'
and i forgot to shop
oops, this is my Green St JP stop
gotta go...see you yo
JEFFREY G
journeymanpoet@yahoo.com

Corrections

The NEMO Music Showcase & Conference produced by Candace Avery (Boston Rocks, Jan. 26) from April 13-15 features the Kahlua Boston Music Awards on April 13 as one of its many activities. NEMO is the event's correct title; it is not an acronym.

The photo credit for the Robert Pinsky portrait on page 16 of the Jan. 26 issue should have read: Doug Mindell, courtesy of Boston University.

Tell Us What You Think

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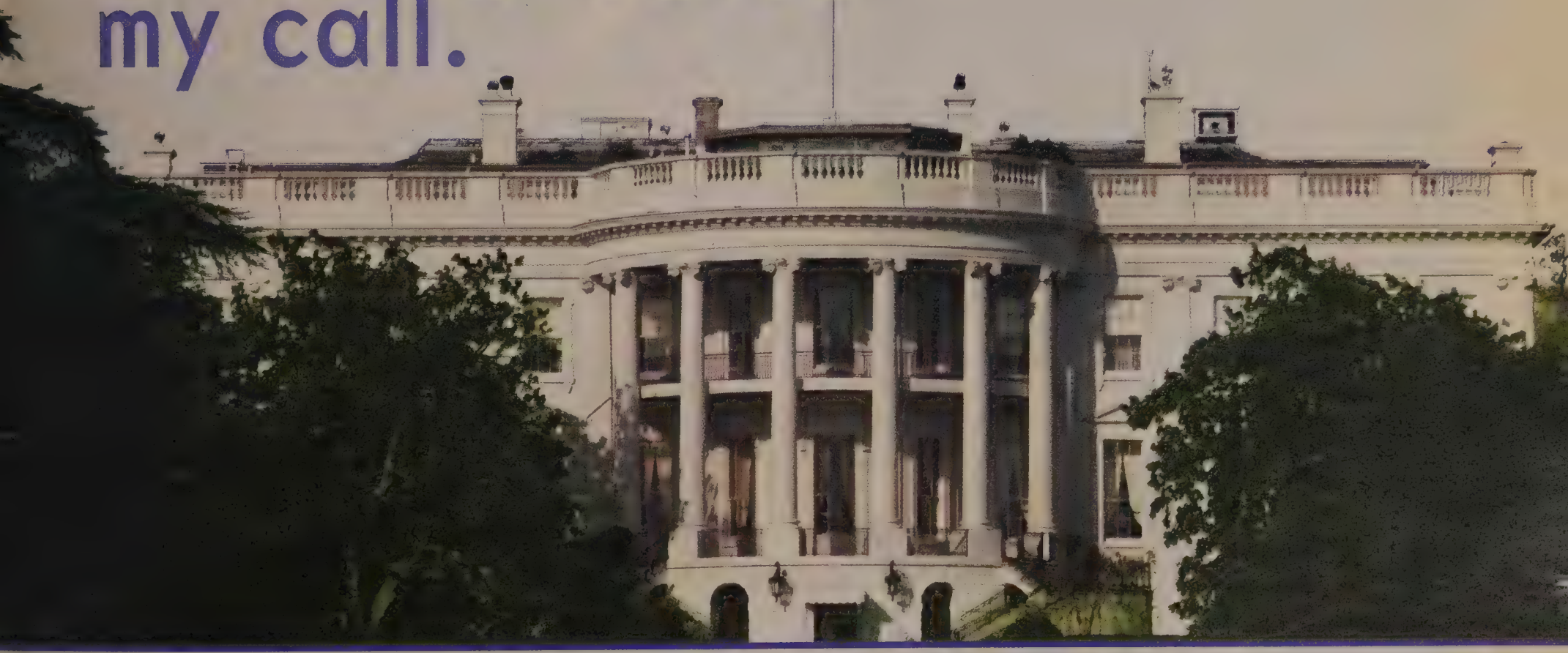
I'd dial the white house just to see if he'd take my call.



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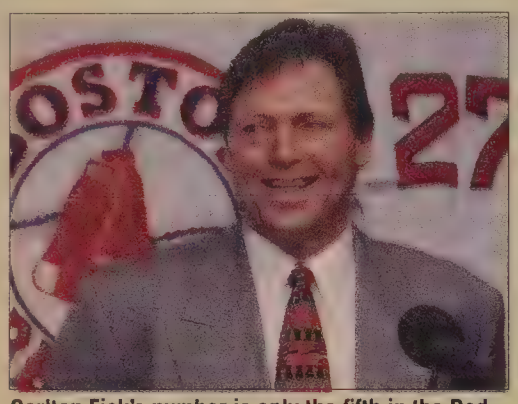
improper SPEAKING

Our Annual "We're Tired of Reading About People Named Belichick/ Thank God Football Season's Over at Last /Thank God Pitchers and Catchers Report to Florida Next Week" Special Section

LET'S DO THE NUMBERS:

True fans of the Red Sox were without a doubt elated, along with us, when the Hose announced their decision to retire **Carlton Fisk**'s number 27 in the wake of his announcement last month that he would wear the letter "B" on his plaque when installed in the Baseball Hall of Fame this coming summer.



Carlton Fisk's number is only the fifth in the Red Sox team's history to be retired. Fisk basks in the glory, even though many wore "27" before him.

But we had to wonder: the number 27 is pretty low on the pecking order when it comes to club house managers assigning numbers to future superstars. This number is so high, we figured, that it must have been given to scads of rubes, bad pitchers and scrubbinis over the years. So Improper Speaking's crack investigative unit made a few phone calls and discovered that, yes indeed, that was the case.

In retiring the number 27, the Sox are honoring, other than Fisk, 34 other former players. The best of them: Medford's own **Bill Monbouquette**, who was the Sox's entire pitching staff during the early 1960s, and the magnificent **Sonny Siebert**, who went up against the A's **Vida Blue** in a matchup of undefeated pitchers in May of 1971.

Others to remember when the Sox tack number 27 to the right field grandstands: such immortals as **John Michaels** ('32) **Dibrell Williams** ('35), **Dick Midkiff** ('38), **Yank Perry** ('40), **Jeff Sellers** ('85) and a host of other unmemorable rubes, bad pitchers and scrubbinis. They got us through the hard times. In fact, they were the hard times.

MEANWHILE IN NEW YORK:

The Yankees retired number 8 when **Yogi Berra** left the team in 1965. But in doing so, they also also retired the number of the only other player to wear the number 8—and who was also a Hall of Fame catcher. Who was he? (Answer below right.)

And speaking of Yankee Stadium: there are 18 men honored with busts or plaques in the stadium's deep center field. Three of them are former Cardinals. Can you name them? Answer below right.

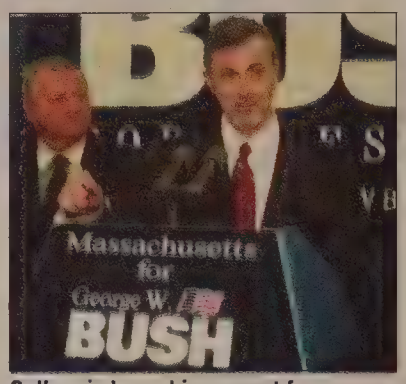
Berra takes his retirement in stride.

MIXING BASEBALL AND POLITICS

A few baseball fans may have been surprised to see a picture last month of Texas Gov. **George Bush** in New Hampshire standing next to the handsome, mustachioed former Red Sox pitcher **Dennis Eckersley**, who was campaigning for the former Phillips Andover cheerleader in the Granite State. We were not that surprised, though. When we asked Eckersley to write a 300-word essay for this magazine last summer, his agent called back with this: "Dennis says he couldn't even write a 300-word essay in high school, much less now."

MIXING POLITICS AND REWARDS

In the wake of all the jockeying that went on in this state prior to the New Hampshire primary—with Gov. **Paul Cellucci** all but saying to every Republican office holder in the region "support George Dubbya or I'll kill you"—one has to wonder about the rewards system at work here.



Cellucci shows his support for Dubbya, a possible future boss.

When prominent Massachusetts Democrats support a winning Democratic candidate, they often go on to positions like Secretary of Labor (**Robert Reich**), or National Security Advisor (**McGeorge Bundy**) or into any other number of high advisory positions on the sub-cabinet level.

But when prominent Massachusetts Republicans get involved in the campaigns of winning Republican candidates? The reward is the Transportation Department—from Gov. **John Volpe** under Nixon to **Andrew Card** under Bush. And guess what Cellucci is angling for on the cabinet level? One hint: his major qualification is that he's had major highway construction going on outside his office window for ten years.

Tell you anything about the national clout of Massachusetts Republicans? As an Oklahoma legislator drawled to us years ago: "Ya gotcha choice between none and absolutely none."

MIXING WATER AND OIL

When last heard from, gazillionaire **Bill Koch** was a) trying to evict his mistress, **Catherine de Castelbajac**, from his condo in the Four Seasons; b) saying he wanted to have nothing more to do with the America's Cup race for fat-cats that he won in 1992; and c) suing his older brother, **Charles Koch**, for, among other things, underreporting the amount and quality of oil the family company purchased from federal and Indian leases 25,000 times between 1975 and 1989.

Koch went into battle against his own brother and won.

Bill got Kate to move out in 1995 and last month won the suit against his brother—with up to $213 million in damages pending against the family company. But even now he's in the Antipodes doing television accounts of America's Cup action for anybody who wants to know what's happening in the waters off New Zealand.

MOVING ON

The local PR scene received a shot in the arm last month when **Geri Denterlein**, senior vice president for communications at **McDermott/ O'Neill Associates**, announced she was leaving to form her own agency, **Denterlein Worldwide**. A former editorial director at WBZ-Channel 4, and mainstay under former Lt. Gov **Tom O'Neill** for seven years, Denterlein isn't saying a whole lot about clients she's taking with her to the new enterprise, except that they include Children's Hospital and Great Bay Holdings. She hopes to have five full-time staffers up and working for her by the end of the year. Denterlein offers potential clients throughout Boston something rare in the PR business—genuine class, genuine professionalism and genuine smarts.

Denterlien is stepping out on her own, with the move to establish Denterlein Worldwide.

It may sound improper to say, but we wish her the best of luck.

AND WE THOUGHT WE WERE DONE WITH HER LAST YEAR

We now have the first quotable quote of the new millenium. It comes from Monica Lewinsky earlier this month on CNN's Larry King Live discussing her miraculous Jenny Craig weight-loss.

Says Monica: "I've learned not to put things in my mouth that are bad for me."

Oh my. iB

Lewinsky poses for a Jenny Craig ad.

Speaking of Boston

Got a inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to speaking@improper.com

STILL WONDERING?

Answer to Baseball Question Number One: **Bill Dickey**, who preceded Berra as Yankee catcher, playing from 1928-1946.

Answer to Baseball Question Number Two: **Miller Huggins**, who managed the Cardinals from 1913 to 1917 before taking over as manager of the Yankees during their glory years in the 1920's; **Roger Maris**, who was traded to the Cardinals after the 1966 season and played in St. Louis the following two seasons, helping the team into two World Series; and **Giovanni Battista Montini**, better known as Pope Paul VI (fooled ya), who celebrated mass in the stadium in 1965 and saw his visit memorialized with a plaque. But hey, to get to be a Pope, you have to a Cardinal first.

FISK: ELISE AMENDOLA/AP WORLDWIDE, BERRA: NEWSMAKERS

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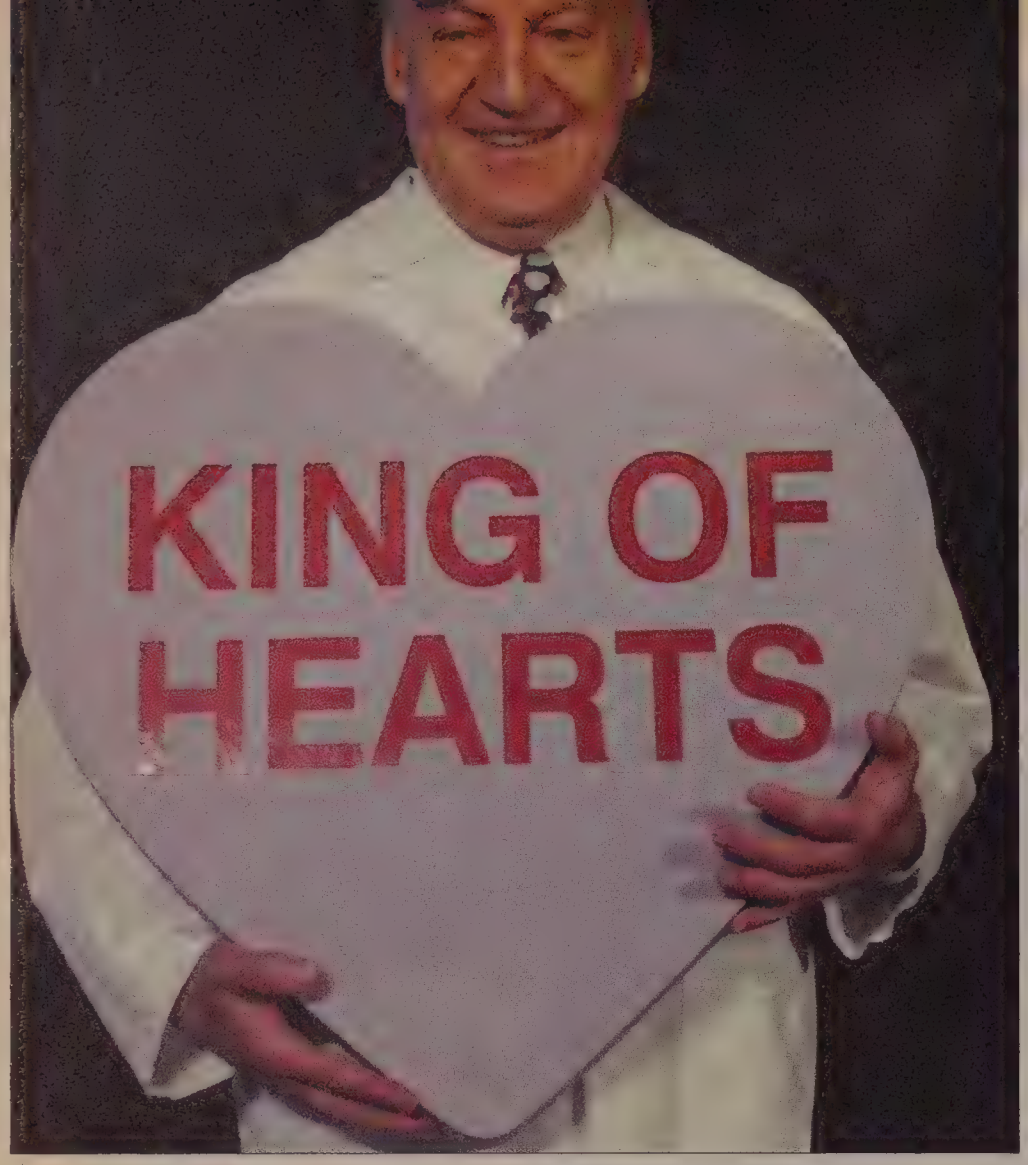
BY ERIN HAGEDORN AND JULIE SHORT

Good stuff, glamour, goings-on.



Boston Speaks

Heart Maker

The NECCO factory's King of Hearts is retiring! What does that mean for love and romance in Beantown? Not much, except that the messages on those colorful NECCO Sweethearts will be a little less sweet next Valentine's Day.

The creator of such iconic candy sayings as "Be mine," "Neat," "Lover Boy," and the more recent, "Fax me," will pass on his crown after over 10 years of creating the heart-felt lines. There's no word on the Cambridge streets yet as to who will replace Walter Marshall—but what *is* certain is that the successor will have big shoes to fill. When asked about his favorite sayings over the years, Marshall replied, "Marry me"—one of 12 new sayings released this year to honor the Candy King. Why? we asked. "Because if he's not going to marry you, dump the bum." On that note: Happy Valentine's Day, kids!

FUN FACT B.U.'s five residence dining rooms serve 1,680 pounds of bananas each week.

All the Buzz

Move Over Austin Powers

Bright smiles abound as fashionable Bostonians join the legions of cosmetically savvy smilers who've found a new way to enhance their appearance: professional teeth bleaching. Forget those home bleaching kits or repeated trips to the dentist. BriteSmile—a chain of whitening centers from California that recently landed on Newbury Street—takes pearly whites to eye-scorching brightness in one fell swoop.

Throw down 500 big ones for a session using state-of-the-art technology developed by a former NASA scientist. The one-shot process involves a combo of gas plasma, light-activated treatment and hydrogen peroxide gel. In just over an hour, your choppers will be so white that you'll need sunglasses to to look in the mirror. Say cheese-y! *75 Newbury St., Boston (867-9500). www.britesmile.com.*

New In Town

Puttin' on the Glitz

Two Back Bay Boston institutions, Small Planet and Division Sixteen, have recently gone glam. The first is a general upscaling and the second, a total renovation. There's no doubt about it: Ritz is in (take a look at the Mercury Bar-turned-Pravda 116 for a prime example).

Small Planet owner Frank Bell has re-made his bar/restaurant into the **White Star Tavern**. The Tex-Mex colors have mellowed into shades of polished wood, but the menu is similar—from the $5 "smaller plates" to the $8 "share plates" and $12 "larger plates." You'll still find the traditional calamari, nachos, Caesar salad and hot sandwiches that the high-traffic Boylston Street crowds devour. Specials look particularly appetizing, with heavy warm-you-up stews along with steak and potatoes.

Up the street, Joe Quattrocchi and Brian Lesser, owners of The Back Bay Brewing Company, are to thank for Back Bay's **BARCODE**, a new restaurant/bar opening in mid-February in the former Division Sixteen space. The interior is a complete departure from the dark depths of its old incarnation, with an

airy British Colonial decor of polished wood, bamboo accents and palm trees. The menu, prepared by executive chef George Leu, will focus on French-Asian cuisine, instead of the burgers and fries combo Division Sixteen was famous for. *Barcode, 955 Boylston St., Boston (421-1818). White Star Tavern, 565 Boylston St., Boston (536-4477).*

Around Town

Putting 9-5

America's most unique golf tournament arrives in Boston this spring—but instead of ponds and trees for "hazards," this version uses water coolers and plants. Welcome to the world of office golf. Long-considered a perk relegated to the suits in corner offices, the sport has been marginalized by the **Glenlivet Office Putting Championship**. Open to all office workers, it will be held March 9 at the Westin Copley Place Hotel.

More than 128 companies are currently holding their in-office competitions to select the putters who will compete in the citywide finals. What does the game entail? Five holes—or upright whiskey glasses—and your typical office hazards—you know, such staples as the copier, cubicals—even the boss. To register, call 877-SINK-PUTT or visit *www.officeputting.com*. And remember, proper business attire is required on the course at all times.

WHITE STAR: WENDY MIMRAN

As the weather changes, the aromas of fresh baking Tandoori meats and breads will warm you while harvest fresh vegetables add their delicious flavors to our Master chef's exotic curries, soups, and savory stews. Come into the warmth!

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"Readers' Choice Award"
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Proper Bostonians

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

The Boston Lyric Opera's **Journey to Amarna 2000 Gala** was Jan. 22 at the Museum of Fine Arts. More than 450 guests—garbed in Egyptian attire and black tie—celebrated Boston's Egyptian season by partying in the MFA's special exhibit *Pharaohs of the Sun: Akhenaten, Nefertiti, Tutankhamen*. The BLO's Egyptian season is part of a collaboration that is bringing Egyptian-themed programs to five leading cultural organizations in Boston.

In addition to the BLO, the collaborating organizations include the Museum of Fine Arts, the Museum of Science, the Boston Ballet and the Wang Center.

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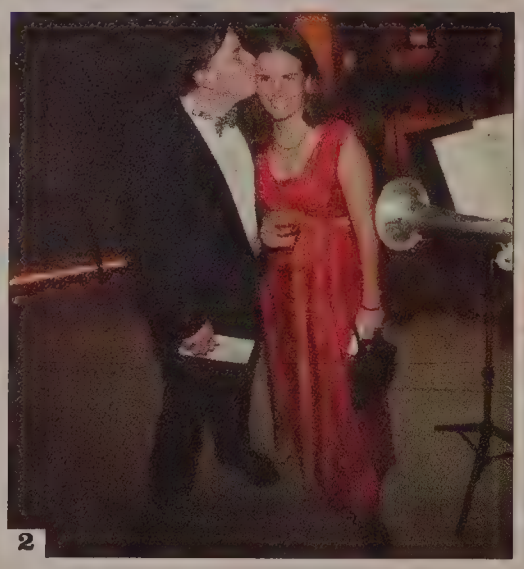
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1. **Arnold Zetcher**, president & CEO of Talbots, with his wife **Ellen**.
2. **Pip Barton**, president & CFO of Future Content, with his wife **Celina**.
3. **Christine Kusellas**, senior sales representative at Aventis Pharmaceutical, and **Steve Paxhia**, principal at Beacon Hill Strategic Solutions.
4. From left, **Janice Mancini Del Sesto**, general director of the Boston Lyric Opera, with independent scholar **Charlie Dickinson** and his wife **JoAnn**, vice president of the Opera Company.
5. From left, **Brigitte Bradford**, member of the board of governors for the MFA Museum School, **Nini Colmore**, major gifts officer at Boston University, and writer **Jeffrey Marshall**.
6. From left, **George Ballantyne**, regional manager at Sotheby's International Reality, and his wife **Hillery** with **Hod Irvine**, former chairman of the Opera Company.
7. **Amy Hochberg** (l), annual associate for the Boston Lyric Opera, and **Melanie Muradian**, artistic and production coordinator for the Boston Lyric Opera.
8. **Cathy Angelini**, regional manager of corporate accounts for Staples, and **Richard Deagazio**, president of Boston Capital.

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The Alliance of Women's Business & Professional Organizations held their annual networking event, **Success 2000**, at the Downtown Club, Jan. 25. More than 150 business women gathered after work to converse about business opportunities statewide. Proceeds benefited the Alliance, an association of women's business and professional organizations dedicated to increasing the economic power, influence and visibility of women. The operation represents more than 25,000 professional women statewide.

9

10

11

9. **Tiffanie Williams** (l), president of the Tiffanie Williams Company in Quincy, and **Cristen Moore**, financial advisor at Prudential.
10. **Kim Whelan** (l), owner of Flexible Resources Inc., and **Terri North**, owner of Weekenders USA Inc.
11. From left, **Athena Balouris Grover**, **Jennifer Bridges** and **Adrienne Granados**, respectively assistant director of programs and program managers for the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce.
12. **Jamy Buchanan** (l), president of the Alliance of Women's Business & Professional Organizations, and **Kristine Wolf**, account manager at the *Boston Business Journal*.

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DR. MUDGE GOES LEGIT

Renowned hacker starts a real business—@stake.

Talk about your mixed marriages! Doctor Mudge, the crown prince of hackerdom (along with his merry band of e-outlaws) is teaming up with some buttoned-down local execs to form @stake (*www.atstake.com*), a professional services firm. The mysterious Mudge is to be the VP of Research and Development for the new firm, which will "build comprehensive security architectures to minimize the impact of viruses, malicious attacks and other threats," according to company sources.

Faithful IMPROPER readers will remember Mudge as number 40 in our 1999 list of the 40 top Boston-based Internet mavens. The inclusion of Mudge along with well-acknowledged luminaries like Bob Metcalfe was a controversial decision, because Mudge has made something of a career out pissing off the high(tech) and mighty by telling the world how to break into computer systems. His organization, L0pht Heavy Industries, has a history of poking and prodding at other folks' software, discovering security holes that a more vicious subspecies of hacker might exploit—to steal credit-card information, for example.

Mudge claims that the L0pht published technical information on security problems because it discovered that software vendors were perfectly willing to leave their customers vulnerable—even after Mudge informed them of the security flaw. "Without us publishing the information on the Web, the vendors would just bury it," explains Mudge, "And the customers wouldn't even be aware that there was a problem."

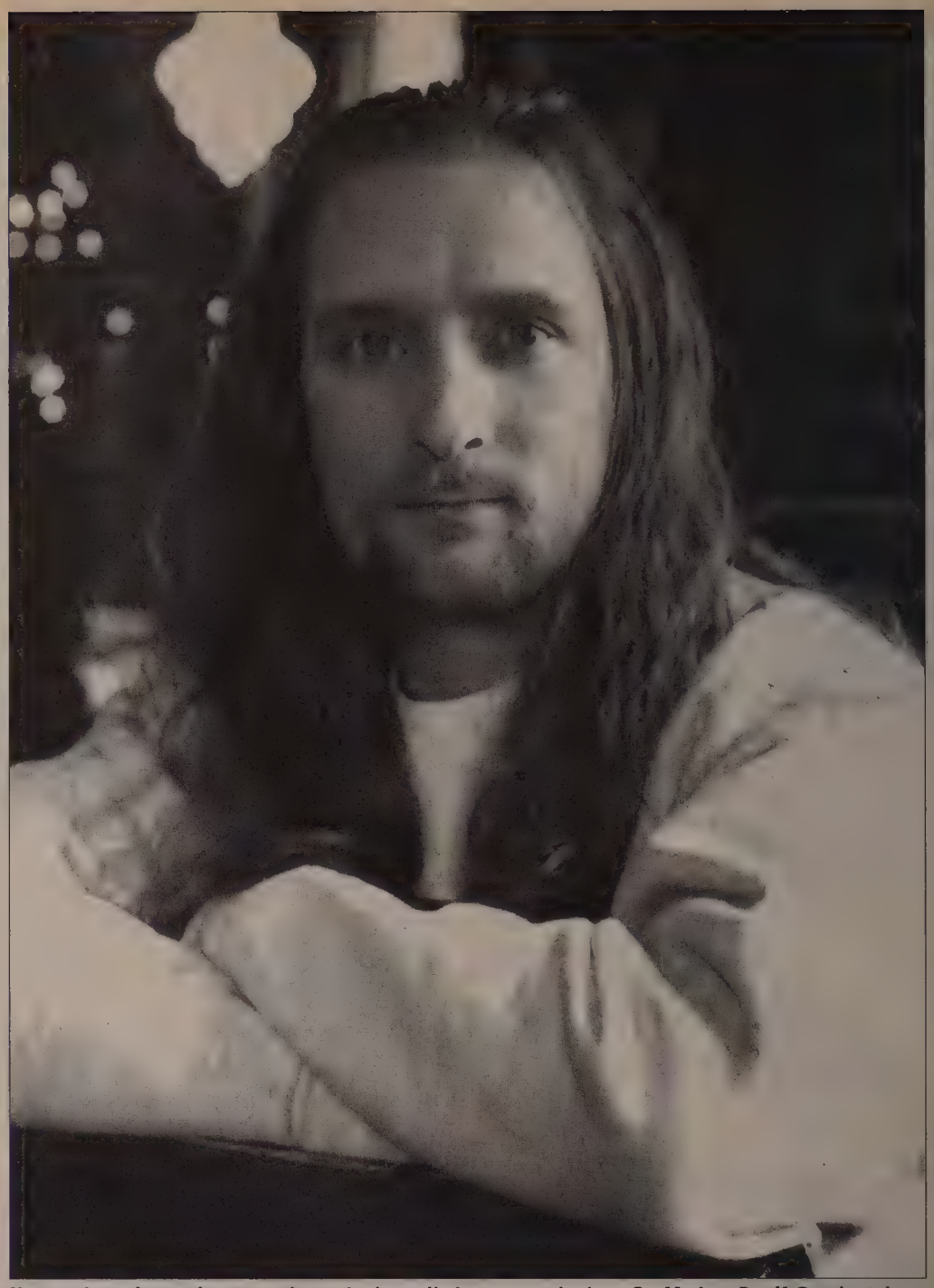
However, forcing big-shot companies like Microsoft to drop everything and fix security holes before Internet villains could exploit them didn't exactly make Mudge into Mr. Popularity. The Internet-will-change-the-world crowd did not exactly break into applause when Mudge told Congress that the Internet was so fragile that he and his pals could bring the whole thing crashing down in about "half an hour."

In fact, it's because of the furor surrounding his activities that Mudge keeps his true identity secret. Rumor has it that Mudge, far from being a former MIT lab rat, is actually a student at a "major Boston-based school of music." With his hair down past his shoulders, Mudge certainly looks more like a musician than a computer geek. In fact, Mudge, accompanied by a foxy cybergroupie, was clearly the coolest dude at the IMPROPER Internet party at Metcalfe's Back Bay town house. "I'm into the hacking for the chicks," he jokes.

The Internet-will-change-the-world crowd did not exactly break into applause when Mudge told Congress that the Internet was so fragile that he and his pals could bring the whole thing crashing down in about "half an hour."

The @stake venture has attracted a crowd of local luminaries, including former MIT superstar Dr. Daniel Geer (chief technology officer), former Forrester Research security guru Ted Julian (VP of marketing and business development), and former Cambridge Technology Partners manager Dr. Phil Tams (VP of consulting and operations). But the biggest surprise in the all-star line-up, however, is the firm's new chairman, John Rando.

Rando used to be VP of services at Digital Equipment Corporation, where "he controlled $6 billion in yearly revenue," according to Eric Rocco, senior analyst at market research firm Dataquest's Lowell-based IT Services group, who adds that Rando is considered "a top-notch industry executive." Rando was known at DEC as the one manager who could manage to get things done inside what was probably the most Byzantine management structure since, well, Byzantium.



He may be going mainstream, but nobody really knows much about Dr. Mudge. But if @stake takes off, that could change.

Still, Rando isn't exactly the kind of guy you'd expect to find hanging out with Mudge and his tattooed and body-pierced crew, any more than you'd expect, for example, to find Tony Bennett jamming with Marilyn Manson. Let's face it, for a guy like Rando, a walk on the wild side is taking an afternoon off to play a round of golf.

Mudge admits that he was a bit uneasy when he met Rando. "A little voice inside me said 'suit, uh oh, suit.'" But Mudge claims that Rando understood the L0pht concept very quickly, and Mudge feels confident that the relationship will work well. Mudge points out that Rando's industry credibility will prove useful, especially when working through the relationship problems that occur when one company is in the business of criticizing the work of another.

Ultimately, Mudge believes that security problems are dangerous and need to be fixed, and that forming a company with industry heavyweights is the best way to ensure that his "gray-hat" hackers have a positive impact on the world. In any case, Mudge is used to dealing with suits. He was recently seen with Vice President Al Gore, who reportedly joked with Mudge about how he (Gore) had invented the Internet.

Mudge has no plans to drop the "Mudge" pseudonym and go by his real name. "I don't think it's a publicity ploy," he explains, pointing out that "when you're explaining security ramifications it's nice to be able to stand up and not worry about companies harassing you." He knows of several instances where employees reporting security problems were squelched by their management at the insistence of the vendors who sold the company the software. Presumably one of Rando's roles will be taking the heat when Mudge and his crew trample on toes.

There may be another reason that Mudge is hanging onto the pseudonym, though. The fact that few know his true identity would give Mudge the ability to slip quietly into the woodwork, if for some reason the @stake venture doesn't work out. If that happens, who knows? Maybe next time he surfaces we'll find him jamming with Tony Bennett. IB

Geoffrey James (*geoffjames@improper.com*) is the author of numerous business books, as well as the co-host of Funny Business, heard Saturday nights from 10-12pm on WRKO, AM 680.

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Impolitic BY CRAIG SANDLER

ONWARD AND OUTWARD?

If Dubbya wins the nomination, he may take Argeo with him.

The New Hampshire endgame played itself out last week, and looking ahead to the Massachusetts primary next month, Paul Cellucci must be wound as tight as the candidates were last Tuesday night. Wags are saying he wants a job in the Bush administration—and Cellucci has taken care to send the clear signal that he's interested.

Is he giving up some standing with his constituents by doing this? Woah. He really must be hoping for a job offer down the line.

But is he really?

What a super way to bolster your re-election prospects—as governor I mean: get an offer from the president-elect, turn it down, then make a speech in which you tell your people how much more the state means to you than a mere Cabinet-level post in Washington.

But I don't think so. Cellucci has been friends with the Bush family for years and even earned a mention in Bush-the-Senior's recent book. The Cellucci-Bush friendship was a rare source of discomfort between the then-lieutenant governor and his boss, Bill Weld, in the '90s: Weld was a maverick in the Bush GOP, while Cellucci wanted to stay loyal to the party standard bearer.

Once Cellucci had the state to himself—and once it became clear that Bush-the-Lesser wanted to run for the White House—Cellucci started going all out for George W. The Texas governor has declared Massachusetts one of 12 "battleground" states nationally; Republicans think they can take it in the election. Cellucci wants to be able to say he was the principal reason for the GOP being able to snag the state.

State Sen. Richard Tisei (R-Wakefield) sent "20 or 30 people" to New Hampshire to help out Bush—and Cellucci.

Politics is organized like war, with a hierarchical command-and-control system. (Oh boy, how the Internet could change that!) That system has been fully activated in Massachusetts for months, with Cellucci at the top. He's essentially told the lieutenants who got him elected to put out or get out.

House Minority Leader Francis Marini, for example, went to New Hampshire nearly every weekend in January. And he doesn't list skiing among his major interests.

"I think a lot of people recognize that is really important to the governor and are deferring to him on this," said Republican State Sen. Richard Tisei of Wakefield, who's been around a long time and plays straight.

"The governor asked me to send volunteers to New Hampshire, so I started calling my area," Tisei said. "I got called by somebody coordinating the Bush campaign within my district to see who we could get to go up." Tisei, who represents Melrose, Wakefield, Malden, Stoneham and Reading, estimates he called 20 or 30 people from his old campaigns. "It was good to reconnect with people I hadn't talked to in a while," he said. Where did they go? Not to the Bahamas, that's for sure.

Meanwhile, astute readers are asking, where's John McCain in all this? And astute readers are answering their own question: almost nowhere—yet. It's not uncommon to find Republicans who like McCain and aren't saying so. That's how important the Massachusetts primary is to Cellucci.

McCain's insurgency has gained strength the whole time the Massachusetts governor's been aiding Bush. The governor has made it impossible to find elected Republicans for McCain, but that's hardly the same thing as making it impossible to beat Bush.

The Cellucci-led Republicans think they're mocked now, but if McCain takes the state, Ronald Reagan's famous phrase will apply: "You ain't seen nothing yet." iB

Craig Sandler is co-owner of the State House News Service.

CHRISTINA CATURANO

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Cheryl Bentyne

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Chanteuse Cheryl Bentyne, 46, was born and raised in Washington state, part of a musical family. When she was 13, she began singing with her father's swing band, and upon graduation from high school, she moved to Seattle and joined the New Deal Rhythm Band. Four years later, a promoter and talent agent convinced her to try a solo career, and she moved to Los Angeles in 1977, performing at venues like the Troubador. In 1979, she was invited to audition for Manhattan Transfer—the phenomenally successful four-person vocal group that had been founded in 1972. Their success and her subsequent solo efforts have earned her nine Grammy awards, and a nomination this year in the country and western category. On Feb. 18-20, she will bring her cabaret show, "Dreaming of Mister Porter," to Les Zygomates Wine Bar and Bistro. She lives in Sudbury with her husband, pianist/arranger Corey Allen, and their daughter, Zoe.

Jonathan Soroff: *First of all, what's a Grammy-winner doing living in Sudbury?*
Cheryl Bentyne: Gettin' some peace and quiet. I lived in LA 20 years. I lived through an earthquake, a drive-by, the prostitutes working their way up to where we lived, and finally we said, "What are we doing here?" We only had a handful of friends, and my husband is from here, so we moved.
JS: *What do your neighbors make of you?*
CB: They're fabulous, unlike LA. I've made more loyal, supportive friends here in four years than in 20 years in LA. It just sucks out there.
JS: *How often do people recognize you?*
CB: Not very often. It's not a big deal here. In New York, it happens more often, and I'm invariably looking like a schlub.
JS: *Where do you keep your Grammys?*
CB: We turned our dining room into a music room and they're sittin' there lookin' at me right now.
JS: *Stupidest song lyric you ever had to sing?*
CB: (Laughs) If I say what I really think, my group'll kill me, but it'd have to be, "Trickle, trickle, splash, splash. Tell me how long will this rain last." That's the silliest, and we have to do that song a lot.
JS: *Does your daughter like your music?*
CB: Yes, although I haven't pushed it too hard. I don't wanna be one of those creepy show-biz mothers.
JS: *Best part of doing cabaret?*
CB: I'm still new at it, but I guess that I get to sing the kind of music that's thrilling to me, and it's theatrical. I have a theatrical bent.
JS: *Worst part?*
CB: Hmmm...that there aren't enough cabarets around.
JS: *Who's your idol?*
CB: Lately, it's Frances Faye. She was, in her time, the ultimate lounge singer. When all the other performers in Vegas finished their gigs, they'd come to see her late show. She was outrageous—an openly gay woman, ugly as a dog, hysterically funny, bawdy, and she was an incredible performer. I wish I had some of what she had.
JS: *Whose version of "Another Night in Tunisia" is better—yours or Chaka Khan's?*
CB: Oh my God. Her version of the phone book is the best. She's an idol of mine. She did a cut on one of our CDs, and I was in the studio with her. The sweetest woman. She was holding a cappuccino and a cigarette, and when she sang, the top of her head blew off.
JS: *You've performed with Bobby McFerrin, James Taylor, Bette Midler, Laura Nyro, Phil Collins, Smoky Robinson. Who was the coolest?*
CB: All of them, although I didn't get to work in person with each of them. But for me, it's probably Ella [Fitzgerald]. And Tony Bennett.
JS: *How do you feel about the current swing music craze?*
CB: What's not to love? It's a little bit ersatz swing, but that's OK. It's like grunge swing. Way fun.
JS: *Your students at Berklee—are they in awe of you?*
CB: A few of 'em might be, but a lot of 'em don't have a clue who I am. They go, "Oh, have you ever performed?" And I say, "Well, yes. I've been onstage quite a bit."
JS: *You did a track for the* Dick Tracy *soundtrack but it never made it into the movie?*
CB: It was a last-minute thing. I guess Warren Beatty didn't like this one song that Madonna did, and he called us in.
JS: *You were dubbing for Madonna?!?*
CB: I guess so, and he produced us. It was hysterical. He was fetching coffee for us...
JS: *You do mostly '30s, '40s and '50s style music. Were you born at the wrong time?*
CB: Yes, definitely. I'm not and never have claimed to have the chops for being a pop singer. It was hard for me at first. I was doing old tunes, and I'd admit that I didn't really like pop music. My manager looked at me like, "Shut up, Cheryl," but it's not something I relate to and I don't do it well.
JS: *If your voice was an instrument, what would it be?*
CB: Clarinet. That's what my father played, and it's where the range of my voice is.
JS: *You've played places like the Baked Potato and the Blah-Blah Cafe. Favorite name for a jazz club?*
CB: I think the Blah-Blah Cafe is the greatest name ever.
JS: *Ever forget the lyrics to a song and cover up with a lot of "blah blah, zeh-zeh?"*
CB: Not really, but the older I get, the harder it is to learn new lyrics. I think that part of my brain is maxed out.
JS: *Worst place you ever performed?*
CB: There've been a few. When we do a corporate date or a convention, sometimes that's a nightmare. People leave, or they don't care, or they're drunk, or nobody claps. Those are gut-wrenching.
JS: *There's a group called Real Group, whose Web site bills them as "The Swedish version of Manhattan Transfer, only 100 times better." Any comment?*
CB: Those little shits! No, I can guarantee that didn't come from their mouths. They're fabulous—they're wonderful.
JS: *Would you describe Manhattan Transfer as an American version of ABBA, only 100 times better?*
CB: (Laughs) Well, we dress better at least.
JS: *You were named best vocal group for an entire decade 1980-90 by the* Playboy *Jazz Poll. So people really do read it for the articles.*
CB: Hefner's a big jazz fan, and we've played for him a lot. We get invitations to his parties. It's funny, here in Sudbury I get invitations to the Playboy mansion that say "lingerie only."
JS: *It's true. One of your partners—Alan Paul—claims a Jerry Lewis recording as one of his early musical influences. Isn't that a little scary?*
CB: The vocal stylings of Jerry Lewis! Y'know, he does have one record of early stuff that's pretty entertaining: "Blah, blah, hey, lady! Misses Lady!"
JS: *In 1998, you were inducted into the Vocal Group Hall of Fame in Sharon, Pa.? Where the hell is that, and what'd you get?*
CB: I don't know; we didn't quite get there, but it's a great honor, and we got a medal, and a certificate. Now we have to try and live up to it.
JS: *So who would win in a fist fight: Sha-Na-Na or those guys who sing "Where in the World is Carmen San Diego?"*
CB: (Laughs) I love the Carmen San Diego guys, but Sha-Na-Na? There's a Jewish version of them around now—Rosh Ha-Sha-Na-Na.
JS: *One last question—if you could play God, who would you choose to never have existed: Mariah Carey or Celine Dion?*
CB: There's no third choice?
JS: *How about Whitney Houston?*
CB: Well, all I'll say is that Celine can sing her butt off. And you're cruel. **iB**

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Ordinary people, not athletes, doing these Rides? Impossible.

In fact, most have never done anything like this in their lives. Many don't even own bikes when they register. It's not a race. It's not competitive. It's cooperative. You ride at your own pace, as quickly or as leisurely as you like. Grandmothers do the Ride. Whole families. People who are HIV-positive, who've lost loved ones to AIDS, and people who've always wanted to break out of their predictable shell into something daring and heroic.

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I don't think I could even ride 50 miles. 275 miles? Impossible.

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Sounds impossible. I'll have to think about it...

The decision will never get easier. Nothing's going to change three days from now. The biggest difference between people who do the Ride and those who don't is that people who do the Ride register. Nothing magical. They just make the phone call. Instead of being on the fence, they're going out on training rides. Today could be the day one phone call opens up a whole new chapter in your life. And the life of someone living with AIDS. Call now, to register—or to get a free, full-color brochure.

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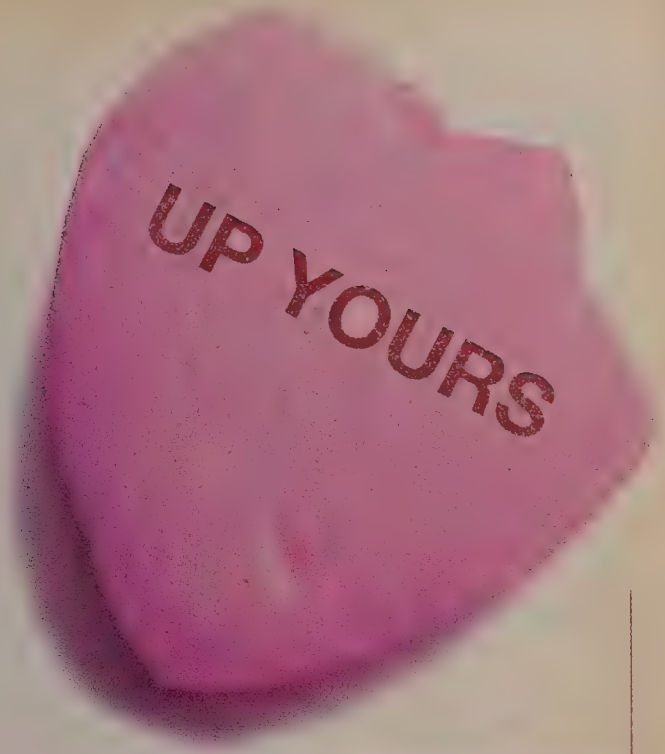

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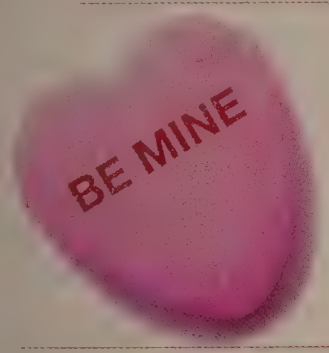


Romantics celebrate it. Cynics mock it. Whichever way you lean, it's hard to ignore matters of the heart come Valentine's Day.

As Boston's own Peter Wolf aptly put it: Love Stinks. Sadly, this is often the case. So this year, while Hallmark and Godiva are raking in loot from sappy lovers, THE IMPROPER offers a Valentine's Day guide for those Bostonians sick of broken, mangled hearts, sick of mush and marketing. Yes, we're looking at the flip side of love with a story on break-ups and divorces. And for readers looking to get in on the splitsville scene, we've got tips galore—where to nix your mate, what music to play. Of course we can't neglect the hopeless romantics out there who remain sanguine on the subject of love. For this anachronistic lot, we offer a guide to romantic winter getaways in Vermont, a sizzling lingerie fashion section and a Valentine's Day gift guide—because contrary to those Liverpudlians' silly lyrics, money *can* buy you love (or you can at least give it a good ol' capitalist try). Whether you're breaking up, making up or wallowing in the misery of it all, we've got you covered. Read on.

MICHAEL WEBER

what's LOVE got to do with it?

OFTEN, NOT A WHOLE HELL OF A LOT

MUSINGS ON DIVORCE, POLITICS, FAME—AND DIRTY LAUNDRY

by Richard Manning

What's love got to do with it?
What's love, but a second-hand emotion?
What's love got to do with it?
Who needs a heart
When a heart can be broken?

—Tina Turner

Tina Turner should know. Back when they were known as the duo of Ike and Tina Turner in the '60s —before Tina became the best single set of legs and lungs ever to strut a stage—Ike spent a lot of his time smacking Tina around. Tina opted out, and who has ever heard of Ike Turner since?

What does love got to do with it?

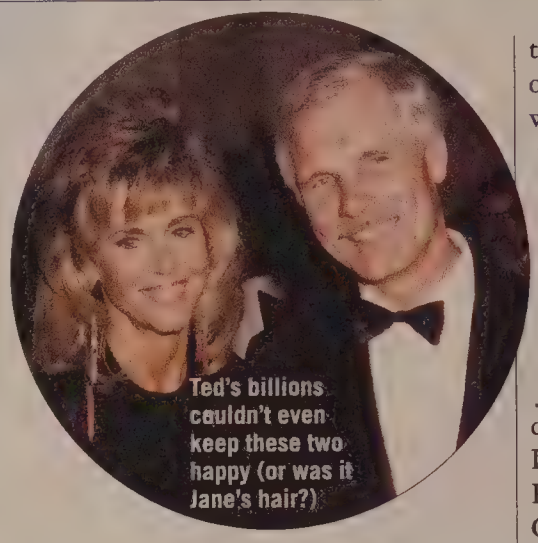
England's King Henry VIII married his older brother's widow Catherine of Aragon and by all accounts they had a pretty good life together. Kiss-me-Kate couldn't come up with a male heir, though, and Hank sank her.

What's politics got to do with it?

A whole hell of a lot. Ask Joan Bennett Kennedy. She endured philanderings by her husband, permanent Massachusetts Sen. Ted Kennedy, for years. The goings-on included the disaster at Chappaquiddick, and even then she stuck with him.

But when Joan started having alchohol-related problems of her own (spouse-induced?), the permanent senator dropped her like a hot potato—or like a bad habit.

Speaking of Kennedys and divorce, there's always the question of why not sooner—or why not? Family patriarch Joseph



P. Kennedy's wife Rose inspired Tammy Wynette to compose "Stand By Your Man" for spending 104 years with old Joe as he gallivanted around with the likes of Gloria Swanson for most of his middle years. But perhaps revenge came in the second generation when his grandson and namesake, the former congressman from Allston-Brighton, got his clock cleaned by his former wife, Sheila. Her 1997 book on their messy divorce—how he wanted the marriage annulled by the Catholic Church even though twin boys seemed to give ample evidence that the union had been consummated—landed young Joe's 1998 gubernatorial aspirations in the toilet. He's now in private practice, as they say.

So, what's politics got to do with it?

The other side of the coin was written by the late Paul Tsongas. In 1978 the Lowell Democrat ran against incumbent Republican Senator Ed Brooke, the first African-American elected to the Senate since Reconstruction. Brooke had spent much of the previous year fending off charges from his ex-wife, Remigia, that he'd philandered and worse. Tsongas won election over Brooke without once raising the issue of the incumbent's fooling around on the side.

Occasionally, divorce is a blessing on politics. Had Marjorie Claprood not divorced during her political career, would she have ever been able to team up with John Silber in the 1990 gubernatorial campaign? We would never have had the Democratic ticket of "Claprood and Just Plain Rude." And the Barney Frank-Steven Gobie divorce? It rocked Frank out of complacency on Capitol Hill and into the front ranks on the impeachment hearings a year ago, where he was the only voice of intelligence discernible within 500 miles of point zero. Which reminds us, why aren't Bill and Hillary divorced yet?

What's double career paths got to do with it? Plenty.

Bob Lobel of the conspiratorial gaze and Susan Wornick of the breathless consumer report were married once. Now they're still married, but to other people.

Chet and Nat got the headlines last month when they announced they were splitting. But hey, talk about bringing your work home with you—especially when you don't get home until probably one in the morning.

What's course venality got to do with it? They were never formally married, but thirty years ago Yale undergraduate Joyce Maynard persuaded reclusive (and divorced) author J.D. Salinger to take her in to darn his socks, wash his underwear and toast his buns. They split after three years together. But then last year Maynard, needing a couple of nickels to rub together, wrote a tell-all book that revolted intelligent readers and left the rest of us invoking Tina Turner.

What's being famous got to do with it?

A divorced Henry Ford II essentially kept *Life* magazine in business through the '60s with his jet-setting around the Mediterranean with other divorcees. Lee Majors and Farrah Fawcett kept *People* magazine in business during its earliest years. And now that Ted Turner is a wholly owned subsidiary of Time-Warner? Jane Fonda went from Roger Vadim to flavor-of-the-month Tom Hayden, state legislator in California, to Turner. And what does she have to show for it? Probably just her costume from her forgettable 1967 film Barbarella.

Jane got her own Tomahawk chop, and now she'll have to watch Atlanta Braves games on TV.

What's distance got to do with it?

Nelson Mandela spent more than a quarter century in jail in South Africa while his wife, Winnie, played the role of the chaste wife. During that time, well... let's just say she didn't get her moniker 'Mama Africa' just for being a figurehead. Nelson got out of jail, lived with Winnie in Soweto for a while, but when he figured out she was running her own style of thuggery mafia in the townships, Nelson dropped her faster than you could sing "Nkosa Sikelel-i Afrika" He is now married to the widow of the former president of neighboring Mozambique.

What does love have to do with it? iB

The lost love parade: Marjorie Claprood grins and bears it; Nelson and Winnie in better days; Nat and Chet show their true feelings; Ted has an excuse for everything; Warnick on her own; the younger trouble-making Kennedy; Tina, solo.

MANDELA: GREG MARINOVICH/NEWSMAKERS. TURNER & FONDA: STEVE ALLEN/NEWSMAKERS. TINA TURNER: HERB RITTS

50 Ways to Lose your Lover

SPLITSVILLE SONGS TO DRIVE THE POINT HOME

by Erin Hagedorn

Songs of Heartbreak

1. **PATSY CLINE** **Three Cigarettes in an Ashtray**

This self-pitying ditty tells of the heartbreak of a love triangle. And what better metaphor than watching love go up in cigarette smoke?

2. **RAY CHARLES** **Drown in my Own Tears**
Genuine pathetic-ness at its finest—a must for the just-been-dumped. His soulful, rough voice makes you realize that there's nothing shameful about sobbing, snot-running lovelorn dementia.

3. **FRANK SINATRA** **In the Wee Small Hours of the Morning**
This one is about trying to keep it together. The melancholy in his songs can do wonders for the heartsick.

4. **ROY ORIBSON** **Crying**
No one knows how it feels to lose in love quite like the master of heartbroken ballads—this melodrama is a brooding on-the-edge-of-losing-it, "I'm sad and it sucks" song.

5. **OTIS REDDING** **These Arms of Mine**
Otis is the (soul) man on your (break-up) scene. His poignant "Mr. Pitiful" also does the trick.

Rot in Hell Songs

1. **LIZ PHAIR** **Fuck and Run**
When it comes to "I blame you" songs with attitude, nothing compares to the infamous indie rocker girl with a dirty mouth.

2. **JOHNNY CASH** **Delia's Gone**
The world weary Man in Black doesn't stop at love-gone-wrong lamentations, Johnny's the master of love-gone-murderously psychotic. You gotta admire any guy who repeatedly sings about blowing away his woman.

3. **DESCENDENTS** **Clean Sheets**
"Those sheets are dirty and so are you..." That pretty much sums up how these punk rockers lay it on the line.

4. **HANK WILLIAMS** **My Love for You Has Turned to Hate**
No one says "get out of my life" quite like the ever-understated yodeller. Plus, even if you've never heard the song, you can't beat the title .

5. **NANCY SINATRA/OPERATION IVY** **These Boots are Made for Walking**
The skacore Op. Ivy packs more punch than Nancy's version, but both include the zinger: "You keep lyin' when you oughta be truthin'."

Dumping Grounds

WHERE TO BREAK IT OFF AROUND TOWN by Rachel Strutt

Logan Airport

The airport ditcheroo is especially recommended for those fond of melodrama. Secretly purchase a one-way ticket to Manila or some such distant locale. Next, tell your cloyingly faithful lover you'd like to watch planes take-off at Logan for the sheer thrill and romance of it all. Once there, make a break for it and jump through the metal detector with your ticket and passport in hand.

Symphony Hall

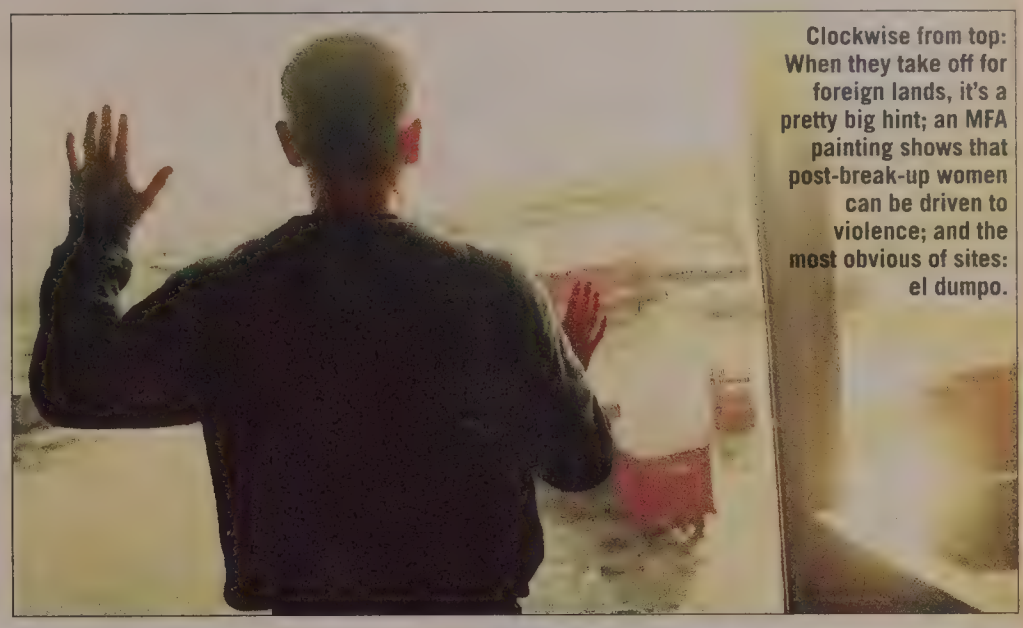
Get tickets for Benjamin Britten's War Requiem (Feb 24- 29 at the BSO). This relentlessly bleak symphony is sure to drive the point home: Your relationship is dead.

Your Computer

Why trek out in the cold to see your soon-to-be-nixed mate, when you can sever things cyber-style? Particularly popular with the spineless and the lazy, this technique is blissfully quick and requires no transportion: Simply log on and inform your lover that you're logging off—for good.

The Dump

The ideal location for nixing dullards struggling with the concept of rejection. This spot may present a problem, however, if you don't have a car as



Clockwise from top: When they take off for foreign lands, it's a pretty big hint; an MFA painting shows that post-break-up women can be driven to violence; and the most obvious of sites: el dumpo.

Boston trash is carted out to Western Mass. Your street's trash night, however, provides an option.

The Museum of Fine Arts

A dump site for women with eyes on another man. Lead your sorry mate to the Koch Gallery, and park him in front of *Herodias with the Head of John the Baptist* (c.1625), a gruesome work by Francesco del Cairo. Then relate the biblical tale depicted before you, which goes something like this: Herodias was enraged with John the Baptist for preaching against her marriage to Herod, the brother of her deceased husband. So she instructed her dutiful daughter Salome to bring her the head of John. Once Herodias is presented the head, she proceeds to pierce the tongue with needles and lock it a chest. End of story. Then tell your lover you've found someone new—and you're hoping this doesn't present a problem, given your violent streak and all.

Get Over It

TIPS AND SOURCES TO HELP YOU MOVE ON

by Julie Short

You broke up with him/her six months ago, and you're still wearing black? What's wrong with you? It's time to get over it."How?" you sniffle into your soggy tissue. Here's a start—below is a list of courses designed to help you move on.

For divorcees

Empowerment in Divorce: A Course for Women at the Cambridge Center for Adult Education. Isabella Jancourtz, author of *The Massachusetts Woman's Divorce Handbook*, teaches this course on emotional, social and legal survival skills for women. *Feb. 26, 9am-12pm. $31.*

For Internet start-up geeks

How to Be Charming at the Boston Center for Adult Education. Create an everlasting impression by learning to approach people gracefully, converse artfully and flirt enchantingly. *Feb. 25, 6:30-9:30pm. $37.*

For those who can't get beyond a one-night stand

Create a Dynamic Relationship: Love, Sex and Intimacy at the Cambridge Center for Adult Education. How does "I'm crazy about you!" change to "You're driving me crazy!"? This workshop is for couples and singles who want to learn to use the powerful energies of emotion, sex and spirit to find and create a loving, passionate relationship. *Feb. 13, 2-5pm. $40.*

For wall flowers

You Just Don't Get It: How to Communicate With the Opposite Sex at the Boston Center for Adult Education. Learn the key to successful communication, including the two most damaging words and the four qualities every relationship needs to succeed. *Feb. 16, 6-8pm. $55.*

For ring-seekers

Finding the Love You Want at the Brookline Adult & Community Education Program. Learn what constitutes a healthy relationship and master the techniques and communication skills that reduce tension and promote a more nurturing relationship. *March 23, 7:30-9:30 (three classes). $65.*

Where to go

Boston Center for Adult Education
5 Commonwealth Ave.,
Boston (267-4430).
Cambridge Center for Adult Education
42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789).
Brookline Adult & Community Education Program,
Brookline (730-2700).

AIRPORT: WENDY MIMRAN; DUMP, GET OVER IT: PHOTODISC

love alchemy

COMBINE AND APPLY THE FOLLOWING PRODUCTS WITH CAUTION.

Photograph by Michael Weber

Yves Saint Laurent Baby Doll perfume, $69; **Vivienne Westwood Boudoir perfume**, $67; **Candle**, $30. Saks Fifth Avenue, Prudential Center, Boston, 262-8500. • **Rings**, $170 each. Dimitry Popov Design, 12 Commonwealth Ave., Swampscott, MA (781) 581-1259. • **Purification Spell Mix and Love Spell Mix**, from "Attract a Lover" kit, which also includes a candle, necklace, love coals and instructions, $25; **Kama Sutra Earthly Delights Collection**, includes creams, oils and powders, all of which are edible, $85. Eros Boutique, 581 A Tremont St., Boston (425-0345), erosboutique.com. • **Four champagne truffles**, $7.50; **chocolate candy heart**, $3. Teuscher, 230 Newbury St., Boston (536-1922). • **Shawl by Nusantara**, $225. The Shop at the Union, 356 Boylston St., Boston (536-5651).

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The Boston Globe

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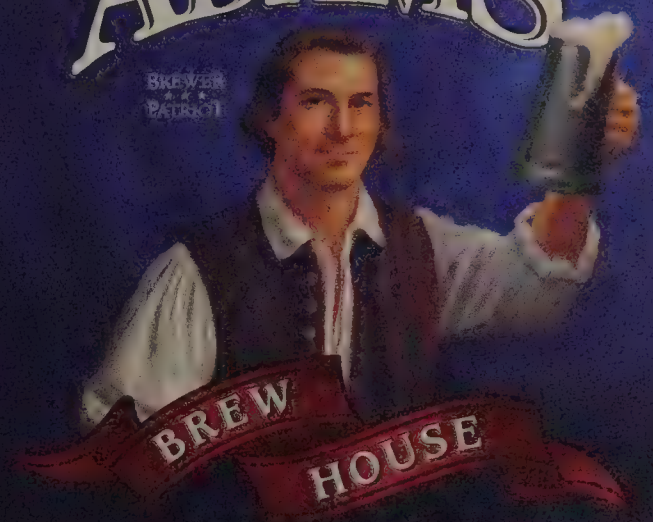

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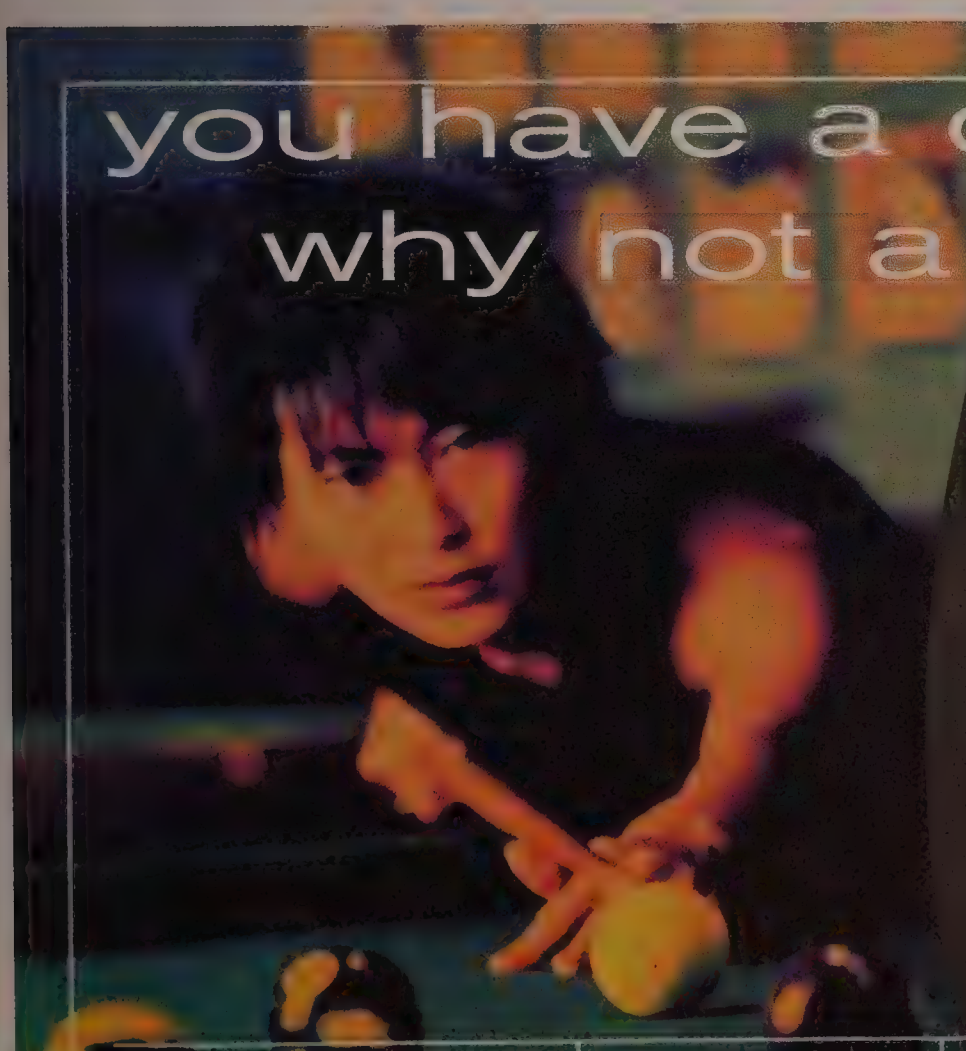

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exotica

WEAR NEXT TO NOTHING FOR A VERY WARM VALENTINE'S DAY

Fashion by Mary Mobile-King • Photographs by Beth Schneckenburger • Shot on location at Mohr & McPherson

LEFT: Lise Charmel lavender lace bra, $148; matching panty, $114; both from Top Drawer. Milford gray velvet chair, Kyber Collection rug, carved Indian screen.

RIGHT: Florentyna lace bra, $72; matching panty, $70; both from Top Drawer. Hand-carved Indonesian bed; linens by Luxe at Mohr & McPherson; Chowki table; vegetable-dyed Pakistan Hevis Rug.

LEFT PAGE Monica Malay burgundy chemise, $224; matching robe, $244; both from Top Drawer. Hand-carved Shesham wood platform bed from India; linens by Luxe at Mohr & McPherson

THIS PAGE Etincelle black bodysuit, $218; from Top Drawer. Lillian August Falcon Manor couch; Oushak Collection rug.

WHO WHAT WHERE

TOP DRAWER
164 Newbury St.
Boston
267-7001

MOHR & MCPHERSON
81 Arlington St.
Boston
338-1283
281/290 Concord Ave.
Cambridge
354-6662

MODEL
Terese/CLICK

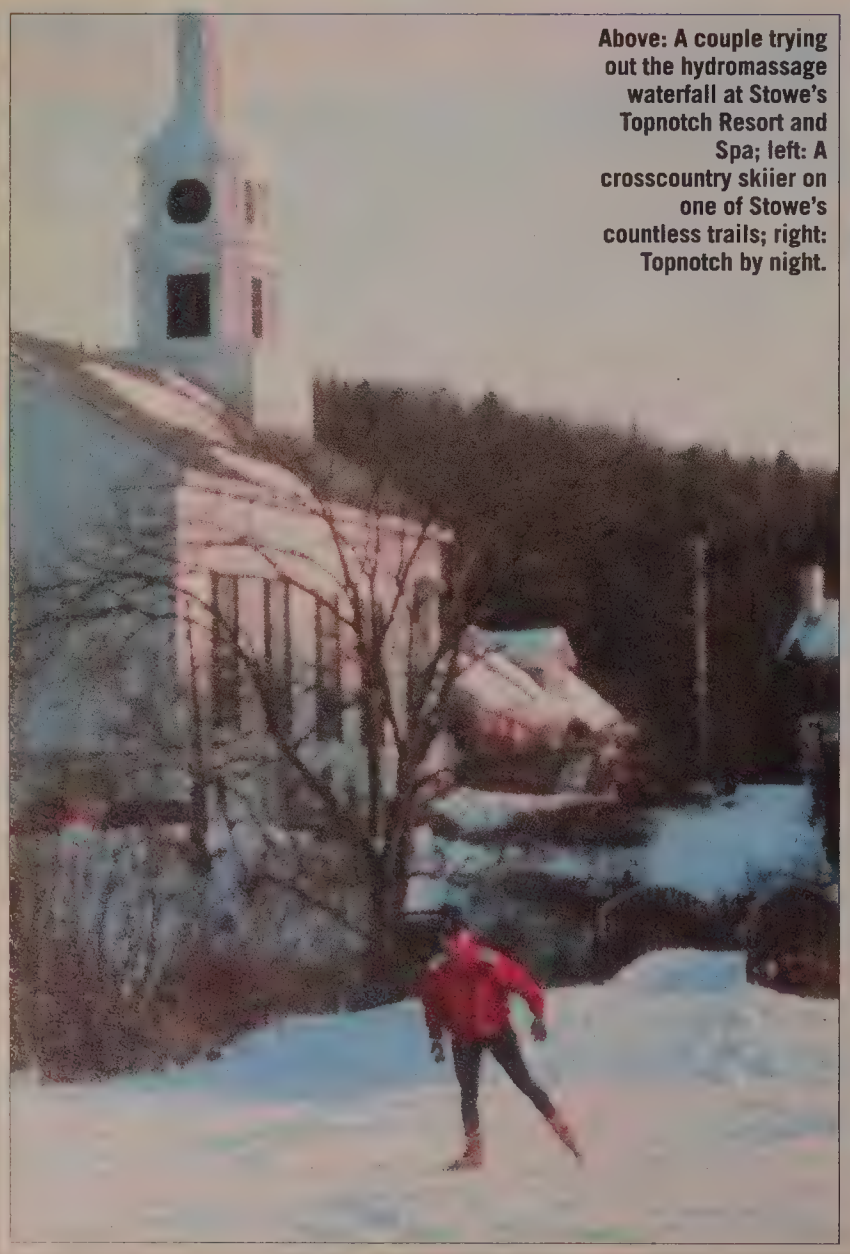
PHOTO ASSISTANTS:
Kristy Katz, Annegret Hilse

HAIR AND MAKEUP
TEAM

STYLIST
Jessika Goranson/TEAM

SPECIAL THANKS
Rebecca Kyrouac
Seth McNally

AKI LUXE



Above: A couple trying out the hydromassage waterfall at Stowe's Topnotch Resort and Spa; left: A crosscountry skiier on one of Stowe's countless trails; right: Topnotch by night.

OUR SOCIAL COLUMNIST TESTS OUT VERMONT'S MOST LAVISH RESORTS AND INNS—MASSAGES, VEUVE CLIQUOT, ROARING FIRES—POOR BOY.

by jonathan soroff

Hey, you. Pssst! Over here. I wanna tell you something. Let's keep it between us, though—our little secret, OK? You don't have to fly out west to places like Aspen or Sun Valley to have the ultimate in luxurious ski vacations. In fact, you don't have to go any further than Vermont.

I know what you're thinking: "Yeah, right. A scene as glam as Little Nell's, in a state best known for cheddar cheese and church steeples? I doubt it." Well, think again. That wedge-shaped state between New York and New Hampshire has more going for it than just green license plates.

Granted, ski conditions in New England are better known for midnight-on-a-witch's-tit cold and death cookies dotting the slopes, rather than endless stretches of pristine powder under sunny skies. Nobody's figured out a way to do much about that yet. But in every other respect—accommodations, food, wine, and other amenities—the Green Mountain State boasts several inns that rival, and even surpass, the best the West has to offer. Better still, they're all within a scenic four-hour drive from Boston, so you don't have to sit on a cramped plane eating stale peanuts only to learn that your skis are back on the tarmac at Logan. Like chi-chi resorts in the Rockies, they all boast ample opportunity for self-indulgence and plenty of other diversions for anyone who doesn't ski, or just doesn't feel like it. And when you consider the maple syrup factor, it's a no-brainer.

So you choose: dealing with the horrors of the Denver airport, just to spend time with some surgically enhanced phonies from New York and Hollywood, or getting in your car for a leisurely cruise through spectacular scenery, and experiencing some first-class pampering, New England style.

TWIN FARMS
Inn-comparable

Heaven does exist. In fact, it's called Twin Farms, and it's located in Barnard, a little town eight miles outside of Woodstock.

The n'est plus ultra of country inns, it's a self-contained nirvana consisting of 300 picture-perfect acres and accommodating no more than 28 guests at a time.

Comprised of a main house built in 1795 (which contains the dining rooms, library, card room and four guest rooms), a lodge (housing two suites), a gym and pub complex, a traditional Japanese bathhouse, and eight free-standing cottages that dot the property, it's an interior decorator's wet dream. And no wonder. It was designed by the legendary Jed Johnson (who died in the TWA Flight 800 crash), and it was his last major project, in a career that included Andy Warhol's factory. Each room has a whimsical theme: Orchard cottage is Adirondack style, while Woods recalls a Tuscan villa. Barn is a traditional, Scandinavian-style gambrel. Perch—decorated with a fish motif—overlooks a stream leading

COURTESY OF TOPNOTCH (3)

into a beaver pond, and Meadow is done up like a Moroccan palace—complete with tented ceiling, moucharaby screens, terra-cotta floors, a tiled fireplace, dizzyingly bright fabrics and mirrored pillows.

The feast for the eyes doesn't end there, either. Twin Farms' owner—an eccentric Hawaiian newspaper magnate with the unlikely name of Thurston Twigg-Smith—is one of the world's top contemporary art collectors. Consequently, both the common areas and guest rooms are hung with paintings by such modern masters as Cy Twombly, David Hockney, Roy Lichtenstein, Frank Stella and Rufino Tamayo. Even in the gym, guests find themselves working out surrounded by William Wegman's weimaraner photographs.

The sensory overload begins with the visual and continues with the culinary. On our first day, we arrived just in time for lunch, which turned out to be small towers of lobster with saffron rice and a cucumber/coriander salad, accompanied by an excellent Chardonnay.

Pushing her plate away, my companion said, "I don't care what comes next. Nothing can top that."

She was forced to eat her words at dinner that night, as we moaned orgasmically through a four-course feast and several bottles of outstanding wine. The next morning, over omelettes, we decided to have a picnic for lunch, and one of the absurdly accommodating staff said that it could be delivered to wherever we wanted.

Expecting a nice little snack, we emerged, a few hours later, into a clearing with a spectacular view of Mount Ascutney. On a picnic table were two wicker hampers containing china, linens and utensils, a chilled bottle of wine, duck confit, Parma ham, four salads (each one better than the last), an enormous cheese plate, a baguette, oranges, apples and a pear tart.

The gluttony is courtesy of head chef Neil Wigglesworth (formerly of The Point in Saranac Lake), who concocts seasonal cuisine worthy of Michelin's highest rating. At lunch and dinner, there are no menus. Guests' dietary preferences (ascertained when reservations are confirmed) are noted, and the inn uses, wherever possible, local products and herbs and vegetables from its own kitchen garden. Instead of several dishes requiring the chef's attention, therefore, there is one perfectly conceived and executed meal, served simultaneously and impeccably to all the guests.

A result of this arrangement is a house-party atmosphere. Most of the guests gather in the library for cocktails before dinner, and there's a strong likelihood of meeting someone either interesting or at least extremely rich. (Although the management is far too discreet to answer crass questions about celebrity visitors, rumor has it that Diane Sawyer held her 50th birthday party there.) During our stay, the other guests included two of the top TV writers in Hollywood and an older couple from Texas who had visited the inn before.

At Twin Farms, an inn hidden away in Vermont's bucolic countryside, breakfast is served with a view.

When asked how they'd heard about it, the wife said, "We were in Bora Bora for six weeks—after the second week we didn't know what to do with ourselves. Somebody told us about this place, so we got on our plane..."

Besides answering the burning question of what one does when one gets bored in Bora-Bora, this anecdote illustrates the inn's genius for anticipating and exceeding the expectations of a highly discerning clientele.

As for the odds of getting bored while staying there: slim to none. For skiing, Killington is a forty-minute drive, and closer by are the tamer family slopes of Suicide Six. However, Twin Farms also operates its own private ski area: five runs that—while admittedly not on a par with, say, Squaw Valley—are nevertheless reasonably long and never crowded. Where else in the US can you spend a day on the slopes, secure in the knowledge that you won't be eating mediocre chile for lunch and that no more than a handful of people will ever be waiting on the lift line?

The inn has its own skating rink, as well, and other on-site winter activities include cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, tobogganing, and the more sedentary pursuits of billiards, darts, an audio, video and book library, and "stave" jigsaw puzzles, which are more confounding than they sound. Should you inexplicably get the urge to leave the grounds for any reason other than skiing, the closest civilization is Woodstock—an absurdly picturesque place where some Rockefellers who own property nearby paid to have all the public utilities put underground. The result is the quintessential Vermont town—frozen in time and full of art galleries, upscale stores and amenable places to have a drink.

Admittedly, the tab for all this bucolic charm is somewhat pricey. Rooms at Twin Farms (with meals and liquor included) start at $800 and go up to $1,500 a night.

But on our way there, we'd said, "What on earth can be worth so much money in the middle of Vermont?" And by the time we left, we were saying, "It's worth every penny."

No wonder Zagat rated it the No. 1 inn in America.

INN AT SAWMILL FARM

Inn probable

When Bostonians head for the slopes, they instinctively head due north, toward New Hampshire, Maine or northern Vermont. It's a pity, since going west and then north would get them to Mount Snow Valley. Encompassing several towns in southern Vermont—Wilmington and Dover among them—this little corner of the state is home to the underappreciated ski mountain that hosted this year's Winter X-Games.

What's more, the same little valley is home to not one, but two, of the country's best wine cellars, both at inns with food and surroundings worth writing home about.

The Inn at Sawmill Farm, in West Dover, is a member of Relais & Chateaux, the worldwide association of luxury hotels. Not bad for what used to be a barn. The place fairly oozes country charm, from the weathered boards and hand-hewn posts to the fact that the guest rooms don't have telephones, but it's a country charm that doesn't skimp on such niceties as jacuzzi bathtubs, thick down comforters, and the current issue of *Vanity Fair*. The guest rooms are dizzy with floral chintz, from the furniture to the curtains, which makes it a bit like staying at grandma's house, assuming that grandma used 300-count sheets on her guest bed.

As for the food—not fer nuthin' did *Gourmet* call it "an oasis of elegance," or *Bon Appetit* point out that it's "known far beyond Vermont for its fine cuisine." Chef Brill Williams excels at elegant but simple dishes like a grilled veal chop with rosemary sauce and wild mushroom risotto, or sauteed Vermont trout with white wine, lemon and capers. To accompany meals, guests can select one of the 1,200 wines in a 32,000 bottle inventory (and no, none of them comes in a jug). During my stay, the kitchen was concocting an eight-course wine dinner for a bunch of high-rollers who were driving up from Connecticut. Suffice it to say that the wine list is long and impressive and includes several entries that would have any self-respecting sommelier salivating uncontrollably, which is why *Wine Spectator* gave the inn its Grand Award.

No more than two miles away, in Wilmington, is the equally outstanding Hermitage, operated by a genial raconteur named Jim McGovern and his scintillating wife, Lois. The main house was originally the summer home of Bertha Eastman Berry, originator of that Bible of snobbery, the Social Register, and the inn has expanded to include 29 rooms in several buildings—decorated, in a haphazardly charming fashion, with antiques. McGovern's passion for the finer things in life is evident everywhere. The inn boasts the largest collection in the United States of works by the renowned French painter Michel Delacroix, as well as a jaw-dropping assembly of antique hunting decoys. The quintessential country squire, McGovern maintains a game preserve on the property and breeds English setters with names like Cognac, Burgundy and Yquem, whom he refers to as "assistant innkeepers."

That explains why the venison that I had at dinner was the best I'd ever tasted, and why gamebirds like pheasant, goose, wild turkey, duck and partridge are always on

JON GILBERT FOX

The Inn at Sawmill Farm—blanketed by snow outside, and floral linens inside.

the menu. What nothing can explain, except perhaps McGovern's manic enthusiasm, is the wine cellar, which stocks more than 2,000 labels in a staggering inventory of over 40,000 bottles. Not surprisingly, *Wine Spectator* has cited the Hermitage as having "one of the greatest wine lists in America" every year since 1984.

The fruit of the vine and good eats aside, the area surrounding the two inns is a veritable amusement park of winter activities. In addition to Mount Snow, there is its sister mountain, Haystack; together, the two ski areas boast 135 trails with 26 lifts and 768 acres of skiable terrain. Don't feel like downhill skiing? In addition to miles of cross-country trails through breathtakingly beautiful scenery, there are numerous opportunities for snow-shoeing, snowmobiling, snow-tubing, ice skating, ice fishing, sledding and sleigh rides.

For those snow bunnies who would prefer to give their credit cards a workout, the region has an abundance of shops hawking everything from hand-knit sweaters and handmade quilts to antique books and squirrel-proof bird feeders. The Range Rover set especially will appreciate Taddingers—seven stores under one roof, including a gourmet shop, an arts and antique dealer, and an Orvis outlet carrying all the necessities for urban survival, like Barbour hunting jackets and silver hip flasks.

The number of artists who have flocked to these hills makes for a vibrant gallery scene as well. Dover and Wilmington are home to several quirky art dealers—Young and Constantin, Kaos and Hayloft Gallery among them—and for anyone with four-wheel drive and a sense of adventure, it's worth a trip to the Gallery in the Woods (two miles down a dirt road in nearby Marlboro) or the Art of Humor (operated by the author of *I Hate Cats*, Skip Morrow).

However you spend your time, one thing you're bound to discover is this: When it comes to sybaritic pursuits, Mount Snow Valley is tops.

TOPNOTCH

Inn-chanting

Perhaps the only unpleasant thing about skiing is the lingering chill and sore muscles that follow a day on the slopes. The perfect antidote for both is a stay at Topnotch at Stowe Resort and Spa.

Located a few miles from the base of Mount Mansfield—one of New England's most exciting ski areas—the inn is a member of Preferred Hotels and Resorts Worldwide—the same organization that includes the elegant Lodge at Vail, the Peninsula in Beverly Hills and the Mansion on Turtle Creek in Dallas. Visually, Topnotch is no great shakes—aside from ambient common rooms (most notably, the bar), the decor and architecture are nondescript, standard hotel fare, although the junior suites do include comfortable sitting rooms. The reason to stay there, however, is the full-service European-style spa, which offers just about every form of relaxation therapy known to man.

After checking in, we began to unwind by enjoying a tarot card reading and a martini next to a roaring fire. Assured of a rosy future from the wise and insightful Ananda, it was time to slip into a robe and head to the spa for our first treatment—an ayurvedic head massage known as Shirodhara scalp treatment.

First, a container of warm oils was blended to my skin type and suspended over my head. Lying on a massage table, I felt the oil slowly drip onto my forehead—"the third eye chakra," I was told, although I didn't really care; it just felt good. The therapist gave my scalp, neck and shoulders a soothing rub, followed by an hour-long full body massage.

After a soak in the whirlpool, I peeled myself off of the floor and dressed for dinner, which we ate at Maxwell's—the inn's upscale restaurant. Like the other inns I'd visited, the food was superior. Even the spa cuisine we sampled, like a dish oddly named "Several Interesting Mushroom Ravioli," was delicious and satisfying, and the wine list, while not on a par with those at Mount Snow, was nevertheless impressive and reasonably priced.

The following morning, I checked out the ski conditions while my companion had her astrological chart read. When I returned, we decided to check out the town of Stowe—as twee a New England town as ever stood, where every other door seems to lead into an old-fashioned general store.

Exhausting as all of this was, we stuck to the afternoon's agenda, which included a three-part spa treatment. After sweating it out in the steam room, we were wrapped snugly in hot blankets infused with wildflower oils to detoxify us. (Good luck, after all the wine.) Then we were led into a room with a slatted table, where we were scrubbed with salt, rinsed and exfoliated with an oatmeal/ lavender scrub. This was followed by an hour-long massage and a long soak in the hot tub. We left feeling like pieces of overcooked spaghetti, utterly blissed out and free from all aches and pains.

For dinner that night, we chose Isle de France, which was recommended along with the Blue Moon Cafe and Le Petit Chef—apparently, Stowe suffers from no shortage of fancy restaurants. Our meal that night was by-the-book French—starting with a bottle of Veuve Clicquot with our appetizers, duck with an apple glaze and Dover sole for entrees, followed up by a decadent bananas foster for dessert. It was all superb.

Like the other towns we visited, Stowe excels at snow-related diversions. Topnotch itself offers sleigh rides, snow golf, and snowshoeing, while nearby there are places to snowmobile and ice skate. It's difficult to fathom why anyone would want to exert themselves unduly, however, when the spa offers so many enticing opportunities to vegetate and be pampered.

Not surprisingly, *Conde Nast Traveler* has repeatedly tagged Topnotch as "among the top 10 resorts and spas in the country."

At each of the three inns, I decided to make a somewhat unreasonable request by mentioning that my Zippo lighter was out of fluid. Here's how the staff responded:

At Twin Farms, an unfailingly helpful assistant manager asked if he could hold onto the lighter for a little while. In the meantime, he provided several books of matches, and the lighter was returned to my cottage, refilled and polished, less than thirty minutes later.

At Sawmill Farm, a friendly staff member searched the inn and polled the staff for lighter fluid. Failing that, I was handed several books of matches and given directions to the nearest store that carried Zippo fluid.

At Topnotch, I was told apologetically that the inn didn't keep lighter fluid on-hand. I was offered a light from a bartender, and given matches. iB

The Inn-side scoop

Twin Farms

Barnard, VT (802) 234-9999. $800-$1,500 per night, double occupancy. Amenities include phone, cable TV, VCR, stereo with CD player. Complimentary toiletries: Origins.

Sawmill Farm

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Jenn Poole, one of Diesel's owners, feels the heat from the new competition just across the street.

JAVA WARS

A Starbucks has opened its doors in Davis Square—a sign that the Somervillian hip spot is giving way, uneasily, to gentrification.

BY DANA LISSY • PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEVEN BILLUPS

Davis Square may have become too hip for its own good. For better or worse, Somerville's most vibrant commercial hub, distinguished for its abundance of owner-operated businesses and artsy, socially aware residents, now boasts a Starbucks. Five coffee shops, from the franchised Dunkin' Donuts to the funky Someday Café, already populate the Square. There are also stores and restaurants like Store24 and the Rosebud Diner where customers can also get a cup of joe. Jacked with all that caffeine, it's no wonder Davis Square is jumpin'.

The arrival of the Goliath of coffeehouse chains, however, gives some Somervillians the jitters. The question being raised is whether or not Davis Square will stem the mainstream tide. Will it retain its character, diversity, and relative affordability, unlike the chained-up, homogenized, and overpriced Harvard Square just two stops east on the Red Line?

If the work of one local activist is any indication, Davis Square will not get washed away without a fight. In mid-December, during renovations at the 260 Elm St. site, this crusader spray painted an unhappy face alongside "Starbucks makes Andrew Sad" and "Rise Up Local Joe." He followed that up with stickers that read "Bite the Monster's Ankles" and "Support Locally Owned and Invested Coffeehouses."

Jenn Poole, one of three owner-operators of the Diesel Café, located across the street from Starbucks, does not condone vandalism against her direct competitor. She says, however, that not one person she's talked to is enthusiastic or happy about Starbucks' arrival and the corporate flavor it brings. Her words should inspire hope in Local Joe. "People who live in Davis Square are the type who go to the local hardware store instead of Home Depot if they have that choice."

HIP-STAR SQUARE HISTORY

Among Boston-area neighborhoods, Davis Square has set a precedent for rallying around issues that affect the local economy. The Davis Square Task Force, a group of long-term residents that gathered in 1974 to raise collective voices over the construction of the T stop in the Square, continues to meet on a monthly basis.

The group met with Starbucks officials over the summer to express concerns about the Elm Street Starbucks being a good neighbor. Jack Connolly, Ward 6 Alderman and participant of the task force, says that several people were "philosophically opposed" to Starbucks' corporate presence, but not to the business it would bring into the Square. "For a group that had to work very carefully to get rid of a lot of barrooms and trouble spots in the early '80s when the Square had a lot of 'ginmills', to have to worry about a nonalcoholic coffee purveying institution is kind of nice."

Several factors have contributed to the transformation of Davis Square from just another part of "Slummerville" in the late '70s to earning several paragraphs of praise in the *New York Times* Travel section last spring.

Being close and accessible to Boston, the historically lower rents have made it an attractive alternative to pricey Cambridge and Boston, especially since the abolition of rent control. College students from nearby Tufts and Harvard constantly bring new blood into the area. Artists flock to the old factories like the Brickbottom where they can live and work. Todd Fontanella, Somerville's former director of transportation and commercial development, notes that public sector investment and the development of recreational space such as the Minuteman Bikeway have also helped.

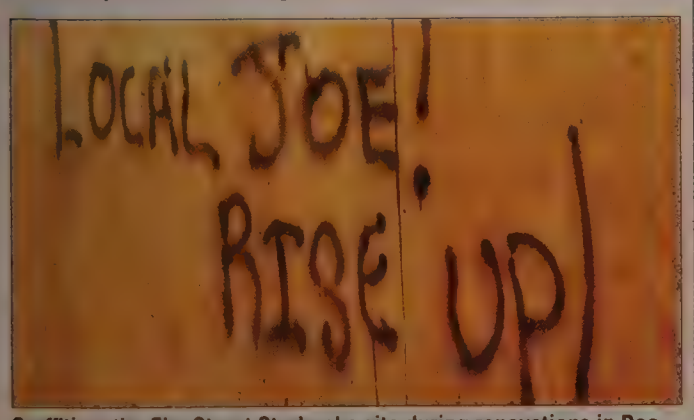
Then, in 1997, *Utne Reader* magazine dubbed Davis Square one of the 10 most "hip hot spots" in the country.

The resurrection wouldn't have happened, though, without the "self-starting entrepreneurs who began reshaping and reinvesting in the Square," says Connolly. As an example, he holds up Robert Gregory who opened Redbone's, one of the best Southern barbecue joints in the Boston area, in 1987.

The Square's wide variety of independently owned, one-of-a-kind enterprises epitomize the eclectic character of the Square. The Someday Café, which opened in 1993, exudes individuality and character with its second-hand, mismatched furniture, rotating art exhibits, great tunes—and a notice at the front door that reads "breast feeding is welcome here." The same building houses the Somerville Theatre, renovated in 1997. The theater plays late-run movies at lower prices than the giant cineplexes and hosts folk, rock, world music, and other performing arts shows.

The '90s also saw the arrival of stores that provide a more pleasant shopping experience than huge chain stores while maintaining an alternative edge. Black and Blues, a boutique sells surplus merchandise from designer lines at discount prices—and some second-hand clothing including a long rack of weathered Levis. M.S. Murphy Picture Framing & Art offers specialized service to all those local artists and writers looking to show off their work.

The Diesel's Poole explains why she decided to open a business in Davis Square. "I've lived in this area since '91. I saw it go from the T stop that was almost last, to a place where I would actually come to go to the theater and the Someday. I was walking around just thinking 'this place is great'—and then when the Burren opened [Jan., 1996] everyone went to the Burren. I had a feeling that people were willing to come here. Now it's really a hot spot. Everyone wants to live around here." And that's the problem.



Graffiti on the Elm Street Starbucks site during renovations in Dec.

Rocco Antonelli Sr., the new Starbucks' landlord.

The funky new Starbucks boasts a fireplace and exposed brick.

WENDY MIMRAN (GRAFFITI)

Willie Ivory Carpenter Jr. at the Someday Café is not overly worried about the glitzy new Starbucks just down the street.

into the community. Starbucks' money is going back to Seattle." He's not concerned about the Someday going belly up. "My customers want something that's less corporate and has a little bit more atmosphere." He does wonder, however, about the hypothetical "10 percent of coffee drinkers who jump into Starbucks instead of the Someday or the Diesel. That 10 percent makes a difference. Without that fringe amount of business I'm not sure I'll be able to provide health care for my employees."

BEYOND THE 'BUCKS

Davis Square is no stranger to chain stores. Osco Drug and McDonalds have not watered down the area's hip persona. Paul Marshall, a recent resident but long-time visitor, notes that "Davis Square has Au Bon Pain, which is a chain. I can't remember people being up in arms about that when they moved in."

Connolly says, "there's a tolerant, live and let live attitude in Davis Square, but most people know they're better off supporting their fellow Somerville residents."

Willie Ivory Carpenter Jr., has worked at the Someday Café for five years. "I don't think much of Starbucks, [but] competition has its place—we live in a predatory society," he says matter-of-factly. "It's been that way from the beginning, survival of the Starbuck. Capitalism," adds the wry Carpenter. He goes on to say that Starbucks is for people from out of town who are "looking for glitz," not for the people who live in Davis Square.

Of course, Davis Square will continue to grow—and, no doubt, give way to gentrification. Antonelli reports that Urban Equity has plans on the drawing board for a four-story parking garage on Day Street. They're also hoping to add two to three additional stories onto the Davis Square Mall, where Starbucks is located.

But the general consensus is that this hip hot spot will eschew the mall marting trend sweeping America. For one thing, the Square has an indie-spirited, educated population that not only appreciates the out-of-the-ordinary, but is willing to fight for it as well. Furthermore, Davis does not have a Harvard University, a tourist attraction in and of itself, smack in the middle of it. So far, no corporate marauders have appeared on the horizon.

Over the past decade, Davis Square has come into its own. And so far, it's shown enough spunk to hold its own. As Carpenter proudly says, "there's something special about Davis Square. It doesn't want to be like Harvard Square. It has a pulse of its own." His employer Wallace agrees, adding, "I have confidence in my clientele." **IB**

Connolly notes that Davis Square Task Force members were impressed that people who work 20 hours a week at Starbucks get health benefits and paid vacations. Starbucks has also agreed to provide space for neighborhood meetings free of charge.

SOARING RENTS

For property owners like Sue Murphy, the owner-operator of M.S. Murphy's Picture Framing & Art, the increased popularity of Davis Square and the Starbucks arrival is good because it raises the value of their real estate. That's not so good for those who rent. The cost of a two-bedroom apartment now averages $1500 a month. Three years ago, about the time the hip label really stuck to the Square, a two-bedroom averaged $900.

For small business owners, it's disconcerting to think about large corporations muscling their way into the Square and squashing out the little guys. Murphy explains, "the inner fear is that Davis will turn into another Harvard Square, with the ubiquitous Gap—that it will lose its smallness."

Glen Wallace, one of three owner-operators of the Someday Café, is concerned that Starbucks' ability to pay higher rents will drive out shops that don't have deep corporate pockets. He claims that Starbucks is getting a reputation as the coffeehouse that will "screw up your neighborhood."

The sudden closure last November of Dolly's Late Night Restaurant, a popular greasy spoon that catered to second shift workers and bar closers, leaves a bad taste in the mouths of many a shopkeeper and customer. Dolly's landlord, Christos Poutahidis, denied renewal of the lease. Speculation about town is that he wants to jack up the rent after he finishes renovating the site. He has refused to comment on the matter.

Rocco J. Antonelli Sr., one of three partners in Urban Equity Development Company, is Starbucks' Davis Square landlord. Antonelli's company has been developing retail and office space in the area for 35 years. He says that rents in the Square have risen 150 percent to 200 percent over the past two to three years. Three years ago he was getting $13–$17 a square foot; now he can get $20–$35 a square foot.

Antonelli, a former Middlesex County treasurer and Somerville native, is "excited" about Starbucks' arrival. He says that Urban Equity has been trying to attract a nationally known tenant to the area for 30 years. He recalls the decades when banks would not give him financing and he could not fill vacancies because Davis Square was considered undesirable. It required persistence and personal financing for him and his partners to help build the current square. "Starbucks will help Davis Square. They'll bring customers to the neighborhood," Antonelli says.

Donna Peterson, Starbucks' regional marketing manager for New England, states that Starbucks "has agreed to do things with the Davis Square site that don't involve money, like taking responsibility for the Davis Square Plaza," a gated pedestrian walkway between Elm and Herbert Streets that has been underutilized for years. In the summer they plan to provide al fresco seating in the plaza.

"Starbucks tries to be additive to the community," Peterson says, by working with local charities like the Books of Hope project and the Somerville Arts Council. She also points out that for the third year in a row *Fortune* magazine has voted Starbucks one of the top 100 companies to work for in America.

Connolly notes that Davis Square Task Force members were impressed that people who work 20 hours a week at Starbucks get health benefits and paid vacations. Starbucks has also agreed to provide space for neighborhood meetings free of charge.

Someday's Wallace, however, is not impressed. "I think Starbucks sucks. I can't complain about the Diesel, or even Dunkin' Donuts because they're franchised. The money is going back

Will Davis Square retain its individuality and charm?

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Mopsy

Serendipitous shopping: Our unfettered correspondent seeks out the salubrious and the cerebral.

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY

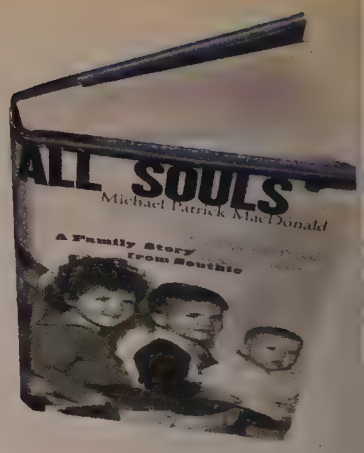
Hipsters, Sexpots, Monsters

Day Old Antiques at 16434 Mass. Avenue in Cambridge (354-1999) sells motley collectibles and toys for grownups.

Owner Mike of Day Old Antiques laments the soullessness of Harvard Square shopping. So drift upstream towards Porter and float into his tchotchke-charmed world of pop-culture things—mostly more like decades-old. Collectively, these collectibles are frisky, naughty, clever, and many of them celebrate with ironic affection "exploitation" modes of the past. Along with records of the '70s and '80s (loved by people in their 20s) , there are pulp novels and postcards, with their period Technicolor cheesiness, when busty broads walked a sizzling line between sexiness and sin. More serious books by R. Crum, Kerouac and Ginsberg are wrapped in plastic, an alluring nod to old modes of selling. And there are comics of various adult ilks. Mike sells big, beautiful posters, some by the artist Coop, whose Devil Woman poster, lusciously rendered, caused a controversy when shown at the Middle East restaurant. A Peter Max drawing of the Boston Garden is a gem waiting in nostalgia's anteroom, and he's got garishly beautiful Alan Forbes *Planet of the Apes* posters. Find roaring Japanese live-action monsters, and little figures from Frankenstein to Bart, Nunzilla to Chesty Morgan, sitting alongside a surprisingly delicate little silvery airplane.

Irish Eyes Are Crying

All Souls by Michael Patrick MacDonald, now involved in gun buy-backs, depicts the wild and dangerous world of his family in Southie.



The relentless snowfall of death, poverty and other tragedies working against the force of nature that is the Irish spirit inevitably recalls *Angela's Ashes*. Only here it's happening in rough, tough Southie. In the breathtaking opening of *All Souls* MacDonald describes the vigil held for the over two hundred kids who died in Southie in one decade. Of the ten, functionally-fatherless MacDonald children, five die, another is disabled from a fall from a roof. At thirteen, Steven, is involved in the accidental death of his best friend, and is only tortuously exonerated. "Ma" plays the accordion in bars, and points a shotgun out the window to scare off bullies harassing her children. She asserts her fierce belief in Southie-Irish solidarity against the invasions of forced busing during the 1970s, in verse. And at her most ferociously "don't mess with me," she visits her abusing boyfriend in the hospital and yanks out his tubes and IV. The ominously hovering mobster Whitey Bulger, devil ex machina, exerts his off-camera influence, through drugs and violence, on the whole community. But the soldiering-on energy of the family, who ironically call Southie "the best place in the world," keeps them going, and makes this tragedy a page-turner.

The Way We Were, Visually Speaking

The photographic exhibit, *Boston Close Up*, sponsored by SPNEA, chronicles the turn of the last century. It's at One Bowdoin Square through April 14.

"You don't have to be old in America to say of the world that you lived in that it's gone." Peggy Noonan's poignant words are graffiti'ed on the wall of this snug, small, satisfying photographic exhibit about Boston, circa 1900. Scott Joplin's nostalgic jauntiness and the clopping of horseshoes provides the atmospheric backdrop to these pictures of the urban landscape of the day from Charlestown to Roxbury. The 1150 harness makers and livery stables, now all gone, were everywhere back then. Chatty business advertising was often slapped all over elegant wooden residential houses, and repair work comprised a lot of it, giving a friendly, neighborhood street-level feeling to Boston.

Men in a distinctly old-fashioned- looking style, and boys too, wore felt hats. Peter Vanderwarker's then-and-now photographs of various street corners invite close comparisons, and sometimes time has improved things. Alas, modern blandness has blitzed the antique charm of other neighborhoods. A display case of everyday objects charts time's drift—spectacles become contacts, beautiful quill pens and inkwells give way to pragmatically plain ballpoints, a rusty-topped jar of peas is supplanted by a container of instant lunch. The barbershop quartet singing "In The Good Old Summertime" reminds us: it was good in the old days.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: CHRISTINA CATURANO, WENDY MIMRAN, ERIN NEDELL

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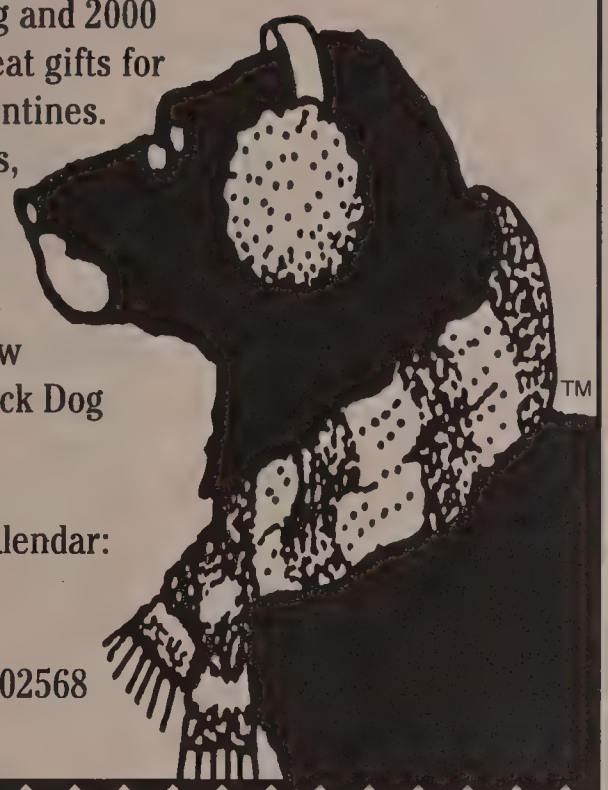

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WINTER OF OUR DISCONTENT

For Ezra, it's not a sportin' life.

BY EZRA DYER

I've had problems with winter for as long as I can remember. In fact, one of my earliest and most vivid memories involves a particularly bad decision I made one winter day of my fifth year. As I was waiting for the bus to come and trundle me off to kindergarten, I noticed the thick coating of frost covering the trailer hitch of our Subaru. Perhaps as a result of cold-induced dementia, I decided that it would be a good idea to lick the frost off of the hitch. Predictably, I instantly became a sort of tiny car-tongued cyborg. This situation did not improve any when the bus showed up. Since at that stage of my life missing the bus was a far scarier prospect than, say, maiming myself, I summonsed every ounce of my five-year-old willpower and simply ripped my tongue off of the hitch. I think that much of my tongue is probably still there, riding around on the trailer hitch of a 1982 Subaru. But this experience, however painful, did teach me an important lesson that I've not yet forgotten: winter sucks.

"The first run is usually a trail with a name like "Cadaver Factory," which my friends assure me is actually the kiddy slope—despite a sign emblazoned with eight black diamonds and a skull-and-crossbones."

Part of my dilemma is that I'm largely unable to participate in the winter frolic that seems to so amuse everyone else in the world. When I try to join my friends for a day of skiing, I am immediately at a disadvantage because they insist on leaving at 2:30 am, "to get in a full day." Most mornings I am woefully incoherent, so I am naturally uncomfortable with spending the pre-dawn hours hurtling my person down a steep, icy slope lined by highly inflexible-looking trees and metal posts. The first run will usually be a trail with a name like "Cadaver Factory," which my friends will assure me that, despite sporting a sign emblazoned with eight black diamonds and a skull-and-crossbones, is actually the kiddy slope. If I manage to get to the bottom without being driven off into the trees by an infant whizzing past in a modified crib, I am forced to participate in a conversation sounding something like this:

Friend #1: "Dude, I pulled off a wicked double-daffy iron-cross dingle flick back there."

Friend #2: "Yeah, and I finally nailed a 360 mule-kick grundel-tug."

Me: "That snow sure is slippery today. Could one of you make a run down the lift line and try to find my other ski?"

I don't fare much better on skates. I'd like to join the happy skaters on Frog Pond, but I know better. It is a fact that for the first month of my life, my mother thought that I was retarded (thanks, Mom!). If she came to this conclusion after observing the behavior of my left leg, then I guess I can't blame her. That particular limb suffers from a rare disorder called "spasticism," the most tragic manifestation of which is that it causes one to be totally unable to complete the skate push-off motion. The would-be skater is then reduced to propelling himself forward using only his right leg, which all observers agree is a very spastic-looking sight indeed.

But don't get me wrong, the colder months do have their attributes. Cheery fires, fat snowflakes dancing to earth, and hard nipples are just a few of the winter phenomenon that make all the frigid icy frozen frostbitten slushy misery worthwhile. So despite the drawbacks, I can't imagine living in a place without seasons. Even though the heat in my apartment is always up so high that when I get home I expect to find a bunch of sweaty old men wearing nothing but towels sitting on my couch; even though my mother almost burned down my parents' house recently when she tried to thaw a frozen pipe (behind the wall, mind you) with a heat gun; despite these things, I still *need* winter. Because winter always gives way to that first day of spring.

For me, the first day of spring triggers a feeling of euphoria that must be like the one you get when both your new inflatable companion *and* your case of Viagra arrive on the same day, not that I know what that's like. Flowers bloom, bats crack at Fenway, and the Esplanade fills with demented Roller-Derby rejects happily body-checking pedestrians into the Charles. Balmy rays once again beam down on Beantown, and all is right with the world.

Then it snows for another month.

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Review

WHAT'S SMALL BUT PERFECT?

Sage is a delightful little boîte in the North End.

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI

The delights of Sage: (above), the small dining room, seating about 30; Opposite (left), New England shellfish paella with harissa-spiced cous cous; (right), chef/owner Anthony Susi.

Anthony Susi's odyssey—from his father's North End butcher shop to restaurants in the North End, and then around New England, out to San Francisco—and back to the North End, has a happy ending. His return last summer to Sage Restaurant on Prince Street, this time as chef and owner, is good news for aficionados of Mediterranean cooking, pleasant, comfortable ambiance, and hospitality that exudes charm and refinement.

Sage is a minuscule boîte, seating fewer than 30 diners, nestled into a quiet corner of the North End, where Prince meets Salem Street. Tables are smartly set with white tablecloths, substantial tableware and ample wine glasses. Candles on miniature wrought-iron tripod candlesticks complete the table settings. A handsome niche displays a large vase of attractive flowers. The rear wall of the restaurant, opposite the storefront window, is lined with wine bottles. Funky light fixtures sporting colorful, oblong globes hang from the ceiling.

Excellent crunchy crusted bread, from a bakery in Roslindale, accompanies a delightful dip of olive oil, basil, tomato, red onion and garlic. A superb, slightly salty flatbread baked on the premises from pizza dough is a crisp and inviting alternative.

Sage's menu focuses on the cuisine of France and Italy, with a gesture toward San Francisco, to mark the time chef Susi spent on the left coast. While prices are not cheap (appetizers range from $9-12; pastas from $15-17, and main courses from $19-27), Sage features a fixed priced menu Mondays through Thursdays that is an extraordinary bargain: $29 for three courses, increased to $39 with three estimable wines. In fact, the wines, if chosen from the wine list, would average about $30 a bottle, so that the three four ounce glasses that accompany this menu for only $10 more than the wine-less prix fixe make the bargain all the better.

In our first visit, we elected the fixed price menu with wine and came away wholly impressed. For a first course, the lobster bisque with braised leeks was a rich, flavorful elixir, deftly melding the subtle flavor of leeks with the delicate, sweet lobster. A second appetizer, baby spinach Salad with shallots, goat cheese, and warm bacon vinaigrette, was put together with finesse and flair. Accompanying the first courses was a '97 King Estate Pinot Gris from Oregon, crisply dry, with lively fruit and good acid balance.

The pasta course may have been the high point of the evening. Hand-rolled potato gnocchi with butternut squash, sage, and brown butter consisted of exquisite little cubes of tender, moist potato pasta with tiny chunks of earthy squash, all bathed in a full-

JOE GREENE

flavored brown butter sauce seasoned with the warm Mediterranean flavor of the restaurant's namesake herb, sage. Even more impressive was the risotto with parmesan cheese and truffle oil. Chef Susi knows his way around risotto, for the texture was at the perfect point between al dente and creamy, redolent of the rich heady aroma of truffle, and crowned with shavings of that king of cheese, Reggiano Parmigiano. While the portion was small, its rich, mouth filling flavor reminded us immediately of the Italian proverb, "Il riso e nato nell'acqua ma deve morire in vino"—rice is born in water and must die in wine. The pasta was accompanied by a splendid Oregon Pinot Noir, the 1997 Vintage from Benton Lane. Its clear red color, good Pinot Noir character, and full bouquet was the perfect complement to the food.

The best main course with the prix fixe menu was a succulent veal chop with broccoli rabe and potato puree. The chop was tender and juicy and the potato puree and broccoli rabe were spectacular. But it was diminished substantially by the manner of presentation, whereby chop was piled on top of the puree and rabe. How long must we suffer the outrage of Boston's gastronomic verticality? Accompanying the veal was a full-bodied 1997 Cabernet Sauvignon from J. Lohr, with a deep garnet color and an almost Port-like intensity.

Ranging to the à la carte side of the menu, we were pleased to learn that the pricey pastas are offered in half portions for exactly half price. The tagliatelle with little necks and Maine lobster with broccoli rabe in a spicy garlic sauce ($8.50 for a half order) featured perfectly textured al dente tagliatelle. It was accompanied by three plump littleneck clams and a sizable hunk of lobster meat. While all of the ingredients were first-rate, we found the sauce too peppery, which overpowered the subtle flavors of the clams and lobster. In a thoughtful gesture, the dish was accompanied by an empty bowl in which to discard the spent clam shells.

Other main courses included a cassoulet of confit of duck leg, braised lamb shank and roasted sausage ($27). The succulent, robust sausage showcased the Abruzzi heritage of Susi senior and his Salem Street butcher shop. The duck leg and lamb shank were moist and tender, but their flavors were unfortunately overpowered by the sweetness of the sauce. Moreover, the cassoulet was served in a china bowl rather than a casserole direct from the oven, lacking the browned, crusted top that makes this peasant dish such a delight. Two kinds of beans, fat kidney beans and black eyed peas, were firm and satisfying.

The last main course we tried, Ligurian fish stew with white beans and spicy tomato broth, was pleasant but unexceptionable. While the clams, mussels, lobster, beans, and broth were good, the fish, which may have been salmon judging by its pink flesh, seemed a mismatch. Sage offers neither dessert nor coffee, but a waitress suggested that these may be added in a couple of months. On both of our visits, the staff was attentive, efficient and friendly.

When the word gets around, particularly about the value of its prix fixe menu, Sage may soon be searching for larger quarters. That would be a shame, since the attention showered on all patrons, and the intimacy of this tiny eatery, are a large part of its charm. iB

Sage

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Dish

SPIN CITY

So much foie gras; so little time.

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

Call it West Side Story...without the dramatic casualties. When it opened a few months ago, the **West Side Lounge** in Cambridge was a partnership that combined the restaurant acumen of **Charles Christopher** and **Holly Heslop** (owners of **Christopher's** in Porter Square) and the culinary skills of **Tom Tenuta** (chef/owner of the former **Cena**), as well as the managerial talent of **Jim Hoben**.

On the surface, it looked like the right formula for a neighborhood spot that would appeal to residents of funky, upscale West Cambridge. The streamlined dining room was cozy and sophisticated, designed by **Sandra Fairbank**. The menu was inventive, focused on seasonal and healthy fare. Yet somehow, the recipe just didn't pan out for **Tenuta**, who soon sold his interest in the partnership and left the West Side three months after it opened.

No hard feelings, says West Side GM Jim Hoben. In fact, Hoben is a partner, with Tenuta, in **El Pelon**, which also belongs to chef **Loretta Huguez**, who is Tenuta's fiancée. Still with us? Huguez says she's looking forward to having her fiancé help out at El Pelon, especially during the popular brunch at her Fenway eatery.

"It's nice to get an added hand," says Huguez, although she doesn't expect Tenuta to either be a permanent addition to her kitchen staff or start a new venture. "He's going to take a break right now," she says.

Meanwhile, back at the West Side, the new chef in charge is **Tim Partridge**, formerly of the **East Coast Grill** and most recently Westport's **Back Eddy**. Hoben says the menu will change "slowly," with Partridge offering some nightly specials. Also changing is the minimalist decor, which is being polished up with art for the walls. Hoben is enthusiastic and upbeat about he change. "Tim's coming up with new stuff, risotto bolognese yesterday, and I ate the whole thing!" In short, he says, this Westward move is "a good thing for everybody."

Not so good for everybody is the overstuffed calendar that results from the chronological pile-up of events under the aegis of **Boston Cooks!, The Spinazzola Gala**, **The Boston Wine Festival**, etc. "Full plate" is a gross understatement. There are hundreds of stories in the overfed city, and the denouement is a kind of foodie fatigue. What's especially unfortunate is that the hectic schedules, elegant dinners, and the glamour of "celebrity chefs" tend to overshadow some impressive charitable statistics. For example, the Spinazzola Gala, which will be attended by thousands this year at $175 a ticket, is sponsored by the Anthony Spinazzola Foundation, which uses only eleven cents out of every dollar for administrative costs. The rest, according to a spokesperson, goes to hunger relief agencies and other worthy causes.

Boston Cooks! at Le Meridien: top (from left): authors Nick Stellino, Georgeanne Brennan, Peter La France and Mary Ann Esposito (seated); bottom: Johnson & Wales University students and faculty.

Talk about excess—Valentine's Day comes hard on the heels of Boston Cooks! If your passion for chocolate exceeds normal boundaries, **Turner Fisheries** has got you covered (OK, not literally) with a Chocolate Lover's Delight Menu. Specials include a seafood platter for two with chocolate mint cocktail sauce and a cocoa-dusted sea scallops on smoked parsnip purée with goldbud cherry essence.

More raunchy than refined is the Valentine's menu at **Restaurant Bricco** in the North End. Chef **Bill Bradley** is whipping up an eight-course dinner that includes a salad of "tender hearts of romaine with aroused avocado and long hard roots of radish" as well as veal with "a ménage à trois of erotic morels, melting leeks, and white asparagus shoots." What no Viagra vinaigrette?iB

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant? Send it to dish@improper.com

Tastings BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for tastings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

EVENTS

Aphrodisiacs and More
Rauxa, 70 Union Square, Somerville (623-9939). Feb. 14. $55/person. Rauxa's Valentine's Day menu features a delectable selection of aphrodisiacs, including oysters, artichokes and chocolate in a three-course meal.

Boston Wine Festival 2000
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE). www.bhh.com. *Through April 7.* An annual three-month celebration of food and wine. See CityScope for events.

Celebrity Chefs Culinary Program
Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Ave., Boston (267-5300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Through March 11, 1-3pm. $30/class. The hotel has brought together nine chefs and cookbook authors for a nine-week program designed for all food lovers. •Feb. 12: **Nina Simmonds**, author of *A Spoonful of Ginger* and *Asian Wraps*. •Feb. 19: **Ming Tsai**, chef/owner of Blue Ginger, host of "East Meets West" and author of *Blue Ginger: East Meets West with Ming Tsai*.

Coffee Tasting
Peet's Coffee, Newton Center (244-1577). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Center. Coffee and tea choices today are diverse and complex. How do you choose a flavor you will enjoy? Try one of these tastings. •Feb. 13: India black teas (10:30am); China black teas (12pm); green teas (2pm). •Feb. 20: Latin American coffees (10:30am); African coffees (12pm); Pacific coffees (2pm).

Cooking with Ale
Long Acre House, Westport Rivers Winery, 417 Hixbridge Road, Westport (508-636-3423, ext. 2). Feb. 12, 4-6:30pm. $40. Take a private tour of Buzzards Bay Brewery, and then join Chef Michael for a menu prepared using the Buzzards Bay Brews.

Dinnerfest 2000 Kick-Off Party
Blackstone's on the Square, 1525 Washington St., Boston (236-1012). Feb. 16, 6:30pm. During dinnerfest 2000 area resturants donate dinner for 10. People who attend a dinner fest 2000 event at one of these restaurants make a donation to the Boston Living Cener, in lieu of paying the restaurant. During the kick-off party, there will be a silent auction.

An Evening of Global Cuisine
Elizabeth Bishop Wine Resource Center, 808 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-9677). MBTA: B Green Line to BU West. Feb. 16, 6-9pm. $45. An evening of food from around the world. The price includes entertainment and a copy of *The World Family Cookbook—A Taste of the Culture and Cuisine of Our World.* Proceeds benefit orphaned children in Rwanda.

The Food and Wine of Paris
The French Library and Cultural Center, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (266-4351). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Feb. 9, 6:30pm. $85. Chef **Barbara Lynch** and wine director **Catherine Silirie**, both of No. 9 Park, will offer a cooking demo, wine information and a three-course tasting accompanied by wines.

Laura Brennan at Rauxa
Rauxa, 70 Union Square, Somerville (623-9939). Feb. 22, 6:30pm. $60. Chef **Laura Brennan** makes a guest appearance for a French country wine dinner, which includes wine pairings by Steve Hewin.

Rialto Cooking Class
One Bennett St., Cambridge (661-5050). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Feb. 12, 11am. $75. Chef **Jody Adams** will teach Dinner for Two, a class that will feature dishes straight from Adams' kitchen, including whole roasted bass with toasty oysters and a special frappe with two straws.

Sam Adams Beer Dinner
Maggiano's, 4 Columbus Ave. at Park Square, Boston (542-3456). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Feb. 16, 6:30pm. $40. **Jim Pericles** of Sam Adams Brewery will help enhance your appreciation of four courses of authentic Italian cuisine paired with great beer.

Vegetarian Valentine's Banquet
Buddha's Delight, 3 Beach Street, 2nd Floor, Boston (424-8846). MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown. Feb. 12, 5pm. $22. Enjoy a multi-course vegetarian feast with the Boston Vegetarian Society.

Tasty Tidbit

Chocolate Tour

Imagine a veritable chocolate orgy...chocolate ravioli, chocolate mousse, chocolate ganache crepes, chocolate croissant pudding. Now imagine a two-and-a-half hour tour that lets you sample all these delicacies prepared by some of Boston's best chefs. Old Town Trolley's Chocolate Tour, offered on weekends through the end of March, is a chocolate lover's fantasy. Toss aside your Zone diet for the day and prepare to indulge.

When the tour drops you off at the first stop—the chocolate bar buffet at Le Meridien—the only decision you'll have to make is which of the 25 desserts to sample first. We found a simple solution: some of each. We elbowed our way to the head of the line and loaded up with white chocolate mousse torte, chocolate cookies, chocolate-covered strawberries and chocolate croutons, among others. If only the plates were slightly bigger, we lamented. The next two stops take you to the Hampshire House for chocolate soup and the Ritz for a chocolate surprise. In between, the conductor shares mouth-watering chocolate trivia. It's a must for choco-holics (and a great idea for Valentine's Day!). *Old Town Trolley (269-7150). Sat.-Sun., 11:30am and 2pm, Feb.-March. $50/person.*

Oh, chocolate, how do we love thee? Let us count the ways at Le Meridien's chocolate bar.

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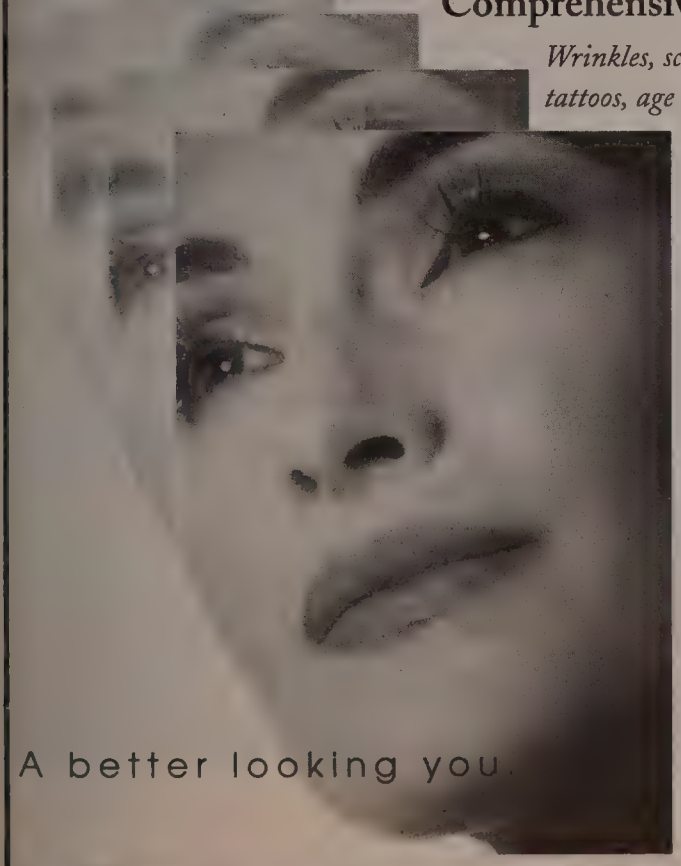

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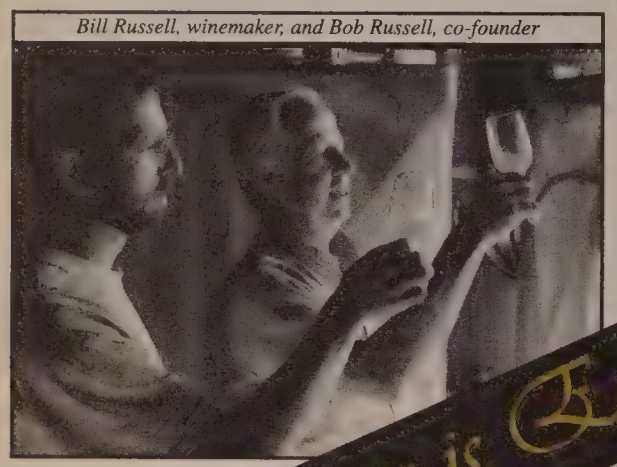

Bill Russell, winemaker, and Bob Russell, co-founder

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The Russell Family in front of Buzzards Bay Brewing

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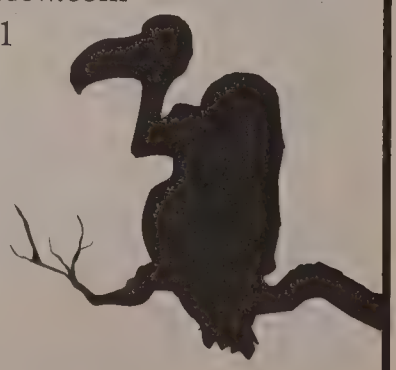

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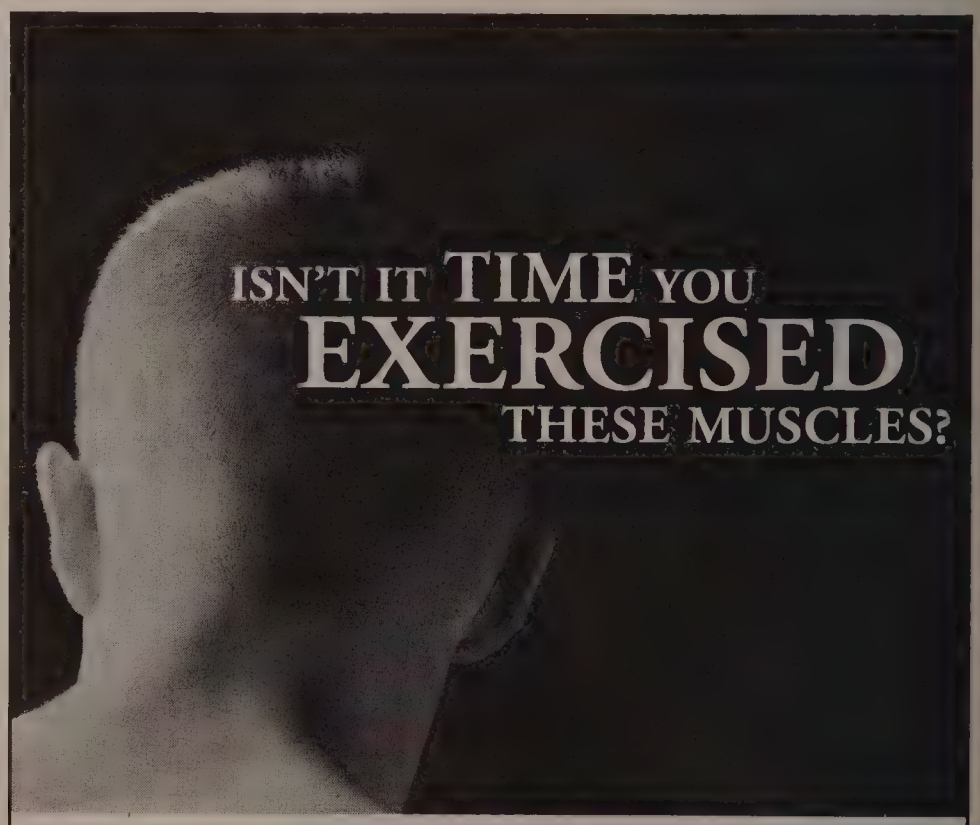

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agenda

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN OR OUT IN BOSTON.

THE KIDS IN THE HALL

Comedy Central's boy wonders return to their stand-up roots for one zany show. The Kids crack up the Orpheum on Feb. 19.

Erin and Julie

THE CALENDAR GIRLS'

improper picks

Too busy (or just too lazy) to plan your own schedule? Life don't get easier than this.

Wednesday, Feb. 9

Julie: Head over to the Rack for a party hosted by the Boston Ski & Sports Club to benefit **Access SportAmerica**. (See CityScope.)
Erin: Or head to the Middle East Downstairs where there's a benefit for Lil'Miss Bliss with the **Dan Rockett Band**, **Another Planet** and **Stretch**. (See Music.)

Thursday, Feb. 10

Julie: Harvard's Hasty Pudding Club's **Woman of the Year Parade** is an exciting festival of parades, music, jugglers and dancers. (See CityScope.)
Erin: I'll be up front at another star-studded event—probably much funnier—the **Bacon Brothers**, (yes, as in Kevin), play at the Paradise. (See Music.)

Friday, Feb. 11

Julie: The **Boston Antiques Show** at the Cyclorama is a great place to pick up accessories for your home. (See Sales & Fashion.)
Erin: **Beck** comes to the Orpheum tonight. (See Music.) Then try to figure out what he's singing about at the talk, **Applications of Jungian Psychology**, a three-day event. (See Body & Mind.)

Saturday, Feb. 12

Erin: Museum Director **Barry Gaither** leads a tour of the National Center of Afro-American Artists. (See City Scope.) Also, the **Old 97's** play at the Paradise. (See Music.)
Julie: One of several parties tonight, the Marketplace has a **Red Hot Boston Valentine's Party**. (See CityScope.)

Sunday, Feb. 13

Erin: See the newly opened ***Full Circle*** at the American Rep. Based on an ancient Chinese fable, it's about a socialite saddled with an abandoned child. (See Performing.)
Julie: Or head to the Lorio Arena in Walpole to see the **National Speedskating Championships**. (See Sports.)

Monday, Feb. 14

Julie: Happy Valentine's Day! Meet the man or woman of your dreams at **Dick's Last Resort's Valentine's Day Party**. (See CityScope.)
Erin: In all probability, I'll be home tonight, but you should head to the Milky Way—just to hear today's aptly named band, the **Skeleton Killers**. (See Music.)

Tuesday, Feb. 15

Erin: Only a few more days to see John Kuntz's zany ***Starfuckers*** at the Speak Easy Stage Company. (See Performing.)
Julie: See former *Who's the Boss* star, Judith Light (minus her long blonde hair), in **WIT** at the Wilbur Theatre. (See Performing.)

Wednesday, Feb. 16

Julie: The Ford Hall Forum offers the lecture, **Lies Across America: What Our Historic Sites Get Wrong**. (See Education.)
Erin: I'd go see **Willard Grant Conspiracy**, the **Silos**, **27** and the **Curtis Harvey Trio** at the Middle East Upstairs. (See Music.)

Thursday, Feb. 17

Julie: **Disney On Ice** celebrates 75 years of all things Disney with its newest production. (See CityScope.)
Erin Head to the Lizard Lounge to see the always-changing, always amazing **Club d'Elf** featuring Micro Vard. (See Music.)

Friday, Feb. 18

Julie: Comedian **Jay Mohr** from *Jerry Maguire* and *Action*, among other flicks, will be at the Comedy Connection. (See Comedy.)
Erin: **Bernard Haitink** leads the **BSO** in the Mahler 7th Symphony. (See Classical Music.)

Saturday, Feb. 19

Erin: Filmmaker **Atom Egoyan** comes in person to show his experimental films and short films. (See Film.)
Julie: **A Ship of Fools** in Jamaica Plain is a huge multi-cultural celebration. (See City Scope.) Also, the **Kids In the Hall** are here tonight. (See Comedy.)

Sunday, Feb. 20

Erin: The Harpers Ferry blues fest continues with **Sugar Ray and the Bluetones**. (See Music.)
Julie: Also, the **World Indoor Rowing Championships** are at the Reggie Lewis Community Center. (See Sports.)

Monday, Feb. 21

Julie and **Erin**: We opt for a low-key evening in Cambridge. Catch the old Ingmar Bergman flick, ***Fanny and Alexander*** at the Harvard Film Archive. (See Film.)

Tuesday, Feb. 22

Julie: Tonight is opening night for ***Smokey Joe's Cafe*** at the Wang Center. (See Performing Arts.)
Erin: **Rubin "Hurricane" Carter** comes to town with his biographer, **James S. Hirsch**, to discuss racism and the judicial system. (See Books&Poetry.)

CITYSCOPE **46** • PERFORMING ARTS **50** • ART **54** • FILM **58** • EDUCATION **60** • BOOKS & POETRY **62** • CLASSICAL MUSIC **64** • DANCE CLUBS **66** • MUSIC **68** • GAY & LESBIAN **72** • BODY & MIND **74** • CHILDREN **74** • SPORTS **74** •SALES & FASHION **76** • GO AWAY **76.**
EDITED BY: **ERIN HAGEDORN:** Art, Books & Poetry, Dance, Dance Clubs, Film, Gay & Lesbian, Go Away, Music. EDITED BY: **JULIE SHORT:** Children, CityScope, Comedy, Education, Go Away, Sales & Fashion, Sports, Tastings, Theater. ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY: **Laurel Kirtz** Body & Mind • **Paul Sherman:** Film Capsules • **Sean Daly**: Dance Clubs

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Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a list of festivals, events and benefits taking place in the Boston area by date.

Festivals, Events & Benefits

Wednesday, February 9

Benefit for AccesSportAmerica
The Rack, Faneuil Hall, Boston (789-4070). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 6-8pm. $20. Sponsored by the Boston Ski & Sports Club, this party will include pool, hors d'oeuvres and a live band, the Search Party. Proceeds benefit AccesSportAmerica, an organization dedicated to building personal empowerment for people with disabilities.

Boston Wine Festival 2000: Far Niente Winery Dinner
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE). www.bhh.com. *Through April 7.* The Boston Harbor Hotel has put together more than 40 events—from tastings, seminars and celebrity guests to wine and food pairing dinners—that are signature of the celebration. •Feb. 9, 7pm, $115. John Rowes Salon. **Far Niente Winery Dinner**. Far Niente has been among the wine world's elite, a producer of lavish chardonnays and cabernet sauvignons, since its founding in 1979. Enjoy a delicious collection of these rich, intense wines, including some of the winer's Cave Collection, as well as a taste of the dessert nectar, Dolce.

North American Home Show
Bayside Expo Center, Dorchester (242-6092). MBTA: Red Line to JFK. Saturday, 11am-9pm; Sun. 11am-7pm; weekdays, 11am-7pm. Through Feb. 13. $7. A virtual super store of products and services for your home. More than 500 companies display everything from hot tubs to kitchen cabinets. There will also be a 3 bedroom house, completely furnished and landscaped.

A Platinum Celebration
Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston (521-0004). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 7:30pm. $100. Platinum magazine celebrates its one-year anniversary with a black-tie gala that includes food, wine, a silent auction, live music and celebrities. Proceeds will benefit the Rose Fund, a non-profit organization that helps victims of violence.

Thursday, February 10

Harvard's Hasty Pudding Club's Woman of the Year Parade
Harvard Square, Cambridge (495-1585). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Around 2pm. For those unfamiliar wit this annual extravaganza, it's a parade of music, jugglers, dancers and the occasional llama that celebrates the crowning of the Woman of the Year by Harvard's Hasty Pudding Club. We can't tell you who this year's winners will be (we don't know ourselves!), but last year the award went to Goldie Hawn for Woman of the Year and Samuel L. Jackson for Man of the Year (presented this year before an audience in traditional bra and wig on Feb. 17).

NEWD Awards
Avalon, Lansdowne Street, Boston (535-5072). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 6-10pm. This awards program recognizes the best interactive design talent in New England. Meet and mingle with contest nominees, leaders of the interactive community and friends over cocktails, music, and appetizers.

Share Your Heart Fundraiser
The Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston (442-9322). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 7pm. $50. This benefit for Rosie's Place features food and desserts from Boston's finest restaurants and caterers, the Art From the Heart silent art auction and music by Al Vega and His Orchestra. Event host WHDH-TV meteorologist Mishelle Michaels and Rosie's Place founder Kip Tiernan will be on hand.

20th Anniversary Boston Antiques Show Gala Preview
The Cyclorama, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., South End, Boston (787-2637 or 426-0997). 5:30-9pm. $175. Celebrate the opening of this show which offers collectors an array of antiques, modern design and fine art. Proceeds benefit New England Baptist Hospital.

Friday, February 11

Boston Antiques Show
The Cyclorama, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., South End, Boston (787-2637 or 426-0997). Feb.11-12, 11am-8pm; Feb.13, 11am-6pm. $10, children under 12 free. It's the 20th anniversary of the Boston Antiques Show—and we're not just talking about your grandmother's old china or chairs. Modern designs and fine art are also a part of this comprehensive show. Other selections include fine and country furniture, folk art and Americana, Oriental rugs, jewelry, art deco and more.

Boston Wine Festival: Valentine's Day Champagne Dinner Dance
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE). www.bhh.com. *Through April 7.* See Feb. 9 for more information. •Feb. 11, 7pm, $275/couple. The Wharf Room. This year's soiree features wines from the preeminent grand marquee of Moet & Chandon Champagne. Savor renowned bubbly paired with each course by chef Daniel Bruce, while twirling to the elegant and romantic melodies of a live orchestra.

Hearts for the Home
The Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Ave., Boston (524-3116, ext. 349). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8pm-1am. $30 in advance, $40 at the door. Dance to the hits of the '70s, '80s and '90s with DJ Barry Scott of "The Lost 45s" on Discjockey.com. The evening will include a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Monster.com will sponsor the event, and 100 percent of the proceeds will benefit the Italian Home for Children.

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Fridays. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

Silk 'n' Satin
American Textile History Museum, 491 Dutton St., Lowell, Mass. (978-441-0400), ext. 246). 7-9pm. $25. An evening of decadent desserts and a private viewing of *Dressed for the Part: Hollywood Costumes from the Silver Screen*, with special guest, John LeBold, film historian and collector who owns the more than 40 costumes in the show. See costumes worn by stars such as Greta Garbo, Marlene Dietrich, Bette Davis, Rita Hayworth, Eva Gardner and Elizabeth Taylor in film classics like *Cleopatra*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *An Affair to Remember* and *The Sound of Music*.

Valentine's Renaissance Dancing
Jewett Hall, First Church Congregational, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (661-3353). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. $8. You don't need a partner to enjoy the dances of the 16th and 17th centuries. Learn the pavane, galliard and other dances from long ago at this dance party.

Saturday, February 12

An Evening of Seduction
Harvard Museum of Natural History, 26 Oxford St., Cambridge (496-6972). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. $25. Celebrate Valentine's Day with an evening of orchids, champagne, chocolate and desserts prepared by Harvard Square gourmet chefs, romantic rhythms and an exploration of nature's wild side while previewing the museum's new exhibition, *Orchids: A Story of Seduction*. Actress and orchid lover Stefanie Powers will be present to explain the sensuality of Orchid perfume.

Black History Month Event
The Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists, 300 Walnut Ave., Roxbury (730-2700). 6-8pm. $5. The Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists is one of the only sites in the nation dedicated to the promotion, exhibition, collection and criticism of the black visual arts heritage worldwide. John Wilson will discuss his commissioned outdoor sculpture, Eternal Presence. Museum director Barry Gaither will give visitors a tour of the museum.

Second Annual Red Hot Boston Valentine's Party: Let's Get Personal
The Marketplace, Faneuil Hall, Boston (713-4440). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 8pm-2am. $30 in advance, $40 at the door. Tickets sell out fast. Enjoy a DJ, dancing, food, drink specials and games to benefit the Starlight Foundation.

Boston Antiques Show
Cyclorama, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., South End, Boston (426-0997). 11am-8pm. $10, children under 12 free. See Feb. 11 for more information.

A Ship of Fools
Egleston Square, Jamaica Plain (524-0302). 11am-3pm. A multi-cultural celebration featuring the best of JP's visual and performance art. At the center of the festival is the Ship of Fools and its merry crew—a growing, changing, moveable craft created by JP artists that leads a flotilla of puppeteers, clowns, actors and musicians.

Sunday, February 13

Boston Antiques Show
The Cyclorama, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., South End, Boston (787-2637). 11am-6pm. $10, children under 12 free. See Feb. 11 for more information.

Valentine's Day, February 14

Valentine's Day at Dick's Last Resort
55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. 5pm-closing. Free. Mix and mingle with guys and gals pining for that special someone. Check out potential heartthrobs while you play Dick's Valentine's Dating Game and win fabulous prizes. Don't miss the oysters at 25 cents each.

Wednesday, February 16

Disney On Ice: 75 Years of Disney Magic
FleetCenter, Boston (931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Feb. 16-27. $12.75-$40. This magical show brings to life Walt Disney's unforgettable stories and the largest cast ever of Disney characters—Mickey, Minnie, Pinocchio, the Mouseketeers and more.

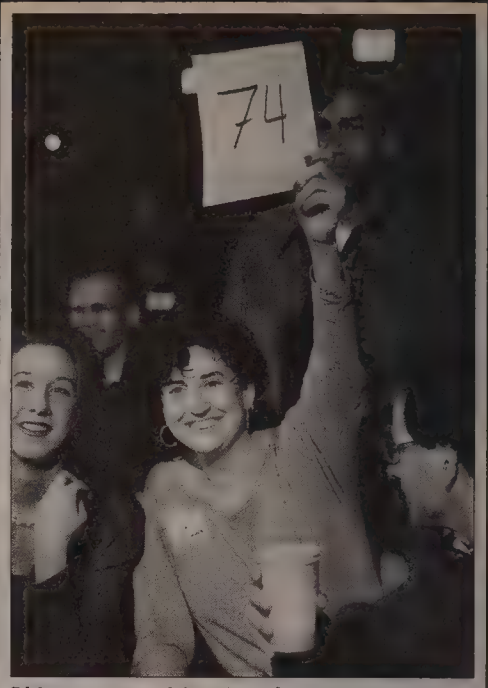
Thursday, February 17

Boston Wine Festival: Joseph Phelps Vineyards Dinner
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE). www.bhh.com. *Through April 7.* See Feb. 9 for more information. •Feb. 17, 7pm, $115. John Rowes Salon. Tom Shelton, owner of one of California's most prestigious wineries, is on-hand to present the intriguing "Mistral" series of Rhone varietals, a range of chardonnays and cabernets, and California's original wine, the Insignia.

Friday, February 18

Boston Wine Festival: A Taste of the Chardonnays
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE). www.bhh.com. *Through April 7.* See Feb. 9 for more information. •Feb. 18, 7pm, $135. John Rowes Salon. Enjoy a tasting of the most popular white varietals from several of the world's classic regions. This evening includes a panel discussion with *Boston Herald* food critic, Mat Schaffer, wine merchant Howie Rubin, and some surprise guests who will lead diners through the wines matched to each course.

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Fridays. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.



Bid on a copy of *Playboy* signed by Jesse "The Body" Ventura at Harvard, Feb. 10.

Preview

Alms for the Poor

Referred to as the "Southeby's for political junkies," the JFK School of Government at Harvard's 11th Annual Summer Internship Fund Auction is a terrific event those who can't tear their eyes off of C-Span. But even if you're not into politics, you'll want to attend the auction on Feb. 10—if not for the incredible range of political luncheons, memorabilia and knick-knacks you can win, then for the people-watching.

Among the items up for bid are a books signed by Al Gore and John McCain, an issue of *Playboy* signed by Governor Jesse "The Body" Ventura, a copy of *Bullworth* signed by Warren Beatty, a signed Star Trek Voyager script and a Simpsons animation cell. A live jazz band will entertain during the auctions, which provide stipends for Kennedy School students who take unpaid public-service internships with government or non-profit organizations. *Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government, Arco Forum, 79 JFK St., Cambridge (495-1161). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Feb. 10, 5:30pm, silent auction; 7pm live auction. Free.*

The *Disney on Ice* crew celebrates 75 years of all things Disney at the FleetCenter, Feb. 16-27.

Calling All Sports Fans!

Join us on game day and cheer on your favorite team while enjoying any one of our tempting sandwiches, salads, or entrées. Or treat yourself to **Tennessee's award-winning BBQ** or one of our **18 specialty beers on tap.** No matter who you're cheering, The Original Sports Saloon welcomes you into a moment in time when the Red Sox, Bruins, Celtics, and Patriots were the talk of the town!

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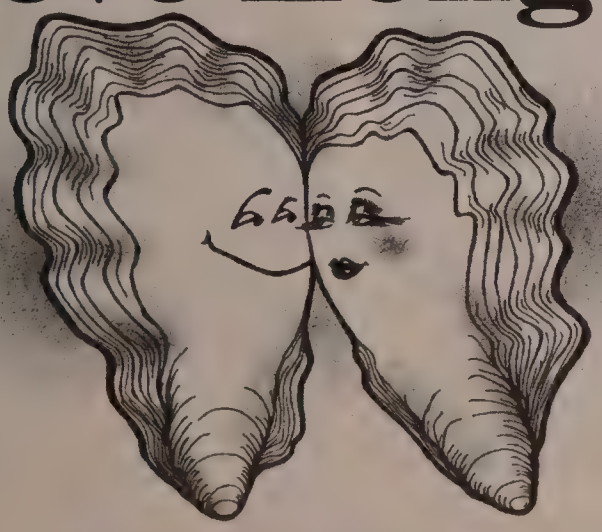

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Saturday, February 19

A Ship of Fools
Egleston Square, Jamaica Plain (524-0302). 11am-3pm. Jamaica Plain will host a multi-cultural celebration featuring the best of JP's visual and performance art on Saturdays throughout the month of February. At the center of the festival is the Ship of Fools and its merry crew—a growing, changing, moveable craft created by JP artists that leads a flotilla of fun, from puppeteers and clowns to actors and musicians. The aim? To rejuvenate winter-weary souls.

New England Boat Show
Bayside Expo Center, Dorchester (242-6092). MBTA: REd Line to JFK/UMass. Saturday, 11am-9pm; Sun. 11am-7pm; Mon. 11am-8pm. Tue.-Fri. 1-9pm. Feb. 19-27. $8. The New England Boat Show is the major boating event in the Northeast. More than 600 boats are on display—both power and sailboats ranging from dinghies to 45-foot yachts, along with every conceivable accessory for your new purchase or your present boat.

Winter Warm-up
Hibernia, 25 Kingston St., Boston (912-8405). 9pm. $20. Join the Jewish Community Housing for the Elderly's Young Leaders for a party and support this organization for affordable housing for low-income seniors of all backgrounds.

Sunday, February 20

The Presidential Affair
M-80, 969 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (562-8800). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 8pm-2am. $15. This event sponsored by the J Connection, a social club for Jewish professionals in their 20s and 30s, will feature a DJ, dancing, trivia and door prizes.

Tuesday, February 22

Boston Wine Festival: Penfolds Dinner
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE). www.bhh.com. *Through April 7.* See Feb. 9 for more information. •Feb. 22, 7pm, $115. John Rowes Salon. Penfolds' Grange has long enjoyed a reputation as the Southern Hemisphere's First Growth. This Australian winery has been fashioning rich, complex cabernet and Shiraz for decades. Join Southcorp's CEO Jose Fernandez, Penfolds' importer, for a discussion of these flavorful wines.

Volunteer

Adult Literacy
Learning Works, 19 Temple Place, Boston (357-6000, ext. 7508). Seeks adults to tutor just two hours per week.

Aids Action Committee
131 Clarendon St., 4th Floor, Boston (450-1235). •Donate your old car, truck or motorcycle and receive a tax deduction. Call 800-332-AUTO.

AVON Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk
(491-3329). Event date: June 2-4. Volunteers need to work on mass mailings, phone banking and data entry.

Big Sister Association
161 Massachusetts Ave., Floor 2, Boston (236-8060). Seeks women to act as Big Sisters.

Boston-New York AIDS Ride
(859-8282, ext. 230). Volunteers needed for work on mass mailings, phone banking and other projects.

Boston Partners in Education
(451-6145). Seeks tutors and classroom assistants.

Cambridge Cares About Aids
(661-3040). Telephone receptionists, drivers, data entry and clerical assistants needed immediately.

Cambridge School Volunteers
(349-6794). Recruits, trains, places and provides support services to volunteers ingrates K-12.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

ESL/Office Skill Training
One With One (254-1691). Tutor/mentor a newcomer.

Friday Night Supper Program
Arlington Street Church, corner of Arlington and Boylston streets, Boston (536-7050, ext. 22). Need volunteers to help prepare, cook and serve meals on Fridays, 5-7pm.

Giving Back Fund
(566-2820). Seeks volunteers to assist in coordination of special events, aid in development/maintenance of sports and entertainment industry contact database, follow-up on trade publication leads and provide general administrative support.

The Greater Boston Food Bank
(617.427.5200). Sort donated food.

Hearts in Bloom Campaign
(800-662-1701). Deliver tulips on Feb. 9 for the American Heart Association.

Horizons Initiative
(287-1900). Playspace activity leaders needed for children living in homeless family shelters.

Jewish Community Volunteer Program
(558-6585). Make a difference in the life of a lonely and isolated person.

Mass Substance Abuse Helpline
(536-0501, ext. 201). Volunteers needed for helpline for persons affected by alcoholism and substance abuse.

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(536-3557). Seeks caring people to offer help and companionship to homebound and isolated elders.

Samaritans Suicide Prevention Helpline
(536-2460). Seeks volunteers to help staff telephone services for depressed, lonely, suicidal individuals.

Share Our Strength's Taste of the Nation Boston 2000
(781-958-6766). Seeks volunteers to help plan this year's food and wine charity event.

Victory Programs
(357-8182, ext. 624). Volunteers needed for residential substance abuse treatment program.

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Seeks individuals to assist legal immigrants and refugees to become naturalized citizens.

Youth Enrichment Services (YES)
412 Mass. Ave., Boston (267-5877). Seeks role models and outdoor leaders for Operation Ski Lift to take urban young people ages 8-18 skiing and snowboarding.

Sights to See

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Fifth Floor, Boston (353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), 8:30pm. Free. BU's astronomers are available to answer questions and assist with telescopes as you check out Orion, Cassiopeia and the Big Dipper.

Bunker Hill Monument
Monument Square, Charlestown (242-5641). Open daily 9am-5pm. Free. What's long and hard and shaped like a pencil? It's not what you think. It's the 221-foot monument that honors the men who died in the Battle of Bunker Hill. But an exhausting climb up 294 stairs reveals little more than a stunning view of I-93.

Christian Science World Headquarters
Mass. and Huntington Avenues, Boston (450-2000). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential. Tue.-Sat. 9:30am-4pm, Sun. 11am-2pm. Tour the Mother Church—a giant basilica that seats 3,000 worshippers—the Maparium, a cool, walk-through, stained-glass globe; a 700-foot-long reflecting pool; and a photo exhibit.

Copp's Hill Burial Ground
Hull and Snowhill Streets, Boston. MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Open dawn-dusk. Admission free. From Boston's second-oldest cemetery, you can see all the way across the Inner Harbor to Charlestown. Famous residents include the well-known Puritanical Mather family and Prince Hall, a prominent member of the free black community.

John Hancock Observatory
200 Clarendon St., Boston (572-6429). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open Mon.-Sat. 9am-11pm, Sun. 10am-11pm (May-Oct.) and noon-11pm (Nov.-April). Admission $4.50. The tallest building in New England (62 floors) offers much more than an awesome view. Listen to air-traffic controllers at Logan, test your knowledge of the city with a computer quiz, or relive some of Boston's most famous and infamous events—including the "Great Molasses Flood" of 1919, when a tank holding 3-4 million gallons of the sticky stuff exploded and turned the North End into a sea of molasses.

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (566-7937). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Wed.-Sun. 10 am-4:30pm. The birthplace and boyhood home of the 35th president.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat. 10am-2pm. Admission free. Alongside Boston's first Anglican church—a gloomy, granite apparition—you'll find a burial ground with equally ominous-looking headstones dating back to 1630. On Sundays, listen for the distinctive peal of the church bell cast by Paul Revere's foundry.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (635-3105). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Open daily 9am-5pm. Guided tours every half-hour, starting at 9am. Free. Known as the "Cradle of Liberty," Faneuil Hall—we're talking about the part above the eatery—was the site of many an angry man ranting and raving about the damn British in the mid-1700s. Today, you can check out the white-walled assembly room, but most people come here for the marketplace.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily 9 am-5pm. Free. Here, Paul Revere saw two lanterns shining on April 18, 1775, indicating that the British troops were crossing the Charles River to Lexington and Concord via boat. You remember... "One if by land, two if by sea."

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays 10am-4pm, weekends 10am-5pm. $3. A thousand fed-up men gathered in this church to decide whether or not to send three ships full of tea back to England. Guess what? They didn't. •*Voices of Protest* traces the use of Old South Meeting House over three centuries for religious, political and social debate. •Middays at the Meeting House, a lunchtime music series. Thursdays, 12:15-1pm. $4. •Sundays are free of charge throughout the month of February.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-10pm, Sun. noon-10pm. $4, $3 seniors and students. After that tiring, 50-floor elevator ascent, you deserve a drink at the Top of the Hub lounge before you check out Boston's only 360-degree view tower. On a good day, you can see New Hampshire. The view here is slightly better than that of rival John Hancock.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8am-6pm. Free. Designed by H.H. Richardson and constructed in 1877, the huge Romanesque church in Copley Square rests upon 4,500 submerged wooden pilings, which help hold up the church's massive tower. A shaded courtyard offers respite from the heavily-trafficked plaza. On Fridays at 12:15pm, stop by for a free organ concert.

See the Orchard House in Concord, the home of the Alcott sisters, on the Literary Lovers Tour.

Preview

Literary Love Stories

Looking for a way to cozy up to your honey on Valentine's Day weekend? Climb aboard Boston's Literary Love Tour offered by the Boston History Collaborative, and you'll learn about the secret dreams and desires of New England's greatest authors, poets and social activists.

Offered on Saturdays throughout the month of February, this heritage tour discusses the love lives of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Fanny Appleton, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Sophia Peabody, Annie Fields and Sarah Orne Jewitt (and their scandalous same-sex marriage!). Among the juicy tidbits you'll learn is that newlyweds Hawthorne and Peabody memorialized their "happiest three years" at Old Manse by etching a romantic inscription into their glass windowpane. Makes us yearn for the simpler days of love and courtship, doesn't it? *Omni Parker House, Boston (574-5950). www.lit-trail.org. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 9am. $35.*

Tours

Chocolate Tour
Old Town Trolley, Charles and Boylston Streets, Boston (269-7150). Saturdays and Sundays, 11:30am and 2pm (tour lasts 2 1/2 hours). Through the end of March. $50. See Tastings for more information.

Ghost Tours
Meet at Boston Common Visitor Information Center, 147 Tremont St., Boston (781-235-7149). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street. Selected evenings, 7:30pm. $12. Tour downtown Boston's most infamous haunted locations.

The Literary Trail
Tour begins at the Omni Parker House, corner of Tremont and School Streets, Boston (574-5950). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street. Saturdays 12:30-5:30pm. $35. Explore the heritage of some of the country's greatest authors, poets and social activists at eight literary historical landmarks in the Boston area. The climate-controlled bus stops at the Boston Athenaeum, the BPL, Longfellow National Historic Site, the home of the Hawthornes, the Alcotts and the Lothrops and Walden Pond.

Museums

Boston Public Library
700 Boylston St., Boston (536-5400). Mon.-Thu. 9am-9pm; Fri.-Sat. 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •Free Art and Architecture Tours of the BPL. Mon. 2:30pm, Tue. and Thu. 6pm. Meet at the Dartmouth Street entrance.

Boston Tea Party Ship & Museum
Congress Street Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. March-Nov., 9am-dusk. $7, $5.50 students, $3.50. Colonial-clad sailors take you aboard *The Beaver*, a replica of the smallest of the three ships involved in the infamous tea rebellion. Paul Revere leads the hourly tea throwing and explains all about the fateful day irate Bostonians poured out the tea in protest of the tax decree issued by British parliament. Try your hand at rope-tying too.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June Tue.-Sat. 10 am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm; June-Aug. daily 10am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm. $5, children and seniors $3: Follow the red and white signs to the mother of all milk bottles. As you walk under it you'll feel as diminutive as your munchkin companion. See *Arthur's World* from the popular television series and children's books. This infamous aardvark is one of many hands-on favorites. •*Build It!* •*Giant's Desktop* •*Hall of Toys* •*Boats Float!* •*Climbing Sculpture* and •*Japanese House.* •Opened Oct. 31: **Sesame Street Exhibition**. Three decades of the revolutionary children's television series. Step into one of the world's most famous TV neighborhoods.

Harriet Tubman House
566 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-8610). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. Weekdays 8am-8pm. Free admission. The Harriet Tubman Museum exhibits a collection of this influential black leader's achievements.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (929-4523). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily 9am-5pm (last film begins at 3:55pm). $8, students and seniors $6, children $4. This permanent collection on the life and legacy of President John F. Kennedy offers a recreated world of the early 1960s with period settings and 25 dramatic multimedia exhibits. Visitors experience first-hand the challenges faced by America during Kennedy's presidency. *John Glenn and the Space Race*, an exhibit about the man with the mission is now showing. •*Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy: First Lady*. Ongoing

•*Treasures of the Kennedy Library.* A selection of the treasures, including sculpture, jewelry, paintings and documents. Through May 2000. •*Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy.* New ongoing exhibit. •Feb. 21: President's Day—free admission.

Museum of Afro-American History

46 Joy St., Boston (739-1200) www.afroam museum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays 10am-4pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.* The place is bustling after their recent endowment of more than $1 million to restore the meeting house's hallowed sanctuary. See the African Meeting House, the oldest black church in America.

Museum of Natural History

26 Oxford St., Cambridge (495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, students and seniors $4, children $3; free to all Sat. 9am-12pm.* This Harvard museum is made up of four factions: The **Botanical Museum**, **The Museum of Comparative Zoology**, the **Mineral & Geological Museum**, and the **Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology**. A number of exhibitions tie together all four of these distinct collections. The most famous is the Botanical Museum for its glass flowers collection—more than 3,000 models of more than 480 plant species. At the Museum of Comparative Zoology, check out the 42-foot-long mounted Kronosaurus (a really big lizard) and countless stuffed insects. The Mineral & Geological Museum's got a 16,000 pound Brazilian amethyst geode, and there's the dollhouse-esque Worlds in Miniature display at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnography. •***Orchids: A Story of Seduction*** opens Feb. 14. Human beings seem to find orchids irresistible, even addicting. This exhibition will explore some of the flowers' most interesting pollination strategies and the long history of collecting and research by Harvard scientists.

Museum of Our National Heritage

33 Marrett Road., Route 2A, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.mnh.org. *Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 12-5pm. Free admission.* Explore history through pop culture. Topics range from Revolutionary artifacts to the latest in jigsaw puzzle-solving techniques and American circus posters. •*Initiating America*, a historical look at fraternal organizations. Ongoing. •*George Washington, American Symbol.* Through Feb. 27. •*The Lynn Beach Painters, Art Along the North Shore*, 1880-1920. Feb. 19-Aug. 20. •Feb. 12, 11am, $5: Brian Gillie presents "Song in America," a prop-filled song-and-dance showcase of music from throughout America's history.

See ice sculptures at Winterfest, Feb. 11-18.

Preview

Winterfest

Join the penguins and the seals for a Winterfest celebration at the New England Aquarium, Feb. 11-18. The festival kicks off with an ice-carving competition on Feb. 11, from 10am to 2pm. Talks with New England Aquarium staff at the outdoor harbor seal exhibit focus on how marine mammals stay warm in the winter. There'll also be harbor cruises on Feb. 12-13, at 11am, to show off the winter wildlife around the Boston Harbor; talks by snow experts from Attitash Bear Peak; and winter camping tips from the folks at Eastern Mountain Sports. *Central Wharf, Boston (973-5200).* www.neaq. org. *MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Feb. 11-18. Free (plus cost of admission to aquarium and harbor* cruises).

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu. 9am-5pm; Fri. 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children. Omni Theater, Hayden Planetarium or laser shows all $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children.* Find out how much you weigh on the moon, strap yourself into a space module or sift through sand on an archaeological dig. Enjoy 600 hands-on exhibits, including the *Theater of Electricity*, *Seeing Is Deceiving* and *Science in the Park* (Newtonian physics introduced through such accessible items as playground equipment and skateboards.) •*To See the Sea* explores the ocean from the perspective of a deep sea diver. •Now open: *Messages:* Discover why communication is central to everyday life. *Human Body Connection*: exhibits on anatomy, physiology and health. *The Light House: Beaming, Bouncing and Bending Light*: Learn the principles of optics, color and the nature of light with 18 hands-on activities. •*Reptiles: Real and Robotic*, opened Jan. 28. •*Virtual Egypt*. Through Feb. 27. •Mugar Omni Theater: *Mysteries of Egypt*. Through June. *Olympic Glory*, opened Oct. 29. (See Film for more info.)

Charles Hayden Planetarium

Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children. Time of show changes daily.* Get high! High up, that is. And (then) go see the stars and rock-music laser shows. Check out the ongoing out-of-this- world multimedia installations *Life and Death of the Sun* and *The Sky Tonight*, and enjoy daily laser shows to the music of the Beastie Boys, Pink Floyd, Korn, Tool, Jimi Hendrix, Nine Inch Nail, among others. It's a trip. •*Journey to the Edge of Space and Time*: Ideas once considered crazy (like black holes) are now the building blocks of new knowledge. What next? •*Welcome to the Universe*. Now open. •Friday Night Stargazing, 8:30-10pm. Free. Weather permitting.

Museum of Transportation

15 Newton St. (in Larz Anderson Park), Brookline (522-6547). MBTA: D Green Line to Reservoir, to bus 51. April-Oct., Wed.-Sun. 10am-5pm; Nov.-March, Wed.-Sun. 10am-4pm. $5, $3 seniors and students. This 1888 carriage house is the automobile buff's paradise—and the country's oldest private collection of antique autos. Featured cars range from Fords and Corvettes to Cadillacs and Italian imports. •Feb. 13, 2pm: Winter Sunday Family Program: Victorian Valentines. •Feb. 15, 7pm: Automotive Lecture: The Readville Racetrack. •Feb. 20, 2pm: Winter Sunday Family Program: Car Collages.

Zoos & Gardens

Boston Common Ice Skating Pond

Frog Pond, Boston Common, Boston (635-2120). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park. Sun.-Thu. 10am-9pm; Fri.-Sat. 10am-10pm. $3 plus $5 for rentals. It's not quite Rockefeller Center, but it's still a lot of fun. The Frog Pond has opened for the season, with concessions, skate rentals, rest rooms and a warming area.

Franklin Park Zoo

1 Franklin Park Rd., Boston (442-2002). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open Oct.-March daily 10am-4pm; April-Sept. weekdays 10am-5pm, weekends and holidays 10am-6pm. Admission $6. A 72-acre oasis of green in the city with waterfalls, lush vegetation, gorillas, leopards, hippos and free-flying birds.

Lyman Estate Greenhouses

185 Lyman St., Waltham (781-891-1985). Daily, through Feb. 19, 9am-4pm. Just when winter is at its bleakest, the Lyman Estate greenhouses burst into a blizzard of pink, red and white camellia blossoms. To celebrate the blooming season, the greenhouse will be open seven days a week.

New England Aquarium

Central Wharf, Boston (973-5200). www.neaq. org. *MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Early Sept.-June: Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. and holidays 9am-6pm. $12.50.* Boston's biggest fish bowl has much more than just goldfish. In the three-story saltwater tank swim turtles, sharks, eels and the occasional mermaid (or mer-male), who entertains crowds as he or she cleans the tank. Be sure to visit with the seals on your way in. •*Storm Over Stellwagen*, a new 15-minute, interactive multimedia production allows you to control the outcome of the film. •*Coastal Rhythms: Creatures on the Edge.* An exhibition devoted to the animals and habitats of our coasts. Through Feb. 27.

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performing arts

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Theater. Or e-mail information to performing@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Theater

JUST OPENED

Beauty Queen of Leenane
Trinity Repertory Company, 201 Washington St., Providence, R.I. (401-351-4242). Through March 5. $26-$38. Set in Ireland's rural west, this dark comedy tells the story of 40-year-old Maureen who is desperate to flee the circumstances of an oppressive home life with her manipulative and overbearing mother. Her big chance to escape comes in the form of an old love interest who has returned for a visit. Fearing abandonment the mother plots to keep Maureen from leaving.

Communicating Doors
Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Thu. 7:30pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 4pm and 8pm; Sun. 3pm. Feb. 11-March 12. $27 weekdays and matinees, $31 Fri. and Sat. Alan Ayckbourn, commonly referred to as the British Neil Simon, has fashioned this sprightly comedy in the tradition of his earlier works. Set in a London hotel suite in 2014, 1994 and 1974, this play manages to take us by surprise—a mixture of pastiche *Psycho* and time-warp comedy that optimistically suggests that, if only we could foresee the future, we could change it.

Encore!!
John Hancock Hall, Boston (542-9155). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Feb. 14, 10:30am. $11.55. This production features dramatizations of short stories by world famous authors, including Poe, Irving and Twain.

Full Circle
American Repertory Theatre, Loeb Stage, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-8300). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. Feb. 11-March 19. $24-$57. Out of the chaos of high-speed capitalism and nose-diving economies emerges a hapless Manhattan socialite saddled with an abandoned child. Based on an ancient Chinese fable, Chalres Mee's play is set in turbulent 1989 Europe, just as the Berlin wall is crashing down.

The Imaginary Invalid
Spingold Theater Center, Brandeis University, Waltham (736-4200). Tue.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. Feb. 22-27. $9.50-$13.50. The famous hypochondriac in this classic farce by Moliere not only complains of a million imaginary ills, but also of the astronomical amounts of his monthly apothecary bills.

Live Hostage Crisis
Lehman Hall, Harvard Yard (496-3474). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Feb. 18-20. $5. What do an overachieving alter-ego, a confused mystic, a wired-business woman, and an on-line agoraphobic have in common? That's what they are trying to figure out. Trying to walk the tightrope between privacy and connection, they find themselves in the midst of the greatest coup of the millennium—an all out war against the Internet. And you'll never guess who the good guys are. A multi-media comedy created in a bunker to be performed after the apocalyptic Y2K disaster. Changes in circumstances allow it now to be seen by everybody.

Low Flying Aircraft
Boston Theatre Works, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Comm. Ave., Boston (728-4321). MBTA: B Green Line to BU Central. Feb. 18-March 5. A moving piece about a family's journey towards understanding the mechanics of biology and overcoming the desperate downward spiral of bodies in motion.

Smokey Joe's Cafe—The Songs of Leiber and Stoller
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. Feb. 22-Feb. 27. $35-$65. The musical celebrates the world of first kisses and last dances, hot summer nights and cool midnight struts, blue-light diners and red-hot rock 'n' roll. Enjoy such hits as "Hound Dog," "Love Potion #9," "Stand By Me," "Yakety Yak," "There Goes My Baby," "On Broadway" and "Jailhouse Rock."

Starfuckers
SpeakEasy Stage Company, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Through Feb. 19. $12. John Kuntz dazzles audiences with another zany send-up of American pop culture.

Temptation
The Peabody House Theatre, 277 Broadway, Somerville (625-1300). Fri.-Sat. 8pm. Feb. 11-March 4. $15. Dissident playwright-turned-Czechoslovakian president, Vaclav Havel is no stranger to the triumph of the human will over oppression. *Temptation* is the story of a modern-day Faust whose interests in the Black Arts bring him under the scrutiny of his "objective" and strictly scientific superiors. Havel's outrageous comedy tells of a world where freedom of thought is subversive and the Devil himself may be an informer.

What Ghosts There Were
Bridge Theater, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Through Feb. 19. $12. Boston playwright Todd Hearon's play looks into the mind and memory of a young woman as she poses in an artist's loft for his rendering of a nude. This contemporary verse monologue reveals that there are things smoldering in the past, even of the young, that are immutable.

NOW RUNNING

A Couple of Blaguards
Terrace Room, Boston Park Plaza Hotel, Arlington St., Boston (931-2787). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. Through the end of March. $38.50. This two-man comedy by Pulitzer Prize winning author Frank McCourt and his brother, best-selling author Malachy McCourt, is an autobiographical tale spanning the brothers' years growing up poor in Ireland and their journey to a better life in America.

Anne of Green Gables
Wheelock Family Theatre, 200 The Riverway, Boston (734-4760). Fri. 7:30pm; Sat.-Sun. 3pm. Through Feb. 27. $10-$17. The enchanting family musical based on the L. M. Montgomery classic. A couple wants to adopt an orphan boy to help with the farm chores, but the orphanage sends Anne Shirley instead—an impish, fanciful, talkative girl who is not at all what the pair have in mind. Anne uses every ounce of her abundant charm to win the hearts of the couple.

Childhood favorite, ***Anne of Green Gables***, is at the Wheelock Family Theatre, through Feb. 27.

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed.-Thu. 8pm; Fri.-Sat. 7pm and 10pm; Sun. 3pm and 6pm. Call for special Valentine's Day performances. $39-$49. A truly unique theater experience. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to get its point across with tribal rock music, performance art, humorous antics, props (including plastic tubes, day-glo PVC pipes and twinkies) and three men painted blue.

Company Piece 2000: What he Was When he Was
Leverett Old Library Theatre, Mill Street, Cambridge (496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Feb. 10-12, 8pm. $12. An ensemble of actors explored the theme of "sophistry" (defined in *Webster's Dictionary* as "unsound or misleading but clever, plausible, and subtle argument or reasoning"), drawing on texts from the ancient Greeks to the modern-day Starr Report. Using these sources as a jumping-off point, the group generated a series of improvised scenes. The result is *Company Piece 2000*.

Wendy Liebman, voted 1997's best female comic, draws laughs at Comedy Connection, Feb. 11-14.

Death and the Maiden
Arlington Friends of the Drama, 22 Academy St., Arlington (781-646-5922). Feb. 11-12, 8pm; Feb. 13, 2pm. $13. Formerly exiled playwright Ariel Dorfman has crafted a thought-provoking, political thriller about truth and memory set in post-Pinochet Chile. A woman (Sharon Mason) confronts the man (Gary Locke) she believes raped and tortured her as she lay blindfolded in a military detention center years before.

FOSSE
Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (426-9366). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Through Feb. 13. An anthology of musical numbers devised by the famous director-choreographer for theater, film, television and nightclubs. Hits include "Sweet Charity," "Damn Yankees," "Cabaret" and "Dancin.'"

Getting Married
Lyric West Theatre, 95 Freeport St., Boston (288-7889). MBTA: Orange Line to Community College. Wed.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 5pm and 8:30pm; Sun. 2pm. Through Feb. 13. $10-$29. On their wedding morning a young man and woman refuse to marry because of the laws society imposes on them. Shaw's very wise and delightful exploration of the contract that touches us all. It's a comedy, a morality lesson and a seance all rolled into one.

Loot
American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-8300). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. Through March 15. $24-$57. Master of black comedy, Joe Orton, tells the tale of Hal, who robs a bank and hides the booty in his mother's coffin. Who will discover it first—the crooked detective or the homicidal nurse?

Miss Julie
Coyote Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Through Feb. 19. $20. An aristocratic young woman engages in a heated sexual tryst with her father's servant. Their forbidden affair—fraught with embarrassment, guilt and shame—is equally condemned by her father, wealthy friends and family servants. Rather than face ridicule and scorn, they plot an escape.

Phantom
Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton (244-0169). Thu.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Through March. 12. $19. Arthur Kopit and Maury Yeston are obsessed with the unanswered questions in Gaston Leroux's novel, *The Phantom of the Opera*. In this musical, they create characters of depth and substance—the way the story was mean to be heard with in the world of turn-of-the-century French opera.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri. 8pm ; Sat. 6:30pm and 9:30pm; Sun. 3pm and 7:30pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This hilarious whodunit is set in a unisex hair salon. The production holds the record as the longest-running play in the history of the Boston theater.

Violet
SpeakEasy Stage Company, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Through Feb. 19. $21-$23.50. Based on Doris Betts' short story, *The Ugliest Pilgrim*, tells the story of a young woman who sets out across the shadowy South in 1964 to see a famous televangelist she hopes will heal her face,

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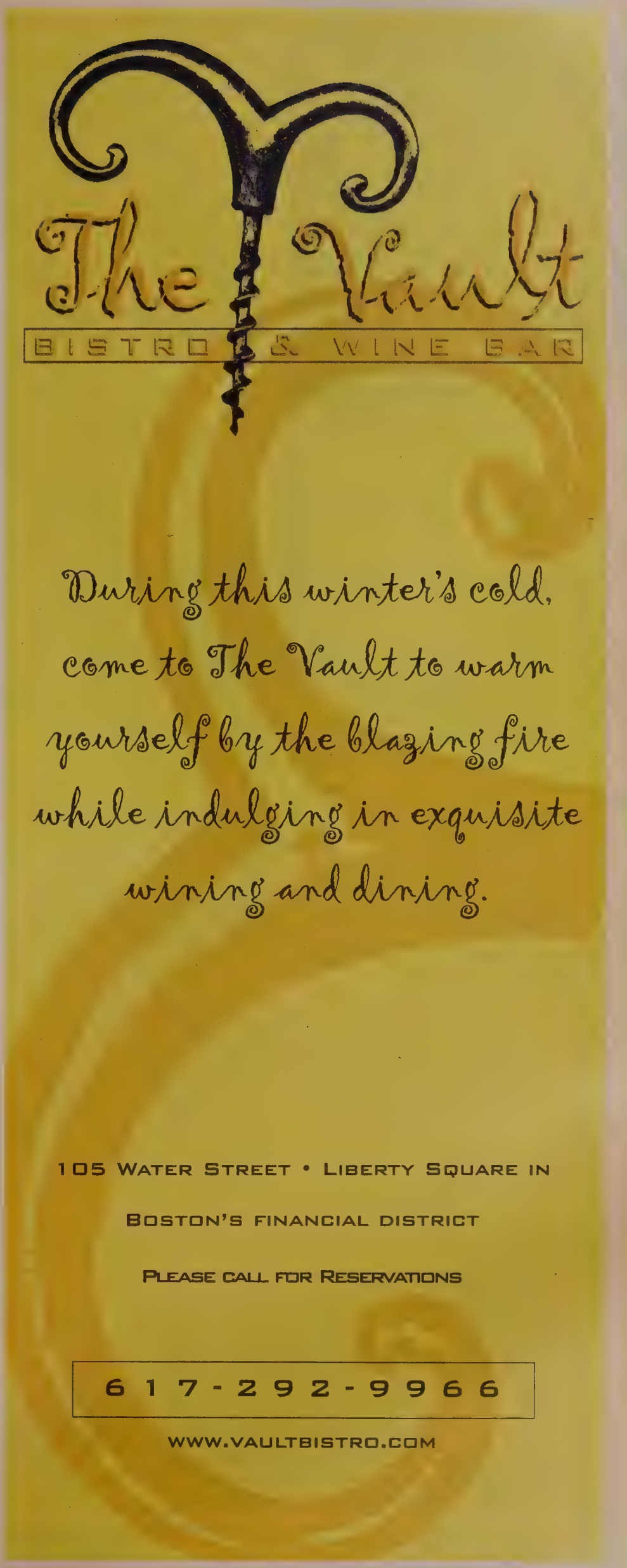


Sensuality abounds in the Boston Ballet's *Without Words* at the Shubert, Feb. 10-20.

which was badly scarred by an axe blade in a childhood accident. Along the way, she is joined by several traveling companions who teach her powerful lessons about beauty, love, racism and redemption. A powerful blues, folk and gospel-tinged score sets accompanies the tale.

WIT
Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont St., Boston (931-2787). Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7:30pm. Through Feb. 20. $25-$62.50. Former *Who's the Boss?* star **Judith Light** portrays Dr. Vivian Bearing, an uncompromising and brilliant poetry professor, who has been diagnosed with a life-threatening illness. Only the sonnets of John Donne provide her with a respite from the ferocity of modern medicine.

COMING SOON

Women on Top Festival
Black Box Theater, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Feb. 23-March 19. This annual festival features a variety of theatrical pieces written and performed by the area's leading female theater artists.

INTERACTIVE THEATER

Medieval Manor
246 East Berkeley St., Boston (423-4900). Red Line to Broadway. Mon., Wed., Thu., Fri. 8pm ; Sat. 5pm and 9:30pm; Sun. 6pm. Ongoing. $9.60-$32. Eat, drink and be merry at a Renaissance dining experience. Don't worry about etiquette. You won't find knives and forks, and the soup of the day is in your face—literally.

Mystery Cafe
290 Congress St., Boston (781-320-0040). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Dinner and show: Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm. Ongoing. $34. Saturdays: The interactive murder mystery, *The Devil Made Me Do It*, a heavenly mystery in a tropical setting. Solve the crime and win the super sleuth prize.

Mystery Cruise
Long Wharf, Boston (781-320-0040). June 25, 7pm (boarding). Cruise departs 7:30pm. $49/person, includes dinner and cruise. Gather clues during a cruise through the Harbor, meet characters and interrogate suspects as you attempt to piece together the mystery.

Dance

SHOWS AND EVENTS

All's Well That Ends Well
Sorenson Center for the Arts, Babson College, Wellesley (781-239-5682). Feb. 11, 8pm. $12 adults, $6 students, children and seniors. No group of actors could be more practiced in portraying Shakespeare's social comedy than these five from London's Actor Company. To what stratagems will the poor Helena stoop to in order to win the love of Betram, her chosen love? Will she honor her heart by curing the dying king or will she instead betray it with lies and bribery?

Emerson Dance with Prometheus Dance
Emerson Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (824-8000). Feb. 18-19, 8pm. $12, $15 and $18, Pro-Arts students and children under 18, $8. The Emerson and Prometheus Dance Company combine beauty, strength and all kinds of physical quirkiness with dance, music and text.

Without Words
The Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Feb. 10-20. This Boston Ballet premiere performance presents three pieces of choreography that shed a new light on conveying emotion through the body. Some of the Boston Ballet's top performers dance to songs sung by the Andrews Sisters as they portray 1940s wartime America. Mark Godden also presents a world premiere of his ground-breaking choreography.

JOIN IN

Balkan Dance
Dance Studio, 466 Franklin St., Melrose (840-2363). Fridays, 8-10:30. $7. Go wild with instructor Petre Petrov.

Club Joy
533 Washington Street (354-5780). Saturday nights. Boston's newest Latin night spot now offers classes. Jam'nastics staff teaches salsa, merengue, bachata and more. Classes feature La Reudo de Casino.

Dance Caliente
Congregational Church, 400 High St (Route 60), West Medford (781-646-1233). MBTA: Commuter Rail to West Medford. Monday and Wednesdays 5:30-8:45pm. www.DanceCaliente.com. An array of dancing styles is explored throughout the night including salsa, tango, swing and the foxtrot. Monthly Saturday dance parties.

Dance Friday
Rug Cutter's Studio, 23 Main St., Watertown (924-7276). #57, #70, and #71 bus lines. Fridays, 8:30-12pm. $5, Children under 12 free if accompanied by an adult. www.mit.edu/people/ fuller/df. html. Dance barefoot in a smoke- and alcohol-free environment. Express yourself any way you want to a variety of music.

The Dance Complex
536 Mass Ave., Cambridge (547-9363). MBTA: Red Line to Central. $5-$12. www.cambridge.zami.com/ dancecomplex. The complex offers an incredible breadth of classes for the young and old to keep you moving all year long. Check out the Web site for the various classes and times. All are drop-in.

International Folk Dance
Park Avenue Congregational Church, Park Avenue and Paul Revers Road,. Arlington Hts. (491-6083). Fridays 8-11pm. $6. Come and learn a range of folk dances from around the world, with instructors sponsored by the Folk Arts Center. Live music on occasion.

Israeli Folk Dancing
Temple Kehillath Israel, 384 Harvard Ave., Brookline (484-4282). Mondays, lessons begin at 8pm. $4. Come show off your moves with the best Israeli folk dancers. •Also, Vladimir Foygelman offers Israeli dancing-lessons Feb. 13, 11am-12pm at Temple Israel of Boston, Longwood Avenue at Plymouth Street, Boston (566-3960). All levels welcome. $5.

Latin Jazz
Cafe Ole, 11 Springfield St., Cambridge (492-4495). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sundays 7:30-9:30pm. Free. Mingle, eat, drink and dance to the music of a live Latin jazz band at this authentic Mexican restaurant.

Royal Scottish Country Dance
Every Monday 8-10:30pm at the YWCA, 7 Temple St., Cambridge (491-6050). MBTA: Red Line to Central. $6. Every Sunday 6:30-8:30pm at The Church of Our Savior, 25 Monmouth St., Brookline (277-7334). MBTA: C Green Line to St. Mary's. $4. For the beginner and experienced Scottish dancer. No need for kilts or a partner, but don't forget to bring soft-soled shoes.

Saturdays at Ryles Jazz Club
Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Saturdays, 9pm-1:30am, $12; $10 after 11:30pm. Join in a variety of dance moves—here you'll find jazzy mambos, swing dancing, cheeky cha chas and sassy salsa numbers.

Swing City
Mt. Auburn Post, VFW, 688 Huron Ave., Cambridge (277-3777). Every Friday night, 7:30pm-12:30am, $10. Find yourself a partner at this swingin' night spot—with free appetizers and a cash bar. Dress is casual to vintage. Beginners welcome.

Temporada Latina
Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thursdays 8:30-11pm. $10-$12. Salsa and merengue dance.

TICKETS

Bostix
(723-5181) www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of Faneuil Hall); Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth); and Harvard Square (in the Holyoke Center arcade at 1350 Mass. Ave). Same-day tickets half price.*

Next Ticketing
(423-NEXT). www.boston.com/next.

Ticketmaster
(931-2000) www.ticketmaster.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(247-1300 or 800-442-1854). A good place to get tickets if a show is sold out at the box office.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail information to comedy@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the performances or comedians. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Boston (248-9700). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed. 8pm; Thu. 8:30pm; Fri. and Sat. 8pm, 10:15pm; Sun. 7pm. $8-$10 (weekend prices vary). •Feb. 9: Don Gavin and Steve Hurley. •Feb. 10, 8:30pm, $10: Frank Santos, the "R-rated Hypnotist." •Feb. 11, $18 and $12: **Wendy Liebman**, "1997's Best Female Comic." •Feb. 12 ($20): Wendy Liebman. •Feb. 13, 7pm, $17.50: Wendy Liebman. 9:15pm: "The Black Comedy Explosion" with Johnathan Gates, Brooklyn Mike and Big Warren. •Feb. 14, $17.50: Wendy Liebman. •Feb. 15: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz. •Feb. 15: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz. •Feb. 16: Don Gavin and Steve Hurley. •Feb. 17, 8:30pm, $10: Frank Santos, the "R-rated Hypnotist." •Feb. 18, $21: **Jay Mohr** from *Action* and *Jerry Maguire*. •Feb. 19, $25: Jay Mohr. •Feb. 20, 7pm, $20: Jay Mohr. 9pm: "The Black Comedy Explosion" with Johnathan Gates, Cool Bubba Ice and John Laster. •Feb. 21: Showcase, hosted by Kevin Knox. •Feb. 22: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz.

The Comedy Studio at the Hong Kong
1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu.-Sun. 8pm. $5-$7. Sketch comedy troops and local comedians perform. •Feb. 10: Thursday Night Fights starring Tim McIntire with special guest John Fisch. •Feb. 11: PS Absurdo, alternative comedy night. •Feb. 12: Sandra Volls, Brent Sverdloff and the Brian and Mal Show. •Feb. 13: Comics Workout! with Lori Feidler and David Walsh. •Feb. 17: Tim McIntire moderates the Thursday Night Fights. •Feb. 18: PS Absurdo, starring Eugene Mirman and Brendon Small from *Home Movies*. •Feb. 19: Standup comedy hosted by Rick Jenkins. •Feb. 20: Comics workout featuring Mark Chapin and Greg Rodriguez.

Dick Doherty's Comedy Escape Comedy Vault
Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun. 9pm. $10. Features local stand-up comedians. Thursdays: Stand-up comedy. Fridays and Saturdays: Dick Doherty's Comedy Pro Tour. Sundays: Open mike night.

Nick's Comedy Stop
100 Warrenton St., Boston (482-0930). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Fri. 8:30pm; Sat. 7:45pm and 10pm; Sun. 8pm. $8-$14. •Feb. 10, 8:30pm: Paul Nardizzi, Mike Coleman and John Turco. •Feb. 11, 9pm: Paul Nardizzi, Mike Coleman and John Turco. •Feb. 12, 9pm: Paul Nardizzi, Mike Coleman and John Turco. •Feb. 17, 8:30pm: Bob Gautreau, PJ Walsh and John Fish. •Feb. 18, 9pm: Don Gavin, PJ Walsh and John Fish. •Feb. 19, 9pm: Don Gavin, PJ Walsh and John Fish.

IMPROVISATIONAL COMEDY & MAGIC

Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston (263-6887). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Shows: Thu. 8pm; Fri. and Sat. 8pm and 10pm. Main Stage: $10-$15. Now playing on the main stage is the critically acclaimed improvisational and sketch comedy show—voted one of Boston's best improvisational comedy troupes.

ImprovBoston at Back Alley Theater
1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1253). Red Line to Central. Boston's longest-running improv comedy troupe makes things up as they go along. Fri.-Sat. 8pm ($12) and 10:30pm ($12). Sun, 2pm ($7). •Fridays and Saturdays: 90 minutes of fun with scenes, games, music and audience participation. Sundays: family matinee. •Thursdays, 8pm: **Sitcom**. A fully-improvised show based on suggestions from the studio audience and an on-stage computer. 10pm: Open Improv Jam. •Fridays, 8pm: ImprovBoston. 10:30pm: TheatreSports Boston vs. Sitcom. Best of five match. •Saturdays, 8pm and 10:30pm: ImprovBoston.

Magicians & Spirits
Green Street Grill, 280 Green St., Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Shows every Tuesday at 9pm. $10 cabaret show ($5 with dinner). Billed as "Intimate Nights of Sleights of Hand," Green Street Grill patrons enjoy close-up magic as two or three magicians perform tricks behind the bar and among the crowd. At 10pm, the cabaret show begins upstairs with local and national magicians reading minds, making birds appear out of nowhere and floating objects above the stage.

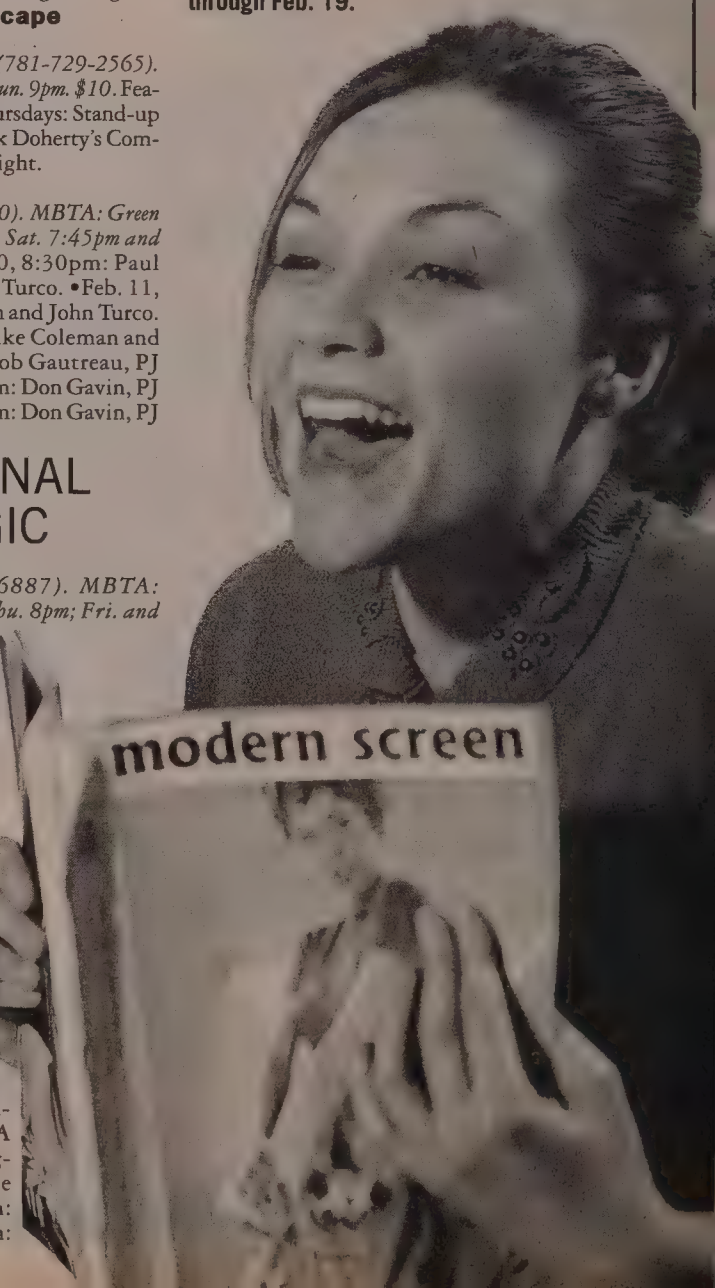
COMEDY SHOWS

The Kids in the Hall On Tour
Orpheum Theatre, Boston (931-2000). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park. Feb. 19, 8pm. $27.50, $32.50, and $37.50. The zany watershed comedy troupe of the '90s are returning to their live-performance roots. The show itself ended in 1995, but lives on in re-runs on Comedy Central, offering new fans the opportunity to fall under the hilariously warped spell of the Kids' spin on life, love, lust and middle-class values and the dark corners of suburbia.

The Orange Show: We Got Nothing But Love for You, Baby
Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (524-5845). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Fri. 8:30pm and 10:30pm; Sat. 8:30pm. Feb. 18-27. $12.50. Who needs a heart when a heart can be broken? For that matter, who needs an arm, a spine, a coccyx? The much acclaimed Orange Show avoids that question and many more in its attempt to understand love.

SitcomBoston
The Works Theater, 255 Elm St., Somerville (538-3205). MBTA: Red Line to Davis Square. Fridays and Saturdays, 8pm and 10:30pm. A fully improvised show that looks exactly like an hour of prime-time television. Two half-hour episodes, complete with commercials, of a brand-new sitcom improvised on the spot solely on suggestions taken from a studio audience.

The SpeakEasy Stage Co. performs *Violet* at the B.C.A., through Feb. 19.



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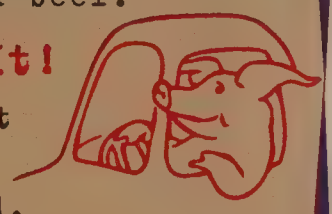

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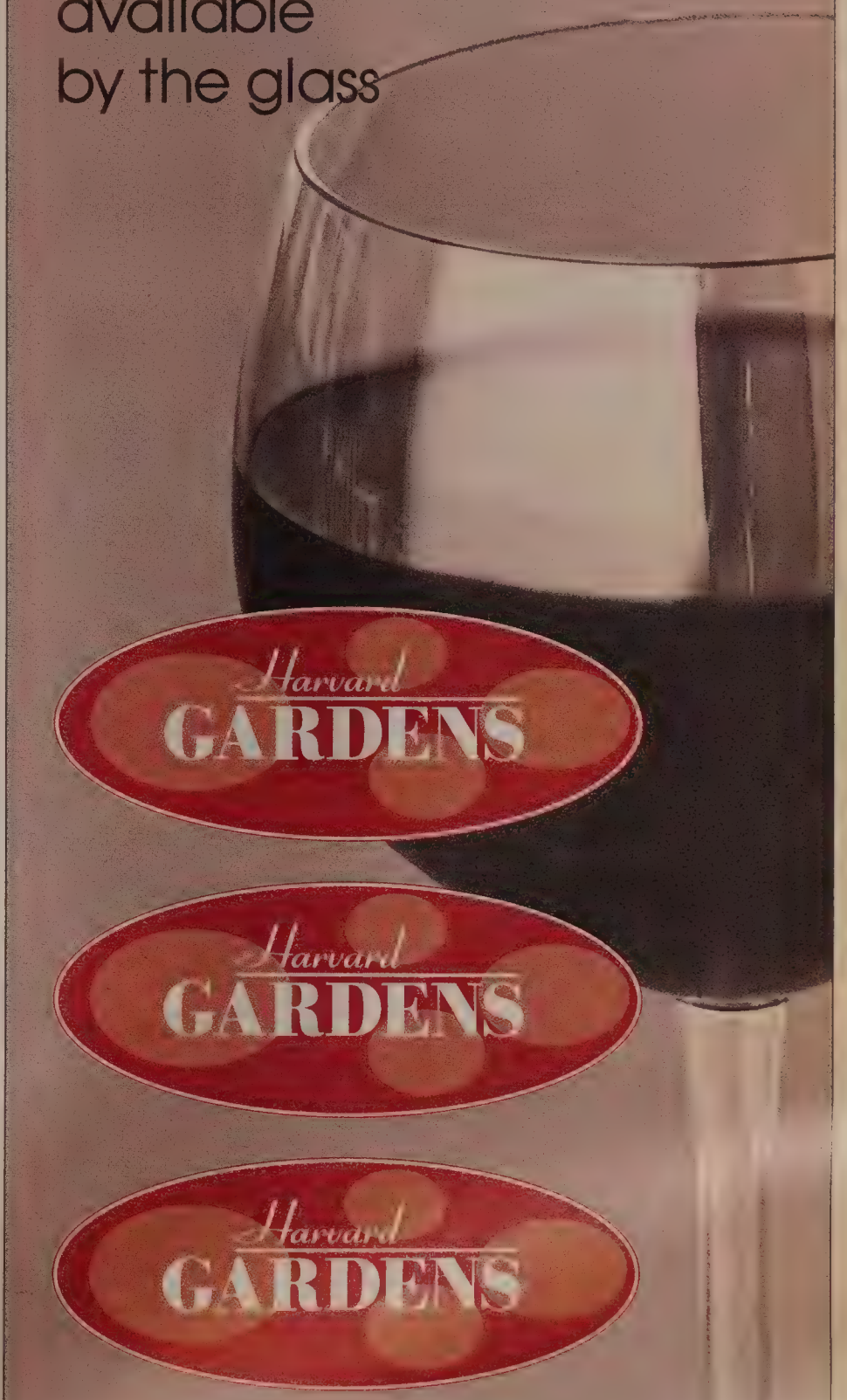

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Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information for gallery and museum listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail to arts@improper.com. *Include opening and closing dates, nearest T stops and price of admission, if any, and telephone numbers. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a partial list of the largest art museums, art institutes and galleries in the Boston area. Listings following bullets are temporary exhibitions.

Museums

Art Institute of Boston
700 Beacon St., Boston (262-1223). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun. 12-5pm. •Coinciding with Boston's city-wide cultural celebration of Egypt, 19th- and 20th-century *Photographic Views of Giza*, will be on view through March 19.

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat. 10am-12pm. The Sackler houses ancient Islamic and Asian art, an array of Neolithic bronze Buddhas, Greek pottery, and Hellenistic and Roman sculpture. •*Wall Drawing #830* features four isometric figures with dynamic colors. Ongoing. •*Nature as Metaphor* features art from China, Korea and Japan. Through Feb. 13. •*Ben Shahn's New York: The Photography of Modern Times*, showcases the artist's experimentation with the social documentary tradition. It includes more than 150 photographs, ink drawings and easel paintings. Through April 30.

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat. 10am-12pm. It's better to visit the Fogg the same day you go to the Sackler, as admission includes all of Harvard's museums. Highlights include van Gogh's self portrait and Bellini's clay figures.

Gibson House Museum
137 Beacon St., Boston (267-6338). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Guided tours every Sat. and Sun. at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm. $5. With 75 percent of its original items in place, the museum allows visitors to understand 19th-century domestic life and design. Ongoing.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (266-5152). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Wed.-Sun. 12-5pm; Thu. 12-9pm. $6, $4 students and seniors. • A new exhibition marks the first American museum survey exhibition of the work of the celebrated British artist Cornelia Parker. It includes more than 60 of works made in the last decade. Parker will also create a new charcoal installation specifically for this ICA exhibition. Through April 9. Free guided walkthroughs take place each Thursday at 6:30pm: Feb. 10 led by Annette Lemieux, visual artist; Feb. 17 led by Ewa Lajer-Burcharth, professor of art history at Harvard University.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (566-1401). www.boston.com/gardner. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun. 11am-5pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, under 18 free. Guided on Fridays 2:30pm.* This 15th-century Venetian palace is home to more than 2,500 objects and twice as many flowers. Boston's most famous museum is named for the house's owner, Isabella Stewart Gardner (1840-1924), an infamously incorrigible individualist. Only after her death was her house completely opened to the public. Now everyone can see the works of Titian, Botticelli and Matisse, as well as furniture and architectural details from European churches and palaces.

MIT Museum
265 Mass Ave., Cambridge (253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5pm, weekends 12-5pm. $3, $1 for students, seniors and children. Where else would you be but at MIT when you contemplate Morton G. Bradley Junior's *Math in 3-D: Geometric Sculptures?* The museum's other permanent exhibits include *Flashes of Inspiration: The Work of Harold Edgerton*, and *Gestural Engineering*. Ongoing. •*Cultural Engineering: The Sculptures of Arthut Ganson*, the mechanical engineer/choreographer. Ongoing. •Selections from the museum's holography collection. Ongoing. •On the last Sunday of the month, explore oceanography, astronomy, the science of buildings and other mysteries of science with interactive activities for all ages from 2-4pm, no reservations required. Call 452-2827 for details. •*A Day in the Life of an Astronaut, LEGO Car Rally, Out There!* and *Observing the Observers* show throughout the Spring. •*Selfportrait.map*, new digitally manipulated chromogenic prints by Lilla LoCurto and Bill Outcault, includes 18 large scale works as well as a computer station so that the public can get a hands-on feel for the mapping technology. Through April 9. •*Jane and Louise Wilson: Stasi City and Crawl Space* is the presentation of two major video installations by these British twins. Through April 9.

Museum of Bad Art
580 High St., Dedham (325-8224). Mon.-Fri. 6:30-10pm, Sat. and Sun. 1-10pm. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. The one and only museum that boasts "art too bad to be ignored." A favorite is *Lady Chardonnay*, a piece illuminating a poodle-head dancer.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Mon.-Tue. 10am-4:45pm; Wed. 10am-9:45pm, Thu.-Fri. 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. 10am-5:45pm. West Wing only Thu.-Fri. 5-9:45pm. $12, students and seniors $10.* The MFA has earned its rep as the second-best run art museum in the nation (after the Metropolitan Museum of Art) with its top-notch exhibitions, educational programs and galleries of African, Oceanic and American art. •*View From Above: The Photographs of Bradford Washburn* consists of some 80 black-and-white photographs by mountain climber, explorer, cartographer and aerial photographer Bradford Washburn. Through April 30. •*Michael Mazur: A Print Retrospective* examines more than 90 pieces of the Boston-based print artist's work. Feb. 16-May 14. It shows with an exhibition of his recent paintings. Feb. 16-June 15.

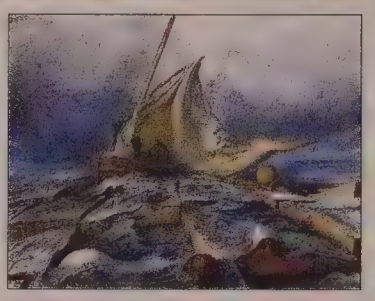
The Peabody House Museum
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (496-1027). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5 adults; $4 students and seniors; $3 children 3-13. No fee Sat. mornings until 12pm. • A brand new exhibit, *Heads and Tales: Adornments from Africa*, is an exhibition of rarely seen sculptures and artifacts from the Peabody Museum collections, many of them more than 100 years old, which highlight the messages communicated by adornments of the head in sub-Saharan Africa. Through Oct. 1, 2001.

The Revolving Museum
288-300 A St., Boston (439-8617). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed.-Fri. 12-5pm. •*Wayne Veins: New World, New Work, New Year*, a collection of gods and goddesses, nightmares and dreams—all made from thrift store and trash material, shows in the Little White Box gallery through Feb. 18. •The next show is *Revelation for Revolution*, a millennial exhibition of members' work juried by Rebecca Hoffberger, the founder of the American Visionary Art Museum in Baltimore. Through May 2.

Preview

Samuel Bak

The game continues at the Pucker Gallery.



An exhibition of the work of internationally renown artist and Holocaust survivor Samuel Bak is now on display at the Pucker Gallery, coinciding with the traveling *Witness and Legacy* exhibition on art and the Holocaust currently at Lincoln's Decordova Museum.

Bak, born in 1933 in Poland, grew up in the Vilna ghetto when it came under German occupation in 1940 and later lived in a labor camp and a monastery. Now 67, Bak has a life-long collection of art illustrating this particular time. Much of his work depicts devastating landscapes, deformed figures and other haunting images of a dehumanized world. This exhibition, however, focuses on the theme of chess—metaphorical images representing the semblance of order evoked by a chess board.

Chess has a personal meaning for Bak, a game he frequently played with his stepfather. "I tried to imagine the inner spaces of his structured world...I then thought about the cataclysmic forces that swept through him in the black years of the Holocaust and all the havoc and destruction that came with them. I translated these forces into images of a world of chess after the universal flood, when hardly anything remained intact." From 1959-1991, Bak has had more than 60 solo exhibitions at private galleries in New York, Boston, London, Paris, Berlin, Munich, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Rome and other cities around the world, most of which expound upon this theme. The Pucker Gallery's exhibition also celebrates the recent publication of the book, *The Game Continues: Chess in the Art of Samuel Bak.*

Also see Bak's work at the Boston Public Library and the Rose Museum at Brandeis University. The exhibit at the Pucker Gallery runs through March 1. —EH

Galleries
FINE ART

Allston Skirt Gallery
119 Braintree St., Allston (254-7027). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm and by appointment. •*Here Comes Rhody*, guest-curated by Dike Blair, features work by Matthew Chase, Maia Cannon, Molly V. Smith, Joe Bradley and Tori Duncan. Through Feb. 26.

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (536-4465). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •*New Paintings* by Reed Kay shows through March 1.

Andrea Marquit Fine Arts
38 Newbury St., Boston (859-0190). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Wed.-Sat. 11am-5pm. Open by appointment only through February. Shows contemporary masters and emerging artists and acts as a consulting group for corporate and private collectors.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (247-0610). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 11am-5:30pm; Sun. 1-5pm. Representing an eclectic mix of styles, from abstract to super-realist. •Anthony James' *Paintings* show through Feb. 28.

The Artists Foundation Galleries
516 East Second St., Boston (464-3559). MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. Sat., 12-5pm. •In the Main Gallery: *Articles of Faith: Lawn Martyrs & Front Yard Saints*, photographs by Gary Duehr. •*New Work* by Linda Leslie Brown. •*New Sculpture* by Marcella Stasa. •*New Video* by Zach Feuer. Through Feb. 12.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., 5th Floor, Boston (262-4490). Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. Paintings, drawings, prints and sculpture by emerging and established artists. •*Saol LeWitt: Sculpture Gouaches*. Through March 15.

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (482-2477). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. •David Hilliard's *New Photographs* show through March 4.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm. •Boston's only gallery dedicated to contemporary folk and self-taught art features *Southern Accents: Contemporary Southern Folk Art Part II* is paintings, drawings and sculpturesby nine artists including Mary Whitfield, Woodie Long, R.A. Miller and Purvis Young. Through March 4.

Bromfield Gallery
560 Harrison Ave., Boston (451-3605). Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm. •David Frazer's *New Paintings* display in Gallery I and Teresa Dietrich's *Boston Architecture Collages* in Gallery II. Through Feb. 26.

Cambridge Art Association
25 Rear Lowell St., Cambridge (876-0246). Tue.-Sat. 11am-5pm., Sun. 1-5pm. A small gallery with a permanent collection of local art. •The next rotating exhibition is *Dreams and Fantasies*, which runs Feb. 29-March 21.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (236-2255). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm. •*Painted Glass* features work by Walt Lieberman and Akihiro Isogai. Feb. 11-March 4.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (859-7222). Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •*Revealing the Nude: A Timeless Passion*, paintings by 14 artists. Through Feb. 28.

Child's Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (266-1108). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri. 9am-6pm; Mon. and Sat. 10am-5pm. American and European paintings, prints, drawings and sculpture, from 1500 through 1950. •Upcoming exhibitions include *Pleasures of Winter, Selections from the Print Annual* and *Prints of Francisco Goya*, through March 4.

Clark Gallery
145 Lincoln St., Lincoln (781-259-8303). Tue.-Sat. 10am-5pm. The gallery represents 30 artists, primarily regional. Media regularly include glass, ceramics, oil, acrylic on canvas, wood and studio furniture. •*New Sculpture* by Bruce Barry and *Paintings* by Illana Manelson show through Feb. 24.

Clifford•Smith Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 3rd Floor, Boston (695-0255). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing, transfer to bus #49, get off at Washington and East Berkeley. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5pm. Gallery artists display their works throughout January. •Jason Young's *New Paintings* show through Feb. 26.

Copley Society of Boston
158 Newbury St., Boston (536-5049). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat. 10:30am-5:30pm; Sun. 1-5pm. America's oldest non-profit art association is a platform for young and established artists alike. •*Copley Artists*, a juried exhibition, shows through Feb. 26.

Creiger Dane Gallery
36 Newbury St., Boston (536-8088). www.creigerdane.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm.* •*New Work, New York* is a group exhibition featuring the works of emerging artists based in New York. Through Feb. 26.

Crystal Art Gallery
93 Summer St., Suite 4L, Boston (728-9818). www.crystalfineart.com. *MBTA: Red and Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Tue.-Sat. 11am-6pm.* A multicultural gallery that displays the work of national, international and local artists. •*Wood Icons of Religious Figures and Paintings of Erotic Figures* by Viktor Anufriev shows with four other artists' work. Through February.

Dyansen Gallery
132 A Newbury St., Boston (262-4800). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. You'll always find paintings, bronzes and fine art prints. Collections include Rembrandt, Picasso, Chagall, Miro, Dali, Cassatt, Snowden and more. •The gallery displays their ongoing collection.

Eclipse Gallery
167 Newbury St., Boston (247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9am-6pm. •Matthew Zirakian's *Portfolio 200*, two decades worth of photography, shows through Feb. 26.

Elias Fine Arts
120 Braintree St., Brighton (783-1888). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. • *The Constructed Real*, co-curated by Mario Russo, explores contemporary photographers from Belgium, Germany, Holand and the US. Through Feb. 26.

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Gallery Bershad
99 Dover St., Somerville (629-9400 ex.3). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Wed., Thu., Sun., 12-6pm; Fri. and Sat. 12-8pm. •The steel sculpture of Peter Richards and mixed media constructions of Karen Boutelle show through March 13.

Gallery NAGA
67 Newbury St., Boston (267-9060). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. Paintings, studio furniture, sculpture, photography and holography. •Brenda Star and Sam Earle display their new work through Feb. 26.

Gibbs Gallery
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm. •*Females You Can Only Imagine*, paintings and sculpture by Joan Baldwin andMary Craig McLane, shows through March 24.

Gurari Collections
91 Charles St., Boston (367-9800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington Street or Red Line to Charles MGH. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. This gallery has an impressive collection of 16th- to early 20th-century etchings, engravings and drawings of architecture as well as urbanism, classical figures, antiquarian fantasies and unusual objects. Also showing a selection of the work of Wendy Artin, an artist living in Rome. Ongoing.

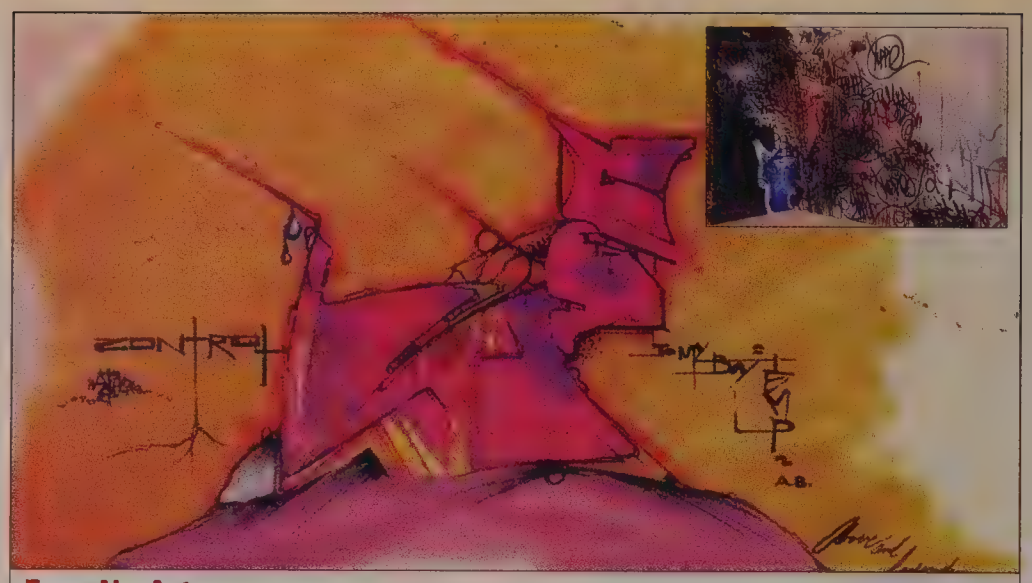
Guild of Boston Artists
162 Newbury St., Boston (536-7660). MBTA: Green Line to Copley Square. Tue.-Fri. 9:30am-4:30pm; Sat. 10am-5pm. Established in 1914 as a traditional non-profit art gallery, the guild aims to keep traditional art open for the public. •A *Winter Members Exhibit* includes oils, watercolors and pastels. Through Feb. 26.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St. Boston (536-6339). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 10am-6pm; Sat. 10am-5pm. •Assortment of 18th- and 19th-century historic and decorative antique engravings and lithographs. •The gallery shows an ongoing collection in February.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (262-0550). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. www.hyg.com. John Coplans' *Self Portrait: Finger* shows with Andrea Means's *Plant Light.* Through Feb. 29.

Hurst Gallery
53 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (491-6888). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sat. 12-6pm. Thu, 12-7pm. Visitors are greeted with art and artifacts from six continents. •Special exhibitions of African art shows with a collection of Chinese and Japanese paintings throughout the month of February.

Hynes Convention Center
South Rotunda Gallery 900 Boylston St., Boston (954-2000). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center. •*Through Their Eyes*, a photographic exhibition featuring members of the Cambridge Senior Center, is currently travelling around the city. This extraordinary artistic event was the idea of photographer Robert W. Castagna who approached the directors of the center in order to teach a class to the seniors. The center's members worked to create stunning photographic images. Members participating in the show include Lillian Henslet, a great-grandmother, and Sylvia Bridgeman, a grandmother of 24 and great-grandmother of 32. Throughout February. The exhibition moves to the BPL April 3-28.



Fear No Art

Hibernia's current exhibition of "art post-graffiti" by four artists, includes the work of Alfie Troche (above) and Matt Clark (inset). Through Feb. 29.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (375-0076). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. The gallery's exhibition features a wide variety of vintage posters from Europe and Russia. •*The Last Poster Show...of the Millennium*, a celebration of festive posters, shows through February.

Judy Ann Goldman
14 Newbury St., Boston (424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. Call for an appointment. Paintings, sculpture and works on paper by gallery artists. •Tom Bambarger: *Visual Field's Landscape Photographs of the American Heartland* shows through Feb. 12.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 St. Stephen St., Boston (247-1719). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue.-Sat., 1-5pm. Now in its 26th year of operation, this non-profit institute for the arts displays a *Group Landscape Show.* Feb. 11-March 1.

Kougeas Gallery
88 White St., Boston (569-9317). MBTA: Blue Line to Maverick Square. Thurs.-Sat. 2-6pm. This art gallery in the neighborhood of East Boston features realist and illusionistic fine art. •*Nervous Beauty*, an exhibition by Marc Dennis, consists of small, hyper-realistic oil paintings. Through Feb. 26. •*Explicit, part two* is comprised of 18 photographs, 13 paintings and nine works on paper in various media. March 4-April 1.

Mercury Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (859-0054). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm. Specializes in American and European figurative expressionism. •*Joseph Solman: A Retrospective of Works from 1935-1999* is an exhibition of portraits, street scenes and still lives. Through Feb. 24.

Mobius
354 Congress St., Boston (542-7416). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm. An artist-run group known for a wide range of arts. •*Magic—Women, Puppets and Performance*, a puppet cabaret produced by Julia M. Szabo, Alexis Smith and others, shows Feb. 10 and 12, 8pm, $12, $10 students and seniors.

The Art Institute of Boston celebrates Egypt with *Photographic Views of Giza* through March 19.

MPG
285 Newbury St., Boston (437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •*Things Go Abstract* shows through March 6.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (266-4835). www.nielsen gallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm.* Founded in 1964. •In Gallery I, Mario Kon displays his *Addition/Subtraction/Regeneration.* •*New Work* by five artists in Gallery II. Through Feb. 15. •The upcoming exhibition is Harvey Quaytman's recent paintings and Brenda Goodman's paintings. Feb. 26-March 25.

Out of the Blue Gallery
168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun., 12-7pm. This artist-owned and-operated gallery always has a variety of interesting artwork up and art-related events going on. •Poetry readings take place every Saturday and the gallery hosts jazz every Wednesday. •*The Third Annual Figurative Art Show* displays through Feb. 29.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (236-4497). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. •Howard Silberthau's abstract paintings show through Feb 26.

Qingping Gallery Teahouse
216 Newbury St., Boston (236-4846). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open every day, 9am-12am. This authentic Chinese teahouse—and the only local gallery to focus solely on art from China—specializes in avant-garde and contemporary antiques, teapots and furniture.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (266-3321). www.richardson-clarke.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tues.-Sat. 10am-5pm.* •American and European 19th- and 20th-century paintings, drawings and sculpture. Ongoing.

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (437-1518). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm. •Zygmund Jankowski and other artists display all their large paintings through Feb. 25.

Side Dish
257 Highland Ave., Somerville (628-3929). MBTA: Red Line to Davis Sat. and Sun., 11am-5pm. •The co-op is having a special Weekend Boutique Valentine's sale Feb. 12 and 13, with a 15 percent discount on everything storewide. Plus sweets to eat while you shop.

Barbara Singer Gallery
18 Sparks St., Cambridge (491-5525). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.barbarasingerfineart.com. *Sat. 1-4pm and by appointment.* •The current show features the work of Robert Kelly and Stephanie Chubbuck. •An upcoming show is Robert Kelly's *Gouaches and Monotypes.* Feb. 19-April 1.

Space 12 Gallery
12 Union Park St., Boston (423-9760). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed. 6-9pm; Thu.-Sat. 1-5pm. •*Dan Fox: New Work*, new abstracts in acrylic on canvas and paper, shows through Feb. 12. •The next rotating exhibition begins March 8.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (450-0321). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. Artist William St. George displays his lush and colorful interpretations of Boston cityscapes, bold equestrian scenes and semi-abstract works at his recently opened gallery. •Now showing *Working Artist and Easel*, William St. George's oil paintings.

A Touch of France
173 Newbury St., Boston (247-6966). MBTA: Green line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-7pm; Sun., 12-6pm. This gallery imports contemporary artists' images of rolling lavender fields, "provencal" villages and distinctive stone architecture to Boston. Complimenting the paintings are numerous striking dried flower arrangements, themselves made by renown French artists.

Via Gallery
83 Newbury St., 2nd Floor (424-6200). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri. 10am-4pm. •Teresa McCue's pastels *Here & There*, works of New England, Mexico and Italy, show through Feb. 11. •Owen Hartford's *Treescapes*, black-and-white photography, explores the world of trees and light. Feb. 18-March 24.

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (536-6176). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 8am-5:30pm; Sat. 9am-4pm. Run by twin brothers Bill and Terry Vose, the gallery specializes in American paintings. •The work of Charles Woodbry is on display through January. •A *Winter Exhibition* of paintings shows through the month of February.

Zeitgeist Gallery
312 Broadway St., Cambridge (876-2182). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu.-Sun., 2pm-7pm. •The gallery displays a variety of local artists' work.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2051). Tues.-Sat. 11am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm; Closed Mondays. The Multiple is a gallery that explores works of art produced more than once. Ongoing.

Gallery 57
Cambridge Arts Council, 57 Inman St., 2nd floor, Cambridge (349-4380). www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~cac. *Mon.-Fri., 8:30am-5pm and by appointment.* •*Eugene Dorgan—Small Encounters: Paintings of Cambridge and Boston* shows Feb. 10-March 10.

Gallery One
537 Comm. Ave., Boston (437-1868). Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm. Affiliated with the New England School of Photography. A gallery devoted to displaying photography of Boston artists. •An upcoming exhibition is James Spada's *Men*, black-and-white photography. Through Feb. 18.

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (423-4299). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Fri., 10am-3pm; Sat., 12-5pm. •*For the Time, Being*, an installation from Asa Chibás, Liz Sweibel and Traci Wile, shows through March 3.

Panopticon Gallery
187 Bay State Rd., Boston (267-8929). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford. Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm. This gallery offers fine art photographic prints and media licensing of images for print, video and stock photography.

Photographic Resource Center
602 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-0700). B Green Line to Blanford. Tue.-Sun., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-8pm. •*Particle Accelerators: The Intersection of Photography, Science and Technology* looks at the efforts of contemporary artists working across disciplines. Through Feb. 25. •*Photography in Human Experience* features photographs from 1860 to 1920. Through April 28.

CRAFTS

Cambridge Artists Cooperative
59A Church St., Cambridge (868-4434). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; 10am-8pm; Sun. 1-6pm. Twelve artists own and operate this gallery which features 2D design and jewelry.

Clayground
91 Hampshire St., Cambridge (661-7376). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 12-6pm; Sat. 11am-5pm. Porcelain and stone objects galore. Classes available.

Fresh Pond Clay Works
368 Huron Ave., Cambridge (492-1907). Red Line to Harvard to Bus 72. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm. A wide range of firing techniques, from terracotta to porcelain.

Gateway Gallery
62 Harvard St., Brookline (734-1577). C Green Line to Brookline Village. Mon.-Sat., 11am-6pm. This non-profit features all sorts of arts and crafts.

Infinity Gallery
24 Union Park St., Boston (423-5555). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat 11am-7pm; Sun 11am-6pm. This small gallery features Wayne Fuerst's work.

Shake the Tree Gallery
218 Washington St., Brookline (739-3505). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm; Sun. 12-4pm. The store features a mix of handmade crafts including jewelry and glass works.

Signature Gallery
Dock Square, Boston (227-4885). Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Thu., 10am-7pm; Fri. and Sat., 10am-9pm; Sun., 12-6pm. Pottery, metal and glass works.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
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BAD HAIR DAY

The Big Tease fails to tap the mockumentary.

BY PAUL SHERMAN

The Big Tease lives up to its title. This story of a gay Scottish hairdresser who travels to America to participate in the World Hairdressing International Federation's Platinum Scissors championship starts out with a genuinely amusing and spontaneous comic charge. But it's all a tease, because eventually director Kevin (*Twin Town*) Allen's movie goes limper than a perm in a tropical rain forest.

This vehicle for British comedian Craig Ferguson (TV's "Drew Carey Show"), who also co-wrote it, uses the mockumentary format. Mockumentaries from here to eternity must bear comparison to *This is Spinal Tap*, the pinnacle of films that juxtapose fictional characters with a cinematic style generally used to treat reality. The ones that have creatively succeeded since *Tap*—movies like *Drop Dead Gorgeous*, *Fear of a Black Hat* and *Who's the Caboose?*—have done so by playing off real phenomenon with which the viewer is familiar (like beauty pageants for *DDG*). *The Big Tease* doesn't do that, and its fish-out-of-water story actually seems ill-suited for the mockumentary treatment. What's more, it fails on simpler comic grounds, too.

Craig Ferguson and David Rasche are competing hairdressers in *The Big Tease*.

Crawford MacKenzie, the stylist Ferguson plays, puts his cozy Glasgow life on hold after he gets a letter from the WHIF inviting him to the big competition in Los Angeles. With his Scottish pride stirred and his Bay City Rollers doll in tow, he heads off to LA, accompanied by an English documentary filmmaker (Chris Langham) ready to chronicle the local-boy-makes-good tale. But the Glaswegian fish nearly goes belly up in the Hollywood water. The invitation turns out to be a misunderstanding (WHIF invited him to be *in the audience*), the swanky hotel room turns out not to be gratis and the Hollywood folk treat him with about as much respect as they would their pool cleaners.

This set-up is funny enough, leading into Crawford's fight to get in the competition and then win it against all odds, and *The Big Tease* might have been a fun half-hour short. But the very limited appeal of the characters and the lack of believable relationships among them kill it. Take Crawford, for instance. You never really believe he's a great hairdresser, so it's hard to root for him. He may win over an influential Hollywood publicist (Frances Fisher) by giving her a makeover—it's an improvement, she still looks pretty hideous. And, though that might seem like a small point, this lack of credibility really affects the climax when Crawford's championship hairdo is nowhere near as clever or outrageous as that of his arrogant Norwegian nemesis (David Rasche), who sculpts the bow of a Viking ship out of his model's hair.

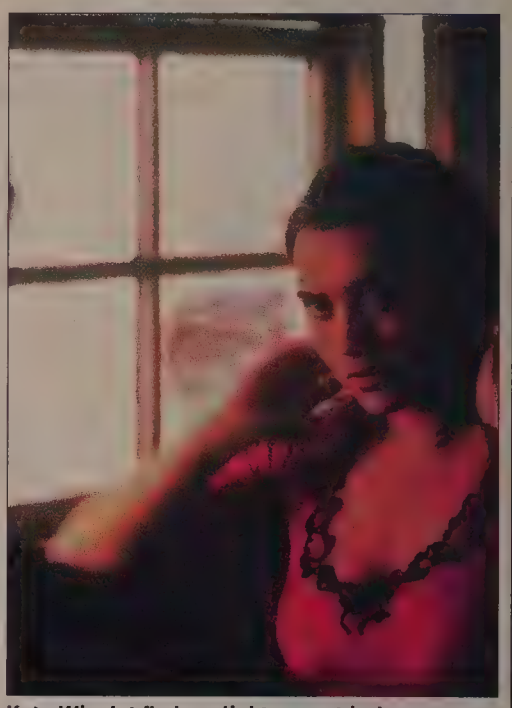
Similarly, Crawford grows close to several supporting characters, yet those bonds are never actually felt. The documentary filmmaker is really a nothing character, the limo driver who turns into a trusty ally (one-time Bostonian Donal Logue, doing a version of his Jimmy the Cab Driver MTV character) is just there and the publicist, like the limo driver and the Scando nemesis, has an amusing first scene but then nothing more to offer comedically. It's very funny to see Logue do one of his freestyle improvs or veteran comic Larry Miller chip in a typically hilarious bit of comic condescension as a hotel manager, but *The Big Tease* is more a collection of hit-or-miss events than a coherent script. This one simply went before the camera too soon. Co-writers Ferguson and Sacha Gervasi really should have come up with more scenes that bonded Crawford with those around him. They did that for the publicist, but not for the filmmaker or the limo driver or many of the folks back home in Glasgow. That makes this a particularly hollow underdog-triumphing movie. iB

The Big Tease ★★

Directed by Kevin Allen. Written by Craig Ferguson and Sacha Gervasi. With Ferguson, Chris Langham, Frances Fisher, Donal Logue and David Rasche. Rated R. Warner Bros.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN



Kate Winslet finds enlightenment in Jane Campion's latest film, *Holy Smoke*.

Angela's Ashes ★★
Death by the carful, poverty, the drink, strident Catholicism, starvation, typhoid, consumption, unemployment, conjunctivitis and every imaginable body fluid grace Alan Parker's tediously long adaptation of Frank McCourt's Pulitzer-Prize-winning memoir of growing up in Ireland. Although there are occasional sparks of humor or tenderness, there's little thrust to the miseryfest, and little that hasn't been seen before in a dozen similar Irish tales. All this does is make you long to revisit *The Butcher Boy*, Neil Jordan's cliche-busting antidote to movies like this.

The Emperor and the Assassin ★★★½
This splendid Chinese historical epic from director Chen (*Farewell, My Concubine*) Kaige evokes both Akira Kurosawa's samurai movies and William Shakespeare's tragedies. Based on the real exploits of a 220 BC warlord (Li Xuejian) who believed it was his mission to unite China's seven kingdoms, it's a story of power and ego run amuck. As equally fascinating as this Nixonian leader is the other titular character, a swordsman (Zhang Fengyi) and retired hitman who's persuaded to try to kill the ruthless ruler after falling for the emperor's one-time lover (Gong Li), who now wants him stopped. Full of visual splendor, haunting images and grand themes.

Eye of the Beholder ★★
Writer-director Stephan (*Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*) Elliott initially brings some clever storytelling devices to his adaptation of Marc Behm's dandy crime novel about a detective (Ewan McGregor) who becomes a sort of obsessed guardian angel to a female serial killer (Ashley Judd) he follows from afar. But these initial stylistic flourishes don't really take the movie anywhere and, after a while, it just sits there. Although the psychological links between the two main characters come across, there's not enough increased desperation to their odd relationship, just monotony and a weak ending.

Galaxy Quest ★★★
This comedy about life imitating art, or at least life imitating sci-fi, is the most purely fun movie around. The story—in which the cast of a long-cancelled, "Star Trek"-like TV series is whisked away by aliens in need of help, who think the TV episodes were "historical documents" and the actors really are heroic—is ingenious and endearingly-executed. Although the resolution is a bit dragged out, both the cast (including Tim Allen, Sigourney Weaver and Alan Rickman) and its characters are A-OK.

Girl, Interrupted ★★★
Susanna Kaysen's memoir of a year spent in a mental institution becomes an involving drama, a sort of somber *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Although it's a little skimpy on the background of its young heroine (Winona Ryder), you sense that her troubles and her being committed stem more from her rejection of the 1960s suburban, middle-class life laid out before her than from any genuine sickness. It's director James (*Copland*) Mangold's no-nonsense rendering of her gradual realization of her own inner struggles—a realization both hindered and helped by the free-spirited fellow patient played by Angelina Jolie—that makes this emotional journey rewarding.

TEASE: SHERI LANE

Holy Smoke ★★
Despite a bold performance by Kate Winslet, Jane (*The Piano*) Campion's latest is a muddled stew of spirituality and sexuality. Winslet plays a young Australian who's extended a stay in India because she's found spiritual enlightenment with a guru. Her disbelieving family gets her home on false pretenses and forces her into deprogramming with an American anti-cult specialist (Harvey Keitel). These two then play out a power struggle, with the woman using her sexual power as a trump card. Campion presents this struggle as its own spiritual experience for the pair, but the story goes a long way to make a little point, and is never very involving.

Mr. Death ★★
Cambridge nonfiction filmmaker Errol (*Fast, Cheap and Out of Control*) Morris' sharp and clever visuals juice up his latest, but only to a certain extent. He's chosen an initially interesting subject in one-time Malden resident Fred Leuchter, an engineer who designs and builds electric chairs, lethal injection machines and gallows for prisons. But the somewhat amusingly creepy Leuchter turns out to be just creepy, period. When the movie gets to his dubious activities as a Holocaust denier. We see him collecting samples at Auschwitz to analyze, and when his conclusions—disputed by others Morris interviews—cause his business and marriage to suffer, you rightfully feel little sympathy for the guy. If only Leuchter were a more watchable lout, and offered the sort of ironic self-deception Morris was after.

Rear Window ★★★★
Alfred Hitchcock took the great Cornell Woolrich's short story and turned it into one of his most probing looks at voyeurism and obsession. Although this doesn't have the gut-level kick of *Vertigo*, with which Hitch would delve into those same themes a few years later, the story of a laid-up photographer (James Stewart) who starts becoming involved in the lives of the neighbors in the apartments across the courtyard outside of his rear window offers a fascinating microcosm of society, with newlyweds, a lonelyheart and perhaps a murderer within them. When the photographer discovers the murderer, and vice versa, the tension mounts. The classic 1954 thriller returns in a new Technicolor-restored print, at the Brattle Feb. 18-24.

Snow Falling on Cedars ★★
Scott (*Shine*) Hicks' adaptation of David Guterson's novel centers around the 1950s murder trial of a Japanese-American (Rick Yune) accused of killing a white man on fictional San Pedro Island (based on Washington state's real Bainbridge Island). But the story is a pastiche of flashbacks, internal thoughts and non-linear progressions covering pre-World War II harmony, the imprisonment of the island's Japanese immigrants and their American-born children in internment camps and the open wounds that remained. Despite lyrical touches and Robert Richardson's striking cinematography, there aren't enough interesting twists to make this more than a simple story of persecutors and victims. The main character is actually Ethan Hawke's reporter, the first love of the defendant's wife (Youki Kudoh), and he works out several personal issues over the course of the trial. If only the story devoted as much energy to its Japanese characters, who are barely developed.

Titus ★★½
Titus Andronicus, perhaps Shakespeare's most physically extreme play, has long been overdue for a movie adaptation. But in her film debut, *Lion King* stage director Julie Taymor's muddled experimentation dulls some of the spark in the ancient Roman story of murder, rape, dismemberment, adultery and enough intrigue and revenge for three movies. Anchored by a well-cast Anthony Hopkins as the Roman general Titus and Jessica Lange as the Goth queen who plots against him, it stumbles on its modern touches (cars, electricity, allusions to Fellini and *Silence of the Lambs*, etc.), since Taymor's given them little rhyme or reason. And her visual allusions to 1930s fascism were done more potently in 1995's *Richard III*, while those to rock 'n' roll were done more harmoniously in 1997's *Romeo and Juliet*. Although still a good yarn, Taymor's postmodernism is too haphazard to add more than flash.

Topsy-Turvy ★★★
After a sluggish start, Mike (*Secrets & Lies*) Leigh's 160-minute Gilbert and Sullivan movie turns out to be an outstanding look at the process of artistic creation. It opens at a point when the operetta duo—whose partnership seems to have been mostly a business one—are close to splitting, but once Gilbert (a marvelous Jim Broadbent) happens upon an exposition of Japanese culture, it then turns to the genesis of *The Mikado*, and picks up considerably. Leigh manages to touch upon the emotional perspectives of all involved, including vain actors, stern Gilbert, easy-going Sullivan and money-conscious producers, with both humor and genuine respect. Ultimately, you sense G & S worked so well together because they were opposite yet complementary sides of a complete artistic temperament.

William Klein's brash new cinematic creation, *The Messiah*, screens at the HFA Feb. 25 and 26.

Preview

Native Son

William Klein's Works on Film

In a remarkable career now spanning more than four decades, William Klein has had a heavy hand in influencing the international art world—and all on his own terms. As an American in Paris, Klein first used photography as a medium for his unique style of in-your-face art, having won his first camera in a poker game. A self-described heretic, he creates photographs that are often chaotic, threatening and abrasive. Whether or not you find his work appealing aesthetically, its upfront and aggressive quality is hard to ignore.

In 1954, Klein returned from Europe for a photographing spree in New York, producing caustic images of street life. In 1956, he compiled these photos for his book, *Life is Good and Good for You in New York: Trance Witness Revels*, but the gritty images were never released in the US. When Italian film director Federico Fellini saw the book, he offered Klein a position as his assistant, thus introducing him to cinema. Klein created his major films in Europe while in self-exile. Even those who disregard Klein's work concede that he was partially responsible for shifting the European street image away from its softly poetic style to a new rough expressionism. Over the years, Klein's jarring filmmaking has continued—his new feature, *The Messiah*, is his 23rd film. He appears in person at the Harvard Film Archive for its American premiere Feb. 25 and 26; he'll also appear in person Feb. 26 for a screening of his earlier In & Out of Fashion. —*EH*

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Cinemas
214 Harvard Ave. (277-2140). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
Trapelo Rd. (484-1706). Red Line to Harvard, 73 bus.

BOSTON

Boston Film and Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (536-1540). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (536-5400). Green Line to Copley.

Cheri
50 Dalton St. (536-2870) www.loewstheaters.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center.*

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum Of Science, Omni Theater
Science Park (723-2500). Green Line to Science Park.

Nickelodeon
606 Comm. Ave. (424-1500). B Green Line to Blanford St.

Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle.

Coolidge Corner
290 Harvard St. (734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theater
40 Brattle St. (876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (495-4700). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Square (494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony Theater
10 Church St. (864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan.

Somerville Theater
55 Davis Square (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston. (277-2500). B Green Line to Chestnut Hill.

West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (964-6060).

Alternatives & Revivals

Advice to Contributors
Submit film listings by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Although film listings are correct at the time of publication, they are subject to change. Double check showtimes by calling the theater or 333-FILM.

Boston Public Library

Rabb Lecture Hall, Mondays at 6pm.

A Rhapsody of Jazz Film Series
•Feb. 14, 6pm **Art Blakey: The Jazz Messenger** *1987.* This documentary shows off the amazing abilities of musicians Art Blakey, Dizzy Gillespie, Roy Haynes, Wynton Marsalis and Bobby Watson (III).

Brattle Theater

Most shows are $7, including double features.

Playtime: Chaplin, Keaton and Tati—Sundays
•Feb. 13, 2:30pm and 7pm **Limelight** *1952.* In this bittersweet comedy, Chaplin recreates the London of his youth and the music hall era. The film features an exceptional musical duet performed by comic partners Keaton and Chaplin.
•Feb. 13, 1pm, 5:30pm and 9:45pm **Sherlock Jr.** *1924.* Keaton plays an amateur detective and movie projectionist who enters the action of the film he projects. Also playing is the short film, **The Playhouse**.

Mad Love—Mondays
•Feb. 14, 3:15pm, 5:30pm, 7:45pm and 10pm **Casablanca** *1942.* Enjoy the story of love, betrayal and loyalty set in smoky Rick's cafe during the Nazi occupation of steamy Casablanca.

Black & White & on the Edge—Tuesdays
•Feb. 15, 4:30pm, 7pm and 9:30pm **Best Animation from 25 Years of the New England Film and Video Festival.** A selection of some of the greatest award-winning animation by New England artists over the past quarter century will screen. The program includes Karen Aqua's **Heavenly Bodies** *(1981)* and Ellie Lee's **Repetition Compulsion** *(1997).*

Recent Raves—Wednesdays
•Feb. 9, 3pm and 7:30pm **Dogma** *1999.* The last remaining relative of Jesus Christ is enlisted by the Voice of God to prevent two renegade angels (Ben Affleck and Matt Damon) from erasing existence by exploiting a loophole in Christian dogma.
•Feb. 9, 5:30pm and 9:50pm **Last Night** *1998.* Don (*The Red Violin*) McKellar directs and acts in this film with an array of characters who all find different ways to deal with the impending end of the world.
•Feb. 16, 3:15pm and 7:35pm **Earth** *1998.* Deepa Mehta's movie is a striking depiction of the horrors of the 1947 war between the Muslims and the Hindus as seen through the eyes of an eight-year-old girl.
•Feb. 16, 5:30pm and 9:45pm **West Beirut** *1998.* Mainly a comedy, the film also demonstrates the dark, violent forces at play in 1975 Beirut. The story follows a group of teenage boys and the adventures they have when they realize that war means no more school.

The Hong Kong Films of Chow Yun-Fat—Thursdays
•Feb. 10, 7:30pm **Full Contact** *1992.* Chow Yun-Fat plays a motorcycle-riding bad boy who is double-crossed by Simon Yam's flamboyant and psychopathic gang leader.
•Feb. 10, 5pm and 9:30pm **God of Gamblers' Return** *1994.* Chow reprises his role as the god of gamblers when a rival pushes him too far in a quest for a showdown. He has no choice but to get back in the game.
•Feb. 17, 4pm and 8pm **Wild Search** *1989.* Ringo Lam's film features Chow as the hardened city cop who follows a murder case out to the boonies where he finds himself protecting a young girl and her aunt.
•Feb. 17, 6pm and 10pm **Treasure Hunt** *1994.* Kung fu, gunplay, romance and supernatural comedy take the stage as Chow's tough-guy CIA agent is shipped off to a Shaolin temple.

Special Engagements—Fridays and Saturdays
•Feb. 11 and 12, 4:30pm and 7:15pm (Sat. matinee 1:45pm) **Princess Mononoke** *1997.* This animated tale set in ancient Japan takes place in a time of samurai warriors and isolated villages.
•Feb. 11 and 12, 10pm **Following** *1998.* An intriguing film of a man who follows strangers at random on the street, this is the tale of what happens when the follower is finally caught in the act.
•Feb. 18-24, 3pm, 5:20pm, 7:40pm and 10pm (Sat., Sun. and Mon. matinees 12:45pm) **Rear Window** *1954.* See film capsules for a description.

Coolidge Corner Theater

Call ahead for a complete list of films and showtimes.

Midnight Movies
•Through Feb. 12, 12am **My Breakfast with Blassie** *1983.* Wrestling champ Fred Blassie and Andy Kaufman discuss everything from food to the best insults over a southern California breakfast in a coffee shop.

Special Engagements
•Through February **The Emperor and the Assassin** *1999.* Acclaimed director Chen Kaige, who brought us *Farewell My Concubine*, brings life to this stunning epic which details the efforts of a king who will do anything to unify the kingdoms of China. In Mandarin with English subtitles.

Angela's Ashes is Alan Parker's new adaptation of Frank McCourt's Pulitzer-prize winning memoir.

Harvard Film Archive

The Early Films of Atom Egoyan

•Feb. 18 7pm **Next of Kin** *1984.* Directed by Atom Egoyan, this Canadian film is filled with haunting images of travel and displacement as it chronicles the travails of a man who undergoes "video therapy."

•Feb. 18, 9pm **Family Viewing** *1987.* A film of brutality and sentiment, it is set in a nursing home, a condominium and a telephone-sex establishment.

•Feb. 19, 7pm **Short Films by Atom Egoyan**. Atom Egoyan comes in person to show his experimental films and shorts. Atom discusses the arc of his filmmaking career, as seen through small cinematic clips. •Feb. 20, 8 pm **The Adjuster** *1991.* An insurance adjuster, film censors, an ex-football player, an aspiring cheerleader, a podiatrist, an actress, a lamp merchant, a butterfly collector and a motel staff all share the screen.

Film in the Third Reich

•Feb. 2, 7pm **The Architecture of Doom** *1995.* This award-winning documentary explores the inner workings of the Third Reich and illuminates the Nazi aesthetics in the visual arts and architecture.

•Feb. 7, 9 pm **The Blue Light** *1932.* After appearing in several films of the "mountain" genre produced during the Weimar era by then popular director Arnold Fanck, Leni Riefenstahl directed her first feature—which very much impressed Hitler.

•Feb. 8, 9 pm **Triumph of the Will**. Approved by Hitler as the official film record of the sixth Nazi-party Congress held in 1934 at Nuremberg, this film provides a case study of cinema as a means of propaganda.

•Feb. 14, 9pm **Olympia Part 1** *1938.* Commissioned by Hitler, Leni Riefenstahl's film of the 1936 Berlin Olympics remains nearly as controversial as her earlier *Triumph of the Will*.

•Feb. 15, 9pm **Olympia Part 2** *1938.* Olympia continues the focus on the international competition at the summer Olympic games of 1936, held in Berlin.

•Feb. 22, 9pm **The Wonderful, Horrible Life of Leni Riefenstahl** *1993.* This award-winning documentary is a biographical account of Hitler's official filmmaker—Riefenstahl delivers an emotional defense of her relationship with Nazi leaders.

Mapping and Fashioning Space

•Feb. 15, 6:30pm; Feb. 25, 9:30pm and Feb. 27, 8:30pm **Berlin-Cinema** *1999.* Directed by Samira Gloor-Fadel. This nonfiction work focuses, as its title suggests, on two subjects: the meaning of cinema and the changing cityscape of Berlin.

•Feb. 22, 6:30pm **Hiroshima, Mon Amour** *1959.* Alain Resnais' second feature film presents the subjective point of view of a French woman, haunted by her past and the war, who falls in love with a Japanese man.

Seance Screenings

•Feb. 9, 8:30pm **Topaze** *1933.* Harry d'Abbadie d'Arrast's film is one of only two believed to exist from his brief eight-film career.

•Feb. 16, 8:30pm **Topaze** *1951.* This topical satire features great comedic actor Fernandel.

William Klein's Works on Film

•Feb. 11, 7pm **The Little Richard Story** *1980.* Klein's chronicle lays out the rise and near fall of the young black man from Macon, Georgia, who became the King of rock 'n' roll.

•Feb. 11, 9pm and Feb. 13, 3pm **Muhammad Ali the Greatest** *1974.* Klein combines his pioneering 1964–65 portrait of the young champion boxer Cassius Clay with his film on the fighter's classic comeback bout with George Foreman a decade later in Zaire.

•Feb. 12, 7pm, Feb. 23, 8:45pm **Who Are You, Polly Magoo?** *1965-66.* Klein's celebrated mock-documentary follows the career of Polly Maggoo, a fictional American fashion model who is pursued by both a French television producer and a prince.

•Feb. 12, 9pm **Mode In France** *1985.* A semi-documentary snapshot of the mid-1980s French fashion scene, it captures the reigning looks and textures of the scene.

•Feb. 13, 7pm **Mr. Freedom** *1967-68.* Banned by the French government, *Mr. Freedom* is Klein's satire of Yankee imperialism. The title character is a superhero who is sent to Europe to eliminate French leftists.

•Feb. 13, 9pm **Eldridge Cleaver, Black Panther** *1970.* While in Algiers to document the Pan-African Festival, Klein encountered Eldridge Cleaver, the exiled "Minister of Culture" of the Black Panthers.

Topics in Film: Five Directors

•Feb. 14, 7pm **Crues and Whispers** *1972.* Directed by Ingmar Bergman, this film presents a Victorian upper-class family coping with the final illness and death of a sister

•Feb. 21, 7pm **Fanny and Alexander** *1982.* Ingmar Bergman's film follows a little boy and his younger sister dealing with life among an extended family.

Museum of Fine Arts

Most film screenings are $6.

African Cinema 2000

•Feb. 9, 6pm; Feb. 10, 8pm and Feb. 12, 4pm **Pieces D'Identites** *1998.* By Mweze Ngangura. This is a story of an old king and his beautiful daughter.

•Feb. 12, 2pm **A Walk in the Night** *1998.* A fast-paced crime thriller set in present day Johannesburg, this is an adaptation of Alex La Guma's celebrated novella of the same name. Directed by Mickey Madoda Dube.

•Feb. 16, 8pm **Testamento** *1998.* A classic tale of the hollowness at the core of provincial bourgeois life, Mickey Madoda Dube's film is based on a novel by Germano Almeida.

•Feb. 17, 8:15pm **Woubi Cheri** *1998.* Philip Brooks and Laurent Bocahut's documentary introduces the gender pioneers demanding their rights to construct a distinct African homosexuality.

•Feb. 18, 6:30pm **Flame** *1996.* Ingrid Sinclair's film remains one of the most accurate and empathetic films on the role of women in guerilla struggles and in the post-liberation societies that followed.

•Feb. 19, 3:45pm **Mortu Nega** *1988. Mortu Nega* is a unique elegy to the victims as well as the survivors of Guinea-Bissau's liberation struggle. Directed by Flora Gomes.

Art on Film

•Feb. 10, 6:30pm **Unorthodox Geometry** *1998. Unorthodox Geometry* follows the work of Ursula von Rydingsvard over a two-year period (1997–98). During this time she has a gallery show in NY and is commissioned to do two outdoor pieces.

Premiere Engagements

•Feb. 9, 8pm; Feb. 11, 16, and 17, 6:30pm **Outstandingly Entertaining Short Films**. This 75-minute program features several thoroughly engaging short films by American and international artists including a mix of animation and live action.

Films by Abbas Kiarostami

•Feb. 11, 8:15pm and Feb. 12, 12:15pm **Where Is the Friend's House?** *1987.* In this simple tale, actually a poem by Sohrab Sepehri, a 10-year-old boy searches for his friend's house after realizing that he came home from school with his friend's notebook.

•Feb. 18, 8:15pm and Feb. 19, 12:30pm **And Life Goes On** *1992.* In the aftermath of the 1990 earthquake, a filmmaker and his son travel to an Iranian village.

The Classic Film Series

All films except the double feature are $6. *The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400).*

•Feb. 14 **Moonstruck** *1987.* Puccini's La Boheme fills the New York air and sets the scene for a feast of life and love. Special appearance by Olympia Dukakis.

education

Advice to Contributors

Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Education. Or e-mail information to education@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

CLASSES/LECTURES

Wednesday, February 9

Massachusetts Telecomm. Council

Burlington Marriott, One Mall Road, Burlington (781-684-0880). 7:30-10am. $35. The MTC hosts an international discussion on "The Internet's Effect on Distribution Worldwide."

Radcliffe College Presents

Bunting Institute, Radcliffe University, 34 Concord Ave., Cambridge (495-8212). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 4pm. Harvard professor **Sam Barnes** discusses "The Role of International Assistance in Post-conflict Peace Consolidation."

Succeeding in the Global Marketplace

Swissotel, 1 Avenue de Lafayette, Boston (720-3622). 4pm. $75. The business forum includes five sessions: International Sales & Marketing with **Paula Murphy**, director of the Mass. Export Center; Global Market Opportunities with **Kathleen Molony**, executive director of the Mass. Trade Office; E-Commerce Marketing with **Jean-Pierre von Halle** of Global Business Web; Export Financing with **Ben Schwartz**, senior VP of Citizens Bank; Export Logistics and Shipping with **Joseph Wyson** of EVP and **Joseph Meunier**, CEO of Oceanair Inc. At 6pm, a networking session will include more than 40 international chambers of commerce, trade organizations and government agencies.

Symbiotic Planet: Evolution by Merger

Cambridge Forum, The First Parish, 3 Church St., Cambridge (495-2727). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. Free. **Lynn Margulis** of the Department of Geosciences at the University of Massachusetts discusses environmental ethics within a framework of evolutionary science.

Thursday, February 10

Hate Crimes in the New Millennium

Brookline Adult & Community Education Program, Brookline High School, 115 Greenough St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. 7-8:30pm. $5. What do the Heaven's Gate suicides, the Weaver family shootout, the Branch Davidian conflagration, armed militias and attacks on gay rights have in common? According to **Chip Berlet**, senior analyst with Political Research Associates (a non-profit that tracks and studies the US political right wing) the rise in violent altercations as the millennium turns is no coincidence. Find out why.

African American Children and the Work of Abolition

Old South Meeting House, Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:15-1pm. $4. In the early 1830s, a new group of abolitionists emerged and took their place on New England's abolitionist stage. Led by their teacher Susan Paul, African-American children from Beacon Hill made important contributions to the anti-slavery campaigns. Join **Lois Brown**, assistant professor of English and African American studies at Mount Holyoke, as she shares intriguing details about some of America's youngest activists.

Friday, February 11

Book Review Lecture

Women's Educational and Industrial Union, 356 Boylston St., Boston (536-5651, ext. 136). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 10:30am. $15. **Virginia Tashjian** is a renown book reviewer who has been delighting audiences with her humor and charm for many years. She is the former director of the Newton Free Library, the former president of the New England Library Association, a children's storyteller and the author of several children's books.

Wednesday, February 16

Demystifying Investing for Women

Boston Learning Society, 1089 Great Plain Ave., Needham (781-453-9800). 7-9pm. $40. Join **Anita Springer** for a workshop on investing for women. Cover the important topics of asset allocation, including stocks, bonds and mutual funds. This seminar delivers practical information that will help you become smart—and more confident—about your investment decisions.

Communications for Non-profits

Lenox Hotel, 710 Boylston St., Boston (422-1855). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6-9pm. $40. An annual non-profit program with **Jayne Gershkowitz**, executive director of NTSAD; **Richard Haymes**, executive director of NYC Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project; and **Allson (Sunny) Coady**, board chair of the Easter Seals of Mass.

Is Barak an Improvement on Netanyahu: Human Rights in Palestine

Cambridge Forum, The First Parish, 3 Church St., Cambridge (495-2727). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. Free. Enjoy a lecture by **Edmund R. Hanauer**, executive director, SEARCH for Justice and Equality in Palestine, a non-profit organization that works for education on human rights issues in the Middle East.

Lies Across America: What Our Historic Sites Get Wrong

The Ford Hall Forum, Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (373-5800). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6:30pm. Free. A lecture by author **James W. Lowen**.

You Just Don't Get It: How to Communicate With the Opposite Sex

Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Comm. Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 6-8pm. $55. Explore secrets to successfully communications, including the two most damaging words and the four qualities every relationship needs to succeed.

Thursday, February 17

Get Your Invention Into the Market

5 Comm. Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 5:45-7:15pm. $37. Have you ever had a great idea for a product that you are sure would be worth a fortune if you could only figure out how to get it made and into the marketplace? Join inventors **Bob Wilson** and **Jerry Joy** for an evening of insider's tips on the inventing biz—from product design and patent applications to finding the right manufacturer for your product.

Chip Berlet discusses "Hate Crimes in the New Millennium" at the BACEP, Feb. 10.

Trains That Passed in the Night

Photonics Building Auditorium, Room 206, St. Mary's and Babbit Streets, Boston (353-0700). MBTA: B Green Line to St. Mary's. 6pm. $7. Photographer Winston Link first worked for a public relations firm making photos, used to slip client's messages into unusual photos which were submitted to newspapers nationwide. During WWII, Link worked in a secret military research lab, polishing his precise photographic technique. Enjoy this lecture by author **Tom Garver** on Link, who specialized in photographing industrial scenes and factory buildings

ONGOING

Boston Center for Adult Education

5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.

Boston Learning Society

1089 Great Plain Ave., Needham (781-453-9800). MBTA: Commuter Rail to Needham Center. Seminars and workshops for inquisitive minds.

Boston Toastmasters

640 Comm. Ave., Boston (367-3463). MBTA: B Green Line to BU Central. First and third Tuesdays, 5:45pm. Public speaking techniques. •**Boston Speech Party**, *185 Franklin St., Boston (265-4757). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.* Second and fourth Wed., 6-8pm.

Brookline Adult & Community Ed.

115 Greenough St., Brookline High School, Room 101, Brookline (730-2700). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. Classes in liberal arts, cooking, sewing, computers, crafts and exercise.

Brookline Arts Center

86 Monmouth St., Brookline (566-5715). MBTA: C Green Line to St. Mary's or D Green Line to Fenway. Art classes and workshops.

Cambridge Center for Adult Education

42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). www.ccae.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Call for a catalog.

Grub Street Writers

26 West St., Boston (623-8100). Writing workshops.

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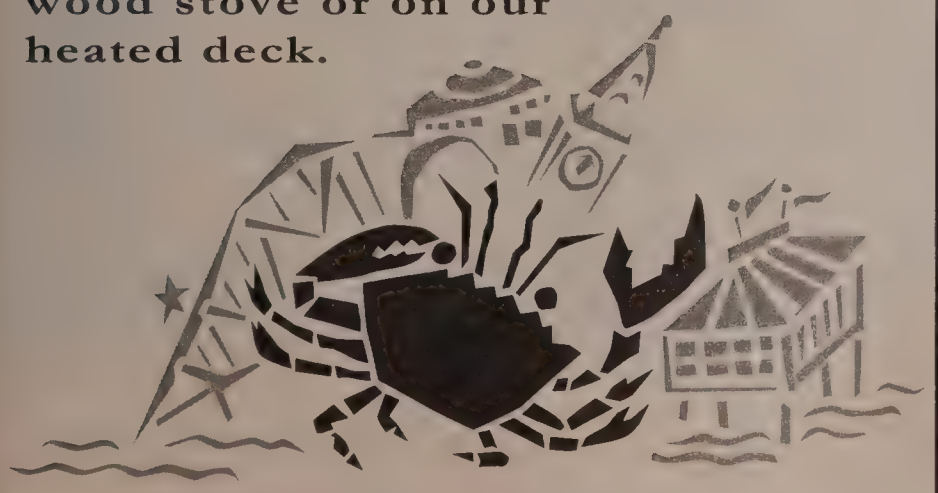

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READINGS & SIGNINGS

Wednesday, Feb. 9

Barnes and Noble Presents
660 Beacon St., Boston (267-8484). MBTA: B, C or D Green Line to Kenmore. 7pm. Free admission. **Timothy Smith**, veteran Michigan journalist and the father of a micro-preemie daughter, joins **Mindy Hull** to discuss *Miracle Birth Stories of Very Premature Babies: Little Thumbs Up!*

Thursday, Feb. 10

Arlington Center for the Arts
Robbings Library, Community Room 700 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington (781-648-6220). 7:30pm. Free. **Joseph Gustafson**, haiku enthusiast and author of six books of poetry, will read from his latest collection, *Gettysburg Voices*. **Steven Stathis** will also share excerpts from *Demons and Dreams*.

MIT Writer Series Presents
Bartos Auditorium, 20 Ames St., Cambridge (253-7894). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. 7pm. Free. **Barry Yourgrau** reads from his new book, *Haunted Traveller: An Imaginary Memoir*. He also shows a 15-minute video clip from his movie, *The Sadness of Sex*.

Friday, Feb. 11

Harvard Bookstore Friday Forum
Harvard Bookstore, 1256 Mass Ave., Cambridge (661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. **Hilary Puntam** of Cogan University's department of philosophy, and of Harvard University, gives a talk on *The Threefold Cord: Mind, Body, and World.*

Saturday, Feb. 12

Bad Girrls Studio Poetry Performance
209 Green St., Jamaica Plain (971-0082). MBTA: Orange Line to Green St. 8pm. $3. The second annual poetry celebration of love, anger, betrayal and the fun stuff in between. Performances include monologues, spoken word and poetry, a puppet show, storytelling and a wedding ceremony.

Borders BookShop Presents
85 Worcester Rd., Framingham (508-370-3138). 7:30pm. Celebrate this Valentine's Day with romantic spot-finding travel writer **Lea Lane**, author of the recently published *The Unofficial Guide to Bed and Breakfasts in New England.*

Sunday, Feb. 13

Borders Books and Music Presents
10-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA:Orange Line to State St. 6pm. **John Spooner**, a stockbroker at Saloman Smith Barney and bestselling personal investment guru, discusses personal investing and signs copies of his book, *Do You Want to Make Money or Do You Want to Fool Around?* His bestselling non-fiction includes *Confessions of a Stockbroker*, *Smart People* and *Sex and Money*.

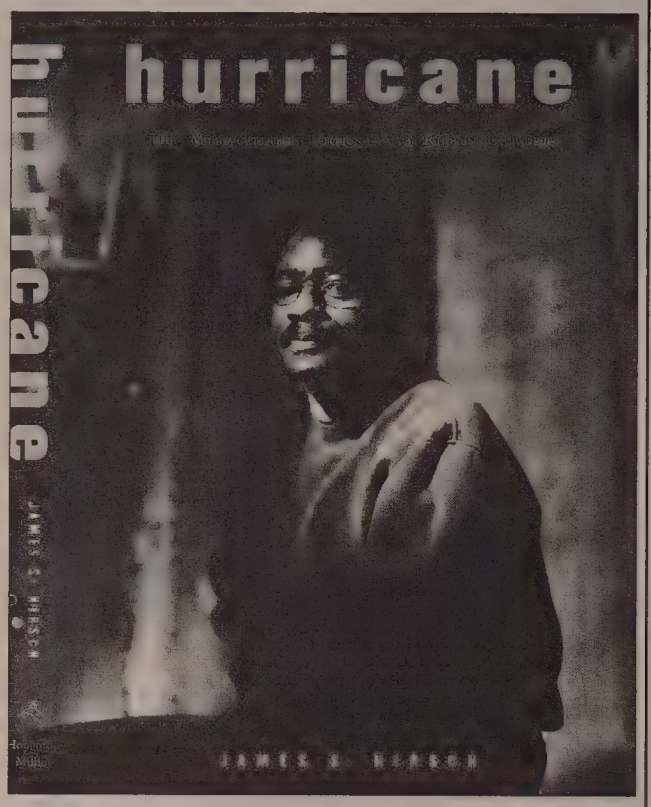
Harvard Bookstore's Literary Salon Series
Bunting Institute, 34 Concord Ave., Cambridge (661-1515). 6:30pm. **Kate Wheeler** reads from her much anticipated first novel, *When Mountains Walked.* It is a romantic, multigenerational story that tells of two parallel love affairs—from South America to India and New England.

Stone Soup Review
The Bestsellers Café, 24 High St., Medford (227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Davis Square, transfer to #94 bus. 3pm. The Stone Soup Poets put on a suitably poetic afternoon of Valentine romance readings. Featured readers include poets **Jack Powers**, **Lainie Senechal**, **Harris Gardner**, **Joanna Nealon**, **Buddah**, **Sarah Tyler**, **Walter Howard**, **Dorinda Foley**, **Bill Perreault**, **C.C. Arshagara**, **Lisanne D'Andrea-Winslow** and **Doug Holder**.

Preview

The Champion of the World

Here comes the story of Hurricane.



It's hard to believe that anyone could relate the story of Rubin "Hurricane" Carter better than Bob Dylan (as evidenced in the glorious six-minute song "Hurricane"), but lately several storytellers are coming close. Hot off the heels of Norman Jewison's film *Hurricane*, James S. Hirsch released his new book, *Hurricane: The Miraculous Journey of Rubin Carter.* It covers the now-familiar life story of Carter, the professional boxer who had been a No. 1 contender for the middleweight boxing crown until wrongfully accused and punished for committing a triple murder.

Carter, who lives near Toronto, accompanies his biographer to the Arthur M. Sackler Museum to speak about the book and the wider issues that surround it, namely the criminal justice system and the devastating effects of racism in America. The book traces Carter's passionate 20-year campaign for his own freedom and his current efforts as a member of the board of directors of the Southern Center for Human Rights in Atlanta, the Association in Defense of the Wrongfully Convicted in Toronto and the Alliance for Prison Justice in Boston. *Arthur M. Sackler Auditorium, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (661-0372). Feb. 22, 6pm. Tickets can be picked up free of charge at the Harvard Bookstore. —EH*

Monday, Feb. 14

Blacksmith House Poetry Series
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8:15pm. $3. Join **Andrea Cohen**, **William Corbett**, **Steven Cramer**, **Lloyd Schwartz** and **Rosanna Warren** as they honor the "ups and downs" theme of love.

Borders BookShop Presents
85 Worcester Rd., Framingham (508-370-3138). 7:30pm. Meet the host of the award-winning show Marketplace, **David Brancaccio**, who discusses his *Squandering Aimlessly: My Adventures in the American Marketplace.*

Newtonville Books Presents
296 Walnut St., Newtonville (244-6619). 7:30pm. In keeping with the Valentine's Day theme, **Steve Almond** and **Terese Svoboda** read their stories from the anthology *Ex-Files: New Stories about Old Flames*. Both authors will sign copies of their books after the reading.

Tuesday, Feb. 15

Barnes and Noble Presents
660 Beacon St., Boston (267-8484). MBTA: B, C or D Green Line to Kenmore. 7pm. Free. Meet the host of the award-winning show Marketplace, **David Brancaccio**, who will discuss his latest: *Squandering Aimlessly: My Adventures in the American Marketplace.*

Brookline Booksmith Presents
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Historian **Howard Zinn** reads from his dramatic monologue, *Marx in Soho*, a call to reconsider socialist theory as a valid philosophy.

Harvard Book Store Author Event
Kennedy Room, Charles Hotel, Cambridge (661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. **Robert Wright** *(Non-Zero: The Logic of Human Destiny)* reads with **Daniel Dennet**, a professor of philosophy and director for the Center for Cognitive Studies at Tufts University.

Newtonville Books Presents
296 Walnut St., Newtonville (244-6619). 7:30pm. **Tom Paine** reads from his quirky first collection of short fiction. He'll choose excerpts from his 10 short stories found in *Scar Vegas and Other Stories.*

Wednesday, Feb. 16

Brookline Booksmith Presents
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. With slides and quilts in tow, **Raymond Dobard** discusses *Hidden in Plain View: A Secret Story of Quilts and the Underground Railroad.*

Harvard Bookstore Presents
Rabb Hall, Boston Public Library. 6pm. **David Ebershoff** talks about his book, *The Danish Girl*. Set in the ritz and glitz of Europe in the '20s, this portrait of a marriage was inspired by the true story of Danish painter Einar Wegener and his California-born wife.

Thursday, Feb. 17

Harvard Bookstore Author Event
Arthur. M. Sackler Auditorium, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. **Matt Ridley** reads from *Genome: The Autobiography of a Species in 23 Chapters*, about the human genome—the complete set of genes housed in 23 pairs of chromosomes.

Harvard Bookstore Presents
Rabb Hall, Boston Public Library, MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6pm. **Loung Ung** talks about *First They Killed My Father.* Ung is national spokesperson for the Campaign for a Landmine Free World. The event is co-sponsored by Amnesty International.

Friday, Feb. 18

Borders BookShop Presents
85 Worcester Rd., Framingham (508-370-3138). 7:30pm. Author and Brandeis University professor **Gordon Fellman** tells us how to opt for a life of caring as he reads from his heartfelt *Rambo and the Dalai Lama.*

Harvard Bookstore's Friday Forum
Harvard Bookstore, 1256 Mass Ave., Cambridge (661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. **George J. Borjas**, professor of public policy at Harvard University's JFK School of Government, talks about his *Heaven's Door.*

Jamaicaway Books and Gifts
676 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (983-3240). 7pm. **Shay Youngblood** reads and signs her newest book, *Black Girl in Paris*. It is the story of a young African-American writer's artistic awakening. Youngblood is a playwright and the author of *The Big Mama Stories* and *Soul Kiss*.

Tuesday, Feb. 22

Borders BookShop Presents
85 Worcester Rd., Framingham (508-370-3138). 7:30pm. An open mike session features poets **Harris Gardner** and **Lainie Senechal**. These well-known Boston area poets are also co-authors of the book *Chalice of Eros*.

Newtonville Books
296 Walnut St., Newtonville (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free. **Stephen J. Whitfield**, a cultural historian at Brandeis University and author of seven other books, Whitfield gives readers a critical interpretation of American Jewish culture as it has evolved through the 20th century. He will sign his latest book, *In Search of American Jewish Culture.*

ONGOING

Agape, Tuesdays
Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (266-6710). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8-10pm. Every Tuesday, this somewhat sophisticated poetry group gathers to share versions of their latest work. Everyone is welcome.

Cantab Lounge
738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8-10pm. $3. Wednesday nights at the Cantab always packs in more than 30 poets in just two hours, first at an open mike, followed by a featured poet and a slam.

Club Passim, Tuesdays
47 Palmer St., Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. $5. All open mic fanatics must experience this open mike night—a training ground for up-and-coming performers, poets and storytellers. Sign up Tuesdays, 7:30pm.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Night, Sundays
1667 Mass Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. $4 cover. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes every Sunday to the featured poet of the week.

Stone Soup Poetry Night, Mondays
Zeitgeist Gallery, 312 Broadway St., Cambridge (227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. $3. The Stone Soup's poetry night has a new locale after being booted out of their old one and an ever-changing lineup of authors followed by an open mike session. Every Monday, join in an open reading session with features. 7:30-10:30pm.

Bestsellers

HARDCOVER FICTION
1. **Harry Potter & the Chamber of Secrets** by J.K. Rowling
2. **Lion's Game** by Nelson DeMille
3. **Sick Puppy** by Carl Hiassen
4. **Fortune's Rocks** by Anita Shreve
5. **Harry Potter & the Prisoner of Azkaban** by J.K. Rowling
6. **Timeline** by Michael Crichton
7. **Waiting** by Ha Jin
8. **Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's Stone** by J.K. Rowling
9. **Gap Creek** by Robert Morgan
10. **Blue at the Mizzen** by Patrick O'Brian

HARDCOVER NON-FICTION
1. **Tuesdays With Morrie** by Mitch Albom
2. **'Tis** by Frank McCourt
3. **The New New Thing** by Michael Lewis
4. **The Rock Says** by Dwayne Johnson and Joe Layden
5. **Vast Conspiracy** by Jeffery Toobin
6. **Galileo's Daughter** by Dava Sobel
7. **All Souls** by Michael McDonald
8. **Georgiana Dutchess of Devonshire** by Amanda Foreman
9. **The Greatest Generation** by Tom Brokaw
10. **Body for Life** by Bill Phillips

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HAVE REEDS, WILL TRAVEL

Freelancer Peggy Pearson is the queen of Boston's oboists. BY KEITH POWERS

Boston-area conductors and music directors constantly extol the rich, deep pool of freelance musicians they have to call upon for performances. So when one player shows up repeatedly on local stages, you know she's a good one.

Oboist Peggy Pearson, who's had long stints with the famed Orpheus Chamber Ensemble, and the Emmanuel Wind Quintet, is a good one. And in the last few years, she has added the challenge of a musical directorship herself: She runs the Winsor Music Chamber Series, at Follen Community Church in Lexington, now in its fourth season.

"The common denominator in the series is the oboe, of course. If I just did the standard oboe repertory though, I'd run out of music very quickly. So I've done transcriptions of string quartets—I love playing with strings. In the past I've transcribed three Haydn quartets, some Mozart quartets, the Bach organ trios and most recently "Langsamersatz," an early Webern string quartet. I loved that because I rarely get to play Romantic music.

"I transcribe the first violin part for the oboe, but I make a lot of changes. Sometimes it's too low or too high, or just too tiring.

"The series doing really well, but I could use some help with the management of it now. We're doing three concerts a year, and I'd like to do more. But I'm really swamped, and I need to find someone to do the administrative work.

"At the last concert my sister came up to me and asked where the sexton was, because the toilet was overflowing. And that's all I could think about when I was playing. So you can see that I really need someone to help me." The next concert is April 1, featuring the premier of a work by Yehudi Wyner.

Pearson is also artistic director of the Greenleaf Chamber Players, based at Purchase College in New York. "It's a collaboration with {conductor}Jane Glover that revolves around the works of Haydn."

Pearson started playing piano with her mother at age seven, and took up the oboe at 10—"I really liked it from the start," she says. "I still love it." After graduating from Wayland High, she went to Sarah Lawrence for one year before dropping out, returning to Boston and beginning her freelance music career. Not conservatory trained, she studied privately with Louise Vosgercian, who taught at Harvard. "I took piano and keyboard harmony and theory with her. I enjoyed it so much that sometimes I was practicing 10 hours a day. I finally stopped because I wasn't playing the oboe at all."

Pearson was a member of the Emmanuel Wind Quintet, a group of players that met at the Emmanuel Church Bach series, and that stayed together for 10 years, winning the prestigious Naumberg Award in 1981. "We worked on the Shoenberg Wind Quintet, and it took a year to learn. I remember the first concert was scheduled for May and there was this freak ice storm. So the concert was cancelled—after a year of working on it! But then we went on to play many times for audiences that didn't want to hear it," she says laughing. Emmanuel broke up around the time Pearson moved to New York in 1986.

"In New York I played a lot with Orpheus Chamber Ensemble,"—perhaps the world's best known chamber orchestra. "It was great; we traveled a lot, and I went to places like Hong Kong, Prague, Italy, places I had never been. But I was never really comfortable in New York—it was too harsh, not just walking down the street, but also in the musical community. The Boston music community is really great.

"And I missed playing Bach," she admits. "I've been spoiled—there's nothing better than playing Bach." Bach is the great love of wind players, and the oboe settings in the Cantatas are rich and beautiful. Pearson is a regular at Craig Smith's Cantata Series Sunday morning at Emmanuel Church in the Back Bay.

Musicians seem to have a strong sense of giving back to the community, and Pearson is no different. "I started a non-profit organization, to present the {Winsor Music} series, and to commission works, and also to develop a program where musicians go out and play in hospices and nursing homes. It's something I've done personally, and I want to do more. I've found that playing in that kind of setting makes a such a difference. Everyone—performers and audience—gets a lot out of it.

Pearson is a regular at Emmanuel Church's Sunday Bach cantata series: "I've been spoiled—there's nothing better than playing Bach."

"I was never really comfortable in New York—it was too harsh, not just walking down the street, but also the musical community."

Coda

Peggy Pearson has many recordings, frequently of 20th century works. Her next disc, on Bridge Records, contains **Mario Davidovsky**'s *Quartetto* for oboe and strings, written for Pearson. It will be available this spring (914-654-9270; *www.bridgerecords.com*). Violinist **Itzhak Perlman**, saying that "A lot of conducting is a mystery to me," was named principal guest conductor at the **Detroit Symphony Orchestra**, beginning in the 2001 season. The fact that the orchestra is trying to climb out from under a debt load reported to be over $8 million could be a factor in signing on the charismatic Perlman. The BSO announced that Perlman will also conduct at Tanglewood this summer. The **Van Cliburn** competition, trying to improve its reputation, is planning major changes in awards and judging. For the first time, non-pianists, including *Boston Globe* critic **Richard Dyer**, will be part of the judging panel. IB

Jung Ja Kim (l) and Lynn Chang help celebrate Aaron Copland's 100 birthday anniversary with a concert at First and Second Church Feb. 20.

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled Classical by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Music or e-mail to music@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers Web site information and nearest T stops. Deadline is four weeks prior to deadline. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from many different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to doublecheck dates and times.

Thursday, February 10

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). E Green Line to Symphony, 8pm. Bernard Haitink conducts music of Schumann, Brahms, and the Berg Violin Concerto with soloist Frank Peter Zimmermann.

Friday, February 11

Boston Artists Ensemble
Trinity Episcopal Church, Newton, (964-6553). 8pm, $17-$20. Jonathan Miller's ensemble premieres a new piano trio by Joan Huang.

Boston Chamber Music Society
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (482-6661). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. (349-0080). 7:30pm. $14-$35. Ensemble plays music of Ravel, and Elgar. and a world premiere of Lazarof's string trio.

Boston Classical Orchestra
Fanueil Hall, 551 Tremont St., Boston (423-3883). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. 8pm, $18-$35. Haydn, Mozart and Friends. Steven Lipsitt, conductor. Harry Ellis Dickson, lecturer.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony, 8pm. Same program as Feb. 10.

Handel and Haydn Society
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $19-$49. Ivor Bolton conducts a Classical Valentine, featuring music of Beethoven and Schubert.

Saturday, February 12

BankBoston Celebrity Series
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (482-6661). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. 8pm. What Makes it Great? with Robert Kapilow and Boston Musica Viva.

Musicians of the Old Post Road
Christ Church, Cambridge. (781-466-6694). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm, $10-$17. Period ensemble performs works of G.A. Hasse, Heinichen, Vivaldi and Veracini.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Same program as Feb. 10.

New England Philharmonic
Tsai Performance Center, 685 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (868-1222). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. 8pm. $7-$15. Richard Pittman conducts music of Mendelssohn, Iannaccone, Debussy and Lutoslawski.

Schola Cantorum of Boston
First Church Congregational, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (781-286-2270). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. $7-$15. Music of Orlando Gibbons and William Byrd.

Sunday, February 13

Boston Chamber Music Society
Sanders Theatre, Kirkland St., Cambridge (349-0080). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. $14-$35. Same program as Feb. 11.

Boston Classical Orchestra
Fanueil Hall, 551 Tremont St., Boston (423-3883). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. 8pm, $18-$35. Same program as Feb. 11.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony, 8pm. Same program as Feb. 10.

Emmanuel Music
15 Newbury St., Boston (536-3356). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 10am. Weekly Bach cantata.

Handel and Haydn Society
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm, $19-$49. Same program as Feb. 11.

Gardner Museum Sunday Series
Gardner Museum, 2 Palace Road, Boston (566-1401). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 1:30pm. $5-$17. The Borromeo String Quartet continues their series of the complete string quartets of Beethoven.

Monday, February 14

BankBoston Celebrity Series
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (482-6661). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. 8pm. Brandenburg Ensemble performs Vivaldi's *Four Seasons.*

Tuesday, February 15

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony, 8pm. Same program as Feb. 10.

King's Chapel
Corner of School and Tremont, Boston (227-2155). Red or Green Line to Park St. 12:15pm, suggested donation $2. Kevin Komisaruk plays the C.B. Fisk organ.

Thursday, February 17

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony, 8pm. Bernard Haitink conducts the Mahler 7th Symphony.

Friday, February 18

BankBoston Celebrity Series
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (482-6661). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. 8pm. $30-$50. Violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter performs music of Part, Respighi and others.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony, 8pm. Same program as Feb. 17.

Boston University Faculty Concert
Tsai Performance Center, 685 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (353-8724). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. 8pm. Michael Reynolds, cello, Robert Merfeld, piano, and Bayla Keyes, violin, perform music of Martinu, Brahms and Dvorak.

Saturday, February 19

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony, 8pm. Same program as Feb. 17.

Boston University Faculty Concerts
Tsai Performance Center, 685 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-8724). B Green Line to BU East. 8pm. ALEA III; Theodore Antoniou conducts works of Wyner and others.

Chameleon Arts Ensemble of Boston
First and Second Church, 66 Marborough St., Boston (427-8200). Green Line to Arlington. 8pm. $14-$28. Music of Beach, Harbison, Trapani and Shostakovich.

Sunday, February 20

Boston Conservatory Chamber Players
First and Second Church, 66 Marlborough St., Boston (536-6340), 4pm, $7-$32. Jung Ja Kim and Lynn Chang play music of Copland.

Gardner Museum Sunday Series
Gardner Museum, 2 Palace Road, Boston (566-1401. MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 1:30pm. $5-$17. Douglas Boyd, oboe, and Judith Gordon, piano performs music of Bach, Ravel, Carter and others.

Sarasa Chamber Ensemble
Friend's Meeting House, 7 Longfellow Park, Cambridge (492-4758). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Donation $10. Piano trios by Brahms, Mozart and Schubert.

Tuesday, February 22

Lunchtime Series
King's Chapel, corner of Tremont and School Sts., Boston (227-2155). Red or Green Line to Park 12:15pm, $2. Music of Boston composer Daniel Pinkham.

dance clubs

Advice to Contributors
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Nights

Tuesdays

Cigar and Jazz night
The Exchange. Smoke, lounge and listen to the smooth sounds of jazz. Plus, you score a free Gina Cigar and complimentary buffet. No cover.

Fat Tuesdays
Bill's. This off-the-hook night features DJ Chaos scratching out hip-hop music to college clubbers while house masters DJ Justin Hoffman and WBCN's DJ Jynx spin dance tunes. Doors open at 11pm, $10 cover.

Hibernia Tuesdays
Hibernia. Get jiggy at "Flow" with DJ Craig Kapilow and Sava Kelesidis, where you'll find masses of dancers grooving to tribal house. 9pm. 21+. Cover varies.

Milk
Venu. Boston promoters from seven clubs unite to bring you the hottest house night all week. Resident DJ Osheen spins deep to hard house. Dress is funky. 21+.

Mingle Tuesdays
The Modern. This fancy schmancy new spot screams très chic. More low-key and upsacle than its Lansdowne street neighbors, it's got a raw bar, vodka bar and late lounge. 10pm. 21+.

Zanzibar Tuesdays
The Big Easy. Dress to impress for Boston's premiere International Night. The Big Easy's got DJ Manola, who spins Latin and international music from 11pm. 19+. $10.

Wednesdays

Good Karma
Karma/Mambo. Mizery plays host to a roster of rotating DJs. Expect a mixed crowd and special guest performers. 10pm. 19+. $5 cover.

Gotham
M-80. Prepare to party with the beautiful people dressed in black as DJ Eddy K. dominates the airwaves with NY house. Leave the hats, but bring your wallet for the $10 cover. It all begins at 11:30pm. 21+.

Hibernia Wednesdays
Hibernia. DJ C.T.O. is the Godfather of Say Word night—with plenty of funk, rare groove, soul and old school hip-hop. 9pm. 21+. Cover varies.

The Sugar Shack
The Sugar Shack. If you're 19+ and a woman, you get in for free before 11pm—otherwise the cover is $10. Located in the bottom of the Big Easy, there is most certainly funk, disco and a lot of hip-hop. 10pm.

Modern Living
The Modern. DJ Raffy spins while minglers munch away on a raw bar and sip martinis. 10pm. 21+.

Musical Mayhem
The Exchange. WBCN's DJ Jynx of Cybersounds plays bangin' funky house in the vault while Sir Kel and LA's hot percussionist Stanley Benders take you on a journey upstairs. Party starts at 10pm.

Thursdays

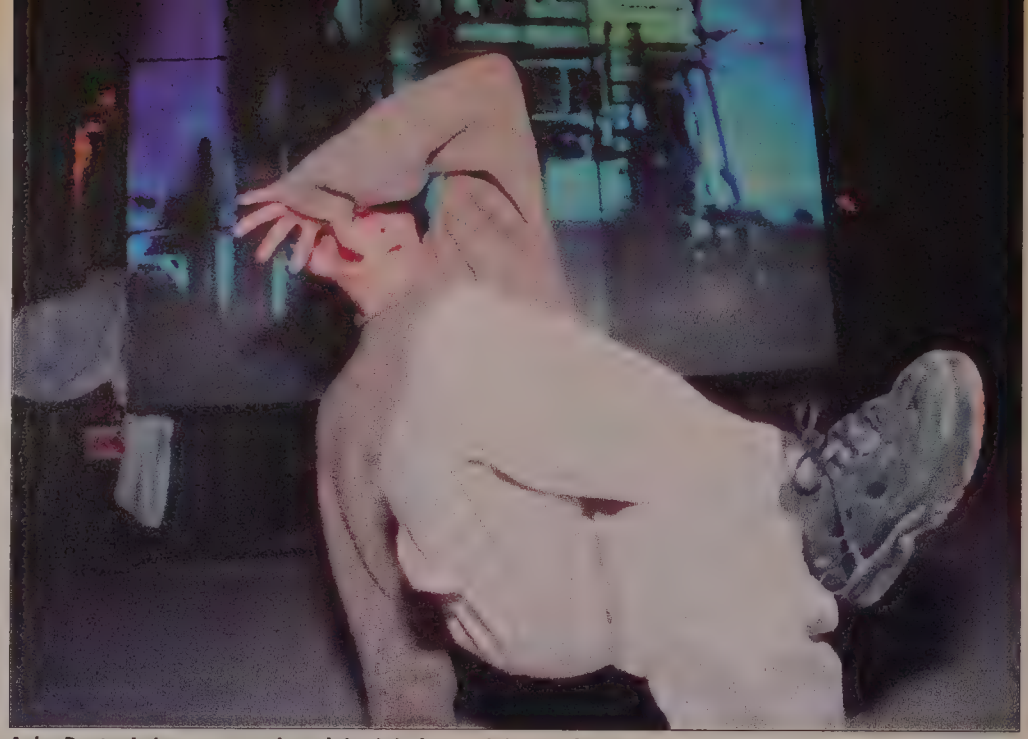
Atlas Dance
Tonight is almost as much fun as Atlas Dance's Friday and Saturday nights—filled with top 40 dancing from 10:30pm-2am. $5, 21+.

Chrome
Axis John Debo and Ali Ajami host, spin and all-around have a good time. Head upstairs to hear DJ Chaos spin soul, funk and house beats. Leave your attitude at the door—DJ is god here. 10pm, $10 cover, 19+. •Feb. 10 is Jerry Bonham. •Feb. 17 is Dave Ralph.

Funkalicious Thursdays
The Exchange. DJ G squared takes you on a blast from the past as he spins the sounds of '70s and '80s. Added bonus: free after work buffet. No cover.

Hibernia Thursdays
Hibernia. Experience the full rockin' spectrum of sound on Spectrum night with DJ Kid Ray. 9pm, 21+, cover varies.

International Thursday
Avalon. An overwhelmingly Asian crowd fills up this nightspot as DJ Manolo spins Eurohaus and DJ Anthony spins Latin in the adjoining Playhouse Latin-



Axis, Boston's longest running nightclub, just celebrated its new look. Now able to accommodate 900 people, it re-opened its doors at 13 Lansdowne Street on Jan. 27 with a lavish grand opening party.

Lounge. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover. Next door, the Modern's Downtempo Lounging night's got DJ Ricky Fatts, 9pm, 21+.

Kit Kat Klub
Sugar Shack. This new night features guest DJs spinning hip hop to college clubbers, 10pm, 19+.

Latin Quarter
The Roxy. Time to get down as the Roxy breaks out hip shaking salsa, merengue and Latin dance mixes.

Lava Bar
Get Lifted. *Lavabar.com*. DJs Pouli Brien and phenom along with Verse D. bring you old school hip-hop, soul/funk and reggae. Doors open at 10pm. 21+.

Speed
Karma/Mambo. DJ Chaos spins the latest Hip-Hop and R&B while DJ Johnny Scrofani spins house in the Mambo Lounge. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover. •Feb. 10 is Funkmaster Flex.

Fridays

Avaland
Avalon. Everything about the room screams party. With world famous DJs spinning, this has become the single most New York-style club night in Boston. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover. •Feb. 11 is DJ Danny Rampling.

Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans themed nightspot has some of the best mainstream DJs in town. Offering four bars, two lounges as well as billiards and a wraparound balcony, the Big Easy is a staple in Boston's weekend nightlife.

Buzz Fridays
Buzz. Two rooms of cocktail delights: Roger M lays down both traditional Latin and international house tracks while upstairs visiting DJs pay homage to the house music gods. 11pm, $15 cover, 19+.

Emily's
An after work venue during the week, this spot transforms itself into a dance kingdom on weekends. Resident DJ Kaboom infuses funk, dance, pop and disco. Doors open at 4pm. Get there early and avoid a cover.

Envy
This extraordinarily popular Friday night hot spot is filled with a swarming mass of sweaty 'n' ready dancers. You'll have plenty of choice dance partners. 9pm, $5 cover after 10pm, 21+.

Exchange Fridays
The Exchange. Up High, Mixtress Lakana, Boston's hottest Lady DJ, guides you on a house trip while DJ G Squared opens the vault door with mainstream dance and hip hop. Doors at 9pm.

Focus
Hibernia. How can you go wrong with DJs Chuck Caseroc, Keith Kene and Skot Havens. 9pm, 21+. cover varies.

Lava Bar
Life. *lavabar.com*. From the creators of Soul Revival, DJ Fran Englehardt spins ambient, soulful and deep house—transition your night from loungy beats to deep soulful rhythms doors at 10pm.

Latinhaus and International Night
M-80. Always dominated by no less than 1,000 international students, this is the must-be place for the I-20 scene. DJ JC throws out classic Latinhaus and DJ Eddy K. spins House. 11pm, $15 cover, 21+.

Modern Fridays
The Modern. DJ Hoffman is next door at the Modern's Ultra Lounge. 9pm, 21+.

Nocturnal Fridays
Bill's Bar. WBCN day guy and football swami, Bill Abbate, spins up a delectable smorgasbord of rock with a pinch of roll. Nocturnal Friday is the perfect place to chug a beer and chill. 9pm. $5 cover, 21+.

Sonic
Karma/Mambo. DJ Venom shakes the Main Room spinning rave, while DJ Myth rings the sound of Jungle in the Mambo Lounge . Bring your dancing shoes and a damn good pick-up line. 10pm. 19+. $15. •Feb. 11 is DJ Icey. •Feb. 18 is Terry Mullan.

Roxy 2000
Roxy/Mondo Bar. What goes around, comes around. Go crazy as the intimacy of Roxy consumes you and DJ Felix spins house and international music throughout the night. 10:30pm $15 cover, 21+.

Spin Cycle
Axis. Glitzed out club hoppers and an active scam scene mix to make the progressive house beats of DJ Tim Ryan downstairs or DJ David James '80s and retro tunes upstairs. 10pm, $12, 19+.

Venu International
Venu. Igor, Heather, Alex and Caeser host this international night where DJs Alex and Tassos share the decks. Table reservations are possible if you can get in—but only the very chic gain entry. 21+.

Saturdays

Avalon Saturdays
Downtown DJ Manolo and Mattie O. gyrate your ass. 10pm. 21+. $15 cover. Feeling mischievous? Bop on over to the Modern for Mischief Saturday—with decadent deserts and erotic electronica. 9pm. 21+.

Bill's Bar
DJ Laurie Gail with guest DJs promise to make Bill's a night full of dancing to the best of the '70s, '80s and '90s. 9pm, $3 cover, 19+.

Classic Saturday
M-80. DJ JC and DJ Eddie K spin Latinhaus, International and House music. 11pm, $15, 21+.

Club Juliana
Club Juliana. Boogying cuties converge on Boston's newest Latin Night starting at 10pm. Dress to impress—no jeans or sneaks. $10. Ladies get in free before 11pm.

Elements of Life
Karma/Mambo. World class DJs spin House music in the main room while DJ Hoffman plays funk in the Mambo Lounge. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover. •Feb. 19 is Dave Aude.

Emily's
Serious disco and high-energy dance. DJs spice up Saturday nights and transform this after work venue into a dance kingdom. 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Envy
From 9pm-2am, DJ Tom Baxter blasts Top 40, house and dance throughout the night. 9pm, $5 cover after 10pm, 21+.

Exchange Saturdays
The Exchange. DJ Diesel renovates the upper level with full on house while DJ Jynx spins all the funky beats in the lower Vault lounge.

Hibernia Saturdays
Hibernia. Masters of house, techno and dance, DJs Dino and David West, take the reins and whip the crowd into a frenzy. 9pm, 21+. cover varies.

Sugar Shack
Spice up your night with '70s, '80s, '90s dance music as DJ Rich Centi spins the hottest sounds in town.

Lava Bar
575 Commonwealth. Ave., Boston (267-7707). lavabar.com. Tabu night means anything goes with DJ Fran and Kris Kono Unite. High energy house with a taste of Lati—Open Minds Free Souls, doors at 10pm.

Miami Club Night
Club Joy/Yesterday's. *533 Washington St., Boston (350-5555).* Enjoy Boston's only Latin Night to feature La Rueda de Casino, a Cuban salsa game danced throughout clubs in Miami and Cuba, and get a taste of Miami nightlife. 9:30pm (ladies free before 11pm), $10 cover, 21+ (ladies, 19+).

X night
Axis. Axis is taken over by DJ Mike Gioscia who spins cutting edge favorites of 90's alternative while DJ David James spins the hottest 80's hits in the Left Over Lounge upstairs. 10pm, $10 cover, 21+.

Sundays

Exchange Sundays
A fusion of the best Drum & Bass, Hip-Hop, Breaks, House, Trance, Techno and special live performances. 9pm, 19+.

Il Panino
This is where the people from Oskar's go to spend their final hour of partying. Mainly attracting Euros, this night features music by DJ Alex of Boston Beat and DJ Roger M. 21+, no cover.

Salavation
This new Boston vibe serves up an intimate evening of soul provided by DJ Soul. $5, until 10pm.

The Velvet Lounge
Oskar's. Mellow acid jazz and deep house pump as the A-list sink into plush booths to chat before Aria and Il Panino. 9:30pm-1am, 21+ no cover.

Raves

Revival
Feb. 19, Verrillo's Convention Center, Portland, Maine (207-828-8767). $20 at the door w/3 canned goods, $15 at the door, 8pm. With "25,000-30,000 watts of sound and plenty of intelligent lighting." DJs include Dutch, San Francisco Records, Shannon Shalako, 409 Crew, Hush and Chip, Laree Love, 409 Crew North, Bruce Flash and Dawn Patrol among others.

The Next Level
Feb. 26, the Electric Factory, Philadelphia (215-413-9100). This venue can comfortably hold over 2,500 people on two levels. The upstairs balcony, which overlooks the entire stage and dance floor will be strictly 21+, while the downstairs will be 18+.

Club Venues

Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (338-7080). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center.*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (437-0300). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424) MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Buzz Boston/Europa *51-67 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park St.*
Club Juliana *20 Hudson St., Boston (542-4411).*
Club Nicole *40 Dalton St., Boston (236-4746).*
Club Stella *1234 Soldiers Field Rd., Brighton (254-0554).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Upstairs, Boston (423-3649). MBTA: Red or Green Lines to Park Street.*
Envy *25 Boylston Place, Boston (542-3689). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Exchange *148 State St., Boston (723-7755). MBTA: Orange Line to State Street.*
Hibernia *25 Kingston St., Boston (292-2333). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Karma *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9595). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Lava Bar *575 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-7707). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
M-80 *969 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant St.*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (482-7799). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Oskar's *107 South St., Leather District, Boston (542-6756). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Salavation *20 Hudson St., Boston (781-668-2392). MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown.*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Theatre District, Boston (338-8061). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*

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IT'S IN THE MIX

Toshi Reagon blends it all to make her music.

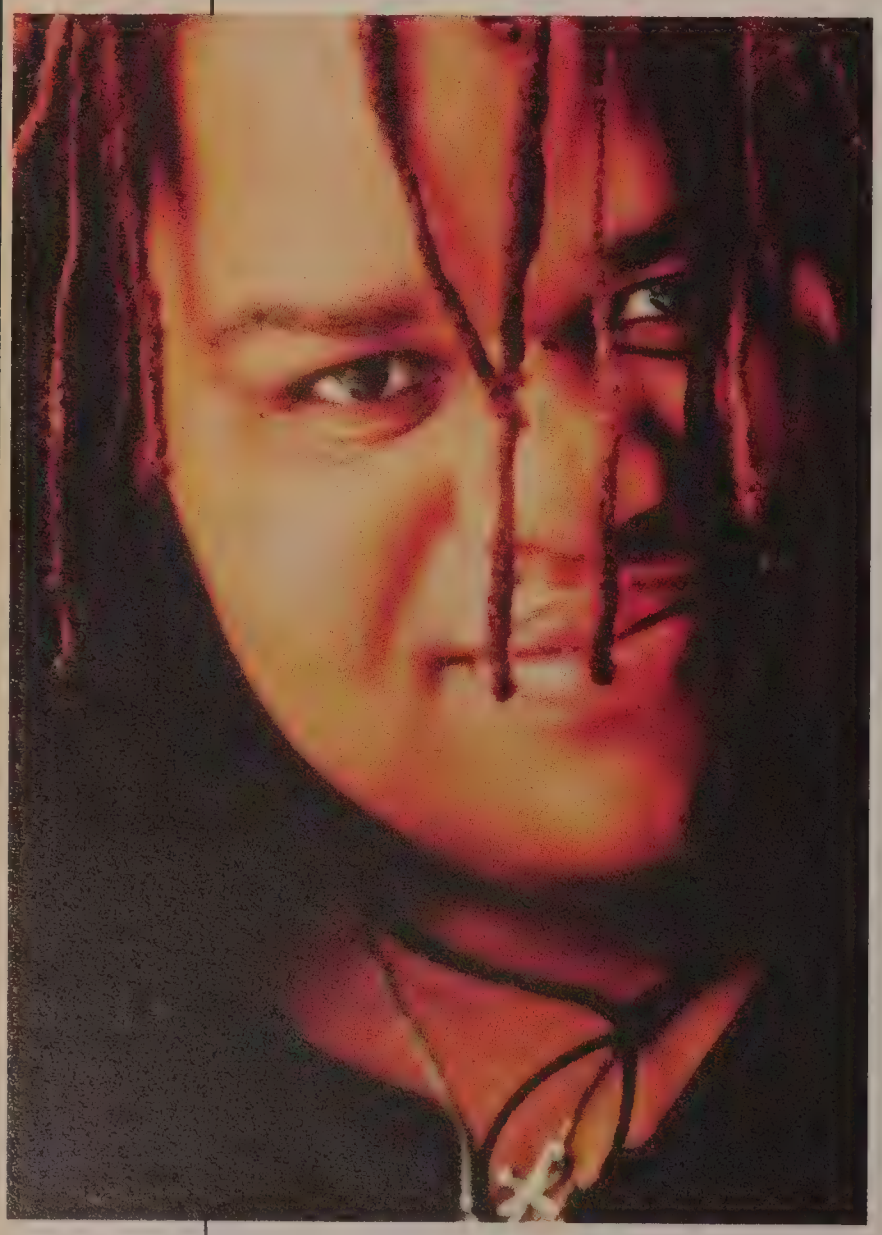
BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

Toshi Reagon recalls driving to a gig, enjoying Beck's *Mutations* album with Adam Widoff, the lead guitarist in her band Big Lovely. "I said, 'How come nobody's having a hard time understanding this record or feeling a need to use six or seven words to describe this record?'" says Reagon, who's often cited for her mix of folk, blues, gospel, soul, funk and rock.

"It's music that's familiar to most people who listen to mainstream music," sighs Reagon, who brings Big Lovely to the Middle East Feb. 20. "You hear what I'm doing, and you've heard it before. It's very simple music."

Indeed, there are some songs on Reagon's latest CD, *The Righteous Ones*, which don't sound that different from those on a Sheryl Crow disc. But to say "You've heard it before" shortchanges the heartfelt personality which Reagon brings to her music. And unlike a fusionist like Beck, she's doesn't stray too far from pure musical roots—though she's not tied to them.

"I've listened to all kinds of music, and I enjoy a lot of different people—people who I hang out with, and people who aren't musicians at all, but come up with different things that I get vibes off of," says Reagon, on the phone from her home base of New York City. "And I use all of that. It goes in, and it comes out sounding a certain way. Sometimes I'll be inspired by something, and I could swear that I'm taking something strictly—and very traditionally—from the source. But by the time I'm finished with it, it's not traditional at all."



Toshi Reagon brings her band Big Lovely to the Middle East Feb. 20.

BRIAN VELENCHENKO

For initial inspiration, consider the family background of Reagon, who grew up in Washington, DC. Her parents were both in the musical wing of the '60s civil rights movement as members of the Freedom Singers, while her mother Bernice Johnson Reagon co-founded Sweet Honey in the Rock, which gave a cappella music a spiritually rich, African-American voice.

"They're just an inspiration all around, not just for their musical sound, but the way they've handled themselves for twenty-six years," Reagon says of Sweet Honey in the Rock, which lends vocals to "Real Love," the ebullient opening track of *The Righteous Ones*, a CD that examines love and relationships. "Sweet Honey is a group that really proved to people who didn't have a big record company that you can still be a successful artist, and you can still do your music, and your music didn't have to be conventional or have to be what people called popular music. [Sweet Honey] popularized a cappella singing in the world."

In her own musical quest, the younger Reagon has gone from small to large record companies, including an early '90s shot with Elektra that fell apart before she could even release a CD. Before making her self-produced *The Righteous Ones* for the eclectic-minded label Razor & Tie, Reagon recorded a solo acoustic tape for friends before taking time off for a hip operation—and the Smithsonian Folkways label asked her to release it as *Kindness*.

That gesture worked for Reagon, knowing for starters that her disc would never go out of print on the archival-oriented Folkways. And she's happy to hit the road behind *The Righteous Ones*, even if her idea of supporting (and selling) a CD doesn't match the ideals of some artists. "I don't really know how many it has sold, and it's OK for me not to know, 'cause something like that is more competitive," she says. "However many it has sold is great for me, 'cause I'm sure it's more than anything else I've done."

Much of Reagon's tangible—and intangible—success stems from her celebratory concerts, especially with Big Lovely. "It's just a very big, wonderful, warm electric sound, even though there are a lot of acoustic instruments on the stage," Reagon says of her Cambridge-bound ensemble with Widoff, drummer Chicken, singers Catherine Russell (who also plays mandolin) and Judith Casselbury (whom some Bostonians may remember from previous outfit Casselbury-Dupree), and bassist Debbie Robinson. "The live show is the best thing for me, the thing I enjoy most."

Partly in deference to Reagon's ailing hip, the front line of the band sits onstage, though it doesn't temper the attack. "It's a surprise in how much it focuses the energy of the music," says Reagon, whose group played with Elvis Costello on David Letterman's show in 1997—and sat, at Costello's request. "Certainly people don't seem too mellow because of it. We kinda get really rowdy audiences. At the beginning, they think they're going to see something very reserved, but we take care of that right away." iB

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Concerts

Beck
Feb. 11 and Feb. 12, Orpheum Theatre
Celtic Fiddle Festival
Feb. 19, Sanders Theatre
Festival of Women Songwriters
Feb. 19, Somerville Theatre
The Klezmatics
Feb. 20, Somerville Theatre
Leo Kottke
Feb. 11, Sanders Theatre
Bill Morrissey
Feb. 12, Emerson Umbrella
The Specials
Feb. 18, Avalon, and Feb. 19, the Paradise

CONCERT HALLS

Emerson Umbrella *40 Stowe St., Concord (978-369-4127).*
Orpheum Theatre
1 Hamilton Place, Boston, (679-0810). MBTA: Red Line to Park Street
Sanders Theatre
45 Quincy St., Cambridge (496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard
Somerville Theatre
55 Davis Square, Somerville (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

Rock, Jazz and Blues

Wednesday, February 9

Bill's Bar
The High and the Mighty, Akrobatics, Unforgettables and Porn Theatre Ushers, 9pm, $12, 18+.
The Black Rose
Celtic Clan, 9:30pm.
Cantab Lounge
Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
Micheal Flower, Maya Dorn, Elizabeth Simmons, Lynn Deeves and Simon, 8pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm, no cover.
Encore
Michelle Currie, 9pm, no cover.
The Grand Canal
Dave Foley.
Harpers Ferry
The Trucking Co. with Larry Mancini, 9:30pm, $4.
House of Blues
Chris McDermott and the Love Perimeter, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Johnny D's
Steve Forbert, 8:30pm.
Les Zygomates
The Syd Smart Trio, 8pm, no cover.
The Middle East
U: Troubadours, Feedback, Andy Stojanski, Megan Toohey, Y Not U and Chelsea on Fire, 8:30pm, $7, 18+. D: Dan Rockett Band, Another Planet and Stretch, $7. C: Belly Dancing.
Milky Way
Solaris.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Hegarty, the Boston Folk and Singers Club, cover varies.
Paradise
Pat McGee Band, 8pm, $10, 18+.
Regattabar
The Ron Gill Sextet, 8:30pm, $12.
Scullers Jazz Club
Will McMillan Cabaret Evening, 8pm, $10.
Toad
The Cranktones, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Lustre, Vanity Press, Jupiter Project and Champagne Francis, $4.
Wally's Cafe
Wally's Step-children II, 9pm, no cover.

Warren Tavern
Kevin Kirraine, 9pm, $3.
White Horse Tavern
David's Foote, 9pm, no cover.

Thursday, February 10

Bayou Blues Cafe
The Monica Lynk Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Big Easy Bar
Catunes.
Bill's Bar
Hybrasil and Jabe, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Black Rose
Celtic Clan, 9:30pm.
Bob the Chef's
Ed Jones Quartet, 7:30pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
U: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Clery's
Latin jazz night, 8-12pm.
Club Passim
David Massengll and Jack Hardy, 8pm, $12.
Common Ground Bar and Grill
Schnockered, 10pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort
Booty, 7pm, no cover.
Encore
Michelle Currie, 9pm, no cover.
The Good Life
Swing Doctors, 9pm, no cover.
Harpers Ferry
Ventricksters, 9:30pm, $5.
House of Blues
Miracle Orchestra, 10pm, $8, 18+.
Johnny D's
C.J. Chenier, 9pm.
The Kendall Cafe
Bryan Thomas, 9pm; Busker Sound Check, 10pm; David Johnston, 11pm, $5, 21+.
The Linwood
Federal Twist, Box Car Betty and B-Side, 10pm, $5.
The Middle East
U: Half Japanese, the Forty-Fives, the Peer Group, $7, 18+. C: Board of Education.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Carroll, 8pm, cover varies.
Paradise
The Bacon Brothers with Jeffrey Gaines, 8pm, $15 in advance, $17 at the door, 18+.
Regattabar
The Bruce Katz Band, 8:30pm, $10.
Scullers Jazz Club
Myanna with Wannetta Jackson, 8pm and 10pm, $10.
Sky Bar
Love Whip, Buck Dewey Big Band and Rod Webber Project, 9pm, 21+.
Toad
Dave Johnston, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Fin de Siecle, Chromavoid, Scissorkiss, Tiger Team, $6.

Friday, February 11

Big Easy Bar
Catunes.
Bill's Bar
Cocksparrer with Reducers SF and Tommy and the Terrors, 5pm, $15; the Pills and the Zips, 9pm, $7, 21+.
The Black Rose
Celtic Clan and the Crossing, 9:30pm.
Bob the Chef's
A-No-Ne, 7:30pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
U: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies. D: the Jones Brothers, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
Paul Geremia and TJ Wheeler, 8pm, $12.
Common Ground Bar and Grill
Super Genius and 2nd Power, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff
Novakane, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band, 7pm; Classic Trax, 10pm, no cover.
Encore
John O'Neill, 9pm.
The Good Life
Waldron Ricks Quintet, 9pm, no cover.
Harpers Ferry
Bo Diddley with Entrain, 8pm and 10:30pm, $18.
House of Blues
Tomo Jujita and Blue Funk, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Johnny D's
Wild Magnolias, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's
Undercover, 9pm.
The Kendall Cafe
The Gone Boys, Curio and Violet Tide, $5, 21+.
Les Zygomates
Henrietta Robinson, 9pm, no cover.

Girl Power

Boston's up-and-coming Fuzzy Pinks are getting heaps of local press lately—not only because of their infectious punk spirit and nubile looks, but because of their rock "mentors," Chad Smith of the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Art Alexakis of Everclear. Hear them churn out rock reminiscent of Sonic Youth and the Pixies at Bill's Bar Valentine's Day 2000 show on Feb. 14.

The Linwood
Psychotic Larry, Boston Brats and Zen Flower, 10pm, $5.
The Middle East
U: Barbero, Crack Torch, R.C. Crimewave, Getto Thunder and Tracy Husky, $7, 18+. D: Deep Banana Blackout, Peter Prince, $10 in advance, $12 at the door, 18+. C: Danielle Miraglia.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Focal and Tom Carroll, 9:30pm, cover varies.
The Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett, 10pm.
Regattabar
The Tommy Flanagan Trio with Peter Washington and Lewis Nash, 8pm and 10pm, $16.
Scullers Jazz Club
Abbey Lincoln, 8pm and 10:30pm, $66 for Valetine's dinner/show package.
Sky Bar
Pressure Cooker and friends, 9pm, 21+.
Toad
Grits, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
The Bottle Rockets, Charlie Chesterman and the Legendary Motorbikes and the Stumbleweeds, $8.
Wonderbar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Saturday, February 12

Bayou Blues Cafe
True Colors, 8pm, no cover.
Big Easy Bar
Felix Brown.
The Black Rose
Celtic Clan, the Crossing and Frank Ryan, 9:30pm.
Bob the Chef's
Michael Kelley and the Hot Blue Q, 7:30pm.
Cambridge Brewing Co.
Wide Iris, 10pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook, the Thrillers and the Jones Brothers, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
Charlie Farren, 8pm, $12.
Common Ground Bar and Grill
Sugarcoat and Stymie, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff
Syndicate, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm; Booty, 10pm, no cover.
Encore
Cabaret featuring Lisa "Lucky" Stetor, 9pm, no cover.
The Good Life
Karin Parker and her band, 9pm, no cover.
Harpers Ferry
Duke Robillard with speical guests Ricky Valente Band, 9pm.
House of Blues
Woodburn/Arena Band, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Johnny D's
Kilombo Mambo, 9:45pm.
The Kendall Cafe
Cosmic Wheel, 9:30pm; Giants Workshop, 10:30pm; Typhoon Ferri, 11:30pm, $5, 21+.
Les Zygomates
Chiara Givelo, 9pm, no cover.
The Linwood
Big Wig, Heidi and Deguelo, 10pm, $5.
The Middle East
U: Schleigho, Fat Head $8, 18+; D: Lee "Scratch" Perry with Mad Professor and the Kilicon Squad, Vibewise and Lotusound, $25, 18+. C: The Mingus Three.
Milky Way
Mango's.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Focal, Tom Carroll, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Paradise
Old 97's, 6:30pm, $10, 18+.
The Purple Shamrock
Risk, 10pm.
Regattabar
The Tommy Flanagan Trio with Peter Washington and Lewis Nash, 8pm and 10pm, $18.
Scullers Jazz Club
Abbey Lincoln, 8pm and 10:30pm, $66 for Valetine's Dinner/Show package.
Sky Bar
Labb, Pennywheel and Tricycle, 9pm, 21+.
Toad
Holt Hopkins, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Splashdown, Binary System and Reflecting Skin, Numinous Peach CD release, $8.

Sunday, February 13

Bill's Bar
Atom and His Package, Fastbreak, the Damn Personals, the Explosion, 2pm, $8; Stormy, 10pm, $12, 18+.
The Black Rose
Celtic Clan and Frank Ryan, 9:30pm.
Bullfinch's
Dave Whitney.
The Burren
Kristin Plater, 8:30pm; Melissa Morris, 9:30pm; Leah Finkelstein, 10:30pm.
Cantab Lounge
Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
Seth Connelly, Ellen Schmidt, 8pm, $10.
Coogan's Bluff
Pig Pen, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort
Silver Lining, 10am; Rob Gonzalez, 7pm, no cover.
Encore
Dotie Dean, 7pm.
The Grand Canal
The Swinging Johnsons.
Harpers Ferry
The Rockett Band, 9:30pm, $3.
House of Blues
Jaguares, 9pm, $30, 18+.
Johnny D's
Blues Jam, 4:30pm.
Jose McIntyre's
Guy Smiley, 9pm.
The Kendall Cafe
Diana Williams and Allyson Casey, 21+.
The Middle East
U: Ui, Lockgroove, Green Four, $8, 18+.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Carroll, 9:30pm, cover varies.
The Purple Shamrock
Motha Funk, 10pm.
The Rack
Chad Lamarsh, 9pm, no cover.
Regattabar
The Tommy Flanagan Trio with Peter Washington and Lewis Nash, 7pm and 9pm, $16.
Scullers Jazz Club
Abbey Lincoln, 7pm and 9pm, $66 for Valetine's dinner/show package.
Toad
The Family Jewels, no cover.
Wally's Cafe
John Lankin Quintet, 9pm, no cover.
Wonderbar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Monday, February 14.

Bill's Bar
Syphlloids with Waltham and Fuzzy Pinks, 9pm, $5, 18+.
The Black Rose
Tony O'Riordan, 9:30pm.
Bob the Chef's
Stan Strickland and the Phill Argris Quartet, 7:30pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Geoff Bartley's open mike, 8pm and Nancy Hewitt and Steve Sadler, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
"Losers in Love" evening with Faith Soloway, Summer Pierre, Jim Rader, Jonathan Pointer, Teddy Goldstein and Mary Gauthier, 8pm, $7.
Dick's Last Resort
Cheryl Aruda, 7pm, no cover.
Encore
Michael Kreutz, 9pm.
The Good Life
Izzi Rosen Trio, 9pm, no cover.
Harpers Ferry
Ron Levy's Wild Kingdom, 9:30pm, $3.
House of Blues
Michelle Wilson, 7pm, 10pm, $7, 18+.
Johnny D's
Hot Tamale Brass Band, 8pm.
The Kendall Cafe
10 Division St., 21+.
Milky Way
The Skeleton Killers with Bourbon Princess, 10pm, $5.
Toad
Tim Gearan, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
The Weisstronauts with Paula Kelley, 9:30pm, $2.
Wonderbar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Tuesday, February 15

The Black Rose
Sunday's Well, 9:30pm.
Cantab Lounge
John McGann and Friends, 9pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort
Search Party, 7pm, no cover.
Encore
Bobby Femino, 9pm.
Harpers Ferry
Another Planet and Friends, 9:30pm, $5.
House of Blues
Blessid Union of Souls, 9pm, $12, 18+.
Johnny D's
Geoff Mulduar, 8:30pm.
The Kendall Cafe
Orbit, $5, 21+.
Les Zygomates
The Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm, no cover.
The Middle East
U: the Fly Seville, the Hang Ups, Best Boy Electric and Army of Jasons, $6, 18+. C: Jason Gardner and Friends.
The Purple Shamrock
Dave Smyth, 10pm.
Regattabar
The Mark Turner Quartet and the Kurt Rosenwinkel Quartet, 8:30pm, $12.
Toad
Michael Tarbox and Todd Thibaud, 7pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Kusasi's Secret, the Royal We, the Defects and the Humanoids, $4.

Wednesday, February 16

Bill's Bar
Jigawattica with Krakow, 9pm, $7, 18+.
The Black Rose
Sunday's Well, 9:30pm.
The Burren
Nate Borofsky, 8:30pm; Melissa Morris, 9:30pm; Michael Carreras, 10:30pm.
Cantab Lounge
Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm, cover varies.
Common Ground Bar and Grill
Mod Night with DJ Vin, 10pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm, no cover.

Preview:

Fusionist

Singer/songwriter Beck brings his wildly unique, unoffensively warped brand of experimental rock, psychedelia, pop and rock 'n' roll to the Orpheum Feb. 11 and 12. Somewhat reluctantly, Beck came to the forefront of pop culture awareness in '94, when his hip-hoppy single "Loser" became a club hit. Since then, the eccentric Beck has rocked, dazzled and confounded thousands of music lovers. His genre-less style, subversive lyrics and unusual combination of sounds, have led some to dub Beck as this generation's Dylan while others dismiss his avant-garde sounds in amazement. Nonetheless, Beck's music is striking a chord with such a variety of listeners—from music critics to teenyboppers, hip-hopsters to electronica fanatics.

Encore
Michelle Currie, 9pm, no cover.
Harpers Ferry
Buckwheat Zydeco with Lil' Brian and the Zydeco Travelers, 9:30pm, $15.
House of Blues
Angus, 9pm,$6, 18+.
Johnny D's
Katie Viquiera, 8:30pm.
The Kendall Cafe
Pluto, 11pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates
The Waldron Ricks Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge
Baby Ray with Heavy Stud and Trocadero, 8:30pm, $5, 21+.
The Middle East
U: Willard Grant Conspiracy, the Silos, 27 and the Curtis Harvey Trio, $7, 18+. C: Belly Dancing.
Milky Way
Solaris.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Hegarty, Boston Folk and Singers Club, cover varies.
Paradise
Karl Denson's Tiny Universe, 8pm, $10 in advance, $12 at the door, 18+.
Regattabar
The Mark Turner Quartet and the Kurt Rosenwinkel Quartet, 8:30pm, $14.
Scullers Jazz Club
Lisa Thorson Band, 8pm and 10pm, $12.
Sugar Shack
Biscuithead, cover varies.
Toad
Love Whip, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Freelance Bishops, Nemo, Azurtech, $4.
Wally's Cafe
Wally's Step-children II, 9pm, no cover.

White Horse Tavern
J Place Band, 9pm, no cover.

Thursday, February 17

Bill's Bar
Make Lisa Rich, Caged Heat and Garage Dogs, 9pm, $7.
The Black Rose
Sunday's Well, 9:30pm.
Bob the Chef's
Ed Jones Quartet, 7:30pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
Bob Hillman and Willy Porter, 8pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm, no cover.
Encore
Michelle Currie, 9pm.
The Good Life
Yasko Kabuto and the Power Jazz Unit, 9pm.
The Grand Canal
The Spitting Vinnies, no cover.
Harpers Ferry
Dispatch with special guest, 9:30pm, $5.
House of Blues
Superhoney, 10pm,$7, 21+.
Johnny D's
Lindisfarne, 9pm.
The Kendall Cafe
Steve Sanford, 9pm; Christian Anthony, 10pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates
The Jinga Trio, 8pm, no cover.
The Linwood
Laurie Geltman, Violet Tide, Scary Wagon, 10pm, $5.
Lizard Lounge
Club d'Elf feturing Micro Vard.
The Middle East
U: Tugboat Annie, the Wicked Farleys, Aerialist, Seanna and the Sharks, $7, 18+. D: Black Sheep and Das EFX, $17, 18+. C: Board of Education.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Carroll, 8pm, cover varies.
Paradise
Two Ton Shoe with Uncle Sammy, 8pm, $6 in advance, $8 at the door, 18+.
Regattabar
Dave Frisberg and Bob Dorough, 8:30pm, $12.
Scullers Jazz Club
Nicholas Payton Quintet, 8pm and 10pm, $18.
Toad
Amphibian, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Superzero, AM Stereo, Primrose Path and Who's the Fat Guy, $6.
Warren Tavern
Matt Browne, 9pm, no cover.

Friday, February 18

Big Easy Bar
Freestyle.
Bill's Bar
Fighting Gravity with Weed, Inc., 9pm, $7, 21+.
The Black Rose
Sunday's Well and the Crossing, 9:30pm.
Bob the Chef's
Paulo Danay Quartet, 7:30pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
Einstein's Little Homunculous, 8pm, $10.
Common Ground Bar and Grill
Booty, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff
Novakane, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band, 7pm; Blue Soul, 10pm, no cover.
Encore
John O'Neill, 9pm, no cover.
The Good Life
The Grant Langford Quintet, 9pm, no cover.
Harpers Ferry
Young Neal and the Vipers with Andrew Clark and Sax Attack, 9:30pm, $7.
House of Blues
Deborah Coleman, 10pm,$10, 21+.
Jose McIntyre's
Undercover, 9pm.
The Kendall Cafe
The Splendid Nobodies, 9:30pm; Burt and Mike, 10:30pm; the Gypsy Mechanics, 11:30pm, $5, 21+.
Les Zygomates
Cheryl Bentyne in "Dreaming of Mister Porter," Dinner and Show 5:30pm and 9pm, $70.
The Linwood
Wide Iris, Random Road Mother and Curb Feeler, 10pm, $5.
Lizard Lounge
The Shelley Winters Project featuring Rick Berlin.
The Middle East
U: Photon Torpedos, Kings of Nuthin', TR6, Kings of Nuthin', Darkbuster, $7, 18+. D: Angry Salad, X-Guru, Lake Boone, Chasing Gray, $8, 18+ C: Crash 22, 10pm.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Focal, Tom Carroll, 9:30pm, cover varies.
The Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett, 10pm.
Scullers Jazz Club
Nicholas Payton Quintet, 8pm and 10:30pm, $18.
Toad
Magnolia, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Honeyglazed, Cobra Verde, Snares and Kites and the Douglas Fir, $7.
Wally's Cafe
John Lankin Quintet, 9pm, no cover.

Saturday, February 19

Bayou Blues Cafe
The True Colors, 8pm, no cover.
Big Easy Bar
Freestyle.
Bill's Bar
Bouncing Souls with Anti-Flag, Toe to Toe, and Over It, 3pm, $10.
The Black Rose
Sunday's Well, and the Crossing, 9:30pm.
Bob the Chef's
The Herman Johnson Quartet with Valerie Stephens, 7:30pm, no cover.
Cambridge Brewing Co.
Los Diablos, 10pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff
Plum, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm; Classic Trax, 10pm, no cover.
Encore
Lisa "Lucky" Stetor, 9pm, no cover.
The Good Life
Karin Parker and Her Band, 9pm, no cover.
Harpers Ferry
Matt "Guitar" Murphy with the Shaboo Allstars, 9:30pm, $12.
House of Blues
Shemekia Copeland, 10pm, $15, 21+.
Jose McIntyre's
Second Story, 9pm.
Karma Club
The Bouncing Souls, 8pm.
The Kendall Cafe
Josh Ritter, 9:30pm; Christine Baze, 10:30pm; Becky Chace Band, 11:30pm, $5, 21+.
Les Zygomates
Cheryl Bentyne in "Dreaming of Mister Porter," Dinner and Show 5:30pm and 9pm, $70.
The Linwood
Hellpig CD release party, Claymore and There, 10pm, $5.
Lizard Lounge
Metacomet.
The Middle East
U: Star Ghost Dog, Cherry 2000 and Mishima, Jr. Corduroy, $7, 18+. D: Babaloo and Nozmo Kings, $8 in advance, $10 at door, 18+. C: Bourbon Princess.
Milky Way
Mangos.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Focal, Matt Brown, 9:30pm, cover varies.
The Purple Shamrock
Marcels, 10pm.
Regattabar
Dave Frisberg and Bob Dorough, 8 and 10pm, $16.
Toad
Trailer Park.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Wildfire Willie and The Ramblers with The Bourbonaires and The Raging Teens , $10.
Wally's Cafe
The John Lankin Quintet, 9pm, no cover.

Sunday, February 20

Bill's Bar
Candiria with Buried Alive, Diecast, Skarchcad and Cannae, 3pm, $10.
The Black Rose
Sunday's Well, 9:30pm.
Cantab Lounge
Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
Eric gerber, Susan Levine, Steve Barkhimer, 7:30pm.
Coogan's Bluff
Novakane, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort
Rob Gonzalez, 7pm, no cover.

The Klezmatics come to the Somerville Theatre Feb. 20.

Encore
Dottie Dean, 7pm, no cover.
The Grand Canal
The Swinging Johnsons, no cover.
Harpers Ferry
Sugar Ray and the Bluetones, 9:30pm, $9.
House of Blues
Ball in the House, 8pm, $8, 18+; The Original Skatalites, 10pm, $15, 18+.
Jose McIntyre's
Syndicate, 9pm.
The Kendall Cafe
Diana Williams and Allyson Casey, 21+.
Les Zygomates
Cheryl Bentyne in "Dreaming of Mister Porter," dinner and show 5:30pm and 9pm, $70.
Lizard Lounge
Jeff Robinson Trio, 8pm.
The Middle East
U: The Damn Personals, Radio 4 and the Interpurters, $7, 18+. D: Toshi Reagan and Big Lovely, $7, 18+.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Matt Brown, 8pm, cover varies.
The Purple Shamrock
Second Story, 10pm.
The Rack
Chad Lamarsh, 9pm, no cover.
Regattabar
The Aaron Goldberg Trio, 7pm, $12.
Toad
Pluto and Friends, cover varies.
T.T. the Bear's Place
All the Queen's Men, Youngster and Tizzy, $4.
Wally's Cafe
Wally's Step-children III, 9pm, no cover.
Wonderbar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Monday February 21

Bill's Bar
420 with Colepitz and Chillum, 9pm, $5, 18+.
The Black Rose
Tony O'Riordan, 9:30pm.
Cantab Lounge
Geoff Bartley's Open Mike, 8pm and Jim Radar, 9:30pm, covers vary.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band, 7pm, no cover.
The Good Life
Izzi Rosen Trio, 9pm, no cover.
Harpers Ferry
Ron Levy's Wild Kingdom, 9:30pm, $3.
House of Blues
Ball in the House, 2pm, $7. Scott Shelter Trio, 9pm, $6.
The Kendall Cafe
Dana Mier, 9pm; Division St., 10pm, 21+.
Lizard Lounge
The Fringe.
The Middle East
U: Labb, Roma, Tricycle, Choke, $6, 18+. C: Tom Bianchi.
Toad
Tim Gearan.
Wally's Cafe
Jose Ramos and Special Blend Band, 9pm, no cover.
Wonderbar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Tuesday, February 22

Bill's Bar
Hot Water Music with Saves the Day, Panthro UK United, Close Call, 5pm, $10.
The Black Rose
Sunday's Well, 9:30pm.
Cantab Lounge
Matt Glaser and Friends, 9pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort
Booty, 7pm, no cover.
Encore
Bobby Femino, 9-1am, no cover.
The Good Life
Rick Costa Trio, 9pm, no cover.
Harpers Ferry
Another Planet and Friends, 9:30pm, $3.
House of Blues
Rick Russell Blues Buffet and Jam, 9pm, $6, 18+.
The Kendall Cafe
Orbit, $5, 21+.
Les Zygomates
The Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge
Uncle Trouble.
The Middle East
U: Formula One, Chewy and If You Say So, $6, 18+. C: Jason Gardner and Friends.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Dave Smyth, 8pm.
The Purple Shamrock
Dave Smyth, 10pm.
Toad
Michael Tarbox and Todd Thibaud, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
The Magic is Gone, Words for Snow, Cloud Art and Raymond, $4.
Regattabar
The Cindy Blackman Quartet, 8:30pm, $12.
Wally's Cafe
Wally's Step-children I, 9pm, no cover.

OPPOSITE PAGE: BECK: CHARLIE GROSS, KLEZMATICS: JOHN KUCZALA

Music Venues

Bayou Blues Cafe *Located at Cambridge Racquet and Fitness Club, 215 First St., Cambridge (491-8989). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (743-2286). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Bullfinch's Pub *730 Boston Post Road, Sudbury (978-443-4094).*
The Burren *247 Elm St, Somerville (776-6896). MBTA: Red Line to Davis Square.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Clery's *113 Dartmouth St., Boston (262-9874). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*
Club Passim *47 Palmer St., Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Coogan's Bluff *173 Market St., Boston (451-7415). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
The Good Life *28 Kingston St., Boston 451-2622). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing/*
Green Street Grill *280 Green Street, Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Grand Canal *57 Canal Street, Boston (523-1112).*
Harpers Ferry *158 Brighton Avenue, Allston (254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Harvard Square, Cambridge (491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Davis Square, Somerville (776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Kendall Cafe *233 Cardinal Medeiros Ave., Cambridge (661-0993). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (783-9400). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
The Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (267-8644).*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Milky Way *405 Centre St., JP (524-3740).*
Paddy Burke's Pub *132 Portland Street, Boston (367-8370). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Paradise *967 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (562-8804). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant St.*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (227-2060). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (725-1051). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Rhythm and Spice *315 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (497-0977). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Road, Cambridge (562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Wally's Cafe *427 Mass. Ave., Boston (424-1408). MBTA: Green Line to Symphony.*
White Horse Tavern *116 Brighton Ave., Allston Village (254-6633).*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard Ave., Allston (351-COOL). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Les Zygomates *129 South Street, Boston (542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*

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gay&lesbian

If you want to be listed
Submit information including telephone numbers and nearest T stops by fax to (859-1446), mail or e-mail to gay.lesbian@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted by phone.*

How to use this section
The following listings contain information that is subject to change. Contact the organization for changes in specific events.

CLUBS, BARS & HANGOUTS

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years these folks have been crankin' out some of the best Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. It's well worth a visit—if not for the three separate dance floors then for all of the male dancers. 9pm, $15, 21+.

Buzz (Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays)
51 Stuart St. in the Theatre District, Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. On Saturday nights this place boasts two dance floors, two DJs, a pool room and a lounge. Two levels of dancing and schmoozing will keep the boys busy until 2am. 10pm, $5, 21+.

Chaps (Daily)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. www.chapsofboston.com. Sun.: Dance music of DJ Danae Jacovidis; Mon.: Grand Baby and Grand Piano night; Tue.: Retro DJ night; Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adielson Caesar; Thu.: DJs Billy and Fran: High Energy Dance; Fri.: Taboo Erotique with DJ Sammy; Sat.: High Energy Dance, DJ Danae Jacovidis.

City Girl Cafe (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tues.-Fri: 11am- 9pm; Sat: 10am-9pm; Sun: 10am-7pm. A small (5 tables) laid-back cafe in Inman Square, lesbian-owned and operated. This cozy spot is home to a mixed gay/hetero crowd that lounges about, munching on sandwiches. Brunch on Saturday and Sunday from 10am-2pm.

Club Cafe (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-0966). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri 11:30am-2am; Sat. 2pm-2am; Sun. 11am-2am. This trendy South End spot draws a mixed crowd that comes for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back (Moonshine). A dressy bunch that likes to mingle. No cover, 21+. •Carol O'Shaughnessy performs with Steve Heck, Dottie Dean or David Sparr, Thursdays. •Michael Kreutz performs every Sunday, 8:30pm.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (542-4494). Mon.-Fri. 3pm-2am; Sat. 1pm-2am; Sun. 12pm-2am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This is your friendly neighborhood bar with a quiet setting. It's best known for scrumptious Sunday brunches (12-4pm). A simple joint with all of the trappings of a true bar, smoky and dark. The place starts hopping as it gets closer to 2am.

Fritz (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Stroll in for a quiet drink or a rowdy night on the town. The folks here are friendly—and really into sports. Not only does Fritz have Direct TV set up with sets scattered everywhere, it's also home base to a great softball league. 12pm, no cover, 21+.

Jacques (Daily)
79 Broadway, Boston (426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. If you're looking for a friendly crowd of gays and straights and you're in the mood to mix with disco-dancing drag queens, this is the place. Sun. and Mon. are local band nights when acts rock into the wee hours. Tues. through Sat., however, divas rule the stage. 10:30pm, $4, weekends $6, 21+.

Lava Bar (Saturdays)
575 Commonwealth. Ave., Boston (267-7707). The Lava Bar's Tabu night boasts DJ Fran spinning out high energy house with a taste of Latin beats. Doors open at 10pm.

The Lizard Lounge (Wednesdays)
1667 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). "Marlene Loses It at the Lizard" is the title of this eclectic évening of poetry, live music, theater and cabaret in front of a diverse crowd. Shows begin at 10pm. $5 cover, 21+.

Luxor (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (423-6969). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from the latest music scenes and classic old movies—compiled by the bar's own VJ. Downstairs is Jox, a sports bar. 4pm, no cover, 21+.

Preview

Lesbigay Film Series

Women Make Movies Festival

Part of a lesbigay film series, Cheryl Dunye's *Greetings from Africa* ruminates on lesbian dating '90s. It tells the traditional Romeo and Juliet tale—only this one's about two young men in sub-Saharan Africa whose love is hindered by homosexuality-denouncing Africans. *Club Pride at Roxbury Community College, 1234 Columbus Ave., Academic Building, room 121, Roxbury (421-9134). Feb. 11, 6pm. MBTA: Orange Line to Roxbury Crossing. Free admission.*

Cheryl Dunye's *Greetings from Africa* screens on Feb. 11.

Man Ray (Thursdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (864-0400). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed.-Fri. at 9pm; Sat. at 10pm. A bustling S/M hot spot caters to a young alternative clientele. Two dance floors fill up on Thursdays for Campus, a predominately male night where DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen take over. 9pm, 21+.

119 Merrimac (Daily)
119 Merrimac St., Boston (367-0713). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Sat., 10:30am-2am; Sun. 12pm-2am. This male cruise bar is the place to stop for drinks before or after FleetCenter events. Shoot a leisurely game of pool or the hit the video games. Merrimac features DJs playing hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s. 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. On Thursday nights the Lesbian AIDS Project of Mass. unofficially takes over this laid-back cafe for "dyke nyte." The cafe always has something brewing—live bands, DJs and drag queen parties. Party stars at 8pm, no cover, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (494-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Central. On Monday, a bartender not only mixes drinks, but he'll strip too. Male strippers are featured Wed.-Sat. Monday is Gothic night; Tuesday is techno and Thursday is college night. On Fridays DJ Sam Sampson spins, and on Saturday DJ Brad Gwynn helps you tear up the dance floor. 5pm, no cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (266-2986). Green Line to Kenmore. 12-2am daily. The largest leather bar in the East enforces a tight dress code (but leather is obligatory for the back room). Downstairs on Fri., Sat. (10pm-2am) and Sun. (7pm-12am) is the Machine, the sleekest hardcore club in town. Fri. has NYC DJ Darrin Friedman, Sat. DJ Brad Gwynn and Sun. is "Dragon Tea Dance," an Asian inspiration night with DJ James Hughes, a dragon show at 10pm and performances by Palace Princess Corvette and Diamond Dunhill. $6-$8, 21+.

Safari Club (Daily)
90 Wareham, Boston (292-0011). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Always open. It's 3am and you're craving a workout. Whether you want to lift weights (yeah, right) or just "socialize." Entrance is about $19.

BOOKS & READINGS

Glad Day Bookshop
673 Boylston St., Boston (267-3010). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu. 9:30am-10pm, Fri. and Sat. 9:30am-11pm, Sun. 12-9pm. This exclusively gay/lesbian bookstore has erotic mags, calendars and videos.

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge. (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Fri. 10am-8pm, Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 12-6pm. New England's oldest women's book shop offers a comprehensive selection of books. It's monthly author series will resume in the spring.

We Think The World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6:30pm; Sun., 11:30am-5:30pm. Boston's literary gay and lesbian bookstore. Call Paul Rehme for details.

SHOWS & EVENTS

BAGLY Winter Ball
Arlington St. Church, Boston (227-4313). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Feb. 19, 7:30-11pm. $3. BAGLY (The Boston Alliance of GLBT Youth) hosts its annual winter ball. If you're under 23, you can join in—roughly 200 people are expected to join the fun, which will include dancing to the tunes of a DJ. For more info, call or e-mail *mtaggart@bagly.org.*

Valentine's Dance for Women
Sons of Italy Ballroom, Winchester (718-648-0722). Feb. 12, 8pm-12am. $10 cover. Hosted by Fever! Dance Productions and DJ Dee, this night invites one and all to enjoy complimentary snacks and a cash bar while dancing the night away.

ONGOING

Bawl
This lesbian softball league offers opportunities to join teams in both the recreational and competitive divisions. Call Liz (508-628-5477).

Best Foot Forward
Ballet Etc. Dance Studios, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (522-1444). MBTA: B Green Line to Washington St. Swing is the thing. For gays/lesbians/bisexuals.

Boston Glass
Community Center, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Daily from 8-10pm. Support groups and social activities for adolescents.

The Boston Rainbow Gospel Choir
The BRGC is about to launch its second season and periodically holds auditions. Call 424-6740.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). A 1,500-member gay club with hiking, biking, camping, skiing and other outdoor activities for men and women.

Common Bond
(781-433-7023). www.dwellings.com/acb. An international support group for gay/lesbian/bisexual current or former Jehovah's Witnesses.

Community Rainbow
Boston Living Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston. 7:45 pm. An organization whose mission is to advocate for the community. Meets Thursdays.

Cosmetically-Correct
Tremont Tea Room, 48-50 Winter St. 3rd floor, Boston. A social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Fri. of each month 7:30-10pm. Lipstick optional. For more info email *m.antoinette@ididitmyway.com.*

Dykes Who Hike
(522-6185). This brand spankin' new hiking group for lesbians in Boston and surrounding areas conquers the wilderness.

East Coast Wrestling Club
With more than 160 members, this is an extraordinarily popular NE spot for gay male wrestlers. Call Marc at (401) 467-6737, or go online at *http://members.tripod.com/~ecwc* or email *ecwc@juno.com.*

Encounters
Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston. An informal social evening for HIV positive gay and bisexual men held the first Tuesday of every month, 7-9pm.

Faith Community
Metropolitan Community Church, 131 Cambridge St., Boston (973-0404). A faith community of gay, lesbian, transgendered and bisexuals.

Gay Volleyball
Cambridge (262-3626). Sundays, 7pm, $7. Typically five teams play on two courts. Teams are made up each week. Men and women welcome.

Gender Free Contra Dancing
First Church of Jamaica Plain (522-1115). www.piac.net/users/latte/lcfd/. Come one, come all to evenings of contra and square dancing.

Hump Day
Skupper Jacks in Acton. Every third Wednesday at 5:30pm, Boston's gay, lesbian and transgendered come together to hang. For info contact *Tom.Evans@digital.com.*

Latino Social Groups
Latino Gay Men's Project (350-6900 ex.125) and the Women's Social Groups (350-6900 ex. 124).

Long Yang Club
Various locations, (825-5677). www.longyang club.org/boston. A club for gay Asian men and their friends. For more information call Ron (661-9165).

Oops
Melting Pot Coffee House, 2 Belgrade Ave., Roslindale (323-4123). Out on the Parkways, a gay and lesbian organization, invites one and all to come on down for some coffee and dinner.

PFLAG
Fenway Community Health Center, 7 Haviland St., Boston (547-2440). Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets every fourth Mon., 6:30-8:30pm.

QAPA
This group holds monthly brunches on the first Sunday of every month at Ta-sheng Restaurant, 16 Eliot St., 2nd floor, in Harvard Square. Email *qapa@ccae.org.* for more information.

Queer Corps
131 Clarendon St., 4th floor, Boston (450-1676). A community mobilization project by and for queer men 25 and under. Meetings are held every Tuesday night from 6-8pm.

Tennis4all
Boston's gay and lesbian tennis club, with monthly tournaments and pizza socials. Call Ted at 779-7231.

Warrenton Street's Chaps draws a snappily-dressed mixed crowd every night of the week.

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Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information by mail, fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/ Mind, or electronically to bodymind@improper.com. *Include a brief but thorough description of the event, time, date, location and directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least 4 weeks in advance.*

EVENTS

Clinical Applications of Jungian Psychology
The C.G. Jung Institute, 116 St. Botolph St., Boston. (267-5984). www.//hometown.aol.com/cgjungbosl. *Feb. 11-13. $300.* This event is for those who desire to know what the Jungian approach is all about. You'll learn how mythology and anthropology are used as the background to a form of analysis which utilizes dream interpretation, art therapy and body work.

CLASSES/ WORKSHOPS

Abdominal and Pelvic Muscle Importance
YogaEast, 20 Del Carmine St., Wakefield (781- 224-0722). Feb. 20, 2-4pm. $30. Not only do these muscle groups help with continence, but also help women achieve greater sexual pleasure with something similar to infamous "Kegal" exercises.

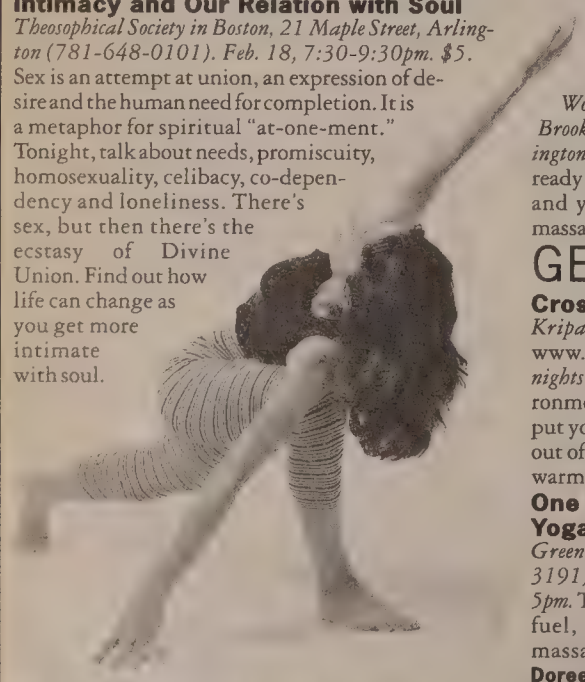
Befriend Your Angels
The Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Comm. Ave., Boston (267-4430). Feb. 8, 6:30-9:30pm. $36. No, they aren't little fat babies with wings playing harps. Yes, they've been a part of all people's mythology throughout history. This includes the common idea of having a "guardian angel." Using guided visualization and meditation, learn how to communicate in a very unique way with any angels you may have around. Some say an angel's duty is to assist us, but they only do if we ask.

Cardio Yoga
The Yoga Studio, 74 Joy St., Boston (523-7138). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. Feb. 12, 12-2pm. Get your blood pumping and muscles moving. Yoga need not be mellow and stretching need not be mundane in this class held at the area's oldest hatha yoga school.

Chakra Yoga
The Old Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (864-YOGA). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Feb. 13, 9:30-12:30pm. $40. Call to register for this workshop with visionary yoga instructor **Carmela Cattuti**. Whether you're a beginner or seasoned practitioner, cleansing your seven chakra centers always helps. Using posture-holding, chanting and journal writing, Carmela will assist you in clearing the path to health and happiness.

Exploration of the Erotic
The Serpent's Mirror, 185 Corey St., Brookline (678-9163). Feb. 12, 6:30-9pm. $75. Spend an evening listening to erotic stories and poetry and discussing the nature of the erotic and its expression. Come find out why Eros is not purely sex, but something deeper indeed.

Intimacy and Our Relation with Soul
Theosophical Society in Boston, 21 Maple Street, Arlington (781-648-0101). Feb. 18, 7:30-9:30pm. $5. Sex is an attempt at union, an expression of desire and the human need for completion. It is a metaphor for spiritual "at-one-ment." Tonight, talk about needs, promiscuity, homosexuality, celibacy, co-dependency and loneliness. There's sex, but then there's the ecstasy of Divine Union. Find out how life can change as you get more intimate with soul.



Get fit with Cardio Yoga at Yoga Studio, Feb. 12.

Remodeling a Relationship
Unicorn Books, 1210 Mass. Ave., Arlington (781-646-3680). www.unicornbooks.org. *Feb. 18, 7-9 pm. $15.* Do you ever wonder, worry or obsess about the relationships in your professional or personal life? Using visualization, writing and meditation, teacher and healer **Jeannie Nicholas** can help you tap intuitive power and gain insight by using any relationship as a mirror for self-reflection.

Stop Smoking Thru Hypnosis
Newton Community Education, Newton North High School, 360 Lowell Ave., Newtonville (522-7461). Feb. 17, 7-8:30pm. $21. How's the New Year's resolution coming along? Is the patch or Nicorette helping? Well, why not try mind over matter? In this workshop you'll create a motivational audio tape that taps into your subconscious mind and changes your habits from the inside.

Yoga for Two
Beacon Light Yoga Center, 215 Brighton Ave., Allston (739-0717). Feb. 20, 2-4pm. $40 per pair. Creating a healthy body can get little lonesome, especially if the work is meant to be practiced alone. The BLYC, however, realizes that in the season of love, opportunities should be made available to health-minded couples.

LECTURES/FORUMS

Chiropractic Lowdown
Harvest Co-op Market, 581 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-1580). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Feb. 22, 6-8 pm. **Dr. Kevin Baer**, hosts this question and answer session on one of the country's most popular health treatments.

Creation Station
Omega Institute in Boston, Arlington Street Church, 351 Boylston St., Boston (1-800-944-1001). www.omega-inst.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Feb. 18, 8pm-10pm. $30.* Novelist **Anne Lamott** discusses the whys and wherefores of creative expression and discusses why it may indeed be a matter of life and death for the self.

Martyr for Freedom: Divine Heretic Giordano Bruno
New Acropolis Organization, First Parish Unitarian Church, 3 Church St. Cambridge (591-9959). MBTA: Red to Harvard. Feb. 18, 7:30pm. This interesting lecture explores the hero archetype of the martyr, whose mission is to die so that others can see the truth that the martyr sees. Bruno's story exemplifies the virtues of courage, compassion and self-sacrifice—rare in our day and age.

Mysteries of Chinese Herbal Medicine and Acupuncture Explained
South End Library, 685 Tremont St. (536-8241). Feb.10, 6:30pm. Licensed acupuncturist and expert in chinese herbal medicine **Jo Walker** enlightens us on how these ancient forms of health treatment work and can help heal you.

Sex Wednesdays (Hump Day)
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Feb. 9 & 16, 8-10pm. $30 each. Sex educators **Marshall Miller** and **Dorian Solot** create a comfortable but not too tame discussion environment for their students. The next two classes topics will be "The Female Orgasm" and "Bisexuality," picked for their high confusion quotient. Be one of the growing many who is in- the-know.

Wellness Thursdays
Wellspace, Fresh Pond Mall, Cambridge (876-2660). www.wellspace.com. *Feb. 10 and 17, 7:30-9pm. $5.* These Thursday evening lectures are held in the peaceful environment of Wellspace. The next two talks will be on "Natural Approaches to Managing Anxiety & Depression" and "Personal Development and Self-Care."

Why You Need Bodywork
Woolf Holistic Health Center, 651 Washington St., Brookline (738-9144). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Square. Feb. 8, 7pm. Free. If you don't know already how important touch is in the healing process—and your shoulders haven't let you know—then massage therapist **Andrea Sabaroff** will.

GETAWAYS

Cross-Country Skiing and Yoga Retreat
Kripalu Center, Lenox, Mass. (800-741-7353). www.kripalu.org. *Feb. 10-13. $189 tuition, plus three nights room and meals.* Kripalu provides a relaxing environment for focusing on the body. **Anne Greene** will put you in shape in no time with the total body workout of the outdoors. Yoga and aerobics will be used to warm you up and make sure you stay balanced.

One Day Retreat: Yoga/Meditation/Massage
Green Street Studios, 185 Green St., Cambridge (864-3191). www.onedayretreat.com. *Feb. 20, 11:30am-5pm.* The body/mind restoration kit: A day to relax, refuel, and rejuvenate with yoga, meditation and massage sessions taught by your retreat leaders, **Doreen Kleinschmidt** and **Michael Bacso**. These experts have been in practice for more than 20 years.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Children. Or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

The kids'll love the adorable bugs in *Disney On Ice*, performing at the FleetCenter, Feb. 16-27.

TO SEE

Anne of Green Gables
Wheelock Family Theatre, 200 The Riverway, Boston (734-4760). Fri. 7:30pm; Sat.-Sun. 3pm. Through Feb. 27. $10-$17. The enchanting family musical based on the L. M. Montgomery classic. A couple wants to adopt an orphan boy to help with the farm chores, but the orphanage sends Anne Shirley instead—an impish, fanciful, talkative girl who is not at all what the pair have in mind.

Arthur—A Live Adventure
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). Through Feb. 13. $15.75-$30.75. Through Marc Brown's books and award-winning PBS show, Arthur the aardvark has blossomed into a favorite among children of all ages. Arthur's friends join him for this musical story.

Disney On Ice: 75 Years of Disney Magic
FleetCenter, Boston (931-2000). www.fleetcenter.com. *MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Feb. 16-27. $12.75-$40.* This magical show brings to life Walt Disney's unforgettable stories and the largest cast ever of Disney characters—Mickey, Minnie, Pinocchio, the Mouseketeers and more.

Heidi
Boston Children's Theatre, Suffolk University's C. Walsh Theatre, 55 Temple St., Boston (424-6634). Feb. 12-13, 19-20, 22-26, 2pm. $5-$16. The classic tale of a young girl whose irresistible charm and innocence brings fresh air and healing wherever she goes.

Puppet Showplace Theater
32 Station St., Brookline (731-6400). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. $8. Elaborate puppets perform favorite fables, ethnic legends and fairy tales. •Feb. 19, 10am, 1pm and 3pm; Feb.20-23, 1pm and 3pm. **"The Singing Turtle"** by Paul Vincent Davis.

THINGS TO DO

Zoo New England's Wild Adventures
Franklin Park Zoo, 1 Franklin Park Road, Boston (989-2093) $10. Enjoy live animal encounters, hands-on activities and behind-the-scenes tours. •Feb. 9, 10:30-11am: **Squirrels! Gila Monsters**. •Feb. 10, 3:30-4:30pm: **Bats!** •Feb. 11, 3:30-4:30pm: **Tropical Forests**.

Children's Hour at the Kennedy Library
Columbia Point, Boston (929-1250). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. •Feb. 19, 10:30am. Free. Ages 5 amd older **The Raven and the Star Fruit Tree**. During this Vietnamese folktale, learn simple hand gestures to interpret the story. •*Feb. 21, 10:30am*: **Bamidele Dancers and Drummers**. Enjoy the rhythms of these dancers from Brazil, the Caribbean and Africa.

Chinese New Year
Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). Feb. 15, 3:30pm. Ages 5 and older. Learn about the Chinese New Year holiday. There will be a craft, story and a tasty treat.

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to listings@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

To Watch

Boston Bruins
•FleetCenter. Tickets: 931-2000.
Feb. 11 (Away): New York, 7pm, ESPN.
Feb. 12 (Home): Florida, 7pm.
Feb. 16 (Away): Toronto, 7:30pm, UPN 38.
Feb. 21 (Away): Vancouver, 10pm, UPN 38.

Celtics
•FleetCenter. Tickets: 931-2000.
Feb. 9 (Home): Indiana, 7pm, Fox Sports Net.
Feb. 15 (Away): Utah, 9pm, FSN.
Feb. 18 (Away): Golden State, 10:30pm, FSN.
Feb. 19 (Away): Seattle, 10pm, FSN.
Feb. 21 (Away): Portland, 10pm, FSN.

Beanpot - Boston University
Feb. 14. Beanpot Finals, TBA, TV68.

Events

National Speedskating Championships
Ted Iorio Arena, Route 1, Walpole (789-4070). www.speedskaters.org. Feb. 10-13. If you've only seen speedskating on television, you're in for a treat. Short track is the fastest moving racing sport not involving gravity or mechanical advantage, with speeds approaching 30 miles per hour. This event will determine who will be represent the U.S. in world championships abroad. •Feb. 12, 9am-6pm, $10: After the competition, the Boston Ski & Sports Club visitors will be permitted to give speed skating a try.

Ski Events

Note: Most resorts are offering Valentine's Day specials
•Feb. 11-12: **The 91st Dartmouth Winter Festival** at Dartmouth Skiway. (603-795-2143).
•Feb 12: **A Valentine's Day Party** at Cannon Mountain. (603-823-8800). Special prizes for original love poems.
•Feb. 12: **Supercross Finals** at Waterville Valley. (603-236-8311).Final Supercross event of the season with tons of prizes and categories.
•Feb. 13 **Rudy Shatney Memorial Race** at Balsams Wilderness. (800-255-0600).Giant Slalom memorial race. Open to all.
•Feb. 14-18: **Snickers Snowfest** at Mount Sunapee. (603-763-2356). An exciting celebration featuring recreational racing and fun for all.
•Feb. 16: **Wild Wednesday Golf Tournament** at Cannon Mountain. (603-823-8800). Golf on snow event.
•Feb. 19-20: **Grateful Shred Camp and Competition** at Gunstock. (603-293-4341). A one-day training camp for prospective halfpipe competitors, followed by a Sunday halfpipe competition.
•Feb. 19: **Superhits** at Attitash Bear Peak. (603-374-2368). "Grass roots" snowboard air and style competition.
•Feb. 19: **Frostbite Follies Party** at Cannon Mountain. (603-823-8800). Buffet, torchlight parade, and fireworks. Benefits area's race program.
•Feb. 19: **President's Week Slopestyle Snowboard Event** at Mount Sunapee. (603-763-2356). Open competition with fun and prizes for all.
•Feb. 19: **Mountain Dew Vertical Challenge** at Ragged Mountain. (603-768-3600). Recreational activities such as race series, prizes, contests, and giveaways.
•Feb. 20: **Fireworks and Torchlight Parade** at Attitash Bear Park. (603-374-2368). President's Weekend family fireworks with a torchlight parade.
•Feb. 22: **Mountain Dew Vertical Challenge** at Tenney Mountain. (603-536-4125). Recreational activities such as race series, prizes, contests, and giveaways.
•Feb. 22-24: **Winter Carnival** at King Pine. (603-367-8896). Family activities all day on the slopes.

To Play

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Preview

Rowing in Place

At the sound of the starter, more than 100 rowers—with their hands poised tensely on their oars—pull back with a grunt. Only they don't surge forward like one might expect. These über athletes aren't racing on water—they're contestants at the World Indoor Rowing Championships, taking place in Boston on Feb. 20.

The indoor rowing phenomena started as a way for on-the-water rowers to train and condition during the winter months. Today, the sport attracts thousands who race against the clock on the latest Concept II Model C ergometers. It's kind of like the Head of the Charles—only no river and no sausage vendors. *Reggie Lewis Community Center, Boston (781-431-2306).* www.crash-b.org. *MBTA: Orange Line to Roxbury Crossing. Feb. 20, 8am*

end trips include resort accommodations, meals, lift tickets and bus transportation. •Feb. 15, 6pm: BSSC Ski Night at Nashoba Valley. $20 (veteran skiiers) and $40 (beginners/includes lesson).

Ski Market/Underground Snowboard
(731-6100). Sundays, $45; Thursdays, $40 (includes dinner and tour of the Redhook Brewery). Ski/snowboard trips to Killington, Sunday River, Loon and Waterville every Sunday and Thursday. Trips include round-trip transportation and lift ticket.

S-Kimos Ski Club
Jackson, NH (388-8135 or 781-209-1189). Ski club located in Jackson, NH, central to many ski areas. Members participate in various winter and summer activities, such as alpine and cross-country skiing, snowboarding and hiking.

XC SKIING

Cross Country at Great Brook Farm
Great Brook Farm, Carlisle, Mass., with Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070). Feb. 12, 9:30am. $23, $33 (with rentals). Price includes breakfast. Explore this local state park on skis. The park has 10 miles of groomed trails and fabulous scenery. Meet for breakfast in the lodge and then head for the trails.

XC Skiing Under the Stars
Weston Ski Track with Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070). Feb. 11. $30 or $40 (with rental). Enjoy groomed, lighted trails; pizza and fun.

FOOTBALL

Indoor Flag Football
BSSC, Indoor Sports Center in Revere (789-4070). Sundays.

Co-ed Touch Football
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990).

GOLF

The Golf School
Radisson Hotel, 200 Stuart St., Boston (457-2699). Through March 31. An indoor driving range staffed by PGA pros.

HIKING/WALKING

The Appalachian Mountain Club
Gorham, N.H. (603-466-2727). Hikes and huts in the White Mountains. •Monthly AMC Young Members meetings at AMC headquarters, 4 Joy St., Beacon Hill (523-0655). Second Thursday of every month, 6-10pm, $3. Potluck. BYOB.

ICE CLIMBING

Boston Ski and Sports Club
Mountain Lynx, Central Mass., (789-4070). Jan. 16, 8am-4pm. $90 (includes guide, instruction, all equipment and lunch). This course is designed to teach complete novices how to safely climb vertical ice flows and frozen waterfalls, while also giving intermediate ice climbers the opportunity to further develop their skills.

ICE SKATING

MDC Ice Skating classes
Bay State Ice Skating School (781-890-8480). www.iceskatingclasses.com. Registration is underway for fall classes at 17 MDC rinks in Greater Boston.

ROCK CLIMBING

Indoor Rock Climbing
The Rock Gym, Woburn, Mass., with Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070). Feb. 19 or March 5, 9am. $65. Includes three hours of instruction for beginners, all equipment and a free day pass (with gear rental).

RUNNING

Boston Road Club Weekly Races
(781-646-8955). Sundays. Starts at Wells Ave. in Newton.

Fresh Pond Weekly Road Races
Fresh Pond Reservation. Saturdays, 10am. Choose between a 2.5- or 5-mile run.

NIKETOWN Boston Running Club
200 Newbury St., Boston (267-3400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Three-to-five-mile loops. Starts at 6:30pm. Monthly mini-clinics as well.

Boston Hash House Harriers
(499-4835). Weekly runs year-round. Serious drinkers with a running problem.

Khoury's Thursday Night Runs
East Somerville. (354-3534). 4.13 miles. 7pm at Khoury's Bar.

Somerville Road Runners Weekly Run
Cambridge Boat House Parking Lot, Cambridge (923-2378). Fridays at 7 pm.

SNOW FUN

Dog Sledding & Snowshoeing
Boston Ski & Sports Club, (789-4070). Feb. 13 or March 4, 8am-4pm. $100 (includes snack and lunch, snowshoes, guides, instruction and short dog-sled ride.). Meet a team of Alaskan Malamute sled dogs. Spend the day snowshoeing through the remote forest terrain and take turns sampling the thrill of dog sledding.

Ice Climbing
Boston Ski & Sports Club, (789-4070). Feb. 19, 8am-4pm. $90. This program in Winchester is designed to teach complete novices how to safely climb vertical ice flows and frozen waterfalls. Includes guide, instruction all equipment and lunch.

TENNIS

Mixed Doubles
BSSC (789-4070). Saturday evenings in Waltham. •Enjoy a tennis party, $38: Feb. 12 (advanced beginner level); Feb. 12 or Feb. 26 (intermediate); Feb. 26 (advanced).

VOLLEYBALL

Adult Co-ed Volleyball League
Waltham YMCA (781-894-5295). Monday nights, began Sept. 13. All levels welcome.

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club, (789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. at various locations. Coed indoor 6 on 6 leagues. Four different levels of play. Pick-up games, clinics and tournaments also available. •Co-ed pickup games Tuesdays and Fridays at West Newton Armory, 1137 Washington St. $5.

Co-ed Volleyball League
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990).

sales& fashion

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for sales and bargains by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sales and Fashion. Or e-mail information to goodbuys@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the event or items. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

AUCTIONS

Skinner Auctioneers—Bolton
357 Main St., Bolton (978-779-6241). www.skinner-inc.com. **•American Furniture and Decorative Arts.** *Feb. 27, 11am. Previews: Feb. 23, 2-5pm; Feb. 24, 2-5pm; Feb. 25, 2-5pm; Feb. 26, 12-5pm; Feb. 27, 8-10:30am.* Among the items for sale is a federal mahogany inlaid tall case clock by William Cummens (1768-1834), Boston or Roxbury, Mass., circa 1800.
•Discovery Auction. *Feb. 17, 7pm; Feb. 18, 10am. Previews: Feb. 17, 2-6:30pm; Feb. 18, 8-9:30am.* The Discovery auctions focus on estate property in an intermediate price range, offering a variety of collecting categories culled from Skinner Auctioneer's 16 specialty departments.

Trinity Rep Auction 2000
Trinity Repertory Company, Upstairs Theater, 201 Washington St., Providence, RI (401-521-1100). Feb. 14, 7pm, reception at 6:30pm. $75, includes the pre-auction complimentary cocktail reception. Trinity Rep actors star in this unique auction while items up for bid emerge through the drama developing around you. Auction items include a stay in a South Beach Florida hotel, theater trips, a celebrity lunch date and possible walk-on roles.

SALES/EVENTS

Boston Antiques Show
The Cyclorama, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., South End, Boston (787-2637 or 426-0997). Feb. 11-12, 11am-8pm; Feb. 13, 11am-6pm. $10, children under 12 free. Modern designs and fine art are also a part of this comprehensive show. Other selections include fine and country furniture, folk art and Americana, Oriental rugs, jewelry, art deco and more.

"Cabin Fever" Toy Show
Holiday Inn, Exit 15A off Route 128/95, Dedham, Mass. (508-379-9733). Feb. 13, 9:30am-3pm. $4.50, $3.50 after noon. Enjoy quality and timeless childhood treasures brought to you from collectors all over the US and abroad. Three halls of displays range from planes, trains and automobiles to cap guns, Star Wars heroes and villains, Barbies, Pez and Disney toys.

Valentine's Sale
Side Dish: A Weekend Boutique, 257 Highland Ave., Somerville (628-3929). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Feb. 12-13, 11am-5pm. Receive a 15 percent discount on everything in the store and enjoy sweets as you shop.

FASHION

Gucci Trunk Show
Gucci, Copley Place, 100 Huntington Ave., Boston (247-3000). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Feb 15-16, 12-8pm. A trunk show of the men's and women's Spring/Summer 2000 collection.

BEAUTY

Valentine Glamour
Demiche, 423 Main St., Melrose (781-662-1796). Feb. 11-14. Get a complimentary hairstyling with every-makeup appointment all weekend long.

Find high-style Antiques likes these at the Boston Antiques Show, Feb. 10-13.

go away

TRAVELING NEAR AND FAR

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Go Away. Or e-mail information to goaway@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the event or items. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

NORTH OF BOSTON

New England Motorcycle Expo
Rockingham Park, Salem, NH (800-759-SHOW). Feb. 12, 10am-9pm; Feb. 13, 10am-5pm. $10, ages 6-12 $4, under six free. Hey all you road demons out there...looking for new motorcycle models, hard-to-find parts, leather accessories or collectibles? Trying to impress a certain bad boy or girl? More than 100 exhibitors offer a wide variety of products you can't find anywhere else. Surprisingly, the expo also boasts a "family friendly" atmosphere. Kids can cast their vote in the Best of New England Bike Show while they're dazzled by shining chrome, glimmering paint jobs and powerful engines. And don't forget the leather and lace fashion show accompanied by live music.

Rail-A-Rama
Ramada Rolling Green, 311 Lowell St., Andover, Mass. (361-4445). Feb. 13, 10am-4pm; $3, ages 5-12, $1; free admission to current members of Mystic Valley Railway Society. Some people never get over their childhood obsession with trains. Perhaps it's because they embody the act of flight and power—getting away from it all with a quick, impulsive leap onto the railway. You'll certainly find great eye candy at this trade show with more than 10,000 square feet of displays and model-train layouts.

Royal Benefit Gala and Silent Auction
The Mount Washington Hotel, Route 32, Bretton Woods, N.H. (603-278-1000). Feb. 10. The hotel will host a dinner and grand gala in honor of His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent (in town to stimulate international awareness in trade and tourism), to benefit the Flying Hospital and the Littleton Regional Hospital.

CAPE COD

Evening Tasting of Darjeeling Teas
The Dunbar Tea House, One Water Street, Sandwich, Mass. (800-234-8327). Feb. 13, 6pm. $15. Here's an opportunity to taste current offerings from some of Darjeeling's most prestigious tea estates (Namring, Poobong, Makaibari, Pootabong, Goomtee, Mim and Pussimbing). Guests will be able to discuss the teas with the principals of Upton Tea Imports and with the owners of the Dunbar Tea House, who have just returned from a month in India. Their slide presentation will illustrate the discussion.

SOUTH OF BOSTON

Hot Chocolate Follies
Fall River Heritage State Park, Fall River, Mass. (508-675-5759). Feb. 19, 11am. Frolic in the snow while cross-country skiing or riding a snowmobile. Afterward warm up with some hot chocolate and roasted marshmallows. Enjoy live music, food, an ice sculpture competition, train rides and crafts.

Lumberjack Jamboree
Houghtons Pond, Hillside Street, Milton, Mass. (698-1802). Feb. 20, 1-3pm. Calling all lumberjacks and lumberjills. Grab your plaid flannel shirt and hustle on down to Houghtons Pond for a lumberjack jamboree. Try the two-person saw, axe throw, or spit for distance. Or just sit by the warming fire.

WESTERN MASS.

Love Is In the Sky
EcoTarium, 222 Harrington Way, Worcester (508-929-2700). Reservations recommended. Feb. 14, 6:30pm and 8pm. $14, $12, members. Couples only. What better way to romance your Valentine than at the EcoTarium? Fall in love all over again—you've got all the help in the world: poetry readings in the planetarium, beautiful views of the moon and other celestial objects through telescopes, a wine and cheese reception. This way, your smitten just might smite you back.

New England Metal & Hardcore Festival
Worcester, Mass. (978-440-9860). Feb. 11-12. $45 for two day tickets. Get ready for two days of black metal, death metal, hardcore and industrial music—and a bit of ska thrown in. Scheduled performers include Misfits, Machine Head, Six Feet Under, CannibalCorpse, Snapcase, Will Haven, Tree, Reach the Sky and Buried Alive. Get plenty of rest so you can party like a rock star at this metal and hardcore extravaganza.

RHODE ISLAND

Newport Winter Festival

28 Pelham St., Newport (401-847-7666). Feb. 18-27. With more than 150 individual events, this fabulous festival has been chosen by the American Bus Association as one of the Top 100 Events in North America. Events include horse-drawn hayrides, sand sculptures, a chili cook-off, a city-wide scavenger hunt, progressive dinner, an ice sculpting competition, a children's fair and a fantasy auction.

NEW YORK

Celebrate Buenos Aires

World Financial Center, Winter Garden and Plaza, Battery Park City (800-53-FERRY). Feb. 1-March 26. Free admission. Now that the hype of millennium celebrations are cooling down, spice up your New Year by celebrating the music, dance, literature and cultural heritage of Argentina's capital. Be dazzled by sparkling costumes, romanced by Argentinian heritage or simply take a stroll along the harborfront promenade with the sweet sound of Buenos Aires in the air.

Bindlestiff Family Cirkus

Loft Theater, 38 South 4th Street, Brooklyn (212-726-1935). Feb. 10-12, 8:30pm. $10, $7 for clowns in make-up. If you've exhausted all creative ideas for a fun day out with the fam and can't fathom another trip to the zoo, look no further. Bindlestiff is no Barnum and Bailey's, but it is certainly chock full of freaks, oddities and magic stuff. Think Vaudeville with more stupid human tricks and a wacky cast of characters—without all the bad singing.

MIAMI

Coconut Grove Arts Festival

McFarlane Road and South Bayshore Drive, Coconut Grove (305-447-0401). Feb. 19-21, 10am-6pm. Free admission. The arts festival will once again weave its way through the streets of Coconut Grove over President's Day weekend. It's one of the country's largest and most widely respected outdoor arts festivals—with a variety of art works including watercolor, claywork, computer-generated fiber, glass, sculpture, painting, photography, wood, jewelry and metalwork, mixed media, printmaking and drawing.

PRETENDERS: JILL FURMANOVSKY

It's almost like summer—only colder—at Newport's Winter Festival, Feb. 18-27.

MONTREAL

Montreal High Lights Festival

822, Rue Sherbrooke Est, Montreal, Canada (1-888-477-9955). Feb. 11-March 4. It's hard to tell whether Montreal is aglow due to the tremendous lighting or from the star personalities who light up this festival. Experience the best Montreal has to offer during this 23-day event as more than 2000 talents from the best cultural troupes and companies perform. Meander through the streets and marvel at the spectacular lighting displays.

The Montréal International Boat Show

Montréal Olympic Stadium, Metro: Pie-IX (514-252-3330). Feb. 5-13. It may not seem like the season to be thinking about the splendors of the big blue sea, but winter can't get the marine equipment manufacturers down. Even if you're not in the business of selling products or services that interest boat buyers, you may want to sail away to this annual event of boating enthusiasts. It's a show with hundreds of boats, featuring representatives of marinas and marine accessories and equipment.

PARIS

Ready-to-Wear Fashion Show

Le Salon International de Prêt-à-Porter, Parc des Expositions, Porte de Versailles, Paris (01-44-94-70-00). Through mid-February. Here at THE IMPROPER, we want our readers to be well-informed and style-conscious consumers, but we certainly steer clear from fueling trend-obsessed lunatics attempting to set our standards. There is certainly a difference between stylin' and fashion victim. So beware what may be unveiled at this event where many international designers (famous and unknown) present their fashions that they suspect the public will be wearing in six months.

LONDON

Dragon 2000

London Arena, Limeharbour (0181-533-9499). Feb. 13. Adults, £1.50 children, £1 family, £4. Evening banquet, £60 per person. Don't put your noise makers and confetti away just yet, there's still the Chinese New Year to celebrate. London is still raring to go and is throwing a millennium festival bash for the Chinese community with stage shows, exhibitions, competitions, games an evening banquet and more.

MT. COMPASS

Compass Cup Cow Race

Mt. Compass Oval, 37 miles south of Adelaide, South Australia (085-56-8263). Feb. 13. Leave it to the Aussies to turn the heart of wine country into a wild cattle-ground. Daring locals bid on chances to take 10 brown-eyed Bossies for a ride through the countryside, leaving the reins behind so that the beasts are free to wander wherever they want. While contestants meander about searching for a tasty snack, those a bit less fearless participate in hay-bale stacking, a water-filled rubber-boot marathon, a yummy dung fling or the toot-loading competition—that Australian favorite where you can finally find out just how many people can squeeze into an outhouse.

mark your daytimer

UPCOMING EVENTS

CITYSCOPE

St. Patrick's Day Festivities
March 17, 12-6pm, Faneuil Hall

FILM

Boston International Festival of Women's Cinema
April 13-17, Brattle Theatre

MUSIC

Joan Baez and Eliza Carthy
March 27 and 28, Somerville Theatre

Cher with Lou Bega
March 3, FleetCenter

Bruce Cockburn
March 18, Berklee Performance Center

Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young
March 27, FleetCenter

Geno Delafose, Balfa Toujours and Henry Butler
March 5, The Roxy

The Pretenders

Korn
March 30 and 31, Worcester's Centrum Centre

Red Hot Chili Peppers and Foo Fighters
May 13 and 14, Providence Civic Center

PERFORMING ARTS

Art (with Judd Hirsch)
March 7-26, The Colonial Theatre

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Recent correspondence follows.

Rants and Raves
I'm sick of the expense, the prices, the fads, the social affairs, the politics, the round about ways people have for not seeing each other, the emotionally bereft, the debt, the cost of education, the Republicans, the questions on Militarism, the singleminded idiots who sit in their cars waiting for someone else to leave so they won't have to walk the extra 50 feet, the fact that extras on menus cost as much as the meals and are twice as filling, the classism, ageism, social genderism, the dolts who spy love in the passing car on the T through soiled windows and drunken eyes. I'm tired of credit cards, phone solicitors, ethernets, cyberspace, the electronic superhighway that cuts you off when online for too long; the fact that Republicans want to open up the Alaskan wilderness for oil, for money, more money. I'm sick of catechisms, fadisms, the rampant proliferation of franchised coffee-shops and microbreweries. Since when is entrepreneurism sold and not created? I'm tired of Bill Gates though I have nothing personal to say about him. I'm tired of my writer's block, my idea block, my social block, my blockhead. I'm fed up with fast food mayonnaise stands that clog the arteries so their partners in crime, the HMOs, can throw you out on your ass for having one of their planned heart attacks. I'm puzzled by ads that speak to no one, that spell out "creativity" as a flashy screen and fast moving car with a scantily clad nubile young thing selling Christian Dior toe clippers, or the spots that sell new bodies at fancy gyms that don't smell and that must have an out of the way room for those of us less fit during the commercial and another room for the fit when we work out. I like apples and oranges and bright sunny days. I like smiling and laughing at silly jokes. I enjoy hot showers taken after long runs, the miracles of the human body and never ending story of evolution. I take pleasure in turning off the TV, in making my own meals, in good healthy movements and of course the feel of loved one. I guess it's all worth enduring. And I love being alive.
—lesserjo@bc.edu

To the Budweiser Beer Distributor
at The Modern/Avalon on Thursday night: Nice Eyes!
—Kate—lesserjo@bc.edu

Gwyneth
"I miss you like a lock on the door." I may have screwed up, but that was yesterday. You are now hobnobbing with the Blue Bloods. Can you say "Trust fund babies?" "Conventional?" Where is the artist that I know and love? Who else in your group of friends wear Fluevogs with no socks? Don't move thousands of miles away. Come home sweets. Come home to me. I pushed you away, I know. I took you for granted, and now I want you back. You don't think Matisse took his eyesight for granted? He didn't know what it meant to him until it was gone and he found himself tearing paper, and using sticks. You are gone, and there is a hole in my heart where you once were. I miss you! I miss my partner in crime. I miss my buddy. I wish I could be stronger and let you go, but "Good luck babe," is not in my vocabulary at this moment. I love you as I always will, and I will not be truly "modern" until I have you back in my life. Let's design a new future together? I'm right here up on the top floor. Wait until you see the view. The ceilings are now tall enough for us.
—Gropius

Mike at the Cambridge '99
You don't know what a hidden treasure you are. You make people laugh and entertain friends and strangers alike. We love your cuteness, quick wit and your unique humor! Not to mention how sexi you are, and a very classy dresser. Ladies, I'm tellin' ya you want a good catch—he's the one! Talk about a total package, and oh—those eyes, my God. And what a booty! Mike, they don't make guys like you anymore, and I can't believe someone hasn't snatched you right up. I would bet the farm that you should indeed take Hollywood by storm, Mr. Millennium Man. If you aren't famous in 2-3 years, I'll be shocked. You are appreciated, and a couple of big surprises are on the way. Soon, very soon. Brace yourself. We love you.
—"Your fans"

PK
You have no idea idea how easy it is to find what you're looking for. Let me be the genie in your bottle, and your wishes will be my commands (with no emotional baggage).
—Back Rub King

Dear Dr. K
Please forgive me for taking so long to realize how much you mean to me. I have been so blind for so long. I am so sorry for anything which I have done which has hurt you. I pray I am not too late and can somehow win back your trust, deepest love, and faith in us. I know this will take time, but I am at last ready to do whatever it takes to work through places where things broke down between us. You are my one true love and I want no one else. I want so much to be the man you desire and make you happy. You are my best friend and I love so much about you: I love your intelligence, your spirit, your body, your smile, your taste, your thoughtful giving, your strength, your weakness, your gaze, your touch, your cooking, your passion, and so much more. Your are so beautiful, and you still rock my world, now more than ever, maybe forever.
—anonymous

Lady Godiva at Copley Place
Something you may not know: selling overpriced chocolate makes you better than anyone else. You must already know this, since you only seem to feel good when you're putting others down. Your conversation seems to be based only on the lives of your friends. You seem like you could be a cool person...if you'd get that nasty scowl off of your face and your nose out of the air.
—anonymous

Jason
We were the only ones at Savin Hill at midnight, Dec. 23. You showed me the way home. I rifled through my things to find something to write with, but, alas, JFK came too quickly. As I watched the train shuttle past, I regretted leaving you with no number or connection. I look forward to further conversations...you can borrow my gloves.
—rkirby@capecod.net

To the Cutest Boy
Happy one-year anniversary!
—Minky's Friend

Dear Doctor
You work too hard. You don't get enough sleep. Sounds like you need a nurse. I may not be the one you ordered, but I am definitely the one you need and positively the one you want. Don't be shy. I will make house calls (for some private duty...)
—R.N.

Jen Cole
I've been trying to get hold of you since May—to settle your debt and arrange a pickup time for the stuff you left in my living room. Chris won't give me your number, and I couldn't find you at the club before I left last week. You know my number. Please contact me ASAP. Time's running out.
—Lauri

Rockie Horoscope

February 9 - 22, 2000
BY ROCKIE GARDINER

Aquarius
JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18
Quick, before Pisces begins on the 19th, find another reason to celebrate being an Aquarius avatar. Much good feeling is being generated during these high-flying days, and to make it even better, Venus, ruler of beauty and art, enters your sign on the 17th for three weeks. So if this Valentine's Day turns out to be less than fabulous, artistically and amour-wise, there's plenty of time to meet a higher criteria. Opportunites to grow show up again, like they did last summer, once expansive Jupiter enters Taurus Monday.

Pisces
FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19
Many differences in planetary energies. Razor-sharp Mars leaves your sign on the 11th, so you might lose your bite, your acerbic, self-destructive wit. Ha! Jupiter switches to Taurus from impulsive Aries, so you can become more conservative about money and how you spend it. Venus exits from Capricorn, where she paid her respects to the establishment, and enters Aquarius, the sign of the rebel, on the 17th. Now that's promising; however, Mercury goes retrograde in Pisces on the 21st for three very slow weeks.

Aries
MARCH 20-APRIL 19
Enough of hiding out, contemplating the myriad alternatives to direct action. Once your Mars ruler enters Aries on Friday, you'll be eager to take on a cause (don't limit it to a romantic pursuit) to die for. However, push might not come to shove because exuberant Jupiter leaving Aries on Monday can leave you feeling flat. I trust that during Jupiter's year-long visit, there were sufficient opportunities to cash in big. So, while surgical Mars is in Aries for the next six weeks, consider having the physical imperfections that bother you corrected. Personality flaws? You're on your own.

Taurus
APRIL 20-MAY 20
Bulls born when Taurus begins are blessed by the entrance of generous Jupiter into your sign. Quick, what wonderful thing happened on Independence Day only to vanish around Columbus Day? Well, it's coming back very soon. Jupiter expands and educates, but it only works wonders every twelve years. The other Bulls will enjoy having Jupiter transiting their natal sun sometime before July. Everyone can feel the difference in how you love (and whom) after your Venus ruler moves into egalitarian Aquarius on the 17th.

Gemini
MAY 21-JUNE 20
Do you need to hear it? What is revealed when your ever-curious Mercury ruler squares secretive Pluto this weekend could be nasty, so think twice before you pry into someone else's business. You wouldn't want to spoil Valentine's Day plans or upset the happy mindset the Gemini moon-Aquarius sun provides that night. More harmony and ease after the 17th while loving Venus in Aquarius favors the Twins, e.g., easy money and better sex. Warning: Mercury is retrograde from the 21st until March 14; repair the machines, buy high-end items, sign important papers before then.

Cancer
JUNE 21-JULY 22
The most romantic element in this year's Valentine's Day scenario is magnetic Venus in your Capricorn marriage house. Never mind that this placement suggests that a gold digger is going for broke or that your heart as well as your assets are up for grabs. You should be used to these relationships by now. But, come next Wednesday the attraction could be on the wane and you, out of harm's way. The full moon on the 19th highlights places you haven't been, books you haven't read, classes you haven't taken yet. While Mercury is retrograde, do the research.

Leo
JULY 23-AUGUST 22
Energetic Mars shifting into adventurous Aries Friday is a go signal for all fire signs; any effort you exert works on your behalf and you won't have to make awkward adjustments for a while. Add the heartwarming fact that affectionate Venus enters Aquarius, your sign of significant others, on Tuesday, and you can look forward to at least three weeks of hugs, kisses and happy get-togethers. Money, however, is another matter; Mercury turns retrograde in your house of investments and inheritances for those same three weeks. Doublecheck all statements.

Virgo
AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22
Fewer arguments, we trust, once feisty Mars moves out of your Pisces complement Friday and the idealistic, self-sacrificing Pisces sun takes over. (No, you won't turn into a patsy.) The Virgo-Pisces full moon on the 19th lets you know whether your health, the job or the service you perform—what you consider your charitable contribution—will demand the better part of your attention during the next two weeks. A word to the wise: your Mercury ruler is retrograde in Pisces (more about partners) from February 21 to March 14.

Libra
SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22
Enjoy yourself, it's not a minute later than you think. In fact, once your Venus ruler gets to Aquarius, a compatible air sign like yours next Thursday, it'll be smooth sailing, for three weeks. Although you could have a bit of a rough time this weekend when Mars moves into ardent Aries, it's probably your sexy valentine flexing a few muscles to get your attention. Mercury's flip into retrograde on the 21st shouldn't effect anything other than your work routine and working out. Be prepared for minor hassles.

Scorpio
OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21
Like your Aries buddies, you'll be invigorated by your Mars co-ruler moving into that spirited fire sign this weekend. Take the risk, get the thrill, play to your heart's content. Athletes should do exceptionally well, so should lovers. That is, unless you spill the beans Sunday night when nosy Mercury keeps poking at one of your Plutonic secrets. A confession could spell "trouble" and lead to a less than loving Valentine's Day celebration. Can you balance your desire to communicate with a need to express yourself physically?

Sagittarius
NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21
Something you'd prefer to keep to yourself might leak out when Mercury in Pisces squares Pluto in your sign this weekend. And through no fault of your own, you may have caused a "situation" that'll affect your Valentine's Day plans. Once again, the Centaur sticks its clumsy hoof in its big mouth. Give yourself a break; since your Jupiter ruler changes signs on Monday from adventurous Aries to hard-working Taurus, you're perfectly justified in feeling out of whack and trepidatious. Hard work? Heavens preserve us!

Capricorn
DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20
I'm not sure why you'll feel secure come Valentine's Day; maybe you're counting on the love of a good man or woman, or maybe you're counting on protective Jupiter's shift into Taurus, a friendly earth sign like yours, to allay any fears you may have about home or parents. Either way, you come out okay. You won't even mind it when Venus leaves Capricorn on the 17th; just so long as the planet of affection and decoration has made an impact on your appearance and improved your social life. If not, there's still time this weekend for a makeover.

Curious about the future? Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30 to 40+ pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise over the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $42.50 per report to ROCKIE GARDINER, 1021 N. Genesee, #1, West Hollywood, CA 90046, *www.rockiehoroscope.com*. Read my daily forecast online at *www.laweekly.com*.

Nightline Personals

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617-245-1004
508-365-1004

men seeking women

Good looking and in great shape. Hey ladies, this is Mike. I'm a divorced Italian man, 40, 5'10", 175 lbs., with brown hair and brown eyes. The activities I enjoy are movies, dancing, dinning out, watching TV, bowling, and playing sports. I'm seeking a female, in her 30's, who is pretty and intelligent with a good sense of humor. Box 11730

I own my own home and business. Hey girls. I'm a white male, 5'11", 210 lbs., in very good shape, with dark hair and hazel eyes. I'm looking for a girl with a job, transportation, and a life of her own. I'm just searching for a partner to share life and good times with. I'm looking to seriously date, not play games. Box 13000

Employed in the export business. Hello ladies, my name is Hudson. I'm an attractive SWM, 5'11", 185 lbs., with brown hair and blue eyes. I'm very sweet, loving, kind, romantic, and passionate. I'm looking for a woman, with the same qualities, for a possible long-term relationship. Box 15131

To you whose eyes I seek in the sea of women, I find myself drawn to you... Hi, this is Michael. I'm 6'3", 180 lbs., with brown hair and hazel eyes. I'm looking for a lady who is steady, intelligent, and one-on-one. She should like to laugh, dance, and cuddle. Box 19500

Die hard romantic. Hi, my name is Dan. I'm a divorced white male, 5'10", and 180 lbs. I'm a gentleman who knows how to treat a lady. I'm looking for a long-term relationship. I love long walks, holding hands, cuddling, long kisses, and bringing my lady flowers. I'm not a couch potato, but neither am I a jock. Box 15450

Down-to-earth and honest with a good head on my shoulders. Hello, this is Mike. I'm 6'3", with short brown hair and blue eyes. I love to stay active, cook, travel, and watch sports. I'm looking for a friendship first, with a relationship later, but I'm not looking to rush into or force anything that may not be natural. Box 19044

Are you ready to add some fun, excitement, and pleasure into your life? Does the thought of spending time with a very attractive, funny, safe, clean, caring, and discreet white male-in his late 30's-interest you? I'm 6'2", 210 lbs., tall, dark, and handsome. I'm very selective as to who I get involved with. Box 21209

Try our exciting
Live Chat
feature!
Connect live, one on one with other singles on-line right now! Call 617-245-1004 and follow the easy to use prompts. There are exciting singles on line 24 hours a day!

TRY OUR LIVE CHAT You won't believe your ears!

women seeking men

Searching for a man who has a positive attitude towards life. Hi, my name is Julie. I'm a SWF, 5'7", 142 lbs., with short light brown hair and green eyes. I'm seeking a single male, age 25-35, who is HWP, a non-smoker and social drinker. I'm looking for a long-term relationship. Box 11495

Baggage from the past is unwanted. Hello, my name is Anita. I'm a 37-year-old, soon to be 38, black and Hispanic female. I'm tall and attractive. I'm looking for someone who has some type of spiritual conviction. He should be a non-smoking occasional drinker who knows where he's going and what he wants out of life. Box 12268

Very pretty woman. Hey guys, my name is Christine. I'm a divorced Italian and Irish woman, 41, 5'4", 146 lbs., with soft and curly shoulder length brown hair and blue eyes. I'm curvaceous in all the right spots. I'm also smart, fun loving, and have a good sense of humor. I love sports, cozy fires, country stores, slow dancing, kissing in the rain, and playing in the snow. Box 13161

Living in the North Shore. Hi, this is Kira. I'm in my 30's, 5'5", 105 lbs., with long jet black hair and brown eyes. I'm looking for an attractive and intelligent man who lives in reality, not a fantasy world. I'm looking for a long-term friendship, possible relationship. Box 14147

I rollerblade in the summer and ski in the winter. And I'm looking for a man, between the age of 30-35, who does the same. Hello, my name is Christina. I'm college educated 28-year-old 100% Hispanic woman. Box 24856

I've got a solid build. Hi, my name is Nicole. I'm a black female, 22, 5'5", 160 lbs., with brown skin, short curly hair, and dark brown eyes. I'm looking for a black male, between the ages of 25-32, who has a job, but doesn't have any kids. Box 24862

I like to party. I'm a 20-year-old SWF, 5'2", with brown hair and brown eyes. I enjoy shooting pool, clubbing, movies, listening to music, taking long walks, sporting events, and cuddling up with that special someone. I'm looking for someone who is fun-loving, with a good personality and a great sense of humor. Box 24874

Professionally employed and considered attractive. Hi there, my name is Diane. I'm 43, 5'4", with red hair and blue/green eyes. I'm looking for someone with a good sense of humor who enjoys having fun. I like walking around Boston and taking weekend excursions. Box 24930

I love to cook, shop, decorate, and read. Hello, this is Mary. I'm 5'4", with medium length brown and blonde hair with green eyes. I live south of Boston. I'm interested in something casual. Box 19757

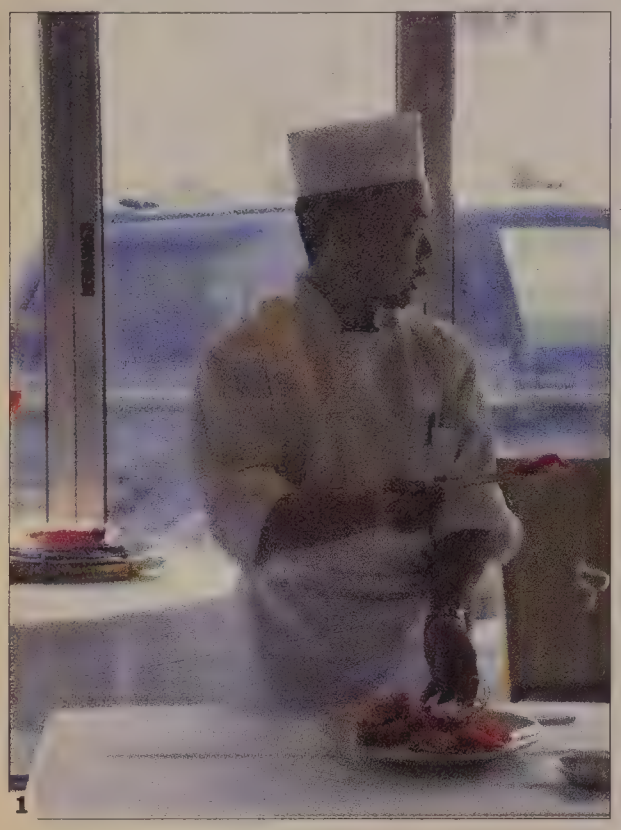
Petite, pretty, and sexy. Hello, my name is Shanica, but they call me PYT for pretty young thing. I'm a 29-year-old black female who is mature, outgoing, trusting, and caring. I'm looking for a casual friend, nothing long term. I'm studying to become a recording artist and I enjoy singing and dancing. Box 24085

Visit Nightline on the web at www.nightlinepersonals.com and check out more local ads!

The Nightline service does not prescreen callers and assumes no responsibility for personal meetings. Callers must be 18 or over. Toll charges may apply. Optional paid services. Call for details.

improperazzi

The Improper Bostonian's client-related promotions and events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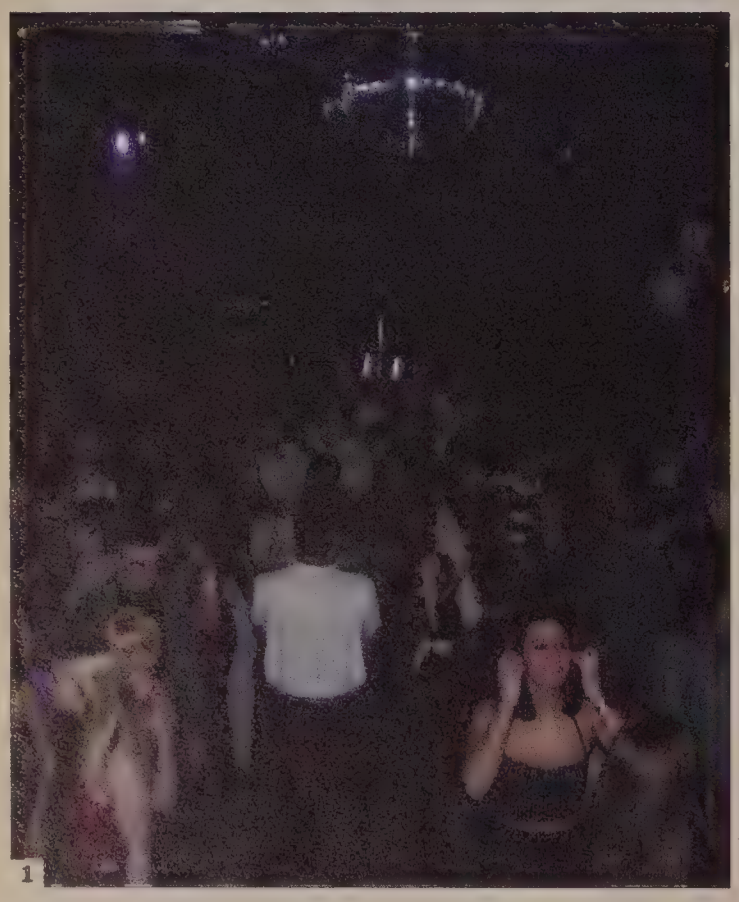
Sushi-lovers from all over Massachusetts flocked to Beacon Hill's new restaurant, **Ma Soba**, on January 22 to learn that rolling sushi isn't quite as easy as it looks, but it can be tons of fun.

1. **Cary Wong**, Executive Chef, demonstrates the proper way to eat sushi.
2. **Kelly Campbell**, Manager of The Bridge Group, and **Phil Hall**, a Government Investigator, examine the secret ingredients.
3. **Amy Wakeman**, Director of Sapers and Wallack gave the class to **Madeline Roberts** and **Ann Wakeman** for Christmas.
4. **Jackie Giron**, Production Manager at Lawyer's Weekly, and **Stephen Blank**, Vice President of Arthur Blank & Co., getting their hands dirty.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January 28 marked the premiere of **Mondo Bar**. Friday nights at the **Roxy** will now feature a global groove and a world-class crowd.

1. Check out this crowd!
2. **Manos Linoxilakis** and **Christophe Muller**, co-owners of Caprice, holding the world in their hands.
3. **Christophe** and **Manos** welcome **DJ Felix** (center).
4. **Mela** adds his beat to the spun tunes.

ERICA BAITLER (MA SOBA); KATHLEEN LAMPEREZ (ROXY)

BARS, CLUBS, RESTAURANTS & BRUNCH

The following are paid advertisements. Please check times and prices in advance. If you'd like to have your restaurant listed, please call The Improper Bostonian Advertising Dept. at 859-1400.

BARS

Billiards

Boston Billiard Club
126 Brookline Ave., 536-POOL. Ranked #1 in the country by Billiards Digest. Free lessons on Mon., 7:30 pm - 9 pm. Boston Billiard Club House Leagues on Mon. and Tues. "In The Biz" night on Sun. and Mon. for patrons in the hospitality industry. Ladies' night on Wed. Featuring a menu of light fare such as grilled chicken sandwiches and appetizers, along with beer, wine, cocktails and a variety of non-alcoholic beverages.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, The Allstonians and Beat Soup.

Brew Pubs

Back Bay Brewing Company
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center. $7-$18. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Bi-level restaurant/brewery offers an inspirational pairing of outstanding innovative cuisine and award-winning ales and lagers. Upbeat first floor bar and café, second floor dining room and bar with comfortable couches and overstuffed chairs. Mon. - Sun. 11:30am - 1am. Brunch Sun. from 11am - 3pm.

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Company
138 Portland St., Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is now the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, a block from the FleetCenter and steps from Faneuil Hall, Commonwealth Fish & Beer features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

General

Dick's Last Resort
55 Huntington Ave., Prudential Center, Boston, 267-8080. www.dickslastresort.com. Dick's has live music 7 nights a week, no cover, no dress code and certainly no class. They have 74 kinds of beer for the novice or serious/ sudsman, or a full bar for the hard core. Dick's also is a restaurant of sorts with buckets of ribs, shrimp, lobster, chicken, catfish and crab legs. This is the place your Mama warned you about. Free parking after 5pm, cheap til 5 with validation.

The Good Life
Uptown - 99 St. Botolph St., 266-3030; Downtown - 28 Kingston St., 451-2622. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1999 Boston's Best Martini award. The Good Life is a retro lounge that Frank Dean and Sammy would have hung at. Big Drinks, Great American Comfort Food, Hot Jazz and Plenty of Boy Meets Girl. Never a cover, always a good time.

Harvard Gardens
316 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114, 617-523-2727. A wonderfully relaxed haven located opposite MGH on the back side of Beacon Hill. Serving the finest cocktails and most comfortable food in town. Plant yourself in a comfy booth, a cozy banquette, or at our fully loaded bar and escape from your everyday troubles. Doing it nice & easy 7 days a week - 11am-2am.

Pravda 116
116 Boylston St., 617-482-7799. Pravda 116, located in the heart of Boston's theater district, offers not only one of Boston's hottest night clubs, but extraordinary cuisine as well. Pravda's restaurant/lounge boasts the longest bar in Boston, featuring a center ice surface to keep your cocktail cool. If sitting at the bar is not your forte, enjoy a meal at a private table in the dining room or in a plush, secluded booth. Pravda 116's contemporary American cuisine will be sure to please. Chef Chris Parsons prepares exquisite dishes with the latest seasonal ingredients. Once you have satisfied your hunger, feed your crave to rave in Pravda's newly remodeled dance club. Pravda's DJ's pack the dance floor spinning high-energy dance music, creating an ambiance that radiates with energy. Rest Hrs: Tues&Wed 5:30-10:30pm, Thurs-Sat 5:30-11pm; Club Hrs: Thurs-Sat 10pm-2am.

Sweetwater Cafe
3 Boylston Place, 351-2515. A classic American bar featuring Boston's best bands and DJ's nightly. A favorite Boston bar for 15 years with two floors of entertainment, an outdoor patio and world class margaritas. Always great music and cold beer, never a dress code. Available for private functions of any kind. (Credit cards: Am Ex, Visa, MC, Diner's) Tues. - Sat. 5 pm - 2 am. Located in "The Alley."

The Big Easy Bar
1 Boylston Place, Boston, 351-7000. Informal. Located in Boston's version of Bourbon Street, "The Alley." The Big Easy Bar is a hot new New Orleans style bar featuring Boston's best live bands and disc jockeys nightly playing music you know and love. Relax in a lounge, listen to the band, play billiards, hang at the bar or dance the night away. The Big Easy Bar has something fun for everyone. Great beer selection, 22 oz. Hurricanes, 4 huge bars, 2 lounges, a balcony, plenty of seating, and a large dance floor. Wed. - Sat. 8 pm - 2 am. Major credit cards accepted. Valet parking available.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/nightclub/billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, The Allstonians and Beat Soup.

The Sugar Shack
1 Boylston Place, 351-2510. "Home of Boston's Best Party." Set in the middle of a mini-Bourbon Street, The Sugar Shack celebrates Mardi-Gras year-round with a carefree, reckless, spontaneous and unpretentious attitude. Carnival lights, confetti, beads, specialty drinks, live bands and Disc Jockeys playing classics, motown, R&B, funk, disco, and old school hip hop from the last three decades mixed with the best of today's top 40. Home of young professional, young alumni, 20 something hipsters who desire cold beer, cocktails, classic party tunes and unadulterated fun!!

Wine Bars

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar
105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-0966. The hip meeting spot in the Financial District for after work, dinner, late night, or a seductive tryst. The Vault offers some of the most exclusive wines in Boston, which complement the creative American Cuisine prepared by Chef Rebecca Esty. Can't decide on a wine? Relax and compare with our Tasting Flights featuring selections from different reds and whites. So what are you waiting for? Call an old friend, a client, or a co-worker and meet for cocktails at The Vault today.

RESTAURANTS

29 Newbury Street Restaurant
29 Newbury St., Boston, 617-536-0290. Savor new American cuisine that is ingeniously prepared only with the freshest, most healthful ingredients available. The moderately priced seasonal menu is served in a casually elegant setting enhanced by the works of local artists. The restaurant and bar, located on the first block of Newbury Street in Back Bay, provide an intimate and sophisticated atmosphere. Valet parking. Reservations recommended.

Back Bay Brewing Company
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center. $7-$18. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Bi-level restaurant/ brewery offers an inspirational pairing of Chef Michael Burgess's innovative cuisine and Tod Mott's hand-crafted ales and lagers. Upbeat first floor bar and café, second floor dining room and bar with comfortable couches and overstuffed chairs. Sunday Buffet Brunch 11am - 3pm, $14.95. Mon. - Sun. 11:30am - 1am.

Butterfish, An American Bistro
5 Craigie Circle, Harvard Square, Cambridge, 497-5511. Chef/Owner Christopher Bussell opened Butterfish on December 4, 1999, at the former site of Cafe Celador. Nestled between Brattle St. and Concord Ave., Butterfish's charming bistro setting is a perfect venue for Chef Christopher's fine American cuisine with international accents. Dishes such as "Monkfish with Moroccan Spices and Grilled Peaches," and "Double Thick Pork Chop with a Warm Corn Souffle" are complimented by an extensive choice of wines. Hours: Tues-Thurs 5-10pm; Fri & Sat 5-11pm.

Cactus Club
939 Boylston St., 236-0200. Get a taste of the Southwest in Boston. Specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, Cajun Catfish. Save 1/2 off entire menu Mon. - Fri., 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm in the bar. Sample the firewater menu while you are there, including Coyote Killer (Light and dark rum, peach schnapps, ginger beer and mixed juices), or a Chambord Margarita. Only the daring may go for a dip in the Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Amex, Diners Club, MC and Visa accepted.

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Company
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Jillian's Boston
Behind Fenway Park, 437-0300. An upscale 70,000 Sq. ft. megaplex of interactive entertainment. Play breakthrough interactive communication games, participate in a live game show & watch a giant video wall while dining on innovative American cuisine at Atlas Grill on Jillian's new 1st floor. Jillian's offers motion simulator rides, more than 250 cutting edge electronic & virtual reality games, 50 billiard tables, table tennis, & "just for fun" black jack. There are five full bars & 50 TVs that broadcast sporting events. Great for late night dining & private parties 25-3000. Open Daily.

Kashmir
279 Newbury St., Boston, 536-1695. Kashmir has been raising the bar of Indian restaurants in quality, style and service since it opened. Its well deserved Best of Boston, Boston's Best and Readers' Choice awards are a result of great execution where it counts. Indoors in three elegantly styled dining rooms and outdoors on the best people watching corner in town, Kashmir serves the finest Tandoori and curry dishes and most imaginative specials and the best lunch and brunch buffet in town. Wine and beer are available as well as takeout, delivery, private parties and catering.

Ma Soba Asian Cuisine & Sushi
156 Cambridge Street on Beacon Hill, Boston, 973-6680. Enjoy premium sushi and Ma Soba's unique blend of contemporary and traditional Asian cuisine prepared by award-winning chefs. Relax with a fine wine selection from Ma Soba's comprehensive wine cellar in a setting described as "strikingly attractive and ultra urbane" by the Boston Herald. Open daily: Sun-Wed until 10:30pm, Thurs-Sat until 11:00pm. When in Harvard Square/Cambridge, visit Ma Soba Express at 30 Dunster Street for quick-service pan Asian noodles and rice platters.

Ocean Wealth
8 Tyler Street, Boston, MA, 02111, (617) 423-1338. We know that people appreciate only the freshest seafood. So we introduced the concept of picking your seafood live out of the tanks in Boston in 1990 with the opening of Ocean Wealth. Upon entering our restaurant, patrons are greeted by a myriad of fish tanks, filled with codfish, black sea bass, blackfish, and lobsters. But what is different are geoduck clams from Seattle, Dungeness crabs from San Francisco, and live saltwater shrimp from Florida. Come and enjoy the Ocean's Wealth. Full liquor license. Reservations recommended. Open daily until 4 am.

Shenandoah Restaurant, Marketplace Cafe, Brewskellar Pub
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston 227-1272. Located in the North Market Building of Faneuil Hall, Shenandoah Restaurant, The Marketplace Cafe, and Brewskellar Pub have something for everyone. Whether you're interested in a casual dinner on one of Boston's largest outdoor patios or the quiet more elegant surroundings of Shenandoah Restaurant, we offer it all. Having a function? We cater personally to all events you may be planning. Visit us soon and let us surprise you.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. Whether you choose to dine in our street-side greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve both lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar
105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-9966. A wonderful secret hidden in Boston's Financial District. The Vault offers contemporary American cuisine and an extensive and exclusive affordable wine list. Come in and enjoy our new summer menu, including an expanded raw bar, Maine crab cakes, seared tuna and much more. Lunch Mon. - Fri. from 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Dinner Mon. - Wed. from 5:30 - 10:30 pm, Thurs. - Sat. from 5:30 - 11 pm. Closed Sun.

The Wrap & Smoothie Bar
137 Mass Ave., Boston (at Berklee School of Music), 369-9087; 71 Mt. Auburn St., Harvard Square, 354-5838; 1940 Beacon St., Cleveland Circle, 739-0340; 82 Water St., Financial District, 357-9013. The Wrap serves delicious, freshly prepared wraps, burritos and salads as well as healthy and refreshing smoothies. Voted Boston's Best 1998 & 1999 by The Improper Bostonian. Fresh ingredients, great taste, healthy options - words we live by!

BRUNCH

Anago
65 Exeter Street, Boston, 266-6222. Anago, in the historic Lenox Hotel, presents a live Sunday Brunch from 11-2pm, prepared by Boston's whiz kid chef, Jamie "Shaky" Liberge, featuring a sumptuous buffet of appetizers with exquisite freshly baked desserts and breads created by award winning pastry chef, Lee Napoli, to accompany your choice of exceptional entree selections. Reservations are recommended.

Back Bay Brewing Company
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Featuring Chef Michael Burgess's Neo-Continental selections, including Eggs Benedict with Canadian bacon & herbed hollandaise, blueberry pancakes with almond maple syrup, omelet station, French toast, roasted meat carving station, house smoked salmon, and assorted desserts. Sunday Brunch Buffet 11 am - 3 pm. $14.95

Dick's Last Resort
55 Huntington Ave., Prudential Center, Boston, 267-8080. www.dickslastresort.com. On Sunday, Dick got religion and has a Heavenly Gospel Brunch from 10am to 3pm. They serve fruit, salads, eggs benedict, fried chicken with a ham and roast beef station. Help yourself to the waffle or omelet stations and the dessert bar while listening to old fashion uplifting live gospel music. Open for Lunch, Dinner and late night entertainment 7 days a week, no cover.

Museum of Science - Skyline Room
Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston, MA 02114. Egypt comes to Boston! Enjoy Sunday brunch in the beautiful Skyline Room overlooking the Charles River at noon and then experience the amazing Omni film Mysteries of Egypt at 2pm. Tickets are $28 for Adults, $26 for Seniors/Children. Brunch only is $20. On-site parking is included. Reservations recommended, call (617)723-2500.

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137 Mass Ave., Boston (at Berklee School of Music), 369-9087; 71 Mt. Auburn St., Harvard Square, 354-5838; 1940 Beacon St., Cleveland Circle, 739-0340; 82 Water St., Financial District, 357-9013. The Wrap serves delicious, freshly prepared wraps, burritos and salads as well as healthy and refreshing smoothies. Voted Boston's Best 1998 & 1999 by The Improper Bostonian. Fresh ingredients, great taste, healthy options - words we live by!

MISC.

Fitness

North Point Club
North Point Club, 6 Museum Way, Cambridge, 617-523-2900. The newest fitness club in Cambridge, North Point Club is also a great value. Join now for only $69 per month and enjoy swimming, group exercise, cardiovascular conditioning, strength training and the motivation to reach your fitness goals. Conveniently located across the street from Boston's Museum of Science, it is easily accessed from Charlestown, Cambridge and the T's Science Park and Lechmere stops.

Sports

Boston Paintball
131 Beverly St., Boston, 742-6612. The rules are simple. There are teams and everyone has paintball guns. You are inside of a large warehouse (near the Boston Garden). They are firing balls straight at you. You scream, dodge, hide, wipeout and have a blast!!! Great for bachelor/bachelorette parties, corporate outings, birthday parties, and much more.

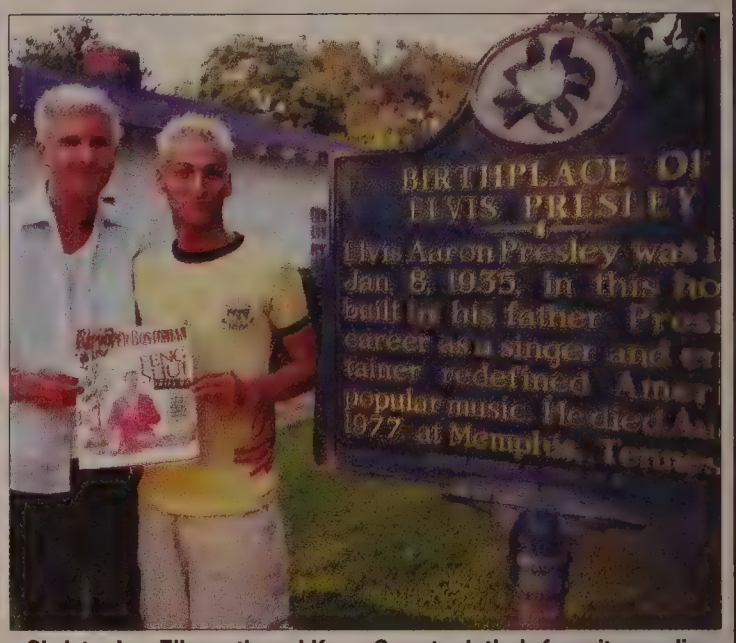
Improper Sightings

Unlike the rest of your friends, we want to see the photos from your next trip.

Where do you take us? We want to know! Send us a picture of you or a friend, or better yet, someone famous reading THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN and tell us where you were. The more creative you are, the faster we'll publish your pic! (Hey, we have no shame!)

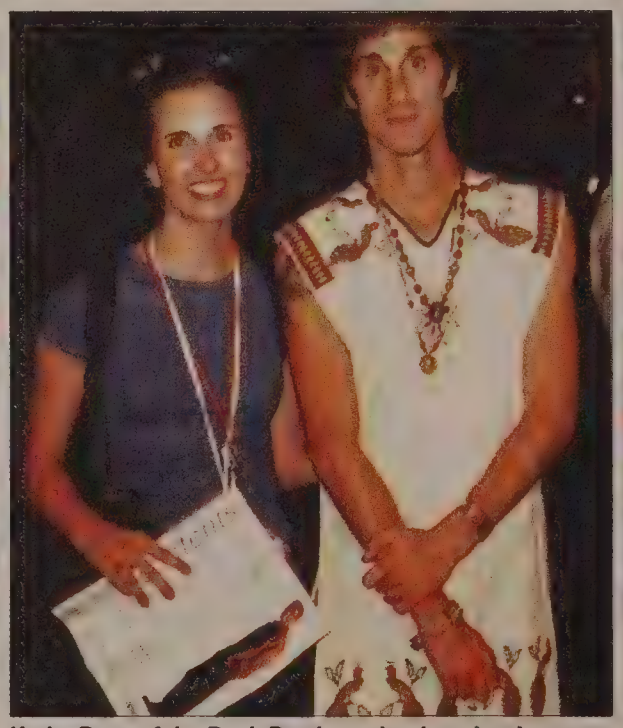
Stephanie Andriole of Somerville took her IMPROPER to Mount Rushmore (note the old guys reading over her shoulder).

Elinor and Jeffrey Ross share their IMPROPER with a palace guard in the Czech Republic.



Christopher Ellsworth and Kenn Gray took their favorite reading to Tupelo, Mississippi to see the King's birthplace.

Beacon Hill resident, James Holland Sr., shares his IMPROPER with "Little A'lee'inn" in Rachel, Nevada—on the famous "Extraterrestrial Highway."



Kathy Rose of the Back Bay brought along her IMPROPER to the Woodstock '99 festival where she hung out with Perry Farrell.

Cambridge resident Todd Easton showed his Boston pride while across the pond in Covent Gardens, London.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:
Participating with crazed Aussies in the Mount Compass Cow Race near Adelaide, South Australia; in the nude at Hedonism II.

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Last Scene Here

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

At the Four Seasons (top to bottom): Byron Darden, Elin Schran, Davis Droll and Rhys Gardiner; Tom Kershaw and Vanessa Pliura; Paul Verrochi and Kelly Bowen; Jorge and Barbara Quiroga; Rev. Barbara Neilsen and Lauren Hotchkiss.

Partying on Thin Ice...

For 130 years, Bostonians have been strapping blades to their feet and risking their necks on the ice of the Boston Common Frog Pond and the Public Garden Swan Pond. To keep this charming tradition alive, the seventh annual **Skating in the Park Gala** was held at the **Four Seasons**.

The ballroom was transformed into a winter wonderland for the event, which drew the notorious and notable, like Olympic gold-medallist figure skater and prominent physician **Dr. Tenley Albright** and her daughters, **Elin Schran** and **Rhys Gardiner**, their escorts, the Skating Club of Boston's **Byron Darden** and **David Droll** of the Pine Street Inn, the world's most glamorous Episcopal minister, **Rev. Barbara Nielsen**, Republican publican **Tom Kershaw** of Cheers and his legendary barkeep **Eddie Doyle** with wife **Marcia**, Channel 5 investigative reporter **Jorge Quiroga** and the ever-stylish **Barbara**, professional wino **Ted Rubin**, flower jefe **David Winston**, fashionista **Lauren Hotchkiss** of Armani, nonprofit babe **Kelly Bowen** and her fiance, **Paul Verrochi**, ubiquitous benefactors **Kay** and **Peter Lyons**, **Rosalie** and **Bert Cohen**, and **Joan** and **Ted Benard-Cutler**, their ravishing daughter-in-law, **Randi**, with husband **Joel**, tourism leviathan **Pat Moscaritolo**, Wang Center CEO **Josiah Spaulding, Jr.**, the swanlike **Pat Rodgers**, patrician preservationist **Henry Lee**, and **Mayor Menino**, sporting a spiffy new haircut.

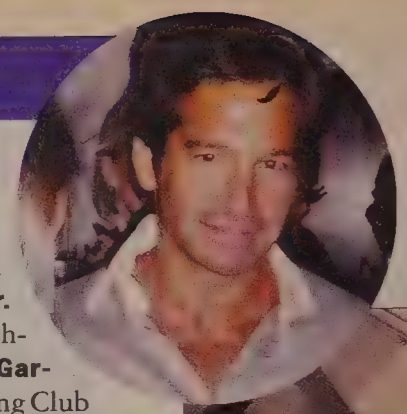
In fact, the only thing missing from an otherwise perfect evening was its honoree, Parks Commissioner **Justine Liff**, who was too ill to attend. Here's hoping she'll be up and about before the lilacs are in bloom.

Sodom and Gomorrah's More Like It...

Generally, I prefer written invitations, but I got this message on my answering machine: "Jonathan, it's **Seth** [as in Greenberg] calling. Tomorrow night, we have the opening of the Angel Room at Aria. I'm doing it with **Maggie** [the modelling agency]. I've loaded up the models for this party. You gotta come. It's gonna be really, really good. We're doing a little cocktail reception from 11 to 12. I think you're on my mailing list, but if you're not, you gotta be there, and...umm...call me."

How could I say no?

So I went, snaking through hordes of gyrating nightcrawlers in the front of the club, to the new space, which was futuristic, bright and chock-a-block with glamorous, good looking, well-dressed and well-capitalized people. Among them: mack-daddy and real estate magnate **Marvin Gilmore**, the beguiling **Nicole Hunter**, newly single blueblood **George Lewis**, liquor business bigwig **Harvey Allen**, travel titan **Andrew Rogal**, Gallic funboy **Marcel Schlumberger**, South End artists **Becky Phillips** and **Chris Vila** (son of home improvement guy Bob), coiffure king **Serge Safar**, part-time model and lobbyist **Eva Panszczyk**, perpetual motion machine **Regina Goerlich** and Aussie heartthrob **Michael Ryder** and numerous Harvard Business School students like **Faisal Saigol**, who kibbitzed, shimmied and drank their weight in free champagne until it was time to move on to the next place.



At the Angel Room: (left), Seth Greenberg; (below), the crowd enjoys the new space.

The general concensus on the room: Fab. The general concensus on Seth: Fab. The general concensus on whether the name for the new room is appropriate: Well, let's put it this way: If angels behave like that, then I'm eligible for sainthood.

The Heiroglyphics Are on the Wall...

The Boston Lyric Opera set the clock back 4,000 years for its **Journey To Amarna Gala**, held at the **Museum of Fine Arts**, to celebrate the year-long ancient Egyptian theme at the city's leading cultural institutions.

Guests, attired in either Egyptian costume or black tie, mounted the grand staircase for a cocktail reception in the rotunda. Prominent among the throng: madcap socialites **Cokie** and **Lee Perry** (the event's co-chairs, who were garbed in costumes from the BLO's production of Aida), Boston Capital pharoah **Richard DeAgazio** and the scintillating **Cathy Angelini**, custom-clothier-to-the-stars **Alan Rouleau**, **Lisa** (a.k.a. Cleo) and **Tony Woody** (who came all the way from New Hampshire for the party), PR mogul **John McKay**, party pair and arts patrons **Joanne** and **Charles Dickinson**, funky Junior Leaguer **Vicky Whitney**, BLO board member **Christopher Yens**, the incomparable **Lee Day Gillespie**, investments poobah **Sherif Nada** and his exquisite other half, **Mary**, mega-philanthropists **Ray** and **Maria Stata**, tireless opera supporter **Linda Cabot Black**, party stalwarts **Stephen** and **Lois Kunian**, brain surgeon **Thor vad Nooregaard** and Cairo-bred medical anthropologist **Iman Roushduy**, who said, "I'm the only authentic Egyptian here." (For the record, we believe Sherif Nada would beg to differ.)

Guests were given kazoos with which to blast out the Triumphal March from Aida, following which they dispersed to different galleries for an elaborate dinner buffet, or toured the Pharoahs of the Sun exhibit at their leisure. Afterward, everyone gathered in the **House of Rejoicing** (a.k.a. the Calderwood Courtyard) for coffee, dessert and dancing to funk band **Eye to Eye**, who provoked a conga line and kept everyone shaking their groove things well into the wee hours. In short, it was the sort of party that happens only once every 4,000 years or so. iB

At the Museum of Fine Arts (top to bottom): a mysterious guest; Vicky Whitney and Cokie Perry; Lisa and Tony Woody; Richard DeAgazio and Cathy Angelini with an Egyptian God; Thorvad Nooregaard and Iman Roushduy.

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EDITED BY MARY NOBILE-KING

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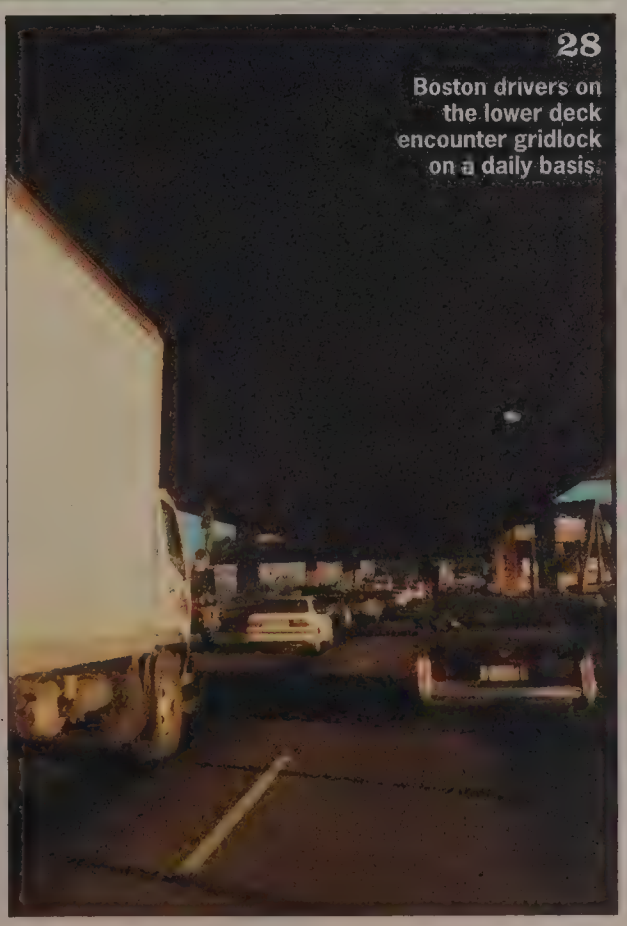
BY DAVID GOODMAN



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Boston drivers on the lower deck encounter gridlock on a daily basis.

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Photograph for THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN by **Beth Schneckenburger**

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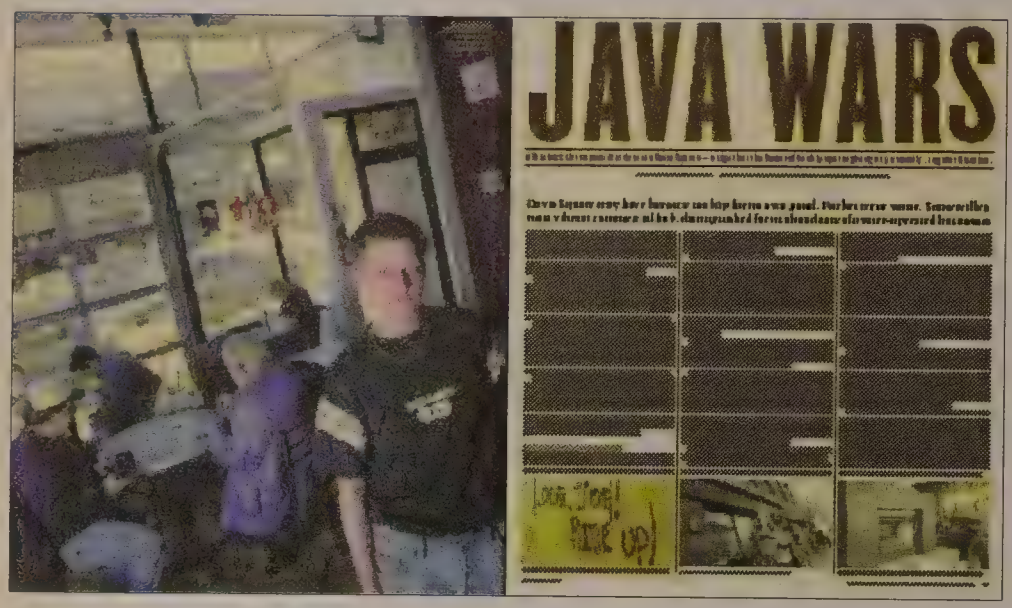
ELIZABETH MARKEL (LOWER DECK), JOEL BENJAMIN (SHOES)

letters



JAVA WARS

"The Davis Square resident will pay his or her $1900 a month rent check, put on the $50 flannel and go down to Starbucks for a champagne communist discussion over a nice $5 mocha and a non-disclosure agreement."

—Bryan Nickels

Shame on Starbucks

While I did enjoy your article on the Davis Square Starbucks, it did send a chill of terror up my spine. Being a longtime resident of the Pacific Northwest, I watched as this cancer first appeard and spread, slowly consuming our bland, cow-populated region in a wave of elitism. Of course, the other great evils that consumed the Pacific Northwest were internet start-ups and the grunge media fury, but Starbucks is still to be credited with the actual downfall. I understand that Mr. Gibbons, the historian, is actually being resurrected to write an additional chapter on Starbucks.

Tired of seeing Rome burn, I fled to Boston (where no one pretends to having *not* sold out) a year and a half ago; I found nice, quiet Somerville and Davis Square ("square" meaning "terrifying intersection"). It enjoyed some of the mentality of the West—"Hey, we're all poor here together."

But in just my few short months, that's obviously changing to the dirty, social elitism that Gigantic Monoliths of National Uniform Blandness, such as Starbucks and the Gap, bring to an area (credit to whomever coined G.M.N.U.B.). Yes, McDonald's, Osco, and Au Bon Pain are in Davis already—but you can hardly cop an attitude patronizing those businesses. And Starbucks is *not* community-friendly—Starbucks plays its labor policies like WalMart does—"Look how great we are in treating our employees!," ignoring the fact that they can be generous because they rip off eight-year-old kids in Africa and Asia (c'mon people, do you think all those coffee beans are grown in the US?).

Mark my words: in just a few months, the Davis Square resident will pay his or her $1900 a month rent check, put on the $50 flannel and go down to Starbucks for a champagne communist discussion over a nice $5 mocha and a non-disclosure agreement.

BRYAN NICKELS
Somerville

Starbucks will help Davis Square? At whose expense? I doubt the Someday and Diesel Cafes' (both genuine and different) will benefit. Remember that Starbucks' "additive to the community" is just good old big business capitalism through name recognition. Of course their CEO's and Market Managers want to seem like the good guys, but Elm Street is a long walk from Seattle.

I have not visited the McDonald's or the coffee world for two years, and I imagine other Davis java lovers will walk past Starbucks to the square's more unique offerings. Wouldn't it be great if Starbucks went belly-up like the Papa Ginos before? And a small coffee should not be called a "tall."

CHEERS,
idrinkmoxie@yahoo.com

World Affairs

Improper is the right word to describe your reporter's opinion in the Jan. 26-Feb. 8, 2000 issue about a recent World Affairs Council of Boston program. (*Improper Speaking*, "Under the Radar Screen"). Your reporter gave the impression that our recent speaker, Patrick Buchanan, was chosen based on his historical views. Maybe your readers would like to know the real reason.

Mr. Buchanan was invited because he is a candidate for President. The Council has invited all the candidates—Republican, Democratic, and yes, even Reform—to share their views on international issues. We are not advocating for any person, party or position, but merely raising awareness on important issues, informing people, and perhaps assisting their decision making. After all, an informed voter makes for a strong democracy—as does a free and unbiased press.

Your reporter said "no one noticed." In fact, CNN and MSNBC crews and reporters were there, as was a reporter and photographer from the Associated Press. Even *The Washington Post* published an item about the event. Of course, you noticed too. Maybe if an Improper reporter had attended the event they could have provided a more accurate report.

By basing your report on opinion and conjecture rather than fact, you displayed the same disregard for objectiveness and tolerance that you attribute to Mr. Buchanan. The World Affairs Council holds a variety of events featuring leaders from business, government, media and the arts. We also sponsor global education in the K-12 classes and host fun events highlighting the exciting diversity of people found throughout our community. Our goal is to expose people to a range of opinions, experiences and cultures. We welcome your reporters to join us in exploring this world.

STUART KRUSELL
Executive Director, World Affairs Council

Praise for Pinsky

I just read the Soroff interview with Robert Pinsky. Brilliant! Brilliant! Soroff asked interesting, relevant and very, very funny—but not irreverent—questions. He exposed Pinsky as both playful and wry and worth my reading time. Right on, Soroff!

KRISTY
superkbf@mindspring.com

Proper Grammar, Anyone?

The word unique can not not be qualified (Feb. 9, 2000 Office Golf) something is either unique or it isn't. Not most unique, not really unique, not kind of unique.

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GUCCI

improper SPEAKING

BOSTON PROPERTIES BOUND?

Above: Bill and Mortimer Zuckerman—a possible union?

Many have speculated in recent months over what **Bill Clinton** is going to do with himself when he leaves the White House next year, regardless of what the loyal **Hillary** does in New York come fall.

The latest buzz: Clinton may come to work for Boston Properties head honcho and ***New York Daily News*** owner **Mortimer Zuckerman**. Mort is pulling out of the media business—he wrote a personal check for $17 million to keep the *Daily News* afloat last year and sold the ***Atlantic Monthly*** as well—and is turning to his core business, real estate.

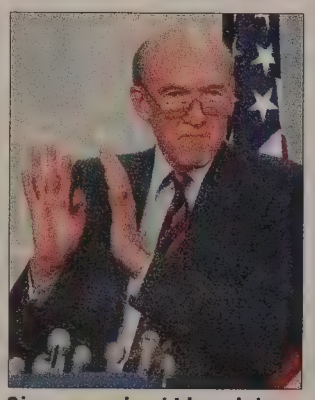
Think about it: Clinton needs megabucks to pay off mega lawyer bills. Zuckerman, turning to his real estate interests, could use a high profile rainmaker who might happen to live in a big fat house in Westchester County.

And Bill and Hillary know real estate, don't they? That's where their troubles started, after all.

BAD BLOOD

Heading into next month's Massachusetts Primary, one has to wonder about the level of hatred that used to exist between sitting senate members. What's more, why didn't they beat each other to death on the Senate floor at the time.

Kennedy School chief **Alan Simpson**, the former republican Wyoming senator, for example, has in the last few weeks made a point of his absolute hatred of Vice President **Al Gore**. And the amazing thing? It has nothing to do with politics and seems almost entirely personal.



Simpson voiced his opinions about Al on WBUR.

Simpson told **WBUR** and the ***Boston Globe*** last month of how Gore shopped around for speaking time on the Senate floor during the Gulf War—getting solons without any national ambitions to cede him time so he could speak during prime time. According to Simpson, Gore wouldn't speak before two in the afternoon or after eight at night. Gore's elbows, to borrow a basketball metaphor from the Bill Bradley campaign, were wicked sharp, wicked pointed and wicked in the ribs.

Simpson had his own shortcomings in the Senate (his record vis a vis South Africa was deplorable), but one has to ask oneself: If someone as bright and witty as Alan Simpson despises Gore as much as he does, and as viscerally, should we not sit up and take notice of the vice president's murkier attributes?

LET US NOW PRAISE FAMOUS MEN

Speaking of vice presidents...To celebrate the upcoming Massachusetts primary—in which so many of the candidates appear qualified only for the number two spot on the national ticket—can you name the only duly elected vice president who never served a day in office in Washington, DC? Hint: It was not Daniel W. Tompkins, George M. Dallas or Garret A. Hobart. (Boy we had some great vice presidents, didn't we?) Answer at right.

GOING BLIND

The ***Boston Globe*** was so swamped with calls and e-mails in the wake of its redesign earlier this month—and with good reason—that it's been forced to redesign its redesign.

Without getting too technical, here's what happened: the old typeface was what's called "nine-and-a-half-on-eleven"—meaning that the size of the type was 9.5 points and the leading was 11—"leading" being the space between the lines. Prior to cutting the actual size of the page, which will come next fall, the *Globe* shrank the image on the page by a factor of seven percent. So that means what we've been reading is about the equivalent of 8.8 point type over just a little bit more than ten points of lead. My God, you had to borrow your grandmother's tri-focals just to read the news pages. And for the agate-type school sports scores, you had to send away to the optical lab at MIT.

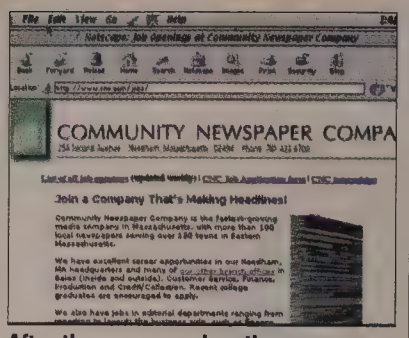
Responding to popular displeasure, the *Globe* last week pledged to bump up the point size a tad.

Says beleaguered *Globe* spokesman **Richard Gulla**: "It will all get better in the fall when we complete the redesign, We're working on it. Obviously people aren't going to buy us if they can't read us."

MORE TROUBLE IN HAPPY VALLEY

The exodus from **Community Newspaper Company** continues at a rate that would make even Charlton Heston say "Hey, not so fast."

Just in the last month, map maker and graphics designer **Geoff Pahl** quit with no job in sight. **Karen Nerney**, editor of *Parent & Baby* magazine, left for freelance web opportunities. **Denise Peck**, production department guru, was granted a leave of absence to go to jewelry school. *Boston TAB* editor **DeWayne Lehman** resigned to go to *Computer World*, and **Kelly Wagers**, the Somerville reporter also quit. Several other key players are interviewing elsewhere.



After the mass exodus, there are plenty of job openings at CNC—just look online.

By far the most explosive of the departures, though, came when **Seth Rolbein**, the editor in chief of CNC's Cape Cod papers, ran an editorial saying that he was resigning over conflict with the mothership's editorial philosophy, and that in addition, two of his lieutenants were also quitting. The editorial went on to say that **Victoria Ogden**, head honcho of CNC South, would be taking over as interim editor in chief. Funny thing: for at least 20 years bad morale and disarray have plagued many of the newspapers in and around Boston and Ogden has been at ground zero every time.

CORRECTION

THE IMPROPER erred last month in recounting an item on *Boston Globe* deputy managing editor Ben Bradlee Jr. entering a "shouting scuffle" with a graphic designer over grammar in a proposed headline.

There was no disagreement at all, it turns out, much less a scuffle. Bradlee denied the incident took place when asked about it before the item was published, but his response was not included in the item.

Ben Bradlee Jr.

The headline in question was actually the logo, or title, of Stan Grossfeld's series "Kids Who Kill." Graphic designers don't write headlines, Mr. Bradlee points out—copy editors do.

We apologize to Mr. Bradlee for any embarrassment we caused.

Answer to political trivia: William Rufus King (D-Ala), who was elected as Franklin Pierce's vice president in 1852, was too ill with tuberculosis to be sworn in on March 4, 1853. He was sworn in as veep in Cuba, where he was trying to recuperate. King made it back to his "Sweet home, Alabama," but died there before getting to Washington. For most of Pierce's presidency, there was no v.p. iB

Speaking of Boston

Got a inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to speaking@improper.com

DOGGIE BED AND BREAKFAST

For a great laugh, position yourself outside the Hampshire House on Beacon Street at 7:30 in the morning some day.

There you'll find a bunch of kids waiting for the bus to take them to Brookline's exclusive Dexter School mingling around with a pack of dogs, who are also waiting for a bus to take them to school.

The **Common Dog Bed and Breakfast school** bus stops off at the Hampshire House at 7:30, Trinity Church at 7:50 and at the corner of Union Park Street and Shawmut Ave. in the South End at 8:05 every day to take the dogs to their own dog day care center in Everett. And the dogs even wear seat belts. It's like watching Saturday morning cartoons, except in the flesh.

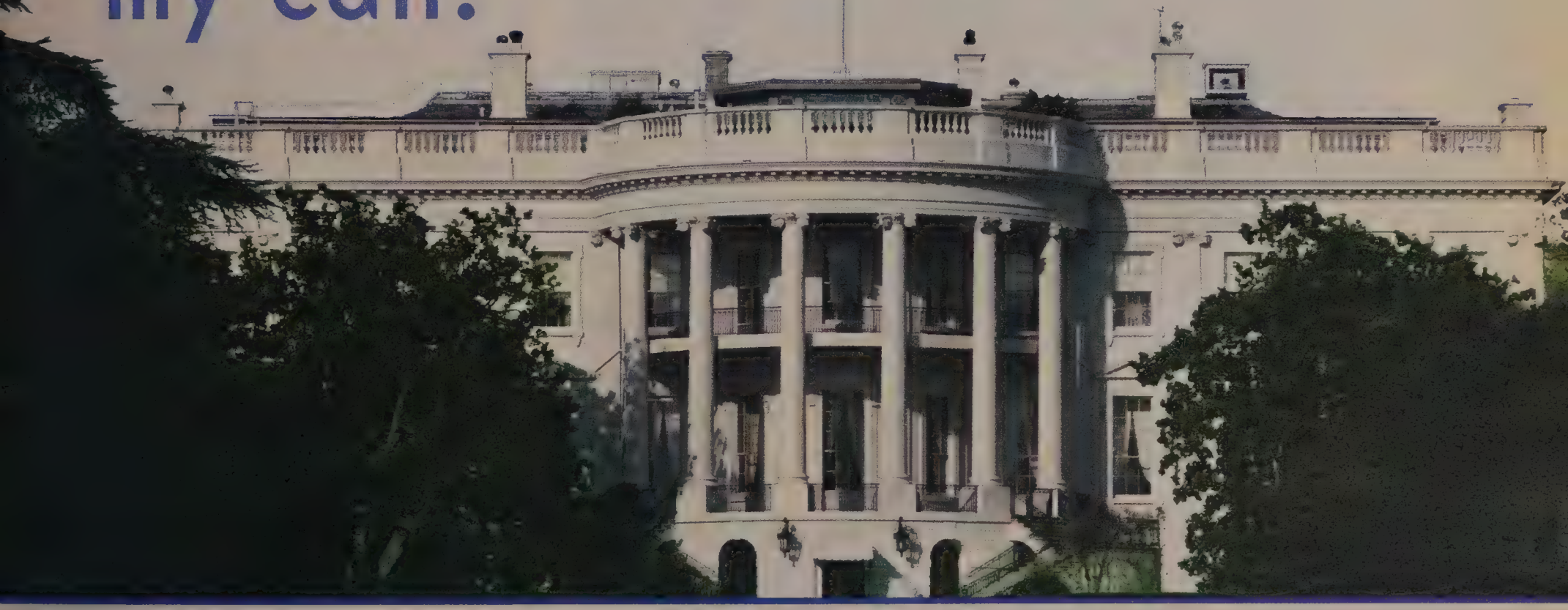
The bus picks up between 15 and 20 dogs every day, shuttles them out to Everett, where they spend the day getting groomed, walked, bedded and breakfasted, all at a cost of $25 a day, or $35 for an overnight. Does this say anything about the way we choose to dispose of our disposable income? Or does it merely something about great ways to recycle an old yellow school bus?

As the Dexter boys wait for their bus, Beacon Hill residents send their other precious cargo on a different bus—off to doggie daycare.

DOGGIE DAYCARE: WENDY MIMRAN (2)

WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH 200 FREE MINUTES?

I'd dial the white house just to see if he'd take my call.



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This Just In

Make Home for Ducklings

Over the past few months, small Boston Commoners and their observant adult friends may have noticed a little bronze duck foot grotesquely sprouting out of the ground in Boston Common. We're talking about the sad remaining appendage of the **Make Way for Ducklings** statue, Jack, who was stolen last November. Well, we have good news: Jack's re-surfaced. What's more—he's found a new home.

Mayor Menino recently announced that Jack, found on BC campus (albeit one leg too few), will be donated to the pediatric department at Boston Medical Center. For those wondering just how long all of those horror-stuck children are going to be left gawking at the severed duck foot, the new (whole) Jack duckling is scheduled to be replaced on the first day of spring—with a huge official welcome party.

New in Town

Cheese and Wine

On our travels last week, we stumbled upon a true gem on Shawmut Avenue. It's called **South End Formaggio**, and it's an adorable addition to a neighborhood that's quickly becoming surprisingly cute. Owned by Valerie Gurdal, (who's also part-owner of the much-loved Formaggio Kitchen in Cambridge), the little shop has an extensive collection of cheese, exotic meats, fresh olives in ceramic crocks, hand-dipped chocolates and imported Italian pastas, olive oils and sauces.

"Every single item in here was hand-chosen by the staff," says cheese buyer Karen Halperin. Plus, tasty dishes like pasta with roasted tomatoes corn and feta, and hot pressed sandwiches are made on the premises, along with fresh bread, pastries and gourmet coffee. Unlike its sister shop in Cambridge, the South End version has a liquor license and serves up single-portion delectable entrees, including meatloaf and fresh ravioli.

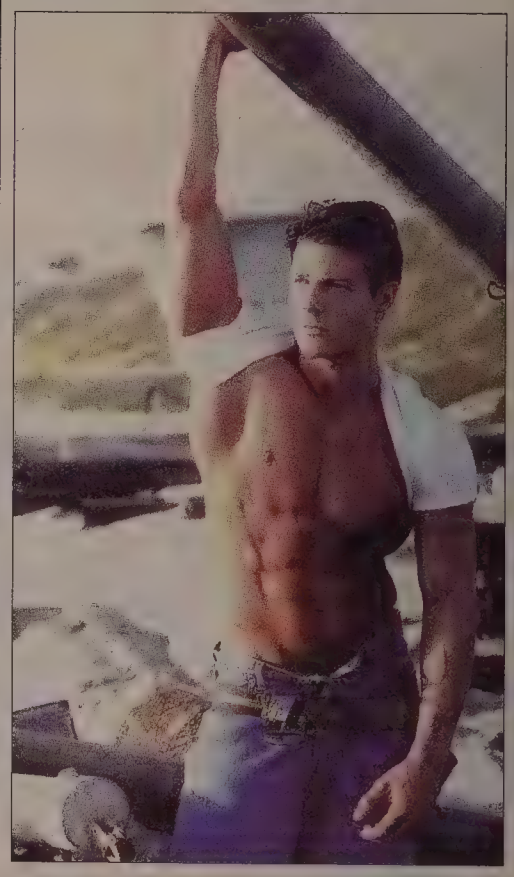
You'll find a perfect complement to Formaggio's in the opposite end of town—the cozy little **Wine Bottega** on Hanover Street, which opened in January. Owned by Paolo Diecidue (of Trattoria a Scalinatella), the Bottega brings an impressive range of international wines—beyond chianti!— to the North End. Plus, it's all wine , i.e. no beer or lottery tickets, as many North End wine stores are apt to sell. But what truly sets this wine store apart is its curious system of categorization: wines are sorted according to consistency—full-bodied versus light— rather than origin. So you can go in and tell the clerk that you're having roast beef for dinner, and you'll be steered toward the heavy, more full-bodied wines. The decor—exposed brick walls, wooden beams and old wine press tucked into the corner of the cozy room—also make the store worth a visit. Expect wine tastings in the near future. *South End Formaggio, 268 Shawmut Ave., Boston (350-6996). The Wine Bottega, 341 Hanover, Boston (227-6607).*

Boston Speaks

Mr. World

Finally, there's proof that Boston is a notch above the rest: Out of all the cities in this world, the reigning **Mr. World Fitness** has chosen to grace us with his presence. Franco Carlotto, a perfectly chiseled 26-year-old Swiss fitness expert and one of Europe's most well-known supermodels/fitness experts, has moved to the area in hopes of breaking into the US health, fashion and entertainment biz. This year, Franco defended his title as Mr. World Fitness in Syros, Greece, becoming the first man in the competition's history to win twice (Yes, ladies, he's *that* good looking and *that* buff).

But don't take our word for it. Check him out March 27 at the Boston Billards Club, where he'll participate in the Celebrity Billards Challenge, a fundraising event for Prevent Blindness Massachusetts. The black-tie optional cocktail and billards celebration lets patrons shoot pool with the celebs—plus participate in a silent auction and raffle. If you're lucky, maybe he'll sink one into your pocket. *Boston Billards Club, 126 Brookline Ave., Boston (781-433-9900). March 27, 6:15-10pm.*



FUN FACT The country's first chocolate factory was located in Dorchester. Source: Old Town Trolley Tours

city limits

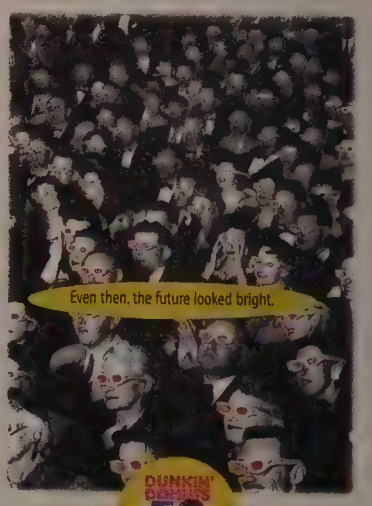
BY ERIN HAGEDORN AND JULIE SHORT

Good stuff, glamour, goings-on

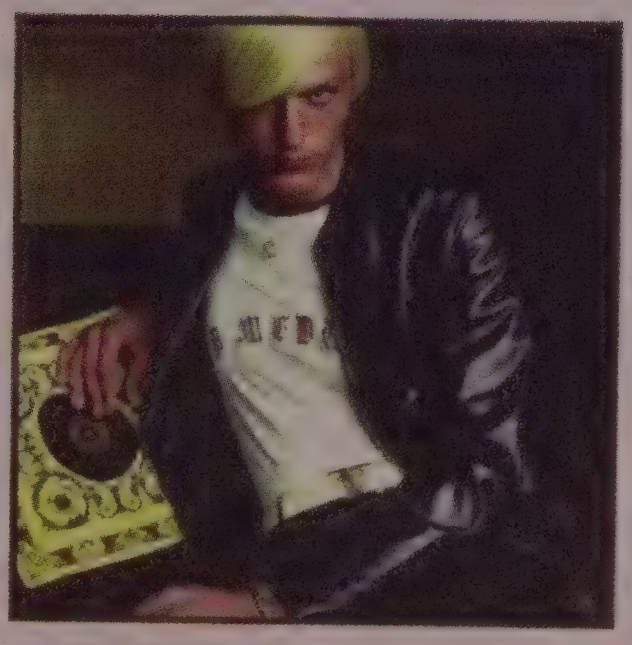
All the Buzz

Time to Celebrate the Donuts

The venerable donut institution has reached the big 5-0, and it's kicking off a year-long celebration right here in **Dunkin' Donuts'** hometown. On March 1 at 10am, a unique parade of characters (many dressed as giant donuts) will parade through the city to South Boston, where the festivities culminate on Old Colony Avenue. Although the donut-makers are being highly secretive as to just which famous coffee drinkers will be there, rest assured there will be plenty of dough and more than a few nuts.



DUCKLINGS, FORMAGGIO, WINE BOTTEGA: ERIN HAGEDORN.



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Proper Bostonians

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

Rosie's Place hosted its ninth annual **Share Your Heart With Rosie's Place** benefit at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel on Feb. 10. Some 500 members of the community joined together to support poor and homeless women and their families. More than 50 of Boston's finest eating establishments donated gourmet food and dessert for the event. Guests were treated to an extraordinary Art From the Heart silent auction, featuring local artists' work. Proceeds topped $60,000, which will go directly to Rosie's Place, a sanctuary in the South End for poor and homeless women.

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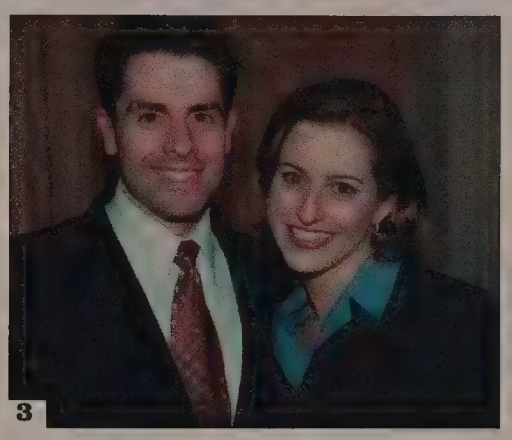
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1. **Kip Tiernan** (l), founder of Rosie's Place, and **Dr. David McMenamin**, director of the Pulse Program at Boston College.
2. **Linda Dorcena** (l), executive assistant for the Department of Neighborhood Development, and **Charlotte Golar Richie**, chief and director of the Department of Neighborhood Developing for the City of Boston.
3. **John Quealy**, CPA at Deloitte & Touche, and his wife **Cindy**, director of volunteer services at Rosie's Place.
4. **Audrey Coyle** (l), legal specialist at Fidelity, and **Kim Wethly**, associate at Hale and Dorr.
5. **Orrin Doxer** and his wife **Kathleen**, co-founders and co-owners of Frugal Fannies Fashion Warehouse.
6. **Michelle Michaels** (l), meteorologist for WHDH-TV, and **Lori LaDuke**, special events director at Rosie's Place.
7. **Tarah Lelli**, manager at Creative Financial Staffing, and **Stephen Frawley**, marketing manager at CGU insurance company.

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More than 900 professionals attended the first annual **New England Web Design Awards**, presented by AIP, Aquent, UDA and Webgrrls at Avalon, Feb. 10. The NEWD Awards recognize the top talent in New England's Web and design community. Guests networked over appetizers, cocktails and music.

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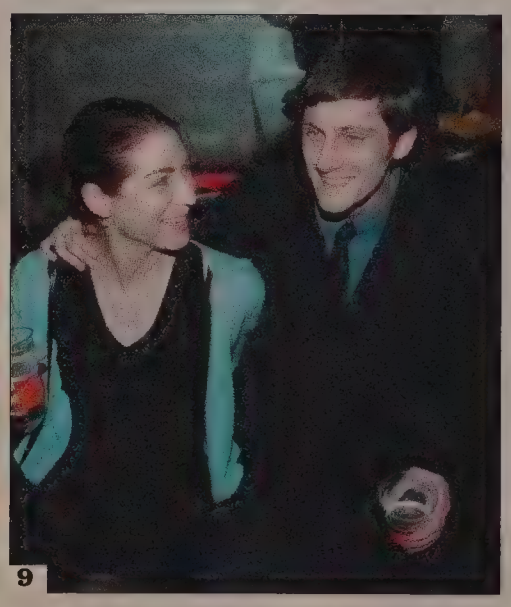
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8. **Christina Nawn**, senior marketing communications specialist at Oberon Software in Cambridge, with her husband **Chris** of Computer Sciences Corporation.
9. **Eve Hanan**, a public defender for Massachusetts, and **Keith Cathode**, a designer for Syndicate Media Studios in Lowell.
10. From left, **George Lewis**, partner at Avalon, **Edyta-Christina Grzybowska**, graphic designer at Animation Technologies and **Jean Renard**, chairman of Celebtech.
11. From left, **Denise Thayer** and **Anthony Butler**, respectively creative assistant and creative director at Digitas, with **Susie Invencio** of Virtualink.
12. **Adam Gould** (l), DJ and security at Avalon, and **Aliya Khan**, a business analyst at Online Environs.
13. **Steve Altman**, attorney at Altman, Cleary & Altman in Cambridge, and **Susan Dinklage**, vice president of marketing at Styletrader.com in Chestnut Hill.

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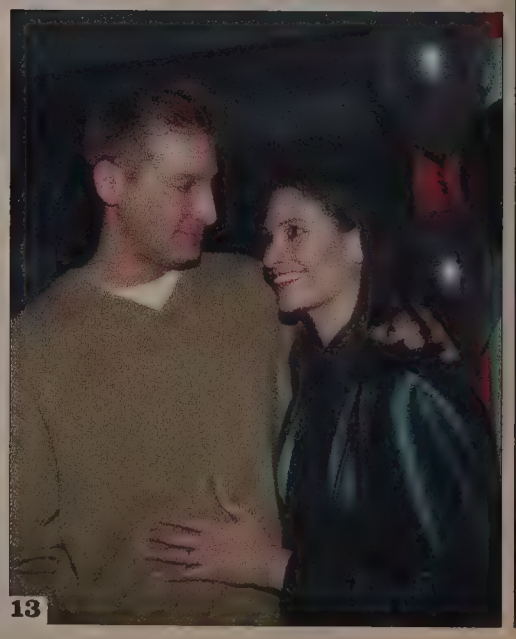
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CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Jeff Papows resigns as Lotus CEO when his "heroic" past is scrutinized and debunked.

The public relations nightmare is finally over for Cambridge-headquartered Lotus Development Corp. President Jeff Papows resigned at a major trade show last month, following almost a year of speculation about how long he could hold on to his position inside the IBM-owned software company. It all started last spring when the *Wall Street Journal* published accounts that Papows had been, well, "exaggerating" some of his life experiences. Papows evidently had gotten into the habit of impressing employees and clients alike by telling how he rose from childhood as an orphan to become a marine combat pilot with a black belt in tai kwon do and a Ph.D. from Pepperdine. The stories of Papows' gritty determination were evidently supposed to be a symbol of Lotus' own supposed determination to win in the market.

Unfortunately, those thrilling stories of yesteryear turned out to be totally bogus. Papows' parents were still alive and although he was an air traffic controller in the military, there are no records of flight experience. Papows didn't have a black belt, and his doctorate is from an unaccredited correspondence school.

When reports of Papows' exaggerations were publicized, Papows called the stories "water cooler legends that had grown out of control." That, however, did little to quell the controversy, probably because many people could remember hearing the stories straight from the horse's mouth. "Lotus' reaction to the crisis was pitifully weak," says Barry Reynolds, the president of Stoneham-based Percussion Software, Inc., a company that builds products that piggyback upon Lotus' software. "IBM's management knew that there was a problem long before it was reported in the news," Reynolds says, "and they should have been prepared before the problem became public."

When reports of Papows' exaggerations were publicized, Papows called the stories "water cooler legends that had grown out of control." That, however, did little to quell the controversy, probably because many people could remember hearing the stories straight from the horse's mouth.

Papows' woes multiplied when, immediately on the heels of the *Journal* piece, an ex-Lotus employee slapped Papows with a complaint filed with the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, alleging that Papows had had "a long-term intimate relationship" with his aide, one Sharon Ricci, who was alleged to have "collaborated" with him against other high-ranking Lotus-employed women. The allegations were given weight by reports that Papows had been asked to leave a former employer soon after taking Ms. Ricci on a business trip, against the wishes of the company's CEO. Papows refused to comment on the situation, but told the *Wall Street Journal* that he had a "very close, working relationship with Ricci.

Both sets of allegations seriously damaged Papows' credibility within Lotus, according to Nashua-based Tom Austin, a fellow at the Gartner Group market research firm who reports regularly on Lotus' business. "Cambridge is very liberal environment," he says, "and Papows was accused of doing things that went very much against the political grain."

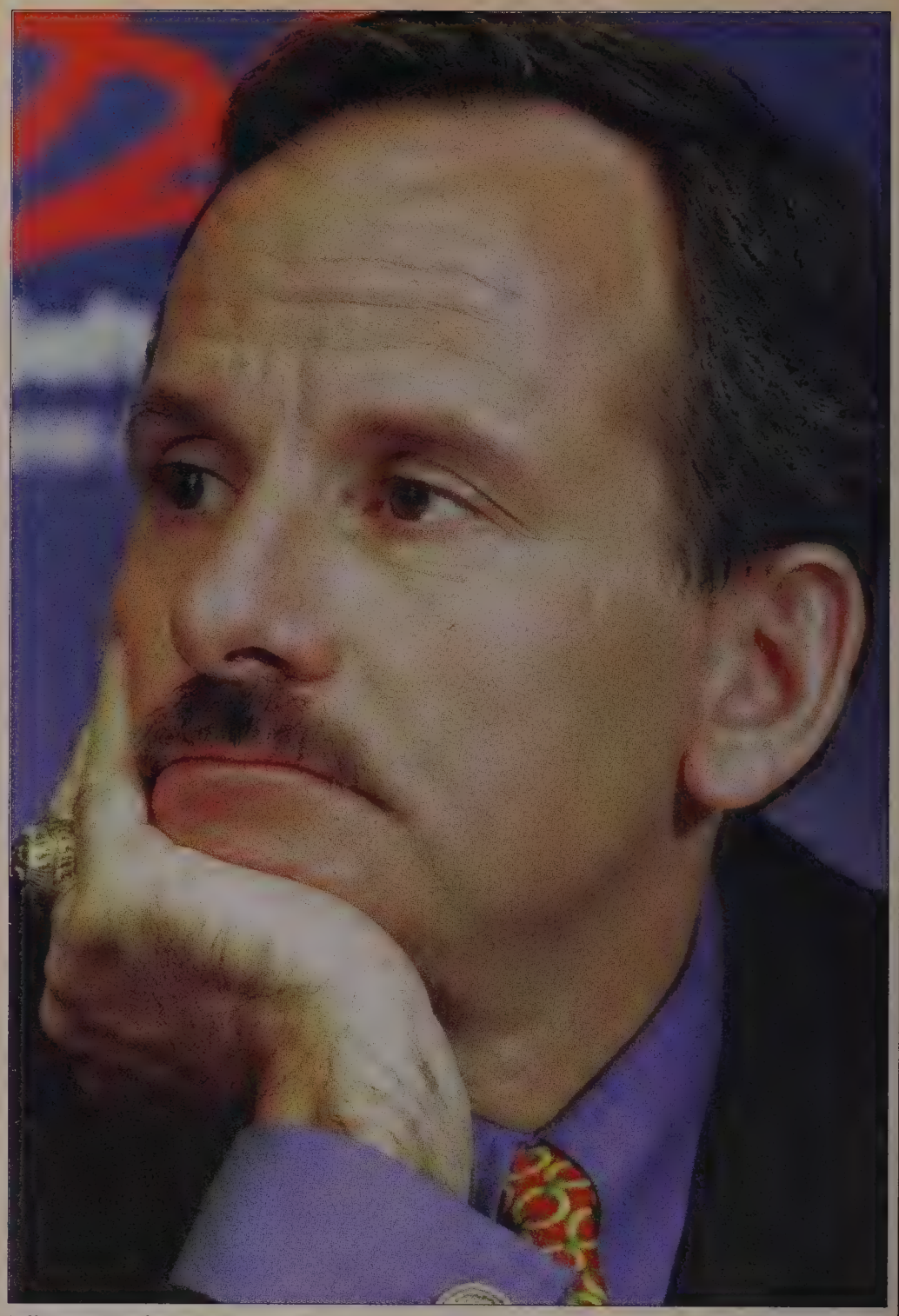
Papows' PR problems couldn't have come at a worse time for Lotus, because the company's products were under serious attack from competing technology both from Microsoft and from the Internet. "The credibility of the company is reflected by the credibility of the CEO," complains Reynolds, "and Lotus needs credibility in order to continue to grow its user base."

What's sad about the Papows story is that he was, by all accounts, a pretty talented manager. When he took over as president, conventional wisdom was that IBM (which had just purchased the firm) would screw Lotus over. Papows kept the organization focused, transforming what many thought would become a software has-been into one of the growth companies of the mid-1990s.

When I first met the guy back in 1994, he was the right hand man of then-CEO Jim Manzi. I was part of negotiating team trying to close a deal between Lotus and DEC, but the meetings were going nowhere. During one all-day session in a Lotus conference room overlooking the Charles River, the ice on the river thawed, causing speculation that the hot air from the meeting had been responsible. Papows waltzed in, sat listening for a few minutes, then cut through all the bullshit, demanding closure on the key points by the end of the hour. It was a little thing, but I remember thinking at the time that this was a guy who knew how to get things done.

Papows has denied that the scandals had anything to do with his decision to leave Lotus. Of course, as *Dilbert* creator Scott Adams once said, "It's a rule of business that no rumor is true unless it is officially denied." Says Reynolds, "IBM waited a decent interval so that it wouldn't look reactive—but most people assumed that it was just a matter of time before he was asked to leave." Austin believes that the Lotus organization "breathed a sigh of relief at the news—because the decision had been hanging over their heads for almost a year."

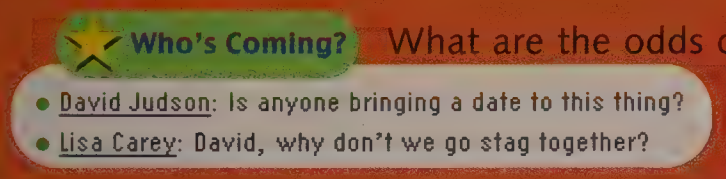
Papows will be replaced by IBM veteran Al Zollar, a man who by all accounts isn't likely to become involved in similar scandals. "According to analysts who know him, he's not exactly a wild cowboy," says Austin. But having a somewhat dull President may be something of a relief to Lotus employees who are probably sick of coping with leaders who shoot from the hip just a little too often. **iB**



Jeff Papows resigned as Lotus CEO last month—after life achievements were found to be grossly exaggerated. He's been replaced with IBM veteran Al Zollar, who is scandal-free by all accounts.

Geoffrey James (*geoffjames@improper.com*) is the author of numerous books and the co-host of "Funny Business," heard Saturdays 10pm-12am on WRKO, AM 680.

Plan an engagement party for your friend. Hey, you could meet your future mate.



What are the odds of that, you ask? Well, there's only one way to find out. Go ahead–throw a party! Even with all those friends and relatives to coordinate, an engagement celebration is a snap with evite. Just give us the details and we'll email your free personal invites to all your guests. The invites take them to your personal event page where they can see who else is coming, RSVP, and swap comments (see witty repartee above). The party starts when you hit send–be it a wedding shower, bachelor or bachelorette party. Check out evite.com now. Hey, the way we see it, you owe it to yourself.

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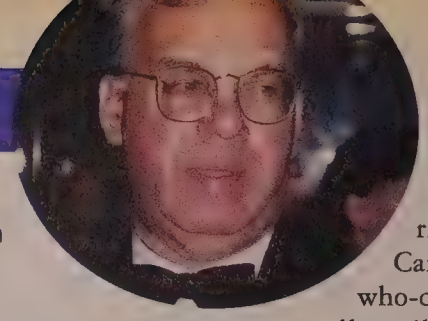

Mayor Menino: angling for a post in a Gore administration?

THE WEIGHT OF THE VOTE

Local pols have a lot to gain—or lose—depending on the outcome of the primaries.

Many voters in the Massachusetts Primary next month will find themselves in the same position as New Hampshire voters last month. But what a difference a month makes. The largest political party in Massachusetts is called "Unenrolled." In New Hampshire they call themselves "Independent." But the differences go beyond mere nomenclature.

New Hampshire Independents turned out en masse to vote for **former New Jersey Sen. Bill Bradley** and **current Arizona Sen., John McCain**, and all political wags agree that the Independent vote gave the two insurgents their respective wins (moral or real). But New Hampshire Independents were voting blind. They had no idea what lay ahead. Massachusetts Unenrolleds, on the other hand, will vote with a clear view of what the political landscape looks like. And that means that the Unenrolleds will be able to to weigh their votes and tilt political scales. To wit: thousands of Unenrolled voters will approach their polling stations on March 7 with the option of choosing either a pink Democratic ballot or a blue Republican ballot (those who insist on being truly irrelevant can pick a green Libertarian ballot). But most Unenrolleds will be asking themselves: which ballot will weigh more: pink or blue?

Will they choose pink to vote for Bradley because, as they said of Barry Goldwater 25 years ago 'In your heart you know he's right,' or pick blue to vote for McCain because they feel that the one-who-cannot-be named is the greater of all available evils? It comes down to weight—and the tipping of scales with just a piece of paper. Ain't politics fun when there's no incumbent running for president?

Party Lockstep

As national republican and democratic organizations start to jockey for position prior to next month's primary here, watch for **Mayor Tom Menino** and **Gov. Paul Cellucci** to start flailing whips on behalf of their respective candidates: **Al Gore** for the former and **George W. Bush** for the latter.

The reasons: No Boston mayor has ever run successfully for governor after his second term, so there's no place for the eloquent Hyde Park elocutionist to move but up into appointive office in a sub-cabinet position. And likewise for Cellucci. He's demonstrated so little discipline over the legislature that the the only out he has is one of those long-coveted posts that Massachusetts pols always get—in the federal transportation department. So expect to see both Menino and Cellucci wielding whips on their own behaves in the days ahead.

Hidden Agendas

Keep an eye on the New York primary the same day as the primary here. The Gore-Bradley contest will reveal the first local fallout from **Hillary Clinton** entering the senate race against **Rudolph Giulliani**, and you can expect Bradley to come away with huge numbers of votes and delegates out of New York on March 7.

The reason: The Democratic establishment won't lift a finger for **Vice President Al Gore**. The reason for that: Gore is related to Hillary. Hillary is related to **Andrew Cuomo**, her husband's secretary of Housing and Urban Development and son of **former New York Governor Mario Cuomo**. Meanwhile, the highest ranking democrat in the state, comptroller **Carl McCall**, stands a chance to become the nation's most prominent African-American governor in 2002—but only if he can keep the Cuomos out of the state for good. Hillary winning the senate seat would create such an entre, so McCall's organization will do little, if anything, to help create presidential coat tails for a friend of a friend of Andrew Cuomo. So Al Gore's New York fortunes stand to rise—or more likely fall—not on the basis of high-minded debate over national issues, but on the basis of purely parochial power politics.

Tip O'Neill was right. All politics is local. **iB**

Richard Manning is The Improper's Editor-at-Large. Craig Sandler is currently on leave.

Harvard GARDENS

Harvard GARDENS

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Soroff/On

Pat Metheny

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Born and raised in Lee's Summit, Missouri, jazz legend and guitar deity Pat Metheny has been a professional musician for the better part of his 45 years. While still a teenager, he became a music instructor at the University of Miami and then at Berklee College of Music, and in 1974, at the age of 19, he joined the band of his idol, Gary Burton.

He has performed and/or recorded with such musicians as Sonny Rollins, Roy Haynes, Ornette Coleman, Herbie Hancock and Joni Mitchell, and with his eponymous band, the Pat Metheny Group, has recorded 25 albums in the past 23 years, earning 12 Grammys, three gold records and continuous critical praise. His numerous film scores include the current *Map of the World*, while the release of *Trio 99/00* represents some of the most impressive modern jazz improvisation ever recorded. A Boston resident from 1974 to 1994, he currently lives in Manhattan with his wife and young son. He will perform at the Somerville Theater on March 5.

Jonathan Soroff: *You've been a musician since you were a teenager. Ever wondered what it would be like to have a real job?*

Pat Metheny: (Laughs) The only other job I can ever imagine doing would be something involving crime—breaking into houses, stealing things—or possibly being a jazz critic.

JS: *Same thing. You're already a legend at the age of 45. How does that feel?*

PM: It completely embarrasses me. But the age thing: I don't really have a sense of chronology, either with myself or other people. I know people, like Roy Haynes, who are quite old but seem incredibly young to me, and then, particularly these days, I run into young jazz guys in their twenties who act like they're 60. But I'm at a point where I'm one or two generations older than some of the guys I'm playing with. The good part of that is that I can tell them what to do and they actually listen to me.

JS: *What did your parents say when you told them you wanted to be a musician?*

PM: Um, they were concerned to a degree that only equalled my obsession. I was 11 or 12 at the time, and their concern was the parental equivalent of throwing gasoline on an already burning fire. I was beyond obsessed. Especially being from a little town in Missouri, they were worried because I had no interest in anything that even remotely related to the 4-H Club or sports, or the kind of stuff that would be normal for a kid that age. I was also basically flunking out of school.

JS: *Any regrets about that?*

PM: Well, the downside was that when I got out of school I was essentially uneducated. I'd bluffed my way through high school and gotten a scholarship to the University of Miami, where I realized I didn't know anything. I lasted about a week in classes, but then they hired me as a teacher. I was the youngest teacher there, and then Berklee in Boston hired me, and I was their youngest teacher, so somehow, it turned out okay.

JS: *Where are your Grammy's and gold records?*

PM: I have no idea. I know that most of the Grammys are still in their boxes in a warehouse somewhere. One of the gold records is on the floor in my bathroom behind the toilet. The other two, I'm not sure.

JS: *So I gather you don't take awards too seriously?*

PM: No, I don't, but I will say that when I look at it all as one big chunk of stuff, it's interesting what it adds up to. I went to the Grammy's one time, and when I won, I went back to the media room. This woman announces me, and the entire room emptied. There was only one reporter left, from the Warwick, RI paper. So the way it looks on my bio and the way that moment actually was are kind of different.

JS: *So when are you gonna do an album called* Crystal Metheny*?*

PM: Oh, there are a lot of those. There's gonna be the all-ballads album, *Down Pat*, and the next group album I thought of calling *Can't Stand Pat*, with me on the cover standing in front, and all the guys sorta giving me the finger...

JS: *Favorite American city for jazz?*

PM: Ooh, that's tough. Probably the Philly and south Jersey region. I have no idea why, but from day one, that area's been a zone that's really gotten whatever my thing is.

JS: *Favorite jazz club in Boston?*

PM: My favorite jazz club maybe ever, anywhere, was the old Jazz Workshop on Boylston Street. I heard some of the greatest music I ever heard in my life there—people like Miles Davis. Of the contemporary places, Boston remains one of the few cities in America with a community of musicians and venues—from Scullers and the Regattabar, to Johnnie D's and Ryles and the Middle East. I miss Boston a lot for that reason.

JS: *You have really major hair for a jazz musician. What's your styling secret?*

PM: Wash it. Shake it. Split.

JS: *You don't dress like the stereotypical jazz guy. Any sartorial tips?*

PM: Honestly, even in performance, I don't think it's about me, which is why I usually wear some kinda t-shirt and some kinda pants and some kinda shoes. It's not about style or fashion. A lot of musicians become musicians because they want something else out of it—money, or fame or whatever. In my case, playing the music is the payment. So in that sense, I wish I was invisible, because I'm not it. The music is.

JS: *What three albums would you take to a deserted island?*

PM: Oh, man. That's tough, and it's always changing. Do boxed sets count?

JS: *Sure.*

PM: I'd take *The Complete Miles Davis Quintet* boxed set. For me, that band was probably the cultural highlight of the 20th century. I'd take Stevie Wonder's *Songs in the Key of Life* just because there's more actual, deep melody on that record than on just about any other I can think of. And I'd have to take some Bach, maybe Glenn Gould's *Goldberg Variations*.

JS: *If the guitar is an extension of a body part, would you say it's a surrogate penis?*

PM: (Laughs) No. It's not really a body part; for me it's an extension of my soul. The guitar as a thing doesn't really mean that much to me. It's a tool for expressing the things that I've found to be true.

JS: *What one person is your guitar idol?*

PM: Wes Montgomery. I don't think there's ever been a guitarist in any genre who begins to compare with the impact he's had on the instrument as an improvisational player. He died in 1968, but the resonance of his music grows every year. You might not know him by name, but there's not a day in your life when you haven't heard somebody doing something connected to what he started.

JS: *Most embarrassing moment as a performer?*

PM: Well, it's something everyone who appears on stage has experienced at some point, but I played five tunes one time with my fly not just a little bit unzipped but, like, wide open. It was maybe 35 or 40 minutes, and I sort of yelled at the audience, "Why didn't anybody tell me?"

JS: *Any pet peeves as a performer?*

PM: Yeah, and it's a fairly recent thing that happens only here in the States—people leaving concerts, sporting events or performances before they're over. To me, it's unacceptably rude and just kind of fucked up behavior.

JS: *What would you do if you started to go deaf?*

PM: Yikes. That's a rough question, and also a very real possibility given what I do. I guess the practical thing would be to stop playing with drummers, because standing a few feet away from someone beating the crap out of a piece of metal can't help. But if you mean what if I could never play again? I guess I'd try to accept it and bring the things I've learned from music into whatever form my life took from that point forward.

JS: *That's very positive.*

PM: Well, it's either that, or kill yourself. iB

"One of the gold records is on the floor in my bathroom, behind the toilet."

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Cheers.

THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE

LADY AND THE VAMP

Two faces of spring fashion

This spring, catwalks are heating up with two divergent styles showing up again and again. One style is feminine and playful—with lively, often pulsating color, and winsome floral patterns. The other style is sexy and edgy—with plenty of python prints and lines reminiscent of the Studio 54 era.

So depending on your whim, choose flowery prints with flirtatious slits (like Versace's daisy oil print dress) or vamp it up in a slinky python number (a great example is Bebe's halter top and skinny pant).

Whether floral and flouncy or streamlined and black, there are "must have" items to survive the spring season: Anything denim (check out Chanel's triple zip jean), razor sharp tailoring, skinny belts, strappy sandals and lots of handbags! And don't forget: it's all about luxury —as evidenced by the logo craze.

Bottom line: We all have alter egos, and this spring, it's easy to dress the part.

Fashion by Mary Nobile-King • Photographs by Beth Schneckenburger • Accessory Photography by Joel Benjamin

°Left page: Dolce & Gabbana floral jacket with fur trim sleeves, $2,020; matching skirt, $600. Available at Neiman Marcus.

This page: python scarf top, $98; skinny pant, $328. Available at Bebe.

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THE LADY

spring fashion

Gianni Versace oil print daisy dress, $1,338; patchwork sandal, $499; handbag, $938. Available at Gianni Versace.

This page:
Chanel Tote, $210. Available at Chanel.

Christian Dior lavender city bag, $940. Available at the Christian Dior boutique at Saks Fifth Avenue.

Stuart Weitzman turquoise bag, $275. Available at Stuart Weitzman.

Facing page:
Prada Blue handbag, $510. Available at Saks Fifth Avenue.

Christian Dior Bracelets, $125-$245. Available at Saks Fifth Avenue.

Christian Dior Sunglasses, $198. Available at Saks Fifth Avenue.

Chanel Pink Rain boot, $245. Available at Chanel.

Alberta Ferretti raspberry embroidered tank, $695; skinny pant, $460. Available at Saks Fifth Avenue.

BOSTON'S BEST 1999
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE

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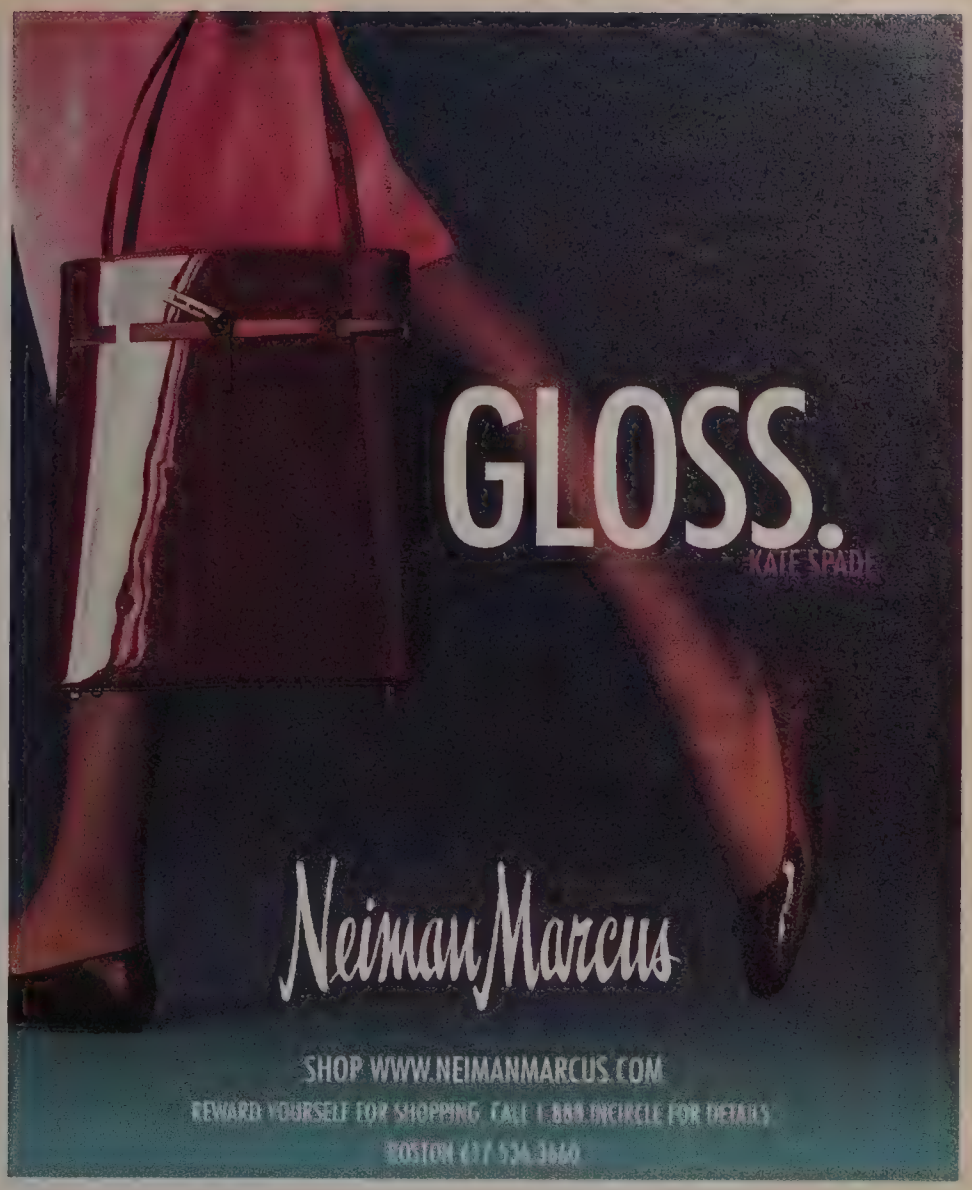

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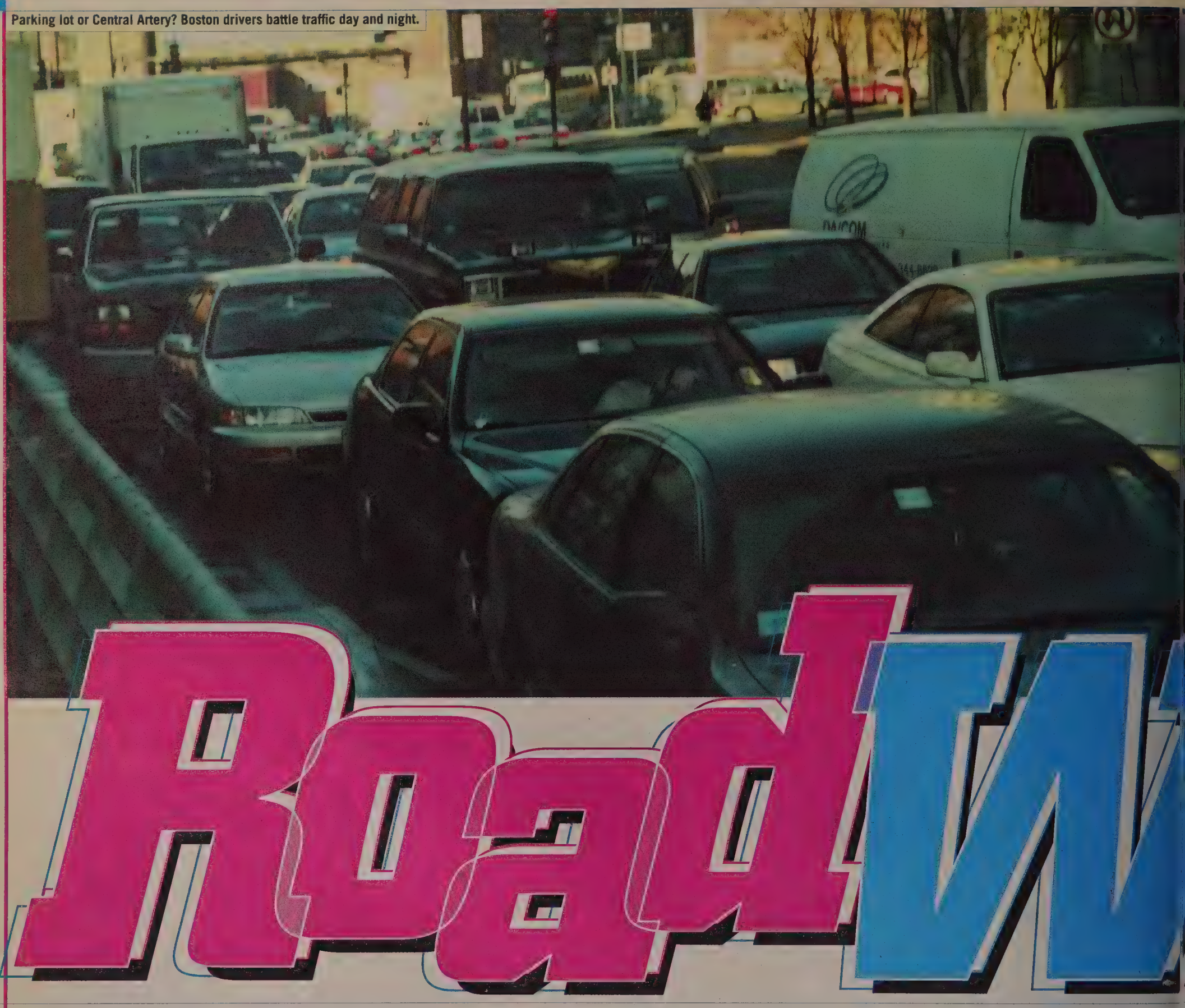


Parking lot or Central Artery? Boston drivers battle traffic day and night.

Road W

CONSIDERING BOSTON'S BYZANTINE LAYOUT, CLOGGED ROADWAYS, MANIACAL DRIVERS AND KA

Crawling turns to inching as Willie Wallaces' Chevy cab turns onto Kneeland street in the heart of Boston's Chinatown.

It's 5:40pm on Wednesday. Despite the fact that there are parked cars lining both sides of the single-lane, one-way street, the Mazda in front of us has decided to drift towards the curb and stop. "Watch, no eye contact," Wallace predicts. We squeeze by and both turn to look at our foe: The driver of the Mazda is looking straight ahead, as if he did not know we existed—one of the many techniques Boston drivers use to get in and out of confrontation.

Some 20 minutes later and five blocks away, we're fighting our way through the Financial District where pedestrian commuters swarm the street, oblivious to crosswalks and traffic alike. "It's like the dawn of the dead," mutters Wallace, who apart from being a part-time cab driver, or "inner-city transportation entrepreneur," as he likes to call the profession, is also a musician. "The way I see it," continues Wallace, "it's like underwater—the buses are whales, the cop cars are sharks..." I chime in, "And the pedestrians are the plankton!"—hoping I'm catching on.

With Wallace as my guide, along with a host of other local traffic experts, I attempt to decipher the mysteries and hidden explanations that make Boston one of the most unique, blood-pumping, challenging, and even rewarding places to drive in the world. Boston's mix of old world geography, crazed commuters, and gargantuan construction projects combine to create a peerless vehicular experience.

The Maze

"Every section of town is a maze," says Wallace, discussing Boston's byzantine layout. "It's like those English shrubbery mazes, if you don't know your way through, forget it." And Boston's maze can seem malicious to the inexperienced. "You can look at a map and that's never going to get you to Fenway," jokes Wallace, "because you can only take a left on Tuesday morning."

John R. Stilgoe, historian and Orchard Professor in the History of Landscape Development at Harvard University, suggests that for pedestrians and tourists, the haphazard street layout downtown is actually a big plus: "The narrow, jammed cobblestone streets that so many people don't like to drive on turn out to be what people want to see—they want to see a small-scale dense city."

Boston's bizarre conglomeration of "squares," one-ways, curvy roads and dead ends can be traced back to the days when a full garage meant two horse carriages.

WENDY MIMRAN

errors

ZE PEDESTRIANS IT'S NO WONDER OUT-OF-TOWNERS ARE PETRIFIED OF OUR CITY'S STREETS.

Boston's early settlers had to deal with some unique terrain challenges, and we cope with that legacy today. "It's the cow path theory," says Jeff Larson, Channel 5's Mr. Smartroute, discussing how winding old footpaths and routes for horse-drawn sledges were laid out to avoid hills and valleys. Glen Paray, Brookline's Museum of Transportation executive director, adds that in addition to the pre-eminence of cow paths, the complex web of Boston's local roadways can be traced to the city's coastal geography.

Paray says, "Before anyone [in Boston] had done any sort of urban planning, roadways wound in and out of little coves." As Boston grew during the 17th century, settlers began to relocate land from the hilly inner city to the coast—to allow development along the waterfront. "Beacon Hill today," says Paray, "is half of its original size [because it was] leveled to fill the Back Bay. In fact, most of what we think about as the city is backfill."

Because parts of the city were filled at various times, backfill over backfill, Boston lacks a neat road grid. "In Manhattan," says Paray, "you're building businesses out from the existing waterfront areas in almost straight lines. In Chicago, everything is in square grids."

Boston's history of backfilling also helps explain our indecipherable labeling system of city geography. A verbal map of the city—part of common local folklore—neatly packages the confusion: "The geographical center of Boston is in Roxbury. Due north of the center we find the South End. This is not to be confused with South Boston, which lies directly east from the South End. North of the South End is East Boston and southwest of East Boston is the North End. Back Bay was filled in years ago."

Professor Stilgoe sees the unique Boston drivescape as an aesthetic plus to be fiercely preserved: "The Boston view from the street is increasingly becoming the view from any other city. [Boston] is losing much of the charm that attracts tourists as, increasingly, the place looks like anywhere else."

Over the centuries, and with the introduction of the automobile in the early 20th century, Boston has adapted its road systems to the unique layout of the city. Two way streets for carriages have turned into one-ways. As commercial buildings cropped up wherever available in the downtown areas, the old streets wind through modern businesses and residences according to the logic of precedent, not foresight. It's no wonder that Boston drivers have a notorious attitude: The city streets are ripe

BY DAVID GOODMAN

ELIZABETH MARKEL

"It's like dawn of the dead," says cab driver Willie Wallace of Boston's often oblivious pedestrians.

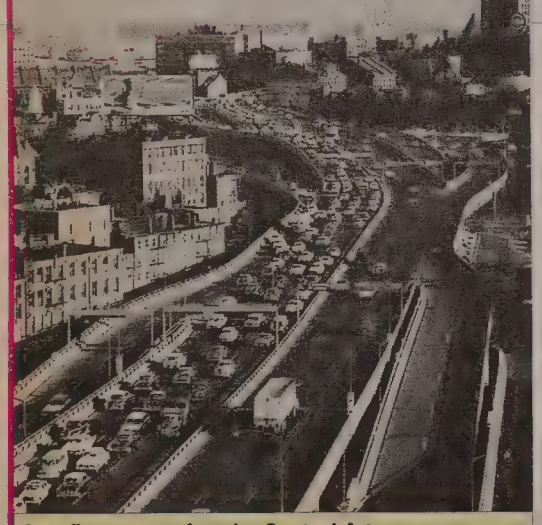
Big Dig Dirt

Byzantine geography, maniacal drivers, kamikaze pedestrians, clogged roads...But, of course, we're just getting started. Boston has a stunningly powerful, if financially challenged and under-appreciated, player in the traffic tussle: the Big Dig.

Before the dig started back in '91, the most prominent urban bandage for Boston's traffic ailments was the Central Artery, conceived in 1930 and completed in 1954. At its inception, the Artery was envisioned as an inner belt to be surrounded by the larger outer belt of 128. Citizens blocked the inner loop's completion however, and the existing Central Artery is the only piece of that loop to have been constructed. Some 50 years later, this is still the primary site of Boston road construction.

"It's kind of like the weather, or the Red Sox," says Larson of the Big Dig, or Central Artery/Tunnel Project (CA/T), "everyone likes to complain about it." Perhaps surprisingly, cabbie Wallace thinks the Big Dig gets a bad rap. As we rode 93 North over the I-90 exchange and looked below at the incomprehensibly dense forest of cranes [more than 150 are used project wide], Wallace remarked: "Look at the size of what they're doing—the traffic still moves fine all around it."

Terry Brown, chief Big Dig publicist, has a favorite metaphor for the massive project: "Boston's got horrible heart congestion and we're doing bypass and angioplasty—the bypass is I-90 and the angioplasty is clearing out and enlarging the Central Artery."



Just five years after the Central Artery was completed in 1954, Boston was congested. Can we expect the same with the Big Dig?

with frustrations that only the experienced can confidently navigate, and this experience may bring with it the cock-sure attitude that typifies local motorists.

The kooky roads set the stage, but we, the drivers and pedestrians of Boston, are the worst villains.

Road Rage

"It's a big video game," says Wallace, who obviously enjoys playing Boston drive 2000, the ultimate in gaming excitement. "It's like Frogger," he continues, "you have to watch the pedestrians, the trucks..."

Boston drivers may be playing a game, but they're out for blood. Wallace, originally a native of the South, complains about his fellow drivers in the hub-hustle: "People up here are horrible, they cut each other off. There's a lot of aggressive attitudes up here, and they put it behind the wheel."

Indeed, it seems Boston drivers tend to ignore the rule of the law and follow a more tribal instinct. "There's the legal rule, and then there's the actual rule," says Jeff Larson of the local urban fauna. "In Boston, it's whoever's most aggressive." He counters, however, that although they seem ruthless, "they have very specific rules... you think it's impolite, but there's specific ways of being aggressive, and if you go over that line, you're being a jerk."

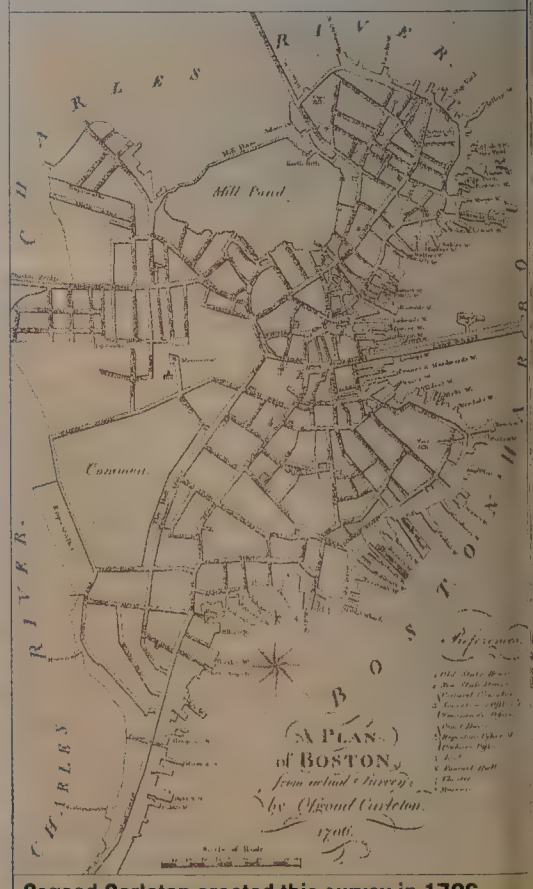
Despite our maniacal tendencies behind the wheel, Massachusetts' roads are among the safest in the nation. According to the Mass. Highway Department, the Commonwealth has "the lowest fatality rate of any state in the nation—half that of the nation as a whole." Perhaps the menacing streets of Boston help us hone our driving skills. Or perhaps there's something to be said for a little aggression behind the wheel?

For habitual Boston drivers, a trip to exotic locales can be jolting. Wallace recounts a recent driving experience when he was down South: "I needed to merge and this guy in a BMW actually stopped and waved me into traffic—it was shocking." Here in Beantown, we tend to skip the waves altogether and use our cars to gesture. "It's very much kind of a body language for cars," affirms Larson. "If you're waiting to see if somebody else is going, you've given up your chance."

While drivers here might follow their own provincial code of ethics, pedestrians seem to know one piece of Massachusetts legislation all too well: Pedestrians always have the right of way—if a car hits a pedestrian, the car is at fault. Pedestrians here tend to translate this law into a simple maxim for city strolling: "I will walk across the streets wherever and whenever I choose, and the cars will stop.'

"The young kids and pedestrians wait until the traffic light turns green to cross," complains Wallace. Larson also believes the peds have some odd notions of appropriate behavior: "Pedestrians have a high tendency to ignore the fact that there's a crosswalk. Don't take this out of context, but I've seen mothers with children in strollers that will use that child as a buffer." Ludicrous? Impossible? It happens in Boston.

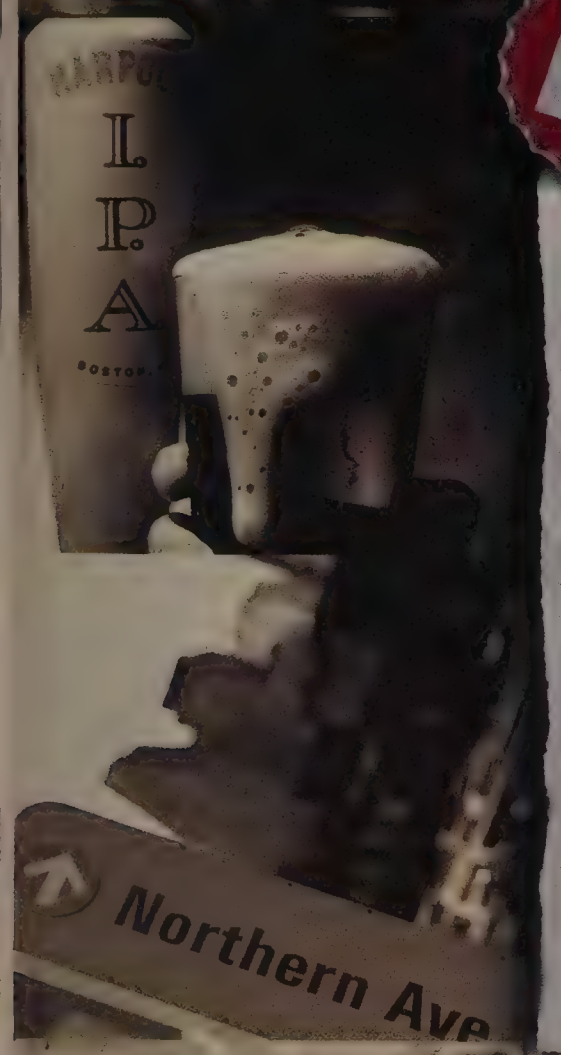
So how to avoid fierce drivers and equally fierce pedestrians? Solutions, even for the savvy local, are scarce. Passive resistance is recommended by both Wallace and Larsen. Wallace relays that there are few tricks of the trade—even for a cabbie. "The other Friday, I left South Boston and saw that 93 was a parking lot. So I thought, alright, I'll [take the shortcut] and go over the bridge. That shortcut ended up taking me 45 minutes!" Larson, who makes a living instructing commuters how to find the "Smartroutes," or shortcuts, does offer one tip: "If you want a shortcut to be effective, take it on the weekends, when much of the cars are driven by tourists. On working days, everybody who's going to work knows all the little secrets."



Osgood Carleton created this survey in 1796 when Back Bay was, literally, a back bay.

Here in Beantown, we tend to skip the waves altogether and use our cars to gesture. "It's very much kind of a body language for cars," affirms Larson. "If you're waiting to see if somebody else is going, you've given up your chance."

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: WENDY MIMRAN, COURTESY OF THE NORMAN B. LEVENTHAL MAP COLLECTION, BOSTON HERALD



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The Tow Zone

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A TOW TRUCK DRIVER

BY ERIN HAGEDORN

In hopes of scoring some towing tales and tips—where most cars get towed, how best to sweet talk a tower, etc.—I spent a day tagging along with a couple of drivers from Pat's Tow Service in Somerville. As any frequent illegal Boston parker knows, these guys have been busy in the biz for the past 25 years, primarily working illegal parking hot spots around Central and Harvard Squares in Cambridge and along Beacon and Newbury streets in Boston. As we drove about the city whisking away cars—jimmying open windows, slapping them into neutral, hooking, tying and towing 'em (all in about five minutes)—I got an earful.

The biggest misconception regarding towing, says manager and Pat's son, Walter Tauro, is that "people seem to think we won't tow them if there are lots of illegally parked cars around them. During street cleaning in Cambridge [April 1-Dec. 31], we'll send 20 trucks after a police car—we'll clear out the whole street." Another major misconception involves a misguided sense of craftiness on the part of parkers—apparently, wedging your car into parallel spots, leaving pleading notes on the windshield or using a steering wheel lock does not deter a towman. Driver Danny Duverge explains, "Some cars are pretty tough to get, like the new BMWs. But we'll drag it out and put it on a flat bed if we have to. We always get our car."

Unless, of course, the owner comes tearing after the tow truck—in which case, most drivers say it's a judgement call. "State law says that the car belongs to the tow truck driver once it is one inch off the ground," says Al Ramos, Big Digger and Pat's towman of six years. "I've had guys freak out and start fights, but once I pick up a car, it's mine. I might drop if for 50 bucks [it costs $75 for the tow and $20 a day for storage], but it all depends on your attitude."

And there is no shortage of attitude when it comes to towing. So just how far do Bostonians go to get out of paying the $75 and save their cars from the clutches of the towman? When asked, each and every driver laughs. "You name it. I've had girls offer me their body, everything," Al says. It seems that towing is not only an emotionally charged operation, but sometimes a dangerous one. Danny relates a close call: "I used to work nights in Mission Hill. I was taking a UHaul, and two kids pulled blades and said, "Pay me or I'll stab you." I always carry a chain—you have to for protection—then the neighbors called the police. But they were ready to kill me."

In the chaotic, cigarette smoke-filled office located in the middle of Pat's giant tow lot, Walter shouts over the screeching of irate people, "We have a direct line to the police—we use it all the time. It's not unusual for people to get violent—once these guys chased me around with a knife threatening to kill me. Another guy was so mad he threw a chair through our glass door."

A tow truck driver of six years, Al Ramos says confidently, "Once I pick up a car, it's mine."

Big Dig Fact

When this construction project is completed, 13 million cubic yards of dirt will have been excavated—enough to fill Foxboro Stadium to the rim 13 times. The dirt will be replaced with 3.8 million cubic yards of concrete, enough to build a sidewalk 3-feet wide and 4-inches thick from Boston to San Francisco and back three times.

Of course, the Big Dig is a colossal financial operation as well—affecting not only the city, but the surrounding communities as well. Yes, our wallets may be a little lighter—and perhaps our minefield of potholes takes a little longer to be fixed these days—but as a result of the current construction mayhem, Bostonians and surburbanites will soon be reaping traffic perks.

Radio listeners and cellular phone users might fear the vortex of the underground tunnel, but hallelujah, radio and cellular phone signals will be re-broadcast into the CA/T tunnels. Perhaps most surprising—because of the new highway system, Boston's carbon monoxide levels will actually drop 12 percent citywide, according to the CA/T. The theory is that traffic will be moving much faster, 30 mph as opposed to 5, and quicker traffic means less and healthier emissions.

But how long do we have to wait for all these benefits? While an impact has already been felt due to the Ted Williams tunnel and the restructuring of the 93 on-ramp at Leverett circle, Brown describes the traffic bounty to look forward to: "In mid-2002 the northbound lanes of the underground Central Artery will open. In mid-2003 you'll go underground southbound."

Once the underground system is fully utilized, the elevated roads will be demolished (by 2004), and the surface will be restored. Brown expects it to be all over by 2010. By then, "We expect that the artery will be carrying 245,000 vehicles, with the Ted Williams carrying 90,000." Although traffic won't vanish, it will be moving at mid speed rather then mid stop. "If we didn't build this project then by 2010 we expect there'd be a traffic jam every waking hour. [After the Big Dig], we'll have a normal urban rush hour."

A "normal" rush hour—that's what Bostonians can look forward to.

Brown admits, "CA/T is a huge leap forward, but it's no substitute for continuing creative transportation planning." In fact, a proviso in passing CA/T in the legislature was the guarentee that a hefty portion of funds go towards public transportation—a mode used in over 55 percent of the current workday trips. As a result, funding was poured into the Old Colony railroad, the commuter rail to Worcester, the extension of the commuter rail up to Newburyport, new buses, new Red Line cars and the silver lane electric buses from South Boston to South Station. "All of this stuff allows the city to absorb more mobility without putting people on to the highway," says Brown.

All in all, Boston might be one of the world's worst cities for traffic, but it also breeds innovation. On the part of civic planners, it's a question of how to preserve the historic maze-y charm as the city grows. On the part of Boston drivers, it requires ingenious maneuvering techniques, high-risk route decision making and a take-no-prisoners attitude that might just be fun enough to be addictive.

Indeed, Boston driving isn't all ugly. And although Professor Stilgoe may lament the increasingly modern Boston drivescape, he shares with his fellow commuters a love for the rarist of roadside charms: "My favorite site on the road in Boston is... a parking space." iB

TOWTRUCK (2): ERIN HAGEDORN, BIG DIG: LOUIS MARTIN

Steer Clear

SMARTROUTE'S JEFF LARSON LISTS BOSTON'S FIVE WORST DRIVING SCENARIOS

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRIS BEAUDOIN

1. Any Friday afternoon on the South East expressway—in any direction
2. Any afternoon period on the Central Artery Northbound
3. Mornings on the lower deck of 93 southbound
4. East Berkeley Street through Back Bay trying to get to Storrow Drive
5. Anywhere around the Theatre District, especially if there's a matinee

For more tips, log on to *www.smartraveler.com*

PHOTOGRAPHER: CHRIS BEAUDOIN, GROOMING: PAULA DION. SHOT ON LOCATION AT HERB CHAMBERS TOYOTA 1198 COMMONWEALTH AVE., BOSTON

BOSTON'S **Road Warriors**

That's the ticket

FINDING A LEGAL SPACE IN THIS CITY IS SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE

Last year, the City of Boston pulled $45.2 million in revenues from parking tickets and other assorted stationary vehicular crimes. Perhaps you contributed.

If you park in a No Parking zone, it will cost you $30. If you're caught with your car on the wrong side of the street on a designated street cleaning day, it'll cost you $25. Double parking gets you $45 (has anyone ever witnessed a ticket administered on Newbury Street, aka Double Parked Street?) Parking overnight in a commercial zone lightens your wallet by $20, and exceeding the meter limit does it to the tune of $25.

The Boston Transportation Department has rigged up more malfeasances than the Spanish Inquisition for getting your car in trouble. You can get fined $15 for parking your car facing in the wrong direction on a given street—or $25 if you're in a space where the city meant to put a meter but forgot to. And then, if you pile up five tickets and forget to pay them, the Inquisition throws the Boot on your front right tire and it costs $56 to get that removed—after you pay the ticket fines, of course.

The vast right wing conspiracy that brought this situation all about is clearly a connivance between parking lot owners and the city. The parking lot owners strive to make their places of business as expensive, spooky and dangerous as possible and thereby drive (literally) potential customers out onto the streets to get ticketed. Where other than Boston do you pay $18 to park your car for a two-hour lunch with a colleague in the financial district? (Okay maybe New York) But nowhere else do you find yourself climbing counterclock-wise through eight stories of reinforced concrete to leave your car to be either burgled, banged or getting its pipes frozen? Any Kinney Systems garage will do, though the behemoth at Government Center takes the cake.

Normally one could say, "Stop bitching and take the T." Except the T doesn't go to alot of the places where it's hardest to park. There are exactly eight "visitor" parking spaces in all of the North End. Well maybe fifteen. But there are no parking meters anywhere, and the only alternatives are vastly overpriced lots on the waterfront or usurious lots by Faneuil Hall.

Yet nowhere is the Vast Right Wing Conspiracy more apparent than in Harvard Square, where parking is A) impossible B) unavailable C) in Brighton and D) all of the above. But there is one little gem —one little secret—a lot that fits in maybe 120 cars underneath the Harvard Square Hotel on Elliot Street. It's street level. You're anywhere you want to go in about two minutes. The meters cost only 25 cents per half hour. Two hour limit. But then you gotta make sure you reclaim your car at 1:59 on the meter because a blue jacketed fascista will be there ready to adorn your windshield with something bright, orange and expensive.

—Richard Manning

You could circle the hill for hours before finding a spot on On Charles Street. When in a pinch, do as Beacon Hillers do: double park.

There are precious few visitor spots in the South End. If you snag one, you better not overstay your two-hour welcome—or ticket may await you.

Park it TIPS FOR THE DETERMINED AND SHAMELESS

A common Boston site: snuggling cars.

1. DON'T BE A PANSY

Remember: you're a Bostonian, and obnoxious parking behavior is not only acceptable, but *de rigueur*. For the confrontational, verbal assault and incessant honking work well, but the "I had no idea you were also waiting for this spot," ruse is equally effective.

2. SNAG A BROKEN METER

Boston offers an abundance of broken meters. Learn where they are, make a mental map, memorize it. Although you can get a ticket in such a spot (if a meter monster marks your wheel and checks back after two hours), there's a fair chance you're home free from sunrise to sundown. When a broken meter fails to present itself, suggested objects for jamming meters include paper clips and foreign coins.

3. THROW 'EM OFF

Always hang on to at least one old ticket to throw on a windshield when parking illegally. Although fastidious meter patrollers will check the ticket for date and offense, this method works on many an occasion. If you can get your hands on a "boot" to throw on your tire when parking, this method is almost foolproof.

4. WORK THE WEDGE

Cars have bumpers for a reason—don't be afraid to test the strength and resilience of rubber. What's more, there is no such thing as boxing someone in; we live in an snug urban environment and drivers expect a challenge when extricating themselves from a spot.

5. TAKE A CAB

ELIZABETH MARKEL (4

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Boston area tolls are not only hard on your brakes, but hard on your wallet—and the financial forcast is bleak.

Highway Robbery

BOSTON'S TOLLS ARE BAD—AND THEY'RE ABOUT TO GET WORSE

Anyone who's lived in the Commonwealth for more than five years knows three things are for certain: death and taxes are inevitable (as Benjamin Franklin once remarked), but in Massachusetts so is getting gouged on unnecessary bridge, tunnel and highway tolls. The debt on the Mass. Turnpike was paid off about 30 years ago, yet if you want to get from the Back Bay to Newton, you have to pay a dollar. And soon you're going to have to pay three times that much.

Under the present arrangement you pay a buck to underwrite the salaries of bureaucrats who spend afternoons on booze cruises or wear bad hair pieces in the Transportation Building in Park Square. In the future, your three bucks will underwrite the salaries and pay for cost overruns on the Big Dig that the booze cruisers failed to anticipate.

The debt on the Callahan and Sumner tunnels was also retired when Paul Cellucci was in grade school. Yet you pay a buck to get from Eastie to the North End. And when was the last time you saw anybody doing anything in those tubes? The ceramic tiles that line the tunnels are in worse shape than the mosaics unearthed in Pompeii. And now that toll is going to triple as well—to pay off cost overruns that the people who run the Big Dig failed to anticipate. Maybe they were too busy with plans on how to beautify the tunnels. (Ever hear of a beautiful tunnel?) Some tolls, though, are justified. The Tobin, or Mystic River, Bridge takes 365 days of pounding, top and bottom, every year. A bridge surface gets frozen and thawed, kicked and abused, from above and below, all the time. And that's even without cars and trucks going over it day and night. However, if the Turnpike Authority goes through with plans to raise the Tobin Bridge fare to $4—a whopping 800 percent increase—that would *not* be justified.

But you have to wonder about the toll structure. A truck, even a light pickup truck, has to pay 50 percent more to go over the bridge than a car, even if the "car" is one of those monster SUVs driven by suburban housewives and that weighs easily more than a small light pickup. The award for simple and base usuriousness, though, goes to the state of New Hampshire. Bostonians who regularly head up to Maine during the summer pay a dollar to get from Hampton to the Piscataqua River bridge in Portsmouth—a distance of all of 14 miles. And that's real highway robbery. —*Richard Manning*

Skip the Light Fantastic

BOSTON'S UNIQUE TRAFFIC LIGHT SYSTEM

One day an underling in Chicago's Daley machine took me by the lapels and breathed the following confidence (it smelled a lot like Scotch): "Did you know," he belched, "that if you start at the Board of Trade and drive north on LaSalle Street at EXACTLY twenty eight and-a-half miles an hour, you'll make every green light between the Board of Trade and North Avenue—two miles?"

The same could never be said of Boston. Whoever designed the traffic light system in the Back Bay clearly had backgammon in mind. Try taking a left turn onto Berkeley Street from, say, Comm. Avenue during rush hour. It can't be done. Traffic lights feeding into Berkeley Street as far south as the Fourth Street Bridge run on such a random cycle, they give a new meaning to locking a grid. And what does a blinking green light mean? Massachusetts is the only political entity in the world to employ such a device—an out-of-date light that marks a light that will change to red for pedestrian crossing.

But for sheer force of terror, land yourself at the corner of Mass. Avenue and Linnean Street in Cambridge—and bring a book. It's the longest traffic light designed by man—it's been that way for over 30 years. —*Richard Manning*

If you hit the Linnean traffic light in Cambridge, you may be able to squeeze in a quick nap.

MIKE DEAN (4)

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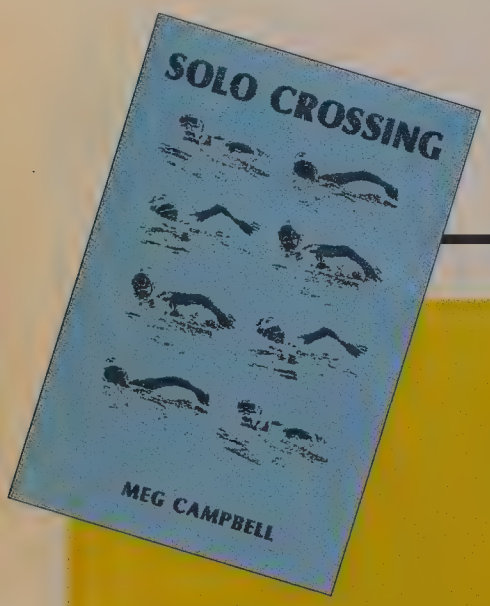
Poem-ing it Alone

Solo Crossing is a book of accessible, melancholy, not unhopeful poems about divorce by Meg Campbell.

This book of poetry, devoted to the theme of divorce after a marriage of about 20 years, is improbably neither sentimental nor self-helpy. But it probably will help a lot of people. Poetry suddenly swooped down on Meg Campbell, a teacher, in her midlife—filling the wound left by her departed husband. Some of these poems are written in an abbreviated way, without an "a" or "the" as if the writer, suffering, had her breath knocked out and needed to conserve words. "Swimming away/from old life/Swimming towards/new life./When I cannot lift my arm/another stroke/I understand/this is my life./Swimming alone./Tired. Afraid." Even when the poems are slightly oblique, or are concerned with time long before, or long after the divorce, and even when they are discussing needy-but-cautious forays into possible new love, they are located under the shadow-dripping canopy of the loss of her marriage. Campbell's lyrical melancholy can show an antidotal bitterness too. She begins this one in the dazed hush of the lower-case: "waking morning after/spouse's wedding/crows en masse/rising from my chest./He has a stroke now—it's /her/problem."



Girls Just Wanna Have Motor Oil

Colonial Drug, 49 Brattle St., Cambridge (864-2222) sells the Heavy Duty line of skincare products, with an automotive edge.

No! The dastardly rumor printed (elsewhere) claiming that the venerable Colonial Drug in Cambridge is going out of business is entirely wrong. At this candybox, carriage-trade store chat between the staff and the loyal customers about cosmetics, skin and hair products borders on the scholarly. And they go droll with a line of unisex skincare products called Heavy Duty displayed here in a mechanic's red-metal toolbox, thumping wittily along on a car mechanic theme. The Industrial Strength Body Scrub comes in what looks like a motor oil dispenser and shows Alexandra Volkmann, its inventor, in high heels gassing up a finny '58 Caddy. "Gives dull surfaces extra shine!" says the label. The stuff is loaded with crunchy apricot and walnut shells, essential oils of peppermint and orange, kiwi and aloe vera and pumice exfoliate—a jungle of lusciousness, one long ironic distance from motor oil. The "Autostrip" Shave Cream, pearly, silvery, whipped and thickissimo, leaves a smooth hydrated leg. The tangerine-smelling Chassis Oil ("Puts the brakes on dry skin") is great when no body oil seems Persian Gulfy enough; it takes you from alligator to peach in a minute—and absorbs, surprisingly, pronto.

Mopsy

Serendipitous shopping: Our unfettered correspondent seeks out the salubrious and the cerebral.

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY

Every Bead and Basket Tells A Story

The Pear Tree, 1355 Beacon St., Brookline (277-9330) calls itself "the world within a store."

This store, an anthropological heaven, has a near museum tone, gathering new and old art and jewelry from such corners of the world as India, Africa, Indonesia, Mexico and Chile. But in another mood, it's a shop of playful and craft-ful pleasures, such as comic little wooden animals from Oaxaca with spikey heads merrily painted. Or beadwork supplies, with fine-grained examples for inspiration. The "museum" side features serious, imposing wooden African masks sprouting straw beards, statues and large wooden upright pieces to be stomped during ceremonial occasions. Baskets here, showing intricately beautiful weaves with a shadow-like diamond pattern, are connected to various tribal traditions. One smells hauntingly like hay. The jewelry, mostly majestic and large-scale, could grace a bureau top, art-like—or radiate power, from a very confident neck belonging to someone receiving an award. The silver Taureg jewelry of African semi-nomads has detail worth a long, close look. One ring sports an aggressively large triangular stone. Modern urban interpretations could transform wooden tobacco holders with wonderful triangular clasps into something new. And intricately beaded boxes, of more sacred meanings, will find profane uses.

Informed, yea delighted explanations of the origins, meaning and symbolism of these treasures comes from the staff.

COLONIAL (2), PEAR TREE: IRINA ROZOVSKY

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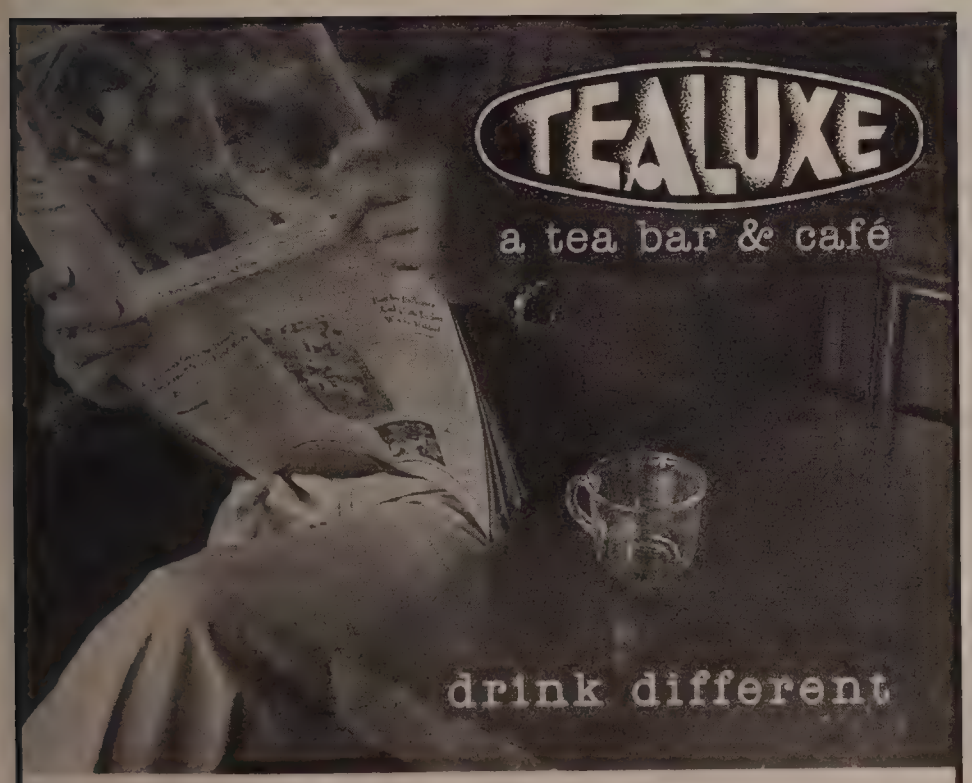

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TUBE TOPS

Couch-bound Ezra muses on his favorite TV shows and specials.

BY EZRA DYER

Growing up in Maine, I had access to five TV stations, and PBS was the only one that came in decently. Since there's only so much of Bob Ross and his happy trees a kid can take, I spent my winters outdoors, shooting things with my BB gun, piloting ATVs through the woods at lethal velocities and throwing snowballs at cars. Now I live in Boston, where all of these rural pastimes are highly frowned-upon. In fact, the last time I tried to go ice fishing down on the Frog Pond, I'd barely got out my power-auger and coffee brandy before the parks people were on the scene, threatening to "have me arrested." It's a shame, cause there's perch under that there ice, I can feel it. With my favorite winter activities cruelly deemed illegal, I've been spending a lot of time camped out in front of the tube. So here, as a public service, is a brief guide to my current favorite programs.

"Ally McBeal"

This red-hot lawyer show is set in Boston, but to save money on production, it is filmed in far-way Somalia, where there is little food. This is why star actress Calista Flockheart looks like the twin sister of He-Man arch-rival Skeletor. But despite featuring a cast that collectively weighs slightly less than sometime-guest Barry White, Ally McBeal has secured a place in America's Monday-night routine on the strength of its clever writing, deft acting and lesbian scenes.

MTV's "The Real World"

This is easily the most appropriately-named show on the air. After all, does not the "real world" involve living rent-free in a lavish Hawaiian retreat with five attractive, yet psychotic, roommates while MTV commits your every move to videotape? As for me, my life is more like MTV's failed pilot, "Fantasy World"—a show about six straight white males who got up, went to work, came home, sat on the couch, and then went to bed again. On the weekends they would mix up this routine by omitting the work part. The show was a disaster, as people apparently weren't ready for such a crazy fantasy. They wanted the real world, where there are lots of troubled bisexual alcoholic roommates needing dramatic interventions.

"The World's Deadliest Swarms"

"The World's Deadliest Swarms" (a USA special) profiled your typical swarm of killer bees as well as more exotic swarms, including snakes, rats, crabs and maggots. While some of these swarms were certainly disgusting, none of them were very deadly. But just when I was deciding that swarms were lame, the show moved on to cockroaches. This segment featured an interview with "Dr. Cockroach," who offered this bit of information: "Cockroaches are hungry, and they can eat off your eyebrows while you sleep." Needless to say, I was profoundly disturbed by the knowledge that, while I drift off into another evening of NyQuil-induced oblivion, legions of cockroaches are waiting to crawl onto my face and eat my eyebrows. Also, if roaches eat body hair, then I'm in a world of trouble. So thanks to stupid Dr. Cockroach and his crazy hair-eating roach stories, I've had to quadruple my NyQuil intake just to get to sleep, and although I haven't seen any cockroaches, the eight-headed French-speaking dwarf living in my closet is really starting to bother me.

"Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?"

This is a popular game show in which, as the title suggests, people do not ever win a million dollars. They all want to, though! The smart ones quit around $250,000,

"After all, does not the 'real world' involve living rent-free in a lavish Hawaiian retreat with five attractive, yet psychotic, roommates while MTV commits your every move to video tape?"

when they get a question like "what is the volume of the South China Sea, in milliliters?" I always loudly berate these gutless losers for wussing out when they had only two questions left. Then I ponder how many years it would take me to make the money they've just won in a half-hour, at which point I get incredibly depressed and resume pounding cold medicine and arguing with the closet dwarf.

Maybe Bob Ross' happy trees weren't so bad after all. iB

Talk back to Ezra

Email Ezra at *ezra@improper.com.*

CHRISTINA CATURANO

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The Boston Globe

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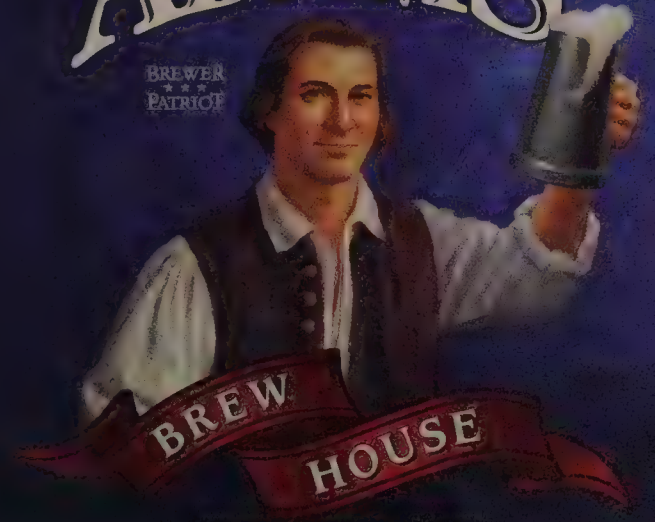

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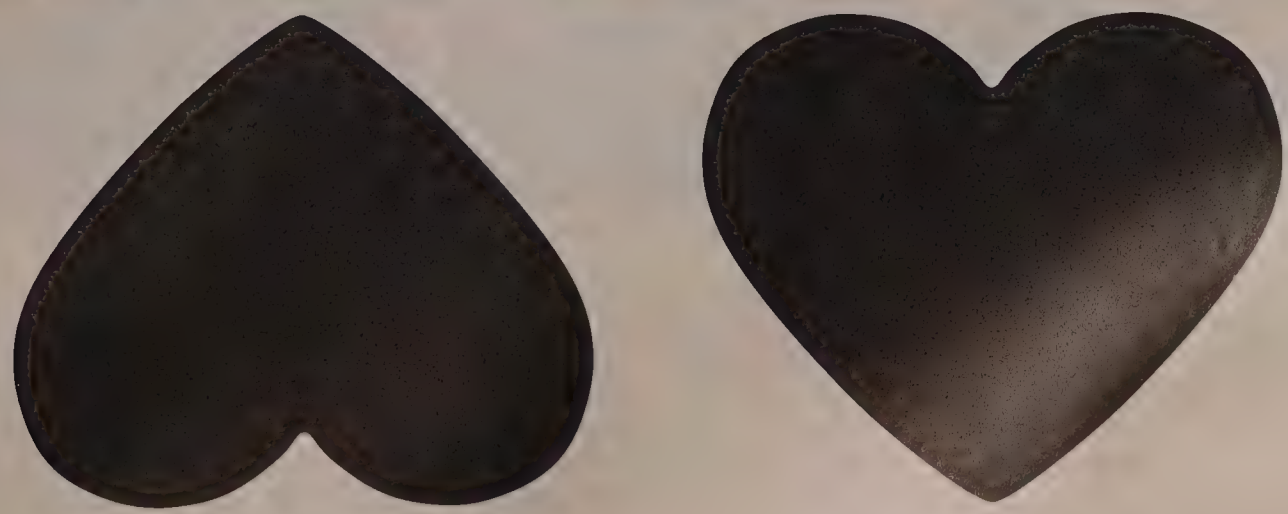

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Review

HYPE WORTHY

The über-upscale Federalist was worth the wait.

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI

From left to right: Chef Robert Fathman with the Fed's impressive collection of wine; the restaurant's earth-toned and understated decor; a surprisingly elegant New England clam bake.

Months of hype preceded its arrival. Food-crazed Bostonians grilled insiders for information about the Federalist's opening date. Stories about the spare-no-expense renovation on Beacon Hill were rife. And now it's here. This small, luxurious boutique hotel makes a statement that rank has its privileges, and that Boston is prepared to support an elevated level of luxury that newly minted dot.com millionaires, high flying brokers, and financiers feel is their due. Our Yankee forebears are turning in their graves.

Throwing frugality to the wind, the Fed scatters shiny silver everywhere—chandeliers, teapots, peppermills, ice buckets, even the jewel-topped mini cloches over the butter dishes. The color scheme is brown, beige and taupe, almost relentless in its blandness, relieved only by a splash of color in the long, horizontal panel on one wall; a larger, square oil on wood panel on the other; and the pale rose coverings of the chairs. Square, ersatz decaying columns break up the interior of this 80-seat restaurant.

Tables are set with heavy Christofle flatware. The steak knives must weigh a pound apiece. Riedel or one of its rivals supply the luxurious crystal. A clear glass square vase with fragrant, white freesia dressed our table one recent lunchtime. Busts of notables—proposed as Federalists, no doubt, but Jefferson has snuck in among them—were ensconced on the soffit above a small utility room in the front of the restaurant.

The Fed's menu prices at dinner are almost over the top. Main courses range from $28-$44 dollars, and appetizers from $13-$32 (not counting the $60 caviar hit). Lunch prices are more competitive with comparable establishments (like Radius and No. 9 Park), fetching $8-$12 for appetizers and $12-$15 for main courses.

One of the Federalist's crowning glories is its wine list. A 1795 [sic] vintage Madeira is listed at $300 a glass ($3,200 a bottle). The 1988 six-liter bottle of Chateau d'Yquem ($3,400), the incomparable dessert wine from Sauternes, drove us to the encyclopedia to confirm this behemoth (containing eight bottles) is called a Methusalem. Back on earth, there is a credible selection—more than 1,200 in all—of fine wines. The knowledgeable sommelier, Christian Vassilev, has created a collection that rivals the most prestigious houses in Paris. While one searches in vain for selections below $30 and finds only a few in the $40s, what is sold bears a reasonable markup. The Trimbach Reserve Pinot Gris ($35 a bottle; $8 a glass) was full and flowery, with good forward fruit but a fine crisp finish.

As at the grand palaces of gastronomy in France, a server dedicated entirely to bread passes among guests with four or five superb choices, including a moist "Boston brown bread" studded with currants, floury potato rolls, and hard-crusted wheat from the High Rise Bakery in Cambridge.

How does one attack the Federalist in an efficient fashion. For $111, the 11-course tasting menu is a surprisingly cost effective approach. While there is no denying the extravagance of this price, the array of remarkable treats that issued from the kitchen one evening was incomparable. It commenced with a peeky toe crab salad topped with a small, perfectly cooked quail egg. All crab and no filler, highlighted not obscured by a delicate mayonnaise, the crab was a harbinger of good things to come. Following the crab was an avocado "smoothie." A tall, leaning shot glass filled with creamy avocado, whipped cream, red pepper oil and a touch of lime, enveloping a grilled shrimp impaled on a charred sugarcane stick.

On the heels of the smoothie was a giant diver sea scallop with a touch of coriander. Perfect in texture, it was dusted with flower pollen and served on a rich pave of butternut squash with a garnish of basalmic vinegar. Lobster soup arrived impeccably hot in a tiny covered tureen, its sweet, rich broth sharpened with a hint of sherry and thickened with puréed root vegetables. The only flaw was that the chunk of lobster was too big to eat in one bite. Smoked salmon bellies with fennel and grapefruit ensued, presented with the

JOE GREENE (3)

soft, tender salmon coiled around the crunchy fennel, offering a wonderful medley of tastes: smoky, salty, tangy and sweet.

The menu's most expensive main course, sautéed abalone with baby fennel, lemon risotto and fried capers ($44), made an appearance in the tasting menu. Served on a glistening mother-of-pearl plate, the abalone was perfectly rendered, with a moist texture and extraordinary flavor. The accompanying risotto was flawless. Next came the sea bass, a generous wedge with a salty crust and a heavenly, flaky texture, garnished with truffle slices, mushrooms and mildly garlicked mashed potatoes.

Shifting from sea to farmyard, the Fed's next offering arrived in a tiny silverbeaded egg cup, bearing one open top eggshell filled with rich yoke mixed with braised oxtail and topped with a tiny Yorkshire pudding. The flavor of the ensemble was as big as its embodiment was tiny. Then came seared foie gras with cherries-tender, almost ethereal, like a gossamer bullet, lethally rich.

We were on the home stretch. White shrimp dumpling in saffron tea was an unusual but refreshing palate cleanser. Next came a tiny goat cheese course, followed by a potato and finnan haddie tart with steamed mussels, bull's blood beet greens and vinaigrette. Mango passion fruit sorbet, a relief in its simplicity, concluded the performance.

In the evening the waitstaff seemed a little disorganized, and occasionally a course was brought by a waitperson who could not describe its contents. The staff/patron level at dinner is at a very high ratio, and one is seldom left alone for more than a few minutes.

As consistently superb as was the evening tasting menu, lunch at the Federalist was inconsistent. No problem with the double-thick roasted pork chop with steamed clams, sauce laced with tiny cubes of linguica, and garnished with roasted peppers, new potatoes and sweet onions ($13). The pork was stunning in its pink succulence. Equally impressive one day was the Caesar salad, the leaves of romaine hearts were light green and crunchy, tossed in an understated but well-turned dressing.

Our return for lunch the following week, however, yielded overcooked and over-salted skate wing with a very salty caponata ($13). A soggy Caesar salad ($8) bore little resemblance to its predecessor a week earlier. An inquiry revealed that the Fed's brilliant chef, Robert Fathman, formerly of Grill 23, is not always on hand for lunch and had been absent the day of the sorry skate and limp Caesar.

Desserts at the Fed ($9 at lunch and dinner) are creatively conceived and skillfully executed. The hot chocolate-banana brioche pudding with banana chocolate chip ice cream and caramelized bananas was really three desserts in one, with the ice cream a perfect counterpoint to the intensely chocolate bread pudding and the caramelized bananas. A calvados tart with apple baklava and apple jack sorbet came in a small, flaky pastry shell, but lacked the anticipated kick of calvados.

What's the verdict on the Federalist? It has certainly ratcheted things up a few notches in Boston's increasingly competitive, high-end restaurant scene. More attention to consistency and quality at lunch would help, but the crowds at dinner render a verdict more convincing than any speculation of mine. It goes to show, nothing succeeds like excess. iB

The Federalist

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Dish

FULL PLATE

Sequins on the side, please.

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

Lydia Shire (second from left) and the crew from Biba and Pignoli at the Anthony Spinazzola Gala.

Pick one: **The Anthony Spinazzola Foundation Gala Festival of Food & Wine** is really about: a) celebrity chefs; b) all-you-can-eat foie gras; c) suburbanites wearing sequins; d) raising over $500,000 to fund hunger relief agencies and related programs.

Is that your final answer?

Of course, the folks at the Anthony Spinazzola Foundation would like to keep the focus on the charitable bottom line. Given the spectacular scale, glitz and glamour of the event, however, this is like trying to convince people to pay more attention to the nutritional information on the Snickers wrapper than to the candy bar inside.

One more answer: For some savvy diners, it's about opting to stay home on Friday night. After all, when most of the region's top chefs and their entourage are cooking at the World Trade Center, who—given the tight job market—is in the restaurant kitchen holding down the fort?

As usual, the chefs' dedication, playfulness and generosity set the tone for the evening. Biba's **Lydia Shire**, who has her hands full with two restaurants now that chef **Daniele Baliani** has left Pignoli, not only dished up delicious hot nibbles with co-chef **Susan Regis**, but handed out hot-pink "Biba goes to the Beach" bags packed with lobster salad sandwiches and macaroons as a take-home treat. Thinking outside the bento box, the Radius crew were all cheerfully turning Japanese, from **Christopher Myers**' white Kabuki make-up to **Michael Schlow**'s pointy little hat and seaweed salad.

On a smaller scale

A Monday night guest chef series called "Cooking for a Cause" will feature four chefs: **Christos Tsardounis** of Aspasia, **Anthony Susi** of Sage, **Jim Becker** of Rauxa and **Michael Reidt** of Bomboa. Each will take turns pairing up as they guest-chef in one another's kitchens. Part of the proceeds will benefit Children's Hospital, Horizons Initiative, and the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

When it comes to soliciting donations from restaurants, many are called, and restaurateurs can choose only a few. Out in Newton, Lumiere's Chef/owner **Michael Leviton** says he "agonize(s) over each request," and the requests are constant. Lumiere has provided substantial support to Newton's public schools, as well as Community Servings. "There are millions of opportunities to give away money in this business," says Leviton, "and as much as we'd love to help everyone, there are limits to the amount of money we can give away."

Tidbits

Chef update: **Laura Brennan**, whose terrific tapas drew discerning diners to the former Mercury Bar for over three years post-Steve Johnson and pre-Pravda 116, is stove-hopping around town as she continues to seek out space for her own restaurant. Following a one-night stint as guest chef at Rauxa in Somerville, she'll take over the stove at Bistro Five in Medford at the end of the month.

Expect a new French restaurant to open on Newbury Street in Du Barry's old spot. First, though, the entire five-story building at 159 Newbury will be gutted and remodeled, so the timetable here is anyone's guess.

And, finally: a word about the **Naked Fish**, the rapidly-spreading chain owned by **Joey Crugnale** (the brain behind Bertucci's). In case you've missed the Naked Fish print ad campaign, it's a series of photos of naked local notables—all male—with a fish strategically positioned over their crotches. Well, that's one way to cover your bass. Let's just wait and see if Crugnale can single-handedly bring back the codpiece. iB

Carolyn Faye Fox is a panelist on "Says You!" NPR's nationally-syndicated game quiz show.

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant? Send it to dish@improper.com

Tastings BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for tastings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

EVENTS

Boston Wine Festival 2000
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE). www.bhh.com. Through April 7. An annual three-month celebration of food and wine. See CityScope for events.

Brewer's Dinner
The Elephant Walk, 900 Beacon St., Boston (247-1500). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Feb. 29, 6:30pm. $40. Head brewer **Jeff Biegert** and Elephant Walk head chef **Mark Hall** present a three-course menu of Cambodian dishes, hors d'oeuvres and a French dessert, with a pairing of four of Tremont's award-winning microbrews.

Celebrity Chefs Culinary Program
Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Ave., Boston (267-5300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Through March 11, 1-3pm. $30/class. The hotel has brought together nine chefs and cookbook authors for a nine-week program designed for all food lovers. Participants will learn the secrets of master chefs. •Feb. 26: **Paul O'Connell**, chef/owner of Chez Henri. •March 4: **Robert LeCrom**, executive chef at the Hotel Vancouver.

Classes That Cook!
The Westin Copley Place, 10 Huntington Ave., Boston (262-9600). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. $199/two. Overnight only. •Feb. 26-27: Learn to cook from the pros at an overnight cooking weekend. **Phil Paik**, chef/owner of JP Seafood, teaches sushi rolling and the art of other authentic Far Eastern dishes. •March 4-5: **Christoph Leu**, executive chef at the Westin, demonstrates creative ways to prepare springtime seafood cuisine.

Discover Latin American Cuisine
Chez Henri, One Shepard St., Cambridge (354-8980). $34. Enjoy a three-course prix fixe menu based on the lesser known cuisines of the Caribbean and Latin America. •Feb. 16-29: Guatemala and Nicaragua. •March 2-14: Venezuela and Colombia.

New Orleans Cooking
The French Library and Cultural Center, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (266-4351). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. March 1, 7pm. $35. **Darryl Settles,** owner of Bob the Chef's, and his chef will show you how to cook Big Easy style. A demo and tasting will feature Southern cuisine, including mustard-fried catfish, jambalaya and shrimp etouffee.

The Other Red Wines of Piemonte
Marcuccio's, 125 Salem St., Boston (723-1807). Feb. 29, 7pm. $65. You've heard of many of Piemonte's world-class red wines. At this wine dinner, Marcuccio's presents the others: Brachetto, Freisa, Grignolino and Ruche.

QE2 Transatlantic Theme Dinner
Hampshire House, 84 Beacon St., Boston (227-9600). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Feb. 23 and March 7, 6-11pm. $60. To help escape the winter doldrums, the Hampshire House and Cunard are offering this cruise-themed dinner, complete with a captain, steward and four-course meal.

South of Beirut Night
Linwood Grill, 81 Kilmarnock St., Boston (247-8099). March 6. Join guest chefs **Ana Sortun** from Casablanca and **Sara Jenkins** from I Coppi for Linwood Grill's Guest Chef Series.

Ultimate Dinner: Fish Course
The French Library and Cultural Center, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (266-4351). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Feb. 23, 6:30pm. $45. Co-owner **Raymond**

Wine Value and Taste BY SANDY BLOCK, MW

The most popular tasting series that I do is invariably "Undiscovered Gems." It fills up early because it's an opportunity to learn about what's unfamiliar, unique and, in my opinion, undervalued, in the world of wine. Categories, in other words, that are not yet hot. What's the motivation? People love finding new and exciting wines they can introduce to friends, particularly bargains. But as prices keep ascending and yesterday's $10 wine costs $15 today, the very idea of what constitutes "value" has to be re-examined and perhaps re-defined. There's no doubt that we have to search a lot harder today to find the same magnitude of wine flavor that our money bought five years ago. But who was shelling out four dollars every morning for cups of fancy coffee drinks back then? The point is, it's relative. If we draw a line in the sand and say no wine above $9.99, we're looking back to a time that's gone forever.

Everyone reacts differently when they try a new wine. It's involuntary: We either like how it tastes or we don't, and the reasons come afterward. You can work on trying to appreciate the flavors and "educating your palate," (which is a concept I find incredibly condescending) but it comes down to something very concrete over which we have no control: it tastes good to me or it doesn't. So how can there be an absolute standard, and why would honest writers rate wines with a numerical score when everyone's own internal rating scale is different? The 90 point score is a myth spread by intellectual bullies who want to sell magazines.

This is why I have to qualify it whenever I use the word "value" in relation to wine. It's not abstract, it's personal. It's a value to me. If I'm excited to drink the grapefruit-like Loire Valley Sauvignon Blanc and it's $9.99, that's a good value—but if the same wine's sour bitter flavor punch is painful to you, how could it be a value at even half the price? I can't be ponderous or moralistic about it or pretend that you should like what tastes interesting to me just because I've studied how wine is made. That's not even relevant to the discussion. So the following list reflects what I consider the all-star "value" team in March 2000 based upon criteria I use (interesting aromas, balance, complex flavors, length of flavor). But they may not appeal to you if, for instance, your idea of a dream dinner is roast beef. All the wines cost $10 or less, and they constitute a gallery of the relatively obscure and, for that reason,

WENDY MIMRAN

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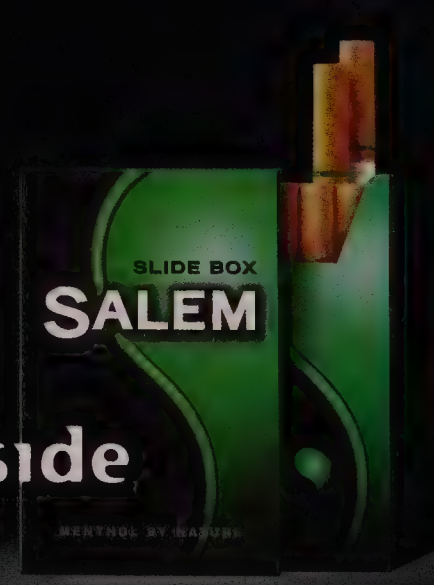
Value and Taste BY S



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Tasty Tidbit

Hotter Than Hell

Chef Owen Tilley will exorcise his culinary demons in a ritual known as Hell Night at East Coast Grill on Feb. 28-29. "It's an experience only recommended for diners that sneer at Tabasco sauce and eat jalapenos like olives," says GM Maureen Rubino. This 13-year-old tradition draws heat freaks from around the city to enjoy such dishes as raw oysters with habenero fire water; hell-smoked and fire-kissed skirt steak; tortured littleneck clam pasta tossed with hell sausage and typhoon salsa; and cumin-crusted killer grilled mahi mahi with too hot tomato-onion. Those who crave the mother of all hot food—the original "Pasta from Hell"—will be asked to sign a "hold harmless agreement" with the restaurant.

Worried? Rest assured—there will be EMT volunteers (as in, Extinguish My Tongue), for customers who overheat. Bear in mind, however, that there's a $2 wimp surcharge for this service. Or, if you'd rather just be a voyeur, you can choose from milder selections on the wimp menu. But you'd be missing out: "Hot food gives you a natural high," Rubino affirms. *East Coast Grill, 1271 Cambridge St., Cambridge (491-6568). Feb. 28-29. Seatings begin at 5:30pm.*

Ost of Sandrine's will prepare a salmon filet layered with fresh vegetable scales and a Reisling tarragon reduction. A tasting will follow of a Josmeyer 1991 Grand Cru Alsace Riseling Hengst.

Wedding Cakes

Moon and Stars Bakery, 129 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown (923-1306). Feb. 27, 2-5pm. Free. Getting married? Sample a variety of wedding cakes (with European buttercream frosting.)

Wine Seminar at Nashoba Valley

Nashoba Valley Winery, 100 Wattaquadoc Hill Road, Bolton (779-9816). Feb. 23, 6pm. $70. Learn to appreciate what one looks for in Champagne and sparkling wines with wine maker **Larry Ames**.

Wine Tasting at Les Zygomates

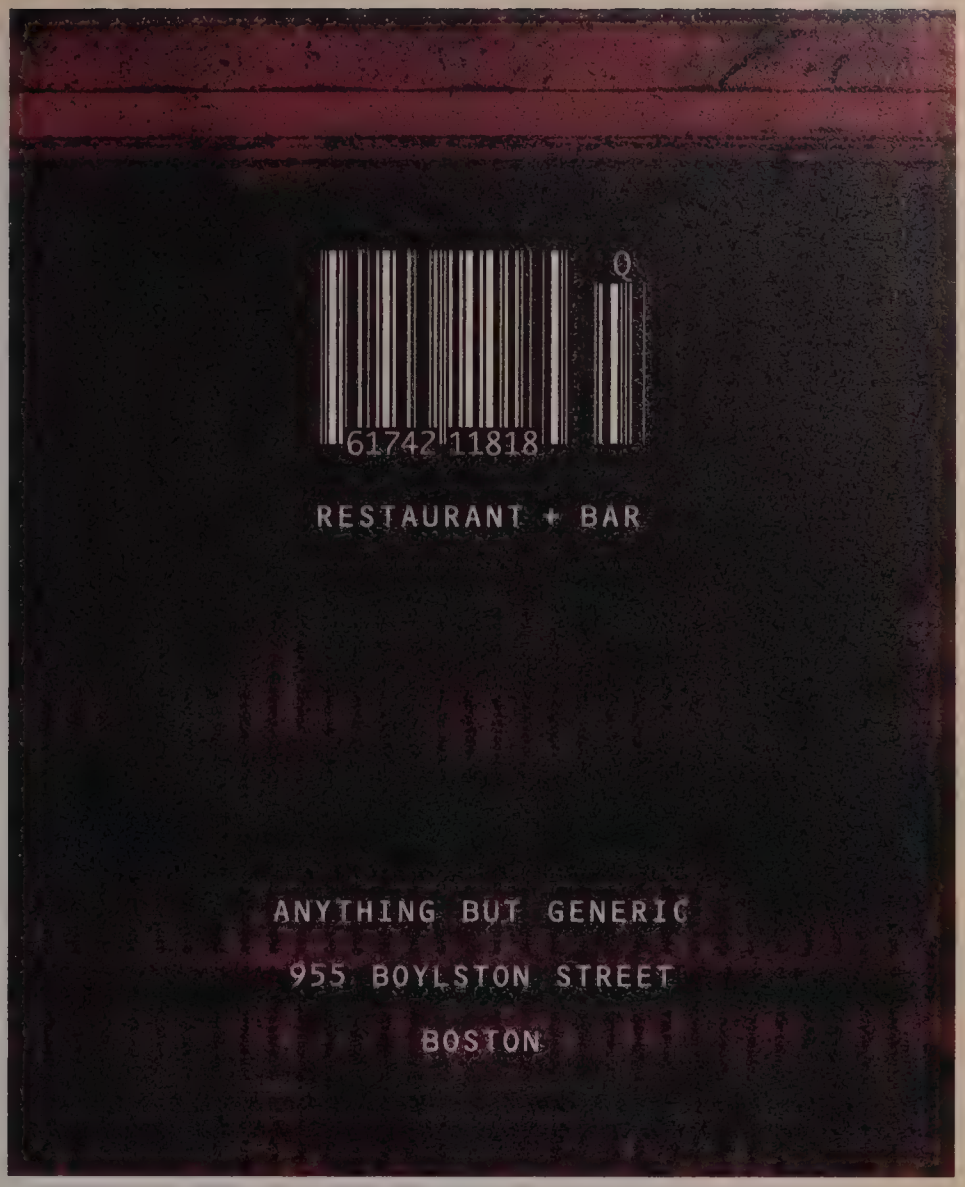
129 South St., Boston (542-5108). Tue. 6pm and 8pm. $25. Wine and food pairings. •Feb. 29: Amarone (Italy). •March 7: Spanish Reds.

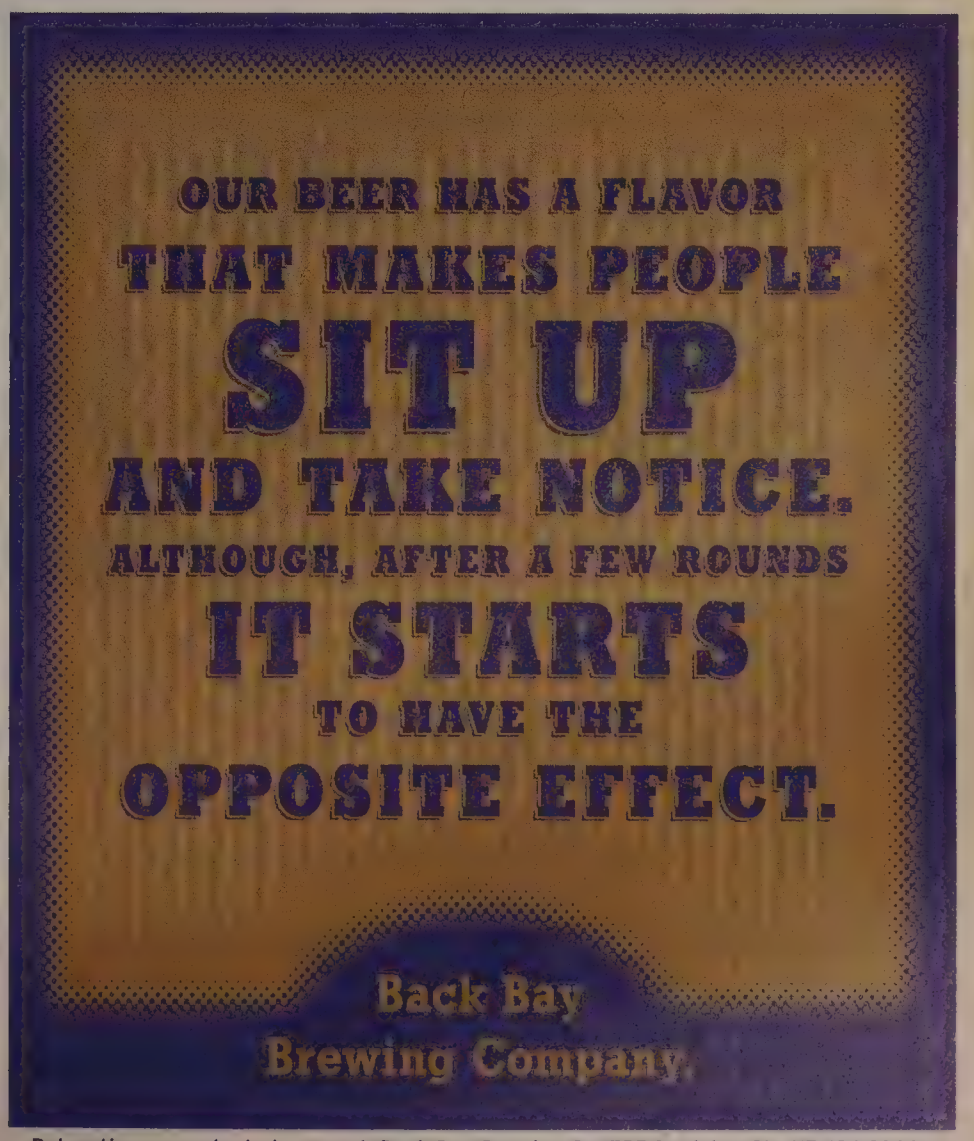
unloved. But good wine stores will probably stock one or more brand in each category. Incidentally, the reason California doesn't appear is simply that today this is not a place where I can find wines that excite me very often at this price.

White Wines: •Alsace Pinot Blanc: Alsace produces distinctively perfumed and flavorful wines in a dry style, but the Pinot Blanc should be better known because it's often creamy in texture, understated and lightly spicy, which makes it very adaptable to a wide range of dishes. •Muscadet: Still suffering from an image problem caused by decades of mediocrity, this light, crisp, bone-dry French white wine is outstanding as an aperitif or with salty, tangy tapas-like appetizers. •Vinho Verde: Deep value, particularly in spring and summer time when the refreshing lemon-lime-apple fruit flavors of the drier examples provide outstanding al fresco drinking pleasure. Relatively low in alcohol too. •New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc: Thrilling, spine-tinglingly tart and fruity.

Red Wines: •Argentinian Malbec: This exciting newcomer is plummy and soft, with intriguing hints of tobacco and earth. Compared to Merlot, with which it shares some similarity, Malbec generally has more dimensions of flavor at a lower price. •Beaujolais: Yes! Not all Beaujolais, but there are estates (look for "mis en bouteille au domaine" in the small print) which make wines with brilliant raspberry-like fruit, mild tannins and a lingering finish to pack alongside the Vinho Verde on your first picnic. •Cotes du Rhone: Another large category, with an ocean of wine, much of it forgettable, but there are again some estate-bottled wines which stand apart featuring gutsy, robust flavors with true grit. •Montepulciano d'Abruzzo: The low-low-low entry in the sour cherry-like flavor department which has helped make the whole Italian red wine category so popular. This is a wine often providing bursts of tart fruit and searing acidity which cry out for a red sauced pasta or meat dish. •Portugal: Red wine. Period. Drink. Enjoy. Get change back from your ten dollars to buy non-essentials like food and water. Buy another bottle.IB

Above: Cotes du Rhone





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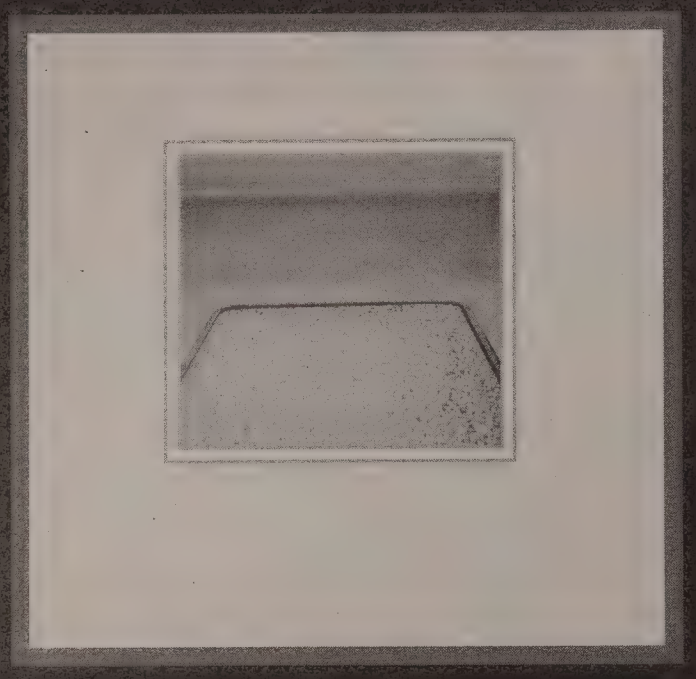

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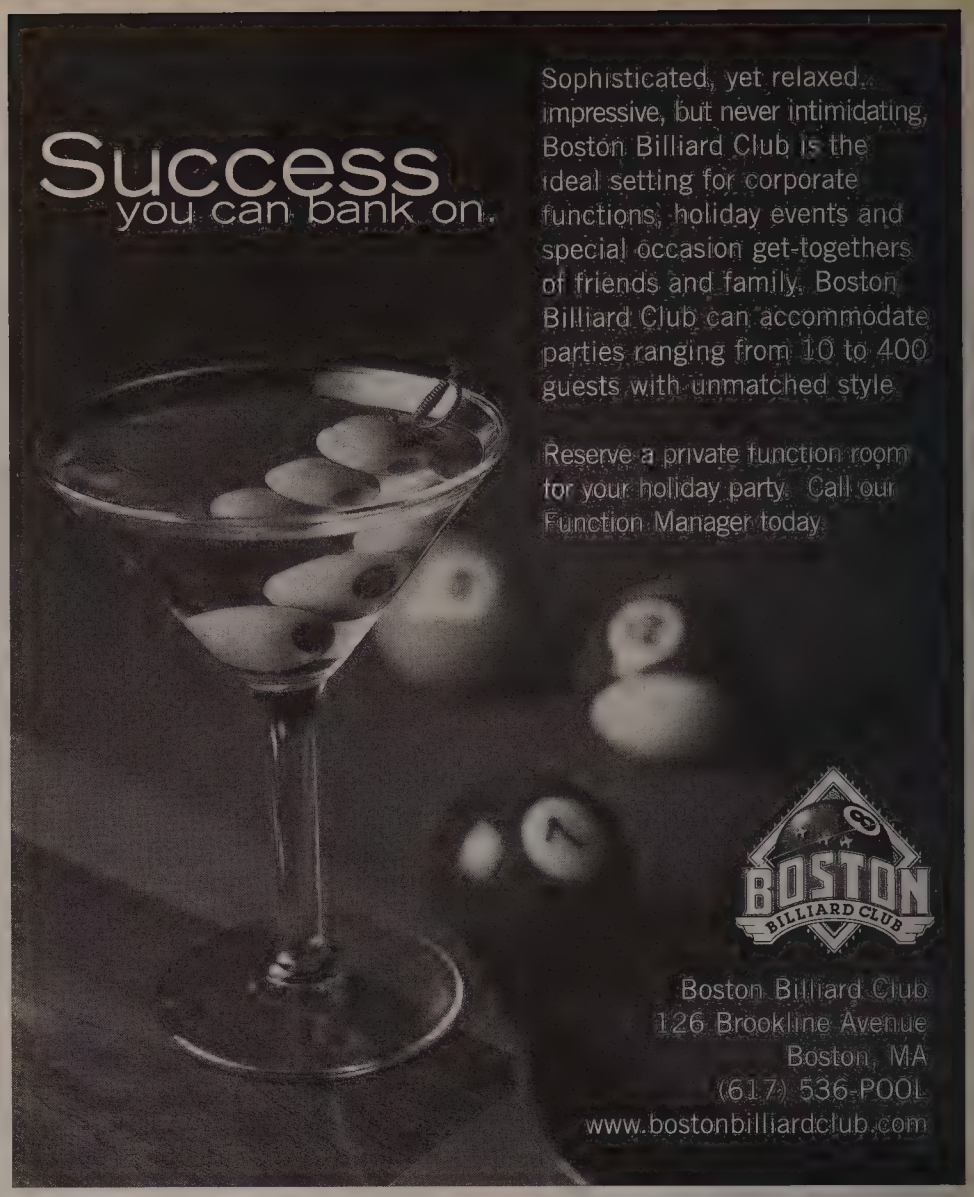

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agenda

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Julie and Erin

THE CALENDAR GIRLS'

improper picks

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Wednesday, Feb. 23

Erin: Author **Robert Olen Butler** is in town to read from his comedy, *Mr. Spaceman* at Barnes and Noble. (See Books & Poetry.)
Julie: Tonight's the opening night for the month-long ***Women on Top*** theater festival at the BCA. (See Performing Arts.)

Thursday, Feb. 24

Erin: **Go Ape!** at the Milky Way Lounge's Planet of the Apes-themed event. (See CityScope.) Also, director **Francoise Romand** presents two of his films at the HFA. (See Film.)
Julie: Don't forget—***Smokey Joe's Cafe*** is now playing at the Wang Center. (See Performing Arts.)

Friday, Feb. 25

Julie: Help support the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston by attending the **Decorative Arts and Antiques Show** at the Castle. (See CityScope.)
Erin: Head out to Worcester for the US Hot Rod Monster Jam. (See Sports.) Also, William Klein comes to the HFA to show his film, *The Messiah*. (See Film.)

Saturday, Feb. 26

Erin: Gallery Bershad hosts the *Verse Magazine's* **Young American Poets** night with a slew of poetry readings. (See Books & Poetry.)
Julie: Get in shape and support a good cause at the same time at Healthworks' Day of Fitness Fundraiser. (See Sports.)

Sunday, Feb. 27

Erin: Forget this writing stuff. I'm gonna be a rock star—think I'll head to the **Music Career Expo** at the Hynes Convention Center. (See CityScope.)
Julie: I'd check out Orange Show's ***We've Got Nothing But Love for You, Baby*** at the Boston Playwrights' Theatre. (See Comedy.)

Monday, Feb. 28

Erin: The great indie pop rocker trio **Yo La Tengo** come to the Somerville Theatre to play with Lambchop tonight. (See Music.)
Julie: Catch the BCA's hilarious brand new comedy, ***Perfect Days***. (See Performing Arts.)

Tuesday, Feb. 29

Erin: Head to the Coolidge Corner Theatre for a Grand Opening presentation of **You Oughta be in Pictures**, a film of locally made erotica. (See Film.)
Julie: **Mameve Medwed**, author of *Mail*, reads from her newest book, *Host Family*, at Newtonville Books. (See Books & Poetry.)

Wednesday, March 1

Julie: It's **Women's History Month**. Celebrate by attending a slide presentation at Charlestown Navy Yard. (See CityScope.)
Erin: Also, **Jane Holtz Kaye** gives a historical speech on "Boston, Lost and Living." (See Education.)

Thursday, March 2

Julie: TV anchor Susan Wornick will host a **fashion show** in her home to benefit The Second Step. (See CityScope.)
Erin: **Mags Harris**, faculty at the school of the MFA, leads a free walk-through of the **ICA** (See Art.)

Friday, March 3

Julie: Hang with NFL players at the **Muscle Dream Team Bash** at the Rack. (See CityScope.)
Erin: It's the first night of the new Revels show, ***The Mysteries***, at Cyclorama. (See Performing Arts.) Also, **Gov't Mule** is at Avalon.

Saturday, March 4

Erin: It's **Mardi Gras** at the Tremont with Cajun delicacies, the Hot Tamale Brass Band and more. (See CityScope.)
Julie: **Harpoon's St. Patrick's Festival** has Irish music and plenty of good beer. (See CityScope.)

Sunday, March 5

Julie and **Erin**: What fun! It's the 230th anniversary of the **Boston Massacre**. Come celebrate the massive slaughter at the annual reenactment in front of the Old State House. (See CityScope.)

Monday, March 6

Julie: **Beauty AIDS** is a terrific fashion and variety show at Avalon. We went last year, and it's a lot of fun. (See CityScope.)
Erin: Master of black comedy Joe Orton's ***Loot*** is at the American Rep for another week. (See Performing Arts.)

Tuesday, March 7

Julie:Don't miss **WWF Smackdown!** at the FleetCenter with fat, nearly naked men. What more could one ask for? (See Sports.)
Erin: Parker Posey perhaps? Tonight's opening night for ***Taller Than a Dwarf*** with Parker and Matthew Broderick. (See Performing Arts.)

CITYSCOPE **48** • PERFORMING ARTS **52** • ART **56** • FILM **60** • EDUCATION **64** • BOOKS & POETRY **66** • CLASSICAL MUSIC **68** • DANCE CLUBS **70** • MUSIC **72** • GAY & LESBIAN **76** • BODY & MIND **78** •CHILDREN **78** • SPORTS **78** •SALES & FASHION **80** • GO AWAY **80**
EDITED BY: **ERIN HAGEDORN:** Art, Books & Poetry, Dance, Dance Clubs, Film, Gay & Lesbian, Go Away, Music. EDITED BY: **JULIE SHORT:** Children, CityScope, Comedy, Education, Go Away, Sales & Fashion, Sports, Tastings, Theater. ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY: **Laurel Kirtz** Body & Mind • **Paul Sherman:** Film Capsules • **Sean Daly**: Dance Clubs

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Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a list of festivals, events and benefits taking place in the Boston area by date.

Festivals, Events & Benefits

Wednesday, February 23

Disney On Ice: 75 Years of Disney Magic
FleetCenter, Boston (931-2000). www.fleetcenter.com. *MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Through Feb. 27. $12.75-$40.* This magical show brings to life Walt Disney's unforgettable stories and the largest cast ever of Disney characters—Mickey, Minnie, Pinocchio, the Mouseketeers and more.

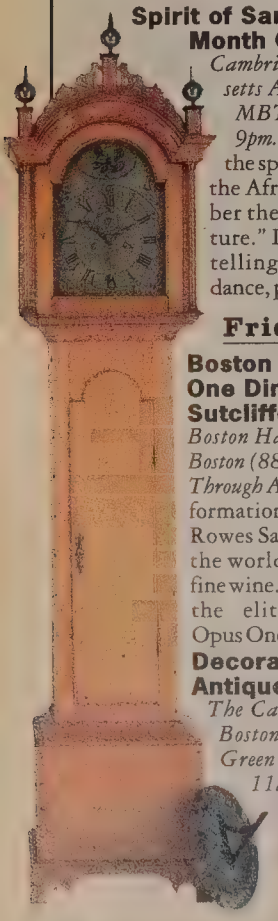
Boston Wine Festival 2000
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE). www.bhh.com. *Through April 7.* The Boston Harbor Hotel has put together more than 40 events—from tastings, seminars and celebrity guests to wine and food pairing dinners—that are signature of the celebration. •Feb. 23, 7pm, $115. John Rowes Salon. **Au Bon Climat/Qupe Dinner**. Jim Clendenen of Au Bon Climat and Bob Lindquist of Qupe share a special talent for evoking rich, provocative flavors from the many chardonnays, pinot noirs and Rhone varietals they produce. Try their latest releases along with older library selections.

Thursday, February 24

Decorative Arts and Antiques Show Preview Party
The Castle at the Park Plaza Hotel, Boston (877-346-KIDS). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 6-9pm. $175. The kick-off party for the much anticipated three-day event. (See Feb. 25 for more information about the show.)

Go Ape!
Milky Way Lounge & Lanes, 405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-3740). Enjoy a crazy '60s *Planet of the Apes*-themed event. There'll be women in cages, post-apocalyptic decor, simian '60s garage and beat tunes, a fashion show and performances by the Liquid Paper, Johnny Chan & the New Dynasty Six and the Fabulous Itchies.

Spirit of Sankofa: A Black History Month Celebration
Cambridge City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (349-6155). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 5:30-9pm. Free. Join in the celebration of the spirit of Sankofa, who represents the African adage: "Always remember the past, for therein lies the future." It will be an evening of storytelling, song, spoken word, sacred dance, poetry and food.



Friday, February 25

Boston Wine Festival: Opus One Dinner with Serena Sutcliffe
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE). www.bhh.com. Through April 7. See Feb. 23 for more information. •Feb. 25, 7pm, $195. John Rowes Salon. Serena Sutcliffe is one of the world's preminent authorities on fine wine. Tonight she turns her palate to the elite Napa Valley property, Opus One.

Decorative Arts and Antiques Show
The Castle at the Park Plaza Hotel, Boston (877-346-KIDS). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Fri.-Sat. 11am-8pm; Sun. 11am-4pm. Feb. 25-27. $10. Some 45 dealers from 12 states will exhibit a collection of antiques, fine and folk art, paintings and decorative collectibles. Proceeds benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston. •10-11am, $25: **Boston Beginnings**, breakfast and tour of the show. •12-2pm, $25: **Estate Jewelry**, light luncheon and lecture by Susan Florence of Christie's.

Go buy the Decorative Arts & Antiques Show, Feb. 25.

Presidents Party and Dance
The Bay Tower, 60 State St., Boston (742-4828). Feb. 25, 8-11:30pm. $15. Jacket and tie. Enjoy music by Ernie Houle, dancing, hors d' oeuvres, "presidential trivia," mix & match games and prizes at this party sponsored by Single Professional Men & Women.

Saturday, February 26

Boston Wine Festival: St. Julien Seminar & Dinner with Serena Sutcliff
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE). www.bhh.com. *Through April 7.* See Feb. 23 for more information. •Feb. 26, 6pm, $195. John Rowes Salon. In her position directing the wine department of Sotheby's Auction House, Serena Sutcliffe assesses more classic Bordeaux every week than most of us taste in a lifetime. This tasting and dinner will focus on her favorite growths from St. Julien.

Day of Fitness Fundraiser
Healthworks Fitness Center, 920 Comm. Ave., Brookline (859-8700, ext. 244). 9am-7pm. $50. This is a full day of health and fitness with special spinning, kick boxing, power yoga, step and rhythms dance classes along with health-related workshops. Channel 5 anchorwoman Susan Wornick and New England Cable News sports reporter Kristen Mastroianni will emcee the event. Proceeds benefit Healthworks Foundation.

Decorative Arts and Antiques Show
The Castle at the Park Plaza Hotel, Boston (877-346-KIDS). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 11am-8pm. $10. See Feb. 25 for more detailed information. •10-11am: **The Art of Interior Design**, a lecture by Clara Hayes Barrett of Clara Hayes Barrett Design.

The Massachusetts Council of Minutemen and Militia reenact the Boston Massacre, March 5.

Preview

Boston Massacre

The usual calm that settles over the Old State House on a Sunday evening will be disrupted by the sounds of gunshots on March 5, as the Massachusetts Council of Minutemen and Militia reenact the Boston Massacre.

Some 230 years ago, a crowd of unarmed citizens began to verbally abuse a solitary Redcoat. As the taunting grew, British soldiers rallied to aid their comrade and fired into the crowd, killing colonists Samuel Gray, Crispus Attucks and James Caldwell, among others. John Adams later described the Boston Massacre as the "night the foundation of American independence was laid."

Visitors can participate in a day-long commemoration of the massacre, March 5. The following is a schedule of events: •1:30-3pm: Mischief, Mayhem and Mourning: Prologue to a Massacre. Watch costumed interpreters dramatize the opposing views on events leading up to the massacre. •2-4pm: Revere's Engraving as Colonial Propaganda. Paul Revere impersonator David Conner will talk about Revere's famous engraving of the Boston Massacre. •2:30pm: Reenactment of the Infamous Boston Massacre in King's Street. Adams National Historical Park will reenact the massacre. •3:30pm: Trial of the Century. Watch Patriot lawyers John Adams and Josiah Quincy defend the British soldiers accused of murdering innocent citizens and Samuel Quincy prosecutes the Redcoats. Members of the audience act as jurors. •7:45pm: Boston Massacre Reenactment. *Old State House, 206 Washington St., Boston (720-3290). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing.*

A Ship of Fools
Hyde Square, Jamaica Plain (524-0302). 11am-3pm. Jamaica Plain will host a multi-cultural celebration featuring the best of JP's visual and performance art on Saturdays throughout the month of February. At the center of the festival is the Ship of Fools and its merry crew—a growing, changing, moveable craft created by JP artists that leads a flotilla of fun, from puppeteers and clowns to actors and musicians. The aim? To rejuvenate winter-weary souls.

A Soupfest Fundraiser
Impulse Dance Company Studio, 179 Mass. Ave., Boston (536-6989). MBTA: Green Line to Auditorium. 7pm. Enjoy an evening of soup, drink, fun, entertainment, good company, dancing and a silent auction to benefit the Impulse Dance Company.

Sunday, February 27

Decorative Arts and Antiques Show
The Castle at the Park Plaza Hotel, Boston (877-346-KIDS). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 11am-4pm. $10. See Feb. 25 for more detailed information. •12-1pm: **The Beginning of Time: Craft of the New England and Boston Clockmaker**, a lecture by Gordon Converse of *Antiques Roadshow.*

Music Career Expo and Job Fair 2000
Hynes Convention Center, 900 Boylston St., Boston (747-8970). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Feb. 27, 11:30am-10pm. $25 (free for students with ID). See preview box for more information.

Wednesday, March 1

Boston Wine Festival: The Tour of Alsace with Bill Nesto MW
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE). www.bhh.com. *Through April 7.* See Feb. 23 for more information. •March 1, 7pm, $115. John Rowes Salon. Master of Wine Bill Nesto offers insights into the fascinating wines of Alsace, each paired with an authentic regional cuisine.

Women's History Month Presentation
USS Constitution, Boston Navy Yard, Building 5, Hull Room, Boston (426-1812). 12pm. Free. More than 8,000 women entered the labor force at the Boston Navy Yard during World War II. CelesteBernardo, supervisory park ranger at the Charlestown Navy Yard, will discuss the experiences and contributions of women to the war effort and present a slide presentation.

Thursday, March 2

Boston Wine Festival: Antinori Dinner
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE). www.bhh.com. *Through April 7.* See Feb. 23 for more information. •March 2, 7pm, $115. John Rowes Salon. The House of Antinori may be one of the world of wine's most venerable producers. Join Randy Sheahan, *Quarterly Review of Wine* editor, for dinner and a tasting of these Tuscan classics.

Fashion Show Fundraiser
The Second Step Inc. PO Box 600213, Newtonville (965-3999). March 2, 6pm. $150. **Susan Wornick**, WCVB TV 5 anchor, will host a fashion show in her home to benefit The Second Step, a transitional program for survivors of domestic violence. The evening will begin with hors d'oeuvres followed by a fashion show with local television personalities.

Friday, March 3

Boston Wine Festival: Renwood Winery
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE). www.bhh.com. *Through April 7.* See Feb. 23 for more information. •March 3, 7pm, $115. John Rowes Salon. Renwood Winery owner Robert Smerling presents a lineup of full throttle, richly flavored wines, including California's most distinguished Barbera and rare Zinfandel ice wine.

Harpoon St. Patrick's Festival 2000
306 Northern Ave., Boston (574-9551). MBTA: Red Line to South Station, shuttle to brewery. Fri. 5:30-11pm; Sat. 2-11pm. March 3-4. $10. More than 4,000 people are expected to toast the patron saint of Ireland with a wide selection of Harpoon beer. Dance a jig and enjoy traditional Irish music and rock by local bands Free Lunch, Big Bad Bollocks, Finbar Doyle and Dennis Sullivan. The event will also feature Irish fare for sale by South Boston's own Farragut House Restaurant.

Muscle Dream Team Bash
The Rack, 24 Clinton St., Boston (725-1051). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 6pm. This annual fundraiser to support the Josh Frase Foundation—an organization of professional athletes supporting research for all congenital myopathies—features silent and live auctions. Sister Hazel will perform.

URGE Fashion Show
The Roxy, 279 Tremont St., Boston (877-686-URGE). www.bostonfashion.com/urge. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 9pm. $15.* Enjoy fashions from Nigel Ramsay and other major designers along with hair creations by Safar in a production by Bostonfashion.com and Annmarie Lafauci to benefit URGE, an organization chaired by Ziggy Marley and dedicated to reducing poverty in the world.

Saturday, March 4

High Hopes Diamond Gala
The Sheraton Boston Hotel, 39 Dalton St., Boston (264-2777). 6:30pm. $200. This evening of dinner, dancing and entertainment benefits the Sammy Cahn High Hopes Fund for Kids with Diabetes. Mix and mingle as guests purchase all 500 flutes from a stunning crystal champagne tower. Each flute will contain a cubic Zirconia "diamond"—but only one will contain a two-carat millennium diamond, valued at $20,000.

Mardi Gras
The Tremont Boston, 275 Tremont St., Boston (266-4351). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 8pm-12am. $55 in advance, $60 at the door. Black-tie optional. Feast on authentic Cajun delicacies, dance to the Dixieland sounds of the Hot Tamale Brass Band, and sip on a Hurricane while you relax in a French Quarter jazz club. The French Library and Cultural Center's Tour de Force and the Boston Lyric Opera's Opera Express, two groups of young professionals sharing their enthusiasm for France, opera nd culture, co-sponsor this New Orleans-style fest. Laissez les bons temps rouler!

Sunday, March 5

Strength Without Violence
Cambridge Racquet and Fitness Club, 215 First St., Cambridge (884-9799). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. 4-8pm. $100. Treat yourself to an evening of massage, facials, manicures and make-up applications at this special event benefiting the women and children of Harbor-COV. Sample the latest fitness trends—yoga, aerobics, pilates and more.

Boston Massacre Re-Enactment
Old State House, 206 Washington St., Boston (720-3290, ext. 25). See preview box for more information.

ED MALINTSKY (MASSACRE)

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The Black Rose
RÓISÍN DUBH

The purple shamrock

Monday, March 6

Beauty AIDS Show
Avalon, 15 Lansdowne St., Boston (450-1208). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. March 6. $20 in advance, $25 at the door. This fashion and variety show will bring Boston's prominent salons together to present creative hair and fashion vignettes.

Tuesday, March 7

Boston Wine Festival: Calera Wine Co. Seminar and Dinner
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE). www.bhh.com. *Through April 7.* See Feb. 23 for more information. •March 7-8, 6:30pm, $160. John Rowes Salon. Josh Jensen's traditionalist artisan-like approach of his many unblended wines has earned him numerous accolades. In these seminars he examines the art of pinot noir production, the terroir differences and the issue of ageability.

BSSC Mardi Gras Happy Hour
The Green Briar, 304-306 Washington St., Brighton (789-4070). 6-8pm. Celebrate Mardi Gras with the Boston Ski & Sports Club. Enjoy libations (Harpoon Beer) and socializing with New England's largest sport and social club.

International Boston Seafood Show
Hynes Convention Center, Boston (207-842-5599). www.bostonseafood.com. MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. March 7-9, 11am-6pm. North America's premier seafood tradeshow offers a variety of exhibits, demonstrations and presentations highlighting major trends in the seafood industry. Learn new recipes and seafood cooking tips.

Mardi Gras Madness
Dick's Last Resort, 55 Huntington Ave., Boston (26-8080). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. 7pm. Confetti will fly and strings of multi-colored beads will be flung as revelers party and dance to the music of Soul City. Don't miss the crawfish eating contest and the frozen hurricanes.

WWF Smackdown!
FleetCenter, Boston (931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. 7:30pm. $40, $30, $25 and $18. The World Wrestling Federation returns to the FleetCenter with another nationally-televised Smackdown event.

Volunteer

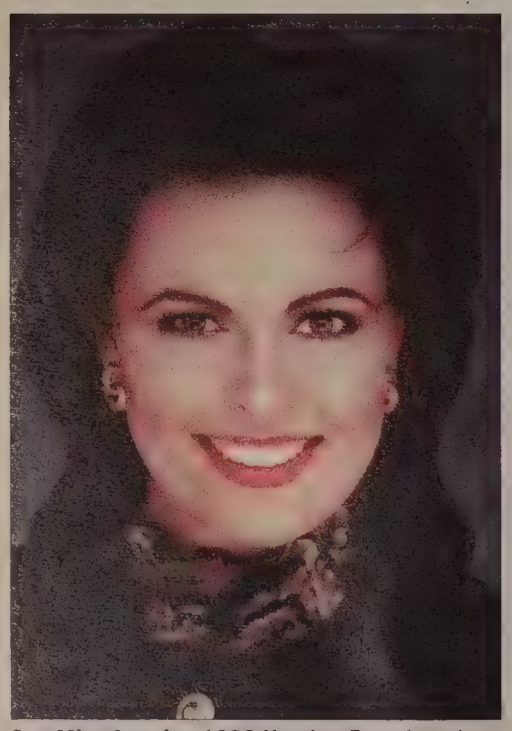
AVON Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk
(491-3329). Event date: June 2-4. Volunteers need to work on mass mailings, phone banking and data entry.

Boston Living Center
(236-1012). HIV/AIDS service organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

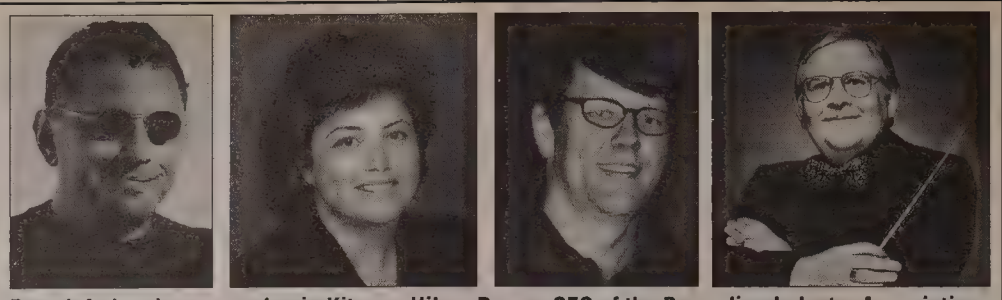
Boston-New York AIDS Ride
(859-8282, ext. 230). Volunteers needed for work on mass mailings, phone banking and other projects.

Friday Night Supper Program
Arlington Street Church, corner of Arlington and Boylston streets, Boston (536-7050, ext. 22). Need volunteers to help prepare, cook and serve meals on Fridays, 5-7pm.

Hyannis Port Challenge Info Session
International Bicycle Centers, 89 Brighton Ave., Allston (800-718-3536). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Feb. 24, 6pm. Join an 85-mile fundraising bike ride from Boston to Cape Cod, to be held May 20.



See Miss America 1999 Heather French at the High Hopes Diamond Gala, March 4.



From left, band manager Jamie Kitman; Hilary Rosen, CEO of the Recording Industry Association of America; Newbury Comics CEO Mike Dreese; and "Simpsons" composer Alf Clausen.

Preview

Music Career Expo

Aspiring musicians should be sure to check out the Music Career Expo at the Hynes Convention Center, Feb. 27. Among the exhibitors will be leaders from area and national music companies, including recording labels, entertainment companies, radio stations, music software and multimedia companies, CD and music distributors and instrument retailers.

Boston's three largest music colleges are offering this career development and job fair for music students, music college alumni and anyone interesting in a music career. Recording Industry Association of America CEO Hilary Rosen will speak along with "Simpsons" composer Alf Clausen, Adam Lewis of Great Northeast Productions, Newbury Comics CEO Mike Dreese, and Dave Matthews Band tour manager Michael McDonald, among many others. Diverse panels of these music professionals will discuss real-world strategies for success in all realms and genres of the music industry. Topics include "Attracting Agents and Managers," "Landing a Record Deal," and "Broadway Bound: Making It in Musical Theater." *Hynes Convention Center, 900 Boylston St., Boston (747-8970). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Feb. 27, 11:30am-10pm. $25 (free for students with ID).*

Hearts in Bloom Campaign
(800-662-1701). Deliver tulips on Feb. 7 and Feb. 9 for the American Heart Association.

St. Jude Century Challenge
(965-5262). Pledge to walk or run 100 miles now through April 30 and raise money for St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Seeks individuals to assist legal immigrants and refugees to become naturalized citizens.

Volunteer Fair
Northshore Mall Food Court, Peabody, Mass. (877-886-5868). Feb. 24, 10am-2pm. Reps from 25 North Shore agencies registered with United Way will showcase a variety of volunteer opportunities.

Youth Enrichment Services (YES)
412 Mass. Ave., Boston (267-5877). Seeks role models and outdoor leaders for Operation Ski Lift to take urban young people ages 8-18 skiing and snowboarding.

Sights to See

Boston Tea Party Ship and Museum
Congress St. Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Open daily, June-Aug., 9am-6pm; March-May and Sept.-Nov., 9am-5pm; closed Dec.-March. $8, $7 students, $4 children. You can dump your own bale into the harbor—and watch a museum guide scramble to retrieve it—at this replica of one of the ships emptied by colonists (disguised as Indians) during the Dec. 16, 1773, tea raid. Afterward, enjoy a cup of tax-free tea.

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Fifth Floor, Boston (353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), 8:30pm. Free. BU's astronomers are available to answer questions and assist with telescopes as you check out Orion, Cassiopeia and the Big Dipper.

Bunker Hill Monument
Monument Square, Charlestown (242-5641). Open daily 9am-5pm. Free. What's long and hard and shaped like a pencil? It's not what you think. It's the 221-foot monument that honors the men who died in the Battle of Bunker Hill. But an exhausting climb up 294 stairs reveals little more than a stunning view of I-93.

Christian Science World Headquarters
Mass. and Huntington Avenues, Boston (450-2000). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential. Tue.-Sat. 9:30am-4pm, Sun. 11am-2pm. Tour the Mother Church—a giant basilica that seats 3,000 worshippers—the Maparium, a cool, walk-through, stained-glass globe; a 700-foot-long reflecting pool; and a photo exhibit.

Copp's Hill Burial Ground
Hull and Snowhill Streets, Boston. MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Open dawn-dusk. Admission free. From Boston's second-oldest cemetery, you can see all the way across the Inner Harbor to Charlestown. Famous residents include the well-known Puritanical Mather family and Prince Hall, a prominent member of the free black community.

John Hancock Observatory
200 Clarendon St., Boston (572-6429). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open Mon.-Sat. 9am-11pm, Sun. 10am-11pm (May-Oct.) and noon-11pm (Nov.-April). Admission $4.50. The tallest building in New England (62 floors) offers much more than an awesome view. Listen to air-traffic controllers at Logan, test your knowledge of the city with a computer quiz, or relive some of Boston's most famous and infamous events—including the "Great Molasses Flood" of 1919, when a tank holding 3-4 million gallons of the sticky stuff exploded and turned the North End into a sea of molasses.

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (566-7937). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Wed.-Sun. 10 am-4:30pm. The birthplace and early boyhood home of the nation's 35th president.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat. 10am-2pm. Admission free. Alongside Boston's first Anglican church—a gloomy, granite apparition—you'll find a burial ground with equally ominous-looking headstones dating back to 1630. On Sundays, listen for the distinctive peal of the church bell cast by Paul Revere's foundry.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (635-3105). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Open daily 9am-5pm. Guided tours every half-hour, starting at 9am. Free. Known as the "Cradle of Liberty," Faneuil Hall—we're talking about the part above the eatery—was the site of many an angry man ranting and raving about the damn British in the mid-1700s. Today, you can check out the white-walled assembly room, but most people come here for the marketplace.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily 9 am-5pm. Free. Here, Paul Revere saw two lanterns shining on April 18, 1775, indicating that the British troops were crossing the Charles River to Lexington and Concord via boat. You remember... "One if by land, two if by sea."

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays 10am-4pm, weekends 10am-5pm. $3. A thousand fed-up men gathered in this church to decide whether or not to send three ships full of tea back to England. Guess what? They didn't. •*Voices of Protest* traces the use of Old South Meeting House over three centuries for religious, political and social debate. •Middays at the Meeting House, a lunchtime music series. Thursdays, 12:15-1pm. $4. •Sundays are free of charge throughout the month of February.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-10pm, Sun. noon-10pm. $4, $3 seniors and students. After that tiring, 50-floor elevator ascent, you deserve a drink at the Top of the Hub lounge before you check out Boston's only 360-degree view tower. On a good day, you can see New Hampshire. The view here is slightly better than that of rival John Hancock.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8am-6pm. Free. Designed by H.H. Richardson and constructed in 1877, the huge Romanesque church in Copley Square rests upon 4,500 submerged wooden pilings, which help hold up the church's massive tower. A shaded courtyard offers respite from the heavily-trafficked plaza. On Fridays at 12:15pm, stop by for a free organ concert.

Museums

Boston Public Library
700 Boylston St., Boston (536-5400). Mon.-Thu. 9am-9pm; Fri.-Sat. 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •Free Art and Architecture Tours of the BPL. Mon. 2:30pm, Tue. and Thu. 6pm. Meet at the Dartmouth Street entrance.

Boston Tea Party Ship & Museum
Congress Street Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. March-Nov., 9am-dusk. $7, $5.50 students, $3.50. Colonial-clad sailors take you aboard *The Beaver*, a replica of the smallest of the three ships involved in the infamous tea rebellion. Paul Revere leads the hourly tea throwing and explains all about the fateful day irate Bostonians poured out the tea in protest of the tax decree issued by British parliament. Try your hand at rope-tying too.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June Tue.-Sat. 10 am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm; June-Aug. daily 10am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm. $5, children and seniors $3: Follow the red and white signs to the mother of all milk bottles. As you walk under it you'll feel as diminutive as your munchkin companion. See *Arthur's World* from the popular television series and children's books. This infamous aardvark is one of many hands-on favorites. •*Build It!* •*Giant's Desktop* •*Hall of Toys* •*Boats Float!* •*Climbing Sculpture* and •*Japanese House.*

The Spirit of Sankofa is in Cambridge, Feb. 24.

Harriet Tubman House
566 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-8610). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. Weekdays 8am-8pm. Free admission. The Harriet Tubman Museum exhibits a collection of this influential black leader's achievements.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (929-4523). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily 9am-5pm (last film begins at 3:55pm). $8, students and seniors $6, children $4. This permanent collection on the life and legacy of President John F. Kennedy offers a recreated world of the early 1960s with period settings and 25 dramatic multimedia exhibits. •*Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy: First Lady.* Ongoing •*Treasures of the Kennedy Library.* A selection of the treasures, including sculpture, jewelry, paintings and documents. Through May 2000. •*Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy.* New ongoing exhibit.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (739-1200) www.afroamericanmuseum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays 10am-4pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.* The place is bustling after their recent endowment of more than $1 million to restore the meeting house's hallowed sanctuary. See the African Meeting House, the oldest black church in America.

AMATUL HANNAN (MASK)

Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, students and seniors $4, children $3; free to all Sat. 9am-12pm.* This Harvard museum is made up of four factions: The **Botanical Museum**, **The Museum of Comparative Zoology**, the **Mineral & Geological Museum**, and the **Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology**. A number of exhibitions tie together all four of these distinct collections. The most famous is the Botanical Museum for its glass flowers collection—more than 3,000 models of more than 480 plant species. At the Museum of Comparative Zoology, check out the 42-foot-long mounted Kronosaurus (a really big lizard) and countless stuffed insects. The Mineral & Geological Museum's got a 16,000 pound Brazilian amethyst geode, and there's the dollhouse-esque Worlds in Miniature display at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnography. •***Orchids: A Story of Seduction***. Through May 14. Human beings seem to find orchids irresistible, even addicting. This exhibition will explore some of the flowers' most interesting pollination strategies and the long history of collecting and research by Harvard scientists.

Museum of Our National Heritage
33 Marrett Road., Route 2A, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.mnh.org. *Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 12-5pm. Free admission.* Explore history through pop culture. Topics range from Revolutionary artifacts to the latest in jigsaw puzzle-solving techniques and American circus posters. •*Initiating America*, a historical look at fraternal organizations. Ongoing. •*George Washington, American Symbol*. Through Feb. 27. •*The Lynn Beach Painters, Art Along the North Shore*, 1880-1920. Feb. 19-Aug. 20.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu. 9am-5pm; Fri. 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children. Omni Theater, Hayden Planetarium or laser shows all $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children.* Find out how much you weigh on the moon, strap yourself into a space module or sift through sand on an archaeological dig. Enjoy 600 hands-on exhibits, including the *Theater of Electricity*, *Seeing Is Deceiving* and *Science in the Park* (Newtonian physics introduced through such accessible items as playground equipment and skateboards.) •*To See the Sea* explores the ocean from the perspective of a deep sea diver. •Now open: *Messages:* Discover why communication is central to everyday life. *Human Body Connection*: exhibits on anatomy, physiology and health. *The Light House: Beaming, Bouncing and Bending Light*: Learn the principles of optics, color and the nature of light with 18 hands-on activities. •*Reptiles: Real and Robotic*, opened Jan. 28. •*Virtual Egypt*. Through Feb. 27. •Mugar Omni Theater: *Mysteries of Egypt*. Through June. *Olympic Glory*, opened Oct. 29. (See Film for more information.)

Charles Hayden Planetarium
Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children. Time of show changes daily.* Get high! High up, that is. And (then) go see the stars and rock-music laser shows. Check out the ongoing out-of-this- world multimedia installations *Life and Death of the Sun* and *The Sky Tonight*, and enjoy daily laser shows to the music of the Beastie Boys, Pink Floyd, Korn, Tool, Jimi Hendrix, Nine Inch Nail, among others. It's a trip. •*Journey to the Edge of Space and Time*: Ideas once considered crazy (like black holes) are now the building blocks of new knowledge. What next? •*Welcome to the Universe*. Now open. •Friday Night Stargazing, 8:30-10pm. Free. Weather permitting.

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St. (in Larz Anderson Park), Brookline (522-6547). MBTA: D Green Line to Reservoir, to bus 51. April-Oct., Wed.-Sun. 10am-5pm; Nov.-March, Wed.-Sun. 10am-4pm. $5, $3 seniors and students. This 1888 carriage house is the automobile buff's paradise—and the country's oldest private collection of antique autos. Featured cars range from Fords and Corvettes to Cadillacs and Italian imports. •March 7: History and Community Lecture—Isabella Stewart Gardner.

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (720-3290). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily 9am-5pm. $3, students and seniors $2. Built in 1713, this original seat of colonial government was the place pre-Independence Bostonians first heard the Declaration of Independence read.

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (426-1812). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, bus 93 to Navy Yard. Nov.-April 30: Open daily 10am-5pm. Free. The stories of the individuals who authorized, built and served on the *USS Constitution*, the oldest commissioned warship afloat. Learn about its 200-year history hands on—hoist a sail, take the wheel, fire a cannon or swing in a hammock.

Orchids: A Story of Seduction **opens at Harvard Museum of Natural History, Feb. 14.**

Zoos & Gardens

Boston Common Ice Skating Pond
Frog Pond, Boston Common, Boston (635-2120). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park. Sun.-Thu. 10am-9pm; Fri.-Sat. 10am-10pm. $3 plus $5 for rentals. It's not quite Rockefeller Center, but it's still a lot of fun. The Frog Pond has opened for the season, with concessions, skate rentals, rest rooms and a warming area.

Franklin Park Zoo
1 Franklin Park Rd., Boston (442-2002). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open Oct.-March daily 10am-4pm; April-Sept. weekdays 10am-5pm, weekends and holidays 10am-6pm. Admission $6. A 72-acre oasis of green in the city with waterfalls, lush vegetation, gorillas, leopards, hippos and free-flying birds. •New: Giraffe Savannah and a baby western lowland gorilla, born Aug. 8.

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard, transfer to #71 or #73 bus. Open daily 8am-7pm (summer) and 8am-5pm (winter). Admission free. Rest in peace among the gravesites and crypts of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes, "Battle Hymn of the Republic" author Julia Ward Howe and Winslow Homer, among other famous Americans. A great place for bird watchers and botanists. •Feb. 26, 12pm: A birthday tribute to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (973-5200). www.neaq. org. *MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Early Sept.-June: Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. and holidays 9am-6pm. $12.50.* Boston's biggest fish bowl has much more than just goldfish. In the three-story saltwater tank swim turtles, sharks, eels and the occasional mermaid (or mer-male), who entertains crowds as he or she cleans the tank. Be sure to visit with the seals on your way in. •March 1: *Unforgettable Boston* premieres. This short movie highlights many of Bostn's favorite landmarks. $4.

The Future of Music?

Will record labels be replaced by URLs? Is the new Walkman a Palm Pilot? Why is a company called SpectraDisc making CDs that self-destruct?
You'll find out the answers to these questions and more at a daylong conference on how Internet technology is revolutionizing the music industry, Feb. 25. Harvard's Berkman Center for Internet & Society and the Electronic Frontier Foundation will present talks with activists, musicians and music industry experts, including former Grateful Dead lyricist John Perry Barlow, hip-hop activist and Public Enemy #1 Chuck D., and NPR's Christopher Lydon from "The Connection." The conference culminates in an evening concert at the House of Blues. *To register, visit* www.cyber.law.harvard.edu/events/netmusic.html. *Austin Hall, Harvard Law School, Cambridge (495-7547). Feb. 25, 9am-5pm. Free.*

performing arts

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Theater. Or e-mail information to performing@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Theater

JUST OPENED

Beauty Queen of Leenane
Trinity Repertory Company, 201 Washington St., Providence, RI (401-351-4242). Tue. 7pm; Wed.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. Through March 5. $26-$38. Set in Ireland's rural west, this dark comedy tells the story of 40-year-old Maureen who is desperate to flee the circumstances of an oppressive home life with her manipulative and overbearing mother. Her big chance to escape comes in the form of an old love interest who has returned for a visit. Fearing abandonment, the mother plots to keep Maureen from leaving.

Come Back Little Sheba
Delvena Theater, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 3pm. March 2-19. $16. William Inge's most poignant and heartfelt drama tells the story of a chiropractor who gave up his dream of becoming a famous doctor to marry his frowsy wife. It is not until a young female boarder enters their life that they stop living in the past.

A Few Good Men
Institute of Contemporary Art, 959 Boylston St., Boston (292-6406). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Thu.-Sat. 8pm, Sun. 7pm. Feb. 24-27; March 2-5. $22.50. The Academy Award-winning screenplay by Aaron Sorkin is perhaps best remembered for the famous Jack Nicholson line, "You can't handle the truth!" and the play, according to director Jerry Bisantz, sticks incredible close to the screenplay.

The Mysteries
Revels and Shakespeare & Company, Cyclorama, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Fri. 8pm; Sat. 3pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm. March 3-12. $25. Theater, traditional music and audience participation are combined in Tony Harrison's contemporary version of the stories of the creation of the world, Adam and Eve, Abraham and Isaac, the great flood, the first murder and the Christmas Nativity.

Perfect Days
Sugan Theatre Company, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun. 3pm. Feb. 25-March 18. $18-$22. An uninhibited Scottish celebrity hairdresser, in a truly contemporary dilemma, yearns for a baby as she stares down the barrel of her 40th birthday. This comedy is about love and one woman who goes all out to get what she really, really wants...until life throws her a few unexpected surprises.

Smokey Joe's Cafe—The Songs of Leiber and Stoller
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. Feb. 22-Feb. 27. $35-$65. The musical celebrates the world of first kisses and last dances, hot summer nights and cool midnight struts, blue-light diners and red-hot rock 'n' roll. Enjoy such hits as "Hound Dog," "Love Potion #9," "Stand By Me," "Yakety Yak," "There Goes My Baby," "On Broadway" and "Jailhouse Rock."

The Swan
Suffolk University Studio Theatre, Archer Building, 55 Temple Street, fourth floor, Boston (573-8680). Feb. 24-25, 8pm. $5. A woman....a milkman...a swan—the classic love triangle? The Swan is a surrealistic bedtime romance for grownups.

Twelfth Night
Merrick Theater, Brandeis University, Waltham (781-736-4200). Commuter Rail to Brandeis/Roberts. Thu.-Sat. 8pm; Sun., 2pm and 7pm. Feb. 22-27. $7-$11. This frolicsome comedy that Shakespeare wrote to celebrate a time of midwinter revel revolves around the shipwrecked separation of twins. As they arrive, unbeknownst to each other, on the shores of a happy never-never land, their world becomes a whirlwind of maistaken identities, misguided passions, duels and practical jokes.

It's all about women at the Women on Top Festival at Boston Center for the Arts, Feb. 23-March 19.

Preview

Women on Top Festival

This annual festival features a variety of theatrical pieces written and performed by the area's leading female theater artists. This year's celebration includes more than 50 artists and five featured plays:

• Get Rid of the Roaches by Jacqui Parker
Emerging from one corner of African American music, this play weaves together the lives and loves of the popular female singing group, the Quintessants.
Feb. 25, 7:30pm; March 6, 9-11, 7:30pm; March 12, 2pm.

• The Me in the Mirror by Paul Kahn with Connie Panzarino
This play traces the remarkable life of Connie Panzarino, Jamaica Plain artist, activist and lesbian, as she negotiates a path between her severe physical disabilities (she now has use only of her facial muscles and right thumb), her troubled family life, her love affair with *Born on the Fourth of July*'s Ron Kovic and her pioneering work in the disability rights movement. *Feb. 27, 2pm; March 2-4, 7:30pm; March 5, 2pm.*

• Eve's Version by Deborah Lubar
With her usual wit and outrageousness, Lubar appears as an aging, no-nonsense Eve who remembers the pain and beauty of her growing consciousness, and recounts with great humor and compassion her complex relationships with Adam, Snake, God and the garden itself. *Feb. 24, March 17-18, 7:30pm; March 19, 2pm.*

• The Really Big Wedding Dress by Julie Rold
A loving theatrical send-up of country music. Lorrie Jean Poole may be the prettiest girl in Owensboro, Kentucky, but she still can't get her man. What's a girl to do? Luckily, there's no problem on earth that the right dress won't solve. *Feb. 26, 9:30pm; Feb. 27, 7pm; March 13, 7:30pm; March 16, 7:30pm; March 17-18, 9:30pm.*

A Night of Quickies: An evening of short plays by six women playwrights.
• A Russian Tea-Party by Rosanna Yamagiwa Alfaro. A darkly comic take on sibling rivalry. • Dead by Lin Haire-Sargeant. When sisters Annie and Louise are snowbound in their house in the country, the long-time power struggle between them becomes a matter of life and death...or does it? •The 12:22 London from Victoria/Brighton by Geralyn Horton. A female executive—garrulous and inebriated—makes her way through a crowded commuter train and manages to salvage the last vestiges of her self-respect before her station stop. •The Lesson by Melinda Lopez. A female construction worker's self-defense. •Men Are From Milwaukee, Women Are From Phoenix by M. Lynda Robinson. Satirizing the Byzantine attempts at communication between men and women. •The Little Death of a Salesman by Sheri Wilner. The classic American tragedy seen through the eyes of Willy Loman's lover. *Feb. 26, 7:30pm; Feb. 28, 7:30pm; March 5, 7pm; March 10-11, 10:30pm; March 12, 7pm.*
All performances take place at: *Black Box Theater, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Feb. 23-March 19 $45 festival pass; $17.50 individual shows.*

NOW RUNNING

A Couple of Blaguards
Terrace Room in the Boston Park Plaza Hotel, Arlington St., Boston (931-2787). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. Playing through the end of March. $38.50. This two-man comedy by Pulitzer Prize winning author Frank McCourt and his brother, best-selling author Malachy McCourt, is an autobiographical tale. The show spans from the brothers' years growing up poor in Ireland to their journey to a better life in America.

Anne of Green Gables
Wheelock Family Theatre, 200 The Riverway, Boston (734-4760). Fri. 7:30pm; Sat.-Sun. 3pm. Through Feb. 27. $10-$17. The musical based on the L. M. Montgomery classic. A couple wants to adopt an orphan boy to help with the farm chores, but the orphanage sends Anne Shirley instead—a talkative girl who is not at all what the pair have in mind. Anne wins the hearts of the couple.

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed.-Thu. 8pm; Fri.-Sat. 7pm and 10pm; Sun. 3pm and 6pm. $39-$49. A truly unique theater experience. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to get its point across with tribal rock music, performance art, humorous antics, props (including plastic tubes, day-glo PVC pipes and twinkies) and three men painted blue.

Communicating Doors
Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Thu. 7:30pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 4pm and 8pm; Sun. 3pm. Through March 12. $27 weekdays and matinees, $31 Fri. and Sat. Alan Ayckbourn, commonly referred to as the British Neil Simon, has fashioned this sprightly comedy in the tradition of his earlier works. Set in a London hotel suite in 2014, 1994 and 1974, this play manages to take us by surprise—a mixture of pastiche *Psycho* and time-warp comedy that optimistically suggests that, if only we could foresee the future, we could change it.

Full Circle
American Repertory Theatre, Loeb Stage, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-8300). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. Through March 19. $24-$57. Out of the chaos of high-speed capitalism and nose-diving economies emerges a hapless Manhattan socialite saddled with an abandoned child. Based on an ancient Chinese fable, Charles Mee's play is set in turbulent 1989 Europe, just as the Berlin wall is crashing down.

Loot
American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-8300). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. Through March 15. $24-$57. Master of black comedy, Joe Orton, tells the tale of Hal, who robs a bank and hides the booty in his mother's coffin. Who will discover it first—the crooked detective or the homicidal nurse?

Low Flying Aircraft
Boston Theatre Works, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Comm. Ave., Boston (728-4321). MBTA: B Green Line to BU Central. Through March 5. A moving piece about a family's journey toward understanding the mechanics of biology and overcoming the desperate downward spiral of bodies in motion.

Phantom
Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton (244-0169). Thu.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Through March. 12. $19. Arthur Kopit and Maury Yeston are obsessed with the unanswered questions in Gaston Leroux's novel, *The Phantom of the Opera*. In this musical, they create characters of depth and substance—the way the story was mean to be heard with in the world of turn-of-the-century French opera.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri. 8pm ; Sat. 6:30pm and 9:30pm; Sun. 3pm and 7:30pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This hilarious whodunit is set in a unisex hair salon. The production holds the record as the longest-running play in the history of the Boston theater.

Temptation
The Peabody House Theatre, 277 Broadway, Somerville (625-1300). Fri.-Sat. 8pm. Through March 4. $15. Dissident playwright-turned-Czechoslovakian president, Vaclav Havel is no stranger to the triumph of the human will over oppression. *Temptation* is the story of a modern-day Faust whose interests in the Black Arts bring him under the scrutiny of his "objective" and strictly scientific superiors. Havel's outrageous comedy tells of a world where freedom of thought is subversive and the Devil himself may be an informer.

WIT
Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont St., Boston (931-2787). Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7:30pm. Through Feb. 27. $25-$62.50. Former *Who's the Boss?* star **Judith Light** portrays Dr. Vivian Bearing, an uncompromising and brilliant poetry professor, who has been diagnosed with a life-threatening illness. Only the sonnets of John Donne provide her with a respite from the ferocity of modern medicine.

UNIVERSITY THEATER

A Doll's House
Ruth Nagel Jones Theatre, Alumnae Hall, Wellesley College, Wellesley (781-283-1000). Thu. 7pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Feb. 24-27. $10. A young woman is forced to come to terms with her own immaturity and make life-changing decisions that affect not only herself but all those around her in Henrik Ibsen's 1997 Tony Award-winning production.

The Elephant Man
Emerson Brimmer Studio Theatre, 69 Brimmer St., Boston (824-8000). Feb. 23-26, 8pm; Feb. 26-27, 2pm. Inspired by the true story of John Merrick, whose deformed appearance masked the dignity and human spirit within.

The Imaginary Invalid
Spingold Theater Center, Brandeis University, Waltham (736-4200). Commuter rail to Brandeis/Roberts. Tue.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. Feb. 22-27. $9.50-$13.50.

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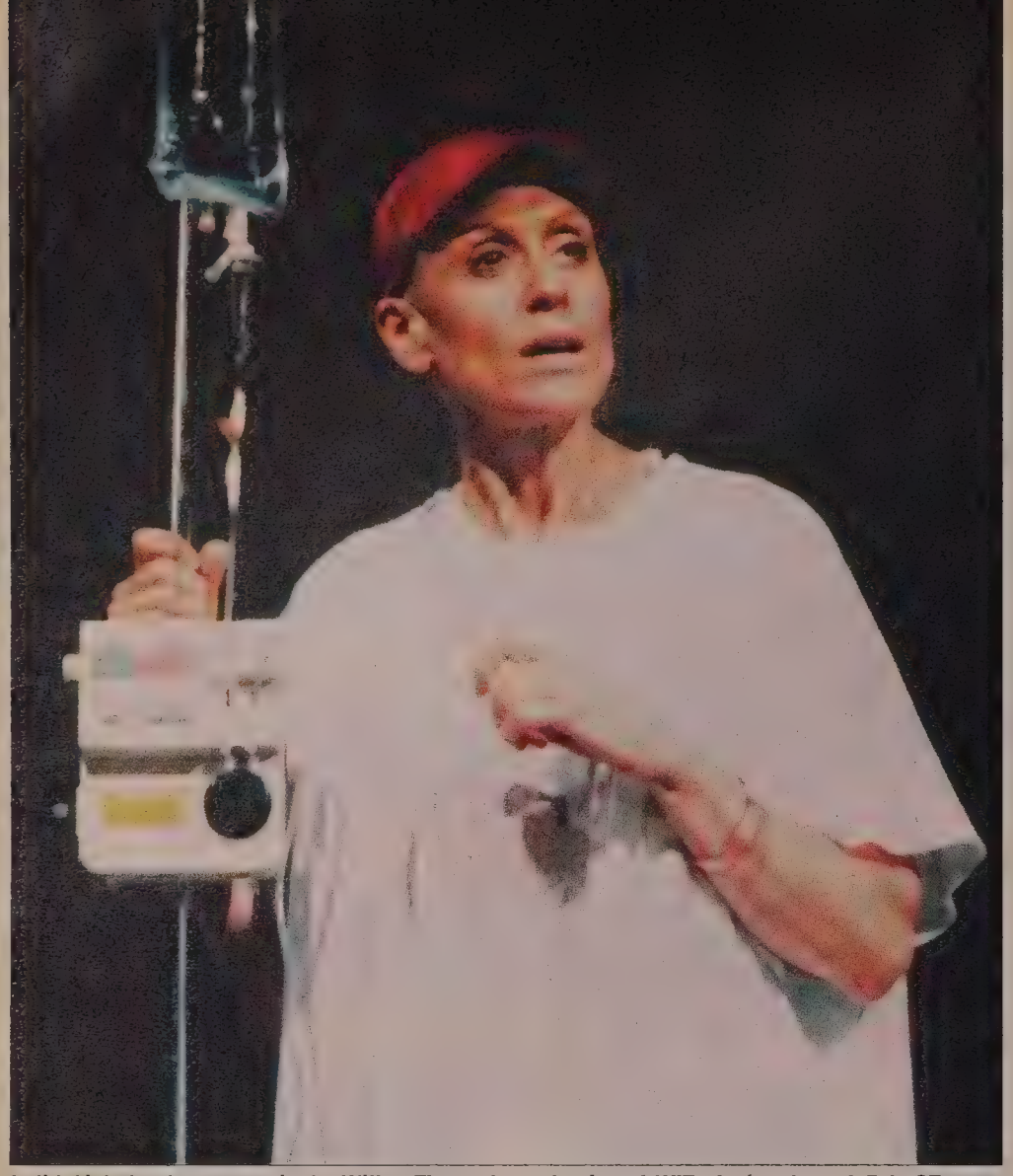

Judith Light battles cancer in the Wilbur Theatre's production of *WIT*, playing through Feb. 27.

The famous hypochondriac in this classic farce by Moliere not only complains of a million imaginary ills, but also of the astronomical amounts of his monthly apothecary bills.

COMING SOON

ART

Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (931-2787). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2p and 7:30pm. March 7-26. $45-$65. **Judd Hirsch** stars in this wickedly witty portrait of modern art and old-fashioned friendship as three prosperous middle-aged, longtime friends come to blows over the value of a very expensive piece of art.

Taller Than a Dwarf

Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont St., Boston (931-2787). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7:30pm. March 7-19. $47-$68.50. **Matthew Broderick** and **Parker Posey** star in this new comedy, set in New York City, about an average couple at the beginning of the millennium who learn the new rules of the American dream.

INTERACTIVE THEATER

The Elvis Files

Club Cabaret at Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Feb. 27, 7:30pm. $25 (includes light dinner). Find out what really happened to "the King" in this interactive, hilarious, intergalactic murder mystery. Come watch special agents Wolf Molder and Deena Sully team up with Lt. Colombus to help solve the Crime Scene of the Millennium. Guest list includes look-a-likes Madonna, Cher, Michael Jackson, Austin Powers, Joan Quivers and the guest of honor, the King.

Medieval Manor

246 East Berkeley St., Boston (423-4900). MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. Mon., Wed., Thu., Fri. 8pm; Sat. 5pm and 9:30pm; Sun. 6pm. Ongoing. $9.60-$32. Eat, drink and be merry at a Renaissance dining experience. Don't worry about etiquette. You won't find knives and forks, and the soup of the day is in your face—literally.

Mystery Cafe

290 Congress St., Boston (781-320-0040). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Dinner and show: Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm. Ongoing. $34. Saturdays: The interactive murder mystery, *The Devil Made Me Do it*, a heavenly mystery in a tropical setting. Solve the crime and win the super sleuth prize.

Mystery Cruise

Long Wharf, Boston (781-320-0040). June 25, 7pm (boarding). Cruise departs 7:30pm. $49/person, includes dinner and cruise. Gather clues during a cruise through the Harbor, meet characters and interrogate suspects as you attempt to piece together the mystery.

Nonna's Cruise to Nowhere

Locations around the Greater Boston area (781-933-1363). $35/includes dinner. These folks have taken everyone's favorite Italian grandmother (Nonna) and placed her on an imaginary cruise ship, along with her zany family, after misleading Nonna into thinking she's going back home to Italy.

Dance

SHOWS AND EVENTS

The British Are Coming

The Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. March 2-12. $12.50-$73. The Boston Ballet brings together works by two Brits: Sir Kenneth MacMillan's *Winter Dreams* and Michael Corder's *Danses Concertantes*. *Winter Dreams* is a one-act ballet based on Chekov's play, *Three Sisters*, which tells the story of love and repression in the last year of the czar, and is danced to music by Tchaikovsky. *Danses Concertantes* is choreographed to Stravinsky's chamber orchestra piece of the same name.

The Moses Project

Emerson Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (876-4275). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. March 3-5. $25-$38. An artful interpretation by local composer Walter Robinson, this synergy of African-American and Jewish traditions tells the biblical story of Moses in a high-energy, soulful blend of gospel, jazz, step dance, hip hop, chorus and blues.

Noche Flamenca

Emerson Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (876-4275). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Feb. 25-27. $25-$38. Eight exceptional dancers, musicians and singers evoke the raw, steamy atmosphere of Spain's *cafe cantantes* in a celebration of the human spirit expressed through flamenco. First premiered in New York in 1993, *Noche Flamenca* features three of Spain's most renown traditional Flamenco dancers.

JOIN IN

Club Joy

533 Washington Street, Boston (354-5780). Saturday nights. Boston's newest Latin night spot now offers classes. Jam'nastics staff teaches salsa merengue, bachata and more.

Second Leap Year Dance Marathon

The Dance Complex, 536 Mass Ave., Cambridge (547-9363). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Feb. 26. 7pm - 7am. $10 door, $50 pledges. www.cambridge.zami.com/dance-complex. Shake off the winter blues with and get crazy at this 12-hour, sunset to sunrise dance-a-thon. Live bands range from folk to funk to reggae to Latin will keep you on your toes all night long. Refreshments include lots of coffee!

Israeli Folk Dancing

Temple Kehillath Israel, 384 Harvard Ave., Brookline (484-4282). MBTA: D Green Line to Longwood. Sundays, lessons begin at 11-12 pm. $5. Come show off your moves with the best Israeli folk dancers.

Lindy Hop Swing

Lower Falls Community Center, 545 Grove St., Newton Lower Falls (508-435-2363). Six week session starts Feb. 27, 6pm, $50. Before you know it (or after six weeks of classes), you'll be doing the original form of the jitterbug and swing in your sleep. No partner necessary!

Saturdays at Ryles Jazz Club

Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Saturdays, 9pm-1:30am, $12; $10 after 11:30pm. Join in a variety of dance moves—here you'll find jazzy mambos, swing dancing, cheeky cha chas and sassy salsa numbers.

TICKETS

Bostix

(723-5181) www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of Faneuil Hall); Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth); and Harvard Square (in the Holyoke Center arcade at 1350 Mass. Ave). Same-day tickets half price.*

Next Ticketing

(423-NEXT) www.boston.com/next.

Ticketmaster

(931-2000) www.ticketmaster.com.

Out of Town Tickets

(247-1300 or 800-442-1854) A good place to get tickets if a show is sold out at the box office.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors

Submit updated listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail information to comedy@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the performances or comedians. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Comedy Connection

245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (248-9700). www.comedyconnectionboston.com. *MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed. 8pm; Thu. 8:30pm; Fri. and Sat. 8pm, 10:15pm; Sun. 7pm. $8-$10 (weekend prices vary).* The oldest comedy club in Boston draws big-name, national comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •Feb. 23: Don Gavin and Steve Hurley. •Feb. 24, 8:30pm, $10: Frank Santos, the "R-rated Hypnotist." •Feb. 25, 8pm, $19 and 10:15pm, $17: **Dom Irrera**, Comedy Central's "Offsides." •Feb. 26, $21: **Dom Irrera**, "Badda Bing Badda Boom." •Feb. 27, 8pm, $12: The Black Comedy Explosion with Johnathan Gates, Freddie Rich and Cool Herm. •Feb. 28: Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox. •March 1: Steve Hurley. •March 2, 8:30pm, $10: Frank Santos, the "R-rated Hypnotist." •March 3, $19: **Bobby Collins**, VH1's "Standup Spotlight." •March 4, $22: **Bobby Collins**. •March 5, 8pm, $12: The Black Comedy Explosion hosted by Johnathan Gates. •March 6: Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox. •March 7: Robbie Printz.

The Comedy Studio at the Hong Kong

1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu.-Sun. 8pm. $5-$7. Sketch comedy troops and local comedians perform. •Feb. 24: Thursday Night Fights starring Tim McIntire with special guests Kyria Abrams and Jay Savage. •Feb. 25: PS Absurdo with Eugene Mirman and guest Steve Calechman. •Feb. 26: Stand-up comedy starring Steve Calechman and Kyria Abrams. Hosted by Rick Jenkins. •Feb. 27, 6pm: Sacrificing Virgins. 10 comics do it for the first time. 8pm: Katie Grady with Tom Caswell. •March 2: Tim McIntire featuring Ira Proctor and Mike LaChance. •March 3: Eugene Mirman from HBO's Comedy Arts Festival with Craig Zeltzar and Brendon Small. •March 4: Rick Jenkins' new talent showcase. •March 5: Comics Workout.

Dick Doherty's Comedy Escape Comedy Vault

Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun. 9pm. $10. Features local stand-up comedians. Thursdays: Stand-up comedy. Fridays and Saturdays: Dick Doherty's Comedy Pro Tour. Sundays: Open mike night.

Nick's Comedy Stop

100 Warrenton St., Boston (482-0930). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Fri. 8:30pm; Sat. 7:45pm and 10pm; Sun. 8pm. $8-$14. The talent here is not quite as big-name as the Comedy Connection, but the crowds are just as enthusiastic, and you're guaranteed to leave with a smile on your face. Wednesdays: Open mike at 8:30pm. •Feb. 24, 8:30pm: Teddy Bergeron, Rich Ceisler and Johnny Pizzi. •Feb. 25-26, 9pm: Rich Ceisler, John Pizzi and Johnny K.

IMPROVISATIONAL COMEDY & MAGIC

Improv Asylum

216 Hanover St., Boston (263-6887). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Shows: Thu. 8pm; Fri. and Sat. 8pm and 10pm. Main Stage: $10-$15. Now playing on the main stage is the critically acclaimed improvisational and sketch comedy show.

ImprovBoston at Back Alley Theater

1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1253). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troop makes things up as they go along. Fri.-Sat. 8pm ($12) and 10:30pm ($12). Sun, 2pm ($7). •Fridays and Saturdays: 90 minutes of wholesome fun with scenes, games, original music and lots of audience participation. Sundays: family matinee. •Thursdays, 8pm: **Sitcom**. A fully-improvised show based on suggestions from the studio audience and an on-stage computer. 10pm: **Open Improv Jam**. All visitors of any skill level are invited to participate in a no-pressure, fun-filled atmosphere where everybody gets to play. •Fridays, 8pm: ImprovBoston. 10:30pm: TheatreSports Boston vs. Sitcom. Best of five match. •Saturdays, 8pm and 10:30pm: ImprovBoston.

Magicians & Spirits

Green Street Grill, 280 Green St., Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Shows every Tuesday at 9pm. $10 cabaret show ($5 with dinner). Billed as "Intimate Nights of Sleights of Hand," Green Street Grill patrons enjoy close-up magic as two or three magicians perform tricks behind the bar and among the crowd. At 10pm, the cabaret show begins upstairs with local and national magicians reading minds, making birds appear out of nowhere and floating objects above the stage.

COMEDY SHOWS

Joey & Maria's Comedy Wedding

Tremont House Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston or Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Fri. and Sat., 7:30pm. Ongoing. $39-$45. Join the fun at this absolutely zany Italian wedding. Big hair and blue tuxedos optional.

The Orange Show: We Got Nothing But Love for You, Baby

Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (524-5845). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Fri., 8:30pm and 10:30pm; Sat., 8:30pm. Through Feb. 27. $12.50. Who needs a heart when a heart can be broken? For that matter, who needs an arm, a spine, a coccyx? The much acclaimed Orange Show avoids that question and many more in its attempt to understand love this February.

SitcomBoston

The Works Theater, 255 Elm St., Somerville (538-3205). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Fridays and Saturdays, 8pm and 10:30pm. A fully improvised show that looks exactly like an hour of prime-time television.

Badda bing, badda boom! Funnyman Dom Irrera is at the Comedy Connection Feb. 25-26.

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art

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information for gallery and museum listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail to arts@improper.com. *Include opening and closing dates, nearest T stops and price of admission, if any, and telephone numbers. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a partial list of the largest art museums, art institutes and galleries in the Boston area. Listings following bullets are temporary exhibitions.

Museums

Art Institute of Boston
700 Beacon St., Boston (262-1223). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun. 12-5pm. •Coinciding with Boston's city-wide cultural celebration of Egypt, 19th- and 20th-century *Photographic Views of Giza*, will be on view through March 19. •Lawrence Watson, singer, songwriter and professor, performs a special show called, "What Good is a Song? The Route to Roots" on Feb. 26, 8pm in the Marran Theater, 29 Everett St., Cambridge. •Digital artist Carmin Karasic, who produces Internet art installations and online performance pieces, speaks on Feb. 24, 7pm, $3.

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat. 10am-12pm. The Sackler houses ancient Islamic and Asian art, an array of Neolithic bronze Buddhas, Greek pottery, and Hellenistic and Roman sculpture. •*Wall Drawing #830* features four isometric figures with dynamic colors. Ongoing. •*Ben Shahn's New York: The Photography of Modern Times* showcases the artist's experimentation with the social documentary tradition. It includes more than 150 photographs, ink drawings and easel paintings. Through April 30.

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat. 10am-12pm. It's better to visit the Fogg the same day you go to the Sackler, as admission includes all of Harvard's museums. Highlights include van Gogh's self portrait and Bellini's clay figures.

Gibson House Museum
137 Beacon St., Boston (267-6338). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Guided tours every Sat. and Sun. at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm. $5. With 75 percent of its original items in place, the museum allows visitors to understand 19th-century domestic life and design. Ongoing.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (266-5152). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Wed.-Sun. 12-5pm; Thu. 12-9pm. $6, $4 students and seniors. •A new exhibition marks the first American museum survey exhibition of the work of the celebrated British artist Cornelia Parker. It includes more than 60 of works made in the last decade. Parker will also create a new charcoal installation specifically for this ICA exhibition. Through April 9. Free guided walkthroughs take place each Thursday at 6:30pm: •Feb. 24: Jeanne Stanton, collector •March 2: Mags Harris, faculty, School of the MFA.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (566-1401). www.boston.com/gardner. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun. 11am-5pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, under 18 free. Guided on Fridays 2:30pm.* This 15th-century Venetian palace is home to more than 2,500 objects and twice as many flowers. Boston's most famous museum is named for the house's owner, Isabella Stewart Gardner (1840-1924), an infamously incorrigible individualist. Only after her death was her house completely opened to the public. Now everyone can see the works of Titian, Botticelli and Matisse, as well as furniture and architectural details from European churches and palaces.

MIT Museum
265 Mass Ave., Cambridge (253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5pm, weekends 12-5pm. $3, $1 for students, seniors and children. Where else would you be but at MIT when you contemplate Morton G. Bradley Junior's *Math in 3-D: Geometric Sculptures?* The museum's other permanent exhibits include *Flashes of Inspiration: The Work of Harold Edgerton*, and *Gestural Engineering*. Ongoing. •*Cultural Engineering: The Sculptures of Arthur Ganson*, the mechanical engineer/choreographer. Ongoing. •Selections from the museum's holography collection. Ongoing. •On the last Sunday of the month, explore oceanography, astronomy, the science of buildings and other mysteries of science with interactive activities for all ages from 2-4pm. Call 452-2827 for details. •*A Day in the Life of an Astronaut*, *LEGO Car Rally*, *Out There!* and *Observing the Observers* show through the spring. •*Selfportrait.map*, digitally manipulated chromogenic prints by Lilla LoCurto and Bill Outcault, includes 18 large-scale works as well as a computer station. Through April 9. •*Jane and Louise Wilson: Stasi City and Crawl Space* shows through April 9.

Museum of Bad Art
580 High St., Dedham (325-8224). Mon.-Fri. 6:30-10pm, Sat. and Sun. 1-10pm. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. The one and only museum that boasts "art too bad to be ignored." A favorite is *Lady Chardonnay*, a piece illuminating a poodle-head dancer.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Mon.-Tue. 10am-4:45pm; Wed. 10am-9:45pm, Thu.-Fri. 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. 10am-5:45pm. West Wing only Thu.-Fri. 5-9:45pm. $12, students and seniors $10.* The MFA has earned its rep as the second-best run art museum in the nation (after the Met) with its top-notch exhibitions, educational programs and galleries of African, Oceanic and American art. •*View From Above: The Photographs of Bradford Washburn* consists of some 80 black-and-white photographs by mountain climber, explorer, cartographer and aerial photographer Bradford Washburn. Through April 30. •*Michael Mazur: A Print Retrospective* examines more than 90 pieces of the Boston-based print artist's work. Through May 14. It shows with an exhibition of his recent paintings. Through June 15.

The Peabody House Museum
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (496-1027). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5 adults; $4 students and seniors; $3 children 3-13. No fee Sat. mornings until 12pm. •A brand new exhibit, *Heads and Tales: Adornments from Africa*, is an exhibition of rarely seen sculptures and artifacts from the Peabody Museum collections, many of them more than 100 years old, which highlight the messages communicated by adornments of the head in sub-Saharan Africa. Through Oct. 1, 2001.

The Revolving Museum
288-300 A St., Boston (439-8617). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed.-Fri. 12-5pm. •The next show is *Revelation for Revolution*, a millennial exhibition of members' work juried by Rebecca Hoffberger, the founder of the American Visionary Art Museum in Baltimore. Through May 2.

Bill Brauer's *Models with Galatea* shows as part of the Chase Gallery's exhibition, *Revealing the Nude.*

Galleries
FINE ART

Allston Skirt Gallery
119 Braintree St., Allston (254-7027). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm and by appointment. •*Here Comes Rhody*, guest-curated by Dike Blair, features work by Matthew Chase, Maia Cannon, Molly V. Smith, Joe Bradley and Tori Duncan. Through Feb. 26. •*Drawing* features work by Jill Baroff, Meryl Blinder, Heather Hobler-Keene, Bronlyn Jones and Stefana McClure. March 3-April 29.

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (536-4465). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •*New Paintings* by Reed Kay shows through March 1. •Wlodimierz Ksiazek's *New Paintings* shows March 4-29.

Andrea Marquit Fine Arts
38 Newbury St., Boston (859-0190). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Wed.-Sat. 11am-5pm. Open by appointment only through February. Shows contemporary masters and emerging artists and acts as a consulting group for corporate and private collectors.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (247-0610). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 11am-5:30pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •Anthony James' *Paintings* show through Feb. 28. •*Vestiges* by Ron Ehrlich shows March 2-30.

The Artists Foundation Galleries
516 East Second St., Boston (464-3559). MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. Sat., 12-5pm and by appointment. •In the Main Gallery: *Beat Street Breakdown*, an installation by Terence Hammonds •In the Office Gallery: *Girl Vanity* by Nina Dunn •In the Video Room: *Translators*, videos by Jackie Goss. Feb. 26-April 1.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., 5th Floor, Boston (262-4490). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. Paintings, drawings, prints and sculpture by emerging and established artists. •*Saol LeWitt: Sculpture Gouaches.* Through March 15.

Barton-Ryan Gallery
38 Newbury St., 4th floor, Boston (867-0662). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5:30pm, Sat., 11am-5pm and by appointment. The gallery specializes in American and European works of art by emerging and established artists. •Jacqueline Ott's *murmuring blue...(veiled): Paintings and Works on Paper* shows Feb. 29-April 1.

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (482-2477). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. •David Hilliard's *New Photographs* show through March 4. •Heide Fasnacht's *New Sculpture & Drawings* shows March 8-April 1.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm. Boston's only gallery dedicated to contemporary folk and self-taught art. •*Southern Accents: Contemporary Southern Folk Art Part II* is an exhibition of paintings, drawings and sculptures by nine artists including Mary Whitfield, Woodie Long, R.A. Miller and Purvis Young. Through March 4. •*Intuitive Journeys: Artists from Gateway Crafts*, shows March 8-April 22.

Bromfield Gallery
560 Harrison Ave., Boston (451-3605). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm. •David Frazer's *New Paintings* display in Gallery I and Teresa Dietrich's *Boston Architecture Collages* in Gallery II. Through Feb. 26. •George Arnold's *Sculpture* shows with Mary Akylas Harman's *Good for Body*, paintings and prints. March 1-25.

Cambridge Art Association
25 Rear Lowell St., Cambridge (876-0246). Tue.-Sat. 11am-5pm., Sun. 1-5pm. A small gallery with a permanent collection of local art. •The next rotating exhibition is *Dreams and Fantasies*, which runs Feb. 29-March 21.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (236-2255). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm. •*Painted Glass* features work by Walt Lieberman and Akihiro Isogai. Through March 4.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (859-7222). Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •*Revealing the Nude: A Timeless Passion*, paintings by 14 artists. Through Feb. 28. •Marilyn Ruseckas' *New Pastels*. March 8-April 3.

Child's Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (266-1108). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri. 9am-6pm; Mon. and Sat. 10am-5pm. American and European paintings, prints, drawings and sculpture, from 1500 through 1950. •Now showing *Pleasures of Winter*, *Selections from the Print Annual* and *Prints of Francisco Goya*, through March 4. •Three upcoming shows display simultaneously: *Women Artists, The Beauty of Riuns* and *New York Nocturne* show March 13-April 22.

Clark Gallery
145 Lincoln St., Lincoln (781-259-8303). Tue.-Sat. 10am-5pm. The gallery represents 30 artists, primarily regional. Media regularly include glass, ceramics, oil, acrylic on canvas, wood and studio furniture. •*New Sculpture* by Bruce Barry and *Paintings* by Illana Manelson show through Feb. 24. •Jacqueline Bishop's *Terra* shows with *Metal X Five*, a group show organized by Jamie Bennett and Alexandra Rozenman's *New Paintings*. Feb. 29-March 23.

Clifford•Smith Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 3rd Floor, Boston (695-0255). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing, transfer to bus #49, get off at Washington and East Berkeley. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5pm. •Jason Young's *New Paintings* show through Feb. 26. •Peter Harris' *Lick*, new photographs, shows Feb. 29-March 25.

Copley Society of Boston
158 Newbury St., Boston (536-5049). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat. 10:30am-5:30pm; Sun. 1-5pm. America's oldest non-profit art association is a platform for young and established artists alike. •*Copley Artists*, a juried exhibition, shows through Feb. 26. •*The Twelfth Annual Student Show* shows March 2-25.

Creiger Dane Gallery
36 Newbury St., Boston (536-8088). www.creigerdane.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm.* •*New Work, New York* is a group exhibition featuring the works of emerging artists based in New York. Through Feb. 26. •A shared exhibition features *The Far & Away*, the manipulated landscape photography of Boston artist Mary Behrens and *Recent Works*, manipulated photography by Melissa Zexter. March 2-25.

Crystal Fine Art
93 Summer St., Suite 4L, Boston (728-9818). www.crystalfineart.com. *MBTA: Red and Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Tue.-Fri. 11am-6pm.* A multicultural gallery that regularly displays the work of national, international and local artists. •*Wood Icons of Religious Figures and Paintings of Erotic Figures* by Viktor Anufriev shows along with the four other artists' works. Throughout February.

Dyansen Gallery
132 A Newbury St., Boston (262-4800). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. You'll always find paintings, bronzes and fine art prints. Collections include Rembrandt, Picasso, Chagall,

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Eclipse Gallery
167 Newbury St., Boston (247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9am-6pm. •Matthew Zirakian's *Portfolio 200*, two decades of fine art color and black-and-white photography, shows through Feb. 26. •*Paintings from Colombia* shows Feb. 29-April 1.

Elias Fine Arts
120 Braintree St., Brighton (783-1888). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. •The gallery displays *The Constructed Real*, co-curated by Mario Russo, which explores contemporary photographers from Belgium, Germany, Holland and the US who build environments and photograph them. Through Feb. 26. •*Christian Boltanski: Favorite Objects*, 264 photographic prints of the favorite objects of Chicago school children. March 3-April 29.

Gallery Bershad
99 Dover St., Somerville (629-9400 ex.3). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Wed., Thu., Sun., 12-6pm; Fri. and Sat. 12-8pm. •The steel sculpture of Peter Richards and mixed-media constructions of Karen Boutelle show through March 13. •Matthias Lupri on vibraphone with his quintet performs mainstream as well as contemporary jazz, March 9, 7pm.

Gallery Five North
354 Congress St., Boston (426-8426). www.galleryfivenorth.com. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Thu.-Sat., 12-5pm.* •The gallery celebrates one year of artistic success with *Membranes and Temporealities II,* an annual event of modern abstract work. Large canvases by Christine Vaillancourt and Dorothea Van Camp show through March 5.

Gallery NAGA
67 Newbury St., Boston (267-9060). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. Paintings, studio furniture, sculpture, photography and holography. •Brenda Star and Sam Earle display their new work through Feb. 26. •Cheryl Warrick's *New Work* shows March 3-April 1.

Gibbs Gallery
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm. •*Females You Can Only Imagine*, paintings and sculpture by Joan Baldwin andMary Craig McLane, shows through March 24.

Gurari Collections
91 Charles St., Boston (367-9800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington or Red Line to Charles MGH. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. This gallery has an impressive collection of 16th- to early 20th-century etchings, engravings and drawings of architecture and urbanism, classical figures, antiquarian fantasies and unusual objects. Showing the work of Wendy Artin, an artist living in Rome. Ongoing.

Guild of Boston Artists
162 Newbury St., Boston (536-7660). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri. 9:30am-4:30pm; Sat. 10am-5pm. Established in 1914 as a traditional non-profit art gallery, the guild aims to keep traditional art open for the public. •A *Winter Members Exhibit* includes oils, watercolors and pastels. Through Feb. 26.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St. Boston (536-6339). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 10am-6pm; Sat. 10am-5pm. •Assortment of 18th- and 19th-century historic and decorative antique engravings and lithographs. •The gallery shows an ongoing collection in February.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (262-0550). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. www.hyg.com. John Coplans' *Self Portrait: Finger* shows with Andrea Means's *Plant Light.* Through Feb. 29. •*Ridley Howard: Palace Court Series* shows with *Frank Noelker: Zoo Pictures.* March 3-28.

Hurst Gallery
53 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (491-6888). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sat. 12-6pm. Thu, 12-7pm. Visitors are greeted with a variety art and artifacts from over six continents. •Special exhibitions of African art show along with a special collection of Chinese and Japanese paintings throughout the month of February.

Hynes Convention Center
South Rotunda Gallery 900 Boylston St., Boston (954-2000). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center. •*Through Their Eyes*, a photographic exhibition featuring members of the Cambridge Senior Center, is currently travelling around the city. This extraordinary artistic event was the idea of photographer Robert W. Castagna who approached the directors of the center in order to teach a class to the seniors. The center's members worked to create stunning photographic images. Members participating in the show inlcude Lillian Henslet, a great-grandmother, and Sylvia Bridgeman, a grandmother of 24 and great-grandmother of 32. Throughout February. The exhibition moves to the BPL April 3-28.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (375-0076). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. The gallery's exhibition features a wide variety of vintage posters from Europe and Russia. •*The Last Poster Show...of the Millennium*, a celebration of festive Italian, Swiss, French, American and other posters throughout the 20th century. Through February.

Judy Ann Goldman
14 Newbury St., Boston (424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. Call for an appointment. The gallery regularly displays paintings, sculpture and works on paper by gallery artists.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 St. Stephen St., Boston (247-1719). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue.-Sat., 1-5pm. Now in its 26th year of operation, this non-profit institute for the arts displays a *Group Landscape Show.* Through March 1.

Kingdom Fine Arts
173 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1997). MBTA: Green Line to Symphony. Tue.-Sat. 11am-7pm. •*Fear No Art,* an exhibition by four artists, includes the works of Wombat, Greg Lamarche, Alfir Troche and Matt Clark. Through Feb. 29. The gallery will be closed in March.

Kougeas Gallery
88 White St., Boston (569-9317). MBTA: Blue Line to Maverick Square. Thurs.-Sat. 2-6pm and by appointment. This art gallery in the neighborhood of East Boston features realist and illusionistic fine art. •*Nervous Beauty*, an exhibition by Marc Dennis, consists of small, hyperrealistic oil paintings. Through Feb. 26. •*Explicit, part two* is comprised of 18 photographs, 13 paintings and nine works on paper in various media. March 4-April 1.

Mercury Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (859-0054). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm. Specializes in American and European figurative expressionism. •*Joseph Solman: A Retrospective of Works from 1935-1999* is an exhibition of portraits, street scenes and still lives. Through Feb. 24. •*Urban Landscape*, a group show, is on display March 6-April 15.

Mobius
354 Congress St., Boston (542-7416). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm. An artist-run group known for a wide range of arts. •*Disco Ball for the New Millennium a.k.a. Caustic Virus*, an installation by Jocelyne Prince, shows through March 4. •*Reports from Afield*, a series of Monday evening slide-talks, includes a show Feb. 28, 7pm with Marilyn Arsem, who gives a presentation titled, *Site-Specific Work in Seattle and Germany*.

MPG
285 Newbury St., Boston (437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •*Things Go Abstract*, paintings by Elizabeth Doughrety and Merle Manelli Poulton, show through March 6.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm.* Founded in 1964. •The current exhibition is Harvey Quaytman's recent paintings and Brenda Goodman's paintings. Feb. 26-March 25.

Out of the Blue Gallery
168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun., 12-7pm. This artist-owned and-operated gallery always has a variety of interesting artwork up and art-related events going on. •Poetry readings take place every Saturday and the gallery hosts jazz every Wednesday. •*The Third Annual Figurative Art Show* displays through Feb. 29.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (236-4497). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. •Howard Silberthau's abstract paintings show through Feb 26. •*Ben Frank Moss: Visionary Enchantments*, abstract oil paintings on paper, shows March 3-April 1.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (267-9473). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun. 1pm-5pm. •Samuel Bak's work, *The Game Continues*, through March 1. •Jim Schantz's work shows March 4-April 1.

Qingping Gallery Teahouse
216 Newbury St., Boston (236-4846). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open every day, 9am-12am. This authentic Chinese teahouse—and the only local gallery to focus solely on art from China—specializes in avant-garde and contemporary antiques, teapots and furniture.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (266-3321). www.richardson-clarke.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tues.-Sat. 10am-5pm.* •American and European 19th- and 20th-century paintings, drawings and sculpture. Ongoing. •*American Painters in Venice* shows March 4-April 30.

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (437-1518). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm. •Zygmund Jankowski and other artists display all their large paintings through Feb. 25. •Christina Keating's work shows Feb. 26-March 25.

Barbara Singer Gallery
18 Sparks St., Cambridge (491-5525). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.barbarasingerfineart.com. *Sat. 1-4pm and by appointment.* •The work of Robert Kelly's *Gouaches and Monotypes*. Feb. 19-April 1.

Space 12 Gallery
12 Union Park St., Boston (423-9760). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed. 6-9pm; Thu.-Sat. 1-5pm. •The next rotating exhibition begins March 8.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (450-0321). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •Now showing *Working Artist and Easel*, William St. George's oil paintings.

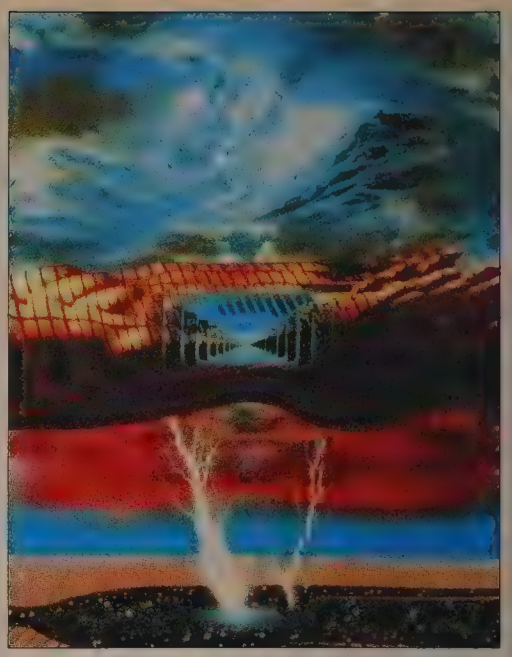
A Touch of France
173 Newbury St., Boston (247-6966). MBTA: Green line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-7pm; Sun., 12-6pm. The gallery imports French artists' works, including paintings by M. Tigrane, R. Kefflin, C. Ferrer and striking dried flower arrangements made near Saint Tropez.

Via Gallery
83 Newbury St., 2nd Floor (424-6200). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri. 10am-4pm. •Owen Hartford's *Treescapes*, black-and-white photography, explores the world of trees and light. Through March 24.

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (536-6176). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 8am-5:30pm; Sat. 9am-4pm. Run by twin brothers Bill and Terry Vose, the gallery specializes in American paintings. •A *Winter Exhibition* of paintings from their regular collection shows through February and March.

Zeitgeist Gallery
312 Broadway St., Cambridge (876-2182). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu.-Sun., 2pm-7pm. •The gallery displays a variety of local artists' work.

***Cold Dark Matter; an Exploded View* by Cornelia Parker shows at the Institute of Contemporary Art.**



***Horizontal Nude-ck*, a digital print by Carmin Karasic, shows at the Art Institute of Boston.**

PHOTOGRAPHY

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2051). Tues.-Sat. 11am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm; Closed Mondays. The Multiple is a gallery investigation that explores works of art produced more than once. Ongoing.

Gallery One
537 Comm. Ave., Boston (437-1868). Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm. Affiliated with the New England School of Photography. A gallery devoted to displaying photography of Boston artists. •An upcoming exhibition is James Spada's *Men*, black-and-white photography. Through Feb. 18. •Lou Kipnis' *Southwest Light,* black-and-white landscape photographs, shows Feb. 21-March 24.

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (423-4299). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Fri., 10am-3pm; Sat., 12-5pm. •*For the Time, Being*, a collaborative installation from Asa Chibás, Liz Sweibel and Traci Wile, shows through March 3.

Panopticon Gallery
187 Bay State Rd., Boston (267-8929). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford. Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm. This gallery offers fine art photographic prints and media licensing of images for print, video and stock photography.

Photographic Resource Center
602 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (353-0700). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford. Tue.-Sun., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-8pm. •*Particle Accelerators: At the Intersection of Photography, Science and Technology* looks at the efforts of contemporary artists working across the disciplines of science, technology and photography. Through Feb. 25. •*Photography in Human Experience* features photographs dating from the 1860s to the 1920s. Through April 28.

CRAFTS

Cambridge Artists Cooperative
59A Church St., Cambridge (868-4434). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; 10am-8pm; Sun. 1-6pm. Twelve artists own and operate this gallery which features 2D design and jewelry.

Clayground
91 Hampshire St., Cambridge (661-7376). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 12-6pm; Sat. 11am-5pm. Porcelain and stone objects galore. Classes available.

Fresh Pond Clay Works
368 Huron Ave., Cambridge (492-1907). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard to Bus 72. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm. A wide range of firing techniques, from terracotta to porcelain.

Gateway Gallery
62 Harvard St., Brookline Village, Brookline (734-1577). MBTA: C Green Line to Brookline Village. Mon.-Sat., 11am-6pm. This non-profit gallery features all sorts of arts and crafts.

Infinity Gallery
24 Union Park St., Boston (423-5555). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat 11am-7pm; Sun 11am-6pm. This small gallery features Wayne Fuerst's work.

Shake the Tree Gallery
218 Washington St., Brookline (739-3505). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm; Sun. 12-4pm. The store features a mix of handmade crafts including jewelry and glass works.

Signature Gallery
Dock Square, Boston (227-4885). Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Thu., 10am-7pm; Fri. and Sat., 10am-9pm; Sun., 12-6pm. Pottery, metal and glass works.

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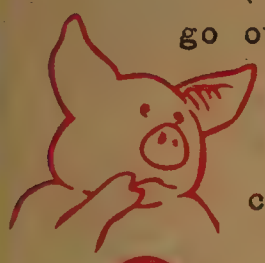

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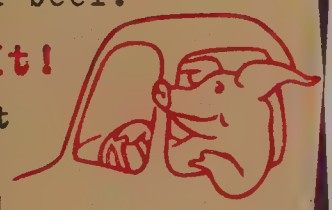

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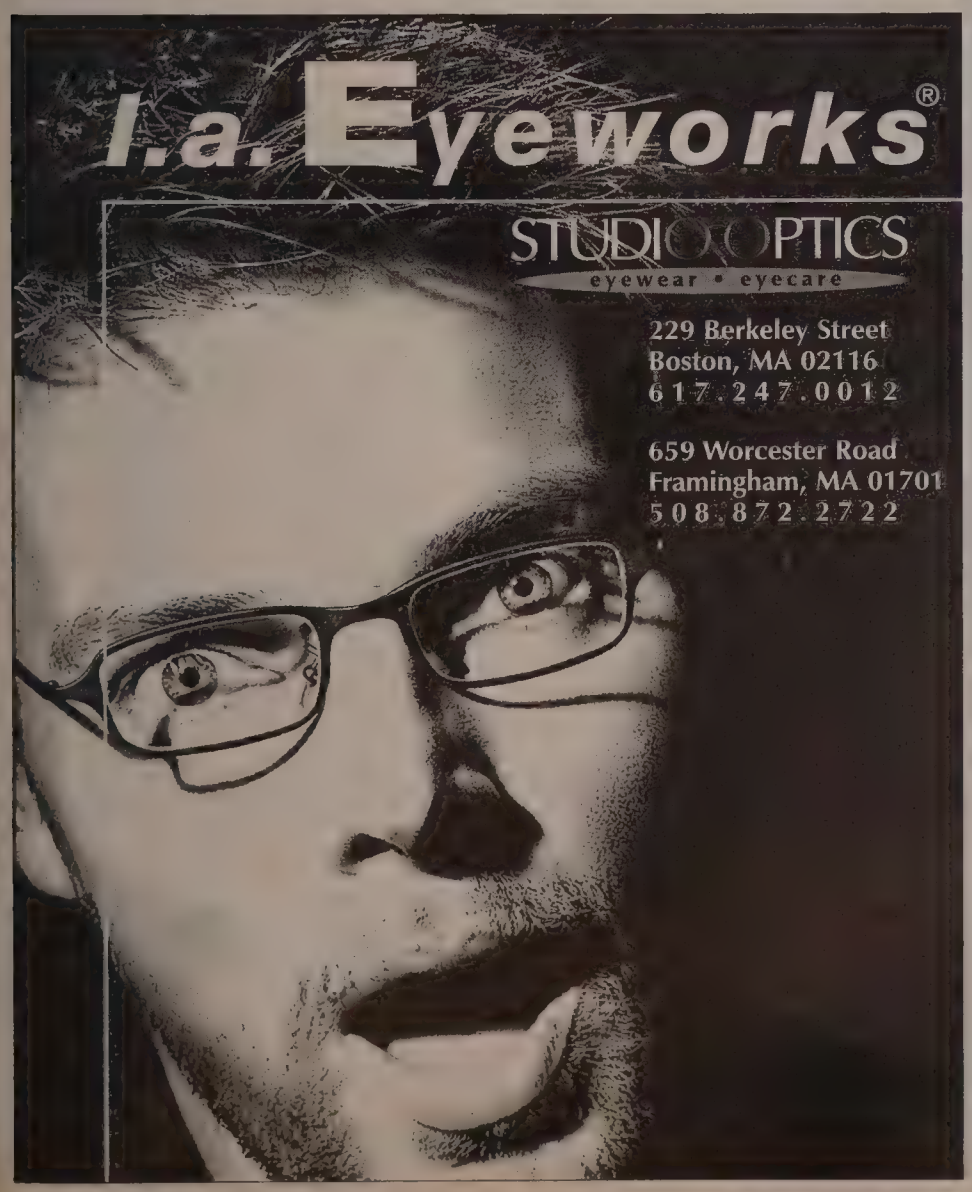

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LITTLE FUN AND ALL "GAMES"

Ben Affleck is a trapped man in a jokey thriller.

BY PAUL SHERMAN

So is Ben Affleck not being offered the same caliber of roles as his Cambridge buddy Matt Damon, or does he just have a poor knack for picking scripts that evolve into good movies? While Damon has triumphed like a jockey who instinctively knows which horses to saddle up on, Affleck has been riding in the middle of the pack since *Good Will Hunting* made the duo such a phenomenon. He showed he could handle the job in mindless studio products like *Armegeddon* and *Forces of Nature* and kept his indie-film credibility with ensemble parts in *Dogma* and *Shakespeare in Love*. But, as yet, he hasn't given us much indication he could play a wide range of characters. The big question is if that's because his performances have been so similar or because his characters have been so similar.

Ben Affleck and Charlie Theron become entangled in a casino heist in *Reindeer Games*.

Reindeer Games doesn't give us much of an answer. A schlocky, popcorn-movie combination of neo-noir predicament and heist-gone-wrong mayhem, it again shows Affleck doesn't seem out-of-place in a lead role with which the audience is supposed to sympathize. But, beyond that everyman charm, he really doesn't add much grit to a credibility-strapped story in which he plays a car thief who gets embroiled in a casino heist upon his prison release, when he's mistaken for a cellmate who has inside information about the casino. He's mistaken for the former casino security guard (James Frain) after that buddy is knifed to death during a cafeteria riot just days before the cellmates are to be released from the penitentiary. Just the notion that two cellmates would have the same release date tells you realism is not a big concern in Ehren (*Scream 3*) Kruger's script—but it's that very lack of realism that ultimately makes the movie so lightweight. With the buddy's pretty pen pal girlfriend (Charlize Theron) showing up to meet him for the first time, Affleck's Rudy decides to tell her he's the guy she's waiting for—partly out of loneliness, partly out of sympathy for the otherwise stranded woman and partly out of sheer opportunism.

Yet even a con with a history of deception like Rudy would probably explain what happened and befriend her on more legitimate terms than our hero. But this is the sort of story that depends on a lot of people doing a lot of stupid things, like when sexed-up Rudy flushes his real ID down the motel toilet the next morning. So when Theron's character's trucker brother (Gary Sinise) and his band of heavy-breathers (including Clarence Williams III and Donal Logue) barge in, smacks the couple around and expects Rudy to help them rob the casino, he can't say, "Sorry, wrong guy." Well, he does say that, but he has no proof. And the intruders actually have no use for Rudy, so the ex-con has to pretend to be the cellmate for the truckers, making up information about the casino he knows little about.

That's an interesting mental place for a thriller to put its hero, but the script is less interested in developing lasting impressions than it is in supplying instant gratification in the form of plot twists that become increasingly cheesy. And, such plot twists, which become apparent to the viewer as they do to Nick, depend on more of those stupid acts. (Don't these plotting characters know not to show their true motives when the person they're conning is nearby?)

Some of this cheesy action is enjoyable, in a bad-TV kind of way, and Theron shows more life as a hot-blooded femme fatale than she has recently in more benign roles. But this is forgettable fluff that fails as neo-noir because you never for a second feel the danger supposedly being experienced by the hero. IB

Reindeer Games ★★

Directed by John Frankenheimer. Written by Ehren Kruger. With Ben Affleck, Charlize Theron, Gary Sinise and Dennis Farina. Rated R. Miramax/Dimension Films.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

The lovable Winnnie the Pooh characters return in Disney's new *The Tigger Movie*.

The Beach ★★
The long-awaited collaboration matching the *Trainspotting* team of director Danny Boyle and screenwriter John Hodge with Leonardo DiCaprio turns out to be a soggy exercise in human nature. The actor plays a disenchanted American who's come to Thailand to forget about life back home. When he hears about this legendary, remote beach, he convinces a French couple (Virginie Ledoyen, Guillaume Canet) to trek there with him, and the community of outcasts turns out to be the paradise they'd imagined. But the more time they spend there, and the more time past misdeeds and human nature catch up with them, the more Leonardo and friends realize the beach is also a place of denial. In the end, this film with an interminable amount of narration just turns out the be the latest in the undistinguished line of movies about westerners having a bad time in the Third World.

Beautiful People ★½
If ever a movie were designed to play in Cambridge, this English import with a "war refugees are people, too" message is it. Stylistically, first-time director Jasmin Dizdar seems to be after a mix of Robert (*Short Cuts*) Altman's panoramic ensembles and Emir (*Underground*) Kusturica's anarchy amid political upheaval. But the plodding opening half-hour, which introduces a number of Londoners and now-relocated former Yugoslavians, is a hole from which few movies could extricate themselves, and the humanistic messages played out through the occasionally-moving intermingling and bonding of those characters are ridiculously transparent and toothless.

The Emperor and the Assassin ★★★½
This splendid Chinese historical epic from director Chen (*Farewell, My Concubine*) Kaige evokes both Akira Kurosawa's samurai movies and William Shakespeare's tragedies. Based on the real exploits of a 220 BC warlord (Li Xuejian) who believed it was his mission to unite China's seven kingdoms, it's a story of power and ego run amuck. As equally fascinating as this Nixonian leader is the other titular character, a swordsman (Zhang Fengyi) and retired hitman who's persuaded to try to kill the ruthless ruler after falling for the emperor's one-time lover (Gong Li), who now wants him stopped. Full of visual splendor, haunting images and grand themes.

Eye of the Beholder ★★
Writer-director Stephan (*Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*) Elliott initially brings some clever storytelling devices to his adaptation of Marc Behm's dandy crime novel about a detective (Ewan McGregor) who becomes a sort of obsessed guardian angel to a female serial killer (Ashley Judd) he follows from afar. But these initial stylistic flourishes don't really take the movie anywhere and, after a while, it just sits there. Although the psychological links between the two main characters come across, there's not enough increased desperation to their odd relationship, just monotony and a weak ending.

Holy Smoke ★★
Despite a bold performance by Kate Winslet, Jane (*The Piano*) Campion's latest is a muddled stew of spirituality and sexuality. Winslet plays a young Australian who's extended a stay in India because she's found spiritual enlightenment with a guru. Her disbelieving family gets her home on false pretenses and forces her into deprogramming with an American anti-cult specialist (Harvey Keitel). These two then play out a power struggle, with the woman using her sexual power as a trump card. Campion presents this struggle as its own spiritual experience for the pair, but the story goes a long way to make a little point, and is never very involving.

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The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg ★★★

Anyone who thinks there aren't heroes in movies anymore should check out Aviva Kemper's truly inspiring profile of the late Detroit Tigers slugger. The Bronx-born Jew—who hit 58 homers in 1938—dealt with anti-Semitism and being an icon for a generation of Jews with grace and modesty (Greenberg was also one of the first ballplayers to enlist in the military for World War II and, in a small way, paved the way for Jackie Robinson). Filled with newsreel footage and interview clips of Greenberg, this is a classic American tale.

Map of the World ★★★

Sigourney Weaver is just terrific in this story of a Wisconsin school nurse and farmer's wife who finds self-forgiveness and redemption for all her shortcomings when she's accused of sexually abusing pupils. Coming on the heels of an incident in which the daughter of her best friend (Julianne Moore) has drowned while she was supposed to be watching the little girl, she turns her incarceration into her own purgatory. Although the arrest and trial take this story into much more conventional territory than its brilliant opening 45 minutes—which has an astonishing ability to capture the self-doubts and why-me frustrations of everyday life—it never totally loses sight of its protagonist.

Mr. Death ★★

Cambridge nonfiction filmmaker Errol (*Fast, Cheap and Out of Control*) Morris' sharp and clever visuals juice up his latest, but only to a certain extent. He's chosen an initially interesting subject in one-time Malden resident Fred Leuchter, an engineer who designs and builds electric chairs, lethal injection machines and gallows for prisons. But the somewhat amusingly creepy Leuchter turns out to be just creepy, period. When the movie gets to his dubious activities as a Holocaust denier. We see him collecting samples at Auschwitz to analyze, and when his conclusions—disputed by others Morris interviews—cause his business and marriage to suffer, you rightfully feel little sympathy for the guy. If only Leuchter were a more watchable lout, and offered the sort of ironic self-deception Morris was after.

Rear Window ★★★★

Hitchcock took the great Cornell Woolrich's short story and turned it into one of his most probing looks at voyeurism and obsession. Although this doesn't have the gut-level kick of *Vertigo*, with which Hitch would delve into those same themes a few years later, the story of a laid-up photographer (James Stewart) who starts becoming involved in the lives of the neighbors in the apartments across the courtyard outside of his rear window offers a fascinating microcosm of society, with newlyweds, a lonelyheart and perhaps a murderer within them. When the photographer discovers the murderer, and vice versa, the tension mounts. The classic 1954 thriller returns in a new Technicolor-restored print.

Scream 3 ★★½

The first *Scream* had great fun playing with the conventions of the fright film, but its first sequel was guilty of every lame sequel ploy it supposedly was spoofing. This final installment, the first not to be written by creator Kevin Williamson, is better than its most recent predecessor and contains some laughs, but is still pretty forgettable. After all, it gives us the lazy writer's default horror plot—people making a horror movie getting killed off one-by-one. In any case, the remaining original characters played by Neve Campbell, Courteney Cox Arquette and David Arquette are pretty spent, but Parker Posey and Jenny McCarthy fortunately inject some life this time.

The Tigger Movie ★★★½

Comeback movie of the year. After all the cheesy videos Disney has put the Winnie the Pooh characters in over the last decade, it's hard to imagine Pooh, Tigger, Eeyore, Piglet and all the rest would actually get to be in a theatrical feature that can stand alongside the classic '60s Pooh shorts. With an impressively substantial script in which Tigger searches for his family, songs by Disney veterans the Richard and Robert Sherman and pleasingly detailed animation, this is it. Fun for all ages, and sure to be a perennial favorite.

Topsy-Turvy ★★★

After a sluggish start, Mike (*Secrets & Lies*) Leigh's 160-minute Gilbert and Sullivan movie turns out to be an outstanding look at the process of artistic creation. It opens at a point when the operetta duo—whose partnership seems to have been mostly a business one—are close to splitting, but once Gilbert (a marvelous Jim Broadbent) happens upon an exposition of Japanese culture, it then turns to the genesis of *The Mikado*, and picks up considerably. Leigh manages to touch upon the emotional perspectives of all involved, including vain actors, stern Gilbert, easy-going Sullivan and money-conscious producers, with both humor and genuine respect. Ultimately, you sense G & S worked so well together because they were opposite yet complementary sides of a complete artistic temperament.

Grand Opening owner Kim Airs shows off her store's array of erotica as she prepares the titillating film of copulating Bostonians. It screens at the Coolidge Corner Theatre on Feb. 29.

Preview

Sexiest Home Videos

Your friends and neighbors up close and personal

Most of us needed a few months to recover from Grand Opening's collaborations with the Coolidge Corner Cinema last year—incredibly provocative shows featuring a retrospective of porn maker/star Annie Sprinkle's 200 odd films and an apearance by porn director Candida Royalle, who showed off her new line of vibrators. Brookline's upscale female-focused sex boutique has outdone itself this time, as owner Kim Airs and the Coolidge crew present *You Oughta be in Pictures*, an amateur video night for adults. After weeks of open submission (no pun intended) for all sorts of local adult videos, the end result is here: a near two-hour, super sexy montage of Bostonians having sex. You only get one chance to see it—Feb. 29, 7:30pm at the Coolidge Corner Theatre. Who knows, you just may see someone you know and score some tips. But a word to all you sickos out there—don't think of pulling a Pamela and Tommy "steal the video" prank—in an extravagent display of destruction, the sex flick will be destroyed in front of the audience following the screening. *Coolidge Corner Theatre, Feb. 29, 7:30pm. $10, 18+. —EH*

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Cinemas
214 Harvard Ave. (277-2140). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
Trapelo Rd. (484-1706). Red Line to Harvard, 73 bus.

BOSTON

Boston Film and Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (536-1540). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (536-5400). Green Line to Copley.

Cheri
50 Dalton St. (536-2870) www.loewstheaters.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center.*

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum Of Science, Omni Theater
Science Park (723-2500). Green Line to Science Park.

Nickelodeon
606 Comm. Ave. (424-1500). B Green Line to Blanford St.

Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle.

Coolidge Corner
290 Harvard St. (734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theater
40 Brattle St. (876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (495-4700). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Square (494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony Theater
10 Church St. (864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan.

Somerville Theater
55 Davis Square (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston. (277-2500). B Green Line to Chestnut Hill.

West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (964-6060).

Alternatives & Revivals

Advice to Contributors
Submit film listings by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Although film listings are correct at the time of publication, they are subject to change. Doublecheck showtimes by calling the theater or 333-FILM.

Boston Public Library

Rabb Lecture Hall, Mondays at 6pm.

A Rhapsody of Jazz Film Series
•Feb. 28, 6pm **My First Name Is Maceo** *1996.* After funk pioneer James Brown was sent to prison in the late '80s, Maceo Parker, famous for his sax playing in Brown's band, set out on his own to form his own.

Brattle Theater

Most shows are $7, including double features.

Special Engagements
•Feb. 18-24, 3pm, 5:20pm, 7:40pm and 10pm (Sat., Sun. and Mon. matinees 12:45pm) **Rear Window** *1954.* Photojournalist Jimmy Stewart, housebound due to a broken leg, finds himself wrapped up in the increasingly bizarre personal lives of his neighbors.
•Feb. 25-March 2, 3:30 pm, 7:30pm and 9:30pm **My Best Fiend—Klaus Kinski** *1999.* New Wave German director Werner Herzog uniquely reveals the memoir of the volatile actor Klaus Kinski and how the complex chemistry of the two artists drove each other to a creative edge.
•Feb. 25-March 2, 5:30pm (Sat. and Sun. matinees 1:30pm) **Aguirre, The Wrath of God** *1973.* Set in the mid-1500s, this film chronicles imperialism gone haywire as a Spanish expedition searching the Amazon for the mythical city falls into the hands of a power-driven lunatic.

Coolidge Corner Theater

Call ahead for a complete list of films and showtimes.

Feature Engagements
•Feb. 24-mid-March **The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg** *1999.* Director Aviva Kempner gives a heartfelt tribute to baseball Hall-of-Famer Hank Greenberg, chronicling Greenberg's accomplishments during his years with the Detroit Tigers.

Film Series
•Feb. 28 **Double Indemnity** *1950.* Adapted from James M. Cain's novel, director Billy Wilder introduces insurance agent who conspires with a wealthy heiress to murder her husband so that she may collect on a double indemnity clause.
•Fridays in February through May **Coolidge Shorts.** A collection of short films by New England artists that will precede the evening's features. Upcoming films include independent filmmaker Hillary Weisman's **Sex Without Love** and Alexander Rose's **Bill vs. The City.**

Special Events
•Feb. 29, 7:30-9:30pm, $10, 18+. **You Oughta Be in Pictures.** A Grand Opening first annual amateur video night hosted by Kim Airs. Contributed videos will be shown on the big screen.

Harvard Film Archive

An Evening with Francoise Romand
•Feb. 24, 7pm. Romand, director of documentary and fiction films, presents two of his works, **Past Imperfect** *1994* and **Call Me Madame** *1986.*

Film in the Third Reich: The Power of Images and Illusions
•Feb. 28, 9:30pm **Kuhle Wampe** *1932.* Slatan Dudow directs the first and last German film of the period that expressed an openly Communist point of view. In this film, an unemployed Berlin family turns to other out-of-work citizens for help instead of fascism.
•Feb. 29, 9pm **Hitler Youth Quex** *1933.* This film is based on a novel of the real-life murder of a twelve-year-old Hitler school boy by Communists in Berlin.

Italian Film
•Feb. 23, 6:30pm **Nights of Cabiria** *1956.* Director Federico Fellini portrays an imaginative exploration of the fantasy life of a good-natured Roman prostitute.

Mapping and Fashioning Space
•Feb. 29 and March 1, 6:30pm **Voyage to Italy** *1953.* Tensions pile up in Roberto Rossellini's moving and beautifully nuanced story starring a frustrated couple struggling to keep their marriage alive while visiting Naples.

Premieres
•Feb. 25, 9:30pm; Feb. 27, 8:30pm **Berlin-Cinema** *1999.* This non-fiction work focuses on the meaning of cinema and the changing cityscape of Berlin.

International Cinema
•March 1 **JLG/JLG** *1994.* In this film, director Jean-Luc Godard portrays his place in film history, the interaction of the film industry and film as art, as well as the act of creating art itself.
•March 3, 9pm; March 4 and 5, 7pm **Juha** *1999.* Based on a novel by Juhani Aho, this silent tragedy is directed by Aki Kaurismaki.
•March 4, 8:45pm **Drifting Clouds** *1996.* Directed by Aki Kaurismaki, this film tells the story of a husband and wife who lose their jobs and refuse to receive money from welfare. One disaster follows another until their love ultimately truimphs over their fate.
•March 5, 8:45pm **La Vie de Boheme** *1992.* Aki Kaurismaki presents a pleasantly off-beat comic slice-of-life about three poor, struggling artists: a painter, composer and writer. Based on Henri Murger's novel.

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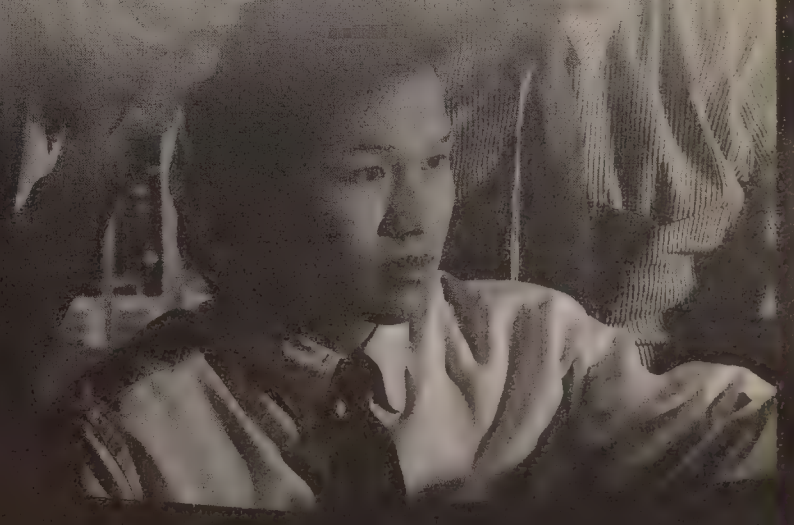

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EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

Leonardo DiCaprio is back—this time as an American with wanderlust who finds more than he bargained in Thailand at *The Beach.*

•March 6, 7pm **Devi** *1960.* This social satire from India's gifted Satyajit Ray is the story of a deeply religious landowner who becomes convinced that his beautiful daughter-in-law is the incarnation of the Hindu goddess Kali.
•March 7, 9pm **The Emperor of California** *1936.* Luis Trenker directs this Western film about striking gold in California.

William Klein's Works on Film

•Feb. 23, 8:45pm **Who Are You, Polly Maggoo?** *1966.* This mock-documentary following the life and career of fictional American fashion model, Polly Maggoo.
•Feb. 25, 7pm; Feb. 26, 9:30pm; Feb. 27, 6pm **The Messiah** *1999.* Klein presents a global view of humanity at the end of the millennium as the film documents various performances of the choral piece.
•Feb. 26, 7pm **In and Out of Fashion** *1994.* A montage film, it mixes excerpts from Klein's feature films with imagery from his fashion photography, books, and paintings.

Topics in Film: Five Directors

•Feb. 28, 7pm **Pather Panchali (The Song of the Road)** *1955.* This film places India and its traditions into realistic cinema, telling the story of a poor Bengali scholar and his wife and two children.

Museum of Fine Arts

Most film screenings are $6.

African Cinema 2000

•Feb. 23, 7:30pm; Feb. 24, 6:15pm; Feb. 26, 4pm **Genesis** *1998.* By returning to the Biblical account of Jacob and Esau, director Cheick Sissoko gains insight into one of the most urgent problems facing Africa.
•Feb. 23, 6:15pm **Chief** *1999.* This film locates the roots of Africa's authoritarian regimes—in the patriarchal family, reinforced by kingship and the colonial experience. Directed by Jean-Marie Teno.

Boston Film Artists Present

•Feb. 26, 1pm **A Hero for Daisy** *1999.* This is a portrait of Yale rowing legend Chris Ernst—who galvanized her rowing team to storm the Yale athletic director's office to protest the lack of locker-room facilities for women.
•Feb. 26, 2pm **Iditarod...A Far Distant Place** *1999.* In a courageous 1,000-mile journey, three mushers brave the Iditarod Sled Dog Race across Alaska. Directed by Alice Bouvrie.

Director of the Decade: Hou Hsiao-Hsien

•March 3-29. In total, 14 films are shown by the famous Taiwanese director: •March 3, 8pm **Dust In the Wind** *(1986)* •March 4, 12pm **Cute Girls** *(1980)* •March 5, 12pm **Cheerful Wind** *(1981)* •March 5, 2pm **The Boys of Fengkuei** *(1983)* •March 5, 4pm **A Summer at Grandpa's** *(1984).*

Premiere Engagements

•Feb. 24, 8:15pm; Feb. 25, 6:15pm **Outstandingly Entertaining Short Films.** This 75-minute program features several thoroughly engaging short films by American and international artists including a mix of animation and live action.

The Films of Abbas Kiarostami

•Feb. 25, 8pm; Feb. 26, 11am **Taste of Cherry** *1997.* This film follows a weary and increasingly desperate middle-aged man along the outskirts of Tehran.

Films by Max Ophuls

•March 2-18. This retrospective combines revered classics with rarely screened archival treats, nine films in total: March 2, 8pm **Letter from an Unknown Woman** *(1948)* •March 3, 6pm **La Ronde** *(1940)* •March 4, 4pm **La Signora di Tutti** *(1934).*

Museum of Science

Screened daily at the Omni Theatre. Call ahead for times.
•Through March. **Mysteries of Egypt.** Explore the secrets of a civilization that built a fascinating empire. This *National Geographic* film brings ancient Egypt to life with aerial views of pyramids, sweeping panoramas of the Nile and the treasures of ancient royalty.
•Through Feb. 28 **Olympic Glory.** This film showcases the splendor and emotion of the last Winter Olympics of the 20th Century (Winter 1998). Whether skiing down the alpine downhill slope or racing down the Bobsled chute, one will feel, not just witness, the action and excitement.

The Classic Film Series

All films except the double feature are $6. *The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400).*
•March 6 **Out of Africa** *1985.* A breathtaking, intelligent, romantic drama exploring the life of Danish author and Nobel prize nominee Isak Dinesen. Starring Meryl Streep and Robert Redford.

Neve Campbell and David Arquette cling to each other for dear life—but who's the *Scream 3* killer?

education

Advice to Contributors

Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Education. Or e-mail information to education@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

CLASSES/LECTURES

Wednesday, February 23

Breakfast with Champions: Glow Dog

Fleet Bank, One Federal St., 37th Floor, Boston (536-0700, ext. 240). $15 (includes breakfast). Featured speaker **Beth Marcus** is the founder of Glow Dog—the exclusive supplier of apparel for pets using Illuminite reflective material. Glow Dog's primary focus is pet safety.

The City Connection with Chris Lydon

Boston Public Library, Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (951-1433, ext. 221). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6pm. Free. Host of "The Connection" on WBUR and candidate for mayor of Boston in 1993, **Christopher Lydon** is now a member of the board of directors of the Boston Society of Architects and a long-time advocate and critic of design and development in Boston.

Keep 'em Coming Back

Massachusetts Interactive Media Council, Harvard Faculty Club, 20 Quincy St., Cambridge (227-2822). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6:30-9pm. $75 (includes dinner). Web sites are in a race to win new users in an increasingly crowded Internet environment. To maintain long-term viability and growth, companies are faced with a new challenge: How to turn hard-won visitors into loyal users. Raging Bull president and CEO **Stephen Killeen** will discuss how to build Web businesses that will attract users and Web relationships that will keep them coming back.

The Past, Present and Future of Earthquakes in New England

Geological Lecture Hall, 24 Oxford St., Cambridge (496-8204). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free. What would happen to Boston in the event of a major earthquake? Discover the present earthquake activity that modern seismic monitoring has uncovered and the unique past history of New England earthquakes, including the 1727 Newbury and 1755 Cape Ann earthquakes. This talk is given by **John Ebel**, professor of geophysics at Boston College.

Thursday, February 24

The Erosion of Civil Liberties on College Campuses

Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). 7:30pm. Free. Are innocence and free speech adequate defenses against sexual harassment charges on college campuses today? Hear lawyer and author **Harvey Silverglate** speak about this provocative topic. After speaking, he'll sign his book *The Shadow University: The Betrayal of Liberty on America's Campuses.*

Exploring Lessons of the Stuart Murder Case

Media Arts Center, Roxbury Community College, 1234 Columbus Ave., Roxbury (300-2530). 7pm. Free. WGBH's Basic Black hosts a forum exploring race, class and power in the communities of Boston, using the infamous Charles Stuart case as a springboard to discuss issues of social identification and racial profiling. Harvard law professor **Charles Ogletree** will act as panel moderator.

Sunday, February 27

The Journey of Howard Thurman: A Centennial Celebration

John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (929-4571). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. 2-4pm. Free. **Howard Thurman** (1900-1981) has been viewed by many as one of the great spiritual leaders and social thinkers of the 20th century. After meeting with Gandhi in India in the 1930s, he became a pioneer of non-violence in America, influencing a generation of civil rights activists, including Martin Luther King Jr., James Farmer and others. Speakers will include former colleagues, friends and students—and Dr. Thurman himself, as recorded on film.

Tuesday, February 29

HIV Basics

AIDS Action Committee, 131 Clarendon St., Fourth Floor, Boston (450-1235). 7:30-9:30pm. Free. The AIDS Action Committee presents this introduction to HIV and AIDS information and concepts. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Wednesday, March 1

Boston in 2000 and Beyond

Historic Neighborhoods at Hale & Door, 60 State St., Boston (426-1885). 12pm. $15. How will Boston evolve in the 21st century? Join Historic Neighborhoods Noon Seminar Series to explore the important developments taking place on the cusp of this new era.
•March 1: Project architects from Bergmeyer Associates will present plans for 470 Atlantic Avenue, the gateway to the new South Boston Waterfront.

Boston, Lost and Living

Cambridge Forum, The First Parish, 3 Church St., Cambridge (495-2727). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. Free. **Jane Holtz Kay**, author and observer of urban trends, looks at current developments in Boston's urban landscape that bespeak the future for all American cities.

Author Jane Holtz Kay speaks on "Boston, Lost and Living" at the Cambridge Forum, March 1.

Setting Up a Business in Cyberspace

The People's Law School Seminar Series, Boston Public Library, Mezzanine Conference Room, Boston (536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 12-1pm. Free. This seminar with **Andrew Updegrove Esq.** will provide an intro on how new ventures can be launched on the Internet, as well as how existing "bricks and mortar" business can become "clicks and mortar" businesses selling their products and services over the Internet.

Thursday, March 2

The Development of East Boston

Orient Heights Branch, Boston Public Library, 18 Barnes Ave., East Boston (567-2516). 7pm. Free. East Boston, originally known as Noddle's Island, was developed after 1833 by William Hyslop Sumner, president of the East Boston Comany. With an urbane grid plan laid out on the island, new residents andcommercial concerns were induced to move to this once bucolic pastureland. Learn from historian **Anthony M. Sammarco** about East Boston's unique history and development and how it's been influenced by numerous immigrant groups.

Those Damn Scribbling Women: Evolution and Revolution

Old South Meeting House, Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:15-1pm. $4. In this series, learn about the lives of a few well-known 18th-century women writers and their (un)common experiences. Join **Jane Kamensky**, associate professor American history at Brandeis University, for an overview of the lives of New England women in the 18th century: their experiences in church, under the law, in their families and in the rapidly changing economic and political sphere of the late colonial period.

Monday, March 6

The Nuts and Bolts of Opening Your Own Food Business

Elizabeth Bishop Wine Resource Center, 808 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-9677). MBTA: B Green Line to BU West. 9am-6pm. $120. This day will consist of experts who can advise you about opening your own food business—whether it's a restaurant, a catering firm, a retail store or cooking school.

Tuesday, March 7

Filmmaking in New England

Dudley House, Lehman Hall, Harvard University, Cambridge (496-3474). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. Free. **Michael Corrente**, director of *Outside Providence, Federal Hill* and *American Buffalo*, will talk about his work as a filmmaker and filmmaking in New England.

BEACH: PETER MOUNTAIN, SCREAM: RICO TORRES, KAY: JULIE F. KAY

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READINGS & SIGNINGS

Wednesday, Feb. 23

Barnes and Noble Presents
660 Beacon St., Boston (267-8484). MBTA: B, C or D Green Line to Kenmore. 7pm. Free admission. **Robert Olen Butler** reads from his metaphysical comedy, *Mr. Spaceman*. It is the account of a baffled alien trying to understand the human race.

Borders Books and Music Presents
10-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Orange Line to State St. or Red Line to Downtown Crossing. 6pm. **Dave Eggers** takes you through his memoir, *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*, which tells of his struggle with his parents' death, his move to Berkeley and the creation of his own magazine.

Thursday, Feb. 24

Borders Books and Music Presents
10-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Orange Line to State St. or Red Line to Downtown Crossing. 6pm. In *The New City*, **Stephen Amidon** tells a tragic tale set in a meticulously planned city: a complex relationship between fathers and sons falls victim to misunderstanding.

Borders Books and Music Presents
151 Andover St., Peabody (978-538-3003). 7pm. Author **Craig MacBean** speaks and signs copies of his new book, *Thriving After 55: Your Guide to Fully Living the Rest of Your Life*.

Borders Books and Music Presents
85 Worcester Rd., Framingham (508-370-3138). 7:30pm. Learn the craft of creating an Indian wedding, from henna decoration to Indian music and food, when **Meenal Pandya**, author of *Vivah: Design a Perfect Hindu Wedding*, shares her expertise.

Wordsworth Bookstore Presents
Cambridge Public Library (354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Listen to **Thomas Cahill** weave together history, politics, sociology and faith with contemporary thoughts on Jesus and Christianity as he reads from *Desire of the Everlasting Hills*, the third volume of bestselling *Hinges of History* series.

Friday, Feb. 25

Harvard Bookstore Friday Forum
Harvard Bookstore, 1256 Mass Ave., Cambridge (661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. Boston College Professor of Sociology **Jeanne Guillemin** reads from her latest book, *Anthrax: The Investigation of a Deadly Outbreak*.

Saturday, Feb. 26

Young American Poets Feature
Gallery Bershad, 99 Dover St., Somerville (629-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. 5pm. Free. Join the artists for the launch of *Verse Magazine*'s Young American Poets Feature with readings from poets **Peter Johnson**, **Geoffrey Nutter** and **Peter Richards**.

Sunday, Feb. 27

Harvard Bookstore Literary Salon Series
Bunting Institute, 34 Concord Ave., Cambridge (661-1515). 6:30pm. **Samantha Chang**, author of *Hunger*, is the winner of the Bay Area Reviewers Association Prize for First Fiction and a finalist for the *LA Times* Book Prize. *Hunger* is a novella and collection of five stories which reveal the lives of immigrant families haunted by lost loves.

Monday, Feb. 28

Blacksmith House Poetry Series
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8:15pm. $3. **Carl Phillips** reads from his collection, *Pastoral*. He is joined by **Susan Hahn**, author of *Confession and Incontinence*.

Borders Books and Music Presents
10-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Orange Line to State St. or Red Line to Downtown Crossing. 6pm. Meet local author **Helen Fremont**, author of the bestselling memoir, *After Long Silence*, an account of her search to uncover her true heritage as well as coming to terms with her connection to Judaism and homo-sexuality.

Tuesday, Feb. 29

Brookline Booksmith Presents
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Poet, critic and debut novelist **Jeffrey Renard Allen** reads from *Rails Under My Back*.

Grolier Poetry Book Shop Presents
Adams House, 26 Plympton St., Cambridge (547-4648). 8pm. **Doug Goetsch** reads from his first full-length collection, *Nobody's Hell*. Also, **Angelo Verga** reads from his second collection of writing, *The Six O'Clock News*.

Harvard Bookstore Presents
Arthur M. Sackler Auditorium, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. **Sherwin B. Nuland** discusses his book, *The Mysteries Within: Sad Spleens, Happy Hearts and Other Myths of the Body*. He is the clinical professor of surgery at the Yale School of Medicine and the author of the highly acclaimed book, *How We Die*.

Newtonville Books Presents
296 Walnut St., Newtonville (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free. **Mameve Medwed**, author of *Mail*, reads from her latest novel, *Host Family*, a funny tale of a woman's romantic entanglements and her struggles with starting over.

Wednesday, March 1

Brookline Booksmith Presents
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. What are the insidious effects of marketing on women? Find out as **Jean Kilbroune** discusses her findings, *Deadly Persuasion: Why Women and Girls Must Fight the Addictive Power of Advertising*.

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (236-7421). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Enjoy **Victoria Cass**' reading of *Dangerous Women: Warriors, Grannies and Geishas of the Ming*.

Jamaica Plain Arts Poetry Series
Rhythm and Muse, 403 A Centre St., Hyde Square, Jamaica Plain (524-3816). 7:30pm Join poet **Barbara Wakins** as part of the JP reading series and community open mic series.

Monday, March 6

Blacksmith House Poetry Series
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8:15pm. $3. Join **Eva Hoffman**, author of *Shtetl: The Life and Death of a Small Town and the World of Polish Jews*, a powerful memoir of life under Nazi occupation.

Tuesday, March 7

Brookline Booksmith Presents
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. **Jerome Groopman**, acclaimed author of *The Measure of Our Days*, discusses his latest book, titled, *Second Opinions: Stories of Intuition and Choice in the Changing World of Medicine*.

Newtonville Books Presents
296 Walnut St., Newtonville (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free admission. Poet **Meg Campbell**, author of *Solo Crossing*, reads from her work, chats with fans and signs her book.

Wordsworth Bookstore Presents
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. **Bob Lozoff**, author of *It's a Meaningful Life: It Just Takes Practice*, discusses practices that can lead to renewed spiritual health.

ONGOING

Agape, Tuesdays
Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (266-6710). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8-10pm. Every Tuesday, this somewhat sophisticated poetry group gathers to share versions of their latest work. Everyone is welcome.

Cantab Lounge
738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8-10pm. $3. Wednesday nights at the Cantab always packs in more than 30 poets in just two hours, first at an open mike, followed by a featured poet and a slam.

Club Passim, Tuesdays
47 Palmer St., Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. $5. All open mic fanatics must experience this open mike night—a training ground for up-and-coming performers, poets and storytellers. Sign up Tuesdays, 7:30pm.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Night, Sundays
1667 Mass Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. $4 cover. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes every Sunday to the featured poet of the week.

Stone Soup Poetry Night, Mondays
Zeitgeist Gallery, 312 Broadway St., Cambridge (227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. $3. The Stone Soup's poetry night has a new locale—after being booted out of their old one due to artistic differences. Now, the ever-changing lineup of authors is still followed by an incredible open mike session. Every Monday, join in an open reading session with features. 7:30-10:30pm.

Bestsellers

HARDCOVER FICTION
1. **Lion's Game** by Nelson DeMille
2. **Harry Potter & the Chamber of Secrets** by J.K. Rowling
3. **Sick Puppy** by Carl Hiassen
4. **Fortune's Rocks** by Anita Shreve
5. **Harry Potter & the Prisoner of Azkaban** by J.K. Rowling
6. **Gap Creek** by Robert Morgan
7. **Waiting** by Ha Jin
8. **Girl with the Pearl Earring** by Tracy Chevalier
9. **Timeline** by Michael Crichton
10. **A Girl's Guide to Hunting and Fishing** by Melissa Banks

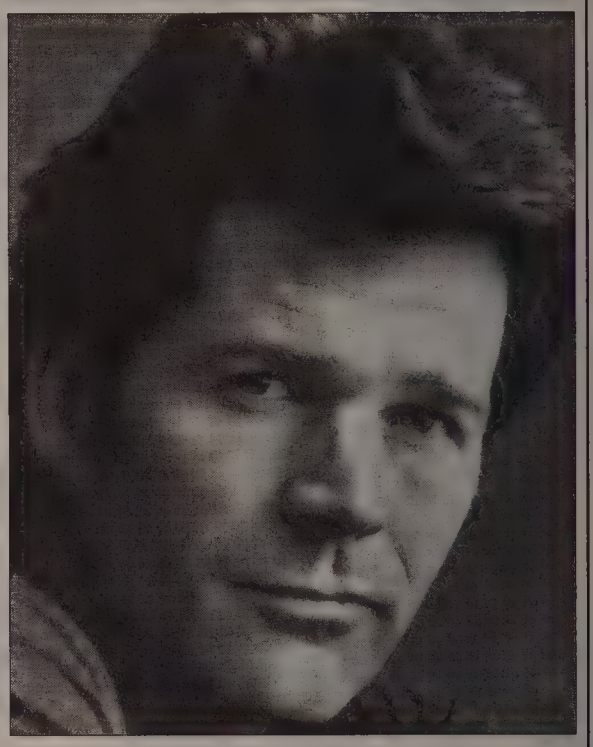
HARDCOVER NON-FICTION
1. **Tuesdays With Morrie** by Mitch Albom
2. **Who Moved My Cheese?** by Spencer Johnson
3. **'Tis** by Frank McCourt
4. **The New New Thing** by Michael Lewis
5. **Mapping Boston** by Alex Kreiger
6. **The Rock Says** by Dwayne Johnson and Joe Layden
7. **All Souls** by Michael McDonald
8. **Vast Conspiracy** by Jeffrey Toobin
9. **Hurricane** by James Hirsch
10. **Georgiana Dutchess of Devonshire** by Amanda Foreman

Provided by Borders Books and Music at Downtown Crossing for the week of Jan. 25-31.

Preview

Literati X Two

Elizabeth Strout and Andre Dubus III share the stage in a reading at Brookline Booksmith.



As part of a national tour that sprung from a burgeoning interest in her work, Elizabeth Strout comes to Boston to share from her critically acclaimed debut novel, *Amy and Isabelle*. The emotionally charged first novel, which tells of a teenager's alienation from her distant mother—lyrically set in a New England mill town—was engulfed in critical praise upon its hardcover release last January.

The *New York Times* lauds her work as a notable book of the year and *Entertainment Weekly* named it one of the 10 best books of '99—well-earned accolades, as Strout worked on this, her first novel, for seven years.

Strout is joined by distinguished author Andre Dubus III, son of Andre Dubus, the widely recognized master of short fiction. A National Book Award finalist and English professor at Tufts University, Dubus is the author of *The Cage Keeper and Other Stories* and *Bluesman*.

Dubus, who has been awarded a Pushcart Prize and the '85 National Magazine Award for Fiction among numerous other awards, will read from his newest work of fiction, titled, *The House of Sand and Fog*. Both authors will be available to sign copies of their books and answer questions after the readings.

March 2, 7pm. Brookline Booksmith, 279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Call ahead to reserve free tickets to the reading.

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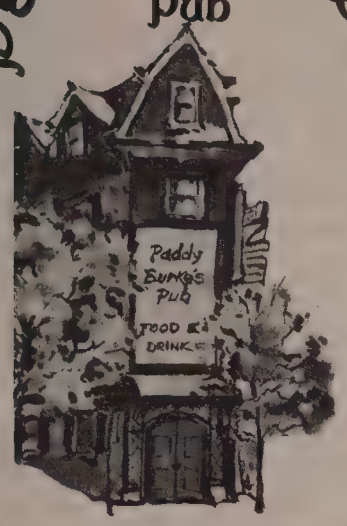

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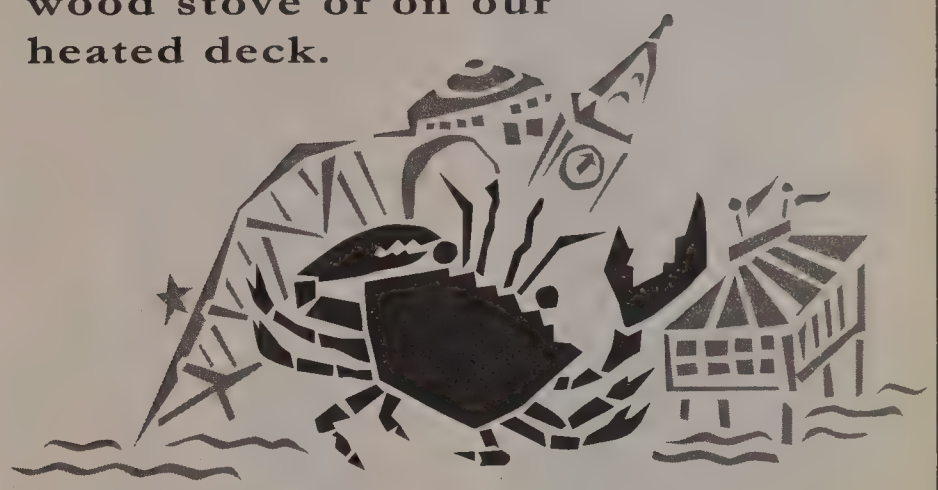

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AMATEUR PROFESSIONALS

The Longwood Symphony Orchestra brings new depth to "dedication." BY KEITH POWERS

Is there a doctor in the house? Why no, they're all onstage! This may sound like a graft from a Marx Brothers skit, but when the Longwood Symphony Orchestra performs, the doctors *are* onstage.

This remarkable ensemble consists mainly of members of the medical profession. How do doctors, notorious for their 24/7 schedules, find the time to rehearse and perform? "Many of us followed both career paths, music and medicine, until it came time to choose," says Lisa Wong, president of the group (and violinist). "And we wouldn't dream of giving up on music altogether."

Not only do these doctors regularly deliver solid semi-professional concerts, each concert is a benefit for some other nonprofit. "We love to do what we're doing," says Wong. "But it didn't feel like playing was enough. So when I became president we decided that every concert would be a benefit." A March 4 concert at Jordan Hall premiering a new work by Noam Elkies raises money for the Dimock Health Community Center in Roxbury.

"Some of them could have been professional musicians, but they were too smart to do that," says the group's conductor, Francisco Noya, with a laugh. "But music is a very important part of their life. I make no concessions to the fact that they are busy professionals. Of course there are certain things you cannot tackle with impunity with any amateur orchestra. But each year we play some very ambitious programs."

We spoke a bit about this year's first-ever, the Elkies "Scherzo for Cello and Orchestra," which was composed for soloist Bion Tsang. "It's brief, about 12 minutes long," Noya says. "In one movement, scherzo form [ABA] with a lyrical middle section. It has a kind of pattern that repeats itself, like an ostinato but not really. I think the audience will enjoy it."

"I make no concessions to the fact that they are busy professionals," says conductor Francisco Noya. "Of course there are certain things you cannot tackle with impunity with any amateur orchestra."

Also on the program is the Korngold "Concerto for Cello and Orchestra." "Korngold in some ways was the predecessor to John Williams," Noya says. "He was a great composer who also wrote lush movie scores. This piece was originally written for a movie called *Deception*, starring Bette Davis. She's married to a cellist, who plays a version of this concerto in the movie. Korngold liked it so much that he reworked it into this piece."

Noya, a native of Venezuela, moved here 21 years ago to study composition and conducting at BU. Like many conductors, he leads a peripatetic life filled with teaching, performances and guest conducting appearances. Besides his appointment with the LSO, he also leads the Rhode Island Philharmonic and the Empire State Youth Orchestra. But it's clear that the LSO is a very special gig.

"We have such a diversity of talent, not just doctors but business consultants, lawyers, music teachers," he says. "When we go out for dinner the conversation can range from the stock market to new medical procedures to the latest software technologies. It's a very complete group of people."

Coda

Overheard in the men's room after the world premiere of **Andy Vores** "World Wheel" by the **Cantata Singers**, billed at 45 minutes but which was at least 70 minutes long: "If I'da known it was that long, I woulda brought a second flask." Recommended reading: **Isaac Stern**'s new biography, *My First 79 Years*. The violinist, known as the man who saved Carnegie Hall, is making an amazing comeback from carpal tunnel syndrome, and has scheduled several concerts in New York this spring.

Masthead readers will note that I am no longer part of the IMPROPER BOSTONIAN full-time staff. However, I am delighted that this column will continue to appear after I've moved on to my new "day" job. Rants and raves should still be sent to keith_powers@improper.com. iB

Conductor Francesco Noya considers the Longwood Orchestra conductorship a very special gig.

Michael Tilson Thomas will conduct the San Francisco Symphony, appearing at Symphony Hall Feb. 27.

Advice to Contributors

Submit information labeled Classical by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Music or e-mail to classical@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers web site information and nearest T stops. Deadline is four weeks prior to deadline. Listings can not be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers

Information for the music section is compiled from many different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double check dates and times.

Wednesday, February 23

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm, $13-$74. This is Benjamin Britten's moving *War Requiem*, written to commemorate the rebuilding of the war-damaged Coventry Cathedral in 1961.

Thursday, February 24

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm, $13-$74. Same program as Feb. 23.

Pickman Concert Hall
Longy School of Music, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (876-0956). 8pm, prices vary. Faculty Artist Series.

Friday, February 25

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 1:30pm. $13-$74. Same program as Feb. 23.

NEC's Jordan Hall
30 Gainsborough St., Boston (536-2412). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave. 8pm, $25,$37 or $49. Paul McCreesh conducts pieces by classical masters Haydn and Mozart.

Saturday, February 26

Boston Conservatory Theater
31 Hemenway St., Boston (536-6340). MBTA: Green Line to Fenway. 8pm, $7-$32. Enjoy a non-stop marathon of music with the Prism Ensemble Concert as the students of the Boston Conservatory teams up with its faculty.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm, $13-$74. Same program as Feb. 23.

The Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (566-1401). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 1:30pm, $4-$17. Chamber music from the New World Symphony. Directed by Scott Nickrenz.

Sunday, February 27

Boston Chamber Orchestra
Corner of Berkeley and Marlborough Streets (267-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 3pm, $10-$15. Dvork's Serenade in E Major and Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 1.

Emmanuel Music Concerts
15 Newbury St., Boston (536-3356). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 10am. Free Will Offering. Weekly Bach Cantata with the orchestra and chorus of Emmanuel Music. Conductor Craig Smith.

Gardner Sunday Series
280 The Fenway, Boston (566-1401). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 1:30pm, $4-$17. Musicians from Marlboro perform music by Beethoven, Janacek, Kurtag and Mozart.

King's Chapel Concert Series
58 Tremont St., Boston (227-2155). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 5pm. Farewell concert of Daniel Pinkham, featuring soloists, choir and intrumentalists.

NEC's Jordan Hall
30 Gainsborough St., Boston (536-2412). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave. 3pm, prices vary. Sounds of the Jewish Experience in 20th Century Orchestral Music.

Pickman Concert Series
Longy School of Music, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (876-0956). 7pm, $8-$12. Showcase Series starring Nelita True, pianist.

San Fransisco Symphony
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1492). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3pm, $35-$50. The Symphony offers an exciting program which juxtaposes a 19th-century classic with a significant piece by a leading American composer.

Tuesday, February 29

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm, $13-$74. Same program as Feb. 23.

Thursday, March 2

Adolphus Busch Hall
29 Kirkland St., Cambridge (495-9400). 12:15pm-12:45pm. Free admission. Midday Organ Recitals featuring members of the Harvard Organ Society, Harvard faculty, and organists from the Boston area.

Friday, March 3

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm, $14-$79. Max Bruch's concerto for the unusual combination of clarinet, viola and orchestra, the BSO's string orchestra version of Argentine-born Osvaldo Golijov's *Last Round* and Beethoven's symphony No. 7.

NEC's Jordan Hall
30 Gainsborough St., Boston (536-2412). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave. 8pm, $25-$38. Russell Sherman's 70th Birthday Celebration Performance.

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Downtown Boston (482-6439). 12:15pm. WGBH joins New England Conservatory and Old South Meeting House to bring classical music to downtown Boston.

Saturday, March 4

Berklee Performance Center
136 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-7455). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center. 8pm, $27-$38. Enjoy a Celebrity Series Debut featuring Diana Krall, a rare blend of gifted pianist and thrilling vocalist.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm, $14-$79. Same program as March 3.

Brookline Symphony
BU Concert Hall, 855 Comm. Ave., Boston (527-2378). MBTA: Green Line to BU Central. 8pm, $7.50-$12. Honegger *Pastorale d'Ete*, Berlioz *Les Nuits d'Ete* with soprano Robin Ginenthal and Schubert *Symphony No. 5*. David Callahan conducts.

Conversation Galante
All Saints Parish, 1773 Beacon St., Brookline (729-7212). MBTA: C Green Line to Dean Rd. 8pm, $5-$10. A Telemann Birthday Celebration with sonatas for flute and continuo, a concerto for flute and obbligato harpsichord and suites for harpsichord from *Der Getreue Musikmeister*.

Pickman Concert Hall
Longy School of Music, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (876-0956). 8pm, prices vary. Hear the 1999 winner of the Pro Musicis International Award, pianist J.Y. Song.

Sunday, March 5

Adolphus Busch Hall
29 Kirkland St., Cambridge (495-9400). 8pm, $20-$50. Three of the world's finest organists will perform the only three original compositions of J.S. Bach commemorating the 250th Anniversary of his death.

Gardner Sunday Series
280 The Fenway, Boston (566-1401). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum stop. 1:30pm, $4-$17. The Orion String Quartet performs two pieces by Mozart.

Symphony Hall
301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1492). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3pm, $30-$48. Celebrated as the world's most recorded chamber orchestra, the Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields makes another triumphant return to Boston.

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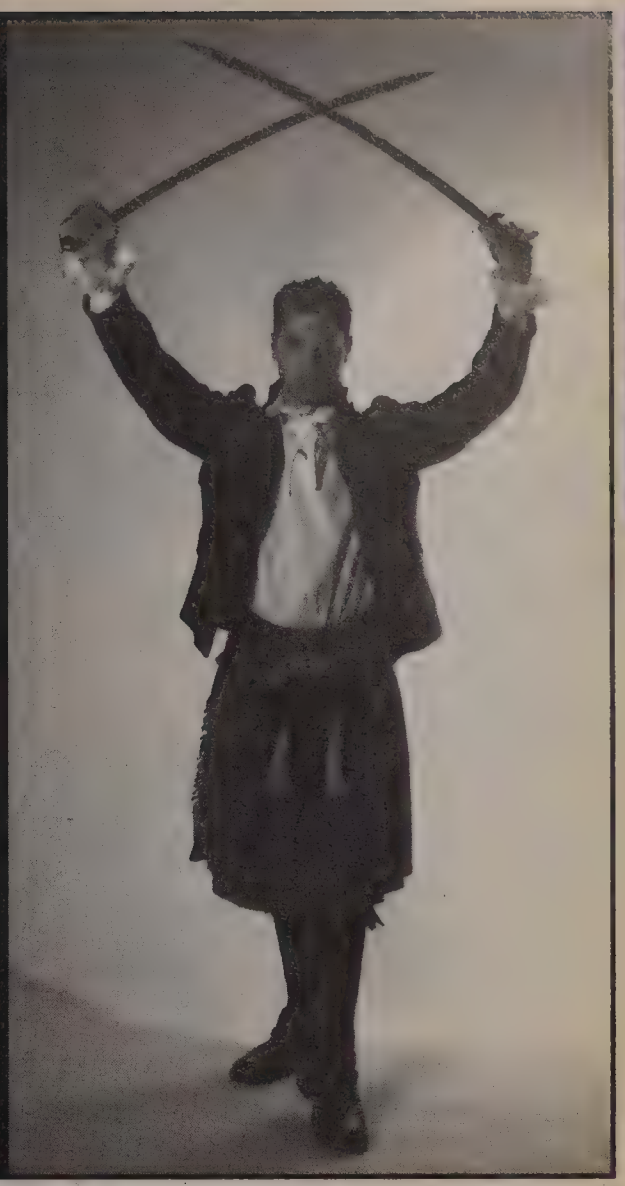

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3:00 & 8:00 PM
March 5 & 12
2:00 PM

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dance clubs

Advice to Contributors
Submit information by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Clubs or email to clubs@improper.com. Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers and nearest T stops. Deadline is four weeks prior to pub date. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Nights

Tuesdays

Cigar and Jazz night
The Exchange. Smoke, lounge and listen to the smooth sounds of jazz. Plus, you score a free Gina Cigar and complimentary buffet. No cover.

Fat Tuesdays
Bill's. This off-the-hook night features DJ Chaos scratching out hip-hop music to college clubbers while house masters DJ Justin Hoffman and WBCN's DJ Jynx spin dance tunes. Doors open at 11pm, $10 cover.

Hibernia Tuesdays
Hibernia. Get jiggy at "Flow" with DJ Craig Kapilow and Sava Kelesidis, where you'll find masses of dancers grooving to tribal house. 9pm. 21+. Cover varies.

Milk
Venu. Boston promoters from seven clubs unite to bring you the hottest house night all week. Resident DJ Osheen spins deep to hard house. Dress is funky. 21+.

Mingle Tuesdays
The Modern. This fancy schmancy spot screams très chic. More low-key and upsacle than its Lansdowne street neighbors, it's got a raw bar, vodka bar and late lounge. 10pm. 21+.

Zanzibar Tuesdays
The Big Easy. Dress to impress for Boston's premiere International Night. The Big Easy's got DJ Manola, who spins Latin and international music from 11pm. 19+. $10.

Wednesdays

Axis
•March 1 **DJ Krust** featuring Dynamite & Morgan. Hip-hop, acid house and rave. 8pm, $12, 18+.

College Night
The Aquarium. Guest DJ spins from 10pm to 11am.

Good Karma
Karma/Mambo. Misery plays a host to a roster of rotating DJs. Expect a mixed crowd and special guest performers. 10pm. 19+. $5 cover.

Gotham
M-80. Prepare to party with the beautiful people dressed in black as DJ Eddy K dominates the airwaves with the NY house. Leave the hats, but bring yrou wallet for the$10 cover. It all begins at 11:30pm. 21+.

Hibernia Wednesdays
Hibernia. DJ C.T.O. is the Godfather of Say Word night—with plenty of funk, rare groove, soul and old school hip-hop. 9pm. 21+. Cover varies.

Imagination
Backstage. DJs Freddy C. and Jonny C. spin top 40, dance and club classics. Doors open at 10pm. No cover, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
The Sugar Shack. If you're 19+ and a woman, you get in for free before 11pm—otherwise the cover is $10. Located in the bottom of the Big Easy, there is most certainly funk, disco and a lot of hip-hop. 10pm.

Modern Living
The Modern. DJ Dale Charles spins while minglers munch away on a raw bar and sip martinis. 10pm. 21+.

Musical Mayhem
The Exchange. WBCN's DJ Jynx of Cybersounds plays bangin' funky house upstairs while Tym Ryan of WFNX and DJ Brisc spin downstairs in the vault. Party starts at 10pm.

Pravda 116
Come spend the night with Boston's premiere promoters, Igor, Alex, Heather, Christophe and Manos at the newest decadent hot spot. Featuring international Eurohouse by Boston Beat gurus, DJ Alex and DJ Felix. Proper dress required, 21+.

Thursdays

Adrenaline
Backstage. Tonight features special guest DJs from around the world spinning hard NYC. House, with residents Jonny C. and Freddy C. starting the party. 10pm, 21+.

The Aquarium
Kiss 108 FM dance party featuring Randy from the Matty in the Morning Show. 10pm-1am. $3 cover.

Atlas Dance
Tonight is almost as much fun as Atlas Dance's Friday and Saturday nights—filled with top 40 dancing from 10:30pm-2am. $5, 21+.

Chrome
Axis John Debo and Ali Ajami host, spin and all-around have a good time. Head upstairs to hear DJ Chaos spin soul, funk and house beats. Leave your attitude at the door—DJ is god here. 10pm, $10 cover, 19+. •Feb. 24 is Julius Papp or Sasha.

Downtempo Lounging
The Modern. DJ Ricky Fatts spins while you enjoy the raw bar, vodka bar and late lounge. 9pm-2am, 21+.

Funkalicious Thursdays
The Exchange. DJ G squared takes you on a blast from the past as he spins the sounds of '70s and '80s. Added bonus: free after work buffet. No cover.

Hibernia Thursdays
Hibernia. Experience the full rockin' spectrum of sound on Spectrum night with DJ Kid Ray. 9pm, 21+, cover varies.

International Thursday
Avalon. An overwhelmingly Asian crowd fills up this nightspot as DJ Manolo spins Eurohaus and DJ Anthony spins Latin in the adjoining Playhouse LatinLounge. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover. Next door, the Modern's Downtempo Lounging night's got DJ Ricky Fatts, 9pm, 21+.

Kit Kat Klub
Sugar Shack. This new night features guest DJs spinning hip hop to college clubbers, 10pm, 19+.

Latin Quarter
The Roxy. Time to get down as the Roxy breaks out hip shaking salsa, merengue and Latin dance mixes.

Lava Bar
Get Lifted. *Lavabar.com*. DJs Pouli Brien and phenom along with Verse D. bring you old school hip-hop, soul/funk and reggae. Doors open at 10pm. 21+.

Speed
Karma/Mambo. DJ Chaos spins the latest Hip-Hop and R&B while DJ Johnny Scrofani spins house in the Mambo Lounge. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover.

Venu
Swank American top 40 and house, featuring DJ Adilson, creator of the hottest Saturday night in the city, the Roxy.

Fridays

Avaland
Avalon. Everything about the room screams party. With world famous DJs spinning, including resident DJs Manolo and John Debo, this has become the single most NY-style club night in Boston. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover. •Feb.25 is David Morales.

Backstage
Backstage kicks off its all night dance party part one with DJ Jonny C spinning N.Y.C. house, top 40 dance and funk. Doors open at 10pm. $5 cover, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans themed nightspot has some of the best mainstream DJs in town. Offering four bars, two lounges as well as billiards and a wraparound balcony, the Big Easy is a staple in Boston's weekend nightlife.

Buzz Fridays
Buzz. Two rooms of cocktail delights: Roger M lays down both traditional Latin and international house tracks while upstairs visiting DJs pay homage to the house music gods. 11pm, $15 cover, 19+.

Emily's
An after work venue during the week, this spot transforms itself into a dance kingdom on weekends. Resident DJ Kaboom infuses funk, dance, pop and disco. Door s open at 4pm. Get there early and avoid a cover.

Envy
This extraordinarily popular Friday night hot spot is filled with a swarming mass of sweaty 'n' ready dancers. You'll have plenty of choice dance partners. 9pm, $5 cover after 10pm, 21+.

Exchange Fridays
The Exchange. Up High, Tiziano and Maurizio, Boston's best DJ duo, guides you on a house trip while DJ G Squared opens the vault door with mainstream dance and hip hop. Doors at 9pm.

Focus
Hibernia. How can you go wrong with DJs Chuck Caseroc, Keith Kene and Skot Havens. 9pm, 21+. cover varies.

Lava Bar
Life. *lavabar.com*. From the creators of Soul Revival, DJ Fran Englehardt spins ambient, soulful and deep house—transition your night from loungy beats to deep soulful rhythms doors at 10pm.

Latinhaus and International Night
M-80. Always dominated by no less than 1,000 international students, this is the must-be place for the I-20 scene. DJ JC throws out classic Latinhaus and DJ Eddy K. spins House. 11pm, $15 cover, 21+.

Review

Bright Lights, Small City

Sundance scenesters

It would take me less time to list the names of the few people who were NOT at the Sundance Film Festival this year. Hollywood and NYC had nothing on Park City, Utah, in terms of VIP's for the two week long festival. Believe you me, there were people doing just about anything for interviews and entrance to screenings. I even heard the dreaded "DON'T YOU KNOW WHO I AM?"

It was a great feeling to walk down the Main Street and walk into Jodie Foster and then two minutes later run into a pack of Bostonians.

Boston's son Brad Anderson, who gave the world *Next Stop Wonderland*, was back at Sundance this year with his parents and girlfriend to release *Happy Accidents*, his newest film, an intricate comedy starring Marisa Tomei and Vincent D'Onofrio—a definite must see when it hits theaters soon. John Chase, the Ethan Hawk look-a-like and writer/director of *Massholes*, pulled into town with producers Katie Albert and Ari Newman, just in time to throw a bash to celebrate the release of the recently completed film.

Albert and Newman threw a kicker with some of the cast and crew who happened to be in town. They gave away signature black *Massholes* beanies—and actress Courtney Love was seen touting one about later on in the week. Speaking of parties, cyber-cool producer Jeff Hardadon hosted a shin-dig at his swanky sky pad and downloaded a DJ for the occasion. His party attracted the winners of an Anarchy Films Award, Monika Mitchell and Christie Scott Cashman for their film, *Night Deposit*. The film screened around the clock in an online movie lounge. Remember what the internet did for *The Blair Witch Project*!

In film shorts, a wave of riotous laughter filled theaters when *Picture Park's* Jonathan Bekemeier and Greg Roman screened their absurd comedy *Titler*, a look at the man behind closed doors. Courtney Williams trekked out to Park City with Velveteen Pictures partners to show the teaser for their digital video project *The Gypsy Years*. The trailer was one of many which showed in the very non-conventional "trailer park" complete with red carpet, parked in the middle of a vacant lot surrounded by bails of hey. Novelty isn't the word.

Casting guru Kevin Fennessy celebrated his second twenty-first birthday with friends while in attendance at the booked out *River Horse Cafe* with friends, among them Laura Bernieri of Brighton Ave Films and Sara Green of the Sundance Institute. Fennessy said the best part of the festival for him is going all the way out to Utah just to see people from New England: "The relationships and connections just get stronger." There are so many Boston Beans whom I know I am leaving out. For sure there was Jenni 'Lipstick' Zaharian, who flew in just long enough to see her work on the big screen. And who didn't see Howard Steeves, tallest man in America. It is all thanks to Howard that the festival gets anywhere. There is also a need to include Norman Reedus, an actor with the film *Beat*, co-starring Courtney Love and Keifer Sutherland. Norman is the man. He stars in *Bondock Saints* and *Floating*, both filmed in you guess it: BOSTON. Just in case they felt left out, both Affleck brothers and Dr. Damon were representing. That's it..and hey....I SAW UMA THURMAN! —*Sean Daly*

From top: Katie Albert and Mary Chiochios at the Mirimax party; Amy Adrian at the Mirimax party; Rebecca Bagley and Courtney Williams at the Williams Morris party.

Ultra Lounge
The Modern. DJ Hoffman is next door at the Modern's Ultra Lounge. 9pm-2am,21+.

Nocturnal Fridays
Bill's Bar. WBCN day guy and football swami, Bill Abbate, spins up a delectable smorgasbord of rock with a pinch of roll. Nocturnal Friday is the perfect place to chug a beer and chill. 9pm. $5 cover, 21+.

Sonic
Karma/Mambo. National guest rave DJs and DJ Venom spin Hard House and Happy Hardcore in the Main Room, while Space Munkee and DJ Myth spin in the Mambo Lounge. 10pm. 19+. $15. •Feb. 25 is Venom.

Roxy 2000
Roxy/Mondo Bar. What goes around, comes around. Go crazy as the intimacy of Roxy consumes you and DJ Felix spins house and international music throughout the night.10:30pm $15 cover, 21+.

Spin Cycle
Axis. Glitzed out club hoppers and an active scam scene mix to make the progressive house beats of DJ Tim Ryan downstairs or DJ David James '80s and retro tunes upstairs. 10pm, $12, 19+.

Venu International
Venu. Igor, Heather, Alex and Caeser host this elegant international night where DJs Arsit and Tassos share the decks, spinning an eclectic Eurohouse mix. Table reservations are possible if you can get in—but only the very chic gain entry. 21+.

Saturdays

The Aquarium
Saturday night dance party hosted by resident DJ. 10pm-1am, $5 cover.

Downtown
Avalon. Resident DJs Manolo and Mattie O. gyrate your ass with the latest hits and club classics. 10pm. 21+. $15 cover.

Backstage
Get ready for part two of Backstage's all night dance party with DJ Freddy C spinning progressive house and top 40 dance. Doors open at 10pm, $5 cover, 21+.

Bill's Bar
DJ Laurie Gail with guest DJs promise to make Bill's a night full of dancing to the best of the '70s, '80s and '90s. 9pm, $3 cover, 19+.

Classic Saturday
M-80. DJ JC and DJ Eddie K spin Latinhaus, International and House music. 11pm, $15, 21+.

Club Juliana
Boogying cuties converge on Boston's newest Latin Night starting at 10pm. Dress to impress—no jeans or sneaks. $10. Ladies free before 11pm.

Club Nicole
The faces are familiar and the mob thick for this exclusive, euro trendsetter. DJ Alex spins classic international eurohouse. Reservations recommended, jackets required. 21+.

Elements of Life
Karma/Mambo. World class DJs spin House music in the main room while DJ Hoffman plays funk in the Mambo Lounge. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover.

Emily's
Serious disco and high-energy dance. DJs spice up Saturday nights and transform this after work venue into a dance kingdom. 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Envy
From 9pm-2am, DJ Tom Baxter blasts Top 40, house and dance throughout the night. 9pm, $5 cover after 10pm, 21+.

Exchange Saturdays
The Exchange. DJ Diesel renovates the upper level with full on house while DJ Jynx spins all the funky beats in the lower Vault lounge 9pm.

Hibernia Saturdays
Hibernia. Masters of house, techno and dance, DJs Dino and David West, take the reins and whip the crowd into a frenzy. 9pm, 21+. cover varies.

Sugar Shack
Spice up your night with '70s, '80s, '90s dance music as DJ Rich Centi spins the hottest sounds in town.

Lava Bar
575 Commonwealth. Ave., Boston (267-7707). lavabar.com. Tabu night means anything goes with DJ Fran and Kris Kono Unite. High energy house with a taste of Latin beats— Open Minds Free Souls, doors at 10pm.

Miami Club Night
Club Joy/Yesterday's. *533 Washington St., Boston (350-5555).* Enjoy Boston's only Latin Night to feature La Rueda de Casino, a Cuban salsa game danced throughout clubs in Miami and Cuba, and get a taste of Miami nightlife. 9:30pm (ladies free before 11pm), $10 cover, 21+ (ladies, 19+).

Mischief
The Modern. Feeling mischievous? Ultra lounging with decadent deserts and erotic electronica. 21+.

Mythos
Venu. Greek International with DJ Yorgo Jr. spinning the latest hits from the famous party islands of Greece.

X night
Axis. Axis is taken over by DJ Mike Gioscia who spins cutting edge favorites of 90's alternative while DJ David James spins the hottest 80's hits in the Left Over Lounge upstairs. 10pm, $10 cover, 21+.

Sundays

Avalon
Boston's biggest gay night. Special guest DJs and Resident DJ Darrin Friedman.. 10pm, $10 cover.

Exchange Sundays
A fusion of Heavy Lounge and Miami House, no cover.

Club Millennium 2000
Backstage. Special Guests DJs in rotation. Doors open at 10pm, ladies free before 11pm, 21+, proper dress.

Il Panino
This is where the people from Oskar's go to spend their final hour of partying. Mainly attracting Euros, this night features music by DJ Alex of Boston Beat and DJ Roger M. 21+, no cover.

Salavation
This new Boston vibe serves up an intimate evening of soul provided by DJ Soul. $5, until 10pm.

Raves

Energy 2000
Feb. 26, 9pm-7am. The Caves, 700 Van Deuver St., Staten Island, NY (212-465-2568). $25. 18+. After years of anticipation the party that rocked the tri-state returns with more power than ever. This one boasts four rooms of non-stop energy—plus a crazy funky light show and a bar for those 21+.

The Next Level
Feb. 26, the Electric Factory, Philadelphia (215-413-9100). The venue can comfortably hold 2,500 people on two levels. The upstairs balcony, which overlooks the entire stage and dancefloor is strictly 21+, the downstairs is 18+.

Club Venues

The Aquarium *65 Holland St., Somerville (623-3200). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (338-7080). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center.*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (437-0300). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424) MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Backstage *25 Quincy Market Place Faneuil Hall, Boston (726-1110). MBTA: Blue Line to Government Center.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Buzz Boston/Europa *51-67 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park St.*
Club Juliana *20 Hudson St., Boston (542-4411).*
Club Nicole *40 Dalton St., Boston (236-4746).*
Club Stella *1234 Soldiers Field Rd., Brighton (254-0554).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Upstairs, Boston (423-3649). MBTA: Red or Green Lines to Park Street.*
Envy *25 Boylston Place, Boston (542-3689). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Exchange *148 State St., Boston (723-7755). MBTA: Orange Line to State Street.*
Hibernia *25 Kingston St., Boston (292-2333). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Karma *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9595). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Lava Bar *575 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-7707). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
M-80 *969 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant Street.*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (482-7799). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Oskar's *107 South St., Leather District, Boston (542-6756). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Salavation *20 Hudson St., Boston (781-668-2392). MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown.*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Theatre District, Boston (338-8061). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*

Music

MULE VARIATIONS

With a new sound and a changing audience, Gov't Mule leaves its Allman incarnation behind. BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

It's been a tough road for Gov't Mule to hoe, to transcend its restricting image as a brawny jam band whose guitarist-singer Warren Haynes and bassist Allen Woody spent eight years in the Allman Brothers Band. But the group is striving to break down new doors with its third studio CD, *Life Before Insanity,* and a tour stepping up to Avalon March 3.

"Until a couple of years ago, it was predominately male audiences, like 80 percent, and it's nice to look out sometimes and see more and more women and young people come to the shows," Haynes says of another side effect of being a power trio in the tradition of Cream and the Jimi Hendrix Experience, rounded out by drummer Matt Abts, and heavy on the jamming.

"To come out of a band like the Allman Brothers, which is an institution, and pursue a different direction is not the easiest thing," adds the North Carolina native, on the phone from his Manhattan home. "It's something we knew we were faced with from the beginning. But it didn't discourage us. It took a while to build the audience properly. In the first year of Gov't Mule, it was curious Allman Brothers fans, wanting to see what Woody and I were doing in our spare time. But eventually, every year, it would be more and more fans who were discovering the music on its own merit." The assets of the Mule—which separated from the Allmans to go full-time three years ago—branch into jazzy improvisations (especially on 1999's standout live double-CD *With A Little Help From Our Friends*), emotive, acoustic-based originals which come into their own on the new disc, and rootsy blues.

"We're just trying to grow outward in different directions," Haynes says, and that extends to new single "Bad Little Doggie," which clocks under four minutes and has already received more airplay than any previous Mule tune. "We felt what was missing [from the CD] was just a straightahead, driving tune that didn't go into other directions, like there was no dynamic up and down or tempo changes," he says. "It kinda fell into place that it turned out to be three minutes and 49 seconds long. We were pleasantly surprised. But it felt right. It didn't feel like it should be longer."

Airplay has been a tough nut to crack for the Mule, given that its sound is closer to classic-rock, and its original tunes go against the grain of what is popular on modern rock radio. "It's kinda odd that a band as heavy as we are, in some cases, still gets considered blues or Southern rock," Haynes says. "But alongside Limp Bizkit, Korn and Metallica and Kid Rock, maybe it is blues." Or maybe the Mule offers its own alternative. "One of the reasons we started Gov't Mule was nobody was doing the whole power-trio thing," says Haynes, who knew Abts from their pre-Allmans stint in the Dickey Betts Band and felt he and Woody would connect as the rhythm section of a trio. "In a live performance setting, we have our hands full constantly. There's never a moment where you can lay back and kinda be on auto pilot. That's the downfall of the band if you do that, and I really owe a lot to Matt and Woody because of their aggressive styles and how much space they take up in a meaningful way."

"I love the sound when we're clicking, but I also love bringing in other people," Haynes says of that bolstered tonal/textural dynamic, "the way each of our roles change instantly the moment somebody else walks onstage." On the live album, the Mule was joined by friends like current Allmans guitarist Derek Trucks, keyboardist Chuck Leavell and former Black Crowes guitarist Marc Ford, while the new CD includes contributions from ex-Allmans keyboardist Johnny Neel and Ben Harper, who lends his vocals and lap steel guitar to "Lay Your Burden Down."

"I'm excited about this tour—I think it's going to be the best one we've ever done," says Haynes, who just got off the road from a side gig with former Grateful Dead bassist Phil Lesh. "We're going to rehearse a little more for this tour than in the past, and we're going to try and have more special guests. I know Ben Harper's going to come out and join us for a few shows—hopefully Avalon will be one of them. We want to make every night different, for the repeat offenders and ourselves."

Former Allman members, Gov't Mule come to Avalon to play March 3.

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Advice to Readers
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Balfa Toujours join Geno Delafose and Henry Butler for the Roxy's Mardi Gras party March 5.

Concerts

Cher
March 3, Fleet Center
The Dave Brubeck Quartet
March 5, Sanders Theatre
Fiona Apple
Feb. 25, Orpheum Theatre
Gov't Mule
March 3, Avalon
Smash Mouth and Lusclous Jackson
Feb. 28, Mullins Center
Feb. 29, Orpheum Theatre
Pat Metheny
March 5, Somerville Theatre
Pretenders
March 4, Avalon
Radio Tarifa
March 3, Somerville Theatre
Yo La Tengo with Lambchop
Feb. 28, Somerville Theatre
Winter Folk Festival
March 4, Somerville Theatre

CONCERT HALLS

FleetCenter
One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (624-1000). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to North Station
Orpheum Theatre
1 Hamilton Place, Boston (679-0810). MBTA: Red Line to Park Street
Sanders Theatre
45 Quincy St., Cambridge (496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard
Somerville Theatre
55 Davis Square, Somerville (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis

Rock, Jazz and Blues

Wednesday, February 23

Bill's Bar
Sugar Daddy with the Jones Brothers, 9pm, $7, 18+.
The Burren
Michael Tarbox and Daniel Kellar, 10pm, $3.
The Cantab
U: Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
Adrianne, Edie Carey, Sam Shaber, Anne O'Meara Heaton and Vanesssa Trien, 8pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge
Piano with Michelle Currie, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life
Grant Langford Trio, 9pm, no cover.
Green Dragon Tavern
Dave Foley, 10pm, $3.
Harpers Ferry
Dexter Grove, 9:30pm, $4.
Hennessy's of Boston
Tradition Irish Session, 9:30pm.

MULE: DANNY CLINCH, TOUJOURS: RICK OLIVIER

House of Blues
"Sax" Gordon Beadle, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Johnny D's
California Guitar Trio, 9pm.
Lizard Lounge
Baby Ray, Banjo Spiders, Jules Verdone, 10 pm, 21+.
Middle East
U: His Name is Alive, Slashpaper, Heart and Hand and Seely, 9pm, $8, 18+. Corner: Belly Dancing.
Midway Cafe
Nathan Thompson Band, 9:30pm, cover varies.
The Milky Way
Solaris with DJ Rando, 10pm, 21+ $3, no cover.
Regattabar
Kendrick Oliver and the New Life Jazz Orchestra, 8pm and 10pm, $14.
Sculler's Jazz Club
Teri Thornton, 8pm and 10pm, $12.
T.T. The Bear's Place
Katherine Shafer, Pete Weiss and the Weisstronauts, Say Zuzu and Lucky 57, 9pm, $5, 18+.
Wally's Cafe
Wally's Step-children II, 9pm, no cover.
White Horse Tavern
The Spirit House Band, 9pm, no cover.

Thursday, February 24

The Bayou Blues Cafe
Monica Lynk Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Bill's Bar
The Shods, Kearney Square and Cash, 9pm, $8, 18+.
Bob the Chef's Jazz Cafe
Ed Jones Quartet, 7:30pm, cover varies.
The Cantab
U: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies. D: OSBC Folk Off Competition, 8pm.
Club Cafe
Carol O'Shaughnessy with Steve Heck, no cover.
Club Passim
John McVey, 8pm, $10.
Common Ground
Brothers and Sisters Night featuring King J., 10pm, cover varies.
Encore Lounge
Piano with Michelle Curie, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life
Jose Ramos and the Special Blend, 9pm, no cover.
The Grand Canal
The Swinging Johnsons, no cover.
Green Dragon Tavern
The Spitting Vinnies, 10pm, $3.
Harpers Ferry
Say Zuzu with Seeking Homer, 9:30pm, $5.
Hennessy's of Boston
Live Under Cover and the Beloved Few, 9:30pm.
House of Blues
Professor Shuman, DJ Supremeone, Akrobatik, 10pm, $8, 21+.
Johnny D's
Nathan and the Zydeco Cha Cha's, 9pm.
Kendall Cafe
Left Front Tire, the Figments, TW Walsh, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Les Zygomates
The Jinga Trio, 8pm, no cover.
The Linwood
Spek, Volition, 10pm, $5.
Lizard Lounge
Rev. Keith W. Harris, Godboy, Rev. Glasseye and the Wooden Legs, Garage Dogs, Dirty Dogs, 10pm, 21+.
Middle East
U: Noise Pollution with Every Second, Trustfall, Nok, Gasket and Krank, 9pm, $7, 18+. D: Elliot Smith and the Kingsbury Manx, 9pm, $14, 18+. Corner: Board of Education.
The Milky Way
The Mooney Suzuki, the Fabulous Itchies, the Liquid Paper, $7, 21+.
Regattabar
Bobby Hutcherson Quintet featuring Kenny Garrett, 8pm and 10pm, $16.
Rhythm and Spice
DJ Bim Sound and Sound Vibration, 10:30pm, $5, 18+.
The Roxy
Eliades Ochoa Y Cuarteto Patria, 8pm, 18+.
Sculler's Jazz Club
Teri Thornton, 8pm and 10pm, $12.
Sky Bar
Meat Depressed, Darkbuster, the Flux, 9pm, $5, 21+.
T.T. The Bear's Place
The Control Group, Long Distance Runner, the World is My Fuse, Slower Than Seasons, 9pm, $6, 18+.

Friday, February 25

Aquarium
Gemma Dayton, 10pm, $6.
Bayou Blues Cafe
Monica Lynk Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Bill's Bar
Missing Joe with Canine, 9pm, $7, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Jazz Cafe
Paulo Danay Quartet, 7:30pm, cover varies.
The Cantab
U: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies. D: The Phil Pemberton Band, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
Dee Carstensen, Edie Carey, 8pm, $15.
Common Ground
18 Abbey and Sand Machine, 10pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band, 7pm; Booty, 10pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge
Piano with John O'Neil and Jan Peters, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life
Weepin' Willie and His All Star Band, 9pm, no cover.
The Grand Canal
Platform Soul, 10pm, $5.
Green Dragon Tavern
Cecil Bigg, 10pm, $3.
Green Street Grill
The Tarbox Ramblers, 11pm, no cover.
Harpers Ferry
Taylor Made with Buck Taylor, 9:30pm, $6.
House of Blues
Michael Tarbox, 12:30pm, no cover.
Johnny D's
Beatlejuice, 9pm.
Kendall Cafe
Hellcountry, Willard Grant Conspiracy and Mount Pilot, $7.
The Linwood
Terri Bright Presents, Nervous Eaters, 10pm, $5.
Lizard Lounge
Asa Brebner CD Release Party with Slide, Willie Alexander and the Either Orchestra, Michael Tarbox and the Family Jewels, 8pm and 10pm, 21+.
Middle East
U: the Popgun Seven, Common Thrill, Fuzzy Pinks, 360 Degrees Loose, 9pm, $7, 18+. D: Upper Crust, RC Crimewave, 9pm, $8, 18+. Corner: Patty Giurleo.
The Milky Way
Pressure Cooker, 10pm, $7, 21+.
Mr. Dooley's Tavern
Patsy Whelan and Pat Dunlea, 9pm, $3.
Regattabar
Bobby Hutcherson Quintet featuring Kenny Garrett, 8pm and 10pm, $18.
Rhythm and Spice
Jah Spirit, 10:30pm, $8, 21+.
Sculler's Jazz Club
Ray Barretto with Kenny Burrell and the New World Spirit, 8pm and 10:30pm, $21.
Sit n' Bull Pub
The Jones Brothers.
Sky Bar
Abuna, Rockets Burst from the Streetlamps, Moon Patrol and Enuma Elish, 9pm, $5, 21+.
T.T. The Bear's Place
The Sheila Divine, the Gentlemen and Left Front Tire, 9pm, $10, 18+.
The Western Front
Gojjam featuring Dion Knibbs, 9:30pm, $10.
Wonderbar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Saturday, February 26

Aquarium
Saturday Night Dance Party, hosted by DJ Remix, 10pm-1am, $5.
Bayou Blues Cafe
True Colors, 8pm, no cover.
Bob the Chef's Jazz Cafe
On Kee, 7:30pm, cover varies.
The Burren
The Tarbox Ramblers, 10:30pm. $3.
Cambridge Brewing Co.
Coots, 10pm, no cover.
The Cantab
U: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies. D: The Phil Pemberton Band, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
Mica Richards, 7pm and 10pm, $12.
Common Ground
Superhoney, 10pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm, Soul City, 10pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge
Cabaret with Lisa Stetor, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life
Karin Parker and Her Band, 9pm, no cover.
The Grand Canal
Pig Pen, 10pm, $5.
Green Dragon Tavern
Juggernot, 10pm, $3.
Harpers Ferry
The Rockett Band, 9:30pm, $6.
House of Blues
Mighty Sam McClain, 10pm, $15, 21+.
Johnny D's
Beatlejuice, 9pm.
Kendall Cafe
Andy White, Volition, Brandan Sweeney, 9:30pm, $5, 21+.
Les Zygomates
Eula Lawrence, 9pm, no cover.
The Linwood
Cheerleader, Waltham, CrackTorch, 10pm, $5.
The Lizard Lounge
Ollie Ollie, the Buckners, Playing for Audrey, 9:30pm.
Middle East
U: Conehead Buddha, Zyrah's Orange, 9pm, $7, 18+. D: Soulive, Medeski Moses Duo, 9pm, $15, 18+. Corner: Sal Baglio, Sweet Bread.
Midway Cafe
Riviera Playboys and Bombastics, 9:30pm, cover varies.
The Milky Way
Mango's Latin Dance Party, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Mr. Dooley's Tavern
Parsy Whelan and Pat Dunlea, 9pm, $3.
Paradise
Jennifer Knapp, Spinoza, Zoubek and Bryant, 7pm, $16.50/$20, 18+.
Regattabar
Bobby Hutcherson Quintet featuring Kenny Garrett, 8pm and 10pm, $20.
Rhythm and Spice
Oceanik, 10:30pm, $8, 21+.
Sculler's Jazz Club
Ray Barretto with Kenny Burrell and the New World Spirit, 8pm and 10:30pm, $21.
Sky Bar
The Gravy, Dragstrip Courage and Skinny Tee, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Slade's
The John Dougherty Trio, 8pm, no cover.
T.T. The Bear's Place
The Sheila Divine, the Curtain Society, Brian Dunn, 9pm, $10, 18+.

Sunday, February 27

Bill's Bar
Shakka Black, 9pm, $8, 18+.
Bob the Chef's Jazz Cafe
Paulo Danay Quartet, 11am, no cover.
Bullfinch's Pub
Bombay Jim and the Swinging Saphires, 6pm.
The Burren
Steve Venuti, Melissa Morris and Katrin, 8:30pm.
The Cantab
Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort
Evelyn McDonald Gospel Group, 10am, Rob Gonzalez, 7pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge
Piano with Michael Kruetz, 8:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life
Grant Langford Trio, 9pm.
Green Dragon Tavern
The Swinging Johnsons, 10pm, $3.
Harpers Ferry
Dan Rockett and Friends, 9:30pm, $3.
Hennessy's of Boston
Various groups from Ireland, 9:30pm.
Johnny D's
Blues Jam with Rumba NaMa, 9pm.
Kendall Cafe
Diana Williams and Allyson Casey.
Lizard Lounge
The Jeff Robinson Trio, doors open at 8pm, 21+.
Middle East
U: Slowfore, the Warren Commision, Blue Green Heart, Born in Transit, 8:30pm, $6, 18+. D: Ronnie Spector, Fuzzy, 9pm, $15, 18+.
The Roxy
Dixie Dregs, Dream Theater.
T.T. The Bear's Place
Brothers Creeggan featuring Jim Creeggan of Barenaked Ladies, Julie Doiron, Todd Thibaud, 9pm, $10.
Wally's Cafe
John Lankin Quintet, 9pm, no cover.
Wonderbar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Monday, February 28

Axis
Lit and 22 Jacks, 7pm, $14.
Bill's Bar
There with Drawing Flies and Hunter Green, 9pm, $5, 19+.
Bullfinch's Pub
Paul Broadnax and Peter Kontrimas, 6:30pm, no cover.
The Cantab
David Goldfinger, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort
Cheryl Aruda, 7pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge
Piano with Dorothy Miller and Michael Larson, 8pm, no cover.
The Good Life
Booty Juice, 9pm, no cover.
Green Street Grill
Organically Grown, 10:30pm, no cover.
Harper's Ferry
Ron Levy's Wild Kingdom, 9pm, $3.
House of Blues
Rick Russell and the Blues Buffet and Jam, 9pm, $6, 18+.
Johnny D's
Hot Tamale Brass Band, 9pm, no cover.
Kendall Cafe
10 Division St., no cover.
Lizard Lounge
The Fringe, 10pm, 21+.
Middle East
U: Alotia, Zizka, Cowgirl Hangover, 28 Degrees Taurus, 9pm, $6, 18+. Corner: Tom Bianchi.
Paradise
22 Jacks and Lit.
T.T. The Bear's Place
The Other Side of the Bear Acoustic Music - AdFrank and Friends, 9pm, $2, 18+.
Wonderbar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Tuesday, February 29

The Cantab
U: John Lincoln Wright and Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 9pm, cover varies.

Believe in Cher—see the ageless diva March 3 at the FleetCenter.

MICHAEL LAVINE

Hey now, they're rock stars. The all stars themselves, Smash Mouth, play two shows: Feb. 28 at the Mullins Center and Feb. 29 at the Orpheum Theatre.

Dick's Last Resort
Search Party, 7pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge
Piano with Bob Femino, 8:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life
Izzi Rosen Trio, 9pm.
Harper's Ferry
Another Planet and Friends, 9:30pm, $3.
Hennessy's of Boston
Patsey and Pat "Upbeat Irish" Celtic Rock, 9:30pm.
House of Blues
Guitar Shorty, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Johnny D's
Claude Williams and Matt Glaser, 9pm.
The Kells
Acoustic Open Mic with Gary Gore, no cover.
Kendall Cafe
Orbit, 9pm, $5.
Les Zygomates
The Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge
Jen Cohen and Jim's Big Ego, 8pm, 21+.
Middle East
U: Ted Leo, All Scars, the Binary System Expansion, the Beat Down Sound, 9pm, $7, 18+. Corner: Jason Gardner and Friends.
Regattabar
The Lello Molinari Project, 8:30pm, $12.
Ryle's Jazz Club
David Berkman and Joel Frahm Quartet, 8:30pm, $7.
Toad
Michael Tarbox, 7pm, no cover.
T.T. The Bear's Place
Indecision, Lackadaisic, Buck 50, Giants Workshop, 9pm, $4, 18+.

Wednesday, March 1

Axis
Krust with Dynamite and Morgan, 8pm, $12, 18+.
The Black Rose
Celtic Clan, 9pm.
The Burren
Michael Tarbox and Daniel Kellar, 10pm, $3.
Common Ground
Mod Night with DJ Vin, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff
The City Pete Band, 9pm.
Encore Lounge
Piano with Michelle Currie, 9:30pm, no cover.
Frank's Steak House
Jon Mansfield, 8pm, no cover.
The Good Life
Nick Goumas Quartet, 9pm.
Green Dragon Tavern
Dave Foley, 10pm, $3.
Hennessy's of Boston
Tradition Irish Session, 9:30pm.
Johnny D's
Buddy and Julie Miller, 9pm.
Les Zygomates
Ellen Cantarow, 8pm, no cover.
Middle East
U: Close Call, Fit For Abuse, A Poor Excuse, Tommy and the Terrors, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Hegarty, 6pm, cover varies.
Regattabar
The Bert Seager Trio, 8:30pm, $10.
Sculler's Jazz Club
The Caribbean Jazz Project, 8pm and 10pm, $16.
T.T. The Bear's Place
The Crush, Army of Jasons, Moonshot, Katie Barbato, 9pm, $4, 18+.
Wally's Cafe
Wally's Step-children II, 9pm, no cover.
White Horse Tavern
David's Foote, 9pm, no cover.

Thursday, March 2

Bayou Blues Cafe
Monica Lynk Trio, 8pm, no cover.
The Black Rose
Celtic Clan, 9pm.
Club Cafe
Carol O'Shaughnessy with Steve Heck, no cover.
Common Ground
Brothers and Sisters Night featuring King J., 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff
Beloved Few, 9pm.
Encore Lounge
Piano with Michelle Curie, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life
Rich Greenblatt's Vibe Quintet, 9pm.
Green Dragon Tavern
The Spitting Vinnies, 10pm, $3.
Hennessy's of Boston
Live Under Cover and Beloved Few, 9:30pm.
Jake Ivory's
Paul Levesque and Josh Nelson, 7:30pm, cover varies.
Johnny D's
Piners with Jim and Jennie and the Pine Barons, 9pm.
Les Zygomates
The Jinga Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Middle East
U: Lynx, Vic Firecracker, Helms, the Migration Trap, Pizza, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Carroll, 8pm, cover varies.
Regattabar
Ruth Brown and Friends, 8:30pm, $14.
Sculler's Jazz Club
The Caribbean Jazz Project, 8pm and 10pm, $16.

Friday, March 3

Aquarium
Entrain, 10pm-1am, $10.
Avalon
Gov't Mule, 7pm, $15, 18+.
Bayou Blues Cafe
Monica Lynk Trio, 8pm, no cover.
The Black Rose
U: The Crossing, D: Celtic Clan, 9pm, $5.
Club Passim
Melissa Ferrick, 7 and 10pm, $18.
Common Ground
Booty, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff
Thomas Park, 9pm, $3.
Encore Lounge
Piano with John O'Neil and Jan Peters, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life
Vic Ente Archer Quartet featuring Myron Waldron and Mulgrew Miller, 9pm.
Green Street Grill
The Tarbox Ramblers, 11pm, no cover.
Jake Ivory's
Josh Nelson and Bill Connors, 7:30pm, cover varies.
Johnny D's
Luther "Guitar Jr." Johnson, 9pm.
Jose McIntyre's
Second Story, 9pm, $3.
Les Zygomates
Bill Lowe, 9pm, no cover.
Middle East
U: Ms. Pigeon, Quick Fix, Heidi and Feedback, 9pm, $7, 18+. D: Dispatch, Jigawattica, Freelance Bishop, $8 advance, $10 at door, 18+.
Midway Cafe
Return of the Spurs, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Focal, Tom Carroll, DJ Sean, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Purple Shamrock
The Marsels, 9pm, $5.
Regattabar
Ruth Brown and Friends, 8pm and 10pm, $16.
Sculler's Jazz Club
The Clark Terry Quintet, 8pm and 10:30pm, $22.
T.T. The Bear's Place
Rocketscience, the Red Telephone, the Zips, Jr. Corduroy, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Wally's Cafe
John Lankin Quintet, 9pm, no cover.

Saturday, March 4

The Black Rose
Frank Ryan and the Crossing, Celtic Clan, 9pm, $5.
The Burren
The Tarbox Ramblers, 10:30pm, $3.
Club Passim
Melissa Ferrick, 7 and 10pm, $18.
Common Ground
Pressure Cooker, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff
Guy Smiley, 9pm, $3.
Encore Lounge
Cabaret with Lisa Stetor, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life
Karin Parker and her band, 9pm.
Hennessy's of Boston
DJ Dan McCarthy, 9:30pm.
Jake Ivory's
Aruna Abrams and Josh Nelson, 7:30pm.
Johnny D's
Milo Z, 9pm.
Jose McIntyre's
Cape Fear, 9pm, $3.
Les Zygomates
Valerie Stephens, 9pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge
Lars Vegas, 10pm, 21+.
Middle East
U: Roadsaw, Leadfoot, Throttle, Cash Money and the Jetsetters, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Midway Cafe
Jaya the Cat and Shoeless Joe, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Focal, Tom Carroll, DJ Wayne, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Paradise
Reverend Horton Heat, Dance Hall Crashers and One Man Army, 6:30pm, $15, 18+.
Encore Lounge
Piano with Michelle Currie, 9:30pm, no cover.
Purple Shamrock
Felix Brown, 9pm, $5.
Sculler's Jazz Club
The Clark Terry Quintet, 8pm and 10:30pm, $22.
Slade's
The John Dougherty Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Wally's Cafe
The John Lankin Quintet, 9pm, no cover.
The Western Front
Anthem, 9:30pm, $10.

Sunday, March 5

The Black Rose
Frank Ryan, D: Celtic Clan, 9pm.
Club Cafe
Cassandra Marsh, 8:30pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge
Piano with Michael Kruetz, 8:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life
Grant Longford Trio, 9pm.
Green Dragon Tavern
The Swinging Johnsons, 10pm, $3.
Hennessy's of Boston
Various groups from Ireland, 9:30pm.
Johnny D's
Blues Jam and Salsa dancing with Rumba NaMa, 9pm.
Lizard Lounge
Poetry Jam with the Jeff Robinson Trio, 8pm, 21+.
Middle East
D: Folk Implosion featuring Lou Barlow, Steve Rand and His Magic Ponies, 9pm, $12, 18+.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Carroll, 8pm, cover varies.
The Roxy
Mardi Gras Party featuring Geno Delafose, Balfa Toujours and Henry Butler, 7pm, $20, 21+.
T.T The Bear's Place
Urban Outfitters Party with Football, 8 Days w/o Cable, Emergency Music, Kelly Scarr, 9pm, $5, 18+.
Wally's Cafe
Wally's Step-children III, 9pm, no cover.
Wonderbar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Monday, March 6

The Black Rose
Tony O'Riordan, 9pm.
Bullfinch's Pub
Paul Broadnax and Peter Kontrimas, 6:30pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge
Piano with Dorothy Miller and Michael Larson, 8pm, no cover.
The Good Life
John Kordelski Trio, 9pm.
Harper's Ferry
Ron Levy's Wild Kingdom, 9pm, $3.
Johnny D's
Hot Tamale Brass Band, 9pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge
The Fringe, 10pm, 21+.
Middle East
U: Ann Berreta, Cops and Robbers, 9pm, $6, 18+.
T.T The Bear's Place
Tremont Ale presents "The Other Side of The Bear" Acoustic Series with Derek Skanky of Senor Happy, Army of Jasons, B-Side, 9pm, $2, 18+.
Wally's Cafe
Jose Ramos and Special Blend Band, 9pm, no cover.
Wonderbar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Tuesday, March 7

The Black Rose
Celtic Clan, 9pm.
Encore Lounge
Piano with Bob Femino, 8:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life
Mike Shea Trio, 9pm.
Hennessy's of Boston
Patsey and Pat "Upbeat Irish" Celtic Rock, 9:30pm.
Les Zygomates
The Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge
Barbara Brousell and Franc Grahm.

Hey look! The Winter Folk Festival returns this year March 4 at the Somerville Theatre.

SMASHMOUTH: JAY BLAKESBERG, FOLK: SUSAN WILSON

The Pretenders

With the release of their long-awaited album *Viva El Amor*, the first in five years, one of the most popular bands in the rock biz returns to the stage. Having spent this past summer on the Lilith tour, Chrissie Hynde re-teams up with her pals to bring back the signature sound, pop performance and balladry—all Pretenders trademarks—that have endured through the years. See them March 4 at Avalon.

Paddy Burke's Pub
Dave Smyth, 7pm, cover varies.
Regattabar
The Bud Shank Quartet, 8:30pm, $12.
Toad
David Champaign and Asa Brebner, 9:30pm, no cover.
T.T. The Bear's Place
Elf Power, Charlene and Summer Hymns, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Wally's Cafe
Wally's Step-children I, 9pm, no cover.

Wednesday, March 8

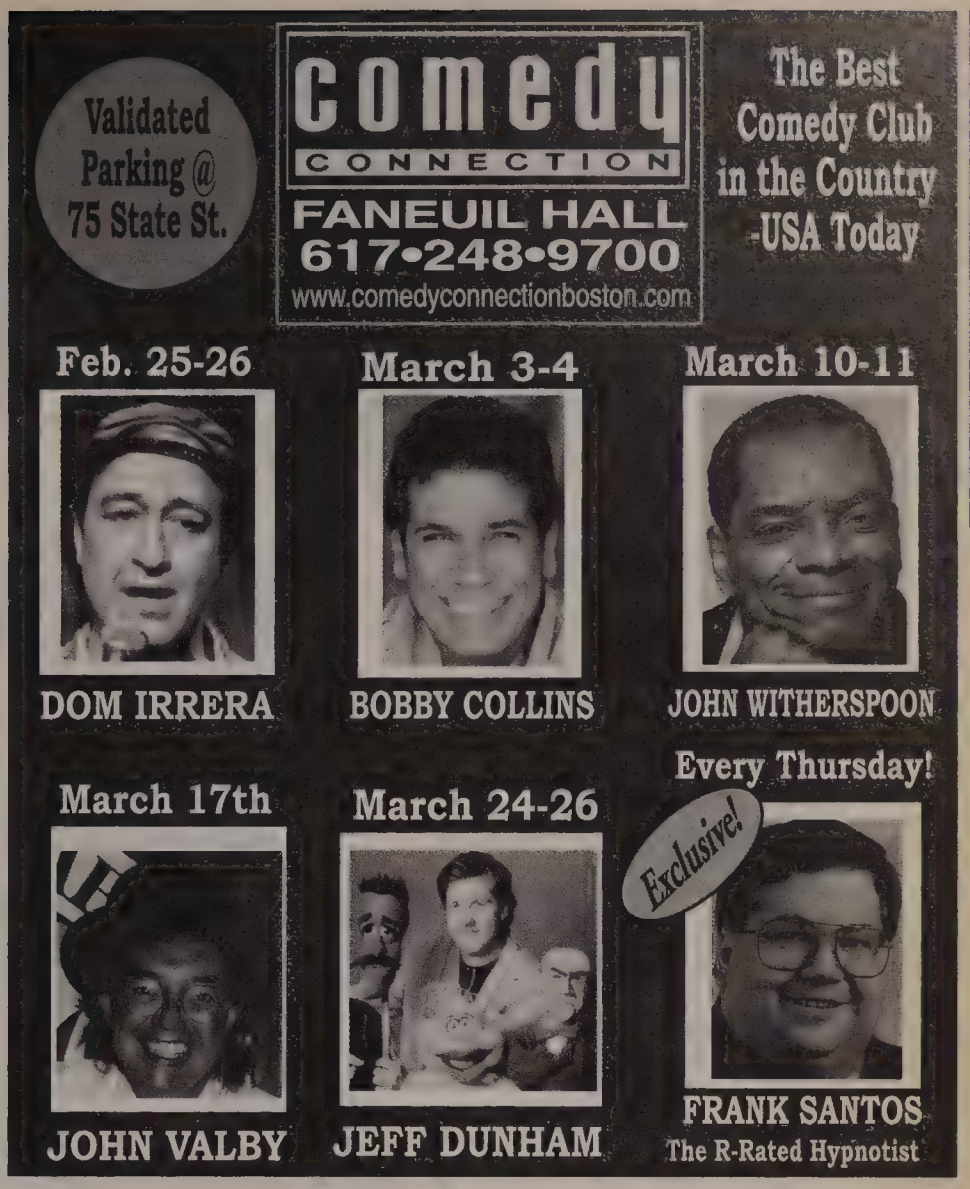
T.T. The Bear's Place
Stuffis, Cool Grape Goodness, Down Home Souls, Bluehouse Effect, 9pm, $4, 18+.

MUSIC VENUES

Aquarium *65 Holland St., Somerville (623-3200). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Fenway (262-2424).*
B-Side Lounge *92 Hampshire St., East Cambridge (354-0766). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Bayou Blues Cafe *Located at Cambridge Racquet and Fitness Club, 215 First St., Cambridge (491-8989). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Berklee Performance Center *136 Mass. Ave., Boston (747-2261).*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (743-2286). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Blacksmith House *56 Brattle St., Cambridge (247-9192).*
Bob the Chef's Jazz Cafe *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-6204).*
Bristol Lounge *Four Seasons Hotel, 200 Boylston St., Boston (338-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
Bullfinch's Pub *730 Boston Post Road, Sudbury (978-443-4094).*
The Burren *247 Elm St, Somerville (776-6896). MBTA: Red Line to Davis Square.*
Cambridge Brewing Co. *1 Kendall Square, Bldg. 100, Cambridge (494-1994).*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Clery's *113 Dartmouth St., Boston (262-9874). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*
Club Cafe *209 Columbus Ave., Back Bay (536-0966).*
Club Passim *47 Palmer St., Harvard Square, Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Coogan's Bluff *173 Market St., Boston (451-7415). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
Encore Lounge *275 Tremont St., Boston. tk*
First Parish Church *3 Church St. tk*
The Good Life *28 Kingston St., Boston 451-2622). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing/*
Grand Canal *57 Canal Street, Boston (523-1112).*
Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (367-0055).*
Green Street Grill *280 Green Street, Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Avenue, Allston (254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard.*
Hennessy's of Boston *25 Union St., Boston (742-2121).*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Harvard Square, Cambridge (491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Institute of Contemporary Art *955 Boylston St., Boston (266-5152). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.*
Jake Ivory's *1 Lansdowne St., Boston (247-1222).*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Davis Square, Somerville (776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Karma Club *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9595).*
Kendall Cafe *233 Cardinal Medeiros Ave., Cambridge (661-0993). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (783-9400). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
The Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (267-8644).*
The Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-0795). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Porter.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Milky Way Lounge *405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-3740).*
Mr. Dooley's Tavern *77 Broad St., Boston (338-5656).*
O'Brien's *3 Harvard Ave, Allston (782-6245). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Paddy Burke's Pub *132 Portland Street, Boston (367-8370). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Paradise *180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (494-0700).*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (227-2060). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (725-1051). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Rhythm and Spice *315 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (497-0977). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square or MIT.*
Sanders Theatre *45 Quincy St., Cambridge (496-2222).*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Road, Cambridge (562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Slade's *958 Tremont Street, Boston (442-4600).*
The Strand Theater *543 Columbia Road, Dorchester (282-8000).*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Wally's Cafe *427 Mass. Ave., Boston (424-1408). MBTA: Green Line to Symphony.*
The Western Front *343 Western Ave., Cambridge (492-7772). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square.*
White Horse Tavern *116 Brighton Ave., Allston Village (254-6633).*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard Ave., Allston (351-COOL). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Les Zygomates *129 South Street, Boston (542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*

El Camino CD Release

Don't forget—the long awaited, much anticipated CD release party for El Camino is at Bill's bar March 2, 9pm—only seven bucks.



gay&lesbian

If you want to be listed
Submit information including telephone numbers and nearest T stops by fax to (859-1446), mail or e-mail to gaylesbian@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted by phone.*

How to use this section
The following listings contain information that is subject to change. Contact the organization for changes in specific events.

CLUBS, BARS & HANGOUTS

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years these folks have been crankin' out some of the best Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. It's well worth a visit—if not for the three separate dance floors then for all of the male dancers. 9pm, $15, 21+.

Buzz (Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays)
51 Stuart St. in the Theatre District, Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. On Saturday nights this place boasts two dance floors, two DJs, a pool room and a lounge. Two levels of dancing and schmoozing will keep the boys busy until 2am. 10pm, $5, 21+.

Chaps (Daily)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. www.chapsofboston.com. Sun.: Dance music of DJ Danae Jacovidis; Mon.: Grand Baby and Grand Piano night; Tue.: Retro DJ night; Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adielson Caesar; Thu.: DJs Billy and Fran: High Energy Dance; Fri.: Taboo Erotique with DJ Sammy; Sat.: High Energy Dance, DJ Danae Jacovidis.

City Girl Cafe (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tues.-Fri: 11am- 9pm; Sat: 10am-9pm; Sun: 10am-7pm. A small (5 tables) laid-back cafe in Inman Square, lesbian-owned and operated. This cozy spot is home to a mixed gay/hetero crowd that lounges about, munching on sandwiches. Brunch on Saturday and Sunday from 10am-2pm.

Club Cafe (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-0966). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri 11:30am-2am; Sat. 2pm-2am; Sun. 11am-2am. This trendy South End spot draws a mixed crowd that comes for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back (Moonshine). A dressy bunch that likes to mingle. No cover, 21+. •Carol O'Shaughnessy performs with Steve Heck, Dottie Dean or David Sparr, Thursdays. •Michael Kreutz performs every Sunday, 8:30pm.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (542-4494). Mon.-Fri. 3pm-2am; Sat. 1pm-2am; Sun. 12pm-2am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This is your friendly neighborhood bar with a quiet setting. It's best known for scrumptious Sunday brunches (12-4pm). A simple joint with all of the trappings of a true bar, smoky and dark. The place starts hopping as it gets closer to 2am.

Fritz (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Stroll in for a quiet drink or a rowdy night on the town. The folks here are friendly—and really into sports. Not only does Fritz have Direct TV set up with sets scattered everywhere, it's also home base to a great softball league. 12pm, no cover, 21+.

Jacques (Daily)
79 Broadway, Boston (426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. If you're looking for a friendly crowd of gays and straights and you're in the mood to mix with disco-dancing drag queens, this is the place. Sun. and Mon. are local band nights when acts rock into the wee hours. Tues. through Sat., however, divas rule the stage. 10:30pm, $4, weekends $6, 21+.

Lava Bar (Saturdays)
575 Commonwealth. Ave., Boston (267-7707). The Lava Bar's Tabu night boasts DJ Fran spinning out high energy house with a taste of Latin beats. Doors open at 10pm.

The Lizard Lounge (Wednesdays)
1667 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). "Marlene Loses It at the Lizard" is the title of this eclectic evening of poetry, live music, theater and cabaret in front of a diverse crowd. Shows begin at 10pm. $5 cover, 21+.

Luxor (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (423-6969). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from the latest music scenes and classic old movies—compiled by the bar's own VJ. Downstairs is Jox, a sports bar. 4pm, no cover, 21+.

Cabaret Times 4

Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (232-1804). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Sunday evenings in March. $12. **Four Boston entertainers bring their unique styles of cabaret to Club Cafe—everything from blues renditions and dramatic interpretations to just plain tomfoolery. • Ida Zecco (top left) performs "Less is More," March 5, 9pm and March 26, 7pm. • Jan Peters (top right) presents "Old Fashioned, Please!" March 12, 7pm and March 26, 7pm. • John O'Neil (bottom left) sings "Camp Songs" March 5, 7pm and April 2, 9pm. • Michelle Currie (bottom right) performs "Life is a Bowl of..." March 12, 9pm and April 2, 9pm.**

Man Ray (Thursdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (864-0400). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed.-Fri. at 9pm; Sat. at 10pm. A bustling S/M hot spot caters to a young alternative clientele. Two dance floors fill up on Thursdays for Campus, a predominately male night where DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen take over. 9pm, 21+.

119 Merrimac (Daily)
119 Merrimac St., Boston (367-0713). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Sat., 10:30am-2am; Sun. 12pm-2am. This male cruise bar is the place to stop for drinks before or after FleetCenter events. Shoot a leisurely game of pool or the hit the video games. Merrimac features DJs playing hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s. 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. On Thursday nights the Lesbian AIDS Project of Mass. unofficially takes over this laid-back cafe for "dyke nyte." The cafe always has something brewing—live bands, DJs and drag queen parties. Party stars at 8pm, no cover, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (494-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Central. On Monday, a bartender not only mixes drinks, but he'll strip too. Male strippers are featured Wed.-Sat. Monday is Gothic night; Tuesday is techno and Thursday is college night. On Fridays DJ Sam Sampson spins, and on Saturday DJ Brad Gwynn helps you tear up the dance floor. 5pm, no cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (266-2986). Green Line to Kenmore. 12-2am daily. The largest leather bar in the East enforces a tight dress code (but leather is obligatory for the back room). Downstairs on Fri., Sat. (10pm-2am) and Sun. (7pm-12am) is the Machine, the sleekest hardcore club in town. Fri. has NYC DJ Darrin Friedman, Sat. DJ Brad Gwynn and Sun. is "Dragon Tea Dance," an Asian inspiration night with DJ James Hughes, a dragon show at 10pm and performances by Palace Princess Corvette and Diamond Dunhill. $6-$8, 21+. •Feb. 27 at the Machine is DJ James Hughes CD release party, 7pm-12am.

Safari Club (Daily)
90 Wareham, Boston (292-0011). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Always open. It's 3am and you're craving a workout. Whether you want to lift weights (yeah, right) or just "socialize." Entrance is about $19.

BOOKS & READINGS

Glad Day Bookshop
673 Boylston St., Boston (267-3010). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu. 9:30am-10pm, Fri. and Sat. 9:30am-11pm, Sun. 12-9pm. This exclusively gay/lesbian bookstore has erotic mags, calendars and videos.

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge. (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Fri. 10am-8pm, Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 12-6pm. New England's oldest women's book shop offers a comprehensive selection of books. It's monthly author series will resume in the spring.

We Think The World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6:30pm; Sun., 11:30am-5:30pm. Boston's literary gay and lesbian bookstore. Call Paul Rehme for details.

SHOWS & EVENTS

Lesbigay Film Series
Club Pride at Roxbury Community College, 1234 Columbus Ave., Academic Building, room 121, Roxbury (421-9134). March 3, 6pm. MBTA: Orange Line to Roxbury Crossing. Free admission. This month's feature is *Lone Star*, a documentary from London. It recalls the gruesome '93 gay-bashing murder of Nicholas West in Tyler, Texas.

Low Flying Aircraft
Boston Playwrights Theatre, 949 Comm. Ave., Boston University, Boston (824-8000). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant St. Feb. 18-March 4. $20 adults, $15 students and seniors. Local Boston playwright Dalyn A. Miller, Boston Theatre Works and Boston Playwrights' Theatre join forces to present Miller's first full-length play. *Low Flying Aircraft* is the story of a family's struggle, amid a unique set of circumstances, to overcome the ravaging effects of disease.

ONGOING

Bawl
This lesbian softball league offers opportunities to join teams in both the recreational and competitive divisions. Call Liz (508-628-5477).

Best Foot Forward
Ballet Etc. Dance Studios, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (522-1444). MBTA: B Green Line to Washington St. Everyone knows that swing is the thing. For gays/lesbians/bisexuals of all skill levels.

Boston Glass
Community Center, 93 Mass Ave., Boston (266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center. Daily from 8-10pm. Support groups and social activities for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender adolescents between the ages of 13-25.

The Boston Rainbow Gospel Choir
The BRGC is about to launch its second season and periodically holds auditions. Call 424-6740.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). A 1,500-member gay club with hiking, biking, camping, skiing and other outdoor activities for men and women.

Common Bond
(781-433-7023). www.dwellings.com/acb. An international support group for gay/lesbian/bisexual current or former Jehovah's Witnesses.

Community Rainbow
Boston Living Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston. 7:45 pm. An organization whose mission is to advocate for the community. Meets Thursdays.

Cosmetically-Correct
Tremont Tea Room, 48-50 Winter St., 3rd floor, Boston. A social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month 7:30-10pm. Lipstick optional. For more info email *m.antoinette@ididitmyway.com.*

Dykes Who Hike
(522-6185). This brand spankin' new hiking group for lesbians in Boston and surrounding areas conquers the wilderness.

East Coast Wrestling Club
With more than 160 members, this is an extraordinarily popular New England spot for gay male wrestlers. Call Marc at (401) 467-6737, or go online at *http://members .tripod.com/~ecwc* or email *ecwc@juno.com.*

Encounters
Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston. An informal social evening for HIV positive gay and bisexual men held the first Tuesday of every month, 7-9pm.

Explore
A behavioral study intervention for gay men. Call 350-6900, ext. 199 or email explore@lhi.org.

Faith Community
Metropolitan Community Church, 131 Cambridge St., Boston (973-0404). A faith community of gay, lesbian, transgendered and bisexual people looking to affirm spirituality and sexuality.

Gay Volleyball
Cambridge (262-3626). Sundays, 7pm, $7. Typically five teams play on two courts. Teams are made up each week depending on who shows up. Men and women welcome.

Gender Free Contra Dancing
First Church of Jamaica Plain (522-1115). www.piac.net/users/latte/lcfd/. Come one, come all to evenings of contra and square dancing.

Hump Day
Skupper Jacks in Acton. Every third Wednesday at 5:30pm, Boston's gay, lesbian and transgendered come together to hang. For information contact *Tom.Evans@digital.com.*

Latino Social Groups
Latino Gay Men's Project (350-6900 ex.125) and the Women's Social Groups (350-6900 ex. 124).

Long Yang Club
Various locations, (825-5677). www.longyang club .org/boston. A club for gay Asian men and their friends. For more information call Ron (661-9165) or Steve at (401-941-1978).

Luna
(350-6900, ext. 122) or email luna@lhi.org. This branch of the Latino Gay Youth Project offers psychoeducational groups.

Oops
Melting Pot Coffee House, 2 Belgrade Ave., Roslindale (323-4123). Out on the Parkways, a gay and lesbian organization, invites one and all to come on down for some coffee and dinner.

PFLAG
Fenway Community Health Center, 7 Haviland St., Boston (547-2440). Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets on the fourth Monday of the month, 6:30-8:30pm.

QAPA
This group holds monthly brunches on the first Sunday of every month at Ta-sheng Restaurant, 16 Eliot St., 2nd floor, in Harvard Square. Email *qapa @ccae.org.* for more information.

Queer Corps
131 Clarendon St., 4th floor, Boston (450-1676). A community mobilization project by and for queer men 25 and under. Meetings are held every Tuesday night from 6-8pm.

Tennis4all
Boston's gay and lesbian tennis club, with monthly tournaments and pizza socials. Call Ted at 779-7231.

illustration: aden kumler

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body&mind

Advice to Contributors Submit updated information by mail, fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/Mind, or electronically to bodymind@improper.com. *Include a brief but thorough description of the event, time, date, location and directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.*

EVENTS

Generosity: Awakening Love in Action

Omega Institute in Boston, Arlington Street Church, 351 Boylston St., Boston (800-944-1001). www.omega-inst.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. March 4, 9am-5pm. $119.* Though Darwin may not agree, everyone has an innate ability to be generous. At this workshop, this concept will be explored by Buddhist and teacher of meditation, **Sharon Salzberg**. Rise above the world of habit and possessiveness into the world of love.

Shake 'n Wake

Eagle Drum Council, PO Box 1284, Concord, Mass. 01742 (978-371-2502). www.earthspirit.com. *March 10-12. $195-$220, sliding scale, includes lodging, meals, and workshop.* Embark on a journey to your inner village (and Western Mass.) to move your body in a soulful dance. Author of *Circle of Shaman: Healing through Ecstasy, Rhythm, and Myth,* **Karen Berggren** and **Morwen Two Feathers**, co-founder of Earth Drum Council, host this gathering to discover how rhythm, dance, ritual and trance may transform and heal our lives and our world. No previous musical or dance experience is necessary. To register, send a check along with your name, address, email and phone number to the address above.

Women and Addictions Awareness Week

Dimock Community Health Center, 55 Dimock St., Roxbury (442-8800, ext. 1369). March 7, 8:30am-2pm. Dimock Health Center highlights this week with a gathering of speakers who will deliver new information on recovery programs for women. Breakfast will be served during the first hour.

Get a good grounding and clear your chakras at the Psychic Housekeeping class, Feb. 25.

CLASSES/ WORKSHOPS

Acupressure for Digestion

Meridians of Health, 1798A Massachusetts Ave. Suite E, Cambridge (576-5135). March 7, 6-8:30pm. $40. Acupressure is the massaging of pressure points to stimulate the nervous system and heal specific conditions. Learn how acupressure can relieve a variety of unpleasant conditions arising from poor digestion.

The Anatomy of Yoga

YogaEast, 20 Del Carmine Street, Wakefield (781-224-0722). March 5, 12-5pm. $75. Physical therapist, **Mary Briggs**, will go over the fundamentals of the muscular and skeletal system and then integrate the anatomical knowledge with the ever popular yogic exercise Asanas.

Appetite Control Through Hypnosis

Newton Community Education, Newton North High School, 360 Lowell Ave., Newtonville (522-7461). March 8, 7-8:30pm. $21. How's the New Year's resolution going? The no-carbohydrate diet isn't really all it's cracked up to be. Well, why not try mind over matter? In this workshop you'll create a motivational audio tape that taps into your subconscious and changes your habits from the inside.

Ayurveda: India's Medical Tradition

The Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Comm. Ave., Boston (267-4430). Feb. 26, 9:30am-3pm. $45. Ayurvedic medicine is one of the oldest and most comprehensive health care systems. Its goal is to maintain a balanced body and mind in coordination with one's unique constitution. Join rehabilitation specialist **Loretta Levitz** and discover your individual physical-health needs.

Chakra Yoga

Beacon Light Yoga Center, 215 Brighton Ave., Allston (739-0717). Feb. 26, 1-4pm. $30. Whether you're a beginner to yoga or seasoned practitioner, cleansing your seven chakra centers always helps. This workshop will assist you in clearing the path to health and happiness.

Kripalu Yoga: The Practice of Being Yourself

The Old Baptist Church, 1151 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (864-YOGA). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. March 5, 9:30am-12:30pm. When people start taking yoga it's often to get more flexible, thinner, healthier or enlightened. But expectations are really only expectations, why not let go and just be? This class focuses on having an open mind and heart in order to meet yourself.

Miracles in Everyday Life

New England School of Acupuncture, 40 Belmont St., Watertown (926-1788, ext. 5). www.nesa.edu. *Feb. 27, 10am-2pm. $65.* Your perception is a filter through which you see the world. Fears and judgements, if you have enough of them, could be all you notice. But the less you have, the more you may see miracles. The positive teachers in this workshop will help uncloud yourself from judgements and see a whole lot more.

Psychic Housekeeping

Unicorn Books, 1210 Mass. Ave., Arlington (781-646-3680). www.unicornbooks.org. *Feb. 25, 7-9 pm. $15.* Do you pick up energy everywhere and take it home? Do you continue conversations with people in your mind even if you haven't seen them in a while? Do you regularly lose your sense of Self? If so, it sounds like you need a good grounding and clearing of your chakras. Let **Avril Rama Bell** show you tools to last a lifetime.

LECTURES/FORUMS

Acupuncture Made Easy

Woolf Holistic Health Center, 651 Washington St., Brookline (738-9144). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Square. Feb. 22, 7pm. Free. If you don't know already how and why acupuncture works, then come listen to expert **Alan Ginsberg** teach you how to cure aches, stress, digestive problems and fatigue naturally.

Buddhist Reflections on Death

Boston Theological Institute, Barristers Hall, BU School of Law, Boston (353-3067) www.bostontheological.org. *March 1, 5pm.* **David Eckel**, professor of religion, asks and answers the question, "If I Should Die Before I Am Awakened?" Buddhism is notoriously profound, and you might find it's reassuring for your uncertainties.

Conquer the Inner World

New Acropolis Organization, First Parish Unitarian Church, 3 Church St., Cambridge (591-9959). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. March 3, 7:30pm. Life is not always about external strife and progress but internal as well. Hear the story of Arjuna, from the classic Hindu text the *Bhagabada Gita,* and how he won the internal fight.

The Path to Wisdom

New Acropolis Organization, YMCA, 7 Temple St., Cambridge (591-9959). MBTA: Red Line to Central. March 7, 7:30pm. This is an introduction to a course on applying ancient techniques for personal transformation. This evening will pose the question, "Can immortality really be achieved?". There is much the ancients said on this topic, come find out.

The Witch's Craft

Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. March 4, 10am-4pm. $74. Contrary to modern misconceptions, witches are not poster girls for evil. Witchcraft is rooted in paganism and is a nature-centered spiritual tradition. Witches are healers and seers. If you're looking for nature-focused approach to health, this lecture may intrigue you.

Wellness Thursdays

Wellspace, Fresh Pond Mall, Cambridge (876-2660). www.wellspace.com. *March 2, 16 and 23, 7:30-9pm. $5.* These Thursday evening lectures are held in the peaceful environment of Wellspace. The next three talks will be on: "Listening To the Deeper Self," "When Someone You Love Has Cancer" and "Bringing Mindfulness to Breast Exams."

GETAWAYS

Holotropic Breathwork

Lightgate Learning Center, Thetford, Vt. (800-404-7261). March 3-4. $95. Nothing like fresh northern air to assist you in practicing breathwork. Using the framework of Stanislav Grof's theories, doctors **Jenny Gibson** and **Elizabeth Gibson** teach how to use your breathing to heal and travel towards self-discovery.

children

Advice to Contributors

Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Children. Or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Leeny Del Seamonds entertains children with *¡Ay Caramba!* at the Kennedy Library, Feb. 25.

TO SEE

Anne of Green Gables

Wheelock Family Theatre, 200 The Riverway, Boston (734-4760). Fri. 7:30pm; Sat.-Sun. 3pm. Through Feb. 27. $10-$17. The enchanting family musical based on the L. M. Montgomery classic. A couple wants to adopt an orphan boy to help with the farm chores, but the orphanage sends Anne Shirley instead—an impish, fanciful, talkative girl who is not at all what the pair has in mind. Anne uses every ounce of her abundant charm to win the hearts of the couple.

Disney On Ice: 75 Years of Disney Magic

FleetCenter, Boston (931-2000). www.fleetcenter.com. *MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Through Feb. 27. $12.75-$40.* This magical show brings to life Walt Disney's unforgettable stories and the largest cast ever of Disney characters.

Heidi

Boston Children's Theatre, Suffolk University's C. Walsh Theatre, 55 Temple St., Boston (424-6634). Through Feb. 26, 2pm. $5-$16. The classic tale of a young girl whose irresistible charm and innocence brings fresh air and healing wherever she goes.

Puppet Showplace Theater

32 Station St., Brookline (731-6400). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. $8. •Feb. 24-27, 1pm and 3pm. **The Shoemaker and the Elves** by Janice and Stephen Babcock with Poobley Greegy puppets. The shoemaker is played by Poobley Greegy himself, who is an early puppet—as saucy as Punch but not quite as naughty. *•March 4-5, 1pm and 3pm.* **Anansi** by Crabgrass Puppet Theatre. The classic and very humorous tales of Anansi will take you to Africa to see the tricks of the spider man as he taunts the people and the animals he meets.

THINGS TO DO

Kids in the Kitchen

Cambridge School of Culinary Arts, 2020 Mass Ave., Cambridge (354-2020). MBTA: Red Line to Porter. March 4. Ages 9 and up. Want to get messy in the kitchen? The topic is pizza dough at this culinary class for kids. Students will make calzones, focaccia, fried dough and a variety of pizzas.

Children's Hour at the Kennedy Library

Columbia Point, Boston (929-1250). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. •Feb. 23, 10:30am. Free. Ages 5 amd older. **Native American Stories, Music and Philosophies** with James Bruchac. Through the use of various Native American stories and Abenaki drum songs, kids will learn various philosophies of Native American tribes. *•Feb. 25, 10:30am:* **¡Ay Caramba!** with Leeny Del Seamonds. Any kid will enjoy this colorful pinata full of Hispanic folktales, anecdotes and personal stories decorated with English-Spanish translations and bursting with Latin humor.

Science Tuesday: Wingmasters

Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). Feb. 29, 3:30pm, ages 6 and up. Interested in learning about those wide-eyed, spooky creatures of the night? Discover the fascinating world of owls.

sports

Advice to Contributors

Submit updated listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

To Watch

Boston Bruins

•FleetCenter. Tickets: 931-2000.

Feb. 23 (Away): Edmonton, 7pm, UPN38.
Feb. 25 (Away): Washington, 7pm, UPN38.
Feb. 26 (Away): Pittsburgh, 7:30pm, UPN 38.
Feb. 29 (Home): Ottawa, 7pm.
March 2 (Home): Montreal, 7pm.
March 4 (Home): Philadelphia, 1:30pm.
March 6 (Home): Ottawa, 7pm.

Celtics

•FleetCenter. Tickets: 931-2000.

Feb. 24 (Away): Vancouver, 10pm, Fox Sports Net.
Feb. 25 (Away): LA Lakers, 10:30pm, FSN.
Feb. 28 (Home): Dallas, 7pm, FSN.
March 1 (Home): Toronto, 7pm, FSN.
March 3 (Away): Toronto, 7pm, FSN.
March 5 (Home): Orlando, 3pm, FSN.

Events

BSSC Charity Ski

Nashoba Valley (789-4070). March 9, 6pm. $50. Ski, race and party for a good cause with the Boston Ski & Sports Club. There'll be timed dual slalom races, free skiing from 6-10pm, apres ski party with awards, raffle prizes and complimentary T-shirts. Proceeds benefit AccessSportAmerica, an organization that builds personal empowerment for people with disabilities.

Day of Fitness Fundraiser

Healthworks Fitness Center, 920 Comm. Ave., Brookline (859-8700, ext. 244). Feb. 26, 9am-7pm. $50. This is a full day of health and fitness with special spinning, kick boxing, power yoga, step and rhythms dance classes along with health-related workshops. Channel 5 anchorwoman Susan Wornick and New England Cable News sports reporter Kristen Mastroianni will emcee the event. Proceeds benefit Healthworks Foundation, a non-profit dedicated to promoting the health and empowerment of women and children.

US Hot Rod Monster Jam

Worcester's Centrum Centre, Worcester, Mass. (931-2000). Fri. 8pm, Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Feb. 25-27. $23, $18 and $10. The world's best trucks compete on the Monster Jam circuit, including such legends as Grave Digger, Bearfoot, Bulldozer and Carolina Crusher.

WWF Smackdown!

FleetCenter, Boston (931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. March 7, 7:30pm. $40, $30, $25 and $18. The World Wrestling Federation returns to the FleetCenter with another nationally-televised Smackdown event.

Ski Events

•Feb. 24: **Firworks Display** at King Pine. (603-367-8896). Enjoy a culmination of Winter Carnival activities.

•Feb 26-27: **Vacation Mania Weekend** at Gunstock. (603-293-4341). Absolute mania, promo parties, music, family events, and more.

•Feb. 26: **Swatch/Palmer Boarder-X, Skier-X series** at Attitash Bear Peak. (603-374-2368).Compete head-to-head on the Swatch/Palmer Boarder-X course.

•Feb. 26: **Jack and Sam's Excellent Adventure** at Cannon Mountain. (603-823-8800).An annual race for ages 21+. Then enjoy an apres ski party.

•Feb. 26: **Hannes Schneider Meister Cup Challange** at Cranmore Mountain. (603-356-5543). Join local and New England celebrities for this fundraising event.

•Feb. 26: **Hochebirge Challenge** at Cannon Mountain. (603-823-8800). America's longest-running ski race.

•Feb. 26-27: **Bud Light Boarderfest Snowboard Series** at Mount Snow. (802-464-8501). Pro and amateur halfpipe and boardercross competitions, plus the Mega Mother Hucker Big Air Invitational.

•Feb. 27: **7th Annual Francis Swallow Race** at Balsams Wilderness. (800-255-0800). Giant slalom memorial race. Open to all.

•Feb. 27: **Ski NH Winter Festival** at participating ski NH areas. Come join the celebration including special savings on lessons, rentals, lift tickets and races.

RIGHT: SUSAN WILSON

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•March 1- Mid April: **Introduce a Friend to Skiing or Snowboarding** at Bretton Woods Mountain. (603-278-3300). Bring a novice and you'll receive ticket savings.
•March 3-5: **Mardi Gras** at Bretton Woods Mountain. (603-278-3300). Festival with entertainment, activities, beads, costumes and more.
•March 4-5: **Budweiser Aerial Assault** at Attitash Bear Park. (603-374-2368). Past, present and future Olympians and World Cup freestyle stars flip, twist, and soar through the air.
•March 5: **8th Annual Briefcase Race with Mike Lynch** at Loon Mountain. (603-745-8111). Teams compete in full business attire toting a briefcase. Benefits breast cancer research.
•March 5: **March Madness Snowboard Jam** at Mount Sunapee. (603-763-2356). Halfpipe contest open to all with fun and prizes for everyone.
•March 7: **New Hampshire Team Challenge** at Cannon Mountain. (603-823-8800). Create your own team of five racers and compete.

To Play

BASEBALL

Henry's Baseball Club
(781-891-0621). Seeking players ages 17-30 and coaches for upcoming events.

Basketball

BASKETBALL

Adult Baskeball League
Waltham YMCA (781-894-5295). Wednesday nights. All levels welcome.

Basketball City
Adjacent to North Station and the FleetCenter (742-6700). Corporate, midday and weekend leagues.

Co-Ed Indoor Basketball
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 224). Sun.-Thu. nights at various locations. All levels welcome. Leagues in Waltham, Dedham and Brookline.

The Corporate League of Boston
(566-7808).

Men's Basketball League
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990). Begins Jan. 10-11.

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333). Practice and workout programs for all levels in Greater Boston.

South End Fitness Center League
(534-5823).

Women's Basketball League
(661-9622).

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Cross Country at Great Brook Farm
Great Brook Farm, Carlisle, Mass., with Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070). Feb. 12, 9:30am. $23, $33 (with rentals). Price includes breakfast. Explore this local state park on skis. The park has 10 miles of groomed trails and fabulous scenery. Meet for breakfast in the lodge and then head for the trails.

XC Skiing Under the Stars
Weston Ski Track with Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070). Feb. 11. $30 or $40 (with rental). Enjoy groomed, lighted trails; pizza and fun.

DOWNHILL SKIING

Boston Ski & Sports Club
(789-4070, ext. 222). •Daytrips leave every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday and include roundtrip transportation plus lift tickets. •Weekend trips include accommodations, meals, lift tickets and bus.

Ski Market/Underground Snowboard
(731-6100). Sundays, $45; Thursdays, $40 (includes dinner and tour of the Redhook Brewery). Ski/snowboard trips to Killington, Sunday River, Loon and Waterville every Sunday and Thursday. Trips include roundtrip transportation and lift ticket. •Feb. 24 and Feb. 27: Sunday River. •March 5: Waterville Valley

S-Kimos Ski Club
Jackson, NH (388-8135 or 781-209-1189). Ski club located in Jackson, NH, central to many ski areas. Members participate in various winter and summer activities.

GOLF

The Golf School
Radisson Hotel, 200 Stuart St., Boston (457-2699). An indoor driving range staffed by PGA pros.

ICE SKATING

MDC Ice Skating classes
Bay State Ice Skating School (781-890-8480). www.iceskatingclasses.com. Registration is underway for fall classes at 17 MDC rinks in Greater Boston.

ROCK CLIMBING

Indoor Rock Climbing
The Rock Gym, Woburn, Mass., with Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070). March 5, 9am. $65. Includes three hours of instruction for beginners, all equipment and a free day pass (with gear rental).

RUNNING

Boston Road Club Weekly Races
(781-646-8955). Sundays. Starts at Wells Ave. in Newton.

Fresh Pond Weekly Road Races
Fresh Pond Reservation. Saturdays, 10am. Choose between a 2.5- or 5-mile run.

NIKETOWN Boston Running Club
200 Newbury St., Boston (267-3400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Three-to-five-mile loops. Starts at 6:30pm. Monthly mini-clinics as well.

Boston Hash House Harriers
(499-4835). Weekly runs year-round. Serious drinkers with a running problem.

Khoury's Thursday Night Runs
East Somerville. (354-3534). 4.13 miles. 7pm at Khoury's Bar.

Somerville Road Runners Weekly Run
Cambridge Boat House Parking Lot, Cambridge (923-2378). Fridays at 7 pm.

SNOW FUN

Dog Sledding & Snowshoeing
Boston Ski & Sports Club, (789-4070). March 4, 8am-4pm. $100 (includes snack and lunch, snowshoes, guides, instruction and short dog-sled ride.). Meet a team of Alaskan Malamute sled dogs. Spend the day snowshoeing through the remote forest terrain and take turns sampling the thrill of dog sledding.

Snowshoe-Day Hike
Boston Ski & Sports Club, (789-4070). March 5. $45 (includes snowshoes, trail snacks and beverage). Explore southern Vermont's coutnryside in Calvin Coolidge State Forest with an experienced guide. You'll hike down old logging trails (fairly flat) and search for signs of wildlife.

TENNIS

Mixed Doubles
BSSC (789-4070). Saturday evenings in Waltham. •Tennis Party, $38: Feb. 26 (intermediate and advanced). Includes 2.5 hours of tennis and pizza.

sales& fashion

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for sales and bargains by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sales and Fashion. Or e-mail information to goodbuys@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the event or items. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

EVENTS

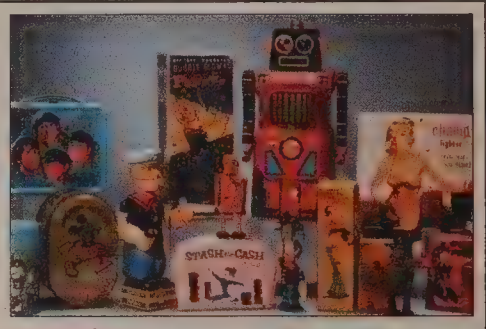
Beauty AIDS Show
Avalon, 15 Lansdowne St., Boston (450-1208). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. March 6. $20, $25 at the door. This fashion and variety show brings together Boston's prominent salons to present creative hair and fashion vignettes.

Decorative Arts and Antiques Show
The Castle at the Park Plaza Hotel, Boston (877-346-KIDS). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Fri.-Sat. 11am-8pm; Sun. 11am-4pm. Feb. 25-27. $10. Some 45 dealers from 12 states will exhibit a collection of antiques, fine and folk art, paintings and decorative collectibles. Proceeds benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston.

Fashion Show Fundraiser
The Second Step Inc. PO Box 600213, Newtonville (965-3999). March 2, 6pm. $150. Susan Wornick, WCVB TV 5 anchor, will host a fashion show with local television personalities to benefit The Second Step.

Greater Boston Antiques Festival
The New Shriner's Auditorium, Wilmington, Mass. (207-563-1013). www.NEAntiqueShows.com. *Feb. 26-27, 10am-5pm. $7.* More than 100 antiques dealers from across New England will sell furniture, ephemera, china, silver, folk art and jewelry dating as far back as the 17th century.

URGE Fashion Show
The Roxy, 279 Tremont St., Boston (877-686-URGE). www.bostonfashion.com/urge. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. March 3, 9pm. $15.* Enjoy fashions from Nigel Ramsay and other major designers along with hair creations by Safar in a production by Bostonfashion.com and Annmarie Lafauci to benefit URGE, an organization dedicated to reducing world poverty.



Preview

Toy Story

Playtime at Skinner

The coolest sale in town is at Skinner Auctioneers on March 2: The Stephen and Victoria Montifiore Collection of robots, lunchboxes, cartoon and other toys. The collection features approximately 50 Japanese-made, battery-operated and wind-up robots from the 1940s through the '60s. A highlight of the collection is the "Giant Sonic Robot," made by the Masudaya company in the 1950s. You'll also find more than 300 metal and vinyl lunchboxes featuring TV show, movies and pop culture from your childhood. But will they have Mork and Mindy? *63 Park Plaza, Boston (350-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. March 2, 6pm. Previews: Feb. 29, 12-5pm; March 1, 2-7pm; March 2, 12-5pm.*

go away

TRAVELING NEAR AND FAR

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Go Away. Or e-mail information to goaway@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the event or items. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

NORTH OF BOSTON

Dressed for the Part
American Textile History Museum, Lowell, Mass. (978-441-0400). Through March 12. $10 adults, $7 members, students, seniors and groups. Film fashionistas won't want to miss this exhibit featuring costumes worn by Hollywood stars from the silent film era to the 1960s. See the wardrobe of Mary Pickford, Marlene Dietrich, Bette Davis, Rita Hayworth, Eva Gardner and Elizabeth Taylor. Styles range from the legendary blue gingham pinafore Judy Garland wore in *The Wizard of Oz* to Julie Andrews' brown jumper in *The Sound of Music*.

Two Generations of Weston
Arthur Griffin Center for Photographic Art, Winchester, Mass. (781-729-1158). Through April 30. Feast your eyes on the works of one of the photography world's great masters, Edward Weston. This special exhibit of stunning photographs also features works by his sons Cole and Brett Weston, who carried on their father's tradition begun in Mexico in the 1960s.

SOUTH OF BOSTON

Tracks, Scat and Signs
South Shore Natural Science Center, Norwell, Mass. (781-659-2559). Feb. 25. Can you recognize the tracks of a turtle? How about a coyote or a fox? Come learn about wildlife tracks by making some of your own. A great adventure for the young and old, you'll investigate owl pellets, find out what scat (that's animal droppings for the uninformed) can tell us and look for animal signs along the trails.

WESTERN MASS

Notchview Classic Ski Race
Notchview, Windsor, Mass. (413-684-0148). March 4, $6. The ground saw his shadow—six more weeks of winter. Don't let it get you down. Enjoy the snow at the 13th annual "Bread and Jam Race," a 10-kilometer (or possibly longer) classical-style ski race.

RHODE ISLAND

Newport Winter Festival
Newport, R.I. (401-847-7666). Through Feb. 27. You still have a few days left to join in the non-stop celebrations of winter. Get rid of those extra holiday pounds at the "Get Fit" open house, and then learn how to tone your schnoz muscles for better wine evaluation at the Winery Tour and Tasting Seminar. Local restaurants and bars compete in the "best hot drink" in Newport contest, and Boston duo Laura and Mirko jazz it up at the vineyard.

Kinsale Gourmet Food Festival
Various restaurants, Newport, RI (401-849-8048). March 3-4. www.GoNewport.com. Even though Boston has its share of Irish pubs and restaurants, sometimes it's hard to know whether you're getting the real thing. There's no better way to test the authenticity of the grub than to watch chefs duke it out in the kitchen. Celebrating their new twin city relationship, chefs from Kinsale, Ireland's top restaurants will join Newport's famed chefs to prepare both traditional and nouveau Irish and American cuisine. They'll exchange their tricks and recipes (and possibly throw back a few pints of Guinness) and hopefully present quite delectible dishes. The pairings will take place at six Newport restaurants.

CONNECTICUT

Big Y Food Festival
Expo Center, Hartford, Conn. (860-529-2123). Feb. 25-27. Fun, food and surprises await at this gastronomic delight. More than 300 exhibitors will display a delicious variety of food samples and offer nutritional information. Vendors have carnival-style games with proceeds to benefit Food For All.

NEW YORK

The Art Show
Seventh Regiment Armory New York, NY (212-940-8925). Feb. 24-28, $12. If you don't have the patience to visit an entire museum of Impressionists and you've lost the motivation to visit every modern or contemporary art gallery out there, bore your eyes no longer.

Montreal is aglow with the star-power of such personalities as Jessye Norman (left) and Joshua Bell during the Montreal High Lights Festival, a 23-day event featuring more than 2,000 talents.

Enjoy feature artworks of all genres, ranging from old masters to new influences. You'll get a priceless art education with exhibits featuring American art from all periods, German Expressionism, sculpture, ceramics and photography.

Gramercy Gardens Antiques Show
Gramercy Park Armory, New York, N.Y. (212-255-0002). Feb. 25-27. A must for collectors of all types. Visit Gramercy Gardens' antique show with 100 select exhibits of garden furniture, architectural artifacts, plants, flowers, ironwork, planters, pottery, topiaries and more. Or enjoy a seminar by Bunny Williams of *Garden Design Magazine* and the NY Horticultural Society.

NEW ORLEANS

Mardi Gras
Various locations, New Orleans, La. (800-672-6124). Feb.25-March 7. Fat Tuesday surely needs no explanation for all you rip-roarin' partyers out there, but those of you who are in the habit of keeping your shirts on may be a bit curious. Since 1699, New Orleans has hosted the greatest non-stop party in the US. With "Let The Good Times Roll!" as its mantra, Mardi Gras transforms the purest of souls into the most willing of sinners. The backbone of the spectacle is the infamous parades winding through the French Quarter and Garden District—but perhaps the more popular attraction is watching the young girls and boys reveal all in their attempt to score the most plastic beads.

MIAMI

Doral Ryder Open
Doral Golf Resort & Spa, 4400 NW 87th Ave., Miami, Fla. (305-477-4653). Feb.28-March 5. $40. These boys are good. Defending champion Steve Elkington competes against some of the most popular and talented golfers around. This year's Open marks the 40th anniversary of the longest continuously running PGA tour event in Florida. Ticket prices even include a free round of golf at the Doral Golf Resort and Spa—that's right, you too can learn to be a pro.

Everglades Bluegrass Festival
North Miami Optimists Club Grounds, Ives Dairy Road and 15th Street, North Miami, Fla. (954-583-4428). Feb. 25-27, 12-11pm. Welcome all knee-slappers and toe-tappers. This annual three-day festival features talented local bands as they break out their guitars and harmonicas underneath live oak trees and sunny skies. Bring your own instruments and jam along after the festival.

MONTREAL

Montreal High Lights Festival
822, Rue Sherbrooke Est, Montreal, Canada (888-477-9955). Through March 4. It's hard to tell whether Montreal is aglow due to the tremendous lighting or from the star personalities who light up this festival. Experience the best Montreal has to offer during this 23-day event as more than 2000 talents from the best cultural troupes and companies perform.

PARIS

Cinema du Reel
Cinema des Cineastes, France (888-477-9955). Through March 4. $7 per film. Despite its billing as an "ethnographic and sociological" festival, this international documentary survey is a compilation of impressive, fascinating and sometimes "off-putting" films.

LONDON

Women In Focus Festival
Camden, London (0171-681 4590). March 3-12. Celebrate your curves for once and pay homage to your mothers. Coinciding with International Women's Week, this annual festival honors the achievements of women and the diversity of women's communities through arts, media, sports and healthcare. Past festivals have included technology classes and political talks, as well as exhibitions, walks, music and theatre. You go girls!

VALENCIA

Fallas de Valencia
Valencia, Spain (34-96-360-63-53). March 7-19. Watch huge papier-mache monuments (fallas) being erected on street corners and in the squares of Valencia. Each of the *fallas* depicts a satirical scene and may take up to a year to build, with a total cost of millions of pesetas. The *fallas* are then set alight on St. Joseph's Day (March 19) with an incredible fireworks display.

mark your daytimer

UPCOMING EVENTS

CITYSCOPE

New England Spring Flower Show
March 11-19, Bayside Expo Center
St. Patrick's Day Parade
March 19, 1pm, South Boston

FILM

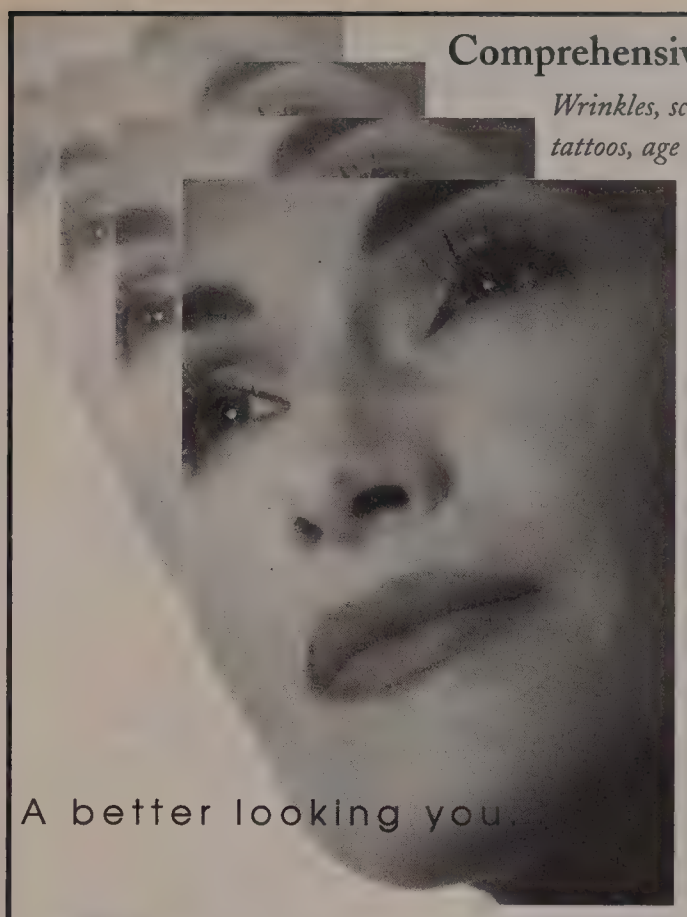
Boston International Festival of Women's Cinema
April 13-17, Brattle Theatre

MUSIC

Joan Baez and Eliza Carthy
March 27 and 28, Somerville Theatre
Bruce Cockburn
March 18, Berklee Performance Center
The Chieftains
March 19, Symphony Hall
Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young
March 27, FleetCenter
Tom Jones
April 1, Lowell Memorial Auditorium
Korn
March 30 and 31, Worcester's Centrum Centre
Red Hot Chili Peppers and the Foo Fighters
May 13 and 14, Providence Civic Center
Tina Turner
June 9, FleetCenter

PERFORMING ARTS

ART
March 7, The Colonial Theatre



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Fax: 859-1446 or e-mail us at impersonals@improper.com.
Recent correspondence follows.

To my dancing queen
We met at the Joshua Tree on Saturday night and I haven't been able to get you out of my mind since. You were singing to me using your bottle of beer as a microphone, and you told me that you only sang for me. I wish that I had stayed and talked to you more, but my friend wanted to leave. I don't even know your name—all I know is that you are beautiful and you have the most amazing eyes. The minute that we spent looking in to each other's eyes was definitely the highlight of my weekend. I would like to see you again and get to know you—maybe you would even sing some more songs for me! I hope you see this and send me an email at
—hopeful00@excite.com

Girl in Blue
You were wearing a blue coat and white pants in the Boston Public Library, Sunday Jan. 30 at around 3pm. You whispered "hi" to me at my reading table then went to find your book. When I saw you in the Reserve Room I asked you an obvious question, then when you turned around to answer, the proverbial cat grabbed my tongue but hard! So I dumbly blurted "You're next" instead of coming up with something better to say. So if you're up for a second drop me a line.
—speechless_in_boston @yahoo.com

David
You're a lousy kisser. Thanks for doing me a favor by disappearing.
—Attitude woman

Friday evening on the purple line
"You: dark hair, British accent, tan overcoat, dressed for a job interview. I saw you riding the commuter rail to Waltham Center. Me: light hair, perky, DJ at local radio station. I caught your eye... it seemed special, but you got off before I could suggest meeting for a —(leftover) lunch."
—Anonymous

Newton Corner Einstein's Bagels parking lot Saturday Jan. 8 To the two female litterbugs who thought it was real funny to throw your trash out of your car window. Why must you treat the world like it is your own personal toilet? Or is that just a sad reflection of what goes on inside... deep within you?
—Anonymous

To Harpoon Vest Boy
There was so much promise in your eyes. Or was that the IPA getting to your head. You have no idea what wonderful things we could've shared. I never got the chance to tell you I was drunk on your love. Blinded by your charm, and your harpoon happy ways, you STUPID FOOL! No matter who you met at the holiday party, she will never be as sweet as me. I hope you grow a beer belly, you empty playboy.
—C.J. Hall

William Hilliard in Exile
You—wearing a jacket, nose between your eyes. Hair. Me — inhaling, exhaling. Nose on face. Hair. I ride the T, you ride the T. I think maybe you look at me from time to time. So, deep down, you probably love me. I mean, the way you maybe look at me says it all. Let's get married, and kick the crap out of anyone drinking a skim latte. Skim latte. Say it a couple of times. It just sounds pretentious. Anyway, everyone knows that the proletariat are happier and have more fun that the bourgeois. We'll name our dog Tomar Con Manos.
—hajjcomb@aol.com

Bennigan's downtown, Feb. 1, 10pm
Were you proud of yourself that you were man enough to wait until I stepped away before you helped yourself to my girlfriend's wallet, you living walking piece of shit. Did it put a smile on your face to succeed only for $50 and some pocket change, not quite the bounty you were hoping for, sorry to disappoint you. It puts a smile on my face to know that you live every day a coward, your life devoid of any significance, no purpose on earth other than a waste of bones, organs and space. It must be a very lonely existence you lead, as nobody like you is worthy of the company of another human being. In closing, I will replace the money, but how will you replace the pride and dignity necessary to look yourself in the mirror?
—More Man Than You

Shyness-Not So Nice
I started composing this in my head as I watched you exit the B Line and walk towards J&C Convenience. You in your fabulous boots, shredded tights, leopard-print coat, shaved head, pink pig-tails. I was grinning stupidly at the cover of my travel mug (read caution: contents may be VERY HOT), stewing in my suddenly paralyzing shyness. I opened my eyes and they rolled into you. I'm really writing this to get it out. It doesn't really matter if you read this, but I'm sorry I never worked up the courage to complement your footwear. Anyone reading this who's felt like a fool because some stranger seems to be obviously avoiding them: what can I say, it's our loss.
—Just another passenger

Minky and Big Bird
There's no need to be jealous of our three new friends, Bear, Moose and Rhino. You're still our favorites.
—JCS and JPS

Green Line to Riverside
Friday Feb. 3, 3pm, Green Line, D train to Riverside. Me: foreign PhD student, in black, brown hair, brown eyes.You: black coat, black briefcase, standing next to me. You continued to Riverside. I would like to know you better.
—liisa91@hotmail.com

Turtle
In the pond of our love you have given me more then I can ever hope to repay. With the crocodiles of my past we made lovely handbags and boots. Even as the mosquitoes swirled around, I found a safe place within your shell. Warm and cozy in the confines of your house, our love has flourished. With nobody to answer to within those walls. There is no place I would rather be then inside your shell—think I can move in???
—Frog

Holly C.
I read your thesis and told you you were cute. Are you still out there? Look for me in Thoreau country.
—J.D.

Anthony
Thanks for the love you gave me. Maybe it will work out some day down the road. I may have hurt you as well, but I did not desert you. I needed to clear my head of my family problems, and you misunderstood my intentions. For some odd reason, I still love you. Take Care.
—Love, Me

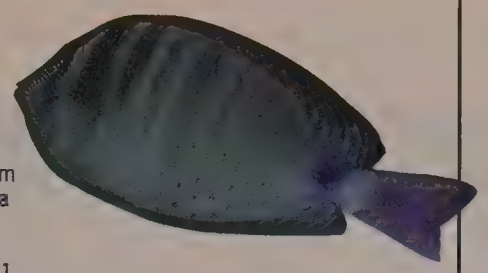
Ben
You don't deserve the second chance I gave you. Pity you screwed it up. Now I know why your parents considered you a mistake. Adios Amigo.
—A.B.

To My Fond Admirer
Thank you for believing in me!!!! It's nice to hear that someone thinks that way about you, now only if our Friend could think the same way & To Our Friend, I know in my heart that you are the one who lost out on a great thing. But I guess you will never know.
—Dee

Rockie Horoscope

February 23 - March 7, 2000
BY ROCKIE GARDINER

Pisces
FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19



Icy Pisces notwithstanding, watch where you're going this weekend because the route can become more expensive than anticipated, especially if a casual friend comes along for the ride. Romance runs hot, very hot, and cold (that ice factor again) when affectionate Venus sends mixed signals: a yes from Mars, a no from Saturn. If you are looking for a way to defuse a powerful manipulator at work or to cool out a parent under enormous stress, listen to the thoughts running through your head when Mercury and the sun merger in your sign on March 1.

Aries
MARCH 20-APRIL 19

You'll have clear sailing through rough relationship waters when your Mars ruler receives support from gentle Venus this weekend. Make your move, ask for your heart's desire; no one who is worthy of your attention could refuse you. If you need to tap into someone else's deep pockets, to gain access to a reservoir of assets and resources do that Monday when powerful Pluto rewards Martian desire and courage. Asking for a colleague's advice midweek, knowing the group's position on an issue will make a significant difference in your thinking next week.

Taurus
APRIL 20-MAY 20

A budding office romance can create problems there, plus more gossip than you want to hear. If you're involved with someone at work, be especially discreet this week, and if you're not, don't spread stories that will ultimately reflect badly on you. Too many people are too ready to point fingers in this hush, hush, sex-crazed climate. (Well, that should make the daily 9 to 5 grind a bit more entertaining.) In the meanwhile, for the true story with crucial details about something that matters, follow where your intuition leads.

Gemini
MAY 21-JUNE 20

Your partner/spouse could become the flavor of the week, the apple of the collective eye simply because Pluto in your Sagittarius marriage sign is the magnetic force the guys (Mars) and gals (Venus) are currently being drawn to. This situation won't last very long, so don't let jealousy, resentment or secretive phone calls mess with your relationship. Besides, you'll need a clear head without distractions to interpret the message being sent and to implement your brilliant idea. That, unfortunately, doesn't happen until March roars in.

Cancer
JUNE 21-JULY 22

One step forward, two steps back or off to the side. Your week is a mixed blessing, satisfying and frustrating by turns. Keeping a healthy balance between desire and distrust, passion and power plays is no mean feat. Try to move slowly so that you can see the picture as it unfolds before your eyes, not just one small feature at a time. You need better info than what is offered on Monday; wait until Wednesday for more details and a moment of divine inspiration. Better still, wait until the new moon on the 5th.

Leo
JULY 23-AUGUST 22

You may have plenty of hints this week, but not until March begins will what you suspect have the kind of impact that you expect it to. Will it take your breath away? Probably not, but you could breathe a sigh of relief or be relieved of a responsibility at work don't want. Although Mercury retrograde isn't the best time to make travel plans, it is great for doing the research. Visit the Web sites, buy the tour guides, reread *Death in Venice* or a novel set in your location of choice.

Virgo
AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

First comes the "no," then the "yes." Patient Virgins with time to spare rarely become confused, even when their Mercury ruler is retrograde in spaced Pisces, as is the case now. The impatient variety, however, might push too hard, too fast for a satisfactory answer when the one they want to hear is not forthcoming. How to keep your mouth shut, your arms wide-open and your attitude welcoming is this weekend's lesson; show some tact and have faith in tactile (Venus) expressions of affection. Tricky, but not impossible. After Wednesday, you can speak you mind.

Libra
SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

Follow the trail of sensual tidbits, the lavender and lace, that'll lead to a romantic weekend, one of the most passionate in quite a while. Not only your loving Venus ruler, but hot-to-trot Mars in your house of partners are lit. Although restrictive Saturn can throw a financial monkey wrench into the mix, you, all by yourself, without asking for help, will find a way to compensate for whatever is lacking. But be prepared to deal with the money matter before going on to more pleasurable pursuits.

Scorpio
OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

You've suffered enough slings and arrows—we won't discuss outrageous fortune—but you're about to be rewarded for being your pure and not-so-simple Scorpionic self. Nothing guarantees success like Monday's supportive trine between Mars and Pluto, your two ruling planets, however, you can enjoy the results of a powerful passion and consistent devotion all weekend long. Expect to hear from catty folks who are not pleased by your triumph, but pay them no mind. The words you're waiting for come on Wednesday when the sun and Mercury meet in sympatico Pisces.

Sagittarius
NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

Libra, Taurus, Aquarius, Aries and Scorpio vie to get next to Archers born at the beginning of December. However, you're not very high with Virgos and Geminis; they don't trust your ability to see a light at the end of the tunnel. Of course, everything changes after Mercury, their ruling planet, meets the Pisces sun midweek and sends them revised info. The rest of us hope we get lucky before we have to deal with a slippery domestic matter or weirded-out neighbors.

Capricorn
DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

If things are tense at home or you are feuding with a feisty neighbor because irritable Mars at the bottom of your chart has you itching for a fight, look for relief from a friend or a disinterested group with the power to settle the matter. But if your hard-hearted stance bothers you, if you're not being compassionate, understanding or even courteous, let it go. It may take another week, until the next new moon, for the situation to resolve itself. Meanwhile information you receive midweek can affect your bank balance. Buying art?

Aquarius
JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18

An interesting dilemma on whose horns you don't want to impale yourself: Venus in your sign is attracting people who know what they want and have successful strategies they can use to fulfill their desires. (Who could resist them?) However, the tried-and-true, straight-and-narrow planetary energy represented by strict Saturn is putting restraints on the magnetic force you are emitting. A crisis of consciousness, a change of heart will unify your thinking next weekend, but in the meantime, you're likely to hear a wide assortment of opinions. Sorry.

Curious about the future? Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30 to 40+ pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise over the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $42.50 per report to ROCKIE GARDINER, 1021 N. Genesee Ave., #1, West Hollywood, CA 90046. http://www.rockiehoroscope.com. Read my daily forecast online at www.laweekly.com.

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men seeking women

Good looking and in great shape. Hey ladies, this is Mike. I'm a divorced Italian man, 40, 5'10", 175 lbs., with brown hair and brown eyes. The activities I enjoy are movies, dancing, dinning out, watching TV, bowling, and playing sports. I'm seeking a female, in her 30's, who is pretty and intelligent with a good sense of humor. Box 11730

I own my own home and business. Hey girls. I'm a white male, 5'11", 210 lbs., in very good shape, with dark hair and hazel eyes. I'm looking for a girl with a job, transportation, and a life of her own. I'm just searching for a partner to share life and good times with. I'm looking to seriously date, not play games. Box 13000

Employed in the export business. Hello ladies, my name is Hudson. I'm an attractive SWM, 5'11", 185 lbs., with brown hair and blue eyes. I'm very sweet, loving, kind, romantic, and passionate. I'm looking for a woman, with the same qualities, for a possible long-term relationship. Box 15131

To you whose eyes I seek in the sea of women, I find myself drawn to you... Hi, this is Michael. I'm 6'3", 180 lbs., with brown hair and hazel eyes. I'm looking for a lady who is steady, intelligent, and one-on-one. She should like to laugh, dance, and cuddle. Box 19500

Die hard romantic. Hi, my name is Dan. I'm a divorced white male, 5'10", and 180 lbs. I'm a gentleman who knows how to treat a lady. I'm looking for a long-term relationship. I love long walks, holding hands, cuddling, long kisses, and bringing my lady flowers. I'm not a couch potato, but neither am I a jock. Box 15450

Down-to-earth and honest with a good head on my shoulders. Hello, this is Mike. I'm 6'3", with short brown hair and blue eyes. I love to stay active, cook, travel, and watch sports. I'm looking for a friendship first, with a relationship later, but I'm not looking to rush into or force anything that may not be natural. Box 19044

Are you ready to add some fun, excitement, and pleasure into your life? Does the thought of spending time with a very attractive, funny, safe, clean, caring, and discreet white male-in his late 30's-interest you? I'm 6'2", 210 lbs., tall, dark, and handsome. I'm very selective as to who I get involved with. Box 21209

Try our exciting
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Connect live, one on one with other singles on-line right now! Call 617-245-1004 and follow the easy to use prompts. There are exciting singles on line 24 hours a day!

women seeking men

Searching for a man who has a positive attitude towards life. Hi, my name is Julie. I'm a SWF, 5'7", 142 lbs., with short light brown hair and green eyes. I'm seeking a single male, age 25-35, who is HWP, a non-smoker and social drinker. I'm looking for a long-term relationship. Box 11495

Baggage from the past is unwanted. Hello, my name is Anita. I'm a 37-year-old, soon to be 38, black and Hispanic female. I'm tall and attractive. I'm looking for someone who has some type of spiritual conviction. He should be a non-smoking occasional drinker who knows where he's going and what he wants out of life. Box 12268

Very pretty woman. Hey guys, my name is Christine. I'm a divorced Italian and Irish woman, 41,.5'4", 146 lbs., with soft and curly shoulder length brown hair and blue eyes. I'm curvaceous in all the right spots. I'm also smart, fun loving, and have a good sense of humor. I love sports, cozy fires, country stores, slow dancing, kissing in the rain, and playing in the snow. Box 13161

Living in the North Shore. Hi, this is Kira. I'm in my 30's, 5'5", 105 lbs., with long jet black hair and brown eyes. I'm looking for an attractive and intelligent man who lives in reality, not a fantasy world. I'm looking for a long-term friendship, possible relationship. Box 14147

I rollerblade in the summer and ski in the winter. And I'm looking for a man, between the age of 30-35, who does the same. Hello, my name is Christina. I'm college educated 28-year-old 100% Hispanic woman. Box 24856

I've got a solid build. Hi, my name is Nicole. I'm a black female, 22, 5'5", 160 lbs., with brown skin, short curly hair, and dark brown eyes. I'm looking for a black male, between the ages of 25-32, who has a job, but doesn't have any kids. Box 24862

I like to party. I'm a 20-year-old SWF, 5'2", with brown hair and brown eyes. I enjoy shooting pool, clubbing, movies, listening to music, taking long walks, sporting events, and cuddling up with that special someone. I'm looking for someone who is fun-loving, with a good personality and a great sense of humor. Box 24874

Professionally employed and considered attractive. Hi there, my name is Diane. I'm 43, 5'4", with red hair and blue/green eyes. I'm looking for someone with a good sense of humor who enjoys having fun. I like walking around Boston and taking weekend excursions. Box 24930

I love to cook, shop, decorate, and read. Hello, this is Mary. I'm 5'4", with medium length brown and blonde hair with green eyes. I live south of Boston. I'm interested in something casual. Box 19757

Petite, pretty, and sexy. Hello, my name is Shanica, but they call me PYT for pretty young thing. I'm a 29-year-old black female who is mature, outgoing, trusting, and caring. I'm looking for a casual friend, nothing long term. I'm studying to become a recording artist and I enjoy singing and dancing. Box 24085

Visit Nightline on the web at www.nightlinepersonals.com and check out more local ads!

The Nightline service does not prescreen callers and assumes no responsibility for personal meetings. Callers must be 18 or over. Toll charges may apply. Optional paid services. Call for details.

improperazzi

The Improper Bostonian's client-related promotions and events

The Greater Boston Cosmetic Retail Association founded by Dave Omer Dodge and Sandra Maglieri held their first ever **Lipstick Ball, "A Benefit for the Women's Lunch Place,"** on Feb. 11 at the Westin Hotel. Attendees danced until midnight to the fabulous sounds of The DECbigband. John Connelly, Beauty Fashion's Regional Columnist for New England, was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award.

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1. **Jim Maki**, National Sales Manager of Adipar Limited and **Philomena Mooney**, National Training Director of Adipar Limited.
2. **Tabatha Hamilton**, EDF Coordinator; **Carole Warner**, RLF Coordinator; **Tracy Stack**, RLF Coordinator; **Carla Wall**, RLF Coordinator and **John Ariano**, Cosmair.
3. **Mitchell Geller**, Make-up Guru at Neiman Marcus and **Sandra Maglieri**, Co-Founder of the GBCRA.
4. **Kelly White**, Dept. Manager, Men's Furnishings at Neiman Marcus and **Kim Knutsen**, Assistant Buyer at Neiman Marcus.

3

4

Our donor egg program is looking for women with something special...

A generous heart.

You have the opportunity to give the gift of childbirth to an infertile couple. Boston IVF is looking for egg donations from healthy women between the ages of 21 and 34. Donors will be required to take medication and undergo a minor surgical procedure. Donors will be compensated for their time and effort. Participation is completely confidential.

For more information, call us at (617) 735-9023, M-F, 9-5 p.m.
Serious inquiries only.

Boston IVF
"Bringing a Little Joy To Life"
One Brookline Place, Brookline, MA 02146
Accessible by Green Line Ⓣ

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BARS, CLUBS, RESTAURANTS & BRUNCH

The following are paid advertisements. Please check times and prices in advance. If you'd like to have your restaurant listed, please call The Improper Bostonian Advertising Dept. at 859-1400.

BARS

Billiards

Boston Billiard Club
126 Brookline Ave., 536-POOL. Ranked #1 in the country by Billiards Digest. Free lessons on Mon., 7:30 pm - 9 pm. Boston Billiard Club House Leagues on Mon. and Tues. "In The Biz" night on Sun. and Mon. for patrons in the hospitality industry. Ladies' night on Wed. Featuring a menu of light fare such as grilled chicken sandwiches and appetizers, along with beer, wine, cocktails and a variety of non-alcoholic beverages.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, The Allstonians and Beat Soup.

Brew Pubs

Back Bay Brewing Company
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center. $7-$18. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Bi-level restaurant/brewery offers an inspirational pairing of outstanding innovative cuisine and award-winning ales and lagers. Upbeat first floor bar and café, second floor dining room and bar with comfortable couches and overstuffed chairs. Mon. - Sun. 11:30am - 1am. Brunch Sun. from 11am - 3pm.

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Company
138 Portland St., Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is now the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, a block from the FleetCenter and steps from Faneuil Hall, Commonwealth Fish & Beer features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

General

Dick's Last Resort
55 Huntington Ave., Prudential Center, Boston, 267-8080. www.dickslastresort.com. Dick's has live music 7 nights a week, no cover, no dress code and certainly no class. They have 74 kinds of beer for the novice or serious/ sudsman, or a full bar for the hard core. Dick's also is a restaurant of sorts with buckets of ribs, shrimp, lobster, chicken, catfish and crab legs. This is the place your Mama warned you about. Free parking after 5pm, cheap til 5 with validation.

The Good Life
Uptown - 99 St. Botolph St., 266-3030; Downtown - 28 Kingston St., 451-2622. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1999 Boston's Best Martini award. The Good Life is a retro lounge that Frank Dean and Sammy would have hung at. Big Drinks, Great American Comfort Food, Hot Jazz and Plenty of Boy Meets Girl. Never a cover, always a good time.

Harvard Gardens
316 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114, 617-523-2727. A wonderfully relaxed haven located opposite MGH on the back side of Beacon Hill. Serving the finest cocktails and most comfortable food in town. Plant yourself in a comfy booth, a cozy banquette, or at our fully loaded bar and escape from your everyday troubles. Doing it nice & easy 7 days a week - 11am-2am.

Pravda 116
116 Boylston St., 617-482-7799. Pravda 116, located in the heart of Boston's theater district, offers not only one of Boston's hottest night clubs, but extraordinary cuisine as well. Pravda's restaurant/lounge boasts the longest bar in Boston, featuring a center ice surface to keep your cocktail cool. If sitting at the bar is not your forte, enjoy a meal at a private table in the dining room or in a plush, secluded booth. Pravda 116's contemporary American cuisine will be sure to please. Chef Chris Parsons prepares exquisite dishes with the latest seasonal ingredierrts. Once you have satisfied your hunger, feed your crave to rave in Pravda's newly remodeled dance club. Pravda's DJ's pack the dance floor spinning high-energy dance music, creating an ambiance that radiates with energy. Rest Hrs: Tues&Wed 5:30-10:30pm, Thurs-Sat 5:30-11pm; Club Hrs: Thurs-Sat 10pm-2am.

Sweetwater Cafe
3 Boylston Place, 351-2515. A classic American bar featuring Boston's best bands and DJ's nightly. A favorite Boston bar for 15 years with two floors of entertainment, an outdoor patio and world class margaritas. Always great music and cold beer, never a dress code. Available for private functions of any kind. (Credit cards: Am Ex, Visa, MC, Diner's) Tues. - Sat. 5 pm - 2 am. Located in "The Alley."

The Big Easy Bar
1 Boylston Place, Boston, 351-7000. Informal. Located in Boston's version of Bourbon Street, "The Alley." The Big Easy Bar is a hot new New Orleans style bar featuring Boston's best live bands and disc jockeys nightly playing music you know and love. Relax in a lounge, listen to the band, play billiards, hang at the bar or dance the night away. The Big Easy Bar has something fun for everyone. Great beer selection, 22 oz. Hurricanes, 4 huge bars, 2 lounges, a balcony, plenty of seating, and a large dance floor. Wed. - Sat. 8 pm - 2 am. Major credit cards accepted. Valet parking available.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, The Allstonians and Beat Soup.

The Sugar Shack
1 Boylston Place, 351-2510. "Home of Boston's Best Party." Set in the middle of a mini-Bourbon Street, The Sugar Shack celebrates Mardi-Gras year-round with a carefree, reckless, spontaneous and unpretentious attitude. Carnival lights, confetti, beads, specialty drinks, live bands and Disc Jockeys playing classics, motown, R&B, funk, disco, and old school hip hop from the last three decades mixed with the best of today's top 40. Home of young professional, young alumni, 20 something hipsters who desire cold beer, cocktails, classic party tunes and unadulterated fun!!

Wine Bars

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar
105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-0966. The hip meeting spot in the Financial District for after work, dinner, late night, or a seductive tryst. The Vault offers some of the most exclusive wines in Boston, which complement the creative American Cuisine prepared by Chef Rebecca Esty. Can't decide on a wine? Relax and compare with our Tasting Flights featuring selections from different reds and whites. So what are you waiting for? Call an old friend, a client, or a co-worker and meet for cocktails at The Vault today.

RESTAURANTS

Ajanta
145 First St., Cambridge, MA (617) 491-0075 (across from the Galleria Mall). Cambridge's newest Indian restaurant specializing in South Indian vegetarian cooking. We serve the best Dosai (crepes) in town: paper thin Dosai, Rava Dosai, Iddly, Uthapam and Vadas. We also serve North Indian Tandoori and meat curries, as well as mouth-watering chef specials such as lamb and chicken kabobs. Ajanta serves fine wine and Imported Beers in a high ceiling and contemporary atmosphere. Try our lunch buffet or our very popular Sunday South Indian Vegetarian Brunch. Hours: Lunch: Tues.-Fri. 11:30am-2:30pm, Sat. & Sun. 12-3pm; Dinner: Tues.-Sun.5-10pm.

29 Newbury Street Restaurant
29 Newbury St., Boston, 617-536-0290. Savor new American cuisine that is ingeniously prepared only with the freshest, most healthful ingredients available. The moderately priced seasonal menu is served in a casually elegant setting enhanced by the works of local artists. The restaurant and bar, located on the first block of Newbury Street in Back Bay, provide an intimate and sophisticated atmosphere. Valet parking. Reservations recommended.

Back Bay Brewing Company
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center. $7-$18. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Bi-level restaurant/ brewery offers an inspirational pairing of Chef Michael Burgess's innovative cuisine and Tod Mott's hand-crafted ales and lagers. Upbeat first floor bar and café, second floor dining room and bar with comfortable couches and overstuffed chairs. Sunday Buffet Brunch 11am - 3pm, $14.95. Mon. - Sun. 11:30am - 1am.

Butterfish, An American Bistro
5 Craigie Circle, Harvard Square, Cambridge, 497-5511. Chef/Owner Christopher Bussell opened Butterfish on December 4, 1999, at the former site of Cafe Celador. Nestled between Brattle St. and Concord Ave., Butterfish's charming bistro setting is a perfect venue for Chef Christopher's fine American cuisine with international accents. Dishes such as "Monkfish with Moroccan Spices and Grilled Peaches," and "Double Thick Pork Chop with a Warm Corn Souffle" are complimented by an extensive choice of wines. Hours: Tues-Thurs 5-10pm; Fri & Sat 5-11pm.

Cactus Club
939 Boylston St., 236-0200. Get a taste of the Southwest in Boston. Specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, Cajun Catfish. Save 1/2 off entire menu Mon. - Fri., 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm in the bar. Sample the firewater menu while you are there, including Coyote Killer (Light and dark rum, peach schnapps, ginger beer and mixed juices), or a Chambord Margarita. Only the daring may go for a dip in the Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Amex, Diners Club, MC and Visa accepted.

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Company
138 Portland Street, Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is now the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, a block from the FleetCenter and steps from Faneuil Hall, Commonwealth Fish & Beer features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

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316 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114, 617-523-2727. A wonderfully relaxed haven located opposite MGH on the back side of Beacon Hill. Serving the finest cocktails and most comfortable food in town. Plant yourself in a comfy booth, a cozy banquette, or at our fully loaded bar and escape from your everyday troubles. Doing it nice & easy 7 days a week - 11am-2am.

Jillian's Boston
Behind Fenway Park, 437-0300. An upscale 70,000 Sq. ft. megaplex of interactive entertainment. Play breakthrough interactive communication games, participate in a live game show & watch a giant video wall while dining on innovative American cuisine at Atlas Grill on Jillian's new 1st floor. Jillian's offers motion simulator rides, more than 250 cutting edge electronic & virtual reality games, 50 billiard tables, table tennis, & "just for fun" black jack. There are five full bars & 50 TVs that broadcast sporting events. Great for late night dining & private parties 25-3000. Open Daily.

Kashmir
279 Newbury St., Boston, 536-1695. Kashmir has been raising the bar of Indian restaurants in quality, style and service since it opened. Its well deserved Best of Boston, Boston's Best and Readers' Choice awards are a result of great execution where it counts. Indoors in three elegantly styled dining rooms and outdoors on the best people watching corner in town, Kashmir serves the finest Tandoori and curry dishes and most imaginative specials and the best lunch and brunch buffet in town. Wine and beer are available as well as takeout, delivery, private parties and catering.

Ma Soba Asian Cuisine & Sushi
156 Cambridge Street on Beacon Hill, Boston, 973-6680. Enjoy premium sushi and Ma Soba's unique blend of contemporary and traditional Asian cuisine prepared by award-winning chefs. Relax with a fine wine selection from Ma Soba's comprehensive wine cellar in a setting described as "strikingly attractive and ultra urbane" by the Boston Herald. Open daily: Sun-Wed until 10:30pm, Thurs-Sat until 11:00pm. When in Harvard Square/Cambridge, visit Ma Soba Express at 30 Dunster Street for quick-service pan Asian noodles and rice platters.

Ocean Wealth
8 Tyler Street, Boston, MA, 02111, (617) 423-1338. We know that people appreciate only the freshest seafood. So we introduced the concept of picking your seafood live out of the tanks in Boston in 1990 with the opening of Ocean Wealth. Upon entering our restaurant, patrons are greeted by a myriad of fish tanks, filled with codfish, black sea bass, blackfish, and lobsters. But what is different are geoduck clams from Seattle, Dungeness crabs from San Francisco, and live saltwater shrimp from Florida. Come and enjoy the Ocean's Wealth. Full liquor license. Reservations recommended. Open daily until 4 am.

Shenandoah Restaurant, Marketplace Cafe, Brewskellar Pub
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston 227-1272. Located in the North Market Building of Faneuil Hall, Shenandoah Restaurant, The Marketplace Cafe, and Brewskellar Pub have something for everyone. Whether you're interested in a casual dinner on one of Boston's largest outdoor patios or the quiet more elegant surroundings of Shenandoah Restaurant, we offer it all. Having a function? We cater personally to all events you may be planning. Visit us soon and let us surprise you.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve both lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar
105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-9966. A wonderful secret hidden in Boston's Financial District. The Vault offers contemporary American cuisine and an extensive and exclusive affordable wine list. Come in and enjoy our new summer menu, including an expanded raw bar, Maine crab cakes, seared tuna and much more. Lunch Mon. - Fri. from 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Dinner Mon. - Wed. from 5:30 - 10:30 pm, Thurs. - Sat. from 5:30 - 11 pm. Closed Sun.

The Wrap & Smoothie Bar
137 Mass Ave., Boston (at Berklee School of Music), 369-9087; 71 Mt. Auburn St., Harvard Square, 354-5838; 1940 Beacon St., Cleveland Circle, 739-0340; 82 Water St., Financial District, 357-9013. The Wrap serves delicious, freshly prepared wraps, burritos and salads as well as healthy and refreshing smoothies. Voted Boston's Best 1998 & 1999 by The Improper Bostonian. Fresh ingredients, great taste, healthy options - words we live by!

BRUNCH

Anago
65 Exeter Street, Boston, 266-6222. Anago, in the historic Lenox Hotel, presents a live Sunday Brunch from 11-2pm, prepared by Boston's whiz kid chef, Jamie "Shaky" Liberge, featuring a sumptuous buffet of appetizers with exquisite freshly baked desserts and breads created by award winning pastry chef, Lee Napoli, to accompany your choice of exceptional entree selections. Reservations are recommended.

Back Bay Brewing Company
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Featuring Chef Michael Burgess's Neo-Continental selections, including Eggs Benedict with Canadian bacon & herbed hollandaise, blueberry pancakes with almond maple syrup, omelet station, French toast, roasted meat carving station, house smoked salmon, and assorted desserts. Sunday Brunch Buffet 11 am - 3 pm. $14.95

Dick's Last Resort
55 Huntington Ave., Prudential Center, Boston, 267-8080. www.dickslastresort.com. On Sunday, Dick got religion and has a Heavenly Gospel Brunch from 10am to 3pm. They serve fruit, salads, eggs benedict, fried chicken with a ham and roast beef station. Help yourself to the waffle or omelet stations and the dessert bar while listening to old fashion uplifting live gospel music. Open for Lunch, Dinner and late night entertainment 7 days a week, no cover.

Museum of Science - Skyline Room
Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston, MA 02114. Egypt comes to Boston! Enjoy Sunday brunch in the beautiful Skyline Room overlooking the Charles River at noon and then experience the amazing Omni film Mysteries of Egypt at 2pm. Tickets are $28 for Adults, $26 for Seniors/Children. Brunch only is $20. On-site parking is included. Reservations recommended, call (617)723-2500.

The Wrap & Smoothie Bar
137 Mass Ave., Boston (at Berklee School of Music), 369-9087; 71 Mt. Auburn St., Harvard Square, 354-5838; 1940 Beacon St., Cleveland Circle, 739-0340; 82 Water St., Financial District, 357-9013. The Wrap serves delicious, freshly prepared wraps, burritos and salads as well as healthy and refreshing smoothies. Voted Boston's Best 1998 & 1999 by The Improper Bostonian. Fresh ingredients, great taste, healthy options - words we live by!

MISC.

Fitness

North Point Club
North Point Club, 6 Museum Way, Cambridge, 617-523-2900. The newest fitness club in Cambridge, North Point Club is also a great value. Join now for only $69 per month and enjoy swimming, group exercise, cardiovascular conditioning, strength training and the motivation to reach your fitness goals. Conveniently located across the street from Boston's Museum of Science, it is easily accessed from Charlestown, Cambridge, and the T's Science Park and Lechmere stops.

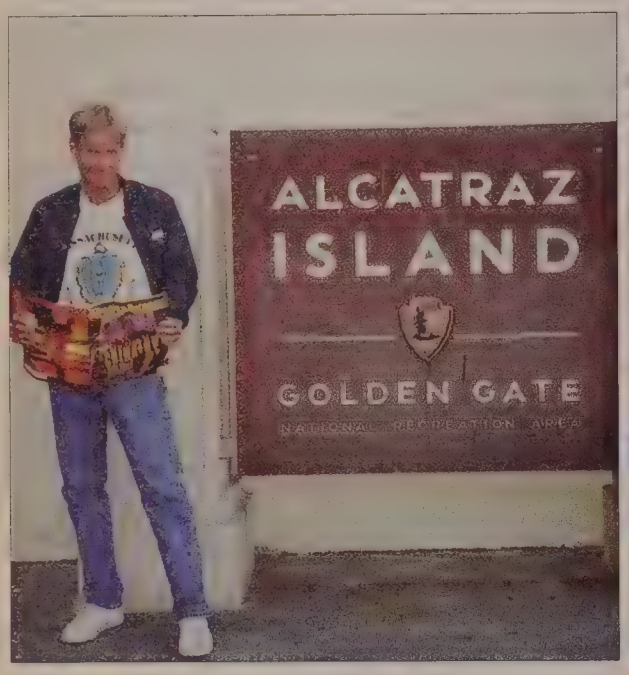
Sports

Boston Paintball
131 Beverly St., Boston, 742-6612. The rules are simple. There are teams and everyone has paintball guns. You are inside of a large warehouse (near the Boston Garden). They are firing balls straight at you. You scream, dodge, hide, wipeout and have a blast!!! Great for bachelor/bachelorette parties, corporate outings, birthday parties, and much more.

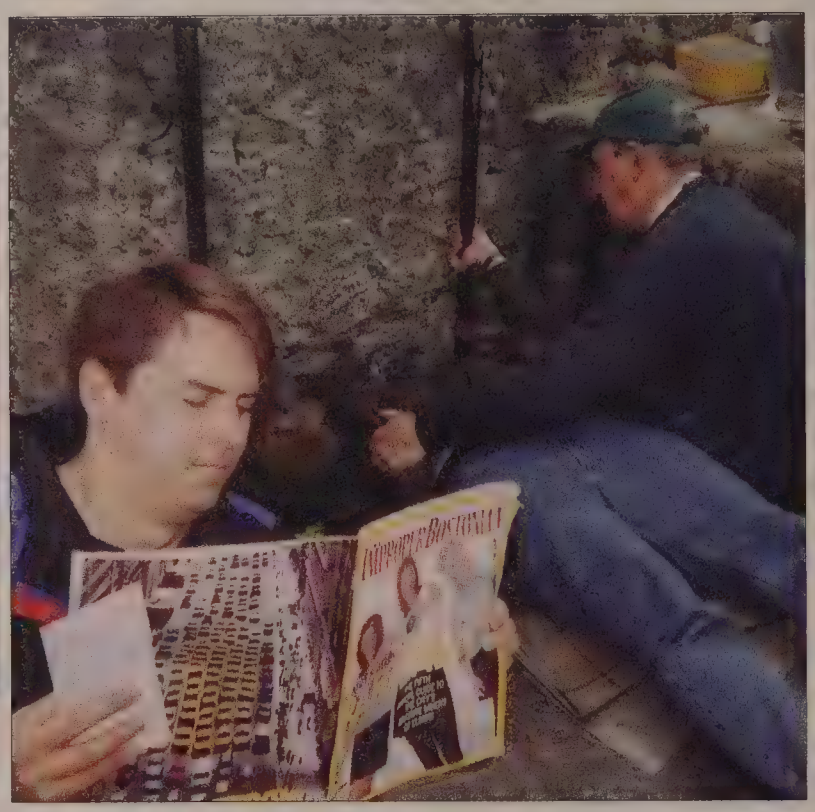
Improper Sightings

Unlike the rest of your friends, we want to see the photos from your next trip.

Where do you take us? We want to know! Send us a picture of you or a friend, or better yet, someone famous reading The Improper Bostonian and tell us where you were. The more creative you are, the faster we'll publish your pic! (Hey, we have no shame!)



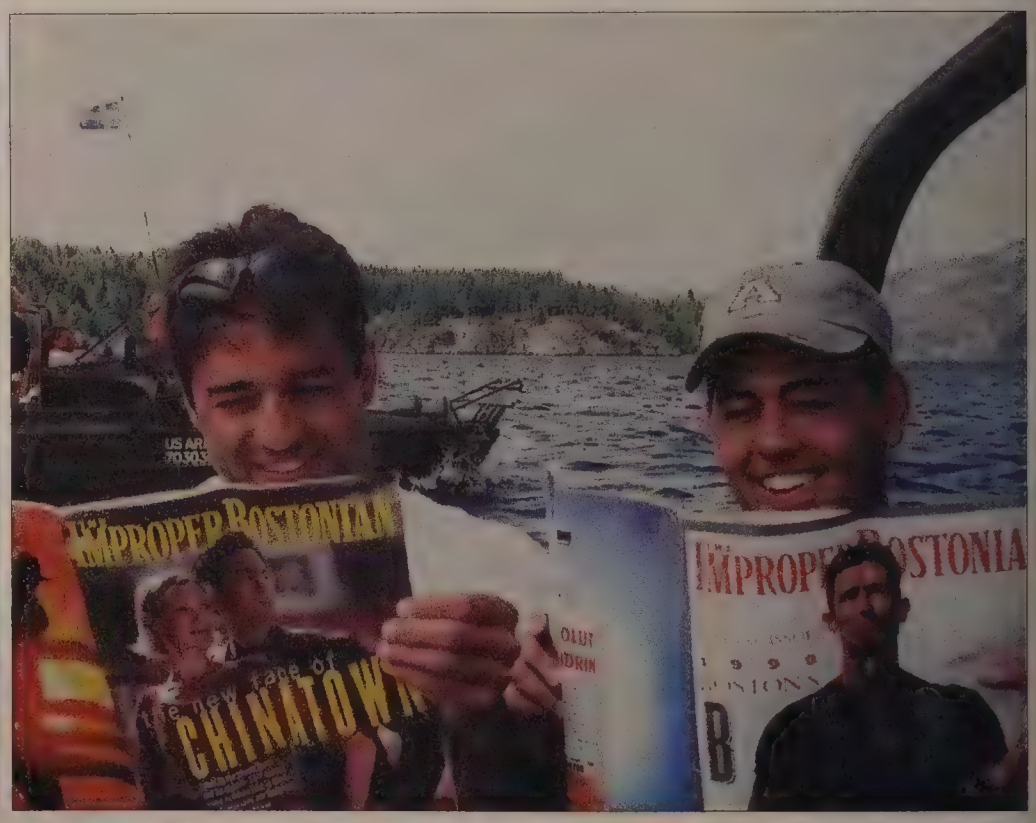
Police officer Eric Bens of Natick sports his Massachusetts Department of Corrections T-shirt and his Improper while visiting "The Rock."



Larry Ireland of Boston reads The Improper while his friend Andy Dwyer of Arlington kisses the Blarney Stone in Cork Castle, Ireland.

(L-R) Fia Tramontozzi of Newton, Missy Pappas of Manchester, NH, Julia Salvucci of Waltham and Robert DiCenso of Framingham show off The Improper while ravaging through the vaults of a bank in Newton Centre.

Stephanie Katz of the Back Bay and Jennifer Price of Brookline check out The Improper while at Lake Louise in the heart of Canadian Rockies, Alberta, Canada.



Eric and Mark Rogers enjoy The Improper while accompanying their father Manuel Rogers Jr. (the founding partner of Boston Duck Tours) to "Amphib Week" in Norway.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER: on the set of FOX news channel's "O'Reilly Factor" with Bill O'Reilly; at Camp IV on Mount Everest (extra points for catching a sherpa perusing an Improper page); at Carnivale in Rio.

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN

Last Scene Here BY JONATHAN SOROFF

At the *Wit* opening reception at Aria: David Josef with *Wit* actress Judith Light (above) and a furry Marilyn Riseman (left) .

Memo to Steve Forbes: We've Found Your Running Mate...

For once, the drips on the dance floor at **Aria** weren't the human variety but came from a sweating ice sculpture at a special opening night reception for ***Wit***, held to benefit **Dana Farber**, the **Fenway Community Health Center** and the **David Brudnoy Foundation**.

The soignee cocktail party, hosted by cancer survivor **Trudy Feinstein** and Channel 7's **Sara Edwards**, included a silent auction and a glam guestlist. Present and accounted for: the star of the play, **Judith Light**, couturier **David Josef** and his peripatetic other half, **Dan Forrester**, slave-to-Chanel and racehorse syndicator **Cynthia Frederick**, kabuki socialite **Marilyn Riseman**, the naturally sweetened **Caron LeBrun** and trendsetting interior designer **Sharyn Fireman**, who's contemplating running for president on the un-P.C. but intriguing "fur and jewels platform."

Good thing she waited to declare until after the Iowa Caucus.

Agatha Christie, Eat Your Heart Out...

Every year, interior designer **Kent Hammond Keatinge** invites an eclectic crew to the Norumbega Inn, his gothic castle in Camden, Maine, for a murder mystery weekend. Among this year's attendees: Massport mouthpiece **Jose Juves** and luscious copywriter **Alison Waldron**, Pho Republique owner **Jack Bardy** and Asian dumpling **Leah Ikeda**, master mixologist **Peter Cipriani**, bodacious TV personality **Toni Senecal**, *Back Bay Courant* publishers **David Jacobs** and **Gen Tracy**, model/ singer/goddess **Renee Adams**, lovable shutterbug **Cheryl Richards**, and Internet startup stud **David Nakayama**, among others, who spent two days trying to figure out who'd left a cadaver on the drawing room floor, and proved, along the way, that homicide investigations can be sexy when conducted in the appropriate lingerie. (See photo above right.) In the end, no one solved the whodunnit, making everyone there eligible for a job with the Boulder Colorado Police Department.

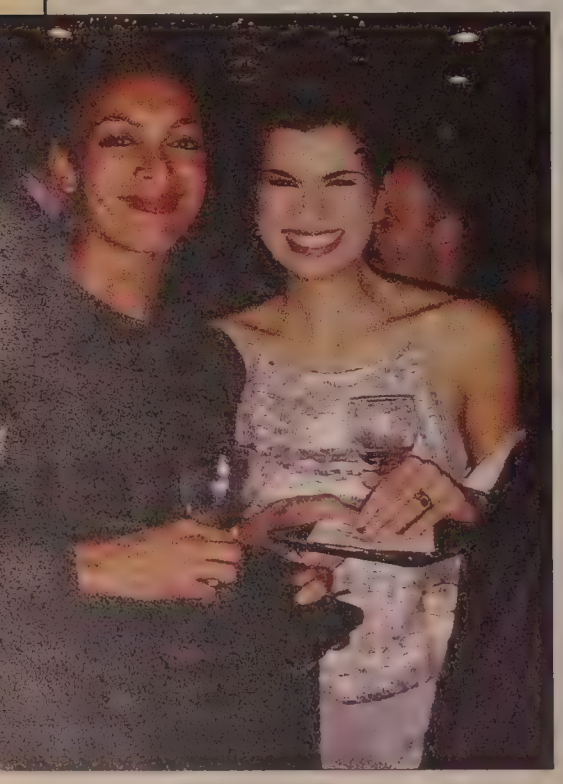
Take That, Andrew Lloyd Weber!

What with all the cattiness, high drama and bitchery, there's nothing surprising about the idea of a murder at a Newbury Street hair salon. What is unbelievable about ***Shear Madness***, though, is that it's still going strong after all these years; in fact, the *Guinness Book of World Records* lists it as the longest-running non-musical play in American theater history.

A murder mystery weekend included racy lingerie (above) and guests like Toni Senecal and Peter Cipriani (above right) and Cheryl Richards.

To mark its 20th anniversary, a special performance was held at the **Charles Playhouse**, followed by a fittingly sybaritic get-together at **Legal Sea Foods**. The evening attracted the likes of theatrical impresario **John Platt** and Broadway in Boston's new president **Bill Conner**, discount fashion doyenne **(Frugal) Fannie Doxer** and her affable other half, **Orrin**, the Ritz-Carlton's statuesque **Jennifer George**, mustachioed fishmonger **Roger Berkowitz**, WZLX babe **Jo O'Connor-Doherty**, Channel 5's **Ted Reinstein**, Sopranos star **John Fiore**, and the A.R.T's **Jerry Kissel**, **Will LeBow** and **Sandra Shipley** (all five of whom are Shear Madness alums), and pretty much every other card-carrying member of the local chapter of Actors Equity.

In between slurping oysters and slapping each other on the back, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves enormously and the celebration continued late into the night (for a Monday in Boston, at least). Now let's all pray that *Cats* doesn't enjoy the same kind of longevity.



Guests at the Spinazzola Foundation food fest: left: Gina Fox and Linda Cole; above, from top to bottom: Cliris Beekman; Chris Spinazzola and Susan Wornick; Jeannie Flynn and Ming Tsai.

One Out Of Seven Deadly Sins Aint Bad...

The World Trade Center looked like a giant birdcage populated by parrots and penguins as women in colorful gowns and men in black-tie strapped on the feedbag for the annual face-stuffing competition known as the **Anthony Spinazzola Foundation Gala Festival of Food & Wine**.

With over 120 of the area's best restaurants doling out tasty vittles to more than 4,000 guests, it's impossible to list everyone who was there, but here's a sampling: foundation head **Chris Spinazzola**, Channel 5 blonde bombshell **Susan Wornick** (in a really killer fur-trimmed number), supermodels **Gina Fox** and **Linda Cole**, super-sparkly restaurateurs **Todd** and **Olivia English**, food scribbler **Annie Copps**, power-broker **George Regan**, gastronome **Joyce della Chiesa**, radio blabbermouth **Tai**, the disturbingly handsome **Chris Beekman**, the radiant **Esti Benson** of Radius, dressed like a geisha and accompanied by samurai **Chris Myers**, gravel-throated man-about-town **John Graham**, bespectacled swinger **Brian O'Neill** of the Good Life, liquor distributor **Michael Tye**, figure-skating hottie **Byron Darden**, Mercedes peddler **Kevin Fox** and his enchanting other half, **Julie**, Mistral's answer to Mr. Clean, **Brian Corbitt**, the dangerously amusing **Michael Murphy** and hordes of hungry others.

"My God," said one attendee, "You'd think these people hadn't seen food in ages."

"I know," said her date. "In a feeding frenzy, I'd bet on this crowd over a great white shark any day." **iB**

The *Shear Madness* 20th anniversary party attracted local celebs like (clockwise from top) Jennifer George; (Frugal) Fannie and Orrin Doxer; and John Platt and Roger Berkowitz.

Avez-vous dish?

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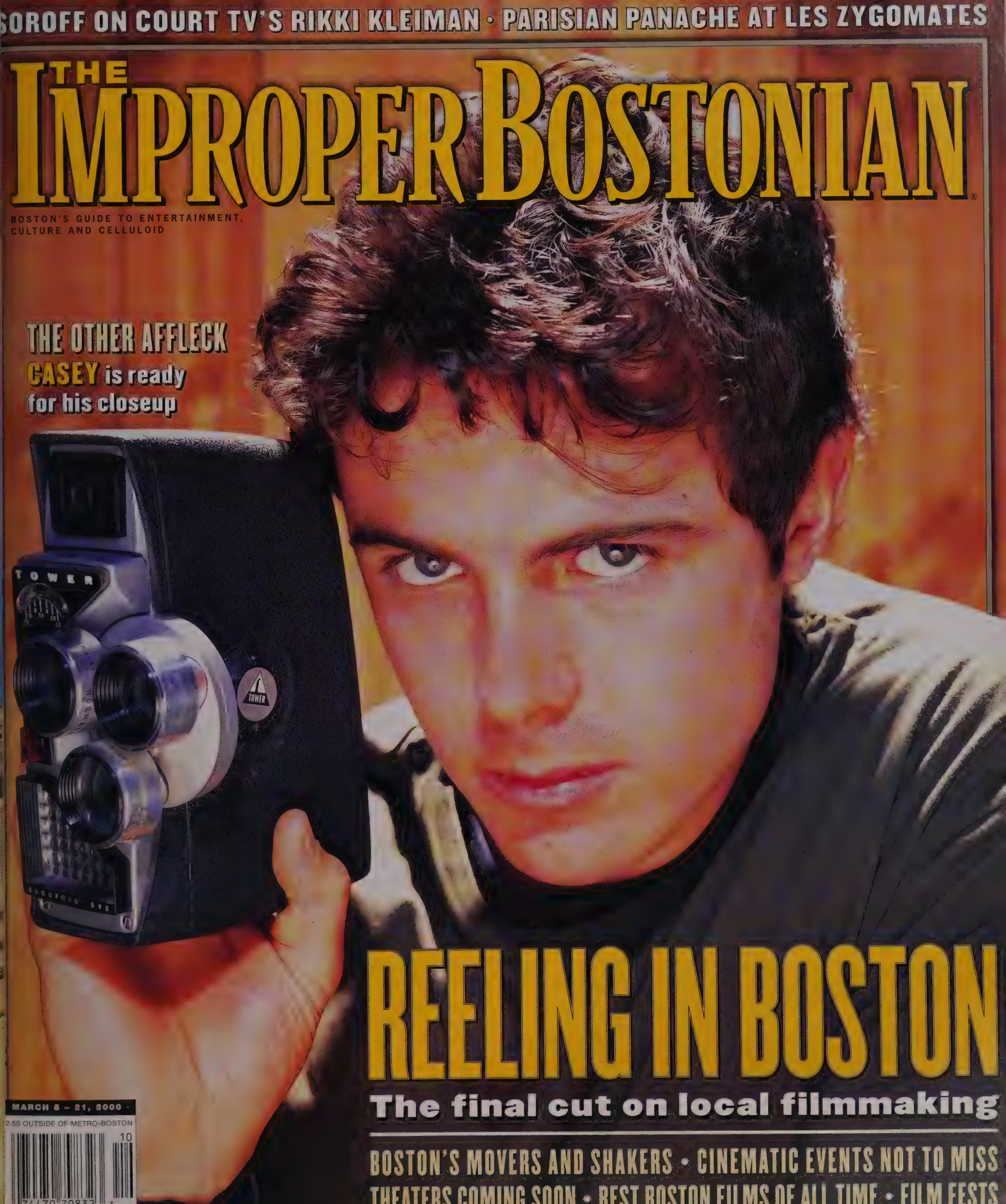
CASEY is ready for his closeup



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Photographed on February 16, 2000 in New York for THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN by **Dale May**

Stylist: **April Johnson**
Grooming: **Brian Magallones for The Oscar Blandi Salon at The Plaza**

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE
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letters

Missing Course?

As an admirer of Judy Mattera from Olives and Grill 23, I was surprised that J. Charles Mokriski failed to recognize her as the pastry chef in his review of The Federalist.

PETER BORANS
Via e-mail

Lighting Up

I wrote before regarding the lights on the Commonwealth Mall. I appreciate the fact that you ran my letter in your magazine. I am equally disappointed to discover that the city intends to remove them after all. Boston is my home. You do not have to look far to see a face that is not dealing well with the rough winters that we have.

Even in the bitter cold I see people strolling through the park. That was nice. It is time for this city to make itself better to be in. It is time for the complacency to stop. We travel to Europe and marvel. Why do we not bring that home? For Boston is one of the most beautiful places I have ever been.

Why is it not the dazzling place it could be? I am a very talented designer, I contribute to Meredith Publishing, my designs have appeared in countless magazines, papers and books. I am not speaking through my hat. Things could be so much better here, so easily. Will The IMPROPER rise to the challenge or are you just more stuff at the door?

I would be happy to assist you in any pursuit that could make an impact on improving the city and our lives that we share here.

GREGORY D. CANN
Via e-mail

Improperly Speaking

Little glitch in the current issue's Improper Speaking. McGeorge Bundy was not a Democrat. My old friend (and teacher) was asked after JFK's death if he planned to return to Massachusetts and make a run for Congress or the Senate as a Democrat. "As a matter of fact," said Mac, "I've always been a Republican." As a matter of fact, he ran as a Republican for the Back Bay-Beacon Hill District City Council seat in the late 1940s. Some believe he was beaten by a mischievous trick: a sound truck blasting forth his name, but paid for by his opponent. His uncle, former Councillor and State Representative Henry Shattuck—a lifelong Republican—never quite forgave him for losing the election.

By the way, about a third of the people in the room with J.F.K. when he stared down the Soviets in the Missle Crisis—including Bundy—were Republican. We forgive you.

JOHN SEAN
Boston

Kudos for Davis Square

Not to beat an over-priced and elitist horse, but I really appreciate the way the IMPROPER is taking on the scourge of our area. Working day in and day out at *Editorial Humor*, which is next door to Diesel and Someday and now Starbucks, I just wish my magazine had the... well, I desperately admire the IMPROPER's guts in commenting on the assault that our favorite area, Davis Square, is suffering. Please keep up the good work.

BART CAMERON
Sales Manager at Editorial Humor

Everyone's a Critic

Regarding the "Boston Rocks" issue—how about Converge, who pack every show they play all over the country? Or Garrison or In My Eyes, both of whom have signed to Revelation Records? Slow Fore? Hip Tanaka? Euclid? Piebald? Sneezes UK? Reach the Sky? Perhaps these bands aren't "inside" or improper enough. Or perhaps you kids didn't do your homework.

MIKE FOURNIER
Allston (where else?)

Road Rage

Richard Manning's "Highway Robbery" (Feb. 23) is typical of the ranting, opinionated misinformation that epitomizes the delusional thinking of our auto-enslaved society. Although his weak and unsubstantiated remarks may be intended to exalt the perceived martydom of the Boston "Road Warrior," in reality they only serve to highlight the collective blind spot we exhibit in assessing the societal costs of our automobile dependence.

The original debts of the Mass Pike and Callahan tunnel may indeed be retired, but the enormous costs associated with maintenance and repair of such roadways are continuing taxpayer burdens. Logic dictates that the suburban housewives in SUVs chastised by Manning should be relied upon to provide the funding for highway construction and maintenance, not citizens relying on public transportation.

We need to insist that those who utilize the costly services of the highway department pay their own way. The age of the free lunch for the automobile is over.

BRYAN HARTZLER
Malden

"By the way, about a third of the people in the room with J.F.K. when he stared down the Soviets in the Missle Crisis—including Bundy—were Republican. We forgive you."
—John Sean

I am so sick and tired of the potholes all over the entire city! Why can't people recognize that this is a more serious problem—to our cars and our persons? What a risk to our collective health! It has reached the point of absurdity. Can the IMPROPER do an story devoted to the abolishment of these citywide atrocities? We'd all be most grateful.

SUSAN HANDWARD
Somerville

Road Raves

Being a new driver to Boston is a difficult thing, especially when you're coming from the grid-lined streets and stadium-sized parking lots of South Florida. What constitutes parallel parking etiquette? Do Bostonians know they have direction signals? And what happened to using peripheral vision? What lunatic designed rotaries?

I was baffled, but you've provided the windshield wipers for my journey from sun to snow. It doesn't make total sense, but now I realize that it never will. Boston is too intellectual of a city to allow a simple work commute to be anything less than challenging. So thank you for assuring me that even locals suffer from Boston driving mania. Now I think that it's actually more respectable to take my chances.

ERICA ROGOW
Jamaica Plain

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improper SPEAKING

GEARING UP?

It's becoming more and more apparent that Mass. Envelope chairman and former state and national Democratic Committee Party Chair **Steve Grossman** is gearing up for a run for governor in '02.

For one thing, in the last several weeks, Grossman has traveled to Springfield, Worcester, New Bedford, Lawrence, Lowell and Methuen, among other places, to shake hands and make friends. (Do we know anyone who goes to Methuen voluntarily? No.) He also gave the keynote speech at the annual meeting of, of all things, the Cranberry Country Chamber of Commerce in Middleborough on Feb. 9. Not the sort of thing that a guy running an envelope company usually does, is it?

Bill Clinton and Steve Grossmnan, Clinton's former DNC Chairman.

Further, only last week Grossman addressed the Chelsea Boys and Girls Club at a breakfast meeting—the audience consisting not of boys and girls but of Chelsea business types. Grossman talked about "smart, activist government and government leaders who are fast, flexible and entrepreneurial, like good business people." Does any of this sound familiar?

But like they say in the real estate business: its location, location, location. Chelsea is the hometown and lifelong stomping ground of Senate President **Thomas Birmingham**, the putative front-runner in the race for the democratic gubernatorial nomination in '02.

Nothing like setting off a few grenades in your chief rival's back yard to get a little attention, is there?

BEHIND THE NUMBERS

Much ado was made late last month over the fact that Gov. **Paul Cellucci** had taken a total nosedive in the polls because of the $1.4 billion cost overrun on the Big Dig.

Conjecture on Big Dig debt grows.

But look past the numbers for the real reason behind Pony Paul's precipitous fall.

These were statewide polls; they weren't Boston polls. Practically every penny of state highway revenue in the last decade has gone to relieve Big Dig debt. This has meant that every municipality from Greater Brookline to Great Barrington has seen its highway maintenance funds cut to the bone. The fact that the polls were taken during pothole season—as local DPW workers all over the state were out trying to patch holes with tablespoons full of asphault—only served to pre-ordain the poll results.

Nobody likes risking pothole-induced kidney injury on the way to work, no matter where they live. This is especially so the farther away you get from that "great suckin' sound" also known as the Big Dig.

ONE OF LIFE'S TRUE GREATS

Don't be surprised if you're wandering around the Harvard Law School Quad on Monday of next week and see all the smartest people in greater Boston filing into Austin Hall. They'll be there honoring the memory of **Felicia Lamport Kaplan**, who died shortly after Christmas. She was one of the most proper Improper Bostonians you could ever have hoped to meet.

Kaplan was the poet best known in these parts for composing the weekly "Muse of the Week in Review" verses for the *Globe*'s Sunday "Focus" section—pun-filled-verses that literally backward to reel made the mind. But she was also an entertainer (and gardener) of legendary mien in her Martha Vineyard house on any given summer night, one could find the likes of **William Styron** arguing baseball with **Art Buchwald**, or **Lillian Hellman** talking deep-sea fishing with Washington Post Company chair **Katharine Graham**.

George W. Bush makes a blunder, causing even more political waves.

Though nobody's ever been able to prove it, the real reason Vineyard residents lock their cars when parking in West Tisbury or Chilmark in August was to avoid Felicia dropping 10 pounds of fresh, ripe zucchini in their back seats as a simple, thoughtful, gift. She was "sui generous" to a fault.

As Kaplan herself once said, memorializing a friend she dearly loved: "She could turn a tigress into a Euphrates."

ONE OF LIFE'S LITTLE IRONIES

Few have pointed this out, so of course it falls to us to do it: We all know that former Yale party animal **George W. Bush** chose to kick off his South Carolina campaign at Bob Jones U., which bans interracial dating. Less clear was that, in doing so, Bush was implicitly endorsing a policy that would have forbidden his brother, Florida Gov. **Jeb Bush**, from dating his wife, **Columba**, who is of Mexican descent. Both Jeb and Columba Bush are of the Roman Catholic faith, which BJU's founder defined as a "Satanic cult." And we have to wonder what BJU thought back in 1988 when presidential nominee **George H.W. Bush** introduced his Florida grandchildren to the floor of the GOP convention as "our little brown ones."

TICKET STACKING

Probably the most bizarre story to come out of the last month was the one having to do with meter maids. It turns out that those we tend to despise most are actually on our side.

Boston meter maids take ticketing matters into their own hands.

Last year Boston's meter maids started to refuse to "stack" tickets on illegally parked cars—the customary practice among orange paper vigilantes—when the cars had exceeded a meter's time limit (and then some, and then some, and then some). The City actually took the meter maids to court to force the maids to stack, and the anti-stacking maids lost.

So the next time you see a meter maid decorating your windshield with a piece of orange paper, shake her hand. Or at least give her a smile.

AFTERMATH OF TRAGEDY

Since the suicide of the former head of student government at **Phillips Andover Academy** late last month, insiders are saying that the tragedy goes beyond one 18-year-old boy getting caught drinking, becoming despondent, then deciding to take his own life. The real tragedy, they're saying, is the horrendous pressure-cooker atmosphere that students are subjected to in these boarding schools.

"These kids are all made to feel worthless if they can't be leading candidates for the Ivy League, Bowdoin, Amherst, Duke, or Stanford," the parent of one prep-schooler confided." iB

Speaking of Boston

Got an inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to speaking@improper.com.

DEVIL'S ISLAND

Things have gotten so bad at **Community Newspaper Company**, publisher of the TAB newspapers and a hundred other suburban weeklies, that it's now becoming hard to tell who's playing Dustin Hofman and who's playing Steve McQeen in our own local version of *Papillon* (Henri Charriere's novel about an escape from Devil's Island off the coast of French Guyana in the 1950s).

During the last month, no fewer than six managing editors from the chain have left, largely because they feared getting laid off in what could only be called a massive bloodletting by top management (euphoniously called a "cost-saving" in business schools). Reporters are flowing out the door faster than the Charles River in full spring flood. Nobody wants a job there, and things are getting nasty.

This is how desperate things have become: one managing editor in Needham, in an effort to save his job, went so far as to assign himself the slot of arts and entertainment editor at his group of papers, figuring if he held down two spots he couldn't be laid off. He offered the editor-in-place a job as his assistant. She quit. Then the entire production staff in Needham was laid off—though all 11 people were invited to apply for four jobs in Framingham.

In the wake of all of this, TAB editor-in-chief **Bob Unger** quit late last month to edit the paper in State College, Pennsylvania, where, are as far as we know, the only source of news is **Joe Paterno** and the Penn State football team.

The Community Newspaper Company sees six more empoloyees out the door—all managing editors.

GROSSMAN: NEWSMAKERS, TICKET: KATYA POPOVA, CNC: WENDY MIMRAN

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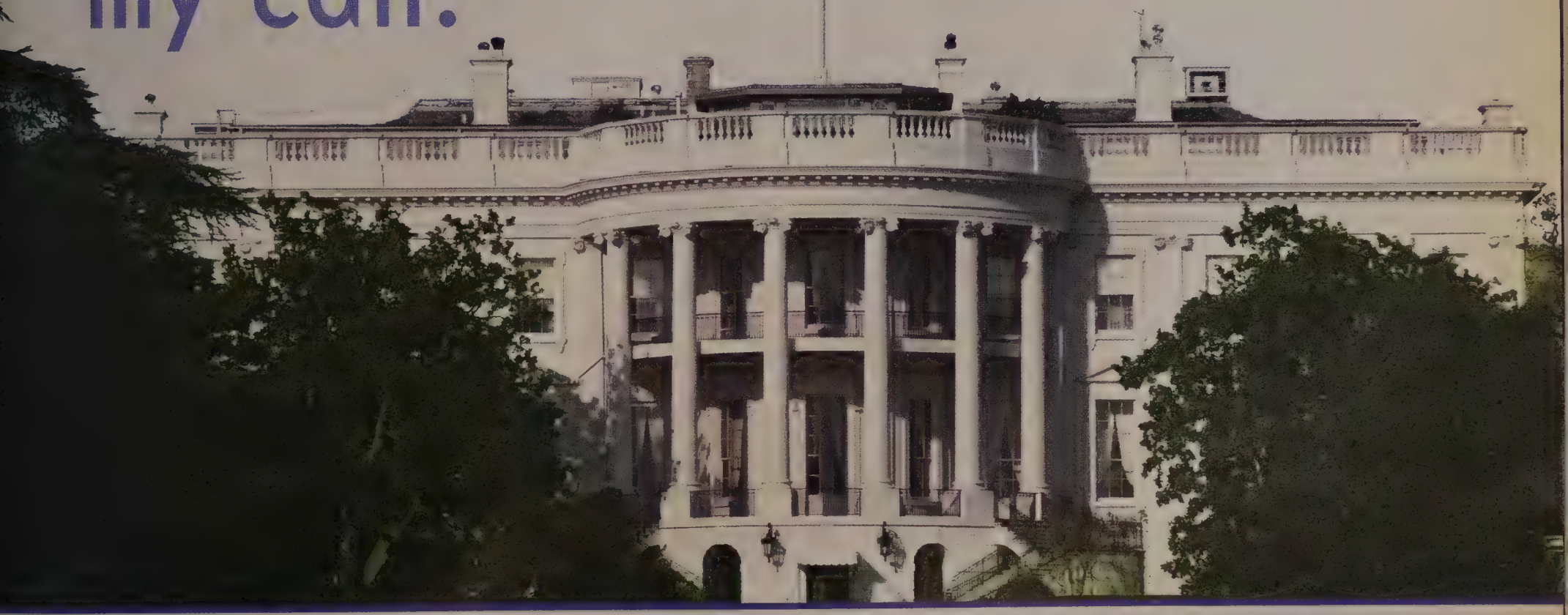

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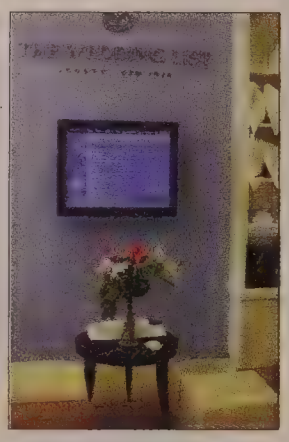
Around Town

Hassle Free Hitching

We all know planning a wedding is a hassle—less about declaring undying love and more about finding the right band and choosing a caterer. Well fear not—nuptial help is here.

The Wedding List, a new store on Newbury, aims to lessen the wedding work load by making registering virtually painless for couples and guests alike. It's all about promoting a feel-good, hand-holding atmosphere—pampering couples with cozy couches, cups of hot tea and a display of "almost like home" decorated rooms. Couples can leisurely select from an extensive collection of flatware, linens, cookware, china and crystal. Afterward, the pair's register is posted on the store's Web site (*theweddinglist.com*). Sure, other stores have done this, but acccording to Daphne Murray, director of communications, "our site "features more than 200 manufacturers that our stylists have hand-selected." For wedding guests, the appeal is clear: One click shopping means one less trip to the mall.



119 Newbury, Second Floor, Boston (266-5000).

Around Town

Working Art

Have you ever looked around on a busy rush hour morning, while shoved by herding masses of commuters, and thought, "I've got to escape this rat race"? You're not alone. On March 20, several local artists will gather in South Station during rush hour to present *Working Hours*, a performance art piece with bronzed performers and a live string quartet depicting scenes of crazed commuters. Headed up by Somerville artist Yani Batteau, it will offer observers a chance to watch themselves being imitated. *March 20, 7-9am and 4:30-6:30pm.*

FUN FACT The New England Spring Flower Show (March 11-19) uses enough mulch to cover 15 football fields.

All the Buzz

Oh See Celia's

You can tell that Davis Square's newest eatery, **Celia's** is not your typical take-out joint when you head to the condiments counter. Instead of ketchup and mustard, there's an odd assortment of soy and hot sauces and a bottle mysteriously labeled "Liquid Aminos."

Beyond condiment connoisseurs, Celia's will also charm vegetarians. Owner Celia Krebs has put together a wonderful assortment of prepared foods (cajun tofu, roasted root veggies, quinoa salad and wild rice with apricots), organic dried fruits and nuts, a smoothie bar and a build-your-own sandwich counter. "I wanted to serve healthy food that really tastes good," says Krebs, a former New Orleans-native. All food is prepared on the premises with the exception of the bread (Iggy's) and desserts (Sweet Creations).

The decor is inviting, with black-and-white photographs of concrete statues and tombstones lining the walls, and a huge metal spring-like sculpture as a centerpiece. Wander in some time soon and have a cup of joe with Celia, who's sure to charm you with her Southern wit and welcoming manner. *236 Elm St., Somerville (591-1922). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Mon.-Sat. 10am-8pm and Sun. 11am-6pm.*

New in Town

The First Days of Disco

Finally Boston gets a **Polly Esther's** nightclub. It's about time—practically every other major city in the US has had the honor of landing one of these super-successful, retro danceclubs. Was it worth the wait? We think so. Sure, it's campy with its vintage lunch boxes, lava lamps and autographed Bee Gees posters (even a Brady Bunch wall where you can stick your face in a hole and join the gang), but it's unpretentious and loads of fun—something many Boston club-goers will welcome, especially considering the plethora of clubs catering to the black leather Euro crowd.

The 11,000-square-foot, four-floor club opened Feb. 24 to a VIP crowd that oohed and ahhed over the retro decor reminiscent of '70 and '80s theme park. We sipped our Brady Bunch punch and then hit the lit-up dance floor in our white leisure suits and flowing bell bottoms. Others chose to boogie down on the vintage '70s floor alongside autographed posters and TV memorabilia featuring the likes of Donna Summer and the Sweathogs. Later, we jumped ahead a decade to the space's Culture Club and relived our Boy George days as we danced to Prince tunes on the Purple Rain dance floor—surrounded by video monitors displaying brat pack favorites. There's also a '90s dance floor for those with more modern tastes. The Boston Polly Esther's branch has several knick knacks that set it apart from its 20 other incarnations, including Aerosmith and J. Geils Band memorabilia. So bring your platform shoes, a fro or some mood rings—but leave your cynical 2000 self at the door. *232 Friend St., Boston (720-1966). Thu.-Sat. 8pm-2am.*

city limits

BY ERIN HAGEDORN AND JULIE SHORT

Good stuff, glamour, goings-on.

This Just in

St. Paddy's Cyber Chat

In honor of St. Patrick's Day, Local Ireland (*www.local.ie*), the definitive Web site for all things Irish, is hosting a genealogy chat marathon offering Irish folk the opportunity to research their family names and heritage. Just why the site thinks the spirited Irish won't be downing a few at the local pub is a mystery to us—but those of us who can still locate our keyboards may want to check it out. *March 17, 8am-10pm.*

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: WENDY MIMRAN; KATYA APEKINA; BERTA DANIELS; PHOTODISC

It doesn't need a lime to give it flavor.

The beer drinker's light beer.

www.amstel.nl

Proper Bostonians

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

The 10th annual **Inner-City Scholarship Fund Dinner** was held at the Boston Marriot at Copley Place, Feb. 17. The Catholic Schools Foundation, overseer for the fund, hosted 1,000 people at the dinner, which raised $4 million. The fund's chairman, Peter Lynch, vice chairman of Fidelity Management and Research Co., has helped expand the fund more than thirty-fold since its inception in 1991 and raised $16 million in scholarship support benefiting some 25,000 students. He was honored by Mayor Tom Menino, who proclaimed Feb. 17 "Peter Lynch Day."

1. **Pam Birmingham**, owner of Birmingham Interiors, and **Brian Leary**, former Channel 5 anchorman.
2. **Sandy Perkins**, board member for the Committee of Hospice, and **John Dolan**, vice president of equity research sales at Morgan Stanley.
3. From left, **Tom May**, chairman & CEO of NSTAR Companies, his wife **Donna**, and **Jim Brett**, president & CEO of the New England Council.
4. From left, **Bill Connell**, CEO of Connell Limited Partners, **Paul LaCamera**, president and general manager of Channel 5, and **Peter Fink**, an attorney at Linbrewer, Hoffman & Sands.
5. From left, **James Marano**, partner at Kushner, Marano & Murphy in Newton, with his wife **Jackie** and **Whitney Wise**, paralegal assistant at Hale and Dorr, with her father **William Wise**, corporate counsel of Analog Devices Inc. in Norwood.
6. **Bob Long**, president of LCF & Associates in Braintree, and his wife **Muriel**.
7. **Carolyn** and **Peter Lynch**, vice chairman of Fidelity Management and Research Company.
8. **Shelby Chamberlain** and her husband **Miceal**, vice president of institutional equity sales at Prudential Securities Incorporated.

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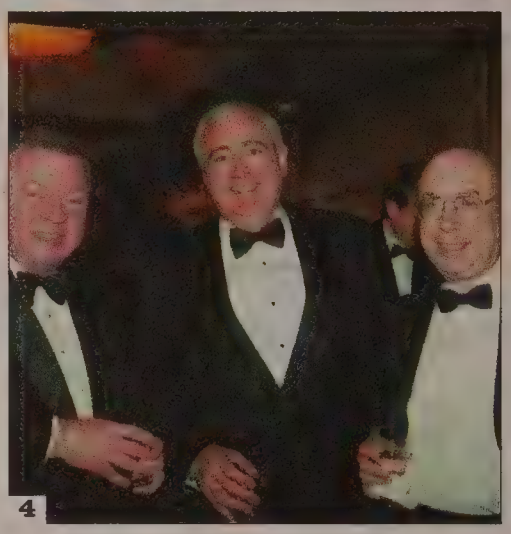
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The **Decorative Arts and Antiques Show 2000** was held at the Castle at Park Plaza, Feb. 24. The evening was presented by FleetBoston Financial, and the honorary chairman was Myra Kraft. Guests enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at the preview party, which raised more than $165,000 for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston.

9. From left, **Kevin McLaughlin**, owner of McLaughlin Upholstery Company in Everett, **Annette Wilson**, owner of Euro Exports, and **Frank Roop**, owner of Frank Roop Design Interiors, with wife **Sharon**, a jewelry consultant at Neiman Marcus.
10. From left, **Jonathan Bordeau**, investment banker at Goldman Sachs, and his wife **Allison**, an interior designer at Clara Hayes Barrett Designs, with **Emily Webster**, special events director for the Children's Trust Fund, and husband **Peter**, vice president of Webster & Co. in the Boston Design Center.
11. **Mark Kukulski**, general manager at the Sheraton Hotel in Needham, and **Mary Grace McCaffrey**, director of sales and marketing at the Sheraton Hotel in Boston.
12. From left, **Kelly Tuthill**, reporter for Channel 5, her mother **Sandra**, owner of Sandra J. Tuthill Interior Designs, and her sister **Melissa**, an agent at Olde Forge Realty in Beacon Hill.

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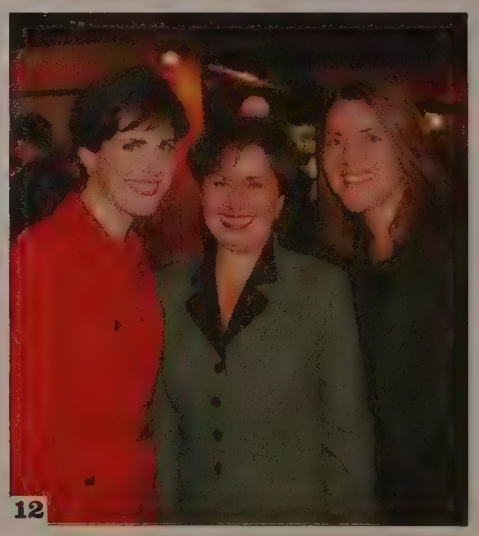
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CYBER BIG BROTHER

Online profiling pioneer Engage Technologies Inc. raises concerns over privacy.

Ever wonder if anybody is watching you when you're on the Web? If so, you're not alone. Every time you click on a Web site, it's likely that the decision is being tracked, and that data is being used to customize the Web ads that appear on the screen. It's called "online profiling" and one of the leading firms in the business is Andover-based Engage Technologies Inc. I first became aware of online profiling when I was doing research on a company whose stock ticker was, I kid you not, "SEXI." When I entered those letters onto a popular search engine to find articles about the firm, the Web page for the search engine began to display click ads for X-rated sites. I remember being vaguely annoyed that somebody evidently believed that I was both horny and illiterate.

Most online profiling is done anonymously, so that there's no way for the Web sites to identify the actual user who's merrily clicking away. In other words, if I had actually clicked on *www.chicksinleather.com*, I wouldn't have had to worry about a flood of cheesy e-mail SPAMs inviting me to visit similar sites, or about having my curbside mailbox stuffed with catalogs in brown paper wrappers.

"Most Internet users, however, get understandably freaked out when a company like Doubleclick says that it's going to connect the profiling data with a name/address database."

Online profiling, however, still makes a lot of people nervous, especially since one of Engage's biggest competitors, NY-based Doubleclick Inc., announced that it intends to link its profiling information with a name and address database. (So much for anonymity on the Web.) Doubleclick's decision has raised a storm of controversy among privacy advocates and consumers who are afraid that the Internet might become the equivalent of a corporate big brother, watching everything that every consumer does online.

Law enforcement officials apparently agree: the state of Michigan is filing suit against Doubleclick, and the Federal Trade Commission and the New York State Attorney General's office are looking into the matter. DoubleClick has also been slapped with six private lawsuits according to the company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The public reaction was so negative that Doubleclick's stock dropped 15 percent in just one day.

Engage co-founder Daniel Jaye thinks that Doubleclick made a serious mistake. The former astrophysics student at Harvard University had been involved in privacy issues long before David Wetherell, Chairman of parent company CMGI Inc. (also in Andover), tapped him to found Engage. "I came in with a bias about the importance of privacy," Jaye explains, "From the start, I've believed that direct marketing on the Internet is not about direct mail or interrupting people with disruptive information—it's about tailoring the Internet experience to the user."

The promise of online profiling is, in fact, pretty cool. Because online profiling makes Web ads more profitable, it helps keep the Internet cheap—just like TV ads subsidize broadcast television. And since you can order things directly on the Web, online profiling can make the Web seem like a mall where the things you'd be most likely to buy are always close at hand. If you're like me and think that shopping is about as fun as a rectal exam, online profiling sounds like a pretty good idea.

Most Internet users, however, get understandably freaked out when a company like Doubleclick says that it's going to connect the profiling data with a name/address database. First, there's the simple nuisance factor. Most people get more than enough mindless SPAM, and everybody except lonely old ladies hates junk mail and telephone solicitation.

And then there's the dark side of Internet privacy. The more frequently that personal information is traded around on the Web, the more likely it is that the information will get into the wrong hands. One danger is identity theft— where one person on the Web pretends to be another, possibly running up debts using your credit information. Another danger is Internet stalking, as in the case of Liam Youens, who used Web data to help stalk, and then kill, a former classmate in New Hampshire.

Engage's Daniel Jay believes online profiling profits not only marketers, but Internet users as well.

According to one study, three-fourths of online consumers are concerned about the security of their credit card information on the Web. Two-thirds are worried about Web sites selling personal information to other companies and almost three out of four consumers who browse but don't buy on the Web say that they'd be more likely to buy if they knew their privacy would be respected.

That's why it's reassuring that Engage, unlike Doubleclick, is going to keep its online profiling anonymous. "Our ongoing commitment is that we will not collect personally identifiable information until the point that there is overwhelming evidence that that consumers will find it acceptable," says Jaye, who adds that he "doesn't expect that to happen any time soon."

That's fine, but what if Doubleclick manages to survive the storm and make big money sharing personalized Web data? That's not farfetched, according to market research firm NFO Interactive, which has identified some online consumers who spend an average of almost $8,000 online every year. Information that would allow a Web site to acquire just one of these key consumers might be worth as much as a thousand dollars, according to NFO.

Despite the fact that there might be big money in personalized online profiling, Engage does not intend to follow Doubleclick's suit. "In today's Internet economy, there's a lot more value place upon brand," he says, "We're simply not going to compromise our principles for what we believe would be a short term opportunity." iB

Geoffrey James (geoffjames@improper.com) is the author of numerous business books as well as the co-host of Funny Business, heard every Sat, 10pm-12am on WRKO, AM 680.

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LIKE FATHER LIKE SON

The incomprehensible George W. Bush, Kerasiotes on the Big Dig, and more.

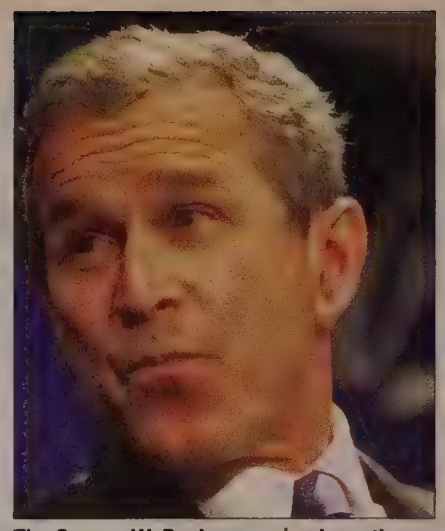
The apple doesn't fall very far from the tree, at least where the Bush family is concerned. This from George H.W. Bush, campaigning on his son's behalf in San Francisco last month: "I'm glad to be here in Chinatown. I love Chinatown. I used to live in China." Of course the last time most people now living in San Francisco's Chinatown set foot on the mainland was 150 years ago. He might as well have gone to South-Central L.A. and said, "I love Hispanics. I went to the Prado museum thirty years ago."

And this from his son, a.k.a, The Candidate from Bob Jones U., in South Carolina last month: "If you're sick and tired of the politics of cynicism and polls and principles, come and join this campaign." Certainly. Or from the same source, on educational accountability: "How do you know if you don't measure up if you have a system that simply suckles kids through?" Huh?

So, Who's Running the Show?

You have to wonder who's running state government in the wake of A) the disclosure that the Big Dig was more than a billion dollars over budget; B) Mass Pike chief Jim Kerasiotes, nominally in charge of the project, popping off to the *Wall Street Journal* about some Cellucci Administration colleagues being variously either a "moron" or a "reptile;" and C) then having a Cellucci administration spokesman come back a week later and essentially apologize for the bad press Kerasiotes had received in the preceding seven days.

Brings to mind the memorable story related by a *Globe* reporter who once described Kerasiotes in print as "arguably the most despised man in state government"—and who a day later got a call from a Kerasiotes staffer only wanting to make the point: "But, what's to argue?"



The George W. Bush campaign begs the question: Could there be a gaffe gene?

Internet Agony

The Internet is wonderful for many things, but unless your fingers work right, you might as well give up.

For example, I've been trying to track presidential campaign contributions by zip code—just to see who in 02116, 02138 and various other interesting places have been giving lots of money to The Candidate from Bob Jones U., Al Gore and the others. Meaning to slide into the Federal Election Commission's Web site, I keyed in "fec.com" instead of "fec.gov," the correct address. The result: more than anyone would ever want to know about the correct temperature for freezing chickens from the Food Engineering Co-operative. Garbage in, garbage out.

The Price of Democracy

The day before The Candidate from Bob Jones U. and John McCain slugged it out in South Carolina last month over who was the greater reformer, a real election on reform was taking place eight time zones to the east of us that frankly puts the recent history of American participatory democracy to shame.

In that great bastion of democracy known as Iran, a full 80 percent of the population turned out at polling places and voted to curtail the powers of fanatic mullahs in the political system. In Boston last September, ten percent of those eligible to vote turned out for the city council primary. Just by way of comparison: the turnout in the Boston primary would have filled Fenway Park; the turnout in Iran would have filled South Korea. **iB**

SAVE SOME GREEN THIS ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Gecko Green color shown may vary slightly from actual color

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Soroff/On

Rikki Klieman

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Court TV's star anchor Rikki Klieman was born and raised in Chicago. After studying theater at Northwestern University, she moved to NY in 1970 and knocked around the theater business for a few years, before deciding that it was a "rather dissipated way to make a living." Being a criminal defense lawyer, she reasoned, was the closest thing to acting, and she came to Boston in 1972 to attend BU Law School, graduating in 1975. She clerked for Judge Walter Skinner in US District Court and served as a prosecutor for the Middlesex and Norfolk County DA's offices before becoming a partner at Friedman & Atherton. She later started her own practice and remains of counsel to Klieman, Lyons, Schindler and Gross. In 1983, *Time* magazine named her one of the five most outstanding female trial lawyers in the country. She has been profiled on CNN and appeared on the *Today Show*, *60 Minutes*, *20/20*, the BBC, *Nightline* and the McLaughlin Group. She is an adjunct faculty member at Columbia Law School, former professor at BU and a frequent lecturer at such schools as Northwestern and Harvard. Featured in a chapter of *Goodwill Toward Men*, she appears as herself in Jonathan Harr's bestseller *A Civil Action*. Since 1994, she has been an anchor at Court TV, providing analysis on such trials as the Clinton impeachment, au pair Louise Woodward's and O.J. Simpson's murder trials, and the terrorism conviction of Oklahoma bomber Timothy McVeigh. She lives in NY with her husband, former Boston and NY Police Commissioner Bill Bratton.

Jonathan Soroff: *You and Ricki Lake—any relation?*

Rikki Klieman: None. I think we spell it differently. She's R-I-C-K-I.

JS: *OK. Who would you nominate to the Supreme Court—Judge Judy, Judge Joe Brown or Ed Koch?*

RK: Oh, Ed Koch. I think he tells the truth about all things and has a larger breadth of experience.

JS: *So is the People's Court rigged, or what?*

RK: I don't think so. I think there are people who are foolish enough to want their 15 minutes of fame and they're willing to expose the most intimate parts of their lives by going on TV and looking like fools, like idiots, like people none of us would want to emulate. It's what all those freak-for-a-day talk shows have built their ratings on, and it's bizarre.

JS: *How would you explain the American fascination with courtroom drama?*

RK: It's the closest thing to a soap opera that's real. The old slogan for Court TV was "Real life, real drama, no scripts," and I think the world is full of voyeurs who like to say either "There but for the grace of God go I," or "Thank goodness I'm not that person."

JS: *Most people claim to hate lawyers, and yet there are a million legal shows on TV and they're hugely popular. How would you explain that?*

RK: Lots of us have love-hate relationships with all sorts of people.

JS: *If you were in an accident in your car or on the job who would you call to settle things for you quickly and fairly? In other words, who's your favorite ambulance-chaser?*

RK: Well, I think everyone's has to be good ole, James Sokolove. I gotta hand it to him. He's made a fortune from advertising. He understood lawyer advertising before anyone even gave it a name.

JS: *How often in our court system is justice actually served?*

RK: Sorry to give you a straight answer, but I actually believe in the jury system. They frequently get to the right answer, often for the wrong reason.

JS: *Give me an example.*

RK: Well, for those of us who had to watch every gruelling moment of the O.J. Simpson case, there was no question that the prosecution screwed up the case to a fare-thee-well.

JS: *Speaking of which—don't you think O.J. Simpson and Louise Woodward would make a cute couple?*

RK: No. My humor doesn't go that far.

JS: *OK. Then, don't you think I could murder the host of the Home Shopping Network and get away with it? I mean, who would prosecute?*

RK: Y'know, there's an old saying in the South among criminal defense lawyers. It goes: "The real questions here are: Did the victim need killin' and did God send the right messenger to do the deed?"

JS: *Shakespeare wrote "First thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers." Any response to that?*

RK: What would happen when we all got arrested?

JS: *That reminds me—what's the biggest mistake someone who's just committed murder makes, or the first thing they should do?*

RK: The biggest mistake everyone makes when they're arrested is they talk. From the most seasoned criminal to the most innocent person, there's this compulsion to talk to the police. There used to be a slogan that the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers had: "Nobody talks. Everybody walks." If people just remembered that, there'd be fewer guilty verdicts.

JS: *Strangest experience in a courtroom?*

RK: When I was a prosecutor in Middlesex County, I was wearing a dress and I was cross-examining a witness in an arson case, being very deliberate and forceful. As I was backing away, I fell flat on my bottom, and my dress proceeded to fly up. I was right in front of the jury box. That was clearly the most embarrassing moment I've ever had in a courtroom.

JS: *Biggest miscarriage of justice in your career?*

RK: That's easy for me. The guilty verdict when I represented David and Ginger Twitchell, the Christian Scientists who didn't seek medical help for their child. The judge's instructions to the jury left them with no possible choice except to convict. My clients would have convicted themselves based on her instructions, and they should never have been found guilty in that courtroom.

"I actually believe in the jury system. They frequently get to the right answer, often for the wrong reason."

JS: *You're married to Bill Bratton. Any handcuffs in the bedroom?*

RK: Sorry to inform you, but no.

JS: *Ever yell "Objection!" when you argue with him?*

RK: There's definitely some police-lawyer stuff that goes on in our dialogue, but it doesn't reach the bedroom.

JS: *Famous trial from history you'd most like to try?*

RK: The Scopes Trial.

JS: *So is Inherit the Wind your favorite courtroom drama of all time?*

RK: No. *To Kill a Mockingbird* is. I actually have a tape of it, and—I'm not joking—whenever I give a closing argument or whenever I'm going to give a talk to lawyers, I review Gregory Peck's closing argument. It inspires me. I literally carry the video around. There is nothing as good in movies or real life as that closing argument.

JS: *What advantages do female trial lawyers hold over their male colleagues?*

RK: They have more disadvantages because they're judged by a double standard. Nobody talked about Johnnie Cochran's appearance, but it was big news when Marcia Clark got a haircut.

JS: *Who would win in a wrestling match: Star Jones or Nina Totenberg?*

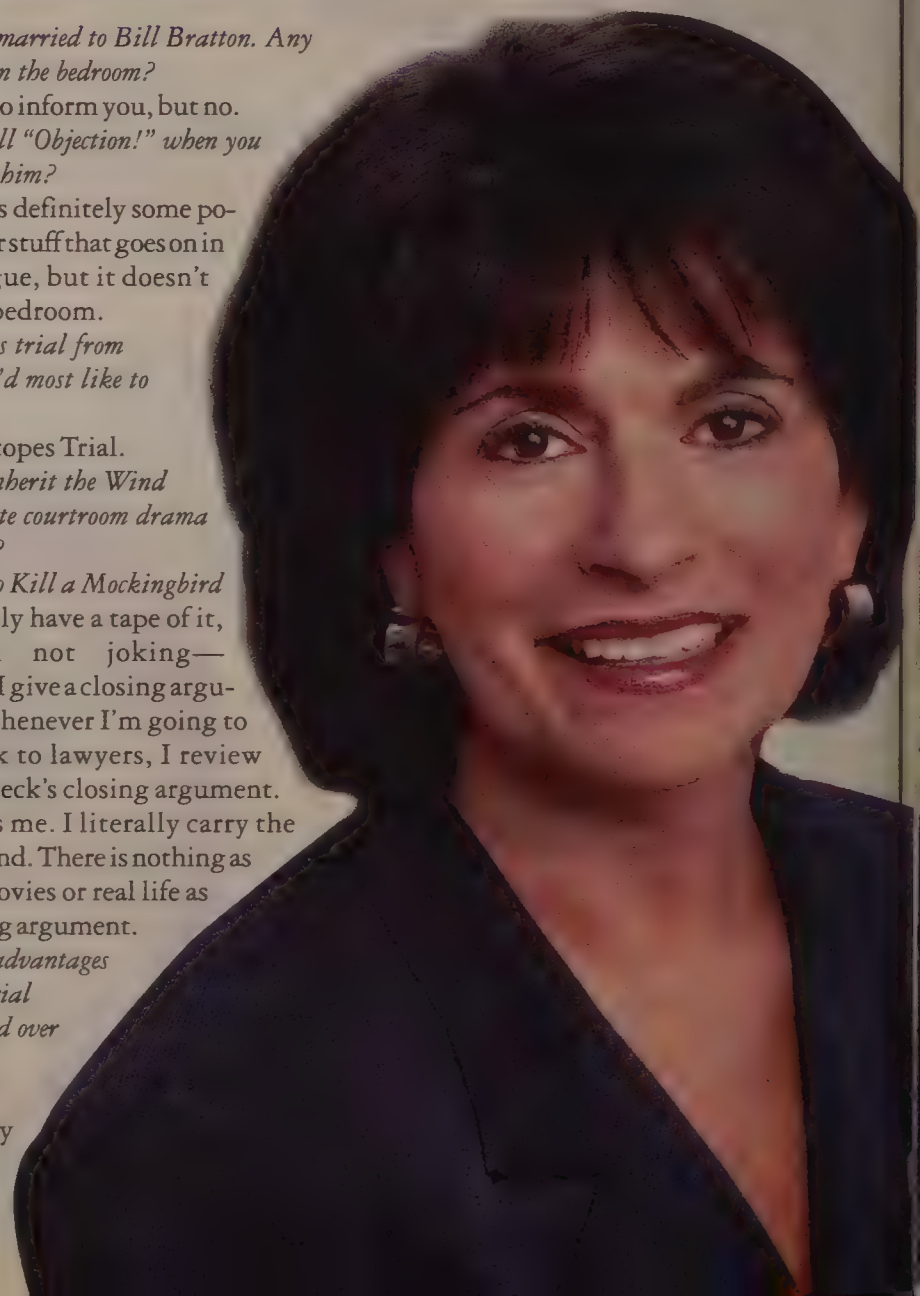
RK: Wow. Umm, it would depend. If Star got a hold of Nina and pushed her down, Star would win. In a battle of words, Nina would win.

JS: *Is Jack Ford's hair real?*

RK: Oh yeah. He's the perfect man. He looks perfect. He talks perfect. He was a football hero. He was a *Jeopardy* champion. The most perfect man I know, except for my husband.

JS: *One last question: Michael Skakel—guilty?*

RK: One hundred percent not guilty. He'll walk. And when I say that, I mean I think he's innocent. Now, let me follow that by saying that Mickey Sherman, his lawyer, is one of my best friends on the planet, and he doesn't have to con me. There were a lot of possible suspects—the tutor, Michael's brother Tommy, some transient, someone in the Moxley family. Anyway, regardless of whether he's innocent or not guilty, which are not the same thing, Mickey'll walk him outta there. iB



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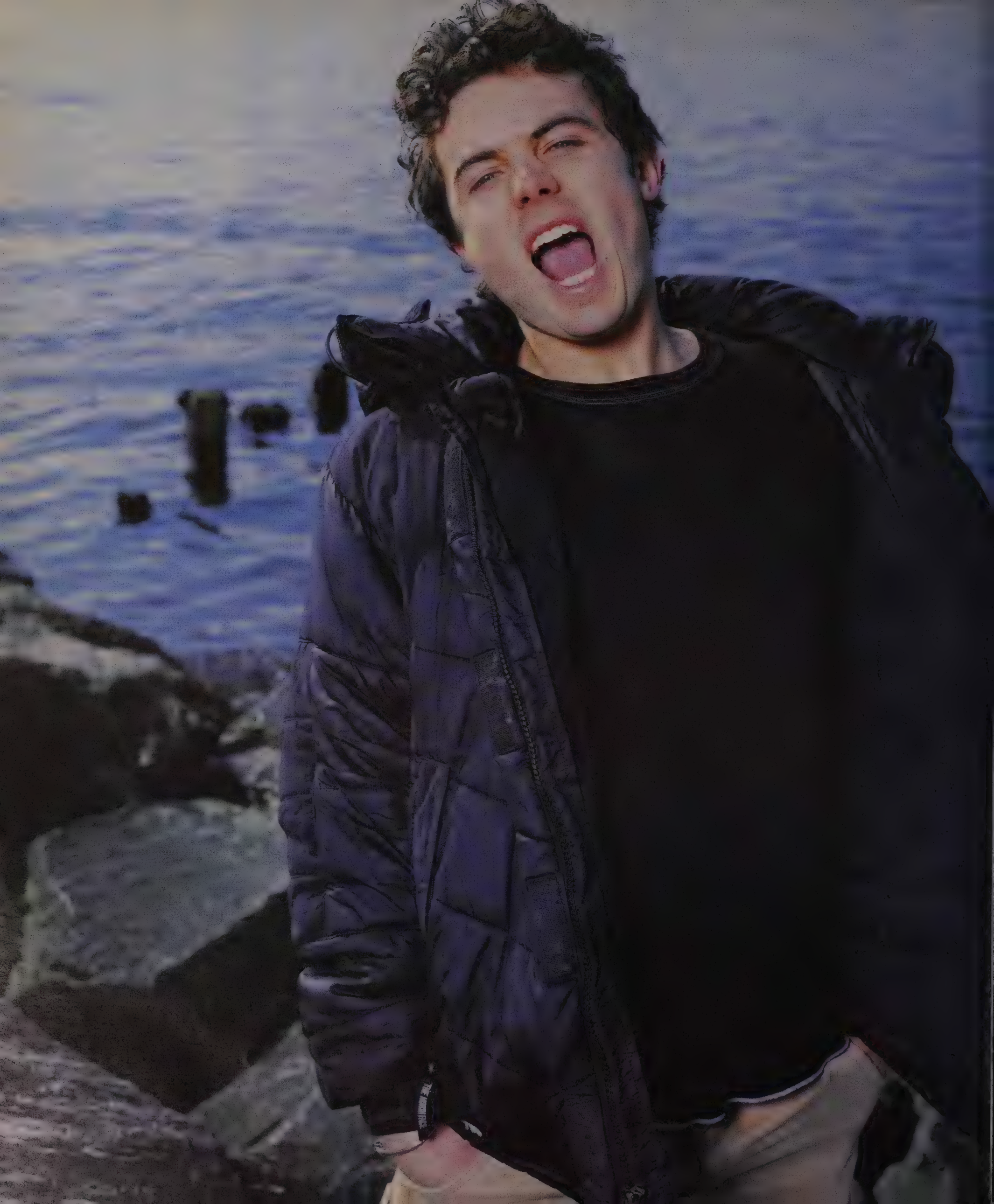

Casey at the Bat

BY MATT CARSON
PORTRAIT BY DALE MAY

CASEY AFFLECK emerges from his big brother's shadow with stunning and varied roles in upcoming films like DROWNING MONA and SOUL SURVIVOR.

Layer upon layer of graffiti lead the way to Casey Affleck's Manhattan apartment building. Traffic roars past on Canal Street and down into the Holland Tunnel, bound for New Jersey. Once in the old building's freight elevator, you have to lean on the button until the car groans upward. Lift your finger off and the elevator stops. The feel is raw and industrial, and it wouldn't surprise you if the elevator doors opened to reveal a sweatshop.

Then again, it's also raw enough to look pretty cool—in an ominous, stark sort of way—so it shouldn't surprise you to find a fairly spacious one-bedroom with a high ceiling and a view of the Hudson River. The furniture is new and inviting. There's a sizeable collection of computer gear. One wall is dominated by a massive, gleaming widescreen TV and a totem of stereo equipment. A preliminary scan and it's clear: this apartment dweller is doing all right.

Casey Affleck lives here, and he's lounging around in faded tan workpants and an even more faded blue T-shirt emblazoned with an "El Paso Film Commission" logo. To date, the Cambridge-bred 24-year-old actor is probably best-known as Ben's younger brother and the bratty kid in *Good Will Hunting* who begrudgingly sits in the back seat and orders a double burger from Kelly's. But this year, he's everywhere—or rather, he will be everywhere, by year's end.

Already, he's at a theater near you in the comedy *Drowning Mona*. Just last month, he returned from the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, for the screening of *Committed*, a Miramax picture starring Casey along with Heather Graham. And later this year, *Soul Survivor*, a dark love story starring Casey, will be released. Although a long way from achieving the megastar status of brother Ben and Matt Damon, with these three movies fleshing out his filmography, Casey is poised to emerge as a star in his own right within the year.

Not to suggest that the younger Affleck is interested in attaining megastar status. He's not.

FROM COAST TO COAST

After asking whether it's okay, Casey lights up a cigarette and begins talking about how he came to acting. At age 12, he was cast as Kevin Bacon's brother in a 1988 PBS production called *Lemon Sky*, which launched his acting career. Then in 1990, he played a teenage Bobby Kennedy in the TV mini-series *The Kennedys of Massachusetts*.

Having caught the acting bug early on, Casey quickly dived into drama classes in high school at Cambridge Rindge and Latin. "Rindge had a fantastic drama program," says Casey, tilting his chair back on two legs with casual confidence. "Gerry Speca was the drama teacher there. I had him for four years, and he also directed the shows there. Everyone in his class was inspired by him. I know that he, more than anybody else, turned me on to acting."

Casey continues to reminisce about Cambridge, commenting specifically on the city's diversified population. "I grew up in this neighborhood where some friends were living in housing projects, some friends were living in communes, and some friends were living in lavish, old-money homes." Comparing this environment with other places he's lived, including his hip New York digs, Casey says, "The more places I live, the more I realize what a special place Cambridge is."

After graduating from high school, the urge to pursue acting lured Casey westward. With a high school friend, Casey hopped in a car and drove out to LA, where they didn't know a soul. "Actually, we were pretty far outside of LA in some town called Eagle Rock," says the pokerfaced Casey. "We thought it was LA and lived there just 'cause we didn't know any better."

He spent a year bussing tables and auditioning in vain for second-rate sitcoms like *Saved By the Bell* and *Boy Meets World*. Then a guy he knew from back home, none other than Matt Damon, suggested that Affleck join him in auditioning for the Gus Van Sant film *To Die For*. The turf was familiar to both of them: The film was based loosely on the Pamela Smart murder case and was set in New England. Ultimately Damon didn't make the cut (his role went to Casey's good friend Joaquin Phoenix), Affleck did.

THE BIG SCREEN

"I didn't know anything about being in movies before I did *To Die For*," says Affleck. "I don't think there was any way I could have been bad. [Van Sant] has such a good eye that he would find the best parts about it and include those," concludes Affleck in his typically self-deprecating way.

After *To Die For* finished shooting in Toronto, Affleck headed to New York City, where he attended Columbia University for a year and a half and appeared in a 1996 kids' movie called *Race the Sun*. He followed this up with a quiet, New England-made indie called Floating, and then a small part in Kevin Smith's Chasing Amy, one of his older brother Ben's big breaks.

Then came *Good Will Hunting*, the homegrown film that turned Ben and childhood friend Matt Damon into local cinematic heroes. The Oscar-winning screenplay, cowritten by Ben and Matt, gave Casey a good line in just about every one of his scenes, including the classic, "My boy is wicked

STYLIST: APRIL JOHNSON; GROOMING: BRIAN MAGALLONES OF OSCAR BLANDI SALON

Drowning Mona director Nick Gomez knew and admired Casey from his previous films. "I just met and talked with him for a half an hour and he gave me the job," says Casey. "It's flattering when somebody does that. It meant a lot to me."

Having lived on Orchard Street in Davis Square for about a year, Casey was amused to learn that Gomez, whose previous films are the hardboiled crime dramas *Laws of Gravity* and *New Jersey Drive*, grew up in Somerville. "He tried to act tough with me a little bit, and I was like 'Look, punk, I know where you're from.' I had to slap him a few times."

COMING SOON...

Committed, due out later this year, afforded Affleck the opportunity to appear alongside Heather Graham and to work with writer/director Lisa Krueger, who previously made the cult fave *Manny and Lo*. He plays Graham's brother, "a touchy-feely, free-wheeling party guy."

Anxious to accumulate experience, not to mention support himself, Affleck has taken on a lot of projects in recent years. "The last three movies I kind of felt like I just wanted to keep working, because I knew it would all be under the radar... and also because I really liked them and I liked the people." Presently, Casey is cooling his heals after this flurry of activity.

Not long ago, Casey passed a similar stint of downtime by co-writing (with friend Jay Lacopo) and directing a series of thirteen fictional short films for the Sundance Channel, shot on the streets of LA with some of his actor friends. Well-versed in indie filmmaking—both in front of the camera and behind it—Casey sees a bright future for independent and regional filmmaking. "It has become more of an accessible medium," he says. "There are more festivals now, and more entries into festivals, which means that there will just be more good stuff coming out."

As for the current state of the Boston film scene, Affleck notes that although he's not living there now, it still finds him now and then. "At Sundance a few weeks ago, someone came up to me with a hat that said 'Massholes' on it and I asked 'What is this?' and they said, 'It's a movie we made, shot in Boston.' So they're making movies there."

And so might Casey Affleck someday. "I'd like to be able to go home and make my own movies in Boston," he says. But while kicking back in New York and waiting for a good script to come along, his plans for the near future are noncommittal. For the moment, he prefers to stick to acting, not only because it's what he knows best, but also because, as he puts it, "It's a good way to learn about making movies." When asked about long-term goals, Affleck cites that humblest of Holy Grails for any young actor trying to build a career: "I'd like to be able to work the rest of my life." iB

> "I always try to do as little publicity as possible...I've never pursued fame just for the sake of being well-known."

smart," which Casey delivered with a dead-on Southie drawl.

"Man, I wish I could shoot everything in Boston," says Casey of the filming experience. "Sometimes you're away in some town for four months, in a hotel, always eating out. You just miss home. It was nice to be able to go to Mom's and relax."

Adding to the familiar atmosphere, Casey was able to work with Van Sant once again. "I've never been better than I've been in his movies," says Affleck. "I was glad that Ben and Matt got to work with him. If there's anybody that I wanted to make their movie it was Gus."

After *Good Will Hunting*'s resounding success, Affleck kept busy with the small indies *Desert Blue* (1998) and *Blue Plate Special* (1999), gaining enough notoriety that director Risa Bramon Garcia cast him as a kindly punk rocker in the 1999 MTV production *200 Cigarettes* without an audition.

FILM SHOPPING

Although Casey's career is obviously gaining momentum, he has not yet found a slot on the A-list. Yes, it has become easier for him to get good roles as his resume has grown. But, as Casey points out matter-of-factly, the great parts are usually offered to a handful of people before he even gets his chance to audition. "Unless I go in and really fight for it," he adds. "And even then, they're going to try to get people that are guaranteed to make them some money."

When shopping for film projects, Casey is clearly discriminating. He hasn't appeared in any slasher flicks or I'm-not-a-teenager-but-I-play-one-on-screen romances, though surely such work is available to him. Having his name situated above the title on a movie poster doesn't seem that important to Casey, who prefers projects that are interesting and challenging. What's more, he likes to keep a low profile. "I always try to do as little publicity as possible—without the people who made the movie feeling like I was abandoning it." He continues, "I've never pursued fame just for the sake of being well-known."

For now, Casey is waiting for a role that really grabs him, but he concedes that being choosy isn't always easy. "I've found that it's almost impossible to predict whether or not a movie's gonna be good," he says. "I've been really selective and very careful. Sometimes I choose movies and I think, well this is gonna be great. Then it turns out that maybe it's not what I thought it would be. There's no formula."

Time will shortly tell whether Casey's upcoming films will be as successful as some of his previous work. If star power suggests a box office hit, *Drowning Mona* (in which Casey plays the sweet but hopelessly uptight fiancé to Neve Campbell's character Ellen) offers definite blockbuster potential. The film stars Danny DeVito, Bette Midler, Jaime Lee Curtis, and Campbell. Although the movie was initially meant to be a dark comedy, Casey reports that it turned into "the lightest dark comedy you've ever seen. It's like this kind of colorful, cartoonish, slapstick dark comedy. It's funny, I hope."

Top left: Casey Affleck and Bette Midler in *Drowning Mona*; above: Affleck with *Committed* with co-star Summer Phoenix; bottom left: at home with the boys in *Good Will Hunting*.

The film was one of the most buzzed-about films after its premiere at Sundance this year. "The festival was a great place to see the movie for the first time with an audience," says Casey, "because everyone there wants to like the movies, and they're pretty supportive. At *Committed* there were a lot of my friends and family—obviously that's going to be the best crowd possible."

Affleck's appearance in *Soul Survivor* will mark one of his largest roles since *To Die For*. Asked to describe the film, he pauses, comes up with a series of false starts, and eventually deems it "sort of like a *Jacob's Ladder* kind of a movie that's hard to describe without giving it away." When pushed, Casey explains that it follows the immediate aftermath of a car accident in which his character is killed. "The boy dies and the girl lives, so she has to kind of deal with the fact that she broke his heart right before he died."

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: PETER SOREL, RICO TORRES AND GEORGE KRAYCHYK

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FOCUS ON FILM

A BEHIND-THE-SCENES GUIDE TO FILMMAKING IN BOSTON

Back in the early 1980s, there was a compilation album of local hardcore punk bands called *This is Boston, Not LA.* Years later, that title could well apply to the Boston film scene. Although luring deep-pocketed Hollywood productions to the area means a nice payday for local film technicians and high-profile feathers in the cap of the Mass. Film Office, Boston can only become a strong moviemaking presence when it becomes easier for locals to get their stories filmed and seen. And that is beginning to happen. Boston has always been home to distinguished documentary makers like Frederick Wiseman and Ross McElwee, who operate as almost self-sufficient creators of non-fiction projects. But until recently, it seemed that each local feature—Pam Berger's *Kilian's Chronicle*, Frank and Joe Ciota's *The North End* or Davidlee Willson's *The Autumn Heart* had to start from scratch.

But local filmmakers have some wind at their backs these days. A stream of movies—from Brad Anderson's *The Darien Gap* and Rob Patton-Spruill's *Squeeze,* to Maureen Foley's *Home Before Dark*, Anderson's *Next Stop Wonderland* and Bill Roth's *Floating*—has traveled beyond local screens, capturing the interest of national distributors and nationally-known festivals like Sundance, and raising the ambitions of local directors. And let's not forget the impact of *Good Will Hunting*. This semi-local blockbuster, partially shot here (and partially in Toronto), made stars of Cambridge kids Matt Damon and Ben Affleck and did what *Blown Away* and *The Crucible* couldn't do: make a Boston-made movie seem cool.

In the process, an infrastructure has developed within Boston's film scene. Increased activity means film crews work more, have less reason to move to New York or Los Angeles and get better at what they do. It means production facilities like Patton-Spruill's *The Film Shack* or a cluster of production offices springing up on Braintree Street in Allston are becoming more economically viable.

Film in Boston isn't just about making movies, though. Although Boston is becoming a force in the film industry, it's always been one of the best cities for film appreciation. Could a city without a revival house like the Brattle ever be considered a good film town? Because of Boston's particular awareness of film culture, this look at the city's film industry is also about the programmers who inspire and entertain Bostonians by offering imaginative films, top-notch series and diverse festivals like The Boston Jewish Film Festival and the Mass. Ave. Film Festival. This one-stop guide to Boston film barely skims the surface; if space allowed, it could have featured other cinéastes: David Mamet; animators like Karen Aqua and Watertown's FableVision production house; directors Marlene Booth (*Yidl in the Middle*), Michal Goldman (*Umm Kulthum: A Voice Like Egypt*) and Jan Egleson (the upcoming *Blue Diner*); and producers like Mark Donadio (*Lost and Found*) and those at WGBH. Their spirit is definitely felt in these pages. —*Paul Sherman*

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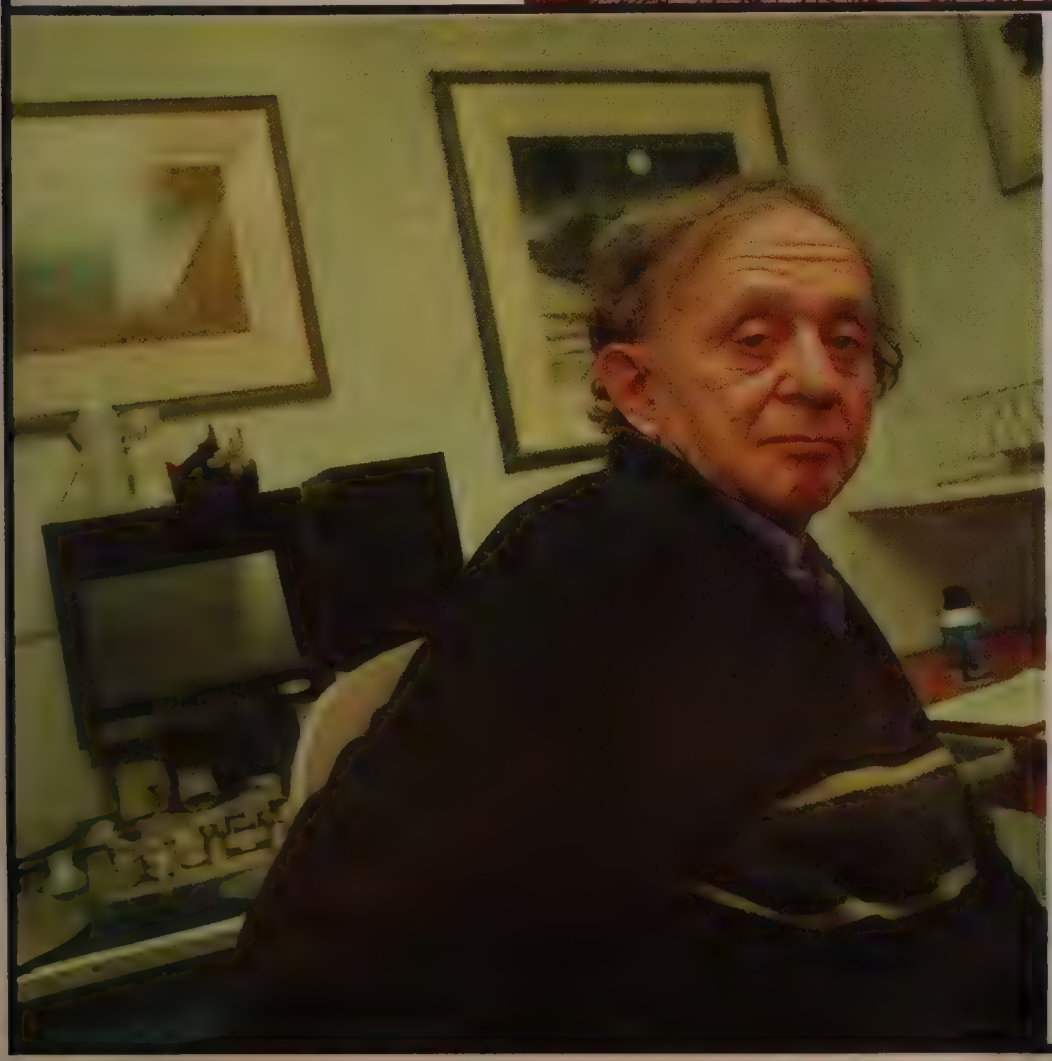
BY PAUL SHERMAN

FROM WUNDERKINDS TO VETERANS—THE STARS OF BOSTON FILMMAKING

Maureen Foley
THE WRITER

Cambridge's Maureen Foley brought a writer's eye for detail to her 1997 debut film, *Home Before Dark*. Former *The Atlantic Monthly* staffer and teacher of advanced screenwriting at Harvard gave a no-nonsense credibility to her semi-autobiographical story of a pre-teen girl coping with a mentally unstable mother during the time following the Kennedy assassination.

If the story was pleasingly unglitzy, so too is Foley. Describing herself as a "filmmaker-mom," the mother of two bathed her movie in an emotional realism so often missing from hotshot young directors short on life experience. Having handled a small theatrical release of *Home Before Dark* (before selling it to cable's Lifetime network), Foley and her co-producer husband are now working with John (*The General*) Boorman's Merlin Productions, casting a higher-budgeted, logistically more complex 1930s story based on a novel by William Trevor (*Felicia's Journey*). Again, Foley will write the screenplay and direct. She's also scripting a Cambridge-set romantic comedy.



Frederick Wiseman
THE OLD MASTER

Fred Wiseman's niche goes well beyond the Boston film scene. His most recent movie, *Belfast, Maine*, which aired on PBS last month, is typical Wiseman. The look at a Maine town of 6,500 runs four hours with no narration, music or information beyond what Wiseman's camera and sound equipment pick up. Sometimes it's shapeless, sometimes fascinating and focused—like the crisply-edited sequences in a potato plant and a sardine cannery.

Belfast is the latest of the Brighton native's 30 movies, which similarly look at such titular subjects as *High School*, *Hospital* and *Racetrack*. The one-time BU Law School lecturer segued into film after taking a class at Bridgewater State Hospital; he hated being a lawyer, he says, and the conditions at Bridgewater were not easily forgotten. Wiseman ended up making 1967's legendary *Titicut Follies*, which laid bare Bridgewater's cruelly Dickensian conditions, and was banned until 1991. Since *Follies*, Wiseman, now directing a play in Paris, has been making films out of his North Cambridge office.

Errol Morris **THE IRONIST**

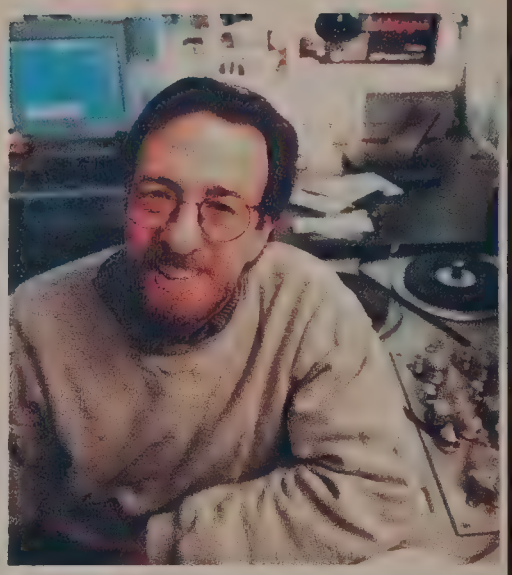
The gulf between perception and reality fuels much of Cambridge-based non-fiction filmmaker Errol Morris' work. Hell, the guy's Fourth Floor Productions is even on the *fifth* floor of a grand old Central Square office building.

Like 1988's famous *The Thin Blue Line*, in which he uncovered a wrongful murder conviction, Morris' current *Mr. Death: The Rise and Fall of Fred A. Leuchter, Jr.*, a profile of a self-proclaimed death expert, is all about the funny relationship between truth and the mind.

But Morris has often delved into subjective truth. Despite the dominant tradition of Boston-Cambridge non-fiction filmmaking in cinema verité and personal documentary, Morris rejects any idea of what he calls "producing truth." Not that Morris' movies aren't as personal as anyone's. Like *A Brief History of Time* or *Fast, Cheap and Out of Control* before it, *Death* is another portrait of an obsessive man made by an obsessive man. Morris is now readying "First Person," a series of profiles, to air on Bravo this spring.

Ross McElwee

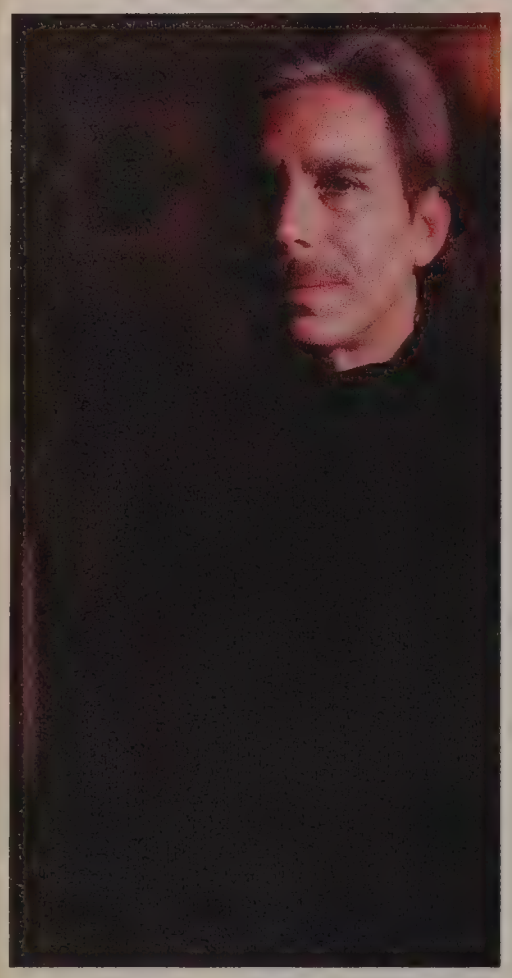
THE GUY WITH THE CAMERA ON HIS SHOULDER



North Carolina transplant Ross McElwee's film *Sherman's March* (1985), about a trip through the South in which McElwee keeps getting set up with women, is probably the most widely-seen personal non-fiction film that has come out of Boston—or, more specifically, Cambridge—for years.

Along with Robb Moss (*The Tourist*) and Jeanne Jordan and Steve Ascher (*Troublesome Creek: A Midwestern*), McElwee studied at MIT with documentary innovator Ricky Leacock and Ed Pincus (the seminal *Diaries: 1971-76*), and has made a number of films featuring Pincus' life. As a long-time instructor at Harvard, his students have included Mitch McCabe (*Playing the Part*), Nick Kurzon (*Super Chief*) and Julie Mallozzi (*Once Removed*).

"This city goes further than most in allowing documentary makers to stay alive and work," McElwee says. He has the best of both worlds, though: he produces and edits his movies here, but often films them back in the South, where his time away has given his observations an unusual clarity. He's now working on two projects: one on the ethics of tobacco culture in North Carolina and the other on Boston Arts Academy.



David Sutherland

THE PORTRAITIST

Despite having spent time at USC film school, David Sutherland came to movies as something of an outsider. He turned to film full-time only after a fire wiped out his and his brother's tire business. So it's not surprising that the Newton documentary maker often focuses on outsiders and the forgotten—from his first movie, *Down Around Here*, a colorful elegy for an East Cambridge diner about to be put out of business by "progress," to *The Farmer's Wife*, PBS 1998 ratings success about a Nebraska couple's struggle to hang on to their farm and their marriage.

In between were such movies as *Paul Cadmus: Enfant Terrible at 80*, a profile of the artist, and *Halftime*, a revealing look at five men entering middle-age, told through the subjects' voices. After getting 30,000 e-mails from *Farmer's Wife* viewers, Sutherland and his co-producer/ wife Nancy are now feeding an "obsession with rural America and rural poverty" by making what he calls his "most intimate film yet," about three years in the lives of four eastern Kentucky teens.

Rob Patton-Spruill

THE BUILDER

Despite recent successes in indie film, the commercial side of filmmaking left a sour taste in the mouth of Rob Patton-Spruill. The release of his homegrown *Squeeze* suffered from his falling out with executive producer Mitchell Robbins and distributor Miramax; his thriller *Body Count* ended up being made mostly in North Carolina and debuting on cable.

Patton-Spruill responded by concentrating on what he loves most, the actual production of movies. He's sunk his money into The Film Shack, a production facility in the Fort Hill section of Roxbury. After rehabbing six apartments in the 1898 brick building he bought with wife (and *Squeeze* producer) Patricia Moreno, he's now finishing the editing suites, recording studio, small soundstage and offices for opening later this month.

The Shack will not only give him a working base, it will also boost the next generation of Boston moviemakers, who will be able to rent equipment and set up shop there. For Patton-Spruill, it's also putting his money where his mouth was. Saying he would never desert Boston, he's now making a serious investment just three blocks from the house where he grew up. Once the plaster dust clears, Patton-Spruill will also return to moviemaking, perhaps with Trifecta, a gambling story starring *Body Count*'s David Caruso.

Bill Roth THE NEWCOMER

Brighton resident Bill Roth's *Floating* was the pleasant surprise of 1999 American independent film. Shot locally in 1996, it took seemingly forever to reach theaters (and even had a few showings on cable's Sundance Channel in the meantime), but not for lack of quality. Roth's semi-autobiographical drama about a confused 19-year-old packed an unpretentious emotional punch and a strong performance from rising star Norman Reedus.

Floating is still moving from city to city in a limited release that started in Cambridge, with a New York opening on the horizon. Meanwhile, 31-year-old Roth is now concentrating on writing a second movie to direct, *Strings*. He calls it a "dark drama, like *Floating*, with a budget under $10 million" and will start sending it around to agents once he finishes it, in hopes of getting the fundraising ball rolling. It may or may not end up being filmed locally.

Robin Dawson's Favorite Moments in Massachusetts Filmmaking

1. **Steven Spielberg Shooting Part of *Amistad* at the State House** "Robin Williams introduced [Speilberg] to Matt Damon and he [Speilberg] decided to cast him as Private Ryan."
2. **The National Guard making a pontoon bridge to Hog Island for *The Crucible*** "That was great to see in action."
3. **The boat explosion in *Blown Away*** "I think it cost about a million dollars just to build the explosive."
4. **David Mamet's return for *State and Main*** "He's showed continuous support to Massachusetts, when he easily could have gone elsewhere."
5. **Former Massachusetts Secretary of State Michael Connolly co-directing *The Gentleman from Boston* in the State House** "It's representative of where our independent scene is. A project like that never would have gotten off the ground a few years ago."

Robin Dawson is executive director of the Massachusetts Film Office. —*PS*

A Hollywood-sized explosion staged in Boston Harbor by the makers of *Blown Away*.

JENNIFER TAYLOR (4); DAWSON & BLOWN AWAY: COURTESY OF THE MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE

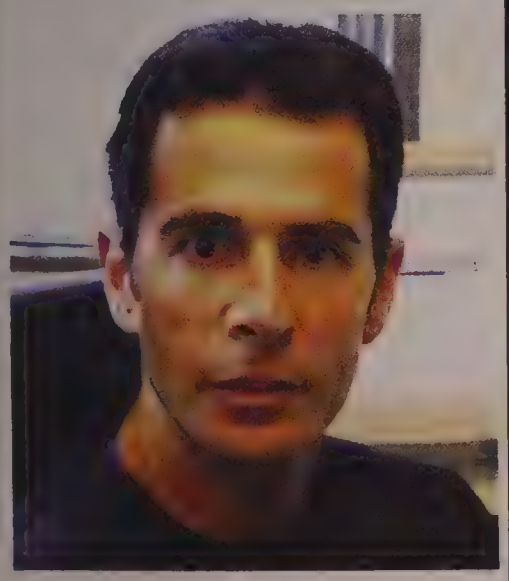
Zack Stratis THE SUNDANCE KID

Writers aren't the only ones who can get started by addressing "what they know." Zack Stratis is doing a good job at it, too. The Cambridge resident's 1994 non-fiction film, *Midburb*, was an affectionately amusing look at his native Everett, home of Mike's Donuts, Richie's Slush and big-haired girls. Now, after living in Los Angeles for a year and moving back home five years ago, he's turned to his own predicaments in *Could Be Worse!* As he labels it, his first feature is a "musical mockumentary" in which he and his family play themselves in the story of Stratis' attempts to get his family to deal with his homosexuality.

Could Be Worse! was the only Boston feature to make it into the influential Sundance Film Festival, landing a spot in the American Spectrum section. Stratis filmed most of his movie in his parents' Everett home, but also shot in Boston and Cambridge. Now he's trying to land a distribution deal for it. Of all the hoopla and industry notice that goes along with Sundance, he says, "I'm superthrilled, but I'm also scared shitless."

Mitchell Robbins
THE BUSINESSMAN

Newton's Mitchell Robbins is a real estate developer who's segued into producing movies. His Robbins Entertainment production company supplied finishing funds for Brad Anderson's *The Darien Gap* and Rob Patton-Spruill's *Squeeze*, then financed Anderson's *Next Stop, Wonderland* and shepherded the deal with Miramax Films that got the movie national distribution and Anderson a multi-picture contract. His presence has had a great impact in waking up indie distributors to Boston films.



Not surprisingly, he takes a businessman's approach to indie film, likening his second business endeavor, to real estate. To paraphrase Robbins: The script is your land, the director is your acrchitect, the line producer is your general contractor and a finely-tuned team is needed to succeed in each business. Although Robbins' company has not filmed a movie since *Wonderland*, he's now seeking out creative relationships with Hollywood writers who have ties to this area and have not yet directed. Word is he's near to announcing the directorial debut of one such writer for a movie to be locally-shot this spring.

Laura Bernieri THE NURTURER

Laura Bernieri brings a great enthusiasm to her work in local film. In the 1980s, she formed the Harvard Square Scriptwriters workshop and later joined Robbins Entertainment, associate producing *Squeeze* and *The Darien Gap* and co-producing *Next Stop Wonderland.*

Seizing the opportunity after the success of *Wonderland*, Bernieri stepped out on her own in early 1999, starting the production company Brighton Avenue with talent manager Ted Kurland. The pair are currently repping the Italian-made, English-language romantic drama *Passage to Paradise*—co-starring Chatham resident Julie Harris and scored by Kurland client Pat Metheny—and trying to find the film US distribution. They're also hoping to shoot their first production, *Big Girl*, written and directed by *Wonderland* location manager and former Boston journalist Kim Caviness. With the Italian import, which she says will appeal to older women, and is a first film for her by a young director, Bernieri says she's "hoping to bring new voices to the marketplace."

George Mansour THE BOOKER

George Mansour is one of the reasons Boston remained an interesting place to see movies following its moviegoing heyday of the 1970s. The film booker has not only worked for just about every theater organization in the city at one time or another, he's also left his mark through his endless enthusiasm for unearthing and supporting bold filmmaking. The Boston native was the first to book John Waters' legendary *Pink Flamingos* in a commercial moviehouse; his Orson Welles Cinema tenure included playing Jean-Luc Godard's icon-tweaking *Hail Mary*; and in 1984, he wrestled the shelved *Repo Man* from Universal and opened it at the then-independent Nickelodeon—and a cult classic was born.

Now the local booking consultant for Landmark Theatres' Kendall Square and Embassy cinemas, his imprint can be most felt in the Kendall's consistent hosting of gay-themed movies. That's not surprising, since Mansour founded the Boston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival (though he's no longer associated with it) back in 1984, when few gay films got openings. He also books several other East Coast theatres, including Providence's Avon.

STRATIS, BERNIERI, MANSOUR: BERTA DANIELS; ROBBINS: KATYA POPOVA

David Kleiler THE INDEPENDENT

Think of David Kleiler as Boston's poster boy for independent film. He recently remarked that he spent the first 20 years of his life watching movies, the second 20 teaching about movies and the third 20 showing movies. Now he wants to spend the next 20 making them. Kleiler popped up on moviegoers' radar first in the late 1970s with *Rear Window*, his traveling film series that showed indie flicks and B-movies anywhere someone let him put up a screen (among RW's 1980s projectionists was a young Brad *Next Stop Wonderland* Anderson). Kleiler actually found a theater to show movies in when he rescued the Coolidge Corner Theater from developers, and guided the indie moviehouse through tough times.

Now, five years after leaving the Coolidge, Kleiler has become heavily involved in making the sort of low-budget movies he's always championed. He's become a consultant of sorts to aspiring area directors; Monika Mitchell's *Night Deposit*, the amusing short which garnered Kleiler his first executive producer credit, just screened at Slamdance. And he still shows movies, having recently presented his second annual Boston Underground Film Festival at The Revolving Museum.

Bo Smith THE CURATOR

When Bo Smith took over the Musem of Fine Arts film program in 1987, the Melrose native sought to reach out to people who were underserved by commercial movies. Since then, he's done just that by tapping into the large volume of international films ignored by increasingly hit-oriented distributors of art films.

He was the first local programmer outside of Chinatown to play the inventive Hong Kong action movies of the 1980s and early 1990s (introducing Jackie Chan, Chow Yun-Fat and Sammo Hung to wider audiences). More recently, he brought the Boston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival under the MFA's umbrella and regularly plays series of Iranian, Asian-American and Greek films. One of the MFA's most enduring features of late has been its ongoing "Boston Film Artists" series, which puts more local films before paying audiences than any other local venue. The series has been responsible for premiering such standouts as Martha Swetzoff's *Theme: Murder*, Cathleen O'Connell's *Time Capsule* and Julie Mallozzi's *Once Removed*.

Connie White & Marianne Lampke THE PRESERVATIONISTS

Harvard Square's Brattle Theatre has been Greater Boston's unofficial film school ever since Cy Harvey and Bryant Holliday converted the legitimate theater into a moviehouse in 1953. Soon after, the worldwide Humphrey Bogart cult began there and the Brattle flourished through the "film buff" era of the '60s and '70s. Then came home videos, leaving it the only revival house in a once-thriving oldies scene.

Enter college pals Connie White and Marianne Lampke, who took over the theater in early 1987; it has thrived ever since. White and Lampke established new traditions such as Monday's nearly-continuous film noir series and the Boston International Festival of Women's Cinema, nurtured old favorites (Bogart, Hollywood romantic comedy) and increased the theater's clout by getting distributors to strike new prints of cherished movies.

White (who programs) and Lampke (who markets) have also branched out, doing the same chores for the Coolidge (on a for-hire basis) and co-creating and running the Provincetown Film Festival, which has its second edition in June.

Alloy Orchestra THE SOUNDTRACK

One of the best things to spring out of the Boston film scene during the 1990s was the Alloy Orchestra. This trio of Boston music veterans debuted by playing original percussion-and-synthesizer scores to accompany silent films at the Coolidge in June 1992. Demonstrating the heightened intensity of a live cinematic score, they became an instant local hit—and their influence quickly stretched well beyond Boston. They've played at the Telluride Film Festival the last seven years, and have performed their imaginative scores to such films as *Metropolis*, *The Unknown* and *The Wind around the World*. They can be heard on recently-released home videos of the European silent classics *Man With a Movie Camera* and *Strike*, and have just released a fourth CD, *Masters of Slapstick*, featuring scores to silent comedy shorts, which they recently played at Somerville Theater.

Since the 1998 death of original synthesizer player (and principal composer) Caleb Sampson, percussionist-instrumentalists Ken Winokur and Terry Donahue have successfully carried on the Alloy with another Boston music vet, Roger Miller (Mission of Burma), who brings a rocker's thrash to the trio's performances.

Stacey Iovino's Favorite Local Films

1 **FLOATING** "The character development was just wonderful and it was very believable."
2 **DIZZY HORSE** "It was very imaginative, about this boy that everyone can relate to."
3 **BLACK, WHITE AND RED ALL OVER** "Very bold and very honest and had a *Do the Right Thing* feel."
4 **FOLLOW THE BROCCOLI** "Very witty, and very original."
5 **CAPTIVE AUDIENCE** "Two DJs who had never made a movie wrote and directed this pretty deep blend of characters and music."

Stacey Iovino is co-founder of the Mass. Ave. Film Festival. —*PS*

The recent film *Floating* had many critics cooing.

WENDY MIMRAN (4); IOVINO: KERRY BRETT HURLEY

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"Boston's Best"
- 1998, 1999 The Improper Bostonian

"Best of Boston"
-1997, 1999 Boston Magazine

"Readers' Choice Award"
- 1998 Weekly TAB

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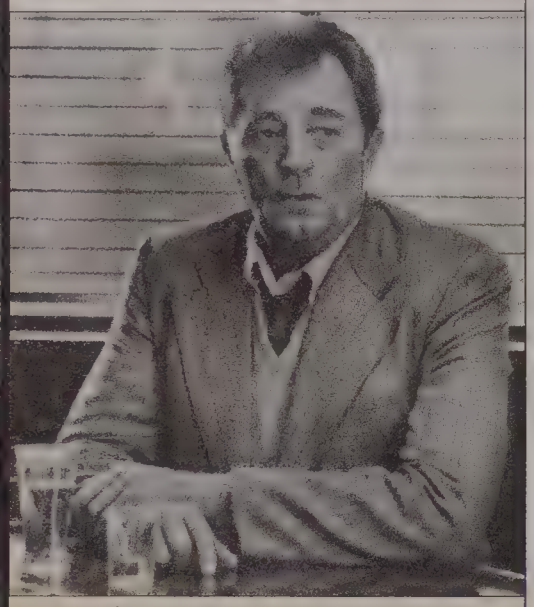
BY PAUL SHERMAN

boston's greatest hits

BOSTON-MADE FILM CLASSICS THAT DESERVE A SCREENING IN YOUR LIVINGROOM.

Many things can make a movie a "Boston movie." If it's primarily shot in the area, it's in. If it's made by a locally-based filmmaker, it's in. And, of course, if Steve Sweeney is in it, it's in. That still leaves all sorts of apples-and-oranges comparisons between homegrown independents, big-budget Hollywood pictures and personal documentaries. But this is a cross-section of Boston's greatest movies.



Robert Mitchum played a tough wheeler and dealer in *The Friend's of Eddie Coyle.*

TITICUT FOLLIES (1967)

Frederick Wiseman has spent the last 30 years documenting workplaces, but his first film may be his most indelible, as he takes us into the hellish world of Bridgewater State Hospital, where mental cruelty was just part of the job in the 1960s.

THE THOMAS CROWN AFFAIR (1968)

Not the relocated remake, but the Steve McQueen original. A heist movie set in Boston? Cool.

THE BOSTON STRANGLER (1968)

Tony Curtis' performance as desperate Albert DeSalvo makes this more than a mere police procedural about a serial killer. The film's creative use of split screens prevented home video or TV from doing it justice (until the advent of letterboxing) so it's been largely—and sadly—forgotten.

THE FRIENDS OF EDDIE COYLE (1973)

George V. Higgins' book becomes a gritty crime thriller with a terrific performance by Robert Mitchum as a low-level hood. Atmospheric barrooms, triple-deckers and Mitchum at the old Garden watching a Bruins game—who could ask for anything more?

BETWEEN THE LINES (1977)

The Boston-Cambridge counterculture and *The Real Paper* provided the backdrop and the inspiration for this indie ensemble comedy about the mainstreaming of an alternative paper. Fine early performances from Jeff Goldblum, Lindsay Crouse, Joe Morton, Bruno Kirby, Marilu Henner and John Heard.

SHERMAN'S MARCH (1985)

Single guy Ross McElwee, with camera running, heads south to research General Sherman, and ends up getting matched up with a number of women along the way. Wry everyman comedy ensues.

GOOD WILL HUNTING (1997)

The all-time local success story. Two local kids, struggling in Hollywood as actors, write themselves a script, and fight to get it made their way. It turns out great and unleashes Matt and Ben mania. Half was shot in Toronto, but it still eternalizes Harvard Square's The Tasty on film.

Dennis Leary returns to Massachusetts to star in *Monument Ave.*

The original *Thomas Crown Affair,* which featured Steve McQueen.

FLOATING (1998)

Bill Roth's debut put us in the head of its young, troubled protagonist (Norman Reedus) with more depth than most veteran directors and with less pretentiousness than most indie directors.

MONUMENT AVE (1998)

(1998). Worcester native Denis Leary returns home for a potent crime drama about Charlestown's code of silence. A chilling indictment of our fair city's sometimes crippling tribalism.

THEME: MURDER (1998)

Martha Swetzoff takes the personal documentary to great heights in her examination of the unsolved 1968 murder of her secretly gay father, and the murder's lingering affect on her life. Fascinating and moving.

AND DON'T FORGET...

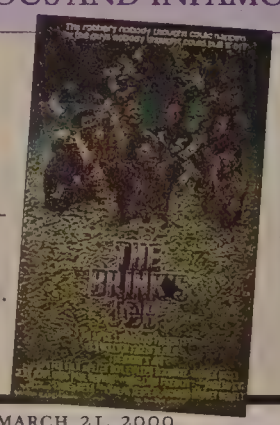
Diaries 1971-76, *Home Before Dark*, *Charly*, *The Verdict*, *The Paper Chase*, *Troublesome Creek: A Midwestern*, *The Brink's Job*, *Love Story*, *Once Around* and *Mystery Street*. IB

flashback

FAMOUS AND INFAMOUS MOMENTS IN BOSTON FILM OVER THE LAST 25 YEARS • BY PAUL SHERMAN

FEBRUARY 1976
The first annual 24-hour Sci-Fi Marathon boldly goes on at Cambridge's Orson Welles Cinema. Now at the Coolidge Corner Theatre, this reminder of Boston's indie-theater glory days just turned 25.

1978
The Federal Organized Crime Strike Force accuses four local mobsters of extorting money from the production of the Boston-shot true-crime comedy, *The Brink's Job* (right). Hollywood is not amused.



1981
MIT professor Ed Pincus lays bare his life in the personal documentary *Diaries: 1971-76*, inspiring a generation of Boston non-fiction filmmakers to turn the camera on themselves.

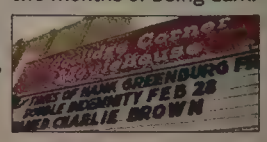
FEBRUARY 1984
Sack Theatres opens Copley Place Cinema. If its tiny, reverse-sloped auditoriums aren't the worst place to see a first-run movie in the country, they're friggin' close.

AUGUST 1984
The start of Film/Video International, which eventually morphs into The Boston Film Festival. After the founders drop out two years later, the BFF settles into being the unambitious test-marketing exercise it still is today.

MAY 1986
The Orson Welles burns down, replaced by retail space. An era ends.

1988
National chain Loews buys locally-owned USA Cinemas (the renamed Sack), giving it a monopoly on first-run theaters in downtown Boston.

NOVEMBER 1989
After David Kleiler rallies community groups and staves off mini-mall developers, the Coolidge Corner Theater reopens after two months of being dark.



Continued on following page

EDDIE COYLE: COURTESY OF THE BOSTON HERALD, COPLEY: IRINA ROZOVSKY, COOLIDGE: KATYA APEKINA

BOSTON'S BEST 1999
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE

BOSTON'S BEST 1998
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE

BOSTON'S BEST 1997
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE

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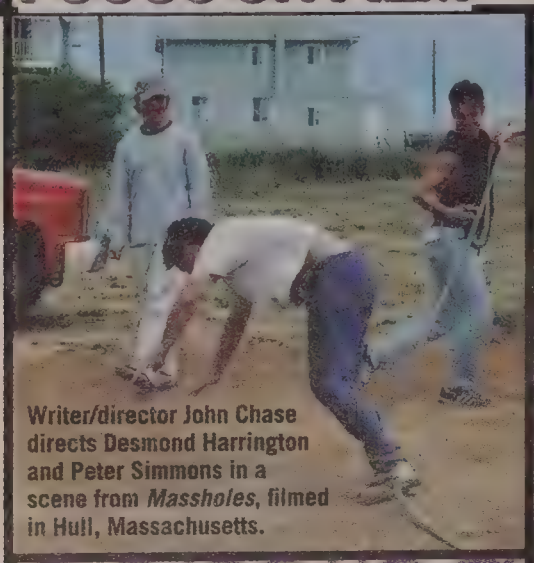


Writer/director John Chase directs Desmond Harrington and Peter Simmons in a scene from *Massholes*, filmed in Hull, Massachusetts.

coming attractions

FIVE LOCALLY FILMMED FLICKS TO WATCH FOR IN 2000

THE BLUE DINER
Shot in East Boston, Waltham, Roxbury, Brookline and Boston, this is a drama about a young Puerto Rican daughter and mother living together in Boston.

THE GENTLEMAN FROM BOSTON
A political feature set in Boston, it's directed by John Stimson and Michael Connelly (the former Secretary of State.)

MASSHOLES
Shot in Hull, this is a day-in-the-life film of four townies who live in a small beach community.

THE PERFECT STORM
Starring George Clooney and Mark Wahlberg, Wolfgang Peterson directs this epic drama, a true account of fishermen caught in a storm.

STATE AND MAIN
David Mamet was the force behing this film, shot all around Boston—mostly in Manchester-by-the-Sea.

—Erin Hagedorn

***The Perfect Storm* during production in Gloucester, Massachusetts.**

NEW ENGLAND FILM AND VIDEO FESTIVAL

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the festival, one of Boston's hidden cinematic treasures. This festival showcases the artistic genius that Boston instills, and since 1976 has provided screening opportunities, awards and recognition for both established and emerging New England independent film and videomakers. *March 27-April 1. Coolidge Corner Theater and the Museum of Fine Arts (536-1540).*

UNDERGROUND FILM FESTIVAL

The New England independent film community grows stronger having just completed its second annual Underground Film Festival, headed up by local film guru David Kleiler. The three day event offers viewers the chance to see quirky flicks and dynamic shorts. *Feb. 25-27. The Revolving Museum (975-3361).*

BOSTON FILM FESTIVAL

Now in its 16th year, the Boston Film Festival will showcase some 50 exhilarating feature films debuting in Boston to launch the fall film season. Many will mark their world or US premieres. Previous premieres have included *Reservoir Dogs*, *The Piano*, *Swingers* and last year's *American Beauty*. *Sept. 8-17. Loews Copley Theatre (266-2533).*

NANTUCKET FILM FESTIVAL

Created in 1996 to honor original voices and screenwriters in film, the Nantucket Film Festival showcases a diverse and provocative line of independent films, staged readings of unproduced scripts, panel discussions and an annual writer's tribute. This spirited program of international and regional films, shorts and first time films is credited with unique past participants such as Peter Cattaneo's *The Full Monty*. *June 21-25. Location varies (508-325-6274).*

BOSTON INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF WOMEN'S CINEMA

This year marks the eighth year of premieres of cutting edge women's films. Previous festival discoveries include films like *Clockwatchers*. *April 13-17. Brattle Theatre, 40 Brattle St. Cambridge (876-6837).*

The short film *Night Deposit* will be screened at the New England Film and Video festial.

NORTHAMPTON FILM FESTIVAL

The relaxed, mingle-friendly environment is just the place for one of New England's finest showcase of indie American films, including narrative, documentary, animation, experimental shorts and feature films. There's always a Q&A session with the filmmakers and workshops. Celebrity guests have included actor Ed Asner; documentarian Ken Burns and playwright and actor Harvey Fierstein. Nov. 1-5. *Various theatres (413-586-3471).*

THE BOSTON JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

The twelfth annual Boston Jewish Film Festival presents the top contemporary films from around the world that explore issues of Jewish identity, how Judaism relates to society at large and the diversity of Jewish culture. Last year's festival brought 48 films from 17 countries to Boston audiences, including five US premiers and 39 Boston premieres. *Nov. 2-12 at the MFA and the Coolidge Corner Theatre.*

MASS. AVE FILM FESTIVAL

Local filmmakers gather in a lighthearted non-competitive environment to learn about the art of independent filmmaking while helping to raise funds for charities. Films range from the screening of national premieres to established world-wide award winners. *Date varies (924-9701).*

FILMMAKERS' OPEN STUDIOS

To help celebrate the 25th anniversary of the New England Film & Video Festival, filmmakers from all over Greater Boston will open their studios to the public on March 19—for the first time ever. Here's your chance to meet a wide variety of our city's acclaimed filmmakers and see them in action. Participants include 21 studios: the makers of *Squeeze* (the Film Shack), the producers of *Mr. Death* (Scout), the makers of *The Gate of Heavenly Peace* (Long Bow Group), and renowned animator Karen Aqua. Animation, documentary, experimental, feature, new media, mixed form—Boston has it all. Check it out. *March 19. Various locations throughout the greater Boston area. See a schedule at www.newenglandfilm. com/events or call 536-1540x18.*

OSCARS IN BOSTON

This year's "Hollywood in Boston" Oscar event rolls out the red carpet, with a definate upgrade in our city's celebration of the Academy Awards. March 26 marks Massachusetts ninth annual Academy Awards Gala Benefit, and the friends of the Mass. Film Office have gone all out: The party takes now place in an all-new setting (the Marriott), draws special guests including Michael Badalucco from *The Practice*, features rooms with live broadcasts from the Channel 5 hosted by Liz Brunner and cut-ins from Dixie Whatley in Hollywood, and features huge giveaways including walk-ins on *Ally McBeal* and *The Practice*. *Marriott Hotel at Copley Place, 6:30pm, $150 (931-2000 or ticketmaster.com.)*

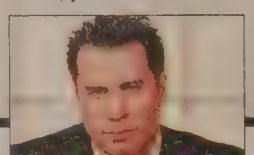
—Erin Hagedorn and Marni Greenberg

The twelfth annual Boston Jewish Film Festival takes place November 2-12.

timelinecontinued

SEPTEMBER 1993
Blown Away causes an estimated $100,000 damage in East Boston while blowing up an old tuna boat in Boston Harbor.

SEPTEMBER 1995
The Landmark chain opens Cambridge's classy Kendall Square Cinema. Its boost to the number of local art-film screens has shown there weren't a lot more good movies out there, just a lot more.



FALL 1995
The Crucible takes over Hog Island, and turns it into 17th century Cape Ann.

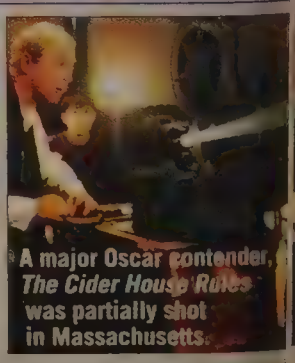
FALL 1997
A Civil Action (left), the biggest-budgeted movie yet filmed mostly in Massachusetts, recreates the real-life "Woburn case."

JANUARY 1998
Next Stop, Wonderland (right) premieres at the Sundance Film Festival, and Boston director Brad Anderson scores a multi-picture deal with Miramax. Anderson now lives in New York.

MARCH 1998
Matt Damon and Ben Affleck win the Best Original Screenplay Oscar for *Good Will Hunting*, the movie the Cantabrigian actors fought to get filmed—at least in part—locally.

APRIL 1999
Brill's Content magazine's list of film criticism's "five softest touches" includes the *Globe*'s Jay Carr, who for 20 years has semi-regularly arrived late for and/or snored through movies to which he often gives vaguely positive raves.

2000
Boston's first new mainstream theatres in 16 years, General Cinema's Fenway and Loews' Millennium Place, open. A new crop of homegrown movies arrives, including *Massholes*, *Bluff* and *Could Be Worse!*



A major Oscar contender, *The Cider House Rules* was partially shot in Massachusetts.

STORM: THE MASS. FILM OFFICE, CIVIL ACTION: DAVID JAMES, WONDERLAND: CLAIRE FOLGER, RULES: STEPHAN VAUGHAN

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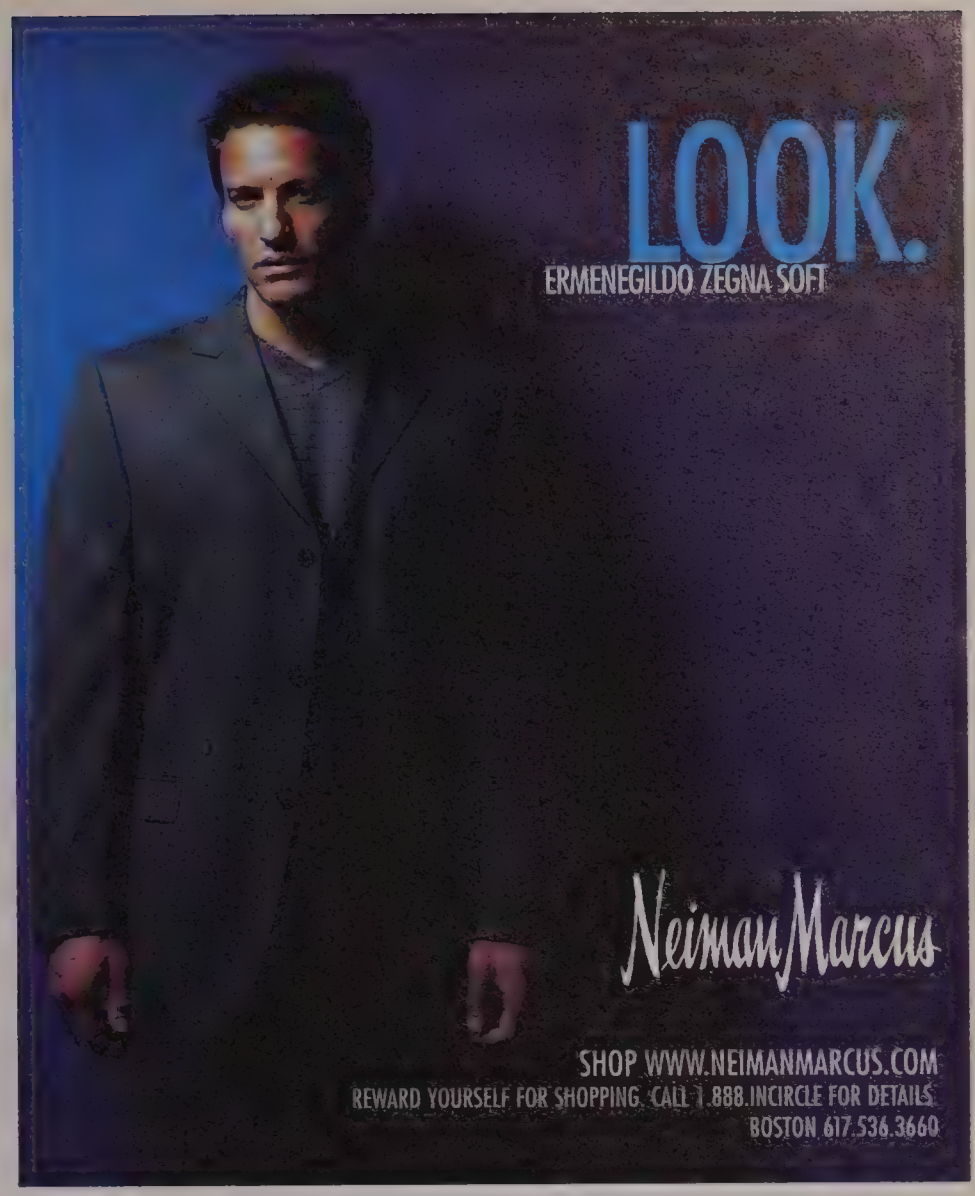

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The 13-screen Fenway Theatre will open up in the old Sears building just outside Kenmore Square in late May.

new theaters

BY PAUL SHERMAN

BOSTON'S ON THE VERGE OF A THEATER REVOLUTION

Archaic is the only word to describe the theaters Boston moviegoers are forced to endure. Revolutionary is the only word to describe the changes about to take place in our urban moviegoing habits.

While such theaters as the Charles, the 57 and the Paris have closed their doors over the last decade, no new mainstream theaters have replaced them in the city, while the remaining Cheri, Nickelodeon and Copley Place cinemas have only gotten older. Although the Boston-Cambridge art-film, independent and revival scene is alive and well—with the spiffy Kendall, character-filled Coolidge and legendary Brattle theaters as well as the second-run theaters like Arlington's Capitol, Danvers' Hollywood Hits and Somerville Theatre—the city doesn't offer anything in the way of big Hollywood movies downtown. Still saddled with the inadequate-at-best theaters built without the customer in mind early during the video era (eg. Copley Place), and woefully short of screens, Boston is finally about to taste modern moviegoing amenities.

Because the emergence of video did not cut into movie theaters' business at all, chintzy cinemas like Copley gave way to megaplexes, theaters with enough screens to play just about all current Hollywood releases at the same time. Because all these megaplexes run the same movies, they began turning to improved presentation to beat the competition. Hence all-digital sound, bigger screens and stadium seating.

Some of these megaplexes have opened in the Boston-area suburbs over the past three years; state-of-the-art moviegoing finally arrives in the city this year. First, General Cinema will open its 13-screen Fenway Theatre in the old Sears building outside Kenmore Square, sometime around Memorial Day. Then come Thanksgiving, Loews Cineplex will open its 20-screen Millennium Place Theater across from Boston Common on Tremont Street.

These 33 screens alone represent more than the 20 full-time, first-run screens Boston proper now has. And with two different chains involved, competition will return to Boston mainstream moviegoing for the first time in decades. Loews will also open its 12-screen Crosstown Theater, at the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard in late 2001, bringing theaters to a part of the city that's been without them since the demise of Boston's neighborhood moviehouses in the 1970s. Other new theaters on the way include a second IMAX theater at the New England Aquarium and the long-delayed Mercator Cinema, a pair of deluxe screening rooms planned for the Theater District. IB

For a complete listing of local area theaters, see the Film section on page 62 of the calendar .

Connie White and Marianne Lampke's Brattle Favorites

1 **CASABLANCA** (right) CW: "It's the perfect studio movie."
2 **BLADE RUNNER/BRAZIL** ML: "We play these films separately, but when we do them together it's amazing."
3 **REAR WINDOW** ML: "Hitchcock in general is big, and if I had to pick one, this is it."
4 **RED/WHITE/BLUE** ML: "Kieslowski's trilogy is today's equivalent of the old Brattle classics by Fellini and Bergman."
5 **TOUCH OF EVIL** ML: "It was always strong in our film noir series, and then when we had the restored version last year, it was huge." —*PS*

Connie White and Marianne Lampke run the Brattle Theatre.

joinin

CLUBS AND CLASSES FOR MOVIE-GOERS

Boston film-lovers have numerous outlets for their cinematic inspirations, but there are two groups that are specifically geared toward discriminating filmgoers who enjoy screening and discussing independent and foreign films.

The Key Sunday Cinema Club has thrived in Boston for the past two years, first at the Kendall and now at the Coolidge. Currently halfway through its bi-annual season, the group draws those that are well-versed in current cinema and who aren't afraid to share their opinions about it. Launched in the winter of '98, the Key Club is modeled after the original DC chapter; its main attraction is that the films screened are always "sneak previews," seen by the club before commercial release in the area. Members never know what they'll be watching before they show up. After the screening, either Jeff Kline (professor at BU) or Linda Dittmar (professor at UMass, Boston) moderates an hour-long discussion, which occasionally features a guest speaker.

Last month also marked the beginning of another educational program at the Coolidge—**Movie Talk 2000: The Secret Life of the Movies.** This group meets every other Tuesday evening to examine aesthetic and production issues of film. These discussions lean toward trends in moviemaking and how social values are portrayed in film The classes are led by filmmaker, writer and scholar Susan Steinberg Woll.

Whereas the Key Club and Movie Talk 2000 draw a group eager to learn from each other and from the professors, **Talk Cinema** at Chestnut Hill's General Cinema consists more of critics and journalists. It's basically the same idea; each spring and fall, the group, headed up by critic Harlan Jacobson, offers its members a unique series of quality films. Jacobson picks the films from such major festivals as Cannes and Sundance, and each series showcases innovative independent and foreign films. Screenings are followed by discussions led by distinguished critics and filmmakers—and like the Key Club, half of the fun is the hype-free element of surprise; you don't know in advance what the film is or who the guest speaker will be. Last year audiences previewed such foreign and American independent films as Hilary & Jackie and Life is Beautiful. —*EH*

Key Club runs through May 21. $98.
Movie Talk runs through April 18. $115.
Talk Cinema runs through April 30. $99.

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INSIDE THE STUDIO WITH THREE UP-AND-COMING BOSTON DESIGNERS.

Fashion. Boston fashion. No, it's not an oxymoron—and to prove our point, we're profiling three hot Boston designers. Stylistically, the clothes are diverse—from straight-lined and slick to flouncy and floral—but geographically, they've got everything in common. For more local fashion, check out the upcoming "3 Days" Spring/Summer 2000 from May 5th through 7th, presented by Fashion Week Boston.

FASHION BY MARY NOBILE-KING • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BETH SCHNECKENBURGER

Rich Lange

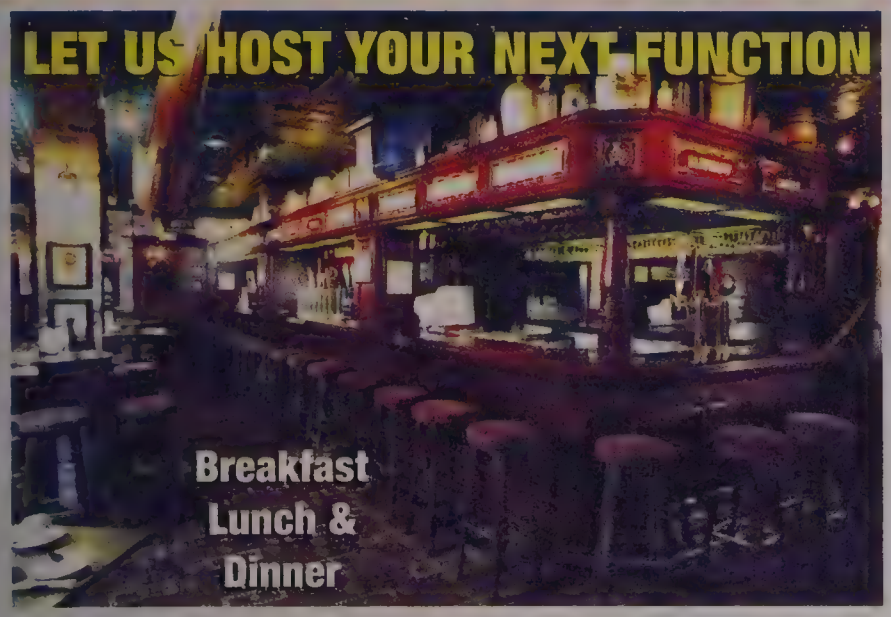
Lange defines his clothing as alternative professional attire (indeed, python-print pants might not be appropriate in your typical nine to five environment). Always exploring new approaches and techniques, Lange is interested in testing the ever-evolving boundaries of workplace fashion. In addition to his men's collection, equally stylish and provocative women's garments are also available.

Model: Gary Croteau; shoes: John Fluevog, Newbury St.; Rick Lange (350-8720) or www.ricklange.com

Meredith Byam

Meredith Byam may be finishing up her senior year at Lasell College, but she has already shown her collection at Fashion Week in the company of more established designers. Her garments are simple, structured and modern, but always feminine and flattering. Byam wants her clients to look and feel good without the fear of turning around to see someone else in the same outfit.

Model: Amanda Peterson/CLICK; Meredith Byam laboobun@aol.com; photo assistants: Emily Flint, Annegret Hilse and Kristy Katz



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Marie Galvin creates distinctive clothing with a one of a kind flair. Also an accomplished milliner, Galvin knows how to marry classic form and technique with sexy elegance, whimsy and drama. Her collection includes hats, clothing, bags, hair accessories — and soon, bridal accessories.

Model: Amanda Marvelle/The Models Group; makeup: Chris Lewis; shoes: Aldo, Washington St., Boston; Marie Galvin (426-4885) or www.mariegalvindesigns.com

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The Boston Globe

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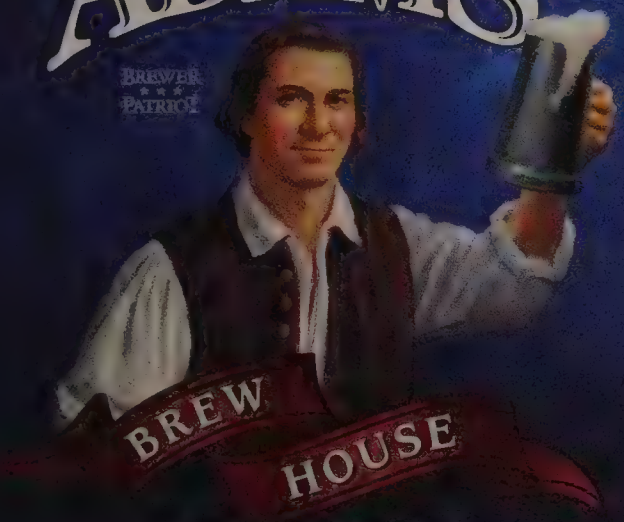

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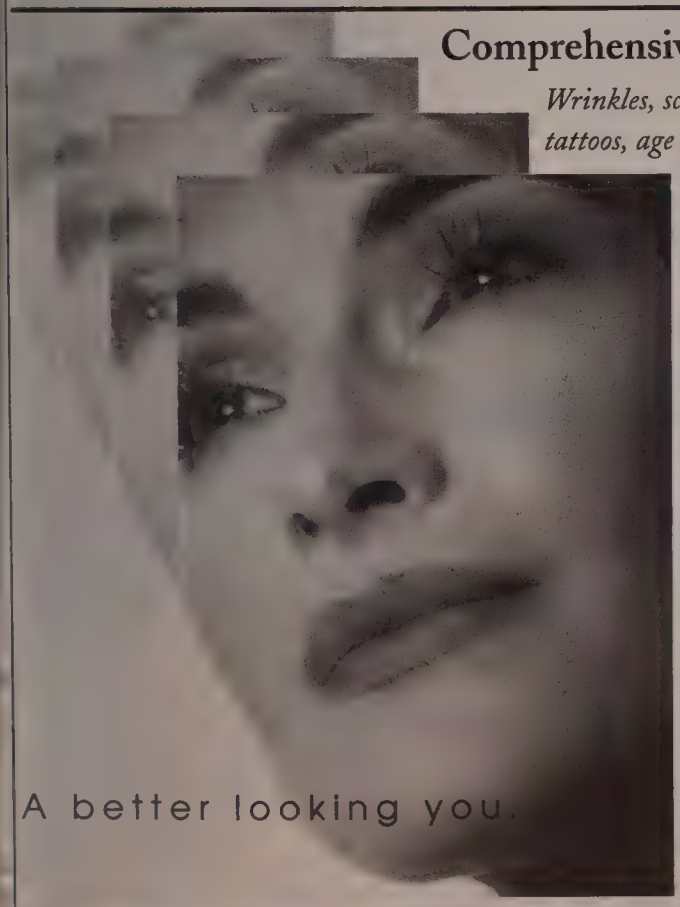

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One If By Gold...

Looking for a career change? Call the North Bennet Street School at 227-0155 and ask about their 16-month, jewelry-making course.

A sense of history wafts through the big 19th-century windows on up to the high ceilings of the spacious North Bennet Street School, set solidly amid the imaginary Italy of the North End's narrow streets. With its teaching of solid craftsmanship, the school has been in operation since 1885 and is one of the oldest trade schools in the country. Here, a person with "patience for detailed work, manual dexterity, maturity, motivation, and personal integrity" might find a new vocation in jewelry-making. What is taught is the more practical end of things; students learn to construct gold and silver jewelry, to do repairs and to work carefully and reverently with pieces of both monetary and sentimental value. Students move upward in skill from copper and brass to gold and silver, learning about metal formation and the industrially-poetic-sounding arts of sawing, graving, dapping, and soldering. Students, some having hung up the gray corporate suit, range in age, averaging 35, possibly fulfilling a deferred dream of doing something gratifying, practical, and aesthetically pleasing. The 16-month course admits students monthly. For serious hobbyists, or people testing the golden waters, there is a short Introduction to Jewelry Making course.

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY

Mopsy

Serendipitous shopping: Our unfettered correspondent seeks out the salubrious and the cerebral.

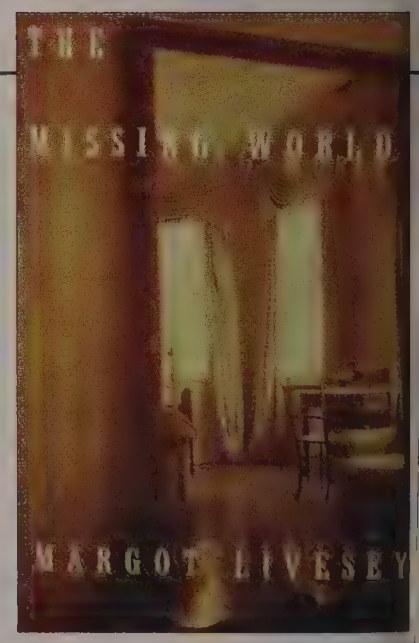
Lunch, With a Chance of Wedding Cake

In six locations, Boston's oldest dating service sandwiches in meetings at noon with possible love-matches. 254-3000.

LunchDates has been mid-daying it since 1982, beginning as a dating service that focused on that time slot bound by the safe words "Gotta get back to work!" Though it's expanded to include the cocktail hour, LunchDates still operates as a go-between, making matches for people who withold their last name and phone number until otherwise indicated. Some 19,000 people have dated on through, finishing the lunch—or thereabouts—with many marriages. The agency shuffles self-descriptions, desired-date qualities, appearances (of course), and the ever-popular professional credentials to find good matches. Founder Steve Penner appreciates the importance of "twinkle," and, conversely, the turn-off of blathering self-centeredness. Shadowing the evolving zeitgeist, LunchDates excludes all but the lightest smokers; Penner even gives talks at high schools and informs teens that smoking becomes a major date-repellant among people in their 20s (they blanch!). Some clients have been motivated to quit in order to become LunchDate-eligible. Likewise, in aid of being, as Steve says "more in proportion" height-to-weight, others have dieted in order to join—and get joined. Divorced men in their forties are among the most popular LunchDaters. $626 brings 10 dates.

If Lack Of Memory Serves

Margot Livesey of Cambridge and Scotland has a new psychological thriller, *The Missing World.*



Hazel Ash Ransome, an English journalist, begins to have seizures after being struck by a car. Having gone in and out of a coma, she returns—minus three years of her life that she can't remember. Jonathan, her bee-keeping, claims-adjuster boyfriend, brings her back from the hospital in a seeming act of nursing nurture. He hopes that her loss of memory will obliterate from her mind his past treacheries, not only ones of love. Around this fragile duo are wrapped various onlookers and caretakers with secrets and vulnerabilities of their own. There's Freddie, an African-American Stanford graduate, now a roofer, tortured by past events that make him both a driven savior and a depressed, passive couch-dweller. And Charlotte, a maddeningly neurotic, yet very human, unemployed actress. Perceiving Hazel to be Jonathan's captive, Freddie and Charlotte plot to spring her. But while Jonathan's initial virtue becomes cloudier and more sinister, the moral cursor moves fascinatingly across Freddie, Charlotte and others. Livesey layers events, sometimes in an almost drowsy quotidian way, until the near-end when the book becomes tense, tight, dramatic and scary.

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: IRINA ROZOVSKY, KATYA APEK

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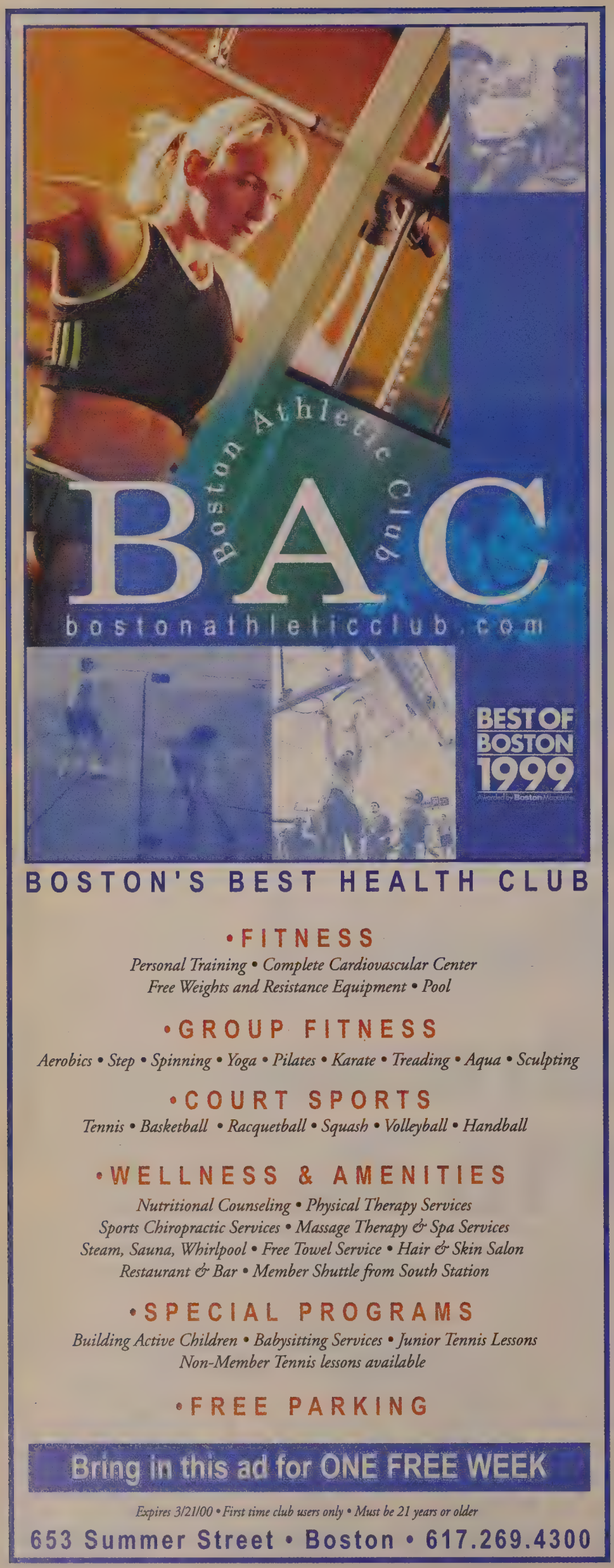

EXPENSE IT

The Anatomy of a Business Trip

BY EZRA DYER

I recently took my very first business trip, and I think it's safe to say that I am now an expert on the subject. "Expense-account it!" is my new motto. Booze, bail money, "escorts," long-distance calls to Tijuana—they all go on the expense account. You may as well try to write it all off, because the worst thing your company can do is say no or fire you. Here are a few more tips for the in-the-know business traveler:

The Flight

My cardinal rule for flying is to not crash into the ocean and die. This is important, because if you do, you will torment your fellow Americans with constant crash coverage. Every time a commercial flight goes down, earnest newscasters interrupt ER to inform you, "The search for Lucky Air flight 6969 survivors continues tonight. It is believed that the wings fell off of the plane, which then burst into flames and crashed into the ocean at 700 miles per hour. So far, this is the largest piece of wreckage recovered [cut to a shot of a twisted piece of metal the size of a toenail clipping] but we will continue to interrupt your programming indefinitely, because, who knows, maybe the people sitting in the back of the plane survived the crash and are still treading water without freezing to death or getting eaten by sharks." This is very annoying for TV viewers everywhere.

"Expense-account it!" is my new motto. Booze, bail money, "escorts," long-distance calls to Tijuana. You may as well try to write it all off, because the worst thing your company can do is say no or fire you.

My second rule is never to fly puddle-jumpers. Small planes crash with the same regularity as your pesky Internet server. Also they are too damn small inside. On my last trip to Philly, I spent the flight sweating profusely because there wasn't room for me to take off my jacket without seriously injuring my fellow passengers. Which brings me to another problem with dinky planes—body odor is intolerable. On my return from Philly, I spent half of the flight giving the guy next to me the hairy eyeball because he was obviously the stinky bastard on board. However, a quick pit check revealed that I was in fact the culprit—which I suppose made sense given that I was still wearing the clothes I'd put on four days ago. This is something I don't recommend. However, even the most seasoned business travelers ocassionally get locked out of their apartments the day before leaving—as I did. Anyway, on to...

The Rental Car

The car rental staff at my chosen establishment was comically incompetent, and the whole operation looked like what might have happened had the Three Stooges rented cars. I watch as one guy gives up on his reserved Lincoln and drives off in a Contour just seconds before the Lincoln pulls up—a situation that has the desk clerks rollicking. I am becoming increasingly agitated, but I refuse to get mad at the inept staff. I resolve to do the gentlemanly and mature thing and take it all out on my rental car.

The most important thing to remember about a rental car is that it's not yours. As such, it should be treated with all the care accorded to a vehicle owned by a large money-grubbing corporation that has just made you wait in a dingy airport parking lot for the past hour. My vehicle turns out to be a virginal Ford Taurus with 10 miles on the odometer. I carefully observe the manufacturer's recommended break-in period for approximately 50 feet, after which point the Taurus pays for the sins of its owners.

"You have grievously wronged me, Ford Taurus," I whisper to it in the manic tone of one who has spent an extended period of time within the dementia-inducing confines of an auto rental agency. Over the next 10 miles I confirm repeatedly that the Ford's rev limiter is in excellent working order, but unfortunately I am unable to carry out my planned deep-water test before I arrive at the hotel.

The Hotel

Upon entering my room, I follow the itinerary of every sophisticated business person: I check out the in-room porno selection—about 12 movies, ranging from *What My Wife Won't Do* to *The Sopornos*.

Q: "So, Ez, would a charge for 'Super-Big Gang Bang 6' appear on my room bill?"

A: No, your bill will say: "Movie 3102: $8.95." Of course, the desk people all know it's Super Big Gang-Bang 6 and that you're a filthy pervert.

Q: Is in-room porn a valid expense-account deduction?

A: I guess we'll see, won't we? IB

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Review

FRANCOPHILIA

The next best thing to dinner on Boulevard St. Germaine? Try the newly expanded Les Zygomates.

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI

Above: The lively Les Zygomates features live jazz from Tuesday through Saturday; opposite page: chef Ian Just, and one of his sumptuous creations, roast duck breast with roasted red pepper duck jus.

Les Zygomates, the lively, noisy, colorful French bistro near South Station, has recently doubled in size. This "leather district" industrial space, with open rafters and exposed ducts and pipes, factory style hanging light fixtures, and a ceiling fan, has none of the chic, contrived, decay that some bistros affect. This downscale look is authentic.

The word "bistro" comes—at least according to one story, perhaps apocryphal—from the Russian word for fast or quick. Reportedly, Russian soldiers occupying Paris after one of the revolutionary spasms of the 19th century would bang their fists on the table and request their food "bistro".

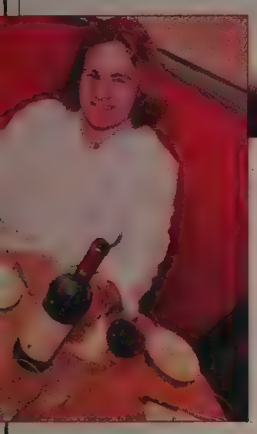
The name stuck, and now betokens a modest, reasonably priced purveyor of standard food, served quickly in an informal atmosphere.

Zygomates' newly expanded space enables the restaurant to offer live jazz and an ambitious series of wine-tastings without preempting the entire restaurant. It occupies a double width of store front, with windows dressed in sheer curtains looking out on South Street. Appointments and furnishings are comfortable if basic, with seating at banquettes and Bentwood chairs, a floor covered in tiny square tiles of black and white, and sconces with humble, paper fabric shades. White tablecloths, covered with brown butcher paper, are complimented by heavy white cotton napkins. Ample wine glasses betoken the key role played by the fruit of the vine in this eatery. French posters, including one for Taitinger Champagne, another depicting a foied'or, golden goose, decorate the walls. Good, mildly sourdough wheat bread, served in a wire basket, is accompanied by soft butter, striking a positive first note on the food front.

Les Zygomates is so committed to serving wine at affordable prices that it offers, in addition to a well chosen list ranging across a broad spectrum of price, a list of very credible wines, red and white, for just $20 a bottle. After enjoying a bottle of Cremant d'Alsace, a sparkler from France's easternmost province, from the standard list, we followed with the torres sangre de toro (bull's blood), 1997, a rich, full-bodied red from the $20 list. It stood up quite nicely to the robust flavors of Les Zygomates' red meat offerings.

From the five cold and three hot appetizers offered, we chose the lobster bisque ($7.50). Chock full of tender lobster meat, it was served in a white tureen. Its light, almost thin broth was far from the butter and cream enriched bisque usually encountered. A second appetizer, smoked salmon aux raiforts ($8), consisted of ultra thin, translucent slices of tender, deliciously smoked salmon accompanied by slivers of very mild pickled horseradish. The velvety texture, smoky accents, and subtle flavor of

JOEGREENEPHOTO.COM (3



the salmon were a perfect match for the cremant d'alsace. Finally, pecorino and parmesan flan ($8.50) was a small but rich tart, redolent of fine olive oil and herbs. This mini quiche, wonderfully moist and well balanced between sweet and salty, was a particularly successful embodiment of these two cheeses—one from cow milk, the other, sheep—which many know only as garnishes to pasta and red sauce.

Main courses come from an abbreviated but well balanced menu of four fish choices and five meat. The lamb osso bucco with braised endives and creamy polenta ($19.50), was a clear winner. Meaty shanks of lamb, in a marrow-enriched sauce sweet with carrots and onions, was at once robust and mellow. The endives were tender, with their pleasantly bitter flavor marrying quite splendidly with the sweetness of the sauce. The polenta, coarse textured rather than creamy but excellent none-the-less, completed the ensemble.

A special one evening, the filet mignon, consisted of two thick slices of fork-tender beef, served rare as ordered, garnished with cherry tomatoes, potatoes, snap peas, and baby carrots. Our criticisms of the steak were two-fold: First, the price ($26) was a substantial step up from the next highest priced main course, and our waiter did not state the price when reciting the specials, a practice that should be *de rigeur*. Second, the steaks were overwhelmed with the sauce on, around, and underneath.

While it was a very good gravy indeed, we think the better practice is to serve the sauce separately, or at least along side, rather than inundating a dish, to enable a diner to consume or ignore it as she pleases. From the seafood side of the menu, the pan seared scallops au chou-fleur ($18.50) consisted of a fair number of huge, tender, sweet scallops, served on a large shell, and garnished with slices of potatoes, carrots, a crisp bay leaf, and cauliflower.

For desserts, Les Zygomates offers the obligatory crême brulee ($7), here executed quite well, with a crisp sugary crust and a smooth, creamy, flavorful custard, served in a ramekin. Fondue for two ($15) offers a pot of luscious melted chocolate, flavored with a choice of grand marnier, praline, or hazelnut. We elected the praline, which made an intensely and satisfyingly chocolate coating for various dipping "goodies," including pound cake, strawberries, pineapple and bananas.

Service at Les Zygomates is carried out by smiling waiters and waitresses, who reflect and project the exuberance of this vibrant bistro. Les Zygomates' advertising suggests a meal here as a fair substitute for a trip to Paris. It is hard to chide owner-manager Lorenzo Savona on his francophilic chutzpah. While, all things considered, one might prefer to be sitting on the Boulevarde St. Germain, this reasonable facsimile right in our own backyard is to be applauded. iB

Les Zygomates

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BEARD IN BOSTON?

A James Beard House dinner....without the House! BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

Chef/owner Jim Becker recreates his James Beard House menu at Rauxa in Somerville, May 2.

Yes, it's true. You can partake of the culinary cachet of the James Beard House experience without the fuss and bother of traveling to New York and without paying the high New York price.

That's because once is not enough for the menu **Jim Becker**, chef/owner of Rauxa, presented at the James Beard House in January. So on May 2, he'll prepare virtually the same meal—from artichoke and brandada tartlets to Rioja-braised rabbit—in more humble surroundings (Somerville) and at the more humble price of $65.

In the meantime, Becker is starting to serve lunch at Rauxa. Expect the same bold Catalan flavors, with influences from Southern France at non-bold prices: between $5 and $8. The Rauxa Caesar salad is distinctively dressed with Manchego cheese and topped with saffron croutons. Or get a midday taste of the dinner menu with Rauxa's lovely garlic, bread, and clam soup with toasted pine nuts.

Brave chef that he is, Becker prepared Rauxa's first-time lunch for Harvard's Hasty Pudding Club Man of the Year. "Billy Crystal was our first client," says Becker. The indecisive Crystal dined on a half-portion each of veal stew with saffron noodles and chive crepes with roasted winter vegetables, pear, and Spanish chardonnay vinegar. After a dessert of "our famous crema cremada," says Becker, Crystal was decidedly content.

"He said 'The food was delicious and I should know because I'm Man of the Year!'" Becker recalls.

Dahling, you cook mah-velous!

Doing it with duck

B-Side Lounge chef **Jeff Unger** is hatching plans for the third installment of his "3 cooks-3 courses" guest chef series in Cambridge. Here's how it works: On the third Tuesday of each month, Unger picks a theme or ingredient and invites a couple of other chefs along to prepare a course. The series kicked off in January with "Foie Gras Invitational" and continues in March with "The Duck 3-Way."

Chez Henri's **Paul O'Connell** and **Bob Sargent** of Flora will join Unger in the kitchen, where "we'll get whole ducks, break'em down, and each gets a part....breast, leg, innards," says Unger. Dishes are created ad hoc.

So far, says Unger, the dinners have been a resounding success, drawing dedicated foodies and other local chefs. "There's a great vibe in the room," he says, "and it works great because each chef preps just one dish, and the quality of the food is quite high."

Upcoming threesomes: red snapper by Rialto's **Jody Adams** and Red Clay's **Ruth-Anne Adams** and soft-shell crabs from **Ana Sortun** and **Marc Orfaly** of #9 Park. Could "menage-a-trout" be next?

Tidbits

There's no fool like a chocolate fool. And there's no event like the annual **Chocolate Fools Day**, a well-mannered orgy of chocolate sampling from more than 25 leading pastry chefs and chocolatiers. That's because all proceeds from this March 19 extravaganza (aka "pigout") provide scholarships for low-income kids to attend the Cambridge Performance Project's after school dance and theater classes. For tix, call 661-6384.

Finally, a fond farewell to the **Union Square Bistro** in Somerville. After six years, owners Mark and Dede Gallagher closed up shop March 4 as the building at 16 Bow Street is being sold. iB

Carolyn Faye Fox is a panelist on "Says You!" NPR's nationally-syndicated game quiz show.

Serving Dish

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Tastings BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for tastings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings @improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

EVENTS

Book Signing with Jacques Pepin
Williams-Sonoma, Copley Place, 100 Huntington Ave., Boston (262-3080). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. March 15, 11:30am-12:30pm. Master chef **Jacques Pepin** will sign copies of his latest cookbooks.

Boston Wine Festival 2000
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE). www.bhh.com. *Through April 7.* An annual three-month celebration of food and wine. See CityScope for events.

Celebrity Chefs Culinary Program
Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James St., Boston (267-5300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Through March 11, 1-3pm. $30/class. Learn the secrets of master chefs. •March 11: **Michael Leviton**, chef/owner of Lumiere.

Chocolates El Rey
Finale, One Columbus Ave., Boston (423-3184). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. March 13, 3pm. $10. Top pastry chef **Michael Hu** will demonstrate techniques for building spectacular centerpieces, wowing guests with easy chocolate garnishes and tempering chocolate. Tastings included.

Chocolate Fools Day
Westin Hotel, Copley Place, Boston (661-6384). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. March 19, 1-3:30pm. $24, $30 at the door. Boston's leading pastry chefs and chocolatiers will offer cakes, cookies, truffles and tortes at this benefit.

Cooking with Torch
5 Comm. Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. March 13, 6-9pm. $58. Cook with chef/owner **Evan Deluty**.

Fondue Festival
Swissotel Boston, One Avenue de Lafayette, Boston (451-2600). Through March 31. Three varieties (cheese, meat and chocolate) $11.95-$17.95. Traditional Swiss fondue as well as exotic combinations.

Garden-to-Gourmet Night
New England Spring Flower Show, Bayside Expo Center, Boston (536-9280). March 15, 5:30-9:30pm. $15. An all-star lineup of gardening and culinary experts will show you how to take veggies, herbs, fruits and berries fromt he garden to the kitchen.

Guest Chefs, Gourmet Mondays
Aspasia, 377 Walden St., Cambridge (864-4745); Bomboa, 35 Stanhope St., Boston (236-6363); Sage, 69 Prince St., Boston (248-9914). Mondays through March 27. Taste the cuisine of some of Boston's best chefs while raising funds for charity. •March 13: **Jim Becker** at Sage and **Christos Tsardounis** at Bomboa. •March 20: **Michael Reidt** at Sage and **Jim Becker** at Aspasia.

Mardi Gras Celebration
Harvard Gardens, 316 Harvard St., Boston (523-2727). MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. Daily, through March 12, 5pm-2am. Celebrate Harvard Gardens' one-year anniversary at this celebration with costumes and cajun food.

La Festa del Papa
Terramia Ristorante, 98 Salem St., Boston (426-6853). March 19, 6pm. $75. Join the American Institute of Wine & Food for a special Italian Father's Day feast and celebration with noted Italian culture, food and wine author **Nancy Harmon** and **Michele Topor** of L'Arte di Cucinare.

Tap into the sweet stuff at one of Massachusetts' 100 maple sugarhouses.

Tasty Tidbit

Sweet Surrender

Around this time every spring—when the freezing nights of winter begin to dawn as mild days—the sweet aroma of hot pancakes drenched in butter and syrup comes wafting through Boston, luring the curious (and hungry) to one of more than 100 maple sugarhouses located throughout the state.

During the six-week sugar season, Massachusetts maple producers invite visitors to sample fresh maple products—from the classic "sugar on snow," to maple candy and maple cream. Some of the farms not only offer maple products, but also horse-drawn sleigh rides and pancake breakfasts. *For a list of sugarhouses, call the Mass. Maple Producers at 413-628-3912 or log on to www.massmaple.org.*

New Olio Festival
Marcuccio's, 125 Salem St., Boston (723-1807). March 8-9, 7pm. $75. La Cucina Italiana magazine presents these two nights featuring premium Italian olive oil-enhanced dishes in a five-course tasting menu.

Rambling Gourmet Benefit Tasting
Museum of Transportation, 15 Newton St., Brookline (522-6547, ext. 19). March 9, 6:30-8:30pm. $30. An evening of fine wines as well as gourmet hors d'oeuvres from five of Boston's finest caterers.

Tour de Force Dinner
Brasserie Jo, 120 Huntington Ave., Boston (266-4351). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. March 13, 6:30pm. $60. This group of young professionals affiliated with the French Library and Cultural Center will enjoy a three-course meal from the Alsace region with wine.

Wine Tasting and Auction
5 Comm. Ave., Boston (267-4430). March 10, 7-9:30pm. $42. Try out some new wines at the BCAE's spring wine tasting with gourmet food and a silent auction.

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agenda

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN OR OUT IN BOSTON.

MODERN BALLET
The theatrical Hubbard Street Dance Chicago is at the Emerson Majestic, March 16-19.

Julie and Erin

THE CALENDAR GIRLS'

improper picks

Too busy (or just too lazy) to plan your own schedule? Life don't get any easier than this.

Wednesday, March 8

Erin: ***The British Are Coming***...to the Shubert Theater. The Boston Ballet presents this huge Bristish dance extravaganza. (See Performing Arts.)
Julie: I'll be taking the **Mini Medical School** course at BU. It's an eight-week course for those interested in health. (See Education.)

Thursday, March 9

Erin: Wine, dine, listen to jazz and take a tour of the antique cars. An odd combo, maybe, but fun. It's the **Rambling Gourmet** benefit at the Museum of Transportation. (See CityScope.)
Julie: Go skiing at Nashoba Valley with the young, fun folks of Boston Ski & Sports Club's **Charity Ski**. (See Sports.)

Friday, March 10

Julie: If you're an ice skating fan, don't miss the **Target Stars On Ice** show at the Worcester Centrum Centre. (See CityScope.)
Erin: Speaking of skating, three Olympic ice hockey teams will be at the first-ever **Gold Medal Gala** at the Sheraton Boston. (See CityScope.)

Saturday, March 11

Julie: Spring is almost here! Head to the **New England Spring Flower Show**. (See CityScope.)
Erin: The Revels present their annual spring show, ***Mysteries***, at Cyclorama. They're supposed to be terrific. (See Performing Arts.)

Sunday, March 12

Julie and **Erin**: We're excited to see our favorites Matthew Broderick and Parker Posey in ***Taller Than a Dwarf*** at the Wilbur Theatre. (See Performing Arts.) The non-theatrically inclined can attend Grand Openings' **Sex Tips for Guys** today (or **Sex Tips for Gals** on March 15). (See Body & Mind.)

Monday, March 13

Julie: The humorously named band, **The Swinging Johnsons**, are at the Green Dragon Tavern. (See Music.)
Erin: While you're in Cambridge, stop by the Lizard Lounge to hear **the Fringe** at 10pm. (See Music.)

Tuesday, March 14

Erin: **Barbara Seaman** discusses her spiritual awakening in *For Women Only: Your Guide to Health Empowerment*, at the Harvard Coop. (See Books & Poetry.)
Julie: If you're a political junkie, there's a lecture at the JFK Library, "**Debating Campaign Finance Reform**." (See Education.)

Wednesday, March 15

Julie: One of my favorites, **Paula Cole**, performs tonight at Avalon. (See Music.)
Erin: It's **Garden-to-Gourmet Night** at the New England Spring Flower Show event—we culinary challenged frozen fooders can learn how to cook all sorts of veggies. (See Tastings.)

Thursday, March 16

Julie: **Mameve Medwed**, author of the book *Mail* (which I really enjoyed, by the way), reads from her latest, *Host Family*. (See Books & Poetry.)
Erin: The Brattle is having an incredible **All About Almodovar** series—tonight is *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* and *Dark Habits*. (See Film.)

Friday, March 17

Julie: Before you head out to the bars, partake in the **St. Paddy's Day festivities** at Faneuil Hall. (See CityScope.)
Erin: Or steer clear of the bar scene mayhem and catch some shows—**Hybrazil** is at the Lizard Lounge and the **Push Stars** are at Avalon with **Great Big Sea**. (See Music.)

Saturday, March 18

Julie: **MasquerAIDS** at the Fairmont Copley will be the grandest ball in town. (See CityScope.)
Erin: Yet another **St. Patrick's Day** celebration takes place at City Hall. (See CityScope.) Also, **the Donnas**, **the Smugglers** and **Plus Ones** are all playing Downstairs at the Middle East tonight. (See Music.)

Sunday, March 19

Julie: Chocoholics, listen up: It's **Chocolate Fools Day** at the Westin Hotel! (See Tastings.)
Erin: Over 20 filmmakers from all over Boston open their studios to the public as part of the New England Film & Video Foundations's 25th anniversary celebration. (See Film.)

Monday, March 20

Erin and **Julie**: One of our favorites, ***The Birds***, plays tonight at the Brattle Theatre. (See Film.) Also, **Johnny A.** plays at the House of Blues as part of their Ultra Lounge Series. (See Music.)

Tuesday, March 21

Julie and **Erin**: Judd Hirsch stars in the Colonial Theatre's production of ***ART***. (See Performing Arts.) Or see Jed Parish of the **Gravel Pit** play with Charlie Chesterman at the Kendall Cafe. (See Music.)

CITYSCOPE **50** • PERFORMING ARTS **54** • ART **58** • FILM **62** • EDUCATION **66** • BOOKS & POETRY **68** • CLASSICAL MUSIC **70** • DANCE CLUBS **72** • MUSIC **74** • GAY & LESBIAN **80** • BODY & MIND **82** • CHILDREN **82** • SPORTS **82** •SALES & FASHION **84** • GO AWAY **84**
EDITED BY: **ERIN HAGEDORN**: Art, Books & Poetry, Dance, Dance Clubs, Film, Gay & Lesbian, Go Away, Music. EDITED BY: **JULIE SHORT**: Children, CityScope, Comedy, Education, Go Away, Sales & Fashion, Sports, Tastings, Theater. ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY: **Laurel Kirtz**: Body & Mind • **Paul Sherman**: Film Capsules • **Sean Daly**: Dance Clubs

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Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a list of festivals, events and benefits taking place in the Boston area by date.

Festivals, Events & Benefits

Wednesday, March 8

Boston Wine Festival 2000
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE). www.bhh.com. *Through April 7.* The Boston Harbor Hotel has put together more than 40 events—from tastings, seminars and celebrity guests to wine and food pairing dinners—that are signature of the celebration. Events this month include •March 8: **Calera Wine Co. Seminar and Dinner**. •March 9: **Shafer Vineyards Dinner**. •March 11: **The Making of a Wine Dinner with Chef Daniel Bruce and Bill Nesto MW**. •March 14: **Wild Horse Winery Dinner**. •March 15: **Frog's Leap Winery Dinner**. •March 16: **Cain Vineyard and Winery Seminar and Dinner**. •March 21: **AIWF Dinner** (See March 21 in listings for more information.) •March 22: **Hanzell Winery**.

International Boston Seafood Show
Hynes Convention Center, Boston (207-842-5599). www.bostonseafood.com. MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. March 7-9, 11am-6pm. North America's premier seafood tradeshow offers a variety of exhibits and demos highlighting major trends in the seafood industry. Learn new recipes and seafood cooking tips.

Thursday, March 9

Boston Women's Memorial Gala
Fairmont Copley Plaza, Boston (635-4427). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. March 9, 6pm. $125. Hosted by Mayor and Mrs. Thomas M. Menino and the Boston Women's Memorial Committee, the gala wil support the memorial that will honor Patriot Abigail Adams, suffragist Lucy Stone and poet Phillis Wheatley. The memorial will be on Commonwealth Avenue Mall, between Fairfield and Gloucester streets.

Glenlivet Office Putting Championship
Westin Copley Place, Boston (781-784-8617). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6-9pm. Free. This championship is the challenge to find the top office putter in the Boston area. More than 120 Boston-area companies will be competing.

Rambling Gourmet Benefit Tasting
Museum of Transportation, 15 Newton St., Brookline (522-6547, ext. 19). March 9, 6:30-8:30pm. $30. An evening of fine wines as well as gourmet hors d'oeuvres from five of Boston's finest caterers. Proceeds benefit the museum's education and conservation programs.

Singles Executive Club Dance
Atlantic 101, 101 Atlantic Ave., Boston (781-283-0400). March 9, 8pm-12am. $15. Professionals ages 35 to 50 years old. Come mingle at this end of winter cocktail party and dance. Enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres and coffee, dessert at midnight while dancing the night away. Jacket and tie required for men and business attire for women.

Young Professionals Night
Il Panino, 295 Franklin St., Boston (338-1000). www.bostoneventguide.com. *MBTA: Blue Line to State Street. Thursdays, 9pm.* A social playground for young professionals in Boston with cocktails, dancing and hors d'oeuvres.

Friday, March 10

Gold Medal Gala
Sheraton Boston Hotel, 39 Dalton St., Boston (912-3805). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. 5:30-6:45pm; 7pm gala. $250. Black tie. This first-ever gala will honor the three US gold medal Olympic ice hockey teams: the 1960 and 1980 men's teams and the 1998 women's team. Proceeds benefit the Massachusetts Olympic Committee. Al Michaels, sportscaster from ABC, will be keynote speaker.

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Fridays. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

St. Patrick's Day Party
International Pub and Restaurant, 184 High St, Boston (781-979-7607). 8pm-2am. $10. The Irish Networking Society of Boston sponsors this St. Paddy's Day DJ dance party to benefit the Long Island Shelter for the Homeless.

Target Stars On Ice
Worcester's Centrum Centre, 50 Foster St., Worcester (931-1873). 7:30pm. $35-$60. A star-studded evening of world-class figure skating featuring such greats as Scott Hamilton, Tara Lipinski, Kristi Yamaguchi, Kurt Browning, , Illia Kulik, Ekaterina Gordeeva, Lu Chen and Steven Cousins, among others, gliding across the ice.

The New England Spring Flower Show blooms at the Bayside Expo Center, March 11-19.

Preview

Flower Power

While others around the country rely on that pesky little groundhog in Punxsatawney, Pa., to determine when warmer weather will arrive, New Englanders have their own method: The arrival of the annual Spring Flower Show at the Bayside Expo Center.

The second-largest event of its kind in the US, the year's show, "A Symphony for the Senses," will feature 5 1/2 acres of landscaped gardens with aromatic blossoms, vibrant hues and boundless ingenuity, March 11-19. Lectures, demonstrations, competitions and special events are planned throughout the show. You'll also find a wide selection of plants, crafts and gardening tools. *Bayside Expo, Boston (536-9280). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. March 11-19. Tue.-Sat. 10am-9:30pm; Sun. 10am-6pm; Mon. 10-6pm. $15 weekday, $17 weekend.*

Wine Tasting and Auction
5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 7-9:30pm. $42. Try out some new bottles of fine red and white wines at the Boston Center for Adult Education's spring wine tasting. Additionally, the evening offers gourmet food and a silent auction. Proceeds benefit the BCAE's Capital Improvement Plan.

Saturday, March 11

New England Spring Flower Show
Bayside Expo Center, Boston (536-9280). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. For 129 years and counting, New England has thawed out with this annual flower show. See box for more information.

Sunday, March 12

Second Sundays
Veronique Restaurant and Ballroom, 20 Chapel St., Brookline (731-4800). www.bostoneventguide.com. *MBTA: D Green Line to Longwood. 2-5pm. $10.* The event will feature an educational wine sampling, light hors d'oeuvres and live jazz from the Geroge Mel Trio in the company of young professionals.

Friday, March 17 St. Patrick's Day

Faneuil Hall St. Patrick's Festivities
Faneuil Hall, Boston (737-3500). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 12-6pm. Live entertainment with Irish music and dance in the rotunda.

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Fridays. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

Saturday, March 18

MasquerAIDS
The Fairmont Copley Plaza, Grand Ballroom, Boston (450-1325). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8pm. $200. Creative black tie. Join the AIDS Action Committee for an evening fashioned in the tradition of the finest European masked courtesan balls and updated with a splash of Mardi Gras and Carnivale. Enjoy live music all night long by Four Guys in Tuxes.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration
Boston City Hall, Boston (635-3911). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 12-4pm. Boston celebrates its rich Irish heritage with live Irish music, step dancers and the Best Irish Coffee Contest.

Sunday, March 19

Gibson House Museum Benefit Tea
Four Seasons Ballroom, 200 Boylston St., Boston (267-6338). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 3-5pm. $50, $60 at the door. Enjoy refreshments, a raffle and entertainment by the Royal Victorian Opera Society. Proceeds are for the restoration of the Gibson House Museum.

St. Patrick's Day Parade
South Boston (268-7955). 1pm. St. Patrick's Day in Boston is always an unforgettable experience. Join the parade watchers along Broadway in South Boston as the city celebrates its rich Irish heritage. Parade Route heads down Broadway at the corner of Dorchester Ave. toward Old Colony Boulevard, starting at 1pm.

Tuesday, March 21

Boston Wine Festival: AIWF Dinner
Boston Harbor Hotel, John Rowes Salon, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE or 330-9355). 7pm. $185. Join Julia Child for an intimate dinner featuring Gary Hogue and the wines of Hogue Wine Cellars to benefit the American Institute of Wine and Food.

Volunteer

Adult Literacy
Learning Works, 19 Temple Place, Boston (357-6000, ext. 7508). Seeks adults to tutor just two hours per week.

AIDS Action Committee
(450-1235). Urgent request for volunteers for the Buddy Program and the Check-In phone program.

Alliance for Children
(781-431-7148). •March 16, 7-9pm. Adopt a child from another country.

AVON Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk
(491-3329). Event date: June 2-4. Volunteers need to work on mass mailings, phone banking and data entry.

Big Sister Association
161 Massachusetts Ave., Floor 2, Boston (236-8060). Seeks women to act as Big Sisters.

Boston Living Center
(236-1012). HIV/AIDS service organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Boston-New York AIDS Ride
(859-8282, ext. 230). Volunteers needed for work on mass mailings, phone banking and other projects.

Boston Partners in Education
(451-6145). Seeks tutors and classroom assistants.

Cambridge Cares About Aids
(661-3040). Telephone receptionists, drivers, data entry and clerical assistants needed immediately.

Cambridge School Volunteers
(349-6794). Recruits, trains, places and provides support services to volunteers ingrates K-12.

Daffodil Days
(556-7400). Order a bunch of flowers for the American Cancer Society's annual Daffodil Days campaign. One bouquet of 10 daffodils is $5.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

ESL/Office Skill Training
One With One (254-1691). Tutor/mentor a newcomer.

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The Rambling Gourmet Benefit Tasting 2000 promises to be a night full of food, fun and fancy antique cars at the Museum of Transportation in Brookline, March 9.

Friday Night Supper Program
Arlington Street Church, corner of Arlington and Boylston streets, Boston (536-7050, ext. 22). Needs volunteers to help prepare, cook and serve meals on Fridays, 5-7pm.

Giving Back Fund
(557-9910). Seeks energetic volunteers to assist in coordination of special events and provide general administrative support.

The Greater Boston Food Bank
(617.427.5200). Groups of volunteers needed to sort donated food.

Hyannis Port Challenge Info Session
International Bicycle Centers, 89 Brighton Ave., Allston (800-718-3536). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Feb. 24, 6pm. Join an 85-mile fundraising bike ride from Boston to Cape Cod, to be held May 20.

Hearts in Bloom Campaign
(800-662-1701). Deliver tulips on Feb. 7 and Feb. 9 for the American Heart Association.

Horizons Initiative
(287-1900). Playspace activity leaders needed for children living in homeless family shelters.

Jewish Community Volunteer Program
(558-6585). Make a difference in the life of a lonely and isolated person.

Massachusetts Sports Partnership
(877-572-7115). Volunteer at major sporting events.

Mass Substance Abuse Helpline
(536-0501, ext. 201). Volunteers needed for helpline for persons affected by alcoholism and substance abuse.

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(536-3557). Seeks caring people to offer help and companionship to homebound and isolated elders.

Parental Stress Line
Kenmore Square, Boston (528-5803). Volunteers needed to staff the statewide stress line and the First Call for Help information line.

St. Jude Century Challenge
(965-5262). Pledge to walk or run 100 miles now through April 30 and raise money for St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Samaritans Suicide Prevention Helpline
(536-2460). Seeks volunteers to help staff telephone services for depressed, lonely, suicidal individuals.

Victory Programs
(357-8182, ext. 624). Volunteers needed for residential substance abuse treatment program.

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Seeks individuals to assist legal immigrants and refugees to become naturalized citizens.

Youth Enrichment Services (YES)
412 Mass. Ave., Boston (267-5877). Seeks role models and outdoor leaders for Operation Ski Lift to take urban young people ages 8-18 skiing and snowboarding.

Tours

Chocolate Tour
Old Town Trolley, Charles and Boylston Streets, Boston (269-7150). Saturdays and Sundays, 11:30am and 2pm (tour lasts 2 1/2 hours). Through the end of March. $50. If you've got a sweet tooth, join Old Town Trolley for a tour from Le Meridien Hotel to the Ritz Carlton Hotel and the Hampshire House where you'll savor a chocolate buffet, hot chocolate drinks, decadent chocolate cake and a delightful chocolate soup.

Emerald Isle to Emerald Necklace
Boston Common, Visitor Information Center, Tremont Street, Boston (635-7383). MBTA: Green Line to Park. March 18, 1-2pm. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a walk through the Common and the Public Garden discussing Irish history and well-known Irish leaders.

Ghost Tours
Meet at Boston Common Visitor Information Center, 147 Tremont St., Boston (781-235-7149). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street. Selected evenings, 7:30pm. $12. Tour downtown Boston's most infamous haunted locations.

Herstory Walk
Boston Common, Visitor Information Center, Tremont Street, Boston (635-7383). MBTA: Green Line to Park. March 19, 1-2:30pm. Park rangers will recount the struggle for women's rights and the women who made it happen, including Anne Hutchinson, Phillis Wheatley and Julia Ward Howe.

The Literary Trail
Tour begins at the Omni Parker House, corner of Tremont and School Streets, Boston (574-5950). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street. Saturdays 9am-12:30pm. $35. Explore the heritage of some of the country's greatest authors, poets and social activists at eight literary historical landmarks in the Boston area. The climate-controlled bus stops at the Boston Athenaeum, the BPL, Longfellow National Historic Site, the home of the Hawthornes, the Alcotts and the Lothrops and Walden Pond.

Women's History Month Scavenger Hunt
Boston National Historical Park Visitor Center, 25 State St., Boston (242-5642). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. Daily, 9am-5pm. Find the women on the Freedom Trail. Pick up your Park Service scavenger hunt information kit for helpful clues.

Women of the Literary Trail
Omni Parker House Hotel, corner of Tremont and School Streets, Boston (574-5950). Saturdays in March, 9am-12:30pm. $35. This guided bus tour will focus on 19th-century women authors and literary figures from the Greater Boston area, including Elizabeth Palmer Peabody, Annie Adams Fields, Sarah Orne Jewitt, Margaret Fuller and Louisa May Alcott.

Cruises

Massachusetts Bay Lines
60 Rowes Wharf, Gate C, Boston (542-8000). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Daily 55-minute harbor tours sail Sun.-Sat. on the hour from 12-6pm. $8. Nightly sunset cruises also available from 7-8:30pm for $15.

Sights to See

Boston Tea Party Ship and Museum
Congress St. Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Open daily, June-Aug., 9am-6pm; March-May and Sept.-Nov., 9am-5pm; closed Dec.-March. $8, $7 students, $4 children. You can dump your own bale into the harbor—and watch a museum guide scramble to retrieve it—at this replica of one of the ships emptied by colonists (disguised as Indians) during the Dec. 16, 1773, tea raid. Afterward, enjoy a cup of tax-free tea.

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Fifth Floor, Boston (353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), 8:30pm. Free. BU's astronomers are available to answer questions and assist with telescopes as you check out Orion, Cassiopeia and the Big Dipper.

Bunker Hill Monument
Monument Square, Charlestown (242-5641). Open daily 9am-5pm. Free. What's long and hard and shaped like a pencil? It's not what you think. It's the 221-foot monument that honors the men who died in the Battle of Bunker Hill. But an exhausting climb up 294 stairs reveals little more than a stunning view of I-93.

Christian Science World Headquarters
Mass. and Huntington Avenues, Boston (450-2000). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential. Tue.-Sat. 9:30am-4pm, Sun. 11am-2pm. Tour the Mother Church—a giant basilica that seats 3,000 worshippers—the Maparium, a cool, walk-through, stained-glass globe; a 700-foot-long reflecting pool; and a photo exhibit.

Copp's Hill Burial Ground
Hull and Snowhill Streets, Boston. MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Open dawn-dusk. Admission free. From Boston's second-oldest cemetery, you can see all the way across the Inner Harbor to Charlestown. Famous residents include the well-known Puritanical Mather family and Prince Hall, a prominent member of the free black community.

John Hancock Observatory
200 Clarendon St., Boston (572-6429). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open Mon.-Sat. 9am-11pm, Sun. 10am-11pm (May-Oct.) and noon-11pm (Nov.-April). Admission $4.50. The tallest building in New England (62 floors) offers much more than an awesome view. Listen to air-traffic controllers at Logan, test your knowledge of the city with a computer quiz, or relive some of Boston's most famous and infamous events—including the "Great Molasses Flood" of 1919, when a tank holding 3-4 million gallons of the sticky stuff exploded and turned the North End into a sea of molasses.

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (566-7937). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Wed.-Sun. 10 am-4:30pm. The birthplace and early boyhood home of the nation's 35th president.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat. 10am-2pm. Admission free. Alongside Boston's first Anglican church—a gloomy, granite apparition—you'll find a burial ground with equally ominous-looking headstones dating back to 1630. On Sundays, listen for the distinctive peal of the church bell cast by Paul Revere's foundry.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (635-3105). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Open daily 9am-5pm. Guided tours every half-hour, starting at 9am. Free. Known as the "Cradle of Liberty," Faneuil Hall—we're talking about the part above the eatery—was the site of many an angry man ranting and raving about the damn British in the mid-1700s. Today, you can check out the white-walled assembly room, but most people come here for the marketplace.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily 9 am-5pm. Free. Here, Paul Revere saw two lanterns shining on April 18, 1775, indicating that the British troops were crossing the Charles River to Lexington and Concord via boat. You remember... "One if by land, two if by sea."

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays 10am-4pm, weekends 10am-5pm. $3. A thousand fed-up men gathered in this church to decide whether or not to send three ships full of tea back to England. Guess what? They didn't. •*Voices of Protest* traces the use of Old South Meeting House over three centuries for religious, political and social debate. •Middays at the Meeting House, a lunch-time music series. Thursdays, 12:15-1pm. $4. •Sundays are free of charge throughout the month of February.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-10pm, Sun. noon-10pm. $4, $3 seniors and students. After that tiring, 50-floor elevator ascent, you deserve a drink at the Top of the Hub lounge before you check out Boston's only 360-degree view tower. On a good day, you can see New Hampshire. The view here is slightly better than that of rival John Hancock.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8am-6pm. Free. Designed by H.H. Richardson and constructed in 1877, the huge Romanesque church in Copley Square rests upon 4,500 submerged wooden pilings, which help hold up the church's massive tower. A shaded courtyard offers respite from the heavily-trafficked plaza. On Fridays at 12:15pm, stop by for a free organ concert.

Museums

Boston Public Library
700 Boylston St., Boston (536-5400). Mon.-Thu. 9am-9pm; Fri.-Sat. 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •Free Art and Architecture Tours of the BPL. Mon. 2:30pm, Tue. and Thu. 6pm. Meet at the Dartmouth Street entrance.

Boston Tea Party Ship & Museum
Congress Street Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. March-Nov., 9am-dusk. $7, $5.50 students, $3.50. Colonial-clad sailors take you aboard *The Beaver*, a replica of the smallest of the three ships involved in the infamous tea rebellion. Paul Revere leads the hourly tea throwing and explains all about the fateful day irate Bostonians poured out the tea in protest of the tax decree issued by British parliament. Try your hand at rope-tying too.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June Tue.-Sat. 10 am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm; June-Aug. daily 10am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm. $5, children and seniors $3: Follow the red and white signs to the mother of all milk bottles. As you walk under it you'll feel as diminutive as your munchkin companion. See *Arthur's World* from the popular television series and children's books. This infamous aardvark is one of many hands-on favorites. •*Build It!* •*Giant's Desktop* •*Hall of Toys* •*Boats Float!* •*Climbing Sculpture* and •*Japanese House.* •Opened Oct. 31: **Sesame Street Exhibition.** Three decades of the revolutionary children's television series. Step into one of the world's most famous TV neighborhoods.

Harriet Tubman House
566 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-8610). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. Weekdays 8am-8pm. Free admission. The Harriet Tubman Museum exhibits a collection of this influential black leader's achievements.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (929-4523). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily 9am-5pm (last film begins at 3:55pm). $8, students and seniors $6, children $4. This permanent collection on the life and legacy of President John F. Kennedy offers a recreated world of the early 1960s with period settings and 25 dramatic multimedia exhibits. Visitors experience first-hand the challenges faced by America during Kennedy's presidency. *John Glenn and the Space Race*, an exhibit about the man with the mission is now showing. •*Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy: First Lady*. Ongoing •*Treasures of the Kennedy Library.* A selection of the treasures, including sculpture, jewelry, paintings and documents. •*Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy*.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (739-1200) www.afroammuseum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays 10am-4pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.* The place is

Donut Deals

The year was 1950. The average annual salary in the US was $2,992. Harry Truman was president. The New York Yankees won the World Series (again). Dunkin Donuts was born and donuts cost only 5 cents. To celebrate 50 glorious years in the donut and coffee biz, Dunkin' Donuts will roll back prices every Monday in March. For more information, visit www.dunkindonuts.com.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: JANET STEARNS; KATYA ARKINA

bustling after their recent endowment of more than $1 million to restore the meeting house's hallowed sanctuary. See the African Meeting House, the oldest black church in America.

Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, students and seniors $4, children $3; free to all Sat. 9am-12pm.* This Harvard museum is made up of four factions: The **Botanical Museum**, **The Museum of Comparative Zoology**, the **Mineral & Geological Museum**, and the **Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology**. A number of exhibitions tie together all four of these distinct collections. The most famous is the Botanical Museum for its glass flowers collection—more than 3,000 models of more than 480 plant species. At the Museum of Comparative Zoology, check out the 42-foot-long mounted Kronosaurus (a really big lizard) and countless stuffed insects. The Mineral & Geological Museum's got a 16,000 pound Brazilian amethyst geode, and there's the dollhouse-esque Worlds in Miniature display at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnography. •***Orchids: A Story of Seduction***. Through May 14. Human beings seem to find orchids irresistible, even addicting. This exhibition will explore some of the flowers' most interesting pollination strategies and the long history of collecting and research by Harvard scientists.

Museum of Our National Heritage
33 Marrett Road., Route 2A, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.mnh.org. *Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 12-5pm. Free admission.* Explore history through pop culture. Topics range from Revolutionary artifacts to the latest in jigsaw puzzle-solving techniques and American circus posters. •*Initiating America*, a historical look at fraternal organizations. Ongoing. •*The Lynn Beach Painters, Art Along the North Shore*, 1880-1920. Through Aug. 20. •Feb. 27, 2pm: A concert of early American music by Circl eof Song.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu. 9am-5pm; Fri. 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children. Omni Theater, Hayden Planetarium or laser shows all $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children.* Find out how much you weigh on the moon, strap yourself into a space module or sift through sand on an archaeological dig. Enjoy 600 hands-on exhibits, including the *Theater of Electricity*, *Seeing Is Deceiving* and *Science in the Park* (Newtonian physics introduced through such accessible items as playground equipment and skateboards.) •*To See the Sea* explores the ocean from the perspective of a deep sea diver. •Now open: *Messages:* Discover why communication is central to everyday life. *Human Body Connection*: exhibits on anatomy, physiology and health. *The Light House: Beaming, Bouncing and Bending Light*: Learn the principles of optics, color and the nature of light with 18 hands-on activities. •*Reptiles: Real and Robotic*, opened Jan. 28. •Mugar Omni Theater: *Mysteries of Egypt*. Through June. *Olympic Glory*, opened Oct. 29. (See Film for more information.)

Charles Hayden Planetarium
Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children. Time of show changes daily.* Get high! High up, that is. And (then) go see the stars and rock-music laser shows. Check out the ongoing out-of-this- world multimedia installations *Life and Death of the Sun* and *The Sky Tonight*, and enjoy daily laser shows to the music of the Beastie Boys, Pink Floyd, Korn, Tool, Jimi Hendrix, Nine Inch Nail, among others. It's a trip. •*Journey to the Edge of Space and Time*: Ideas once considered crazy (like black holes) are now the building blocks of new knowledge. What next? •*Welcome to the Universe*. Now open. •Friday Night Stargazing, 8:30-10pm. Free. Weather permitting.

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St. (in Larz Anderson Park), Brookline (522-6547). MBTA: D Green Line to Reservoir, to bus 51. April-Oct., Wed.-Sun. 10am-5pm; Nov.-March, Wed.-Sun. 10am-4pm. $5, $3 seniors and students. This 1888 carriage house is the automobile buff's paradise—and the country's oldest private collection of antique autos. Featured cars range from Fords and Corvettes to Cadillacs and Italian imports. •March 21: Automotive Lecture—Classic Cadillac, Standard of the World.

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (720-3290). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily 9am-5pm. $3, students and seniors $2. Built in 1713, this original seat of colonial government was the place pre-Independence Bostonians first heard the Declaration of Independence read.

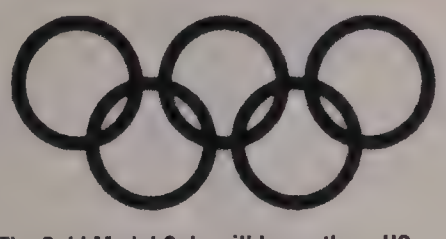
Sports Museum of New England
FleetCenter, Boston (624-1234). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Adults, $5, Children and seniors, $4. Exhibits of the great sports traditions of the Boston Garden, FleetCenter and Celtics in addition to the New Balance Wall of Champions, Major League/Minor League by Jim Dow, the Boston Garden Theatre, Ted Williams—An American Hero and exhibits of boxing, hockey, football, baseball, soccer, collegiate basketball and the 75th anniversary of the Bruins.

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (426-1812). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, bus 93 to Navy Yard. Nov.-April 30: Open daily 10am-5pm. Free. The stories of the individuals who authorized, built and served on the *USS Constitution*, the oldest commissioned warship afloat. Learn about its 200-year history hands on—hoist a sail, take the wheel, fire a cannon or swing in a hammock.

Zoos & Gardens

Arnold Arboretum
125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain (524-1718). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open weekdays: 9am-4pm, weekends: 12-4pm. Free. More than 14,000 exotic trees, shrubs and flowers make this the place to go when you need to escape the hustle and bustle of city life. There's no picnicking allowed, but biking, dog-walking and frisbee-throwing are encouraged.

Boston Common Ice Skating Pond
Frog Pond, Boston Common, Boston (635-2120). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park. Sun.-Thu. 10am-9pm; Fri.-Sat. 10am-10pm. $3 plus $5 for rentals. It's not quite Rockefeller Center, but it's still a lot of fun. The Frog Pond has opened for the season, with concessions, skate rentals, rest rooms and a warming area.



The Gold Medal Gala will honor three US Olympic ice hockey teams, March 10.

Franklin Park Zoo
1 Franklin Park Rd., Boston (442-2002). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open Oct.-March daily 10am-4pm; April-Sept. weekdays 10am-5pm, weekends and holidays 10am-6pm. Admission $6. A 72-acre oasis of green in the city with waterfalls, lush vegetation, gorillas, leopards, hippos and free-flying birds. •New: Giraffe Savannah and a baby western lowland gorilla, born Aug. 8.

Garden in the Woods
New England Wild Flower Society, 180 Hemenway Road, Framingham, (508-877-7630). $6. The largest collection of wildflowers in the Northeast.

Lyman Estate Greenhouses
185 Lyman St., Waltham (781-891-1985). February. Just when winter is at its bleakest, the Lyman Estate greenhouses burst into a blizzard of pink, red and white camellia blossoms.

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard, transfer to #71 or #73 bus. Open daily 8am-7pm (summer) and 8am-5pm (winter). Admission free. Rest in peace among the gravesites and crypts of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes, "Battle Hymn of the Republic" author Julia Ward Howe and Winslow Homer, among other famous Americans. A great place for bird watchers and botanists. •Feb. 26, 12pm: A birthday tribute to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (973-5200). www.neaq. org. *MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Early Sept.-June: Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. and holidays 9am-6pm. $12.50.* Boston's biggest fish bowl has much more than just goldfish. In the three-story saltwater tank swim turtles, sharks, eels and the occasional mermaid (or mer-male), who entertains crowds as he or she cleans the tank. •*Storm Over Stellwagen*, a new 15-minute, interactive multimedia production allows you to control the outcome of the film. •March 11: **Turtle-Palooza**. This day is dedicated to sea turtles nad their land-based cousins. Play games and meet turtles face-to-face.

Roger William's Zoo
1000 Elmwood Ave., Providence, R.I. (401-785-3510). South on 1-95 from Providence to exit 17 (Elmwood Ave.). $6, $3.50 seniors and children. Open every day except Dec. 25. Nov.-March 9am-4pm. April-Oct. 9am-5pm. Lions and tigers and a 150-pound baby polar bear named Triton. Oh my! More than 600 birds and mammals inhabit the African plains and rain forests.

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performing arts

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Submit updated press releases by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Theater. Or e-mail information to performing@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Theater

JUST OPENED

ART
Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (931-2787). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7:30pm. March 7-26. $45-$65. **Judd Hirsch** stars in this wickedly witty portrait of modern art and old-fashioned friendship as three prosperous middle-aged, longtime friends come to blows over the value of a very expensive piece of art.

Brigadoon
Boston Conservatory Theatre, 31 Hemenway St., Boston (912-9142). Thu.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. March 9-12. $32. Two American tourists find a mythical Scottish Highland village that appears for just one day every 100 years in Lerner and Loewe's musical.

Come Back Little Sheba
Delvena Theater, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Through March 19. $16. William Inge's most poignant and heartfelt drama tells the story of a chiropractor who gave up his dream of becoming a famous doctor to marry his frowsy wife. It is not until a young female boarder enters their life that they stop living in the past.

Crimes Against Nature
Sorenson Center for the Arts, Babson College, Wellesley (781-239-5682). March 10, 7pm. $12. A humorous and compelling look at what it means to be a man in today's world. Actor and playwright Christopher Kilmartin uses touching personal accounts of sports, puberty, communication, homophobia, girlfriends, sex ed and drag queens to weave an important statement about the pressure of masculinity.

Irish Saints and Sinners: From Galway to Boston
The Charlestown Working Theatre, 442 Bunker Hill St., Charlestown (781-393-7566). Fri.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm. March 10-19. $14. Sharon Kennedy is an adult storyteller, and Mark Simos accompanies her on fiddle and guitar. In the first half of the program, Kennedy will tell traditional folktales. In the second half, she'll take on the characters of three women: Mary Margaret O'Connell, Irish-American mill worker; Molly Bloom from James Joyce's *Ulysses*; and Peg Morrison, the South Shore suburban Irish-American heroine, circa 1963, from Boston writer Caryl Rivers' popular novel, *Virgins*.

The Judas Kiss
The Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). Wed.-Thu. 7:30pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 4pm; Sun. 3pm. March 17-April 16. A wildly intelligent drama that revolves around the events surrounding arrest and imprisonment of Oscar Wilde. David Hare lays bare the drama of two critical points in Wilde's last years—the day he decides to stay in England to face imprisonment and the night after his release two years later when the lover for whom he risked everything betrays him.

The Last Night of Ballyhoo
Jewish Theatre of New England, 333 Nahanton St., Newton Centre (965-5226). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Centre. Thu. 2pm and 7:30pm; Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. March 2-April 9. $25. Written by the Pulitzer Prize-winner and author of *Driving Miss Daisy*, the comedy is set in Atlanta in 1939 while the movie *Gone with the Wind* is making its premiere. With rich and complex characters, this Broadway hit captures the mystique of the famed Ballyhoo Dances, prejudice against newcomers and humor.

Mary Stuart
Huntington Theatre Company, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (266-0800). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue.-Thu. 7:30pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. March 10-April 9. $10-$52. Reigning monarch Elizabeth is challenged by a delicate problem—the fate of her cousin, Mary Queen of Scots, imprisoned for alleged conspiracy to seize the Virgin Queen's throne and restore Catholicism to England. Pressured by deceitful and manipulative advisers, uncertain whether or not Mary has actually plotted her assassination, Elizabeth wrestles with the fateful decsion of whether or not to order the execution of her longtime rival.

Meshugah
Trinity Repertory Company, 201 Washington St., Providence, R.I. (401-351-4242). Tue. 7pm; Wed.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. Through April 9. $26-$38. An intriguing love triangle between a young woman and a middle-aged and older man. It draws you into the world of Jewish emigres living on the Upper West Side of NYC post-WWII. A 47-year-old Yiddish writer is tortured by guilt at having escaped from Poland just before the Holocaust when his family and friends perished. He finds love unexpectedly when he meet Miriam, who harbors a secret which is slowly revealed to him. They meet through Aaron's old friend Max, who is himself in love with Miriam.

Morning, Noon and Night
Emerson Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (482-6661). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. March 10-11, 8pm; March 12, 3pm. $32-$35. Spalding Gray's latest monologue is an examination of a day in the life of his family, Kathie, Marissa, Forrest and Theo in their small town on Long Island. Gray mows the lawn, picks a child up from school, muses on the vagaries of middle age and ATM cards, and views all these through his unique, probing and neurotic lens.

Once Upon a Mattress
Newton Country Players, The Windsor Club, 1601 Beacon St., Waban (244-9538). Fri.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm. March 17-19, 24-26. The musical version of *The Princess and the Pea*. Queen Mother Aggravain sets up the most impossible tests for each princess who wishes to marry her son. Is Prince Dauntless the Drab really worth turning a kingdom upside down for? How high must Princess Winnifred scale those mattresses to prove her love?

The Performance Cult
Back Alley Theater, 1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (338-1477). MBTA: Red Line to Central. March 12 and 26, 7:30pm. $6. Each night, a host of seasoned Bosotn-area actors, dancers, storytellers and others will present a series of short, original vignettes. There's only one restriction: Each performer must base his or her work on the truth.

Shopping and Fucking
Actors Workshop, 40 Boylston St., Boston (887-2336). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Fri. 8p; m and Sat. 7pm and 10pm. March 17-April 8. $10, $12 at the door. Mark Ravenhill's dark comedy is the tale of a trio of young Brits who sell drugs, sex and what is left of their souls to survive.

Stop Kiss
The Nora Theatre Company, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (491-2026). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant Street. Thu.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 4pm and 8:30pm; Sun. 3pm. March 10-26. $19-$22. Diana Son's love story explores the concept of falling in love and discovering sexual attraction, making choices, taking risks and committing to someone you love.

Taller Than a Dwarf
Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont St., Boston (931-2787). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7:30pm. March 7-19. $24-$68.50. **Matthew Broderick** and **Parker Posey** star in this new comedy, set in New York City, about an average couple at the beginning of the millennium who learn the new rules of the American dream.

Turn of the Screw
New Repertory Theatre, 54 Lincoln St., Newton Highlands (332-1646). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. Wed. 2pm and 7pm; Thu. 8pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 4:30pm and 8:30pm; Sun. 3pm. March 8-April 9. $25-$32. Henry James' classic Victorian ghost tale about a young governess who tries to draw out two disturbed children against the will of her predeccesor and a former servant, both dead, who continue to have an oppressive control over the children.

Journey to a mythical Scottish Highland village at the Boston Conservatory Theatre's, *Brigadoon*.

NOW RUNNING

A Couple of Blaguards
Terrace Room, Boston Park Plaza Hotel, Arlington St., Boston (931-2787). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. Through the end of March. $38.50. This two-man comedy by Pulitzer Prize winning author Frank McCourt and his brother, best-selling author Malachy McCourt, is an autobiographical tale spanning the brothers' years growing up poor in Ireland and their journey to a better life in America.

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed.-Thu. 8pm; Fri.-Sat. 7pm and 10pm; Sun. 3pm and 6pm. $39-$49. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to get its point across with tribal rock music, performance art, humorous antics, props (including plastic tubes, day-glo PVC pipes and twinkies) and three men painted blue.

Communicating Doors
Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Thu. 7:30pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 4pm and 8pm; Sun. 3pm. Through March 12. $27 weekdays and matinees, $31 Fri. and Sat. Alan Ayckbourn, commonly referred to as the British Neil Simon, has fashioned this sprightly comedy in the tradition of his earlier works. Set in a London hotel suite in 2014, 1994 and 1974, this play manages to take us by surprise—a mixture of pastiche *Psycho* and time-warp comedy that optimistically suggests that, if only we could foresee the future, we could change it.

Full Circle
American Repertory Theatre, Loeb Stage, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-8300). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. Through March 19. $24-$57. Out of the chaos of high-speed capitalism and nose-diving economies emerges a hapless Manhattan socialite saddled with an abandoned child. Based on an ancient Chinese fable, Chalres Mee's play is set just as the Berlin wall is crashing down.

Loot
American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-8300). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. Through March 15. $24-$57. Master of black comedy, Joe Orton, tells the tale of Hal, who robs a bank and hides the booty in his mother's coffin. Who will discover it first—the crooked detective or the homicidal nurse?

The Mysteries
Revels and Shakespeare & Company, Cyclorama, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Fri. 8pm; Sat. 3pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Through March 12. $25. Theater, traditional music and audience participation are combined in Tony Harrison's contemporary version of the stories of the creation of the world, Adam and Eve, Abraham and Isaac, the great flood, the first murder and the Christmas Nativity.

Perfect Days
Sugan Theatre Company, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun. 3pm. Through March 18. $18-$22. An uninhibited Scottish celebrity hairdresser, in a truly contemporary dilemma, yearns for a baby as she stares down the barrel of her 40th birthday. This comedy is about love and one woman who goes all out to get what she really, really wants...until life throws her a few unexpected surprises.

Phantom
Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton (244-0169). Thu.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Through March 12. $19. Arthur Kopit and Maury Yeston are obsessed with the unanswered questions in Gaston Leroux's novel, *The Phantom of the Opera*. In this musical, they create characters of depth and substance—the way the story was mean to be heard with in the world of turn-of-the-century French opera.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 6:30pm and 9:30pm; Sun. 3pm and 7:30pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This hilarious whodunit is set in a unisex hair salon. The production holds the record as the longest-running play in the history of the Boston theater.

CABARET

Brian De Lorenzo
The Blacksmith House, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (247-9192). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. March 10, 8pm. $12. Cabaret singer Brian De Lorenzo performs his favorite cabaret and theater songs, including lesser-known songs from Broadway shows and the popular repertoire, with special guest Nicole Kempskie.

Scullers Jazz Club Cabaret
400 Soldiers Field Road, Allston (562-4111). •March 9, 8:30pm. $12: Erica Leopold performs *New Words*. •March 14, 8pm and 10pm, $16: Wesla Whitfield.

Club Cafe Cabaret
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (232-1904). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. •March 12, 7pm, March 26, 9pm, $12: Jan Peters performs *Old Fashioned, Please.* •March 18, 9pm: Jan Peters. No cover. •March 12, 9pm, $12: Michelle Currie performs *Life's a Bowl of...*

INTERACTIVE THEATER

Medieval Manor
246 East Berkeley St., Boston (423-4900). Red Line to Broadway. Mon., Wed., Thu., Fri. 8pm; Sat. 5pm and 9:30pm; Sun. 6pm. Ongoing. $9.60-$32. Eat, drink and be merry at a Renaissance dining experience. Don't worry about etiquette. You won't find knives and forks, and the soup of the day is in your face—literally.

Mystery Cafe
290 Congress St., Boston (781-320-0040). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Dinner and show: Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm. Ongoing. $34. Saturdays: The interactive murder mystery, *The Devil Made Me Do It*, a heavenly mystery in a tropical setting. Solve the crime.

Mystery Cruise
Long Wharf, Boston (781-320-0040). June 25, 7pm (boarding). Cruise departs 7:30pm. $49/person, includes dinner and cruise. Gather clues during a cruise through the Harbor, meet characters and interrogate suspects as you attempt to piece together the mystery.

Judd Hirsch (center) stars in the Colonial Theatre's performance of *ART*, through March 26.

BOTTOM LEFT: JOAN MARCUS

PIG. OUT.

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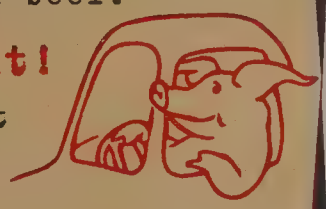

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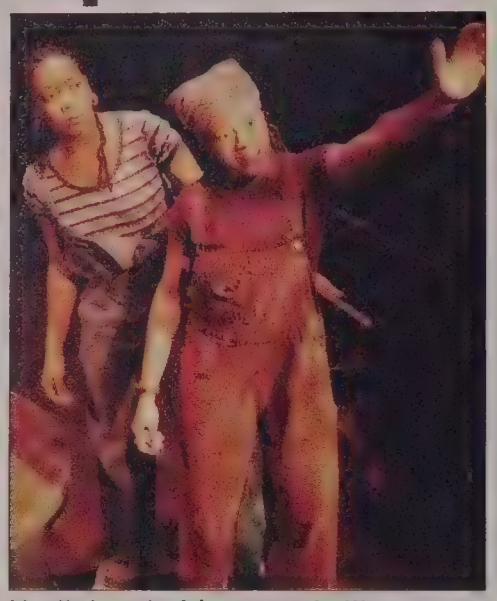
Preview

Women on Top Festival

This annual festival features a variety of theatrical pieces written and performed by the area's leading female theater artists. This year's celebration includes more than 50 artists and five featured plays.

• Get Rid of the Roaches by Jacqui Parker: Emerging from one corner of African American music, this play weaves together the lives and loves of the popular female singing group, the Quintessants. *March 9-11, 7:30pm; March 12, 2pm.*

• Eve's Version by Deborah Lubar: With her usual wit and outrageousness, Lubar appears as an aging, no-nonsense Eve who remembers the pain and beauty of her growing consciousness, and recounts with great humor and compassion her complex relationships with Adam, Snake, God and the garden itself. *March 17-18, 7:30pm; March 19, 2pm.*



It's all about the fairer sex at the Women on Top Festival, playing through March 19.

• The Really Big Wedding Dress by Julie Rold: A loving theatrical send-up of country music. Lorrie Jean Poole may be the prettiest girl in Owensboro, Kentucky, but she still can't get her man. What's a girl to do? Luckily, there's no problem on earth that the right dress won't solve. *March 13, 7:30pm; March 16, 7:30pm; March 17-18, 9:30pm.*

• A Night of Quickies: An evening of short plays by six women playwrights, including: • A Russian Tea- Party by Rosanna Yamagiwa Alfaro. A darkly comic take on sibling rivalry. • Dead by Lin Haire-Sargeant. When sisters Annie and Louise are snowbound in their house in the country, the long-time power struggle between them becomes a matter of life and death...or does it? • The 12:22 London from Victoria/Brighton by Geralyn Horton. A female executive—garrulous and inebriated—makes her way through a crowded commuter train and manages to salvage the last vestiges of her self-respect before her station stop. •The Lesson by Melinda Lopez. A female construction worker's self-defense. • Men Are From Milwaukee, Women Are From Phoenix by M. Lynda Robinson. Satirizing the Byzantine attempts at communication between men and women. • The Little Death of a Salesman by Sheri Wilner. The classic America n tragedy seen through the eyes of Willy Loman's lover. *March 10-11, 10:30pm; March 12, 7pm. Black Box Theater, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Through March 19. $45 festival pass; $17.50 individual shows.*

Nonna's Cruise to Nowhere

Locations around the Greater Boston area (781-933-1363). $35/includes dinner. These folks have taken everyone's favorite Italian grandmother (Nonna) and placed her on an imaginary cruise ship, along with her zany family. The audience laughs, dances and plays along with the cast.

Dance

SHOWS AND EVENTS

The British Are Coming

The Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue. 8pm; Wed. - Thu. 7pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Through March 12. $12.50-$73. The Boston Ballet brings together works by two Brits: Sir Kenneth MacMillan's *Winter Dreams* and Michael Corder's *Danses Concertantes*. *Winter Dreams* is a one-act ballet based on Chekov's play, *Three Sisters,* which tells the story of love and repression—set to music by Tchaikovsky. *Danses Concertantes* is choreographed to Stravinsky's chamber orchestra piece of the same name.

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago

Emerson Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (876-4275). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. March 16-19. $35-$45. This highly energzied, electric and spunky troupe combines the best of jazz, modern ballet and theater in two Boston premieres with works by Duato, Ezralow, Kylian and Tharp.

Song and Dance of Mozambique

Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (876-4275). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. March 17, 8pm. $18-$28. An electrifying program, the performance includes traditional and modern dances with riveting choreography, precise dramatic effects and boundless energy. You'll be dazzled by 30 professional dancers, musicians and singers who capture the very spirit of Mozambique.

Women Resist & Reclaim!

Dance Complex Theatre, 536 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (776-7939). MBTA: Red Line to Central. March 10-11, 8pm. $10, $12 at the door. Dancers with diverse dance training (Indian classical, West African and modern) and actors present an evening of dance and theater that explores the contemporary realities and concerns of people.

JOIN IN

Brazilian Ballroom Dance

Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wednesdays, 9pm. Learn the samba, forro, lambada and axe.

Club Joy

533 Washington Street, Boston (354-5780). Saturday nights. This Latin night spot now offers classes: salsa, merengue, bachata and more.

Israeli Folk Dancing

Temple Kehillath Israel, 384 Harvard Ave., Brookline (484-4282). Sundays, lessons begin at 11-12 pm. $5. Show off your moves with the best Israeli folk dancers.

Dancing at Ryles Jazz Club

Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. •Saturdays, 9pm-1:30am, $12; $10 after 11:30pm. Join in a variety of dance moves—here you'll find jazzy mambos, swing dancing, cheeky cha chas and sassy salsa numbers. *•Thursdays 8:30-11pm. $10-$12.* Salsa and merengue dance.

TICKETS

Bostix

(723-5181) www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of Faneuil Hall); Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth); and Harvard Square (in the Holyoke Center arcade at 1350 Mass. Ave). Same-day tickets half price.*

Next Ticketing

(423-NEXT). www.boston.com/next.

Ticketmaster

(931-2000) www.ticketmaster.com.

Out of Town Tickets

(247-1300 or 800-442-1854). A good place to get tickets if a show is sold out at the box office.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors

Submit updated listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail information to comedy@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the performances or comedians. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Comedy Connection

245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (248-9700). www.comedyconnectionboston.com. *MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed. 8pm; Thu. 8:30pm; Fri. and Sat. 8pm, 10:15pm; Sun. 7pm. $8-$10 (weekend prices vary).* The oldest comedy club in Boston draws big-name, national comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •March 8: Steve Hurley. •March 9, 8:30pm, $10: Frank Santos, the "R-rated Hypnotist." •March 10, $20: **John Witherspoon** of *The Wayan Brothers*. •March 11, $24: **John Witherspoon**. •March 12, $19: **Sheryl Underwood** from HBO, Showtime and BET. •March 13: Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox. •March 14: Robbie Printz. •March 15: Steve Hurley. •March 16, 8:30pm, $10: Frank Santos, the "R-rated Hypnotist." •March 17, $18: John Valby, "Dr. Dirty." •March 18: Don Gavin. •March 19: Mike Donovan and John Fisch. •March 20: Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox. •March 21: Robbie Printz.

The Comedy Studio at the Hong Kong

1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu.-Sun. 8pm. $5-$7. Sketch comedy troops and local comedians perform. •March 9: Tim McIntire's "Fight Redux." •March 10: PS Absurdo featuring Brendon Small of the Cartoon Network. •March 11: Rick Jenkins hosts Jesse Gersten and Laura Kolling. •March 12: Sketch comedy from Blue Harvest with guest Noreen Kirkwood. •March 16: Tim McIntire hosts with Mike Prior featured. •March 17: Brian Kiley (writer for Conan O'Brien) with Eugene Mirman from HBO and Brendon Small from the Cartoon Network. •March 18: Brian Kiley from the *Tonight Show* and *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*. Host: Rick Jenkins. •March 19: Comics Workout starring Mike Prior and Jane F. Monroe.

DickDoherty's Comedy Vault

Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun. 9pm. $10. Features local stand-up comedians. Thursdays: Stand-up comedy. Fridays and Saturdays: Dick Doherty's Comedy Pro Tour. Sundays: Open mike night.

Nick's Comedy Stop

100 Warrenton St., Boston (482-0930). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Fri. 8:30pm; Sat. 7:45pm and 10pm; Sun. 8pm. $8-$14. The talent here is not quite as big-name as the Comedy Connection, but the crowds are just as enthusiastic, and you're guaranteed to leave with a smile on your face. Wednesdays: Open mike at 8:30pm. •March 9, 8:30pm: John David, Bob Gautreau and Charlie K. •March 10-11, 9pm: Bob Gautreau, Dave Andrews and Charlie K. •March 16, 8:30pm: Jim Lauletta, John David and Brad Mastrangelo. •March 17-18, 9pm: Brad Mastrangelo, Larry Miles and John Joyce.

IMPROVISATIONAL COMEDY & MAGIC

Improv Asylum

216 Hanover St., Boston (263-6887). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Shows: Thu. 8pm; Fri. and Sat. 8pm and 10pm. Main Stage: $10-$15. Now playing on the main stage is the critically acclaimed improvisational and sketch comedy show—voted one of Boston's best improvisational comedy troops.

ImprovBoston at Back Alley Theater

1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1253). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troop makes things up as they go along. Fri.-Sat. 8pm ($12) and 10:30pm ($12). Sun, 2pm ($7). •Fridays and Saturdays: 90 minutes of wholesome fun with scenes, games, original music and lots of audience participation. Sundays: family matinee. •Thursdays, 8pm: **Sitcom**. A fully-improvised show based on suggestions from the studio audience and an on-stage computer. 10pm: **Open Improv Jam**. All visitors of any skill level are invited to participate in a no-pressure, fun-filled atmosphere where everybody gets to play. •Fridays, 8pm: ImprovBoston. 10:30pm: Theatre-Sports Boston vs. Sitcom. Best of five match. •Saturdays, 8pm and 10:30pm: ImprovBoston.

Magicians & Spirits 4th Anniversary

Green Street Grill, 280 Green St., Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Shows every Tuesday at 9pm. $10 cabaret show ($5 with dinner). Billed as "Intimate Nights of Sleights of Hand," Green Street Grill patrons enjoy close-up magic as two or three magicians perform tricks behind the bar and among the crowd. At 10pm, the cabaret show begins upstairs with local and national magicians reading minds, making birds appear out of nowhere and floating objects above the stage.

COMEDY SHOWS

The Bunny Trail

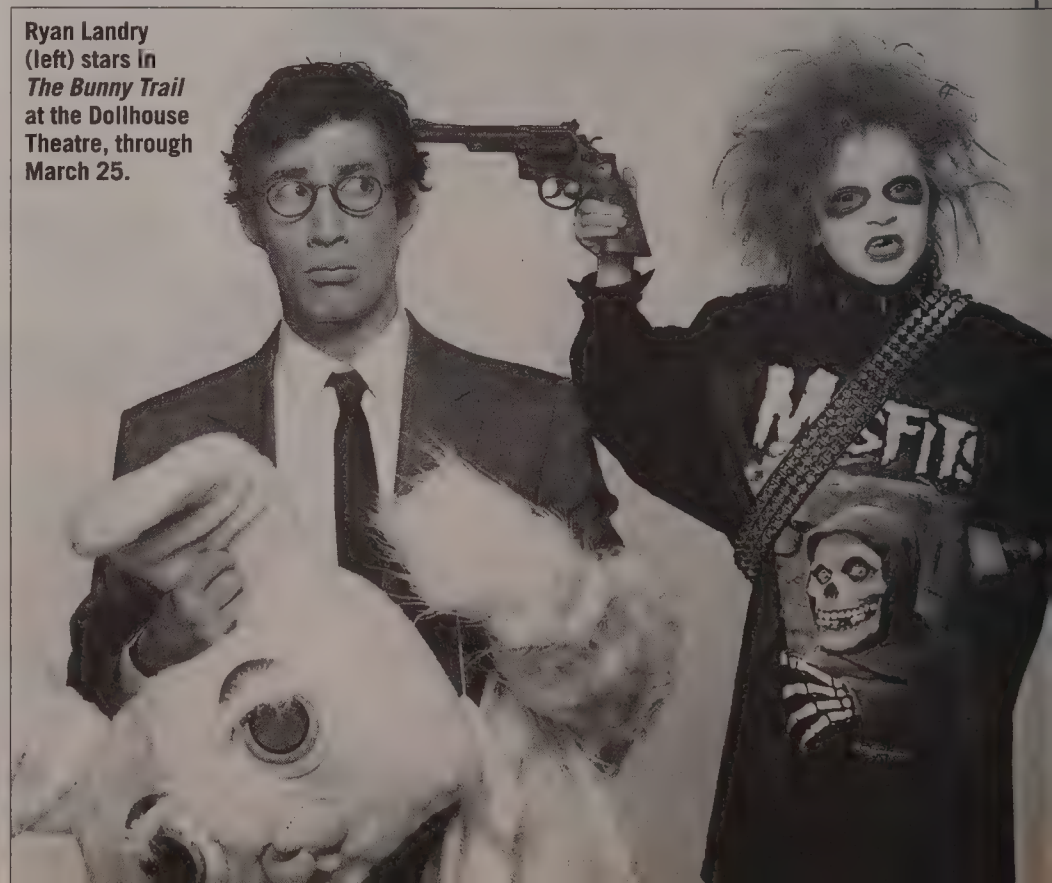
The Dollhouse Theatre, 731 Harrison Ave., Boston (266-8511). Thu.-Sat. 8pm. Through March 25. The latest comedy by Ryan Landry deals with a mild mannered English teacher who gets caught up in the kidnapping of a 7-year-old supermodel. Yes, folks, this *is* a comedy.

Circle

57 Theatre, 200 Stuart St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 7:30pm. March 7-11. $30-$35. British comedian, **Eddie Izzard**, has self-deprecating charm, free-associating wit and rampant xenophilia. He offers two hours of floppy geniality, stream-of-consciousness and absurd sketches.

Joey & Maria's Comedy Wedding

Tremont House Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). Fri. and Sat. 7:30pm. Ongoing. $39-$45. Join the fun at this absolutely zany Italian wedding. Big hair and blue tuxedos optional.



Ryan Landry (left) stars in *The Bunny Trail* at the Dollhouse Theatre, through March 25.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: VIC DINIAL'S; PETER URBAN

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Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information for gallery and museum listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail to arts@improper.com. *Include opening and closing dates, nearest T stops and price of admission, if any, and telephone numbers. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a partial list of the largest art museums, art institutes and galleries in the Boston area. Listings following bullets are temporary exhibitions.

Museums

Art Institute of Boston
700 Beacon St., Boston (262-1223). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun. 12-5pm. •Coinciding with Boston's city-wide cultural celebration of Egypt, 19th- and 20th-century *Photographic Views of Giza*, will be on view through March 19. •Nathan Goldstein's *Painting and Prints* displays March 27-April 30.

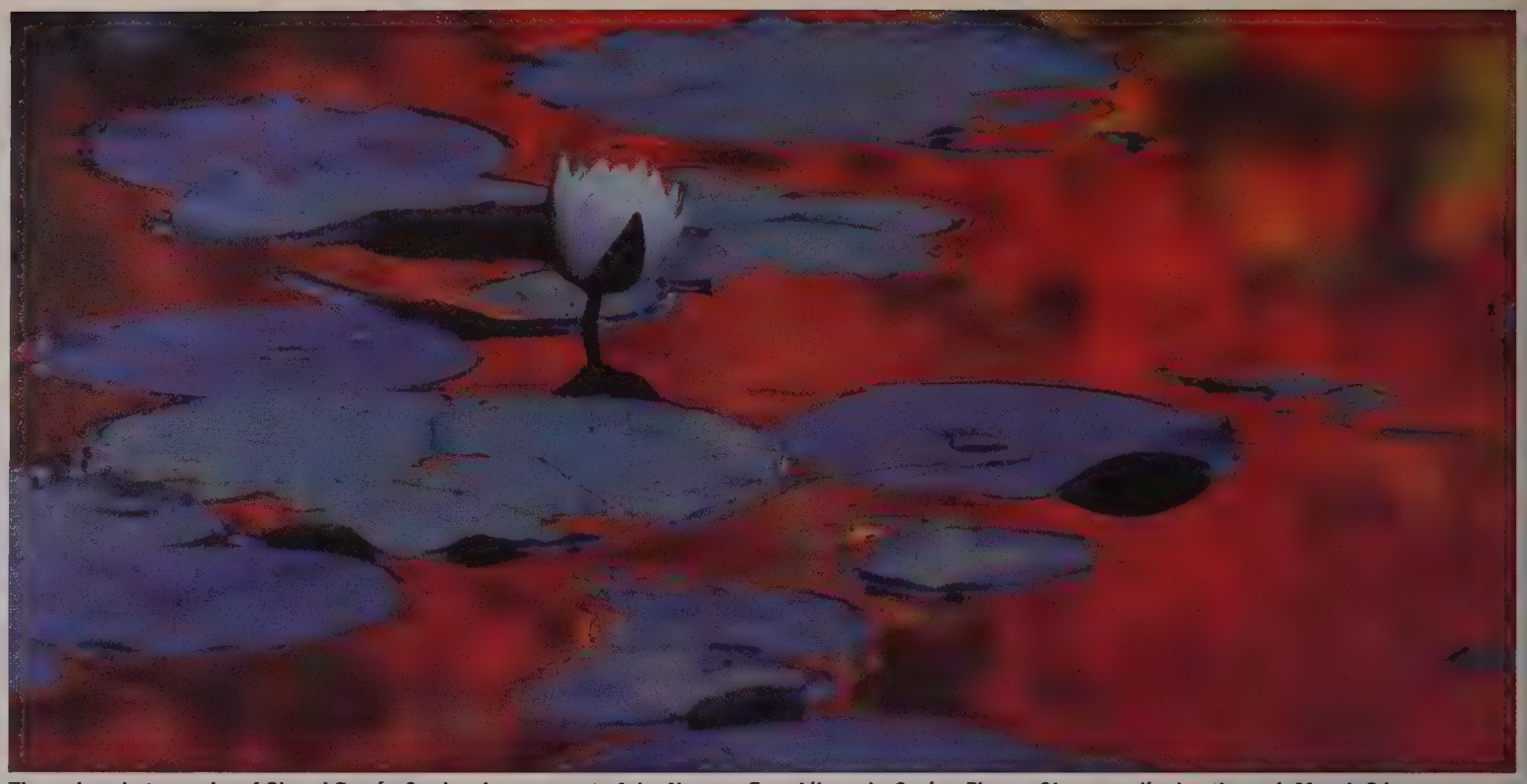
Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat. 10am-12pm. The Sackler houses ancient Islamic and Asian art, an array of Neolithic bronze Buddhas, Greek pottery, and Hellenistic and Roman sculpture. •*Wall Drawing #830* features four isometric figures with dynamic colors. Ongoing. •*Ben Shahn's New York: The Photography of Modern Times*, showcases the artist's experimentation with the social documentary tradition. It includes more than 150 photographs, ink drawings and easel paintings. Through April 30.

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA:Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat. 10am-12pm. It's better to visit the Fogg the same day you go to the Sackler, as admission includes all of Harvard's museums. Highlights include van Gogh's self portrait and Bellini's clay figures.

***Natura Obscura LXVIII* is part of *Gouaches and Monotypes* by Robert Kelly, on display at Barbara Singer Fine Art through April 1.**

Gibson House Museum
137 Beacon St., Boston (267-6338). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Guided tours every Sat. and Sun. at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm. $5. With 75 percent of its original items in place, the museum allows visitors to understand 19th-century domestic life and design. Ongoing.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (266-5152). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Wed.-Sun. 12-5pm; Thu. 12-9pm. $6, $4 students and seniors. •A new exhibition marks the first American museum survey exhibition of the work of the celebrated British artist Cornelia Parker. It includes more than 60 of works made in the last decade. Parker will also create a new charcoal installation specifically for this ICA exhibition. Through April 9. •Free guided walk-throughs take place each Thursday at 6:30pm. March 9 walk-through is led by Mags Harris, faculty at the School of the MFA; March 16 is Ellen Driscoll, visual artist.



The color photographs of Cheryl Renée Sacks show as part of the Newton Free Library's *Spring Flower Show*, on display through March 31.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (566-1401). www.boston.com/gardner. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun. 11am-5pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, under 18 free. Guided on Fridays 2:30pm.* This 15th-century Venetian palace is home to more than 2,500 objects and twice as many flowers. Boston's most famous museum is named for the house's owner, Isabella Stewart Gardner (1840-1924), an infamously incorrigible individualist. Only after her death was her house completely opened to the public. Now everyone can see the works of Titian, Botticelli and Matisse, as well as furniture and architectural details from European churches and palaces.

MIT Museum
265 Mass Ave., Cambridge (253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5pm, weekends 12-5pm. $3, $1 for students, seniors and children. Where else would you be but at MIT when you contemplate Morton G. Bradley Junior's *Math in 3-D: Geometric Sculptures?* The museum's other permanent exhibits include *Flashes of Inspiration: The Work of Harold Edgerton*, and *Gestural Engineering*. Ongoing. •*Cultural Engineering: The Sculptures of Arthut Ganson*, the mechanical engineer/choreographer. Ongoing. •Selections from the museum's holography collection. Ongoing. •On the last Sunday of the month, explore oceanography, astronomy, the science of buildings and other mysteries of science with interactive activities for all ages from 2-4pm, no reservations required. Call 452-2827 for details. •*A Day in the Life of an Astronaut, LEGO Car Rally, Out There!* and *Observing the Observers* show throughout the Spring. •*Selfportrait.map*, new digitally manipulated chromogenic prints by Lilla LoCurto and Bill Outcault, includes 18 large scale works as well as a computer station so that the public can get a hands-on feel for the mapping technology. Through April 9. •*Jane and Louise Wilson: Stasi City and Crawl Space* is the presentation of two major video installations by these British twins. Through April 9.

Museum of Bad Art
580 High St., Dedham (325-8224). Mon.-Fri. 6:30-10pm, Sat. and Sun. 1-10pm. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. The one and only museum that boasts "art too bad to be ignored." A favorite is *Lady Chardonnay*, a piece illuminating a poodle-head dancer.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Mon.-Tue. 10am-4:45pm; Wed. 10am-9:45pm, Thu.-Fri. 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. 10am-5:45pm. West Wing only Thu.-Fri. 5-9:45pm. $12, students and seniors $10.* The MFA has earned its rep as the second-best run art museum in the nation (after the Metropolitan Museum of Art) with its top-notch exhibitions, educational programs and galleries of African, Oceanic and American art. •*View From Above: The Photographs of Bradford Washburn* consists of some 80 black-and-white photographs by mountain climber, explorer, cartographer and aerial photographer Bradford Washburn. Through April 30. •*Michael Mazur: A Print Retrospective* examines more than 90 pieces of the Boston-based print artist's work. Through May 14. It shows with an exhibition of his recent paintings. Through June 15.

The Peabody House Museum
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (496-1027). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5 adults; $4 students and seniors; $3 children 3-13. No fee Sat. mornings until 12pm. •A brand new exhibit, *Heads and Tales: Adornments from Africa*, is an exhibition of rarely seen sculptures and artifacts from the Peabody Museum collections, many of them more than 100 years old, which highlight the messages communicated by adornments of the head in sub-Saharan Africa. Through Oct. 1, 2001.

The Revolving Museum
288-300 A St., Boston (439-8617). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed.-Fri. 12-5pm. •The next show is *Revelation for Revolution*, a millennial exhibition of members' work juried by Rebecca Hoffberger, the founder of the American Visionary Art Museum in Baltimore. Through May 2. •Alison Safford's installation shows March 13-April 21.

Galleries
FINE ART

Allston Skirt Gallery
119 Braintree St., Allston (254-7027). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm and by appointment. •*Drawing*, which features work by Jill Baroff, Meryl Blinder, Heather Hobler-Keene, Bronlyn Jones and Stefana McClure, is on view through April 29.

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (536-4465). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •Wlodimierz Ksiazek's *New Paintings* shows through March 29.

Andrea Marquit Fine Arts
38 Newbury St., Boston (859-0190). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Wed.-Sat. 11am-5pm. Open by appointment only through February. Shows contemporary masters and emerging artists and acts as a consulting group for corporate and private collectors.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (247-0610). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 11am-5:30pm; Sun. 1-5pm. Representing an eclectic mix of styles, from abstract to super-realist. •*Vestiges* by Ron Ehrlich, shows through March 30.

The Artists Foundation Galleries
516 East Second St., Boston (464-3559). MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. Sat., 12-5pm and by appointment. •In the Main Gallery: *Beat Street Breakdown*, an installation by Terence Hammonds •In the Office Gallery: *Girl Vanity*, an installation by Nina Dunn. •In the Video Room: *Translators*, videos by Jackie Goss. Through April 1.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., 5th Floor, Boston (262-4490). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. Paintings, drawings, prints and sculpture by emerging and established artists. •*Saol LeWitt: Sculpture Gouaches.* Through March 15.

Barton-Ryan Gallery
38 Newbury St., 4th floor, Boston (867-0662). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5:30pm, Sat., 11am-5pm and by appointment. The gallery specializes in American and European works of art by emerging and established artists. •Jacqueline Ott's *murmuring blue...(veiled): Paintings and Works on paper* shows through April 1.

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (482-2477). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. •Heide Fasnacht's *New Sculpture & Drawings* shows March 8-April 1.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm. •*Intuitive Journeys: Artists from Gateway Crafts* shows March 8-April 22.

Bromfield Gallery
560 Harrison Ave., Boston (451-3605). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm. •George Arnold's *Sculpture* shows with Mary Akylas Harman's *Good for Body,* paintings and prints. Through March 25.

Cambridge Art Association
25 Rear Lowell St., Cambridge (876-0246). Tue.-Sat. 11am-5pm., Sun. 1-5pm. A small gallery with a permanent collection of local art. •The next rotating exhibition is *Dreams and Fantasies*, which runs through March 21.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (236-2255). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm. •Gisela Sabóková's *Stepping Through Glass* shows with Darren Carley, emerging artist. March 11-April 1.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (859-7222). Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •Marilyn Ruseckas' *New Pastels*. March 8-April 3.

Child's Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (266-1108). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri. 9am-6pm; Mon. and Sat. 10am-5pm. American and European paintings, prints, drawings and sculpture, from 1500 through 1950. •Three upcoming shows display simultaneously: *Women Artists, The Beauty of Ruins* and *New York Nocturne* show March 13-April 22.

Clark Gallery
145 Lincoln St., Lincoln (781-259-8303). Tue.-Sat. 10am-5pm. The gallery represents 30 artists, primarily regional. Media regularly include glass, ceramics, oil, acrylic on canvas, wood and studio furniture. •Jacqueline Bishop's *Terra* shows with *Metal X Five,*

John J. Enneking's painting show in *American Painters in Venice* at the Richardson-Clark Gallery.

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a group show organized by Jamie Bennett and Alexandra Rozenman's *New Paintings*. Through March 23.

Clifford•Smith Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 3rd Floor, Boston (695-0255). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing, transfer to bus #49, get off at Washington and East Berkeley. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5pm. •Peter Harris' *Lick*, new photographs, shows through March 25.

Copley Society of Boston
158 Newbury St., Boston (536-5049). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat. 10:30am-5:30pm; Sun. 1-5pm. America's oldest non-profit art association is a platform for young and established artists alike. •*The Twelfth Annual Student Show* shows through March 25.

Creiger Dane Gallery
36 Newbury St., Boston (536-8088). www.creigerdane.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm.* •A shared exhibition features *The Far & Away*, the manipulated landscape photography of Boston artist Mary Behrens and *Recent Works*, manipulated photography by Melissa Zexter. Through March 25.

Crystal Fine Art
93 Summer St., Suite 4L, Boston (728-9818). www.crystalfineart.com. *MBTA: Red and Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Tue.-Fri. 11am-6pm.* A multicultural gallery that regularly displays the work of national, international and local artists. •*Wood Icons of Religious Figures and Paintings of Erotic Figures* by Viktor Anufriev shows along with the four other artists' works. Throughout March.

Dyansen Gallery
132 A Newbury St., Boston (262-4800). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. You'll always find paintings, bronzes and fine art prints. Collections include Rembrandt, Picasso, Chagall, Miro, Dali, Cassatt, Snowden and more. •The gallery displays their ongoing collection.

Eclipse Gallery
167 Newbury St., Boston (247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9am-6pm. •*Paintings from Colombia* shows through April 1.

Elias Fine Arts
120 Braintree St., Brighton (783-1888). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. •*Christian Boltanski: Favorite Objects*, 264 photographic prints of the favorite objects of Chicago school children. Through April 29.

Gallery Bershad
99 Dover St., Somerville (629-9400 ex.3). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Wed., Thu., Sun., 12-6pm; Fri. and Sat. 12-8pm. •The steel sculpture of Peter Richards and mixed media constructions of Karen Boutelle show through March 13. •Matthias Lupri on vibraphone with his Quintet performs mainstream as well as contemporary jazz March 9, 7pm.

Gallery NAGA
67 Newbury St., Boston (267-9060). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. Paintings, studio furniture, sculpture, photography and holography. •Cheryl Warrick's *New Work* shows through April 1.

Gibbs Gallery
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm. •*Females You Can Only Imagine*, paintings and sculpture by Joan Baldwin and Mary Craig McLane, shows through March 24.

Gurari Collections
91 Charles St., Boston (367-9800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington or Red Line to Charles MGH. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. This gallery has an impressive collection of 16th- to early 20th-century etchings, engravings and drawings of architecture and urbanism, classical figures, antiquarian fantasies and unusual objects. Also showing the work of Wendy Artin, an artist living in Rome. Ongoing.

Guild of Boston Artists
162 Newbury St., Boston (536-7660). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri. 9:30am-4:30pm; Sat. 10am-5pm. Established in 1914 as a traditional non-profit art gallery, the guild aims to keep traditional art open for the public. •Selections from the Permanent Collection of the Rockport Art Association shows through April 1.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St. Boston (536-6339). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 10am-6pm; Sat. 10am-5pm. •Assortment of 18th- and 19th-century historic and decorative antique engravings and lithographs.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (262-0550). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. www.hyg.com. •*Ridley Howard: Palace Court Series* shows with *Frank Noelker: Zoo Pictures* through March 28.

Hurst Gallery
53 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (491-6888). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sat. 12-6pm. Thu, 12-7pm. Visitors are greeted with art and artifacts from six continents. •*Abstract Treasures: African Currencies*, shows through April 30.

Crime of the Century

A new exhibit at the Boston Public Library commemorates the 50th anniversary of one of the city's biggest attempted money heists—the robbery of America's largest money mover, Brink Inc. Bandits looted more than $2.5 million from the Boston offices during the Brinks Job. The exhibit reveals the sordid crime scene photographs, original courtroom sketches and newspaper headlines, chronicling the robbery, police investigation, trial and eventual confessions. It also includes several photographs from the files of the *Boston Herald-Traveler* Photo Morgue. *Visitors can see the collection Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm at the BPL's Wiggin Gallery balcony through the end of this year.*

Hynes Convention Center
South Rotunda Gallery 900 Boylston St., Boston (954-2000). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center. •*The Culture of Today*, a photographic exhibition by Robert W. Castagna, shows through March 31.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (375-0076). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. The gallery's exhibition features a wide variety of vintage posters from Europe and Russia.

Judy Ann Goldman
14 Newbury St., Boston (424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. Call for an appointment. The gallery regularly displays paintings, sculpture and works on paper by gallery artists.

Kingdom Fine Arts
173 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1997). MBTA: Green Line to Symphony. Tue.-Sat. 11am-7pm. •The gallery will be closed in March.

Kougeas Gallery
88 White St., Boston (569-9317). MBTA: Blue Line to Maverick Square. Thurs.-Sat. 2-6pm and by appointment. This art gallery in the neighborhood of East Boston features realist and illusionistic fine art. •*Explicit, part two* is comprised of 18 photographs, 13 paintings and nine works on paper in various media. Through April 1.

Mercury Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (859-0054). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm. Specializes in American and European figurative expressionism. •*Urban Landscape*, a group show, is on display through April 15.

Mobius
354 Congress St., Boston (542-7416). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm. An artist-run group known for a wide range of arts. •*Taking Liberty/Usvajanje Slobode*, a cultural exchange between eight members of the Mobius Artists Group and eight artists form Istria, Croatia, takes place at various venues around the city. See it at Mobius March 29-April 15.

MPG
285 Newbury St., Boston (437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •*Tell Me A Story: Narrative Painting* by Pat Lowery Collins, John Keefer and Thomas A.D. Watson. March 10-April 3.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). Mon.-Thu. 9am-9pm; Fri., 9am-5pm ; Sat., 9am-5pm and Sun. 12-5pm. •*Spring Flower Show*, the color photographs of Cheryl Renée Sacks, shows through March 31.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm.* Founded in 1964. •The current exhibition is Harvey Quaytman's recent paintings and Brenda Goodman's paintings. Through March 25.

Out of the Blue Gallery
168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun., 12-7pm. This artist-owned and-operated gallery always has a variety of interesting artwork up and art-related events going on. •Poetry readings take place every Saturday and the gallery hosts jazz every Wednesday.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (236-4497). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. •Howard Silberthau's abstract paintings show through Feb 26. •*Ben Frank Moss: Visionary Enchantments*, abstract oil paintings on paper, shows through April 1.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (267-9473). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun. 1pm-5pm. •Samuel Bak's work, *The Game Continues*, through March 1. •Jim Schantz's work shows through April 1.

Qingping Gallery Teahouse
216 Newbury St., Boston (236-4846). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open every day, 9am-12am. This authentic Chinese teahouse—and the only local gallery to focus solely on art from China—specializes in avant-garde and contemporary antiques, teapots and furniture.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (266-3321). www.richardson-clarke.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tues.-Sat. 10am-5pm.* •American and European 19th- and 20th-century paintings, drawings and sculpture. Ongoing. •*American Painters in Venice* shows through April 30.

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (437-1518). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm. •Christina Keating's work shows through March 25.

Barbara Singer Gallery
18 Sparks St., Cambridge (491-5525). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.barbarasingerfineart.com. *Sat. 1-4pm and by appointment.* •The work of Robert Kelly, *Gouaches and Monotypes*, shows through April 1.

Space 12 Gallery
12 Union Park St., Boston (423-9760). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed. 6-9pm; Thu.-Sat. 1-5pm. •The next rotating exhibition begins March 8.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (450-0321). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. Artist William St. George displays his lush and colorful interpretations of Boston cityscapes, bold equestrian scenes and semi-abstract works at his recently opened gallery. •Now showing *Working Artist and Easel*, William St. George's oil paintings.

A Touch of France
173 Newbury St., Boston (247-6966). MBTA: Green line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-7pm; Sun., 12-6pm. This gallery imports contemporary French artists' works, including paintings from famous French painters: M. Tigrane, R. Kefflin, C. Ferrer and striking dried flower arrangements made near Saint Tropez.

Via Gallery
83 Newbury St., 2nd Floor (424-6200). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri. 10am-4pm. •Owen Hartford's *Treescapes*, a collection of black-and-white photography, explores the world of trees and light. Through March 24.

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (536-6176). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 8am-5:30pm; Sat. 9am-4pm. Run by twin brothers Bill and Terry Vose, the gallery specializes in American paintings. •A *Winter Exhibition* of paintings from their regular collection shows throughout March.

Zeitgeist Gallery
312 Broadway St., Cambridge (876-2182). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu.-Sun., 2pm-7pm. •The gallery displays a variety of local artists' work.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2051). Tues.-Sat. 11am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm; Closed Mondays. The Multiple is a gallery investigation that explores works of art produced more than once. Ongoing.

Gallery One
537 Comm. Ave., Boston (437-1868). Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm. Affiliated with the New England School of Photography. A gallery devoted to displaying photography of Boston artists. •Lou Kipnis' *Southwest Light*, a series of black-and-white landscape photographs, shows through March 24.

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (423-4299). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Fri., 10am-3pm; Sat., 12-5pm. •*Taking Liberty/Usvajanje Slobode*, a cultural exchange between wight members of the Mobius Artists Group and eight artists form Istria, Croatia, takes place at various venues around the city. See it here March 10-April 14.

Panopticon Gallery
187 Bay State Rd., Boston (267-8929). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford. Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm. This gallery offers fine art photographic prints and media licensing of images for print, video and stock photography.

Photographic Resource Center
602 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (353-0700). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford. Tue.-Sun., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-8pm. •*Photography in Human Experience* features photographs dating from the 1860s to the 1920s. Through April 28. •Photojournalist James Nachtwey presents a lecture/slide presentation and will discuss his new book, *Inferno*, March 8, 6pm, $5.

CRAFTS

Cambridge Artists Cooperative
59A Church St., Cambridge (868-4434). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; 10am-8pm; Sun. 1-6pm. Twelve artists own and operate this gallery which features 2D design and jewelry.

Clayground
91 Hampshire St., Cambridge (661-7376). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 12-6pm; Sat. 11am-5pm. Porcelain and stone objects galore. Classes are usually available.

Fresh Pond Clay Works
368 Huron Ave., Cambridge (492-1907). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard to Bus 72. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm. A wide range of firing techniques, from terracotta to porcelain.

Gateway Gallery
62 Harvard St., Brookline Village, Brookline (734-1577). MBTA: C Green Line to Brookline Village. Mon.-Sat., 11am-6pm. This non-profit gallery features all sorts of arts and crafts.

Infinity Gallery
24 Union Park St., Boston (423-5555). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat 11am-7pm; Sun 11am-6pm. This small gallery features Wayne Fuerst's work.

Shake the Tree Gallery
218 Washington St., Brookline (739-3505). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm; Sun. 12-4pm. The store features a mix of handmade crafts including jewelry and glass works.

Signature Gallery
Dock Square, Boston (227-4885). Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Thu., 10am-7pm; Fri. and Sat., 10am-9pm; Sun., 12-6pm. Pottery, metal and glass works.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (266-1810). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm; Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. •*International Alternative Jewelry* shows through April 30. •*Drawing the Lines: Selections from Jewelers' Sketchbooks* shows through April 28.

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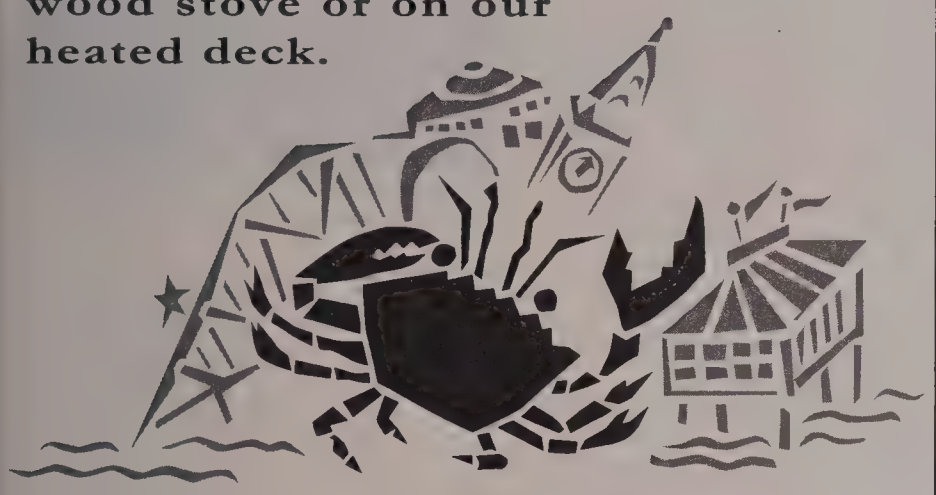

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OLD HABITS DIE HARD

Jim Jarmusch reveals an inspired tale....very slowly.

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Jim Jarmusch's movies have always been a struggle between inspiration and affectation, the result often being frustration. The staunchly independent writer-director has no problem coming up with eclectic stories and colorful characters situated on the fringes of society. But such deadpan stories and emotional detachment has sometimes made them feel naggingly slow. In his better movies, like *Mystery Train* and *Down by Law*, there's been enough "business" going on to emotionally pull in the viewer and not strand the characters in studied storytelling.

Jarmusch's *Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai*, about a lone-wolf hitman (Forest Whitaker) who lives by ancient Japanese warrior codes, is among his best. It still has a frustrating last half-hour, when it insists on showing things it has so blatantly foreshadowed that such explicitness is unnecessary. But even if the resolution sags, *Ghost Dog* is a pleasing stew of arrestingly soft-spoken acting by Whitaker, wiseguy comedy, mood-enhancing music (by Wu-Tang Clan's The RZA) and the script's look at the uneasy relationship between old-school spirituality and our new-millennium world. Again, Jarmusch puts an outsider in the center. We first see Ghost Dog, who is never referred to by any given name, reading the 18th-century Japanese warrior's handbook, *Hagakure: The Book of the Samurai*, in the shack he lives in on the roof of an apartment building, next to the coops of the pigeons he keeps. Soaking up samurai-code aphorisms and literally living on the edge of society, this guy's whole being is something of a stealth existence. After his initial reading session he heads out in the night, all in black, steals a black luxury car, and kills a mobster with an invisibility of motion to match that of his appearance.

It turns out Ghost Dog has been carrying out hits for the mob when they need an outsider to kill one of their own. Since he was rescued from a beating by low-level hood Louis (John Tormey) years earlier, Ghost Dog has considered himself the retainer of the wise guy, obeying orders and communicating with his master via carrier pigeon. But the hit we see is witnessed by the local mob boss (Henry Silva) and his daughter (Tricia Vessey). Thinking this makes the organization look bad, the boss orders Ghost Dog killed, despite the fact even Louis doesn't know exactly who or where he is.

Like Ghost Dog, the middle-aged mobsters are anachronistic tribesmen, albeit in a more comic way. A sort of gang that couldn't shoot straight, they're mentally behind the times and can usually be found watching cartoons (they're also financially hurting, a running gag being the "For Sale" signs on all their houses). But it's the shared sense of ritualistic honor that bonds Louis and Ghost Dog when the mob starts hunting for the hitman. When Louis tips him off, Ghost Dog realizes he has to strike back, and in one of the more memorable scenes he slithers into the mob boss' country estate and, silencer-equipped gun in each hand, gracefully starts popping away at the men who've been after him.

Of course, the notion of a contemporary hit man who lives like a warrior is nothing new, with such foreign films as Jean-Pierre Melville's *Le Samourai* and John Woo's *The Killer* mining similar territory. But there are plenty of distinctive touches to this version, like the black protagonist (which makes the movie something of a racial parable), The RZA's trip-hoppy score, and Jarmusch's fondness for outsiders, who also come in the form of an ice cream vendor who speaks only French (Isaach de Bankole) and a Mafia daughter who couldn't care less about the mob. More background about how Ghost Dog picked up his Asian ways might have made our attachment to him even stronger, though. iB

Forest Whitaker is a sword-weilding hitman living by ancient Japanese warrior codes in *Ghost Dog: the Way of the Samurai.*

Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai ★★★

Written and directed by Jim Jarmusch.
With Forest Whitaker and John Tormey. Rated R.
Artisan Entertainment.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Kirk Douglas plays a post-stroke grandfather in the feel-good film, *Diamonds.*

American Beauty ★★
What if a studio movie co-opted the corrosive America of independent movies like *Happiness, The Ice Storm* and *Your Friends and Neighbors*? This story of two imploding families—one permissive (dad Kevin Spacey, mom Annette Bening, teen daughter Thora Birch), one authoritarian (dad Chris Cooper, mom Allison Janney, teen son Wes Bentley)—does. Like those movies, it's an ensemble in which nearly everyone is a jerk, and the contempt the movie sometimes shows for its characters makes it hard to emotionally invest yourself in them. It's admirable this attacks suburban complacency instead of celebrating it, as many mainstream movies do. But it's the cinematic equivalent of a "Mean People Suck" bumper sticker on a SUV.

The Beach ★★
The long-awaited collaboration matching the *Trainspotting* team of director Danny Boyle and screenwriter John Hodge with Leonardo DiCaprio turns out to be a soggy exercise in human nature. The actor plays a disenchanted American who's come to Thailand to forget about life back home. When he hears about this legendary, remote beach, he convinces a French couple (Virginie Ledoyen, Guillaume Canet) to trek there with him, and the community of outcasts turns out to be the paradise they'd imagined. But the more time they spend there, and the more time past misdeeds and human nature catch up with them, the more Leonardo and friends realize the beach is also a place of denial. In the end, this film with an interminable amount of narration just turns out to be the latest in the undistinguished line of movies about westerners having a bad time in the Third World.

Beautiful People ★½
If ever a movie were designed to play in Cambridge, this English import with a "war refugees are people, too" message is it. Stylistically, first-time director Jasmin Dizdar seems to be after a mix of Robert (*Short Cuts*) Altman's panoramic ensembles and Emir (*Underground*) Kusturica's anarchy amid political upheaval. But the plodding opening half-hour, which introduces a number of Londoners and now-relocated former Yugoslavians, is a hole from which few movies could extricate themselves, and the humanistic messages played out through the occasionally-moving intermingling and bonding of those characters are ridiculously transparent and toothless.

Boiler Room ★★★
Giovanni Ribisi of *Saving Private Ryan* and *subUrbia* makes a flawed yet appealing everyman in this look at the dark side of the bullish stock market. He plays a trainee at an aggressive brokerage who gradually discovers the IPOs he's pushing customers into are bogus stocks set up solely to exploit people's greed. Although Ribisi's character's unresolved relationship with his hard-to-please dad (Ron Rifkin) is sometimes forced and this lacks the maturity of a *Glengarry Glen Ross*, writer-director Ben Younger presents an often chilling look at the avaricious sons of Gordon Gekko who infest the brokerage industry, including characters played by Ben Affleck, Vin Diesel and Nicky Katt.

Diamonds ★
The thrill of seeing Kirk Douglas onscreen after several years, and after his stroke, quickly vanishes in this astonishingly cartoonish, horrendously-written piece of hogwash. The story of an elderly, post-stroke grandfather (Douglas), an uptight middle-aged son (Dan Aykroyd) and teen grandson (Corbin Allred) who hit the road together and bond is an irritating blend of Hallmark Hall of Fame mawkishness and sitcom silliness, "peaking" during the sequence in which the three generations of men go to a brothel to-

DOG: ABBOT GENSER, DIAMONDS: MELISSA MOSELEY

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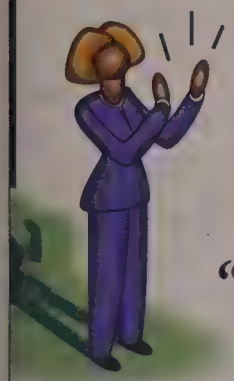

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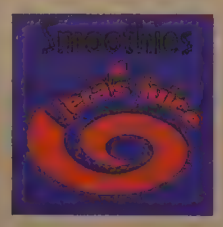

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gether and have really *meaningful* experiences with hookers. To make things worse, this embarrassment apparently rips off Joel Meyerowitz's genuinely moving documentary *Pop*, in which he roadtripped with his ailing dad and his son.

The Emperor and the Assassin ★★★½
This splendid Chinese historical epic from director Chen (*Farewell, My Concubine*) Kaige evokes both Akira Kurosawa's samurai movies and William Shakespeare's tragedies. Based on the real exploits of a 220 BC warlord (Li Xuejian) who believed it was his mission to unite China's seven kingdoms, it's a story of power and ego run amok. As equally fascinating as this Nixonian leader is the other titular character, a swordsman (Zhang Fengyi) and retired hitman who's persuaded to try to kill the ruthless ruler after falling for the emperor's one-time lover (Gong Li), who now wants him stopped. Full of visual splendor, haunting images and grand themes.

Nightmare Alley ★★★
The dog-eat-dog, shadowy world of film noir goes to the carnival in this pungent 1947 thriller, a reissue of which plays at the Brattle Theater March 10 and 11. Tyrone Power plays the success-craving carny who learns the secrets to a mind-reading scam and makes a fortune, before fate thumps him with a particularly lurid come-uppance. This is one rise-and-fall movie you feel in your gut, with melancholy just dripping from the high-contrast black-and-white cinematography.

The Ninth Gate ★★
It's slow and it makes little sense, yet for much of the way director Roman Polanski and star Johnny Depp make this a mildly involving, old-school thriller about a rare-book dealer who's asked to authenticate a medieval tome supposedly written in collaboration with the devil. When the New Yorker travels to Europe to compare his client's copy with the other two still in existence, he finds his life and the lives of those he talks to suddenly endangered. Depp's typically credible performance bolsters the *Maltese-Falcon*-meets-*Rosemary's Baby* mix, yet ultimately the prince-of-darkness story behind the book is just too much gibberish to hold the movie together.

Reindeer Games ★★
Credibility is almost non-existent as the neo-noir and the heist-gone-wrong movie collide in John Frankenheimer's latest. Ben Affleck stars as a just-released convict who tells his just-killed cellmate's dishy pen pal girlfriend (Charlize Theron) he's her man. Trouble is her gun-toting trucker brother (Gary Sinise) wants Affleck to help him rob the casino where his cellmate used to work. Rather than accumulate any actual suspense or sense of danger, this movie just goes for piling on one plot twist after another, to the point that nothing matters. And, too often, it's the sort of thriller that depends on too many people doing too many stupid things.

Scream 3 ★★½
The first *Scream* had great fun playing with the conventions of the fright film, but its first sequel was guilty of every lame sequel ploy it supposedly was spoofing. This final installment, the first not to be written by creator Kevin Williamson, is better than its most recent predecessor and contains some laughs, but is still pretty forgettable. After all, it gives us the lazy writer's default horror plot—people making a horror movie getting killed off one-by-one. In any case, the remaining original characters played by Neve Campbell, Courteney Cox Arquette and David Arquette are pretty spent, but Parker Posey and Jenny McCarthy fortunately inject some life this time.

The Tigger Movie ★★★½
Comeback movie of the year. After all the cheesy videos Disney has put the Winnie the Pooh characters in over the last decade, it's hard to imagine Pooh, Tigger, Eeyore, Piglet and all the rest would actually get to be in a theatrical feature that can stand alongside the classic '60s Pooh shorts. With an impressively substantial script in which Tigger searches for his family, songs by Disney veterans the Richard and Robert Sherman and pleasingly detailed animation, this is it. Fun for all ages, and sure to be a perennial favorite.

Wonder Boys ★★★
For once, Michael Douglas does not play the most together, focused person in a movie, and it's a refreshing change. Here, he's a dissipated novelist and writing professor whose marriage has just imploded, who's having an affair with his department head's wife (Frances McDormand), whose latest novel is years overdue and who finds himself overly involved in the lives of students like those played by Tobey Maguire and Katie Holmes. Curtis Hanson's first film since *LA Confidential* is a mature story of the messiness of everyday life, with vividly-drawn characters, a very able cast and spry dialogue by screenwriter Steve Kloves (*The Fabulous Baker Boys*), who adapted Michael Chabon's novel.

Ben Affleck and Giovanni Ribisi get into the dark side of the stock broking biz in *Boiler Room*.

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Cinemas
214 Harvard Ave. (277-2140). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
Trapelo Rd. (484-1706). Red Line to Harvard, 73 bus.

BOSTON

Boston Film • Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (536-1540). Green Line to Hynes.
Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (536-5400). Green Line to Copley.
Cheri
50 Dalton St. (536-2870). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.
Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.
Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.
Museum Of Science, Omni Theater
Science Park (723-2500). Green Line to Science Park.
Nickelodeon
606 Comm. Ave. (424-1500). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford St.
Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle.
Coolidge Corner
290 Harvard St. (734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theater
40 Brattle St. (876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.
Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (495-4700). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.
Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Sq. (494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.
Loews/Sony Theater
10 Church St. (864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Sq.
Somerville Theater
55 Davis Sq. (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston. (277-2500). B Green Line to Chestnut Hill.
West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (964-6060).

Alternatives & Revivals

Advice to Contributors
Submit film listings by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*
Advice to Readers
Although film listings are correct at the time of publication, they are subject to change. Doublecheck showtimes by calling the theater or 333-FILM.

Boston Public Library

The New Irish Cinema
•March 13, 6pm **Michael Collins** *1996.* Liam Neeson portrays the heroic IRA leader Michael Collins, who fought the British to free Ireland from its empire.
•March 20, 6pm **The Butcher Boy** *1997.* The life of a young boy collapses after his parents die and his friend goes to boarding school. Left alone in an adult world, he becomes bitter, deranged and increasingly hostile.

Brattle Theater

Most shows are $7, including double features.
Special Engagements—Fridays and Saturdays
•March 10 and 11 **Nightmare Alley** *1947.* This highly original melodramatic look at carnival life is followed by the late show, **Cartoon Noir**.
•March 17 and 18 **Cradle Will Rock** *1999.* Set in 1930s New York, a man tries to stage a musical on a steel strike despite pressure from an establishment fearful of industrial unrest and communist activity.
•March 17 and 18 **Citizen Kane** *1941.* Don't miss the chance to see the big screen version of this film, regarded as one of the best films of all time. Plotwise, it is the fascinating story of a publisher's rise to power.
•March 17 and 18 **The Trial** *1963.* Orson Welles' cinematic adaptation tells the disturbing tale of a man in an unnamed country, arrested for a mysterious crime.
Paramount Parade—Sundays
•March 12 **Nashville** *1975.* This is a montage of American life as seen through the eyes of 24 different people at a Nashville political rally.
•March 19 **Chinatown** *1974.* This bizarre mystery is set in the 1930s and stars Jack Nicholson. It shows with the equally eerie **Rosemary's Baby** *1968*, a classic modern-day thriller of an unsuspecting young wife and her husband.
The Lady Thrillers—Mondays
•March 13 **American Friend** *1977.* In this film, a young German picture-framer is hired to assassinate a mobster. Also showing is **Don't Look Now** *1973*, a film about the parents of a drowned child and their horrific trip to Venice.
•March 20 **The Birds** (new 35mm print) *1963.* A Hitchcock classic, this is about a woman and massive bird attacks that follow her throughout an isolated California community.
Celluloid Passport—Tuesdays
•March 14 **Buena Vista Social Club** *1999.* Wim Wenders' documentary was inspired by the best-selling and Grammy-winning Cuban album collaboration that Ry Cooder gathered together in '96.
•March 21 **Latcho Drom** *1994.* A cast of Gypsy musicians from around the world orchestrates a sound-and-image symphony depicting their nomadic culture as the Rom people.
Recent Raves—Wednesdays
•March 8 **Being John Malkovich** *1999.* A puppeteer discovers a door in his office that allows him to enter the mind and life of John Malkovich for 15 minutes, and a hilariously bizarre tale unfolds.
•March 8 **Three Kings** *1999.* In the aftermath of the Gulf War, four soldiers set out to steal gold that was stolen from Kuwait—and they discover people who need their help along the way. One of the surprise critically acclaimed hits of last year.
•March 15 **Straight Story** *1999.* A 73-year-old man undertakes an unusual journey from Iowa to Wisconsin to mend his relationship with his ill, estranged 75-year-old brother—all on his tractor.
All About Almodovar—Thursdays
•March 9 **Law of Desire** *1987.* This hilarious comedy is about a gay love triangle, with equal doses of passion, sex, fantasy and tragedy.
•March 16 **Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown** *1988.* A witty comedy about an actress and how she reacts once her long time love abandons her.
•March 16 **Dark Habits** *1983* Singer Pascual takes it on the lam after her lover overdoses and finds herself in a wacky convent.

Coolidge Corner Theater

Call ahead for a complete list of films and showtimes.
Feature Engagements
•Through mid-March **The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg** *1999.* Director Aviva Kempner gives a heartfelt tribute to baseball Hall-of-Famer Hank Greenberg, chronicling Greenberg's accomplishments during his years with the Detroit Tigers.
Coolidge Special Series
•Fridays through May **Coolidge Shorts**. A collection of short films by New England artists precede the evening's features. Upcoming films include independent filmmaker Hillary Weisman's **Sex Without Love**, and Alexander Rose's **Bill vs. The City**.

Harvard Film Archive

Films by Harmony Korine
•March 10-12, 7pm **Julien Donkey-Boy** *1999.* A string of grotesqueries set in Queens, where a schizophrenic lives with his pregnant sister, estranged father, athlete brother and grandmother.
•March 10, 10pm; March 11 and 12, 9pm **Gummo** *1997.* After a tornado destroyed the real-life deadbeat town of Xenia, Ohio, all that was left was the town's human wreckage. This film follows local teens as they turn to violence and sexual perversion.
The Power and Images of Illusion
•March 14, 9pm **The Broken Jug** *1937.* Adapted from Kleist's classical play, the film revolves around a judge's attempts to conceal his drunken midnight ramblings. Directed by Gustav Ucicky and Emil Jannings.
•March 20, 9pm **Germany Awake** *1968.* This is a documentary about the German motion picture industry and its use as a tool for propaganda. Directed by Erwin Leiser.
Italian Cinema
•March 8, 6:30pm **The Eclipse** *1962.* In this final installment of the trilogy that began with *L'Aventura* and *La Notte*, Director Michaelangelo Antonion once again presents the story of a middle-class couple in crisis.
•March 14-15, 6:30pm **The Red Desert** *1964.* Vitti, the traumatized heroine of the film, is in desperate search for love even though she is already married. Directed by Antonioni.
•March 21, 6:30pm **Mamma Roma** *1962.* This study of the sub-proletariat of Rome is directed by Pier Paolo Pasolini.
The Films of Daniel Schmid
•March 17 and 18, 7pm **The Last Days of Switzerland** *1999.* The film uses wickedly black humor to take aim at Swiss high society.

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•March 17, 9:30pm **Tosca's Kiss** *1984.* This is a playful and poignant documentary of Casa Verdi, the Milanese retirement home for opera stars founded in 1902.
•March 18, 9:30pm **Shadow of Angels** *1976.* Based on the play *The Garbage, the City and Death*, this story introduces a streetwalker in Frankfurt who is having trouble making ends meet until she falls into the company of a Jewish businessman who opens her eyes.
•March 19, 6pm **La Paloma** *1974.* Set in the cabaret world of 1930s Europe, this film is a portrait of a lady singer who seems destined to end her life as unhappily as she lived it...until she gets married.
•March 19, 8:15pm **Off Season** *1992.* Schmid reflects on childhood and life during the years he lived in an Alpine hotel run by his mother and grandmother.

Premieres

•March 12, 4pm **Ben Shahn's Cinematic World** This free screening recreates a typical 1930s film viewing, including a period newsreel, a coming attraction trailer and a black-and-white cartoon followed by King Vidor's **Our Daily Bread** *1934*, an American cinematic masterpiece of the period.
•March 16, 7pm **Always a Bridesmaid** *2000.* Directed by Nina Davenport, this is a first-person view of the complicated life of a young wedding videographer burdened by an overwhelming dread of never getting hitched herself.

Seance Screenings

•March 8, 9pm **Film Portrait** *1970.* This film utilizes an array of techniques that defined American experimental cinema to summarize director Jerome Hill's life.
•March 8, 9pm **JLG/JLG** *1994.* In this film, director Jean-Luc Godard portrays his place in film history, the interaction of the film industry and film with art, and the act of creating art itself.
•March 13, 9:15pm; March 15, 9pm **Cassandra Cat** *1963.* A modern fairy tale, the story takes place in a small Czech town that is suddenly visited by an old magician, his beautiful assistant and a magical cat. Directed by Vojtech Jasny.

Topics in Film: Five Directors (Part II)

•March 13, 7pm **Days and Nights in the Forest** *1969.* Four young men spend their country holiday in an unused bungalow where they come into contact with all sorts of people before returning to their urban existence. Directed by Satyajit Ray.
•March 20, 7pm **Breathless** *1959.* Set in the 1950s, this film presents a story of boy-meets-girl animated by myths of innocence abroad and of the alienated gangster of B-movies. Directed by Jean-Luc Godard.

Museum of Fine Arts

Most film screenings are $6.

Boston Film Artists Encores

•March 11, 10:30am **Once Removed** *1999.* Filmmaker Julia Mallozzi travels to China to meet her family after a 50-year separation and is faced with remembering the past.

Director of the Decade: Hou Hsiao-Hsien

•March 10, 7:45pm **Goodbye South, Goodbye** *1996.* A socio-politically themed movie with plenty of violence and corruption.
•March 11, 3:30pm **Puppetmaster** *1993.* Li Tienlu joins a traveling puppet theater and subsequently becomes one of Taiwan's leading puppeteers.
•March 17, 8pm **Daughter of the Nile** *1987.* Taiwanese singer Yang Lin stars as a young woman in a struggle for survival with her burglar brother.
•March 18, 10:30am **The Sandwich Man** *1983.* Based on three short stories by Huang Chunming, this film sketches a sandwich-board man's meager existence in a small country town.
•March 18, 12:45pm **City of Sadness** *1989.* Martial law in China is seen through the eyes of a trio including the family patriarch and the sister of one brother's friend.

Films of Ernie Gehr

These short films range from 9-41 minutes.
•March 16, 6pm **Side-Walk-Shuttle** 1991. An exploration of San Francisco's streets and a reflection on a lifetime of displacement. **Shift** *1972-74.* A mechanical and surreal dance of cars and and trucks on a three-lane street. **This Side of Paradise** *1991.* The desperate transactions of new refugees at a so-called Polish market in pre-unified Berlin. **Rear Window** *1986-91.* A sublimation of the voyeurism in Hitchcock's films welcomes ambiguous patterns as discernible forms.

Films of George Kuchar

These short films range from 15-30 minutes.
•March 9, 6pm **Hold Me While I'm Naked** *1966.* A look at sexual frustration and loneliness. **Celestial Cravings** *2000.* People look into the future before the new millennium dawns. **Chigger Country** *1999.* A slice of Americana filled with lots of country cooking. **Culinary Linkage** *1999.* Meat fries in the pans as aspirations boil over in summer-heated car lots.

Films by Max Ophuls

•March 11, 12pm **Liebelei** *1932.* A love affair set in Vienna in the beginning of the 20th century.
•March 10, 6pm; March 11, 1:40pm **Le Plaisir** *1952.* Three stories about pleasure and youth, pleasure and purity , and pleasure and death.
•March 16, 8pm **The Earrings of Madame De...** *1953.* Set in Paris during the early 19th century, this film details the events that unravel after fickle Darrieux pawns the earrings presented her by husband Boyer.
•March 17, 6pm **The Exile** *1947.* A swashbuckler and exiled king fall in love with a common girl.
•March 18, 3:45pm **Lola Montes** *1955.* The tragic story of the life of great adventurer Lola Montes.

Museum of Science

Screened daily at the Omni Theatre. Call ahead for times.
•Through March. **Mysteries of Egypt**. Explore the secrets of the civilization that built a fascinating empire. This *National Geographic* film brings ancient Egypt to life with aerial views of pyramids, sweeping panoramas of the Nile and the treasures of ancient royalty.

The Classic Film Series

All films except the double feature are $6. *The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400).*
•March 20 **Cleopatra** *1963.* Representing the spirit of community collaboration as part of a citywide celebration of Egypt. Starring Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton. *Young At Arts* Egypt exhibition that evening.

Shooting Gallery Series

Loews Nickelodeon and Loews Natick.
•March 10 **Orphans**. Three egocentric brothers and their fragile sister mourn their mother's death and explore the limits of sin and forgiveness in the town of Glasgow.

Special Events

Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Yard, 10 Garden Street, Cambridge (495-8647). MBTA: Red line to Harvard. 7pm. Free admission.
•March 8 **The Willmar 8**. Lee Grant's Academy Award-nominated documentary is the story of eight apolitical women in Willmar, Minnesota who become engaged in the struggle for women's rights to combat sex discrimination at work.

Kevin Spacey looks for meaning in life and looks to *American Beauty* Mena Suvari.

education

Advice to Contributors

Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Education. Or e-mail information to education@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

CLASSES/LECTURES

Wednesday, March 8

Behind the Screen

Mass. Interactive Media Council, 201 South St., 2nd Floor, Boston (227-2822). Free. What types of advertising really work on the Internet? Find out with this behind-the-scenes look at **HookMedia**, a technology-based Internet services firm that provides interactive marketing solutions to advertisers nationwide.

Cartographies of Desire

Cambridge Forum, The First Parish, 3 Church St., Cambridge (495-2727). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. Free. **Rebecca Faery**, director of the writing program at MIT, explores the ways that race and sex have influenced American identity, using evidence from the captivity narratives written by colonial and pioneer women.

Issues for Writers in the New Millennium

The People's Law School Seminar Series, Boston Public Library, Mezzanine Conference Room, Boston (536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 12-1pm. Free. **Howard Zaharoff Esq**. discusses the big issues in copyright and publshing law that will confront writers in the new millennium, from electronic database rights and globalization to the effects of print-on-demand, e-books and other new technologies.

Mini Medical School

BU School of Management Auditorium, 595 Comm. Ave., Boston (638-5665). www.si.edu/tsa/national-outreach/mini-med.html. MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Eight Wednesdays, 6-8pm. $80. Have you ever thought about attending medical school but didn't want to spend thousands of dollars for tuition? This mini-medical school will introduce participants to the practice of medicine and the human body. Subjects to be discussed include anatomy, neurological and cardiovascular systems, new medical developments, cancer treatments and gene discovery.

Native American Lecture

Gutman Conference Center, Gutman Library, Appian Way, Cambridge (495-4923). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. Harvard Law School professor **N. Bruce Duthu** will give this lecture on "Judicial Pilots: The Discourse of Indigenous Rights in the Highest Courts of Australia and the US."

Orchids: A Story of Seduction

Geological Lecture Hall, 24 Oxford St., Cambridge (496-8204). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free. Join the keeper of Harvard's herbarium and scientific advisor for the *Orchids: A Story of Seduction* exhibition, **Gustavo Romero**, for a talk on orchids distilled from his years of research at Harvard and in South America.

Thursday, March 9

HIV: Optimizing Your Options

Dorothy Quincy Suite, 200 Berkeley St., Boston (566-4004). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6:30-8:30pm. Free. This open forum will provide an opportunity for the public to learn more about the latest HIV therapies, programs in development and news from recent national scientific meetings and conferences. Panelists include **Calvin Cohen, M.D.** of Community Research Initiative, **Kenneth Mayer, M.D.** of Fenway Community Health Center, and **Mike Immel** of HIV Health Program, AIDS Action Committee.

Women's Health Forum

YWCA Boston, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (556-YWCA). 8:30am-2pm. $25. South Africa's ambassador **Sheila Violet Makate Sisulu** and women's health professionals will explore opportunities and challenges in providing comprehensive health care for women. Topics for discussion include violence against women, mental health, outreach and education, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS.

Tuesday, March 14

Debating Campaign Finance Reform

Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (929-4571). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. 5:30-7pm. Join in the spirited debate about the reform of our system of financing political campaigns with pro-reform activists **John Bonifaz**, director of the National Voting Rights Institute, and **Carrie Bolton**, civil rights activists with Democracy South, and opponents of the proposed legislation, **Wendy Kaminer**, policy fellow at the Radcliffe Institute, and **James Bopp Jr.**, noted litigator who represents the National Right to Life Committee and the Christian Coalition.

Rebecca Faery speaks about her book, *Cartographies of Desire*, March 8 at the Cambridge Forum.

Wednesday, March 15

Boston in 2000 and Beyond

Goulston & Storrs, 400 Atlantic Ave., Boston (426-1885). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. 12pm. $15. How will Boston evolve in the 21st century? Join Historic Neighborhoods noon seminar series to explore the important developments taking place onthe cusp of this new era. •March 15: The Druker Company and architects Machado and Silvetti Associates will present plans for the Boston Center for the Arts redevelopment, a mixed use complex including performance theaters, retail and residential space.

Free Software and Freedom

Cambridge Forum, The First Parish, 3 Church St., Cambridge (495-2727). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. Free. **Richard Stallman**, founder and president of the Free Software Foundation, discusses the implications for society in the information age of current copyright and patent policies.

Rights and Responsibilities in the Workplace

The People's Law School Seminar Series, Boston Public Library, Mezzanine Conference Room, Boston (536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 12-1pm. Free. Intended for employers as well as employees, this seminar by attorneys **Charles E. Walker Jr.** and **Ellen Zucker** will focus on traditional and emerging legal issues arising from employer/employee relationships: How does the law define harassment and/or discrimination based on sex, race or age, and what are the remedies? How much privacy can one expect with regard to the use of workplace e-mail, Web sites and voice mail?

Thursday, March 16

Rambo and the Dalai Lama

Northeastern University, Egan Center, 120 Forsyth St., Boston (373-5800). 6:30pm. Free. Can our species survive the nuclear and environmental threats facing us today? **Gordon Gellman**, author and professor of sociology at Brandeis University, lectures on "The Compulsion to Win and Its Threat to Human Survival."

Saturday, March 18

Families: It's a Whole New Game

Simmons College, 300 The Fenway, Boston (800-246-0573). 9:15am-2pm. $50 (includes lunch). Nationally syndicated columnist **Ellen Goodman** will deliver the keynote address at this conference on the challenges facing today's evolving new families. As the traditional family structure vanishes and is reborn in scores of different shapes and sizes, how do individuals and society cope with a few ground rules to guide them?

Monday, March 20

How to Avoid Fraud: The Savvy Consumer

Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). 7:30pm. Free. Shopping online? Hiring contractors? Bothered by telemarketers? Hear assistant attorney general **Jack Christin Jr.** from the Public Protection Bureau speak on fraud prevention when dealing with telemarketers, home-improvement contractors, sweepstakes in the mail, door-to-door solicitors and online businesses.

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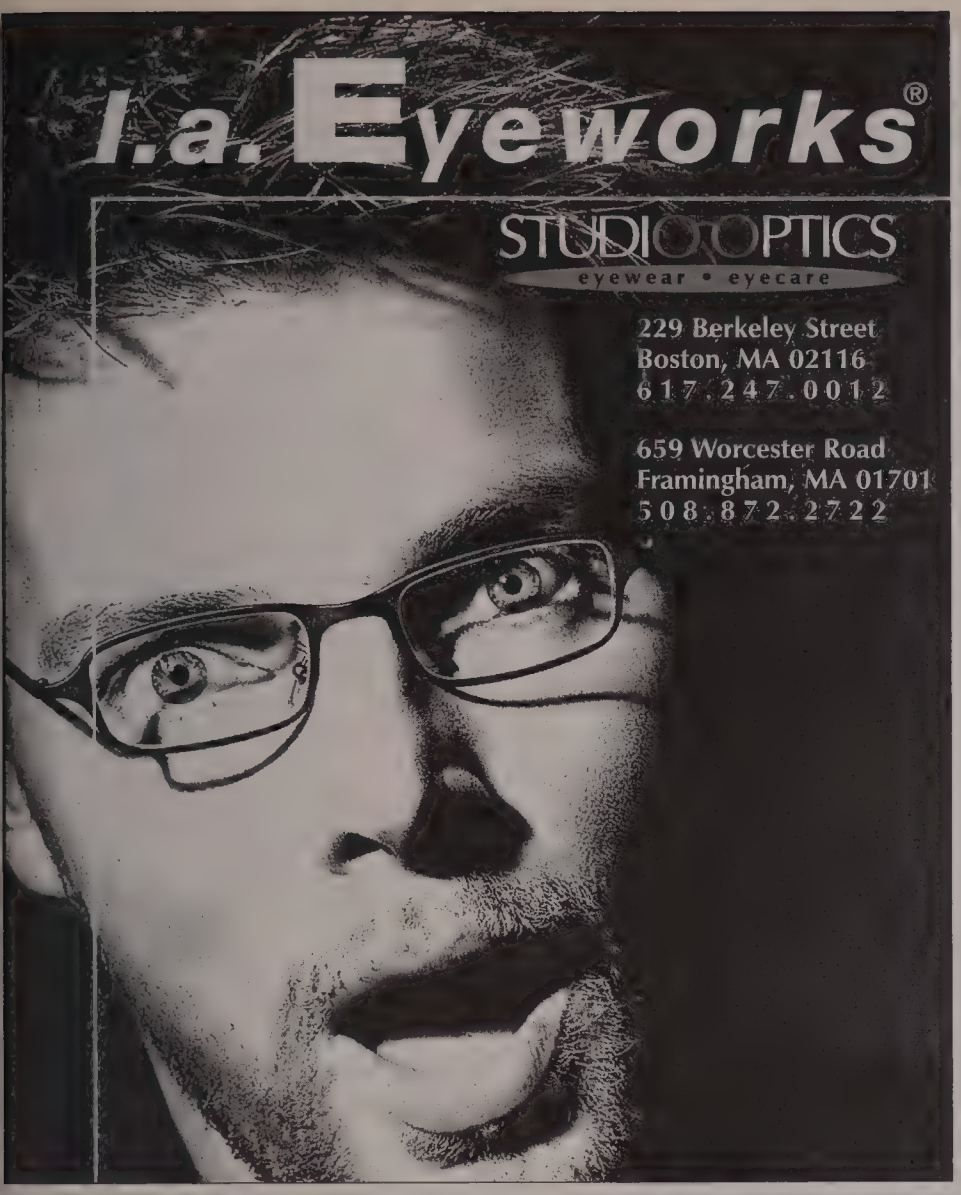

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READINGS & SIGNINGS

Wednesday, March 8

Brookline Booksmith Presents
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Tonight's double bill features novelists **Frederick Dillen**, who reads from *Fool,* and **Stacey D'Erasmo**, who reads from *Tea*. *Fool* is an eccentrically narrated novel about masculinity. *Tea,* D'Erasmo's first work of fiction, is a coming-of-age tale.

Wordsworth Bookstore Presents
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. **Robert Kaplan**, author of *Coming Anarchy: Shattering the Dreams of the Post Cold War* and *Balkan Ghosts*, looks at the world's future and foresees continuing ethnic conflict.

Thursday, March 9

Brookline Booksmith Presents
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. National book award winner **Robert Jay Lifton** reads from his chilling exposé, *Destroying the World to Save It*, which studies the likes of the Japanese cult Aum Shinrikyo, the instigators of the 1995 nerve gas attack in a Tokyo subway.

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (236-7421). MBTA:Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free admission. **Miles Beller** reads from *Dream of Venus (Or Living Pictures)*, a novel set in the 1939-40 New York World's Fair. Beller gives an optimistic account of longing set against the harsher realities of World War II.

Newtonville Books Presents
296 Walnut St., Newtonville (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free. **Stacey D'Erasmo** reads and signs her book *Tea*, her first work of fiction. D'Erasmo was a writer for the *Village Voice*, where she was known for her dynamic essays on a variety of topics.

Wellesley Historical Society Presents
Wellesley Community Center, 219 Washington St., Wellesley Hills (781-235-6690). 1pm. Free admission. Author **Jacqueline Green** has written 18 books for young readers, including *Butchers and Bakers*, *Rabbis and Kings*, *The Leveller* and *Out of Many Waters*. In this slide presentation and talk, Green will discuss her new book, *Powwow: A Good Day to Dance*, which includes her photographs.

Wordsworth Bookstore Presents
Brattle Theatre, 40 Brattle St., Cambridge (876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 5:30pm. **E.L. Doctorow** reads from *City of God*, which tells of a cross that disappears from a church and reappears on the roof of a synagogue. The preeminent American novelist uses this event as a starting point to delve into various aspects of American culture.

Saturday, March 11

Cambridge Center Poetry Festival
Brattle Theatre, 40 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 10am-8pm. $2-$35. Enjoy this two-day festival with poetic performances, panels, concerts and workshops on rap, poetry and getting digital. Performers include **Zilla McCue**, **Tim Mason** with **Geoff Bartley**, **Eve** and **Leni Stern**, **CD Collins** and **Pincurl**, **Monica Copeland**, **Reggie Gibson**, **Anthony Rucker**, **Joel Dias-Porter**, **Ed Sanders** and more.

Kate's Mystery Books
2211 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (491-2660). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. 2pm. Suspense novelist and Massachusetts native **Michael Kimball** (*Undone*) visits Cambridge to discuss his latest novel, the psychological thriller, *Mouth to Mouth*.

Sunday, March 12

Borders Bookshop Author Series
85 Worcester Road, Framingham (508-875-2321). 2pm. **Charles R. Edmunson** is an author in the last stages of a degenerative nerve disorder, progressive supranuclear palsy. He is also a retired CEO of Westborough's Web Industries and recent author of *Paradoxes of Leadership*, a guide to business management and a summary of Edmunson's years of experience.

Boston Poetry Awards
The Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 12:30-4:30pm. $10. This poetry festival, hosted by **Jimmy Tingle**, celebrates with performances by the National Poetry Slam winners, the American Bard and a special show by **Michael Ladd**, as well as workshops and panel discussions at the Cambridge Center for Adult Education.

Harvard Bookstore Literary Salon Series
Bunting Institute, 34 Concord Ave., Cambridge (661-1515). 6:30pm. **Donald Antrim**, author of *The Hundred Brothers* as well as a PEN/Faulkner Finalist, reads from his new work of fiction, *The Verificationist*, which is a humorous, fictional take on psychoanalysis and sex, work and family.

Stacey D'Erasmo, author of *Tea*, reads from her novel at Brookline Booksmith March 8.

Monday, March 13

Blacksmith House Poetry Series
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8:15pm. $3. **Tom Sleigh** reads from his book of poems, *The Dreamhouse*, and **Elizabeth Arnold** discusses *The Reef*, which documents her struggle with breast cancer.

Tuesday, March 14

Brookline Booksmith Presents
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Historian **Terry Golway**, author of *Irish in America* and *For the Cause of Liberty*, discusses the extensive history of Ireland in this lecture.

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (236-7421). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free admission. Women's health crusader **Barbara Seaman** discusses her own spiritual awakening in her latest book, *For Women Only: Your Guide to Health Empowerment*, which covers topics from breast cancer, domestic violence and pregnancy, to exercise herbalism, diet and the women's movement.

O'Neill Branch Library Presents
70 Rindge Ave., Cambridge (349-4032). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. Short story writer **Emily Rubin** will read from her collection of works titled *Believable*.

Newtonville Books Presents
296 Walnut St., Newtonville (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free. Enjoy short story readings by **Elizabeth Graver** and **Lily King**. Graver reads from her latest, *The Honey Thief,* and King reads from *The Pleasing Hour*.

Wednesday, March 15

Barnes and Noble Presents
660 Beacon St., Boston (267-8484). MBTA: B, C or D Green Line to Kenmore. 7pm. The author of the *Blood in the Sun* trilogy, **Nuruddin Farah** discusses the novels *Secrets*, *Maps* and *Gifts*. The trilogy weaves through Somalia with rich plots about tribal hatred, love, hidden agendas and tangled relationships.

Wordsworth Bookstore Presents
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Author of *Original Self* and *Care of the Soul*, **Thomas Moore** mediates on living with passion and originality.

Thursday, March 16

Arlington Center for the Arts
Robbins Library, 700 Mass Ave., Arlington (781-648-6220). 7:30pm, free admission. Poet, translator and teacher **Kevin Bowen** reads from his work. He has written two poetry collections, *Playing Basketball with the Viet Cong* and *Forms of Prayer at the Hotel Edison*.

Authors at MIT
292 Main St. Cambridge (253-5249). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. 6pm. **Kim Sichel**, author of *Germaine Krull: Photography of Modernity*, traces Krull's extraordinary life that spanned nine decades and four continents. Krull's photographs include avant-garde montages, ironic studies of female nudes, press propaganda shots and some of the most successful commercial and fashion images of her day.

Barnes and Noble Presents
660 Beacon St., Boston (267-8484). MBTA: B, C or D Green Line to Kenmore. 7pm. Free admission. Two-time Booker finalist **Patrick McCabe** reads from the quirky *Mondo Desperado: A Serial Novel*. It tells of a bizarre Irish town called Barntrosa.

Barnes and Noble Presents
170 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill (965-7621). 7:30pm. Local author and well-known novelist **Cynthia Peala** chats about her new series of historical mysteries, all set in Boston.

Borders Bookshop Author Series
85 Worcester Rd., Framingham (508-875-2321). 7pm. **Mameve Medwed**, author of *Mail,* discusses *Host Family*, the story of the Lewises, the most gracious international host family in all of Cambridge. But all is not perfect—and a comedy of manners ensues.

Brookline Booksmith Presents
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Salamander Night features **Margaret Cezair Thompson**, debut novelist of *The True History of Paradise,* and **Marilyn Sides**, author of *The Genius of Afternoon*.

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (236-7421). MBTA:Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free admission. To all Bostonians' delight, **Dennis P. Ryan** will discusses his latest, *Images of America: A Journey Through Boston Irish History*. Ryan is the author of *Beyond the Ballot Box: A Social History of the Boston Irish* and the editor of *Einstein and the Humanities*.

Monday, March 20

Brookline Booksmith Presents
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. **Mark Z. Danielewski** reads from his debut novel, *The House of Leaves*, a haunting story of a young family that moves into a small home only to discover that strange things lurk there.

Blacksmith House Poetry Series
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8:15pm. $3. **Joyce Peseroff** celebrates the re-issue of *The Hardness Scale* and reads from her new Carnegie-Mellon collection, *Mortal Education*. **Jane Shore** reads from her fourth book of poems, *Happy Family*.

Emerson College Reading Series
80 Boylston St., 2nd floor, Boston. (824-8750). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 7pm. Free. **Judith Grossman** reads from her collection of short stories, *How Aliens Think*, a book about family, motherhood and estrangement.

Tuesday, March 21

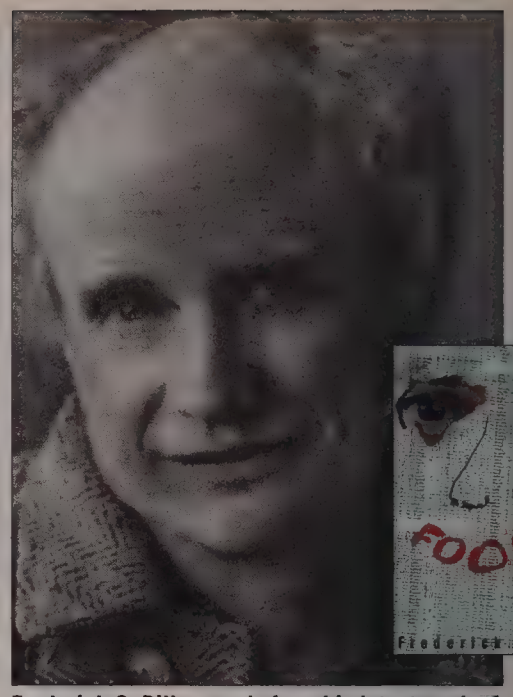
Barnes and Noble Presents
660 Beacon St., Boston (267-8484). MBTA: B, C or D Green Line to Kenmore. 7pm. Free admission. From his tongue-in-cheek collection of essays, *The Cost-Effective Use of Leeches And Other Musings of a Medical School Survivor*, **Jeffrey A. Drayer, M.D.** reads about the humorous account of his four years in medical school.

Brookline Booksmith Presents
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Rock critic **Camden Joy**, author of *The Last Rock Star Book or Liz Phair*, reads from his new novel, *Boy Island*.

Newtonville Books Presents
296 Walnut St., Newtonville (244-6619). 7:30pm. **Anne Whitney Pierce** reads and signs copies of *Rain Line*, a moving tale of a young woman's efforts to draw meaning from tragedy and rebuild her life on her own terms.

ONGOING

Agape, Tuesdays
Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (266-6710). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8-10pm. Every Tuesday, this somewhat sophisticated poetry group gathers to share versions of their latest work. Everyone is welcome.



Frederick G. Dillen reads from his latest work of fiction, *Fool*, at Brookline Booksmith March 8.

Cantab Lounge
738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8-10pm. $3. Wednesday nights at the Cantab always packs in more than 30 poets in just two hours, first at an open mike, followed by a featured poet and a slam.

Club Passim, Tuesdays
47 Palmer St., Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. $5. All open mike fanatics must experience this open mike night—a training ground for up-and-coming performers, poets and storytellers. Sign up Tuesdays, 7:30pm.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Night, Sundays
1667 Mass Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. $4 cover. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes every Sunday to the featured poet of the week.

Stone Soup Poetry Night, Mondays
Zeitgeist Gallery, 312 Broadway St., Cambridge (227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. $3. An ever-changing lineup of authors followed by an open mike session.

Bestsellers

HARDCOVER FICTION
1. **Brethren** by John Grisham
2. **Harry Potter & the Chamber of Secrets** by J.K. Rowling
3. **Harry Potter & the Prisoner of Azkaban** by J.K. Rowling
4. **Lion's Game** by Nelson DeMille
5. **Gertrude & Claudius** by John Updike
6. **Girl with the Pearl Earring** by Tracy Chevalier
7. **Waiting** by Ha Jin
8. **Make Way for Ducklings** by Robert McCloskey
9. **Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's Stone** by J.K. Rowling
10. **Timeline** by Michael Crichton

HARDCOVER NON-FICTION
1. **Tuesdays With Morrie** by Mitch Albom
2. **Who Moved my Cheese?** by Spencer Johnson
3. **'Tis** by Frank McCourt
4. **Millionaire Mind** by Thomas Stanley
5. **The Heartbreaking Work of a Staggering Genius** by Dave Eggers
6. **Mapping Boston** by Alex Kreiger
7. **All Souls** by Michael McDonald
8. **The Greatest Generation** by Tom Brokaw
9. **The New New Thing** by Michael Lewis
10. **Jackie Ethel Joan** by Randy Taraborrelli

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VIVA BOSTON MUSIC

The city's premier new music orchestra celebrates the work of three Boston composers. BY KEITH POWERS

Mention the phrase "new music" to some and it conjures a group of supercilious dorm room dwellers, drinking Jolt and surrounded by electronic instruments, nodding gravely to each other about "breaking new ground." But there is a more mature—and certainly less caffeinated-side to contemporary composition. In fact, thanks to Richard Pittman's dynamic Boston Musica Viva, in this city, even the new music is old.

Pittman established BMV 31 years ago as an orchestra dedicated to new composition, and the group's reputation—and the reputations of many of the composers they've championed—has grown ever since. On March 17, they'll present works by three Boston composers: Lee Hyla, Andy Vores and Peter Lieberson, at Longy School of Music.

It doesn't take much to set Pittman off talking about his orchestral offspring. "I've conducted lots of orchestras," he says, "including four BBC orchestras [in England and Scotland]. And they are great players, don't get me wrong. But you always have the feeling that they'd rather be somewhere else. BMV doesn't just play well; they have the attitude to match."

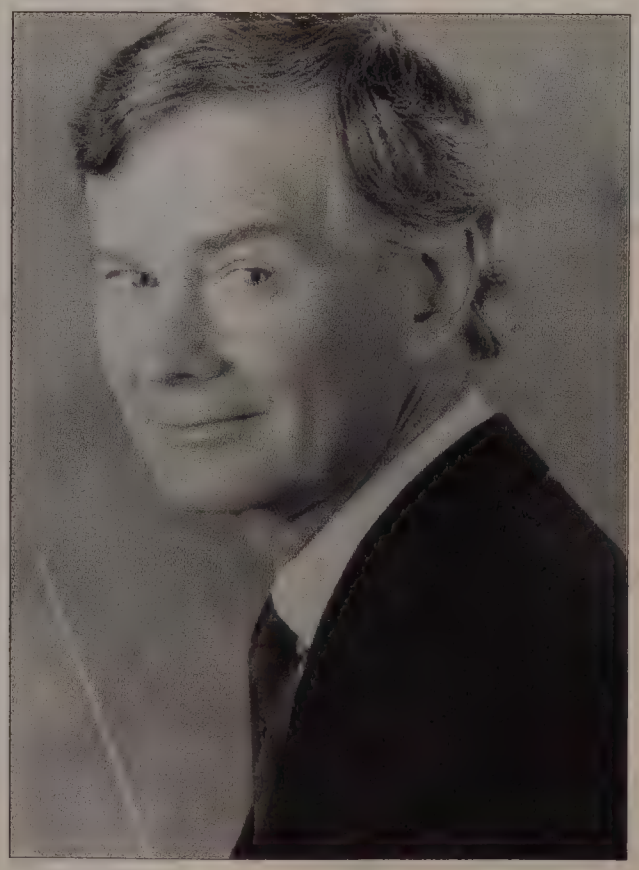
Two of the three works on the upcoming program—Hyla's and Vores'—are premieres, although a "beta" version of Lee Hyla's "Lives of the Saints" was presented by BMV last spring. When we spoke, Pittman had yet to see either of the completed works. "There's an element of trust here," he says with a laugh. "You approach a really talented composer, and you trust them to deliver."

Pittman's sanguine attitude about his "deadline" comes from three decades of facing such pressures. "You know, sometimes a piece doesn't turn out well," he admits. "But the more experienced the composer, the more predictable the result." Hyla's "Lives of the Saints" is the major work on the program. Written for mezzo soloist (Mary Nessinger) and orchestra, its texts are taken from a variety of Medieval and Renaissance sources, ranging from Dante to Theresa of Avila. Hyla indicated last year that it may be transformed into an opera. Last spring's debut version was intense and brooding.

Nobody is more qualified than Pittman to weigh in on the subject of Boston composers. Our city is rich in many musical ways—great players, great conductors, and great teachers—and our hometown composers are equally a source of collective pride. "Apart from New York, there are more composers of talent and ability here than in any other city in the country," Pittman says. "And new music seems to draw smaller audiences in New York than in Boston. In Boston the whole culture of composition and performance is much healthier."

Coda

The **Borromeo String Quartet** has completed its transformation by announcing that **William Fedkenheuer** will replace **Ruggero Allifranchini** as second violinist. The group recently announced a new violist as well, **Mai Motobuchi**. One of the local favorites to replace outgoing BSO music director **Seiji Ozawa** is out of the picture: The Brooklyn Philharmonic's **Robert Spano** announced that he will take the helm of the **Atlanta Symphony Orchestra** next year. Speaking of Ozawa, he reported in a press conference from Japan that he was disturbed by political changes in Austria, where he will take over the **Vienna Opera Orchestra** after he leaves Boston, and was considering a trip there to size up the situation. More conductor news: **Mariss Jansons**, tired of battling to improve the acoustics in Concert Hall, has quit the **Oslo Philharmonic** after 20 years. Jansons, who is also music director of the **Pittsburg Symphony**, had forged an international reputation for the Oslo, which included several well-received visits to Boston. iB



Boston Musica Viva's Richard Pittman (left) and Mary Nessinger, mezzo-soprano (right).

"Sometimes a piece doesn't turn out well. But the more experienced the composer, the more predictable the result."

Advice to Contributors

Submit information labeled Classical by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Music or e-mail to classical@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers Web site information and nearest T stops. Deadline is four weeks prior to deadline. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers

Information for the music section is compiled from many different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to doublecheck dates and times.

Wednesday, March 8

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 7:30pm. Semyon Bychkov conducts Russian composer Gubaidulina's Offertorium for violin and orchestra and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6. Vadim Repin on violin.

Thursday, March 9

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Same program as March 8.

NEC's Jordan Hall
30 Gainsborough St., Boston (536-2412). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave. 8pm. Second half of the all-Schuller program.

André Previn leads an all-Strauss program, March 16-21 at Symphony Hall.

Friday, March 10

Boston Classical Orchestra
Faneuil Hall, Boston. 8pm. Harry Ellis Dickson conducts Mozart's "Salzburg" Symphonies for the String Orchestra.

The Boston Conservatory
Concert Room, 8 The Fenway, Boston. 8pm. Free admission. Laura Ahlbeck's Oboe Reed Master Class.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 1:30pm. Semyon Bychkov conducts Russian composer Gubaidulina's Offertorium for violin and orchestra and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6. Vadim Repin on violin.

Pickman Concert Hall
Longy School of Music, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (876-0956). 8pm. **Opera at Longy**, directed by Donna Roll and musical director Thomas Enman.

Saturday, March 11

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Semyon Bychkov conducts Russian composer Gubaidulina's Offertorium for violin and orchestra and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6. Vadim Repin on violin.

Pickman Concert Hall
Longy School of Music, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (876-0956). 8pm. Opera at Longy is directed by Donna Roll and musical director Thomas Enman.

Sunday, March 12

Emmanuel Music Concerts
15 Newbury St., Boston (536-3356). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 10am. Donations accepted. Bach Cantata BWV 47 features the orchestra and chorus of Emmanuel music. Michael Beattie, associate conductor.

NEC's Jordan Hall
30 Gainsborough St., Boston (536-2412). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave. 7:30pm. Reinhard Goebel leads the New York Collegium in "Scherzi Musicali."

New England String Ensemble
First Church, Cambridge. 3pm. NESE Virtuosi with special guest pianist Gilbert Kalish.

Monday, March 13

The Boston Conservatory
Seully Hall, 8 The Fenway, Boston. 8pm. Winners Concert of the 1990-2000 Boston Conservatory Concerto Competition.

Tsai Performance Center
685 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (353-8724). MBTA: B Green Line to BU Central. 8pm. Aya Hasegawa, violin, with Sayuri Miyamoto and Jun Komatsu, piano.

Tuesday, March 14

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Semyon Bychkov conducts Russian composer Gubaidulina's Offertorium for violin and orchestra and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6. Vadim Repin on violin.

Wednesday, March 15

The Boston Conservatory
Seully Hall, 8 the Fenway, Boston. 6:30pm, Free admission. The Boston Conservatory Orchestra presents a program featuring the winners of the 1999-2000 Boston Conservatory Concerto Competition.

Thursday, March 16

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. An all-Strauss program including Sextet, Moonlight Music and the closing scene from Capriccio, conducted by Andre Previn.

NEC's Jordan Hall
30 Gainsborough St., Boston (536-2412). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave. 8pm. Boston Modern Orchestra Project presents Canti Trilogy: Bernard Rand's three song cycles.

Friday, March 17

Boston Early Music Festival
Gordon Chapel at Old South Church, Boston (661-1812). 8pm. Benjamin Bagby's *Beowulf.*

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 1:30pm. Same program as March 16.

Saturday, March 18

Boston Early Music Festival
St. Mary's Chapel, Boston College, (617-661-1812). 8pm. Benjamin Bagby's *Beowulf.*

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Same program as March 16.

NEC's Jordan Hall
30 Gainsborough St., Boston (536-2412). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave., 3pm, $5. Acclaimed concert pianist Christopher O'Riley will host the show, "From the Top," Boston's public radio program, and record the show in front of a live audience.

NEC's Jordan Hall
30 Gainsborough St., Boston (536-2412). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave. 8pm. BankBoston Celebrity Series presents the **Beaux Arts Trio** with pianist Menahem Pressler, violinist Young Uck Kim and cellist Antonio Meneses.

Sunday, March 19

Boston Conservatory Chamber Players
First and Second Church, 66 Marlborough St., Boston. 4pm, $32. Michael Lewin directs chamber music from 20th-century titans Copland, Shostakovitch, Webern and Schoenberg.

Emmanuel Music Concerts
15 Newbury St., Boston (536-3356). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 10am. Donations accepted. Bach Cantata BWV 99 featuring the orchestra and chorus of Emmanuel music. Michael Beattie, associate conductor.

NEC's Jordan Hall
30 Gainsborough St., Boston (536-2412). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave. 8pm, $20-$50. South Asian classical music gala concert celebrating Ali Akbar Khan's receive honorary degree from the New England Conservatory.

Tsai Performance Center
685 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (353-8724). MBTA: BGreen Line to BU Central. 8pm Faculty Recital with Roman Totenberg on violin and Shizue Sano on piano.

Tuesday, March 21

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Same program as March 16.

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Nights

Mondays

Vertigo Mondays
Vertigo. Caesar and Giorgio throw a Monday party for those of you who never stop dancin'. Smooth Lounge upstairs, Deep House downstairs. Dress slick or stay home. Table reservations recommended. DJ Arsit 10pm, no cover.

Tuesdays

Cigar and Jazz night
The Exchange. Smoke, lounge and listen to the smooth sounds of jazz. Plus, you score a free Gina Cigar and complimentary buffet. No cover.

Cosmopolitan
DJ Courtney spins for the Weekly Dig Lounge Series, 5:30pm.

Fat Tuesdays
Bill's. This off-the-hook night features DJ Chaos scratching out hip-hop music to college clubbers while house masters DJ Justin Hoffman and WBCN's DJ Jynx spin dance tunes. Doors open at 11pm, $10 cover.

Hibernia Tuesdays
Hibernia. Get jiggy at "Flow" with DJ Craig Kapilow and Sava Kelesidis, where you'll find masses of dancers grooving to tribal house. 9pm. 21+. Cover varies.

Got Milk?
Venu. If you're chic and fabu you'll be at Venu for Milk—a smart and devilishly hip party. Resident DJ Osheen spins house for the chic. Dress is funky. 21+.

Mingle Tuesdays
The Modern. This fancy schmancy new spot screams très chic. More low-key and upsacle than its Lansdowne street neighbors, it's got a raw bar, vodka bar and late lounge. 10pm. 21+.

Zanzibar Tuesdays
The Big Easy. Dress to impress for Boston's premiere International Night. The Big Easy's got DJ Manola, who spins Latin and international music from 11pm. 19+. $10.

Wednesdays

College Night
The Aquarium. Guest DJ spins at 10pm.

Good Karma
Karma/Mambo. Misery plays host to a roster of rotating DJs. Expect a mixed crowd and special guest performers. 10pm. 19+. $5 cover.

Gotham
M-80. Prepare to party with the beautiful people dressed in black as DJ Eddy K dominates the airwaves with NY house. Leave the hats, but bring you wallet for the $10 cover. It all begins at 11:30pm. 21+.

Hibernia Wednesdays
Hibernia. DJ C.T.O. is the Godfather of Say Word night—with plenty of funk, rare groove, soul and old school hip-hop. 9pm. 21+. Cover varies.

Imagination
Backstage. DJs Freddy C. and Jonny C. spin top 40, dance and club classics. Doors open at 10pm. No cover, 21+.

Modern Living
The Modern. DJ Dale Charles spins while minglers munch away on a raw bar and sip martinis. 10pm. 21+.

Musical Mayhem
The Exchange. WBCN's DJ Jynx of Cybersounds plays bangin' funky house upstairs while Tym Ryan of WFNX and DJ Brisc spin downstairs in the vault. Party starts at 10pm.

Pravda 116
Come spend the night with Boston's premiere promoters, Igor, Alex, Heather, Christophe and Manos at one of the city's most decadent hot spots. Featuring international eurohouse by Boston Beat gurus, DJ Alex and DJ Felix. Proper dress required, 21+. For reservations call 236-4746.

The Sugar Shack
The Sugar Shack. If you're 19+ and a woman, you get in for free before 11pm—otherwise the cover is $10. Located in the bottom of the Big Easy, there is most certainly funk, disco and a lot of hip-hop here. 10pm.

Vertigo—Open More Nights

The Finacial District's new hot spot has just got hotter. Vertigo, which opened in January on limited nights only, just expanded its hours of operation. Now, the leopard skin patterned upper lounge and chi chi downstairs dance club is open for scenesters, brokers and clubbers alike, drawing in a lounge and dance crowd Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. DJ Toto and DJ Souhleris usually spin downstairs. Check it out at 126 State Street.

•March 8 and15 is House, Hip-Hop, R&B andReggae with DJ Bruno "Biscuit Head" and Guest DJs.
•March 9-11 and March16-18 is '70s, '80s and '90s Dancewith a DJ.

Thursdays

Adrenaline
Backstage. Tonight features special guest DJs from around the world spinning hard N.Y.C. House, with residents Jonny C. and Freddy C. starting the party. 10pm, 21+.

The Aquarium
Kiss 108 FM dance party featuring Randy from the Matty in the Morning Show. 10pm-1am. $3 cover.

Downtempo Lounging
The Modern. DJ Ricky Fatts spins while you enjoy the raw bar, vodka bar and late lounge. 9pm-2am, 21+.

Funkalicious Thursdays
The Exchange. DJ G squared takes you on a blast from the past as he spins the sounds of '70s and '80s. Added bonus: free after work buffet. No cover.

Hibernia Thursdays
Hibernia. Lay low for the Weekly Dig Lounge Series with Craig Kapilow and Mason, 6pm.

International Thursday
Avalon. An overwhelmingly Asian crowd fills up this nightspot as DJ Manolo spins Eurohaus and DJ Anthony spins Latin in the adjoining Playhouse LatinLounge. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover. Next door, the Modern's Downtempo Lounging night's got DJ Ricky Fatts, 9pm, 21+.

Kit Kat Klub
Sugar Shack. This new night features guest DJs spinning hip hop to college clubbers, 10pm, 19+.

Latin Quarter
The Roxy. Time to get down as the Roxy breaks out hip shaking salsa, merengue and Latin dance mixes.

Lava Bar
Get Lifted. *Lavabar.com*. DJs Pouli Brien and phenom along with Verse D. bring you old school hip-hop, soul/funk and reggae. Doors open at 10pm. 21+.

Speed
Karma/Mambo. DJ Chaos spins the latest Hip-Hop and R&B while DJ Johnny Scrofani spins house in the Mambo Lounge. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover.

Venu
Swank American top 40 and house, featuring DJ Adilson, creator of the hottest Saturday night in the city, the Roxy.

Fridays

Avaland
Avalon. Everything about the room screams party. With world famous DJs spinning, including resident DJs Manolo and John Debo, this has become the single most NY-style club night in Boston. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover.

Backstage
Backstage kicks off its all-night dance party, part one with DJ Jonny C spinning N.Y.C. house, top 40 dance and funk. Doors open at 10pm. $5 cover, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans themed nightspot has some of the best mainstream DJs in town. Offering four bars and two lounges as well as billiards and a wraparound balcony, the Big Easy is a staple in Boston's weekend nightlife.

Buzz Fridays
Buzz. Two rooms of cocktail delights: Roger M lays down both traditional Latin and international house tracks while upstairs visiting DJs pay homage to the house music gods. 11pm, $15 cover, 19+.

Emily's
An after work venue during the week, this spot transforms itself into a dance kingdom on weekends. Resident DJ Kaboom infuses funk, dance, pop and disco. Door s open at 4pm. Get there early and avoid a cover.

Envy
This extraordinarily popular Friday night hot spot is filled with a swarming mass of sweaty 'n' ready dancers. You'll have plenty of choice dance partners. 9pm, $5 cover after 10pm, 21+.

Exchange Fridays
The Exchange. Up High, Tiziano and Maurizio, Boston's best DJ duo, guides you on a house trip while DJ G Squared opens the vault door with mainstream dance and hip hop. Doors at 9pm.

Focus
Hibernia. How can you go wrong with DJs Chuck Caseroc, Keith Kene and Skot Havens. 9pm, 21+. cover varies.

Lava Bar
Life. *lavabar.com*. From the creators of Soul Revival, DJ Fran Englehardt spins ambient, soulful and deep house—transition your night from loungy beats to deep soulful rhythms doors at 10pm.

Latinhaus and International Night
M-80. Always dominated by no less than 1,000 international students, this is the must-be place for the I-20 scene. DJ JC throws out classic Latinhaus and DJ Eddy K. spins House. 11pm, $15 cover, 21+.

Ultra Lounge
The Modern. DJ Hoffman is next door at the Modern's Ultra Lounge. 9pm-2am,21+.

Nocturnal Fridays
Bill's Bar. WBCN day guy and football swami, Bill Abbate, spins up a delectable smorgasbord of rock with a pinch of roll. Nocturnal Friday is the perfect place to chug a beer and chill. 9pm. $5 cover, 21+.

Sonic
Karma/Mambo. National guest rave DJs and DJ Venom spin Hard House and Happy Hardcore in the Main Room, while Space Munkee and DJ Myth spin in the Mambo Lounge. 10pm. 19+. $15.

Roxy 2000
Roxy/Mondo Bar. What goes around, comes around. Go crazy as the intimacy of Roxy consumes you and DJ Felix spins house and international music throughout the night. 10:30pm. $15 cover, 21+.

Spin Cycle
Axis. Glitzed-out club hoppers and an active scam scene mix to make the progressive house beats of DJ Tim Ryan downstairs or DJ David James's '80s and retro tunes upstairs. 10pm, $12, 19+.

Venu
The scene is elegant and the line is long for this jacket required international romp. Get your Gucci and gas up your Beemer, as DJ Tassos and DJ Arsit spin an eclectic eurohouse mix. 21+.

Saturdays

The Aqarium
Saturday night dance party hosted by resident DJ. 10pm-1am, $5 cover.

Downtown
Avalon. Resident DJs Manolo and Mattie O. gyrate your ass with the latest hits and club classics. 10pm. 21+. $15 cover.

Backstage
Get ready for part two of Backstage's all night dance party with DJ Freddy C spinning progressive house and top 40 dance. Doors open at 10pm, $5 cover, 21+.

Bill's Bar
DJ Laurie Gail with guest DJs promise to make Bill's a night full of dancing to the best of the '70s, '80s and '90s. 9pm, $3 cover, 19+.

Classic Saturday
M-80. DJ JC and DJ Eddie K spin Latinhaus, International and House music. 11pm, $15, 21+.

Club Juliana
Boogying cuties converge on Boston's newest Latin Night starting at 10pm. Dress to impress—no jeans or sneaks. $10. Ladies free before 11pm.

Club Nicole
The faces are familiar and the mob thick for this exclusive, Euro trendsetter. Nine years in the making, this classic table-hopper requires even the regulars to show up promptly. DJ Alex spins classic international eurohouse. Reservations recommended, jackets required. 21+. For reservations call 236-4746.

MIKE DEAN (2)

Elements of Life
Karma/Mambo. World class DJs spin house music in the main room while DJ Hoffman plays funk in the Mambo Lounge. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover.

Emily's
Serious disco and high-energy dance. DJs spice up Saturday nights and transform this after-work venue into a dance kingdom. 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Envy
From 9pm to 2am, DJ Tom Baxter blasts Top 40, house and dance throughout the night. 9pm, $5 cover after 10pm, 21+.

Exchange Saturdays
The Exchange. DJ Diesel renovates the upper level with full-on house while DJ Jynx spins all the funky beats in the lower Vault lounge 9pm.

Fajitas and Ritas
Chill out for the Weekly Dig Lounge Series with Alan Strack and Mason.

Hibernia Saturdays
Hibernia. Masters of house, techno and dance, DJs Dino and David West take the reins and whip the crowd into a frenzy. 9pm, 21+. cover varies.

Sugar Shack
Spice up your night with '70s, '80s and '90s dance music as DJ Rich Centi spins the hottest sounds.

Lava Bar
lavabar.com. Tabu night means anything goes with DJ Fran and Kris Kono Unite. High energy house with a taste of Latin beats—their motto is "Open Minds Free Souls", doors at 10pm, 21+.

Miami Club Night
Club Joy/Yesterday's. *533 Washington St., Boston (350-5555).* Enjoy Boston's only Latin Night to feature La Rueda de Casino, a Cuban salsa game danced throughout clubs in Miami and Cuba, and get a taste of Miami nightlife. 9:30pm (ladies free before 11pm), $10 cover, 21+ (ladies, 19+).

Mischief
The Modern. Feeling mischievous? Ultra lounging with decadent deserts and erotic electronica. 21+.

Mythos
Venu. Greek International with DJ Yorgo Jr. spinning the latest hits from the famous party islands of Greece. For reservations for this night, call 338-8061.

X night
Axis. Axis is taken over by DJ Mike Gioscia who spins cutting edge favorites of '90s alternative while DJ David James spins the hottest '80s hits in the Left Over Lounge upstairs. 10pm, $10 cover, 21+.

Sundays

Avalon
Boston's biggest gay night. Special guest DJs and Resident DJ Darrin Friedman. 10pm, $10 cover.

Exchange Sundays
A fusion of Heavy Lounge and Miami House. No cover.

Club Millennium 2000
Backstage. Special Guests DJs in rotation. Doors open at 10pm, ladies free before 11pm, 21+, proper dress.

Il Panino
This is where the people from Oskar's go to spend their final hour of partying. Mainly attracting Euros, this night features music by DJ Alex of Boston Beat and DJ Roger M. 21+, no cover.

Salavation
This new Boston vibe serves up an intimate evening of soul provided by DJ Soul. $5, until 10pm.

Venu
Carnival comes to Boston every Sunday as DJ Adilson brings the heat of Rio to Venu, spinning the hottest music from Brazil. 21+. Call 338-8061 for reservations.

Raves

Brass Monkey 2000
March 11. New York, New York. Roseland Ballroom, 239 West 52nd St. (536-5482). http://come.to/bm2k. *$30. 7:30pm.* The Zoo and Uptown Underground present sound from Turbo Sound, featuring 360-degree sound and full-on, high quality speaker system; visuals from Isaac and Raphael Abrams who give a high-tech performance; lights and lasers from Excel and Stellar, synchronizing a blend of mind-altering lasers with a light extravaganza.

Experience
March 31. Allentown, PA (888-277-5552). $23 in advance. Directions to be posted on www.bsp.org. BSP, Translucent and Total Elevation bring three rooms of banging sound, two seperate laser and light shows and one very talented and experienced lineup.

Club Venues

The Aquarium *65 Holland St., Somerville (623-3200). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (338-7080). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center.*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (437-0300). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Backstage *25 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Boston (726-1110). MBTA: Blue Line to Government Center.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Buzz Boston/Europa *51-67 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park St.*
Club Juliana *20 Hudson St., Boston (542-4411).*
Club Nicole *40 Dalton St., Boston (236-4746). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*
Club Stella *1234 Soldiers Field Rd., Brighton (254-0554).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Upstairs, Boston (423-3649). MBTA: Red or Green Lines to Park Street.*
Envy *25 Boylston Place, Boston (542-3689). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Exchange *148 State St., Boston (723-7755). MBTA: Orange Line to State Street.*
Hibernia *25 Kingston St., Boston (292-2333). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Karma *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9595). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Lava Bar *575 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-7707). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
M-80 *969 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant Street.*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (482-7799). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Oskar's *107 South St., Leather District, Boston (542-6756). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Salavation *20 Hudson St., Boston (781-668-2392). MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown.*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Theatre District, Boston (338-8061). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Vertigo *126 State Street, Boston (723-7277). MBTA: Orange and Blue Lines to State St.*

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Music

GO GRAY ON GREEN DAY

St. Paddy's Day in Paradise with David Gray. BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

St. Patrick's Day has some intriguing musical options this year, beyond pub performers singing "Danny Boy" to people with green beer. We've got hometown upstarts Hybrasil at the Lizard Lounge and the Push Stars at Avalon with Canadian shanty-singers Great Big Sea. But a dark horse to consider is singer-songwriter David Gray and his band at the Paradise.

Gray is yet to be a familiar name to many Bostonians. The Welsh-bred Englishman hasn't played in town since the mid-'90s, when he supported Radiohead and Maria McKee on club dates and opened for Shawn Colvin at Symphony Hall. But after a few CDs on various labels, he has finally scored with *White Ladder*, a subtly enchanting disc which has topped the charts in Ireland for weeks, and will be released here March 21 on According To Our (ATO) Records, a new indie label co-founded by Dave Matthews.

Englishman David Gray celebrates the upcoming release of his CD at the Paradise March 17.

"It's word-of-mouth really," Gray says by phone from his London home about his multi-platinum Irish success. "It added up to this momentum rolling through to Christmas. Then we all expected it to fritter away, but [the album] just went to number one. We've been there ever since. We're waiting for the Gallagher Brothers to come and challenge us."

The US has been its own challenge, but Gray has reason to be optimistic about finally getting a foothold. "In the past, I've really thought things were going to go well in the States, and they didn't!" he says. "So I'm not going to call it, but I do think the Dave Matthews people are a lot more workmanlike and honest, and I think I have the best chance so far."

"I think the reflected sorta glory of what happened in Ireland is going to help us, partly because there's a big Irish contingent in some key cities," says Gray, with Boston obviously in mind. "It also gives us the confidence that we've actually achieved something. We don't have to imagine it anymore." Not that Gray imagined such a coup when he was recording *White Ladder* at home as a low-budget, demo-style project with drummer/sidekick Clune, playing acoustic guitar over often-synthesized rhythms and textures. "We had to be inventive—we couldn't drum in my bedroom, and we didn't have enough mics either," he says. "When it was working, it would happen fast. We'd get a drum loop and say, 'That's really good. Let's put these chords with it.' At the same time, Clune would be working out a bass line, and the next thing you knew, we'd recorded 'Babylon.'"

That song—a sort of Van Morrison-meets-America (remember "Ventura Highway"?) single edited for the US release —wasn't the only example. For the haunting "We're Not Right," Gray says, "I was working on the sample for the beats for something else entirely, and started playing this weird little tune, put it down on the guitar, mumbled over the top, and wrote the words that evening. The next morning, we recorded the vocals, and it was done."

"That was why it was so fresh," he says. "You're working on things before you've made up your mind what they are. Music is all about intuition, not knowledge. You don't want your conscious mind to start interfering and fucking it up. Just like anything in life. You want a kiss to be a kiss, not something you've thought about."

Spontaneous abandon is what drew Gray, then a painter in art school, to music. "I just liked being in a band and making a loud noise—it seemed somehow more appealing than trying to be an artist," he says of his rough "goth-punk kind of Cramps-meets-the Smiths" beginnings. "But when it came to actually writing songs, mine all came out like Bob Dylan, 'cause that's what struck a far deeper chord... Then [it continued] to the present day, and a point of experimentation where I'm leaving some of my influences behind. But Dylan and Van Morrison were two of the most profound influences on me."

In turn, he found a kindred spirit in Matthews, who heard Gray's 1993 debut *A Century Ends*, and became a fan. "He always seemed like a very nice guy—I haven't seen him since he's become the biggest thing since sliced bread," says Gray, who met last fall with Matthews' managers to seal the deal with *White Ladder*. "If he puts it out, and says, 'Yeah, this,' it's going to have a certain cache with his followers. But you never know. These are sort of unknown quantities. But the people who work for him know the business, and he's hardly been a flavor of the month." Gray would rather not be a flavor of the month either—like green beer. iB

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fax (859-1446); by mail to Calendar/Music; or by email to music@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, phone numbers and nearest T stops. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double check dates and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

Canada, singer/songwriter Bruce Cockburn is at the Berklee Performance Center March 18.

Concerts

Afro-Cuban All Stars
March 19, the Roxy
Bruce Cockburn
March 18, Berklee Performance Center
The Chieftains
March 19, Symphony Hall
Barbaros Erkose Ensemble
March 18, Somerville Theatre
Paula Cole
March 15, Avalon
Odetta
March 18, Club Passim
National Song and Dance Company of Mozambique
March 17, Sanders Theatre
Type O Negative
March 9, Avalon
Vic Chesnutt and Kristen Hirsch
March 10, Somerville Theater

CONCERT HALLS

Berklee Performance Center
136 Mass. Ave., Boston (747-2261). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.
Orpheum Theatre
1 Hamilton Place, Boston (679-0810). MBTA: Red Line to Park Street.
Sanders Theatre
45 Quincy St., Cambridge (496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.
Somerville Theatre
55 Davis Square, Somerville (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.
Symphony Hall
301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony.

Rock, Jazz and Blues

Wednesday, March 8

Axis
Agent Orange, 8pm, $10, 18+.
Bill's Bar
Funk and groove night with DJ Tim Collins and Sugar Coat, 9pm, $7, 18+.
The Black Rose
Celtic Clan, 9pm.

THE RACK

24 Clinton St. • 617-725-1051 • www.therackboston.com

The Burren
Michael Tarbox and Daniel Kellar, 10pm.
Common Ground Bar and Grill
What a Way to Go-Go (Mod Night with DJ Vin), 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff
Jim Ambrose and the Spellcasters, 9pm.
Green Dragon Tavern
Dave Foley, 10pm $3.
Green Street Grill
Joel Springer, Jon Damian, Bruno Raberg and Jon Hazilla, 9pm.
Harper's Ferry
One People, 9:30pm, $4.
Hennessy's of Boston
Tradition of Irish Session, 9:30pm.
House of Blues
Eric Burdon, 9pm, $20, 18+.
Johnny D's
Deb Pasternak, 8:30pm.
Kendall Cafe
Geoff Van Duyne, 11pm, no cover.
Les Zygomates
The Chuck Langford Trio, 8pm.
Lizard Lounge
Wall of Grass, 10pm, 21+.
The Middle East
U: Razorwire, the Humanoids and a spoken word session with Rich Makin and Duncan Wilder. D: Mekons, Johnny Dowd and the Tarbox Ramblers, $10, 18+.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Hegarty, 6pm. Boston Folk and Singers Club, 9pm, cover varies.
Scullers Jazz Club
The Rachel Z Trio, 8pm and 10pm, $12.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Stuffis, Cool Grape Goddness, Down Home Souls and Bluehouse Effect, $4.
Wally's Cafe
Wally's Step-children II, 9pm, no cover.

Thursday, March 9

Avalon
Coal Chamber, Type O Negative and Full Devil Jacket, 7pm, $23.75.
Bayou Blues Cafe
Monica Lynk Trio, 8pm.
Bill's Bar
The Underground with DJ Mark Hamilton, the Paladins featuring Eric Marcos and Normal Noises with the Three Day Threshold, 9pm, $7, 18+.
The Black Rose
Celtic Clan, 9pm.
Bob the Chef's Jazz Cafe
Groove 2 This, 7:30pm, cover varies.
Common Ground Bar and Grill
Double Jointed, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff
Novakane, 9pm.
Green Dragon Tavern
The Spitting Vinnies, 10pm, $3.
Green Street Grill
Latin night with Giancarlo Buscaglia, 9pm.
Harper's Ferry
Dave Mason and Leon Russell, 9:30pm, $25.
Hennessy's of Boston
Live Under Cover and the Beloved Few, 9:30pm, no cover.

Rockport native Paula Cole performs her ethereal introspective melodies at Avalon on March 15.

House of Blues
Eric Burdon, 9pm, $20, 18+.
Johnny D's
Austin Lounge Lizards, 9pm.
Kendall Cafe
Shroeder Music Distant Stars Showcase, $5.
The Linwood
Syphlloids, Garage Dogs and Binge, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Lizard Lounge
Bruce Katz, 10pm, 21+.
The Middle East
U: Bitch and Animal, 7:30pm, $6, 18+. D: Steady Earnest and Perfect Thyroid, 18+.
Paradise
Max Creek.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Garroll, 8pm, cover varies.
Regattabar
The Elvin Jones Jazz Machine, 8:30pm, $16.
Scullers Jazz Club
Erica Leopold with Doug Hammer, 8:30pm, $12.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Edable Gray, Red Beans and Pamela Means, $6.

Friday, March 10

Aquarium
Dub Station, 10pm, $5.
Axis
Medicine Label party featuring Long Beach Dub Allstars, 6pm, $18, 18+.
Bayou Blues Cafe
True Colors, 8pm.
Bill's Bar
Super Zero with Cobalt 60 and Mother Jefferson, 9pm, $7, 18+.
The Black Rose
U: Dave Foley. D: Celtic Clan, 9pm, $5.
Bob the Chef's Jazz Cafe
On Kee, 7:30pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
Barbara Kessler, 8pm, $12.
Common Ground Bar and Grill
Betwixt and Almost Speechless, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff
Syndicate, 9pm, $3.
Green Dragon Tavern
Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
Green Street Grill
Delta Blues with Tarbox Ramblers, 9pm.
Harper's Ferry
Barrence Whitfoeld and the Savages with Scratch My Back, 9:30pm, $6.
House of Blues
Big Bill Morganfield, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Jake Ivory's
Bill Connors and Matt Mello, 9pm, cover varies.
Johnny D's
Babaloo, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's
The Return, 9pm, $5.
Kendall Cafe
Nell Bryden, 9:30pm; Lorraine Della Rocca, 10:30pm; Katherine Shafer, 11:30pm, $5.
Les Zygomates
Kabota Power Jazz Unit, 9pm.
The Linwood
Favorite Atomic Hero, Aztek Trip, Fat Boy, 10pm, $6.
Lizard Lounge
Ball in the House, 7pm, Creme Brulee, the Douglas Firs and Reverse, 9:30pm, 21+.
The Middle East
U: Wheat, Diagonah and Paul Newman, $7, 18+.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Fogal, Tom Garroll, 9:30pm.
Paradise
Long Beach Dub Allstars, 6pm, $18, 18+.
The Purple Shamrock
Cape Fear, 9pm, $5.
Regattabar
The Elvin Jones Jazz Machine, 8pm, 10pm, $18.
Scullers Jazz Club
The Yellowjackets, 8pm, 10:30pm, $18.
T.T. the Bear's Place
The Gravel Pit, Helicopter Helicopter, Francine and the Creature Comforts, $8.
Wally's Cafe
John Lankin Quintet, 9pm, no cover.
Wonder Bar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Saturday, March 11

The Black Rose
Frank Ryan, Dave Foley and Celtic Clan, 9pm, $5.
Bob the Chef's Jazz Cafe
Michael Kelley and the Hot Blue Q, 7:30pm, cover varies.
The Burren
Tarbox Ramblers, 10:30pm.
Common Ground Bar and Grill
Hummer and Soul Work, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff
Thomas Park, 9pm, $3.
Green Street Grill
Latin night with Giancarlo Buscaglia, 9pm.
Harper's Ferry
Jiggle the Handle, 9:30pm, $8.
House of Blues
Seth Yacovone, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Jake Ivory's
Aruna Abrams and Matt Mello, 9pm, cover varies.
Johnny D's
Swinging Steaks, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's
The Return, 9pm, $5.
Kendall Cafe
Dave Dersham, 9:30pm; Martly, 10:30pm and Fernachur, 11pm, $5, 21+.
Kirkland Cafe
Lyres, Susan and the Surftones, $5.
Les Zygomates
Eula Lawrence, 9pm.
The Linwood
Strawhorse CD Release Party, Big Wig, and the Kitty Kill, 10pm, $6, 21+.
Lizard Lounge
Mike Ladd, 10pm, 21+.
The Middle East
U: Crash 22, 9pm, $7.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Fogal and Tom Garroll, 9:30pm.
The Purple Shamrock
Mother Funk, 9pm, $5.
Regattabar
The Elvin Jones Jazz Machine, 8pm and 10pm, $20.
Scullers Jazz Club
The Yellowjackets, 8pm and 10:30pm, $18.
Slade's
The John Dougherty Trio, 8pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place
The Gravel Pit, the Popgun Seven and Ultrafine, $8.
Wally's Cafe
The John Lankin Quintet, 9pm, no cover.

Sunday, March 12

Bill's Bar
Sonbeam and Special Guests, 10pm, $8.
The Black Rose
Frank Ryan and Celtic Clan, 9pm.
Bob the Chef's Jazz Cafe
A-No-Ne, 11am, cover varies.
Green Dragon Tavern
The Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
Harper's Ferry
The Rockett Band, 9:30pm, $5.
Hennessy's of Boston
Various groups from Ireland, 9:30pm.
House of Blues
Princes of Babylon, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Johnny D's
Blues Jam, 4:30pm.
Karma
Big D and the Kids Table with Catch 22, Mission 120, and T.I.P., 1pm, $10.
Kendall Cafe
Basque and James Tritten of Audio Explorations, no cover.
Lizard Lounge
Poetry Jam with the Jeff Robinson Trio, 8pm, 21+.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Garroll, 8pm, cover varies.
Regattabar
The Elvin Jones Jazz Machine, 7pm and 9pm, $16.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Choke, Revelation and Room with a View, $4.
Wally's Cafe
Wally's Step-children III, 9pm, no cover.
Wonder Bar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Monday, March 13

The Black Rose
Tony O'Riordan, 9pm.
Harper's Ferry
Ron Levy's Wild Kingdom, 9:30pm, $3.

The Barbaros Erkose Ensemble performs the gypsy music of Turkey March 18 at the Somerville Theatre.

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VOTE FOR BOSTON'S

BELOVED BARTENDERS

1. Who is your favorite bartender? _____

2. Where does he/she work? _____

3. What night does he/she work? _____

4. What's his/her signature drink? _____

5. What makes him/her the best? _____

_____

_____

_____

6. Your name/phone number/email _____

Send to: BELOVED BARTENDERS, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor; Boston, MA 02116 • Fax: (617) 859-1446

Deadline: March 15, 2000

Mixers of elixers. Cocktail chemists. Shakers. Pourers. Whatever you want to call 'em, this city is spilling over with charming and talented bartenders. But who's your favorite? And why? Is it a bartender's artistry with presentation — the detail of an orange twist dangling off a sidecar? Or perhaps it's the bartender with the most gripping barside yarn? Once you've told us, we'll tally votes, and present the winners in

THE IMPROPER'S 6TH ANNUAL BELOVED BARTENDER ISSUE.

Cheers.

THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE

House of Blues
Ultra Lounge Series featuring Johnny A., 9pm, $7, 18+.
Johnny D's
Hot Tamale Brass Band, 8pm.
Kendall Cafe
Teddy Larkin and Scary Wagon, no cover.
Lizard Lounge
The Fringe, 10pm, 21+.
The Middle East
U: Very Secretary, Rose of Sharon and Snailhouse, 8:30pm, $6, 18+.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Our Lady Peace acoustic show.
Wonder Bar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Tuesday, March 14

The Black Rose
Eugene Byrne, 9pm.
Harper's Ferry
Another Planet and Friends, 9:30pm, $3.
Hennessy's of Boston
Patsey and Pat "Upbeat Irish" Celtic Rock, 9:30pm.
House of Blues
Indigo, 9pm, $8, 18+.
Johnny D's
John Koerner, 8:30pm.
Kendall Cafe
Ephraim Lessell, 9pm; Peter Weiss, 10pm, $4.
Les Zygomates
The Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm.
Lizard Lounge
Matt Maneiri Trio, 10pm, 21+.
The Middle East
U: A New Found Glory, Drexel, Rx Bandits, Midtown and the Mission 120, $7, 18+.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Dave Smyth, 7pm, cover varies.
Paradise
Warren Zevon and Jill Sobule.
Regattabar
The Steve Lacy Quartet with Roswell Rudd, 8:30pm, $14.
Scullers Jazz Club
Wesla Whitfield, 8pm, 10pm, $16.
Toad
Michael Tarbox, 7-9pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Krakow, Bird Gets the Smile, Idiot Toaster and the Complaints, $4.

Wednesday, March 15

Avalon
Paula Cole and Peter Stuart, 9pm, $17.75, 18+.
Bill's Bar
Funk and groove night with DJ Tim Collins and Deluxe with Who's the Fat Guy, 9pm, $7, 18+.
The Black Rose
Eugene Byrne, 9pm.
The Burren
Michael Tarbox and Daniel Kellar, 10pm.
Common Ground Bar and Grill
What a Way To Go-Go (Mod Night with DJ Vin), 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff
The City Pete Band, 9pm.
Green Dragon Tavern
Dave Foley, 10pm, $3.
Green Street Grill
The Leonard Brown Trio, 9pm.
Harper's Ferry
Bruce Mandaro, 9:30pm, $4.
Hennessy's of Boston
Tradition Irish Session, 9:30pm.
House of Blues
Jones Brothers, 9pm, $6, 18+.
Johnny D's
Kila, 8:30pm.
Kendall Cafe
The Stumble, 11pm, no cover.
Les Zygomates
Lonely Gus and the One Night Stand, 8-11pm.
The Middle East
U: Lamont and Claymore, $6, 18+.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Hegarty, 6pm. Boston Folk and Singers Club, 9pm, cover varies.
Paradise
Saw Doctors and the Whole Tribe, 8pm, $20, 18+.
Regattabar
David 'Fathead' Newman, Sugar Ray Norcia and Bruce Katz, 8:30pm, $12.
Scullers Jazz Club
DeChellis, Tomasic and Nakitani Trio, 8pm and 10pm, $10.
T.T. the Bear's Place
St. Christopher, Mishima, Jumprope, Saturday People and Part Time Losers, $7.

The National Song and Dance Company of Mozambique performs at the Sanders Theatre March 17.

Wally's Cafe
Wally's Step-children II, 9pm, no cover.

Thursday, March 16

Avalon
Kenny Wayne Shepherd.
Bayou Blues Cafe
Monica Lynk Trio, 8pm.
Bill's Bar
The Underground with DJ Mark Hamilton and Wicked Farleys with guests, 9pm, $7, 18+.
The Black Rose
Eugene Byrne, 9pm.
Bob the Chef's Jazz Cafe
Groove 2 This, 7:30pm, cover varies.
Common Ground Bar and Grill
Brothers and Sisters Night Featuring King J., 9pm, cover varies.
Green Dragon Tavern
The Spitting Vinnies, 10pm, $3.
Green Street Grill
Latin night with Giancarlo Buscaglia, 9pm.
Harper's Ferry
Michigan Black Snake, 9:30pm, $4.
Hennessy's of Boston
Live Under Cover and Beloved Few, 9:30pm.
House of Blues
The Prodigals, 10pm, $8, 21+.
Jake Ivory's
Matt Mello and Josh Nelson, 9pm, cover varies.
Johnny D's
Susan McKeown, 9pm.
Kendall Cafe
Brendan O'Donnell with Jefferson Thomas and Deb Talen, 11pm, $5, 21+.
Les Zygomates
The Jinga Trio, 8pm.
The Linwood
Darkbuster and Razorwire, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Garroll, 8pm, cover varies.
Paradise
Kina, Arnold McCuller, 8pm, no cover, 18+.
Regattabar
The McCoy Tyner Trio with Avery Sharpe and Al Foster, 8:30pm, $18.
Scullers Jazz Club
Walter Beasley, 8pm and 10pm, $19.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Winefield and Collapsis, $6.

Friday, March 17

Axis
CD release party for Danny Tenaglia with DJ Tym Ryan.
Avalon
The Pushstars and Great Big Sea, 7pm, $12.25, 18+.
Bayou Blues Cafe
True Colors, 8pm.
Bill's Bar
Expanding Man with the Red Telelphone and Penny wheel, 9pm, $7, 18+.
The Black Rose
U: Sunday's Well, D: Eugene Byrne, 9pm, $5.
Bob the Chef's Jazz Cafe
Sonny Watson Quartet, 7:30pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
Joel Cage, 8pm.
Common Ground Bar and Grill
The Donegal Cords and Booty, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff
St. Patrick's Day Party.
Green Dragon Tavern
Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
Green Street Grill
Delta Blues with Tarbox Ramblers, 9pm.
Harper's Ferry
St. Patty's Day party with Another, 9:30pm $6.
House of Blues
Watercress, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Jake Ivory's
Paul Levesque and Bill Connors, 9pm, cover varies.
Johnny D's
Superhoney, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's
St. Patrick's Day Party with the Return, 9pm, $5.
Kendall Cafe
Bedlam, 9:30; Grass Cowboy, 10:30pm. $5.
Les Zygomates
The Issi Rosen Trio, 9pm.
The Linwood
Nok, Curb Feeler, Lo-Phat and Devour, 10pm, $6, 21+.
Lizard Lounge
Hy Brazil, 10pm, 21+.
The Middle East
U: Ragin' Teens, Katie and Arina, Haygoods and the Drunks, 18+, $7.
The Purple Shamrock
St. Patrick's Day Party, $5.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Fogal, 3:30pm, cover varies.
Paradise
David Gray, 6:30pm, $9.25.
Regattabar
The McCoy Tyner Trio with Avery Sharpe and Al Foster, 8pm and 10pm, $20.
Scullers Jazz Club
Walter Beasley, 8pm and 10:30pm, $19.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Canine, Euphonic, Labb, $8.
Wally's Cafe
Wally's Step-children II, 9pm, no cover.
Wonder Bar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Saturday, March 18

The Black Rose
John Corcoran, U: Sunday's Well, D: Eugene Byrne, 9pm, $5.
Bob the Chef's Jazz Cafe
Nat Simpkins and B3 Jazz Trio, 7:30pm, cover varies.
The Burren
Tarbox Ramblers, 10:30pm.
Club Cafe
Jan Peters, 9pm.
Club Passim
Odetta, cover varies.
Green Street Grill
Latin night with Giancarlo Buscaglia, 9pm.
Harper's Ferry
Jeff Pitchell and Texas Flood, 9:30pm, $6.
House of Blues
Coco Montoya, 10pm, $12, 21+.
Jake Ivory's
Josh Nelson and Aruna Abrams, 9pm, cover varies.
Johnny D's
Barrence Whitfield, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's
Syndicate, 9pm, $5.
Kendall Cafe
DB Leonard, 9:30pm; Shiner Jones, 10:30pm; Karma Days, 11:30pm, $5.
Les Zygomates
The George Russell Trio, 9pm.
The Linwood
Shake the Faith and chubby, 10pm, $6, 21+.
Lizard Lounge
Astroslut, 10pm, 21+.
The Middle East
U: Waltham, Feces Pieces, Austin's Dead and Medea Connection, $7, 18+. D: the Donnas, the Smugglers and Plus Ones, $8, 18+.
The Purple Shamrock
Felix Brown, 9pm, $5.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Fogal, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Regattabar
The McCoy Tyner Trio with Avery Sharpe and Al Foster, 8pm and 10pm, $22.
Slade's
The John Dougherty Trio, 8pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Jim's Big Ego, Godboy and Skinny Tee, $7.
Wally's Cafe
The John Lankin Quintet, 9pm, no cover.

Sunday, March 19

The Black Rose
John Corcoran and Eugene Byrne, 9pm.
Bob the Chef's Jazz Cafe
Sunday Jazz Brunch with Michael Kelley and the Hot Blue Q, 11am, cover varies.
Green Dragon Tavern
Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
Harper's Ferry
The Rockett Band, 9:30pm, $5.
House of Blues
Pressure Cooker, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Johnny D's
Blues Jam, 4:30-8:30pm.
Karma
The Business with Reach the Sky and guests, 1pm, $10.
Kendall Cafe
One AM Radio, Tracy Shedd and Mark Robinson, no cover.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Garroll, 8pm, cover varies.
Regattabar
The McCoy Tyner Trio with Avery Sharpe and Al Foster, 7pm, $18.
The Roxy
Juan de Marcos's Afro-Cuban All Stars, 8pm, 18+.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Carry the Zero and the Dot, Digital Blu, $4.
Wally's Cafe
Wally's Step-children III, 9pm, no cover.
Wonder Bar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Monday, March 20

Bill's Bar
Supermatazoa with the Krank Squad and Indesit, 9pm, $5, 18+.
The Black Rose
Tony O'Riordan, 9pm.
Harper's Ferry
Ron Levy's Wild Kingdom, 9:30pm, $3.
House of Blues
Ultra Lounge Series featuring Johnny A., 9pm, $7, 18+.
Johnny D's
Hot Tamale Brass Band, 8pm.
Karma
The Ducky Boys with guests, 1pm, $10.
Kendall Cafe
Teddy Larkin and Scary Wagon, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
"The Other Side of the Bear" acoustic series with Meaghan McLaughlin, John Damask and Rob Gaggin of Sayhitolisa, Paula Kelley and Brett Rosenberg, $2.
Wonder Bar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Tuesday, March 21

The Black Rose
Eugene Byrne, 9pm.
Harper's Ferry
Another Planet and Friends, 9:30pm, $3.
House of Blues
Rick Russell Blues Buffet and Jam, 9pm, $6, 18+.
Johnny D's
Lui Collins, Dana Robinson and Bill Garrett, 8:30pm.
Kendall Cafe
Jed Parish of the Gravel Pit with Charlie Chesterman, $4.

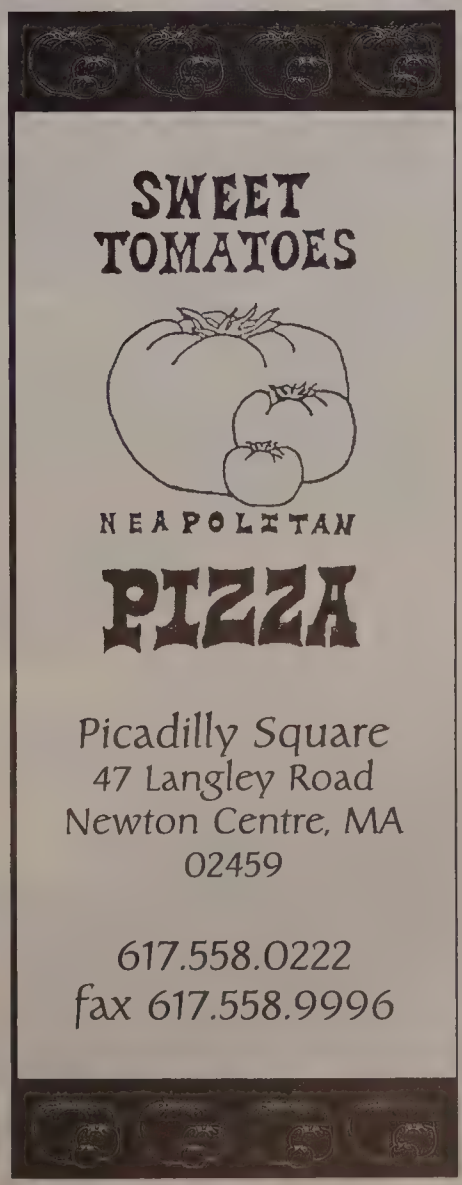
Les Zygomates
The Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Dave Smyth, 7pm, cover varies.
Paradise
Shannon Curfman.
Regattabar
Michelle Willson and the Evil Gal Festival Orchestra, 8:30pm, $10.
Toad
Michael Tarbox, 7pm.

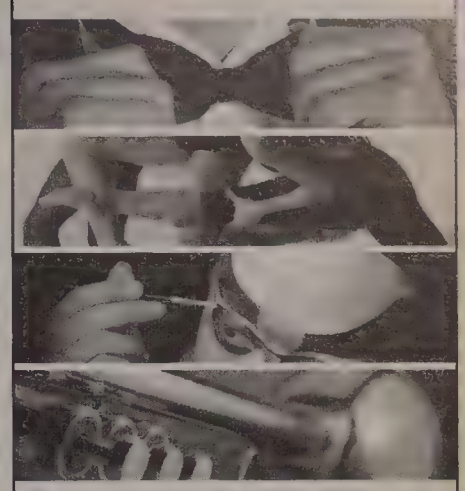
MUSIC VENUES

Aquarium *65 Holland St., Somerville (623-3200). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Fenway (262-2424).*
B-Side Lounge *92 Hampshire St., East Cambridge (354-0766). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Bayou Blues Cafe *Located at Cambridge Racquet and Fitness Club, 215 First St., Cambridge (491-8989). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (743-2286). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Blacksmith House *56 Brattle St., Cambridge (247-9192).*
Bob the Chef's Jazz Cafe *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-6204).*
Bristol Lounge *Four Seasons Hotel, 200 Boylston St., Boston (338-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
Bullfinch's Pub *730 Boston Post Road, Sudbury (978-443-4094).*
The Burren *247 Elm St, Somerville (776-6896). MBTA: Red Line to Davis Square.*
Cambridge Brewing Co. *1 Kendall Square, Bldg. 100, Cambridge (494-1994).*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Clery's *113 Dartmouth St., Boston (262-9874). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*
Club Passim *47 Palmer St., Harvard Square, Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Coogan's Bluff *173 Market St., Boston (451-7415). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
The Good Life *28 Kingston St., Boston 451-2622). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing/*
Grand Canal *57 Canal Street, Boston (523-1112).*
Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (367-0055).*
Green Street Grill *280 Green Street, Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Avenue, Allston (254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard.*
Hennessy's of Boston *25 Union St., Boston (742-2121).*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Harvard Square, Cambridge (491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Jake Ivory's *1 Lansdowne St., Boston (247-1222).*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Davis Square, Somerville (776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Karma *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9595).*
Kendall Cafe *233 Cardinal Medeiros Ave., Cambridge (661-0993). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (783-9400). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Lilli's *92 Hampshire St., E. Cambridge (354-0766).*
The Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (267-8644).*
The Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-0795). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Porter.*
Marran Theater *Lesley College, 29 Everett St., Cambridge (349-8579).*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Milky Way Lounge *405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-3740).*
Mr. Dooley's Tavern *77 Broad St., Boston (338-5656).*
O'Brien's *3 Harvard Ave, Allston (782-6245). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Paddy Burke's Pub *132 Portland Street, Boston (367-8370). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Paradise *180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (494-0700).*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (227-2060). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (725-1051). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Rhythm and Muse *403 Congress St., Jamaica Plain.*
Rhythm and Spice *315 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (497-0977). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square or MIT.*
Sanders Theatre *45 Quincy St., Cambridge (496-2222).*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Road, Cambridge (562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Slade's *958 Tremont Street, Boston (442-4600).*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
The Times Bar and Restaurant *112 Broad St., Boston (859-1446). Top of the Hub Prudential Tower, Boston (536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Veronique Restaurant *Longwood Towers, 20 Chapel Street, Brookline (731-4800).*
Wally's Cafe *427 Mass. Ave., Boston (424-1408). MBTA: Green Line to Symphony.*
The Western Front *343 Western Ave., Cambridge (492-7772). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square.*
White Horse Tavern *116 Brighton Ave., Allston Village (254-6633). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard Ave., Allston (351-COOL). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Les Zygomates *129 South Street, Boston (542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*

Juan de Marcos' 13-piece band the Afro-Cuban All Stars perform at the Roxy on March 19.

CRISTINA PIZA





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Proscenium magazine

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Send resume to Alisha Barry, Proscenium *magazine: 8 Front St., 3F, Salem, MA 01970; fax: 978-745-3339; email: abarry@ifpub.tiac.net (attach files in MS Word format only). EOE.*

Production

PRODUCTION MANAGER We're seeking a full-time energetic, details-oriented Production Manager with at least 5 years' experience in color desktop publishing. Superior and swift Quark, Photoshop, and general Mac skills essential, as well as the ability to create and enforce complex, multi-component schedules in a changeable, deadline-driven environment. ***Proscenium*** **offers a very competitive salary and benefits plan.**

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PROSCENIUM

gay&lesbian

If you want to be listed
Submit information including telephone numbers and nearest T stops by fax to (859-1446), mail or e-mail to gaylesbian@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted by phone.*

How to use this section
The following listings contain information that is subject to change. Contact the organization for changes in specific events.

CLUBS, BARS & HANGOUTS

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years these folks have been crankin' out some of the best Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. It's well worth a visit—if not for the three separate dance floors then for all of the male dancers. 9pm, $15, 21+.

Buzz (Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays)
51 Stuart St. in the Theatre District, Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. On Saturday nights this place boasts two dance floors, two DJs, a pool room and a lounge. Two levels of dancing and schmoozing will keep the boys busy until 2am. 10pm, $5, 21+.

Chaps (Daily)
*100 Warrenton St., Boston (695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boyl*ston. www.chapsofboston.com. Sun.: Dance music of DJ Danae Jacovidis; Mon.: Grand Baby and Grand Piano night; Tue.: Retro DJ night; Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adielson Caesar; Thu.: DJs Billy and Fran: High Energy Dance; Fri.: Taboo Erotique with DJ Sammy; Sat.: High Energy Dance, DJ Danae Jacovidis.

City Girl Cafe (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tues.-Fri: 11am- 9pm; Sat: 10am-9pm; Sun: 10am-7pm. A small (5 tables), laid-back cafe in Inman Square, lesbian-owned and operated. This cozy spot is home to a mixed gay/hetero crowd that lounges about, munching on sandwiches. Brunch on Saturday and Sunday 10am-2pm.

Club Cafe (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-0966). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri 11:30am-2am; Sat. 2pm-2am; Sun. 11am-2am. This trendy South End spot draws a mixed crowd that comes for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back (Moonshine). A dressy bunch that likes to mingle. No cover, 21+. •Carol O'Shaughnessy performs with Steve Heck, Dottie Dean or David Sparr, Thursdays. •Michael Kreutz performs every Sunday, 8:30pm. •March 12, Jan Peters from *Old Fashioned, Please*, 7pm. •March 12, Michelle Currie from *Life's a Bowl of...*, 9pm.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (542-4494). Mon.-Fri. 3pm-2am; Sat. 1pm-2am; Sun. 12pm-2am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This is your friendly neighborhood bar with a quiet setting. It's best known for scrumptious Sunday brunches (12-4pm). A simple joint with all of the trappings of a true bar, smoky and dark. The place starts hopping as it gets closer to 2am.

Fritz (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Stroll in for a quiet drink or a rowdy night on the town. The folks here are friendly—and really into sports. Not only does Fritz have Direct TV set up with sets scattered everywhere, it's also home base to a great softball league. 12pm, no cover, 21+.

Jacques (Daily)
79 Broadway, Boston (426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. If you're looking for a friendly crowd of gays and straights and you're in the mood to mix with disco-dancing drag queens, this is the place. Sun. and Mon. are local band nights when acts rock into the wee hours. Tues. through Sat., however, divas rule the stage. 10:30pm, $4, weekends $6, 21+.

Lava Bar (Saturdays)
575 Commonwealth. Ave., Boston (267-7707). The Lava Bar's Tabu night boasts DJ Fran spinning out high energy house with a taste of Latin beats. Doors open at 10pm.

The Lizard Lounge (Wednesdays)
1667 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). "Marlene Loses It at the Lizard" is the title of this eclectic evening of poetry, live music, theater and cabaret in front of a diverse crowd. Shows begin at 10pm. $5 cover, 21+.

Luxor (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (423-6969). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from the latest music scenes and classic old movies—compiled by the bar's own VJ. Downstairs is Jox, a sports bar. 4pm, no cover, 21+.

Man Ray (Thursdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (864-0400). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed.-Fri. at 9pm; Sat. at 10pm. A bustling S/M hot spot caters to a young alternative clientele. Two dance floors fill up on Thursdays for Campus, a predominately male night where DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen take over. 9pm, 21+.

119 Merrimac (Daily)
119 Merrimac St., Boston (367-0713). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Sat., 10:30am-2am; Sun. 12pm-2am. This male cruise bar is the place to stop for drinks before or after FleetCenter events. Shoot a leisurely game of pool or the hit the video games. Merrimac features DJs playing hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s. 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. On Thursday nights the Lesbian AIDS Project of Mass. unofficially takes over this laid-back cafe for "dyke nyte." The cafe always has something brewing—live bands, DJs and drag queen parties. Party stars at 8pm, no cover, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (494-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Central. On Monday, a bartender not only mixes drinks, he'll strip too. Male strippers are featured Wed.-Sat. Monday is Gothic night; Tuesday is techno and Thursday is college night. On Fridays DJ Sam Sampson spins, and on Saturday DJ Brad Gwynn helps you tear up the dance floor. 5pm, no cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (266-2986). Green Line to Kenmore. 12-2am daily. The largest leather bar in the East enforces a tight dress code (but leather is obligatory for the back room). Downstairs on Fri., Sat. (10pm-2am) and Sun. (7pm-12am) is the Machine, the sleekest hardcore club in town. Fri. has NYC DJ Darrin Friedman, Sat. DJ Brad Gwynn and Sun. is "Dragon Tea Dance," an Asian inspiration night with DJ James Hughes, a dragon show at 10pm and performances by Palace Princess Corvette and Diamond Dunhill. $6-$8, 21+.

Preview

Bear Icons

Art and Artifacts of Queer Masculinity

This installation mixes folk, commercial, documentary and fine art to demonstrate the rapid expansion of a new gay male archetype. See a vast array of self-representation of gay male "bear sensibilities" at Newton's Gallery at Mount Ida College, *Carlson Student Center, 777 Deham St., Newton Centre (928-7314). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Centre. Through March 19, 7-9pm. Free admission.*

BOOKS & READINGS

Glad Day Bookshop
673 Boylston St., Boston (267-3010). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu. 9:30am-10pm, Fri. and Sat. 9:30am-11pm, Sun. 12-9pm. This exclusively gay/lesbian bookstore has erotic mags, calendars and videos.

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge. (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Fri. 10am-8pm, Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 12-6pm. New England's oldest women's book shop offers a comprehensive selection of books. Its monthly author series will resume in the spring.

We Think The World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6:30pm; Sun., 11:30am-5:30pm. Boston's literary gay and lesbian bookstore. Call Paul Rehme for details.

SHOWS & EVENTS

The Judas Kiss
The Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). Wed.-Thu. 7:30pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 4pm; Sun. 3pm. March 17-April 16. A wildly intelligent drama that revolves around the events surrounding arrest and imprisonment of Oscar Wilde. David Hare lays bare the drama of two critical points in Wilde's last years: the day he decides to stay in England to face imprisonment and the night after his release two years later when the lover for whom he risked everything betrays him.

ONGOING

Bawl
This lesbian softball league offers opportunities to join teams in both the recreational and competitive divisions. Call Liz (508-628-5477).

Best Foot Forward
Ballet Etc. Dance Studios, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (522-1444). MBTA: B Green Line to Washington St. Everyone knows that swing is the thing. For gays/lesbians/bisexuals of all skill levels.

Boston Glass
Community Center, 93 Mass Ave., Boston (266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center. Daily from 8-10pm. Support groups and social activities for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender adolescents ages of 13-25.

The Boston Rainbow Gospel Choir
The BRGC is about to launch its second season and periodically holds auditions. Call 424-6740.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). A 1,500-member gay club with hiking, biking, camping, skiing and other outdoor activities for men and women.

Common Bond
(781-433-7023). www.dwellings.com/acb. An international support group for gay/lesbian/bisexual current or former Jehovah's Witnesses.

Community Rainbow
Boston Living Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston. 7:45 pm. An organization whose mission is to advocate for the community. Meets Thursdays.

Cosmetically-Correct
Tremont Tea Room, 48-50 Winter St., 3rd floor, Boston. A social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month 7:30-10pm. Lipstick optional. For more info e-mail *m.antoinette@ididitmyway.com.*

Dykes Who Hike
(522-6185). This brand spankin' new hiking group for lesbians in Boston and surrounding areas conquers the wilderness.

East Coast Wrestling Club
With more than 160 members, this is an extraordinarily popular New England spot for gay male wrestlers. Call Marc at 401-467-6737, or go online at *http://members.tripod.com/~ecwc* or e-mail *ecwc@juno.com.*

Encounters
Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston. An informal social evening for HIV positive gay and bisexual men held the first Tuesday of every month, 7-9pm.

Explore
A behavioral study intervention for gay men. Call 350-6900, ext. 199 or e-mail *explore@lhi.org.*

Faith Community
Metropolitan Community Church, 131 Cambridge St., Boston (973-0404). A faith community of gay, lesbian, transgendered and bisexual people looking to affirm spirituality and sexuality.

Gay Volleyball
Cambridge (262-3626). Sundays, 7pm, $7. Typically five teams play on two courts. Teams are made up each week depending on who shows up. Men and women welcome.

Gender Free Contra Dancing
First Church of Jamaica Plain (522-1115). www.piac.net/users/latte/lcfd/. Come one, come all to evenings of contra and square dancing.

Hump Day
Skupper Jacks in Acton. Every third Wednesday at 5:30pm, Boston's gay, lesbian and transgendered come together to hang. For information contact *Tom.Evans@digital.com.*

Latino Social Groups
Latino Gay Men's Project (350-6900 ex.125) and the Women's Social Groups (350-6900 ex. 124).

Long Yang Club
Various locations, (825-5677). www.longyangclub.org/boston. A club for gay Asian men and their friends. For more information call Ron (661-9165) or Steve at (401-941-1978).

Luna
(350-6900, ext. 122) or e-mail luna@lhi.org. This branch of the Latino Gay Youth Project offers psychoeducational groups.

Oops
Melting Pot Coffee House, 2 Belgrade Ave., Roslindale (323-4123). Out on the Parkways, a gay and lesbian organization, invites one and all to come on down for some coffee and dinner.

PFLAG
Fenway Community Health Center, 7 Haviland St., Boston (547-2440). Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets on the fourth Monday of the month, 6:30-8:30pm.

QAPA
This group holds monthly brunches on the first Sunday of every month at Ta-sheng Restaurant, 16 Eliot St., 2nd floor, in Harvard Square. Email *qapa@ccae.org.* for more information.

Queer Corps
131 Clarendon St., 4th floor, Boston (450-1676). A community mobilization project by and for queer men 25 and under. Meetings are held every Tuesday night from 6-8pm.

Tennis4all
Boston's gay and lesbian tennis club, with monthly tournaments and pizza socials. Call Ted at 779-7231.

CLOCKWISE: RICHARD FERRUCIO, LYNN LUDWIG, SCOTT AUERBACH, ZIO POLIPO

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AIDS isn't under control? Impossible.
Declining AIDS deaths means more Americans than ever are living with HIV. However, infection rates are rising—and even more people need AIDS services. Over 17,000 Americans died of AIDS last year. AIDS will only be under control when that number, around the world, is zero.

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In fact, most have never done anything like this in their lives. Many don't even own bikes when they register. It's not a race. It's not competitive. It's cooperative.

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Since 1994, Tanqueray's AIDSRidesUSA have sent over $62 million directly back to AIDS charities. The money you raise in 2000 will benefit Fenway Community Health in Boston. You will be funding hotlines, outreach, caring counselors, educational programs, and life-sustaining HIV medications. You will be making life possible again for so many people.

Me, living in a tent, roughing it, in the great outdoors? Impossible.
Wait'll you see our spectacular Mobile City,℠ the place you'll call home. We haul your luggage, provide your tent, and supply everything from hot showers, volunteer massage and chiropractic services to delicious breakfasts and dinner. And we help you get through each day—with roving bike techs at pit stops, where water, snacks, and lunch also await. People have consistently said that the AIDSRide is the best-organized event they've ever been part of.

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Wednesday, March 15, 7 p.m.
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body&mind

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information by mail, fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/ Mind, or electronically to body-mind@improper.com. *Include a brief but thorough description of the event, time, date, location and directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least 4 weeks in advance.*

EVENTS

Buddha Shaman: Shapeshift into Nice-ness
Omega Institute in Boston, Arlington Street Church, 351 Boylston St., Boston (1-800-944-1001). www.omega-inst.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. March 10, 8pm-10pm. $25.* Join **John Perkins** for a lesson in mind over matter. He's talked with countless shamans, elders and lamas on the whole issue and discovered that people can dream themselves into a whole new loving world. So stop complaining about life and take action.

Discover the Self
Theosophical Society in Boston, 21 Maple Street, Arlington (781-641-0610). March 11-12, 9am-5pm. $175. Call to register. The Science of the Seven Rays are energy streams that create and imbue us with uniqueness, strengths, tendencies and weaknesses. The Seven Rays are the core to differences in learning styles, vocation, profession. Through the study of one's individual energies it is possible to understand, at a foundational level, the causes of one's behavior and that of others.

Shake 'n Wake
Eagle Drum Council, PO Box 1284, Concord, Mass. 01742 (978-371-2502). www.earthspirit.com. *March 10-12. $195-$220, sliding scale, includes lodging, meals and workshop. To register, send fee along with your name, address, email and phone number to the address above.* Embark on a journey to your inner village and out to Western Mass to move your body in a soulful dance. Author of *Circle of Shaman: Healing through Ecstasy, Rhythm, and Myth*, **Karen Berggren**, and **Morwen Two Feathers** coordinate this gathering to discover how rhythm, dance, ritual and trance may transform and heal our lives and our world. No previous musical or dance experience necessary.

Siri Swami Kaur teaches her workshop, Spring Equinox Kundalini Yoga, on March 18.

Spring Equinox Kundalini Yoga Workshop
Siri Swami Kaur, Wayland (508-651-2648). www.siriswami.com. *March 18.* It's not often you find a chance to learn yoga from a swami.

WORKSHOPS

Ayurveda & Yoga: Sister Sciences
The Old Baptist Church, 1151 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (864-YOGA). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. March. 12, 9:30am-12:30pm. Ayurveda, from India, is one of the oldest and most comprehensive health care systems. Its goal is to maintain a balanced body and mind in coordination with one's unique constitution. This workshop will teach you Ayurveda's basic concepts and its relationship to yoga.

Feng Shui: The Chinese Art of Placement
YogaEast, 20 Del Carmine St., Wakefield (781-224-0722). March 10, 7-9pm. $75. The Chinese understood that the way rooms are built, arranged, and decorated effects the way we think and feel. Join **Carole St Germaine** to learn how to transform your home into an energetically nourishing space.

Headache Relief Without Drugs
Newton Community Education, Newton North High School, 360 Lowell Ave., Newtonville (522-7461). March 9, 7:30-9pm. $21. Drugs are not the only solution to the aching and mysterious problem of headaches. **Dr. John Duffy** will help you explore why the pain happens and teach you effective alternative therapies and exercises.

Intro to Yoga
Beacon Light Yoga Center, 215 Brighton Ave., Allston (739-0717). March 18, 3-5pm. $20. This center is a wonderfully comfortable place to practice yoga. If you've always thought yoga is something you'd like to try, check this class out. Even if you don't sign on for life, you'll have a pleasant time and learn some things about your body.

Psychic Development Workshop
Ross Miller, 1075 Washington St., Newton (527-3583). March 11, 10am-4pm. Call to register. **Ross Miller**, professional psychic, holds this experiential workshop on techniques that could make you truly self-sufficient, including talking to your spirit guides, feeling auras, uncovering past life memory and reading minds.

What is Enlightenment?
Impersonal Enlightenment Fellowship, 38 Cameron Ave., Suite 100, Cambridge (492-2848). March 19, 4pm. Join spiritual teacher Andrew Cohen in a revolutionary investigation into the nature of enlightenment and the liberating potential of spiritual inquiry.

LECTURES/FORUMS

Allergies
The Marino Center for Progressive Health, 2500 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6225). www.marino center.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Porter Square. March 9, 6-7pm.* Join **Dr. Thomas LaCava**, practitioner of progressive health, for a lecture on the mysterious subject of allergies. Much of what you learn could be of assistance come spring.

The Wise Magician: Masters of the Four Elements
New Acropolis Organization, YMCA, 7 Temple St., Cambridge. (591-9959). MBTA: Red to Central. March 17, 7:30pm. This organization introduces ancient knowledge that is useful for personal transformation. According to their research, magicians knew the secret to the transformation of worlds. Apply that knowledge and who knows what could happen?

Holistic Approach for Healthy Skin
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. March 11, 10am-4pm. $67. The skin is the largest organ of the body. You use it every moment, yet it's so easy to ignore. However, professor and author **Ted Grossbart** knows that your skin talks to you and that skin problems could be saying a lot more than, "You eat too much junk food." Find out how to improve your physical and mental health by increasing your awareness with your skin.

Natural, Non-Surgical Face-Lift
Open Doors, 395A Washington St., Braintree (781- 843-8224). March 12, 2-4pm. $30. Back in the day, people would cast spells to take care of the aging problem. But luckily in the modern era, using acupressure, facial exercises and rejuvenating imagery can effectively help you date younger people. These techniques will help smooth away wrinkles, reduce puffiness, release ugly tension lines and lift up your face and other body parts.

Sam Horn Lecture
Boston Center for Adult Education, 44 Comm. Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. March 16, 6-7:45pm (Tongue Fu!), 8-9:45pm (ConZentrate). $36/lecture. Author **Sam Horn** offers a lecture entitled **Tongue Fu! Deflect, Disarm and Defuse Conflict**. Learn martial arts for the mind and mouth to communicate sensitively with people of all ages. The second lecture will be **ConZentrate! Focus and Get More Accomplished**. Learn ways to improve your ability to fo cus.

Satisfying Sex Classes
Grand Opening Sexuality Boutique, 318 Harvard St., Suite 32, Brookline (731-2626). www.grandopening.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. • March 12, 7:30-9:30pm. $20. Men only.* **Sex Tips for Guys**. A very popular sex class for guys, but that's no surprise. Owner **Kim Airs** will share her tips on pleasuring females, culled from chats with hundreds of women. Learn about female anatomy, toys, positions and tricks that will make you a team player. Taught in an encouraging and supportive atmosphere. • *March 15, 7:30-9:30pm. $20, Women only.* **Sex Tips for Gals**. Owner **Kim Airs** shares some pleasure tips for both you and your male partner. Learn techniques that are tried and true to set you on your path of becoming a sex goddess.

When Someone You Love Has Cancer
Wellspace, Fresh Pond Mall, Cambridge (876-2660). www.wellspace.com. *March 16, 7:30-9pm. Free.* This lecture is held in the peaceful environment of Wellspace. Participants will discuss the impact that a cancer diagnosis can have on a relationship and explore strategies and resources for caring for a loved one with cancer.

GETAWAYS

Zen Retreat
Cambridge Zen Center, 199 Auburn St., Cambridge (576-3229). MBTA: Red to Harvard. www.cambridgezen.com. *March 10-12.* This monthly retreat is an excellent opportunity to clear the mind of habitual thinking and generate energy to practice in everyday life. One of the center's teachers, **Jane McLaughlin-Dobisz**, will lead the weekend's activities: zen practice, work and rest periods, formal vegetarian meals and a private interview with the retreat leader. Beginners are very welcome.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Children. Or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

TO SEE

Blue's Clues Live!
Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue. 10:30am; Wed-Thu. 7pm; Fri. 7pm; Sat.-Sun. 11am, 2pm and 5pm. March 10-16. $10.50-$29.50. This interactive theatrical production is based on the television series and features familiar and well-loved characters like Blue, Steve and all their friends. • March 12, 12pm, $130, $85 (children): **Blues Clues Family Brunch**. Help Blue find her clues in this mystery brunch at the Ritz-Carlton.

Puppet Showplace Theater
32 Station St., Brookline (731-6400). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. $8. • March 11-12, 1pm and 3pm (5 years and older). **Jack and the Beanstalk** by Spring Valley Puppet Theatre. Jack climbs the beanstalk to make his dreams come true. • *March 18-19, 1pm and 3pm (5 years and older).* **Rumplestiltskin** by Puppet Arts and Paul Vincent Davis. The King orders Hilda to spin straw into gold, but of course she cannot accomplish her task.

The Children's Hour
John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (929-1250). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. March 18, 10:30am. Free. Song, dance and mime are incorporated into a series of animated stories by Jackson Gilman. The program includes participatory tales about the life cycle of a carrot from seed to table; the earthworm's dance; a back-breaking, prize-winning turnip; a barnyard hoe-down; and a garden lullaby.

THINGS TO DO

Children's Festival
New England Spring Flower Show, Bayside Expo Center, Boston (536-9280). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. March 17, 4:30-8:30pm. Entertainment and hands-on demos and activities for learning and fun.

Exploring and Playing in Watercolor
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). March 10, 6:30-8:30pm. $20 non-member (and child). This workshop teaches beginners of all ages watercolor painting methods.

Kids Cooking and Etiquette Class
French Library & Cultural Center, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (451-1900, ext. 7061). March 11, 10am-1pm. Le Meridien Hotel co-sponsors this introduction to the French language as well as to some of the food and dining customs of France. Children will tour the hotel's kitchen and help the chefs prepare their lunch.

Museum of Transportation Family Programs
15 Newton St., Brookline (522-6547). Sundays, 2pm. $5, $3 children. • March 12: **What Goes Up**: Who the heck is Sir Isaac Newton? Take part in fun activities and learn about gravity and motion. • March 19: **Paper Airplanes**. What makes a paper airplane fly? Learn how to make and fly your own paper airplanes.

Story Hour and Craft
Harvard Square Coop, 1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. • March 11, 11am. Free. Read *St. Patrick's Day in the Morning* by Eve Bunting and decorate a shamrock. • March 18, 11am. Free. Read *Strega Nona* by Tomie de Paola and then make a pasta picture.

It's *Blue's Clues Live* at the Wang, March 10-16.

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

To Watch

Boston Bruins
•FleetCenter. Tickets: 931-2000.
March 8 (Away): Buffalo, 7pm, UPN38.
March 10 (Away): Carolina, 7:30pm, UPN38.
March 11 (Away): Montreal, 7:00pm, CBC.
March 16 (Away): Chicago, 8pm, ESPN2.
March 18 (Home): Pittsburgh, 3pm, ABC.
March 19 (Away): Philadelphia, 1pm, UPN38.
March 21 (Home): Tampa, 7pm.

Celtics
•FleetCenter. Tickets: 931-2000.
March 8 (Home): Milwaukee, 7pm, Fox Sports Net.
March 10 (Home): Chicago, 7pm, FSN.
March 12 (Home): Philadelphia, 12:30pm, FSN.
March 13 (Away): Detroit, 7:30pm, FSN.
March 15 (Home): Golden State, 7pm, FSN.
March 17 (Away): Atlanta, 7:30pm, FSN.
March 18 (Away): Dallas, 8pm, FSN.
March 20 (Away): Phoenix, 9pm, FSN.

Hockey East
March 9, 11, 12: Quarterfinals, 7pm. Fox Sports Net.
March 17-18: Semifinals #1, 4pm (FleetCenter).

New England Revolutions
•Foxboro Stadium. Tickets: 877-GET-REVS.
March 18 (Away): Miami Fusion, 7:30pm.
March 25 (Away): Tampa Bay Mutiny, 7pm.

Events

BSSC Charity Ski
Nashoba Valley (789-4070). March 9, 6pm. $50. Ski, race and party for a good cause with the Boston Ski & Sports Club. There'll be timed dual slalom races, free skiing from 6-10pm, *apres* ski party with awards, raffle prizes and complimentary T-shirts. Proceeds benefit AccessSportAmerica, an organization that builds personal empowerment for people with disabilities.

Ski Events

• March 9-12: **USSA Eastern Junior Olympics** at Cranmore. (603-356-5543). Top junior racers compete in junior racing's top event.
• March 10-12: **New England Cystic Fibrosis Ski Challenge** at Attitash Bear Peak. (800-757-0203). Join New England celebrities and sports personalities to raise money for the N.E. Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.
• March 11-12: **24-Hour Ski-A-Thon** at Bretton Woods. (603-278-3300). Ski around the clock to benefit the Nobody's Children Relief Organization.
• March 11: **Boxer Short Race** at Pats Peak. (888-PATS-PEAK). Race in your boxer shorts to benefit the area's race program.
• March 11: **WZLX Rocks the Mountain** at Ragged Mountain. (603-768-3600). Fun race and after ski party with radio personalities from Boston's WZLX.
• March 15: **St. Patrick's Day Fun on the Slopes** at Mount Sunapee. (603-763-2356). Look on trails for hidden "Pots of Gold". Prizes and Irish entertainment.
• March 16-19: **US Open Snowboarding Championships** at Stratton Mountain. (802-864-7123). More than 500 athletes represent 20 countries.
• March 17: **Leprechaun Bob Race** at Gunstock. (800-486-786). The annual ski bob race (bikes with skis).
• March 18: **Women's Ski Day** at Bretton Woods. (603-278-3300). Lectures, health and fitness clinics and instruction for women.
• March 18: **Costume Parade** at Balsams Wilderness. (603-255-3951). This year's theme: Cartoons on Skis and Search for Knowledge Race.
• March 18: **3rd Annual Cardboard Box Derby** at Tenney Mountain. (603-536-4125). Wacky cardboard creations compete for speed and originality. Open to all.
• March 19: **Spring Mania 2000** at Attitash Bear Peak. (603-374-2368). Annual Sgt. James Noyes Memorial Race to raise money for local scholarship funds.
• March 19: **Double Bubble Day** at Cannon Mountain. (603-823-8800). Celebrate the invention of chewing gum. Contests and ticket incentives available.
• March 19: **9th Annual Intragalactic Cardboard Sled Race** at Mount Sunapee. (603-763-2356). Cardboard creations of all sizes and shapes compete for prizes.

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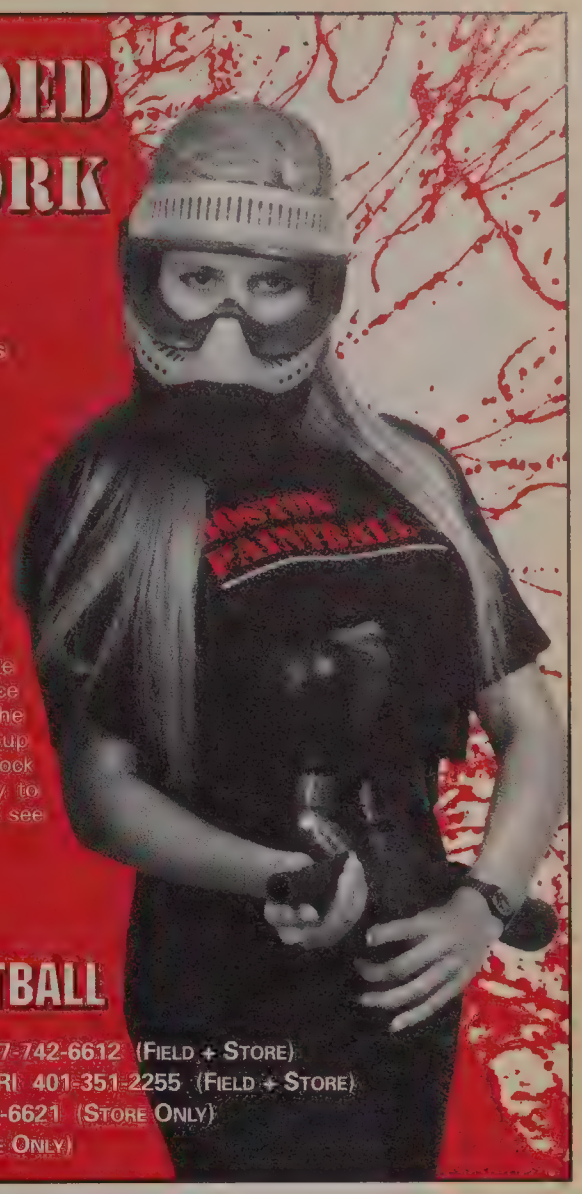

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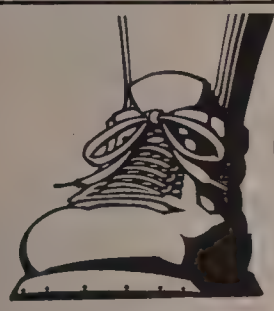

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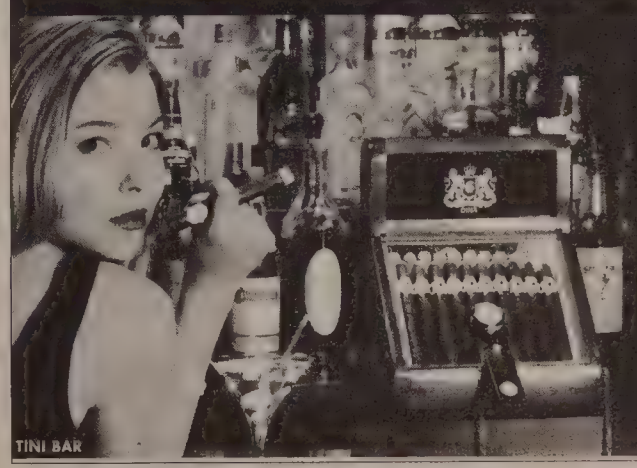

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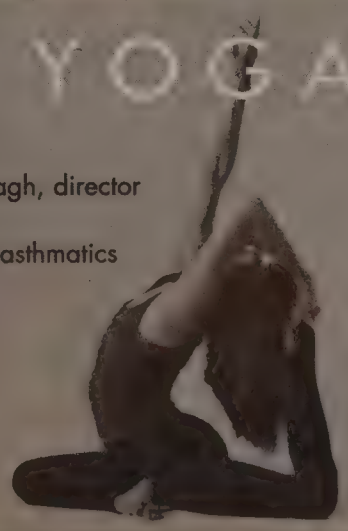

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To Play

BASKETBALL

Adult Baskeball League
Waltham YMCA (781-894-5295). Wednesday nights. All levels welcome.

Basketball City
Adjacent to North Station and the FleetCenter (742-6700). Corporate, midday and weekend leagues.

Co-Ed Indoor Basketball
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 224). Sun.-Thu. nights at various locations. All levels welcome. Leagues in Waltham, Dedham and Brookline.

The Corporate League of Boston
(566-7808).

Men's Basketball League
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990). Begins Jan. 10-11.

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333). Practice and workout programs for all levels in Greater Boston.

South End Fitness Center League
(534-5823).

Women's Basketball League
(661-9622).

DOWNHILL SKIING

Boston Ski & Sports Club
(789-4070, ext. 222). •Daytrips leave every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday and include roundtrip transportation plus lift tickets. •Weekend trips include resort accommodations, meals, lift tickets and bus transportation.

Ski Market/Underground Snowboard
(731-6100). Sundays, $45; Thursdays, $40 (includes dinner and tour of the Redhook Brewery). Ski/snowboard trips to Killington, Sunday River, Loon and Waterville every Sunday and Thursday. Trips include roundtrip transportation and lift ticket.

S-Kimos Ski Club
Jackson, NH (388-8135 or 781-209-1189). Ski club located in Jackson, NH, central to many ski areas. Members participate in various winter and summer activities, such as alpine and cross-country skiing, snowboarding and hiking.

FOOTBALL

Australian Rules Football
Boston Australian Rules Football Club. Thu. evenings and Sat. mornings, Cambridge (781-440-9266). www.Boston Demons.org. No experience necessary.

Indoor Flag Football
BSSC, Indoor Sports Center in Revere (789-4070). Sundays.

Co-ed Touch Football
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990).

GOLF

The Golf School
Radisson Hotel, 200 Stuart St., Boston (457-2699). An indoor driving range staffed by PGA pros.

HIKING/WALKING

The Appalachian Mountain Club
Gorham, N.H. (603-466-2727). Hikes and huts in the White Mountains. •Monthly AMC Young Members meetings at AMC headquarters, 4 Joy St., Beacon Hill (523-0655). Second Thursday of every month, 6-10pm, $3. Potluck. BYOB.

New England Walkers
39 Oakland Rd., Brookline (731-9889). members.tripod.com/NEWALKERS. This 200-member club hosts race-walk events and clinics. Weekly walks at M.I.T. indoor track on Wednesdays at 7pm.

HOCKEY

Co-ed Floor Hockey
BSSC (789-4070). Individuals and teams, co-eds, all levels in Newton.

Co-ed Floor Hockey
Sport & Social Club of Boston, (262-8990).

RUGBY

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
Cambridge (781-340-2192). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.bwrfc.org. *Tue. and Thu. evenings.* No experience necessary.

RUNNING

Boston Road Club Weekly Races
(781-646-8955). Sundays. Starts at Wells Ave. in Newton.

Fresh Pond Weekly Road Races
Fresh Pond Reservation. Saturdays, 10am. Choose between a 2.5- or 5-mile run.

NIKETOWN Boston Running Club
200 Newbury St., Boston (267-3400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Three-to-five-mile loops. Starts at 6:30pm. Monthly mini-clinics as well.

Boston Hash House Harriers
(499-4835). Weekly runs year-round. Serious drinkers with a running problem.

Khoury's Thursday Night Runs
East Somerville. (354-3534). 4.13 miles. 7pm at Khoury's Bar.

Somerville Road Runners Weekly Run
Cambridge Boat House Parking Lot, Cambridge (923-2378). Fridays at 7 pm.

SOCCER

BSSC Indoor/Outdoor Soccer
BSSC (789-4070, ext. 225). Coed teams.

Sport & Social Club Indoor Soccer
(262-8990).

SOFTBALL

Indoor Coed Softball
BSSC, (789-4070, ext. 222). Mon. or Tues. evenings. Play in Danvers.

Coed Softball
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990).

SWIMMING

Boston Athletic Club Swim Workouts
653 Summer St., Boston (269-4300). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon. and Wed. 6:15-7:15am.

The Charles River Park Club Morning Masters
Charles River Park, Boston (450-9810). Mon., Wed., Fri. 6:30-7:45am.

The Mason Masters Swim Program
The Mason Pool, 159 Norfolk Avenue, Roxbury. (236-4923 or 450-9810) Mon.-Fri. 7:30-8:30pm. Led by Alex Primilsky, coach of world, national and Olympic champions.

TENNIS

Mixed Doubles
BSSC (789-4070). Saturday evenings in Waltham.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Boston Ski & Sports Club
(789-4070).

Boston Ultimate Disc Alliance
(928-0882). www.buda.org.

VOLLEYBALL

Adult Co-ed Volleyball League
Waltham YMCA (781-894-5295). Monday nights, began Sept. 13. All levels welcome at this friendly league.

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club, (789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. at various locations. Coed indoor 6 on 6 leagues. Four different levels of play. Pick-up games, clinics and tournaments also available. •Co-ed pickup games Tuesdays and Fridays at West Newton Armory, 1137 Washington St. $5. •Volleyball Clinic, Feb. 27, 4-6:30pm, Serving and Passing. All levels. $15. West Newton Armory.

Co-ed Volleyball League
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990).

WRESTLING

Men's Adult Wrestling
Boston Union, 48 Boylston St., Boston (482-1122). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm; Saturdays 1-3:30pm. All skill levels. Coaching available.

sales& fashion

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for sales and bargains by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sales and Fashion. Or e-mail information to goodbuys@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the event or items. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

AUCTIONS

Skinner Auctioneers—Boston
63 Park Plaza, Boston (350-5400). www.skinner inc.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.* •**American & European Paintings & Prints**. *March 10, 4pm (prints and photography); 7pm (paintings). Previews: March 8, 12-5pm; March 9, 12-7pm; March 10, 12-3pm.* •**Fine Jewelry**. *March 14, 12pm. Previews: March 12, 12-5pm; March 13, 12-7pm; March 14, 9-11am.*

Skinner Auctioneers—Bolton
357 Main St., Bolton (978-779-6241). www.skinner-inc.com. •**Discovery Auction**. *March 16, 7pm and March 17, 10am. Previews: March 16, 2-6:30pm; March 17, 8-9:30am.* The Discovery auctions focus on estate property in an intermediate price range, offering a variety of collecting categories culled from Skinner's 16 specialty departments, including the 18th-, 19th- and 20th-century furniture and decorative arts, Asian works of art, advertising, ephemera and Civil War items, clocks, jewelry, collectibles, paintings, prints, works on paper and Oriental rugs and carpets.

The Growing Successful Women fashion show features this crew of "real women" at Filene's in Chestnut Hill, March 18.

EVENTS

Share Our Strength Charity Fundraiser
Bloomingdale's, Home and Men's Store, 55 Boylston St., Newton (630-6000). MBTA: D Green Line to Chestnut Hill. March 12, 10am-12pm. $20. All proceeds benefit local anti-hunger organizations.

"Cabin Fever" Toy Show
Holiday Inn, Exit 15A off Route 128/95, Dedham, Mass. (508-379-9733). March 19, 9:30am-3pm. $4.50, $3.50 after 12pm. If you think whoever dies with the most toys wins, then you better get a move on. The Greater Boston Antique and Collectible Toy Show calls upon your "child within" to revel in the show's 17-year tradition. Enjoy quality and timeless childhood treasures brought to you from collectors all over the US, Canada and abroad. Three halls of unique displays range from planes, trains and automobiles to cap guns, Star Wars heroes and villains, Barbies, Pez and Disney toys.

FASHION

Bloomingdale's Spring Events
55 Boylston St., Newton (630-6000). MBTA: D Green Line to Chestnut Hill. •March 15, 11am-3pm: **Calvin Klein Fashion Day** in the Fashion Apparel Building. March 16-18: **Chanel** makeup event in the Fashion Apparel Building. Call 630-6770 for an appointment.

Growing Successful Women Fashion Show
Filene's, Chestnut Hill Mall, 55 Boylston St., Newton (351-7622). MBTA: D Green Line to Chestnut Hill. March 18, 9:30am-1pm. $35. Filene's and YWCA Boston will present the latest in new spring looks in a fashion show and benefit featuring "real women" from the YWCA's Boston Academy of Women Achievers. There will be a special appearance by a Lancome makeup artist who will show you the newest makeup looks for the season.

go away

TRAVELING NEAR AND FAR

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Go Away. Or e-mail information to goaway@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the event or items. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

NORTH OF BOSTON

Lord of the Dance
Tsongas Arena, Lowell, Mass. (931-2000). March 15, 7:30pm, $27.50-$47.50. If you weren't *Stomp*-ed on enough when they were in Boston, you have another chance to catch this Celtic dance spectacular featuring 40 breathtaking dancers who can leap better than most of us can walk. The performance embraces a variety of dance styles, including gypsy, disco, flamenco and ballet. Watch out for flying clogs.

Two Generations of Weston
Arthur Griffin Center for Photographic Art, Winchester, Mass. (781-729-1158). Through April 30. Feast your eyes on the works of one of the photography world's greatest masters, Edward Weston. This special exhibit of stunning photographs also features works by his sons, Cole and Brett Weston, who carried on their father's tradition begun in Mexico in the 1960s.

SOUTH OF BOSTON

Annual Spring Toy Show
Holiday Inn Rt. 1, Dedham, Mass. (508-379-9733). March 19, 9:30am-3pm. Enjoy a blast from the past at this annual antique toy show. Some favorites include die-cast cars, models, planes, trains, cap guns, tin wind-ups, *Star Wars* characters, Barbies, pez dispensers, Tonka toys and more.

WESTERN MASS

Paradise-East Arts Festival
Royal Plaza Trade Center, 181 Boston Post Road, Marlborough, Mass. (413-527-8994). March 17, 12-8pm; March 18, 10am-6pm; March 19, 10am-5pm, prices vary. See the best new work of established craft designers, painters and sculptors, or find emerging talent. The 175 exhibitors participating in this millennium show were selected by six expert jurors from nearly 1,000 applicants. Browse among stylish furnishings for your home and garden, exquisite jewelry and custom clothing, intricate etchings and fanciful teapots.

NEW YORK

Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus
Nassau Coliseum, 1255 Hempstead Turnpike, Uniondale, N.Y. (516-888-9000). March 7-13. $10-$42. You may think that the "Greatest Show on Earth" would be something more along the lines of lovely ladies or handsome men undulating on stage to your favorite Barry White tunes (or not), but these guys have already claimed the title. They are billed as "extreme entertainment," and they're not kidding. Don't miss these athletes, acrobats, elephants, yaks, Bengal tigers, human cannonballs and other assorted freaks.

Tibetan National Uprising Day
Dag Hammarskjold Park, United Nations, New York City, N.Y. (212-481-3569). March 10. In March 1959, the Tibetan people marched in defiance of the Chinese invasion and occupation. More than 40 years later, the United Nation's resolution recognizing Tibet's right to self-determination is still not realized. Join speakers at the United Nations and then march on to celebrate the Chinese Mission's 41st anniversary rally.

DAYTONA BEACH

Bike Week
Various locations, Daytona Beach, Fla. (904-255-0981). March 3-12. This is the unique vacation you've been awaiting—drinking Bud and smoking Marlboros with 600,000 hardcore bikers and wannabees on the breezy hard sand beaches of Daytona. It's all about the freedom of the open road. And leather of course. Okay, and beer and biker babes too. Locals are sometimes horrified, but you know they're really curious about all those coleslaw wrestling and beer belly contests. No mingling required, only the bravery to withstand the Wet T-Shirt and Ugliest Old Lady Contests.

MIAMI

Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Craft Festival
Beachfront Shopping District between Pompano Beach and Ft. Lauderdale (954-472-3755) March 18-19, 10am-

GOLF: KATYA APEKINA

If you're not a Bud drinker, don't head south to Daytona Beach during Bike Week, March 3-12.

5pm. Free. You'll find more than 100 local and national craft exhibitors and a Garden and Gourmet Marketplace featuring plant, flowers, and gourmet specialty food vendors.

Miami-Dade County Youth Fair
10901 Coral Way, Miami, Fla. (305) 223-FAIR. March 16-April 2, 3pm-11pm, $7/$5 kids (6-12). Enjoy this three-week event with more than 80 acres of fairgrounds, food galore, a mile-long midway, 100 plus rides and growing, $600,000 of free entertainment, air-conditioned exhibit halls and free parking.

MONTRÉAL

International Festival of Films on Art
Several locations in Montréal, Canada (514-874-1637). March 14-19. Recognized around the world as the most prestigious festival of its kind, this is the only festival in North America specializing in films on art. Through the cinematic view point, you can experience timeless interpretations of architecture, art history, dance, drawing, fashion, literature, music, photography and theater.

Wine, Beer and Spirits Show
Palais des Congrès de Montréal Convention Centre, 201 Ave. Viger Ouest, Montréal, Canada (1-800-268-8122). March 16-19. While you're not invited to the very private competition that takes place a few days before, don't miss the announcement of the contest results. The prestigious international wine and spirits competition judged by eminent international experts ensures that you'll be tasting the best of 1,700 products from 33 countries competing for a commercial stepping stone prize and your thirsty lips.

SAN FRANCISCO

Jazz Spring 2000
San Francisco, CA (415-788-7353). March 17-June 18. No one knows jazz quite like Joshua Redman, the artistic director of the new and expanded spring season of the San Francisco Jazz Organization. With the theme "Traditions in Transition," SFJazz offers a generational approach to a particular instrument and style each weekend in various San Fran locations. The first weekend focuses on the sax, Redman's signature solo instrument. Even if you didn't emerge from the womb to the tunes of Duke or Miles, you can bask in the best jazz in the City by the Bay in concert or on film.

ADELAIDE

Telstra Adelaide Festival
Various venues, Adelaide, South Australia (08-8216-4444). Through March 19. This isn't your run-of-the-mill, artsy fartsy engagement. This genuine adventure into contemporary art celebrates first performances, new international collaborations featuring artists from every continent and paths less travelled. These aren't university grads boasting their influences.

DUBLIN

St. Patrick's Festival
Dublin, Ireland (1550-224 -324). March 16-19. Throughout the rest of the world, it's a one day hoopla with blondes in silly hats wearing green eye shadow accompanied by inebriated shouts of "Kiss Me, I'm Irish." Only the Irish can do St. Patrick's activities any justice, and they surely go all out to celebrate. The festival parade on the 17th is a place for huge crowds to gather and enjoy the wide range of entertainment provided by street theatre artists, fire-jugglers, clowns, balloon sculptors, magicians, dance experts and marching bands. The festival actually kicks off the day before with band competitions, street theatre, fireworks and lots more.

LONDON

Women In Focus Festival
Various venues in Camden, London (0171-681 4590). March3-12. Coinciding with International Women's Week, this annual festival honors the achievements of women in the arts, media, sports, healthcare and technology. Past festivals have included technology classes and political talks, as well as exhibitions, walks, music and theatre.

PARIS

Le Temps, Vite
Centre Georges Pompidou, 19 rue Beaubourg, M° Hôtel de Ville (01-44-78-12-33). Through April 10. The Pompidou's grand opening show promises to be a bit of a brain-teaser. With the turn of the century, we've all been amazed at how fast the times have passed. With this in mind, the theme of the show presents the concept of time that go beyond the norm of our daily perception. Topics include the time of languages, work time and workings of time, calendar time and the end of time. Art works are paired with music installations and literature.

mark your daytimer

UPCOMING EVENTS

CITYSCOPE

Patriots' Day Parade
April 17, City Hall

FILM

Boston International Festival of Women's Cinema
April 13-17, Brattle Theatre

MUSIC

Joan Baez and Eliza Carthy
March 27-28, Somerville Theatre

Bruce Cockburn
March 18, Berklee Performance Center

Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young
March 27, FleetCenter

Korn
March 30-31, Worcester's Centrum Centre

Oasis
April 27, The Orpheum

Tina Turner
June 9, FleetCenter

PERFORMING ARTS

Big Apple Circus
April 1-May 7, Boston Marine Industrial Park

Oasis plays at the Orpheum on April 27.

OASIS: JILL FURMANOVSKY

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Improper Impersonals

If everyone kept their feelings bottled up like warm beer we'd soon have antisocial behavior exploding all over the place and ruining the upholstery. That's why we have the Improper Impersonals, a column written by you, the reader. Send us your letters of love and spleen, and we'll print them for the world to see. Heck, it's better than making a fool of yourself in person. And **IT'S FREE!** Pick up a pen and tell that babe on the T you like his butt by writing to:

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Fax: 859-1446 or e-mail us at impersonals@improper.com.
Recent correspondence follows.

To the Venezuelan Dancing King of the Roxy
Y aquella vez fue como nunca y sempre: vamos alli' donde no espera nada y hallamos todo lo que esta' esperando.
—Neruda Sonnet IV

January 28
White shirt. Dark pants. You translated all the Spanish lyrics for me and showed me how to move my hips. I had to leave without saying good-bye. The only clue I have is that you study at Northeastern. If you want to get together sometime, e-mail me. Your gentleness surprised me.
—lynne_erin@hotmail.com

Dear Tanderson
Your behavior really stinks!! What—after tons of passionate emails you tell me that you are dating someone else?? You're a real jerk and I wish you all the worst.
—anonymous

2/23, May-minted attorney
Green Line, Copley to Park St. You: accidentally kicked me and smiled. Me: kinda liked it... You: thought it was Thursday. Me: carrying a Neiman's bag—the gift should've been for you! You: still smiling. Me: asked what you were reading. You: a mystery. Me: wondering why didn't I ride one more stop to Government Center (I wanted to hear your joke). Anyway, you see my predicament here. I must see you again...If you're like me and realize chance meetings like that rarely occur—seize the opportunity.
—smanthony214@yahoo.com

See You Tomorrow...
is what I said. But it didn't work out that way. It was Feb. 22, we were on the Red Line heading to Central. You liked my jacket, I liked your rolled Oriental rug. We talked a little but not NEARLY enough. Your smile; the instant, easy rapport—you unwittingly made my night. I don't know your name, but you can bet I remember you. If you remember me, drop me a line.
—jacket@c4.com

I'm sick of people.
I'm sick of people trying to use something for a springboard for someone's writing, when the forum has nothing to do with such. I'm sick of Hippies losing money each morning on the Price is Right because they don't know that breakfast cereal costs over $4 a box now. I'm sick of people not getting agents and spewing feelings on anything that will hold ink. I'm sick of people like me bashing people I've never met because I feel like it has comedic value. I'm sick of having to contain a metaphor and oxymoron in my work because that makes it literature. I'm sick of the Flo-Vent, Xenical town known as Houston telling me country is music, like etch-a-sketch is to art. I'm sick of people leaving their e-mail addresses like people are going to answer....But you don't hear me whining about it...
—BoyDragonAss@aol.com

For Jen Cleary
who are you/i thought i knew/
the girl i fell in love with is long gone/as is the girl that once loved me/things have changed/
oh how they have changed/
the love i once held so dear/
has gone to a place i do not know/hate has filled my heart/
turning it black

who are you /i thought i knew/
you ran away/and left me behind/
forgetting all the good times we shared/for so long/
i still see you there sometimes/
yet i can't remember what you look like/when i try to picture your face/i can not/you have pushed me away/so very far away/
the pain has turned to hate/yes hate, i hate you/and everything that reminds me of you/i wish i didn't but you made me/you were my nearest and dearest friend/
but now you are the farthest thing from my heart

who are you/i thought i knew/
how could someone/who once filled my life with so much joy/
cause so much pain willingly/the time we shared will always be special to me/but it seems as if it could have been anyone i was with/a nameless face in the crowd/but in the same respect/i will never forget you/or what you did to me/there is no forgiveness/
i know that may not bother you/but i want you to know/the love is gone/dried up like a dead flower/
blowing away in the wind

who are you/i thought i knew/but i do not know you/nor do i want to/
maybe one day down the road our paths may cross/and who knows we may reconcile/but until then/
you will remain a stranger/and forever the girl who turned my world to black

who are you .....i thought i knew
—JIMI

USTrust Totally Free Checking types:
Okay, so Citizens Bank bought out USTrust. That packet we all got in the mail (nice kitchen magnet we all got, eh? It's really easy to put a picture over the Citizen's logo) says that we all have a year's worth of free service. After that, we have to start paying for checking accounts, right? Well, yeah, according to the info packet. In real life, though, there's an account that Citizen's offers that wasn't mentioned in the brochure. It's twelve transactions (deposits, ATMS, checks) per month.....call up and ask about it. Hell, ask why it wasn't mentioned in the literature while yr. at it.
—Don Bixtler

You: beautiful long brown hair, cleavage to die for
With your friend, both checking the new tape releases. Me: tall, short blond hair, glasses, blue jacket. We arrived the same time and our paths crossed more than once. I can't stop thinking about you! I wish I had at least said 'hi!' Please e-mail me if you see this. I'd love to meet you for coffee or something.
—willhunting@angelfire.com

JPS
You: A new Jumbo, my best friend's cousin
Me: The tall blonde senior, dazzling in every way
You: I like this girl
Me: He's kinda cute
You and Me: Friends
[Four Years Later]
Me: Hi, I'm back in town
You: Come to Pearl Jam
Me: Sorry, I have dinner plans
You: oh
Me: Sleep over?
You: Okay!
Me: We're best friends
You: More?
Me: Giggle. Just friends.
You: Kiss?
Me: okay.
[One Year Later]
You and Me: So fun!
—Pedulie

Ohh Rainbow Galoshes
It's valentines day. Around 8:30. B line going in. I'm cool, I'm rockin out to some sleater-kinney and nirvana. And you ask me what I am listening to and all I do is tell you and you approve. And I say nothing. I just stare at your Rainbow galoshes. Me, the master of conversation.. am at a loss for words. I have never been at such a loss for words really, Just read what my friends had to say... "Doug he talks well" -Pete, Doug's boss...."Doug he can talk whenever he wants too" -Maggie Doug's other boss... "The testimonials they speak for themselves"...so please send me an e-mail and I promise I will have something to say rather than stare at your rainbow galoshes.
—dhouse43@hotmail.com

Rockie Horoscope

March 8- 21, 1999
BY ROCKIE GARDINER

Pisces
FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19
Pisces doesn't end with a bang, nor with a whimper. How about with a kiss? After loving Venus unites with Mercury, newly direct in your sign, on Wednesday it'll be lovey-dovey messages for another week. You'll attract come-on glances for far longer, but the verbal expression of affection reaches a peak on the Ides. Nothing to beware of except your own enthusiasm for a religious group or artistic acquaintances. Be sure you know what you're doing while Jupiter exhorts your Neptune ruler to be all that it can be—drunk, drugged and deluded.

Aries
MARCH 20-APRIL 19
There's nothing to stop you from following your own agenda, using the surge of physical energy and mental concentration provided by your Mars ruler transiting your own sign (but only until the 22nd). Just keep in mind that Mercury soon flips forward in your house of friendship and common goals, and while that change of direction might throw you for a minute, it shouldn't slow you or your group project down. But if you don't feel like doing much, if the narcoleptic Pisces vibe is making you more reclusive than usual, that's a time-honored practice too.

Taurus
APRIL 20-MAY 20
Responding to a higher, charitable or self-sacrificing call is what happens when your Venus ruler transits Pisces. But it's only for three weeks, so don't feel you have to give up the good life. Chances are you'll produce something that'll benefit your career if you get inspired on Wednesday during Mercury's merger with magnetic Venus. Save your spiel for midweek, because the audience you attract then is ripe for the plucking. April bulls can run a classic scam (e.g. establish a church of your own) midweek when enthusiastic Jupiter in your sign contacts idealistic Neptune.

Gemini
MAY 21-JUNE 20
You're farther along the spiritual track, searching far and wide for the ideal realization of a life-long goal. Could the answer be rising from the Piscean fog? Will the marriage of your Mercury ruler and loving Venus direct, thank God, on the 14th bring you the perfection you envision, or will you emerge as the Beautiful Dreamer, somewhat sleepy and out of it? Playing games of illusion, hanging out in the corners of your philosophical bent can keep you happily preoccupied this week, maybe even convinced that you're in love. Make art instead.

Cancer
JUNE 21-JULY 22
Mercury turns direct on the 14th in your house of sex and other people's money, so you can expect more of both, plus a reason to communicate your experiences and, equally important, to watch them being well-received. That's a lot to put on a small plate, but since you're in a learning mode, it won't be difficult to assimilate whatever is set in front of you. The Pisces-Virgo full moon on the 19th, another of those all-encompassing cuspy full moons, occurs just hours before the spring equinox. Matters still pending will fall into place then.

Leo
JULY 23-AUGUST 22
You and significant others, the allies and adversaries currently wrestling for the preeminent position in your current thinking, could agree to agree for a change and set your mind at ease. July lions, very much under the Piscean influence, might take this truce as a divine sign and launch a major musical enterprise, or they may delude themselves into thinking a miracle is about to happen. The other Leos harbor no such illusions—they are too busy working hard to nurse a magnificent obsession. A few beers on St. Patrick's Day, maybe.

Virgo
AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22
After three weeks in retrograde, reviewing work you've already done or visiting with old friends, your Mercury ruler turns direct on the 14th, and immediately unites with amiable Venus in early Pisces. Some Virgos will see a romance rekindled; others, instant acceptance by co-workers of one of your more palatable ideas. Venus attracts good-looking people with kind hearts and artistic talents, and for at least a week, they'll stay by your side—but for how long hinges on your response to full moon madness (yours and theirs).

Libra
SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22
The romantic riff you're hearing takes on a martyr-like tone, soulful and doleful, when your simpatico Venus ruler meets expressive Mercury midweek. Prepare to give more of yourself, especially if the lover is younger and a player to boot. The kids could also be tugging at your heartstrings, but they shouldn't be pulling at your pursestrings just yet. Give it a few weeks. Your attitude toward a financial matter, the buying or the selling, undergoes an adjustment as Pluto in your money house changes direction on the 15th. Good luck and happy times for the sacred spring equinox.

Scorpio
OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21
Mercury turns direct in your home base, so if you've been diligently cleaning house (like one is supposed to during Mercury retrograde) or handling a messy family matter, relax. You are about to be showered with affection, appreciation and a beautiful item that will spruce up the joint. Make room for more art and music. You might have a wobbly moment midweek while your Pluto co-ruler goes retrograde, but that shouldn't change your outlook; more likely, your timetable shifts. There's opportunities and enthusiasm from potential partners; get used to it.

Sagittarius
NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21
Although everything has its season, does it also have its reason? Even if you know that Mercury is turning direct in Pisces on the 14th, will that alleviate the confusion you feel, the mechanical mishaps you'll have to endure while this planetary phenomenon takes place? Add to the mix, Pluto in your sign flipping the next day while Mercury and Venus swap stories (maybe saliva, too.) Where is the sexual impulse coming from and does it matter? Then try to explain away a royal scam as Neptune in your money house challenges your Jupiter ruler Thursday. Good luck.

Capricorn
DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20
Events take place around you, but because your Saturn ruler isn't one of the planets participating, you don't have to be personally involved if you'd rather not. However, it'll be hard to avoid the temptation to finally acquire what you've been pining for. Once Mercury merges with "God, that's so beautiful!" Venus in your money house on Wednesday, something of spiritual or artistic merit could seem even more valuable. But first consider the possibility that you're being dazzled by its aura, by a glamorous history too.

Aquarius
JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18
No sudden twists and turns this week, not even in the romance department. Instead, you could be writing sweet love songs and heartfelt thank-you notes while eloquent Mercury and charming Venus get together in musical, mystical Pisces. This union brings out a softer side that few get to see. You might also be on a higher wave length because expansive Jupiter is urging idealistic Neptune in your sign to pursue a spiritual (or musical) goal. The challenging square is now, the reward comes in August when these planets trine.

Curious about the future? Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30-40 pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise over the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $42.50 per report to ROCKIE GARDINER, 1021 N. Genesee Ave., #1, West Hollywood, CA 90046. *www.rockiehoroscope.com*. Read my daily forecast online at *www.laweekly.com*.

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men seeking women

Good looking and in great shape. Hey ladies, this is Mike. I'm a divorced Italian man, 40, 5'10", 175 lbs., with brown hair and brown eyes. The activities I enjoy are movies, dancing, dinning out, watching TV, bowling, and playing sports. I'm seeking a female, in her 30's, who is pretty and intelligent with a good sense of humor. Box 11730

I own my own home and business. Hey girls. I'm a white male, 5'11", 210 lbs., in very good shape, with dark hair and hazel eyes. I'm looking for a girl with a job, transportation, and a life of her own. I'm just searching for a partner to share life and good times with. I'm looking to seriously date, not play games. Box 13000

Employed in the export business. Hello ladies, my name is Hudson. I'm an attractive SWM, 5'11", 185 lbs., with brown hair and blue eyes. I'm very sweet, loving, kind, romantic, and passionate. I'm looking for a woman, with the same qualities, for a possible long-term relationship. Box 15131

To you whose eyes I seek in the sea of women, I find myself drawn to you... Hi, this is Michael. I'm 6'3", 180 lbs., with brown hair and hazel eyes. I'm looking for a lady who is steady, intelligent, and one-on-one. She should like to laugh, dance, and cuddle. Box 19500

Die hard romantic. Hi, my name is Dan. I'm a divorced white male, 5'10", and 180 lbs. I'm a gentleman who knows how to treat a lady. I'm looking for a long-term relationship. I love long walks, holding hands, cuddling, long kisses, and bringing my lady flowers. I'm not a couch potato, but neither am I a jock. Box 15450

Down-to-earth and honest with a good head on my shoulders. Hello, this is Mike. I'm 6'3", with short brown hair and blue eyes. I love to stay active, cook, travel, and watch sports. I'm looking for a friendship first, with a relationship later, but I'm not looking to rush into or force anything that may not be natural. Box 19044

Are you ready to add some fun, excitement, and pleasure into your life? Does the thought of spending time with a very attractive, funny, safe, clean, caring, and discreet white male-in his late 30's-interest you? I'm 6'2", 210 lbs., tall, dark, and handsome. I'm very selective as to who I get involved with. Box 21209

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Connect live, one on one with other singles on-line right now! Call 617-245-1004 and follow the easy to use prompts. There are exciting singles on line 24 hours a day!

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women seeking men

Searching for a man who has a positive attitude towards life. Hi, my name is Julie. I'm a SWF, 5'7", 142 lbs., with short light brown hair and green eyes. I'm seeking a single male, age 25-35, who is HWP, a non-smoker and social drinker. I'm looking for a long-term relationship. Box 11495

Baggage from the past is unwanted. Hello, my name is Anita. I'm a 37-year-old, soon to be 38, black and Hispanic female. I'm tall and attractive. I'm looking for someone who has some type of spiritual conviction. He should be a non-smoking occasional drinker who knows where he's going and what he wants out of life. Box 12268

Very pretty woman. Hey guys, my name is Christine. I'm a divorced Italian and Irish woman, 41, 5'4", 146 lbs., with soft and curly shoulder length brown hair and blue eyes. I'm curvaceous in all the right spots. I'm also smart, fun loving, and have a good sense of humor. I love sports, cozy fires, country stores, slow dancing, kissing in the rain, and playing in the snow. Box 13161

Living in the North Shore. Hi, this is Kira. I'm in my 30's, 5'5", 105 lbs., with long jet black hair and brown eyes. I'm looking for an attractive and intelligent man who lives in reality, not a fantasy world. I'm looking for a long-term friendship, possible relationship. Box 14147

I rollerblade in the summer and ski in the winter. And I'm looking for a man, between the age of 30-35, who does the same. Hello, my name is Christina. I'm college educated 28-year-old 100% Hispanic woman. Box 24856

I've got a solid build. Hi, my name is Nicole. I'm a black female, 22, 5'5", 160 lbs., with brown skin, short curly hair, and dark brown eyes. I'm looking for a black male, between the ages of 25-32, who has a job, but doesn't have any kids. Box 24862

I like to party. I'm a 20-year-old SWF, 5'2", with brown hair and brown eyes. I enjoy shooting pool, clubbing, movies, listening to music, taking long walks, sporting events, and cuddling up with that special someone. I'm looking for someone who is fun-loving, with a good personality and a great sense of humor. Box 24874

Professionally employed and considered attractive. Hi there, my name is Diane. I'm 43, 5'4", with red hair and blue/green eyes. I'm looking for someone with a good sense of humor who enjoys having fun. I like walking around Boston and taking weekend excursions. Box 24930

I love to cook, shop, decorate, and read. Hello, this is Mary. I'm 5'4", with medium length brown and blonde hair with green eyes. I live south of Boston. I'm interested in something casual. Box 19757

Petite, pretty, and sexy. Hello, my name is Shanica, but they call me PYT for pretty young thing. I'm a 29-year-old black female who is mature, outgoing, trusting, and caring. I'm looking for a casual friend, nothing long term. I'm studying to become a recording artist and I enjoy singing and dancing. Box 24085

Visit Nightline on the web at www.nightlinepersonals.com and check out more local ads!

The Nightline service does not prescreen callers and assumes no responsibility for personal meetings. Callers must be 18 or over. Toll charges may apply. Optional paid services. Call for details.

improperazzi

The Improper Bostonian's client-related promotions and events

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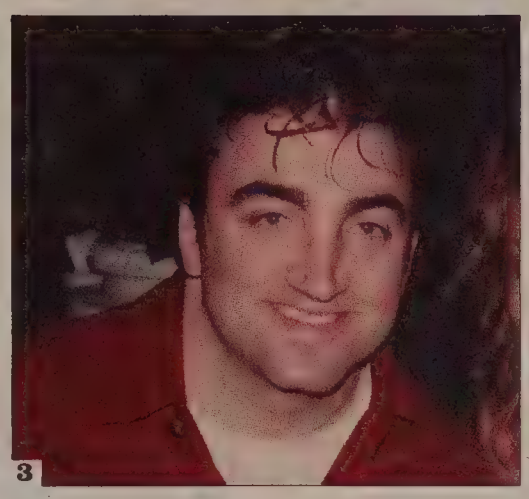
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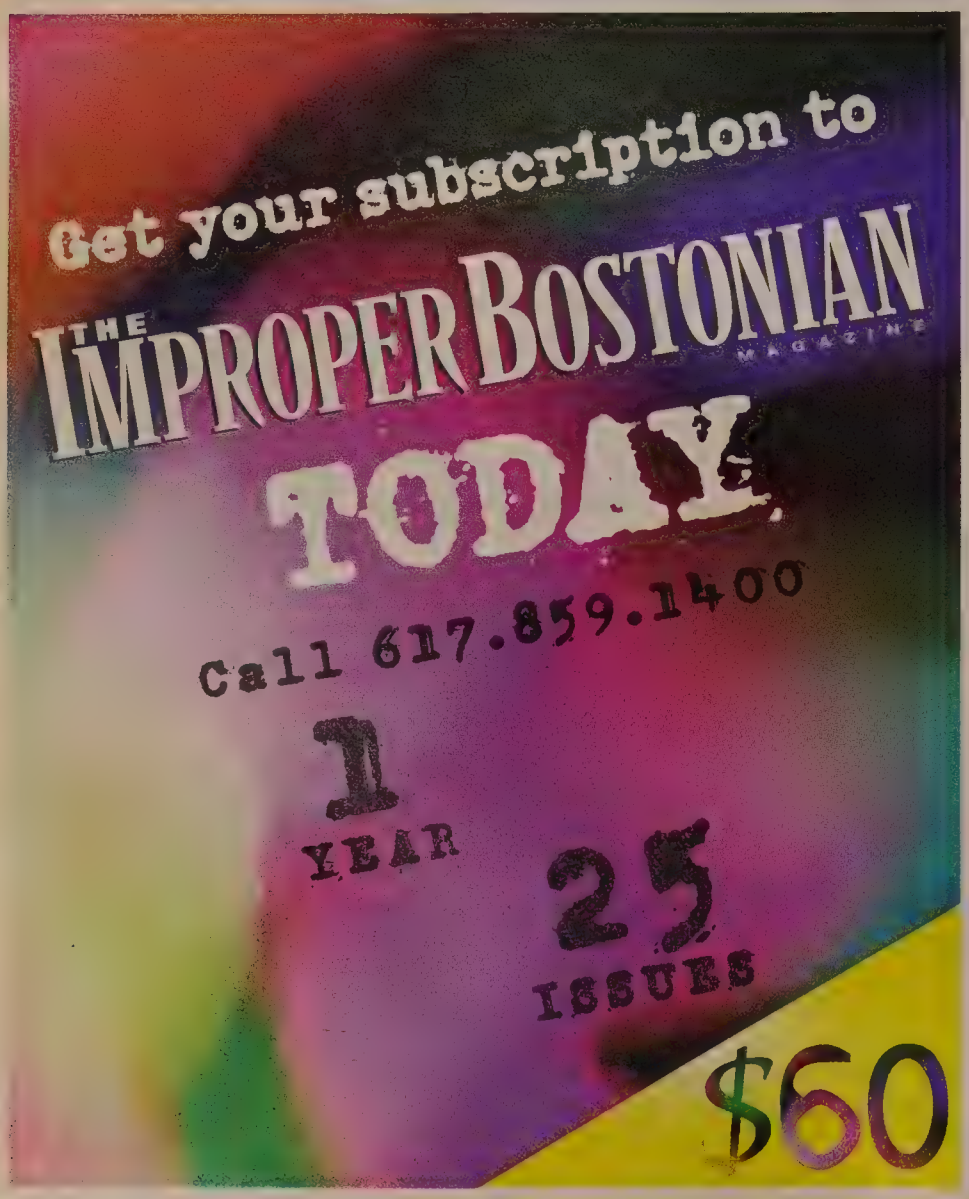
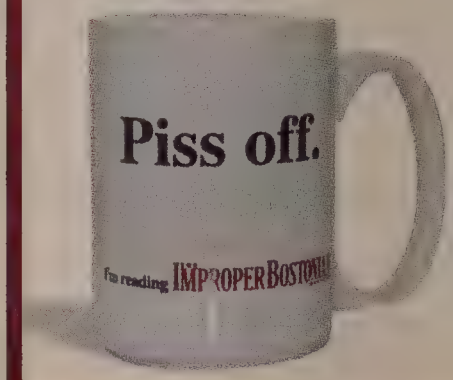
The Big Easy held their 4th annual Cherchez L'amour party on Feb. 17. The crowd quickly warmed up thanks to the romantic serenading of Beau Paris as well as Kahlua chocolate kisses and a palm reader. DJ Bells kept things hot, ensuring the dance floor was packed all night. A portion of the prceeds from the event was donated **Songs of Love.**

1. **Linda Lamm** and **Jeff Guy**
2. **Toni Crosetti** and **Patrice Dykens.**
3. Big Easy and Sugar Shack General Manager **Eric Aulenback**.
4. **David Cressey, Kurt Need, David Furman,** and **Rob Puchniak.**



our sentiments exactly



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BARS, CLUBS, RESTAURANTS & BRUNCH

The following are paid advertisements. Please check times and prices in advance. If you'd like to have your restaurant listed, please call The Improper Bostonian Advertising Dept. at 859-1400.

BARS

Billiards

Boston Billiard Club
126 Brookline Ave., 536-POOL. Ranked #1 in the country by Billiards Digest. Free lessons on Mon., 7:30 pm - 9 pm. Boston Billiard Club House Leagues on Mon. and Tues. "In The Biz" night on Sun. and Mon. for patrons in the hospitality industry. Ladies' night on Wed. Featuring a menu of light fare such as grilled chicken sandwiches and appetizers, along with beer, wine, cocktails and a variety of non-alcoholic beverages.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, The Allstonians and Beat Soup.

Brew Pubs

Back Bay Brewing Company
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center. $7-$18. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Bi-level restaurant/brewery offers an inspirational pairing of outstanding innovative cuisine and award-winning ales and lagers. Upbeat first floor bar and café, second floor dining room and bar with comfortable couches and overstuffed chairs. Mon. - Sun. 11:30am - 1am. Brunch Sun. from 11am - 3pm.

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Company
138 Portland St., Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is now the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, a block from the FleetCenter and steps from Faneuil Hall, Commonwealth Fish & Beer features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

General

Dick's Last Resort
55 Huntington Ave., Prudential Center, Boston, 267-8080. www.dickslastresort.com. Dick's has live music 7 nights a week, no cover, no dress code and certainly no class. They have 74 kinds of beer for the novice or serious/ sudsman, or a full bar for the hard core. Dick's also is a restaurant of sorts with buckets of ribs, shrimp, lobster, chicken, catfish and crab legs. This is the place your Mama warned you about. Free parking after 5pm, cheap til 5 with validation.

The Good Life
Uptown - 99 St. Botolph St., 266-3030; Downtown - 28 Kingston St., 451-2622. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1999 Boston's Best Martini award. The Good Life is a retro lounge that Frank Dean and Sammy would have hung at. Big Drinks, Great American Comfort Food, Hot Jazz and Plenty of Boy Meets Girl. Never a cover, always a good time.

Harvard Gardens
316 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114, 617-523-2727. A wonderfully relaxed haven located opposite MGH on the back side of Beacon Hill. Serving the finest cocktails and most comfortable food in town. Plant yourself in a comfy booth, a cozy banquette, or at our fully loaded bar and escape from your everyday troubles. Doing it nice & easy 7 days a week - 11am-2am.

Pravda 116
116 Boylston St., 617-482-7799. Pravda 116, located in the heart of Boston's theater district, offers not only one of Boston's hottest night clubs, but extraordinary cuisine as well. Pravda's restaurant/lounge boasts the longest bar in Boston, featuring a center ice surface to keep your cocktail cool. If sitting at the bar is not your forte, enjoy a meal at a private table in the dining room or in a plush, secluded booth. Pravda 116's contemporary American cuisine will be sure to please. Chef Chris Parsons prepares exquisite dishes with the latest seasonal ingredients. Once you have satisfied your hunger, feed your crave to rave in Pravda's newly remodeled dance club. Pravda's DJ's pack the dance floor spinning high-energy dance music, creating an ambiance that radiates with energy. Rest Hrs: Tues&Wed 5:30-10:30pm, Thurs-Sat 5:30-11pm; Club Hrs: Thurs-Sat 10pm-2am.

Sweetwater Cafe
3 Boylston Place, 351-2515. A classic American bar featuring Boston's best bands and DJ's nightly. A favorite Boston bar for 15 years with two floors of entertainment, an outdoor patio and world class margaritas. Always great music and cold beer, never a dress code. Available for private functions of any kind. (Credit cards: Am Ex, Visa, MC, Diner's) Tues. - Sat. 5 pm - 2 am. Located in "The Alley."

The Big Easy Bar
1 Boylston Place, Boston, 351-7000. Informal. Located in Boston's version of Bourbon Street, "The Alley." The Big Easy Bar is a hot new New Orleans style bar featuring Boston's best live bands and disc jockeys nightly playing music you know and love. Relax in a lounge, listen to the band, play billiards, hang at the bar or dance the night away. The Big Easy Bar has something fun for everyone. Great beer selection, 22 oz. Hurricanes, 4 huge bars, 2 lounges, a balcony, plenty of seating, and a large dance floor. Wed. - Sat. 8 pm - 2 am. Major credit cards accepted. Valet parking available.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, The Allstonians and Beat Soup.

The Sugar Shack
1 Boylston Place, 351-2510. "Home of Boston's Best Party." Set in the middle of a mini-Bourbon Street, The Sugar Shack celebrates Mardi-Gras year-round with a carefree, reckless, spontaneous and unpretentious attitude. Carnival lights, confetti, beads, specialty drinks, live bands and Disc Jockeys playing classics, motown, R&B, funk, disco, and old school hip hop from the last three decades mixed with the best of today's top 40. Home of young professional, young alumni, 20 something hipsters who desire cold beer, cocktails, classic party tunes and unadulterated fun!!

Wine Bars

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar
105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-0966. The hip meeting spot in the Financial District for after work, dinner, late night, or a seductive tryst. The Vault offers some of the most exclusive wines in Boston, which complement the creative American Cuisine prepared by Chef Rebecca Esty. Can't decide on a wine? Relax and compare with our Tasting Flights featuring selections from different reds and whites. So what are you waiting for? Call an old friend, a client, or a co-worker and meet for cocktails at The Vault today.

RESTAURANTS

Ajanta
145 First St., Cambridge, MA (617) 491-0075 (across from the Galleria Mall). Cambridge's newest Indian restaurant specializing in South Indian vegetarian cooking. We serve the best Dosai (crepes) in town: paper thin Dosai, Rava Dosai, Iddly, Uthapam and Vadas. We also serve North Indian Tandoori and meat curries, as well as mouth-watering chef specials such as lamb and chicken kabobs. Ajanta serves fine wine and Imported Beers in a high ceiling and contemporary atmosphere. Try our lunch buffet or our very popular Sunday South Indian Vegetarian Brunch. Hours: Lunch: Tues.-Fri. 11:30am-2:30pm, Sat. & Sun. 12-3pm; Dinner: Tues.-Sun.5-10pm.

29 Newbury Street Restaurant
29 Newbury St., Boston, 617-536-0290. Savor new American cuisine that is ingeniously prepared only with the freshest, most healthful ingredients available. The moderately priced seasonal menu is served in a casually elegant setting enhanced by the works of local artists. The restaurant and bar, located on the first block of Newbury Street in Back Bay, provide an intimate and sophisticated atmosphere. Valet parking. Reservations recommended.

Back Bay Brewing Company
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center. $7-$18. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Bi-level restaurant/ brewery offers an inspirational pairing of Chef Michael Burgess's innovative cuisine and Tod Mott's hand-crafted ales and lagers. Upbeat first floor bar and café, second floor dining room and bar with comfortable couches and overstuffed chairs. Sunday Buffet Brunch 11am - 3pm, $14.95. Mon. - Sun. 11:30am - 1am.

Butterfish, An American Bistro
5 Craigie Circle, Harvard Square, Cambridge, 497-5511. Chef/Owner Christopher Bussell opened Butterfish on December 4, 1999, at the former site of Cafe Celador. Nestled between Brattle St. and Concord Ave., Butterfish's charming bistro setting is a perfect venue for Chef Christopher's fine American cuisine with international accents. Dishes such as "Monkfish with Moroccan Spices and Grilled Peaches," and "Double Thick Pork Chop with a Warm Corn Souffle" are complimented by an extensive choice of wines. Hours: Tues-Thurs 5-10pm; Fri & Sat 5-11pm.

Cactus Club
939 Boylston St., 236-0200. Get a taste of the Southwest in Boston. Specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, Cajun Catfish. Save 1/2 off entire menu Mon. - Fri., 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm in the bar. Sample the firewater menu while you are there, including Coyote Killer (Light and dark rum, peach schnapps, ginger beer and mixed juices), or a Chambord Margarita. Only the daring may go for a dip in the Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Amex, Diners Club, MC and Visa accepted.

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Company
138 Portland Street, Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is now the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, a block from the FleetCenter and steps from Faneuil Hall, Commonwealth Fish & Beer features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

Harvard Gardens
316 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114, 617-523-2727. A wonderfully relaxed haven located opposite MGH on the back side of Beacon Hill. Serving the finest cocktails and most comfortable food in town. Plant yourself in a comfy booth, a cozy banquette, or at our fully loaded bar and escape from your everyday troubles. Doing it nice & easy 7 days a week - 11am-2am.

Jillian's Boston
Behind Fenway Park, 437-0300. An upscale 70,000 Sq. ft. megaplex of interactive entertainment. Play breakthrough interactive communication games, participate in a live game show & watch a giant video wall while dining on innovative American cuisine at Atlas Grill on Jillian's new 1st floor. Jillian's offers motion simulator rides, more than 250 cutting edge electronic & virtual reality games, 50 billiard tables, table tennis, & "just for fun" black jack. There are five full bars & 50 TVs that broadcast sporting events. Great for late night dining & private parties 25-3000. Open Daily.

Kashmir
279 Newbury St., Boston, 536-1695. Kashmir has been raising the bar of Indian restaurants in quality, style and service since it opened. Its well deserved Best of Boston, Boston's Best and Readers' Choice awards are a result of great execution where it counts. Indoors in three elegantly styled dining rooms and outdoors on the best people watching corner in town, Kashmir serves the finest Tandoori and curry dishes and most imaginative specials and the best lunch and brunch buffet in town. Wine and beer are available as well as takeout, delivery, private parties and catering.

Ma Soba Asian Cuisine & Sushi
156 Cambridge Street on Beacon Hill, Boston, 973-6680. Enjoy premium sushi and Ma Soba's unique blend of contemporary and traditional Asian cuisine prepared by award-winning chefs. Relax with a fine wine selection from Ma Soba's comprehensive wine cellar in a setting described as "strikingly attractive and ultra urbane" by the Boston Herald. Open daily: Sun-Wed until 10:30pm, Thurs-Sat until 11:00pm. When in Harvard Square/Cambridge, visit Ma Soba Express at 30 Dunster Street for quick-service pan Asian noodles and rice platters.

Ocean Wealth
8 Tyler Street, Boston, MA, 02111, (617) 423-1338. We know that people appreciate only the freshest seafood. So we introduced the concept of picking your seafood live out of the tanks in Boston in 1990 with the opening of Ocean Wealth. Upon entering our restaurant, patrons are greeted by a myriad of fish tanks, filled with codfish, black sea bass, blackfish, and lobsters. But what is different are geoduck clams from Seattle, Dungeness crabs from San Francisco, and live saltwater shrimp from Florida. Come and enjoy the Ocean's Wealth. Full liquor license. Reservations recommended. Open daily until 4 am.

Shenandoah Restaurant, Marketplace Cafe, Brewskellar Pub
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston 227-1272. Located in the North Market Building of Faneuil Hall, Shenandoah Restaurant, The Marketplace Cafe, and Brewskellar Pub have something for everyone. Whether you're interested in a casual dinner on one of Boston's largest outdoor patios or the quiet more elegant surroundings of Shenandoah Restaurant, we offer it all. Having a function? We cater personally to all events you may be planning. Visit us soon and let us surprise you.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve both lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar
105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-9966. A wonderful secret hidden in Boston's Financial District. The Vault offers contemporary American cuisine and an extensive and exclusive affordable wine list. Come in and enjoy our new summer menu, including an expanded raw bar, Maine crab cakes, seared tuna and much more. Lunch Mon. - Fri. from 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Dinner Mon. - Wed. from 5:30 - 10:30 pm, Thurs. - Sat. from 5:30 - 11 pm. Closed Sun.

The Wrap & Smoothie Bar
137 Mass Ave., Boston (at Berklee School of Music), 369-9087; 71 Mt. Auburn St., Harvard Square, 354-5838; 1940 Beacon St., Cleveland Circle, 739-0340; 82 Water St., Financial District, 357-9013. The Wrap serves delicious, freshly prepared wraps, burritos and salads as well as healthy and refreshing smoothies. Voted Boston's Best 1998 & 1999 by The Improper Bostonian. Fresh ingredients, great taste, healthy options - words we live by!

BRUNCH

Anago
65 Exeter Street, Boston, 266-6222. Anago, in the historic Lenox Hotel, presents a live Sunday Brunch from 11-2pm, prepared by Boston's whiz kid chef, Jamie "Shaky" Liberge, featuring a sumptuous buffet of appetizers with exquisite freshly baked desserts and breads created by award winning pastry chef, Lee Napoli, to accompany your choice of exceptional entree selections. Reservations are recommended.

Back Bay Brewing Company
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Featuring Chef Michael Burgess's Neo-Continental selections, including Eggs Benedict with Canadian bacon & herbed hollandaise, blueberry pancakes with almond maple syrup, omelet station, French toast, roasted meat carving station, house smoked salmon, and assorted desserts. Sunday Brunch Buffet 11 am - 3 pm. $14.95

Dick's Last Resort
55 Huntington Ave., Prudential Center, Boston, 267-8080. www.dickslastresort.com. On Sunday, Dick got religion and has a Heavenly Gospel Brunch from 10am to 3pm. They serve fruit, salads, eggs benedict, fried chicken with a ham and roast beef station. Help yourself to the waffle or omelet stations and the dessert bar while listening to old fashion uplifting live gospel music. Open for Lunch, Dinner and late night entertainment 7 days a week, no cover.

Museum of Science - Skyline Room
Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston, MA 02114. Egypt comes to Boston! Enjoy Sunday brunch in the beautiful Skyline Room overlooking the Charles River at noon and then experience the amazing Omni film Mysteries of Egypt at 2pm. Tickets are $28 for Adults, $26 for Seniors/Children. Brunch only is $20. On-site parking is included. Reservations recommended, call (617)723-2500.

The Wrap & Smoothie Bar
137 Mass Ave., Boston (at Berklee School of Music), 369-9087; 71 Mt. Auburn St., Harvard Square, 354-5838; 1940 Beacon St., Cleveland Circle, 739-0340; 82 Water St., Financial District, 357-9013. The Wrap serves delicious, freshly prepared wraps, burritos and salads as well as healthy and refreshing smoothies. Voted Boston's Best 1998 & 1999 by The Improper Bostonian. Fresh ingredients, great taste, healthy options - words we live by!

MISC.

Fitness

North Point Club
North Point Club, 6 Museum Way, Cambridge, 617-523-2900. The newest fitness club in Cambridge, North Point Club is also a great value. Join now for only $69 per month and enjoy swimming, group exercise, cardiovascular conditioning, strength training and the motivation to reach your fitness goals. Conveniently located across the street from Boston's Museum of Science, it is easily accessed from Charlestown, Cambridge, and the T's Science Park and Lechmere stops.

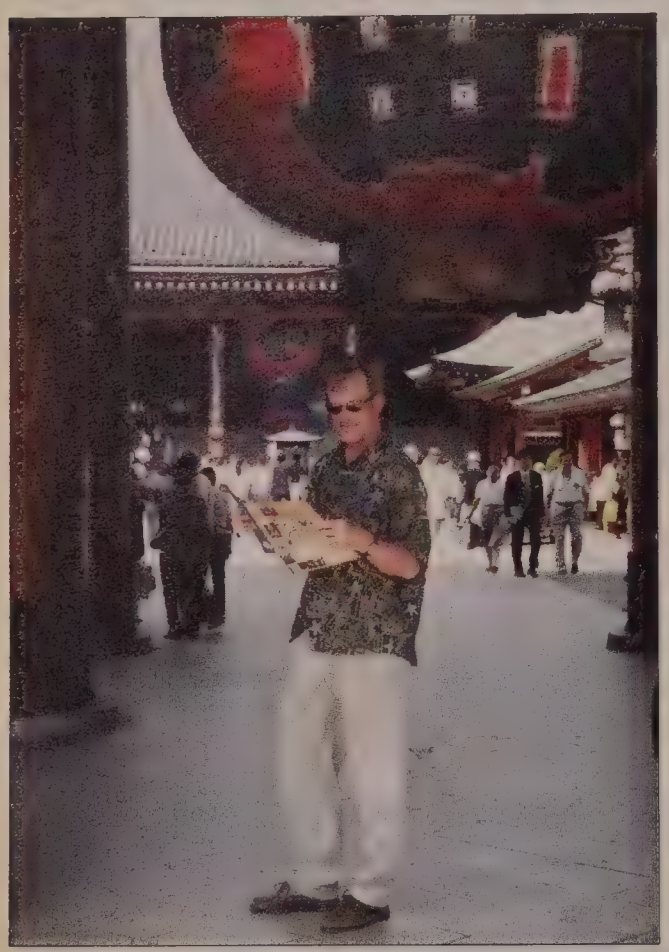
Sports

Boston Paintball
131 Beverly St., Boston, 742-6612. The rules are simple. There are teams and everyone has paintball guns. You are inside of a large warehouse (near the Boston Garden). They are firing balls straight at you. You scream, dodge, hide, wipeout and have a blast!!! Great for bachelor/bachelorette parties, corporate outings, birthday parties, and much more.

Improper Sightings

Unlike the rest of your friends, we want to see the photos from your next trip.

Where do you take us? We want to know! Send us a picture of you or a friend, or better yet, someone famous reading The Improper Bostonian and tell us where you were. The more creative you are, the faster we'll publish your pic! (Hey, we have no shame!)



David Oglesby of Marlborough browses through an Improper in front of the Sensoji Temple in Tokyo.

Marcy Karpowitz with Bostonians Jody Weber and Jonathan Copper and Lori Magee ring in the New Year at the Leaning Tower of Piza.

Joshua Bernstein and Karen de Amorim snuggle up with Baron Baptiste in Rio de Janeiro.

Paul Czubryt, Mark Ogino and Kai, their newly adopted son—all from Boston—vacation at the Temple of the Emerald Buddha in Phnom Peng, Kingdom of Cambodia.

Jason Buffington, State House legislative aide to State Rep Jim Fagan, brings some Boston reading material to Stonehenge with his girlfriend Julie Clark, an analyst for John Hancock.

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN

Last Scene Here

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

At Carnaval 2000: left: Suzanne Bates; right: Mrs. Massachusetts Kathleen McMahon; inset: Aisha Saunders (l) and Shiela Moore.

Her Husband Might Have Something to Say About That...

A whiff of Rio wafted over Boston when Casa Myrna Vazquez hosted Carnaval 2000 at the New England Aquarium.

As samba music played, guests grazed at a Caribbean buffet and had their fortunes told, or rubbed elbows with the likes of executive director Shiela Moore, Putnam Investments' stunning CFO Irene Esteves, blue-blooded do-gooder Rhys Gardiner, the eternally stunning Aisha Saunders, Mayor and Mrs. Menino, Channel 5 investigative snoop Jorge Quiroga and wife Barbara, news anchors Liz Walker and Suzanne Bates, and sex educator/physician Robert Taylor, who introduced himself with the conversation-stopper, "When you think of STDs, think of me."

Meanwhile, one lecherous gentleman ogled Kathleen McMahon, Mrs. Massachusetts—in her sash and tiara—and declared, "If she wants to be Mrs. Unfaithful Massachusetts, I'm willing to help."

featured free-flowing champagne, a mind-boggling assortment of chocolate desserts from the area's top restaurants, and appearances by various orchid experts—among them, actress-turned-perfumer Stefanie Powers, looking as stunning as ever. Among the attendees: Chestnut Hill doyenne Mariane Johnson, famed photographer Bela Kalman (signing copies of his new book on rare orchids), his wife, Edna, Upstairs at the Pudding pair Deborah Hughes and Mary Catherine Deibel, soignée Newtonians Robyn and Stephan Thieringer, the belle of the Charles Hotel, Hannah Lefkowitz, and one guest who looked at all the flowers and said, "I feel a need to pollinate."

In addition to sumptuous displays of gorgeous orchids, the party provided an opportunity to peruse the museum's glass cases of carefully preserved dead things, which were marked for the occasion with little paper hearts offering fun facts like: "The male opossum's reproductive organ is unique among mammals—it is split into two forks...fortunately, the female's anatomy is similarly designed."

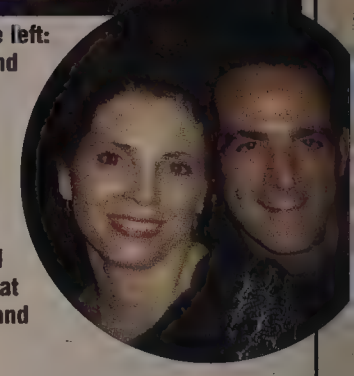
Now that's what we call romantic.

The Show Must Go On...

It was the kind of thing musicians will talk about for years to come: nine-time Grammy award winner Cheryl Bentyne, who has the pipes to prove it, flew in from a Manhattan Transfer gig in Hawaii and performed six back-to-back, sold-out cabaret shows at Les Zygomates. On Sunday night, her schedule finally caught up with her; during her second set, her voice gave out, and she apologetically left the stage after only two numbers.

As the stunned but sympathetic audience sat there politely, wondering what would happen next, the restaurant's co-owner, Lorenzo Savona, announced that someone had offered to fill in. Following a warm-up by local jazz chanteuse Krisanthi Pappas, legendary Kansas City crooner Kevin Mahogany, who had been sitting in the audience, went on stage and delivered an hour-long performance that brought the house down.

In the words of Jon Fishman, another audience member who just happens to be the drummer for the cult band Phish, "That was so cool." He should know.



At Bar Code: above left: Norma Seraphin and Joe Greene; below right: Manos, Cynthia and Alexia Linoxilakis; above right: from left, Steven Adelman, Josette Parada and Mitra Hedayatian; at right: Laura Malo and Jeff Gates.

Calling All Hipsters...

With a minimum of hype, restaurateur Joe Quattrochi opened his newest watering hole, Bar Code, where Division 16 used to be. Helping him christen the new place: King of the Euros Manos Linoxilakis and his gorgeous wife Cynthia, accessorized with their baby Alexia, lovable shutterbug Joe Greene and Caribbean queen Norma Seraphin, perpetual club kid Steven Adelman, fashion plate Josette Parada, record minx Lisa Mastrianni of MCA, the dangerously sexy Laura Malo with Mistral GM Jeff Gates, fashionistas John Stefanelli of Bilzerian and Mitra Hedayatian of Chanel, ICA babe Chris McCarthy, and countless super-groovy others, proving that if the level of fabulousness sustains, nightcrawlers have a hip new place to hang out.

Look! More Stuff to Dust!

All the usual suspects—collectors, socialites and decorators with clients in tow—were at the preview party for the Boys and Girls Clubs Decorative Arts and Antiques Show at the Park Plaza Castle. Prominent among them: banker Bob Champion and his lovely wife Laurie, decorators Chris Drake and Lee Bierly accompanied by their client Beth Currie, of Toronto and East Dennis, Weston fashion plate Berni Rehnert, social fixtures Lee and Cokie Perry and Miguel and Suki de Braganca, the enchanting Vicky Whitney, David and Peter Webster (père et fils) with the latter's stunning wife Emily, junior socialite Alys Reynders, and restaurateur and sportswoman Debbie Lewis with travel titan Bob Grinberg. In between hors d'ouevres and cocktails, they kibbitzed an kvelled over all the priceless stuff, like the woman who was determined to find a dining room table and uttered the battlecry, "Hepplewhite or die!" IB

At the Boys & Girls Clubs Antique Show: above: Lee Bierly and Beth Currie; below: Berni Rehnert.

The Things They Never Taught You in Sex Ed...

For many people, Valentine's Day is a pain the ass, which is why An Evening of Seduction at the Harvard Museum of Natural History came as a pleasant surprise.

Marking the opening of a new orchid exhibit, the event

An Evening of Seduction: above left: Stephan and Robyn Thieringer; above right: Deborah Hughes, Linda Given and Mary Catherine Deibel; at left: Stefanie Powers samples orchid scents.

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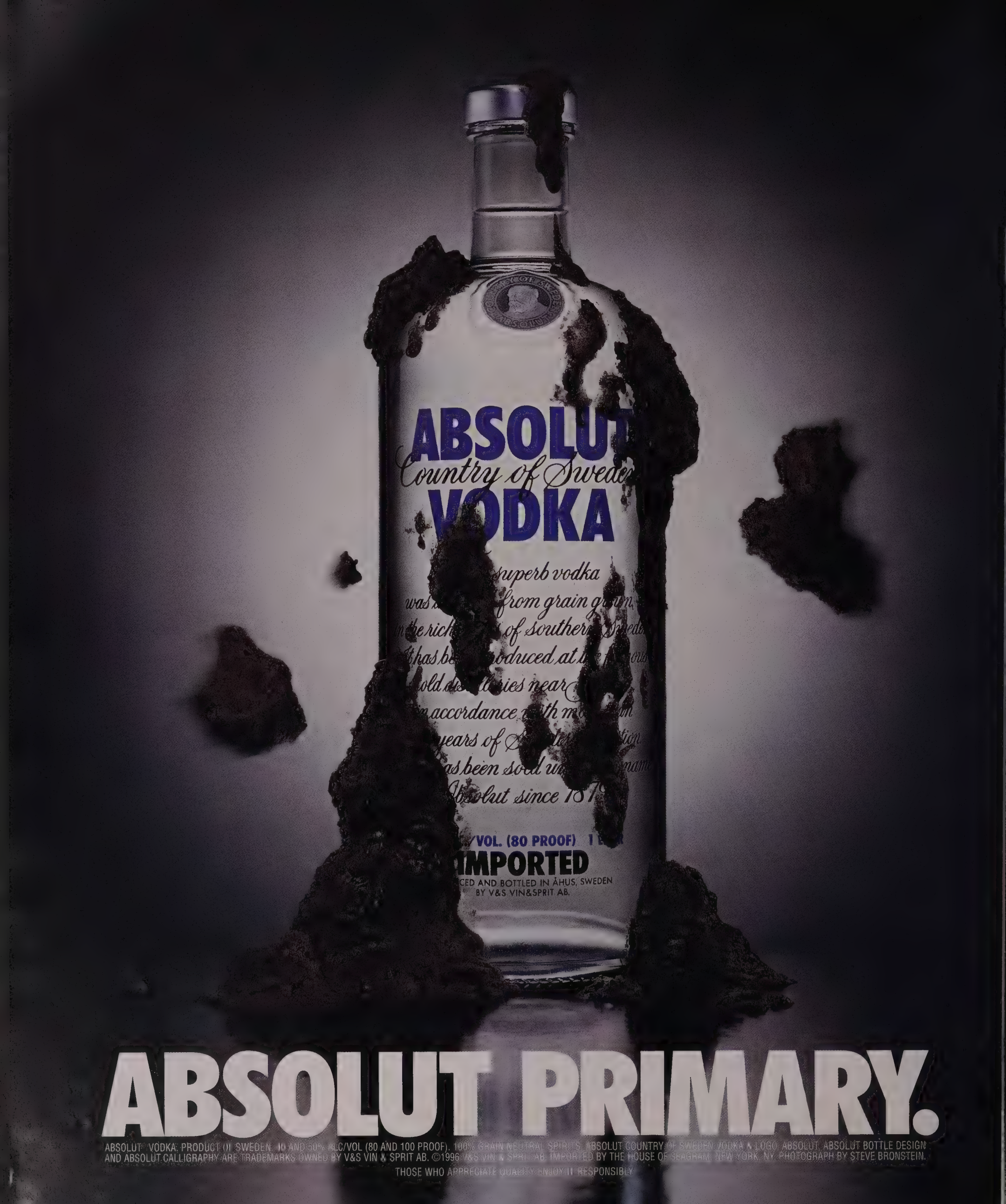

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On the Cover:
Photograph for THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN by **Jonas A. Kahn**

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SANTO ZACCARDELLI

letters

Kleiman Injustice

I was amazed that Ms. Kleiman would even bring up the Twitchell case, let alone refer to it as the "biggest miscarriage of justice." The Twitchells got what they deserved. Can you imagine watching your child suffocate on its own waste? Can you imagine the pain that child must have suffered with twisted and obstructed bowels? Can you imagine doing nothing to help the child, except praying? I understand we all pray for our loved ones, but do we inflict our beliefs and rituals on a helpless child?

I understand the teachings of the Christian Science religion and my intent is not to make this about religion but about two adults who watched a child whither away when they could have, should have, called for help! I'm sure we all want to believe that our God will save us, but sometimes even He needs a little help! And we must remember, with all due respect, NO ONE GETS OUT ALIVE. So where is this "miscarriage of justice?" If I were Ms. Kleiman I would take this one off my C.V.!!!!

KAREN M. ROCKWELL
Harvard University Graduate School of Education

The Skinny on Ezra

I take exception to Ezra Dyer's recent comparison of television super duper star Calista Flockhart to He-Man arch rival Skeletor. Anyone who ever laid eyes on Castle Greyskull knows that while Skeletor may have had a face entirely devoid of flesh, his body was every bit as buff as He-Man's. Mr. Dyer seems to feel he can simply inject random bits of '80s cartoon lore into his column with complete disregard for fact. What's next? Will readers be subjected to ridiculous comparisons between the Transformers and the Gobots (don't even get me started on that one)? It's apples and oranges, Mr. Dyer. Calista and Skeletor. Please.

You'll be happy to know that I have already contacted Brill's Content regarding this flagrant bit of misinformation. This kind of substandard reporting will not be tolerated. In fact, I am considering never buying your magazine again.

LEE HARVEY
Boston

Court TV's star anchor Rikki Kleiman

"I was amazed that Ms. Kleiman would even bring up the Twitchell case, let alone refer to it as the 'biggest miscarriage of justice.' We all pray for our loved ones, but do we inflict our beliefs and rituals on a helpless child?"

—Karen M. Rockwell
Harvard University
Graduate School of Education

Driver's Yeas and Nays

I love beating up meters like the next guy. I haven't done the paper clip trick but I was fond of folded paper and a butter knife! Fold it up to the size of a quarter and shove it in with a butter knife, inside it expands and screws the guts up. Oh the power of paper! Free parking by means of "Out of Order."

P.S. Callahan is $2 not $1.

DAVID MEKAR
Via e-mail

Cinemastic

I just picked up your most recent issue with Casey Affleck on the cover. I really enjoyed the article. I've been a fan of Casey's since *To Die For* and I think he's an incredible actor. I'm glad he's finally getting some recognition, I think all of us are going to hear and see a lot more of Casey Affleck and I think it's about time.

BEVERLY JULIAN
Medford

Correction

In the film issue's Cast of Characters piece, Ross McElwee has never made films about the life of Ed Pincus. He has, however, made films about his own life.

Tell Us What You Think

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Contributor

Jonas A. Kahn

Combination musician and commercial photographer Jonas A. Kahn, 29, specializes in portraiture and architectural photography. A Boston native, Kahn began taking photos at the age of four and now shoots interiors, exteriors and CD covers for musicians like Dennis Brennan, Groovasauras, Duke Levine and Four Piece Suit. His work appears in our special feature beginning on page 24.

By night, Kahn plays guitar in two Boston-based bands: Hummer, a four-piece, Beatles-influenced rock band, (which is up for a Boston Music Award for the best indie label debut album), and Amphibian, a five-piece acid blues band featuring Jeff Robinson of the Jeff Robinson Trio and Jim Gambino of the Swinging Steaks.

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IMPROPERSPEAKING

Although Cellucci (left) had the rapt attention of these women on Super Tuesday, George W. Bush's marginal win in Mass. doesn't bode well for him.

WINNERS...

Local fallout from the Super Tuesday primaries became clear as the dust settled in the days following the vote counting.

The clear local winner was **Mayor Tom Menino**. Through thick and thin, regardless of remarkable surges by former New Jersey Sen. Bill Bradley that ended up going nowhere, the mayor sang his best Tammy Wynette imitation for more than a year. Yes, he was often off-key. He was often a bit strident and un-country-western. But he sang "Stand by Your Man" for **V.P. Al Gore** from the Fourth of July until Fat Tuesday, and if there ever is a Gore administration, Boston will have an important friend in the White House.

...AND LOSERS

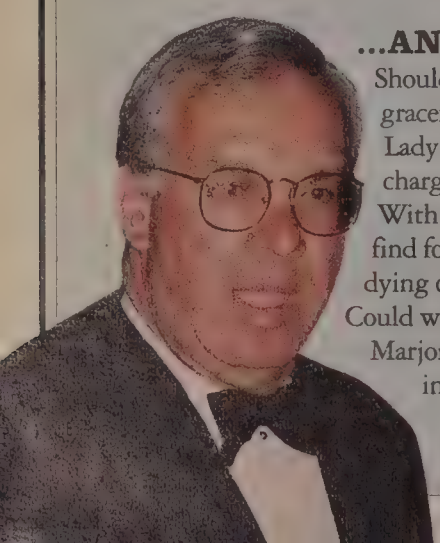
Just as clearly, the biggest local loser was **Gov. Paul Cellucci**, who heads former Phillips Andover cheerleader **George W. Bush**'s campaign in Massachusetts.

Cellucci's political future in the Commonwealth has nowhere to go. Even his own party in the legislature shot down his budget vetoes last fall—and Pony Paul is facing an eerie local version of Jean-Paul Sartre's *Huis Clos*, No Exit.

Cellucci's only hope for a political future is for Bush to win in November—so the governor can nail down a plum federal job. But a victorious Bush would be able to look at Cellucci next fall and legitimately ask: "What have you done for me lately?" February saw Bush tanking in neighboring New Hampshire, where Cellucci campaigned hard for him, and then March found Cellucci producing a whopping 32 percent of the vote for Bush in Cellucci's own state on Super Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Bush's strategy for the fall is becoming clear: He'll write off New England entirely to concentrate on key swing states in the Midwest and West. If Bush steps foot in Mass. between now and November, it will probably be because his campaign plane had to touch down in Pittsfield due to fog in Albany.

The best Cellucci could hope for (he's said to want Secretary of Transportation) would be—dare we say it?—Ambassador to the Vatican. But hey, the job's duties are not difficult. As Ray Flynn demonstrated so adeptly, they mostly consist of being able to hold an umbrella over a Pope and a visiting American president.



Mayor Menino sang the VP's praises all the way to the polls.

...AND THE FALLOUT

Should Bush win, and Cellucci find a graceful exit, that would leave our First Lady of the Skies, **Lt. Gov. Jane Swift**, in charge of things in the Corner Office. With the bar so lowered, might we then find former Lt. Gov. Evelyn Murphy, dying of envy, wanting back into the fray? Could we find former Lt. Gov. candidate Marjorie Clapprood pining to get back into politics? Please say yes.

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL

The Boston winter sports season is drawing mercifully to a close. **Rick Pitino**'s misdirected descriptor "sucks"springs to mind as an apt characterization for both the Bruins and Celtics as their winter campaigns fold. And now hope springs eternal with the opening of the spring sports scene.

Not the Red Sox. They won't start playing meaningful ball for another two weeks. We're talking the **New England Revolution**, which officially opened its season on the road last weekend and may actually do well this year.

Actually, they've fielded decent teams in the past, but have suffered from terrible coaching—most notably from player/coach **Walter Zenga** last year—and have failed to make the playoffs in three out of the last four years.

The team has a new coach, Uruguayan **Fernando Clavigo**.

Will the Rev.'s new coach Fernando Clavigo bring good luck?

He is described as a "player's coach" (Zenga was a prima donna from the La Scala Opera by way of the ozone layer). Several late-season and off-season trades brought in new talent in the form of Bolivian midfielder **Mauricio Ramos**, Equadoran striker **Eduardo Hurtado** and Colombian midfielder **Lionel Alvarez** (we don't detect any language barriers so far). In addition, old stalwarts like team captain **Mike Burns**, midfielder **John Harkes** and U.S. national team captain **Brian Dunseth** are back.

"The incredible thing is that they've drawn great crowds, despite bad records and the fact that the coaching sucked," [There's that word again] one source close to the team told THE IMPROPER. "If they start to win, the crowds will be huge."

WHAT A DIFFERENCE SOME CLASS MAKES

The Rack was the scene earlier this month for the JFF Muscle Dream Team fundraiser for congenital myopathies, featuring former Charlestownie (and Football Hall of Famer, Fox TV commentator and ex-Oakland Raider) **Howie Long** and last year's NFL Most Valuable Player and Super Bowl-winning quarterback **Kurt Warner**. The event raised more than $400,000.

The Rack's Heather Michalowki hangs back with quarterback Kurt Warner.

Three days later The Rack brought in the entire sub-30-percent-shooting, choke-in-the-fourth-quarter **Boston Celtics** team to hold a similar fundraising event to raise money for the Fannie Mae Foundation, which brings in money for affordable housing for the poor. That event, THE IMPROPER discovered, raised $15,000.

You have to admire The Rack. They try. But you have to work with the materials you're given.

BOUNTY SYSTEM ON DEVIL'S ISLAND

The latest news out of **Community Newspaper Company**, which people are trying harder to leave than prisoners on Devil's Island, is truly weird. Top management is now offering cash bonuses to employees who can attract talent to the penal colony. Management is offering employees $500 for every new person they can recruit to a full-time job at CNC, plus another $500 once the new recruit has been at the company for six months. "You can make more money getting other people hired than you can working here yourself," one newsroom wag told THE IMPROPER.

We wonder what'll be next. Toasters? S&H Green Stamps? iB

Speaking of Boston

Got a inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to speaking@improper.com

KING FIST

And a tip of the hat to The IMPROPER's staff photographer **Kerry Brett Hurley**, who earlier this month walked away with the 2000 Fujifilm Masterpiece Award for excellence in photography.

The winning entry was King Fist, Hurley's photo of Chelsea World Heavyweight contender Johnny Ruiz and fight promoter Don King. The photo accompanied a January 12, 1999, feature entitled "Why Johnny Can't Bleed" by contributor Cary Shuman.

Ruiz is set to fight Evander Holyfield in Las Vegas on June 3. Yo, Kerry. Knock 'em out.

BUSH, CELLUCCI: WENDY MIMRAN (2)

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Good stuff, glamour, and goings-on
BY ERIN HAGEDORN AND JULIE SHORT

New In Town
THE CAT'S MEOW

Fans of Cosmopolitan on Canal Street will be pleased to know that its latest reincarnation, Top Kat, is once again open for business and under new management. And better yet, it looks pretty much the same.

Sure, it has a bit more of a lounge-y feel (with lots of seating, a pool table and velvet curtains), but other than that, you'll find the same cavernous interior with dark wood paneling, floor-to-ceiling windows, vintage posters and a long open bar.

More upscale than neighboring Jimmy Mac's and The Fours, which draw the after-game crowd from the nearby FleetCenter, Top Kat has a more 'Sonsie' appeal. DJs spin in the back Thursday through Saturday, with a rotating yet-to-be-named theme every night. "We want to avoid burn-out on the part of the patrons and to keep it interesting for ourselves," GM Patrick Kennedy says. "Top Kat will be the kind of place people come to once a week for their favorite night."

The most noticeable difference between old and new is the menu—which Kennedy says will be one of the main draws. Chef Wesley cooks up appetizers of wild mushroom cheesecake in a marsala tomato reduction and entrees of lobster asparagus risotto or wood-grilled sirloin steak in the large open kitchen in the back. Sure beats saugies and beer at the FleetCenter. *54 Canal St., Boston (720-2889). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*

All the Buzz
TATTOO YOU

Massachusetts is one of three US states that still bans the practice of tattooing. Talk about puritanical roots. Five years ago, Joe Bonni, managing editor of the local publication *Weekly Dig*, co-founded Mass Ink, an organization devoted to re-legalizing tattooing in the Commonwealth. "There just isn't one good reason why it should be illegal—the rationale of 40 years ago no longer applies," explains Bonni. According to advocates, today's tattooing practices are completely sanitary and safe. What's more, with our ludicrous blue laws, we already hand over enough cash to New Hampshire.

After much organizational effort, including a benefit and best tattoo contest at the Middle East in the beginning of March, the troops are rallying again as the underground prepares for another attack on legislature. The bill to officially legalize tattooing and regulate piercing was slated for a vote in the Ways and Means Committee in mid-March. If it's approved, we'll be that much closer to Tattoosville. Check out *www.massink.com* or call 426-8942.

Boston Speaks
THREE-DAY ART

Does a three-hour play have you nodding off between glances at your watch? If so, performance artist Shannon Rose Riley's 72-hour shindig, *Deep deeper—Out out* at Mobius, March 23-25, is probably not for you. Luckily, only 10 visitors will be able to purchase a passport to witness all 72 hours of Riley's "installation."

Everyone else will get to see her nightly at 8pm as she moves to music and performs improvisational material. What for? "I think we become anchored to ourselves through daily repetitive actions," she says. "I'll be trying to alter my state of mind using durational activities," she continues. She may be on to something—and it's certainly a lot cheaper than other mind-numbing activities. "At some point I'll probably drop to the floor in exhaustion," she adds. An example of life imitating art or art imitating life? See for yourself. *354 Congress St., Boston (542-7416).*

Around Town
BIKER BILLY

He's big, he's bad and he's sportin' black biker duds as he roars into town for the N.E. Motorcycle Expo, March 25. Who is this motorcycling monstrosity? He's Biker Billy, host of *Biker Billy Cooks with Fire*. And lest you mistake this beefy biker for a meat-eating grease freak, Billy's dishes are 100 percent vegetarian. His mantra? "Life's too short to eat dull food." Abandon the culinary straight and narrow and hit the open road with engines ablaze. *Shriner's Auditorium, Wilmington (800-759-SHOW).*

This Just In
BIZARRELY BOSTON

If you can forgive the fact that Boston's newest video introducing visitors to the city—*Unforgettable Boston*—was produced in Toronto, it's worth a look simply for its inane premise: Bad luck strikes at Fenway Park as a stray line drive knocks down a fan, giving him amnesia. His distraught fiancée escorts him around town to jog his memory.

While touring the city with the young couple, visitors to the New England Aquarium (where the film premieres March 24) can vote on their destinations, click on historical city sites and learn about all that the Hub has to offer—including sipping cappuccino in the North End, watching a parade in Chinatown and—oddly enough—visiting a hypnotist at the Hatch Shell. *New England Aquarium (973-6710).*

TOP KAT: BERTA DANIELS

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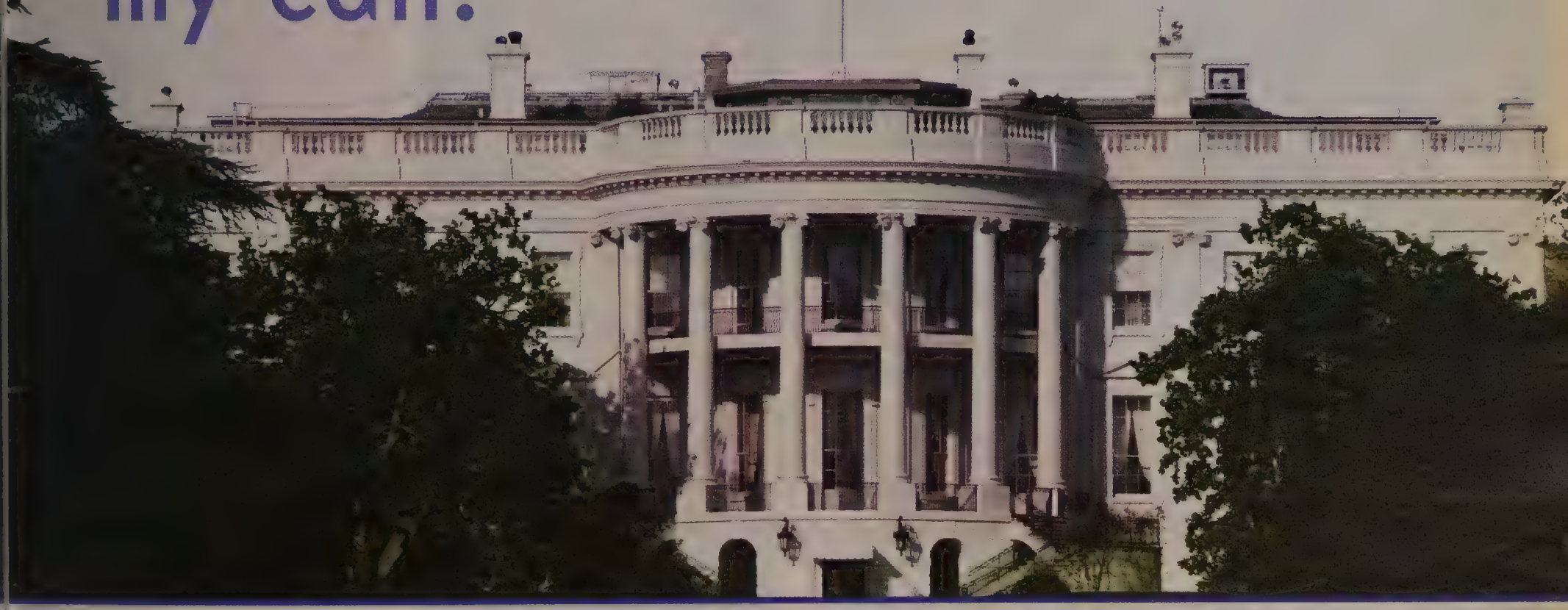

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Proper Bostonians

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

The ***Taller Than a Dwarf*** cast party was held at Ambrosia's on Huntington after the March 12 performance at the Wilbur Theatre. Two-time Tony Award winner Matthew Broderick and "queen of the indies" Parker Posey star in Elaine May's pre-Broadway comedy directed by Alan Arkin. Members of the cast, New York producers, agents, managers and friends of Broadway in Boston attended the elegant soiree for 150 guests. A highlight of the evening was Matthew Broderick and other actors cheering for his wife, Sarah Jessica Parker, during the televised showing of the Screen Actors Guild Awards, for which she was nominated for her role in *Sex in the City*.

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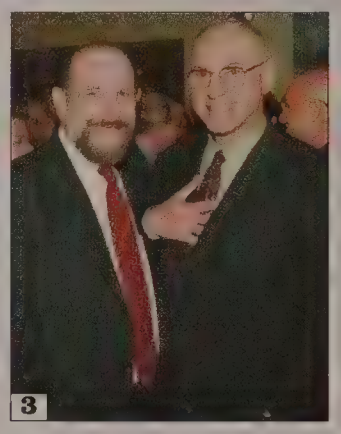
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1. **David Stone** (l), general manager of *Taller Than a Dwarf*, and **Bill Conner**, president of Broadway in Boston.
2. From left, **Regina Troxell**, **David Crowers** and **Leah Bishop**, respectively hostess, general manager and events manager at Ambrosia.
3. **Mark Golub** (l) and **Alan Arkin**, respectively producer and director of *Taller Than a Dwarf*.
4. *Dwarf* actresses **Marcia Jean Kurtz** (l) and **Cynthia Darlow**, who play "Mrs. Shawl" and "Mrs. Enright," respectively.
5. **Nina Essman** and **Darren Bagert**, the show's general manager and producer, respectively.
6. **Michael McShane**, who plays the superintendent in *Taller Than a Dwarf*, with actress **Joyce Van Patten**, who plays "Mrs. Miller."
7. **Caryn Freedman**, manager of the Wilbur Theater, with **Julian Schlossberg**, founder and owner of Castle Hill Productions and a producer of *Taller Than a Dwarf*.
8. *Dwarf* co-stars, **Matthew Broderick** and **Parker Posey**.

7

8

A Roast to Toast Diddy Cullinane was held at the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, March 3. More than 400 socialites gathered to salute to one of Boston's leading philanthropists, Diddy Cullinane, at this benefit for the Whittier Street Health Center. Cullinane is the creator and founding president of Black & White Boston Coming Together as well as an active member of the Boston Public Library Foundation, the JFK Library Foundation, Boston Ballet, Boston Symphony Orchestra and Catholic Charities. Among the roasters were Senator Edward Kennedy; Phyllis B. Carter, president and CEO of Whittier Street Health Center; Mayor Tom Menino; and Fletcher "Flash" Wiley, president and COO of PRWT Holdings. The master of ceremonies was former NewsCenter 5 anchor, Brian Leary, current president and CEO of Mogall.com.

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9. From left, **Russell Zwicker**, **Peter Bowman** and **David Bowman**, respectively service delivery engineer, regional director of public affairs and service delivery engineer at Bell Atlantic New England in Lowell
10. Senator **Ted Kennedy** (l) and **Harlan Jones**, executive director of the Freedom House.
11. From left, **Karen van Unen**, director of community benefits at Children's Hospital, **Phyllis Bagwell Cater**, president and CEO of the Whittier Street Health Care Center, and **Karen Darcy**, director of the Martha Eliot Health Center in Jamaica Plain.
12. From left, **Sue Cullinane**, a medical student at Columbia, with her father, **John Cullinane**, founder of Cullinet Software Inc., and mother, **Diddy**, founding president of Black & White Boston Coming Together.

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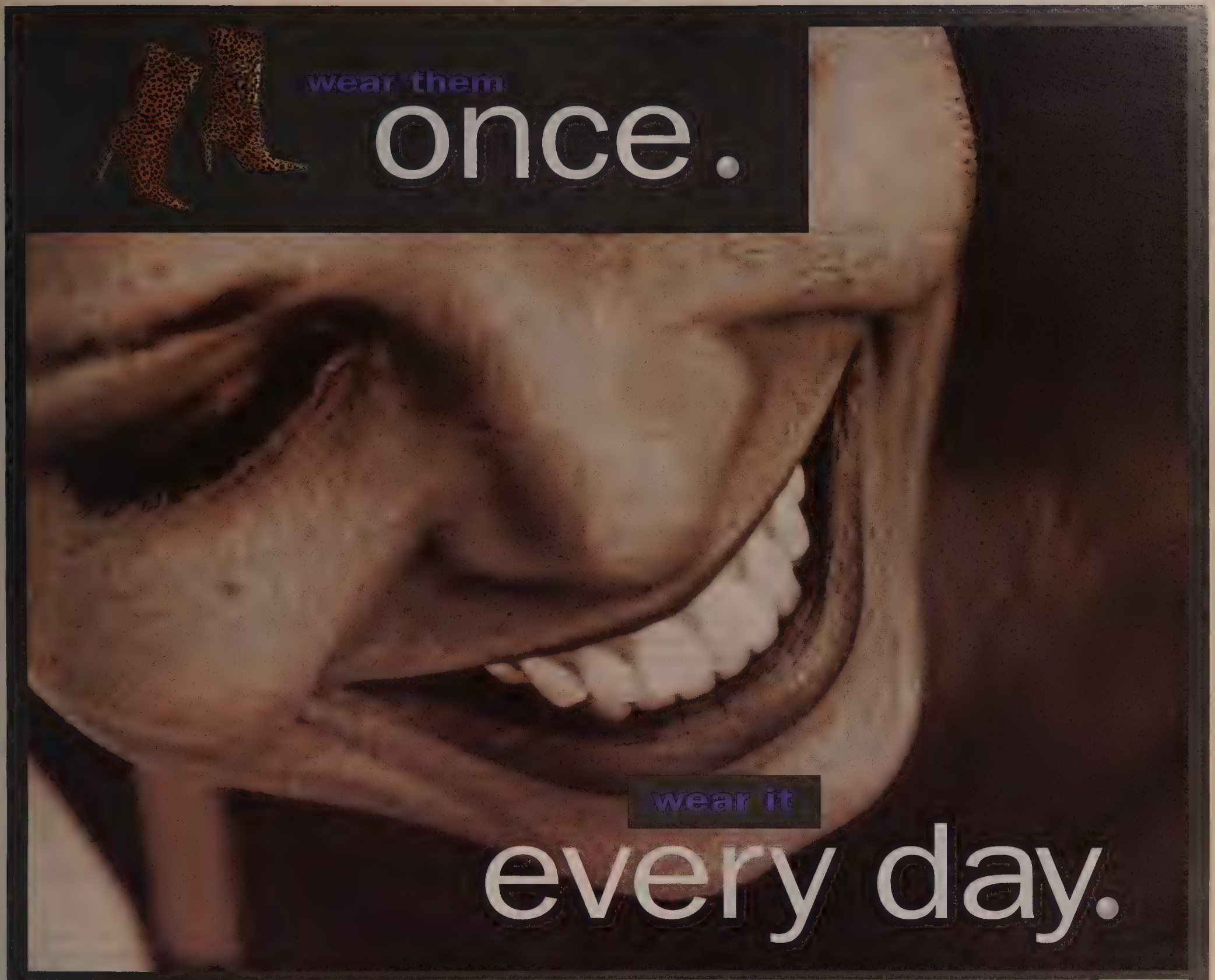

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THE END OF AN ERA

This journalist bids a bittersweet adieu to Cabletron's Bob Levine and Craig Benson.

Alas, Cabletron Systems of Rochester, N.H., will soon be a thing of the past. One of the biggest high-tech firms in the Boston area will be breaking into four independent operating companies, none of which will bear the Cabletron name. I will be sorry to see Cabletron go because writing about the firm—and especially its founders Bob Levine and Craig Benson—has provided some of the more amusing moments in my career as a computer journalist.

Cabletron originally made an appearance on my radar screen about three years ago when I was shooting the bull with a former Cabletron executive who told me, in confidence, that Levine had once seduced a newhire—a hometown beauty who had married her high school sweetheart. Levine reportedly took the woman on "trips to the mansion in Palm Beach and a flight on the Concorde," after which she began coming to work dressed "as if she were a cast member from 'Hot and Saucy Pizza Girls.' " Of course, a CEO boinking the hired help isn't exactly news, but what interested me was that the girlfriend reportedly had used her connection with Levine to play office politics. "We didn't dare make Bob's 'girlfriend' angry," said the former Cabletron executive.

There were other things that interested me about the company. I learned that Levine, an avid bodybuilder, had been known to dress up in Rambo fatigues and thrust combat knives through basketballs in order to motivate his sales troops. Levine even owned his own tank—for a while at least—until he crashed it into a tree. Benson was said to be something of a character as well. He had a reputation for absolute ruthlessness and reportedly once fired an employee who hadn't actually started his job yet, simply because he "hated" the guy after meeting him on a company-sponsored Sunday boat trip.

I sensed there was a story in all of this, so I pitched the idea to a computer rag and soon found myself driving up to Rochester, N.H., to interview Benson and Levine. During the interview, I asked them about their weird marketing stunts—including a mock boxing match which featured an overweight palooka (representing Cabletron's competitor) being pummeled by a tower of muscle and testosterone (representing Cabletron.) Rather than taking responsibility for the macho madness, Levine immediately began bad-mouthing the company's former head of marketing.

Dissing ex-employees is, of course, a business no-no, so as soon as I got back to my office, I called the ex-marketing guy and asked for his take on Benson and Levine. I won't relate the substance of the conversation, but I will remark that, for a computer journalist, an interview with a disgruntled ex-executive pissed off at his former boss is, frankly, just about as good as it gets.

"I learned that Levine, an avid bodybuilder, had been known to dress up in Rambo fatigues and thrust combat knives through basketballs in order to motivate his sales troops...Benson was said to be something of a character as well... with a reputation for absolute ruthlessness."

Next thing I know, I'm back up in Rochester, digging through stacks of hand-typed 3-by-5 index cards at a tiny local newspaper named *Fosters Daily Democrat*. The index cards led me to the microfilm room in the Rochester Public Library where yet another scandal appeared before my eyes. According to the clippings, Benson allegedly ordered one supervisor to fire a woman and replace her with a man—an action that resulted in a sexual discrimination suit ending in a $2 million judgement against the company.

So I wrote the article which explained why Cabletron's wacky management wasn't working in the marketplace. The article also contained a bit of what's called "local color"—a brief description of Rochester, N.H. For the record, here's the passage:

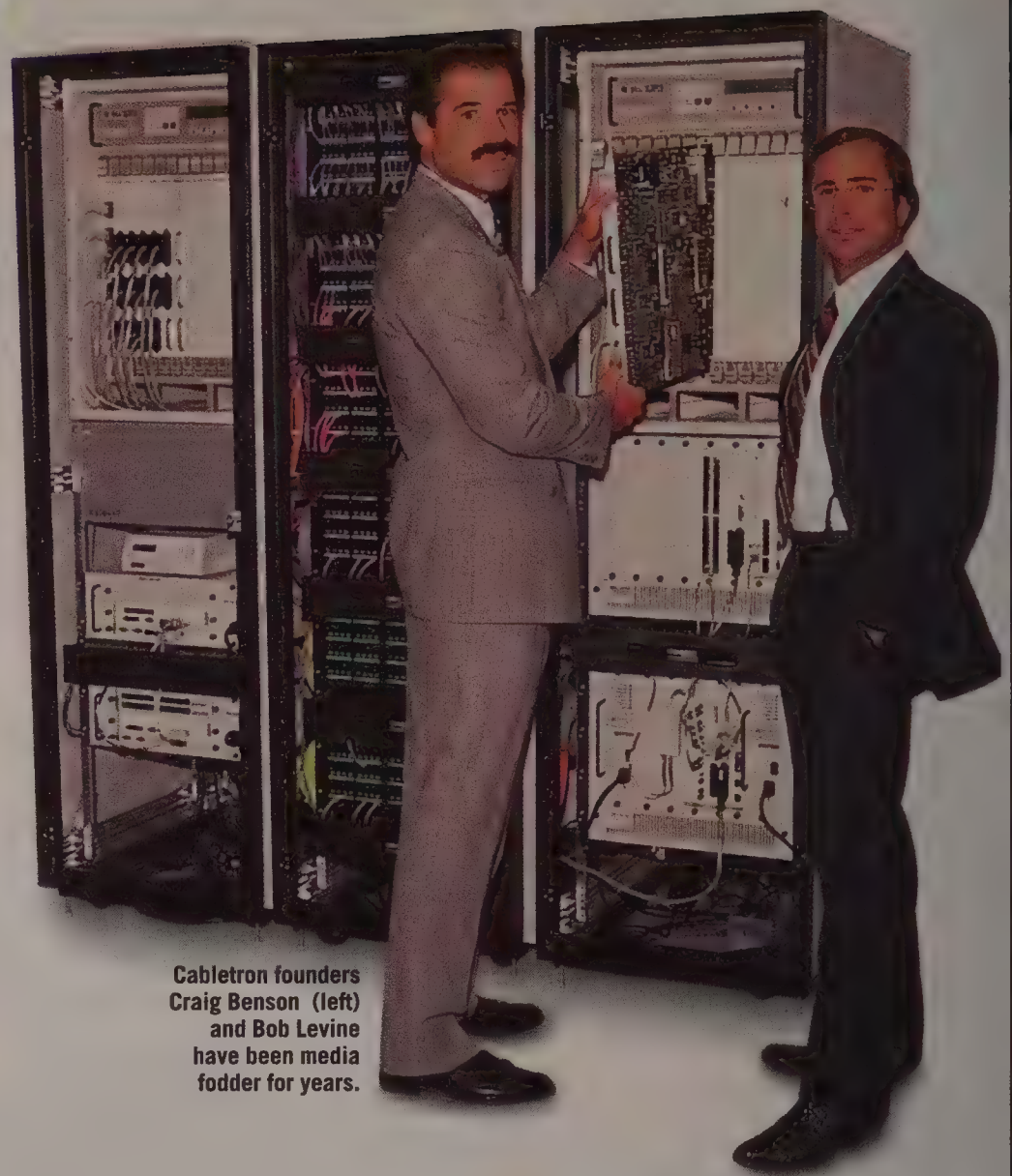
"Trust me, this ain't Silicon Valley... This is a place where gun racks come standard on pick-up trucks, where a majority think Pat Buchanan would make a Jim-dandy president, where the measure of a man is the size of his chainsaw. It's exactly the kind of place where a man could buy his own Sherman tank and still be considered a law-abidin' citizen."

Now, anybody who's ever been in Rochester knows exactly what I'm talking about here. But some people evidently found this paragraph offensive because immediately after that, I started getting calls from angry New Hampshire citizens, two of whom said that I'd "better watch my back."

Then my editor faxed me a letter he had received from none other than Senator Judd Gregg. This letter defended Cabletron and suggested that I "visit New Hampshire" before writing about the state in the future—which I thought was pretty damn funny, considering that I'd been living in New Hampshire for eight years at the time.

Gregg's sudden appearance on the scene naturally tweaked my curiosity. So I traipsed up to Concord to look at the Senator's campaign contribution records. At the very bottom of the foot-tall stack of paperwork, I found what I was looking for: the Benson and Levine families had given $13,000 to Gregg's most recent campaign. Needless to say, this little tidbit made excellent ammunition for my own response to Gregg's letter, both of which appeared in a subsequent issue.

Those were, indeed, the good old days. Cabletron proved that California hadn't cornered the market on screwball corporate executives. But now we computer journalists must say goodbye to Cabletron with the same sense of sadness that, perhaps, Jay Leno will feel when Bill Clinton finally leaves the White House. The demise of the Cabletron name may seem like just a little thing, but I, for one, will greatly mourn its passing. iB



Cabletron founders Craig Benson (left) and Bob Levine have been media fodder for years.

COURTESY OF CABLETRON

Geoffrey James (www.geoffreyjames.com) is the author of numerous business books as well as the co-host of *Funny Business*, heard Saturdays 10pm-12am on WRKO, AM 680.

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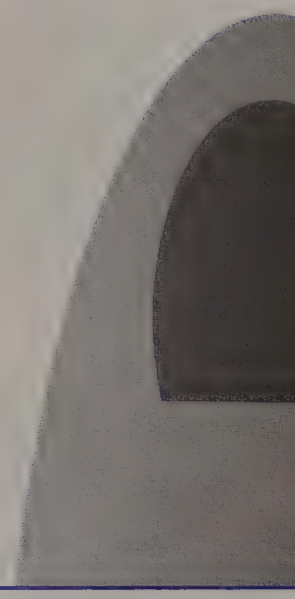

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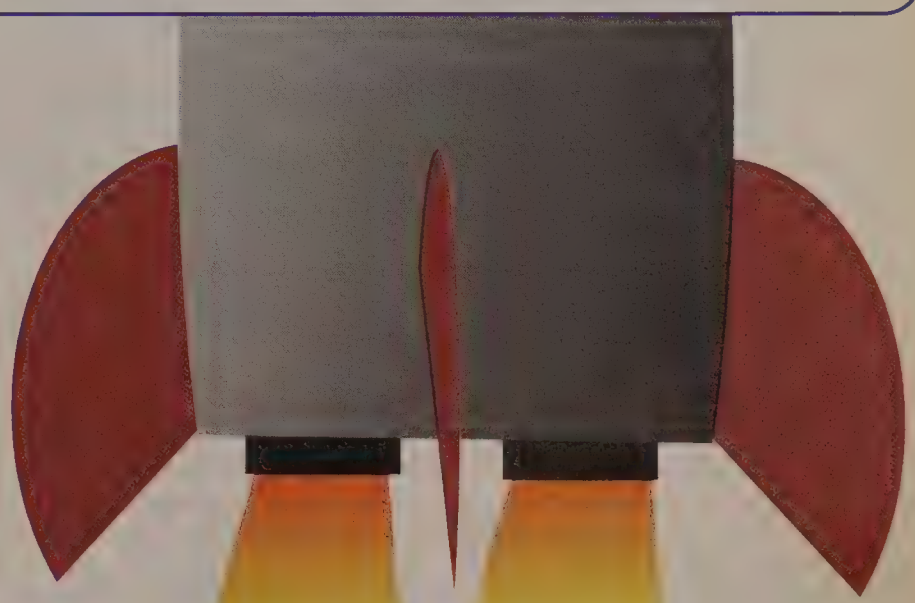

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David Josef

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Fashion designer David Josef, 42, was born and raised in Providence, RI. During high school, he worked for his mother's alteration and dress-making shop and in 1979, at the age of 19, he moved to Massachusetts and opened his own dress-making business in Lexington. "That was my college education," he recalls. Four years later, he relocated to Boston and began wholesaling to the legendary Newbury Street boutique Charles Sumner. Retailers like Neiman-Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue and Nordstrom followed, along with 300 other specialty shops, and Josef's devoted clientele has grown to include the likes of Kitty Dukakis, Liz Walker, Debbie Reynolds and Dionne Warwick. His designs have been featured in every major fashion publication—from *Vogue* to *W* to *Harper's Bazaar*. Coming full circle, this March, he cut back his retail business to a select 10 or 11 stores and opened a small retail operation in his South End loft, at 59 Wareham Street.

Jonathan Soroff: *So what do you want to be when you grow up?*

David Josef: Rich.

JS: *Ever design clothes for dogs?*

DJ: Sure, for my Petunia Pot Pie—my pug. I've made her little sweater things, to go out in the cold, and a little T-shirt to stop her from scratching when her allergies act up. She just did a photo shoot with Hollis [Colby, the model], with my dog wearing her diamond studded collar...

JS: *Is it real?*

DJ: They're summer diamonds—some are diamonds, some are not.

JS: *Is it ever OK to wear white after Labor Day?*

DJ: Those stupid rules. Who cares? I mean, it depends. If you're in California or Florida, and white looks good on you, sure.

JS: *First item of clothing you ever made?*

DJ: A thong [cackles insanely]. Only kidding. Actually, I made costumes for backyard plays to raise money for Muscular Dystrophy. I'd use my mother's sheets for fabric—cut the middle out, then fold them up and put 'em back in the closet.

JS: *She must've loved that.*

DJ: Oh, yeah. I'd cut dresses out like a gingerbread man. I was probably eight or nine.

JS: *How big is your drag queen business?*

DJ: Surprisingly, not very. We ship 10 to 12 outfits a day, and I do maybe one outfit every couple of months for a drag queen.

JS: *Who has better legs, Liz Walker or Kitty Dukakis?*

DJ: Oh my God, I can't say that! They're both fabulous. Kitty's got great legs, and Liz's go all the way up and then make an ass of themselves.

JS: *Do you think your outfits for Kitty cost Mike the election?*

DJ: Of course! Y'know, the funniest thing was—*W* did a piece and the headline was, "If Kitty Dukakis Makes It To the White House, She May Not Give Up Her Cigarettes, But She Has to Give Up Her David Josefs." It took up half the page. Then they showed her in four outfits and had all these designers judging them, but not one of the outfits was mine. It was hilarious.

JS: *Favorite fashion magazine?*

DJ: None. I think they're the ruination of fashion. They don't appeal to the average woman sitting in the mid-west, who looks at them and thinks you have to be an emaciated drug addict wearing clothes from 1962.

JS: *Ever swallow a pin?*

DJ: No, but I've gotten sick from picking pins up off the floor and putting them in my mouth.

JS: *Worst thing you ever saw while doing a fitting?*

DJ: Well, I was out in California recently, doing a fitting with this lovely woman, a very good customer, and the pants were a little too tight. I said, "Do you mind if I open up the inseam?" and she said, "No, go ahead." Well, she wasn't wearing panties, and I came very close to giving her an operation. I'd never been that close to...one before.

JS: *Most diplomatic way of telling a client, "You have a fat ass?"*

DJ: It's very rare that I have to, because the first thing women do when they get into a dressing room is apologize for their bodies. But I did have a woman once who was a very large size and wanted a strapless gown without a jacket. I told her I'd try to come up with some sketches. Then I phoned her a couple of days later and said—oh, this is so tacky—"As an artist, it's not flowing, blah, blah, blah...." I blamed it on me.

JS: *Have you suffered by being in Boston instead of New York?*

DJ: Yes, but it was my choice and it worked out fine. I always assumed that with my clothes selling at department stores, and the press writing about me, that I would have some huge investor offering to back me, especially since they back designers who go in and out of business every 15 minutes, and I've never been out of business. But no one ever did, and now I'm not interested anymore. I'm in total control of my business and nobody owns me.

JS: *Most common faux pas women make?*

DJ: Thinking that being half-naked is sexy.

JS: *Most egregious recent trend?*

DJ: After 10 years, they're still tryin' to force this ridiculous '60s look down our throats. No one wants it. No one buys it. And yet the fashion magazines keep harping on it. The girls who want to wear that shit can't afford it, and the girls who can afford it don't want it.

JS: *If Nolan Miller and Bob Mackie were brought in front of a fashion grand jury, what would the charges be—Promiscuous Use of Rhinestones? Death By Sequin?*

DJ: Oooof. Nolan Miller—thinking he knew what glamour was, as opposed to a fake Hollywood idea of glamour. And Bob Mackie? They'd give him an award. He's the reason I'm in this business.

JS: *Really?!? If you asked me, I'd say the biggest fashion victims of all time were three of his biggest clients: Cher, Barbra Streisand and Aretha Franklin.*

DJ: Aretha yes. Barbra no. Cher absolutely not. You can't dis Cher. Those were costumes, for God's sake. You can't talk about my Cher.

JS: *OK. How about Kim Basinger?*

DJ: I'm sure she's the nicest person alive, and I kinda like the fact that she seems too busy with her family to bother, but I don't get the '50s thing at awards shows, and {sharp intake of breath} that one-sleeved thing! Or Celine Dion, with the backwards jacket—that was Gucci, for God's sake! Gucci and Prada get all this press, but if you look at the worst dressed women, they're all wearing Gucci and Prada. I mean, Sigourney Weaver's a gorgeous 6'2" woman. How can you make her look bad?!? Put her in Prada.

JS: *So who appointed Joan Rivers chief of the fashion police?*

DJ: Y'know, there's a difference between humorous bitchiness and downright hurtful nastiness. I don't get it. You wanna give constructive advice with a catty edge? Fine. But don't be insulting. I can't sit through that show. Find something nice to say—"At least she put some thought into it." Because y'know what? Not everybody has great taste!

JS: *Is Boston a fashionable city?*

DJ: Absolutely. We've got the best of everything here, including incredibly chic women. It's just that old stigma of the clothes smelling like mothballs, and the plaid maxi skirt with the ruffled blouse at the Ritz.

JS: *So why are bridesmaid dresses so fuckin' ugly?*

DJ: Because people don't wanna spend a lot on them.

JS: *I think it's to make the bride look good by comparison.*

DJ: Well, maybe, because I've seen some byooooootiful dresses for $200. I guess it's just the bride's choice.

JS: *Is red the new black, or is it the old gray?*

DJ: No. African-American is the new black.

JS: *So what's the old black?*

DJ: Negro—to be totally politically incorrect.

JS: *Last question: When all is said and done, isn't fashion just plain silly?*

DJ: Absolutely. You couldn't have said it better. It's so stupid, thank God I can make a living at it. **IB**

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Boston Poets Society

APRIL IS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH, THE PERFECT TIME TO SAMPLE AND SAVOR THE VERSE OF OUR CITY'S POETS—PAST AND PRESENT.

April is always a welcome month. Winter, we hope, is losing its grasp. Spring, we hope, is taking hold. It is a month to celebrate milder temperatures and rejuvenation. As national poetry month, it is also a time to celebrate verse. As Bostonians we have ample material.

Boston has been at the center of American poetry since our ancestors first got off the boats. Anne Bradstreet (1612–1672) was compared by Cotton Mather to the "wisest women of antiquity." She is quite likely the closest we'll have to a Mother of American Poetry as well, as her direct descendants included both William Ellery Channings, both Richard Henry Danas, both Oliver Wendell Holmes and one Wendell Phillips.

Though he's best known for his work as the crusading editor of the *New York Evening Post,* William Cullen Bryant (1794–1878) wrote his best known work, *Thanatopsis*, as an 18-year-old Williams College dropout living in Great Barrington. And although Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803–1882) is probably best remembered for his oratory and longer prose works, he was also a prolific poet. It was he who wrote:

By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,
Here once the embattled farmers stood,
And fired the shot heard round the world.

Emerson's contemporary John Greenleaf Whittier (1807–1892) was born in Haverhill and attended Harvard. And Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807–1882), author of "Evangeline" ("This is the forest primeval") and "The Song of Hiawatha," left as part of his legacy the magnificent yellow Longfellow house on Brattle Street in Cambridge.

Most people remember Henry David Thoreau (1817–1862) for his quirkiness (while a Harvard undergraduate he wore a green coat to chapel "because the rules required black") and for causing traffic jams on Route Two as locals line up to get a look at Don Henley at Walden Pond. But the irascible Thoreau was also a marvelous poet whose *I am a Parcel of Vain Striving Tied* is one of the most haunting meditations on life you'll ever find.

Then there are the Lowells. They are to poetry what the Griffey family is to baseball. James Russell Lowell (1819–1891) graduated from Harvard at age 19 and went on to become the first editor of the *Atlantic Monthly*. His grandniece Amy Lowell (1874–1925) was one of the most admired poets of her day, and the sometimes oddball Robert Lowell (1917–1977) won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1946 (after spending five months in jail for evading the draft in World War II).

Boston's poets, especially in the mid-20th century, have had a decidedly dark side to them. Both Anne Sexton (1928–1974) and Sylvia Plath (1932–1963) led extremely troubled and chaotic lives that ended in suicide. L.E. Sissman (1928–1976), a warm and generous human being, battled Hodgkins disease for the last eleven years of his life, and many of his poems reflect that struggle.

The present-day landscape of Boston poetry is vast, varied and vital—as the following four profiles of Boston poets illustrate. Read on. Enjoy. Let words linger.

—Richard Manning

Suzanne Qualls

PLEASURES OF THE TEXT

by Damon Smith

portrait by Jennifer Taylor

Poetry is an erotic impulse," says Suzanne Qualls, a teacher of creative writing at Boston University and an instructor for the local Grub Street Writers group. "It's a desire to make something happen in someone else. There's pleasure in recognizing that's happened." And Qualls is good at making her poems resonate with readers; her work has earned high praise from poet laureate Robert Pinsky, among others, who has written of her "absolutely distinctive lyrical voice."

Indeed, her unique powers of expression are evident in a poem such as "Death of a Scholar," with its opening, disturbingly beautiful desciption of a dying friend: "Insectoid, all instinct, his limbs drawn up/ and atropied, the body spindled, past/any moment of relaxation in bed."

Among her many accomplishments, Qualls has had her poems anthologized and published in journals such as *Triquarterly*, *Verse* and *Boston Review*. She's read her work at the Library of Congress with Peter Sacks, and she's written a performance monologue entitled "How to Live Like an Elegant Woman."

Surprisingly, Qualls's initial passion was criminology. As an undergrad at the University of California at Berkeley in the early '70s, Qualls traveled to Sweden—where she lived for 18 months—to study that country's prison system. She dropped out of college and began working a university administrative job. After a few years spent puzzling over what to do with her life, Qualls began auditing classes in art history and other subjects, but shied away from formal writing opportunities. That is, until a serendipitous meeting with Pinsky ("He recognized me from a weightlifting class we took together") emboldened her to sign up for a workshop.

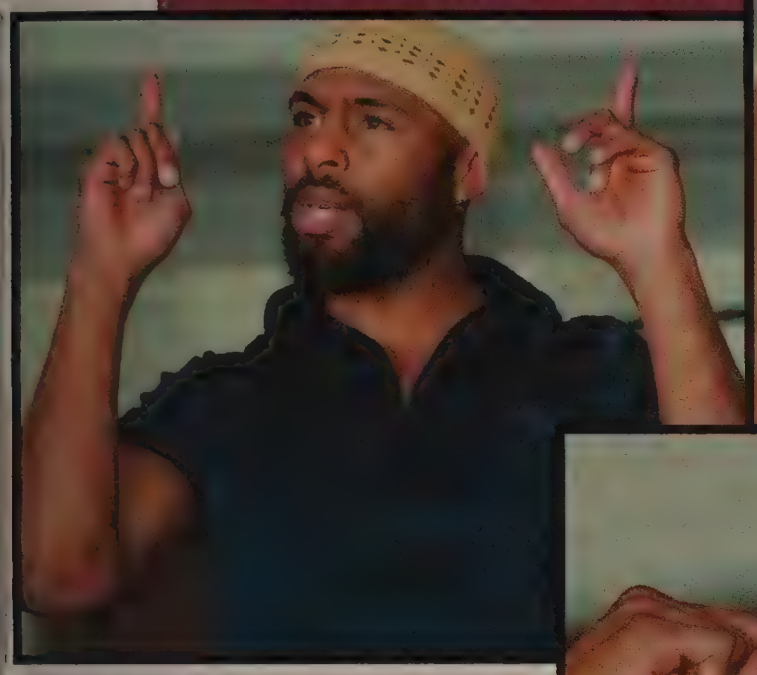
Under the tutelage of Pinsky and Berkeley poet Frank Bidart, Qualls began developing her craft, entered a PhD program in English, and finally saw her first poem, "Early in a Rotten Summer," published in the *Threepenny Review* in '87. Although Qualls elected to forsake the doctorate, she's wound her way back to academia at BU. In the time she's lived here, she's given readings at Waterstone's and Hasty Pudding Theater. But don't imagine that writing poetry is easy work: "I tell myself I'm taking notes. If I think of it as a poem already, it's really stifling." As for her decision to write poetry instead of fiction, Qualls says, "Lines came to me. I wanted a shorter form. I wanted density." iB

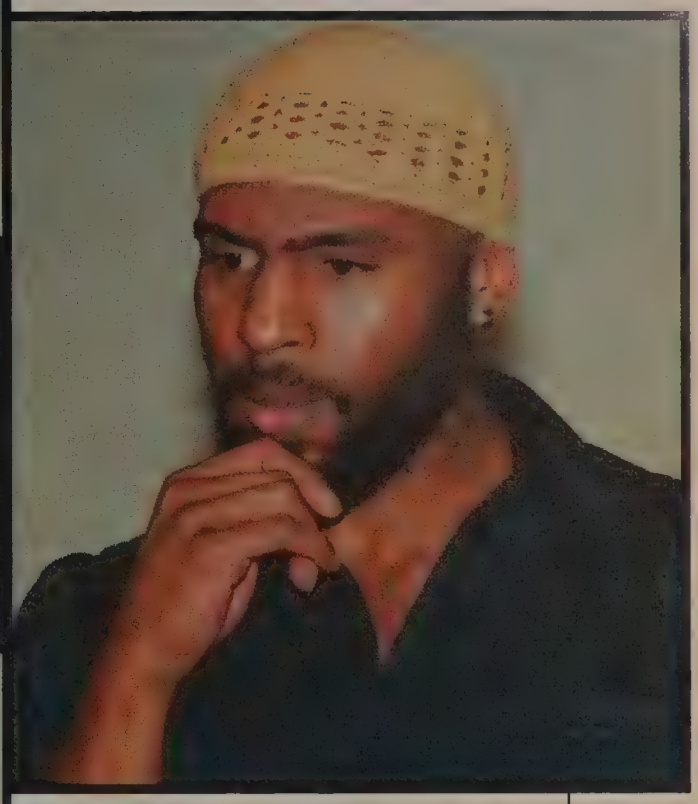
Corey Cokes

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO COKES

by SUSAN ABBATTISTA

portrait by KERRY BRETT HURLEY





With the resolve of a preacher, the vision of a sage and the poise of a prophet, Corey Cokes takes the stage, armed with words. The Cambridge-based poet is fighting against ignorance and injustice, leading a march along the gritty backroads of the African-American experience, and taking along anyone who will follow. The landscape is never pretty, but it is always revealing.

Slavery, injustice, name-calling, domestic violence, designer-label materialism. Cokes' poems provide images that sting. A lynching doesn't stop at the horror of the act itself; it is about all the people who looked the other way: "They sat around eating fried chicken, picnic'n as I hung from a tree. That was me."

Cokes "grew up poor" in Norfolk, Va., during the '70s and "saw a lot of ugliness, things a little boy shouldn't see." Since then he has been "looking for the perfect words" to describe his experience—and getting people to listen. "I want to jump-start people into thinking," he says. "I want to set fire to the asses of the masses."

The poet, now 29, has succeeded in setting those asses ablaze. He takes you to places where you would rather not go, and shows you things you would rather not see.

At his spoken-word performances, you are first struck by the man—his no-nonsense, look-you-straight-in-the-eye directness. Then you are hit by the message—equally strong and on target. When Cokes tells a story, you dare not look away.

He holds a magnifying glass up to the African-American experience by telling stories directly from his characters' point of view. In "Mastablasta," he becomes escaped slave Nat Turner, who, like Cokes, also lived in Norfolk. You can almost hear crickets in the dead of night as Turner quietly recollects the grim details of his own death: "They hung me, skinned me, chopped me, then made grease of my flesh. Now that's a true American crucifixion."

"Snapshot" takes you for a walk through a modern-day city neighborhood. You meet Brotha Black, "with that supa-fly dip, pimp walk in his hip," who "rhymes on the corner with his boys." And there's Sistah Sarah: "For years she has maintained her miss congeniality smile" while hiding bruises behind make-up that's "caked up thicka than Betty's Crocka."

Some of his pieces are lighter. "Hilfigga Nigga," for example, remarks on the irony of "young brothas" who spend their hard-earned money on designer jeans at Filene's, "making a filthy rich fashion designer filthier."

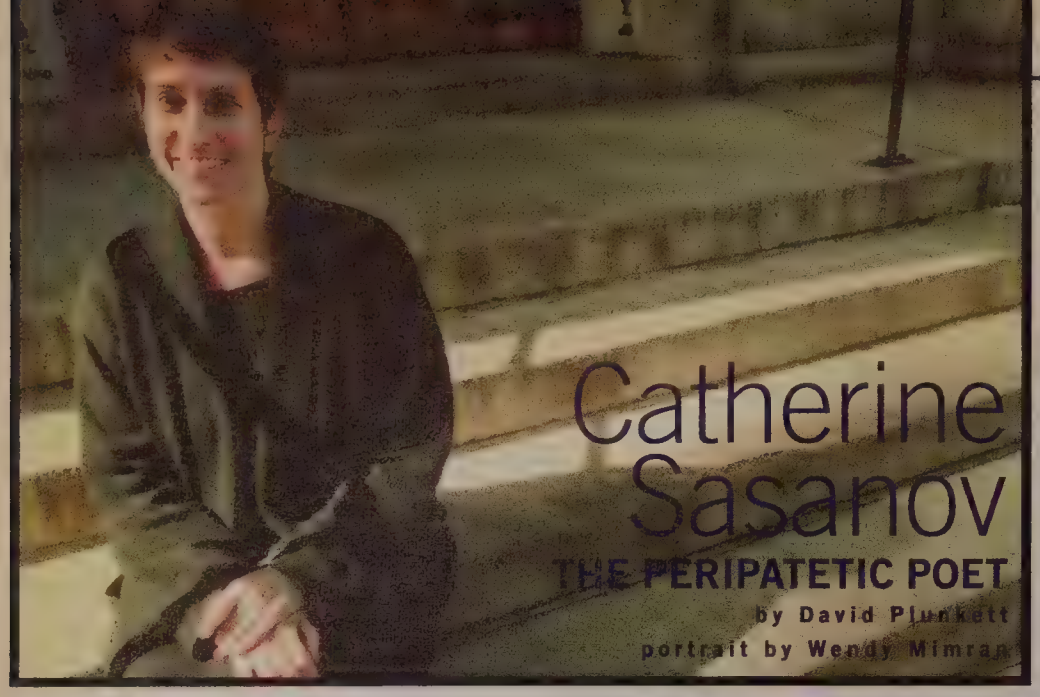
You might assume the poems are written specifically for African-Americans. But Cokes says his messages apply equally. "If you dare to be ignorant, if you dare to treat people unfairly, watch out—I'm coming for you."

Cokes began writing poems a decade ago when he worked as a planner for the Federal Highway Administration in Washington, DC. "I was just a little bolt in the engine," he says of his first job out of college. He took his notebook to work and crafted his first poems "on the government's dime." He left that job in 1993 and began to write and perform his poems full time. Today he is touring nationally. He also speaks to young adults about his craft. "There's nothing wrong with 9-to-5," he tells students, "it just wasn't right for me. I took a chance by leaving that job. But you can't succeed and think about failure at the same time." Cokes' poems were recently released on a CD, *Coreography*, produced by Varunee Recording Group (*www.varunee.com*). A list of upcoming performances can be found on the site. IB

TRAINSPOTTING

on the train, HE
clutches the crotch of jeans his mama bought
talkin shit and poppin yang
oh, it's a game to young hens
chickens who can barely lay eggs
livin or dead between their legs
playin Nigga Game holl'in Nigga names
in front of white folk
the way white folk do . . . in front of white folk
in earshot and shock of . . . black folk
who wipe Nigga Game spittle spray from brows
then, pretend it don't stink or stain

when it do.



Catherine Sasanov

THE PERIPATETIC POET

by David Plunkett

portrait by Wendy Mimran

Cambridge poet Catherine Sasanov seems to define the term "working artist." She recently finished her second book of poems, *Raise the Dead Inside My Given Name*. Since her first book, *Traditions of Bread and Violence* (Four Way Books), was published in 1996, she has written the lyrics for a theater piece, *Las Horas de Belén: A Book of Hours*, which will be produced by the Mabou Mines Theater Company this year across the US and in Mexico City. A CD of the songs, with Sasanov's words printed in English, has just been released. She has just begun a residency at the Vermont Studio Center, an artists' colony, where she plans to write new poetry.

The residency is a welcome opportunity for Sasanov after spending two years focusing on the theater piece, a collaboration among three US and three Mexican artists. "It's a good chance to work on my own," she says. "It helps to have a big chunk of unfragmented time to write." She's had a number of prestigious residencies and has received grants from the Rockefeller Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. But most of the time, to subsidize her writing career Sasanov temps and teaches creative writing. She usually wakes at 4am to allow for four hours writing time before going to work. "In the long run, stamina is more important than talent," she says, "because you have to work so hard to find the time to create. I think a lot of talented people fall by the wayside."

Sasanov, who moved to Cambridge from her native Rockford, Ill., in 1984, says she's not primarily influenced by any individual writers. "I've always read everything I can get my hands on," she says. "I started because I just liked to write and somewhere it became like breathing." Rather than literary predecessors, poems in *Traditions* seem to be informed by Sasanov's travels and personal history. She has lived in Mexico City and taught literature in Brazil, and says she's influenced by her interest in her mother's Irish and her father's Bavarian ancestry. Works evoking themes from European displacement to the Mexican Day of the Dead festival hint at an empathy for individuals struggling against something difficult to comprehend, whether political or metaphysical.

Sasanov doesn't do a lot of reading for audiences, though she did a tour for her first book and says she reads a few times a year in the Boston area or at universities. She recently read at the "Chapter & Verse" series at St. John's Episcopal Church in Jamaica Plain and occasionally reads at the Grolier Poetry Book Shop in Cambridge. "I mostly stay at home and write," she says. iB

STATUE OF A SOUL IN PURGATORY SANTA TERESA IN ANTIGUA CHURCH, MEXICO CITY

Look how I died
just so someone could drag in
a hunk of wood
and hack me out of it.
I'm fuel
feeding my own torment,

up to my waist in carved fire
gone cold after hundreds of years.
Fire covered in dust,
throwing no light in the dark.

Flames shoot up around me—
my own picket fence
faded
and splintering. The difference
between you and myself

is lawn that separates
you from that fence
while you stand in your backyard
looking for God. You're waiting

for the thin layer of paint
men scraped off this ceiling: God falling
in pieces into my outstretched arms.
Friend, come close

and caress this grief.
Dig its splinters of flame
out of your hands.

CROW'S DREAM: THE BIRTHDAY PARTY

It's in the late field of Indian tears
wet grass & a darting of bats,
a crescendo of crickets
heard from the edge of it,
makes all the party voices
in the field of sway
a pantomime
of arms waving
in the breeze,
faces expelling
a glittering swarm
of gnats, faraway smiles
& the processional
whites of their eyes
gleaned in flashes.
A television sits canted
in the grass fielding an uncertain hue
and the birthday boy is on
& saying something
that no one hears
in the din when
the last egg breaks
the glass nest
and the electrical blue
leaks onto the grass &
the dark breathes out
of the limestone bottom
of a long dead sea
in the wavering
candelight
an anniversary
of fossils
under ten miles
of sky
beneath
a school of stars
a wheel of fish
a lark of meadows.

Ken Kawaji

BREAKING RANKS

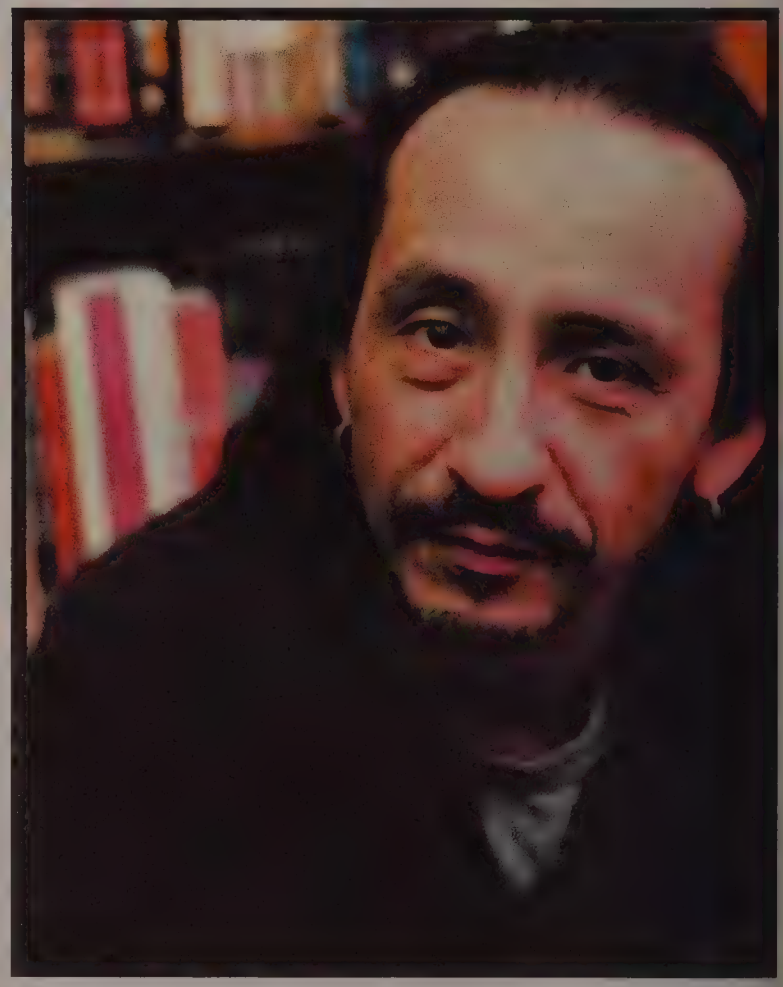
by Damon Smith portrait by Jennifer Taylor

Ken Kawaji is a poet and veteran performer who has lived most recently in San Francisco, Cincinnati and Amsterdam. His poems have appeared in a variety of journals including *Exquisite Corpse*, *Modern Haiku* and *WORCS*. Born in Kyushu, Okinawa, Kawaji moved with his family to the US as a youngster and trotted through nearly a dozen cities before finally settling in Kentucky, where he attended high school. Kawaji's early influences were Japanese fairy tales, the occultist writings of Sir Arthur Waite and old movie spooks like the Tingler, but he also attests that reading William Carlos Williams's *Paterson* as a teen made a lasting impression. He published his first poem at age 19.

While in his mid 20s, Kawaji sailed with the merchant marine for Green Line Steamers, which took him up and down the Mississippi from New Orleans to Saint Paul, so it makes sense that he also cites ancient Chinese poets Li Po and Tu Fu ("The wanderers, the complainers" he dubs them) as personal muses. Among his many chapbooks are *PhenylBarbi-Doll*, *Seven Poems for the Love of Rachel* and *Soaptown*.

Given his long involvement in the performance side of poetry—appearing at the Déjà Vu in Chicago, opening for Jim Carroll at Twice Told in Louisville, organizing slams at Kaldi's in Cincinnati, reading at coffeehouses across the nation—it's interesting that Kawaji has sworn off public recitals of late, even after successful stints at the Lizard Lounge and the Cantab's Third Rail, where slam competitions are regularly held.

"Some people think they can make money on poetry," Kawaji says almost ruefully, "to make it an art that has commercial value." He tired of attending readings where the personality of the poet dominated the proceedings, and emphasizes that many fans of live poetry have lost their appreciation for the sonority of words. In a performance, Kawaji maintains, "what is between you and the audience is air, and what you do is vibrate the air."



With that philosophical outlook, perhaps it's fitting that Kawaji has spent the last three years working at the scholarly Harvard Book Store in Cambridge—his polymathic sensibilities are clearly fueled by the learned environment. With poems that are often dense with allusion, Kawaji brings to mind Gloucester's own celebrated avant-gardist Charles Olson, another towering influence. "It isn't a poet's job to explain things in nonambiguous terms, to entirely support the comprehension of the individual," he declares. "My poetry is about singing about not knowing." iB

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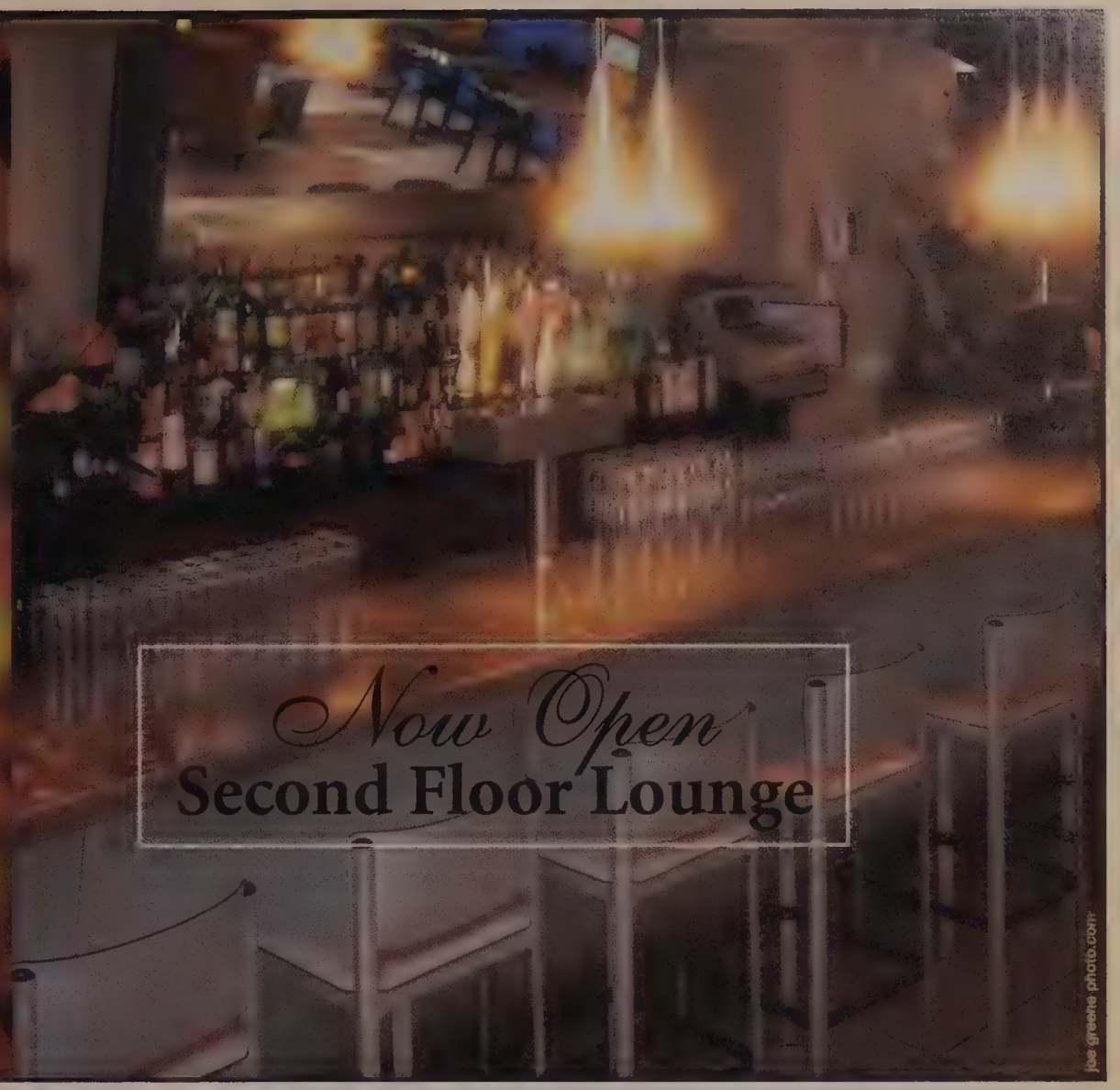

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The Spoken Word

READING SERIES AND OPEN MIKE NIGHTS

Boston pulses with the words of poets from all over, but finding poetry events and bookshops can be difficult, since so many are discovered only by word-of-mouth. Here are some of Boston's hottest poetry beats.

Grolier Poetry Book Shop

6 Plympton St., Cambridge (547-4648). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Poetry is honored every day at the Grolier Poetry Book Shop, the country's oldest book store specializing in poetry. Grolier also hosts Evening Poetry Readings at the Arthur M. Sackler Museum and Meet the Poet series on Sundays at the Fogg Art Museum. Lina Gregg, author of *Things and Flesh*, will take part in the series on April 9.

New Words Bookstore

186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. If you're looking for poetry by a range of female authors, check out this women's bookstore. Its unique selections cover feminist, multicultural, lesbian, bisexual and gender identity issues and the store has been a women's resource since 1974. The reading series features groundbreaking and inspiring works of fiction and poetry. Visitors have included Dorothy Allison, Sonia Sanchez and Gloria Steinem.

Club Passim

47 Palmer St., Cambridge (492-5300). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Famous for its legendary role in the history of folk and acoustic music, Club Passim is a cozy Cambridge basement venue. The club has been going since 1958, when it began as a jazz venue called Club 47. Some years, later it was the place where Joan Baez got her start. But music is not the club's only popular event. Club Passim has open mike nights every Tuesday at 7:30pm. The small space lets the audience get close enough to feel the energy of the poets.

Rhythm and Muse

403 A Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-6622). MBTA: Orange Line Stony Brook. This book store features a monthly poetry series with a headlining poet followed by an open mike session. Readings begin at 7:30pm the first Thursday of every month. Newcomers are encouraged to participate.

Out of the Blue Gallery

168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Out of the Blue features The Poet's Room at 8pm on the fourth Saturday of every month. Open mike sessions and featured poets infuse a mix of music and the spoken word.

The Cantab Lounge

738 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Open mike nights are every Wednesday at 8pm, followed by a featured poet and poetry slam. There are also 8x8 Slams, contests in which eight participants compete with each other for prizes. The winners qualify for the National Poetry Slam in Providence, RI, held August 2–5. On March 29 the lounge welcomes poets Katie Asson and Eitan Kadosh.

Agape Poetry

Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (266-6710). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8–10pm. Every Tuesday a group gathers to listen to both open and featured readings and discussions hosted by Richard Moore. This poetry event has been taking place since 1946.

O'Brien's Pub

3 Harvard Ave., Allston (782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. A mix of rock and spoken word is performed at O'Brien's one Monday a month at 9pm. Newcomers are welcome to take a shot during open mike nights.

Blackthorne Tavern

420 Turnpike St., South Easton (508-238-9017). Everyone is encouraged to participate during open mike night every Wednesday at 9pm. Once a month the tavern hosts poetry readings with a featured poet starting at 8:30pm. On April 3, the tavern welcomes the IYANU Poets Theatre Troupe.

Stone Soup Poetry Night

Zeitgeist Gallery, 312 Broadway St., Cambridge (227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Stone Soup's Poetry Night was founded 29 years ago and has been held all over Boston, finally settling at the Zeitgeist. It features readings from a range of writers and ends with an incredible open mike session every Monday evening, where anything and everything goes.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Night

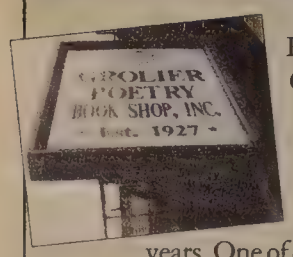
1667 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter. The lounge hosts a poetry night each Sunday with a featured poet followed by an open mike session accompanied by the Jeff Robinson Trio.

Blacksmith House Poetry Series

56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-7188). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Sponsored by the Cambridge Center for Adult Education, the Blacksmith House Poetry Series consistently features popular and inspiring poets reading from their works. —*Anita Patil*

A Poetry Mecca

GROLIER IS A HAVEN FOR LOCAL LITERATI AND USED BOOKSTORE ENTHUSIASTS

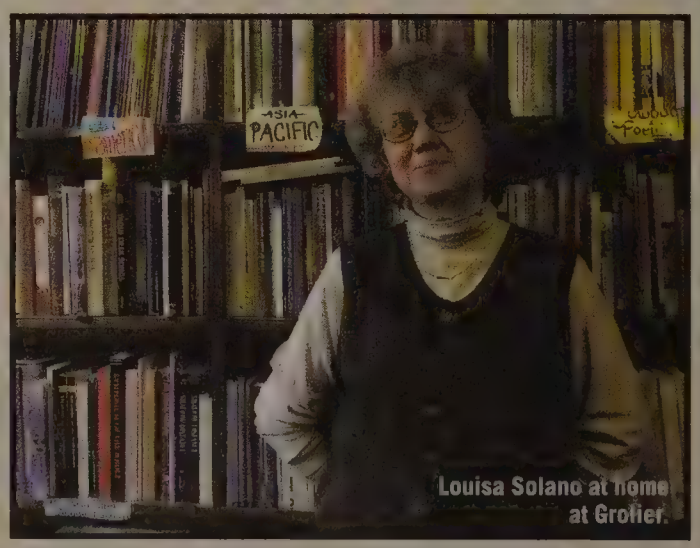


Harvard Square's Grolier Book Shop has been a staple of the local and national poetry scene for more than 70 years. One of only two stores in the US devoted entirely to poetry in print (Open Books in Seattle recently became the second), it is owned by local poetry guru Louisa Solano, who can be found screening each and every thing that comes into the store. Grolier was started as a rare book store in 1927 by Gordon Cairnie and Adrian Gambet. Solano, who fell in love with the store in high school, acquired it in '74 and transformed it into a cozy, well-stocked poetry shop.

Grolier draws a rare crowd, and as poetry aficionados, students and professors know, there is no better place to browse through volumes of verse. In fact, several college professors support the store by assigning books that can only be purchased at Grolier.

"I buy anything that I think has an audience, ranging from Sanskrit to more modern work," explains Solano. "I help people become aware of what's available, so I carry broad spectrum. I keep books on shelves for 10 years sometimes." Grolier stocks over 17,000 titles and more than 20,000 volumes, according to its proprietor. "And to think that it's only the tip of the iceberg!"

Holding fast to the dying art of the owner-run small book store, Solano is a wellspring of knowledge. If she doesn't have what you're looking for on subjects ranging from Gerard Manley Hopkins (one of her favorite poets) to early Bukowski titles, she knows where to find it. She refers to most of her dedicated patrons by name, knowing exactly what they are interested in. "There's so many of them—of course there's Harold Miller, who was an engineer at NASA. He reads everything I recommend. And Mr. Kazuyoshi Sugyama, who's been a loyal customer over 20 years, he buys lots of US poetry."



Louisa Solano at home at Grolier.

Even if you're not a regular or particularly well-versed in contemporary literary theory (like Jessica, the Irish wolfhound terrier who sprawls out on the floor), you'll feel welcome browsing through the stacks of books with window shoppers, poets and tourists alike.

—*Erin Hagedorn*

FROM TOP: WENDY MIMRAN, IRINA ROZOVSKY

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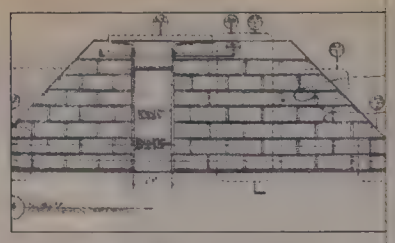
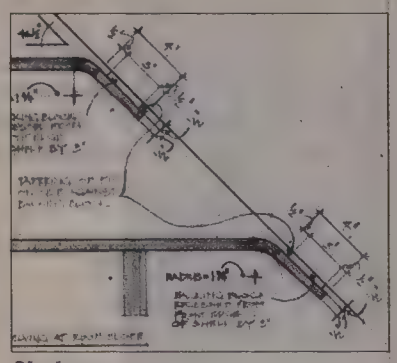




Shelves
From drawing board (elevation and detail of plan above) to reality, Office dA fashions a wall of books. In the foreground: Office dA's sleek, carbon fiber table, and through the doorway, the ethereal, organic sculptures of Czech emigré Milan Klic, illuminated by a skylight.

seamless living

BY RACHEL STRUTT PHOTOGRAPHS BY JONAS A. KAHN

A Newton couple team up with the architects of Office dA to create an interior full of contrasts and ingenuity. The result is harmonious—and terribly provocative.

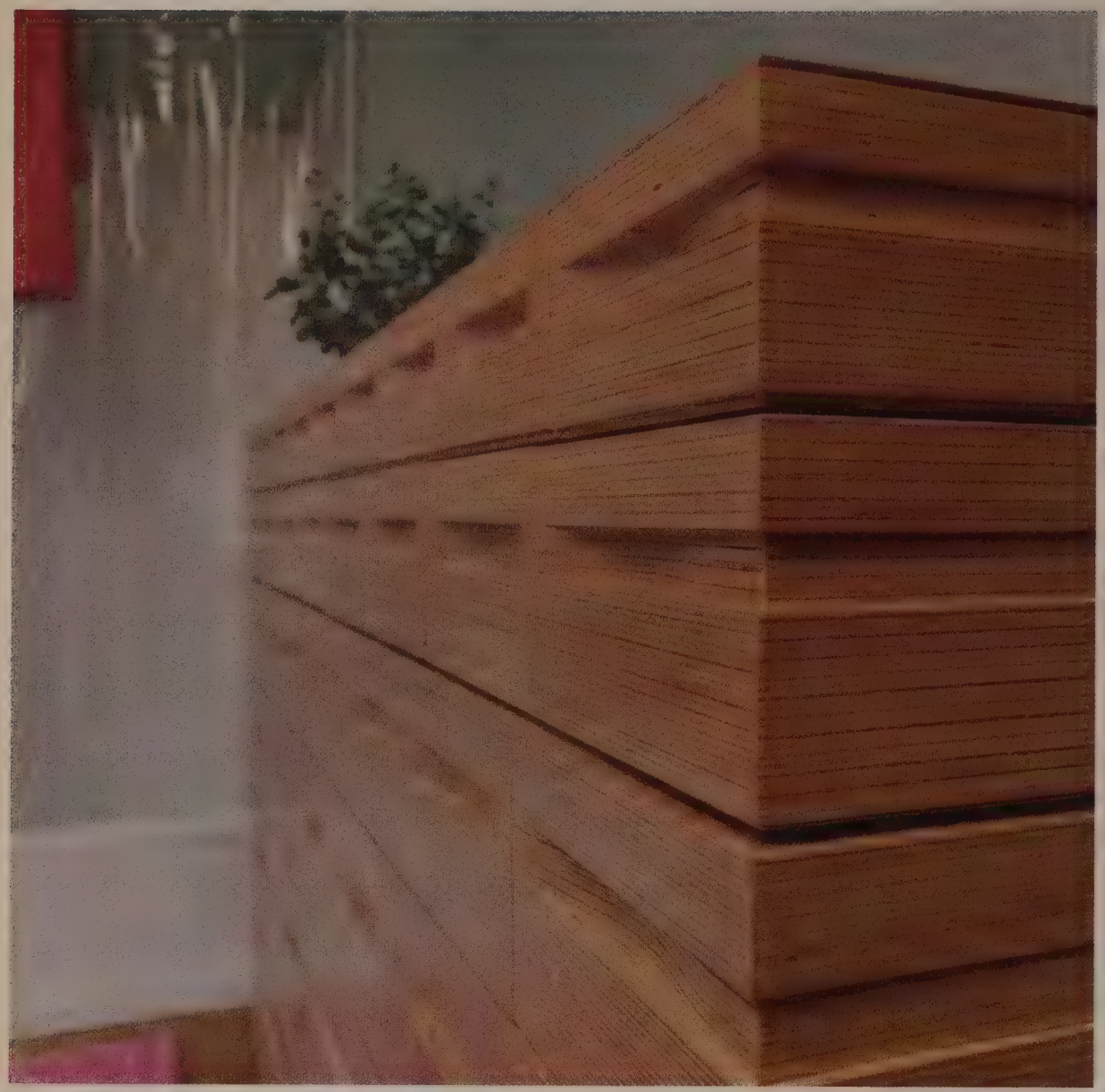
THEY ALWAYS HAVE SURROUNDED THEMselves with books, walls and walls of them. As academics, such nesting habits are to be expected.

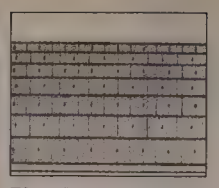
Of course bookish living can lead to cramped living. And sure enough, after moving into a spacious 1897 Victorian in Newton just over a year ago, David and Hannah, along with their young daughter Rebecca, faced a familiar problem: a shelving shortage. With the existing bookshelves already tightly packed, orphan books were consuming much of the house. Determined to impose some order upon their unwieldy library, the young Newton couple (who prefer to remain anonymous) focused early house renovations on shelving and setting up two fully functioning home offices.

Shelves may not sound particularly sexy, but the extensive shelving project David and Hannah commissioned turned out to be not only practical, but ingenious and artful. What's more, it was the beginning of an exciting, ongoing collaboration with Office dA, one of Boston's most promising architectural firms.

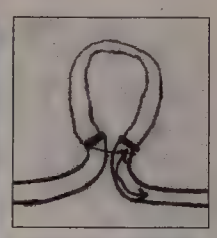
Upstairs in the Victorian's attic-turned-office space, David explains how they came to work with Office dA. Hannah, an architectural historian who could write the international Who's Who of contemporary architecture, "simply believed Office dA were among the most exciting young architects around." The couple seem so convinced of Office dA's talent, they see its future swallowed up by larger commissions, pulling Nader Tehrani and his partner Mónica Ponce de Léon away from Boston—and Cambridge, where they both teach at Harvard's Graduate School of Design.

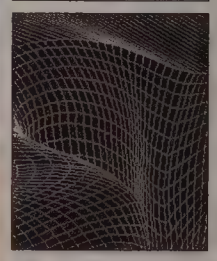
"The idiom we like is a modern one," says David. "We love the Victorian house, but design-wise we like contemporary, so we put in contemporary furniture to trans-





The dresser
Office dA's monolythic "Vero" dresser demonstrates the beauty and versatility of laminated plywood.





The table
Details of a "seamless" transition—from a preliminary conceptual sketch, to a computer-modeled diagram, to the finished product.

form it. From one project to the next, Office dA helped transform the house, knit it together."

Beyond shelving, Office dA created several furniture prototypes for the house, which, along with the couple's extensive art collection, give the interior a decidedly contemporary feel—against a backdrop of Victorian architecture. A study of contrasts, the result yields constant surprises.

THE SHELVES

Office dA began renovations in the attic, a space slotted for David's office. After adding a dormer, allowing for more light and space, they started drafting plans for shelving. "They decided to express the angular structure [of the room]. That's why we have these bent ends," says David, pointing to where one wall's shelves terminate. "They echo the slanting lines of the eaves."

"We wanted to make a fluid connection between the eaves and shelving," chimes in Tehrani, who clearly approaches every project as a conceptual challenge.

The shelving material is plywood—13 layers of laminated apple plywood to be exact. Never has plywood looked so beautiful. With its various layers of subtle color variations and gently curving, tapered ends, a common, cheap material has been elevated to the likes of fine rosewood.

Tehrani and Ponce de Léon also used laminated plywood to create vertical dividers, or bookends, throughout the shelving unit. Playfully, the dividers masquerade as books—thick, weathered tomes, turned outwards. And instead of continuous shelving over the door, there's a whimsical lintel, which looks like a massive block of these out-turned "books."

On the second floor, there are several more examples of Office dA's ingenious shelving solutions, including a "dead end" stairway that was closed off about two thirds of the way down by previous owners. Today, it is a delightful, albeit peculiar little library. Shelves line one side of the staircase, mimicking its lines, and appearing to form another staircase. From the bottom stair, looking upward, the view is a dizzying, Escher-like visual pun.

"With Mónica and Nader," says Hannah, "there's a conceptual integrity to everything they do."

THE FURNITURE

David and Hannah's admiration for the Office dA team is not one-sided. It's clear that Tehrani and Ponce de Léon thrive on the couple's intellectual and aesthetic enthusiasm. Whether it's shelving or furniture, David and Hannah give Office dA an idea of what they're looking for, usually including detailed specs. The architects come back with ideas and a plan (often a work of art in its own right), and a discussion ensues.

When the couple comissioned a large dresser for storage, they were less specific than usual. Office dA presented them with what has been dubbed the "Vero" dresser, a monolythic block with a gently undulating façade and some small 50 drawers. "Pleased we were," says David of the unveiling. "And as we've said to many people, it's an instant Museum of Modern Art piece."

They might be right. Already having won five Progressive Architecture awards for earlier projects, Office dA has enterered the Vero dresser in the *International Design* magazine competition. "It's good press if you win," says Tehrani. But even more importantly, it's where furniture companies get ideas for mass production. "Talking with people who are more established," Tehrani says, "you hope that people steal your ideas."

In the tradition of many 20th-century architecture greats, like Mies Van Der Rohe and Le Corbusier, Tehrani

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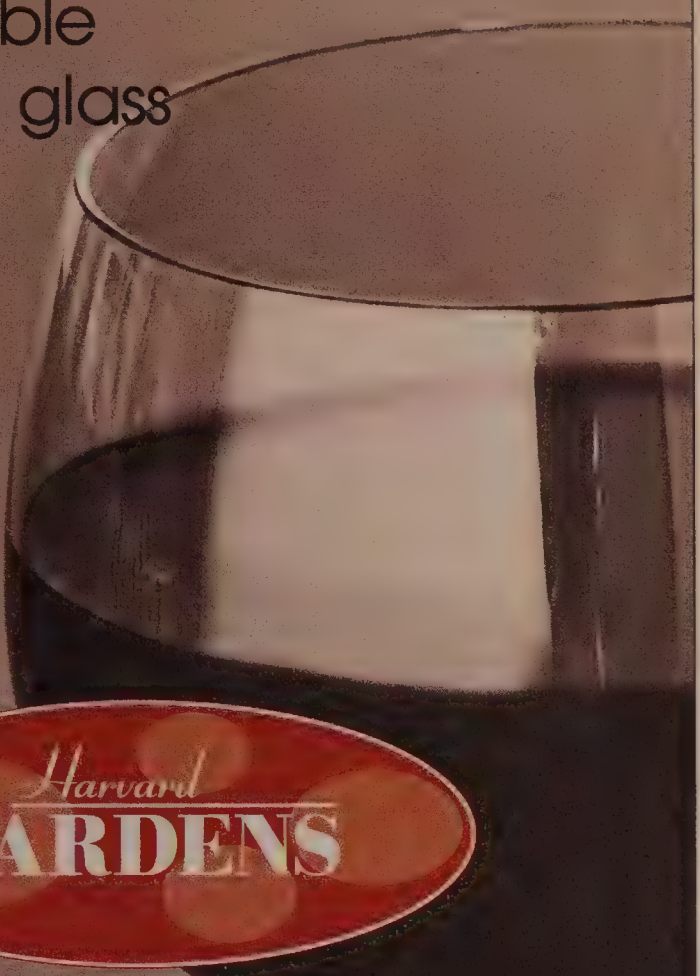

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The living room (left) A sleek Office dA coffee table stands in front an enigmatic photograph by the Israeli artist Michel Rovner.

The bedroom (right) A cool color scheme of yellow and gray makes an ideal backdrop for a print series by Sean Scully.

and Ponce de Léon approach furniture design with the same seriousness bestowed upon a building. "It's not an anomaly as an architect to be playing with furniture, it's a sort of side game." says Tehrani. "It's a way to test tectonic possibilities at a more immediate scale. We're academics, we have an intellectual project and we're trying to test that in different instances."

But Tehrani is quick to admit they're also thinking commercially: "The financial benefits of doing one successful chair is 50 times more lucrative than designing one successful building. If a chair makes it, that's at least 10 to 15 years of a lot of money, but if it's a classic, it could be 75 years."

A recurring theme with Office dA's furniture designs is the question of negotiating the connection, or "seam" between different planes—where a vertical chair leg, for example, meets a horizonal seat. "This is where a lot of design breaks down," explains David.

The black oval table, which now sits in the David's office, offers an interesting study of such design concerns. With legs that appear to cascade like liquid from the "pool" of the tabletop, there is no clear junction between horizontal and vertical planes. After designing the table using computer-modeled diagrams, Office dA selected carbon fiber for its construction; a material which is strong, light and can be draped over curves, and is more typically used in the manufacture of boats, racecars and biking helmets.

"You want to make materials do things they want to do, push the limits," says Tehrani, who is interested in culling materials away from more "traditional" applications. Determined to find a craftsperson familiar with the material, Office dA commissioned boat fabricator, Jeff Kent, to build the table. An unusual arrangement, but as Tehrani says, "Invention is central to everything."

THE ART

The fascination with seams is also evident in David and Hannah's museum-like collection of contemporary paintings and sculpture. "So often with art," says David, "you'll have a beautiful field here and another there—but often the transition is unresolved. [The artist] can't find a way to do it that is either seamless or provocative." Not surprisingly, the couple seek out works in which transitions *are* resolved.

Take the "Seven Mirrors" prints by Sean Scully that hang in the bedroom, four above three in a provocative, asymmetrical arrangement that compliments the artist's playful sense of spatial relationships. "He does stripes," says David simply of the transplanted Dubliner now living in New York City. "But like Office dA's furniture, it's very much focused on transitions, the edges, how one color meets another."

Beyond this question of transitions, David and Hannah are drawn to art that explores the hazy middle ground between the abstraction and representation. On one of the living room walls, there's a large work by Israeli artist Michal Rovner, an eerie orange landscape traversed by blurry human figures. On the one hand, it's simple amorphous shapes on a field of bright color. On the other hand, it's five figures walking in the desert.

This photograph epitomizes much of their collection of art and furniture: It is not "easy." Standing on the boundary between realism and abstraction, it is ambiguous, somewhat strange, suggestive. "If you have art on your wall that's not challenging, you get pretty tired of it pretty quickly," says Hannah. "We like something more challenging than a one-liner, or something that is just pleasing to the eye."

"When Nader came in and saw the work," David recalls, "he said something like: That's the closest artistic analog to what we're trying to do with architecture."

Indeed, much of Office dA's work also negotiates the territory between the real and the abstract. Take the attic office shelving. The vertical "book" dividers are simply blocks of laminated wood—but they are also recognizable objects, especially when seen in relation to the actual books they separate.

Visual riddles. Abstractions. Transitions. The Office dA duo and their young Newton clients clearly revel in debating the intellectual ins and outs of good design. As Tehrani says, "David and Hannah really aren't clients, they are more like patrons of the arts."

"If you are trying to develop a new line of thinking or furniture," Tehrani continues, "it comes from the complex set of relationships you make. There is the myth of the artist working alone. But in fact, there's a lot of hand-holding going on. They're holding our hands, we're holding the fabricators' hands. A successful project often has as much to do with the client as with the designer behind it—because the client is permitting a process to flourish in a particular way."

David jumps in, "Quite frankly, one reason we're building this furniture is because we want to be part of the intellectual project. We think it's money well spent. If we ever win the lottery," he adds, "and they're still willing to speak to us despite their great fame-to-be, we'd love to have them build a house for us."

Like the architecture of Office dA, and like so much of the furniture and art that adorns David and Hannah's home, the relationship between architect and "patron" appears utterly complementary. Almost seamless. IB

"The financial benefits of doing one successful chair is 50 times more lucrative than designing one building."

Office dA

BOSTON ARCHITECTS TO WATCH

Nader Tehrani and Mónica Ponce de Léon

Office dA is situated in an unpretentious brick building in the South End. Lead by Venezualan-born Mónica Ponce de Léon and Nader Tehrani, who is of Iranian descent, the small architectural firm employs six people full-time. After working together on a thesis project together while at Harvard's Graduate School of Design from 1990–91, Ponce de Léon and Tehrani decided to continue working together—on a professional level. And Office dA was born.

Having won a slew of awards, including five Progressive Architecture awards, Office dA is gaining international recognition, slowly but steadily. Their range is wide, spanning civil planning projects, buildings, furniture designs and conceptual, sculptural pieces. They have a reputation for their fantastic models, which lend their office space a gallery-like ambiance—and have been exhibited nationally.

The firm's biggest comission to date is a Miami apartment building, which will be situated downtown, within a kink along I-95. Tehrani and Ponce de Léon's skinny and sleek building plan is designed so that every apartment will offer a view of Biscayne Bay.

Of local interest, Office dA is hard at work designing an upscale restaurant in downtown Boston, which should open early this summer. The interior celebrates and builds upon the 52 Temple Street site— a beautiful old bank replete with original marble.

Earlier this year, Office dA was paid a high compliment when the Contemporary World Architects series, which highlights "new architectural talent from around the world," published *Office dA* (Rockport Publishers), a monograph on its works. —*Rachel Strutt*

"Fabricating Coincidences"
An installation
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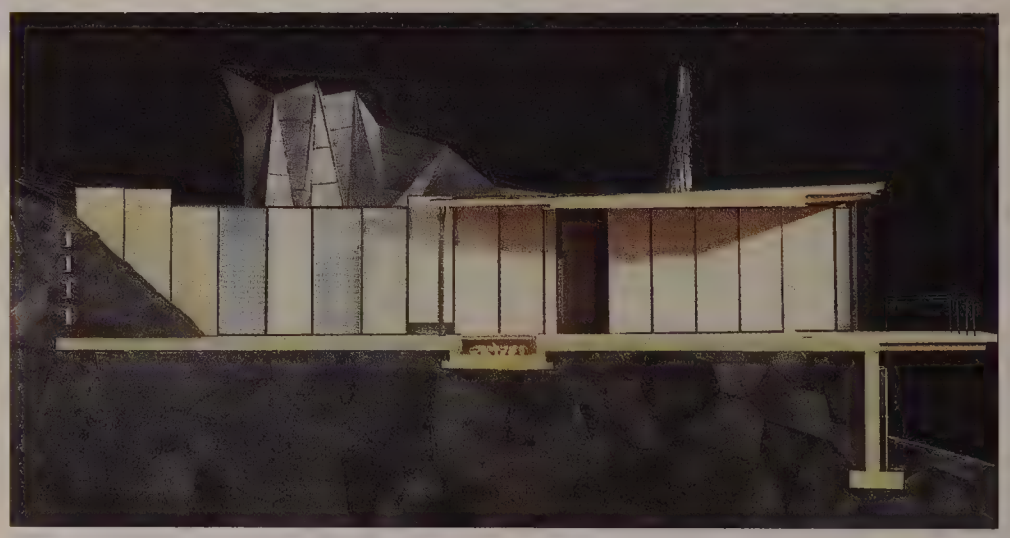
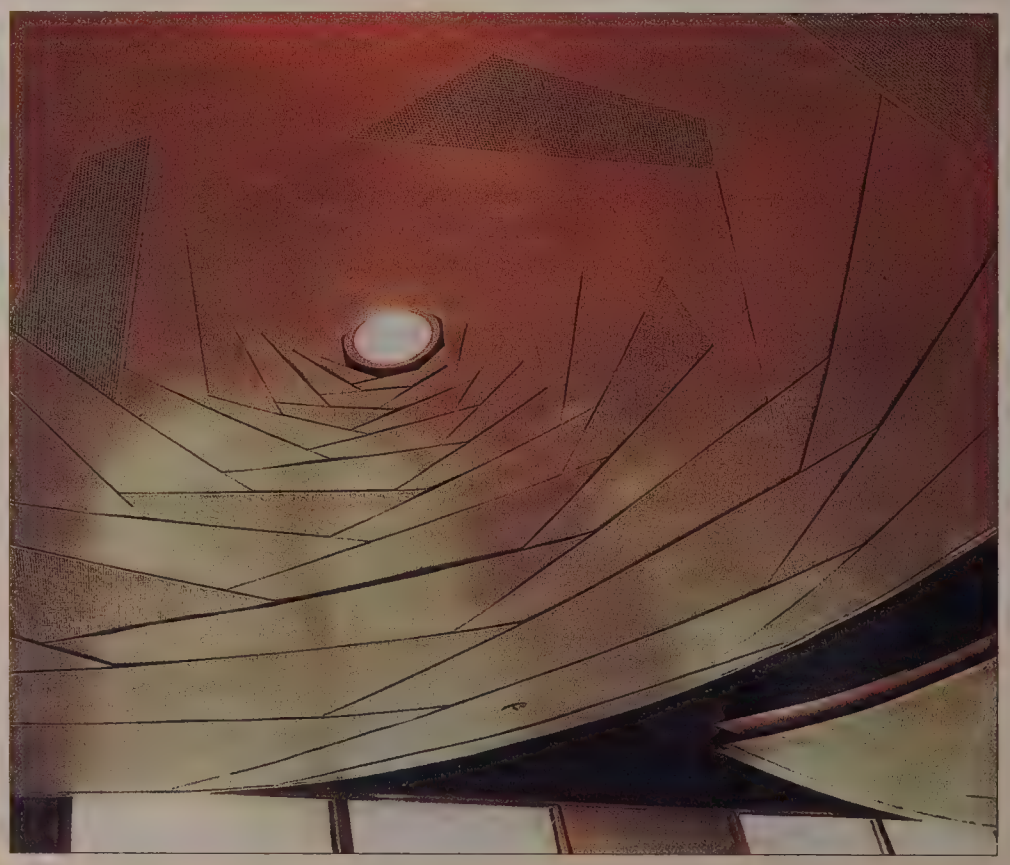


The Suchart House
A model
Phoenix, Ariz.
1996



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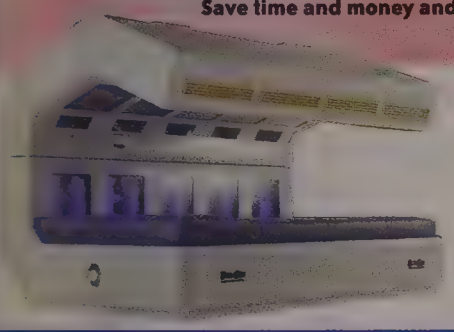

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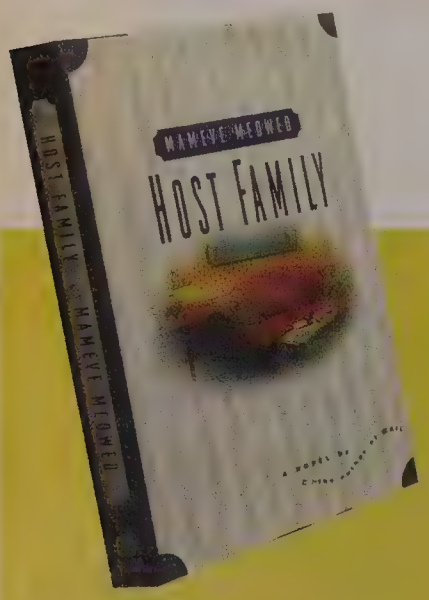
Give Me Your International, Your Ambitious

Mameve Medwed, of *Mail* fame, has a new novel, *Host Family*.

On a breeze of very good cheer, Mameve Medwed (she got *Mail*) has another Cambridge story to tell. This time, it's about Daisy and Henry who have been married for decades, and have, since graduate school, acted as the American "host family" to Harvard international students. First, there was Pilombaya from Indonesia, who is now, years later, an important official in his country. Now it's sexy French Giselle who, as the book begins, has stolen the heart of her host Henry, who's lapsed into a suspiciously pretentious Henri mode. He abruptly dumps Daisy at a restaurant in Harvard Square where—ha!—he gets food poisoning. After the shock, and some deliciously horrible outings in the dating world, Daisy finds parasitologist Truman Wolff, who, fortunately, adores her. There are continuing bonds, including son Sammy, a Harvard student. Sammy takes up with Truman's daughter, thereby extending the family, or families, in a sweet and itchy way. As Daisy twists and turns through her rumpled old love and her wary-but-sexy new one, entertaining complications abound. Cambridge, with its academia, its glitzy faces, and its outrageous characters (including the Queen of Divorce, the irreverent Jessica) come under Medwed's amused scrutiny. And the dialogue just flies along.



Mopsy

Serendipitous shopping: Our unfettered correspondent seeks out the salubrious and the cerebral.

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY

Only Disconnect

Jane and Louise Wilson are artist twins whose two ominous installations are at the MIT List Visual Arts Center, 20 Ames Street, Cambridge. Through April 9.

The Wilson twins' video-art installations at the List Center, *Stasi City* and *Crawl Space*, are both about creepy empty spaces, buildings that are inhabited by a sense of doom and eeriness. When people, or ambiguous intimations of them, appear, it is only to heighten the sense that something terrible, though unstated, must have happened here.

In *Stasi City*, projections on two walls trap you in the uneasy middle, showing hallways and doors opening onto empty rooms that once housed the East German secret police. Boxes are rolled along on conveyer belts suggesting the banality of bureaucratic evil, and desks and typewriters sit abandoned while breath-y noise-music plays.

Crawl Space, a tad more humanoid, has a giant bubble emerging, birth-like, from a woman's alarmed mouth—a bubble which later floats through the signature empty rooms, this time encasing the woman. Flocked wallpaper, bulging as if containing some unimaginable being, incongruously adorns a grim, trashy cellar. One woman bumps another woman upstairs in a chair. The midriff of a prone girl gradually reveals the words, raised as on stationery, "Crawl Space." The Wilsons call these venues " pathological spaces," but their brand of Hitchcock tension witholds, scarily, the expected bloody body.

Paying Attention To Your Attention

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Admittedly "in the fold" herself, Kathleen Dyer helps people with the wandering mind of Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) as an ongoing coach. Her watchword, soothingly, is Balance—and that includes mantras and self-forgiveness, lending attention (!) to spirit as well as to task.

Working with the Picture which may be too Big, and also too tiny-ly fragmented, Dyer encourages strategies that create manageable pieces. But first there's an assessment, which includes the pinpointing of one's subtype of ADD, and possibly a referral to an MD specializing ("Many don't") in this delicately-differentiated condition in order to consider medication. Her calming voice helps a client discover his or her helpful "predominant modality"—one kinesthetically-inclined client found she could read while walking! Then, watching for roadblocks, she helps create containers—both in space (subduing disparate flutterings under labels and in boxes) and in time. ADD-ers learn to organize their day in half-hour blocks, inserting some helpful "recess breaks." Self-monitoring, remembering to remember, is another important habit she encourages. Meanwhile, goals are put into "chunks" that build towards something higher, bigger. Self-criticism contaminates the territory, and nor is obsessive taski-iness desirable; but Dyer helps the sufferer go beyond more trudging and into more transcendent soaring.

KATYA APEKINA (BOOK); WENDY MIMRAN (KATHLEEN DYER)

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Ezra

DECISIONS, DECISIONS

The Profound Effect Extended Drinking Hours Will Have.

BY EZRA DYER

I hate the song "Closing Time." I find it quite depressing, and whenever bars actually play it at closing time it makes me want to inject a pint of Bud Light directly into my bloodstream. For drinking music, give me Chumbawumba any day.

Most people like closing time about as much as I like the song, and thus I'm not surprised that a proposal is afoot to extend Boston's last call to 3:45am. The catch, as it were, is that only downtown hotel bars will be able to stay open this late. The idea is to minimize the late-night ruckus when packs of pickled partiers are finally piled out onto the street and sent home.

I have a problem with this logic. I do not disagree that drunk people are loud, and in fact, would assert that many drinkers I know make Sam Kinison look like a deaf mute. Last fall my roommate Dave had a party, and for several hours all streets within a quarter-mile of our apartment reverberated with Dave's jovial invitation to "suck it." Dave was a one-man party, so drunk and loud that a guy who lives in a different building came and complained. But that was it: one complaint. Apparently the other 5,000 people within range of Dave's whisky-fueled rants decided to ignore him until we left. This is the way it should be. If you live in the city, you have already signed a mental waiver agreeing to tolerate all manner of unpleasant noises at all hours. As far as I'm concerned, drunk people fall into the same category as sirens, the garbage truck and small Japanese cars that have had their regular mufflers replaced with a length of pipe the diameter of the Sumner Tunnel. If you can't handle a little noise, move to Wayland.

So the noise factor is not why I'm against extending closing time. I'm against it purely because it would get ugly for everyone involved. Believe me, when you get cut off at 2am, the city is doing you a big favor. If you keep drinking past two, all you do is spend more money, multiply the duration and severity of your hangover and exponentially increase the ugliness of the person you eventually wake up with (this applies even if you wake up by yourself).

My conviction in this belief was only reinforced last weekend, when two friends and I performed a little experiment. Let's call the friends Ike and Mike. After work, Ike, Mike and I adjourned to a local drinkery, where we were to remain for several hours. You see, we had the rare good fortune to find three adjacent bar stools, and that is a Friday-night commodity for which many people would donate half their livers. But even so, it eventually came time to relinquish our seats. I left early, Ike stayed until closing time, and Mike somehow managed to stay out until almost 5am.

"Massachusetts may have some odd liquor laws, but at least you can get a beer after 11pm without having to concurrently don leather pants, ingest large amounts of E and go dance in a cage."

I daresay I was the smartest of the three. I chose to call it a night after I realized that the beautiful girl I was talking to wasn't going to come home with me, mostly because she was a potted plant. I went home, went to bed and was none the worse for wear the next day.

Ike stayed until two, and he actually fared well except for a slight degradation of his decision-making capabilities. Specifically, he decided that it would be a good idea to pee in his bed. But even Ike, though wet, was in better shape than Mike.

As mentioned, Mike stayed out until five. After the bar closed, he retired to a glamorous *après* party, where a random guy threw up on him. Suffice it to say that Mike had a long and not particularly pleasant evening. The next day he looked in such hard shape that a homeless guy offered him some change.

I know that other cities, including that looming beast a few hours south, keep it on 'til the break of dawn. But on the other hand, there's London, where you can't drink after 11pm unless you go to a club. Massachusetts may have some odd liquor laws, but at least you can get a beer after 11pm without having to concurrently don leather pants, ingest large amounts of E and go dance in a cage. However, if you're in the camp that believes in extending last call past two, I won't stand in your way. But I will recommend a good place to buy some rubber sheets. iB

CHRISTINA CATURANO

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Review

SUBURBAN OASIS

Matteo's brings a little Mediterranean flair to Newton's culinary landscape

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI

Newton Highlands has a superb new restaurant a short walk from the T station. Matteo's, which opened its doors earlier this year, occupies the former site of Café Abruzzi, a corner storefront on Lincoln Street. Its attractive interior was designed by Barbara Goldman, who has created an inviting environment furnished with comfortable walnut chairs and upholstered banquettes. Tables are dressed in crisp white tablecloths and set with fine wine glasses and substantial tableware. The rear wall is lined with wine bottles (all standing up—we assume turnover is adequate to prevent the corks from drying out), and the side wall is hung with a triple panel abstract painting. Tiny track lights illuminate the painting, and Italian blown glass sconces impart a romantic glow to the room. A small alcove across from the principal dining room accommodates a party of eight or ten. The restaurant's total capacity is about 80.

While we perused the menu and wine list, a charming waitress, moonlighting from her daytime life as a BC theology student, brought fine, hard-crusted bread from Pain D'Avignon, with a saucer of extra virgin olive oil and garlic cloves. Matteo's predominantly Italian wine list is excellent, with credible choices dipping below $20. One evening, we enjoyed the 1997 Salvanza Colli Sinese by Pacinni ($19), a well-structured Tuscan red. On another visit we moved further south and east to Italy's Marche province on the Adriatic coast for the 1997 Bocca Digabbia ($21). This fruity but well-balanced red, a blend of Sangiovese and Montepulciano, made a particularly suitable accompaniment to the food.

Matteo's menu contains a surprisingly wide array of choices, with five appetizers, a half-dozen salads, five pizzas and a dozen main courses. A standout was the Italian antipasto ($7). This startlingly impressive assortment of cold meats (silky prosciutto and robust sopresata), green and brown olives, sharp provolone cheese and slices of milder, dry ricotta, soft, sweet roasted garlic cloves, voluptuous roast red peppers, and fresh greens, mainly arugula, was a welcome contrast to the sorry, vinegary antipastos that have become a restaurant

Tiny track lights and Italian blown glass sconces impart a romantic glow in Matteo's dining room; above right: Chef and co-owner Peter Kuplaste and Manager Kevin Richards; below right: Seafood fra Diavolo.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOE GREENE (2

cliché. An order of sautéed mussels ($7) rivaled the presentation of the antipasto: arrayed on the halfshell in a circle or spiral, these marvelous mollusks were cooked in a broth redolent of herbs, leeks and fennel.

One evening as an appetizer we choose a small pizza with wild mushrooms: porcini, shitake and portobello ($13). The abundant fungi contributed warm, satisfying flavors and good texture, but we thought the crust substandard and the mozzarella sparse. To make matters worse, the pizza was served lukewarm. Far better than the pizza was the oven-roasted vegetable risotto ($7), which arrived as an exquisite, creamy mound of perfectly textured arborio rice, melded with sweet carrots and flavorful zucchini.

Matteo's main courses were consistently excellent. The Chicken Scarpariello ($16) consisted of large, succulent chunks of chicken, sautéed and tossed with portobello mushrooms, red peppers and roasted garlic in a lively lemon-accented sauce. Wedges of moist potatoes were an unanticipated dividend. The grilled veal chop ($24) was thick and rare as ordered, accompanied by garlic mashed potato cake and portobello mushrooms, both moistened with a sage demi-glace and garnished with broad-leafed parsley.

The grilled pork chop ($19) was even better than the veal, seared on the outside to seal in a soft, tender, rare interior. It was served with pickled sweet red onions, roast potatoes and toothsome cherry peppers. Finally, but certainly not least, was the sauté of shrimp, scallops, clams and mussels served over lemon fettuccine ($18). The oversized sea scallops were sweet, moist and fork-tender, grilled to a perfect texture, as were the two jumbo shrimp. Four little neck clams, eight sweet mussels, a scattering of pear and cherry tomatoes, and a generous mound of garlicky spinach completed the ensemble.

After Matteo's generous, well conceived, and perfectly executed main courses, we had little room for dessert. Still, intrepid scouts that we are, we pressed on to sample Matteo's sweets. The obligatory crème brulée ($6) was flawed, with its browned sugar crust too thick and its interior too thin and sweet. The flourless chocolate torte (also $6), on the other hand, was much better, satisfying the chocoholic that lies in all of us, with intense flavor and a garnish of fresh raspberries and whipped cream.

Newton in the eyes of many has long been a gastronomic wasteland. Suddenly it is on the map of serious eaters, first with Lumiere in West Newton, and now with Matteo's. Co-owners Matthew Schwartz (hence "Matteo's") and chef Peter Kuplast are intent upon sharing their love of Mediterranean cuisine with area diners. They are doing it with considerable flair and skill, and with customer-friendly prices to boot. From the looks of the steady stream of patrons midweek, they are meeting with success. **iB**

Matteo's

51 Lincoln St., Newton (964-7260)
Hours: Lunch: Tues–Fri, 11:30am–2pm; dinner: Tues–Sun, 5pm–10pm; brunch: Sun, 11:30am–2pm
Reservations: recommended
Credit Cards: all major
Handicapped accessible: no
Parking: parking lot across the street
Liquor license: full

"sumptuous sushi" -Improper Bostonian
"a slice of heaven" -Boston Magazine

SHE watches Fellini, listens to Schoenberg, lives for espresso, dreams in noir, pines for a good bowl of udon.

something in common

HE is chained to his laptop, plays golf every Sunday, likes two coats of wax on the Benz, and insists that the sushi is fresh.

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Dish

WAITING FOR GATEAU

Pastry chefs seek their just desserts

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

If the pastry is prologue, why bother with dinner? The third annual **Architectural Masters of Pastry—A Celebration of Design** is a significantly different event this year. Yes, it still will showcase the design elements used by both architects and pastry chefs—balance, structure, color, texture. And yes, you can expect to see fantastically inventive entries of furniture, buildings and other structures made from spun sugar, fondant, chocolate and cake. And of course, some of the finest pastry chefs in town will represent their restaurants: Rialto, Maison Robert, UpStairs at the Pudding, No. 9 Park and more.

So what's new? By popular demand, guests will sample unlimited pastry from participating chefs, instead of the hors d'oeuvres of yesteryear. "That was our biggest request from people—'we want pastry!' " says **Lee Napoli**, who is president of the Professional Pastry Guild as well as pastry chef at Anago.

Another change: location. Last year's event at the Ritz was too intimidatingly grand for some, says Napoli. So this year's site is the Boston Architectural Center, where the entries will be on display for two weeks.

Finally, instead of a panel of judges, the 13 participants will cast votes for their peers. Each gets two votes—one for him or herself. As in years past, three winners will receive a share of $1,000 in prize money to be used for education or equipment.

First-time participants include **Ana Melo** of **Grill 23 & Bar**, who plans a springtime theme in sugar and chocolate, and **Rialto**'s **Kim Toomey**, who has a family advantage up her sleeve. "My father's an architect, and we're discussing it," she says.

The goal of the event, which is underwritten by Office Resources and Knoll, remains the same: to raise the profile and elevate the status of local pastry chefs. "It's our only fundraiser for ourselves," says Napoli.

For $20, it's a bargain. Eat enough sugar, and you may hear Regis Phyllo asking, "Who Wants to be a Mille-feuille?"

See buildings made entirely of spun sugar at the Architectural Masters of Pastry event, March 23.

Food Technology Update

By the time you read this, a new "customer care and reservation service designed exclusively for fine dining restaurants" should be up and running. Boston-based **e-Seated.com** will focus on free-spending corporate diners, providing exclusive reservations access, VIP treatment and eligibility for unspecified "discounts" (buy five pounds of foie gras and get one free?). Most intriguing, however, is the service's ability to "proactively track guests' transactions and preferences," according to eSeated founder and CEO, **Steve Lewis**. If you've developed poor tipping habits, let this be a warning...there are no secrets anymore.

Last Course

Barcode, which opened last month in the location of the former Division Sixteen, is already registering as a success in its first few weeks. With the backing of proprietors **Joe Quattrocchi** and **Brian Lesser** (the Boston Hops folks who brought us Back Bay Brewing Company) and the management expertise of **Christopher Spann** (most recently managing partner of Zinc, and formerly of Cafe Louis, Olives etc.), the stage is set (quite beautifully, with warm lighting and golden earth tones) for the French-Asian cuisine of executive chef **George Leu**, who worked alongside sous chef Tindaro LoSurdo at Salamander before becoming co-head chef at the late Red Herring.

Next time: updates on upcoming openings, including **Jasper White**'s enormous, casual Cambridge space; the downtown **Sel de la Terre**, **Frank McLelland**'s large-scale "sister restaurant" to L'Espalier; and **Stan Frankenthaler**'s reincarnated-across-the-river **Salamander** and **Satay Bar**. iB

Carolyn Faye Fox is a panelist on NPR's nationally-syndicated word game quiz show, "Says You!"

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant?
Send it to dish@improper.com

Tastings BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for tastings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

EVENTS

Architectural Masters of Pastry: A Celebration of Design
Boston Architectural Center, 320 Newbury St., Boston (423-9100). March 23, 6-9pm. $20. This event features urban landscapes, home furnishings, bridges and office buildings ...made entirely of spun sugar, fondant, chocolate, gel dough and cake.

Boston Wine Festival 2000
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE). www.bhh.com. Through April 7. An annual three-month celebration of food and wine. See CityScope for events.

Crazy Crepe Month
LeBocage, 72 Bigelow St., Watertown (923-1210). Through March 25. Le Bocage will incorporate crepes into its prix fixe menu, with such appetizers as buckwheat crepes with ratatouille and goat cheese or desserts of orange crepes with marscapone and Grand Marnier.

Culinary Discovery Tour
Cambridge School of Culinary Arts, 2020 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (800-955-7687, ext. 257). MBTA: Red Line to Porter. April 1, 10am-12pm. April 2, 9am-1pm or 2-6pm. Demo. $60; workshop $150; both $200. **Joanne Weir**, host of the PBS series, *Weir Cooking in the Wine Country*, will give a demonstration and hands-on workshop using Calphalon.

Discover Latin American Cuisine
Chez Henri, One Shepard St., Cambridge (354-8980). $34. Enjoy a three-course prix fixe menu based on the lesser known cuisines of the Caribbean and Latin America. •March 15-28: Peru and Ecuador. •March 29-April 11: Puerto Rico and Dominican Republic.

Guest Chefs, Gourmet Mondays
Bomboa, 35 Stanhope St., Boston (236-6363); Sage, 69 Prince St., Boston (248-9914). Mondays through March 27. Experience the cuisine of some of Boston's best chefs Monday in March, while raising funds for Children's Hospital, Horizons Initiative and Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. •March 27: **Christos Tsardounis** at Sage and **Jim Becker** at Bomboa.

QE2 Transatlantic Theme Dinner
Hampshire House, 84 Beacon St., Boston (227-9600). MBTA: Green Line to Park. March 24, April 4, 6-11pm. $60. To help escape the winter doldrums, the Hampshire House and Cunard offer this cruise-themed dinner, complete with a captain, steward and four-course meal.

Southeast Asia Night
Linwood Grill, 81 Kilmarnock St., Boston (247-8099). April 3. **Steve Johnson** from the Blue Room will be guest chef.

Tribute to Pierre Franey
Elizabeth Bishop Wine Resource Center at Maison Robert, Boston (353-4130). April 4, 6:30pm. $80. **Bryan Miller** and **Claudia Franey Jensen** will be at Maison Robert to discuss Pierre Franey's book, *Cooking with the 60 Minute Gourmet*, and Pierre's influence on American food. Proceeds benefit the Pierre Franey Memorial Fund at BU.

Wine Retail Wine Buying.

BY SANDY BLOCK, MW

I'm convinced that two distinct genetically differentiated types of human beings roam the earth: those to whom shopping is bliss and those who loathe the very thought of it.

Bostonians who buy wine are lucky, regardless of where they fall on this spectrum, because there are an unusually large number of retail shops that can cater to their every need. Amazingly, prices for wine are relatively stable wherever you shop. So what determines which store you patronize?

A recent article in the *Journal of Wine Research* examined just this question and came up with the not-so-surprising conclusion that for the majority of consumers the most crucial attribute of a wine store is the staff's friendliness and its readiness to impart helpful advice. Since the variety of wines is enormous, making a decision is rarely straightforward and easy. Even the prototypical hobbyist, hefting bottles up to the light and pondering the minutiae of back label jargon, needs help. The impatient buyer who craves an immediate response from the staff to reduce his or her pain threshold is obviously looking for direction as well.

What distinguishes the truly successful quality wine merchant is an ability to recognize the two different types of buyers and the willingness to respond accordingly to each. This seems simple enough to understand but the range of treatment you may experience in a wine store is incredible. At some of the shops with the widest selection, the personnel is buzzing around so frantically that they appear unapproachable. In other situations, the staff seems lackadaisical, bored and/or ill-informed, so that rather than helping ease your confusion, they merely heighten it.

The key to finding the wines you want to drink with a minimum of anxiety is developing a relationship with a retailer that can communicate how much he or she values your business. In the best case scenario you'll encounter one of those rare individuals so imbued with love for the grape and so enthusiastic about sharing his or her passion that it's infectious. These are people to whom wine is an avocation, and unless they're overbearing, they can be a godsend. The key is whether they ask you questions, indicating an interest in what *you're* looking for. If, on the other hand, no one can or wants to answer your questions with respect, try another one of the multitude of stores located nearby. But what questions should you ask? Assuming that you're buying wine for a specific purpose, mastering a basic descriptive vocabulary can save a lot of time. The following terms will help you ask questions that will hopefully stimulate your retailer to probe further and put a satisfying bottle in your hands.

DRY: Wines without an appreciably sweet flavor. Since most red wines have no sugar, the

KATYA APEKIN

Tasty Tidbit

Fabulous Fondue

Pull out your parent's old fondue pot or go out and get one of your own—fondue is back with a vengeance, according to the folks at William-Sonoma, who've seen a rise in popularity of the communal dining sets in the past year or so. Swissotel Boston executive chef Michael Daniels jumps on that bandwagon this month with his Fondue Festival, which includes traditonal Swiss fondue specialties as well as more exotic combinations. Hold on to your bread, though—if you lose it in the cheese, tradition says it's your turn to buy the next bottle of wine. *One Avenue de Lafayette, Boston (451-2600). Through March 31. $11.95-$17.95.*

Life Savor
The Hotel Meridien, 250 Franklin St., Boston (445-7777). 5:30-11pm. $75-$250. This dinner gala benefits Community Servings and features gourmet cuisine from more than 80 of Boston's top restaurants.

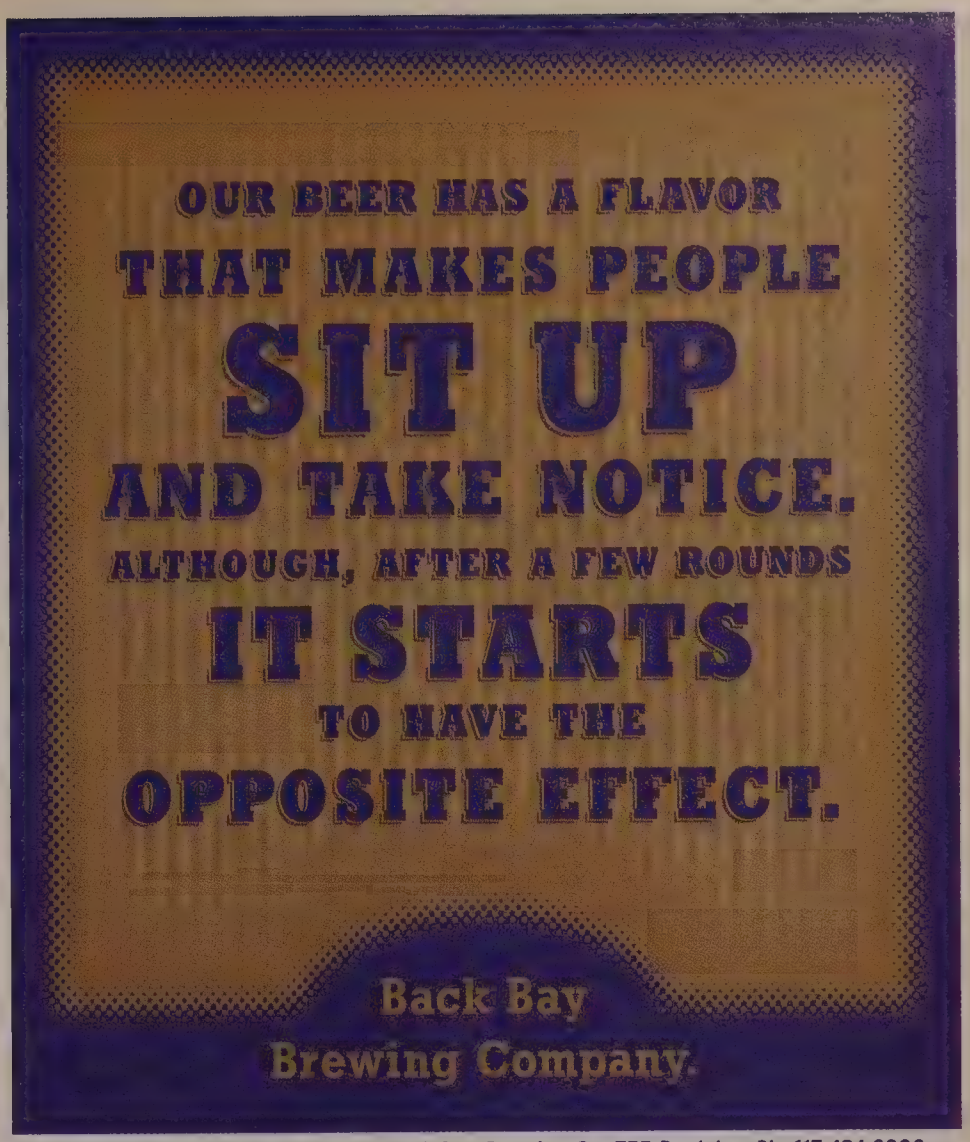
Wine 101
Nashoba Valley Winery, 100 Wattaquadoc Hill Road, Bolton (779-9816). March 22, 6pm. $70. An introduction to the basics of understanding wine classification, predominant grape varieties and places of origin with Al Stankus.

Wine Tasting with Lorenzo
Les Zygomates, 129 South St., Boston (542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Tue., 6pm and 8pm. $25. Socialize with other young professionals and enjoy a wine and food pairing with Lorenzo, Les Zygomates' master of wine. •March 28: Oregon Pinot Noir. •April 4: Loire Pinot Noir.

You can afford to be discriminating when it comes to choosing "the right" wine store.

term usually refers to whites. "Bone dry" implies a wine that has a mouthwatering bite.
FRUITY: Not the opposite of dry! This term relates to your ability to taste ripe fruit flavors, not sugar. For white wines: apple, peach, citrus. For red wines: cherry, plum, blackberry.
CRISP: This refers to the prominence of acidity in a white wine. Crisp wines have a refreshing, tart flavor.
OAKY: Vanilla, smoky, spicy flavors and lush textures imparted to a wine from aging in barrels.
ROBUST OR HEARTY: Euphemisms, when referring to a red wine, for tannin, which is an organic compound with an astringent mouth-feel and sometimes bitter taste that acts as a preservative for wines intended to age. These red wines are referred to as "full-bodied" (See below.)
BODY: For simplicity sake, there's light, medium or full. This relates primarily to the wine's level of alcohol which imparts richness. "Full" means a heavier or more viscous wine (suitable with richer food). "Light" means a wine with less substance and intensity (for more delicate fare), and "medium" refers to wines in the middle of these extremes.

How do you put this together? "Can you recommend a dry white wine, not bone dry, but medium-bodied, with a mild fruity flavor that I can serve with broiled halibut?" Don't feel intimidated to mention price. It's perfectly reasonable to expect a good recommendation in the under $10 and over $10 range. If they look at you like you're speaking a foreign language, you should probably go elsewhere. IB



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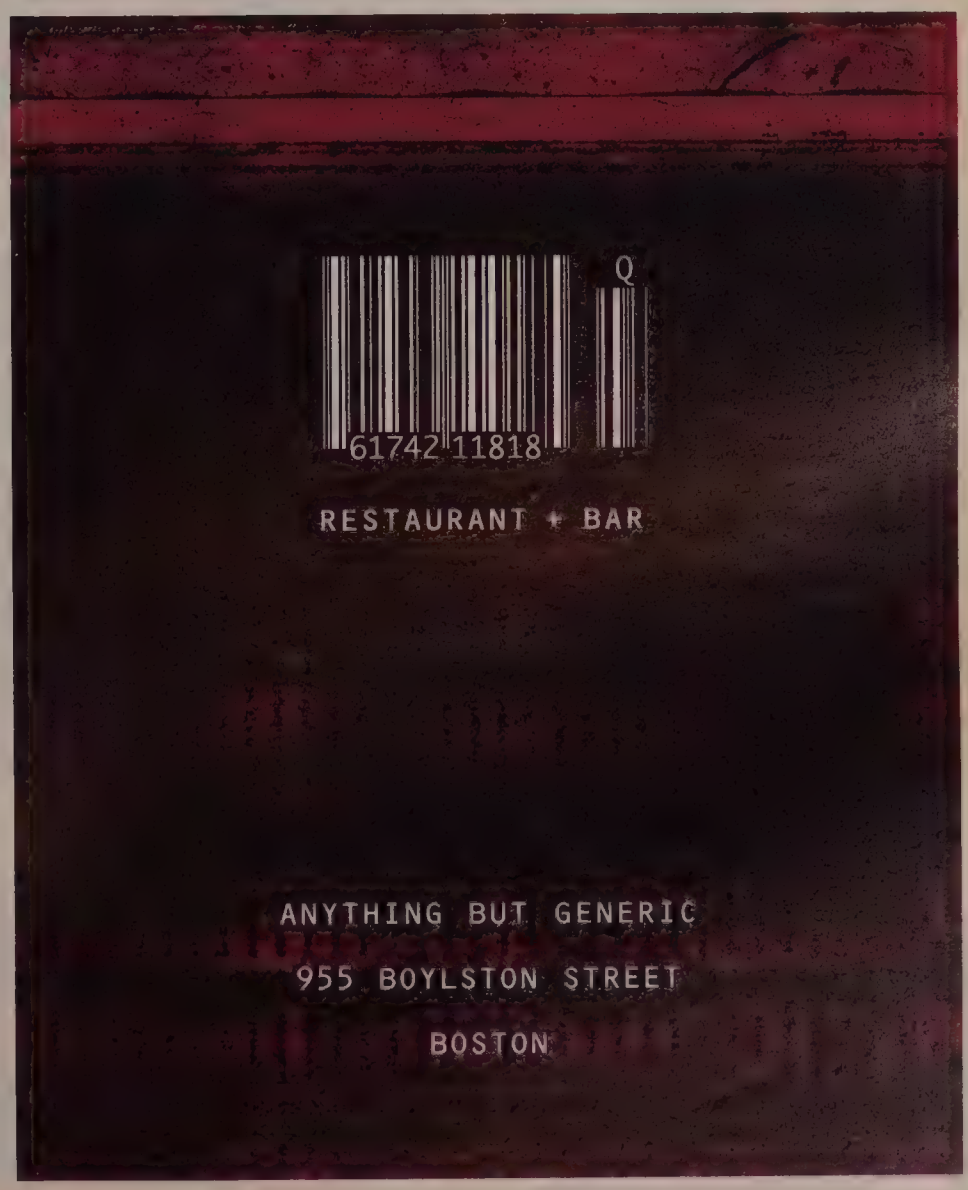

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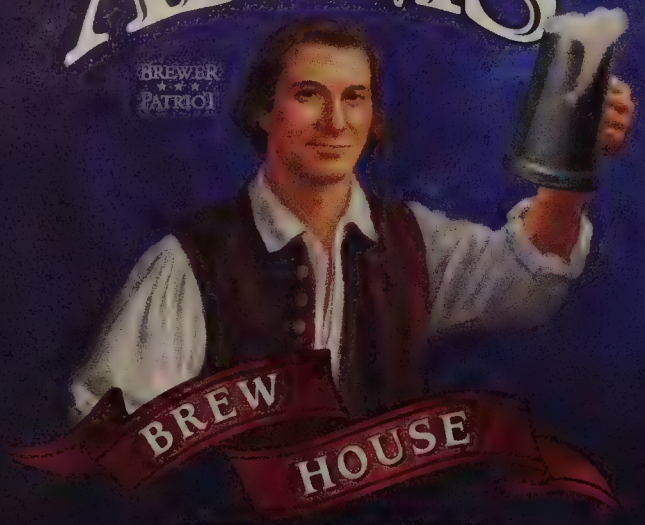

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BOSTONCELLULAR

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agenda

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN OR OUT IN BOSTON.

Julie and Erin

THE CALENDAR GIRLS'

improper picks

Too busy (or just too lazy) to plan your own schedule? Life don't get easier than this.

Wednesday, March 22

Erin and **Julie**: See Judd Hirsch in ***ART***, a play all about the true meaning of art and friendship, at the Colonial Theatre. It's here for only a few more days. (See Performing Arts.)

Thursday, March 23

Erin: Head Upstairs to the **Middle East** to hear a great line-up of local bands: the Pavers, Wretch Like Me, the Dubnicks and the High-Steppin' Nickel Kids. (See Music.)
Julie: More than 80 restaurants will offer up gourmet tidbits at Community Serving's **Life Savor** gala. (See CityScope.)

Friday, March 24

Julie: The **Eifman Ballet** comes to the Emerson Majestic Theatre to perform *Tchaikovsky: The Mystery of Life and Death*.
(See Performing Arts.)
Erin: The ever-nimble b-ball wizards, the **Harlem Globetrotters**, at the FleetCenter. (See Sports.) At midnight, catch John Hughes' classic ***16 Candles*** with Molly Ringwald at the Coolidge. (See Film.)

Saturday, March 25

Erin: The **Women's History Seminar**, a day-long event, includes a panel discussion with several women humanities scholars. (See Education.)
Julie: Always a good time, **Susan Werner** and **Vance Gilbert** team up for a night of musical laughs at the Somerville Theatre. (See Music.)

Sunday, March 26

Julie: Films buffs have their pick between a number of galas to celebrate the Oscars, including the Mass. Film Office's **Hollywood in Boston**. (See CityScope.)
Erin: Forget the Academy Awards. The bizarrely romantic black comedy ***Harold and Maude*** plays with ***Funny Face*** at the Brattle. (See Film.)

Monday, March 27

Erin: Alterna-pop rocker **Matthew Sweet** is at Axis. Also, **Joan Baez** plays tonight and tomorrow at the Somerville Theatre. (See Music.)
Julie: Or see oldies but goodies **CSNY**. They perform at the FleetCenter. (See Music.)

Tuesday, March 28

Erin: Stop by the **Comedy Connection** and get a laugh at the expense of comedian Robbie Printz. (See Comedy.)
Julie: Buy a bunch of flowers for a significant other and support the American Cancer Society's **Daffodil Days** today.
(See CityScope.)

Wednesday, March 29

Julie: There's bound to be tons of young professionals at the Black Rhino for **Books = Free Stuff**, an event to benefit Read Boston. (See CityScope.)
Erin: The **Blue is Back in Boston Harbor** celebration at the Children's Museum is fun for a good cause—with tasty tidbits from Legal Sea Foods and live blues music. (See CityScope.)

Thursday, March 30

Julie: The **Big Dreams Start Small Fashion Show and Dinner** features Denise Hajjar's spring collection. (See Sales & Bargains.)
Erin: The '67 documetary ***Don't Look Back*** captures the metamorphosis of the young Bob Dylan. It's at the HFA. (See FIlm.)

Friday, March 31

Julie: Shannon Curfman is at Karma Club tonight. (See Music.)
Erin: ***Friday Night at the Movies*** is a new cabaret treasure, as performers romp through songs from classic films of the '50s and '60s, including cult favs like *The Valley of the Dolls*.
(See Performing Arts.)

Saturday, April 1

Erin and **Julie**: Believe it or not, this is no April Fools. The **Geek Festival** at the Park Plaza Castle incorporates all aspects of a typical geek's life—including music, culture, games and technology. (See CityScope.)

Sunday, April 2

Julie: Listen to a lecture about one of this century's greatest poets, **Robert Frost**, at the JFK Museum & Library. (See Education.)
Erin: The **Irish Film Festival** is in full swing this week at the Harvard Film Archive. Today, choose from four different Irish-themed films. (See Film.)

Monday, April 3

Erin and **Julie**:The **Big Apple Circus** is in town! Through May 7, you can watch the international award-winning performers go all-out to entertain you with juggling, trapeze and animal tricks. (See City Scope.)

Tuesday, April 4

Julie: Check out the American Repertory Theatre's new show, ***The Ohio State Murders***. (See Performing Arts.)
Erin: The Boston Ballet brings Spanish-flavored dance to the Wang Theatre in ***Don Quixote***, Cervante's famous tale of the 17th-century errant knight.
(See Performing Arts.)

≪Henry Rockin' Roll-ins

Almost two decades after Black Flag unfurled, Henry Rollins is still going strong—he brings the Rollins Band to Avalon April 5.

CITYSCOPE **46** • PERFORMING ARTS **50** • ART **54** • FILM **58** • EDUCATION **62** • BOOKS & POETRY **64** • CLASSICAL MUSIC **66** • DANCE CLUBS **68** • MUSIC **70** • GAY & LESBIAN **76** • BODY & MIND **78** • CHILDREN **78** • SPORTS **78** •SALES & FASHION **80** • GO AWAY **80**
EDITED BY: **ERIN HAGEDORN:** Art, Books & Poetry, Dance, Dance Clubs, Film, Gay & Lesbian, Go Away, Music. EDITED BY: **JULIE SHORT:** Children, CityScope, Comedy, Education, Go Away, Sales & Fashion, Sports, Tastings, Theater. ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY: **Laurel Kirtz** Body & Mind • **Paul Sherman:** Film Capsules

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Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a list of festivals, events and benefits taking place in the Boston area by date.

Festivals, Events Expos & Benefits

Thursday, March 23

Life Savor
The Hotel Meridien, 250 Franklin St., Boston (445-7777). 5:30-11pm. $75-$250. This dinner gala benefits Community Servings and features gourmet cuisine from more than 80 of Boston's top restaurants, a trolley ride, silent auction, champagne and dancing.

Young Professionals Night: Salsa Night
Il Panino, 295 Franklin St., Boston (338-1000). 9pm. Dress code. No cover. This night features the best social playground for young professionals in Boston with cocktails, dancing and hors d'oeuvres.

Friday, March 24

Boston Wine Festival 2000
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE). www.bhh.com. *Through April 7.* The Boston Harbor Hotel has put together more than 40 events—from tastings, seminars and celebrity guests to wine and food pairing dinners—that are signature of the celebration. Events this month include •March 24-25: **The Wines of Burgundy, Tasting and Dinner with Clive Coates**. •March 28: **Grgich Hills Cellars Dinner**. •March 29: **Ferrari Carano Dinner**. •March 30: **DeLoach Vineyards Dinner**. •April 3: **Trefethen Winery Dinner**. •April 4: **Duckhorn Vineyards Seminar and Dinner**.

Harlem Globetrotters
FleetCenter, Boston (931-2000). www.fleetcenter.com. *MBTA: Green Line to North Station. March 24, 7pm. $15-$25.* The magicians of basketball will be making their annual visit to the FleetCenter for a night of hilarious comedy and non-stop family entertainment on the parquet.

Orchid Sale
Lyman Estate Greenhouses, 185 Lyman St., Waltham (781-891-1985). March 24-25, 10am-4pm. In late March, the Lyman Estate greenhouses burst into bloom as hundreds of orchid plants unfurl their beauty. Celebrate the peak blooming period and enchanting perfume of these exotic plants.

Buy your honey a beautiful bouquet of flowers during the American Cancer Society's annual Daffodil Days campaign, March 26-April 1. Call 556-7400 for more information. $5.

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Fridays. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

A Musical Evening at the Castle
The Castle, Boston University, 225 Bay State Road, Boston (353-9852). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7pm. $75. Enjoy an evening of music, food and wine with the Elizabeth Bishop Wine Resource Center at Boston University. Musicians include principal cellist Jules Eskin and violinist Aza Raykhtsaum, both of the BSO, along with noted pianist Yvette Roman-Schleifer.

Passport to France Silent Auction
The French Library & Cultural Center, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (266-4351). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 6-9pm. $60. Bid on a list of travel packages and products, including air and train travel as well as a stay in a *manoir* in the French countryside.

Saturday, March 25

New England Motorcycle Expo
Shriner's Auditorium, Fordham Road, Route 93, exit 39, Wilmington, Mass. (800-759-SHOW). www.NEMotorcycleExpo. *March 25, 10-6pm; March 26, 10am-5pm. $10.* Showcasing dozens of gleaming motorcycles, this expo features more than 1000 exhibitors offering an unprecedented variety of products for the avid motorcycle enthusiast. See hundreds of the latest model bikes, including Ducati, Yamaha, Harley Davidson and Kawasaki.

Sunday, March 26

Academy Awards Event
General Cinema Mega-plex, Framingham (781-321-4478). 6:30pm. $40, $50 at the door. This event, hosted by Magic 106.7 personalties Mike Addams and Candy O'Terry, features a star-studded themed dinner (with food by Veronique, Bob the Chefs, Maggiano's, The Rat Pack, Go Fish, Cardoo's and Premium Cinema), a silent auction, performances by Wanda Dee & KLH and the George Mel Jazz Trio, and the 72 showing of the Academy Awards on the big screen. Proceeds benefit the Ellie Fund.

Boston Gift Show
Bayside Expo Center, 200 Mt. Vernon St., Boston (800-272-SHOW). March 26-29. Find decorative or personal accessories, tabletop or homewares, collectibles, traditional or contemporary crafts, floral and garden products and general gift items.

Hollywood in Boston
Marriott Hotel at Copley Place, Boston (931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6:30pm. $150. The folks at the Mass. Film Office have gone all out: This party will feature special guests Michael Badalucco from *The Practice*, rooms with live broadcasts from Channel 5 hosted by Liz Brunner and cut-ins from Dixie Watley in Hollywood, as well as huge giveaways including brief appearances on *Ally McBeal* and *The Practice*.

New England Motorcycle Expo-Boston Edition
Shriner's Auditorium, Fordham Road, Route 93, exit 39, Wilmington, Mass. (800-759-SHOW). www.NEMotorcycleExpo. *10am-5pm. $10.* See March 25 for more information.

Monday, March 27

Donut Deals
Your favorite Dunkin' Donuts, Boston. www.dunkin-donuts.com. Don't forget—in celebration of Dunkin' Donuts 50th anniversary, donuts are only five cents on Mondays in March.

Wednesday, March 29

Blue is Back in Boston Harbor Celebration
The Children's Museum on Forst Point Channel, Boston (451-2860). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. 6-9pm. $50. Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's sixth annual celebration will feature tasty tidbits from Legal Sea Foods, liquid refreshment, live blues music, an awards ceremony and plenty of dancing.

Books = Free Stuff
Black Rhino, 21 Broad Street, Boston (263-0101) MBTA: Green/Orange Line to Haymarket. 6-8:30pm. Cover charge: One new children's book. Join ClickatWork.com, Harpoon Brewery and the Black Rhino as they celebrate Read Boston's social responsibility initiative. Win prizes from ClickatWork.com and Harpoon, and enjoy the free food and fun atmosphere.

Thursday, March 30

Big Dreams Start Small Fashion Show
Boston Park Plaza Hotel Ballroom, Arlington Street, Boston (800-341-5800 or 965-5262). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 6pm. $75. A silent auction and raffle begins at 6pm, followed by dinner at 7pm. At 8pm, emcee Liz Brunner of Channel 5 will unveil a major fashion event with fashion designer Denise Hajjar presenting her Spring-Summer 2000 Collection to a crowd of 600. Proceeds benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

The New England Motorcycle Expo roars into town with dozens of gleaming cycles, March 25-26.

Young Professionals Night: Midnight Musical Chairs
Il Panino, 295 Franklin St., Boston (338-1000). 9pm. Dress code. No cover. This night features a social playground for young professionals in Boston with cocktails, dancing and hors d'oeuvres.

Friday, March 31

Geek Festival
The Modern, 36 Lansdowne St., Boston (877-868-4201). www.geeknation.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. March 31, 7pm; April 1, 11am.* This festival presented by Andover.Net will incorporate all aspects of a typical geek's life—including music, culture, games and technology—into two fun-filled days. March 31 is the kickoff party where geeks can enjoy free food and drinks while swapping books, music and code.

Saturday, April 1

American Baby's Baby Faire
Bayside Expo Center, 200 Mt. Vernon, Boston (877-959-BABY). April 1-2. $8 adults. More than 200 exhibitors showcase the latest in child care and parenting information.

Anti-Defamation League Gala
Boston Park Plaza Hotel, Arlington Street, Boston (457-8830). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 7:30pm. $50. The ADL will honor Barry Tatelman of Jordan's Furniture. Among the musical acts to perform will be the Beatles Tribute, the Coasters, the Marvelettes and the Drifters.

An April Fools Party
The International, 184 High St., Boston (542-4747). 9pm-2am. $15. This event sponosored by the TJC, a social club for Jewish profesionals in their 20s and 30s, will feature a DJ spinning music from the '70s on up, dancing and door prizes.

Big Apple Circus
Fan Pier, Boston (800-922-3772). April 1-May 7. $13-$35. Sit 50 feet away from the fun and watch as the international award-winning clown Bello Nock and his friends entertain you with juggling, trapeze and animal tricks.

Come as Your Favorite Stereotype Party
Clery's, Dartmouth and Columbus streets, Boston (242-2281). www.socialreport.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. $10.* Socialreport.com celebrate its one year anniversary at Clery's with a DJ, raffle and cash bar. All proceeds will benefit a great Boston based non-profit organization that teaches inner-city kids outdoor activities including skiing and snowboarding.

Geek Festival
Park Plaza Castle, 130 Columbus Ave., Boston (415-970-8600). www.geeknation.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 11am-12am. Free.* Believe it or not, this is no April Fools (we checked). This festival presented by Andover.Net will incorporate all aspects of a typical geek's life—including music, culture, games and technology—into two fun-filled days.

Saturday, April 2

A Celebration of Asian Cultures
Walker Memorial, 142 Memorial Dr., Cambridge (225-7634). web.mit.edu/mta/mithas/. *MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. April 2, 6pm.* The second annual Asian Culture Show at MIT features performances as well as a cultural feast with dishes from various Asian countries.

New England Pen & Watch Show
Somerville Holiday Inn, 30 Washington St., Somerville (628-1000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Square. 10am-4pm. $5. Exhibitors from around the US, Canada and Europe show, sell, buy, trade and talk about a multitude of vintage and new pens and watches. Bonus: Everyone gets a refillable YAFA fountain pen.

Tuesday, April 4

Greater Boston Job Fair
Bayside Expo Center, 200 Mt. Vernon St., Boston (310-648-7271). If you're a company serious about recruiting or a job seeker serious about finding a better professional level opportunity, don't miss this once a year event. More than 1,000 companies will participate, with more than 20,000 professional positions.

Politics

Biodevastation 2000 Parade and Rally
Northeastern University, Boston (877-9RESIST). March 26. This conference will highlight biotechnology's growing threat to our health, the environment and the future of our farms. A parade on Sunday features international speakers and a colorful display of larger-than-life puppets.

Volunteer

Adult Literacy
Learning Works, 19 Temple Place, Boston (357-6000, ext. 7508). Seeks adults to tutor just two hours per week.

AIDS Action Committee
(450-1235). Urgent request for volunteers for the Buddy Program and the Check-In phone program.

AVON Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk
(491-3329). Event date: June 2-4. Volunteers need to work on mass mailings, phone banking and data entry.

Big Sister Association
161 Massachusetts Ave., Floor 2, Boston (236-8060). Seeks women to act as Big Sisters.

Boston Cares
(263-CARE). More than 70 volunteer opportunities available in Greater Boston.

Boston Living Center
(236-1012). HIV/AIDS service organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Boston-New York AIDS Ride
(859-8282, ext. 230). Volunteers needed for work on mass mailings, phone banking and other projects.

Boston Partners in Education
(451-6145). Seeks tutors and classroom assistants.

Cambridge Cares About Aids
(661-3040). Telephone receptionists, drivers, data entry and clerical assistants needed immediately.

Cambridge School Volunteers
(349-6794). Recruits, trains, places and provides support services to volunteers in grades K-12.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

ESL/Office Skill Training
One With One (254-1691). Tutor/mentor a newcomer.

Friday Night Supper Program
Arlington Street Church, corner of Arlington and Boylston streets, Boston (536-7050, ext. 22). Need volunteers to help prepare, cook and serve meals on Fridays, 5-7pm.

BOSTON'S BEST 1999
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Preview

Cycle for Charity

If you're a biker (and a charitable person), you might be interested in the Hyannis Port Challenge to benefit Best Buddies International. This 85-mile bike ride will journey along back roads from JFK Library on the South Shore to the Kennedy Compound in Hyannis Port on May20. Celebrate afterward with a post-ride clambake hosted by LeMond and Anthony Kennedy Shriver at the home of the late Rose Kennedy. Sign up early—participants must raise between $750-$3000 in pledges in order to ride. Call 800-718-5356.

Giving Back Fund
(557-9910). Seeks volunteers to assist in coordination of special events and provide administrative support.
The Greater Boston Food Bank
(617.427.5200). Groups of volunteers needed to sort donated food.
Horizons Initiative
(287-1900). Playspace activity leaders needed for children living in homeless family shelters.
Jewish Community Volunteer Program
(558-6585). Make a difference in the life of a lonely and isolated person.
Massachusetts Sports Partnership
(877-572-7115). Volunteer at major sporting events.
Mass Substance Abuse Helpline
(536-0501, ext. 201). Volunteers needed for helpline for persons affected by alcoholism and substance abuse.
MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(536-3557). Seeks caring people to offer help and companionship to homebound and isolated elders.
Parental Stress Line
Kenmore Square, Boston (528-5803). Volunteers needed to staff the statewide stress line and the First Call for Help information line.
St. Jude Century Challenge
(965-5262). Pledge to walk or run 100 miles now through April 30 and raise money for St. Jude Children's Hospital.
Samaritans Suicide Prevention Helpline
(536-2460). Seeks volunteers to help staff telephone services for depressed, lonely, suicidal individuals.
Take a Chance
Greater Boston Food Bank (427-5200). www.gbfb.org. Donate $10 before April 1 and win great prizes.
Victory Programs
(357-8182, ext. 624). Volunteers needed for residential substance abuse treatment program.
Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Seeks individuals to assist legal immigrants and refugees to become naturalized citizens.
Youth Enrichment Services (YES)
412 Mass. Ave., Boston (267-5877). Seeks role models and outdoor leaders for Operation Ski Lift to take urban young people ages 8-18 skiing and snowboarding.

Tours

Chocolate Tour
Old Town Trolley, Charles and Boylston Streets, Boston (269-7150). Saturdays and Sundays, 11:30am and 2pm (tour lasts 2 1/2 hours). Through the end of March. $50. If you've got a sweet tooth, join Old Town Trolley for a tour from Le Meridien Hotel to the Ritz Carlton Hotel and the Hampshire House where you'll savor a chocolate buffet, hot chocolate drinks, decadent chocolate cake and a delightful chocolate soup.
Ghost Tours
Meet at Boston Common Visitor Information Center, 147 Tremont St., Boston (781-235-7149). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street. Selected evenings, 7:30pm. $12. Tour downtown Boston's most infamous haunted locations.
Signs of Spring
Arnold Arboretum, Hunnewell Building, Boston 635-7383). March 25, 2-3:30pm. See witch hazels, snowbells, crocus, pussy willows, jack-in-the-pulpit, fiddle head ferns and more on this ranger-led hike.
The Literary Trail
Tour begins at the Omni Parker House, corner of Tremont and School Streets, Boston (574-5950). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street. Saturdays 9am-12:30pm. $35. Explore the heritage of some of the country's greatest authors, poets and social activists at eight literary historical landmarks in the Boston area. The climate-controlled bus stops at the Boston Athenaeum, the BPL, Longfellow National Historic Site, the home of the Hawthornes, the Alcotts and the Lothrops and Walden Pond.
Women's History Month Scavenger Hunt
Boston National Historical Park Visitor Center, 25 State St., Boston (242-5642). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. Daily, 9am-5pm. Find the women on the Freedom Trail. PIck up your Park Service scavenger hunt information kit for helpful clues.
Women of the Literary Trail
Omni Parker House Hotel, corner of Tremont and School Streets, Boston (574-5950). Saturdays in March, 9am-12:30pm. $35. This guided bus tour will focus on 19th-century women authors and literary figures from the Greater Boston area, including Elizabeth Palmer Peabody, Annie Adams Fields, Sarah Orne Jewitt, Margaret Fuller and Louisa May Alcott.

Cruise

Massachusetts Bay Lines
60 Rowes Wharf, Gate C, Boston (542-8000). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Daily 55-minute harbor tours sail Sun.-Sat. on the hour from 12-6pm. $8. Nightly sunset cruises also available from 7-8:30pm for $15.

Sights to See

Boston Tea Party Ship and Museum
Congress St. Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Open daily, June-Aug., 9am-6pm; March-May and Sept.-Nov., 9am-5pm; closed Dec.-March. $8, $7 students, $4 children. You can dump your own bale into the harbor—and watch a museum guide scramble to retrieve it—at this replica of one of the ships emptied by colonists (disguised as Indians) during the Dec. 16, 1773, tea raid. Afterward, enjoy a cup of tax-free tea.
Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Fifth Floor, Boston (353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), Oct.-March 7:30-8:30pm; April-Sept. 8:30-9:30pm. Free. BU's astronomers are available to answer questions and assist with telescopes as you check out Orion, Cassiopeia and the Big Dipper.
Bunker Hill Monument
Monument Square, Charlestown (242-5641). Open daily 9am-5pm. Free. What's long and hard and shaped like a pencil? It's not what you think. It's the 221-foot monument that honors the men who died in the Battle of Bunker Hill. But an exhausting climb up 294 stairs reveals little more than a stunning view of I-93.
Christian Science World Headquarters
Mass. and Huntington Avenues, Boston (450-2000). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential. Tue.-Sat. 9:30am-4pm, Sun. 11am-2pm. Tour the Mother Church—a giant basilica that seats 3,000 worshippers—the Maparium, a cool, walk-through, stained-glass globe; a 700-foot-long reflecting pool; and a photo exhibit.
Copp's Hill Burial Ground
Hull and Snowhill Streets, Boston. MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Open dawn-dusk. Admission free. From Boston's second-oldest cemetery, you can see all the way across the Inner Harbor to Charlestown. Famous residents include the well-known Puritanical Mather family and Prince Hall, a prominent member of the free black community.
John Hancock Observatory
200 Clarendon St., Boston (572-6429). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open Mon.-Sat. 9am-11pm, Sun. 10am-11pm (May-Oct.) and noon-11pm (Nov.-April). Admission $4.50. The tallest building in New England (62 floors) offers much more than an awesome view. Listen to air-traffic controllers at Logan, test your knowledge of the city with a computer quiz, or relive some of Boston's most famous and infamous events—including the "Great Molasses Flood" of 1919, when a tank holding 3-4 million gallons of the sticky stuff exploded and turned the North End into a sea of molasses.
John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (566-7937). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Wed.-Sun. 10 am-4:30pm. The birthplace and early boyhood home of the nation's 35th president.
King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat. 10am-2pm. Admission free. Alongside Boston's first Anglican church—a gloomy, granite apparition—you'll find a burial ground with equally ominous-looking headstones dating back to 1630. On Sundays, listen for the distinctive peal of the church bell cast by Paul Revere's foundry.
Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (635-3105). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Open daily 9am-5pm. Guided tours every half-hour, starting at 9am. Free. Known as the "Cradle of Liberty," Faneuil Hall—we're talking about the part above the eatery—was the site of many an angry man ranting and raving about the damn British in the mid-1700s. Today, you can check out the white-walled assembly room, but most people come here for the marketplace.
Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily 9 am-5pm. Free. Here, Paul Revere saw two lanterns shining on April 18, 1775, indicating that the British troops were crossing the Charles River to Lexington and Concord via boat. You remember... "One if by land, two if by sea."
Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays 10am-4pm, weekends 10am-5pm. $3. A thousand fed-up men gathered in this church to decide whether or not to send three ships full of tea back to England. Guess what? They didn't. •*Voices of Protest* traces the use of Old South Meeting House over three centuries for religious, political and social debate. •Middays at the Meeting House, a lunchtime music series. Thursdays,12:15-1pm. $4. •Sundays are free of charge throughout the month of February.
Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-10pm, Sun. noon-10pm. $4, $3 seniors and students. After that tiring, 50-floor elevator ascent, you deserve a drink at the Top of the Hub lounge before you check out Boston's only 360-degree view tower. On a good day, you can see New Hampshire. The view here is slightly better than that of rival John Hancock.
Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8am-6pm. Free. Designed by H.H. Richardson and constructed in 1877, the huge Romanesque church in Copley Square rests upon 4,500 submerged wooden pilings, which help hold up the church's massive tower. A shaded courtyard offers respite from the heavily-trafficked plaza. On Fridays at 12:15pm, stop by for a free organ concert.

Museums

Boston Public Library
700 Boylston St., Boston (536-5400). Mon.-Thu. 9am-9pm; Fri.-Sat. 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •Free Art and Architecture Tours of the BPL. Mondays 2:30pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays 6pm. Meet the group on Dartmouth Street.
Boston Tea Party Ship & Museum
Congress Street Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. March-Nov., 9am-dusk. $7, $5.50 students, $3.50. Colonial-clad sailors take you aboard *The Beaver*, a replica of the smallest of the three ships involved in the infamous tea rebellion. Paul Revere leads the hourly tea throwing and explains all about the fateful day irate Bostonians poured out the tea in protest of the tax decree issued by British parliament. Try your hand at rope-tying too.
Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sat.-Thu. 10am-5pm, Fri. 10am-9pm (after 5pm, admission is $1). $7 adults; children and seniors $6; toddlers $2. Follow the red and white signs to the mother of all milk bottles. As you walk under it you'll feel as diminutive as your munchkin companion. See *Arthur's World* from the popular television series and children's books. This infamous aardvark is one of many hands-on favorites. •*Construction Zone* •*Giant's Desktop* •*Hall of Toys* •*Boats Float*! •*New Balance Climb* and •*Japanese House.* •Opened Oct. 31: **Sesame Street Exhibition**. Three decades of the revolutionary children's television series. Step into one of the world's most famous TV neighborhoods.
Harriet Tubman House
566 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-8610). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. Weekdays 8am-8pm. Free admission. The Harriet Tubman Museum exhibits a collection of this influential black leader's achievements.
John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (929-4523). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily 9am-5pm (last film begins at 3:55pm). $8, students and seniors $6, children $4. This permanent collection on the life and legacy of President John F. Kennedy offers a recreated world of the early 1960s with period settings and 25 dramatic multimedia exhibits. Visitors experience first-hand the challenges faced by America during Kennedy's presidency. *John Glenn and the Space Race*, an exhibit about the man with the mission is now showing. •*Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy: First Lady*. Ongoing •*Treasures of the Kennedy Library.* A selection of the treasures, including sculpture, jewelry, paintings and documents. Through May 2000. •*Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy*. New ongoing exhibit.
Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (739-1200) www.afroam museum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays 10am-4pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.* The place is bustling after their recent endowment of more than $1 million to restore the meeting house's hallowed

B-ball wizards, the Harlem Globetrotters, are at the FleetCenter, March 24.

sanctuary. See the African Meeting House, the oldest black church in America.

Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, students and seniors $4, children $3; free to all Sat. 9am-12pm.* This Harvard museum is made up of four factions: The **Botanical Museum**, **The Museum of Comparative Zoology**, the **Mineral & Geological Museum**, and the **Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology**. A number of exhibitions tie together all four of these distinct collections. The most famous is the Botanical Museum for its glass flowers collection—more than 3,000 models of more than 480 plant species. At the Museum of Comparative Zoology, check out the 42-foot-long mounted Kronosaurus (a really big lizard) and countless stuffed insects. The Mineral & Geological Museum's got a 16,000 pound Brazilian amethyst geode, and there's the dollhouse-esque Worlds in Miniature display at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnography. •***Orchids: A Story of Seduction***. Through May 14. Human beings seem to find orchids irresistible, even addicting. This exhibition will explore some of the flowers' most interesting pollination strategies and the long history of collecting and research by Harvard scientists.

Museum of Our National Heritage
33 Marrett Road., Route 2A, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.mnh.org. *Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 12-5pm. Free admission.* Explore history through pop culture. Topics range from Revolutionary artifacts to the latest in jigsaw puzzle-solving techniques and American circus posters. •*Initiating America*, a historical look at fraternal organizations. Ongoing. •*The Lynn Beach Painters, Art Along the North Shore*, 1880-1920. Through Aug. 20.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu. 9am-5pm; Fri. 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children. Omni Theater, Hayden Planetarium or laser shows all $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children.* Find out how much you weigh on the moon, strap yourself into a space module or sift through sand on an archaeological dig. Enjoy 600 hands-on exhibits, including the *Theater of Electricity*, *Seeing Is Deceiving* and *Science in the Park* (Newtonian physics introduced through such accessible items as playground equipment and skateboards.) •Now open: *Messages:* Discover why communication is central to everyday life. *Human Body Connection*: exhibits on anatomy, physiology and health. *The Light House: Beaming, Bouncing and Bending Light*: Learn the principles of optics, color and the nature of light with 18 hands-on activities. •*Reptiles: Real and Robotic*, opened Jan. 28. •New: Cahners ComputerPlace. •Mugar Omni Theater: *Mysteries of Egypt*. Through June. *Olympic Glory*, opened Oct. 29. (See Film for more information.)

Charles Hayden Planetarium
Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children. Time of show changes daily.* Get high! High up, that is. And (then) go see the stars and rock-music laser shows. Check out the ongoing out-of-this- world multimedia installations *Life and Death of the Sun* and *The Sky Tonight*, and enjoy daily laser shows to the music of the Beastie Boys, Pink Floyd, Korn, Tool, Jimi Hendrix, Nine Inch Nail, among others. It's a trip. •*Journey to the Edge of Space and Time*: Ideas once considered crazy (like black holes) are now the building blocks of new knowledge. What next? •Friday Night Stargazing, 8:30-10pm. Free. Weather permitting.

Swing with the *Big Apple Circus*, April 1-May 7.

BERTRAND GUAY

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St. (in Larz Anderson Park), Brookline (522-6547). MBTA: D Green Line to Reservoir, to bus 51. April-Oct., Wed.-Sun. 10am-5pm; Nov.-March, Wed.-Sun. 10am-4pm. $5, $3 seniors and students. This 1888 carriage house is the automobile buff's paradise—and the country's oldest private collection of antique autos. Featured cars range from Fords and Corvettes to Cadillacs and Italian imports.

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (720-3290). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily 9am-5pm. $3, students and seniors $2. Built in 1713, this original seat of colonial government was the place pre-Independence Bostonians first heard the Declaration of Independence read.

Sports Museum of New England
FleetCenter, Boston (624-1234). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Adults, $5, Children and seniors, $4. Exhibits of the great sports traditions of the Boston Garden, FleetCenter and Celtics in addition to the New Balance Wall of Champions, Major League/Minor League by Jim Dow, the Boston Garden Theatre, Ted Williams—An American Hero and exhibits of boxing, hockey, football, baseball, soccer, collegiate basketball and the 75th anniversary of the Bruins.

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (426-1812). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, bus 93 to Navy Yard. Nov.-April 30: Open daily 10am-5pm. Free. The stories of the individuals who authorized, built and served on the *USS Constitution*, the oldest commissioned warship afloat. Learn about its 200-year history hands on—hoist a sail, take the wheel, fire a cannon or swing in a hammock.

Zoos & Gardens

Arnold Arboretum
125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain (524-1718). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open weekdays: 9am-4pm, weekends: 12-4pm. Free. More than 14,000 exotic trees, shrubs and flowers make this the place to go when you need to escape the hustle and bustle of city life. Biking, dog-walking and frisbee-throwing are encouraged.

Boston Common Ice Skating Pond
Frog Pond, Boston Common, Boston (635-2120). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park. Sun.-Thu. 10am-9pm; Fri.-Sat. 10am-10pm. $3 plus $5 for rentals. It's not quite Rockefeller Center, but, hey, it offers concessions, skate rentals, rest rooms and a warming area.

Franklin Park Zoo
1 Franklin Park Rd., Boston (442-2002). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open Oct.-March daily 10am-4pm; April-Sept. weekdays 10am-5pm, weekends and holidays 10am-6pm. Admission $6. A 72-acre oasis of green in the city with waterfalls, lush vegetation, gorillas, leopards, hippos and free-flying birds.

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard, transfer to #71 or #73 bus. Open daily 8am-7pm (summer) and 8am-5pm (winter). Admission free. Rest in peace among the gravesites and crypts of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes, "Battle Hymn of the Republic" author Julia Ward Howe and Winslow Homer, among other famous Americans. A great place for bird watchers and botanists.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (973-5200). www.neaq. org. *MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Early Sept.-June: Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. and holidays 9am-6pm. $12.50.* Boston's biggest fish bowl has much more than just goldfish. In the three-story saltwater tank swim turtles, sharks, eels and the occasional mermaid (or mer-male), who entertains crowds as he or she cleans the tank. •March 24: Unforgettable Boston premieres. This movie highlights many of Boston's favorite landmarks. $4. See this issue's City Limits for more information.

Roger William's Zoo
1000 Elmwood Ave., Providence, R.I. (401-785-3510). South on 1-95 from Providence to exit 17 (Elmwood Ave.). $6, $3.50 seniors and children. Open every day except Dec. 25. Nov.-March 9am-4pm. April-Oct. 9am-5pm. Lions and tigers and a 150-pound baby polar bear named Triton. Oh my! More than 600 birds and mammals inhabit the African plains and rain forests.

Stone Zoo
149 Pond St., Stoneham , Rte. 93 North, Exit 34 (781-438-5100). $3. The polar bear remains, as he always has been, the star attraction at this 32-acre zoo.

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performing arts

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Theater. Or e-mail information to performing@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Theater
JUST OPENED

The After-Rhyme
Rough & Tumble Theater, Black Box Theater, Boston Center for the Arts, Leland Center, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. March 23-April 8. Can a butcher do more than butch? How does a garden become a machine shop? What is the true meaning of fruit? This gloriously absurd comedy, another collaboration between Rough & Tumble Theater and the lunatic wit of Sean Graney, asks these big questions.

Betrayal
Industrial Theatre, Leverett Old Library Theatre, Mill Street, Cambridge (496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. March 23-25, March 30-April 1, 8pm. March 26, 2pm. $12. This dark love story by British playwright Harold Pinter begins at the end of an affair, exploring the disintegrating marriages and the tests of friendship.

Dogg's Hamlet, Cahoot's MacBeth
UMass Boston's McCormack Theatre, 2nd Floor, Boston (822-8094). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. March 23-25, 8pm. The Kamikaze Cattle Company presents a Tom Stoppard classic.

Fat Men in Skirts
The Peabody House Theatre, 277 Broadway, Somerville (625-1300). Thu.-Sat. 8pm. March 31-April 22. What do cannibalism, incest and Katherine Hepburn have in common? Playwright Nicky Silver has the answer in this psycho-active farce. A mother and son are marooned on a desert island for five years. When they are reunited with the husband/father who presumed them lost and his mistress, the most bizarre and primal forces of human nature unfold.

Hide and Seek
The Hovey Players, 9 Spring St., Waltham (781-893-9171). Thu.-Sun. 8pm. March 24-April 8. $12. This thriller features a young couple on the verge of parenthood who get more than they imagined when their new country "dream" house takes on a life of its own.

Mixed-Media Showcase
The Actors Workshop Theatre, 39 Boylston St., Boston (983-0180). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. March 26, 2-3:30pm. $5. Open FauceT presents this All-Grrrrrl Showcase, curated by Faucet producer Trista Beard, with dance, sound art, theatrical performances and pieces that combine noise, movement, poetry, and storytelling. This show will be a mix of media, genres, and seasoned and emerging performance artists.

Noises Off
Riverside Theatre Works, 45, Hyde Park (361-7024). Thu.-Sat. 8pm. Through April 1. $15. An outrageous farce about a farce that actually makes you think as well as laugh. The film of the same name starred Michael Cain, Carol Burnett and John Ritter.

The Ohio State Murders
American Repertory Theatre, Hasty Pudding Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-8300). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. March 31-April 16. $20-$30. From Obie Award-winning dramatist Adrienne Kennedy comes a deeply personal, searing fable of self-discovery and loss. When a young African-American student arrives at Ohio State University, she suspects that the academic sanctuary harbors dark forces of hatred, even death.

The Performance Cult
Back Alley Theater, 1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (338-1477). MBTA: Red Line to Central. March 26, April 9, 7:30pm. $6. Each night, a host of seasoned Boston-area actors, dancers, storytellers and others will present a series of short, original vignettes.

Personal Instrument
Theater Offensive, Boston Center for the Arts, Leland Center, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. March 24-April 8. $18. This story of a queer high school heavy metal star features David Hanbury, Queen Vashti of the recent, *Pure PolyESTHER*. This tsunami of virtuosity floods our senses with steaming guitar licks and hormone-drenched hard rock vocals.

The Price
Leland Center, Boston Center for the Arts, Leland Center, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. March 23-April 15. Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Arthur Miller's compassionate and insightful play about two estranged brothers who come together after their father's death. They must address a lifetime of anger, confusion, mistrust and jealousy. What was the price of the choices they made.

The Salad of the Bad Cafe
Theater Offensive, Boston Center for the Arts, Leland Center, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. March 23-April 8. $24. Obie Award-winners Lois Weaver and Peggy Shaw join Asian American sensation Stacy Makishi for a wild performance inspired by the lives and work of Yukio Mishima, Tennessee Williams and Carson McCullers, author of *The Ballad of the Sad Cafe* (hence the title of this production).

Sarah's Journal: An Eviction Story
The Blacksmith House, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (781-861-8737). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. April 1, 8pm; April 2, 2:30pm and 8pm. $10. The story of a group of roommates and their older neighbor as they are being evicted from their homes. The play was written as a response to the excessively high rents and rampant evictions currently taking place in the city of Cambridge. Written by local poet and playwright Don DiVecchio.

That Championship Season
Boston Center for the Arts, Leland Center, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. March 24-26, March 29-31; April 1, 5-8, 12-15, 8pm. $16. A Pulitzer Prize-winning play by Jason Miller about an annual reunion of a high school championship basketball team and how their lives have unfolded over the 20 years since that championship season. Each member clings to that one brief shining moment of perfection—the game as a life preserver in a sea of heartbreak, betrayal and disappointment.

High School Drama Festival

Remember back to the pinnacle of your acting career—when you had the starring role in your high school's production of *West Side Story* or *Bye Bye Birdie*? It doesn't get much better than that, does it?

Well, actually, it does—much better. On March 30-April 1, you can watch the best of the young performers from high schools across Massachusetts at the 2000 Boston Globe State High School Drama Festival. Some 15 troupes will compete in the finals, performing one-act plays and excerpts from classical to contemporary theater. ***John Hancock Hall, 200 Berkeley St., Boston (978-256-3101). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. March 30-April 1. $7***

NOW RUNNING

ART
Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (931-2787). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7:30pm. Through March 26. $45-$65. **Judd Hirsch** stars in this wickedly witty portrait of modern art and old-fashioned friendship as three prosperous middle-aged, longtime friends come to blows over the value of a very expensive piece of art.

Elfman Ballet of St. Petersburg dances at the Emerson Majestic Theatre, March 24-26.

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed.-Thu. 8pm; Fri.-Sat. 7pm and 10pm; Sun. 3pm and 6pm. $39-$49. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to get its point across with tribal rock music, performance art, humorous antics, props (including plastic tubes, day-glo PVC pipes and twinkies) and three men painted blue.

The Judas Kiss
The Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Thu. 7:30pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 4pm; Sun. 3pm. Through April 16. This drama revolves around the events surrounding arrest and imprisonment of Oscar Wilde. David Hare lays bare the drama of two critical points in Wilde's last years—the day he decides to stay in England to face imprisonment and the night after his release two years later when the lover for whom he risked everything betrays him.

The Last Night of Ballyhoo
Jewish Theatre of New England, 333 Nahanton St., Newton Centre (965-5226). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Centre. Thu. 2pm and 7:30pm; Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. Through April 9. $25. Written by the Pulitzer Prize-winner and author of *Driving Miss Daisy*, the comedy is set in Atlanta in 1939 while the movie *Gone with the Wind* is making its premiere. With rich and complex characters, this Broadway hit captures the mystique of the famed Ballyhoo Dances, prejudice against newcomers and humor.

Mary Stuart
Huntington Theatre Company, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (266-0800). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue.-Thu. 7:30pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. Through April 9. $10-$52. Reigning monarch Elizabeth is challenged by a delicate problem—the fate of her cousin, Mary Queen of Scots, imprisoned for alleged conspiracy to seize the Virgin Queen's throne and restore Catholicism to England. Pressured by deceitful and manipulative advisers, uncertain whether or not Mary has actually plotted her assassination, Elizabeth wrestles with the fateful decsion of whether or not to order the execution of her longtime rival.

Meshugah
Trinity Repertory Company, 201 Washington St., Providence, RI (401-351-4242). Tue. 7pm; Wed.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. Through April 9. $26-$38. An intriguing love triangle between a young woman and a middle-aged and older man. It draws you into the world of Jewish emigres living on the Upper West Side of NYC post-WWII. A 47-year-old Yiddish writer is tortured by guilt at having escaped from Poland just before the Holocaust when his family and friends perished. He finds love unexpectedly when he meet Miriam, who harbors a secret which is slowly revealed to him.

Once Upon a Mattress
Newton Country Players, The Windsor Club, 1601 Beacon St., Waban (244-9538). Fri.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm. March 24-26. The musical version of *The Princess and the Pea*. Queen Mother Aggravain sets up the most impossible tests for each princess who wishes to marry her son. Is Prince Dauntless the Drab really worth turning a kingdom upside down for? How high must Princess Winnifred scale those mattresses to prove her love?

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 6:30pm and 9:30pm; Sun. 3pm and 7:30pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This whodunit is set in a unisex hair salon. The production holds the record as the longest-running play in the history of the Boston theater.

Shopping and Fucking
Actors Workshop, 40 Boylston St., Boston (887-2336). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Fri. 8pm and Sat. 7pm and 10pm. Through April 8. $10, $12 at the door. Mark Ravenhill's dark comedy is the tale of a trio of young Brits who sell drugs, sex and what is left of their souls to survive.

Stop Kiss
The Nora Theatre Company, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (491-2026). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant Street. Thu.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 4pm and 8:30pm; Sun. 3pm. Through March 26. $19-$22. Diana Son's love story explores the concept of falling in love and discovering sexual attraction, making choices, taking risks and committing to someone you love.

Tribute to Peter Altman
Huntington Theatre Company, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (266-0800). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. March 27, 7:30pm. $30-$40. The company will host a special performance of musical numbers and dramatic readings in honor of outgoing producing director Peter Altman featuring many of the leading theatrical artists who've appeared on stage over the past 18 seasons, including Tony Award-winners Elizabeth Franz, Tammy Grimes, Maryann Plunkett, Ruben Santiago-Hudson, Lloyd Richards and Pulitzer Prize-winner August Wilson.

Turn of the Screw
New Repertory Theatre, 54 Lincoln St., Newton Highlands (332-1646). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. Wed. 2pm and 7pm; Thu. 8pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 4:30pm and 8:30pm; Sun. 3pm. Through April 9. $25-$32. Henry James' classic Victorian ghost tale about a young governess who tries to draw out two disturbed children against the will of her predeccesor and a former servant, both dead, who continue to have an oppressive control over the children.

UNIVERSITY THEATER

Camino Real
Mainstage, Spingold Theater Center, Brandeis Unviersity, Waltham (781-736-3400). Commuter Rail to Brandeis/Roberts. Tue.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. April 4-16. $13.50-$17.50. Tennessee Williams' play gathers some of the great romantic figures of all time—Camille, Don Quixote, Casanova, Byron and the eternal American fall guy, Kilroy, who asks so little and always gets short-changed.

Lo She Comes
Laurie Theater, Spingold Theater Center, Brandeis Unviersity, Waltham (781-736-3400). Commuter Rail to Brandeis/Roberts. Tue.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. March 28-April 2. $9.50-$13.50. This tragic yet hilarious tale is set in a small town in Mississippi. Two brothers have died in a murder-suicide, and their ne'er-do-well sister, Soot, comes back from Chicago to see that justice is done, to find a lost love and to confront their mother, the intimidating Queen Ester, mother of the local church.

The Second Coming
Babson College, Sorenson Center for the Arts, Wellesley (781-239-5682). March 31, 7pm. $12. The Asian-American experimental theater group Slant performs this show about the journey of three innocent spermatozoa in their quest for life.

Ursula Duba
Babson College, Sorenson Center for the Arts, Wellesley (781-239-5682). March 28, 7pm. $12. Ursula Duba, a poet, author and lecturer who writes about the Holocaust, the Third Reich and the complex legacy of those historical events, will read from her book, *Tales From a Child of the Enemy*, which contains vivid stories of holocaust victims and survivors, as well as chilling accounts of the effects of the laws of the "master race" on the German people themselves.

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BOSTON BALLET

Kate Sullivan sings a tribute to Kurt Weill at the Somerville Theatre, March 3-April 1.

CABARET

Friday Night at the Movies
The Blacksmith House, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (247-9192). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. March 31, 8pm. $12. Join Michael Ricca, Nina Vansuch and Will McMillan plus Boston's newest cabaret treasure Brian Patton (on piano) as they romp through songs from classic films of the '50s and '60s, including *The Valley of the Dolls*, *Casino Royale*, *To Sir With Love* and *Faster Pussy Cat, Kill! Kill!*

Ida Zecco
Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (232-1804). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. March 26, 7pm. Ida Zecco performs *Loesser is More.*

Julie Wilson
Scullers Jazz Club, 400 Soldiers Field Road, Allston (562-4111). March 24-25, 8pm and 10:30pm. Friday: $26 (show), $54 (dinner). Saturday: $28 (show), $56 (dinner). Julie Wilson, master of cabaret, performs.

Kate Sullivan
Somerville Theatre, Somerville (625-4088). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. March 31 and April 1, 8pm. $20. Kate Sullivan brings singer Lotte Lenya—wife and incomparable interpreter of the songs of Kurt Weill—to life. With her deep, expressive voice, Sullivan will present songs from Weill's *Threepenny Opera*, *Mahagonny* and other works, weaving German and French lyrics in with the English.

INTERACTIVE THEATER

Medieval Manor
246 East Berkeley St., Boston (423-4900). Red Line to Broadway. Mon., Wed., Thu., Fri. 8pm ; Sat. 5pm and 9:30pm; Sun. 6pm. Ongoing. $9.60-$32. Eat, drink and be merry at a Renaissance dining experience. Don't worry about etiquette. You won't find knives and forks, and the soup of the day is in your face—literally.

Mystery Cafe
290 Congress St., Boston (781-320-0040). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Dinner and show: Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm. Ongoing. $34. Saturdays: An interactive murder mystery.

Mystery Cruise
Long Wharf, Boston (781-320-0040). June 25, 7pm (boarding). Cruise departs 7:30pm. $49/person, includes dinner and cruise. Gather clues during a cruise through the Harbor, meet characters and interrogate suspects as you attempt to piece together the mystery.

Nonna's Cruise to Nowhere
Locations around the Greater Boston area (781-933-1363). $35/includes dinner. These folks have taken everyone's favorite Italian grandmother (Nonna) and placed her on an imaginary cruise ship, along with her zany family, after misleading Nonna into thinking she's going back home to Italy. The audience laughs, dances and plays along with the cast.

Dance

SHOWS AND EVENTS

Don Quixote
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (8482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. March 30-April 9. $12-$59. The Boston Ballet brings authentic Spanish-flavored dance with fancy footwork to the stage. Based on Cervante's famous 17th-century story, *Don Quixote* is both a funny and poignant tale of an errant and delusional knight who chases his beloved Dulcinea while encountering fantastic adventures.

Tchaikovsky: The Mystery of Life and Death
Emerson Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (876-4275). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. March 24-26. $35-$55. In a dance full of passion and soul, the Eifman Ballet of St. Petersburg takes a radical new look at the life, death and times of the great Russian composer Tchaikovsky.

Slant Performance Group
Emerson Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (876-4275). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. March 31. $6-$12. Asian-American theatre flourishes with Slant. With the help of guitars, drums and pop culture satire, the group puts on a riotous, comic show for audiences of all ages.

JOIN IN

Brazilian Ballroom Dance
Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wednesdays, 9pm. Learn the samba, forro, lambada and more at this Cambridge jazz hall.

Club Joy
533 Washington St. Boston (354-5780). Saturday nights. This Latin night spot now offers classes: salsa, merengue, bachata and more.

Dancing at Ryles Jazz Club
Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. •Saturdays, 9pm-1:30am, $12; $10 after 11:30pm. Join in a variety of dance moves—here you'll find jazzy mambos, swing dancing, cheeky cha chas and sassy salsa numbers. *•Tuesdays 10pm-1:30am. $6.* Just Swing It night features Black Tie Affair Orchestra and DJ music. Requests are taken and dancers are encouraged to bring their own music. *•Thursdays 8:30-11pm. $10-$12.* Salsa and merengue dance.

English Country Dance
Park Avenue Congregational Church, Park Ave. at Paul Revere Rd., Arlington. (354-1340). Wednesdays. 7:30-10:30pm. $3-$6. Learn how to English Country Dance to music by Bare Necessities.

Just Swing It!
Upstairs at Ryles, 212 Hampshire St. Inman Square, Cambridge (266-2258). $6. Tuesdays, 10pm-1:30am. 19+. Dance to music by the Black Tie Affair Orchestra, as well as DJ music . Requests are taken and dancers are encouraged to bring their own music. Swing dance jams also take place.

Israeli Folk Dancing
Temple Kehillath Israel, 384 Harvard Ave., Brookline (484-4282). Sundays, lessons begin at 11-12 pm. $5. Show off your moves with the best Israeli folk dancers.

Royal American Singles Dance Parties
American Legion Hall, 357 Great Rd., Bedford (325-4900). March 24. 8pm-12pm. $6. www.royalamericansingles.com. Dance the night away while meeting new people and enjoying complimentary hors d'oeuvres. Music includes a DJ and Top 40 dance music. For ages 30 and over.

TICKETS

Bostix
(723-5181) www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of Faneuil Hall); Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth); and Harvard Square (in the Holyoke Center arcade at 1350 Mass. Ave). Same-day tickets half price.*

Next Ticketing
(423-NEXT). www.boston.com/next.

Ticketmaster
(931-2000) www.ticketmaster.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(247-1300 or 800-442-1854). A good place to get tickets if a show is sold out at the box office.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail information to comedy@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the performances or comedians. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (248-9700). www.comedyconnectionboston.com. *MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed. 8pm; Thu. 8:30pm; Fri. and Sat. 8pm, 10:15pm; Sun. 7pm. $8-$10 (weekend prices vary).* The oldest comedy club in Boston draws big-name, national comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •March 22: Steve Hurley. •March 23, 8:30pm, $10: Frank Santos, the "R-rated Hypnotist." •March 24, $21.50 and $17.50: Ventriloquist Jeff Dunham with "Peanut the Woozle." •March 25, 8pm, $15: Rich Ceisler. 10:30pm, $23: Jeff Dunham. •March 26, 7pm, $16.50 and $11: Jeff Dunham. 9:15pm, $12: The Black Comedy Explosion. •March 27: Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox. •March 28: Robbie Printz. •March 29: Steve Hurley. •March 30, 8:30pm, $10: Frank Santos, the "R-rated Hypnotist." •March 31, $21: Richard Jeni, HBO's "A Good Catholic Boy."

The Comedy Studio at the Hong Kong
1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu.-Sun. 8pm. $5-$7. Sketch comedy troops and local comedians perform. •March 23: Tim McIntire's Current Events Comedy with special guest Laura Kolling. •March 25: Rick Jenkins hosts Brian Gordon of New York. •March 26: Comics Workout starring comedians Ben Murray, Josh Foster and Brian Gordon.

Dick Doherty's Comedy Escape Comedy Vault
Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun. 9pm. $10. Features local stand-up comedians. Thursdays: Stand-up comedy. Fridays and Saturdays: Dick Doherty's Comedy Pro Tour. Sundays: Open mike night.

Nick's Comedy Stop
100 Warrenton St., Boston (482-0930). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Fri. 8:30pm; Sat. 7:45pm and 10pm; Sun. 8pm. $8-$14. The talent here is not quite as big-name as the Comedy Connection, but the crowds are just as enthusiastic, and you're guaranteed to leave with a smile on your face. Wednesdays: Open mike at 8:30pm. •March 23, 8:30pm: John David, Marc Riley and Pete Costello. •March 24-25, 9pm: John David, Marc Riley and Pete Costello. •March 30, 8:30pm: Kevin Knox, Jim Coliton and John Pizzi. •March 31 and April 1: 9pm: Frank Santorelli, Jim Coliton and John Pizzi.

IMPROVISATIONAL COMEDY & MAGIC

Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston (263-6887). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Shows: Thu. 8pm; Fri. and Sat. 8pm and 10pm. Main Stage: $10-$15. Now playing on the main stage is the critically acclaimed improvisational and sketch comedy show—voted one of Boston's best improvisational comedy troops.

ImprovBoston at Back Alley Theater
1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1253). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troop makes things up as they go along. Fri.-Sat. 8pm ($12) and 10:30pm ($12). Sun, 2pm ($7). •Fridays and Saturdays: 90 minutes of wholesome fun with scenes, games, original music and lots of audience participation. Sundays: family matinee. •Thursdays, 8pm: **Sitcom**. A fully-improvised show based on suggestions from the studio audience and an on-stage computer. 10pm: **Open Improv Jam**. All visitors of any skill level are invited to participate in a no-pressure, fun-filled atmosphere where everybody gets to play. •Fridays, 8pm: ImprovBoston. 10:30pm: TheatreSports Boston vs. Sitcom. Best of five match. •Saturdays, 8pm and 10:30pm: ImprovBoston.

Magicians & Spirits
Green Street Grill, 280 Green St., Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Shows every Tuesday at 9pm. $10 cabaret show ($5 with dinner). Green Street Grill patrons enjoy close-up magic as two or three magicians perform tricks behind the bar and among the crowd. At 10pm, the cabaret show begins upstairs with local and national magicians reading minds, making birds appear out of nowhere and floating objects above the stage.

COMEDY SHOWS

The Bunny Trail
The Dollhouse Theatre, 731 Harrison Ave., Boston (266-8511). Thu.-Sat. 8pm. Through March 25. The latest comedy by Ryan Landry deals with a mild-mannered English teacher who gets caught up in the kidnapping of a 7-year-old supermodel. Yes, folks, this *is* a comedy.

Joey & Maria's Comedy Wedding
Tremont House Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston or Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Fri. and Sat. 7:30pm. Ongoing. $39-$45. Join the fun at this absolutely zany Italian wedding.

SitcomBoston Improv Festival
The Works Theater, 255 Elm St., Somerville (538-3205). MBTA: Red Line to Davis Square. March 23, 8pm; March 24, 10:30pm; March 25, 8:30pm and 10:30pm. $12. The weekend begins with ImprovBoston on Thursday. The following night will showcase both *Musical! The Musical* and *The Orange Show*. Saturday night will wrap up the festival with Sitcom Alumni and TheatreSports Boston.

Ventriloquist Jeff Dunham and Peanut the Woozle perform at Comedy Connection, March 24-26.

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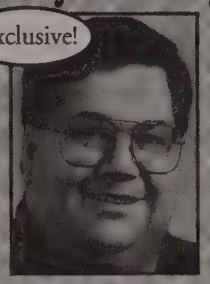

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Advice to Readers
The following is a partial list of the largest art museums, art institutes and galleries in the Boston area. Listings following bullets are temporary exhibitions.

Museums

Art Institute of Boston
700 Beacon St., Boston (262-1223). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun. 12-5pm. •Nathan Goldstein's *Painting and Prints* displays March 27-April 30. •One of America's most distinguished narrative artists, Jerry Pinkney, lectures on March 30, 7pm. He is a pioneer in the field of children's book illustration. He speaks at the Main Auditorium, 174 Ipswich St., Boston.

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat. 10am-12pm. The Sackler houses ancient Islamic and Asian art, an array of Neolithic bronze Buddhas, Greek pottery, and Hellenistic and Roman sculpture. •*Wall Drawing #830* features four isometric figures with dynamic colors. Ongoing. •*Ben Shahn's New York: The Photography of Modern Times*, showcases the artist's experimentation with the social documentary tradition. It includes more than 150 photographs, ink drawings and easel paintings. Through April 30. •Every Thursday is a free guided tour of Shan's work, 10:30am.

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat. 10am-12pm. It's better to visit the Fogg the same day you go to the Sackler, as admission includes all of Harvard's museums. Highlights include Van Gogh's self portrait and Bellini's clay figures.

Gibson House Museum
137 Beacon St., Boston (267-6338). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Guided tours every Sat. and Sun. at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm. $5. With 75 percent of its original items in place, the museum allows visitors to understand 19th-century domestic life and design. Ongoing.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (266-5152). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Wed.-Sun. 12-5pm; Thu. 12-9pm. $6, $4 students and seniors. •A new exhibition marks the first American museum survey exhibition of the work of the celebrated British artist Cornelia Parker. It includes more than 60 of works made in the last decade. Parker will also create a new charcoal installation specifically for this ICA exhibition. Through April 9. •Free guided walk-throughs take place each Thursday at 6:30pm: March 23 by Wenyon and Gamble, artists-in-residence at MIT.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (566-1401). www.boston.com/gardner. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun. 11am-5pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, under 18 free. Guided on Fridays 2:30pm.* This 15th-century Venetian palace is home to more than 2,500 objects and twice as many flowers. Boston's most famous museum is named for the house's owner, Isabella Stewart Gardner (1840-1924), an infamously incorrigible individualist. Only after her death was her house completely opened to the public. Now everyone can see the works of Titian, Botticelli and Matisse, as well as furniture and architectural details from European churches and palaces. •Lee Mingwei's *The Living Room* shows through April 30.

MIT Museum
265 Mass Ave., Cambridge (253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5pm, weekends 12-5pm. $3, $1 for students, seniors and children. Where else would you be but at MIT when you contemplate Morton G. Bradley Junior's *Math in 3-D: Geometric Sculptures*? The museum's other permanent exhibits include *Flashes of Inspiration: The Work of Harold Edgerton*, and *Gestural Engineering* and *Cultural Engineering: The Sculptures of Arthur Ganson*, the mechanical engineer/choreographer. •On the last Sunday of the month, explore oceanography, astronomy, the science of buildings and other mysteries of science with interactive activities for all ages from 2-4pm, no reservations required. Call 452-2827 for details. •*A Day in the Life of an Astronaut*, *LEGO Car Rally*, *Out There!* and *Observing the Observers* show throughout the spring. •*Self-portrait.map*, new digitally manipulated chromogenic prints by Lilla LoCurto and Bill Outcault, includes 18 large scale works. Through April 9. •*Jane and Louise Wilson: Stasi City and Crawl Space* is the presentation of two major video installations by these British twins. Through April 9.

***An Ounce of Gladness* by Cheryl Warrick shows through April 1 at Gallery NAGA.**

Museum of Bad Art
580 High St., Dedham (325-8224). Mon.-Fri. 6:30-10pm, Sat. and Sun. 1-10pm. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. The one and only museum that boasts "art too bad to be ignored." A favorite is *Lady Chardonnay*, a piece illuminating a poodle-head dancer.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Mon.-Tue. 10am-4:45pm; Wed. 10am-9:45pm, Thu.-Fri. 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. 10am-5:45pm. West Wing only Thu.-Fri. 5-9:45pm. $12, students and seniors $10.* The MFA has earned its rep as the second-best run art museum in the nation (after the Metropolitan Museum of Art) with its top-notch exhibitions, educational programs and galleries of African, Oceanic and American art. •*View From Above: The Photographs of Bradford Washburn* consists of some 80 black-and-white photographs by mountain climber, explorer, cartographer and aerial photographer Bradford Washburn. Through April 30. •*Michael Mazur: A Print Retrospective* examines more than 90 pieces of the Boston-based print artist's work. Through May 14. It shows with an exhibition of his recent paintings. Through June 15. •The work of Edward Weston (1886-1958), shows in *Edward Weston: Photography and Modernism*. Through May 29.

The Peabody House Museum
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (496-1027). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5 adults; $4 students and seniors; $3 children 3-13. No fee Sat. mornings until 12pm. •A brand new exhibit, *Heads and Tales: Adornments from Africa*, is an exhibition of rarely seen sculptures and artifacts from the Peabody Museum collections, many of them more than 100 years old, which highlight the messages communicated by adornments of the head in sub-Saharan Africa. Through Oct. 1, 2001.

The Revolving Museum
288-300 A St., Boston (439-8617). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed.-Fri. 12-5pm. •*Revelation for Revolution*, a millennial exhibition of members' works juried by Rebecca Hoffberger, the founder of the American Visionary Art Museum, shows through May 2. •Alison Safford's installation shows through April 21.

Galleries
FINE ART

Allston Skirt Gallery
119 Braintree St., Allston (254-7027). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm and by appointment. •*Drawing*, which features work by Jill Baroff, Meryl Blinder, Heather Hobler-Keene, Bronlyn Jones and Stefana McClure, is on view through April 29.

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (536-4465). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •Wlodimierz Ksiazek's *New Paintings* shows through April 5.

Andrea Marquit Fine Arts
38 Newbury St., Boston (859-0190). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Wed.-Sat. 11am-5pm. Open by appointment only through February. Shows contemporary masters and emerging artists and acts as a consulting group for corporate and private collectors.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (247-0610). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 11am-5:30pm; Sun. 1-5pm. Representing an eclectic mix of styles, from abstract to super-realist. •*Vestiges* by Ron Ehrlich, shows through March 30. •Esther Garcia Eder's sunlit island scenes and depictions of dancing souls show in *Inside and Out*. April 4-30.

The Artists Foundation Galleries
516 East Second St., Boston (464-3559). MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. Sat., 12-5pm and by appointment. •In the Main Gallery: *Beat Street Breakdown*, an installation by Terence Hammonds •In the Office Gallery: *Girl Vanity*, an installation by Nina Dunn. •In the Video Room: *Translators*, videos by Jackie Goss. Through April 1.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., 5th Floor, Boston (262-4490). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. Paintings, drawings, prints and sculpture by emerging and established artists. •Allan McCollum's work shows through April26.

Barton-Ryan Gallery
38 Newbury St., 4th floor, Boston (867-0662). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5:30pm, Sat., 11am-5pm and by appointment. The gallery specializes in American and European works of art by emerging and established artists. •Jacqueline Ott's *murmuring blue...(veiled): paintings and works on paper* shows through April 1. •*Eric Aho: Pure Geography: Paintings and Monotypes* shows April 4-May 13.

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (482-2477). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. •Heide Fasnacht's *New Sculpture & Drawings* shows through April 1.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm. •*Intuitive Journeys: Artists from Gateway Crafts* shows through April 22.

Bromfield Gallery
560 Harrison Ave., Boston (451-3605). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm. •George Arnold's *Sculpture* shows with Mary Akylas Harman's *Good for Body,* paintings and prints. Through March 25. •Dianne Lam's *Permanence and Change: Abstract Paintings*, shows March 29-April 22.

Cambridge Art Association
25 Rear Lowell St., Cambridge (876-0246). Tue.-Sat. 11am-5pm., Sun. 1-5pm. A small gallery with a permanent collection of local art. •*Song of the Earth: Rhythms and Moods of Nature* shows March 28-April 19.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (236-2255). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm. •Gisela Sabóková's *Stepping Through Glass* shows with Darren Carley, emerging artist. Through April 1.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (859-7222). Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •Marilyn Ruseckas' *Recent Pastels* are the still life and landscape pastels of Vermont. Through April 3.

Child's Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (266-1108). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri. 9am-6pm; Mon. and Sat. 10am-5pm. American and European paintings, prints, drawings and sculpture, from 1500 through 1950. •Three upcoming shows display simultaneously: *Women Artists, The Beauty of Ruins* and *New York Nocturne* show through April 22.

Clark Gallery
145 Lincoln St., Lincoln (781-259-8303). Tue.-Sat. 10am-5pm. The gallery represents 30 artists, primarily regional. Media regularly include glass, ceramics, oil, acrylic on canvas, wood and studio furniture. •Jacqueline Bishop's *Terra* shows with *Metal X Five,* a group show organized by Jamie Bennett and Alexandra Rozenman's *New Paintings*. Through March 23.

Clifford•Smith Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 3rd Floor, Boston (695-0255). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing, transfer to bus #49 to Washington/East Berkeley. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5pm. •Peter Harris' *Lick,* new photographs, shows through March 25. •David Kelley and Liz Fiorentino's collaborative installation, *Vibrations Per Sound*, explores the relationship between visual and aural reverberations. April 4-29.

Copley Society of Boston
158 Newbury St., Boston (536-5049). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat. 10:30am-5:30pm; Sun. 1-5pm. America's oldest non-profit art association is a platform for young and established artists alike. •*The Eleventh Annual Student Show* shows through March 25. •*Linda Price-Sneddon* is on display March 29-April 15. •*Faces* shows March 30-April 15.

Creiger Dane Gallery
36 Newbury St., Boston (536-8088). www.creigerdane.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm.* •A shared exhibition features *The Far & Away*, the manipulated landscape photography of Boston artist Mary Behrens and *Recent Works*, manipulated photography by Melissa Zexter. Through March 25. •Drawings by Kate Sullivan and Christian Heckscher shows throughout April.

Crystal Fine Art
93 Summer St., Suite 4L, Boston (728-9818). www.crystalfineart.com. *MBTA: Red and Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Tue.-Fri. 11am-6pm.* A multicultural gallery that regularly displays the work of national, international and local artists. •*Wood Icons*

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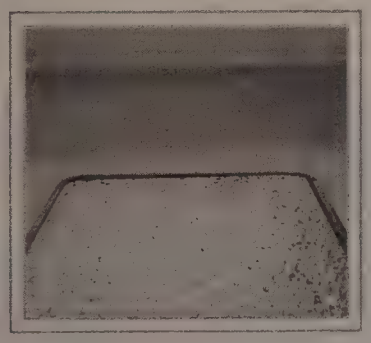

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Children's book illustrator Jerry Pinkney speaks about his work (above) March 30 at Lesley College.

of Religious Figures and Paintings of Erotic Figures by Viktor Anufriev shows along with the four other artists' works. Throughout March.

Dyansen Gallery
132 A Newbury St., Boston (262-4800). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. You'll always find paintings, bronzes and fine art prints. Collections include Rembrandt, Picasso, Chagall, Miro, Dali, Cassatt, Snowden and more. •The gallery displays its ongoing collection.

Eclipse Gallery
167 Newbury St., Boston (247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9am-6pm. •*Paintings from Colombia* shows through April 1. •Peter Clemons' *Dune Shack Paintings* shows April 4-29.

Elias Fine Arts
120 Braintree St., Brighton (783-1888). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. •*Christian Boltanski: Favorite Objects*, 264 photographic prints of the favorite objects of Chicago school children. Through April 29.

Gallery Bershad
99 Dover St., Somerville (629-9400 ex. 3). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Wed., Thu., Sun., 12-6pm; Fri. and Sat. 12-8pm. •New paintings and drawings by Jim Peters, David Levine and Ellen Sperling displays through April 23.

Gallery NAGA
67 Newbury St., Boston (267-9060). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. Paintings, studio furniture, sculpture, photography and holography. •Cheryl Warrick's *New Work* shows through April 1.

Gibbs Gallery
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm. •*Females You Can Only Imagine*, paintings and sculpture by Joan Baldwin and Mary Craig McLane, shows through March 24. •*The Puppets of Underground Railway Theatre*, innovative puppets, silk backdrops and more, shows April 10-May 12.

Gurari Collections
91 Charles St., Boston (367-9800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington or Red Line to Charles MGH. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. This gallery has an impressive collection of 16th- to early 20th-century etchings, engravings and drawings of architecture and urbanism, classical figures, antiquarian fantasies and unusual objects. Also showing the work of Wendy Artin, an artist living in Rome. Ongoing.

Guild of Boston Artists
162 Newbury St., Boston (536-7660). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri. 9:30am-4:30pm; Sat. 10am-5pm. Established in 1914 as a traditional non-profit art gallery. •Selections from the permanent colllection of the Rockport Art Association shows through April 1.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St. Boston (536-6339). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 10am-6pm; Sat. 10am-5pm. •Assortment of 18th- and 19th-century historic and decorative antique engravings and lithographs.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (262-0550). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. www.hyg.com. •*Ridley Howard: Palace Court Series* shows with *Frank Noelker: Zoo Pictures* through March 28. •Robert Cumming and Jim Melchert dispay their work March 31-May 2.

Hurst Gallery
53 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (491-6888). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sat. 12-6pm. Thu, 12-7pm. Visitors are greeted with art and artifacts from six continents. •*Abstract Treasures: African Currencies*, shows through April 30.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (375-0076). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. The gallery's exhibition features a wide variety of vintage posters from Europe and Russia. •*Bon Voyage! Vintage Posters from the Golden Age of Travel 1900-1940* is a collection of images of railroads, ocean liners, airplanes and more. Through April 30.

Judy Ann Goldman
14 Newbury St., Boston (424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. Call for an appointment. The gallery regularly displays paintings, sculpture and works on paper by gallery artists.

Kougeas Gallery
88 White St., Boston (569-9317). MBTA: Blue Line to Maverick Square. Thu.-Sat. 2-6pm and by appointment. This art gallery in the neighborhood of East Boston features realist and illusionistic fine art. •*Explicit, part two* is comprised of 18 photographs, 13 paintings and nine works on paper in various media. Through April 1.

Mercury Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (859-0054). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm. Specializes in American and European figurative expressionism. •*Urban Landscape*, a group show, is on display through April 15.

Mobius
354 Congress St., Boston (542-7416). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm. An artist-run group known for a wide range of arts. •*Taking Liberty/Usvajanje Slobode*, a cultural exchange between eight members of the Mobius Artists Group and eight artists from Istria, Croatia, takes place at various venues around the city. See it at Mobius March 29-April 15. •*Deeper deeper—Out out*, a 72-hour long performance/installation by Shannon Rose Riley, runs March 23-25.

MPG
285 Newbury St., Boston (437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •*Tell Me A Story: Narrative Painting* by Pat Lowery Collins, John Keefer and Thomas A.D. Watson. Through April 3.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). Mon.-Thu. 9am-9pm; Fri., 9am-5pm ; Sat., 9am-5pm and Sun. 12-5pm. •*Spring Flower Show*, the color photographs of Cheryl Renée Sacks, shows through March 31.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm.* Founded in 1964. •The current exhibition is Harvey Quaytman's recent paintings and Brenda Goodman's paintings. Through March 25. •Milton Resnick's *Recent Paintings* shows with Jake Berthot's *Landscape Paintings and Drawings*. April 1-May 6.

Out of the Blue Gallery
168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun. 12-7pm. This artist-owned and-operated gallery always has a variety of interesting artwork and art-related events going on. •Poetry readings take place every Saturday and the gallery hosts jazz every Wednesday.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (236-4497). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. •*Ben Frank Moss: Visionary Enchantments*, abstract oil paintings on paper, shows through April 1.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (267-9473). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun. 1pm-5pm. •Samuel Bak's work, *The Game Continues*, through March 1. •Jim Schantz's exhibit, *Refining One's Nature*, shows through April 4.

Qingping Gallery Teahouse
216 Newbury St., Boston (236-4846). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open every day, 9am-12am. This authentic Chinese teahouse—and the only local gallery to focus solely on art from China—specializes in avant-garde and contemporary antiques, teapots and furniture.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (266-3321). www.richardson-clarke.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tues.-Sat. 10am-5pm.* •American and European 19th- and 20th-century paintings, drawings and sculpture. Ongoing. •*American Painters in Venice* shows through April 30.

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (437-1518). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm. •Christina Keating's work shows through March 25. •*Pinturas Modernas*, the US debut of the work of Brazilian painter José Goncalves, shows April 6-May 1.

Barbara Singer Gallery
18 Sparks St., Cambridge (491-5525). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.barbarasingerfineart.com. *Sat. 1-4pm and by appointment.* •The work of Robert Kelly, *Gouaches and Monotypes*, shows through April 1.

Space 12 Gallery
12 Union Park St., Boston (423-9760). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed. 6-9pm; Thu.-Sat. 1-5pm. •*Pamela Sienna: wrapped*, a series of oil paintings, shows through April 15.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (450-0321). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. Artist William St. George displays his lush and colorful interpretations of Boston cityscapes, bold equestrian scenes and semi-abstract works at his recently opened gallery. •Now showing *Working Artist and Easel*, William St. George's oil paintings.

A Touch of France
173 Newbury St., Boston (247-6966). MBTA: Green line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-7pm; Sun., 12-6pm. This gallery imports contemporary French artists' works, including paintings from famous French painters: M. Tigrane, R. Kefflin, C. Ferrer and striking dried flower arrangements made near Saint Tropez.

Via Gallery
83 Newbury St., 2nd Floor (424-6200). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri. 10am-4pm. •Owen Hartford's *Treescapes*, a collection of black-and-white photography, explores the world of trees and light. Through March 24. •Maria Christina Ritz' *Sealed for Your Protection*, sculptures in glass, steel and stone, shows April 7-29.

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (536-6176). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 8am-5:30pm; Sat. 9am-4pm. Run by twin brothers Bill and Terry Vose, the gallery specializes in American paintings. •A *Winter Exhibition* of paintings from their regular collection shows throughout March. •The next exhibition is *Works on Paper Exhibition*, a guide for collectors on the selection and care of watercolors, pastels and drawings. April 17-June 3.

Zeitgeist Gallery
312 Broadway St., Cambridge (876-2182). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu.-Sun., 2pm-7pm. •The gallery displays a variety of local artists' work.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2051). Tues.-Sat. 11am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm; Closed Mondays. The Multiple is a gallery investigation that explores works of art produced more than one time. Ongoing.

Gallery One
537 Comm. Ave., Boston (437-1868). Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm. Affiliated with the New England School of Photography. A gallery devoted to displaying photography of a series of black-and-white landscape photographs, shows through March 24. •*Brooks Walsh Photographs* show March 27-April 28.

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (423-4299). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Fri., 10am-3pm; Sat., 12-5pm. •*Taking Liberty/Usvajanje Slobode*, a cultural exchange between eight members of the Mobius Artists Group and eight artists from Istria, Croatia, takes place at various venues around the city. See it here April 2.

Panopticon Gallery
187 Bay State Rd., Boston (267-8929). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford. Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm. This gallery offers fine art photographic prints and media licensing of images for print, video and stock photography.

Photographic Resource Center
602 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (353-0700). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford. Tue.-Sun., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-8pm. •Lana Z and Annik Ali display their work through March 31. •*Photography in Human Experience* features photographs dating from the 1860s to the 1920s. Through April 28.

CRAFTS

Cambridge Artists Cooperative
59A Church St., Cambridge (868-4434). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; 10am-8pm; Sun. 1-6pm. Twelve artists own and operate this gallery which features 2D design and jewelry.

Clayground
91 Hampshire St., Cambridge (661-7376). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 12-6pm; Sat. 11am-5pm. Porcelain and stone objects galore. Classes available.

Fresh Pond Clay Works
368 Huron Ave., Cambridge (492-1907). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard to Bus 72. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm. A wide range of firing techniques, from terracotta to porcelain.

Gateway Gallery
62 Harvard St., Brookline Village, Brookline (734-1577). MBTA: C Green Line to Brookline Village. Mon.-Sat., 11am-6pm. This non-profit gallery features all sorts of arts and crafts.

Infinity Gallery
24 Union Park St., Boston (423-5555). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat 11am-7pm; Sun 11am-6pm. This small gallery features Wayne Fuerst's work.

Shake the Tree Gallery
218 Washington St., Brookline (739-3505). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm; Sun. 12-4pm. The store features a mix of handmade crafts including jewelry and glass works.

Signature Gallery
Dock Square, Boston (227-4885). Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Thu., 10am-7pm; Fri. and Sat., 10am-9pm; Sun., 12-6pm. Pottery, metal and glass works.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (266-1810). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm; Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. •*International Alternative Jewelry* shows through April 30. •*Drawing the Lines: Selections from Jewelers' Sketchbooks* shows through April 28.

Recent Pastels, a collection by Marilyn Ruseckas, displays at the Chase Gallery through April 2.

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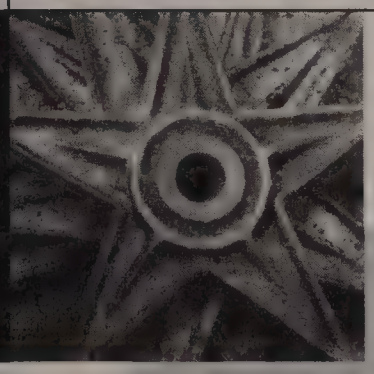

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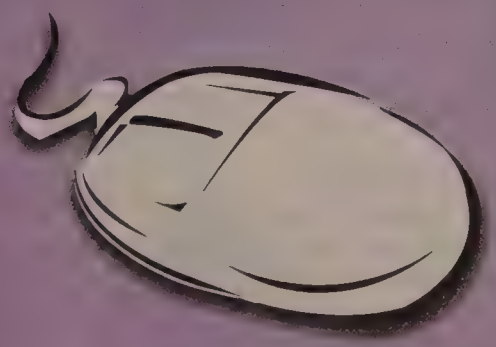

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DEAD WRONG

Lacking in its social commentary approach, *Waking the Dead* misses the mark. BY PAUL SHERMAN

Waking the Dead suffers from what you might call "Eddie and the Cruisers Syndrome." You may recall the ridiculous 1980s movie *Eddie and the Cruisers*, about a 1960s rock star who may have faked his own death because his record company and bandmates just didn't understand his ahead-of-its-time music (a movie that actually spawned a hit soundtrack album and a sequel). The most preposterous thing about it was its climactic revelation that the progressive pop music Eddie created was, essentially, psychedelic music in 1964. How brilliantly stupid! Why not just make *Amadeus* about a guy who discovers hip-hop in 1750, but suffers because he's unappreciated?

Jennifer Connelly and Billy Crudup star in Keith Gordon's *Waking the Dead.*

Had the movie come out during the Reagan administration, perhaps it might have packed a fresher punch and challenged its audience to examine itself.

The set drama in *Waking the Dead* has some of that same 20/20 hindsight that, in this case, comes off as rather bogus social commentary. Set alternately between the early 1970s and the early 1980s, *Waking* uses its characters to look at the way the idealism of the late 1960s and early 1970s lost out to the business-as-usual politics of the establishment's system. It makes its point through two lovers, a dedicated radical activist (Jennifer Connelly) working outside of the political process to help people, and an ambitious Coast Guard officer (Billy Crudup) with political goals who believes it's best to work within the system to effect positive change.

After Connelly's character dies in a politically-motivated bombing while helping Chilean political refugees, her death hangs over her lover like a dark cloud. The loss of her moral rudder affects him years later, especially during the campaign for a vacant congressional seat that makes up most of the 1980s sequences. Stripped of the idealism she represented, he can now only robotically proceed toward his goal. He offers little resistance to the Chicago political machine, led by Hal Holbrook's old-pol character, that's handpicked the young prosecutor and essentially tells him what to do. He's literally haunted by his dead lover's memory, and at many times throughout the movie believes he's hearing or seeing her, yet he doesn't know if she's dead or alive, or how to connect with her if she really is still out there.

It's hard not to see this story in symbolic terms, as a tale of, at least, the generation that came of age in the 1970s or, at most, America's swing back to conservatism in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Like Crudup's character—whose conviction is flagging in the 1980s—the generation that protested Vietnam and the country that could have learned a lesson from the ordeals of the 1960s remember their ideals and goals for a better society (which may or may not still exist) but just can't find a way to reclaim them.

The question of where the country's idealism went and how the hippies became the yuppies of the early-1980s (the most famous example being the late Jerry Rubin), was bandied about a lot after Ronald Reagan's election. Scott Spencer's novel of this story was actually published in 1986. Had the movie come out during the Reagan administration, perhaps it might have packed a fresher punch and challenged its audience to examine itself. But 15 years after the fact, it all seems rather obvious and transparent, even if the story does make you feel for Crudup's character and avoids turning him into a sell-out.

Waking the Dead also has aspirations of being a great romance, in which the love for a dead woman lives on years later in a man. Unfortunately, though, Connelly's character is too much of a saint to come across as flesh and blood, despite the actress' alluring presence. Director Keith Gordon, who's already dealt with stories of moral dilemma in such movies as *Mother Night* and *A Midnight Clear*, offers another one here, but this one's riggings are all too plain to see. iB

Waking the Dead ★★

Directed by Keith Gordon. Written by Gordon (uncredited), based on the novel by Scott Spencer. With Billy Crudup, Jennifer Connelly, Molly Parker, Paul Hipp, Janet McTeer and Hal Holbrook. Rated R. USA Films.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

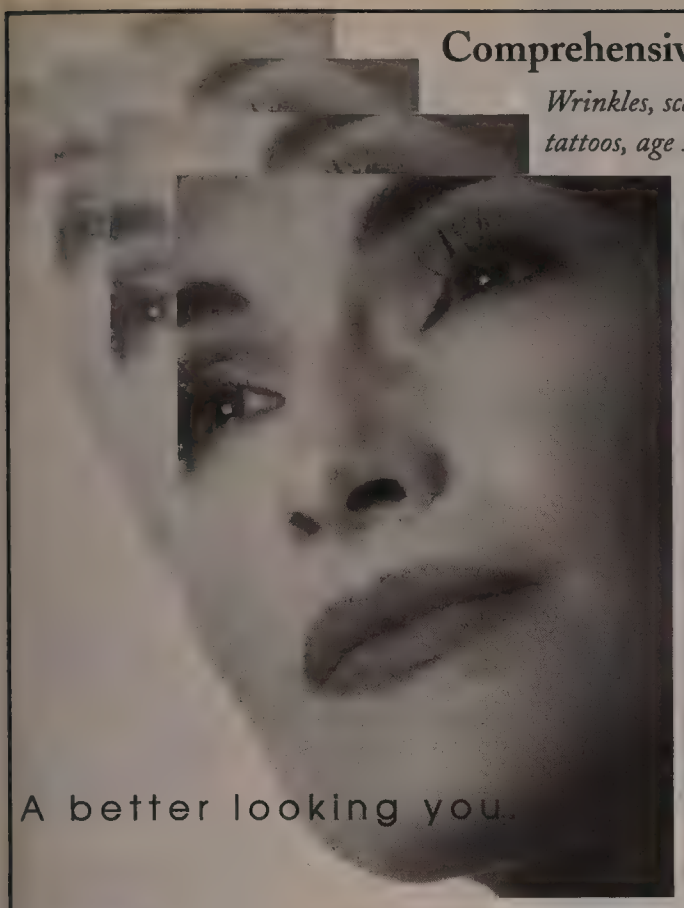
Johnny Depp stars in Polanski's *The Ninth Gate.*

American Beauty ★★
What if a studio movie co-opted the corrosive America of independent movies like *Happiness, The Ice Storm* and *Your Friends and Neighbors*? This story of two imploding families—one permissive (dad Kevin Spacey, mom Annette Bening, teen daughter Thora Birch), one authoritarian (dad Chris Cooper, mom Allison Janney, teen son Wes Bentley)—does. Like those movies, it's an ensemble in which nearly everyone is a jerk, and the contempt the movie sometimes shows for its characters makes it hard to emotionally invest yourself in them. It's admirable this attacks suburban complacency instead of celebrating it, as many mainstream movies do. But it's the cinematic equivalent of a "Mean People Suck" bumper sticker on a SUV.

Beyond the Mat ★★★½
Screenwriter Barry Blaustein—who got Imagine Entertainment to bankroll this wrestling documentary after writing hits like *The Nutty Professor*—offers a behind-the-scenes movie filled with human drama. Some of its sequences, like a visit to a small wrestling circuit or a cursory look at a star like Chyna, have been done many other times of late. But its sections focusing on Terry Funk, Jake Roberts and Mick Foley (a.k.a. Mankind) are the most memorable. Funk is the legend who can't call it quits; Roberts is the one-time star who's now a personal wreck (the scenes of him trying to reconcile with his estranged daughter are incredibly painful); and Foley is the living contradiction whose willingness to take punishment for the sake of a good show is matched only by his conscientiousness as a husband and father. As filmmaking, this can't compare to *Wrestling with Shadows*, Paul Jay's chronicle of Bret "The Hitman" Hart's last days in the World Wrestling Federation, but few documentaries on any subject reach the intimate heights of Blaustein's.

Cinéma Vérité: Defining the Moment ★★★
It's rather conventional, but this National Film Board of Canada documentary is a solid overview of the late-1950s and early-1960s movement in France, England, the US and Canada to make non-fiction filmmaking less clinical and more slice-of-life. Many of the folks involved in that effort—like Ricky Leacock (one-time head of MIT's Media department), D.A. Pennebaker, Dorchester-born Albert Maysles, Cambridge-based Fred Wiseman and Robert Drew—are here, and the film includes clips from classics like *Primary* and *Crisis*. Better still, this new film, at Harvard Film Archive on March 24, kicks off HFA's Cinéma Vérité series that includes revivals of such landmarks as D.A. Pennebaker's Dylan docu *Don't Look Back* (March 27, 30), Albert and David Maysles' *Salesman* (March 28-29) and Wiseman's *Titicut Follies* (March 28-29).

East-West ★★½
Slow and deliberate, but often involving docudrama recounting the historical tale of a couple who takes advantage of the Soviet Union's offer of post-World War



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II amnesty to Russians who want to return home. But the offer is a trick, with many of the returnees being shot or imprisoned upon their return. The movie concentrates on a French-born wife (Sandrine Bonnaire) and her Soviet-born husband (Oleg Menchikov) who are spared only because he's a doctor, and who endure a decade-long struggle to get her and their son (Ruben Tapiero) back to the West. From Indochine director Regis Wargnier.

Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai ★★★

Writer-director Jim Jarmusch's latest offers his usual taste for outsider characters and eclectic sensibilities. But his latest—about a hitman (Forest Whitaker) who lives by the tenets of a samurai warrior—has more bounce than previous films like *Dead Man*. Punctuated by a mood-enhancing score by The RZA of Wu-Tang Clan, this tale of a black hitman suddenly becoming the target of the Italian-American mob is refreshingly engaging and features a quietly powerful performance by Whitaker.

The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg ★★★

Anyone who thinks there aren't heroes in movies anymore should check out Aviva Kemper's truly inspiring profile of the late Detroit Tigers slugger. The Bronx-born Jew—who hit 58 homers in 1938—dealt with anti-Semitism and his role as an icon for a generation of Jews with grace and modesty (Greenberg was also one of the first ballplayers to enlist in the military for World War II and, in a small way, paved the way for Jackie Robinson). Filled with newsreel footage and interview clips of Greenberg, this is a classic American tale.

The Next Best Thing ★

It's one thing for a movie to be totally insipid when it's a lousy, sitcom-style comedy, as in this story of a yoga instructress (Madonna) and her gay best friend (Rupert Everett), who have a son together. But it's another for it to continue to be as shallow during a more dramatic second half that includes a custody battle after she falls in love with another man (Bejamin Bratt) and gets engaged. On almost every level—dialogue, performances, tone, resolution—this one comes up empty.

The Ninth Gate ★★

It's slow and it makes little sense, yet for much of the film director Roman Polanski and star Johnny Depp make this a mildly involving, old-school thriller about a rare-book dealer who's asked to authenticate a medieval tome supposedly written in collaboration with the devil. When the New Yorker travels to Europe to compare his client's copy with the other two still in existence, he finds his life and the lives of those he talks to suddenly endangered. Depp's typically credible performance bolsters the *Maltese-Falcon*-meets-*Rosemary's Baby* mix, yet ultimately the prince-of-darkness story behind the book is just too much gibberish to hold the movie together.

Reindeer Games ★★

Credibility is almost non-existent as the neo-noir and heist-gone-wrong collide in John Frankenheimer's latest movie. Ben Affleck stars as a just-released convict who tells his just-killed cellmate's dishy pen pal girlfriend (Charlize Theron) he's her man. Trouble is her gun-toting trucker brother (Gary Sinise) wants Affleck to help him rob the casino where his cellmate used to work. Rather than accumulate any actual suspense or sense of danger, this movie just goes for piling on one plot twist after another, to the point that nothing matters. And, too often, it's the sort of thriller that depends on too many people doing too many stupid things.

Whatever It Takes ★½

Hollywood whitewashes teen angst in this romantic comedy in which the highly attractive Shane West and Marla Sokoloff (TV's *The Practice*) are cast as high-school outsiders. Why these lookers would be outcasts is beyond reasonable thinking and beyond this movie, which never convinces you they aren't "popular kid" material. The plot is a Cyrano-goes-to-high-school drag in which West's character helps a jock woo his pal Sokoloff, only to realize he's in love with her. Nothing here overcomes the transparent predictability.

Wonder Boys ★★★

For once, Michael Douglas does not play the most together, focused person in a movie, and it's a refreshing change. Here, he's a dissipated novelist and writing professor whose marriage has just imploded, who's having an affair with his department head's wife (Frances McDormand), whose latest novel is years overdue and who finds himself overly involved in the lives of students like those played by Tobey Maguire and Katie Holmes. Curtis Hanson's first film since *LA Confidential* is a mature story of the messiness of everyday life, with vividly-drawn characters, a very able cast and spry dialogue by screenwriter Steve Kloves (*The Fabulous Baker Boys*), who adapted Michael Chabon's novel.

In *The Next Best Thing*, Rupert Everett and Madonna attempt to form a modern-day family.

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Cinemas
214 Harvard Ave. (277-2140). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
Trapelo Rd. (484-1706). Red Line to Harvard, 73 bus.

BOSTON

Boston Film • Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (536-1540). Green Line to Hynes.
Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (536-5400). Green Line to Copley.
Cheri
50 Dalton St. (536-2870). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.
Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.
Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.
Museum Of Science, Omni Theater
Science Park (723-2500). Green Line to Science Park.
Nickelodeon
606 Comm. Ave. (424-1500). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford St.
Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle.
Coolidge Corner
290 Harvard St. (734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theater
40 Brattle St. (876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.
Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (495-4700). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.
Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Sq. (494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.
Loews/Sony Theater
10 Church St. (864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Sq.
Somerville Theater
55 Davis Sq. (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston. (277-2500). B Green Line to Chestnut Hill.
West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (964-6060).

Alternatives & Revivals

Advice to Contributors
Submit film listings by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Although film listings are correct at the time of publication, they are subject to change. Double check showtimes by calling the theater or 333-FILM.

Boston Public Library

The New Irish Cinema

•March 27 **The Boxer** *1997.* Danny Flynn (Daniel Day-Lewis) returns to Belfast after fourteen years in prison determined to rebuild his life as a boxer. As he starts over, a romance is rekindled with his former girlfriend Maggie (Emily Watson), whose husband is still in prison.

Brattle Theater

Most shows are $7, including double features.

Special Engagements—Fridays and Saturdays

•March 24 and 25, 4:15pm, 6pm and 8pm (Sat. matinee 2:30pm) **Moment of Innocence** *1947.* This humorous work centers on a turning point and personal event in the life of the director, Mohsen Makhmalbaf.

•March 24 and 25, 10pm **The Celebration** *1998.* A harrowing tale, the story centers on a family united by celebration yet torn apart by tragedy.

•March 31 and April 1, 5pm, 7:30pm, Sat. mat. 2:30pm **After Life** *1998.* Directed by Hirokazu Kore-eda, this film takes place at a mysterious palace where the newly dead are interviewed and are asked by heavenly bureaucrats to choose one memory to carry with them forever.

•March 31 and April 1, 10pm **Run Lola Run** *1998.* When her boyfriend loses a big mess of ill-gotten gains, Lola will do anything to save his life—experiencing alternate fateful events.

Paramount Parade—Sundays

•March 26, 3pm and 7pm **Harold and Maude** *1971.* One of the most bizarrely romantic films of all time, this black comedy is about the romance between a death obsessed young man and a swinging older woman.

•March 26, 1pm and 5:10pm **Funny Face** *1957.* Fred Astaire plays a photographer who turns mousy Hepburn into a Paris supermodel.

•April 2, 3pm and 7:45pm **Breakfast at Tiffany's** *1961.* Audrey Hepburn is the exotic Holly Golightly, a small town girl gone mod in Manhattan.

•April 2, 12:30pm, 5:20pm and 9:55pm **Roman Holiday** *1953.* Audrey Hepburn plays a princess who goes on an official visit to Rome and slips away incognito, falling in love with a newspaperman.

The Lady Thrillers—Mondays

•March 27, 5:15pm, 7:30pm and 9:45pm **The Third Man** *1949.* This is the story of an American pulp-fiction writer who arrives in post-war Europe to learn that an old friend has been killed in an accident.

•April 3, 7:15pm **The Talented Mr. Ripley** *1999.* Tom Ripley stumbles into the world of the filthy rich and finds himself traveling to Europe to retrieve a wayward son.

•April 3, 4:45pm and 9:50pm **Purple Noon** *1960.* This film is a French version of *The Talented Mr. Ripley,* where Ripley is more unassuming and much more charismatic.

Celluloid Passport—Tuesdays

•March 28, 5:15pm, 7:30pm and 9:45pm **Baraka** *1993.* This film transcends geographic and language barriers in a collage of images, sounds and music.

•April 4, 5:15pm, 7:30pm and 9:45pm **Genghis Blues** *1999.* Paul Pena, a blind Creole singer-guitarist, accepts an invitation to participate in an annual throat singing competition and begins a fascinating musical adventure through Central Asia.

Recent Raves—Wednesdays

•March 22, 5:30pm and 7:45pm **American Movie** *1999.* This film traces the trails and travails of self-styled movie maven Mark Borchardt and his schemes for funding his autobiographical film.

•March 22, 10pm **Coven** *1997.* A writer who is battling writer's block and a drinking problem joins a 12-step program and finds that his fellow addicts are witches and zombies.

•March 29, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30pm **Romance** *1999.* A highly controversial and sexually explicit film of a young French woman and her journey to find intimacy and an erotic connection that challenges her own physical and emotional limits.

All About Almódovar—Thursdays

•March 23, 7:30pm **Matador** *1986.* A sex comedy about the impossibility of love betwen two matadors—who have some unusual sexual tendencies.

•March 23, 5:30pm and 9:30pm **Tie Me Up, Tie Me Down** *1990.* An escaped mental patient kidnaps a former porn star/junkie and ties her to a bed, but all he really wants is to get married and have children.

•March 30, 7:30pm **Live Flesh** *1997.* One of Almódovar's latest, this is a tragi-comic tale of revenge, redemption, hope and the ways of fate.

•March 30, 5:30pm and 9:30pm **Labyrinth of Passion** *1982.* A gay Islamic terrorist runs around the streets of Madrid with an usual cast of lunatics.

Coolidge Corner Theater

Feature Engagements

•Opening March 17 **Mifune** *1999.* Director Søren Kragh-Jacobsen's film intertwines the lives of a newly married Copenhagen businessman and a prostitute. Shot on digital video using only natural lighting.

•March 31-April 13 **Spike & Mike's 2000 Classic Festival of Animation.** A tradition at the Coolidge, the festival includes animated favorites such as local animator Fablevision's *The Blue Shoe*, 1999 Academy Award winner *Bunny*, Aardman Animation's *Hum Drum* and many other delightful surprises.

Coolidge Special Series

•Fridays through May **Coolidge Shorts.** This collection of short films by New England artists precedes the evening's features. Films include Dianne Bellino's **Here's What I Could Find** (through March 23) and John Mancini's **Specific Gravity** (March 24-30).

Midnight Movies—'80s Teen Flicks

•March 17 and 18, 12am **Ferris Bueller's Day Off** *1986.* In John Hughes' classic, Matthew Broderick plays high-school legend Ferris Bueller, who perfects the art of senior skip day by faking sick.

•March 24 and 25, 12am **16 Candles** *1984.* Molly Ringwald lives her worst nightmare—it's nearly her sixteenth birthday and her parents seem to have forgotten it all.

Harvard Film Archive

The Power of Images and Illusions

•April 3, 9pm **Effi Briest** *1939.* This is the tale of a woman who forsakes respectability and obligation in the name of personal happiness.

•April 4, 9pm **La Habanera** *1937.* This film portrays one Scandinavian woman's foreign affair, her romance with an exotic landscape, a supremely seductive song and a Latin lover.

Italian Cinema

•March 22, 6:30pm **Mamma Roma** *1962.* This study of the sub-proletariat of Rome is directed by Pier Paolo Pasolini.

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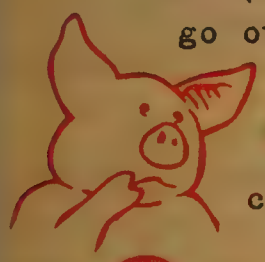

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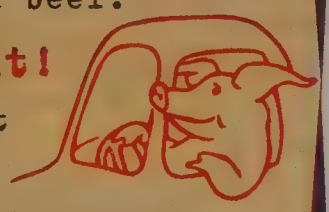

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Michele Monique Reis stars in *Flowers of Shanghai*, at the MFA March 24 and 25.

The Films of Daniel Schmid

•March 22, 8:45pm **The Amateurs** *1991.* This is a compilation of early family, tourist and publicity films from the years 1912 through 1931.

•March 22, 8:45pm **Notre-Dame de la Croisette** *1981.* Shot discreetly amidst the festivities of the '81 Cannes International Film Festival, this film stars a French actress who plays a lone film lover adrift in the confusion of attending her first film festival.

•March 25, 7pm **Hecate** *1982.* This movie is about projection, possession, jealousy and destruction.

•March 25, 9pm **Jenatsch** *1987.* This is the story of 17th-century Swiss freedom fighter, Georg Jenatsch, as well as an examination of time and the ability to navigate it.

•March 26, 3pm **The Written Face** *1995.* Schmid's tribute to Kabuki theater, the time-honored Japanese art of stylized drama highlighted with singing and dancing, documents an important art form that's beginning to disappear.

•March 26, 6pm **Tonight or Never** *1972.* This film presents a parable based on the traditions of the Esterhazy family from 16th-century Prague.

•March 26, 8pm **Violanta** *1977.* A woman rules a mountain valley and refuses to loosen her grip, although she has lived a lie all her life.

Close Encounters

•March 25, 4pm **Wise Blood** *1980.* This is a tale of hell and salvation in its portrayal of a young man who returns from the army, stages a private rebellion and establishes the Church of Truth Without Jesus Christ.

Premieres

•March 24, 9pm **Defining the Moment** *1999.* This unique documentary investigates the history and contemporary legacy of the revolution in nonfiction filmmaking known as *cinéma vérité.*

•March 27 and 30, 7pm **Lonely Boy** *1962.* The story focuses on the teen hysteria generated by the young pop singer Paul Anka at the beginning of the '60s.

•March 27 and 30, 7pm **Happy Mother's Day** *1963.* This film is an amused look at the media circus created by the birth of quintuplets to the Fisher family in Aberdeen, South Dakota.

•March 27 and 30, 9pm **Don't Look Back** *1967.* This documetary captures the metamorphosis of the young Bob Dylan from Robert Zimmerman, the folk singer, to his withdrawn rock star persona in '65.

•March 28, 7pm and March 29, 9pm **Salesman** *1969.* This film covers six weeks in the life of four traveling Bible salesmen.

Irish Film Festival

•March 31, 8pm **2x4** *1998.* An uncompromising look at Irish manhood abroad.

•April 1, 2pm **The Great Wheel of Life** *1998.* This documentary portrays the Irish experience in America at its harshest points.

•April 1, 2pm **Mad Dog Coll** *1999.* This documentary traces the growing infamy of Vincent Coll, one of the most prominent gangsters during Prohibition in New York and shows the embodiment of Irish success in America.

•April 1, 4pm **Of Stars and Shamrocks** *1995.* The detailed history of Jewish and Irish immigration to Boston at the turn of the last century is portrayed.

•April 1, 4pm **An Irish-American Story** *1997.* A celebration of memory and family, this documentary chronicles the reminiscences of 96-year-old Mary Crehan Dillon, filmmaker Cob Carlson's grandmother, who emigrated to the US in 1911.

•April 1, 4pm **Background Action** *1999.* Director Jim Lane explores Boston-Irish tribalism.

•April 1, 7pm **Three Brothers** *1998.* Director Fergus Tighe's portrait of the Quinn family includes actor Aidan, director Paul and cinematographer Declan.

•April 1, 7pm **Clash of the Ash** *1987.* An accomplished film, it is about a young teenager's decision to leave his small town and emigrate to London in search of a freer but uncertain existence.

•April 1, 9:45pm **The Rising of the Moon** *1957.* This film is based on the works of Frank O'Connor, Lady Gregory and Michael McHugh.

•April 2, 3pm **Luke** *1999.* Republicanism, trade unionism, the radical political consciousness of Ireland in the late '60s and early '70s, and traditional Irish music are all interwoven in this documentary about Ireland's foremost traditional musician, Luke Kelly.

•April 2, 6pm **Guests of the Nation** *1935.* A sober and compassionate critique of obsessive Republicanism in post-independence Ireland.

•April 2, 6pm **Larry** *1959.* Set in the '50s, this film relates the conflict between a young boy and his father over the shared object of their desire—their mother and wife, respectively.

•April 2, 8pm **Crossmaheart** *1998.* This film concerns the misadventures of Miller, a disgraced Belfast journalist who is sent to a small town to replace a fellow reporter who has mysteriously disappeared.

Topics in Film: Five Directors (Part II)

•April 3, 7pm **My Life to Live** *1962.* Jean-Luc Godard directs this documentary about Nana S., a girl from the provinces who can't pay her rent and is initiated into prostitution in Paris.

Museum of Fine Arts

Most film screenings are $6.

Premiere Engagements

•March 23, 8pm; March 24, 6pm; March 25, 2pm; March 29, 8:15pm; March 30, 6pm **The City** *1998.* Director David Riker presents four separate stories of present-day immigrant life.

Boston Film Artists Encores

•March 25, 12:45pm **Once Removed** *1999.* This film tells the story of filmmaker Julie Mallozzi's trip to China to meet her mother's family after a 50-year separation.

•March 25, 11am **Iditarod...A Far Distant Place** *1999.* In a courageous journey of 1,000 miles, three mushers brave the Iditarod Sled Dog Race across Alaska.

Director of the Decade: Hou Hsiao-Hsien

•March 23, 5:45pm **Goodbye South, Goodbye** *1996.* This film follows the misadventures of three lost hoodlums in Taiwan's sprawling suburbs.

•March 24, 7:45pm; March 25, 3:45pm **Flowers of Shanghai** *1998.* An exquisite film set in the ornate brothels of 19th-century Shanghai, it portrays the elaborate rituals of callers and their flower girls.

•March 29, 5:45pm **A Time to Live, a Time to Die** *1985.* This film depicts a family after its 1947 emigration from mainland China to a small village in Taiwan. •March 30, 7:45pm **Good Men, Good Women** *1995.* This film blends three stories into one stunning ensemble.

Weston on Film

•April 1-May 13. Four films about the great American photographer Edward Weston screen.

Museum of Science

Screened daily at the Omni Theatre. Call ahead for times.

•Through March. **Mysteries of Egypt.** Explore the secrets of the civilization that built a fascinating empire. This *National Geographic* film brings ancient Egypt to life with aerial views of pyramids, sweeping panoramas of the Nile and the treasures of ancient royalty.

Special Events

•March 30-May 4. This program features five German documentaries and a feature film titled **A Look to the East-Cinematic Discoveries in a Strange Yet Familiar World**. *Goethe Institut Boston, 170 Beacon St., Boston (262-6050). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Free admission.*

New England Film and Video Festival

•March 31 and April 1. Organized by the Boston Film/Video Foundation, this is the region's primary event to celebrate independent film and video artists creating work in the New England states. Films include **Right Now Takes No Time At All** by Thomas Fondano, **Border Line... Family Pictures and Dog Days** by C.A. Griffith, **Fruitlands** by Vasiliki Katsarou and **A Dyslexic Family Diary** by Dorothy Tod. A panel discussion and awards program also takes place April 1. *At the Coolidge Corner Theatre and the MFA.*

education

Advice to Contributors

Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Education. Or e-mail information to education@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

CLASSES/LECTURES

Wednesday, March 22

Only in America? An Approach to Public Housing

Boston Public Library, Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (951-1433, ext. 221). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6pm. Free. Lecturer **D. Michael Hicks** is president of the Boston Society of Architects and principal of the Boston architecture firm of Domenech Hicks & Krockmalnic, one of the leaders in public housing in this region as well as in Puerto Rico. Hicks shares his deep and passionate interest in public housing in America.

Women and Leadership in the New Millennium

Royal Sonesta Hotel, Cambridge (876-8750). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. 11:30am. $30. Lecturer **Shannon O'Brien** is serving her first term as treasurer and receiver general of Massachusetts.

Travel for Free

The College Club, 44 Comm. Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. •March 22, 6:30-9:30pm, $21. **Free Travel and Paid Vacations.** Join travel consultant **Gina Henry** as she discusses ways to enjoy free travel. •*March 23, 6:30-9:30pm. $27.* **Teaching English Overseas.** Learn about teaching opportunities all over the world.

Two If By Sea: The Future of Transportation by Water in Boston

Hale and Dorr LLP, 60 State St., Boston (426-1885). 5:30-7:30pm. $35. This panel investigates ways in which we will get around Boston beyond 2000, featuring experts on water transportation, including **Richard Nolan** of Boston Harbor Cruises and **Charles Norris**, drafter of the BRA's plan for water transportation.

Who is Minding Our Food? Money, Science and the Public Welfare

Cambridge Forum, the First Parish, 3 Church St., Cambridge (495-2727). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. Free. **George Hyatt**, Cambridge-based scientist and biotech entrepreneur, lectures.

Thursday, March 23

National Conference for Community and Justice Leadership Program

One International Place, High St., Ropes & Gray, 26th Floor, Boston (227-9155, ext. 19). 8am. The NCCJ will hold an information session for Lead Boston, the city's premier leadership program, which trains a more diverse, inclusive and informed civic leadership.

Friday, March 24

Biodevastation 2000

Northeastern University, Boston (877-9RESIST). March 24-26. This conference will bring together scientists, activists, students, farmers, consumers and community leaders from around the world to highlight biotechnology's growing threat to our health, the environment and the future of our farms.

Saturday, March 25

Passport to France Travel Fair

French Library & Cultural Center, 53 Marlborough St., Bosotn (266-4351). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 10am-5pm. $12. Dreaming of a trip to France? This travel fair will offer multi-media presentations and information on travel to France, including accommodations, attractions and travel and communication options.

Women's History Seminar

Unitarian Universalist Association, 25 Beacon St., Boston (742-2100, ext. 652). 10am-5pm. $20. This day-long event includes a panel discussion with humanities scholars **June Edwards** (State University of New York), **Marjorie Feld** (Brandeis University), **Maude Jenkins** and **Susan Swan** (UMass/Boston), and **Conrad E. Wright** (Mass. Historical Society).

Tuesday, March 28

The Campaign for Economic Literacy

Ford Hall Forum, Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (373-5800). MBTA: Orange or Blue Lines to Downtown Crossing. 6:30pm. Free. Not only does economic illiteracy impact a nation's productivity and overall standard of living, but it also leaves its citizens ill-prepared to become wise consumers, investors and productive members of the work force. **Robert F. Duvall**, president and CEO of the National Council on Economic Education, will discuss some of the bold initiatives his organization is taking as part of a comprensive, multi-year campaign to educate the public.

Tuesday, March 28

Internet Commerce Expo

The World Trade Center, 164 Northern Ave., Boston (800-667-4423). www.iceexpo.com. *March 28-29, 10am-5pm; March 30, 10am-4pm.* This expo will offer venture capitalists, business analysts, senior executives and application developers a comprehensive resource. •March 28, 9:30-10:30am. The Future of Business as it Relates to e-commerce. Speaker is **George Gilder**, founding editor of Forbes ASAP, president of Gilder Technology Group Inc. •March 29, 9-10am. eNetworks: Pervasive Networkingnad the Future of eBusiness. Speaker is **Eric Behamou**, CEO of 3Com Corp. •March 30, 9-10am. e-business: You've Won Round 1, What Do You Do Next? Speaker is **Eric Greenberg**, chairman and founder of Scient.

Wednesday, March 29

World Marine Millennial Conference

Peabody Essex Museum, East India Square, Salem (978-745-9500). March 29-April 1. $135 (one day). Leaders in the field of maritime studies explore the role of the sea in shaping human affairs. The keynote speaker is Oxford University's **Felipe Fernandez-Armesto**, author of *Millennium: A History of the Last Thousand Years.*

Thursday, March 30

The F-Word: The Politics of Fatherhood

Cambridge Forum, the First Parish, 3 Church St., Cambridge (495-2727). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. Free. The Reverend **Eugene Rivers** of the Ella J. Baker House and Boston's Ten Point Coalition discusses the impact of fatherless homes on today's youth.

Pioneering Emerging Markets

Baytower Room, 60 State St., 33rd floor, Boston (720-3622). 12pm. $55 (includes lunch). The British American Business Council of New England presents a lecture by **Tomy Tierney**, VP and general manager of emerging markets for Genzyme. She'll focus on innovative methods worldwide companies must use to develop markets in emerging and changing nations.

Rev. Eugene Rivers discusses the impact of fatherless homes at Cambridge Forum, March 30.

Women in Sports

Napoli Room, Gosman Sports Center, Brandeis University, Waltham (781-736-3042). Commuter Rail to Brandeis/Roberts. 5-9pm. An evening of speakers and panelists that will examine issues surrounding women in sports, such as body image, representations of female athletes in the media nd a review of Title IX.

Sunday, April 2

Robert Frost: The Nation's Poet

Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (929-4571). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. 2-4pm. Free. Poet, novelist and professor at Middlebury College, **Jay Parini,** will offer his analysis of the final years of one of this century's greatest poets, Robert Frost.

Monday, April 3

Environmentalism and Democracy in the 21st Century

Longfellow Hall, Appian Way, Cambridge (495-0740). 6pm. Free. **William Shutkin,** MIT professor of urban studies and planning and president of New Ecology Inc., will speak about his book, *The Land That Could Be: Environmentalism and Democracy in the 21st Century.*

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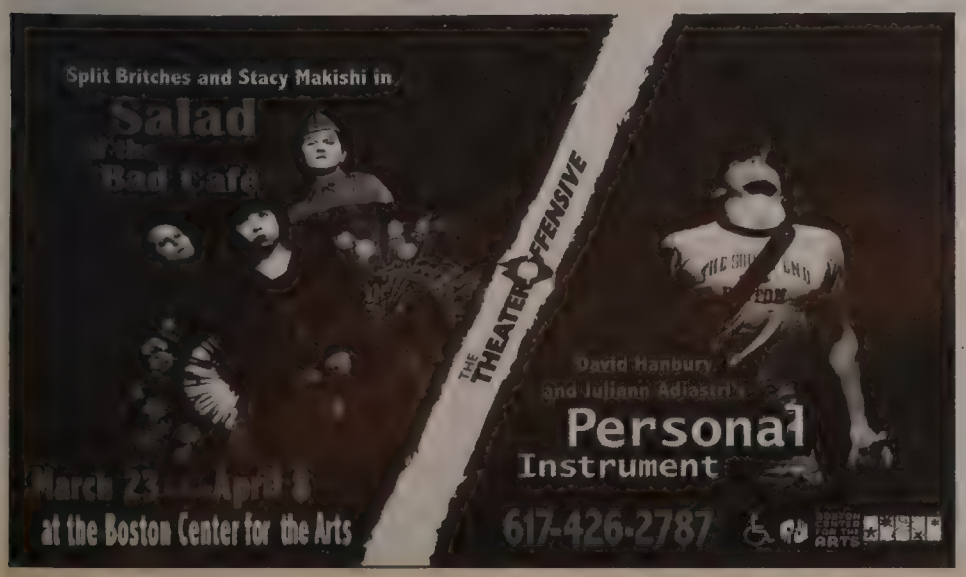

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READINGS & SIGNINGS

Wednesday, March 22

West Branch of the Public Library
40 College Ave., Somerville (628-2313). MBTA: Red Line to Davis Square. 7pm. Free admission. These two poets delve down into the hearts and habits of men. **Ed Meek**, an English teacher at Curry College, reads from *Walk Out*, in which he explores man's relationship with nature. Rare book and fine art dealer **Rufus Goodwin** shares from his book, *Poets From 42nd Street*.

Thursday, March 23

Borders Bookshop
85 Worcester Rd., Framingham (508-875-2321). 7pm. Free admission. The increasingly popular story of the Biblical figure Dinah, daughter of patriarch Jacob, is brought to life in **Anita Diamant**'s *The Red Tent*, originally published in 1997. Join Diamant tonight to celebrate her novel's success.

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (236-7421). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free admission. We've come a long way since Galileo, and gazing at the stars has become quite a different thing since the computer age. Join author **Jeff Foust** in a discussion of his book, *Astronomer's Computer Companion*, a high-tech look at stargazing.

Friday, March 24

Biodevastation 2000
Northeastern University, Blackman Auditorium in the Ell Building, 360 Huntington Ave., Boston (373-4304). MBTA: E Green Line to Northeastern or Orange Line to Mass. Ave. 7pm. See **Vandana Shiva** on tour and celebrate Earth Day a little early with the book *Stolen Harvest: The Hijacking of the Global Food Supply*.

Borders Books and Music
10-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Orange or Blue Lines to State St. 12:30pm. Free admission. Psychiatrist **Dr. Judith Orloff** discovered that she could heal and guide others in self-diagnosis using her psychic gifts and encouraging the power of intuition. Tonight she talks about her new book, *A Guide to Intuitive Healing*, which offers a practical framework for her theory.

Kate's Mystery Books
2211 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (491-2660). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. 6pm. Free admission. It's the first of the Beacon Hill Mystery Series, and the murders take place on the cobblestone streets of Victorian Boston. Author **Cynthia Peale**'s *The Death of Colonel Mann* takes place in 19th-century Boston, where a murder places the protagonist into a foggy, dangerous and suspecting predicament.

Saturday, March 25

Spoken Word and Music
Out of the Blue Gallery, 168 Brookline St., Cambridge (781-320-19010). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $3. This spoken word and music event features music by Rob Gonzalez and his band, spoken word with Nola Kelley and others as well as an open mic session with several featured performers.

Vox Pop Poetry Night
The Blacksmith House, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm and 10pm, $10, $5 seniors. They deem it "Polyphonic Poetry and Musical Ekstacy" and it's a bold new concept in poetry and performance. Polyphonic poems are set to music from some of Boston's greatest world musicians, weaving Middle Eastern doumek, West African kora and Cuban guitar styles with jazz and blues.

Sunday, March 26

Amazon Super Slam
Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Inman Square, Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm, $8. Whatever you're looking for you're bound to find it here. **Ren Jender** hosts this evening of slammers, cash prize competitions and dancing for women and their friends—set to tunes by DJ Zealot.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). MBTA: Green D Line to Newton Highlands. 2pm. Free admission. All you need is a little music, some women, song and poetry and you've got this evening, titled "Women, Myths and Dreams." Soprano **Kelly Demers** and pianist **Janna Bruene** do it their own unique way in a concert of Schubert and Strauss songs set to Scottish poems and prose pieces by Dorothy Parker.

Monday, March 27

Blacksmith House Poetry Series
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8:15pm. $3. **Alan Shapiro** reads his contemporary poetry from his new book, *The Dead, Alive and Busy*.

Boston University Author Series
Barnes and Noble at Boston University, 660 Beacon St., Boston (236-7421). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7pm. Free admission. Calling all those who've always been interested in the ins and outs of the FBI. Join author **Arthur Hulnick** as he discusses his book *Fixing the Spy Machine: Preparing American Intelligence for the Twenty-First Century*.

Susan Sontag speaks about *In America*, April 4.

Tuesday, March 28

Community Writers Series
O'Neil Branch Library, 70 Rindge Ave., Cambridge (349-4032). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. Free admission. Mingle with the local literati at this community writers' series event featuring **Kathleen Aguero** and **Alisa Wolf**.

Maeve Binchy Discussion Series
Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 1 Worcester Rd., Framingham (508-626-2823). 7:30pm. Free admission. Tonight's discussion series continues with *Light A Penny Candle*. Bestselling author Maeve Binchy's debut novel traces the chaotic events of World War II following a shy young English girl in Ireland.

Wednesday, March 29

De Vive Voix
French Library and Cultural Center, Cafe Theatre, 53 Marlborough St. Boston (266-4351). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 6:30pm. Free admission. **Emmanuel Collin**, actor and artistic director of the library, performs a theatrical and poetic reading of the works of the great French literature legacy **Victor Hugo**. Hugo is known for his unique "covers" of masterpieces such as *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and *Les Miserables*, through which his versatile talent, longevity and controversial political involvement shine.

Harvard Medical Coop Author Series
333 Longwood Ave., Boston (236-7421). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 12:30pm. Free admission. Author **Jerome Groopman, M.D.** signs his book, *Second Opinions: Stories of Intuition and Choice in the Changing World of Medicine*.

Newtonville Books
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Free admission. Call for reservations. Harbor Lights author **Theodore Weesner** reads from his new book tonight, followed by a signing session. Weesner's previous works include *The Car Thief* and *Novemberfest*.

Thursday, March 30

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
279 Harvard Ave., Brookline (522-9787). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 8pm. Seven poets of the 12 included in the new poetry chapbook *Ordinary Time* reads from their work. The chapbook grew from a summer '99 writers' workshop sponsored by the Writing Program at UMass/Boston.

Contemporary Romantic Fiction
Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 1 Worcester Rd., Framingham (508-626-2823). 7:30pm. Free admission. Join in tonight's discussion of **Niall Williams**' *Four Letters of Love: A Novel*, a book rooted in the Irish language and landscape.

Friday, March 31

Singing Bone Press Authors
Christ Church, 10 Garden St., Cambridge (628-2313). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. $5. A group of diverse and unique urban voices read from their work. These poets will be included in Singing Bone Press' anthology, *City of Poets*, due out in this summer. The reading is in support of the folks who were displaced by the houses crisis. Poets include **Jack Powers, Don DiVecchio, Richard Cambridge, Richard Wilhelm, Sue Sullivan, Joanne Holdridge, Linda Haviland Conte, Aldo Tambellini, Askia M. Toure, Douglas Holder** and more.

Monday, April 3

French Library and Cultural Center
53 Marlborough St., Boston (266-4351). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 7pm, $8members, $12 non-members. Poet and pianist blend to bring you this salon-like presentation. **Nicole Eysseric** returns from Paris after a sold out performance here a few years ago with her thoughtful, beautiful poetry interspersed with commentaries by piano pieces from Bach, Mozart, Chopin and others. Actor **Bruno Balp**, also from Paris, performs Eysseric's live poetry.

Harvard Book Store Author Event
Harvard Graduate School of Education, Askwith Hall in Longfellow Hall, 13 Appian Way, Cambridge (495-0740). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Earth Day isn't technically until April 22, but shouldn't Earth Day really be every day? Jump the gun a bit with **William Shutkin** as he reads from his book, *The Land That Could Be*.

Stone Soup Revue
The State House, The Nurses Hall, 2nd Floor, Boston (227-0845). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park St. 12pm. Free admission. Make "Stone Soup" your first course for lunch and celebrate National Poetry Month with the Stone Soup Poets including **Jack Powers, Lainie Senechal, Elizabeth Mckim** and **Michael Zack**.

Tuesday, April 4

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard Ave., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Somerville poet and *Pressed Wafer* editor **Joseph Torra** reads from *Keep Watching the Sky* and Boston poet **Diane Wald** reads from *Lucid Suitcase*.

Harvard Book Store
Harvard Graduate School of Education, Askwith Hall in Longfellow Hall, 6 Appian Way, Cambridge (495-0740). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free admission. World-renown author **Susan Sontag** speaks about her latest work, *In America*.

Newtonville Books Author Series
296 Walnut St., Newtonville (244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Free admission. Join **Fred Dillen** and **Chris Tilgman** in short story readings from their works. *Fool* is Dillen's latest novel and Tilgman's latest is *The Way We Run*.

ONGOING

Agape, Tuesdays
Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (266-6710). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8-10pm. Every Tuesday, this somewhat sophisticated poetry group gathers to share versions of their latest work. Everyone is welcome.

Cantab Lounge, Wednesdays
738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8-10pm. $3. Wednesday nights at the Cantab always packs in more than 30 poets in just two hours, first at an open mike, followed by a featured poet and a slam.

Club Passim, Tuesdays
47 Palmer St., Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. $5. All open mike fanatics must experience this open mike night—a training ground for up-and-coming performers, poets and storytellers. Sign up Tuesdays, 7:30pm.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Night, Sundays
1667 Mass Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. $4 cover. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes every Sunday to the featured poet of the week.

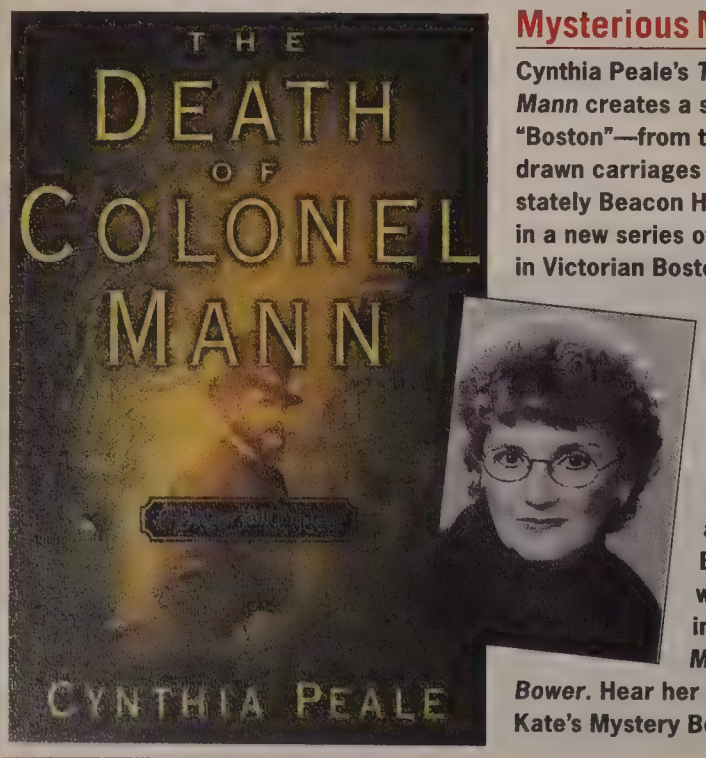
Stone Soup Poetry Night, Mondays
Zeitgeist Gallery, 312 Broadway St., Cambridge (227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. $3. An ever-changing lineup of authors followed by an open mike session.

Bestsellers

HARDCOVER FICTION
1. **Bridget Jones Edge of Reason** by Helen Fielding
2. **Harry Potter & the Chamber of Secrets** by J.K. Rowling
3. **Brethren** by John Grisham
4. **Beowulf** by Seamus Heaney
5. **Harry Potter & the Prisoner of Azkaban** by J.K. Rowling
6. **Daughter of Fortune** by Isabel Allende
7. **Make Way for Ducklings** by Robert McCloskey
8. **Conspiracy of Paper** by David Liss
9. **Sick Puppy** by Carl Hiaasen
10. **City of God** by E.L. Doctorow

HARDCOVER NON-FICTION
1. **The Heartbreaking Work of a Staggering Genius** by Dave Eggers
2. **Who Moved my Cheese?** by Spencer Johnson
3. **'Tis** by Frank McCourt
4. **The New New Thing** by Michael Lewis
5. **Millionaire Mind** by Thomas Stanley
6. **Tuesdays With Morrie** by Mitch Albom
7. **Faith of My Fathers** by John McCain
8. **Body for Life** by Bill Philips
9. **Boston Photographic Tour** by Ted Landphair and Carol Highsmith
10. **Boston Then and Now** by Thunder Bay

Provided by Borders Books and Music at Downtown Crossing for the week of Feb. 28-March 5.



Mysterious Murders

Cynthia Peale's *The Death of Colonel Mann* creates a setting that is distinctly "Boston"—from the sounds of horse-drawn carriages in Copley Square to the stately Beacon Hill townhouses. Her first in a new series of atmospheric tales set in Victorian Boston, the story revolves around a young man of leisure who discovers the murdered body of Colonel Mann—and learns more than he bargained for about his unforgiving society. The author lives outside Boston, where she is at work on the second installment of the series, *Murder at Bertram's Bower*. Hear her speak March 24 at Kate's Mystery Book Store.

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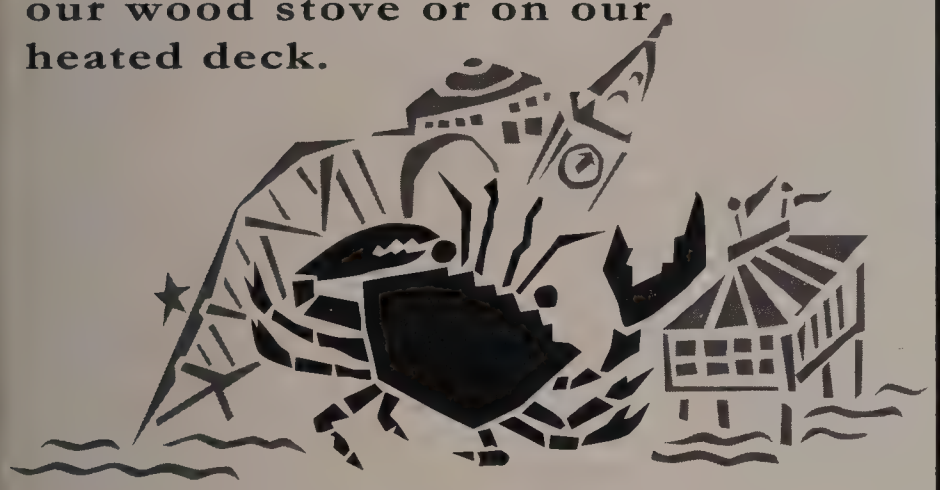

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A LOVE OF WOLVES—AND MUSIC

Pianist and wolf activist Hélène Grimaud performs with the BSO. BY KEITH POWERS

French-born pianist Hélène Grimaud, in town on March 23 for four dates with the BSO, may only be 29, but her concert hall debut was over a dozen years ago. Since that date with the Orchestre de Paris in 1988, Grimaud has earned a spot on the unofficial list of "greats," and can boast of appearances with orchestras from Atlanta to Zurich, under conductors ranging from Abbado to Zinman. Her appearance at Symphony Hall next week is with the aforementioned David Zinman, a longtime partner for Grimaud, playing the Mozart D minor concerto, No. 20. "I've worked with David many times,"she says. "For a soloist, it's a privilege to play with him. He's the ideal accompanist: he lets you do what you want. That's not to say that he doesn't have his own ideas, though. It's really a magical thing. Sometimes things change and we don't even have to communicate it to each other.

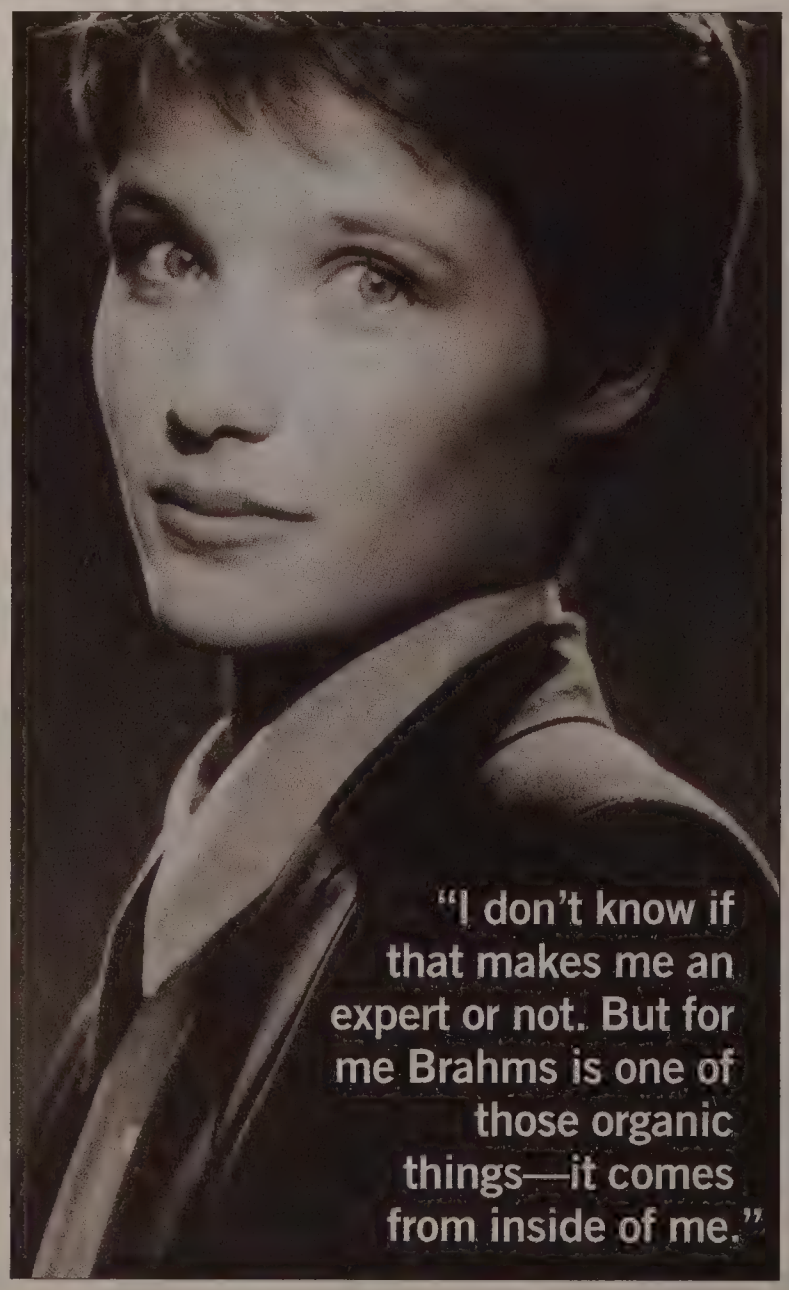
This is her second visit to Boston. "My first appearance [in 1997] I was a replacement for Maxim Vengerov. I played the Ravel Concerto in G, with James Conlon conducting. I've always loved being a last-minute replacement. There's something very electric about it."

Grimaud was born in Aix-en-Provence and studied in Marseilles and Paris before moving to New York. She has a reputation for her interpretations of Brahms and admits that the classical/Romantic repertory "is a big presence in my life. I don't know if that makes me an expert or not. But for me Brahms is one of those organic things—it comes from inside of me.

"Right now, I've been playing the classical and Romantic repertory. But Stockhausen and contemporary music were a big part of my youth, and I still have contemporary music in my life. These things stay around. And one day—it's almost a necessity—one day they must come out." Grimaud returns to the area in June for a recital at the Rockport Chamber Music Festival, an event that is sure to be a highlight for the month-long series. "I play about 60 percent concerto literature and about 40 percent recital literature. It's not scientific, and it's funny how it works out some years."

Pursuing a lifelong interest in animals, Grimaud is also an advocate for the reintroduction and protection of wolves in the Northeast. She active in the New York Wolf Center, which she helped found in 1997. "It's hard to talk about it without making it sound like a hobby, which it isn't," she says. "Wolves are at the top of the food chain and so when you get involved in protecting them, you influence many things in the habitat. Like the wildlife resources, the lower members of the food chain, and so forth. Wolves need a large habitat, and that means protecting lots of other flora and fauna.

"Of course there is less and less space that is appropriate for protecting the wolves. And it is a volatile issue: there are livestock losses for farmers near the protected areas. But you have to look at the statistics. There is less than one percent lost of all the livestock, and there are measures that can be taken, like livestock dogs. It's a financial issue from the farmers' point of view, but you can create financial compensation plans. And it's important to realize that the ecosystem is not just for white men to take advantage of."

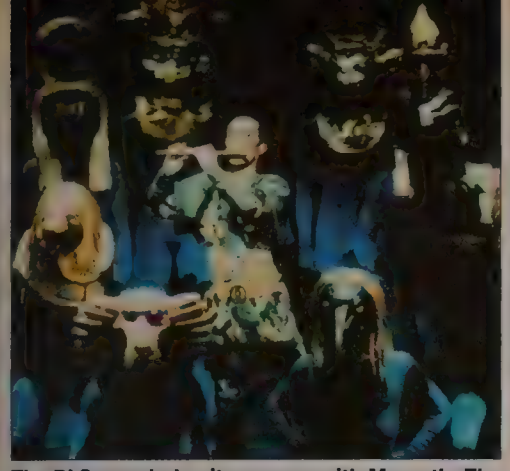


Pianist Hélène Grimaud plays with the BSO in four performances.

J.HENRY FAIR

Coda

New recordings: from the **Boston Pops** *Encore!* (RCA), a collection of **Keith Lockhart**'s greatest hits. If you can segue from "Sleigh Ride" to "Stars and Stripes Forever" to an Elvis tribute without vertigo, this is the disc for you. Also out on Telarc is the **Boston Baroque**'s rendering of the Bach *B Minor Mass*, with soloists **Nicole Heaston**, **Theodore Hanslowe**, **Ellen Rabiner**, **Mark Tucker** and **Nathan Berg**. Good news from violinist **Eric Lewis**: He has reformed the **Manhattan String Quartet**. The New York-based group performed many times in Massachusetts in the late '80s and made some fine recordings of the Shostakovich quartet literature. The new group includes original violist **John Dexter** and veteran violinist Calvin Wiersma. **iB**



The BLO concludes its season with Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, starting March 29 at the Shubert.

Advice to Contributors

Submit information labeled Classical by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Classical Music or e-mail to classical@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers Web site information and nearest T stops. Deadline is four weeks prior to deadline. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers

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Wednesday, March 22

BankBoston Celebrity Series
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $15-$35. The Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra, with conductor Dennis Russell Davies and piano soloist Peter Serkin, will perfom pieces by Schwertsik, Mahler and Brahms.

Friday, March 24

Boston Artists Ensemble
Peabody Essex Museum, 161 Essex St., Salem (964-6553). 8pm. $17-$20. The talented and esteemed Boston Artists Ensemble performs Haydn, Mozart and Bartok.

Boston Chamber Music Society
Jordan Hall, Boston (536-2412). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave. 7:30pm. $14-$35. The ensemble plays music of Barber, Schumann and Dvorak.

International Artists Series
Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St., Boston (739-1340). World-acclaimed organist William Porter performs in a celebration of six world-distinguished organists presenting recitals and lecture-demonstrations.

Saturday, March 25

Boston Bach Ensemble
Marsh Chapel, 735 Comm. Ave., Boston (3530-5270). MBTA: B Green Line to BU Central. 8pm. $8-$15. Under the direction of Julian J. Wachner, the ensemble presents a performance of seven motets by Bach.

Boston Symphony's Prelude Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 6pm. $10. Features BSO members Wendy Putnam and Yu Yuan, violin; Robert Barnes, viola; Carol Procter, cello; Ann Hobson Pilot, harp and Elizabeth Ostling, flute, on a program to include Mozart's Flute Quartet in D.

Sunday, March 26

Bank Boston Celebrity Series
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (482-2595). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3pm. $42-$48. Pianist Dubravka Tomsic performs pieces by Bach/Busoni, Liszt and Prokofiev.

Boston Bach Ensemble
Marsh Chapel, 735 Comm. Ave., Boston (3530-5270). MBTA: B Green Line to BU Central. 3pm, $8-$15. Same program as March 25.

Boston Chamber Music Society
Sanders Theatre, Kirkland St., Cambridge (349-0080). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. $14-$35. Same program as March 24.

Weekly Bach Cantata
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (536-3356). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 10am. Free. The Orchestra and Chorus of Emmanuel Music, conducted by Craig Smith, perform Bach.

Monday, March 27

Boston University Chamber Orchestra
Tsai Performance Center, 685 Comm. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. 8pm. $7-$15. Conducted by David Hoose.

Tuesday, March 28

Boston Lyric Opera
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). $27.50-$108. The Boston Lyric Opera performs *The Daughter of the Regiment* by Gaetano Donizetti.

Boston University Chamber Orchestra
Tsai Performance Center, 685 Comm. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. 8pm. $7-$15. Conducted by Akiko Fujimoto and Craig Smith, with Tong-Il Han on piano and Ethan Sloane on clarinet.

Wednesday, March 29

Boston Conservatory Theatre
Seully Hall, 8 The Fenway (912-9142). 8:30pm. Free. Magdalena Richter performs during the Faculty Violin Recital.

Boston Lyric Opera
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (542-4912). 7:30pm. $26-$108. The BLO concludes its season with Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, a faiy-tale fantasy of wicked queens, noble wizards and magical instruments set in a mythological land reminiscent of ancient Egypt.

Thursday, March 30

Boston Conservatory Theatre
Seully Hall, 8 The Fenway (912-9142). 6:30pm. Elizabeth Fields participates in the Violin Master Class.

Boston Lyric Opera
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). $27.50-$108. Same program as March 28.

BU Concert
Boston University Concert Hall, 855 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (358-8790). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. 8pm. $7-$15. Conducted by Ann Howard Jones, the program includes pieces by Schumann and works by Charles Fussell.

Friday, March 31

BankBoston Celebrity Series
Jordon Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (482-6661). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. 8pm. $35-$42. The Takacs Quartet includes violinsts Edward Dusinberre, Karoly Schranz, Roger Tapping on viola and Andras Fejer on cello.

Boston Lyric Opera
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (542-4912). 7:30pm. $26-$108. Same program as March 29.

Boston Symphony's Prelude Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 6pm. $10. Same program as March 25.

Boston University Chamber Orchestra
BU Concert Hall, 855 Comm. Ave., Boston (358-8790). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. 8pm. $7-$15. Conducted by Ann Howard Jones, the program includes works by Schumann and Charles Fussell.

Saturday, April 1

Boston Lyric Opera
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. $27.50-$108. Same program as March 28.

Gardner Young Artists Showcase
280 The Fenway, Boston (566-1401). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 1:30pm. $4-$17. Enjoy an afternoon of jazz at the Gardner with the Wayne Escoffery Quintet.

Winsor Music Chamber Series
Follen Community Church, 755 Mass. Ave., Lexington (781-862-3805). 8pm. $10-$15. Oboist Peggy Pearson and friends present a concert of chamber music. The program features a new work, Quartet for Oboe and String Trio by Yehudi Wyner.

Sunday, April 2

Gardner Sunday Series
280 The Fenway, Boston (566-1401). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 1:30pm. $4-$17. Pianist Jeremy Denk will perform Bach and Schubert.

Boston Conservatory Theatre
St. Clement's, 1105 Boylston St., Boston (912-9142). 4pm. Free. Boston Conservatory Chorale performs.

Boston Lyric Opera
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (542-4912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 7:30pm. $26-$108. Same program as March 29.

Monday, April 3

Chamber Music by Candlelight
Fogg Art Museum, 32 Quincy St., Cambridge (489-2062). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. $15-$18. This is a program of solo works for Baroque violoncello by Johann Sebastian Bach and Domenico Gabrielli. Stefano Veggetti, cellist, is also featured.

Tuesday, April 4

Boston Lyric Opera
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (542-4912). 7:30pm. $26-$108. Same program as March 29.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $13-$74. Berlioz's lively *Roman Carnival Overture*, composed in 1843, is based on music from his opera *Benvenuto Cellini*. Seiji Ozawa conducts.

dance clubs

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Nights

Mondays

Vertigo Mondays
Vertigo. Caesar and Giorgio throw a party for those of you who never stop dancin'. Smooth Lounge upstairs, Deep House downstairs. Dress slick. Table reservations recommended. DJ Arsit 10pm, no cover.

Tuesdays

Cigar and Jazz night
The Exchange. Smoke, lounge and listen to the smooth sounds of jazz. Plus, you score a free Gina Cigar and complimentary buffet. No cover.

Fat Tuesdays
Bill's. This off-the-hook night features DJ Chaos scratching out hip-hop music to college clubbers while house masters DJ Justin Hoffman and WBCN's DJ Jynx spin dance tunes. Doors open at 11pm, $10 cover.

Got Milk?
Venu. If you're chic and fabu you'll be at Venu for Milk—a smart and devilishly hip party. Resident DJ Osheen spins house for the chic. Dress is funky. 21+.

Mingle Tuesdays
The Modern. This fancy schmancy new spot screams très chic. More low-key and upscale than its Lansdowne street neighbors, it's got a raw bar, vodka bar and late lounge. 10pm. 21+.

Zanzibar Tuesdays
The Big Easy. Dress to impress for Boston's premiere International Night. The Big Easy's got DJ Manolo, spinning Latin and international. 11pm. 19+. $10.

Wednesdays

College Night
The Aquarium. Guest DJ spins at 10pm.

Good Karma
Karma/Mambo. Misery plays host to a roster of rotating DJs. Expect a mixed crowd and special guest performers. 10pm. 19+. $5 cover.

Hibernia Wednesdays
Hibernia. DJ C.T.O. is the Godfather of Say Word night—with plenty of funk, rare groove, soul and old school hip-hop. 9pm. 21+. Cover varies.

Imagination
Backstage. DJs Freddy C. and Jonny C. spin top 40, dance and club classics. Doors open at 10pm. No cover, 21+.

Modern Living
The Modern. DJ Dale Charles spins while minglers munch away on a raw bar and sip martinis. 10pm. 21+.

Musical Mayhem
The Exchange. WBCN's DJ Jynx of Cybersounds plays bangin' funky house upstairs while Tym Ryan of WFNX and DJ Brisc spin downstairs in the vault. Party starts at 10pm.

Pravda 116
Come spend the night with Boston's premiere promoters, Igor, Alex, Heather, Christophe and Manos at one of the city's most decadent hot spots. Featuring international eurohouse by DJ Alex and DJ Felix. Proper dress required, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
The Sugar Shack. If you're 19+ and a woman, you get in for free before 11pm—otherwise the cover is $10. Located in the bottom of the Big Easy, there is most certainly funk, disco and a lot of hip-hop here. 10pm.

Thursdays

Adrenaline
Backstage. Tonight features special guest DJs from around the world spinning hard NYC House, with Jonny C. and Freddy C. starting the party. 10pm, 21+.

The Aquarium
Kiss 108 FM dance party featuring Randy from the Matty in the Morning Show. 10pm-1am. $3 cover.

Downtempo Lounging
The Modern. DJ Ricky Fatts spins while you enjoy the raw bar and vodka bar. 9pm-2am, 21+.

Funkalicious Thursdays
The Exchange. DJ G squared takes you on a blast from the past as he spins the sounds of '70s and '80s. Added bonus: free after work buffet. No cover.

Hibernia Thursdays
Hibernia. Lay low for the Weekly Dig Lounge Series with Craig Kapilow and Mason, 6pm.

International Thursday
Avalon. A predominantly Asian crowd fills up this nightspot as DJ Manolo spins Eurohouse and DJ Anthony spins Latin in the adjoining Playhouse Latin-Lounge. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover. Next door, the Modern's Downtempo Lounging night's got DJ Ricky Fatts, 9pm, 21+.

Kit Kat Klub
Sugar Shack. This new night features guest DJs spinning hip hop to college clubbers, 10pm, 19+.

Latin Quarter
The Roxy. Time to get down as the Roxy breaks out hip shaking salsa, merengue and Latin dance mixes.

Lava Bar
Get Lifted. *Lavabar.com*. DJs Pouli Brien and phenom along with Verse D. bring you old school hip-hop, soul/funk and reggae. Doors open at 10pm. 21+.

Speed
Karma/Mambo. DJ Chaos spins the latest Hip-Hop and R&B while DJ Johnny Scrofani spins house in the Mambo Lounge. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover.

Venu
Swank American top 40 and house, featuring DJ Adilson, creator of the hottest Saturday night in the city, the Roxy.

Fridays

Avaland
Avalon. Everything about the room screams party. With world famous DJs spinning, including DJ Manolo and John Debo, this has become the single most NY-style club night. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover.

Backstage
Backstage kicks off its all-night dance party, part one with DJ Jonny C spinning N.Y.C. house, top 40 dance and funk. Doors open at 10pm. $5 cover, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans themed nightspot has some of the best mainstream DJs in town. Offering four bars and two lounges as well as billiards and a wraparound balcony, the Big Easy is a staple in Boston's nightlife.

Buzz Fridays
Buzz. Two rooms of cocktail delights: Roger M lays down both traditional Latin and international house tracks while upstairs visiting DJs pay homage to the house music gods. 11pm, $15 cover, 19+.

Emily's
An after work venue during the week, this spot transforms itself into a dance kingdom on weekends. Resident DJ Kaboom infuses funk, dance, pop and disco. Doors open at 4pm. Get there early and avoid a cover.

Envy
This extraordinarily popular Friday night hot spot is filled with a swarming mass of sweaty 'n' ready dancers. You'll have plenty of choice dance partners. 9pm, $5 cover after 10pm, 21+.

Exchange Fridays
The Exchange. Up High, Tiziano and Maurizio, Boston's best DJ duo, guides you on a house trip while DJ G Squared opens the vault door with mainstream dance and hip hop. Doors at 9pm.

Focus
Hibernia. How can you go wrong with DJs Chuck Caseroc, Keith Kene and Skot Havens. 9pm, 21+.

Lava Bar
Life. *lavabar.com*. From the creators of Soul Revival, DJ Fran Englehardt spins ambient, soulful and deep house—transition your night from loungey beats to deep soulful rhythms doors at 10pm.

Ultra Lounge
The Modern. DJ Hoffman is next door at the Modern's Ultra Lounge. 9pm-2am, 21+.

Nocturnal Fridays
Bill's Bar. WBCN day guy and football swami, Bill Abbate, spins up a delectable smorgasbord of rock with a pinch of roll. Nocturnal Friday is the perfect place to chug a beer and chill. 9pm. $5 cover, 21+.

Sonic
Karma/Mambo. National guest rave DJs and DJ Venom spin Hard House and Happy Hardcore in the Main Room, while Space Munkee and DJ Myth spin in the Mambo Lounge. 10pm. 19+. $15.

Roxy 2000
Roxy/Mondo Bar. What goes around, comes around. Go crazy as the intimacy of Roxy consumes you and DJ Felix spins house and international music throughout the night. 10:30pm. $15 cover, 21+.

Spin Cycle
Axis. Glitzed-out club hoppers and an active scam scene mix to make the progressive house beats of DJ Tim Ryan downstairs or DJ David James's '80s and retro tunes upstairs. 10pm, $12, 19+.

Venu
The scene is elegant and the line is long for this jacket required international romp. Get your Gucci and gas up your Beemer, as DJ Tassos and DJ Arsit spin an eclectic eurohouse mix. 21+.

Avaland, the club that changed Boston nightlife forever when it opened March 15, 1998, celebrates its two year anniversary with a bash on March 26. Above: nightlife at the club.

Saturdays

The Aqarium
Saturday night dance party hosted by resident DJ. 10pm-1am, $5 cover.

Downtown
Avalon. Resident DJs Manolo and Mattie O. gyrate your ass with the latest hits and club classics. 10pm. 21+. $15 cover.

Backstage
Get ready for part two of Backstage's all night dance party with DJ Freddy C spinning progressive house and top 40 dance. Doors open at 10pm, $5 cover, 21+.

Bill's Bar
DJ Laurie Gail with guest DJs promise to make Bill's a night full of dancing to the best of the '70s, '80s and '90s. 9pm, $3 cover, 19+.

Club Juliana
Boogying cuties converge on Boston's newest Latin Night starting at 10pm. Dress to impress—no jeans or sneaks. $10. Ladies free before 11pm.

Club Nicole
The faces are familiar and the mob thick for this exclusive, Euro trendsetter. DJ Alex spins eurohouse. Reservations recommended, jackets required. 21+.

Elements of Life
Karma/Mambo. World class DJs spin house music in the main room while DJ Hoffman plays funk in the Mambo Lounge. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover.

Emily's
Serious disco and high-energy dance. DJs spice up Saturday nights and transform this after-work venue into a dance kingdom. 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Envy
From 9pm-2am, DJ Tom Baxter blasts Top 40, house and dance throughout the night. 9pm, $5 cover after 10pm, 21+.

Exchange Saturdays
The Exchange. DJ Diesel renovates the upper level with full-on house while DJ Jynx spins all the funky beats in the lower Vault lounge 9pm.

Fajitas and Ritas
Chill out for the Weekly Dig Lounge Series with Alan Strack and Mason.

Hibernia Saturdays
Hibernia. Masters of house, techno and dance, DJs Dino and David West take the reins and whip the crowd into a frenzy. 9pm, 21+, cover varies.

Sugar Shack
Spice up your night with '70s, '80s and '90s dance music as DJ Rich Centi spins the hottest sounds.

Lava Bar
Tabu night means anything goes with DJ Fran and Kris Kono Unite. High energy house with a taste of Latin beats. 10pm, 21+.

Miami Club Night
Club Joy/Yesterday's. Enjoy Boston's only Latin Night to feature La Rueda de Casino, a Cuban salsa game, and get a taste of Miami nightlife. 9:30pm (ladies free before 11pm), $10 cover, 21+ (ladies, 19+).

Mischief
The Modern. Feeling mischievous? Ultra lounging with decadent deserts and erotic electronica. 21+.

Mythos
Venu. Greek International with DJ Yorgo Jr. spinning the latest hits from the famous party islands of Greece. For reservations for this night, call 338-8061.

X night
Axis. Axis is taken over by DJ Mike Gioscia who spins cutting edge favorites of '90s alternative while DJ David James spins the hottest '80s hits in the Left Over Lounge upstairs. 10pm, $10 cover, 21+.

Sundays

Avalon
Boston's biggest gay night. Special guest DJs and Resident DJ Darrin Friedman. 10pm, $10 cover.

Exchange Sundays
A fusion of Heavy Lounge and Miami House. No cover.

Club Millennium 2000
Backstage. Special Guests DJs in rotation. Doors open at 10pm, ladies free before 11pm, 21+, proper dress.

Il Panino
Mainly attracting Euros, this night features music by DJ Alex of Boston Beat and DJ Roger M. 21+, no cover.

Salavation
This new Boston vibe serves up an intimate evening of soul provided by DJ Soul. $5, until 10pm.

Venu
Carnival comes to Boston every Sunday as DJ Adilson brings the heat of Rio to Venu, spinning the hottest music from Brazil. 21+. Call 338-8061 for reservations.

Raves

Till Dawn Breaks
April 28. Asylum Club, 1592 Main St., Springfield (536-5482). 9pm-6am. $20 advance, $25 at the door. Experience Turbo Sound, stunning lights, dazling lazers and two "plazma screens." DJs include DJ Bam Bam and Venom tag set, Ralphie "C", Tha Tekno Supahero, Mo 75, Liquid X, Knowledge, Entrophy, Savior, Onassis, Weasel, Leap, Miko, Titus and Inanna.

Club Venues

The Aquarium *65 Holland St., Somerville (623-3200). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (338-7080). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center.*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (437-0300). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Backstage *25 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Boston (726-1110). MBTA: Blue Line to Government Center.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Buzz Boston/Europa *51-67 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park St.*
Club Juliana *20 Hudson St., Boston (542-4411).*
Club Nicole *40 Dalton St., Boston (236-4746). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*
Club Stella *1234 Soldiers Field Rd., Brighton (254-0554).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Upstairs, Boston (423-3649). MBTA: Red or Green Lines to Park Street.*
Envy *25 Boylston Place, Boston (542-3689). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Exchange *148 State St., Boston (723-7755). MBTA: Orange Line to State Street.*
Hibernia *25 Kingston St., Boston (292-2333). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Karma *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9595). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Lava Bar *575 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-7707). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (482-7799). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Oskar's *107 South St., Leather District, Boston (542-6756). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Salavation *20 Hudson St., Boston (781-668-2392). MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown.*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Theatre District, Boston (338-8061). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*

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Music

ROCKIN' ROLL-INS

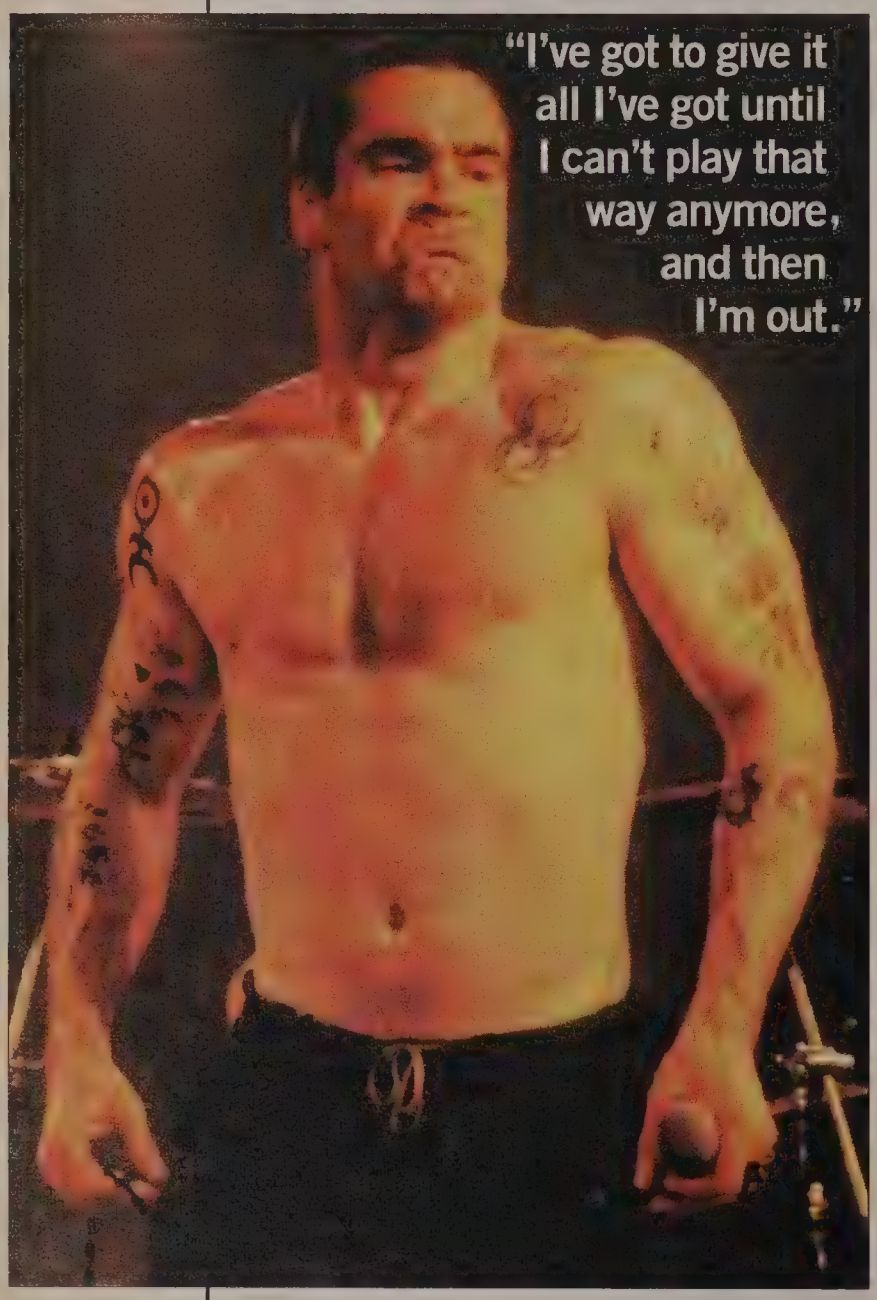
Henry Rollins lives up to his rep.

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

Henry Rollins still lives up to the tattoo on his back, a blazing sun capped with the words "Search and destroy." It's a hard tattoo to miss when the shirtless Rollins turns around onstage with the Rollins Band—when he isn't staring down the audience like a hard-breathing Godzilla, roaring about humiliation and illumination from the wreckage of relationships.

In one of last year's most welcome surprises at the beleaguered Paradise, the pumped-up frontman proved he could still decimate the place with a rehauled Rollins Band, railing through a new set of heavy-rock tunes that grace *Get Some, Go Again*. The Rollins Band plays Avalon April 5.

"I don't feel over—I think I've got some vigor and sap left in my bones," says Rollins, 39, who began his career 19 years ago with punk rockers Black Flag. "I've got to give it all I've got until I can't play that way anymore, and then I'm out. And for me, it really is a physical thing. You've got to give the lyrics all you've got."



The most-likely shirt-free Henry Rollins is at Avalon April 5.

After a decade with the Rollins Band, he almost was out. "I felt that we had basically realized the equation," Rollins says of his old outfit with guitarist Chris Haskett, drummer Sim Cain and bassist Melvin Gibbs. "You don't make good music in an answer. You make it in a question. It's a quest. Once everyone knows each other's moves, there's not a whole lot to say."

"I didn't know really what my move was going to be," says Rollins, who found head-clearing refuge in Africa and Madagascar. "I was fairly disgusted with music at the time, and I'm still not all that thrilled with where it is—all these fucking pussy-ass bands that keep polluting my beautiful eco-system," he says from his LA home. "I figured before I have to carry the water pail for the Bloodhound Gang, I'd better just leave."

What got him back into rock was producing the LA band Mother Superior, and realizing that guitarist Jim Wilson, bassist Marcus Blake and drummer Jason Mackenroth had energy and co-writing chops he could use. "There were no more than three takes of any song—it was about spontaneity," Rollins says of the back-to-basics, self-produced *Get Some, Go Again*, which also features guitar parts from Scott Gorham (on his '70s group Thin Lizzy's "Are You Ready?") and MC5 veteran Wayne Kramer.

"I really am into giving thanks to those who came before you, and inspired and influenced you," Rollins says. "It's very important, 'cause all these guys took it on the nose harder than you." He credits his mother, with whom he grew up in Washington, DC, for her eclectic vinyl collection, introducing him to everything from the Doors and Hendrix to Miles and Coltrane. "We serve music," he says. "That's why all the great ones are humble, 'cause they know the power of music. And that's why it offends me when these people smirk and braid their beards in the face of it without coming up with anything that kneels at the altar and gives."

"I'm just kinda this guy going for it," he says of his role as a music fan more than a musician—and that's what Rollins did in 1981 the night he saw Black Flag and requested a favorite song. "I jumped up and sang it the way I thought it should be sung, so I turned purple and nearly passed out. And the band kinda went 'Holy shit!' and the crowd went, 'Whoa, that was intense. Don't die geek-boy.' And about a week later, I was in the band."

He carried that intensity into the Rollins Band, while carving an alternate identity through spoken-word tours that show his more relaxed, humorous side, relaying his real-life experiences. "Sometimes I get the guy going 'Which one is the real you?' Well, it's all the real me. It's why I don't act like I'm riding on a bus during sex, and I'm not going 'Uhh, uhh, uhhh' when I'm on a bus. It's all different slices of the same pie."

His pie also includes acting roles (most notably *Heat* with Al Pacino), publishing books (through his company 2.13.61) and voice-overs, from VH-1 specials on the Doors and Queen to GMC Truck commercials. "I get told I sold out all the time—if I do a voice-over, if I signed to [major label] Dreamworks," he says. "But Black Flag used to get it too. Even when we did *Damaged*, we were told punk rock bands aren't supposed to do records. Then we sold out by cutting our hair. I think people sell out when they work at McDonalds when they wanted to be mountain-climbers." iB

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Concerts

Altan
April 2, Sanders Theatre
Mariah Carey
April 4, FleetCenter
Eliza Carthy and Joan Baez
March 27 and 28, Somerville Theatre
Crosby, Stills Nash and Young
March 26 and 27, FleetCenter
Korn
March 30-31, Worcester Centrum Centre
Luna
March 23, Axis
Brian McKnight
March 23, Wang Center.
No Doubt and the Suicide Machines
March 29, Avalon
Ruff Ryders/Cash Money Tour
April 2, FleetCenter
Henry Rollins
April 5, Avalon
Roman Music Festival Concert
March 24, Sanders Theatre
Matthew Sweet
March 27, Axis
The Louisiana Repertory Jazz Ensemble
April 1, Sanders Theatre
Susan Werner and Vance Gilbert
March 25, Somerville Theatre

CONCERT HALLS

Avalon
15 Lansdowne St., Fenway (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.
Axis
13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.
Orpheum Theatre
1 Hamilton Place, Boston (679-0810). MBTA: Red Line to Park Street.
Sanders Theatre
45 Quincy St., Cambridge (496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.
Somerville Theatre
55 Davis Square, Somerville (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.
Worcester Centrum Centre
50 Foster St., Worcester (508-755-6800).

Ska punk rockers the Suicide Machines perform at Avalon with No Doubt on March 29.

FROM LEFT: PAUL ROICHEAU; BRETT PANELLI

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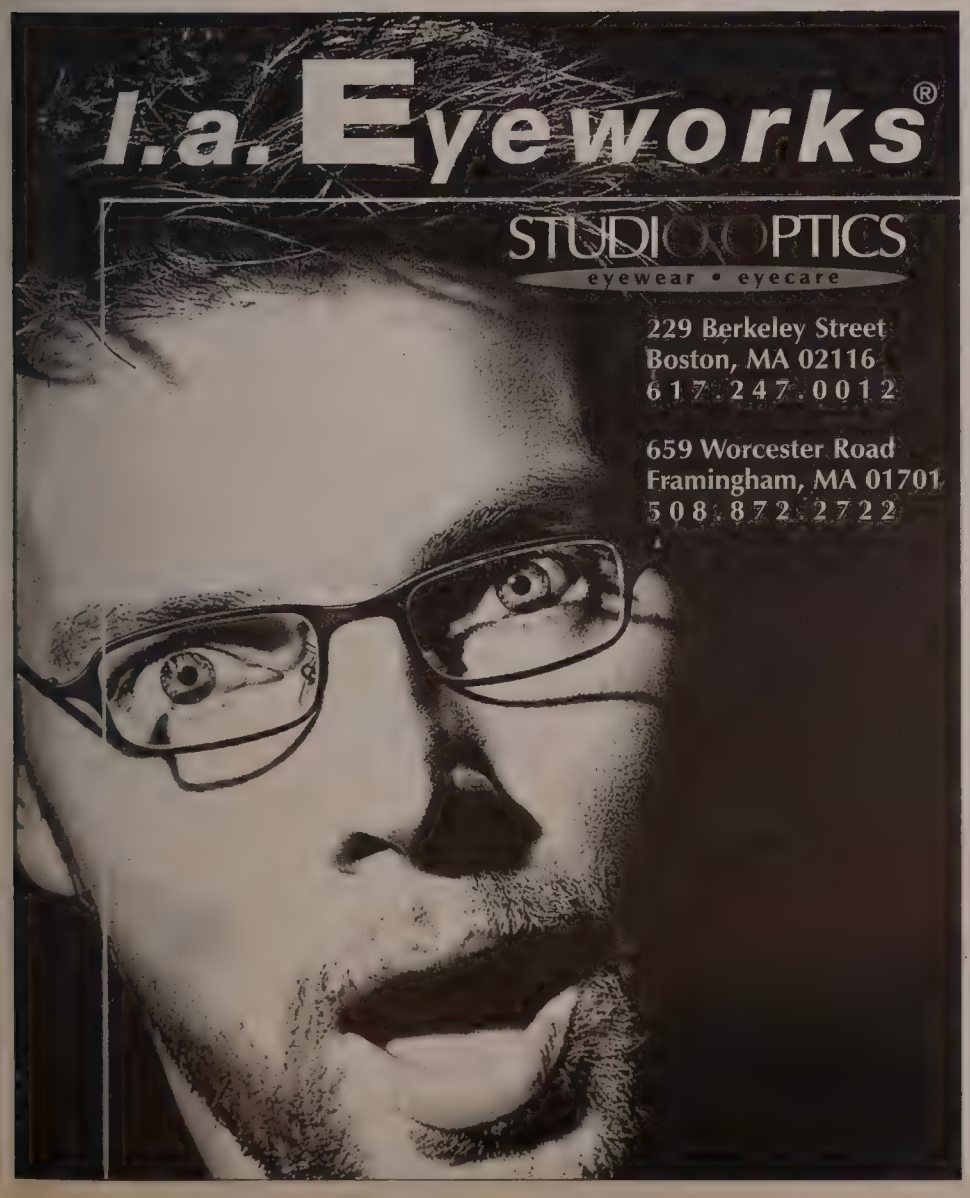

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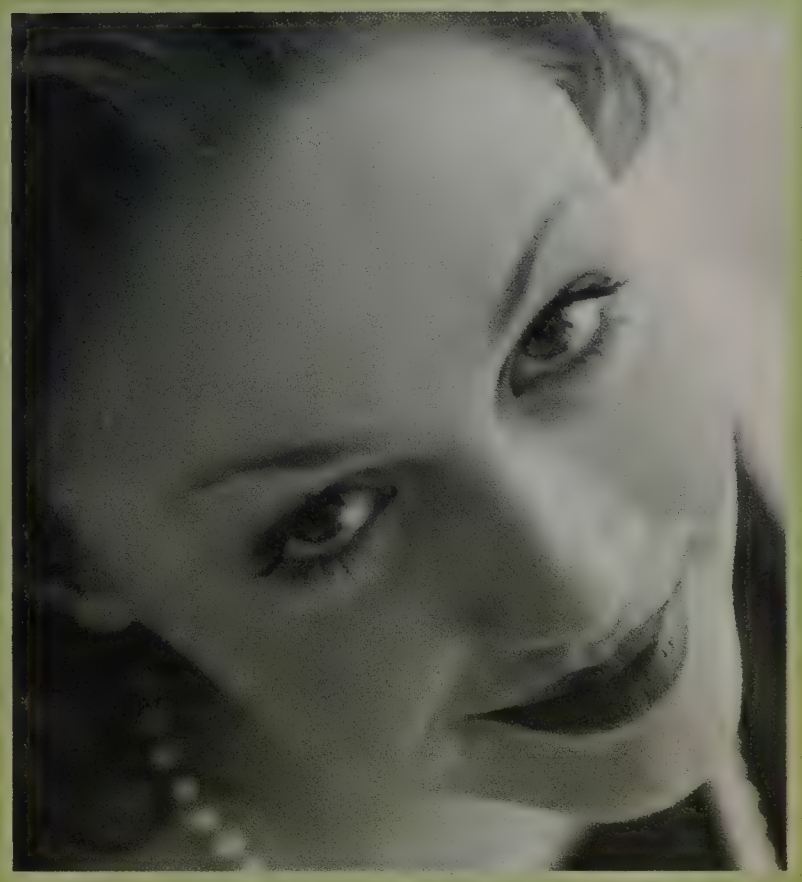

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One of the most commercially successful bands to come out of the mid-'90s punk resurgence, new wave/ska band No Doubt play at Avalon March 29.

Rock, Jazz and Blues

Wednesday, March 22

Aquarium
College Night.
Bill's Bar
DJ Tim Collins, Allagash 4 with Milk, $7, 18+.
The Burren
Michael Tarbox and Daniel Kellar, 10pm.
The Cantab Lounge
Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
Common Bar and Grill
What a Way to Go-Go with DJ Vin, 10pm.
Coogan's Bluff
Jim Ambrose and the Spellcasters, 9pm.
The Good Life
Paul Cherba Quartet, no cover.
Green Street Grill
Jazz with Allen Chase and Guests, Joel Springer, Jon Hazilla, Jon Damian and Bruno Raberg.
Harper's Ferry
Project Object Feat, 9:30pm, $10.
Hennessy's of Boston
Irish Session, $3-$5.
House of Blues
Tarbox Ramblers, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Jake Ivory's
Josh Nelson and Paul Levesque, 7:30pm.
Johnny D's
Carol Noonan, 8:30pm.
Kendall Cafe
Open Mic, Red Cord, 11pm.
Kirkland Cafe
Ken Clark Organ Trio, $5.
Les Zygomates
The John Kordalewski Trio, 8pm.
Lizard Lounge
Wall of Grass.
Middle East
U: Blanks 77, Forced Reality, Sixer, $8, 18+. D: film and music night featuring a skateboard and hip hop film premier and live music, 18+. C: Plucky Long Tones, 7pm, Belly Dancing, 10pm, no cover.
Midway Cafe
High Wire Moves.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Hegarty, 6pm.
Sculler's Jazz Club
Eric Marienthal, 8pm and 10pm, $12.
Toad
Burning Sensations, 10pm.
T.T. The Bear's Place
Lower 48, Best Friend Josh, Kung Fu Grip, Jericho.
White Horse Tavern
Joel Cage, Sal Baglio and friends, 9pm.

Thursday, March 23

Bill's Bar
The Underground with DJ Mark Hamilton, Fighting Gravity with Sol Patch and Division Street, $8, 18+.
Bob the Chef's
Groove 2 This, 7:30pm.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Common Bar and Grill
Brothers and Sisters Night Featuring King J, 10pm.
Dick's Last Resort
Entrain, 8pm, no cover.
Green Street Grill
Giancarlo Buscaglia, no cover.
Hennessy's of Boston
Under Cover and the Beloved Few, $3-$5.
House of Blues
Schleigho and Shake Senora, $8, 10pm, 18+.
Johnny D's
New Orleans Klezmer All-Stars, 9pm.
Kendall Cafe
Schroeder Music Distant Stars Showcase Part II.
Kirkland Cafe
Zack Koeper, Plucy Longtones and John Haydon Band, $5.
Les Zygomates
Sunsteel featuring Ron Redi, 8pm.
The Linwood
Senor Happy, 360 Loose and the Shelley Winter Project, 10pm, $5.
Lizard Lounge
Paved Country, the Darlings and Scary Wagon.
Middle East
U: The Pavers, Wretch Like Me and the Dubnicks and High-Steppin' Nickel Kids, $7, 18+. D: Grant Lee Phillips, 9pm, $10, 18+. C: Board of Education, 10pm, Tony Marino quartet, 10pm, no cover.
O'Brien's Pub
Fernachur, 9:30pm, $4, 21+.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Carroll, 8pm.
Rhythm and Spice
DJ Bim Sound and Sound Vibration.
Sculler's Jazz Club
The Joyce DiCamillo Trio, 8pm, 10pm, $12.
Toad
Pretty Cool Chair.
T.T. The Bear's Place
Chelsea On Fire, Claymore, Barbero and the Silent Goodbye, $6.

Friday, March 24

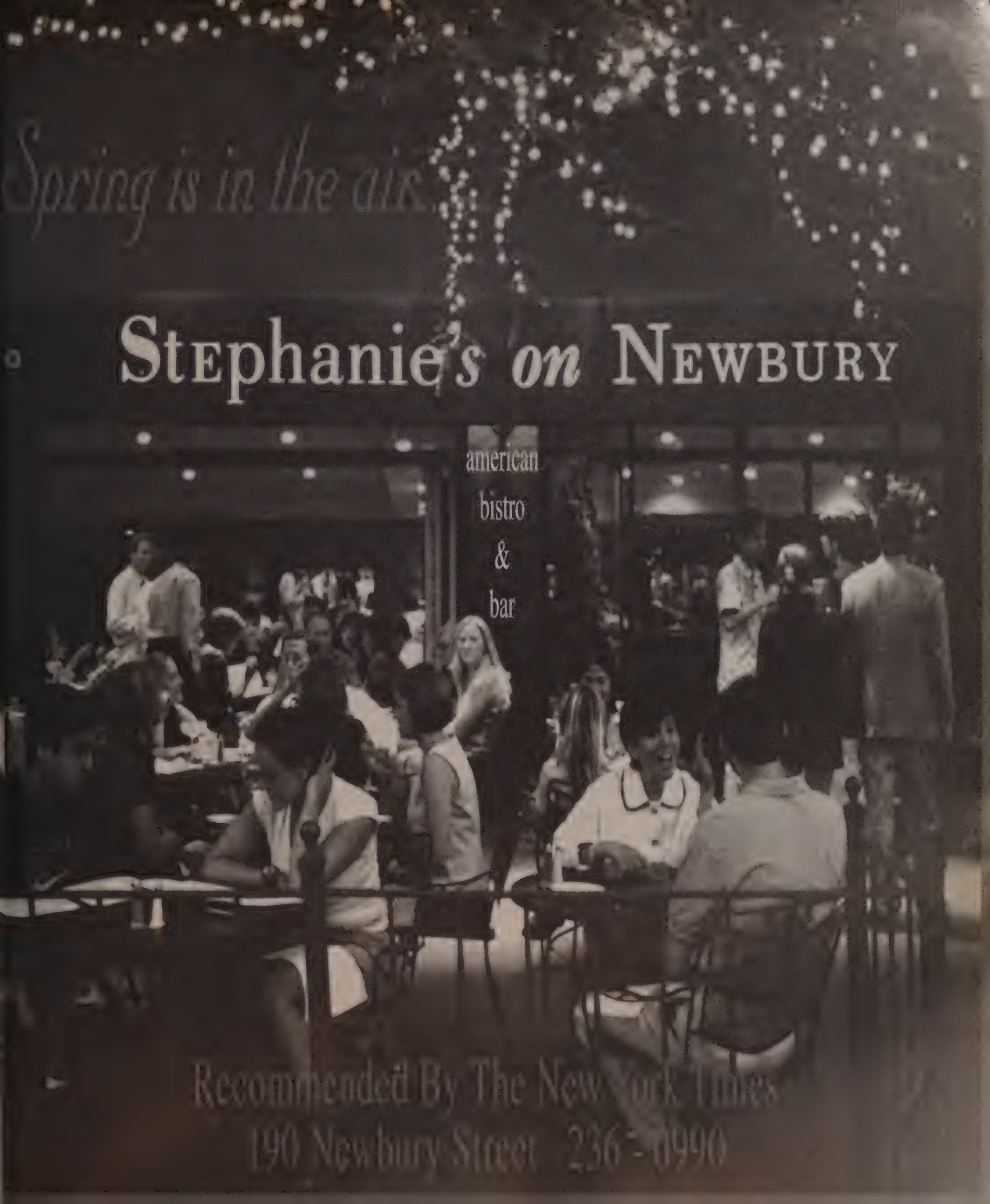
Aquarium
Conehea D. Buddha, 10pm, $5.
Axis
Reveille.
Bill's Bar
The Outlets with Dragstrip Courage and Lincolnville, $8, 21+.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Common Bar and Grill
Violet Tide CD Release Party with Hummer, 10pm.
Grand Canal
Days and Dawn, $5.
Green Street Grill
Tarbox Ramblers, 11pm.
Harper's Ferry
Rockett Band, 9:30pm, $6.
House of Blues
Al Kooper featuring the Funky Faculty, $16, 10pm, 21+.
Jake Ivory's
Josh Nelson and Bill Connors, 7:30pm.
Johnny D's
BR5-49, 9:45pm.
Kendall Cafe
Illustrious Day, 10:30pm; $3, Tobin Bridge, 11:30pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe
Scary Wagon, Chris and Meridith Thompson, Fikus and Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
Les Zygomates
The Lance Martin Trio, 9pm.
The Linwood
Kristian Montgomery, 4:20 and Infared, 10pm, $6.
Lizard Lounge
Four Piece Suit.
Middle East
U: Uncle Sammy, Ready Maker, Giant's Workshop, Ulu and Typhoo, $8, 18+. D: Splashdown, Betwixt and Star Ghost Dog, $8, 18+. C: Love Whip, 10pm.
Midway Cafe
Jones Brothers.
Oni Gallery
Duncan Wilder Johnson, heavy metal-spoken word CD release party, 8pm.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Carroll, Fogal and DJ Sean, 9:30pm.
Rhythm and Spice
Jack Lee and Divercity, no cover.
Roxy
Peter Murphy.
Sculler's Jazz Club
Julie Wilson with Mark Hummel, 8pm and 10:30pm, $28.
Toad
The Grits.
Top of the Hub
Maggie Galloway, 9pm.
T.T. The Bear's Place
The Hot Snakes, the Damn Personals and the Explosion, $8.

Saturday, March 25

Bob the Chef's
Leo Stevens and Jazz Report, 7:30pm.
The Burren
Tarbox Ramblers, 10:30pm.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Grand Canal
Daisey's, $5.
Green Street Grill
Giancarlo Buscaglia.
Harper's Ferry
Bellevue Cadillac with the Strange Men, 9:30pm, $6.
Hennessy's of Boston
DJ Dan McCarthy, $3-$5.
House of Blues
Jimmy Johnson, $10, 10pm, 21+.
Jake Ivory's
Matt Mello and Aruna Abrams, 7:30pm.
Johnny D's
Kilombo Mambo, 9:45pm.
Kendall Cafe
Clare Burson, 9:30pm; Chris Canty Band, 10:30pm; Josh Lederman y Los Diablos, 11:30pm. $5.

Nickel Kids Riot!

The High-Steppin' Nickel Kids play pop-punk for the kids. They remember Operation Ivy before they became Rancid, the Descendents before they became All and the Misfits before they became a joke (which means pre-Earth A.D., if you're playing along at home). Their set is mostly originals, with the occasional Leatherface or Jimmy Cliff cover. Join them for their triumphant return to the Middle East Upstairs on March 23, this time with brand new Fourth Nickel Kid Tim, formerly of Endlast. Stick around to hear the Pavers (with Scott Reynolds from All), Wretch Like Me and the ever-original power popsters, the Dubnicks. $7, 18+.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Les Zygomates
Semenya McCord, 9pm.
The Linwood
Banjo Spiders, the Decals and Modifiers, 10pm, $6.
Lizard Lounge
Maggies, Crowd Scene, Circus Guy and Jules Verdone.
Middle East
U: The Dismemberment Plan, the Ivory Coast, Elizabeth Elmore, the Zips, $7, 18+. D: Femi Kuti, DJ Karsh Kale, $20 advance, $22 doors, 18+.
Midway Cafe
Love Whip.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Carroll, FOgal and DJ Wayne, 9:30pm.
Rhythm and Spice
Tropical Fire.
Ryle's Jazz Club
Gruvis Malt.
Sculler's Jazz Club
Julie Wilson with Mark Hummel, 8pm and 10:30pm, $26.
Slades
The John Dougherty Hammond Trio.
Toad
Trailer Park, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Maggie Galloway, 9pm.
T.T. The Bear's Place
Lockgroove, Asteroid #4, $8.
The Western Front
Tjovi Ginen featuring Daniel Laurent.

Sunday, March 26

Bill's Bar
Reggae Sunday with DJ K-Don and Skiffington, $8, 21+.
Bullfinch's
Willie Myette.
Cantab Lounge
Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
Harper's Ferry
The Rockett Band, 9:30pm, $5.
House of Blues
The Freelance Bishops, $6, 8pm, 18+.
Johnny D's
Blues Jam, 4:30pm.
Karma
The Ducky Boys with Hudson Falcons, the Explosion, the Vigilantes and the Kings of Nuthin', $10.
Kendall Cafe
Audio Explorations and Ani Cordero.
Lizard Lounge
Poetry Jam featuring the Jeff Robinson Trio, 8pm.
Middle East
U: Cat Power, 7pm, $11, 18+. Cat Power, Geoff Farina, 10pm, $11, 18+. D: Nebula, Zen Guerilla, the Go, 8pm, $8, 18+. C: Jazz Brunch with Noah Maltsberger, 1pm; Dana Stewart, 4pm; Grub Stake, 7pm; Balla Tounkara, 10pm.
Midway Cafe
Sand Machine.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Carroll, 8pm.
Ryles Jazz Club
Katie Viqueira, 8:30pm, $10.
Toad
Dangerous Brothers, no cover.
T.T. The Bear's Place
The Operators, Pavo, Bradford Avenue and Walker, $4.
White Horse Tavern
Johnny A and Poor Law Union, 8pm.

Monday, March 27

Bill's Bar
Drop 360 with Twytch and Comadose, $5, 18+.
Cantab Lounge
Open Mike, 8pm; Larry Levine, 9:30pm.
Harper's Ferry
Ron Levy's Wild Kingdom, 9:30pm, $3.
House of Blues
Johnny A., 9pm, $7, 18+.
Johnny D's
Hot Tamale Brass Band, 8pm.
Kendall Cafe
Teddy Larkin and Scary Wagon.
Lizard Lounge
The Fringe.
Middle East
U: B-Side Players, Zemog El Gallo Bueno, $5, 18+. C: Jonathan Lamaster, 7pm; the Tom Bianchi Show with Chris Montecalvo, 10pm.
O'Brien's Pub
Ghetto Thunder, Small Hours and Crack Torch. Spoken word, 9pm, $4, 21+.
Toad
Tim Gearan Band.
T.T. The Bear's Place
Tara MacLean and Blake Hazard, 8:30pm, $7, 18+.

Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young are going strong—see them March 26 and 27 at the FleetCenter.

Tuesday, March 28

Axis
Pork Tornado, 9pm.
Cantab Lounge
Harvest, 9pm; Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 10pm.
Harper's Ferry
Another Planet and Friends, 9:30pm, $3.
House of Blues
Rick Russell Blues Buffet and Jam, 9pm, $6, 18+.
Johnny D's
Freight Hoppers, 8:30pm.
Karma
Fu Manchu with Step Kings, 9pm, $10, 18+.
Kendall Cafe
A Special Evening with Stefano, $4.
Les Zygomates
The Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm.
Middle East
U: Sean Na Na, The Holy Childhood, $7, 18+. C: John Lincoln Wright, 7pm, Jason Gardner and friends, 10pm.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Dave Smyth, 7pm.
Ryles Jazz Club
Bruno Raberg Trio.
Toad
Asa Brebner with the Ray Mason Band, no cover.
T.T. The Bear's Place
Steelhead, Rattletaxi, Wingnut and Dead Shot, $4.

Wednesday, March 29

Aquarium
College Night.
Bill's Bar
Funk and Groove Night with DJ Tim Collins and Stymie, $7, 18+.
The Burren
Michael Tarbox and Daniel Kellar, 10pm.
Cantab Lounge
Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
Green Street Grill
Reggae with Bothers and Sisters and Sirs.
House of Blues
Joint Chiefs, 9pm, $7-$9, 18+.
Kendall Cafe
Ember Swift, Miranda Stone, 8pm; open mic with Mark Duplass, 11pm.
Les Zygomates
The Fred Woodard Trio, 8pm.
Lizard Lounge
Buck Dewey Big Band and Nash Satterfield; the Midnight Mass featuring Elbow, Inhale Mary, the Negro Problem and Michael Tarbox.
Middle East
U: Les Savy Fav, Love as Laughter and Lifter-Puller, $7, 18+. C: Milo Jones trio, 7pm, Belly Dancing, 7pm.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Hegarty, 6pm.
Sculler's Jazz Club
Kurt Elling Quartet, 8pm and 10pm, $16.
Toad
The Kox., 10pm, no cover.
T.T. The Bear's Place
The Silent Goodbye, Nancy Mroczek PhD, and Elysium, $4.
Veronique Restaurant
Live harp music.
White Horse Tavern
David's Foote, 9pm.

Thursday, March 30

Bill's Bar
The Underground with DJ Mark Hamilton, Rustic Overtones with Groovehounds, $8, 18+.
Bob the Chef's
Groove 2 This, 7:30pm.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Green Street Grill
Giancarlo Buscaglia.
Harper's Ferry
Granola Funk with Fiber, 9:30pm, $5.
House of Blues
Kyler, Little Wolf and the Mojos, $7, 10pm, 18+.
Jake Ivory's
Paul Levesque and Matt Mello, 7:30pm
Kendall Cafe
Katie Barbato, 9pm; Pal Shazar, 10pm; Jill Kurtz, 11pm.
Les Zygomates
The Jinga Trio, 8pm.
The Linwood
Mike Stone, 10pm, $5.
Middle East
U: Black Be3etle, the Wickey Farleys, the Douglas Fir, $7, 18+. D: Boss Hog, $12, 18+. C: Michael McLaughlin trio, 7pm; Board of Education, 10pm.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Carroll, 8pm.
Ryles Jazz Club
Andrea, 8:30pm, $8.
Sculler's Jazz Club
Arturo Sandoval World Tour Band, 8pm, 10pm, $22.
Toad
Senor Happy, 10pm, no cover.
T.T. The Bear's Place
Medea Connection, Zola Turn, Ruby Lashes and Hurricane Jane, $6.
The Western Front
Three Stripes with DJ G-Spin.

Friday, March 31

Bill's Bar
The Fastbacks with Heidi, $7, 21+.
The Black Rose
Dave Foley.
Bob the Chef's
Sonny Watson Quartet, 7:30pm.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Club Passim
Rose Polenzani.
Grand Canal
Pig Pen, $5.
Green Street Grill
Tarbox Ramblers, 11pm.
Harper's Ferry
Entrain with Second Power, 9:30pm, $10.
House of Blues
Pinetop Perkins with the Bob Margolin Band, $12, 10pm, 21+.
Jake Ivory's
Matt Mello and Bill Connors, 7:30pm
Johnny D's
Slipknot, 9:45pm.
Karma
Shannon Curfman, 7:30pm.
Kendall Cafe
Hellcountry, the Gilmans, $7.
Les Zygomates
The Thomas Hebb Trio, 9pm.
Lizard Lounge
Dennis Brennan.
Middle East
U: Edable Gray, Bellamy Brothers and Josh Dobes Band, $7, 18+. D: Soulive, Sector 9, $12, 18+. C: Jim Moran, 10pm.
Midway Cafe
Nash Satterfield and Scratch My Back, 11pm.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Fogal, Tom Carroll, DJ Sean, 9:30pm.
Rhythm and Spice
Hot Like Fire.
Sculler's Jazz Club
Arturo Sandoval World Tour Band, 8pm and 10:30pm, $22.
Toad
Big Ray and the Futuras, 10pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Maggie Galloway, 9pm.
T.T. The Bear's Place
Tugboat Annie, 8:30pm, 18+.

Saturday, April 1

The Black Rose
Dave Foley.
The Burren
Tarbox Ramblers, 10:30pm.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Green Street Grill
Giancarlo Buscaglia.
Harper's Ferry
Entrain with the Rockett Band, 9:30pm, $5.
Jake Ivory's
Josh Nelson and Aruna Abrams, 7:30pm.
The Linwood
Rock City Crimewave, the Black Halos and Heavy Stud, 10pm, $6.

WILLIAM HAMES

Lizard Lounge
Love Whip with Auto 66, Erin Harpe and Scrapple.
Middle East
U: Ida, Heidi Spaerstein, Mona Eliot and Jeff Goddard, $7, 18+. D: Bim Skala Bim, Stubborn All Stars and Beat Soup, $8, 18+.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Carroll, Fogal and DJ Wayne, 9:30pm.
Rhythm and Spice
Mighty Charge.
Slades
The John Dougherty Hammond Trio.
Top of the Hub
Maggie Galloway, 9pm.
T.T. The Bear's Place
Robbie Fulks, the Damnations and the Scrimshanders, $8.
The Western Front
Junior Jazz.

Sunday, April 2

Bill's Bar
Shaka Black.
Bulfinch's
Dave Whitney.
Harper's Ferry
The Rockett Band, 9:30pm, $5.
Lizard Lounge
Poetry Jam featuring the Jeff Robinson Trio, 8pm.
Middle East
C: Kate and Arina, 4pm; Awil Dualeh, 7pm.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Carroll, 8pm.
White Horse Tavern
Johnny A and Poor Law Union, 8pm.

Monday, April 3

Harper's Ferry
Ron Levy's Wild Kingdom, 9:30pm, $3.
Lizard Lounge
The Fringe, 10pm.
Middle East
C: Evan Harlan trio, 7pm.
Toad
Union Square Screw Machine, 8pm; Tim Gearan Band, 10pm.

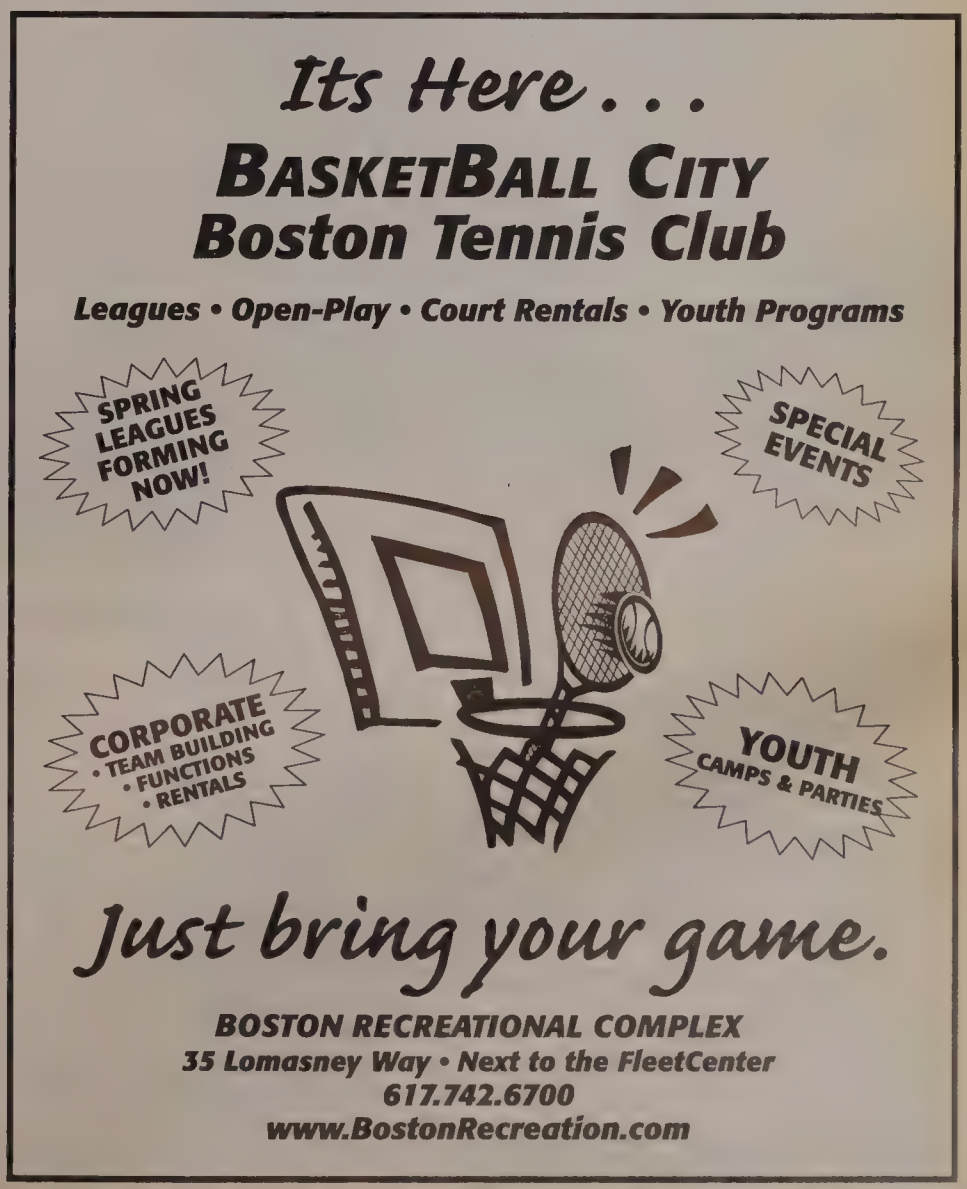
Tuesday, April 4

Bill's Bar
UnAmerican.
Harper's Ferry
Another Planet and Friends, 9:30pm, $3.
Lizard Lounge
Pamela Means, 8pm.
Middle East
U: Poster Children, Ultimate Fakebook and the Army of Jasons, $7, 18+. D: Shipping News, Victory at Seat, $8, 18+. C: Laurie Geltman, Roger Nicholson, 7pm.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Dave Smyth, 7pm.
Sculler's Jazz Club
Greg Hopkins Group, 8pm and 10pm, $10.
Toad
Michael Tarbox, 7pm; Asa Brebner with the Banjo Spiders, no cover.

Music Venues

Aquarium *65 Holland St.,Somerville (623-3200). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Fenway (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
B-Side Lounge *92 Hampshire St., East Cambridge (354-0766). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Bayou Blues Cafe *Located at Cambridge Racquet and Fitness Club, 215 First St., Cambridge (491-8989). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (743-2286). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Blacksmith House *56 Brattle St., Cambridge (247-9192).*
Bob the Chef's Jazz Cafe *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-6204).*
Bristol Lounge *Four Seasons Hotel, 200 Boylston St., Boston (338-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
Bulfinch's Pub *730 Boston Post Road, Sudbury (978-443-4094).*
The Burren *247 Elm St, Somerville (776-6896). MBTA: Red Line to Davis Square.*
Cambridge Brewing Co. *1 Kendall Square, Bldg. 100, Cambridge (494-1994).*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Clery's *113 Dartmouth St., Boston (262-9874). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*
Club Passim *47 Palmer St., Harvard Square, Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Coogan's Bluff *173 Market St., Boston (451-7415). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
The Good Life *28 Kingston St., Boston 451-2622). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing/*
Grand Canal *57 Canal St.., Boston (523-1112).*
Green Street Grill *280 Green Street, Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard.*
Hennessy's of Boston *25 Union St., Boston (742-2121).*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Harvard Square, Cambridge (491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Davis Square, Somerville (776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Kendall Cafe *233 Cardinal Medeiros Ave., Cambridge (661-0993). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (783-9400). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
The Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (267-8644).*
The Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-0795). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Porter.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Milky Way Lounge *405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-3740).*
O'Brien's *3 Harvard Ave., Allston (782-6245). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Paddy Burke's Pub *132 Portland St., Boston (367-8370). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (227-2060). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (725-1051). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Rhythm and Spice *315 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (497-0977). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Road, Cambridge (562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Slade's *958 Tremont St., Boston (442-4600).*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Veronique Restaurant *Longwood Towers, 20 Chapel St., Brookline (731-4800).*
Wally's Cafe *427 Mass. Ave., Boston (424-1408). MBTA: Green Line to Symphony.*
The Western Front *343 Western Ave., Cambridge (492-7772). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square.*
White Horse Tavern *116 Brighton Ave., Allston Village (254-6633). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard Ave., Allston (351-COOL). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*

Laugh along with Susan Werner. She plays with Vance Gilbert March 25, Somerville Theatre.



gay&lesbian

If you want to be listed
Submit information including telephone numbers and nearest T stops by fax to (859-1446), mail or e-mail to gaylesbian@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted by phone.*

How to use this section
The following listings contain information that is subject to change. Contact the organization for changes in specific events.

CLUBS, BARS & HANGOUTS

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years these folks have been crankin' out some of the best Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. It's well worth a visit—if not for the three separate dance floors then for all of the male dancers. 9pm, $15, 21+.

Buzz (Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays)
51 Stuart St. in the Theatre District, Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. On Saturday nights this place boasts two dance floors, two DJs, a pool room and a lounge. Two levels of dancing and schmoozing will keep the boys busy until 2am. 10pm, $5, 21+.

Chaps (Daily)
*100 Warrenton St., Boston (695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boyl*ston. www.chapsofboston.com. Sun.: Dance music of DJ Danae Jacovidis; Mon.: Grand Baby and Grand Piano night; Tue.: Retro DJ night; Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adielson Caesar; Thu.: DJs Billy and Fran: High Energy Dance; Fri.: Taboo Erotique with DJ Sammy; Sat.: High Energy Dance, DJ Danae Jacovidis.

City Girl Cafe (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tues.-Fri: 11am- 9pm; Sat: 10am-9pm; Sun: 10am-7pm. A small (5 tables), laid-back cafe in Inman Square, lesbian-owned and operated. This cozy spot is home to a mixed gay/hetero crowd that lounges about, munching on sandwiches. Brunch on Saturday and Sunday 10am-2pm.

Club Cafe (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-0966). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri 11:30am-2am; Sat. 2pm-2am; Sun. 11am-2am. This trendy South End spot draws a mixed crowd that comes for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back (Moonshine). A dressy bunch that likes to mingle. No cover, 21+. •Carol O'Shaughnessy performs with Steve Heck, Dottie Dean or David Sparr, Thursdays. •Michael Kreutz performs every Sunday, 8:30pm. •March 12, Jan Peters from *Old Fashioned, Please*, 7pm. •March 12, Michelle Currie from *Life's a Bowl of...*, 9pm.

Eagle (Daily)
*520 Tremont St., Boston (542-4494). Mon.-Fri. 3pm-2am; Sat. 1pm-2am; Sun. 12pm-2am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*This is your friendly neighborhood bar with a quiet setting. It's best known for scrumptious Sunday brunches (12-4pm). A simple joint with all of the trappings of a true bar, smoky and dark. The place starts hopping as it gets closer to 2am.

Fritz (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Stroll in for a quiet drink or a rowdy night on the town. The folks here are friendly—and really into sports. Not only does Fritz have Direct TV set up with sets scattered everywhere, it's also home base to a great softball league. 12pm, no cover, 21+.

Jacques (Daily)
79 Broadway, Boston (426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. If you're looking for a friendly crowd of gays and straights and you're in the mood to mix with disco-dancing drag queens, this is the place. Sun. and Mon. are local band nights when acts rock into the wee hours. Tues. through Sat., however, divas rule the stage. 10:30pm, $4, weekends $6, 21+.

Lava Bar (Saturdays)
575 Commonwealth. Ave., Boston (267-7707). The Lava Bar's Tabu night boasts DJ Fran spinning out high energy house with a taste of Latin beats. Doors open at 10pm.

The Lizard Lounge (Wednesdays)
1667 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). "Marlene Loses It at the Lizard" is the title of this eclectic evening of poetry, live music, theater and cabaret in front of a diverse crowd. Shows begin at 10pm. $5 cover, 21+.

Luxor (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (423-6969). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from the latest music scenes and classic old movies—compiled by the bar's own VJ. Downstairs is Jox, a sports bar. 4pm, no cover, 21+.

Mark Ravenhill's dark comedy, *Shopping and Fucking*, is now playing at the Actor's Workshop.

Man Ray (Thursdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (864-0400). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed.-Fri. at 9pm; Sat. at 10pm. A bustling S/M hot spot caters to a young alternative clientele. Two dance floors fill up on Thursdays for Campus, a predominately male night where DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen take over. 9pm, 21+.

119 Merrimac (Daily)
119 Merrimac St., Boston (367-0713). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Sat., 10:30am-2am; Sun. 12pm-2am. This male cruise bar is the place to stop for drinks before or after FleetCenter events. Shoot a leisurely game of pool or the hit the video games. Merrimac features DJs playing hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s. 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
*3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Stree*t. On Thursday nights the Lesbian AIDS Project of Mass. unofficially takes over this laid-back cafe for "dyke nyte." The cafe always has something brewing—live bands, DJs and drag queen parties. Party starts at 8pm, no cover, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (494-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Central. On Monday, a bartender not only mixes drinks, he'll strip too. Male strippers are featured, Wed through Sat. Mon is Gothic night; Tues is techno and Thur is college night. On Fridays DJ Sam Sampson spins, and on Sat DJ Brad Gwynn helps you tear up the dance floor. 5pm, no cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (266-2986). Green Line to Kenmore. 12pm-2am daily. The largest leather bar in the East enforces a tight dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room). Downstairs on Fri., Sat. (10pm-2am) and Sun. (7pm-12am) is the Machine, the sleekest hardcore club in town. Fri. has NYC DJ Darrin Friedman, Sat. DJ Brad Gwynn and Sun. is "Dragon Tea Dance," an Asian inspiration night with DJ James Hughes, a dragon show at 10pm and performances by Palace Princess Corvette and Diamond Dunhill. $6-$8, 21+.

BOOKS & READINGS

Glad Day Bookshop
673 Boylston St., Boston (267-3010). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu. 9:30am-10pm, Fri. and Sat. 9:30am-11pm, Sun. 12-9pm. This exclusively gay/lesbian bookstore has erotic mags, calendars and videos.

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge. (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Fri. 10am-8pm, Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 12-6pm. New England's oldest women's book shop offers a comprehensive selection of books. Its monthly author series will resume in the spring.

We Think The World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6:30pm; Sun., 11:30am-5:30pm. Boston's literary gay and lesbian bookstore.

SHOWS & EVENTS

Boston Gay Men's Chorus
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (424-8900). March 25, 8pm and March 26, 7pm. $12-$30. www.bgmc.org. The 140-voice Boston Gay Men's Chorus performs the world premiere of *Eos,* a dramatic new work by David Conte that celebrates the past, present and future of the gay community. Accompanied by chamber orchestra, the concert features music of gay American composers including Aaron Copland's *Old American Songs*, Samuel Barber's *Adagio for Strings* and Eric Helmuth's *The Mystic Trumpeter.*

Cabaret Times 4
Club Cafe, 142 Berkeley St., Boston (232-1804). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. $12. Michelle Currie performs "Life is a Bowl of Cherries" April 2, 7pm. •John Neil sings "Camp Songs" April 2, 9pm. •Jan Peters presents "Old Fashioned, Please!" March 26, 9pm. •Ida Zecco stars in "Loesser is More: the Music of Frank Loesser" March 26, 7pm.

The Judas Kiss
The Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). Wed.-Thu. 7:30pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 4pm; Sun. 3pm. Through April 16. A wildly intelligent drama that revolves around the events surrounding arrest and imprisonment of Oscar Wilde. David Hare lays bare the drama of two critical points in Wilde's last years: the day he decides to stay in England to face imprisonment and the night after his release two years later when the lover for whom he risked everything betrays him.

Personal Instrument
Theater Offensive, Boston Center for the Arts, Leland Center, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. March 24-April 8. $18. This story of a queer high school heavy metal star features David Hanbury, Queen Vashti of the recent hit, *Pure PolyESTHER*. This tsunami of virtuosity floods our senses with steaming guitar licks and hormone-drenched hard rock vocals.

Practical Legal Issues for Gays and Lesbians
March 22, 12pm, Boston Public Library, Mezzanine Conference Room, Boston. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Lawyers Peter Zupkofska, Angela Syrbick and Michael Duffy speak on what legal issues have the most significant impact on the everyday lives of gays and lesbians. The seminar covers relationship contracts, healthcare proxies and estate planning.

Shopping and Fucking
Actors Workshop, 40 Boylston St., Boston (887-2336). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Fri. 8pm and Sat. 7pm and 10pm. Through April 8. $10, $12 at the door. Mark Ravenhill's dark comedy is the tale of a trio of young Brits who sell drugs, sex and what is left of their souls to survive.

Teach Out Visionary Awards Event
Tufts University, Medford (536-9669). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. March 25. $60. The Boston Chapter of the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network presents its 10th Annual Conference. With more than 50 workshops, the conference is designed to provide participants with tools, curriculum and techniques that they will bring back to their schools and communities to further positive change. The keynote address is given by Kevin Jennings, founder and executive director of GLSEN. The day features a youth performance of theater, poetry, music and voice titled, *Pride in Our Youth*.

ONGOING

Bawl
This lesbian softball league offers opportunities to join teams in both the recreational and competitive divisions. Call Liz (508-628-5477).

Best Foot Forward
Ballet Etc. Dance Studios, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (522-1444). MBTA: B Green Line to Washington St. Everyone knows that swing is the thing. For gays/lesbians/bisexuals of all skill levels.

Boston Glass
Community Center, 93 Mass Ave., Boston (266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center. Daily 8-10pm. Support groups and social activities for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender adolescents ages 13-25.

The Boston Rainbow Gospel Choir
The BRGC is about to launch its second season and periodically holds auditions. Call 424-6740.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). A 1,500-member gay club with hiking, biking, camping, skiing and other outdoor activities for men and women.

Common Bond
(781-433-7023). www.dwellings.com/acb. An international support group for gay/lesbian/bisexual current or former Jehovah's Witnesses.

Community Rainbow
Boston Living Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston. 7:45 pm. An organization whose mission is to advocate for the community. Meets Thursdays.

Cosmetically-Correct
Tremont Tea Room, 48-50 Winter St., 3rd floor, Boston. A social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month 7:30-10pm. Lipstick optional. For more info e-mail *m.antoinette@ididitmyway.com.*

Dykes Who Hike
(522-6185). This hiking group for lesbians in Boston and surrounding areas conquers the wilderness.

East Coast Wrestling Club
With more than 160 members, this is an extraordinarily popular New England spot for gay male wrestlers. Call Marc at 401-467-6737, or go online at *http://members.tripod.com/~ecwc* or e-mail *ecwc@juno.com.*

Encounters
Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston. An informal social evening for HIV positive gay and bisexual men held the first Tuesday of every month, 7-9pm.

Explore
A behavioral study intervention for gay men. Call 350-6900, ext. 199 or e-mail *explore@lhi.org.*

Faith Community
Metropolitan Community Church, 131 Cambridge St., Boston (973-0404). A faith community of gay, lesbian, transgendered and bisexual people looking to affirm spirituality and sexuality.

Gay Volleyball
Cambridge (262-3626). Sundays, 7pm, $7. Typically five teams play on two courts. Teams are made up each week depending on who shows up. Men and women welcome.

Gender Free Contra Dancing
First Church of Jamaica Plain (522-1115). www.piac.net/users/latte/lcfd/. Come one, come all to evenings of contra and square dancing.

Hump Day
Skupper Jacks in Acton. Every third Wednesday at 5:30pm, Boston's gay, lesbian and transgendered come together to hang. For information contact *Tom.Evans@digital.com.*

Latino Social Groups
Latino Gay Men's Project *(350-6900 ext. 125)* and the Women's Social Groups *(350-6900 ext. 124).*

Long Yang Club
Various locations, (825-5677). www.longyangclub.org/boston. A club for gay Asian men. For more information call Ron (661-9165) or Steve at (401-941-1978).

Luna
(350-6900, ext. 122) or luna@lhi.org. This branch of the Latino Gay Youth Project offers psychoeducational groups.

Oops
Melting Pot Coffee House, 2 Belgrade Ave., Roslindale (323-4123). Out on the Parkways, a gay and lesbian organization, invites one and all to come on down for some coffee and dinner.

PFLAG
Fenway Community Health Center, 7 Haviland St., Boston (547-2440). Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets on the fourth Monday of the month, 6:30-8:30pm.

QAPA
This group holds monthly brunches on the first Sunday of every month at Ta-sheng Restaurant, 16 Eliot St., 2nd floor, in Harvard Square. Email *qapa@ccae.org.* for more information.

Queer Corps
131 Clarendon St., 4th floor, Boston (450-1676). A community mobilization project by and for queer men 25 and under. Meetings are held every Tuesday, 6-8pm.

Tennis4all
Call Ted at 779-7231. Boston's gay and lesbian tennis club, with monthly tournaments and pizza socials.

DANIELLE FAUTEUX JACQUES

THE RACK

24 Clinton St. • 617-725-1051 • www.therackboston.com

body&mind

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information by mail, fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/ Mind, or electronically to bodymind@improper.com. *Include a brief but thorough description of the event, time, date, location and directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.*

EVENTS

Drum and Dance Saturday
Eagle Drum Council, First Church Congregational, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (978-371-2502). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Apr. 1, 8-11:30pm. $6. An open night of drumming and dancing for anyone, whether you're a closet rhythm man, a constant dancer, or just curious. All you'll need to bring is stomping feet and clapping hands, but drums, spoons and tambourines are invited as well.

Healing with Intuition
Omega Institute in Boston, Arlington Street Church, 351 Boylston St., Boston (800-944-1001). www.omega-inst.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. March 25, 9am-5pm. $119.* Join **Judith Orloff** to learn the future of medicine—how to use your powerful, innate and intuitive intelligence to effectively heal yourself. Save some dough by using intuition to find out what's not well and what you specifically need.

SoulShine Singles
Theosophical Society in Boston, 21 Maple St., Arlington (781-942-1899). April 2, 7:30-9:30pm. $5 donation suggested. All seeking companionship while on the spiritual path are welcome to this regular event. This evening's meeting topic of discussion will be on special versus holy relationships.

Spring Break Yoga
BKS Iyengar Center, 240A Elm St., Suite 23, Somerville (666-9551). http://world.std.com/~yogactr. *MBTA: Red Line to Davis. March 27-31.* Partying for spring break is just old news, so spend your vacation savings a different way by joining the folks at BKS for week of early morning yoga classes. Rest and recovery may actually happen this time.

CLASSES/ WORKSHOPS

Acupressure for Depression, Anxiety and Other Emotional Problems
Meridians of Health, 1798A Massachusetts Ave., Suite E, Cambridge (576-5135). March 28, 6-8:30pm. $40. Acupressure is the massaging of pressure points to stimulate the nervous system and heal specific conditions. It's so easy, you could do it in the car. And with the traffic in this town, it's good to know getting calm is only a few exercises away.

The Heart Sutra
Shambhala Meditation Center, 646 Brookline Ave., Brookline (734-1498). www.shambhala.org. *MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. March 31-April 2. $80.* The heart sutra is the essence of the cycle of mahayana teachings in Tibetan Buddhism. If you're unsure what that is, then this workshop will be truly enlightening. You'll learn to allow your heart and intuition to open so that you communicate fully with the world.

Mystical Inner Journey
YogaEast, 20 Del Carmine St., Wakefield (781-224-0722). March 26, 12-5pm. $75. Within each of us is a sacred self who is constantly chatting it up with the Divine. Let your regular self meet your sacred self, and then the two of you can make combined decisions regarding all matters of life. **Dijana Winter** will show you just how much fun this can be.

Past Life Regression
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. March 26, 10am-5pm. $81. You don't have to believe in reincarnation to benefit from the guided visualization used to uncover past lives. The symbols and sights that arise from your subconscious are a valuable tool in understanding yourself.

Power Points
Open Doors, 395A Washington St., Braintree (781-843-8224). March 26, 2-4pm. $30. Press your points, not your buttons. Acupressure is the massaging of pressure points to stimulate the nervous system and relieve specific conditions. **Patricia Gilmore** will enlighten you as to how you can relieve the stresses and strains of your busy life simply, for yourself and others.

Think Positively: Overcoming Negativity
Brookline Adult and Community Education, Brookline High, 115 Greenough St., Brookline (730-2700). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. April 3, 7-9pm. $30. Are negative thoughts weighing you down, keeping you away from success and friendship? Coming to this class would be the first step in a positive direction. Get an understanding of how negative thinking happens, learn your patterns and create skills to aid you in changing a minus to a plus.

Judith Orloff heals with intuition, March 25.

Viniyoga Introduction
The Old Baptist Church, 1151 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (864-YOGA). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. March 26. Viniyoga practices are based on the individual's body type and personal needs. Viniyoga is also a flowing practice that keeps the body warm and develops strength and flexibility. If regular yoga didn't serve your needs, maybe this hot class is worth your attention.

You Are Psychic
Hypnotherapy Training Co., Wakefield, Mass. (800-497-1807). www.hypnosistoday.com. *March 25, 9am-5pm. $100, registration required.* It's a funny joke to toss around every time we predict something, but maybe it's not a joke at all. **John Holland** of *Unsolved Mysteries* hosts this hands-on, interactive and lively workshop to learn how to identify what your specific psychic abilities may be.

LECTURES/FORUMS

Chiropractic Lowdown
Harvest Co-op Market, 581 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (661-1580). MBTA: Red Line to Central. March 21, 6-8pm. **Dr. Kevin Baer** hosts this question and answer session on one of the country's mot popular health treatments. He will discuss the history and uses of chiropractic medicine and provide free posture screenings.

Immaculate Knight
New Acropolis Organization, First Parish Unitarian Church, 3 Church St., Cambridge (591-9959). MBTA: Red to Harvard. March 31, 7:30pm. Being a soldier wasn't always as destructive. In the age of chivalry, honor, service and sacrifice is what it took to win battles and hearts. Take this history lesson and learn how glory doesn't have to be a thing of the past.

Nutrition For Health
Bread and Circus, 647 Washington St., Newtonville (781-444-0700, ext. 3246). March 29, 6:30-8:30pm. Free, call to register. Nutrition is as fundamentally important for good health as practice is for a good sports team. Join the food coach and some teammates for a run-through and warm-up on how to play the healthiness game.

Sex for the Novice
Sexual Dynamics Inc., Beaver St., Boston (859-1400). April 1, 11pm. Not sure which hole is which? Unclear about the logistics of "doggy-style," "69" or even the more basic "missionary position"? This class will fill you in on all the details your mom never told you about how babies are made.

ONGOING

Qi Gong
Woolf Holistic Health Center, 651 Washington St., Brookline (738-9144). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Square. Thursdays, 7:30pm. Free. Have you ever wondered what Qi Gong, an ancient form of exercise from China, really is? Well your chance has manifested at the Woolf Center's drop-in session. Discover this time-tested art for maximizing your well-being and increasing your knowledge of mind and body.

Yoga/South End
Union United Methodist Church, 485 Columbus Ave., (522-7199). MBTA: Green Line to Prudential or Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue. 7pm, Wed. 12pm, and Sat. 9am. $15/class. Certified Kripalu yoga teacher **Patrice Flesch** teaches mixed-level classes in a spiritual setting. Increase flexibility, relieve stress, build strength, relax and enjoy yourself at any of these ongoing drop-in classes.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Children. Or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

TO SEE

Big Apple Circus: Bello and Friends
FanPier, Boston (800-922-3772). April 1-May 7. $13-$35. Sit 50 feet away from the fun and watch as the international award-winning clown Bello Nock and his friends entertain you with juggling, trapeze and animal tricks.

Puppet Showplace Theater
32 Station St., Brookline (731-6400). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. $8. • March 25-26, 1pm and 3pm (5 years and older). **The Three Bears** by Tom and Marianne Tucker from Tucker Tales. In this creative production, each bear has a special tale. Goldilocks comes along and joins in the fun. • *April 1-2, 1pm and 3pm (5 years and older).* **The Frog Prince** John McDonough. The prince is mean to the animals in the forest and is turned into a frog by the magic tree. He can only return to himself by a kiss from the snooty princess.

THINGS TO DO

American Baby's Baby Fair
Bayside Expo Center, 200 Mt. Vernon, Boston (877-959-BABY). April 1-2. $8 adults. More than 200 exhibitors showcase the latest in child care and parenting information. Take a peek at the newest products for infants and toddlers while kids enjoy interactive exhibits and free products. There will be continuous live entertainment for children throughout the weekend, in addition to roving cartoon characters, including Elmo and Arthur the Loveable Aardvark.

Bamidele Dancers and Drummers
41 Foster St., Arlington (718-648-6220). April 1, $4-$10. Join in with the Bamidele Dancers and Drummers as they present an interactive concert featuring song, music and dance from African and African-rooted cultures of the Carribbean and Brazil. Audience participation is encouraged.

Children and Health Care Day
Children's Museum, 300 Congress St., Boston (426-8855). March 25, 11am-4pm. Are you nervous about going to the doctor? Learn how to be comfortable with pediatric medicine and explore the importance of good health and nutrition with your child. Kids can bring their teddy bears and give them a medical check up using real doctor's equipment at the Teddy Bear Clinic.

Little Paper Cars
Museum of Transportation, 15 Newton St., Brookline (522-6547). March 26, 2pm. Free with museum admission. How are cars different from each other? Make your own three-dimensional paper car and decorate it any way you like.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu. 9am-5pm; Fri. 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children. Omni Theater, Hayden Planetarium or laser shows all $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children.* Find out how much you weigh on the moon, strap yourself into a space module or sift through sand on an archaeological dig. Enjoy 600 hands-on exhibits, including the *Theater of Electricity*, *Seeing Is Deceiving* and *Science in the Park* (Newtonian physics introduced through such accessible items as playground equipment and skateboards.)

Science Tuesday: Domino Physics
Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). March 28, 3:30pm. Ages 8 and up. Learn about the exciting world of physics through dominoes. Kids will watch the collapse of a giant domino chain, then create a domino structure themselves.

Story Time
Barnes and Noble, Framingham (508-636-2823). April 4, 10:30am. Enjoy stories full of rhymes and songs. Celebrate National Poetry Month and read along with great books and poems.

Story Hour and Craft
Harvard Coop, 1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (499-2000). March 25, 11am. Free. David Kirk reads from *Little Miss Spider* while you make a spider of your own!

Wild Adventures
Stone Zoo, 149 Pond St., Stoneham (781-438-5100). March 25, 2-3:30pm. The entire family can join this Spring Thaw Hike.

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to listings@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

To Watch

Boston Bruins
• FleetCenter. Tickets: 931-2000.
March 23 (Home): Florida, 7pm.
March 25 (Home): Los Angeles, 1:30pm.
March 29 (Away): Montreal, 7:30pm, UPN38.
March 30 (Home): St. Louis, 7:30pm, ESPN2.
April 1 (Home): New York, 1pm, ABC.
April 4 (Away): Tampa, 7:30pm, UPN38.

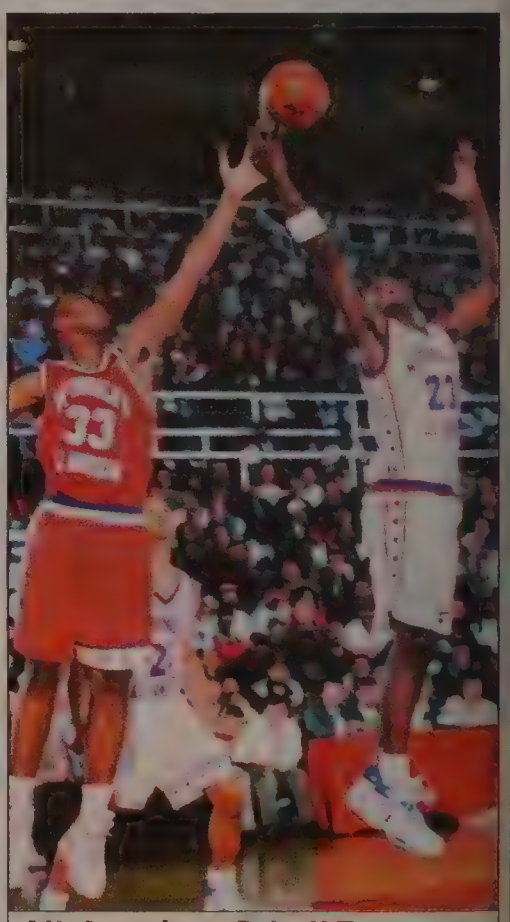
Celtics
• FleetCenter. Tickets: 931-2000.
March 22 (Home): Minnesota, 7pm, Fox Sports Net.
March 24 (Away): Philadelphia, 7pm, FSN.
March 26 (Home): Milwaukee, 4pm, FSN.
March 28 (Away): Orlando, 7:30pm, FSN.
March 31 (Home): Washington, 7pm, FSN
April 1 (Away): Cleveland, 7:30pm, FSN.
April 4 (Away): Charlotte, 7:30pm, FSN.

New England Revolution
• Foxboro Stadium. Tickets: 877-GET-REVS
March 25 (Away): Tampa, 7pm, Fox Sports Net.
April 1 (Away): Los Angeles, 10:30pm, FSN.

Red Sox
• Fenway Park. Tickets: 267-8661
April 4 (Away): Seattle Mariners, 8:05pm.

Event

Harlem Globetrotters
FleetCenter, Boston (931-2000). www.fleetcenter.com. *MBTA: Green Line to North Station. March 24, 7pm. $15-$25.* The magicians of basketball will be making their annual visit to the FleetCenter for a night of hilarious comedy and non-stop family entertainment on the parquet.



All-American B-ball Tourney

Antoine Walker (right), a former McDonalds All-American alumni and current Celtics player, snags the ball mid-air. This year's top high school players in New England compete at the FleetCenter, March 29, 8pm. For tickets call 931-2000.

Our donor egg program is looking for women with something special...

A generous heart.

You have the opportunity to give the gift of childbirth to an infertile couple. Boston IVF is looking for egg donations from healthy women between the ages of 21 and 34. Donors will be required to take medication and undergo a minor surgical procedure. Donors will be compensated for their time and effort. Participation is completely confidential.

For more information, call us at (617) 735-9023, M-F, 9-5 p.m.
Serious inquiries only.

Boston IVF
"Bringing a Little Joy To Life"
One Brookline Place, Brookline, MA 02146
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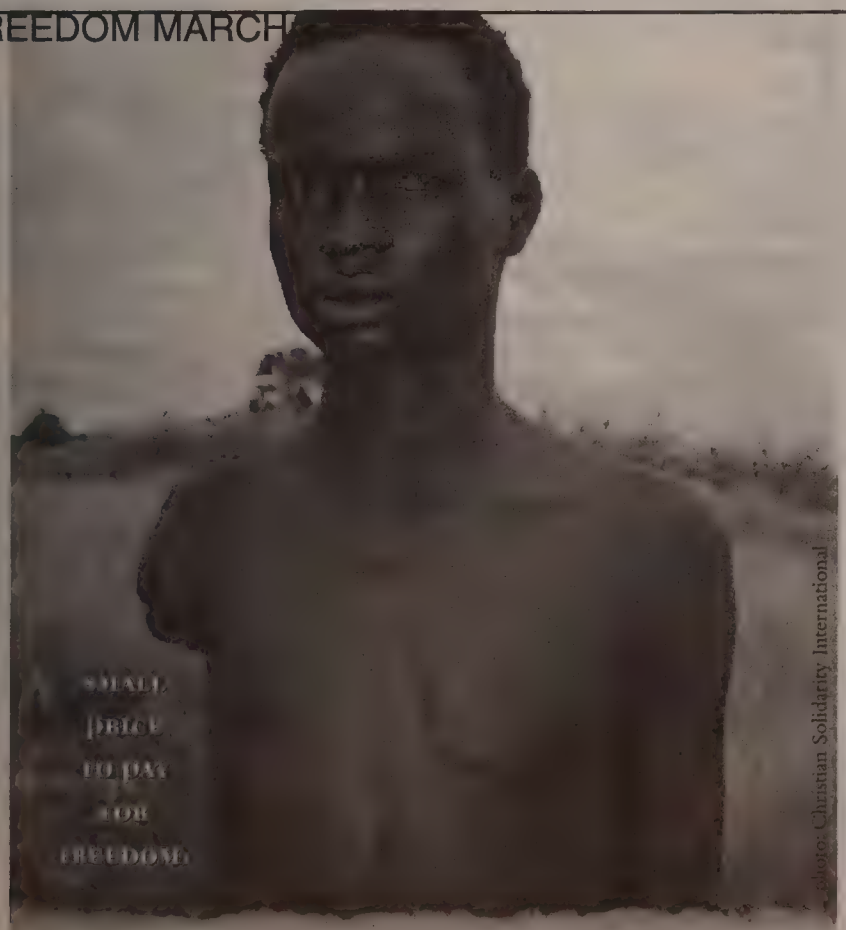
FREEDOM MARCH



Photos: Christian Solidarity International

Two years ago, he tried to escape from his master. Which is more shocking? The torture he endured? Or that slavery still exists? www.anti-slavery.com.

AMERICAN ANTI-SLAVERY GROUP
FREEDOM WALK 2000
SATURDAY, APRIL 8TH, 12 NOON

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Our new address is...

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142 BERKELEY ST., 3RD FLOOR
BOSTON, MA 02116

But our phone number remains the same...
617.859.1400

Ski Events

•March 25: **Spring Mania 2000—Grandstand Mogul Jam** at Attitash Bear Peak. (800-757-0203). Skiers, boarders and telemarkers take on the fierce moguls.
•March 25: **Spring Mania 2000—Superhits** at Attitash Bear Peak. (800-757-0203). "Grass Roots" snowboard air and style competition.
•March 25: **2nd Annual Slush Cup** at Mount Sunapee. (603-763-2356).Pond skimming competiton.
•March 25: **2nd Annual Mount Vegas Night** at Mount Sunapee. (603-763-2356). Casino night.
•March 28: **Spring Mania 2000—Reggae Daze** at Attitash Bear Peak. (800-757-0203). Enjoy live reggae music on the snow in this wildly popular event.
•March 29-April 1: **USASA Nationals** at Waterville Valley. (603-236-8311). National snowboard event with more than 800 athletes ages 6 to 60 competing.
•March 30-April 2: **Caribbean Party Weekend** at Bretton Woods. (603-278-3300). Spring skiing with island entertainment.
•April 1: **Spring Mania 2000—Superhits Finale** at Attitash Bear Peak. (800-757-0203). The finals of this grass roots snowboard air and style competition.
•April 1: **Spring Mania 2000—Attitash Bear Peak Open On-Snow Golf Tourney** at Attitash Bear Peak. (800-757-0203). Teams of four compete in this golf tournament on skis.
•April 1: **April Fool's Fest** at Cannon Mountain. (603-823-8800). Race of the Crash Test Dummies, pond skimming and more.
•April 1: **Fools Flip, Flop, Fly Competition** at Gunstock. (603-293-4341). Race on mountain bikes, skis, or snowboards. Pond skimming too.
•April 2: **Velcro Day** at Cannon Mountain. (603-823-8800). Velcro creation anniversary. Velcro wall and other Velcro activities.

To Play

BASEBALL

Henry's Baseball Club
(781-891-0621). Waltham. Seeking players ages 17-30 and coaches for upcoming season.

BASKETBALL

Basketball City
Adjacent to North Station and the FleetCenter (742-6700). Corporate, midday and weekend leagues.
Co-Ed Indoor Basketball
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 224). Sun.-Thu. nights at various locations. All levels welcome. Leagues in Waltham, Dedham and Brookline.
The Corporate League of Boston
(566-7808).
Men's Basketball League
Sport & Social Club (262-8990). Begins April 14.
Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333). Practice and workout programs for all levels in Greater Boston.
Women's Basketball League
(661-9622).
Women's 3 on 3 Basketball
Sport & Social Club (262-8990). Begins April 10.

DOWNHILL SKIING

Boston Ski & Sports Club
(789-4070, ext. 222). •Daytrips leave every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday and include roundtrip transportation plus lift tickets. •Weekend trips include resort accommodations, meals, lift tickets and bus transportation.
Ski Market/Underground Snowboard
(731-6100). Sundays, $45; Thursdays, $40 (includes dinner and tour of the Redhook Brewery). Ski/snowboard trips to Killington, Sunday River, Loon and Waterville every Sunday and Thursday. Trips include roundtrip transportation and lift ticket.
S-Kimos Ski Club
Jackson, N.H. (388-8135 or 781-209-1189). Ski club located in Jackson, NH, central to many ski areas. Members participate in various winter and summer activities.

FOOTBALL

Australian Rules Football
Boston Australian Rules Football Club. Thu. evenings and Sat. mornings, Cambridge (781-440-9266). www.Boston Demons.org. No experience necessary.
Indoor Flag Football
BSSC, Indoor Sports Center in Revere (789-4070). Sundays.
Co-ed Touch Football
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990).

GOLF

The Golf School
Radisson Hotel, 200 Stuart St., Boston (457-2699). An indoor driving range staffed by PGA pros.

HIKING/WALKING

The Appalachian Mountain Club
Gorham, N.H. (603-466-2727). Hikes and huts in the White Mountains. •Monthly AMC Young Members meetings at AMC headquarters, 4 Joy St., Beacon Hill (523-0655). Second Thursday of every month, 6-10pm, $3. Potluck. BYOB.
New England Walkers
39 Oakland Rd., Brookline (731-9889). members.tripod.com/NEWALKERS. This 200-member club hosts race-walk events and clinics. Weekly walks at M.I.T. indoor track on Wednesdays at 7pm.

HOCKEY

Co-ed Floor Hockey
BSSC (789-4070). Individuals and teams, co-eds, all levels in Newton.
Co-ed Floor Hockey
Sport & Social Club of Boston, (262-8990). Begins March 27 and April 12.

RUGBY

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
Cambridge (781-340-2192). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.bwrfc.org. *Tue. and Thu. evenings.* No experience necessary.

RUNNING

Boston Road Club Weekly Races
(781-646-8955). Sundays. Starts at Wells Ave. in Newton.
Fresh Pond Weekly Road Races
Fresh Pond Reservation. Saturdays, 10am. Choose between a 2.5- or 5-mile run.
NIKETOWN Boston Running Club
200 Newbury St., Boston (267-3400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Three-to-five-mile loops. Starts at 6:30pm. Monthly mini-clinics as well.
Boston Hash House Harriers
(499-4835). Weekly runs year-round. Serious drinkers with a running problem.
Khoury's Thursday Night Runs
East Somerville. (354-3534). 4.13 miles. 7pm at Khoury's Bar.
Somerville Road Runners Weekly Run
Cambridge Boat House Parking Lot, Cambridge (923-2378). Fridays at 7 pm.

SOCCER

BSSC Indoor/Outdoor Soccer
BSSC (789-4070, ext. 225). Coed teams.
Sport & Social Club Indoor/Outdoor Soccer
(262-8990). Indoor begins March 27 and March 29.

SWIMMING

Boston Athletic Club Swim Workouts
653 Summer St., Boston (269-4300). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon. and Wed. 6:15-7:15am.
The Charles River Park Club
Charles River Park, Boston (450-9810). Mon., Wed., Fri. 6:30-7:45am. Morning masters.
The Mason Masters Swim Program
The Mason Pool, 159 Norfolk Avenue, Roxbury. (236-4923 or 450-9810) Mon.-Fri. 7:30-8:30pm. Led by Alex Primilsky, coach of world, national and Olympic champions.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Boston Ski & Sports Club
(789-4070).
Boston Ultimate Disc Alliance
(928-0882). www.buda.org.

VOLLEYBALL

Adult Co-ed Volleyball League
Waltham YMCA (781-894-5295). Monday nights, began Sept. 13. All levels welcome at this league.
BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club, (789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. at various locations. Coed indoor 6 on 6 leagues. •Co-ed pickup games Tuesdays and Fridays at West Newton Armory, 1137 Washington St. $5. •Volleyball Clinic, Feb. 27, 4-6:30pm, Serving and Passing. All levels. $15. West Newton Armory.
Co-ed Volleyball League
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990). Begins April 5 and April 6.
Co-ed Volleyball-Waltham
Waltham YMCA, 725 Lexington St, Waltham (781-894-5295). Monday nights. Begins in April.

WRESTLING

Men's Adult Wrestling
Boston Union, 48 Boylston St., Boston (482-1122). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm; Saturdays 1-3:30pm. All skill levels. Coaching available.

sales&fashion

Bloomie's Caring Star supports the Colorectal Cancer Research Alliance.

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for sales and bargains by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sales and Fashion. Or e-mail information to goodbuys@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the event or items. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

AUCTIONS

Skinner Auctioneers—Bolton
357 Main St., Bolton (978-779-6241). www.skinner-inc.com. **•American Indian & Ethnographic Art.** *March 25, 10am. Previews: March 23, 2-5pm; March 24, 2-7pm; March 25, 8-9:30am.* **•Science & Technology.** *April 1, 10am. Previews: March 30, 2-5pm; March 31, 2-6pm; April 1, 8-9:30am.* Featuring mechanical music. Highlight: a nameplate from a Titanic lifeboat.

EVENTS

Country Road Fashion Exhibit
140 Newbury St., Boston (262-3820). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. March 24-25, 10am-7pm; March 26, 10am-6pm. Country Road will host *la vie en bleu*, a photography exhibit by Boston fashion photographer Brad Ziegler.
Passport to France Silent Auction
The French Library & Cultural Center, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (266-4351). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. March 24, 6-9pm. $60. Attendees will be able to bid on a list of travel packages and products, including air and train travel as well as a stay in a *manoir* in the French countryside.
Spring Craft Sale
Wellesley Community Center, 219 Washington St., Wellesley (781-235-6690). March 25, 10am-4pm. Free. A sale featuring approximately 20 crafters and artists.

FASHION

Big Dreams Start Small Fashion Show and Dinner
Boston Park Plaza Hotel Ballroom, Arlington Street, Boston (800-341-5800 or 965-5262). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. March 30, 6pm. $75. Emcee Liz Brunner of Channel 5 will unveil a major fashion event with fashion designer Denise Hajjar presenting her Spring-Summer 2000 Collection to a crowd of 600. Proceeds benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.
Bloomingdale's Spring Events
55 Boylston St., Newton (630-6000). MBTA: D Green Line to Chestnut Hill. •March 22, 11am-3pm: St. John Fashion Day in the Fashion Apparel building. •March 23, 11am-3pm: Giorgio Armani Le Collezioni Event in the Fashion Apparel building.

SALES

The Caring Star
Bloomingdale's, 55 Boylston St., Newton (630-6000). MBTA: D Green Line to Chestnut Hill. Through March 31. $12. Purchase a sterling silver Caring Star and support the Colorectal Cancer Research Alliance.

WEDDINGS

Spring 2000 Bridal Fashion Show & Registry Event
Bloomingdale's, Home and Men's Store, 55 Boylston St., Newton (630-6000). MBTA: D Green Line to Chestnut Hill. March 26, 9:30am. $15. View elegant gowns by Yolanda Bridal Boutique and meet Caroline Starry from Barnardaud China. Brides can also register to win a honeymoon and other great prizes.

OPENINGS

The Expensive Store
725 Newbury St., Boston (859-1400). Opens April 1. Tired of finding bargains everywhere you turn? Everything in Newbury's newest store is way overpriced to appeal to the conspicuous consumer.

go away

TRAVELING NEAR AND FAR

Advice to Contributors
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NORTH OF BOSTON

Two Generations of Weston
Arthur Griffin Center for Photographic Art, Winchester, Mass. (781-729-1158). Through April 30. Feast your eyes on the works of one of the photography world's greatest masters, Edward Weston. This special exhibit of stunning photographs also features works by his sons, Cole and Brett Weston, who carried on their father's tradition begun in Mexico in the 1960s.
Late Night Catechism
Cyrus W. Irish Auditorium, Lowell High School, Lowell, Mass. (978-454-2299). April 4-16. $18-20. Rave reviews and sold out audiences have graced this play since it opened in Chicago in 1993. See this smaller (yet just as humorous version) in Lowell.

WEST OF BOSTON

Maple Sugaring Month
Massachusetts Maple Producers (413-628-3912). www.massmaple.org. It's the six-week maple sugaring season in Western Mass. More than 100 maple sugarhouses invite visitors to sample fresh maple products—from the classic "sugar on snow" to maple candy and maple cream. Some of the farms not only offer maple products, but also horse-drawn sleigh rides and pancake breakfasts. Call the Massachusetts Maple Producers for more information.

PROVIDENCE, R.I.

Harlem Globetrotters
Providence Civic Center, 1 La Salle Square, Providence, R.I. (401-331-6700). March 25, 1:30pm. If you can't make it to the Boston show (See CityScope, March 24) of these whistling wizards of b-ball and comedy, head just an hour south to the Providence Civic Center.

MIAMI

Miami-Dade County Youth Fair
10901 Coral Way, Miami, Fla. (305) 223-FAIR. March 16-April 2, 3pm-11pm, $7/$5 kids (6-12). Enjoy this three-week event with more than 80 acres of fairgrounds, food galore, a mile-long midway, 100 plus rides and growing, $600,000 of free entertainment, air-conditioned exhibit halls and free parking.

NEW YORK

Critical Mass Ride
Community Gardens, Union Square Park South, 14th St. and Broadway, N.Y. (212-802-8222). March 31. We're approaching that time when wind blowing through your hair feels invigorating again instead of painful. Thus it's the perfect time to skate or bike through New York City for this event celebrating the Gardens, especially with an added twist. Put on a crazy costume or disguise and parade around the streets in full view of all those rearing for springtime. Finally the outdoors will be friendly again so take advantage of this short window of time during which it is acceptable to be giddy in the sun (while you're not yet self-conscious in your shorts).
Greek Independence Day Parade
5th Avenue, between 62nd & 79th Streets, New York, N.Y. (718-204-6500). March 26. One of the largest events of its kind outside of Greece. The depression of Valentine's Day and the excitement of St. Patrick's are over, so go celebrate Greek culture and pride. If pitas, grape leaves and spanicopita are all you know of the region, then eat it up the way it's supposed to be done and stroll down 5th Avenue for the day.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

National Cherry Blossom Festival
The Mall, Washington, D.C. March 26-April 9. The Nation's Capitol explodes in a flurry of pink and white blossoms around the tidal pool and along the stone paths on the Mall. It's perhaps one of the most beautiful sights in the world--especially after a long cold winter. Like the groundhog in Punxsutawney, the blossoms (a gift from the Japanese government) herald the arrival of spring. Grab a picnic basket and a bottle of wine, and picnic under the trees.

Meet Sister at the wildly popular show *Late Night Catechism*, in Lowell, April 4-16.

SAN FRANCISCO

Short Attention Span Film and Video Festival
Castro Theater, San Francisco (415-282-4316). April 1-15. If you can't handle sitting still for a three-hour flick, then you'll enjoy these two-minute videos. They range from the dissident, humorous, political or whimsical to the fancy and meaningless. Awards include a grand prize of $2,500 for Best Animation and Viewer's Choice.

St. Stupid's Day Parade
Baghdad by the Bay, Financial District, San Francisco, Calif. (510-841-1898). April 1. On April Fool's Day, join a gathering of St. Stupid's disciples in Baghdad by the Bay as they reunite to display their creative side in a procession that starts in the Financial District. This part-comedy church service, part-parade features various comedians and religious leaders, music and rituals.

MONTREAL

Montreal International Collector's Record Show
Maritime Plaza Hotel, Montreal (514-366-2050). March 25. You may think that you've seen the last of such embarassments as Warrant and Whitesnake, but if you're a music aficionado and you've traveled around Europe, you know that our cast-offs are often an international collector's prize possession. Not that there's anything wrong with that. We're sure there are some people in Budapest who have never heard of Ricky Martin. So if you're interested in learning about such eclectic music collections, join more than 30 new and used record and CD exhibitors from Europe and North America in this third annual show.

ANCHORAGE

Seward's Day
632 West 6th Avenue, Anchorage (907-343-4431). March 29. Throughout the state, commemorate Seward's Folly—the purchase of Alaska from the Russians in 1867. Sure, it's cold up there—but there's a lot of "black gold."

LONDON

Floramania!
Hampton Court Palace, Hampton Court, Surrey (0181-781 9500). March 31-April 4. Adults $16, children $10. This annual explosion of color celebrates spring (which we won't see for a while) with magnificent 17th-century-style floral displays filling the Queen's apartments. It's an eye-indulging afternoon delight, and for all you future botanists out there it's a learning experience as well. A series of talks on the flower arranging of the time is presented by lecturers from the National Association of Flower Arrangers.

London Drinker Beer & Cider Festival
Camden Centre, Bidborough St., London, England (44-1753-645-880). March 22-24. We all know that London drinkers are supposed to be one-of-a-kind pint-lovers, but no one really knows why. Perhaps it's those hard bellies stuffed with fish and chips. We think a trip to London for this festival might be a good way of investigating the matter. See what happens when Brits get together to enjoy regional, imported and London independent beers and cider. Hot and cold food (of the English, not gourmet, variety) provided to sober up all amateurs. Show 'em up if you can.

Oxford & Cambridge Boat Race
River Thames, London, England (212-850-0327). March 23. It's a bit like the Head of the Charles—only a heck of a lot older. Watch these two intellectual giants go head-to-head in the River Thames. The amusing part is when opposing boat members call upon their relentless British humor to exchange insulting wails on the validity of the others' faculty, mission statements and philosophical teachings.

PARIS

Le Temps, Vite
Centre Georges Pompidou, 19 rue Beaubourg, Hôtel de Ville (01-44-78-12-33). Through April 10. The Pompidou's grand opening show promises to be a bit of a brain-teaser. With the turn of the century, we've all been amazed at how fast the times have passed. With this in mind, the theme of the show presents the concept of time that goes beyond the norm of our daily perception. Topics include the time of languages, work time and workings of time, calendar time and the end of time. Art works are paired with music installations and literature.

mark your daytimer

UPCOMING EVENTS

CITYSCOPE

Patriots' Day Parade
April 17, City Hall

FILM

Boston International Festival of Women's Cinema
April 13-17, Brattle Theatre

MUSIC

Blink 182 with Bad Religion
May 29, Worcester Centrum

Carlos Santana with Macy Gray
August 1, Tweeter Center

Ricky Martin
June 21, FleetCenter

Smashing Pumpkins
April 29, Tsongas Arena

Tina Turner with Lionel Richie
June 9, FleetCenter

PERFORMING ARTS

Miss Saigon
June 8, Wang Theatre

Tina Turner at the FleetCenter

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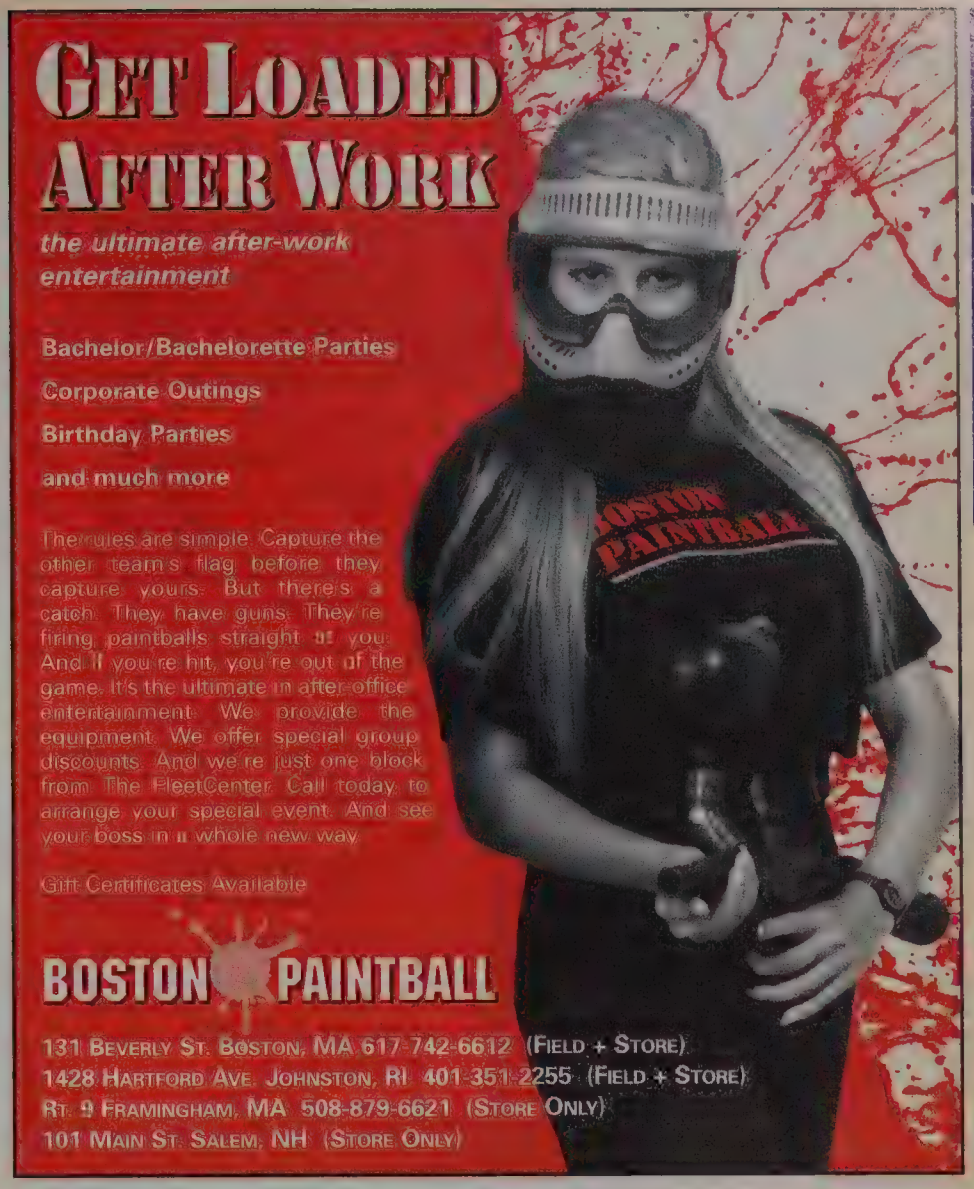

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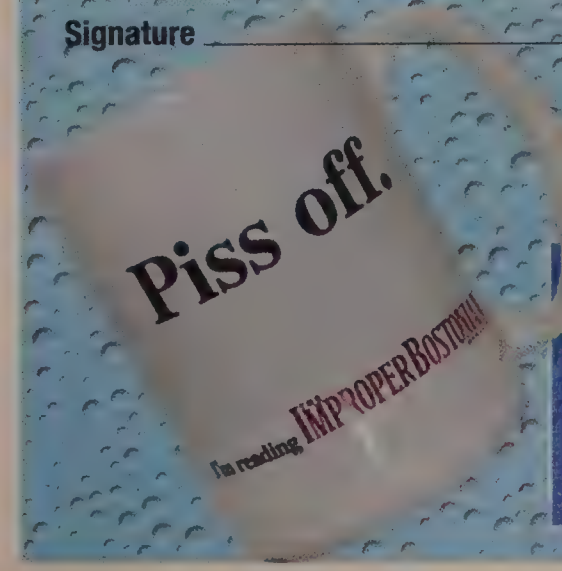

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Recent correspondence follows.

To the adorable creature I always see on the T or I guess maybe in a coffee shop or something...
You: totally attractive & intimidating, you never look at me because you see me staring at you all the time and you don't want to make eye contact with me, because that might encourage me. You're always smiling, except at me, because you don't want to encourage me. Because I'm a dork with no guts.

Me: a dork with no guts. You've probably seen me lots of times. A slob who's too scared of rejection or else lacking enough basic intelligence and/or creativity to approach you and say "hi." I guess maybe I should scrape the nerve together to actually introduce myself to you, and actually try to have a conversation with you—but who am I kidding? It's all beyond my social abilities. Instead, please accept this bland, ambiguous, "enigmatic" missive that you'll never read, but which will let me pretend that I've "taken action" that's almost as good as speaking to you when I had the chance, and which I will endlessly re-read once it's in print, using it to nurse my hopeless crush, holding it to my chest at night, crossing my fingers and praying that you'll—for some inexplicable, magical reason of your own, because God knows there aren't any I can think of—come up to me one day out of the blue and say hello.

Harpoon Girl
Meghan, we met on the way to the Harpoon St. Patrick's Day festival. My friend and I split a cab with you and your friend when we got tired of waiting for the shuttle bus. Of course the bus passed us as soon as we got in the cab. We were standing in line talking and you and your friend decided not to go in and left. I wish you hadn't. Let's go out sometime and get that pint of Harpoon?
—justin_ma@yahoo.com

950 Winter Street, Center Entrance,Waltham
Hello. I would see you in the cafeteria.You have big beautiful eyes, long lashes, shoulder length brown hair, and would read all by yourself at lunch time. I thought that the reading was a sign of some depth.

You sat at the table next to myself and a coworker one day. I stood up and cleaned the table for you when you sat down. I told my coworker about getting an audio system for the 3 floors of my townhouse, and perhaps taking up flying. I planned to introduce myself, with no coworkers around to interrupt.

Alas, my office is now in Framingham. We had expected a few weeks, but then had only one day's notice. I looked for you...

Let me introduce myself and serenade you! P.S.-Coworkers! Please make sure she sees this!
—Rodger at rodger_22@yahoo.com

John B. in Cambridge
You probably don't know this, but I'm sweet on you. I feel dangerously giddy when I'm around you. Maybe it's that handsome face and firm body (stop worrying). Naw—I think it's that you make me giggle, you have just the right amount of quirkiness, and you're solid with a big heart. Plus, no one else winks as well as you do. Oh, and you're the best darn sales guy in our office—a demo god. Curious?
—cyberfemme4@hotmail.com

D Green Line to Riverside
Thursday, Feb.3, 3 p.m.
Me: foreign PhD student in black, brown hair,brown eyes. You: black coat, briefcase, standing next to me. You continued to Riverside. I would like to know you better.
—liisa91@hotmail.com

Miss Good Times
Damn the porno queen and secret I let slip! Take solace in these secrets that will never be revealed. Those evenings sans panties of lobe licking vanilla ice cream out of my pants—with the voice of course. PJ footrubs with the human sweat gland crowding your skinny body. (Just don't lose the ass, he loves the ass!) And of course a puppy, a hammock, and a world record. I adore you and the magic that you have made of my life. xoxoxo
—Mirrored Ceiling Man

To the bike messenger who had a "run-in" with that moron on Bowdoin Street
March 2, 2:30pm. I just wanted to say that you were right. That idiot had the balls to say you hit him, when I clearly saw you dismount and guide your bike to the curb. Hey, is it your responsibility that some of the biggest assholes don't even know what "jaywalking" means? As a recreational/commuting cyclist, I've had more than my share of run-ins with trash like that and I commend you on the way you handled yourself. I was impressed with your fighting ability. (For the readers, this incident was caused by a pedestrian who purposely walked into the cyclist and attacked him as a result. The goon's father/buddy was no help.) I stood by just in case you needed help (or a witness) but obviously you didn't need it. Unfortunately, due to the way bike messengers are unfairly perceived by the public, getting any justice in an instance like this is a longshot (unless you have "connections"). The "statehouse ranger" who showed up wasn't much help at all. Keep up the good work—kick ass when you have to!
—Part-time Cyclist

Boys...
Why is it that when you have broken up with a girlfriend, your next plan of action is to see how long it's going to take for her to come crawling back? So many of you seem to think that dumping or have been dumped means that somehow she's going to realize that she's made a mistake. There is no mistake. If she cheated on you it probably means that she was over the relationship and needed a way out, graceful or not. All of you pining away for someone just burns my ass. Especially since I seem to be so great at picking you tortured fools out of the crowd. Can't just one of you check your baggage at the desk rather than having a constant carry on?
—From, a disgruntled girl, can you blame me?

Haymarket Honey
Glad to help you find the stairs down to the Green Line on 2/11/00. I'd be more than glad to see your warm smile again. You could heat all of New England with that thing!
—Tongue-Tied at TTied7@excite.com

To The Man at Peet's
You read books on Sufism and seem to be knowledgeable about Russia. I see you frequently. You are intriguing to me. How about saying hello, or at least a smile? We sat at tables next to each other on a recent Saturday morning. I'm your age, by myself, reading the *Globe*.

I saw you: blonde hair, blue fleece Patagonia, reading this magazine on the Red Line towards Alewife last Friday (25th, I think). I'd like to know your name.Please e-mail me at
—holden3_3_3@yahoo.com

To the Little Mom with Light Hair
I know you're reading this... scouring each listing, looking for me and JPS. Here we are!
—Your daughter

Rockie Horoscope

March 22 - April 4, 2000
BY ROCKIE GARDINER

Aries
MARCH 20-APRIL 19
Every day in every way, you're getting closer. To what? Only you know. I see a growing fanaticism or faith, a need to believe that fame or *Inside Edition* will find you, that your artistic home movie will soon be on the Internet, that your team will make it to the Final Four. No matter how delusional people think you are, keep it up. Come early April, you'll get your shot. Until then, there are birthday celebrations to plan, garden plots to dig, miles to run, all without sufficient sleep. Ease up on drugs and drink; you're especially vulnerable.

Taurus
APRIL 20-MAY 20
The Bull and the Scorpion might not get along while your Venus ruler and Pluto are in a challenging square. Throw your weight around, snort and stomp if you must, just remember that the little arachnid's bite can be deadly, especially if you're vying for sexual supremacy or are engaged in other power plays. Better to rely on your tried-and-true talents this weekend and follow a traditional, peaceable and pleasurable path as Venus favors Saturn in your sign. This is also a go signal for purchasing items (e.g., the oak bed) that'll be with you for years to come.

Gemini
MAY 21-JUNE 20
Maybe you do have a personal life lurking somewhere in your consciousness, but we won't see evidence of it this month. Everything (including the moon) is currently above the horizon, emphasizing your dependence on (or interest in) other people. Since Pluto in your Sag house of partners is not getting along with lovable Venus at the moment, chances are you'll become embroiled in their contre-temps by the 30th when your Mercury ruler is drawn into the fray. Until then, reach out to prestigious people who can move your publishing, travel or learning project along.

Cancer
JUNE 21-JULY 22
The women in your life, *you* included, may be overly emotional right now because Venus is in Pisces, the sign of the martyr. And while you usually are sympathetic to this compassionate vibe, you can see the damage (to the children, your romance, even your team's effort) it is causing. A friend steeped in the group ethic can be of help this weekend by giving the gals a real project to reclaim. Meanwhile you could find inspiration in, of all things, the Oscar awards or another, magical, musical event.

Leo
JULY 23-AUGUST 22
Those May-December liaisons you've been hearing about can strike home this weekend and give your reputation (as what?) a noticeable boost. Look for the young beauty, this time one with plenty of soul; or if you're the kid in this dynamic duo, trust that someone of stature will come through in a pinch. Other people's money makes a difference for Leo artists, musicians or visionary health professionals looking for funding. If you have a partner in this project, so much the better.

Virgo
AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22
Tooting your own horn or putting a favorable spin on a story that concerns a significant other should be a snap this weekend. While your Mercury ruler is aligned with generous Jupiter, you attract media attention and money, the same combination at work when the Tribune Company announced it bought the Times Mirror print empire. Perhaps by the time Mercury and Pluto square off on the 30th, you'll have your own grist for the scandal mill. Take a break from an ongoing research project on the 26th and make time for romance, recreation and a sprinkling of stardust.

Libra
SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22
A battle of wills would be costly, and while you may not want to fight (when do you ever?), you feel very strongly right now and will passionately defend your position, especially if you're protecting someone weaker than you. By Sunday practicality and a sense of propriety could alleviate the situation—that or a financial contribution from an older, wiser person (your basic garden-variety guru). A partner may have something mystical in mind, an artistic experience you wouldn't want to miss. No April Fool, he or she.

Scorpio
OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21
Love is hard this week, hard to get, hard to give up. Jealousy, not your most attractive quality, might make you behave really badly, so before the gossip-mongers start slinging mud, clean up your act. Restraint, a wait-and-see stance and wishful thinking (sending what you are visualizing out into the universe) will get you through the rest of the month. Nevertheless, the sooner you realize that opposing forces are gathering in your Taurus complement, the sooner you'll form the alliances that will influence the course of your life—well, the next 20 years, anyway.

Sagittarius
NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21
Like Scorpions, early December birthdates could be facing a difficult situation when it comes to love, jealousy and getting someone to do what you want. Don't beat yourself up if your romance has hit a rough patch; although it may be your fault, you are not acting alone. Chances are someone is playing the martyr to the hilt. Until Venus finishes her pilgrimage through sacrificial Pisces (April 6), Archers might feel unsure of themselves, torn between maintaining personal psychological well-being and giving until it really, really hurts.

Capricorn
DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20
Another of those "aren't you glad you're you" aspects arrives in time for the weekend. When magnetic Venus and your Saturn ruler clear the deck and agree to let everyone who wants to love you on board, don't put up a fight or stand in their way. Good things happen during these days, especially if you've got kids, a lover or a team in contention. You can actively pursue what gives you pleasure, should you need to feel useful, but chances are whatever makes you smile wil fall in your lap without much effort.

Aquarius
JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18
Although it often seems that way, not all actors are Leos; there's a fair share of Aquarians strutting their stuff upon the wicked stage. I bring this up only because Neptune, ruler of illusion, film and rhapsodies is highlighted in your sign this weekend. It'll be hard to hide your talent under a bushel basket, to not be noticed or appreciated. But if you're looking to be understood, forget it. What the world wants from you right now is illusion, innuendo or, to save someone's face, little white lies.

Pisces
FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19
You've got plenty of appeal and can garner a lot of sympathy, if you choose. Do you want to challenge the power structure at work or in the community, or do you want to be given a piece of the action as you search for a place under their protective wing? However you play the game, know that sex is a potent tool up for grabs. You can also promote your cause, write with flair and conviction, and pretty much sell yourself along with your product. What you can't do is become fanatical about politics or a newfound friend.

Curious about the future? Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30 to 40+ pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise over the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $42.50 per report to ROCKIE GARDINER, 1021 N. Genesee Ave., #1, West Hollywood, CA 90046. *http://www.rockiehoroscope.com* Read my daily forecast online at www.laweekly.com

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men seeking women

Good looking and in great shape. Hey ladies, this is Mike. I'm a divorced Italian man, 40, 5'10", 175 lbs., with brown hair and brown eyes. The activities I enjoy are movies, dancing, dinning out, watching TV, bowling, and playing sports. I'm seeking a female, in her 30's, who is pretty and intelligent with a good sense of humor. Box 11730

I own my own home and business. Hey girls. I'm a white male, 5'11", 210 lbs., in very good shape, with dark hair and hazel eyes. I'm looking for a girl with a job, transportation, and a life of her own. I'm just searching for a partner to share life and good times with. I'm looking to seriously date, not play games. Box 13000

Employed in the export business. Hello ladies, my name is Hudson. I'm an attractive SWM, 5'11", 185 lbs., with brown hair and blue eyes. I'm very sweet, loving, kind, romantic, and passionate. I'm looking for a woman, with the same qualities, for a possible long-term relationship. Box 15131

To you whose eyes I seek in the sea of women, I find myself drawn to you... Hi, this is Michael. I'm 6'3", 180 lbs., with brown hair and hazel eyes. I'm looking for a lady who is steady, intelligent, and one-on-one. She should like to laugh, dance, and cuddle. Box 19500

Die hard romantic. Hi, my name is Dan. I'm a divorced white male, 5'10", and 180 lbs. I'm a gentleman who knows how to treat a lady. I'm looking for a long-term relationship. I love long walks, holding hands, cuddling, long kisses, and bringing my lady flowers. I'm not a couch potato, but neither am I a jock. Box 15450

Down-to-earth and honest with a good head on my shoulders. Hello, this is Mike. I'm 6'3", with short brown hair and blue eyes. I love to stay active, cook, travel, and watch sports. I'm looking for a friendship first, with a relationship later, but I'm not looking to rush into or force anything that may not be natural. Box 19044

Are you ready to add some fun, excitement, and pleasure into your life? Does the thought of spending time with a very attractive, funny, safe, clean, caring, and discreet white male-in his late 30's-interest you? I'm 6'2", 210 lbs., tall, dark, and handsome. I'm very selective as to who I get involved with. Box 21209

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Connect live, one on one with other singles on-line right now! Call 617-245-1004 and follow the easy to use prompts. There are exciting singles on line 24 hours a day!

TRY OUR LIVE CHAT You won't believe your ears!

women seeking men

Searching for a man who has a positive attitude towards life. Hi, my name is Julie. I'm a SWF, 5'7", 142 lbs., with short light brown hair and green eyes. I'm seeking a single male, age 25-35, who is HWP, a non-smoker and social drinker. I'm looking for a long-term relationship. Box 11495

Baggage from the past is unwanted. Hello, my name is Anita. I'm a 37-year-old, soon to be 38, black and Hispanic female. I'm tall and attractive. I'm looking for someone who has some type of spiritual conviction. He should be a non-smoking occasional drinker who knows where he's going and what he wants out of life. Box 12268

Very pretty woman. Hey guys, my name is Christine. I'm a divorced Italian and Irish woman, 41, 5'4", 146 lbs., with soft and curly shoulder length brown hair and blue eyes. I'm curvaceous in all the right spots. I'm also smart, fun loving, and have a good sense of humor. I love sports, cozy fires, country stores, slow dancing, kissing in the rain, and playing in the snow. Box 13161

Living in the North Shore. Hi, this is Kira. I'm in my 30's, 5'5", 105 lbs., with long jet black hair and brown eyes. I'm looking for an attractive and intelligent man who lives in reality, not a fantasy world. I'm looking for a long-term friendship, possible relationship. Box 14147

I rollerblade in the summer and ski in the winter. And I'm looking for a man, between the age of 30-35, who does the same. Hello, my name is Christina. I'm college educated 28-year-old 100% Hispanic woman. Box 24856

I've got a solid build. Hi, my name is Nicole. I'm a black female, 22, 5'5", 160 lbs., with brown skin, short curly hair, and dark brown eyes. I'm looking for a black male, between the ages of 25-32, who has a job, but doesn't have any kids. Box 24862

I like to party. I'm a 20-year-old SWF, 5'2", with brown hair and brown eyes. I enjoy shooting pool, clubbing, movies, listening to music, taking long walks, sporting events, and cuddling up with that special someone. I'm looking for someone who is fun-loving, with a good personality and a great sense of humor. Box 24874

Professionally employed and considered attractive. Hi there, my name is Diane. I'm 43, 5'4", with red hair and blue/green eyes. I'm looking for someone with a good sense of humor who enjoys having fun. I like walking around Boston and taking weekend excursions. Box 24930

I love to cook, shop, decorate, and read. Hello, this is Mary. I'm 5'4", with medium length brown and blonde hair with green eyes. I live south of Boston. I'm interested in something casual. Box 19757

Petite, pretty, and sexy. Hello, my name is Shanica, but they call me PYT for pretty young thing. I'm a 29-year-old black female who is mature, outgoing, trusting, and caring. I'm looking for a casual friend, nothing long term. I'm studying to become a recording artist and I enjoy singing and dancing. Box 24085

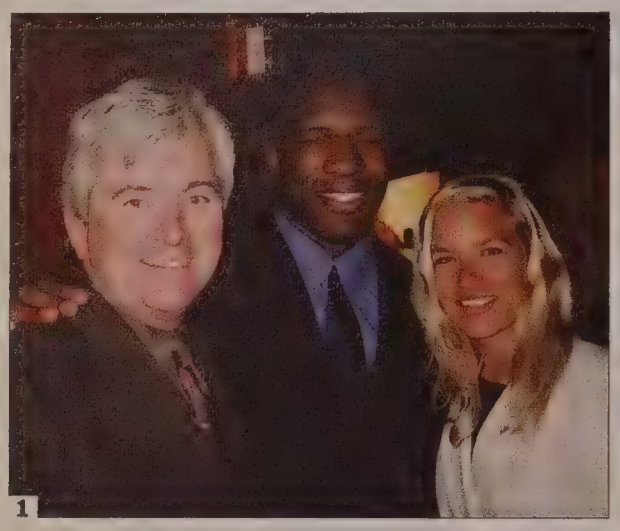
Visit Nightline on the web at www.nightlinepersonals.com and check out more local ads!

The Nightline service does not prescreen callers and assumes no responsibility for personal meetings. Callers must be 18 or over. Toll charges may apply. Optional paid services. Call for details.

improperazzi

THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN's client-related promotions and events

On March 3, **The Rack** hosted a benefit and auction for **The Joshua Frase Foundation Muscle Dream Team**, which raised more than $400,000 for congenital myopathy.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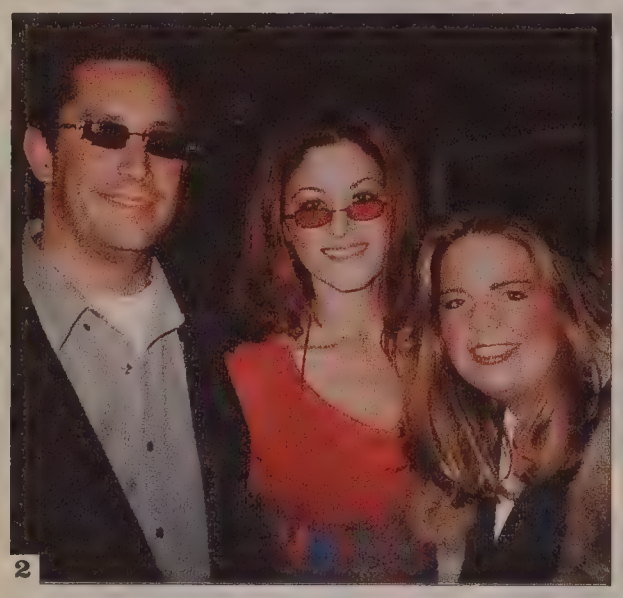
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1. **Paul Barclay**, owner of the Rack; **Marvin Washington**, SF 49ers; **Heather Michalowski**, Marketing Director, The Rack.
2. **Mark Warner** of Arbella Insurance Company; **Lynne Hoffman**, Mix 98.5; **Katherine Morse**, owner of The Flat of the Hill.
3. **Chad Hennings** of the Dallas Cowboys.
4. **Pete Caroll**, former Patriots coach.
5. **Karen Keaney**, Morgan Stanley; **Caesar Belbel**, Attorney and **Heidi Barclay**, wife of Paul Barclay.
6. **Elaine Kwon**, professor and concert pianist; **Paul Frase** of the Green Bay Packers, founder of the Joshua Frase Foundation; **Stephen Walker**, Director of Marketing, Boston Harbor Cruises.
7. **David Spagnuolo**, owner of Panificio; **Chris Trapper** and **Ryan MacMillan** of the Push Stars.
8. **Drew Copeland** of Sister Hazel; **Daryl Johnson** of the Dallas Cowboys; **Ken Block**, lead singer of Sister Hazel.

1

Legal Sea Food's catering division debuted its new facility, **The Exchange Conference Center**, located on Boston's historic fish pier. Showcased were the various events the building offers, such as corporate seminars, meetings, parties and New England clambakes. The highlight of the evening was sampling the delicious and diverse menu choices.

2

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4

1. **Nancy Flynn** of Business Development; **Lou Cabral**, Director of Asset Management Business Development; **Deidre Tierney**, Director of Marketing, L.S.F.
2. **Gorden R. Jones** and **Leah Anzaldua-Dias** of Concierge of Boston, Inc.
3. **Peter Lewenberg** of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and **Kathy Abbott**, Island Alliance.
4. **David Andrews**, **Terry Phillips** and **Kurt Vonkahle**, L.S.F. Exchange Conference Center Culinary Team.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY DIEDRE TIERNEY (EXCHANGE)

BARS, CLUBS, RESTAURANTS & BRUNCH

The following are paid advertisements. Please check times and prices in advance. If you'd like to have your restaurant listed, please call The Improper Bostonian Advertising Dept. at 859-1400.

BARS

Billiards

Boston Billiard Club

126 Brookline Ave., 536-POOL. Ranked #1 in the country by Billiards Digest. Free lessons on Mon., 7:30 pm - 9 pm. Boston Billiard Club House Leagues on Mon. and Tues. "In The Biz" night on Sun. and Mon. for patrons in the hospitality industry. Ladies' night on Wed. Featuring a menu of light fare such as grilled chicken sandwiches and appetizers, along with beer, wine, cocktails and a variety of non-alcoholic beverages.

The Rack

24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, The Allstonians and Beat Soup.

Brew Pubs

Back Bay Brewing Company

755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center. $7-$18. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Bi-level restaurant/brewery offers an inspirational pairing of outstanding innovative cuisine and award-winning ales and lagers. Upbeat first floor bar and café, second floor dining room and bar with comfortable couches and overstuffed chairs. Mon. - Sun. 11:30am - 1am. Brunch Sun. from 11am - 3pm.

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Company

138 Portland St., Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is now the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, a block from the FleetCenter and steps from Faneuil Hall, Commonwealth Fish & Beer features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

General

Dick's Last Resort

55 Huntington Ave., Prudential Center, Boston, 267-8080. www.dickslastresort.com. Dick's has live music 7 nights a week, no cover, no dress code and certainly no class. They have 74 kinds of beer for the novice or serious/ sudsman, or a full bar for the hard core. Dick's also is a restaurant of sorts with buckets of ribs, shrimp, lobster, chicken, catfish and crab legs. This is the place your Mama warned you about. Free parking after 5pm, cheap til 5 with validation.

The Good Life

Uptown - 99 St. Botolph St., 266-3030; Downtown - 28 Kingston St., 451-2622. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1999 Boston's Best Martini award. The Good Life is a retro lounge that Frank Dean and Sammy would have hung at. Big Drinks, Great American Comfort Food, Hot Jazz and Plenty of Boy Meets Girl. Never a cover, always a good time.

Harvard Gardens

316 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114, 617-523-2727. A wonderfully relaxed haven located opposite MGH on the back side of Beacon Hill. Serving the finest cocktails and most comfortable food in town. Plant yourself in a comfy booth, a cozy banquette, or at our fully loaded bar and escape from your everyday troubles. Doing it nice & easy 7 days a week - 11am-2am.

Pravda 116

116 Boylston St., 617-482-7799. Located in the heart of Boston's theater district. Pravda offers one of Boston's hottest night clubs, and extraordinary cuisine as well. Pravda boasts the longest bar in Boston, featuring a center ice surface to keep your cocktail cool. If sitting at the bar is not your forte, enjoy a meal at a private table in the dining room or in a plush, secluded booth. Chef Chris Parsons prepares exquisite dishes with the latest seasonal ingredients. Satisfied your hunger? Then feed your crave to rave in Pravda's newly remodeled dance club. DJ's spin high-energy dance music, create an ambiance that radiates with energy. Rest. Hrs: Tues&Wed 5:30-10:30pm, Thurs-Sat 5:30-11pm; Club Hrs: Thurs-Sat 10pm-2am.

Sweetwater Cafe

3 Boylston Place, 351-2515. A classic American bar featuring Boston's best bands and DJ's nightly. A favorite Boston bar for 15 years with two floors of entertainment, an outdoor patio and world class margaritas. Always great music and cold beer, never a dress code. Available for private functions of any kind. (Credit cards: Am Ex, Visa, MC, Diner's) Tues. - Sat. 5 pm - 2 am. Located in "The Alley."

The Big Easy Bar

1 Boylston Place, Boston, 351-7000. Informal. Located in Boston's version of Bourbon Street, "The Alley." The Big Easy Bar is a hot new New Orleans style bar featuring Boston's best live bands and disc jockeys nightly playing music you know and love. Relax in a lounge, listen to the band, play billiards, hang at the bar or dance the night away. The Big Easy Bar has something fun for everyone. Great beer selection, 22 oz. Hurricanes, 4 huge bars, 2 lounges, a balcony, plenty of seating, and a large dance floor. Wed. - Sat. 8 pm - 2 am. Major credit cards accepted. Valet parking available.

The Rack

24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, The Allstonians and Beat Soup.

The Sugar Shack

1 Boylston Place, 351-2510. "Home of Boston's Best Party." Set in the middle of a mini-Bourbon Street, The Sugar Shack celebrates Mardi-Gras year-round with a carefree, reckless, spontaneous and unpretentious attitude. Carnival lights, confetti, beads, specialty drinks, live bands and Disc Jockeys playing classics, motown, R&B, funk, disco, and old school hip hop from the last three decades mixed with the best of today's top 40. Home of young professional, young alumni, 20 something hipsters who desire cold beer, cocktails, classic party tunes and unadulterated fun!!

Wine Bars

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar

105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-0966. The hip meeting spot in the Financial District for after work, dinner, late night, or a seductive tryst. The Vault offers some of the most exclusive wines in Boston, which complement the creative American Cuisine prepared by Chef Rebecca Esty. Can't decide on a wine? Relax and compare with our Tasting Flights featuring selections from different reds and whites. So what are you waiting for? Call an old friend, a client, or a co-worker and meet for cocktails at The Vault today.

RESTAURANTS

Ajanta

145 First St., Cambridge, MA (617) 491-0075 (across from the Galleria Mall). Cambridge's newest Indian restaurant specializing in South Indian vegetarian cooking. We serve the best Dosai (crepes) in town: paper thin Dosai, Rava Dosai, Iddly, Uthapam and Vadas. We also serve North Indian Tandoori and meat curries, as well as mouth-watering chef specials such as lamb and chicken kabobs. Ajanta serves fine wine and Imported Beers in a high ceiling and contemporary atmosphere. Try our lunch buffet or our very popular Sunday South Indian Vegetarian Brunch. Hours: Lunch: Tues.-Fri. 11:30am-2:30pm, Sat. & Sun. 12-3pm; Dinner: Tues.-Sun.5-10pm.

29 Newbury Street Restaurant

29 Newbury St., Boston, 617-536-0290. Savor new American cuisine ingeniously prepared only with the freshest, most healthful ingredients available. The moderately priced seasonal menu is served in a casually elegant setting enhanced by the works of local artists. The restaurant and bar, located on the first block of Newbury Street in Back Bay, provide an intimate and sophisticated atmosphere. Valet parking. Reservations recommended.

Back Bay Brewing Company

755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center. $7-$18. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Bi-level restaurant/ brewery offers an inspirational pairing of Chef Michael Burgess's innovative cuisine and Tod Mott's hand-crafted ales and lagers. Upbeat first floor bar and café, second floor dining room and bar with comfortable couches and overstuffed chairs. Sunday Buffet Brunch 11am - 3pm, $14.95. Mon. - Sun. 11:30am - 1am.

Butterfish, An American Bistro

5 Craigie Circle, Harvard Sq., Cambridge, 497-5511. Chef/Owner Christopher Bussell opened Butterfish on December 4, 1999, at the former site of Cafe Celador. Nestled between Brattle St. and Concord Ave., Butterfish's charming bistro setting is a perfect venue for Chef Christopher's fine American cuisine with international accents. Dishes such as "Monkfish with Moroccan Spices and Grilled Peaches," and "Double Thick Pork Chop with a Warm Corn Souffle" are complimented by an extensive choice of wines. Hours: Tues-Thurs 5-10pm; Fri & Sat 5-11pm.

Cactus Club

939 Boylston St., 236-0200. Get a taste of the Southwest in Boston. Specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, Cajun Catfish. Save 1/2 off entire menu Mon. - Fri., 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm in the bar. Sample the firewater menu while you are there, including Coyote Killer (Light and dark rum, peach schnapps, ginger beer and mixed juices), or a Chambord Margarita. The daring may go for a dip in the Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Amex, Diners Club, MC and Visa.

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Company

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Harvard Gardens

316 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114, 617-523-2727. A wonderfully relaxed haven located opposite MGH on the back side of Beacon Hill. Serving the finest cocktails and most comfortable food in town. Plant yourself in a comfy booth, a cozy banquette, or at our fully loaded bar and escape from your everyday troubles. Doing it nice & easy 7 days a week - 11am-2am.

Jillian's Boston

Behind Fenway Park, 437-0300. Upscale 70,000 Sq. ft. megaplex of interactive entertainment. Play breakthrough interactive communication games, participate in a live game show & watch a giant video wall while dining on innovative American cuisine at Atlas Grill on Jillian's new 1st floor. Jillian's offers motion simulator rides, more than 250 cutting edge electronic & virtual reality games, 50 billiard tables, table tennis, & "just for fun" black jack. Five full bars & 50 TVs that broadcast sporting events. Great for late night dining & private parties 25-3000. Open Daily.

Kashmir

279 Newbury St., Boston, 536-1695. Kashmir has been raising the bar of Indian restaurants in quality, style and service since it opened. Its Best of Boston, Boston's Best and Readers' Choice awards are a result of great execution. Indoors in three elegantly styled dining rooms and outdoors on the best people watching corner in town, Kashmir serves the finest Tandoori and curry dishes and most imaginative specials and the best lunch and brunch buffet in town. Wine and beer are available as well as takeout, delivery, private parties and catering.

Ma Soba Asian Cuisine & Sushi

156 Cambridge Street on Beacon Hill, Boston, 973-6680. Enjoy premium sushi and Ma Soba's unique blend of contemporary and traditional Asian cuisine prepared by award-winning chefs. Relax with a fine wine selection from Ma Soba's comprehensive wine cellar in a setting described as "strikingly attractive and ultra urbane" by the Boston Herald. Open daily: Sun-Wed until 10:30pm, Thurs-Sat until 11:00pm. When in Harvard Square/Cambridge, visit Ma Soba Express at 30 Dunster Street for quick-service pan Asian noodles and rice platters.

Ocean Wealth

8 Tyler Street, Boston, MA, 02111, (617) 423-1338. We know that people appreciate only the freshest seafood. So we introduced the concept of picking your seafood live out of the tanks in Boston in 1990 with the opening of Ocean Wealth. Upon entering our restaurant, patrons are greeted by a myriad of fish tanks, filled with codfish, black sea bass, blackfish, and lobsters. But what is different are geoduck clams from Seattle, Dungeness crabs from San Francisco, and live saltwater shrimp from Florida. Come and enjoy the Ocean's Wealth. Full liquor license. Reservations recommended. Open daily until 4 am.

Shenandoah Restaurant, Marketplace Cafe, Brewskellar Pub

Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston 227-1272. Located in the North Market Building of Faneuil Hall, Shenandoah Restaurant, The Marketplace Cafe, and Brewskellar Pub have something for everyone. Whether you're interested in a casual dinner on one of Boston's largest outdoor patios or the quiet more elegant surroundings of Shenandoah Restaurant, we offer it all. Having a function? We cater personally to all events you may be planning. Visit us soon and let us surprise you.

The Rack

24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve both lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar

105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-9966. A wonderful secret hidden in Boston's Financial District. The Vault offers contemporary American cuisine and an extensive and exclusive affordable wine list. Come in and enjoy our new spring menu, including an expanded raw bar, Maine crab cakes, seared tuna and much more. Lunch Mon. - Fri. from 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Dinner Mon. - Wed. from 5:30 - 10:30 pm, Thurs. - Sat. from 5:30 - 11 pm. Closed Sun.

Venezia

Venezia Restaurant & Function facility. Boston's "hidden jewel" offers romantic and intimate waterfront dining, spectacular views of the Boston skyline. European casual elegance and a unique blend of northern Italian and Mediterranean cuisine. Live entertainment and dancing in our lounge on weekends. Just off of Neponset Circle, open for lunch Mon. - Fri.; dinner every night. Call for daily specials and information 617-436-3120

The Wrap & Smoothie Bar

137 Mass Ave., Boston (at Berklee School of Music), 369-9087; 71 Mt. Auburn St., Harvard Square, 354-5838; 1940 Beacon St., Cleveland Circle, 739-0340; 82 Water St., Financial District, 357-9013. The Wrap serves delicious, freshly prepared wraps, burritos and salads as well as healthy and refreshing smoothies. Voted Boston's Best 1998 & 1999 by The Improper Bostonian. Fresh ingredients, great taste, healthy options - words we live by!

BRUNCH

Anago

65 Exeter Street, Boston, 266-6222. Anago, in the historic Lenox Hotel, presents a live Sunday Brunch from 11-2pm, prepared by Boston's whiz kid chef, Jamie "Shaky" Liberge, featuring a sumptuous buffet of appetizers with exquisite freshly baked desserts and breads created by award winning pastry chef, Lee Napoli, to accompany your choice of exceptional entree selections. Reservations are recommended.

Back Bay Brewing Company

755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Featuring Chef Michael Burgess's Neo-Continental selections, including Eggs Benedict with Canadian bacon & herbed hollandaise, blueberry pancakes with almond maple syrup, omelet station, French toast, roasted meat carving station, house smoked salmon, and assorted desserts. Sunday Brunch Buffet 11 am - 3 pm. $14.95

Dick's Last Resort

55 Huntington Ave., Prudential Center, Boston, 267-8080. www.dickslastresort.com. Sundays, Dick gets religion and has a Heavenly Gospel Brunch from 10am to 3pm, serving fruit, salads, eggs benedict, fried chicken with a ham and roast beef station. Help yourself to the waffle or omelet stations and dessert bar and listen to old fashion uplifting live gospel music. Open for Lunch, Dinner and late night entertainment 7 days a week, no cover.

Museum of Science - Skyline Room

Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston, MA 02114. Egypt comes to Boston! Enjoy Sunday brunch in the beautiful Skyline Room overlooking the Charles River at noon and then experience the amazing Omni film Mysteries of Egypt at 2pm. Tickets are $28 for Adults, $26 for Seniors/Children. Brunch only is $20. On-site parking is included. Reservations recommended, call (617)723-2500.

The Wrap & Smoothie Bar

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Improper Sightings

Unlike the rest of your friends, we want to see the photos from your next trip.

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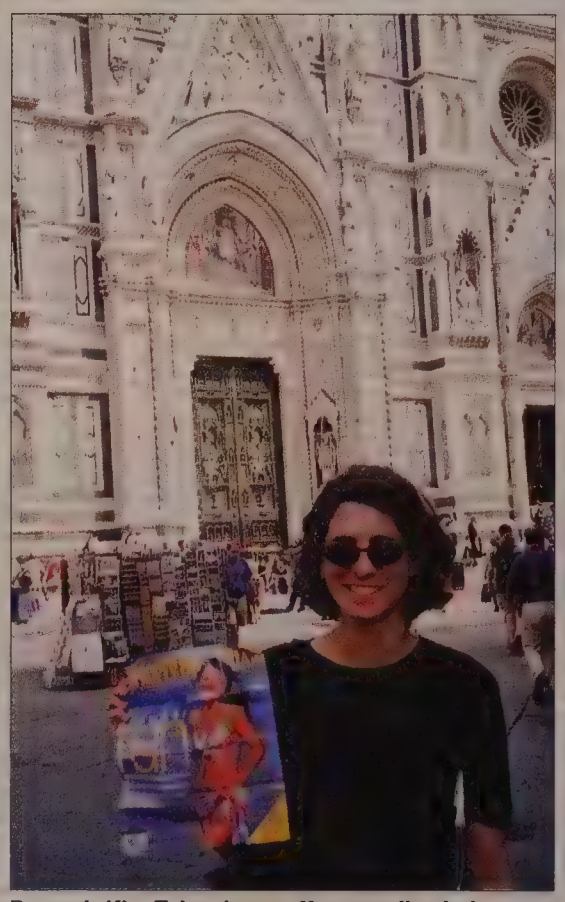
Now this is dedication. Swinger Robert Johnson from Canton holds on tight to his favorite magazine deep in the jungle at Playa Hermosa, Jaco, Costa Rica.

Andrew Doxer leaves his Dedham home to vacation with his IMPROPER in the Peruvian Amazon.

Jennifer Strong from Everett is proud to bring us along on a ski trip to Vail, Colorado.



Boston's Kim Tuby shows off a scantily clad IMPROPER cover girl in front of the equally breath-taking Piazza del Duomo in Florence, Italy.

Photographer Allan Dines and former WBCN DJ Mark Parenteau agree that love stinks—on stage at Caroline's Comedy Club in New York.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:
Skating around in their skivvies or surviving a truly embarassing wipe-out in a clever Bostonian disguise at the Critical Mass Ride in New York.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116. Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail and photo location. All photos become property of The Improper Bostonian Magazine and will not be returned.

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN

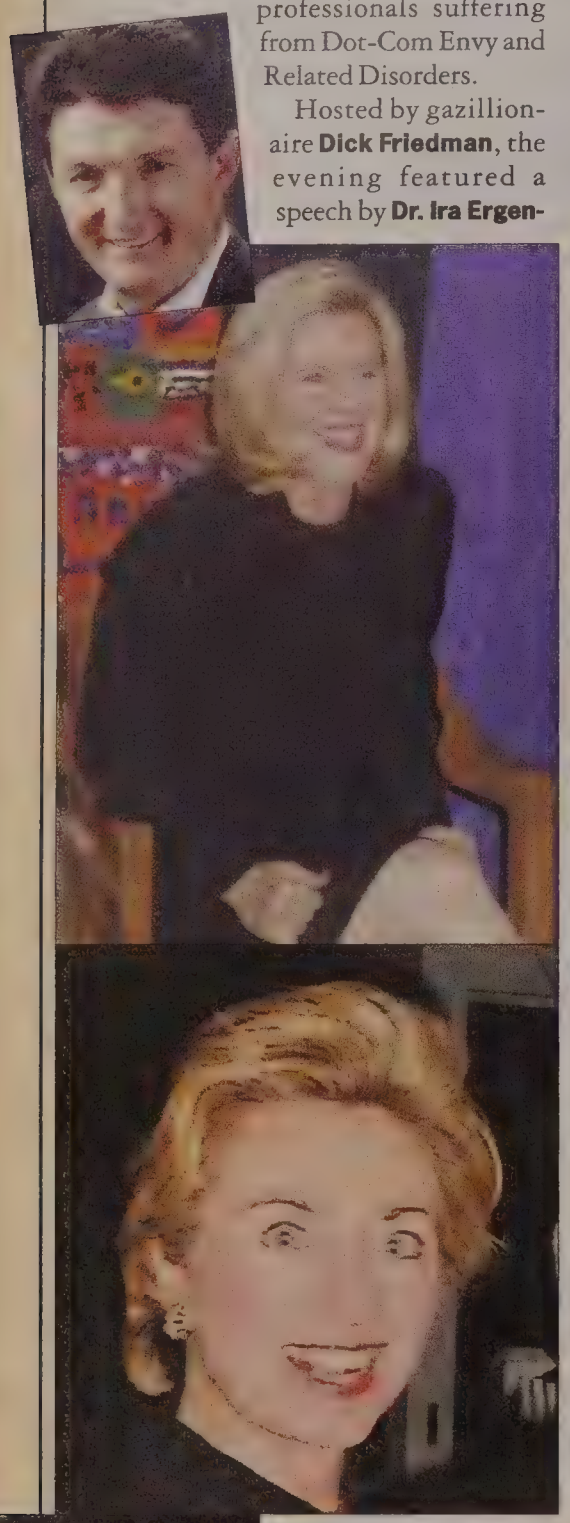
Last Scene Here

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Keeping Up With the Gateses....

First Lady **Hillary Rodham Clinton** and First Lady wannabe **Tipper Gore** were among those at the **Charles Hotel** to raise money for the **Everybody's-Getting-Rich-But-Me Foundation**, which provides aid to young professionals suffering from Dot-Com Envy and Related Disorders.

Hosted by gazillionaire **Dick Friedman**, the evening featured a speech by **Dr. Ira Ergenbaum** (author of *IPO*, *You're PO'd* and *Not Everybody Gets Their VC*), a silent auction (including such items as having Bill Gates cook dinner at your home) and a wildly eclectic guest list. Among the dot-comocrats on-hand: CMGI founder **David Wetherell**, Lycos head **Bob Davis**, Monster.com CEO **Jeff Taylor**, and Art Technology Group's **Jeet Singh**, while the Cambridge intelligentsia contingent boasted the likes of tough-guy playwright **David Mamet**, novelist **Arthur Golden**, legal blowhard **Alan Dershowitz**, Harvard professors **Skip Gates** and **Rosabeth Moss Cantor**, and the ubiquitous **Hat Sisters**. While Hillary and Tipper worked the room, pressing flesh and posing for photos, recent MIT grad **Stacey Ng** broke hearts by telling the assembled crowd about how both her roommates became multi-millionaires while she was still working at a degrading job as a research assistant in a cancer lab. "That's the saddest thing I ever heard," said one woman, wiping away tears. "If all my money wasn't tied up in the market, I'd do something to help her."



At the Everybody's-Getting-Rich-But-Me Foundation gala, from top to bottom: Bob Davis; Tipper Gore; Hillary Rodham Clinton; Alan Dershowitz (l) and Arthur Golden; and Kate Shamon with Hat Sisters.

Take Me Out to the MFA...

Following the phenomenal success of *Crowning Glories*—an exhibit of exquisite, gem-encrusted tiaras—the **Museum of Fine Arts** held a black-tie shindig for its latest blockbuster show: ***Put A Lid On It***.

Devoted to the humble baseball cap, the comprehensive exhibit's elegant-and-then-some opening attracted all the usual suspects, like Cambridge architect and art connoisseur **Graham Gund** and his swanlike other half, **Ann**, Sotheby's honcho **Bill Cottingham** and the delectable **Sally Fay**, Channel 5 anchor **Kasey Kaufman**, former senatorial spouse **Joan Kennedy**, party fixtures **Cokie** and **Lee Perry**, Patriots owner **Bob Kraft** and the Empress **Myra**, BSO maestro **Seiji Ozawa**, and such past and present Red Sox players as **Pedro Martinez**, **Nomar Garciaparra**, **Carlton Fisk** and **Luis Tiant**.

"It's like Fenway Park at the MFA," enthused museum director **Malcolm Rogers**, "except that you can get a decent glass of Chardonnay to go with your hotdog."

Fore!

Some ideas are better left unchanged. Take the Newbury Street Putting Challenge—the fundraiser that transformed Newbury Street into an 18-hole mini golf course where celebrities battled it out to raise money for charity.

As a follow-up, its organizers mounted the **Newbury Street Driving Challenge**, somehow securing permission to transform Back Bay's most fashionable retail district into a giant driving range. Business owners taped up their windows in preparation for the flying golf balls, and fur-clad shoppers were required to sign a liability waiver before they were allowed to set foot on the street.

At Newbury Street Driving Challenge: clockwise from above left, Mark Wahlberg and Rose McGowan; from left, Lenny Clarke, John Dennis and Steve Sweeney; Steve Israel; Donnie Wahlberg; and Janeane Garofalo and Lenny Clarke.

Unfortunately, such careful planning didn't extend to the selection of celebrities. Although hockey legend **Bobby Orr** and actor **Donnie Wahlberg** are scratch golfers, comedians **Steve Sweeney** and **Lenny Clarke** fall into the lousy category, as do Patriot **Steve Israel**, furniture hucksters **Barry** and **Eliot Tatelman**, and movie director **Bobby Farrelly**.

Among the afternoon's mishaps: Retired hockey god **Cam Neely** hooked his shot from the first tee, beaning a Saudi prince coming out of Louis. That was nothing, however, compared to already disgraced Bruin **Marty McSorley**, who bashed **Bob Lobel** in the head with a chipping wedge after the sportscaster insisted on taking a mulligan. Things quickly degenerated into a brawl, and after the riot squad arrived, everyone went home in a snit...except for personal injury lawyer **Jim Sokolove**, who smiled as he handed out business cards.

At the MFA's *Put a Lid On It* baseball cap exhibition opening, Hildegarde Behrens and Seiji Ozawa smile for the camera.

The Red Zone Is For Partying Only....

Those e-mail happy party planners at **Sudiko Marketing**, who manage to clog the electronic in-boxes of every twenty-to-thirtysomething with invitations to their events, have something new to celebrate. Named for its founders, **Sue** and **Diane**, the group has added several high-profile partners.

With the addition of **BMaynard Scarborough**, **Danielle Dubin** and **Hilary Dumont**, it is now known as **Scooby-Dooby-Dubiko**, and to celebrate the name change, a party was held at the baggage claim on the lower level of **Terminal A** at **Logan Airport**.

Spotted among the crowd devouring delectable Scooby snacks were guests of honor **Shaggy**, **Velma**, and **Daphne**, along with such locals as party fixture **David Reuter**, PR flack **Kim Sousa**, attorney-at-large **Dominic Puopolo**, gay divorcee **Maureen Sullivan Stemberg**, Teutonic barfly **Peter Mueller**, political mover and shaker **Julius Babbit**, WCRB marketing babe **Kim Roz**, web foodie **Adam Caper**, Indian gadabout **Amit Kanodia**, numerous overgrown frat boys, several women who are desperate to reproduce, and just about everybody who summers in Newport.

All of them seemed to enjoy themselves enormously, except for one sinister-looking old man who kept shaking his fist and saying, "My plan would have worked, too, if it weren't for you meddling kids!"

Oh, by the way—April Fool's! IB

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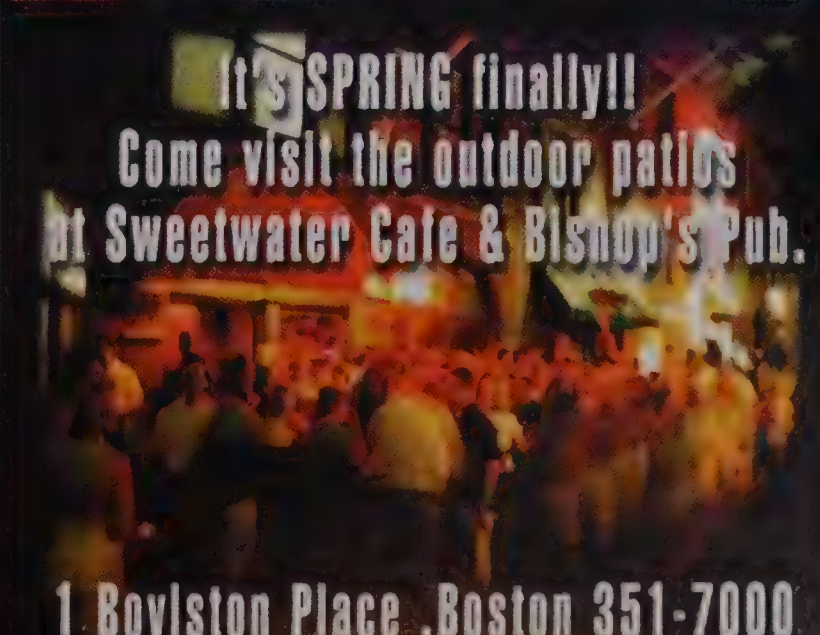

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN

STON'S GUIDE TO ENTERTAINMENT, CULTURE, TWO TURNTABLES AND A MICROPHONE

BOSTON'S hottest club djs

WHEN AND WHERE they spin

THE UNDERGROUND scene clothes FOR CLUBBING

Scott Gottesman, aka **DJ STATIC**, mesmerizes Club Envy dance throngs with his bass-heavy beats

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ROBERT KAPLAN
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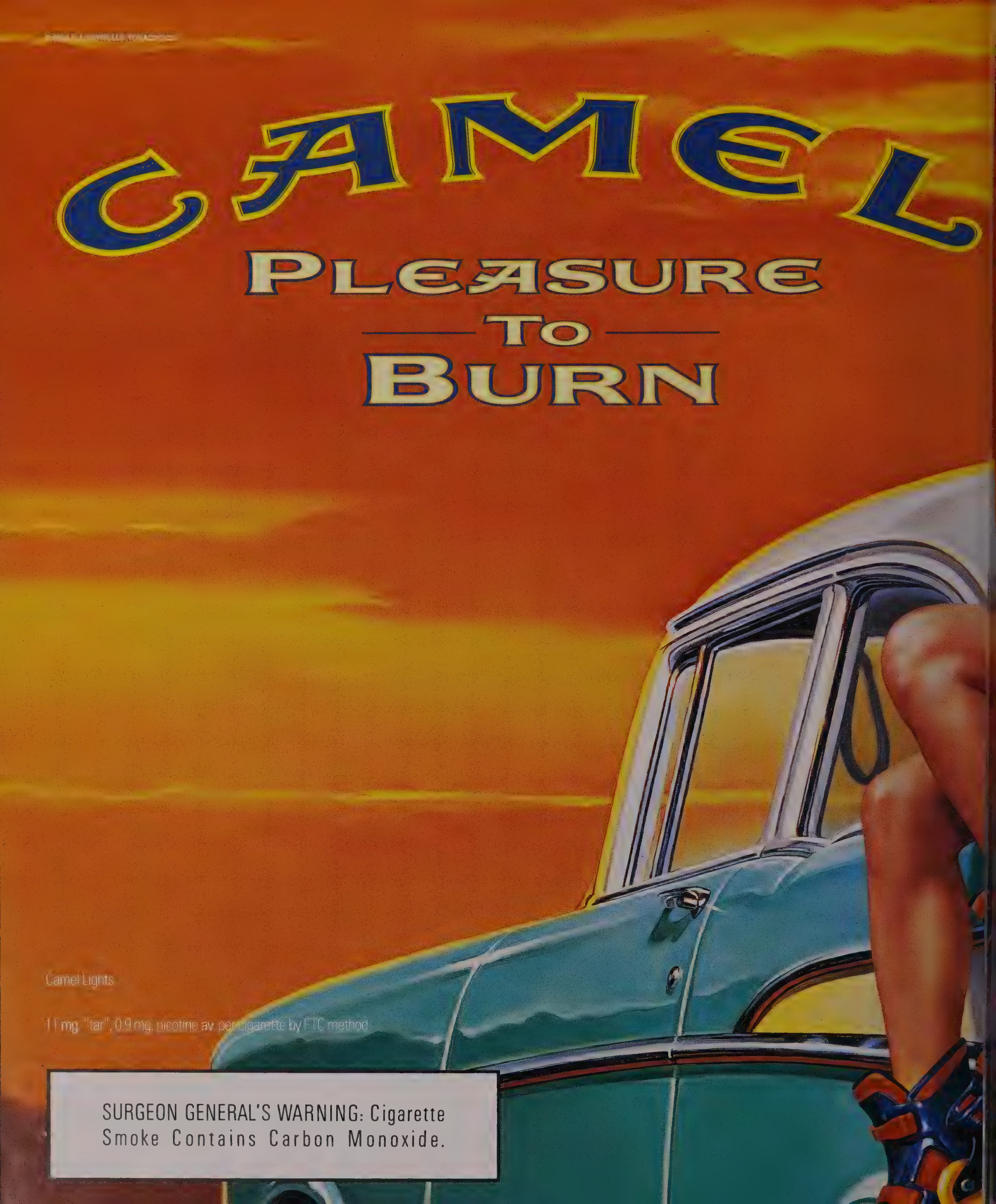

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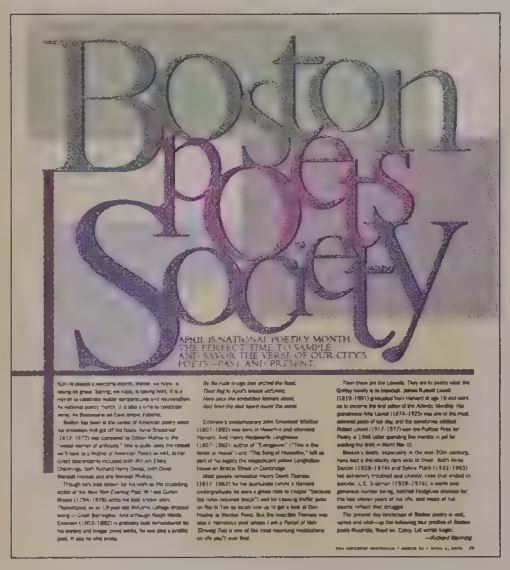

Pierian Praise

I really enjoyed the piece you ran called "Boston Poets Society." National Poetry month couldn't fall at a better time—now that spring is in the air, reciting poetry seems only natural. Each "bard" you profiled was accompanied with an exceptional verse. To all poets out there, thank you and enjoy your month!

JESSICA TETENBAUM
Boston

Aftermath of a Tragedy

How sad that your publication would exploit the death of a wonderful young man on our campus to take a potshot at a school and tradition you obviously know nothing about ("Improper Speaking," March 8-21).

Students come to Phillips Academy for a first-rate education in a diverse and supportive environment that stresses hard work, personal responsibility and service to the community. While a consumer culture obsessed with brand names hypes the value of an Ivy League diploma, our college counselors work diligently with students to help them gain acceptance to schools that best suit them academically and socially.

Annually our seniors are accepted at about 100 different colleges and universities. We proudly publish this list in our admissions catalog each year, which repudiates your off-base claim that Andover considers students who attend anything but Ivy League colleges as "worthless." By drawing sweeping conclusions from dubious unnamed "insiders" and anonymous sources, you pass off water cooler gossip as journalism. Improper indeed!

SHARON BRITTEN
Director of Communications
Phillips Academy, Andover

Editor's response: Actually, we do know something about this subject. The editor of "Improper Speaking" Rick Manning, spent five years at Groton Academy ('69) before attending Harvard.

Political Differences

If Richard Manning truly wanted to enlighten us on the presidential candidates, he should also have written how Al Gore held a fund-raiser at a Buddhist temple in California collecting over $65K in contributions from monks and nuns. Gore claims to have thought this was a community outreach activity.

The Secret Service knew it was a fund-raiser, the DNC knew, as did then-White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta. Marie Hsia, the woman who helped organize this little shindig, has since been convicted of funneling over $100K in illegal contributions to Gore and his friends. She could get up to 25 years in the slammer. This makes Gore an ignoramus at best and a felon at worst.

When questioned by investigators about his making illegal fund raising phone calls from the White House, Gore couldn't remember because "he had been drinking a lot of lemonade that day and had to keep going to the toilet." Yes, folks, he really said that.

So if you feel it necessary to refer to George W. Bush as the "candidate from Bob Jones University, then out of journalistic integrity, you should refer to Al Gore as the "candidate from the toilet."

GREGORY CASEY
Boston

"Annually our seniors are accepted at about 100 different colleges and universities ... which repudiates your off-base claim that Andover considers students who attend anything but Ivy League colleges as 'worthless.' "

—Sharon Britten
Director of Communications, Phillips Academy

It is interesting but disappointing how in recent years the quality of your political commentary has descended to its current level of tedium. Certainly I can pick up any number of publications and see commentary covering George W. Bush's latest gaffe. Maybe to provide equal coverage and to avoid the risk of becoming a *Globe*-like DNC fanzine, you could feature Al Gore's blatant lies in your next "Impolitic" column. Or wouldn't there be enough space?

STEVE SHERMAN
West Roxbury

Return of the Road Rager

Hello. I have had a few months to wrestle with my irate feelings that were inspired by the piece run in your "Driver's Guide to Boston."

I have been extremely upset by the blatant disregard for my request to fill in the potholes that run rampant throughout our city streets, which I made crystal clear in my previous letter. However, my anger has subsided a bit now that spring is in the air and we can all choose alternate means of transportation like the MBTA. My worry, however, is that this pothole problem, as expressed by your writers, is far from being remedied. What I want to know now is this: What happens to all of the bikers and skaters who will be coming out in droves when they have the misfortune of encountering such a crevice in the pavement? How about valuing their well-being a bit more? Thank you, media personnel, for your attention to this ongoing matter.

SUSAN HANDWARD
Somerville

Designing Woman

Oooooh IMPROPER, I must say you've tempted me with the craftwork of the most classic and stylin' architects in Boston. So now what? How about a contest through which I may win a day of decorating treatment with the brilliant Nader Tehrani and Monica Ponce de Leon? I admit that I am a member of the MTV generation, and I want freebies, damn it! Although I'm certainly too poor to hire them myself even for a simple tidbit of tapestry-placement advice, I must thank Ms. Strutt for her article, because it certainly gave me great ideas for my tiny apartment...that wall of books just may work in my bathroom after all.

MELISSA A. MILLER
via e-mail

Clarification

In the March 22 issue, the painting's creator in Soroff/On's column was not identified. The artist's name is Misha Lenn.

Tell Us What You Think

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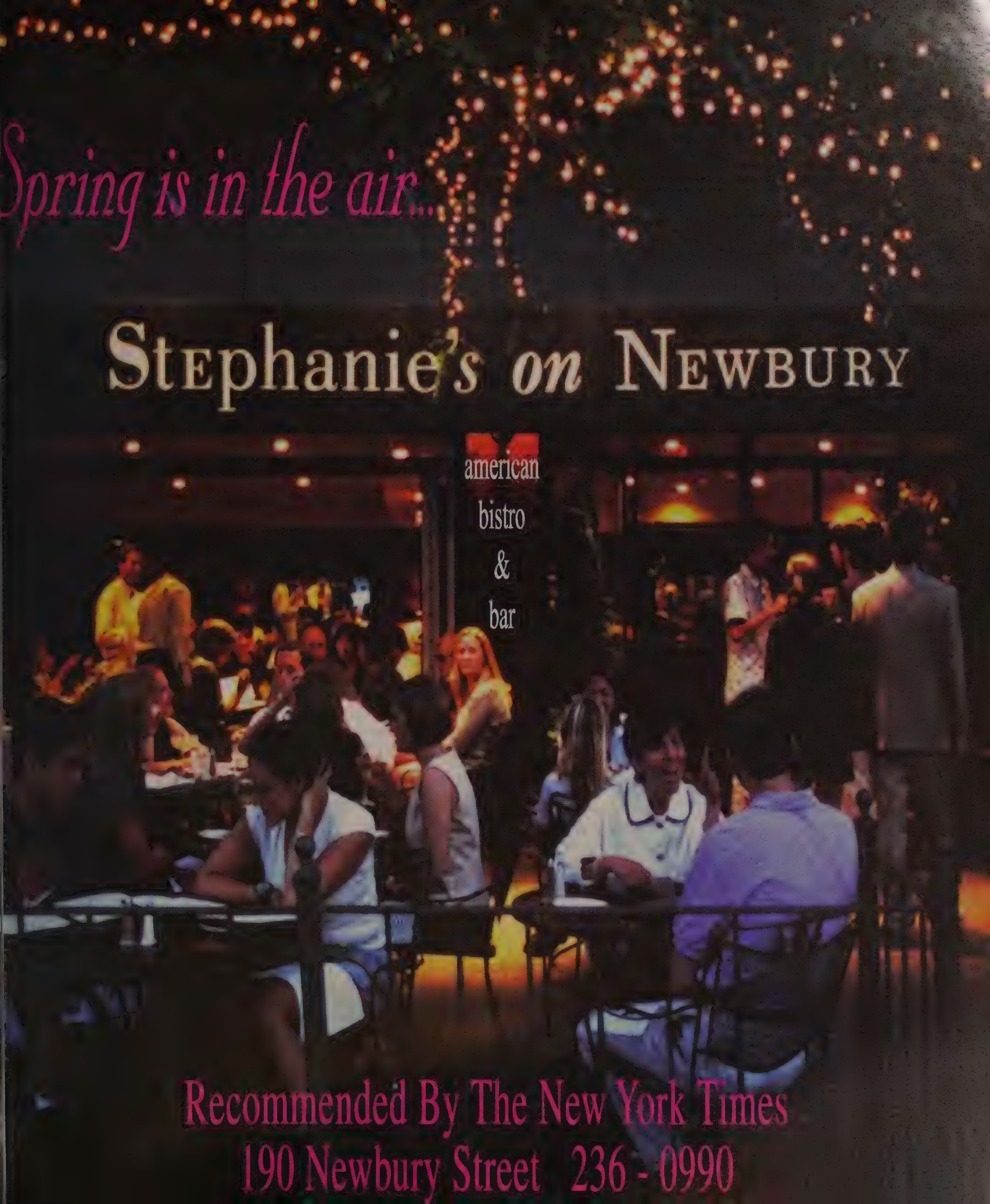
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IMPROPERSPEAKING

A CIVIL ACTION?

Jan Schlichtmann may go head to head with Cellucci.

Gov. Paul Cellucci is likely to soon lock horns with **Jan Schlichtmann**, better known as the crusading lawyer portrayed by John Travolta in the movie *A Civil Action.*

Schlichtmann is part of an effort to get the governor to approve proposed legislation to require the state's older power plants to meet the same pollution emission standards as new power plants. Schlichtmann's immediate focus—hearings take place this week and next at Salem State College—is the old Salem Harbor Power Plant, which dumps 89 tons of crud into the air a year. That's five times the amount of pollutants allowed for new power plants.

And making matters still worse for the man that the *Boston Globe*'s **David Nyan** referred to last month as "Governor Smallbore" is the fact that the *real* **Erin Brockovitch** will show up at the Salem meeting next week. Brockovitch, currently being portrayed on celluloid by **Julia Roberts**, helped win a pollution lawsuit against Pacific Gas & Electric—which owns the Salem plant.

Julia Roberts portrays Erin Brockovitch, who may come to Salem next week.

We may soon need playbills just to keep up with civil actions.

FASTER THAN...

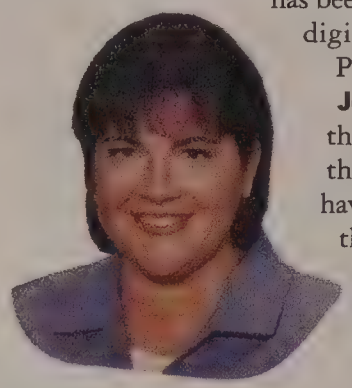
The 52nd senatorial candidacy of millionaire Republican carpetbagger **Jack E. Robinson III** last month certainly gave new meaning to the old phrase "Faster than you can say Jack Robinson."

Never in the history of the United States has a candidacy offered so little and been so brief. And the exquisite irony of the flame-out is that the incumbent, Senator-for-Life **Ted Kennedy**, is not exactly considered to be innocent of many of the same sins allegedly committed by the flamer: bimbo eruptions, academic cheating, leaving the scene...

LOOKING PENCIL-NECKED

We're sure we're not alone in noting that **Gov. Paul Cellucci** has been looking a little pencil-necked lately. So we decided to ask some IMPROPER questions—especially since the *Boston Herald* ran an erroneous story recently that questioned our leader's health.

Turns out the guv has lost as many as 20 pounds during the course of the past year since going on a strict low-carbohydrate, high-protein diet in the wake of having an angioplasty procedure last April to widen an artery on the surface of his heart. Also, on the advice of his doctors, Cellucci has taken up early morning jogs and power walks. "I'm more inclined to say the weight loss has been in the single digits," gubernatorial Press Secretary **John Birtwell** told the IMPROPER. "But then again, I haven't been here that long. He's just cut down on his beloved pasta."



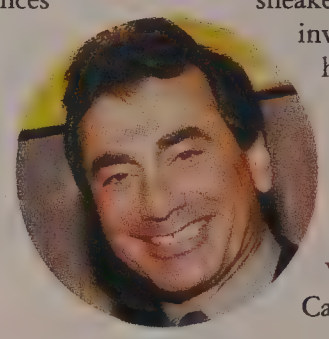
Perhaps Lt. Governor Jane Swift can help Cellucci with his downsizing.

Indeed, the guv's biweekly political lunches were once famous for their mounds of gnocchi, platters of roasted Italian potatoes and heaps of Italian bread. Cellucci now sticks to salads at the lunches.

The downside to this healthy diet, though, is that his shirt collar size has dropped by half an inch, and Cellucci is now able to turn his head without his collar moving even a millimeter, which accounts for the pencil-necked look. A word of improper advice: Send **Lt. Gov. Jane Swift** over to Filene's Basement to pick you out some new shirts. She doesn't have much else to do; and besides, she seems to enjoy accepting favors and doing personal business on company time.

DISCO LIVES?

Back to Travolta: **The Palace Entertainment Complex** in Saugus—scene of various and notorious malfeasances performed by curfew-ignoring New England Patriots last fall—celebrated its 18th anniversary last month.



Russell Robbat owns the Palace in Saugus.

And how better for that haven of big hair and eight-inch heels to celebrate this rite of passage than with the New Bedford band Tavares, probably best known for its recording of "More Than a Woman," which graced the *Saturday Night Fever* soundtrack during that cultural depression also known as the 1970s. Disco inferno? Disco resurgence? Are we really ready for this? Can we please avoid it? Palace owner **Russell Robbat** seems to think we should celebrate it.

A FEEDER SYSTEM AT WORK?

Last month *Boston Globe* editorial employees held an after-work party to say goodbye to education reporter **Kate Zernike**—who moves on to *the New York Times*. Zernike is the first Globie to move to the *Times* since the *Times* bought the *Globe* six years ago. She will have the "private school" beat at the *Times*—all of which brings up two questions: Will she plumb the depths of **George W. Bush**'s antics at Phillips Andover? Is there a feeder system at work now that the *Globe* has been bought by the *Times?* In other words, will the *Globe* be reduced to PawSox status?

DOG DAYS

Anyone looking for a good laugh—or satirical commentary on 21st Century Man—should keep an eye on the Union Wharf parking lot later this spring. Public Relations Impresario **George Regan** is planning a large first birthday party for his dog, the eponymous golden retriever **Regan**.

Human Regan will be inviting canine Regan's dog-walking school buddies, the other hounds with whom the dog spends every day chewing sneakers. Among the invitees, the IMPROPER has learned, will be a golden retriever named Plato, two chocolate labs named Bailey and Ripley, a Weimaraner named Casey and a Jack Russell Terrier named Scruffy. We assume that all but the last, like canine Regan, may have been named after their owners. Lest anyone think we're poking needless fun at human Regan, we offer this:

George Regan's dog turns one.

Robert E. Jordan III, a senior partner at the prestigious Washington law firm of **Steptoe & Johnson**—he's a former *Harvard Law Review* editor, served in the Kennedy administration and ramrodded the Alaska oil pipeline through the courts—recently invited his entire firm to celebrate his Irish setter's eleventh birthday: in the firm's largest conference room ... on a workday. Another Steptoe partner's English bulldog is often found snorting and drooling around the offices; an associate sometimes brings her two huge Bermese mountain dogs to work; another firm member has been seen pushing her small dogs to work in a baby carriage.

So we guess human Regan's "dog thing" puts him in the power mainstream. IB

Speaking of Boston

Got a inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to speaking@improper.com

GRIDLOCK?

Battle Road 2000 is a five-day celebration of the Revolution.

Look forward to massive gridlock starting late next week as the western suburbs kick off the five-day "**Battle Road 2000**" the 225th anniversary of the American Revolution.

Authenticity definitely appears to be the theme this year. Colonial militias begin assembling on Lincoln Field in Lexington at 12pm on April 13. Paul Revere will ride into Lexington at 11pm on Friday and will be arrested on Route 2A in Lincoln two hours later at 1am Saturday (we've always said he should have taken the Routes 4 and 225 exit off Route 128 and not followed the 2A signs for Hanscom Field). The battle of Lexington will be fought starting at 6am Saturday, and the redcoats will begin their bloody retreat from the rude bridge that arched the flood in Concord at 10am. Demonstrations and memorial services continue into Patriot's Day.

Speaking of Patriot's Day, this year's Boston Marathon should be one of the best ever. The Kenyan national Olympic committee is using the marathon as its official Olympic qualifying meet. So the marathon, which always attracts most of the best runners in the world, will again attract all the best runners in the world—since many hail from Kenya anyway.

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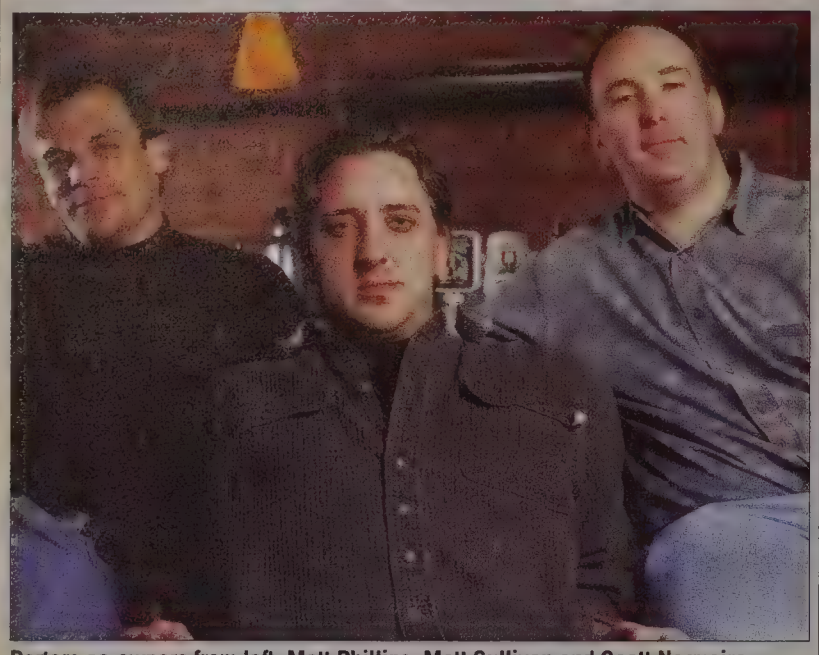
CITY LIMITS

Good stuff, glamour and goings-on

BY ERIN HAGEDORN AND JULIE SHORT



Porters co-owners from left, Matt Phillips, Matt Sullivan and Scott Nogueira.

New in Town

PORTERS HOUSE RULES

Ask owners Matt Sullivan and Matt Phillips how they decided upon a name for their new bar, Porters Bar and Grill in North Station, and they'll tell you a heartwarming tale of how co-owner Scott Nogueira's father, Porter, asked on his deathbed that a bar be named after him. Halfway through the story, however, Sullivan cracks a cheeky smile. This tale, we surmise, is tall.

Apparently there's no story behind the name. And that's pretty much the premise of the place—no gimmick, no flashy theme. Porters is simply a cozy, laid-back place to grab a beer and mighty good grub after work or a FleetCenter show—and it's a welcome change from the ubiquitous Irish pub. Of course the spot has a few distinguishing features, including lots of funk music, the most comfortable chairs around (such as the plush "monkey booths," decorated with miniature primates) and $3 domestic and $4 imported beers. With seating for 80, this former Melting Pot space has been revamped into one of the most welcoming and unpretentious places in town. And that's the truth.

This Just In

KABLOOM KABOOM

Look out, Mom and Pop flower shops—a new chain of florists known as **Kabloom!** is sprouting up all over the city. The upside for consumers: Flowers cost less. The downside: A few corner flower shops may wither under competition from the new Staples of the flower industry. By getting rid of all the middlemen between here and South America, Kabloom can underprice Boston's perennial flower shops. After Kablooms were firmly planted in Newton, Wellesley and Brookline, Boston saw one shoot up on Newbury and another on School Street—and the chain plans to open up another 30 or so in the Greater Boston area (and 150 in the nation as a whole). Under the command of former Staples President David Hartstein, Kabloom hopes to become one of the nation's first florist chains. Ah, the evil chain—but considering the often staggering price for a dozen roses, chain us right up.

All the Buzz

RETURN OF THE 1980s

Much like a campy horror movie, the '80s have descended upon Boston once again. It started out with the recently opened nostalgia factory, **Polly Esther's** dance club with its '80s theme-park feel and staff decked out in ripped retro duds. Then came the popularity surge of the totally '80s local rockers **Waltham** (who perform April 8 at the Linwood). These earnest, long-haired lads pick up right where Rick Springfield and Journey left off. And beyond the sonic flashback, the live show is a must-see with gals going ga-ga for the dreamy frontman who often jumps into the audience to serenade fans face to face. And while we're on the "Don't You Forget About Me" theme, the Coolidge is offering midnight screenings of John Hughes' classic *The Breakfast Club* (above) on April 7-8, finishing off their '80s midnight movie series. Finally, there's the **Prom Night '80** party at Dick's Last Resort on April 14—destined to be a whirlwind of blue tuxes, poofy gowns and hairspray. Yes indeed, the tackiest decade of last century is back—with a vengeance.

QUICK HIT

If 1999 Boston Marathon winner, Joseph Chebet (2:09:52), had made a 30-second pit stop, he'd have lost to Silvio Guerra (2:10:19).

Around Town

DRINK AND RUN

Marathon fans this year may notice a small contingency of runners who stop to guzzle a beer before they take on Heartbreak Hill, and could pretty much pass for frat brothers on a pub crawl. Drinking and running? Are they insane? Yes. What's more, they are drunk. No one among the Hash House Harriers (self-dubbed "Drinkers with a running problem") claims to be normal.

This co-ed crew gathers weekly—here in Boston and in cities around the world—to run on four-to-six-mile journeys. The run is determined by a small group of "hares" who set the trail for the rest of the "hounds" using chalk marks and baking flour. Intermittently, the runners stop to fuel up with a beer or two.

On April 14, an international gathering of Hash House Harriers converges upon Boston, using the marathon as an excuse to drink and run all weekend long. You can join them on their annual binge fest on April 14, and then on their Big Dig-themed run at 2:30pm the next day (hard hats optional). April 16 is the Sunday Hangover Hash and then of course, on Monday Marathon Day, you can stop by for a beer with the runners. For more info, visit the Web site at *www.angelfire.com/ma/bostonhhh*.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ELIZABETH MARKEL, KATYA APEKINA, IRINA ROZOVSKY

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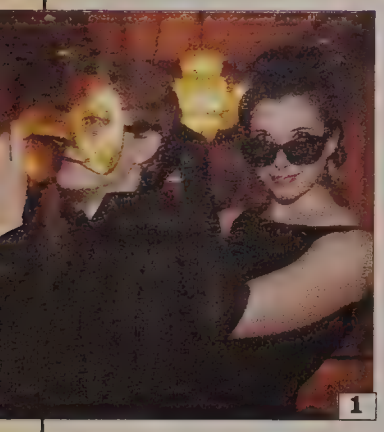
Proper Bostonians

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

MasquerAIDS, a gala event to benefit the AIDS Action Committee, was held March 18 at the Fairmont Copley Plaza. Party-goers dressed in creative black tie and masquerade attire for the costume ball. The evening featured gourmet delectables, beautific beverages, much mingling and endless hours of dancing to the music of Four Guys in Tuxes.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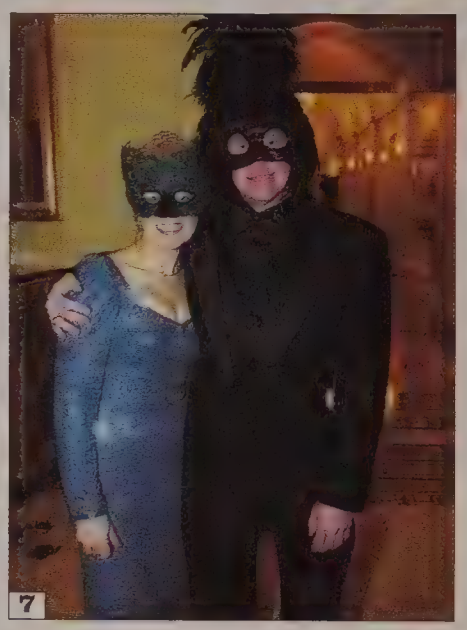
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1. **Matt Mays**, production director at Beeline Internet Resources, and **Amy Treco**, special events administrator for the AIDS Action Committee.
2. **Larry Kessler** (l), executive director for the AIDS Action Committee, and **Michael Allen**, MasquerAIDS chairman and co-owner of the Frame Gallery in Brookline.
3. **John Ferrell**, president of the YMCA of Greater Boston, and his wife **Mary Ann**, marketing director for the Tufts Animal Expo in Concord.
4. From left, **Natalie Gardiner**, AIDS Action Committee member, **Callie Robert**, sales representative for Xerox, and **Sheri Flager**, member of the AIDS Action Committee.
5. **Giles McNamee**, managing director at Chase H&Q, and **Debbie Digate**, volunteer for the Aids Action Committee.
6. **Marie Whitty** (l), administrator for the Gabrielle House in Fall River, and her daughter **Kim Whitty-Spratt**, technical designer at Chadwicks of Boston.
7. Artist **Judy Hazilla** and **Tim Gallagher**, owner of Gallagher Christopher Antiques in Beacon Hill.
8. From left, **David Margolias**, president of Syndicated Ad Features Inc. in Norwood, with his wife **Missy** and **Heidi Zizza** and Missy's husband **Chris**, president of C&R Flooring Inc.

The ***Edward Weston: Photography and Modernism*** **opening reception** was held in the Gund Gallery of the Museum of Fine Arts March 13. More than 500 socialites admired an extensive collection of art, including Weston's photographs, Georgia O'Keeffe's paintings of the Southwest, and sculptures by Constantin Brancusi, Alexander Calder and David Smith. Guests toured a replica of Weston's darkroom—complete with his original photographic equipment—and listened to music that Weston enjoyed. The exhibition will be on view until May 29.

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9. **Ron Gatnik**, president of Gatnik Imports, and his wife **Dolores**, a loan officer for Salem Five Mortgage Company in Weymouth.
10. From left, **Ted Stebbins**, the Weston exhibition curator, **Amy Benns**, department assistant for the Art of the Americas at the MFA, and **Kevin Brown**, associate at Alta Communications.
11. **Kate Seidel** and her husband, **Michael**, fine accounts specialist for the Boston Wine Company.
12. **Tamsen Snyder** (l), head of exhibitions at the Peabody Essex Museum, and **Patick McMahon**, curatorial, planning and project manager for the Art of the Americas at the MFA.
13. From left, **Bernie Pucker**, director of Pucker Gallery, **B.A. King**, fine art photographer, and **Steve Loring**, furniture designer at Dove Tail Wood Works in Worcester.

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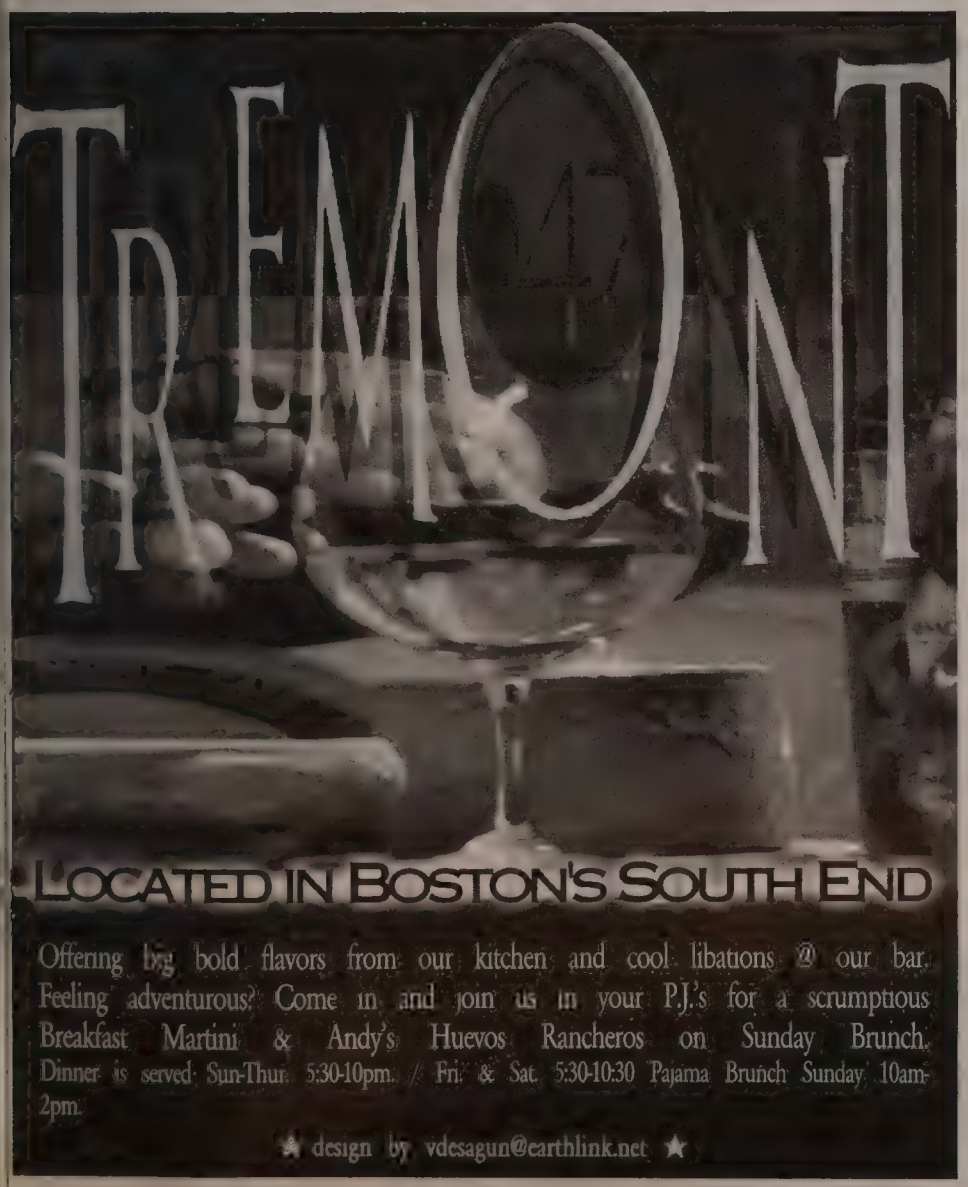

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APRIL 2000

ENGLISH & CONTINENTAL FURNITURE & DECORATIONS
April 8, 11 a.m. - Boston

DISCOVERY
April 28, 10 a.m. - Bolton

ORIENTAL RUGS & CARPETS
April 29, 12 noon - Boston

MAY 2000

FINE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
May 7, 12 noon - Boston

AMERICAN & EUROPEAN PAINTINGS
May 12, 7 p.m. - Boston

THE SUSAN WEITZEN COLLECTION OF WEDGWOOD AND RELATED WARES-PART II
May 20, 12 noon - Boston

DISCOVERY
May 25, 7 p.m. - Bolton
May 26, 10 a.m. - Bolton

JUNE 2000

20TH CENTURY FURNITURE & DECORATIVE ARTS including Glass, Lamps, Pottery and Metalwork from the Art Nouveau, Arts & Crafts, Art Deco & Modern Movements
June 3, 11 a.m. - Boston

AMERICAN FURNITURE & DECORATIVE ARTS
June 11, 11 a.m. - Bolton

FINE JEWELRY
June 13, 12 noon - Boston

DISCOVERY
June 22, 7 p.m. - Bolton
June 23, 10 a.m. - Bolton

ASIAN WORKS OF ART
June 24, 11 a.m. - Boston

JULY 2000

TOYS AND DOLLS
July 8, 10 a.m. - Bolton

ENGLISH & CONTINENTAL FURNITURE & DECORATIONS
July 15, 11 a.m. - Boston

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CYBERCOP

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To most people, it's not a big deal. Nearly everyone has occasionally bootlegged a diskette or two. With most PCs shipping with CD-write technology, making copies of software—even big programs—is now child's play. And with Internet connections getting faster all the time, bootlegged software increasingly is being traded across the Web.

The logic is simple—why pay $100 for a piece of software that you can download for free?

That kind of thinking that has led to the growth of a multibillion-dollar problem, according Rebecca Bosley, the FBI's supervisory special agent for Boston's computer crime squad. "People don't perceive software piracy as a crime," explains Bosley, "but the economic impact of software piracy is far greater than it is for traditional crimes such as bank robbery."

"We get a lot of people saying 'What's the big deal if I buy $100 software for $30?' But that $30 is probably going to a crime lord who may be using it to ship underage Asian girls to work in U.S. whorehouses," says police sergeant Marcus Frank.

Experts estimate that $11 billion of bootlegged software is distributed every year, representing the loss of more than a hundred thousand jobs worldwide, most of them in hightech areas like Boston. Software piracy drains the Massachusetts economy of almost a billion dollars every year, costing the state some 4,300 high-tech jobs, according to statistics provided by the Boston office of Microsoft Corp. In 1997 alone, the state lost $240 million in wages and salaries, $600 million in retail sales, and close to $11 million in tax revenue that could have contributed to state and local improvement projects.

That's not surprising, considering that Boston traditionally has been a hotbed of software piracy. One of the most celebrated cases took place all the way back in 1994, when MIT junior David LaMacchia was indicted for making copyrighted software available online. Because there was no law that specifically forbade this activity, he was charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud—even though he never made any money from the deal.

The LaMacchia case sparked lawmakers to pass the 1997 federal statute known as the No Electronic Theft (NET) Act, under which people who offer copyrighted software online can receive up to 10 years in prison and a fine of up to $250,000. "Boston has definitely made a contribution to the evolution of intellectual property law," says Bosley, "It was a milestone case."

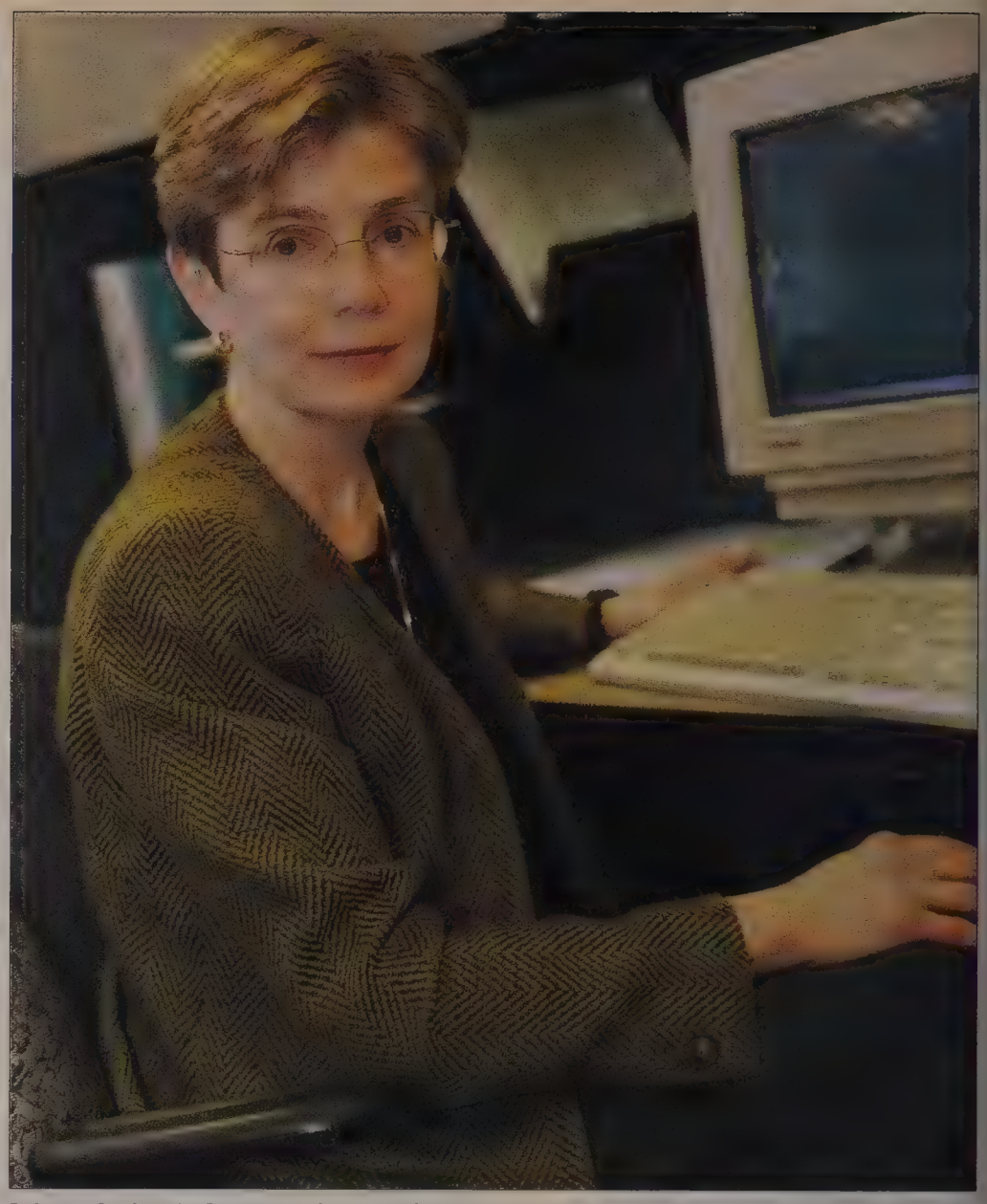
The stiff penalties, however, haven't stopped local area residents from participating in software piracy schemes. Last May, Andover resident Koji Tsugawa plead guilty of advertising commercial software on Internet newsgroups and, after negotiating the sales via e-mail, sending custom-made CD-ROMs containing pirated software. And last month, North Chelmsford resident Robin Rothberg was accused of conspiracy to infringe upon the copyright of thousands of software programs available through a hidden Internet server located in Canada.

According to the FBI, Rothberg was a "council member" in an underground piracy group called "Pirates with Attitude." The fact that software pirates are getting more organized is giving FBI officials the heebie-jeebies, because it raises the specter of organized crime, which has already gotten involved in high-end piracy operations elsewhere in the country. However, unlike the downloadable stuff, much of the product hawked by the goodfellas looks exactly like a real product—even down to the certificate of authenticity.

Law enforcement officials consider software counterfeiting to be a "bootstrap" crime—a quick way to raise money to launch more traditional rackets like drug dealing, loan sharking and prostitution. "We get a lot of people saying 'What's the big deal if I buy $100 software for $30?' But that $30 is probably going to a crime lord who may be using it to ship underage Asian girls to work in U.S. whorehouses," says Marcus Frank, a police sergeant who is part of a special task force on organized crime. Frank recently participated in a raid of a manufacturing plant in California that uncovered $56 million worth of counterfeited Microsoft software. There's no question that this was a Mafia operation, according to Frank, who notes that the CD duplication machine alone cost $1.2 million.

What's ironic about the problem is that pirated software —whether copied off the Net or bought from a shady retailer—often isn't much of a bargain. Experts say that viruses are common on bootlegged products and that components are frequently missing. Furthermore, if (as is likely) you run into a problem, chances are that the telephone support folks will either hang up on you or demand that you pay them the full price of the software—regardless of whether you paid somebody for the pirated version.

Despite this, software piracy continues to be a growing problem, so much so that law enforcement officials are only focusing on the largest offenders. "You have to have a certain volume of activity and intent in order to make it onto our radar screen," Bosley explains. Unfortunately, law enforcement efforts still remain hampered by public opinion, which remains sympathetic to software pirates, especially those who, like Rothberg, are evidently not making any money on the deal. "Public awareness isn't high because people don't think about it in terms of economic impact," explains Bosley, who adds that "we really do need to give the problem a higher profile."



Rebecca Bosley, the FBI's supervisory special agent for Boston's computer crime squad, is on the case.

Clarification:
In my recent column "Cyber Big Brother," I hope I made it clear that Engage co-founder Daniel Jaye is one of the good guys. His company only does anonymous profiling, which not only doesn't violate privacy; it makes the Internet more effective and easier to use.**iB**

Geoffrey James (www.geoffreyjames.com) is the author of numerous business books, as well as the co-host of *Funny Business*, heard Saturdays 10pm-12am on WRKO, AM 680.

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Tiffany James

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Lingerie queen Tiffany James was born and raised in Methuen. After marrying her husband, Walter, at 21, they founded Undercoverwear, borrowing Tupperware's strategy to sell racy underthings at parties in clients' homes. Today, the company has 3,000 sales agents in the United States and Canada and approximately $75 million in sales for 1999. Tiffany has been profiled in numerous publications—from the *Robb Report* to *Playboy*, which cited her company in an article on the sexual revolution—and on television programs ranging from *The Phil Donahue Show* to *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*. The mother of a grown son, she and her husband divide their time between homes in Back Bay and Hawaii. In honor of National Lingerie Week, April 9-15, Jonathan Soroff caught up with her to chat about lacy underthings.

Jonathan Soroff: *Let's discuss thongs, which I like to call butt floss. Pro or con?*
Tiffany James: It depends on your butt.
JS: *Well, I spend half my life trying to keep my underwear outta there. What's the appeal?*
TJ: People either love them or they hate them. I don't care either way, as long as people buy them from me.
JS: *What's the sexiest item of lingerie?*
TJ: For a woman, or the man looking at her? For men, it's still bras, garter belts, undies, seamed nylons and stiletto heels, preferably in black, or a corselet. Women prefer pastels, something diaphanous and flowing, like a Greek goddess. It's really clear-cut. Women love romance, and men love sexuality.
JS: *When a man buys a woman lingerie, is it a gift for him or for her?*
TJ: Both of them. Men are much more visual. If he's smart, he's gonna buy her something she's comfortable wearing. Usually, something black and sexy will do it. Lingerie is really very simple. When you're giving the most intimate gift of all, you want the very best wrapping.
JS: *What would you say to feminists who say that what you perpetuate is a very objectified idea of women?*
TJ: It's ridiculous. Women are women. We're different, and part of who we are is our femininity. I can go head to head with a man in the boardroom, but in the bedroom, I choose to be feminine for my husband.
JS: *Explain the appeal of a French maid's outfit.*
TJ: It's the sexiest thing in the world! It's a fantasy, which is what sensuality is all about. You put on a French maid's outfit, and he thinks he's making love to yet another dimension of you. Romance is supposed to be fun, you know.
JS: *What is edible underwear made out of?*
TJ: I don't know the ingredients, but I can tell you that number one, you can eat it, and number two, it does melt. So use it in a hotel room, not your own bedroom.
JS: *Most outrageous thing that ever happened at an Undercoverwear party?*
TJ: Well, we learn more about people's sex lives than you could possibly imagine. I remember at one of my very first parties, 20-some-odd years ago, the women were trying to buy only the most conservative things. This 85-year-old grandmother looks at her granddaughter and says, "You girls just don't get it. Gimme a pair of those crotchless panties because grandpa's really gonna love 'em."
JS: *Most outrageous thing you've ever done for publicity?*
TJ: Definitely when I did *The Phil Donahue Show*. I was panicked that he was going to say I was exploiting women and all that stuff, so I decided to do something drastic. I flipped my hair up and wore this little wide-brimmed hat, so that I kinda looked like Marlo Thomas, and it worked. I had lunch with him and Willie Nelson, and then I had dinner with him and Henry Kissinger.
JS: *Who had better breasts—Jane Mansfield or Jane Russell?*
TJ: Jane Mansfield. Jane Russell was just big, and we don't know if she was a little on the saggy side. She wore those Playtex Living bras, and her whole thing was, "Lift 'em up, lift 'em up."
JS: *Any celebrity clients?*
TJ: Well, my best friend Annabel Bowlen, who owns the Denver Broncos football team, loves our lingerie. I've been told about many others who choose to remain anonymous.
JS: *Is there anything too raunchy for you to sell?*
TJ: Anything with batteries. We're not Toys For U.
JS: *You're sort of Frederick's of Hollywood Lite.*
TJ: Well, our client is middle America, and we try to educate people on how to treat themselves to something special and enhance the romance. Y'know, a friend of mine once told me something that I think is true: You can have a rotten marriage with good sex, but you can't really have a great marriage with bad sex.
JS: *Are men starting to wear lingerie?*
TJ: Definitely. They're becoming much more attuned to bedroom fashions, sexy underwear. But it took a lot of years for women to embrace it. European women have always had fabulous lingerie. We're just catching up.
JS: *Ever host a party for transvestites?*
TJ: Silly you, of course! We've done shows for gay men, drag queens, whomever. Being absolutely nonjudgmental in my life, whoever wants to feel good and have fun with this stuff should. And they're big buyers.
JS: *Biggest mistake people make when buying lingerie?*
TJ: Men buy something that pleases them but she looks at it and says, "I'll never, ever wear that," because it's something she isn't comfortable with. Biggest mistake women make buying lingerie for themselves is being critical of their bodies. I've had women put on nylons and garter belts and say, "Ugh. Look at my thighs." Trust me. He's not going to care.
JS: *So do you wear garter belts every single day?*
TJ: Not every day, but I wear garter belts, thigh highs, I wear it all.
JS: *Do you consider yourself a clotheshorse?*
TJ: I've done my share to help the economy, yes. I love clothes. I think a woman who embraces fashion loves herself.
JS: *Biggest beauty secret?*
TJ: La Mer cream.
JS: *That stuff is $1,000 a jar! What's in it—weapons-grade plutonium?*
TJ: It's my cowardly way of staying young. I'm afraid to have plastic surgery, so I keep plopping this cream on my face, hoping and praying that it really works.
JS: *And?*
TJ: I don't look bad.
JS: *OK, somewhere I dug up the embarrassing fact that your husband, at one time, played with the Lawrence Welk Orchestra. How sexy is that?*
TJ: (Laughs) Hey, he plays the accordion, but he also plays the guitar, and even if an oompah band isn't exactly sexy, you know how crazy women are for musicians.
JS: *You've been married for 30 years. What's the secret to keeping your man happy?*
TJ: My husband says it's that I finally figured out that he's always right. But the truth is really reinforcing love with communication, commitment and having fun, both in and out of the bedroom.
JS: *Best name you ever came up with for an item of lingerie?*
TJ: Not Tonight, I've Got a Headache. It's a flannel nightgown and it sells like I'm giving it away. It pretty much tells him, "This is not your lucky night." **iB**

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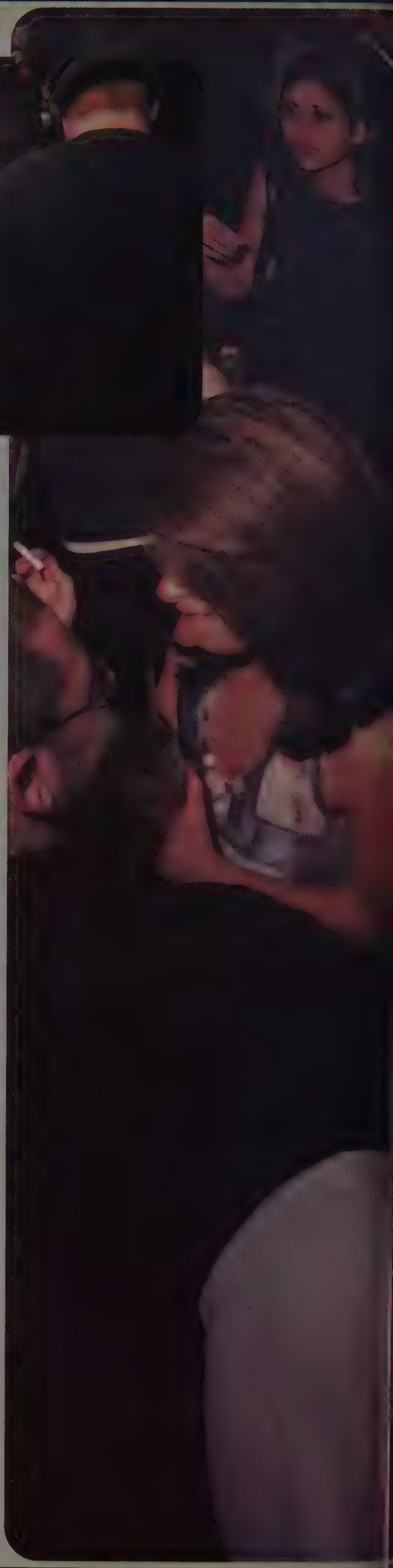
NIGHT SOUNDS

A fast ride through the spinning realm of DJs, MCs, clubs, record stores and underground parties that are heating up the city's dance scene.

BY ANDREW SPANO

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BERTA A. DANIELS

Below: DJs Caserock and Skye spin at Phoenix Landing; right: DJ Alex works up the crowd at Venu.



>> THIS TRIBE WEARS SNEAKERS. Some of the guys breaking and rocking have dreads. One punches up the rhythm with a drum. The focus of this party, though, is the continuous pulse of beats that DJs Hush, Kid Ray, Shwilly B, Kefir and Chip spin out of their bags of vinyl, flipping the black disks around to find the tracks in the twilight of Davis Square's VFW hall in Somerville on a Tuesday night. At around 12:30am, the lights go up and the party's over. DJ Hush smiles over the turntables as the crowd gives him a long ovation. The Tuesday night Circle party has raged once again.

Boston used to be known as a secondhand scene, in both its mainstream and underground party manifestations. No more. These days, finding another place to plug in is easier than ever. Career DJs are made here now. What's more, DJs from around the country, and the world, order dance music from record shops like Newbury Street's 4Front records, the region's drum-and-bass headquarters.

"I think anywhere you go now, there are good DJs," says Aru Manrique, station manager at Emerson College's WERS and one of the organizers of Sunday nights at The Exchange, a club in downtown Boston. Manrique shouts over the beats of resident DJ Dro. "To me it's like better than New York. You could live there forever and never feel a part of it. In Boston, I feel like it's mine. The scene is just blowing up!"

The explosion has knocked down the walls between mainstream, underground and old school. DJs can go from practicing on a pair of tables in their bedroom to ruling a crowd of 500 in a few years. But this has also made the professional scene ultracompetitive.

"There's a lot of good people out there spinning, but you kinda have to know somebody," says John Mansfield, DJ Dro's promoter and friend. "You go down to Avalon, and all the residents are really good. How do you kick somebody out that's [already] doing the place?"

Now there's much more to the dance-party scene than Lansdowne Street—though for the mainstream it's still Party Central. Today you have DJs who may have been doing underground parties five years ago towering over the dance floor in the newly renovated Axis, Karma and Avalon. Boston party people want what they hear in D.C., Chicago, Miami, Montreal, London and Berlin, plus raves of all sizes in the underground party circuit.

The crossover between mainstream and underground talent pumps up the quality of what you see in the big clubs and spawns explosive nights at little clubs, bars and even restaurants. And it gives up-and-coming DJs the chance to break out into the public, build a name, and maybe go big time on the national and international circuits.

"Boston has evolved a lot musically, it really has," says Felix Cutillo (see page 20), resident DJ at The Roxy, Pravda and Caprice. "Compared to five years ago? Then, it was a really bad scene. It's definitely evolved."

sampling the scene

DJ MasterMillions

During the tail end of the disco days, when he was about 9 years old, Billy Cammarano watched his uncle spin old records. He also watched music videos on TV and saw how the famous DJs mixed it up. He became hooked. Cammarano, who today is better known as DJ MasterMillions, now spins hip hop, reggae, house and whatever else hits him.

MasterMillions' strategy is to delight and instruct. "I just try to create a sound where it's a medium for everybody," he says at Biscuithead Records, where he partners with DJ Bruno. "I'm giving them what they want, but I'm also teaching them, [because] I'm not playing the same thing everyone else is. I try to give them stuff they're not going to hear on the radio.

"It's easy for any DJ to just give in to what everyone does or follow whatever the trend is. It takes a real DJ to go off the beaten path. The biggest thing is to make it your own."

MasterMillions also likes to do a little MC-ing, enticing the crowd onto the dance floor. "I don't want it to be real stiff," he adds.

WHERE TO HEAR DJ MASTERMILLIONS:
Karma/Speed 9 Lansdowne Street, Boston (421-9595); Thu. nights.

BERTA A. DANIELS

roundup of hot Boston DJs

BY ANDREW SPANO

DJ Static

Break beats—those funky, skittering rhythms that separate one part of a dance track from another—are the foundation of the drum and bass style, only in drum and bass you don't wait for the break. The music is almost always breaking out. Mix a house beat over it at twice the speed, add an MC who raps the crowd, and the resulting chemistry sucks you onto the dance floor.

This is Boston's "newest" sound and, along with deep house and underground hip hop, it's slowly taking over the frontier of the mainstream scene. DJ Static (Scotty Gottesman), the founder and an owner of 4Front records, and his partner, DJ Hylan (Hoffman), have done a lot to get this sound rooted in Boston soil after a long, slow transplant process from the clubs and raves of London. Typical of what happens on the London scene, DJ Static works with an MC who shouts out to the crowd above the layers of music. At Envy, you'll hear Static mixing it up with MC Trick.

DJ Static started spinning on a high-school friend's tables. Then he discovered drum and bass when his best friend brought it back from London. "It was just like beats and breaks and sounds and bass lines and scratching. Stuff you couldn't believe. It was overwhelming the first time I heard it. The next day, I was in. I went out and started buying it.

"The first thing that hit me was, I like hip hop and I like reggae—and here, I heard both fused together.... It's [also] more techno, more danceable because the beat was doubled up."

Static has helped bring Boston from the edge to the center of this growing scene by booking big names at Envy such as Doc Scott and Justice, LTJ Bukem, Conrad DRS and Blame, as well as the Renegade Hardware tour. (Look for the 4Front third anniversary party at Envy on April 19.) He and his crew started Alcatraz Records; its first release is due in the summer.

WHERE TO HEAR DJ STATIC: **Club Envy** 120 Boylston St., Boston (542-3689); alternating Wed. nights. Check out *therinse.com* and *4frontrecords.com* for more info.

Ali Ajami

One of the more mainstream and manic club nights in Boston is Thursdays at Axis/Chrome on Lansdowne Street. Presiding over the mayhem is DJ Ali Ajami (Sporadic Groove records), a newcomer to the Boston scene from Montreal and the brother of former Chrome resident Buro Ajami. Ali shares the DJ booth with fellow residents John Debo—one of the best-known names in Boston, both as DJ and promoter—and DJ Fran, who also spins Friday and Saturday nights at the up-and-coming Lava Lounge in Kenmore Square.

Ajami spins in the same style as Debo: progressive house, a hard-edged sound that generates some serious dancing. All this reverberates within the newly renovated Axis setting, transformingThursday nights at the club into a world-class scene.

"It's a pretty broad term when you say progressive house," says DJ Ali. "People are more into the commercial side, the high-energy trance. We're staying more toward the deep, progressive house. We've evolved the concept that starts off with a deep house feeling and builds up slowly to progressive house with a lot of tribal influence."

WHERE TO HEAR ALI AJAMI: **Axis/Chrome** 13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437); Thu. nights.

TOP: ELIZABETH MARKEL, BOTTOM: KERRY BRETT HURLEY

DJ Lenore

Being one of the two or three female club DJs in Boston is no big deal to Lenore Fauliso, a.k.a. DJ Lenore. For her, it's all about the music. She spins drum and bass at Phoenix Landing on Thursday nights as one of the three Elements residents, along with DJs Billcrook and Rando. Her manifesto is to pump underground sounds into the veins of Boston's nightlife.

Defining "underground," DJ Lenore says, "You like the music because you seek it out and it elevates your taste level—in contrast to hearing something on the radio a million times and having someone tell you you're going to like it."

The Phoenix Landing dance floor might be small, but everyone seems to find enough room to rock. And rock they do—Elements was voted one of the best dance nights in the city.

Hearing drum and bass in clubs and especially at underground parties hooked Lenore into buying tables and a mixer. Well-known DJ and underground impresario Matt Sordillo coached and encouraged her until, through a series of parties and record store connections, she helped found Elements.

"After learning how to spin and mix, the next step is realizing that if you wanna see the underground music scene make it, you have to take it into your own hands, especially in a town that's as conservative as Boston."

This month Lenore will also be a resident at the renovated Karma Club, kicking off Pure, a new night lighting up the Boston scene on Fridays. Members of the Elements crew will be there, including Rando and Billcrook as well as Al Fougy from Phuturistic Bluez.

WHERE TO HEAR DJ LENORE: The Phoenix Landing 512 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (576-6260); Mon. nights.

DJ Felix

Back in the days of disco, DJ Felix (Felix Cutillo) rebelled and became a punk rocker. But secretly he always loved the dance music of the day. This mixture of styles and affinities has stuck with DJ Felix and is evident when he spins Saturday nights at Caprice in the theater district.

"It's the funnest night," he says with a huge smile. "I get to play anything I want. There's no format and there's no dance floor, but people dance right where they are. I play samba, drum and bass, trance. I play everything. I play rock, too." At his other venues around town, he spins Latin, Euro house and international.

The challenge, says Felix, is to keep the quality high and the floor moving. "The easiest thing to do is to please people. If you have the people liking something you like yourself, you have something of quality."

When he's not rocking the dance floor with trance, house, progressive, Euro, Latin and lounge, he's selling records at Boston Beat, the Newbury Street shop he co-owns with DJ Alex (see page 22). "It's just as progressive as some of the biggest cities of the world," says DJ Felix of Boston. "How many places in the world do you know where you can go out any night of the week and find a party?"

WHERE TO HEAR DJ FELIX: Caprice, 275 Tremont St., Boston (292-0080); Sat. nights. International night at **Pravda**, 116 Boylston St., Boston (482-7799); Wed. nights. Mondo night at the **Roxy**, 279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699); Fri. nights.

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DJ Alex

Boston's Euro house and international scene, essentially the techno dance scene that took up where disco left off, is still going strong. You can hear house in most clubs today, but with many different adjectives attached: trance, deep, soulful, tribal, progressive, high-energy, acid and, of course, Euro.

DJ Alex (Alex Yunis) witnessed the transition of house and helped promote its new explosion. He spins mostly Latin and Euro house at many of the international venues downtown and is part owner of the Boston Beat record store along with DJ Felix (see page 20).

DJ Alex got his break when M-80 opened back in 1990. Before that, he was a simply a thorn in a DJ's side—a old-school guy named Eddie K.

"I went up to this guy's DJ booth so many times I got stuck in there. I was mesmerized watching him play," he says. "The crowd's reaction to Eddie was incredible. Finally he said: 'Why don't you come to the record store where I work, and I'll show you the record you're asking about.' I had to do it. Afterwards, I went out and bought two turntables and a mixer."

DJ Alex's path to the booth, however, began at M-80 when the resident was out for three weeks. Alex filled in, and the crowd loved his grooves. "It became the hottest club and took me along with it," he says.

These days, DJ Alex divvies up his time at several different venues around town and also does promotions—bringing in such big names as Osheen to Venu.

WHERE TO HEAR DJ ALEX: **Club Nicole** at the Backbay Hilton, 50 Dalton St., Boston (267-2582); Sat. nights. Underground house Milk night at **Venu,** 100 Warrenton St., Boston (338-8061) Fri. nights. International night at **Pravda,** 116 Boylston St., Boston (482-7799); Wed. nights.

Two of the "Regulars," DJs Caseroc and Skye

The Regulars

Today's mainstream club scene is thriving, thanks to the spring of life deep underground that continually feeds it. Indeed, the underground dance party scene is where sounds originate. It's also where many of the best DJs get their first chance to move a crowd.

The underground scene is revving up with new after-hours clubs and word-of-mouth parties where some of Boston's best DJs try out their records, breaks, mixes and blends. Many of these DJs also spin in some of the off-Lansdowne Street clubs, bringing fresh sounds and beats to the uninitiated. One of Boston's hottest crews is a group of artists and friends called The Regulars (a.k.a. the 409 Crew). Many of them were part of the infamous Redlight parties on Kingston Street, promoted by DJ Shalako. These days, Shalako, along with DJ Caseroc and DJ Skye of Redlight Productions, bring their underground sounds to the Phoenix Landing in Central Square every Wednesday night.

You'll also find Caseroc at Hibernia in downtown Boston on Focus Fridays, along with Regulars Keith Kene and Scott Havens. Another one of the Regulars, Kid Ray (Chris Ramos), a DJ and promoter in his own right, warms up the turntables with acid jazz at Focus. He's also spun at some recent underground parties along with Mike Walsh, Matt Sordillo, and DJ Drama, assisted by Chuck Caseroc. At Focus and Phoenix, expect deep, soulful house—a big part of the crew's sound. Some of the DJs guesting have included Space Munkee, Rob Paine and David Hollands.

WHERE TO HEAR THE REGULARS: **Hibernia,** 25 Kingston St, Boston (292-2333); Fri. nights. **Phoenix Landing,** 512 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (576-6260); Wed. nights.

SHOUTOUTS

Dance any night in Boston and you'll find great DJs. The profiles here cover just a part of the overall scene. It's a sample, a dim sum of what you can rock to in profusion at clubs and underground parties throughout the city seven days a week. Here are a few more names that will get you moving. Check out **Matty O** (Avalon/Saturdays), **Manolo** (Avalon/Thursdays), **Sonic, Jay Ine** (Axis/Mondays), **Darrin Friedman** (Machine/Fridays) and **Brad Gwynn** (Ramrod/Mandance). If we've missed your fave, write a letter to the editor; we'd be glad to get your shout-out to our readers. For complete club listings, see our calendar section on page 64 and in every issue.

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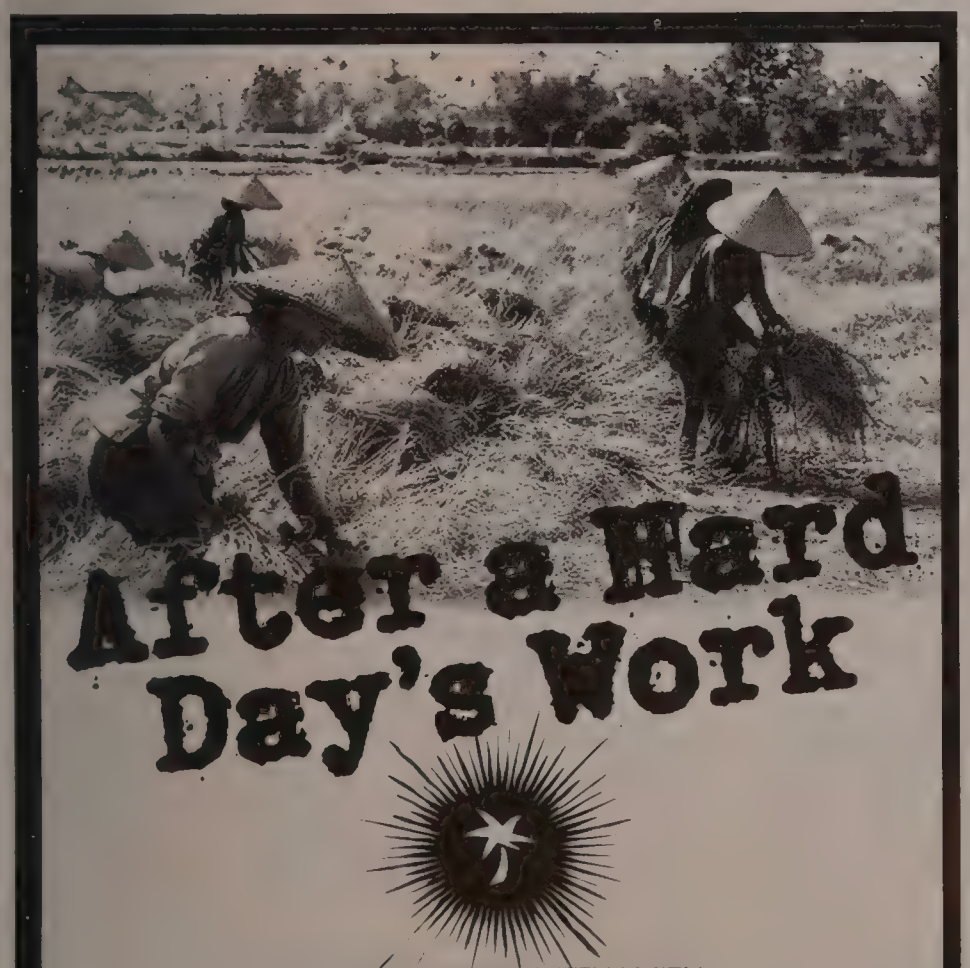

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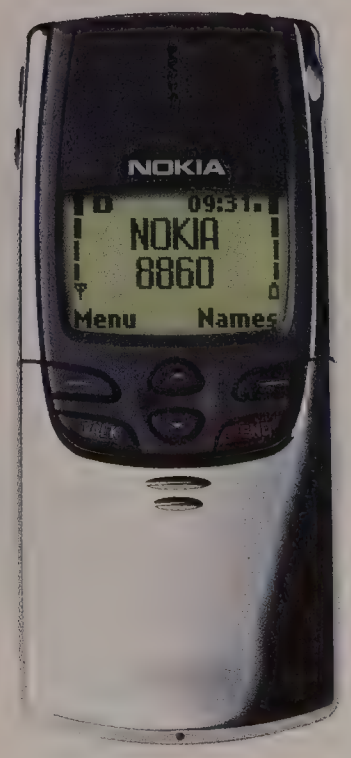

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MATH

"So is it

possible?" The question hangs in the air.

Half a dozen hands shoot up, fingers wiggling to catch it.

Robert Kaplan, solidly built, with a white mustache and salt-and-

pepper hair, peers through this stand of twig-thin arms and picks a sapling

from the forest. • "Alex." • "No." • "Why?" • "Because one-third isn't a whole num-

ber." • "Right," Bob Kaplan says. He turns to the board and raises a hand to his chin, con-

sidering the patio he's diagrammed. He meant it to be a rectangle, but drawing is not his strong

suit. He's labeled the long side "1/2" and the short side "1/3." • Next to the diagram, the board

reads: "Yes?" • Below that: "Can be tiled." • And below that: "What size? How many?" • He holds his

thinker pose for a beat or two and turns back to the class. • "So it can't be done, right? I can't tile my

patio with whole tiles. You all agree?" He delivers it in a perfect deadpan, and the third graders sit-

ting in the concrete bunker of a classroom in Harvard's Science Center are convinced. • Kaplan

wants their opinion; he needs their help. • Most agree the tiling job can't be done, but slowly dis-

sent grows. • Kaplan converts by teaching, teaches by leading, and leads by following his

students, dogging them with innocent questions. • "If they were very small tiles..."

one child says tentatively. • Kaplan squints his eyes and nods vigorously, as

though understanding something for the first time. • "So if we use tiny

tiles, it would work," he says. He looks back at the board and

shakes his head. He's having second thoughts,

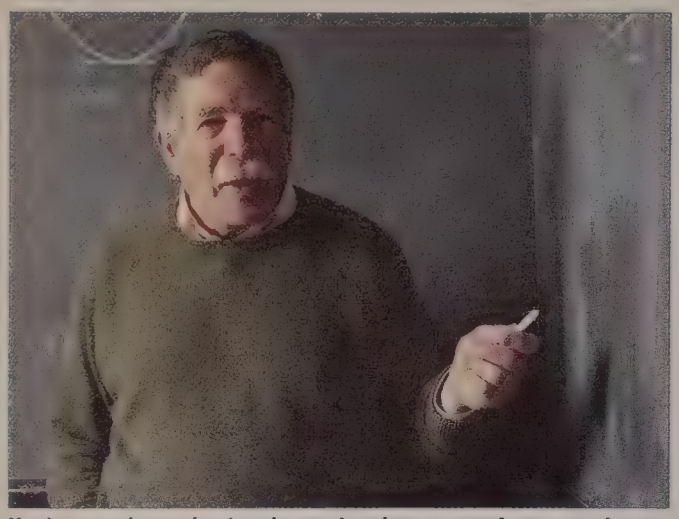
it's quite clear.

WE FEAR ZERO, DOUBLE ZERO, AND MATH IN GENERAL.
BEST-SELLING AUTHOR ROBERT KAPLAN'S MATH CIRCLE DEMYSTIFIES THE MYSTERIOUS.

CIRCLE

BY JOHN HOULT

PORTRAIT BY STEVEN BILLUPS



Kaplan receives mixed reviews when it comes to former students.

One former colleague said Kaplan was apt to choose a kind of inner circle in his classes and leave other students hanging on the outside of it.

"What do you think?" he asks another student.

Kaplan believes that what he, or any other teacher, knows is irrelevant. "People learn best what they discover for themselves," he says.

Enter Kaplan's Math Circle, a gathering of number aficionados who meet regularly to debate various mathematical topics. Kaplan and his wife, Ellen, founded the Math Circle in 1994. They started with 29 students; in five years, attendance has quadrupled. The group, often divided into smaller groups according to topic, includes 5 year olds and 60 year olds; they all pursue math through questions, conjectures and discussion.

Kaplan wants you to want to learn mathematics. He'll tell you everyone can do it. He'll tell you math is art, not science. He'll tell you math is our lost native tongue. You'll believe him. You'll want to learn. You'll believe you can. Even Kaplan's wife calls him a math evangelist.

Like some of the fiercest evangelists, Kaplan came to believe late in life. He didn't take up math until after graduating from the University of Chicago at 18, and after spending another four years auditing classes at Harvard. As a result of his extensive undergraduate education, Kaplan is well-versed in the liberal arts. He loves Wallace Stevens and William Shakespeare. He's read Sanskrit works and Chinese philosophy; he quotes Sappho in Greek. He even plays cricket.

It was the prominent mathematician and Harvard professor Barry Mazur who enticed Kaplan into the world of math and Harvard's Ph.D. program. Now, after years of teaching at both the university and secondary school levels, Kaplan devotes his time to the Math Circle, where he can recruit and groom soldiers his own way in the fight for numeracy.

HISTORY OF ZERO

Back in the Science Center, a pupil named Allison solves the problem with a question: "What if you used one-sixth by one-sixth tiles?"

"How'd you get one-sixth by one-sixth?" Kaplan asks. "Because both three and two go into six," Allison says. The class catches on. The kids create their own patios with crazy, real-life dimensions—.37 by .74; 1/7 by 2/7; .43 by .86—and they tile the patio with whole tiles.

Kaplan trips them up twice with the square root of two. One boy figures out how to make tiles exactly square-root-of-two long. Another student continually asks that the problems be converted to centimeters. Kaplan gets the kids to concentrate on the numbers, not the units, for the remainder of the class.

A couple of boys from Kaplan's second afternoon class arrive early and begin to draw angles, points and trajectories on the board. Later, they stammer with excitement as they make their conjectures on the problem Kaplan has chalked out. The problem resembles a graphed billiards shot, but the real goal isn't putting the ball into the pocket. It's raising and evaluating solutions, realizing errors, getting frustrated and getting past the obstacles.

Kaplan leaves the bunker after the second class. He grabs his jacket and worn canvas tote. He drives a Volvo, an automotive leitmotif in Cambridge—a status symbol that stands for safety and, if plastered with enough "Free Tibet" bumper stickers, social conscience. Kaplan's is a sleeker, newer sedan without slogans. He doesn't believe in publishing. In fact, until recently, he'd enforced a stringent ban on making his work public.

Kaplan quit Harvard's Ph.D. program in 1968 because he didn't want to publish a dissertation. None of his writings over the past 30 or 40 years—short stories, tracts on philosophy, poems, treatises on math—have been seen by a general audience.

Kaplan based his ban less on privacy than on control. Like any teacher, he wanted to be properly understood. Today, Kaplan says his goal in teaching is "to position people so they can come to grips with the elusive glory of things." With so deep, difficult and questionable truths to get across, he preferred not to leave them lying around, waiting to be misread.

Kaplan broke his own prohibition last year when he wrote *The Nothing That Is: A Natural History of Zero*, a book that chronicles the concept of zero throughout history—from ancient Sumeria to the present day. Oxford and Penguin published it simultaneously. The book made *The New York Times* list last fall, climbing to number seven. The "zero book" has netted Kaplan six figures so far, and both publishing houses have come out with second printings. Kaplan has appeared on several radio talk shows; now he's trying to pitch the BBC a ten-part series on math.

"I haven't had time to think," Kaplan says today. "It's been a lot of fun, but there is a cost. The demand is going to go through the roof." It's clear Kaplan sees the new commitments—more classes, more talks, more books—as a burden.

Kaplan drives his Volvo with a courtesy that is out of place in Boston, allowing other vehicles to go first at four-way intersections, no matter who gets there first. He waits through extra light cycles amiably. To the average road-raged Bostonian, it's a wonder that he gets anywhere at all. But he eventually gets to the half-duplex that he and his wife have rented for years.

Ellen Kaplan has sharp features, light eyes and long brown hair. Her fine nose looks all the finer next to Bob's, which comes almost directly from his brow and drops straight down into the thick bush of his mustache. Ellen makes solid eye contact. She teaches math now but studied archaeology in school. Asked how she made the switch to math, she says simply, "I met a mathematician."

All this—the order and peace of this haven, the easy hospitality and amiable driving habits—belie Kaplan's last time in the spotlight. Like most evangelists, Bob attracts not only acolytes but also enemies.

THE INNER CIRCLE

For a combined 70 years, Bob and Ellen Kaplan taught at Boston's Commonwealth School. Ellen taught 23 different subjects; Bob taught 22. But each had a signature course. She was known for American history, a gauntlet through which all students must pass. He taught the top-level math classes—until he was given a contract he refused to sign. Kaplan explains that it contained a "civility clause," stating, in effect, that he would be "nice." At the time, Kaplan felt the clause was a ploy to get rid of him. He felt that if he signed, he'd be admitting guilt, so he refused to sign and sued instead. He lost.

The Boston Globe ran a lengthy article after the court's decision. Kaplan's colleagues testified that if he disagreed with someone, he would often turn heel and walk away in mid-conversation; that he would badmouth certain teachers to other colleagues, parents, and students; and that he would sometimes refuse to talk to a co-worker for weeks or even months.

The Kaplan they remember could be cruel to students. One former colleague said Kaplan was apt to choose a kind of inner circle in his classes and leave other students hanging on the outside of it. He would cut off those he'd chosen if they did something he perceived as a betrayal. "His teaching was very seductive, a kind of shining ripple moving over the material," one teacher said. "He was a pied piper leading them over the cliff. A lot of kids heard the tune, and a lot got hurt."

Jeff Sutherland, a former Commonwealth student, says Kaplan never liked him. "He was a guy with a sense of mission, wanting to be mentor of the best and brightest. But as a result, he could be cruel to teenagers. I was afraid of him."

Jacob Sisk, one of those who fell from favor, calls Kaplan "the best teacher I ever had." Then Sisk continues, "I don't speak to him. We're not friends." He describes Kaplan as very political, but also says he had an incredible ability to guide a student's intellectual questioning.

MATH HERESY

For his part, Bob Kaplan says that he has no time for politics. "I go through life like this," he says, making a wedge shape with his hands and pushing it forward. He doesn't disavow arguments, but says it was good for the kids to see that things were contested. The Commonwealth School, he says, was all about risk. Students had "to desperately want to come to terms with the nature of things," he says.

The Math Circle may be the perfect solution for Kaplan, brilliant and difficult as he is. It operates outside the traditional required schooling; students are volunteers, not conscripts in the Math Circle. Kaplan can be the math freelancer, thinking outside the polygon. What's more, the talking cure it offers may be just the thing for our fear of double zeros, and math in general.

Kaplan likes to tell a story about the Pythagorean theorem. You remember: The square of a right triangle's long side, the hypotenuse, equals the sum of the square of the triangle's other two sides. The Pythagoreans believed in a numerology of whole numbers and their ratios, and felt that anything else was heresy. One Pythagorean, Hippasus, used the famous theorem to prove that other numbers existed. If, he said, perpendicular legs of a triangle both equal one, then the hypotenuse equals the square root of two. The square root of two is not a whole number, but an irrational number and therefore heresy.

Some say the gods drowned Hippasus for his blasphemy. Other stories say that the Pythagoreans pushed Hippasus off a cliff. It's a story about the quashing of a true vision and of a secretive cult culling its membership. It's also about math—and something in it fits Kaplan.

In his zero book, Kaplan writes how, during the Middle Ages, mathematical works were brought back to Europe in the wake of the crusades. The Europeans of the day described the ideas as "dangerous Saracen magic."

Kaplan gives that medieval thinking to a fabulist twist. If there are four people in a room, he asks, and seven people leave, how many people have to enter the room for there to be zero people in the room?

So is it magic? Is it dangerous? For Kaplan, it's fun. **iB**

John Hoult is a producer at "The Connection" on WBUR-FM radio.

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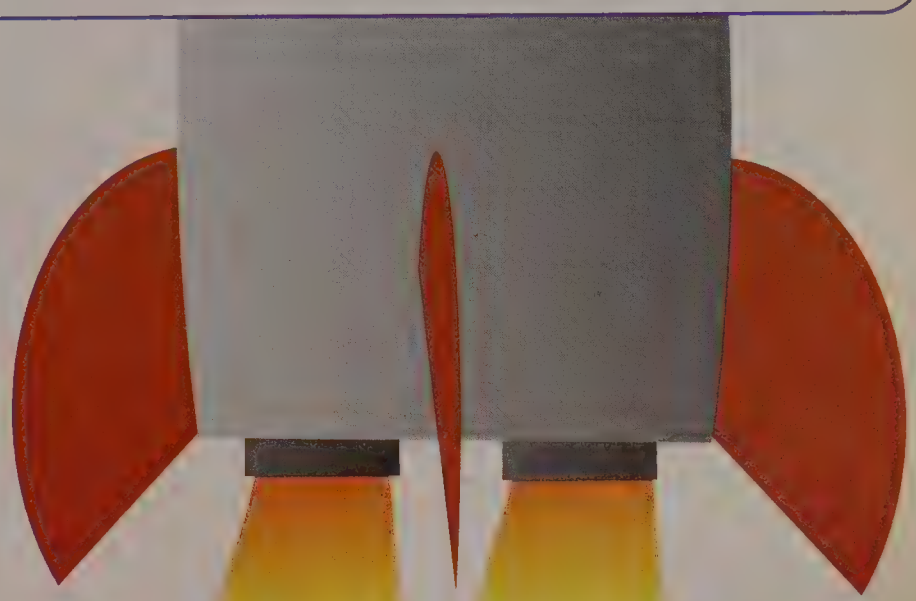

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FASHION BY MARY NOBILE-KING PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOEL BENJAMIN • SHOT ON LOCATION AT AVA

On her: lime polka-dot top, $138; navy nylon pants, $178; jewel belt, $124; all available at Emporio Armani. On him: white nylon hooded top, $78; gray flat-front pants, $128; both available at French Connection

Sisley denim jacket, $128; white tee, $29.50; Khaki pants, $88; all available at Benetton.

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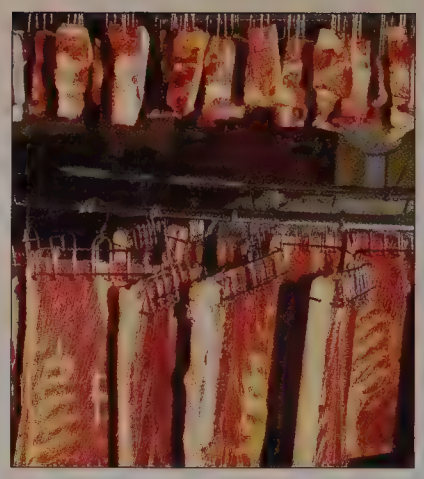
Knock KnockWurst. Who's There? German Treats.

Karl's Sausage Kitchen at 142 Broadway (Route 1 North in Saugus) is, foodwise, Germany by the highway. 781-233-3099.



It's hard to imagine Route 1 having a European-neighborhood feeling, but Karl's Sausage Kitchen, a family business, is just that way. Shoppers, many of them German, engage in *gemütlich* chatter with the staff here like fellow villagers. And they're eagle-eyed about their favorite and familiar foods, which include homemade, very-high-quality German sausages and meat specialties—about 50 of them—and Swiss, French and Danish cheeses. Only by snacking broadly will you even start to comprehend how much more delicate these delicacies are than their bland, standardized supermarket counterparts. Try the bratwurst, that ethereally pale sausage, made here of top-quality pork and veal in a giant bowl chopper (creating greater refinement than a grinder).

Karl's liverwurst, likewise, is dancingly light as pté and very gently flavored. For smokiness-from-their-smokehouse, try the zestily assertive pork chops that remain prettily pink when cooked. Or the triple-smoked bacon, which can be eaten as is, or chopped into flavoring bits for soup. Such fish as herring swim in the creamiest sour cream—a far cry from their jarred cousins. There's a caboodle of strudel, and exotic European cookies, marzipans, sauerkraut, and rich, rich rye bread and pumpernickels.

Sleep Swedish on Luxey Dux

Duxiana beds, from Sweden, are packed with scads of little springs. Experience the responsive comfort at 31 St. James Ave., Boston 426-3441.

Here we have marvelous luxury directed to life's great leveler—sleep. New to town, Duxiana has been around Europe for 70 years. Prevailing bed philosophies have wavered between softness (leading to sagginess) and the "corrective" hardness offered by a supporting board placed under the mattress. From this thesis/antithesis tossing comes the synthesis offered by Dux.

As the cutaway shows, Dux's interior is made of thousands of multilayered, interlocking springs that create a highly responsive kind of bed that flexibly adapts to your body—plus two *different* bodies. One model has the box spring and mattress together, with a top pad; a different model has another layer of natural latex and cotton—good for the skinny, angled body.

The Ultimate 7007 has an amazing set of little packets in the top level, called Pascal, that contain their own movable bundles of springs; these can be moved around to trouble spots needing more support. Goldilocks' body—gaining and losing weight or temporarily afflicted here or there—gets differentiated support from each dot and dash of the mattress. Dux beds are palpably subtler and comfier than ordinary beds; they're appropriately expensive and should last a lifetime.

Beyond Guys! Gap! Get Thin!

Teen Voices magazine offers a feminist alternative for teenage-girls-to-women. To subscribe, call 888-882-TEEN in Boston.

You almost hesitate to call the readers of *Teen Voices*, who are also often the writers, "girls." They are fierce young feminists, fighting the fight against the gooey, girly consumerism that characterizes most magazines targeting teenagers. Defiantly hands-on-hip, *Teen Voices* invites and encourages young women to write about real issues in their lives, outside the usual dating-dieting-dying-to-shop realm, thereby empowering themselves—a significant word in their lexicon.

You'll find articles on such hard-hitting topics as teen motherhood (by a chastened but responsible single mother), sexual abuse, life in juvenile hall and scoliosis. Always political in the broader sense, *Teen Voices* has covered the war in Kosovo, interviewing young survivors and explaining, in a balanced way, the tricky and complex arguments surrounding that intervention. Closer to home, there's an apologia for punkness: "Me and My Blue Hair." Not without her outsider angst, the writer explains that punky violet hair does not equal violence and criticizes the myths—another concept watchdogged by this magazine—that marginalize alleged weirdos.

This crowd strongly resists being the zinged bull's-eye of advertisers, echoing Jean Kilbourne's book *Deadly Persuasion*, which criticizes Madison Ave.'s insidious creep through the teenage psyche. True to the desired realness, regular-sized teenagers, glasses, braces and all, appear, refreshingly, on the cover.

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY

Mopsy

Serendipitous shopping: Our unfettered correspondent seeks out the salubrious and the cerebral.

KATYA APEKINA (BOOK & DUX); ELIZABETH MARKEL (KARL'S KITCHEN)

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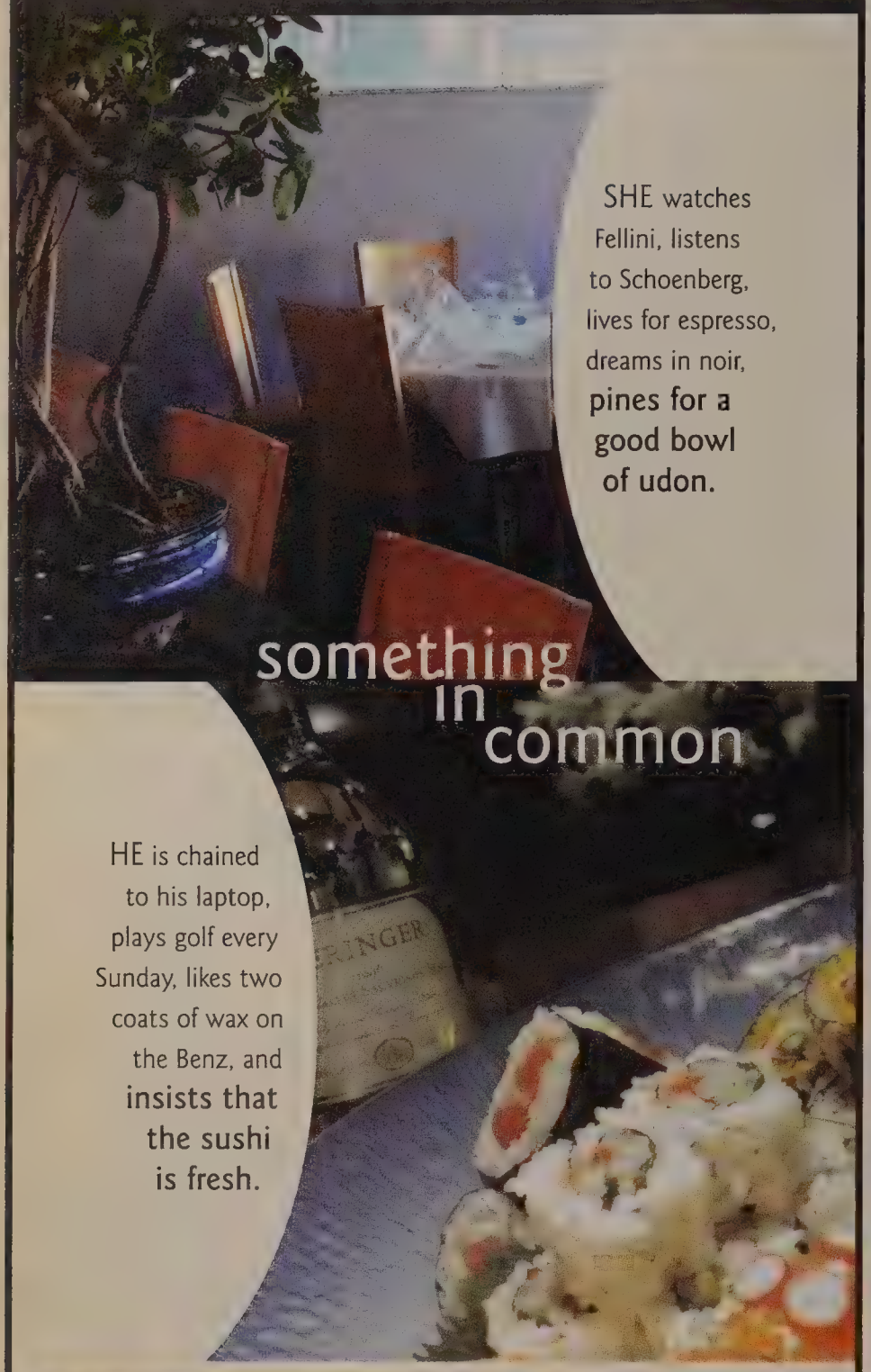

SHE watches Fellini, listens to Schoenberg, lives for espresso, dreams in noir, pines for a good bowl of udon.

something in common

HE is chained to his laptop, plays golf every Sunday, likes two coats of wax on the Benz, and insists that the sushi is fresh.

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DEAR MR. PRESIDENT

Solving America's Gas Problems.

BY EZRA DYER

Dear President Clinton,

I am outraged. First, gas prices went from 85 cents per gallon to a dollar last spring. Then it was $1.10. Then $1.20. Now I hear gas is going to cost $2 for each and every gallon by August! This is flat-out unacceptable.

Like many Americans, I drive a sport-utility vehicle. Specifically, I am the proud owner of a 1999 Ford Excretion with the High-Output Engine and Totally Unnecessary Off-Road Package. This, Mr. President, is a great vehicle. Two weeks ago I had a head-on collision with one of those little foreign Subarus, and not only was I unhurt, but there was barely a scratch on my brush guard. The guy in the Subaru is currently in a full-body cast, but that's what you get for driving a rice rocket, as far as I'm concerned. I said to the guy, I said, "If we'd had these Excretions back at Bataan, maybe things would've turned out a little different, huh?"

But he wasn't in much of a mood for joking, what with the fire department cutting him out of the wreckage and all. But my point is, although my Excretion has many redeeming features, its one major drawback is fuel economy. To be honest, Mr. President, "fuel economy" is something of an oxymoron when applied to my vehicle. I figure it gets about eight, nine miles per gallon, and that's downhill with a tailwind. One time I left it running at the pump, and it never filled up. So you see my problem. Even though I only drive a quarter-mile to my office every day, $2-per-gallon gas is going to put a hit on my wallet. If prices go much higher, pretty soon I'll be getting to work by using a small, fuel-efficient car or public transportation.

Somebody told me the other day that even if gas does cost two bucks a gallon, it's still half as expensive as it is anywhere else in the world—to which I say, so what? According to that logic, I should also be happy that I don't have to wait in line for hours to buy toilet paper and potatoes. I've done the math, and I've concluded that this fuel hike is going to cost me an additional 500 bucks per year. How are people like me, who are already making payments on a $35,000 vehicle, going to find that much extra cash? To spare that kind of money, I'll have to cut a whole day off of my next ski vacation. This is unacceptable.

The way I see it, we've got two possible solutions. First off, am I wrong, or do we have a whole lot of our own oil up there in Alaska? Start drilling, I say. I had a six-pack of skunked Meister Brau in the back of my fridge for about six months, but last Saturday I ran out of beer in the middle of the game. What did I do? I tapped into that reserve, Mr. President, I tapped into that reserve. I see an analogous situation with Alaska. It's half-time and the beer, um, just got real expensive. Alaska's nothing but wilderness and wild animals anyway. It's north of Canada, for Chrissake. Is a little oil drilling going to scare away the mooses? I know there was some sort of a plan to save that oil for when "global fossil fuel supplies become seriously depleted," but come on, that's not going to happen for years. That oil may be earmarked for an "emergency," but I'm sure that lots of my fellow voters would agree that we've got an emergency on our hands right now.

"Somebody told me the other day that even if gas does cost two bucks a gallon, it's still half as expensive as it is anywhere else in the world—to which I say, so what?"

Alternately, we could leave our own supplies alone and go do something about oil production abroad. If those OPEC countries don't have the business sense to make a surplus of oil, well then, maybe they need a little persuasion from a certain Uncle Sam. We've already got a nice supply of tanks painted like the desert left over from the last time we did this. Which brings me to another point: Did we fight Desert Storm to pay $2 for gas? Hell no! I think those OPECs need to be reintroduced to Mr. Smart Bomb, Mr. Tomahawk Missile and Mr. Big-Ass Ground Invasion. Perhaps the oil producers will work harder once they've been reacquainted with the feeling of cold American steel on their temples.

In conclusion, I, like the many other intelligent and well-informed Americans demanding lower gas prices, will not vote for you this coming November unless you do something about this terrible crisis.

Sincerely,
Ezra Dyer

KATYA APEKINA

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE

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Review

BRAZIL IN BOSTON

Bomboa chef E. Michael Reidt marries French finesse with Brazilian exuberance.

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI

The former restaurant Zinc has seen a dramatic transformation; opposite page, top: Bomboa partners from left, Kasey Anton, Michael Reidt and Carlos Hidalgo; bottom: ahi, baby shrimp and hamachi coconut ceviche with green papaya and radish salad.

When restaurant Zinc, which won favorable notice in this space in the summer of 1997, closed its doors last year, I was dismayed but not surprised. Tucked in a hidden niche between Back Bay and the South End, a stone's throw from Mistral, that supernova gathering place of the dining glitterati, Zinc waged an earnest but ultimately losing battle for the minds, hearts and stomachs of the city's lovers of French food. Zinc's former chef, Michael Reidt, has taken over Zinc's space and brought forth a very promising, exciting new restaurant, Bomboa. Marrying French finesse with Brazilian exuberance, Reidt replicates in gastronomy the great soccer shootout of 1998, when these two countries captured the attention of millions in the World Cup final.

The physical layout and décor of Bomboa is a startlingtransformation from the rather dowdy Zinc. Dramatic zebra-striped banquettes mark the front room, in the company of the zinc bar that is the sole holdover from the former restaurant. The back dining room is dominated by a large saltwater aquarium populated by colorful tropical fish, whose luminous forms are duplicated in bright, colored glass sconces of varying shapes along one wall that are themselves reflected in the opposite solid mirror wall. Shiny gray granite composition tables, red and blue high-backed upholstered chairs and banquettes, tiny white lights in the ceiling, and luxurious dark blue draperies framing the front window complete the décor.

Bomboa's wine list has a decent range of prices, but we were disappointed that there was only a single bottle of the Duas Quintas Duoro, 1996 ($23), a full-bodied earthy table wine from Portugal. We resorted to the much less satisfactory 1997 Elsa Barbera, at a slightly higher price, when the Duoro ran out. Bread, created by former Vault chef Rebecca Esty, included substantial strips of moist, well-seasoned foccacia, studded with onions and rich with olive oil, and crisp bread sticks.

The three Bomboa appetizers we sampled were uniformly excellent. Rabada, oxtail braised in red wine ($10), was bursting with mouth-filling, robust beef flavor, with the acidic thrust of the wine balancing the sweetness of accompanying polenta and roasted red pepper. Even better was the Bahian acaraje ($10), a shrimp fritter with bean salad, which consisted of two hefty shrimp cakes accented with cumin, garnished with a delicious green, black, and white bean salad and crunchy fennel strips. Finally, and most dramatic, was the sugar cane skewered prawn ($11), a huge crustacean dominating an artfully presented plate in the company of blood orange seg-

JOEGREENEPHOTO.COM(3)

ments, avocado slices, jicama (a Brazilian fleshy root) and baby arugula.

Bomboa's main courses maintained the high standards of the appetizers. Perhaps the most spectacular was the feijoada ($21), described in the menu as "Brazil's cassoulet." This traditional Brazilian specialty, a melange of smoked pork, chicken, and sausage with black beans and braised kale, was served in an eye-catching black metal cauldron. Chunks of carrot gave the dish sweetness, with a pleasant citric counterpoint provided by orange and grapefruit sections. A second carnivore's delight, the côtes de porc fumé ($18), was a double-thick, rare pork chop, fork tender and moist, with a strikingly delectable smoky flavor. Slices of sweet potatoes, charred banana, and tender, pleasantly bitter greens, and a sauce based on Merlot wine and a hint of ginger, were terrific.

Wild striped bass ($24) arrived as a thick slab of firm-textured fish, layered with a dollop of gingered Maine crab and a garnish of baby beets and pearl onions, with a port wine reduction and the obligatory (for Bomboa) citrus sections. Finally, and least noteworthy, was the poulet roti ($19), a decent but not extraordinary half of roast chicken in a smoked shrimp sauce, accompanied by cashews and pecans, slender green beans and a generous mound of cilantro-whipped potatoes.

Bomboa's desserts (all $6), included profiteroles, which we found the least successful owing to tough pastry. A decent but not extraordinary crème brûlée had good flavor but less than creamy texture, and it was accompanied by fruit salad that can only be labeled "strange." Best of the desserts was the banana bread pudding, studded with raisins and bathed in a rich, warm, intensely chocolate sauce.

Service at Bomboa, even on a hectic Saturday night, was first-rate: friendly, efficient and professional. The closely spaced tables and crush of patrons tested the mettle of the waitstaff, but they carried it off with good humor and aplomb. Not quite so efficient, however, is Bomboa's event planner. An announcement of a Mardi Gras dinner for March 14 crossed my desk just as this review was going to THE IMPROPER. While I suppose knowledge of the liturgical calendar is not compulsory for Boston restaurants in the 21st century, I think it's fair to point out that Ash Wednesday this year fell on March 8. There's no law against dining well during Lent, but at least let's not confuse Fat Tuesday with one of its lean brethren. IB

Bomboa

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Dish

SOUL ON A ROLL

Lobster bisque for the restaurateur's soul?

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

Restaurateur Ian Just at Les Zygomates has soul.

There's No Business Like Soul Business

From Deepak Chopra to the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* books, which engendered a long series of shamelessly market-specific spinoffs (*Chicken Soup for the Pet Lover's Soul*—ugh), "soul" is one trendy, and profitable, concept in publishing.

It's also apparently a key concept for restaurateurs who achieve success by valuing their employees, according to the authors of ***The Soul at Work***. Setting aside cynicism and oversimplification—the book is subtitled "Embracing Complexity Science for Business Success"—business consultants **Roger Lewin** and **Birute Regine** recently honored seven local restaurant owners who, they say, "not only create food for the soul but also engage the soul at work."

And the winning restaurants are: **Les Zygomates** and **Radius** in Boston; **Central Kitchen** and **East Coast Grill** in Cambridge; and **Dali**, **eat**, and **EVOO** in Somerville. Congratulations, soulmates.

A Rose by Any Other Name...

This just in: It's the end of the brew-pub world as we know it. After setting the stage for brew-pub-mania in Boston, and brewing all its own beer on the premises in pricey Back Bay, the **Back Bay Brewing Company** will deep-six the on-site sudsing, close for renovations, and reopen sometime this summer with a new name.

"There's never a good time to close," says owner **Joe Quattrocchi**. But stay calm: There *will* be a Boston Marathon party this year.

It's a new era, says Quattrochi, and the wide availability of high-quality beer and the spread of brew pubs on every corner mean it's time for big changes...except for the chef. Quattrocchi says he's extremely pleased with the menu created by chef **Michael Burgess**. But the new spot will feature a full liquor license and spiffy new décor by the same architect who designed Bar Code.

Bar Code, by the way, is gorgeous, and once you squeeze through the tightly packed bar at the front, you'll find a comfortable dining room featuring the straightforward, streamlined, Salamander-style cooking of **George Leu**, a **Stan Frankenthaler** protégé. We especially loved the tamarind glaze on the roasted chicken, the plush carrot ginger sauce on the thick pork chop, and—surprise!—a fantastic warm pineapple upside-down cake, served with coconut sorbet.

As for Leu's former boss, Frankenthaler says he's "trying to finalize the fine print of the lease" for a new **Salamander** in a choice downtown Boston location. "We still expect to open late summer, early fall," he says, despite "the silly lawyers."

Last Course

Frequent flying...Every Thursday at the **Rialto** bar is **Flight Night**. For the standby bargain fare of $15, you can sample a first-class pairing of three tastings from the kitchen matched with three selected wines, beers or liquors from the bar. The last scheduled flight in March paired a trio of Grand Marniers with suitable chocolate desserts. No advance purchase required.

Still searching your soul for a socially responsible reason to have a really great time? We suggest a couple of upcoming benefits: **Beyond Shelter**—an annual event to benefit the homeless—is an elegant evening of dinner and dancing on April 12 at the Avalon Ballroom, sponsored in part by THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN. On the funkier side, and promising equally tasty fare, is the third annual **A Taste of Allston Village** on April 9, whose proceeds will help revitalize Allston's commercial district.

Openings: **The Good Life** will soon be living larger. Brian O'Neill's downtown Boston eatery will spin off a Cambridge location—at 720 Mass Ave. in Central Square—in mid-April. And **Porters Bar & Grill** will open any day now, just down the street from the FleetCenter near North Station. **iB**

Carolyn Faye Fox is a panelist on NPR's nationally syndicated word-game quiz show, "Says You!"

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant?
Send it to dish@improper.com

Tastings BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for tastings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

EVENTS

13th Annual Beyond Shelter Event
Avalon Ballroom, 15 Lansdowne St., Boston (534-2526, ext. 383). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 6-11pm. $50, $20 after 8pm (music only). An IMPROPER-sponsored event: Nibble on fare from 21 of Boston's award-winning restaurants, dance to the swinging sounds of the Infractions, featuring the Happenin' Horns, and bid on items in the silent auction.

Boston Wine Festival 2000
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE). www.bhh.com. *Through April 7.* An annual three-month celebration of food and wine. See CityScope for events.

Dessert Wines
Nashoba Valley Winery, 100 Wattaquadoc Hill Road, Bolton (779-9816). April 6, 6pm. $70. Appreciate dessert wines and the flavors that complement them with **Jonathan Alsop** and guest pastry chef **Stephanie Hersh**.

Discover Latin American Cuisine
Chez Henri, One Shepard St., Cambridge (354-8980). $34. Enjoy a three-course *prix fixe* menu based on the lesser known cuisines of the Caribbean and Latin America. •Through April 11: Puerto Rico and Dominican Republic.

Getting Your Hands Dirty
Westport Rivers Vineyard & Winery, 417 Hixbridge Road, Westport (508-636-3423). April 8, 10am-3pm. $60. Hosted by Rob Russell, vineyard manager, and chef **Kerry Romaniello**. A presentation of year-round handling of the vines, a hayride tour and then a food and wine pairing.

Le Meridien's $1040 Tax Lunch
Cafe Fleuri, 250 Franklin St., Boston (451-1900). April 14. $10.40. Tax time can be taxing on the soul. Enjoy a reasonably priced lunch with entertainment provided by a Dixieland band and massages from trained therapists.

A Mediterranean Evening
Elizabeth Bishop Wine Resource Center at Maison Robert, Boston (353-4130). April 5, 6-9pm. $60. Olives' owner/chef **Todd English** will demonstrate how to cook a menu of Mediterranean cuisine.

The Original Taste of Needham and Newton
Newton Marriott Hotel, 2345 Comm. Ave., Auburndale (244-5300). 6:30-9:30pm. $25. Sample fare from 30 of Needham and Newton's finest restaurants, wine shops, bakeries, coffee shops, hotels and specialty markets.

Piedmont: Italy's Most Diverse Region
Wine Experiences, 20-A Dartmouth St., Boston (859-7170). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. April 13, 7-9pm. $45. Although Piedmont is justly famous for her big, complex reds, there are other worthy wines coming out of this ancient region. Taste a variety and learn about the region.

Port and Chocolate Tasting
Mass. Financial Services, 500 Boylston St., 24th Floor, Boston (482-1740). April 5, 6:30-8:30pm. $50. Try a variety of different port wines and chocolate from Ghirardelli, Lindt, Harbor Sweets, Valrhona and Core d'Or of Belgium.

Secrets From America's Test Kitchens
5 Comm. Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. April 10, 6-8pm. $19. Founder of *Cook's Illustrated*, **Christopher Kimball** will talk about his career in cooking and writing about cooking. Taste various types of chocolate and fill out rating sheets for each.

Local firefighters cook up pasta for runners.

Tasty Tidbit

Feeding the Masses

As Boston Marathon-ers converge upon Boston for the big run, organizers have given much thought to this year's "last supper"—a carbo load of pasta, veggies and tomato sauce to feed more than 12,000 runners and their families in a tent at Faneuil Hall on April 16. This year's Ronzoni Pasta Party will be dedicated to the Boston Fire Department and will feature contest-winning pasta recipes submitted by local firefighters (including East Boston native John J. Forristall's Rescue Rotelle Pasta Salad). Marathon legend Bill Rodgers will resume his post as the official chef of the Ronzoni Pasta Party. *Open to runners and their families only.*

A Taste of Allston Village
DoubleTree Guest Suites, 400 Soldiers Field Road, Allston (787-2370). April 9, 3:30-6pm. $25. Gourmet delectables from such Allston faves as Big City, Cafe Kells, Common Ground, Grasshopper Restaurant, Kinvara Pub, Legal Sea Foods, Sunset Grill & Tap and Tokyo City.

A Taste of the Back Bay
Skywalk, 50th Floor, Prudential Tower, Boston (859-RSVP). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. 6:30-10pm. $50. An evening of music and food, wine and beer tasting presented by the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay. Participating restaurants include all the Back Bay's biggies.

Three Cooks-Three Courses
B-Side Lounge, 92 Hampshire St., Cambridge (354-0766). March 21. **Jody Adams** of Rialto and **Ruth Ann Adams** of Red Clay join the B-Side Lounge's **Jeff Unger** to cook Red Snapper three different ways.

A Visit to France
The French Library and Cultural Center, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (266-4351). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. April 11, 7pm. $85. Radius chef **Michael Schlow** and wine director **Christopher Myers** will offer a four-course tasting accompanied by wines.

A Walking Tour of Chinatown
Elizabeth Bishop Wine Resource Center at Maison Robert, Boston (353-4130). April 14, 11am-3pm. $60. Join author **Nina Simonds** as she takes you through the markets and herbal stores of Chintown. You'll also enjoy dim sum at China Pearl.

PATCH: KATYA APEKINA

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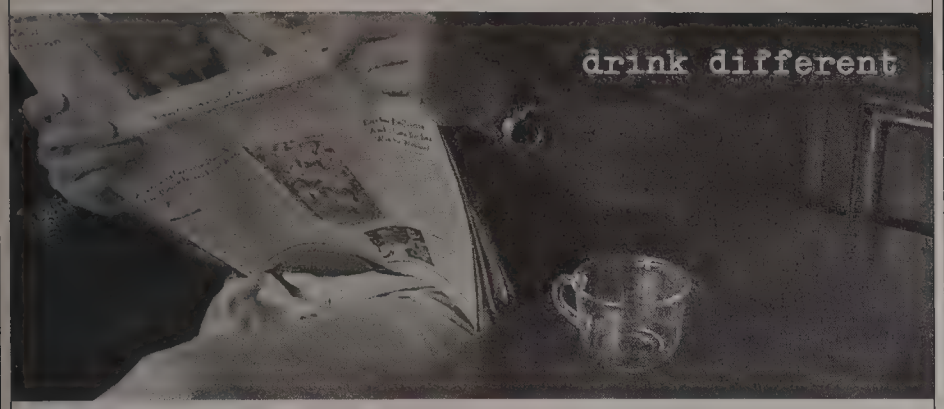

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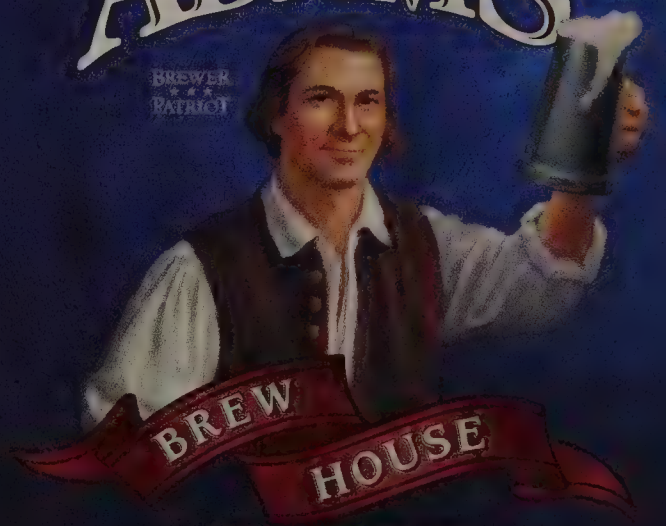

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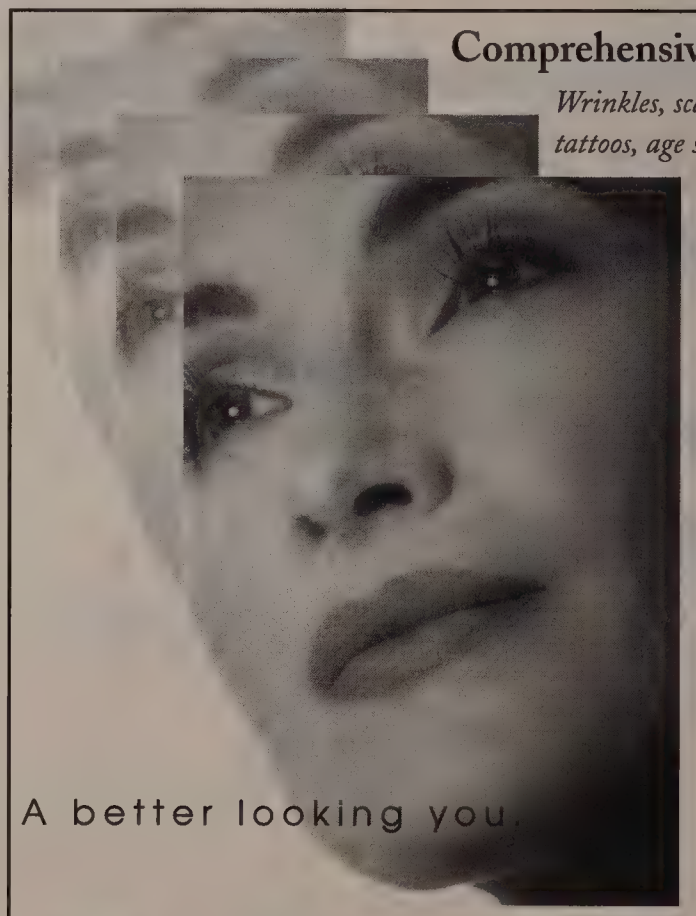

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agenda

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN OR OUT IN BOSTON.

Marathon Madness
April 17 marks the 104th Boston Marathon. Line the city streets to cheer on the runners on the 26-mile jaunt from Hopkinton to the BPL.

Julie and Erin

THE CALENDAR GIRLS'

improper picks

Too busy (or just too lazy) to plan your own schedule? Life don't get easier than this.

Wednesday, April 5

Erin: See Henry Rollins with a re-vamped version of **The Rollins Band** at Avalon (See Music.) Or listen to a lecture on another musical wizard, **Bob Dylan**, at the Cambridge Forum. (See Education.)
Julie: Join the studio audience for a taping of John Gray's new talk show, ***Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus***, at WGBH. (See CityScope.)

Thursday, April 6

Julie: It's the grand finale of the **Boston Wine Festival** at the Boston Harbor Hotel. (See CityScope.) Plus, **Mikhail Gorbachev** speaks at the Temple Israel. (See Education.)
Erin: Or catch the incredible sounds of DJ **Project Logic**, who plays with **Actual Proof** Downstairs at the Middle East. (See Music.)

Friday, April 7

Julie: **Banned in Boston** at Avalon features some of this city's best-known politicians, athletes and media personalities. (See Comedy.)
Erin: **A Taste of the Back Bay** at the Prudential serves up gourmet delectibles from all our Back Bay faves. (See Tastings.) Then catch a midnight screening of ***The Breakfast Club*** at the Coolidge. (See Film.)

Saturday, April 8

Erin: It's **Astronomy Day** at the Museum of Science. (See CityScope.) Plus, it's almost the last day to see ***Mary Stuart*** at the Huntington Theatre Company. (See Performing Arts.)
Julie: See the world's best skaters perform at **Champions on Ice** at the FleetCenter. (See Sports.)

Sunday, April 9

Julie: **The Great Horned Festival** at Brandeis University features **Run-DMC, moe, Less than Jake** and **10,000 Maniacs**. (See CityScope.)
Erin: ***The Magic Flute***, the fairytale fantasy about wicked queens, noble wizards and magical instruments, concludes the BLO's season. (See Classical Music.)

Monday, April 10

Julie: The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences hosts an **Emmy Nomination Party** at the Hard Rock Cafe. (See CityScope.)
Erin: Tonight is another showing of **Spike & Mike's 2000 Classic Festival of Animation**, a long-standing tradition at the Coolidge Corner Theater. (See Film.)

Tuesday, April 11

Erin: Oscar Wilde's enduring satire of Victorian society, ***The Importance of Being Earnest***, is at the Works Theater. (See Performing Arts.)
Julie: The exhibition of photographer **Edward Weston**'s work, now at the MFA, is spectacular. (See Art.)

Wednesday, April 12

Julie and **Erin**: Come hang out with the IMPROPER gang at the 13th annual **Beyond Shelter Event** at Avalon. It's an evening of music and gourmet tastings from 21 of Boston's award-winning restaurants. (See CityScope.)

Thursday, April 13

Erin: The 13th **Kahlua Boston Music Awards** kicks off **NEMO Music Showcase & Conference**, a three-night music festival and two-day music conference going on all around town. (See Music.)
Julie: **Harbor Auction 2000** benefits the Boston Harbor Association and features a yummy seafood dinner by Legal Sea Foods. (See CityScope.)

Friday, April 14

Julie: There's no question about where I'll be tonight—at Dick's Last Resort for **Prom Night '80**.
Erin: Also, the giant **Mass Art Benefit Auction** takes place at Mass College of Art. (See Art.) Plus, the **Eighth Annual Boston International Festival of Women's Cinema** is in full swing at the Brattle. (See Film.)

Saturday, April 15

Erin: **Take a Stand** at the John Hancock Hall features readings by three incredibly prolific female authors. Dorothy Allison, Julia Alvarez and Gloria Naylor all speak. (See Books & Poetry.)
Julie: It's the **Free-Sailing Weekend** at the Boston Sailing Center. (See Sports.) At night, head to the **Violent Femmes** concert at Avalon. (See Music.)

Sunday, April 16

Julie and **Erin**: More than 1,600 re-enactors from all over North America and Great Britain converge upon Greater Boston to stage the largest-ever re-enactment of the beginning of the **American Revolution** throughout Patriot's Day weekend. (See CityScope.)

Monday, April 17

Julie and **Erin**: It's **Boston Marathon Day**. Throw on your running shoes and join the hordes of people along the 26-mile or so route from Hopkinton to the BPL. We'll probably be in front of the Back Bay Brewing Company tossing back a few as we cheer on our running friends, Brett Owens included. (See CityScope.)

Tuesday, April 18

Julie: The entire New England Revolution team and hundreds of soccer fans gather at Jillian's to kick off the **2000 Major League Soccer season**. (See Sports.)
Erin: The **Mayor's Walk** through downtown celebrates the 225th anniversary of the American Revolution. (See CityScope.)

CITYSCOPE **44** • PERFORMING ARTS **48** • ART **52** • FILM **56** • EDUCATION **58** • BOOKS & POETRY **60** • CLASSICAL MUSIC **62** • DANCE CLUBS **64** • MUSIC **66** • GAY & LESBIAN **72** • BODY & MIND **74** • CHILDREN **74** • SPORTS **74** •SALES & FASHION **76** • GO AWAY **77**
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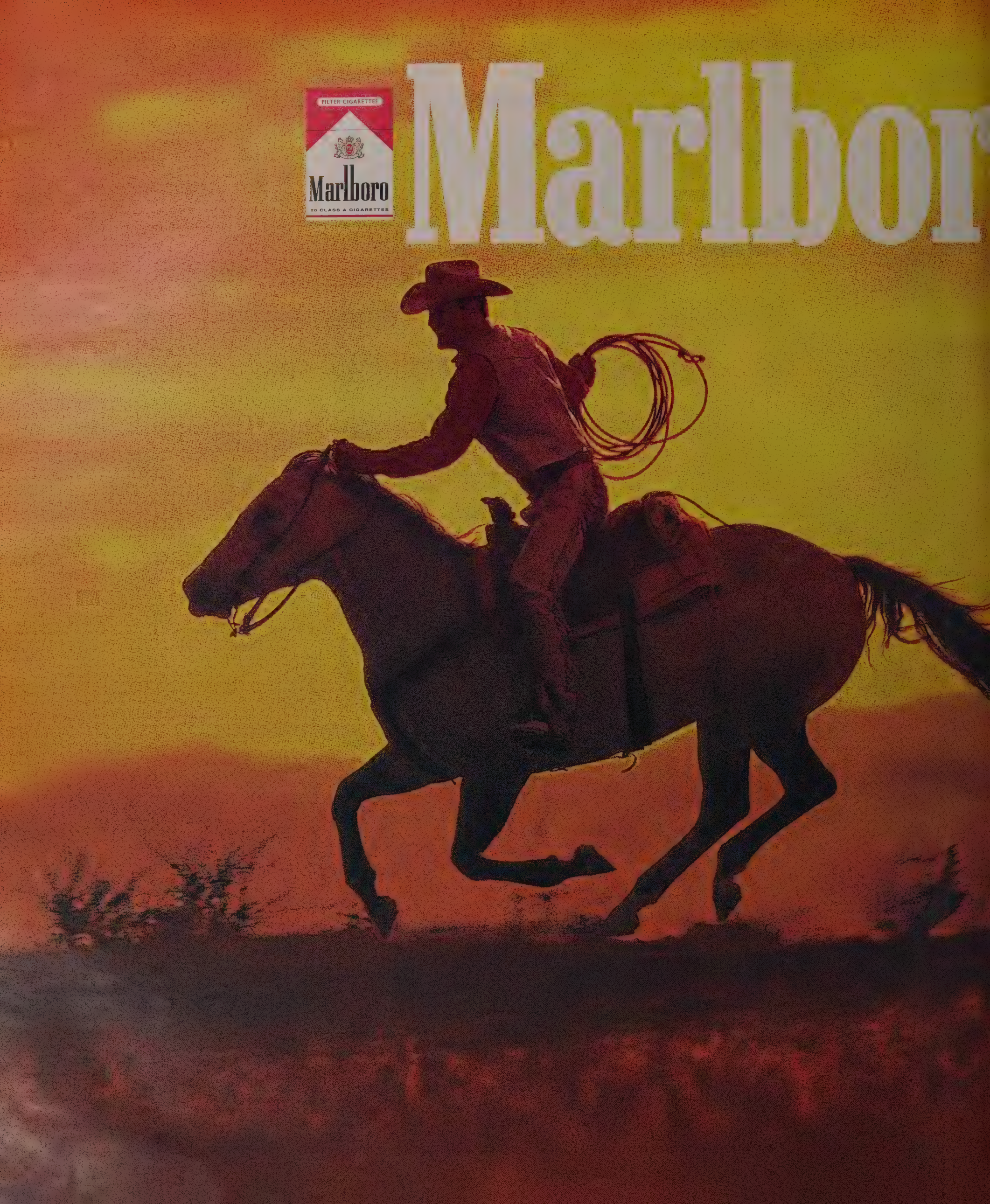
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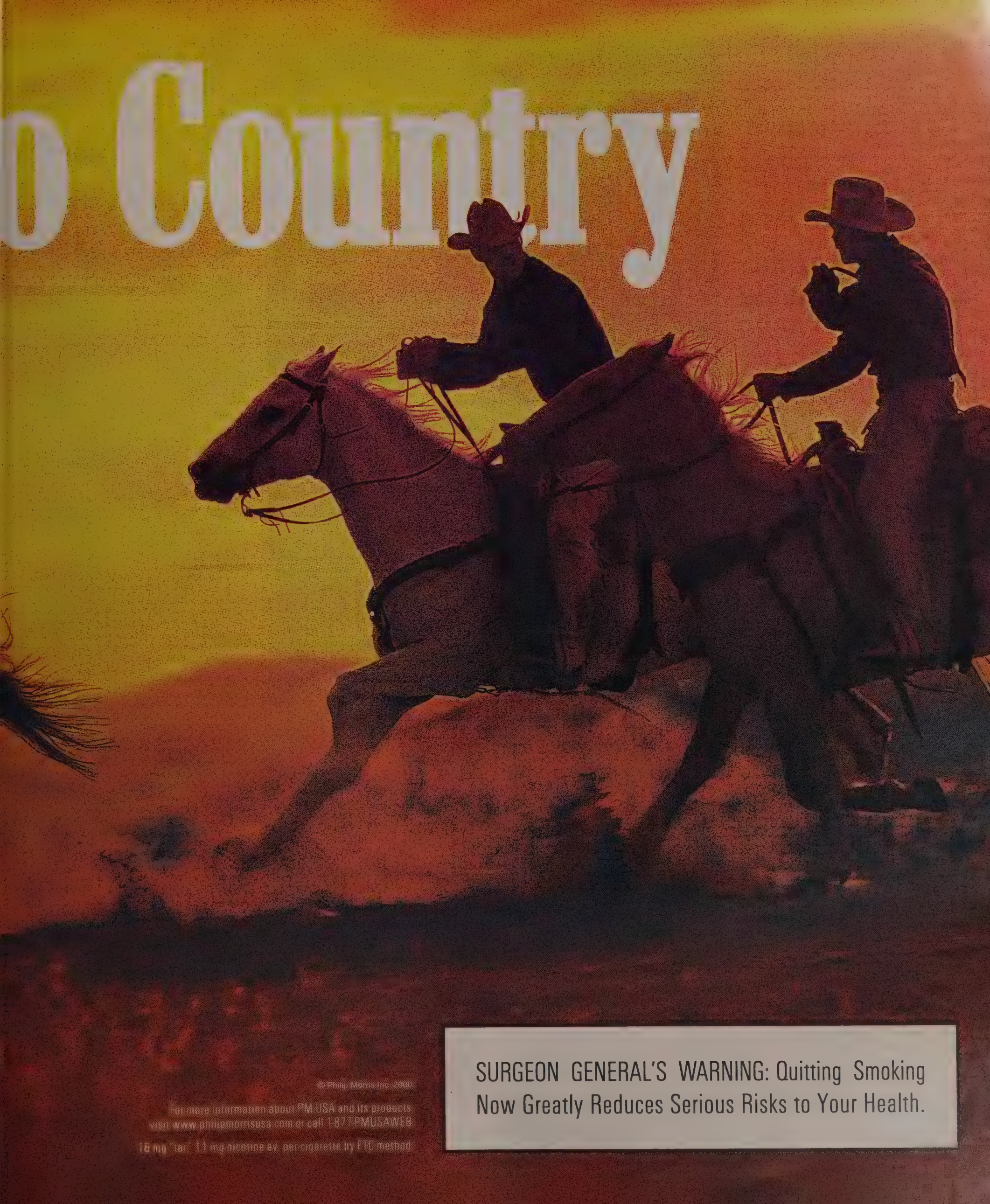

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Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a list of festivals, events and benefits taking place in the Boston area by date.

Festivals, Events Expos & Benefits

Wednesday, April 5

After-Work Mixer: Port and Chocolate Tasting
Mass. Financial Services, 500 Boylston St., 24th Floor, Boston (482-1740). 6:30-8:30pm. $50. Try a variety of different port wines and chocolate from Ghirardelli, Lindt, Harbor Sweets, Valrhona and Core d'Or of Belgium. Sponsored by the World Affairs Council.

Big Apple Circus: Bello and Friends
Fan Pier, Boston (800-922-3772). Wed.-Fri. 11am and 7pm; Sat.-Sun. 12pm and 4pm. Through May 7. $13-$35. Sit 50 feet away from the fun and watch as the international award-winning clown Bello Nock and his friends entertain you with juggling, trapeze and animal tricks.

Boston Wine Festival 2000: Durney Vineyards
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE). www.bhh.com. *Through April 7. 7pm, John Rowes Salon, $115.* The Boston Harbor Hotel has put together more than 40 events—from tastings, seminars and celebrity guests to wine and food pairing dinners—that are the signature of the celebration. • April 5, **Durney Vineyards**. Durney Vineyards produces minute quantities of sought-after, ageworthy cabernet, chardonnay, merlot and Chenin Blanc at the artisan Monterey County winery. Owner Gilbert Heller will be on hand to present one of the Central Coast's cult classics, including some older vintages.

Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus
WGBH Studios, 125 Western Ave., Allston (300-1623). 3:30-5:30pm (first show), 6-8pm (second show). $20/show. Preview an upcoming national PBS TV special and be a part of the studio audience of author John Gray's new show based on his two books, *Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus* and *How to Get What You Want and Want What You Have.*

Thursday, April 6

Access Non-Profit Career Fair & Expo
The Castle at Park Plaza, corner of Arlington and Columbus, Boston (800-417-6351). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 9:30am-4:30am. $15, $10 students. Sponsored by Yahoo! Careers, careers.wsj.com and the Chronicle of Philanthropy, this career fair will host 50 non-profit organizations with immediate employment opportunities.

Boston Wine Festival 2000: Grand Finale Reception
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE). www.bhh.com. *7pm. $75.* As the festival draws to a close, this gala event provides an opportunity to glance back at many of the wines featured this year, as well as a chance to preview some of the wineries invited for 2001, including Heitz Wine Cellars, Chateau Montelena and Ridge Vineyard. Sample and compare the great wines.

Greater Boston Diabetes Society Spring Fundraiser
Maggiano's Little Italy, 4 Columbus Ave. at Park Square, Boston (731-2972). 6:30-9:30pm. $45, $50 at the door. Enjoy a crostini bar, a sweets bar and drinks at this benefit for the Greater Boston Diabetes Society.

Young Professionals Night: Corporate Bingo
Il Panino, 295 Franklin St., Boston (338-1000). 9pm. Dress code. No cover. This night features the best social playground for young professionals in Boston with cocktails, dancing and hors d'oeuvres.

Friday, April 7

Banned in Boston
Avalon, 15 Lansdowne St., Boston (232-1175). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. April 7, 6:30pm. $150. Professional attire. The fifth annual comedy revue features some of Boston's biggest and best-known political leaders, sports figures and media personalities. Picnic meals will be whipped up by distinguished chefs Jody Adams, Todd English, Michaela Larson, Billy Poirier, Andrew Robert, Holly Safford, Lydia Shire and Jasper White. All proceeds benefit Urban Improv.

2000 Big Brother Awards Gala
Seaport Hotel, Boston (542-9090). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. 6pm. Enjoy a champagne reception, silent auction, dinner and an awards ceremony to benefit Big Brother. Randy Price, Gene Lavancy and Garvin Thomas of 7News, WHDH-TV will host the event, and New England Patriots will be on hand to help celebrate.

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Fridays. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

A Taste of the Back Bay
Skywalk, 50th Floor, Prudential Tower, Boston (859-RSVP). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. 6:30-10pm. $50. An evening of music and food, wine and beer tasting presented by the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay. Participating restaurants include all the Back Bay's biggies.

Saturday, April 8

Astronomy Day
Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park.* A full schedule of activities for stargazers. Celestial subjects from space suits to telescope-making will be covered. Throughout the day, visitors can attend presentations about a wide variety of topics—from new theories about the Milky Way Galaxy to bringing life to Mars.

Champions on Ice
FleetCenter, Boston (931-2000). www.fleetcenter.com. *MBTA: Green Line to North Station. April 8, 7pm. $35-$65.* Featuring the most distinguished cast in skating today, this year's tour will stop at the FleetCenter for one show only with a record number of current world and Olympic medalists in action.

Institute of Contemporary Art Spring Benefit
Seaport Hotel, World Trade Center, 164 Northern Ave., Boston (927-6617). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. 8pm. Enjoy cocktails and a light display, plus dinner and an auction of "artful" experiences, including accommodations in private vacation homes around the world. There will be a presentation of the ICA Artist Prize awarded for artistic excellence by a local artist for work produced in the past year.

Sunday, April 9

Elders Living at Home Program Benfit
Gamble Mansion, 5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (247-6494). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 4-7pm. $75. Sandra Henriquez, chief administrator of the Boston Housing Authority, and Tenley Albright MD will speak at this benefit for Elders Living at Home Program. There will be music, light refreshments and a silent auction.

The Great Horned Festival
Brandeis University, Waltham (781-529-5242). Commuter Rail to Brandeis/Roberts. Run-DMC, moe, Less than Jake and 10,000 Maniacs will perform at this festival, which benefits Tibetan activist and Brandeis alumni Daja Meston, who sustained injuries when he fell three stories while in Chinese custody.

Second Sundays
Veronique Restaurant and Ballroom, 20 Chapel St., Brookline (731-4800). www.bostoneventguide.com. *MBTA: D Green Line to Longwood. 2-5pm. $10.* The event will feature an educational wine sampling, light hors d'oeuvres and live jazz from the Geroge Mel Trio in the company of young professionals.

Monday, April 10

Emmy Nomination Party
The Hard Rock Cafe, Cavern Room, 131 Clarendon St., Boston (787-6576). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. 6-10pm. Be among the first to find out who's been ominated for this year's Boston/New England Emmy Awards. There will be a cash bar and light refreshments. Sponsored by the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

Wednesday, April 12

13th Annual Beyond Shelter Event
Avalon Ballroom, 15 Lansdowne St., Boston (534-2526, ext. 383). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 6-11pm. $50, $20 after 8pm (music only). An IMPROPER-sponsored event: an evening of gourmet cuisine from 21 of Boston's award-winning restaurants, including Hamersley's Bistro, Chau Chow City, The Good Life, Legal Sea Foods, Laurel, Sonsie, Bob the Chef's Redbones, Gargoyles on the Square, Dakota's, Rattlesnake, White Star Tavern, The Wrap, House of

Where's Waldo? More than 1 million fans will line the streets from Hopkinton to the Boston finish line to cheer on the runners in this year's Boston Marathon, April 17.

Preview

104th Running of the Boston Marathon

You and everyone else in this city are trying to figure out the best place to watch this year's Boston Marathon. With police reports estimating 1 million people lining the course on April 17, you'll need to be prepared to deal with large crowds no matter where you decide to park yourself. Generally, the crowds become proportionally larger as the course nears the finish line. From Cleveland Circle (22.2 miles) through the finish, the spectators are usually as many as five people deep. The vast majority of the course is lined with cheering fans from start to finish. In the early miles, the largest crowds gather in the town centers and at Wellesley College. *From Hopkinton to Boylston Street, Boston (236-1652). www.bostonmarathon.org. April 17, 11:45am.*

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Blues, Veronique, Iggy's Bread, Black Goose and Alden Merrell, and dancing to the swinging sounds of the Infractions featuring the Happenin' Horns, and a silent auction and raffle. Proceeds benefit the Friends of Boston's Homeless.

Let Freedom Ring! Gala
Copley Plaza Ballroom, Boston (227-8800). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6pm. $250. This elegant reception hosted by the Freedom Trail Foundation includes interactive entertainment, choral and gospel groups as well as historic characters.

Thursday, April 13

All-Star Comedy Night
Prince Restaurant, Route 1, Saugus (781-944-8414). 6:30pm. $20. See some of Boston's best comedians at this benefit for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Greater Boston. Local comedians include **Frank Santorelli** of HBO's *Sopranos*, **Dave Russo**, **Johnny Pizzi**, **Ed Regine** and **Paul Gilligan**.

Harbor Auction 2000
Boston Harbor Hotel, Wharf Room, Boston (482-1722). 5-9pm. $100. This event to benefit the Boston Harbor Association will feature dinner by Legal Sea Foods and a lively auction featuring such items as a seven-day Caribbean cruise for two; lunch with Congressman Joe Moakley, Congressman Mike Capuano or House Speaker Tom Finnernan; a gourmet clambake; and a weekend in Newport.

The Original Taste of Needham and Newton
Newton Marriott Hotel, 2345 Comm. Ave., Auburndale (244-5300). 6:30-9:30pm. $25. Sample fare from at least 30 of Needham and Newton's finest restaurants, wine shops, bakeries, coffee shops, hotels and specialty markets. Plus, enjoy live entertainment from David Maxwell's Maximum Blues Band. Proceeds benefit the Friends of the Needham Board of Health's Traveling Meals Program.

Young Professionals Night: Beach Party
Il Panino, 295 Franklin St., Boston (338-1000). 9pm. Dress code. No cover. This night features the best social playground for young professionals in Boston with cocktails, dancing and hors d'oeuvres.

Friday, April 14

Prom Night '80
Dick's Last Resort, 55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Do you miss powder-blue tuxedos and tacky crepe paper laced across the gymnasium? Do you wanna see girls with big hair in formal gowns with poofy sleeves? If so, get all dolled up in your finest retro-duds and boogie on down to Prom Night '80s.

Saturday, April 15

Free-Sailing Weekend
Boston Sailing Center, 54 Lewis Wharf, Boston (227-4198). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. April 15-16, 10am-4pm. Free. Sailing season gets under way with harbor sailing trips aboard a fleet of boats ranging in length from 23 to 40 feet. Seasoned skippers and landlubbers alike are invited to join the festivities.

Take a Stand
John Hancock Hall, 180 Berkeley St., Boston (725-0277). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 7:30pm. $50 and $25. This benefit for the Boston Women's Fund will feature three noted authors: **Dorothy Allison** (*Bastard Out of Carolina*), **Julia Alvarez** (*In the Time of the Butterflies*), and **Gloria Naylor** (*The Women of Brewster Place*).

Sunday, April 16

A Benefit for the Farm School
The Sanders Theater, Harvard University, Cambridge (931-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. $25-$30. Singer-songwriter Jonatha Brooke along with Bob Weir of the Grateful Dead and bass viruoso Rob Wasserman, a longtime Lou Reed sideman, will offer this concert to benefit the Farm School.

Monday, April 17

City Parade
City Hall Plaza, Boston (227-8800). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 9am. A flag-raising ceremony followed by a parade ending at the Paul Revere statue in the North End.

All-Day Marathon Madness at Dick's
Dick's Last Resort, 55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. 11:30am-12am. Lace up your fastest sneakers and make Dick's front door your own personal finish line—whether you're sweatin' the big race or not. Enjoy live music and primo eats.

104th Running of the Boston Marathon
From Hopkinton, Mass. to the Boston Public Library, Boston (236-1652). www.bostonmarathon.org. *11:45am (wheelchairs begin), 12pm (everyone else).* See box for more information.

Tuesday, April 18

Mayor's Walk
Old State House, 206 Washington St., Boston (227-8800). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 11am. Mayor Menino leads this festive parade in downtown Boston to celebrate the 225th anniversary of the American Revolution. The parade will include fife and drum, flags, banners, costumed characters and patriots. Afterwards, you can draw with chalk with Sidewalk Sam.

New England Revolutions Kickoff Party
Jillian's, 145 Ipswich St., Boston (877-GET-REVS). 7-10pm. The entire New England Revolution team and KISS 108's Joe Public, along with hundreds of soccer fans, will join together to kick off the 2000 Major League Soccer season.

Politics

Freedom March 2000
Unitarian Church, Lexington Road, Concord, Mass. (800-884-0719). www.anti-slavery.com. *April 8. Walkers will gather between 9am and 12pm.* If you think that slavery ended in 1865, think again. The reality for 27 million people worldwide living in bondage today is that slavery is not history. From India to Sudan, from Thailand to Mauritania, there are more slaves today than ever before. Hundreds of Boston-area residents will march 2.7 miles in historic Concord to recognize 27 million people who are still denied the most basic liberty.

Volunteer

Adult Literacy
Learning Works, 19 Temple Place, Boston (357-6000, ext. 7508). Seeks adults to tutor just two hours per week.

AIDS Action Committee
(450-1235). Urgent request for volunteers for the Buddy Program and the Check-In phone program.

Alliance for Children
(781-431-7148). •April 13, 7-9pm. Adopt a child from another country.

AVON Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk
(491-3329). Event date: June 2-4. Volunteers needed to work on mailings, phone banking and data entry.

Big Sister Association
161 Massachusetts Ave., Floor 2, Boston (236-8060). Seeks women to act as Big Sisters.

Boston Cares
(263-CARE). More than 70 volunteer opportunities available in Greater Boston.

Boston Living Center
(236-1012). HIV/AIDS service organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Boston-New York AIDS Ride
(859-8282, ext. 230). Volunteers needed for work on mass mailings, phone banking and other projects.

Boston Partners in Education
(451-6145). Seeks tutors and classroom assistants.

Cambridge Cares About Aids
(661-3040). Telephone receptionists, drivers, data entry and clerical assistants needed immediately.

Cambridge School Volunteers
(349-6794). Recruits, trains and places volunteers and provides support services for grades K-12.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

ESL/Office Skills Training
One With One (254-1691). Tutor/mentor a newcomer.

Friday Night Supper Program
Arlington Street Church, corner of Arlington and Boylston streets, Boston (536-7050, ext. 22). Need volunteers to help prepare, cook and serve meals on Fridays, 5-7pm.

Giving Back Fund
(557-9910). Seeks volunteers to assist in coordination of special events and provide administrative support.

The Greater Boston Food Bank
(617.427.5200). Groups needed to sort donated food.

Horizons Initiative
(287-1900). Play-space activity leaders needed for children living in homeless family shelters.

Hyannis Port Challenge
(800-718-3536). May 20. Raise money and cycle 85 miles to Cape Cod to benefit the Best Buddies.

Jam'Nastics' Serv-A-Thon
(354-5780). April 8-9. Volunteers will help the organization move to new offices in Cambridge.

Jewish Community Volunteer Program
(558-6585). Help a lonely and isolated person.

Massachusetts Sports Partnership
(877-572-7115). Volunteer at major sporting events.

Mass Substance Abuse Helpline
(536-0501, ext. 201). Volunteers needed for helpline for persons affected by alcoholism and substance abuse.

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(536-3557). Be a companion to homebound and isolated elders.

Parental Stress Line
Kenmore Square, Boston (528-5803). Volunteers needed to staff the statewide stress line and the First Call for Help information line.

St. Jude Century Challenge
(965-5262). Pledge to walk or run 100 miles now through April 30 and raise money for St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Samaritans Suicide Prevention Helpline
(536-2460). Seeks volunteers to help staff telephone services for depressed, lonely, suicidal individuals.

Share Our Strength Benefit
April 5. Bread & Circus Whole Food Market stores will donate five percent of net sales to Share Our Strength.

Victory Programs
(357-8182, ext. 624). Volunteers needed for residential substance abuse treatment program.

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Seeks individuals to assist legal immigrants and refugees to become naturalized citizens.

Tours

Boston Bike Tours
On Boston Common (308-5902). Begins April 15. Daily 9:30am-6:30pm. Daily two-hour tours, Mon.-Sat. 1-3pm; 4-6pm. Low-impact, guided, sightseeing tours of Boston on bicyles. Rent or take a guided tour.

Boston Duck Tours
Prudential Center, Boston (723-DUCK). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Season begins April 3. $21. The 80-minute tour on amphibious landing crafts takes groups through downtown and makes a final splash into the Charles River.

Ghost Tours
Meet at Boston Common Visitor Information Center, 147 Tremont St., Boston (781-235-7149). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street. Selected evenings, 7:30pm. $12. Tour downtown Boston's most infamous haunted locations.

Let Freedom Spring! Strolls
Meet at Boston Common Visitor Information Center, 147 Tremont St., Boston (227-2498). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street. Daily, 2:30-4pm. $10. Historic characters lead visitors through Boston's different historic sites along the Freedom Trail.

The Literary Trail
Tour begins at the Omni Parker House, corner of Tremont and School Streets, Boston (574-5950). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street. Saturdays 9am-12:30pm. $35. Explore the heritage of some of the country's greatest authors, poets and social activists at eight literary historical landmarks in the Boston area. The climate-controlled bus stops at the Boston Athenaeum, the BPL, Longfellow National Historic Site, the home of the Hawthornes, the Alcotts and the Lothrops and Walden Pond.

Sights to See

Boston Tea Party Ship and Museum
Congress St. Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Open daily, June-Aug., 9am-6pm; March-May and Sept.-Nov., 9am-5pm; closed Dec.-March. $8, $7 students, $4 children. You can dump your own bale into the harbor—and watch a museum guide scramble to retrieve it—at this replica of one of the ships emptied by colonists (disguised as Indians) during the Dec. 16, 1773, tea raid. Afterward, enjoy a cup of tax-free tea.

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Fifth Floor, Boston (353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), Oct.-March 7:30-8:30pm; April-Sept. 8:30-9:30pm. Free. BU's astronomers are available to answer questions and assist with telescopes as you check out Orion, Cassiopeia and the Big Dipper.

Bunker Hill Monument
Monument Square, Charlestown (242-5641). Open daily 9am-5pm. Free. What's long and hard and shaped like a pencil? It's not what you think. It's the 221-foot monument that honors the men who died in the Battle of Bunker Hill. But an exhausting climb up 294 stairs reveals little more than a stunning view of I-93.

Christian Science World Headquarters
Mass. and Huntington Avenues, Boston (450-2000). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential. Tue.-Sat. 9:30am-4pm, Sun. 11am-2pm. Tour the Mother Church—a giant basilica that seats 3,000 worshippers—the Maparium, a cool walk-through, stained-glass globe; a 700-foot-long reflecting pool; and a photo exhibit.

Copp's Hill Burial Ground
Hull and Snowhill Streets, Boston. MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Open dawn-dusk. Admission free. From Boston's second-oldest cemetery, you can see all the way across the Inner Harbor to Charlestown. Famous residents include the well-known Puritanical Mather family and Prince Hall, a prominent member of the free black community.

John Hancock Observatory
200 Clarendon St., Boston (572-6429). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open Mon.-Sat. 9am-11pm, Sun. 10am-11pm (May-Oct.) and noon-11pm (Nov.-April). Admission $4.50. The tallest building in New England (62 floors) offers much more than an awesome view. Listen to air-traffic controllers at Logan, test your knowledge of the city with a computer quiz, or relive some of Boston's most famous and infamous events.

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (566-7937). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Wed.-Sun. 10 am-4:30pm. Opens April 5. The birthplace and early boyhood home of the nation's 35th president.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat. 10am-2pm. Admission free. Alongside Boston's first Anglican church—a gloomy, granite apparition—you'll find a burial ground with equally ominous-looking headstones dating back to 1630. On Sundays, listen for the distinctive peal of the church bell cast by Paul Revere's foundry.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (635-3105). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Open daily 9am-5pm. Guided tours every half-hour, starting at 9am. Free. Known as the "Cradle of Liberty," Faneuil Hall—we're talking about the part above the eatery—was the site of many an angry man ranting and raving about the damn British in the mid-1700s. Today, you can check out the white-walled assembly room, but most people come here for the marketplace.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily 9 am-5pm. Free. Here, Paul Revere saw two lanterns shining on April 18, 1775, indicating that the British troops were crossing the

It's a Free-Sailing Weekend at the Boston Sailing Center on Lewis Wharf, April 15-16.

Charles River to Lexington and Concord via boat. You remember... "One if by land, two if by sea."

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays 10am-4pm, weekends 10am-5pm. $3. A thousand fed-up men gathered in this church to decide whether or not to send three ships full of tea back to England. Guess what? They didn't. •New permanent exhibit: *Voices of Protest* traces the use of Old South Meeting House over three centuries for religious, political and social debate. Artifacts, life-like figures and interactive exhibits illuminate how Old South has championed the right to free speech and assembly despite acts of official censorship. •Middays at the Meeting House, a lunchtime music series. Thursdays, 12:15-1pm. $4. •Sundays are free of charge throughout the month of February.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-10pm, Sun. noon-10pm. $4, $3 seniors and students. After that tiring, 50-floor elevator ascent, you deserve a drink at the Top of the Hub lounge before you check out Boston's only 360-degree view tower. On a good day, you can see New Hampshire. The view here is slightly better than that of rival John Hancock.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8am-6pm. Free. Designed by H.H. Richardson and constructed in 1877, the huge Romanesque church in Copley Square rests upon 4,500 submerged wooden pilings, which help hold up the church's massive tower. A shaded courtyard offers respite from the heavily-trafficked plaza. On Fridays at 12:15pm, stop by for a free organ concert.

Museums

Boston Public Library
700 Boylston St., Boston (536-5400). Mon.-Thu. 9am-9pm; Fri.-Sat. 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •Free Art and Architecture Tours of the BPL. Mon. 2:30pm, Tue. and Thu. 6pm. Meet at the Dartmouth Street entrance.

Boston Tea Party Ship & Museum
Congress Street Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. March-Nov., 9am-dusk. $7, $5.50 students, $3.50. Colonial-clad sailors take you aboard *The Beaver*, a replica of the smallest of the three ships involved in the infamous tea rebellion. Paul Revere leads the hourly tea throwing and explains all about the fateful day irate Bostonians poured out the tea in protest of the tax decree issued by British parliament. Try your hand at rope-tying too.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June Tue.-Sat. 10 am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm; June-Aug. daily 10am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm. $5, children and seniors $3: Follow the red and white signs to the mother of all milk bottles. As you walk under it you'll feel as diminutive as your munchkin companion. See *Arthur's World* from the popular television series and children's books. This infamous aardvark is one of many hands-on favorites. •*Build It!* •*Giant's Desktop* •*Hall of Toys* •*Boats Float*! •*Climbing Sculpture* and •*Japanese House*. •Opened Oct. 31: **Sesame Street Exhibition**. Three decades of the revolutionary children's television series. Step into one of the world's most famous TV neighborhoods.

Harriet Tubman House
566 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-8610). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. Weekdays 8am-8pm. Free admission. The Harriet Tubman Museum exhibits a collection of this influential black leader's achievements.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (929-4523). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily 9am-5pm (last film begins at 3:55pm). $8, students and seniors $6, children $4. This permanent collection on the life and legacy of President John F. Kennedy offers a recreated world of the early 1960s with period settings and 25 dramatic multimedia exhibits. Visitors experience first-hand the challenges faced by America during Kennedy's presidency. *John Glenn and the Space Race*, an exhibit about the man with the mission is now showing. •*Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy: First Lady*. Ongoing •*Treasures of the Kennedy Library*. A selection of the treasures, including sculpture, jewelry, paintings and documents. Through May 2000. •*Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy*. New ongoing exhibit.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (739-1200) www.afroam museum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays 10am-4pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.* The place is bustling after their recent endowment of more than $1 million to restore the meeting house's hallowed sanctuary. See the African Meeting House, the oldest black church in America.

British Loyalists march with fife and drum on Boston's Freedom Trail alongside Faneuil Hall to honor the 225th anniversary of the American Revolution, April 15-17.

Preview

The Shot Heard 'Round the World

History comes alive in Boston when more than 1,600 re-enactors arrive from all over North America and Great Britain this month to stage the largest-ever re-enactment of the beginning of the American Revolution on Patriot's Day weekend, April 15-17.

Boston, Lexington and Concord will celebrate the 225th anniversary of the famous Midnight Ride of Paul Revere and the Battle on the Lexington Green, events that marked the beginning of the American Revolution. The stage is 12 miles long and about 200 yards wide, running in and out of Minute Man National Park. And for the first time since 1775, the events of the first day of the War for Independence will be re-enacted in chronological order. *For a more detailed schedule, visit the Lexington Commission 2000 at www.2000lexington.com or call 781-862-0500. Or log on to the Freedom Trail's site at www.thefreedomtrail.org or call 227-8800.*

Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, students and seniors $4, children $3; free to all Sat. 9am-12pm.* This Harvard museum is made up of four factions: The **Botanical Museum**, **The Museum of Comparative Zoology**, the **Mineral & Geological Museum**, and the **Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology**. A number of exhibitions tie together all four of these distinct collections. The most famous is the Botanical Museum for its glass flowers collection—more than 3,000 models of more than 480 plant species. At the Museum of Comparative Zoology, check out the 42-foot-long mounted Kronosaurus (a really big lizard) and countless stuffed insects. The Mineral & Geological Museum's got a 16,000 pound Brazilian amethyst geode, and there's the dollhouse-esque Worlds in Miniature display at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnography. •***Orchids: A Story of Seduction***. Through May 14. This exhibition will explore some of the flowers' most interesting pollination strategies and the long history of collecting and research by Harvard scientists.

Museum of Our National Heritage
33 Marrett Road., Route 2A, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.mnh.org. *Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 12-5pm. Free admission.* Explore history through pop culture. Topics range from Revolutionary artifacts to the latest in jigsaw-puzzle-solving techniques and American circus posters. •*Initiating America*, a historical look at fraternal organizations. Ongoing. •*The Lynn Beach Painters, Art Along the North Shore*, 1880-1920. Through Aug. 20. •Opening April 8: *Weaving the Dance: The Yeibichai Tradition in Navajo Rugs.* An exhibition on 20th-century Navajo pictorial textiles. •April 15-17: Museum Open House. Staff will be on hand to answer questions regarding the events of April 1775.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu. 9am-5pm; Fri. 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children. Omni Theater, Hayden Planetarium or laser shows all $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children.* Find out how much you weigh on the moon, strap yourself into a space module or sift through sand on an archaeological dig. Enjoy 600 hands-on exhibits, including the *Theater of Electricity*, *Seeing Is Deceiving* and *Science in the Park* (Newtonian physics introduced through such accessible items as playground equipment and skateboards.) •*To See the Sea* explores the ocean from the perspective of a deep-sea diver. •Now open: *Messages:* Discover why communication is central to everyday life. *Human Body Connection*: exhibits on anatomy, physiology and health. *The Light House: Beaming, Bouncing and Bending Light*: Learn the principles of optics, color and the nature of light with 18 hands-on activities. •*Reptiles: Real and Robotic*, through May 29. Learn about a variety of reptiles and their diverse habitats, which can live in searing deserts or the cold North Sea. •New: Cahners ComputerPlace. A lively enviroment filled with multimedia-rich software and Web-based experiences. •*Secrets of Aging* opens April 5. Explores the science behind the universal experience of aging. •Mugar Omni Theater: *Mysteries of Egypt*. Through June. *Olympic Glory*, opened Oct. 29. *Dolphins* opened March 10. (See Film for more information.)

Charles Hayden Planetarium
Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children. Time of show changes daily.* Get high! High up, that is. And (then) go see the stars and rock-music laser shows. Check out the ongoing out-of-this-world multimedia installations *Life and Death of the Sun* and *The Sky Tonight*, and enjoy daily laser shows to the music of the Beastie Boys, Pink Floyd, Korn, Tool, Jimi Hendrix, Nine Inch Nails, among others. It's a trip. •*Journey to the Edge of Space and Time*: Ideas once considered crazy (like black holes) are now the building blocks of new knowledge. What next? •*Welcome to the Universe*. Now open. •Friday Night Stargazing, 8:30-10pm. Free. Weather permitting.

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St. (in Larz Anderson Park), Brookline (522-6547). MBTA: D Green Line to Reservoir, to bus 51. April-Oct., Wed.-Sun. 10am-5pm; Nov.-March, Wed.-Sun. 10am-4pm. $5, $3 seniors and students. This 1888 carriage house is the automobile buff's paradise—and the country's oldest private collection of antique autos. Featured cars range from Fords and Corvettes to Cadillacs and Italian imports. •April 18, 7pm. Automotive Lecture: **Introducing the 2001 Chrysler PT Cruiser**.

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (720-3290). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily 9am-5pm. $3, students and seniors $2. Built in 1713, this original seat of colonial government was the place pre-Independence Bostonians first heard the Declaration of Independence read. •Opened March 31: ***Burning Issues: A History of Boston Through Fire***. This exhibit considers the significance of eight fire events in Boston's history with interactive experiences for the family.

Sports Museum of New England
FleetCenter, Boston (624-1234). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Adults, $5, Children and seniors, $4. Exhibits of the great sports traditions of the Boston Garden, FleetCenter and Celtics in addition to the New Balance Wall of Champions, Major League/Minor League by Jim Dow, the Boston Garden Theatre, Ted Williams—An American Hero and exhibits of boxing, hockey, football, baseball, soccer, collegiate basketball and the 75th anniversary of the Bruins.

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (426-1812). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, bus 93 to Navy Yard. Nov.-April 30: Open daily 10am-5pm. Free. The stories of the individuals who authorized, built and served on the *USS Constitution*, the oldest commissioned warship afloat. Learn about its 200-year history hands on—hoist a sail, take the wheel, fire a cannon or swing in a hammock.

Zoos & Gardens

Arnold Arboretum
125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain (524-1718). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open weekdays: 9am-4pm, weekends: 12-4pm. Free. More than 14,000 exotic trees, shrubs and flowers make this the place to go when you need to escape the hustle and bustle of city life. There's no picnicking allowed, but biking, dog-walking and frisbee-throwing are encouraged.

Franklin Park Zoo
1 Franklin Park Rd., Boston (442-2002). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open Oct.-March daily 10am-4pm; April-Sept. weekdays 10am-5pm, weekends and holidays 10am-6pm. Admission $6. A 72-acre oasis of green in the city with waterfalls, lush vegetation, gorillas, leopards, hippos and free-flying birds. •New: Giraffe Savannah and a baby western lowland gorilla, born Aug. 8.

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard, transfer to #71 or #73 bus. Open daily 8am-7pm (summer) and 8am-5pm (winter). Admission free. Rest in peace among the gravesites and crypts of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes, "Battle Hymn of the Republic" author Julia Ward Howe and Winslow Homer, among other famous Americans. A great place for birdwatchers and botanists.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (973-5200). www.neaq. org. *MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Early Sept.-June: Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. and holidays 9am-6pm. $12.50.* Boston's biggest fish bowl has much more than just goldfish. In the three-story saltwater tank swim turtles, sharks, eels and the occasional mermaid (or mer-male), who entertains crowds as he or she cleans the tank. Be sure to visit with the seals on your way in and out of the aquarium. •*Storm Over Stellwagen*, a new 15-minute, interactive multimedia production, allows you to control the outcome of the film. •***Unforgettable Boston***: This movie highlights many of Boston's favorite landmarks. $4. •Opening April 15: ***Nyanja! Africa's Inland Sea*** opens. This exhibit features East Africa's Lake Victoria, the world's second-largest lake, telling a story of the people, biodiversity, fisheries, history and future of the lake.

Roger Williams Park Zoo
1000 Elmwood Ave., Providence, R.I. (401-785-3510). South on 1-95 from Providence to exit 17 (Elmwood Ave.). $6, $3.50 seniors and children. Open every day except Dec. 25. Nov.-March 9am-4pm. April-Oct. 9am-5pm. Lions and tigers and a 150-pound baby polar bear named Triton. Oh my! More than 600 birds and mammals inhabit the African plains and rain forests.

Stone Zoo
149 Pond St., Stoneham, Rte. 93 North, Exit 34 (781-438-5100). $3. The polar bear remains, as he always has been, the star attraction at this 32-acre zoo, as he has for the last 33 years.

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Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Theater. Or e-mail information to performing@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Theater

JUST OPENED

The After-Rhyme
Rough & Tumble Theater, Black Box Theater, Boston Center for the Arts, Leland Center, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm. April 6-8. $10. Can a butcher do more than butch? How does a garden become a machine shop? What is the true meaning of fruit? This gloriously absurd comedy, another collaboration between Rough & Tumble Theater and the lunatic wit of Sean Graney, asks these big questions.

Anthony Rose
The Lyric West Theatre, 95 Freeport St., Boston (288-7889). Wed.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 5pm and 8:30pm; Sun. 2pm. April 14-30. $56.25. A play by great American cartoonest and playwright Jules Feiffer, with Paul Benedict in the title role. This chillingly funny and biting play examines popular culture and looks at what is coming in the next millennium in both the theater and television industries—some of which is already here.

The Dying Gaul
Speakeasy Stage Company, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Fri. 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 7pm. April 13-29. $21-$23.50. The smash Off-Broadway drama from playwright Craig Lucas is a devastating tale of power, money and seduction in Hollywood, and a compelling portrait of a complex love triangle among an impressionable writer, the producer who seeks his script for production and his frighteningly perceptive wife.

The Gentleman from China
Tremont Theatre, 276 Tremont St., Boston (542-4599). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2:30pm. April 13-16; April 20-23. $20. The true story of the first Chinese merchant who came to Boston in the mid-19th century. His success, wealth and generosity warranted him status and respect in high society. He married an American girl, converted to Christianity and moved to Malden, where he lived for 12 years. This is his story.

H.M.S. Pinafore or The Lass That Loved a Sailor
Fiddlehead Theatre Company, 109 Central St., Norwood (781-762-4060). Commuter Rail Franklin Line to Norwood Center. April 7-16. Forbidden love, infants switched at birth and the "Ruler of the Queen's Navy" combine in this Gilbert & Sullivan nautical diversion.

The Imaginary Invalid
Tower Auditorium, Massachusetts College of Art, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston (782-1344). MBTA: D Green Line to Longwood. Thu.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 3pm and 8pm. $15. Ubiquity Stage presents Miles Malleson's modern adaptation of Moliere's tale.

The Boston Ballet brings authentic Spanish-flavored dance to the Wang Theatre in the form of Cervantes' 17th-century story, ***Don Quixote***, April 13-16.

The Importance of Being Earnest
Works Theater, 255 Elm St., Somerville (642-1456). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Wed.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm. April 6-23. $18. Oscar Wilde's enduring satire of Victorian society follows the exploits of Jack and Algernon, two gentlemen deeply in love with women determined to marry men named Ernest.

Jails, Hospitals & Hip-Hop
Trinity Repertory Company, 201 Washington St., Providence, RI (401-351-4242). April 17-18, 7pm; April 19-22, 8pm. $32-$38. Danny Hoch plays eight characters, portraying them with humor and understanding.

The Jungle Book
The Wheelock Family Theatre, 200 The Riverway, Boston (879-2147). Fri. 7:30pm; Sat.-Sun. 3pm. April 7-May 7. Vacation week: April 1-21, 1pm. $10-$17. A magical fusion of fantasy and myth, Rudyard Kipling's stories feature Mowgli, an Indian boy raised by wolves from infancy, and the animals who teach him the sometimes harsh laws of the jungle.

Laughter on the 23rd Floor
Miton Woman's Club, 90 Reedsdale Road, Route 28, Milton (698-SHOW). Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm. April 7-8, 14-15. $10-$15. Neil Simon's hilarious comedy performed by the Milton Players.

The Performance Cult
Back Alley Theater, 1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (338-1477). MBTA: Red Line to Central. April 9, 7:30pm. $6. Each night, a host of seasoned Boston-area actors, dancers, storytellers and others will present a series of short, original vignettes.

This Is Our Youth
Boston Center for the Arts, Leland Center, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. April 13-29. The New England premiere of Kenneth Longergan's widely acclaimed brash and brilliant play depicts three teenagers in Reagan-era Manhattan revolting against the oppression of parents, Republicans and addiction.

Can a butcher do more than butch? Find out at ***The After-Rhyme*** at the B.C.A., April 6-8.

To Kill a Mockingbird
The Footlight Club, Eliot Hall, 7A Eliot St., Jamaica Plain (524-3200). April 7-8, April 14-15, 8pm. $15. With humor and the unswerving honesty of a child's viewpoint, the irrationality of adult attitudes toward race and class in the Deep South of the '30s is brought to life in this classic story based on the novel by Harper Lee.

NOW RUNNING

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed.-Thu. 8pm; Fri.-Sat. 7pm and 10pm; Sun. 3pm and 6pm. $39-$49. A truly unique theater experience. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to get its point across with tribal rock music, performance art, humorous antics, props (including plastic tubes, Day-Glo PVC pipes and Twinkies) and three men painted blue.

Fat Men in Skirts
The Peabody House Theatre, 277 Broadway, Somerville (625-1300). Thu.-Sat. 8pm. Through April 22. What do cannibalism, incest and Katherine Hepburn have in common? Playwright Nicky Silver has the answer in this psycho-active farce. A mother and son are marooned on a desert island for five years. When they are reunited with the husband/father who presumed them lost and his mistress, the most bizarre and primal forces of human nature unfold.

Hide and Seek
The Hovey Players, 9 Spring St., Waltham (781-893-9171). Thu.-Sun. 8pm. Through April 8. $12. This thriller features a young couple on the verge of parenthood who get more than they imagined when their new country "dream house" takes on a life of its own.

The Judas Kiss
The Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). Wed.-Thu. 7:30pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 4pm; Sun. 3pm. Through April 16. A wildly intelligent drama that revolves around the events surrounding arrest and imprisonment of Oscar Wilde. David Hare lays bare the drama of two critical points in Wilde's last years—the day he decides to stay in England to face imprisonment and the night after his release two years later when the lover for whom he risked everything betrays him.

The Last Night of Ballyhoo
Jewish Theatre of New England, 333 Nahanton St., Newton Centre (965-5226). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Centre. Thu. 2pm and 7:30pm; Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. Through April 9. $25. Written by the Pulitzer Prize winner and author of *Driving Miss Daisy*, the comedy is set in Atlanta in 1939 while the movie *Gone with the Wind* is making its premiere. With complex characters, this Broadway hit captures the mystique of the famed Ballyhoo Dances, prejudice against newcomers and humor.

Mary Stuart
Huntington Theatre Company, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (266-0800). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue.-Thu. 7:30pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. Through April 9. $10-$52. Reigning monarch Elizabeth is challenged by a delicate problem—the fate of her cousin, Mary Queen of Scots, imprisoned for alleged conspiracy to seize the Virgin Queen's throne and restore Catholicism to England. Pressured by deceitful and manipulative advisers, uncertain whether or not Mary has actually plotted her assassination, Elizabeth wrestles with the fateful decsion of whether or not to order the execution of her longtime rival.

Meshugah
Trinity Repertory Company, 201 Washington St., Providence, RI (401-351-4242). Tue. 7pm; Wed.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. Through April 9. $26-$38. An intriguing love triangle between a young woman and a middle-aged and older man. It draws you into the world of Jewish emigres living on the Upper West Side of NYC post-WWII. A 47-year-old Yiddish writer is tortured by guilt at having escaped from Poland just before the Holocaust when his family and friends perished. He finds love unexpectedly when he meets Miriam, who harbors a secret that is slowly revealed to him. They meet through Aaron's old friend Max, who is himself in love with Miriam.

The Ohio State Murders
American Repertory Theatre, Hasty Pudding Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-8300). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. Through April 16. $20-$30. From Obie Award-winning dramatist Adrienne Kennedy comes a deeply personal, searing fable of self-discovery and loss. When a young African-American student arrives at Ohio State University, she suspects that the academic sanctuary harbors dark forces of hatred, even death.

Personal Instrument
Theater Offensive, Boston Center for the Arts, Leland Center, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Fri.-Sat. 10pm; Sun. 7pm. Through April 8. $18. This story of a a queer high-school heavy-metal star features David Hanbury, Queen Vashti of the recent hit *Pure PolyESTHER*. This tsunami of virulosity floods our senses with steaming guitar licks and hormone-drenched hard-rock vocals.

The Price
Leland Center, Boston Center for the Arts, Leland Center, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Through April 15. Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Arthur Miller's compassionate and insightful play about two estranged brothers who come together after their father's death. They must address a lifetime of anger, confusion, mistrust and jealousy. What was the price of the choices they made?

The Salad of the Bad Cafe
Theater Offensive, Boston Center for the Arts, Leland Center, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Through April 8. $24. Obie Award winners Lois Weaver and Peggy Shaw join Asian-American sensation Stacy Makishi for a wild performance inspired by the lives and work of Yuko Mishima, Tennessee Williams and Carson McCullers, author of *The Ballad of the Sad Cafe* (hence the title of this production).

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri. 8pm ; Sat. 6:30pm and 9:30pm; Sun. 3pm and 7:30pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This hilarious whodunit is set in a unisex hair salon. The production holds the record as the longest-running play in the history of the Boston theater.

TOP: JENNIFER W. LESTER; BOTTOM: PHILIP DERENDORF

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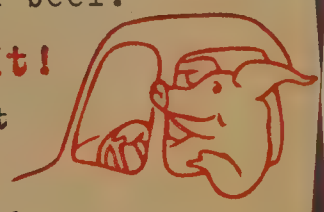

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Find out what *really* happened to the King during Club Cabaret's *The Elvis Files*, April 9.

Shopping and Fucking
Actors Workshop, 40 Boylston St., Boston (887-2336). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Fri. 8pm and Sat. 7pm and 10pm. Through April 8. $10, $12 at the door. Mark Ravenhill's dark comedy is the tale of a trio of young Brits who sell drugs, sex and what is left of their souls to survive.

Turn of the Screw
New Repertory Theatre, 54 Lincoln St., Newton Highlands (332-1646). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. Wed. 2pm and 7pm; Thu. 8pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 4:30pm and 8:30pm; Sun. 3pm. Through April 9. $25-$32. Henry James' classic Victorian ghost tale about a young governess who tries to draw out two disturbed children against the will of her predeccesor and a former servant, both dead, w ho continue to have an oppressive control over the children.

UNIVERSITY THEATER

Camino Real
Mainstage, Spingold Theater Center, Brandeis Unviersity, Waltham (781-736-3400). Commuter Rail to Brandeis/Roberts. Tue.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. April 4-16. $13.50-$17.50. Tennessee Williams' play gathers some of the great romantic figures of all time—Camille, Don Quixote, Casanova, Byron and the eternal American fall guy, Kilroy, who asks so little and always gets short-changed.

Emerson Playwrights' Festival Competition
The Studio and Loft Theatres, 69 Brimmer St., Boston (824-800). MBTA: Green Line to Park. April 12-15. $10. Emerson stage presents the winners of the ninth annual playwrights' competition. •**Fiddler's Green** by A.J. Mell. April 12-15, 8pm. A vaudevillian story with music about life and death, set in the mouth of a whale—part Premetheus Bound, part Jonah and the Whale, part Marx Brothers. •**Prodigals** by Rachel Grissom. April 12-14, 8pm; April 15, 4pm. A contemporary drama about second chances, and how a family shapes a person's identity.

CABARET

Cabaret Connection
56 Brattle St., Cambridge (247-9192). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. •April 7, 8-11pm, $5: Open Mike with **Michelle Currie**, pianist. •*April 9, 3pm, $12:* April in Paris with **Leslie Holmes** and Stefen Sussman on piano.

INTERACTIVE THEATER

The Elvis Files
Club Cabaret at Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (738-2967). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. April 9, 7:30pm. Reservations only. $27.50 (includes a light dinner). Find out what really happened to the King in this interactive, intergalactic murder mystery. Watch Special Agents Wolf Molder and Deena Sully team up with Lt. Colombus to help solve "The Crime Scene of the Millennium." Guest list includes celebrity look-a-likes Madonna, Cher, Michael Jackson, Austin Powers, Joan Quivers and guest of honor, the King.

Medieval Manor
246 East Berkeley St., Boston (423-4900). Red Line to Broadway. Mon., Wed., Thu., Fri. 8pm ; Sat. 5pm and 9:30pm; Sun. 6pm. Ongoing. $9.60-$32. Eat, drink and be merry at a Renaissance dining experience. Don't worry about etiquette. You won't find knives and forks, and the soup of the day is in your face—literally.

Mystery Cafe
290 Congress St., Boston (781-320-0040). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Dinner and show: Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm. Ongoing. $34. Saturdays: The interactive murder mystery, *The Devil Made Me Do It*, a heavenly mystery in a tropical setting. Solve the crime and win the super sleuth prize.

Mystery Cruise
Long Wharf, Boston (781-320-0040). June 25, 7pm (boarding). Cruise departs 7:30pm. $49/person, includes dinner and cruise. Gather clues during a cruise through the Harbor, meet characters and interrogate suspects as you attempt to piece together the mystery.

Nonna's Cruise to Nowhere
Locations around the Greater Boston area (781-933-1363). $35/includes dinner. These folks have taken everyone's favorite Italian grandmother (Nonna) and placed her on an imaginary cruise ship, along with her zany family, after misleading Nonna into thinking she's going back home to Italy. The audience laughs, dances and plays along with the cast.

Dance

SHOWS AND EVENTS

Burn The Floor
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. April 13-16. Forget *Strictly Ballroom* and get ready for a dance performance that challenges standard conceptions of ballroom dance. Some 44 world champion dancers from 16 countries explore dance standards such as the tango, cha cha and waltz while introducing sexy street and industrial dance.

Don Quixote
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (8482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Through April 9. $12-$59. The Boston Ballet brings authentic Spanish-flavored dance with fancy footwork to the stage. Based on Cervante's famous 17th-century story, *Don Quixote* is both a funny and poignant tale of an errant and delusional knight who chases his beloved Dulcinea while encountering fantastic adventures.

Last Stop on the Kufurstendam
The Dance Complex, 536 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (824-8000). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. April 7-8, 8pm. $12. Choreographer Brian Pelletier explores a world of desire, lust, lonliness and frustration in a contemporary abstract piece to the fitting tunes of Suzanne Vega and Tori Amos.

Urban Bush Woman
Blackman Theatre, Northeastern University, 360 Huntington Ave., Boston (824-8000). MBTA: E Green Line to Northeastern. April 7-8, 7:30pm. $20. This ensemble of women dancers, singers and musicians is fueled with vibrant energy in its Boston premiere of *Soul Deep*, a collaboration with the David Murray Quartet. The result is an emotionally powerful journey through African-American spiritual traditions and folklore using spirited contemporary dance.

JOIN IN

Ballroom Dance
Peabody Essex Museum, 161 Essex St., Salem (978-745-9500). •April 5 and 12, 7-9pm. $100, $75. Take classes from award-winning dance instructors Roberto Reyes and Tricia Sampson and learn the expert techniques of ballroom dance. Fox trot, tango, waltz, salsa and more. •*April 14, 8pm. $12.* Walk your happy feet over to dance the night away with the Willey House Ballroom Band. Refresher lessons of the cha-cha, polka, waltz, fox trot and swing until 9:30pm. Cash bar available for those who require help.

Club Joy
533 Washington Street, Boston (354-5780). Saturday nights. This Latin night spot now offers classes: salsa, merengue, bachata and more.

Dancing at Ryles Jazz Club
Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. •Saturdays, 9pm-1:30am, $12; $10 after 11:30pm. Join in a variety of dance moves—here you'll find jazzy mambos, swing dancing, cheeky cha chas and sassy salsa numbers. •*Tuesdays 10pm-1:30am. $6.* Just Swing It night features Black Tie Affair Orchestra and DJ music. Requests are taken and dancers are encouraged to bring their own music. •*Wednesdays, 9pm.* Get your Brazilian Ballroom Dance fix with Samba, Forro, Lambada and Axe. •*Thursdays, 8:30-11pm. $10-$12.* Salsa and merengue dance.

TICKETS

Bostix
(723-5181) www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of Faneuil Hall); Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth); and Harvard Square (in the Holyoke Center arcade at 1350 Mass. Ave). Same-day tickets half price.*

Next Ticketing
(423-NEXT). www.boston.com/next.

Ticketmaster
(931-2000) www.ticketmaster.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(247-1300 or 800-442-1854). A good place to get tickets if a show is sold out at the box office.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail information to comedy@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the performances or comedians. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (248-9700). Mon.-Wed. 8pm; Thu. 8:30pm; Fri. and Sat. 8pm, 10:15pm; Sun. 7pm. $8-$10 (weekend prices vary). The oldest comedy club in Boston draws big-name, national comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •April 5: Don Gavin and Steve Hurley. •April 6, 8:30pm, $12: Frank Santos, the "R-rated Hypnotist." •April 7, 8pm and 10:15pm, $19: **Dave Chapelle** from *Blue Streak* and *You've Got Mail*. •April 8, $20: Dave Chapelle. •April 9, 9:15pm, $12: Black Comedy Explosion hosted by Johnathan Gates. •April 10: Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox. •April 11, 7pm and 9pm, $20: **Rita Rudner** of HBO and *The Tonight Show*. •April 12: Steve Hurley. •April 13, 8:30pm, $12: Frank Santos, the "R-rated Hypnotist." •April 14, $19: **Bobcat Goldthwait**. •April 15, $21: Bobcat Goldthwait of the *Police Academy* movies. •April 16, 9:15pm, $12: Black Comedy Explosion hosted by Johnathan Gates. •April 17: Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox. •April 18: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz.

The Comedy Studio at the Hong Kong
1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu.-Sun. 8pm. $5-$7. Sketch comedy troops and local comedians perform. •April 6-9: **The Boston Comedy Festival** at the Comedy Studio. •April 6, 8pm: Boston T Party: Tony v, DJ Hazard and Frank Santorelli. $10. •April 7: Woman's Show: Janine Ditullio, Katie Grady, Sue McGinnis. $10. •April 8, 6pm: Boston: The Next Generation. Tim McIntire, Steve Calechman and Brendon Small. $10. 8pm: Comedy Writers. Panel discussion with Jonathan Katz, Tony V and Brian Kiley. $10. •April 9: Hazardous Show. DJ Hazard hosts Patrice O'Neill, Kenny Rogerson and Don Gavin. $10. •April 14: Barry Crimmins. $12. •April 15, 6pm, 8pm: Barry Crimmins. $12. •April 16: Barry Crimmins. $10. The legendary satirist's first club appearance in nearly a decade.

Dick Doherty's Comedy Escape Comedy Vault
Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun. 9pm. $10. Features local stand-up comedians. Thursdays: Stand-up comedy. Fridays and Saturdays: Dick Doherty's Comedy Pro Tour. Sundays: Open mike night.

Nick's Comedy Stop
100 Warrenton St., Boston (482-0930). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Fri. 8:30pm; Sat. 7:45pm and 10pm; Sun. 8pm. $8-$14. The talent here is not quite as big-name as the Comedy Connection, but the crowds are just as enthusiastic, and you're guaranteed to leave with a smile on your face. Wednesdays: Open mike at 8:30pm. •April 6, 8:30, April 7 and 8, 8:45pm: Boston Comedy Festival! •April 13, 8:30pm: Ed Regine, Chance Langton and George De Martino. •April 14-15, 8:45: Ed Regine, tony Moschetto and George De Martino.

IMPROVISATIONAL COMEDY & MAGIC

Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston (263-6887). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Thu. 8pm; Fri. and Sat. 8pm and 10pm. Main Stage: $10-$15. Now playing on the main stage is the critically acclaimed improvisational and sketch comedy show—voted one of Boston's best improvisational comedy troops.

ImprovBoston at Back Alley Theater
1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1253). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troop makes things up as they go along. Fri.-Sat. 8pm ($12) and 10:30pm ($12). Sun, 2pm ($7).

Magicians & Spirits
Green Street Grill, 280 Green St., Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Shows every Tuesday at 9pm. $10 cabaret show ($5 with dinner). At 10pm, the cabaret show begins upstairs with local and national magicians reading minds, making birds appear out of nowhere and floating objects above the stage.

COMEDY SHOWS

All-Star Comedy Night
Prince Restaurant, Route 1, Saugus (781-944-8414). April 13, 6:30pm. $20. See some of Boston's best comedians at this benefit for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Greater Boston. Local comedians include **Frank Santorelli** of HBO's *Sopranos*, **Dave Russo**, **Johnny Pizzl**, **Ed Regine** and **Paul Gilligan**.

Banned in Boston
Avalon, 15 Lansdowne St., Boston (232-1175). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. April 7, 6:30pm. $150. Professional attire. The fifth annual comedy revue features some of Boston's biggest and best-known political leaders, sports figures and media personalities. Picnic meals will be shipped up by Boston chefs. All proceeds benefit Urban Improv.

Kids in the Hall
The Orpheum Theatre, Boston (931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to Park. April 14, 8pm. $29 and $39. The comedy troupe of the 1990s lives on, offering new fans the opportunity to fall under the hilariously warped spell of the "Kids" spin on life, love, lust, middle-class values and the dark corners of suburbia.

Joey & Maria's Comedy Wedding
Tremont House Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston or Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Fri. and Sat. 7:30pm. Ongoing. $39-$45. Join the fun at this absolutely zany Italian wedding.

SitcomBoston
The Works Theater, 255 Elm St., Somerville (538-3205). MBTA: Red Line to Davis Square. Fridays and Saturdays, 8pm and 10:30pm. A fully improvised show that looks exactly like an hour of prime-time television. Two half-hour episodes, complete with commercials, of a brand-new sitcom improvised on the spot solely on the basis of suggestions taken from a studio audience.

The Orange Show: Radio Face
Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Comm. Ave., Boston (524-5845). April 7 and 21, 8pm; April 8 and 22, 8pm and 10:30pm. April 23, 3pm. $12.50. Writers/hosts Marty Barrett and Dave Bellenoit invite you to join them for pure chewing entertainment, featuring the Continuing Saga of Mr. Peaches, America's Favorite White Trash Cat, Who Wants to Feed a Millionaire to a Colony of Stick Bugs? and Mrs. Squidberg, Calamari Yenta.

Rita Rudner is at Comedy Connection, April 11.

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art

Advice to Contributors
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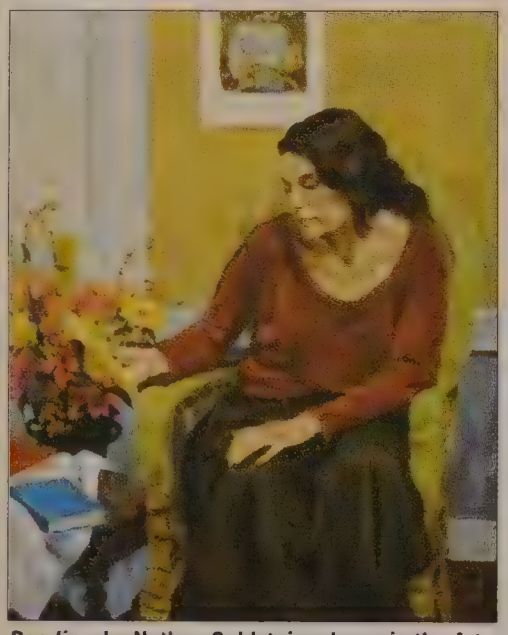
Advice to Readers
The following is a partial list of the largest art museums, art institutes and galleries in the Boston area. Listings following bullets are temporary exhibitions.

Museums

Art Institute of Boston
700 Beacon St., Boston (262-1223). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun. 12-5pm. •Nathan Goldstein's *Painting and Prints* displays through April 30. •Pablo Oritz Monsaterio, a key figure in Mexican photography, lectures April 6, 7pm, as part of the Spring 2000 duPont Visiting Artist Lecture Series at BU's Photonics Center at 8 St. Mary's St. $5, $3 students and seniors.

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat. 10am-12pm. The Sackler houses ancient Islamic and Asian art, an array of Neolithic bronze Buddhas, Greek pottery, and Hellenistic and Roman sculpture. •*Wall Drawing #830* features four isometric figures with dynamic colors. Ongoing. •*Ben Shahn's New York: The Photography of Modern Times*, showcases the artist's experimentation with the social documentary tradition. It includes more than 150 photographs, ink drawings and easel paintings. Through April 30. •Every Thursday is a free guided tour of Shan's work, 10:30am.



***Reading*, by Nathan Goldstein, shows in the Art Institute of Boston's exhibition this month.**

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat. 10am-12pm. It's better to visit the Fogg the same day you go to the Sackler, as admission includes all of Harvard's museums. Highlights include Van Gogh's self-portrait and Bellini's clay figures.

Gibson House Museum
137 Beacon St., Boston (267-6338). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Guided tours every Sat. and Sun. at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm. $5. With 75 percent of its original items in place, the museum allows visitors to understand 19th-century domestic life and design. Ongoing.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (266-5152). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Wed.-Sun. 12-5pm; Thu. 12-9pm. $6, $4 students and seniors. •A new exhibition marks the first American museum survey exhibition of the work of the celebrated British artist Cornelia Parker. It includes more than 60 of works made in the past decade. Parker will also create a new charcoal installation specifically for this ICA exhibition. Through April 9. •Free guided walk-throughs take place each Thursday at 6:30pm.

***Teens*, an oil painting by Esther Garcia Eder, is part of her collection of paintings *Inside & Out*, which displays throughout April at the Arden Gallery.**

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (566-1401). www.boston.com/gardner. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun. 11am-5pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, under 18 free. Guided on Fridays 2:30pm.* This 15th-century Venetian palace is home to more than 2,500 objects and twice as many flowers. Boston's most famous museum is named for the house's owner, Isabella Stewart Gardner (1840-1924), an infamously incorrigible individualist. Only after her death was her house completely opened to the public. Now everyone can see the works of Titian, Botticelli and Matisse, as well as furniture and architectural details from European churches and palaces. •Lee Mingwei's *The Living Room* shows through April 30.

MIT Museum
265 Mass Ave., Cambridge (253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5pm, weekends 12-5pm. $3, $1 for students, seniors and children. Where else would you be but at MIT when you contemplate Morton G. Bradley Junior's *Math in 3-D: Geometric Sculptures?* The museum's other permanent exhibits include *Flashes of Inspiration: The Work of Harold Edgerton*, and *Gestural Engineering* and *Cultural Engineering: The Sculptures of Arthur Ganson*, the mechanical engineer/choreographer. •On the last Sunday of the month, explore oceanography, astronomy, the science of buildings and other mysteries of science with interactive activities for all ages from 2-4pm, no reservations required. Call 452-2827 for details. •*A Day in the Life of an Astronaut*, *LEGO Car Rally*, *Out There!* and *Observing the Observers* show throughout the spring. •*Self-portrait.map*, new digitally manipulated chromogenic prints by Lilla LoCurto and Bill Outcault, includes 18 large-scale works. Through April 9. •*Jane and Louise Wilson: Stasi City and Crawl Space* is the presentation of two major video installations by these British twins. Through April 9.

Museum of Bad Art
580 High St., Dedham (325-8224). Mon.-Fri. 6:30-10pm, Sat. and Sun. 1-10pm. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. The one and only museum that boasts "art too bad to be ignored." A favorite is *Lady Chardonnay*, a piece illuminating a poodle-head dancer.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Mon.-Tue. 10am-4:45pm; Wed. 10am-9:45pm, Thu.-Fri. 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. 10am-5:45pm. West Wing only Thu.-Fri. 5-9:45pm. $12, students and seniors $10.* The MFA has earned its rep as the second-best-run art museum in the nation (after the Metropolitan Museum of Art) with its top-notch exhibitions, educational programs and galleries of African, Oceanic and American art. •*View From Above: The Photographs of Bradford Washburn* consists of some 80 black-and-white photographs by mountain climber, explorer, cartographer and aerial photographer Bradford Washburn. Through April 30. •The work of Edward Weston (1886-1958), shows in *Edward Weston: Photography and Modernism.* Through May 29. •*Michael Mazur: A Print Retrospective* examines more than 90 pieces of the Boston-based print artist's work. Through May 14. It shows with an exhibition of his recent paintings. Through June 15.

The Peabody House Museum
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (496-1027). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5 adults; $4 students and seniors; $3 children 3-13. No fee Sat. mornings until 12pm. •A brand new exhibit, *Heads and Tales: Adornments from Africa*, is an exhibition of rarely seen sculptures and artifacts from the Peabody Museum collections, many of them more than 100 years old, which highlight the messages communicated by adornments of the head in sub-Saharan Africa. Through Oct. 1, 2001.

The Revolving Museum
288-300 A St., Boston (439-8617). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed.-Fri. 12-5pm. •Alison Safford's installation shows through April 21. •*Revelation for Revolution*, a millennial exhibition of members' works juried by Rebecca Hoffberger, the founder of the American Visionary Art Museum, shows through May 2.

Galleries
FINE ART

Allston Skirt Gallery
119 Braintree St., Allston (254-7027). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm and by appointment. •*Drawing*, which features work by Jill Baroff, Meryl Blinder, Heather Hobler-Keene, Bronlyn Jones and Stefana McClure, is on view through April 29.

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (536-4465). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •Wlodimierz Ksiazek's *New Paintings* shows through April 5. •Nancy Hagin's *Paintings and Watercolors* shows April 8-May 3.

Andrea Marquit Fine Arts
38 Newbury St., Boston (859-0190). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Wed.-Sat. 11am-5pm. Open by appointment only through February. Shows contemporary masters and emerging artists, and acts as a consulting group for corporate and private collectors.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (247-0610). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 11am-5:30pm; Sun. 1-5pm. Representing an eclectic mix of styles, from abstract to super-realist. •Esther Garcia Eder's sunlit island scenes and depictions of dancing souls show in *Inside and Out.* Through April 30.

Artists Foundation Galleries
516 East Second St., Boston (464-3561). MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. Sat. 12-5pm and by appointment. •In the main gallery: *Portraits of Artists*, photographs by Paul Weiner. •In the office gallery: *Recent Drawings* by Meghan Foley. •In the video room: *Fictional Documentary and Other Videos*. April 15-May 20.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., 5th Floor, Boston (262-4490). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. Paintings, drawings, prints and sculpture by emerging and established artists. •Allan McCollum's work shows through April 26.

Barton-Ryan Gallery
38 Newbury St., 4th floor, Boston (867-0662). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5:30pm, Sat., 11am-5pm and by appointment. The gallery specializes in American and European works of art by emerging and established artists. •*Eric Aho: Pure Geography: Paintings and Monotypes* shows through May 13.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm. •*Intuitive Journeys: Artists from Gateway Crafts* shows through April 22.

Bromfield Gallery
560 Harrison Ave., Boston (451-3605). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm. •Dianne Lam's *Permanence and Change: Abstract Paintings*, shows through April 22.

Cambridge Art Association
25 Rear Lowell St., Cambridge (876-0246). Tue.-Sat. 11am-5pm., Sun. 1-5pm. A small gallery with a permanent collection of local art. •*Song of the Earth: Rhythms and Moods of Nature* shows through April 19.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (859-7222). Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •Peter Plamondon's *New Paintings* show April 5-May 1.

Child's Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (266-1108). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri. 9am-6pm; Mon. and Sat. 10am-5pm. American and European paintings, prints, drawings and sculptures, from 1500 through 1950. •Three upcoming shows display simultaneously: *Women Artists, The Beauty of Ruins* and *New York Nocturne* show through April 22.

Clark Gallery
145 Lincoln St., Lincoln (781-259-8303). Tue.-Sat. 10am-5pm. The gallery represents 30 artists, primarily regional. Media regularly include glass, ceramics, oil, acrylic on canvas, wood and studio furniture. •*Three Stories* features new paintings by Todd McKie, object sculptures by Michael Stasiuk and mixed-media work by Michael Nakoneczny. Through April 20.

Clifford•Smith Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 3rd Floor, Boston (695-0255). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing, transfer to bus #49 to Washington/East Berkeley. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5pm. •David Kelley and Liz Fiorentino's collaborative installation, *Vibrations Per Sound*, explores the relationship between visual and aural reverberations. Through April 29.

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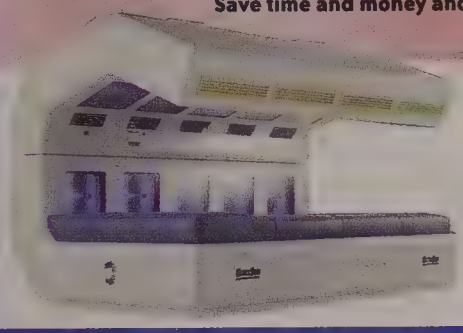

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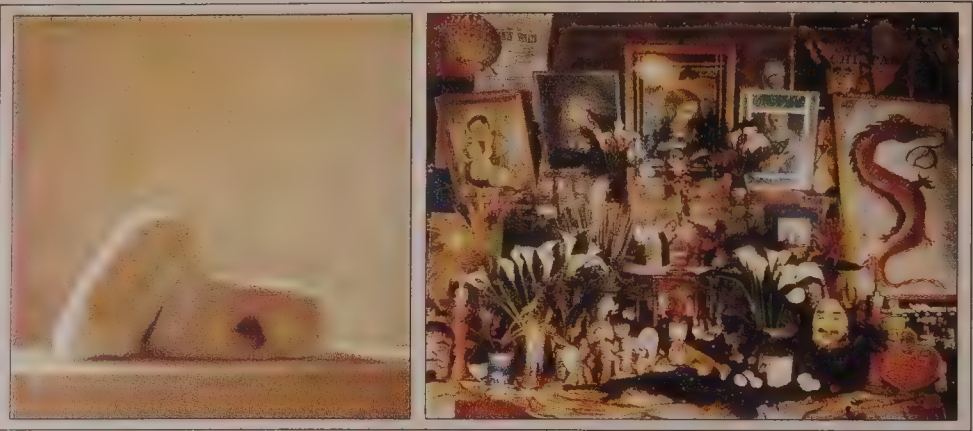

Mass Amounts of Mass Art

The 11th annual Mass Art Benefit Auction on April 14 features more than 200 contemporary works of art donated by artists both famous and undiscovered. Artists auctioning off their works include Ambreen Butt, Michael David, Sam Earle, Dana Salvo, William Wegman and Lucy White, who will donate a portion of the proceeds from their paintings, drawings, photographs, ceramics, sculpture, prints and glass. Preview: April 10 and 11, 10am-8pm; April 12, 10am-4pm; Reception: April 14, 6:30pm; Auction April 14, 8pm. Bakalar and Huntington Galleries, South Building, Mass College of Art, 623 Huntington Ave., Boston (232-1555, ext. 233). $50.

Copley Society of Boston
158 Newbury St., Boston (536-5049). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat. 10:30am-5:30pm; Sun. 1-5pm. America's oldest non-profit art association is a platform for young and established artists alike. •*Linda Price-Sneddon* is on display through April 15. •*Faces* also shows through April 15.

Creiger Dane Gallery
36 Newbury St., Boston (536-8088). www.creigerdane.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm.* •*Imagining Steel*, graphite drawings by Kate Sullivan and abstract works by Christian Heckscher, shows through April 29.

Crystal Fine Art
93 Summer St., Suite 4L, Boston (728-9818). www.crystalfineart.com. *MBTA: Red and Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Tue.-Fri. 11am-6pm.* A multicultural gallery that regularly displays the work of national, international and local artists. •An exhibit and sale of religious art benefits the Saint Anthony Shrine. April 14, 6-9pm.

Dyansen Gallery
132 A Newbury St., Boston (262-4800). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. You'll always find paintings, bronzes and fine art prints. Collections include Rembrandt, Picasso, Chagall, Miro, Dali, Cassatt, Snowden and more. •The gallery displays its ongoing collection.

Eclipse Gallery
167 Newbury St., Boston (247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9am-6pm. •Peter Clemons' *Dune Shack Days,* a collection of his paintings, shows through April 29.

Elias Fine Arts
120 Braintree St., Brighton (783-1888). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. •*Christian Boltanski: Favorite Objects*, 264 photographic prints of the favorite objects of Chicago school children. Through April 29.

Gallery Bershad
99 Dover St., Somerville (629-9400 ex. 3). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Wed., Thu., Sun., 12-6pm; Fri. and Sat. 12-8pm. •New paintings and drawings by Jim Peters, David Levine and Ellen Sperling displays through April 23.

Gallery NAGA
67 Newbury St., Boston (267-9060). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. Paintings, studio furniture, sculpture, photography and holography. •George Nick's *New Work* shows April 7-29.

Gibbs Gallery
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm. •*The Puppets of Underground Railway Theatre*, innovative puppets, silk backdrops and more, shows April 10-May 12.

Gurari Collections
91 Charles St., Boston (367-9800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington or Red Line to Charles MGH. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. This gallery has an impressive collection of 16th- to early 20th-century etchings, engravings and drawings of architecture and urbanism, classical figures, antiquarian fantasies and unusual objects. Also showing the work of Wendy Artin, an artist living in Rome. Ongoing.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St. Boston (536-6339). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 10am-6pm; Sat. 10am-5pm. •Assortment of 18th- and 19th-century historic and decorative antique engravings and lithographs.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (262-0550). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. www.hyg.com. •Robert Cumming and Jim Melchert display their work through May 2.

Hurst Gallery
53 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (491-6888). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sat. 12-6pm. Thu, 12-7pm. Visitors are greeted with art and artifacts from six continents. •*Abstract Treasures: African Currencies*, shows through April 30.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (375-0076). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. The gallery's exhibition features a wide variety of vintage posters from Europe and Russia. •*Bon Voyage! Vintage Posters from the Golden Age of Travel 1900-1940* is a collection of images of railroads, ocean liners, airplanes and more. Through April 30.

Judy Ann Goldman
14 Newbury St., Boston (424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. Call for an appointment. The gallery regularly displays paintings, sculpture and works on paper by gallery artists. •*A New Day Dawning* shows through April 15.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 Saint Stephen St., Boston (247-1719). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue.-Sat., 1-5pm. •A three-day ceramics exhibition, titled *Four Visions in Clay,* features the work of artists Yasuko Dower, Mary Ellen Gardner, Jeanne Gugino and Arlene Stigum. April 7-9.

Mercury Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (859-0054). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm. Specializes in American and European figurative expressionism. •*Urban Landscape*, a group show, is on display through April 15.

Mobius
354 Congress St., Boston (542-7416). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm. An artist-run group known for a wide range of arts. •*Taking Liberty/Usvajanje Slobode*, a cultural exchange between eight members of the Mobius Artists Group and eight artists from Istria, Croatia, takes place at various venues around the city. See it at Mobius through April 15.

MPG
285 Newbury St., Boston (437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •*The View From the Highway* consists of the work of Dimitri Cavender and Peter Roux. April 7-May 7.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm.* Founded in 1964. •Milton Resnick's *Recent Paintings* shows with Jake Berthot's *Landscape Paintings and Drawings*. Through May 6.

Out of the Blue Gallery
168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun. 12-7pm. This artist-owned and-operated gallery always has a variety of interesting artwork and art-related events going on. •Poetry readings take place every Saturday and the gallery hosts jazz every Wednesday.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (236-4497). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •Harold Reddicliffe's *Still Life Paintings* show April 7-May 13.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (267-9473). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun. 1pm-5pm. •Fance Frack's work shows April 8-30.

Qingping Gallery Teahouse
216 Newbury St., Boston (236-4846). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open every day, 9am-12am. This authentic Chinese teahouse—and the only local gallery to focus solely on art from China—specializes in avant-garde and contemporary antiques, teapots and furniture.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (266-3321). www.richardson-clarke.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tues.-Sat. 10am-5pm.* •American and European 19th- and 20th-century paintings, drawings and sculpture. Ongoing. •*American Painters in Venice* shows through April 30.

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (437-1518). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm. •*Pinturas Modernas*, the US debut of the work of Brazilian painter José Goncalves, shows April 6-May 1.

Space 12 Gallery
12 Union Park St., Boston (423-9760). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed. 6-9pm; Thu.-Sat. 1-5pm. •*Pamela Sienna: wrapped*, a series of oil paintings, shows through April 15.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (450-0321). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. Artist William St. George displays his lush and colorful interpretations of Boston cityscapes, bold equestrian scenes and semi-abstract works at his recently opened gallery. •Now showing *Working Artist and Easel*, William St. George's oil paintings.

A Touch of France
173 Newbury St., Boston (247-6966). MBTA: Green line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-7pm; Sun., 12-6pm. This gallery imports contemporary French artists' works, including paintings from famous French painters: M. Tigrane, R. Kefflin, C. Ferrer and striking dried flower arrangements made near Saint Tropez.

Via Gallery
83 Newbury St., 2nd Floor (424-6200). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri. 10am-4pm. •Maria Christina Ritz' *Sealed for Your Protection*, sculptures in glass, steel and stone, shows April 7-29.

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (536-6176). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 8am-5:30pm; Sat. 9am-4pm. Run by twin brothers Bill and Terry Vose, the gallery specializes in American paintings. •The next exhibition is *Works on Paper Exhibition*, a guide for collectors on the selection and care of watercolors, pastels and drawings. April 17-June 3.

Zeitgeist Gallery
312 Broadway St., Cambridge (876-2182). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu.-Sun., 2pm-7pm. •The gallery displays a variety of local artists' work.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2051). Tues.-Sat. 11am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm; Closed Mondays. The Multiple is a gallery investigation that explores works of art produced more than one time. Ongoing.

Gallery One
537 Comm. Ave., Boston (437-1868). Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm. Affiliated with the New England School of Photography. •*Brooks Walsh Photographs* show through April 28.

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (423-4299). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Fri., 10am-3pm; Sat., 12-5pm. •*Taking Liberty/Usvajanje Slobode*, a cultural exchange between eight members of the Mobius Artists Group and eight artists from Istria, Croatia, takes place at various venues around the city. See it at Fort Point Channel April 2.

Panopticon Gallery
187 Bay State Rd., Boston (267-8929). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford. Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm. This gallery offers fine art photographic prints and media licensing of images for print, video and stock photography.

Photographic Resource Center
602 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (353-0700). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford. Tue.-Sun., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-8pm. •*Photography in Human Experience* features photographs dating from the 1860s to the 1920s. Through April 28.

CRAFTS

Cambridge Artists Cooperative
59A Church St., Cambridge (868-4434). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; 10am-8pm; Sun. 1-6pm. Twelve artists own and operate this gallery which features 2D design and jewelry.

Clayground
91 Hampshire St., Cambridge (661-7376). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 12-6pm; Sat. 11am-5pm. Porcelain and stone objects galore. Classes available.

Fresh Pond Clay Works
368 Huron Ave., Cambridge (492-1907). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard to Bus 72. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm. A wide range of firing techniques, from terracotta to porcelain.

Gateway Gallery
62 Harvard St., Brookline Village, Brookline (734-1577). MBTA: C Green Line to Brookline Village. Mon.-Sat., 11am-6pm. This non-profit gallery features all sorts of arts and crafts.

Infinity Gallery
24 Union Park St., Boston (423-5555). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat 11am-7pm; Sun 11am-6pm. This small gallery features Wayne Fuerst's work.

Shake the Tree Gallery
218 Washington St., Brookline (739-3505). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm; Sun. 12-4pm. The store features a mix of handmade crafts including jewelry and glass works. •*The Story of the Yellow Dress*, an installation by Wendy Costa, shows April 8-29.

Signature Gallery
Dock Square, Boston (227-4885). Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Thu., 10am-7pm; Fri. and Sat., 10am-9pm; Sun., 12-6pm. Pottery, metal and glass works.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (266-1810). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm; Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. •*International Alternative Jewelry* shows through April 30. •*Drawing the Lines: Selections from Jewelers' Sketchbooks* shows through April 28.

Wrapped (on pinned sky) **is part of** ***Pamela Sienna: wrapped*** **at Space 12 Gallery through April 15.**

EMILY EVELETH (LEFT TOP), DANA SALVO (TOP RIGHT), PAMELA SIENNA (BOTTOM)

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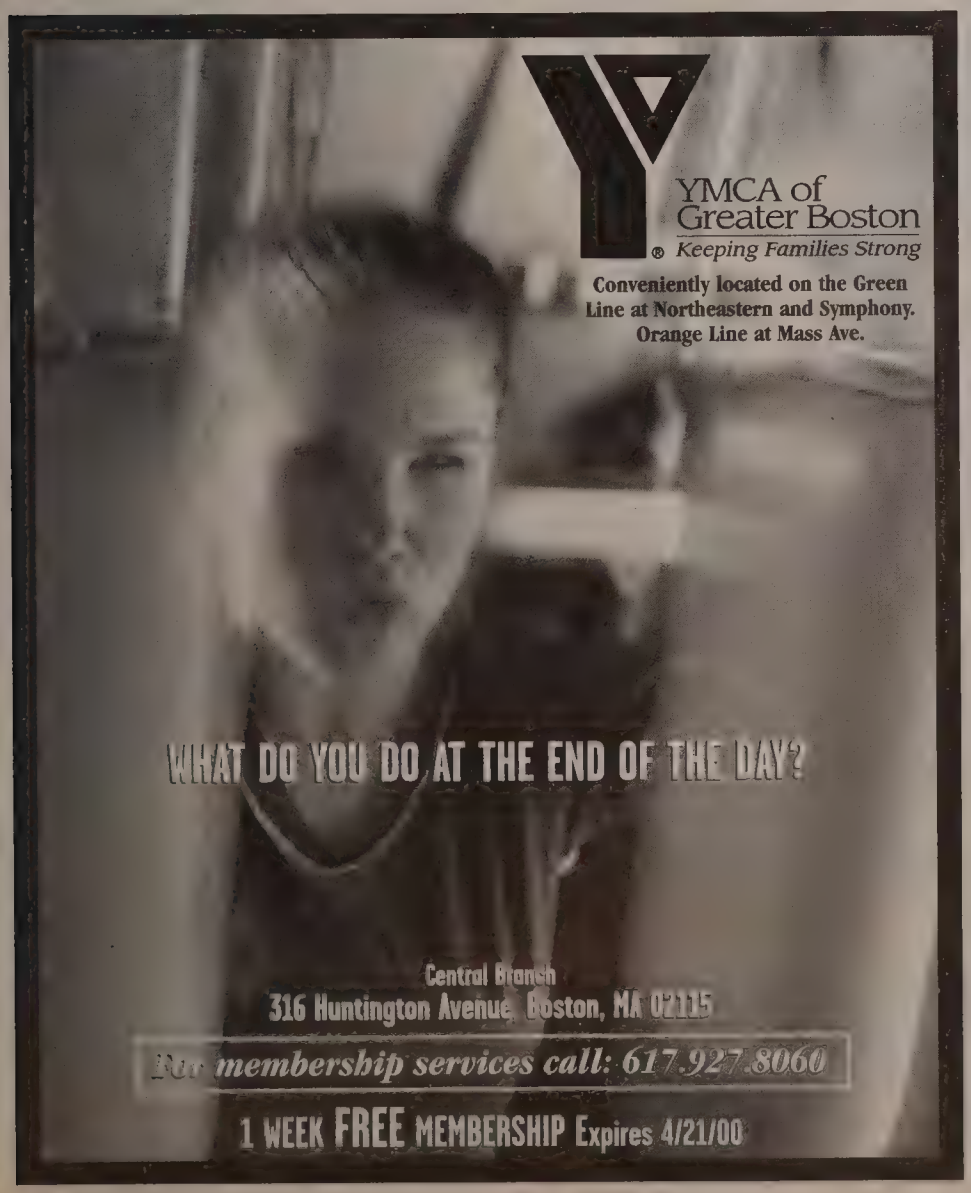

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HEARTBREAK HOTEL

High Fidelity's Cusack checks in—and takes a good look in the mirror. BY PAUL SHERMAN

In the wry comedy *High Fidelity*, John Cusack plays a just-dumped single guy who tries to figure out why he's always being left behind by flashing back to what he calls his "Top Five Heartbreaks"—the first girl who kissed him and then wouldn't anymore, the knockout he feared would leave him because he wasn't in her league and then did, and so on. But the movie is a little bit like flashing back on some of the best moments and collaborations in the actor's career. For starters, former Cusack cohorts such as Lili Taylor (who played his confidante in *Say Anything*), Tim Robbins (who played his fellow showbiz gate-crasher in *Tapeheads*) and sister Joan Cusack appear in the ensemble cast—and *High Fidelity*'s protagonist recalls the principled Cusack characters in those and other movies. What's more, the *Grosse Pointe Blank* writing team of Cusack, Steve Pink and D.V. DeVincentis scripts the film, and Cusack's *Grifters* director, Stephen Frears, is behind the camera. The result: this musical-metaphor-filled film becomes something of a greatest-hits album.

John Cusack pals around with record-store coworkers in the comedic adaptation of Nick Hornby's novel *High Fidelity*.

That said, if this adaptation of Englishman Nick Hornby's novel (transposed to Chicago) has a familiar ring to it, it doesn't seem like a rehash as much as a variation on a theme: Cusack as the bemused Everyman trying to keep his scruples in an unprincipled world, while also trying to keep his flaws from screwing up his relationships with women. Like the kickboxer in *Say Anything*, his aspiring video director in *Tapeheads* and his somehow sincere hit man in *Grosse Pointe Blank*, there's an essential "Cusackness" to Rob, the second-hand record-store owner whose informal shop specializes in vinyl. The sort of person who relates to people more for, as he says, "what they like" rather than "what they are like," he won't ditch something that's good just because it's out of fashion.

But relationships aren't as straightforward as musical taste. Dumped by live-in girlfriend Laura (Iben Hjejle, of the current *Mifune*), Rob is sent into a soul-searching funk over why women have always left him. Addressing the camera for much of the movie, which occasionally gives the action a displeasingly *Ferris Bueller* cuteness, he takes us to the flashbacks of his most agonizing breakups, including the aforementioned knockout (an unbilled Catherine Zeta-Jones) and a similarly rebounding woman (Taylor) who managed to break his heart despite their no-commitment relationship. In between, we see Rob as he tries to persuade Laura to not dump him, has a fling with a folk singer (Lisa Bonet) and deals with the everyday struggles of running his store.

The plight of Cusack's character is hardly a stretch, in relation to, say, *Grosse Pointe Blank*, which pulled off a tricky blend of absurdity, action and soul-searching. What puts *High Fidelity* over the top is the richness of its details. The comic interplay in the record-store scenes is priceless, featuring the two employees, one of whom is passively anti-social (Todd Louiso) and the other aggressively anti-social (Jack Black, an amusingly resourceful comic actor who is everywhere lately, from Beck and Foo Fighters videos to Robbins' *Cradle Will Rock*). Rob and his two employees, who communicate mostly through making tapes of songs for people and challenging each other to make up lists like "Top Five Death Songs," are definitely out there in the world, and the movie affectionately lampoons them.

Rob tries to get Laura to not leave him for ponytailed New Age Ian (a self-effacing Robbins), and part of that affection comes through in the movie's own music, a sort of compilation tape it makes for its audience. From kicking off with the 13th Floor Elevators' "You're Gonna Miss Me" through Stiff Little Fingers' "Suspect Device" and Love's "My Little Red Book," *High Fidelity* has some of the best music in a Hollywood movie since, well, *Grosse Pointe Blank*. IB

High Fidelity ★★★

Directed by Stephen Frears. Written by John Cusack, Steve Pink, D.V. DeVincentis and Scott Rosenberg. With Cusack, Iben Hjejle, Jack Black, Todd Louiso, Lisa Bonet, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Joan Cusack, Lili Taylor and Tim Robbins. Rated R. Touchstone Pictures.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Rachel (*Muriel's Wedding*) Griffith's performance enlivens the new film *Me Myself I.*

American Psycho ★★½
Writer-director Mary Harron, in her first film since the probing *I Shot Andy Warhol*, again offers a window into the excesses of the past through a violent, unstable protagonist. The results are spottier in this adaptation of Bret Easton Ellis' novel, though. Parts of it are a hilarious burlesque of circa-1987 yuppiedom (and still-prevalent designer lifestyles), with a cast of young Wall Street mergers-and-acquisitions lions who are obsessed with having better condos, tans, gadgets and business cards than their rivals. But even this sort of high-tech, dick-swinging avarice isn't enough for Christian Bale's Harvard MBA who says he feels nothing but "greed and disgust." He needs to kill, too. It's bold and often effective, but the humor only propels the movie so far, as does the fact that Bale's character remains more of a type than a fully formed individual.

Beyond the Mat ★★★½
Screenwriter Barry Blaustein—who got Imagine Entertainment to bankroll this wrestling documentary after writing hits like *The Nutty Professor*—offers a behind-the-scenes movie filled with human drama. Some of its sequences, like a visit to a small wrestling circuit or a cursory look at a star like Chyna, have been done many other times of late. But its sections focusing on Terry Funk, Jake Roberts and Mick Foley (a.k.a. Mankind) are the most memorable. Funk is the legend who can't call it quits; Roberts is the onetime star who's now a personal wreck (the scenes of him trying to reconcile with his estranged daughter are incredibly painful); and Foley is the living contradiction whose willingness to take punishment for the sake of a good show is matched only by his conscientiousness as a husband and father. As filmmaking, this can't compare to *Wrestling with Shadows*, Paul Jay's chronicle of Bret "The Hitman" Hart's last days in the World Wrestling Federation, but few documentaries on any subject reach the intimate heights of Blaustein's.

East-West ★★½
The film's slow and deliberate pace often resembles a docudrama's recounting of the historical tale of a couple who takes advantage of the Soviet Union's offer of post-World War II amnesty to Russians who want to return home. But the offer is a trick, and many of the returnees are shot or imprisoned upon their return. The movie concentrates on a French-born wife (Sandrine Bonnaire) and her Soviet-born husband (Oleg Menchikov), who are spared only because he's a doctor, and who endure a decade-long struggle to get their son (Ruben Tapiero) back to the West. From Indochine director Regis Wargnier.

Erin Brockovich ★★★½
If it weren't based on a true story, this docudrama might seem like a cynical blend of *Tumbleweeds* and *A Civil Action*. Julia Roberts is the sometimes coarse, overbearing single mom who, after getting a menial job at a law firm, stumbles across evidence of industrially contaminated water and finds a purpose in pushing her boss (Albert Finney) to get justice for the ill victims. Susannah Grant's screenplay mixes humor, emotion and drama deftly, Steven Soderbergh directs subtly, and the chemistry between Finney and Roberts helps make this more than just a legal drama.

Flowers of Shanghai ★★
Taiwanese director Hou Hsiao-Hsien has steadily gained a reputation of being a great international talent whose obscurity in the U.S. is evidence of American moviegoers' shallowness. Don't believe it. This emperor is flimsily dressed at best, and Hou's latest, at the Brattle Theater April 7 and 8, is a bore. While there are interesting dynamics in its 1880s story of the protocol and retinues that accompany its Shanghai prostitutes and the men who keep them, the movie's formalism kills it. Shot with no edits within scenes and no close-ups, it's an exercise in style that lacks drama and narrative drive.

Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai ★★★
Writer-director Jim Jarmusch's latest offers his usual taste for outsider characters and eclectic sensibilities.

FIDELITY: MELISSA MOSELEY

But his latest—about a hit man (Forest Whitaker) who lives by the tenets of a samurai warrior—has more bounce than previous films like *Dead Man*. Punctuated by a mood-enhancing score by The RZA of Wu-Tang Clan, this tale of the black hit man suddenly becoming the target of the Italian-American mob that regularly hires him is refreshingly engaging and features a quietly powerful Whitaker performance.

Me Myself I ★★½
The always-game Rachel (*Muriel's Wedding*, *Hilary and Jackie*) Griffith's performance enlivens yet another of the many "alternative life" movies of recent years. This finds Griffith as a single, 30-ish journalist who wonders if maybe she's missed her chance for a family and domestic bliss. But, as the characters in *Sliding Doors* or *Twice Upon a Yesterday* experienced, she suddenly finds herself in a different life, where she really did marry one of her beaus and had kids with him. Along the way, she finds the grass isn't necessarily greener in the suburbs and that she's a lot more resilient than she imagined. Nothing special, but it gets much more mileage out of its premise than it might have.

Mifune ★★
The latest movie from the Danish collective *Dogma 95*—in which filmmakers downplay technical gloss and shoot only with available light and hand-held cameras, among other vows—is an occasionally lively, occasionally ragged affair. Like a Billy Wilder farce, there's a romance among masqueraders in this comedy—between a young Copenhagen business (Anders M. Berthelsen) who's hidden his rural past and a prostitute (Iben Hjejle of *High Fidelity*) who evades a stalker and poses as a housekeeper to get a job with the businessman. Livelier than most foreign films, but not very memorable, either.

Not One Less ★★★
The latest from Chinese director Zhang Yimou (*Raise the Red Lantern*, *To Live*) eventually comes together nicely. But it's not always clear this story of a 13-year-old country girl (Wei Minzhi), who's hired to be a fill-in teacher for a month at a decrepit rural school, will do so. It meanders early on, and its cast of non-professionals certainly doesn't bring the intensity you'd expect in Zhang's movies (which have featured actress Gong Li). When the teacher, who's been warned she won't be paid if any of her students drops out, travels to the city to look for one student (Zhang Huike) who has quit, her seemingly futile quest turns the movie around, and the sacrifice she puts herself through means the story really earns its feel-good ending.

Return to Me ★★
The cute-meter nearly hurtles into gag-me territory in this directorial debut by actress Bonnie Hunt, who also costars. It's not that the romance between widowed builder David Duchovny and Minnie Driver—who has received the heart of his late wife (Joely Richardson) in a transplant—is contrived. It's more that Hunt has entirely too many gags featuring kids, animals and old people. And the old-timers (including Driver's shiver-me-timbers Irish grandpa, played in a wince-worthy performance by Carroll O'Connor) are defined almost solely by their ethnicity. It tries to be sweet; problem is, it tries too hard.

Romeo Must Die ★★★
High-flying Hong Kong action star Jet Li (*Once Upon a Time in China*, *Fong Sai Yuk*), first seen in American movies in *Lethal Weapon 4*, scores big in his first Hollywood vehicle. As the estranged son of a Chinese-American gang leader (Henry O), who shows up in the middle of a gang war with Delroy Lindo's black gang, Li plays the outsider who roots out troublemakers on both sides of the feud. Some of the scenes between Lindo and his feisty daughter (pop singer Aaliyah) drag, but the dramatic foundation is strong, and Li's martial-arts scenes put the emphasis on finesse and smarts, not thoughtless brawn.

The Skulls ★½
Joshua Jackson (TV's *Dawson's Creek*) plays the part of an ambitious, working-class Ivy League student well, but his experiences are essentially *The Firm* For Dummies. Asked to join an elite secret campus society everyone has told him is evil, but needing cash for law school, he ignores the warnings and signs up, because the society picks up the tuition. Then, wouldn't 'cha know it, the society turns out to be made up of evil power-brokers who want to control his life. There's never any doubt what's going on, never any moral dilemma for the audience to sort through, just all the suspense of a Gap ad.

Whatever It Takes ★½
Hollywood whitewashes teen angst in this romantic comedy in which the highly attractive Shane West and Marla Sokoloff (TV's *The Practice*) are cast as high-school outsiders. Why these lookers would be outcasts is beyond reasonable thinking and beyond this movie, which never convinces you they aren't "popular kid" material. The plot is a Cyrano-goes-to-high-school drag in which West's character helps a jock woo his pal Sokoloff, only to realize he's in love with her. Nothing here overcomes the transparent predictability.

High-flying Hong Kong star Jet Li kicks gangsta ass in his martial arts-heavy ***Romeo Must Die.***

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Cinemas
214 Harvard Ave. (277-2140). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
Trapelo Rd. (484-1706). Red Line to Harvard, 73 bus.

BOSTON

Boston Film • Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (536-1540). Green Line to Hynes.
Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (536-5400). Green Line to Copley.
Cheri
50 Dalton St. (536-2870). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.
Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.
Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.
Museum Of Science, Omni Theater
Science Park (723-2500). Green Line to Science Park.
Nickelodeon
606 Comm. Ave. (424-1500). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford St.
Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle.
Coolidge Corner
290 Harvard St. (734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theater
40 Brattle St. (876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.
Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (495-4700). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.
Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Sq. (494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.
Loews/Sony Theater
10 Church St. (864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Sq.
Somerville Theater
55 Davis Sq. (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston. (277-2500). B Green Line to Chestnut Hill.
West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (964-6060).

Alternatives & Revivals

Advice to Contributors
Submit film listings by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Although film listings are correct at the time of publication, they are subject to change. Doublecheck showtimes by calling the theater or 333-FILM.

Boston Public Library

Precode Hollywood
•April 10, 6pm **Possessed** *1931.* In this funny feminist drama, small-town factory girl Joan Crawford becomes the mistress of Park Ave. lawyer Clark Gable.

Brattle Theater

Most shows are $7, including double features.

Special Engagements—Fridays and Saturdays
•April 7 and 8, 5pm and 7:30pm (Sat. matinee 2:30pm) **Flowers of Shanghai** *1998.* See the film capsules for a review.
•April 7 and 8, 10pm **City of Lost Children** *1995.* Directed by Marc Caro and Jean-Pierre Jeunet, this film takes place in a dark, mystical other dimension where a carnival strongman teams up with a young, street girl to rescue his little brother.

Paramount Parade—Sundays
•April 9, 3:20pm and 9:40pm **Raiders of the Lost Ark** *1981.* Harrison Ford stars as Indiana Jones, the most unpredictable hero to grace the silver screen, risking his life against the nastiest villains ever.
•April 9, 1:15pm and 7:30pm **To Catch a Thief** *1955.* Cary Grant plays a famous cat burglar desperately trying to stay in retirement in this fantastically suspenseful film by Hitchcock.
•April 9, 6pm **Life On Earth** *1998.* This film, directed by Abderrahmane Sissako, offers a unique look into the culture of Mauritania, a community rarely seen.

The Lady Thrillers—Mondays
•April 10, 4:30pm, 7pm, and 9:30pm **Rebecca** *1940.* A young bride looks forward to her life with her new husband, but finds him, his mansion and its staff haunted by his former wife.

Celluloid Passport—Tuesdays
•April 11, 5:15pm, 7:30pm and 9:45pm **Flamenco** *1996.* A documentary capturing the diverse art of the flamenco, the fiery, intense Spanish dance. It is directed by Carlos Saura. He gathered more than 300 singers, dancers and guitarists for the film.

Recent Raves—Wednesdays
•April 5, 5pm and 8pm **Topsy-Turvy** *1999.* British filmmaker Mike Leigh brings us a terrific portrait of the famous writing duo of Gilbert and Sullivan.
•April 12, 4:15pm and 8pm **Magnolia** *1999.* Director Paul Thomas Anderson (*Boogie Nights*) creates a mosaic of American life with this film about intersecting lives centered on a street called Magnolia.

All About Almódovar—Thursdays
•April 6, 7:40pm **Flower of My Secret** *1995.* Almodovar portrays a successful romance writer on the verge of a breakdown.
•April 6, 5:15pm and 7:45pm **High Heels** *1991.* An egocentric famous actress and her newscaster daughter clash in life and love as the intricacies in their relationship unfold.

Special Screenings
•April 13-17 **The Eighth Annual Boston International Festival of Women's Cinema** takes place with an extraordinary lineup of films.
•April 18-23 **The Fifth Annual Bugs Bunny Film Festival**. April 18, 1pm, 3:15pm, 5:30pm, 7:45pm and 10pm **All Bugs Revue 2000**. A dozen of the best-loved Looney Tunes of all time return to the Brattle.

Coolidge Corner Theater

Feature Engagements
•Opening April 14 **Me Myself I** *1999.* See the film capsules for a review.
•April 5, 6, 9, 10, 12 and 13, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; April 7, 7:30pm and 9:30 pm and 12am; April 8, 1pm, 7:30pm and 12am **Spike & Mike's 2000 Classic Festival of Animation**. A tradition at the Coolidge, the festival includes animated favorites such as local animator Fablevision's *The Blue Shoe*, 1998 Academy Award winner *Bunny*, Aardman Animation's newest, *Hum Drum* and many other delightful surprises.

Coolidge Special Series
•Fridays through May **Coolidge Shorts**. This collection of short films by New England artists precedes the evening's features.

Midnight Movies—'80s Teen Flicks
•April 7 and 8, 12am **The Breakfast Club** *1985.* In this '80s classic, a group of assorted high school misfits gets to be friends while serving weekend detention. Directed by John Hughes.

Harvard Film Archive

The Power of Images and Illusions
•April 11, 9pm **Titanic** *1943.* A spectacular depiction of the Titanic's disastrous voyage, these are the stories of the passengers, the British ship owner and the ship's German first officer. Directed by Herbert Selpin.
•April 16, 3pm **The Great Sacrifice** *1944.* A well-situated husband strays from a life of privilege and a picture-book marriage to pursue an affair with a mysterious and sickly woman. Directed by Veit Harlan.
•April 18, 9pm **Munchhausen** *1943.* Directed by Josef von Baky, the story enacts the definitive Aryan fantasy in a tale of a man who masters his own destiny and marshals the march of time.

Italian Cinema
•April 5, 6:30pm **The Hawks and the Sparrows** *1966.* A father and son become vagabonds and are accompanied by an intellectual talking crow. Directed by Pier-Paolo Pasolini.
•April 11 and 12, 6:30pm **Death in Venice** *1971.* A German composer, on vacation and on the verge of a

Spike & Mike's 2000 Classic Festival of Animation returns to the Coolidge April 5-13.

MUST DIE: KHAREN HILL

mental and physical collapse, is obsessed with a young boy who leads the composer to an overextended stay in plague-ridden Venice. Directed by Luchino Visconti.

In Retrospect: Charles Burnett

•April 7, 7pm; April 8, 9:30pm **When it Rains** *1996.* Burnett takes the cycle of eviction and homelessness and transforms it into a valuable lesson.

•April 7, 7pm; April 8, 9:30pm **Killer of Sheep** *1977.* The study of Americans living just above poverty focusing on Stan, a slaughterhouse worker struggling to maintain his integrity.

•April 7, 9:30pm; April 9, 6pm **The Final Insult** *1997.* A tragicomic portrait of urban life, this demonstrates the growing gap between the haves and have-nots.

•April 8, 4pm **NightJohn** *1996.* Burnett explores the issues of racism and economic oppression while discovering an indomitable human.

•April 8, 7pm **Olivia's Story** *1999.* Told from the perspective of a Korean-American woman and her grandmother, this film is based on a little-league baseball game and how its context relates to memory and loss.

Preview

La Ciudad

If you are anything like the typical culturally aware Bostonian, you probably don't go to see films at the MFA as frequently as you would like. Although over the years, you've repeatedly vowed to become a more regular attendee of the MFA's superbly curated film program, all too often you have found yourself, large popcorn in hand, comfortably seated in one of the many megaplexes featuring a blockbuster—no doubt complaining about how terrible it is the whole time.

Well, get over it and head to the MFA to see one of today's most striking films—Tufts grad David Riker's five-year collaboration with New York City's immigrant community, *La Ciudad* (*The City*). It is a beautifully photographed collection of stories about love, loss and hope and portrays the present-day experience of Latin American immigrants living in New York City. By telling their story, Riker hopes to remind viewers that most Americans have had similar experiences. The film recalls the documentary style of Italian neorealism films of the 1930s and 1940s—in its narrative style and use of non-professional actors and the beauty of the black-and-white cinematography. These elements eloquently come together to tell four interwoven stories, each of which is a powerful, contemporary portrait of its disenfranchised, exploited and heroic subject. *In Spanish, with English subtitles. April 6-7, 6pm and April 8, 12:20pm.*

•April 8, 7pm **To Sleep With Anger** *1990.* A powerful, poetic and humorous drama of a contemporary African-American family.

Close Encounters

•April 5,8:15pm **Jacob's Ladder** *1990.* Directed by Adrian Lyne, this astounding film centers on a Vietnam veteran whose life shifts endlessly through the past, present and future.

African Film Festival

•Starting April 12, the HFA presents a series of African films including **Mortu Nega**, **TGV**, **The Foreigner**, **Colis Postal**, **The Stranger from Africa**, **O Clandestino**, **Comedia Infantil** and **Battle of the Sacred Tree**.

Topics in Film: Five Directors (Part II)

•April 9, 8pm; April 10, 9pm **Passion** *1982.* Jean-Luc Godard presents a series of parallel and interwoven stories about provincial life, economic and gender conflicts, alienation and desire.

•April 10, 7pm **Hail Mary** *1985.* Jean-Luc Godard directs this highly controversial film about the modernization of the Annunciation and Nativity stories.

•April 17, 7pm **Andrei Rublev** *1966.* Director Andrei Tarkovsky presents a historical epic conceived as a monumental parable that portrays a great Russian medieval painter through the seven periods of his life.

Mapping and Fashioning Space

•April 18, 6:30pm **Sans Soleil** *1982.* Constructed from a series of letters sent by a free-lance cameraman to an unknown woman, this film presents portraits of distant locales captured in ravishing imagery.

Museum of Fine Arts

Most film screenings are $6.

Art on Film

•April 8, 2pm **Fresco** *1998.* The documentary from award-winning Deborah Boldt is the extraordinary story of artist Mark Balma, who spent two years lying on his back creating the largest modern fresco in the United States.

•April 15, 1pm **Program 1: Ted Clausen** Juan Mandelbaum's films about the artist includes **Last Alarm: The Vendome Firefighters Memorial** and **Words of Art**.

•April 15, 2:15pm **Program 2: Liliana Porter** Juan Mandelbaum's films continue with **For You** and **Liliana Porter: Fragments of the Journey**.

Premiere Engagements

•April 6 and 7, 6pm; April 8, 12:20pm **The City** *1998.* Director David Riker presents four separate stories of present-day immigrant life.

•April 12, 8pm; April 13, 6pm; April 14, 6pm and April 15, 11am **Home Page** *1999.* Acclaimed documentary filmmaker Doug Block focuses his analytical lens on our confession-crazed culture.

Special Screenings

•April 6, 7:45pm **The Last September** *1999.* Deborah Warner presents a film of complex portraits of people caught up in events beyond their control and the conflicts that arise as a new generation struggles to step beyond the past.

•April 16, 7:15pm **A Taste of Passover** *1998.* Director Juan Mandelbaum serves up a musical feast in celebration of Passover.

Scandinavian Film Festival

•April 7, 7:45pm **Under the Sun** *1999.* Director Colin Nutley focuses on a trio of rural characters in this 1950s film set in Sweden as the arrival of a mysterious woman in town marks the beginnings of conflict between two old friends.

•April 8, 10:30am **Benjamion Dove** *1995.* The coming-of-age-story directed by Gisli Snaer Erlingsson is set in 1970.

•April 8, 3:45pm **Witchcraft** *1999.* Set in 1643, this is the story of passionate idealist Rev. Jon Magnusson and his enduring faith through a series of attacks by Satan's sorcerers. Directed by Hrafn Gunnlaugsson.

•April 13, 8pm **Waiting for the Tenor** *1998.* Lisa Ohlin directs this beautiful black-and-white film about two childhood friends who meet and decide to make a film. In creating the script, they are transported to the summer that changed their lives.

•April 14, 8pm **The One and Only** *1999.* Susanne Bier directs Denmark's hit comedy about love's devious and bittersweet ways.

•April 15, 3:45pm **The Magnetist's Fifth Winter** *1999.* Delving into dark secrets and repressed memories, director Morten Henriksen tells a powerful story of transformation and release, and of love's complex ties.

Special Events

•Through May 4. This program features five German documentaries and a feature film titled **A Look to the East-Cinematic Discoveries in a Strange Yet Familiar World**. *Goethe Institut Boston, 170 Beacon St., Boston (262-6050). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Free admission.*

education

Advice to Contributors

Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Education. Or e-mail information to education@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

CLASSES/LECTURES

Wednesday, April 5

Bob Dylan: Artist

Cambridge Forum, the First Parish, 3 Church St., Cambridge (495-2727). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. Free. **Christopher Ricks**, professor of humanities at Boston University, discusses the poetry and lyricsal style of Bob Dylan's songs.

The Working Woman's Workshop

Westin Waltham Hotel, 70 Third Ave., Waltham (800-649-3378). www.workshop@mix98.5.com. 7:30-10am. Free. Mix 98.5's new series designed to address the challenges and needs of New England's professional woman. **Dr. Maria Mackavey** will present a session entitled "Choice and Consequence: Striving for Everyday Balance." **Karen Leibold** presents "Be a Lightening Rod! Becoming a Change Agent in the Workplace." **Mav Pardee** will close the morning with "Building the Corporate Culture: (Get a Life, or Get it Back!)"

Thursday, April 6

Christopher Lydon on Jazz

The Bostonian Society, Old State House Museum, State and Washington Streets, Boston (720-1713). Performance at 5:45pm and lecture at 6:30pm. Free. **Christopher Lydon**, host of WBUR's *The Connection*, looks at the lives and music of two legendary saxophonists Johnny Hodges and Harry Carney.

Ethnic Rivalries in the Commonwealth

Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). 12:15-1pm. Free. **John McClymer**, professor of history at Assumption College, reveals the story of how the Irish "stole" Columbus Day and of how others, especially Italians, Swedes and Yankees, reacted, illustrating how groups maneuvered for position in the ethnic pecking order. Cosponsored by the International Institute of Boston, the Japan Society of Boston, the United Nations Association of Greater Boston and the World Affairs Council.

Russia: Today and Tomorrow

The Max and Betty Walker Distinguished Speakers Forum, Temple Israel, 837 Humphrey St., Swampscott (781-595-6635). $150-$300. 7pm. 1990 Nobel Peace Prize Recipient and former president of the Soviet Union, **Mikhail Gorbachev** speaks.

Friday, April 7

Economic Boom for Whom? Building Roads to Shared Prosperity

Colonade Hotel, Boston (423-2148). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential. April 7-8. The stock market is booming, but the prosperity is not being shared. Who's doing something about it? Responsible wealth, a Boston-based of business leaders, investors and inheritors, is. This conference will explore the actions that business leaders and wealthy individuals can take to close the economic divide. Speakers include former Secretary of Labor **Robert Reich** and authors **Juliet Schor** (*The Overspent American*), **Amory** and **Hunter Lovins** (*Natural Capitalism*), and **Charles Derber** (*Corporation Nation*).

Monday, April 10

Mini-MBA Program

5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. April 10-14, 8:30am-4:3-pm. $1500. A five-day immersion program for business managers taught by Boston College, MIT, Bentley, Northeastern and Bradford University professors.

Spiritual Dimensions of Women's Sexual Experience

Schlesinger Library Visiting Scholar Coloquium Series, Schlesinger Library, 3 St. James St., Cambridge (495-8647). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 12pm. Free. **Gina Ogden** lectures on the women's sexual experience, from old images to new paradigms.

Tuesday, April 11

The Euro's Challenge to the Dollar: King Kong vs. Godzilla

World Affairs Council, Mezzanine Conference Room, Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston St., Boston (482-1740). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6-7:30pm. Free. A lecture by **Richard Heckinger**, senior vice president of State Street Bank and Daniel Scherman. At present, the dollar is used for international trade and financial transactions by people around the world. However, within a few years there will be more Europeans using the Euro than there are Americans using the dollar. Will this change the power of the dollar as an international currency?

Wednesday, April 12

Database Nation: The Death of Privacy in the 21st Century

Cambridge Forum, the First Parish, 3 Church St., Cambridge (495-2727). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. Free. **Simson Garfinkel**, columnist for the *Boston Globe*, discusses his new book on the impact that electronic technology is having on our right to privacy.

Sunday, April 16

The Cold War Through Khrushchev's Eyes

Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (929-4571). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. 2-3:30pm. Free. Few moments in history were as full of peril and promise as the period of the Cold War when a post-Stalin Soviet Union came under the dynamic leadership of Nikita Khrushchev. His son, **Sergei Khrushchev**, now a U.S. citizen and professor at Brown University, will discuss his new book *Nikita Khrushchev and the Creation of a Superpower*. **David Eisenhower**, grandson of the 34th president, will moderate.

Monday, April 17

Mission Control: We Have a Problem

Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (929-4571). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. 5:30-7pm. Free. Marking the 30th anniversary of Apollo 13, NASA Mission Control director **Gene Kranz** will discuss his new book, *Failure Is Not an Option*, providing an insider's account of the entire manned space program, including the flights of Alan Shepard and John Glen, Neil Armstrong's moonwalk, and the memorable return to Earth of Apollo 13.

Tuesday, April 18

The Military: What Role in U.S. Foreign Policy?

World Affairs Council, Mezzanine Conference Room, Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston St., Boston (482-1740). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6-7:30pm. Free. A lecture by Professor **Andrew Bacevich**, director of the Center for International Relations, Boston University, and **Lt. General Terry Scott**, U.S. Army (Ret.), director of the National Security Program at the John F. Kennedy School. Now that the Cold War is over, should the military respond to threats to U.S. interests? Should we fight wars or keep peace?

The son of Nikita Khrushchev (pictured right), Sergei Khrushchev, speaks at the JFK Library, April 16.

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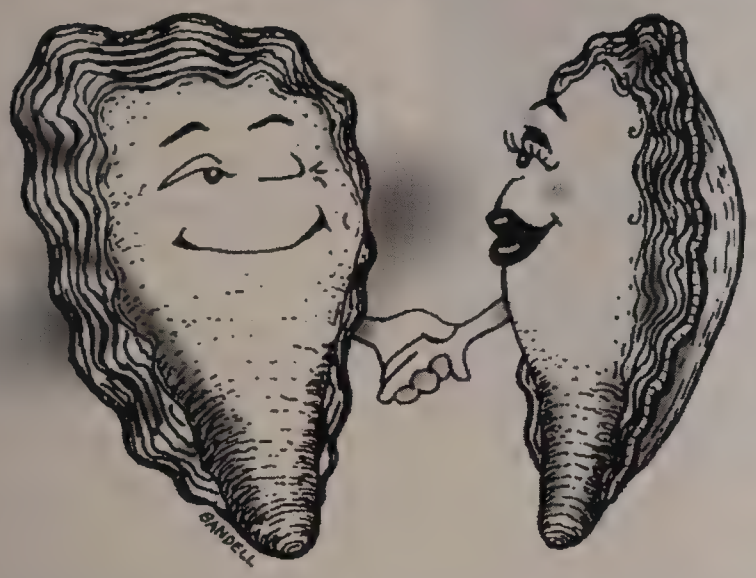

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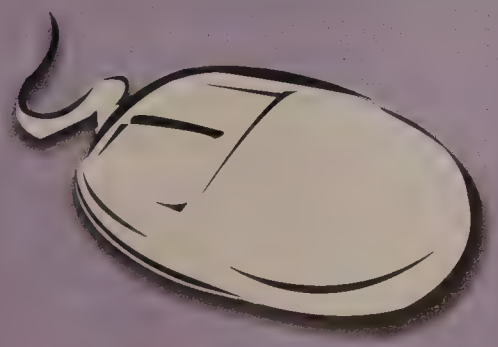

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READINGS & SIGNINGS

Wednesday, April 5

Blacksmith House Poetry Series
80 Boylston St., Emerson Room, Boston (824-8750). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 8pm. In an evening co-sponsored by Emerson College and the Blacksmith House Poetry Series, esteemed Polish poet **Adam Zagajewski** reads from his work. He is the author of several poetry collections, including *Tremor*, *Canvas* and *Mysticism for Beginners*.

Borders Bookshop
85 Worcester Road, Framingham (508-875-2321). 7:30pm. Authors **Pricilla Cogan** and **Duncan Sings Along** give a joint presentation. Cogan's latest, *Crack at Dusk, Crook of Dawn*, follows her Native American-themed bestsellers *Winina's Web* and *Compass of the Heart*. Native American storyteller Duncan Sings Alone, author of *Sprinting Backwards to God,* also speaks.

Poetry at MIT
MIT Room, 14-E-304, 160 Memorial Drive, Cambridge (253-7894). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. 7:30pm. One of the most respected experimental poets in the United States, **Fanny Howe** is the author of more than 20 books. She reads from her latest, *Selected Poems*.

Thursday, April 6

Authors at MIT
Weisner Building, First floor, 20 Ames St., Cambridge (253-5249). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. 6pm. In *Wild Minds*, Harvard professor **Marc D. Hauser**, an acclaimed scientist in the field of animal cognition, uses insights from evolutionary theory and cognitive science to examine animal thought. He reads from *The Design of Communication*.

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
279 Harvard Ave., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. **Sandra Shea** reads from her debut novel, *The Realm of Secondhand Souls*, and **Kate Wheeler** reads from her novel, *When Mountains Walked*.

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (236-7421). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free admission. **Karen Propp** shares passages from *The Pregnancy Project: Encounters with Reproductive Therapy*.

It's Never Too Late Poetry Group
Boston Public Library, Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (227-0845). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 2pm. The Stone Soup Poets and the Never Too Late Group of the BPL perform, featuring readers **Jack Powers**, **Joanna Nealon**, **Doug Holder**, **Lainie Senechal**, **Harris Gardener**, **Sarah Tyler**, **Walter Howard**, **Rhina Espaillilat**, **Buddha** and **Andy Levesque**.

Friday, April 7

Harvard Book Store Author Event
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 4pm. In honor of Stratis Haviaras, a number of respected writers speak: **Seamus Heaney**, **Stratis Haviaras**, **Peter Sacks**, **Jorie Graham** and **Forrest Gander**.

Newton Free Library Annual Luncheon
Newton Marriott, Comm. Ave., Newton (244-5318). 12pm. $25. This year's Book and Author Luncheon features writers **Robert Parker**, author of *Hugger Mugger,* and **Michael MacDonald**, author of *All Souls: A Family Story From Southie*.

Saturday, April 8

Bad Grrls Studios Event
209 Green St., Jamaica Plain (971-0082). 9pm. $5 suggested donation. This is a poetic tribute to Lord Buckley, a visionary jazz poet who combined the manners of English aristocracy with the language and cadences of Black America. Performances by **Jason Eisenberg** and the **James Merenda Group**.

Vox Pop and World Music Celebration
45 Danforth St., Jamaica Plain (787-9486). 7:30pm. $6. Three World Musicians, including **Vox Pop**, come together for a night of song and prose. Vox Pop performs their "bardic" style of poetry and world music, rooted in oral tradition. It features poets **Catherine Salmons** and **Elizabeth McKim**, who speak-sing their poems to music.

Sunday, April 9

Pro Arte Poetry
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (661-7067). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. $9-$39. The Reverend **Peter Gomes** steps out with Pro Arte and recites English country-style rap, narrating Walton's *Facade*, 21 poems set to 1920s dance music. The concert is led by Back Bay Chorale's **Julian Wachner**.

Words by the Words of Walden
Walden Pond, Art Gallery at park headquarters, Rte. 126 Concord (227-0845). 3pm. In honor of National Poetry Month, the Stone Soup Review presents a reading of Walden's poetry in a fitting scenic setting. Featured readers are **Jack Powers**, **Joanna Nealon**, **Harris Gardner**, **Lainie Senechal**, **Walter Howard**, **Sarah Tyler Buddah**, **Bill Perreault**, **Carole Weston**, **C.C. Arshagra**, **Andy Levesque** and **Dorinda Foley**.

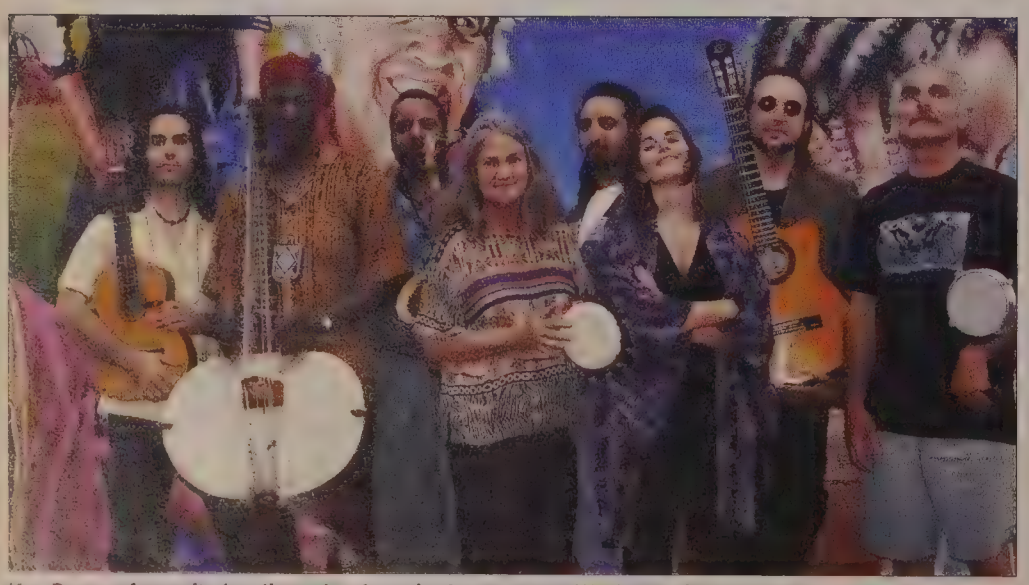
Monday, April 10

Poetry in the Park
Copley Square Park, Boston (536-5400 ext. 336). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6pm. Three poets read from their work in a program to celebrate National Poetry Month. Poetry in the Park features **Sapphire**, **Deborah Garrison** and Boston poet **Michael Casey**. A book signing follows the program.

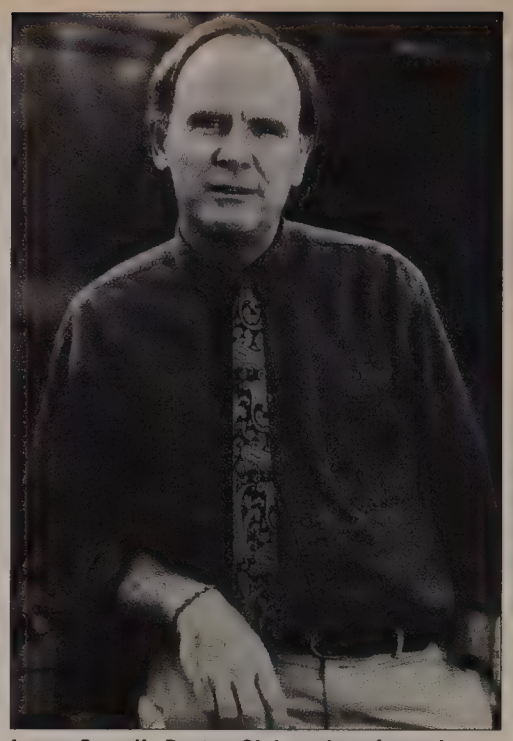
Tuesday, April 11

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
279 Harvard Ave., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Cambridge poet and *Pressed Wafer* editor **Daniel Bouchard** reads from *Diminuitive Revolutions* and Jamaica Plain poet Beth Anderson reads from *In Residence*.

The Conscience of History Discussion
Newton South High School, 140 Brandeis Rd., Newton (244-0228). 2:15pm. Boston Globe columnist and prize-winning author **James Carroll** discusses *The Conscience of History* at the 12th annual Lillian Shapiro Radlo Forum. Carroll is the author of *An American Requiem*, for which he was awarded the 1996 National Book Award in non-fiction. He's also published nine novels, including *The City Below*.



Vox Pop performs its bardic style of musical poetry at a World Music celebration on April 8.



James Carroll, *Boston Globe* columnist and author of nine novels, speaks on April 11.

Poetry Festival
Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). MBTA: Green D Line to Newton Highlands. 7pm. Free admission. The library celebrates its 27th annual Poetry Festival with readings by **Wendy Mnookin** (*To Get Here*), **Deborah DeNicola** (*More Light*) and **William Corbett** (*New & Selected Poems*).

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. **Eric Rickstad** reads from his debut novel, *Reap.* A Vermont native, he holds an MFA in creative writing from the University of Virginia.

Wednesday, April 12

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
279 Harvard Ave., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Cambridge poet **Tom Sleigh** reads from *The Dreamhouse* and Cambridge poet **David Rivard** reads from *Bewitched Playground*.

Harvard Bookstore Author Event
1256 Mass Ave., Cambridge (499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. **Richard Dawkins** addresses some of the most compelling topics in modern science, from astronomy and genetics to language and virtual reality, in *Unweaving the Rainbow: Science, Delusion and the Appetite for Wonder*.

Newton Free Library: Stephen Jay Gould
330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). MBTA: Green D Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Best-selling author and Harvard scientist **Stephen Jay Gould** speaks on his ninth collection of essays, *The Lying Stones of Marrakech*. In his new volume, he offers his unique perspective on natural history and the people who have tried to make sense of it.

Thursday, April 13

Authors at MIT
77 Mass Ave., Cambridge (253-5249). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. 6pm. Those who worry about personal privacy and identity in this day of technologies that perhaps encroach upon these rights, should hear **Simon Garfinkel**, a columnist for the *Boston Globe*, speak about his views on the subject. He is the author of *Architects of the Information Society* and *Spotting Spam*.

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (236-7421). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free admission. **Malcolm Gladwell** speaks from *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference*, a book about how we all try in different ways to make sense out of the world.

Friday, April 14

Jamaicaway Books and Gifts Event
676 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (983-3204). MBTA: Orange Line to Green St. 7:30pm. Free admission. **Lainie Senechal** and **Harris Gardner**, authors of *Chalice of Eros*, give a reading.

Saturday, April 15

Take a Stand
John Hancock Hall, 180 Berkeley St., Boston (725-0277). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 7:30pm. $50 and $25. This benefit for the Boston Women's Fund features three noted authors: **Dorothy Allison** (*Bastard Out of Carolina*), **Julia Alvarez** (*In the Time of the Butterflies*) and **Gloria Naylor** (*The Women of Brewster Place*).

Tuesday, April 18

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
279 Harvard Ave., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Contributors read from *The Blind See Only This World*, honoring the legendary Beacon Hill poet **John Wieners**.

ONGOING

Agape, Tuesdays
Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (266-6710). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8-10pm. Every Tuesday, this somewhat sophisticated poetry group gathers to share versions of their latest work. Everyone is welcome.

Cantab Lounge, Wednesdays
738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8-10pm. $3. Wednesday nights at the Cantab always packs in more than 30 poets in just two hours for open mike and a slam.

Club Passim, Tuesdays
47 Palmer St., Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. $5. All open mike fanatics must experience this open mike night—a training ground for up-and-coming performers, poets and storytellers. Sign up Tuesdays, 7:30pm.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Night, Sundays
1667 Mass Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. $4 cover. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes every Sunday to the featured poet of the week.

O'Brien's Pub, Mondays
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. A mix of rock and spoken word is performed one Monday a month at 9pm. Newcomers are welcome to take a shot during open mike nights.

Out of the Blue Poetry, Saturdays
Out of the Blue Gallery, 168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $3. This spoken-word and music event takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month and features music by Rob Gonzalez and his band, spoken word with Nola Kelley.

Rhythm and Muse Open Mike, Thursday
403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-6622). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook. A headlining poet is followed by an open mike session on the first Thursday of every month, 7:30pm.

Stone Soup Poetry Night, Mondays
Zeitgeist Gallery, 312 Broadway St., Cambridge (227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. $3. An ever-changing lineup of authors followed by an open mike session.

Bestsellers

HARDCOVER FICTION
1. **Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason** by Helen Fielding
2. **Harry Potter & the Chamber of Secrets** by J.K. Rowling
3. **Harry Potter & the Prisoner of Azkaban** by J.K. Rowling
4. **Brethren** by John Grisham
5. **Beowulf** by Seamus Heaney
6. **Make Way for Ducklings** by Robert McCloskey
7. **Conspiracy of Paper** by David Liss
8. **Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's Stone** by J.K. Rowling
9. **Daughter of Fortune** by Isabel Allende
10. **Lion's Game** by Nelson DeMille

HARDCOVER NON-FICTION
1. **Eating Well for Optimum Health** by Andrew Weil
2. **The Heartbreaking Work of a Staggering Genius** by Dave Eggers
3. **Who Moved My Cheese?** by Spencer Johnson
4. **Millionaire Mind** by Thomas Stanley
5. **Body for Life** by Bill Philips
6. **Tuesdays with Morrie** by Mitch Albom
7. **The New New Thing** by Michael Lewis
8. **All Souls** by Michael McDonald
9. **Tipping Point** by Malcolm Gladwell
10. **The Art of Happiness** by the Dalai Lama

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* The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is presented at the Wang Theatre by BankBoston Celebrity Series.

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LATE BLOOMERS

Triple Helix places chamber music veterans in a new setting. BY KEITH POWERS

Most chamber music ensembles get together in their formative years, while their members are studying in the conservatory. Not so with Triple Helix, the all-female piano trio that comprises violinist Bayla Keyes, cellist Rhonda Rider and pianist Lois Shapiro. Veterans from other well-known chamber groups, Triple Helix met and formed in 1995—when the women were all in their 30s or 40s. "It's difficult to found a group when you're that age," said violinist Keyes in a recent phone conversation. "It's like a late marriage. You're more formed and settled, you know what you want, and for that reason it's harder to get together. You're not quite as malleable as you were in your 20s." You can see how the fit works on April 16, when Triple Helix performs at Jordan Hall as part of the BankBoston Emerging Artist series.

"In 1995, Rhonda and I played in a benefit for Amnesty International," Keyes recalls, "and we totally enjoyed it. I didn't know that she and Lois were looking for a violinist. In the spring of '96, we first read together, and it went really well. We felt a kinship right away.

"We were lucky to find each other," Keyes continues. "We were all established in our careers, but we all wanted to do something else." That "something else," for Keyes, was actually two things. After years of playing in the prestigious Muir String Quartet, the violinist was anxious to explore the piano and string chamber repertory—and to play more new music.

"In Muir we did some premieres," she says, "but we were primarily a standard repertory group. My father was a composer, and I felt in a funny way that I was letting him down by not playing modern music. So Keyes left the Muir, and joined not only Triple Helix but also Richard Pittman's contemporary music orchestra, Boston Musica Viva. Although Triple Helix still ventures into the standard repertory, the violinist now finds herself knee-deep in new compositions.

"We've premiered seven works in our short existence," Keyes notes. The Celebrity Series concert is a mix of old and new, featuring an Andy Vores premiere called "Dark Mother," the Shostakovich E-flat trio, and the Beethoven "Ghost." Vores' works have been all over town the past few years: a new string quartet, a work for chorus and orchestra, and a piece for chamber orchestra have all gotten good reviews. This piece, titled "Dark Mother," is a programmatic work based on the Greek myth of Demeter. "It's the story that the Greeks used to explain the changing seasons. When Persephone is gone, Demeter, the goddess of the earth, kills everything for that part of the year," Keyes explains.

"The piece has four movements, representing parts of the myth. It's about 25 minutes long, and has about all the musical expression you can imagine. For example, the first movement is called Abundance, representing springtime, and it's incredibly luxurious, with lots of notes and runs and trills. You can practically smell the foliage growing. Later, during the kidnapping and later movements, there is more dissonance and horrible sound effects.

"It's an equally balanced work, and has beautiful writing for the strings and the piano. It feels good to play. I'm very happy with it," says Keyes. "All of Andy's stuff is very dramatic, and the rhythmic stuff really moves it along. One of people's complaints about modern music is that they can't feel a pulse. Andy's stuff has that. After all, we all move, that's who we are, and that part Andy exploits." When asked how it feels to be an "emerging artist," when her career is well into its second decade, Keyes can only laugh. "It is funny being labeled an emerging artist. But the ensemble is still young, so it's appropriate in that way."

The Triple Helix trio from left to right: Bayla Keyes, Lois Shapiro and Rhonda Rider

"We were all established in our careers, but we all wanted to do something else," says Bayla Keyes about Rhonda Rider and Lois Shapiro.

SUSAN WILSON

Coda

Sadly noted: the passing March 13 of pianist and educator **Luise Vosgerchian**, who spent more than 30 years at Harvard and mentored many prodigious talents, including **John Adams** and **Yo-Yo Ma**. South Bank Centre in London sold the first-ever "instant CD" to patrons who attended the **Pierre Boulez** 75th birthday celebration at Queen Elizabeth Hall on March 26. The concert included the world premieres of 12 tribute pieces to Boulez, commissioned by SBC and composed by **Luciano Berio**, **Harrison Birtwhistle**, **Elliott Carter**, **Gyorgy Kurtag** and others. The recording of the concert was available one hour after it ended. IB

classical music

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled Classical by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Classical Music or e-mail to classical@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers Web site information and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to deadline. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from many different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to doublecheck dates and times.

Wednesday, April 5

Eos Orchestra
Harvard University's Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. $12-$27. The New York-based Eos Orchestra, under the direction of Jonathan Sheffer, makes its New England debut with "Celluloid Copland."

Thursday, April 6

The Lives of the Saints
Boston Conservatory Theater, 31 Hemenway St., Boston (912-9142). 8pm. $7-$16. Thomas' "Four Saints in Three Acts" is based on the poetry of Gertrude Stein. This groundbreaking modern opera deals with the lives of the saints.

The Magic Flute
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. $28-$108. 7:30pm. Mozart's *The Magic Flute* concludes the BLO's season. The fairytale is about wicked queens, noble wizards and magical instruments set in a mythological land reminiscent of ancient Egypt.

Friday, April 7

Handel and Haydn Society
Jordon Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (482-6661). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. 8pm. $25-$49. Harry Bicket conducts a program of Brahms, Rossini and Schubert.

The Lives of the Saints
Boston Conservatory Theater, 31 Hemenway St., Boston (912-9142). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. 8pm. $7-$16. Same program as April 6.

The Magic Flute
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. $28-$108. 7:30pm. Same program as April 6.

Saturday, April 8

BankBoston Celebrity Series
Jordon Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (482-6661). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. 8pm. $30-$35. Celebrate America's most beloved music from Copland, Gershwin, Bernstein.

Boston Early Music Festival Concerts
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (536-3356). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8pm. $18-$42. This performance is based on millennial themes by Sons of Thunder, the male vocal group from Sequentia.

The Lives of the Saints
Boston Conservatory Theater, 31 Hemenway St., Boston (912-9142). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. 8pm. $7-$16. Same program as April 6.

Sunday, April 9

Handel and Haydn Society
Jordon Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (482-6661). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. 3pm. $11-$60. The Boston Cecilia will perform Handel's Messiah, directed by Donald Teeters.

The Magic Flute
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. $28-$108. 3pm. Same program as April 6.

New England Conservatory
Jordon Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (482-6661). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. 8pm. Free. Master pianist Russell Sherman celebrates his 70th birthday with works from Schumann.

Pro Arte Poetry
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (661-7067). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. $9-$39. The Reverend **Peter Gomes** steps out with Pro Arte and recites English country-style rap, narrating Walton's *Facade*, 21 poems set to 1920s dance music. The concert is led by Back Bay Chorale's **Julian Wachner**. The Pro Arte also performs Mozart's Serenade No. 11 in E-flat for eight winds.

The Boston Conservatory presents "Four Saints in Four Acts" by Virgil Thomson April 6, 7 and 8 at the Boston Conservatory Theater.

Weekly Back Cantata
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (536-3356). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 10am. Donations accepted. J.S. Bach: Cantata BWV 161.

Friday, April 14

BankBoston Celebrity Series
Jordon Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (482-6661). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. 8pm. $15. Today's performance is Beethoven's Piano Sonata No. 23 in F minor, Op 57, "Appassionata."

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 2:30pm. $12. The BSO features Scott Andrews, clarinet; Catherine French, violin; Joel Moerschel, cello; with Nina Ferrigno, piano.

Emmanuel Music Evening Series
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (536-3356). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8pm. $15-$100. G.f.Handel: "Brockes" Passion.

Saturday, April 15

BankBoston Celebrity Series
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $25-$45. The Preservation Hall Jazz Band performs the swingin' songs of old New Orleans.

Gardner Young Artists Showcase
280 The Fenway, Boston (566-1401). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 1:30pm. $4-$17. New World Guitar Trio with Tom Noren, David Patterson and Thomas Rohde.

Longy School of Music Concert
Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (876-0956). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. The concert features Joseph Lin, violin; Clara Novakova, flute; Jean-Bernard Marie, piano.

Sunday, April 16

BankBoston Celebrity Series
Jordon Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (482-6661). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. 3pm. $13-$18. Beethoven's Trio in D Major, Opus 70, no. 1 "The Ghost"; Vores' Dark Mother; Shostakovich's Trio in E minor, Opus 67.

Carnatic Vocal Concert
MIT's Wong Auditorium, the corner of Wadsworth and Amherst Streets, Cambridge (258-7971). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. 4pm. $10-$15. Enjoy the Carnatic Vocal Concert featuring Seshgopalan with Madurai T.N., Seshagopalan, vocal; Trivandrum S. Harikuma, violin and Trivandrum G. Vaidyanathan. Presented by MIT's Heritage of South Asia.

Monday, April 17

Boston Conservatory Theatre
Seully Hall, 8 The Fenway, Boston (912-9142). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. 6pm. Free admission. Gilbert Kalish's Piano Master Class.

Tuesday, April 18

Boston Conservatory Theatre
Seully Hall, 8 The Fenway (912-9142). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. 3pm. Free admission. Gilbert Kalish's Piano Master Series continues.

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Head to the Alley for a night out at the Sugar Shack—dance to funk, disco and plenty of hip-hop.

Nights

Mondays

Vertigo Mondays
Vertigo. Caesar and Giorgio throw a party for those of you who never stop dancin'. Smooth Lounge upstairs, Deep House downstairs. Dress slick. 10pm, no cover.

Static
Axis. DJ Jay Ine and the gorgeous drag shows hosted by Mizery. 10pm. 19+. $5 cover.

Tuesdays

Cigar and Jazz night
The Exchange. Smoke, lounge and listen to the smooth sounds of jazz. Plus, you score a free Gina Cigar and complimentary buffet. No cover.

Fat Tuesdays
Bill's. This off-the-hook night features DJ Chaos scratching out hip-hop music to college clubbers while house masters DJ Justin Hoffman and WBCN's DJ Jynx spin dance tunes. 11pm, $10 cover.

Got Milk?
Venu. If you're chic and fabu you'll be at Venu for Milk—a smart and devilishly hip party. Resident DJ Osheen spins house for the chic. Dress is funky. 21+.

Mingle Tuesdays
The Modern. This fancy schmancy spot screams très chic. More upscale than its Lansdowne neighbors, it's got a raw bar, vodka bar and late lounge. 10pm. 21+.

Zanzibar Tuesdays
The Big Easy. Dress to impress for Boston's premiere International Night. The Big Easy's got DJ Manolo, spinning Latin and international. 11pm. 19+. $10.

Wednesdays

College Night
The Aquarium. Guest DJ spins at 10pm.

Good Karma
Karma/Mambo. Misery plays host to a roster of rotating DJs. Expect a mixed crowd and special guest performers. 10pm. 19+. $5 cover.

Hibernia Wednesdays
Hibernia. DJ C.T.O. is the Godfather of Say Word night—with plenty of funk, rare groove, soul and old school hip-hop. 9pm. 21+. Cover varies.

Imagination
Backstage. DJs Freddy C. and Jonny C. spin top 40, dance and club classics. 10pm. No cover, 21+.

Modern Living
The Modern. DJ Raffy spins while minglers munch away on a raw bar and late lounge and sip martinis. 10pm. 21+.

Musical Mayhem
The Exchange. WBCN's DJ Jynx of Cybersounds plays bangin' funky house upstairs while Tym Ryan of WFNX and DJ Brisc spin in the vault. 10pm.

Pravda 116
Come spend the night with Boston's premiere promoters at one of the city's most decadent hot spots with DJ Alex and DJ Felix. Proper dress required, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
The Sugar Shack. If you're 19+ and a woman, you get in for free before 11pm—otherwise the cover is $10. Plenty of funk, disco and a lot of hip-hop. 10pm.

Thursdays

Adrenaline
Backstage. Tonight features special guest DJs from around the world spinning hard NYC House, with Jonny C. and Freddy C. starting the party. 10pm, 21+.

The Aquarium
Kiss 108 FM dance party featuring Randy from the Matty in the Morning Show. 10pm-1am. $3 cover.

Chrome
Axis. Resident DJs John Debo and Ali Ajami spin Mucky House and trance. 10pm. 19+. $10 cover.

Downtempo Lounging
The Modern. DJ Ricky Fatts spins while you enjoy the raw bar and vodka bar. 9pm-2am, 21+.

Emily's
Enjoy soul, house and dance music. Doors open at 5pm.

Funkalicious Thursdays
The Exchange. DJ G squared takes you on a blast from the past as he spins the sounds of '70s and '80s. Added bonus: free after work buffet. No cover.

Il Panino
The night features the best social playground for young professionals in Boston with cocktails, dancing, and hors d'oeuvres. Proper dress. 9pm. 21+.

International Thursday
Avalon. A predominantly Asian crowd fills up this nightspot as DJ Manolo spins Eurohouse and DJ Anthony spins Latin in the Playhouse. 10pm. 19+. $15.

Kit Kat Klub
Sugar Shack. This new night features guest DJs spinning hip hop to college clubbers, 10pm, 19+.

Latin Quarter
The Roxy. Time to get down as the Roxy breaks out hip shaking salsa, merengue and Latin dance mixes.

Lava Bar
Get Lifted. *Lavabar.com*. DJs Pouli Brien and phenom along with Verse D. bring you old school hip-hop, soul/funk and reggae. Doors open at 10pm. 21+.

Speed
Karma/Mambo. Special Guest DJs and resident DJs Bruno and Masta Millions spin the latest hip-hop and R&B. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover.

Venu
Swank American top 40 and house, featuring DJ Adilson, creator of the hottest Saturday night in the city, the Roxy.

Fridays

Avaland
Avalon. Everything about the room screams party. With world famous DJs spinning, including DJ Manolo and John Debo, this has become the single most NY-style club night. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover.

Backstage
Backstage kicks off its all-night dance party, part one with DJ Jonny C spinning N.Y.C. house, top 40 dance and funk. Doors open at 10pm. $5 cover, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans themed nightspot has some of the best mainstream DJs in town. Offering four bars and two lounges as well as billiards and a wraparound balcony, the Big Easy is a staple in Boston's nightlife.

Buzz Fridays
Buzz. Two rooms of cocktail delights: Roger M lays down both traditional Latin and international house tracks while upstairs visiting DJs pay homage to the house music gods. 11pm, $15 cover, 19+.

Emily's
An after work venue during the week, this spot transforms itself into a dance kingdom on weekends. Jam to soul, house and dance music. Door s open at 5pm.

Envy
This extraordinarily popular Friday night hot spot is filled with a swarming mass of sweaty 'n' ready dancers. You'll have plenty of choice dance partners. 9pm, $5 cover after 10pm, 21+.

Exchange Fridays
The Exchange. Up High, Tiziano and Maurizio, Boston's best DJ duo, guides you on a house trip while DJ G Squared opens the vault door with mainstream dance and hip hop. Doors at 9pm.

Focus
Hibernia. How can you go wrong with DJs Chuck Caseroc, Keith Kene and Skot Havens. 9pm, 21+.

Lava Bar
Life. *lavabar.com*. From the creators of Soul Revival, DJ Fran Englehardt spins ambient, soulful and deep house. Doors at 10pm.

Ultra Lounge
The Modern. DJ Mixin Matt Ruben. 9pm-2am,21+.

Nocturnal Fridays
Bill's Bar. WBCN day guy and football swami, Bill Abbate, spins up a delectable smorgasbord of rock with a pinch of roll. 9pm. $5 cover, 21+.

Sonic
Karma/Mambo. National guest rave DJs and DJs Venom and Courtney spin Hard House and Happy Hardcore in the Main Room, while Space Munkee and DJ Myth spin in the Mambo Lounge. 10pm. 19+. $15.

Roxy 2000
Roxy/Mondo Bar. What goes around, comes around. Go crazy as the intimacy of Roxy consumes you and DJ Felix spins house and international music throughout the night. 10:30pm. $15 cover, 21+.

Spin Cycle
Axis. Glitzed-out club hoppers make the progressive house beats of DJ Tim Ryan downstairs or DJ David James' retro tunes upstairs. 10pm, $12, 19+.

Venu
The scene is elegant and the line is long for this jacket-required international romp. Get your Gucci attire as DJ Tassos and DJ Arsit spin. 21+.

Saturdays

The Aqarium
Saturday night dance party hosted by resident DJ. 10pm-1am, $5 cover.

Downtown
Avalon. Resident DJs Manolo and Mattie O. gyrate your ass with the latest hits and club classics. 10pm. 21+. $15 cover.

Backstage
Get ready for part two of Backstage's all night dance party with DJ Freddy C spinning progressive house and top-40 dance. Doors open at 10pm, $5 cover, 21+.

Bill's Bar
DJ Laurie Gail with guest DJs promise to make Bill's a night full of dancing to the best of the '70s, '80s and '90s. 9pm, $3 cover, 19+.

Club Juliana
Boogieing cuties converge on Boston's newest Latin Night starting at 10pm. Dress to impress. $10.

Club Nicole
The faces are familiar and the mob thick for this exclusive, Euro trendsetter. DJ Alex spins eurohouse. Reservations recommended, jackets required. 21+.

Elements of Life
Karma/Mambo. DJ Supa Mario and world class DJs spin house music in the main room while DJ Hoffman plays funk in the Mambo Lounge. 10pm. 19+. $15.

Emily's
Serious soul, house and dance music. DJs spice up Saturday nights and transform this after-work venue into a dance kingdom. 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Envy
From 9pm-2am, DJ Tom Baxter blasts Top 40, house and dance throughout the night. 9pm, $5 cover after 10pm, 21+.

Exchange Saturdays
The Exchange. DJ Diesel renovates the upper level with full-on house while DJ Jynx spins all the funky beats in the lower Vault lounge 9pm.

Fajitas and Ritas
Chill out for the Weekly Dig Lounge Series with Alan Strack and Mason.

Hibernia Saturdays
Hibernia. Masters of house, techno and dance, DJs Dino and David West take the reins and whip the crowd into a frenzy. 9pm, 21+, cover varies.

Lava Bar
Tabu night means anything goes with DJ Fran and Kris Kono Unite. High-energy house with a taste of Latin beats. 10pm, 21+.

Miami Club Night
Club Joy/Yesterday's. Enjoy Boston's only Latin Night to feature La Rueda de Casino, a Cuban salsa game, and get a taste of Miami nightlife. 9:30pm (ladies free before 11pm), $10 cover, 21+ (ladies, 19+).

Mischief
The Modern. Feeling mischievous? Ultra lounging with decadent deserts and erotic electronica. 21+.

Mythos
Venu. Greek International with DJ Yorgo Jr. spinning the latest hits from the famous party islands of Greece.

Sugar Shack
Spice up your night with '70s, '80s and '90s dance music as DJ Rich Centi spins the hottest sounds.

X night
Axis. DJ Mike Gioscia spins cutting edge faves of '90s alternative while DJ David James spins '80s hits in the Left Over Lounge. 10pm, $10 cover, 21+.

Sundays

Avalon
Boston's biggest gay night. Special guest DJs and Resident DJ Darrin Friedman. 10pm, $10 cover.

Emily's
Industry Night "Club Soda" with DJ Silly. 10:30pm.

Exchange Sundays
A fusion of Heavy Lounge and Miami House. No cover.

Club Millennium 2000
Backstage. Special Guests DJs in rotation. Doors open at 10pm, ladies free before 11pm, 21+, proper dress.

Il Panino
Mainly attracting Euros, this night features music by DJ Alex of Boston Beat and DJ Roger M. 21+, no cover.

Latin Night
Karma/Mambo Lounge. Weekly Live Latin Bands. 10pm. 19+. $25 cover.

Salavation
This new Boston vibe serves up an intimate evening of soul provided by DJ Soul. $5, until 10pm.

Venu
Carnival comes to Boston every Sunday as DJ Adilson brings the heat of Rio to Venu, spinning the hottest music from Brazil. 21+. Call 338-8061 for reservations.

Raves

Till Dawn Breaks
Asylum Club, 1592 Main St., Springfield, Mass. (536-5482). April 28, 9pm-6am. $20 advance, $25 at the door. Experience Turbo Sound, stunning lights, dazzling lasers and two "plazma screens." DJs include DJ Bam Bam and Venom tag set, Ralphie "C", Tha Tekno Supahero, Mo 7s, Liquid X, Knowledge, Entrophy, Savior, Onassis, Weasel, Leap, Miko, Titus , Inanna and more.

Club Venues

Aquarium *65 Holland St., Somerville (623-3200). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (437-0300). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Backstage *25 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Boston (726-1110). MBTA: Blue Line to Government Center.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Buzz Boston/Europa *51-67 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park St.*
Club Juliana *20 Hudson St., Boston (542-4411).*
Club Nicole *40 Dalton St., Boston (236-4746). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*
Club Stella *1234 Soldiers Field Rd., Brighton (254-0554).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Upstairs, Boston (423-3649). MBTA: Red or Green Lines to Park Street.*
Envy *25 Boylston Place, Boston (542-3689). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Exchange *148 State St., Boston (723-7755). MBTA: Orange Line to State Street.*
Hibernia *25 Kingston St., Boston (292-2333). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Karma *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9595). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Lava Bar *575 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-7707). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (482-7799). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Oskar's *107 South St., Leather District, Boston (542-6756). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Salavation *20 Hudson St., Boston (781-668-2392). MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown.*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Theatre District, Boston (338-8061). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Vertigo *126 State Street, Boston (723-7277).*

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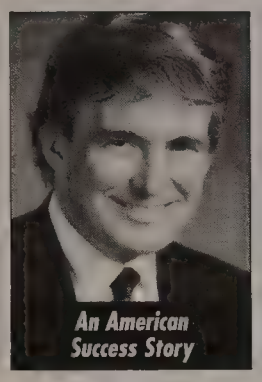

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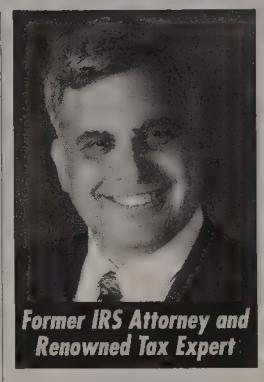

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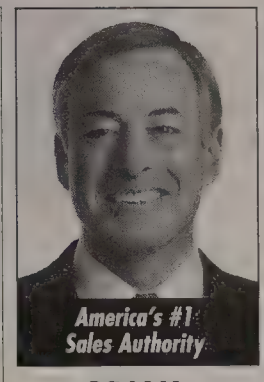

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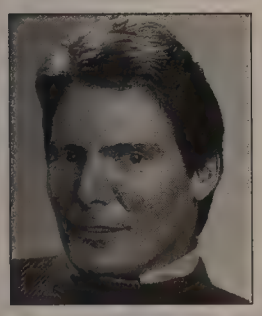

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THE OTHER LATIN EXPLOSION

The ever-touring dance band Cubanismo celebrates the legacy of Cuban music. BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

Jesús Alemany's voice fades in and out on the crackling phone connection. But the trumpeter-bandleader of Cubanismo isn't on the line from Havana. He's on a cell phone in California, on the road to Santa Cruz. "Exactly in the middle of the mountain," Alemany apologizes after one disconnection.

Alemany has seen a lot of roads and mountains over the past few years. Cubanismo has toured more than any of the other Cuban dance bands out beating the pavement, reintroducing Americans to the charms of Cuban music well before the Buena Vista Social Club exploded into public view. The group, which makes its fourth visit to Boston at the Roxy April 16, has released three CDs since its 1996 debut and has just completed another.

Not that Cubanismo is waiting until the summer release of its next album to get back on the bus. "We feel like little boys who are just starting our careers now, being in places that we've never been—it's a dream come true," says Alemany, 37, whose 14-piece group still includes singer Rolo Martinez and pianist Ignacio "Nachito" Herrera in its effervescent ranks. "We all enjoy to be on tour. We enjoy to be doing all this. It's kind of an adventure. We feel like we are discovering the world."

Cubanismo returns to Boston to play at the Roxy April 16.

"Don't forget where all the roots of the Latin music comes from. It's all the ingredients of the most popular rhythms that have been made. That's what people recognize."

And the world is discovering Cubanismo, a group whose concept came from Hannibal Records producer Joe Boyd. After seeing a Cuban jam session that the London-based Alemany arranged in Paris, Boyd asked him to return to Havana to make a CD with the same spontaneity of such a jam, or *descarga.* That spirit was maintained. Alemany says *Reencarnacion*, the band's third CD from 1998, is "100 percent live, with the whole band playing."

What has changed along the way—apart from some of the players—are the broad rhythmic styles, from son (which Alemany played for 16 years as a member of Cuban revivalists Sierra Maestra) to rumba, cha-cha, guaracha, danzon, guajira and many more. Some songs are revived and arranged by Alemany; others he composes himself, giving traditional music a contemporary feel, balancing the nostalgic with the modern.

"We're trying to take the most traditional element and bringing it to where we play," Alemany says. "We play the way that we're feeling this music, obviously, and it cannot be possible that we play it [the same] living in this most modern era, when everything is in motion faster."

The most recent turns that Cubanismo has taken were recording two tunes for a upcoming Bob Marley tribute disc, in addition to recording the band's fourth CD in New Orleans, incorporating musicians from the Crescent City.

"We took the music from there and added it to the Cuban way of playing, put in the Cuban rhythm as a background and maybe changed a little bit of the traditional harmony," Alemany reports. "Basically, the rhythm comes from Africa, the west part of Africa, so it's not far away from what we have in our [respective] countries." In the case of the Marley tribute, he adds, "We are combining ska with cha-cha, or reggae with salsa or the most modern way to play the Cuban music, which is called timba."

Not that Cubanismo strays too far from acoustic roots, the Cuban styles which predated the 1959 revolution, and the long gap before the recently eased blockade between our cultures. "The whole scene is growing up," says Alemany, who credits the island's danceable rhythms for the current Cuban music craze. "And the variety of the rhythm. Don't forget where all the roots of the Latin music comes from. It's all the ingredients of the most popular rhythms that have been made. That's what people recognize."

Hopefully restrictions will continue to bend in allowing the pure Cuban music to be heard. Alemany began studying trumpet at age 13 and two years later, joined Sierra Maestra (which was co-founded by later Buena Vista Social Club/Afro-Cuban All-Stars conductor Juan de Marcos Gonzalez). And today, Alemany is still out discovering the world. iB

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fax (859-1446); by mail to Calendar/Music; or by email to music@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, phone numbers and nearest T stops. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double check dates and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

Concerts

Bryan Adams
April 7, Orpheum Theatre.
Bela Fleck and the Flecktones
April 15, Orpheum Theatre
Mary Black
April 6, Symphony Hall
The Bobs
April 7, Somerville Theatre
Andrea Bocelli
April 7, Worcester Centrum Centre
Jose Carreras
April 14, Symphony Hall
Tracy Chapman
April 6, Orpheum Theatre
Charlatans UK and Stereophonics
April 9, Avalon
Cubanismo
April 16, the Roxy
Flaming Lips
April 18, Axis
David Grisman Quintet
April 15, Orpheum Theatre
Martin Hayes and Dennis Cahill
April 15, Somerville Theatre
Phil Lesh and Friends
April 8-11, Orpheum Theatre
Methods of Mayhem with Tommy Lee and Crazytown
April 10, Axis
Virginia Rodrigues
April 8, Somerville Theatre
The Rollins Band
April 5, Avalon
Violent Femmes
April 15, Avalon

CONCERT HALLS

Avalon
15 Lansdowne St., Fenway (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.
Orpheum Theatre
1 Hamilton Place, Boston (679-0810). MBTA: Red Line to Park Street.
Sanders Theatre
45 Quincy St., Cambridge (496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.
Somerville Theatre
55 Davis Square, Somerville (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.
Worcester Centrum Centre
50 Foster St., Worcester (508-755-6800).

Rock, Jazz and Blues

Wednesday, April 5

Bill's Bar
The Allstonians with Damn Personals, Dow Jones and the Industrials, 9pm. $7. 18+.
The Black Rose
Eugene Byrne. 9pm. 21+.
The Bristol Lounge
Solo jazz pianists Bob Winter and Bert Seager, 5pm.
The Burren
Michael Tarbox and Daniel Kellar, 10pm.
Cantab Lounge
Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
Club Passim
Sam Shaber, Anne O'Meara Heaton, Ina May Wool, Teddy Goldstein and Andrew Kerr and Edie Care, 8pm, $10.
Common Ground
What a Way to Go-Go, 10pm.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm.
The Good Life
Booty Juice, 8pm, no cover.
Harper's Ferry
Cone Head Buddha and Recipe, $5.

House of Blues
Jorma Kaukonen with Michael Falzarano and Pete Sears, 9pm, $20, 18+.
Johnny D's
Jennifer Mathews and also Grits, 8:30pm.
Kendall Cafe
Lime Green, 11pm, no cover.
Kirkland Cafe
Twisted Rico Acoustic Revue with Nell Bryden, Jill Kurtz, Nineteen, Fernachur, Kritix and Max Heinegg, $5.
Les Zygomates
The Izzi Rozen Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge
Wide Iris, 10pm, 21+.
Middle East
U: The Blacks, $6, 18+. D: Dirty Three, Storm and Stress and Shannon Wright, 8pm, $8, 18+.C: Lisa Schneckenburger, 7pm. Belly Dancing, 10pm.
Milky Way
Solaris with guest DJ Al Fougy.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Hegart, 6pm; Boston Folk and Singers Club, 9pm.
Playhouse
Emerson Explosion, 9:45pm.
The Rack
Hung Jury, 9pm, no cover.
Regattabar
The Pierre Hurel Trio, 8:30pm, $10.
Sculler's Jazz Club
Dan Hicks and the Acoustic Warriors, 8pm and 10pm, $15.
Toad
Lil' Memphis, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Planeside, Phenol, Tiger Saw, Hospital.

Thursday, April 6

Bill's Bar
The Underground with DJ Mark Hamilton, Darkbuster with Drexel and Vigilantes, 9pm, $7, 18+.
The Black Rose
Eugene Byrne, 9pm, 21+.
The Bristol Lounge
Solo Jazz Piano players Bob Winter and Bert Seager. 5pm.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Club Passim
David Goldfiner and Peter Keane, 8pm, $12.
Common Ground
Brothers and Sisters Night featuring King J, 10pm.
Dick's Last Resort
Michigan Black Smoke, 8pm.
The Good Life
Melvin Sparks Band, 8pm, no cover.
Green Street Grill
Giancarlo Buscaglia.
House of Blues
Jorma Kaukonen with Michael Falzarano and Pete Sears, 10pm, $20, 18+.
Jake Ivory's
Paul Levesque and Matt Mello, 7:30pm.
Johnny D's
Whirlgig and Irene Kelly, 9pm, cover varies.
Kendall Cafe
Josh Ritter, Mike Plume Band, Pluckylongtones, 9pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe
Dana Edelman, Michael Carreras and Mackenzie Grant, $5.
Les Zygomates
The Jinga Trio, 8pm, no cover.
The Linwood
Mumbo Jumbo, Chrissi and Jigawattica, 10pm, $5.
Lizard Lounge
Club d'Elf, 10pm, $9, 21+.
Middle East
U: Feedback, Den Mothers, Tips 14s and Digital Blue, 18+, $7. D: Project Logic and Actual Proof, 18+, $12. C: Tony Marino quartet, 7pm.
Milky Way
The Damn Personals, the Ivory Coast, Fashion Colt, Claudia Malibu.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Carroll, 8pm.
Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett, 9pm, $3.
The Rack
The Return, 6:30pm, no cover.
Regattabar
The Gonzalo Rubalcaba Trio, 8:30pm, $12.
T.T. the Bear's Place
GarageDogs, Averi, Lemon Peeler.

Friday, April 7

The Attic
Slipknot, cover varies, 21+.

Brazilian singer Virginia Rodrigues gives a richly soulful concert April 8 at the Somerville Theatre.

Bill's Bar
The Ready Maker with Super Genius, 9pm, $7, 18+.
The Black Rose
Celtic Clan and Eugene Byrne, 9pm, $5, 21+.
The Bristol Lounge
Solo jazz pianist player Bert Seager, 5pm; Suzanne Davis Jazz Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers. 9pm.
Club Passim
Les Sampou, 8pm, $12.
Common Ground
Banjo Spiders and Who's the Fat Guy?, 10pm.
Coogan's Bluff
Novakane, 9pm, $3, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band and Soul City, 7pm, no cover.
The Good Life
Roxbury Blues Aestetic, 8pm, no cover.
Green Dragon Tavern
Swinging Johnsons, 8pm.
Green Street Grill
Delta Blues and the Tarbox Ramblers, 11pm.
Harper's Ferry
Taylor Made Band, $6.
House of Blues
Rebirth Brass Band, 10pm, $12, 21+.
Jake Ivory's
Bill Connors and Paul Levesque, 7:30pm.
Johnny D's
Mudhens, 9:45pm, cover varies.
Jose McIntyre's
Pocket Trash, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Kendall Cafe
Antje, One Elle and the Nathan Thompson Band, 9:30pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe
Bombastics, Flexie and the Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
Les Zygomates
Paul Beaudry Trio with Alvin Terry, 9pm, no cover.
The Linwood
Sterlings, Tracy Husky and CrEme Brulee, 10pm, $6, 21+.
Lizard Lounge
Chandler Travis, 10pm, 21+.
Middle East
U: Karate, Pedro the Lion, Radio 4 and TW Walsh, $8, 18+. D: the Original P and Sweet Mama Thunder, $25, 18+.
Milky Way
Star Ghost Dog, the Fly Seville, Say Hi to Lisa, the Modifiers.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Fogal, Tom Carroll and DJ Sean, 9:30pm.
Purple Shamrock
Cape Fear, 9pm, $5, 21+.
The Rack
Hit Squad, 6:30pm, no cover.
Regattabar
The Gonzalo Rubalcaba Trio, 8pm and 10pm, $14.
Skybar
Janke, 21+, $5.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Chubby, Long Distance Runner and the Dubnicks, $6, 18+.
Toad
Amphibian, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Maggie Galloway, 9pm.
Wonderbar
Johnny Horner and the Joe McMahon Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Saturday, April 8

The Attic
Carla Ryder CD release party with Oliver Clarke and Chris Canty, cover varies, 21+.
Axis
3 Doors Down, Shades Apart, Nickleback and Peter Searcy, 5:30pm, $10 advance.
Bad Girrls Studios
A tribute to jazz poet Lord Buckley with Jason Eisenberg and the James Merenda Group, 9pm, $5.
Bill's Bar
Papa Roach with guest, 6:30pm, $5,18+.
The Black Rose
Frank Ryan, 3:30pm; Celtic Clan and Eugene Byrne, 9pm, $5, 21+.
The Bristol Lounge
Solo Jazz pianist Bert Seager, 5pm; Suzanne Davis Jazz Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
The Burren
Tarbox Ramblers, 10:30pm, $3.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Club Passim
David Mallett and Adrianne Jones, 8pm, $15.
Common Ground
Booty, 10pm.
Coogan's Bluff
The Return, 9pm, $3, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators and Blue Soul, 7pm.
The Good Life
Patrice Williams, 8pm, no cover.
Green Street Grill
Giancarlo Buscaglia.
Harper's Ferry
Super Honey with Pressure Cooker, $7.
House of Blues
NRBQ, 10pm, $15, 21+.
Jake Ivory's
Aruna Abrams and Paul Levesque, 7:30pm.
Johnny D's
Toni Lynn Washington and Bobby Keyes, 9:45pm, cover varies.
Jose McIntyre's
Syndicate. 9pm. $5. 21+.
Kendall Cafe
Matt Nathanson, Den of Thieves, Nom De Plume CD release party, 9:30pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe
Solomon with Allette Brooks, $5.
Les Zygomates
Chiara Civello, 9pm, no cover.
The Linwood
Roadsaw, Half Cocked CD release and Waltham, 10pm, $6, 21+.
Lizard Lounge
Merrie Amsterburg, 10pm, 21+.
Middle East
U: Stocklan, Woodland Creatures and Psychotic Larry, $7, 18+. D: Rippopatomus, $8, 18+.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Fogal, Tom Carroll and DJ Wayne, 9:30pm.
Purple Shamrock
Pig Pen, 9pm, $5, 21+.
The Rack
Vinnie Peruzzi Dance, no cover.
Regattabar
The Gonzalo Rubalcaba Trio, 8pm and 10pm, $16.
Slades
John Dougherty Hammond Trio, 8pm.
Toad
Nash Satterfield, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
The Popgun Seven, the Getaway People, the Whole Tribe Sings, Honest Bob.

Sunday, April 9

The Attic
The Coalboilers, 9:30pm, 21+.
Bill's Bar
Reggae Sunday with DJ K-Don; Tribute to Bob Marley, 9pm. $8.
The Black Rose
Frank Ryan, 3:30pm; Eugene Byrne, 9pm, 21+.
Brandeis University
The Great Horned Festival presents Run-DMC, moe, Less Than Jake and 10,000 Maniacs, 11am-6pm, $15.
Cantab Lounge
Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
Club Passim
Larry Pattis and El McMeen, 7:30pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort
Bible Tones, Gospel Brunch, 10am-3pm; Rob Gonzalez, 7pm, no cover.
The Good Life
Grant Langford Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Green Dragon Tavern
Swinging Johnsons, 8pm.
House of Blues
Jazz Composer's Alliance presents The World of Muddy Waters, 9pm, $10, 18+.
Kendall Cafe
Tom Glynn Duo, Division St., 9pm, no cover.
Kirkland Cafe
World Beat Jam with Le Cous Cous.
Lizard Lounge
Poetry Jam featuring the Jeff Robinson Trio, 8pm, 21+.
Middle East
U: Eszter Balint, Mike Errico, 7pm, 18+, $7.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Carroll, 8pm.
The Rack
Chad Lamarsh Band, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
High Wire Moves, Great Day For Up, Bench Head.
Toad
Leicester Flat, no cover.
Wonderbar
Johnny Horner and the Joe McMahon Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Monday, April 10

Bill's Bar
NOK with Controlled Aggression and Specimen X, 9pm, $5, 18+.
The Black Rose
Tony O'Riordan, 9pm, 21+.
The Bristol Lounge
Solo Jazz pianist Bob Winter , 8pm.
Cantab Lounge
Geoff Bartley's open mike, 8pm; James O'Brien, 9:30pm.
Club Passim
Country and Bluegrass, 7:30pm, $5.
Johnny D's
Hot Tamales Brass Band, 8pm, cover varies.
The Good Life
Waldron Ricks Trio, 8pm, no cover.
House of Blues
Johnny A., 9pm, $10, 18+.
Karma
Catherine Wheel, 8pm, $15, 18+.

Martin Hayes and Dennis Cahill perform together at the Somerville Theatre April 15.

BILL AKWA

Kendall Cafe
Pamela Ruby Russell, Kendra Flowers, 9pm.
Lizard Lounge
The Fringe, 10pm, 21+.
Milky Way
Audio Explorations, Mark Robinson and Un Cuerpo Exquisito.
Purple Shamrock
Dave Smyth, 9pm, 21+.
The Rack
Stu Sinclair, 8pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Sal Baglio, Al Halliday, Steve Gilligan, Rick Harris.
Toad
Union Sq. Screw Machine and the Tim Gearan Band, 8pm, no cover.
Wonderbar
Johnny Horner and the Joe McMahon Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Tuesday, April 11

Avalon
Tower of Power and Average White Band, 8pm, $22.
The Black Rose
Sunday's Well, 9pm, 21+.
The Bristol Lounge
Solo Jazz Piano player Bob Winter , 8pm.
Cantab Lounge
Howie Tarnower, 9pm; Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 10pm.
Club Passim
Open mic, 8pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort
Beatown Bar Band, 7pm.
The Good Life
Izzi Rosen Trio, 8pm, no cover.
House of Blues
Boukman Eksperyans, 10pm, $15, 18+.
Johnny D's
Fishman Tranducers presents Curio, 8:30pm.
Kendall Cafe
Maya Dorn, Greg Klyma, Willem Hartong, 9pm, $4.
Les Zygomates
The Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Middle East
U: Handsome Family, 18+, $7. D: Virtuoso, 7L, Elliot Ness, Quickspace and the Beyonder, $10, 18+.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Dave Smyth, 7pm.
The Rack
James McKenna.

Half Cocked celebrate the release of their new CD *Occupation: Rock Star* April 8 at the Linwood.

Regattabar
The Jon Jarvis Trio, 8:30pm, $10.
Sculler's Jazz Club
Stacey Kent, 8pm and 10pm, $12.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Style 17, Buzzmingler, Sand Machine, Poetry and the Models, 18+.
Toad
Asa Brebner with the Melancholy Smears, Michael Tarbox and Godboy, 7pm, no cover.

Wednesday, April 12

The Black Rose
Sunday's Well, 9pm, 21+.
The Burren
Michael Tarbox and Daniel Kellar, 10pm.
Cantab Lounge
Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
Club Passim
David Rovics, 8pm, $7.
Common Ground
What a Way to Go-Go, 10pm.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm.
The Good Life
Booty Juice, 8pm, no cover.
House of Blues
Liquid Soul, 9pm, $10, 18+.
Johnny D's
Juliana Hatfield, 8:30pm, cover varies.
Karma
Kelis, 7pm, $12, 18+.
Kendall Cafe
Douglas September, 11pm, no cover.
Kirkland Cafe
Mung Mania with Chris Mascara, Tim Mungenast and Shaving Lilith, $4.
Middle East
U: Alkaline Trio, Pinehurst Kids, Selby Tigers and Jericho, 18+, $6.
Milky Way
Solaris with guest DJ Brynmore.
Paddy Burke's
Boston Folk and Singers Club, 9pm.
Playhouse
Emerson Explosion, 9:45pm.
The Rack
Big City Beat, 9pm, no cover.
Regattabar
Ron Bosse and Pursuance, 8:30pm, $10.
Sculler's Jazz Club
Maria Muldaur, 8pm and 10pm, $14.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Atomic Fanfare, Troy, Fixation, Woody.
Toad
Cranktones, no cover.

Thursday, April 13

Bill's Bar
The Underground with DJ Mark Hamilton, Lo Phat with Project DH and Throe, 9pm, $7, 18+.
The Black Rose
Sunday's Well, 9pm, 21+.
The Bristol Lounge
Solo jazz pianists Bob Winter and Bert Seager, 5pm.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Club Passim
Dave Moore and Alastair Moock, 8pm, $10.
Common Ground
Brothers and Sisters Night featuring King J, 10pm.
Dick's Last Resort
Entrain, 8pm, no cover.
Green Street Grill
Giancarlo Buscaglia.
House of Blues
James Cotton, 10pm, $20, 21+.
Guy Davis, 8pm, $10/$12, 18+.
Jake Ivory's
Matt Mello with Josh Nelson, 7:30pm.
Johnny D's
Brother Chameleon, 9pm, cover varies.
Kendall Cafe
Polly Fiveash and Anand Nayak, Divya Kumar, Three Against Four, 9pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe
BJ Snowden, Good People and Effie, $4.
The Linwood
Brothers Fizz, Fernachur and Fireking. 10pm, $5.
Lizard Lounge
Say Zuzu, 9pm.
Middle East
U: Andrew Bird's Bowl of Fire, Nora O'Connor and Sin Ropas, $8, 18+.
Milky Way
Car Models Blue, Asciento, Kolya.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Carroll, 9pm.
Playhouse
Garyoke, 9:45pm.
Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett, 9pm, $3, 21+.
The Rack
The Return, 6:30pm, no cover.
Regattabar
The Dave Holland Quintet, 8:30pm, $12.
Sculler's Jazz Club
Linda Eder, 8pm and 10pm, $40.
T.T. the Bear's Place
The Jazz Butcher Conspiracy, AEUK, Shelley Winters Project, Device.

Friday, April 14

The Attic
Jude Crossen with Stargazer Lily, 21+, cover varies.
Bill's Bar
NEMO presents Cheerleadr, Stereo Mud, Rocket Science, the Brilliant Mistakes and Star Ghost Dog, 8pm, $8, 18+.
The Black Rose
The Crossing and Sunday's Well, 9pm, $5, 21+.
The Bristol Lounge
Solo jazz pianist player Bert Seager, 5pm; Suzanne Davis Jazz Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
The Burren
Dave Foley, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers and the Phil Pemberton Band, 9pm.
Club Passim
Robby Baier, Andrew Kerr, Joel Cage, Bruce Henderson, Rebecca Martin, Melissa Ferrick and the Push Stars, 8pm, $15.
Coogan's Bluff
Off the Wall, 9pm, $3, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort
Prom Night 1980 with rockin' bands, contests, food and drinks, 5pm, no cover.
Green Dragon Tavern
Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
Green Street Grill
Delta Blues and the Tarbox Ramblers, 11pm.
House of Blues
NEMO presents Cosmos Factor, Tony Brown, Hot Like Fire, Rumbafrica, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Jacques
TunnelVision, 9:30pm, 21+.
Jake Ivory's
Bill Connors and Josh Nelson, 7:30pm.
Johnny D's
NEMO with Laurie Geltman, Garrison Field and the Holt Hopkins Band, 9:45pm, cover varies.
Jose McIntyre's
Thomas Park, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Karma
Acoustic Junction with the Cristopher Robin Band, 6:30pm, $8, 18+.
Kendall Cafe
NEMO Showcase presents Random Access Memory, Jennifer Matthews, Brandon Sweeney, Tammy Raybould, Carmelina Cupo, Wall of Grass featuring Ramona Silver, 8:45pm, $7.
Kirkland Cafe
Mickey's Monkey with Mickey Clean and the Mezz, Asa Brebner, Lyres, 10 Star General and the Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
Les Zygomates
The Lance Martin Trio, 9pm, no cover.
The Linwood
NEMO presents 7th Rail Crew, SEV, OHM and Rumble, 10pm, $6, 21+.
Lizard Lounge
The Buck Dewey Big Band, Coots, Lars Vegas, Lorenzo's Music and Seks Bomba, 10pm, 21+.
Middle East
U: Vic Firecracker, the Blank Theory, Helicopter Helicopter, Rocket to Mars, Silo the Huskie, 8:30pm, 18+, $8. D: The Shods, Orbit, the Exes, Seven Nations, Cash, MC'd by Double Dong, 8:30pm, 18+, $8.
Milky Way
Le Tigre, the Need, the Green Four, the Art School Cheerleaders.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Fogal, Tom Carroll and DJ Sean, 9:30pm.
Playhouse
Gary Gore with Burt and Mike, 11:45pm.
Purple Shamrock
Syndicate, 9pm, $5, 21+.
The Rack
Search Party, 6:30pm, no cover.

The Bobs show off their unique a cappella-pop style April 7 at the Somerville Theatre.

Regattabar
The Dave Holland Quintet, 8pm and 10pm, $14.
Sculler's Jazz Club
Jon Hendricks and Annie Ross, 8pm and 10:30pm, $25.
T.T. the Bear's Place
NEMO Showcase presents Waltham, Clyde, Quick Fix, Starling, Missing Joe.
Toad
Brendan O'Donnell, Tad Rule, Al Rose and the Transcendos, Ralph Covert and the Sara Wheeler Band.
Top of the Hub
Maggie Galloway, 9pm.
Wonderbar
Johnny Horner and the Joe McMahon Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Saturday, April 15

The Attic
Sunflower with Miss Fortune, 21+, cover varies.
Bill's Bar
NEMO presents the Outlets, Big Bad Ballocks, the Pills and Little Red Rocket, 8pm. $8. 18+.
The Black Rose
John Corcoran, 3:30pm; the Crossing and Sunday's Well, 9pm, $5, 21+.
The Bristol Lounge
Solo jazz pianist Bert Seager, 5pm; Suzanne Davis Jazz Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
The Burren
Tarbox Ramblers, 10:30pm, $3.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers and the Phil Pemberton Band, 9pm.
Club Passim
Kyler, Leni Stern, Lori McKenna, Lach, Mark Erelli, Pat Shazar, Mila Drumke Band and Jess Klein, 8pm, $15.
Coogan's Bluff
Guy Smiley, 9pm, $3, 21+.
Cooperfield's
The Hollows, 11:30pm.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, Soul City, 7pm, no cover.
Green Street Grill
Giancarlo Buscaglia.
Harper's Ferry
NEMO show with Superhoney.
House of Blues
NEMO presents Tony Santos, John Cambell John, Andrew Clark, Bruce Katz, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Jake Ivory's
Aruna Abrams and Matt Mello, 7:30pm.
Johnny D's
NEMO with Boogaloo Swamis, Swampedelica and Le Cous Cous, 9:45pm, cover varies.
Jose McIntyre's
Punch Monkey, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Kendall Cafe
NEMO Showcase with Kristin Cifelli, Jabe, Heather Eatman, Adrianne, Dave Bush and Food, 9pm, $7.
Kirkland Cafe
The Bell Tones, $5.
Les Zygomates
The Little Robin Trio, 9pm, no cover.
The Linwood
NEMO presents Colepitz, Gangsta Bitch Barbie, Toxic Field Mice and Big Wig, 10pm, $6. 21+.
Lizard Lounge
Johnny A, Jennifer Marks, Ball in the House, Stargazer Lily and Hypnotic Kick, 10pm, 21+.
Middle East
U: Godboy, Scout, Ms. Pigeon, Basement Poets and the Banjo Spiders, 18+, $8. D: Angry Salad, 7th House, Ballin the House, Longwave and Seventeen, 8:30pm, 18+, $8.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Fogal, Tom Carroll and DJ Wayne, 9:30pm.
Playhouse
The Kara Tondorf Band, 11:45pm.
Purple Shamrock
Bacchanalia, 9pm, $5, 21+.
The Rack
Vinnie Peruzzi Dance, no cover.

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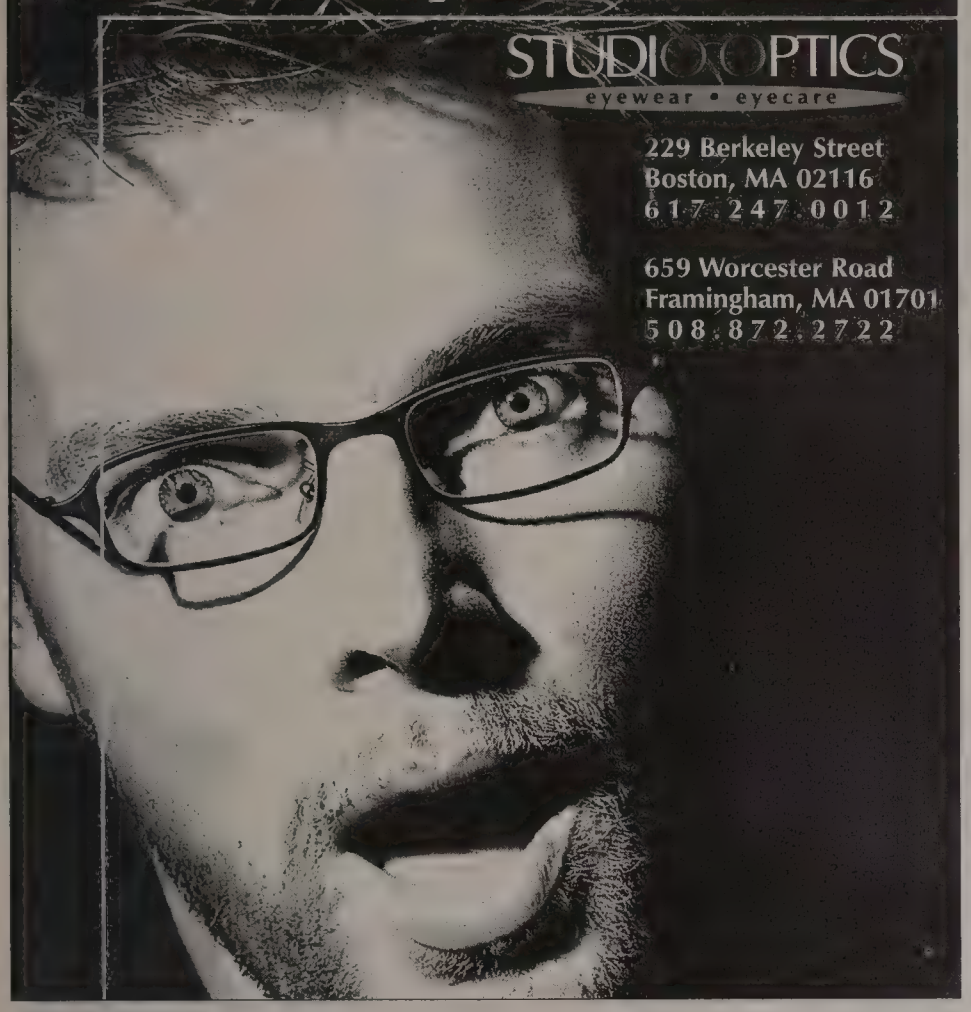

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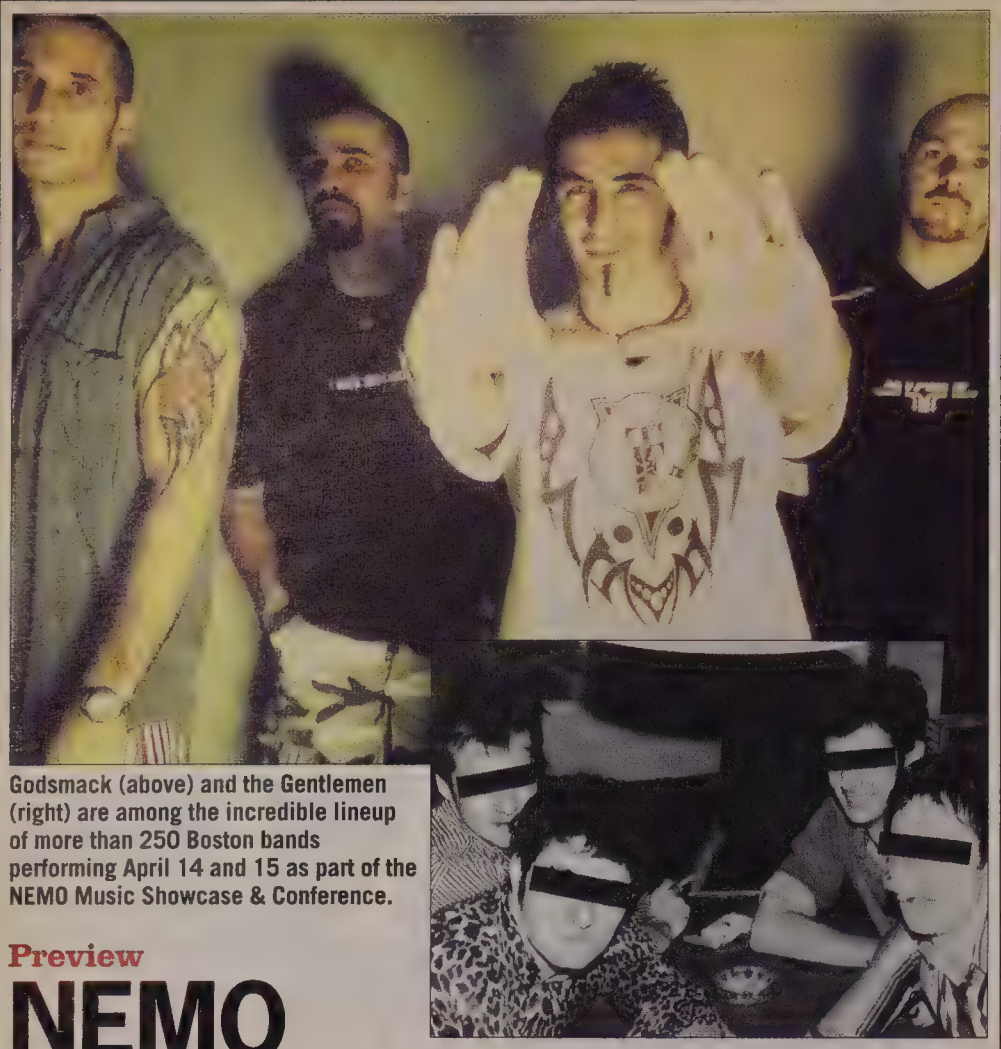

Godsmack (above) and the Gentlemen (right) are among the incredible lineup of more than 250 Boston bands performing April 14 and 15 as part of the NEMO Music Showcase & Conference.

Preview

NEMO

Last month, hordes of Boston rockers and music media types returned from Austin, Texas, gushing over the annual schmooze-booze music fest known as South by Southwest. This music conference, one of the largest and most highly esteemed in the country, is basically like spring break for grown-ups. And we're a little bitter we didn't get to go.

Luckily, Boston has its own version of South by Southwest. The NEMO Music Showcase & Conference (April 14 and 15) draws thousands of musicians, music fans and industry insiders every year—last year it hauled in a record 15,000 attendants to see more than 200 indie and unsigned artists. By day, NEMO takes the form of a giant conference at Boston's Swissotel, as 1,500 high-profile reps from record labels, Internet music companies, booking agents, publishers and artists meet to network in a giant schmoozathon. By night, more than 25 clubs showcase hundreds of local bands—everything from Axis to the Abbey Lounge is filled with a mix of rock, hip-hop, folk, ska, R&B, blues and country.

One of the biggest events of NEMO is the 13th Annual Kahlua Boston Music Awards, held April 13 at the Orpheum Theatre. Hosted by MTV's Dave Holmes, the KBMA featuhonors Boston artists in 37 categories and features performers Godsmack, Donna Summer, Gang Starr, Susan Tedeschi, the Push Stars, Orchestra Morphine, Angry Salad and the Sheila Divine. The keynote speaker is the music man himself—Ahmet Ertegub, legendary founder of Atlantic Records. Here are some of the bands you might see take home an award.

New Rock Band (on indie label)	Best Live Band	Club Band (Best Live Show)	Blues Act
Helicopter Helicopter	Canine	Canine	Paul Geremia
Hybrasil	Cheerleadr	Cheerleadr	Bruce Katz Band
Mishima	Gravel Pit	Gravel Pit	Mr. Airplane Man
Piebald	The Sheila Divine	The Sheila Divine	Chris Smither
Seventeen	The Shods	The Shods	Susan Tedeschi
Star Ghost Dog	Superhoney	SuperHoney	
Waltham	Two Ton Shoe	Two Ton Shoe	
Wheat			

Check out www.nemoboston.com for more information.

Regattabar
The Dave Holland Quintet, 8pm and 10pm, $16.
Sculler's Jazz Club
Jon Hendricks and Annie Ross, 8pm and 10:30pm, $25.
Slades
John Dougherty Jazz Trio, 8pm.
T.T. The Bear's Place
NEMO Showcase with the Gentlemen, Sound of Urchin, the Red Telephone and the Control Group.
Toad
Coby Brown Group, 8pm; Matt Witte and Steve Singh, 9:30pm; Alice Project and Alastair Moock, 12:30am, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Maggie Galloway, 9pm.

Sunday, April 16

The Attic
The Coalboilers, 9:30pm, cover varies, 21+.
Cantab Lounge
Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
Coogan's Bluff
Thomas Park, 9pm, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort
Silver Lining, 10am; Rob Gonzalez, 7pm.
Green Dragon Tavern
Swinging Johnsons, 8pm.
House of Blues
Princes of Babylon, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Kendall Cafe
Tom Glynn Duo, Division St., 9pm, no cover.
Kirkland Cafe
World Beat Jam with Le Cous Cous.
Lizard Lounge
Poetry Jam with the Jeff Robinson Trio, 8pm, 21+.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Matt Brown, 8pm.
The Rack
Chad Lamarsh Band, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
The Loud Family, Baby Ray, Capital City, $7.
Wonderbar
Johnny Horner and the Joe McMahon Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Monday, April 17

Bill's Bar
Stimulant CD release party and Choke, 9pm, $5. 18+.
The Black Rose
Tony O'Riordan, 9pm, 21+.
Cantab Lounge
Geoff Bartley's open mike, 8pm; Summer Pierre, 9:30pm.
Club Passim
Open mic night with Karaugh Brown, 8pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort
Classic Trax's Boston Marathon all day party, no cover.
House of Blues
Dirty Dozen Brass Band, 9pm, $10, 18+.
Johnny D's
Gary Allen and the Hot Tamale Brass Band, 8pm, cover varies.
Kendall Cafe
Joe Whyte, Adam Sherman, Kendra Flowers, 8pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge
The Fringe, 10pm, 21+.
Middle East
U: Lois, Mark Robinson and the Green Four 18+ $7.
Milky Way
33 Slade, Medea Connection.
Purple Shamrock
Dave Smyth, 9pm, 21+.
The Rack
Kenyan Band, no cover.
Toad
Union Sq. Screw Machine, and the Tim Gearan Band, 8pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Corin Ashley of the Pills.
Wonderbar
Johnny Horner and the Joe McMahon Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Tuesday, April 18

The Black Rose
Celtic Clan, 9pm, 21+.
The Bristol Lounge
Solo jazz pianist Bob Winter, 8pm.
Cantab Lounge
Flynn Cohen and Pachysandra, 9pm; Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 10pm.
Club Passim
Open mike, 8pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band, 7pm, no cover.
House of Blues
La Timba Loca, 9pm, $8, 18+.
Johnny D's
Dick Gaughan, 8:30pm, cover varies.
Kendall Cafe
Vega$, More, Rob Gonzalez, 9pm, $4.
Les Zygomates
The Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Dave Smyth, 7pm.
The Rack
John Bowser, 8pm, no cover.
Regattabar
Joanne Brackeen and Ray Drummond, 8:30pm, $12, 21+.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Bird Gets the Smile, Chewy, Euonym and Banana Hands. $6.
Toad
Asa Brebner with Natalie Flanagan, Michael Tarbox, 7pm, no cover.

Music Venues

The Attic *107R Union St., Newton (964-6615).*
Bayou Blues Cafe *Located at Cambridge Racquet and Fitness Club, 215 First St., Cambridge (491-8989). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (743-2286). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Bristol Lounge *Four Seasons Hotel, 200 Boylston St., Boston (338-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
Bullfinch's Pub *730 Boston Post Road, Sudbury (978-443-4094).*
The Burren *247 Elm St, Somerville (776-6896). MBTA: Red Line to Davis Square.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Clery's *113 Dartmouth St., Boston (262-9874). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*
Club Passim *47 Palmer St., Harvard Square, Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Coogan's Bluff *173 Market St., Boston (451-7415). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
The Good Life *28 Kingston St., Boston 451-2622). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Grand Canal *57 Canal Street, Boston (523-1112). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (367-0055). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket or Government Center.*
Green Street Grill *280 Green Street, Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Harvard Square, Cambridge (491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Jake Ivory's *1 Lansdowne St., Boston (247-1222). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Davis Square, Somerville (776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Karma *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9595).*
Kendall Cafe *233 Cardinal Medeiros Ave., Cambridge (661-0993). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (783-9400). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Kirkland Cafe *425 Washington St., Somerville (491-9640).*
The Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (267-8644).*
The Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Milky Way Lounge *405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-3740).*
O'Brien's *3 Harvard Ave, Allston (782-6245). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Paddy Burke's Pub *132 Portland Street, Boston (367-8370). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
The Playhouse Lounge *74 Warrenton St., Boston (482-2227). MBTA: Green Line to Boyston.*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (227-2060). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (725-1051). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Rhythm and Spice *315 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (497-0977). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square or MIT.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Road, Cambridge (562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Slade's *958 Tremont Street, Boston (442-4600).*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Veronique Restaurant *Longwood Towers, 20 Chapel Street, Brookline (731-4800).*
Wally's Cafe *427 Mass. Ave., Boston (424-1408). MBTA: Green Line to Symphony.*
The Western Front *343 Western Ave., Cambridge (492-7772). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square.*
White Horse Tavern *116 Brighton Ave., Allston (254-6633). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard Ave., Allston (351-COOL). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*

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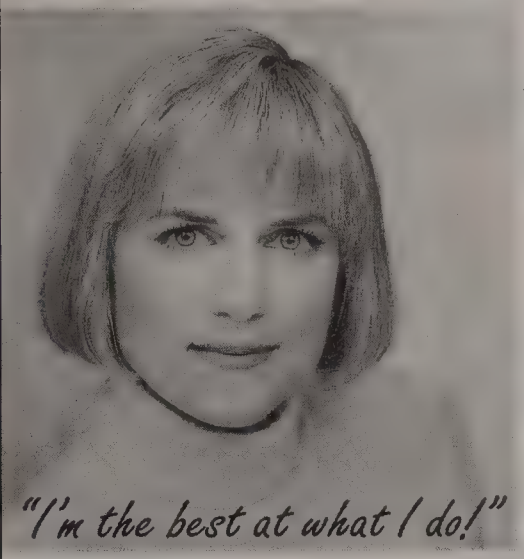

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gay&lesbian

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Submit information including telephone numbers and nearest T stop by fax to (859-1446), mail or e-mail to gaylesbian@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted by phone.*

How to use this section
The following listings contain information that is subject to change. Contact the organization for changes in specific events.

CLUBS, BARS & HANGOUTS

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years these folks have been crankin' out some of the best Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. It's well worth a visit—if not for the three separate dance floors, then for all of the male dancers. 9pm, $15, 21+.

Buzz (Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays)
51 Stuart St. in the Theatre District, Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. On Saturday nights this place boasts two dance floors, two DJs, a pool room and a lounge. Two levels of dancing and schmoozing will keep the boys busy until 2am. 10pm, $5, 21+.

Chaps (Daily)
*100 Warrenton St., Boston (695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boyl*ston. www.chapsofboston.com. Sun.: Dance music of DJ Danae Jacovidis; Mon.: Grand Baby and Grand Piano night; Tue.: Retro DJ night; Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adielson Caesar; Thu.: DJs Billy and Fran: High Energy Dance; Fri.: Taboo Erotique with DJ Sammy; Sat.: High Energy Dance, DJ Danae Jacovidis.

City Girl Cafe (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri: 11am- 9pm; Sat: 10am-9pm; Sun: 10am-7pm. A small (5 tables), laid-back cafe in Inman Square, lesbian-owned and operated. This cozy spot is home to a mixed gay/hetero crowd that lounges about, munching on sandwiches. Brunch on Saturday and Sunday, 10am-2pm.

Club Cafe (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-0966). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri 11:30am-2am; Sat. 2pm-2am; Sun. 11am-2am. This trendy South End spot draws a mixed crowd that comes for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back (Moonshine). A dressy bunch that likes to mingle. No cover, 21+. •Carol O'Shaughnessy performs with Steve Heck, Dottie Dean or David Sparr, Thursdays.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (542-4494). Mon.-Fri. 3pm-2am; Sat. 1pm-2am; Sun. 12pm-2am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This is your friendly neighborhood bar with a quiet setting. It's best known for scrumptious Sunday brunches (12-4pm). A simple joint with all of the trappings of a true bar, smoky and dark. The place starts hopping as it gets closer to 2am.

Fritz (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Stroll in for a quiet drink or a rowdy night on the town. The folks here are friendly—and really into sports. Not only does Fritz have Direct TV set up with sets scattered everywhere, it's also home base to a great softball league. 12pm, no cover, 21+.

Jacques (Daily)
79 Broadway, Boston (426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. If you're looking for a friendly crowd of gays and straights and you're in the mood to mix with disco-dancing drag queens, this is the place. Sun. and Mon. are local band nights when acts rock into the wee hours. Tues. through Sat., however, divas rule the stage. 10:30pm, $4, weekends $6, 21+.

Lava Bar (Saturdays)
575 Commonwealth. Ave., Boston (267-7707). The Lava Bar's Tabu night boasts DJ Fran spinning out high energy house with a taste of Latin beats. Doors open at 10pm.

The Lizard Lounge (Wednesdays)
1667 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. "Marlene Loses It at the Lizard" is the title of this eclectic evening of poetry, live music, theater and cabaret in front of a diverse crowd. Shows begin at 10pm. $5 cover, 21+.

Luxor (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (423-6969). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from the latest music scenes and classic old movies—compiled by the bar's own VJ. Downstairs is Jox, a sports bar. 4pm, no cover, 21+.

Man Ray (Thursdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (864-0400). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed.-Fri., 9pm; Sat., 10pm. A bustling S/M hot spot caters to a young alternative clientele. Two dance floors fill up on Thursdays for Campus, a predominately male night where DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen take over. 9pm, 21+.

119 Merrimac (Daily)
119 Merrimac St., Boston (367-0713). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Sat., 10:30am-2am; Sun. 12pm-2am. This male cruise bar is the place to stop for drinks before or after FleetCenter events. Shoot a leisurely game of pool or the hit the video games. Merrimac features DJs playing hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s. 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. On Thursday nights the Lesbian AIDS Project of Mass. unofficially takes over this laid-back cafe for "dyke nyte." The cafe always has something brewing—live bands, DJs and drag queen parties. Party starts at 8pm, no cover, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (494-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Central. On Monday, a bartender not only mixes drinks but strips too. Male strippers are featured, Wed through Sat. Mon. is Gothic night; Tue. is techno and Thu. is college night. On Fridays DJ Sam Sampson spins, and on Sat DJ Brad Gwynn helps you tear up the dance floor. 5pm, no cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (266-2986). Green Line to Kenmore. 12pm-2am. The largest leather bar in the East enforces a tight dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room). Downstairs on Fri., Sat. (10pm-2am) and Sun. (7pm-12am) is the Machine, the sleekest hard-core club in town. Fri. has DJ Darrin Friedman, Sat. DJ Brad Gwynn and Sun. is "Dragon Tea Dance," an Asian inspiration night with DJ James Hughes, a dragon show and performances. $7, 21+.

BOOKS

Glad Day Bookshop
673 Boylston St., Boston (267-3010). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu. 9:30am-10pm, Fri. and Sat. 9:30am-11pm, Sun. 12-9pm. This exclusively gay/lesbian bookstore has all sorts of paraphernalia.

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge. (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Fri. 10am-8pm, Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 12-6pm. New England's oldest women's book shop offers a comprehensive selection of books. Its monthly author series will resume in the spring.

The Theater Offensive kicks off their first full season with Boston premieres of *Salad of the Bad Café* (above) and *Personal Instrument* (below). See them at the BCA Theater through April 8.

We Think The World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6:30pm; Sun., 11:30am-5:30pm. Boston's literary gay and lesbian bookstore.

SHOWS & EVENTS

Celebrating Commitments
All Souls Unitarian Church of Braintree, 196 Elm St., Braintree (781-843-1388). April 6, 7:30pm. Sponsored by the South Shore Gay Men's Discussion/Support Group, this informative evening is hosted by Ellen Davis. Participants will discuss how and why people celebrate commitments.

Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Health Research Forum
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (927-6280). Free admission. April 14, 1-5pm. This conference informs the community on national initiatives for lesbian and bisexual women's health and provides updates on Fenway Community Health affiliated lesbian health research projects. Featuring guest speaker Charlotte Patterson, PhD, professor and author.

The Judas Kiss
The Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). Wed.-Thu. 7:30pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 4pm; Sun. 3pm. Through April 16. A wildly intelligent drama that revolves around the events surrounding arrest and imprisonment of Oscar Wilde. David Hare lays bare the drama of two critical points in Wilde's last years: the day he decides to stay in England to face imprisonment and the night after his release two years later when his lover betrays him.

Personal Instrument and Salad of the Bad Café
Theater Offensive, Boston Center for the Arts, Leland Center, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Through April 8. $18. The Theatre Offensive, Boston's premier showcase of gay and lesbian theater, launches its first-ever full season with two Boston premieres. ***Salad of the Bad Café*** is a treatise on unrequited love, inspired by Carson McCuller's novel, *Ballad of the Sad Café* and the lives of Tennessee Williams and Yukio Mishima. ***Personal Instrument*** is the story of a queer high-school heavy-metal star and features David Hanbury of the recent hit *Pure PolyESTHER*. This tsunami of virtuosity floods the senses with steaming guitar licks and hormone-drenched hard-rock vocals.

Shopping and Fucking
Actors Workshop, 40 Boylston St., Boston (887-2336). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Fri., 8pm and Sat., 7pm and 10pm. Through April 8. $10, $12 at the door. Mark Ravenhill's dark comedy is the tale of a trio of young Brits who sell drugs, sex and what is left of their souls to survive.

ONGOING

Bawl
This lesbian softball league offers opportunities to join teams in both the recreational and competitive divisions. Call Liz (508-628-5477).

Best Foot Forward
Ballet Etc. Dance Studios, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (522-1444). MBTA: B Green Line to Washington St. For gays/lesbians/bisexuals of all swing skill levels.

Boston Glass
Community Center, 93 Mass Ave., Boston (266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center. Daily 8-10pm. Support groups and social activities for adolescents ages 13-25.

The Boston Rainbow Gospel Choir
The BRGC is about to launch its second season and periodically holds auditions. Call 424-6740.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). A 1,500-member gay club with hiking, biking, camping, skiing and other outdoor activities for men and women.

Common Bond
(781-433-7023). www.dwellings.com/acb. An international support group for gay/lesbian/bisexual current or former Jehovah's Witnesses.

Community Rainbow
Boston Living Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston. 7:45 pm. An organization whose mission is to advocate for the community. Meets Thursdays.

Cosmetically-Correct
Tremont Tea Room, 48-50 Winter St., 3rd floor, Boston. A social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month 7:30-10pm. Lipstick optional. For more info e-mail *m.antoinette@ididitmyway.com.*

Dykes Who Hike
(522-6185). This hiking group for lesbians in Boston and surrounding areas conquers the wilderness.

East Coast Wrestling Club
With more than 160 members, this is an extraordinarily popular New England spot for gay male wrestlers. Call Marc at 401-467-6737, or go online at *http://members.tripod.com/~ecwc* or e-mail *ecwc@juno.com.*

Encounters
Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston. An informal social evening for HIV-positive gay and bisexual men held the first Tuesday of every month, 7-9pm.

Explore
A behavioral study intervention for gay men. Call 350-6900, ext. 199 or e-mail *explore@lhi.org.*

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave, Boston (824-4266). www.mindspring.com/~frontrunners. A running club for the GLBT community meets every Saturday at 10am for fun runs of various distances.

Gay Volleyball
Cambridge (262-3626). Sundays, 7pm, $7. Typically five teams play on two courts. Teams of men and women are made up each week.

Gender Free Contra Dancing
First Church of Jamaica Plain (522-1115). www.piac.net/users/latte/lcfd/. Come one, come all to evenings of contra and square dancing.

Latino Social Groups
Latino Gay Men's Project *(350-6900 ext. 125)* and the Women's Social Groups *(350-6900 ext. 124).*

Long Yang Club
Various locations, (825-5677). www.longyangclub.org/boston. A club for gay Asian men. For more information call Ron (661-9165).

Luna
(350-6900, ext. 122) or luna@lhi.org. This branch of the Latino Gay Youth Project offers psychoeducational groups.

Oops
Melting Pot Coffee House, 2 Belgrade Ave., Roslindale (323-4123). Out on the Parkways, a gay and lesbian organization, invites one and all to come on down for some coffee and dinner.

PFLAG
Fenway Community Health Center, 7 Haviland St., Boston (547-2440). Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets every fourth Monday, 6:30-8:30pm.

Queer Corps
131 Clarendon St., 4th floor, Boston (450-1676). A community mobilization project by and for queer men 25 and under. Meetings are held every Tuesday, 6-8pm.

Tennis4all
Call Ted at 779-7231. Boston's gay and lesbian tennis club, with monthly tournaments and pizza socials.

LEFT: CRAIG BAILEY, RIGHT: LIANNE HARRIS

THE RACK

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body&mind

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information by mail, fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/Mind, or electronically to bodymind@improper.com. *Include a brief but thorough description of the event, time, date, location and directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.*

EVENTS

Chi-lel Qigong Workshop
The Inn at Longwood Medical, 342 Longwood Ave., Boston (800-784-0146). April 15-16, 9am-4:30pm. $195. Chi is the body's flow of energy. *Chi-lel* is the combination of working with *chi* and creative visualization. What does it do? It's like virtual reality, except it's real, and it's used to make yourself much healthier. This natural method from China is ideal for people with serious illnesses.

Creativity Recovery
Omega Institute in Boston, Arlington Street Church, 351 Boylston St., Boston (800-944-1001). www.omega-inst.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. April 8, 9am-4pm. $119.* This workshop is designed to help the unimaginative get more creative and to help creative people become more effective. All in all, you'll learn how to pursue a fuller and more energized life.

TA KE TI NA: The Power of Rhythm
Eagle Drum Council, First Church Congregational, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (978-371-2502). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. April 14-16, 22 total hours. $265. TA KE TI NA is a rhythm dance experience using the body as the instrument. Based on musical research uncovered from all cultures, this workshop enables everyone to access their innate sense of rhythm.

WORKSHOPS

Channeling Demystified
Open Doors, 395A Washington St., Braintree (781-843-8224). April 5, 7-9:30pm. Ghosts and angels are talked about all the time, but do we really believe in them? A medium, or a person who channels, could sway your doubting mind by relaying significant information. Find out for yourself at this discussion and demo.

Color and Sound
Greater Boston Church of Spiritualism, Masonic Center, 32 Church St., Watertown (923-4334). April 8, 1:30-4:30pm. $20. People often neglect how color and sound affect their emotions and psyche—but an understanding of this can be practically applied and alter your experiences. **Marjory Kite** lectures.

Dream Exploration
CCAE, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. April 8, 10am-1:30pm. $45. Our dreams definitely reveal something about what's going on inside our heads. This workshop will teach you to interact and play with your dreams and give you tools to explore dreams to come.

Image Retrieval and Visual Journaling
Theosophical Society in Boston, 21 Maple Street, Arlington (781-483-4927). April 15,12-5pm. $50. Images are the primary non-verbal language of the psyche. Artist, teacher and shamanic practitioner **Ishmira Kathleen Thoma** will address how image-retrieval can remove emotional and spiritual blocks and uncover beauty deep within yourself.

Journaling Seminar
Mystical Times, 273 Bay St., Taunton (508-243-6257). April 10, 10am-12pm. Ever heard of automatic writing? It's writing without paying attention. Yeats wrote a whole book that way. This class will teach all the ways journals can be a tool for introspection.

Mythic Hindu Yoga Art
YogaEast, 20 Del Carmine Street, Wakefield (781-224-0722). April 9, 12-5pm. $75. Experience with yoga isn't necessary. You just need an inquisitive mind.

Restorative Yoga Therapy
In the Moment Wellness Center, 106 Access Road, Norwood (781-762-9281). www.inthemoment.org. *April 11, 7:30-8:30pm. $18.* Are you so drained you can hardly sit up straight? Well this yoga class keeps in mind how the overworked still need to work on being healthy. The poses in this class are self-supporting and strain-free for relieving stress while hardly trying.

Quanum Touch-Energy Healing
Harvest Co-op Market, 581 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (661-1580). MBTA: Red Line to Central. April 11, 6-8pm. Quanum touch is hands-on energy healing enabling you to access your own ability to assist yourself and others. **Henri Furgluele**, certified Quanum touch practitioner, will teach you how to realign your bones, reduce inflammation, and bring inner clarity.

Reducing Stress with Humor, Fun & Laughter
Brookline Adult and Community Education, Brookline High, 115 Greenough St., Brookline (730-2700). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. April 6, 7-8:30pm.$5. Has anyone ever told you to "chill out" and it made you even angrier? This class will teach you to find humor in everyday frustrations and ways to handle problems and changes more creatively.

LECTURES/FORUMS

Creative Imagery in the Therapeutic Reimagining of Life
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (566-2200). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. April 9, 12:30-4:30pm. $35. This symposium, cosponsored by the Institute of Psychotherapy, will explore the creative process and discuss the relationship between psychology and the arts. The panel will have doctors and artists, along with author and spiritual philosopher **Thomas Moore**.

Healing with Ancient Remedies
University School of Medicene (Sackler Center), 145 Harrison Blvd., Boston (524-6696). www.mphaweb.org. *MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. April 11, 7:45-9:30am. $16.* This early breakfast lecture series focuses on women's health. This particular talk addresses how East meets West concerning methods for healing.

The G-Spot
Grand Opening Sexuality Boutique, 318 Harvard St., Suite 32, Brookline (731-2626). www.grandopening.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. April 12, 7:30-9:30pm. $20.* Owner **Kim Airs** will discuss the myth vs. reality of this "mysterious spot." Despite all the demystifying that'll take place, you're sure to impressed by the female's amazing anatomy and its ability to ejaculate.

Philosopher King: Aristocracy of the Soul
New Acropolis Organization, First Parish Unitarian Church, 3 Church St., Cambridge (591-9959). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. April 14, 7:30pm. Follower and leader are natural roles for people to take up. Though seemingly rare, there is such a thing as a noble ruler—someone who is easy to follow. Explore this archetypal role that exemplifies divine vision, unselfishness and uncompromising leadership.

Serenity in the Age of Anxiety
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. April 13, 10:30am. $2. If handling anxiety seems challenging, come learn about the different types—toxic, natural and sacred—and maybe this awareness will increase your confidence.

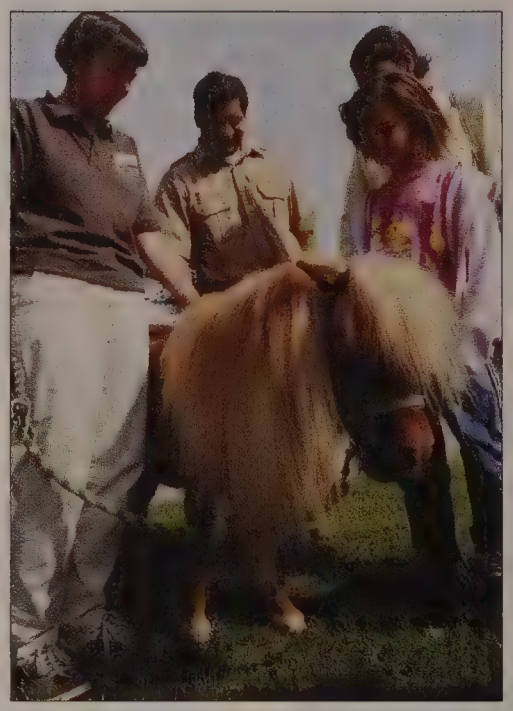
RETREATS

Sunday Evening Retreats
Wellspace, Fresh Pond Mall, Cambridge (876-2660). www.wellspace.com. *April 9, 5:30-8:30pm.* Retreat to Wellspace's serene environment for an irresistible three-hour program combining yoga, meditation, and either massage, foot reflexology, Feldenkrais or acupuncture. One hour is focused on therapeutic needs, either specific or general. Enjoy the sauna and showers afterwards.

These folks practice *chi-lel* and you can too at the Chi-lil Qigong Workshop, April 15-16.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Children. Or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*



Hang out with animals on a Wild Adventure at the Franklin Park Zoo and the Stone Zoo.

TO SEE

Big Apple Circus: Bello and Friends
Fan Pier, Boston (800-922-3772). Wed.-Fri. 11am and 7pm; Sat.-Sun. 12pm and 4pm. Through May 7. $13-$35. Sit 50 feet away from the fun and watch the clowns entertain with juggling, trapeze and animal tricks.

Children's Hour at the Kennedy Library
Columbia Point, Boston (929-1250). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. April 15, 10:30am. Free. **Tales for the Earth**, by Diane Edgecomb, includes several stories focusing on water conservation, wildlife protection and recycling.

The Jungle Book
The Wheelock Family Theatre, 200 The Riverway, Boston (734-4760). Fri. 7:30pm; Sat.-Sun. 3pm. April 7-May 7. Vacation week: April 1-21, 1pm. $10-$17. Rudyard Kipling's stories feature Mowgli, an Indian boy raised from infancy by wolves.

Pinocchio
Lyric Stage Company of Boston, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). $7.April 5-9, 11am. Join the Children's Theater for a production of *Pinocchio*. Kids can join the actors on stage to participate in the storytelling.

Puppet Showplace Theater
32 Station St., Brookline (731-6400). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. $8. April 15-16, 1pm and 3pm. **Tom Thumb** by Andrew and Bonnie Periale.

THINGS TO DO

Friday Art Nights for Families
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220), 6:30-8:30, $15-$20. Ages 5-13. •April 7. **Collagraphs and Gyotaku Printmaking**. Learn how to make and print collagraph prints. *•April 14.* **Magical Landscapes in Watercolor**. This relaxing workshop teaches watercolor painting to beginners.

Kite Flying
•Condon Community Center, 200 D St., South Boston (635-4505). April 18, 3:30-6:30pm. •Hennigan Community Center, 200 Heath St., Jamaica Plain (635-4505). April 19, 3-6pm. A series of kite-making workshops and a chance to test-fly them at a nearby park.

A Revolution Is Brewing
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. $3. Ages 9 and older. Watch a slide presentation of what Boston was like during the Colonial times.

Wild Adventures at the Zoo
Franklin Park Zoo and the Stone Zoo (442-2002). Interested in learning about wild critters? Find out more: *•April 12, 10:30-11:30am.* **Ants!** *•April 13, 3:30-4:30pm.* **Coati**. *•April 14, 3:30-4:30pm.* **Wetlands!** *•April 18, 10-11am.* **Wolfspeak**.

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

To Watch

Boston Bruins
•FleetCenter. Tickets: 931-2000.
April 5 (Away): Florida, 7:30 pm, UPN 38.
April 8 (Away): Philadelphia, 2pm, UPN 38.
April 9 (Home): Pittsburgh, 6pm.

Celtics
•FleetCenter. Tickets: 931-2000.
April 5 (Away): Detroit, 7:30 pm, Fox Sports Net.
April 7 (Home): Philadelphia, 7pm, FSN.
April 10 (Home): Atlanta, 7pm, FSN.
April 12 (Home): Orlando, 7pm, FSN.
April 14 (Home): Chicago, 7pm, FSN.
April 16 (Home): Charlotte, 12:30pm, FSN.
April 18 (Away): Washington, 7pm, FSN.

New England Revolution
•Foxboro Stadium. Tickets: 1-877-GET-REVS
April 8 (Away): Dallas, 8:30pm, Fox Sports Net.
April 15 (Home): Washington, 7:30pm, FSN.

Red Sox
•Fenway Park. Tickets: 267-8661
April 5 (Away): Seattle Mariners, 10:35pm.
April 7 (Away): Anahiem Angels, 10:05pm.
April 8 (Away): Anahiem Angels, 10:05pm.
April 9 (Away): Anahiem Angels, 4:05pm.
April 11 (Home): Minnesota Twins, 1:05pm.
April 12 (Home): Minnesota Twins, 6:05pm.
April 13 (Home): Minnesota Twins, 6:05pm.
April 14 (Home): Oakland Athletics, 6:05pm.
April 15 (Home): Oakland Athletics, 1:05pm.
April 16 (Home): Oakland Athletics, 1:05pm.
April 17 (Home): Oakland Athletics, 11:05pm.
April 18 (Away): Detroit Tigers, 7:05pm.

Events

Boston Marathon
Hopkinton to Boston (236-1652). www.boston-marathon.org. *April 17, 11:45am.* See box in City Scope for more information.

Champions on Ice
FleetCenter, Boston (931-2000). www.fleetcenter.com. *MBTA: Green Line to North Station. April 8, 7pm. $35-$65.* Featuring the most distinguished cast in skating today, this year's tour will stop at the FleetCenter for one show only with a record number of current world and Olympic medalists in action.

Free-Sailing Weekend
Boston Sailing Center, 54 Lewis Wharf, Boston (227-4198). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. April 15-16, 10am-4pm. Free. Sailing season gets under way with harbor sailing trips aboard a fleet of boats ranging in length from 23 to 40 feet. All are invited.

New England Revolutions Kickoff Party
Jillian's, 145 Ipswich St., Boston (877-GET-REVS). April 18, 7-10pm. The entire New England Revolution team and KISS 108's Joe Public, along with hundreds of soccer fans, will join together.

Races & Walks

BC MBA Challenge
Alumni Stadium, Boston College, Chestnut Hill (782-2838). April 8, 12pm. A five-kilometer race.

Multiple Sclerosis Society MS Walk
Boston (800-493-WALK). April 9.

Run for Rett
Boston (800-818-7388). April 15. A five-kilometer and one-mile race for the Rett Syndrome Association.

Newton Heartbreak Hill Race
City Hall, Newton (527-8283). April 16, 12pm. $10. A one-mile race that benefits Newton Pride committee.

To Play

BASEBALL

Henry's Baseball Club
(781-891-0621). Waltham. Seeking players ages 17-30 and coaches for upcoming season.

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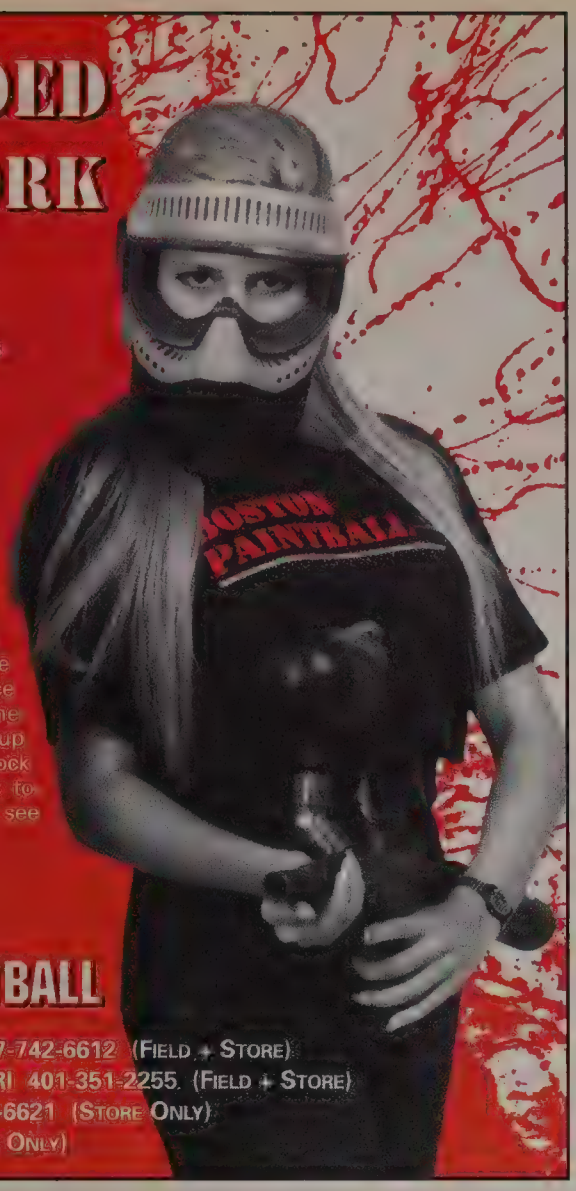

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Revolutions midfielder John Harkes helps kick off the 2000 MLS season at Jillian's, April 18.

BASKETBALL

Basketball City
Adjacent to North Station and the FleetCenter (742-6700). Corporate, midday and weekend leagues.

Co-Ed Indoor Basketball
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 224). Sun.-Thu. nights at various locations. All levels welcome. Leagues in Waltham, Dedham and Brookline.

The Corporate League of Boston
(566-7808).

Men's Basketball League
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990). Begins April 14.

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333). Practice and workout programs for all levels in Greater Boston.

South End Fitness Center League
(534-5823).

Women's Basketball League
(661-9622).

Women's 3 on 3 Basketball
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990). Begins April 10.

CYCLING

Boston Road Club Weekly Races
(781-646-8955). Sundays. Starts at Wells Ave. in Newton.

DOWNHILL SKIING

Boston Ski & Sports Club
(789-4070, ext. 222). •Day trips leave every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday and include round-trip transportation plus lift tickets. Through April 8. •Weekend trips include resort accommodations, meals, lift tickets and bus transportation. Ski season is almost over. April 7-9: Reggae Weekend at Sugarbush, Vermont.

Ski Market/Underground Snowboard
(731-6100). Sundays, $45; Thursdays, $40 (includes dinner and tour of the Redhook Brewery). Ski/snowboard trips to Killington, Sunday River, Loon and Waterville every Sunday and Thursday. Trips include round-trip transportation and lift ticket.

FOOTBALL

Australian Rules Football
Boston Australian Rules Football Club. Thu. evenings and Sat. mornings, Cambridge (781-440-9266). www.Boston Demons.org. No experience necessary.

Indoor Flag Football
BSSC, Indoor Sports Center in Revere (789-4070). Sundays.

Co-ed Touch Football
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990).

HIKING/WALKING

The Appalachian Mountain Club
Gorham, NH (603-466-2727). Hikes and huts in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. •Monthly AMC Young Members meetings at AMC headquarters, located at 4 Joy St., Beacon Hill (523-0655). Second Thursday of every month, 6-10pm, $3. Potluck. BYOB.

New England Walkers
39 Oakland Rd., Brookline (731-9889). members.tripod.com/NEWALKERS. This 200-member club hosts race-walk events and clinics. Weekly walks at M.I.T. indoor track on Wednesdays at 7pm.

HOCKEY

Co-ed Floor Hockey
BSSC (789-4070). Individuals and teams, co-eds, all levels in Newton.

Co-ed Floor Hockey
Sport & Social Club of Boston, (262-8990). Begins March 27 and April 12.

LACROSSE

Men's and Women's Lacrosse
Sport & Social Club of Boston, (262-8990).

ROCK CLIMBING

Indoor Rock Climbing
The Rock Gym, Woburn, Mass., with Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070). March 5, 9am. $65. Includes three hours of instruction for beginners, all equipment and a free day pass (with gear rental).

RUGBY

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
Cambridge (781-340-2192). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.bwrfc.org. *Tue. and Thu. evenings.* No experience necessary.

RUNNING

Fresh Pond Weekly Road Races
Fresh Pond Reservation. Saturdays, 10am. Choose between a 2.5- or 5-mile run.

NIKETOWN Boston Running Club
200 Newbury St., Boston (267-3400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Three-to-five-mile loops. Starts at 6:30pm. Monthly mini-clinics as well.

Boston Hash House Harriers
(499-4835). Weekly runs year-round. Serious drinkers with a running problem.

Khoury's Thursday Night Runs
East Somerville. (598 1024, ext 1028). www.srr.org. *4.13 miles. 7pm at Khoury's Bar.*

Somerville Road Runners Weekly Run
Cambridge Boat House Parking Lot, Cambridge (923-2378). Fridays at 7 pm.

SAILING

Boston Sailing Center
54 Lewis Wharf, Boston (227-4198). Year-round lessons and racing programs for all abilities.

Courageous Sailing Center
Charlestown Navy Yard (635-4505). Lessons offered year-round.

SOCCER

BSSC Indoor/Outdoor Soccer
BSSC (789-4070, ext. 225). Coed teams.

Indoor/Outdoor Soccer
Sport & Social Club (262-8990).

SWIMMING

Boston Athletic Club Swim Workouts
653 Summer St., Boston (269-4300). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon. and Wed. 6:15-7:15am.

The Charles River Park Club Morning Masters
Charles River Park, Boston (450-9810). Mon., Wed., Fri. 6:30-7:45am.

The Mason Masters Swim Program
The Mason Pool, 159 Norfolk Avenue, Roxbury. (236-4923 or 450-9810) Mon.-Fri. 7:30-8:30pm. Led by Alex Primilsky, coach of world, national and Olympic champions.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Boston Ski & Sports Club
(789-4070).

Boston Ultimate Disc Alliance
(928-0882). www.buda.org.

VOLLEYBALL

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club, (789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. at various locations. Coed indoor 6 on 6 leagues. Four different levels of play. •Co-ed pickup games Tuesdays and Fridays at West Newton Armory, 1137 Washington St. $5. •Volleyball Clinic, Feb. 27, 4-6:30pm, Serving and Passing. All levels. $15. West Newton Armory.

Co-ed Volleyball League
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990). Begins April 5 and April 6.

Co-ed Volleyball-Waltham
Waltham YMCA, 725 Lexington St, Waltham (781-894-5295). Monday nights. Begins in April.

WRESTLING

Men's Adult Wrestling
Boston Union, 48 Boylston St., Boston (482-1122). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm; Saturdays 1-3:30pm. All skill levels. Coaching available.

sales&fashion

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for sales and bargains by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar:Sales and Fashion. Or e-mail information to goodbuys@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the event or items. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

AUCTIONS

MassArt Benefit Auction
Bakalar and Huntington Galleries, South Building, 623 Huntington Ave., Boston (232-1555). April 14, 8pm. Previews: April 10-11, 10am-8pm; April 12, 10am-4pm. $50. This benefit auction features paintings, drawings, photographs, ceramics, sculpture, prints and glass.

Public Interest Auction
Harvard Law School, 1515 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (254-3312). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. April 6, 5:30pm. Free. Proceeds from this auction of more than 300 items—including trips; cooking, music and language lessons; and babysitting services—provide grants for law students.

Skinner Auctioneers—Boston
63 Park Plaza, Boston (350-5400). www.skinner inc.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.* •**English and Continental Furniture and Decorations**. *April 8, 11am. Previews: April 6, 12-5pm; April 7, 12-7pm; April 8, 8:30-10am.*

Skinner Auctioneers—Bolton
357 Main St., Bolton (978-779-6241). www.skinner-inc.com. •**Discovery Auction**. *April 6, 7pm; April 7, 10am. Previews: April 6, 2-6:30pm; April 7, 8-9:30am.* Estate property in an intermediate price range.

EVENTS

Appraisal Day
Wellesley Community Center, 219 Washington St., Wellesley (781-235-6690). April 13, 1-5pm. Verbal appraisals are $5 per item, or three items for $10. Find out about the current market value of family heirlooms. The Wellesley Historical Society sponsors this day of appraisal.

Yolanda's in Waltham carries 20 different styles of tiaras for weddings and special occasions.

Marathon Mania
Filene's, Boston (357-2727). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. April 14, 12:30-2:30pm. Free. Filene's celebrates marathon weekend with an appearance by marathon winner Joan Benoit Samuelson, a cooking demo with chefs Jody Adams and Ruth-Anne Adams from Red Clay, dance performances and massages.

The Shopping Benefit
Bloomingdale's, 175 Boylston St., Newton (800-833-7772). MBTA: D Green Line to Chestnut Hill. April 5, 10am-10pm. $10 (entitles purchaser to a 15 percent savings throughout store). This benefit will feature storewide entertainment, live music, fashion shows, special designer nad celebrity appearances, culinary demos, children's entertainment and more. All proceeds benefit non-profit organizations.

WEDDINGS

Tiaras at Yolanda
Yolanda, 355 Waverly Oaks Road, Waltham (781-899-6470). $125-$1,200. Yolanda carries 20 different styles of tiaras in silver and gold colors for weddings or special occassions. For fashion ideas, see *Crowing Glories* at the MFA, which features two centuries of tiaras.

BEAUTY

Prom Event
Demiche Makeup & Image Studio, 423 Main St., Suite A, Melrose (781-662-1796). April 15. Re-live your high school days and get a makeover for a "prom" of your own.

go away

TRAVELING NEAR AND FAR

Advice to Contributors
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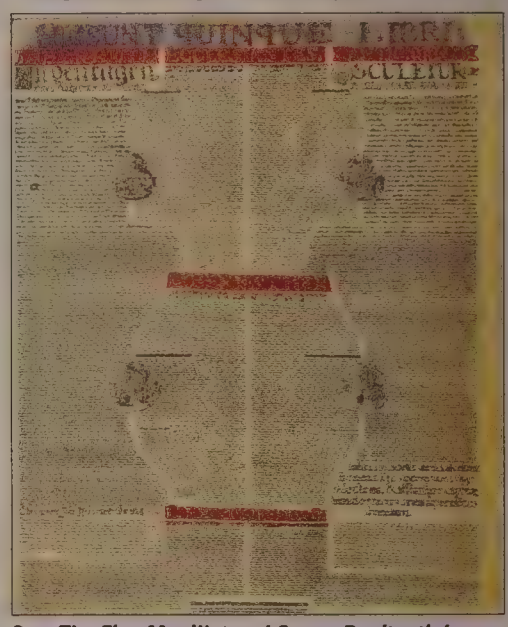

See *The Five Megillot and Seven Penitential Psalms* at NYC's Antiquarian Book Fair, April 13.

NORTH OF BOSTON

Bette Davis Birthday Celebration
Lowell National Historic Park Visitor Center, Lowell, Mass. (978-441-3800). April 5. That's right...the legendary Bette Davis began her starlet life close by. Her glamorous curls and dainty feet graced the screen in *Jezebel, Whatever Happened to Baby Jane,* and a hospital in Lowell many years ago. So get out the popcorn and pay homage to this starlight woman with a movie viewing, a party and more.

Guster—Live in Concert
The Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, N.H. (603-436-2400). www.portsmouthnh.com/tickets/. April 18, 7:30pm. $20. These Tufts grads feature a unique sound with two acoustic guitars and a bongo set. If you missed their concert out in Worcester, don't let this one slip you by.

SOUTH OF BOSTON

MDA Blues Showcase
North Plymouth, Mass. (508-747-7727). April 16-17. While helping raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, this all-ages, all-family event showcases some of the best regional blues acts around, including Tony Lynn Washington and Bruce Bears, the Rampage Trio and the Nightowls.

WEST OF BOSTON

New England Folk Festival
Natick High School, 15 West St., Natick, Mass. (354-1340). April 14-16. You won't know whether to join in a round of your favorite Irish folk songs or brave the perils of traditional English sword dancing. This festival focuses on roots dance music from all over the Americas and Europe and manages to draw more than 5,000 folkies each year. Craft and folk bazaars, ethnic food booths and swarms of costumed characters round out the festival. Arrive with your hair flowing down and wearing sandals with socks, and you'll be sure to fit right in.

NEW YORK

Antiquarian Book Fair
Park Avenue Armory, Park Avenue and 67th Street, N.Y. (212-777-5218). April 13-16. More than 180 international booksellers present their offering at the country's oldest and most prestigious book fair. Highlights include rare first editions of *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Gone with the Wind.*

ATLANTA

Atlanta Blues Festival
The Tabernacle, 152 Luckie St., Atlanta, Ga. (404-237-9595). April 9. $10. "We Be Blues" is the mantra at this gathering, and there are no boundaries. This second-annual festival calls for the "real people" power of

Relive the American Revolution 225 years later in the towns of Concord, Lexington and Lincoln.

Preview

Battle Road 2000

A five-day extravaganza is expected to draw a cast of 2,000 re-enactors from 25 states and from across the Atlantic to honor the 225th anniversary of the American Revolution in Concord, Lincoln and Lexington, Mass., April 14-17.

Two authentic colonial encampments will be located in Lexington on Lincoln Street. Visitors can visit these sites and experience camp life in the 18th century. Other major events planned include: •April 14: Paul Revere's Midnight Ride to Lexington, starts on Hancock Street at the Hancock-Clark House. The Capture of Paul Revere in Lincoln on Route 2A. •April 15-16: Battles and Ceremonies in Lexington. •April 17, 2pm: Lexington Parade. *For more information, visit* www.2000lexington.com *or call 781-862-0500.*

blues. Chill to both traditional and improvisational styles of Chicago, Texas, Delta and Piedmont blues. Fourteen bands play for eight non-stop hours and leave you snappin' and tappin' away. The artist lineup includes Lil' Ed and the Blues Imperials, Francine Reed, Lil' Pink Anderson, the Breeze Kings, Bill Sheffield and Forrest McDonald with Raymond Victor & the 3-D Blues Band.

MIAMI

KISS in Concert

Mars Music Amphitheater, 601 Sansburys Way 7, West Palm Beach, Fla. (931-2000). April 8, 7pm. $27.50-$85. You have to admit, KISS is probably better known for its stage presence than its musical repertoire. Nevertheless, this super popular band has sold more than 75 million albums—and is second only to the Beatles when it comes to records gone gold.

NEW ORLEANS

French Quarter Festival

New Orleans, LA (504-522-5730). April 14-16. Join locals and tourists and dance the night away to 13 stages of homespun jazz, Cajun and zydeco music from the Caribbean, Latin America and Africa. A crowd of 300,000 will be mesmerized by fireworks, dazzled by a "Battle of Jazz Bands," and hopefully be delightfully tipsy after the bartenders' competition. Then you can appease your munchies at the world's largest jazz brunch with nearly 60 booths serving a variety of specialties from well-known New Orleans restaurants.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

TELUS World Ski & Snowboard Festival

Various Locations, Whistler Mountain, British Columbia, Canada (604-905-3034). April 14-23. Billed as North America's biggest winter sports event, this festival is in its fifth year of celebrating fun in the snow for 10 days of hard-core snow sports and some serious parties. It's an unrivaled collection of competitions and activities set in the best spring skiing conditions in the world.

LONDON

Flora London Marathon

April 16 (44-171-354-2767). April must be marathon month. If you've already "done" the Boston version, join this marathon through the streets of London. It's an event that attracts runners from more than 68 countries—and has a boatload of spectators to boot.

BERMUDA

Bermuda International Film Festival

City of Hamilton's Little and Liberty Theatres, Bermuda (1-800-BERMUDA). April 14-20. Now in its third year, this festival is creating quite a buzz among filmmakers and film aficionados everywhere. OK, it's not quite comparable to the festivals in Cannes and Toronto, but it's gaining a reputation for showing quality and rarely-seen-before independent films. Enjoy seven days of 22 feature-length and short films of mystery, intrigue, drama, laughs and non-stop action.

CHINA

Water-Splashing Festival

Jinghong and surrounding villages in the Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province, near the border with Laos and Burma (212-760-8218). April 13-15. The Water Splashing Festival is a traditional festival for the Dai people in Xishuangbanna and other places to send off the old and greet the new, and to offer best wishes to each other. The festival's activities include bathing Lord Buddha, sprinkling water onto each other for good fortune, dragon-boat racing, launching rockets and passing the Kongming Lantern.

mark your daytimer

UPCOMING EVENTS

CITYSCOPE

Earth Day 2000
April 22, The Hatch Shell

Duckling Day Parade
May 14, Boston Common

Harvard Square Book Fair
May 15, Harvard Square

MUSIC

Smashing Pumpkins
April 29, Tsongas Arena

Blink 182 with Bad Religion
May 29, Worcester Centrum

Tina Turner with Lionel Richie
June 9, FleetCenter

Ricky Martin
June 21, FleetCenter

Carlos Santana with Macy Gray
August 1, Tweeter Center

PERFORMING ARTS

Miss Saigon
June 8, Wang Theatre

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If everyone kept their feelings bottled up like warm beer, we'd soon have antisocial behavior exploding all over the place and ruining the upholstery. That's why we have the Improper Impersonals, a column written by you, the reader. Send us your letters of love and spleen, and we'll print them for the world to see. Heck, it's better than making a fool of yourself in person. And **IT'S FREE!** Pick up a pen and tell that babe on the T you like his butt by writing to:

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Recent correspondence follows.

TJ
I am sorry for all the pain and confusion I have brought into your life. All I wanted was some space. I never stopped loving you. I was just confused with what was happening in the life around me. I didn't want you to see what I was seeing. I love you and hope someday we can pick up where we left off. I never wanted a relationship with anyone besides you. That's why I rejected them. Understand me, and I'll understand you.
—Cori

Pravda 116
You thought you saw me earlier in the day, shopping at Guess. I told you it wasn't me, but I wish now that I had lied. When you reached over to whisper in my ear and put your hand on the back of my neck, you sent shivers up my spine! If I'd lied, you may have figured it out, but the time I would have spent with you would have been worth it!
—anonymous

Domino!
I am searching for my good friend Domino Dias. (Last known work address: Omni Parker House/Last Hurrah.) We've lost contact since our days at P.O.S. (Is Crystal a 2 or a 7?!?) If you are still working in Boston, stop by Copy Cop, (the one at 85 Franklin Street, near Filene's-Downtown Crossing). Hope to hear from you...Contact me at: jmonaghan9@aol.com
—"Beanini"

Jen at Ryles on 2/26/00
We met briefly. I dug your glasses and bought you a drink. You told me you were frightened to dance with me because I've been doing it for awhile. I wish to prove you wrong. Find me at Ryles. Same Bat-Time, same Bat-Channel.
—anonymous

2/19 11:00pm
Thanx for the tip, Copley Plaza. I thought you were bull. Wuz looking for you the whole time. Wanted to show my thanks. if that girl you were with wasn't your girlfriend, e-mail me, we can get together: QteNSxy@yahoo.com
—THANBX guy or girl~!!!

To the Environmental Engineer on Lowell Street
Thanks for the sushi dinner...Let's do it again soon?
—Your (very) rainy day friend

To that Great and Cute Guy!!!
I saw you at the Park St. T-stop taking the train to central station on Friday, Feb. 25. It was a rainy day and you were wearing a blue T-shirt that read "Coulon home rep" or something of the sort. You were drinking a coffee. I was wearing a long black jacket and a black hat and listening to my walkman. You were sitting in front of me and we exchanged lots of glances and smiles and I was just melted. But before I realized, you had to get off the train. If you remember me and you are interested, just contact me.
—mtmq@hotmail.com

MAX
I want you to know
that I will never be able to find
enough words or music to
tell you how dearly I love
you.
Just in case when I am
being a domineering hussy
you ever wonder.
You are my world.
If I go away next year I hope
we will be okay.
And if we are not then...I hope that
will be okay with me.
—me

Jimi
I don't know what else you have to do in your spare time but maybe you should act your age and get on with your life. People like you make all of us in the service industry look bad. You are a chef at a leading eatery in town and I wonder what Todd English would think of you publicly humiliating a girl almost ten years your junior in a major publication just to ease your soul because she wants to enjoy her youth rather than sit around and get old and fat on the soft with you. I suggest you try to be a little more professional.
—A Foodie

DKNY's Blue-Eyed Beauty
Heather, You are the most beautiful person I've ever met in my life!! Every second I see you, I just want to grab you and never let you go. You must know who I am??? You deserve everything, and I want to be the provider.
—Love, #1 Fan

To: With Disgust, an Arlington Woman
You dished it out and now you're gonna take it. You sent the salon I work at a nasty letter claiming that in our most recent before and after photo ad we "butchered" the model's "crowning glory" and gave her a short masculine haircut. In truth, her hair was long and damaged. Her stylish new short haircut was feminine and adorable on her. It's women like you, with your Neanderthal viewpoints, who set the women's movement back. Do all women have to have long hair to be considered attractive? Certainly not! ...
I'm expending the energy to write this because you insulted the talented work of one of my co-workers. What exactly was your excuse? How sad for you to have nothing better to do with your time than send businesses hit and run letters. You need to get a hobby, some therapy or maybe just a life in general. Disgusted back at ya.
P.S. While I'm here, Mark at Pottery Barn across the street: You are so cute!
—anonymous

To 99 Mike
HI, me again. Or us. Racking your brain. Thought I smelled smoke. Maybe you can use that in your act. Maybe not. You are the funny one, ass-boy, or can I just call you ass? Post office not delivering? Can't pass the Pepsi Challenge? Don't worry, Surprise #2: On the way. Mid March. AM or PM? Advice: People you think you know, you don't. People you thought you just met, you didn't. People you're about to meet. You've met. Get it? Hint: Red-black-red-black-black-red. Bonus Hint: Do you like owls? Who? We love you. Brace yourself. See you soon. Oh. And. Watch. This. Space. P.S.-How's your car? Heh. Heh. Heh. Mwah!
—Your Fans

To Michelle
I saw you at the school the other day looking fly in your maroon hat and eating Rocky Road and popcorn. You turned me on. What do you say—you, me, some tattoos and a trip to NH? Will you be my fleur-de-lis?
—The Kitchen Club

Dear Careless Cashiers of Boston
Start paying attention to what you're doing, otherwise, quit your jobs. I'm tired of you ripping me off a nickel, dime or quarter because you're busy fooling around. Some of you aren't capable of counting past ten and do it unintentionally and I feel sorry for you but at least you're trying. I'm not usually one to complain about missing a few cents but it adds up and especially at the rate you're going! If this happens as much as it does to me, it makes me wonder just how many other people are getting ripped off. By the way, to you cashiers at the fast food counters with the attitudes...I've been calling your managers about your hygiene and social habits lately so service me appropriately and service me with a smile next time and you won't have any problems with your boss. Thank you.
—Spare Change Not

Rockie Horoscope

April 5 - April 18, 2000
BY ROCKIE GARDINER

Aries
MARCH 20-APRIL 19
Don't let the forward thrust of the current Mars-Jupiter conjunction pass you by. Use the enormous energy to lift yourself a level (go back to school, start a community garden, be well and prosper), because this planetary merger only happens once every two years, and it rarely occurs in your Taurus money house. The last time was March 1989. Venus in your sign makes you more attractive, and once Mercury moves in on the 12th, you'll become more expressive as well. This is a good time for Rams who need a bit of subtle allure, plus a unique idea to expound upon.

Taurus
APRIL 20-MAY 20
Those Bulls born at the end of April may be smack in the middle of their "moment," taking a time out to catch up with all that's been happening. The tremendous impetus of the enterprising, energizing Mars-Jupiter conjunction occurring right on your Taurus sun can propel you to places the rest of us have never been. Artists might be in conflict simply because your Venus ruler is being bathed by ethereal Neptunian vibes at the same time that your core being is positioned for material success on an order you have yet to experience. Such problems!

Gemini
MAY 21-JUNE 20
An airy Gemini moon this weekend is, in a funny way, grounding. Although your Mercury ruler is changing signs on the 12th, you won't stall out switching gears between one thought pattern and another. If it's possible for the concepts of security and adventure to co-exist—and while Mars and Jupiter are conjunct in resourceful Taurus, it is—then the Twins talent of having contradictory impulses and two thoughts at once should really pay off. However, in typically Gemini logic, the pay-off is not about money. That's incidental.

Cancer
JUNE 21-JULY 22
For the next three weeks, while Venus passes through your me-first Aries midheaven, artists and women can have a greater impact on your career, so be nice to the talent no matter how aggressively they come across. A partner with a spiritual bent or similar artistic leanings could soften the situation somewhat, but you should keep the idea of achieving a "radical breakthrough" uppermost in your mind if you're to succeed on your own terms. Promoting a well-endowed boys-only project, something along the lines of Teddy Roosevelt might work, too.

Leo
JULY 23-AUGUST 22
"The quirkier, the better. Untried, but true, nonetheless. No strings on this heart." Keep these mantras in mind so that you can maximize the benefits of your sun ruler's alliance with intuitive Uranus this weekend. Add an attractive partner with artistic longings and you're good to go until next weekend. That's when the momentum generated by the "gung-ho" planets in your career midheaven hits a road block, when macho Mars and paternal Saturn gang up on Lions born on August 8. The rest are free to run wild.

Virgo
AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22
I'm not saying you shouldn't make an effort to stay involved, but the less you stir the pot, the more luxurious the banquet served up by your Taurus garden of plenty will be. Besides, your Mercury ruler is adrift in Pisces, your often imponderable complement, until the 12th, so only your guru knows for sure what is going through your mind, and she says "let it be." However, the minute the opportunity to jump on the gravy train appears, make the leap. Even if it moves in fits and starts, riding that train is a good thing for Virgos to do.

Libra
SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22
Erect an altar, plant lavender and other lovely herbs, play music that soothes your soul. All things Neptunian relating to home and family, including the mother who sees spirits and the father who drinks them, benefits you. This is no scam, although when Neptune and your Venus ruler align, one may smell a rat drenched in perfume or find evidence of fraud at the art auction. Venus in your Aries sign of significant others is a warning that you are attracting, and are attracted to, artists of all kinds.

Scorpio
OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21
Health, wealth and a relationship that offers more of this and a lot more of that. Sounds to me like you're acquiring a loyal companion to help lower your stress level, a dog or a horse to insure that you get your exercise. Because Mars and Jupiter are opposing your Scorpio planets, the stakes got higher. Give more to get more in return. Me, I'd get a lawyer (Jupiter) and a trainer (Mars) and call it a day. You'll need extra muscle next weekend when your macho Mars co-ruler brushes against strict Saturn, then you're okay for a while.

Sagittarius
NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21
Pretty things to buy, pretty people, mostly women, to please during the work week, but until then, feel free to run around town, play high-risk games and take your chances with a rough-and-tumble crowd. As athletic Mars meets your sporty Jupiter ruler, Centaurs become more daring, dare I suggest, even reckless in their pursuit of pleasure. Of course, you can get hurt, especially if you were born in November, but a little S&M never killed a Sag, particularly the one with the riding crop.

Capricorn
DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20
Like your earthy Virgo compatriots, Capricorns won't be harmed by the frenetic Taurean activity this weekend. The worst that can happen, as if, would be an excess of enthusiasm or downright laziness. There could be conflict mid-month, a "which way to go?" decision that has to be made when ballsy Mars meets your cautious Saturn ruler, but you instinctively know when to accelerate, when to put on the brakes and survey the scene. That's why Goats rarely falter in their ascent to the heights or, for that matter, descent back to basics.

Aquarius
JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18
It's your innate Aquarian qualities, the "I gotta be me" refrain that shines bright and clear when the sun sextiles your Uranus ruler this weekend. Let the hair down and the social conventions fall where they may—you can write your own rules and plant them firmly in the e-economy in the next few weeks. Of course, there will be tension, excitement, anxiety, perhaps more optimism than the project warrants, but rest assured that someone—Big Daddy, a.k.a. Saturn on your nadir—will try to burst that bubble.

Pisces
FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19
I've said it once (maybe not to you) and I'll say it again: While the planets converge in Taurus, many Fish will acquire financial success and soul satisfaction; assets they will be proud to call their own. Others will be encouraged to spout their brand of wisdom and learning, to travel to the garden spots of the world and sprout seeds that are pure in heart and unadulterated, like a perfect Pisces should be. Until then, partake of the artistic and sensory delights that pleasure-loving Venus entices your Neptune ruler with this week or wait until Memorial Day. I don't think so.

Curious about the future? Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30 to 40+ pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise over the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $42.50 per report to ROCKIE GARDINER, 1021 N. Genesee Ave., #1, West Hollywood, CA 90046. *http://www.rockiehoroscope.com*. Read my daily forecast online at www.laweekly.com.

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men seeking women

Uninhibited male looking for casual encounters. Hello, this is an attractive single male calling from the Boston area. I am tall with sandy blond hair and baby blue eyes. I am looking for an attractive single female for casual meetings. Box 15468

Professional gentleman. My name is John and I'm a SWM, 45, 5'7", 145 lbs., and in good shape. I currently reside in Salem and I've lived here 13 years. I am looking an active single female with a good sense of humor, perhaps a little twisted or cynical. I live on the water and I have a variety of interests. Box 27815

Looking for a spontaneous woman. Hi, this is Shawn. I'm a handsome single male, 22, 5'11", with brown hair and hazel green eyes. My hobbies are listening to music, walks, cooking, and sports. I am seeking a single female who is funny, adventurous and an all around nice girl. Box 27816

Hello ladies. This is Jose and I reside in the Boston area. I'm 6', 24,with dark hair and dark eyes. I am looking for a no strings attached relationship. Box 26789

Open conversation available. Hi, this is an attractive SWM, and I'm looking for an older lady to have open conversation with. I would love to hear all your intimate thoughts and I'll share mine. Box 27831

My name is Paul. I'm an up beat single guy, 34, 5'8", 175 lbs., with brown hair and blue eyes. I live in the Boston area and I have an out-going personality. I enjoy working out and I'm looking for a physically fit female who enjoys a variety of activities. Box 27836

Great sense of humor. My name is Randy and I'm a fun loving single male. I'm 39, 6', 189 lbs., with brown hair and blue-green eyes. I have a variety of interests but what I love most is to make people laugh. I am seeking an attractive female who has a great personality and is not afraid to laugh at life's blunders. Box 28864

Sensitive guy. Hello, this is Chris. I'm a SBM, 28, 5'10", with brown hair and brown eyes. I consider myself very passionate and in tune with women's needs. I am looking for a sexy SBF who knows what she wants and can appreciate a man of my nature. Box 28901

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women seeking men

Calling from North of Boston. Hey, how's it going? I'm a single female, 26, with shoulder length blonde hair and blue eyes. I've been single for a year now and I'm looking to meet someone special. Box 11491

Hi guys. I'm a single female, 23, 5'1", 130 lbs., with black curly hair, dark brown eyes and an olive complexion. I'm looking for a single male who is fun, exciting and takes care of himself, for a friendship and a possible relationship. Box 26224

New to the area. Hi, this is single mother, 5'7", with a large and lovely figure. I enjoy the single life but I'm missing that special someone. I prefer a romantic gentleman with a good sense of humor. Box 25127

Long-term relationship. Hello, this is Trish. I'm an attractive single female, 22, 5'6", with long brown hair and hazel green eyes. I am looking for a single male for friends first and possibly more. Box 26737

I live on the border of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. My name is Sandy. I'm a single female, 24, 5'2",with brown hair and brown eyes. I enjoy cooking, singing, dancing, long drives and anything to do with poetry. I am paralyzed from the knees down, but I'm an out-going person with a great outlook on life. Box 27828

No elevated egos need apply. Hello, this is Deanna. I'm an attractive single female, 5'9" and I currently reside in the Worcester area. I am looking for a single male who appreciates beauty in the simplest form and is willing to spoil me. Box 27829

Looking for hot guys. Hello, this is Jade and I'm a sexy single female. I reside in the Rhode Island area, just forty minutes from Boston. I am looking for open-minded males for some hot times with an attractive female. Box 27835

Young at heart. Hi my name is Lucy. I'm a young looking 45-year-old single female. I'm Puerto Rican and I live in the Cambridge area. I consider myself attractive and I work out so I am physically fit. Box 27855

Casual relationship. This is Jessica and I'm an attractive single female. I'm 5'6", 100 lbs., with blonde hair and blue eyes. I'm attending college to pursue a degree in Early Childhood Development. If you're interested in talking leave a message. Box 27873

Sports fan. Hi, this is a single female, 5'4", with brown hair, brown eyes and I enjoy hanging out with friends. I love basketball and I'm looking for a single male who knows how to impress a girl. Box 27888

Visit Nightline on the web at www.nightlinepersonals.com and check out more local ads!

The Nightline service does not prescreen callers and assumes no responsibility for personal meetings. Callers must be 18 or over. Toll charges may apply. Optional paid services. Call for details.

BARS, CLUBS, RESTAURANTS & BRUNCH

The following are paid advertisements. Please check times and prices in advance. If you'd like to have your restaurant listed, please call The Improper Bostonian Advertising Dept. at 859-1400.

BARS

Billiards

Boston Billiard Club
126 Brookline Ave., 536-POOL. Ranked #1 in the country by Billiards Digest. Free lessons on Mon., 7:30 pm - 9 pm. Boston Billiard Club House Leagues on Mon. and Tues. "In The Biz" night on Sun. and Mon. for patrons in the hospitality industry. Ladies' night on Wed. Featuring a menu of light fare such as grilled chicken sandwiches and appetizers, along with beer, wine, cocktails and a variety of non-alcoholic beverages.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, The Allstonians and Beat Soup.

Brew Pubs

Back Bay Brewing Company
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center. $7-$18. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Bi-level restaurant/brewery offers an inspirational pairing of outstanding innovative cuisine and award-winning ales and lagers. Upbeat first floor bar and café, second floor dining room and bar with comfortable couches and overstuffed chairs. Mon. - Sun. 11:30am - 1am. Brunch Sun. from 11am - 3pm.

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Company
138 Portland St., Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is now the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, a block from the FleetCenter and steps from Faneuil Hall, Commonwealth Fish & Beer features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

General

Dick's Last Resort
55 Huntington Ave., Prudential Center, Boston, 267-8080. www.dickslastresort.com. Dick's has live music 7 nights a week, no cover, no dress code and certainly no class. They have 74 kinds of beer for the novice or serious/ sudsman, or a full bar for the hard core. Dick's also is a restaurant of sorts with buckets of ribs, shrimp, lobster, chicken, catfish and crab legs. This is the place your Mama warned you about. Free parking after 5pm, cheap til 5 with validation.

The Good Life
Uptown - 99 St. Botolph St., 266-3030; Downtown - 28 Kingston St., 451-2622. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1999 Boston's Best Martini award. The Good Life is a retro lounge that Frank Dean and Sammy would have hung at. Big Drinks, Great American Comfort Food, Hot Jazz and Plenty of Boy Meets Girl. Never a cover, always a good time.

Harvard Gardens
316 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114, 617-523-2727. A wonderfully relaxed haven located opposite MGH on the back side of Beacon Hill. Serving the finest cocktails and most comfortable food in town. Plant yourself in a comfy booth, a cozy banquette, or at our fully loaded bar and escape from your everyday troubles. Doing it nice & easy 7 days a week - 11am-2am.

Pravda 116
116 Boylston St., 617-482-7799. Located in the heart of Boston's theater district. Pravda offers one of Boston's hottest night clubs, and extraordinary cuisine as well. Pravda boasts the longest bar in Boston, featuring a center ice surface to keep your cocktail cool. If sitting at the bar is not your forte, enjoy a meal at a private table in the dining room or in a plush, secluded booth. Chef Chris Parsons prepares exquisite dishes with the latest seasonal ingredients. Satisfied your hunger? Then feed your crave to rave in Pravda's newly remodeled dance club. DJ's spin high-energy dance music, create an ambiance that radiates with energy. Rest. Hrs: Tues&Wed 5:30-10:30pm, Thurs-Sat 5:30-11pm; Club Hrs: Thurs-Sat 10pm-2am.

Sweetwater Cafe
3 Boylston Place, 351-2515. A classic American bar featuring Boston's best bands and DJ's nightly. A favorite Boston bar for 15 years with two floors of entertainment, an outdoor patio and world class margaritas. Always great music and cold beer, never a dress code. Available for private functions of any kind. (Credit cards: Am Ex, Visa, MC, Diner's) Tues. - Sat. 5 pm - 2 am. Located in "The Alley."

The Big Easy Bar
1 Boylston Place, Boston, 351-7000. Informal. Located in Boston's version of Bourbon Street, "The Alley." The Big Easy Bar is a hot new New Orleans style bar featuring Boston's best live bands and disc jockeys nightly playing music you know and love. Relax in a lounge, listen to the band, play billiards, hang at the bar or dance the night away. The Big Easy Bar has something fun for everyone. Great beer selection, 22 oz. Hurricanes, 4 huge bars, 2 lounges, a balcony, plenty of seating, and a large dance floor. Wed. - Sat. 8 pm - 2 am. Major credit cards accepted. Valet parking available.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, The Allstonians and Beat Soup.

The Sugar Shack
1 Boylston Place, 351-2510. "Home of Boston's Best Party." Set in the middle of a mini-Bourbon Street, The Sugar Shack celebrates Mardi-Gras year-round with a carefree, reckless, spontaneous and unpretentious attitude. Carnival lights, confetti, beads, specialty drinks, live bands and Disc Jockeys playing classics, motown, R&B, funk, disco, and old school hip hop from the last three decades mixed with the best of today's top 40. Home of young professional, young alumni, 20 something hipsters who desire cold beer, cocktails, classic party tunes and unadulterated fun!!

Wine Bars

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar
105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-0966. The hip meeting spot in the Financial District for after work, dinner, late night, or a seductive tryst. The Vault offers some of the most exclusive wines in Boston, which complement the creative American Cuisine prepared by Chef Rebecca Esty. Can't decide on a wine? Relax and compare with our Tasting Flights featuring selections from different reds and whites. So what are you waiting for? Call an old friend, a client, or a co-worker and meet for cocktails at The Vault today.

RESTAURANTS

Ajanta
145 First St., Cambridge, MA (617) 491-0075 (across from the Galleria Mall). Cambridge's newest Indian restaurant specializing in South Indian vegetarian cooking. We serve the best Dosai (crepes) in town: paper thin Dosai, Rava Dosai, Iddly, Uthapam and Vadas. We also serve North Indian Tandoori and meat curries, as well as mouth-watering chef specials such as lamb and chicken kabobs. Ajanta serves fine wine and Imported Beers in a high ceiling and contemporary atmosphere. Try our lunch buffet or our very popular Sunday South Indian Vegetarian Brunch. Hours: Lunch: Tues.-Fri. 11:30am-2:30pm, Sat. & Sun. 12-3pm; Dinner: Tues.-Sun.5-10pm.

29 Newbury Street Restaurant
29 Newbury St., Boston, 617-536-0290. Savor new American cuisine ingeniously prepared only with the freshest, most healthful ingredients available. The moderately priced seasonal menu is served in a casually elegant setting enhanced by the works of local artists. The restaurant and bar, located on the first block of Newbury Street in Back Bay, provide an intimate and sophisticated atmosphere. Valet parking. Reservations recommended.

Back Bay Brewing Company
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center. $7-$18. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Bi-level restaurant/ brewery offers an inspirational pairing of Chef Michael Burgess's innovative cuisine and Tod Mott's hand-crafted ales and lagers. Upbeat first floor bar and café, second floor dining room and bar with comfortable couches and overstuffed chairs. Sunday Buffet Brunch 11am - 3pm, $14.95. Mon. - Sun. 11:30am - 1am.

Butterfish, An American Bistro
5 Craigie Circle, Harvard Sq., Cambridge, 497-5511. Chef/Owner Christopher Bussell opened Butterfish on December 4, 1999, at the former site of Cafe Celador. Nestled between Brattle St. and Concord Ave., Butterfish's charming bistro setting is a perfect venue for Chef Christopher's fine American cuisine with international accents. Dishes such as "Monkfish with Moroccan Spices and Grilled Peaches," and "Double Thick Pork Chop with a Warm Corn Souffle" are complimented by an extensive choice of wines. Hours: Tues-Thurs 5-10pm; Fri & Sat 5-11pm.

Cactus Club
939 Boylston St., 236-0200. Get a taste of the Southwest in Boston. Specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, Cajun Catfish. Save 1/2 off entire menu Mon. - Fri., 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm in the bar. Sample the firewater menu while you are there, including Coyote Killer (Light and dark rum, peach schnapps, ginger beer and mixed juices), or a Chambord Margarita. The daring may go for a dip in the Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Amex, Diners Club, MC and Visa.

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Company
138 Portland Street, Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, near the Fleet Center and Faneuil Hall, Commonwealth features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

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Jillian's Boston
Behind Fenway Park, 437-0300. Upscale 70,000 Sq. ft. megaplex of interactive entertainment. Play breakthrough interactive communication games, participate in a live game show & watch a giant video wall while dining on innovative American cuisine at Atlas Grill on Jillian's new 1st floor. Jillian's offers motion simulator rides, more than 250 cutting edge electronic & virtual reality games, 50 billiard tables, table tennis, & "just for fun" black jack. Five full bars & 50 TVs that broadcast sporting events. Great for late night dining & private parties 25-3000. Open Daily.

Kashmir
279 Newbury St., Boston, 536-1695. Kashmir has been raising the bar of Indian restaurants in quality, style and service since it opened. Its Best of Boston, Boston's Best and Readers' Choice awards are a result of great execution. Indoors in three elegantly styled dining rooms and outdoors on the best people watching corner in town, Kashmir serves the finest Tandoori and curry dishes and most imaginative specials and the best lunch and brunch buffet in town. Wine and beer are available as well as takeout, delivery, private parties and catering.

Ma Soba Asian Cuisine & Sushi
156 Cambridge Street on Beacon Hill, Boston, 973-6680. Enjoy premium sushi and Ma Soba's unique blend of contemporary and traditional Asian cuisine prepared by award-winning chefs. Relax with a fine wine selection from Ma Soba's comprehensive wine cellar in a setting described as "strikingly attractive and ultra urbane" by the Boston Herald. Open daily: Sun-Wed until 10:30pm, Thurs-Sat until 11:00pm. When in Harvard Square/Cambridge, visit Ma Soba Express at 30 Dunster Street for quick-service pan Asian noodles and rice platters.

Ocean Wealth
8 Tyler Street, Boston, MA, 02111, (617) 423-1338. We know that people appreciate only the freshest seafood. So we introduced the concept of picking your seafood live out of the tanks in Boston in 1990 with the opening of Ocean Wealth. Upon entering our restaurant, patrons are greeted by a myriad of fish tanks, filled with codfish, black sea bass, blackfish, and lobsters. But what is different are geoduck clams from Seattle, Dungeness crabs from San Francisco, and live saltwater shrimp from Florida. Come and enjoy the Ocean's Wealth. Full liquor license. Reservations recommended. Open daily until 4 am.

Shenandoah Restaurant, Marketplace Cafe, Brewskellar Pub
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston 227-1272. Located in the North Market Building of Faneuil Hall, Shenandoah Restaurant, The Marketplace Cafe, and Brewskellar Pub have something for everyone. Whether you're interested in a casual dinner on one of Boston's largest outdoor patios or the quiet more elegant surroundings of Shenandoah Restaurant, we offer it all. Having a function? We cater personally to all events you may be planning. Visit us soon and let us surprise you.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve both lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar
105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-9966. A wonderful secret hidden in Boston's Financial District. The Vault offers contemporary American cuisine and an extensive and exclusive affordable wine list. Come in and enjoy our new spring menu, including an expanded raw bar, Maine crab cakes, seared tuna and much more. Lunch Mon. - Fri. from 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Dinner Mon. - Wed. from 5:30 - 10:30 pm, Thurs. - Sat. from 5:30 - 11 pm. Closed Sun.

Venezia
Venezia Restaurant & Function facility. Boston's "hidden jewel" offers romantic and intimate waterfront dining, spectacular views of the Boston skyline. European casual elegance and a unique blend of northern Italian and Mediterranean cuisine. Live entertainment and dancing in our lounge on weekends. Just off of Neponset Circle, open for lunch Mon. - Fri.; dinner every night. Call for daily specials and information 617-436-3120

The Wrap & Smoothie Bar
137 Mass Ave., Boston (at Berklee School of Music), 369-9087; 71 Mt. Auburn St., Harvard Square, 354-5838; 1940 Beacon St., Cleveland Circle, 739-0340; 82 Water St., Financial District, 357-9013. The Wrap serves delicious, freshly prepared wraps, burritos and salads as well as healthy and refreshing smoothies. Voted Boston's Best 1998 & 1999 by The Improper Bostonian. Fresh ingredients, great taste, healthy options - words we live by!

BRUNCH

Anago
65 Exeter Street, Boston, 266-6222. Anago, in the historic Lenox Hotel, presents a live Sunday Brunch from 11-2pm, prepared by Boston's whiz kid chef, Jamie "Shaky" Liberge, featuring a sumptuous buffet of appetizers with exquisite freshly baked desserts and breads created by award winning pastry chef, Lee Napoli, to accompany your choice of exceptional entree selections. Reservations are recommended.

Back Bay Brewing Company
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Featuring Chef Michael Burgess's Neo-Continental selections, including Eggs Benedict with Canadian bacon & herbed hollandaise, blueberry pancakes with almond maple syrup, omelet station, French toast, roasted meat carving station, house smoked salmon, and assorted desserts. Sunday Brunch Buffet 11 am - 3 pm. $14.95

Dick's Last Resort
55 Huntington Ave., Prudential Center, Boston, 267-8080. www.dickslastresort.com. Sundays, Dick gets religion and has a Heavenly Gospel Brunch from 10am to 3pm, serving fruit, salads, eggs benedict, fried chicken with a ham and roast beef station. Help yourself to the waffle or omelet stations and dessert bar and listen to old fashion uplifting live gospel music. Open for Lunch, Dinner and late night entertainment 7 days a week, no cover.

Museum of Science - Skyline Room
Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston, MA 02114. Reptiles: Real and Robotic, through May 29. Enjoy Sunday brunch in the beautiful Skyline Room overlooking the Charles River at noon, then experience the amazing Mugar Omni Theater: Dolphins and Mysteries of Egypt, through June, at 2pm. Tickets are $28 for Adults, $26 for Seniors/Children. Brunch only is $20. On-site parking is included. Reservations recommended, call (617)723-2500.

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MISC.

Fitness

North Point Club
North Point Club, 6 Museum Way, Cambridge, 617-523-2900. The newest fitness club in Cambridge, North Point Club is also a great value. Join now for only $69 per month and enjoy swimming, group exercise, cardiovascular conditioning, strength training and the motivation to reach your fitness goals. Conveniently located across the street from Boston's Museum of Science, it is easily accessed from Charlestown, Cambridge, and the T's Science Park and Lechmere stops.

Sports

Boston Paintball
131 Beverly St., Boston, 742-6612. The rules are simple. There are teams and everyone has paintball guns. You are inside of a large warehouse (near the Boston Garden). They are firing balls straight at you. You scream, dodge, hide, wipeout and have a blast!!! Great for bachelor/bachelorette parties, corporate outings, birthday parties, and much more.

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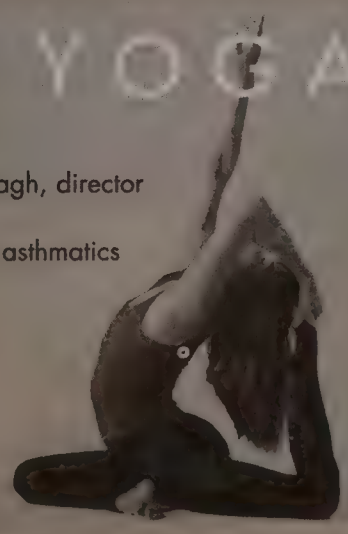

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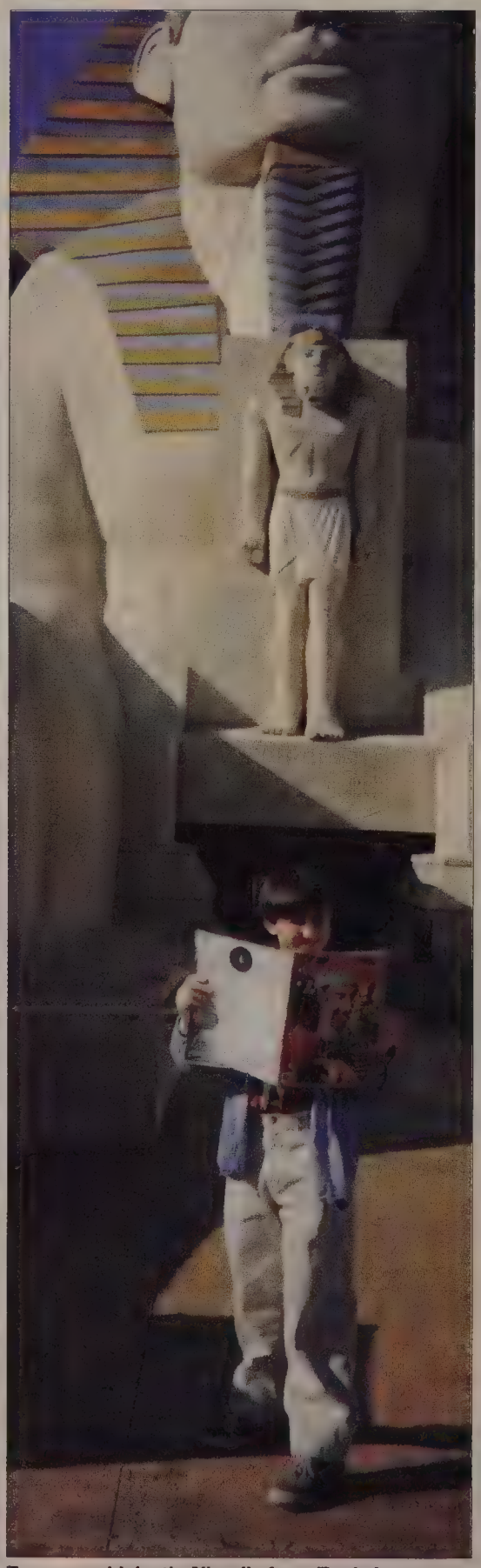
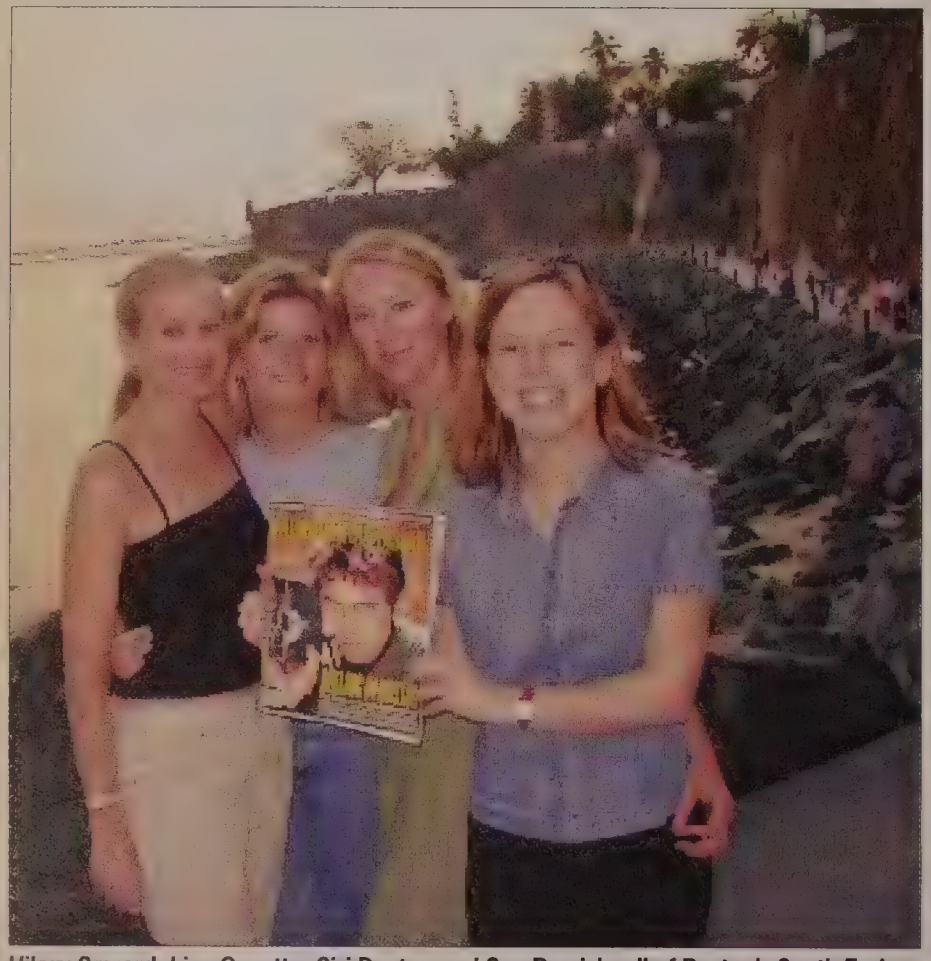
Chris "The Swiss" Gretner, former chef at Le Meridien, Craig Vacca from Stoneham and Dave Marx, a waiter at Ristorante Euro, pose in front of the Duomo in Milan.



Florida Governor Jeb Bush brings an IMPROPER to the National Governors' Conference in DC.



Hilary Seward, Lisa Goyette, Siri Dayton and Sue Parrish, all of Boston's South End, flash an IMPROPER as they vacation in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Ten-year-old Justin Nictolis from Tewksbury smiles in front of the King Tut statue in Vegas.

Former State Representative Suzanne Bump shares a fashion issue with Mississippi governor's chief of staff, David Cole.

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN

Last Scene Here

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

At the New England Spring Flower Show: Frank and Betty Avruch.

You Can Lead a Horticulture...

June was busting out all over inside the Bayside Expo Center at the Preview Party for the New England Spring Flower Show.

Seen tip-toeing through the tulips and stopping to smell the roses were such flower buffs as Louisburg Square denizens **Hope Baker** and **Dexter Burley**, soignée English professor **Betty Green**, Queen of the Green **Justine Liff**, TV's answer to **Cary Grant**, **Frank Avruch**, and his lotus blossom, **Bette**, wild Irish rose **Kate Shamon** and South End interior designer **Kent Hammond Keatinge**, the orchid-like **Jan Saragoni**, senatorial sibling **Thaleia (Tsongas) Schlessinger**, Chestnut Hill party pair **Nathalie Gardiner** and **John Hambright** and Channel 7 smoothie **Lester Strong**, among numerous others.

Besides a leisurely stroll through a premature Springtime, the evening featured cocktails, dancing and little nibbly things, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves thoroughly, except for one guest who kept sneezing—and whose date, rather than saying, "Gezundheidt," scolded, "You should've taken Claritin."

Spring blossoms at the Bayside Expo Center's Preview Party, where floral fans stopped to smell the flowers.

Queen For a Day...

It was like a Circuit Party minus the wild behavior but plus formalwear when more than 1,000 (mostly gay) men and a handful of their female friends gathered at the Marriott Copley Place for the 7th Annual Men's Event to benefit the Fenway Community Health Center.

The shockingly good-looking crowd included such guy's guys as **John Wolfarth** and **Kevin Powers**, artists **Elliot Wright** and **Raphael Jaimes-Branger**, former congressman **Gerry Studds** and his other half, lawyer **Dean Hara**, coiffurier par excellence **Thom Delahunt**, witty gadfly **Keith Orr**, the very sparkly **Stewart Clifford**, relentless raconteur **Jeff Coakley**, the impish **Sean Fitts** and Vineyard resident **Allan Howe**, social stalwart **Harry Collings**, honorary gay man **Sue O'Connell**, City Councilor **Mike Ross**, Copley Place commisary **Peter Dominski** and so on and so forth, throughout the phone listings for the South End, Jamaica Plain and select portions of Dorchester, Back Bay and Beacon Hill.

Given the guest list's demographics, it's perhaps surprising that there was any line at all for the Women's bathroom, but one guest observed: "The boys just can't resist using the Ladies Room. You should see the look on the attendant's face." Let's hope they tipped her well.

Nice to See You, Too...

Meanwhile, at the Copley Plaza Hotel, the AIDS Action Committee hosted MasquerAIDS, a black-tie costume ball that rescheduled Fat Tuesday to the Saturday after Ash Wednesday (and the same night when many who otherwise would have been there were eating Cajun chicken at the Men's Event).

No matter. The party, hosted by philanthropist **Michael Allen** (dressed as Cyrano de Bergerac) attracted a super-glittery crowd that boasted such chronic hipsters as **Ari Feinstein** and **Karen Cherella**, style avatars **Carolina Tress Balsbaugh** (in a medieval maiden getup) and **Manuel de Santaren** (looking sinister in black lipstick and a raven-feather ruff), neurosurgeon **Phil Stieg** and his equestrienne other half, **Janet**, **Jackie-O** doppelganger **Michael Carter**, board president **Michael Melendez** and the affable **Chris Marrion**, Mass Media Alliance founder **Joan Quinn Eastman** (a.k.a. **Joan Clint Eastwood**), **Holly Golightly** double **Susan Crocker** and husband **Zenas**, decorators **Michael Barnum** and **Andrew Neave** (looking spooky in 18th-century Mardi Gras outfits) and artists **Elliot Wright** and **Raphael Jaimes-Branger**, who left the Men's Event after dessert, rented a room at the Copley Plaza and changed into the fabulous costumes—**Louis XIV** and his Lord Chancellor—that they'd worn to Carnivale in Venice the week before.

MasquerAIDS party-goers (clockwise from top): Raphael Jaimes Branger and Eliot Wright; Manuel de Santaren; Michael Carter and Caroline Tress Balsbaugh; Karen Cherella and Ari Feinstein.

The evening's most amusing exchange:

"I never would've recognized you!"

"Is that because I'm dressed as a woman or you're not wearing your glasses?"

"Both."

"Well, I was hoping you wouldn't. But now that you have, how are you?" iB

Men's Event attendees: Raphael Jaimes Branger and Elliot Wright (top left); Keith Orr, Sue O'Connell and Thom Delahunt (top right); Kristos Togias, Robert Davis and Stewart Clifford (bottom).

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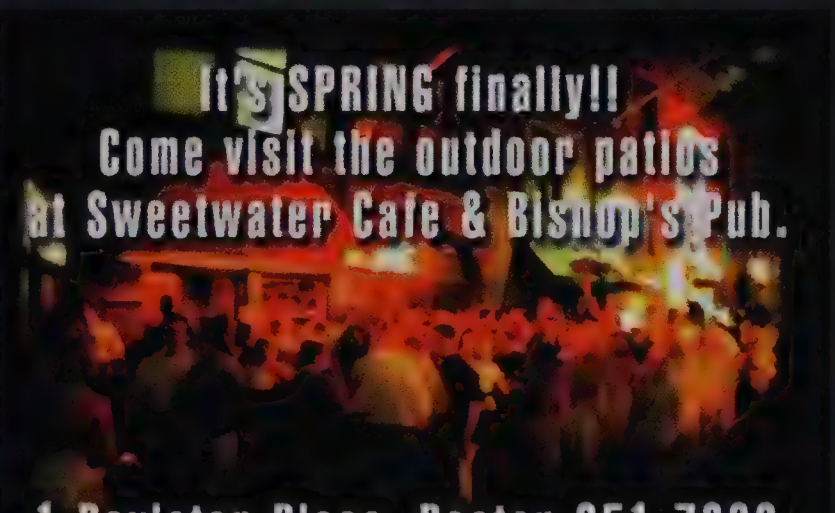

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MICHAEL WEBER

letters

Spin Control

I read your article about the hottest Boston club DJs. The article was pretty good. It gave a lot of information about each DJ and his/her style. The one thing that concerned me was that one name was left out: DJ Lil' Mike. Ask any minority college student about him, and you will get a positive reaction. Lil' Mike has been lacing the college and club scene for the past three years. With his affiliations with *Campusquad.com*, Biscuithead Records, Universal Promotions and La Familia Entertainment, Lil' Mike has been blasting the best in hip-hop, reggae, R&B, and Latin house. He currently does Who's on First every Saturday night. I just feel that he should be given a little more recognition. He is actually behind Mastermillions in the picture you shot. He is wearing the Old Navy fleece. He has done other clubs, such as Club Joy, M80, Jukebox, Europa, Karma, Bill's Bar, the (former) Spot and now Who's on First.

MICHAEL TRUJILLO
Via email

The article on Boston's DJ scene was certainly welcome, and the cover of Static is great. The DJs that work the gay scene rarely get much press, so it was nice to see three of our regulars mentioned. However, you left out two great artists who absolutely deserve recognition. Michael Sheehan, resident on the main floor at Buzz/Saturday, is the reason "Killer Dance" isn't just a tagline. Every weekend (I can't remember him ever taking a night off), he packs the floor, delivering hard, kidney-liquifying beats and the most consistent style of almost any DJ I've heard. Spare the vocals, please. Most frequently (and unfairly) overlooked, Richie Rich is developing a reputation as the best DJ nobody ever hears. A favorite at private parties but seemingly unable to find a night of his own, Richie is an absolute wizard. His willingness to create on the fly and his eclectic and offbeat selection can be scary, but if you're willing to follow along and give him room, Richie can take you on one hell of a fun ride. There are plenty more, of course—but I couldn't go without mentioning two people who have made so many of my nights something to remember.

FRANK DANA
Via email

They Just Didn't Get It

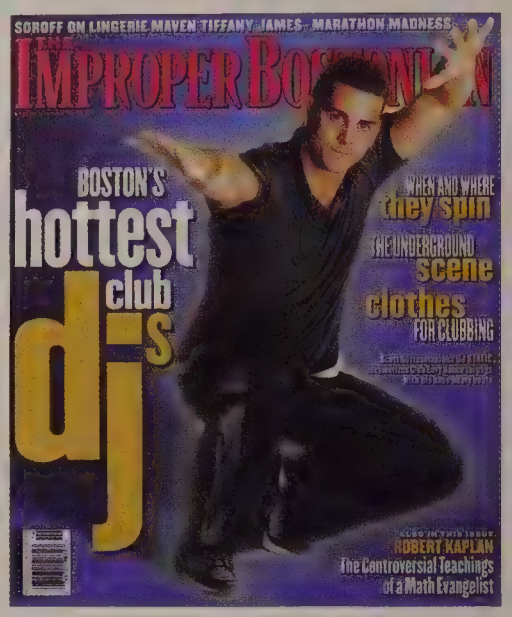
I usually read [Ezra Dyer's] articles with much enthusiasm and interest. However, I was disappointed in your most recent article titled "Dear Mr. President." You bombed so hard-core in this article that you might as well have reintroduced yourself to "Mr. Smart Bomb, Mr. Tomahawk and Mr. Big Ass Ground Invasion" and aimed them at yourself for the destruction of such a blatantly absurd opinion. First of all, get your facts straight. Clinton isn't even running for office this coming November ... how could you possibly threaten him by not voting for him?

You're the dumb-ass that thought it would be "cool" to own a $35,000 sport utility vehicle, now we have to listen to your waah-waah whines of how expensive it is for you to put gas in it to drive a quarter mile to work every morning? Get a clue, start biking to work, or God forbid, try walking for a change.

You're "wrong! dead wrong!" on the Alaskan oil issue. You state "Is a little oil drilling going to scare away the Mooses?" That's exactly what oil drilling in Alaska will do, and much more. It would interfere with the little bit of untouched wilderness that we have left.

I found your article to be unsupportive of your view that "intelligent and well-informed Americans" would demand any of these tactics. Too bad you classify yourself as one of them.

KRISTY BLANK
Somerville



"Based on [Ezra's] reasoning, you'd have all of us goose-stepping into Riyadh, singing "Amerika Über Alles," killing innocent people, all because there are a few idiotic Americans who can't buy cars with better gas mileage than the Saturn V Rocket."

— Steve White *via email*

Whether or not it was meant in jest, advocating violence is never in good taste. You said, "I think those OPECs need to be reintroduced to Mr. Smart Bomb, Mr. Tomahawk Missile and Mr. Big-Ass Ground Invasion." Gee, attacking a country because we're not happy with prices. Hmm ... sounds like what Japan did at Pearl Harbor after the U.S. cut off 70 percent of their oil in April 1941. Sounds like what Japan did in invading the Dutch East Indies for their oil reserves. Sounds like what Italy did when they invaded North Africa for their oil fields. Sounds like what Germany did when they invaded Romania for their oil fields in Ploesti. So, based on your reasoning, you'd have all of us goose-stepping into Riyadh, singing "Amerika Über Alles," killing innocent people, all because there are a few idiotic Americans who can't buy cars with better gas mileage than the Saturn V Rocket.

Dyer, if you really knew what you were talking about, you'd know that OPEC does notset oil prices. OPEC only sets oil production limits. So who decides how much oil costs? Oil futures traders at the Chicago Board of Trade. And why can futures traders bid up the price of oil? Because they're smart enough to know that there are idiotic Americans who spend $35,000 for a vehicle that gets eight miles per gallon. Are you now going to advocate launching missiles because you can't walk a quarter of a mile to work? People like you are why the rest of the country has to pay more at the pump.

STEVE WHITE
Via email

Corrections

In March 22's Proper Bostonians column, Julian Schlossberg was incorrectly identified.

Ahmet Ertegun's name was mispelled in last issue's NEMO overview.

In the March 22's The Spoken Word, two of Morrighan Productions' shows were incorrect. Its O'Brien's show on one Monday a month has no open mike. Out of the Blue Gallery has poetry every Saturday night and Morrighan is there every fourth Saturday.

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The Tall Ships will grace Boston Harbor this summer, July 11-16.

ANCHORS AWEIGH

The run-up to this summer's **SailBoston 2000** officially began this week, as twin flotillas of Tall Ships left Southampton, England and Genoa, Italy, bound for Cadiz, Spain and then Bermuda. The race is the first leg of a six-month transatlantic race that will bring 130 ships—20 of them of the Tall Ship variety, plus the aircraft carrier *John F. Kennedy*—to Boston Harbor, July 11-16.

The pleasure of the extravaganza should be accentuated by the fact that the event very nearly failed to come off at all. You'll recall that a few years ago an operation out of New York called **OpSail** tried to get the Big Apple and New London, Conn., designated as the fleet's only two official ports of call in the Northeast. A gent named **Charles Robertson** was throwing himself around the International Sail Training Association in London (one of the major sponsors), saying that he had **President Bill Clinton**'s official blessing to run all Tall Ship events on the East Coast, and that the president wanted only New York and New London honored. All of which, of course, was total BS. Then big event maven **Dusty Rhodes** of **Conventures Inc.** comes to the rescue. The results? The fleet will visit New York on July Fourth, but only 38 of the ships will peel off for New London as the rest continue on to Boston for a six-day layover—the fleet's longest stay on the East Coast. Then the racers will take off for Halifax, Nova Scotia, and finish in Amsterdam at the end of the summer.

AN INSIDE JOB?

We're sure we were not alone last month in remarking on the incredible celerity with which the local media pounced all over the case of **Jack E. Robinson III** after he let it be known that he was going to run for the U.S. Senate seat now held by Ted Kennedy. So who dropped the dimes?

Looks like Jack E. Robinson III won't be slipping into Ted's seat after all.

"I know it wasn't the Kennedy people," one democratic operative told THE IMPROPER. "There would be no percentage in it for them. Maybe some of the first dimes got dropped by dems. But I think the later, really damaging stuff came from inside the Republican party. **[Gov. Paul] Cellucci's** people didn't like the idea of a total political novice coming in from the outside and going for the brass ring without paying his dues." Which would certainly go a long way toward explaining Cellucci's hot-potato treatment of the senatorial aspirant within hours of the poor guy's formal announcement.

"They set Robinson up to fall on his sword and then pushed," said the operative.

HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN

Sighted lunching in Cambridge on a weekday last month: former State Treasurer **Joe Malone**. Harvard grad Malone is no stranger to Cambridge, but the site of the sighting was not exactly Harvest or Henrietta's Table. Rather, he was seen chowing down at the sort of place you'd usually expect to find a bunch of Harvard and MIT undergrads—the Rotisserie House in Central Square. From Armani suits at Locke-Ober to black shirts and camel-hair jackets at the Rotisserie in little more than a year and a half. Talk about downward mobility.

Now that he's only in charge of his own funds, Malone goes out on the cheap.

The Callbacks head for the big time.

LIVE, FROM NEW YORK, IT'S. . .

Anyone planning to head to New York in the interim should know that Harvard's a cappella singing group, the **Callbacks**, is heading to the Big Apple the weekend after next to compete in the national a cappella singing tournament.

The 17-member group, which will perform on April 29 at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center, isn't your typical a cappella group. How many other groups (other than the Persuasions) do you know that would even try doing Madonna's "Like a Prayer" without accompaniment?

To get to the national competition in New York, the Callbacks beat out groups from Brown, BU, Skidmore and MIT.

WHO'S ON FIRST?

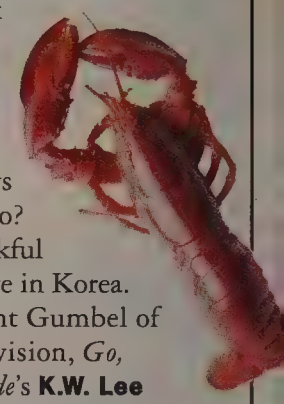
The construction of the state's standardized MCAS math curriculum continues to provide terrific entertainment. It makes you wonder if Bud Abbott and Lou Costello aren't really in charge instead of the state's education czar, **David Driscoll**.

The revised math curriculum is now having to be "clarified" because the revised version—which corrected a ton of errors in the original—still contains four pages worth of embedded mathematical mistakes. We don't mean to seem overly improper, but the fact that the person in charge of the revisions isn't a mathematician may have something to do with this.

Many of the mathematical errors were in the glossary—your basic road map to what numbers are. The original glossary, for example, defined a certain set of numbers as "negative whole numbers"—which left out all the positive numbers in the accompanying chart illustration. The revised version was changed to read "positive and negative integers"—which left out zero.

And you wonder why every teacher and high school kid in the Commonwealth thinks this standardized curriculum business is for the birds. Talk about sowing the seeds of confusion. Not to mention dumbing down.

HARD-BITING JOURNALISM



So you think American early morning television "news" shows are Art Dreco? Just be thankful you don't live in Korea.

The Bryant Gumbel of Korean television, *Go, Morning Wide*'s **K.W. Lee** was in Boston last month visiting **Anthony's Pier 4** for a hard-hitting feature on how to eat a lobster. (Apparently Koreans have really gotten into the crustaceans lately, and SBS-TV felt the need to send somebody 13 time zones away to get the skinny on how to crack claws.) Of course, featured in the feature were the wizened features of 88-year-old **Anthony Athanas**, owner of Pier 4, who, by all accounts, performed admirably before the cameras.

Then Athanas sent Lee off to Pier 4's lobstering operation in Spruce Head, Maine, so Lee could do (no doubt) an in-depth story on how to catch bottom feeders. iB

Speaking of Boston

Got a inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to *speaking@improper.com*

HOPELESS CAUSE?

The second anniversary of former Senator **George Mitchell**'s **Good Friday Peace Accords** in Northern Ireland falls at the end of this week, and there seems to be less hope for a resolution to the woes now than there was then. **Stuart Krusell**, executive director of the **World Affairs Council of Boston**, is just back from a five-day trip to Belfast, where he met with representatives of each of the six parties that make up the Northern Ireland Assembly. On his return to Boston, Krusell said that he felt a "lack of hope" from assembly members on the prospect of peace. "No one has confidence that this is going to be resolved soon," he said. Krusell made the trip with his wife, **Susan**, a doctoral candidate at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts.

Fresh out of the Peace Accords two years ago, former Sen. George Mitchell was all smiles. But now...?

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SAY CHEESE

Polaroid teeny-bops into high tech

BY GEOFFREY JAMES

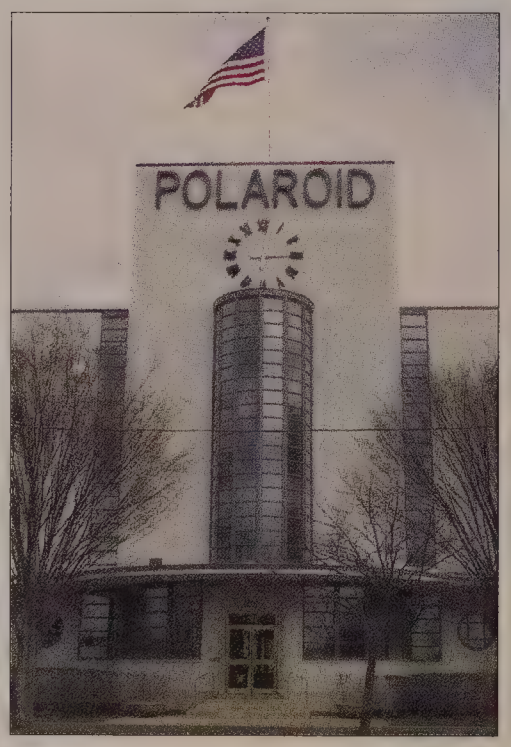
With digital imaging rapidly becoming the hottest thing on the Web, it's interesting to note that Cambridge-based Polaroid is suddenly becoming a big player in this market. That's good news for Boston because until recently, this major local corporation was a big loser when it came to anything high tech.

Of course, in its predigital heyday, a Polaroid camera was an extremely cool item to own. Not only did you get instant (well, almost instant) gratification in a world where drugstore film developing generally took a week, but you could take "special" pictures of your girlfriend without worrying whether the guy at the Photomat might drool all over your prints.

Then came the digital revolution, a revolution that largely passed Polaroid by. While the company came out with some commercial products like a "direct digital color proofer" (whatever the hell that is), other companies, including Sony, quickly dominated the field for consumer-oriented digital photography. As a result, Polaroid sales began to drop, leading to a series of workforce cuts and "restructurings" that began with a 20 percent personnel cut in 1995, and the announcement of the loss of some 2,400 jobs in 1997 and 1998. It got so bad that some people were afraid that one of Boston's landmarks—the art-deco Polaroid sign on Memorial Drive—might become a thing of the past.

As with many large corporations that stumble, Polaroid's main problem appears to have been a corporate culture that discouraged innovation and encouraged interoffice politics. Because of this, it was extraordinarily difficult for the company to adapt to a new technology, despite the fact that this was a wonderful opportunity for a brand name that was already established in the minds of the public as the ultimate in instant photography.

Curiously, for a very brief time I had a ringside seat from which to view Polaroid's dysfunctional culture. In the mid 1990's I happened to be dating the daughter of one of Polaroid's corporate executives. While staying at their house at the Cape, I entertained the family with stories about an executive at Digital Equipment Corp., where I was employed at the time.



The executive in question had been largely responsible for Digital's failure to adapt its office software to run on personal computers. He had a philosophy (which he repeated frequently) called "the monkey law," which went something like this: "When a monkey is moving through the trees, it doesn't let go of the branch it's hanging on to until it has a firm grasp of the one it's reaching toward." (The rest of his staff used to call it "the sloth law" behind his back, since that was the behavior that he was describing.) Anyway, because of this "law," Digital was never able to release new products that competed with its old stuff. Result: People eventually stopped buying the old stuff, and Digital was forced to exit a business that once had been a big moneymaker.

Anyway, I was telling this family about this guy, only to learn that he had been interviewing for a top job in Polaroid's electronic imaging group. "Well, you can kiss any new imaging products goodbye," was my comment. The parent of the girl I was dating was so concerned that a phone call was arranged between Polaroid's head of HR and myself. I remember the conversation well. I explained that the executive in question was, in my view, primarily talented as a corporate politician and that he knew how to work the levers but not how to get products out the door. The HR guy's response was a classic statement of what was seriously wrong at Polaroid: "He sounds like just the kind of person who will do well here." In other words, the decision had already been made to hire the turkey, and nothing that I had to say was likely to change the situation.

Clockwise from right: Polaroid's newest spokeswoman, singer Britney Spears; the I-Zone camera; a familiar Cambridge landmark.

There may not be a causal connection between the two events, but Polaroid started getting its act together soon after the "monkey" guy left in 1998 to head a local software firm. Regardless of the reason for the company's recovery, Polaroid's sales of digital cameras shot up from 40,000 in 1998 to 400,000 in 1999, according to corporate spokesman Skip Colcord. The hot sales of Polaroid's new products have made a number of stock analysts relatively bullish on the company. While it's taken a bit of beating during the spring high-tech sell-off, Polaroid shares are still up significantly from a low of around 17 at the end of last year.

The company's hottest product is the I-Zone Pocket Combo Camera, which combines an instant camera with a digital camera. The product, which sells primarily through mass retail outlets, was the bestselling camera in the country during last Christmas season. It's all part of an overall strategy to make Polaroid back into a consumer-oriented company, according to the company's chairman and CEO, Gary T. DiCamillo, who points out that Polaroid is "reaching an entire new customer segment... kids, teens and young adults, and they are largely incremental to our existing customer base."

The I-Zone, in fact, has quickly become the gotta-have-it item for the teeny-bopper crowd—a fact that's led to Polaroid becoming the co-sponsor the 2000 concert tour of none other than Britney Spears herself. This rides on top of previous recent tour sponsorships of the Backstreet Boys and the Spice Girls. "Can you imagine the old Polaroid hiring the Spice Girls?" Colcord laughs. IB

Geoffrey James (*www.geoffreyjames.com*) is the author of numerous business books as well as the co-host of Funny Business, heard Saturdays, 10pm-12am, on WRKO AM 680.

FROM TOP: SUSAN COWAN; NEWSMAKERS; COURTESY OF POLAROID

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CITY LIMITS

Good stuff, glamour and goings-on

BY ERIN HAGEDORN AND JULIE SHORT

New in Town

THE GOOD LIVES

The Good Life, that fabulous downtown boîte, just got cloned. Owner Brian O'Neill opened up a Cambridge incarnation of the bar in Central Square on Tax D-day. It's like its kin except that the dining room, bar and jazz room will all be on one floor. Apart from this, expect the same trademark Naugahyde booths and red smoky glow, the specialty martinis and the strangely delicious butternut-squash pizza.

O'Neill is excited to be setting up shop in Central Square, which he says has been "undergoing a renaissance" recently. "It reminds me of what the Financial District was like when we first opened up the Good Life there in 1996—and now look at it." The restaurant/bar will feature live jazz seven days a week—something new to the mecca of music squares.

The Good Life, 720 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (868-8800). Open daily, 11am-1am.

All the Buzz

ELECTRONICA BOOM

As many hipsters are well aware, Boston's electronica music scene has seen a recent surge. An umbrella term for a genre of music made using electronic equipment (sometimes incorporating live music but more often using synthesized or computer-generated sounds), electronica has been bubbling up from the underground avant-garde music scene and making its way on to the regular roster of Boston beats. One of the easiest ways to find out what's going on is to check in with Toneburst (www.toneburst.com)—an experimental music collective that is always pushing Boston's sonic barriers with its unique combo of DJs, ambient/experimental musicians, performance and video artists .

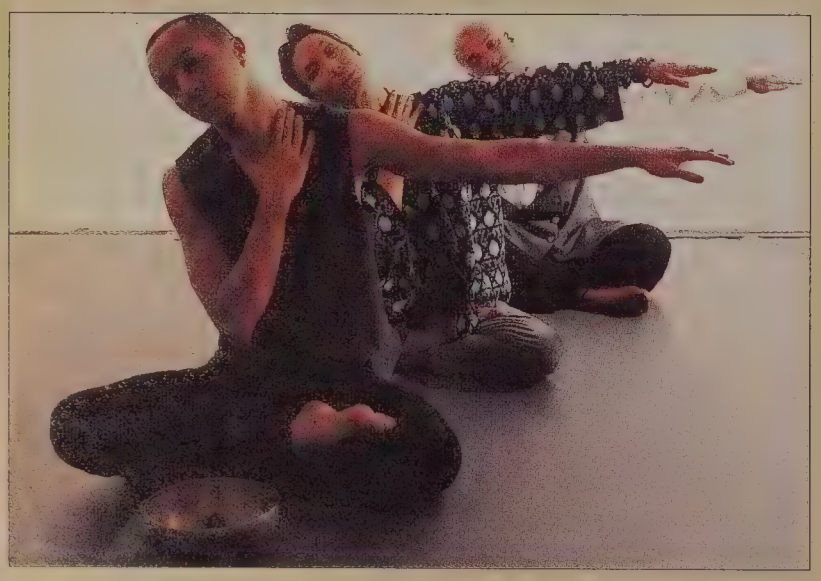
Among the Boston venues attracting turntable acrobats and electronica musicians is, of all places, Davis Square's VFW, which has a cybertribe underground night on Tuesdays. At this newly relocated Circle Party (formerly at the Paradise), the crowd revels in the beats of trance-like, neo-tribal sounds—see what it's all about April 25 with DJs Moosaka and Geoffrey—all hosted by DJ Shwilly B.

Several other nightclubs are also getting into this sub-genre of electronica: Hibernia has a new drum- and-bass Monday night "Language," with DJs G White, Dot and Surface spinning. In early April, the Middle East launched "Toxic" night on Sundays, with both DJs and live musical acts. On May 7, one of the most irreverent turntablists in the biz, Canada's Kid Koala, scritches and scratches a dynamite interpretation of hip-hop with spoken word and '80s pop samples here. Inspired by the likes of Cash Money and Cold Cut, he shows off his vinyl finesse.

Also, Central Square's Zeitgeist Gallery is getting into the ambient "art of noise" swing of things on Saturday with Subconscious Cafe night. Here, unique live sounds are usually set to films.

Full Service

FOUNTAINS OF YOUTH



Clearly, nobody wants to grow old. But as the not-so-well-known saying goes, "Age is like mind over matter—if you don't mind, it doesn't matter." Inspired by the comprehensive *Secrets of Aging* exhibit that opened last week at the Museum of Science, we decided to explore this topic locally. Does Boston have its own fountain of youth?

According to journalist Richard Griffin, who writes the *Brookline Tab*'s "Growing Older" column, "Regular excercise and physical and spiritual activity" are key weapons against aging. "Break your rigid schedule and leave time for reflection and meditation," he says. The pithy Dr. Robert Butler, director of the National Institute of Aging, offered similar advice at the exhibit's press preview: "Get up off your apathy."

If you need further encouragement, visit the exhibition, which showcases what the current scientific research tells us about aging. It includes interactive exhibits such as the sobering Face Aging computer program (see the damage that sun and smoking hath wrought), a t'ai chi ch'uan demo, which allows visitors to experience this gentle martial art, and videos of celebrities discussing the aging process. Follow their advice—or you might have to give your plastic surgeon a call. *Secrets of Aging shows through Sept. 4.*

Around Town

TEE TIME

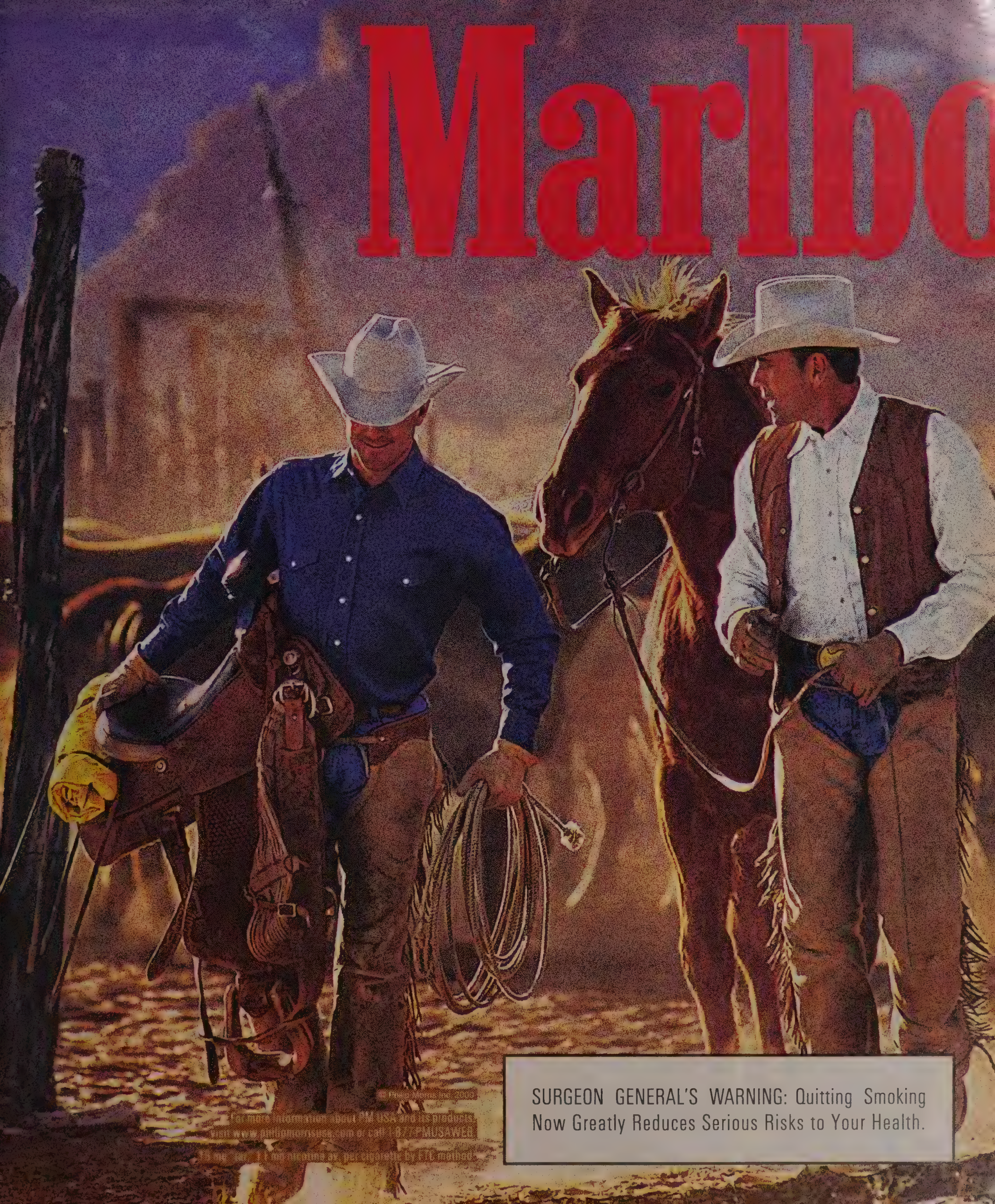
The game of golf has long been fashionable among corporate types looking to discuss business outside the office. On weekdays, however, it's not the most accessible sport for those trapped in Boston's gridlock. What to do?

Well, one Boston company decided to bring the green to the office. When Edu.com, a student online shopping Web site, moved into its expansive new digs last November, employees found a two-hole putting green amidst the traditional office landscape of desks, chairs and computers. "Some companies have pool tables, others have basketball nets. We have our own little green," says chief marketing officer Linda Kanner. "It's a great stress reliever."

It was Boston-based architecture firm C. and J. Katz who transformed the 24,000-square-foot office space located above a parking garage into an airy, light workspace—complete with the putting area. Says Kanner, "The days of companies with high-paneled cubes are over. 'Young' companies nowadays are open and bright, encouraging activity."

For those unfortunates without an in-house green, skip on over to the newly opened CityGolf, a two-story, high-tech practice center/putting green located opened at 80 Summer St., Boston (357-GOLF).

GOOD LIFE: BERTA A. DANIELS; GOLF: SUSAN COWAN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SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Quitting Smoking Now Greatly Reduces Serious Risks to Your Health.

Proper Bostonians

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

More than 900 guests gathered at Le Meridien Hotel for the eighth annual **LifeSavor** benefit for Community Servings, March 23. Academy Award-winner Celeste Holm and nominee Elisabeth Shue joined Mayor Thomas Menino and local celebrities for the sold-out fund-raiser. The evening began with a cocktail reception, followed by dinner parties at 70 of Boston's most acclaimed restaurants. The $250-a-ticket event raised $365,000 for Community Servings Inc., a nonprofit group that sponsors a free, city-wide hot meal-delivery program for the growing number of home-bound individuals and families with AIDS.

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1. From left, Boston City Councilor, **Peggy Davis Mullen**, **Sara Edwards**, arts and entertainment reporter for Channel 7, and **Steven Maler**, artistic director of the Commonwealth Shakespeare Company.
2. **Liz Walker**, news anchor for Channel 4, and **David Waters**, executive director of Community Servings in Roxbury.
3. **Chris Haynes**, owner of CBH Communications, and **Lynne Kortenhaus**, president of Kortenhaus Communications.
4. **Mat Sibble**, partner at Goodwin, Procter & Hoar, and his wife, **Francesca**, a LifeSavor committee member.
5. **Lee Bierly** (l) and **Chris Drake**, co-owners of Bierly-Drake Design.
6. From left, **Alex Clawson**, human resources for Massport Authority, **Rosanne Mercer**, president of Mercer Public Relations, **Norma Loeb**, assistant to the publisher at the *Boston Globe*, and **Tom Smith**, job coach for the Jewish Vocational Services.
7. **Paulina Neely** with her husband, former Boston Bruin **Cam**.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston (BGBC) Partners for Youth award dinner was held at the World Trade Center, April 5. Dinner began with opening remarks from BGCB Chairman of the Board Myra Kraft, followed by a speech from BGCB President Linda Whitlock, who spoke about the Fund for the Future, a fund-raising initiative that partners private equity with BGCB's after-school programs for 7,000 inner-city children. Later in the evening, Russell Epker, managing director of Berkshire Partners LLC, was presented with the Partner for Youth Award 2000. As BGCB chairman of the board for four years and a member for 16, Epker was recognized for his enthusiasm and constant support. The event raised $2.4 million for the Boys & Girls Clubs.

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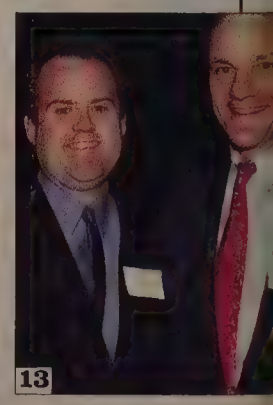
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8. From left, **Lisa McCarthy**, owner of Crossing Main clothing stores, **Don Lowery**, vice president of the New England Patriots, and **Lone Rockstron**, general manager of Crossing Main in Hingham.
9. From left, **Bob Kraft**, owner of the New England Patriots, with **Celeste** and **David Wetherell**, CEO of CMGI.
10. **Kohar Allen** and her husband, **Michael**, co-owners of the Frame Gallery in Brookline.
11. **Mike Carson** (l), vice president and general manager of Channel 7, and **Ben Taylor**, former publisher of the *Boston Globe*.
12. **Myra Kraft**, chairman of the board of directors for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston, and **Russ Epker**, managing partner of Berkshire Partners LLC.
13. **Michael Dalton** (l) and **Michael Brown**, respectively senior associate and principal at Trammell Crow Co. commercial real-estate company.

After work never looked so good.

Rivitini

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APRIL 2000

DISCOVERY
April 28, 10 a.m. - Bolton

ORIENTAL RUGS & CARPETS
April 29, 12 noon - Boston

MAY 2000

FINE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
May 7, 12 noon - Boston

AMERICAN & EUROPEAN PAINTINGS
May 12, 7 p.m. - Boston

FINE CERAMICS featuring The Susan Weitzen Collection of Wedgwood - Part II
May 20, 10 a.m. - Boston

DISCOVERY
May 25, 7 p.m. - Bolton
May 26, 10 a.m. - Bolton

JUNE 2000

20TH CENTURY FURNITURE & DECORATIVE ARTS including Glass, Lamps, Pottery and Metalwork from the Art Nouveau, Arts & Crafts, Art Deco & Modern Movements
June 3, 11 a.m. - Boston

JUNE 2000 *continued*

AMERICAN FURNITURE & DECORATIVE ARTS
June 11, 11 a.m. - Bolton

FINE JEWELRY
June 13, 12 noon - Boston

DISCOVERY
June 22, 7 p.m. - Bolton
June 23, 10 a.m. - Bolton

ASIAN WORKS OF ART
June 24, 11 a.m. - Boston

JULY 2000

TOYS AND DOLLS
July 8, 10 a.m. - Bolton

ENGLISH & CONTINENTAL FURNITURE & DECORATIONS
July 15, 11 a.m. - Boston

THE STUDIO AUCTION
July 20, 7 p.m. - Bolton

DISCOVERY
July 27, 7 p.m. - Bolton
July 28, 10 a.m. - Bolton

AUGUST 2000

AMERICAN FURNITURE & DECORATIVE ARTS
August 13, 11 a.m. - Bolton

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Soroff/On

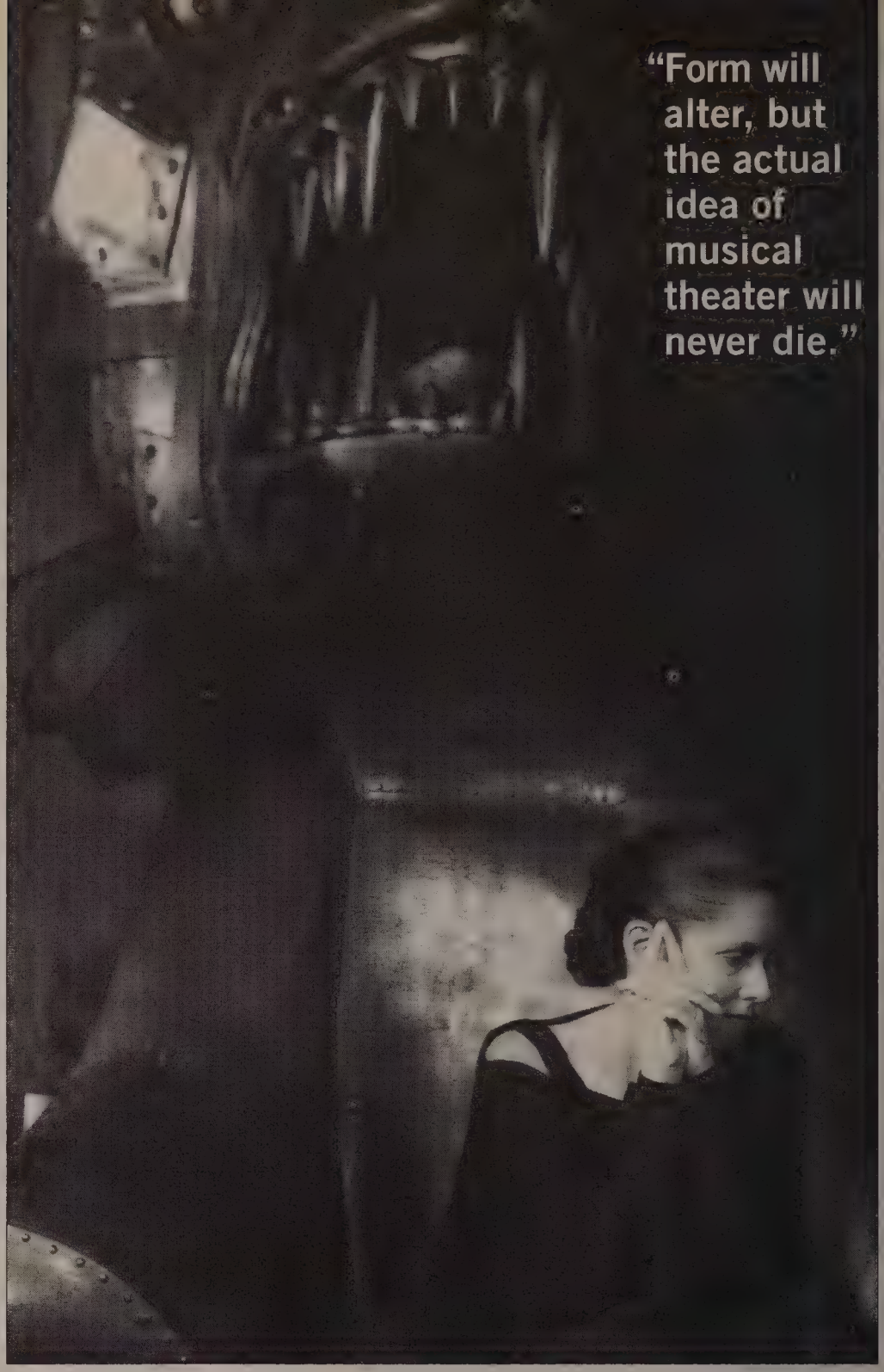
Julie Taymor

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Theatrical impresario Julie Taymor, 47, was born and raised in West Newton and graduated from Newton North High School. She studied in Paris at Ecole de Mime Jacques Lecoq before attending Oberlin College, where she majored in mythology and folklore. While on a Watson Fellowship in Indonesia from 1975-1979, she developed a mask/dance company, Teatr Loh. Other directing credits include Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus*, *The Tempest* and *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Transposed Heads* and an original musical, *Liberty's Taken*. In 1992, she directed her first opera, *Oedipus Rex*, in Japan with BSO conductor Seiji Ozawa. The film version won her both an Emmy and the 1994 International Classical Music Award for best opera production.

Her original musical-theater work, *Juan Darien: A Carnival Mass*, received five Tony nominations and two Obie awards, but it was the Tony-Award-winning Broadway version of *The Lion King*, for which she co-designed the masks and puppets and wrote additional lyrics, that brought her to the general public's attention. Last year's *Titus*, starring Anthony Hopkins and Jessica Lange, marked her feature-film directorial debut. She has won Guggenheim and MacArthur "genius" fellowships, the first annual Dorothy B. Chandler Award in theater and the Brandeis Creative Award, and a book chronicling her 25-year career—*Julie Taymor: Playing with Fire*—was recently revised and expanded. She is currently working on an opera, *Grendel,* with collaborator Elliot Goldenthal, and her version of Carlo Gozzi's *The Green Bird* opens on Broadway in April. She lives in New York.

Jonathan Soroff: *As a kid, what was your favorite toy?*
Julie Taymor: Clay.
JS: *Did you put on puppet shows?*
JT: No, but lots of plays. I was always making things up, dressing up. Theater and painting and sculpting were always a big part of my life.
JS: *You studied mime in Paris?*
JT: Not really. It was movement, mask work, corporeal expression...
JS: *So would you agree that the average street mime is the world's most annoying performer?*
JT: Oh, I don't like that kind of stuff.
JS: *What did you think studying mythology and folklore in college would prepare you for?*
JT: It was sort of anthropology and religion, and it was an era that was very much about making your own path. Oberlin had no grades. There was no set curriculum. And for me, it was appropriate for the angle of anthropology that I was interested in.
JS: *So you were heading toward anthropology, not theater?*
JT: Well, I never studied theater. I always just did it. I was a practitioner, not a student of it.
JS: *In* Titus, *there's a cannibalism scene with Anthony Hopkins and Jessica Lange. How many Hannibal Lecter jokes were told on the set?*
JT: None. In the scene where he has the boys upside down before he kills them, it was just terrifying to be in the same room with him. The man has an incredible power and he calls upon his inner rage, so I don't think anybody would've dared to joke.
JS: *Why do you think* Titus Andronicus *is Shakespeare's least-performed, least-read play?*
JT: I don't, and I don't know why people say that. There have been a lot of *Tituses*. King John is probably his least known and least performed, and there are a lot of others—*Troilus and Cressida*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*—that I don't think hold a candle to *Titus*.
JS: *Isn't* Titus *especially violent?*
JT: You think so? The only on-stage violence is *Titus'* hand getting cut off and the ending. In his other plays, there are enormous numbers of murders. In *Titus*, there's nothing we don't see every day.
JS: *Speaking of which, how do you feel about violent entertainment like* Scream 3?
JT: I don't know why people aren't up in arms over movies like that. I mean, it's OK, they fit their form, they're for people to get scared and that's fine, but if you're frightened that kids are becoming lackadaisical about violence, you have to investigate those kinds of movies.
JS: *What story would you most like to turn into an opera?*
JT: Well, I'm working on one now—*Grendel*, which is Beowulf told from the monster's point of view. So I guess if there was a different answer, I'd be doing it instead.
JS: *You received a MacArthur "genius" fellowship. How does it feel to be considered a genius?*
JT: (Laughs) That was a long time ago. The "genius" label is a little over the top, but it makes people take a look at what you're doing, so it helps you get the work done.
JS: *Because of* The Lion King, *puppetry is something that people associate with you. Who's your favorite puppet?*



JT: I loathe puppets. I think when they're done beautifully, they're extraordinary, but I still don't particularly like most of them, and I use them only when it seems appropriate. There aren't any in most of my work, but with *Lion King*, how are you going to put lions and giraffes on the stage? Puppets were the answer.
JS: *Well, do you think Ernie and Bert are a gay couple?*
JT: I don't know them.
JS: *People keep predicting the death of the American musical. Any comment?*
JT: It's such a stupid idea. There's no death of music, or dancing or storytelling. What will die is a composer or a choreographer, and when they go, there are revivals. Opera is musical theater. So people will tell stories using the means they can, and what blessedly will happen, or is happening, is that these rigid boxes or categories will disappear. Form will alter, but the actual idea of musical theater will never die.
JS: *As far as I'm concerned, Andrew Lloyd Webber is God's punishment for mankind's failings. Any thoughts on that?*
JT: I wouldn't venture an opinion.
JS: *Most disastrous experience in the theater?*
JT: In London, I was sitting next to Prince Charles at a preview performance of *The Lion King*, and in the first scene, everything went wrong. Scar's mask fell off his head; the giraffe slipped and fell. It was mortifying.
JS: *Hardest part of being a director?*
JT: Being a psychiatrist. Figuring out how to get the performers to do what you need them to do, without being brutal or offensive or just giving them line readings, and dealing with all their neuroses and psychoses. The personal stuff.
JS: *Don't directors, by definition, fall into the bossy, control-freak category?*
JT: Well, those are both negative terms, so I'd say no. It's a person with a strong idea and a vision, and to achieve that vision, you sometimes have to put blinders on. Otherwise, it gets circumvented, or muddled, or castrated. It doesn't mean you're stubborn or ignore other ideas, but people get very inspired to follow someone with a clear vision.
JS: *One last question. Can I have two tickets to* The Lion King*?*
JT: Talk to my assistant. She handles the house seats. IB

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BOSTON'S BELOVED BARTENDERS 2000

Buzz's Chuck Ray and Pho Republique's Dot Downey know how to construct a sturdy cocktail or two. They are just part of this year's all-star beverage-building lineup.

By Kim McGrath, Jonathan Soroff, Andrew Spano & Rachel Strutt

PORTRAITS BY STEVEN BILLUPS, WENDY MIMRAN & JENNIFER TAYLOR

"A man hath no better thing under the sun than to eat, and to drink, and to be merry." According to Ecclesiastes 8:15, that's a direct order from God, and who are we to gainsay the Big Guy? That's why we take such care assembling our annual roll call of Boston's Most Beloved Bartenders. The eating part of the equation is your problem. But for help with drinking and being merry, the mixologists featured on the following pages have barstools reserved in heaven. (The sacred few given "Hall of Fame" status have been featured at least once before in our annual bartender issue.)

So how do we go about selecting this impressive group? We let you, our beloved readers, do the heavy lifting. After logging long hours at various watering holes, many of you took the trouble to fill out ballots, and our crack team of interns painstakingly tallied the votes. In other words, it's as democratic a process as we can make it, given that certain people stuff the ballot box. Of course, the members of our editorial staff also have their favorites, and truth be told, they exert some influence (there's nothing worse than a sulking magazine employee).

In any case, we stand by our choices—each one of the bartenders here represents the very tops in their field, due to a combination of technical skill, attention to detail, swift and courteous service, charm, humor, good looks, the ability to do stupid tricks, or some combination thereof.

So let's raise a glass to The Improper Bostonian's Most Beloved Bartenders, Class of 2000. —*J.S.*

PHOTOGRAPH BY JENNIFER TAYLOR

Johnny Jacobs, Jessica Kurjakovic, Derek Shine

THE BIG EASY Johnny and Derek: Thu.–Sat. nights; Jessica: Wed.–Fri.-Sat., nights.

1 Boylston Place., Boston (351-7000)

"After Mama Kin closed, I was looking for a similar unpretentious place to work," says boisterous Jessica Kurjakovic. "A bar where young professionals go to have fun, where you don't have to dress up too much." She soon found herself serving up a storm at the Big Easy, alongside the likes of Johnny "Florida" Jacobs and Derek Shine. According to Big Easy bar manager Christian Gianaris, this power triumvirate of bartenders is "probably the most outgoing group on the entire staff. For them," he continues, "work means making people have fun. They definitely enjoy what they do." He adds with a laugh: "They're also a little crazy."

"I absolutely love what I do," confirms Kurjakovic, who practically breaks the sound barrier whizzing about on a busy weekend night, pulling taps, pouring and mixing drinks. "I dance behind the bar, I have a good time, and I think my customers do, too. And that's what it's all about." Indeed, you can hardly argue with such straight-up logic. —*R.S.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **Sugar Mama** Equal parts Coconut Rum, Blue Curacao, Southern Comfort, Razzmatazz or Chambord, pineapple juice and cranberry juice. Shake vigorously until frothy, and serve as a shot or on the rocks; garnish with lime, cherry and orange.

STEVEN BILLUPS

Kevin Power BUKOWSKI

Tue., Wed., days; Thu.-Sat., nights

50 Dalton Street, Boston (437-9999)

Beginning his bartending career on the Emerald Isle at the tender age of 16, this sweet and charming Irish soul extends his hospitality to everyone who saddles up to the bar. This involves some rules, explains Power: "No one leaves without a handshake or a kiss," he says.

Named after Charles Bukowski, author of *Play the Piano Drunk*, this beer-and-wine-only bar boasts an intelligent, literary and "mellow" crowd, which complements Power's easygoing demeanor nicely. Two exams short of his mechanial engineering degree, Power plans to finish school one day soon. Until then, he'll continue to spread goodwill at the bar. "He always makes you feel welcome," says one patron. And given his DNA, he knows how to pour a mean stout. —*K.M.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **A pint o'Guinness** "Best stuff in the world for ya."

Adam Herzlich EAT Tue.-Sat., evenings

253 Washington St., Union Square, Somerville, (776-2889)

The theme of the decor at Eat is that nothing matches. Adam Herzlich is no exception. Even though he's the bartender at one of Julia Childs's favorite restaurants, Herzlich would also look at home slinging plastic cups of Bud one side of a mosh pit. Shaved head, goatee, buff bod, he's a self-proclaimed rock 'n' roller who writes and records his own music.

"In a general sense I think a bartender should have more fun than anyone else in the room," he says, mixing and shaking a martini like he's in a trance. "That rubs off on people. I like the people I work with and the customers," he continues. "It's almost like a mini-family." Adam also is part-owner of the business. "It's something your parents can understand better than bartending."—*A.S.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **The Sky High** Infuse vodka with pineapple and mango juice. Strain and serve with a blueberry garnish, martini-style.

Erica Frené & Angie Martinson THE RACK Angie: Tues.–Sat. nights; Erica: Wed.–Fri.

20 Clinton St., Boston (725-1051)

Erica and Angie can hardly call work "work." These babe-alicious bartenders have such fun working at the Rack, they actually head *back* there on Sundays just to hang out. Erica is so fond of the place that when she travels out of town on business—as a spokesmodel for Dodge—she looks for a bar just like it. "And I never find a place I like as much," she says earnestly. Not surprisingly, their enthusiasm for the place rubs off on patrons, and these mixin' maidens have amassed a large clan of faithful and adoring regulars. And last, as you may recall, this good-natured duo posed nude for an IMPROPER BOSTONIAN cover a few years ago (sorry, no back issues available). —*K.M.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **Rack Martini** One and a half ounces of Stoli, one and a half ounces of Peach Tree Schnapps, drop of grenadine, splash of Blue Curacao; shake well and serve in a martini glass.

Paul Christie

GARGOYLES ON THE SQUARE Wed.– Sun. nights

219 Elm St, Davis Square, Somerville (776-5300)

The music is mostly 1955 to 1965 Blue Note jazz, Paul Christie's favorite period. He picks out the sounds while pouring everything from a Pilsner Urquell. Gargoyles' warm, elegant ambiance provides an apt backdrop for the friendly and urbane Christie. "It's ultra-urban elegance in earthy Davis Square," is how Christie describes the restaurant's decor. "There's a really nice vibe here at night," he adds. Customers say that he feeds that vibe.

He just bought a house near Davis and "got a new dog." While his stand-up comedy days are behind him, he still loves to play jazz on his saxophone. Most of all, though, he likes to turn his customers on to his favorite tunes and tastes. —*A.S.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **The Dedo** Two ounces each: Absolut Citron, Stoli Orange, Finlandia Cranberry; add sour mix and a splash of cranberry juice. Shake well and pour into a 10-ounce martini glass.

Jacinta Moyles THE PARISH CAFE Mon. night; Wed.-Fri., days

361 Boylston St., Boston (247-4777)

With a lovely Irish lilt that often spills over into laughter, it's no wonder people flock to the Parish when she's tending bar. Or perhaps, jokes Moyles, "people just come in to see the Irish girl with the funny name." (She was named after one of three children in Fatima, Portugal, who is said to have seen the Virgin Mary.)

Moyles came to Boston six years ago, originally intending to stay just for the summer. "It's been a long summer," she jokes. After a a few years at T.G.I. Fridays, she moved over to the hardly parochial Parish, where she's been ever since. "Apart from the regulars I know by name, we get a lot of restaurant types—perhaps because we serve food so late—which makes it fun." —*R.S.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **Juicy Fruit Martini** Half ounce Bombay gin, half ounce Grand Marnier, squeeze of lemon, splash of orange juice; serve chilled, straight up with a lemon twist.

Ali Howard WALLY'S CAFÉ Fridays

427 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (424-1408)

"He's attentive to his customers," says one regular. "And fast," another chimes in.

For the past two years Ali Howard has been tending bar at Wally's, the renowned jazz bar that features live music 365 days a year. His laid-back attitude helps make him a consummate pro at concocting cocktails against a backdrop of intoxicating music. Howard says that he likes the excitement of tending bar—and, he adds, the money. He also admits that he's equal part wise-ass and flirt (he points out earnestly that his signature drink matches his blue eyes).

By day, Howard studies psychology at UMass Boston, honing skills that surely come in handy on Friday night. —*K.M.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **Blue Eye Special** Mix half-shot Malibu, a half-shot Midori, one shot Curacao and a splash of pineapple juice. Shake over ice; strain and serve straight up in a martini glass. Garnish with a cherry or lemon twist.

Khalid "Kal" Amir MAGGIANO'S LITTLE ITALY Tue.–Fri. nights

4 Columbus Ave., Boston, (547-7373)

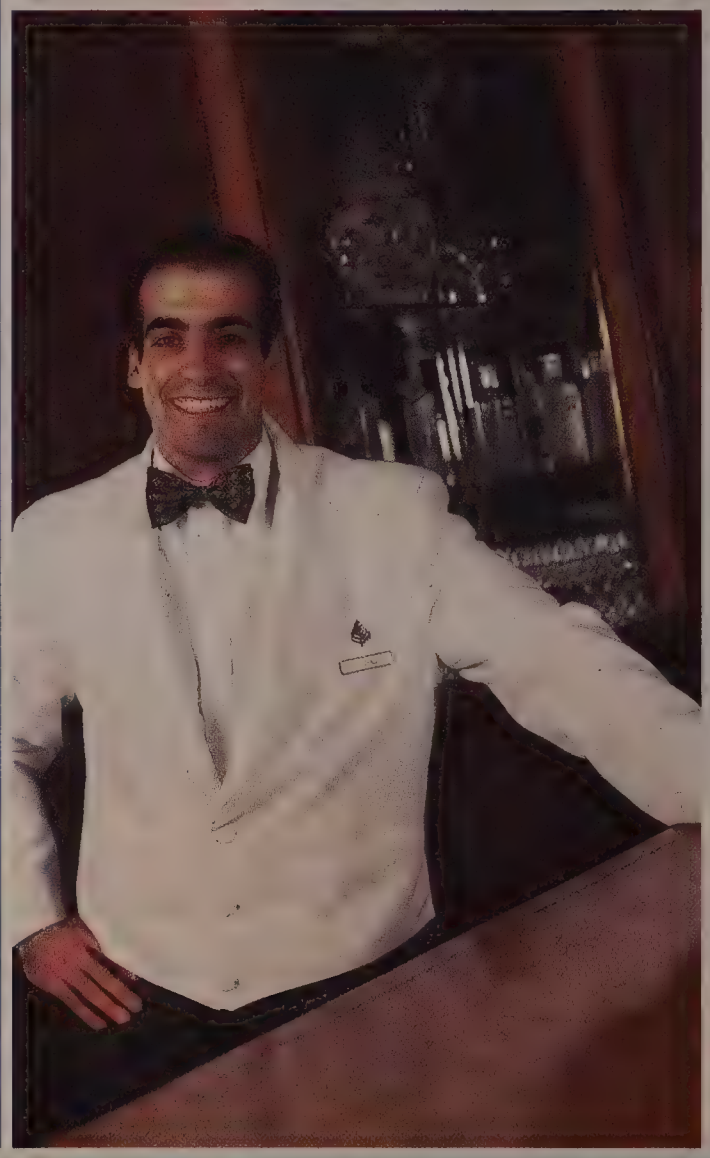
Within only a few minutes, customers are calling Khalid Amir "Kal." His genuine smile expresses both his pleasure in mixing martinis (for the mostly suits sitting at the bar) and meeting new people.

"Every shift is a new adventure," he says. "You never know who's going to walk in through that door. I try to make this bar like my home; they're my guests. I try to create an ambiance."

This one-man ambiance generator helped open Maggiano's, a sizable Italian restaurant and bar, last October. Before that, Kal tended bar at Sonsie on Newbury Street and at Stephanies (now Sophia's) on Boylston Street. Outside of Maggiano's, Kal just bought a house in Cambridge and installed a Viking stove. "I play restaurant at home," he says. —*A.S.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **Espresso Martini** Shots of espresso, Tia Maria and Kahlua, with Stoli vanilla.

Ron Marasa THE BRISTOL LOUNGE (at the Four Seasons Hotel) Sat.-Tue. nights



200 Boylston St., Boston (338-4400)

Ideally suited to tend bar at this favorite haunt for the city's power elite, Marasa manages his own investment portfolio and frequently swaps stock quotes and investment tips with his regulars—which is fitting, seeing that he plans on becoming a financial planner someday. High-profile big shots flock to his bar expecting tip-top service, which he never fails to deliver. A fitness fanatic who participates in the Boston to New York AIDS ride, he has an infectious laugh and an uncanny memory for names, faces and drink preferences. His specialty, not surprisingly, is bone-chillingly cold martinis, which have been dubbed by TV newsman Bernard Shaw, among others, "the best I've ever tasted." We'll drink to that. —*J.S.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **Classic Bombay Sapphire Gin Martini** Shake Bombay Sapphire Gin on ice until ice crystals cloud the gin. Serve straight up in a chilled martini glass. Garnish with three olives.

MOYLES: SUSAN COWAN; HOWARD, AMIR: WENDY MIMRAN; MARASA: STEVEN BILLUPS

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Kevin Dick

BRASSERIE JO Thu.-Mon. nights

120 Huntington Ave., Boston (425-3240)

A 10-year bartending veteran, this Buffalo native is also working on an Internet start-up specializing in outdoor video, to be called outbackpro.com. And given this new business venture, it's no surprise that Kevin is an avid backpacker and whitewater canoeist—and he brings the same stamina to bartending. Combining speed and outstanding service with a dash of showmanship, he ministers to the pre- and post-theater crowd, as well as Symphony Hall visitors, hotel guests and neighborhood regulars. Mixing "the deepest and coldest martini in town," he helps to transform this hotel/bistro bar into a major Back Bay destination.

SIGNATURE DRINK **Martini Jo** Stoli Vodka and a splash of Lillet Rouge; shake well and serve straight up. Garnish with orange zest.

Miss Chris Knievel

AVALON Sun. nights

15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424)

Year after year, this voluptuous vixen keeps racking up the votes. Perhaps it's the sultry makeup and lavish, hand-made ensembles. Or maybe it's the coquettish theatrics that lure in the regulars every Sunday night at Avalon—the city's most pulsing gay night. Chris suggests that next to the other well-kept, good-looking male bartenders, he's "the lone girl. I'm the one who's a little bigger, a litter brighter, a little more ornamental," he explains. In addition to mixing a mean elixir, Chris struts his stuff as a drag queen every Thursday and Saturday at Jacques, and DJs at Avalon on Friday nights. What a Renaissance woman. —*R.S.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **Liquid Cocaine** A half-ounce each of Malibu Rum, Amaretto and Southern Comfort, and a splash of pineapple juice. Shake over ice and serve as a shot or on the rocks.

Dot Downey

PHO REPUBLIQUE

Tue., Thu.–Sat. nights

1415 Washington St., Boston (262-0005)

"Filled with excitement and surrounded by energy" is how one aficionado describes this fiesty server at one of the South End's trendiest restaurants, which features French Vietnamese decor and cuisine.

She's adorable and charming, but she also knows how to dish out the sass. Greeting customers with such openers as "Hey! How was your birthday? Did you get some lovin'?" Downey has amassed a fervant fan following at the Pho.

"She's so fun!" exclaims one patron, "She always keeps us coming back for more!"

With five years of bartending experience, Downey reveals the best part of her job: "I get to smile at people and they smile back at me." Then she pauses. "And kisses are bonuses!"

She lives her life by the motto: "The more goodness you spread, the more you will get in return."

And it seems to be working. "I'm the luckiest woman in the world," she says. "I have not one complaint." —*K.M.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **Pineapple Martini** Shake one ounce pineapple juice with two ounces Kettle One vodka vigorously with ice. Serve in a martini glass with a wedge of fresh pineapple.

DICK: STEVEN BILLUPS; DOWNEY: JENNIFER TAYLOR; KNIEVAL: TRACY POWELL

Vernon Williams TIM'S TAVERN Mon., Fri., Sat.

329 Columbus Ave., Boston (437-6898)

Although he's only been working at Tim's Tavern for about a year, Williams has already developed a favorable reputation with patrons—equal parts tourists and regulars—for being lightning quick and efficient.

"He's sweet and patient," praises one female patron. "And he's easy on the eyes!" another one admires.

"The people make this job worth it. They make it fun and worthwhile," says Williams, who was born and raised in Cambridge. The full-time barkeep has ambitions of having his own bar someday—and he's not worried about the blood, sweat and tears that may accompany his dream. "My father taught me to work hard every day," he says. —*K.M.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **Raspberry Gimlet** Three parts Stoli Raspberry and a splash of lime. Serve straight up in a martini glass. Add a couple of drops of grenadine for color.

Carah McLaughlin BARCODE Thu., Fri. nights

955 Boylston St., Boston (421-1818)

A perennial favorite, she helped open this white-hot new eatery where Division 16 used to be, and with more than 20 years of experience, there's nothing about bartending she doesn't know. Her forte, aside from a wicked wit and irresistible charm, are her famous, by-the-book cocktails. It's no wonder she was once cited by *Food and Wine* magazine for her famous sidecars. Her personal motto: "There's nothing a classic cocktail can't fix," and there isn't a classic cocktail she doesn't fix to perfection. Imagine a cross between Auntie Mame and an assembly line at full-throttle and you begin to get the idea. She's also one of those rare people who can call everybody "darling" and still sound sincere. —*J.S.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **French Martini** Any premium vodka and a splash of Blonde Lillet. Chill and serve straight up, with a burnt orange peel (light the peel with a non-butane flame as you squeeze out the oil).

Chuck Ray BUZZ Sat. nights

51 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939)

This hunka-hunka-burnin'-bartender can usually be found (often shirtless) shakin' his groove thang while shakin' cocktails at this gay disco inferno. A native of Portland, Maine, he has a degree in exercise physiology and also works for a graphic designer as well as operating a cookie gift basket business. As for his success behind the bar, he chalks it up to "not taking it seriously. It's not my career. It's just fun." One of his regulars makes a point of visiting his bar, "because he always makes me feel welcome. There's no attitude." Not surprisingly, he has to fend off a constant stream of sexual advances.

His solution: "Usually, I say, 'I'm flattered, but no thanks.' If they're really aggressive, I'll tell them, 'This isn't a petting zoo.'"—*J.S.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **The Black Pussy** (invented for a black drag queen) Equal parts Absolut Citron, Malibu Rum, Midori, Chambord, Amaretto, Blue Curacao and cranberry juice. Shake on ice and serve on the rocks or as a shot. Garnish with a cherry.

Richard Matthis THE GOOD LIFE Mon.-Fri., days

28 Kingston St., Boston (451-2622)

He takes a day off, and regulars panic. "Where's Rich?" they demand. "I love my job," says Matthis. And it shows. Working the day shift, Matthis waits on almost all regular customers and knows virtually everyone's name, just as they know his. "During lunch, you have more of an opportunity to get to know your customers," he explains.

This bartending veteran of five years is also responsible for training all new barkeeps at both Good Life locations (Downtown Crossing and the new Central Square location). Matthis had a multitude of other jobs before turning to bartending. But this, he says, is the first thing he truly loves. "Do what makes you happy and you will be a success." Spoken by a guy who knows. —*K.M.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **The Good Life** Three parts Bacardi White Rum, three parts Triple Sec, one part each of grenadine, Rose's lime juice and orange juice. Shake with ice and serve straight up in a martini glass. Garnish with an orange twist.

WILLIAMS, MATTHIS: JENNIFER TAYLOR; MCLAUGHLIN: STEVEN BILLUPS; RAY: WENDY MIMRAN

Joy Richard SONSIE Wed., Thu., Sun. nights, Fri. days

327 Newbury St., Boston (351-2500)
Joy Richard has been slinging drinks and wisecracks at this Back Bay hot spot for over a year and hopes someday to open her own restaurant. Known for her mile-wide smile, she's so beloved of her regulars that they've been known to bring her birthday and Christmas gifts. Her unflappable pleasantness even extends to unpleasant situations, like a guest who needs to be shut off or a declined credit card, which she handles with exquisite discretion. A whirling dervish when her bar is jammed, she sometimes doesn't look up for three hours at a stretch, but when time allows, she's quick with a quip and whip-smart at reading her customers. "If they look like they want to talk, I'm right there, and if they want to be left alone, I will." —*J.S.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **Espresso Martini** Equal parts vodka, Kahlua and Baileys, with a double shot of espresso. Chill and serve straight up in a martini glass. Garnish with espresso beans.

Rob Botelho AVALON, AXIS, KARMA CLUB, THE MACHINE

Avalon, 15 Lansdowne St. (262-2424), Sun. nights; Axis, 13 Lansdowne St. (262-2437), Mon. nights; Karma Club, 9 Lansdowne St. (421-9595), Wed. nights; The Machine, 1254 Boylston St. (266-0151), Fri. and Sat. nights.
This guy gets around. You can find Rob Botelho at various times of the week pouring at four of the best clubs in Boston, and during some of the most rocking gay nights anywhere. Rob admits he is a creature of the night.

"I do like the nightclub environment," he says. "I'm fortunate to work in really great clubs. I don't consider it pressure. I like the energy, the music, the darkness."

He was catapulted into full-time bartending when laid off from his retail management job—one of the best things that ever happened to him.

"I really love the job and the customers," he says.—*A.S.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **South Beach Slammer**
Recipe: Top Secret!

Cedric Adams THE FEDERALIST Wed.-Fri.; SILVERTONE, Fri. nights

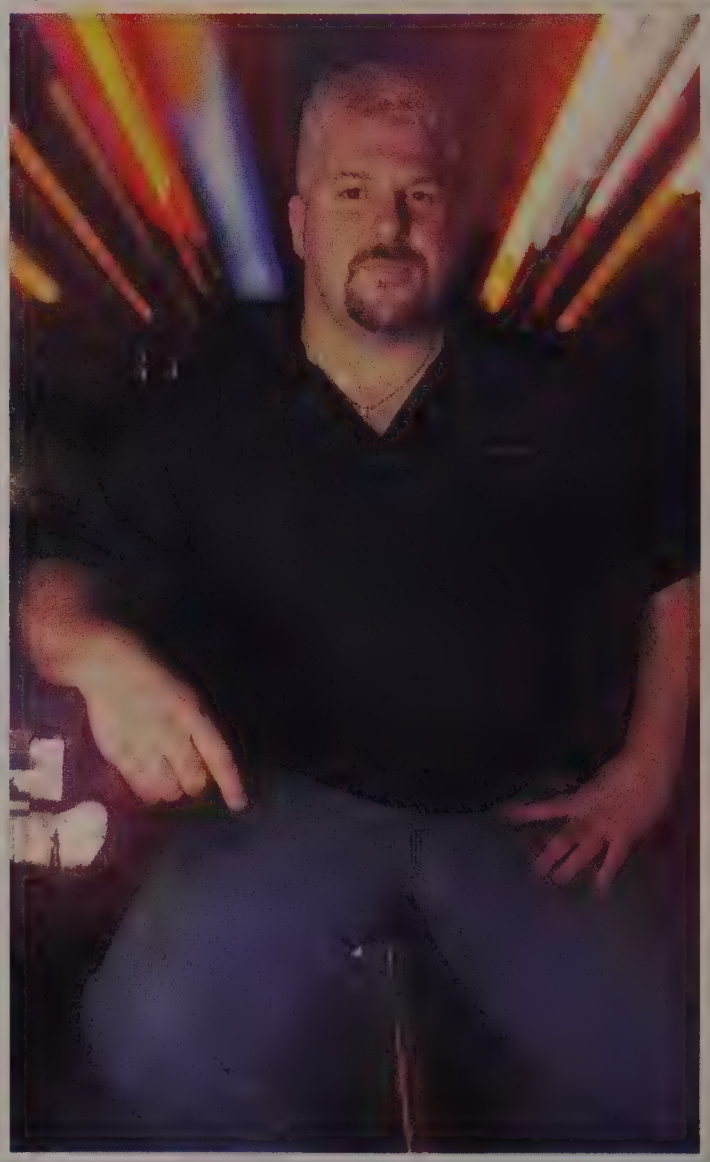
15 Beacon St., Boston (670-2515)
Like the big brother you always wished you had, this superfriendly all-pro drinkmeister can make the lousiest of days seem like just a little bump in the road of life.

Completely genuine and utterly unflappable, he's a veteran of such hot spots as the West Street Grille. He has helped to make the subterranean Silvertone the place to be on the first night of the weekend and the ultra-swanky restaurant inside the new XV Beacon St. hotel a watering hole to be reckoned with.

"Whenever I sit at Cedric's bar, I feel this sense of calm," says one regular. "It's like a visit to a shrink with a few laughs and a cocktail or two." Universally loved and widely emulated, Adams brings new meaning to the phrase "impeccable manners." —*J.S.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **Joy** Four parts Stoli Orange, splashes of Triple Sec, orange juice, sour mix and Sprite. Chill and serve straight up in martini glass.

Mark Pearce THE TAM Wed., Sun. nights



222 Tremont Street, Boston
Raucous yet immensely appealing, Pearce has been bartending for 18 years, the last five of which found him at the Tam. A Stoneham native, Pearce describes his eclectic crowd of customers as "college students, theater attendees, guests of the Hyatt, and people who sleep in the Boston Common."

Pearce, who serves as manager of the Tam, may open his own bar in the future. Pearce appreciates the flexible vacation time that the job allows him. He's worked an array of other jobs in the past, including everything from being a sound engineer to doing construction to working at a "strip joint." Says Pearce: "I was fired from that job for breaking down the front door."

You have to ask, why did he break down the door? He shrugs, "I was trying to leave. It was 3:30 in the morning." —*K.M.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **Kamikaze** One ounce Triple sec, one ounce Vodka and a splash of lime juice. Shake and serve over ice in an old-fashioned glass.

RICHARD, BOTELHO: STEVEN BILLUPS; ADAMS, PEARCE: JENNIFER TAYLOR

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Chris Obermeyer THE RACK Mon., Tue. nights. SOPHIA'S Thu., Fri. nights.

Sophia's: 1270 Boylston St., Boston (351-7001); The Rack: 20 Clinton St., Boston (725-1051)

Not for nuthin' did this super-friendly and mischievous surfer dude make it to the semi-finals of a New York bartending competition sponsored by Beefeater last fall. His flair—combining comedy and flash—has made him a standout at both the sophisticated samba club and the upscale pool hall where he now works. Beyond bartending, he works as an interior and furniture designer (for which he has a degree) and as a DJ, spinning dance music at various clubs. He describes bartending as "a constant quest for fun and a good laugh." And judging by the raves of his regulars, he delivers the goods.—*J.S.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **Friday Night Special** "It's one-third Maker's Mark and two-thirds Coke. Pour over ice into a tall glass. It's pure and simple, with a kick."

HALL OF FAME

JENNIFER TAYLOR

Peter Cipriani

29 NEWBURY ST. Tue.-Fri. nights, Mon., days

29 Newbury St., Boston (536-0290)

The thinking drinking man's bartender, he's a prodigious intellect who can converse intelligently on subjects ranging from college basketball to existential philosophy. As a result, this trendy Back Bay hangout is permanently crammed with an eclectic, interesting and colorful crowd, which spends as much time socializing with him as they do with their fellow patrons. Lightning-fast with his Zippo lighter, he mixes a flawless cocktail and has a razor-sharp wit that can bring a smile to the world's biggest sourpuss. Add to all that the fact that he's as good-looking as they come, and it's easy to understand why one of his regulars says, "If he were tending bar in Timbuktu, I'd go there to hang out with him."—*J.S.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **The JS Martini** Equal parts Stoli Orange and Absolut Citron, with a tiny splash of Cointreau. Chill and serve straight up, in a martini glass.

Betsy Schomberg THE BARKING CRAB Wed. and Fri., alternating Sat. and Thu. nights.

88 Sleeper St., Boston (426-2722)

Located on Fort Point Channel right on the water, the Barking Crab is one of the coolest places to be on a hot summer night, with an outdoor bar and live music. Betsy Schomberg not only likes the location, but the venue crowd as well. She also likes pouring drinks on solid ground—in a previous incarnation, she was a flight attendant for the now defunct Eastern Airlines.

"The lifestyle is good for me because I have no daycare problems," she says, "I just love it."

When she's not keeping the crowd cooled off with beer and wine—the biggest sellers at the Crab—she's working out at nearby Boston Athletic Club or can be found sipping a chilled Chardonnay.—*A.S.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **The Chilly Willy** Irish Mist over ice

Chris Jones BACK BAY BREWING COMPANY Thu., Fri. nights; Sat., Sun. days

755 Boylston St., Boston (424-8300)

It's reassuring to know that the man serving you a fresh beer at the Back Bay Brewing Co. is also a certified emergency medical technician. Chris Jones just earned his state EMT certificate and plans to save lives when he's not pouring beers. Either way, Chris likes to work with people.

"I get to meet tons of people," he says. "I like the conversation; everyone has a different story."

Some of Chris' other passions include scuba diving and drinking hand-crafted beers (quite convenient, given his place of employment). He also works the door at Barcode, one of Boston's newest and sleekest restaurants—and a favorite among several bartenders profiled here. —*A.S.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **Jack Passion** A lager beer mixed with a half pint of Ciderjack; top off with shots of orange and cranberry juice.

Joe McGuirk

THE B-SIDE LOUNGE Tue.-Fri. nights

92 Hampshire Street, Boston (354-0766)

You name a Cambridge establishment and chances are McGuirk has served drinks there: Red Bones, Toad, Christopher's, Salamander, Chez Henri. Wearing his trademark bow tie, McGuirk has developed many talents, including the uncanny ability to remember names and faces.

The B-Side—"a hidden treat where you weren't looking for one"—collects a mixed crowd of people, from a professional after-work crowd to a hipster late-night mix. McGuirk, who finally embraced being a full time bartender this year, loves the social aspect of his job but admits that there are days he doesn't want "to listen to people bitch." —*K.M.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **Periodista** Four parts Gosling's Dark Rum, one part Triple Sec, one part Apricot Brandy, a splash of Rose's Lime Juice and pinch of sugar. Shake vigorously with ice and serve straight up. Garnish with lime.

Robyn Pitchford

COTTONWOOD CAFE, Mon, nights; Tue.-Fri. days

222 Berkeley St., Boston (247-2225)

"I'm not short on words," says the effervescent, red-headed Pitchford. Indeed, she's been known to spin riveting bar-side tales and relay many a joke, leaving her customers coming back for more. "The only problem these days," says Pitchford, "is that jokes get around so quickly on the Internet. It's hard to come up with good material!"

With more than 25 years of experience, Pitchford is not only a master mixologist, she knows how to treat her customers like family and is especially mindful to make her single female customers feel at ease. Yep, she's like a mom—but one who knows how to make a margarita in her sleep. —*R.S.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **F.I.P (Fruit-infused Patron)**

Infuse Patron Silver Tequila with mango, watermelon, pineapple and ginger; strain, and serve straight up or on the rocks. "It's like dessert; it's fabulous," says Pitchford.

Karen Peterson

HARVARD GARDENS Wed.–Sun.

320 Cambridge Street, Boston (523-2727)

This engaging and friendly Colorado native moved to Boston in the early '90s to explore the East Coast. Her wanderings led her into bars such as Sonsie, The Good Life and others.

These days, Peterson acts as hostess and tends bar at the thriving Beacon Hill eatery known as Harvard Gardens. Armed with an agreeable demeanor and a contagious smile, she enjoys getting to know the crowd she waits on—although she also admits the late nights that go along with her profession can sometimes be a downright drag.

Peterson has a witty repertoire and is known by customers for having the ability to mix drinks exactly the way customers request them. What she is not known for is her sports knowledge: She once asked to see some identification from Red Sox superstar shortstop Nomar Garciaparra. Ouch. —*K.M.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **The Porch Swing** Two ounces Maker's Mark Bourbon, a splash of Grand Marnier and a splash of orange juice. Shake with ice and serve straight up in a martini glass with a wedge of lime.

Bobby Page

MIDDLE EAST RESTAURANT Tue.–Sat. nights

472 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (492-1886)

After seven years at the Middle East as a bartender and manager, Bobby Page can't see himself anywhere else. And his customers couldn't imagine the place without him. He never forgets what you drink, even if it's been months since you last saw him. Bobby works the bar in the Corner, also known as the Bakery. The rest of the place is a sprawling rock venue with three stages. "You get to listen to great music," says Page.

"This place is unique," he continues. "Coming here is like hanging out with my friends." Before the Middle East, Page worked for six years at Bunratty's, a notorious old Allston rock hangout. During his years in the profession he's served Sean Lennon, Peter Wolf, Marvin Hagler and dozens of other big names.—*A.S.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **Wookie** Two parts Absolut, one part Tia Maria, well chilled.

Patricia Coughlin

BELL IN HAND Thu., Fri. and Sat. nights

45-55 Union Street, Boston (227-2098)

Patricia Coughlin—Patti Ann to her friends and regulars—is a seasoned bartender who boasts more than 12 years of experience. Friendly and quick with the one-liners, Coughlin has learned a thing or two during her bartending stint. For example: "Never ask what can happen next in a bad situation, because it always does."

The veteran has even served drinks for charity with Bruins legend Cam Neely as a bartending mate. So how did the former power forward do? "Really good; he was funny and polite. But he was in the way. He's huge. I kept bumping into him." She smiles, "Although bumping into Cam Neely isn't a bad thing." —*K.M.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **The Purple Cow** One ounce vodka, a half-ounce Baileys, a half-ounce Chambord and milk. Shake well and serve over ice in a tall glass.

Billy Green

STEPHANIE'S ON NEWBURY Wed.-Sat. nights

190 Newbury St., Back Bay (236-0990)

A native of Buffalo, Green came to Boston a year ago for a change of scenery and has been charming patrons at this swank Back Bay bistro ever since. On his way to attaining an MBA, his trademark is service with style and a smile. Depending upon the customer, he can be either refined and professional or flashy and flamboyant—throwing bottles and even food around to entertain his clients.

A gifted conversationalist and a perpetual-motion machine, he knows every one of the retailers, Newbury Street shopaholics and local residents who frequent his bar, and all of them rate him top shelf.—*J.S.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **The Orange Jenson** Two and a half parts Absolut Mandarin, one part Grand Marnier, one part peach brandy, one part orange juice. Shake vigorously and serve straight up, in a martini glass. Garnish with orange wheel floater.

PETERSON: JENNIFER TAYLOR; GREEN, PAGE: STEVEN BILLUPS; COUGHLIN: WENDY MIMRAN

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Caroline Gray

MASA Thurs.-Sun. nights

439 Tremont St., Boston (338-8884)

An avid equestrienne and a freelance Web designer, Gray is something of a Renaissance woman. Her previous bartending gigs include the West Street Grille, Back Bay Brewing Co. and the South End Grill, which became the cozy Mexican eatery Masa. Her style can best be described as den mother—she keeps smiling, no matter what, makes eye contact with anyone waiting at her bar, and often has regulars' cocktails of choice chilled and waiting before they even sit down. "I learn a lot from my customers," she says. "They sit at my bar, and I'm grateful." Take it from us: So are they. —*J.S.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **Masarita** Sauza Especial tequila, fresh squeezed orange and lime juice, Cointreau, a splash of apple juice and a tiny splash of sour mix. Chill and serve as preferred.

Amahl Harik

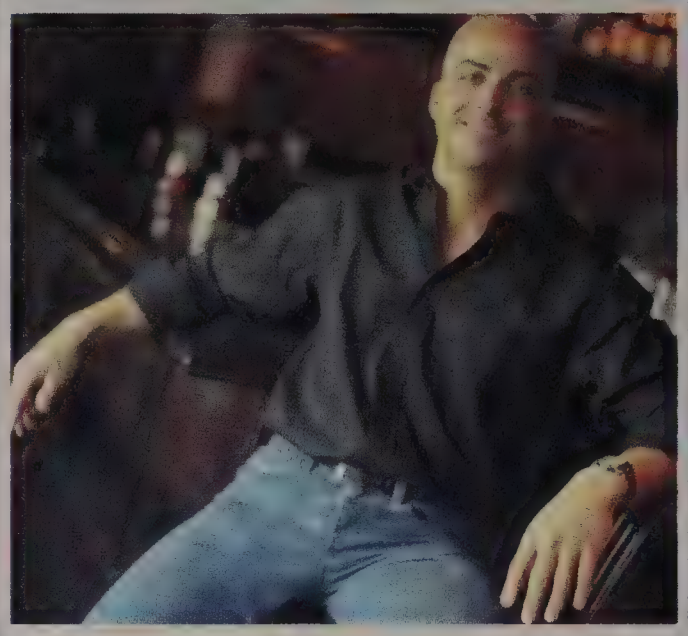
CAMBRIDGE COMMON Fri. nights

1667 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (547-1228)

"Make sure that you write that he's bald and buff!" asserts one female patron. She's right. Originally from Indiana, this full-time personal trainer puts his clients through their workouts by day at Mike's Gym in the South End. For a change of pace, he bartends every Friday night at the Cambridge Common.

The bar, located above the Lizard Lounge, is home to both Harvard students and Cambridge locals. Harik says interacting with the diverse clientele is his favorite part of the job. He also enjoys firing shameless innuendo at customers. Asked how his specialty drink, the "Rug Burn," acquired its name, Harik's smile widens: "Use your imagination," he says. If the drink doesn't get you, the smile will. —*K.M.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **Rug Burn** This is simply an abbreviated margarita, served in a chilled shot glass with a salted rim.



Geoffrey Fallon

LES ZYGOMATES Thu. and Fri.

129 South Street, Boston (542-5108)

Les Zygomates, usually filled with young professionals and "dot-com-ers," features a dizzyingly long wine list. "We get a lot of people who are knowledgeable and into wine," says bar manager Fallon, "but it's in a fun way, not a snobby way."

After receiving a degree in creative writing from the University of Eastern Michigan, Fallon moved to Boston determined to break into the comedy circuit. He has performed at The Comedy Connection and Dick Doherty's Comedy Vault. These days, he's focusing on writing—and bartending. "I'm around people who are eating, drinking and having fun," he laughs. "I like all those things." —*K.M.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **Mexicali Rose** One and a half ounces of premier tequila, half an ounce of grand Marnier, a splash of pineapple juice, a splash of grenadine and a splash of lime juice. Shake and serve straight up.

Mary O'Gorman **TIR NA NOG** Sun. nights; **PLOUGH AND STARS** Mon, Wed.,Thurs. nights

Tir Na Nog: 366A Somerville Ave., Somerville (628-4300);
The Plough and Stars: 912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (441-3455)

Probably no one pours more Guinness in the Boston metro area than Mary O'Gorman. She likes Sunday nights at Tir Na Nog (which means "land of the forever young" in Celtic), because it's like a Saturday anywhere else. Not surprisingly, this Irish hideaway draws a big crowd of Guinness guzzlers. Pouring stout takes patience in a place where it must be free flowing. "You just get used to it after 12 years in the business," says O'Gorman, pulling the tap handle. "You know the people who drink it and the minute they come in the door, you pour it."

When she's not waiting for a pint to settle, Mary reads, cycles, cooks, travels and sews. "I'm developing my more creative side," she says.—*A.S.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **Fastest Guinness in Boston**

Will Bissonette

SILVERTONE Mon. Fri. nights

69 Bromfield Street, Boston (338-7887)

A favorite among regulars at Silvertone, Bissonette says the secret of his success is having the ability to talk on a number of subjects with intelligence. "I can at least fake it," he says in his typically self-deprecating manner, adding, "Being a good bartender is about knowing when someone needs a person to talk to and when they don't."

He loves bartending but confesses that the "vampire" hours can be killers in the dead of the winter. "It can be days without seeing the sun," he says. His outlook on life, however, perfectly suits his career: "I believe it was Nietzsche who said "Make mine a double."—*K.M.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **Raspberry Vodka Martini** Steep fresh raspberries in two ounces of vodka; strain and mix with a dash of triple sec and a squeeze of fresh lime. Shake vigorously with ice and serve straight up in a martini glass with a sugared rim.

Aaron Loveland

THE BLUE CAT CAFE Mon., Wed. and Fri. nights.

94 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (247-9922)

Music holds Aaron Loveland's life together, whether he's behind the bar or behind the microphone. When he's not recording his songs in the studio at Berklee College of Music, he's serving drinks at the lively, line-out-the-door Blue Cat while a DJ spins live music, mostly jazz and lounge.

"What keeps me here is the musical atmosphere," says Loveland. "It keeps me pumped and going the whole time. Being so close to Berklee, a lot of students come in who are very interested in the jazz aspect of the restaurant. There's always good conversation between me and my regular clientele." He pauses and adds, "There's also an incredible bar staff and a fast-paced, energetic atmosphere."—*A.S.*

SIGNATURE DRINK **The Sweetheart** Stoli raspberry, Baileys, a shot of Chambord, and a shot of dark Creme de Cacao with a cocoa rim glass and a cherry on the bottom. It's "frothy, thick, milkshaky," says Loveland.

FALLON, BISSONETTE: JENNIFER TAYLOR; GRAY, LOVELAND, O'GORMAN: STEVEN BILLUPS; HARIK: WENDY MIMRAN

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Cocktail CHEMISTRY 101

A local bartending wizard shares three recipes.

MEET JASON ROTHE, owner of Drinkmaster Bartending School in downtown Boston. Donning a lab coat and armed with potentially dangerous liquid elements such as tequila, Cointreau and Baileys, Rothe demonstrates (see table at right) how these substances, when combined under specified conditions, undergo alchemic transformations. We relay this information in the name of science. However, the following experiments do produce compounds that, if imbibed, lead to altered physiological states. Proceed with caution.

Shot on location at Drinkmaster Bartending School, 41 Winter St., Suite 55, Boston (phone: 800-BARTEND)

EQUATION #1: the cosmopolitan

1. **Chill**
   Fill cocktail glass with ice cubes.

EQUATION #2: the blue margarita

1. **Combine**
   1.5 oz. of Tequila
   .5 oz. of Blue Curacao
   a dash of lime juice
   2 dashes of sour mix

EQUATION #3: the b-52

1. **Pour**
   3/4 oz. of Kahlua into a pony glass

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL WEBER

2. Combine

1.5 oz of Absolut Citron
.5 oz of Cointreau
a dash of lime juice
a dash of cranberry juice

3. Mix

Shake well over ice. Remove ice from cocktail glass; strain drink into it; garnish with a twist of orange.

= A dangerously delicious liquid

One of the most popular chemical solutions offered in the metropolitan area. Known to cause considerable giddiness. Imbibing more than one concoction may lead to promiscuity.

2. Mix

Shake well over ice.

3. Salt and strain

Rim margarita glass with salt; strain drink into glass; add slice of citrus substance (lime).

= A compound of curious hue

When imbibed, this blue solution has been known to trigger uncontrolled outbursts such as yelling "Olé!"

2. Layer

Tilt glass and carefully decant 3/4 oz. of Baileys onto the Kahlua.

3. Layer again

Over the back of a spoon, decant the Grand Marnier so it layers on top of, but doesn't penetrate, the Baileys.

= A beaker of lush liqueurs

Consume this bicolored cocktail and experience oral alchemy that testers have described as both "soothing" and "titillating." May induce images of Juan Valdéz.

LABCOAT PROVIDED BY UNIFORMS FOR AMERICA, WATERTOWN; DRINKS MIXED BY DINA MOELLER, LEAD INSTRUCTOR FOR DRINKMASTERS

Looking to catch some Somervillian gossip? Visit the horse-themed Paddock.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEVEN BILLUPS

Dive In

Neighborhood bars offer gritty charm and dirt-cheap beer

BY KEVIN TURBITT

Bored with our regular nocturnal haunts, it began as a search for some cheap adventure. My friends and I began to seek out "dive bars," ones off the beaten bar track—beyond Central Square, beyond Lansdowne Street. Hungry for uncharted bar territory, we bypassed the obvious, trendy watering holes. We craved the down and out, the exotic.

Early on, a small group of us came up with a list of characteristics that, we believed, were essential to a good dive bar: cheap drinks, dirty floors, eccentric bartenders and curious food, such as pickled eggs, behind the bar. I had a theory that dive bars were places of extremes; they were either really dark or really brightly lit, either really friendly or really frightening. Along with my fellow "divers," I was determined to test the theory.

We came up with what we thought was a pretty solid list, as well as a long list of bars to visit. But we struggled with an absolute definition. How many kinds of imported beer can a bar offer before it ceases to be a dive? Must a dive have a crowd at 8am? If baseball-capped college students show up, is the bar automatically disqualified?

Well, maybe you don't really need a definition; you'll know one when you see one, right? The thing is, that after you spend a couple of hours in most dives, you may not want to call them dives anymore. You may end up finding an unpretentious place where you feel really comfortable, or a place that's been owned by the same family for years. Is the word "dive" still appropriate?

I've been to a lot of the so-called dive bars around town. Some get "discovered" and for better or worse, get more crowded. The Abbey Lounge in Inman Square, and the Sligo in Davis Square come to mind. Most, though, remain hidden jewels. Chances are there's a place in your neighborhood that you've never bothered to step into. There's room at the bar—what are you waiting for?

Paddy's Lunch

260 Walden Street, Cambridge

Price of a Budweiser: $2.25 • Price of a Jack Daniel's on the rocks: $3.00

It seems that just about every intersection in Cambridge is named after somebody. The corner of Concord and Walden is no exception—that's Paddy's Corner, of course, home to Paddy's Lunch. There aren't too many local bars in this well-to-do, residential part of Cambridge, and I've always been curious about this slightly seedy-looking place. For some reason, though, I never took the time to stop inside, until recently. I definitely had waited too long.

When I visited Paddy's along with six friends on a recent Friday evening, the bar population instantly doubled. We stood out like tourists on Newbury Street. But that wasn't a problem. Soon a vivacious woman named Kelly, who had recently returned from a trip from Ireland with her husband, introduced herself. Before long, she had us taking turns wearing her souvenir hat, a green number with huge horns, and singing a rather excruciating version of "When Irish Eyes Are Smilin." She hugged each of us before leaving.

As you might guess, Paddy's is an Irish bar. There's a claddagh *and* a shillelagh over the bar, and a couple of leprechaun statues flank the television set. If you stop in, someone will probably ask you if you're Irish. If you're not, don't worry, but either way do be mindful of the sign on the men's room door—"To be used only to relieve oneself, The Boss."

Paddy's doesn't stay open late. By around 11:30 or so, we were the only folks in the bar. We chatted with bartender, Harry, who told us about past visitors such as former Governor Weld (who apparently passed many an afternoon there) and the Kennedys. Although Harry didn't seem like the conspiracy-theory type, he also told us that all of the phones in Cambridge were tapped. Well, they probably are.

Paddock Lounge

249 Pearl Street, Somerville

Price of a Budweiser: $2.50 • Price of a Jack Daniel's on the rocks: $3.50

I mentioned my theory that dive bars are either really friendly or really frightening. The truth is, the frightening ones are hard to find. More often than not, the places that you are worried about stepping into—the ones with *no* windows or rumored to be mob hangouts—turn out to be harmless at worst. Hungry for at least one dangerous run-in, several people advised me: "You've got to go to the Paddock; that place looks really scary." If you've been to the Paddock, that kind of talk will probably make you laugh.

At the Waltham Tavern in the South End, the "Ladies Invited" sign (see inset) usually manages to coax a few brave women inside.

Peggy Ryan, Paddy's Lunch owner and a frequent bartender, hangs out on the *other* side of the bar for a change.

As its sign makes clear, the Paddock is really more of a restaurant and lounge, but that doesn't mean there isn't a long ol' bar to saddle up to. And as you might guess from the name (a paddock is the area where they saddle and parade racehorses), a strong equine theme prevails here—saddles, racing photos, miniature Clydesdales in Budweiser regalia. It's the closest thing to Suffolk Downs in these parts, and it's highly entertaining.

The bar was packed when we were there, but the regulars, who all seemed to know one another, happily made room for us. Indeed, there were plenty of folks around, but damn it, none looked remotely dangerous.

Bernie's Pub

Harrison Ave., Chinatown, Boston
Price of a Budweiser: $2.75 • Price of a Jack Daniel's on the rocks: $4.25

Bernie's is located in Chinatown, although it's something of an interloper with its quintessentially American dive-bar flavor. The crowd is small but diverse, and includes a few Asians, African-Americans and women.

The interior walls are dark and shingled, making the place look like a house turned inside-out. There's a smoked mirror and statues of Laurel and Hardy behind the bar, an average-length bar and a handful of tables. Its diminutive size doesn't seem to be a problem as most of the patrons come and go quite quickly—although one fellow asked the bartender to put his half-finished beer on ice; apparently he was planning to come back and finish it later.

Like most dives, Bernie's has its idiosyncrasies. My favorite: the little juice glass you get with your bottle of beer. In this rather down-and-dirty setting, there's something very quaint about this. And although the other patrons swigged their beers out of the bottle, I enjoyed the ritual of repouring beer into my tiny glass every few minutes.

Danny's

525 Medford St., Somerville
Price of a Budweiser: $2.00 • Price of a Jack Daniel's on the rocks: $3.00

A funny thing happened at Danny's—we got carded! This doesn't surprise me at a club, where they card just about everybody, but at most neighborhood bars they usually don't bother if you're obviously over 21. Bartender Jimmy stared at our licenses good and hard. For a moment I thought that he might have been looking for an excuse not to serve us, but he was just being thorough. However, once our ages checked out, we were made quite welcome. In fact, Danny's was the only bar out of the ones profiled where no one asked incredulously, "So how'd you find this place?"

Danny's features owner Jerry Iandoli and a mirror ball (inset).

Danny's façade is painted a pristine white with its name painted across it in a swirly black script. There are two small windows high up that prohibit one from looking in. I was drawn in by the contrast of the place, which seemed both inviting and imposing.

Inside, the black-and-white theme continues—black furniture and white walls, old black-and-white framed photos of local sports teams from the '30s and '40s. Unlike most bars I frequent, Danny's is clean—make that spotless—certainly disqualifying it as a true dive. There's also a mirror ball and speakers hanging from the ceiling, although judging from the mostly middle-aged clientele, I don't imagine Danny's sees much in the way disco dancing. At first glance, the regulars here may *look* a bit out of place. But on a recent Saturday night, they made the bar stools look like Lay-Z-Boys they looked so relaxed.

The friendly owner, Jerry Iandoli, points out an old photo of the building after it first opened as "O Solo Mio" by his grandfather in 1934. The place eventually was handed down to Jerry, who in turn hopes to pass on the torch to his son. Apart from the warm, all-in-the-family feel, the place has an immaculate pool table. But for me, the highlight was the dirt-cheap beer. If you happen to stop by Danny's, you'll never have to worry about spending too much. Just don't forget your ID.

Waltham Tavern

298 Shawmut Ave, South End, Boston
Price of a Budweiser: $2.50 • Price of a Jack Daniel's on the rocks: $4.00

With its huge "Bud Lite" signs, the Waltham Tavern looks more like a liquor store than a bar, at least from a distance. However, most liquor stores have windows, and there aren't much in the way of windows here. Don't let that scare you away, however. And for any women contemplating visiting the place: The "Ladies Invited" sign should set you at ease.

At Bernie's, our photographer wasn't allowed inside—hmmm.

It's cozy inside the Waltham, with the pool table taking up the front half of the room, only a half dozen seats at the bar, and a ceiling so low a few basketball players (local kids, not Celtics) were mere inches away from hitting their heads. But despite its slightly dingy and claustrophobic feel, the Waltham is a great bar. In fact, we met a guy at the bar who declared the Waltham to be "the best bar in Boston." He was carrying a copy of Seamus Heaney's new translation of *Beowulf*, so this was obviously a man of refined taste.

So what's so great about it? Well, it's certainly refreshing to see a racially diverse crowd in this town. And there was a great shuffleboard/bowling game called Strike Master. But what really makes a place like the Waltham worth visiting is its personality. Our friend at the bar put it this way, "It's in your face, but it's laid back." Like all great locals, it's real. **iB**

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gray suit, $748; shirt, $238; pink tie, $78; trench coat, $568; all available at Emporio Armani

This page:
Calvin Klein dress, $780.; available at Saks Fifth Avenue. "Soft" suit, $1,200; dress shirt, $175; tie, $120; all available at Ermenegildo Zegna

Renee lizard chartreuse wrap shirt, $325; olive skirt, $365; Ferragamo tote bag, $525; Yves Saint Laurent shoe, $220; all available at Saks Fifth Avenue

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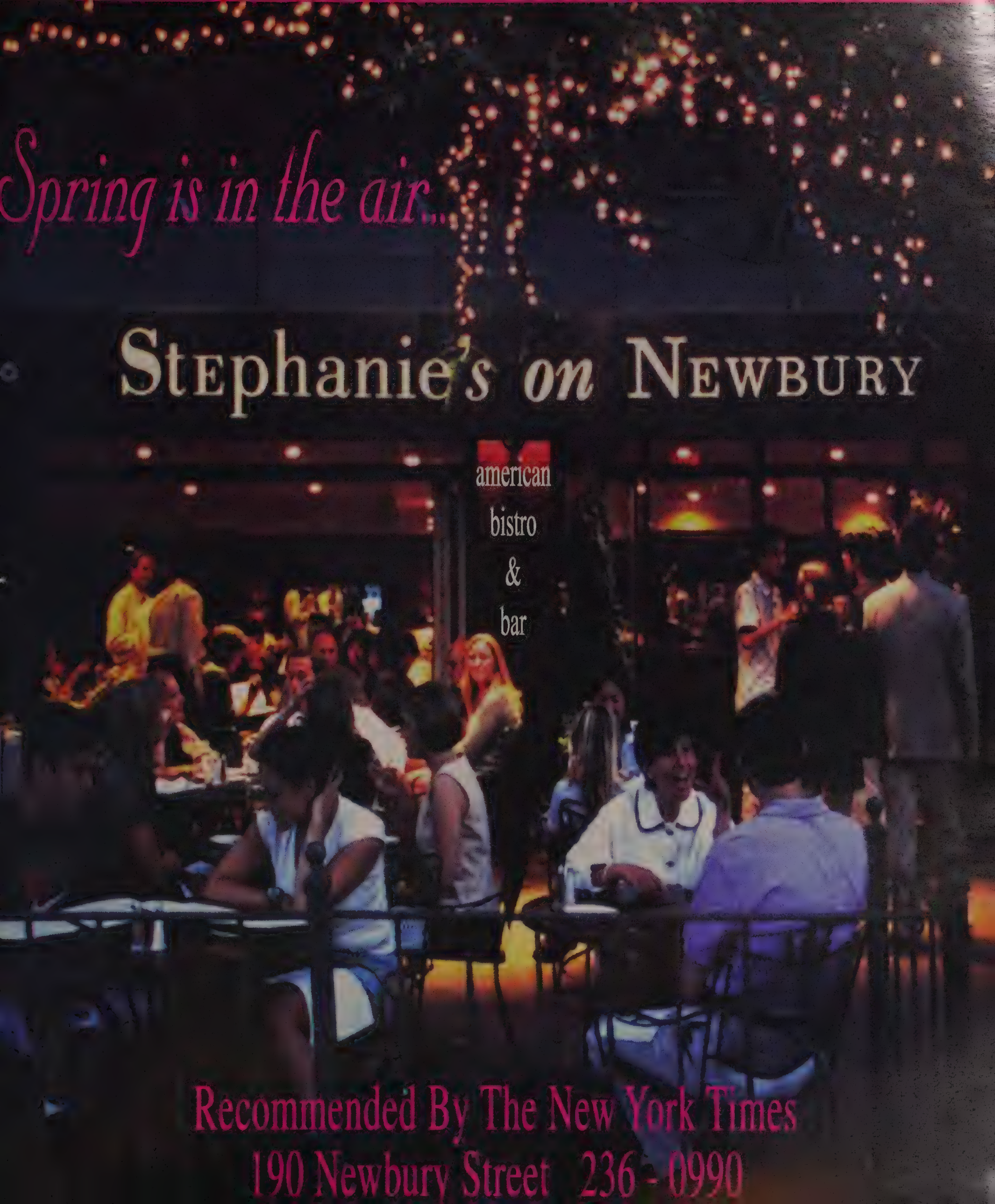
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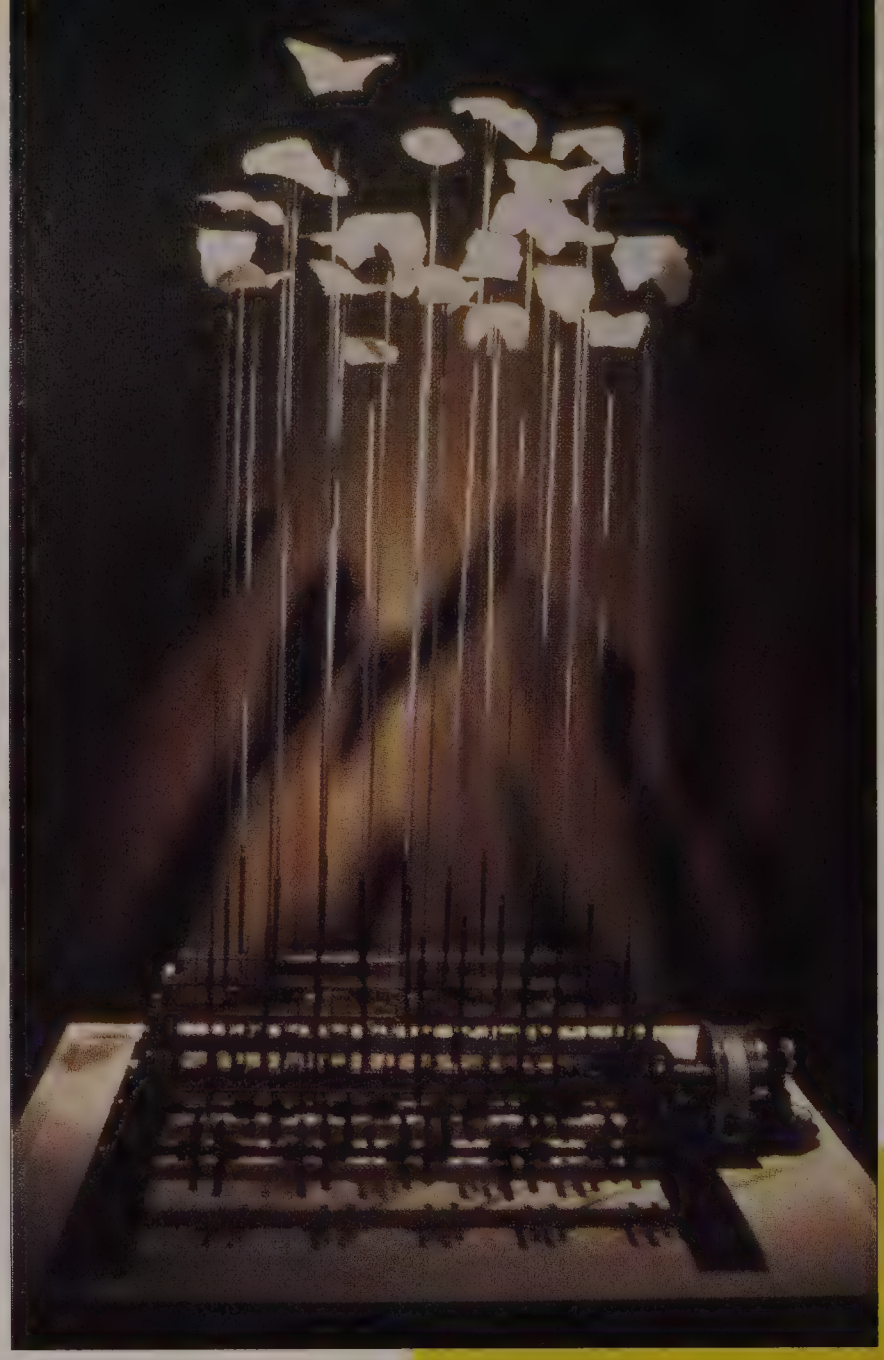
Mopsy

Serendipitous shopping: Our unfettered correspondent seeks out the salubrious and the cerebral.

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY

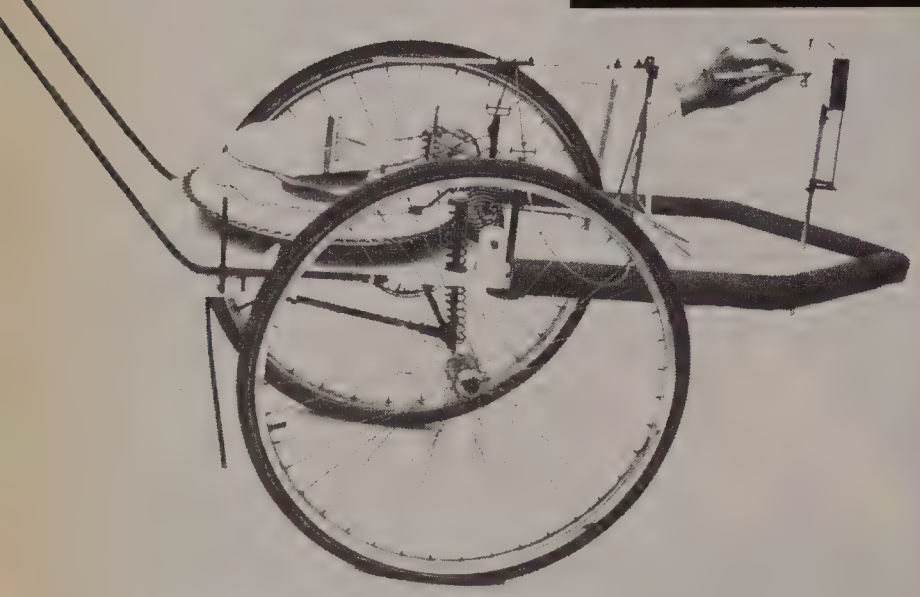


Rube, You're a Dude!

This video shows scads of imaginary Rube Goldbergian machines by Arthur Ganson. Available at Black Ink at Home, 370 Broadway, Cambridge (576-0707). $39.95. The machines themselves are at the MIT Museum.

The best way to watch this little video about wacky, pseudo-old-fashioned, hand-cranked "machines" is by fast-forwarding it on your new-fashioned, finger-cranked VCR. That'll create the quirky, ragtime rhythm, Charlie Chaplin–speed, that matches the spirit of Arthur Ganson's work. The machines in question involve complex, Rube-Goldbergian, gear-shaped bits—some parts suggesting old-time bikes, and others the pretty inner works of a clock. Wittily ingenious, the grinders and winders that are the hand-twisted energy source invariably seem to overstate the amount of labor needed to cause a piece of fabric to descend, curtsy-like. Or to activate some eggshells atop metal stems that tap-tap against a wall. There's a chain slurping with oil that folds over itself, as alive as a coiling snake.

A rectangle of jiggling "brownian rice" (a joke on Brownian motion) is made possible by elaborate twirling, busybody "works." In one bit, the camera pans upward through lots of officious action to a light bulb, against which flaps an annoying metal housefly. Another beautiful piece shows a leaning structure, reminiscent of a body leaning sideways in stretching class, that pulls upward and sideways to open a colorful fan.

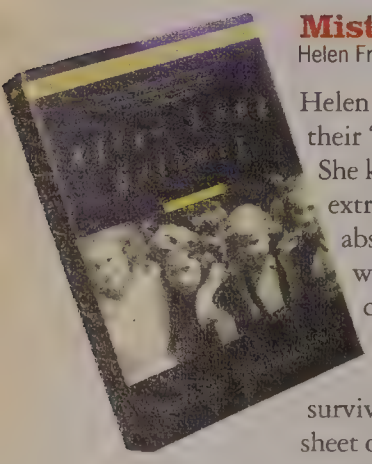


Voluntary Slammer: No Glamour

As a fund-raiser for the Northern White Mountain Chamber of Commerce and the United Way of Northern New Hampshire, you may spend the night in the Berlin, N.H., jail on April 28. Call 603-752-6060. $100/night. Reserve soon—cells are going fast.

Paradoxical, unappetizing and just plain weird as it may sound, you are "invited" to spend just one night in jail. The very opposite of a spa, and indeed a place that the usual suspects go to unwillingly, this fund-raising venture is intended to be educational and could serve as a sort of inoculation against going there for real under stormier skies. Various states have run such programs. This one is in Berlin, N.H.—about four hours north of Boston. That slight inconvenience could serve as a sort of metaphor of really being taken to jail—wherever "they" so deem. Virtual prisoners are housed in bunk-bed cells (away from actual prisoners) with a sink and a toilet. Alas for verisimilitude in the realm of this particular humiliating experience borne by real prisoners, the small window is curtained. Guest Prisoners, however, will have a mug shot taken, they'll be booked and patted down, and of course, locked in. Seminars orienting the GPs to prison life will be offered on contraband, defensive tactics—those needed by guards—and one called "Body and Soul." It's meant to be sobering, promoting some empathy, and a reminder of the dictum "Oh, behave!"

COURTESY OF MIT MUSEUM (SCULPTURES)



Mistaken Identity Restored

Helen Fremont's memoir, *After Long Silence*, tells of her parents' secret Holocaust history and reads like a lyrical novel.

Helen Fremont knew that her Polish parents, with their "funny accents," had lived through the war. She knew her mother and zesty Aunt Zosia were extremely close, but that there was a ringing absence of extended relatives. She believed they were Catholics—why not? But much later, creeping intimations led Fremont to discover—ornately, painfully, transfixingly—that her parents were Jewish Holocaust survivors and that her father had been "off on a sheet of ice somewhere in Siberia" for six years. Married Aunt Zosia had transformed herself into an Italian countess, and Fremont's mother eventually escaped Europe disguised as an Italian soldier.

Fremont tells this true story quasi-novelistically, using dialogue and beautifully evocative imagery. Notwithstanding the sheer tragedies she recounts, the tale also tingles with suspense, drama and even romance. Unearthing the story first in Europe and later from her reluctant parents (who felt just as betrayed by her curiosity as she had felt by their dissembling cover stories), Fremont places her findings alongside the story of her own American 1960's life as another drama wrapped around the wartime one. Talk about double lives: Fremont's parents don't know that she's gay—she's adhered to family tradition by staying mum—and that revelation creates another bump in the family road.

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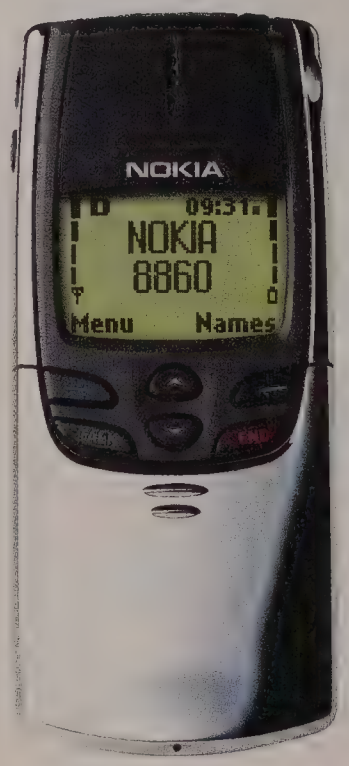

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STOP, THIEF!

On being robbed in broad daylight

BY EZRA DYER

I like to scratch my herpes with my debit card. I mention this in the sincere hope that my readership includes the person who stole my wallet. However, I am sure that the business of being a thieving, crack-smoking rent boy leaves little time for extracurricular activities such as reading, so I doubt that this is the case.

Scene: a sunny Sunday in the South End. I park my car on Massachusetts Avenue for two hours. When I return, I find that one of my rear windows has been smashed and I have been relieved of my stereo. Now, this obviously doesn't make my day, but a quick look around the car confirms that nothing else has been touched. I curse myself for having turned off my alarm (on Mass Ave., the rumble of passing traffic would have set it off every five minutes), but it looks like the scumbag skid-mark was only in my car for about 15 seconds anyway.

So although I am utterly pissed, I am at least managing to stave off the familiar feeling that this is all my own fault. Until I start looking for my wallet. Was it in the console of the car? I can't remember. I get home and tear apart my bedroom before coming to the sinking realization that the wallet *had* been in my car. Sure enough, when I call my bank I learn that Ezra Dyer has been on a bit of a spending spree with his debit card. The pain-in-the-ass factor of this situation has now escalated from "aching hemorrhoid" to "squeal like a pig."

At this point friends start to chime in with theft horror stories: "Dude, at least you didn't end up like my buddy who got his apartment broken into, and the thieves took everything but his camera and his toothbrush...." I am also regaled with possible scenarios for my wallet: "You'd better hope you didn't have your social-security number in there or they can produce a new ID with your name on it and go open up bank accounts and call 1-900 numbers and hijack planes—and you're going to get blamed for it. That happened to my sister." Well, one sure-fire way to feel better about a bad situation is to hear about something worse that happened to someone else—but I find little solace in those stories because they still might come true for me. If someone can jack your stereo on a busy street in broad daylight, then the possibilities festering in a fevered imagination like mine are practically limitless. Suffice it to say that I have hidden both my camera and my toothbrush. I've also embarked on the tedious process of reassembling everything from my driver's license to my Stop & Shop card, and I guess the only thing to do now is sit back and wait to see if I'll eventually get my money back. I've filed a police report, but to be honest I don't expect much to come of it. After all, the police have their hands pretty full making sure that no 20-year-olds get into bars and drink alcohol. Also there is the problem of rampant marijuana use, which I believe demands all the resources we can possibly throw at it. The guy who broke into my car was crazy on the reefer, I bet!

"Bad things happen on the street. So far I've been towed and robbed, and a while back I saw an unfortunate Volvo parked along Beacon Street that had most of a BMW 325i lodged in its passenger compartment."

So what can the average person do to prevent this sort of thing from happening? First, I would recommend not having a car. Only abstinence is 100 percent. If, like myself, you must have a car, never ever park it on the street. Bad things happen on the street. So far I've been towed and robbed, and a while back I saw an unfortunate Volvo parked along Beacon Street that had most of a BMW 325i lodged in its passenger compartment. But if you must have a car and park it on the street, don't leave anything inside except a rabid, half-starved wolverine. If you can't get a rabid, half-starved wolverine to live in your car, place a Yanni CD on the front seat.

Finally, to the little bundle of joy who ripped me off, I hope you got a lot of money for my crappy 5-year-old Pioneer head unit. As for the broken Saab equalizer, well, the joke's on you there. Notice how there were no wires connected to that one? I hear they make nice paperweights. One other thing: I want you to know that there are no hard feelings about pillaging my checking account. I don't think that you're a miserable prick or wish you were locked in a cell with a large, hairy man named Cindy. And next time you see my car parked on Mass Ave., fear not, because there is no way that there will be wolverines in there. **iB**

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Patrons relax in Butterfish's cozy subterranean dining room. Opposite page: tuna tartare with spicy avocado and pear tomatoes (above); chef/owner Chrisopher Bussell (below).

Review

A HIDDEN JEWEL

Elusive location aside, Butterfish brings charm and delicacy to Cambridge

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI

In our automobile-dominated society, can a suburban restaurant without parking survive and succeed? Chris and Samantha Bussell are giving it the old college try, with their exquisite eatery, Butterfish, on Craigie Circle in Cambridge. While this site, formerly occupied by Café Celedor, is not exactly "suburban"—it is in a residential area, not easily accessible to mass-transit users. The restaurant does have three designated parking spaces nearby, and most evenings enterprising patrons can find on-street parking around the corner. But many auto-bound diners may not deem it worth the hassle. That would be a shame, since Butterfish is a veritable jewel, with superb food, efficient and knowledgeable service, and a pleasant, inviting ambiance.

Butterfish's location may be below-grade, but its physical space is not without charm. Gray walls are hung with black-and-white photographs, close-ups of architectural details and prosaic but artsy cityscapes. Bright, cobalt-blue-painted radiators, wood trim and window moldings coexist with high-backed, blue-green upholstered banquettes and tables dressed in smart white linens. Even the recorded music—one evening, the *Three Penny Opera*—strikes a note that promises a tasteful, distinctive dining experience.

Chewy, crusted sourdough bread from Brookline's Clear Flour Bakery is served in stainless-steel baskets. Butterfish's wine list, put together by chef Bussell and a former colleague of his from the Ritz Carlton Hotel, is first-rate. The very reliable and reasonably priced Parallel 45 Cotes du Rhone ($22) from Jaboulet was a fruity but well-structured, sturdy red. The 1997 Guenoc Cabernet Sauvignon ($30) boasted a deep garnet color, full body and beautiful bouquet. Among the appetizers, we particularly enjoyed the Grade A tuna seared unilateral ($10)—a tender, flavorful slab of tuna grilled on one side only—accompanied by a fresh frisee salad, slender green beans, and yellow and red pear tomatoes in a mildly garlicked vinaigrette. Ravioli of figs and Hubbardston blue cheese with spiced walnuts in a cinnamon-scented cream sauce ($9) was imaginative and bold, offering a symphony of flavors—from the fruity sweetness of the figs and the exotic warmth of the cinnamon to the sharp tang of the cheese. Fresh, sweet crabmeat salad ($9), a special one evening, was excellent—artfully presented with a cylinder of tender spinach, artichoke hearts, and tiny tomatoes—a pleasure to the eye and the palate.

Butterfish's main courses included the grilled duck breast and confit leg and risotto ($22), a handsome array of tender, rare slices of duck breast served with a suc-

JOEGREENEPHOTO.COM (3)

culent, pleasantly salty hindquarter. The risotto was not a classic, creamy risotto, but a toothsome accompaniment of oversized rice kernels studded with currants and pine nuts, made even more enjoyable by a tantalizing port-wine reduction. The creativity of chef Bussell was particularly evident in his pan-seared scallops with roasted polenta and braised spinach ($24). These giant mollusks—carefully seared to a beautiful golden brown color, thereby sealing in their sweet, nutty succulence and firm but tender texture—were accompanied by pleasantly bitter spinach and flavorful, crunchy fennel, with a palate-pleasing sauce based on extra-virgin olive oil.

On the meat side of the menu, the veal Paillard ($20), carefully grilled so that it was tender and juicy, was served with fava and barley pilaf and oven-roasted tomatoes. The warm, savory flavor of sage complemented the mild veal and robust tomatoes. Finally, the grilled skirt steak with sweet potato and parsnip mash and braised collard greens ($21) delivered that robust, intense beef flavor associated with this coarse but tender cut. Slices of steak were aesthetically arranged around a mound of tender collard greens inundated with smoky barbecue sauce. The delectable purée of parsnips and sweet potatoes was a delightful cold-weather winter accompaniment that we will remember for a long time.

Butterfish's desserts (all $8) were a fitting finale to the high quality of the dishes that preceded them. Best was the warm apple crisp with sugar-cookie crust, vanilla ice cream and caramel sauce. The apples were firm and tangy, the caramel and cookie crust sweet but not cloying, and the ice cream rich in butterfat. The Scharffenberger chocolate mousse, served in a chocolate tuile cookie, was a chocolate lover's dream, surrounded by a fine raspberry coulis and garnished with whipped cream. Only the Napoleon of fresh berries with mille-feuille, Tahitian pastry cream and Champagne sabayon disappointed. The pastry was on the doughy, heavy side—a surprising departure from the delicacy and finesse that marked the rest of the kitchen's preparations.

Butterfish has its work cut out for it in view of its daunting location. However, the creative flair, classic good taste and fine execution by Chris in the kitchen, and the warm hospitality and responsive service presided over by Samantha in the front of the house should enhance its prospects. iB

Butterfish

5 Craigie Circle, Cambridge
Hours: Tue.-Thu. 5-10pm; Fri.-Sat. 5-11pm; Sun. 10:30-2:30 (brunch).
Reservations: recommended
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Dish

GRILL, INTERRUPTED

Living larger at a growing Grill 23

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

Back Bay's Grill 23, with its big-business clientele on big budgets, is about to get much bigger.

Since it opened seven years ago, **Grill 23 & Bar** has been one big success story. Big steaks, big-business clientele, big budgets. Now it's about to get even bigger. Even with about 5,000-square-feet of space, the Grill, splendidly set inside the old Salada Tea Building, can feel its cup runneth over. Every night, all 200 seats are filled, mostly by corporate high rollers whose dining expectations are as high as their credit ratings. Clearly, expansion and renovation are required, and plans are as big as you'd expect.

Starting in June, construction will get under way as the restaurant expands upward to two stories, adding 6,000-square-feet of space and 150 additional seats. Also on the agenda: three new function rooms, a glass-enclosed wine room for private parties, a second bar and lounge area with a gas-fired fireplace, and a second kitchen upstairs to keep the pace.

Expect the restaurant to close for at least a few weeks in July, then reopen to a frenzy of activity when the construction is completed. (We hope executive chef **Jay Murray** gets some well-deserved vacation time; he's a low-profile, unassuming sort who doesn't get much press, but he is superbly talented when it comes to fish dishes and handles the high-volume demands of Grill 23 with impressive calm.)

E-dining

Zagat is putting its money where its mouth is by investing in Foodline. Boston-based **Foodline.com Inc.**, whose competitors include **OpenTable.com** and **E-seated** (and who knows how many others by the time you read this), now boasts more than 21 local restaurants on its online reservation service. It will be interesting to track the impact of real-time reservation capability or its ultimate usefulness to diners.

On the one hand, it'd be great to make Saturday night reservations at, for example, **Maison Robert**, without being put on hold during your precious lunch hour, but it's hard to imagine someone getting a sudden urge at 3am to book a table at **Fajitas & Ritas**.

Last Course

This just in: **Elaine Harrington** from the **Parish Café** will soon open **Flashes** on Stuart Street. And no, it's not a social club for old guys in raincoats. It's described as an upscale lounge, featuring "old-style cocktails and hip eats."

In the "sounds like" department: Newly opened at the **Westin Copley Place** is **Bar 10**, not to be confused with **Barcode**. The bistro's executive chef, **Christopher Leu** (not to be confused with Barcode's executive chef **George Leu**) is preparing Mediterranean-inspired dishes such as Barcelona grilled-flatbread pizza and peppered tuna nicoise. iB

Carolyn Faye Fox is a panelist on NPR's nationally syndicated word-game quiz show, "Says You!"

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant?
Send it to dish@improper.com

Tastings

BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for tastings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

EVENTS

California's Great Cabernets and Meritage Reds
Wine Experiences, 20-A Dartmouth St., Boston (859-7170). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. April 27, 7-9pm. $50. Enjoy a comparative tasting of California's best Cab-based wines.

A Higher Understanding of Wine
Nashoba Valley Winery, 100 Wattaquadoc Hill Road, Bolton (779-9816). April 19, 6pm. $70. Learn about the production methods and techniques used for table, fortified and sparkling wines and other alcoholic beverages with award-winning winemaker **Larry Ames**.

Learn to Discern
Westport Rivers Vineyard & Winery, 417 Hixbridge Road, Westport (508-636-3423). April 29, 4-6:30pm. $40. Brewer Goose Goslin helps you discover the aromas and flavors of special malts and hops. Then enjoy a menu prepared by winery chef **Kerry Downey Romaniello**.

Styish Entertaining on a Shoestring Budget
The French Library and Cultural Center, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (266-4351). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. April 26, 7pm. $35. Want to throw a sensational soiree but don't want to spend a lot of money? Let the staff of the South End's Sheffield Liquors show you how, for less than $10 per bottle, you can serve some of France's finest wine. The Garden of Eden will teach you how to choose cheeses and accompaniments that will enhance and complement the wines.

Rauxa: The James Beard Experience
70 Union Square, Somerville (623-9939). May 2. $65. Rauxa chef **Jim Becker** will recreate the menu he created at the James Beard House in New York (about which one diner said, "The best meal I have eaten here in a very long time.")

The Ultimate Dinner: Dessert
The French Library and Cultural Center, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (266-4351). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. May 1, 6:30pm. $45. Executive chef/co-owner **Evan Deluty** of Torch will prepare seasonal berry tart with bourbon vanilla bean. The demo will be accompanied by a wine tasting.

The Wine Tasting Course
Elizabeth Bishop Wine Resource Center at Maison Robert, Boston (353-4130). Tuesday, 6:30-8:30pm. May 2-June 20. $475. This eight-session course with the IMPROPER's wine columnist and Master of Wine **Sandy Block** will teach students how to critically assess wines as to quality level, style, maturity and grape varieties used. This course is intended for those who already have a basic appreciation of wine and who are interested in improving their tasting abilities.

May Day, May Day at the Vault
105 Water St., Boston (292-9966). May 1, 5:30-7pm. $25. The Vault's executive chef and Bauer Wine's **Howie Rubin** discusses the how-tos and why-nots—with a focus on fun, learning, mingling, drinking, eating (shellfish and crustaceans) and being merry with a jazz band.

Wine Tasting with Lorenzo
Les Zygomates, 29 South St., Boston (542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Tue., 6pm and 8pm. $25. Enjoy a wine and food pairing. •April 25: South American reds. •May 2: New Zealand whites.

Wine

BY SANDY BLOCK, MW

A wine's vintage is no indication of its appeal.

If there's one word I'd like to banish from the vocabulary of most wine drinkers, it's "vintage." It's amazing how much needless anxiety it causes beginners. The fact is, a wine's vintage date rarely determines whether you'll like it. But somehow people are convinced otherwise. So among the most pressing questions wine students ask is, "What kind of a year was it?" They may be completely in the dark about how to taste and assess wine, but the one bit of information many novices absorb is that there are good *and* bad vintages. Given the choice, who wouldn't want to drink the good ones?

Sneaking a peak at a vintage chart, one of those pocket-sized cards with the inside scoop on which years to buy and which to avoid, may confer a momentary feeling of security to people immobilized by the overwhelming array of bottles in a store or on a restaurant list. But if you want to simplify things, you're better off throwing away. What do they tell you? Their primary use is to recommend vintages for aging in the cellar. If you're buying wine for resale later as an investment, you might want to consult a chart, but remember that the vast majority of wine doesn't improve in the bottle at all, and that statistically, very few of us ever buy more wine than we're going to drink in the next few weeks.

But even if we are looking to put some wine away for awhile, most of the bottles we drink originate in regions that experience relatively warm, sunny weather through most growing seasons. Vintage variation in regions like Northern California, Southeastern Australia and Chile's Central Valley are less dramatic than they would be in many of the cool, rainy, marginal European climates. For these traditional districts, it usually makes more sense to focus on the quality reputation of the wine producer than the seasonal weather fluctuations when choosing a bottle. Some vintages produce grapes with more ripeness, fuller body and lower acidity than others, but the more important information is who made the wine. There are years in the traditional European districts where less of the "top wines" are produced, but this may actually

SUSAN COWAN

Tasty Tidbit

Fighting Hunger

The Hynes Convention Center will be abuzz with foodies eager to taste gourmet delectables from 50 of Boston's top restaurants—from Aquitaine and LeBocage to Mistral and Rauxa—at Share Our Strength's Taste of the Nation, April 26. Chefs will be on hand to serve up tastings, and the festivities will include a live auction and live music and dancing. "Chefs are demonstrating their commitment to helping end hunger in our community and around the world," says Andy Husbands, chef/owner of Tremont 647 and co-chair of the event. In fact, 100 percent of the proceeds will benefit anti-hunger organizations. *Hynes Convention Center, Exhibit Hall A, Boston (800-955-TASTE or 266-4555). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. April 26, 6:30-10pm. $65, $75 at the door. Please bring a canned* good.

be a blessing for wine lovers, as the finest grapes are "de-classified" into more affordable and more approachable wines. This happened, for instance, in Tuscany in vintages like 1992 when quality-oriented producers made no noble Brunello di Montalcino but instead used their finest grapes to improve the quality of the more affordable Rosso di Montalcino. Some of these cooler, so-called "off-vintages" have been among my favorite sources of fine wine from regions like Germany, Alsace, the Loire and Burgundy. What changes in the vintages that the chart-makers downgrade is the style of the wines. They're generally lighter, fruitier, perhaps more acidic. Even if the wines of the great producers won't age as long as they would in a riper vintage, they still provide exciting flavor at a more moderate cost.

The bottom line is that choosing wine from a vintage that is highly touted, as opposed to another that isn't, provides no guarantee of enjoyment. Famous vintages don't uniformly produce wines with more delicious flavors. First of all, drinking a young red wine from one of the "best years" usually just ends up coating your mouth with tannin. The wines are often harsher, less ready to drink, than those produced in years with more modest reputations. Second, experts disagree, sometimes vehemently, about which vintages have the greatest aging potential in any particular region of the world. Compare vintage assessments of noted wine writers, popular magazines and foreign trade organizations and you'll find anything but unanimity.

So what's a good vintage? Burgundy is the prime example of how complicated the answer can be and how misleading vintage generalizations are. The vintages for the white and red wines often show a different character, and each sub-district and commune reflects the seasonal weather patterns differently. In some years, such as 1998, nature gives Burgundy charming, pure, precociously fruity red wines, while in other years, such as 1996, there is more power, richness and complexity in the wines. Neither year is better than the other; they're just different.

My advice is to simply ignore vintages. It's an absurd prejudice to even think that wines of a particular year must necessarily taste better than multiyear blends. Don't forget that there are many world-class wines produced from grapes originating in several different harvests, such as the great majority of ports and champagnes. And if anyone asks you, "Was that a good year?" when you pour them a glass of wine, tell them to relax and let you know whether it tastes good.

Contact Sandy Block at *sandy@improper.com*.

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agenda

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN OR OUT IN BOSTON.

Julie and Erin

Alvin Ailey

Support Arts Against Hunger: Bring canned food to the Wang Theatre and receive a discount on Alvin Ailey dance performances, April 28-30.

THE CALENDAR GIRLS'

improper picks

Too busy (or just too lazy) to plan your own schedule? Life don't get easier than this.

Wednesday, April 19

Erin: Why does Bugs Bunny say "What's up, Doc?"
Julie: I dunno, but the **Fifth Annual Bugs Bunny Film Festival** is at the Brattle Theatre through April 23. Tonight's program is Tasmanian Devil Mania. (See Film.)

Thursday, April 20

Julie: You don't have to be a kid to enjoy the **Big Apple Circus**. Award-winning clown Bello Nock and his friends entertain with juggling, trapeze and animal tricks. (See CityScope.)
Erin: The song and dance spectacular ***Follies*** is at the Emerson Majestic for three days only. (See Performing Arts.)

Friday, April 21

Julie: Best-selling author **Frances Mayes**, author of *Under the Tuscan Sun*, speaks about her new book, *Bella Tuscany*. (See Books & Poetry.)
Erin: **Slide** and **Betwixt** play at the Lizard Lounge tonight. Also, **Built to Spill** is at the Roxy. (See Music.)

Saturday, April 22

Julie: There's nothing better than hanging out by the river on a warm spring day, enjoying the live music at WBOS' **EarthFest** at the Hatch Shell. (See Music.)
Erin: Before you head on over to the Hatch Shell, join the Girl Scouts and Boys Scouts for the **Scouts Parade** from the USS Constitution to Bunker Hill. (See CityScope.) Also, **Hybrasil** play with Pee Wee Fist and Blake Hazard Upstairs at the Middle East. (See Music.)

Sunday, April 23

Julie: This morning I'll be on a training bicycle ride for the **Hyannis Port Challenge**, an 85-mile journey from Boston to the Cape to be held on May 20. (See CityScope.)
Erin: Head to the Museum of Science to see the Omni film ***Dolphins***. (See Film.)

Monday, April 24

Julie: Tonight,**Third Eye Blind** and **Tonic** play at the Orpheum Theatre. (See Music.)
Erin: **Buffalo Tom** plays with Bill Janovitz at the B-Side. (See Music.)

Tuesday, April 25

Erin: Shit, man. What the hell am I going to do tonight?
Julie: Well, you could wash your mouth out with soap, or you could go listen to James V. O'Connor speaking about his book, ***Cuss Control: The Complete Book on How to Curb Your Cussing***. (See Books & Poetry.)

Wednesday, April 26

Erin: **Stephen Jay Gould** is at the Newton Free Library to discuss his essays, *The Lying Stones of Marrakech*. (See Books & Poetry.)
Julie: Yum! **Taste of the Nation** at the Hynes Convention Center features 50 of Boston's best chefs serving up their gourmet delectables. (See Tastings.)

Thursday, April 27

Erin: In the mood for rock? Head to the Middle East Downstairs for the CD release party of **Quick Fix**. The band won't disappoint, and neither will provocative frontman Jake Zavracky. (See Music.)
Julie: **Oasis** and **Travis** play at the Orpheum. (See Music.)

Friday, April 28

Julie: Join the Young Friends of Beacon Hill for **Cocktails Courtside** for drinks and a squash tournament at the Tennis & Racquet Club. (See CityScope.) Or go cultural, and see the **Spring Revels** at Emerson Majestic Theatre. (See Dance.)
Erin: It's the kickoff to Boston's celebration of **Brazil's 500th anniversary** at the Boston Public Library. (See CityScope.)

Saturday, April 29

Julie: You can watch jugglers, acrobats, magicians and puppeteers try out for a coveted position in **Faneuil Hall**'s summer lineup. Help the celebrity judges determine who gets a spot. (See CityScope.) Later, head to the **Smashing Pumpkins** concert at the Tsongas Arena. (See Music.)
Erin: Need inspiration to do something philanthropic? Help support **Arts Against Hunger** by bringing canned food to the MFA, the ICA or the Wang Theatre and receive a discounted voucher in exchange. (See Performing Arts.)

Sunday, April 30

Julie: I'll be running in the **James Joyce Ramble**, a 10-K race in Dedham, complete with costumed readers and bagpipes. Even if you're not running, you can enjoy the poetry readings. (See Sports.)
Erin: If you like comedy, don't miss **An Evening at the Comedy Studio**, which features some of Boston's best comedians to benefit the Community Research Initiative. (See CityScope.)

Monday, May 1

Julie and **Erin**: Author David Kaiser discusses why we entered the Vietnam War at his lecture, **American Tragedy: Revisiting Vietnam**, at the JFK Library and Museum. Ambassador John Kenneth Galbraith offers his views on the subject. (See Education.)

Tuesday, May 2

Julie and **Erin**: The docu-drama, ***The Filth and the Fury***, an intimate and shocking portrait of the most notorious of punk rock bands, the Sex Pistols, plays at the Brattle Theatre. (See Film.)

CITYSCOPE **53** • PERFORMING ARTS **60** • ART **66** • FILM **72** • EDUCATION **78** • BOOKS & POETRY **80** • CLASSICAL MUSIC **82** • DANCE CLUBS **84** • MUSIC **86** • GAY & LESBIAN **92** • BODY & MIND **94** • CHILDREN **94** • SPORTS **94** •SALES & FASHION **96** • GO AWAY **96**
EDITED BY **ERIN HAGEDORN:** Art, Books & Poetry, Dance, Dance Clubs, Film, Gay & Lesbian, Go Away, Music. EDITED BY **JULIE SHORT:** Children, CityScope, Comedy, Education, Go Away, Sales & Fashion, Sports, Tastings, Theater. ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY **Laurel Kirtz** Body & Mind **Paul Sherman** Film Capsules

MARC BAPTISTE

cityscope

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a list of festivals, events and benefits taking place in the Boston area by date.

Festivals, Events Expos & Benefits

Wednesday, April 19

Big Apple Circus: Bello and Friends
Fan Pier, Boston (800-922-3772). Wed.-Fri. 11am and 7pm; Sat.-Sun. 12pm and 4pm. Through May 7. $13-$35. Sit 50 feet away from the fun and watch as the international award-winning clown Bello Nock and his friends entertain you with juggling, trapeze and animal tricks.

Thursday, April 20

A Post Marathon Party
The Exchange, 148 State St., Boston (248-5266). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 6-9pm. $10. This benefit for Casa Myrna Vazquez will feature appetizers, a cash bar and music from guest DJ Roland from Boston's Club Nicole.

Young Professionals Night
Il Panino, 295 Franklin St., Boston (338-1000). 9pm. Dress code. No cover. This evening offers a social playground for young professionals in Boston, with cocktails, dancing and hors d'oeuvres.

Friday, April 21

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Fridays. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

Saturday, April 22

Bluegrass Festival
Museum of Our National Heritage, 33 Marrett Road, Route 2A, Lexington (781-861-6559). 7:30pm. $18. A bluegrass festival featuring the Dry Branch Fire Squad and Karl Shiflett and the Big Country Show.

WBOS EarthFest
Hatch Shell, Boston (740-0929). 11:30am-6:30pm. Free. See box on page 58 for more info.

Scouts Walk
USS Constitution, Boston (227-8800). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, bus 93 to Navy Yard. 10am. Free. The Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts will lead a parade from the *USS Constitution* to the Bunker HIll Monument, with accompaniment of fife and drum, color guard, Middlesex 4-H and costumed characters.

Wednesday, April 26

Taste of the Nation
Hynes Convention Center, Exhibit Hall A, Boston (800-955-TASTE). 6:30-10pm. $65, $75 at the door. See Tastings, page 49, for more information

Thursday, April 27

Young Professionals Night: Midnight Twister
Il Panino, 295 Franklin St., Boston (338-1000). 9pm. Dress code. No cover. This evening offers a social playground for young professionals in Boston, with cocktails, dancing and hors d'oeuvres.

Friday, April 28

Cleopatra's Ball
The Seaport Hotel, 164 Northern Ave., Boston (695-6950, ext. 223). 6:30pm. $325. This Egyptian-styled event will include a cocktail hour followed by a lavish, oasis-inspired dinner in the glittering, gold-draped Plaza Ballroom. The Queen of the Nile herself will arrive accompanied by Boston Ballet dancers. Enjoy dessert and dancing to the music of the Winiker Orchestra and a silent auction.

Cocktail Courtside
Tennis & Racquet Club, 939 Boylston St., Boston (227-1922). Squash, 6-8pm. Cocktails, 7-9pm. $40 (squash and cocktails), $25 (just cocktails). The Young Friends of Beacon Hill sponsor this squash tournament and cocktail party with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. There will be a silent auction too. Beacon Hill Civic Association Community Service Scholarship.

Young Audiences of Massachusetts 11th Annual Benefit
Sanders Theatre and the Royal Sonesta Hotel, Cambridge. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Yo-Yo Ma, Edgar Meyer and Mark O'Connor perform works in a Boston premiere to benefit Young Audiences of Massachusetts. U.S. Senator John Kerry and Teresa Heinz will be honored for their contributions to education and the arts. The performance will be followed by an elegant dinner.

Saturday, April 29

6th Annual Harvard University Powwow
Science Center Lawn, Harvard University, Cambridge (495-4923). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 12-7pm. Celebrate the diversity of Native culture through song and dance. Native artisans will display and sell their work.

Sheepshearing Festival
Gore Place, 52 Gore St., Waltham, Mass. (781-894-2798). April 29, 10am-4pm. $6, children under 12 free. The 13th annual Sheepshearing Festival features demos of sheep shearing, herding dogs, spinning, weaving, wool-dyeing and more. But this festival doesn't end with sheep. Enjoy a craft fair, wagon rides, live music, puppeteers, dancing, gardening activities and, of course, food.

Singles Executives Club Cocktail Party and Singles Dance
Sheraton Hotel, Trophy Room, 100 Cabot St., Needham (781-283-0400). 9pm-1am. $15. Tie and jacket. A night of hors d'oeuvres, door prizes and music for single professionals ages 30 to 55.

Sunday, April 30

An Evening at the Comedy Studio
The Comedy Studio at the Hong Kong Restaurant, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. $10. Some of Boston's favorite comics, including Rick Jenkins, Tony V, DJ Hazard, Tim McIntire, Kyria Abrahams and Sam Walters, will join together for this evening of comedy to benefit Community Research Initiative of New England.

Brookline Community Folk Festival
Brookline High School Quadrangle, 115 Greenough St., Brookline (730-2700). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. 2-5pm. $10. This festival will feature legendary singer and songwriter Bill Staines; the African and Caribbean drums of Nuru Abena; the songs of Victor Cockburn; and guitar, banjo, dulcimer folk harp and songs by Lorraine and Bennett Hammond. WGBH's Dick Pleasants hosts.

James Joyce Ramble
Dedham, Mass. www.ramble.org. *11am. $18.* A 10-kilometer race features professional actors along the course reading from the works of James Joyce and bagpipers playing traditional Celtic music. More than 4,000 runners are expected this year. See the Sports section for more information.

Run of the Charles Canoe and Kayak Race
The Charles River in Dedham, Needham, Newton, Wellesley, Waltham, Watertown and Allston (508-698-6810). April 30. A professional and amateur canoe and kayak race that includes more than 1,400 international, national and local entries. The race course winds along the Charles to the Finish Line Festival at Herter Park, Soldiers Field Road, Allston.

Faneuil Hall performers are an elite group—not just anyone can balance a wheelbarrow on his forehead like this fellow. Watch the performers audition on April 29-30.

Preview

Dancing in the Street

Faneuil Hall hosts performer auditions

Lest you think that the street performers in Faneuil Hall are simply a random group of buskers, think again. It's a hand-chosen troupe, selected from the world's best. On April 29-30, Bostonians have a chance to help choose this summer's crew of multitalented street performers.

Live performance acts will include juggling, balloon origami, a mind-reading raccoon, clowns, mimes, acrobats, magicians, puppeteers, step dancers, violinists, unicyclists, folk acoustic music, storytellers and musicians. These performers from all over the world will be chosen based upon their ability to excite you, the crowd. Join celebrity judges Harvey Leonard from Channel 7, Karen Marinella and Jeff Barnd from Channel 56, Channel 5's Mark Rosenthal, marathoner Bill Rodgers and Ballet of Boston's Jose Mateo to help decide who will make the cut. *April 29, 11am-6pm; April 30, 12-5pm.*

Volunteer

Avon Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk
(491-3329). Event date: June 2-4. Volunteers needed to work on mailings, phone banking and data entry.

Boston Cares
(263-CARE). More than 70 volunteer opportunities available in Greater Boston.

Boston Living Center
(236-1012). HIV/AIDS service organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Boston-New York AIDS Ride
(859-8282, ext. 230). Volunteers needed for work on mass mailings, phone banking and other projects. • April 30, 1-5pm at Cambridge School of Weston, Georgian Road, Weston. Local outfitters, bicycle maintenance and repair clinics, training, registration and volunteer opportunities.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

Friday Night Supper Program
Arlington Street Church, corner of Arlington and Boylston streets, Boston (536-7050, ext. 22). Need volunteers to help prepare, cook and serve meals on Fridays, 5-7pm.

The Greater Boston Food Bank
(617.427.5200). Groups needed to sort donated food.

Hyannis Port Challenge
(800-718-3536). May 20. Raise money and cycle 85

Performers Alfredo Cardim (left) and Ari Mendes will perform at the Boston Public Library as part of the Boston celebration of the 500th anniversary of Brazil's discovery, April 22-28.

Preview

Viva Brazil

Brazilians around Boston will celebrate their country's 500th anniversary with a series of events that includes art exhibits, a poetry reading and a music show, April 22-28. Join thousands of Brazilians from Portuguese-speaking churches in New England for an ecumenical celebration at Chevalia Auditorium in Medford, April 22, at 7:30pm. On April 28, the Boston Public Library will host the opening of the *Brazil 500 Years* exhibits,which chronicle the birth of the country in April 1500 and display 30 contemporary photographs by internationally renowned Brazilian artists. Closing the celebration on April 30 will be an indoor soccer tournament at Somerville High School. The teams will represent the largest Brazilian communities throughout Massachusetts. For more detailed information, visit *www.consulatebrazil.org*.

miles to Cape Cod to benefit the Best Buddies. Training rides every Sunday morning at 9am, starting from International Bikes, 89 Brighton Ave., Allston.

Mass. Eating Disorder Association
(558-1881). Volunteers needed for 4 hours per week for help line, assisting clinical staff and special events.

St. Jude Century Challenge
(965-5262). Pledge to walk or run 100 miles now through April 30 and raise money for St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Seeks individuals to assist legal immigrants and refugees to become naturalized citizens.

Tours

Boston Bike Tours
On Boston Common (308-5902). Begins April 15. Daily 9:30am-6:30pm. Daily two-hour tours, Mon.-Sat. 1-3pm; 4-6pm. Low-impact, guided, sightseeing tours of Boston on bicyles. Rent or take a guided tour.

Boston By Foot
(367-2345). www.bostonbyfoot.com. *May-October. $8.* Guided 90-minute walks highlight the architecture and history of the city. Tours include: The Heart of the Freedom Trail, Beacon Hill, Victorian Back Bay, the North End and the Waterfront.

Boston Duck Tours
Prudential Center, Boston (723-DUCK). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. April-October. $21. The 80-minute tour on amphibious landing crafts takes groups through downtown and makes a final splash into the Charles.

Earth Day, Every Day
Meet at Boston Common Ranger Station, behind the Boston Common Visitor Center, Boston. MBTA: Green Line to Park. April 22, 12:15, 1pm, 1:45 and 2:30pm. Free. Learn about the natural beauty that the Emerald Necklace has to offer.

Ghost Tours
Meet at Boston Common Visitor Information Center, 147 Tremont St., Boston (781-235-7149). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street. Selected evenings, 7:30pm. $12. Tour downtown Boston's most infamous haunted locations.

Let Freedom Spring! Strolls
Meet at Boston Common Visitor Information Center, 147 Tremont St., Boston (227-2498). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street. April 19-22, 2:30-4pm. $10. Historic characters lead visitors through Boston's different historic sites along the Freedom Trail.

The Literary Trail
Tour begins at the Omni Parker House, corner of Tremont and School Streets, Boston (574-5950). Saturdays 9am-12:30pm. $35. Explore the heritage of some of the country's greatest authors, poets and social activists at eight literary historical landmarks in the Boston area.

Public Garden Spring Bloom
Meet at Public Garden, Charles Street, Maine Gate, Boston. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. April 30, 1-2:30pm. Walk in Boston's oldest botanical garden.

Stargazing
Arnold Arboretum, Peter's Hill, Bussey Street Gate, Jamaica Plain. April 25, 8-9pm. Free. Look through a telescope to Peter's Hill to get a closer view of celestial objects with the Boston park rangers.

Sights to See

Boston Tea Party Ship and Museum
Congress St. Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Open daily, March-May and Sept.-Nov., 9am-5pm; closed Dec.-March. $8, $7 students, $4 children. You can dump your own bale into the harbor—and watch a museum guide scramble to retrieve it—at this replica of one of the ships emptied by colonists (disguised as Indians) during the Dec. 16, 1773, tea raid. Afterward, enjoy a cup of tax-free tea.

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Fifth Floor, Boston (353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), Oct.-March 7:30-8:30pm; April-Sept. 8:30-9:30pm. Free. BU's astronomers are available to answer questions and assist with telescopes as you check out Orion, Cassiopeia and the Big Dipper.

Bunker Hill Monument
Monument Square, Charlestown (242-5641). Open daily 9am-5pm. Free. What's long and hard and shaped like a pencil? It's not what you think. It's the 221-foot monument that honors the men who died in the Battle of Bunker Hill. But an exhausting climb up 294 stairs reveals little more than a stunning view of I-93.

Christian Science World Headquarters
Massachusetts and Huntington Avenues, Boston (450-2000). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential. Tue.-Sat.

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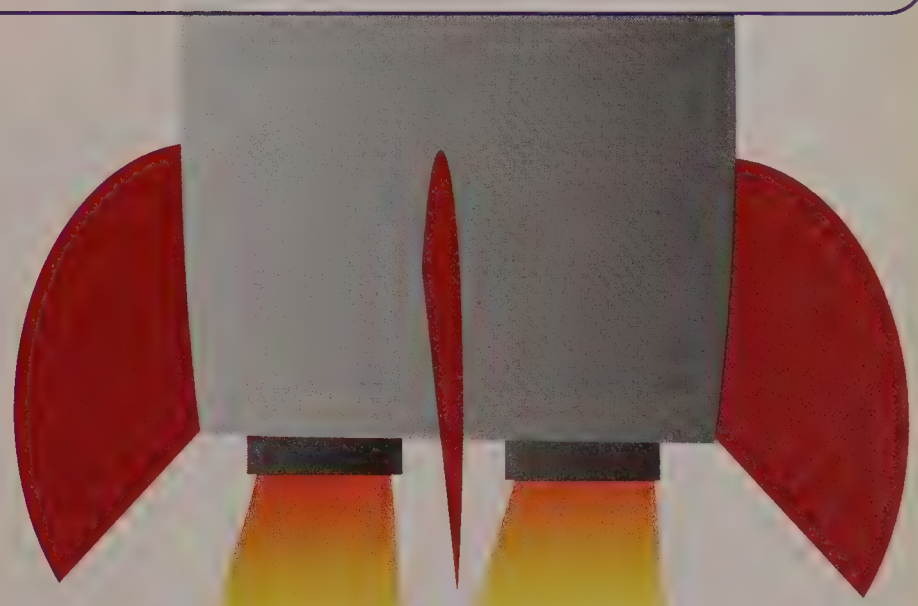

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EarthFest's concert will be powered by energy from the sun and wind, April 22.

Preview

EarthFest

Celebrate Mother Earth's birthday with some good music, food and fun at WBOS's EarthFest, April 22. Some 100 environmental groups will showcase their wares, and the Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band, Sonia Dada, Marcy Playground and Edwin McCain are scheduled to perform. Neater still, the energy used to power the sound equipment and music will be generated by the sun and wind. Look for wind turbines catching the strong seasonal winds blowing up-river. Plus, solar panels will be placed on top of the scaffolding on each side of the concert stage to absorb energy from the sun during the daylong festival. *The Hatch Shell, Boston (740-0929). 11:30am-6:30pm. Free.*

9:30am-4pm, Sun. 11am-2pm. Tour the Mother Church—a giant basilica that seats 3,000 worshippers; a 700-foot-long reflecting pool; and a photo exhibit.

Copp's Hill Burial Ground

Hull and Snowhill Streets, Boston. MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Open dawn-dusk. Admission free. From Boston's second-oldest cemetery, you can see all the way across the Inner Harbor to Charlestown. Famous residents include the well-known Puritanical Mather family and Prince Hall, a prominent member of the free black community.

John Hancock Observatory

200 Clarendon St., Boston (572-6429). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open Mon.-Sat. 9am-11pm, Sun. 10am-11pm (May-Oct.) and noon-11pm (Nov.-April). Admission $4.50. The tallest building in New England (62 floors) offers much more than an awesome view. Listen to air-traffic controllers at Logan, test your knowledge of the city with a computer quiz, or relive some of Boston's most famous and infamous events.

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site

83 Beals St., Brookline (566-7937). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Wed.-Sun. 10 am-4:30pm. The birthplace and early boyhood home of the nation's 35th president.

King's Chapel

58 Tremont St., Boston (227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat. 10am-2pm. Admission free. Alongside Boston's first Anglican church—a gloomy, granite apparition—you'll find a burial ground with equally ominous-looking headstones dating back to 1630. On Sundays, listen for the distinctive peal of the church bell cast by Paul Revere's foundry.

Old Faneuil Hall

Boston (635-3105). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Open daily 9am-5pm. Guided tours every half-hour, starting at 9am. Free. Known as the "Cradle of Liberty," Faneuil Hall—we're talking about the part above the eatery—was the site of many an angry man ranting and raving about the damn British in the mid-1700s. Today, you can check out the white-walled assembly room, but most people come here for the marketplace.

Old North Church

193 Salem St., Boston (523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily 9 am-5pm. Free. Here, Paul Revere saw two lanterns shining on April 18, 1775, indicating that the British troops were crossing the Charles River to Lexington and Concord via boat. You remember... "One if by land, two if by sea."

Old South Meeting House

310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays 10am-4pm, weekends 10am-5pm. $3. A thousand fed-up men gathered in this church to decide whether or not to send three ships full of tea back to England. Guess what? They didn't. •New permanent exhibit: *Voices of Protest* traces the use of Old South Meeting House over three centuries for religious, political and social debate. Artifacts, lifelike figures and interactive exhibits illuminate how Old South has championed the right to free speech and assembly despite acts of official censorship. •Middays at the Meeting House, a lunchtime music series. Thursdays, 12:15-1pm. $4.

Prudential Center Skywalk

800 Boylston St., Boston (859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-10pm, Sun. noon-10pm. $4, $3 seniors and students. After that tiring, 50-floor elevator ascent, you deserve a drink at the Top of the Hub lounge before you check out Boston's only 360-degree view tower. On a good day, you can see New Hampshire. The view here is slightly better than that of rival John Hancock.

Trinity Church

206 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8am-6pm. Free. Designed by H.H. Richardson and constructed in 1877, the huge Romanesque church in Copley Square rests upon 4,500 submerged wooden pilings, which help hold up the church's massive tower. A shaded courtyard offers respite from the heavily-trafficked plaza. On Fridays at 12:15pm, stop by for a free organ concert.

Museums

Boston Tea Party Ship & Museum

Congress Street Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. March-Nov., 9am-dusk. $7, $5.50 students, $3.50. Colonial-clad sailors take you aboard *The Beaver*, a replica of the smallest of the three ships involved in the infamous tea rebellion. Paul Revere leads the hourly tea throwing and explains all about the fateful day irate Bostonians poured out the tea in protest of the tax decree issued by British parliament. Try your hand at rope-tying too.

Children's Museum

300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June Tue.-Sat. 10 am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm; June-Aug. daily 10am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm. $5, children and seniors $3: Follow the red and white signs to the mother of all milk bottles. As you walk under it you'll feel as diminutive as your munchkin companion. See *Arthur's World* from the popular television series and children's books. This infamous aardvark is one of many hands-on favorites. •**Sesame Street Exhibition**. Three decades of the revolutionary children's television series. Step into one of the world's most famous TV neighborhoods.

Harriet Tubman House

566 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-8610). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. Weekdays 8am-8pm. Free admission. The Harriet Tubman Museum exhibits a collection of this influential black leader's achievements.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum

Columbia Point, Dorchester (929-4523). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily 9am-5pm (last film begins at 3:55pm). $8, students and seniors $6, children $4. This permanent collection on the life and legacy of President John F. Kennedy offers a re-created world of the early 1960s with period settings and 25 dramatic multimedia exhibits. Visitors experience first-hand the challenges faced by America during Kennedy's presidency. *John Glenn and the Space Race*, an exhibit about the man with the mission is now showing. •*Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy: First Lady*. Ongoing •*Treasures of the Kennedy Library.* A selection of the treasures, including sculpture, jewelry, paintings and documents. Through May 2000. •*Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy*. New ongoing exhibit.

Museum of Afro-American History

46 Joy St., Boston (739-1200) www.afroammuseum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays 10am-4pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.* The place is bustling after its recent endowment of more than $1 million to restore the meeting house's hallowed sanctuary. See the African Meeting House, the oldest black church in America.

Museum of Natural History

26 Oxford St., Cambridge (495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, students and seniors $4, chil-*

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dren $3; free to all Sat. 9am-12pm. This Harvard museum is made up of four factions: The **Botanical Museum**, **The Museum of Comparative Zoology**, the **Mineral & Geological Museum**, and the **Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology**. A number of exhibitions tie together all four of these distinct collections. The most famous is the Botanical Museum for its glass flowers collection—more than 3,000 models of more than 480 plant species. At the Museum of Comparative Zoology, check out the 42-foot-long mounted Kronosaurus (a really big lizard) and countless stuffed insects. The Mineral & Geological Museum's got a 16,000 pound Brazilian amethyst geode, and there's the dollhouse-esque Worlds in Miniature display at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnography. •***Orchids: A Story of Seduction***. Through May 14. This exhibition will explore some of the flowers' most interesting pollination strategies and the long history of collecting and research by Harvard scientists.

Museum of Our National Heritage

33 Marrett Road, Route 2A, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.mnh.org. *Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 12-5pm. Free admission.* Explore history through pop culture. Topics range from Revolutionary artifacts to the latest in jigsaw-puzzle-solving techniques and American circus posters. •*Initiating America*, a historical look at fraternal organizations. Ongoing. •*The Lynn Beach Painters, Art Along the North Shore*, 1880-1920. Through Aug. 20. •Opened April 8: *Weaving the Dance: The Yeibichai Tradition in Navajo Rugs.* An exhibition on 20th-century Navajo pictorial textiles. •April 22, *7:30pm. $18.* A bluegrass festival featuring the Dry Branch Fire Squad and Karl Shiflett and the Big Country Show.

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu. 9am-5pm; Fri. 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children. Omni Theater, Hayden Planetarium or laser shows all $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children.* Find out how much you weigh on the moon, strap yourself into a space module or sift through sand on an archaeological dig. Enjoy 600 hands-on exhibits, including the *Theater of Electricity*, *Seeing Is Deceiving* and *Science in the Park* (Newtonian physics introduced through such accessible items as playground equipment and skateboards.) •*To See the Sea* explores the ocean from the perspective of a deep-sea diver. •Now open: *Messages:* Discover why communication is central to everyday life. *Human Body Connection*: exhibits on anatomy, physiology and health. *The Light House: Beaming, Bouncing and Bending Light*: Learn the principles of optics, color and the nature of light with 18 hands-on activities. •*Reptiles: Real and Robotic*, through May 29. Learn about a variety of reptiles and their diverse habitats, which can live in searing deserts or the cold North Sea. •New: Cahners ComputerPlace. A lively enviroment filled with multimedia-rich software and Web-based experiences. •*Secrets of Aging* opens April 5. Explores the science behind the universal experience of aging. •Mugar Omni Theater: *Mysteries of Egypt*. Through June. *Dolphins* opened March 10. (See Film for more information.)

Charles Hayden Planetarium

Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children. Time of show changes daily.* Get high! High up, that is. And (then) go see the stars and rock-music laser shows. Check out the ongoing out-of-this- world multimedia installations *Life and Death of the Sun* and *The Sky Tonight*, and enjoy daily laser shows to the music of the Beastie Boys, Pink Floyd, Korn, Tool, Jimi Hendrix, Nine Inch Nails, among others. It's a trip. •*Journey to the Edge of Space and Time*: Ideas once considered crazy (like black holes) are now the building blocks of new knowledge. What next? •*Welcome to the Universe.* Now open. •Friday Night Stargazing, 8:30-10pm. Free. Weather permitting.

Museum of Transportation

15 Newton St. (in Larz Anderson Park), Brookline (522-6547). MBTA: D Green Line to Reservoir, to bus 51. April-Oct., Wed.-Sun. 10am-5pm; Nov.-March, Wed.-Sun. 10am-4pm. $5, $3 seniors and students. This 1888 carriage house is the automobile buff's paradise—and the country's oldest private collection of antique autos. Featured cars range from Fords and Corvettes to Cadillacs and Italian imports. •May 2, 7pm: History and Community Lecture.

Old State House Museum

206 Washington St., Boston (720-3290). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily 9am-5pm. $3, students and seniors $2. Built in 1713, this original seat of colonial government was the place pre-Independence Bostonians first heard the Declaration of Independence read. •Opened March 31: ***Burning Issues: A History of Boston Through Fire***. This exhibit considers the significance of eight fire events in Boston's history with interactive experiences for the family.

Sports Museum of New England

FleetCenter, Boston (624-1234). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Adults, $5, Children and seniors, $4. Exhibits of the great sports traditions of the Boston Garden, FleetCenter and Celtics, in addition to the New Balance Wall of Champions, Major League/Minor League by Jim Dow, the Boston Garden Theatre, Ted Williams—An American Hero, and exhibits of boxing, hockey, football, baseball, soccer, collegiate basketball and the 75th anniversary of the Bruins.

USS Constitution & Museum

Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (426-1812). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, bus 93 to Navy Yard. Nov.-April 30: Open daily 10am-5pm. Free. The stories of the individuals who authorized, built and served on the *USS Constitution*, the oldest commissioned warship afloat. Learn about its 200-year history hands on—hoist a sail, take the wheel, fire a cannon or swing in a hammock.

Zoos & Gardens

Arnold Arboretum

125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain (524-1718). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open weekdays: 9am-4pm, weekends: 12-4pm. Free. More than 14,000 exotic trees, shrubs and flowers make this the place to go when you need to escape the hustle and bustle of city life. There's no picnicking allowed, but biking, dog-walking and frisbee-throwing are encouraged.

Franklin Park Zoo

1 Franklin Park Rd., Boston (442-2002). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open Oct.-March daily 10am-4pm; April-Sept. weekdays 10am-5pm, weekends and holidays 10am-6pm. Admission $6. A 72-acre oasis of green in the city with waterfalls, lush vegetation, gorillas, leopards, hippos and free-flying birds. •New: Giraffe Savannah and a baby western lowland gorilla, born Aug. 8. •April 22, 11am-3pm: **Earth Day Edventure**. Learn about the zoo's local and global conservation efforts. Have fun with related education, conservation and arts and crafts activities. •April 23, 11am-3pm: **Easter Celebration**. Children's arts and crafts and photos with Grandpa Bunny.

Mount Auburn Cemetery

580 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard, transfer to #71 or #73 bus. Open daily 8am-7pm (summer) and 8am-5pm (winter). Admission free. Rest in peace among the grave sites and crypts of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes, "Battle Hymn of the Republic" author Julia Ward Howe and Winslow Homer, among other famous Americans. A great place for birdwatchers and botanists.

New England Aquarium

Central Wharf, Boston (973-5200). www.neaq. org. *MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Early Sept.-June: Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. and holidays 9am-6pm. $12.50.* Boston's biggest fish bowl has much more than just goldfish. In the three-story saltwater tank swim turtles, sharks, eels and the occasional mermaid (or mer-male), who entertains crowds as she or he cleans the tank. Be sure to visit with the seals on your way in and out of the aquarium. •*Storm Over Stellwagen*, a new 15-minute, interactive multimedia production, allows you to control the outcome of the film. •***Unforgettable Boston***: This movie highlights many of Boston's favorite landmarks. $4. •Opening April 15: ***Nyanja! Africa's Inland Sea*** opens. This exhibit features East Africa's Lake Victoria, the world's second-largest lake, telling a story of the people, biodiversity, fisheries, history and future of the lake.

Roger Williams Park Zoo

1000 Elmwood Ave., Providence, R.I. (401-785-3510). South on 1-95 from Providence to exit 17 (Elmwood Ave.). $6, $3.50 seniors and children. Open every day except Dec. 25. Nov.-March 9am-4pm. April-Oct. 9am-5pm. Lions and tigers and a 150-pound baby polar bear named Triton. Oh my! More than 600 birds and mammals inhabit the African plains and rain forests.

Stone Zoo

149 Pond St., Stoneham, Rte. 93 North, Exit 34 (781-438-5100). $3. The polar bear remains, as he always has been, the star attraction at this 32-acre zoo, as he has for the last 33 years. •April 22-23, 11am-3pm. **Bunny Bonanzoo**. Fun family activities, arts and crafts, an Easter egg hunt and a photo opportunity with Peter Rabbit.

You are invited to the 1st Annual Leslie's Links Event...

Leslie's Links

On Thursday, April 20th
7:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m.
at The Big Easy Bar in The Alley
One Boylston Place, Boston, 617/351-7000

The Catunes are coming on at 9:00 p.m.
There will also be a DJ and Dancing

Lynn Hoffman from Mix 98.5 will host a live raffle with lots of great prizes from Ski Market, Mac, Flat of the Hill, Koo de Kir, and more
Hors D'oeuvres by The Wrap & Smoothie Bar

Donations are $30 at the door

Please make checks payable to:
Leslie's Links/Dana-Farber

100% of the proceeds from this event will be donated to The Leslie's Links Ewings Sarcoma Fund at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

www.leslieslinks.com or email wendy@leslieslinks.com for more information

Leslie's Links was founded in 1999 by Leslie Semonian who battled cancer and recently passed away on December 14th, 1999. During the eight-and-a-half year period of cancer, until her death, Leslie never allowed her illness to stand in the way of her goal of helping others. She knew how precious life was and energetically embraced each day and helped others appreciate their own lives more. She wanted to be remembered as a participator not an observer of life. Her passion was boundless, and will continue in the hearts of the many friends and relatives whom she inspired.

Leslie's Links raises money for Ewings Sarcoma Cancer Research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute through various ways, one of which is through the 192 mile Pan Mass Challenge Bikeathon every August. www.leslieslinks.com will help link patients, family members and doctors together to help one another share information, find support and keep everyone up to date on future Leslie's Links events and progress made.

We thank you all in advance for your kind generosity and support.

Please join our hosts for the evening to support a great cause:

Eric Aulenback
Aram Aslanian
Mark Barnes
Jen Bennett
Amy Burg
Elisabeth Carroll
Mike Cronin
Dana D'Alfonso
Allison Dargie
Courtney Dargie
Nancy Semonian Day
Susan Frigoletto
Laurie Frigoletto
Lynn Hoffman
Kerry Brett Hurley
Kristine Irving
Todd Kurland
Diane Mantouvalos
Kristina McKay
Katherine Morse
Kate O'Halloran
Robyn Sarkisian
Mark Semonian
Wendy Semonian
Anthony Sgro
Bob Timperio
Dominic Visocchi

performing arts

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Theater. Or e-mail information to performing@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Theater

JUST OPENED

Anthony Rose
The Lyric West Theatre, 95 Freeport St., Boston (288-7889). Wed.-Fri., 8pm; Sat. 5pm and 8:30pm; Sun,. 2pm. Through April 30. $56.25. A play by great American cartoonist and playwright Jules Feiffer, with Paul Benedict in the title role. This chillingly funny and biting play examines popular culture and looks at what is coming in the next millennium in both the theater and television industries—some of which is already here.

The Dying Gaul
Speakeasy Stage Company, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Fri. 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 7pm. Through April 29. The smash off-Broadway drama from playwright Craig Lucas is a devastating tale of power, money and seduction in Hollywood and a compelling portrait of a complex love triangle among an impressionable writer, the producer who seeks his script for production and his frighteningly perceptive wife.

The Gentleman from China
Tremont Theatre, 276 Tremont St., Boston (542-4599). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2:30pm. April 20-23. $20. The true story of the first Chinese merchant who came to Boston in the mid-19th century. His success, wealth and generosity warranted him status and respect in high society. He married an American girl, converted to Christianity and moved to Malden, living there for 12 years. This is his story.

Godspell
The Firehouse, Market Square, Newburyport (978-462-7336). Thu.-Sat. 7:30pm; Sun. 5pm. A rock musical dealing with love and charity based on the stories of the Bible.

The Imaginary Invalid
Tower Auditorium, Massachusetts College of Art, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston (782-1344). Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 3pm and 8pm. Through April 22. Moliere's classic farce is about Argan, a hypochondriac, who intends to marry his daughter, Angelica, to a doctor in an attempt to get free health care. Argan's second wife plans instead to have both of his daughters sent to a convent, a plan that will let nothing come between all of Argan's fortunes and herself. Angelica, however, loves the noble Cleante. With help from the maid and Argan's brother, a tryst is plotted, but Argan does his best to thwart them all.

Jesus Christ Superstar
Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton (244-0169). Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. April 28-May 21. $19. The passion of Christ explodes on stage in the powerful music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. It follows the last week of Jesus' life, culminating in his crucifixion and the quest by his followers searching for meaning in his death.

The Jumping Frog of Calaveras County
Boston Lyric Opera, John Hancock Hall, 180 Berkeley St., Boston (542-4912). April 27-28, 9:45am and 11:45am. $15. An hour-long production set in a mining town during the days of the California Gold Rush. Smiley is the proud owner of Daniel Webster, a frog locally noted for his jumping prowess. Uncle Henry, his niece Lulu and others are astonished when a stranger bets that any frog can outjump Dan'l. The stranger wins the bet fraudulently and when his swindling is discovered, he is chased out of town.

My Fair Lady
Trinity Repertory Company, 201 Washington St., Providence, RI (401-351-4242). Tue. 7pm; Wed.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Through May 21. $27-$$42. Adapted from George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*, this musical focuses on a man who sets out to create his own version of the ideal female. A poor young woman is reinvented as a princess.

New Theatre's 11th Annual Spring Showcase
Charlestown Working Theatre, 442 Bunker Hill Ave., Charlestown (247-7388). Fri.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 3pm. April 28-May 14. $15. •**Glass Menagerie**, April 28-30. Tennessee Williams' memory play about fragile, delicate ties that must be broken.

The Order of Things
Centastage, Boston Playwrights' Theater, 949 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (536-5981). April 27-May 13. A touching and poignant comic fable of a Cuban family seeking order in the worlds of Castro, America and higher mathematics. This play was a finalist in the prestigious Clauder Playwriting competition.

Relatively Speaking
Lyric West Theatre Company, Massachusetts Bay Community College, Route 9, Wellesley (288-7889). Wed.-Fri., 8pm; Sat. 5pm and 8:30pm; Sun., 2pm. Through April 30. $25-$29. The tale of a young couple—he suspicious, she evasive. When the girl insists she's visiting her parents (actually she's breaking up with an older man who won't leave her alone), the boy, Greg, finds out where she's going and arrives before her, in the garden of an older couple, Philip and Sheila. Greg thinks they are her parents—Philip believes he's having an affair with Sheila.

A Star Is Bored
SpeakEasy Stage Company, Boston Center for the Arts, Leland Center, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. April 21-29. Rick Park, John Kuntz's partner in crime during this past season's late night hit After School Special, premieres his solo show.

This Is Our Youth
Coyote Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, Leland Center, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Through April 29. The New England premiere of Kenneth Longergan's widely acclaimed brash and brilliant play depicts three teenagers in Reagan-era Manhattan revolting against the oppression of parents, Republicans and addiction.

Working
UMass Boston, McCormack Theatre, 100 Morrissey Blvd., Boston (287-5646). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. April 28-29, 8pm; May 4-5, 8pm; May 6, 2pm and 8pm. $7. The Broadway hit musical of the '70s focuses on middle class people, their work, how they look at their work and how others value their labor.

The World Goes 'Round
The Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). Wed.-Thu. 7:30pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 4pm; Sun. 3pm. April 21-May 21. $22-$35. A musical revue featuring 26 years of music from the composers of Broadway and movie blockbusters, including *Cabaret*, *Chicago*, *New York, New York*, *Funny Lady* and *Kiss of the Spider Woman*.

NOW RUNNING

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed.-Thu. 8pm; Fri.-Sat. 7pm and 10pm; Sun. 3pm and 6pm. $39-$49. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to get its point across with tribal rock music, performance art, humorous antics, props (including plastic tubes and Twinkies) and three men painted blue.

Fat Men in Skirts
The Peabody House Theatre, 277 Broadway, Somerville (625-1300). Thu.-Sat. 8pm. Through April 22. What do cannibalism, incest and Katherine Hepburn have in common? Playwright Nicky Silver has the answer in this psycho-active farce. A mother and son are marooned on a desert island for five years. When they are reunited with the husband/father who presumed them lost and his mistress, the most bizarre and primal forces of human nature unfold.

The Jungle Book
The Wheelock Family Theatre, 200 The Riverway, Boston (879-2147). Fri. 7:30pm; Sat.-Sun. 3pm. Through May 7. $10-$17. A magical fusion of fantasy and myth, Rudyard Kipling's stories feature Mowgli, an Indian boy raised by wolves from infancy, and the animals who teach him the sometimes harsh laws of the jungle.

The Performance Cult
Back Alley Theater, 1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (338-1477). MBTA: Red Line to Central. April 23 and May 7, 7:30pm. $6. Each night, a host of seasoned Boston-area actors, dancers, storytellers and others will present a series of short, original vignettes. There's only one restriction: Each performer must base his or her work on the truth.

St. Nicholas
Hasty Pudding Theatre, 12 Holyoke St., Cambridge (547-8300). www.amrep.org. *April 20-22, April 25-29, 8pm; April 22-23, 2pm; April 29-30, 2pm; April 30,*

Preview

Fighting Hunger with Dance

Here's an opportunity for art lovers to enjoy this city's cultural offerings—*and* feed the hungry and save money at the same time. On April 28-30, the Arts Against Hunger initiative will offer discounts to multiple cultural venues. Participants who bring two non-perishable food items to the Museum of Fine Arts, the Institute of Contemporary Art or the Wang Theatre—which hosts the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (above) that weekend—will receive vouchers redeemable for half-price admission to exhibitions or a $10 discount on tickets to Alvin Ailey's performances. All food donations will benefit the Greater Boston Food Bank.

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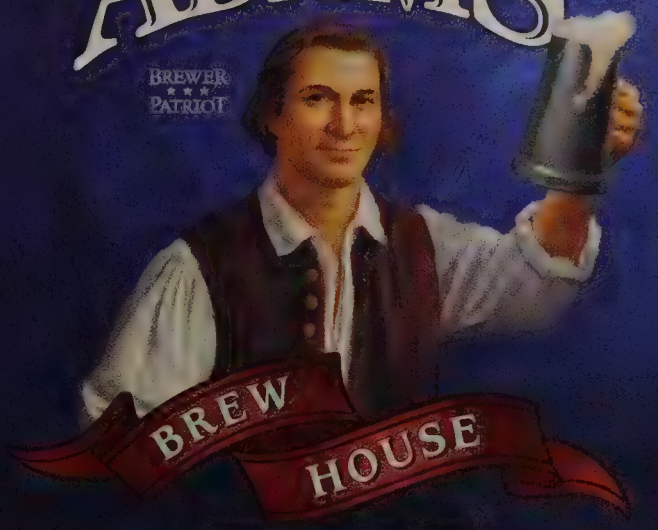

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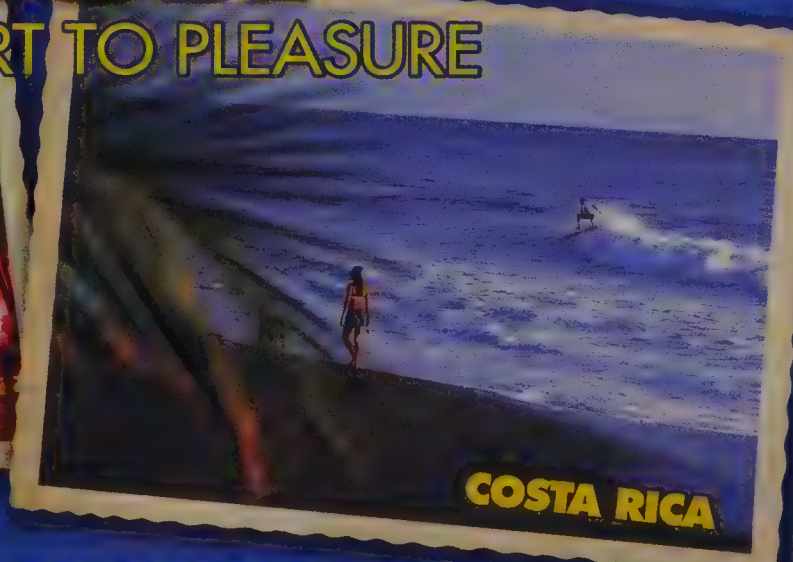

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7pm. $25-$35. The story of a jaded Dublin theater critic who becomes besotted with a young actress and walks away from his ordinary life into a series of bizarre events. It is a macabre and funny story of obsession, seduction, entrapment and blood.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri. 8pm ; Sat. 6:30pm and 9:30pm; Sun. 3pm and 7:30pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This hilarious whodunit is set in a unisex hair salon. The production holds the record as the longest-running play in the history of Boston theater.

Trousers
Palimpsest Theatre Company, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (432-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm. April 19-May 6. $10. Dan Monaco's two-man play draws on Absurdist and Brechtian traditions and examines the interpersonal and socio-economic issues that arise as a result of one man's oversized trousers.

INTERACTIVE THEATER

Medieval Manor
246 East Berkeley St., Boston (423-4900). Red Line to Broadway. Mon., Wed., Thu., Fri. 8pm ; Sat. 5pm and 9:30pm; Sun. 6pm. Ongoing. $9.60-$32. Eat, drink and be merry at a Renaissance dining experience. Don't worry about etiquette. You won't find knives and forks, and the soup of the day is in your face—literally.

Mystery Cafe
290 Congress St., Boston (781-320-0040). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Dinner and show: Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm. Ongoing. $34. Saturdays: The interactive murder mystery, *The Devil Made Me Do It*, a heavenly mystery in a tropical setting. Solve the crime and win the super sleuth prize.

Dance

SHOWS AND EVENTS

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (842-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. April 25-29, 8pm; April 29, 2pm and April 30, 3pm. If you've heard of Alvin Ailey, then you probably already have your tickets in hand. If you aren't familiar with the breathtaking masterpieces of movement and strength that this dance theater inspires, you're in for a treat. Dedicated to the enrichment of American modern dance and the uniqueness of African-American cultural expression, this annual spring Ailey week will dazzle you with timeless masterpieces dating back to 1960, as well as provocative company premieres.

Boston Conservatory Theater Event
31 Hemenway St. Boston (912-9137). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center/ICA. April 30. 2pm. Free admission. Spend the afternoon with senior dancers Julia Pond and Jeffrey L. Smith, who present their original modern-dance choreography to music ranging from club to classical.

Follies
Emerson Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (824-8000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2pm and 8pm. April 19-21. $12-$18. A musical spectacular with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. A reunion of ex-showgirls from the Weissman Follies is the setting for a song and dance spectacular about love, theater, nostalgia and the choices we make.

Gamelan Galak Tika
Kresge Auditorium, MIT, 48 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (258-7971). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. April 21. 8pm. $7, $3 students. Talented guest dancer Nyoman Catra returns after performing in various village temple ceremonies and in festivals around the world. Catra is Bali's master of traditional Balinese Topeng masked drama, specializing in funny faces and clowning roles. His performance of Balinese music and dance also features a Banyuwangi piece played on a new set of Javanese instruments.

Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: Green Line to Symphony. April 28, 8pm. $35-$50. This unique performance seeks to bring back Big Band Jazz in full swing. The Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra with the Wynton Marsalis Orchestra will bring its own dancers to the stage, but don't dismiss this as a chance to rest your feet. They call it "for dancers only" and they're no dancin' fools. The first eight rows of the orchestra will be cleared to make a dance floor just for you.

Ragamala Music and Dance Theater
Sorenson Center for the Arts, Babson College, Babson Park, Wellesley (781-239-5682). MBTA: Commuter Rail to Wellesley Hills. April 28, 8pm. $12 adults, $6 staff, alumni, children and seniors, $3 students. With an established history of artistic innovation and unabandoned creativity, Ragamala combines East Indian and Western music and dance to create a spiritually uplifting performance.

Spring Revels
Emerson Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont Street, Boston (972-8300). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. April 28, 8pm; April 29, 3pm and 8pm; and April 30, 1pm. $16-$28. Celebrate the vernal equinox with drama, dance and song with the music of a Cape Breton barn raising and the spicy melodies of a Cajun Mardi Gras—featuring the Fiddles of Acadia, the Catfish Creek Cajun Band and Barachois.

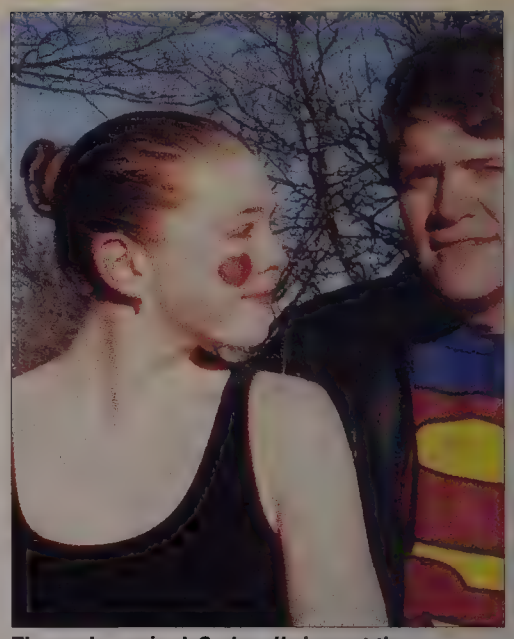
JOIN IN

Club Joy
533 Washington Street, Boston (354-5780). Saturday nights. This Latin night spot now offers classes: salsa, merengue, bachata and more.

Dance Complex
536 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-9363). MBTA: Red Line to Central. •*April 22, 2:30-4:30pm. $12.* Chinese modern and folk dance workshop are led by Chu Ling and are presented by the Dance Umbrella. •*April 28, 8pm.* Warm up your toes with a Tap Jam. •*April 29, 2:30pm-4:30pm. $12.* The Dance Umbrella presents a choreography workshop with Brian Crabtree.

Dance Friday
Rug Cutter's Studio, 23 Main St., Watertown Square (924-7276). Fridays. 8:30pm. $7, children under 12 are free. Kick off your shoes and dance around like a maniac. This weekly event provides a smoke and alcohol-free environment for you to let loose with your kids or on your own to music of all kinds.

Dancing at Ryles Jazz Club
Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. •*Saturdays, 9pm-1:30am, $12, $10 after 11:30pm.* Join in a variety of dance moves—here you'll find jazzy mambos, swing dancing, cheeky cha chas and sassy salsa numbers. •*Tuesdays 10pm-1:30am. $6.* Just Swing It night features the Black Tie Affair Orchestra and DJ music. Requests are taken, and dancers are encouraged to bring their own music. •*Wednesdays, 9pm.* Get your Brazilian Ballroom Dance fix with Samba, Forro, Lambada and Axe. •*Thursdays, 8:30-11pm. $10-$12.* Salsa and merengue dance.



The rock musical *Godspell* plays at the Firehouse in Newburyport through April 23.

TICKETS

Bostix
(723-5181) www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of Faneuil Hall); Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth); and Harvard Square (in the Holyoke Center arcade at 1350 Mass. Ave). Same-day tickets half-price.*

Next Ticketing
(423-NEXT). www.boston.com/next.

Ticketmaster
(931-2000) www.ticketmaster.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(247-1300 or 800-442-1854). A good place to get tickets if a show is sold out at the box office.

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Comedy

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STAND-UP CLUBS

Comedy Connection

245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (248-9700). www.comedyconnectionboston.com. *MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed. 8pm; Thu. 8:30pm; Fri. and Sat. 8pm, 10:15pm; Sun. 7pm. $8-$10 (weekend prices vary).* The oldest comedy club in Boston draws big-name, national comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •April 19: Steve Hurley. •April 20, 8:30pm, $12: Frank Santos, the "R-rated Hypnotist." •April 21, 8pm and 10:15pm, $19: Amazing Johnathan, the Freddy Krueger of Comedy. •April 22, 8pm and 10:15pm, $22: Amazing Johnathan. •April 24: Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox. •April 25: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz. •April 26: Don Gavin and Steve Hurley. •April 27, 8:30pm, $12: Frank Santos, the "R-rated Hypnotist." •April 28, $20: **Richard Lewis** of HBO and Showtime. •April 29, 8pm: Frank Santorelli. 10:30pm, $22: Richard Lewis of *Hiller & Diller*. •April 30, 9:15pm, $12: Black Comedy Explosion hosted by Johnathan Gates.

The Comedy Studio at the Hong Kong

1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu.-Sun. 8pm. $5-$7. Sketch comedy troops and local comedians perform. •April 20: Thursday Night Fights. Opening day of the new season. Starring Tim McIntire. $5. •April 21: PS Absurdo, starring Eugene Mirman, Brendon Small and Larry Murphy. $7. •April 22: Katie Grady, Bob Hagearty and Craig Zeltzar. •April 27: Tim McIntire's Thursday Night Fights. Special guest John Fisch. $5. •April 28: Bad Poetry Society. With special guest Charles Laquidara. Non-smoking. Free. •April 29: Rick Jenkins showcase: Myq Kaplan, Amanda Hall and Ian Maisel. $7. •April 30: Special benefit performance from DJ Hazard, Tony V, Tim McIntire, Sam Walter and Kyria Abrams. $10.

Dick Doherty's Comedy Escape Comedy Vault

Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun. 9pm. $10. Features local stand-up comedians. Thursdays: Stand-up comedy. Fridays and Saturdays: Dick Doherty's Comedy Pro Tour. Sundays: Open-mike night.

Nick's Comedy Stop

100 Warrenton St., Boston (482-0930). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Fri. 8:30pm; Sat. 7:45pm and 10pm; Sun. 8pm. $8-$14. The talent here is not quite as big-name as the Comedy Connection, but the crowds are just as enthusiastic, and you're guaranteed to leave with a smile on your face. Wednesdays: Open mike at 8:30pm. •April 20, 8:30pm, April 21-22, 8:45pm: Paul Gilligan, Mike Prior and Jack Lynch. •April 27, 8:30pm: Rich Ceisler, PJ Walsh and Dan Miller. •April 28, 8:45pm: Rich Ceisler, Dave Russo and Dan Miller.

IMPROVISATIONAL COMEDY & MAGIC

Improv Asylum

216 Hanover St., Boston (263-6887). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Shows: Thu. 8pm; Fri. and Sat. 8pm and 10pm. Main Stage: $10-$15. Now playing on the main stage is the critically acclaimed improvisational and sketch comedy show—voted one of Boston's best improvisational comedy troops.

ImprovBoston at Back Alley Theater

1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1253). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troop makes things up as they go along. Fri.-Sat. 8pm ($12) and 10:30pm ($12). Sun, 2pm ($7). •Fridays and Saturdays: 90 minutes of wholesome fun with scenes, games, original music and lots of audience participation. Sundays: family matinee. •Thursdays, 8pm: **Sitcom**. A fully improvised show based on suggestions from the studio audience and an on-stage computer. 10pm: **Open Improv Jam**. All visitors of any skill level are invited to participate in a no-pressure, fun-filled atmosphere where everybody gets to play. •Fridays, 8pm: ImprovBoston. 10:30pm: TheatreSports Boston vs. Sitcom. Best of five match. •Saturdays, 8pm and 10:30pm: ImprovBoston.

Magicians & Spirits at the Green Street Grill

280 Green St., Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Shows every Tuesday at 9pm. $10 cabaret show ($5 with dinner). Billed as "Intimate Nights of Sleights of Hand," Green Street Grill patrons enjoy close-up magic as two or three magicians perform tricks behind the bar and among the crowd. At 10pm, the cabaret show begins upstairs with local and national magicians reading minds, making birds appear out of nowhere and floating objects above the stage.

COMEDY SHOWS

Carrot Top

North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly, Mass. (978-921-6351). April 28, 8pm. $31.50. See comedian Carrot Top live.

Joey & Maria's Comedy Wedding

Tremont House Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston or Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Fri. and Sat. 7:30pm. Ongoing. $39-$45. Join the fun at this absolutely zany Italian wedding. Big hair and blue tuxedos optional.

The Orange Show: Radio Face

Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Comm. Ave., Boston (524-5845). April 7 and 21, 8pm; April 8 and 22, 8pm and 10:30pm. April 23, 3pm. $12.50. Writers/hosts Marty Barrett and Dave Bellenoit invite you to join them for two weekends of pure chewing entertainment, featuring the Continuing Saga of Mr. Peaches, America's Favorite White Trash Cat, Who Wants to Feed a Millionaire to a Colony of Stick Bugs? and Mrs. Squidberg, Calamari Yenta.

SitcomBoston

The Works Theater, 255 Elm St., Somerville (538-3205). MBTA: Red Line to Davis Square. Fridays and Saturdays, 8pm and 10:30pm. A fully improvised show that looks exactly like an hour of prime-time television. Two half-hour episodes, complete with commercials, of a brand-new sitcom improvised on the spot.

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Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information for gallery and museum listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail to arts@improper.com. *Include opening and closing dates, nearest T stop, price of admission, if any, and telephone numbers. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a partial list of the largest art museums, art institutes and galleries in the Boston area. Listings following bullets are temporary exhibitions.

***Millennium Head*, a screen print by Irish artist Richard Livingstone, shows as part of his *Lessons Learned*, which is on display at Space 12 Gallery through the end of May.**

Museums

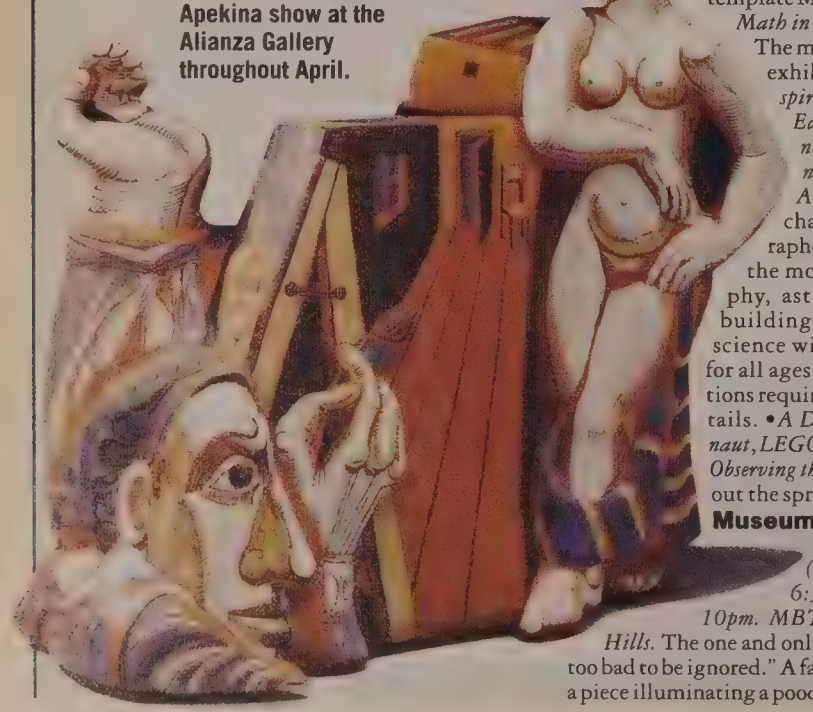
Art Institute of Boston
700 Beacon St., Boston (262-1223). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun. 12-5pm. •Nathan Goldstein's *Paintings and Prints* displays through April 30.

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat. 10am-12pm. The Sackler houses ancient Islamic and Asian art, an array of Neolithic bronze Buddhas, Greek pottery, and Hellenistic and Roman sculpture. •*Wall Drawing #830* features four isometric figures with dynamic colors. Ongoing. •*Ben Shahn's New York: The Photography of Modern Times* showcases the artist's experimentation with the social documentary tradition. It includes more than 150 photographs, ink drawings and easel paintings. Through April 30. •Every Thursday is a free guided tour of Shahn's work, 10:30am.

Boston Public Library
900 Boylston St., Boston (542-4000). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. •*Native Brazil/Alein Brazil* is a series of photographs that are part of the Brazilian Visions—*Brazilian Contemporary Photography* art exhibit. April 28-May 7. •*Just Outside*, a series of black-and-white photographs by Robert Castagna, shows in the Boston Room through April 28. •*The Minotaur's Maze* is an interactive labyrinth that is open through April 28. •The *Boston Authors' Club* exhibition celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Club with correspondence, manuscripts and signed copies of members' books. Through May 31. •The *Shroud of Turin* exhibition examines varying opinions about the relic. Through May 31.

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat. 10am-12pm. It's better to visit the Fogg the same day you go to the Sackler, as admission includes all of Harvard's museums. Highlights include Van Gogh's self-portrait and Bellini's clay figures.

Gibson House Museum
137 Beacon St., Boston (267-6338). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Guided tours every Sat. and Sun. at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm. $5. With 75 percent of its original items in place, the museum allows visitors to understand 19th-century domestic life and design. Ongoing.



Ceramics by Katya Apekina show at the Alianza Gallery throughout April.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (266-5152). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Wed.-Sun. 12-5pm; Thu. 12-9pm. $6, $4 students and seniors. •Marijke van Warmerdam's *7 Thoughts* marks the first time the artist's innovative work will be exhibited in a solo U.S. museum exhibition. April 26-July 2. •Free guided walk-throughs take place each Thursday at 6:30pm: April 27 is Bruce Jenkins, curator, Harvard Film Archive; May 4 is Luther Price, Film Dept. School of the MFA. •April 28-30 marks the Arts Against Hunger initiative, offering ticket discounts to multiple cultural venues. Participants who bring two nonperishable food items to either the MFA, the ICA or the Wang Theatre—which hosts the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Weekend—will receive vouchers redeemable for half-price admission to exhibitions or a $10 discount on *Alvin Ailey* performances.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (566-1401). www.boston.com/gardner. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun. 11am-5pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, under 18 free. Guided on Fridays 2:30pm.* This 15th-century Venetian palace is home to more than 2,500 objects and twice as many flowers. Boston's most famous museum is named for the house's owner, Isabella Stewart Gardner (1840-1924), an infamously incorrigible individualist. Only after her death was her house completely opened to the public. Now everyone can see the works of Titian, Botticelli and Matisse, as well as furniture and architectural details from European churches and palaces. •Lee Mingwei's *The Living Room* shows through April 30.

MIT Museum
265 Mass Ave., Cambridge (253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5pm, weekends 12-5pm. $3, $1 for students, seniors and children. Where else would you be but at MIT when you contemplate Morton G. Bradley Junior's *Math in 3-D: Geometric Sculptures?* The museum's other permanent exhibits include *Flashes of Inspiration: The Work of Harold Edgerton*, and *Gestural Engineering* and *Cultural Engineering: The Sculptures of Arthur Ganson*, the mechanical engineer/choreographer. •On the last Sunday of the month, explore oceanography, astronomy, the science of buildings and other mysteries of science with interactive activities for all ages from 2-4pm, no reservations required. Call 452-2827 for details. •*A Day in the Life of an Astronaut, LEGO Car Rally, Out There!* and *Observing the Observers* show throughout the spring.

Museum of Bad Art
580 High St., Dedham (325-8224). Mon.-Fri. 6:30-10pm, Sat. and Sun. 1-10pm. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. The one and only museum that boasts "art too bad to be ignored." A favorite is *Lady Chardonnay*, a piece illuminating a poodle-head dancer.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Mon.-Tue. 10am-4:45pm; Wed. 10am-9:45pm, Thu.-Fri. 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. 10am-5:45pm. West Wing only Thu.-Fri. 5-9:45pm. $12, students and seniors $10.* The MFA has earned its rep as the second-best-run art museum in the nation (after the Metropolitan Museum of Art) with its top-notch exhibitions, educational programs and galleries of African, Oceanic and American art. •*View From Above: The Photographs of Bradford Washburn* consists of some 80 black-and-white photographs by mountain climber, explorer, cartographer and aerial photographer Bradford Washburn. Through April 30. •The work of Edward Weston (1886-1958), shows in *Edward Weston: Photography and Modernism*. Through May 29. •*Michael Mazur: A Print Retrospective* examines more than 90 pieces of the Boston-based print artist's work. Through May 14. It shows with an exhibition of his recent paintings. Through June 15.

The Peabody House Museum
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (496-1027). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5 adults; $4 students and seniors; $3 children 3-13. No fee Sat. mornings until 12pm. •A brand-new exhibit, *Heads and Tales: Adornments from Africa*, is an exhibition of rarely seen sculptures and artifacts from the Peabody Museum collections, many of them more than 100 years old, which highlight the messages communicated by adornments of the head in sub-Saharan Africa. Through Oct. 1, 2001.

The Revolving Museum
288-300 A St., Boston (439-8617). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed.-Fri. 12-5pm. •Alison Safford's installation shows through April 21. •*Revelation for Revolution*, a millennial exhibition of members' works juried by Rebecca Hoffberger, the founder of the American Visionary Art Museum, shows through May 2.

Galleries
FINE ART

Allston Skirt Gallery
119 Braintree St., Allston (254-7027). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm and by appointment. •*Drawing*, which features work by Jill Baroff, Meryl Blinder, Heather Hobler-Keene, Bronlyn Jones and Stefana McClure, is on view through April 29.

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (536-4465). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •Nancy Hagin's *Paintings and Watercolors* shows through May 3.

Andrea Marquit Fine Arts
38 Newbury St., Boston (859-0190). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Wed.-Sat. 11am-5pm. Shows contemporary masters and emerging artists and acts as a consulting group for corporate and private collectors.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (247-0610). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 11am-5:30pm; Sun. 1-5pm. Representing an eclectic mix of styles, from abstract to super-realist. •Esther Garcia Eder's sunlit island scenes and depictions of dancing souls show in *Inside and Out.* Through April 30. •Scott Duce's ethereal oil and encaustic paintings show May 2-30.

Artists Foundation Galleries
516 East Second St., Boston (464-3561). MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. Sat. 12-5pm and by appointment. •In the main gallery: *Portraits of Artists*, photographs by Paul Weiner. •In the office gallery: *Recent Drawings* by Meghan Foley. •In the video room: *Fictional Documentary and Other Videos*. Through May 20.

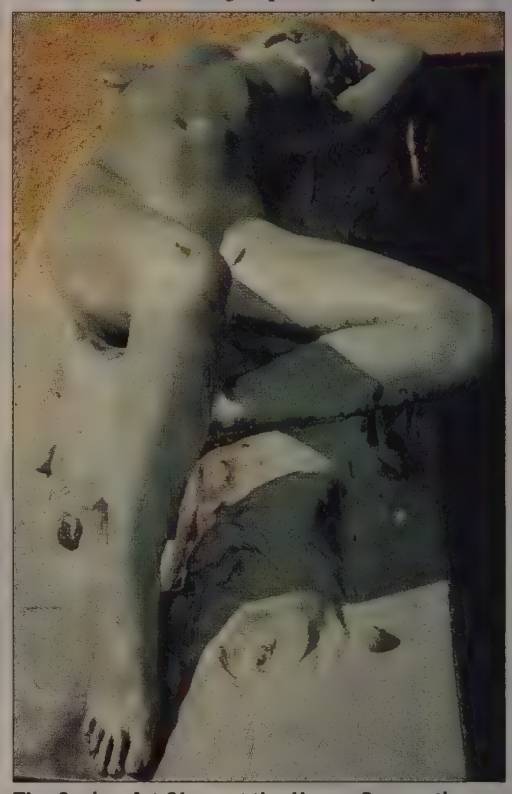
Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., 5th Floor, Boston (262-4490). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. Paintings, drawings, prints and sculpture by emerging and established artists. •Allan McCollum's work shows through April 26. •Michael Mazur's exhibition displays April 29-June 7.

Barton-Ryan Gallery
38 Newbury St., 4th floor, Boston (867-0662). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5:30pm, Sat., 11am-5pm and by appointment. The gallery specializes in American and European works of art by emerging and established artists. •*Eric Aho: Pure Geography: Paintings and Monotypes* shows through May 13.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm. •*Intuitive Journeys: Artists from Gateway Crafts* shows through April 22.

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (482-2477). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sun., 10:30am-5:30pm. •*Nightswimming*, photographs by Stephen Barker, show through April 29. •*Revering Vermeer* by Kathleen Gilje, Terri Priest and Judy Sowa, shows May 3-27.

Bromfield Gallery
560 Harrison Ave., Boston (451-3605). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm. •Dianne Lam's *Permanence and Change: Abstract Paintings*, shows through April 22. •In Gallery I is Jennifer Hicks' *A Part From Nature*. In Gallery II is Beverly Barber's *Occupied Territories: Landscape Paintings*. April 26-May 20.



The Spring Art Show at the Hynes Convention Center features the photographs of Greek artist Amalia Sotiropoulou through May 26.

Cambridge Art Association
25 Rear Lowell St., Cambridge (876-0246). Tue.-Sat. 11am-5pm., Sun. 1-5pm. A small gallery with a permanent collection of local art. •*Song of the Earth: Rhythms and Moods of Nature* shows through April 19. •*A National Prize Show*, jurored by Carl Belz, director of the Rose Art Museum at Brandeis University, shows May 3-30.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (236-2255). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm. •Toshio Iezumi's *Illusions of Tranquility and Transformation* shows through May 6.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (859-7222). Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •Peter Plamondon's *New Paintings* show through May 1. •Elids Tenenbaum and Eric Sealine show their work May 3-May 30.

Child's Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (266-1108). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri. 9am-6pm; Mon. and Sat. 10am-5pm. American and European paintings, prints, drawings and sculpture, from 1500 through 1950. •Three shows display simultaneously: *Women Artists,*

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The Beauty of Ruins and *New York Nocturne* show through April 22.

Clark Gallery
145 Lincoln St., Lincoln (781-259-8303). Tue.-Sat. 10am-5pm. The gallery represents 30 artists, primarily regional. Media regularly include glass, ceramics, oil, acrylic on canvas, wood and studio furniture. •*Three Stories* features new paintings by Todd McKie, object sculptures by Michael Stasiuk and mixed-media work by Michael Nakoneczny. Through April 20. •*Entry*, a group furniture exhibition, shows April 25-May 18.

Clifford•Smith Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 3rd Floor, Boston (695-0255). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing, transfer to bus #49 to Washington/East Berkeley. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5pm. •David Kelley and Liz Fiorentino's collaborative installation, *Vibrations Per Sound*, explores the relationship between visual and aural reverberations. Through April 29. •*Three from LA*, works by three young West Coast artists, is artistic commentary on contemporary culture, a look at glam-pop entertainment culture. May 2-27.

Copley Society of Boston
158 Newbury St., Boston (536-5049). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat. 10:30am-5:30pm; Sun. 1-5pm. America's oldest nonprofit art association is a platform for young and established artists alike. •*Stuff: Art from a Material World* shows April 20-May 13.

Creiger Dane Gallery
36 Newbury St., Boston (536-8088). www.creigerdane.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm.* •*Imagining Steel*, graphite drawings by Kate Sullivan and abstract works by Christian Heckscher, shows through April 29. •*New Paintings,* an exhibit featuring new works by Mirosiav Antic, shows May 3-27.

Crystal Fine Art
93 Summer St., Suite 4L, Boston (728-9818). www.crystalfineart.com. *MBTA: Red and Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Tue.-Fri. 11am-6pm.* A multicultural gallery that regularly displays the work of national, international and local artists.

Dyansen Gallery
132 A Newbury St., Boston (262-4800). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. You'll always find paintings, bronzes and fine-art prints. Collections include Rembrandt, Picasso, Chagall, Miro, Dali, Cassatt, Snowden and more. •The gallery displays its ongoing collection.

Eclipse Gallery
167 Newbury St., Boston (247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9am-6pm. •Peter Clemons' *Dune Shack Days,* a collection of his paintings, shows through April 29. •Brenda Pizzo and David Thompson's *Living Dolls*, a satiric look at 20th-century icons, shows May 4-June 3.

Elias Fine Arts
120 Braintree St., Brighton (783-1888). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. •*Christian Boltanski: Favorite Objects*, 264 photographic prints of the favorite objects of Chicago schoolchildren. Through April 29.

Gallery Bershad
99 Dover St., Somerville (629-9400 ex.3). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Wed., Thu., Sun., 12-6pm; Fri. and Sat. 12-8pm. •New paintings and drawings by Jim Peters, David Levine and Ellen Sperling displays through April 23. •*Digital Imagery* by Bill Hayward and Maggie Taylor shows with Will Sherwood's new black-and-white photographs. April 29-June 4. •*A World Class* poetry reading features Tessa Rumsey and Brian Henry. April 20, 7pm.

Gallery NAGA
67 Newbury St., Boston (267-9060). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. Paintings, studio furniture, sculpture, photography and holography. •George Nick's *New Work* shows through April 29. •Robert Ferrandini's *New Work* shows May 5-June 3.

Genovese Sullivan Gallery
47 Thayer St., Boston (426-9738). Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. MBTA: Orange Line to New Medical Center. •Rob Barnard's *New Wood Fired Clay* is on display through May 3.

Gibbs Gallery
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm. •*The Puppets of Underground Railway Theatre*: innovative puppets, silk backdrops and more, shows thorough May 12.

Gurari Collections
91 Charles St., Boston (367-9800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington or Red Line to Charles MGH. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. This gallery has an impressive collection of 16th- to early 20th-century etchings, engravings and drawings of architecture and urbanism, classical figures and more. Also showing is the work of Wendy Artin, an artist living in Rome.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St. Boston (536-6339). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 10am-6pm; Sat. 10am-5pm. •Assortment of 18th- and 19th-century historic and decorative antique engravings and lithographs.

This oil and gouache on canvas by David Kelley shows at the Clifford•Smith Gallery in April.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (262-0550). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. www.hyg.com. •Robert Cumming and Jim Melchert display their work through May 2.

Hurst Gallery
53 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (491-6888). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sat. 12-6pm. Thu, 12-7pm. Visitors are greeted with art and artifacts from six continents. •*Abstract Treasures: African Currencies* shows through April 30.

Hynes Convention Center
900 Boylston St., Boston (954-2000). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm. •Amalia Sotiropoulou's color photographs of Greece include images of statues, religious icons and architecture. The artist's reception is April 19, 5pm. Through May 26.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (375-0076). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. The gallery's exhibition features a wide variety of vintage posters from Europe and Russia. •*Bon Voyage! Vintage Posters from the Golden Age of Travel 1900-1940* is a collection of images of railroads, ocean liners, airplanes and more. Through April 30.

Judy Ann Goldman
14 Newbury St., Boston (424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. Call for an appointment. The gallery regularly displays paintings, sculpture and works on paper. •The upcoming exhibition will be *Billy Sullivan: New Work*, opening May 17.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 Saint Stephen St., Boston (247-1719). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue.-Sat., 1-5pm. •*Images of Japan,* calligraphy and brush painting by Kaji Aso and his students, shows April 29-May 11.

Kingdom Fine Arts
173 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1997). www.kfaboston.com. •*Storm of Creation* celebrates two women's perspectives of creation. May 2-May 27.

Lyman-Eyer Gallery Inc.
1347 Washington St., West Newton (964-3470). www.lymaneyerart.com. *Tue.-Fri., 4-7:30pm; Sat., 11am-7:30pm; and Sun., 11am-5pm.* •Katha Seidman, Sara Ashodian and James O'Neill show their work in an exhibition titled *Unknown Realities.* Through May 12.

Mobius
354 Congress St., Boston (542-7416). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm. An artist-run group known for a wide range of arts. •*The Virtual Beret Project*, participatory artwork by Sarah Smiley, shows through April 29.

MPG
285 Newbury St., Boston (437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •*The View From the Highway* consists of the work of Dimitri Cavender and Peter Roux. Through May 8.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm.* Founded in 1964. •Milton Resnick's *Recent Paintings* shows with Jake Berthot's *Landscape Paintings and Drawings*. Through May 6.

Out of the Blue Gallery
168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun. 12-7pm. This gallery, owned and operated by artists, always has a variety of interest-

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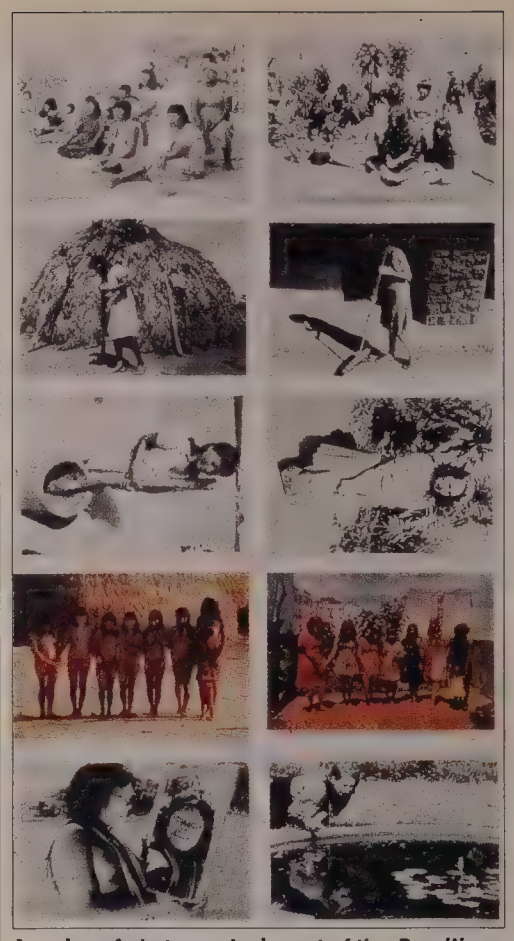

A series of photographs is part of the *Brazilian Visions—Brazilian Contemporary Photography* cultural exhibit at the Boston Public Library.

ing artwork and art-related events going on. •Poetry readings take place every Saturday, and the gallery hosts jazz every Wednesday. •April 22, 8pm: open-mike poetry with music by Morrigan Productions. •April 29, 8pm is open-mike poetry with music hosted by Jeff Brunner.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (236-4497). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •Harold Reddicliffe's *Still Life Paintings* show through May 13.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (267-9473). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun. 1pm-5pm. •Scholar and artist Fance Frack displays *Pure Geometry, Natural Grace.* Through May 10.

Qingping Gallery Teahouse
231 Shamut Ave., Boston (236-4846). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Open every day, 9am-12am. This authentic Chinese teahouse specializes in avant-garde and contemporary antiques, teapots and furniture.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (266-3321). www.richardson-clarke.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tues.-Sat. 10am-5pm.* •American and European 19th- and 20th-century paintings, drawings and sculpture. Ongoing. •*American Painters in Venice* shows through April 30.

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (437-1518). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm. •*Pinturas Modernas*, the U.S. debut of the work of Brazilian painter José Goncalves, shows through May 1.

Space 12 Gallery
12 Union Park St., Boston (423-9760). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed. 6-9pm; Thu.-Sat. 1-5pm. •*Richard Livingstone: Lessons Learned,* mixed-media paintings and prints, shows April 19-May 27.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (450-0321). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. Artist William St. George displays his lush and colorful interpretations of Boston cityscapes, bold equestrian scenes and semi-abstract works at his recently opened gallery. •Now showing *Working Artist and Easel*, William St. George's oil paintings.

A Touch of France
173 Newbury St., Boston (247-6966). MBTA: Green line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-7pm; Sun., 12-6pm. This gallery imports contemporary French artists' works, including paintings from famous French painters: M. Tigrane, R. Kefflin, C. Ferrer and striking dried-flower arrangements made near Saint Tropez.

Via Gallery
83 Newbury St., 2nd Floor (424-6200). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri. 10am-4pm. •Maria Christina Ritz' *Sealed for Your Protection*, sculptures in glass, steel and stone, shows through April 29. •Linda Mahoney's *New Silver Prints*, a collection of still lifes and landscapes, shows May 1-June 10.

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (536-6176). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 8am-5:30pm; Sat. 9am-4pm. Run by twin brothers Bill and Terry Vose, the gallery specializes in American paintings. •The next exhibition is *Works on Paper Exhibition*, a guide for collectors on the selection and care of watercolors, pastels and drawings. Through June 3.

Zeitgeist Gallery
312 Broadway St., Cambridge (876-2182). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu.-Sun., 2pm-7pm. The gallery displays a variety of local artists' work. •Eric Wild's woodcarvings and sculptures shows through April 24. •A Playground Jazz Series takes place on Friday nights. •April 20 is composers' trio night with film and videos. •April 22 is a dance party with DJs spinning. Monday is Stone Soup Poetry. •Every Wednesday is figure drawing—on April 26, six nude models pose to jazz music. •Sunday is a vegan potluck supper, often accompanied by live music and poetry.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2051). Tues.-Sat. 11am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm; Closed Mondays. The Multiple is a gallery investigation that explores works of art produced more than one time. Ongoing.

Gallery One
537 Comm. Ave., Boston (437-1868). Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm. Affiliated with the New England School of Photography. •*Brooks Walsh Photographs* show through April 28.

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (423-4299). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Fri., 10am-3pm; Sat., 12-5pm. •Robert Goss, Laura Blacklow, Gary Duehr and Susan Schmidt combine their work in Descriptions/Depictions/Decisions, which shows April 21-May 26.

Panopticon Gallery
187 Bay State Rd., Boston (267-8929). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford. Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm. This gallery offers fine art photographic prints and media licensing of images for print, video and stock photography. •*Bradford Washburn: Mountain Photography* shows through the end of May.

Photographic Resource Center
602 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (353-0700). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford. Tue.-Sun., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-8pm. •*Photography in Human Experience* features photographs dating from the 1860s to the 1920s. Through April 28.

CRAFTS

Alianza Gallery
154 Newbury St., Boston (262-2385). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. •Katya Apekina's *New Ceramics* shows through April 30.

Cambridge Artists Cooperative
59A Church St., Cambridge (868-4434). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; 10am-8pm; Sun. 1-6pm. Twelve artists own and operate this gallery that features 2D design and jewelry.

Clayground
91 Hampshire St., Cambridge (661-7376). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 12-6pm; Sat. 11am-5pm. Porcelain and stone objects galore. Classes are usually available.

Fresh Pond Clay Works
368 Huron Ave., Cambridge (492-1907). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard to Bus 72. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm. This gallery shows a wide range of firing techniques, from terra cotta to porcelain.

Gateway Gallery
62 Harvard St., Brookline Village, Brookline (734-1577). MBTA: C Green Line to Brookline Village. Mon.-Sat., 11am-6pm. This nonprofit gallery features all sorts of arts and crafts.

Infinity Gallery
24 Union Park St., Boston (423-5555). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat 11am-7pm; Sun 11am-6pm. This small gallery features Wayne Fuerst's work.

Shake the Tree Gallery
218 Washington St., Brookline (739-3505). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm; Sun. 12-4pm. The store features a mix of handmade crafts including jewelry and glass works. •*The Story of the Yellow Dress*, an installation by Wendy Costa, shows through April 29.

Signature Gallery
Dock Square, Boston (227-4885). Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Thu., 10am-7pm; Fri. and Sat., 10am-9pm; Sun., 12-6pm. Pottery, metal and glass works.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (266-1810). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm; Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. •*International Alternative Jewelry* shows through April 30. •*Drawing the Lines: Selections from Jewelers' Sketchbooks* shows through April 28.

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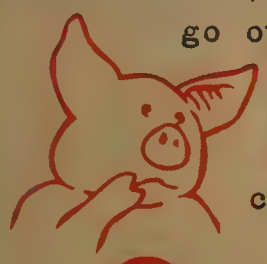

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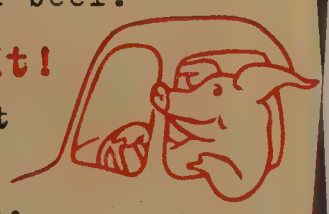

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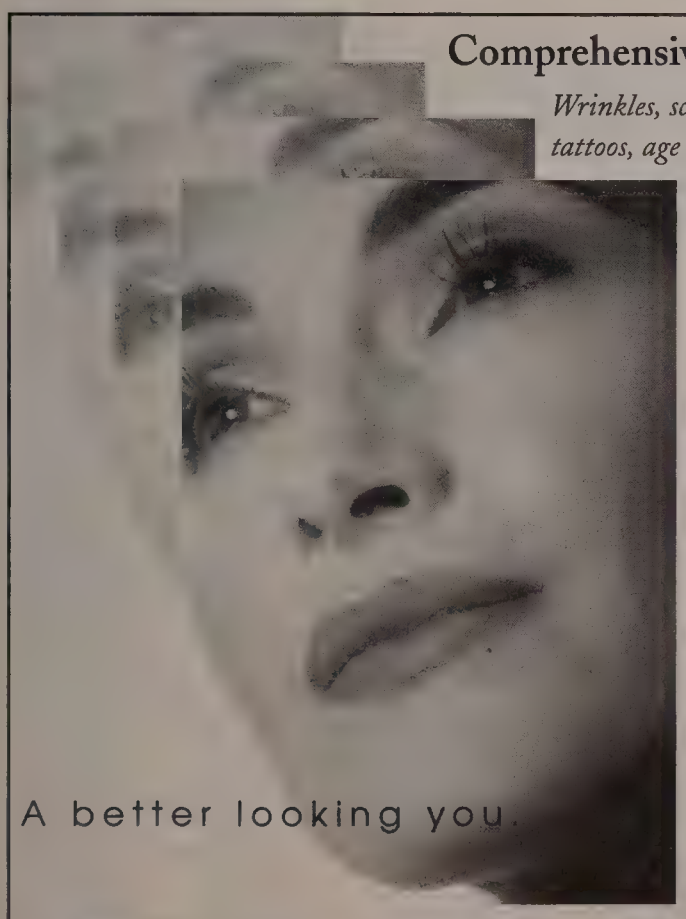

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NO FUTURE

Filth is a familiar look at punk's past

BY PAUL SHERMAN

In the summer of 1996, 20 years after they first shook up the music scene, the original members of the Sex Pistols—Johnny Rotten, Paul Cook, Steve Jones and Glen Matlock—regrouped for a reunion tour. They played old songs and toured the cozy "shed" circuit—two things that ran contrary to punk's anti-establishment, burning-bridges ethos—but it was a well-earned attempt to let them share in some of the millions that others have reaped from the Sex Pistols' legacy.

You can approach the new documentary *The Filth and the Fury* the same way. Director Julian Temple's movie had the cooperation of the four, who all sit for interviews, and it was presumed to be a sort of "now it's time to tell our story" project. But this too is essentially a repackaging job. The rise-and-fall story of punk's most important band makes it essential viewing for those wanting to re-examine what happened or those who are too young to have been fully aware of it the first time around. Yet its visual images are often borrowed from previous films like *D.O.A.* (documenting the Pistols' 1978 U.S. tour), *The Punk Rock Movie* and even *The Great Rock 'n' Roll Swindle*, Temple's previous Pistols film that carried the point of view of band manager Malcolm McLaren. And while *Filth* strips away all of the Situationist political rhetoric and *Oliver Twist* role-playing of McLaren's often self-serving Pistols mythology (which cast him as Fagan and the band as his Artful Dodgers), it doesn't really put a new spin on its history.

Johnny Rotten (left) and Steve Jones (right) are two of the original members of punk pioneers the Sex Pistols.

What *Filth* does is use the interviews with singer Rotten, guitarist Jones, drummer Cook and bassist Matlock to tell the story of the group's tumultuous life. We learn how fed-up working-class teens Cook, Jones and Matlock started a band and asked McLaren, who ran a flashy clothes shop (with Vivienne Westwood), to manage them. We learn how Rotten joined as singer, fueled by Olivier's portrayal of Richard III and various British comedians (with many clips included to cleverly illustrate, especially of Olivier). We see how the band's raw sound and anti-authority stance in songs like "Anarchy in the U.K." and "God Save the Queen" caused a furor (the movie's title came from a notorious *Daily Mirror* headline after the band famously mouthed off on TV). We are privy to how it all unraveled musically after Matlock was replaced with Sid Vicious (whose interest soon turned to drugs instead of music) as well as personally, as clashes between Rotten and McLaren led to increased animosity during the short U.S. tour and the band's breakup when it ended.

The use of Olivier as a sort of running commentator is inspired, and there are some other visual goodies here, like home movies shot at early shows, a clip from the band's aborted movie *Who Killed Bambi?* which actually has Sting in a small role (the movie morphed into *Swindle* after the breakup) and a coherent post-breakup interview Temple filmed with Sid Vicious. That interview is in marked contrast to the memorable clip from *D.O.A.*, of a drugged-up Sid repeatedly falling asleep in midsentence, that *Filth* excerpts.

Although *Filth* does not even refer to *Swindle*, the reunion tour or anything that happened musically to the band members after the Pistols split, like Rotten's initially adventurous Public Image Limited, it deserves credit for at least debunking any "Sid Vicious, punk martyr" mythology. Rotten talks quite effectively about how Sid was a dear friend who pissed away his life with heroin. Vicious' plummet as a functioning human being and 1979 death is seen as the real toll of the breakup. Like that segment, *Filth* has a close-up perspective on its events and lets the viewer decide what the Pistols' legacy is; but Rotten's autobiography *Rotten: No Irish, No Blacks, No Dogs*, Jon Savage's punk chronicle *England's Dreaming* and the earlier films this excerpts have already covered different aspects of its story just as well. **iB**

The Filth and the Fury ★★½

Directed by Julian Temple. Rated R. Fine Line Features. At the Brattle Theatre, April 21-May 4. Rated R. Touchstone Pictures.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Jenna Elfman is caught in between Edward Norton and Ben Stiller in *Keeping the Faith.*

American Psycho ★★½
Writer-director Mary Harron, in her first film since the probing *I Shot Andy Warhol*, again offers a window into the excesses of the past through a violent, unstable protagonist. The results are spottier in this adaptation of Bret Easton Ellis' novel, though. Parts of it are a hilarious burlesque of circa-1987 yuppiedom (and still-prevalent designer lifestyles), with a cast of young Wall Street mergers-and-acquisitions lions who are obsessed with having better condos, tans, gadgets and business cards than their rivals. But even this sort of high-tech, dick-swinging avarice isn't enough for Christian Bale's Harvard MBA who says he feels nothing but "greed and disgust." He needs to kill, too. It's bold and often effective, but the humor only propels the movie so far, as does the fact that Bale's character remains more of a type than a fully formed individual.

The Color of Paradise ★★★½
Rarely does a movie cut to the hearts of its characters as does this latest by Iranian director Majid (*Children of Heaven*) Majidi. Following an 8-year-old blind boy (Mohsen Ramezani) who leaves his Tehran school for the blind to spend summer in the rural village of his father, grandmother and two sisters, the story revolves around the relationship between the boy and the emotionally scarred father (Hossein Mahjub), who'd rather not have to care for the boy himself. But, as the story unfurls, the boy's very survival depends on the father's willingness to love him (or not). In its full range of human emotions and the glib-free beatitude of the storytelling, the only recent movie to compare with this in tone is David Lynch's *The Straight Story.*

East-West ★★½
The film's slow and deliberate pace often resembles a docudrama's recounting of the historical tale of a couple who takes advantage of the Soviet Union's offer of post-World War II amnesty to Russians who want to return home. But the offer is a trick, and many of the returnees are shot or imprisoned upon their return. The movie concentrates on a French-born wife (Sandrine Bonnaire) and her Soviet-born husband (Oleg Menchikov), who are spared only because he's a doctor, and who endure a decade-long struggle to get their son (Ruben Tapiero) back to the West. From Indochine director Regis Wargnier.

Erin Brockovich ★★★½
If it weren't based on a true story, this docudrama might seem like a cynical blend of *Tumbleweeds* and *A Civil Action*. Julia Roberts is the sometimes coarse, overbearing single mom who, after getting a menial job at a law firm, stumbles across evidence of industrially contaminated water and finds a purpose in pushing her boss (Albert Finney) to get justice for the ill victims. Susannah Grant's screenplay mixes humor, emotion and drama deftly, Steven Soderbergh directs subtly, and the chemistry between Finney and Roberts helps make this more than just a legal drama.

Keeping the Faith ★★
Actor Edward Norton (*Fight Club*) turns director, clumsily, in a poor, overlong mix of broad comedy and drama. In this story of a priest (Norton) and a rabbi (Ben Stiller) who are reunited with their junior-high female best friend (Jenna Elfman)—with adult hormones now injecting themselves into their relationship—the first-time director is unable to bridge the chasm between gags like the rabbi fainting at a circumcision and more emotional material, like these three workaholics wondering whether the sacrifices they've made for their careers have been worth it. Other exaggerations, like Anne Bancroft's cliched Jewish mother, don't help, either.

Me Myself I ★★½
The always-game Rachel (*Muriel's Wedding*, *Hilary and Jackie*) Griffith's performance enlivens yet another of the many "alternative life" movies of recent years. This finds Griffith as a single, 30-ish journalist who won-

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ders if maybe she's missed her chance for a family and domestic bliss. But, as the characters in *Sliding Doors* or *Twice Upon a Yesterday* experienced, she suddenly finds herself in a different life, where she really did marry one of her beaus and had kids with him. Along the way, she finds the grass isn't necessarily greener in the suburbs and that she's a lot more resilient than she imagined. Nothing special, but it gets much more mileage out of its premise than it might have.

Not One Less ★★★
The latest from Chinese director Zhang Yimou (*Raise the Red Lantern*, *To Live*) eventually comes together nicely. But it's not always clear this story of a 13-year-old country girl (Wei Minzhi), who's hired to be a fill-in teacher for a month at a decrepit rural school, will do so. It meanders early on, and its cast of non-professionals certainly doesn't bring the intensity you'd expect in Zhang's movies (which have featured actress Gong Li). When the teacher, who's been warned she won't be paid if any of her students drops out, travels to the city to look for one student (Zhang Huike) who has quit, her seemingly futile quest turns the movie around, and the sacrifice she puts herself through means the story really earns its feel-good ending.

Ready to Rumble ★★★
The pro wrestling wars of 1997-98—when World Championship Wrestling had a rare upper hand on the World Wrestling Federation—have had an unusual ripple effect into the movies. The WWF's temporary desperation caused them to allow access to filmmakers who made two outstanding documentaries (*Wrestling With Shadows* and *Beyond the Mat*), while WCW's short-lived top-dog status allowed it to push this movie through its Time Warner parent company. The surprising thing is the result is an endearingly dumb, very funny comedy with David Arquette and Scott Caan as two knuckleheads on a quest to help their wronged wrestling hero (Oliver Platt) get redemption. It cleverly meshes fictional characters with real-life WCW personalities like Bill Goldberg, Diamond Dallas Page and the Nitro Girls, for an irresistible little junk-food movie.

Return to Me ★★
The cute-meter nearly hurtles into gag-me territory in this directorial debut by actress Bonnie Hunt, who also costars. It's not that the romance between widowed builder David Duchovny and Minnie Driver—who has received the heart of his late wife (Joely Richardson) in a transplant—is contrived. It's more that Hunt has entirely too many gags featuring kids, animals and old people. And the old-timers (including Driver's shiver-me-timbers Irish grandpa, played in a wince-worthy performance by Carroll O'Connor) are defined almost solely by their ethnicity. It tries to be sweet; problem is, it tries too hard.

Romeo Must Die ★★★
High-flying Hong Kong action star Jet Li (*Once Upon a Time in China*, *Fong Sai Yuk*), first seen in American movies in *Lethal Weapon 4*, scores big in his first Hollywood vehicle. As the estranged son of a Chinese-American gang leader (Henry O), who shows up in the middle of a gang war with Delroy Lindo's black gang, Li plays the outsider who roots out troublemakers on both sides of the feud. Some of the scenes between Lindo and his feisty daughter (pop singer Aaliyah) drag, but the dramatic foundation is strong, and Li's martial-arts scenes put the emphasis on finesse and smarts, not thoughtless brawn.

Rules of Engagement ★½
Imagine a magician who performs tricks for adults, but with all the condescension of someone pulling quarters from behind the ears of 4-year-olds. That's the attitude of this exceedingly pat courtroom drama, a military tale that makes you long for the mediocrity of Tom Clancy. Samuel L. Jackson is the Marine warrior who leads a rescue mission at a besieged Middle East U.S. embassy and orders his troops to fire at a crowd of demonstrators he sees firing weapons. Trouble is, no one else saw the crowd's weapons, and Washington puts him on trial for the resulting 83 deaths. The trial, with Tommy Lee Jones as the defense lawyer, is a mockery of credibility, while this movie that's supposedly against scapegoating does just that, by throwing in a military-brass villain (Bruce Greenwood) who destroys evidence that could make our underdog hero's, struggle much easier.

The Skulls ★½
Joshua Jackson (TV's *Dawson's Creek*) plays the part of an ambitious, working-class Ivy League student well, but his experiences are essentially *The Firm For Dummies*. Asked to join an elite secret campus society everyone has told him is evil, but needing cash for law school, he ignores the warnings and signs up, because the society picks up the tuition. Then, wouldn't 'cha know it, the society turns out to be made up of evil power-brokers who want to control his life. There's never any doubt about what's going on, never any moral dilemma for the audience to sort through, just all the suspense of a Gap ad.

Cinema Venues

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BOSTON

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Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (536-5400). Green Line to Copley.
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50 Dalton St. (536-2870). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.
Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.
Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.
Museum Of Science, Omni Theater
Science Park (723-2500). Green Line to Science Park.
Nickelodeon
606 Comm. Ave. (424-1500). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford St.
Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle.
Coolidge Corner
290 Harvard St. (734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

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Brattle Theater
40 Brattle St. (876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.
Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (495-4700). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.
Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Sq. (494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.
Loews/Sony Theater
10 Church St. (864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Sq.
Somerville Theater
55 Davis Sq. (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

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27 Boylston. (277-2500). B Green Line to Chestnut Hill.
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Minnie Driver and David Duchovny find heartfelt romance in the new release *Return to Me*.

Samuel L. Jackson stars in the courtroom drama/military tale *Rules of Engagement*.

Alternatives & Revivals

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Submit film listings by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Although film listings are correct at the time of publication, they are subject to change. Doublecheck showtimes by calling the theater or 333-FILM.

Boston Public Library

Precode Hollywood Series
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•May 1, 6pm **Grand Hotel** *1932*. Vicki Bau's story tells of the plush Berlin hotel where "nothing ever happens." Yet, the stars in it prove the contrary.

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Most shows are $7, including double features.

Special Engagements
•April 18-23 **The Fifth Annual Bugs Bunny Film Festival**. April 20, 1pm, 3:15pm, 5:30pm, 7:45pm and 10pm; April 21 and 23, 1pm; April 22, 3:15pm **All Bugs Revue 2000**. A dozen of the best-loved Looney Tunes of all time kicks off with **What's Up, Doc**? and wraps up with **Rabbit of Seville**.
•April 19, 1pm, 3:15pm, 5:30pm, 7:45pm, 10pm; April 21 and 23, 3:15pm and April 22, 1pm **Tazmanian Devil Mania**. The second program of the **Bugs Bunny Film Festival** focuses on the supporting actors: Taz, Tweety and Sylvester, Daffy Duck, Marvin the Martian and the Foghorn Leghorn.
•April 21 through April 27, 5:30pm, 7:45pm, 10pm; April 28-May 4, 3:15pm, 5:30pm, 7:45pm and 10pm (Sat. and Sun. matinees, 1pm) **The Filth and the Fury** *1999*. Directed by Julian Temple and Johnny Rotten, this film is an intimate and shocking portrait of the notorious Sex Pistols.

Coolidge Corner Theater

Feature Engagements
•Opening April 14 **Me Myself I** *1999*. After a magical collision, career woman Pamela Drury is transported into a domestic life with a man whose marriage proposal she turned down years before. Directed by Pip Karmel. See film capsules for a review.
•April 19, 1pm **The Magic of David Oliver**. In this live performance, David Oliver showcases his unique style of award-winning, sleight-of-hand magic that he has been practicing in countries around the globe for over a decade.
•April 20, 1pm **Alexander, King of Jesters**. An unusual live musical-comedy performance features Renaissance water spitting, the nose-flute serenade, pogo-stick boing-ing, clown love, jingle-bell juggling, three flutes played simultaneously and other routines inspired by the tradition of the fool.
•April 21, 1pm **Snoopy Come Home**. Paying tribute to the late, great Charles Schulz, this second film from the Peanuts gang features Snoopy and Woodstock as they embark on a cross-country trek to find the beagle's rightful owner and learn the true meaning of "home."

Coolidge Special Series
•Through May 4 **Coolidge Shorts**. This collection of short films by New England artists precedes the evening's features. April 19 and 20 is the **Minotaur**, a film that adopts the point of view of the man-bull creature of the traditional Greek myth. Abandoned in a cavernous labyrinth, the childlike beast has as his only friend a playful red ball, which leads him into the depths of a maze; April 21-27 **Night Deposit** *1999*. This narrative short film gives us an updated twist on the world's oldest profession. Clare, a mysterious young woman, earns a lucrative income as a serial seducer.

Harvard Film Archive

The Power of Images and Illusions
•April 23, 3pm **Under the Bridges** *1945*. Directed by Helmut Kautner, this film introduces a romantic triangle that unfolds on a small boat that winds its way up and down the Havel near Berlin.
•April 25, 9pm **Romance in a Minor Key** *1943*. Set in Paris at the end of the 19th-century, this film revolves around Madeleine, the wife of a respectable but conservative bank clerk who has an affair with a young composer. Directed Helmut Kautner.

Italian Cinema
•April 19, 6:30pm **The Sheltering Sky** *1990*. Bernado Bertolucci's film chronicles the gradual deterioration of an American couple's marriage as they journey through the deserts of North Africa in the late 1940s.

African Perspectives: Med Hondo
•April 28, 7pm and April 30, 8pm **Watani** *1998*. This

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film follows the respective fates of a black street sweeper and a white bank executive who both lose their jobs on the same day in Paris.

•April 28, 9:15pm **West Indies: The Fugitive Slaves of Liberty** *1979.* Set in an enormous slave ship, this witty film offers an angry view of West Indian history.

•April 29, 7pm **Black Light** *1994.* Based on the novel by Didier Daeninckx, this film takes place in France during a time of heightened terrorist activity.

•April 29, 9:15pm **Sarraounia** *1986.* Sarraounia, a young warrior queen of the Azna tribe, well-schooled in the arts of herbalism and warfare, leads her people to victory against a neighboring tribe.

•April 30, 6pm **Soleil O** *1970.* In a French colony in West Africa, black men line up before a white priest for baptism and renaming.

Premieres/Reprises — Alain Tanner

•April 21 and 22, 7pm; April 23, 6pm **Jonah Who Will Be 25 in the Year 2000** *1975.* Taking place in the 1970s, this film is a rich concoction of color and black and white, songs, skits, economics, dreams, speeches and sexual experimentation that tells the story of eight individuals in Geneva.

•April 21 and 22, 9:15pm; April 23, 8:15pm **Jonah and Lila, Until Tomorrow** *1999.* Set during the first six months of the year 2000, this film casts a retrospective glance back to *Jonah Who Will Be 25 in the Year 2000.* It is now 2000, and Jonah has just turned 25, finished film school and married Lila, a young African woman.

Topics in Film: Five Directors (Part II)

•April 24, 7pm **Stalker** *1979.* Directed by Andrei Tarkovsky, this film is about two disenchanted intellectuals who wish to explore the Zone, a mysterious region at the center of which a room, said to offer knowledge of one's most secret desires, is located.

Mapping and Fashioning Space

•April 25, 6:30pm **A Walk through H** *1978.* This eccentric film is based on an ornithological treatise by director Peter Greenaway's fictive alter-ego, Tulse Luper, that describes a mystical journey through the land of H.

•April 25, 6:30pm **House** *1955.* Directed by Charles and Ray Eames, this film is a portrait of the structure the modern design team created in 1949 on a cliff overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

***High Fidelity*'s John Cusack ponders the meaning of love and life—all in relation to music.**

Museum of Fine Arts

Most film screenings are $6.

Premiere Engagements

•April 19, 8pm; April 20 and 21, 6pm; April 22, 10:30am; April 29, 4pm **Now and Then: From Frosh to Seniors** *1999.* Directors Dan Gellar and Dayna Goldfine have created a fascinating portrait of 10 diverse Stanford University twenty-somethings.

•April 20, 8pm **Home Page** *1999.* In this film, acclaimed documentary filmmaker Doug Block sets out on a journey to explore the motivation of the "online culture" that utilizes the Web to search for intimacy.

Special Screenings

•April 22, 12:15pm; April 29, 2:15pm **Iditarod... A Far Distant Place** *1999.* In a courageous journey of 1,000 miles, three mushers brave the Iditarod Sled Dog Race across Alaska. Directed by Alice Bouvrie.

Scandinavian Film Festival

•April 19, 6pm **Pizza King** *1999.* Directed by Ole Christian Madsen, this film takes us through the streets of Copenhagen and focuses on a group of young criminals.

•April 21, 8pm **Drifting Clouds** *1996.* Directed by Aki Kaurismaki, this film is the story of unemployed tram driver Lauri and his wife Ilona, a soon-to-be unemployed hostess struggling at one of Helsinki's top restaurants.

•April 22, 2:15pm **Bye Bye Bluebird** *1999.* After years overseas, Rannva and Barba return to the Faeroe Islands of their birth to resolve lingering family issues. Directed by Katrin Ottarsdottir.

•April 27, 6pm **Misery Harbour** *1999.* Director Nils Gaup brings us a biographic portrait of a young man's misguided search for freedom.

•April 22, 4pm **The Dance** *1998.* Set in 1913, a couple exchanges vows on the Atlantic's remote Faeroe Islands, yet a sudden shipwreck off the island's coast commences a series of unexpected events. Directed by Agust Gudmundsson.

•April 28, 6:15pm **In the House of Angels** *1998.* Margreth Olin directs this documentary of a Norwegian home for the elderly and reveals all that the walls shut in: humor, desire, sorrow, hope and madness.

•April 28, 8:15pm **Juha** *1999.* Director Aki Kaurismaki offers an explanation of Juha. Title cards, an expressive acting style and selective sound effects in this black-and-white film recall the roots of cinema and underscore the story's precise architecture.

•April 29, 10:30am **Glassblower's Children** *1998.* In the surreal All Wishes Town, a glassblower's two children are spirited across the River of Forgotten Memories to a grand castle, where they are dressed elaborately, allowed to eat whatever they want and cared for by no one. Directed by Andres Gronros.

•April 29, 12:30pm **Summer by the River** *1998.* Director Markku Polonen tells us the story of Tenho, who leads an easy city life until his wife's unexpected death plunges him into single parenthood of 10-year-old Topi.

Museum of Science

•Through June 22. The Omni features **Dolphins**, an underwater exploration about these sea creatures in the wild and their forms of communication.

•Through June 22. **Mysteries of Egypt** reveals the stories and splendors of an ancient empire in a story-telling narrative. See stunning, panoramic views of Egypt's landscapes and breathtaking monuments, and watch ancient burial rituals.

Special Events

Extremely Short Lexington Film Festival

•The first very short Lexington Film Festival—15-minutes, total—is one short film created by Fred & Ted Entertainment. The film, titled *There Once Was a Man from Pawtucket*, was shot primarily in Lexington, and will be shown this one time only. Meet the director, cast and crew—and win a variety of door prizes, including a real door. *April 28, 8pm. The Lexington Flick Cinema (247-0200).*

Look to the East

•Through May 4. This is a program featuring five German documentaries and a feature film titled **A Look to the East-Cinematic Discoveries in a Strange Yet Familiar World**. *Goethe Institut Boston, 170 Beacon St., Boston (262-6050). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Free admission.*

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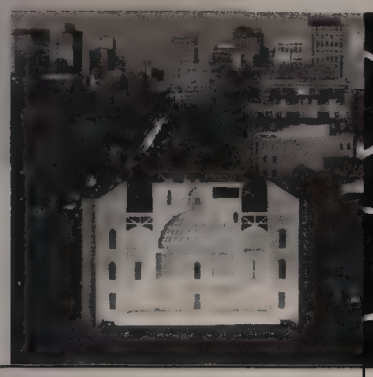

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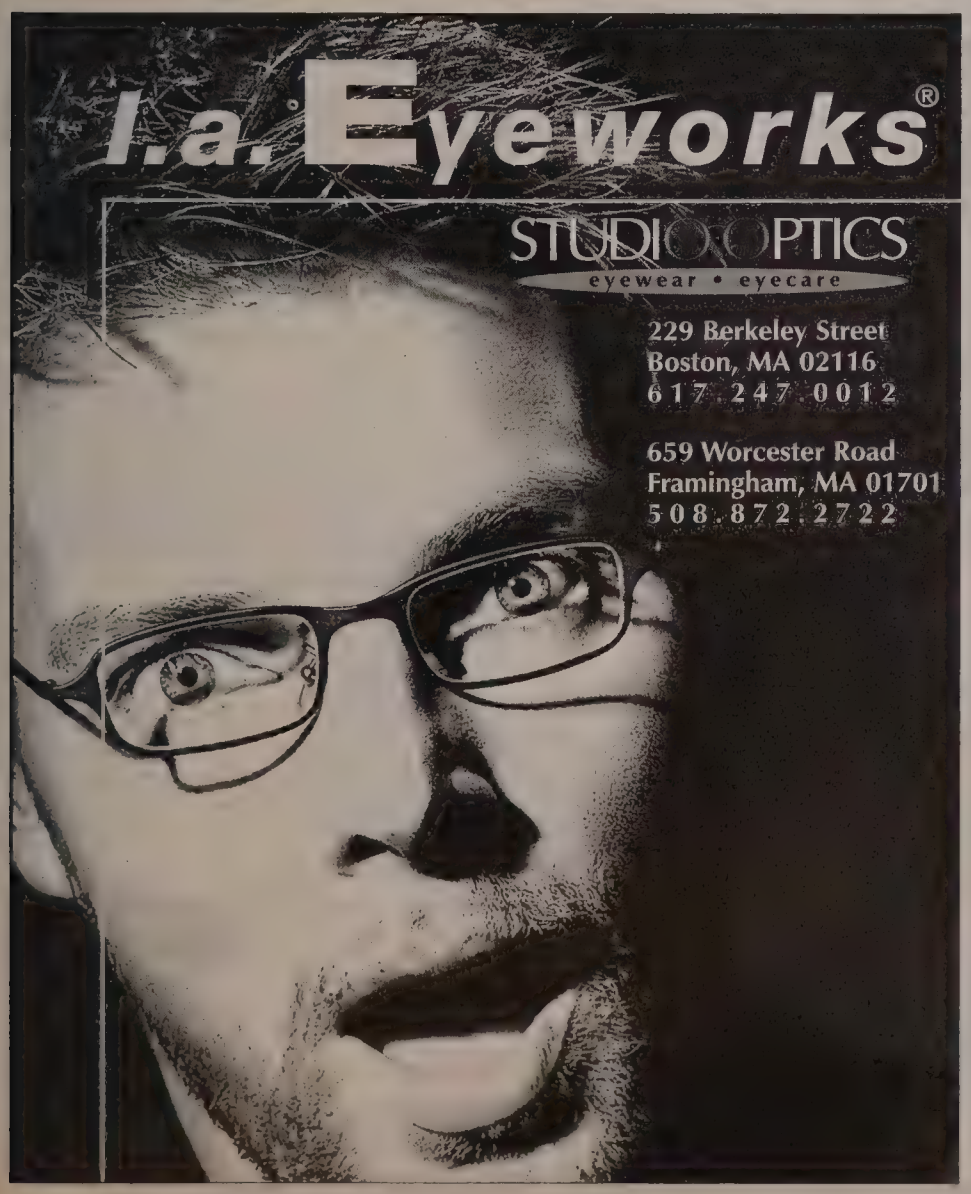

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CLASSES/LECTURES

Thursday, April 20

Reclaiming Our Connections: Building an Inclusive Boston
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:15-1pm. $4. What does it mean to be a city that embraces all its people and its diversity? Join **Rev. Cheng Imm Tan**, director of the Mayor's Office of New Bostonians, for an insightful look at the face of Boston today.

Tuesday, April 25

Defining Humanitarian Intervention
Mezzanine Conference Room, Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston St., Boston (482-1740). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6-7:30pm. Free. This lecture is part of the World Affairs Council's Great Decisions series which deals with the year's most important international topics. **Andrew Natsios**, secretary of administration and finance for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and former director of foreign disaster assistance at the US Agency for International Development, speaks on "Defining Humanitarian Intervention."

End School Violence Now
Ford Hall Forum, Egan Center, Northeastern University, 120 Forsyth St., Bosotn (373-5800). 6:30pm. Free. A panel discussion led by teenage representatives of the youth-based organization, End School Violence Now; **Dr. Ashley Deans**, director of the Maharishi School of the Age of Englightenment; **Dr. Alarik Arenander**, director of the Brain Research Institute, Institute of Science, Technology and Public Policy; and **Dr. George Rutherford**, a middle school principal.

Wednesday, April 26

Breakfast with Champions: Katie Paine of Delahaye Medialink
Center for Women & Enterprise, Fleet Bank, One Federal Street, 37th Floor, Boston (536-0700, ext. 240). 8-9am. $15. **Katie Paine** is the president of Delahaye Medialink, which measures organizational reputation as well as a complete range of marketing, communications and public relations activities globally.

Kinsey's Myth of Female Sexuality: The 1950s Frigidity Wars
Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Yard, Cambridge (495-8647). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 12pm. Free. **Judith Allen**, professor of Gender Studies and History at Indiana University, lectures on this fascinating topic.

The Long Distance Vision of Frederick Law Olmsted
Brookline High School, 115 Greenough St., Brookline (730-2700). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. 7:30-9pm. $5. A panel discussion on the work of Frederick Law Olmsted (designer of Boston's Emerald Necklace) and the efforts to conserve his local projects.

The New AIDS Epidemic
Cambridge Forum, the First Parish, 3 Church St., Cambridge (495-2727). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. Free. **Dr. Max Essex**, chairman of the Harvard AIDS Institute, discusses the new strain of the HIV virus that is wreaking havoc in Africa and Southeast Asia.

Wealth Building Strategies
Borders Books & Music, Atrium Mall, Chestnut Hill. MBTA: D Green Line to Chestnut Hill. 7:30pm. Financial advisor **Bryan Fazio** shares his expert advice and discusses various topics including investment strategies, mutual fund growth, risk/reward trade-off, asset allocation, how to lower your tax liability, as well as how to develop your own investment plan and retire in comfort.

Thursday, April 27

Ira Glass—Lies, Sissies and Fiascoes: Notes on Making a New Kind of Radio
Northeastern University's Blackman Auditorium, 360 Huntington Ave., Boston (373-2247). 7:30pm. $15. Award-winning host of public radio's *This American Life*, **Ira Glass** will talk about how his show has become a runaway success through its radio *verite* style and quirky topics. Glass' meticulous writing, editing and delivery makes the program dramatic, hilarious and startlingly insightful.

WGBH's Ira Glass discusses Lies, Sissies and Fiascoes at Northeastern University, April 27.

Making a Living While Making a Difference
Brookline Adult Education Program, 115 Greenough St., Brookline (730-2700). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. 7:30-9pm. $5. **Melissa Everett**, career counselor and author of *Making a Living While Making a Difference*, will present tools and resources for you to investigate fields of socially and environmentally beneficial work.

The People's Choice: The Media, the Campaign and the Citizens
BU School of Law Auditorium, 765 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-4495). MBTA: B Green Line to BU Central. 9am. Free. This journalism symposium will include two lectures: **•Did the Media Do the Right Thing?** Moderated by BU professor **Lance Morrow** of *Time* magazine. Guests include **Bill Kovach**, curator of the Nieman Foundation at Harvard; **E.R. Shipp**, ombudsman for the *Washington Post*; **Sam Fleming**, news director for WBUR-FM; and **Yvonne Abraham**, reporter for the *Boston Globe*. **•Meeting Citizens' Needs: What's Next?** Moderated by BU professor and former ABC-TV correspondent **Bob Zelnick**. Guests include **David Shribman**, the *Boston Globe* Washington bureau chief; **Candy Altman**, news director for WCVB-TV Channel 5; **Jeannine Guttman**, vice president and executive editor of the *Portland Press-Herald*; and **Chris Satullo**, editorial page editor of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

Friday, April 28

Report Back From Guatemala
Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (266-6710). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 7:30pm. **Ron Shapiro** was part of a 10-person delegation from the US Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (NISGUA) who traveled to Guatemala and met with leaders of the Guatemalan peoples' movement. Hear a first-person account of the struggles to build a new post-war society.

Sunday, April 30

Labor: The Struggle Ahead A Marxist View
Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (266-6710). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 11am. **Steve Kirschbaum** is a founder and leader of USWA 8751, School Bus Drivers & Monitors, a 1,200-member local that has waged a number of high-profile, successful strikes and campaigns for worker justice. Drawing on 26 years of first-hand experience, Steve will present "lessons" for the coming working-class upsurge.

The Legacy of Holocaust Survivor Testimony
Stoddard Hall, Andover Newton Theological School, Newton (278-4939). 7:30pm. $10. Survivors' eyewitness accounts indelibly shape the perception on the Holocaust. Yet, how will the reality of the Holocaust change when the only "witness" is through film, recordings, writings and secondhand accounts? Psychiatrist **Dr. Anna Ornstein**, physician **Dr. Annette Furst**, and **Rabbi Moshe Waldoks**, a child of Holocaust refugees, will question how to keep the memories of the Holocaust alive in the future.

Monday, May 1

American Tragedy: Revisiting Vietnam
Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (929-4571). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. 5:30-7pm. Free. **David Kaiser**, author of *American Tragedy: Kennedy, Johnson, and the Origins of the Vietnam War* and professor of the Naval War College, will discuss why we entered the war, why our efforts were doomed to fail and the difficult if not intractable military and foreign policy quagmire that both President Kennedy and Johnson inherited. Harvard professor **John Kenneth Galbraith** will share his response to this startling account.

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READINGS & SIGNINGS

Wednesday, April 19

Brookline Booksmith Writers Series
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free admission. **Kimberly Kafka** reads from her debut novel *True North.* Poet **Wyn Cooper** also reads from his collection *The Way Back.*

Thursday, April 20

Authors at MIT
34-101, 50 Vassar St., Cambridge (253-5349). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. 7pm. **John Seely Brown** would deny the futurists' predictions that the information-technology revolution is turning us all into robots void of any need for social interaction. Tonight he speaks on his new book, *The Social Life of Information*, which calls for a better understanding of how social institutions can positively affect the use of technology in our lives.

Borders Book Shop Reading Group
85 Worcester Rd., Framingham (508-370-3138). 10am. Boston College professor **Elizabeth Graver** (*The Honey Thief*) speaks about *Unravelling,* her novel about a 19th-century New Hampshire farm girl.

Emerson College Reading Series
80 Boylston St., 2nd floor, Boston (824-8750). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 8pm. Free admission. Poet **Pablo Medina** reads from his extensive collection of work, including *Pork Rind and Cuban Songs* and *Arching into the Afterlife.*

Friday, April 21

Brookline Booksmith Writers Series
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free admission. Travel essayist **Frances Mayes** reads from *Bella Tuscany,* her national best seller.

Harvard Book Store Friday Forum
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. Free admission. Boston University professor of philosophy **Stanley Rosen** discusses *The Examined Life*, an anthology of Western philosophy ranging from the insights of Aristotle to Adorno.

Sunday, April 23

Brookline Booksmith Writers Series
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 6pm. Free admission. **Laura Mullen** reads from her poetry collection *After I Was Dead* and **Fred Muten** debuts his collection *Arkansas.*

Monday, April 24

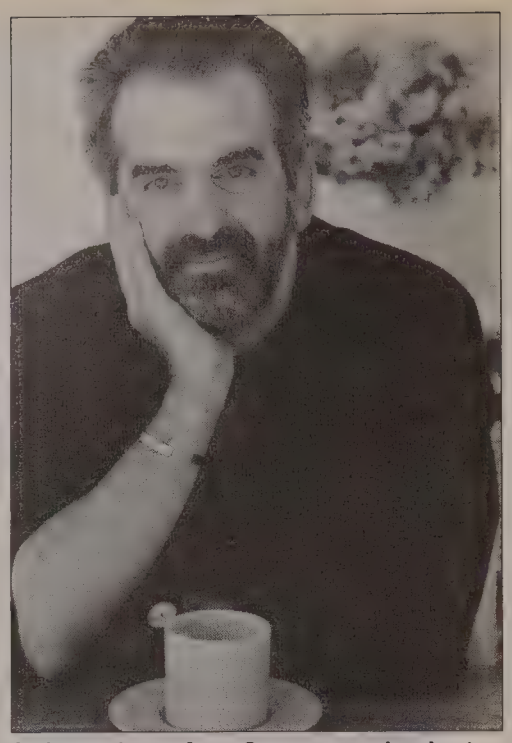
Boston Public Library Author Event
Charlestown branch Library, 179 Main St., Charlestown (242-1248). 7:30pm. Boston's own **Meg Campbell** reads from her recently published book of poetry, *Solo Crossing*, a memoir and journey through separation and divorce.

Literary Salon Series
Harvard Information Center in the Holyoke Center, 1350 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6:30pm. **Pico Iyer** explores the transitions that the industries of travel and technology have gone through in *The Global Soul: Jet Lag, Shopping Malls and the Search for Home.*

Tuesday, April 25

Authors at MIT
MIT 6-120, 77 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (253-5249). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. 4:30pm. Here's a way to really get into Earth Day. Wear green, plant some flowers and hear author **William Shutkin** speak with **Greg Watson**, director of Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust.

Borders Books Author Event
Atrium Mall, 300 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill (630-1120). MBTA: Green Line to Chestnut Hill. 7:30pm. This time it's not your mother, but instead it's **James V. O'Connor** who wants to clean your mouth out with soap. In *Cuss Control: The Complete Book on How to Curb Your Cursing,* O'Connor aims not to eliminate swearing completely, but to ween us off the habit of "hostile diction."


Author and poet Aram Saroyan speaks about his life and career at BU on April 26.

Borders Book Shop Author Event
85 Worcester Rd., Framingham (508-370-3138). 7:30pm. Get involved in National Poetry Month at this special open-mike night and poetry-reading contest. Get over your stage fright, read one of your favorite poems, score points with the esteemed panel of local poets and win valuable prizes.

Brookline Booksmith Writers Series
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free admission. Enjoy the words of **Jeffrey Lent** as he reads from his debut novel *In The Fall*, a Booksense '76 selection.

De Vive Voix Cafe Theater
French Library and Cultural Center, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (266-4351). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 6:30pm. Free admission. Poet **Jacques Prevert** (1900-1977) inspired many with his magical verbal expression. FLCC artistic director **Emmanuel Collin** performs a dramatic reading of Prevert's poetry to celebrate the 100th anniversary of his birth.

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Harvard Square, Cambridge (236-7460). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free admission. Imagine little **Michael Pearson** growing up a wee lad on the tough streets of New York. Tonight, he discusses his book *Dreaming of Columbus.*

Wednesday, April 26

BU Friends of the Libraries Lecture
Department of Special Collections, 771 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-3696). MBTA: B Green Line to BU Central. Author and poet **Aram Saroyan** speaks about his life and career as an acclaimed writer and son of William Saroyan, the famous Armenian-American playwright.

Kate's Mystery Books Author Event
2211 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (491-2660). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. **Susan Conant** signs copies of the latest Holly Winter series *Creature Discomforts.*

Newton Free Library: Stephen Jay Gould
330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). MBTA: Green D Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. He's a best-selling author, Harvard scientist and *Natural History* magazine columnist, so he's got to have something interesting to say. **Stephen Jay Gould** speaks on his ninth collection of essays, *The Lying Stones of Marrakech.*

Thursday, April 27

Harvard Book Store Author Event
Lecture Hall B, Science Center, Harvard University, 1 Oxford St., Cambridge (661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6:30pm. Journey through love and memory with world-renowned author **Saul Bellow**'s new novel *Revelstein,* an elegy to lives of balance.

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (236-7421). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free admission. Join **Priscilla Cogan** as she expounds upon her book *Crack At Dusk: Crook of Dawn.* Also, **Duncan Sings-Alone** speaks about *Sprinting Backwards to God.*

Intergenerational Poetry Contest
Boston Public Library West Roxbury branch, 1961 Centre St., West Roxbury (325-3147). 7pm. Poets from the Intergenerational Poetry Contest read their winning pieces and accept their awards.

Retrospective of the Washington Prize
Brookline Booksmith, 279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free admission. Hear excerpts from the Word Works anthology *Winners*, as interpreted by poets **Fred Marchant**, **Anne Rae Jonas** and others.

Friday, April 28

Bad Poets Society
The Comedy Studio at the Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (864-5311). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. Free admission. Self-described as "mankind's worst poetry from Shakespeare to the new age," this live poetry reading is a tribute to the worst known poets in the universe. With a special reading by WZLX's **Charles Laquidara**.

Boston Public Library Author Event
700 Boylston St., Boston (536-5400, x366). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 7pm. To celebrate the 500th anniversary of the discovery of Brazil, Pulitzer Prize-winner, **Lloyd Schwartz**, an exceptional poet and scholar, will read his translation of **Cassiano Ricardo**'s poem *Ladainha.*

Grolier Poetry Shop Author Event
Sackler Auditorium, corner of Quincy St. and Broadway St., Cambridge (547-4648). 8pm. $5. Southerner **Rodney Jones** reads from his seventh collection *Elegy For the Southern Drawl.* Jones has received much acclaim and countless awards for his previous works, which include *Things That Happen Once* and *Transparent Gestures.*

Harvard Book Store Friday Forum
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. Free admission. Authors and professors **Manning Marable** and **Leith Mullings** speak about their anthology of black writers, *Let Nobody Turn Us Around: Voices of Resistance, Reform and Renewal*, which traces the evolution of African-American perspectives throughout American history.

Jeff Robinson Trio and Poetry Jam
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. $7, $3.50 for seniors. **Jeff Robinson** on saxophone, **Jerome Deupree** on drums and **Blake Newman** on bass keep the beat while four of Boston's best female poets, **Ren Jender**, **Kitty Marrs**, **Iyeoka Okoawa** and **Juliette Monestine**, provide lyrics for the poetry jam.

Saturday, April 29

Bake Sale Benefit and Signing
Brookline Booksmith, 279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 2pm. **Sally Sampson** signs copies of *The Bake Sale Cookbook* while Brookline Booksmith holds a bake sale using recipes from the book. Proceeds benefit Reach Out and Read.

Benefit Book Sale
Somerville Public Library, 79 Highland Ave., Somerville (623-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. April 29-May 1. 10am-4pm. Browse through sale-priced new and used records, CDs, tapes, adult fiction and nonfiction, children's books, paperbacks and magazines.

Boston Public Library Author Event
South Boston branch, 646 East Broadway, Boston (268-0180). 2pm. This afternoon actor **Rick Winterson** will perform monologues and read poetry.

Super Word Weekend
Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St., Government Center, Boston (227-0845). MBTA: Green Line or Blue Line to Government Center. 7:30pm. $10. Draw upon your left brain in honor of National Poetry Month and gear up your articulation spark plugs to join in a reading with **John Weiners** and **Lyn Lifshin.**

Sunday, April 30

Benefit Book Sale
Somerville Public Library, 79 Highland Ave., Somerville (623-5000). 10am-3pm. See April 29.

Super Word Weekend
Publik Theater, 1175 Soldiers Field Rd., Herter Park, Brighton (227-0845). 12pm. $10 donation. **The Word Warriors** share their battle winnings for this poetic benefit event.

Monday, May 1

Benefit Book Sale
Central Library, Somerville Public Library, 79 Highland Ave., Somerville (623-5000). 9am-3pm. See April 29.

Super Word Weekend
Zeitgeist Gallery, 312 Broadway at Norfolk St., Cambridge (227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. 7:30pm. $5. Help celebrate the Stone Soup Poets' 29th birthday at this benefit event featuring **The Peddler**.

Tuesday, May 2

Harvard Book Store Author Event
Boston Public Library, Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6pm. **Jonathan Kozol** shares his experiences befriending young children on the nation's toughest streets. *Ordinary Resurrections: Children in the Years of Hope* is Kozol's personal, optimistic work.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Free admission. Boston College professor **Suzanne Matson** reads from her latest novel, *A Trick of Nature.* .

ONGOING

Agape, Tuesdays
Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (266-6710). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8-10pm. Every Tuesday, this somewhat sophisticated poetry group gathers to share works in progress.

Cantab Lounge, Wednesdays
738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8-10pm. $3. Wednesday nights at the Cantab always pack in more than 30 poets in just two hours for open mike and a slam.

Club Passim, Tuesdays
47 Palmer St., Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. $5. All open-mike fanatics must experience this open-mike night—a training ground for up-and-coming performers, poets and storytellers. Sign up Tuesdays, 7:30pm.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Night, Sundays
1667 Mass Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. $4 cover. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes every Sunday to the featured poet of the week.

O'Brien's Pub, Mondays
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. A mix of rock and spoken word is performed one Monday a month at 9pm—the performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry, Saturdays
Out of the Blue Gallery, 168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $3. Every Saturday is poetry night, and a spoken-word and music event takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month. It features music by Rob Gonzalez and his band and spoken word with Nola Kelley.

Rhythm and Muse Open Mike, Thursday
403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-6622). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook. A headlining poet is followed by an open-mike session on the first Thursday of every month, 7:30pm.

Stone Soup Poetry Night, Mondays
Zeitgeist Gallery, 312 Broadway St., Cambridge (227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. $3. An ever-changing lineup of authors followed by an open-mike session.

Bestsellers

HARDCOVER FICTION
1. **Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason** by Helen Fielding
2. **Beowulf** by Seamus Heaney
3. **Brethren** by John Grisham
4. **Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets** by J.K. Rowling
5. **Back Roads** by Tawni O'Dell
6. **Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban** by J.K. Rowling
7. **Make Way for Ducklings** by Robert McCloskey
8. **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone** by J.K. Rowling
9. **Daughter of Fortune** by Isabel Allende
10. **Genome** by Matt Ridley

HARDCOVER NONFICTION
1. **Who Moved My Cheese?** by Spencer Johnson
2. **Tuesdays With Morrie** by Mitch Albom
3. **Tipping Point** Malcolm Gladwell
4. **Millionaire Mind** by Thomas Stanley
5. **Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius** by Dave Eggers
6. **All Souls** by Michael McDonald
7. **'Tis** by Frank McCourt
8. **The New New Thing** by Michael Lewis
9. **The Art of Happiness** by the Dalai Lama
10. **Eating Well for Optimum Health** by Andrew Weil

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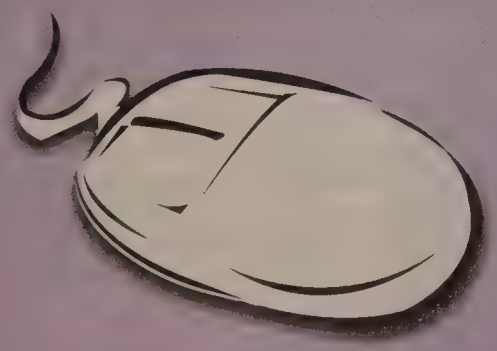

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WEILL YOU WERE OUT...

Kurt Weill was born 100 years ago, but nobody in Boston seems to care. BY KEITH POWERS

The 100th anniversary of the birth of Kurt Weill (1900-1950) is being celebrated throughout the year. In New York three orchestral performances are planned, including a world premiere by the New York Philharmonic, with dozens of vocal and chamber music recitals, and different groups are staging three musical theater productions. London's South Bank Centre hosts a week-long festival in October. Konzerthaus Berlin has a two-month-long celebration. Dessau, where Weill was born, had a two-week festival in February.

But in Boston, the man who wrote 11 operas, 14 musicals, two ballets, nine orchestral works and dozens of chamber settings, is enjoying just one performance in 2000. That's right, one. And you already missed it. *Lenya: The Love of Kurt Weill* ran at the Somerville Theatre last month—and was more about his first wife and collaborator than about Weill himself.

Why isn't Boston joining the party? Anniversaries like this are usually a godsend for promoters, who have trouble filling concerts for the "usual stuff," as one music director put it, and are constantly inviting audiences to "enjoy the 350th anniversary of the birth of..." as a way of getting people into the halls. In fact, for the 250th anniversary of Bach's death this July, there are dozens of events planned in Boston. It seems like concert presenters, well, just didn't think about it. One music director, who did not want to be identified, admitted, "Frankly, I overlooked it. And it's too bad, because Weill's music falls into that interesting category, in which people are still trying to decide if it's 'classical' or 'popular.' And so celebrations of this kind do a lot to further public and professional opinion."

Why isn't Boston joining the party?... We should be playing his work, talking and writing about it, and measuring audience interest as well. But we're not.

A second presenter from a local orchestra was contacted by the Kurt Weill Foundation, but "couldn't find a work that suited our group. Now that I see how much he's being performed around the world, I wish I'd tried harder." This is not one of those "I love Kurt Weill and the rest of the world should be like me" moments. I'm on the fence in deciding about the quality of the work. Besides *Threepennyopera*, which has some beautiful arias, I'm only familiar with *Mahagonny Songspiel*. The musical *Johnny Johnson*, revived by the Boston Camerata, was second-rate Gershwin at best.

The chamber music—apart for a Concerto for Violin and Wind Orchestra—is almost completely neglected. And there are many songs that should find their way into recitals. The musical world is still evaluating Weill's work, and we have some of the best thinkers and (normally) astute programmers in the country here in Boston. We should be playing his work, talking and writing about it, and measuring audience interest as well. But we're not. The rest of the world is having a party, and not only should we be there, but we should have brought something as well.

Above: a scene from Weill's "musical play" *Lady in the Dark*. Below: Kurt Weill in 1935.

Coda

You didn't think he was coming to Boston, did you? **Kurt Masur** has agreed to head the **Orchestre National de France** last week. Masur, who leaves the New York Philharmonic after the 2001 season ends, will simultaneously serve as principal conductor of the **London Philharmonic Orchestra**. Another orchestra in Israel is trying to perform Wagner. Next October the **Israel Symphony Orchestra Richon Lezion** will play Wagner's *Siegfried's Idyll* in Jerusalem. During the last attempt to perform Wagner in Israel—when the **Israel Philharmonic Orchestra** tried to perform *Tristan and Isolde* in 1981—an usher jumped on stage to show off his concentration-camp scars, and the music was eventually stopped by audience protests. Sympathies to local soprano **Barbara Quintiliani**, whose Dorchester home burned down last month. The singer and her husband, bassoonist **Stewart Schroeder**, lost all their possessions. Quintiliani suffered minor injuries jumping to safety. The score for last week: four concerts, four cell-phone interruptions. Wise up, people: Turn off the damn things before the music starts. iB

BOTTOM LEFT: BLACKSTONE STUDIOS

Advice to Contributors

Submit information labeled Classical by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Classical Music or e-mail to classical@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers Web site information and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to deadline. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers

Information for the music section is compiled from many different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to doublecheck dates and times.

Wednesday, April 19

Boston University Concert
Tsai Performance Center, 685 Comm. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. 8pm. Brahms: Clarinet Trio in A minor, Op. 114; Weber: Clarinet Quintet in B-flat, Op. 34; John McCabe: Clarinet Duet.

Thursday, April 20

The Boston Conservatory
Seully Hall, 8 The Fenway (912-9142). 6:30pm. Free. Faculty flute recital featuring Marianne Gedigian.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices vary. Andre Previn, conductor; Pamela Frank, violin.

Friday, April 21

Back Bay Chorale
45 Quincy St., Cambridge (730-7430). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. $17-$30. J.S. Bach, St. Matthew Passion; the Bay Bay Chorale; Julian Wachner, Music Director; with Orchestra of Emmanuel music and Performing Arts at Lincoln School.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 1:30pm. Prices Vary. Same program as April 20.

Chameleon Arts Ensemble
First and Second Church, 66 Marlborough St. in Boston's Back Bay (427-8200). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 8pm. $14-$28. Chamber music by Mozart, Schnittke, Strauss, Britten and Ravel.

Saturday, April 22

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices Vary. Same program as April 20.

Boston University Opera
BU Theater 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (266-0800). 8pm. $5-$10. Same program as April 21.

New England Philharmonic
Tsai Performance Center, 685 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (353-8725). MBTA: Green Line to BU East. 8pm. $10-$16. Music Director Richard Pittman conducts a concert featuring BSO violinist Lucia Lin.

Sunday, April 23

The Boston Conservatory
First and Second Church, 66 Marlborough St. (427-8200). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 4pm. $7-$32. Boston Conservatory Chamber Players under the artistic direction of Michael Lewin.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (876-0956). 7pm. Free admission. Faculty Artist Series.

Tuesday, April 25

The Boston Conservatory Orchestra
Great Hall at Faneuil Hall at Quincy Market, Boston (912-9142). 8pm. $7-$32. Conducted by Ronald Feldman, the talented music students of the Boston Conservatory perform orchestral works.

Wednesday, April 26

The Boston Conservatory
Seully Hall, 8 The Fenway (912-9142). 2pm. Free. Boston Conservatory Opera Department present selected scenes from favorite operas.

Thursday, April 27

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 10:30am and 8pm. Prices Vary. Mahler Symphony No. 2, Resurrection.

Handel and Haydn Society
Old South Church 645 Boylston St., Boston (536-1970). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8pm. $25-$49. The Four Seasons and L'Estro Armonico (concertos 5-8).

Friday, April 28

Boston Chamber Music Society
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (536-2412). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave. 7:30pm. Prices Vary. Mozart's Divertimento in E-Flat Major, K. 563; Mahler's Das Lied Von Der Erde.

Boston Classical Orchestra
Fanueil Hall at Quincy Market (423-3883). 8pm. $18-$35. Beethoven, Mendelssohn and Schubert, directed by Steven Lipsitt.

The Boston Conservatory
Seully Hall, 8 The Fenway (912-9142). 4pm. Free. Same program as April 26.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 1:30pm. Prices Vary. Messiaen's Turangalila-Symphonie.

Handel and Haydn Society
Old South Church 645 Boylston St., Boston (536-1970). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8pm. $25-$49. L'Estro Armonco, Selected Sonatas and Concertos for 1-4 Violin Soloist(s) including "La Folia" and "Ana Maria."

New England String Ensemble
First Parish Church, Wakefield (781-224-1117). 8pm. $16-$90. The NSE performs Medelssohn, Harold Shapero and Tchaikovsky.

Saturday, April 29

Handel and Haydn Society
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (482-6661). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. 3pm. $25-$49. Same program as April 27.

Sunday, April 30

Boston Chamber Music Society
Sanders Theater, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (730-7430). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard Square. 7:30pm. Prices Vary. Same program as April 28.

The Boston Chamber Orchestra
First and Second Church, 66 Marlborough St., Boston (267-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 3pm. $10-$15. Dvork, Serenade in E Major, Op. 22; Shostakovich, Piano Concerto No. 1, Op. 35.

The Boston Conservatory
Seully Hall, 8 The Fenway (912-9142). 3pm. Free. Faculty Voice Recital featuring Kathryn Fields.

Handel and Haydn Society
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (482-6661). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave. 3pm. $25-$49. L'Estro Armonico, selected sonatas and Concertos for 1-4 Violin Soloist(s) including "Il Grosso Mogul" and "Il Favorito."

Monday, May 1

Boston University Concert
BU Concert Hall School for the Arts 855 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-8790). MBTA: Green Line to BU West. 8pm. Choral Ensembles Concert with works by J.S. Bach, Copland and Schubert.

Tuesday, May 2

The Boston Conservatory
St. Cecilia's Church, 18 Belvidere St., Boston (912-9142). 8pm. Free. Choral Ensembles.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices Vary. The Boston Pops Orchestra; conductor, Keith Lockhart.

The Boston Conservatory Chamber Players perform at the First and Second Church April 23.

LIZ LINDER

dance clubs

Advice to Contributors
Submit information by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Clubs or e-mail to clubs@improper.com. Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to pub date. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Nights

Mondays

Vertigo Mondays
Vertigo. Caesar and Giorgio throw a party for those of you who never stop dancin'. Smooth Lounge upstairs, Deep House downstairs. Dress slick. 10pm, no cover.

Static
Axis. DJ Jay Ine and the gorgeous drag shows hosted by Mizery. 10pm. 19+. $5 cover.

Language
Hibernia. DJs G White, Dot, Surface and SORA spin a slection of hip, diverse drum and bass at Boston's newest drum-and-bass weekly. 8pm.21+. $2 cover.

Tuesdays

Cigar and Jazz Night
The Exchange. Smoke, lounge and listen to the smooth sounds of jazz. Plus, you score a free Gina Cigar and complimentary buffet. No cover.

Fat Tuesdays
Bill's. This off-the-hook night features DJ Chaos scratching out hip-hop music to college clubbers while house masters DJ Justin Hoffman and WBCN's DJ Jynx spin dance tunes. 11pm, $10 cover.

Got Milk?
Venu. If you're chic and fabu you'll be at Venu for Milk—a smart and devilishly hip party. Resident DJ Osheen spins house for the chic. Dress is funky. 21+.

Mingle Tuesdays
The Modern. This fancy spot screams très chic. With a raw bar, vodka bar and late lounge. 10pm. 21+.

Zanzibar Tuesdays
The Big Easy. Dress to impress for Boston's premiere International Night. The Big Easy's got DJ Manolo, spinning Latin and international. 11pm. 19+. $10.

Wednesdays

College Night
The Aquarium. Guest DJ spins at 10pm.

Good Karma
Karma/Mambo. Misery plays host to a roster of rotating DJs. Expect a mixed crowd and special guest performers. 10pm. 19+. $5 cover.

Hibernia Wednesdays
Hibernia. DJ C.T.O. is the Godfather of Say Word night—with plenty of funk, rare groove, soul and old school hip-hop. 9pm. 21+. Cover varies.

Imagination
Backstage. DJs Freddy C. and Jonny C. spin top 40, dance and club classics. 10pm. No cover, 21+.

Modern Living
The Modern. DJ Dale Charles spins while minglers munch on a raw bar and sip martinis. 10pm. 21+.

Musical Mayhem
The Exchange. WBCN's DJ Jynx of Cybersounds plays bangin' funky house upstairs while Tym Ryan of WFNX and DJ Brisc spin in the vault. 10pm.

Pravda 116
Come spend the night with Boston's premiere promoters at one of the city's most decadent hot spots with DJ Alex and DJ Felix. Proper dress required, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
The Sugar Shack. If you're 19+ and a woman, you get in for free before 11pm—otherwise the cover is $10. Plenty of funk, disco and hip-hop. 10pm.

Thursdays

Adrenaline
Backstage. Tonight features special guest DJs from around the world spinning hard NYC House, with Jonny C. and Freddy C. starting the party. 10pm, 21+.

The Aquarium
Kiss 108 FM dance party featuring Randy from the Matty in the Morning Show. 10pm-1am. $3 cover.

Chrome
Axis. Resident DJs John Debo and Ali Ajami spin Mucky House and trance. 10pm. 19+. $10 cover.

Downtempo Lounging
The Modern. DJ Ricky Fatts spins while you enjoy the raw bar and vodka bar. 9pm-2am, 21+.

Emily's
Enjoy soul, house and dance music. Doors open at 5pm.

Get a taste of Miami nightlife on Saturdays at Yesterday's Latin-tinged Miami Club Night.

Funkalicious Thursdays
The Exchange. DJ G squared takes you on a blast from the past as he spins the sounds of '70s and '80s. Added bonus: free after-work buffet. No cover.

Il Panino
The night features the best social playground for young professionals in Boston with cocktails, dancing, and hors d'oeuvres. Proper dress. 9pm. 21+.

International Thursday
Avalon. A predominantly Asian crowd fills up this nightspot as DJ Manolo spins Eurohouse and DJ Anthony spins Latin in the Playhouse. 10pm. 19+. $15.

Kit Kat Klub
Sugar Shack. This new night features guest DJs spinning hip-hop to college clubbers, 10pm, 19+.

Latin Quarter
The Roxy. Time to get down as the Roxy breaks out hip-shaking salsa, merengue and Latin dance mixes.

Lava Bar
Get Lifted. *Lavabar.com*. DJs Pouli Brien and phenom along with Verse D. bring you old school hip-hop, soul/funk and reggae. Doors open at 10pm. 21+.

Speed
Karma/Mambo. Special Guest DJs and resident DJs Bruno and Masta Millions spin the latest hip-hop and R&B. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover.

Venu
Swank American top 40 and house, featuring DJ Adilson, creator of the Roxy's Saturday night party.

Fridays

Avaland
Avalon. Everything about the room screams party. With world-famous DJs spinning, including DJ Manolo and John Debo, this has become the single most NY-style club night. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover.

Backstage
Backstage kicks off its all-night dance party, part one with DJ Jonny C spinning N.Y.C. house, top-40 dance and funk. Doors open at 10pm. $5 cover, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans themed nightspot has some of the best mainstream DJs in town. Offering four bars and two lounges as well as billiards and a wraparound balcony, the Big Easy is a staple in Boston's nightlife.

Buzz Fridays
Buzz. Roger M lays down Latin and international house tracks while upstairs visiting DJs pay homage to the house music gods. 11pm, $15 cover, 19+.

Emily's
An after work venue during the week, this spot transforms itself into a dance kingdom on weekends. Jam to soul, house and dance music. Door s open at 5pm.

Envy
This extraordinarily popular Friday night hot spot is filled with a swarming mass of sweaty 'n' ready dancers. 9pm, $5 cover after 10pm, 21+.

Exchange Fridays
The Exchange. Up High, Tiziano and Maurizio, Boston's best DJ duo, guides you on a house trip while DJ G Squared opens the vault door with mainstream dance and hip hop. Doors at 9pm.

Focus
Hibernia. How can you go wrong with DJs Chuck Caseroc, Keith Kene and Skot Havens. 9pm, 21+.

Lava Bar
Life. *lavabar.com*. From the creators of Soul Revival, DJ Fran Englehardt spins ambient, soulful and deep house. Doors at 10pm.

Ultra Lounge
The Modern. DJ Mixin Matt Ruben. 9pm 2am, 21+.

Nocturnal Fridays
Bill's Bar. WBCN day guy and football swami, Bill Abbate, spins up a delectable smorgasbord of rock with a pinch of roll. 9pm. $5 cover, 21+.

Sonic
Karma/Mambo. National guest rave DJs and DJs Venom and Courtney spin Hard House and Happy Hardcore in the Main Room, while Space Munkee and DJ Myth spin in the Mambo Lounge. 10pm. 19+. $15.

Roxy 2000
Roxy/Mondo Bar. What goes around comes around. Go crazy as the intimacy of Roxy consumes you and DJ Felix spins house and international music throughout the night. 10:30pm. $15 cover, 21+.

Spin Cycle
Axis. Glitzed-out club hoppers make the progressive house beats of DJ Tim Ryan downstairs or DJ David James' retro tunes upstairs. 10pm, $12, 19+.

Venu
The scene is elegant and the line is long for this jacket-required international romp. Get your Gucci attire as DJ Tassos and DJ Arsit spin. 21+.

Saturdays

The Aqarium
Saturday night dance party hosted by resident DJ. 10pm-1am, $5 cover.

Downtown
Avalon. Resident DJs Manolo and Mattie O. gyrate your ass with the latest hits and club classics. 10pm. 21+. $15 cover.

Backstage
Get ready for part two of Backstage's all night dance party with DJ Freddy C spinning progressive house and top-40 dance. Doors open at 10pm, $5 cover, 21+.

Bill's Bar
DJ Laurie Gail with guest DJs promise to make Bill's a night full of dancing to the best of the '70s, '80s and '90s. 9pm, $3 cover, 19+.

Club Juliana
Boogieing cuties converge on Boston's newest Latin Night starting at 10pm. Dress to impress. $10.

Club Nicole
The faces are familiar and the mob thick for this exclusive Euro trendsetter. DJ Alex spins eurohouse. Reservations recommended, jackets required. 21+.

Elements of Life
Karma/Mambo. DJ Supa Mario and world class DJs spin house music in the main room while DJ Hoffman plays funk in the Mambo Lounge. 10pm. 19+. $15.

Emily's
Serious soul, house and dance music. DJs spice up Saturday nights and transform this after-work venue into a dance kingdom. 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Envy
From 9pm-2am, DJ Tom Baxter blasts Top 40, house and dance throughout the night. 9pm, $5 cover after 10pm, 21+.

Exchange Saturdays
The Exchange. DJ Diesel renovates the upper level with full-on house while DJ Jynx spins all the funky beats in the lower Vault lounge. 9pm.

Fajitas and Ritas
Chill out for the Weekly Dig Lounge Series with Alan Strack and Mason.

Hibernia Saturdays
Hibernia. Masters of house, techno and dance, DJs Dino and David West take the reins and whip the crowd into a frenzy. 9pm, 21+, cover varies.

Lava Bar
Tabu night means anything goes with DJ Fran and Kris Kono Unite. High-energy house with a taste of Latin beats. 10pm, 21+.

Miami Club Night
Club Joy/Yesterday's. Enjoy Boston's only Latin Night to feature La Rueda de Casino, a Cuban salsa game, and get a taste of Miami nightlife. 9:30pm (ladies free before 11pm), $10 cover, 21+ (ladies, 19+).

Mischief
The Modern. Feeling mischievous? Ultra lounging with decadent desserts and erotic electronica. 21+.

Mythos
Venu. Greek International with DJ Yorgo Jr. spinning the latest hits from the famous party islands of Greece.

Sugar Shack
Spice up your night with '70s, '80s and '90s dance music as DJ Rich Centi spins the hottest sounds.

Who's On First?
The latest and greatest in hip-hop, reggae, R&B, and Latin house with DJ Lil' Mike, 10:30pm, $12, 18+.

X night
Axis. DJ Mike Gioscia spins cutting edge faves of '90s alternative while DJ David James spins '80s hits in the Left Over Lounge. 10pm, $10 cover, 21+.

Sundays

Avalon
Boston's biggest gay night. Special guest DJs and Resident DJ Darrin Friedman. 10pm, $10 cover.

Emily's
Industry Night "Club Soda" with DJ Silly. 10:30pm.

Exchange Sundays
A fusion of Heavy Lounge and Miami House. No cover.

Club Millennium 2000
Backstage. Special Guests DJs in rotation. Doors open at 10pm, ladies free before 11pm, 21+, proper dress.

Il Panino
Mainly attracting Euros, this night features music by DJ Alex of Boston Beat and DJ Roger M. 21+, no cover.

Latin Night
Karma/Mambo Lounge. Weekly Live Latin Bands. 10pm. 19+. $25 cover.

Lava Bar
60's Euro and Exotica Night, 10pm.

Salavation
This new Boston vibe serves up an intimate evening of soul provided by DJ Soul. $5, until 10pm.

Venu
Carnival comes to Boston every Sunday as DJ Adilson brings the heat of Rio to Venu, spinning the hottest music from Brazil. 21+. Call 338-8061 for reservations.

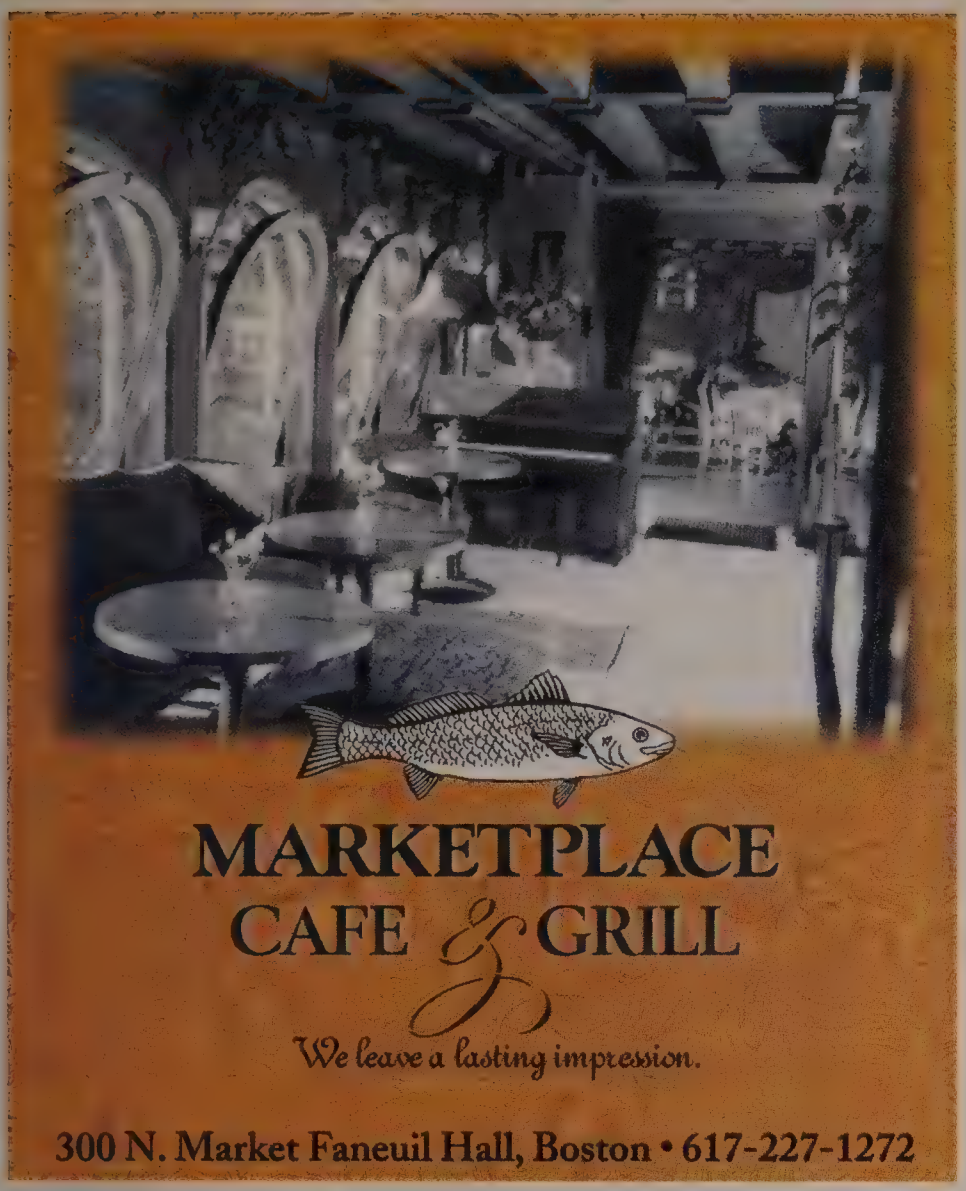
Raves

Till Dawn Breaks
Asylum Club, 1592 Main St., Springfield, Mass. (536-5482). April 28, 9pm-6am. $20. Experience Turbo Sound, stunning lights, dazzling lasers, two "plazma screens" and a slew of DJs including DJ Bam Bam, Tha Tekno Supahero, Mo 7s, Liquid X and Knowledge.

Club Venues

An Tain *31 India St., Boston (426-1870). MBTA: Blue Line to State St.*
AnTua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (262-2121). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Aquarium *65 Holland St., Somerville (623-3200). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (437-0300). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Backstage *25 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Boston (726-1110). MBTA: Blue Line to Government Center.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Buzz Boston/Europa *51-67 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park St.*
Club Juliana *20 Hudson St., Boston (542-4411).*
Club Nicole *40 Dalton St., Boston (236-4746). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*
Club Stella *1234 Soldiers Field Rd., Brighton (254-0554).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Upstairs, Boston (423-3649). MBTA: Red or Green Lines to Park Street.*
Envy *25 Boylston Place, Boston (542-3689). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Exchange *148 State St., Boston (723-7755). MBTA: Orange Line to State Street.*
Hibernia *25 Kingston St., Boston (292-2333). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Karma *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9595). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Lava Bar *575 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-7707). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Oskar's *107 South St., Leather District, Boston (542-6756). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (482-7799). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Salavation *20 Hudson St., Boston (781-668-2392). MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown.*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Theatre District, Boston (338-8061). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Vertigo *126 State Street, Boston (723-7277).*
Who's on First? *19 Yawkey Way (247-3353). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*

BERTA A. DANIELS



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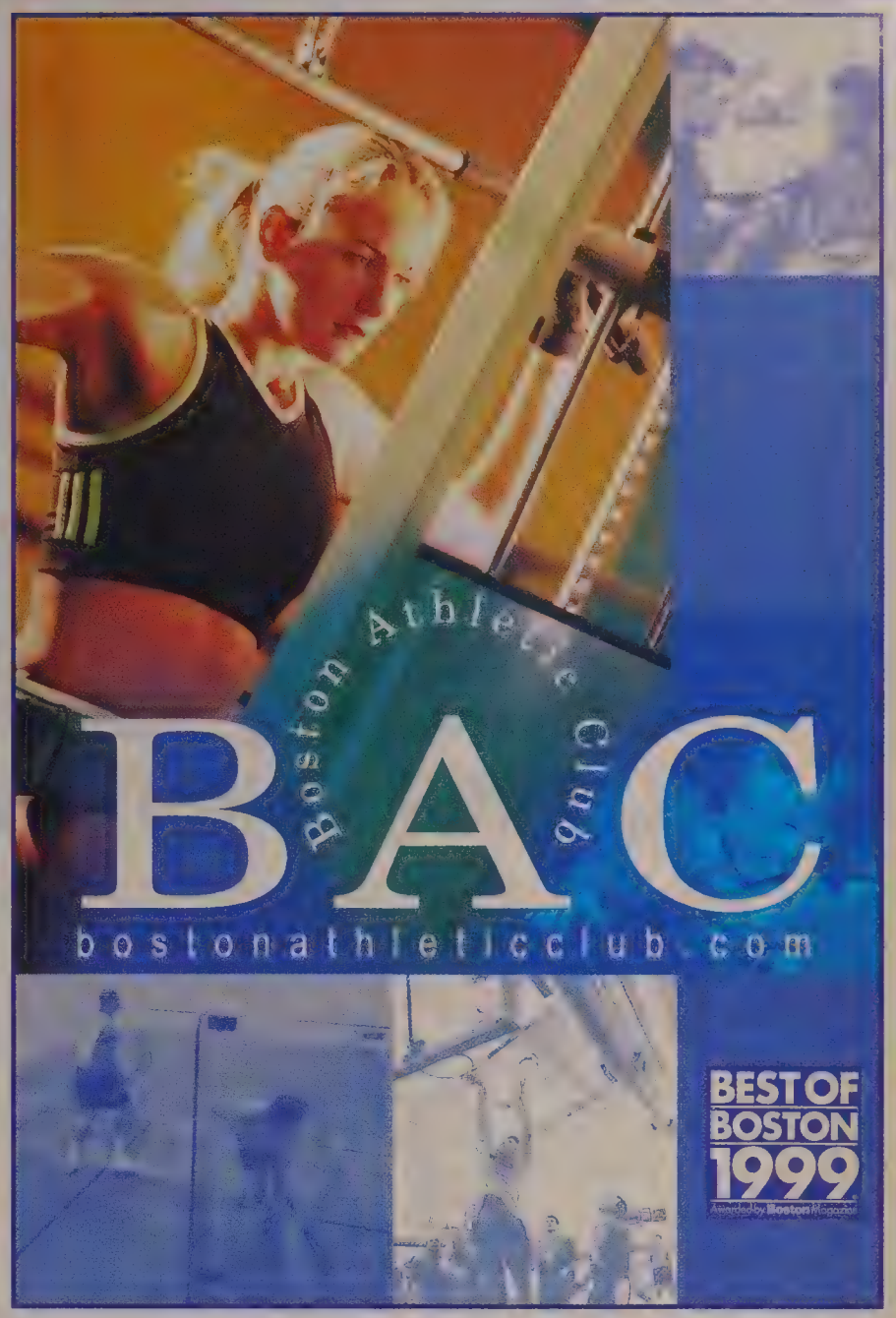

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Music

Soulive comes to Avalon with Deep Banana Blackout April 26

GROOVE IS IN THE HEART

Funk-meets-jazz with Soulive, the jamming organ trio.

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

Alan Evans recalls the day in 1998 when his brother Neal, then working at a Manhattan record store, called with the excited word that John Scofield just released *A Go Go*, his jazz-groove disc with Medeski, Martin & Wood.

"That wasn't long ago, and in that amount of time, I got hip to *A Go Go* and did my thing, and all of a sudden, I'm in the studio with Sco, recording and hanging out," says drummer Evans, whose "thing" is Soulive, an organ trio with brother Neal on Hammond B-3 and Eric Krasno on guitar. They've just recorded some tracks with guest Scofield, possibly for Soulive's next CD.

"People say 'You've only been together a year?' and it's true, but I've been doing this a long time, you know," says Evans, 26, a co-founder of soul-rock jammers Moon Boot Lover (in which he also played with Neal, 24) and a later member of the Greyboy Allstars and Karl Denson's Tiny Universe. "There were a lot of mistakes that we made back in the day that we didn't make this time around. But there's no doubt that same luck was involved."

Luck mixes well with a solid groove. Soulive regularly packs the House of Blues (where the group expects to play again soon) and the Middle East, leading to an Avalon co-bill with the also-funky Deep Banana Blackout April 26.

"People are into it," Evans says of Soulive's young, body-movin' followers. "They really dig the groove aspect of it. We get a lot of 'I'm into Medeski, Martin & Wood, but you guys stick with the groove.' They just like to dance and dig the melodies."

But it wasn't a CD by fellow keyboard trio MMW or Scofield that laid the blueprint for Soulive. For that, Evans gives credit to *Alive!* by Grant Green, a guitarist from the early '60s heyday of the jazz organ trio. In particular, that record's sound inspired "Uncle Junior," a hard-grooving live track from Soulive's *Turn It Out*, a CD that's selling fast at the band's shows. "[Organist] Jimmy McGriff was doing funk kind of things, but it wasn't as funky as Grant Green's shit. I heard that and lost my mind," Evans says. "[After Moon Boot Lover,] Neal and I just started shedding that stuff."

But it wasn't the first time the brothers tuned into the cream of the organ trios. "By the time we were born, it was kinda dying out, but having all our relatives still heavy into it, we got to listen to a lot of it," says Evans, whose father had an impressive collection of jazz records. "And my older brother was a DJ back in the '70s disco clubs, so he was into Parliament and James Brown." Indeed, you can hear that James Brown-meets-jazz organ sound in Soulive's incessant groove. Evans also remembers his dad's observations from the Jazz Age in their Buffalo hometown. "People would dance to the Count Basie Orchestra," the drummer says. "Jazz was dance music back in the day. I tell people that, and they can't believe it."

"It's cool that people are checking us out, and if they think we're doing something new, that's cool, but we let them know where the roots are," says Evans, whose band also wears suits onstage in a nod to that jazz tradition. "I think it's a nice spin, and I feel better about myself."

But he doesn't see Soulive as a throwback. "We're not trying to look [that way], or tweak our amps to get someone's sound," Evans says. "I never want to bring anything 'back,' really. I never want to sound like anybody [else]."

It's just the sound that happened when the brothers teamed with Krasno, 23. At a friend's suggestion, they called the guitarist—whom they knew from the Boston band Lettuce—to cover a few gigs after the departure of an initial vibraphonist. "I just hit 'record,' 'cause we had a studio set up there, and we were just a band," Evans says. "We sound pretty much the same as we did that first day. For a lot of bands, it takes some time for the sound to come together, but pretty much, it was right on point."

Only they've sharpened their full-on groove along the way. "We don't have a lot of changes [in the music]," he acknowledges. "There are some tunes where, if you've having a bad night, and you're not feeling it, the tunes aren't gonna happen. But that's the beauty of it. You have to come to play." IB

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fax (859-1446); by mail to Calendar/Music; or by email to music@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, phone numbers and nearest T stops. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double check dates and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

Concerts

The Bloodhound Gang with Isabelle's Gift, Dynamite Hack and Nerf Herder
April 21, Avalon

Tracy Bonham
April 18, Axis

Built to Spill
April 21, the Roxy

Deep Banana Blackout and Soulive
April 26, Avalon

The Joshua Redman Quartet
April 20 and 21, Somerville Theatre

King Sunny Ade
April 30, Somerville Theatre

Nordic Nights with JPP, Vasen and Annbjorg Lien
April 28, Somerville Theatre

Oasis and Travis
April 27, Orpheum Theatre

Pat McGee Band with Bradleys Blackwater Surprise
April 19 and 20, Karma

Richard Shindell and Jesse Klein
April 29, Somerville Theatre

Smashing Pumpkins
April 29, Tsongas Arena

Third Eye Blind and Tonic
April 24 and 25, Orpheum Theatre

WBOS Earthfest
April 22, Hatch Shell

CONCERT HALLS

Karma
9 Lansdowne St., Fenway (421-9595). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.

Orpheum Theatre
1 Hamilton Place, Boston (679-0810). MBTA: Red Line to Park Street.

Somerville Theater
Davis Square, Somerville (628-3390). MBTA: Red Line to Davis Square.

Tsongas Arena
300 Arkan Drive, Lowell (978-848-6900).

Rock, Jazz and Blues

Wednesday, April 19

Black Rose
Celtic Clan, 9pm.

Bristol Lounge
Bert Seager, 5pm; Bob Winter, 8pm.

The Cantab Lounge
Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.

The Common Ground
What A Way To Go-Go with DJ Vin, 10pm.

Club Passim
Stephen Venuti and Rob Siegel, 8pm, $10.

Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm, no cover.

The Good Life
Booty Juice, 8pm.

The Green Dragon Tavern
Dave Foley.

Harpers Ferry
Robert Walter's 20th Congress, Vinyl, 9:30pm, $10.

Hennessy's
Irish Session, $5, 21+.

House of Blues
Mick Taylor, 10pm, $20, 18+.

Johnny D's
Tim O'Brien and Darrel Scott, 8:30pm.

Karma
Pat McGee Band, Robert Bradley's Blackwater Surprise, 9pm, $12, 18+.

The Kells
Studio 54, no cover, 21+.

Kendall Cafe
Open mike and Will Dailey, 11pm, no cover.

Kirkland Cafe
Ken Clark Organ Trio, $5.

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Les Zygomates
The Mark Greel Trio, 8pm.
Lizard Lounge
Matt and Pat, Garage Dogs, Wide Iris and Buck Dewey Big Band, 9pm, cover varies.
Middle East
U: Arab on Radar, Polythene, the Flying Luttenbachers, the Cut Throats, $6, 18+. D: Mixmaster Mike, Rahzel and Choclair, 8pm, $25, 18+.
Midway Cafe
Shaky Deal, 9:30pm, no cover.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Boston Folk and Singers Club, 9pm.
Playhouse Lounge
Emerson Explosion, 9:45pm.
The Rack
Search Party, 9pm, no cover.
Regatta Bar
The Teresa Ines Group, 8:30pm, $10.
Ryles Jazz Club
Project Yes Brazil, 9pm, $6.
Scullers Jazz Club
Humberto Ramirez Band, 8pm and 10pm, $12.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Pure Fiction, Something Ira, Champagne Francis and Lustre.
Toad
Lovewhip, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub
Chris Taylor Trio, 9pm.
White Horse Tavern
The Spirit House Band, 9pm, no cover.

Thursday, April 20

Avalon
Angie Stone, 7 pm, $17, 21+.
Axis
MxPx, 5pm, $14.
Bill's Bar
Daltonic, the World is My Fuse, Straw Horse, 9pm, $7.
Black Rose
Celtic Clan, 9pm.
Bristol Lounge
Bert Seager, 5pm; Bob Winter, 8pm.
The Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm. D: Kendra Flowers, Tony's Island and Kieran Ridge, 9pm.
Club Passim
Sarah Hickman and Kerry Power, 8pm, $12.
The Common Ground
All Mod Cons, the Jam and Paul Weller Tribute, 10pm.
Coogan's Bluff
Novakane, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm, no cover.
The Good Life
Nick Goumas Quintet, 8pm.
The Green Dragon Tavern
The Spitting Vinnies.
Harpers Ferry
Foxtrot Zulu with Cabaloo, 9:30pm, $5.
Hennessy's
Under Cover, Chad Lamarch, $5, 21+.
House of Blues
Los Hombres Calientes, 10pm, $15, 21+.
Jake Ivory's
Josh Nelson and Paul Levesque, 9pm.
Johnny D's
Katie Viqueira, 9pm.
Kendall Cafe
Mike Previti, 9pm; Mo Matching Drapes, 10pm; Ed Juri 11pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe
Brook Batteau, Dr. Nancy Mroczeck PhD and Pierce Woodward Trio, $4.
Les Zygomates
The Jinga Trio, 8pm.
Linwood
Playing for Audrey, Auto 66, Vanity Press, 10pm, $5.
Lizard Lounge
Club d'Elf, 10pm, no cover.
Middle East
U: the Real Kids and the Lazy Cowgirls, $10, 18+. D: Catie Curtis, 8pm, $9, 18+.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Carroll, 8pm.
Playhouse Lounge
Will Dailey's Bean War Session, 9:45pm, $3.
Regatta Bar
The Abdullah Ibrahim Trio, 8:30pm, $12.
Ryles
Bob Sinicrope and the World Leaders, 8:30pm, $8.
Scullers Jazz Club
Bobby Short and his Orchestra, 8pm and 10pm, $30.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Rockets Burst From the Streetlamps, Mellonova and Random Acts of Memory with Mr. Curt.
Toad
Senor Happy, no cover, 21+.

Preview

EarthFest 2000

The Free WBOS EarthFest annually draws more than 125,000 fans for a full day of music, food and fun—all in the name of environmental awareness. In addition to great live music, approximately 100 environmental groups and exhibitors showcase their organizations and wares on site. Swing by the Hatch Shell April 22 between 11:30am-6:30pm and catch some tunes and feel good about yourself at the same time. Among those performing are 14-year-old Shannon Curfman, local favorites Entrain, pop trio Marcy Playground (above), 12-piece rocket-soul band Sonia Dada, guitarist Kenny Wayne Shepard and Edwin McCain.

Top of the Hub
Chris Taylor Trio, 9pm.

Friday, April 21

The Attic
Another Planet, 21+.
Bill's Bar
Gruvis Malt, Three Percent and F.I.B.R.E., 9pm, $8.
The Black Rose
U: Dave Foley D: Celtic Clan, $5.
Bristol Lounge
Bert Seager, 5pm; Suzanne Davis Jazz Trio, 8:30pm. Geoff Bartly, Steve Gillette, Cindy Mangsen, 8pm, $10.
Coogan's Bluff
Bald Walter, 9pm, $3.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band, 7pm; Soul City, 10pm, no cover.
The Good Life
Grant Langford Quintet, 8pm, no cover.
The Grand Canal
Juggernot, $5.
Green Dragon Tavern
Trax and Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
Green Street Grill
Delta Blues with Tarbox Ramblers.
Harpers Ferry
Tinsley Ellis with Scratch My Back, 9:30pm, $7.
House of Blues
Ryan "Blue" Montbleau, 12:30pm, no cover; Big Jack Johnson and Super Chikan, 10pm, $12, 21+.
Jake Ivory's
Matt Mello and Bill Connors, 9pm.
Johnny D's
Mango Blue, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's
Blockhead, 9pm, $5.
Kendall Cafe
Ancient Chinese Secret, 9:30pm; the Gladstones, 10:30pm; Eric Marcos and Normal Noises, 11:30pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe
Benders, Ninth Wave, Alabama Frank, Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
Les Zygomates
The Skip Smith Trio, 9pm.
Linwood
Make Lisa Rich and Major Major, 10pm, $6.
Lizard Lounge
Slide and Betwixt, 9pm, cover varies.
Middle East
D: Disco Biscuits, Uncle Sam, $13, 18+.
Midway Cafe
Incus Illyrians and Friends, 9:30pm, $5.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Carroll, DJ Sean, Focal, 9:30pm.
Playhouse Lounge
Gary Gore with Johnny Mack, 11:45pm.
Purple Shamrock
Mother Funk, 9pm, $5.
The Rack
Hit Squad, 6:30pm, no cover.
Regatta Bar
The Abdullah Ibrahim Trio, 8pm and 10pm, $14.
Ryles Jazz Club
Boston Horns, 9pm, $9. U: Joao Marcos Quintet and Friends, 9:30pm, $10.
Scullers Jazz Club
Bobby Short and his Orchestra, 8pm and 10:30pm, $35.
T.T. the Bear's Place
The Gravel Pit, Charlie Chesterman and the Legendary Motorbikes, Seks Bomba, Pete Weiss and the Weisstronauts, 8:45pm, $10.
Toad
Diesel Doug and the Long Haul Truckers, no cover.

Saturday, April 22

The Attic
Apartment Three with the Troubadours, 21+.
Bill's Bar
Floggin' Molly, 8pm, $5, 18+.
Black Rose
U: Dave Foley. D: Celtic Clan. HH: Frank Ryan, $5.
Bristol Lounge
Bert Seager, 5pm; Suzanne Davis Trio, 8:30pm.
Club Passim
Peter Mulvey, Erin McKeown, 7pm and 10pm, $12.
The Common Ground
Booty, 10pm.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm, Soul City; 10pm, no cover.
The Good Life
Roxbury Blues Aestetic, 8pm, no cover.
The Grand Canal
Fat Tuesday, $5.
The Green Dragon Tavern
Dog-House, $3.
Harpers Ferry
Young Neal and the Vipers with Ricky Valente Band, 9:30pm, $6.
House of Blues
Mike Welch, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Jake Ivory's
Paul Levesque and Aruna Abrams, 9pm.
Johnny D's
Sleepy La Beef, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's
Pig Pen, 9pm, $5.
Kendall Cafe
Joel Aberbach, 9:30pm; Lemonpeeler, 10:30pm; the Booda Velvets, 11:30pm.
Kirkland Cafe
Kristen Plater, High Ceilings and Brett Rosenberg, $5.
Les Zygomates
The S. Wong Trio, 9pm.
Linwood
Psychotic Larry, Spermatozoa, Server and Glutton, 10pm, $6.
Lizard Lounge
Devil Gods, Tom Devaney and Mascara, 9pm, cover varies.
Middle East
U: Hybrasil, Pee Wee Fist and Blake Hazard, $8, 18+. D: Dick Dale, $12, 18+.
Midway Cafe
Jaya the Cat and Shoeless Joe, 9:30pm, $5.
Mr. Dooley's
Patsy Whelan and Tony O'Riordan, $3.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Carroll and DJ Wayne, 9:30pm.
Playhouse Lounge
John McLaughlin and Jim Hickey, 11:45pm.
Purple Shamrock
Felix Brown, 9pm, $5.
The Rack
Vinnie Peruzzi Dance, no cover.
Regatta Bar
The Abdullah Ibrahim Trio, 8pm and 10pm, $16.
Ryles
Herman Johnson, 9pm, $9.
Scullers Jazz Club
Bobby Short and his Orchestra, 8pm and 10:30pm, $35.
Slades
John Dougherty Hammond Trio, 8pm.
Toad
Armadillos, no cover, 21+.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Rustic Overtones, Heidi, Dick Dale, $12, 18+.

Sunday, April 23

The Attic
The CoalBoilers, 9:30pm, 21+.
Bill's Bar
DJ K-Don, Paul Wayne, Dub Station, 9pm, 18+.
Black Rose
D: Celtic Clan. HH: Frank Ryan.
Dick's Last Resort
Rob Gonzalez, 7pm, no cover.
The Good Life
Grant Langford Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Harpers Ferry
The Rockett Band, 9:30pm, $5.
House of Blues
Addison Groove Project, Petting Zoo, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Johnny D's
Blues Jam with Rumba NaMa, 4:30pm.
Kirkland Cafe
Le Cous Cous and Isa.
Lizard Lounge
Poetry Jam featuring the Jeff Robinson Trio, 9pm.
Middle East
U: Marty Wilson-Piper , 7:30pm, $10, 18+; "Toxic" night with DJs and live electronic musical acts, 10pm. D: Joint Chiefs, 9pm, 18+.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Carroll, 8pm.
The Rack
Chad Lamarsh Band, no cover.
Toad
Willie Bernstein, no cover, 21+.

Monday, April 24

B-Side Lounge
Bill Janovitz and Buffalo Tom, 10:30pm, 21+.
Bill's Bar
Trustfall with Colepitz, Shoot the Dancing Bear, $5.
The Cantab Lounge
Geoff Bartley, 8pm; John Schindler, 9:30pm.
The Good Life
Waldron Ricks Trio, 8pm, no cover.

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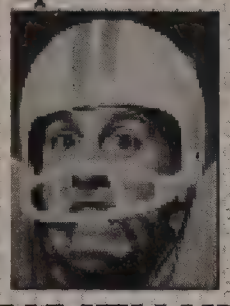

BOB NELSON
"The Football Starting Line-Up"

May 5-6

ROBERT SCHIMMEL
HBO's "Robert Schimmel: Unprotected"

May 12-13

JON STEWART
Host of "The Daily Show"

May 19-20

RICHARD LEWIS
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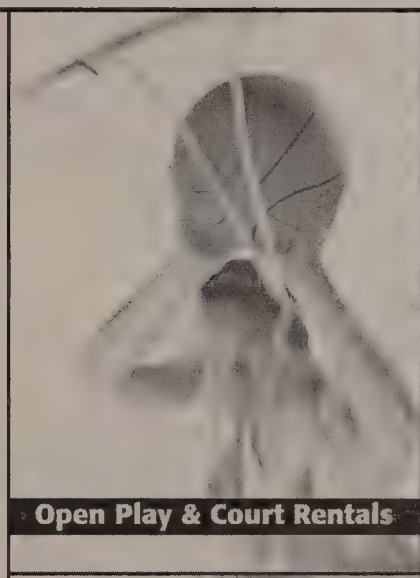
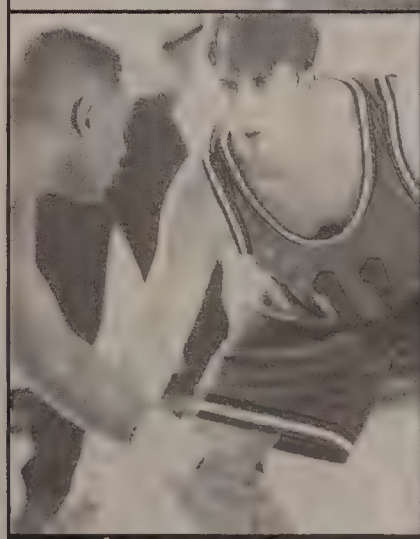


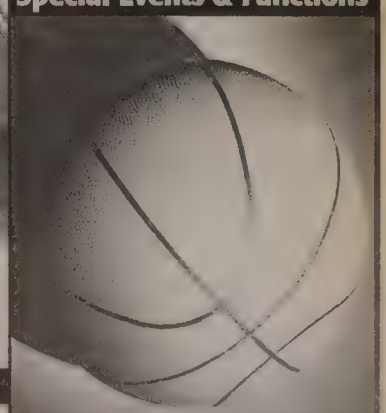
Open Play & Court Rentals



Youth Programs & Camps

Leagues & Tournaments

Special Events & Functions



Nigerian musician King Sunny Ade performs at the Somerville Theatre on April 30.

House of Blues
Cosmic Dilemma, 9pm, $6, 18+.
Johnny D's
Hot Tamale Brass Band, 9pm.
Kendall Cafe
Common Thrill, 9pm; Kendra Flowers, 10pm.
Lizard Lounge
The Fringe, 10pm, cover varies.
Middle East
U: Tara Jane O'Neil and the Mad Scene, $7, 18+.
T.T. the Bear's Place
The Other Side of the Bear with AdFrank and Friends.
Toad
Union Square Screw Machine and Tim Gearan, 8pm.

Tuesday, April 25

The Good Life
Issi Rosen Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Harpers Ferry
Another Planet and Friends, 9:30pm, $3.
House of Blues
Lloyd Cole, 9pm, $15, 18+.
Kendall Cafe
Derek Schanche and Joe Cool, $4.
Les Zygomates
Jazz Night featuring the Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm.
Lizard Lounge
Maggi, Pierce and E.J., 9pm, cover varies.
Middle East
U: Garrison, Appleseed Cast, Prizefighter and Little Dipper, $6, 18+. D: Charlie Hunter, 8pm, $16, 18+.
The Rack
James McKenna, 8pm.
Scullers Jazz Club
Ray Vega, 8pm and 10pm, $12.
Ryles Jazz Club
City Trees, 8:30pm, $7.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Dave Smyth, 7pm.
Regatta Bar
The Matt Gordy Quintet, 8:30pm, $10.
Scullers Jazz Club
Ray Vega Sextet.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Ramzi, Left of Heaven, Nothing Yet, Circle of Stone.
Toad
Asa Brebner, Robin Lane, Suzi Lee, Milt Reader, 21+.
Top of the Hub
Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30pm.

Wednesday, April 26

Bill's Bar
Mr. Lif, Apani B., the Fly MC, 9pm, $10, 18+.
The Cantab Lounge
Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
Club Passim
Carl Cacho, Bob Martin & Michael Troy, 8pm, $10.
The Common Ground
What A Way to Go-Go, 10pm.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm, no cover.
Hennessy's
Irish Session, $5, no cover.
House of Blues
Lloyd Cole, 9pm, $15, 18+.
Johnny D's
Johnny A and Bruce Katz, 8:30pm.
The Kells
Studio 54, no cover, 21+.
Kendall Cafe
Open mike, Charlie Strater, 11pm, no cover.
Kirkland Cafe
Die Electric, Karma Days, Kathryn Shaefer and Fikus, $4.
Lizard Lounge
Nell Bryden, Panhead, Wide Iris and Jennifer Tefft Band, 9pm, cover varies.
Middle East
U: Chasing Gray, Bruce Smith Band and the Chris Canty Band, $6, 18+. D: the Melvins, 8pm, $10, 18+.
Midway Cafe
Return of Ramcat Benefit, 9:30pm, no cover.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Boston Folk and Singers Club, 9pm.
Les Zygomates
The John Kordaleski Trio, 8pm.
Playhouse Lounge
Emerson Explosion, 9:45pm.
The Rack
Code 51, 9pm.
Regatta Bar
Annie Royer: Cabaret de Paris, 8:30pm, $16.
Ryles Jazz Club
Project Yes Brazil, 9pm, $6.
Scullers Jazz Club
Carol O'Shaughnessy, 8pm and 10pm, $14.
Toad
Katie Tarrio, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub
Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30pm-12:30am.
T.T. the Bear's Place
U: M.E. Cahoon, Sacred Raisin Cakes, Squash, Effi; D: the Melvins, 8pm, $10, 18+.
White Horse Tavern
Poor Law Union, 8pm, no cover.

Thursday, April 27

Avalon
Joe Satriani, 7pm, $25, 18+.
Bill's Bar
The Figgs, Banjo Spiders and the Zips, 9pm, $8, 18+.
Club Passim
Robbie Schaffer, 8pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort
The Chad LaMarsh Band, 8pm, no cover.
Green Dragon Tavern
The Spitting Vinnies and the Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
Green Street Grill
Latin night with Giancarlo Buscaglia.
Hennessy's
Under Cover, $5, 21+.
House of Blues
Miracle Orchestra, 10pm, $8, 18+.
Jake Ivory's
Paul Levesque and Josh Nelson, 9pm.
Johnny D's
Jules Shear and Merrie Amsterberg, 9pm.
Kendall Cafe
Pluto CD release party with Grits and Merrie Amsterburg, Patty Giurleo and Alastair Moock, $5.
Les Zygomates
Latin and World music night featuring the Joel Smith Trio, 8pm.
Linwood
Who's the Fat Guy, Stymie, 10pm, $5.
Lizard Lounge
The Midnight Mass featuring Jed Parish, Zola Turn, Medveds and Undo, 9pm, cover varies.
Middle East
D: Quick Fix, Roadsaw, Jack Drag and RC Crimewave.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Carroll, 8pm.
Playhouse Lounge
Garyoke, 9:45pm.
The Rack
Code 51, 9pm.
Regatta Bar
The Cyrus Chestnut Trio, 8:30pm, $12.
Rhythm and Spice
DJ Bim Sound and Sound Vibration, 10pm, $5, 18+.
The Roxy
Jimmy Cliff and Oneness, Pato Banton and the Reggae Revolution, 8pm, $25, 18+.
Ryles Jazz Club
Brenda Hopkins, 8:30pm, $8. U: Salsa and Merengue Dancing with Temporada Latina.
Scullers Jazz Club
Mili Bermejo and Dan Greenspan Sextet, 8pm and 10pm, $14.
Toad
Holt Hopkins, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub
Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30pm-12:30am.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Nook, Naked Sams, the Mockingbirds and the Flux.

Friday, April 28

The Attic
Marie's Children CD Release Party with Bowman, 21+.
Avalon
The The, 7pm, $18.25-$20.25, 18+.
Bill's Bar
The Belmont Playboys with the Pug Uglies and the Souvenirs, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Club Passim
Mary Gauthier, 8pm, $12.
The Common Ground
The Joint Chiefs, 10pm.
Coogan's Bluff
Second Story, 9pm, $3.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band, 7pm; Classic Trax, 10pm.
The Grand Canal
Days and Dawn, $5.
Harpers Ferry
Barrence Whitfield and the Savages, 9:30pm, $6.
House of Blues
Shannon Curfman, 5:30pm; Sugar Ray and the Bluetones, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Jake Ivory's
Paul Levesque and Bill Connors, 9pm.
Johnny D's
Michelle Willson, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's
Off the Wall, 9pm, $5.
Karma
The Nields and the Kennedy's, 7pm, $12, 18+.
Les Zygomates
CD release party for Urge, 9pm.
Linwood
Nervous Eaters, Devil Gods and Little A, 10pm, $6.
Lizard Lounge
Deb Pasternak's CD release party, 9pm, cover varies.
Middle East
D: Scissorfight, Cave In, Milligram, Barbero and Cancer Conspiracy, $8, 18+.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Carroll and DJ Sean, 9:30pm.
Playhouse Lounge
Ed Broms, 11:45pm.
Purple Shamrock
Thomas Park, 9pm, $5.
The Rack
The Return, 6:30pm., no cover
Regatta Bar
The Cyrus Chestnut Trio, 8pm and 10pm, $14.
Ryles Jazz Club
Eguie Castrillo Group (Jazz), 9pm, $9.
Sky Bar
Miss Fortune, 12am.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Willard Grant Conspiracy and Steve Wynn.
Toad
Pretty Cool Chair, no cover, 21+.

Saturday, April 29

The Attic
Bark Like a Dog with Almost Speechless, 21+.
Axis
Saves the Day.
Bill's Bar
Sideone Dummy Recording Artists: Floggin' Molly, 8pm, $5, 18+.
Black Rose
U: The Crossing. D: Sunday's Well. HH: Tony O'Riordan, 9pm, $5.
The Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm; Downstairs, The Phil Pemberton Band, 9pm.
Club Passim
Kate Campbell, Marc Herman, 7pm and 10pm, $12.
The Common Ground
Pressure Cooker, 10pm.
Coogan's Bluff
Bacchanalia, 9pm, $3.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm, Soul City, 10pm, no cover.
The Grand Canal
Pig Pen, $5.
Harpers Ferry
Slip Knot, 9:30pm, $6.
House of Blues
Scott Shelter Organ Trio, 1pm, no cover; Woodburn Arena Band, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Jake Ivory's
Paul Levesque and Aruna Abrams, 9pm.
Johnny D's
Wildest Dreams, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's
Shifter, 9pm, $5.
Les Zygomates
Chiara Civello, 9pm
Linwood
Planet Queen, 10pm, $6.
Lizard Lounge
Wooden Leg, Hybrasil, the Dangerous Brothers, 9pm.
Middle East
U: Rival Schools United by Fate, Six Going on Seven, $8, 18+. D: Vibewise, John Brown's Body, Voyager: 01, $10, 18+.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Carroll, DJ Wayne, 9:30pm.
Playhouse Lounge
Gary Gore with No Se Todavia, 11:45pm.
Purple Shamrock
Second Story, 9pm, $5.
The Rack
Vinnie Peruzzi Dance, no cover.
Regatta Bar
Roomful of Blues, 8pm and 10pm, $18.
Ryles Jazz Club
Noz Mo Kings, 9pm, $9.
Scullers Jazz Club
Larry Carlton, 8pm and 10:30pm, $22..
Slades
John Dougherty Trio, 8pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Raging Teens, Kings of Nuthin', the Stumbleweeds.
Toad
Coots, no cover.

Sunday, April 30

The Attic
The Coalboilers, 9:30pm, 21+.
Bill's Bar
The Blood, Fire Sound System, Rankin Joe 10pm, $20.
The Cantab Lounge
Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort
Rob Gonzalez, 7pm, no cover.

DANIEL RAY

Harpers Ferry
The Rockett Band, 9:30pm, $5.
Hennessy's
Me and Julio, $5, 21+.
House of Blues
Ben Swift Band and the Blue Rags, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Kendall Cafe
Tom Glynn Duo, 9pm; Skunk, 10pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge
Poetry Jam featuring the Jeff Robinson Trio, 9pm, cover varies.
Middle East
U: "Toxic" night with DJs and live elctronic musical acts, 10pm.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Carroll, 8pm.
The Rack
Chad Lamarsh Band.
Ryles Jazz Club
Eric Wainnaina, Group, 9pm, $8.
Scullers Jazz Club
Larry Carlton, 7pm and 9pm, $22.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Crossmod, Draft Samuel, Stick Figures, $4.
Toad
Sticky Situation, no cover, 21+.

Monday, May 1

Bristol Lounge
Bob Winter, 8pm.
Club Passim
A Tribute to Marcel Kopp, 8pm, $10-$12.
Johnny D's
Hot Tamale Brass Band, 8pm.
Les Zygomates
Ellen Cantarow, 8pm.
Lizard Lounge
The Fringe, 10pm, cover varies.
Milky Way
Naftule's Dream, 10pm, $2.
Toad
Union Square Screw Machine, Tim Gearan Band, 8pm, no cover, 21+.

Tuesday, May 2

Johnny D's
Fishman Tranducers presents Duke Levine, 8:30pm.
Karma
Catch 22, Mustard Plug and Edna's Goldfish.
Les Zygomates
The Jinga Trio and the Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm.
Lizard Lounge
Jared Sims Experience, Anti Jazz Ray Gun, Fat Momma, 9pm, cover varies.
Regatta Bar
Konk with Charlie Kohlhase, Keith Hedger, Nate McBride and Curt Newton, 8:30pm, $9.
Ryles Jazz Club
Bruce Gertz, Ken Cervenka, 8:30pm, $10.

Hennessy's *25 Union St., Boston (742-2121). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Jake Ivory's *1 Lansdowne St., Boston (247-1222). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Davis Square, Somerville (776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Karma *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9595). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Kendall Cafe *233 Cardinal Medeiros Ave., Cambridge (661-0993). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (783-9400). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
The Kells *161 Brighton Ave., Allston (782-9082). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard St.*
Kirkland Cafe *425 Washington St., Somerville (491-9640).*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (542-5108).*
The Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (267-8644).*
The Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Milky Way Lounge *405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-3740).*
Mr. Dooley's *77 Broad St., Boston (338-5656).*
O'Brien's *3 Harvard Ave, Allston (782-6245). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Paddy Burke's Pub *132 Portland Street, Boston (367-8370). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
The Playhouse Lounge *74 Warrenton St., Boston (482-2227). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (227-2060). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (725-1051). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Regatta Bar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard Square.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330).*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Road, Cambridge (562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Toad *1912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (497-4950). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Top of the Hub *800 Boylston St., Boston (536-1775). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
White Horse Tavern *116 Brighton Ave., Allston (254-6633). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*

Music Venues

The Attic *107R Union St., Newton (964-6615).*
B-Side Lounge *92 Hampshire St., East Cambridge (354-0766). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (743-2286). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's Jazz Cafe *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-6204).*
The Brenden Behan Pub *378 Center Street, Jamaica Plain (522-5386).*
Bristol Lounge *Four Seasons Hotel, 200 Boylston St., Boston (338-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Clery's *113 Dartmouth St., Boston (262-9874). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*
Club Passim *47 Palmer St., Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
The Common Ground *85 Harvard Avenue, Allston (783-2071).*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
The Good Life *28 Kingston St., Boston 451-2622). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Grand Canal *57 Canal Street, Boston (523-1112). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (367-0055). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Green Street Grill *280 Green St., Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard.*

Pasternak at Eleven

On Friday, April 28, head to the cozy, carpeted Lizard Lounge to soak up the rich roots-rock sounds of Deb Pasternak. Backed up by her generously talented band, Pasternak will perform material from her new CD, *Eleven*, a work that showcases her lyrical talents and eclectic influences, which include rock, blues, country and jazz.

gay&lesbian

If you want to be listed
Submit information including telephone numbers and nearest T stop by fax to (859-1446), mail or e-mail to gaylesbian@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted by phone.*

How to use this section
The following listings contain information that is subject to change. Contact the organization for changes in specific events.

CLUBS, BARS & HANGOUTS

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years these folks have been crankin' out some of the best Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. It's well worth a visit—if not for the three separate dance floors, then for all of the male dancers. 9pm, $15, 21+.

Buzz (Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays)
51 Stuart St. in the Theatre District, Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. On Saturday nights this place boasts two dance floors, two DJs, a pool room and a lounge. Two levels of dancing and schmoozing will keep the boys busy until 2am. 10pm, $5, 21+.

Chaps (Daily)
*100 Warrenton St., Boston (695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boyls*ton. www.chapsofboston.com. Sun.: Dance music of DJ Danae Jacovidis; Mon.: Grand Baby and Grand Piano night; Tue.: Retro DJ night; Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adielson Caesar; Thu.: DJs Billy and Fran: High Energy Dance; Fri.: Taboo Erotique with DJ Sammy; Sat.: High Energy Dance, DJ Danae Jacovidis.

City Girl Cafe (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri: 11am- 9pm; Sat: 10am-9pm; Sun: 10am-7pm. A small (5 tables), laid-back cafe in Inman Square, lesbian-owned and operated. This cozy spot is home to a mixed gay/hetero crowd that lounges about, munching on sandwiches. Brunch on Saturday and Sunday, 10am-2pm.

Club Cafe (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-0966). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri 11:30am-2am; Sat. 2pm-2am; Sun. 11am-2am. This trendy South End spot draws a mixed crowd that comes for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back (Moonshine). A dressy bunch that likes to mingle. No cover, 21+. •Carol O'Shaughnessy performs with Steve Heck, Dottie Dean or David Sparr, Thursdays.

Eagle (Daily)
*520 Tremont St., Boston (542-4494). Mon.-Fri. 3pm-2am; Sat. 1pm-2am; Sun. 12pm-2am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*This is your friendly neighborhood bar with a quiet setting. It's best known for scrumptious Sunday brunches (12-4pm). A simple joint with all of the trappings of a true bar: smoky and dark. The place starts hopping as it gets closer to 2am.

Fritz (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Stroll in for a quiet drink or a rowdy night on the town. The folks here are friendly—and really into sports. Not only does Fritz have Direct TV set up with sets scattered everywhere, it's also home base to a great softball league. 12pm, no cover, 21+.

Jacques (Daily)
79 Broadway, Boston (426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. If you're looking for a friendly crowd of gays and straights and you're in the mood to mix with disco-dancing drag queens, this is the place. Sun. and Mon. are local band nights when acts rock into the wee hours. Tues. through Sat., however, divas rule the stage. 10:30pm, $4, weekends $6, 21+.

Lava Bar (Saturdays)
575 Commonwealth. Ave., Boston (267-7707). The Lava Bar's Tabu night boasts DJ Fran spinning out high-energy house with a taste of Latin beats. Doors open at 10pm.

The Lizard Lounge (Wednesdays)
1667 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. "Marlene Loses It at the Lizard" is the title of this eclectic evening of poetry, live music, theater and cabaret in front of a diverse crowd. Shows begin at 10pm. $5 cover, 21+.

Luxor (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (423-6969). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from the latest music scenes and classic old movies—compiled by the bar's own VJ. Downstairs is Jox, a sports bar. 4pm, no cover, 21+.

John Arnold and Will Lyman star in *The Dying Gaul*, the smash off-Broadway drama from playwright Craig Lucas. See it at the BCA's SpeakEasy Stage Company through April 29.

Man Ray (Thursdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (864-0400). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed.-Fri., 9pm; Sat., 10pm. A bustling hot spot caters to a young, alternative clientele. Two dance floors fill up on Thursdays for Campus, a predominately male night where DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen take over. 10pm, $8 for 19+, $5 for 21+.

119 Merrimac (Daily)
119 Merrimac St., Boston (367-0713). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Sat., 10:30am-2am; Sun. 12pm-2am. This male cruise bar is the place to stop for drinks before or after FleetCenter events. Shoot a leisurely game of pool or the hit the video games. Merrimac features DJs playing hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s. 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. On Thursday nights, the Lesbian AIDS Project of Mass. unofficially takes over this laid-back cafe for "dyke nyte." The cafe always has something brewing—live bands, DJs and drag queen parties. Party starts at 8pm, no cover, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (494-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Central. On Monday, a bartender not only mixes drinks but strips too. Male strippers are featured, Wed through Sat. Mon. is Gothic night; Tue. is techno and Thu. is college night. On Fridays DJ Sam Sampson spins, and on Sat DJ Brad Gwynn helps you tear up the dance floor. 5pm, no cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (266-2986). Green Line to Kenmore. 12pm-2am. The largest leather bar in the East enforces a tight dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room). Downstairs on Fri., Sat. (10pm-2am) and Sun. (7pm-12am) is the Machine, the sleekest hard-core club in town. Fri. has DJ Darrin Friedman, Sat. DJ Brad Gwynn and Sun. is "Dragon Tea Dance," an Asian inspiration night with DJ James Hughes, a dragon show and performances. $7, 21+.

BOOKS

Glad Day Bookshop
673 Boylston St., Boston (267-3010). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu. 9:30am-10pm, Fri. and Sat. 9:30am-11pm, Sun. 12-9pm. This exclusively gay/lesbian bookstore has all sorts of paraphernalia.

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge. (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Fri. 10am-8pm, Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 12-6pm. New England's oldest women's book shop offers a comprehensive selection of books. Its monthly author series will resume in the spring.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6:30pm; Sun., 11:30am-5:30pm. Boston's literary gay and lesbian bookstore.

SHOWS & EVENTS

Childbirth Class for Lesbians
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (927-6280). Free admission. April 22, 29 and May 6, 9am-1pm. $125. This 12-hour course for pregnant women is taught by certified childbirth educator Robin Snyder-Drummond.

The Dying Gaul
SpeakEasy Stage Company, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Fri. 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 7pm. Through April 29. The smash off-Broadway drama from playwright Craig Lucas is a devastating tale of power, money and seduction in Hollywood and a compelling portrait of a complex love triangle among an impressionable writer, the producer who seeks his script for production and his frighteningly perceptive wife.

ONGOING

Bawl
This lesbian softball league offers opportunities to join teams in both the recreational and competitive divisions. Call Liz (508-628-5477).

Best Foot Forward
Ballet Etc. Dance Studios, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (522-1444). MBTA: B Green Line to Washington St. For gays/lesbians/bisexuals of all swing skill levels.

Boston Glass
Community Center, 93 Mass Ave., Boston (266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center. Daily 8-10pm. Support groups and social activities for adolescents ages 13-25.

The Boston Rainbow Gospel Choir
The BRGC is about to launch its second season and periodically holds auditions. Call 424-6740.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). A 1,500-member gay club with hiking, biking, camping, skiing and other outdoor activities for men and women.

Common Bond
(781-433-7023). www.dwellings.com/acb. An international support group for gay/lesbian/bisexual current or former Jehovah's Witnesses.

Community Rainbow
Boston Living Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston. 7:45 pm. An organization whose mission is to advocate for the community. Meets Thursdays.

Cosmetically-Correct
Tremont Tea Room, 48-50 Winter St., 3rd floor, Boston. A social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month 7:30-10pm. Lipstick optional. For more info e-mail *m.antoinette@ididitmyway.com.*

Dykes Who Hike
(522-6185). This hiking group is specifically for lesbians in Boston and the surrounding areas who want to conquer the wilderness.

East Coast Wrestling Club
With more than 160 members, this is an extraordinarily popular New England spot for gay male wrestlers. Call Marc at 401-467-6737, or go online at *http://members.tripod.com/~ecwc* or e-mail *ecwc@juno.com.*

Encounters
Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston. An informal social evening for HIV-positive gay and bisexual men held the first Tuesday of every month, 7-9pm.

Explore
A behavioral study intervention for gay men. Call 350-6900, ext. 199 or e-mail *explore@lhi.org.*

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave, Boston (824-4266). www.mindspring.com/~frontrunners. A running club for the GLBT community meets every Saturday at 10am for fun runs of various distances.

Gay Volleyball
Cambridge (262-3626). Sundays, 7pm, $7. Typically five teams play on two courts. Teams of men and women are made up each week.

Gender Free Contra Dancing
First Church of Jamaica Plain (522-1115). www.piac.net/users/latte/lcfd/. Come one, come all to evenings of contra and square dancing.

Latino Social Groups
Latino Gay Men's Project *(350-6900 ext.125)* and the Women's Social Groups *(350-6900 ext. 124).*

Long Yang Club
Various locations, (825-5677). www.longyangclub.org/boston. A club for gay Asian men. For more information call Ron (661-9165).

Luna
(350-6900, ext. 122) or luna@lhi.org. This branch of the Latino Gay Youth Project offers psychoeducational groups.

Oops
Melting Pot Coffee House, 2 Belgrade Ave., Roslindale (323-4123). Out on the Parkways, a gay and lesbian organization, invites one and all to come on down for some coffee and dinner.

PFLAG
Fenway Community Health Center, 7 Haviland St., Boston (547-2440). Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets every fourth Monday, 6:30-8:30pm.

Queer Corps
131 Clarendon St., 4th floor, Boston (450-1676). A community mobilization project by and for queer men 25 and under. Meetings are held every Tuesday, 6-8pm.

Tennis4all
Call Ted at 779-7231. Boston's gay and lesbian tennis club, with monthly tournaments and pizza socials.

ERIC LEVENSON

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Special Offer: April 28–30 only

Donate at least two non-perishable food items at any of the venues listed above and receive one of these special discounts. Offer valid April 28–30 only, subject to availability. Maximum four vouchers per person. For exact locations and food collection times, please call (800) 932-3788.

Discounts have been made possible through a grant from Philip Morris Companies Inc.

Arts Against Hunger is a global partnership of Philip Morris, leading arts organizations and local food banks, using the power of the arts to fight hunger.

* The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is presented at the Wang Theatre by BankBoston Celebrity Series.

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body&mind

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information by mail, fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/Mind, or electronically to bodymind@improper.com. Include a brief but thorough description of the event, time, date, location and directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.

EVENTS

Herbal Identification Walk in Arnold Arboretum
Arnold Arboretum, 125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain (730-2700). MBTA: Orange Line to Forrest Hills. April 29, 9am-12pm. Raindate: May 6. $35. Sponsored by Brookline Adult and Community Education, this walk is unique chance to enjoy nature. Learn plant myths and facts. Find out what plants around you can help or harm.

Tibetan Monks from Gaden Jangtse
Open Doors, 395A Washington St., Braintree (781-843-8224) or (508-586-4504). www.opendoors7.com. *April 30. $30.* They've come to the U.S. to offer ritual ceremonies including empowerments, purifications, pujas, and initiation into highest yoga tantra. Learn about Tibetan healing. Private sessions will be available with the abbot for divination at an additional cost.

Women's Health Fair
Whittier Street Health Center, 1125 Tremont St., Roxbury (427-1000). April 25. This health fair is an opportunity for women to learn about the unique aspects of their bodies. Subjects include: cardiovascular health, stress management, nutrition, massage therapy and a chance to get a mammogram screening.

CLASSES/ WORKSHOPS

Bali Benefit and Yoga Class
The Yoga Studio, 74 Joy St., Boston (523-7138). April 29, noon-2pm. $20. Teacher **Barbara Benagh** holds this class for all levels of yoga as an opportunity to raise contributions for the charitable group Bali Hati, helping to provide necessities for Bali's poor youth.

Emotional Freedom Technique
Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. April 27, 6:30-9:30pm. $36. E.F.T. is a helpful skill based on principles of acupressure. Easy to learn and do to yourself, it assists in changing unconscious habits. Get over unconscious fears and annoyances forever.

Living with an Open Heart
Mystical Times, 273 Bay St., Taunton (508-243-6257). www.redrival.com/mystical_times. *April 26, 10am-4pm. $100.* Did your heart close up after life got disappointing or painful? It doesn't have to be that way. Energy healer and therapist **Neal Ryder** can teach you to integrate your experiences and heal. Feel love like you used to and live like you should.

Massage for Couples
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. May 5, 7:30pm. $70. Grab your partner and a squeeze bottle of oil for this workshop with massage therapists fluent in techniques passed down from the Swedish people. Complaining about life will be rendered useless after an application of loving strokes.

Open House at the Theosophical Society in Boston
21 Maple Street, Arlington (781-483-4927). April 30, 12-5pm. $10. Open yourself up to the broad thinking of theosophy, the comparative study of religion and philosophy, at this open house. There will be presentations, refreshments and a chance to have a private session with a practitioner of tarot, astrology, palmistry, reiki or pranic healing. Enjoy meditating in the meditation hall or browse the bookshelves of one of the oldest theosophical libraries in the country.

Yoga for Shoulder and Neck Problems
In the Moment Wellness Center, 106 Access Road, Norwood (781-762-9281). www.inthemoment.org. *April 29, 9:45-10:45am. $15.* It's no fun to have a sore back and neck from constant tension. This class can teach you to relax those muscles.

You Are Psychic— Awakening Your Intuition
Unicorn Books, 1210 Mass. Ave., Arlington (781-646-3680). www.unicornbooks.org. *April 28, 7-9pm.* It's a funny joke to toss around every time we predict something and it comes true, but maybe it's not a joke at all. Psychic-medium **John Holland** of *Unsolved Mysteries* hosts this hands-on, interactive and lively workshop to learn how to identify your specific psychic abilities and tendencies.

Reserve early to have breakfast with motivational speaker Cheryl Richardson, May 11.

LECTURES/FORUMS

Dance of Universal Peace
Friends Meeting in Cambridge, 5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge (776-5767). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. April 21, 8-945pm. $6. Simple, joyous and meditative circle dances honoring the spiritual traditions of the world. All dances are taught and accompanied by live music.

Motivational Breakfast with Cheryl Richardson
The Ritz Carlton, 15 Arlington St., Boston (983-1111) MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. May 11, 7-9:30am. Reservation deadline is May 1. $59. Sponsored by Self Esteem Boston, this morning is one of a series focusing on women helping women. Personal coach **Cheryl Richardson**, author of the self-motivational book *Take Time for Your Life*, will speak.

What is Reiki?
The Women's Center for Wellness, 291 Main St., Milford (508-473-4244). May 1, 7-9pm. $25. Reiki is an ancient healing art but: What is it? What is its origin? What will it do for me? How do I find a qualified practitioner? What does a treatment feel like? These questions will be answered by a reiki master and instructor of 10 years, **Pat Warren**. Observe a demonstration and receive a treatment if you'd like.

Zen Talk
Cambridge Zen Center, 199 Auburn St., Cambridge (576-3229). MBTA: Red to Harvard. www.cambridgezen.com. *April 27, 7:30pm. Free.* **Trudy Goodman**, Zen teacher, will speak. It's sure to be an excellent opportunity to clear the mind of habitual thinking and generate energy to practice in everyday life.

RETREATS

3-Day Meditation
Kripalu, Lenox (800-741-7353). www.kripalu.org. *April 20-23. $135.* Meditation is a part of many spiritual traditions because it leads one to the source of consciousness. But meditating can be a challenge in the chaotic environment of the city, so why not get away to this peaceful retreat center? Get away from noise, chatter and even the constant to-do list in your head.

ONGOING

Buddha's Teachings and Mindfulness Meditation
Shambhala Meditation Center, 646 Brookline Ave., Brookline (734-1498). www.shambhala.org. *MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village.* Open your mind and heart at one of these ongoing programs. The teachings of Buddha are covered on Tuesday and Wednesday at 8pm. Mindfulness-awareness meditation takes place from 7-8pm on Tues., Wed. and Thurs.

Qi Gong
Woolf Holistic Health Center, 651 Washington St., Brookline (738-9144). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Square. Thursdays, 7:30pm. Free. Have you ever wondered what Qi Gong, an ancient form of exercise form China, really is? Discover this time-tested art for maximizing your well-being and increasing your knowledge of mind and body.

Wellness Thursdays
Wellspace, Fresh Pond Mall, Cambridge (876-2660). April 27 and May 24, 7:30-9pm. Free and $5. Thursday evening lectures are held in the peaceful environment of Wellspace. The next two program topics are Freedom from Allergies and Acupuncture Mini-clinic.

Yoga/South End
Union United Methodist Church, 485 Columbus Ave., Boston (522-7199). MBTA: Green Line to Prudential. Tue. 7pm, Wed. 12pm, and Sat. 9pm. $15/class. Certified Kripalu yoga teacher **Patrice Flesch** teaches mixed-level classes in a spiritual setting. Increase flexibility, relieve stress, build strength and relax at any of these drop-in classes.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Children. Or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

TO SEE

The Jumping Frog of Calaveras County
Boston Lyric Opera, John Hancock Hall, 180 Berkeley St., Boston (542-6772). April 27, 28, 9:45am and 11:45am. April 29 at 7pm and April 30 at 2:30pm. Free to $15. This classic American opera is based on the famous Mark Twain short story of the same name about a frog locally noted for his jumping prowess. *Jumping Frog* is an hour-long staged production set in a mining town in the days of the California Gold Rush.

The Jungle Book
The Wheelock Family Theatre, 200 The Riverway, Boston (734-4760). Fri. 7:30pm; Sat.-Sun. 3pm. Through May 7. Vacation week: April 19-21, 1pm. $10-$17. Rudyard Kipling's stories feature Mowgli, an Indian boy raised from infancy by wolves.

Pat the Bunny Visits Borders
Borders Books and Music, 300 Boylston, Newton (630-1120). Saturday, April 29, 11am. Listen to a reading of the classic *Pat the Bunny* and meet the little fellow.

Puppet Showplace Theater
32 Station St., Brookline (731-6400). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. $8. • April 20-23, 1pm and 3pm (5 years and older). **Androcles and the Lion and The Golden Touch of Midas** by Paul Vincent Davis. *• April 20 and 30, 1pm and 3pm (5 years and older).* **Clowns?** *Palm of the Hand Stories* by Nikki Tilroe.

It's Mowgli from the *Jungle Book*, playing at the Wheelock Family Theatre through May 7.

THINGS TO DO

Children's Programs
Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). • April 25, 3:30pm. Ages 5 and up. **Fun with Fossils and Dinosaurs.** Lean about prehistoric life by examining the world of fossils and dinosaurs. *• April 27, 4pm. Ages 5 and up.* **World Cultures Children's Day Holiday Program.** Kids will learn about this Japanese festival with a craft, a story and a delicious treat.

Franklin Park Zoo
1 Franklin Park Rd., Boston (442-2002). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. $6. • April 22, 11am-3pm: **Earth Day Edventure**. Have fun with related education, conservation and arts-and-crafts activities. • April 23, 11am-3pm: **Easter Celebration**. Children's arts and crafts and photos with Grandpa Bunny.

Kids Cuisine Series
Cambridge School of Culinary Arts, 2020 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (354-2020 x111). Saturday, April 29, 11am. $50. Try your hand in the kitchen making tasty treats. **• Quiche and More!** with Chef Stephanie Hersh. Ages 5-8 years old. **• Pasta!** with Chef Katie Wilton. Ages 9-15 years old.

Mother Goose Tales
Grand Staircase, State House, Beacon Hill (227-8800). MBTA: Green Line to Park. April 19-21, 12-12:20pm. Mrs. Goose (a Freedom Trail costumed historical interpreter) will offer poetry and stories about her life.

Revolutionary Activities for the Family
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). $2.50-$3. • April 20, 2pm. **A Revolution is Brewing.** Learn what life was really like in colonial Boston. *• April 19, 21, 2pm.* **Through the Eyes of Colonial Children.** Learn about the lives of Boston greats such as Phillis Wheatley, Anna Green Winslow and Benjamin Franklin.

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to listings@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

To Watch

Celtics
• FleetCenter. Tickets: 931-2000.
April 19 (Home): New York, 7pm, Fox Sports Net.

New England Revolution
• Foxboro Stadium. Tickets: 1-877-GET-REVS
April 22 (Home): Chicago, 7:30pm, Fox Sports Net.
April 29 (Home): Miami, 7:30pm, FSN.

Red Sox
• Fenway Park. Tickets: 267-8661
April 19 (Away): Detroit, 7:05pm.
April 20 (Away): Detroit, 7:05pm.
April 21 (Home): Cleveland, 6:05pm.
April 22 (Home): Cleveland, 1:05pm.
April 23 (Home): Cleveland, 1:05pm.
April 24 (Away): Texas, 8:05pm.
April 25 (Away): Texas, 8:05pm.
April 26 (Away): Texas, 8:05pm.
April 28 (Away): Cleveland, 7:05pm.
April 29 (Away): Cleveland, 1:05pm.
April 30 (Away): Cleveland, 1:05pm.
May 1 (Home): Detroit, 7:05pm.
May 2 (Home): Detroit, 7:05pm.

Events

Brazil 500 Years Indoor Soccer Tournament
Somerville High School, 81 Highland Ave., Somerville. www.consulatebrazil.org. *April 30, 9am-1pm. Free.* An indoor soccer tournament celebrating Brazil's 500th anniversary. The teams will represent the largest Brazilian communities throughout Massachusetts.

Fitness! A Noon-Time Workout
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (737-3500). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Thursdays at 12pm, April 27-June 29. No workout May 25. Is there anything better than a little exercise in the middle of the day? Grab your co-workers and enjoy this pre-lunch workout.

Run of the Charles Canoe and Kayak Race
The Charles River in Dedham, Needham, Newton, Wellesley, Waltham, Watertown and Alston (508-698-6810). April 30. A professional and amateur canoe and kayak race that includes more than 1,400 international, national and local entries. The race course winds along the Charles to the Finish Line Festival at Herter Park, Soldiers Field Road, Allston.

Tee for 2
Charles River Country Club, Newton (300-5781). April 24. The ninth annual WGBH Golf Classic. Enjoy a full day of activities with host WBZ-TV 4's Bob Lobel and other sports and local celebrities. Compete for prizes in contests and raffles.

To Play

BASEBALL

Henry's Baseball Club
(781-891-0621). Waltham. Seeking players ages 17-30 and coaches for upcoming season.

BASKETBALL

Basketball City
Adjacent to North Station and the FleetCenter (742-6700). Corporate, midday and weekend leagues.

Co-Ed Indoor Basketball
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 224). Sun.-Thu. nights at various locations. All levels welcome. Leagues in Waltham, Dedham and Brookline.

The Corporate League of Boston
(566-7808).

Men's Basketball League
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990).

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333). Practice and workout programs for all levels in Greater Boston.

South End Fitness Center League
(534-5823).

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Preview

Re-Joyce!

The 17th Unabridged Edition of the James Joyce Ramble

If you're a runner, the not-to-be-missed event of the year is the James Joyce Ramble in Dedham, Mass., on April 30. This world-renowned 10-kilometer race features professional actors along the course reading from the works of James Joyce and bagpipers playing traditional Celtic music. More than 4,000 runners are expected this year. If you have any doubts as to whether you should join them, refer to the words of Joyce: "Rapid motion through space elates one." *Dedham, Mass. www.ramble.org. April 30, 11am. $18.*

Women's Basketball League
(661-9622).

Women's 3 on 3 Basketball
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990).

FOOTBALL

Australian Rules Football
Boston Australian Rules Football Club. Thu. evenings and Sat. mornings, Cambridge (781-440-9266). www.BostonDemons.org. No experience necessary.

Indoor Flag Football
BSSC, Indoor Sports Center in Revere (789-4070). Sundays.

Co-ed Touch Football
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990).

GOLF

The Golf School
Radisson Hotel, 200 Stuart St., Boston (457-2699). An indoor driving range staffed by PGA pros.

HIKING/WALKING

The Appalachian Mountain Club
Gorham, N.H. (603-466-2727). Hikes and huts in the White Mountains. •Monthly AMC Young Members meetings at AMC headquarters, 4 Joy St., Beacon Hill (523-0655). Second Thursday of every month, 6-10pm, $3. Potluck. BYOB.

New England Walkers
39 Oakland Rd., Brookline (731-9889). members.tripod.com/NEWALKERS. This 200-member club hosts race-walk events and clinics. Weekly walks at M.I.T. indoor track on Wednesdays at 7pm.

Spring Hiking & Backpacking Instructional Course
4 Joy St., Beacon Hill (523-0655). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. Four Tuesday evenings, 7-9:15pm. April 25-May 16. $45. This program is designed for the novice and "rusty" as an introduction to three-season back country and mountain day hiking and camping in New England. The course includes a manual, a White Mountain Guide and optional weekend field practice hikes. Topics include clothing, heat and energy management, nutrition, gear, hiking techniques, backcountry stewardship, physical conditioning, map and compass, and more.

HOCKEY

Co-ed Floor Hockey
BSSC (789-4070). Individuals and teams, co-eds, all levels in Newton.

Co-ed Floor Hockey
Sport & Social Club of Boston, (262-8990).

LACROSSE

Men's and Women's Lacrosse
Sport & Social Club of Boston, (262-8990).

RUGBY

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
Cambridge (781-340-2192). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.bwrfc.org. *Tue. and Thu. evenings.* No experience necessary.

RUNNING

Boston Road Club Weekly Races
(781-646-8955). Sundays. Starts at Wells Ave. in Newton.

Fresh Pond Weekly Road Races
Fresh Pond Reservation. Saturdays, 10am. Choose between a 2.5- or 5-mile run.

NikeTown Boston Running Club
200 Newbury St., Boston (267-3400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Three-to-five-mile loops. Starts at 6:30pm. Monthly mini-clinics as well.

Boston Hash House Harriers
(499-4835). Weekly runs year-round. Serious drinkers with a running problem.

Khoury's Thursday Night Runs
East Somerville. (354-3534). 4.13 miles. 7pm at Khoury's Bar.

Somerville Road Runners Weekly Run
Cambridge Boat House Parking Lot, Cambridge (923-2378). Fridays at 7 pm.

SAILING/BOATING

Boston Sailing Center
54 Lewis Wharf, Boston (227-4198). Year-round lessons and racing programs for all abilities.

Community Boating
21 David Mugar Way, Boston (523-1038). www.community-boating.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. Open Mon.-Fri. 1pm-sunset; Sat.-Sun. and holidays, 9am-sunset. April 1-Oct. 31.* Sailing, windsurfing and kayaking on the Charles for $190 per season including instruction.

Courageous Sailing Center
Charlestown Navy Yard (635-4505). Lessons offered year-round.

SOCCER

BSSC Indoor/Outdoor Soccer
BSSC (789-4070, ext. 225). Coed teams.

Sport & Social Club Indoor/Outdoor Soccer
(262-8990).

SOFTBALL

Indoor Coed Softball
BSSC, (789-4070, ext. 222). Mon. or Tues. evenings. Play in Danvers.

Coed Softball
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990).

SWIMMING

Boston Athletic Club Swim Workouts
653 Summer St., Boston (269-4300). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon. and Wed. 6:15-7:15am.

The Charles River Park Club Morning Masters
Charles River Park, Boston (450-9810). Mon., Wed., Fri. 6:30-7:45am.

The Mason Masters Swim Program
The Mason Pool, 159 Norfolk Avenue, Roxbury (236-4923 or 450-9810) Mon.-Fri. 7:30-8:30pm. An early-morning masters swim program led by Alex Primilsky, coach of numerous world, national and Olympic champions.

TENNIS

Mixed Doubles
BSSC (789-4070). Saturday evenings in Waltham.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Boston Ski & Sports Club
(789-4070).

Boston Ultimate Disc Alliance
(928-0882). www.buda.org.

VOLLEYBALL

Adult Co-ed Volleyball League
Waltham YMCA (781-894-5295). Monday nights, began Sept. 13. All levels welcome at this friendly co-ed league.

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club, (789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. at various locations. Co-ed indoor 6-on-6 leagues. Four different levels of play. Pick-up games, clinics and tournaments also available. •Co-ed pickup games Tuesdays and Fridays at West Newton Armory, 1137 Washington St. $5.

Co-ed Volleyball League
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990).

Co-ed Volleyball-Waltham
Waltham YMCA, 725 Lexington St, Waltham (781-894-5295). Monday nights. Begins in April.

WRESTLING

Men's Adult Wrestling
Boston Union, 48 Boylston St., Boston (482-1122). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm; Saturdays 1-3:30pm. All skill levels. Coaching available.

sales&fashion

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for sales and bargains by fax (859-1446)or mail to Calendar:Sales and Fashion. Or e-mail information to goodbuys@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the event or items. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

AUCTIONS

Skinner Auctioneers—Boston
63 Park Plaza, Boston (350-5400). www.skinnerinc.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.* **•Oriental Rugs & Carpets.** *April 29, 12pm. Previews: April 27, 2-5pm; April 28, 2-7pm; April 29, 9-11am.* Includes a Serapi carpet, Northwest Persia, 19th century.

SALES/EVENTS

Bloomingdale's Spring Events
55 Boylston St., Newton (630-6000). MBTA: D Green Line to Chestnut Hill. •April 27-29: **Bobbi Brown** makeup event in the Fashion Apparel Building.

Express Yourself 2000
Dorothy Quincy Suite, 180 Berkeley St., Boston (236-8017). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. April 27, 8pm. $10. The fashion merchandising students at Bay State College present their annual spring fashion show with local designers and models.

6th Annual Harvard University Powwow
Science Center Lawn, Harvard University, Cambridge (495-4923). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. April 29, 12-7pm. Native artisans will display and sell their works.

Junior League of Boston's Gifts of Spring
The Women's Educational and Industrial Union, 356 Boylston St, Boston (536-5651, ext. 175). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. April 19, 6-8:30pm. $5. Find unique gifts and help good causes in the process. Proceeds benefit the Junior League of Boston.

Neiman Marcus Spring Events
5 Copley Place, Boston (536-3660). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. •April 22: **Craig Taylor** personal appearance in Career Sportswear. **Faberge** personal appearance in the Gift Galleries.

Preview

Shoe-biz

For all of you out there with a serious shoe fetish, you'll be happy to know there's a new shoe store in town—the largest in downtown Boston. DSW Shoe Warehouse in Downtown Crossing has opened a 30,000-square-foot store with more than 45,000 pairs of shoes in 900 different styles. Apparently, if lined up heel to toe, that's enough shoes to run from downtown Boston to Wellesley College. For that many shoes, you'd have to have an awfully big closet. *358 Washington St., Boston.*

go away

TRAVELING NEAR AND FAR

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by fax (859-1446)or mail to Calendar: Go Away. Or e-mail information to goaway@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the event or items. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

NORTH OF BOSTON

Peabody Essex Museum Talk
East India Square, Salem, Mass. (978-745-9500). April 27, 7:30pm. $6-$9. Author Ken Harper brings us back to 1897 when American explorer Robert Peary brought Minik Wallace, a young Eskimo boy from Greenland, to New York's Museum of Natural History where he would be exhibited as a "live Eskimo specimen." Harper details this wrenching, thought-provoking story in his book *Give Me My Father's Body: The Life of Minik, the New York Eskimo.*

SOUTH OF BOSTON

James Joyce Ramble
Dedham, Mass. (781-686-1500). April 30, 11am. www.ramble.org. Now in its 17th year, the 10K race features professional actors along the course reading from the works of James Joyce while bagpipers toot Celtic music from the sidelines.

WEST OF BOSTON

Northampton Music Festival
Various locations in Northampton, Mass. (413-586-3268). April 28-29, 9pm. www.nmfest.com. The NMF brings together the Paradise City's best live acts at Northampton's top live music venues. Acts include the Drunk Stuntmen, Ware River Club, the Aloha Steamtrain, Lo Fine and Amy Fairchild performing in venues such as the Bay State, Harry's and Fire and Water.

Sheepshearing Festival
Gore Place, 52 Gore St., Waltham, Mass. (781-894-2798). April 29, 10am-4pm. $6, children under 12 free. Feeling warm and fuzzy? Come to the 13th annual Sheepshearing Festival, which features demonstrations of sheepshearing, herding dogs, spinning, weaving, wool-dyeing and more. But this festival doesn't stop with just fuzzy creatures! Enjoy a craft fair, wagon rides, live music, puppeteers, dancing, gardening activities and, of course, food.

VERMONT

Vermont Maple Festival
St. Albans Historical Museum, Church St., St. Albans, VT (802-524-5800). April 28-30, 10am. $2. Got a sweet tooth? Celebrate Vermont's famous maple syrup in its many forms at the 34th annual Maple Festival. Enjoy maple syrup on pancakes, as sugar on snow or at a supper. Enjoy crafts shows, carnivals, talent shows and parades during this sticky celebration.

NEW YORK

New York International Auto Show
Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, 11th Avenue Entrance, W. 34th-39th St., NY (1-800-282-3336). April 22-30. Rev up for the 100th annual International Auto Show, the oldest and largest in America, featuring more than 1,000 cars, trucks, SUVs and minivans. See concept cars, classic cars, futuristic designs and exotic vehicles, as well as the latest in environmental advances. Or enjoy celebrity visits and music performances.

Astor Place Fair
Astor Place, NY (212-809-4900). April 22. The fourth annual Astor Place Fair takes place in the heart of Manhattan's Greenwich and East Village neighborhoods. Enjoy an eclectic mix of ethnic food, crafts and antiques.

MIAMI

Underwater Easter Egg Hunt
Fort Walton Beach, Destin, FL (800-332-3319). April 22. This is definitely an unusual one, as all certified divers—kids and grown-ups alike—dive for the buried treasure of golf balls painted like Easter eggs. The uncertified can participate in a snorkel hunt.

13th Annual Taste of the Beach
Lincoln Road Mall, Lincoln Road at 16th Street, Miami, FL (305-672-1270). April 21-23, 6pm-12am. Free admission. Miami Beach's number one culinary and entertainment showcase with the best of what Miami Beach has to offer has been assembled in an incredible weekend of food, drink, music, more food, family entertainment and fun. Enjoy your time in this pedestrian-only street mall in South Beach.

SUSAN COWAN (SHOES)

City mice can escape for the country at the Sheepshearing Festival in Waltham, April 29.

SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco International Film Festival

AMC Kabuki 8 Theatres, 1881 Post St., San Francisco, Calif. (415-561-5000 or 415-931-FILM). April 20-May 4. In its 43rd year, the San Francisco International Film Festival features a selection of more than 100 programs during its two-week run in a variety of theaters throughout the city.

NEW ORLEANS

Jazz and Heritage Festival

Fair Grounds Race Course, New Orleans, La. (504-522-4786). April 28-May 7, 11am. $15-$45. This blowout extravaganza is the American music lover's rendezvous, offering music and culture, including everything from jazz, zydeco and Afro-Carribbean to folk, blues and gospel. Enjoy lots of scrumptious food and 12 stages of bands. The Allman Brothers will be headlining, so how could it not be cool?

MONTREAL

Music Multi-Montreal

2005, rue Victor-Doré, Bureau 208, Montreal, Quebec (514-856-3787). April 27-30. Since 1991, the Music and People Festival has brought together hundreds of applicants from all origins, well-versed in all forms of music. This world music showcase gives 30 chosen artists of all kinds the opportunity to be discovered by industry supporters and producers, as well as to create original works, songs and unforgettable moments.

TORONTO

Toronto Stampede Days

The Coliseum, Toronto, Ontario (416-488-0942). April 21-23. Be prepared for some real action at this one-of-a-kind recreation. Championship barrel racing and rodeo events keep the crowds cheering, and the country-lifestyle expo provides respite for city slickers.

LONDON

Onedotzero Film Festival

Institute of Contemporary Arts, The Mall, London SW1, England (0171-930-3647). April 28-May 9. The film industry has come a long way since Hitchcock. This fourth annual, high-tech film festival explores the cutting edge of digital cinema. It's your first chance to see exciting new forms and hybrids of moving-image work from the most innovative and cutting-edge talents in the field.

AMSTERDAM

Queen's Day (Koninginnedag)

City Center, Amsterdam, Netherlands (212-370-7360). April 28-29. Can you handle 24 hours of non-stop eating, drinking, dancing and shopping? You'll have to at Amsterdam's energetic street party and biggest free market in celebration of the Queen's birthday. There are performances, military parades and games all throughout the country. Don't forget to wear your warm colors. All revelers will be dressed in orange, painted in orange and intoxicated by Orange Bitter liqueur in honor of the House of Orange Nassau.

SEVILLE

La Feria de Sevilla

Seville, Spain (212-265-8822). April 30-May 6. The southern city of Seville hosts this sexy, Spanish, round-the-clock spectacle of flamenco dancing, bullfighting and rowdy fun. A temporary city made of tents (*casetas*) is erected, known as Real de la Feria. Each *caseta* acts as a dance hall, some being more rowdy than others. Walk around and enjoy the *casetas* in this relaxed yet intense atmosphere and witness stunning flamenco performances and breathtaking bullfights. Be sure to try the Cruzcampo beer—brewed in town.

PARIS

Traditional May Festival

Various locations in Paris, France (212-838-7800). April 30-May 1. How sweet it is to be May in Paris. This tradition dates back to the night when citizens gathered on a main street to plant a tree in celebration of the new month. Parisians still gather today and plant a tree, continuing the celebration throughout the night with street singing and music. People open their homes, offer food to visitors (yum!) and exchange gift baskets.

International Fair of Paris

Paris Expo, Paris, France (33-49-09-60-00). April 30-May 8. If you want to know more about Paris and revel in its goods, then you'll enjoy this international fair that features everything good about the city (aside from the Eiffel Tower).

SEOUL

Karye: Re-enactment of Royal Wedding Ceremonies

Unhyon-Kung Palace, Seoul, South Korea (82-2-765-4025). April 22. Every year the Seoul Metropolitan Group sponsors this re-enactment of the Royal Household's wedding ceremonies, passed down from the early Chosun Dynasty. This colorful event combines the three ceremonies into one brilliant spectacle.

mark your daytimer

UPCOMING EVENTS

CITYSCOPE

Duckling Day Parade
May 14, Boston Common

Harvard Square Book Fair
May 15, Harvard Square

MUSIC

Blink 182 with Bad Religion
May 29, Worcester Centrum

Tina Turner with Lionel Richie
June 9, FleetCenter

KISS (pictured below) with Skid Row
June 12-13, Tweeter Center

Ricky Martin
June 21, FleetCenter

PERFORMING ARTS

Miss Saigon
June 8, Wang Theatre

JERRY ROBERTSON (SHEEP); GLENN LAFERMAN (KISS)

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Improper Impersonals

If everyone kept their feelings bottled up like warm beer, we'd soon have antisocial behavior exploding all over the place and ruining the upholstery. That's why we have the Improper Impersonals, a column written by you, the reader. Send us your letters of love and spleen, and we'll print them for the world to see. Heck, it's better than making a fool of yourself in person. And **IT'S FREE!** Pick up a pen and tell that babe on the T you like his butt by writing to:

Improper Impersonals
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116
Fax: 859-1446 or e-mail us at impersonals@improper.com.
Recent correspondence follows.

To the Bag Boy at Bread and Circus...
You've got black hair and those oh so nice sideburns. You' re one of those cool alterna-boys, and I just wanted to let you know that I think you're so hot. You can bag my groceries anytime.
—Anonymous

Chivalry is not dead on the T, but maybe it should be
Last month, as I funneled in with the crush of people getting on the commuter rail at the Porter Square stop, a hand grabbed my shoulder and yanked me away from the door. "I'm just teaching you something your parents never taught you," a mustached, middle-aged man said as two women boarded ahead of me. "You let the women on first."
I was startled and embarrassed. As we climbed into the train I turned and said, half-jokingly, "I thought chivalry was dead." "I certainly hope not" was his reply. I sat down and started to fume. Who was this guy to pass judgment without knowing me? In my 26 years my parents have done a pretty good job teaching me to respect others. On many occasions, I've given up my seat on the T for an elderly person or someone on crutches or a pregnant woman.
But what irked me the most was this guy telling me to "let the women on first." An attitude like this flies in the face of making the world a more equal place for women. By standing aside to let women board the train—women who are just as physically capable of getting on as I am—I am implying that they are lesser than me. I may as well be saying, "You're a woman, and women can't take a cold and dreary Friday morning as well as a man can. You go first."
Perhaps this mustached crusader would better spend his time getting people to give up their seats on the T for the infirm and elderly. Yanking me aside so a few women can wait three seconds less to board the train is not helping anybody. It's just keeping outdated and backward stereotypes alive and well in the new millennium.
—shane_mclaughlin@inc.com

To Igor, Heather and Kevin at their "wishing to be dream world," the so-called Venu
You all are obnoxious, sleazy and South Beach wannabes. Wake up and smell the roses or maybe in your case smelly cigarette butts. There is nothing that reminds anyone of Art Deco style that you claim the place Venu has. You and the place are missing a lot of class to even get anywhere near SB. Treating people with no respect does not give you business, it takes it away, if you do not know that yet. And what's the deal with the club full of men and all the beautiful ladies are standing outside and being sent home. Your place looks like a gay hangout anyway, but the thing that I do not understand is why do you advertise for both sexes.
Atmosphere in the club is horrible, and few of the women that are able to get in (through some kind of miracle) are being harassed by all those full-of-testosterone, hungry men. At least if you have made it clear that you want to have a gay club, people would know what to expect. So I recommend cleaning up your act or you will lose many more of your customers.
P.S. Kevin, working at the gate as a doorman does not make you an owner, just want to be sure you understand the difference and if you don' t you should ask someone to explain it to you, maybe a real owner. Just a suggestion. And be nice to your customers.
—Ex-customer

Dear Impossibly Orgasmic Neighbor on Phillips Street
We couldn't be more THRILLED by the fact that you seem to have a very active and satisfying sex life. By all that we have HEARD you seem to be blessed with multiple—or perhaps fake—orgasms. Bravo for you!
Here's a shocker: We really don' t want to hear it anymore. Being awakened at 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 o'clock in the morning by your mating calls is really not our cup of tea. Maybe your pharmacist schedule allows you to sleep late but some of us have to be up EARLY, and would appreciate being allowed to get a good night's sleep sans interruption from your screams and moans.
Pretty soon we'll stop passively stomping on the floor and placing anonymous ads in THE IMPROPER and instead come and pound on your door in the middle of the night. Put a sock in your big, loud mouth and try a bit harder to keep your copulating between you and whomever is under you.
—Signed, Your Collective Neighbors

David
March 7, 1:30-ish at the corner of State and Broad streets. You: brown leather jacket, black shirt, jeans, yapping on the phone (that's how I caught your name). We passed each other and locked glances. I was mesmerized by your eyes (two colors?). I turned around to ask you to lunch, but you disappeared. Me: 5' 7", long brown curly hair, bright green eyes. Lunch sometime? E-mail me.
—statestreetgirl@excite.com

March 11 @ Maytag Coin-Op Laundry on Summit Avenue
To the gentleman who helped me fold my blanket: You took me by surprise that Saturday afternoon. Such kindness is seldom seen in the Northeast, and I was so shocked by your courtesy (not to mention a bit too sleep-deprived) to thank you properly. And then, I turned around, and you were standing outside the glass door, putting on your coat in the rain. I am sorry to have chased you away with my silence and need of folding space. Perhaps next time, I'll have the presence of mind to offer you help (hope those whites you heaped atop your other neatly folded clothes didn't wrinkle!)
—may_tagurit@yahoo.com

March 15, Paula Cole at Avalon
You: Blue-eyed black bobbed Louise Brooks! Burgundy shirt with pearlized buttons, black leather jacket, VERY cute! Me: Tall, thin, rocker type. We made eye contact, but I was too shy to talk to you. Please give me another chance.
—theloaf@hotmail.com

To the fat, stubbly guy with glasses in the crappy blue hatchback who told me to "Get on the sidewalk"
If you had shut up for a moment, you would have heard what I had to say. Bikes are not allowed on the sidewalk in downtown Boston. Bikes are vehicles with the same rights and responsibilities as cars. I'm sorry if you had to wait 20 seconds to pass me, and I'm sorry if I kept you from doing 50 mph in a 35 mph zone for 500 feet. But I have that right, and the right to use a lane without putting myself in danger of being hit by an opened car door.
And, statistics show that I am not, in fact, "gonna get f***kin' run over," as you say—most bike accidents occur head-on when we're NOT exercising our rights. Check out the site: *http://www.massbikeboston.org* and educate your ignorant self. You look like you could use a few days on a bike anyway.
It's people like you who make this city look bad. Curb your road rage before you kill someone like the other 10,000 drivers a year.
—Bet I got to work before you anyway

Rockie Horoscope

April 19 - May 2, 2000
BY ROCKIE GARDINER

Taurus
APRIL 20-MAY 20
While I've yet to hear a Taurus cry "Enough!"—now could be the time that even you, with your enormous capacity for life experiences, need to take a break. The emphasis on all things Bullish—the pleasures and the pains stemming from so many planets in Taurus—can be as exhausting as they are exciting. Easter dawns in a burst of curiosity as your romantic Venus ruler and exotic Uranus align. The work week may be shrouded in doubt and a muddied aesthetic, but questions can be held in abeyance until next weekend when joyous self-expression reigns.

Gemini
MAY 21-JUNE 20
You could be taking stock of what you've stashed away and what you haven't—thanks to so many planets in your Taurus house of retirement and solitude. Nonetheless, it's safe to come out to play Easter weekend and express your thoughts about our planet's future. Your Mercury ruler and progressive Uranus are in harmony, so your peers will pay attention. So will assorted lovers (known, former and embryonic) who are drawing closer to you every day. When your Mercury ruler and alluring Venus meet on the 28th, you'll be damn near irresistible.

Cancer
JUNE 21-JULY 22
Friends and their money are soon parted, perhaps even by now. Friction over a sexual conquest (no love lost here) or someone else's web connection can change the course of your Easter holiday plans. If confusions follow, don't try to clarify the situation until the 28th. That's when what you say is taken to heart, when the world embraces affection and intelligence, when Mercury and Venus join hands for a Beltane Maypole and the planetary pileup in Taurus. What group of yours will save Mother Earth?

Leo
JULY 23-AUGUST 22
It's playtime this weekend, at least until an abundance of family feeling and a sense of responsibility overtakes you on Easter Sunday. Only artists will be able to sort their way through the maze of mishaps blocking foward progress midweek; those who depend on logic may be lost. This is a good time to pray for guidance and an assistant who can both think and link up to the sites and sounds you need. No matter how heavy or how many the demands made, Leo is in peak form and your rep is getting better.

Virgo
AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22
Flashes of brilliance and heart palpitations too. No, you're not in the middle of a seizure, you're simply reacting to the influence of electric Uranus and loving Venus, the planets that are having their way with you. Add the reassuring thought that romance and sexual experimentation are harmoniously aligned and you're (figuratively) free to spend Easter anywhere, with anyone you choose. Your love life may actually improve. You and your beloved are becoming one. But not for long, nor forever. Carpe diem.

Libra
SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22
Sweet solicitations from a partner can soothe whatever upsets you may have encountered in the last few days. Let your significant other make nice while he or she is filled with the milk of human kindness. These feelings will find expression next weekend as Mercury, the divine messenger, and your Venus ruler come together in your marriage house. If there's a chance you'll be writing your own vows some time soon, this would be a good time to do it; your words won't be quite as eloquent, charming and heartfelt until July Fourth weekend.

Scorpio
OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21
Did we shake, rattle and roll? The explosive astrological forecast for the 19th (history notwithstanding) could have shattered the peace process at your house. So if a partner offers to make amends, as well as wild and crazy love, let him or her be your salvation this weekend. That is, unless you're afraid that, as more planets congregate in your Taurus complement, too much power is shifting to the other side of the bed. A hint of subterfuge from a sibling or a neighbor can make October Scorpions scurry out of sight. Tricky times.

Sagittarius
NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21
Holy moley! Good Friday has a TGIF feel thanks to a Sagittarius moon that just wants girls and boys to have fun. And while Earth Day activities may lose their effectiveness once the moon goes void, you'll still have a fine time in the neighborhood. Whether you spend more than you intend for Secretary's Day or because you are caught up in illusion and Neptunian confusion, Wednesday will be expensive. Don't try to "stay in the moment" or practice what you preach. Be kind.

Capricorn
DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20
Reaching for a higher purpose this holiday weekend—doing your part to make Mother Earth a safer, friendlier place—can be lots of fun, quite creative and, like a garden, full of sensual delights. However, because the work week is overflowing with Neptunian fantasies (i.e., bullshit), you could easily be conned into believing something that simply isn't true. Walking the fine line between your affection for the liar and the fabricated fact may be tricky, but like all the earth signs, you'll get your reward, your just (and yummy) deserts soon.

Aquarius
JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18
Kiss the boo-boo and make it better. A sibling, classmate or neighbor is filled with good feelings toward you and whatever erratic scene you recently fell into. Let this kind person make Easter Sunday an excellent occasion. Then when you become totally confused by nebulous Neptune in your sign on Wednesday, you'll be able to look back without anger. More than any other sign, you are reacting to what happened during the powerful solar eclipses last August and this past February. Write about it, talk it over, connect the dots.

Pisces
FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19
If you've been holding the fort, keeping the troops at bay, then you might embrace the action initiated when the sun squares your Neptune ruler on the 26th. But you probably won't welcome the cost. However, the flurry of decisions to be made and the variety of people to consult can keep you very busy until May Day. Non-militant types—the placid peaceniks, piano-players, poets and painters—can use the challenging square to make your peers love you a little more than before. Get down with the group thing.

Aries
MARCH 20-APRIL 19
Knock your socks off. Go ahead and astound yourself while your ballsy Mars ruler elicits an unusual reaction from your peers. Yes, it will be costly, but where the money is coming from or going to may surprise all of you. Easter promises to be sexual if not particularly spiritual. Cut through the fog surrounding an artistic career goal midweek so that its original purpose isn't diluted by Neptunian wishy-washiness. You must have learned by now that going with the flow can sometimes leave you adrift. Don't forget the paddle.

Curious about the future? Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30 to 40+ pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise over the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $42.50 per report to ROCKIE GARDINER, 1021 N. Genesee, #1, West Hollywood, CA 90046, *www.rockiehoroscope.com*. Read my daily forecast online at *www.laweekly.com*.

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men seeking women

Uninhibited male looking for casual encounters. Hello, this is an attractive single male calling from the Boston area. I am tall with sandy blond hair and baby blue eyes. I am looking for an attractive single female for casual meetings. Box 15468

Professional gentleman. My name is John and I'm a SWM, 45, 5'7", 145 lbs., and in good shape. I currently reside in Salem and I've lived here 13 years. I am looking an active single female with a good sense of humor, perhaps a little twisted or cynical. I live on the water and I have a variety of interests. Box 27815

Looking for a spontaneous woman. Hi, this is Shawn. I'm a handsome single male, 22, 5'11", with brown hair and hazel green eyes. My hobbies are listening to music, walks, cooking, and sports. I am seeking a single female who is funny, adventurous and an all around nice girl. Box 27816

Hello ladies. This is Jose and I reside in the Boston area. I'm 6', 24,with dark hair and dark eyes. I am looking for a no strings attached relationship. Box 26789

Open conversation available. Hi, this is an attractive SWM, and I'm looking for an older lady to have open conversation with. I would love to hear all your intimate thoughts and I'll share mine. Box 27831

My name is Paul. I'm an up beat single guy, 34, 5'8", 175 lbs., with brown hair and blue eyes. I live in the Boston area and I have an out-going personality. I enjoy working out and I'm looking for a physically fit female who enjoys a variety of activities. Box 27836

Great sense of humor. My name is Randy and I'm a fun loving single male. I'm 39, 6', 189 lbs., with brown hair and blue-green eyes. I have a variety of interests but what I love most is to make people laugh. I am seeking an attractive female who has a great personality and is not afraid to laugh at life's blunders. Box 28864

Sensitive guy. Hello, this is Chris. I'm a SBM, 28, 5'10", with brown hair and brown eyes. I consider myself very passionate and in tune with women's needs. I am looking for a sexy SBF who knows what she wants and can appreciate a man of my nature. Box 28901

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women seeking men

Calling from North of Boston. Hey, how's it going? I'm a single female, 26, with shoulder length blonde hair and blue eyes. I've been single for a year now and I'm looking to meet someone special. Box 11491

Hi guys. I'm a single female, 23, 5'1", 130 lbs., with black curly hair, dark brown eyes and an olive complexion. I'm looking for a single male who is fun, exciting and takes care of himself, for a friendship and a possible relationship. Box 26224

New to the area. Hi, this is single mother, 5'7", with a large and lovely figure. I enjoy the single life but I'm missing that special someone. I prefer a romantic gentleman with a good sense of humor. Box 25127

Long-term relationship. Hello, this is Trish. I'm an attractive single female, 22, 5'6", with long brown hair and hazel green eyes. I am looking for a single male for friends first and possibly more. Box 26737

I live on the border of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. My name is Sandy. I'm a single female, 24, 5'2",with brown hair and brown eyes. I enjoy cooking, singing, dancing, long drives and anything to do with poetry. I am paralyzed from the knees down, but I'm an out-going person with a great outlook on life. Box 27828

No elevated egos need apply. Hello, this is Deanna. I'm an attractive single female, 5'9" and I currently reside in the Worcester area. I am looking for a single male who appreciates beauty in the simplest form and is willing to spoil me. Box 27829

Looking for hot guys. Hello, this is Jade and I'm a sexy single female. I reside in the Rhode Island area, just forty minutes from Boston. I am looking for open-minded males for some hot times with an attractive female. Box 27835

Young at heart. Hi my name is Lucy. I'm a young looking 45-year-old single female. I'm Puerto Rican and I live in the Cambridge area. I consider myself attractive and I work out so I am physically fit. Box 27855

Casual relationship. This is Jessica and I'm an attractive single female. I'm 5'6", 100 lbs., with blonde hair and blue eyes. I'm attending college to pursue a degree in Early Childhood Development. If you're interested in talking leave a message. Box 27873

Sports fan. Hi, this is a single female, 5'4", with brown hair, brown eyes and I enjoy hanging out with friends. I love basketball and I'm looking for a single male who knows how to impress a girl. Box 27888

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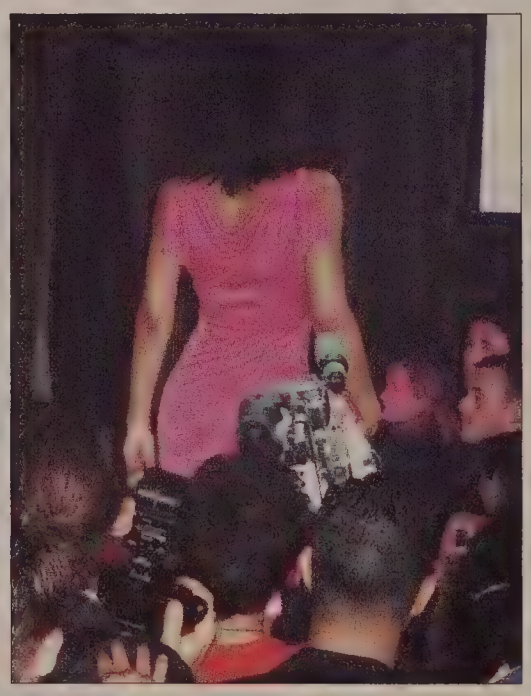
impropperazzi

The Improper Bostonian's client-related promotions and events

Club Members and guests packed the **Season's Restaurant** on April 6 for the annual **Bostonian Club Red Sox Luncheon** featuring Red Sox Reps Lou Gorman and John Buckley. Hysterical host Will McDonough, sports writer from the **Globe**, ran a Q&A period during which Lou Gorman predicted "[the Yankees] will not take the division this year." We hope he's right. Special thanks to Rick Wardell.

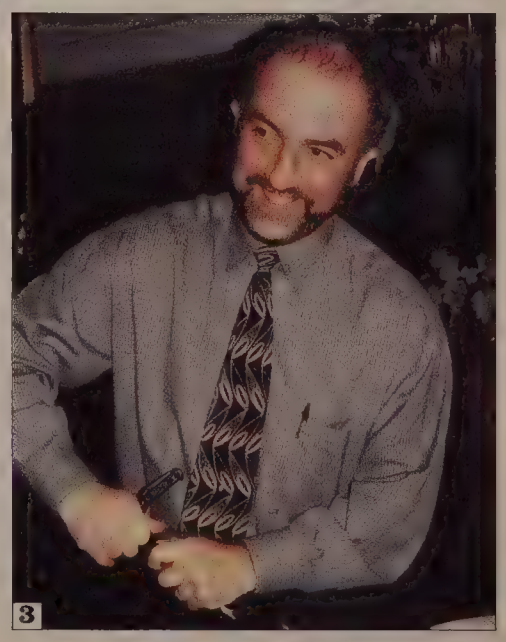
1. **John Buckley** and **Will McDonough**.
2. **Lou Gorman** and **Will McDonough**.
3. **Jenn Coletta** and **Marc Teal** of Boston Capital.



Crowds gathered at the **Roxy**, April 7, for the Gianne Versace Spring Collection Fashion Show. The audience cheered as hot bods in cool clothes worked the catwalk. The show was provided by Karim Mohammed of **Gianni Versace**, Newbury Street.

1. **Heidi Marcouillier**, Manager of The Vault, and **Bob Raimondo**, "A friend of The Vault."
2. **Howie Reuben**, General Manager of Bauer Wines.
3. A waiter pours another round.
4. The Vault's executive chef, **Michael Foley**.

Executive chef Michael Foley teamed up with Howie Rubin of **Bauer Wine and Spirits** to present a series of food and wine tastings the first Monday of every month at **The Vault Bistro and Wine Bar**. The first tasting of the series, held April 3, featured three red wines to compliment a spring roasted rack of lamb. For those with a penchant for the lighter wines, a tasting on May 1 promises luscious and breezy whites with shellfish and crustaceans.



PHOTOS BY LINDSEY WORSTER (REGAL BOSTONIAN HOTEL, THE VAULT); ALISON MORANT (ROXY)

BARS, CLUBS, RESTAURANTS & BRUNCH

The following are paid advertisements. Please check times and prices in advance. If you'd like to have your restaurant listed, please call The Improper Bostonian Advertising Dept. at 859-1400.

BARS

Billiards

Boston Billiard Club
126 Brookline Ave., 536-POOL. Ranked #1 in the country by Billiards Digest. Free lessons on Mon., 7:30 pm - 9 pm. Boston Billiard Club House Leagues on Mon. and Tues. "In The Biz" night on Sun. and Mon. for patrons in the hospitality industry. Ladies' night on Wed. Featuring a menu of light fare such as grilled chicken sandwiches and appetizers, along with beer, wine, cocktails and a variety of non-alcoholic beverages.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, The Allstonians and Beat Soup.

Brew Pubs

Back Bay Brewing Company
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center.
$7-$18. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Bi-level restaurant/brewery offers an inspirational pairing of outstanding innovative cuisine and award-winning ales and lagers. Upbeat first floor bar and café, second floor dining room and bar with comfortable couches and overstuffed chairs. Mon. - Sun. 11:30am - 1am. Brunch Sun. from 11am - 3pm.

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Company
138 Portland St., Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is now the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, a block from the FleetCenter and steps from Faneuil Hall, Commonwealth Fish & Beer features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

General

Dick's Last Resort
55 Huntington Ave., Prudential Center, Boston, 267-8080. www.dickslastresort. com. Dick's has live music 7 nights a week, no cover, no dress code and certainly no class. They have 74 kinds of beer for the novice or serious/ sudsman, or a full bar for the hard core. Dick's also is a restaurant of sorts with buckets of ribs, shrimp, lobster, chicken, catfish and crab legs. This is the place your Mama warned you about. Free parking after 5pm, cheap til 5 with validation.

The Good Life
Uptown - 99 St. Botolph St., 266-3030; Downtown - 28 Kingston St., 451-2622. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1999 Boston's Best Martini award. The Good Life is a retro lounge that Frank Dean and Sammy would have hung at. Big Drinks, Great American Comfort Food, Hot Jazz and Plenty of Boy Meets Girl. Never a cover, always a good time.

The Good Life In Swingin' Central Square
720 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, 617-868-8800, The winner of The Improper Bostonian's Best Martini Award 1999. Frank, Dean, and Sammy have a new hangout across the river. So should you. Come experience the power of three. Classic cocktails, great American comfort food, and Boston's Best Live Jazz. Never a cover, always a good time.

Harvard Gardens
316 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114, 617-523-2727. A wonderfully relaxed haven located opposite MGH on the back side of Beacon Hill. Serving the finest cocktails and most comfortable food in town. Plant yourself in a comfy booth, a cozy banquette, or at our fully loaded bar and escape from your everyday troubles. Doing it nice & easy 7 days a week - 11am-2am.

Pravda 116
116 Boylston St., 617-482-7799. Located in the heart of Boston's theater district. Pravda offers one of Boston's hottest night clubs, and extraordinary cuisine as well. Pravda boasts the longest bar in Boston, featuring a center ice surface to keep your cocktail cool. If sitting at the bar is not your forte, enjoy a meal at a private table in the dining room or in a plush, secluded booth. Chef Chris Parsons prepares exquisite dishes with the latest seasonal ingredients. Satisfied your hunger? Then feed your crave to rave in Pravda's newly remodeled dance club. DJ's spin high-energy dance music, create an ambiance that radiates with energy. Rest. Hrs: Tues&Wed 5:30-10:30pm, Thurs-Sat 5:30-11pm; Club Hrs: Thurs-Sat 10pm-2am.

Sweetwater Cafe
3 Boylston Place, 351-2515. A classic American bar featuring Boston's best bands and DJ's nightly. A favorite Boston bar for 15 years with two floors of entertainment, an outdoor patio and world class margaritas. Always great music and cold beer, never a dress code. Available for private functions of any kind. (Credit cards: Am Ex, Visa, MC, Diner's) Tues. - Sat. 5 pm - 2 am. Located in "The Alley."

The Big Easy Bar
1 Boylston Place, Boston, 351-7000. Informal. Located in Boston's version of Bourbon Street, "The Alley." The Big Easy Bar is a hot new New Orleans style bar featuring Boston's best live bands and disc jockeys nightly playing music you know and love. Relax in a lounge, listen to the band, play billiards, hang at the bar or dance the night away. The Big Easy Bar has something fun for everyone. Great beer selection, 22 oz. Hurricanes, 4 huge bars, 2 lounges, a balcony, plenty of seating, and a large dance floor. Wed. - Sat. 8 pm - 2 am. Major credit cards accepted. Valet parking available.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til
2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, The Allstonians and Beat Soup.

The Sugar Shack
1 Boylston Place, 351-2510. "Home of Boston's Best Party." Set in the middle of a mini-Bourbon Street, The Sugar Shack celebrates Mardi-Gras year-round with a carefree, reckless, spontaneous and unpretentious attitude. Carnival lights, confetti, beads, specialty drinks, live bands and Disc Jockeys playing classics, motown, R&B, funk, disco, and old school hip hop from the last three decades mixed with the best of today's top 40. Home of young professional, young alumni, 20 something hipsters who desire cold beer, cocktails, classic party tunes and unadulterated fun!!

Wine Bars

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar
105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-0966. The hip meeting spot in the Financial District for after work, dinner, late night, or a seductive tryst. The Vault offers some of the most exclusive wines in Boston, which complement the creative American Cuisine prepared by Chef Rebecca Esty. Can't decide on a wine? Relax and compare with our Tasting Flights featuring selections from different reds and whites. So what are you waiting for? Call an old friend, a client, or a co-worker and meet for cocktails at The Vault today.

RESTAURANTS

Back Bay Brewing Company
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center.
$7-$18. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Bi-level restaurant/ brewery offers an inspirational pairing of Chef Michael Burgess's innovative cuisine and Tod Mott's hand-crafted ales and lagers. Upbeat first floor bar and café, second floor dining room and bar with comfortable couches and overstuffed chairs. Sunday Buffet Brunch 11am - 3pm, $14.95. Mon. - Sun. 11:30am - 1am.

Cactus Club
939 Boylston St., 236-0200. Get a taste
of the Southwest in Boston. Specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, Cajun Catfish. Save 1/2 off entire menu Mon. - Fri., 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm in the bar. Sample the firewater menu while you are there, including Coyote Killer (Light and dark rum, peach schnapps, ginger beer and mixed juices), or a Chambord Margarita. The daring may go for a dip in the Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Amex, Diners Club, MC and Visa.

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Company
138 Portland Street, Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, near the Fleet Center and Faneuil Hall, Commonwealth features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

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Jillian's Boston
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279 Newbury St., Boston, 536-1695. Kashmir has been raising the bar of Indian restaurants in quality, style and service since it opened. Its Best of Boston, Boston's Best and Readers' Choice awards are a result of great execution. Indoors in three elegantly styled dining rooms and outdoors on the best people watching corner in town, Kashmir serves the finest Tandoori and curry dishes and most imaginative specials and the best lunch and brunch buffet in town. Wine and beer are available as well as takeout, delivery, private parties and catering.

Ma Soba Asian Cuisine & Sushi
156 Cambridge Street on Beacon Hill, Boston, 973-6680. Enjoy premium sushi and Ma Soba's unique blend of contemporary and traditional Asian cuisine prepared by award-winning chefs. Relax with a fine wine selection from Ma Soba's comprehensive wine cellar in a setting described as "strikingly attractive and ultra urbane" by the Boston Herald. Open daily: Sun-Wed until 10:30pm, Thurs-Sat until 11:00pm. When in Harvard Square/ Cambridge, visit Ma Soba Express at 30 Dunster Street for quick-service pan Asian noodles and rice platters.

Shenandoah Restaurant, Marketplace Cafe, Brewskellar Pub
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston 227-1272. Located in the North Market Building of Faneuil Hall, Shenandoah Restaurant, The Marketplace Cafe, and Brewskellar Pub have something for everyone. Whether you're interested in a casual dinner on one of Boston's largest outdoor patios or the quiet more elegant surroundings of Shenandoah Restaurant, we offer it all. Having a function? We cater personally to all events you may be planning. Visit us soon and let us surprise you.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve both lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar
105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-9966. A wonderful secret hidden in Boston's Financial District. The Vault offers contemporary American cuisine and an extensive and exclusive affordable wine list. Come in and enjoy our new spring menu, including an expanded raw bar, Maine crab cakes, seared tuna and much more. Lunch Mon. - Fri. from 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Dinner Mon. - Wed. from 5:30 - 10:30 pm, Thurs. - Sat. from 5:30 - 11 pm. Closed Sun.

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The Wrap & Smoothie Bar
137 Mass Ave., Boston (at Berklee School of Music), 369-9087; 71 Mt. Auburn St., Harvard Square, 354-5838; 1940 Beacon St., Cleveland Circle, 739-0340; 82 Water St., Financial District, 357-9013. The Wrap serves delicious, freshly prepared wraps, burritos and salads as well as healthy and refreshing smoothies. Voted Boston's Best 1998 & 1999 by The Improper Bostonian. Fresh ingredients, great taste, healthy options - words we live by!

BRUNCH

Anago
65 Exeter Street, Boston, 266-6222. Anago, in the historic Lenox Hotel, presents a live Sunday Brunch from 11-2pm, prepared by Boston's whiz kid chef, Jamie "Shaky" Liberge, featuring a sumptuous buffet of appetizers with exquisite freshly baked desserts and breads created by award winning pastry chef, Lee Napoli, to accompany your choice of exceptional entree selections. Reservations are recommended.

Back Bay Brewing Company
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Featuring Chef Michael Burgess's Neo-Continental selections, including Eggs Benedict with Canadian bacon & herbed hollandaise, blueberry pancakes with almond maple syrup, omelet station, French toast, roasted meat carving station, house smoked salmon, and assorted desserts. Sunday Brunch Buffet 11 am - 3 pm. $14.95

Dick's Last Resort
55 Huntington Ave., Prudential Center, Boston, 267-8080. www.dickslastresort. com. Sundays, Dick gets religion and has a Heavenly Gospel Brunch from 10am to 3pm, serving fruit, salads, eggs benedict, fried chicken with a ham and roast beef station. Help yourself to the waffle or omelet stations and dessert bar and listen to old fashion uplifting live gospel music. Open for Lunch, Dinner and late night entertainment 7 days a week, no cover.

Museum of Science - Skyline Room
Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston, MA 02114. Reptiles: Real and Robotic, through May 29. Enjoy Sunday brunch in the beautiful Skyline Room overlooking the Charles River at noon, then experience the amazing Mugar Omni Theater: Dolphins and Mysteries of Egypt, through June, at 2pm. Tickets are $28 for Adults, $26 for Seniors/Children. Brunch only is $20.
On-site parking is included. Reservations recommended, call (617)723-2500.

The Wrap & Smoothie Bar
137 Mass Ave., Boston (at Berklee School of Music), 369-9087; 71 Mt. Auburn St., Harvard Square, 354-5838; 1940 Beacon St., Cleveland Circle, 739-0340; 82 Water St., Financial District, 357-9013. The Wrap serves delicious, freshly prepared wraps, burritos and salads as well as healthy and refreshing smoothies. Voted Boston's Best 1998 & 1999 by The Improper Bostonian. Fresh ingredients, great taste, healthy options - words we live by!

MISC.

Sports

Boston Paintball
131 Beverly St., Boston, 742-6612. The rules are simple. There are teams and everyone has paintball guns. You are inside of a large warehouse (near the Boston Garden). They are firing balls straight at you. You scream, dodge, hide, wipeout and have a blast!!! Great for bachelor/bachelorette parties, corporate outings, birthday parties, and much more.

Improper Sightings

Unlike the rest of your friends, we want to see the photos from your next trip.

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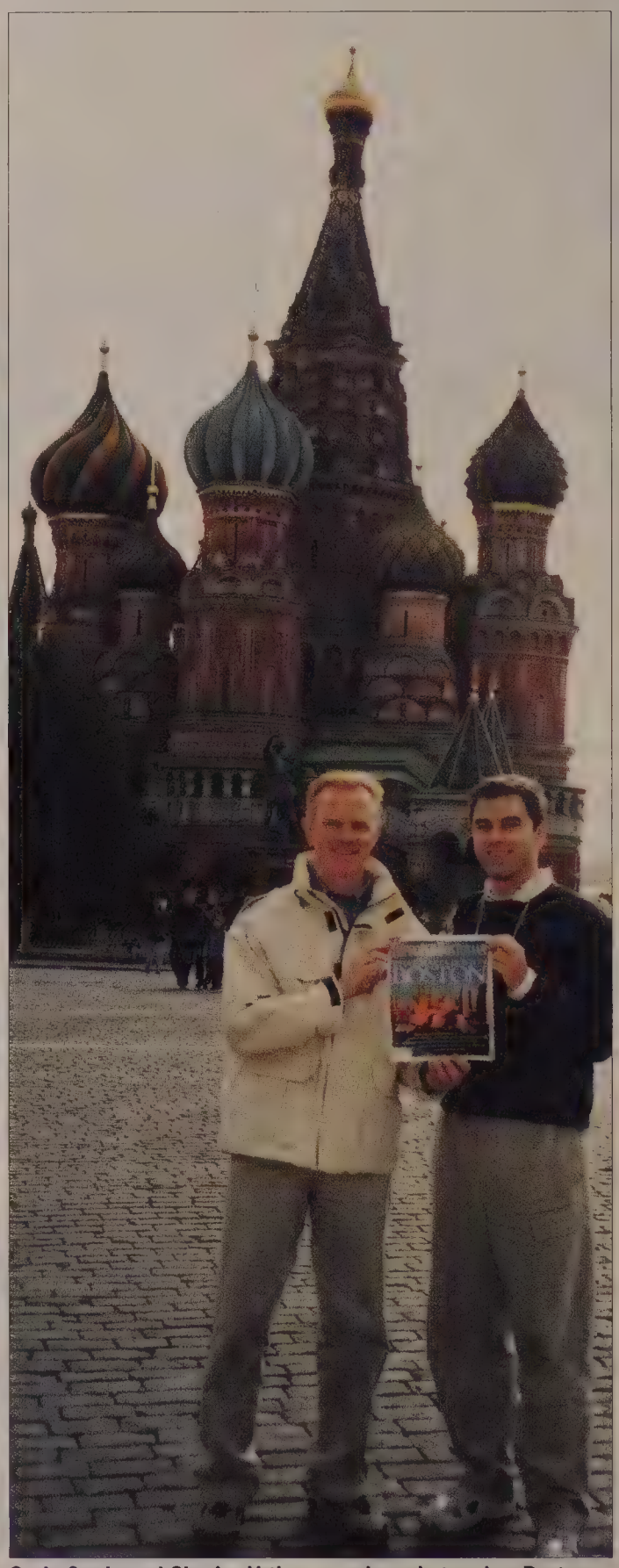
New Yorker Denise Palumbo brings a stylin' copy of the IMPROPER to Rome and stops to read in front of the Colosseum.



Craig Sawin and Charles Vrtis remember what makes Boston Boston in front of St. Basil's Cathedral in Red Square, Moscow.

Newton's Gary Stein reads about the MBTA with his feathered friend in the Piazza San Marco in Venice.

Would you buy a ballpark from this couple? Brighton residents Tom and Liz Boucher stop by Dodger Stadium in L.A.

California Governor Gray Davis flashes an IMPROPER at the National Governors' Conference in Washington, D.C.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:
Diving for buried golf balls painted like Easter eggs at the Underwater Easter Egg Hunt in Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116. Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail and photo location. All photos become property of The Improper Bostonian Magazine and will not be returned.

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ANNOUNCEMENT!!!

My beautiful Brooke (Dekker), I love you very much and you mean the world to me. I can't imagine my life without you in it any longer. There is nowhere I'd rather be than with you. I must be the luckiest guy on earth. I'll always love you, Sean

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN

Last Scene Here

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

At the Revolving Museum from top: Shula Melamed (left) and Crosby Brooke; Courtney Grey and Bianca Baggio; Philip W.D. Martin; Jackie Mow (left) and Shelley Thakral

Art Imitates Wife...

In case you were wondering what all the artsy, cool, funky people were doing one recent Saturday night, the answer was attending a dance party and silent auction to benefit the **Revolving Museum**.

The artist-run exhibition space in the Fort Point Channel area was transformed into a maze of art that one critic described as a "Whitman's Sampler of insanity." Seen taking it all in: the toothsome twosome of **Shula Melamed** and **Crosby Brooke** (who works for **Elias Fine Art**), WGBH babes **Jackie Mow** (a producer for *Nova*) and **Shelley Thakral** (a producer for *The World*), NPR correspondent and towering intellect **Phillip W.D. Martin**, club kid and *capoeira* expert **Courtney Grey**, board member **Bianca Baggio**, Asian goddess **Ellen Kumata** and numerous gallery owners, art enthusiasts and underground scenesters.

In between bidding on art and grooving to an Afro-Brazilian jazz band, guests sipped the obligatory white wine and nibbled those little cubes of cheese that seem to be mandatory at gallery and exhibition openings.

"That looks like my brother's fiancée," said one guest, pointing at an abstract nude. "I'd buy it as a wedding present, except then she'd know that I think she has a fat ass."

Murmurs Among the Ruling Class...

"If a bomb fell on this building right now, the local economy would cease to exist."

That's how one guest described the high-powered, high-minded crowd who gathered at the **Four Seasons** for the third annual **Lovett C. Peters Lecture** sponsored by the **Pioneer Institute for Public Policy**.

Indeed, the black-tie dinner boasted a most impressive guest list, including such civic and business leaders as noted philanthropist and globe-trotting adventurer **Helen Spaulding**, retired banking bigwigs **Ira Stepanian** and **Wally Weld** with wives **Jacquie** and **Kathy**, Wally's prep-school chum **Jonathan Warburg** and his stunning spouse, **Stephanie**, *Herald* editorial page editor **Shelley Cohen**, advertising bigwig **Lois Catanzaro**, lots of distinguished-looking men with walking sticks, just about every corporate CEO within dead-cat-swinging distance, and Federal Reserve Bank President and CEO **Cathy Minehan**, who introduced keynote speaker **Walter Williams**, the economist, columnist, radio host and author.

As if all that weren't proof enough that it was a seriously cerebral and highly edifying evening, the following are snatches of conversation overheard during cocktail hour:

"Is he a congressman or a senator?... Yes, we're on a few of the same boards... She's very interested in politics and education....I listen to *Car Talk* every Sunday."

Boston Evolving....

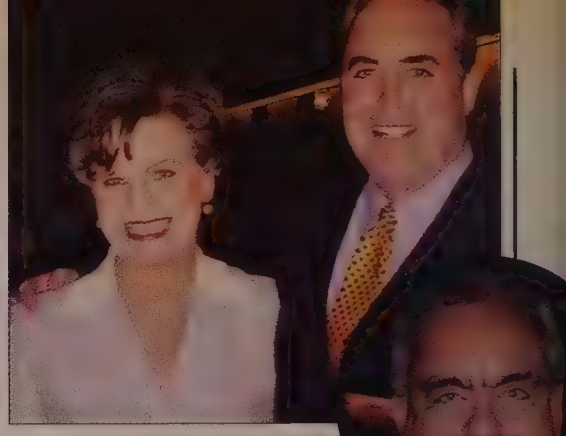
If **Locke-Ober** is any indication, everything old is new again. On Thursday nights, Haitian hipster **Ferguson Heriveaux** has been hosting a happening club scene at the legendary restaurant, while a recent Saturday night saw a sizzling jazz act raising the roof. The crowd is all-inclusive—old, young, black, white, straight, gay—proving that some changes are for the better. After all, it wasn't that long ago that women weren't allowed into the dining room.

Gee, Your Hair Smells Terrific...

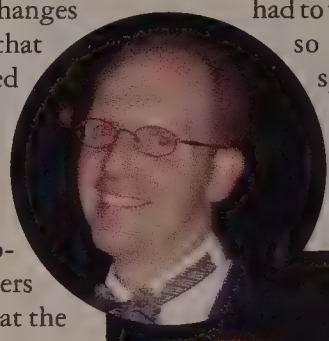
The **Wellness Community** paid tribute to three of its staunchest supporters at the **Gilda Radner Awards Dinner** at the **Westin Copley Place**.

Following wine and hors d'ouevres, guests filed into the ballroom for dinner and a ceremony that recognized the inspiration provided by the honorees—jeweler **Roberta Chafetz**, Frugal Fannies founder **Kathleen Doxer** and real estate titan **Brian Kelly**—all cancer survivors.

On-hand to help celebrate were their spouses—**Irwin**, **Orrin** and **Tricia**, respectively—and such social stalwarts as Back Bay party pair **Joan** and **Ted Benard-Cutler**, red-headed firecracker **Sharyn Fireman** and her photographer husband, **Murton Sudalter**, Louis proprietor **Murray Pearlstein**, American Managament Systems CEO **George Cloutier** (who underwrote the whole evening), gift-basket mogul **Bette Eyges**, the ever chic **Jane Talanian** and her other half, Newbury Street real estate king **Charles**, Wellness Community founder **Pamela Katz Zakheim**, WBZ entertainmentatrix and cancer crusader **Joyce Kulhawik**, and one woman wearing a honkin' big canary diamond ring, who said, "I was late because of my new hairdo. I've never had to use hairspray in my life, so I was standing there, spraying and spraying, wondering why it wasn't doing anything ... until I realized I was using deodorant." iB



At the Wellness Community's Gilda Radner Awards Dinner at the Westin Copley Place: clockwise from top left, Sharyn Fireman and Murton Sudalter; Kathleen Doxer and Brian Kelly; George Cloutier; Ted and Joan Benard-Cutler; Irwin and Roberta Chafetz



At the Pioneer Institute for Public Policy's dinner: top, Preston McSwain; Stephanie and Jonathan Warburg and Kathy Weld

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THE END OF AN ERA

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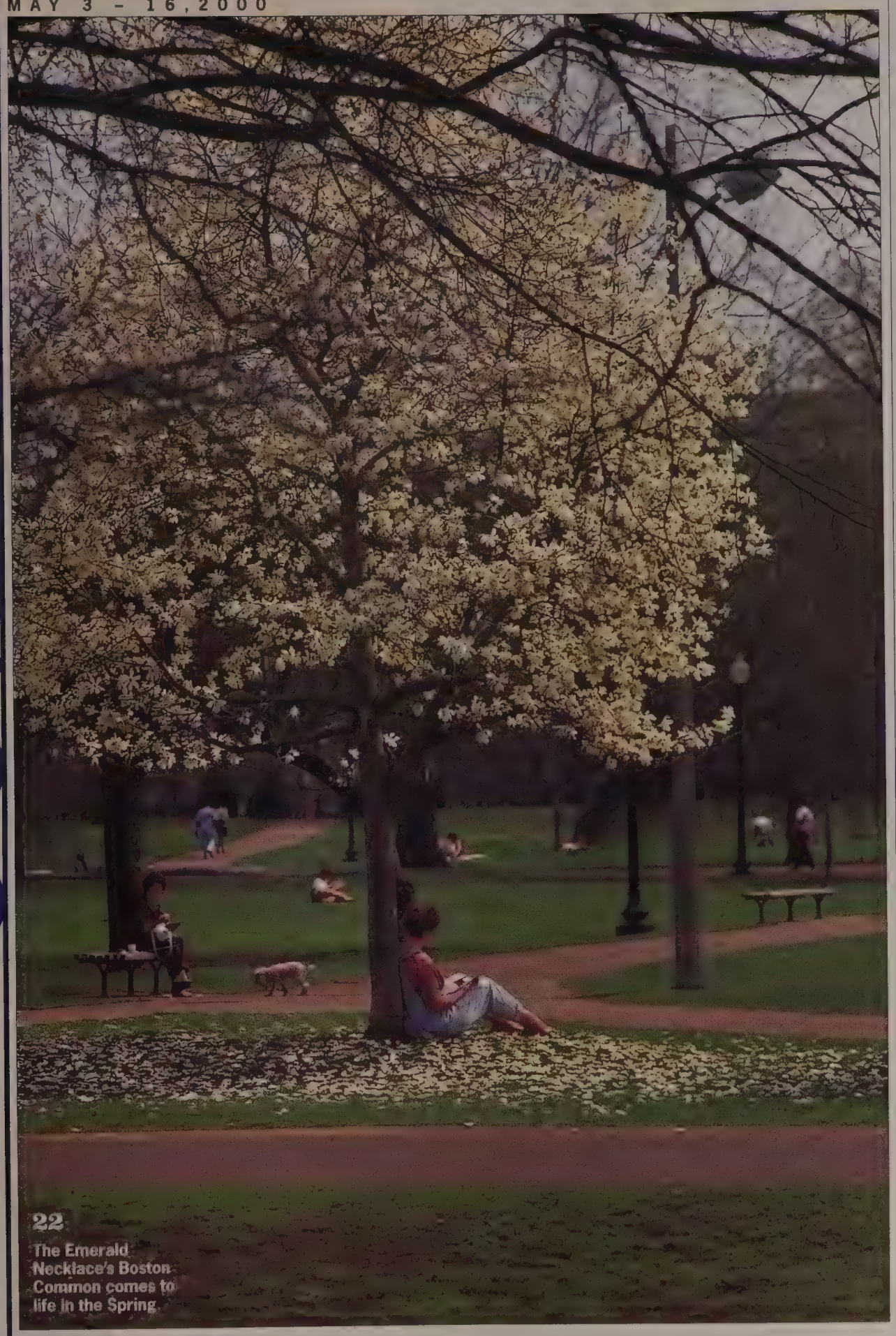

22
The Emerald Necklace's Boston Common comes to life in the Spring

On the Cover:
Jamie McKracken
Photographed for THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN by
Wendy Mimran
At an Oni Gallery poetry event on March 24, 2000.

Audience: **Dave Lok, courtesy of the Oni Gallery.**
84 Kingston St.: **Mandy Cory.**

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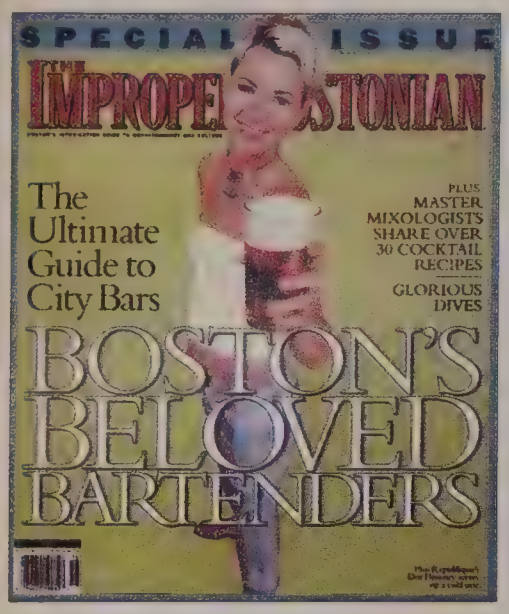
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE

BOSTON PARKS DEPARTMENT/TERRI DAVIS

letters



'Bout the Bartenders

The April 19 issue listing Boston's Beloved Bartenders was right on the money, especially citing Dot Downey and Karen Peterson—both of whom are reason alone to walk through the doors. The one glaring omission was Jody Jacques of the Franklin Cafe. Jody single-handedly mixes for one of the busiest restaurant/bars in the city ... all with a genuine smile, infectious laugh and a mean Mo's cocktail. She's my (and most of the South End's) vote for your 2001 issue.

MATT DEMERS
Via email

Spin It Round Again

This is in response to your cover story "Boston's Hottest Club DJs". Reading the article and DJ profiles makes it seem that the only music offered in Boston clubs is "underground," "progressive house," "trance," etc. I consider this an affront. Even your "shoutouts" banner states that these profiles "cover just part of the overall scene." I don't feel any of the 12 DJs mentioned cover my "scene."

Thank you for including Darin Friedman and Brad Gwynn. I remember Brad when he was DJing at the old 1270 about 14 years ago ... getting around town on a unicycle (and a few years later on a motorcycle). Brad was also DJing Narcissus in Kenmore Square. Just to mention the name makes us both seem like dinosaurs. I wish you included more places where you didn't have to dress up to have a good time, or deal with snobbish assholes. A place where you could be yourself ... a place like Manray. A place where you're not judged by what you wear, who you're with, or what you're dancing to.

Let's not forget the DJs that put on the "ceremony" venue at Rira every Monday. And, since I go there after work, I don't get any attitude from people in leather/pvc/fishnets/black nail polish for wearing light khakis and a dress shirt.

CARMEN ILARDI
Boston

I am writing in response to your article on local DJs and clubs, written by Andrew Spano. In the article, there was a section titled the "regulars," the name that my friends and I gave to our promotion team that hosted *private* parties. So, I guess that makes me a regular, which is funny because until I opened the IMPROPER, I had no idea we were getting any press. In any case, I would like to clarify some things. First of all, the "regulars" throw invite-only, private parties and should never have been the focus or the title of an article, especially not one on Boston's local DJs because we are not DJs.

Second, the "regulars" are not, as portrayed in the article, synonymous with 409, which is a highly respected, underground DJ crew. We are simply a few folks that throw underground parties and the general public need not know any more than that. So, although the term "regulars" was slapped in front of a bunch of local talent's names, most of the time it was wrong. But that's not my problem.

For too long, especially here in Rock City, electronic music has been the bastard child of the music scene. Mr. Spano's uninformed journey into the "underground" shortchanged a scene that has been over six years in the making. In his article, he made no mention of any of the people making a difference on the "off-Lansdowne" club scene like Audio Dream Control, Soul Revival/ Life, Phuturistic Bluez, Elements crew, etc.

I can't understand why the IMPROPER can find the highest caliber of reporters for nearly every genre of music and facet of Bostonian culture, but they become lazy when covering clubs, which is a vital part of Boston's musical culture. My point is, if you're not going to do something right, then don't do it at all. Accuracy is not too much to ask. Next time you decide to cover the "underground," make sure you do your homework.

BREE A. ROLFE
Regular/Managing Editor, Decontrol.net

Editor's Response: The writer mentioned Phuturistic Bluez (pg. 20). The story was about club DJs, not people's private parties. Information about the 409 Crew was provided by one of the so-called regulars.

Klieman Injustice Revisited

Karen Rockwell's remarks (March 22 Klieman Injustice) in the letters column include mistaken assumptions about both Christian Science and the 1990 Twitchell case.

In the child's short illness, there were times when he appeared to be improving. Furthermore, the testimony from both the prosecution and the defense at the trial, as well as the record on appeal, acknowledged the devotion of the Twitchells to their son's needs.

Christian Science has a long, though still largely unknown, positive record of healing. No one has yet been able to prove any system of treatment flawless. But that doesn't keep those who endeavor to practice the art of healing, under whatever name, from striving for perfection. Christian Scientists are among them. All of us look forward to a time when no child will die, for any reason. In the meantime, we support all who work to end humanity's sufferings. For a picture of Christian Science practice, we would suggest readers visit the Church's Web site—*www.tfccs.com*. On the front page is a link to an article, "The future of medicine—and the medicine of the future." This was the address given by Virginia S. Harris, Chairman of the Christian Science Board of Directors, at last December's "Spirituality and Healing in Medicine" symposium in Boston, sponsored by Harvard Medical School and the Mind/Body Medical Institute of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

GARY JONES, MANAGER
Christian Science Committees on Publication

"No one has yet been able to prove any system of treatment flawless. But that doesn't keep those who endeavor to practice the art of healing ... from striving for perfection. Christian Scientists are among them."

—Gary Jones, Manager
Christian Science Committees on Publication

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IMPROPERSPEAKING

FRESH PAINT

Local artists paint the town red for the Fresh Paint Auction, June 11.

The Copley Society of Boston—the oldest non-profit art association in the country—has hired a new executive director, **Susan H. Ritchay**, just in time for the society's signature event.

That's the **Fresh Paint Auction**, which takes place in early June of every year—this year at the **Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel** (aptly chosen) on June 11.

It's one of the most wonderful pieces of creativity you'll ever see anywhere in the city. Painters gather in Copley Square at 8am and then fan out all across Boston to paint live scenes—with the proviso that their fresh paint canvasses be back at the Copley Plaza and mounted on easels by 5pm. And then the auction—and the real fun—starts.

Susan Ritchay (center), shown with the Fresh Paint chairs, takes the helm of the Copley Society.

But, advises an improper friend, it might be even more fun to track some of the painters and watch them capture Boston's landscapes as full spring tilts into early summer.

SHOW UP. . . SHOWED UP

Last month, 2002 gubernatorial aspirant and former national and state Democratic Party Chairman **Steven Grossman** was asked to give the keynote address at the annual **Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner** in West Dennis. So far so good. Pay attention. Senate President **Thomas Birmingham**, the leading gubernatorial aspirant among Democrats, had said earlier that he wasn't coming.

Steven Grossman and Tom Birmingham duke it out for publicity.

But then Birmingham found out that Grossman was addressing the gathering and changed his mind. Then changed it again. And yet again.

So it's no wonder that when a ***Cape Cod Times*** photographer showed up to take the obligatory picture of Grossman at the dais, he was surprised to discover Birmingham was indeed at the event, having arrived at the last minute and in very much of a "I gotta get into the picture" mode. So the photographer took a picture of the two.

The caption in the following day's paper: "Steven Grossman, former Democratic National Party chairman and a likely candidate for Massachusetts governor, and Massachusetts Senate president Tom Birmingham were among the many Democrats at the annual Jefferson-Jackson dinner at Christine's Restaurant in West Dennis."

So much effort, so much Hamlet-on-the-Charles, and so little to show for it: Birmingham didn't even manage to get his name within spitting distance of a subordinate clause containing the word "governor." Maybe it's time to retool the campaign structure, Tom?

I'M BAAAAACK

THE IMPROPER has learned that Boston Celtics owner **Paul Gaston** guaranteed Celtics coach **Rick Pitino** a return trip to the FleetCenter next year even as the men in green were in the middle of a record-setting, ten game losing streak last month. This—despite the fact that Pitino managed to win one fewer game this year than he did in his first go-round three years ago and put together a truly Shakespearean 1999-2000 season from hell. (Something like *The Comedy of Errors*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Two Gentlemen of Toronto*, *Pitino,* etc. . .) What could possibly be next?

Is Sen. Trent Lott above the law?

Rick Pitino has nine lives.

SUBORNING PERJURY?

And did anyone else notice the possible suborning of perjury last month when Texas Gov. **George Dubbya Bush** and Senate Majority Leader **Trent Lott** both advised citizens receiving the U.S. Census Long Form to simply say "fuhgeddaboudit" and not answer the questions if they didn't want to?

Encouraging people to disenfranchise themselves via the census is not only improper, but telling them to withhold information that may be to their eventual benefit is a criminal offense as well.

But nobody notices suborning of perjury these days unless such important people as **Monica Lewinsky** are involved.

EXIT STAGE RIGHT

The Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head on the Vineyard, meanwhile, looks ready for another setback next week in its Pirandello-esque search for a place to open a federally sanctioned gaming emporium in Southeastern Mass. Call this: "Six Characters in Search of a Casino."

The tribe has been traipsing around most of Bristol County for the last six years trying to open a casino on city-owned golf courses, abandoned dog tracks and deserted airports—because they have the right to do so as the only federally recognized Native American tribe in the Commonwealth. But now, not only is the similarly named (though unrelated and pronounced differently) **Wampanoag Tribe of Mashpee** on Cape Cod applying for federal recognition, but the North Shore town of Salisbury votes next Tuesday in a non-binding referendum on whether or not to allow casino gambling there. The measure is backed by local powerhouse State Sen. **James Jajuga** and is expected to pass.

Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head prez Beverly Wright's got no game.

So where will tribal president **Beverly Wright** and her followers end up? Probably still wandering around the Massachusetts wilderness in search of a place to set up Bingo tables.

ONE FOOT OUT THE DOOR

Remember the one about "The best laid plans of mice and men?" Here at THE IMPROPER we found this really cute bartender named **Dot Downey** of **Pho Repulique** on Washington Street and asked her to be on the cover of our annual Beloved Bartenders issue. Now, we ship cover materials to our printer on Wednesdays, meaning that the cover of the April 19th bartenders issue went out the door on the afternoon of April 12. So what does Downey do? She ups and quits her job at Pho Republique on Sunday, April 16—the day before the issue hits the streets.

"I wanted to learn a little more about the business and its management aspects," Downey told THE IMPROPER (somewhat sheepishly) a week after leaving her job. "There wasn't the room for me to grow there. This was totally coincidental." But chances are she'll be making her signature pineapple martini somewhere around town in the near future. "The **South End Galleria** or the **B-Side Lounge** look good," she says.

Yeah, but couldn't she have at least waited a week? Sheesh.IB

Speaking of Boston

Got an inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to *speaking@improper.com*

NO DOUGH

The heat's on at CNC, but the Depot's ovens have cooled.

Back in the old days, when the **TAB** newspapers were a fun place to work and headquartered in Newton Upper Falls, Tabbies practically lived at the **Depot** coffee shop across the street, consuming untold qualities of coffee, muffins, bagels and chili.

After **Community Newspaper Company** took over the TAB eight years ago and subsequently moved it—and a bunch of other newspapers—about a mile away to Needham, CNC invited the Depot to set up a satellite operation in their building. Good deal for all concerned: decent coffee and muffins for the newspaper wretches, a huge expanded market for Depot proprietor **Chris Osborn**.

What a difference a few years of turmoil makes. Things have gotten so bad at CNC—and so many people have fled—that even Osborn is now pulling up stakes. He will close his Needham annex at the end of this month. There just aren't enough bodies to feed in order to make any dough—of any kind. "I'm not at liberty to discuss any of this," Osborn told THE IMPROPER. "Sorry, I just can't."

Going back to vending machine danish and airline-quality coffee won't boost spirits any in the morale-challenged newspaper chain.

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CITY LIMITS

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BY ERIN HAGEDORN AND JULIE SHORT

New in Town

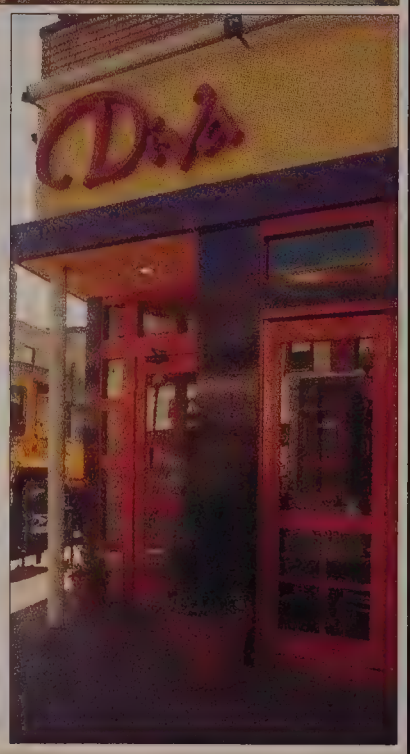
INDIAN DIVA

The hipper-than-thou neighborhood of Davis Square has its fair share of ethnic eateries. Chinese, sure. Mexican, no problem. Irish…enough already. But until Amrik S. Pabla, of Kashmir, Cafe of India and Bukhara fame, opened up **Diva Indian Bistro** at the end of March, there was a dearth of naan and Tandoori chicken in the 'hood.

You could tell Somervillians were eagerly anticipating the restaurant's opening by the line that trailed out the French wooden doors for an all-you-can-eat Indian buffet on a recent Saturday. The buffet costs only $9.95 ($6.95 weekdays) and offers lamb, chicken and vegetarian dishes (including an incredibly scrumptious malai kofta when we visited), along with soup, rice, garlic naan and creamy kheer for dessert.

After packing away far more than necessary (it is a buffet after all), sit back in your elegant cushioned booth and while away another hour sipping tea. And if you're culinarily curious, check out the open kitchen in the back, where you can watch the cook press dough along the sides of a pitcher-shaped clay oven.

Diva lacks an alcohol license at the moment, but Pabla expects to secure one soon. Until then, you'll have extra room to fill up on aloo chole and chicken vindaloo—if you desire a post-prandial drink, simply head to the Burren across the street. *246 Elm St., Somerville (629-4963). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*



Around Town

FLICKS AND FOOD

These days, taking a date to the movies costs an arm and a leg. When you add up the cost of the movie ($8.25 each), popcorn ($3.75), Goobers ($2.50), and two Cokes ($2.75 each), you're broke. So when we heard about the new Premium Cinema in Framingham—a dine-and-recline movie house—we weren't fazed by the steep ticket price of $15 per person. Until we learned what that ticket *didn't* include. The Premium has an elegant wine and beer lounge staffed by a concierge, a theater with a sumptuous menu (everything from grilled portabello mushroom to rib eye sandwich) and soft leather seats with tables to hold food and beverages. Unfortunately, 15 bucks merely gets you a seat.

The cheaper, funkier alternative is the age-old Chunky's Cinema Pub up in Haverhill. For just $4.50, you get a comfy seat out of an old Lincoln Town Car, and you can purchase cheap beer and wine at a table that seats as many as eight people. Our vote: Skip the yuppified Premium and charm her with Chunky's. *Premium Cinema (508-628-4422). Chunky's (978-374-2200).*

Full Service

BANDING TOGETHER

Local punk-pop rocker Kay Hanley of Letters to Cleo performs May 4 at Axis.

A few months back, Mikey Dee—one of Boston's most ardent supporters of the local music scene—was tragically stricken with a brain stem stroke. Many know "the Dee" as director of radio promotion at the Planetary Group, host of the local music show at WMFO, an editor at *The Noise*, and a tireless scenester. To help raise funds for Mikey's long-term medical and living expenses, Boston rockers are coming together in a outpouring of good will—rallying in a style Mikey Dee would certainly appreciate. **For the Benefit of Mr. Dee** is a five-day series of shows taking place throughout Boston—from Karma to House of Blues—all to honor and raise money for a fund in Dee's name.

The shows run May 3-7 at 14 local venues and will feature more than 70 bands and artists. Some of the Boston music community's brightest stars are participating, including **Letters to Cleo, Angry Salad, the Push Stars, the Shods, Babaloo** and **the Sheila Divine** (Mikey's favorite band!). Whether you like hip-hop, full-tilt rock, or folky pop, there are some spectacular lineups you won't want to miss. What's more, the **Boston Rock Opera** is putting on a special performance with selections from Jesus Christ Superstar, Preservation and SF Sorrow.

For a complete listing of shows and daily updates on Mikey Dee's condition, log on to *www.mikeydee.com.*

All the Buzz

SPANKIN' THE MONEY

Here's a new twist on that whole sex-for-money exchange: May is Masturbation Month, and Grand Opening Sexuality Boutique in Brookline invites you to "come as you are" to the second annual Masturbate-a-thon to benefit woman's sexual health on May 7. It's a lot like your typical fundraising walk-a-thon, but a helluva of a lot more fun—and a lot less effort. Here's how it works: Ask your friends, family, neighbors and co-workers to sponsor you for every minute you do the "five knuckle shuffle." The more generosity you show yourself, the more money you earn for community organizations dedicated to women's health. And yes, it's all on the honor system.

Start by navigating your mouse to *www.grandopening.com/pldgform.html*. Then print out a pledge sheet and hop on it. On May 7, bring your pledge sheet, along with the hard-earned cash you've collected to Grand Opening. Whether you raise $1 or $1,000, the sex boutique will give you 10 percent off—if you have the energy to spend it. Easy come, easy dough!

This Just In

MANE MAGIC

A day without a shower? How about five? Ye gads! But when a little bottle of prettily packaged **Bumble and bumble Hair Powder** (a dry shampoo) crossed our desks recently, one of our staffers—succumbing to the lazybones appeal of waking up an hour later than usual each morning—decided to give it a go. For five consecutive mornings: a squeeze of powder, a quick shake of the mane and presto…clean hair. All was fine and dandy until the fourth day, when her boyfriend tried to run his fingers through her luscious locks (they got stuck). But apart from a somewhat sticky feel, our co-workers agreed: Her hair looked terrific—smooth, full of body and vibrant. Two thumbs up! *Find Bumble & bumble products at Mario Russo, 9 Newbury St., Boston (424-6676), and Mitchell John Coiffure, 67 Broad St., Boston (951-0122).*

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CRY2K WOLF

A number of local high-tech gurus pulled off the hoax of the century.

Remember Y2K? It's hard to believe, but just a few months ago, everyone from the U.S. government to *Business Week* was terrified that power plants would cease to function, cars would stop dead in their tracks, airplanes would fall out of the sky, and the world's entire financial infrastructure would collapse, creating food shortages, riots and social chaos. It was supposed to be the end of the world as we know it. Yeah, right.

Don't get me wrong. The Y2K bug was real, and there were some programs that might not have functioned perfectly if the bug wasn't fixed. However, despite all the brouhaha before the fact, there was little likelihood that the Y2K bug would have had a significant impact on anything other than a few irate customers. We know this because the new millennium began without any significant computer-related problems, even in countries like Russia, Bulgaria and Vietnam, where next to nothing was spent on the problem.

The supposed massive impact of Y2K was, in fact, a hoax—and an expensive hoax at that. John Gantz, chief research officer at Framingham-based International Data Corp., estimates that at least $70 billion was wasted on Y2K work that wasn't really necessary. That estimate, however, doesn't take into account the money spent by frightened citizens of "Y2K preparedness," some of whom sold everything they owned and headed for the hills. And then there was the extra government expense that included $50 million to create a Y2K "crisis center."

Where did the hoax originate? While Y2K bug worries had been bouncing around the industry for a decade or so, the supposed problem was thrown into the public eye when a market-research company, Stamford-based Gartner Group Inc., published a press release describing the supposed "dangers" of the Y2K bug, estimating that a fix would cost $300 billion to $600 billion. These figures were obviously based upon pure guesswork (give or take $300 billion?), but that didn't keep the Gartner Group (and other firms) from building an entire business selling "information" about the hazards of Y2K.

The Gartner Group is the largest of a group of companies that sell reports about trends and directions in the computer industry. Many of these companies are either located in the Boston area or have large local facilities. As a result, there are probably more computer-industry analysts in Boston than any place other than Silicon Valley.

Like its colleague companies, the Gartner Group is widely quoted in the press as an "authority" on high-tech matters. However, anybody who has ever worked with these market-research companies knows that the quality of research is frequently questionable and that the opinions in the reports are often tailored to excite computer vendors into buying pricey reports.

Gartner Group's status put it in an excellent position to capitalize on the growing Y2K interest. Leading the charge at the Gartner Group was Vice President Lou Marcoccio, a Westborough resident who was frequently quoted on the subject and was even called down to Washington to present expert testimony the U.S. Special Committee on the Year 2000 Technology Problem. During that presentation, he outlined the dangers of Y2K and even predicted that 1999 would be marked by "fiscal-year system failures" (for companies who have fiscal years that are ahead of the calendar year).

When the fiscal-year failures didn't happen in 1999, I called Marcoccio while researching an article on the subject; but despite repeated requests, he was apparently too gutless to return my calls. Another local Y2K monger, Capers Jones, chairman of Burlington-based Software Productivity Research Inc., was willing to talk to me, however. It was Jones who popularized the notion that Y2K would eventually cost $3.2 trillion, based in part upon his belief that there would be $1 trillion in lawsuits as the result of Y2K failures.

The supposed massive impact of Y2K was, in fact, a hoax—and an expensive hoax at that. John Gantz, chief research officer...at International Data Corp., estimates that at least $70 billion was wasted on Y2K work that wasn't really necessary.

During that conversation, I asked Jones where he had gotten the $1 trillion figure. He told me that the number came from another locally based industry analyst, Stephanie Moore of Giga Information Group in Norwell. While Moore admitted to using the $1 trillion number in her Y2K articles, she insisted that she got the number from Capers Jones. In other words, nobody was willing to own up to the forecast—despite the fact that at that time, the U.S. Congress was wasting taxpayer money by debating whether to put financial caps on Y2K litigation.

In my view, these so-called Y2K experts and their colleagues were largely responsible for providing the intellectual underpinnings for the entire Y2K hoax—even though they clearly didn't know squat.

What bothers me today is that I have yet to see anything resembling an apology from the Y2K "experts" for starting the hoax in the first place and for perpetuating it even when it was clear (from the lack of fiscal-year failures) that Y2K was going to be an enormous non-event. While I suspect that they were fooling themselves as much as they were fooling the rest of the world, these are the people who are paid the big bucks to provide reliable advice and perspective. In this case they failed miserably, and the result was an enormous waste of time, money and energy on a problem that simply wasn't as life-threatening as they led the public to believe. **iB**

Geoffrey James (*www.geoffreyjames.com*), author of numerous books, has been debunking Y2K since 1998.

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Proper Bostonians

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

The **Literary Lights Dinner 2000** was held at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel, April 16. Robert Reich, former US Secretary of Labor, author and professor at Brandeis University, was the featured speaker at the Boston Public Library's 12th annual dinner. New England authors Caroline Alexander, Daniel Bell, Susan Cooper, Peter Davison, Elizabeth Graver, Dennis Lehane, David Macaulay, Michael Patrick MacDonald, Kate Wheeler and others were honored by the Associates of the Boston Public Library. More than 400 party-goers attended the $250-a-ticket event, raising $80,000 for the library's special collections and public programs.

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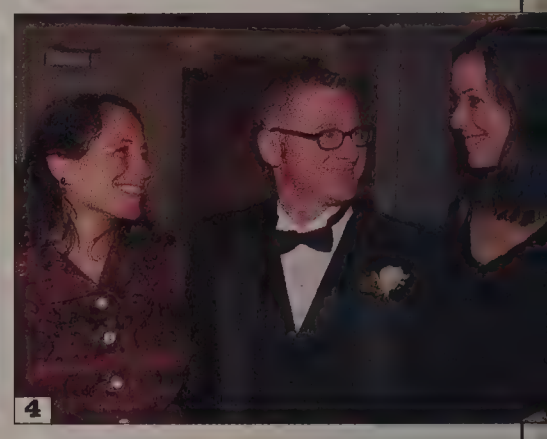
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1. **Berneda Meeks**, Literary Lights co-chair, and her husband **Dr. Louis Meeks**, an orthopedic surgeon at Beth Israel Hospital.
2. Literary critic **Pearl Bell** with **Robert Reich**, former US Secretary of Labor and professor at Brandeis University.
3. **Dennis Lehane**, author of *Gone, Baby, Gone* and *Prayers for Rain*, with **Kathy Sheehan**, social events manager for the Park Plaza Hotel.
4. From left, pianist **Amy Nadel**, **Tom Perrotta**, author of *Election*, and freelance writer **Mary Granfield**.
5. From left, **Joanie Kingsley**, co-chair of Literary Lights, screenwriter **Joan Parker**, **Doug Kingsley**, managing director at Advent International, and **Jane Denis**, Literary Lights committe member.
6. **Michael Patrick MacDonald**, author of *All Souls: A Family Story from Southie*, and **Tisi Aylward**, a freelance television producer.

On April 20, more than 700 guests gathered for the first annual **Leslie's Links** event at the Big Easy. The evening was a tribute to Leslie Semonian, founder of Leslie's Links, who passed away on Dec. 14, 1999, after an eight-year battle with cancer. As Mix 98.5's Lynn Hoffman hosted a raffle, guests dined on food donated by the Wrap and danced to music by the Catunes. Some $30,000 was raised to benefit the Leslie's Links Ewings Sarcoma Fund at Dana Farber Cancer Institute.

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7. **Christopher Walsh** (l), manager of Mary Ann's in Brighton, and **Bill Forry**, editor of the Reporter Newspapers in Dorchester.
8. From left, **Jeanie Flynn**, principal of Jeanie Flynn PR Consulting, **Dana D'Alfonso**, circulation director of the *Catalogue of Antiques and Fine Art*, model **Joe Curtin** of Maggie Inc., and **Diane Sullivan**, associate director of human resources at TKT Inc. in Cambridge.
9. **Maura Coakley**, director of business development at TPC Database Marketing in Burlington, and **Ted Delaney**, professor at Roger Williams College.
10. **Lynn Hoffman**, morning personality for Mix 98.5, and **Mark Warner**, claims services specialist at Arbella Mutual Insurance in Quincy.
11. **Chrissy Kazis** (l), software recruiter for Career Concepts in Andover, and **Dana Bisbee**, society editor at the *Boston Herald*.
12. From left, **Jesse McDonald**, sales director at Corporate Computer Solutions Inc., freelance writer **Paula Downey**, and **John Kelly**, senior trust specialist at the Boston Company in Everett.
13. **Heidi Barclay** (l), co-owner of the Rack, and her sister **Karen Keany**, corporate events planner for Morgan Stanley.

13

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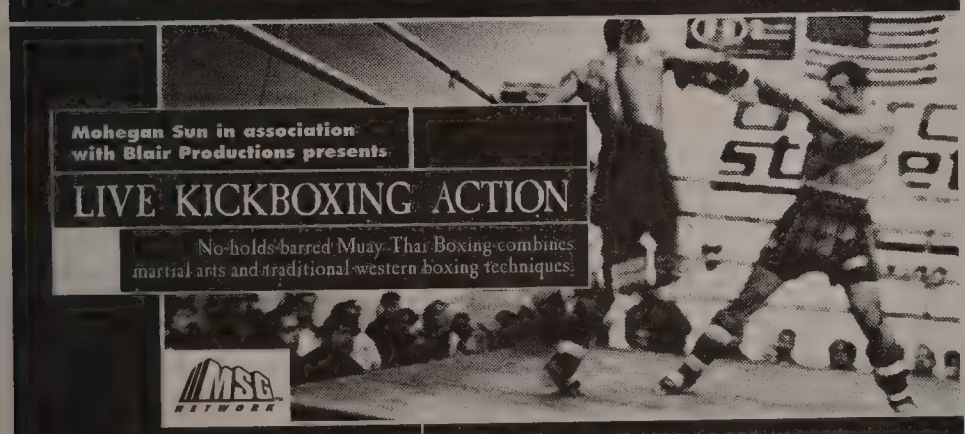

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May 25, 7 p.m. - Bolton
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JUNE 2000 *continued*

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Soroff/On

Antoine Walker

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Celtics co-captain and power-forward Antoine Walker, Number 8, was born and raised in Chicago and was recruited to play basketball at the private Mt. Carmel prep school, where he broke every school record. From there, he went to the University of Kentucky, where he helped to win the 1995-96 NCAA Championship. Declaring himself eligible for the NBA draft after his sophomore year, he became the sixth overall pick and joined the Celtics that June. Named to the 1996-97 All Rookie First Team, he ended the season as the only Celtic to play in all 82 games, and in '98 he was selected for the NBA All-Star team. In addition to restoring lustre to the Celtics, he has founded the Eight Foundation, which involves youth development and single-parent counseling; The Real Deal Program, a community outreach initiative in the Boston Public Schools; and Toine's Camps, which provide free sessions to schoolchildren based upon academic, not athletic, ability. A single father of a 5-year-old daughter, he lives in Waltham.

Jonathan Soroff: *So how tall are you?*
Antoine Walker: 6'9".
JS: *How often do people ask you that?*
AW: Probably 50 to 100 times a day.
JS: *What's their most annoying comment?*
AW: "How's it feel to be so tall?"
JS: *Not "How's the weather up there?"*
AW: That's a close second.
JS: *Shoe size?*
AW: 14.
JS: *Is it true what they say about the correlation between shoe size and ....*
AW: (Laughs) Yeah. I guess so.
JS: *So what do you honestly think of Rick Pitino?*
AW: I really like him. He's a demanding coach, and sometimes he can get a little outta control, but he's trying to get the best out of us on a daily basis, and I appreciate that.
JS: *Are you glad Purvis Ellison's gone?*
AW: No. He's a good friend of mine.
JS: *So are any of you guys really worth the money? Aren't NBA salaries outta control?*
AW: The money we make could be considered too much, but it depends on how much the owners make, too. We're the product. So it works both ways. No one really knows what the owners make, but we deserve a fair share of that.
JS: *Fair enough. So what's your most expensive toy?*
AW: My watch. I bought a platinum and diamond watch at Cartier. I paid $60,000, but it was appraised at $392,000.
JS: *Good investment. Is eight really your lucky number?*
AW: Yeah. Very lucky.
JS: *Larry Bird—does he come to you in your dreams, or haunt the locker room?*
AW: (Laughs) The past does hurt us a lot. Anytime people talk about the Celtics, they start with the history and then get to the present, and you kinda want to get beyond that, but you don't want to take anything away from what those guys accomplished, so it works both ways.
JS: *What distracts you during a game?*
AW: When fans come up and ask for an autograph. That's the biggest distraction. It's one thing before or after the game, but you're sitting on the bench, trying to pay attention, and there are fans calling your name, asking you to sign something.
JS: *Favorite FleetCenter snack?*
AW: The pizza.
JS: *Oh, man! It's awful!*
AW: You don't like it?
JS: *I suppose it's better than anything else. What's your least favorite thing about the FleetCenter?*
AW: The music. It's terrible.
JS: *How do you get your teammates motivated?*
AW: I try to lead by example. Whenever I come onto the court, I try to have a good attitude, be upbeat, as positive as possible. That can rub off on your teammates.
JS: *Any desire to play for another team?*
AW: No. I like it here. I'm established. I don't want to move, or try to get to know another city.
JS: *What's your favorite thing to do with your daughter?*
AW: Actually, I like to just sit back and observe her, hear the way she talks, watch her play with other kids, the way she does things. It's so amazing, from birth to now. She's 5 years old.
JS: *Girlfriend?*
AW: Yeah.
JS: *I take it you want to leave it at that. How about marriage?*
AW: Y'know, I'd like to be married in another five, six years. Once I'm into my second contract, when I'm more settled. I'm 23 now. I'm still young.
JS: *Dennis Rodman: spotlight-seeking freak or rugged individualist?*
AW: He's just weird. He's one of those people who will do whatever it takes to get in the spotlight.
JS: *Michael Jordan—god or man?*
AW: A god. He's the god of basketball, and of using basketball to get everything possible out of life.
JS: *Finish this sentence: The biggest thing wrong with the NBA is....*
AW: It's too political. They do an excellent job of running the whole league, but I don't think they do an excellent job of promoting each player.

JS: *Anything Chicago has that Boston doesn't?*
AW: It's bigger all around. Better nightlife. And it's more of a people city.
JS: *Yeah, Boston isn't exactly the friendly place.*
AW: Really? I guess I don't see that, because I'm a player. Everybody seems nice.
JS: *Your basketball career was pretty much predetermined before you were even in high school....*
AW: Yeah, partially because of my height.
JS: *What would you be doing if you weren't a pro athlete?*
AW: I always pictured myself as some sort of businessman, wearing a suit, going downtown with a briefcase.
JS: *You went to a mostly white private high school. Ever feel not black enough because of that?*
AW: You know what? I never felt that type of tension. It was a small school, so that made it cool.
JS: *Do people accuse you of being cocky or a showboater?*
AW: Oh, yeah. All the time. That's no problem. It comes with the territory. I'm confident of my ability on the basketball court, but I don't look at it as being cocky.
JS: *Admission to your basketball camps is based on academic, not athletic, ability, and yet you didn't finish college. Any plans to go back and get your degree?*
AW: Right now, it's hard, but I would love to go back. Maybe someday after I retire.
JS: *You left Kentucky because there was a window of opportunity with the NBA, but wouldn't you counsel people to stay in school?*
AW: Yeah, but with me, to get to the NBA, everything is based on how many points you scored, rebounds—you gotta be hot at that moment. That's where I was. I'd had a great season, come off the national championship. I didn't know if I'd have a so-so season, and then I wouldn't be the number-six draft pick. Y'know the opportunity to be successful and make a lot of money is what we all work and go to school for, so I took it when it came.
JS: *How do you feel about Paul Pierce stealing some of your spotlight?*
AW: I love Paul. He's a great talent. And one thing I learned from growing up watching the Bulls was that you can't do it by yourself. So I like it. It takes a lot of pressure off me to have somebody as good as he is. One person can't win a championship. **IB**

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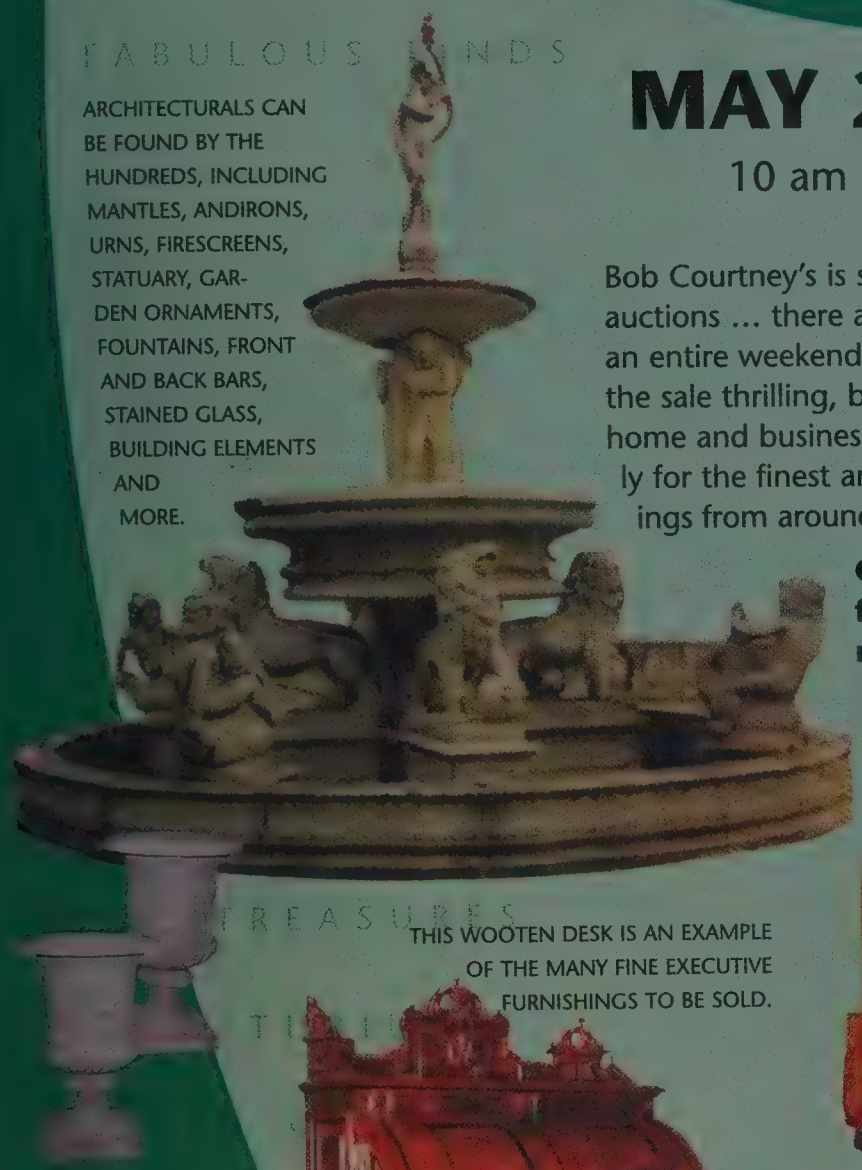

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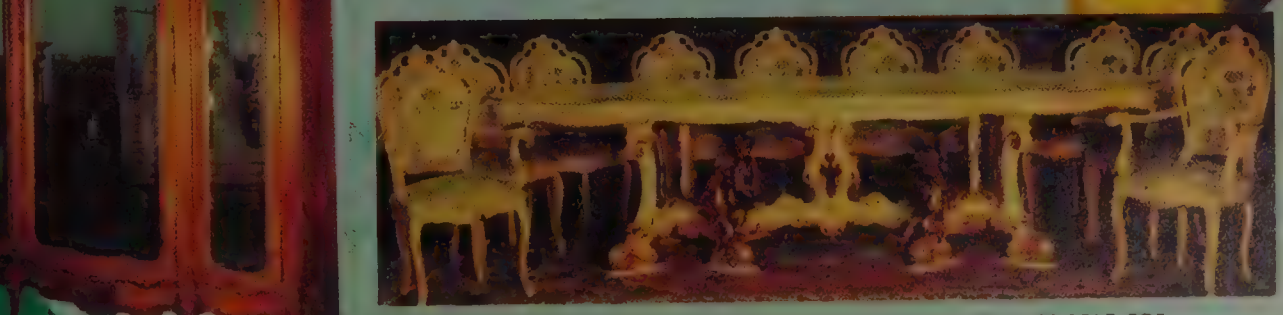

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Tuesday, May 9th - Come to the RACK 'N ROLL PARTY to benefit the American Red Cross. THE CATUNES LIVE! Donation includes food and pool. Special guests include: The New England Patriot Cheerleaders, Bruins legend Rick Middleton, and many more surprise celebrities. Party starts at 5:30pm.

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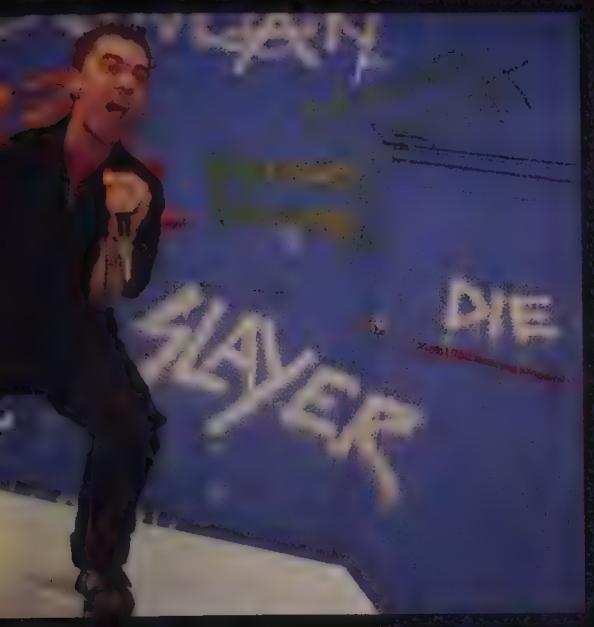
the LOFT comes DO

Below: An opening at the Oni Gallery, the progressive art space on the loft's fifth floor; above: A few lines of spraypaint convey the sentiment of the evicted tenants; above right: The1899 factory building, soon to be razed.

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: LUKE RODDY, WENDY MIMRAN (5), COURTESY OF REDLIGHT PRODUCTIONS, WENDY MIMRAN



Left: Duncan Johnson Wilder, a heavy-metal spoken-word poet, performed at a two-hour poetry event hosted by the Oni Gallery on March 24; above: Kate Quinlan, one of the Oni Gallery's members; below: The event, one of Oni's last at 84 Kingston, drew a large, attentive audience.

Above: Former loft tenants let off steam the day before moving; DJs Dante and Shannon Shalako spin vinyl at one of the notorious Redlight raves.

The infamous loft at 84 Kingston Street, once home to a thriving art community, is soon to be razed and replaced by a 36-floor skyscraper. Urban evolution, perhaps; but to many, it spells the end of an era. BY ADAM RZEPKA

ONE LATE NIGHT at the end of March, a crew of about 25 enthusiastic artists, musicians and gallery personnel set about destroying the interior of a turn-of-the century shirt factory in Chinatown's leather district. In a few short minutes, heaps of broken glass littered the hardwood floors, home appliances lay crumpled in the corners and a collection of old records and guitars pierced what was left of the walls.

Standing outside, across the street from the polished black-and-white skyscraper at One Financial Center, a few scattered construction workers watched couches, tables, pieces of 100-year-old tin ceiling, and at least one clothes dryer come flying through the bay windows of the old factory and crash land in the parking lot. What was particularly strange about the event was the destruction crew—they *lived* here. The residents of this once fully functional artists' community were demolishing what they had built with their own hands.

It was the end of an era at 84 Kingston Street, in recent years an infamous haven for progressive raves, underground rock bands, risqué poetry slams and some of the freshest gallery installations in town. Now, a development deal feared for years by the building's semi-legal tenants had finally come through, and 84 Kingston was officially slated for the rubble heap. The night of joyous destruction was part protest, part celebration of past glories, and partly an assertion of the tenants' feeling that this building was their own creation—if anyone was going to destroy it, it was going to be the people who knew and loved it. >>

The site is now on its way to becoming One Lincoln Center, a 465-foot, 36-story "premier corporate facility" with over a million square feet of office space. The mayor's office expects the project to handle about a third of Boston's demand for office space over "the next few years," although the behemoth skyscraper has no definite tenants yet. The hulking, largely unused Bedford Mechanical Garage next door was crushed in mid-April, and 84 Kingston now stands next to a heap of dusty debris.

The building has certainly seen stranger things. It was built in 1899 as part of a wholesale and industrial construction boom in the northeast corner of the Hub. City planners had already wrought major changes in the landscape here, filling in large parts of the harbor and removing Fort Hill altogether. The area quickly became a major textile, wool and leather district—84 Kingston Street's first tenant was Brown and Cheever, a men's shirt factory. Like many of the factory and warehouse spaces in the area, the shirt factory had its share of industrial traumas: Two fires and two major renovations left the interior significantly changed from its original plan. The exterior, however, has hardly changed at all since the turn of the century. Both the Boston Landmarks Commission and the Massachusetts Historical Commission have taken an interest in this "Classical Revival" structure, and its prominent cartouches, spandrels and keystones have earned it a place in the National Register of Historic Places.

But elegant terra-cotta window borders were not the first things on the minds of the artists and musicians that began to move into the building in the late '80s and early '90s. After nearly a century of industrial use (as a shirt factory, a mattress plant and a T-shirt wholesaler), the building was left gutted, waiting to be discovered by anyone with a new plan, a little capital and a thirst for a big, big, studio. Kingston Street offered the kind of space that let the imagination run wild: five open floors the size of basketball courts, all with 12-foot ceilings, stacked up on the edge of the Financial District and Chinatown in a neighborhood where few venture after office hours. For residents with creative agendas, this meant big crowd capacity, elbow room for large-scale art and no noise complaints.

Below left: Two former loft residents perform to protest the building's impending demolition; above: Local rocker Dave Goodman, member of Lockgroove and Compass, in his old loft room.

Raves, rock and readings

Some of the first people to occupy 84 Kingston after its long disuse were Kris Defixio, Dave Burt, Shannon "Shalako" Cohen, and Seth [last name withheld], who quickly set up the fourth floor to host a series of innovative raves under the moniker Redlight. Begun in 1997 as a progressive alternative to the more common species of mindless, ecstasy-heavy rave, Redlight events promised "to bring an awareness of meaning to the dance-party experience." The events featured big-name DJs like Benny Blanco and Shannon Shalako himself, but also emphasized experimental visual art and a sometimes ceremonial atmosphere. One foundational Redlight evening, advertised as "an intentioned event," began with a long moment of silence. The events were soon drawing as many as 500 people.

It wasn't long before all five floors of the building were housing similarly unusual projects. "By the time we moved in, in May of '98, the building was a site of constant creativity," recalls Tim Bailey, co-director of the Oni Gallery. "There was a gallery in the basement, a studio on the first floor, musicians and photographers on the second, multiple bands on the third, raves on the fourth and our own gallery on the fifth. There was an incredible spirit to the place." Since its opening at 84 Kingston, the Oni has quickly built a name for itself as a space for new visual art, installations and performances. Recent exhibitions, with names like "Salon 2" and "Formula," have featured up to 30 artists each, and the work shown has ranged from oil paintings to stuffed figures hung in front of giant video screens.

Like many of the projects begun in the building, the Oni Gallery's aims focus on a grassroots, non-commercial renewal of the Boston arts scene. "The gallery began as a reaction to what the art world had become in Boston," Bailey continues. "Artists come to Boston for school and then head straight for New York, and the reason they go is because there's nothing new going on in Boston. There were no commercial spaces that were being progressive. We pay our bills out of our own pockets, so we can show whatever we want instead of worrying about selling this or that painting." The Oni, which is moving to a nearby loft space at 684 Washington Street, closed out its stay at Kingston with a rapid-fire series of packed exhibitions and a two-hour poetry extravaganza featuring heavy-metal spoken-word poet Duncan Wilder Johnson.

Just a short walk down the winding iron stairway from the Oni and the Redlight spaces, some of the recent lights of the Boston groove and indie-rock scenes could be found hammering out sets for gigs at the Middle East, T.T. the Bear's and a host of other venues. It would have been a dizzying task to keep up with the musical networking that centered on the third floor, with members of Beat Down Sound, Mary Timony, Victory at Sea, the Katie Geoghans, Thunder Nation Drum Choir, California Stadium, Vehicle Birth, Cracktorch and Toronto all in residence. The second floor, besides its contingent of local students of everything from photography to book-making, was the practice space for local pop-noise idols the Wicked Farleys. It was also home to Lockgroove bassist Dave Goodman, who logged long hours by the huge bay windows fine-tuning his independent project, Compass. Needless to say, the final two weeks at number 84 were an absolute melee of rock shows, readings, raves and raucous art projects.

> Kingston Street offered the kind of space that let the imagination run wild: five open floors the size of basketball courts, all with 12-foot ceilings...

Evacuation day

Orders to evacuate 84 Kingston came in mid-February, leaving everyone in the building six weeks to pack up their operations and leave. Tenants had expected this to happen eventually, and rumors about the status of the Lincoln Center deal had been in circulation for years (the project was already approved by 1991). "It was a risk we all knew about," says Kris Defixio, one of the rave organizers. "We lived month to month." Still, one might expect more of a cam-

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paign by the tenants to delay the eviction and raise questions about the plan to replace this burgeoning underground scene with a corporate superstructure.

Such plans are taking hold in many parts of the city as the booming economy increases demand for business space. Just across the Fort Point Channel from Kingston Street, artists on Stillings Street have been waging a campaign against an eviction order from the Boston Wharf Company, which wants to replace their galleries and studios with a parking garage for Thompson Financial Services, one of its corporate tenants. Cheryl Forte of the Fort Point Artists' Community, which lobbies on behalf of the galleries here, cites "the deluge of the dot-com companies" as a significant factor in the real-estate makeovers threatening industrial-era art spaces in the area.

But if a lack of visibility is an important problem in the Fort Point dispute, it's a nearly insurmountable one on Kingston Street. The bohemian world inhabited by the newly evicted tenants at number 84 seems almost entirely separated from the world of the One Lincoln Center development team and the city officials that approved the project. Not that the Lincoln Center project was unaware of community issues—the development team has been in contact with neighborhood groups from its inception and will feed about $14.5 million directly into community efforts to improve housing, child-care and general development in Chinatown and Roxbury (where a second site is being considered). Yet neither the project's 17-page press release nor the mayor's statements at the groundbreaking ceremony contained even the slightest reference to Kingston Street's current tenants. As far as One Lincoln Center is concerned, number 84 may as well have remained a burnt-out factory floor.

This persistent invisibility tends to rub evicted tenants the wrong way, especially since many of the artists in Boston's ex-industrial areas consider themselves largely responsible for rejuvenating these neighborhoods to the point where they attract corporate interests in the first place. "Artists clearly built the community in Fort Point," claims Cheryl Forte, "and artists clearly want to stay here." In the Leather District, the city has made intensive and highly successful efforts since 1987 to clean up what was once a center for some of the shadiest street business in town.

> "When we moved to Kingston Street... every time you walked out of the building, you'd be offered crack and sex within a block."
>
> —loft tenant Dave Burt

"When we moved in to Kingston Street, this area was extremely sketchy," remembers Dave Burt, one of the loft's first residents. "Every time you walked out of the building, you'd be offered crack and sex within a block."

Now, there's hardly a speck of garbage on the street. But it's questionable how successful the city would have been in its cleanup program if the neighborhood's loft spaces had been used by squatters or by one of the area's illegal gambling rings rather than by young, energetic artists. Although everyone at 84 Kingston was living in violation of the building's zoning laws, and although officials of the nearby Boston Housing Authority consistently parked in front of it, the city never registered a complaint. Tenants now feel that they were used as handy placeholders while the city struggled to clean up the streets and while the real estate market got back on its feet.

The paper trail

Of course, this invisibility cuts both ways, and most loft tenants were frustrated by the big-business labyrinth of the Lincoln Center organization. "We wouldn't have gotten very far against a project of that scale," explains Dave Goodman, a resident musician. "There was an incredible paper trail and an enormous amount of money involved." Trying to pin down ownership of the development site, it's easy to see what he means. The project is owned by a company set up specifically for One Lincoln Center, called Kingston Bedford Joint Venture LLC. This company is in turn a joint venture of Ohio, Morgan, and Stanley Real Estate Funds; the New Jersey-based Gale and Wentworth; the Ohio-based State Teachers Retirement System; and the local Columbia Plaza Associates.

And none of them even holds the deed to the site—that would be a company called Old Ironsides, which acquired the deed in 1998. This company is not among the 20 or so mentioned in the One Lincoln Center press release, and Kingston Street residents seeking to lodge a protest were unable to find any concrete information on it at all. This sort of situation is not unusual in areas like Chinatown and the Leather District—it's just the way real estate works here. "If you're lucky, you can find out who owns a site," says longtime resident Dave [last name withheld], but it's much harder to find out who controls it. In the case of the mammoth deal going down at Kingston Street, any formal protest died before it began.

Below: Tenants comfort each other as they're forced to leave the building on March 31; above: A banner reveals plans for the 1 Lincoln Center building, which will replace 84 Kingston Street and the already vacant garage lot next door.

And so, after that therapeutic night of wanton smashing, the tenants of 84 Kingston went peacefully on to their next scene. The increasingly familiar red-and-white "Condemned" sticker was put up on the building, and next to it a sign stating that the site had been closed under the auspices of Project Pride. Many of the ex-tenants will stay in Boston, setting to work on walls and plumbing in similar spaces in Chinatown and Roxbury. But some are gone for good—to Chicago, Virginia, and yes, to New York.

In urban development generally, and particularly in urban renewal, there are rarely clear-cut good guys and bad guys. City residents can agree on "progress" of some sort, but it's far from clear what progress might mean.

Should relatively undeveloped parts of the city like the Leather District become international business centers, or should they become the next Soho? Boston's recent boom has left the city with an unprecedented freedom both to strengthen its business community and to foster cultural innovation. One Lincoln Center has done a great deal to take responsibility as a community-oriented project, and, with luck, it will find tenants and become a corporate success story as well. Meanwhile, the city just lost another of its most creative spaces. **iB**

Adam Rzepka is a Boston-based freelance writer who covers the underground art scene and the urban landscape.

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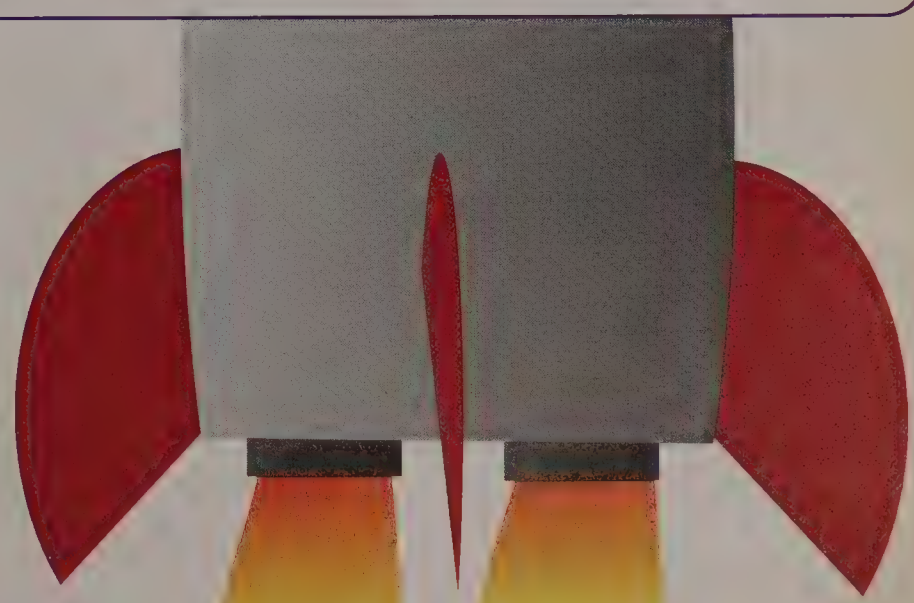

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The Arnold Arboretum in Jamaica Plain is one of the many bucolic gems within Frederick Law Olmsted's Emerald Necklace of parks.

KINDRA CLINEFF

preservation pride and p

THE HEATED BATTLES BEHIND OLMSTEAD'S TRANQUIL EMERALD NECKLACE

By Andreae Downs

Frederick Law Olmsted designed the loop of connecting parks from Franklin Park to the Fens, creating what we now know as the Emerald Necklace.

The spring thaw is well under way. Spring rains are as certain as night follows day, and soon the Muddy River will overflow its banks again. Before long, Fenway, Back Bay and Brookline residents may well find themselves dealing with smelly seasonal effluvium as the great flawed stone in the Emerald Necklace acts up once again.

Still, it's been a remarkable renaissance. Boston's storied Emerald Necklace—the 2,000 acres of meandering parks extending from the Common to Franklin Park—is coming back from near-decimation by neglect. It's just that every spring and fall the Muddy River reminds us that there's still a whole lot of work left to be done.

Frederick Law Olmsted, the grandfather of American landscape architecture, designed the park from the Fens to Franklin Park in 1895. He considered this extensive urban park project to be his crowning achievement (Central Park? Prospect Park? They were dress rehearsals). But for decades, the park was neglected, even trashed, as Bostonians were distracted by the busing crisis, urban "renewal" and even modern amusements like television and the real countryside—suddenly accessible by auto.

The Common, the Public Garden and the Commonwealth Avenue Mall were maintained well enough—they always had a public constituency and were under everyone's noses. But the rest—the parts Olmsted designed, had to wait until a patchwork of more than 25 advocacy groups formed to support the concept of "public space." Outraged by the litter, the foul water, eroding ground, battered trees and loss of land to unrelated uses, citizens near the Necklace began to organize about 30 years ago in small, sometimes shrill, groups, each with its own shtick. And they've managed to get the necklace reset into something resembling its original look.

But it has been a long road back.

Park politics

How bad was it? Sewage effluent was a regular part of the Muddy River's fluids. Graffiti and litter plagued much of the park. The park's hidden spaces were used to conceal bodies—or murderers—not to mention muggers, flashers, purse-snatchers and prostitutes of various and sometimes questionable genders. The bridges, some of them beautifully designed—like the one built for Boylston Street by Henry Hobson Richardson (who convinced Olmsted to work on the Boston project in the first place)—were falling down. Olmsted's structures were burned, torn down or replaced. Seventeen acres were appropriated for a hospital. Space for cars replaced space for people.

In pairs and in dozens, volunteers rallied. They cleared tires and bottles from Franklin Park through to the Fens. A retired publicist, Irene Gillis, rode a cow from Boston Common to Brookline to highlight the muck in the Muddy River. Groups petitioned the mayor, the histori-

Cathleen Cavell is an advocate for reopening the Carlton Street Foot Bridge, close to her home in Brookline.

Christine Cooper and Gerry Wright head the Jamaica Pond Project, a volunteer group that successfully deterred development on Hellenic Hill, the wooded slope to the west of the pond.

Brendan Donovan, a member of the Restore Olmsted's Waterway board of directors, keeps a close eye on water pollution around Willow Pond.

cal preservation societies and the Environmental Protection Agency; they applied for grants; they conducted studies.

What's incredible is that this motley crew managed to motivate municipal, state and federal bureaucrats to fund their causes. Boston alone now spends $880,000 a year just on maintenance of the Necklace. Probably more unfathomable is that this menagerie of passionate, opinionated volunteer park stewards has come together under an umbrella organization—the Emerald Necklace Conservancy—which is attempting to build a single set of priorities for the park around the Emerald Necklace master plan. This document shows what Olmsted had planned for the park—with detailed planting information— and what needs to be done to restore it.

Not that they all agree on everything, mind you.

Get into a conversation with almost any individual involved in Emerald Necklace preservation, and there's backbiting, rumors about conflict of interest, disagreements on the cause of the Muddy's 1997 flooding. And there are histories of political intrigue and money. All of which makes Necklace politics interesting, to say the least.

Warring factions

Gillis, who founded Restore Olmsted's Waterway (ROW) in response to the Muddy's pollution, is one such voice. She's one of those who doubts dredging is going to solve the river's chronic flooding problems. She denigrates the Emerald Necklace master plan as being mere landscaping, and implies that some park advocates with landscape architecture backgrounds are interested merely in garnering more contracts.

She worries that the conservancy doesn't allow members to vote. And behind her back and off the record, those who disagree with her just call her slightly crazy.

Others have been called names, too, sometimes on the record. And every advocate has his or her own idea, solution, or perception of the problem.

For instance: One group, Friends of the Muddy River, is concerned about pollution in the river. Meanwhile, they also want to get a grant to preserve some of the Muddy's 100-year-old trees, and another to do water testing.

For the past 20 years, the Jamaica Pond Project, also an all-volunteer organization led by Christine Cooper and Gerry Wright, has organized litter crews, fought to tear down Pine Bank—a decrepit building on the banks of the pond—in favor of a garden, and have successfully deterred development on Hellenic Hill, the wooded slope on the west side of the pond. But they worry that their work may go to benefit the well-heeled, who now flock to once working-class Jamaica Plain.

Meanwhile, Hugh Mattison, of the Friends of Leverett Pond, wants Pine Bank restored, not torn down, noting that Olmsted himself decided to keep it there. Mattison has successfully advocated tearing down Kelley Rink, which, although popular with kids, was not part of the original plan. Along with Wright and Cooper, Mattison succeeded in closing the roadways on the west side of the park so that bikers, walkers and in-line skaters can enjoy them. As a result, the drive-through drug market that used to flourish in the park was also closed.

Mattison and others would like a bridge over the T tracks at Carleton Street in Brookline reopened. Neighbors, however, fear that this move would open Carleton and Monmouth street's mansions to burglars, muggers and the like, who could then run to the park for cover.

Mattison would like more landscaping for Leverett Pond, some beautifying of Charlesbank, more maintenance of the whole park, and a solution to the goose-crap problem. He's even suggested opening hunting season on the geese, perhaps with bows and arrows, since discharging guns inside city and town limits is illegal. Goose is an acceptable alternative to turkey during the holidays, after all. But then there are the goose lovers ...

In the past, the Franklin Park Coalition, now 25 years old, also organized work crews to clean up the park. It now mostly advocates for further improvements and maintenance. One of its founders, Richard Heath, is working for the city on replanting native trees in the woodlands of the Emerald Necklace, particularly in the "wilderness" Olmsted planned in Franklin Park.

And that's not to mention the Arborway Group; The Fenway Alliance, which is mostly made up of Huntington Avenue institutions; the Charles River Watershed Association; and the Fenway Civic Association. You get the idea.

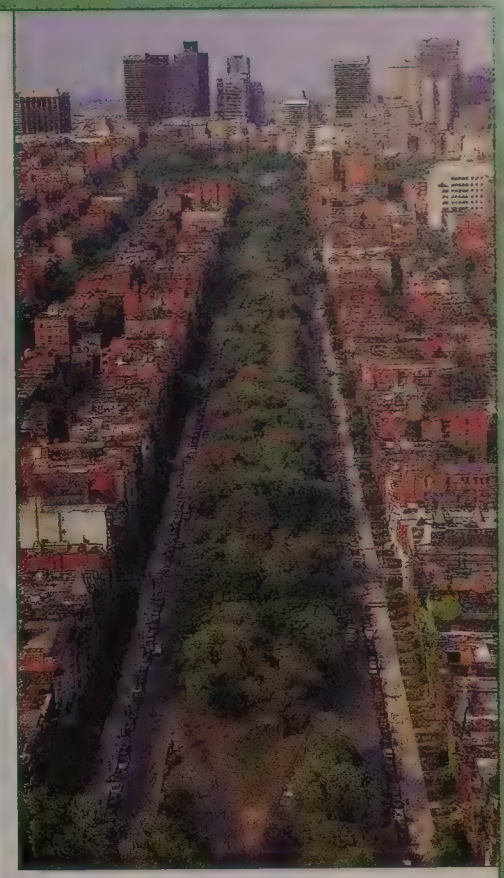
The Great Flood

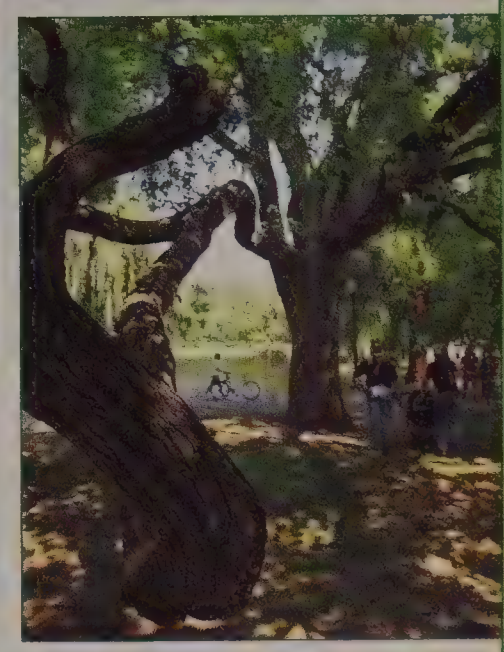
Currently, the big fight is over how to best spend some $70 million in anticipated state and federal funds for the restoration of the Muddy River.

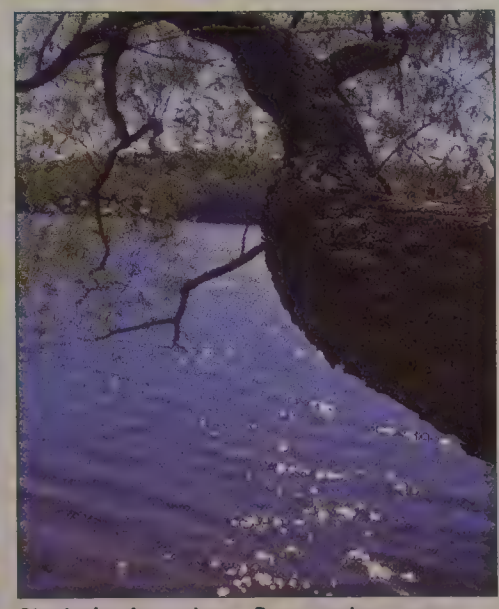
In the spring of 1997, after weeks of rain, the meandering Muddy burst its banks. Water (the source of it all is still contested) flooded the T station in Kenmore Square, innumerable Brookline and Boston basements and nearby streets and playing fields. With the water around their ankles, if not higher, residents got a closer look at what flows in the Muddy and floods into it during a storm.

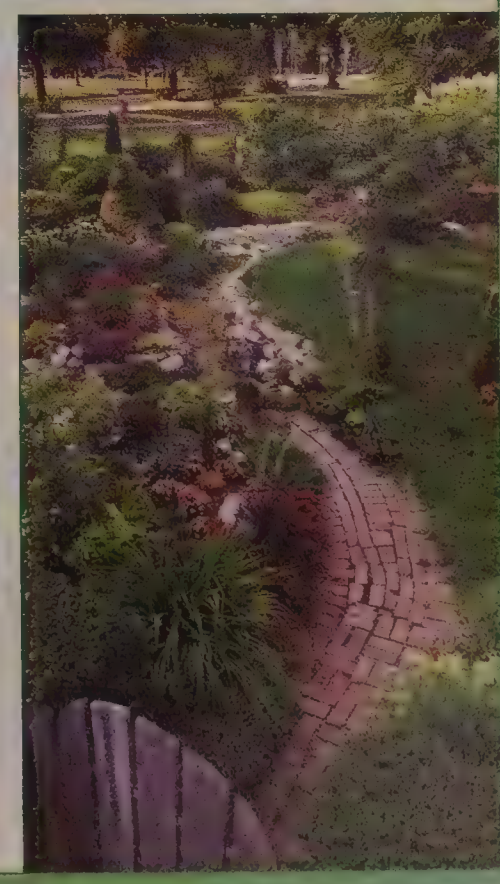
And they didn't like what they saw.

Turns out that the "noxious Stony Brook," which carried sewage from parts of Boston when Olmsted put it into culverts in the 1870s, still does. And several private landowners (knowingly or not) had connected their sewer overflows to the storm drains (or vice versa, causing sewer lids to pop off and spew their contents down streets and over tracks).

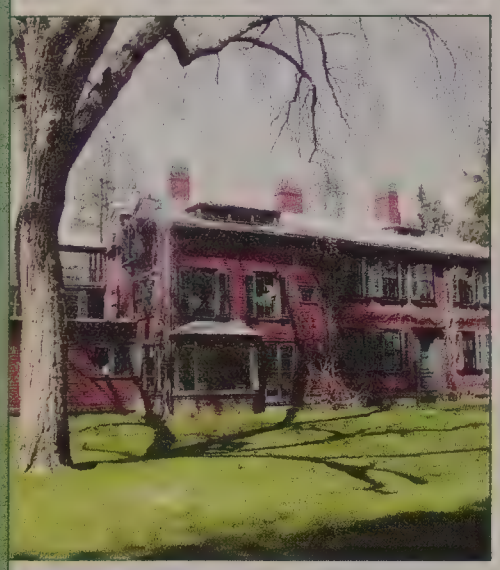


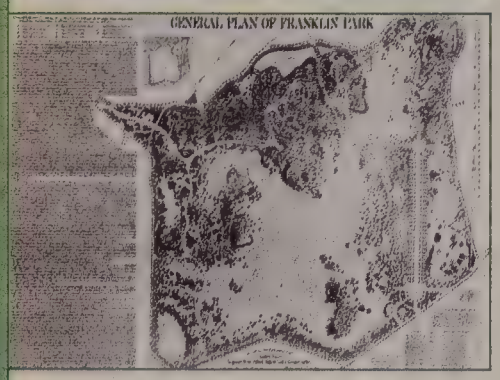


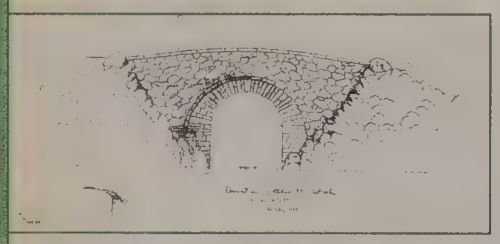


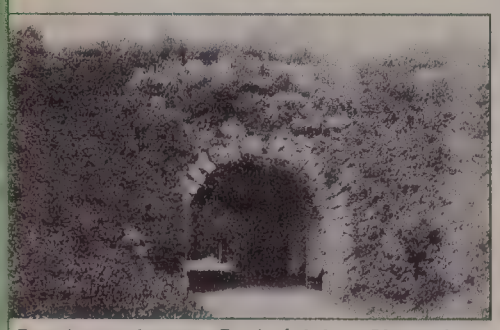


Clockwise from above: Rose gardens were a 20th-century addition to the Fens—Olmsted designed his parks primarily without flowers; a beltway of green along Commonwealth Ave. connects the Common to the Fens; weeping willows in the Common; a well-tended plot in the Fen's extensive Victory Gardens; Jamaica Pond; the Arnold Arboretum, a trove of horticultural diversity.









From top to bottom: Frederick Law Olmsted, circa 1892; his house at 99 Warren St. in Brookline, now an official historic site run by the National Park Service; an 1885 Park Department plan of Franklin Park, designed by Olmsted; a sketch for a bridge in Franklin Park; the finished bridge.

Although hospital waste and sewage still seep into the Muddy River, the effluent is less obvious and obnoxious.

Then, of course, there were the leaky underground oil tanks on either side of the river: After a major rain storm there is still a viscous glaze on Willow Pond, the small one between Ward's and Leverett—the second one north of Jamaica Pond.

All of a sudden, water quality and flood mitigation became Job One. The City of Boston, which oversees the river's restoration, plans to spend $45 million to eliminate sewage going into Stony Brook. Brookline has sold its old Town Garage site to a developer, with the stipulation that the leaky underground tanks and oily soil be cleaned up.

So things are looking better on the Muddy, at least for now.

All of this doesn't mean that Clean Harbors—or the Boston Police Department—is going to go out of business on the Muddy anytime soon.

The City of Boston recently replaced, rather than removed, two underground oil tanks within a hundred feet of the river. Brookline's water department wanted to do the same, but the town's Conservation Commission nixed the idea. The department can still use its underground gasoline tank, because it's grandfathered. But of course this hardly makes sense in terms of protecting river ecology, either.

And the park still harbors unwanted users: crack smokers reportedly hide in the tall phragmites on the Fens (the weeds sometimes burst into flame as a result), rats climb out of the swamps to nosh at the Fens' Victory Gardens. Occasionally, criminals still prey on the gay population at night, and the overpasses that replaced Olmsted's view of the Charles at Charlesbank still offer shelter to the homeless.

But many park advocates are pretty happy with the improvements so far. An attractive bike path runs almost uninterrupted from Franklin Park all the way to the Charles. The Franklin Park golf course—which had no club house, just a burned-out set of brick walls between 1975 and 1981 and only nine holes open from 1981 to 1989 —is now in terrific shape. All 18 holes are open. The zoo is continually being improved, though it was not part of the original plan (but then neither were the Victory Gardens—built on the fill from Kenmore T station).

The rose garden and lagoon near the Museum of Fine Arts, also not part of the original plan (Olmsted was not a flower fan, not for his parks at least), are a lovely sight nonetheless. Litter has decreased, and trees are being planted throughout the park. And although hospital waste and sewage still seep into the Muddy River, the effluent is less obvious and obnoxious.

"It's nice to hear people talking about going there for recreation more," says Mattison, of the Friends of Leverett Pond. "When you improve the park and people use it, crime goes down, too."

Richard Heath, a park advocate for more than 20 years, agrees. "I see women walking alone in the middle of Franklin Park," he says. "They are not foolish; they don't feel threatened. It's safe."

Green philosophy

In many ways, the Necklace still serves its original purposes.

Olmsted was as much a social architect as a landscape one, according to Alan Banks, supervisory park ranger at the Olmsted National Historic Site in Brookline. Olmsted believed that parks provided physical relief for people living in the polluted urban environment of the 1880s, and psychological relief for the nervous disorders of urban dwellers.

The idea was to give people a feeling of space and a common ground where people of all classes could meet. The Hub's first Irish-American mayor got it, notes Jane Holtz Kay in her book *Lost Boston*. Hugh O'Brien endorsed Olmsted's plan for the Necklace, promising that the park would be "the vineyards of the laboring man."

Olmsted also understood that if the park was done right—it would benefit not only the public's health but also municipal coffers. Because the land around the parks became desirable, mansions were built there, buoying the tax base of both Brookline and Boston.

Since the completion of the Necklace in 1895, however, things have been modified to suit modern tastes. The deer park and promenade in Franklin Park is now a zoo. The Franklin Park meadow quickly became a golf course. The Muddy was dammed at the Charles, causing all the brackish water flora that Olmsted planted in the Fens to die, and making for some of the drainage problems that the river and Fens face today. And of course, the hideous overpasses were added at Charlesgate.

The Fens were filled in partly—making the Museum of Fine Arts property and adjoining rose garden possible.

The Necklace supports ball fields, boats at Jamaica Pond, tot lots, jogging, skating, gardening, tennis and more. A lovely summer weekend can still be well-spent on a bike or a walk from the Common to the zoo. Picnicking is still possible (though not at the Arboretum).

Other things happen on the Necklace, too. Strange things: perhaps Santeria. Right after the New Year's (new century, new millennium) celebration, one park walker reported finding a cow's tongue nailed 12 feet up on the east side of an old, gnarled oak tree. Chicken feathers and blood have also been found along the river banks, and little offerings have been left at the base of the oldest trees.

But some of the parks' original inhabitants are back. Herring, for instance. Some say that endangered sticklebacks live in Willow Pond, oil slicks notwithstanding. Cormorants, ducks and even herons are back.

But bacteria still live in the river, too. Pre-Olmsted, they were a source of typhus for Brookline. Clean-water advocates want it to be better, naturally. They want canoeing back on the Muddy. They want clean water, pristine walks, fewer automobiles and more nature lovers. They want a park that doesn't invade their basements or harbor muggers and prostitutes. They worry that all the funds now hovering in the near future could be spent on rhododendrons rather than on rivers. IB

Walk The Necklace

The following tours of Olmsted's Boston parks, sponsored by the National Park Service Rangers are free and will be held rain or shine. For more information on these tours and others, call 566-1689.

▸ JAMAICA POND: OF PONDS AND PLANS
A two-hour tour focusing on why this pond was included in the Emerald Necklace.
Sat., May 27, 1pm. Meet at the Jamaica Pond Boathouse; Pond St. and Jamaicaway, Jamaica Plain.

▸ THE BACK BAY FENS: VISIONS AND REVISIONS
A two-hour tour that explores the past and future of the Fens—from "the filthiest mudflats" to the urban oasis we know today.
Sun., June 4, 1pm. Meet at the Leif Ericson statue; Commonwealth Ave. mall and Charlesgate East, Boston.

▸ FRANKLIN PARK: COUNTRY IN THE CITY
A two-hour tour through one of Olmsted's finest design achievements. *Sun., June 11, 1pm. Meet at Forest Hills entrance to Franklin Park; corner of Forest Hills Ave. and the Arborway, Jamaica Plain.*

▸ THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM: PLANT EXPLORERS
Learn about the Arboretum's pioneering plant explorers on this 90-minute horticultural tour.
Wed., June 14, 6pm. Meet at the Arnold Arboretum's main gate in front of the Hunnewell Visitor Center, the Arborway, Jamaica Plain.

▸ OLMSTED PARK: THE LOST JEWEL
A two-hour tour throughout one of the prettiest and least-known Emerald Necklace parks.
Sun., June 18, 1pm. Meet at the Daisy Field Ballfield, Willow Pond Rd., Jamaica Plain.

▸ THE RIVERWAY: RIBBON OF GREEN
The marriage of landscape design and clever engineering is the focus of this two-hour tour.
Sun., June 25, 5pm. Meet at the Longwood MBTA stop, Chapel St., Brookline.

—Rachel Strutt

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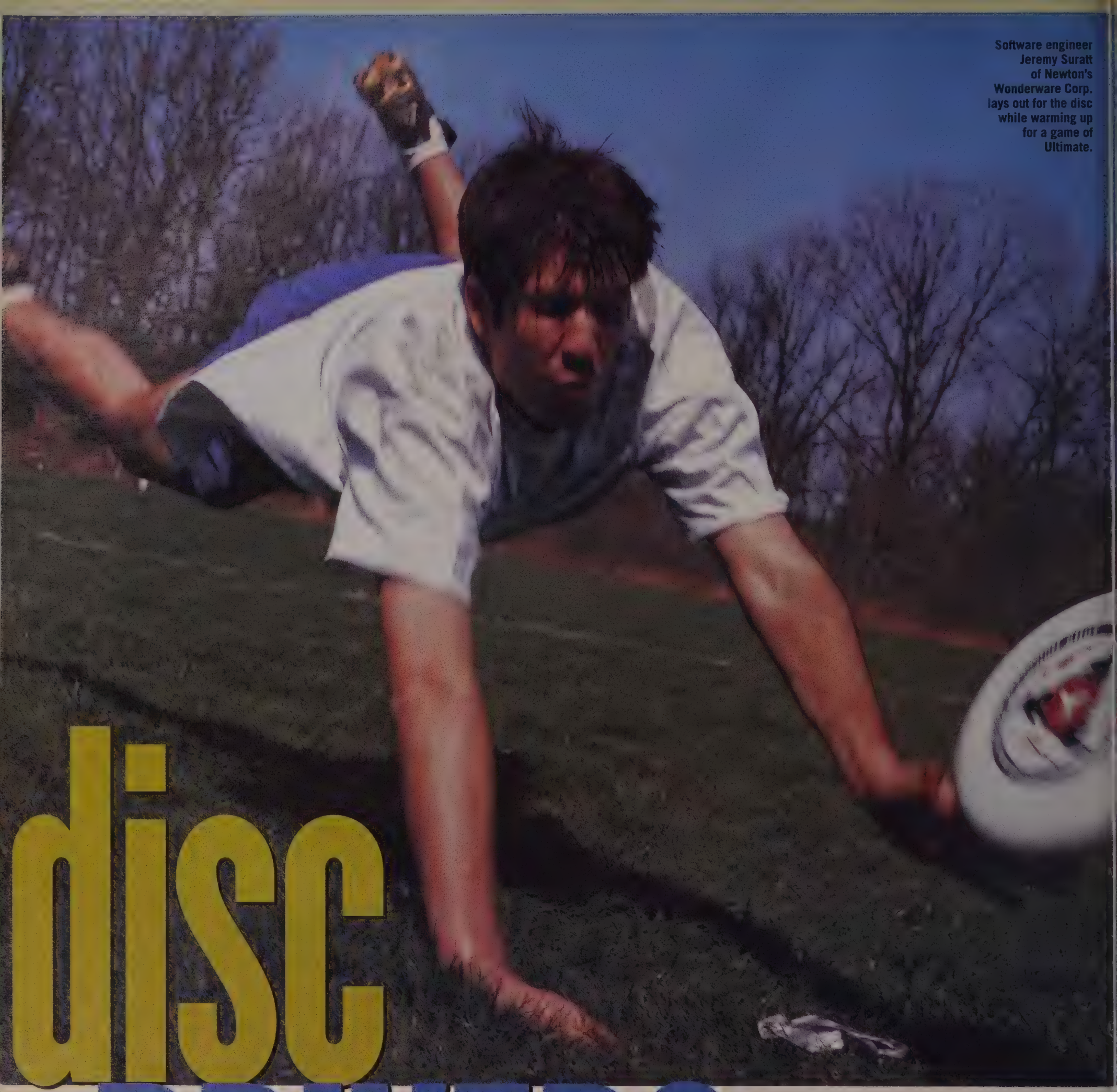

Software engineer Jeremy Suratt of Newton's Wonderware Corp. lays out for the disc while warming up for a game of Ultimate.

disc DRIVERS

When it comes to the art of networking, increasing numbers of young Boston-area techies are bypassing iron clubs in favor of a plastic Frisbee.

BY JULIE SHORT · PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEVEN BILLUPS

It's like a scene from *Superman*, except that the seven Clark Kent-ish types running from their cubes, tossing off their Coke-bottle glasses and discarding their pocket protectors are not reporters for the *Daily Planet*. No, these guys are computer geeks—the kind you find tucked safely behind computer screens all the way from Kendall Square to Watertown. But each summer night, they morph into surprisingly graceful athletes (in locker rooms, not phone booths) to challenge their opponents on the Ultimate disc battlefield. Their weapon of choice? A plastic Frisbee.

In this age of million-dollar startups powered by entrepreneurs in their 20s and 30s, Ultimate Frisbee has edged out the traditional, more stodgy game of golf as a social activity conducive to biz talk. The highly competitive game offers Boston's high-tech engineers a chance to step away from their computer screens and leave behind the world of ones and zeros. Instead of putting a few balls on the green, these movers and shakers swap stories, network and share insider tips as they toss a disc across an open field.

Ultimate Appeal

It's just after noon on a Tuesday, and already a few men and women garbed in T-shirts and sweats have gathered on the field in front of Cognex Corp., a machine vision company in Natick. Nearly every day, a crew from Cognex meets to play Ultimate Frisbee during their lunch hour. "It's a big part of our company's culture," says Robin Pratt, manager of corporate communications. Indeed, passersby on Route 9 frequently catch sight of players chasing a disc down the field—come rain or shine.

Among the more enthusiastic players is Karen Roberts, an engineering group manager who's been playing ultimate for four years. "It's a great stress reliever, and it helps build teamwork outside the office," she says. "We have people from all different departments—from manufacturing and finance to marketing and engineering—playing together." Roberts adds, "On the field, the newest hire is just as important as the CTO."

For the uninitiated, the rules of Ultimate are relatively simple. Two teams of seven pass the disc down the field toward one of two opposing endzones. A player may not run with the Frisbee, however; so once the disc is caught, the object is to advance it down the field by throwing it to another teammate without allowing an interception by the other team. Everyone gets to be the quarterback, and everyone gets to be wide receiver.

Pratt says Cognex is well-known in the high-tech community for its Ultimate team—the company has hired a photographer to take photos for recruitment brochures, and company reps pass out Frisbees as promotional material. Roberts has even invited potential hires to join her on the field. "If I find out someone I'm interviewing is interested in Frisbee, I'll borrow a pair of cleats and bring him out at lunchtime to show what Cognex is all about."

Engineer + Disc = Ultimate

Most ultimate players in this area are affiliated with the Boston Ultimate Disc Alliance, also known as BUDA. Every summer, 67 teams (with an average of 18 players each) sign up to play for BUDA's corporate/open league. Another 1,400 play in the spring and fall leagues. Back when the league started in the early '80s, all of the teams had a corporate affiliation, says BUDA Webmaster Tommy Proulx. "Because BUDA communicated with players via email [a method of communication not yet widespread in the '80s], the majority of the companies were hightech," he adds.

Today, the corporate affiliation is a bit looser, and the lines have blurred. Companies have been acquired or sold, but occasionally you'll find a team still playing under its former sponsor's name (Data General's team, Disc Grace, is one). And techies, for the most part, still dominate the league.

A crew from Cognex Corp. plays Ultimate daily at lunchtime.

WANNA PLAY?

Even if you're not a techno-geek, you can still get involved with Ultimate frisbee. Here in Boston, there are two main organizations through which you can sign up. The Boston Ultimate Disc Alliance (BUDA) is the largest, with more than 2,600 men and women registered each year. In the spring and fall, individual members can sign up and will be placed on a team. Visit *www.buda.org*. Another option is the Boston Ski & Sports Club, which also runs a co-ed league with 100-150 individuals playing in the summer in Charlestown, starting May 17. For more information, call the BSSC at 789-4070 or visit *www.bssc.com*.

So why is Ultimate so appealing to the high-tech folks? Why not softball, basketball...or even chess? To understand, you have to journey back to the origins of the game—back to Maplewood, N.J., circa 1968—where Columbia High School newspaper and Student Council students organized pickup Frisbee games on an asphalt parking lot. Apparently it was somewhat of a joke at first, a counterculture game that offered a chance for the "intelligentsia and non-athletes of the school to play a sport," says founder Joel Silver (now a bigwig Hollywood producer of such hits as *The Matrix*, *Die Hard* and *Lethal Weapon*). When these kids went to enroll in their respective Ivy League institutions, they brought ultimate with them, spreading their love for the game to other so-called "non-athletes," frequently engineers.

Team Testosterone

Today, Ultimate remains a sport that's easy to pick up, and you don't have to be a seasoned athlete to participate. "It's not as 'team testosterone' as other sports," says Proulx. Molly Hoyle, a program manager for GTE Internetworking (formerly BBN Planet) in Cambridge and an Ultimate enthusiast, agrees. "Geeks lose out in basketball or football because, in general, they're not big enough," she says. "With Ultimate, size is not a factor because it's a non-contact sport."

Cleveland Brown, an engineer with RSA Security in Bedford, remembers playing 10 years ago in the original corporate leagues, when it was all high-tech companies and most players were engineers. "I remember discussing with my teammates why it was all of us geeks out there playing," he says. "We decided that the mentality of Ultimate matches the mentality of an engineer." Software developer Jeremy Suratt, of Wonderware Corp. in Newton, summarizes it well: "It's a game of strategy that utilizes the concepts of physics and probability—the combination of which is quite appealing to the scientific mind."

With the preponderance of techies on the playing field, it's only logical that players turn to their fellow teammates when looking for a job. At BUDA's end-of-the-summer tournament last year, each team captain received a Frisbee emblazoned with the logo "Intrinsix." Team captains were also given recruitment pamphlets and told that any player who referred an engineer to Intrinsix would earn $500 for his or her team. The response was encouraging for Jeff Pollack, the director of sales at Intrinsix in Westborough, Mass. After all, the promotion was his idea. Pollack, a longtime member of the Intrinsix team, Get Flat, frequently takes advantage of Ultimate games as an opportunity to network. "After every game, I approach the other team and ask if any of the hardware and software engineers might be interested in a job at Intrinsix," Pollack says. "I've had a few hires this way." He also passes out Frisbees at trade shows.

Others rely on more informal means of networking. When Jim Parinelli, an engineer in underwater acoustics for Scientific Solutions in Nashua, N.H., was thinking about changing jobs, he first emailed his teammates for contacts. Others like Gus Reiber, a Web designer at Allaire in Cambridge, do most of their business-related networking after the game. "We head to a local bar with the opposing team and find out what they do." Says Molly Hoyle of BBN, "I think we're very aware of each other as resources. My teammates are definitely the first people I turn to."

Spirit of the Game

Ultimate inspires a passion among players that borders on obsession. "We're out there at least three or four times a week in the summer," says Suratt. He admits it can be a bit addicting. "I'm definitely eager to get back on the field by the end of winter." There's no such thing as a casual Ultimate player. Peer into the back seat of any player's car and, more often than not, you'll find a pair of cleats and a disc or two. Like the quintessential Boy Scout, the Ultimate player is always prepared. The beauty of the sport is its accessibility. "Basically, all you need is a Frisbee," says Suratt. A field can be marked off hastily using T-shirts that double as cones.

Talk at length with a player, and he or she will speak of the Spirit of the Game—a code of sportsmanship written by Joel Silver and his Frisbee friends back in the 1970s. Basically, it declares the sport "self-refereeing," during which "highly competitive play is encouraged, but never at the expense of the bond of mutual respect between players...or to destroy the pure joy of play." Don't laugh—Ultimate players take this code pretty seriously. "In other sports, you try to get away with as much as you can without the referee calling foul," says Proulx. "With Ultimate, you don't try to get away with anything because you make your own calls." Even at the highest levels of play, there are no referees. "It's a great way to find out a person's character," he adds.

Jim Parinelli agrees. "Ultimate is a chance to see what people are really like and how they react when things get tough—whether they're willing to cheat to win and how honest they are when they do something wrong," he says. "After a game, you can decide if you want to deal with this person off the field."

Ultimate Inc.

Companies across Boston are starting to realize that it takes more than a comfortable salary and stock options to lure in potential hires. Case in point: Thingworld, a company that makes multimedia software for the Web, is considering building a Frisbee field for its new offices in Watertown. Other companies, like Allaire and GTE Internetworking, chip in money for T-shirts and registration fees. Cognex Corp. went so far as to purchase a field in front of its property (albeit with an eye toward future expansion of the building's headquarters) for use as a Frisbee field. It certainly doesn't hurt if your president or chief technology officer is nuts about Ultimate, as is the case of Intrinsix and Cognex, respectively. But even if they're not, employers seem to be catching on: A team united outside the office makes for a productive team within. iB

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This page: Benetton gray jacket, $188; gray side-zip skirt, $88; Sisley lavender French-cuff blouse, $58; all available at Benetton.
Right page: Vivenne Westwood blue cotton blouse, $225; khaki skirt, $275; both available at Riccardi. Stuart Weitzman black strappy shoe, $175.

BaByliss

OPPOSITE PAGE: Carrie: Tahari blue jacket, $388; matching pants, $238; Christian Dior scarf, $230, all available at Saks Fifth Avenue; Stuart Weitzman lucite shoe, $205. **Elaine:** D&G denim jacket, $300; cropped pants $180, available at Riccardi; Christian Dior logo scarf, $100, available at Saks Fifth Avenue; Stuart Weitzman denim slides, $205. **Ruby:** Moschino denim jacket, $215; matching skirt, $140; D&G denim shirt, $155, all available at Riccardi; Christian Dior blue sunglasses, $198, available at Saks Fifth Avenue; Stuart Weitzman denim sandals, $190. • **THIS PAGE:** Diane Von Furstenberg python print dress, $230; python gloves, $100, both available at Saks Fifth Avenue; Stuart Weitzman multicolored python shoes, $298.

WHERE TO BUY: Benetton, Copley Place (437-7790) • Riccardi, 116 Newbury Street (266-3158) • Stuart Weitzman, Copley Place (266-8699) • Saks Fifth Avenue, Prudential Center (262-8500).

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Liquid Hair Studios, 640 Tremont Street, 425-4848.

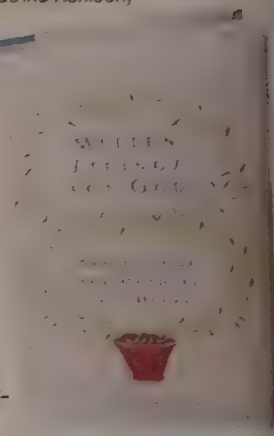
Mopsy

Serendipitous shopping: Our unfettered correspondent seeks out the salubrious and the cerebral

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY

Read at Midnight, with Cocoa

Mitten Strings for God, Reflections for Mothers in a Hurry by Katrina Kenison, celebrates ways families can slow down and connect.

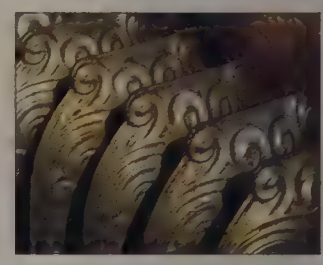


In the most peaceful tone possible—this book is a sugar cookie of sweet simplicity. Katrina Kenison's essays propose that we can all lead lives more intimately in touch with the members of our family and with ourselves. Likewise, we can tune into the quiet chirpings and burgeonings, the rhythms and tides of nature—if only we spend a little time choosing to do so. While anyone could be didactic and shrill about commercialism, over-scheduled lives, too much noise and color, technology and cynicism, Kenison just quietly demonstrates what the opposite might be like. A mood of coziness and closeness can be created by observing family rituals—watching the sun go down, playing music together, spending an hour in the hammock with children. "I try to devote some small part of every day to taking care of the invisible," she writes, meaning the quieter happenings that don't have the bossy officiousness of scheduled, boisterous events, and giving children full attention. Kenison's writing is hypnotic; you feel almost rocked in the arms of her prose. Give the book to a mother who just penciled her children into her busy calendar.

They Radiate Bargain (Old) Fixtures

A-1 Plumbing, 30 Prospect St., Somerville (625-6140), buys and sells old bathroom supplies. Call first. Across from Dunkin' Donuts in Union Square and near Ricky's Flowers.

You may know this roadside graveyard of sometimes-rusty old gems and have glanced at the bony radiators. But you have to cruise closely to see the full array of bathroom and heating possibilities. Old-house radiators—ranging from compact ones, skinny as tall toasters, to lengthy, many-sectioned behemoths—fill the lot. It's important to know that a radiator that looks beyond hope can be sandblasted and repainted by A-1 before you haul it away to Victorianize your house. Some are decidedly ornamental. A-1 also fills another inalienable right: to have a toilet of working parts. Along with bowls and tanks, including wall-mounted ones, here's where to get that frequently broken item—a toilet tank lid (bring the broken one or a stiff cardboard replica). Their more beautiful treasures in the back include bathtubs, especially the adorable claw-foot ones, in a range of sizes. Lots of sinks—some stainless steel ones are for kitchen or darkroom; some handsome pedestal ones include a number of generous-sized, cast-iron-over-porcelain ones that look really old. Marble sink-tops and the occasional soapstone sink shade things over from old to actually antique.



Far-Flung Flavor, Not So Far

Exotically romantic clothes and some housewares to match are at Anthropologie, 799 Boylston St., Boston, and at the Chestnut Hill Mall.

The catalog for Anthropologie has a distinctive tone about it, rather indie-movie. A movie set in a series of foreign places where the earth is rusty-red and pretty girls are wistfully saying goodbye. The clothing ethos at Anthropologie is created partly from an international marriage of fabrics interestingly brought together: sari cloth, nearly-napkin-ish embroidered fabrics, homey red-checked ginghams, Thai silk, turquoise-beaded fringe, gauzy fabric, casually romantic georgette. These far-flung materials are used to create motley styles; some skirts and shifts are layered in an almost haphazard dreaminess. There are homey-yet-sexy bandanna skirts and ruffled plaid skirts; there are jagged hemlines of flouncy silk speckled with mirrors. Likewise, the housewares are eclectic, eccentric, with things like delicately embroidered or beaded, almost-handmade-looking, lampshades. French plates advertising a chocolate firm have been reproduced: cozy, kitcheny, stylish. But some things are in their lovably battered state—real kitchen oldies, like cookie tins. Little hook-rugs and flowered picture frames echo the fancifulness of the dresses. Or a thick old seltzer bottle, waiting to be used as a lamp. The store's got atmosphere—with exposed wooden beams, huge iron gates, and ivy curling up the stairs exotically.

WENDY MIMRAN (3); RITA GREELEY (BOOK)

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SPIES LIKE ME

A top-secret excursion to the CIA

BY EZRA DYER

Even the glamorous becomes so passé with time," I reflected the other day as I went through my mail. Journalism, it seems, leads directly to hedonism. Would I like to write an article on the introduction of the new Ferrari 360 convertible? Or review the current Epicurean delights offered in Monaco? Or play a few rounds of naked tennis with Anna Kournikova? Yawn.

So yawn. But eventually I get an invitation that I can't pass up. This one was from the Boston World Affairs Council, which was showing cool spy toys and giving anti-terrorist briefings at CIA headquarters in Langley, Va. A writer would be allowed to attend. Sorry, Anna, maybe next time.

The first thing that you notice about the CIA is that there doesn't seem to be a lot of security. However, the public relations lady who led us around did say something to the effect of "the best security is security that you don't see," so I'm sure that on my way in, I went through a metal detector, bomb detector, drug detector, communism detector, and very probably a strip search without my knowing it. They're crafty, you see.

On the subject of the public relations lady, her paradoxical mission is to answer questions without revealing anything, and she's quite good at it. When someone asked her how many people work at the CIA, she said "about half of them" before deftly moving back to the subject of cherry blossoms, a classified number of which were blooming on the organization's classified-acre campus.

Once inside the actual building, our group was led to the room where we would be briefed on the CIA's various activities. We had hardly sat down, however, before there was a mass exodus for the bathroom. This precipitated a bit of wandering on the part of myself and several colleagues, but we eventually discovered it around the corner and down a hallway. When we returned to the presentation room, we found that two uniformed, armed men had appeared, and they were not terribly happy. They stood there fingering their guns as the PR lady reminded us all not to wander off again, or we would be silently murdered.

So I sat in one spot throughout the presentations. Here are the high points, according to my notes: "Drug problem—can't do anything about it, but spend lots of money trying. Ossama Bin Laden and Saddam Hussein—can't kill, very wiley. Soviet Union was big, bad, predictable country, now lots of little crazy countries. Guy in front of me has huge head. Work here—lots of analysis, not so much dangerous spy stuff. Hungry and must pee." As you may have guessed, I never did very well in lecture classes.

On to the gift shop, then. The fact that there is a gift shop at all raised my suspicions, because before the trip I was told that it's quite extraordinary for the CIA to let a large group of non-government folks into the building. If it's so unusual for tours to come through here, I asked myself, then why do they have a gift shop that hawks all manner of CIA logo schlock? Do the employees buy the stuff themselves? I think

I got to check out the CIA's hall of spy gear. Here you'll find a lipstick gun, an assassination cane that shoots poisonous gas, a minibike that you can carry in a gym bag and a three-man submarine...

not. If I am a CIA employee, I am about as likely to buy a CIA T-shirt as a Bostonian is to buy one stating, "I pahked my cah in Boston!" It would be just too uncool.

As it turns out, the CIA gift shop devotes only about a quarter of its space to logo-covered tourist trinkets, and the rest of the store is filled with discount VCRs, NASCAR fishing lures, a wall of pantyhose, ceramic figurines—the good stuff spies need, apparently. I guess it's a mark of my "green" spy status that I still cannot conceive of an international espionage scenario involving a Jeff Gordon–autographed spoon lure.

After the gift shop, I checked out the CIA's hall of spy gear. Here you'll find a lipstick gun, an assassination cane that shoots poisonous gas, a minibike that you can carry in a gym bag and a three-man submarine, among other things. I wished I had access to the assassination cane when the tour guides came and announced that our half-hour was up.

I still had only a vague notion of what exactly it is that the CIA does, but I think that's the way they want it. When you're trying to persuade legions of tech geeks to come work for a government salary, enigmatic allure carries a lot of weight. Tom Clancy novels have probably brought in more resumes than college-campus recruiting ever did. That said, I happen to know a writer who wants his own submarine. iB

You think that's funny?

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Beer is clearly the drink of choice among Commonwealth regulars. Opposite page: Chef Michael Rice and head brewer Jeffrey Charnick (above); charred sesame tuna with Asian noodle salad (below).

Review

FISH & CHIPS—AMERICAN-STYLE

The Commonwealth scores points for its hearty beer and lively, spacious atmosphere

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI

A relative newcomer to Boston, I never cease to be amazed by the unique mixture of provincialism and chauvinism one encounters on the banks of the Charles. Oliver Wendell Holmes popularized the metaphor "the Hub of the universe," and I am not sure whether he was merely describing an attitude he perceived among his Boston brethren, or whether he helped create that arrogance. A visit to the Commonwealth Fish and Beer Company one recent Friday evening, however, rekindled my interest in the subject.

Desperate to see the semi-final game of the Big East basketball tournament, one of my colleagues and I arrived at the Commonwealth at tip-off time, just as the place was clearing out, with people making their way across the street to the Fleet Center to see the Celtics take on the Bulls. The big-screen TV behind the bar was tuned to ESPN, which was carrying the Big East, so we settled in and ordered a beer. Just before the appointed hour, the television was switched to the Celtics game, a relatively unimportant match between two also-rans. Our pleas to the bartender to restore the Big East were met with a declaration that it was restaurant policy to show only Boston sporting events when they are under way.

After an appeal to the manager, in which we pointed out that no one in this huge restaurant was actually watching the Celtics on the television, he obliged us by granting our variance from the house rules and changing channels to our game. What do these basketball wars have to do with the food, which is the point of a restaurant review? Lots.

The quality of a dining experience has three basic components: the food, the service and the ambiance. In food, we look for creativity and good taste, for fresh, quality ingredients, for skill in preparation, and for flair and care in presentation. In service we look for knowledge, responsiveness, efficiency, vigilance, and friendliness—not chumminess, but warmth and good humor. Ambiance is broader and more difficult to define, encompassing décor, comfort, style, hospitality, and—at least in some places—music and even televised sports programming. In a beer pub like the Commonwealth (before its recent makeover, it was called the Commonwealth Brewing Company), we are willing to cut some slack on the food in recognition of the quality of the beer, the ambiance and the televised sports.

First addressing ambiance, the Commonwealth occupies a very big, almost cavernous space, with expansive storefront windows; long shiny copper tables with black metal chairs; a high ceiling with shiny, copper-clad ductwork; hanging fish and fishing-lure sculptures; big, round, navy-blue and aquamarine columns; ship figureheads; eight or nine leafy potted trees; and hardwood floors. The long bar features sturdy, high-backed wooden chairs. Most impressive are three or four enormous, shiny copper brewing kettles, which serve notice to all that here, beer is king. On this front, the Commonwealth delivers what it promises, offering a great selection of traditionally brewed hand-pulled ales and a number of local lagers as well. Most are priced quite reasonably at $3.75 a pint, including the Commonwealth's flagship Burton Bitter, smooth, full bodied, with a splendid copper color. Like the other ales, it is served cool, not cold. The India Pale Ale is an intensely hopped brew with a prominent malt flavor. Our personal favorite, together with the Burton Bitter, was the classic stout, a mellow, smooth, almost viscous dark-brown liquid with a hint of sweetness tempered by a pleasant, almost coffee-like bitterness. This "liquid bread" could well serve as a filling, fat-free supper.

JOEGREENEPHOTO.COM (3)

Garnering consistently high grades with its brews, and scoring almost equally well in ambiance—once the basketball wars were won—the Commonwealth had merely to earn a satisfactory on the food front to merit a following. It was here that we found it wildly inconsistent. First, the clam chowder ($2.95 a cup) was excellent, chock full of clams and potatoes. The pronounced flavor of tarragon made the chowder particularly flavorful. A second winner was the sea scallops served on baby spinach, with sun-dried-tomato pesto and pine nuts ($9.95). This was a veritable mountain of fresh greens, with a vibrant vinaigrette dressing enlivened with chopped, fresh basil. We forgave the sparseness of the scallops (there were only two or three, cut into thick slices), which had a superb, nut-sweet flavor and fine texture. The crunchy toasted pine nuts presented a welcome counterpoint to the tender, young spinach, and only the wedges of celluloid-like hothouse tomatoes flawed the ensemble.

Another decent offering one night was the pulled-pork sandwich ($8.95), a tangy, tasty barbecue served with a generous scoop of crunchy, fresh coleslaw and molasses-laden, cumin-spiked baked beans. Unfortunately, the roll containing the pork, indifferent to start with, was soggy from being piled on top of the coleslaw and beans, and the french fries weren't hot and fresh.

On a subsequent night, the french fries were much better, but a number of the other choices were sorely disappointing. The shrimp and sausage en croute ($6.95) consisted of two dry, corn-battered shrimp, and one very dry—almost desiccated—sausage, little redeemed by the homemade honey mustard. Maryland crab cakes ($7.95) were a disgrace—dry and mostly filler. In fact, if there was a crustacean in there, it escaped our detection. The crab cake was accompanied by quasi-wilted, tough watercress.

An order of fish and chips ($10.95) was excellent, but it did not go very far. While there was a mountain of french fries, the fish consisted of two rather slender pieces, lightly breaded, fresh and flaky, but downright sparse considering the price. The pepper-crusted tuna ($16.95) was also modest in size and sliced far too thin. Moreover, a heavy hand on the pepper made it almost unpleasant, bringing to mind the old Groucho Marx complaint (popularized by Woody Allen) about small portions of bad food.

Things looked up at dessert time. The bread pudding ($4.95) was served in a hefty crock, liberally studded with raisins and pecans and accompanied by both ice cream and whipped cream. The key-lime pie, a generous wedge of tart, luscious custard, was delicious.

Service at the Commonwealth was as inconsistent as the food. On one evening, the waiter could not have been more attentive and responsive. When we ate at the bar on another evening, in contrast, the overworked bartender was distracted and scattered, and getting his attention and assistance became difficult.

The Commonwealth is a lively, enjoyable place to enjoy good beer and, if the televised sporting event featured on its screen is of interest, to share the contagion of enthusiasm that such a venue encourages. If it is solid rather than liquid nourishment you are after, however, negotiate the shoals of its menu with care and with modest expectations. **iB**

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Dish

LOIRE & ORDER

Radius' superstars serve up culture along with savory sweetbreads. BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

This was no ordinary evening at the library. Eating, drinking and animated conversation were the order of the day at the recent **Loire Valley Demo/Dinner** to benefit the **French Library and Cultural Center**. Kitchen borrowing privileges went to **Radius** partners **Christopher Myers** and **Michael Schlow**, with a supporting role played by sous chef **Burke Forster**.

Above (left to right), Radius owner Christopher Myers, sous chef Burke Forster and chef/owner Michael Schlow entertain the crowd at the French Library.

Gathered around the basement kitchen with its black-and-white checkerboard lino-leum floor and primitive ventilation system (an open window and door) were several dozen Francophiles eager to watch the celebrity chefs at work. An added bonus: the comedic interplay between Myers and Schlow, which is destined to spark the wittiest, most intelligent cooking show ever....

Watch...Schlow keep an edgy distance from the old, old stove that seared off his eyebrows when he lit its pilot light during a previous guest stint (thus putting the "ow!" in Schlow).

Hear...Myers admire French culinary resourcefulness: "There's NO part of an animal they won't eat."

Ponder...the respectful dialogue that ensues when Schlow presents Myers with proposed new menu items for wine matching. Myers: "This dish BLOWS! I don't have a wine BAD enough for this!" Schlow: "Yeah? How 'bout a Yoo-hoo?"

The foodie Francophiles ate it up. Literally. An elegant woman in a cashmere twinset tipped her plate to her mouth to catch the last of the curry sauce surrounding a barely-cooked filet of Chatham cod. Front-row guests "oohed" and "aahed," then eagerly reached out to pat the crispy crust of a sweetbread offered by Schlow.

"Don't be shy," he said as he offered third helpings of roasted sweetbreads with wild mushrooms, English peas and a red-wine reduction. And they weren't. From the enthusiastic reception accorded the glamorized glands, one could imagine that an All-You-Can-Eat Sweetbreads Night at Radius would be a *fantastique* success.

After dinner, the enraptured guests peppered the duo with questions. To Schlow: "Will you be like Todd English?"

"Nah, I'll never be that muscular," said Schlow. The real answer: Sure, they're interested in opening another restaurant—but not yet. Besides, a cooking show can't be far off.

Second Course

If the prospect of taking Mom out for Mother's Day brunch is too trite, you have a tasteful—and meaningful—alternative this year. During the week of Mother's Day, May 8-14, some of Boston's best pastry chefs are preparing special desserts at their restaurants to raise money for the fight against breast cancer. Led by **Lee Napoli** of **Anago**, **Boston Bakes for Breast Cancer** is the best possible way to rationalize eating all that butter, chocolate and cream. Proceeds go to the Eva Brownman Breast Cancer Fund, a nonprofit that benefits Dana Farber Cancer Institute.

With more than 30 restaurants participating, ranging from **Claremont Café** to **Bricco** to **Aura** at the **Seaport Hotel** (one of the best-kept fine dining secrets in town, given the ease of making reservations), you have no excuse to skip dessert that week.

Food & Wine Magazine has made it official, though we already knew it for a fact: **Michael Leviton**, chef/owner of **Lumière**, has been named as one of the Best New Chefs in America. Congratulations!

Going, going....wait—it's back! Less than six months ago, it was in danger of crumbling into the harbor, but now the historic Long Wharf building has been shored up to a fare-thee-well by the owners of the **Chart House**, who have reopened the restaurant after a $2 million renovation. iB

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant? Send it to dish@improper.com

Tastings BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for tastings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

EVENTS

Bomboa Tasting
Bomboa, 35 Stanhope St., Boston (876-0079). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. May 10, 6:30pm. $45. Chef **Michael Reidt** will give a demo, talk and tasting of his exotic Brazilian French specialties in an event sponsored by the American Institute of Wine and Food.

Bread Day!
Brasserie Jo, 120 Huntington Ave., Boston (425-3240). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential. May 16, 6-9pm. $18. Celebrate the feast of St. Honore, the patron saint of bakers. A variety of breads, wines and accompaniments will be served.

Calcotada & Spanish Wine Festival
Rauxa, 70 Union Square, Somerville (623-9939). May 6, 1pm. $35. Calcotada is an old Catalan tradition of roasting cooked calcots (young onions) and serving them with a bowl of Romesco sauce accompanied by a swig of hearty red wine. Celebrate spring the Spanish way.

French Wines of Summer
The French Library and Cultural Center, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (266-4351). May 8, 7-9pm. $40. Whites from Burgundy? Reds in the summer? Which, why and with what? **Jason Matulewicz** will offer some good choices for the warmer months, with selections from Burgundy, Alsace and the Loire. Sample French cuisine from Brasserie Jo as you taste the wines.

Grand Hefeweizen Tasting
The Seaport Hotel, 164 Northern Ave., Boston (888-HAR-POON, ext. 677). www.harpoon-brewery.com. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. May 9, 8-10pm. $20 (includes 24 two-ounce samples).* This tasting sponsored by Harpoon Brewery will include German and American Hefeweizen brewers. Aura Executive Chef **Ed Doyle** will prepare hors d'oeuvres, and there will be a selection of locally produced cheeses to complement the beer.

Mother's Day Gospel Brunch
Dick's Last Resort, 55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). May 14, 10am, 12pm and 2pm. $14.99. Enjoy an all-you-can-eat brunch brunch buffet with omelets, waffles, eggs Benedict and Southern biscuits, along with entertainment by the Evelyn McDonald Gospel Group.

New England Real Ale Exhibition
George Dilboy Post, Somerville. www.Nerax.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Weekdays, 6-10:30pm; Sat. 12-4pm and 6-10:30pm. Sun. 12-4pm. $5 per session.* Sample cask-conditioned beers from England and the Northeast. Pints, half-pints and quarter-pints of all beers can be purchased.

The Versatile Riesling
Wine Experiences, 20-A Dartmouth St., Boston (859-7170). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. May 11, 7-9pm. $45. This evening devoted to Riesling will demonstrate the grape's versatility and food compatability by matching 10 different Rieslings with six dishes from very different flavor groups.

A Taste of the North End
The New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, Boston (742-4336). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. May 5, 7:30-11:30pm. $65. Taste Italian delicacies and fine wines from 29 different North End restaurants and 10 wine distributors.

Three Cooks, Three Courses
B-Side Lounge, 92 Hampshire St., Cambridge (354-0766). MBTA: Red Line to Central. May 16. $40. B-Side's chef **Jeff Unger** will join Afna Sortun from **Casablanca** and **Mark Orfaley** from No. 9 Park to cook up soft-shell crabs.

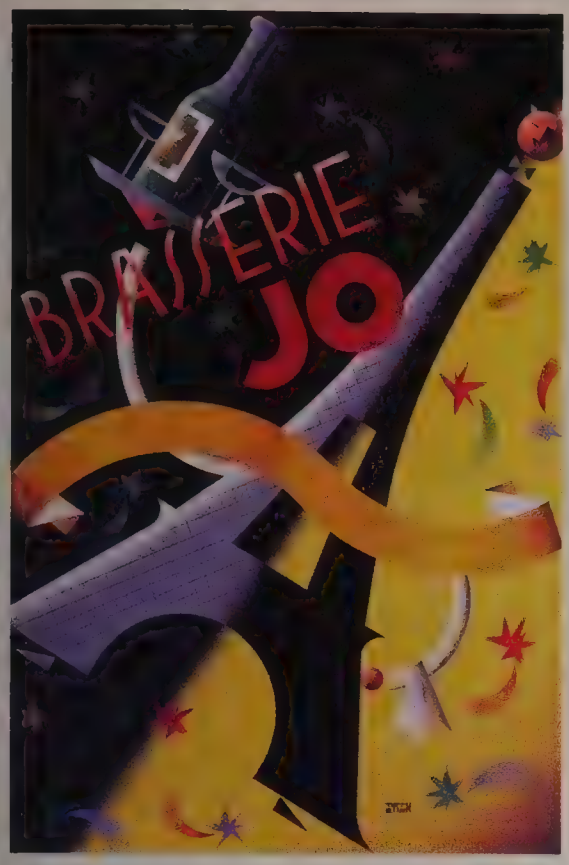
Tour de Force Dinner at Torch
26 Charles St., Beacon Hill (266-4351). May 9, 6pm. $65. Join this group of young Francophile professionals for a three-course dinner with wine.

Tasty Tidbit

Edible Art 2000

Finally...an art exhibit where it's not only OK to touch the art but to eat it. Imagine the taste of a piquant Picasso or a mouthwatering Monet. Mmm. At the Edible Art benefit for the Art Institute of Boston on May 6, some of Boston's best chefs will create culinary masterpieces in the image of their favorite works of art. See Dali's *Persistence of Memory* rendered in chocolate mousse, Bosch's *Garden of Earthly Delights* transformed into colorful leaf biscuits, or a six-foot Botero sculpture fashioned out of proscuitto and porcini pesto. Among the chefs particpating in this year's competition are Radius' Michael Schlow, Todd English of Olives and Figs, Anthony Ambrose of Ambrosia, Clio's Ken Oringer, Aura's Ed Doyle and Lee Napoli of Anago. *Shreve, Crump & Low, 330 Boylston St., Boston (349-8586). May 6, 7:30pm. $100.*

IRINA ROZOVSKY (DISH)



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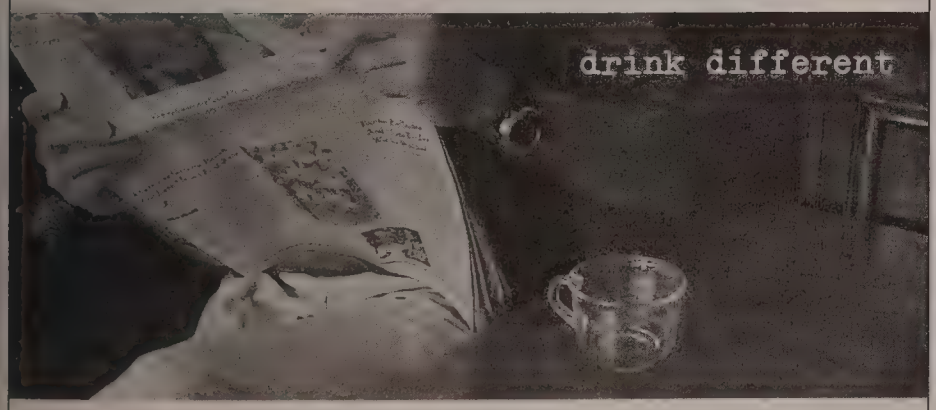

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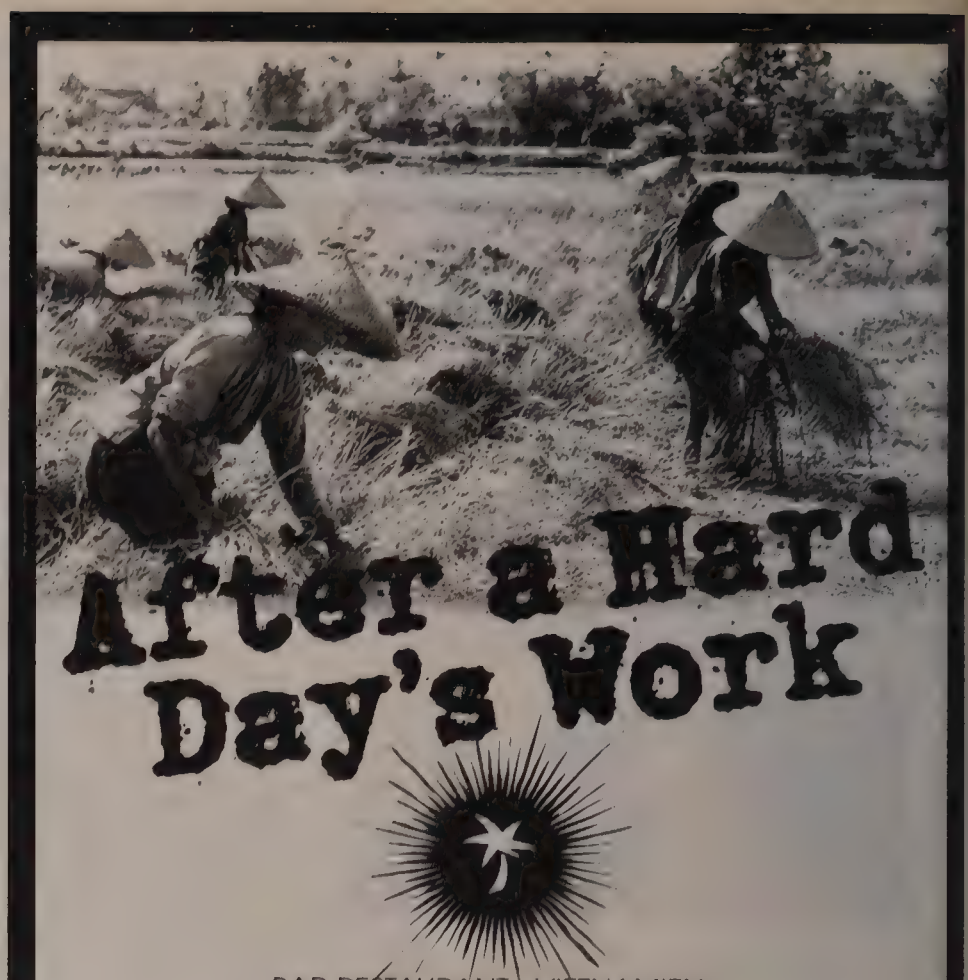

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agenda

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Julie and Erin

THE CALENDAR GIRLS'

improper picks

Too busy (or just too lazy) to plan your own schedule? Life don't get easier than this.

Wednesday, May 3

Erin and **Julie**: It's the kickoff for the **Mikey Dee Benefit** at Axis with the Boston Rock Opera. (See Music.)

Thursday, May 4

Erin: The Benefit for Mikey Dee continues tonight at Axis with **Letters to Cleo**. (See Music.)
Julie: Today's the start of **Arts First 2000** at Harvard, a four-day festival with more than 200 events, including dance and theatrical performances, films, concerts, poetry readings and exhibitions by Harvard students. (See CityScope.)

Friday, May 5

Julie: There's sure to be plates of pasta and jugs of Italian wine at the **Taste of the North End** at the New England Aquarium. (See Tastings.) Today's also the opening day for the city's **Fashion Weekend**. (See Sales & Fashion.)
Erin: ***Always...Patsy Cline*** at the Gloucester Stage Company features the cast of the hit national touring company. The show is based on the letters the singing diva wrote to a devoted fan. (See Performing Arts.)

Saturday, May 6

Erin: Master of wildly bizarre fiction **Tom Robbins** (*Still Life with Woodpecker*, among others) reads at the Coolidge Corner Theatre. (See Books & Poetry.)
Julie: Katie Couric, Frank McCourt, Lea Rabin and Jordan's Queen Noor are all in town for Simmons' **Women's Leadership Conference**. (See Education.)

Sunday, May 7

Julie: The **MayFair** in Harvard Square has five stages of live entertainment, a flea market with more than 200 vendors and more. (See CityScope.) Or throw on your sneakers for the **Walk for Hunger**. (See Sports.)
Erin: The **WBCN Rock 'n' Roll Rumble** begins today, and the rock music continues for nine nights at the Middle East Upstairs. Tonight features **Helicopter Helicopter**. Then head downstairs to hear **Kid Koala**, **DJ Food** and **Amon Tobin**. (See Music.)

Monday, May 8

Erin and **Julie**: Conductor Keith Lockhart leads the **Boston Pops** in a performance of their best-loved music at Symphony Hall. (See Classical Music.)

Tuesday, May 9

Erin: **DanceMonth 2000** finds the entire city moving to the beat. Tonight, maestro Deraldo Ferriera and his dance ensemble cut up the floor with a mix of Brazilian martial arts and dance at the Dance Complex. (See Performing Arts.)
Julie: Passionate travel writer **Paul Theroux** (*Fresh Air Fiend: Travel Writings*) speaks tonight at the Boston Public Library. (See Books & Poetry.)

Wednesday, May 10

Erin: **Mary Lou Lord** plays at Johnny D's. (See Music.)
Julie: **Joyce Carol Oates** reads from *Blonde* at the Coolidge Corner Theater. (See Books & Poetry.)

Thursday, May 11

Erin and **Julie**: The Boston Ballet's dance extravaganza ***Cleopatra*** comes to the Wang Center. Watch as the temptress teases Caesar and gets down and dirty with Marc Antony. (See Performing Arts.)

Friday, May 12

Julie: Join other young Bostonians at the **BPL's Young Professionals Reception**. (See CityScope.)
Erin: The 16th annual **Gay and Lesbian Film Festival** is at the Museum of Fine Arts. Tonight, see the film, *The Eyes of Tammy Faye*, which explores the legend behind the mascara. (See Film.)

Saturday, May 13

Erin: Head to the opening of the huge new exhibit, **Fleet Dinosaurs! A Journey to Extinction** at the Roger Williams Park Zoo. (See CityScope.)
Julie: The **Cambridge 2000 Light Parade** features mile-high light sculptures made with WWII searchlights and skytrackers, along with music. (See CityScope.)

Sunday, May 14

Julie: Dress up like a duck and waddle through the Boston Common with a bunch of kiddies during the annual **Ducklings Day Parade**. (See CityScope.)
Erin: Big-wig literati converge upon Harvard Square for the **Book Festival**. **Michael Ondaatje**, author of *The English Patient*, reads today. (See Books & Poetry.)

Monday, May 15

Erin: Comedian **Ellen Degeneres** performs at the Orpheum. (See Comedy.) Or, partake in the **Bicycle Block Party** at Davis Square's Redbones. (See CityScope.)
Julie: If you're in a more intellectual mood, Pulitzer Prize-winning author **Jane Smiley** is at the First Parish Church. (See Books & Poetry.)

Tuesday, May 16

Erin and **Julie**: Poet Laureate **Robert Pinsky** reads from *Jersey Rain* at the Harvard Square Book Festival. (See Books & Poetry.)

Wheee!!!

Riverside Park reopens as Six Flags New England, May 6.

cityscope

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a list of festivals, events and benefits taking place in the Boston area by date.

Festivals, Events Expos & Benefits

Wednesday, May 3

Big Apple Circus: Bello and Friends
Fan Pier, Boston (800-922-3772). Wed.-Fri. 11am and 7pm; Sat.-Sun. 12pm and 4pm. Through May 7. $13-$35. Sit 50 feet away from the fun and watch as award-winning clown Bello Nock and his friends entertain you with juggling, trapeze and animal tricks.

Boston Pops in Concert
Symphony Hall 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices vary. The Boston Pops kicked off season May 2. Tonight, conductor Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops present "Encore!," a collection of the best-loved music.

Design Home 2000
For directions and more information, call 450-1347 or visit www.design-home.com. *Tue.-Sun. 10am-4pm. May 3-26. $20, $25 at the door.* Visit this home for the new millennium, a $3 million New England colonial in Weston, Mass., as a part of the Design Home 2000 event to benefit the AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts. The home was constructed by *Boston Magazine* in association with a builder, interior designers, furnishers and several local retailers.

Thursday, May 4

Arts First 2000
74 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (495-8676). www.fas.harvard.edu/~ofa. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. May 4-7.* A four-day festival with more than 200 events, including a dance festival, theatrical performances, films, concerts, musicals, poetry readings and exhibitions by Harvard students. Highlights include an outdoor stage, a parade, a performance fair, a barbecue and several concerts.

Young Professionals Night
Il Panino, 295 Franklin St., Boston (338-1000). 9pm. Dress code. No cover. This evening offers a social playground for young professionals in Boston, with cocktails, dancing and hors d'oeuvres.

Friday, May 5

First Friday Singles Dance
The Knights of Columbus Hall, Corners of Winslow and Prescott Streets, Arlington (781-721-1886). www.funfunfun.org. *8:30pm-12:30am. $10.* A singles dance with a DJ, bar, door prizes and a big dance floor for singles ages 21 to 49.

Arts First 2000
74 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (495-8676). www.fas.harvard.edu/~ofa. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. May 4-7.* See May 4 for more information.

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Fridays. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

Saturday, May 6

Arts First 2000
74 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (495-8676). www.fas.harvard.edu/~ofa. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. May 4-7.* See May 4 for more information. •11:30am: Parade led by John Lithgow and the Harvard University band down Mass. Ave. into Harvard Yard.

Eighth Annual TomorrowNite Gala
John F. Kennedy Library, Columbia Point, Dorchester (800-341-5800). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. 7-11pm. $150. Vicki Reggie Kennedy co-chairs this event, which includes cocktails, fine wines and signature dishes from Boston's finest restaurants to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Kilambo Mambo, a 10-piece mambo, salsa and merengue band, will perform.

Sunday, May 7

Arts First 2000
74 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (495-8676). www.fas.harvard.edu/~ofa. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. May 4-7.* See May 4 for more information.

MayFair in Harvard Square
Harvard Square, Cambridge (491-3434). 12-6pm. See box on next page for more info.

Walk for Hunger
Meet at the Boston Common, Boston (723-5000). 9am. Join 40,000 of your friends and neighbors on a 20-mile journey weaving through Boston, Brookline, Newton, Watertown and Cambridge. Pledges will fund more than 350 food pantries, soup kitchens, food banks and food salvage programs in 124 communities.

Tuesday, May 9

EnviroExpo 2000: Buy Recycled Pavilion
World Trade Center Exhibition Hall, Boston (338-0244). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. May 9-11. At the nation's leading environmental expo, check at the Buy Recycled Pavilion, a three-day exhibit of manufacturers of products made with recycled materials.

Wednesday, May 10

Spring Gala
Boston Design Center, One Design Center Place, Boston (338-5062). 6-7pm, private showroom previews. 7-9pm, cocktails, light supper, music and festivities. $100. Creative black tie. The Spring Gala celebrates "Metamorphosis in Design," and showcases the multimedia renovations to the Boston Design Center. Proceeds benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston.

Thursday, May 11

Buffett Lovers' Bash
Dick's Last Resort, 55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. 7pm. Are you wastin' away again for the cheesiest cheeseburgers? Then head to Dick's for the Parrothead Club of Eastern Massachusetts' annual party with music devoted to the legendary Mr. B.

Magic 106.7 Exceptional Women Luncheon
Westin Copley Place, Boston (822-6534.). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 12-2pm. $100. At this benefit for the Gillette Center for Women's Cancers, women will be honored in the following categories: Performing Arts: **Paula Cole**, 1997 Grammy Winner; Business: **Lane Nemeth**, founder of Discovery Toys; Healthcare: **Dr. Carolann Najarian**, president of the Armenian Health Alliance; Community Service: **Clementina Chery**, co-founder Louis D. Brown Peace Curriculum; Courage: **Barbara Pryor**, mother of Sarah, Massachusetts Office of Victims' Assistance; Women under 30: **Kathy Mahoney**, nurse, Doctors without Borders' nurse; Lifetime Achievement: **Judy Collins**, legendary singer/musician.

Friday, May 12

BPL Gala 2000
Boston Public Library, McKim Building, Boston (494-8894). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 7pm. This gala to support the Boston Public Library Foundation draws the city's most prominent business nad community leaders. This year's theme is "Treasures of the Library."

Gala 2000: Young Professionals Reception
Boston Public Library, McKim Building, Boston (494-8894). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 9pm. $100. This evening event associated with Gala 2000 is specifically for young professionals will include cocktails, dessert, music and dancing to the music of Eye2Eye.

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Fridays. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

Saturday, May 13

Cambridge 2000 Light Parade
Massachusetts Avenue, from Linear Park in North Cambridge to University Park near MIT, Cambridge (349-4380). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Davis. www.spectaire.com. *8:30-11:30pm.* See box for more information.

Cross-Country Journey Kickoff
City Hall Plaza, Boston (704-370-6070). www.faceofamerica.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 11am.* On May 13, two teams of disabled athletes will travel across America using alternative forms of transportation. The teams will meet in St. Louis, Missouri. Join Mayor Tom Menino to wish them well (or join in the ride for a day on bikes or in-line skates).

VIP Party
Top Kat Lounge, 54 Canal St., Boston (569-4301). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. 9pm-2am. Join BostonVIPCard.com, a new discount card/Web site, for a going-live party with hors d'oeuvres, door prizes and giveaways. This event will familiarize you with the card that gets you VIP savings at Boston's top establishments.

Sunday, May 14

Annual Ducklings Day Parade
Boston Common, across from the State House, Boston (426-1885). MBTA: Green Line to Park. 1pm. $10/family ticket in advance; $15/family ticket at the parade. See box for more information.

Harvard Square Book Festival
First Parish Church, Cambridge (781-444-6767). www.bookfestival.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm.* This major cultural event promotes books and literacy by bringing together authors and book lovers throughout Harvard Square. The weeklong series of events includes authors' luncheons, poetry readings, book signings and children's events. •Today, **Michael Ondaatje**, author of the *English Patient*, reads from his latest, *Anil's Ghost*. $8. •May 15, 7pm, $8: **Jane Smiley** reads from *Horse Heaven*. •May 16, 7pm, free: Poet Laureate **Robert Pinsky** reads from *Jersey Rain*. See Books & Poetry section for more information.

Second Sundays
Veronique Restaurant and Ballroom, 20 Chapel St., Brookline (731-4800). www.bostoneventguide.com. *MBTA: D Green Line to Longwood. 2-5pm. $10.* Enjoy an educational wine sampling, light hors d'oeuvres and live jazz from the Geroge Mel Trio with young professionals.

Monday, May 15

Bicycle Block Party and Benefit
Redbones, 55 Chester St., Somerville (628-2200). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. 5pm-12am. $10. If you're a bicyclist, this is the place to be. It's a block party to

Preview

Summer Amusement

Six Flags New England opens in Springfield

What used to be known as Riverside Amusement Park, the 235-acre park on the banks of the Connecticut River near Springfield, is now Six Flags New England. This one offers four new super roller coasters, including the East Coast's tallest ultra thrill coaster Superman–Ride of Steel, and plenty of Looney Tunes characters. *Opening May 6. For more information, call 877-4-SIXFLAGS or visit* www.sixflags.com. *$32.99/person.*

Cambridge 2000 Light Parade

Cambridge continues its yearlong millennium celebration as the "city of light" with mile-high light sculptures made with WWII searchlights and skytrackers, Carnival-style percussion troupes and dancers, masked mythological creatures and more. *Massachusetts Avenue, from Linear Park in North Cambridge to University Park near MIT, Cambridge (349-4380). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Davis.* www.spectaire.com. *May 13, 8:30-11:30pm.*

BOTTOM LEFT:: BILL CHAPMAN

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MayFair in Harvard Square

A not-to-be-missed event in Harvard Square every year is MayFair, which features five stages of live music, jugglers, puppeteers and dance troupes performing on every corner, along with a 200-vendor flea market offering everything from pashmina and pottery to poodle skirts. Plus, there's much more than popcorn and peanuts—look for curry, cabbage rolls and cannoli, among numerous other gourmet delectables. *Harvard Square, Cambridge (491-3434). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. May 7, 12-6pm.*

kick of New England's bike riding season. All proceeds will support Somerville Community Youth Bike Project and the New England Mountain Bike Association. Your ticket includes valet parking for your bike, a BBQ sandwich and sides, a beverage and a raffle ticket.

Volunteer

Alliance for Children
(781-431-7148). •May 10, 7-9pm. Adopt a child from another country.

Avon Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk
(491-3329). Event date: June 2-4. Volunteers needed to work on mailings, phone banking and data entry.

Boston Cares
(263-CARE). More than 70 volunteer opportunities available in Greater Boston.

Boston Living Center
(236-1012). HIV/AIDS service organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Boston-New York AIDS Ride
(859-8282, ext. 230). Volunteers needed for work on mass mailings, phone banking and other projects.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

Friday Night Supper Program
Arlington Street Church (536-7050, ext. 22). Need volunteers to help prepare, cook and serve meals to homeless, Fridays, 5-7pm.

The Greater Boston Food Bank
(617-427-5200). Groups needed to sort donated food.

Hyannis Port Challenge
(800-718-3536). May 20. Raise money and cycle 85 miles to Cape Cod to benefit the Best Buddies. Training rides every Sunday morning at 9am, starting from International Bikes, 89 Brighton Ave., Allston.

Mass. Eating Disorder Association
(558-1881). Volunteers needed for 4 hours per week for help line, assisting clinical staff and special events.

Pan-Massachusetts Challenge
(800-WE-CYCLE). www.pmc.org. *Event: Aug. 5-6.* Volunteers needed for the ride weekend to help with setup, registration, food service and clean up.

Pine Street Inn
(521-7626). Seeking volunteers for summer months to serve meals and act as receptionist.

St. Jude Century Challenge
(965-5262). Pledge to walk 100 miles through April 30 and raise money for St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Seeks individuals to assist legal immigrants and refugees to become naturalized citizens.

Tours

Boston Bike Tours
On Boston Common (308-5902). Begins April 15. Daily 9:30am-6:30pm. Daily two-hour tours, Mon.-Sat. 1-3pm; 4-6pm. Low-impact, guided sightseeing tours of Boston on bicycles. Rent or take a guided tour.

Boston By Foot
(367-2345). www.bostonbyfoot.com. *May-October. $8.* Guided 90-minute walks highlight the architecture and history of the city. Tours include: The Heart of the Freedom Trail, Beacon Hill, Victorian Back Bay, the North End and the Waterfront.

Boston By Sea
Tours depart from Long Wharf (227-4321). Weekends until Memorial Day; daily through Oct. 9. 1pm and 3pm. $25. Against the backdrop of the sights, smells and sounds of the Harbor, the cruise, featuring live theater performances, sea shanties and video vignettes, will allow visitors to learn about pirates, clipper ships, the old immigration station, the *USS Constitution*, the lighthouse, and the Boston Tea Party.

Boston Duck Tours
Prudential Center, Boston (723-DUCK). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. April-October. $21. The 80-minute tour on amphibious landing crafts travels through downtown and makes a final splash into the Charles.

Preservation Promenade
Meet at Boston Common Visitor Center, Boston. MBTA: Green Line to Park. May 23-17, 2:30-4pm. $10. A special guided tour along the Freedom Trail. In the different historic sites you will be greeted by the Freedom Trail Players who will talk about Revolutionary history.

Ghost Tours
Meet at Boston Common Visitor Information Center, 147 Tremont St., Boston (781-235-7149). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street. Selected evenings, 7:30pm. $12. Tour downtown Boston's most infamous haunted locations.

Walking Tour of Upham's Corner
Meet at the corner of Columbia Road and Stoughton Street at the Old North Burying Ground, Dorchester (267-6338). May 7, 1-2:30pm. $10. Originally known as Cemetery Corners, Upham's Corner was renamed in the early 19th century in honor of Amos Upham, the general store keeper at the corner. Well-designed Victorian and Colonial Revival houses were built for the new residents who commuted by streetcar.

Walking Tour of Marine Park
Meet at Kelly's Landing at the intersection of William J. Day Boulevard and Farragut Road, South Boston (566-1689, ext. 225). Free. A National Park ranger from the Olmsted National Historic Site will explore the unique history and design of this South Boston promenade park called Pleasure Bay.

The Literary Trail
Tour begins at the Omni Parker House, corner of Tremont and School Streets, Boston (574-5950). Saturdays 9am-12:30pm. $35. Explore the heritage of some of this country's greatest authors, poets and social activists at eight literary historical landmarks located throughout the Boston area.

Sights to See

Boston Tea Party Ship and Museum
Congress St. Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Open daily, March-May and Sept.-Nov., 9am-5pm; closed Dec.-March. $8, $7 students, $4 children. You can dump your own bale into the harbor—and watch a museum guide scramble to retrieve it—at this replica of one of the ships emptied by colonists (disguised as Indians) during the Dec. 16, 1773, tea raid. Afterward, enjoy a cup of tax-free tea.

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Fifth Floor, Boston (353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), Oct.-March 7:30-8:30pm; April-Sept. 8:30-9:30pm. Free. BU's astronomers are available to answer questions and assist with telescopes as you check out Orion, Cassiopeia and the Big Dipper.

Bunker Hill Monument
Monument Square, Charlestown (242-5641). Open daily 9am-5pm. Free. What's long and hard and shaped like a pencil? It's not what you think. It's the 221-foot monument that honors the men who died in the Battle of Bunker Hill. But an exhausting climb up 294 stairs reveals little more than a stunning view of I-93.

Christian Science World Headquarters
Massachusetts and Huntington Avenues, Boston (450-2000). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential. Tue.-Sat. 9:30am-4pm, Sun. 11am-2pm. Tour the Mother Church—a giant basilica that seats 3,000 worshippers; a 700-foot-long reflecting pool; and a photo exhibit.

Copp's Hill Burial Ground
Hull and Snowhill Streets, Boston. MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Open dawn-dusk. Admission free. From Boston's second-oldest cemetery, you can see all the way across the Inner Harbor to Charlestown. Famous residents include the well-known Puritanical Mather family and Prince Hall, a prominent member of the free black community.

John Hancock Observatory
200 Clarendon St., Boston (572-6429). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open Mon.-Sat. 9am-11pm, Sun. 10am-11pm (May-Oct.) and noon-11pm (Nov.-April). Admission $4.50. The tallest building in New England (62 floors) offers much more than an awesome view. Listen to air-traffic controllers at Logan, test your knowledge of the city with a computer quiz, or relive some of Boston's most famous and infamous events.

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (566-7937). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Wed.-Sun. 10 am-4:30pm. The birthplace and early boyhood home of the nation's 35th president.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat. 10am-2pm. Admission free. Alongside Boston's first Anglican church—a gloomy, granite apparition—you'll find a burial ground with equally ominous-looking headstones dating back to 1630. On Sundays, listen for the distinctive peal of the church bell cast by Paul Revere's foundry.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (635-3105). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Open daily 9am-5pm. Guided tours every half-hour, starting at 9am. Free. Known as the "Cradle of Liberty," Faneuil Hall—we're talking about the part above the eatery—was the site of many an angry man ranting and raving about the damn British in the mid-1700s. Today, you can check out the white-walled assembly room, but most people come here for the marketplace.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily 9 am-5pm. Free. Here, Paul Revere saw two lanterns shining on April 18, 1775, indicating that the British troops were crossing the Charles River to Lexington and Concord via boat. You remember... "One if by land, two if by sea."

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays 10am-4pm, weekends 10am-5pm. $3. A thousand fed-up men gathered in this church to decide whether or not to send three ships full of tea back to England. Guess what? They didn't. •New permanent exhibit: *Voices of Protest* traces the use of Old South Meeting House over three centuries for religious, political and social debate. Artifacts, lifelike figures and interactive exhibits illuminate how Old South has championed the right to free speech and assembly despite acts of official censorship. •Middays at the Meeting House, a lunchtime music series. Thursdays, 12:15-1pm. $4.

Paul Revere House
19 North Square, Boston (523-2338). www.paulrevere-house.org.. Nov. 1-April 14, 9:30am-4:15pm; April 15-Oct. 31, 9:30am-5:15pm. Built in 1680 and owned by Paul Revere from 1770 to 1800, this house offers a self-guided tour with illustrated text panels and museum interpreters.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-10pm, Sun. noon-10pm. $4, $3 seniors and students. After that tiring, 50-floor elevator ascent, you deserve a drink at the Top of the Hub lounge before you check out Boston's only 360-degree view tower. On a good day, you can see New Hampshire. The view here is slightly better than that of rival John Hancock.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8am-6pm. Free. Designed by H.H. Richardson and constructed in 1877, the huge Romanesque church in Copley Square rests upon 4,500 submerged wooden pilings, which help hold up the church's massive tower. A shaded courtyard offers respite from the heavily-trafficked plaza. On Fridays at 12:15pm, stop by for a free organ concert.

Museums

Boston Tea Party Ship & Museum
Congress Street Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. March-Nov., 9am-dusk. $7, $5.50 students, $3.50. Colonial-clad sailors take you aboard *The Beaver*, a replica of the smallest of the three ships involved in the infamous tea rebellion. Paul Revere leads the hourly tea throwing and explains all about the fateful day irate Bostonians poured out the tea in protest of the tax decree issued by British parliament. Try your hand at rope-tying too.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June Tue.-Sat. 10 am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm; June-Aug. daily 10am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm. $5, children and seniors $3: Follow the red and white signs to the mother of all milk bottles. As you walk under it you'll feel as diminutive as your munchkin companion. See *Arthur's World* from the popular television series and children's books. This infamous aardvark is one of many hands-on favorites. •**Sesame Street Exhibition**. Three decades of the revolutionary children's television series. Step into one of the world's most famous TV neighborhoods.

Harriet Tubman House
566 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-8610). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. Weekdays 8am-8pm. Free admission. The Harriet Tubman Museum exhibits a collection of this influential black leader's achievements.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (929-4523). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily 9am-5pm (last film begins at 3:55pm). $8, students and seniors $6, children $4. This permanent collection on the life and legacy of President John F. Kennedy offers a re-created world of the early 1960s with period settings and 25 dramatic multimedia exhibits. Visitors experience first-hand the challenges faced by America during Kennedy's presidency. *John Glenn and the Space Race*, an exhibit about the man with the mission is now showing. •*Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy: First Lady*. Ongoing •*Treasures of the Kennedy Library.* A selection of the treasures, including sculpture, jewelry, paintings and documents. Through May 2000. •*Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy*. New ongoing exhibit.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (739-1200) www.afroam museum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays 10am-4pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.* The place is bustling after its recent endowment of more than $1 million to restore the meeting house's hallowed sanctuary. See the African Meeting House, the oldest black church in America.

Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, students and seniors $4, children $3; free to all Sat. 9am-12pm.* This Harvard museum is made up of four factions: The **Botanical Museum**, **The Museum of Comparative Zoology**, the **Mineral & Geological Museum**, and the **Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology**. A number of exhibitions tie together all four of these distinct collections. The most famous is the Botanical Museum for its glass flowers collection—more than 3,000 models of more than 480 plant species. At the Museum of Comparative Zoology, check out the 42-foot-long mounted Kronosaurus (a really big lizard) and countless stuffed insects. The Mineral & Geological Museum's got a 16,000 pound Brazilian amethyst geode, and there's the dollhouse-esque Worlds in Miniature display at the Peabody Museum of Ar-

HELEN EDDY

Annual Ducklings Day Parade

Mrs. Mallard's search for a home takes place May 14 at 1pm on the Boston Common. Come dressed as your favorite character from the book *Make Way for Ducklings*. Children will follow a marching band through Beacon Hill, ending in Boston Garden with refreshments, a marching band and performers. *Boston Common, across from the State House, Boston (426-1885). MBTA: Green Line to Park. 1pm. $10/family ticket in advance; $15/family ticket at the parade.*

chaeology & Ethnography. •***Orchids: A Story of Seduction***. Through May 14. This exhibition will explore some of the flower's most interesting pollination strategies and the long history of collecting and research by Harvard scientists.

Museum of Our National Heritage

33 Marrett Road, Route 2A, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.mnh.org. *Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 12-5pm. Free admission.* Explore history through pop culture. Topics range from Revolutionary artifacts to the latest in jigsaw-puzzle-solving techniques and American circus posters. •*Initiating America*, a historical look at fraternal organizations. Ongoing. •*The Lynn Beach Painters, Art Along the North Shore*, 1880-1920. Through Aug. 20. •*Weaving the Dance: The Yeibichai Tradition in Navajo Rugs.* An exhibition on 20th-century Navajo pictorial textiles.

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu. 9am-5pm; Fri. 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children. Omni Theater, Hayden Planetarium or laser shows all $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children.* Enjoy 600 hands-on exhibits. •*To See the Sea* explores the ocean from the perspective of a deep-sea diver. •*Messages:* Discover why communication is central to everyday life. *Human Body Connection*: exhibits on anatomy, physiology and health. *The Light House: Beaming, Bouncing and Bending Light*: Learn the principles of optics, color and the nature of light with 18 hands-on activities. •*Reptiles: Real and Robotic*, through May 29. Learn about a variety of reptiles and their diverse habitats, which can live in searing deserts or the cold North Sea. •New: Cahners ComputerPlace. A lively enviroment filled with multimedia-rich software and Web-based experiences. •*Secrets of Aging* opened April 5. Explores the science behind the universal experience of aging. •Mugar Omni Theater: *Mysteries of Egypt*. Through June. (See Film for more information.)

Charles Hayden Planetarium

Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children. Time of show changes daily.* Get high! High up, that is. And (then) go see the stars and rock-music laser shows. Check out the ongoing out-of-this-world multimedia installations *Life and Death of the Sun* and *The Sky Tonight*, and enjoy daily laser shows to the music of the Beastie Boys, Pink Floyd, Korn, Tool, Jimi Hendrix, Nine Inch Nails, among others. It's a trip. •*Journey to the Edge of Space and Time*: Ideas once considered crazy (like black holes) are now the building blocks of new knowledge. What next? •*Welcome to the Universe*. Now open. •Friday Night Stargazing, 8:30-10pm. Free. Weather permitting. •***Catastrophes In Space—When Stars End Their Lives***. Audiences will learn that all stars grow old and die, and the death of a massive star creates new life, seeding space with new chemical elements nad triggering the formation of new stars and planets. Through fall 2000.

Museum of Transportation

15 Newton St. (in Larz Anderson Park), Brookline (522-6547). MBTA: D Green Line to Reservoir, to bus 51. April-Oct., Wed.-Sun. 10am-5pm; Nov.-March, Wed.-Sun. 10am-4pm. $5, $3 seniors and students. This 1888 carriage house is the automobile buff's paradise—and the country's oldest private collection of antique autos. Featured cars range from Fords and Corvettes to Cadillacs and Italian imports. •May 7, 10am-3pm: **Chrysler-Dodge Day**. A lawn event featuring all types of Chrysler, Dodge, Plymouth, Mopar, slant-six and Hemi vehicles. •May 14: **Rover Day**. •May 16, 7pm: Automotive lecture: John Fitch.

Old State House Museum

206 Washington St., Boston (720-3290). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily 9am-5pm. $3, students and seniors $2. Built in 1713, this original seat of colonial government was the place pre-Independence Bostonians first heard the Declaration of Independence read. •Opened March 31: ***Burning Issues: A History of Boston Through Fire***. This exhibit considers the significance of eight fire events in Boston's history, with interactive experiences for the family.

USS Constitution & Museum

Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (426-1812). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, bus 93 to Navy Yard. Nov.-April 30: Open daily 10am-5pm. Free. The stories of the individuals who authorized, built and served on the *USS Constitution*, the oldest commissioned warship afloat. Learn about its 200-year history hands on—hoist a sail, take the wheel, fire a cannon or swing in a hammock.

Zoos & Gardens

Arnold Arboretum

125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain (524-1718). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open weekdays: 9am-4pm, weekends: 12-4pm. Free. More than 14,000 exotic trees, shrubs and flowers make this the place to go when you need to escape the hustle and bustle of city life. There's no picnicking allowed, but biking and leashed dog-walking are encouraged.

Franklin Park Zoo

1 Franklin Park Rd., Boston (442-2002). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open Oct.-March daily 10am-4pm; April-Sept. weekdays 10am-5pm, weekends and holidays 10am-6pm. Admission $6. A 72-acre oasis of green in the city with waterfalls, lush vegetation, gorillas, leopards, hippos and free-flying birds.

Mount Auburn Cemetery

580 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard, transfer to #71 or #73 bus. Open daily 8am-7pm (summer) and 8am-5pm (winter). Admission free. Rest in peace among the grave sites and crypts of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes, "Battle Hymn of the Republic" author Julia Ward Howe and Winslow Homer, among other famous Americans.

New England Aquarium

Central Wharf, Boston (973-5200). www.neaq. org. *MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Early Sept.-June: Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. and holidays 9am-6pm. $12.50.* Boston's biggest fish bowl has much more than just goldfish. In the three-story saltwater tank swim turtles, sharks, eels and the occasional mermaid (or mer-male), who entertains crowds as she or he cleans the tank. •*Storm Over Stellwagen*, a new 15-minute, interactive multimedia production, allows you to control the outcome of the film. •***Unforgettable Boston***: This movie highlights many of Boston's favorite landmarks. $4. •Opened April 15: ***Nyanja! Africa's Inland Sea*** opens. This exhibit features East Africa's Lake Victoria, the world's second-largest lake, telling a story of the people, biodiversity, fisheries, history and future of the lake.

Roger Williams Park Zoo

1000 Elmwood Ave., Providence, R.I. (401-785-3510). South on 1-95 from Providence to exit 17 (Elmwood Ave.). $6, $3.50 seniors and children. Open every day except Dec. 25. Nov.-March 9am-4pm. April-Oct. 9am-5pm. More than 600 birds and mammals inhabit this zoo. •Opening May 13: **Fleet Dinosaurs! A Journey to Extinction**. See 22 larger-than-life prehistoric creatures hunt their prey, roar a challenge and nurture their young, all in an authentic prehistoric landscape.

Stone Zoo

149 Pond St., Stoneham, Rte. 93 North, Exit 34 (781-438-5100). $3. The polar bear remains, as he always has been, the star attraction at this 32-acre zoo, as he has for the last 33 years. •Opened April 15: **What in the World Is It?** A maze with five mystery animal stations. Find your way in and then try to find your way out.

performing arts

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Theater. Or e-mail information to performing@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Theater
JUST OPENED

Ah, Wilderness!
Gloucester Stage Company, 267 East Main St., Gloucester (978-282-1350). Wed.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 5pm. May 10-21. $20-$30. Eugene O'Neill's classic comedy tells the story of a teenage boy who discovers poetry, love and hte importance of family bonds.

Always...Patsy Cline
Gloucester Stage Company, 267 East Main St., Gloucester (978-282-1350). Wed.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 5pm. Through May 7. $20-$30. Featuring the cast of the hit national touring company that has been a sensation around the United States, this show is based on the letters Cline wrote to a devoted fan.

Encore!!
John Hancock Hall, 180 Berkeley St., Boston (542-9155). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. May 11-12, May 25-26, 10:30am. $11.55. Staged performances of world famous short stories by Poe, de Maupassant, Jacobs, Irving and Twain.

Fall
Trinity Repertory Company, 201 Washington St., Providence, RI (401-351-4242). Tue. 7pm; Wed.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm. May 12-June 25. This playful and bittersweet coming-of-age comedy tells the story of a young girl obsessed with scuba diving who is forced to accompany her parents to a swing-dancing camp for the summer. As her parents try to lindy some romance back into their marriage, Lydia begins a surprising flirtation of her own.

The Illusion
Stage Door Theatre Company, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 7pm. May 11-27. $18-$20. Tony Kushner's play tells of Pridamant, a tyrannical father consumed by guilt over the fate of his son, whom he banished many years earlier. Nearing the end of his life, he enlists the help of a magician to produce images of the young man's whereabouts.

The Island of the Beholder
Black Box Theater, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm. May 5-14. $5. The story of an experimental community faced with a major challenge when a boat called *Destiny* washes up onto their remote shore. Can they stay together amid the scandal and corruption that has infiltrated their fledgling community?

Make a Scene 2000—An Evening with Betty Buckley
Huntington Theatre, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (266-0800). MBTA: B Green Line. May 13. $55-$75. Through her work in such musicals as *Cats*, *1776*, *Carrie*, *Song & Dance*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and *Pippin*, Tony Award–winner Betty Buckley is synonymous with Broadway. Her performance will be her highly acclaimed solo concert, featuring songs of Broadway, as well as contemporary and popular standards. Proceeds will benefit the Huntington's education and outreach programs.

My Fair Lady
Trinity Repertory Company, 201 Washington St., Providence, RI (401-351-4242). Tue. 7pm; Wed.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Through May 21. $27-$42. Adapted from George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*, this musical focuses on a man who sets out to create his own version of the ideal female. A poor woman is reinvented as a princess.

New Theatre's 11th Annual Spring Showcase
Charlestown Working Theatre, 442 Bunker Hill Ave., Charlestown (247-7388). Fri.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 3pm. April 28-May 14. $15. •**Buried Child**: May 5-7, May 12-14. Sam Shepard's surreal tale is set in a squalid farmhouse fraught with suppressed violence and unease, occupied by a family that harbors a grisly secret.

Not About Nightingales
Boston Theatre Works, Tremont Theatre, 276 Tremont St., Boston (728-4321). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. May 5-27. Set in a large prison during the Great Depression, this Tennessee Williams play tells the story of a group of prisoners in a standoff against a brutal warden as they protest living conditions in the prison.

Oklahoma!
Riverside Theatre Works, 45 Fairmount Ave., Hyde Park (361-7024). Thu.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 3pm. May 4-13. $15. Rodgers & Hamerstein's well-known show.

The Order of Things
Centastage, Boston Playwrights' Theater, 949 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (536-5981). Thu.-Sun. Through May 13. $20. A touching and poignant comic fable of a Cuban family seeking order in the worlds of Castro, America and higher mathematics. This play was a finalist in the prestigious Clauder Playwriting competition.

The Student Prince
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly, Mass. (978-921-6351). Tue. 8pm; Wed. 2pm and 8pm; Thu.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm. May 16-June 4. $18-$56. The classic forbidden romance: A handsome prince longs to wed a sweet, naive girl who's not of royal blood. The show includes a rousing score that features love songs, waltzes, moonlight serenades and drinking songs.

The Winter's Tale
American Repertory Theatre, Loeb Stage, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-8300). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. May 12-June 11. One of the last plays that Shakespeare wrote, this one combines elements from each dramatic genre—from the savage tragedy of jealous Leontes to the festive comedy of Pedita and Florizel.

During DanceMonth 2000, the city of Cambridge comes alive with the pitter patter of feet.

Preview

Spring into Action

Those warm and sunny days are becoming more frequent, and Cambridge is raring to go for spring. What better way to usher in the new season than rejuvenating the body and spirit and nurturing the soul with movement. DanceMonth 2000 energizes the city, taking dance to the streets, subways and schools. Dance attractions will be popping up where you'd least expect them. Below is a list of performances and workshops at the Dance Complex that you won't want to miss:

- **May 6, 8pm, free admission: Warm up with a kickoff party for DanceMonth 2000.**
- **May 6, 2:30-4:30pm, $12: Dance Umbrella presents a choreography workshop with Christine Bennett. •May 7, 4pm, $3 adults, $2 children: Spend an afternoon jumping around with the kiddies at the Children's Dance Festival.**
- **Tuesdays, 12pm, $12 for performance and lunch. On May 9, maestro Deraldo Ferriera and his dance ensemble cut up the floor with *capoeira*, a unique mix of Brazilian martial arts and dance. May 16 offers a chance for all you 9-5ers to get a taste of diverse modern dance as experienced in the works of Brian Crabtree, Jody Weber and Kelley Donnovan.**
- **May 12-14, 8pm: Impulse Dance Company shows you how it's done with a fun jazz dance performance.**
- **May 13, 1:30-5:30pm, $30. Work on your trust issues and let your body lead you to freedom with Commitment and Flight, an intermediate/advanced contact improvisation workshop led by Patrick Crowley. •May 14, 12-5pm, free admission: The Dance Complex opens house for a five-hour buffet of diverse dance and movement classes to choose from.**

All listed events are located at the Dance Complex, 536 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-9363). MBTA: Red Line to Central.

Working
UMass Boston, McCormack Theatre, 100 Morrissey Blvd., Boston (287-5646). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. May 4-5, 8pm; May 6, 2pm and 8pm. $7. The Broadway hit musical of the '70s focuses on middle-class people, their work, how they look at their work and how others value their labor.

The World Goes 'Round
The Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). Wed.-Thu. 7:30pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 4pm; Sun. 3pm. Through May 21. $22-$35. A musical revue featuring 26 years of music from the composers of Broadway and movie blockbusters, including *Cabaret*, *Chicago*, *New York, New York*, *Funny Lady* and *Kiss of the Spider Woman*.

NOW RUNNING

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed.-Thu. 8pm; Fri.-Sat. 7pm and 10pm; Sun. 3pm and 6pm. $39-$49. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to get its point across with tribal rock music, performance art, humorous antics, props (including plastic tubes and Twinkies) and three men painted blue.

Jesus Christ Superstar
Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton (244-0169). Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Through May 21. $19. The passion of Christ explodes on stage in the powerful music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. It follows the last week of Jesus' life, culminating in his crucifixion and the quest of his followers to find meaning in his death.

The Jungle Book
The Wheelock Family Theatre, 200 The Riverway, Boston (879-2147). Fri. 7:30pm; Sat.-Sun. 3pm. Through May 7. $10-$17. A magical fusion of fantasy and myth, Rudyard Kipling's stories feature Mowgli, an Indian boy raised by wolves from infancy, and the animals who teach him the sometimes harsh laws of the jungle.

The Performance Cult
Back Alley Theater, 1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (338-1477). MBTA: Red Line to Central. May 7 and 21, 7:30pm. $6. Each night, a host of seasoned Boston-area actors, dancers, storytellers and others will present a series of short, original vignettes. There's only one restriction: Each performer must base his or her work on the truth.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri. 8pm ; Sat. 6:30pm and 9:30pm; Sun. 3pm and 7:30pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This hilarious whodunit is set in a unisex hair salon. The production holds the record as the longest-running play in the history of Boston theater.

Trousers
Palimpsest Theatre Company, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (432-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Through May 6. $10. Dan Monaco's two-man play draws on Absurdist and Brechtian traditions and examines the interpersonal and socioeconomic issues that result from one man's oversized trousers.

CABARET

Cabaret & Storytelling Discussion
CCAE, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. May 6, 12-3pm. $5. Led by JoAnn Wangh, Gail Zarren and Will McMillan.

COMING SOON

King Hedley II
Huntington Theatre, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (266-0800). Tue.-Thu. 7:30pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm. May 19-June 18. $10-$52. August Wilson's new drama chronicles the African-American experience through each decade of the 20th century.

Macbeth
106 Boylston St., Boston (931-2787). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm. $25-$68.50. May 17-28. **Kelsey Grammer**, star of *Frasier* and *Cheers*, will play the title role in this revival of Shakespeare's tragedy.

INTERACTIVE THEATER

Medieval Manor
246 East Berkeley St., Boston (423-4900). Red Line to Broadway. Mon., Wed., Thu., Fri. 8pm ; Sat. 5pm and 9:30pm; Sun. 6pm. Ongoing. $9.60-$32. Eat, drink and be merry at a Renaissance dining experience. Don't worry about etiquette. You won't find knives and forks, and the soup of the day is in your face—literally.

Mystery Cafe
290 Congress St., Boston (781-320-0040). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Dinner and show: Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm. Ongoing. $34. Saturdays: The interactive murder mystery, *The Devil Made Me Do It*, a heavenly mystery in a tropical setting. Solve the crime and win the supersleuth prize.

Mystery Cruise
Long Wharf, Boston (781-320-0040). June 25, 7pm (boarding). Cruise departs 7:30pm. $49/person, includes dinner and cruise. Gather clues during a cruise through the Harbor, meet characters and interrogate suspects as you attempt to piece together the mystery.

Nonna's Cruise to Nowhere
Locations around the Greater Boston area (781-933-1363). $35/includes dinner. These folks have taken everyone's favorite Italian grandmother (Nonna) and placed her on an imaginary cruise ship, along with her zany family, after misleading Nonna into thinking she's going back home to Italy. The audience laughs, dances and plays along with the cast.

Dance
SHOWS AND EVENTS

Cleopatra
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. May 4-21. Ticket prices vary. This Boston Ballet premiere seduces you with the most tempestuous love triangle in history. Master storyteller and internationally renowned choreographer **Ben Stevenson** unfolds the fiery relationships of the beautiful queen Cleopatra as she tempts and teases Caesar and gets down and dirty with

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The queen Cleopatra tempts Caesar and Marc Antony in Boston Ballet's *Cleopatra*, May 4-21.

Marc Antony. Cleopatra's tale of rich personal drama during a time of political turmoil ignites the stage in this intense dance performance.

Choreographers Group
Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center, 41 Second St., Cambridge (577-1400). MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. May 12-13, 8pm. $15, $12 for students, seniors and members. Contemporary dance has never looked so good as when these five leading local choreographers present the world premiere of their works. **Lillian Carter**, **Ruth Benson Levin**, **Daniel McCusker**, **Carol Somers** and artistic director **Perla Joy Furr** intertwine their creative and original minds (and limbs) in this emotional performance. Also enjoy the gallery exhibition of contemporary dance archives, photographs and sculpture by **Leon Furr** from May 11-18 in the Upper Gallery.

Mandala Folk Dance Ensemble
Museum of Our National Heritage, Lexington (868-3641). May 7, 3pm. $15 adults, $10 seniors and children. This Boston-based company of 30 dancers, singers and musicians is dedicated to representing authentic and diverse cultures from around the world with enthusiasm and grace. You'll feel like you just stepped into a Croatian village where men and women sing their hearts out and show off their moves, only to be captured by the spiraling fire of the Chinese ribbon dance and then be summoned by the free-flowing, energetic Israeli *hora*. Mandala offers multicultural experience to its audiences and provides a show rich in traditions of the old world, shared with American heritage.

JOIN IN

Club Joy
533 Washington Street, Boston (354-5780). Saturday nights. This Latin night spot now offers classes: salsa, merengue, bachata and more.

Dance Friday
Rug Cutter's Studio, 23 Main St., Watertown Square (924-7276). Fridays. 8:30pm. $7, children under 12 are free. Kick off your shoes and dance around like a maniac. This weekly event provides a smoke- and alcohol-free environment for you to let loose with your kids or on your own to music of all kinds.

Dancing at Ryles Jazz Club
Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. •Saturdays, 9pm-1:30am, $12, $10 after 11:30pm. Join in a variety of dance moves—here you'll find jazzy mambos, swing dancing, cheeky cha chas and sassy salsa numbers. •*Tuesdays 10pm-1:30am. $6.* Just Swing It night features the Black Tie Affair Orchestra and DJ music. Requests are taken and dancers are encouraged to bring their own music. •*Wednesdays, 9pm.* Get your Brazilian ballroom-dance fix with Samba, Forro, Lambada and Axe. •*Thursdays, 8:30-11pm. $10-$12.* Salsa and merengue dance.

Catch the Caribbean Beat
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard Square, then take the #77 bus to Foster St. May 6, 12-5pm. Free admission. Part of the Heart of the Arts Festival that is sponsoring music, theater, dance, art, book shows and exhibitions, this dance event features *Dance Caliente* performances and free salsa lessons.

Israeli Dancing
Temple Israel, Longwood Ave. and Plymouth St., Boston (566-3960). Sundays, 11am-12pm. $5. Vladimir Foygelman leads all levels of dancers through the energetic moves of the Middle East. Great for beginners.

TICKETS

Bostix
(723-5181) www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of Faneuil Hall); Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth); and Harvard Square (in the Holyoke Center arcade at 1350 Mass. Ave). Same-day tickets half-price.*

Next Ticketing
(423-NEXT). www.boston.com/next.

Ticketmaster
(931-2000) www.ticketmaster.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(247-1300 or 800-442-1854). A good place to get tickets if a show is sold out at the box office.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail info. to comedy@improper.com. *Include address, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a description of the performances or comedians. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (248-9700). www.comedyconnectionboston.com. *MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed. 8pm; Thu. 8:30pm; Fri. and Sat. 8pm, 10:15pm; Sun. 7pm. $8-$10 (weekend prices vary).* The oldest comedy club in Boston draws big-name, national comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •May 3: Don Gavin. •May 4, 8:30pm, $12: Frank Santos, an "R-Rated Hypnotist." •May 5, $20: Robert Schimmel, "1999's Best Male Stand-up." •May 6, 6pm ($18) and 8pm and 10:15pm. •May 7, 9:15pm, $12: Hosted by Johnathon Gates. •May 8: Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox. •May 9: Robbie Printz. •May 10: Don Gavin. •May 11, 8:30pm, $12: Frank Santos, an "R-Rated Hypnotist." •May 12, $19: Bob Nelson, "Jiffy Jeff" and "Eppy Epperman." •May 13, $21: Bob Nelson with "The Football Starting Line-up." •May 14, 9:14pm, $12: Black Comedy Explosion hosted by Johnathon Gates. •May 15: Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox. •May 16: Robbie Printz

The Comedy Studio at the Hong Kong
1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu.-Sun. 8pm. $5-$7. Sketch comedy troops and local comedians perform.

Dick Doherty's Comedy Escape Comedy Vault
Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun. 9pm. $10. Features local stand-up comedians. Thursdays: Stand-up comedy. Fridays and Saturdays: Dick Doherty's Comedy Pro Tour. Sundays: Open-mike night.

Nick's Comedy Stop
100 Warrenton St., Boston (482-0930). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Fri. 8:30pm; Sat. 7:45pm and 10pm; Sun. 8pm. $10-$15. The talent here is not quite as big-name as the Comedy Connection, but the crowds are just as enthusiastic, and you're guaranteed to leave with a smile on your face. Wednesdays: Open mike at 8:30pm. •May 4, 8:30pm: Teddy Bergeron, Tom Hayes and John Keating. •May 5-6, 8:45: Teddy Bergeron, Tom Hayes and John Keating. •May 11, 8:30pm: Mike Moto, Mark Scalia and Cal Verducci. •May 12-13, 8:45pm: Robbie Printz, Mark Scalia and Cal Verducci.

IMPROVISATIONAL COMEDY & MAGIC

Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston (263-6887). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Shows: Thu. 8pm; Fri. and Sat. 8pm and 10pm. Main Stage: $10-$15. Now playing on the main stage is the critically acclaimed improvisational and sketch comedy show—voted one of Boston's best improvisational comedy troops.

ImprovBoston at Back Alley Theater
1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1253). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe makes things up as they go along. Fri.-Sat. 8pm ($12) and 10:30pm ($12). Sun, 2pm ($7). •Fridays and Saturdays: 90 minutes of wholesome fun with scenes, games, original music and lots of audience participation. Sundays: family matinee. •Thursdays, 8pm: **Sitcom**. A fully improvised show based on suggestions from the studio audience and an on-stage computer. 10pm: **Open Improv Jam**. All visitors of any skill level are invited to participate in a no-pressure, fun-filled atmosphere where everybody gets to play. •Fridays, 8pm: ImprovBoston. 10:30pm: TheatreSports Boston vs. Sitcom. Best of five match. •Saturdays, 8pm and 10:30pm: ImprovBoston.

Magicians & Spirits at the Green Street Grill
280 Green St., Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Shows every Tuesday at 9pm. $10 cabaret show ($5 with dinner). Billed as "Intimate Nights of Sleights of Hand," Green Street Grill patrons enjoy close-up magic as two or three magicians perform tricks behind the bar and among the crowd. At 10pm, the cabaret show begins upstairs with local and national magicians reading minds, making birds appear out of nowhere and levitating objects onstage.

COMEDY SHOWS

Ellen Degeneres
Orpheum Theatre, 1 Hamilton Place, Boston (679-0810). MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. May 15, 8pm. $28.50-$38.50. Ellen Degeneres performs live.

Joey & Maria's Comedy Wedding
Tremont House Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston or Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Fri. and Sat. 7:30pm. Ongoing. $39-$45. Join the fun at this absolutely zany Italian wedding. Big hair and blue tuxedos optional.

SitcomBoston
The Works Theater, 255 Elm St., Somerville (538-3205). MBTA: Red Line to Davis Square. Fridays and Saturdays, 8pm and 10:30pm. A fully improvised show that looks exactly like an hour of prime-time television.

R-rated hypnotist Joe DeVito charms this deadly snake at the Kowloon Restaurant, May 5.

Preview

You're Getting Sleepy

Professional hypnotist Joe DeVito—hailed as an "R-rated hypnotist"—brings Vegas-style entertainment to Greater Boston with fire-eating, kung-fu board breaking and an eight-foot boa constrictor, May 5. During DeVito's show, hypnotized audience members perform stunts that "would have stood Freud's hair on end, had he not been mostly bald," says a former exotic dancer. A word of warning to the curious: "I am not responsible for any missing undergarments as a result of my show," says DeVito. *Kowloon Restaurant, 948 Broadway, Saugus (781-233-0077). May 5, 8pm and 10:30pm. $13.*

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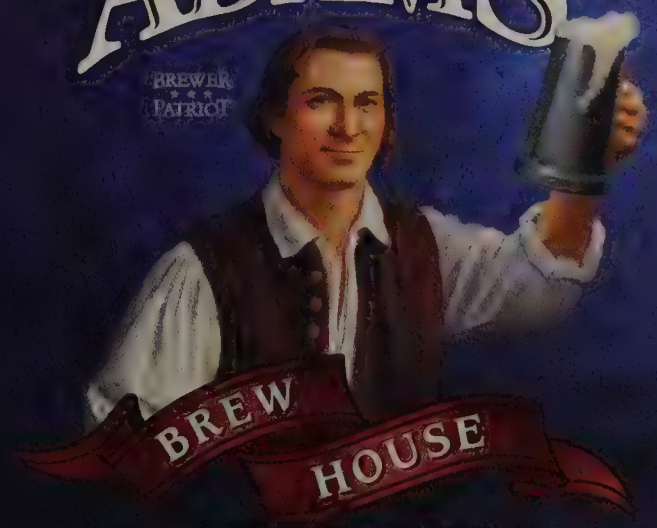

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Advice to Contributors
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Advice to Readers
The following is a partial list of the largest art museums, art institutes and galleries in the Boston area. The • symbol denotes a temporary exhibition.

Museums

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat. 10am-12pm. The Sackler houses ancient Islamic and Asian art, an array of Neolithic bronze Buddhas, Greek pottery, and Hellenistic and Roman sculpture. •*Wall Drawing #830* features four isometric figures with dynamic colors. Ongoing. •Every Thursday is a free guided tour of Shahn's work, 10:30am.

Boston Public Library
900 Boylston St., Boston (542-4000). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. •*Native Brazil/Alien Brazil* is a series of photographs that are part of the Brazilian Visions—*Brazilian Contemporary Photography* art exhibit. Through May 7. •The *Boston Authors' Club* exhibition celebrates the 100th anniversary of the club with correspondence, manuscripts and signed copies of members' books. Through May 31. •The *Shroud of Turin* examines varying opinions about the relic. Through May 31.

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA:Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat. 10am-12pm. It's better to visit the Fogg the same day you go to the Sackler, as admission includes all of Harvard's museums. Highlights include Van Gogh's self-portrait and Bellini's clay figures.

Gibson House Museum
137 Beacon St., Boston (267-6338). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Guided tours every Sat. and Sun. at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm. $5. With 75 percent of its original items in place, the museum allows visitors to understand 19th-century domestic life and design. Ongoing.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (266-5152). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Wed.-Sun. 12-5pm; Thu. 12-9pm. $6, $4 students and seniors. •Marijke van Warmerdam's *7 Thoughts* marks the first time the artist's innovative work will be exhibited in a solo U.S. museum exhibition. Through July 2. •Free guided walk-throughs take place each Thursday at 6:30pm: May 4 is Luther Price, Film Dept. School of the MFA; May 11 is Susan Dowling, freelance film and TV producer.

This untitled etching by Susan Schmidt is part of a collaborative show at the Fort Point Arts Gallery.

***Living Dolls*, a satiric look at icons by Brenda Pizzo and David Thompson, is at the Eclipse Gallery.**

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (566-1401). www.boston.com/gardner. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun. 11am-5pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, under 18 free. Guided on Fridays 2:30pm.* This 15th-century Venetian palace is home to more than 2,500 objects and twice as many flowers. Boston's most famous museum is named for the house's owner, Isabella Stewart Gardner (1840-1924), an infamously incorrigible individualist. Only after her death was her house completely opened to the public. Now everyone can see the works of Titian, Botticelli and Matisse, as well as furniture and architectural details from European churches and palaces.

MIT Museum
265 Mass Ave., Cambridge (253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5pm, weekends 12-5pm. $3, $1 for students, seniors and children. Where else would you be but at MIT when you contemplate Morton G. Bradley Junior's *Math in 3-D: Geometric Sculptures?* The museum's other permanent exhibits include *Flashes of Inspiration: The Work of Harold Edgerton*, and *Gestural Engineering* and *Cultural Engineering: The Sculptures of Arthur Ganson*, the mechanical engineer/choreographer. •On the last Sunday of the month, explore oceanography, astronomy, the science of buildings and other mysteries of science with interactive activities for all ages from 2-4pm, no reservations required. Call 452-2827 for details. •*A Day in the Life of an Astronaut*, *LEGO Car Rally*, *Out There!* and *Observing the Observers* show throughout the spring.

Museum of Bad Art
580 High St., Dedham (325-8224). Mon.-Fri. 6:30-10pm, Sat. and Sun. 1-10pm. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. The one and only museum that boasts "art too bad to be ignored." A favorite is *Lady Chardonnay*, a piece illuminating a poodle-head dancer.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Mon.-Tue. 10am-4:45pm; Wed. 10am-9:45pm, Thu.-Fri. 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. 10am-5:45pm. West Wing only Thu.-Fri. 5-9:45pm. $12, students and seniors $10.* The MFA has earned its rep as the second-best-run art museum in the nation (after the Metropolitan Museum of Art) with its top-notch exhibitions, educational programs and galleries of African, Oceanic and American art. •The work of Edward Weston (1886-1958), shows in *Edward Weston: Photography and Modernism*. Through May 29. •*Michael Mazur: A Print Retrospective* examines more than 90 pieces of the Boston-based print artist's work. Through May 14. •It shows with an exhibition of his recent paintings. Through June 15. •Elizabeth Barber, professor of archaeology at Occidental College, speaks about the mummified bodies of Caucasians May 3, 7:30pm. $12.

The Peabody House Museum
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (496-1027). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5 adults; $4 students and seniors; $3 children 3-13. No fee Sat. mornings until 12pm. •A brand-new exhibit, *Heads and Tales: Adornments from Africa*, is an exhibition of rarely seen sculptures and artifacts from the Peabody Museum collections, many of them more than 100 years old, which highlight the messages communicated by adornments of the head in sub-Saharan Africa. Through Oct. 1, 2001.

The Revolving Museum
288-300 A St., Boston (439-8617). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed.-Fri. 12-5pm. •*Revelation for Revolution*, a millennial exhibition of members' works juried by Rebecca Hoffberger, the founder of the American Visionary Art Museum, shows through May 2. •*Freewheeling*, paintings incorporating industrial parts, by Jackie Ellis, shows May 8-June 6.

Galleries
FINE ART

Allston Skirt Gallery
119 Braintree St., Allston (254-7027). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm and by appointment. •*Overcast* features paintings and photography by Karolyn Hatton, Lisa Krivacka and Ruth Pastine. May 12-June 24.

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (536-4465). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •Nancy Hagin's *Paintings and Watercolors* shows through May 3. •Ben Aronson's *Still Lives and CityScapes* shows May 6-31.

Andrea Marquit Fine Arts
38 Newbury St., Boston (859-0190). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Wed.-Sat. 11am-5pm. Shows contemporary masters and emerging artists and is a consulting group for corporate and private collectors.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (247-0610). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 11am-5:30pm; Sun. 1-5pm. Representing an eclectic mix of styles, from abstract to super-realist. •Scott Duce's ethereal oil and encaustic paintings show May 2-30.

Artists Foundation Galleries
516 East Second St., Boston (464-3561). MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. Sat. 12-5pm and by appointment. •In the main gallery: *Portraits of Artists*, photographs by Paul Weiner. •In the office gallery: *Recent Drawings* by Meghan Foley. •In the video room: *Fictional Documentary and Other Videos*. Through May 20.

Barton-Ryan Gallery
38 Newbury St., 4th floor, Boston (867-0662). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5:30pm, Sat., 11am-5pm and by appointment. The gallery specializes in American and European works of art by emerging and established artists. •*Eric Aho: Pure Geography: Paintings and Monotypes* shows through May 13.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm. •*Turn on the Light: Recent Work by Barry Simons* shows through June 10.

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (482-2477). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sun., 10:30am-5:30pm. •*Revering Vermeer* by Kathleen Gilje, Terri Priest and Judy Sowa, shows May 3-27.

Bromfield Gallery
560 Harrison Ave., Boston (451-3605). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm. •In Gallery I is Jennifer Hicks' *A Part From Nature*. In Gallery II is Beverly Barber's *Occupied Territories: Landscape Paintings*. Through May 20.

Cambridge Art Association
25 Rear Lowell St., Cambridge (876-0246). Tue.-Sat. 11am-5pm., Sun. 1-5pm. A small gallery with a permanent collection of local art. •A *National Prize Show*, jurored by Carl Belz, director of the Rose Art Museum at Brandeis University, shows May 3-30.

Cambridge Arts Council
The Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. May 6, 12-3pm. $30. Discover over 100 artworks in public places througout the city in a two-hour walking tour of Cambridge. Starting at the CCAE, you'll be guided by MC Lamarre of the Cambridge Arts Council.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (236-2255). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm. •Toshio Iezumi's *Illusions of Tranquility and Transformation* shows through May 6. •*Creatures Great and Small*, an international glass show, displays May 13-June 1.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (859-7222). Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •Elids Tenenbaum and Eric Sealine show their work May 3-May 30.

Child's Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (266-1108). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri. 9am-6pm; Mon. and Sat. 10am-5pm. American and European paintings, prints, drawings and sculpture, from 1500 through 1950.

Clark Gallery
145 Lincoln St., Lincoln (781-259-8303). Tue.-Sat. 10am-5pm. The gallery represents 30 artists, primarily regional. Media regularly include glass, ceramics, oil, acrylic on canvas, wood and studio furniture. •*Entry*, a group furniture exhibition, shows through May 18.

Clifford•Smith Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 3rd Floor, Boston (695-0255). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing, transfer to bus #49 to Washington/East Berkeley. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5pm. •*Three from LA*, works by three young West Coast artists, is artistic commentary on contemporary culture, a look at glam-pop entertainment culture. May 2-27.

Copley Society of Boston
158 Newbury St., Boston (536-5049). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat. 10:30am-5:30pm; Sun. 1-5pm. America's oldest nonprofit art association is a platform for young and established artists alike. •*Stuff: Art from a Material World* shows through May 13. •Robert Maloney's work displays May 17-June 3.

Creiger Dane Gallery
36 Newbury St., Boston (536-8088). www.creigerdane.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm.* •*New Paintings*, an exhibit featuring new works by Mirosiav Antic, shows May 3-27.

Crystal Fine Art
93 Summer St., Suite 4L, Boston (728-9818). www.crystalfineart.com. *MBTA: Red and Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Tue.-Fri. 11am-6pm.* A multicultural gallery that regularly displays the work of national, international and local artists.

Dyansen Gallery
132 A Newbury St., Boston (262-4800). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. You'll always find paintings, bronzes and fine-art prints. Collections include Rembrandt, Picasso, Chagall, Miro, Dali, Cassatt, Snowden and more.

Eclipse Gallery
167 Newbury St., Boston (247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9am-6pm. •Brenda Pizzo and David Thompson's *Living Dolls*, a satiric look at 20th-century icons, shows May 4-June 3.

Elias Fine Arts
120 Braintree St., Brighton (783-1888). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. •*Look Back, Look Forward*, a group show made up of eight artists, celebrates the third anniversary of the gallery. May 12-June 24.

Gallery Bershad
99 Dover St., Somerville (629-9400 ex.3). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Wed., Thu., Sun., 12-6pm; Fri. and Sat. 12-8pm. •*Digital Imagery* by Bill Hayward and Maggie Taylor shows with Will Sherwood's new black-and-white photographs. Through June 4.

Gallery NAGA
67 Newbury St., Boston (267-9060). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. Paintings, studio furniture, sculpture, photography and holography. •Robert Ferrandini's *New Work* shows May 5-June 3.

Genovese Sullivan Gallery
47 Thayer St., Boston (426-9738). Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. MBTA: Orange Line to New Medical Center. •Rob Barnard's *New Wood Fired Clay* is on display through May 3.

Gibbs Gallery
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm. •*The Puppets of Underground Railway Theatre*: innovative puppets, silk backdrops and more, shows thorough May 12.

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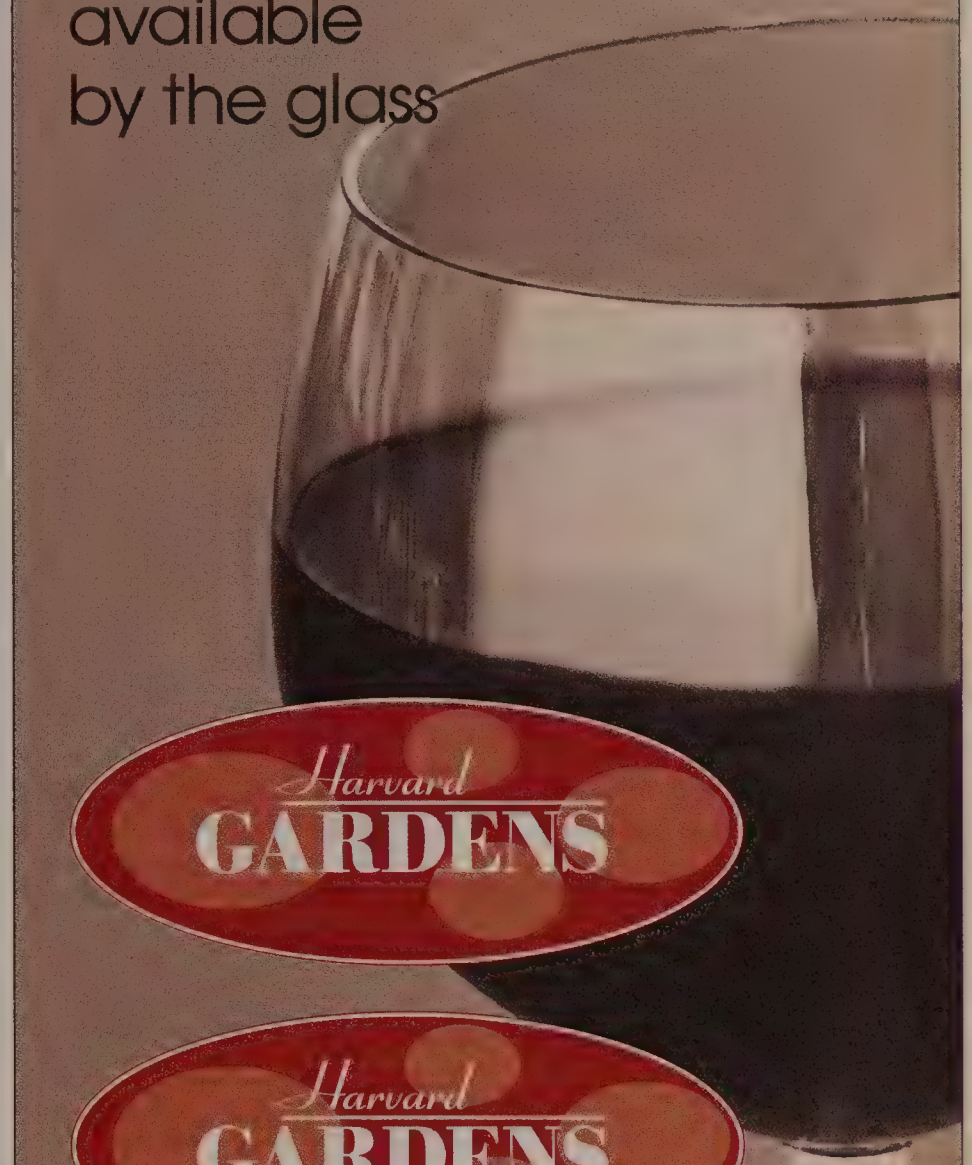

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Gurari Collections
91 Charles St., Boston (367-9800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington or Red Line to Charles MGH. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. This gallery has an impressive collection of 16th- to early-20th-century etchings, engravings and drawings of architecture and urbanism, classical figures and more. Also showing is the work of Wendy Artin, an artist living in Rome.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St. Boston (536-6339). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 10am-6pm; Sat. 10am-5pm. •Assortment of 18th- and 19th-century historic and decorative antique engravings and lithographs.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (262-0550). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. www.hyg.com. •Robert Cumming and Jim Melchert display their work through May 2. •*Philip Sirois: New Paintings* shows with Howard Johnson's *Band Aid Drawings*. May 5-30.

Hurst Gallery
53 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (491-6888). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sat. 12-6pm. Thu, 12-7pm. Visitors are greeted with art and artifacts from six continents.

Hynes Convention Center
900 Boylston St., Boston (954-2000). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm. •Amalia Sotiropoulou's color photographs of Greece include images of statues, religious icons and architecture. Through May 26.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (375-0076). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. The gallery's exhibition features a wide variety of vintage posters from Europe and Russia.

Judy Ann Goldman
14 Newbury St., Boston (424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. Call for an appointment. The gallery regularly displays paintings, sculpture and works on paper. •The upcoming exhibition will be *Billy Sullivan: New Work*, opening May 17.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 Saint Stephen St., Boston (247-1719). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue.-Sat., 1-5pm. •*Images of Japan* shows through May 11. •*Japanese Calligraphy and Brush Painting* by Kaji Aso and his students shows May 13-31.

Kingdom Fine Arts
173 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1997). www.kfaboston.com. •*Storm of Creation* celebrates two women's perspectives of creation. May 2-May 27.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., 5th Floor, Boston (262-4490). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. Paintings, drawings, prints and sculpture by emerging and established artists. •Michael Mazur's exhibition displays through June 7.

Lyman-Eyer Gallery Inc.
1347 Washington St., West Newton (964-3470). www.lymaneyerart.com. *Tue.-Fri., 4-7:30pm; Sat., 11am-7:30pm; and Sun., 11am-5pm.* •Katha Seidman, Sara Ashodian and James O'Neill show their work in an exhibition titled *Unknown Realities*. Through May 12.

Mills Gallery
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sun., 1-4pm; Thu.-Sat., 7-10pm. •*The Drawing Show*, juried by artist Ellen Gallagher, shows through June 25. There will be Meet the Artists informal discussion May 4, 7-9pm and May 30, 7-9pm.

MPG
285 Newbury St., Boston (437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •*The View From the Highway* consists of the work of Dimitri Cavender and Peter Roux. Through May 8. •May-Ann Christensen's *Passionate Landscape* shows May 12-June 11.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm.* Founded in 1964. •Milton Resnick's *Recent Paintings* shows with Jake Berthot's *Landscape Paintings and Drawings*. Through May 6. •*Miniatures* by Joan Snyder displays May 13-June 10 in Gallery 1. •*Small Paintings* by Sam Messer shows in Gallery 2 with *Portraits* by Vincent Sferrazza.

Out of the Blue Gallery
168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun. 12-7pm. This gallery, owned and operated by several artists, always has a variety of interesting artwork and art-related events going on. •Poetry readings take place every Saturday, and the gallery hosts jazz every Wednesday.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (236-4497). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •Harold Reddicliffe's *Still Life Paintings* show through May 13. •*Michael David: New Landscapes, Paintings and Drawings*, shows May 19-June 24.

Urban Landscape **(left),** ***Self Portrait with Kettle*** **(top) and hand-painted silk scarves show at SOS.**

Preview

Come On In

Open-Studio Events Galore

If you time it right, you could hit nearly every open-studios event in the city during the open-studio-studded next two weeks. At the second annual Somerville Open Studios (SOS) May 6 and 7 (12-5pm), you can meet more than 100 of Somerville's artists, learn about the creative process, interact with artists in the spaces where they create, purchase original artworks and discover new talent. Stop by Arlington Center for the Arts' 12th annual Heart of the Arts Festival May 6, 12-5pm and catch a Caribbean beat as Dance Caliente gives a performance and salsa lessons and offers refreshments at the Flamingo Café. Plus, there will be readings by local authors, performances, raffles, music and more. Call 623-5590 or visit *www.somervilleartscouncil.org/sos*.

Also this weekend (May 6 and 7, 12-5pm) is the Brookline Artists Open Studios. See works in progress in more than 35 Artists in their studios and learn what inspires the vibrant artistic community. Experience artwork in a wide variety of styles and media. Also, *Brookline Sculptors at Allandale Farm* (259 Allandale Rd.) features outdoor installations by 13 sculptors. Free guided walks are conducted at 2pm each day. Call 542-1531 or see *www.brooklineart.cjb.net*.

During Vernon Street's 23 Annual Open Studios May 13 and 14, 12-5pm, more than 50 artists welcome the public into their workspaces at 6 and 20 Vernon St. in Somerville. A special feature this year is the silent auction—a portion of the proceeds will go to charity. See *vernonstreet.com*.

Finally, the North Cambridge All Arts Open Studios event takes place May 13 and 14, 11am-5pm, as artists throughout North Cambridge open their doors to the public. From 6:30-8:30pm on Saturday, artists lead hands-on activities in sidewalk chalk art at Linear Park. Also, the Cambridge 2000 Light Parade features WWII searchlights and skytrackers, creating mile-high moving sculptures of light, while on the ground Carnival-style Brazilian percussionists and samba dancers, masked mythological creatures and other drum and dance troupes provide spectacular accompaniment. Grab a map at the Sherman Street Info Booth at Danehy Park, call 349-4380 or see *www.ci.cambridge.ma.us*.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (267-9473). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun. 1pm-5pm. •Scholar and artist Fance Frack displays *Pure Geometry, Natural Grace*, a collection of ceramics. Through May 10.

Qingping Gallery Teahouse
231 Shamut Ave., Boston (236-4846). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Open every day, 9am-12am. This newly relocated, authentic Chinese teahouse specializes in avant-garde and contemporary antiques, teapots and furniture.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (266-3321). www.richardson-clarke.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tues.-Sat. 10am-5pm.* •American and European 19th- and 20th-century paintings, drawings and sculpture. Ongoing. •An upcoming exhibition that opens May 26 is *Moroccan Watercolors* by Truman Seymour.

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (437-1518). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm. •*Pinturas Modernas*, the U.S. debut of the work of Brazilian painter José Goncalves, shows through May 1.

Space 12 Gallery
12 Union Park St., Boston (423-9760). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed. 6-9pm; Thu.-Sat. 1-5pm. •*Richard Livingstone: Lessons Learned*, mixed-media paintings and prints, shows through May 27.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (450-0321). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. Artist William St. George displays his lush and colorful interpretations of Boston cityscapes, bold equestrian scenes and semi-abstract works at his recently opened gallery. •Now showing *Working Artist and Easel*, William St. George's oil paintings.

A Touch of France
173 Newbury St., Boston (247-6966). MBTA: Green line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-7pm; Sun., 12-6pm. This gallery imports contemporary French artists' works, including paintings from famous French painters: M. Tigrane, R. Kefflin, C. Ferrer and striking dried-flower arrangements made near Saint Tropez.

Via Gallery
83 Newbury St., 2nd Floor (424-6200). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri. 10am-4pm. •Linda Mahoney's *New Silver Prints*, a collection of still lifes and landscapes, shows through June 10.

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (536-6176). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 8am-5:30pm; Sat. 9am-4pm. Run by twin brothers Bill and Terry Vose, the gallery specializes in American paintings. •The current exhibition is *Works on Paper Exhibition*, a guide on the selection and care of watercolors, pastels and drawings. Through June 3.

Zeitgeist Gallery
312 Broadway St., Cambridge (876-2182). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu.-Sun., 2pm-7pm. The gallery displays a variety of local artists' work. •A Playground Jazz Series takes place on Friday nights. •Monday is Stone Soup Poetry. •Every Wednesday is a figure-drawing session. •Sunday is a vegan potluck supper, often accompanied by live music and poetry.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2051). Tues.-Sat. 11am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm; Closed Mondays. The Multiple is a gallery investigation that explores works of art produced more than one time. Ongoing.

Gallery One
537 Comm. Ave., Boston (437-1868). Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm. Affiliated with the New England School of Photography. •The work of Karin Rosenthal, whose work has shown in the MFA, the Brooklyn Museum, Fogg Art Museum and the International Center of Photography shows through June 2 in an exhibition titled *Interconnections: Figure and Landscape*.

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (423-4299). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Fri., 10am-3pm; Sat., 12-5pm. •Robert Goss, Laura Blacklow, Gary Duehr and Susan Schmidt combine their work in Descriptions/Depictions/Decisions, which shows through May 26.

Panopticon Gallery
187 Bay State Rd., Boston (267-8929). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford. Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm. This gallery offers fine art photographic prints and media licensing of images for print, video and stock photography. •*Bradford Washburn: Mountain Photography* shows through the end of May.

Photographic Resource Center
602 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (353-0700). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford. Tue.-Sun., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-8pm. •*2000 Photographic Resource Center Members' Exhibition* is juried by Richard B. Woodward, Editor at Large for DoubleTake and John P. Jacob, Executive Director of the PRC. May 5-June 30.

CRAFTS

Alianza Gallery
154 Newbury St., Boston (262-2385). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. A variety of arts and crafts are on display.

Cambridge Artists Cooperative
59A Church St., Cambridge (868-4434). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; 10am-8pm; Sun. 1-6pm. Twelve artists own and operate this gallery that features 2D design and jewelry.

Clayground
91 Hampshire St., Cambridge (661-7376). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 12-6pm; Sat. 11am-5pm. Porcelain and stone objects galore. Classes are usually available.

Feet of Clay Pottery
21 Station St., Brookline Village (731-3262). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. May 4, 6-10pm; May 5-7, 10am-6pm. The pottery studio hosts its Spring Show and Sale, a collection of local artists' works.

Fresh Pond Clay Works
368 Huron Ave., Cambridge (492-1907). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard to Bus 72. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm. This gallery shows a wide range of firing techniques, from terra cotta to porcelain.

Gateway Gallery
62 Harvard St., Brookline Village, Brookline (734-1577). MBTA: C Green Line to Brookline Village. Mon.-Sat., 11am-6pm. This nonprofit gallery features all sorts of arts and crafts.

Infinity Gallery
24 Union Park St., Boston (423-5555). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat 11am-7pm; Sun 11am-6pm. This small gallery features Wayne Fuerst's work.

Shake the Tree Gallery
218 Washington St., Brookline (739-3505). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm; Sun. 12-4pm. The store features a mix of handmade crafts including jewelry and glass works.

Signature Gallery
Dock Square, Boston (227-4885). Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Thu., 10am-7pm; Fri. and Sat., 10am-9pm; Sun., 12-6pm. Pottery, metal and glass works.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (266-1810). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm; Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. •*Inventions and Constructions: New Baskets* shows May 11-June 28.

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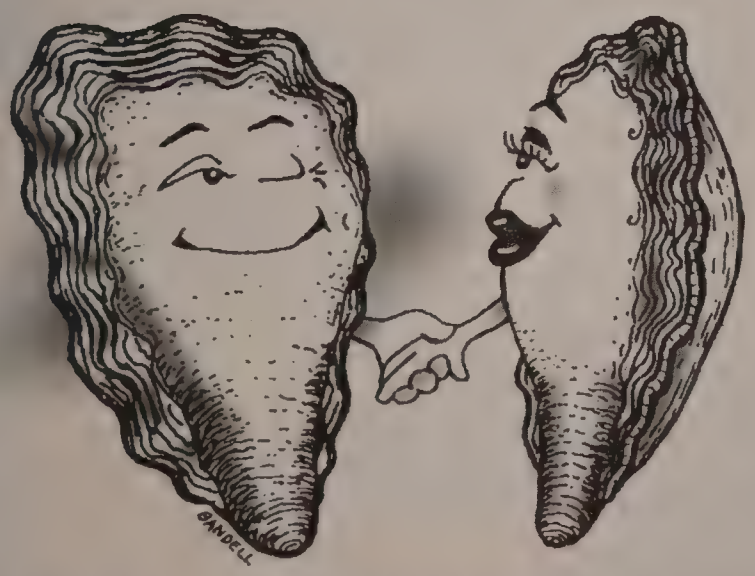

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SEASONS IN THE SUN

Sofia Coppola's *The Virgin Suicides* slits suburbia's wrists. BY PAUL SHERMAN

You won't have Sofia Coppola to kick around anymore. Her debut as writer-director of the dreamy *The Virgin Suicides* moves her well beyond the long shadow cast by her much-maligned performance in her father Francis Ford Coppola's *The Godfather Part III*. A first film that's rough around the edges, *The Virgin Suicides* nonetheless taps into its characters' emotions so strongly at times, and so cinematically, that it works.

Those characters inhabit the suburbia of the mid-1970s' upper-middle-class suburban Detroit, to be precise. Often narrated from the perspective of an adult looking back (with that narration read by Giovanni Ribisi of *Boiler Room*), the movie is about the summer in which the Lisbon sisters killed themselves. To those left behind, we're led to believe, the manicured lawns, two-car garages full of V-8s, pep-filled halls of the high school and general coziness of life would just never seem the same after their deaths.

Kirsten Dunst plays the not so virginal but still suicidal sister in Sofia Coppola's *The Virgin Suicides*.

The home we see is an exaggerated example of suburban repression and unarticulated anguish (neatly symbolized by the withering, diseased Elm tree in front of it). The mother (Kathleen Turner) keeps her five daughters, aged 13-17, on a tight leash, forbidding even the older ones from dating. The father (James Woods), a math teacher at the high school, walks around with a defeated look on his face from not knowing how to communicate with all the females around him. And, as the story progresses, the daughters silently stew, their discontent growing.

The movie opens with the youngest, Cecilia (Hanna Hall), slitting her wrists, but being rushed to the hospital before she can die. When the doctor tells her, "You're not even old enough to know how bad life gets," she answers, "Obviously, you've never been a 13-year-old girl." And that's where *The Virgin Suicides*' greatest strength lies: in portraying the unbearable sorrow of being adolescent. Cecilia soon makes good on her suicide, which causes the girls' parents to allow the daughters to be more social, as a form of suicide prevention. They're allowed to invite boys to a party, and the most outgoing daughter, Lux (Kirsten Dunst), is even permitted to date big man on campus Trip Fontaine (Josh Hartnett).

Throughout the story, Coppola's direction gets the details right. If you trod the halls of a suburban high school in the 1970s, you'll recognize the cocky bell-bottom gait of Trip, the slick cut of the polyester shirts and the special relationship young teens had with pop music in those pre-MTV days. Coppola does a wonderful job of taking schlocky 45s from that era and using them in dramatically effective ways. For example, Trip is introduced in slow-motion with Heart's "Magic Man" blaring, and the effect really is magical. Later, after Lux and Trip's date doesn't go so well, and the girls are pulled out of school and practically put under house arrest, the neighborhood boys and the sisters communicate by playing pop laments like Gilbert O'Sullivan's "Alone Again Naturally" and Carole King's "So Far Away" to each other over the phone.

The boys' attempts—literally and physically—to rescue the Lisbon sisters from their imprisonment suffer from their inability to understand them, no matter how hard they try. The movie perfectly captures the head-scratching, shoulder-shrugging ineffectualness of being a 13-year-old boy, reinforcing it by having most of the girls tower over the boys, as is often the case in real life. The perfection of the movie's details doesn't totally obscure some of its poor storytelling choices, however. The inclusion of two short scenes with a grown-up Trip (Michael Pare) are incongruous (although this was probably Coppola's attempt to soften a rather negative character). The mother could have benefited from some emotional motivation for her repressive ways, while the fact that the three sisters besides Cecilia and Lux are totally interchangeable is unfortunate. But few movies reach into the adolescent soul as forcefully, compassionately and timelessly as this. iB

The Virgin Suicides ★★★

Written and directed by Sofia Coppola. Based on the novel by Jeffrey Eugenides. With Kirsten Dunst, Kathleen Turner, James Woods, Josh Hartnett and Hanna Hall. Rated R. Paramount Classics.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Tommy Lee Jones stars in *Rules of Engagement*.

Adrenaline Drive ★★★
What happens when a few million dollars in yakuza money suddenly drops in the laps of an ineffectual car-rental-agency employee (Hikari Ishida) and a timid nurse (Masanobu Ando), and there are no apparent witnesses to take it back? A crash course in assertiveness training for the pair, that's what. The couple hit the road in this bristling blend of comedy, action and suspense, only to discover there are indeed mobsters who know they have the money and will hurt them to get it back. Reminiscent of Quentin Tarantino's laughs-amid-danger movies, but with very distinctive Japanese twists, this is arthouse moviegoing at its liveliest.

American Psycho ★★½
Writer-director Mary Harron, in her first film since the probing *I Shot Andy Warhol*, again offers a window into the excesses of the past through a violent, unstable protagonist. The results are spottier in this adaptation of Bret Easton Ellis' novel, though. Parts of it are a hilarious burlesque of circa-1987 yuppiedom (and still-prevalent designer lifestyles), with a cast of young Wall Street mergers-and-acquisitions lions who are obsessed with having better condos, tans, gadgets and business cards than their rivals. But even this sort of high-tech, dick-swinging avarice isn't enough for Christian Bale's Harvard MBA who says he feels nothing but "greed and disgust." He needs to kill, too. It's bold and often effective, but the humor only propels the movie so far, as does the fact that Bale's character remains more of a type than a fully formed individual.

Bossa Nova ★★
The husband-and-wife team of director Bruno Barreto (*Carried Away*, *Four Days in September*) and Amy Irving team up for a bilingual romantic comedy set in Barreto's native Brazil, but the result is all plot and little character. Although the Rio story about a set of lovelorn characters—with Irving's English teacher at the center—has some clever machinations to interweave all of their love lives, the characters are all so one-dimensional that you never emotionaly invest yourself in them. So you never care who ends up together. Harmless enough, but you end up wishing it weren't so shallow.

The Decline of Western Civilization 3 ★★
Penelope Spheeris' third movie in her series of musical documentaries is more directly a sequel to the first (about the Los Angeles punk scene of the late 1970s) than the second (about heavy metal) was. But although she revisits the L.A. punk scene of today to see how things have changed in 20 years, this is more about drunks than punks. Her subjects this time are mostly homeless runaways who use the punk look to keep the world at bay—the music is only tangential to their lives of panhandling for beer money. It's often disturbing and interesting to watch, but there's only about an hour's movie here, not the padded 90-minutes you get. At the Brattle Theater, May 12-14.

Gossip ★★
Another teen thriller, another movie that sinks under the weight of its own ridiculousness. This one actually has more credibility than most during its first half. That's when three college buddies (James Marsden, Lena Headey, Norman Reedus), inspired by a lecture on the fine line between truth and rumor given by a charismatic media professor (Eric Bogosian), decide to spread a false rumor to see what happens. The rumor is that a chaste campus beauty (Kate Hudson) had sex with her boyfriend (Joshua Jackson), but the buddies' experiment spirals into a series of accusations and revelations, and a possible rape and murder. The plot twists start coming heavier than the binge drinking, but in an attempt to make one more potent than the next, the makers throw credibility aside. So the would-be drama just gets sillier.

High Fidelity ★★★
This adaptation of Nick Hornby's novel surrounds star (and co-producer) John Cusack with lots of familiar faces from his past movies, such as *Grifters* director

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Stephen Frears and co-stars like Tim Robbins, Lili Taylor and sister Joan Cusack. Cusack also cowrote the script with his *Grosse Pointe Blank* team and plays a familiarly flawed but sincere character. Even if that does give the movie a sense of deja vu, there's enough fun in the details to make the story of a record-shop owner's love life work. Its most memorable action pits Cusack's character against his anti-social record-shop employees, played by Jack Black (*Cradle Will Rock*) and Todd Louiso. Killer soundtrack, too.

Human Traffic ★★
If you don't like someone sober, you're not likely to like them drunk or stoned. So it goes with this Welsh *Trainspotting* wannabe about a weekend spent by a group of twentysomething clubbers who escape the drudgery of meaningless jobs for the ecstasy (the drug and the feeling) of music-drenched, dance-filled nights out. But, unlike *Trainspotting*'s Danny Boyle, *Human Traffic* writer-director Justin Kerrigan is unable to translate his characters' frustrations and narcotic escapes into a visceral cinematic style. In the first half-hour in which we're introduced to the group of friends, he just has them rant on or talk really loudly, making them too obnoxious to care about.

Keeping the Faith ★★
Actor Edward Norton (*Fight Club*) turns director, clumsily, in a poor, overlong mix of broad comedy and drama. In this story of a priest (Norton) and a rabbi (Ben Stiller) who are reunited with their junior-high female best friend (Jenna Elfman)—with adult hormones now injecting themselves into their relationship—the first-time director is unable to bridge the chasm between gags like the rabbi fainting at a circumcision and more emotional material, like these three workaholics wondering whether the sacrifices they've made for their careers have been worth it. Other exaggerations, like Anne Bancroft's cliched Jewish mother, don't help, either.

Me Myself I ★★½
The always-game Rachel (*Muriel's Wedding*, *Hilary and Jackie*) Griffith's performance enlivens yet another of the many "alternative life" movies of recent years. This finds Griffith as a single, thirtysomething journalist who wonders if maybe she's missed her chance for a family and domestic bliss. But, as the characters in *Sliding Doors* or *Twice Upon a Yesterday* experienced, she suddenly finds herself in a different life, where she really did marry one of her beaus and had kids with him. Along the way, she finds the grass isn't necessarily greener in the suburbs and that she's a lot more resilient than she imagined. Nothing special, but it gets much more mileage out of its premise than it might have.

Return to Me ★★
The cute-meter nearly hurtles into gag-me territory in this directorial debut by actress Bonnie Hunt, who also costars. It's not that the romance between widowed builder David Duchovny and Minnie Driver—who has received the heart of his late wife (Joely Richardson) in a transplant—is contrived. It's more that Hunt has entirely too many gags featuring kids, animals and old people. And the old-timers (including Driver's shiver-me-timbers Irish grandpa, played in a wince-worthy performance by Carroll O'Connor) are defined almost solely by their ethnicity. It tries to be sweet; problem is, it tries too hard.

Rules of Engagement ★½
Imagine a magician who performs tricks for adults, but with all the condescension of someone pulling quarters from behind the ears of 4-year-olds. That's the attitude of this exceedingly pat courtroom drama, a military tale that makes you long for the mediocrity of Tom Clancy. Samuel L. Jackson is the Marine warrior who leads a rescue mission at a besieged Middle East U.S. embassy and orders his troops to fire at a crowd of demonstrators he sees firing weapons. Trouble is, no one else saw the crowd's weapons, and Washington puts him on trial for the resulting 83 deaths. The trial, with Tommy Lee Jones as the defense lawyer, is a mockery of credibility, while this movie that's supposedly against scapegoating does just that, by throwing in a military-brass villain (Bruce Greenwood) who destroys evidence that could make our underdog hero's struggle much easier.

Winter Sleepers ★★★
Before he made the 1999 arthouse highlight *Run Lola Run*, German director Tom Tykwer made this moodier psychological thriller set in the snowy mountains. Call it *Ski Lola Ski*. The lives of a moviehouse projectionist (Ulrich Mattes), a nurse (Marie-Lou Sellem), a ski instructor (Heino Ferch), a translator (Floriane Daniel) and a farmer (Josef Bierbichler) cross paths in eerie and unexpected ways, especially after the projectionist and the farmer suffer the car crash that sets events in motion yet leaves them with only vague recollection of what happened. Slightly reminiscent of Atom Egoyan's film of Russell Banks, *The Sweet Hereafter*, because of its wintry setting and unsettling aftermath following a tragedy, this is slow-moving and sometimes overly labyrinthine, but haunting nonetheless.

Hikari Ishida and Masanobu Ando play the lucky couple who stumble upon a million dollars in the arthouse drama-comedy *Adrenaline Drive*.

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Cinemas
214 Harvard Ave. (277-2140). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
Trapelo Rd. (484-1706). Red Line to Harvard, 73 bus.

BOSTON

Boston Film • Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (536-1540). Green Line to Hynes.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (536-5400). Green Line to Copley.

Cheri
50 Dalton St. (536-2870). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum Of Science, Omni Theater
Science Park (723-2500). Green Line to Science Park.

Nickelodeon
606 Comm. Ave. (424-1500). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford St.

Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle.

Coolidge Corner
290 Harvard St. (734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theater
40 Brattle St. (876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (495-4700). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Sq. (494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony Theater
10 Church St. (864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Sq.

Somerville Theater
55 Davis Sq. (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston. (277-2500). B Green Line to Chestnut Hill.

West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (964-6060).

Alternatives & Revivals

Advice to Contributors
Submit film listings by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Although film listings are correct at the time of publication, they are subject to change. Doublecheck showtimes by calling the theater or 333-FILM.

Boston Public Library

Precode Hollywood Series
•May 8, 6pm **The Mask of Fu Manchu** *1932.* In this film directed by Charles Brabin, Boris Karloff plays a master Chinese criminal threatening the tomb of Ghengis Khan with his evil daughter, played by Myrna Loy.
•May 15, 6pm **Red Dust** *1932.* Everyone always wants Clark Gable, so what else is new? This time his pursuers include Jean Harlow playing a stranded prostitute on a rubber plantation in Indochina and the illustrious engineer's wife. Based on the play by Wilson Collison and directed by Victor Fleming.

Brattle Theater

Most shows are $7, including double features.

Special Engagements
•Through May 4, 3:15pm, 5:30pm, 7:45pm and 10pm **The Filth and the Fury** *1999.* This film is an intimate and shocking ride through the political movement and musical revolution that surrounds *The Sex Pistols*. The film depicts the London punk scene in the mid-1970s through the band's own archive of never-seen footage.

Coolidge Corner Theater

Feature Engagements
•May 7-10 Ladies and gentlemen ... Old Blue Eyes is back in town. Enjoy the buttery voice and classic smile of everyone's favorite Rat Pack crooner, Frank Sinatra, during *Celebrating Sinatra: The Movies and the Music.* Watch those smooth moves and reminisce about the good old days of quality music with viewings of **Guys and Dolls**, **High Society** and **On the Town**.

Coolidge Shorts
Short Films by New England Filmmakers
•Through May 5 **New Apartment** *2000.* A short film directed by Alex Rose.

Harvard Film Archive

Premieres
•May 6, 7pm and May 7, 6pm **Fruitlands 1843** *1999.* Shot in a preserved Shaker village and other Massachusetts locations, this film presents a creative recasting of Bronson Alcott's 19th-century experiment in communal living for a group of transcendentalists. Directed by Vasiliki Katsarou.
•May 6, 9pm and May 7, 8pm **Here Am I** *1999.* This film tells the story of a village in Bulgaria that was ruined in war. It centers on the flight of a boy and a mute scribe who carry with them a sacred Hebrew text. Directed by Joshua Dorsey and Doulgas Naimer.
•May 6, 7pm and May 7, 6pm **The Laughing Club of India** *1999.* Director Mira Nair brings us Bombay residents, mostly middle class, who meet early in the morning with their instructors to perform a series of laughing exercises to cure bodily disease and provide relief and release.
•May 5, 8pm **The Wind Will Carry Us** *1999.* A group of sophisticated urbanites arrive from Tehran for a short stay at Siah Dareh, a village in Iranina Kurdistan. Directed by Abbas Kiarostami.

Declarations of Independence: Films by Michael Almereyda
•May 3, 9pm **The Rocking Horse Winner** *1997.* This film depicts the fragile, emotional and physical world of D.H. Lawrence's short story about a precocious child who has a gift for picking winning ponies at the track.
•May 3, 9pm **Another Girl, Another Planet** *1992.* The gritty reality and strange beauty of this East Village story charts the contrasting romantic fortunes of two men who live on different floors in the same loft complex.
•May 4 and May 9, 7pm **Nadja** *1994.* A haunting vampire story is set in the hip netherworld of contemporary lower Manhattan.
•May 4, 9pm **The Eternal** *1998.* A gothic film relates the story of an American couple who journey with their young son to Ireland and in their travels encounter a strange relative.
•May 8, 9:15pm **Twister** *1989.* This film of emotional destruction is set in the bored and boozed-up world of a dysfunctional Kansas family.

Seance Screenings
•May 14, 7pm **The Laughing Heirs** *1932.* Max Ophuls directs this Romeo-and-Juliet story of two warring champagne-producing families whose children become romantically involved.

The Power of Images and Illusions
•May 9, 9pm **East Side Story** *1997.* This film is an exploration of a previously undiscovered genre of Soviet-bloc production in the 1950s and 1960s: the socialist movie musical—part Stalin, part Beach Blanket Bingo. Directed by Dana Ranga.

Mapping and Fashioning Space
•May 3, 6:30pm **Death of a Neopolitan Mathematician** *1992.* This film provides a fictionalized account of the days leading to the suicide of the well-known intellectual and political Renato Caccioppoli in 1959. Directed by Mario Martone.

Five Directors: Part III
•May 8, 7pm **McCabe and Mrs. Miller** *1971.* Robert Altman presents a film set in the American Northwest of the late 19th-century, where an insecure romantic con man and an ambitious British prostitute try to make a go of it in business.
•May 14, 8:30pm **Nostalghia** *1983.* Andrei Tarkovsky directs this film that concerns a Russian musicologist working in Italy who longs for his homeland.
•May 15, 7pm **Nashville** *1975.* This film presents 24 characters and as many crisscrossing stories in a twist of narrative construction. Directed by Robert Altman.
•May 16, 7pm **Images** *1972.* Robert Altman centers on a woman who, left mostly alone as she stays with her

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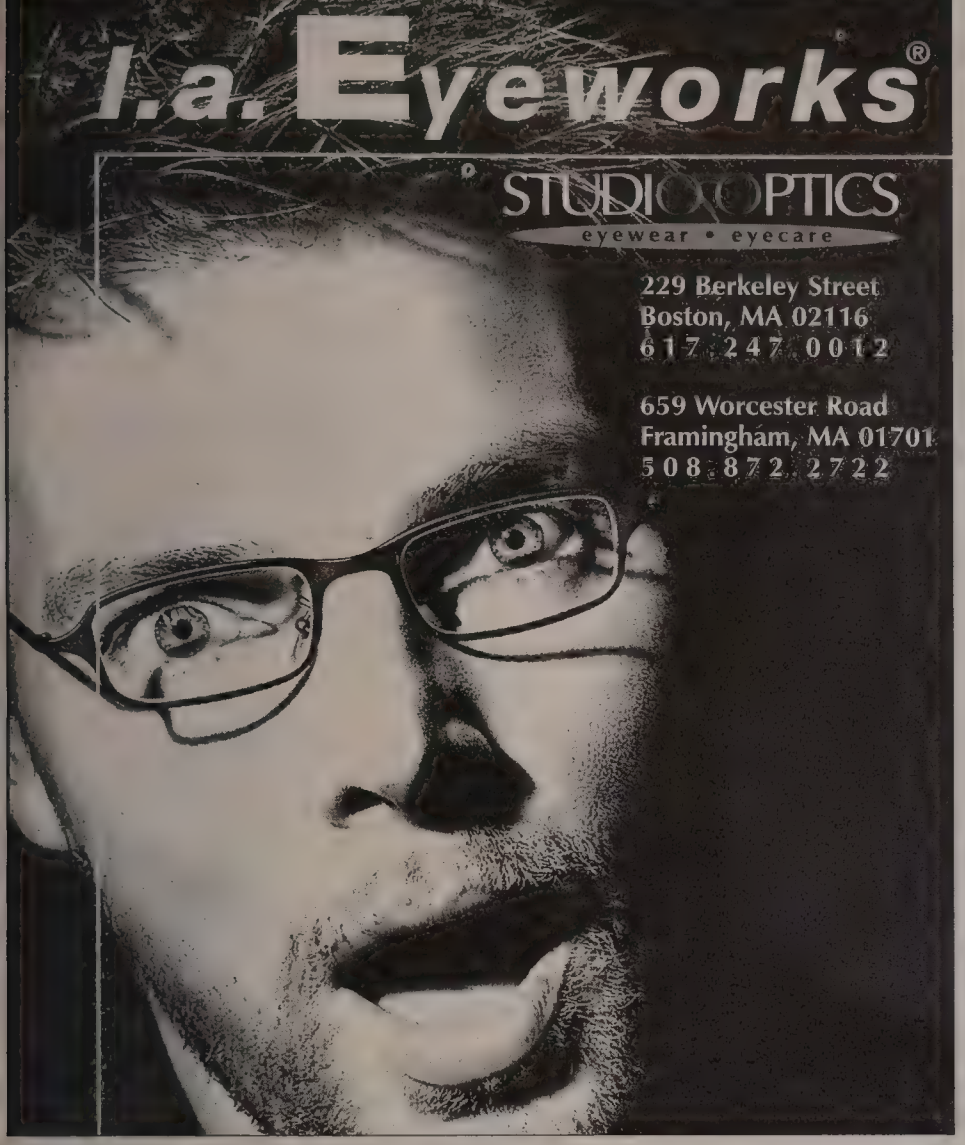

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***Keeping the Faith*'s Ben Stiller, Edward Norton and Jenna Elfman make a comedic love triangle.**

husband in a cottage in Ireland, experiences erotic and violent delusions.

•May 16, 9pm **The Long Goodbye** *1973.* Raymond Chandler's 1940s detective novel is adapted to L.A. of the 1970s, replete with nude hippies, pot brownies, freeways, all-night supermarkets, mobsters in leisure suits and movie stars on the Malibu Beach.

Museum of Fine Arts

Most film screenings are $6.

The 16th Annual Gay and Lesbian Film Festival

Tickets, $7-$8; Opening night programs with reception and filmmaker presents; $10-$12; series pass, $84-$105; special 10-ticket pass, $50-$60; Gay and Lesbian Youth Program, $5 (Box office: 369-3770). May 4-20.

•May 4, 8pm **Punks** *2000.* Directed by Patrik-Ian Polk, this film focuses on the friendship of four fun-loving black, gay men. The director will be present.

•May 5, 8pm **But I'm a Cheerleader** *1999.* A joyful romp through a gay rehabilitation camp, Jamie Babbit's film is a smart satire about the absurdity of curing homosexuality. The director will be present.

•May 6, 2:30pm **Sadness** *1999.* Based on William Yang's stage performance, this film takes us through a journey into the world of a Chinese man living in Australia, who relates the stories of his friends who have died of AIDS. Directed by Tony Ayres. Preceded by two films by Andy Abrahams Wilson: **Hope Is the Thing with Feathers** and **Casualty**. Wilson will be present.

•May 6, 4:15pm **The Other Side** *1999.* This film, directed by C.A. Griffith, portrays a gay couple in Mexico who face the challenge of living with AIDS in a country with limited medical options. The director will be present.

•May 6, 6:15pm **Outtakes** *1998.* Directors Katherine Brooks and Karen Klopfenstein bring us the story of Cassy—a 22-year-old director struggling to fund and complete her latest feature. Preceded by **Wet Dress** by A. Rosser Goodman. Goodman will be present.

•May 6, 8pm **Giriplay: Lesbian Short Films**. In the heat of NYC, two fun girls stir it up and shake it down in **Sheila and Rosie get PAID!** *1997.* Over 30 interviews comprise the heartbreaking and hilarious documentary **Straight Down the Aisle: Confessions of Lesbian Bridesmaids** *2000* by Christine J. Russo and Kelly Hankin. **Candy Kisses** *1999* takes a stroll away from monogamy; Performance artist Nyna presents an erotic monologue in **Verbal Sex: The Art of Nyna** *1999* by Alberto Ferreras. **I'm Starving** *1998* by Yau Ching is a love tale between a ghost and a woman. Sonali Gulati will be present for **Sum Total** *1999*, a sensual collage of mathematical metaphors, slideshow images and a haunting score. In **Maid of Honor** *1999* by Jennifer Arnold, Serena's role in her ex-girlfriend's wedding tests her commitment to non-monogamy; **Getting It On** *1998*, by Armgard Meyer, is one girl's odyssey into cyber-satisfaction.

•May 7, 5:30pm **Men's Short Film's**. The evolution of love between a Japanese monk and his novice are presented in **The Offering** *1999*, by Paul Lee. The owner of a lonely heart tries his hand at telephone dating in **Hi, I'm Steve** *1999*, by Robert Kennedy. Buttonhole cameras in **Two Encounters** *1999*, by Rodney Evans, capture the experiences of two men in separate New York gay bars. A comedy, **Can I Be Your Bratwurst, Please?** *1999*, by Rose von Praunheim, features legendary porn star Jeff Stryker. **His Favoured One** *1999*, by Hseyin Karag, depicts the passion and joys of pedicure. Everyone scrambles to get back into bed in **Pop Tarts** *1999* by Andre Hereford. **Sailor** *1999*, by Bavo Defurne, lauds the power of cleanliness. Gay cowboys, fur-bedecked club kids and barflies swirl in a waltz of sex and glory in **Last Call** *1998* by Elisa Blatteis. Thomas is affectionately teased by his favorite classmate in **Thomas Trips** *1998*, by Pascal Vincent.

•May 7, 7:45pm **24 Nights** *1999.* A romantic comedy about a bookstore clerk who requests that Santa delivers him true love is directed by Kieran Turner, who will be present. The film is preceded by **Rick and Steve: The Happiest Gay Couple in the World** *1998* by Q. Allan Brocka.

•May 11, 6:15pm **But I Was a Girl: The Story of Freida Belinfante** *1999.* Director Tony Boumans brings us the story of Frieda Belinfante, a master at the cello, whose career was cut short by Nazis, yet she triumphed as the first woman conductor to have her own chamber orchestra in the U.S.

•May 11, 8pm **2 Seconds** *1998.* Director Manon Briand's film examines light, speed and love at first sight.

•May 12, 6pm **The Eyes of Tammy Faye** *2000.* This documentary investigates the legend beneath the mascara with interviews from Tammy Faye Bakker-Messner, Jim Bakker and others. Directed by Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato. Preceded by **The Trey Billings Show** *1999*, by David Briggs.

•May 12, 8:15pm **Why Not Me?** *1998.* From the shores of Barcelona comes this delectable bon-bon of lesbian lust and disco-bunny desire. Directed by Stephane Giusti.

•May 13, 1:30pm **Wallowitch and Ross: This Moment** *1999.* Director Richard Morris tells the story of two acclaimed New York artists who began their relationship three decades ago and eventually matched their artistic abilities with equal amounts of success.

•May 13, 3:30pm **Living with Pride: Ruth Ellis@100** *1999.* Director Yvonne Welbon's exceptional documentary reflects a century's passing through the eyes of the oldest living "out" African-American lesbian. Preceded by **Border Line Family Pictures** *1999*, by C.A. Griffith.

•May 14, 5:30pm **Lola and Bilidikid** *1999.* Director Kutleg Ataman's film presents a complex web of family relationships in Berlin's Turkish gay scene.

•May 14, 7:45pm **Gendernauts** *1999.* An exploration of gender malleability by Monika Treut. Preceded by **Belly, Femur** *1997*, by Laura Cowell.

Museum of Science

Planetarium Shows

•Through May 9 **Catastrophes In Space: When Stars End Their Lives**. The planetarium show details the spectacular death of stars. Witness stars of different sizes as they end their lives and help seed the universe with new chemical elements, triggering the formation of new stars and planets.

•May 5 through May 7 **The Sky Tonight**. Learn to identify the stars and planets seen in the sky each night during this live show and presentation. Topics include constellations and planets currently visible, and special seasonal celestial events.

Omni Shows

•Through June 22. The Omni features **Dolphins**, an underwater exploration about these sea creatures in the wild and their forms of communication.

•Through June 22. **Mysteries of Egypt** reveals the stories and splendors of an ancient empire in a story-telling narrative. See stunning, panoramic views of Egypt's landscapes and breathtaking monuments, and watch ancient burial rituals.

Laser Shows

•May 4, 5 and 6, 5:30pm **Peter and the Wolf**. Prokofief's masterpiece is brought to life through laser images and animation. It's narrated by Sting.

•May 4, 5 ,6, 8pm **Smashing Pumpkins**' music is set to imagery and compelling graphics.

•May4, 5, 6, 9:15pm **Korn**, the band that aspires to change the face of heavymetal, is set to powerful lasers for an amazing audience experience.

•May 5, 6 10:30pm **Pink Floyd**. Pink Floyd's masterpiece *The Wall* has amazed listeners for 20 years—this new laser spectacular features all-new laser choreography and remastered digital audio.

•May 7, 8pm **U2**, the classic Irish rock band, returns to Boston, bringing together classic hits from the '80s.

•May 7, 9:15pm **Metallica**, one of the most popular laser shows in history, is back—the show concentrates on the Metallica essentials.

Special Events

•May 4, 7:30pm **Mude Weggefahrten** *1996.* In *Tired Companions*, you can travel with refugees from the civil war in Yugoslavia as they flee from their homeland and start a new life in Germany after crossing the border. *Goethe Institut Boston, 170 Beacon St., Boston (262-6050). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*

education

Advice to Contributors

Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Education. Or e-mail information to education@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

CLASSES/LECTURES

Wednesday, May 3

Spirituality and Politics: An Uncommon Dialogue

Cambridge Forum, the First Parish, 3 Church St., Cambridge (495-2727). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. Free. **Neale Donald Walsch**, bestselling author of *Conversations with God, Books 1-3*, and **Dr. John Hagelin**, presidential candidate of the Natural Law Party, examine the interface between spirituality and the political process in this election year.

Thursday, May 4

The Boston Red Sox: 100 Years of History

Brookline Adult & Community Education, Brookline High School, 115 Greenough St., Brookline (730-2700). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. 7:30-9pm. $5. Author **Glenn Stout** (*Red Sox Century*) will discuss such revelations as: how the first World Series was fixed and why; why Harry Frazee was one of the best Red Sox owners of all time and why Tom Yawkey was one of the worst; why Johnny Pesky didn't hold the ball in the 1946 World Series and why you think he did; and why the Sox can't win a championship in Fenway and why a new Fenway won't help.

Molasses: From the Slave Trade to the Great Flood of 1919

Orient Heights Branch, Boston Public LIbrary, 18 Barnes Ave., East Boston (567-2516). 7pm. Free. The thick, dark syrup produced in the refining of sugar known as molasses was an integral part of the Triangle Trade between America, Africa and the West Indies in the 18th century. Author and historian **Anthony Sammarco** lectures.

Saturday, May 6

Dual Citizenship and Identity in Global Context

George Sherman Union Conference Auditorium, 775 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-9050). MBTA: B Green Line to BU Central. 8:30-5:30pm. Free. Boston University's Institute for the Study of Economic Culture will host this seminar. Topics include the meaning of citizenship, the social and cultural aspects of plural citizenship and comparative legal issues.

Publish Your Web Page in One Day

Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Comm. Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 10am-6pm. $173. Publish a simple Web page in one day using Microsoft Word and a basic Web-publishing program. This workshop covers specialized Web-authoring programs and the use of Word for page design, including text, graphics and photographs.

Sunday, May 7

New England Lighthouses

Wellesley Community Center, 219 Washington St., Wellesley (781-235-6690). 2:30pm. Free. Journalist **William L. Patton Jr.** offers a slide lecture about these romantic sentinels of Boston Harbor and the New England coast.

Women in Massachusetts Politics

Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (929-4571). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. 1-2:30pm Free. Former Democratic National Committe member **Betty Taymor** weaves together the story of her own experiences in politics (including her work with JFK, Eleanor Roosevelt, Adlai Stevenson and Edward M. Kennedy) with a hard-hitting narrative on women's deplorable lack of success in breaking through the political glass ceiling in Massachusetts.

Wednesday, May 10

The Battle of Bunker Hill Revisited

Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 7pm. $5. The Battle of Bunker Hill has historically been viewed as the product of blunders by both sides. Harold Selesky, professor of history at the University of Alabama, challenges this view by examining how the well-developed British plan of attack was defeated by a series of brilliant American improvisations.

Contemporary Art & Civic Life

Boston Architectural Center, 320 Newbury St., Boston (585-0180). 7:30pm. Free. **Jill Medvedow**, the director of the Institute of Contemporary Art, will address the growing role that contemporary art plays in adding to the vitality of the city and on the life of its residents.

Entrepreneuring for Life

Cambridge Forum, the First Parish, 3 Church St., Cambridge (495-2727). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. Free. **Tom First**, co-founder of the Cambridge-based business Nantucket Nectars, discusses new ways businesses are addressing issues of social responsibility at the beginning of the 21st century.

EnviroExpo 2000: Lt. Governor Jane Swift Speaks

World Trade Center Waterfront Ballroom, Boston (338-0244). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. 4:30-7:30pm. At the nation's leading environmental expo, **Lt. Governor Jane Swift** will present the opening remarks for the MassRecycle Annual Event and Recycling Awards Ceremony. **Mindy Lubber**, the new regional administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, New England.

Principles of Investing

CCAE, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Three Wednesdays, 6:15-7:45pm. Begins May 10. $62. What is a stock? What is a bond? What is a mutual fund? Taxable or tax-free investments? **Matt Carlyon**, registered investment adviser, will help you understand basic investing and introduce the tools for building a portfolio.

Tuesday, May 16

The Art of Political Biography

Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (929-4571). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. 5:30-7pm. Free. Historian **Jill Ker Conway** moderates a session with Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer **David Herbert Donald** (Abraham Lincoln and Chalres Sumner); National Book Award winner **Joseph Ellis** (Thomas Jefferson and John Adams); and Bancroft Prize winner **Robert Dallek** (Lyndon Johnson, Franklin Roosevelt and currently working on a new biography of John F. Kennedy).

Preview

Go Gals!

At right (clockwise), Katie Couric, Frank McCourt, Lea Rabin and Jordan's Queen Noor will be keynote speakers at Simmons Graduate School of Management's 21st Women's Leadership Conference, May 6. More than 2,000 attendees will listen to the experiences of these internationally recognized speakers and participate in seminars led by 20 pioneers and entrepreneurs who have succeeded in business, broadcast journalism, publishing, finance, space travel, communications and e-commerce.

The World Trade Center, 164 Northern Ave., Boston (800-208-4476). www.simmons.edu/leadershipconf. MBTA: Red Line to South Station. May 6, 8am-6pm.

It's an impressive lineup at Simmons' Women's Leadership Conference, May 6.

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READINGS & SIGNINGS

Wednesday, May 3

Brookline Booksmith Writers Series
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free admission. The work of master Russian poet **Anna Akhmatova** comes to life through **Judith Hemshemeyer**'s translation.

Harvard Book Store Author Event
Boston Public Library, Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6pm. Free admission. Author **Frances Fitzgerald** discusses the American side of the Cold War as it is portrayed throughout his work *Way Out There in the Blue: Reagan, Star Wars and the End of the Cold War*.

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Harvard Square, Cambridge (236-7460). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free admission. Bring along your best buddy to hear powerful women **Ellen Goodman** and **Patricia O'Brien** unite to discuss the book *I Know Just What You Mean: The Power of Friendship in Women's Lives*.

Thursday, May 4

Brookline Booksmith Writers Series
Coolidge Corner Theater, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (734-2501). MBTA: Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 6pm. $2. **Michael Palin** has gone on some adventures of his own carrying coconuts and riding on a homemade horse in the *Monty Python* classics, but tonight he switches gear. He celebrates his birthday with a discussion of his book, *Hemingway's Adventures*.

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (236-7421). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free admission. Ever wonder why all the espresso in the world can't help you after an all-nighter? Or why you continue to fall in love with the wrong people? **Jonathan Weiner** answers all like questions in *Time, Love, Memory*, an examination of the pioneering work of unfamiliar genetic-code cracker scientist **Seymour Benzer**.

Poets Share Reading Series
Rhythm and Muse, 403A Centre St., Hyde Square, Jamaica Plain (524-6622). MBTA: Orange Line to Jackson Square. 7:30pm. Donation requested. The fifth month of this series presented by the Jamaica Plain Arts Council features **Barbara Seagle** who will read from her work. It is followed by a community open-mike session.

Friday, May 5

Barnes and Noble Author Series
Boston University, 660 Beacon St., Boston (236-7460). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7pm. Free admission. Find out whether or not it's all meant to be when you hear **Tim Parks** reads from his book *Destiny*.

Saturday, May 6

Heart of the Arts Festival
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). 12-5pm. Free admission. Local writers and notable townies come together to read their own works and pay homage to the words of others. Participating civic leaders include State Rep. **Jim Marzilli**, Director of Fire Services **Richard J. Maimone** and Arlington Public Schools Communications Specialist **Bob Sprague**. It's a rare occasion that these guys stand at a podium to read poetry, so you won't want to miss it.

Tom Robbins Event
Coolidge Corner Theater, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (734-2501). 12pm. $2. If you haven't yet read *Even Cowgirls Get the Blues* or any other of **Tom Robbins**' wildly zany best-selling novels, we strongly advise you to do so. Then go hear the this world-class storyteller read from his anticipated work *Fierce Invalids Home from Hot Climates*.

Sunday, May 7

Free Poetry Reading
Washington Street Art Center, 321 Washington St., Somerville (623-5315). MBTA: #86 bus. 6:30pm. Free admission. Poets **David Bufano**, **Nicole Jordan**, **Daniel Sterne**, **Laurie Zucker-Conde** and others lay their hearts on the line for you, free of charge.

Brookline Booksmith Writers Series
Coolidge Corner Theater, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (734-2501). MBTA: Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 12pm. $2. Mystery woman **P. D. James** reads from her memoir, *Time To Be in Earnest*, this evening, with a book sale and signing to follow at Brookline Booksmith.

Monday, May 8

Harvard Book Store Author Event
Arthur M. Sackler Auditorium, 485 Broadway St., Cambridge (547-4648). 6pm. She's known for finding and leading the NOW movement, but tonight find out more about the evolution of **Betty Friedan**'s personal life. *Life So Far: A Memoir* takes you on a journey from her lonely childhood to the leader she is today.

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (236-7421). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free admission. End this school year on a motivated note as **Janine Bempechat** discusses her book *Getting Our Kids Back on Track: Educating Children for the Future.*

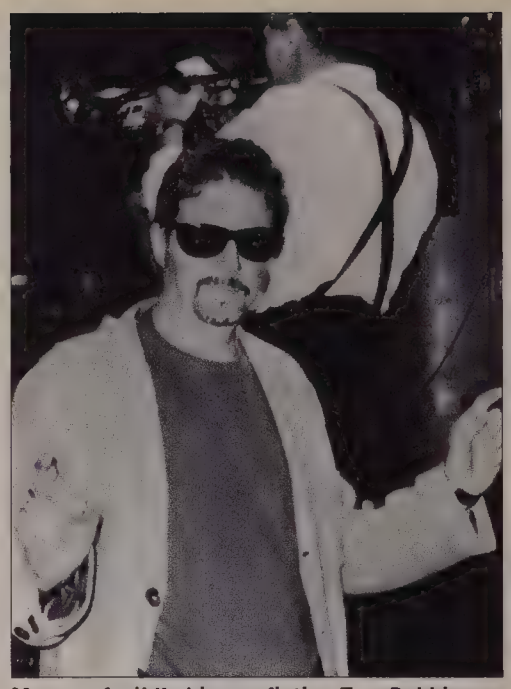
Tuesday, May 9

Barnes and Noble Author Series
Boston University, 660 Beacon St., Boston (236-7460). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7pm. Free admission. It's difficult enough channeling enough energy to make it through the day, let alone maintaining our sanity. Author **Robert Shiller** discusses the crazies that today's high-strung, high-stress society has produced in his book *Irrational Exuberance.*

Brookline Booksmith Writers Series
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free admission. Cambridge's own **Perrin Ireland** shares her vision as she reads from her debut novel, *Ana Imagined*.

Harvard Book Store Author Event
Boston Public Library, Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6pm. Free admission. This guy enjoys a week spent snowbound in the Maine woods as much as a day in the sun. **Paul Theroux** is one of the world's most passionate travelers, so don't be ashamed if you find yourself coveting his boundless desire. Tonight Theroux guides you through *Fresh Air Fiend*, his new collection of essays and articles about travels in five continents.

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (236-7421). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free admission. Tonight,



Master of wildly bizarre fiction Tom Robbins reads at the Coolidge Corner Theatre, May 6.

author **E. Lynn Harris** leads a discussion about her book *Abide with Me*.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Free admission. This reading and book signing will inspire you to patch up family differences. **Wendy Mnookin** reads from *Essential Love: Poems About Mothers and Fathers, Daughters and Sons*.

Parlons Livres Reading
French Cultural Library and Cultural Center, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (266-4351). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 10:30am. Free. Members of "Parlons Livres" read passages in French from **Samuel Beckett**'s play *En Attendant Godot*. This inverse of a classical play calls upon a profound humanity where indefinite time, undetermined location and discontinuous action encompass a classical story.

Wednesday, May 10

Brookline Booksmith Writers Series
Coolidge Corner Theater, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (734-2501). MBTA: Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 6pm. $2. Take a fictional look at the life of Marilyn Monroe as **Joyce Carol Oates** reads from *Blonde*.

New Words Reading Series
New Words Bookstore, 186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 6pm. Free admission. Most writers admit that their work is as good as any therapy. Poet, professor and human-rights activist **Marjorie Agosin** would certainly agree. Tonight she reads from her poetic memoir, *The Alphabet in My Hands: A Writing Life.*

Thursday, May 11

Brookline Booksmith Writers Series
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free admission. Intellectuals pretty much agree that books should not be burned, but the the scorching of tunes has yet to become a heated issue. Ponder the subject as **A. M. Homes** reads from her novel *Music for Torching*, now available in paperback.

Harvard Book Store Author Event
Arthur M. Sackler Auditorium, 485 Broadway St., Cambridge (547-4648). 6pm. Pick up free tickets at Harvard Book Store. **Larry Woiwode** questions his actions as he reads from his novel *What I Think I Did*.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Free admission. Celebrate your fabulous Momma with acclaimed author **Jayne Anne Phillips** as she reads from her latest novel, *Motherkind*. A signing will follow.

Winning Author Talk
The Starr Center at Schepens Eye Research Institute, Cambridge St., Boston (227-3957, x270). 6:30-8pm. Free admission. Author **Michael Holleran** has been awarded the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities Book Prize for his work. A panel discussion examines his book as an exploration of Boston's early activist preservation movement.

Sunday, May 14

Harvard Square Book Festival
First Parish Church, 1446 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (781-444-6767). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. $8. **Michael Ondaatje**, author of *The English Patient*, reads from his new novel, *Anil's Ghost*.

Monday, May 15

BCAE Author Event
Arlington Street Church, 20 Arlington St., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. May 15, 7pm. $36 for the reading/talk or $56 with a reception. The Boston Center for Adult Education presents an opportunity to hear **Michael Ondaatje** read from his forthcoming novel. He'll discuss the process of having one of his novels (*The English Patient*) adapted to the screen.

Brookline Booksmith Writers Series
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free admission. Midwives author **Chris Bohjalian** reads from his latest novel *Trans-Sister Radio*.

Harvard Square Book Festival
First Parish Church, 1446 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (781-444-6767). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm (private reception to meet the author, $40), reading at 7pm. $8. Pulitzer Prize–winning author **Jane Smiley** talks about her latest novel, *Horse Heaven*.

Tuesday, May 16

Brookline Booksmith Writers Series
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free admission. If you're feeling bored and neglected in the office lately, share your pain with these two authors. **Elissa Schappell** reads from her debut collection of short stories *Use Me*, and **Jonathan Baird** reads from *Day Job: A Workplace Reader for a Restless Age.*

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (236-7421). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free admission. Join **Peter Grose** tonight in a discussion of his latest book *Operation Rollback: America's Secret War Behind the Iron Curtain*.

Harvard Square Book Festival
Club Passim, 47 Palmer St., Cambridge (781-444-6767). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm (private reception to meet the author, $40), the reading only at the First Parish Church, 7pm. $8. Meet the current Poet Laureate **Robert Pinsky** as he reads from he latest collection, *Jersey Rain*.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Free admission. Still enjoying the acclaim from his two volumes of short stories, Canadian writer **Alistair MacLeod** comes to Newton to read from his new novel, *No Great Mischief*, with a signing to follow.

ONGOING

Agape, Tuesdays
Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (266-6710). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8-10pm. Every Tuesday, this somewhat sophisticated poetry group gathers to share versions of their latest work. Everyone is welcome.

Cantab Lounge, Wednesdays
738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8-10pm. $3. Wednesday nights at the Cantab always packs in more than 30 poets in just two hours for open mike and a slam.

Club Passim, Tuesdays
47 Palmer St., Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. $5. All open-mike fanatics must experience this open-mike night—a training ground for up-and-coming performers, poets and storytellers. Sign up Tuesdays, 7:30pm.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Night, Sundays
1667 Mass Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. $4 cover. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes every Sunday to the featured poet of the week.

O'Brien's Pub, Mondays
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. A mix of rock and spoken word is performed one Monday a month at 9pm—the performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry, Saturdays
Out of the Blue Gallery, 168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $3. Every Saturday is poetry night, and a spoken-word and music event takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month. It features music by Rob Gonzalez and his band and spoken word with Nola Kelley.

Rhythm and Muse Open Mike, Thursday
403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-6622). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook. A headlining poet is followed by an open-mike session on the first Thursday of every month, 7:30pm.

Stone Soup Poetry Night
Zeitgeist Gallery, 312 Broadway St, Cambridge (227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. 7:30pm. $3 donation. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets have served up steamy confessions and soothing inspirations with their weekly readings. Keep the good vibes going every Monday at these open readings with featured writers each week.

Bestsellers

HARDCOVER FICTION
1. **Hugger Mugger** by Robert B. Parker
2. **Harry Potter & the Chamber of Secrets** by J.K. Rowling
3. **Brethren** by John Grisham
4. **Beowulf** by Seamus Heaney
5. **Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason** by Helen Fielding
6. **Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's Stone** by J.K. Rowling
7. **Harry Potter & the Prisoner of Azkaban** by J.K. Rowling
8. **Horse Heaven** by Jane Smiley
9. **Waiting** by Ha Jin
10. **Daughter of Fortune** by Isabel Allende

HARDCOVER NON-FICTION
1. **Who Moved My Cheese?** by Spencer Johnson
2. **Tipping Point** by Malcolm Gladwell
3. **Tuesdays with Morrie** by Mitch Albom
4. **All Souls** by Michael McDonald
5. **The Heartbreaking Work of a Staggering Genius** by Dave Eggers
6. **Millionaire Mind** by Thomas Stanley
7. **Irrational Exuberance** by Robert Shiller
8. **The Art of Happiness** by the Dalai Lama
9. **The New New Thing** by Michael Lewis
10. **Eating Well for Optimum Health** by Andrew Weil

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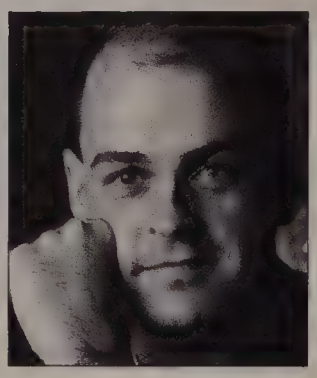
TWO GROUPS, ONE GREAT PRODUCTION

A joint presentation of Samuel Barber's *Vanessa* brings together two leading Boston institutions. BY KEITH POWERS

An unusual and imaginative collaboration is taking place at the Emerson Majestic Theatre May 5 and 7. A performance of Samuel Barber's opera *Vanessa*, which won a Pulitzer Prize in 1958 but has seen limited performances since then, brings together two of Boston's most respected music presenters: the Boston Modern Orchestra Project (BMOP) and the Boston Academy of Music (BAM).

"What brings us together are not the similarities of what we do, it's the similarities of what we are," says Gil Rose, music director of BMOP. "Although the BAM is much older than we are, we've both had fast growth in the last four or five years, and we've both started doing more ambitious projects. We have a lot of the same problems—we're both trying to grow audiences, and we're midsized nonprofits trying to become larger—so we decided to get in bed together.

"Since BAM does bel canto opera from the less heavily trodden repertory of major composers, and we do 20th-century orchestral music, it was going to be a compromise for both of us. We decided that a 20th-century opera would be a good halfway point. Basically, BMOP provides the musical expertise, and BAM does the stage and the singers." The work opened to great fanfare and terrific reviews, with a cast that featured legendary soprano Eleanor Steber. Although it had a run in Salzburg immediately after that, *Vanessa* has never made it into the standard opera repertory. "It's hard to tell why it's not more popular," says Rose. "It's not hard to cast, there's no chorus, it's all one set, it has great vocal writing, but still it's never really found its place. It has all the elements of great musical theatre."



"*Vanessa* is incredibly well constructed," says Gil Rose. "You really need a virtuoso orchestra—it's got one vicious lick after another for about two hours."

Gil Rose (top left) and Richard Conrad (top right); Ellen Chickering and Andrea Matthews (bottom right) in *Vanessa*.

Barber's main fault? He wrote popular and accessible music at a time when classical compositions were expected to be challenging and obtuse. That perception has persisted until today, although more groups are regularly programming his works. He certainly has a fan in Gil Rose. "Barber may suffer from being popular, but to me, liking him never seems like a compromise," says Rose, who founded BMOP in 1995. "Even now in rehearsal I see relationships that I hadn't noticed at first. Barber tosses off material that is effortless, but it's always well crafted and complex. He has a lot of facility but he never wastes it. The same thing that draws me to Puccini and to Strauss draws me to Barber. They all write great music, with good counterpoint and complexity of vocal arrangements, and at the same time it's satisfying to people with very developed musical tastes, and has a broad appeal to audiences. Everyone loves Puccini arias, but some of his biggest fans are hard-core orchestra and opera people.

"*Vanessa* is incredibly well constructed. You really need a virtuoso orchestra—it's got one vicious lick after another for about two hours. There are five vocal parts, but the three principals do most of the heavy lifting. Like Verdi, there are lots of duets." The production stars Ellen Chickering in the title role, with Andrea Matthews as Erika and Ray Bauwens as Anatol. The singers draw on the vast expertise of BAM artistic director Richard Conrad, who sings a minor part as well.

"Richard Conrad is really great," Rose says. "He was close to Eleanor Steber, the original *Vanessa*, and has lots of stories to tell about the production. Barber is meticulous about marking in the vocal lines exactly what he wants: staccatos, little tiny crescendi, accents and articulations of all kinds. He provides lots of characterization clues. "It's hot stuff—it gets rocking at times. If Barber isn't having a renaissance, he should."

Coda

Violinist **Irina Muresanu**, freelancing around Boston with great success in recent years, has joined the prestigious **Raphael Trio**, replacing **Charles Castleman**. She makes her debut at the Ouray Festival in Colorado in June. Inevitably, in my most recent column, I overlooked one group that is presenting music of **Kurt Weill** this year—none other than the Boston Academy of Music. BAM will stage Weill's *Lady in the Dark*, an American opera popular in the '40s, for a run starting Oct. 20. **iB**

VANESSA: CLIVE GRAINGER

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled Classical by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Classical Music or e-mail to classical@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers Web site information and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to deadline. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from many different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to doublecheck dates and times.

Wednesday, May 3

Boston Pops in Concert
Symphony Hall 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices vary. Conductor Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops present "Encore!," a collection of the best-loved music from their five hit recordings.

Cathedral Church of St. Paul Concert
138 Tremont St., Boston (482-4826). MBTA: Green Line to Park St. 12:15pm. The Longy Showcase Recital features Maria Georgekarakou, soprano for a concert of 17th- and 18th-century vocal chamber music.

Thursday, May 4

Boston Pops in Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices vary. Same program as May 3.

Friday, May 5

Bach, Poulenc and Martin
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (536-2412). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave. 8pm. $15-$42. Works by Bach, Poulenc and Martin.

The Boston Academy of Music
Emerson Majestic Theater, 219 Tremont St., Boston (824-8000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 8pm. $18-$55. The Boston Academy of Music and the Boston Modern Orchestra Project collaborate on *Vanessa*.

Boston Pops in Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices vary. Same program as May 3.

Chorus Pro Musica Concert
Tremont Temple, 88 Tremont St., Boston (267-7442). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park St. 8pm. $10-$25. Chorus Pro Musica performs with Jeffrey Rink and the Tokyo Oratorio Society with Hiroshi Gunji.

Paine Performance
Sanders Theater, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (730-7430). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard Square. 8pm. $5-$14. Mass in D by John Knowles Paine.

Saturday, May 6

Longwood Symphony Orchestra
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (536-2412). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave. 8pm. $7.50-$15. The LSO and violinist Irina Muresanu perform Beethoven, Sibelius and Copland.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (876-0956). 8pm. Longy Chamber Singers play with the New England Conservatory Camerata.

Boston Pops in Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices vary. Same program as May 3.

Sunday, May 7

Bach, Poulenc and Martin
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (536-2412). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave. 3pm. $15-$42. Same program as May 5.

Benjamin Britten Concert
Old South Church, 645 Boylston St., Boston (536-1970). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 3pm. Free will offering. Britten's *Canticles* and *The Heart of the Matter* features several vocalists and instrumentalists.

The Boston Academy of Music
Emerson Majestic Theater, 219 Tremont St., Boston (824-8000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 3pm. $18-$55. Same program as May 5.

Boston Pops in Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices vary. Same program as May 3.

Monday, May 8

Boston Pops in Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices vary. Same program as May 3.

Tuesday, May 9

King's Chapel Concert Series
The corner of School and Tremont street, Boston (227-2155). 12:15pm. Music by Bach, Handel and Castello.

Masterful maestro Keith Lockhart ushers the Boston Pops into their 2000 season this week.

Boston Pops in Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices vary. Same program as May 3.

Wednesday, May 10

Boston Pops in Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices vary. Same program as May 3.

Thursday, May 11

Boston Pops in Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices vary. Same program as May 3.

The Music of Mozart
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (482-6661). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. 8pm. Mozart's The Impresario and Cimarosa's Il Maestro di Cappella.

Night at the Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $150 (includes gala tickets and private post-concert reception). The Alzheimer's Association celebrates 20 memorable years with a "Night at the Pops." Join the Pops for an unforgettable performance of the "Best of Broadway."

Friday, May 12

BankBoston Celebrity Series
Sanders Theater, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (730-7430). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard Square. 8pm. Prices vary. Soprano Audra McDonald.

Boston Pops in Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices vary. Same program as May 3.

Longy School of Music
33 Garden St. at Chauncy, Cambridge (547-1141). MBTA: Red line to Harvard. 8pm. $15-$50. Five singers and a pianist perform arias and duets.

Saturday, May 13

Boston Pops in Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices vary. Same program as May 3.

The Music of Mozart
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (482-6661). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. 8pm. Prices vary. Same program as May 11.

Monday, May 15

Boston Pops in Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices vary. Same program as May 3.

Joseph Lin and Friends
45 Quincy St., Cambridge (730-7430). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. $10-$30. "Joseph Lin and Friends," a special benefit concert with guest artists Nokuthula Ngwenyama, Marcy Rosen and Benjamin Loeb.

Tuesday, May 16

King's Chapel Concert Series
Downtown Boston on the corner of School and Tremont Streets, Boston (227-2155). 12:15pm. Donation. Works of Froberfer, Guarini and Vivaldi.

Grab your tickets

For the Elaine Kwon and Sandra Hebert duo piano concert May 21, 7pm at Harvard University's Paine Hall. $14. Call 496-2222.

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dance clubs

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Submit information by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Clubs or e-mail to clubs@improper.com. Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to pub date. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Nights

Mondays

Vertigo Mondays
Vertigo. Caesar and Giorgio throw a party for those of you who never stop dancin'. Smooth Lounge upstairs, Deep House downstairs. Dress slick. 10pm, no cover.

Static
Axis. DJ Jay Ine and the gorgeous drag shows hosted by Mizery. 10pm. 19+. $5 cover.

Language
Hibernia. DJs G White, Dot, Surface and SORA spin a slection of hip, diverse drum and bass at Boston's newest drum-and-bass weekly. 8pm.21+. $2 cover.

Tuesdays

Cigar and Jazz Night
The Exchange. Smoke, lounge and listen to the smooth sounds of jazz. Plus, you score a free Gina Cigar and complimentary buffet. No cover.

Fat Tuesdays
Bill's. This off-the-hook night features DJ Chaos scratching out hip-hop music to college clubbers while house masters DJ Justin Hoffman and WBCN's DJ Jynx spin dance tunes. 11pm, $10 cover.

The Forum
Lava Bar. Support the local DJ scene as local talents share the floor with resident Ricky Fatts in hopes of gaining a headlining spot on the Lava stage. 10pm, 21+.

Got Milk?
Venu. If you're chic and fabu you'll be at Venu for Milk—a smart and devilishly hip party. Resident DJ Osheen spins house for the chic. Dress is funky. 21+.

Mingle Tuesdays
The Modern. This fancy spot screams très chic. With a raw bar, vodka bar and late lounge. 10pm. 21+.

Zanzibar Tuesdays
The Big Easy. Dress to impress for Boston's premiere International Night. The Big Easy's got DJ Manolo, spinning Latin and international. 11pm. 19+. $10.

Wednesdays

College Night
The Aquarium. Guest DJ spins at 10pm.

Good Karma
Karma/Mambo. Misery plays host to a roster of rotating DJs. Expect a mixed crowd and special guest performers. 10pm. 19+. $5 cover.

Hibernia Wednesdays
Hibernia. DJ C.T.O. is the Godfather of Say Word night—with plenty of funk, rare groove, soul and old-school hip-hop. 9pm. 21+. Cover varies.

Imagination
Backstage. DJs Freddy C. and Jonny C. spin top 40, dance and club classics. 10pm. No cover, 21+.

Modern Living
The Modern. DJ Dale Charles spins while minglers munch on a raw bar and sip martinis. 10pm. 21+.

Musical Mayhem
The Exchange. WBCN's DJ Jynx of Cybersounds plays bangin' funky house upstairs while Tym Ryan of WFNX and DJ Brisc spin in the Vault. 10pm.

Pravda 116
Come spend the night with Boston's premiere promoters at one of the city's most decadent hot spots with DJ Alex and DJ Felix. Proper dress required, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
The Sugar Shack. If you're 19+ and a woman, you get in for free before 11pm—otherwise the cover is $10. Plenty of funk, disco and hip-hop. 10pm.

Thursdays

Adrenaline
Backstage. Tonight features special guest DJs from around the world spinning hard NYC House, with Jonny C. and Freddy C. starting the party. 10pm, 21+.

The Aquarium
Kiss 108 FM dance party featuring Randy from the Matty in the Morning Show. 10pm-1am. $3 cover.

Charlie's Angels Night
Polly Esther's. DJ Uncle Bob spins your favorite '70s disco on the Saturday Night Fever dance floor, as DJ Mad Max takes you back to '80s retro in the culture club and DJ Mark C pumps it upa notch with high-energy '90s dance in the laser-lit Club DVD. 8pm. $5, 21+.

Chrome
Axis. Resident DJs John Debo and Ali Ajami spin Mucky House and trance. 10pm. 19+. $10 cover.

Downtempo Lounging
The Modern. DJ Ricky Fatts spins while you enjoy the raw bar and vodka bar. 9pm-2am, 21+.

Emily's
Enjoy soul, house and dance music. Doors open at 5pm.

Funkalicious Thursdays
The Exchange. DJ G squared takes you on a blast from the past as he spins the sounds of '70s and '80s. Added bonus: free after-work buffet. No cover.

Il Panino
A social playground for young professionals in Boston: cocktails and dancing. Proper dress. 9pm. 21+.

International Thursday
Avalon. A mixed crowd fills up this nightspot as DJ Manolo spins Eurohouse and DJ Anthony spins Latin in the Playhouse. 10pm. 19+. $15.

Kit Kat Klub
Sugar Shack. This new night features guest DJs spinning hip-hop to college clubbers, 10pm, 19+.

Latin Quarter
The Roxy. Time to get down as the Roxy breaks out hip-shaking salsa, merengue and Latin dance mixes.

The List
Lava Bar. *Lavabar.com*. DJs FAX 1, 7 L and guests bring you soul, funk, old school and all things funky. Doors open at 10pm. 21+.

Speed
Karma/Mambo
Special Guest DJs and resident DJs Bruno and Masta Millions spin the latest hip-hop and R&B. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover.

Venu
Swank American top 40 and house, featuring DJ Adilson, creator of the Roxy's Saturday night party.

Fridays

Avaland
Avalon. Everything about the room screams "Party!" With world-famous DJs spinning, including DJ Manolo and John Debo, this has become the single-most NY-style club night. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover.

Backstage
Backstage kicks off its all-night dance party, part one with DJ Jonny C spinning N.Y.C. house, top-40 dance and funk. Doors open at 10pm. $5 cover, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans themed nightspot has some of the best mainstream DJs in town. With four bars and two lounges as well as billiards and a wraparound balcony.

Buzz Fridays
Buzz. Roger M lays down Latin and international house tracks while upstairs visiting DJs pay homage to the house music gods. 11pm, $15 cover, 19+.

Emily's
An after-work venue during the week, this spot transforms itself into a dance kingdom on weekends. Jam to soul, house and dance music. Doors open at 5pm.

Envy
This extraordinarily popular Friday night hot spot is filled with a swarming mass of sweaty 'n' ready dancers. 9pm, $5 cover after 10pm, 21+.

Exchange Fridays
The Exchange. Up High, Tiziano and Maurizio, Boston's best DJ duo, guides you on a house trip while DJ G Squared opens the vault door with mainstream dance and hip hop. Doors at 9pm.

Focus
Hibernia. How can you go wrong with DJs Chuck Caseroc, Keith Kene and Skot Havens? 9pm, 21+.

Inferno Fridays
Polly Esther's. Burn baby burn with disco , '80s retro and '90s high-energy dance. 8pm. $10, 21+.

Lava Bar
Life. *lavabar.com*. From the creators of Soul Revival, DJ Fran Englehardt spins ambient, soulful and deep house. Doors at 10pm.

Ultra Lounge
The Modern. DJ Mixin Matt Ruben. 9pm 2am,21+.

Nocturnal Fridays
Bill's Bar. WBCN day guy and football swami, Bill Abbate, spins up a delectable smorgasbord of rock with a pinch of roll. 9pm. $5 cover, 21+.

Sonic
Karma/Mambo. National rave DJs and DJs Venom and Courtney spin Hard House and Happy Hardcore in the Main Room, while Space Munkee and DJ Myth spin in the Mambo Lounge. 10pm. 19+. $15.

Roxy 2000
Roxy/Mondo Bar. What goes around comes around. Go crazy as the intimacy of the Roxy consumes you and DJ Felix spins house and international music throughout the night. 10:30pm. $15 cover, 21+.

Chic and swank clubbers are always at Venu.

Spin Cycle
Axis. Glitzed-out club hoppers make the progressive house beats of DJ Tim Ryan downstairs or DJ David James' retro tunes upstairs. 10pm, $12, 19+.

Venu
The scene is elegant and the line is long for this jacket-required international romp. Get your Gucci attire as DJ Tassos and DJ Arsit spin. 21+.

Saturdays

The Aqarium
Saturday night dance party hosted by resident DJ. 10pm-1am, $5 cover.

Downtown
Avalon. Resident DJs Manolo and Mattie O. gyrate your ass with the latest hits and club classics. 10pm. 21+. $15 cover.

Backstage
Get ready for part two of Backstage's all-night dance party with DJ Freddy C spinning progressive house and top-40 dance. Doors open at 10pm, $5 cover, 21+.

Bill's Bar
DJ Laurie Gail with guest DJs promise to make Bill's a night full of dancing to the best of the '70s, '80s and '90s. 9pm, $3 cover, 19+.

Club Juliana
Boogieing cuties converge on Boston's newest Latin Night starting at 10pm. Dress to impress. $10.

Club Nicole
The faces are familiar and the mob thick for this exclusive Euro trendsetter. DJ Alex spins eurohouse. Reservations recommended, jackets required. 21+.

Elements of Life
Karma/Mambo. DJ Supa Mario and world class DJs spin house music in the main room while DJ Hoffman plays funk in the Mambo Lounge. 10pm. 19+. $15.

Emily's
Serious soul, house and dance music. DJs spice up Saturday nights and transform this after-work venue into a dance kingdom. 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Envy
From 9pm-2am, DJ Tom Baxter blasts top 40, house and dance throughout the night. 9pm, $5 cover after 10pm, 21+.

Exchange Saturdays
The Exchange. DJ Diesel renovates the upper level with full-on house while DJ Jynx spins all the funky beats in the lower Vault lounge. 9pm.

Fajitas and Ritas
Chill out for the Weekly Dig Lounge Series with Alan Strack and Mason.

Hibernia Saturdays
Hibernia. Masters of house, techno and dance, DJs Dino and David West take the reins and whip the crowd into a frenzy. 9pm, 21+, cover varies.

Lava Bar
Anything Goes. DJ Fran and Kris Kono unite with high-energy house and Latin beats. 10pm, 21+.

Miami Club Night
Club Joy/Yesterday's. Get a taste of Miami nightlife with La Rueda de Casino, a Cuban salsa game . 9:30pm (ladies free before 11pm), $10 cover, 21+ (ladies, 19+).

Mischief
The Modern. Feeling mischievous? Ultra lounging with decadent desserts and erotic electronica. 21+.

Mythos
Venu. Greek International with DJ Yorgo Jr. spinning the hits from the famous party islands of Greece.

Saturday Night Fever
Polly Esther's. Burn baby burn with disco , '80s retro and '90s high-energy dance. 8pm. $10, 21+.

Sugar Shack
Spice up your night with '70s, '80s and '90s dance music as DJ Rich Centi spins the hottest sounds.

Who's on First?
The latest and greatest in hip-hop, reggae, R&B, and Latin house with DJ Lil' Mike, 10:30pm, $12, 18+.

X night
Axis. DJ Mike Gioscia spins cutting edge faves of '90s alternative while DJ David James spins '80s hits in the Left Over Lounge. 10pm, $10 cover, 21+.

Sundays

Emily's
Industry Night "Club Soda" with DJ Silly. 10:30pm.

Exchange Sundays
A fusion of Heavy Lounge and Miami House. No cover.

Club Millennium 2000
Backstage. Special Guests DJs in rotation. Doors open at 10pm, ladies free before 11pm, 21+, proper dress.

Il Panino
Mainly attracting Euros, this night features music by DJ Alex of Boston Beat and DJ Roger M. 21+, no cover.

Latin Night
Karma/Mambo Lounge. Weekly Live Latin Bands. 10pm. 19+. $25 cover.

Lava Bar
Pandora's Box. Chill out at '60s Eurotica and Funky Soul Club Night, featuring French music videos and lighted gogo boxes, 10pm.

Salavation
This Boston vibe serves up an intimate evening of soul provided by DJ Soul. $5, until 10pm.

Venu
Carnival comes to Boston every Sunday as DJ Adilson brings the heat of Rio to Venu, spinning the hottest music from Brazil. 21+. Call 338-8061 for reservations.

Raves

Blackout
May,13, Rochester, NY. The Dome Center (716-234-2344). 12:30pm. $25. This 4,100 person capacity space hosts a party featuring a slew of DJs, a grand lighting display, stilt walkers, clowns and performers.

Club Venues

An Tain *31 India St., Boston (426-1870). MBTA: Blue Line to State St.*
AnTua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (262-2121). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Aquarium *65 Holland St., Somerville (623-3200). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (437-0300). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Backstage *25 Quincy Market Place, Boston (726-1110). MBTA: Blue Line to Govet. Center.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Buzz Boston/Europa *51-67 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park St.*
Club Juliana *20 Hudson St., Boston (542-4411).*
Club Nicole *40 Dalton St., Boston (236-4746). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*
Club Stella *1234 Soldiers Field Rd., Brighton (254-0554).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Upstairs, Boston (423-3649). MBTA: Red or Green Lines to Park Street.*
Envy *25 Boylston Place, Boston (542-3689). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Exchange *148 State St., Boston (723-7755). MBTA: Orange Line to State Street.*
Hibernia *25 Kingston St., Boston (292-2333). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Karma *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9595). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Lava Bar *575 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-7707). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Oskar's *107 South St., Leather District, Boston (542-6756). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (482-7799). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Salavation *20 Hudson St., Boston (781-668-2392). MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown.*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (338-8061). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Vertigo *126 State Street, Boston (723-7277).*
Who's on First? *19 Yawkey Way (247-3353). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*

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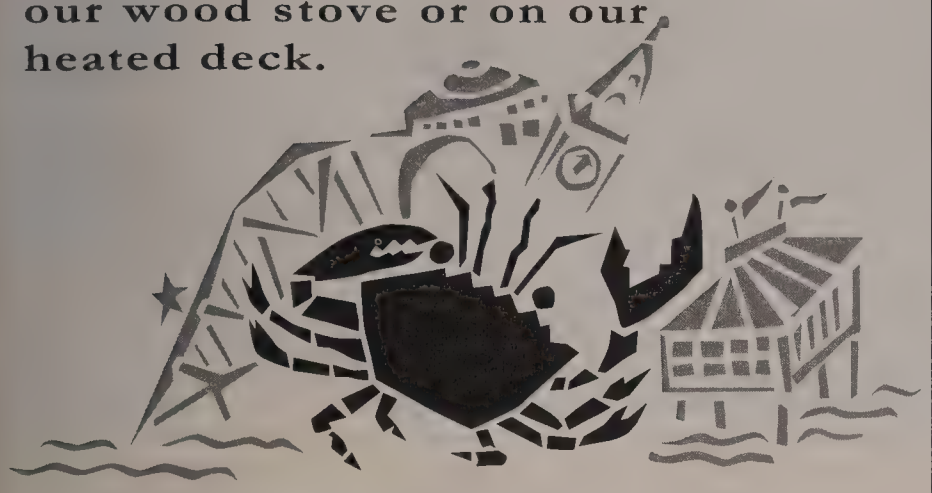

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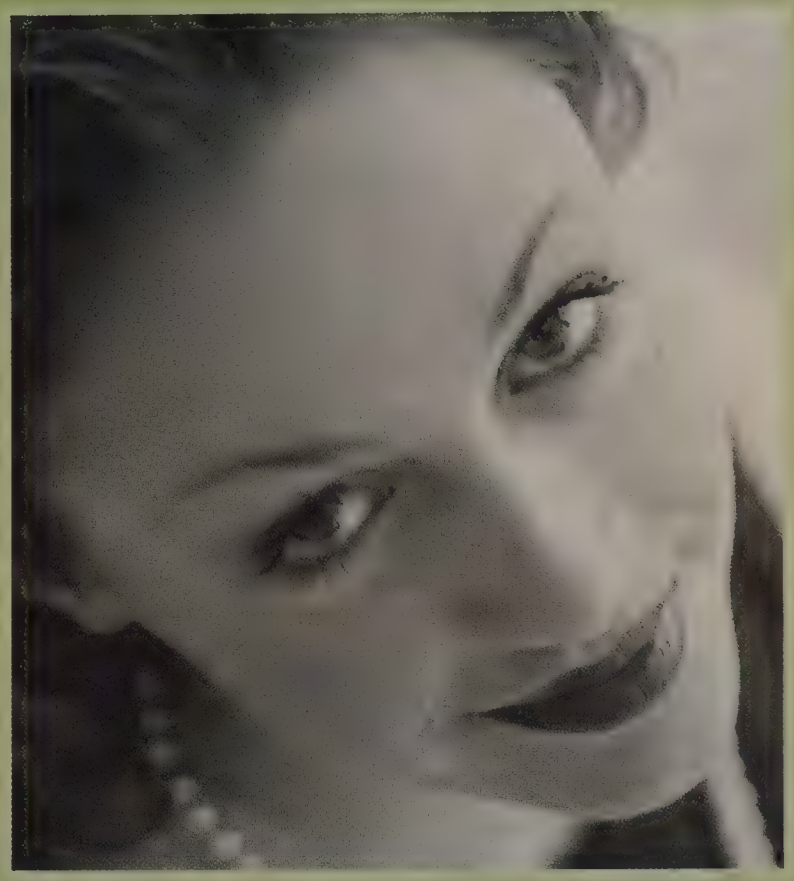

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WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE

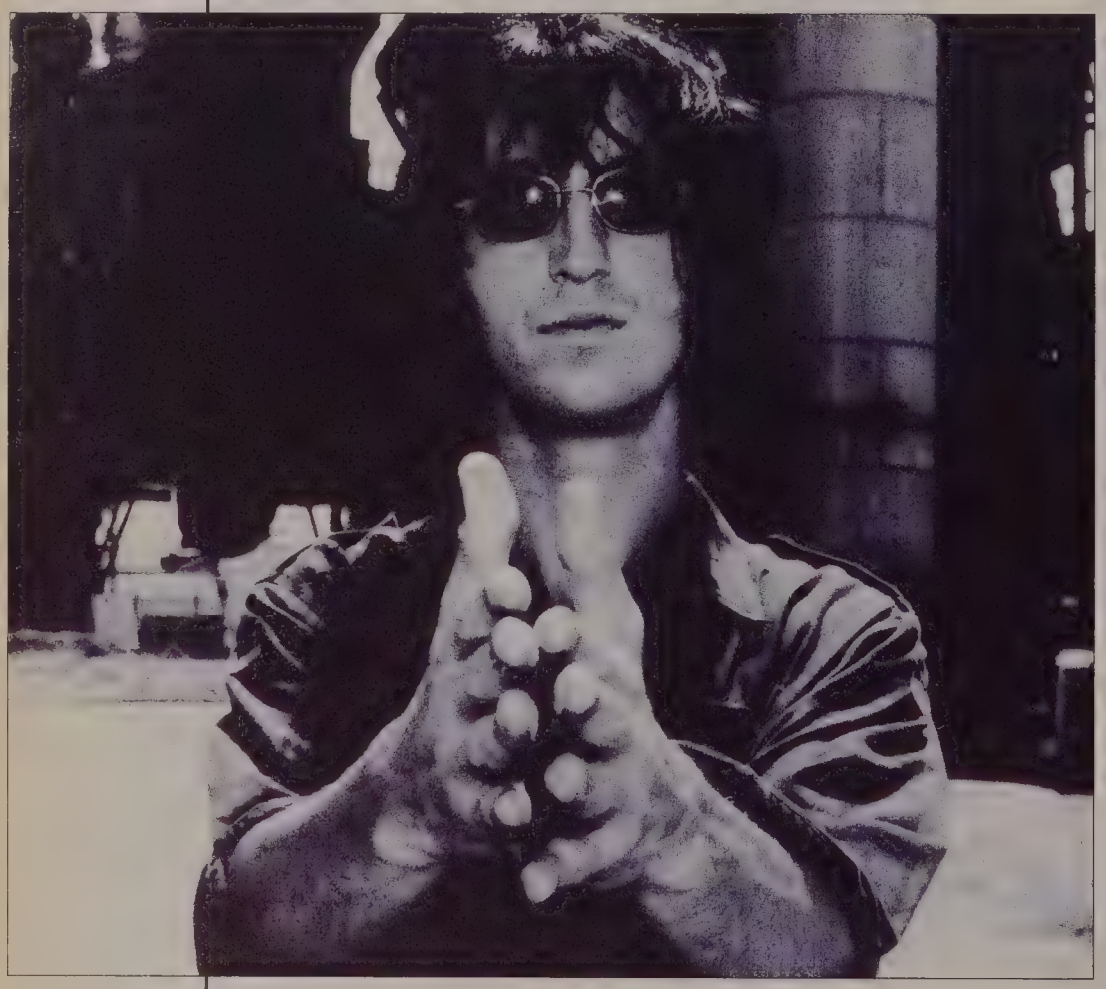
The ever-versatile Joseph Arthur finds his voice

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

Peter Gabriel's Real World label is best known for putting out CDs by the late Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan of Pakistan and other "world music" artists. Joseph Arthur hails from Akron, Ohio. But five years ago, after a tape of his music found its way into Gabriel's hands, Arthur heard a surprising voice on his phone machine. Gabriel wanted to sign him to Real World.

"It was really fate," says Arthur, who plays at T.T. the Bear's Place May 12 and 25 in support of his intriguing third disc *Come to Where I'm From*. "I gave [the tape] to a friend, not a music-business contact or anything. I didn't even know of Real World."

If you come to where Arthur is from musically, it's a place closer than Pakistan, but one still worlds apart with its haunting quirks. One minute, he's winsome, folky, and a la Neil Young, complete with harmonica. The next, he's a spooky minimalist whose raspy voice rides a processed drum beat. And the dreamy pastiche of single "Chemical" would be at home next to Beck on the radio.



"It's weird, because there have been so many names thrown around trying to describe me, that when you put the whole list together, it's a bit ridiculous," says Arthur, 28, calling from a tour stop in England.

Influences? You'll get a glimpse into his psyche more than his style, as he cites the Velvet Underground, John Lennon, Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen. "People who wrote really good songs were my main influences," Arthur says. "I loved Nirvana—the album *Bleach* really inspired me a lot. To me, it doesn't necessarily matter if it's really folky or Nirvana rock or a funereal Leonard Cohen vibe, or whatever. To me, it's just about the lyric and melody, ultimately. The other thing is just the clothes it wears."

Granted, Arthur has smart taste in clothes, according to the sonic shrouds of *Come to Where I'm From*, produced with T-Bone Burnett and Rick Will, and mixed with Tchad Blake of the similarly audio-verite Latin Playboys. "It was a free environment we were working in there, where it was like trying to make something that was more performance-oriented, and less refined and less controlled," he says. "It was very much first-take."

Lead track "In the Sun," which Gabriel himself recorded for a Princess Diana tribute CD ("It was an honor and an amazing experience to hear him do that") was even included in demo form. But beyond the clothes, Arthur conveys naked, haunting lyrics ("Avoiding your memory like a vampire does the sun," he whispers in "Invisible Hands") that resonate as well.

"Some of it's conscious, and some of it's unconscious," he says of his writing. "It kinda just comes out, and it's a character. And it does seem dark, but I don't really know why it is. I guess I have been depressed in the past. When I'm working, like now, when I'm really busy, it's hard to remember ever being depressed, 'cause I don't have time for any emotion." Well, apart from the emotion that oozes into his songs like slowly tugged scabs. Arthur spent years on a winding music-biz path before finding his voice, and good fortune, through his Real World/Virgin contract, although, he adds, "Getting a record deal seems like the first step of a long, long journey, but it's also the other side of a long, long journey."

"I sorta had aspirations of being a studio bass player, and didn't know it would be my own songs [that succeeded]—it took a lot to get used to that, and I'm still getting used to it," Arthur says. "I started out trying to be a jazz bassist, and I wound up in a blues band—and this was still in high school. We played five nights a week in the bars in Cleveland, and opened up for Stevie Ray Vaughan a couple of times. That ended when I graduated high school, and moved to Atlanta with a funk-rock band."

"I realized what I really liked doing was writing songs, and just went that way fully," he says. "I stopped playing bass, and got an acoustic guitar, and realized when I wrote simpler structures underneath the lyrics, I could concentrate on lyrics and melodies more. I wouldn't have to do gymnastics."

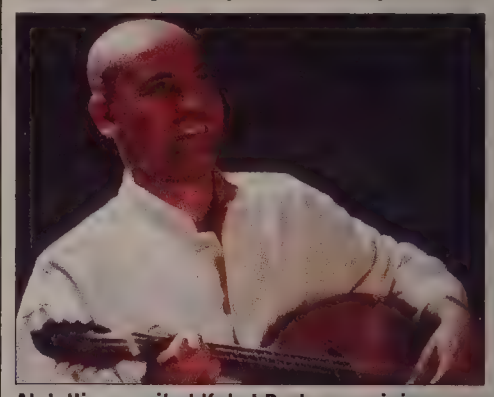
Touring solo nonetheless presents challenges for Arthur, who builds textures around his guitar by sampling himself live, even for percussive effects. "It's from beating on my guitar, and delays that loop," he explains. "I'll do counter-melodies, and do that with my voice as well. You can kinda get the same sort of atmospheres that are on the record, but it's a totally different experience." iB

Joseph Arthur in Concert

Arthur brings his unique atmospheric sound to T.T. the Bear's Place on May 12 and 25.

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fax (859-1446); by mail to Calendar/Music; or by email to music@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, phone numbers and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double check dates and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).



Abdelli, an exiled Kabyl Berber musician, performs May 6 at the Somerville Theatre.

Concerts

Alex Fox
With guests Sebastian Fox, Alfredo Oliva, Orlando Marrero, Chino Nunez and Liza, 8pm, $30.
Abdelli
May 6, Somerville Theatre
Benefit for Mikey Dee
May 3-7, various venues
De Dannan
May 19, Somerville Theatre
Ghazal
May 13, Somerville Theatre
Karan Casey Trio
May 12, Somerville Theatre
K.C. & the Sunshine Band
May 7, North Shore Music Theatre
Mother's Day Concert with Mary Lou Lord, Ramona Silver, Lori McKenna, Barbara Kessler and Jan Luby
May 14, Somerville Theatre
Negativland
May 6, Copley Theatre
Audra McDonald
May 12, Sanders Theatre
Reverend Horton Heat
May 6, Avalon
WBCN Rock 'n' Roll Rumble
May 7-25, Middle East
Hank Williams III
May 6, Avalon
Travis
May 16, Berklee Performance Center

CONCERT HALLS

Berklee Performance Center
136 Mass. Avenue, Boston (747-2261). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center.
Copley Theatre
225 Clarendon St., Boston (266-7262). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.
North Shore Music Theatre *62 Dunham Road, Beverly (978-232-7200).*
Sanders Theatre *Memorial Hall, Harvard University, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Somerville Theatre
Davis Square, Somerville (628-3390). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

Rock, Jazz and Blues

Wednesday, May 3

Axis
The Boston Rock Opera Benefit for Mikey Dee featuring Gary Cherone, Kay Hanley, Peter Moore and Nick Mondo, 8pm, $15, 18+.
Cantab Lounge
U: Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm, cover varies. D: Boston Poetry Slam, 8pm.
Club Passim
Bryan Kelley and Sara Wheeler, 8pm, $10.

Vocalist Lori Line brings her elaborately costumed Pop Chamber Orchestra in concert at the Berklee Performance Center on May 6.

Common Ground
What A Way To Go-Go; Mod night with DJ Vin, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff
Jim Ambrose and the Spellcasters, 9pm, no cover.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm, no cover.
The Good Life
Booty Juice, no cover.
House of Blues
Mike Stone and Barry Goudreau, $6, 18+.
Johnny D's
DaVinci's Notebook and Slaid Cleves, 8:30pm.
Les Zygomates
The Mark Greel Trio, 8pm.
Lizard Lounge
Francine, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East
U: Kevin Kinney (of Drivin' n Cryin'), Gibb Droll and Martha Wainwright, $10, 18+. D: Mouse on Mars and Trans Am, 8pm, $12, 18+.
The Rack
Search Party, 9pm, no cover.
Regattabar
The Larry Goldings Trio with Peter Bernstein and Bill Stewart, 8:30pm, $12.
Ryles
Project Yes Brazil, 9pm, $6.
Scullers Jazz Club
New Black Eagle Jazz Band, 8pm and 10pm, $15.
Toad
Ken Clark Organ Trio, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Ten Commandos, A Street, Visible Ink and Troy's Bucket, $4.
White Horse Tavern
Equitone, no cover.

Thursday, May 4

Axis
Benefit for Mikey Dee, 6pm, 18+.
Bob the Chef's Jazz Cafe
Hose Ramos and The Special Blend, 7:30pm.
Cantab Lounge
U: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm. D: Chris and Meredith Thompson, Johnny Mack and Osuna, 9pm.
Club Passim
Rani Arbo and Daisy Mayhem, 8pm, $12.
Common Ground
Schnockered and Heavy Stud, 10pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort
The Chad la Marsh Band, 8pm.
The Good Life
Waldron Ricks Quartet, no cover.
Green Street Grill
Latin night with Giancarlo Buscaglia.
House of Blues
Tarbox Ramblers CD-release show.
Johnny D's
Mikey Dee Benefit, 9pm.
Karma
Dido and Tara McLean, 7:30pm, $10, 18+.
Kirkland Cafe
Honey Deluxe, Clampetts and Mike Oliver, $4.
Les Zygomates
The Jinga Trio, 8pm.
Linwood
Superhoney, Mr. Lif and DJ Fakts-One, the Allstonians and Major Major, $7, 21+.
Lizard Lounge
Wiestronaughts, John Hayden and Bamboo Steamers' CD-release, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East
U: Him (featuring Doug Schain, Fred Erskine and Sean Meadows), Five Style and White Hassle, $10, 18+. D: US Bombs, Union 13, Tiger Army and the Explosion, 8pm, $8, 18+.
Milky Way
The Strangemen, Slide and Little A.
The Rack
Chad LaMarsh, 6pm, no cover.
Regattabar
The Larry Goldings Trio with Peter Bernstein and Bill Stewart, 8:30pm, $14.
Rhythm and Spice
DJ Bim Sound and Sound Vibration, 10pm, $5, 18+.
Ryles
Daniel Ian Smith Quartet, $8, 8:30pm.
Scullers
The Dave Liebman Band, 8pm and 10pm, $12.
Sky Bar
Mikey Dee Benefit Show with Josh Lederman y Los Diablos, the Benders and Furniture, 8:45pm, $5, 21+.
Toad
Paved Country, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Benefit for Mikey Dee with the Sheila Divine, the Gravel Pit, Baby Ray, the Details, $15.
The Western Front
Three Stripes with DJ G-Spin, 9pm, $5.

Friday, May 5

The Attic
Superhoney with Darkstar Radio, cover varies, 21+.
Axis
Supergrass, 6pm, $10, 18+.
Bill's Bar
Johnny Wishbone CD-release party with special guest Canine, 9pm, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Jazz Cafe
Herman Johnson Quartet with pop and jazz vocalist Al Alissa, 7:30pm.
Cantab Lounge
U: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm. D: the Jones Brothers, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
James Keelaghan, 8pm, $12.
Common Ground
2nd Power, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff
Thomas Park, 9pm, $3.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band and Classic Trax, 7pm.
The Good Life
Con Clave, no cover.
Green Dragon Tavern
Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
Green Street Grill
Delta Blues with the Tarbox Ramblers.
Johnny D's
Beatle Juice, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's
The Return, 9pm, $5.
Karma
Chantal Kreviazuk and Paddy Casey, 6pm, $12, 18+.
Les Zygomates
Stan Strickland, 9pm.
Linwood
Quintaine Americana, Viking Death Chant, Half Cocked and Heidi, $7, 21+.
Lizard Lounge
Seks Bomba, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East
U: Twytch, Dropkick Jesus, Drop 360 and RU486, $7, 18+. D: Benefit for Mikey Dee with the Push Stars, Angry Salad, Orbit and Ramona Silver, $7, 18+.
Purple Shamrock
Guy Smiley, 9pm, $5.
The Rack
Mindflow, 6:30pm, no cover.
Regattabar
The Mike Stern Quartet with Bob Malach, Lincoln Goines and Dennis Chambers, 8pm and 10pm, $14.
Ryles
John Stein Group (Guitar/Jazz Blues), 9pm, $8. U: "A Festa" Brazilian Dance Party; Joao Marcos Quintet and Friends, 9:30pm, $10.
Sky Bar
Dragstrip Courage, Senor Happy and the Banjo Spiders, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Toad
Hummer, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Mikey Dee Benefit Concert with the Shods, Superzero, Xguru and Favorite Atomic Hero, $12.
The Western Front
Mentos and The New Horizon, 9:30pm, $10.
Wonderbar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Saturday, May 6

The Attic
Typhoon Ferry with Pure Fiction, cover varies, 21+.
Avalon
Amazing Crowns, the Reverend Horton Heat and Hank Williams III, 7pm, $15.25, 18+.
Berklee Performance Center
Lorie Line, 8pm, $35 adults, $15 children.
Bob the Chef's Jazz Cafe
Michael Kelly and the Hot Blue Q, 7:30pm, cover varies.
The Burren
Tarbox Ramblers.
Cambridge Brewing Co.
The Evan Goodrow Band, 10pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm; the Jones Brothers, 9pm.
Club Passim
Kelly Joe Phelps, 8pm, $12.
Common Ground
18 Abbey and The Red, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff
Punch Monkey, 9pm, $3.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 10pm, no cover.
The Good Life
Grant Langford Quintet, no cover.
Green Street Grill
Latin night with Giancarlo Buscaglia.
Johnny D's
Beatle Juice, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's
Blockhead, 9pm, $5.
Karma
Big D and the Kids Table, the Outlets and the Damn Personals, 2pm.
Kendall Cafe
Beth Boucher Band, 10:30pm.
Kirkland Cafe
The Sugar Twins, Scrapple, $6, 21+.
Les Zygomates
Lee Dainty, 9pm.
Linwood
The Voodoo Dolls, Ms. Pigeon, Red Telephone and Linconville, $7, 21+.
Lizard Lounge
The Shelley Winters Project, Primrose, Eric Garafano, Ann Chandler and Red Line String Quartet, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East
U: Mikey Dee Benefit Concert with Babaloo, Mudhens, Brendan Sweeny and the Jennifer Teft Band, $10, 18+.
O'Briens
Mistle Thrush, Element 47 and Rockets Burst from Streetlamps, $6, 21+.
Purple Shamrock
Syndicate, 9pm, $5.
The Rack
Vinnie Peruzzi Dance Party.
Regattabar
The Mike Stern Quartet with Bob Malach, Lincoln Goines and Dennis Chambers, 8pm and 10pm, $16.
Rhythm and Spice
Oceanik, 10:30pm, $8, 21+.
Ryles
Sonabo, 9pm, $10.
Sky Bar
Labb, Tricycle and Glenn Echo, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Slades
The John Dougherty Hammond B-3 Jazz Trio, 8pm.
Toad
Red Beans and Rice, no cover.

Stan Strickland performs at Les Zygomates May 5 and at Bob the Chef's Jazz Cafe May 13.

South Beach-based guitarist/composer Alex Fox gives his first-ever Boston show at the Berkelee Performance Center on Friday, May 5.

T.T. the Bear's Place
Mikey Dee Benefit Concert with Waltham, Vic Firecracker, Cheerleadr and Lincolnville, $10.
The Western Front
Mentos and the New Horizon, 9:30pm, $10.

Sunday, May 7

The Attic
The Coalboilers, 9:30pm, 21+.
Bill's Bar
P3PPA TR3E, Macka B and Mad Professor, 11pm, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Jazz Cafe
Sunday Brunch with Dr. Bonnet's Praise Gospel Choir, 11am, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
Club Passim
Connie Kaldor with Christine Kane opening, 7:30pm, $15.
Dick's Last Resort
Evelyn McDonald Group, 10am; Rob Gonzalez, 7pm.
The Good Life
Grant Langford Trio, no cover.
Green Dragon Tavern
Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
Green Street Grill
Billy Ruane, Bob Logan, Michael Brodeur, the Ivory Coast, the Shyness Clinic, Drew O'Doherty and California Stadium, $5, 21+.
Johnny D's
Rumba NaMa, 4:30pm.
Lizard Lounge
Poetry Jam featuring the Jeff Robinson Trio, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East
U: WBCN Rock 'n' Roll Rumble 2000 with Every Second, the Mission, Rock City Crimewave, Helicopter Helicopter, 9pm. D: Kid Koala and Amon Tobin, 8pm, $15, 18+.
The Rack
Chad LaMarsh, 9:30pm, no cover.
Ryles
Coreena Broup Group, 9pm, $8, Big Band Sunday featuring the Ryle's Jazz Orchestra, 4pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Love Scream, Mona Lisa's Lover, Drunk in July and Jupiter Project, $4.
White Horse Tavern
Acoustic Showcase, no cover.
Wonderbar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Monday, May 8

Bill's Bar
Mancain, 11pm, 21+.
Cantab Lounge
Alastair Moock, 9:30pm.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm, no cover.
Johnny D's
Hot Tamale Brass Band, 9pm, no cover.
The Good Life
Waldron Ricks Trio, no cover.
Lizard Lounge
The Fringe, 10 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East
U: WBCN Rock 'n' Rumble 2000 with Psychotic Larry, Missing Joe, the World is my Fuse, the Dubnicks, 9pm; D: Beachsparks, the Fly Seville and Capital City, 8pm, $7, 18+.
The Milky Way
Naftule's Dream, $2, 10pm.
The Rack
Stu Sinclair, 8pm, no cover.
Scullers
Brad Mehldau's CD-release show, 8pm and 10pm, $12.
Toad
Union Square Screw Machine and Tim Gearan Band, 8pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Rick and Jessica of Krebstar, $3.
Wonderbar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Tuesday, May 9

Cantab Lounge
True Life Bluegrass, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band, 7pm, no cover.
The Good Life
Issi Rosen Trio, no cover.
Johnny D's
Ramblin Jack Elliot and Allistair Moock, 8:30pm.
Les Zygomates
The Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm.
Middle East
U: WBCN Rock 'n' Rumble 2000 with 7th Rail Crew, There, Darkbuster and Godboy, 9pm.
The Rack
American Red Cross party with the Catunes.
Regattabar
The Russell Malone Quartet, 8:30pm $12.
Ryle's
April Hall CD-release party, 8:30pm, $7.
Scullers
Brad Mehldau CD-release show, 8pm and 10pm, $12.
T.T. the Bear's Place
John Fournier, Valve, Zoux and Elysium, $4.

Wednesday, May 10

Cantab Lounge
Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
Club Passim
Phillip Burr, Nobody, Christopher McNulty, Phil Allen, Antje and Josh Ritter, 8pm, $6.
Common Ground
What A Way To Go-Go: Mod night with DJ Vin, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff
Jim Ambrose and the Spellcasters, 9pm, no cover.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm.
The Good Life
Booty Juice, no cover.
Johnny D's
Mary Lou Lord, 8:30pm.
Les Zygomates
The Harry Fix Trio, 8pm.
Lizard Lounge
Francine, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East
U: Shiner and Crack Torch, $7, 18+.
The Rack
Eddy's Shoe, 9pm, no cover.
Regattabar
The Russell Malone Quartet, 8:30pm, $14.
Ryles
Project Yes Brazil, 9pm, $6.
Scullers
Rita Moreno, 8pm and 10pm, $30.
T.T. the Bear's Place
International Hotspots, Incus, Saint Vitus Dance and Kahoots, $4.
White Horse Tavern
Adriane with the Control Group, no cover.

Thursday, May 11

Bob the Chef's Jazz Cafe
Jazz Report B3 Jazz, 7:30pm, cover varies.
Cantab Lounge
U: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm. D: Divaya Kumar and Our Man Paul.
Club Passim
Christopher Williams CD-release party.
Common Ground
Jaya the Cat and Seeking Homer, 10pm.
Coogan's Bluff
Novakane, 9pm, no cover.
Dick's Last Resort
Jimmy Buffett lovers party featuring St. Somewhere, 7pm, no cover.
The Good Life
Yasko Kabuto and the Power Jazz Unit, no cover.
Green Street Grill
Latin night with Giancarlo Buscaglia.
Johnny D's
Billy Burnette, 9pm.
Les Zygomates
The Jinga Trio, 8pm.
Lizard Lounge
Michele Malone, 10pm, $8, 21+.
Middle East
U: WBCN Rock 'n' Rumble 2000 with Rocket Science, Colepitz, Long Distance Runner and Caged Heat, 9:30pm. D: Mary Timony, $8, 18+.
The Rack
Hit Squad, 6:30pm; Party with DJ Lynn Hoffman.
Regattabar
The Patrice Williamson Group, 8:30pm, $10.
Ryles
Greg Hopkins Quintet, 8:30pm, $8.
Scullers
Rita Moreno, 8pm and 10pm, $30.
Toad
Willie Bernstein, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Sugar Daddy, Supachik and the Kari Nations, $6.

Friday, May 12

The Attic
Scary Wagon with Violet Tide and John Cate, cover varies, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Jazz Cafe
Herman Johnson Quartet, 7:30pm, cover varies.
Bill's Bar
Wild Colonials, 9pm, $8.
Cantab Lounge
U: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm. D: DJ Joey Demers and Crew, 9pm.
Club Passim
Christopher Williams CD-release show.
Common Ground
Eri Shibe 5, 10pm.
Coogan's Bluff
Pig Pen, 9pm, $3.
Dick's Last Resort
Leaf Men, Soul City, 7pm, no cover.
The Good Life
Fascinatin Rythm, no cover.
Green Dragon Tavern
Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
Green Street Grill
Delta Blues with the Tarbox Ramblers.
House of Blues
Duke Robillard.
Jose McIntyre's
Second Story, 9pm, $5.
Kendall Cafe
Christine Baze.
Les Zygomates
The Carolyn Wilkins Trio, 9pm.
Lizard Lounge
Stuart Davis and Jennifer Kimball, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East
U: WBCN Rock n' Roll Rumble with Nok, Dragstrip Courage, Scarlet Haven and Big Bad Bollocks, 9:30pm; D: Dispatch and Cabaret Diosa, $10, 18+.
Purple Shamrock
Bacchanalia, 9pm, $5.
The Rack
Big City Beat, 6:30pm, no cover.
Regattabar
Wild Woman Deborah Henson-Conant, 7:30pm and 9:30pm, $16; The Tito Puente Latin Jazz Orchestra, 7:30pm and 10pm, $29.50.
Roxy
Wire.
Ryles
Jim Peterson Band, 9pm, $9. U: Joao Marcos Quintet and Friends, 9:30pm, $10.
Scullers
Rita Moreno, 8pm and 10:30pm, $35.
Toad
Dave Johnston, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Jim's Big Ego, Candy Butchers and Joseph Arthur, $7, no cover.
The Western Front
Jah Spirit, 9:30pm, $10.
Wonderbar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Saturday, May 13

The Attic
Babaloo with Tobin Bridge, cover varies, 21+.
Axis
Petra and the Waiting, $20.
Bob the Chef's Jazz Cafe
Stan Strickland, 7:30pm, cover varies.
Cambridge Brewing Co.
Fikus, 10pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
U: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm. D: DJ Joey Demers and Crew, 9pm.
Club Passim
Northern Lights, 8pm, $15.
Common Ground
Double Jointed and Fiber, 10pm.
The Good Life
Ron Levys Wild Kingdom, no cover.
Green Street Grill
Latin night with Giancarlo Buscaglia.
House of Blues
Jerry Portnoy.
Jacob Wirth's
Jay Sweet Trio.
Jose McIntyre's
Cape Fear, 9pm, $5.
Les Zygomates
The Jim Bridges Trio, 9pm.
Middle East
U: WBCN Rock n' Roll Rumble with the Fly Seville, Waltham and Wide Iris, Random Road Mother, 9:30pm; D: Jiggle the Handle and Another Planet, $10, 18+.
Purple Shamrock
Thomas Park, 9pm, $5.
The Rack
Vinnie Peruzzi Dance Party, no cover.
Regattabar
Wild Woman Deborah Henson-Conant, 7:30pm and 9:30pm, $18.
Ryles
Barrence Whitfield, 9pm, $10.
Scullers
Rita Moreno, 8pm and 10:30pm, $35.
Slades
The John Dougherty Hammond B-3 Jazz Trio, 8pm.
Toad
Toad's 7 Year Party, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
The Pills, John Surette, the Deniros and Krebstar, $7.
The Western Front
Jah Spirit, 9:30pm, $10.

Sunday, May 14

The Attic
The Coalboilers, 9:30pm, 21+.
Bill's Bar
Mother's Day with Stormy, 10pm, 21+.

See masterful turntablist Kid Koala at the Middle East Downstairs May 7 with DJ Food and Amon Tobin.

Cantab Lounge
U: Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
Club Passim
Tish Hinojosa, 7:30pm, $17.
Dick's Last Resort
Evelyn McDonald Gospel Group Brunch, 10am; Rob Gonzalez, 7pm.
The Good Life
Grant Langford Trio, no cover.
Green Dragon Tavern
Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
Green Street Grill
Billy Ruane.
Lizard Lounge
Poetry Jam featuring the Jeff Robinson Trio, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East
D: Toasters, Take 5 and Kingpins, 8pm, $8, 18+.
The Rack
Chad LaMarsh, 9:30pm, no cover.
Ryles
Katty Visqueira, 9pm, $10, Big Band Sunday featuring the Ryle's Jazz Orchestra, 4pm.
Toad
Stuart Davis, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Krakow, Room with a View and McCarthy's Finger, $4.
Wonderbar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Monday, May 15

Cantab Lounge
U: Geoff Bartley's Open Mike, 8pm, Paul Kamm and Eleanor MacDonald, 9:30pm.
Club Passim
The Molly's, 7:30pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm, no cover.
The Good Life
Waldron Ricks Trio, no cover.
Johnny D's
Hot Tamale Brass Band, 9pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge
The Fringe, 10 pm, cover varies, 21+.
The Milky Way
Naftule's Dream, $2, 10pm.
The Rack
John Frattassio, 8pm, no cover.
The Roxy
Elliott Smith and Whiskey Biscuit, 9pm, $16, 18+.
Toad
Union Square Screw Machine and the Tim Gearan Band, 8pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
The Other Side Of the Bear Accoustic Series with Sal Baglio and friends, $3.
Wonderbar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Tuesday, May 16

Axis
Dilated Peoples and Talib Kweli, 7pm, $15, 18+.
Cantab Lounge
U: Adam Dewey and Crazy Creek, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band, 7pm, no cover.
The Good Life
Issi Rosen Trio, no cover.
Les Zygomates
The Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm.
Middle East
U: Neko Case and her Boyfriends, Kelley Hogan and the Pine Valley Cosmonauts, $8, 18+.
The Rack
Stu Sinclair, 8pm, no cover.
Ryles
Waldron Ricks Group, 8:30pm, $8.
T.T. the Bear's Place
David's Foote, Digital Blue, Bonnis Herd and Tracy Husky, $4.

Music Venues

The Attic *107R Union St., Newton (964-6615).*
B-Side Lounge *92 Hampshire St., East Cambridge (354-0766). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Berklee Performance Center *136 Mass. Avenue, Boston (747-2261). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (743-2286). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's Jazz Cafe *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-6204).*
The Brenden Behan Pub *378 Centre Street, Jamaica Plain (522-5386).*
Bristol Lounge *Four Seasons Hotel, 200 Boylston St., Boston (338-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Clery's *113 Dartmouth St., Boston (262-9874). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*
Club Passim *47 Palmer St., Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
The Common Ground *85 Harvard Avenue, Allston (783-2071).*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
Emerson Umbrella *40 Stow St., Concord (781-641-2131).*
The Good Life *28 Kingston St., Boston 451-2622). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Grand Canal *57 Canal Street, Boston (523-1112). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (367-0055). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Green Street Grill *280 Green St., Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard.*
Hennessy's *25 Union St., Boston (742-2121). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Jacob Wirth's *31-37 Stuart St., Boston (338-8586). MBTA: Green Line to Boyslton.*
Jake Ivory's *1 Lansdowne St., Boston (247-1222). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Davis Square, Somerville (776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Karma *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9595). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Kendall Cafe *233 Cardinal Medeiros Ave., Cambridge (661-0993). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (783-9400). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
The Kells *161 Brighton Ave., Allston (782-9082). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard St.*
Kirkland Cafe *425 Washington St., Somerville (491-9640). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
The Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (267-8644). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.*
The Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Milky Way Lounge *403-405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-3740).*
Mr. Dooley's *77 Broad St., Boston (338-5656). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
O'Brien's *3 Harvard Ave, Allston (782-6245). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Paddy Burke's Pub *132 Portland Street, Boston (367-8370). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Paine Concert Hall *Harvard University Music Building (496-6013). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
The Playhouse Lounge *74 Warrenton St., Boston (482-2227). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (227-2060). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (725-1051). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Regatta Bar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330).*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Road, Cambridge (562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Slades *958 Tremont St., Boston (442-4600).*
Toad *1912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (497-4950). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Top of the Hub *800 Boylston St., Boston (536-1775). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Western Front *343 Western Avenue , Cambridge (492-7772).*
White Horse Tavern *116 Brighton Ave., Allston (254-6633). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard Ave., Allston (351-COOL). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard Ave.*

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Submit information including telephone numbers and nearest T stop by fax to (859-1446), mail or e-mail to gaylesbian@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted by phone.*

How to use this section
The following listings contain information that is subject to change. Contact the organization for changes in specific events.

CLUBS, BARS & HANGOUTS

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years these folks have been crankin' out some of the best Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. It's well worth a visit—if not for the three separate dance floors, then for all of the male dancers. 9pm, $15, 21+.

Buzz (Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays)
51 Stuart St. in the Theatre District, Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. On Saturday nights this place boasts two dance floors, two DJs, a pool room and a lounge. Two levels of dancing and schmoozing will keep the boys busy until 2am. 10pm, $5, 21+.

Chaps (Daily)
*100 Warrenton St., Boston (695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boyl*ston. www.chapsofboston.com. Sun.: Dance music of DJ Danae Jacovidis; Mon.: Grand Baby and Grand Piano night; Tue.: Retro DJ night; Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adielson Caesar; Thu.: DJs Billy and Fran: High Energy Dance; Fri.: Taboo Erotique with DJ Sammy; Sat.: High Energy Dance, DJ Danae Jacovidis.

City Girl Cafe (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri: 11am- 9pm; Sat: 10am-9pm; Sun: 10am-7pm. A small (5 tables), laid-back cafe in Inman Square, lesbian-owned and operated. This cozy spot is home to a mixed gay/hetero crowd that lounges about, munching on sandwiches. Brunch on Saturday and Sunday, 10am-2pm.

Club Cafe (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-0966). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri 11:30am-2am; Sat. 2pm-2am; Sun. 11am-2am. This trendy South End spot draws a mixed crowd that comes for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back (Moonshine). A dressy bunch that likes to mingle. No cover, 21+. •Carol O'Shaughnessy performs with Steve Heck, Dottie Dean or David Sparr, Thursdays.

Eagle (Daily)
*520 Tremont St., Boston (542-4494). Mon.-Fri. 3pm-2am; Sat. 1pm-2am; Sun. 12pm-2am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*This is your friendly neighborhood bar with a quiet setting. It's best known for scrumptious Sunday brunches (12-4pm). A simple joint with all of the trappings of a true bar: smoky and dark. The place starts hopping as it gets closer to 2am.

Fritz (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Stroll in for a quiet drink or a rowdy night on the town. The folks here are friendly—and really into sports. Not only does Fritz have Direct TV set up with sets scattered everywhere, it's also home base to a great softball league. 12pm, no cover, 21+.

Jacques (Daily)
79 Broadway, Boston (426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. If you're looking for a friendly crowd of gays and straights and you're in the mood to mix with disco-dancing drag queens, this is the place. Sun. and Mon. are local band nights, when acts rock into the wee hours. Tues. through Sat., however, divas rule the stage. 10:30pm, $4, weekends $6, 21+.

Lava Bar (Saturdays)
575 Commonwealth. Ave., Boston (267-7707). The Lava Bar's Tabu night boasts DJ Fran spinning out high-energy house with a taste of Latin beats. Doors open at 10pm.

The Lizard Lounge (Wednesdays)
1667 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. "Marlene Loses It at the Lizard" is the title of this eclectic evening of poetry, live music, theater and cabaret in front of a diverse crowd. Shows begin at 10pm. $5 cover, 21+.

Luxor (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (423-6969). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from the latest music scenes and classic old movies—compiled by the bar's own VJ. Downstairs is Jox, a sports bar. 4pm, no cover, 21+.

***Punks* shows May 4 on opening night for the annual Gay and Lesbian Film Festival at the MFA.**

Preview

Gay Times at the MFA

The Annual Gay and Lesbian Film Festival

Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (369-3770). MBTA: Green E Line to Museum. May 4-20. **Come out for this film festival that celebrates the hearts and souls of homosexuality. Features include:**

•May 4, 8pm. Men's Opening Night. Punks, directed by Patrik Polk, finds a group of gay black men living it up in L.A.

•May 5, 8pm. Women's Opening Night. Director Jamie Babbit takes us through the life of a young popular girl in *But I'm a Cheerleader.* When her family attempts to save her from lurking lesbianism by sending her to a homosexual reform camp, she inevitably falls in love with another girl.

•May 11, 8pm. 2 Seconds. Manon Briand's film examines light, speed, and love at first sight. It's all about staying true to what you love the most. In French with English subtitles.

•May 12, 6pm. The Eyes of Tammy Faye. She's dazzled all with those bright colors, but filmmakers Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato investigate the legend beneath the mascara with interviews from Tammy Faye Bakker-Messner, Jim Bakker, and others.

•May 12, 8:15pm. Why Not Me? This film is as much about comradery and shared experiences as the rest of them, but Stephane Giusti adds a touch of the shores of Barcelona with lesbian lust and disco-bunny desire. In French with English subtitles.

Man Ray (Thursdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (864-0400). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed.-Fri., 9pm; Sat., 10pm. A bustling hot spot caters to a young, alternative clientele. Two dance floors fill up on Thursdays for Campus, a predominately male night where DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen take over. 10pm, $8 for 19+, $5 for 21+.

119 Merrimac (Daily)
119 Merrimac St., Boston (367-0713). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Sat., 10:30am-2am; Sun. 12pm-2am. This male cruise bar is the place to stop for drinks before or after FleetCenter events. Shoot a leisurely game of pool or the hit the video games. Merrimac features DJs playing hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s. 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
*3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Stree*t. On Thursday nights, the Lesbian AIDS Project of Mass. unofficially takes over this laid-back cafe for "dyke nyte." The cafe always has something brewing—live bands, DJs and drag queen parties. Party starts at 8pm, no cover, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (494-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Central. On Monday, a bartender not only mixes drinks but strips too. Male strippers are featured, Wed.-Sat. Mon. is Gothic night; Tue. is techno and Thu. is college night. On Fridays DJ Sam Sampson spins, and on Sat. is DJ Brad Gwynn. 5pm, no cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (266-2986). Green Line to Kenmore. 12pm-2am. The largest leather bar in the East enforces a tight dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room). Downstairs on Fri., Sat. (10pm-2am) and Sun. (7pm-12am) is the Machine, the sleekest hard-core club in town. Fri. has DJ Darrin Friedman, Sat. DJ Brad Gwynn and Sun. is "Dragon Tea Dance," an Asian inspiration night with DJ James Hughes, a dragon show and performances. $7, 21+.

BOOKS

Glad Day Bookshop
673 Boylston St., Boston (267-3010). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu. 9:30am-10pm, Fri. and Sat. 9:30am-11pm, Sun. 12-9pm. This exclusively gay/lesbian bookstore has all sorts of paraphernalia.

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge. (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Fri. 10am-8pm, Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 12-6pm. New England's oldest women's book shop offers a comprehensive selection of books. Its monthly author series will resume in the spring.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6:30pm; Sun., 11:30am-5:30pm. Boston's literary gay and lesbian bookstore.

SHOWS & EVENTS

Celebrate with Mom
Jacques' Cabaret, 79 Broadway at Piedmont St., Boston (426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. May 14, 7:30pm. Treat Mom to a day of complete pampering fit for a queen. If she whines about not being included in your life, what better way to appease her than a night out at a Drag Show? Butter her up with cocktails starting at 6pm. Part of the Imperial Court Sunday Shows, this evening benefits the Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project.

Childbirth Class for Lesbians
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (927-6280). Free admission. May 6, 9am-1pm. $125. This 12-hour course for pregnant women is taught by certified childbirth educator Robin Snyder-Drummond.

Millennium Rainbow: Celebrating Greater Boston's LGBT Youth
Gallery Lounge, Northeastern University, Curry Student Center, Boston (349-6486). MBTA: Green Line to Northeastern. May 6-31. The History Project sponsors this invigorating event that celebrates the history, diversity and vitality of local lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered youth with an exhibition of words and images. At the core of the exhibit is a series of photographs taken by students at the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School that depict LGBT youth. Also featured are collages, notebooks and a time capsule.

A Weekend With Our Brothers
Berkshires, Western Mass. (247-3964). May 19-21. $195, includes lodging and meals. Brothers Together hosts this men's retreat weekend where spirituality and celebration abound in the company of men. Enjoy social gatherings and personal-growth workshops in an alcohol-, drug- and attitude-free environment.

ONGOING

Bawl
This lesbian softball league offers opportunities to join teams in both the recreational and competitive divisions. Call Liz (508-628-5477).

Best Foot Forward
Ballet Etc. Dance Studios, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (522-1444). MBTA: B Green Line to Washington St. For gays/lesbians/bisexuals of all swing skill levels.

Boston Glass
Community Center, 93 Mass Ave., Boston (266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center. Daily 8-10pm. Support groups and social activities for adolescents ages 13-25.

The Boston Rainbow Gospel Choir
The BRGC is about to launch its second season and periodically holds auditions. Call 424-6740.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). A 1,500-member gay club with hiking, biking, camping, skiing and other outdoor activities for men and women.

Common Bond
(781-433-7023). www.dwellings.com/acb. An international support group for gay/lesbian/bisexual current or former Jehovah's Witnesses.

Community Rainbow
Boston Living Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston. 7:45 pm. An organization whose mission is to advocate for the community. Meets Thursdays.

Cosmetically-Correct
Tremont Tea Room, 48-50 Winter St., 3rd floor, Boston. A social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month 7:30-10pm. Lipstick optional. For more info, e-mail *m.antoinette@ididitmyway.com.*

Dykes Who Hike
(522-6185). This hiking group is specifically for lesbians in Boston and the surrounding areas who want to conquer the wilderness.

East Coast Wrestling Club
With more than 160 members, this is an extraordinarily popular New England spot for gay male wrestlers. Call Marc at 401-467-6737, or go online at *http://members.tripod.com/~ecwc* or e-mail *ecwc@juno.com.*

Encounters
Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston. An informal social evening for HIV-positive gay and bisexual men held the first Tuesday of every month, 7-9pm.

Explore
A behavioral study intervention for gay men. Call 350-6900, ext. 199 or e-mail *explore@lhi.org.*

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave, Boston (824-4266). www.mindspring.com/~frontrunners. A running club for the LGBT community meets every Saturday at 10am for fun runs of various distances.

Gay Volleyball
Cambridge (262-3626). Sundays, 7pm, $7. Typically five teams play on two courts. Teams of men and women are made up each week.

Gender Free Contra Dancing
First Church of Jamaica Plain (522-1115). www.piac.net/users/latte/lcfd/. Come one, come all to evenings of contra and square dancing.

Latino Social Groups
Latino Gay Men's Project *(350-6900 ext.125)* and the Women's Social Groups *(350-6900 ext. 124).*

Long Yang Club
Various locations, (825-5677). www.longyangclub.org/boston. A club for gay Asian men. For more information call Ron (661-9165).

Luna
(350-6900, ext. 122) or luna@lhi.org. This branch of the Latino Gay Youth Project offers psychoeducational groups.

Oops
Melting Pot Coffee House, 2 Belgrade Ave., Roslindale (323-4123). Out on the Parkways, a gay and lesbian organization, invites one and all to come on down for some dinner and coffee.

PFLAG
Fenway Community Health Center, 7 Haviland St., Boston (547-2440). Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets every fourth Monday, 6:30-8:30pm.

Queer Corps
131 Clarendon St., 4th floor, Boston (450-1676). A community mobilization project by and for queer men 25 and under. Meetings are held every Tuesday, 6-8pm.

Tennis4all
Call Ted at 779-7231. Boston's gay and lesbian tennis club, with monthly tournaments and pizza socials.

Red Cross
Rack 'n Roll

at

THE RACK
Billiards

24 Clinton Street, Faneuil Hall Marketplace
Validated parking after 6 pm at 75 State Street Garage ($6)
See www.therackboston.com for directions and dress code

Tuesday May 9
5:30 PM

Hors d'oeuvres: 5:30 pm
Pool: all night
Celebrity billiards raffle: 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Prize raffle: 8:30 pm
Catunes: 9:00 pm

Live music by the CATUNES

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Tickets: $25 in advance; $30 at the door
For tickets and information call (617)375-0700 x277, or x215

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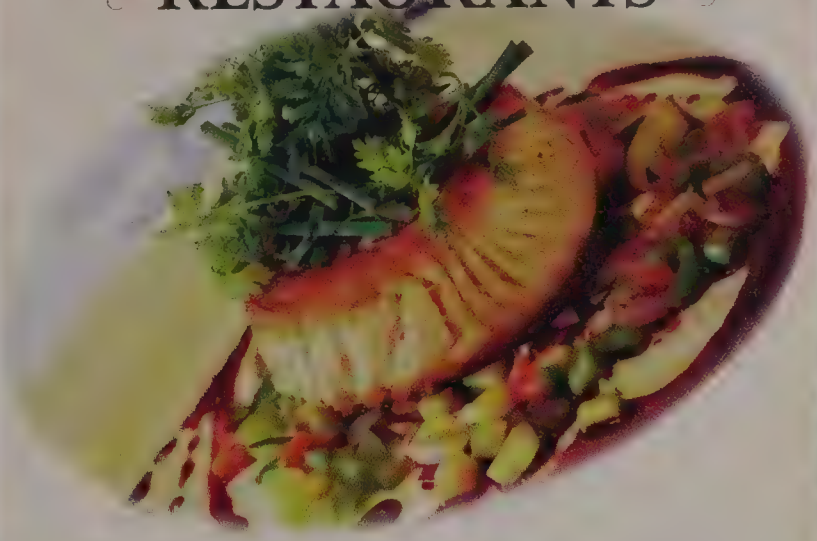

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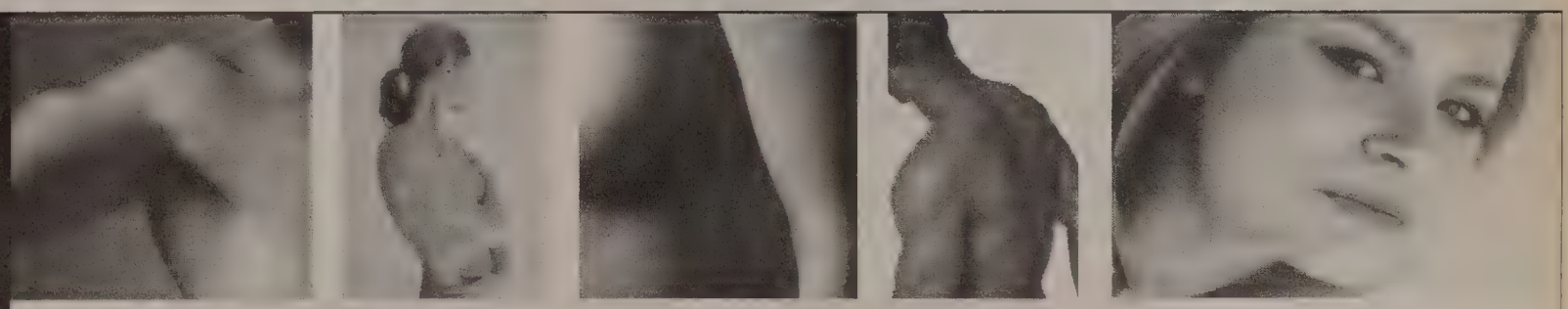

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body&mind

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information by mail, fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/ Mind, or electronically to bodymind@improper.com. *Include a brief but thorough description of the event, time, date, location and directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.*

EVENTS

Body, Mind and Spirituality Conference
Lesley College, 29 Everett St., Cambridge (349-8596). www.lesley.edu. *May 19-21. $260.* Presenting more than 40 different talks from mind/body professionals along with pre- and post-conference workshops, this event is designed to help you understand how an integrated perspective on health can be more effective for healing. Your chance to learn innovative mind/body techniques will also be available.

Dance of Universal Peace
First Church Congregational, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (876-6883). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. May 5, 7:30-9:30pm. $6. Simple, joyous and meditative circle dances honoring the spiritual traditions of the world. Everyone is welcome. All dances are taught and accompanied by live music.

An Ecstatic Evening of Rumi
Sanders Theatre at Harvard, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge. (tickets: 496-2222, info: 441-0004). www.gangaji.org. *May 10, 7:30pm.* **Coleman Barks**' book, *The Essential Rumi*, is one of the best-selling books of poetry in the world today. He'll be performing with renowned musicians, Grammy award–winning cellist **Eugene Friesen**, hand drummer **Glen Velez** and the exotic Sufi dancer **Zuleikha**. All proceeds from this performance will benefit the Gangaji Foundation.

Soulful Mother's Day
1st & 2nd Church in Boston, 66 Marlborough St., Boston (267-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. May 14. Soulful Sunday weaves theater, art and popular music into a powerful experience for the spirit. Today's event will honor Mother's Day.

CLASSES/ WORKSHOPS

Create the Work You Love
Omega Institute in Boston, Arlington Street Church, 351 Boylston St., Boston (1-800-944-1001). www.omega-inst.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. May 13, 9am-5pm. $119.* Author **Rick Jarow** hosts this anti-career workshop to help you find out how to prosper within your work and not just settle for something that you can easily do. The method of making this discovery uses meditation and listening to your body.

Healing Energy Weekend Seminar
The Healing Tao Center of Boston, 440 Somerville Ave., 2nd floor, Somerville. (628-6570). May 4-7. $60-$380. This program of classes and events is hosted by Taoist Master **Mantak Chia** from Thailand. Thursday evening's class teaches yoga and Friday's instructs you on how to combine the body's *chi* energy with the mind. Saturday and Sunday's workshop will go over the Tao healing basics and various meditations.

Meals and Medicine
New England School of Acupuncture, 40 Belmont St., Watertown (926-1788, ext.5). www.nesa.edu. *May 8, 6-9pm.* Herbal medicines can make you feel a lot better. Get an overview on what herbs do what to your body and then learn how to cook 'em up.

The Pen Has Healing Power
The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge (354-8807). Writing down your deepest thoughts and feelings may help to relieve such problems as stress, depression, weak immune system or fragile psyche.

Tai Chi for Beginners
Wah Lum Kung Fu, 17 Edinboro St., Chinatown, Boston (508-752-3534). The same school that puts on the Dragon Dance every Chinese New Year is teaching an introductory class on the popular *yang*-style Tai Chi.

Your Chakra System: Healing Your Emotional Body
Unicorn Books, 1210 Mass Ave., Arlington (781-646-3680). www.unicornbooks.org. *May 12, 7-9pm. $15* Explore your underlying feelings while learning about the chakra and energy mechanics of the emotional body. Learn some healthy strategies for dealing with your own and others' emotions.

LECTURES/ FORUMS

Managing Pain, Stress and Fatigue Naturally
Wellspace, Fresh Pond Mall, Cambridge (876-2660). www.wellspace.com. *May 11, 7:30-9pm. $5.* This Thursday evening lecture is held in the peaceful environment of Wellspace. Just being there is enough to make you feel good, and a lecture on how to keep your body free of synthetic drugs feels even better.

Spiritual Master Gangaji Talks
Harvard-Epworth United Methodist Church, 1555 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (441-0004). www.gangaji.org. *May 12, 8pm and 13, 2pm. $10.* This is **Gangaji**'s first New England appearance. She is well-loved as a speaker for her clarity, humor and freshness.

RETREAT

Cape Cod in Bloom
Sjoholm Inn (800-498-5706). May 5-7. Enjoy springtime on the Cape and join **Bobbi Ballin**, teacher of the Alexander Technique, for a personal renewal weekend by the sea.

Raw-Juice Fast
Kripalu Center, Lenox, Mass. (800-741-7353). www.kripalu.org. *May 4-7. $255 tuition, plus three nights room and meals.* Fasting can be strange if you've never done it before. But if you're supervised, you can be assured that you're doing it right. Fasting with raw juice can keep you from getting too hungry, sends tons of nutrients into the body and gets the toxins out. One weekend and you'll feel lighter, cleaner, clearer.

Mini-Interview

Spring Cleaning

Doreen Kleinschmidt teaches yoga, May 7.

Local massage, yoga and skin-care expert Doreen Kleinschmidt will teach Spring Cleaning on the Inside—a day of cleansing yoga, raw juice and meditation—on May 7. She'll show you how to open the doors and windows of your body and receive sunlight. We talked to Kleinschmidt and asked her how yoga cleanses the body on the inside.

FOOD: "Yoga focuses on balance and moderation. In practice, you can learn to curb cravings arising from subconscious discomfort and then feed your body what it truly needs," she says.

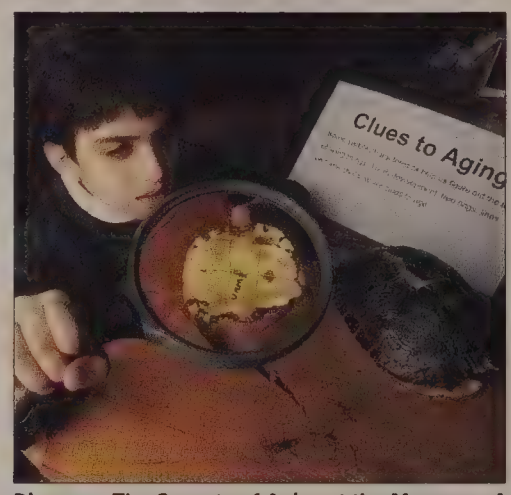
MENTAL STATE: "Yoga helps you allow your higher self to control the ego. Using meditation, you can develop more honesty, clarity, cooperativeness and contentment. With this awareness, you can replace false pleasure with true satisfaction."

DETOXIFYING: "Toxins come into our body from bad food, synthetic drugs and pollution. The postures in yoga squeeze the big internal organs so that stored toxins release into the blood to be expelled by the body. These relaxing movements increase the pumping of your blood, which carries oxygen and nutrients. This also helps cleanse the glands and reset our hormonal and chemical balances, and put the nervous system in order."

New Directions, 5 Harvard Ave., Brookline (524-3484). www.onedayretreat.com. MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. May 7, 2-7pm. $75, $5 off if you bring a friend. —L.K.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Children. Or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*



Discover *The Secrets of Aging* at the Museum of Science, a new exhibit that opened April 5.

TO SEE

Big Apple Circus: Bello and Friends
Fan Pier, Boston (800-922-3772). Wed.-Fri. 11am and 7pm; Sat.-Sun. 12pm and 4pm. Through May 7. $13-$35. Sit 50 feet away from the fun and watch as the international award-winning clown Bello Nock and his friends entertain you with juggling, trapeze and animal tricks.

Big River
Suffolk University's C. Walsh Theatre, 55 Temple St., Boston (424-6634). May 5, 7pm, and May 6-7, 2pm. $5-$16. The Boston Children's Theatre presents *Big River*, the Tony Award–winning musical based on Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, with music and lyrics by Roger Miller and script by William Hauptman.

20th Annual Ducklings Day Parade
Historic Neighborhoods Foundation, Boston (426-1885). May 14, 1pm. $10-$35. This Mother's Day parade kicks off on Boston Common, celebrating Robert McCloskey's classic children's story *Make Way for Ducklings*, where Mrs. Mallard searches for a home in Boston for her duckling family.

Puff and Other Family Sing-Along Songs
John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (929-4500). May 13, 10:30am. Free. Ages 5 and older. Join Noel Paul Stookey's performances that include rowdy sing-alongs and heartwarming melodies.

Puppet Showplace Theatre
32 Station St., Brookline (731-6400). $8. •*May 5, 7pm. May 6, 1pm and 3pm.* **Butterpillar Tales** by Puppet-tellers. •*May 12, 7pm. May 13, 1pm and 3pm.* **Gulliver's Travels** by Poobley Greegy Puppet Theatre.

Sleeping Beauty
Children's Theater at the Lyric Stage, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). May 6 and 7, 11am. $7. One of Boston's foremost children's theater company puts on a delightful production of *Sleeping Beauty*. Children may be invited to join the actors on stage and participate in the telling of this favorite fairy tale.

THINGS TO DO

Fly a Kite with the Parks Department
•*May 3, 3-6pm: Hyde Park YMCA, 1137 River St., Hyde Park.* •*May 4, 3-6pm: Shelburne Recreational Center, 2730 Washington St., Roxbury.* •*May 6, 10am-2pm: Murphy Community Center, 1 Worrell St., Dorchester.* •*May 8, 2:30-5:30pm: Jackson/Mann Community Center, 500 Cambridge St., Allston.* •*May 10, 3-6pm: West Roxbury YMCA, Quinn Way, West Roxbury.* •*May 16, 2:30-5:30pm: Harborside Community Center, 312 Border St., East Boston.* Join the Boston Parks and Recreation Department in free, kite-making workshops throughout the city. Kids will make their own kites with provided materials and give them a test flight.

The Secrets of Aging
Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu. 9am-5pm; Fri. 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children.* This new exhibition explores the science behind aging. With unique interactive exhibits, children can see what they'll look like when they grow older.

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to listings@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

To Watch

New England Revolution
•Foxboro Stadium. Tickets: 1-877-GET-REVS
May 6 (Home): San Jose, 7:30pm, Fox Sports Net.
May 13 (Away): D.C., 78pm, ESPN2.

Red Sox
•Fenway Park. Tickets: 267-8661.
Games shown on Fox Sports
May 3 (Home): Detroit, 7:05pm.
May 5 (Home): Tampa Bay, 7:05pm.
May 6 (Home): Tampa Bay, 1:05pm.
May 7 (Home): Tampa Bay, 1:05pm.
May 8 (Home): Chicago, 7:05pm.
May 9 (Home): Chicago, 7:05pm.
May 10 (Home): Chicago, 7:05pm.
May 11 (Away): Baltimore, 7:05pm.
May 12 (Away): Baltimore, 7:05pm.
May 13 (Away): Baltimore, 1:35pm.
May 14 (Away): Baltimore, 1:35pm.
May 15 (Away): Toronto, 7:05pm.
May 16 (Away): Toronto, 7:05pm.

Events

Greater Boston Senior Games
(635-4366). May 3-6. Cheer on your elders. A series of games open to residents age 50 and older (up to 80 years old). •May 3: Kickoff is a bocce ball competition. •May 4: golf competition. •May 5: bowling and billiards. •May 6: swimming, track, horseshoes, basketball, free throw, softball throw and tennis. Call for locations.

Fitness! A Noon-Time Workout
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (737-3500). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Thursdays at 12pm, Through June 29. No workout May 25. Is there anything better than a little exercise in the middle of the day? Grab your co-workers and enjoy this pre-lunch workout.

On the Sidelines

Massachusetts Sports Partnership
(877-572-7115). Play a role in all kinds of major sporting events. Past MSP volunteers have assisted with events such as NCAA hockey and basketball, U.S. Olympic trials, the Major League Baseball All-Star Game and the Ryder Cup. Volunteer duties range from driving athletes to and from sporting events and organizing hospitality for sponsors to assisting the media.

Officials Needed
(789-4070, ext. 222). The Boston Ski & Sports Club needs officials for flag football, floor hockey, softball and soccer. It's a paid position.

To Play

BASEBALL

Henry's Baseball Club
(781-891-0621). Waltham. Seeking players ages 17-30 and coaches for upcoming season.

BASKETBALL

Basketball City
Adjacent to North Station and the FleetCenter (742-6700). Corporate, midday and weekend leagues.

Co-Ed Indoor Basketball
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 224). Sun.-Thu. nights at various locations. All levels welcome. Leagues in Waltham, Dedham and Brookline.

The Corporate League of Boston
(566-7808).

Men's Basketball League
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990).

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333). Practice and workout programs for all levels in Greater Boston.

South End Fitness Center League
(534-5823).

Women's Basketball League
(661-9622).

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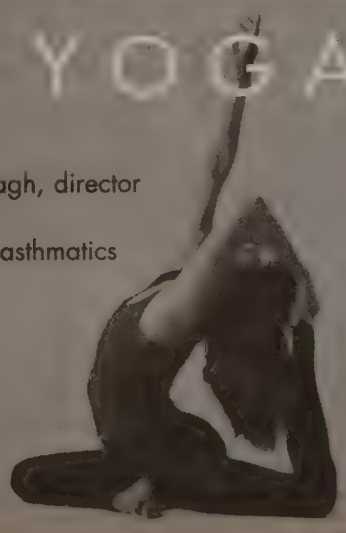

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Women's 3 on 3 Basketball
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990).

FOOTBALL

Australian Rules Football
Boston Australian Rules Football Club. Thu. evenings and Sat. mornings, Cambridge (781-440-9266). www.BostonDemons.org. No experience necessary.
Indoor Flag Football
BSSC, Indoor Sports Center in Revere (789-4070). Sundays.
Co-ed Touch Football
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990).

HIKING/WALKING

The Appalachian Mountain Club
Gorham, N.H. (603-466-2727). Hikes and huts in the White Mountains. •Monthly AMC Young Members meetings at AMC headquarters, 4 Joy St., Beacon Hill (523-0655). Second Thursday of every month, 6-10pm, $3. Potluck. BYOB.
New England Walkers
39 Oakland Rd., Brookline (731-9889). This 200-member club hosts weekly walks at M.I.T. indoor track on Wednesdays at 7pm.

HOCKEY

Co-ed Floor Hockey
BSSC (789-4070). Individuals and teams, co-eds, all levels in Newton.
Co-ed Floor Hockey
Sport & Social Club of Boston, (262-8990).

LACROSSE

Men's and Women's Lacrosse
Sport & Social Club of Boston, (262-8990).

RUGBY

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
Cambridge (781-340-2192). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.bwrfc.org. *Tue. and Thu. evenings.* No experience necessary.

RUNNING

Boston Road Club Weekly Races
(781-646-8955). Sundays. Starts at Wells Ave. in Newton.
Fresh Pond Weekly Road Races
Fresh Pond Reservation. Saturdays, 10am. Choose between a 2.5- or 5-mile run.
NikeTown Boston Running Club
200 Newbury St., Boston (267-3400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Three-to-five-mile loops. Starts at 6:30pm. Monthly mini-clinics as well.
Boston Hash House Harriers
(499-4835). Weekly runs year-round. Serious drinkers with a running problem.
Khoury's Thursday Night Runs
East Somerville. (354-3534). 4.13 miles. 7pm at Khoury's Bar.
Somerville Road Runners Weekly Run
Cambridge Boat House Parking Lot, Cambridge (923-2378). Fridays at 7 pm.

SAILING/BOATING

Boston Sailing Center
54 Lewis Wharf, Boston (227-4198). Year-round lessons and racing programs for all abilities.
Community Boating
21 David Mugar Way, Boston (523-1038). www.community-boating.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. Open Mon.-Fri. 1pm-sunset; Sat.-Sun. and holidays, 9am-sunset. April 1-Oct. 31.* Sailing, windsurfing and kayaking on the Charles for $190 per season including instruction.
Courageous Sailing Center
Charlestown Navy Yard (635-4505). Lessons offered year-round.

SOCCER

BSSC Outdoor Soccer
BSSC (789-4070, ext. 225). Coed teams.
BSSC Outdoor Turf Soccer
BSSC (789-4070, ext. 225). Nine on nine coed soccer. Play outside on a brand-new artificial-turf field at the Acton Sports Center. Starts May 14 through mid-July.
Indoor/Outdoor Soccer
Sport & Social Club (262-8990).

SOFTBALL

80-Team Softball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 222). Mon.-Thu. evenings at 6:30pm. Join as an individual or as a team.
Coed Softball
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990).

SWIMMING

Boston Athletic Club Swim Workouts
653 Summer St., Boston (269-4300). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon. and Wed. 6:15-7:15am.
The Charles River Park Club Morning Masters
Charles River Park, Boston (450-9810). Mon., Wed., Fri. 6:30-7:45am.
The Mason Masters Swim Program
The Mason Pool, 159 Norfolk Avenue, Roxbury (236-4923 or 450-9810) Mon.-Fri. 7:30-8:30pm. An early-morning masters swim program led by Alex Primilsky, coach of numerous world, national and Olympic champions.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Boston Ski & Sports Club
(789-4070).
Boston Ultimate Disc Alliance
(928-0882). www.buda.org.

VOLLEYBALL

Adult Co-ed Volleyball League
Waltham YMCA (781-894-5295). Monday nights, began Sept. 13. All levels welcome at this friendly co-ed league.
BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club, (789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. at various locations. Co-ed indoor 6-on-6 leagues. Four different levels of play. •Co-ed pickup games Tuesdays and Fridays at West Newton Armory, 1137 Washington St. $5.
Co-ed Volleyball League
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990).
Co-ed Volleyball-Waltham
Waltham YMCA, 725 Lexington St, Waltham (781-894-5295). Monday nights. Begins in April.

WRESTLING

Men's Adult Wrestling
Boston Union, 48 Boylston St., Boston (482-1122). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm; Saturdays 1-3:30pm. All skill levels. Coaching available.

sales& fashion

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for sales and bargains by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar:Sales and Fashion. Or e-mail information to goodbuys@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the event or items. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

AUCTIONS

Brimfield Fair Antiques & Collectibles
Mass Pike I 90E to Exit 8 Palmer, I 90 W to Exit 9 Sturbridge, Rt. 20W for six miles past Sturbridge Village. 1/4 mile west of Brimfield Common. (413-245-3436). Fri. 6am-5pm; Sat. 8am-5pm. May 12-13. $5. A family tradition since 1959.

Skinner Auctioneers—Boston
63 Park Plaza, Boston (350-5400). www.skinner inc.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.* •**Fine Musical Instruments.** *May 7, 12pm. Previews: May 5, 12-5pm; May 6, 10:30am-7pm; May 7, 8:30-10:30am.* •**American and European Paintings.** *May 12, 7pm. Previews: May 10, 12-5pm; May 11, 12-7pm; May 12, 12-5:30pm.*

SALES/EVENTS

Design Home 2000
For directions and more information call 450-1347 or visit www.design-home.com. *Tue.-Sun. 10am-4pm. May 2-26. $20, $25 at the door.* Visit this home for the new millennium, a $3 million New England colonial in Weston, Mass., as a part of the Design Home 2000 event to benefit the AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts. The home was constructed by *Boston Magazine* in association with a builder, interior designers, furnishers and several local retailers.
MayFair in Harvard Square
Harvard Square, Cambridge (491-3434). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. May 7, 12-6pm. Along with a variety of live entertainment, there's a 200-vendor flea market offering everything from pashmina and pottery to poodle skirts.

Preview

Fashion Weekend

If you've spent all winter compromising good looks for practicality, you may have lost some of your fashion savvy. Well, now it's time to rejuvenate your fashion sensors and see what's coming out of closets this spring. Usually a fall event, this is the first annual Fashion Week Spring Weekend designed to unify the local fashion community. It's an opportunity for local amateurs to show up the more well-known designers. What will be the outcome of this showdown? Lots of colorful, fun garb for the sun and models galore. And to top it all off, Matsu Salon on Newbury Street will be donating 10 percent of all proceeds to benefit the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance. So now you can splurge and feel philanthropic at the same time. Below are the events planned for the weekend of May 5-7. —*M.G.*

Knock Out Autism Fashion Extravaganza
Avalon, Lansdowne Street, Boston (877-728-8476). May 5. 7-10pm, $25. **This fashion show benefits the Fund for Autistic Children, featuring Newbury Street retailers Matsu and Calypso, as well as local designers Sarian Boston, Lela and Maverick Design House.**

Model Lounge
Avalon in the Green Room, Lansdowne Street, Boston. **www.fashionweek.org.** ***May 5. 10pm. By invitation only.*** **The made-up faces of such top modeling agencies as Click, Copley Seven, Ford Model Management, Maggie Inc. and Models Group will be dressed to the nines for this par-tay. It's invitation only, but if skinny women are your thing, you're sure to catch some of these dolls strolling around the area.**

Saturday in St. Barth's
Calypso, 115 Newbury St., Boston (421-1887). May 6. 12-4pm. **It's something right out of the popular '80s movie *Mannequin*. Do some window shopping on Newbury Street and uncover some live action going on in the store window. From sexy bikinis and slinky beachwear to eveningwear, these models present the best of women's and children's fashion.**

Details De Couture
The Salon, 10 Newbury St., Boston (247-4900). May 6. 7pm. By invitation only. RSVP required. **Enjoy this show featuring select pieces from the Insectual Collection, along with hair and makeup styles and techniques. Also includes a Daniel Hernandez Image Concepts Workshop.**

Art Reflects Fashion
Boston Public Library, McKim Building, Dartmouth St., Boston. May 6. 8pm. **The artwork of an era certainly reflects its fashion trends. This fashion show is open to the public and features the creations of Marie Galvin, Nigel Ramsay, Robin Chalfin and Robin Masi.**

Sneak Preview
Boston Public Library, McKim Building, Dartmouth St., Boston. May 7. **This fashion show is open to the public and features top Boston designers Alfred Fiandaca, Denise Hajjar and Rick Lange, as well as IJ Fox Furs.**

Fashion Review and Closing Party
Aria, 245 Tremont St., Boston (292-3322). **www.bostonfashion.com.** ***May 7. 10pm.*** **It's oh-so-sad to see a glamorous weekend like this end, but there's always next year. This party is hosted by Maksou Hair and Makeup Salon and Bostonfashion.com.**

Local models show off creations by Boston-area designers during Fashion Weekend, May 5-7.

WALK: TOM HANNON; MODELS: TRACY AIGUIER

go away

TRAVELING NEAR AND FAR

Advice to Contributors

Submit updated press releases by fax (859-1446)or mail to Calendar: Go Away. Or e-mail information to goaway@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the event or items. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

NORTH OF BOSTON

Croquet Tournament at the Great House

Castle Hill, The Crane Estate, Ipswich (978-356-4351). May 14, 12pm-4pm, member $3, non-member $5. Believe it or not, croquet is not just for wealthy people with a lot of time on their hands. It's a real sport enjoyed by rich and poor alike. An official croquet club will guide beginners through this amateur croquet competition.

SOUTH OF BOSTON

Paw Prints for Progress Day

Wompatuck State Park, Hingham, Mass. (781-749-0968). May 7, 10am-3pm. Join a one-mile or three-mile walk for homeless animals and enjoy clowns, face painting, dog training demos and doggy and people treats. Bring your pup on a leash.

mark your daytimer

UPCOMING EVENTS

Blink 182 is at the Centrum, May 29.

CITYSCOPE

Franklin Kite Festival
May 20, Franklin Park

Dragon Boat Festival
June 18, Charles River

MUSIC

Joni Mitchell and the London Symphony Orchestra
May 28, FleetBoston Pavillion

Blink 182
May 29, Worcester Centrum Centre

Indigo Girls
June 10 and 11, Fleet-Boston Pavillion

KISS, Ted Nugent and Skid Row
June 12 and 13, TweeterCenter

The Cure
June 14, Tweeter Center

Sonic Youth and Stereolab
June 15, Avalon

311 and Incubus
June 15, Tweeter Center

Dave Matthews Band
July 8 and 9, Foxboro Stadium

Poison and Dokken
July 8, Tweeter Center

Red Hot Chili Peppers, Foo Fighters and Blonde Redhead
July 16, Tweeter Center

Ozzfest 2000
July 29 and 30, Tweeter Center

PERFORMING ARTS

Miss Saigon
June 8, Wang Theatre

The 2000 Air and Sea Show soars above peaceful waters of Ft. Lauderdale Beach, Fla., May 6-7.

WEST OF BOSTON

Apple Blossom Ice Cream Festival

Berlin (978-838-2400). May 6-7. Ready for spring? Celebrate the beauty of the orchard during a weekend of gourmet food tasting, hay wagon rides and children's crafts. Or just visit with the farm animals.

Ball in the House Concert

Greendale Mall, 7 Neponset St., Worcester (508-856-9401). May 14. 1pm. A concert by the vocal pop group of six guys from Boston who've sold out eight consecutive shows at the House of Blues in Cambridge.

Maypole Madness!

Higgins Armory Museum, 100 Barber Ave., Worcester (508-853-6015). May 6, 10am-4pm. Celebrate May Day dressing a Maypole and speaking with costumed characters of the Renaissance.

Trail Maintenance Work Day

Noanet Woodlands, Dover (781-821-2977). May 6, 10am-3pm. Spend the day outside and help keep Massachusetts' trails tidy by joining in the Mountain Bike Association's annual spring work day.

CAPE COD

Barnstable Harbor Walk

Barnstable Village, Cape Cod (508-432-1452). www.CancerSupport.e-CapeCod.net. *May 13, 9am. Minimum donation: $5.* Take a three-mile walk through historic Barnstable Village to benefit the Cape Cod Women's Cancer Collective.

RHODE ISLAND

Red Hot Chili Peppers Concert

Providence Civic Center, Providence, RI (401-331-6700). May 13. 7:30pm. $36.50. Rock's pioneering gods of punk, thrash and funk, the Red Hot Chili Peppers bring their show to Providence, with special guests, the Foo Fighters.

VERMONT

Hot Air Balloon and Airship Meet

Post Mills, Vermont (603-298-8913). May 13-14. It's a pancake breakfast (with real Vermont maple syrup) and then a balloon launch.

Traditional Plowing Match

Woodstock, Vermont (802-457-2355). May 7. Interested in learning about farming? Then you'll enjoy this annual event that features a horse and oxen-drawn plowing competition, as well as demonstrations of different plowing techniques.

NEW YORK

The New Yorker Festival

Various locations, New York, N.Y. (877-847-0545). May 5-7. The New Yorker marks its 75th year with a festival dedicated to the artists, writers, editors and readers who have made the magazine an American keepsake. The festival takes over the city and features more than 20 readings by New York fiction writers in a variety of venues. Guests include Sherman Alexie, Nick Hornby, Annie Proulx, Stephen King, Jeannette Winterson, V.S. Naipaul and David Remnick.

Bike New York: The Great Five Borough Bike Tour

New York, N.Y. (212-932-2453). May 7, 8am. www.bikenewyork.org. More than 30,000 recreational cyclists gear up for this 42-mile excursion through all New York City's boroughs—from Battery Park to a festival on Staten Island. Mayor Rudy Giuliani will cheer the riders on, and there will be a performance by the Sensational Soul Cruisers in this 23rd annual tradition.

Third Avenue Mother's Day Festival

Third Avenue, from 42nd to 57th St., New York, N.Y. May 14. A down-home street festival celebrating spring and all mothers with more than 500 varieties of ethnic foods, arts and crafts and merchant exhibitions along Third Avenue. What better way to celebrate Mother's Day than with one of New York's exciting parades?

FLORIDA

2000 Air and Sea Show

Along four miles of Ft. Lauderdale Beach, between Oak and Park Boulevard. and Las Olas Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (954-527-5600, ext. 88). May 6-7, 9am. Free. You'll be blown away when the Marine Corps invades the beach in an exposition of some of the world's finest military and civilian acts on the water and in the air. The Pentagon shows off its finest personnel and equipment, such as amphibious assault vehicles and ships. You won't want to miss the full-scale offshore power boat racing exhibition, or the Navy Blue Angels and the Canadian Forces Snowbirds' jet demonstrations.

Sea Fest 2000

Port Canaveral, near Cruise Terminals #5 and #10. Port Canaveral, Fla. (407-459-2200). May 5-7, $3. Sea Fest 2000 is a celebration of food and fun that attracts more than 50,000 people. Bask in the sun and chow down on steamed shrimp, oysters, grilled marinated octopus and gumbo. There is non-stop entertainment and a tour of a U.S. Navy or Coast Guard ship.

LONDON

London Dollhouse Festival

Kensington Town Hall, London, England (212-850-0327). May 13-14. Dolls and dollhouses galore. All sorts of doll material is showcased at this adorable festival where you can go browse, buy and sell.

CANNES

Cannes Film Festival

Palais des Festival and various locations, Cannes, France (33-4-93-99-86-05). May 12-23. Cannes is the best place to mingle with celebrities and pretend you're famous. If you can manage to get here, you can revel in paradise on the French Riviera or gawk at the stars on the main drag, La Croisette, as more than 30,000 film-industry people flock to the city to honor the year's best films.

SYDNEY

Australian Fashion Week Festival

Various locations, Sydney, Australia (61-2-933-22-100). May 8-13. Australia's premiere fashion event. See spring and summer collections of the best designers in Australia and Asia-Pacific.

MEXICO CITY

Cinco de Mayo

Various locations, Mexico City, Mexico (52-5-254-8967). May 5. Everyone enjoys Cinco de Mayo as a day of drinking and revelry, but do you know what it actually is? In 1862, Mexicans fought off the French army in the Battle of Puebla. In Mexico, this is one of the biggest celebrations of the year. Enjoy Cinco de Mayo in its hometown and try the tequila.

TOKYO

Sumo Wrestling Championship

Kokugikan Sumo Hall, Tokyo, Japan (81-3-5608-3012). May 10-24. Although many picture sumo wrestling as a couple of big lugs attacking each other with the vigor of rhinos dressed in loin cloths, sumo is actually an ancient and beautiful sport. Check out the Grand Tournament and witness the energy.

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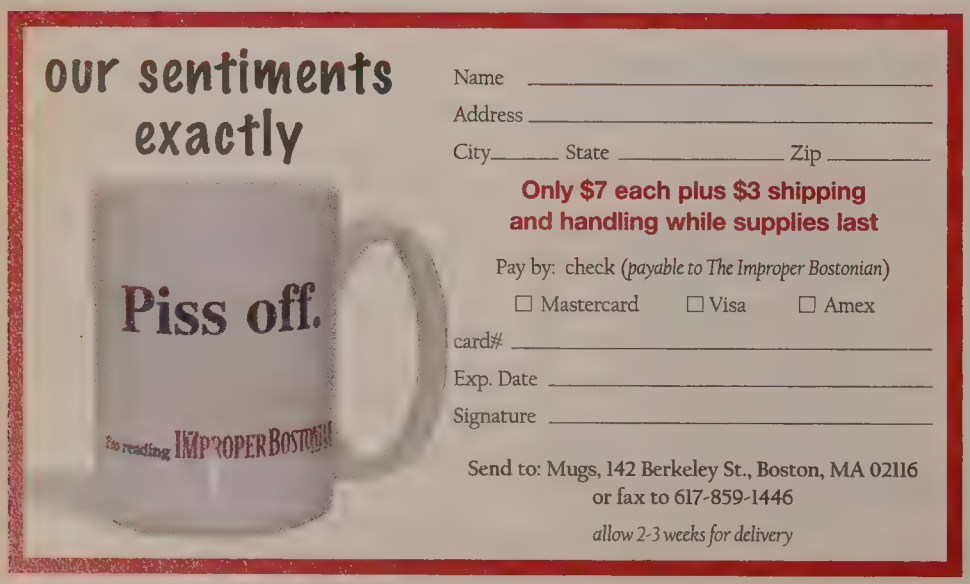

Improper Impersonals

If everyone kept their feelings bottled up like warm beer, we'd soon have antisocial behavior exploding all over the place and ruining the upholstery. That's why we have the Improper Impersonals, a column written by you, the reader. Send us your letters of love and spleen, and we'll print them for the world to see. Heck, it's better than making a fool of yourself in person. And **IT'S FREE!** Pick up a pen and tell that babe on the T you like his butt by writing to:

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN
142 Berkeley, 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116
Fax: 859-1446 or e-mail us at impersonals@improper.com.
Recent correspondence follows.

Mattyboy
Five years is a long time, and I hope we're together five hundred times more. I never get tired of your rosy cheeks or your cute little ears. I just want to eat you up! Thank you for being my confidant, my friend and my partner. I'd better stop typing, or I'll start sobbing. Head up, young person.
—J

To "the Dork with No Guts"
In response to your Impersonal in the March 22nd issue of THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN: You are NOT a dork! If you are who I think you may be, I am completely overwhelmed. Little do you know that I feel the SAME exact way about you! I see you at Park Street and we both get off at the same stop? Yes, we do see each other in the coffee shop too! I think we may even work in the same building!! *Blush* I hope it IS you!! Email me:
—ericmarch@earthlink.net

Celtics Game
I am looking for the guy who sat a couple seats away from me at the Celtics game on Friday, April 7. You were sitting with your father in Section 2, and your seats were broken when you arrived. I was sitting with a male friend of mine. We glanced at each other several times during the game and exchanged casual words. You were wearing khaki pants, a blue/white plaid shirt, and had beautiful blue eyes. If you find this, email me at
—CelticsInApril@mail.com

To a Foodie (a.k.a. jen c)
In response to your ad from last week:
A. i never meant for my poem to publicly humiliate you. it was written from the heart. remember when you had one?
B. i never put your job in jeopardy like you tried to do with me (very grownup of you by the way)
C. i give people in the industry a bad name, huh? you've been a cocktail waitress at the Rattlesnake for six months. what the fuck do you think you know about the industry i've been in for 14 years? you have no clue. i am more professional than you could ever hope to be
D. as far as getting old and fat with me sitting on the sofa—first off, you were fat before i wasted two years of my life with you, and secondly, if i remember correctly you were the only one sitting on the sofa getting fatter while i was out partying and having a good time. it didn't have to be like this. but since it is, may as well have a little fun huh...i just feel sorry for the next guy you are with. girls like you should come with a warning label.... "warning: give me love and i'll continually break your heart" ...oh and you should keep an eye out for your phone bill. i know i gave my word but, hey, things change, huh? as soon as you are off the lease, it will be paid. later
—JIMI

An Open Letter to "Spare Change Not"
I understand your frustration. I have been in your shoes before. However, more often I can be found on the other side of the counter. I would like to share some of my experience with you with the hope that it may help you. I work at a supermarket and it's a tedious thankless job. I try to be pleasant towards everyone and do my job well, but I'm not always successful. Sometimes my mind wanders back to the affairs of my real life, or one of my friends who needs cheering up etc. One of the most annoying things about working in a service job is how often people forget you are more than a complex machine there to do their bidding. I don't believe anyone likes being treated this way. The customers that I love to wait on are those who smile when they see me and ask how I am. It's a simple, silly thing, I know, but I can think of many occasions when this made my day. There are some of these customers that become my friends and I look forward to seeing them come through my line every week. I make sure they get well treated and do whatever it takes to satisfy them. That's all it takes to get good service. Smile and be nice to that person tending to you. Don't forget that there are people with lives other than their jobs. (One man I work with is an architect and speaks five languages!) I do this myself when I am the customer. Does it work all the time? Well, no, but it works well enough to be worthwhile. I call a lot less complaint hot lines now that I practice this policy. I hope that this has been helpful. Take care.
—Coyote

To Saucy
Why are you pushing me away? Please give me a chance. I have no intention of hurting you. Now I can't even talk to you since you won't answer the phone and it's driving me insane. Please call me. I need to know that you are okay. The past doesn't matter. Only now. I want to be part of your now and if you were honest, you would admit that you feel the same. I could see the need, the love and yes! the confusion in those beautiful green eyes every time I looked at you. Just because those other asses, Jeff, Dan, etc., hurt you, couldn't deal with you, doesn't mean that I am the same. Life holds no promises—you have to take a chance on the maybe and accept the reality. Please call me. I am waiting for you.
—G

To Patrick Kelliher
I love you. I love you because you know more about the Simpsons than I know about anything. Because you call me Sweatheart and Pet more than you call me Tatiana. Because you refuse to not tickle me even when I pathetically beg you not to. Because, unlike me, you actually stop tickling me when you say you are going to. Because you finally admitted that Chief is cute. Because I finally found something cuter than Chief. Because you continue to sleep over even though I steal all the covers. Because you keep your computer running 24 hours a day. Because you always cut up my pineapple. Because even though you get out of the shower before me, you stay in the bathroom and wait for me to come out. Because you can't keep a surprise to save your life. Because you're always sticking your foot in your mouth. Because you love that goddamn hutch. Because you cannot take a normal picture. Because you tell me I'm weird. Because you always miss that little patch on your cheek when you shave. Because you believe in Destiny. Most of all, because you are as happy with me as I am with you, which is happier than I ever thought possible... Top Drawer.
—Love...Top Drawer

C—
I cannot remember what it was like before you—life, breathing, Sunday mornings...Now even solitude has the flavor of what it was to be loved by you—days and days under your gentle touch—whether eyes or lips or fingers. I hear my own name so infrequently and to hear you say it reminds me that you are now too far away to extend your hand to me. We are selfish lovers—loving ourselves once-removed in the open adoration of another and yet you painted me too beautifully to resist. I only feared living up to that image, being alone with it. "In Eternum" is how I put it and I am holding up my end of eternity. I imagine you coated in salt water, hair on end, still hiding those devastating freckles...
—Anonymous

Rockie Horoscope

May 3 - 16, 2000
BY ROCKIE GARDINER

Taurus
APRIL 20-MAY 20
Will the Taurus new moon on the 3rd, along with the five other planets in your sign, turn you into some sort of avatar, a new-age edition of the Buddha? With so much emphasis on the beauty and power of being a Bull, the prosperity and optimism that comes from having protective Jupiter in your sign and the promise of peace, it'll be quite the surprise if your boss, crazy parent or a government agency pulls the rug out from under you. Since you are giving your best, it's only fair to ask for the same in return.

Gemini
MAY 21-JUNE 20
Retire or hide out, at least until you receive advice from the Ascended Masters or your local guru. What you hear, think or relate to on the 9th, when your Mercury ruler meets protective Jupiter and the productive Taurus sun, is what you should be doing from that moment on. Things could get nutso by Tuesday night, but we're counting on Gemini's insightful analysis to break through the log jam created by the preponderance of planets in Taurus. Mercury entering your sign on Mother's Day should speed things up more to your liking.

Cancer
JUNE 21-JULY 22
Exactly what are your hopes and wishes for this lifetime, and who are the friends who share them? A similar question could have a greater impact on your life than you can imagine. After the seven personal planets congregate in your house of friendship and social goals on the 3rd, you may have to make a choice: Get off the fence or at least get out of the house and identify with groups that are actively shaping the future of your home planet. This is when you decide how much a citizen of the world you are. Heavy Taurus stuff.

Leo
JULY 23-AUGUST 22
Expansion, communication, consolidation and, just when you think you've got it together, disruption. This is the path your sun ruler takes as it conjuncts magnanimous Jupiter, clever Mercury and hard-working Saturn in Taurus in your career midheaven. And then, out of the blue, the sun squares (and you are shocked by) rebellious Uranus in your house of partners. Freedom now!—but for whom? These forces are too powerful to stop, so why not see where the chips fall, pick up what you can and get back into the game? Or look around for another? You got the power.

Virgo
AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22
The tremendous pressure being exerted by all those planets in Taurus aren't geared to stressing the Virgin out. Instead they are rewarding you, making it easy to learn or to turn into a dedicated traveler. If along the way you pick up a few bargains—this is practical earth energy, after all—that's a good thing. You could become divinely inspired on the 8th when your Mercury ruler merges with Jupiter and the sun; this rare and precious meeting can signal the start of something both educational and pleasurable.

Libra
SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22
Another weekend of dreaming the impossible dream and hoping beyond hope—plus all those hyper-romantic activities you get off on when your Venus ruler and idealistic Neptune square. Dare I mention Neptune, alcohol and drugs? Or are you hip to the connection by now? Money pours in when the sun and generous Jupiter align on the 7th; it's put to good (i.e. productive, but not particularly enjoyable) use on the 10th when strict Saturn demands payment. Steel yourself for a surprise on Mother's Day. Que sera, sera.

Scorpio
OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21
October Scorpions are ready for romance—one with all the frills and none of the chills (yet). Plus, they don't have to look outside the neighborhood or leave the computer to find an artistic and charming lover. November birthdates are up for the shock of the new, the weird, the rebel with a long list of causes. So if you haven't met your mate or you're dying for a change, make yourself presentable and open the door. With so many planets—each representing one or two signs—in your partnership house, someone is bound to be ripe for the plucking.

Sagittarius
NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21
It—the conjunction of the sun and your Jupiter ruler—only happens once a year. And because each year it takes place in another sign of the zodiac, each time is different. This is the weekend they meet in Taurus, the place of great pleasure and pain. It's been 12 years since you were this sensitized to sensual stimulation; however, mental Mercury gets into the act and makes the event more of a mind fuck than it needs to be. Even if you're busy spouting the wisdom of the ages, don't blow off the massage or anything else that makes you feel good.

Capricorn
DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20
Young lovers, kids and the games you play enliven your Taurus house of fun, romance and risk. They also can raise the stakes and make recreation a more important factor in your life. As the sensuous Taurus sun, prosperous Jupiter and resourceful Mercury merge with your rock solid Saturn ruler, you'll tend to and play in your garden or grow a hobby into a business. Buy a team, coach a Pop Warner team, make more babies for the home team? An unusual way to pay for so much productivity pops up next weekend.

Aquarius
JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18
Considering a career in real estate, the restaurant biz or a mom-and-pop-type shop, say a flower farm? Seven planets at the bottom of your chart, the place where you lay your foundation, could be exerting undue influence. The last time Aquarians were under such pressure was 1962, before most of you were alive. Those who were might recall how radical things were, how swiftly the changes went down. Back then seven planets were in your sign, and your Uranus ruler in Leo opposed them all. Now Uranus is in your sign, challenged by seven Bulls, some laid-back, some snorting and raring to bust out.

Pisces
FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19
Like Libra, you can't resist the temptation this weekend to go all gooey while Venus and your dreamy Neptune ruler square. Chances are, you can't resist any temptation, not even the one to overdress. But you probably won't have to once Neptune turns retrograde on the 8th for the summer. There's a lot to distract you, to keep you up on the news, perhaps even to make some of it yourself. Writers, salespeople, anyone with media tie-ins, can extend their influence over their audience in the next ten days.

Aries
MARCH 20-APRIL 19
A confluence of planets in your Taurus money house is almost too much to consider. The sun joins generous Jupiter on the 7th, a time for expansion and exhaltation. Mercury's meeting with the giant planet as well as the sun Monday puts the proper words out there. However, when Mercury conjuncts Saturn on Tuesday, hopes could be dashed by a heavy dose of conservatism. More restrictions on the 10th, with a measure of shock thrown in simply because the sun is squaring electric Uranus at the same it conjuncts Saturn. If you make it to Mother's Day without blowing up, you should be fine.

Curious about the future? Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30 to 40+ pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise over the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $40 per report to ROCKIE GARDINER, 1021 N. Genesee Ave., #1, West Hollywood, CA 90046. *www.rockiehoroscope.com*. Read my daily forecast online at *www.laweekly.com*.

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men seeking women

Casual connection. Hello, I'm an attractive single male with sandy blonde hair, blue eyes, a nice build and a tall stature. I have a great personality, good smile and easy going. I am looking for an attractive single female to spend some fun casual times with. Box 28533

Professional male. Hi, this is Pete. I am a single male, 35, 5'8", 140 lbs., with black hair, brown eyes and a youthful look. Unfortunately, my professional career doesn't present a lot of opportunity for me to meet single women so I've been unable to meet that special someone. I am looking for a sexy single female with great sense of humor and a good personality. Box 28675

Casual relationship. Hello, this is Mannie. I'm a single male, 5'10" and I reside in the Boston area. I am physically fit and considered attractive. I am looking for an independent, open-minded single female for a casual but yet stimulating relationship. Box 28975

Alternative guy. Hi, this is a single male in the Boston area and I'm seeking a sexy female for long drives in the country and romantic dinners. I have an overactive imagination and I looking for an uninhibited female to join me in some fun. If you are smoker that's a plus. Box 28991

Life is too short. Hey beautiful girls. I'm a single Italian male, 5'8" and a terrific cook. I am looking for an attractive blonde female with a petite figure and a good personality. I enjoy everything and anything because life is too short to waste it on idle time so don't hesitate leave me a message. Box 29001

Friendship first. Hey ladies, my name is Eric. I'm a physically fit single male and I'm looking for a friendship first relationship. I have a variety of interests and I'm looking for the same in a female. Box 29010

Relaxed fit. Hi, this is Tom. I'm a single male, 37, 5'8", 170 lbs., and I'm looking for someone to hang out with. I'm interested in a casual relationship where we both can be comfortable in doing what we want when we want. I consider myself understanding, flexible and a good friend. Box 29012

Summer fun. My name is Greg and I'm a single male, 6', 180 lbs., with black hair and light brown eyes. I like to work out, going to the movies, dinners and having fun. I am looking for a single female to join me in the upcoming summer months for fun and good times.

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women seeking men

Girl next door. Hey guys, I'm a SBF, 6', 200 lbs., with brown hair, brown eyes and dimples. I enjoy going to the movies, sports, playing pool, bowling and relaxing at home. I consider myself to be a sweet, warm-hearted female. Box 2340

Shapely figure. Hi, this is Crystal. I'm a single female, 23, with red hair, blue eyes and a curvaceous full figure. I currently reside in the Milton area and I consider myself outgoing and spontaneous. I can get wild sometimes but when the situation calls for it I can be lady. Box 28690

Long-term relationship. Hello, I'm a single female, 32, 5'2", with brown hair and brown eyes. I am looking for a single male who is honest, hard working, down to earth and fun to be with. My interests are traveling, intimate dinners, movies and relaxing at home. I like children although I do not have any of my own. Box 28984

I'll be the twinkle in your eye. Hi, this is Sparkle. I'm a SBF, 5'5" and I'm a student. I am looking for a single male who is flexible and understanding with my demanding school schedule. I consider myself fun, out-going and goal oriented. Box 29044

Elegant and demure. Hello, this is Victoria. I'm a SBF and I'm looking for a strong SBM for friendship and possible dating. I prefer a gentleman who is sincere, honest, straightforward and no times for games. Box 29091

Great sense of humor. My name is Susan and I'm petite single female, 44, 5'2", 120 lbs., with light brown hair, blue eyes and a youthful look. I am sincere, down to earth, honest, I have a great sense of humor and I'm a lot of fun to be with. I am a nonsmoker and drinker and I am seeking a single male with similar qualities. Box 29097

Looking for that special someone. Hello, I'm an attractive single female, 5'7" with brown hair, green eyes and a shapely full figure. I enjoy a variety of music, dancing, reading, romantic evenings, and working out at the gym. I am looking for that special someone to fill my days and nights. Box 29109

Visit Nightline on the web at www.nightlinepersonals.com
and check out more local ads!

The Nightline service does not prescreen callers and assumes no responsibility for personal meetings. Callers must be 18 or over. Toll charges may apply. Optional paid services. Call for details.

improperazzi

The Improper Bostonian's client-related promotions and events

On Sunday, April 16th, **John Hancock Financial Services** sponsored the Pre Race Dinner for The Boston Marathon at **The Copley Plaza Hotel** where The Legendary **Beach Boys** performed a private concert.

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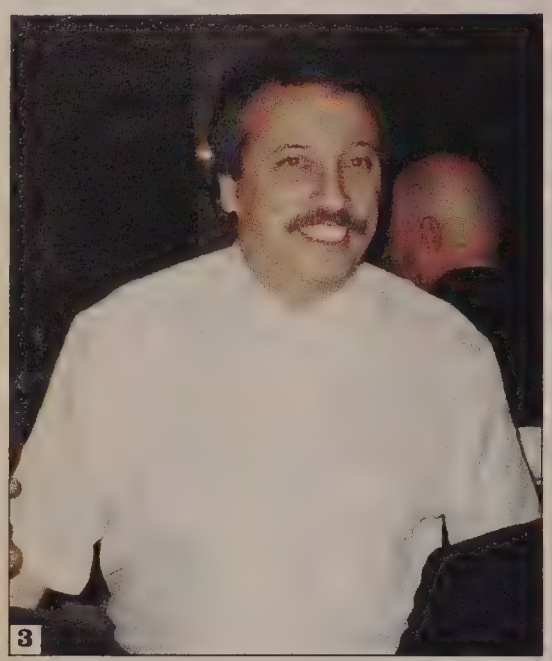
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1. **The Beach Boys**
2. **John Kelley**-participated in 61 Boston Marathons (winning in 1935 and 1945) and was the Grand Marshal for Boston Marathon 2000 with his companion, **Ginger Delong**
3. **David F. D'Alessandro**, President and CEO Elect for John Hancock Financial Services
4. **Mike Love**, lead singer for the Beach Boys
5. **Robert Marra**, Senior Vice President for John Hancock Financial Services with his wife Mary

1. Rodeo clowns: **Jim O'Neill, Celeste O'Neill, Shirley Simpson,** and **Bob Simpson.**
2. **Mary Convoy, Lorna Conneen**, and **Tracy Russell** of Dunkin Donuts with MTV VJ **Dave Holmes**.
3. **Ahmet Ertegen**, founder of Atlantic Records and **Allison Skye**.
4. **Paul Silvestri** of Kahlua, **Scott Amendola** of Gold Fork Restaurant, and **Brian Silvestri**.
5. **Fred Vining, Trey Hellowell,** and **Erich Buddenhagen** of BAIT FISH Productions.

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It was just a hop, skip and a jump from the **Boston Music Awards**, sponsored by **Kahlua** in association with **Dunkin Donuts Coolatta** and the ***Boston Herald***, to **The Alley** on Wednesday, April 12. Whether attendees were toting a Kahlua Boston Music Award or not, there were no losers at **Spin Magazine**'s post-party. Nominees, winners and performers packed the **Big Easy**'s dance floor all night.

5

BARS, CLUBS, RESTAURANTS & BRUNCH

The following are paid advertisements. Please check times and prices in advance. If you'd like to have your restaurant listed, please call The Improper Bostonian Advertising Dept. at 859-1400.

BARS

Billiards

Boston Billiard Club
126 Brookline Ave., 536-POOL. Ranked #1 in the country by Billiards Digest. Free lessons on Mon., 7:30 pm - 9 pm. Boston Billiard Club House Leagues on Mon. and Tues. "In The Biz" night on Sun. and Mon. for patrons in the hospitality industry. Ladies' night on Wed. Featuring a menu of light fare such as grilled chicken sandwiches and appetizers, along with beer, wine, cocktails and a variety of non-alcoholic beverages.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, The Allstonians and Beat Soup.

Brew Pubs

Back Bay Brewing Company
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center.
$7-$18. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Bi-level restaurant/brewery offers an inspirational pairing of outstanding innovative cuisine and award-winning ales and lagers. Upbeat first floor bar and café, second floor dining room and bar with comfortable couches and overstuffed chairs. Mon. - Sun. 11:30am - 1am. Brunch Sun. from 11am - 3pm.

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Company
138 Portland St., Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is now the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, a block from the FleetCenter and steps from Faneuil Hall, Commonwealth Fish & Beer features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

General

Dick's Last Resort
55 Huntington Ave., Prudential Center, Boston, 267-8080. www.dickslastresort. com. Dick's has live music 7 nights a week, no cover, no dress code and certainly no class. They have 74 kinds of beer for the novice or serious/ sudsman, or a full bar for the hard core. Dick's also is a restaurant of sorts with buckets of ribs, shrimp, lobster, chicken, catfish and crab legs. This is the place your Mama warned you about. Free parking after 5pm, cheap til 5 with validation.

The Good Life
Uptown - 99 St. Botolph St., 266-3030; Downtown - 28 Kingston St., 451-2622. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1999 Boston's Best Martini award. The Good Life is a retro lounge that Frank Dean and Sammy would have hung at. Big Drinks, Great American Comfort Food, Hot Jazz and Plenty of Boy Meets Girl. Never a cover, always a good time.

The Good Life In Swingin' Central Square
720 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, 617-868-8800, The winner of The Improper Bostonian's Best Martini Award 1999. Frank, Dean, and Sammy have a new hangout across the river. So should you. Come experience the power of three. Classic cocktails, great American comfort food, and Boston's Best Live Jazz. Never a cover, always a good time.

Harvard Gardens
316 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114, 617-523-2727. A wonderfully relaxed haven located opposite MGH on the back side of Beacon Hill. Serving the finest cocktails and most comfortable food in town. Plant yourself in a comfy booth, a cozy banquette, or at our fully loaded bar and escape from your everyday troubles. Doing it nice & easy 7 days a week - 11am-2am.

Pravda 116
116 Boylston St., 617-482-7799. Located in the heart of Boston's theater district. Pravda offers one of Boston's hottest night clubs, and extraordinary cuisine as well. Pravda boasts the longest bar in Boston, featuring a center ice surface to keep your cocktail cool. If sitting at the bar is not your forte, enjoy a meal at a private table in the dining room or in a plush, secluded booth. Chef Chris Parsons prepares exquisite dishes with the latest seasonal ingredients. Satisfied your hunger? Then feed your crave to rave in Pravda's newly remodeled dance club. DJ's spin high-energy dance music, create an ambiance that radiates with energy. Rest. Hrs: Tues&Wed 5:30-10:30pm, Thurs-Sat 5:30-11pm; Club Hrs: Thurs-Sat 10pm-2am.

Sweetwater Cafe
3 Boylston Place, 351-2515. A classic American bar featuring Boston's best bands and DJ's nightly. A favorite Boston bar for 15 years with two floors of entertainment, an outdoor patio and world class margaritas. Always great music and cold beer, never a dress code. Available for private functions of any kind. (Credit cards: Am Ex, Visa, MC, Diner's) Tues. - Sat. 5 pm - 2 am. Located in "The Alley."

The Big Easy Bar
1 Boylston Place, Boston, 351-7000. Informal. Located in Boston's version of Bourbon Street, "The Alley." The Big Easy Bar is a hot new New Orleans style bar featuring Boston's best live bands and disc jockeys nightly playing music you know and love. Relax in a lounge, listen to the band, play billiards, hang at the bar or dance the night away. The Big Easy Bar has something fun for everyone. Great beer selection, 22 oz. Hurricanes, 4 huge bars, 2 lounges, a balcony, plenty of seating, and a large dance floor. Wed. - Sat. 8 pm - 2 am. Major credit cards accepted. Valet parking available.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, The Allstonians and Beat Soup.

The Sugar Shack
1 Boylston Place, 351-2510. "Home of Boston's Best Party." Set in the middle of a mini-Bourbon Street, The Sugar Shack celebrates Mardi-Gras year-round with a carefree, reckless, spontaneous and unpretentious attitude. Carnival lights, confetti, beads, specialty drinks, live bands and Disc Jockeys playing classics, motown, R&B, funk, disco, and old school hip hop from the last three decades mixed with the best of today's top 40. Home of young professional, young alumni, 20 something hipsters who desire cold beer, cocktails, classic party tunes and unadulterated fun!!

Wine Bars

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar
105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-0966. The hip meeting spot in the Financial District for after work, dinner, late night, or a seductive tryst. The Vault offers some of the most exclusive wines in Boston, which complement the creative American Cuisine prepared by Chef Rebecca Esty. Can't decide on a wine? Relax and compare with our Tasting Flights featuring selections from different reds and whites. So what are you waiting for? Call an old friend, a client, or a co-worker and meet for cocktails at The Vault today.

RESTAURANTS

Back Bay Brewing Company
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center.
$7-$18. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Bi-level restaurant/ brewery offers an inspirational pairing of Chef Michael Burgess's innovative cuisine and Tod Mott's hand-crafted ales and lagers. Upbeat first floor bar and café, second floor dining room and bar with comfortable couches and overstuffed chairs. Sunday Buffet Brunch 11am - 3pm, $14.95. Mon. - Sun. 11:30am - 1am.

Cactus Club
939 Boylston St., 236-0200. Get a taste
of the Southwest in Boston. Specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, Cajun Catfish. Save 1/2 off entire menu Mon. - Fri., 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm in the bar. Sample the firewater menu while you are there, including Coyote Killer (Light and dark rum, peach schnapps, ginger beer and mixed juices), or a Chambord Margarita. The daring may go for a dip in the Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Amex, Diners Club, MC and Visa.

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138 Portland Street, Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, near the Fleet Center and Faneuil Hall, Commonwealth features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

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Jillian's Boston
Behind Fenway Park, 437-0300. Upscale 70,000 Sq. ft. megaplex of interactive entertainment. Play breakthrough interactive communication games, participate in a live game show & watch a giant video wall while dining on innovative American cuisine at Atlas Grill on Jillian's new 1st floor. Jillian's offers motion simulator rides, more than 250 cutting edge electronic & virtual reality games, 50 billiard tables, table tennis, & "just for fun" black jack. Five full bars & 50 TVs that broadcast sporting events. Great for late night dining & private parties 25-3000. Open Daily.

Kashmir
279 Newbury St., Boston, 536-1695. Kashmir has been raising the bar of Indian restaurants in quality, style and service since it opened. Its Best of Boston, Boston's Best and Readers' Choice awards are a result of great execution. Indoors in three elegantly styled dining rooms and outdoors on the best people watching corner in town, Kashmir serves the finest Tandoori and curry dishes and most imaginative specials and the best lunch and brunch buffet in town. Wine and beer are available as well as takeout, delivery, private parties and catering.

Ma Soba Asian Cuisine & Sushi
156 Cambridge Street on Beacon Hill, Boston, 973-6680. Enjoy premium sushi and Ma Soba's unique blend of contemporary and traditional Asian cuisine prepared by award-winning chefs. Relax with a fine wine selection from Ma Soba's comprehensive wine cellar in a setting described as "strikingly attractive and ultra urbane" by the Boston Herald. Open daily: Sun-Wed until 10:30pm, Thurs-Sat until 11:00pm. When in Harvard Square/ Cambridge, visit Ma Soba Express at 30 Dunster Street for quick-service pan Asian noodles and rice platters.

Shenandoah Restaurant, Marketplace Cafe, Brewskellar Pub
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston 227-1272. Located in the North Market Building of Faneuil Hall, Shenandoah Restaurant, The Marketplace Cafe, and Brewskellar Pub have something for everyone. Whether you're interested in a casual dinner on one of Boston's largest outdoor patios or the quiet more elegant surroundings of Shenandoah Restaurant, we offer it all. Having a function? We cater personally to all events you may be planning. Visit us soon and let us surprise you.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve both lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar
105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-9966. A wonderful secret hidden in Boston's Financial District. The Vault offers contemporary American cuisine and an extensive and exclusive affordable wine list. Come in and enjoy our new spring menu, including an expanded raw bar, Maine crab cakes, seared tuna and much more. Lunch Mon. - Fri. from 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Dinner Mon. - Wed. from 5:30 - 10:30 pm, Thurs. - Sat. from 5:30 - 11 pm. Closed Sun.

Venezia
Venezia Restaurant & Function facility. Boston's "hidden jewel" offers romantic and intimate waterfront dining, spectacular views of the Boston skyline. European casual elegance and a unique blend of northern Italian and Mediterranean cuisine. Live entertainment and dancing in our lounge on weekends. Just off of Neponset Circle, open for lunch Mon. - Fri.; dinner every night. Call for daily specials and information 617-436-3120

The Wrap & Smoothie Bar
137 Mass Ave., Boston (at Berklee School of Music), 369-9087; 71 Mt. Auburn St., Harvard Square, 354-5838; 1940 Beacon St., Cleveland Circle, 739-0340; 82 Water St., Financial District, 357-9013. The Wrap serves delicious, freshly prepared wraps, burritos and salads as well as healthy and refreshing smoothies. Voted Boston's Best 1998 & 1999 by The Improper Bostonian. Fresh ingredients, great taste, healthy options - words we live by!

BRUNCH

Anago
65 Exeter Street, Boston, 266-6222. Anago, in the historic Lenox Hotel, presents a live Sunday Brunch from 11-2pm, prepared by Boston's whiz kid chef, Jamie "Shaky" Liberge, featuring a sumptuous buffet of appetizers with exquisite freshly baked desserts and breads created by award winning pastry chef, Lee Napoli, to accompany your choice of exceptional entree selections. Reservations are recommended.

Back Bay Brewing Company
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Featuring Chef Michael Burgess's Neo-Continental selections, including Eggs Benedict with Canadian bacon & herbed hollandaise, blueberry pancakes with almond maple syrup, omelet station, French toast, roasted meat carving station, house smoked salmon, and assorted desserts. Sunday Brunch Buffet 11 am - 3 pm. $14.95

Dick's Last Resort
55 Huntington Ave., Prudential Center, Boston, 267-8080. www.dickslastresort. com. Sundays, Dick gets religion and has a Heavenly Gospel Brunch from 10am to 3pm, serving fruit, salads, eggs benedict, fried chicken with a ham and roast beef station. Help yourself to the waffle or omelet stations and dessert bar and listen to old fashion uplifting live gospel music. Open for Lunch, Dinner and late night entertainment 7 days a week, no cover.

Museum of Science - Skyline Room
Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston, MA 02114. Reptiles: Real and Robotic, through May 29. Enjoy Sunday brunch in the beautiful Skyline Room overlooking the Charles River at noon, then experience the amazing Mugar Omni Theater: Dolphins and Mysteries of Egypt, through June, at 2pm. Tickets are $28 for Adults, $26 for Seniors/Children. Brunch only is $20.
On-site parking is included. Reservations recommended, call (617)723-2500.

The Wrap & Smoothie Bar
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MISC.

Sports

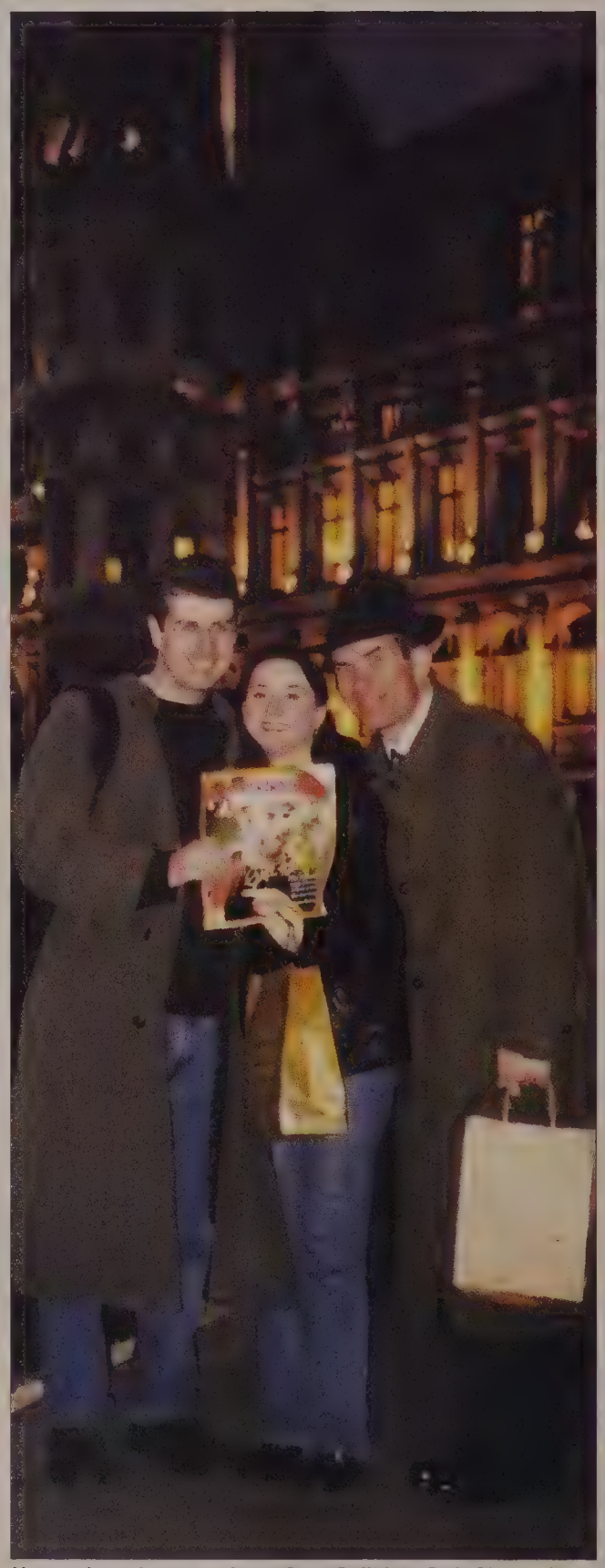
Boston Paintball
131 Beverly St., Boston, 742-6612. The rules are simple. There are teams and everyone has paintball guns. You are inside of a large warehouse (near the Boston Garden). They are firing balls straight at you. You scream, dodge, hide, wipeout and have a blast!!! Great for bachelor/bachelorette parties, corporate outings, birthday parties, and much more.

Improper Sightings

Unlike the rest of your friends, we want to see the photos from your next trip.

Where do you take us? We want to know! Send us a picture of you or a friend, or better yet, someone famous reading THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN and tell us where you were. The more creative you are, the faster we'll publish your pic! (Hey, we have no shame!)

While sunning himself during spring break from Tufts Medical School, Peter Kaye finds a new use for the film issue at South Beach, Miami.



Harvard graduate students Scot Gallaher, Deb Gist and Mark Wood had their favorite reading material with them outside the Hotel de Ville in Paris on New Year's Day.

Script writer Laura Bernieri takes leave of her Andover home to visit Toronto, bringing an IMPROPER, of course.

Murray and Roz Smith pose with travel companions Bea and Bob Marlow in Queenstown, New Zealand, after a cable-car ride to view Bob's Peak and the Remarkables. The four are from Medford.

Touring Boston rockers The Pills take a mid-set break at Spain's Casa del Loco club in Zaragoza to check out the spring fashions in their favorite hometown magazine.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:
Consuming an alcohol-soaked worm after downing a few tequila shots in Mexico City during the Cinco de Mayo festivities.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02116. Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail and photo location. All photos become the property of *The Improper Bostonian Magazine* and will not be returned.

CLASSIFIEDS

GENERAL CLASSIFIEDS

TAKE A TOUR
Stop just thinking about owning your own business! Take your first step & tour our Boston office! Prime territories are still avail. in Boston suburbs. Call to learn about an industry that's growing 20% annually, 617-742-8787, exit.225

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Start your own part time business and get paid everytime people use services such as internet, wireless, and long distance. 617-747-4452

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Earn up to $500 per week assembling products at home. No experience.
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DATING

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Date fellow graduates & faculty of the Ivies, Seven Sisters, Williams, Amherst, Bowdoin, Wesleyan, Middlebury, MIT and a few others. 800-988-5288
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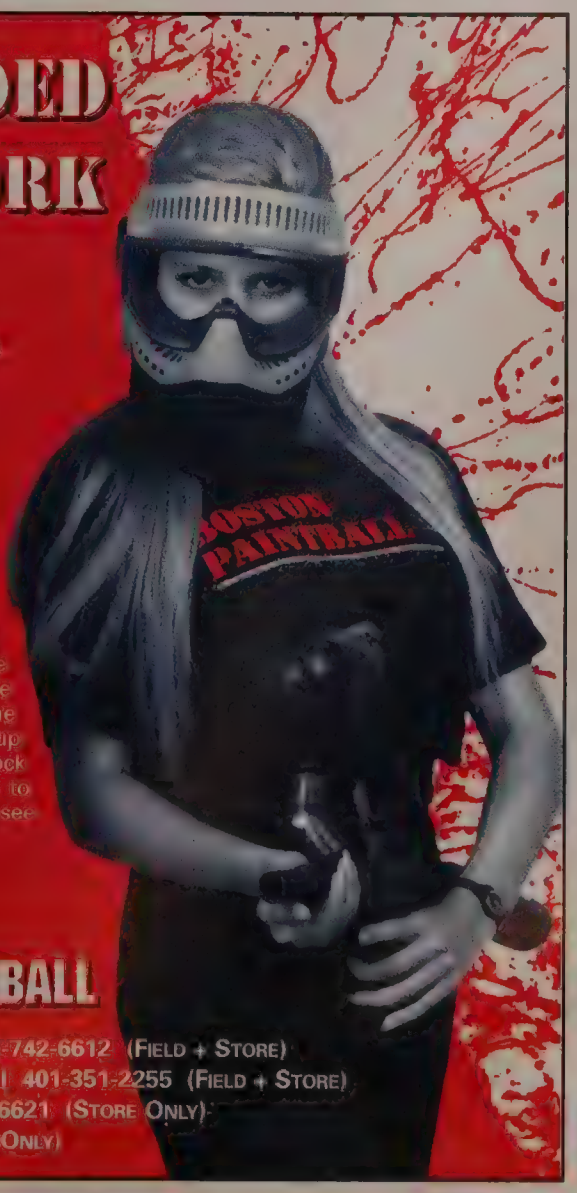


The rules are simple. Capture the other team's flag before they capture yours. But there's a catch. They have guns. They're firing paintballs straight at you. And if you're hit, you're out of the game. It's the ultimate in after-office entertainment. We provide the equipment. We offer special group discounts. And we're just one block from The FleetCenter. Call today to arrange your special event. And see your boss in a whole new way.

Gift Certificates Available

BOSTON PAINTBALL

131 Beverly St. Boston, MA 617-742-6612 (Field + Store)
1428 Hartford Ave. Johnston, RI 401-351-2255 (Field + Store)
Rt. 9 Framingham, MA 508-879-6621 (Store Only)
101 Main St. Salem, NH (Store Only)

HELP WANTED

BOSTON'S FASTEST GROWING MAGAZINE IS HIRING:

Senior Account Executive

Experienced self starter with proven track record sought. Must have a minimum of 4 years in media sales with a reputable organization and thorough industry knowledge. Strong organizational, planning and leadership skills a must. Excellent compensation package.

Junior Account Executive

The ideal opportunity for an accomplished business-to-business sales rep to break into a career in media and magazine publishing. Strong organizational, planning, written and verbal skills are a must. Join a great team!

Send cover letter, resume and salary history attention:
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN
ATTN: HR
142 BERKELEY ST., 3rd FLOOR
BOSTON, MA 02116-3819
or fax: 617.859.1446
or email: HR@improper.com

THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN

Last Scene Here

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Beyond Shelter attendees at Avalon from top: Eric Case and Jim Aptekar; Patrick Lyons. At Let Freedom Sing! from top: Alysyn Camerota and Coco Grace; Hollis Colby and Tom Kershaw; Upton Bell and his Superbowl ring

Follow the Red Brick Sidewalk....

Let Freedom Sing! was a major wing-ding to support the **Freedom Trail Foundation**, held at the **Copley Plaza Hotel**. In addition to providing access to the city's biggest Whigs, the event featured cocktails and dinner, along with performances by The Inspirational Freedom Choir, the MJT Dance Company, the Freedom Trail Players and assorted, multi-talented others.

Present and accounted for: the evening's honoree, Hizzonah **Tom Menino**, Channel 5 grand poobah **Paul LaCamera** and his lovely wife, **Mimi**, foundation chair and top Globe-ule **William O. Taylor**, the **Rev. Stephen Ayres** (vicar of the Old North Church), media mogul **Tim Montgomery**, Republican publican **Tom Kershaw** of Cheers, squiring the exquisite **Hollis Colby**, tourism topdog **Pat Moscaritolo**, radio and TV personality **Upton Bell** (wearing the 1970 Super Bowl ring he won with the Colts) and so on and so forth, throughout the rolodex of influential and civic-minded people who insure that our revolutionary past is preserved for our touristical present.

"Just think," said one guest, marveling at the assembled company. "It takes all this muscle to keep a red line painted down the middle of the sidewalk."

Food, Glorious Food...

As always, **Beyond Shelter** was beyond fabulous, as the city's top chefs created a gastronomic Tour De Boston at **Avalon** to benefit **Friends of Boston's Homeless**.

Spotted among the throng: uber-chef **Gordon Hamersley**, former DNC chairman **Steve Grossman**, Back Bay bachelor **Bob Palmer**, kings of the nightlife jungle **Patrick** and **John Lyons**, TV and film director **Richard Tilkin**, newlywed restaurateur **Jim Aptekar** of Veronique, and his chef, **Eric Cares**, Ms. Fix-It, **Mindy D'Arbeloff**, activist extraordinaire **John Rosenthal**, lunachick **Kiki Mills**, and lots of people saying things like, "That's spicy-spicy," "I'm deathly allergic to avocado," and "We came together, because she doesn't eat fish, and I don't eat anything else."

Stunning 2BR in Prestigious Neighborhood...

Forget about mousetraps—How do you build a better birdhouse? Invite the area's top architects to design them, which is what **Shelter, Inc.**, a charity for the homeless, did for their 25th anniversary gala at the **Boston Center for the Arts**.

Emceed by comic-gone-legit **Jimmy Tingle** of *60 Minutes II*, the evening featured an elegant-and-then-some dinner, followed by silent and live auctions of designer birdhouses—some functional, some not (unless the bird in question has a maid to tidy up).

Among the offerings: a near-exact, finch-scale replica of Frank Lloyd Wright's *Falling Water*, complete with a working waterfall, and a Palladian villa that would've made the perfect starter house for a pair of chikadees, assuming they could afford the mortgage. The irony of auctioning elaborate avian shelters to raise money for humans who have none was not lost on the crowd, which included such luminaries as designer **Carlos Lopez**, who created a birdhouse with colleague **Stephen Magilocco** that went for the highest bid ($2,200) Carlos' sister, Superior Court judge **Maria Lopez**, Skinner auctioneer **Karen Keane**, non-profit babes **Shiela Moore** and **Jodi Wolin** of Casa Myrna Vasquez, talk radio's voice of reason, **Christopher Lydon**, design guru **Graham Gund** and wife **Ann** and one guest who said, "I would've bid on one of the birdhouses, except that none of them were squirrel-proof."

At Literary Lights annual fundraiser for the Boston Public Library: clockwise from top, Kasey Kaufman, Michael Horwitz, Marilyn and Jolin Keane; Clare Dalton and Robert Reich; Ike Williams; Michael Patrick MacDonald and Dennis Lehane

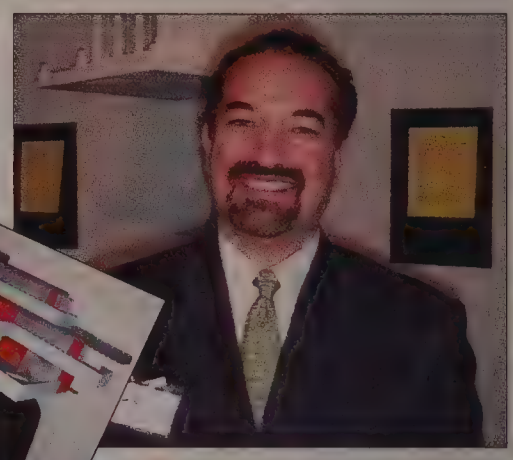
A Free for All to Keep It Free to All...

If **Literary Lights** is any indication, the written word is alive and well and living right around the corner from you.

An annual fundraiser for the **Associates of the Boston Public Library**, the dinner to honor writers from the Boston area drew the usual slew of bibliophiles, publishing types, socialites and professional scribblers, among them: philanthropist and fashionista **Barbara Jordan**, gallery owners **Karen and Michael Rotenberg**, mystery writer **Dennis Lehane** (author of *Prayers for Rain* and *Gone, Baby, Gone*), *Southie* survivor **Michael Patrick MacDonald** (the first author to be named a literary light on the basis of a single book—*All Souls: A Family Story From Southie*), art supplies mogul **Lionel Spiro** and his swanlike other half, board chair **Vivian**, committee co-chairs **Berneda Meeks**, **Anita Lincoln** and **Joanie Kingsley**, restaurateur **Debbie Lewis** and travel titan **Bob Grinberg**, party stalwarts **Steve** and **Lois Kunian**, suburban socialites **Todd** and **Sally Wellman** (in a stunning pink Armani gown), social satirist **Tom Perrotta**, patron lady bountiful **Rosalie Cohen** and her avuncular other half, **Bert**, Southern magnolia blossom **Jane Denis**, Chestnut Hillion **Kathy Taylor**, Palmer and Dodge partner and agent-to-the-stars **Ike Williams**. Following cocktails and hors d'ouevres, dinner and kibbitzing, former Clinton cabinet member **Robert Reich** kept the crowd in stitches with his keynote speech.

"I feel so foolish. I haven't read a single thing by any of the authors," whispered one guest.

"It's OK," said her date. "I won't report you to the *New York Times Book Review*." IB



At Shelter Inc. charity gala event at the BCA: from top, Carlos Lopez and his birdhouse, *Falling Water*; Jodi Wolin and Shiela Moore

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE

VOLUME IX, ISSUE 11

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Reach the Beach: the area's sandiest strips near and far

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On the Cover: Photograph for THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN by **Britt Carpenter**

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letters

Weilling and Able

I read your Kurt Weill column (in the "Boston's Beloved Bartenders" issue). It is odd that he is not being honored locally. Last spring Leslie Holmes did a program of Kurt Weill songs called *The Evolution of Kurt Weill*—we were ahead of the curve here at the CCAE.

WILL MCMILLAN
Cambridge Center for Adult Education

Blast from the Past

As a faithful reader, I've been meaning to write for some time to say how much I look forward to Ezra's column. As a native of Damariscotta, Maine, one town over from Ezra's hometown, I roared with laughter over his chronicles of driving a Big Truck with Maine plates down here in "Bright Lights" (as Boston is not-so-affectionately known by the folks back home). While reading of his drunken birthday exploits, I smiled, remembering (barely) the birthday when I finally got up to leave the bar I left my shoes behind, neatly tucked under the bar. I never did get them back.

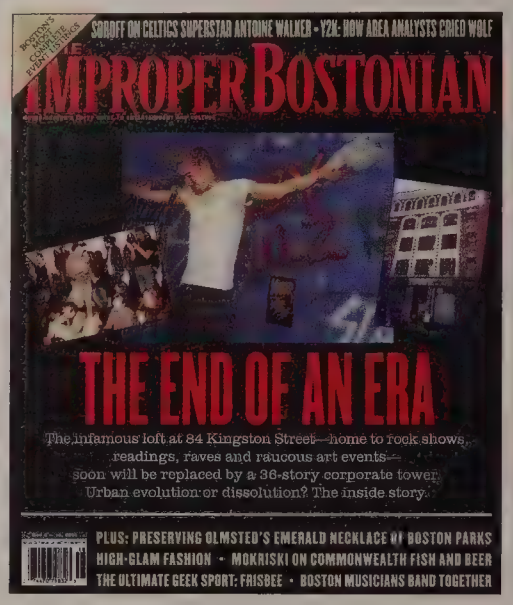
His last column really hit home. Two weeks ago, I came home to find that an uninvited guest had climbed through my window and relieved me of my mountain bike, jewelry, leather jacket, camera and even my Blockbuster video rentals. Fortunately, he left the cat behind. Needless to say, there's not much to laugh about in such a situation ... leave it to Ezra to find the humor. Thanks for making me laugh.

P.S. To the filthy thief: The small Ziploc bag with the green stuff you stole from my desk was *catnip*, you idiot.

MELISSA CHADWICK
NORTH QUINCY

Fringe Benefits

I read your article on the demolition of the Kingston Street lofts with a mixture of dismay and bemusement. More than anything else, the replacement of



"It would be a mistake to see the destruction of the Kingston Street lofts solely as an ending... It's always been this way. Time to move on and find shelter from the Man somewhere else. It shouldn't be too hard."

—Timothy Nichols
Braintree

creativity with corporativity seems to be an inevitable occurrence, not only "these days" but throughout history. The gentrification of Davis Square, which you've touched upon in recent issues, recalls the same process of change that Greenwich Village underwent in the '60s and '70s. The rules of society have cast artists in the roles of explorers, discoverers, innovators and builders, paving the way for the general populace to follow, should they so choose. Unfortunately, this time around, the populace has settled down comfortably upon Kingston Street in the way a corpulent dowager settles comfortably down on her pet Pekinese, smothering it not by design, but by the natural course of events over which we have no control. The artists follow their muses, the people follow the artists.

It would be a mistake to see the destruction of the Kingston Street lofts solely as an ending. "One Lincoln Center" may have destroyed the building, but its inhabitants, wherever they end up, will continue to do the same things they did there, in different places, and with different people. It's always been this way. Time to move on and find shelter from the Man somewhere else. It shouldn't be too hard.

TIMOTHY NICHOLS
Braintree

As a former resident of 84 Kingston Street, it was somewhat surreal to see the old building on the cover of the IMPROPER. Your story definitely covered the human interest side of things very well, but I suspect there is quite another story behind how the deal was made to knock this hundred-year-old building down. Suffice it to say, given the character and the age of the building, this probably wouldn't have happened in New York.

It was an incredible learning experience building walls, putting in wiring, plumbing and generally building a place to live. Oh, and where else could you have gotten 6,000 square feet (in the heart of downtown) for two and a half grand a month? 84 Kingston Street will be missed by many people in this city, not just by the residents.

SETH LAMBERT
Via e-mail

In light of the trouble that the arts community at the Bad Girrls Studio is having, I appreciated reading about the troubles that the folks over on Kingston Street had to deal with—the article was quite timely, very informative and much appreciated Thanks a lot.

DAN BOLTON
Somerville

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Contributors

Britt Carpenter

The extraordinarily talented camera-weilding man behind this issue's cover shoot and fashion spread is New York-based fashion and celebrity photographer Britt Carpenter, whose clients include *Teen People*, *Marie Claire*, *Time Out New York* and Tommy Hilfiger. "For the fashion shoot in this issue," he says, "I enjoyed being able to pull the elements of the outside, such as sand and sun, into a controlled environment for beauty."

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IMPROPERSPEAKING

DUH

Nothing gets by the Inside Track watch dogs, Gayle Fee and Laura Raposa.

You have to hand it to the *Boston Herald*'s Inside Track tag team of **Gayle Fee** and **Laura Raposa** for last month's exposing of the incredibly boneheaded move undertaken by the rival *Globe*'s development reporter **Anthony Flint**. They caught Flint in a flagrant conflict of interest: applying for a fellowship at Harvard's graduate school of design—while asking those he covered, including **Mayor Thomas Menino** and former **Boston Redevelopment Authority** head **Thomas O'Brien**, for letters of recommendation. Flint even wrote a warm and fuzzy piece about O'Brien's new life in the private sector as he was pulling in recommendation letters. Flint was busted back down to the business section for his efforts, and *Globe* staffers received a memo from Metro editor **Peter Canellos** acknowledging that Flint had engaged in a "serious error in judgment." As the fearsome twosome aptly remarked at the time, "Duh." Flint, meanwhile, has been accepted at Harvard and should probably start looking for a new job.

But then you had to wonder at the silence coming out of Herald Square a week later when *Herald* editors essentially censured consumer reporter **Robin Washington** for his series of stories on **FleetBoston**'s usurious use of ATM fees to bolster revenues. Everyone from here to Poughkeepsie knows full well that Fleet is a major advertiser at the cash-strapped *Herald*—and that the bank has been mercilessly gouging customers via ATM fees for over a year as a way to recoup costs associated with its merger with BankBoston. Is there any connection between Washington's censure and the *Herald*'s Fleet business? "Duh." Or as **Claude Raines** put it much more eloquently in that memorable exchange in Casablanca nearly 60 years ago: "I'm shocked, shocked, to find that there is gambling going on in this establishment."

"Here are your winnings, sir."

"Thank you."

A DOG'S LIFE

Say what you will, but some dogs just don't lead dog's lives.

Regan, the eponymous 9-month-old golden retriever owned by Boston PR guru **George Regan**, has been leading the life of a king—or at least eating like one.

Regan's employees (and we leave it for you to decide who's really running the show here) have been directed to use company trade dollars at local restaurants to get the dog fed. Canine Regan has been chowing down on $20 steaks from **Joe's American Bar and Grille** on Newbury Street and $32 filets mignon from other joints since recovering from a bad case of worms late last year. And what instructions do the employees give the restaurant staff when they ask for the doggy bag: Rare, please...and cut it up into small pieces.

Regan gives Joe's Grille two paws up.

But we wonder: Despite outward appearances of munificence, is such a high-protein, red meat diet really all that great for a puppy? We defer to the able docs at Angell Memorial.

TURMOIL

Meanwhile, look for some new names and faces across town at the *Globe*'s gossip page—**Names & Faces**. Former music critic **Jim Sullivan**, who joined the page only five months ago, has filed a grievance with the newspaper's union because he reportedly despises writing for the largely mindless column. And **Beth Carney**, the other Names & Faces writer, is on her way out, having set her sights on a move overseas.

Neither Sullivan nor Carney returned phone calls from THE IMPROPER seeking comment.

WHO'S ON FIRST?

Confusion seems to be reigning supreme in the office-hunting department in the state Republican party. Back in January (and again last month) **Gov. Paul Cellucci** said the state GOP was going to go all out to capture congressional seats in the coming fall elections. So far the party has managed to field one serious candidate—in the first district—which is on the other side of Springfield and, therefore, doesn't really count.

So far, no good for state Republican Party candidates for the fall elections.

THE IMPROPER decided to do a little checking: Some 75 percent of the 40 senate and 160 house seats are so far uncontested, according to the Secretary of State's office. And since the GOP now controls only seven senate seats and 27 house seats, does this really bespeak anything approaching progress?

A QUESTION OF TEXTURE

Congressman **Joe Moakley** (D-South Boston) celebrated his 73rd birthday last month by taking 30 members of his congressional and campaign staffs out to dinner at **Anthony's Pier 4**. His way of celebrating consisted of consuming a three-pound lobster at the tourist-infested fish emporium. All of which raises two questions:

Sen. Joe Moakley (right) with his district director Fred Clark and the unfortunate crustacean.

Why does he even have a campaign staff? (No one of note has run against him in 20 years.) And what was he doing with a three-pound lobster? Any born-and-bred Southie should know that anything over a pound and a quarter has the texture of the inside of your grandmother's mattress.

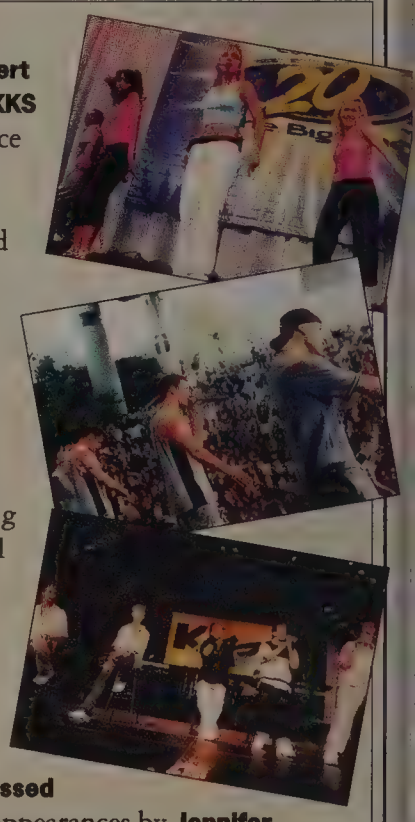
WELCOME BACK, UH, LEARY

Former WCVB-TV anchor **Brian Leary** (above right), now working in a more cerebral field as the co-head of an Internet company, last month made his first public appearance since leaving Channel 5. (Was it **Heather Kahn**'s occasional pea-green suits that made him leave? we often ask). Leary served as auctioneer at a live auction fund-raiser for Boston Catholic Charities' **Laboure Center**, which serves about 6,000 people in South Boston and Dorchester. It was the 18th annual fund-raiser for the center, and Leary helped raise money for daycare, counseling, emergency assistance, after-school programs and a visiting nurses program. Leary made his appearance just in the nick of time: Just two weeks before the fund-raiser, the center caught fire, and the building is currently unusable and undergoing renovations. All of which makes you think: Hey, this guy doesn't have to go out glad-handing for a TV station anymore. Proof that good people (even those with embarrassing 1950s cowlick hairdos) are actually out there raising money for good causes just because it's the right thing to do. And we're all the better for it. **IB**

Speaking of Boston

Got an inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to speaking@improper.com

PARTY ALL NIGHT



The all-day and all-night **Kiss Concert 2000**, sponsored by radio station **WXKS** (107.9-FM) every year, will take place this time around on June 3.

What they call "The VIP After-Party" (when does a party get so old you have to have one afterwards to start things up again?) will unfold at **Avalon** on Lansdowne Street. This year, though, the official after-party for the general public will take place at **The Palace** in Saugus, which we will not refer to this week as the favorite home of big hair and high heels. The Palace will have two bands from the KISS show that afternoon—**Eiffel 65** and **Sonique**, but other acts included in the fest over the airwaves will be **Christina Aguilera** (be still my heart), **Goo Goo Dolls**, **Macy Gray**, **Bon Jovi**, **Third Eye Blind**, **Blessed Union of Souls**, along with special appearances by **Jennifer Lopez** and **Don Henley**, best known in these parts as the self-appointed land conservancy executor of **Henry David Thoreau**.

At last year's concert: (from top to bottom) Britney Spears, 98° and N'Sync.

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CITY LIMITS

Good stuff, glamour and goings-on

BY ERIN HAGEDORN AND JULIE SHORT

New in Town

OUT OF AFRICA

You might be skeptical about a place that went from offering Ethiopian cuisine (under the name Blue Nile) to Latin cuisine (under the name Blue Nile) and just recently went back to Ethiopian fare (under the name Fasika). Don't be—it's terrific. Although co-owners Elena Haile and Befekdu Defer have been serving it up in this Jamaica Plain location for some 10 years, from a culinary viewpoint, they've finally hit the spot.

"The area wasn't ready for Ethiopian back then," says Haile. "People's tastes have changed—now they want diverse, spicier food." You'll definitely find a wide variety on this menu—and plenty of it is devilishly hot. When we visited, we were seated at a *mosobe*, a traditional woven-straw table. Chef Yemneh sent out a platter with *injera*, the traditional spongy flatbread, lined with brightly colored samples of all the vegetarian entrees—from spicy red lentils to vegetable curry. "Everything on the menu is made from scratch," says Haile, who recommends newcomers start with a combo platter like this—with or without meat—or her favorite, the buttery Ethiopian chicken.

Beyond savoring the exotic flavors, take perverse pleasure in eating with your fingers. We did. *23 South Huntington St., J.P. (731-3833). MBTA: E Green Line to Heath Street. 4-11:30pm. Entrees range from $6.75 to $10.*

Full Service

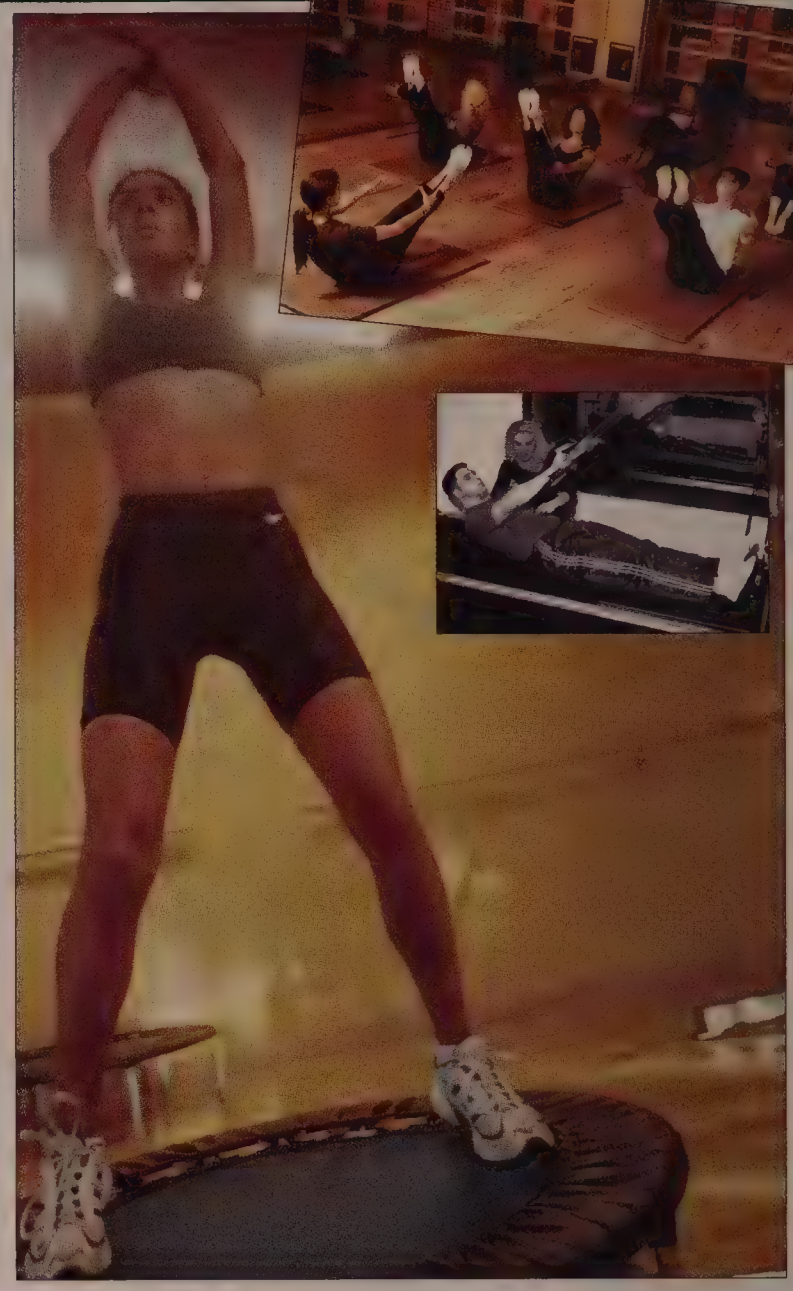
FIT FADS

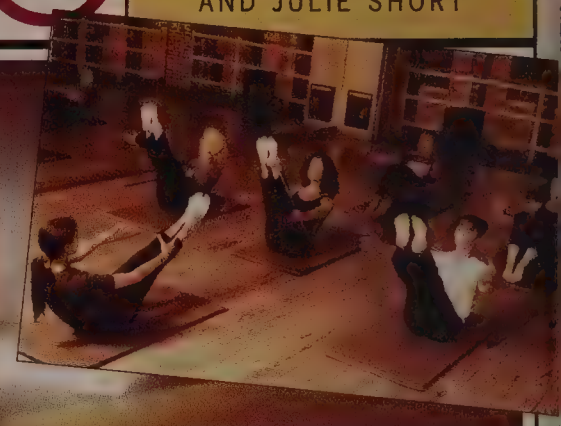
Looking to shape up for summer, 21st-century style? Well don't expect to find any old-school Jane Fonda-style fitness around town. Take **HealthWorks'** new **urban Rebounding** classes, for example. Here, you'll find a room of women bouncing up and down to music on mini trampolines. "It's an extremely intense workout with no stress or impact," says Maria Vachon, aerobics director of the women's gym.

Although urban rebounding is, as yet, unavailable to men, over at **Boston Body**, guys are getting trendy—and buff—alongside women with **pilates** classes (see insets). Focusing on stretching and strengthening core muscles using proper form on machines and mats, pilates "is ideal for a person who wants to work out really hard with no muscle strain," says club owner Zayna Gold.

Meanwhile, the fitness gurus over at **Boston Athletic Club** are taking classes outside with "real world" exercises—like sprints in the sand, running up stadium steps and pushups against a wall. "Our members love getting outdoors and doing something different," says Michelle Donovan, the club's group fitness director. (One might ask: Do such activities require a club membership?)

Although urban rebounding classes or "real world" exercises may have "fad" written all over them, if they entice you to work up a sweat, who cares? *Boston Athletic Club (269-4300), Boston Body (269-3333), Healthworks (497-4454).*





All the Buzz

STAR POWER

'Tis the season of caps and gowns, which inevitably sends colleges and universities across the nation scrambling to bring in big-name graduation speakers.

Locally, this year's got its clearcut winners and losers. As far as Hollywood glam goes, the winners are certainly Worcester State, which managed to woo **Danny Glover**, and Tufts, which nabbed perennial funny guy **Bill Cosby.**

Cleaning up in the old news category are UMass Amherst for bringing in tennis champ **Billie Jean King**, and Simmons for settling on **Anita Hill.** Elsewhere, Bentley College is welcoming the role model of **Ted Kennedy** (no comment). Another Ted, this one a **Turner**, graced Emerson on May 15, and Brandeis will welcome **Desmond Tutu** on the 21st. As for the too-cool-for-school awards, the hands-down winner is Berklee College of Music for VH1 president and CEO **John Sykes.**

But the big winner, hands-down, is Middlesex Community College, which snatched up "actor" **Andrew Shue** (left). How can you beat words of wisdom delivered by Billy, the beefcake from *Melrose Place*.

QUICK HIT

Musician Juliana Hatfield performed at all 21 Newbury Comics stores throughout New England, May 10-16. And on the eighth day, she rested.

Around Town

DOG DAYS

Whether you enjoy playing with dogs or chomping on the edible hot variety, May 21 has got cooked and uncooked doggie activities galore. The Eddie Andelman's Hot Dog Safari at Suffolk Downs has become a spring tradition of all-you-can-eat mystery meat, as thousands of people gather to sample some 90,000 hot dogs from 12 different companies. If the idea of a frankfurter fest leaves you barking up the wrong tree, check out *pets.com*'s outdoor "festival for pets and their people"—a doggone delight for canines. Enjoy shopping, dining, entertainment and pooch-friendly activities like the Chew the Shoe Pile, Doggy Day Spa, Bone Yard and the Canine Couture doggie fashion show. *The Hot Dog Safari is May 21, 9am-4pm, $15. Dog Day Afternoon, May 21, 12-5pm, at Bunker Hill Community College, benefits animal shelters and AIDS welfare organizations.*

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Soroff/On

Kelsey Grammer

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Iconic TV star and classically trained thespian Kelsey Grammer was born on St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands and raised in New Jersey and Florida. After two years at Juilliard, he joined the Old Globe Theater in San Diego, performing works by Shakespeare and Shaw. After years of appearing in regional productions and in several Broadway shows, he branched into television, where his credits include numerous soap operas, dramas and sitcoms. In 1984, he joined the cast of *Cheers* as Dr. Frasier Crane—a role he parlayed into the stunningly successful sitcom *Frasier.* During his past hiatus, he completed the film *Fifteen Minutes*, and from May 17-28, he will star as Macbeth at the Colonial Theater in Boston. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Camille, and his daughter.

Jonathan Soroff: *That voice! I'd recognize it anywhere. When you call to order a pizza, do they instantly know who you are?*

Kelsey Grammer: Well, usually when I order something with a credit card by phone, they say, "Name?" And I'll say "Grammer." "First name?" "Kelsey." And then they say, "Oh my God! It does sound like you."

JS: *How much do you get paid for doing voice-over work?*

KG: I never discuss money.

JS: *OK. How about the silliest paycheck you ever earned?*

KG: Thirty-two cents for a foreign rerun of *One Life to Live.*

JS: *Favorite line from* Macbeth?

KG: Oh, Lord. I suppose if you're in the audience, it would be "If it were done when 'tis done."

JS: *Macbeth's a psychotic Scotsman with a socially ambitious sociopath for a wife...*

KG: Actually, I think of him as just a really great guy who took one big wrong turn—namely, listening to his wife.

JS: *You play a shrink on TV. Do people ever ask you for advice in real life?*

KG: Y'know, people have been asking me to solve their problems for years, and I keep telling them "You've come to the wrong person."

JS: *When someone in an argument says "Don't psychoanalyze me!" Don't you think that means you've hit the nail on the head?*

KG: I suppose that's true, but that's sort of last decade's phrase. Now it's turned into "You're just projecting."

JS: *Sexiest woman you've ever done a love scene with?*

KG: (Laughs.) Onstage, in *Troilus and Cressida*, an actress who shall remain nameless came on with one breast hanging out, and I was a very young man at the time, so this to me seemed like one of the best things that had ever happened.

JS: *Most embarrassing performing experience?*

KG: That would be passing gas in *The Winter's Tale*. I was supposed to rescue the dying princess, and we staged a little dance, and as I lifted her up, I let go, and of course, the rest of the cast couldn't contain themselves.

JS: *One thing the public would be shocked to learn about you?*

KG: Gosh, anything that would shock the public they've already heard. There pretty much isn't anything left.

JS: *Yeah, you're sort of a favorite bad boy of the tabloids. What's the most outrageous lie you've ever read about yourself?*

KG: That I was having an affair with the hostess at the China Club in L.A., and they ran a picture of me, claiming I was there when I was actually on a boat in Mexico. It was a pretty neat trick: Somehow, I was able to fly off the boat, sneak into the restaurant and get back quickly enough that my then-girlfriend never found out. I was quite impressed with myself.

JS: *Favorite thing about Boston?*

KG: Well, my very dear friend Andy Moes is one of them, but other than that, the spirit. There's an enthusiasm that's rare in a northern city.

JS: *Ted Danson's hairpiece—is it as bad as it looks on TV?*

KG: (Laughs.) Well, I would advise him to not wear it, but, hey, what the hell.

JS: *So what happened to Shelley Long's career?*

KG: I saw her the other day at UCLA. I have no idea what she was doing there. But there was this interesting idea that she should come onto *Frasier* as Niles' girlfriend. It never happened.

JS: *Agree or disagree: your character from the* Simpson's*—Sideshow Bob—is one of the finest dramatic characters ever written in the English language.*

KG: I would agree. He is one of the truly great heroic villains of all time. He's up there with Cruella DeVille. I'm very, very proud to have played him.

JS: *So you were expelled from Juilliard? What's up with that?*

KG: I like to think of it as being disinvited. Basically, I wasn't going to class, wasn't showing up. They said, "Hey, Kelse, you gotta go." So I did.

JS: *You're the first actor in TV history to be nominated for seven Emmys doing one character on three different series {*Cheers, Wings *and* Frasier*}, and you won a bunch of 'em.*

KG: Awww, I only won three.

JS: *So where do you keep them?*

KG: There's a little shelf, appropriately placed in my home, with lighting effects, and the music swells as you approach it.

JS: *Any funny stories from your stay at the Betty Ford Clinic?*

KG: Y'know, it's fun to go there. You take hikes in the morning, you eat three meals a day—you do stuff you haven't done since you were a kid. So it's actually like going to camp. Sure, there's all this painful self-examination and all that kinda crap, but I actually had a very nice time. It's like when people ask how jail was. Jail was the nicest break in my life up to that point. Funny stories? I don't know. I did think the flag was so tattered that I had a new one delivered to the place. I and my little gang of drunks got together and raised it up the flagpole and said the "Pledge of Allegiance."

JS: *I love it. Betty Ford owes her new flag to you. It's kinda funny that a rehab center named after a president's wife had a tattered flag.*

KG: I know. I thought about starting a little trust fund that would go on for eternity—the Betty Ford Flag Fund.

JS: *How about your most obnoxious reporter or photographer incident?*

KG: I have a very comfortable relationship with the photographers in New York and L.A. The worst one was actually in Boston, come to think of it. It was really creepy. This guy followed me and Camille and my daughter everywhere, and he never spoke. It was very eerie. I finally said to him, "Listen, take a few pictures and then back off and leave me alone. Understand?" He said nothing, took a few pictures, and we decided to take a walk. An hour later, he pops up right in front of us. I wanted to do something to this guy, but I didn't, because I am a gentleman.

JS: *Any similarities between you and Frasier?*

KG: I've always thought of him as my alter ego.

JS: *Is he somebody who you'd be friends with?*

KG: No. He'd bother me far too much.

JS: *So, can you believe there's still a line to get into Cheers?*

KG: No. That's extraordinary. Y'know, I'm very proud of the show, but at one point, Cheers was the most popular tourist spot in Boston, and I always thought it was sad that a bar had somehow taken precedence over the history of the city. Culturally, Boston certainly has a lot more to offer.

JS: *Well, when you're here, will you go there with me just to freak the tourists out?*

KG: I've done it before, and they don't freak out. They just sort of say, "Hey, How ya' doin?" As if I'm supposed to be there.

JS: *So I'm psyched to see* Macbeth.

KG: Well, I must tell you, it's just a brilliant performance (chuckles).

JS: *Save it—I'm not a theater critic.*

KG: I know, but I figured I'd get the word out, just let 'em know—the buzz is very good.

JS: *So what would you like to read about it in the Boston papers?*

KG: Oh, maybe something like, "Who knew Kelsey Grammer would become the most dynamic force in American theater—the Macbeth of record." I'm sure they want to put it into their own words, but something along those lines. IB

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Proper Bostonians

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

The American Repertory Theatre's **pARTy 2000** was held on May 5 at the Four Seasons Hotel. Among the 350 party-goers who attended the star-studded event were actors Gwyneth Paltrow, Joaquin Phoenix, Matt Damon and Ben and Casey Affleck. Guests enjoyed cocktails, dinner and a performance of new works by Christopher Durang, David Mamet and Steve Martin. More than $200,000 was raised.

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1. Actors **Joaquin Phoenix** and **Matt Damon** with **Casey** and **Ben Affleck**.
2. From left, **Cokie Perry**, Museum of Fine Arts overseer and A.R.T. board member, **Malcolm Rogers**, director of the MFA, and **Slocomb Hollis Perry**, board member of the A.R.T.
3. Actress **Gwyneth Paltrow**.
4. **Marcia Brown** with her husband **Robin**, general manager of the Four Seasons Hotel.
5. A.R.T. board member **Dan Mathieu** with **Gwenn Cohen**, chairperson of the pARTy 2000.
6. From left, **Jeremy Geidt**, senior actor at the A.R.T., **Alan Dershowitz**, attorney and Harvard professor, and **Robert Brunstein**, artistic director of the A.R.T.

6

It was New York vs. Boston at the **Celebrity Cook-Off** at the Westin Hotel, May 4. Celebrity chefs and athletes from the Big Apple and Beantown raced against the clock to cook it up for the Franciscan Children's Hospital & Rehabilitation Center. Some $30,000 was raised for New England's largest pediatric rehabilitation center.

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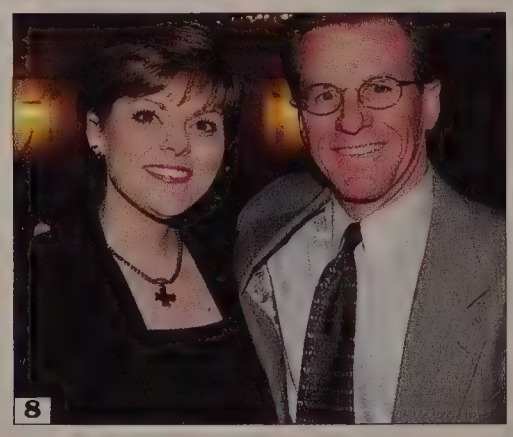
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7. **Edward Culotta**, Internet consultant for One World Software Solutions in Cambridge, and **Virginia Cha**, reporter for Channel 4.
8. **Karen Marienella**, television anchor for Channel 56, and **Gary Gillis**, sports reporter for Channel 7.
9. From left, **Tony Ambrose**, owner of Ambrosia, **Sue Bosworth**, corporate marketing for Lotus, **Dacey Zouzas**, sales associate for Century 21 Heritage in Westford, and Red Sox player **Tim Wakefield**.
10. From left, New York Ranger **Tim Taylor** and his wife **Jodi** with **Erin Baumgartner** and her husband **Ken**, a former Boston Bruin.
11. Former Red Sox player **John Tudor** with **Marcia Gonzalez** and her husband **Steve**, a partner at Genesis Associates in Burlington, and **Bob Lobel**, sports reporter for Channel 4, with friend **Gail Tudor.**
12. **Steve Freyer** (l), president Freyer Management Associates in Peabody, and **Gene Lavanchy**, Channel 7 sportscaster.

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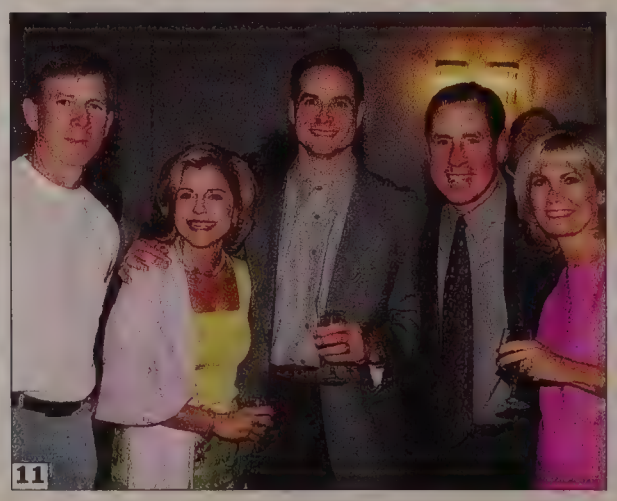
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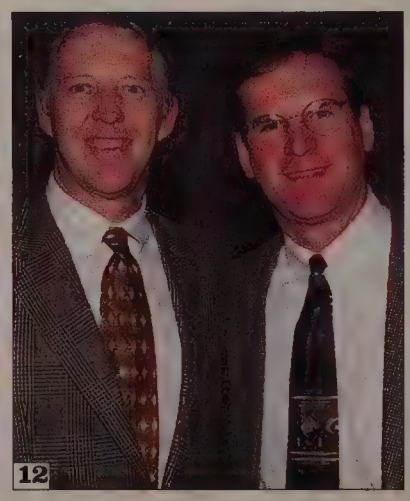
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May 20, 10 a.m. - Boston

DISCOVERY
May 25, 5 p.m. - Bolton
May 26, 10 a.m. - Bolton

JUNE 2000

20TH CENTURY FURNITURE & DECORATIVE ARTS including Glass, Lamps, Pottery and Metalwork from the Art Nouveau, Arts & Crafts, Art Deco & Modern Movements
June 3, 11 a.m. - Boston

AMERICAN FURNITURE & DECORATIVE ARTS
June 11, 11 a.m. - Bolton

FINE JEWELRY
June 13, 12 noon - Boston

DISCOVERY
June 22, 7 p.m. - Bolton
June 23, 10 a.m. - Bolton

ASIAN WORKS OF ART
June 24, 11 a.m. - Boston

JULY 2000

TOYS & DOLLS
July 8, 10 a.m. - Bolton

ENGLISH & CONTINENTAL FURNITURE & DECORATIONS
July 15, 11 a.m. - Boston

THE STUDIO AUCTION
July 20, 7 p.m. - Bolton

DISCOVERY
July 27, 7 p.m. - Bolton
July 28, 10 a.m. - Bolton

AUGUST 2000

AMERICAN FURNITURE & DECORATIVE ARTS
August 13, 11 a.m. - Bolton

DISCOVERY
August 24, 7 p.m. - Bolton
August 25, 10 a.m. - Bolton

SEPTEMBER 2000

FINE JEWELRY
September 12, 12 noon - Boston

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A MORAL TRAGEDY

When it comes to making money, is anything off-limits for the high-tech industry?

Here's a dirty little secret for you—the computer industry is a moral vacuum. In the two decades that I've been involved in high tech, I have never seen a company refuse to do something, simply because it was morally wrong, if it would make money. Oh, I've seen plenty of ideas get shot down because they might be illegal, but if there's money on the table, there's not a high-tech firm in the country that won't snap it up before somebody else does. That's why I'm not at all surprised to learn that there are companies on the Web who are perfectly willing to sell personal information about vulnerable young women to mentally deranged stalkers.

Now, I'm not saying that these companies advertise specifically for that clientele, but I know that they're very aware that they're serving the needs of nut cases who are trying to locate victims. As an example, you've probably heard about Nashua resident Amy Boyer, a lovely young woman who was stalked and killed by a former classmate, Liam Youens. Youens had been planning to kill Boyer for some time, but was afraid to do it close to her home, where she was surrounded by friends and family who might intervene before he could complete his grisly business.

The nose dive that dot-com stocks took this spring has only made the computer industry more determined to fight any legislation that protects consumer privacy.

So Youens logged onto one of these "sell-you-anything" Web sites, which promptly gave him Boyer's social security number. (I'd give the name of the site, but the scumbag who owns it has had enough free publicity from this tragedy.) With that information in hand, Youens was quickly able to find where Boyer worked. A few days later, he pulled up to her car as she was leaving her workplace, called her name, and then, when she turned to look at him, emptied a pistol into her face, reloaded, kept firing, and then returned to his home, where he committed suicide. Despite the fact that he was obsessed with her, it appears that Boyer didn't even know that she was the object of his sick attention.

That's the story that's been reported in the news media. But it's different hearing it from the mouth of her stepfather, Tim Remsburg. Amy died instantly and probably felt no pain. But that doesn't mean that there isn't plenty of pain to go around, especially for her family, who must live with the memory of what was and what might have been. I simply can't imagine how I would deal with that kind of grief. I can see, however, how Remsburg is dealing with it—he's suing the company that provided Youens with information that he needed to track her down.

Remsburg claims that the company was selling Boyer's personal information for private gain without consulting her or investigating the integrity or credibility of the person who requesting the information. Remsburg points out that if the company in question had done even a single Internet search on the name "Liam Youens," they would have found numerous Web pages that Youens had filled with threats to kill the young woman. "I want these companies to stop," Remsburg says, anger simmering beneath the sadness of his voice.

Now, you'd think, given such a dramatic example of why certain information should be kept private, that the computer industry would rally behind Remsburg's suit. Instead, the reaction from the high-tech world has been openly hostile. He's been criticized for trying to squelch freedom and even has been told that he must hire a lawyer in order to buy back the Web name rights to *www.amyboyer.com*—the site that Youens filled with his sick fantasies.

Why the cold shoulder from high tech? Simple. The companies that are touting the wonders of the Internet (and this includes virtually every company in the business) want to be able to sell information freely on the Web. It's not that they want to open sites like the one that passed the fateful data to Youens—they're just afraid that it will crimp e-commerce if the government limited information sharing on the Web.

Tim Remsburg blames "sell-you-anything" Web sites for his stepdaughter's brutal murder.

The nose dive that dot-com stocks took this spring has only made the computer industry more determined to fight any legislation that protects consumer privacy. Because many online retailers are having trouble making money, they're all hoping to pick up extra cash selling customers' data. That's a source of revenue that would be in danger if privacy were respected on the Internet. So the attitude in the industry is one of profound disinterest. As high-tech billionaire Scott McNealy (CEO of Sun Microsystems) once put it: "You already have zero privacy—get over it."

A Federal Trade Commission study conducted last year by market researchers Media Metrix discovered that 92.8 percent of Web sites were gathering at least one type of identifying information (name, e-mail address, postal address), while 56.8 percent were collecting at least one type of demographic information (gender, preferences, etc.). In addition, an increasing number of sites are using "profiling"—which allows the gathering of aggregate data about users of a site and about the type of sites that they've been visiting.

The reason that so many sites gather information is that the data has a monetary value. Names and addresses can be sold to other companies, either for use in online marketing or in more traditional forms of direct marketing. How much is that information worth? Boyer's social security number cost Youens only $45, according to Remsburg, but the value of a complete customer profile can be worth up to $1,000, according to industry experts. That's big money to a dot-com struggling to pay the bills.

Because of this, Internet companies—and the computer vendors who make big money selling them back-end technology—have been furiously lobbying congress—and paying big bucks into campaign coffers—to prevent any legislation that would limit information sharing. While some legislation has been introduced in the Senate, it may be years before citizens are protected from having the all most intimate details of their life made public knowledge at the click of a mouse button.

That may be fine for McNealy, who travels with a entourage of bodyguards and is unlikely to have a stalker intrude into his privileged existence. But one young woman in Nashua has paid the ultimate price—and her family has won a lifetime of grief—in order to slip a few extra dollars into the pockets of overpaid CEOs, greedy politicians, and nouveau-riche IPO investors.

Welcome to the new economy. iB

Geoffrey James (*www.geoffreyjames.com*) is the author of numerous business books and feature articles about the computer industry.

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summer FUN 2000

Guidebooks will tell you that our fair city offers some of the best summer entertainment anywhere in the country. But this proclamation begs the question: Why do we all clamor to escape each and every summer weekend—to the Cape, the Berkshires and beyond?

But think about it. There are reasons to reside within city limits in our muggy months of summer. For starters, where else can you catch a concert on the harborfront one night and catch the T to the beach the next morning? Where else can you enjoy a top live performance at the Tweeter Center one night and then skip over to Foxboro the next day to see a match between the two best women's soccer teams in the world? And nowhere else can you watch the two best players in major-league baseball—Nomar and Pedro—play on a regular basis.

There are, however, some holes in the schedule this year. There will be no pro tennis tournament at Longwood, and the LPGA tour is not stopping at Pleasant Valley out in Sutton. But these minor setbacks will be easily forgotten in early July, when Boston is set to host the largest gathering of Tall Ships and ocean racing ships ever assembled in this country. What's more, admission to board the majestic vessels for a peek inside will be free.

Then there are the arts, which offer plenty to get excited about: Marcel Marceau at the American Repertory Theatre come June, the Van Gogh exhibit at the MFA from beginning in July and a steady flow of first-rate classical music concerts at Tanglewood throughout the summer months.

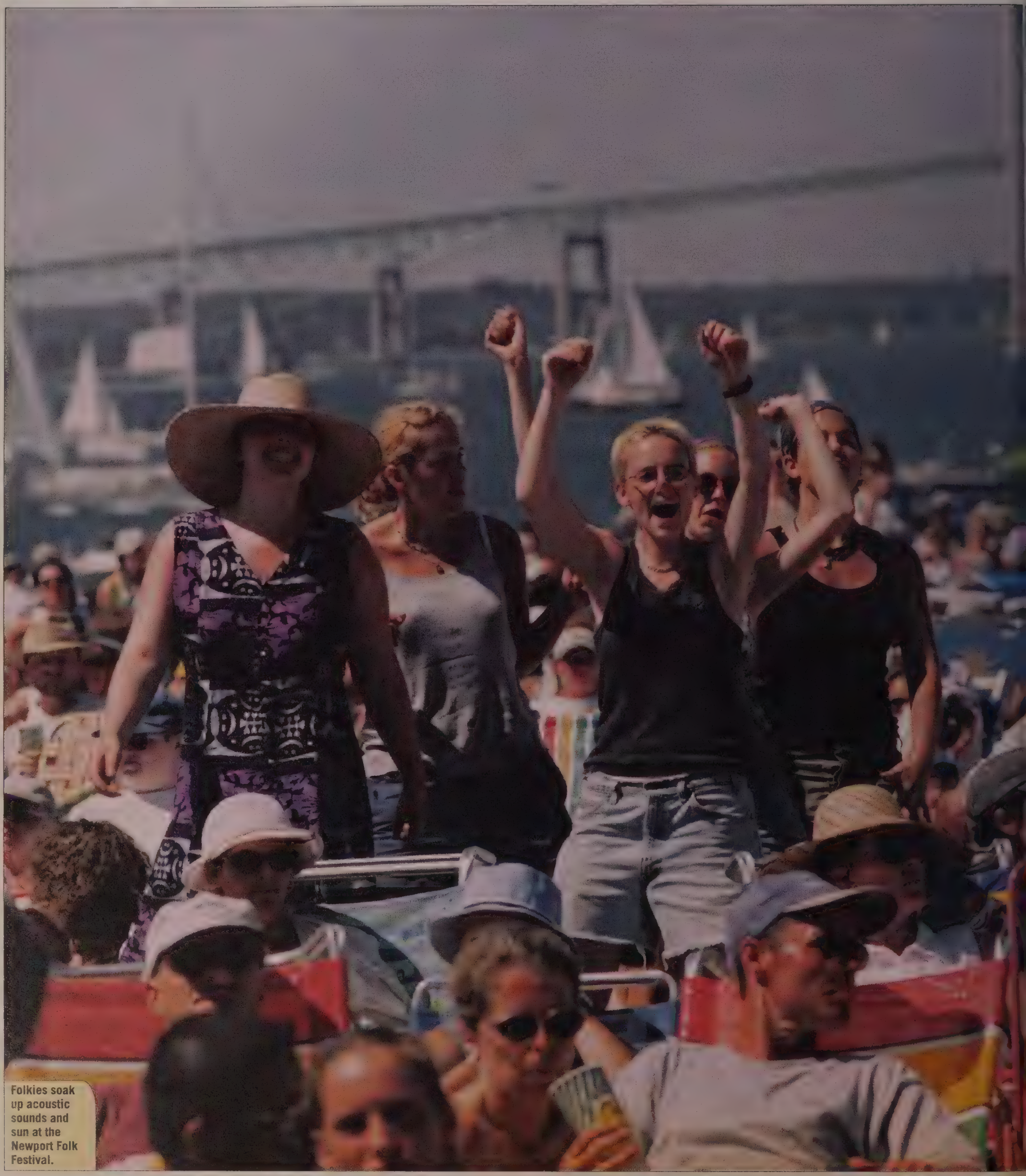
The fabulous thing about Boston's summer offerings is that when combined, all the micros outweigh the macros: There's in-line skating on the Esplanade and sailing on the Charles; there are neighborhood fiestas, block fests, book fests, brew fests, ice cream fests, lobster fests, your ordinary extended-family beach fests in August—and of course, the biggest fest of them all: fireworks and Tchaikovsky on July Fourth. So soak up summer and all that it has to offer. But don't forget the sunblock.

There is a cure for the summertime blues. Read on.

edited by RACHEL STRUTT

photograph by BRITT CARPENTER

Leterte green floral bikini, $102; Orla Kelly hat, $130; Stuart Weitzman green sandal, $135. Available at Saks Fifth Avenue



Folkies soak up acoustic sounds and sun at the Newport Folk Festival.

Hot Tickets

Cream-of-the-crop concerts—from Ricky Martin to Metallica. BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

When it comes to concerts, the summer season is getting more predictable than hot. Ticket prices skyrocket further, classic-rock dominates, and at least one venue puts the public through a corporate name change. But that doesn't mean fans should miss such seasonal highlights as Santana, Pearl Jam, Nina Simone, Steely Dan, and the Berkshire Mountain Music Festival.

The Who come back to life at the Tweeter Center (the shed formerly known as Great Woods) July 3, but fans will pay up to $150 a shot. Also purging our pockets, at the FleetCenter, is Diana Ross and the Supremes (though not the lineup that everyone remembers) at an outrageous $250 for the best seats July 13; hip-shaker Ricky Martin, at $95, a top pop June 21; and Tina Turner, at $85.25, for up-front privileges June 8-9. Don Henley tops the ticket ceiling at the FleetBoston Pavilion at $89.50 June 5, but at least that one is said to be a Walden Woods benefit. Prime seats for KISS at the Tweeter Center June 12-13 are $80.50, but someone has to pay for their makeup and fireworks. The sad news is, across the board, fans can expect to pay $30 to $40 or more a ticket to see a big rock concert.

It's not the kids who are forking out this big dough—despite a rebound for Foxboro Stadium shows such as Metallica and Korn June 30 or 'NSync July 23 (and those fans may well get the cash from their parents anyway).

Classic-rock—the sound of brand-name acts from the '60s, '70s and '80s—rules for older fans with the bread for summer nostalgia. At least there are some intriguing wrinkles. Like Joni Mitchell on May 28 or Brian Wilson, who will bring a large orchestra to the FleetBoston Pavilion July 18 when he recreates the Beach Boys' classic *Pet Sounds*. And July 21, a near-vintage lineup of Yes will perform fan-voted "masterworks" at the same venue, with prog-proteges Kansas in one of a handful of smart package tours.

Finally, here's a quiz: Was that Diana Ross at the FleetBoston Pavilion or the FleetCenter? You wouldn't be the only person likely to get confused, as the bank-merger game has brought a more annoying title to the tent formerly known as the BankBoston Pavilion and Harborlights.

MUST-SEE SHOWS

All things considered, it looks like a good, but expensive, summer. Here's a selective list of concerts you might not want to miss:

Patti Smith
June 2, Avalon. The resonant return of the godmother of punk, behind her strong new CD *Gung Ho*.

Nina Simone
June 6, FleetBoston Pavilion. The high priestess of soul doesn't usually tour America, so this one is definitely a must-see.

Tina Turner/Lionel Richie
June 8-9, FleetCenter. I'm not sure Richie has been missed, but put your money on Turner to still ignite a stage.

KISS/Ted Nugent
June 12-13, Tweeter Center. KISS says it's their farewell tour, so put on your facepaint and bring earplugs for the high-decibel carnival.

The Cure
June 14, Tweeter Center. Likewise, Robert Smith says this may be the Cure's last stand. A fine, mopey evening either way.

Mary J. Blige
June 16, FleetBoston Pavilion. Some hip-hop soul to smolder by the harbor.

Ricky Martin
June 21, FleetCenter. Livin' La Hype a Loca, as Martin finally brings his sassy production to town.

No Doubt/Lit/Blackeyed Peas
June 22, FleetBoston Pavilion. So what if No Doubt has become Missing Persons reincarnated instead of ska? Great bill with hit-makers Lit and a superior live hip-hop act in the Peas.

Lou Reed/Victoria Williams
June 23, FleetBoston Pavilion. This one's more of a gamble, as there's a chance that Reed and Williams could be either brilliant or static.

Gathering of The Vibes with Ratdog, David Grisman, moe, John Scofield, Sonia Dada and others
June 23-25, Seaside Park, Bridgeport, Ct. A grand camp-out vibe.

Allman Brothers Band
June 23 and July 28, Tweeter Center. Keeping the jam alive with a young-blood infusion from guitarist Derek Trucks.

Cassandra Wilson/Cesaria Evora
June 25, FleetBoston Pavilion. An odd but beautiful pairing of smokey jazz chanteuse Wilson and Cape Verdean diva Evora, queen of the blues-like morna.

Metallica/Korn/Kid Rock
June 30, Foxboro Stadium. A multiband slugfest between old and new generations of metal, echoing off the concrete.

Jimmy Page & the Black Crowes/ Kenny Wayne Shepherd
July 2, Tweeter Center. Expect a good shot of tasty Led Zeppelin nuggets when Georgia's rowdy Black Crowes back Page, with additional guitar fire supplied by blues-rocker Shepherd.

The Who
July 3, Tweeter Center. Last time, they played the entire *Quadrophenia* album. This time, they're doing the hits, with Pete Townshend back on electric guitar.

Susan Tedeschi/Toni Lynn Washington
July 8, FleetBoston Pavilion. Local girl done good, and not forgetting her roots; veteran Washington's band includes Tedeschi's one-time mentor/boyfriend Tim Gearhan.

Dave Matthews Band/Ben Harper
July 8-9, Foxboro Stadium. Expect lap-steel raver Harper to sit in with the musically malleable Matthews Band.

Steely Dan
July 15, Tweeter Center. Back in cherished form, a comeback highlight for baby-boomers.

Red Hot Chili Peppers/Foo Fighters
July 16, Tweeter Center. A solid double bill of '90s punk-pop survivors.

Brian Wilson
July 18, FleetBoston Pavilion. The shy Wilson's live rebirth gets ambitious. A wish comes true for fans of the Beach Boys' *Pet Sounds* if they like the sound of a 55-piece orchestra.

Vans Warped Tour with the Mighty Mighty Bosstones, Green Day and others
July 20, Suffolk Downs. Punk and ska crews will be in force for a day of Beantown-flavored fun.

Yes/Kansas
July 21, FleetBoston Pavilion. If you liked Yes in the '70s, you should still dig the band's musicianship and choice of material.

OzzFest 2000 with Ozzy Osbourne, Godsmack, Ministry, Pantera and others
July 29-30, Tweeter Center. Ozzy is back as ringmaster of a heavy-metal circus with multiple stages in Mansfield.

Santana/Macy Gray
Aug. 1-2, Tweeter Center. The headlining return of Carlos Santana is long overdue even without his recent Grammy Awards and the addition of hip soul-sister Gray.

KC and the Sunshine Band
Aug. 3, South Shore Music Circus. You want classic disco? KC is gettin' down tonight.

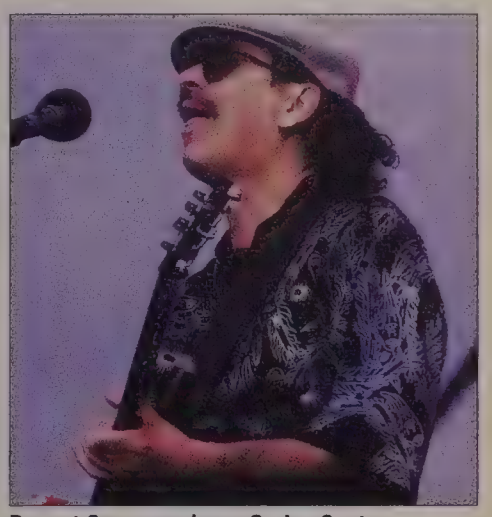
Newport (Creamery) Folk Festival
Aug. 4-6, Fort Adams State Park, Newport, R.I.. Still a lovely event with a view of Newport Harbor, including favorites like **Mary-Chapin Carpenter** and **John Gorka**.

JVC Newport Jazz Festival
Aug. 11-13, Fort Adams State Park.

Berkshire Mountain Music Festival with Bela Fleck & the Flecktones, moe., Medeski, Martin & Wood, Peter Rowan and others
Aug. 11-13, Butternut Ski Basin. Mellowly nestled in the hills of Great Barrington, Berkfest is becoming a jewel among jam-band camp-outs.

Counting Crows/Live
Aug. 16, Tweeter Center. The folky Crows and bombastic Live make a potent pairing.

Tony Bennett/Diana Krall
Aug. 25, FleetBoston Pavilion. A classy double bill of jazz song from the ever-resonant Bennett and upstart Krall.



Recent Grammy winner Carlos Santana comes to the Tweeter Center Aug. 1 and 2.

Pearl Jam
Aug. 29-30, Tweeter Center. With ex-Soundgarden drummer Matt Cameron in the engine room, Eddie and the boys have found new life.

Jimmy Buffett
Aug. 31 and Sept. 2, Tweeter Center. Get out the grills, margaritas and inflatable sharks, and call the ticket brokers to get into Buffett's annual beach party.

Rhythm & Roots Festival with Geno Delafose, Junior Brown, Beausoleil, Steve Riley, Laura Love and others
Sept. 1-3, Ninigret Park, Charlestown, R.I. The worthy successor to the once-annual Cajun & Bluegrass Festival.

Phish
Sept. 11-12, Tweeter Center. Likewise, it will be quite a parking-lot scene for the return of these jam-rockers, who wind out the season with easy sellouts at the admirable price of $29.50 a head.

VENUES

Avalon *15 Lansdowne St. For tickets, call 931-2000.*
Butternut Ski Basin *Rte. 23, Great Barrington (888-513-FEST)*
FleetBoston Pavilion *290 Northern Ave. For tickets, call 931-2000.*
FleetCenter *Causeway St. For tickets, call 931-2000.*
Fort Adams State Park *Ocean Drive, Newport, R.I. For tickets, call 931-2000.*
Foxboro Stadium *Rte. 1, Foxboro. For tickets, call 931-2000.*
Ninigret Park *Rte. 1, Charlestown, R.I. (888-855-6940)*
Seaside Park *Bridgeport, Ct. (800-877-8650.*
South Shore Music Circus *130 Sohier St., Cohasset (781-383-1400)*
Suffolk Downs *111 Waldmar Ave. (567-3900)*
Tweeter Center *885 South Main St., Mansfield (508-339-2331)*

Classic Getaways

Whether it's Bach, Brahms or Berio, your best summer bets are outta town. BY KEITH POWERS

The Eroica Trio will perform June 18 at the Rockport Chamber Music Festival.

It's easy to sum up the summer classical music scene in Boston: NONE. But just break out your chariots and city slickers, and you'll find an active scene with national and international stars performing north, south and west of Symphony Hall.

Summer is when most orchestral players visit rural retreats and bone up on their chamber music. But Boston does have a full-time orchestra, with a summer domain at Tanglewood. The huge presence of Tanglewood is the main reason a prominent summer festival, like those in Colorado, New Mexico and at Spoleto, had never developed in Massachusetts.

But that changed about 20 years ago, when festivals north and south of the city sprang up in Rockport and on Cape Cod. Now, the Cape and Islands Festival and the Rockport Chamber Music Festival both offer state-of-the-art performers and programs. Both are an easy day trip from the hub, and make delicious weekend getaways.

NORTH OF BOSTON

Now in its 19th year, led by eminent pianist David Deveau, the **Rockport Chamber Music Festival** is four weeks of top-quality chamber music in the charmed setting of the Rockport Art Association's Hibbard Gallery.

The festival has always attracted great pianists and great string quartets. This summer is no different: Pianists like **Russell Sherman**, **Helene Grimaud**, **Judith Gordon** and **Deveau** will be complemented by quartets like Brentano, Shanghai and Concert Artists Guild winners the **Avalon String Quartet**.

A reoccurring festival highlight in recent years has been the flamboyant Eroica Trio. This year violist Scott Nickrenz, father of pianist Erica, will join the trio for a special Father's Day concert (June 18).

Concerts run Thur.-Sun. for four weeks, beginning June 8. Rockport is available on the T from North Station. Call 978-546 7391.

SOUTH OF BOSTON

You don't have to brave the perils of the Tobin Bridge to hear good music. Developing its own presence on the **Cape is the Cape and Islands Music Festival**, directed by the Borromeo String Quartet's excellent first violinist, **Nicholas Kitchen**. In its 21st year, the festival migrates through multiple venues on Cape Cod, running from July 31 to August 20. Kitchen programs one concert per week, repeated half a dozen times in different halls. So there are several chances to see the great music, which runs from mainstream (Brahms sextet, Schumann piano quartet) to eclectic (Gubaidulina duet, Poulenc sextet). Performers include **Pamela Frank** (violin) and **Bernard Greenhouse** (cello). See listing for more complete details, or call 800-229-5739.

IN TOWN

OK, I lied. There are a few events in town this summer, although our grand July in Jordan series is dead. (Wassup with that? I thought that's why they air-conditioned the place anyway.) See listing for in-town performances by the Boston Chamber Music Society, Coro Allegro and the New England String Ensemble.

Coro Allegro, Boston's mixed chorus for the members and friends of the gay, lesbian and bisexual communities, will perform works by Bernstein, Britten, Carter, Gershwin and others Wed., June 7, at 6:30pm. South End, at Titus Sparrow Park, between W. Newton and W. Rutland Square. Free. Call 536-3426.

New England String Ensemble hosts a gala sunset cruise on Sunday, June 18 at 5pm. This fund-raiser might not be worth it for non-devotes of Susan Davenny Wyner's NESE, except that it boasts an appearance by nonpareil clarinetist **Richard Stoltzman** and his family. Additional appearances by the String Ensemble itself, and jazz singer **Nancy Day** will croon. Long Wharf, Boston. $100 per person, $190 per couple. Visit *www.nese.net*, or call 781-224-1117.

Thank God for the **Boston Chamber Music Society** in August, which presents four consecutive Saturdays of chamber music at air-conditioned Pickman Hall. Performances feature members of Boston's most versatile chamber ensemble, with selected guests. Aug. 7, 14, 21 and 28 at 8pm. Longy School of Music, Follen St., Cambridge. All seats $22. Visit *www.boston chambermusic.org/summer.html*, or call 349-0086 for details.

Cape and Islands Chamber Music Festival runs July 31 through August 21. The final concert is the debut performance of the new Borromeo String Quartet, joined by pianist **Christopher Riley**. Other guests include **Pamela Frank**, violin, and **Bernard Greenhouse**, cello. The festival's busy schedule includes open rehearsals, "Especially for Young People" performances, and pre-concert lectures. The festival is held at several locations on the Cape. For a complete schedule, visit *www.capecodchambermusic.org*, or call 800-229-5739. IB

Camp Tanglewood

It requires a cross-state trek, but Tanglewood is always worth the trip.

Seiji Ozawa, Robert Spano and Yo-Yo-Ma

There may be greater orchestras in the world, but no orchestra has a summer home that compares to Serge Koussevitzky's dreamland. From June 30 to Sept. 3, music lovers can hear performances morning, noon and night from professionals and students alike. There are too many great performances to even summarize, but those in the know will not miss the fully staged version of Verdi's *Falstaff*, BSO special presentations for the Aaron Copland centenary (July 2, 5,7, 18), and appearances by **Daniel Barenboim** both in the Shed (July 30) and in recital at Ozawa Hall (Aug. 3). Other top-notch players include pianists **Dubravka Tomsic** (July 13) and **Nelson Freire** (Aug. 16), violinists **Vadim Repin** (Aug.13) and **Ida Haendel** (July 27). And this year's Festival of Contemporary Music, directed by **George Benjamin**, is capped off with a celebration of Luciano Berio's 75th birthday on Aug. 10. Tanglewood's season runs from June 30 through Sept. 3. A few highlights are listed below; for a complete schedule and ticket prices see *www.bso.org*, or call (888) 266-1200.

Opening Night
July 7, 8:30pm, shed, BSO; **Seiji Ozawa** conducting **Yo-Yo Ma**, **Edgar Meyer** soloists. Music of Copland, Haydn, Meyer, Stravinsky

Aaron Copland Centenary Celebration
July 2, 5, 7 and 18 at various venues.

Dubravka Tomsic
July 13, 8:30pm, Ozawa Hall, Music of Liszt, Bach/Busoni, Prokofiev

BSO, Jeffrey Tate, conductor
July 21, 8:30pm, Shed; **Hélène Grimaud**, piano. Music of Wagner, Schumann, Haydn

Verdi's *Falstaff*
July 30 & 31, 8pm, Theatre, **Seiji Ozawa** conducting **TMC Vocal Fellows** and Orchestra

Daniel Barenboim, piano
Aug. 3, 8:30pm, Ozawa Hall, Music of Liszt, Albeniz

Luciano Berio 75th Birthday Celebration
Aug 10. 7pm Ozawa Hall; A complete performance of Berio's Sequenzas—magnificent virtuoso settings for various solo instruments.

BSO, Robert Spano conducting
Aug. 13, 2:30pm, Shed; **Vadim Repin**, violin, Music of Mozart, Carter and Prokofiev

BSO, Rafael Fruhbeck de Burgos, conducting
Soloists and Tanglewood Festival Chorus, Aug 27, 2:30pm, Shed, Beethoven Symphony No. 9

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Where Art Thou?

Dutch masters, landscapes and road trips—hits of an art-filled season. BY RACHEL STRUTT

Expect **Vincent van Gogh** portraits to be plastered on buses and banners this summer—not to mention on mugs, totes and mousepads. Indeed, the Museum of Fine Arts' van Gogh portraiture show is blockbuster material—but beyond the hype and the inevitable crowds, the Dutch expressionist will undoubtedly dazzle.

Obviously excited by the prospect of the one-eared wonder's show, the MFA has whipped up a Dutch-or-bust summer with two other complementary exhibits : ***In the Holland Garden: 17th- and 18th-Century Dutch Works on Paper*** (May 20-Oct. 29) and ***Van Gogh to Mondrian: Dutch Works on Paper*** (July 25-Nov. 5).

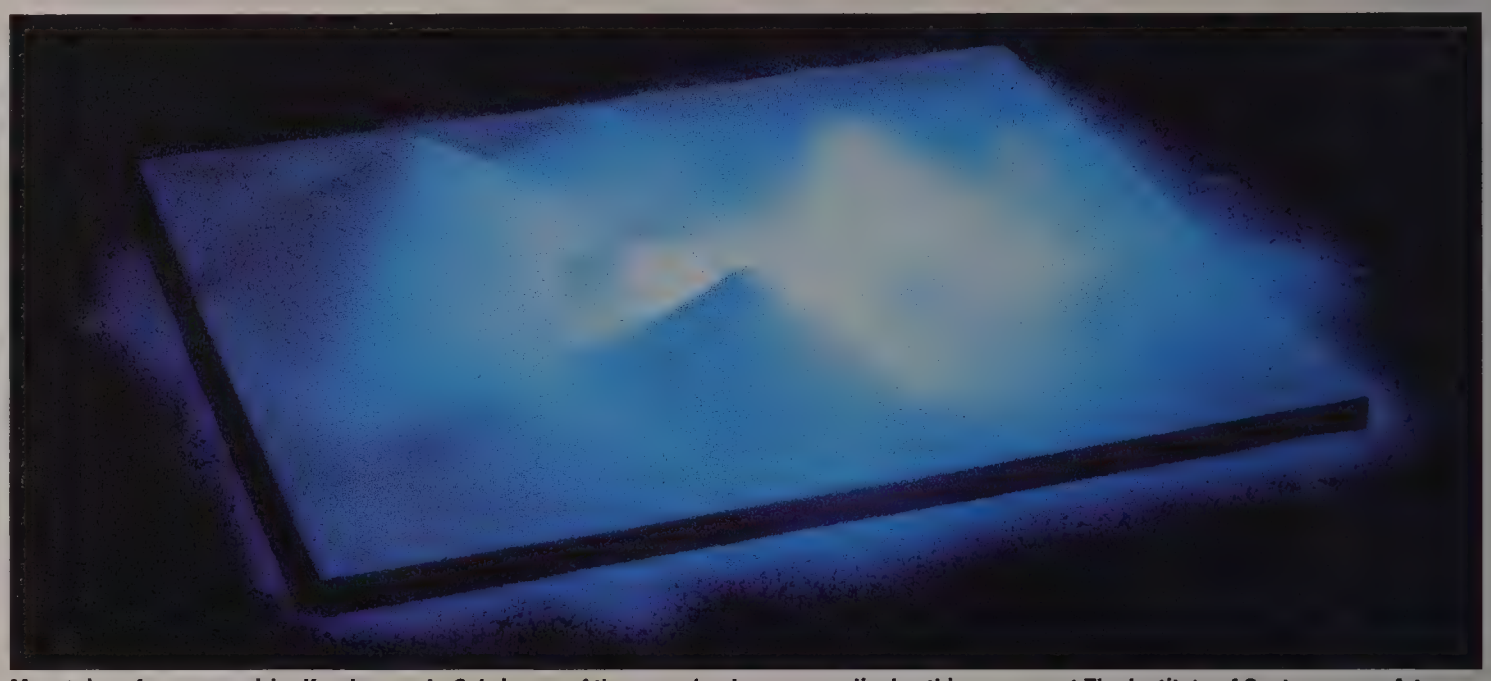
Expect other museums and galleries to embrace the landscape, a perennial summer theme. Most notably, the **Institute of Contemporary Art** has a group show called ***From a Distance: Landscape in Contemporary Art*** and an outdoor show titled ***Art on the Emerald Necklace***, with art set against Olmsted's canvas of green.

Summer is also the time for group shows, offering visitors a dim sum of art selections. Head to the esteemed, often edgy **Bernard Toale Gallery** on 450 Harrison Ave. (482-2477), which will host a group show from June 28 to July 28 (closed Sat. during the summer).

Last, summer is the ideal time to make art pilgrimages. Begin by heading to Harvard Square, where you can drool over the splendid heaps of loot acquired over the last 10 years by the **Harvard Art Museums**. Photography enthusiasts and rockers alike will enjoy **Linda McCartney**'s ***Sixties: Portrait of an Era*** at the **Worcester Art Museum**. And farther afield in North Adams, the **Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art** guarantees to wow (see page 34 for an exhibit description).

Before venturing out, remember that most venues are closed Mondays; call ahead for hours.

Van Gogh's *Postman Joseph Roulin* (1888)



Mountains of snowy aspirin: Koo Jeong-a's *Oslo* is one of the many landscapes on display this summer at The Institute of Contemporary Art.

THE DUTCH INVASION

Vincent van Gogh once stated: "I should like to do portraits which will appear as revelations to people in 100 years' time." Sure enough, van Gogh's personalities appear so vital, and so intimately rendered, that they still impress modern viewers with their immediacy. And, of course, the artist's energetic brushstrokes and vivid palette *are* revelatory. The **MFA**'s ***Van Gogh: Face to Face*** runs from July 2 to Sept. 24, and encompasses paintings and drawings, including van Gogh's first self-portrait, from an array of international institutions. Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Massachusetts Ave. Call 267-9300 or visit *www.mfa.org*.

In March, the Harvard Art Museums began a six-part series of exhibitions showcasing a decade's worth of acquisitions. An especially important new collection is the Stuart Cary Welch gift—a mega-donation of Indian and Islamic art on view at the **Arthur M. Sackler Museum** from June 8 to Sept. 3—that includes a brilliant, meticulously detailed painting called *Scandal in a Mosque* (c. 1525).

The **Maida and George Abrams Collection of 17th Century Dutch Drawings** is also a stunning collection in and of itself, with works by **Rembrandt van Rijn** and **Peter Breugel the Elder**; it's on view at the **Fogg Art Museum** through June 18. If you're looking to view all six exhibits in one fell swoop, head to the Harvard Art Museums from June 8 to 18, when all shows will be open. The Fogg Art Museum is located at 32 Quincy St., Cambridge; the Sackler is at 485 Broadway, Cambridge. Admission is $5. To find out more, call 495-9400, or visit *www.artmuseums.harvard.edu*.

LANDSCAPES

Among the several landscape-themed gallery shows cropping up around town this summer, there's **MPG Gallery's** two-part exhibit called ***Land Sea and Beyond, I and II***. Part one runs from June 15-July 16 (with works by **Gail Bessette** and **Rachel Caflin**) and part two runs from July 20-Sept. 11 (with works by **Philip Koch** and **Thomas Watson**). That's at 285 Newbury Street (266-3946). The **Nielson Gallery** will host its fifth annual invitational ***In The Spirit of Landscape*** from June 17 to July 29, with works by renowned artists including abstract-leaning **Joan Snyder** and **John Walker**. That's at 179 Newbury St. (266-4835).

The Institute of Contemporary Art's ***From a Distance: Landscape In Contemporary Art***, which runs from July 19 to Oct. 8, is one show not to be missed this summer. Artists working in a variety of mediums—from **Michael Ashkin** (included in the 1997 Whitney Biennial) to **Kathy Prendergast**—explore landscape from various perspectives, whether ecological or existential. Pieces in the ***Art in the Emerald Necklace*** show should be equally provocative, with sculptures, installations and earthworks situated throughout Frederick Law Olmsted's series of nine parks, including a piece of "unusual signage" in the Fens Lagoon by Turner Prize-winner **Cornelia Parker**. ICA, 955 Boylston St. Admission is $5. Call 266-5152.

ROAD TRIPS AND SNAPSHOTS

A particularly worthy out-of-town summer show is the ***Architectural Unconscious*** at the **Addison Gallery of American Art**, which features the evocative work of **James Casebere** and **Glen Seator**. Casebere begins by building small-scale models of actual buildings at Phillips Academy; he then floods and photographs them. Seator constructs corners of rooms and then tilts them upwards until they balance precariously. The large-scale pieces loom threateningly, and, like Casebere's work, suggest both the fragility and foreboding nature of architecture. The Addison Gallery is located on the Phillips Academy campus, 180 Main St., Andover. Free. Call 978-749-4015.

Other worthwhile destinations include the monolithic **Mass MoCA** in Western Mass.—with its impressive avant-garde collection (see page 34)—and the **Worcester Art Museum**, which has an impressive permanent collection. And this summer boasts the photography show **Linda McCartney**'s ***Sixties: Portrait of an Era***. The blac-and-white images of the recently deceased photographer/celeb capture a tumultuous decade. 55 Salisbury St., Worcester. Admission is $8. Call 508-799-4406, or visit *www.worcesterart.org*.

If photos of the Beatles and Stones don't qualify as art in your book, visit the **Daido Moriyama** exhibit—featuring one of Japan's more prominent photographers—when it stops at Harvard's **Fogg Art Museum**. Moriyama's atmospheric works chronicle Japan's cityscapes. Aug. 5-Oct. 29. (See Fogg Art Museum information above).

The **Howard Yezerski Gallery** is putting together a promising show called ***Narrative Photography***. Of particular interest is the work of **Jim Goldburg**, who does poignant portraits of the Bay Area's rich and poor. The show runs from June 6 to Aug. 19; it's at 14 Newbury St. (262-0550). IB

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SINCE 1913

Theatricalities

From dance to theater, these Bay State productions shouldn't be missed. BY VICKI SANDERS

With a few exceptions, the musical—not the play—is the thing this summer, as theaters from Boston to the Berkshires tune up and try out new works and old favorites. Perhaps the most exciting news is the end-of-the-season arrival at **Boston's Colonial Theater** of ***Seussical***—yes, a musical of Dr. Seuss stories. But there's also anticipation about the **Gloucester Stage Company**'s musical version of ***Urban Cowboy***, **Cathy Rigby**'s return to the Boston area in the **North Shore Music Theatre**'s ***Peter Pan***, and **Stephen Sondheim**'s ***Company*** is being presented by the **Barrington Stage** in Sheffield.

Musicals, of course, usually include dance, but the real movement happenings are at the revered **Jacob's Pillow** in Becket, which is presenting 18 companies in a whirlwind season including a weeklong 70th birthday tribute to the inimitable **Paul Taylor**. In town, **Dance Umbrella** offers what promises to be one of summer's most innovative programs: the wheelchair and able-bodied dancers of **Axis Dance Company** in the world premiere of a commissioned work by choreographer **Bill T. Jones**.

Marcel Marceau is expected to be in top form at the ART.

If one of summer's special treats is theater alfresco, then what could be better than watching the greatest love story of all time performed under a canopy of stars? ***Romeo and Juliet*** is **Shakespeare & Company**'s outdoor mainstage production, but before the season is over, more than 30 works will have been presented—from Shakespeare classics to Wharton one-acts.

In a more dramatic vein, the most auspicious productions on the horizon are the **Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theater**'s ***The Beauty Queen of Leenane***, starring **Julie Harris**, no less. At the **Williamstown Theatre Festival**, local audiences get a preview of the style of incoming Huntington Theatre artistic director **Nicholas Martin**, when he directs **Hedda Gabler**. And last, there's mime **Marcel Marceau** at the **American Repertory Theatre** June 27 to July 23, who returns after a 15-year absence in what early reviews are calling "splendid" form.

Though there are some interesting summer shows in town, the real action is scattered statewide. So why not git outta Dodge?

The emotion-rich performance of Montreal-based O Vertigo Danse will come to Jacob's Pillow.

American Repertory Theatre
Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-8300). June 27-July 23: **Marcel Marceau**, the world-renowned mime.

Barrington Stage Company
Consolati Performing Arts Center, Sheffield (413-528-8888). June 21-July 16: ***Company***, **Stephen Sondheim**'s take on love and relationships. July 19-Aug. 6: ***Full Bloom***, about a 16-year-old caught up in our beauty-obsessed culture. Aug. 9-27: *No Way to Treat a Lady*.

Berkshire Theatre Festival
Stockbridge (413-298-5536). June 21-July 8: *Camelot*, everybody's fairytale. July 11-22: ***Toys in the Attic***, Lillian Hellman's searing study of a dysfunctional family. July 25-Aug. 12: ***The Shadow of Greatness***, a world premiere with **Richard Chamberlain**. Aug. 15-Sept. 2: ***Say Yes***, a new musical by **Wally Harper** and **Sherman Yellen**. Colonial Theatre, Boylston St., Boston (451-2345). Aug. 27-Sept. 17: ***Seussical***, from the team that brought us ***Ragtime***.

Commonwealth Shakespeare Co.
On the Boston Common (617-423-7600). July 21-Aug. 3: ***The Tempest***, a free outdoor presentation of Shakespeare's tale .

Dance Umbrella
Emerson Majestic Theatre, Tremont St., Boston (617-824-8000). June 9-11: **Axis Dance Company**, wheelchair and able-bodied dancers premiere a commissioned work by **Bill T. Jones**.

Gloucester Stage Company
267 East Main St., Gloucester (978-282-1350). Highlights only. June 21-July 9: ***Urban Cowboy***, a world premiere and pre-Broadway tryout with songs by country star **Clint Black**. July 12-23: ***Ten Years Apart***, another world premiere and musical, about a reunion of two brothers. Aug. 9-Sept. 3: ***promises.com***, about love in the world of research medicine, by Gloucester's artistic director **Israel Horowitz**.

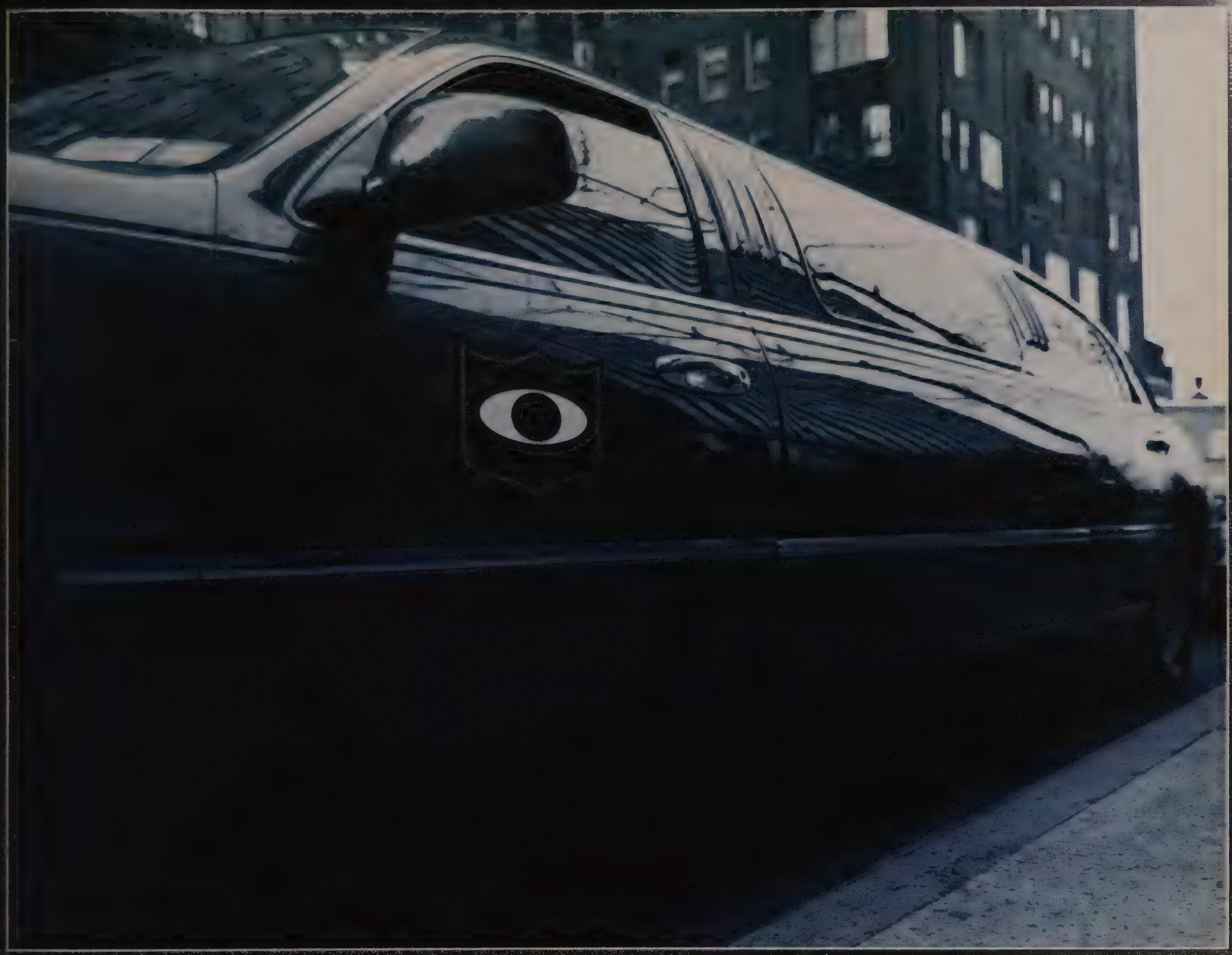
Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival
George Carter Road, Becket (413-243-0745). June 21-25: **Garth Fagan Dance**, a 30th anniversary for this muscular, virtuoso dance company. June 28-July 2: 59 **North/Soloists of the Royal Swedish Ballet**, committed to the work of Swedish choreographers. July 4-9: **Crupo Corpo**, a heady mix of African and Brazilian styles. July 11-16: **Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company**, a Boston favorite. July 19-23: **Compagnie Maguy Marin**, dance, text, and music in a decidedly French, evening-length performance. July 25-30: **Paul Taylor Dance Company**, premiering a new work in honor of Taylor's 70th birthday; definitely *the* week at the Pillow. Aug. 1-6: **Mark Morris Dance Group**, an intimate setting for this bigger-than-life company. Aug. 9-13: **Company Jant-Bi**, eight men from Senegal and Nigeria perform a work by German expressionist **Susanne Linke**. Aug. 16-20: **O Vertigo Danse**. Aug. 23-27: **Alonzo King's LINES Contemporary Ballet**, a highlight of the ballet is live music by Indian composer and tabla master **Zakir Hussain**.

North Shore Music Theatre
62 Dunham Rd., Beverly (978-232-7200). May 26-June 4: ***The Student Prince*** returns after a 20-year absence. Jun 13-July 2: **Honk!** a musical based on *The Ugly Duckling*. July 18-Aug. 12: ***Peter Pan***, **Cathy Rigby** reprises her title role. Sept. 5-24: A ***Little Night Music***, **Sondheim** at his best.

Shakespeare & Company
The Mount, Lenox (413-637-3353). Major productions only are listed. June 30-Aug. 6: ***Twelfth Night***, a strangely erotic comedy. July 14-Oct. 5: ***Jack and Jill***, a contemporary look at troubled love. July 19-Aug. 6: ***The Compleat Works of Wilm Shkspr (abridged)***. July 21-Sept. 2: ***Romeo and Juliet***, the love story told outdoors on the main stage.

Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theatre
Wellfleet (508-349-6835). May 24-June 25: ***The Beauty Queen of Leeanne***, the award-winning Irish pla, gets the **Julie Harris** treatment. July 5-23: ***Ruby Tuesday***, from the playwright who gave us *Jackie*, ***Gip Hoppe***. July 26-Aug. 5: **Jimmy Tingle**, a comedian in his prime. Aug. 11-Sept. 3: TBA.

Williamstown Theatre Festival
Williamstown, (413-597-3399). June 16-July 2: ***Tonight at 8:30***, six Noel Coward one-acts. July 5-16: ***The Hot L Baltimore***, a revival of one of Lanford Wilson's early successes. July 19-30: ***Hedda Gabler***, Ibsen's masterpiece directed by **Nicholas Martin**, new artistic director at the Huntington Theatre. Aug. 2-13: ***The Skin of Our Teeth***, Thornton Wilder's fantastical classic. **iB**



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summer sundries

As the mercury rises, surround yourself with all things cool—from pages to petals.

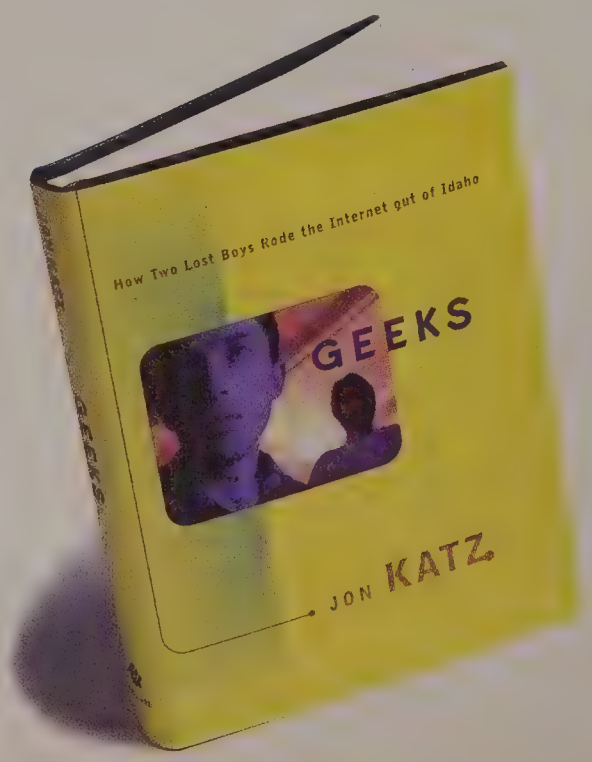
BY RACHEL STRUTT • PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER SMITH

PETAL MEETS METAL

You pick the photograph, then Artimix prints it on a textured watercolor paper and frames it. Visit *www.artimix.com* for a wide range of stellar photographs or head to Fresh Eggs in the South End, which carries a summery series of Artimix framed flower prints. $200 each. *Fresh Eggs, 58 Clarendon (247-8150); Tue.-Wed., 12-6pm; Thr.-Fri., 12-9pm; Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm.*

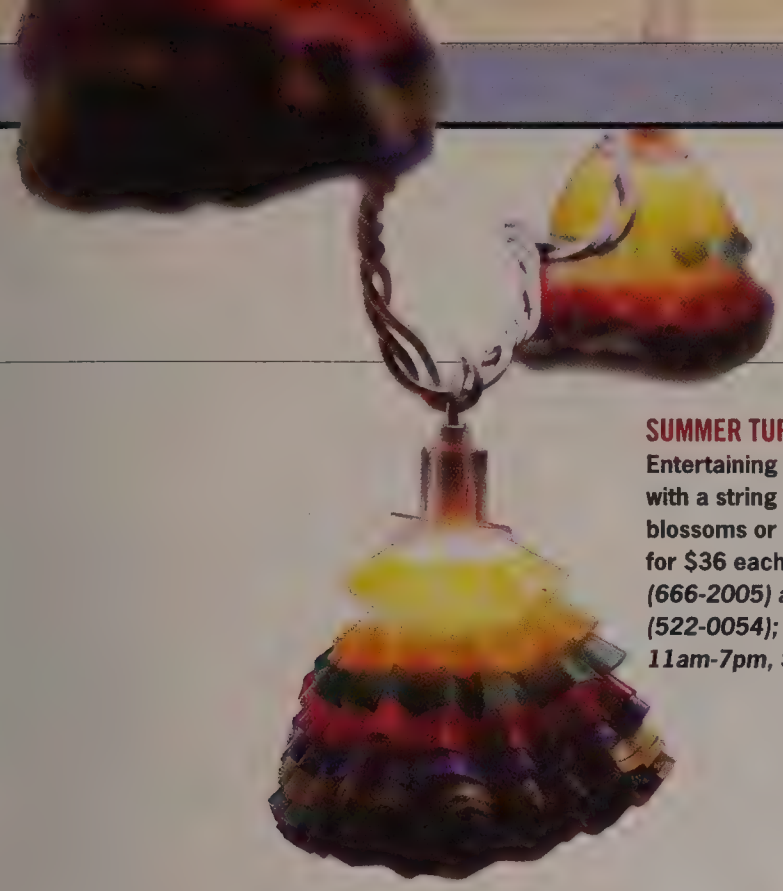
GEEK SPEAK

Delve into the world of techno geekdom with Jon Katz' new read, *Geeks: How Two Lost Boys Rode the Internet out of Idaho* (Villard, $22.95). The buzz-worthy book explores a social subculture in pithy, poignant prose and is flying off shelves around town, including those at *Harvard Book Store, 1256 Massachusetts Ave, (661-1515); Mon.-Thur., 9am-11pm; Fri.-Sat., 9-12am; Sun., 10am-10pm.*



TRAY CHIC

Whether it's poolside or at the picnic table, serve up summer fare in retro style. The trays come in a variety of colors and designs and cost $26 each. *Pluto, 215 Elm St., Somerville (666-2005) and 603 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (522-0054); Mon.-Wed., 11am-6pm, Thu.-Fri., 11am-7pm, Sat., 10am-6pm, Sun., 12-5pm.*



SUMMER TURN ONS

Entertaining *en plein air*? Create instant ambiance with a string of Linelights—whether festive blossoms or Japanese lanterns. They're available for $36 each at *Pluto, 215 Elm St., Somerville (666-2005) and 603 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (522-0054); Mon.-Wed., 11am-6pm, Thu.-Fri., 11am-7pm, Sat., 10am-6pm, Sun., 12-5pm.*

MILES OF STYLE

New Yorkers already are swishing around on these trendy two-wheelers; Boston hipsters can't be far behind. Deluxe Citybug Electric Scooter, $599.95, *The Sharper Image, the Mall at Chestnut Hill, 199 Boylston St. (262-7010); Mon.-Fri., 10am-9:30pm, Sat., 10am-8pm, Sun., 12-8pm.*

WILD WEAVES

Variations on these sassy Mexican sacs are showing up in upscale stores around town for quadruple the price. If you're looking for a bargain and authenticity, head to Nomad, where these plastic bags range from $12-$28. *Nomad, 1741 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge (497-6677); Mon.-Wed., 10am-6pm; Thur.-Fri., 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm.*

Social Studies

Who beaches where? Our social columnist draws a line in the sand. BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Ahhh, summer, when the four short months of warm weather send Bostonians scurrying to the beach like cockroaches dispersing in a suddenly lit room. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, the city is dead. All the college students are gone, and all the tourists (who can't really be considered human beings) wander around in sweaty herds, trying to find their way from "Fanoolly Hal" to "that church where the guy hung those lanterns." No wonder everybody heads for the seashore.

This being a city of tribes, though, the beach resorts all have their own distinctive flavor and attract a certain, very specific cross-section of the social scene.

So where do you fit in? Will you be wearing lime-green go-to-hell pants and sipping Bloodys on Nantucket, or showing off your new nipple ring to a group of tattooed lesbians in Provincetown? The choice is a crucial one, since renting a house for the summer during these robust economic times will probably cost you the equivalent of an Ivy League education.

CAPE CHRONICLES

Let's start with the Cape, or as it can more accurately be described, that rather sandy area surrounding the elongated parking lot known as Route 6. Arguably the most glamorous of its enclaves is **Hyannisport**, which is where you go if you're rich, Irish Catholic and sympathetic to paparazzi creeping across your lawn to ambush the Kennedy clan and famous relations like Arnold Schwarzenneger.

Chatham, on the other hand, is prettier: a twee little New England town with a slightly snippity-snoodle, decidedly Waspy air—think prep-school stickers plastered on the back windows of bright Volvo station wagons. **Falmouth** is probably more your speed if you're a highly succesful, Mercedes-driving orthodontist, while **Wellfleet**, for some strange reason, is the preferred haunt of psychiatrists, psychologists and intellectual Cambridge types—which explains why children who misbehave on the Wellfleet's beaches are scolded either for "innapropriate and provocative" behavior or excused as having Attention Deficit Disorder. Of course, the most colorful and flamboyant town on the Cape is undoubtedly at its very tip. **P-town** is where you go if you're either gay or an artist—extra bonus points for being both. The disparate mix of boho painters, hard-drinking writers, buff muscle boys, Portuguese fishermen and spiky-haired sisters of Sappho creates a festive, anything-goes atmosphere.

Roving beach reporter Jonathan Soroff kicks back with a cocktail and a crustacean.

ISLAND LIFE

Slightly more rarefied, and harder to get to, are the rival resort islands. **Martha's Vineyard**, the larger of the two, draws several factions—the black upper class who make **Oak Bluffs** a Mecca for the Jack and Jill/Howard University/Coalition of 100 Black Women set, the upper-crust Yankees who populate **Chappaquiddick**, **Edgartown** and **Vineyard Haven**, and the moneyed hippies who prefer the clothing-optional rusticity of the Up-island towns **Chilmark**, **Gay Head** and **Menemsha**. Thrown into the mix is a high New York and Hollywood celebrity quotient: Carly Simon, Walter Cronkite, Art Buchwald, Harvey Weinstein, Ted Danson, Oprah, Robert DeNiro, Michael J. Fox and, for the past several years, President Clinton, who screws up traffic to a fare-thee-well and gives islanders a siege mentality whenever he visits.

Nantucket, on the other hand, has undergone a transformation in recent years, from quaint little getaway to the place you're most likely to spot a beached Texas billionaire. Still the whitest island in the Atlantic, it has a cocktail party ambience and a plethora of expensive restaurants. In the past decade, however, 20,000-square-foot "cottages" have proliferated like mushrooms, and along with the fog that frequently socks it in, the island has had the unfortunate luck of attracting such summer residents as gazillionaire clothing magnate Tommy Hilfiger and odious talk show harridan Kathie Lee Gifford. It seems only a matter of time before Martha Stewart shows up to start doling out awards for rose bushes and canapes.

NEWPORT'S OLD GUARD

If Nantucket has become the Newport of the 1990s, **Newport** remains a mausoleum of the 19th-century highlife. Why the richest people in the world, who could have set up camp anywhere they wanted, chose this inhospitable spit of land is a mystery. After all, the beaches are basically heaps of boulders leading down to the sea, and even the sand at the famous **Bailey's Beach Club** has to be raked for seaweed every half hour or so. As a result, the only people who go to Newport are the dinosaurs of the Old Guard (descendants of those pre-income-tax millionaires, who sit in the dim recesses of their marble mansions along Bellevue Avenue, trying to figure out how to cut the rest of the family out of the will), avid sailors and yachtsmen (who take advantage of the town's excellent harbor), and yahoos whose idea of a good time is drinking at one of the bars on the waterfront until they vomit on their shoes.

LILY-WHITE LAND

Much farther to the north are the Old Money summer colonies of Maine—places like **Bar Harbor**, **Vinalhaven**, **Camden**, **Kennebunkport**, **Dark Harbor** and **Squirrel Island**. This is the land of gin and Triscuits (which is all you'll find in the pantry), where the same pine trees have shaded successive generations of the same lily-white families for more than a hundred years. Other than sailing, there's very little to do, except intermarry, which is why the population has a bland, slightly eerie, cookie-cutter appearance. If you have a trust fund and a dilapidated wooden tennis racquet, you'll fit in fine.

MONEY TALKS

Heading south, meanwhile, will bring you to the **Hamptons**, which is essentially the Upper East Side of Manhattan transplanted to the eastern tip of Long Island. Just like in New York City, money talks, and here there's so much of it that each fortune has to fairly scream to be heard over the din. That woman next to you at the farm stand, paying $5 for a tomato? Quite probably a minor European royal. The kid mowing the lawn of that French Norman chateau tucked into the dunes? He's a millionaire in his own right. So over the top are the Hamptons—with traffic jams of Rolls Royces and Ferraris and high hedges of boxtree hiding obscenely lavish summer homes—that the only Bostonians who go there are those who don't mind when someone at a dinner party asks them where they live, they say, "Boston," and that person says, "How nice for you," before snubbing them for the rest of the evening.

Of course, there is a more economical alternative to any of these choices that also offers the prospect of less time sitting in traffic. On certain days, you can find a spot big enough for your towel on nearby **Revere Beach**, and the fried clams at Kelly's are outstanding. IB

PHOTO BY STEVEN BILLUPS; SPECIAL THANKS TO 29 NEWBURY AND THE RITZ CARLTON

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Reach the Beach

No car? No problem. These shores are accessible via public transit. BY MISSY SCHWARTZ

Nantasket beach offers plenty of sand, sea—*and* a '20s-era carousel. A word of caution, however: At high tide, the 1.3 mile-beach is almost completely swallowed up by the sea.

SOUTH BOSTON

Southie has a number of beaches all within a hop, skip and a jump of each other. **Carson Beach** may be slightly sullied by the Bayside Expo Center, but hey, it's still a beach, right? (727-8865). Carson's neighbor, **L Street Beach** is fun, but beware: You have to be a Boston resident and pay a $30 yearly fee to get into the Curley Convention Center (635-5104). The next in the 'hood is **M Street Beach**, where you can gaze at sailboats floating by on the horizon (727-8865). All three spots of sand are located on William J. Day Blvd. in South Boston. To get there by MBTA, take the Red Line to Andrew.

The second cousin of those three beaches is **Castle Island**, which is a bit farther removed over the causeway. It's also on William J. Day Blvd. in South Boston (268-5744). To get there by MBTA, take the Red Line to Broadway, then a #9, #10 or #11 bus.

Boasting relatively pollution-free terrain, a lifeguard and a snack bar, **Pleasure Bay** is more of a family beach. It's also on William J. Day Blvd. in South Boston (727-8865). As with the trip to Castle Island, take the Red Line to Broadway, then transfer to a #9, #10 or #11 bus.

You might be able to do some California dreaming at **Malibu Beach**, but you probably won't run into anyone from *Bay Watch*. It's on Morrissey Blvd. in Dorchester (727-8865). By MBTA, take the Red Line to Savin Hill.

If you make a stop at **Savin Hill Beach**, be warned: The water is more than slightly polluted and the traffic from the nearby highway is less than soothing. But in a pinch, it still provides the basics of water and sand. It's located on Savin Hill Ave. in Dorchester (727-8865). To get there by MBTA, take the Red Line to Savin Hill.

From the cool two-story observation deck at **Tenean Beach**, you can observe a Boeing or two take off into the sky from Logan Airport. It's located on Tenean Street in Dorchester (727-8865). To get there, take the Red Line to Fields Corner, then a #20 bus.

EAST BOSTON

If there's a commonality among Boston beaches, it's the view of airplanes coming and going from Logan Airport. **Constitution Beach** is no exception. It's located on Bennington Street in East Boston (727-8865). To get there by MBTA, take the Blue Line to Orient Heights.

SOUTH SHORE

Lovers of carousels can delight in **Nantasket Beach**'s 1920s-era bobbing-horse relic. It's located on Nantasket Avenue in Hull (727-8865). To get there by MBTA, take the Red Line to Quincy Center, then transfer to a #220 bus.

Wollaston Beach's 2.3-mile jogging path makes for a great little run. It's located on Quincy Shore Drive in Quincy (727-8865). Take the Red Line to Wollaston.

NORTH OF BOSTON

Thanks to its cameo role in *Next Stop Wonderland* (and killer beachside junkfood), **Revere Beach** is a Boston celebrity of sorts. It's on Revere Beach Blvd. in Revere (727-8865). Take the Blue Line to Revere.

Devereux Beach is well worth the 45-minute trek out there. It's got 5.48 acres of sandy beach and lots of great seafood (781-631-2868). Take the Green Line to Haymarket, then a #441 or #442 bus to Humphrey.

Winthrop Beach is clean, despite the neighboring waste-treatment facility. Take the Blue Line to Orient Heights, then transfer to a Winthrop bus.

Lynn-Nahant State Reservation offers beautiful sandy beaches and a spectacular view of the Boston skyline. Take the Blue Line to Wonderland, transfer to a #441 or $442 bus to Central Sq., and then transfer to a #439 bus.

Singing Beach's name says it all: The sand makes a singing noise as you walk on it (800-742-5306). It's in Manchester-by-the Sea. To get there by MBTA, take the North Station Commuter Rail to Manchester.

Gloucester boasts an authentic fishing town ambiance and several pleasant beaches (978-977-7760). Take the Commuter Rail from North Station to Gloucester.

One stop past Gloucester is **Rockport**, with its majestic views, downtown beaches, and art galleries (978-977-7760). Take the North Station Commuter Rail to Rockport.

PROVINCETOWN

Provincetown beaches, ranking high on the summer fun and hipness scale, is now a mere high-speed catamaran ride away. Boston Harbor Cruises now offers a quick 90-minute trip (half the driving time!) from Boston to Provincetown (227-4321). Departures from Rowes Wharf. Round-trip tickets cost $39. IB

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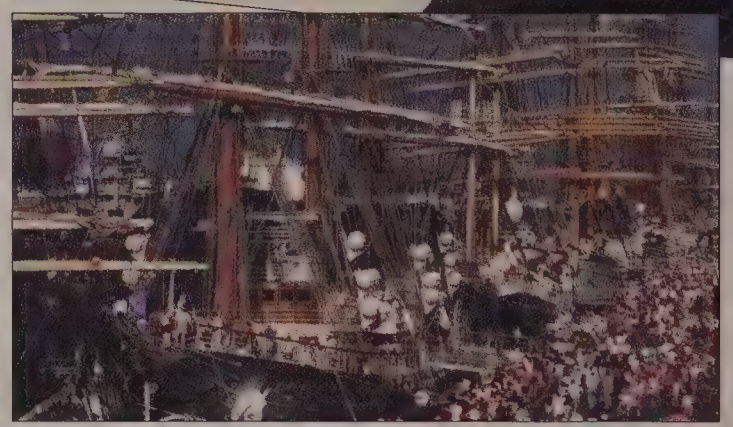
City Fests

Boston heats up with parades, fairs and boat races this summer.

BY ERIN HAGEDORN, JULIE SHORT AND JENNIFER SOBIE



Clockwise from top left, the Dragon Boat Festival, Scooper Bowl on City Hall Plaza, the Shriners Parade, Sail Boston 2000 and Harborfest.

It's hard to walk through the streets of Boston in the summer without running into a festival or parade of some sort. Everywhere you turn there's an Italian feast, a fireworks celebration or a boat festivals on the harbor. Whatever your pleasure, you're sure to find plenty of reasons to abandon your air-conditioned apartment and join the masses to revel in the beauty of a Boston summer.

MAY

Hidden Gardens of Beacon Hill
Garden Tours, Beacon Hill (227-4392). May 18, 9am-5pm. $25. Here's your chance to sneak behind the brownstones of Beacon Hill (without being arrested for trespassing) and see 12 beautiful private gardens.

Street Performers Festival
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (523-1300). May 26-29. Jugglers, clowns, mimes, acrobats, magicians, puppeteers, step dancers, violinists, unicyclists, storytellers and musicians from all over the world perform for crowds.

JUNE

Italian-American Fiestas
Hanover Street, North End, Boston (536-4100). A different patron saint is honored almost every weekend with a procession, music, carnival games and wheels of pizza. •June 2-4: **Feast of Santa Maria DiAnzano** •June 11: **St. Anthony's Procession** •June 25: **St. Jude Procession** •July 7-9: **Feast of Madonna del Grazie** •July 16: **St. Rocco** •August 4-6: **Feast of St. Agrippina** •August 11-13: **Feast of Madonna della Cava** •August 25-27: **Feast of St. Anthony**.

World's Fair
Central Square, Cambridge (868-FAIR). June 4, 12-6pm. This fest kicks off at noon with food galore and nine stages of music, including Latin, Caribbean, Irish, honky-tonk and gospel.

AIDS Action Walk
Boston 2000, Hatch Shell, Boston (424-9255). June 4, 10am. These shoes were made for walking, and they're going to walk 6.2 miles to benefit the AIDS Action Committee.

Scooper Bowl/Boston Dairy Festival
Boston City Hall Plaza (632-3300). June 6-8. $5. Indulge in this all-you-can-eat ice cream festival hosted by nine of New England's finest ice cream makers.

Harpoon Brewstock
Harpoon Brewery, 306 Northern Ave., Boston (574-9551). June 8-10. 5:30pm, $10, 21+. A celebration of the best elements of summer—frothy beer, lively tunes and barbecued food. Several of Boston's up-and-coming bands play everything from rock to reggae.

Gay Pride Day
Through the streets of Boston (520-3350). June 10, 12pm. Tens of thousands of people march from Copley Square through the South End to the Common for entertainment, arts and crafts and informational exhibits.

The Great Race: Boston to Sacramento Car Race
Parade follows Boylston Street to the entrance of the Mass. Turnpike. June 11. The Great Race features 120 vintage cars (dating from 1905 to 1960) in a two-week-long timed rally race from downtown Boston to Sacramento.

Celebrate Seaport!
Seaport District, adjacent to the Seaport Hotel and World Trade Center, Boston (385-5955). June 17-18. Celebrate Seaport is a two-day festive marketplace extravaganza, featuring unique activities—from hydrobiking on the Boston Harbor to a farmers' market—along with food sampling, shopping and live entertainment.

Bunker Hill Parade
Charlestown (242-5601). June 17. March through the streets of Charlestown to the monument that commemorates the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Dragon Boat Festival
Charles River, Cambridge (349-0584). June 18. You'll hear the rhythmic drum beating along the riverbanks long before you get there. Marvel at the display of brightly colored dragons as they're paddled across the Charles River and enjoy a variety of arts, crafts, traditional Chinese opera and yummy food.

Tremont Brewery Music Fest 2000
Tremont Brewery, 50 Terminal St., Charlestown (646-3400). June 24, 1-10pm. Enjoy a festival of local music with acts ranging from rock to electronica...not to mention plenty of beer.

Harborfest 2000
Boston Harbor, Boston (227-1528). June 28-July 4. A gigantic party with more than 200 events—including Revolutionary-era re-enactments, the Chowderfest, free noontime concerts and a fireworks sky concert.

JULY

Shriners Parade
Copley Square to Cambridge Street, Boston. www.shrinershq.org. *July 4, 1pm; July 5, 7pm.* Two giant parades with hundreds of midget cars, biplanes, trolleys, camels and teeny tiny fire trucks.

Bastille Day Bash
Marlborough Street, Boston (266-4351). July 9, 5-11pm. An annual street fair with food and music to celebrate French Bastille Day.

Sail Boston 2000
Boston Harbor. July 11-16. On July 11, the Tall Ships parade into Boston's port led by the *U.S.S. Constitution*, and for six days the gray hulled vessels will be berthed in Boston Harbor, open to the public.

Battle of the Barges
Boston Harbor (439-5200). July 15. Two fireworks companies compete against each other by launching their best fireworks from separate barges in the Boston Harbor.

George's Island 27th Annual Civil War Reenactment
George's Island, Boston Harbor Islands State Park, Boston (727-7676). July 22-23, 11am-3pm. Costumed interpreters re-enact life at Fort Warren, a prisoner-of-war camp during the Civil War.

Boston Tug Boat Muster
Charlestown Navy Yard, Pier Four, Charlestown (439-7700). July 25. At the toot of a horn, two tug boats meet bow to bow, courageously pushing with all their might to force the other backwards. Watch the boats battle it out.

AUGUST

Boardwalk Art Show
Marina Bay Boardwalk, Quincy (847-6321). Early August. Stroll the boardwalk, converse with local artists and purchase original works at this annual art show.

Chinatown Festival
Chinatown, Boston (635-3891). Aug. 6. Enjoy Chinese food and festivities.

August Moon Festival
Chinatown, Boston (635-3891). MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown. Mid-August (usually the third Sunday in August). This annual festival celebrates 30 years of the glories and mysteries of the moon with food, entertainment and lion dancing in the streets.

SEPTEMBER

8th Annual Boston Antique and Classic Boat Festival
Long Wharf, Boston Harbor, Boston (666-8530). Sept. 2-3. Some 50 classic sailboats and powerboats—ranging from 1890s steam launches and 1920s-era mahogany runabouts to a flotilla of sloops, sharpies, yawls and schooners—sail into Boston Harbor. Enjoy the blessing of the fleet and then watch the parade of boats. IB

Get On Out!

Dabble in the art of daytripping this summer and get out of town.

When it comes to beating the heat and freeing yourself from the masses of Sox fans in the Fenway, you can't beat daytripping. This year, whether you're looking to cool off, entertain the relatives or simply escape, there are getaway events aplenty going on all around New England—from folk fests and art fairs to footraces and food frenzies. Here are just a few of the highlights:

MAY

Lobsterfest
Mystic Seaport, Conn. (860-572-5315). www.mystic.org. *May 27-29. 11am-3pm, $8-$16.* Crack your first claw of the summer at Lobsterfest, held during Memorial Day Weekend under Mystic Seaport's open-air boat shed on the banks of the Mystic River.

JUNE

Great Schweppes Chowder Cookoff
Yachting Center, Newport, R.I. (401-846-1600). June 3. 11am-6pm, $12. As 25 restaurants and caterers battle for the title of "Best Chowder in the Nation," you get to help sample all kinds of variations of clam, seafood, and "creative" chowder, all amid three stages of music and culinary demonstrations.

Art in the Park
DeCordova Museum, Lincoln, Mass. (781-259-8355). June 4. 10am-5pm, $6-$8. A prime summertime spot any day, here's an extra incentive to head to this beautiful museum. Today, you can meet the artists themselves as more than 100 New England artists show and sell their work. Also enjoy live music, art-related activities and entertainment.

Market Square Day
Portsmouth, N.H. (603-431-5388). June 10. 9am-9:30pm. Heaps of New Englanders come together to celebrate the arts. Throughout the day, enjoy a New England 10K road race, an arts and crafts fair, inter-national food and four stages of music. The day goes out with a bang with a live music concert set to fireworks.

Mt. Washington Road Footrace
Gorham, N.H. (603-863-2537). www.gsrs.com. *June 17.* Light torture has never been so much fun. Test your stamina in this 7.6 mile run up 6,228 foot Mt. Washington. Ruefully dubbed "the race with only one hill," it's considered by many to be the most challenging in New England. Non-participants can always help the runners back down.

Nantucket Film Festival
Nantucket Island, Mass. (508-228-1700). www.nantucketfilmfestival.org. *June 19-24.* If movies are your thing, you won't want to miss this opportunity to join screenwriters, producers, actors and other avid film fans for a week of debuts and workshops. The festival is renowned for its eschewing of Hollywood glamour and its focus on the substantive art of screenwriting.

Quincy Blues Festival
Quincy, Mass. (376-1990). June 24. Almost 10 years strong, the Quincy Blues Festival is recognized as one of the region's top cultural events, regularly bringing in nationally renowned blues musicians as well as thousands of music, art and photography enthusiasts.

Montreal International Jazz Festival
Montreal, Quebec (888-515-0515). www.montrealjazzfest.com. *June 29-July 9. 12pm-12am, $20-$80.* One of the most popular jazz festivals in the world celebrates with hundreds of free outdoor concerts and indoor events. The gala event continues for several weeks with an incredible line-up.

JULY

Basin Bluegrass Festival
Brandon, Vermont. (802-247-3275). July 7-9. Camping and field picking is encouraged at this three-day traditional bluegrass festival. You'll find music workshops, food on site, crafts and more.

Summerfest
New Bedford, Mass. (508-999-5231). July 7-9, 11am-9pm. $3-$5. A family-oriented three-day festival, this fishy bash is chock full of scallop and seafood dinners—plus six stages of entertainment with top names in folk, blues and jazz. There's arts and crafts exhibits galore, a Riverdance show and fireworks.

Newport Music Festival
Newport, R.I. (401-846-1133). July 7-23. Millionaires lend their neo-classical and baroque ballrooms and lawns for 60 classical concerts with 80 international artists playing on the grounds of grand estates.

Salem Maritime Festival
Salem, Mass. (978-740-1660). July 22. 10am-10pm. Free. Enjoy a full day of family fun with traditional maritime music, concerts and demonstrations where you can learn how to make a sail, build a boat, tie a knot and more.

Lowell Folk Festival
Lowell, Mass. www.lowellfolkfestival.org. *July 28-30.* The largest free folk fest in the country returns with six outdoor stages displaying three days' worth of traditional dance and music. Participate in the uproarious street parades and dance parties.

Above, children amuse themselves with crustaceans at the Mystic Seaport Lobsterfest. At left, a runner nears the finish line of the Mt. Washington Road Footrace.

AUGUST

24th Annual Maine Festival
Thomas Point Beach in Brunswick, Maine (207-772-9012). www.mainearts.org. *Aug. 3-6. $3.50-$20.* Venture through small Maine towns during this four-day arts spree—there's a unique craft and art market, seven performance stages and the Fabulous Festival Foodway. For those who want to keep with the natural-woods-of-Maine theme, camping is available.

Ben & Jerry's Newport Folk Festival
Newport, R.I. (401-847-3700). Aug.4-6. Since the inaugural 1958 bash, the Newport Folk Festival has earned a well-deserved rep for presenting the very best in traditional and up-and-coming folk artists.

Newport Folk Festival
Fort Adams State Park and the Hotel Viking in Newport, R.I. www.newportfolk.com. *Aug. 4-6.* One of Newport's top tourism events. Attracting thousands of people each weekend it is held, the big name gaiety brings in brilliant and trend-setting music. Take a break from music to enjoy the restaurants and shops.

Berkshire Mountain Festival
Butternut Ski Basin, Great Barrington, Mass. www.berkfest.com. *Aug. 11-13.* The mountains provide an inspirational backdrop for five stages of music and big-name bands. The biggest problem you should have will be trying to decide which band to see—Bela Fleck & the Flecktones, Deep Banana Blackout, Yoder Mountain String Band, Jiggle the Handle and much more.

A Taste of Northampton
Northampton, Mass. (413-584-1900). Aug. 10-13. More than 40 of Northampton's finest restaurants delivers delicious delicacies at this four-day festival sponsored by the Northampton Chamber of Commerce.

JVC Jazz Festival
Newport, R.I. (401-847-3700). Aug. 11-13. The annual music festival opens with an evening concert at the Newport Casino and then moves to Fort Adams State Park for two more days of music, food and crafts.

Festival of Fireworks
Jaffrey, N.H. (800-321-5008). Aug. 19, 9pm. $30-$100. Considered one of the best fireworks shows in New England, this 30-minute production is put on by a pyrotechnics company that choreographs thousands of colorful blooms and kabooms while the crowd dances away, listens to music and loses itself in the melee.

Gloucester Waterfront Festival
Gloucester, Mass. (978-283-1601). www.cape-ann.com/cacc. *Aug. 19-20.* Head north to catch a seabreeze and wander through arts and crafts shows, catch some live entertainment and food. While you're here, consider a whale watch, a nighttime boat parade and a pancake breakfast.

Water, water everywhere, but not enough to sink: Water Country in Portsmouth, N.H.

Ride It, Baby

Amuse yourself at these area fun parks.

Canobie Lake Park *North Policy St., Salem, N.H. (603-893-3506). Open daily May 26-Sept. 4. All-day passes, $19; $12; after 5pm, $12.*
Funtown and Splashtown *774 Portland Road, Saco, Maine (800-878-2900). Open daily June 7-Sept. 4. Funtown: $21; Splashtown: $15; Combo passes: adults, $28; children, $20.*
Lake Compounce *822 Lake Ave., Bristol, Conn. (860-583-3631). May 27-Sept. 24. $6.95; ride all day, $23.95; after 5pm, $16.50.*
Quassy Amusement Park *Route 64, Middlebury, Conn. (203-758-2913). Open through Oct. 9. $4.95-$15.*
Six Flags New England (formerly Riverside Park) *Route 159, Agawam, Mass. (413-786-9300). Through Oct.31. $34.99; after 4pm, $19.99.*
Story Land *Route 16, Glen, N.H. (603-383-4186). Open daily June 16-Sept. 4. $18.00.*
Water Country *Route 1, Portsmouth, N.H. (603-436-3556). June 10-Sept. 4. Adults, $26.99; three hours before closing, $17.99.* See photo (left).
Whalom Park *10 Lakefront St., Lunenburg, Mass. (978-342-3707). Daily June 19-Sept. 4. General admission $4; adults, $14.95.*

on the fringe

This summer, take a walk on the weird side. BY RACHEL STRUTT

Clockwise, from above: An entry in the Crane Beach Sand Blast contest; one of the many wares you'll find at the Fetish Fair; and *Misfit*, part of the *Unnatural Science* exhibit at Mass MoCA.

Perhaps you're the "been there, done that" type who emits a big yawn at the prospect of July 4th Pops on the Esplanade or Tall Ships hoo-ha. Perhaps the prospect of quacking tourists on a duck boat makes you wince. Perhaps you need a walk on the weird side—events or exhibits that offer up something novel, quirky or downright bizarre. Well surprisingly, this often hopelessly provincial little state of ours offers a plethora of varied and unusual activities. Whether it's a psychic arts and crafts fair, a teddy bear rally or fetish festival, weirdness prevails this summer. So get off your jaded arse and dive in.

ALL CREATURES BIG AND SMALL

Unnatural Science

Through March 15, 2001. An exhibit at Massachusetts Museum of Modern Art, 87 Marshall St., North Adams. Tues.-Sun., 10am-4pm. $6. Call 413-664-4481, or visit www.massmoca.org. This exhibit showcases works by contemporary artists—including **Kiki Smith** and **Young Sun Lim**—who explore scientific discoveries and inventions as a springboard for the fantastic and bizarre. Most noteworthy is **Catherine Chalmers' *Food Chain***, a series gruesome photographs chronicling insects and critters eating one another. The truly weird twist: Chalmers cultivated this food chain—from caterpillars eating a tomato to a frog eating a praying matis—in her small New York apartment.

Annual Llama and Alpaca Bazaar

May 27-28. 10am-4pm. West Mountain Farm, Stamford, VT. Free. Call 802-694-1417, or visit www.westmountainfarm.com. Immerse yourself in rustic Vermont and learn why so many people are enjoying these camel cousins.

Glasgow Lands Scottish Festival

July 15, 9am-5pm, Stanley Park, Western Ave., Westfield. Call 413-848-2816, or visit www.glasgowlands.org. Finally, an opportunity to see some good ol' fashioned geese herding. Also expect a celebration of all things Scottish—from Highland dancing to Haggis!

Annual Teddy Bear Rally

Aug. 5, 9am-4:00pm, Amherst Town Common, Amherst. Call 413-256-8983. Teddy bear buffs stream into town for this fair featuring 160 teddy bear vendors; a teddy bear hospital—and even a teddy bear parade!

FISH-RELATED EVENTS

St. Peter's Fiesta/New Fish Festival

June 22-25, Thurs-Fri, 6-11pm; Sat.-Sun., 10am-12am. St. Peter's Sq,. Gloucester . Call 978-283-1601. In Gloucester you'll still find the hearty, bearded fishmen of Winslow Homer's paintings. The festival features music, food and the blessing of the fleet. On June 21 at 5:30, head to the Gloucester House Restaurant for the new fish festival in which local restauranteurs offer up dishes using underutilized species of fish.

Fish for Art

July 22, 12-7pm. Davis Square, Somerville. Call 625-6600, x2985, or visit www.somervilleartscouncil.org. Every summer the Somerville Arts Council throws a festive "**ArtBeat**" shindig at Davis Square—a celebration of art and general Somervillian wackiness. This year promises to be somewhat wackier than usual given its theme: Fish for Art (an attempt to heighten awareness around the plight of the polluted Mystic River). A highlight should be local sculptor Bill Turville's fish "lumieres," giant wire-frame sculptures that will be illuminated at night.

Crane Beach Sand Blast

290 Argilla Rd., Ipswich. Call 978-356-435. Aug. 12, 8am-4pm. Advance tickets, $18 per group ($15 for trustees); same-day tickets, $20 per group ($15 for trustees). An event not directly fish related, but it takes place at a beach, so close enough. This year's sand-building blowout has

rather esoteric theme: pre-1980 movies. By day's end, expect a beach populated with Hollywood's biggest movie stars of old.

HISTORY AND HAUNTINGS

Are We Alone?

May 20, 1pm. A free lecture offered by the New England Skeptical Society at Brookline Public Library, 361 Washington St. For more information, call 781-891-1122. If you believe the truth is out there, don't miss Carl Helmers, editorial co-founder of *Byte* magazine, give a talk titled "Why the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence (SETI) Should Go On." Helmers will defend SETI and instruct the curious and the hopeful how to join the growing army of SETI home computer activists.

Count Dracula's Castle

Grand Opening, May 26, 6-9pm; May 27, 10am-6pm; May 28, 10am-6pm; May 29, 10am-3pm. 90 Lafayette St., Salem. Admission: $7, adults; $4, children. Call 978-745-4777, or visit draculathecastle.com. This castle seems to have a campy spooksville-meets-Renaissance theme. On opening weekend, there will be sword fighting and other entertainment. The castle will be open all summer long.

Psychic Crafts Fair, Silent Auction

June 3, 10am-4pm. Bridgewater Fellowship Lodge, 39 Central Square, Bridgewater. For more info., call 508-378-9650. This curious event is hosted by the Society of Elder Faiths, a pagan church. There will be plenty of fortune-tellers, magical wares and a silent auction (telepathic bids only). Proceeds go to the AIDs Action Committee.

King Richard's Faire

Sept. 2-Oct. 15, Sat., Sun. & Mon. holidays, 11am-6pm. Rt. 58, South Carver. Call 508-866-5391. King Richard and his Queen Katherine preside over this 16th-century English marketplace at festival time.

AND BEYOND

New England Aerobatics Championships

May 19-21, 9am-6pm; Sun, 10am-6pm. Orange Municipal Airport, East River St., Orange. Call 978-249-3849. This sky fest features more than 50 nationally ranked stunt flyers.

Vans Warped Tour '00

Thursday, July 20, 12:30 pm. Suffolk Downs, East Boston. Tickets are $25 and go on sale May 12 at 10am at all Strawberries Record Stores, online at tickets.com *or by phone at 800-477-6849.* Dude, we're talking extreme. The sixth-annual alternative music/extreme-sports extravaganza features stages galore and plenty of extreme-sports challenges. The musical lineup includes Green Day, Suicide Machines and Papa Roach.

Fetish Fair

July 29, 10am-6pm. Bayside Expo Center, 200 Mt. Vernon St. $5. Call 864-0655, or visit www.NLA-NewEngland.org. Kink abounds at this mega-festish festival featuring floggers, paddles, collars and corsets (this is where local sex shops like Eros Boutique and Hubba Hubba get their wares). Expect dominatrixes galore and men cavorting on saddled cohorts.

Hemp Fest

Sept. 16, 12pm, Boston Common. Call 781-944-CANN, or visit www.masscan.org. Head to Boston Common Sept. 16 at high noon. You'll join up to 100,000 other pro-hempsters at the 11th-annual Freedom Rally of the Massachusetts Cannabis Coalition. Between hits (musical acts range from blues to rock), don't miss talks related to marijuana legalization. IB

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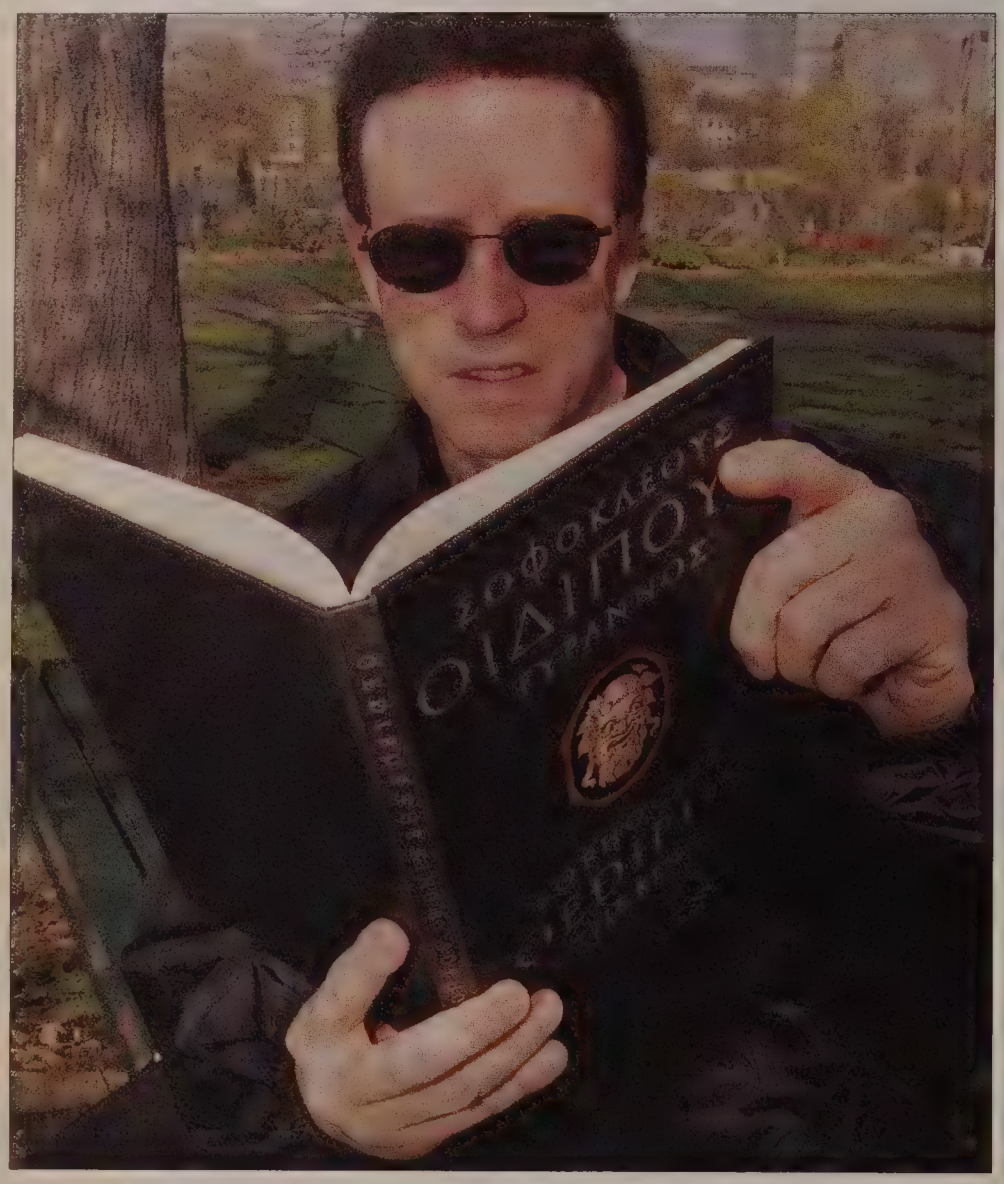
Sneak Peeks

From tomes to tanning, 10 prominent Bostonians share summer plans. BY ANDREW GRAHAM



OEDIPUS Program Director/DJ, WBCN

READING *The Ax*, Donald Westlake; *Prayers for Rain*, Dennis Lehane; *Vita Nova: Poems*, Louise Gluck ("It's always important to have a book of poetry on you," says Oedipus); *Birds of America*, Lorrie Moore.
LISTENING *Skull & Bones* by Cypress Hill; *Vagabond Ways* by Marianne Faithfull; *XTRMNTR* by Primal Scream ("Great song on this record called 'Swastika Eyes,' about Madeline Albright and the creeping global fascism we're seeing these days"); and the "Thong Song" by Sisqo.
R & R A trip up to Alaska to run with the wolves. No, really. "I had a pet wolf for about 15 years," says Oedipus, "and I miss her. So I want to go up and spend some time with her relatives."
ON TANNING "Tan lines are sexy." (Despite his vacation plans, we still had to ask.)

JENNIFER GELFAND
Principal Dancer for the Boston Ballet

READING "I want to catch up on the latest John Grisham novels."
LISTENING The new Macy Gray album—"anything but the *Nutcracker*!"
R & R Gelfand plans to do lots of renovation and redecoration around her own house—as well as work on selling other people's houses (her recent side-project from ballet has been the real estate game).
ON TANNING "I thought we weren't supposed to do that anymore!"

MR. LIF Hip-hop artist
Most recent hit: "Farmhand" on the Beastie Boys' Grand Royal Records

READING *Native Speaker*, Chang-Rae Lee; *Invisible Man*, Ralph Ellison; *A Question of Power*, Bessie Head.
LISTENING The imminent full-length album by locals 7L & Esoteric, the forthcoming EP on Rawkus Records by Akrobatik (Lif's frequent collaborator), and ever-essential albums like *Liquid Swords* by the GZA and *Daily Operation* by Gang Starr.
R & R After his upcoming gig at the House of Blues, Lif plans to hibernate in the studio .
ON TANNING "Use the proper sunblock formula and wear a snowsuit."

MICHAEL PATRICK MACDONALD
Author *All Souls*, a first-hand account of growing up in South Boston.

READING *Bastard Out of Carolina*, Dorothy Allison (a reread).
LISTENING Jamaican Dancehall and Reggae.
R & R "I may be going back to Portadown, Northern Ireland for the Protestant Orange Order's march through Irish Catholic neighborhoods, then to Hollywood to do a couple readings in July.
ON TANNING "Definitely avoid what the kids in Southie call the 'wife beatah tan': that pink and white burn-line you get from wearing a Hanes tank top all summer long."

THOMAS P. O'NEILL III
CEO of GPC/O'Neill and Associates

READING The latest by Robert Parker, William Kennedy, Christopher Buckley and Jim Carroll.
LISTENING "Dean Martin—this summer and every summer… because it continues to embarrass my kids."
R & R "The Cape. Can you believe that?"
ON TANNING "With my complexion, SPF 45!"

IAN JUST Head Chef, Les Zygomates

READING *The Comedian*, Graham Greene; *The Professor*, Philip Roth.
LISTENING Latin music—a new interest. "I hardly even know any names—but I love to move to it. I also like Dire Straits, the Who, Led Zeppelin, and old U2—around the *October* period. I'm pretty old school," he chuckles.
R & R Argentina in August for "a lot of eating," and the Westport Wine Festival, to which Just and his Les Zyg posse will bring a roasted suckling pig.
ON TANNING Heavy use of suntan lotion. As he sees it, it can't hurt—especially if, like him, you're "as white as they come."

ALAN DERSHOWITZ
Harvard Law Professor

READING "I always read anything new by Saul Bellow, as well as Richard North Patterson. I will also be reading lots of non-fiction about rights since I'm working on a book on that subject."
LISTENING "I play opera CDs from the deck of my home in Martha's Vineyard. I hope the neighbors enjoy Verdi."
R & R Martha's Vineyard—"my home away from home."
ON TANNING "Get to love wearing hats. Find a lot of funny ones and make wearing different hats into a game."

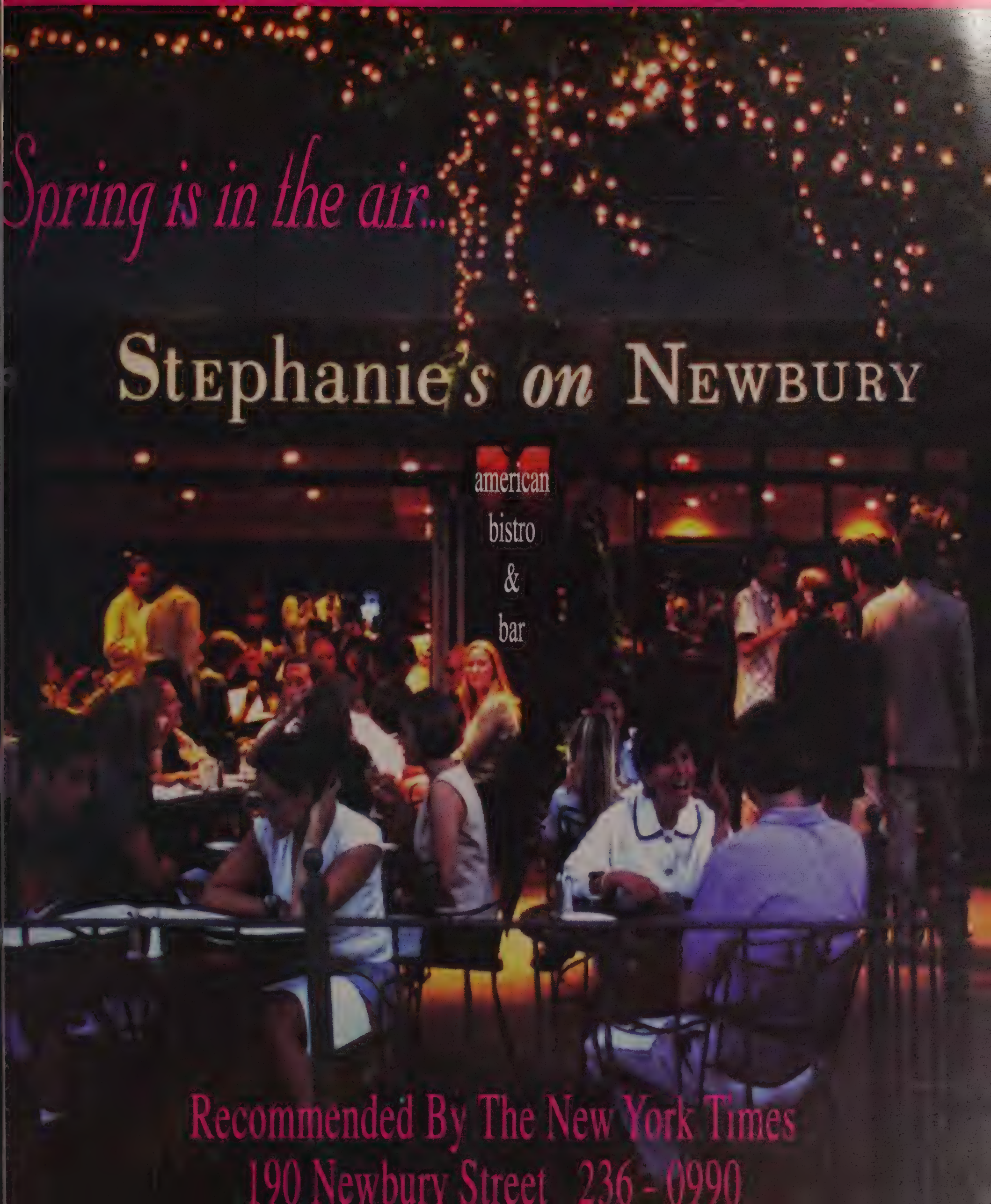
TOM BIRMINGHAM
State Senate President

READING *M: The Man Who Became Caravaggio*, Peter Robb; *Hugger Mugger*, Robert B. Parker; *Galileo's Daughter*, Dava Sobel.
LISTENING "Whatever music is brought along by daughters Megan, 14, and Erica, 17—and the sound of waves crashing on the Nantucket shore."
R & R "Family vacation to Nantucket, enjoying one of the many great aspects of Massachusetts life—the proximity of urban, suburban, rural, forest, park and seaside areas to one another."
ON TANNING "If you wear a hat, just make sure it's not a Yankees hat."

JONATHAN KATZ
Noted animated television psychiatrist

R & R "I'm going to Sea World, and all I'm bringing are some AAA batteries and my personal physician."
ON TANNING The good doctor declined to offer any comment (although we suspect he might agree with Mr. Just on liberal use of sunscreen).

PAGAN KENNEDY Author
Her latest book, *The Exes*, is a novel set in the midst of the Boston music scene.
READING *Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West*, Gregory Maguire; work by fellow writers at a "tribal retreat" in Western Mass.
LISTENING Surprisingly, not much, for two reasons: first, "writing *The Exes* was kind of like aversion therapy—you know, like when someone's addicted to M&Ms or cigarettes, and you just load them up until they can't take any more." Second reason: busted stereo.
R & R Kennedy and her self-described "tribe" of artistically motivated travelers will ambush various empty houses in Western Mass., in "military-style house-sitting maneuvers."
ON TANNING "I'm against it."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PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRITT CARPENTER

Dolce and Gabbana black cargo-pocket bikini, $245; available at Neiman Marcus. Christian Dior pilot sunglasses, $198; available at Saks Fifth Avenue.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Leterte pink bandeau bikini with red sequin trim, $102; available at Saks Fifth Avenue. Indigo-blue bikini with clear beading detail, $98; available at Emporio Armani.

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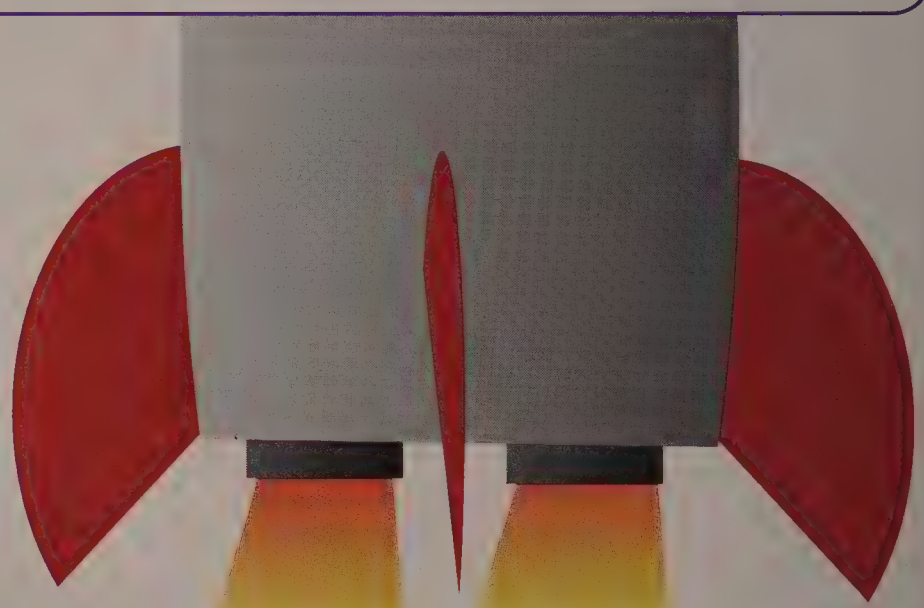

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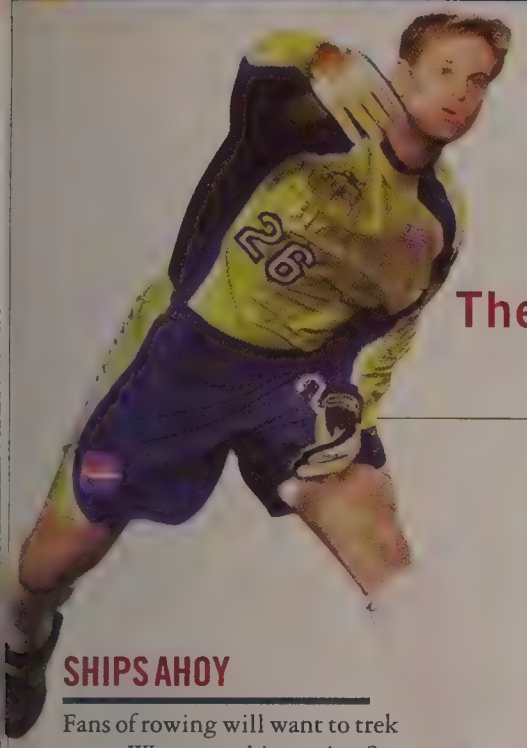


The Main Events

The hype and highlights of the summer sports season. BY RICHARD MANNING

SHIPS AHOY

Fans of rowing will want to trek out to Worcester this coming Sunday, May 21, for **The Eastern Sprints** on Lake Quinsigamond, in which the top collegiate crews are pitted against one other. Preliminary heats are scheduled for the morning and finals for the afternoon. Competing in the premier event—the heavyweight eights—are perennial powerhouse Harvard, 1999 winner Princeton and Brown. While the main attraction is exciting, it's also a treat to watch the winning cox get thrown into the lake at the end. To get there, take Route Nine and follow signs until you cross Lake Quinsigamond, then take a right onto Lake Avenue. Parking and admission are free.

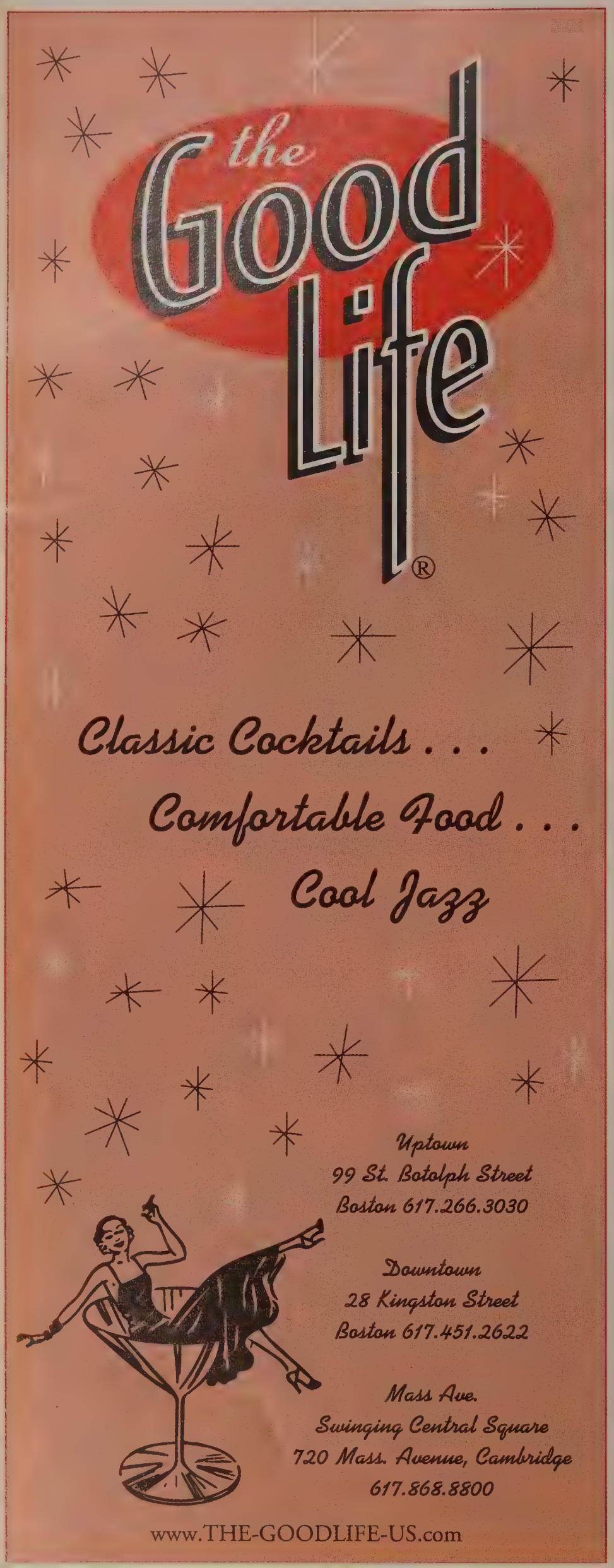
Sailing wins the prize for the largest and most splendid spectator event of the summer. The **Tall Ships 2000 Race Series**, which began in Genoa and Southampton last month, will stop over in Boston from July 11-16. One hundred and thirty ships—20 of the Tall Ship variety—will drop anchor in Boston harbor for six days. The public will be able to watch the fleet's arrival and tour the Tall Ships for free. When the ships set back out to sea, hardy Bostonian sailors can follow them on their journey to Halifax, Nova Scotia and Amsterdam. For more information, contact *www.sailboston.com*.

SOCCER SEASON

Nothing gets Boston sports fans' adrenaline pumping like a good ol' USA-Ireland duel. The **Ireland-USA Soccer Match** will take place Tuesday June 6 at Foxboro Stadium at 7:30.

Judging from last summer's shirts-off enthusiasm for the U.S. women's soccer ≫

Left: Revolution goalkeeper Jeff Causey
Right: Sox fans post a "K" for swinging strike outs—letters posted backward signify strike outs called by umpires.
Below: The Falmouth roadrace.



team, the hottest local sports ticket this summer could be for the inaugural **Football Confederation Women's Gold Cup** competition at Foxboro Stadium in late June and early July.

Despite being one of the worst teams in the league for the past four years, the **New England Revolution** has improved since the departure of prima donna goalie/coach/La Scala Aspirant Walter Zenga. For the rest of the summer, the club's home field will be Foxboro Stadium.

Tickets for the Ireland-USA game, the Women's Gold Cup and New England Revolution home games can all be purchased by calling 877-GETREVS or by logging on to *www.nerevolution.com.*

SUPER SOX

It's **Red Sox** time again, and fans are hoping that their team will make playoffs. As if superstars Nomar Garciaparra and Pedro Martinez (who seems to be aiming for the buns these days) weren't enough, off-season acquisition Carl Everett has joined the rock-solid team. This centerfielder's forte is hitting home runs —lots of them—from both sides of the plate. Governor Paul Cellucci was so moved by Everett's performance early in the season that he submitted a bill to the legislature suggesting it name a North Shore city after the new Sox teammate, only to be told the matter had already been taken care of.

Tickets for Sox home games can be purchased at 4 Yawkey Way, by calling 482-4SOX or by logging on to *www.redsox.com.*

AT THE TRACK

For horse racing aficionados, **Rockingham Park** in New Hampshire is the place to be. Highlights of the 2000 Live Thoroughbred Racing Season include the Grade III $200,000 New Hampshire Sweepstakes on June 24, the $25,000 Rockingham Park Derby on July 2, the $75,000 Rockingham Breeders' Cup on July 4 and the $100,000 Spicy Living Stakes on Aug. 6. Aug. 13 (rain date August 20) is the Coca-Cola Family Fest, which will feature complimentary children's entertainment. Post times for races are Mon., Wed., Sat. and Sun. at 1pm and Fri. at 7:30pm. Admission runs from $1-$3.50. Children get in free. Rockingham Park is located at Rockingham Park Blvd. in Salem, N.H. (off of Rte. 128). Call 603-898-2311.

ON YOUR MARK...

On Aug. 20, more than 8,000 nimble people from around the globe will run in the **28th Annual Falmouth Road Race**. A variety of categories, including a handicapped group, make up the athletes who will run the 7.1-mile race. It begins at 12pm at Woods Hole, continues along Surf Drive and finishes at Falmouth Heights. For more information, call 508-540-7000.

TUMBLING TRYOUTS

Wanna-be tumblers and enthusiasts are in for a treat Aug. 17-20, when the Fleet Center hosts the **US Olympic Gymnastic Team Trials**. During this four-day event, the country's top gymnasts will compete for a spot on the U.S. 2000 Olympic team. Tickets are $65, $100 and $200 and are good for all four days of the try-outs. To order tickets, call 617-931-2000. IB

Sked Row

Get in on the action: Clip and save this guide to summer games.

WOMEN'S GOLD CUP

6/24	12pm	China vs. Guatemala
	2:30pm	Canada vs. Mexico
6/27	5:30pm	Costa Rica vs. Trinidad and Tobago
	8pm	USA vs. Brazil
7/3	6pm	Third place game
	9pm	Championship game

NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION

5/17	7:30pm	Colorado Rapids
5/24	7:30pm	Los Angeles Galaxy
6/3	7:30pm	Miami Fusion
6/10	4:40pm	San Jose Earthquakes
7/1	7:30pm	Kansas City Wizards
7/15	3:30pm	NY/NJ Metrostars
8/2	7:30pm	Dallas Burn
8/5	7:00pm	Columbus Crew
8/19	4:30pm	Tampa Bay Mutiny
8/26	7:30pm	Columbus Crew
8/30	7:30pm	D.C. United

BOSTON RED SOX

5/19	7:05pm	Detroit Tigers
5/20	1:05pm	Detroit Tigers
5/21	1:05pm	Detroit Tigers
5/23	7:05pm	Toronto Blue Jays
5/24	7:05pm	Toronto Blue Jays
5/25	7:05pm	Toronto Blue Jays
5/30	7:05pm	Kansas City Royals
5/31	7:05pm	Kansas City Royals
6/1	7:05pm	Kansas City Royals
6/16	7:05pm	Toronto Blue Jays
6/16	5:05pm	Toronto Blue Jays
6/16	1:05pm	Toronto Blue Jays
6/20	7:05pm	New York Yankees (booooo)
6/21	7:05pm	New York Yankees (ditto)
6/22	7:05pm	New York Yankees (same)
6/27	7:05pm	Baltimore Orioles
6/28	7:05pm	Baltimore Orioles
6/29	7:05pm	Baltimore Orioles
7/7	7:05pm	Atlanta (formerly Boston) Braves
7/8	5:05pm	Atlanta (formerly Milwaukee) Braves
7/7	1:05pm	Atlanta (formerly Jane Fonda's) Braves
7/13	7:05pm	New York Mets
7/14	7:05pm	New York Mets
7/15	1:15pm	New York Mets
7/16	1:05pm	Montreal Expos
7/17	1:05pm	Montreal Expos
7/18	7:05pm	Montreal Expos
7/21	7:05pm	Chicago White Sox
7/22	5:05pm	Chicago White Sox
7/21	1:05pm	Chicago White Sox
7/24	7:05pm	Minnesota Twins
7/25	7:05pm	Minnesota Twins
7/24	1:05pm	Minnesota Twins
8/4	7:05pm	Kansas City Royals
8/5	1:15pm	Kansas City Royals
8/6	7:05pm	Kansas City Royals
8/14	7:05pm	Tampa Bay Devil Rays
8/15	7:05pm	Tampa Bay Devil Rays
8/16	7:05pm	Tampa Bay Devil Rays
8/17	7:05pm	Texas "Previously owned by George Dubbya Bush" Rangers
8/18	7:05pm	Texas Rangers
8/19	1:15pm	Texas Rangers
8/20	1:05pm	Texas Rangers
8/21	7:05pm	Anaheim Angels
8/22	7:05pm	Anaheim Angels
8/23	7:05pm	Anaheim Angels
9/1	7:05pm	Seattle Mariners
9/2	1:15pm	Seattle Mariners
9/3	1:05 pm	Seattle Mariners
9/4	1:05 pm	Seattle Mariners

Today's menu
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Peanut Butter & Jelly
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Great Adventures

Take a hike on the wild side this summer with fellow outdoor enthusiasts. BY JULIE SHORT

Summer in city certainly has its pleasures, but sometimes you might yearn to escape the concrete jungle and be at one with nature. Sure, you could do it on your own—head up north with a trusty compass, a map and a sturdy pair of hiking boots—but unless you have some experience under your belt, it's not always an easy prospect. Planning a trip to the great outdoors takes time—something that the busy city-dweller lacks. Instead, why not simply sign up for a preplanned trip that takes groups up mountains, down raging rivers and through forests under the leadership of a well-trained guide?

We've put together a list of organizations here in Boston that make escaping the city virtually hassle-free. Each attracts a slightly different type of adventurer—depending on your interests and skill level—but they all offer a fun opportunity to get out of town and commune with nature.

Try whitewater rafting on a raging river on one of Boston Ski & Sports Club's excellent adventures.

FOR THE SOCIALLY INCLINED

"Our trips offer people a sense of adventure, as well as a relaxing way to meet fun people who share an interest in the outdoors," says **Boston Ski & Sports Club** organizer Katie Davis. You can't help but bond with other sporty young professionals as you hike through the Blue Hills. "We always incorporate different ways to meet people in our trips—from picnics to happy hour," Davis says. Some of the trips require that participants be in good physical condition and have the appropriate equipment—a hiking weekend to Mt. Madison and Mt. Crawford in North Conway, N.H., for one, which takes groups above the tree line with an elevation gain of about 4,300 feet. Others are less strenuous—including a moonlit canoe trip along the Charles. "Our members tend to be mainstream people who have an interest in doing something offbeat or extreme," Davis says. You'll find a wide range of activities—from whitewater rafting in Maine and mountain biking in Vermont to rock climbing in central Massachusetts. New this year is a Hobie Cat sailing adventure in Plymouth, where participants will learn the basics of sailing a catamaran...followed by a beach barbecue, of course. *70 Birmingham Parkway, Brighton (789-4070).* www.bssc.com.

APPALACHIAN-BOUND

For many years, the average age of members of Boston's **Appalachian Mountain Club** hovered around 50. "Some of our younger members would go on a trip and get a bit discouraged by the lack of young people," admits committee chair Ward Wrzenski. So in 1996, a group of enterprising young (and single) outdoor enthusiasts formed the Young Members Committee. Now the group has nearly 5,000 members in their 20s and 30s.

The Young Members attracts a decidedly "crunchier" crowd than organizations like the Boston Ski & Sports Club, says Wrzenski. "The reasons people join are about 50 percent social and 50 percent for the physical activity." The group offers at least two or three trips every weekend—ranging from car camping in Franconia Notch and a backpack trip to Mt. Washington to canoeing Bear Pond in the Adirondacks—throughout the summer. "When spring fever hits, people want to get out and be active," says Wrzenski. Not all trips are hardcore, however. One of Wrzenski's favorites is an excursion to a bed and breakfast in Jefferson, N.H.—complete with a cozy fireplace and hot tub.

Wrzenski recommends that those interested first attend one of the club's monthly potluck dinners at the AMC headquarters to find out about upcoming trips. "It's a good idea to get your feet wet first before being stuck in the middle of New Hampshire with a bunch of people you don't know," he says with a laugh. *Monthly meetings take place on the second Thursday every month at the Cabot Auditorium at the AMC, 4 Joy St., Boston (523-0655).* www.geocities.com/amcym/.

FROM STORE TO SHORE

"It's free," says **Eastern Mountain Sports** guide Todd Eves when asked the cost of the Natick store's upcoming overnight sea kayaking trip to Washburn Island on Cape Cod. Free?? "Well, if you need to rent equipment (e.g., a kayak), there's an additional fee," he admits. Still, that's a great deal. You can pop into your nearest EMS outdoor store to purchase a backpack and some boots, and then hike out the door on one of the store's many free adventure clinics. EMS locations around Massachusetts offer a variety of one- and two-day trips for the adventurous and their wannabe pals. "Most of the trips are geared toward people who are not that experienced in hiking," says Eves. Day and overnight excursions include hiking or biking along the shores of Cape Cod or climbing up Mt. Monadnock. "Basically we're just trying to get people outdoors," adds Eves. *For more information, call 508-872-7915 or visit* www.emsonline.com.

OTHER WAYS TO ESCAPE

Hiking not your thing? The **Charles River Wheelmen** offers bicycle trips in Greater Boston for both experienced and novice riders. Pull up their Web site at *www.crw.org*, and you'll find an extensive list of monthly rides—everything from 20-mile tours of outdoor sculptures around Boston to 50-mile trips along the South Shore. New riders, in particular, will enjoy the Ice Cream Ride, a 20-mile journey held on Wednesday evenings that conveniently ends with a big scoop at an ice cream parlor.

The **Boston Center for Adult Education** offers a bunch of water sports, including sea kayaking clinics, kayak paddles on the Charles and moonlight canoe rides. *Call 267-4430 or visit* www.bcae.org.

The **Massachusetts Sierra Club** has a bunch of trips planned for this summer, but admittedly, it's an older crowd that generally joins this group. If that's OK with you (or you're bringing along your own gang of friends) check out their Web site at *www.sierramass.org*, or call 423-5775 (just don't expect a call back right away). iB

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Jerry Jeff Walker

Doors 8pm
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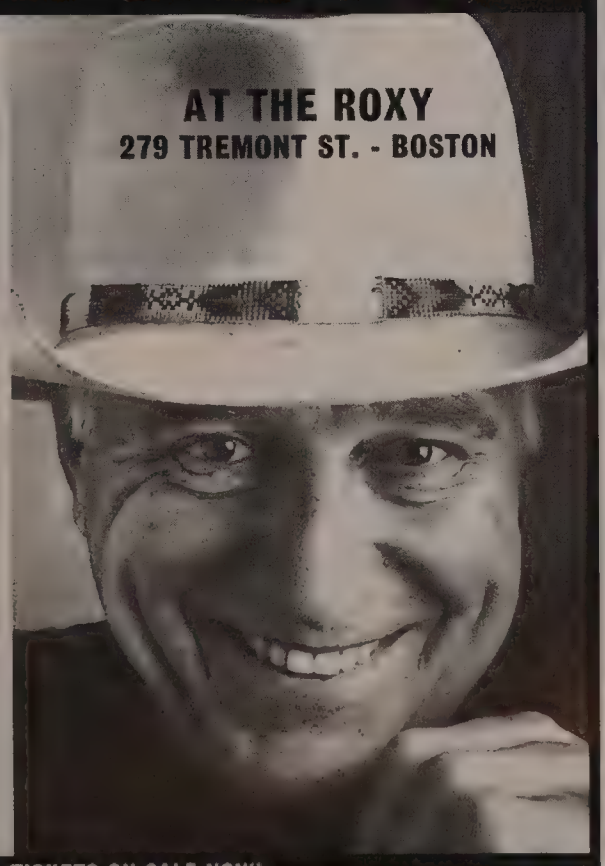
Opening Band
Jesse Colin Young



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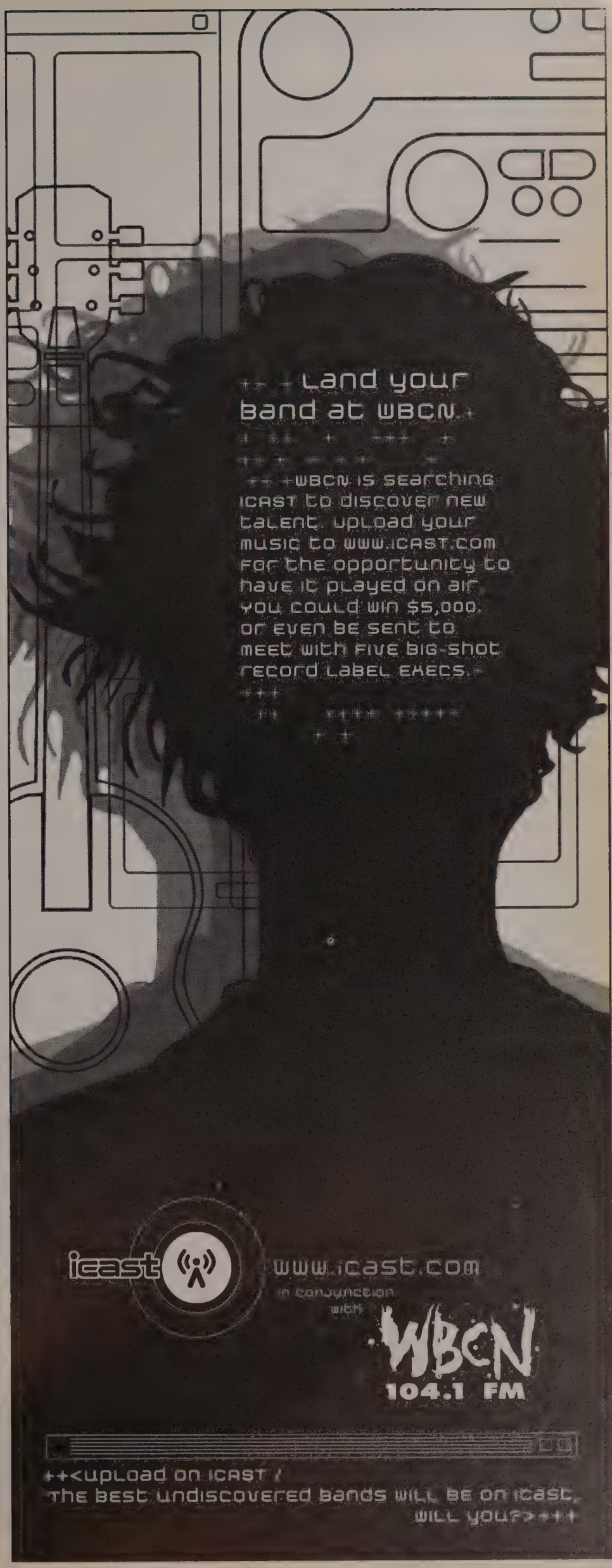


Don't be intimidated by the dinosaur when putting at the Route 1 Miniature Golf Course up in Saugus.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ELIZABETH MARKEL

A guide to the campy sport synonymous with summer: mini golf. BY DAVID GOODMAN

wingers

Is there a better way to celebrate summer in Massachusetts—the original battleground of democracy—than by playing the game that bridges class divides and provides a maximum of sporty, kitschy fun? Indeed, we speak of mini golf.

The Bay State boasts scores of gorgeous, treacherous and terrifically tacky mini golf courses within easy reach of auto-owning urbanites. The infamous orange T-Rex towering over Route 1 may inspire prehistoric daydreaming, but the history of miniature golf goes back only to 1927, when Chattanooga entrepreneur Garnet Carter invented the game. From the get-go, the game was immensly popular with both golf aficionados and novices who were drawn to an inexpensive version of the exclusive sport.

Mini golf was also successful because of its dependence on luck rather than athletic skill. It leveled the playing field between the ham-fisted and the experienced golfer. By 1930, there were more than 25,000 miniature golf courses in the United States and more than 4 million Americans were playing the micro sport on any given day.

Today, the same outdoor hobby has become synonymous with summer fun. According to Mike "Tigger" Dunford, Tone-Cool Records sales and marketing director and enthusiastic mini-golf player, "Mini golf just screams 'summer' like town band concerts and lobster rolls. It's just very tourist, very resort, yet you can go out after work and play a round and almost feel like you're on vacation."

"I like a challenging course," Tigger continues, "with just the right mix of hazards." A few of the more common hazards include "blind holes" (shooting into an obstacle and having your ball mysteriously reappear on the other side), "geometric puzzlers" (U or S shaped holes, with wooden banks) and "loop-to-loops."

Aesthetics play a part in the appeal of the game as well. Architectural critic, Fulbright scholar, and University of Vermont professor Chester Liebs has described mini golf courses as "oases of architectural whimsy along the great American roadside." Indeed, decked in bright green Astroturf and campy fantasy decor, the courses are like small-scale theme parks—also all-American oases of entertainment.

Among some of the more splendid area mini-golf landscapes is the Holiday Hill Mini Golf in Dennisport on the Cape's Route 28 (a mecca of mini-golf courses and family entertainment of all sorts)—a serene garden sanctuary with thousands of flowers that embellish the course as it sprawls over waterfalls and streams. For raw aesthetic impact, the spinning Power Rangers at Tewksbury's Funland can't be beat. And you can always bring your own brand of beauty to the course: "I mean, what could be sexier than watching your date size up a putt through the clown's mouth?" quips Tigger.

There are many mini golf courses within close driving range of the city; here's a list of where they are and what they've got.

Crystal Falls Adventure Mini Golf
Rt 140, Bellingham (508-966-3200)
PRICE $5 for adults, $4.50 for children
DISTANCE 45 minutes
ICE CREAM Onsite
FEATURES Flat and challenging uphill terrain

Funland
1879 Main St., Tewksbury (978-851-3281)
PRICE $4 for adults, $4 for children and seniors
DISTANCE 30 minutes
ICE CREAM Mack's Dairy in walking distance
FEATURES Batting cages, go-carts, an arcade and a spectacular "Spinning Power Rangers" hole

Golf Country
160 S. Main St., Middleton (978-774-4476)
PRICE $6 for adults, $5 for children
DISTANCE 15 minutes
ICE CREAM Richardson's Dairy across the street
FEATURES 2 full mini golf courses, a lucky shot hole bridge and new equipment

Golf on the Village Green
315 Worcester St., Natick (508-653-4671)
PRICE $5 for adults, $3 for children 6 and under
DISTANCE 30 minutes
ICE CREAM Dairy Queen 1 mile down the road
FEATURES Life-size statues and places from American history: a Paul Revere hole, a Fanueil Hall hole

Golfland at North Andover
1591 Osgood St., North Andover (978-682-1554)
PRICE $3 per person
DISTANCE 30 minutes
ICE CREAM Pastor's about 5 minutes away
FEATURES 25-foot putts for the skillful

Hago Harrington's Miniature
160 Main St., Stoneham (781-438-2024)
PRICE $4.50 per person
DISTANCE 20 minutes
ICE CREAM Baskin Robbins 100 yards away
FEATURES Very long putts—up to 30 feet

Holiday Hill Miniature Golf
Rt. 28 352 Main St., Dennisport (508-398-8857)
PRICE $5 for adults, $3.50 for children
DISTANCE 75 minutes
ICE CREAM Cream & Kong very close by
FEATURES 10,000 flowers and a waterfall-

Max's Country Golf
383 Middlesex Rd., Tyngsboro (978-649-2020)
PRICE $6 for adults, $4 for children
DISTANCE 40 minutes
ICE CREAM Onsite
FEATURES Waterfalls and streams flow through the course

9 Holes On Wheels: Portable Mini Golf
9 Canal Street, Danvers (888-383-9600)
PRICE $350 to $1,400 for four hours. Usually for corporate events.
DISTANCE 3 different courses
ICE CREAM None
FEATURES Course highlights include a windmill and traffic light.

Route 1 Miniature Golf Course
1575 Broadway, Saugus (781-233-2811)
PRICE $5 for adults, $4 for children
DISTANCE 12 minutes after crossing the Tobin Bridge
ICE CREAM Onsite
FEATURES Giant orange T-Rex.

Supersports Family Golf Park
108 North Main Street, Carver (508-866-9655)
PRICE $5 for adults, $4 for children
DISTANCE 45 minutes
ICE CREAM Onsite
FEATURES Spelunking hole takes you inside a cave. And mini golf is just the beginning: There are amusement rides, go-carts, bumper-boats and a driving range.

Water Hazard Golf Course
750 Concord St., Holliston (508-429-6744)
PRICE $5.25 for adults, $ 4.25 for children. After 5 pm, $ 6 for adults, $5 for children
DISTANCE 45 minutes to 1 hour
ICE CREAM Onsite
FEATURES Fish pond, 2-acre course and a 23-foot waterfall.

The Weather Deck
168 Main St. Rt. 28, East Harwich (508-432-8240)
PRICE $5 for adults, $4 for children
DISTANCE 75 minutes
ICE CREAM Soft and hard ice cream onsite
FEATURES Very challenging course with volcano hole; big pool with fountains, waterfalls and streams. iB

History buffs and golfers alike will enjoy the Golf on the Village Green course in Natick.

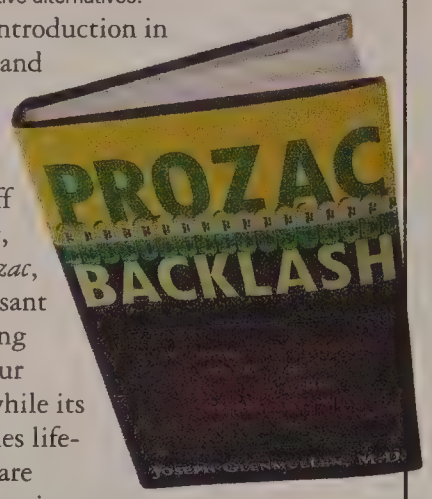
Mopsy

Serendipitous shopping: Our unfettered correspondent seeks out the salubrious and the cerebral.

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY

Prozac, Antizac

Prozac Backlash, by Joseph Glenmullen, M.D., explores the un-wonderful aspects of the wonder drug and proposes constructive alternatives.



Ever since its introduction in the late 1980s, and again after the publication of Peter Kramer's spectacular puff bio of the drug, *Listening to Prozac*, this antidepressant has been striding boldly across our culture. And while its good, sometimes life-saving powers are heartening, there is reason to be very concerned about its under-publicized, possibly serious side effects and withdrawal problems, its long-term effects and its sometimes dubious marketing and research, says Joseph Glenmullen in his book *Prozac Backlash*.

He approaches the tarnished serotonin angel from various angles, including the biological (tics, foggy states, notions of suicide, anxiety, and low libido are among its downsides) and the scientific-political (cases settled out of court, "bought" scientists-spokesmen who only emphasize the positive). Instead of higher-dose, longer-term pilling, Glenmullen proposes low-tech, alternative, common-sense approaches, including exercise, St. John's Wort and relaxation. Most of all, he elaborates through thoughtful, subtle case histories that reveal his reasonable interventions, the efficacy of good old-fashioned, broadly exploratory talk therapy. It's hard to imagine that the Big P alone could substitute for the uncovering, the human warmth and the normal cathartic grief and change Glenmullen cracks out of the egg of his patients' stories.

Joint Is Jumping With Kids' Duds

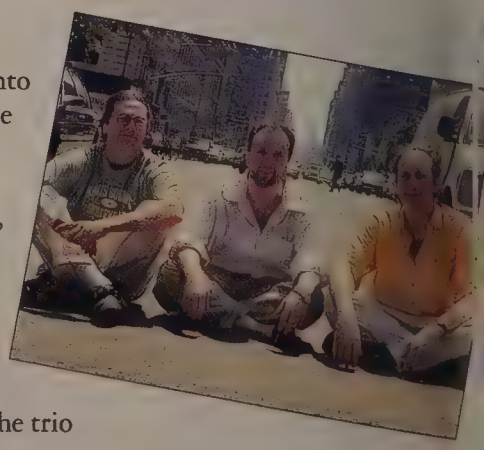
Kiddy Litter at 851 Washington St., Newtonville (527-7997) entertainingly vends second-hand clothes for kiddies and their adults.

Priding itself on being on the other side of the tracks (i.e. the Mass Pike) from fancier Newton, Kiddy Litter satisfies in its breeziness, and in what the nimbly chatting owner Mia calls the clothes' "cuteness factor." These secondhand kids' clothes are, Mia says, "non hoity-toity"—but that doesn't mean they're either shabby or drearily utilitarian; indeed not. The abundant shop, burgeoning with toys right out onto the street, has unusually colorful offerings, including Kinderwear, Polar Fleece, bright-fabric dresses and some fantastic Japanese ceremonial costumes (alas, they're for decor). "I'd rather be weird than boring," Mia says.

While you're stocking up on very inexpensive things—snow pants and boots, coats, books and wooden toys—you'll be tempted by the more unusual sidelights, which your savings will permit nabbing. Her terrain is mostly toddlers to about age 10, with some nearly free Onesies for teensies. But hark! Mama also gets to cruise equally reasonable, and often exotic, grownup clothes: sexy silver dresses, floating things that drip off you, loose fabric like flax, ethnic dresses, leather vests, and one outfit I visualize on Anne Sexton. A certain costumey flavor is in the air here, and when it really is Halloween, the place is jammed.

Sweet and Sour, Sad and Surprising

The Jon Jarvis Trio's new CD, *Hear No Evil*, follows *Never Never Land*. It's on the charts.



John Jarvis, seen live, throws his hands at the piano like bunches of pasta tossed into boiling water, all over the keys. With the graciousness of an eccentric aristocrat, he deals flirtatiously with his instrument and smiles benignly at guitarist Anthony Weller (who also happens to be a novelist) and bassist Bob Nieske. Their new CD *Hear No Evil* is No. 19 on the jazz charts. Jarvis has been compared to "Art Tatum, Sergei Rachmaninoff and John Cage" rolled into one. In familiar pieces like "Michelle" and "Lazy River," the three tend to alternately "argue" musically, and then come together, with plucky musical pinpricks, in a tight, exciting agreement. Jarvis himself can meander off into a vague-feeling mood, hesitating, achingly wondering where to go next. He might tiptoe upstream for a while into the land of sadness, and then, as if suddenly remembering the tune, the trio will become wildly energized and launch ultra-fast, into the melody as we know it, executing it with an almost jokey merriment.

At other times, Jarvis can end the song with such excruciating subtlety that it makes your toes tingle as you follow an effacing melody to the tiniest conclusion, like a pen writing with fading-away ink.

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eat.drink.

Atasca's authentic decor and warm atmosphere draw diners to East Cambridge (above). Opposite page: Chef Joseph Cerqueira prepares the cuisine of his homeland (above); *cataplana*, a stew of clams, mussels and shrimp with onions, red peppers, proscuitto and linguica served with rice (below).

Review

PASSION FOR PORTUGUESE

Atasca is a taste of Iberia in East Cambridge

BY CHARLES MOKRISKI

The down-to-earth neighborhoods of East Cambridge are populated with lively, inviting, bargain-priced ethnic restaurants. Whether one's taste runs to Asian, Mexican, Brazilian or American barbecue, there are places that will appeal to the palate and pocketbook within a few blocks of Cambridge Street and Inman Square. Not least among these eateries is Atasca, a wonderful, warm, and winning Portuguese eatery.

Atasca occupies a semi-detached brick building on Broadway. Its single dining room seats more than 50 diners at blond wooden tables set with blue-and-white checkered cloth napkins. An eclectic clutter of colorful pitchers and plates, wine bottles and small casks, hanging hams, ceramic roosters, stuffed game birds, bullfighting artifacts, musical instruments, and distinctive blue Portuguese tiles, or "azulejos," strike a note of comfortable informality. Ceiling fans revolve languidly overhead. Framed photographs of Portuguese scenes are hung above the wainscoting that bisects the walls, with blue-green paneling below. Recorded music, including the authentic, plaintive strains of Fado, the Portuguese counterpart to the blues, complete the atmosphere.

Atasca has a decent, reasonably priced Portuguese wine list, with house wines as low as $14 a bottle. We chose the Monte Velho, Alentejano Vinho Regionale ($17), a step up from the house wine, and found it a full bodied, slightly oaky red that stood up well to Atasca's robustly seasoned food.

Among appetizers, the *pasteis a tasca* ($6) were a trio of three fried appetizers, *pasteis de bacalhau* (codfish cakes), *riscois de camarao* (shrimp fried dumplings) and *croquettes de vitela* (veal cakes), accompanied by a black-eyed-pea salad. Two of the three, the moist, well-herbed codfish cakes and the small, mild cylinders of minced veal, were quite good, but the shrimp dumplings had an offputting fishy flavor and doughy breading. *Linguica con ananas* ($5.50), a charcoal-grilled specialty from the Azores, consisted of three hefty links of resilient, flavorful Portuguese sausage accompanied by two grilled pineapple rings.

A visit to a Portuguese restaurant would not be complete without sardines, and Atasca's *sardinhas grelladas* ($6.50) were superb. These three or four plump, meaty grilled sardines were easily liberated from their bones. A simply garnish of lemon wedges and accompanying strips of roasted, pickled peppers made this dish a fine palate perker. Finally among the appetizers we tried were the *gambas grelladas* ($7.95), three large shrimp served in their shells, with a hot *piri piri* sauce, grilled garlic and hunks of cornbread toast. Not wholly successful, they were messy to eat and mediocre in texture.

Atasca's main courses were more consistently enjoyable. *Bacalhau a lagareiro com batatas a murro* ($14.95), a filet of charcoal grilled cod with olive oil, garlic, "poached" potatoes and grilled red and green peppers and onions, was first rate. The fish, a generous slab, was firm and fresh, and accompanied by a thick slice of onion and potatoes that had been roasted and then poached, both with a hint of sweetness that served as a delicious counterpoint to the pungent garlic and tangy peppers.

Cataplana ($14.95) is a Portuguese specialty steamed in a special closed copper cooking vessel. This is Portugal's answer to fisherman's stew, or *cioppino*, consisting of steamed clams, mussels, tiny shrimp, chopped ham, linguica, onions, and red peppers. The warm, exotic flavor of cloves made the dish especially enticing. A big ramekin of large kernel rice made the perfect starch accompaniment.

On the meat side of Atasca's menu was the *bife a tasca com ovo a cevalo* ($14.95), a thick, tender sirloin strip steak, rare and juicy, surmounted by a fried egg and accompanied by thin-sliced potatoes and a medley of fresh vegetables—peppers, yellow and green squash, and carrots. Last, and certainly not least, was the *carne de porco a*

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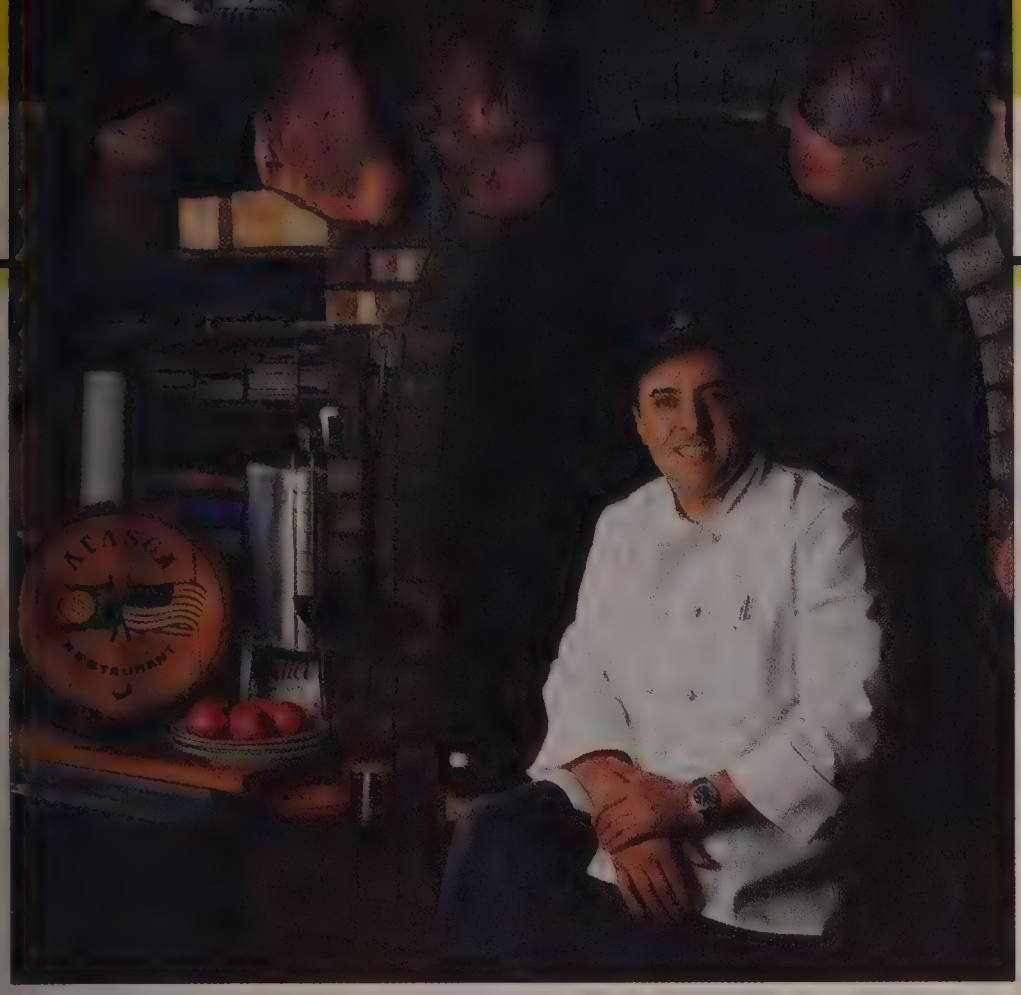


alentejana ($14.95), the traditional Portuguese casserole of hunks of sauteed pork, clams, and cubes of potatoes, redolent of garlic and cilantro.

Of Atasca's desserts, all $3, the *pasteis de nata* was the most memorable. The custard tart with flakey, buttery pastry and pronounced cinnamon flavor, hit the spot; its creamy sweetness was a welcome contrast to the robustness of what preceded it. Chocolate mousse, served in a big cup, was deep, dark and intense. *Arros doce* (rice pudding) was bland and disappointing. Together with its desserts, Atasca offers a large selection of Ports, Madeiras, and Portuguese liqueurs and brandies, starting at the bargain-basement price of $3.50.

Atasca's food reflects the bold, adventurous and cosmopolitan strains of Portuguese culture. The Portuguese, ensconced on the far flank of the "known world" of the 15th century, pushed the envelope big time, first down the coast of Africa, over to Brazil, and on to India and beyond. They have left their mark around the globe, while bringing back to their native land culinary ingredients, traditions, and souvenirs of far-flung and exotic places. Dining at Atasca allows one to tap into this rich culture. iB

Atasca

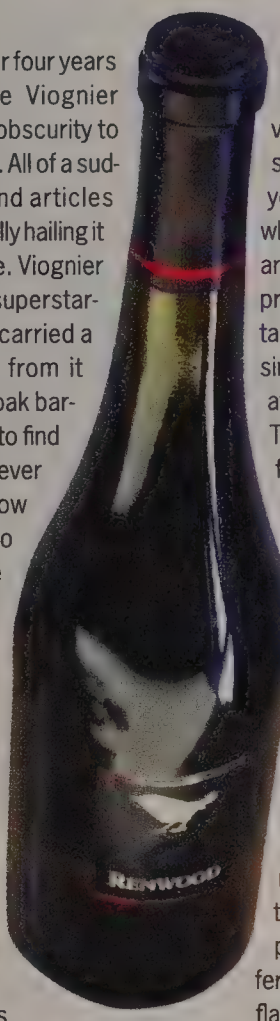
279 A Broadway, Cambridge (354-4355)
Hours: Closed Mon.; Tue. 11:30am-10pm; Wed.-Sat. 11:30-11pm; Sun. 12-11pm.
Reservations: no
Credit Cards: all major
Handicapped Accessible: yes
Parking: on-street parking available
Liquor: full

Wine Viognier

BY SANDY BLOCK, MW

There were a few weeks three or four years ago when the white grape Viognier seemed poised to leap from obscurity to legendary status in a single bound. All of a sudden it had been "discovered," and articles began to appear nationally and locally hailing it as the new Chardonnay alternative. Viognier had all the attributes of potential superstardom: its unpronounceable name carried a chic French lilt, the wine made from it seemed ideally suited to aging in oak barrels, and it was almost impossible to find (so comparatively few people had ever tasted a bottle). That's all over. Now that there's plenty of Viognier to go around, it has settled back into the vast realm of minor-league grape varieties—the very mention of whose name elicits baffled stares moreso than any other reaction. It's time to take another look.

With its origins in the Northern Rhone Valley's prestigious appellation of Condrieu, Viognier was once indeed the stuff of mystery. It was estimated that until fairly recently, the blight-prone grape was planted on less than 40 acres throughout the world. Now there are almost 1,000 in California. The reason it merits interest and the reason it began to attract attention in the first place is that Viognier has a rare combination of characteristics that seem exactly attuned to a large segment of the white-wine-drinking public. It shares many attributes with Chardonnay, not least of which is its potential for making full-bodied wine. But its flavors are unique and perhaps more dramatic than Chardonnay's.



1997 Renwood Viognier

Unlike those other contenders for the No. 2 ranking in the white wine division, Riesling and Sauvignon Blanc, Viognier is smooth and round on the palate, with a potential for substantial alcohol levels in excess of 14 percent. When handled properly by a skilled winemaker who matures the wine judiciously in barrels, it sports an evocative floral and peach perfume, is richly textured, and finishes with a lingering slightly bitter flavor that reminds me of anise. It smells fruity but is surprisingly dry and luscious, with intriguing spicy undertones.

There are wide variations in style among the Viogniers from California that one encounters on the market. Because the grape name was non-existent on a California wine label as recently as 1990, a lot of acreage was planted in a hurry—some of it in less than suitable vineyard areas—when the variety suddenly became hot. Earlier this year, I asked a Napa winemaker whose Cabernets and Chardonnays are highly acclaimed why he had produced the Viognier I was tasting. He admitted that it was simply because the grapes became available to him at a good price. The Viognier was less distinctive in flavor than his other wines, and it was clear from his response that this was more a marketing experiment that he would probably discontinue rather than a firm commitment based on access to an outstanding source of grapes.

Because of Viognier's high alcohol and low levels of acidity, it's important to conserve the freshness of the fruit flavors and not overpower them with heavily toasted wood tones. Few vintners put the wine through a secondary fermentation, as this would tend to flatten it out. In general, the level of quality is moderately high, but there are some California Viogniers I have tasted that are lacking in concentration, with dilute, understated flavors that vanish quickly once the wine is poured. In general I've found it tough to enjoy bottles that are in the under $15 range, although higher prices are no guarantee of quality.

A good Viognier's place is at the table. It's not a light quaffing wine, but an ideal partner to grilled, meaty fish, like shark or tuna. It's also broadly textured enough to complement lobster or crab, and its often exotic aromas make it a natural with lightly curried, Asian-accented chicken or fish. As with flavorful Chardonnay, it's perhaps better to drink Viognier at a less than icy temperature, as the subtleties of flavor disappear if the wine's too cold. I've found that the wine appeals to Chardonnay drinkers hoping to try something else that shares the same round and full feel on the palate, especially if they don't like very acidic flavors. Finally, now that the wine has become obscure again, acquaintances will marvel at your expertise when the words, "I'll have a glass of the Viognier (pronounced 'vee-own-yay')," roll effortlessly off your tongue. iB

Write Sandy Block at *sandy@improper.com*.

Dish

YOU SAY "ALSATIAN" AND I SAY...

Sandrine's Raymond Ost takes a culinary journey on PBS. BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

From left, owner Frank McClelland, Peter Niemitz of Niemitz Design Group and chef Michael Rhoads at the grand opening of the hot new restaurant on the scene, Sel de la Terre, on April 13.

When he first opened **Sandrine's** in Harvard Square, Chef **Raymond Ost** stressed time and time again that his *flammakueche*—a rustic, savory dough rectangle traditionally topped with bacon, *fromage blanc* and caramelized onions—was NOT an Alsatian pizza. A mere stone's throw from Harvard Yard, Ost successfully took it upon himself to instruct the locals in the glories of authentic Alsatian fare.

Now, a new challenge lies ahead. Ost will gain national visibility come fall in the PBS show *Culinary Travels with Dave Eckert*. During a recent video-preview-plus-dinner at Sandrine's, the TV host cheerfully and consistently mispronounced the word, "Ahl-SAH-see-an" (instead of, well, the more traditional "Alsatian"), while the unflinching Ost turned his attention to preparing an Alsatian repast complete with foie gras, pork cheeks and *choucroute*. Not so blasé were members of Sandrine's staff, who'd seen the video earlier. As one reported, "We sure snickered at that!"

Elsewhere in Cambridge, three is clearly a very lucky number for the **B-Side Lounge**. Chef **Jeff Unger** continues his **Three Cooks–Three Courses** guest chef series with summer events planned on the third Tuesday of each month. Mark your calendars now for the First Day of Summer Smoke-Out, June 21, featuring **Todd Carey** of the **Linwood Grill**, **Keith Maurizi** of **Redbones**, and **Blue Ribbon BBQ**'s **Ruben Garza**; July 17, which Unger promises will be a "big, big, big surprise;" and August 21, entitled "Three Cooks Who Couldn't Cook Cook-Off! It's All Raw Baby!" when Unger will host the **East Coast Grill**'s **Owen Tilley** and the **West Side Lounge**'s **Tim Partridge**.

Second Course

On the cusp of the Back Bay, at **Bomboa**, the ingredients are Brazilian, the cooking techniques are French and a new special dinner price is a genuine Boston bargain: Owner/Chef **E. Michael Reidt** has introduced a spring/summer three-course *prix fixe* menu for just $24.50, Sunday through Thursday evenings. Take your pick of the new menu, which features cardamom-and-mint-marinated red snapper on almond and cauliflower puree; seared skate wing "scampi style" with globe artichokes, squash blossoms and fried capers; ginger-brined pork loin on a bean mash with fiddleheads and smoked chile vinaigrette; classic Brazilian *feijoada* with smoked meats, beans, kale and orange salad; simple steak frites; even a vegetarian option of fresh artichoke and truffled mushroom puree with twice-baked potato. Ready to get it while it's hot? Then get there early, because the hours for this *prix fixe* special are apparently inspired by Midwestern supper-times: 5:30pm to 7:00pm.

Those business-savvy folks at **Finale** have launched yet another variation on the elegant, sugar-laden indulgence. This time, it's the **Ice Cream Tea**, served weekday afternoons from 3pm to 4pm this summer. Featuring a "chef's selection of housemade ice creams and sorbet, subtly inspired with teas," **Nicole Coady**'s menu also includes assorted petit fours, tea cookies and special summertime drinks. Just don't ask them to super-size your milkshake.

Hey, what's shaking at the newest restaurant on the scene, **Sel de la Terre**? Find out in the next Dish. iB

Carolyn Faye Fox is a panelist on NPR's word-game quiz show, "Says You!"

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant? Send it to dish@improper.com

Tastings BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for tastings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

EVENTS

Chinese Cuisine & Culture Evening
Charles River Museum, 154 Moody St., Waltham (781-899-8220, ext. 128). 6:30-9:30pm. $50, $60 at the door. **Helen Chen**, daughter of the famous Joyce Chen, hosts an evening of Chinese cooking, culture and a silent auction to benefit Work, Community, Independence.

Chocolate Madness Festival
Veronique Ballroom, 20 Chapel St., Brookline (556-8800, ext. 11). MBTA: D Green Line to Longwood. May 22, 7-9pm. $40m $45 at the door. The 17th annual fund-raising event benefits NARAL. Enjoy desserts from some of Boston's best restaurants, including L'Espalier, Olives, Sel de la Terre and Five Seasons.

Four Seasons Feast: Spring
Westport Rivers Vineyard & Winery, 417 Hixbridge Road, Westport (508-636-3423). May 20, 1-3:30pm. $45. Chef **Brooke Dojny**, author of the *New England Cookbook*, will talk about cooking with herbs.

Macy's Great Chef Series
Swissotel Boston, One Avenue de Lafayette, Boston (888-MACYS NY). $25. Join today's finest culinary stars as they share their secrets in a series of in-depth cooking classes. •May 23, 5:30pm: **Francois Paillard**.

Guest Chefs at Eat
253 Washington St., Somerville (776-2889). Monday evenings. Eat's **Charlie Robinson** hosts a different chef every Monday night. •May 22: **Jorg Lopes** from the Blue Room. •May 29: **K.C. O'Hara** of the Harvard Faculty Club.

How We Taste Wines
Nashoba Valley Winery, 100 Wattaquadoc Hill Road, Bolton (779-9816). May 17, 6pm. $70. A sensory evaluation of wines and an exploration of the mechanics of how we taste wines with food critic **Al Stankus**.

Magnolia's Texas Tribute
Magnolias, 1193 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1971). Through June 3. Magnolia's serves up Texas fire and ice with such dishes as stuffed poblano pepper, tipsy tequila shrimp and crispy fried avocado.

Tastemakers Gala
86 Monmouth St., Brookline (566-5715). 7pm. $150 in advance. The Brookline Arts Center's annual spring benefit features prominent Boston art dealers and guest chefs.

Wine Dinner
Cafe Fleuri, 250 Franklin St., Boston (451-1900, ext. 7062). May 23. $45. **Michael D'Angelo** of Hardy's, one of Australia's leading wine companies, hosts this three-course dinner.

Winemaker Jed Steele Event
Legal Sea Foods, Park Square, Boston (783-8088). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. May 17, 6pm. $85. One of California's greatest wine makers, **Jed Steele** offers a wine dinner featuring classic New England seafood and California wines.

White Burgundy Tasting
Wine Experiences, 20-A Dartmouth St., Boston (859-7170). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. May 25, 7-9pm. $75. These complex, balanced, subtle wines are about as impressive as white wine can get. Sample wines from the Cote Chalonnaise, Chablis and Cote de Beaune.

Wine Dinner
Julien, 250 Franklin St., (451-1900). May 17, 7pm. $85. Enjoy a gourmet four-course dinner accompanied by wines from Drouhin Vineyards in Beaune, France. **Laurent Drouhin** will host.

Wine Tasting with Lorenzo
Les Zygomates, 29 South St., Boston (542-5108). Tue., 6pm and 8pm. $25. Enjoy a wine and food pairing. •May 23: South African whites. •May 30: South African reds.

Local chefs and event organizers gather at Radius to prep for the Celebrity Chef Evening, May 21.

Tasty Tidbit

Celebrity Chefs

Some of Boston's premier chefs will be assisted by munchkin sous chefs from the Big Sister Association at the Celebrity Chef Evening, held at Radius on May 21. The second annual event will feature chefs Michael Schlow of Radius, Ken Oringer of Clio, Maris Iocco with Rene Michelena of La Bettola and Galleria Italiana, Raymond Ost of Sandrine's, and pastry chefs Joanne Chang of Mistral and Paul Connors of Radius, who will all cook and serve their signature dishes to a hungry crowd. The night will also feature a live band and raffle.
8 High St., Boston (236-8060). May 21, 6pm. $125.

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A WEIGHTY MATTER

Hanging out to dry in the locker room. BY EZRA DYER

Somewhere along the line, I stopped working out. I realized this recently when I sat on the edge of my bed, shirtless. I know that this is an unflattering position for even the most buffed of specimens, but staring up at me was an unhappy triad: two flabby man-breasts and a large, hairy, pallid beer belly hanging over my boxers.

At this point, the dominant (lazy) part of my brain said, "Hey, we're looking pretty good here. Let's have mac-and-cheese for breakfast." But then, out of nowhere, came a retort, from that underused lobe devoted to motivation: "Do not kid yourself. You are fat." So I got the membership. But here's the problem: My new gym is a scary place.

To my mind, there are two kinds of gyms. The first is populated by greased-up, shaved-down, tan-in-a-can Camaro-driving roidbags. Before I moved to Boston, I briefly belonged to one of those clubs, and I can't say I didn't enjoy it. Even though most of the members there could kick my ass (including the women), I was still comforted by the fact that I don't wear Spandex shorts, I don't count "intense muscle striation" as one of my life goals, and I don't have a "Fear This!" decal anywhere on my car. "Ha ha, Mr. Muscle Man," I would think, "you may be lifting a weight that would cause my arm to tear out of its socket, but I'll bet you don't know much about the constructions of femininity in the texts of Edith Wharton and Henry James, now do you?"

Then we have my new gym, which serves an older crowd. For instance, a flyer advertises upcoming "balance classes," where participants will learn how to not fall down. So since Muscle Blast 2000 has been traded in for Metamucil, one might infer that my new gym is a more inviting environment. It's not. And it all comes down to the locker room.

In my experience, locker rooms have been a place to change your clothes and wash up after exercising, and this was the case even at Roids-R-Us. But the locker room culture at my new gym is far removed from anything that should be tolerated by a civilized society. Step inside and you've entered a nightmare scenario, a miniature nudist colony populated entirely by overweight, middle-aged men. The divine credo, "Thou shalt shower, dry off, then hastily replace thine underpants," is most certainly not in effect here. It seems that the favored drying-off technique is to get buck-naked and stand approximately four inches from someone who is trying to tie their shoes (me). I cannot count the number of times that I've been confronted with unspeakable horrors after looking up from my Nikes. Suffice it to say that although blow-drying one's genitals is an agreeable way to spend a few minutes, such behavior has no place outside one's own bathroom or cubicle.

The locker room culture ...is far removed from anything that should be tolerated by a civilized society. Step inside and you've entered a nightmare scenario, a miniature nudist colony populated entirely by overweight, middle-aged men.

Coming in a close second in offensiveness is the weigh-in process. My fellow members like to weigh themselves often, and, like all other business conducted in the locker room, they love to weigh in without the burden of heavy and constricting underwear. I want to scream out, "Excuse me, sir? Could you not make a mental allowance for a four-ounce pair of Fruit-of-the-Looms? Please?" But I don't, because I have a policy against starting verbal confrontations with naked men.

So I have a quandary. I want to get back in shape, but I don't want to run the gauntlet of atrocities that is the locker room. That leaves me with limited options. Changing at work would win me few friends. Ditto for not changing at all. Staying at home, drinking beer and watching TV has proven counterproductive. It seems my only course of action is to convert my new gym into my old gym. I will take muscle supplements, gel down my hair and grunt loudly when I'm maxin' out on a killer set of reps. I will throw weights when I'm done with them, and sometimes I will also throw the nearest Stairmaster just for good measure. Then, when I enter the locker room, no one will extract their dingleberries in my personal space, because they will know to Fear This. iB

You think that's funny?

If you do, email *ezra@improper.com*.

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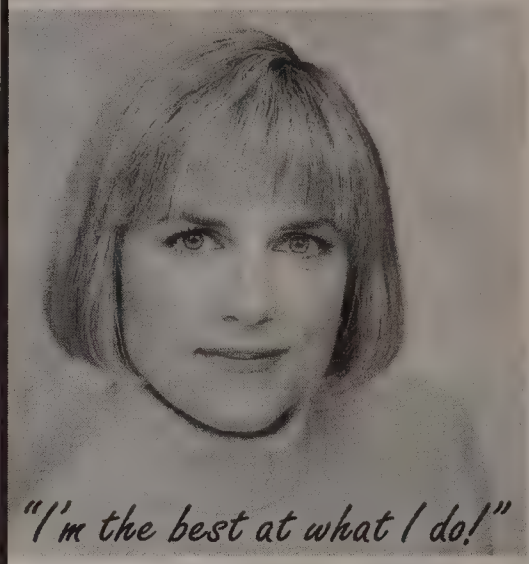

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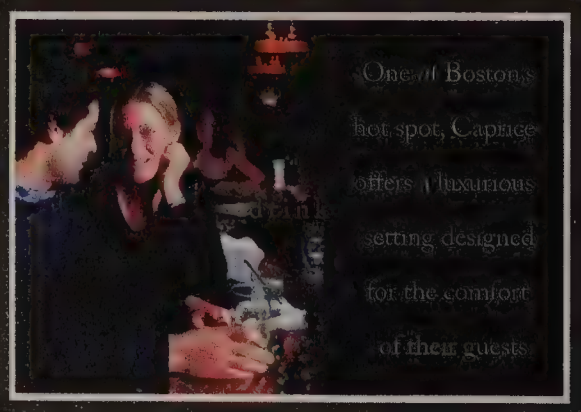

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agenda

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Julie and Erin

THE CALENDAR GIRLS'

improper picks

Too busy (or just too lazy) to plan your own schedule? Life don't get easier than this.

Wednesday, May 17

Erin: It's opening night for ***Macbeth*** starring none other than former *Cheers* star, Kelsey Grammer. (See Performing Arts and Soroff/On.)
Julie: My personal favorite, **Paul Prudhomme**, the Cajun chef from New Orleans, comes to town for the Harvard Square Book Festival. (See Books & Poetry.)

Thursday, May 18

Erin and **Julie**: If you're into jazz, the not-to-be-missed event of the week is the **Bell Atlantic Jazz Fest**, which brings big-name performers to Jordan Hall. Tonight see **Medeski, Martin and Wood**. (See Music.)

Friday, May 19

Julie: Anyone who works downtown should head over to Copley Square at lunchtime for music and entertainment at **Mayfest.** (See CityScope.) In the evening, **Suzanne Vega** plays at Sanders Theatre. (See Music.)
Erin: The **Harvard Square Book Festival** continues at the CCAE with **Elinor Lipman**, who reads from *The Ladies' Man*, and **Caroline Preston**, who reads from *Lucy Crocker*. (See Books & Poetry.)

Saturday, May 20

Erin: The MFA's **Gay and Lesbian Film Festival** concludes with ***The Man Who Drove with Mandela***, a portrait of the life of Cecil Williams, a leading Johannesburg theater director, freedom fighter and gay man. (See Gay & Lesbian.) And don't forget to see **Puppet Master Jake** at Bad Girrls studio tonight only. (See Performing Arts.)
Julie: There's just too much to do today! The **Franklin Park Kite Festival** is a fun option for the afternoon, and then head to the U.S. Courthouse to bid on cool items at **Earth Night**. (See CityScope.)

Sunday, May 21

Julie: It's the **WBCN River Rave** with an unbelievable lineup of rock bands, including the Stone Temple Pilots, at Foxboro Stadium. (See Music.)
Erin: The Harvard Square Book Festival draws to a close with free readings by **Jayne Anne Phillips** (*Motherkind*) and **Rosellen Brown** (*Half A Heart*) at the First Parish Church (See Books & Poetry.) Also, **Modest Mouse** plays downstairs at the Middle East. (See Music.)

Monday, May 22

Erin and **Julie**: If you've got a hankering for the dark sweet stuff, don't miss the **Chocolate Madness Festival** with all kinds of desserts from some of Boston's top restaurants. (See Tastings.)

Tuesday, May 23

Erin: The **Boston Pops** present *Encore!*, a collection of the best-loved music from their five hit recordings at Symphony Hall. (See Classical Music.)
Julie: Helen Chen, daughter of the unforgettable Joyce Chen of restaurant fame, comes to town for **An Evening of Chinese Cuisine and Culture**. (See Tastings.)

Wednesday, May 24

Erin: Funky jazz-a-cists **Soulive** play at House of Blues. (See Music.)
Julie: **Fiona Apple** gives it her all at the FleetBoston Pavilion. (See Music.) August Wilson's new drama, ***King Hedley II***, is at the Huntington Theatre. (See Performing Arts.)

Thursday, May 25

Erin: The quirky, atmospheric, **Joseph Arthur** goes solo at T.T. the Bear's Place. (See Music.)
Julie: **Matchbox 20** is at Avalon with **Angie Aparo**. (See Music.)

Friday, May 26

Julie: Beautiful playwright and actress Anna Deavere Smith comes to town for **The Night Is Ours** at Le Meridien Hotel. (See CityScope.)
Erin: This weekend, the Brattle offers a double Hitchcockian bill with ***Rear Window*** and ***North by Northwest***. (See Film.)

Saturday, May 27

Julie: The **Street Performers Festival** is three days of clowns, jugglers, acrobatics, magic, mimes, puppeteers and more in Faneuil Hall. (See CityScope.)
Erin: I fear mimes. Spend Memorial Day toe-tappin' away at the clown-free **Tapestry 2000**, held at several venues throughout Greater Boston. (See Performing Arts.)

Sunday, May 28

Julie: **Joni Mitchell** brings to stage classical love songs at the FleetBoston Pavilion. (See Music.)
Erin: The House of Blues has got hip-hopster **Mr. Lif** and **Anti-Pop Consortium.** (See Music.)

Monday, May 29

Erin: John Huston's detective film ***The Maltese Falcon*** shows at the Brattle Theatre with Fritz Lang's classic 1931 thriller, ***M***. (See Film.)
Julie: **K.C. O'Hara** is the guest chef at Eat. (See Tastings.)

Tuesday, May 30

Erin Karma brings in **Los Infernos** and the **Supersuckers** who, despite their name, are actually quite good. (See Music.)
Julie: **Screen on the Green** begins with ***Singin' in the Rain*** (See Film.)

<<WBCN River Rave

See the Mighty Mighty Bosstones at Foxboro Stadium, May 21.

cityscope

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a list of festivals, events and benefits taking place in the Boston area by date.

Festivals, Events Expos & Benefits

Thursday, May 18

Celebrate Spring
The Rooftop at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, 15 Arlington St., Boston (888-775-4KIDS). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 6-9pm. $40, $50 at the door. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, live music and raffles to benefit the Children's Trust Fund.

Community Leadership Awards Dinner
The Seaport Hotel Ballroom, Boston (254-3800, ext. 5674). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. 5:30-9:30pm. $250. The Franciscan Children's Hospital & Rehabilitation Center's annual dinner will include an awards ceremony, musical entertainment and a car raffle. U.S. Senator John F. Kerry will be keynote speaker. Honorees include Charles Laquidara, Lee Kennedy and Goodwin, Procter & Hoar LLP.

Design Home 2000
For directions and more information call 450-1347 or visit www.design-home.com. *Tue.-Sun. 10am-4pm. Through May 26. $20, $25 at the door.* Visit a home for the new millennium—a $3 million New England colonial in Weston, Mass.—to benefit the AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts. The home was constructed by local builders, interior designers, furnishers and several local retailers.

Elders in the Arts
Tremont Boston's Empire Ballroom, 275 Tremont St., Boston (536-3557). 6-10pm. $75. This benefit for MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers hosted by Susan Wornick of Channel 5 features an exhibit of art by and about elders, a live auction, dinner and entertainment by the swing band Spajazzy.

Harvard Square Book Festival
First Parish Church, Cambridge (781-444-6767). www.bookfestival.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Through May 21.* The Harvard Square Book Festival promotes books and literacy by bringing together authors and book lovers throughout Harvard Square. The weeklong series of events includes authors' luncheons, poetry readings, book signings and children's events. See the Books & Poetry section for more information.

Friday, May 19

Mayfest
Copley Square, Boston (536-2101). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 10am-2pm. Free. Dance around the colorful maypole, and enjoy musical entertainment, crafts, food and exhibits.

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Fridays. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

Saturday, May 20

Cape Verdean Cultural Festival
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. 10am-7pm. Free. See box for more information.

Franklin Park Kite Festival
Franklin Park, Boston (635-4505). 11am-5pm. Rain-date: May 21. Free. Enjoy the 32nd flying of this festival, which offers kite-making, kite-flying, music and refreshments for the whole family.

Hyannis Port Challenge
Ride starts at the JFK Library, Boston (800-718-3536). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. 6:30am. If you weren't able to raise the $750 in pledges for this Best Buddies bicycle ride to the Kennedy Compound on Cape Cod, you can still cheer on the riders. Set your alarm for this one, though—it begins at 6:30am.

Earth Night
United States Court House, Fan Pier, Boston (742-8882). www.earthnight.org. *7-11pm. $60.* This evening, which prides itself on having less than five minutes of speeches, will include food, music by the Boston Swing All-Stars, a dance floor, and an auction of trips around the world. Bid on an autographed copy of President Clinton's last State of the Union address, a dive into the Boston Aquarium's big tank, and tickets to museums, shows and restaurants all around town. Proceeds benefit the Environmental League of Massachusetts.

May Fair
229 Washington St., Wellesley (781-235-6690). 10am-3pm. $3. Early admission to the Treasures & Trivia Table is $5. The fair is a day of fun and activities for all ages, including traditional children's games and crafts, storytelling, visits by farm animals, displays on butterflies and moths, balloon sculptures by Chester the Balloon Jester, face-painting, and exhibits of vintage photographs and tools. There will be a Treasures & Trivia Table thrift sale and a bake sale too.

Tastemakers Gala
86 Monmouth St., Brookline (566-5715). 7pm. $150 in advance. The Brookline Arts Center's annual spring benefit supports visual arts education, outreach and exhibition programs. Converse with prominent Boston art dealers and guest chefs, and purchase exquisite arts and crafts in a silent auction.

VIP Party
Top Kat Lounge, 54 Canal St., Boston (569-4301). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. 9pm-2am. Join BostonVIPCard.com, a new discount card/Web site, for a going-live party with hors d'oeuvres, door prizes and giveaways. This event will familiarize you with the card that gets you VIP savings at Boston's top establishments.

Ferro Gaita plays the music of the island of Santiago at the Boston Center for the Arts, May 20.

Preview

A Cape Verdean Cultural Festival

The title of the Boston Center for the Art's Cape Verdean festival on May 20 is So Sabi!, which means "so great" in Creole. You can expect to have an exceptionally great time at this day of musical performances, short films, folklore exhibits and savory dishes from Cape Verde's nine islands. The festival kicks off at 10am with a procession called *tabanka*, which characterizes Cape Verdean colonial society of the late 1800s. Participants dress up as a king, queen, priests, brides, doctors, soldiers and slaves, accompanied by the beat of the drums and the blowing of shells. *539 Tremont St., Boston (426-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. May 20, 10am-7pm. Free.*

Sunday, May 21

Celebrity Chef Evening
Radius, 8 High St., Boston (236-8060). 6pm. $125. Big Sisters' second annual event will feature some of Boston's premier chefs, including Michael Schlow of Radius, Ken Oringer of Clio, Maris Iocco with Rene Michelena of La Bettola and Galleria Italiana, Raymond Ost of Sandrine's and pastry chefs Joanne Chang of Mistral and Paul Connors of Radius. The night will also feature a live band and a raffle.

Eddie Andelman's Hot Dog Safari
Suffolk Downs, East Boston. 9am-4pm. Tickets available at Tedeschi Food Shops, Lil Peach, star Markets, Shaw Super Markets and Suffolk Downs. $10, $15 at the door. Sports Radio 850 WEEI's all-you-can-eat hot dog festival draws thousands of people to sample 90,000 hot dogs from 12 different hot dog manufacturers and to enjoy children's activities and thoroughbred racing. Proceeds benefit the Joey Fund/Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Life Is Still a Cabaret
Lyric Stage, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (859-3036, ext. 27). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay. 7-10:30pm. $50. The AIDS Care Project hosts this benefit with featured performances by Kandi Kane, the Hat Sisters, Mark Hetherington, Will McMillan, Mary Scarlata-Rowe and Valerie Sneade.

Walk for Animals
Borderland State Park on the Sharon Easton town line (508-261-9924). Proceeds from this three-mile fun-walk will be used to provide veterinary care and shelter for homeless animals.

Tuesday, May 23

The Come, Sit, Stay Fundraiser
564 Tremont St., Boston (816-7259). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. 5:30-7:30pm. Free. Join the Friends of Peters Park for an evening of socializing, snacking and raffles. Proceeds will be used to enhance Peters Park dog park with dog-friendly surfaces and landscaping. Bring your checkbook, not your pets.

An Evening of Chinese Cuisine & Culture
Charles River Museum, 154 Moody St., Waltham (781-899-8220, ext. 128). 6:30-9:30pm. $50, $60 at the door. Helen Chen, daughter of the famous Joyce Chen, hosts an evening of Chinese cooking, culture and a silent auction of fine cookware and kitchen accessories. All proceeds benefit the non-profit WCI (Work, Community, Independence).

Thursday, May 25

Memorial Day Weekend Kickoff
Locke-Ober, 3 Winter Place, Boston (450-1361). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. 8-10pm. $25. Kick off Memorial Day Weekend with the Realist Council of the AIDS Action Committee. There'll be plenty of music, food and fun.

The Night Is Ours
Le Meridien Hotel, 250 Franklin St., Boston (492-8306). 6pm. $100. Actress and playwright Anna Deavere Smith is the featured entertainer at this evening of gourmet food and desserts, jazz by Gutherz and Good Company and a silent auction.

Friday, May 26

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Fridays. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

Street Performers Festival
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (523-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. May 26-May 29. Free. First-class jugglers, clowns, mimes, acrobats, magicians, puppeteers, step dancers, violinists, unicyclists, storytellers and musicians from all over the world will perform for crowds. •May 26: Opening ceremonies begin at noon. Performances scheduled throughout the day. At 7:30pm and 8:15: Vaudeville shows feature the street performers together on stage at the east end of the marketplace.

Saturday, May 27

Street Performers Festival
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (523-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. May 26-May 29. Free. See May 26 for more information. •May 27: Performances all day, along with a children's area featuring juggling instructions, balloon twisting and face painting. At noon, a kazoo parade for children will take place at the west end of the marketplace. At 7:30pm and 8:15: Vaudeville shows feature the street performers together on stage at the east end of the marketplace.

Sunday, May 28

Street Performers Festival
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (523-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. May 26-

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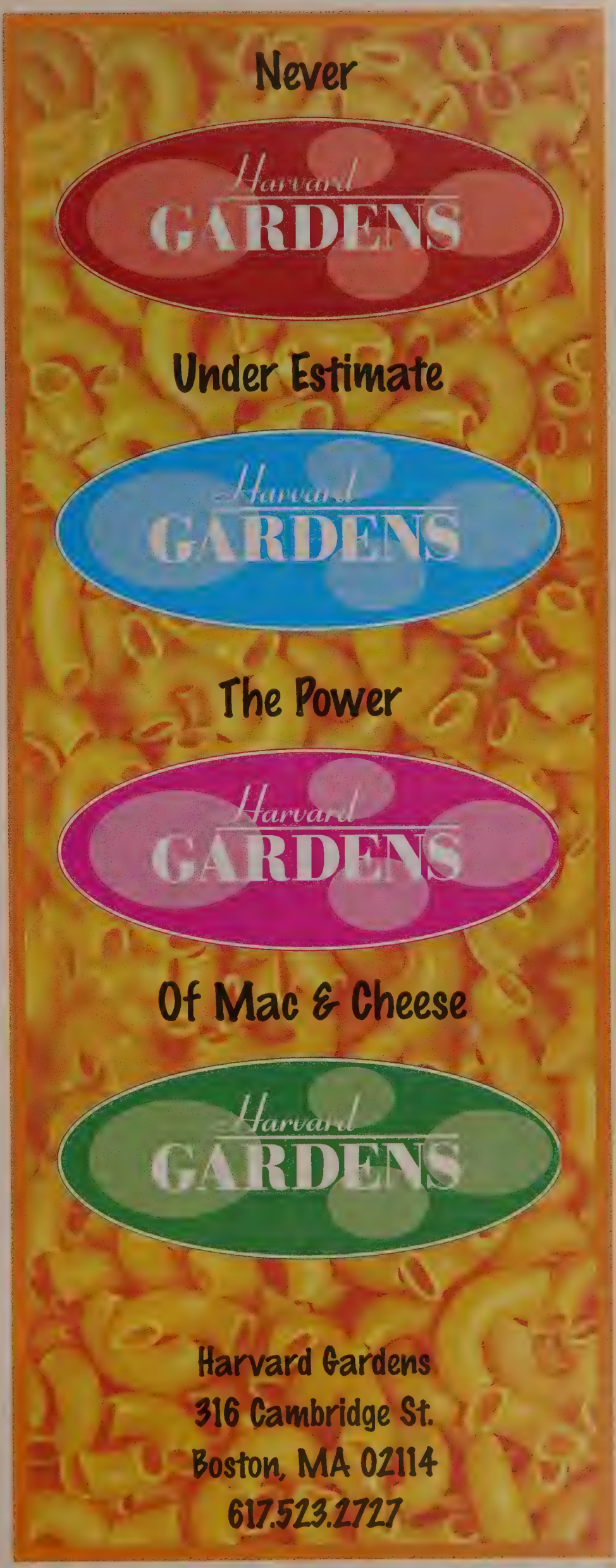
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It's all about Ferraris and Alfa Romeos at the Museum of Transportation's Italian Car Day, May 21.

Preview

Che Bella!

If you're at all a car buff, don't miss the Museum of Transportation's Italian Car Day, May 21. The show attracts more than 160 cars and 3,500 spectators as they enjoy food, refreshments, picnics on the lawn beside the 1888 carriage house, judging of the cars and museum exhibits. The day features popular marques such as Ferrari, Maserati, Lamborghini, De Tomaso, Alfa Romeo, Fiat and Lancia, as well as rare models Abarth and Bizzarrini. CBS *Late Show* host David Letterman won Judges' Choice in 1998 with his 1951 212 Ghia. *15 Newton St. (in Larz Anderson Park), Brookline (522-6547). MBTA: D Green Line to Reservoir, to bus 51. May 21, 10am-2pm. $5.*

May 29. Free. See May 26 for more information. •May 28: Performances all day, along with a children's area featuring juggling instructions, balloon twisting and face painting. At 7:30pm and 8:15: Vaudeville shows feature the street performers at the east end of the marketplace.

Monday, May 29

Street Performers Festival
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (523-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. May 26-May 29. Free. See May 26 for more information. •May 29: Performances all day, along with a children's area. A grand finale performance is scheduled for 5pm.

Tuesday, May 30

Screen on the Green
Boston Common at Beacon Street and Charles Street, Boston (635-4505). Sunset. Free. An outdoor film festival on the Common, Screen on the Green will feature ure *Singing in the Rain* tonight. Hope for clear skies!

Rally

Two Penny Parade
Meet at Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (266-6710). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. May 28, 11am. Walk from Copley Square to the Fenway, where the group will gather to sing and share thoughts on nonviolence and the movement for social change. A potluck picnic will follow the ritual of singing and drumming.

Volunteer

Avon Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk
(491-3329). Event date: June 2-4. Volunteers needed to work on mailings, phone banking and data entry before the event.

Boston Cares
(263-CARE). More than 70 volunteer opportunities available in Greater Boston.

Boston Living Center
(236-1012). HIV/AIDS service organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Boston-New York AIDS Ride
(859-8282, ext. 230). Volunteers needed for work on mass mailings, phone banking and other projects.

Community Servings
(445-7777). Help prepare and deliver meals for individuals and families with AIDS.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

Friday Night Supper Program
Arlington Street Church, corner of Arlington and Boylston streets, Boston (536-7050, ext. 22). Need volunteers to help prepare, cook and serve meals on Fridays, 5-7pm.

The Greater Boston Food Bank
(617.427.5200). Groups needed to sort donated food.

Mass. Eating Disorder Association
(558-1881). Volunteers needed for 4 hours per week for help line, assisting clinical staff and special events.

Pan-Massachusetts Challenge
(800-WE-CYCLE). www.pmc.org. *Event: Aug. 5-6.* Volunteers needed for the ride weekend.

Pine Street Inn
(521-7626). Seeking volunteers for summer months to serve meals and act as receptionist for homeless guests.

St. Jude Century Challenge
(965-5262). Pledge to walk or run 100 miles now through April 30 and raise money for St. Jude Children's Hospital.

United Services Organization (USO)
(720-4949). Volunteers needed to welcome Navy ships, participate in hospital visits, provide office support, coordinate receptions and assist with events.

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Seeks individuals to assist legal immigrants and refugees to become naturalized citizens.

Tours

Boston Bike Tours
On Boston Common (308-5902). Begins April 15. Daily 9:30am-6:30pm. Daily two-hour tours, Mon.-Sat. 1-3pm; 4-6pm. Low-impact, guided, sightseeing tours of Boston on bicyles. Rent or take a guided tour.

Boston By Foot
(367-2345). www.bostonbyfoot.com. *May-October. $8.* Guided 90-minute walks highlight the architecture and history of the city. Tours include: The Heart of the Freedom Trail, Beacon Hill, Victorian Back Bay, the North End and the Waterfront. •May 28: Coolidge Corner. Meet at Unity–Christ's Church at Longwood, Colchester and Chapel Streets in Brookline.

Boston By Sea
Tours depart from Long Wharf (227-4321). Weekends until Memorial Day; daily through Oct. 9. 1pm and 3pm. $25. See box for more information.

Boston Duck Tours
Prudential Center, Boston (723-DUCK). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. April-October. $21. The 80-minute tour on amphibious landing crafts takes groups through downtown and makes a final splash into the Charles.

Ghost Tours
Meet at Boston Common Visitor Information Center, 147 Tremont St., Boston (781-235-7149). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street. Selected evenings, 7:30pm. $12. Tour downtown Boston's most infamous haunted locations.

The Literary Trail
Tour begins at the Omni Parker House, corner of Tremont and School Streets, Boston (574-5950). Saturdays 9am-12:30pm. $35. Explore the heritage of some of the country's greatest authors, poets and social activists at eight literary historical landmarks in the Boston area.

Memorial Day Weekend Tours
Meet at Boston Common Visitor Information Center, 147 Tremont St., Boston (227-8800). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street. May 26-20, 2:30-4pm. $10. A special guided tour along the Freedom Trail. In different historic sites you will be greeted by the Freedom Trail Players, who will talk about revolutionary history.

Sights to See

Boston Tea Party Ship and Museum
Congress St. Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Open daily, March-May and Sept.-Nov., 9am-5pm; closed Dec.-March. $8, $7 students, $4 children. You can dump your own bale into the harbor—and watch a museum guide scramble to retrieve it—at this replica of one of the ships emptied by colonists (disguised as Indians) during the Dec. 16, 1773, tea raid. Afterward, enjoy a cup of tax-free tea.

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Fifth Floor, Boston (353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), Oct.-March 7:30-8:30pm; April-Sept. 8:30-9:30pm. Free. BU's astronomers are available to answer questions and assist with telescopes as you check out Orion, Cassiopeia and the Big Dipper.

Bunker Hill Monument
Monument Square, Charlestown (242-5641). Open daily 9am-5pm. Free. What's long and hard and shaped like a pencil? It's not what you think. It's the 221-foot monument that honors the men who died in the Battle of Bunker Hill. But an exhausting climb up 294 stairs reveals little more than a stunning view of I-93.

John Hancock Observatory
200 Clarendon St., Boston (572-6429). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open Mon.-Sat. 9am-11pm, Sun. 10am-11pm (May-Oct.) and noon-11pm (Nov.-April). Admission $4.50. The tallest building in New England (62 floors) offers much more than an awesome view. Listen to air-traffic controllers at Logan, test your knowledge of the city with a computer quiz, or relive some of Boston's most famous and infamous events.

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (566-7937). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Wed.-Sun. 10 am-4:30pm. The birthplace and boyhood home of the nation's 35th president.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily 9 am-5pm. Free. Here, Paul Revere saw two lanterns shining on April 18, 1775, indicating that the British troops were crossing the Charles River to Lexington and Concord via boat. You remember... "One if by land, two if by sea."

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays 10am-4pm, weekends 10am-5pm. $3. A thousand fed-up men gathered in this church to decide whether or not to send three ships full of tea back to England. Guess what? They didn't. •New permanent exhibit: *Voices of Protest* traces the use of Old South Meeting House over three centuries for religious, political and social debate. Artifacts, lifelike figures and interactive exhibits illuminate how Old South has championed the right to free speech and assembly despite acts of official censorship. •Middays at the Meeting House, a lunchtime music series. Thursdays, 12:15-1pm. $4.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-10pm, Sun. noon-10pm. $4, $3 seniors and students. After that tiring, 50-floor elevator ascent, you deserve a drink at the Top of the Hub lounge before you check out Boston's only 360-degree view tower. On a good day, you can see New Hampshire. The view here is slightly better than that of rival John Hancock.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8am-6pm. Free. Designed by H.H. Richardson and constructed in 1877, the huge Romanesque church in Copley Square rests upon 4,500 submerged wooden pilings, which help hold up the church's massive tower. A shaded courtyard offers respite from the heavily trafficked plaza. On Fridays at 12:15pm, stop by for a free organ concert.

Museums

Boston Tea Party Ship & Museum
Congress Street Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. March-Nov., 9am-dusk. $7, $5.50 students, $3.50. Colonial-clad sailors take you aboard *The Beaver*, a replica of the smallest of the three ships involved in the infamous tea rebellion. Paul Revere leads the hourly tea throwing and explains all about the fateful day irate Bostonians poured out the tea in protest of the tax decree issued by British parliament. Try your hand at rope-tying too.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June Tue.-Sat. 10 am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm; June-Aug. daily 10am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm. $5, children and seniors $3: Follow the red and white signs to the mother of all milk bottles. As you walk under it you'll feel as diminutive as your munchkin companion. See *Arthur's World* from the popular television series and children's books. This infamous aardvark is one of many hands-on favorites. •**Sesame Street Exhibition**. Three decades of the revolutionary children's television series. Step into one of the world's most famous TV neighborhoods.

Harriet Tubman House
566 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-8610). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. Weekdays 8am-8pm. Free admission. The Harriet Tubman Museum exhibits a collection of this influential black leader's achievements.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (929-4523). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily 9am-5pm (last film begins at 3:55pm). $8, students and seniors $6, children $4. This permanent collection on the life and legacy of President John F. Kennedy offers a re-created world of the early 1960s with period settings and 25 dramatic multimedia exhibits. Visitors experience first-hand the challenges faced by America during Kennedy's presidency. *John Glenn and the Space Race*, an exhibit about the man with the mission is now showing. •*Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy: First Lady*. Ongoing •*Treasures of the Kennedy Library.* A selection of the treasures, including sculpture, jewelry, paintings and documents. Through May 2000. •*Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy*. New ongoing exhibit. •Opening May 27: *Jacqueline Kennedy Travels Abroad.* A special exhibt on items presented to the former First Lady on her travels to Paris, London, Rome, India and Pakistan. Through Nov. 1.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (739-1200) www.afroam museum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays 10am-4pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.* The place is bustling after its recent endowment to restore the meeting house's hallowed sanctuary. See the African Meeting House, the oldest black church in America.

Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, students and seniors $4, children $3; free to all Sat. 9am-12pm.* This Harvard museum is made up of four factions: The **Botanical Museum**, **The Museum of Comparative Zoology**, the **Mineral & Geological Museum**, and the **Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology**. A number of exhibitions tie together all four of these distinct collections. The most famous is the Botanical Museum for its glass flowers collection—more than 3,000 models of more than 480 plant species. At the Museum of Comparative Zoology, check out the 42-foot-long mounted Kronosaurus (a really big lizard) and countless stuffed insects. The Mineral & Geological Museum's got a 16,000 pound Brazilian amethyst geode, and there's the dollhouse-esque Worlds in Miniature display at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnography.

Museum of Our National Heritage
33 Marrett Road, Route 2A, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.mnh.org. *Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 12-5pm. Free admission.* Explore history through pop culture. •*Initiating America*, a historical look at fraternal organizations. Ongoing. •*The Lynn Beach Painters, Art Along the North Shore*, 1880-1920. Through Aug. 20. •Opened April 8: *Weaving the Dance: The Yeibichai Tradition in Navajo Rugs.* An exhibition on 20th-century Navajo pictorial textiles.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu. 9am-5pm; Fri. 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children. Omni Theater, Hayden*

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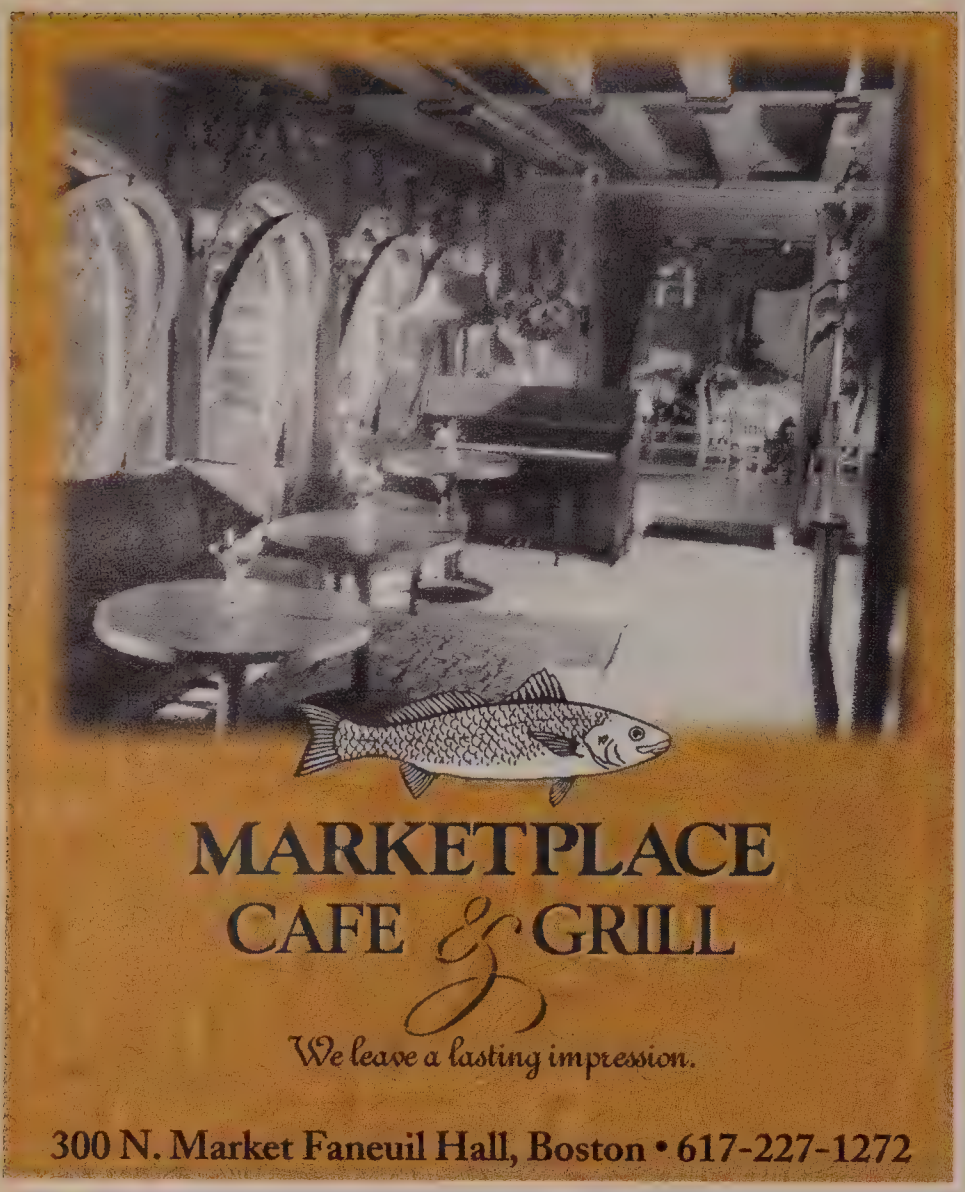

Planetarium or laser shows all $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children. Find out how much you weigh on the moon, strap yourself into a space module or sift through sand on an archaeological dig. Enjoy 600 hands-on exhibits, including the *Theater of Electricity*, *Seeing Is Deceiving* and *Science in the Park* (Newtonian physics introduced through such accessible items as playground equipment and skateboards.) • *To See the Sea* explores the ocean from the perspective of a deep-sea diver. • Now open: *Messages:* Discover why communication is central to everyday life. *Human Body Connection*: exhibits on anatomy, physiology and health. *The Light House: Beaming, Bouncing and Bending Light*: Learn the principles of optics, color and the nature of light with 18 hands-on activities. • *Reptiles: Real and Robotic*, through May 29. Learn about a variety of reptiles and their diverse habitats, which range from searing deserts to the cold North Sea. • New: Cahners ComputerPlace. A lively environment filled with multimedia-rich software and Web-based experiences. • *Secrets of Aging* opens April 5. Explore the science behind the universal experience of aging. • Mugar Omni Theater: *Mysteries of Egypt*. Through June. *Dolphins* opened March 10. (See Film for more information.)

Charles Hayden Planetarium

Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children. Time of show changes daily.* Get high! High up, that is. And (then) go see the stars and rock-music laser shows. Check out the ongoing out-of-this-world multimedia installations *Life and Death of the Sun* and *The Sky Tonight*, and enjoy daily laser shows to the music of the Beastie Boys, Pink Floyd, Korn, Tool, Jimi Hendrix, Nine Inch Nails, among others. It's a trip. • *Journey to the Edge of Space and Time*: Ideas once considered crazy (like black holes) are now the building blocks of new knowledge. What next? • *Welcome to the Universe*. Now open. • Friday Night Stargazing, 8:30-10pm. Free. Weather permitting. • ***Catastrophes In Space—When Stars End Their Lives***. Audiences will learn that all stars grow old and die, and the death of a massive star creates new life, seeding space with new chemical elements and triggering the formation of new stars and planets. Through fall 2000.

Museum of Transportation

15 Newton St. (in Larz Anderson Park), Brookline (522-6547). MBTA: D Green Line to Reservoir, to bus 51. April-Oct., Wed.-Sun. 10am-5pm; Nov.-March, Wed.-Sun. 10am-4pm. $5, $3 seniors and students. This 1888 carriage house is the automobile buff's paradise—and the country's oldest private collection of antique autos. Featured cars range from Fords and Corvettes to Cadillacs and Italian imports. Lawn events are held on Sundays, 10am-2pm, throughout the summer, with food, refreshments, picnic areas, judging of cars and museum exhibits. • May 21: Italian Car Day. See box for more information.

Old State House Museum

206 Washington St., Boston (720-3290). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily 9am-5pm. $3, students and seniors $2. Built in 1713, this original seat of colonial government was the place pre-Independence Bostonians first heard the Declaration of Independence read. • Opened March 31: ***Burning Issues: A History of Boston Through Fire***. This exhibit considers the significance of eight fire events in Boston's history with interactive experiences for the family.

USS Constitution & Museum

Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (426-1812). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, bus 93 to Navy Yard. Nov.-April 30: Open daily 10am-5pm. Free. The stories of the individuals who authorized, built and served on the *USS Constitution*, the oldest commissioned warship afloat. Learn about its 200-year history hands on—hoist a sail, take the wheel, fire a cannon or swing in a hammock.

Boston's newest tour, Boston By Sea, departs from Long Wharf daily, through October.

Preview

Boston By Sea

Against the backdrop of the sights, smells and sounds of the Harbor, the Boston History Collaborative's new Boston by Sea harbor cruise features live theater performances, sea shanties and video vignettes. Visitors learn about pirates, clipper ships, the old immigration station, the *USS Constitution*, the lighthouse, and the Boston Tea Party. *Tours depart from Long Wharf (227-4321). Weekends until Memorial Day; daily through Oct. 9. 1pm and 3pm. $25.*

Zoos & Gardens

Arnold Arboretum

125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain (524-1718). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open weekdays: 9am-4pm, weekends: 12-4pm. Free. More than 14,000 exotic trees, shrubs and flowers make this the place to go when you need to escape the hustle and bustle of city life.

Franklin Park Zoo

1 Franklin Park Road, Boston (541-LION). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open Oct.-March daily 10am-4pm; April-Sept. weekdays 10am-5pm, weekends and holidays 10am-6pm. Admission $7, senior $6, children (ages 2-15) $4. A 72-acre oasis of green in the city with waterfalls, lush vegetation, gorillas, leopards, hippos and free-flying birds. • Reopening May 27: Butterfly Landing with 1,000 butterflies representing 40 North American species. The celebration will also include visits with animals and children's arts and crafts. • May 27-28: Farmyard Opening. Mosey on down to the zoo for that down-on-the-farm feel that's right in the middle of the city. Check out the new main barn, incubator and brooder building, chicken coop, silo slide and windmill.

Mount Auburn Cemetery

580 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard, transfer to #71 or #73 bus. Open daily 8am-7pm (summer) and 8am-5pm (winter). Admission free. Rest in peace among the grave sites and crypts of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes, "Battle Hymn of the Republic" author Julia Ward Howe and Winslow Homer, among other famous Americans. A great place for birdwatchers and botanists.

New England Aquarium

Central Wharf, Boston (973-5200). www.neaq.org. *MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Early Sept.-June: Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. and holidays 9am-6pm. $12.50.* Boston's biggest fish bowl has much more than just goldfish. • *Storm Over Stellwagen*, a new 15-minute, interactive multimedia production, allows you to control the outcome of the film. • ***Unforgettable Boston***: This movie highlights many of Boston's favorite landmarks. $4. • Opened April 15: ***Nyanja! Africa's Inland Sea*** opens. This exhibit features East Africa's Lake Victoria, the world's second-largest lake, telling a story of the people, biodiversity, fisheries, history and future of the lake. • May 20: **Marine Mammal Mania**. A day dedicated to whales, dolphins, seals and otters. Play games, meet the trainers and take home some goodies. Also, **Gifts from the Sacred Waters** celebrates the connection between traditional and contemporary Native American life and the environment. • May 21: **Freshwater Fair**. This free event at Leverett Pond on the Brookline/Boston border features pond, lake and river environments. Call 973-0296.

Roger Williams Park Zoo

1000 Elmwood Ave., Providence, R.I. (401-785-3510). South on 1-95 from Providence to exit 17 (Elmwood Ave.). $6, $3.50 seniors and children. Open every day except Dec. 25. Nov.-March 9am-4pm. April-Oct. 9am-5pm. Lions and tigers and a 150-pound baby polar bear named Triton. Oh my! More than 600 birds and mammals inhabit the African plains and rain forests. • Opening May 13: **Fleet Dinosaurs! A Journey to Extinction**. See 22 larger-than-life prehistoric creatures hunt their prey, roar a challenge and nurture their young, all in a true-to-life prehistoric landscape.

Stone Zoo

149 Pond St., Stoneham, Rte. 93 North, Exit 34 (781-438-5100). Mon.-Fri. 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. and holidays 10am-6pm. $6 adults, $4 children. The polar bear remains, as he always has been, the star attraction at this 32-acre zoo, as he has for the last 33 years. • *What in the World Is It?* A maze with five mystery animal stations. Find your way in and out.

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performing arts

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Theater. Or e-mail information to performing@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Theater
JUST OPENED

The Blue Room
Leland Center, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. May 17-27. $18. In David Hare's acclaimed play two actors assume roles of several characters in a succession of sexual encounters.

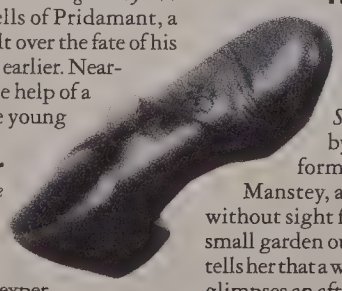
Dames at Sea
Hovey Players, Abbott Memorial Theater, 9 Spring Street at Joel's Way, Waltham (781-893-9171). May 26-June 10. $15. This musical is a funny and heartfelt homage to the great tap dancing musicals of the '30s.

Emma Goldman: A Noise in the Silence
Threshold Theatre, 791 Tremont St., Boston (781-736-9694). Fri. 8pm; Sat. 3pm and 8pm; Sun. 3pm. Through May 21. $16. In 1940, Emma Goldman, the great orator and anarchist, suffered a stroke that left her paralyzed and unable to speak. Faced with her possible death, Emma embarks on a tender, humorous and sometimes devastating journey into the heart of her own revolution.

Encore!!
John Hancock Hall, 180 Berkeley St., Boston (542-9155). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. May 25-26, 10:30am. $11.55. Staged performances of world famous short stories by Poe, de Maupassant, Jacobs, Irving and Twain.

First Love
Gloucester Stage Company, 267 East Main St., Gloucester (978-282-1350). Wed.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 5pm. May 24-June 4. $20-$30. Richard Vetere's new play is about a widow's first date after her husband's death.

The Illusion
Stage Door Theatre Company, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 7pm. Through May 27. $18-$20. Tony Kushner's play tells of Pridamant, a tyrannical father consumed by guilt over the fate of his son, whom he banished many years earlier. Nearing the end of his life, he enlists the help of a magician to produce images of the young man's whereabouts.



The Island of the Beholder
Black Box Theater, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Through May 14. $5. The story of an experimental community faced with a major challenge when a boat called *Destiny* washes up onto their remote shore. Can they stay together amid the scandal and corruption that has infiltrated their fledgling community?

King Hedley II
Huntington Theatre, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (266-0800). Tue.-Thu. 7:30pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm. May 19-June 18. $10-$52. August Wilson's new drama chronicles the African-American experience through each decade of the 20th century.

Live Hostage Crisis
Koinonia Theatre, First Baptist Church, 5 Magazine St., Cambridge (625-0091). MBTA: Red Line to Central. May 18-20, 8pm. $10. This comedy combines up-to-the-second humor with wry social commentary, set in a universe where the rules just don't apply. PalmPilot terrorists, Emergency Broadcast System workers, an idealistic alter-ego, an agoraphobic and a fast-track executive find themselves thrown together in this fast-paced look at contemporary life.

Macbeth
106 Boylston St., Boston (931-2787). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm. $25-$68.50. May 17-28. **Kelsey Grammer**, star of *Frasier* and *Cheers*, will play the title role in this revival of Shakespeare's tragedy.

My Life...In Smithereens
The Boston Playwrights' Theatre, Boston University, 949 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (353-5443). MBTA: B Green Line to BU Central. Wed.-Fri. 7:30pm; Sat. 3pm and 7:30pm; Sun. 3pm. May 17-28. $15. One man's life adds special meaning to some of the incredible headlines of the 20th century.

Night of the Iguana
The Peabody House Theatre, 277 Broadway, Somerville (625-1300). Thu.-Sat. 8pm. May 19-June 10. Tennessee Williams' play takes place in a cheap Mexican resort hotel. Here, the desperate and lonely converge to find unexpected compassion. The hardened hotel proprietress, the neurotic, defrocked minister and the gentle maiden lady from New England lay exposed under the flashes of lightning so that they may, perchance, be washed clean by the torrential rains.

The Nose
Snap Dragon Puppet Theater, West Branch, Somerville Public Library, 40 College Ave., Somerville (623-5000). May 22, 7:30pm; May 24, 7:30pm. Free. A shadow ballet that tells the surreal tale of a man who wakes up one morning to find his nose missing.

Puppet Master Jake
Bad Girrls, 20 Green St., Jamaica Plain (971-0082). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. May 20, 9pm. Don't be fooled by Jake's city slicker ways—it's just an act. Deep down inside he's a grass-chewing, thug-like, undereducated white-trash hick. Enjoy a 45-minute set of his greatest hits at a Punch-and-Judy-style puppet theater set.

The Student Prince
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly, Mass. (978-921-6351). Tue. 8pm; Wed. 2pm and 8pm; Thu.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm. May 16-June 4. $18-$56. The classic forbidden romance: A handsome prince longs to wed a sweet, naive girl who's not of royal blood. The show includes a rousing score that features love songs, waltzes, moonlight serenades and drinking songs.

Unlaunch'd Voices–An Evening with Walt Whitman
The Brimmer Street Studio Theatre, 69 Brimmer St., Boston (931-2000). Thu.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 3pm. May 18-June 4. $17. A new play about America's greatest poet, his art and his times told through slides, poetry and Whitman's own words. The play follows Whitman's struggles as a man and an artist through a remarkable period in American history.

The Victory Jukebox
The Orpheum Foxborough, One School Street, Foxborough Common, Foxborough (508-543-ARTS). May 18-20, 8pm; May 21, 3pm. $26. The time is May 1945. Victory in Europe is cause for celebration and this talented cast is pulling out all the stops. Six "Soldiers in Greasepaint" recreate a "live" Armed Forces Radio broadcast. Enjoy some of the most popular music of the '40s.

The Wharton One-Acts
Shakespeare & Company, The Wharton Theatre, The Mount, Lenox, Mass. (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. *Thu.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 3:30pm and 8pm; Sun. 3:30pm. May 26-Sept. 2.* Two plays by Edith Wharton kick off the 2000 performance season. •**The View Beyond**: Mrs. Manstey, an elderly woman who has lived alone without sight for 12 years, still enjoys her "view" of a small garden outside her window. When the landlady tells her that a wall must replace the vista, Mrs. Manstey glimpses an afterlife that offers her a more remarkable view beyond the garden. •**Oh! Mr. Chekhov!**: Alexi Markovitch pursues love and connubial bliss with Olya, Zoe and Zhenya. The ups and downs of courtship provide laughter and insight in this witty farce.

NOW RUNNING

Ah, Wilderness!
Gloucester Stage Company, 267 East Main St., Gloucester (978-282-1350). Wed.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 5pm. Through May 21. $20-$30. Eugene O'Neill's classic comedy tells the story of a teenage boy who discovers poetry, love and the importance of family bonds.

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed.-Thu. 8pm; Fri.-Sat. 7pm and 10pm; Sun. 3pm and 6pm. $39-$49. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to get its point across with tribal rock music, performance art, humorous antics, props (including plastic tubes and Twinkies) and three men painted blue.

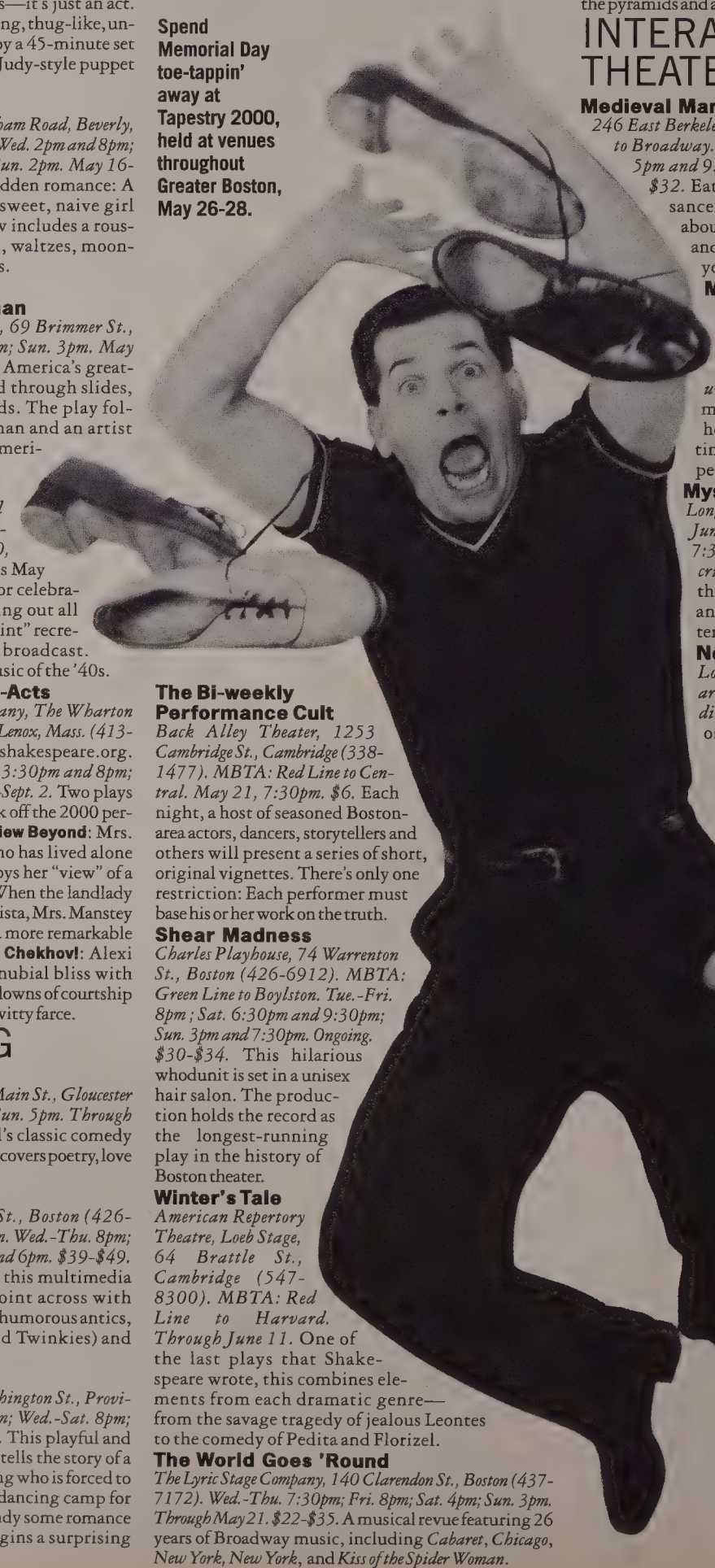
Fall
Trinity Repertory Company, 201 Washington St., Providence, RI (401-351-4242). Tue. 7pm; Wed.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Through June 25. $26-$38. This playful and bittersweet coming-of-age comedy tells the story of a young girl obsessed with scuba diving who is forced to accompany her parents to a swing-dancing camp for the summer. As her parents try to lindy some romance back into their marriage, Lydia begins a surprising flirtation of her own.

Jesus Christ Superstar
Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton (244-0169). Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Through May 21. $19. The passion of Christ explodes on stage in the powerful musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. It follows the last week of Jesus' life, culminating in his crucifixion and the quest of his followers to find meaning in his death.

My Fair Lady
Trinity Repertory Company, 201 Washington St., Providence, R.I. (401-351-4242). Tue. 7pm; Wed.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Through May 21. $27-$42. Adapted from George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*, this musical focuses on a man who sets out to create his version of the ideal female.

Not About Nightingales
Boston Theatre Works, Tremont Theatre, 276 Tremont St., Boston (728-4321). Through May 27. Set during the Depression, this Tennessee Williams play tells of a group of prisoners in a standoff against a brutal warden as they protest living conditions in the prison.

Spend Memorial Day toe-tappin' away at Tapestry 2000, held at venues throughout Greater Boston, May 26-28.



The Bi-weekly Performance Cult
Back Alley Theater, 1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (338-1477). MBTA: Red Line to Central. May 21, 7:30pm. $6. Each night, a host of seasoned Boston-area actors, dancers, storytellers and others will present a series of short, original vignettes. There's only one restriction: Each performer must base his or her work on the truth.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 6:30pm and 9:30pm; Sun. 3pm and 7:30pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This hilarious whodunit is set in a unisex hair salon. The production holds the record as the longest-running play in the history of Boston theater.

Winter's Tale
American Repertory Theatre, Loeb Stage, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-8300). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Through June 11. One of the last plays that Shakespeare wrote, this combines elements from each dramatic genre—from the savage tragedy of jealous Leontes to the comedy of Pedita and Florizel.

The World Goes 'Round
The Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). Wed.-Thu. 7:30pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 4pm; Sun. 3pm. Through May 21. $22-$35. A musical revue featuring 26 years of Broadway music, including *Cabaret*, *Chicago*, *New York, New York*, and *Kiss of the Spider Woman*.

COMING SOON

Miss Saigon
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Wed. 8pm; Thu. 2pm and 8pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm; Sun. 2pm and 7:30pm. June 8-25. $15-$65. This Broadway blockbuster musical tells a story of love and self-sacrifice between a young Vietnamese girl and an American soldier at the time of the fall of Saigon in 1975. Two young lovers are torn apart by the outside world, yet held together by a burning passion.

The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told
Speakeasy Stage Company, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Fri. 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 7pm. June 1-24. This comedy ponders what the world would be like had God made Adam and Steve, not Adam and Eve. It's about the struggle for faith, from Mesopotamia to Chelsea. Adam and Steve and Jane and Mabel—Earth's first two couples—seek God on the ark, beside the pyramids and at K-Mart on Christmas Eve.

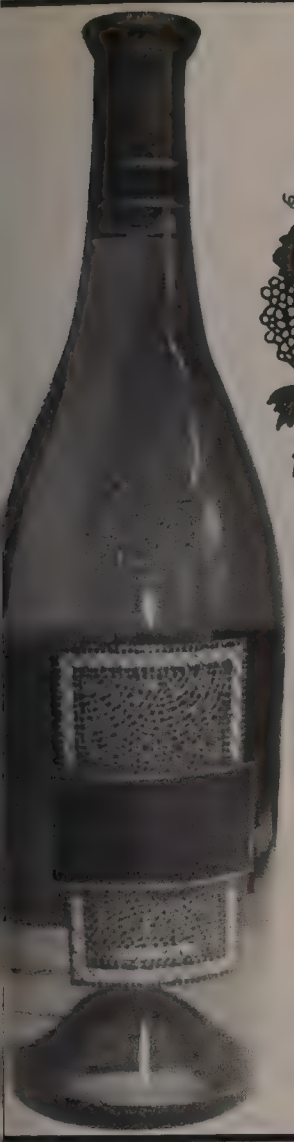
INTERACTIVE THEATER

Medieval Manor
246 East Berkeley St., Boston (423-4900). Red Line to Broadway. Mon., Wed., Thu., Fri. 8pm ; Sat. 5pm and 9:30pm; Sun. 6pm. Ongoing. $9.60-$32. Eat, drink and be merry at a Renaissance dining experience. Don't worry about etiquette. You won't find knives and forks, and the soup of the day is in your face—literally.

Mystery Cafe
290 Congress St., Boston (781-320-0040). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Dinner and show: Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm. Ongoing. $34. Saturdays: The interactive murder mystery, *The Devil Made Me Do It*, a heavenly mystery in a tropical setting. Solve the crime and win the supersleuth prize.

Mystery Cruise
Long Wharf, Boston (781-320-0040). June 25, 7pm (boarding). Cruise departs 7:30pm. $49/person, includes dinner and cruise. Gather clues during a cruise through the Harbor, meet characters and interrogate suspects as you attempt to piece together the mystery.

Nonna's Cruise to Nowhere
Locations around the Greater Boston area (781-933-1363). $35/includes dinner. These folks have taken everyone's favorite Italian grandmother



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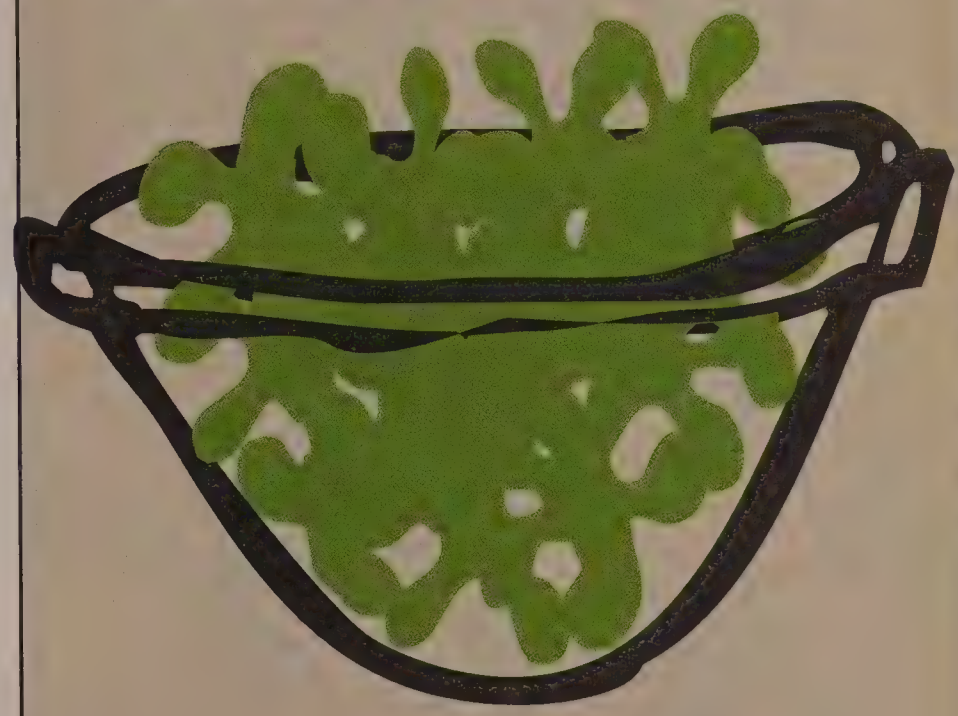

WRAP LOCATIONS

NEWBURY ST. 247 Newbury St., Boston
COOLIDGE CORNER 278 Harvard St., Brookline
BACK BAY 137 Mass. Ave. Boston
CLEVELAND CIRCLE 1940 Beacon St., Brookline
FINANCIAL DISTRICT 82 Water St. (Liberty Sq.)
HARVARD SQUARE 71 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge

JERA'S JUICE LOCATIONS: (Smoothies Only)
FINANCIAL DISTRICT 75-101 Federal St. Boston
LONGWOOD GALLERIA 350 Longwood Ave. Boston
DOWNTOWN 243 Washington St. Boston

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(Nonna) and placed her on an imaginary cruise ship, along with her zany family, after misleading Nonna into thinking she's going back home to Italy. The audience laughs, dances and plays along with the cast members.

Dance
SHOWS AND EVENTS

Back Porch Dance Company
Kresge Auditorium, MIT, 48 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6384). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. May 18, 8pm; May 19, 11am and 8pm. Ticket prices vary. The month of May finds events all over the city that celebrate women. But this event is not all flowers and motherly love. This special performance by the interracial, intergenerational women's performance troupe pays homage to the hard-working women of Cambridge over the past half century.

Blue Stones and Red Ribbons
Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, 333 Nahanton St., Newton (965-5226). May 18, 7:30pm;May 20, 8:30pm; May 21, 2pm. $20, $18 students and seniors. Award-winning Boston choreographer **Dorothy Hershkowitz** has collaborated with video artist **Lynn Bikofsky** to create a multimedia exploration of superstition and ritual. Composer **Billy Novak** adds the finishing touches with his original score, reflecting upon generations past and present and celebrating the humor and complexity of all our crazy habits to fend off evil.

Cleopatra
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Through May 21. Ticket prices vary. This Boston Ballet premiere seduces you with the most tempestuous love triangle in history. Master storyteller and internationally renowned choreographer **Ben Stevenson** unfolds the fiery relationships of the beautiful queen Cleopatra as she tempts and teases Caesar and gets down and dirty with Marc Antony. Cleopatra's tale of rich personal drama during a time of political turmoil ignites the stage in this intense dance performance.

Dance Complex Events
536 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-9363). MBTA: Red Line to Central. •Opening *May 19, 7:30-11pm. $10-15 includes movement jam with live music following the performance.* A night of improvisational movement to the sounds of double bass, cello, percussion and other toys featuring **Liz Roncka**, **Su Eaton**, **Gene Broadway**, **Rick Roberts** and others. •**Pointe/Click** *May 27, 8pm; May 28, 7pm. $10 donation.* DanceMonth 2000 comes to a close with these final evening premieres of the fine faculty choreography of **Margot Parsons**, **Daniel McCusker**, **Rozann Kraus**, **Debra Bluth**, **Lisa Simon** and others.

Flamenco XXI
Boston Conservatory Theater, 31 Hemenway St., Boston (912-9137). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center. May 20, 5pm and 8pm. $25, $18 students and seniors. **Joaquin Encinias** and **Omayra Amaya** are quite possibly the best two flamenco artists in the country today, so when they get together they move not only their limbs but also the spirits of their entire audience. Direct from Spain, world-renowned guitarist **Pedro Cortes** and singer **Jose Fernandez** join them in a passionate performance of traditional and contemporary flamenco music and dance that speaks to all those who welcome their unforgettable energy. In addition, Encinias and Amaya will be teaching two levels of flamenco dance workshops through May 26 at the Boston Conservatory Dance Department. Call 776-4234.

Pilobolus
Emerson Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (824-8000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. May 17-21. Adults $35-45, children $15. This company brings new meaning to the phrase "two left feet." They're not clumsy amateurs for sure, but they'll contort their bodies and defy the laws of gravity to bring you visual surprises with beauty and wit. Chiseled figures glisten on stage and find you floating along the lines of their evocative imagery. Never before will you see human bodies in motion quite like this. Renowned taiko drummer **Leonard Eto** joins the company for each performance.

Tapestry 2000
Various Locations (781-863-5360). May 26-28. Spend your last weekend in May tappin' away! You're probably unaware of such a thing as National Tap Dance Day, but Dance Inn Productions has created an entire weekend of events to celebrate those feet that know how to move and groove. Enjoy a Gala Performance Friday at 8pm at the Museum of Our National Heritage, honoring this year's Tapestry Award winner **Jimmy "Sir Slyde" Mitchell**. Master Classes will be offered Saturday afternoon at The Dance Inn in Lexington, with a Lunchtime Tap Talk and a Tap Jam with informal performances. Small improvisation workshops will take place on Sunday.

YouthJamn! Performs
Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center, 41 Second St., Cambridge (577-1400). MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. May 19-20, 7pm. $15/$12 students, seniors and members. Feel the energy from this troupe of dancers between the ripe ages of 13 and 15 as they perform original works choreographed by **Olivia Jenkins** and guest choreographers.

Pilobolus members contort their bodies at the Emerson Theatre, May 17-21.

JOIN IN

Dance Friday
Rug Cutter's Studio, 23 Main St., Watertown Square (924-7276). Fridays. 8:30pm. $7. Kick off your shoes and dance around like a maniac. This weekly event provides a smoke- and alcohol-free environment for you to let loose with your kids or on your own to music of all kinds.

Dancing at Ryles Jazz Club
Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. •*Saturdays, 9pm-1:30am, $12, $10 after 11:30pm.* Join in a variety of dance moves—here you'll find jazzy mambos, swing dancing, cheeky cha chas and sassy salsa numbers. •*Tuesdays 10pm-1:30am. $6.* Just Swing It night features the Black Tie Affair Orchestra and DJ music. Requests are taken and dancers are encouraged to bring their own music. •*Wednesdays, 9pm.* Get your Brazilian ballroom-dance fix with Samba, Forro, Lambada and Axe. •*Thursdays, 8:30-11pm. $10-$12.* Salsa and merengue dance.

TICKETS

Bostix
(723-5181) www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of Faneuil Hall); Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth); and Harvard Square (in the Holyoke Center arcade at 1350 Mass. Ave). Same-day tickets half-price.*

Next Ticketing
(423-NEXT). www.boston.com/next.

Ticketmaster
(931-2000) www.ticketmaster.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(247-1300 or 800-442-1854). A good place to get tickets if a show is sold out at the box office.

The Puppet Master Jake show is at the Bad Girrls Studio in Jamaica Plain for one day only, May 20.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail info. to comedy@improper.com. *Include address, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a description of the performances or comedians. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (248-9700). www.comedyconnectionboston.com. *MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed. 8pm; Thu. 8:30pm; Fri. and Sat. 8pm, 10:15pm; Sun. 7pm. $8-$10 (weekend prices vary).* The oldest comedy club in Boston draws big-name, national comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •May 17: Don Gavin •May 18, 8:30pm, $12: Frank Santos, the "R-Rated Hypnotist." •May 21, 9:15pm, $12: Black Comedy Explosion hosted by Johnathon Gates. •May 22: Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox. •May 23: Robbie Printz. •May 25, 8:30pm, $12: Frank Santos, the "R-Rated Hypnotist." •May 26, $19: Craig Shoemaker, "The Lovemaster." •May 27, $22: Craig Shoemaker. •May 28, 9:15pm: Black Comedy Explosion hosted by Johnathon Gates. •May 29: Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox. •May 30: Robbie Printz.

The Comedy Studio at the Hong Kong
1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu.-Sun. 8pm. $5-$7. Sketch comedy troops and local comedians perform. •May 18, 6pm: Sacrificing Virgins. Watch people perform comedy for the first time ever. 8pm: Thursday Night Fights with Joe Dinkin. •May 19: Brendon Small and Eugene. Guets Patric Borelli, Dan Sulman and Bernadette Paulie. •May 20: Sean Kelly, Patric Borelli and Colin Cohen. •May 21: Tony V and Eugene's "Short Shots." Also, Thank Gladys with Jan Davidson and Dan Holda. •May 25: Thursday Night Fights starring Tim McIntire with Brian Olsen and Lenny Hoffman. •May 26: PS Absurdo. Comedy sketches, videos and monologues. •May 27: Rick Jenkins hosts Brian Olsen, Stephanie Peters and Joe Dinkin. •May 28: Tony Vs "Short Shots" with sketches by Bloody Mayhem and stand-up from Frank Quintialini and Ross Garmil.

Dick Doherty's Comedy Escape Comedy Vault
Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun. 9pm. $10. Features local stand-up comedians. Thursdays: Stand-up comedy. Fridays and Saturdays: Dick Doherty's Comedy Pro Tour. Sundays: Open-mike night.

Nick's Comedy Stop
100 Warrenton St., Boston (482-0930). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Fri. 8:30pm; Sat. 7:45pm and 10pm; Sun. 8pm. $10-$15. The talent here is not quite as big-name as the Comedy Connection, but the crowds are just as enthusiastic, and you're guaranteed to leave with a smile on your face. Wednesdays: Open mike at 8:30pm. •May 18,8:30pm: Craig Fitzsimmons, Kerri Louise and Ira Proctor. •May 19-20,8:45pm: Craig Fitzsimmons, Kerri Louise and Ira Proctor. •May 25, 8:30pm: Joe Yannetty, Frank Santorelli and Matt Blake. •May 26-27, 8:45pm: Joe Yannetty, Matt Blake and PJ Walsh.

IMPROVISATIONAL COMEDY & MAGIC

Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston (263-6887). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Shows: Thu. 8pm; Fri. and Sat. 8pm and 10pm. Main Stage: $10-$15. Now playing on the main stage is the critically acclaimed improvisational and sketch comedy show—voted one of Boston's best improvisational comedy troops.

ImprovBoston at Back Alley Theater
1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1253). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe makes things up as they go along. Fri.-Sat. 8pm ($12) and 10:30pm ($12). Sun, 2pm ($7). •Fridays and Saturdays: 90 minutes of wholesome fun with scenes, games, original music and lots of audience participation. Sundays: family matinee. •Thursdays, 8pm: **Sitcom**. A fully improvised show based on suggestions from the studio audience and an onstage computer. 10pm: **Open Improv Jam**. All visitors of any skill level are invited to participate in a no-pressure, fun-filled atmosphere where everybody gets to play. •Fridays, 8pm: ImprovBoston. 10:30pm: TheatreSports Boston vs. Sitcom. Best of five match. •Saturdays, 8pm and 10:30pm: ImprovBoston.

Magicians & Spirits at the Green Street Grill
280 Green St., Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Shows every Tuesday at 9pm. $10 cabaret show ($5 with dinner). Billed as "Intimate Nights of Sleights of Hand," Green Street Grill patrons enjoy close-up magic as two or three magicians perform tricks behind the bar and among the crowd.

COMEDY SHOWS

Joey & Maria's Comedy Wedding
Tremont House Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston or Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Fri. and Sat. 7:30pm. Ongoing. $39-$45. Join the fun at this absolutely zany Italian wedding. Big hair and blue tuxedos optional.

SitcomBoston
The Works Theater, 255 Elm St., Somerville (538-3205). MBTA: Red Line to Davis Square. Fridays and Saturdays, 8pm and 10:30pm. A fully improvised show that looks exactly like an hour of prime-time television.

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Submit updated information for gallery and museum listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail to arts@improper.com. *Include opening and closing dates, nearest T stop, price of admission, if any, and telephone numbers. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a partial list of the largest art museums, art institutes and galleries in the Boston area. The • symbol denotes a temporary exhibition.

Museums

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat. 10am-12pm. The Sackler houses ancient Islamic and Asian art, an array of Neolithic bronze Buddhas, Greek pottery, and Hellenistic and Roman sculpture. •*Wall Drawing #830* features four isometric figures with dynamic colors. Ongoing. •Every Thursday is a free guided tour of Shahn's work, 10:30am.

Boston Public Library
900 Boylston St., Boston (542-4000). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. •The *Boston Authors' Club* exhibition celebrates the 100th anniversary of the club with correspondence, manuscripts and signed copies of members' books. Through May 31. •The *Shroud of Turin* examines varying opinions about the relic. Through May 31.

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA:Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat. 10am-12pm. It's better to visit the Fogg the same day you go to the Sackler, as admission includes all of Harvard's museums. Highlights include Van Gogh's self-portrait and Bellini's clay figures.

Gibson House Museum
137 Beacon St., Boston (267-6338). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Guided tours every Sat. and Sun. at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm. $5. With 75 percent of its original items in place, the museum allows visitors to understand 19th-century domestic life and design. Ongoing.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (266-5152). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Wed.-Sun. 12-5pm; Thu. 12-9pm. $6, $4 students and seniors. •Marijke van Warmerdam's *7 Thoughts* marks the first time the artist's innovative work will be displayed in a solo U.S. museum exhibition. Through July 2. •Free guided walk-throughs take place each Thursday at 6:30pm: May 25 it's George Fifield, Curator at the DeCordova Museum.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (566-1401). www.boston.com/gardner. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun. 11am-5pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, under 18 free. Guided on Fridays 2:30pm.* This 15th-century Venetian palace is home to more than 2,500 objects and twice as many flowers. Boston's most famous museum is named for the house's owner, Isabella Stewart Gardner (1840-1924), an infamously incorrigible individualist. Only after her death was her house completely opened to the public. Now everyone can see the works of Titian, Botticelli and Matisse, as well as furniture and architectural details from European churches and palaces.

MIT Museum
265 Mass Ave., Cambridge (253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5pm, weekends 12-5pm. $3, $1 for students, seniors and children. Where else would you be but at MIT when you contemplate Morton G. Bradley Junior's *Math in 3-D: Geometric Sculptures*? The museum's other permanent exhibits include *Flashes of Inspiration: The Work of Harold Edgerton*, and *Gestural Engineering* and *Cultural Engineering: The Sculptures of Arthur Ganson*, the mechanical engineer/choreographer. •On the last Sunday of the month, explore oceanography, astronomy, the science of buildings and other mysteries of science with interactive activities for all ages from 2-4pm, no reservations required. Call 452-2827 for details. •*A Day in the Life of an Astronaut*, *LEGO Car Rally*, *Out There!* and *Observing the Observers* show throughout the spring.

Museum of Bad Art
580 High St., Dedham (325-8224). Mon.-Fri. 6:30-10pm, Sat. and Sun. 1-10pm. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. The one and only museum that boasts "art too bad to be ignored." A favorite is *Lady Chardonnay*, a piece illuminating a poodle-head dancer.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Mon.-Tue. 10am-4:45pm; Wed. 10am-9:45pm, Thu.-Fri. 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. 10am-5:45pm. West Wing only Thu.-Fri. 5-9:45pm. $12, students and seniors $10.* The MFA has earned its rep as the second-best-run art museum in the nation (after the Metropolitan Museum of Art) with its top-notch exhibitions, educational programs and galleries of African, Oceanic and American art. •The work of Edward Weston (1886-1958) shows in *Edward Weston: Photography and Modernism*. Through May 29. •It is accompanied by an exhibition of his recent paintings. Through June 15.

The Peabody House Museum
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (496-1027). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5 adults; $4 students and seniors; $3 children 3-13. No fee Sat. mornings until 12pm. •A brand-new exhibit, *Heads and Tales: Adornments from Africa*, includes rarely seen sculptures and artifacts from the Peabody Museum collections, many of them more than 100 years old, which highlight the messages communicated by head adornments in sub-Saharan Africa. Through Oct. 1, 2001.

The Revolving Museum
288-300 A St., Boston (439-8617). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed.-Fri. 12-5pm. •*Freewheeling*, paintings incorporating industrial parts, by Jackie Ellis, shows through June 6.

West coast artist Michael Damm (whose work is above) visits the Clifford•Smith Gallery in May.

Galleries
FINE ART

Allston Skirt Gallery
119 Braintree St., Allston (254-7027). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm and by appointment. •*Overcast* features paintings and photography by Karolyn Hatton, Lisa Krivacka and Ruth Pastine. Through June 24.

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (536-4465). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •Ben Aronson's *Still Lives and CityScapes* shows through May 31.

Andrea Marquit Fine Arts
38 Newbury St., Boston (859-0190). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Wed.-Sat. 11am-5pm. Shows contemporary masters and emerging artists and is a consulting group for corporate and private collectors.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (247-0610). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 11am-5:30pm; Sun. 1-5pm. Representing an eclectic mix of styles, from abstract to super-realist. •Scott Duce's ethereal oil and encaustic paintings show through May 30.

Artists Foundation Galleries
516 East Second St., Boston (464-3561). MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. Sat. 12-5pm and by appointment. •In the main gallery: *Portraits of Artists*, photographs by Paul Weiner. •In the office gallery: *Recent Drawings* by Meghan Foley. •In the video room: *Fictional Documentary and Other Videos*. Through May 20.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., 5th Floor, Boston (262-4490). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. Paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures by emerging and established artists. •Michael Mazur's exhibition displays through June 7.

Barton-Ryan Gallery
38 Newbury St., 4th floor, Boston (867-0662). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5:30pm, Sat., 11am-5pm and by appointment. The gallery specializes in American and European works of art by emerging and established artists.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm. •*Turn on the Light: Recent Work by Barry Simons* shows through June 10.

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (482-2477). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sun., 10:30am-5:30pm. •*Revering Vermeer* by Kathleen Gilje, Terri Priest and Judy Sowa, shows through May 27.

Brickbottom Gallery
1 Fitchburg St., Somerville (625-6887). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Thu. 2-7pm, Fri., Sat. and Sun., 12-5pm. •The Women's Caucus for the Arts' 2nd Annual *ENtitled/UNtitled* Exhibit includes paintings in oil and acrylic from abstraction to surrealism, 3-dimensional works in glass and fabric and photographs by several women artists. Through May 28.

Bromfield Gallery
560 Harrison Ave., Boston (451-3605). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm. •In Gallery I is Jennifer Hicks' *A Part From Nature*. In Gallery II is Beverly Barber's *Occupied Territories: Landscape Paintings*. Through May 20. •In Gallery I is James Janecek's *Recent Pictures: Mixed Media Abstractions*. In Gallery II is Eve Jessen Gordon's *World Turned Inside Out*. May 24-June 17.

Brookline Arts Center
86 Monmouth St., Brookline (566-5715). MBTA: C Green Line to St. Mary's. •Acclaimed artists and art dealers at *Tastemakers in the Arts* include Abelardo Morrell, Nick Nixon, Bernard Toale and Alfred J. Walker on May 20.

Cambridge Art Association
25 Rear Lowell St., Cambridge (876-0246). Tue.-Sat. 11am-5pm., Sun. 1-5pm. A small gallery with a permanent collection of local art. •A *National Prize Show*, jurored by Carl Belz, director of the Rose Art Museum at Brandeis University, shows through May 30.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (236-2255). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm. •*Creatures Great and Small*, an international glass show, displays through June 17.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (859-7222). Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •Elids Tenenbaum and Eric Sealine show their work through May 30.

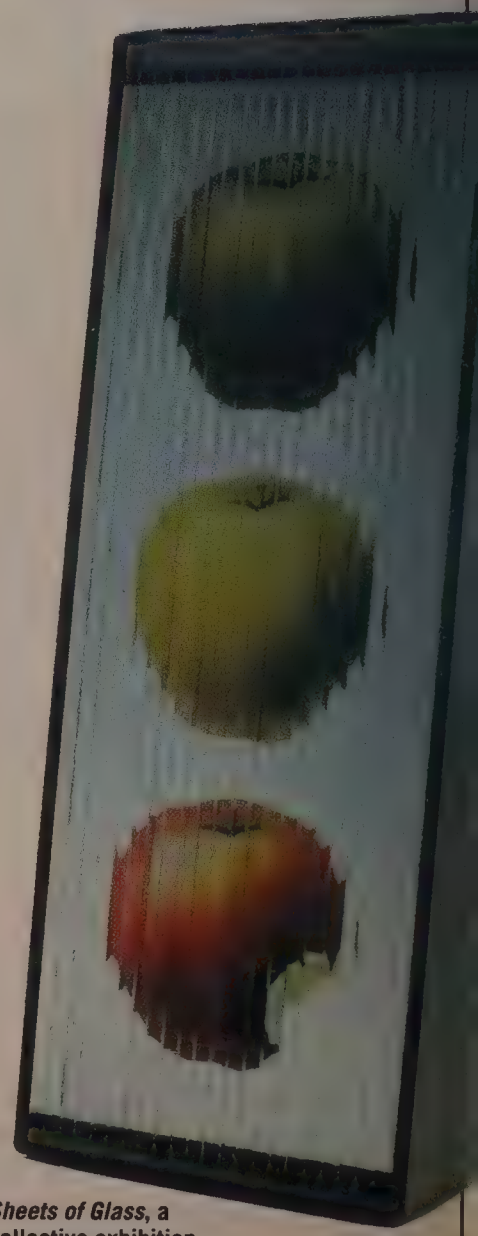
Child's Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (266-1108). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri. 9am-6pm; Mon. and Sat. 10am-5pm. American and European paintings, prints, drawings and sculpture, from 1500 through 1950.

Clark Gallery
145 Lincoln St., Lincoln (781-259-8303). Tue.-Sat. 10am-5pm. The gallery represents 30 artists, primarily regional. Media regularly include glass, ceramics, oil, acrylic on canvas, wood and studio furniture. •*Entry*, a group furniture exhibition, shows through May 18. •Randy Deihl's work shows May 23-June 15.

Clifford•Smith Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 3rd Floor, Boston (695-0255). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing, transfer to bus #49 to Washington/East Berkeley. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5pm. •*Three from LA*, works by three young West Coast artists, is artistic commentary on contemporary culture, a look at glam-pop entertainment culture. Through May 27.

Copley Society of Boston
158 Newbury St., Boston (536-5049). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat. 10:30am-5:30pm; Sun. 1-5pm. America's oldest nonprofit art association is a platform for young and established artists alike. •Robert Maloney's work displays May 17-June 3.

Creiger Dane Gallery
36 Newbury St., Boston (536-8088). www.creigerdane.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm.* •*New Paintings*, an exhibit featuring new works by Mirosiav Antic, is on display through May 27.


***Sheets of Glass*, a collective exhibition, shows at Alianza Gallery.**

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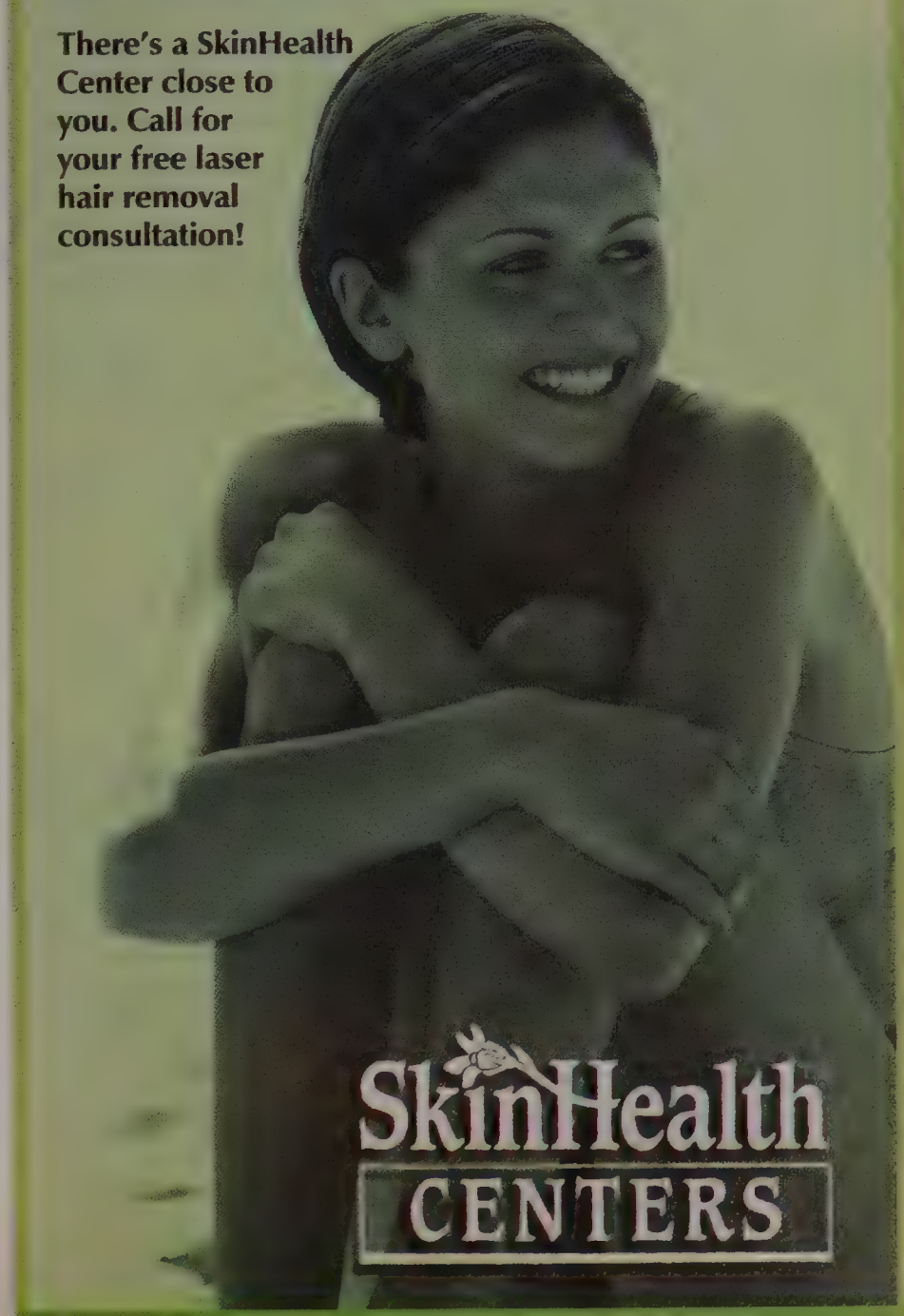

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93 Summer St., Suite 4L, Boston (728-9818). www.crystalfineart.com. *MBTA: Red and Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Tue.-Fri. 11am-6pm.* A multicultural gallery that regularly displays the work of national, international and local artists.

Dyansen Gallery
132 A Newbury St., Boston (262-4800). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. You'll always find paintings, bronzes and fine-art prints. Collections include Rembrandt, Picasso, Chagall, Miro, Dali, Cassatt, Snowden and more.

Eclipse Gallery
167 Newbury St., Boston (247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9am-6pm. •Brenda Pizzo and David Thompson's *Living Dolls*, a satiric look at 20th-century icons, shows through June 3.

Elias Fine Arts
120 Braintree St., Brighton (783-1888). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. •*Look Back, Look Forward,* a group show made up of eight artists, celebrates the third anniversary of the gallery. Through June 24.

Gallery Bershad
99 Dover St., Somerville (629-9400 ex.3). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Wed., Thu., Sun., 12-6pm; Fri. and Sat. 12-8pm. •*Digital Imagery* by Bill Hayward and Maggie Taylor shows with Will Sherwood's new black-and-white photographs. Through June 4.

Gallery NAGA
67 Newbury St., Boston (267-9060). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. Paintings, studio furniture, sculpture, photography and holography. •Robert Ferrandini's *New Work* shows through June 3.

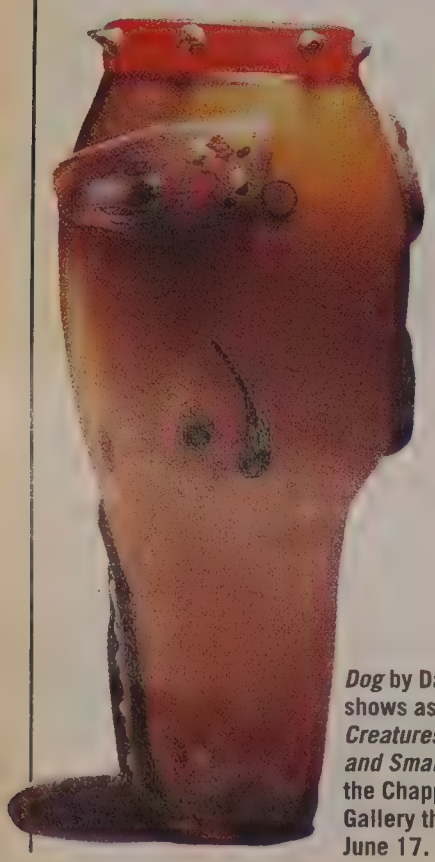
Gallery Seventy-Nine
79 Newbury St., Boston (262-5918). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Thu., 11am-6pm; Fri., 9:30am-4:30pm. Landscape Markings, paintings and drawings by Laura Perry, shows through June 9.

Genovese Sullivan Gallery
47 Thayer St., Boston (426-9738). Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. MBTA: Orange Line to New Medical Center. •Robert Hooper's recent paintings show in *Chocolate and Afternoon TV* through May 31.

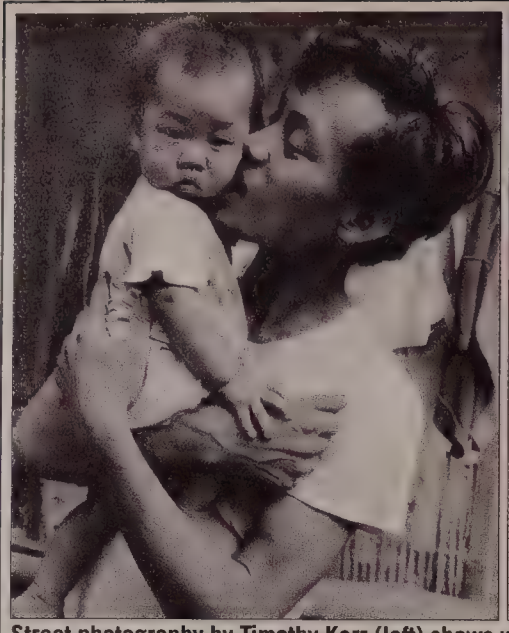
Gurari Collections
91 Charles St., Boston (367-9800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington or Red Line to Charles MGH. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. This gallery has an impressive collection of 16th- to early-20th-century etchings, engravings and drawings of architecture and urbanism, classical figures and more. Also showing is the work of Wendy Artin, an artist living in Rome.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St. Boston (536-6339). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 10am-6pm; Sat. 10am-5pm. •Assortment of 18th- and 19th-century historic and decorative antique engravings and lithographs.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (262-0550). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. www.hyg.com. •*Philip Sirois: New Paintings* shows with Howard Johnson's *Band Aid Drawings.* Through May 30.



***Dog* by Dan Dailey shows as part of *Creatures Great and Small* at the the Chappell Gallery through June 17.**



Street photography by Timothy Karr (left) shows with *Helping Mister* by amateur Vo cong Thang.

Preview

Street Visions

Photographic images of Vietnam

April 30 marked 25th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. In commemoration, Artists for Humanity displays *Street Visions*, a project affiliated with the Ho Chi Minh City Child Welfare Foundation, which teaches photography to young Vietnamese children. Based in former Saigon, the program trains kids to document their lives—giving youngsters the chance to share their experiences as homeless children in Vietnam. The exhibition is showing with *Hanoi Photographs*, a collection of work by U.S. photographer Timothy Karr, a recent winner of the Ernst Haas Documentary Award. His images were all taken in North Vietnam, and the *Street Visions* photos are all taken in the former South Vietnam. Also, Artists for Humanity exhibits *Mayhem*, its collection of American urban youth art. *Artists for Humanity, 288-300 A Street, Boston (868-1516). www.photovoice.org. Through July 1.*

Hurst Gallery
53 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (491-6888). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sat. 12-6pm. Thu, 12-7pm. Visitors are greeted with a wide variety of art and artifacts from six continents.

Hynes Convention Center
900 Boylston St., Boston (954-2000). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm. •Amalia Sotiropoulou's color photographs of Greece include images of statues, religious icons and architecture. Through May 26.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (375-0076). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. The gallery's exhibition features a wide variety of vintage posters from Europe and Russia.

Judy Ann Goldman
14 Newbury St., Boston (424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. Call for an appointment. The gallery regularly displays paintings, sculpture and works on paper. •A new exhibition will be *Billy Sullivan: New Work*, opening May 17.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 Saint Stephen St., Boston (247-1719). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue.-Sat., 1-5pm. •*Japanese Calligraphy and Brush Painting,* by Kaji Aso and his students, shows through May 31.

Kingdom Fine Arts
173 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1997). www.kfaboston.com. •*Storm of Creation* celebrates two women's perspectives of creation. Through May 27.

Mills Gallery
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sun., 1-4pm; Thu.-Sat., 7-10pm. •*The Drawing Show*, juried by artist Ellen Gallagher, shows through June 25. There will also be a Meet the Artists discussion May 30, 7-9pm.

MPG
285 Newbury St., Boston (437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •May-Ann Christensen's *Passionate Landscape* shows Through June 11.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm.* Founded in 1964. •*Miniatures* by Joan Snyder displays through June 10 in Gallery 1. •*Small Paintings,* by Sam Messer, shows in Gallery 2 with *Portraits,* by Vincent Sferrazza. Through June 10.

Out of the Blue Gallery
168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun. 12-7pm. This gallery, owned and operated by several artists, always has a variety of interesting artwork and art-related events going on. •*Third Anniversary Show* is on display through May 31. •Poetry readings take place every Saturday, and the gallery hosts jazz every Wednesday.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (236-4497). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •*Michael David: New Landscapes, Paintings and Drawings*, shows through June 24.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (267-9473). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun. 1pm-5pm. •The allery hosts its fourth exhibition of the works of Japanese artist Shigeru Matsuzaki. His fanciful acrylic and ink drawings are presented in *A Personal Theater II*, which displays through June 7.

Qingping Gallery Teahouse
231 Shamut Ave., Boston (236-4846). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Open every day, 9am-12am. This newly relocated, authentic Chinese teahouse specializes in avant-garde and contemporary antiques, teapots and furniture.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (266-3321). www.richardson-clarke.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tues.-Sat. 10am-5pm.* •American and European 19th- and 20th-century paintings, drawings and sculpture. Ongoing. •Opening May 26 is Truman Seymour's *Moroccan Watercolors*.

Space 12 Gallery
12 Union Park St., Boston (423-9760). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed. 6-9pm; Thu.-Sat. 1-5pm. •*Richard Livingstone: Lessons Learned,* mixed-media paintings and prints, shows through May 27.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (450-0321). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. Artist William St. George displays his lush and colorful paintings. •Now showing *Colors of Provence*, William St. George's expressive landscapes in oil.

A Touch of France
173 Newbury St., Boston (247-6966). MBTA: Green line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-7pm; Sun., 12-6pm. This gallery imports contemporary French artists' works, including paintings from famous French painters: M. Tigrane, R. Kefflin, C. Ferrer and striking dried-flower arrangements made near Saint Tropez.

Via Gallery
83 Newbury St., 2nd Floor (424-6200). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri. 10am-4pm. •Linda Mahoney's *New Silver Prints*, a collection of still lifes and landscapes, shows through June 10.

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (536-6176). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 8am-5:30pm; Sat. 9am-4pm. •The current exhibition is *Works on Paper Exhibition*, a guide on the selection and care of watercolors, pastels and drawings. Through June 3.

Zeitgeist Gallery
312 Broadway St., Cambridge (876-2182). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu.-Sun., 2pm-7pm. The gallery displays a variety of local artists' work. •A Playground Jazz Series takes place on Friday nights. •Monday is Stone Soup Poetry. •Every Wednesday is a figure-drawing session. •Sunday is a vegan potluck supper, often accompanied by live music and poetry.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2051). Tues.-Sat. 11am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm; Closed Mondays. The Multiple is a gallery investigation that explores works of art produced more than one time. Ongoing.

Gallery One
537 Comm. Ave., Boston (437-1868). Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm. Affiliated with the New England School of Photography. •The work of Karin Rosenthal, whose work has shown in the MFA, the Brooklyn Museum, Fogg Art Museum and the International Center of Photography, shows through June 2 in an exhibition titled *Interconnections: Figure and Landscape.*

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (423-4299). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Fri., 10am-3pm; Sat., 12-5pm. •Robert Goss, Laura Blacklow, Gary Duehr and Susan Schmidt combine their work in Descriptions/Depictions/Decisions, which shows through May 26.

Panopticon Gallery
187 Bay State Rd., Boston (267-8929). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford. Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm. This gallery offers fine-art photographic prints and media licensing of images for print, video and stock photography. •*Bradford Washburn: Mountain Photography* shows through the end of May.

Photographic Resource Center
602 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (353-0700). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford. Tue.-Sun., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-8pm. •*2000 Photographic Resource Center Members' Exhibition* is juried by Richard B. Woodward, Editor at Large for *DoubleTake* and John P. Jacob, Executive Director of the PRC. Through June 30.

CRAFTS

Alianza Gallery
154 Newbury St., Boston (262-2385). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. A variety of arts and crafts are on display.

Cambridge Artists Cooperative
59A Church St., Cambridge (868-4434). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; 10am-8pm; Sun. 1-6pm. Twelve artists own and operate this gallery that features 2D design and jewelry.

Clayground
91 Hampshire St., Cambridge (661-7376). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 12-6pm; Sat. 11am-5pm. Porcelain and stone objects galore. Classes are usually available.

Feet of Clay Pottery
21 Station St., Brookline Village (731-3262). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. May 4, 6-10pm; May 5-7, 10am-6pm. The pottery studio hosts its Spring Show and Sale, a collection of local artists' works.

Fresh Pond Clay Works
368 Huron Ave., Cambridge (492-1907). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard to Bus 72. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm. This gallery shows a wide range of firing techniques, from terra cotta to porcelain.

Gateway Gallery
62 Harvard St., Brookline Village, Brookline (734-1577). MBTA: C Green Line to Brookline Village. Mon.-Sat., 11am-6pm. This nonprofit gallery features all sorts of arts and crafts.

Infinity Gallery
24 Union Park St., Boston (423-5555). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat 11am-7pm; Sun 11am-6pm. This small gallery features Wayne Fuerst's work.

Signature Gallery
Dock Square, Boston (227-4885). Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Thu., 10am-7pm; Fri. and Sat., 10am-9pm; Sun., 12-6pm. Pottery, metal and glass works.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (266-1810). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm; Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. •*New Baskets* shows through June 28.

BOX: LEFT, TIMOTHY KARR; RIGHT, VO CONG THANG

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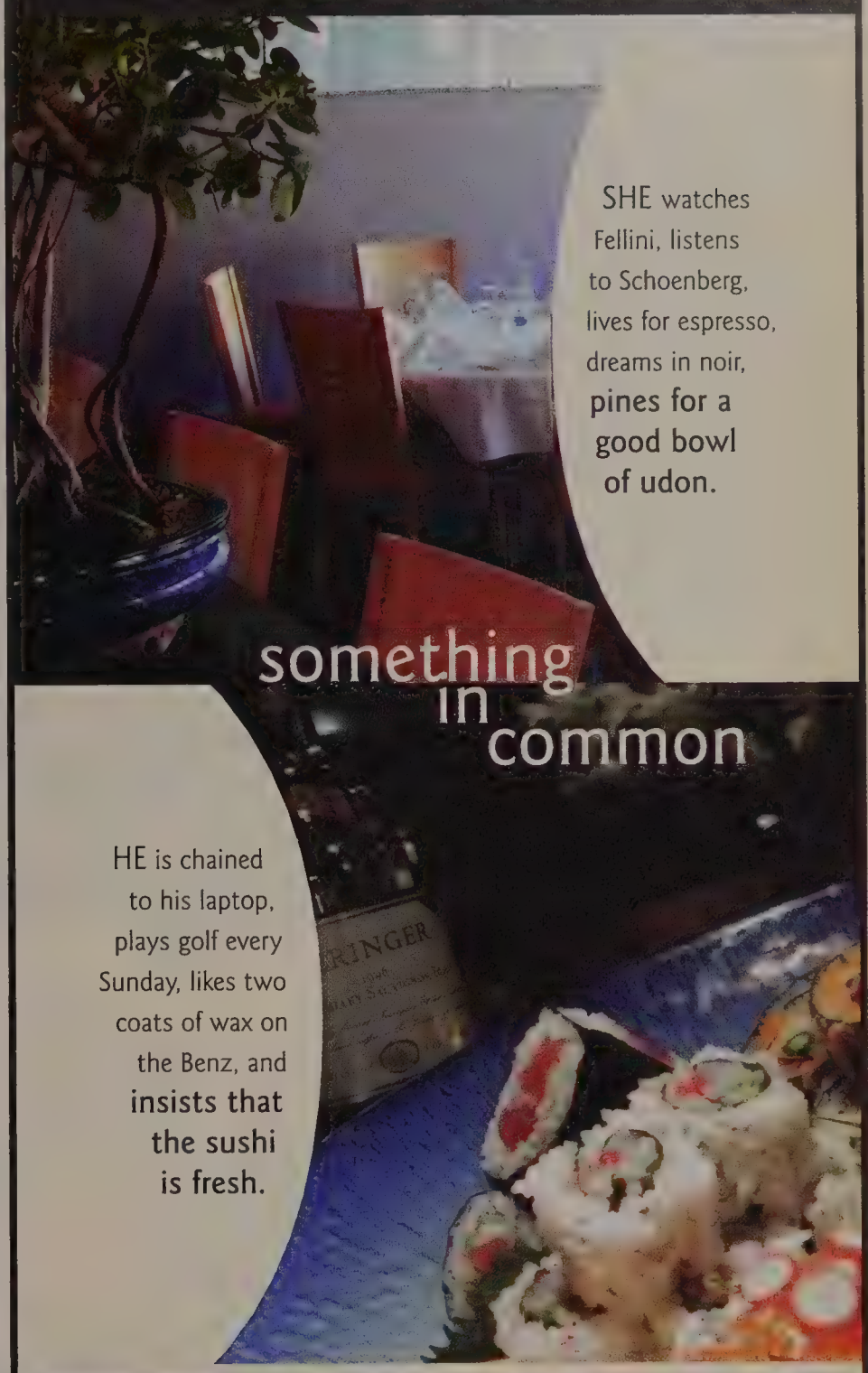

SHE watches Fellini, listens to Schoenberg, lives for espresso, dreams in noir, pines for a good bowl of udon.

something in common

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LOW FIDELITY

Heather Graham goes crackers for love in *Committed*

BY PAUL SHERMAN

With a name like *Committed* and a theme centering around the pros and cons of romantic and spiritual obsession, you'd hope the latest by writer-director Lisa Krueger (of 1997's disarming *Manny & Lo*) would at least be a love-it or hate-it affair. But, akin to her other comedy's partial success, *Committed* fails to inspire strong feelings of any variety.

As in *Manny & Lo*, in which two teen sisters (one of which is pregnant) run away from home and kidnap a baby-store clerk to help with the birth, Krueger again presents someone in desperate straits who takes to the road. That person, Heather (*Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me*) Graham's Joline, runs a Manhattan music club and lives by her faith in others and the promise of her word. In these times when "whatever" has become a mantra of screw-you indifference, this woman whose deeds live up to her words is a refreshing change. But she also lives in that "whatever" world, and her commitment hits a cross-

Heather Graham (Joline) takes to the road in search of a husband in crisis.

roads when husband Carl (Luke Wilson), a frustrated newspaper photographer, has a crisis of faith and leaves, telling her he needs time to think things out and doesn't let on where he's headed.

But Joline is not the sort to let the marriage wither without giving it her full effort or offering her husband the opportunity to take the same leap of faith she's willing to make—that things will get better, and they can best ride out this crisis together. The comedy that ensues comes mainly from the extremes of her supportiveness for a husband who's not even sure he wants to be married anymore, and from the benignity of her stalking Carl. Like an indie-film version of *High Fidelity*, this is about a person sent philosophically reeling by a breakup.

With a postcard as her only clue, Joline hits the road in a rental car. She finds Carl in El Paso, where he's started a trial job with the local daily and has taken up with young Mexican-American Carmen (Patricia Velasquez). Joline keeps her distance from her husband but makes friends with both his swarthy artist neighbor (Goran Visnjic), whose house she regularly parks in front of to eyeball Carl's trailer home and to watch Carmen, who dumps Carl when she finds out he's married. When Carmen also learns of Joline's deep commitment to her marriage, she introduces her to her desert-sage grandfather (Alfonso Arau, sometime actor and director of *Like Water for Chocolate*), and he opens his bag of tricks for her to use on Carl.

The warm performances from supporting players like Velasquez, Arau and Casey Affleck—as Joline's lovelorn brother, who soon shows up in Texas, too—provide the soul of *Committed*. Its tastiest morsels can be found along its margins, like the soundtrack of country oldies like "Folsom Prison Blues" and "Wichita Lineman" (the protagonist also shares a name with an old Dolly Parton song) or the Tex-Mex setting. But the movie also feels as if some of its color and serendipity detracts from Joline's plight. In the desire to make Joline colorful, both literally and figuratively, her commitment to her bonds seems like just another kooky affectation, like her semi-braided hair, thrift-shop chic apartment, cool job and funky friends back home.

Whatever depths might have emerged from Joline also fail to find a conduit through Graham. She's usually cast as one of those colorful supporting-character types, and maybe some of the overly kooky affectation in Joline, or the fact that her supposed spirituality is unconvincingly conveyed, is a rub that the character gets from the actress. Perhaps a feistier lead, like Parker Posey or Alanna Ubach, could have brought more fire and dramatic desperation to Joline. In any case, *Committed* has a hollow center that no amount of sideline shenanigans can camouflage. **iB**

Committed ★★

Written and directed by Lisa Krueger. With Heather Graham, Luke Wilson, Casey Affleck, Alfonso Arau, Patricia Velasquez, Goran Visnjic and Art Alexakis. Rated R. Miramax Films.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Adrenaline Drive ★★★
What happens when a few million dollars in yakuza money suddenly drops in the laps of an ineffectual car-rental-agency employee (Hikari Ishida) and a timid nurse (Masanobu Ando), and there are no apparent witnesses to take it back? A crash course in assertiveness training for the pair, that's what. The couple hit the road in this bristling blend of comedy, action and suspense, only to discover there are indeed mobsters who know they have the money and will hurt them to get it back. Reminiscent of Quentin Tarantino's laughs-amid-danger movies, but with very distinctive Japanese twists, this is art-house moviegoing at its liveliest.

Bossa Nova ★★
The husband-and-wife team of director Bruno Barreto (*Carried Away*, *Four Days in September*) and Amy Irving team up for a bilingual romantic comedy set in Barreto's native Brazil, but the result is all plot and little character. Although the Rio story about a set of lovelorn characters—with Irving's English teacher at the center—has some clever machinations to interweave all of their love lives, the characters are all so one-dimensional that you never feel emotionally invested in them. So you never care who ends up together. Harmless enough, but you end up wishing it weren't so shallow.

Erin Brockovich ★★★½
If it weren't based on a true story, this docudrama might seem like a cynical blend of *Tumbleweeds* and *A Civil Action*. With Julia Roberts as a sometimes coarse, overbearing single mom who, after getting a menial job at a law firm, stumbles across evidence of industrially contaminated water and finds a purpose in pushing her boss (Albert Finney) to get justice for the ill victims. Susannah Grant's screenplay mixes humor, emotion and drama deftly, Steven Soderbergh directs subtly and the chemistry between Finney and Roberts helps to make this more than just a legal drama.

Gossip ★★
Another teen thriller, another movie that sinks under the weight of its own ridiculousness. This one actually has more credibility than most during its first half. That's when three college buddies (James Marsden, Lena Headey, Norman Reedus), inspired by a lecture on the fine line between truth and rumor given by a charismatic media professor (Eric Bogosian), decide to spread a false rumor to see what happens. The rumor is that a chaste campus beauty (Kate Hudson) had sex with her boyfriend (Joshua Jackson), but the buddies' experiment spirals into a series of accusations and revelations, and a possible rape and murder. The plot twists start coming heavier than the binge drinking, but in an attempt to make one more potent than the next, the makers throw credibility aside. So the would-be drama just gets sillier.

High Fidelity ★★★
This adaptation of Nick Hornby's novel surrounds star (and co-producer) John Cusack with lots of familiar faces from his past movies, such as *Grifters* director Stephen Frears and co-stars like Tim Robbins, Lili Taylor and sister Joan Cusack. Cusack also cowrote the script with his *Grosse Pointe Blank* team and plays a familiarly flawed but sincere character. Even if that does give the movie a sense of deja vu, there's enough fun in the details to make the story of a record-shop owner's love life work. Its most memorable action pits Cusack's character against his anti-social record-shop employees, played by Jack Black (*Cradle Will Rock*) and Todd Louiso. Killer soundtrack, too.

Human Traffic ★★
If you don't like someone sober, you're not likely to like them drunk or stoned. So it goes with this Welsh *Trainspotting* wannabe about a weekend spent by a group of twentysomething clubbers who escape the drudgery of meaningless jobs for the ecstasy (the drug and the feeling) of music-drenched, dance-filled nights out. But, unlike *Trainspotting*'s Danny Boyle, *Human Traffic* writer-director Justin Kerrigan is unable to translate his characters' frustrations and narcotic escapes into a visceral cinematic style. In the first half-hour in which we're introduced to the group of friends, he just has them rant on or talk really loudly, making them too obnoxious to care about.

Rules of Engagement ★½
Imagine a magician who performs tricks for adults, but with all the condescension of someone pulling quarters from behind the ears of 4-year-olds. That's the attitude of this exceedingly pat courtroom drama, a military tale that makes you long for the mediocrity of Tom Clancy. Samuel L. Jackson is the Marine warrior who leads a rescue mission at a besieged Middle East U.S. embassy and orders his troops to fire at a crowd of demonstrators he sees firing weapons. Trouble is, no one else saw the crowd's weapons, and Washington puts him on trial for the resulting 83 deaths. The trial,

all dressed up and

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with Tommy Lee Jones as the defense lawyer, is a mockery of credibility, while this movie that's supposedly against scapegoating does just that, by throwing in a military-brass villain (Bruce Greenwood) who destroys evidence that could make our underdog hero's struggle much easier.

Sex: The Annabel Chong Story ★★★
The old saying "Does she or doesn't she?" takes on new meaning in this fascinating documentary about Grace Quek, a Singapore-born college student who became porn star Annabel Chong. To make a name for herself in her chosen profession, the gender-studies student slept with 251 men on one January, 1995 day, something she claims to have done to challenge gender roles, acting like a male stud in a society that calls women who do such things "sluts". The unanswered question of whether this motivation holds true, or is just a shield for more mundane reasons like escaping her rigid upbringing, keeps the movie unpredictable, as does director Gough Lewis' ability to blend the dramatic, the disturbing and the comic.

Small Time Crooks ★★
In what is essentially Woody Allen's underwhelming version of *The Honeymooners*, the writer-director and Tracey Ullman play a lowbrow couple who strike it rich, and then find their new hoity-toity lives pulling them apart. While she hires art dealer Hugh Grant to culture her, her husband longs for the simple life they once had. Although this pokes fun at the Manhattan intellectualism that Allen usually kisses up to, as well as spoofing the nouveau riche couple, it never gets very involving. With Allen, Ullman and Grant dominating the midsection, it's full of overmannered performances. About par for an Allen movie these days—not horrible, but not the least bit memorable.

The Virgin Suicides ★★★
In a sense, Sofia Coppola's debut as director aims at an easy target, the emotional repression of suburbia. But, despite some missteps, her adaptation of Jeffrey Eugenides' novel, set in mid-1970s Michigan, does so with a melancholy mood that brings sympathy to most of its characters: the teen sisters whose discontent leads to suicide, the adolescent boys who reach out but can't quite connect with them emotionally, the parents who are confused by their kids' puberty. Coppola also portrays the special relationship hormonal younger teens have with pop music as few movies have.

Winter Sleepers ★★★
Before he made the 1999 art-house highlight *Run Lola Run*, German director Tom Tykwer made this moodier psychological thriller set in the snowy mountains. Call it *Ski Lola Ski*. The lives of a moviehouse projectionist (Ulrich Mattes), a nurse (Marie-Lou Sellem), a ski instructor (Heino Ferch), a translator (Floriane Daniel) and a farmer (Josef Bierbichler) cross paths in eerie and unexpected ways, especially after the projectionist and the farmer suffer the car crash that sets events in motion yet leaves them with only vague recollection of what happened. Slightly reminiscent of Atom Egoyan's film of Russell Banks' *The Sweet Hereafter*, because of its wintry setting and unsettling aftermath following a tragedy, this is slow-moving and sometimes overly labyrinthine, but haunting nonetheless.

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Cinemas
214 Harvard Ave. (277-2140). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
Trapelo Rd. (484-1706). Red Line to Harvard, 73 bus.

BOSTON

Boston Film • Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (536-1540). Green Line to Hynes.
Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (536-5400). Green Line to Copley.
Cheri
50 Dalton St. (536-2870). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.
Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.
Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.
Museum of Science, Omni Theater
Science Park (723-2500). Green Line to Science Park.
Nickelodeon
606 Comm. Ave. (424-1500). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford St.
Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle.
Coolidge Corner
290 Harvard St. (734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theater
40 Brattle St. (876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.
Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (495-4700). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.
Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Sq. (494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.
Loews/Sony Theater
10 Church St. (864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Sq.
Somerville Theater
55 Davis Sq. (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston. (277-2500). B Green Line to Chestnut Hill.
West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (964-6060).

Floriane Daniel reclines with Henio Ferch in German director Tom Tykwer's film *Winter Sleepers*.

Preview

Stars Under the Stars

Classics begin at sunset

This summer, you have five opportunities to spend an evening with Gene Kelly, Errol Flynn, Katharine Hepburn or Cary Grant on Boston Common. For the second year, HBO and Banana Republic will host a five-week Screen on the Green classic film fest on a giant screen outside at Beacon and Charles streets.

Grab a blanket and head to the Common to join the hundreds of movie fans who will flock to park to for this terriffic (free!) cinematic experience Tuesday evenings at sunset starting on the evening of May 30 and running through June 27. The opening movie will be the 1952 musical *Singin' in the Rain* (right). Stay tuned for *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (June 6), *The Philadelphia Story* (June 13), *Forbidden Planet* (June 20) and *North by Northwest* (June 27).

Alternatives & Revivals

Advice to Contributors
Submit film listings by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Although film listings are correct at the time of publication, they are subject to change. Doublecheck showtimes by calling the theater or 333-FILM.

Boston Public Library

Precode Hollywood Series 1930-1933
•May 22, 6pm **Strange Interlude** *1932*. There is always a discrepancy between the thoughts that people think and the words that they speak—and in this movie, we can hear the thoughts.

Brattle Theater

Most shows are $7, including double features.

Mondays—Film Noir is Back
•May 22, 7:15 **Nightmare Alley** *1947*. This bizarre tale about the rise and fall of a carnival hustler who doubles as a con-artist clairvoyant is directed by Edmund Goulding.
•May 22, 5:30pm and 9:30pm **Pickup on South Street** *1953*. Sam Fuller directs this film of a pickpocket who inadvertently steals microfilm and finds himself caught up in a conflict between communists and feds.
•May 29, 3:20pm and 7:40pm **The Maltese Falcon** *1941*. The cynical detective, the not-so-innocent female victim, the adversary and the sinister sidekicks all come together in John Huston's film.
•May 29, 1:10pm, 5:30pm and 9:50pm **M** *1931*. A classic thriller follows an uncontrollable child murderer. Directed by Fritz Lang.

Tuesdays—True to Life: Recent Documentaries
•May 23, 5:30pm, 7:30pm and 9:30pm **The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg** *1999*. Director Aviva Kempner captures Greenberg's sporting achievements with the Detroit Tigers, as well as the anti-Semitism he faced, in this heartfelt tribute.
•May 30, 4:30pm, 7:10pm and 9:45pm **42 UP** *1999*. This is the latest in a series of remarkable documentaries that have traced the same lives for 35 years. Directed by Michael Apted.

Wednesdays—Recent Raves
•May 17, 7:45pm and 9:45pm **Judy Berlin** *1999*. The intertwining stories of a handful of Long Island residents come together on the day of a solar eclipse. Directed by Eric Mendelsohn.
•May 24, 5pm **Killing Us Softly III: Advertising's Image of Women**. Jean Kilbourne presents the Boston premiere of her latest documentary.
•May 24, 8pm **Titus** *1999*. Director Julie Taymor gives us her vision of the conquering Roman and his own personal harbinger of doom.

Thursdays—From the East
•May 18, 4pm and 7:30pm **The Saragossa Manuscript** *1965*. Directed by Wojciech Has, this film follows the adventures of Belgian Captain Alphonse van Worden, whose travels through the supernatural wilderness of Spain leave him with fascinating tales.
•May 25, 5pm, 7:30pm and 9:50pm **Flowers of Shanghai** *1998*. Set in the elegant brothels of the late-19th-century Shanghai, this film traces the destinies of the beautiful "flower girls" whose lives depend on their ability to win the affection of their wealthy callers. Directed by Hou Hsiao-hsien.

Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays—Special Engagements
•May 19-21, 5:30pm, 7:30pm and 9:30pm (Sat. and Sun. matinees at 1:30pm and 3:30pm) **Breathless** *1960*. A recklessly romantic hip, young ex-patriot in Paris becomes the glint in the eye of the coolest crook in town. Directed by Jean-Luc Godard.
•May 26-28, 7pm (Sat. and Sun. matinees at 1:45pm) **Rear Window** *1954*. Jimmy Stewart is housebound and finds himself all wrapped up in the personal lives of his neighbors. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock.
•May 26-28, 4:15pm and 9:30pm **North by Northwest** *1959*. One of Hitchcock's most acclaimed films, *North by Northwest* presents Cary Grant in a mistaken-identity situation that gets more and more bizarre as the movie unfolds.

Coolidge Corner Theater

Feature Engagements
•Playing in May **East Is East** *1999*. Directed by Damien O'Donnell, this film introduces us to a Pakistani family living in Northern England in the early 1970s.
•Opening May 19 **The Big Kahuna** *1999*. Kevin Spacey and Danny DeVito star as marketing representatives for a lubricant manufacturer with one last chance to close "the Big Kahuna" a potential client who could put them back on top.

Dance Video
•May 18, 9:30pm **Cool Tango**. The Tango Society of Boston and the Coolidge present a special evening celebrating the art of the tango, including a special screening of **Tango: The Obsession**, by award-winning documentarian Adam Boucher. Also featuring live tango demonstration by Nito and Elba.
•May 21, 10am **Falling Down Stairs**. A special dance video event featuring the Mark Morris Dance Company and Yo-Yo Ma also presents a dance performance by Boston choreographer/dancer Karen Krolak.

Midnight Movies
•May 20 **Born to Lose: The Last Rock and Roll Movie** *1999*. Director Lech Kowalski tells the story of Johnny Thunders—of the New York Dolls and the Heartbreakers—through the eyes of their family and friends.
•May 27 **Instrument** *1998*. D.C.'s left-wing heroes look back on several moments throughout their 10-year career. Directed by Jem Cohen.

Harvard Film Archive

Premieres
•May 25, 7pm and May 27, 3pm **In the Presence of a Clown** *1997*. Set in the '20s, this is the story of an aging man who has a sexual encounter with Death during a stay in a mental hospital. He then makes a film about composer Franz Schubert. Directed by Ingmar Bergman.

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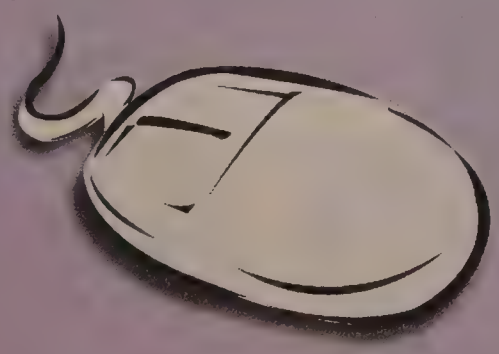

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Tracey Ullman and Hugh Grant conspire in Woody Allen's latest endeavor, *Small Time Crooks*.

•May 25, 9:15pm and May 28, 7pm, **The Making of *In the Presence of a Clown*** *1997.* This video documentary takes a look behind the scenes at a master director at work.

Cinematographer Sven Nykvist

•May 19, 7pm; May 21, 6pm and May 30, 7pm **Light Keeps Me Company** *2000.* A portrait of Sven Nykvist directed by his son, Carl-Gustaf, this film combines extracts from interviews with an array of film-world notables whose work has been touched by his style.

•May 19, 9pm **Sawdust and Tinsel** *1953.* Directed by Ingmar Bergman, this film explores the themes of sexual humiliation and domestic and personal and professional wretchedness.

•May 20, 7pm **Persona** *1966.* In this film, Bergman presents the central theme of communication and the primal barriers that inhibit it.

•May 20, 9:30pm **The Touch** *1971.* A married woman has an affair with an intense but volatile American archaeologist and becomes torn between him and her staid Swedish husband. Directed by Ingmar Bergman.

•May 21, 8pm **The Unbearable Lightness of Being** *1988.* Directed by Philip Kaufman, this film explores the love life of a charming Czech surgeon against the backdrop of the Prague spring of 1968. Based on Milan Kundera's novel of the same name.

•May 22, 7pm **Pretty Baby** *1978.* A 14-year-old girl is sold into the trade by her mother and becomes involved with a man who finds her a compelling subject of aesthetic interest. Directed by Louis Malle.

•May 22, 9:15pm **What's Eating Gilbert Grape** *1993.* A film about the life of a dysfunctional family in small-town America. Directed by Lasse hallstrom.

•May 23, 7pm **Crimes and Misdemeanors** *1989.* A comic drama that tackles the modern questions of morality as a brilliant ensemble cast portrays the familiar world of Woody Allen's rich and troubled upper-class New York intelligtensia.

•May 23, 9pm **The Tenant** *1976.* A Polish office clerk in Paris sets up residence in a new apartment only to find the elderly tenants of the building inexplicably hostile toward him. Directed by Roman Polanski.

•May 24, 7pm and May 26, 7pm **The Ox** *1991.* Set in rural southern Sweden during the catastrophic crop failures and famine of the 1860s, director Sven Nykvist tells of a family's struggle to survive.

•May 24, 9pm **From the Life of the Marionettes** *1980.* In this film, director Ingmar Bergman confronts the issue of bisexuality.

•May 26, 9pm and May 28, 8:30pm **The Magic Flute** *1975.* A deeply human rendering of Mozart's fairy tale that resonates with director Ingmar Bergman's cinematic investigations of idealized love.

•May 27, 7pm **Private Confessions** *1997.* Directed by Liv Ullmann, this is about the emotional consequences of a married woman's affair.

Seance Screenings

•May 18, 7pm **The Laughing Heirs** *1932.* Max Ophuls directs this Romeo-and-Juliet story of two warring champagne-producing families whose children become romantically involved.

•May 30, 9pm **The Shanghai Drama** *1938.* Director Georg Wilhelm Pabst presents a film filled with nationalist political turmoil, gang activity, the threat of Japanese military invasion and individual cruelty.

Five Directors: Part III

•May 18, 8:30pm **Nostalghia** *1983.* Andrei Tarkovsky directs this film that concerns a Russian musicologist working in Italy who longs for his homeland.

•May 17, 7pm **Nashville** *1975.* This film presents 24 characters and as many crisscrossing stories in a twist of narrative construction. Directed by Robert Altman.

Museum of Fine Arts

Most film screenings are $6.

Premiere Engagements

•May 26, 8pm; May 27, 1:30pm and May 28, 3:30pm **Welcome Back, Mr. McDonald** *1997.* The production of a live radio play threatens to unravel the threads binding an artistic crew. Directed by Koki Mitani.

Encore Screenings

•May 20, 10:30am and May 27, 3:30pm **A Hero for Daisy** *1999.* The story of Yale rowing legend Chris Ernst, who in 1976 galvanized her rowing team to storm the Yale athletic director's office to protest the lack of locker-room facilities for women, is directed by Mary Mazzio.

•May 20, 10:30am and May 27, 3:30pm **Run Like a Girl** *1999.* A look at a variety of female athletes explores how sports can help girls resist forces that stunt spiritual growth or thwart self-confidence. Directed by Carol Cassidy.

•May 20, 12:45pm; May 25, 6:30pm and May 28, 12pm **94 Years and 1 Nursing Home Later** *1999.* Laurel Greenberg's documentary explores how her beloved grandmother, a Russian immigrant and caretaker of others, ended up alone at the end of her life.

Birth and Death on Film

•May 20, 2pm; May 25, 8pm; May 27, 10:30am and May 28, 2pm **Death: A Love Story** *1998.* A documentary that confronts our fears of death and reaffirms the exhilarating experience of life is directed by Michelle Le Brun.

•May 26, 6:30pm and May 28, 1pm **For Tamaya** *2000.* Tara Alexander's documentary captures the wonders of natural birth.

•May 27, 11:45am **Letting Go: A Hospice Journey** *1996.* Through sensitive portraits of three patients, this film explores the process of dying and its encompassing roles for family and hospice workers. Directed by Susan Froemke and Deborah Dickson.

Gay and Lesbian Film Festival

Tickets, $7-$8. (369-3770). Through May 20.

•May 18, 6:15pm Several short films (see Gay & Lesbian for complete descriptions.

•May 18, 8pm **Joys of Smoking** *1999.* Confounded by his lover's infidelity, a student filmmaker sets out to document his friends' views on relationships. Directed by Nick Katsapetses. Preceded by **Forgetting** *1999.* The directors of both films will be present.

•May 19, 6:30pm **When Love Comes** *1998.* Liberal sex, plenty of drugs and the fugitive dreams of rock 'n' roll pervade this urban love story with a dynamic cast of gay, lesbian and straight characters. Directed by Garth Maxwell.

•May 19, 8:15pm **The Broken Hearts League** *2000.* The film focuses on the relationships between seven gay men. Director Greg Berlanti will attend the screening and present the film.

•May 20, 3:30pm **The Man Who Drove with Mandela.** This portrait blends incidents in Cecil Willams' life, a leading Johannesburg theater director, freedom fighter and gay man, with home movies and a rare interview with Nelson Mandela. Directed by Greta Schiller.

Museum of Science

Omni Shows

•Through June 22. The Omni features **Dolphins**, an underwater exploration about these magnificent sea creatures, shown in the wild. The film also explores their incredible forms of communication.

•Through June 22. **Mysteries of Egypt** reveals the stories and splendors of an ancient empire in a storytelling narrative. See stunning, panoramic views of Egypt's landscapes and breathtaking monuments, and watch ancient burial rituals.

education

Advice to Contributors

Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Education. Or e-mail information to education@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

CLASSES/LECTURES

Wednesday, May 17

Changing One Master for Another: Black Soldiers in the Continental Army

Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). www.oldsouthmeetinghouse.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. 7pm. $5.* The American Revolution shook the foundations of colonial concepts of armed struggle private property and slavery. **Charles Neimeyer**, professor of history at the US Naval War College, examines how slaves, free blacks and other marginalized groups used the water to their best advantage, some serving as soldiers in both armies, and others using the opportunity to escape.

President of the Republic of Latvia

The Downtown Harvard Club, Boston (482-1740). 8am. $35. Enjoy a breakfast sponsored by the World Affairs Council with **Vaira Vike-Freaberga**, president of the Republic of Latvia.

Thursday, May 18

Diversity and Global Citizenship

Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:15pm. Free. **Dr. Badi Foster**, an educator and management consultant working in the areas of diversity, communication and change, will speak on "Diversity, Democracy and Reconciliation: The Meaning of Global Citizenship in the 21st Century."

Friday, May 19

The Crisis of Freshwater

New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, Boston (973-5295). www.neaq.org. MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. 5:30pm. Free. **Dr. Melanie Stiassny**, curator of the American Museum of Natural History, discusses how widespread extinction has become a pervasive theme in freshwater ecosystems throughout the world. Dr. Stiassny gives a summary overview of global threats and prospects in freshwater around the globe.

The Operable Human

Geothe-Institut, Center for European Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge (262-6050). www.goethe.de/boston. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 4:15pm. Free.* In a rare Boston visit, **Peter Sloterdijk**, the German philosopher and cultural critic, will present his recent projects. In this lecture he offers his controversial theses on the possibilities of genetic manipulation of human beings.

Sunday, May 21

A Conversation with Former President George Bush

Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (929-1211). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. 12pm Free. Reservations required. **Caroline Kennedy** will honor former President **George Bush** as part of the Kennedy Library's Distinguished American series. Following this brief presentation, Bush will discuss his published collection of letters, *All the Best*, in a session moderated by **John Seigenthaler**, former administrative assistant to Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and chairman of the Freedom Forum.

The Life of Julia Margaret Cameron

Mass. College of Art, 621 Huntington Ave., Tower Auditorium, Boston (277-9375). 1pm. $25, $35 at the door. **Colin Ford**, founding director of England's National Museum of Photography, curator **Violet Hamilton** and **Joanne Lukitsh**, professor of critical studies at Mass Art, will discuss the life and work of one of the 19th century's most influential and original photographers.

The Perils of the Growing American Wealth Gap

Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (266-6710). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 11am. **Betsy Leondar-Wright** is communications director of United for a Fair Economy and co-author of *Shifting Fortunes: The Perils of Growing American Wealth Gap*, which asks why today there are more billionaires yet also more bankruptcies. Despite the hoopla of the booming economy, most Americans have actually lost real wealth.

Monday, May 22

Update on Toxic Chemicals: Three Perspectives

Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). 7pm. Free. Executive director of the Silent Spring Institute, **Julia Brody** will discuss current research on the possible links between breast cancer and endocrine-disrupters, pesticides and animal mammary carcinogens in the environment. **Nancy Wrenn** of the Mass. Dept. of Environmental Protection, will present the DEP's initiatives to reduce household hazardous waste. **Denise Breiteneicher** of the Toxics Reduction and Control Program at the Mass. Water Resources Authority, will discuss the MWRA's current iniatives to reduce lead, mercury and other toxic chemicals in the regional wastewater treatment system.

Tuesday, May 23

Why Women and Girls Must Fight the Addictive Power of Advertising

Faneuil Hall, opposite Boston City Hall at Quincy Market, Boston (373-5800). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 6:30pm. **Jean Kilbourne**, author and scholar, presents this lecture with the Boston Women's Commission and the Ford Hall Forum.

Wednesday, May 24

Real Cities: Density, Complexity and Serendipity

Boston Public Library, Raab Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (951-1433, ext. 221). MBTA: Gren Line to Copley. 6pm. Free. Pulitzer Prize-winning architecture critic and Cambridge architect **Robert Campbell** writes extensively for the *Boston Globe* and numerous national magazines focusing on architecture and urban design.

Thursday, May 25

Lake Victoria and Beyond!

New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, Boston (973-5295). www.neaq.org. MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. 5:30pm. Free. Marine biologist **Dr. Caroly Shumway** and **Dr. Tundi Agardy**, senior director of the Marine Program, will discuss what is needed to conserve Africa's extraordinary freshwater and marine biodiversity.

Granting Political Asylum

One Milk Street, 3rd Floor, Boston (695-9990). 7pm. Free. Amnesty International, International Institute of Boston and the World Affairs Coucnil present *Well-Founded Fear*, an unprecedented look at how the Immigration and Naturalization Service decides whom it will grant political asylum. A panel discussion follows.

Read my lips: Former President George Bush speaks at the Kennedy Library, May 21.

CROOKS: JOHN CLIFFORD. BUSH: TIMOTHY JONES ©NEWSMAKERS

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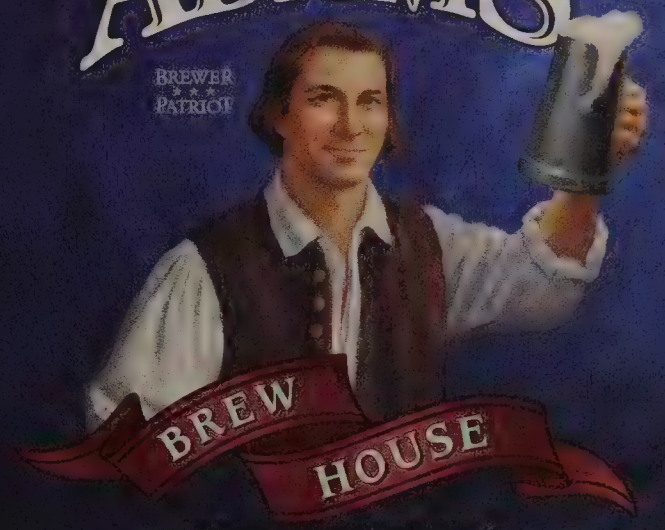

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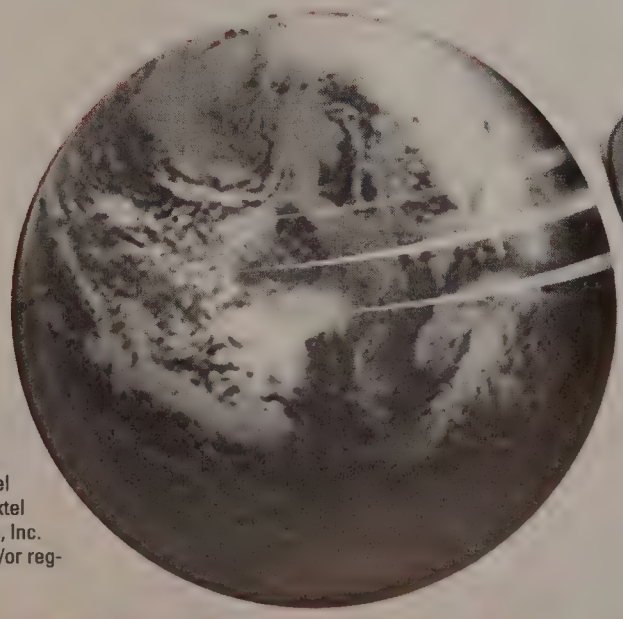

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books& poetry

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Submit information by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Books. Or e-mail to books@improper.com. *Include details of dates, times, prices, nearest T stop and telephone numbers. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

READINGS & SIGNINGS

Wednesday, May 17

Brookline Booksmith Writers Series
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free admission. Ever wonder how Socrates spent his time when he wasn't calling upon individual thought on the streets? **Alain de Botton** reflects on the lives of great thinkers in her new book, *The Consolations of Philosophy*.

Jamaicaway Books and Gifts Series
676 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (983-3204). MBTA: Orange Line to Green St. 7pm. Free admission. **Daniel Asa Rose** reads from his travel narrative/spiritual quest, *Hiding Places, A Memoir,* in which he recounts visiting his family's hiding place during World War II while accompanied by his two sons.

Newton Free Library Event
330 Homer St., Meeting Room A, Newton Centre (552-7145). 7:30pm. Free admission. The African Literatures Discussion Group explores the enriching writings from Africa. Tonight Egyptian writer **Naguib Mahfouz** discusses *Midaq Alley*.

Wordsworth Readings Present
Brattle Theatre, 40 Brattle St., Harvard (tk). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 5:30pm. **Jim Lehrer**, author of *The Special Prisoner*, reads from his work—the account of an American prisoner of war during WWII.

Thursday, May 18

Brookline Booksmith Writers Series
Coolidge Corner Theater, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (734-2501). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Local author and Boston College professor **Suzanne Matson** reads from her latest novel, *A Trick of Nature*.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Free admission. Author **Diana Muir** reflects upon the history of New England's environment and economy in *Reflections in Bullough's Pond*.

Friday, May 19

Queer Youth Performance Slam
Spontaneous Celebrations, 112 School St., Jamaica Plain (524-6373). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook. 7pm. Free admission. Hosted by local performer and comedienne **Karen Malmie**, 10 talented local youths express themselves through a variety of music, poetry, dance and monologue. The Theater Offensive True Colors Troupe will perform as special guest of the evening.

Saturday, May 20

Patricia Smith: Blues Through to Bone
Cambridge Center For Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8-10pm. $12. Passionate performance poet **Patricia Smith** is back with vocalist **Philip Pemberton** to celebrate all hues of the blues and heartbreak with monologue, poetry, improv and original music.

Tigh Fili (The Poet's Room)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 168 Brookline St., Cambridge. MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. 8pm. $3 donation. A night of spoken word and music with featured performers **Chris Paglia**, **Nola Kelley** and others. Join in the open mike afterwards and receive a snapping ovation.

Sunday, May 21

Barnes and Noble Author Event
325 Harvard St., Brookline (232-0594). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 3pm. Free admission. Wall Street Journal reporter **Amy Dockster Marcus** visits the store today to sign and discuss her new book, *The View from Nebo: How Archaeology Is Rewriting the Bible and Reshaping the Middle East*.

New Words Reading Series
New Words Bookstore, 186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 3pm. Free admission. An anthology on sacred sexuality and following an individual path with blurred boundaries, *Blessed Bi-Spirit: Bisexual People of Faith* will be read and discussed by several local contributors.

Monday, May 22

Brookline Booksmith Writers Series
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free admission. Author **Caroline Preston** follows up her last novel, *Jackie by Josie*, with a reading of her latest, *Lucy Crocker 2.0*.

Tuesday, May 23

Barnes and Noble Literary Events
1 Worcester Rd., Framingham (508-626-2823). 7:30pm. Free admission. Out, out damn wrinkles! Before you make your journey to the Fountain of Youth, you may want to hear authors **Jeanne Wei, M.D.** and **Susan Levkoff, Sc.D.** discuss *Aging Well, The Complete Guide to Physical and Emotional Health*.

Brookline Booksmith Writers Series
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free admission. **Susan Kushner Resnick** discusses her experiences after pregnancy with her memoir, *Sleepless Days: One Woman's Journey Through Postpartum Depression*.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Free admission. Massachusetts' own **Daniel Asa Rose** has traveled extensively around the literary and journalistic block with a highly praised novel, *Flipping For It*, a well-received short story collection and more. Tonight he discusses his memoir, *Hiding Places: A Father and His Sons Retrace Their Family's Escape from the Holocaust*.

Wednesday, May 24

Barnes and Noble Literary Events
1 Worcester Rd., Framingham (508-626-2823). 7:30pm. Why do lawyers in movies always get caught up in the most complicated schemes? Well this time it's for real and local author and attorney **David Brody** reports the legal mishaps of a Boston-based law firm and the real estate crash of the 1990s as he discusses his Grisham-like thriller, *Unlawful Deeds*.

Brookline Booksmith Writers Series
Coolidge Corner Theater, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (734-2501). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free admission. The Mystery Roast author **Peter Gadol** reads from his latest novel *Light at Dusk*.

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (236-7421). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. Summer is coming, and that means those pesty little stingers are on the prowl again. Get your revenge vicariously as **Robert Finch** reads from *Death of a Hornet: And Other Cape Cod Essays*.

New Words Bookstore Reading Series
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 6pm. Free admission. It's that time of year again: Flowers bloom and sons and daughters stop bickering for at least one day to thank Mom for being special. **Paula J. Caplan**, nationally recognized expert on the psychology of women, reads from *The New Don't Blame Mother: Mending the Mother-Daughter Relationship*.

Thursday, May 25

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Meeting Room A, Newton Centre (552-7145). 2:30-4pm. Free admission. Writing opportunities are available at this discussion group led by **Marilyn Bentov**, who leads an exploration of aging through the influences of philosophers, poets, essayists and other writers.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Free admission. **Jeffrey Lent**'s debut novel has received much acclaim, so find out what the buzz is all about tonight as he reads from *In the Fall*, with a book signing to follow.

Tuesday, May 30

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Free admission. Civil-War Land in a Bad Decline author **George Saunders** reads from his latest collection of short stories, *Pastoralia*. A book signing will follow.

ONGOING

Agape, Tuesdays
Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (266-6710). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8-10pm. Every Tuesday, this somewhat sophisticated poetry group gathers to share versions of their latest work.

Cantab Lounge, Wednesdays
738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8-10pm. $3. Wednesday nights at the Cantab always pack in more than 30 poets in just two hours for open mike and a slam.

Club Passim, Tuesdays
47 Palmer St., Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. $5. All open-mike fanatics must experience this open-mike night—a training ground for up-and-coming performers, poets and storytellers. Sign up Tuesdays, 7:30pm.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Night, Sundays
1667 Mass Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. $4 cover. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes every Sunday to the featured poet of the week.

O'Brien's Pub, Mondays
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. A mix of rock and spoken word is performed one Monday a month at 9pm—the performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry, Saturdays
Out of the Blue Gallery, 168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $3. Every Saturday is poetry night, and a spoken-word and music event takes place on every fourth Saturday.

Rhythm and Muse Open Mike, Thursday
403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-6622). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook. A headlining poet is followed by an open-mike session on the first Thursday of every month, 7:30pm.

Stone Soup Poetry Night
Zeitgeist Gallery, 312 Broadway St, Cambridge (227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. 7:30pm. $3 donation. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets have served up weekly readings. Keep the good vibes going every Monday.

Preview

Scribes in Cambridge

The Harvard Square Book Festival

Did all that gloomy April weather leave you rained in, spending endless weekend days with your nose stuck in books? Then it's time to come out with the sun and enjoy a literary escape outdoors to listen to readings and join in breakfasts with your favorite authors.

May 17

•Upstairs at the Pudding, 10 Holyoke St. 6-8:30pm. $85, includes refreshments and a copy of the book. **New Orleans comes to Harvard Square as chef Paul Prudhomme, owner of K-Paul's Louisiana Kitchen and cable cooking-show host, celebrates his new cookbook, *Louisiana Tastes*.**

Elinor Lipman reads at the CCAE on May 19.

•First Parish Chapel, 3 Church St. 7:30pm. Free admission. **Three-time Booker Prize Finalist Anita Desai reads from her latest novel, *Fasting, Feasting*.**

May 18

First Parish Church, 1446 Mass. Ave. 7pm. Free admission. **In the interim between Mother's and Father's Day, what better time to reflect upon the matters of home? Pulitzer Prize-winner James Alan McPherson reads from his new novel, *A Region Not Home*. Michael Patrick MacDonald also reads from his memoir, *All Souls: A Family Story From Southie*.**

May 19

Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St. 7pm. Free admission. **Elinor Lipman reads from *The Ladies' Man*, her bestselling tale of tangled love and second chances. Caroline Preston joins her to read from her *Jackie by Josie* follow-up, *Lucy Crocker 2.0*.**

May 20

•The Charles Hotel, 1 Bennett St. 9am. $25. **NPR commentator Bill Littlefield, *Weekend Edition* host and *Home and Away* author Scott Simon and *Fenway* author Dan Shaughnessy serve up a steamy breakfast and sports talk.**

•The Blacksmith House, 56 Brattle St. 1pm. **Italian author Gianni Riotta gives a bilingual reading from his novel *Prince of the Clouds*. At *2:30pm*, there is a poetry reading with Billy Collins. At *4pm*, author David Dent reads from *In Search of Black America*.**

May 21

•The Charles Hotel, 1 Bennett St. 9am. $25. **Join in a Biography Breakfast with Mary Gordon (author of *Joan of Arc*), Judith Thurman (author of *Secrets of the Flesh*) and Amanda Foreman (author of *Georgiana, Duchess of York*).**

•First Parish Meeting House, 3 Church St. 2:30pm. Free admission. **Dig up the past as author Charlotte Bacon reads from *Lost Geography* and Mohsin Hamid reads from *Moth Smoke*.**

•First Parish Church, 3 Church St. 4pm. Free admission. **Spend your Sunday afternoon with author Jayne Anne Phillips, who reads from *Motherkind*, and Rosellen Brown, who reads from *Half a Heart*. *For tickets, call 781-444-6767.***

Bestsellers

HARDCOVER FICTION
1. **Hugger Mugger** by Robert B. Parker
2. **Anil's Ghost** by Michael Ondaatje
3. **Brethren** by John Grisham
4. **Harry Potter & the Prisoner of Azkaban** by J.K. Rowling
5. **Harry Potter & the Chamber of Secrets** by J.K. Rowling
6. **Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason** by Helen Fielding
7. **Ravelstein** by Saul Bellow
8. **Beowulf** by Seamus Heaney
9. **Make Way for Ducklings** by Robert McCloskey
10. **Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's Stone** by J.K. Rowling

HARDCOVER NON-FICTION
1. **Who Moved My Cheese?** by Spencer Johnson
2. **Ten Things I Wish I'd Known** by Maria Shriver
3. **Eating Well for Optimum Health** by Andrew Weil
4. **Soul Stories** by Gary Zukav
5. **Tuesdays with Morrie** by Mitch Albom
6. **All Souls** by Michael McDonald
7. **The Heartbreaking Work of a Staggering Genius** by Dave Eggers
8. **Tipping Point** by Malcolm Gladwell
9. **Fair Ball** by Bob Costas
10. **Customers.com** by Patricia Seybold

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MASTER OF TWO KEYBOARDS

A collection of essays by pianist Charles Rosen recapitulates a brilliant career. BY KEITH POWERS

Pianist Charles Rosen brooks no fools: "I began writing about music largely to keep someone else's nonsense off my record jackets." In his new book, *Critical Entertainments: Music Old and New* (Harvard University Press, $29.95), he takes us on a musical tour that starts with Bach and ends with Schönberg.

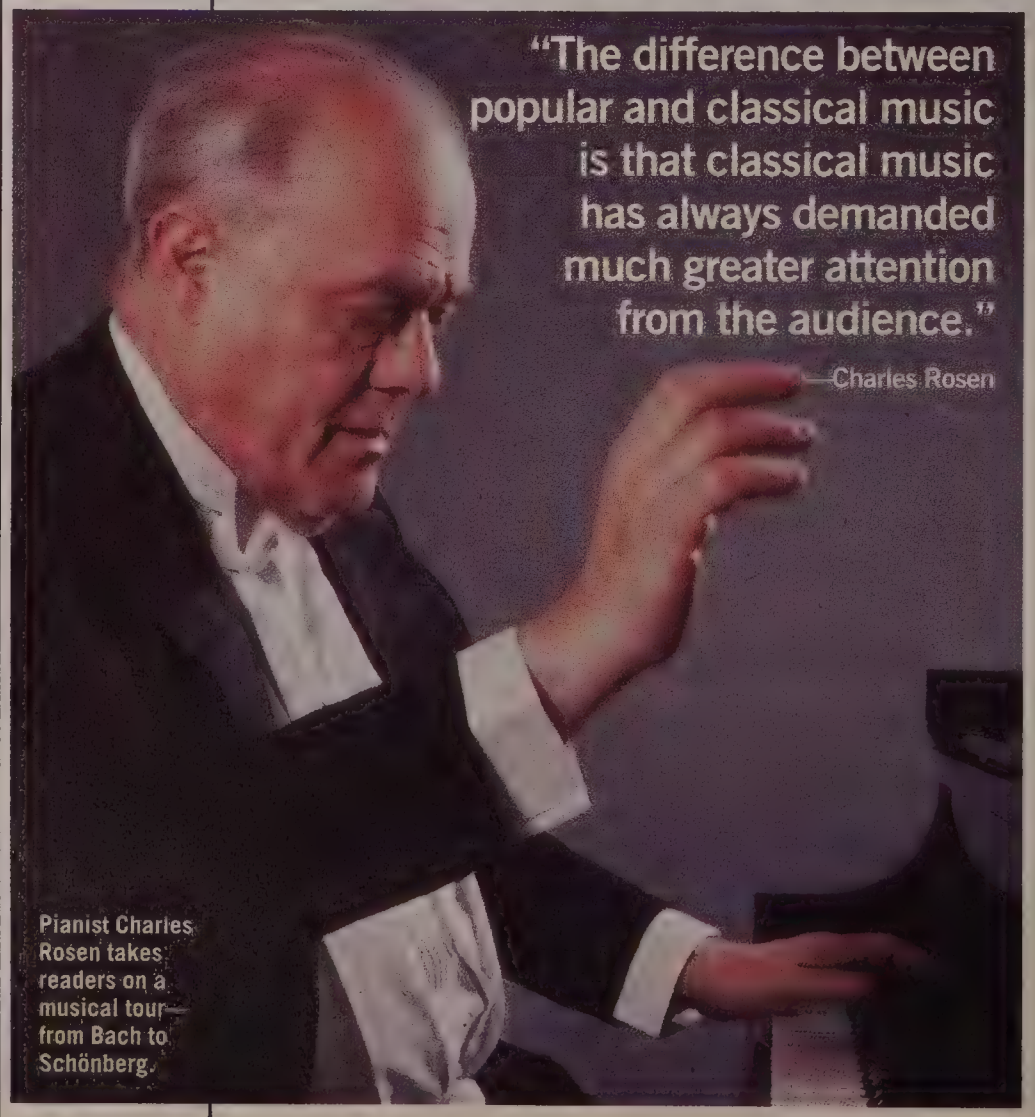
Rosen, 72, wrote these essays originally for the *New York Review of Books*, the *Times Literary Supplement*, and other journals. Some were also developed in his Charles Eliot Norton lectures at Harvard in 1980-81. The New York-based pianist still plays "around 30 dates a year," and his recordings of Bach (Sony Classical) and Carter (Bridge Recordings) are still available. We spoke just days before he flew to Helsinki for a recital.

Rosen admits that "the primary research [for the book] was done at the keyboard," and his historical perspective is casual and anecdotal. Some discussions, like how the introduction of pedals on the clavier/piano changed the nature of counterpoint, or the development of performing from memory, are really only interesting to critics and scholars. But not all of these essays are for musicologists. The opening chapter, "The Aesthetics of Stage Fright," is a wicked dissection of audiences and performances. "The cruelty of the audience is largely unconscious," reads one sentence, leading to a long discourse on the psychological state of the public performance. "Everyone gets stage fright—me too," he admits. "The professionals know how to deal with it, amateurs don't." And a chapter analyzing the musical importance of the French writer Beaumarchais (*The Barber of Seville*, *The Marriage of Figaro*) is seamless cultural criticism, with little reliance on Rosen's other keyboard.

Rosen is a great believer in Brahms, and if Brahms becomes the next generation's Beethoven, it might be due to Rosen's dedication. In the centerpiece of the book, he paints Brahms in broad strokes: Brahms the scholar of music history ("As a student of what was composed before him, Brahms had no equal"), and Brahms the insecure composer, who destroyed as many completed works as he published. Rosen's exposition of Brahms' musical borrowings and their alteration is precise and informed. Unfortunately the chapters are marred by too many musical examples, and at times the thread of the essay is lost without a keyboard to demonstrate the point.

Rosen brushes aside predictions of the death of classical music, pointing out that the problem is with the audience, not with the performers. "The difference between popular and classical music is that classical music has always demanded much greater attention from the audience," he warns. In the book's ironically titled final chapter, "The Irrelevance of Serious Music," Rosen suggests that "music survives because players play it. For the longest time in France, Mozart was not popular ... But the players kept playing him until people came around."

It's odd, however, that he criticizes Robbins for "having dumped everything he knows" into his massive Haydn biographies. Rosen's own essays—which stretch from here to Baroque and back—could be subjected to the same criticism. When asked about contemporary composers, Rosen says, "I don't like to go out on a limb," before doing just that. "I think that Boulez and Elliott Carter will stay around. Stockhausen will disappear; his latest works aren't that great. He has this opera based on the days of the week. In one day the pianist sits on the piano and play it with her ass, and throws rockets at the tenor. I don't think that piece will stick around."



Pianist Charles Rosen takes readers on a musical tour—from Bach to Schönberg.

Coda

Two fine recordings crossed the desk recently from **Ransom Wilson's Image Recordings** (www.imagerecordins.com): **Christopher O'Riley**'s *Vers La Flamme*, works of Scriabin, and the **Borromeo String Quartet**'s recordings of Ravel. Another new book associated with Harvard, professor **Christoph Wolff**'s *Johann Sebastian Bach: the Learned Musician* ($39.95), celebrates the 250th anniversary Bach's death. Published by W. W. Norton, this is a highly readable biography with expert discussions of the *Art of the Fugue* and the *Musical Offering*. iB

Elaine Kwon and Sandra Hebert perform a duo piano concert at Harvard's Paine Hall May 21, 7pm.

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled Classical by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Classical Music or e-mail to classical@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers Web site information and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to deadline. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from many different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to doublecheck dates and times.

Wednesday, May 17

Boston Pops in Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices vary. Conductor Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops present *Encore!*, a collection of the best-loved music from their five hit recordings.

Thursday, May 18

Boston Pops in Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices vary. Same program as May 17.

Longy School of Music
1 Follen St., Cambridge (876-0956). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. Stylus Phantasticus: Pious and Sensual Devotions from 17th-Century Germany—including music by Buxtehude and his contemporaries.

Prism Opera
St. Paul's Church, 15 St. Paul St., Brookline (931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to St. Paul St. 8pm. $20-$25. Britten's opera *The Turn of the Screw*.

Friday, May 19

Boston Pops in Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices vary. Same program as May 17.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (876-0956). 5pm. German lieder by Schubert, Schumann, Brahms, Wolf, Berg and Schönberg; *8pm.* Baroque Chamber Ensembles, Longy Chamber Orchestra.

World Music at MIT
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (536-2412). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave. 8pm. $20-$50. Ali Akbar Khan, sarod; Swapan Chaudhuri, tabla perform in concert.

Saturday, May 20

Boston Early Music Festival
Faneuil Hall, Quincy Market, Boston (661-1812). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 8pm. $18-$42. Paul O'Dette, The King's Noyse and Tragicomedia—vocal and instrumental ensemble.

Boston Pops in Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices vary. Same program as May 17.

Church of the Advent Concert
30 Brimmer St., Boston (492-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 8pm. $20-$30. Rockland Osgood, tenor; Mark-Andrew Cleveland, baritone; Gloria Raymond, mezzo-soprano; James David Christie, organ.

New Philharmonia Orchestra
Our Lady Help of Christians Church, 573 Washington St., Newton Corner (527-9717). 8pm. $15-$25. Van Ness and Verdi, A Millenium Celebratory Concert—Verdi's *Requiem* and more.

Prism Opera
St. Paul's Church, 15 St. Paul St., Brookline (931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to St. Paul St. 8pm. $20-$25. Same program as May 18.

Sunday, May 21

Longy School of Music Concert
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (876-0956). 7pm. Longy Chamber Singers.

Paul R. Doguerau Memorial Concert
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard Square. 7:30pm. Free. A unique concert with eight pianists to honor music legend Paul R. Doguerau.

New Philharmonia Orchestra
Our Lady Help of Christians Church, 573 Washington St., Newton Corner (527-9717). 2pm. $15-$25. Same program as May 20.

Kwon and Hebert in Concert
Paine Hall, Harvard University, Cambridge (496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. $14, $9 students. Elaine Kwon and Sandra Hebert perform in a much-anticipated duo piano concert with works by Debussy, Lutoslawski, McKinley and others. The concert is sponsored by the Phillips Brooks House Association of Harvard University and all proceeds benefit the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter.

Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra of Boston
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. $9-$39. World premiere of Tison Street's *Labyrinth* for solo violin and chamber orchestra.

St. John's Episcopal Church
27 Devens St., Charlestown (242-1272). 4pm. Suggested donation of $5 or more. Lieder and songs by Mozart, Copland and Schubert featuring the 1880 Chickering piano.

Weekly Bach Cantata
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (536-3356). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 10am. Free will offering. J.S. Bach: Cantata BWV 43.

Monday, May 22

The Wang Theatre
270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 8pm. $35-$70. Andre Rieu's 100 Years of Strauss Gala features the Johann Strauss Orchestra.

Tuesday, May 23

Boston Pops in Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices vary. Same program as May 17.

King's Chapel Concert Series
The corner of School and Tremont streets, Boston (227-2155). 12:15pm. Music of Langlais, Vivaldi, Rachmaninoff and Rheinberger.

Thursday, May 25

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). 7:30pm. Free. Spring concert of works by Bach, Mozart, Britten and Peter Warlock.

Rialto Ensemble
The Weston Town Hall Theater, Weston Center (876-1836). 8pm. $12-$15. Eight dancers move in tandem with several singers and instrumentalists to the music of Bach.

Sunday, May 28

FleetBoston Pavilion
290 Northern Ave., Boston (547-0620). MBTA: Green Line to South Station. 8pm. $44.50-$79.50. Joni Mitchell brings to stage classical love songs from her latest release *Both Sides Now*.

Tuesday, May 30

King's Chapel Concert Series
The corner of School and Tremont street, Boston (227-2155). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park St. 12:15pm. Free admission. Jazz standards and bossa nova.

dance clubs

Advice to Contributors
Submit information by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Clubs or e-mail to clubs@improper.com. Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to pub date. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Nights

Mondays

Vertigo Mondays
Vertigo. Caesar and Giorgio throw a party for those of you who never stop dancin'. Smooth Lounge upstairs, Deep House downstairs; DJ Arsit. Dress slick. 10pm, no cover.

Static
Axis. DJ Jay Ine and the gorgeous drag shows hosted by Mizery. 10pm. 19+. $5 cover.

Language
Hibernia. DJs G White, Dot, Surface and SORA spin a top selection of hip, diverse drum and bass at Boston's newest drum-and-bass weekly. 8pm. 21+. $2 cover.

Tuesdays

Cigar and Jazz Night
The Exchange. Smoke, kick back, lounge and listen to the smooth sounds of jazz. Plus, you score a free Gina Cigar and complimentary buffet when you relax here. No cover.

Fat Tuesdays
Bill's. This off-the-hook night features DJ Chaos scratching out hip-hop music to college clubbers while house masters DJ Justin Hoffman and WBCN's DJ Jynx keep the tunes spinning downstairs. 11pm, $10 cover.

The Forum
Lava Bar. Support the local DJ scene as local talents share the floor with resident Ricky Fatts in hopes of gaining a headlining spot on the Lava stage. 10pm, 21+.

Got Milk?
Venu. If you're chic and fabu you'll be at Venu for Milk—a smart and devilishly hip party. Resident DJ Osheen spins house for the trés chic. Dress is funky. 21+.

Mingle Tuesdays
The Modern. This fancy spot screams très chic. With local DJs every week, a raw bar, vodka bar and late lounge. 10pm. 21+.

Zanzibar Tuesdays
The Big Easy. Dress to impress (black is always a hit) for Boston's premiere International Night. The Big Easy's got DJ Manolo, spinning Latin and international. 11pm. 19+. $10.

Wednesdays

College Night
The Aquarium. Guest DJs spin on all three funky floors of this relatively new venu at 10pm.

Good Karma
Karma/Mambo. Misery plays host to a roster of rotating DJs. Expect a mixed crowd and special guest performers. 10pm. 19+. $5 cover.

Hibernia Wednesdays
Hibernia. DJ C.T.O. is the Godfather of Say Word night—with plenty of funk, rare groove, soul and old-school hip-hop. 9pm. 21+. Cover varies.

Imagination
Backstage. DJs Freddy C. and Jonny C. spin top 40, dance and all of the best club classics. 10pm. No cover, 21+.

Modern Living
The Modern. Here, DJ Dale Charles spins while minglers strut their stuff, munch from a raw bar and sip martinis. 10pm. 21+.

Musical Mayhem
The Exchange. WBCN's DJ Jynx of Cybersounds plays bangin' funky house upstairs while Tym Ryan of WFNX and DJ Brisc take over and spin in the Vault. 10pm.

Pravda 116
Come spend the night with Boston's premiere promoters at one of the city's most decadent hot spots—set to the beats put out by DJ Alex and DJ Felix. Proper dress required, 21+.

Status
Axis. It's all about status when DJ's Darrin Friedman and Richie Rich are spinning house music and weekly Fashion and Hair Salon Show. 10pm, 19+, $10.

Venu VIPs and party-goers celebrated the club's first anniversary in a number of ways.

Preview

The White Label Bin

OK, let's get this party started the right way ... this column has been MIA for some time now, and I, señor Joe, have been chosen to act as your new guide for our journey into Boston's unpredictable nightlife. Almost every area in this city has seen some big changes in the scene over the past year, so we'll get down and dirty real quick-like.

VENU—You've come a long way baby, how can you be 1-year-old already? With Sharukh, and promoters Igor B. and Co. behind the scenes, Venu has produced some of the hottest nights this side of the Atlantic. The one-year anniversary bash at the end of April was no exception, with DJ Alex keeping the crowd on the dance floor the whole evening. Arguably still the toughest rope in Boston to get past, you might catch a glimpse of local notables Ben Affleck, Mark Wahlberg and the like once inside.

AVALON—You don't even know me, and like a chameleon, you have the ability to go from fund-raiser venue (Banned in Boston 2000) to playground for club kids in a matter of hours. With Steve Adelman as the directing force behind one of the city's most successful nights known as Avaland, you no longer need to go to New York to see the biggest DJs spin. Jonathan Peters, Junior Vasquez and Sasha are just a few gods of the turntables that have graced Avalon's decks with their mastery over past year or so. Besides, where else would one go to rub elbows with Dan Akroyd?

THE ROXY—Blue, but could be Back In My Life once things settle down a bit. Saturdays blew up out of control late last summer. It seemed as if you had to arrive earlier and earlier each week or face getting denied at the door because of capacity limits. Maybe it was the benefits of having "on-site" paramedics that attracted the droves of people each week. Nah, had to be something else. DJ Adilson serves up the crossover mix of house, techno and top 40 dance for the masses.

THE EXCHANGE, HIBERNIA, ENVY, PHOENIX LANDING, AXIS—Feels so good because this is where the freshest new talent in town is breaking out. Tym Ryan, Chaos, Caseroc, Static and a host of others have all produced nights of unstoppable dancing.

OK kids, that was the quick list, now let's dispense with the invaluable rumors floating around the scene. M-80, having been sold off to close to 11 interested parties, is as good a place to start as any. Will London's Ministry of Sound take over to provide a new international scene? Or could it become the first U.S. spin-off of London's highly successful Home? Let's just hope it's not converted to another restaurant, which could force some of the partners to pull out from the deal completely. Also, Lansdowne Street has witnessed the retirement of the Playhouse and brought in Embassy, which is looking to attract the droves of M-80 goers that no longer have a home. —*Joe Mama*

The Sugar Shack
The Sugar Shack. If you're 19+ and a woman, you get in for free before 11pm—otherwise the cover is $10. Plenty of funk, disco and hip-hop. 10pm.

Thursdays

Adrenaline
Backstage. Tonight's adrenaline high features special guest DJs from around the world spinning hard NYC House, with Jonny C. and Freddy C. starting the party. 10pm, 21+.

The Aquarium
The Kiss 108 FM dance party features Randy from the *Matty in the Morning Show.* 10pm. $3.

Charlie's Angels Night
Polly Esther's. Dress as your favorite Brady as DJ Beez spins all your favorite '70s, '80s and '90s music on the Saturday Night Fever dance floor. 8pm. $5, 21+.

Chrome
Axis. Resident DJs John Debo and Ali Ajami spin Mucky House and trance. 10pm. 19+. $10 cover; May 18, David Alvarado with Matthew opening; May 25, Eddie Richards.

Downtempo Lounging
The Modern. DJ Ricky Fatts spins while you enjoy the raw bar and vodka bar. 9pm-2am, 21+.

Emily's
Enjoy a variety of soul, house and dance music. Doors open at 5pm.

Funkalicious Thursdays
The Exchange. DJ G squared takes you on a blast from the past as he spins the sounds of '70s and '80s. Added bonus: free after-work buffet. No cover.

Il Panino
A social playground for young professionals in Boston: cocktails and dancing. Proper dress. 9pm. 21+.

International Thursday
Avalon. A mixed crowd fills up this nightspot as DJ Manolo spins Eurohouse and DJ Anthony spins Latin in the Playhouse. 10pm. 19+. $15.

Kit Kat Klub
Sugar Shack. This night features an ever-changing roster of guest DJs spinning hip-hop to college clubbers, 10pm, 19+.

Latin Quarter
The Roxy. You know it's time to get down when the Roxy breaks out hip-shaking salsa, merengue and Latin dance mixes.

The List
Lava Bar. *Lavabar.com.* DJs Puoll Brien, 7L and guests along with Verse D bring you soul, funk, old school and all things funky. 10pm. 21+.

Speed
Karma/Mambo
Special Guest DJs and resident DJs Bruno and Masta Millions spin the latest hip-hop and R&B. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover.

Venu
Swank American top 40 and house, this hot spot features the incredible DJ Adilson, creator of the Roxy's Saturday night party.

Fridays

Avaland
Avalon. Everything about the room screams "Party!" With world-famous DJs spinning, including DJ Manolo and John Debo, this has become the single-most NY-style club night. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover; May 19, John Acquaviva; May 26, Bad Boy Bill.

Backstage
Backstage kicks off its all-night dance party, part one with the sounds of DJ Jonny C spinning N.Y.C. house, top-40 dance and funk. Doors open at 10pm. $5 cover, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans themed nightspot has some of the best mainstream DJs in town. With four bars and two lounges as well as billiards and a super-cool wraparound balcony.

Buzz Fridays
Buzz. Roger M lays down the Latin and international house tracks while upstairs visiting DJs pay homage to the house music gods. 11pm, $15 cover, 19+.

Disco Inferno
Polly Esther's. Get ready for disco-inferno Fridays as DJ Uncle Bob turns out the very best of '70s disco whileDJ Mad Max brings you back into '80s in the Culture Club and DJ Mark C spins '90s high-energy dance in the laser-lit Club DVD. 8pm, $10, 21+.

Emily's
An after-work venue during the week, this spot transforms itself into a dance kingdom on weekends. Jam to soul, house and dance music. Doors open at 5pm.

Envy
This extraordinarily popular Friday night hot spot is filled with a swarming mass of sweaty 'n' ready dancers. 9pm, $5 cover after 10pm, 21+.

Exchange Fridays
The Exchange. Up High, Tiziano and Maurizio, Boston's best DJ duo, guides you on a house trip while DJ G Squared opens the vault door with mainstream dance and hip hop. Doors at 9pm.

Focus
Hibernia. How can you possibly go wrong with DJs Chuck Caseroc, Keith Kene and Skot Havens? No way. 9pm, 21+.

Lava Bar
Life. *Lavabar.com.* Dance to a different dummer with DJ Fran Englehardt's deeply rooted soulful rhythms. Doors at 10pm.

Ultra Lounge
The Modern. DJ Mixin Matt Ruben. 9pm 2am, 21+.

Nocturnal Fridays
Bill's Bar. WBCN day guy and football swami, Bill Abbate, spins up a delectable smorgasbord of rock with a pinch of roll. 9pm. $5 cover, 21+.

Pure
Karma/Mambo. World Class Drum and Bass DJ's come to visit with a weekly rotating roster of guest DJs. 19+, $15. See *www.puredrumandbass.com.*

Roxy 2000
Roxy/Mondo Bar. What goes around comes around. Go crazy as the intimacy of the Roxy consumes you and DJ Felix spins house and international music throughout the night. 10:30pm. $15 cover, 21+.

Spin Cycle
Axis. Glitzed-out club hoppers shake it to the progressive house beats of DJ Tim Ryan downstairs

as well as DJ David James' retro tunes upstairs. 10pm, $12, 19+.

Venu
The scene is elegant and the line is long for this jacket-required international romp. Get your Gucci attire as DJ Tassos and DJ Arsit spin. 21+.

Saturdays

The Aqarium
Saturday night dance party hosted by resident DJ. 10pm-1am, $5 cover.

Downtown
Avalon. Resident DJs Manolo and Mattie O. gyrate your ass with the latest hits and club classics. 10pm. 21+. $15 cover.

Backstage
Get ready for part two of Backstage's all-night dance party with DJ Freddy C spinning progressive house and top-40 dance. Doors open at 10pm, $5 cover, 21+.

Bill's Bar
DJ Laurie Gail with guest DJs promise to make Bill's a night full of dancing to the best of the '70s, '80s and '90s. 9pm, $3 cover, 19+.

Club Juliana
Boogieing cuties converge on Boston's newest Latin Night starting at 10pm. Dress to impress. $10.

Club Nicole
The faces are familiar and the mob thick for this exclusive Euro trendsetter. DJ Alex spins eurohouse. Reservations recommended, jackets required. 21+.

Elements of Life
Karma/Mambo. DJ Supa Mario and world class DJs spin house music in the main room while DJ Hoffman plays funk in the Mambo Lounge. 10pm. 19+. $15.

Emily's
Serious soul, house and dance music. DJs spice up Saturday nights and transform this after-work venue into a dance kingdom. 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Envy
From 9pm-2am, DJ Tom Baxter blasts top 40, house and dance throughout the night. 9pm, $5 cover after 10pm, 21+.

Exchange Saturdays
The Exchange. DJ Diesel renovates the upper level with full-on house while DJ Jynx spins all the funky beats in the lower Vault lounge. 9pm.

Fajitas and Ritas
Chill out for the Weekly Dig Lounge Series with Alan Strack and Mason.

Hibernia Saturdays
Hibernia. Masters of house, techno and dance, DJs Dino and David West take the reins and whip the crowd into a frenzy. 9pm, 21+, cover varies.

Lava Bar
Anything Goes. DJ Fran and Kris Kono unite with high-energy house and Latin beats. 10pm, 21+.

Miami Club Night
Club Joy/Yesterday's. Get a taste of Miami nightlife with La Rueda de Casino, a Cuban salsa game. 9:30pm (ladies free before 11pm), $10 cover, 21+ (ladies, 19+).

Mischief
The Modern. Feeling mischievous? Ultra lounging with decadent desserts and erotic electronica. 21+.

Mythos
Venu. Greek International with DJ Yorgo Jr. spinning the hits from the famous party islands of Greece.

Saturday Night Fever
Polly Esther's. Groove to beats of the '70s, '80s and '90s high-energy dance in the laser-lit Club DVD. 8pm, $10, 21+.

Sugar Shack
Spice up your night with '70s, '80s and '90s dance music as DJ Rich Centi spins the hottest sounds.

Who's on First?
The latest and greatest in hip-hop, reggae, R&B, and Latin house with DJ Lil' Mike, 10:30pm, $12, 18+.

X night
Axis. DJ Mike Gioscia spins cutting edge faves of '90s alternative while DJ David James spins '80s hits in the Left Over Lounge. 10pm, $10 cover, 21+.

Sundays

Avalon
Boston's biggest gay night with special guest DJs and Resident DJ Darrin Friedman. 10pm, $10.

Emily's
Industry Night "Club Soda" with DJ Silly. 10:30pm.

Exchange Sundays
A fusion of Heavy Lounge and Miami House. No cover.

Club Millennium 2000
Backstage. Special Guests DJs in rotation. Doors open at 10pm, ladies free before 11pm, 21+, proper dress.

Il Panino
Mainly attracting Euros, this night features all sorts of music by DJ Alex of Boston Beat and DJ Roger M. 21+, no cover.

Latin Night
Karma/Mambo Lounge. Weekly Live Latin Bands. 10pm. 19+. $25 cover.

Lava Bar
Pandora's Box. DJ Vinny and Sir Richard and Sterling host '60s Eurotica Sexploitation and French Music Videos; Performances by gogo gals Suzie Solitaire and Carrie Nation; Loungecore and Psychedelic flowerpop. 10pm.

Salavation
This Boston vibe serves up an intimate evening of soul—all provided courtesy DJ Soul. $5, until 10pm.

Venu
Carnival comes to Boston every Sunday as DJ Adilson brings the heat of Rio to Venu, spinning the hottest music from Brazil. 21+. Call 338-8061 for reservations.

Raves

Desire
May 19, Hartford CT (860.220.0050). $20 in advance, $22 at the door. Spiritual Emporium Records, Goddess Productions (*www.houseofgoddess.com*) and Liquid Universe (*www.liquiduniverse.org*) present a night of music by X-Dream (Caffeine, N.Y.), Venom (Volume Prod., R.I. / U.C. Chicago / N.E. Straight Edge), Pleasure Head (Smoove Groove, N.Y.C.), Dylan Drazen (Energy! Prod. Tunnel Resident N.Y.C., Tektite Rec., Worldwide), James Fusion (Energee All Starz, Spiritual Emporium, C.T.), Kered (Nocturnal, Future Music Radio, C.T.) and Mike Manson (Liquid Universe, C.T.).

Pre-Whistle 3
May 26-28, Pennsauken, NJ (510-594-140). South NJ Expo Center. $40. www.ticketweb.com. Welcome to the wonderful world of Whistle 3. *Local13.com.* presents Whistle 3, a three-day festival—a pre-festival on May27, the main festival 8pm-7am May 27 and an after-festival on May 28. It boasts three rooms of sound and an outside area.

Club Venues

An Tain *31 India St., Boston (426-1870). MBTA: Blue Line to State St.*
AnTua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (262-2121). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Aquarium *65 Holland St., Somerville (623-3200). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (437-0300). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Backstage *25 Quincy Market Place, Boston (726-1110). MBTA: Blue Line to Govet. Center.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Buzz Boston/Europa *51-67 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Park St.*
Club Juliana *20 Hudson St., Boston (542-4411).*
Club Nicole *40 Dalton St., Boston (236-4746). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*
Club Stella *1234 Soldiers Field Rd., Brighton (254-0554).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Upstairs, Boston (423-3649). MBTA: Red or Green Lines to Park Street.*
Envy *25 Boylston Place, Boston (542-3689). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Exchange *148 State St., Boston (723-7755). MBTA: Orange Line to State Street.*
Hibernia *25 Kingston St., Boston (292-2333). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Karma *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9595). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Lava Bar *575 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-7707). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Oskar's *107 South St., Leather District, Boston (542-6756). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Polly Esther's *262 Friend St., Boston (720-1966). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (482-7799). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Salavation *20 Hudson St., Boston (781-668-2392). MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown.*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (338-8061). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Vertigo *126 State Street, Boston (723-7277).*
Who's on First? *19 Yawkey Way (247-3353). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*

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ALL IN THE FAMILY

Despite the publicity blitz, evolving sound and changing members, the Bosstones stick to their roots.

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

Dicky Barrett says he was nervous about a recent personnel shift in the Mighty Mighty Bosstones until he saw the TV movie on the *Three Stooges*, and realized that even they changed a few faces. "People accept that, as long as the replacements are strong," he says. "I consider the Bosstones parallel to the Three Stooges. You can call us the Eight Stooges."

Just don't shortchange the Bosstones as ska-punk cutups playing to a mosh-pit mentality, especially in light of their well-grounded new CD, *Pay Attention*, the studio successor to 1997's million-seller *Let's Face It*. A sense of family both internal and external informs the Bosstones, and especially Barrett, the cheeky kid from Norwood who not only loved punk rock, but has lived it with his bandmates for the past 15 years. Mention that the Bosstones are playing the WBCN River Rave at Foxboro Stadium May 28, and Barrett shares a family memory. "We always had Patriots season tickets. Me and my little brother used to go since we were little kids, for disappointment after disappointment." Add the word that the Bosstones return July 20 with the Vans Warped Tour at Suffolk Downs, and Barrett says, "My father took me there since I was a little kid, for the races."

Dicky Barrett performs with his long-time bandmates, the Mighty Mighty Bosstones.

The Bosstones, in turn, treat fans like part of the family. Each December, the group honors its club roots with a multinight Hometown Throwdown at the Middle East, and regardless of the venue, the band is known for its accessibility. "We pulled that veil down years ago," Barrett says. "If you go to a Bosstones show, chances are you'll be able to meet me."

You'll also be able to meet him through his increasingly candid, personal lyrics. On *Pay Attention,* Barrett tackles failed romance ("The Skeleton Song"), the passing of a patriarch uncle ("The Day He Didn't Die") and a misfit under the radar in the deceptively playful "High School Dance."

"It's a message to parents to take a little interest," he says of that song. "One of the many disturbing aspects of the whole Columbine thing was that, if I had children, I think I'd pay enough attention that I don't think they could stockpile a full arsenal in their bedroom. When I was a kid, I had a bowl, a pot pipe that I hid four neighborhoods away from my house. I buried it in the cemetery and was still afraid that my mother would somehow come across it." But his mother would have been proud of her son when he was in Times Square one year for New Year's Eve. Near him, a man dropped to the sidewalk and cried. "I just kinda stood and protected the guy while he flipped out for a brief period of time," Barrett says. "I just didn't want anyone to plow into him. Then he got up and said he was all right." That lonely man in a horde of humanity inspired the song "Temporary Trip."

The Bosstones have proven anything but temporary, even before success came a-knocking. "When planet ska and planet punk aligned in 1997, we knew, because of bands like Green Day, Rancid and No Doubt, that whether we liked it or not, we were going to get more attention than we got in the past," he says. "But once we learned that everyone was behind us, and saying 'Great job' and 'You guys deserve it,' and the world knew what we knew all along, then we had the freedom to do anything from there."

Not that the Bosstones did anything crazy—they already did that when they played ska and wore plaid in the days of hair bands and grunge. But the group's loyal following has let the Bosstones mature, not only in the lyrics, but in a more honed rock attack that hasn't lost its ska roots. "We didn't run away from things that were different," Barrett says of the new CD, which sports an Afro-Caribbean changeup in "She Just Happened," a galloping Irish-flavored romp through "Riot on Broad Street," and more prominent guitar throughout, courtesy of the since-departed Nate Albert. "The fact that it didn't happen earlier is amazing, and we celebrate that," Barrett says of the amicable recent exit of saxophonist Kevin Lenear and now Albert, who assumed another family obligation. "In Nate's situation, he truly lived in fear that he'd be on the road and his mother would pass away, and he'd spend the rest of his life saying 'I wish I was there to help take care of her...' "

New guitarist Lawrence Katz and saxman Roman Fleysher, meanwhile, are set to hit the road. "They really respect the band and are thrilled to be a part of it," Barrett says. "It's made things feel really fresh and exciting."iB

The Mighty Mighty Bosstones

Play at Foxboro's WBCN River Rave May 27 with the Stone Temple Pilots, Godsmack, Cypress Hill and more.

Advice to Contributors

Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fax (859-1446); by mail to Calendar/Music; or by email to music@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, phone numbers and nearest T stops. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers

Information for the music section is compiled from different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double check dates and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

Bell Atlantic Jazz Festival brings Roy Hargrove to Scullers Jazz Club May 19 and 20.

Concerts

Bell Atlantic Jazz Festival
May 17-21, Various venues
Bustan Abraham
May 20, Somerville Theatre
Fiona Apple
May 24, FleetBoston Pavilion
Blink 182 and Bad Religion
May 29, Worcester Centrum Centre
Club Passim Benefit Concert with Suzanne Vega and others
May 19, Sanders Theatre
De Dannan
May 19, Somerville Theatre
Matchbox 20 and Angie Aparo
May 25, Avalon
Joni Mitchell and Symphony
May 28, FleetBoston Pavilion
R.E.O. Speedwagon with Styx and Eddie Money
May 30, Tweeter Center
WBCN River Rave
May 27, Foxboro Stadium

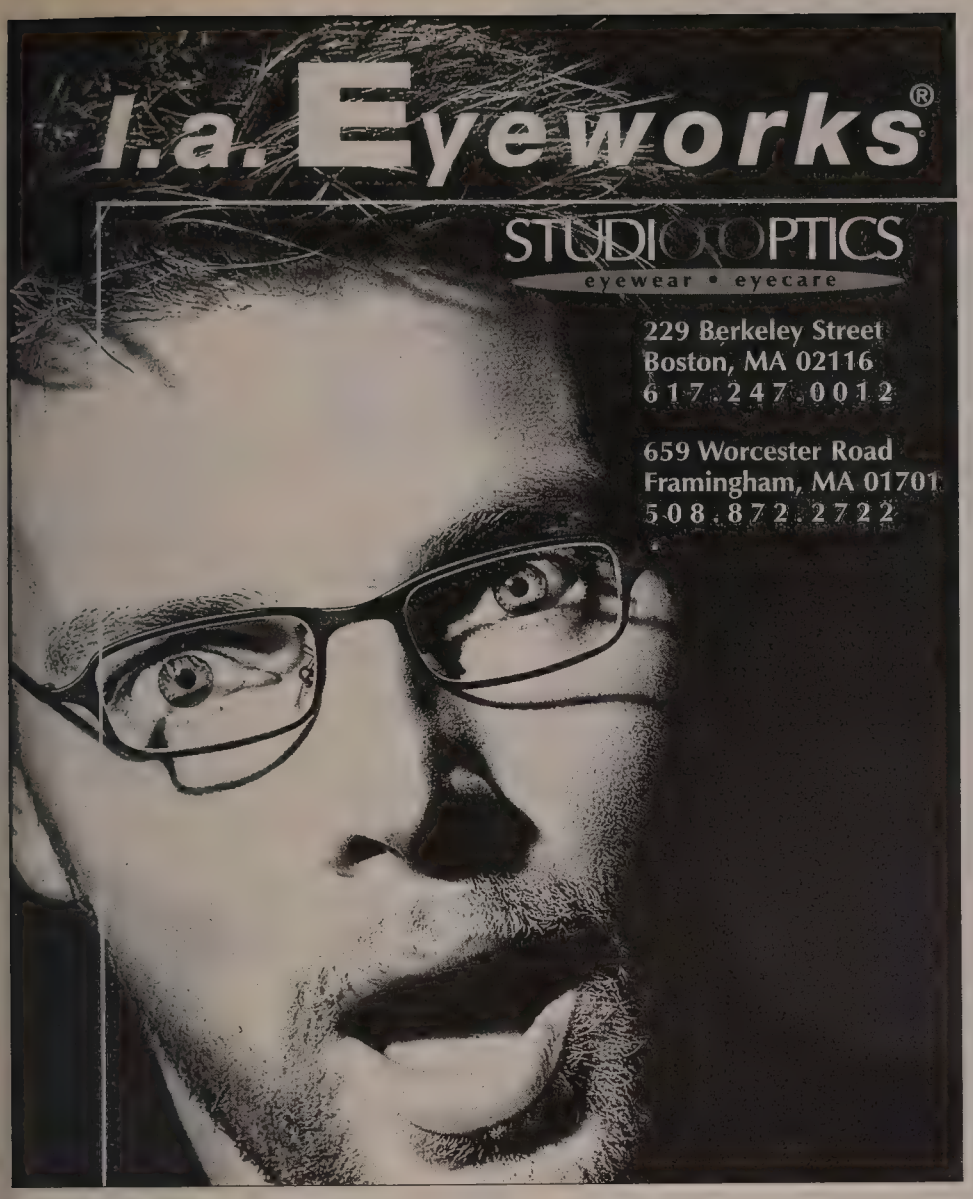
CONCERT HALLS

Avalon
15 Lansdowne St., Fenway (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.
FleetBoston Pavilion
290 Northern Avenue, Boston (728-1600). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.
Foxboro Stadium
Mansfield (508-543-3900).
Sanders Theatre
Memorial Hall, Harvard University, 45 Quincy Street, Cambridge (496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.
Somerville Theater
Davis Square, Somerville (628-3390). MBTA: Red Line to Davis Square.
Tweeter Center
885 South Main Street, Mansfield (508-339-2888).
Worcester Centrum Centre
50 Foster Street, Worcester (508-755-6800).

Rock, Jazz and Blues

Wednesday, May 17

Avalon
Seventeen with Staind.
Bristol Lounge
Bert Seager, 5pm; Joe Barbato, 8pm.
Cantab Lounge
U: Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
Common Ground
What A Way To Go-Go (Mod Night with DJ Vin), 10pm, cover varies.
Good Life Downtown
Issi Rosen Trio, no cover.
Harper's Ferry
Ray's Music Exchange, Wise Monkey Orchestra and Fat Mama, 9:30pm.



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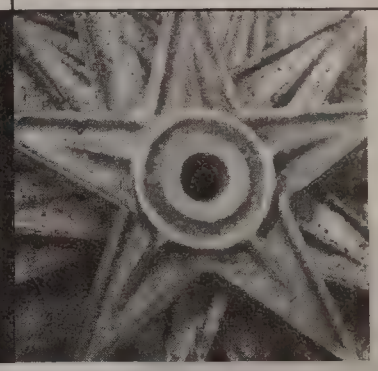

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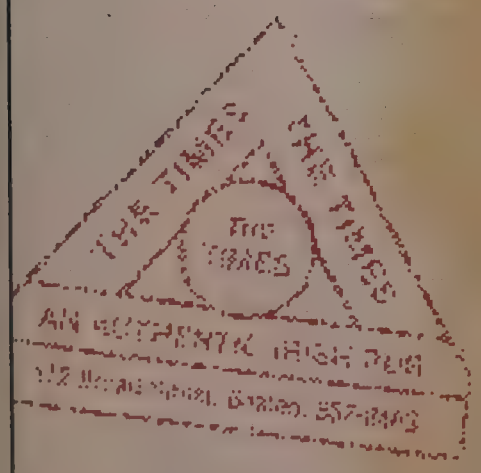
Maybe you should be drinking
what they're drinking.



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House of Blues
Tony Levin Band, 10pm, $20, 18+.
Jordan Hall
Ball Atlantic Jazz Fest with Medeski, Martin and Wood, 8pm.
Kirkland Cafe
Ken Clark Organ Trio, $5.
Les Zygomates
The Larry Roland Group, 8pm.
Lizard Lounge
Francine, 21+.
Middle East
U: The Control Group, Phenol and Kimone, $7, 18+. D: Sleater Kinney, the Butchies, the Gossip, 8pm, $10, 18+. C: Louis Locicero Organ Trio, 7pm.
Midway Cafe
Inner Pink, cover varies.
Playhouse Lounge
Emerson Explosion, 9:34pm.
Regattabar
The Peter Parcek Band, 8:30pm, $8.
Ryles
Project YES Brazil (Nova Bosa Brazil), 9pm, $6.
Sculler's
Bell Atlantic Jazz Fest with the Jane Monheit Quartet, 8pm and 10pm.
Toad's
Cranktones, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
The Makers and the Damn Personals, $7.
White Horse Tavern
2 Chairs and N' Ashtray, 9pm; Joel Cage, 10pm.

Thursday, May 18

Axis
David Alvarado and Matthew.
Berklee Performance Center
Melisa Ferrick, 8pm, $15-$18.50.
Bill's Bar
Swap It night with Mindless Self Indulgence, Gangsta Bitch Barbie and Big Wig, 9pm.
Bob the Chef's
Hose and Ramos and the Special Blend, 7:30pm.
Bristol Lounge
Bert Seager, 5pm, Joe Barbato, 8pm.
Cantab Lounge
U: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm. D: OSBC singer/songwriter band competition, 9pm.
Charles Playhouse
David Fernandez, Danielle Miraglia, Max Heinegg and Chris Blackburn, Willem Hartong, Will Dailey and Cris Driscoll, 9pm.
Club Passim
The Falcon Ridge Preview Tour.
Common Ground
Take Five and the Kingpins, 10pm, cover varies.
Gallery Bershad
Sandi Hammond with Jacob Matthews, 8pm, $5.
Good Life Downtown
Fascinatin' Rythmn, no cover.
Good Life Uptown
The Trio, no cover.
Green Briar Restaurant
Shoot the Moon, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Green Street Grill
Giancarlo Buscaglia.
Harper's Ferry
Michigan Black Snake with Apt. 3, 9:30pm.
Hennessy's
Novakaine, cover varies.
Johnny D's
Jacqui McShee's Pentangle.
Jordan Hall
Bell Atlantic Jazz Fest with Medeski, Martin and Wood, 8pm.
Kirkland Cafe
Fred's Bowling Bowl, John Gray and One Elle, $5.
Les Zygomates
Katie Viqueira, 8pm.
Lizard Lounge
Patti Guirleo, Jody Blackwell and Lemon Paper, 21+.
Linwood
Ex-Girl with Peer Group and Cracktorch, $6.
Middle East
U: Bluetip, Bluebird, Atombombpocke knife, Superface, $7, 18+. D: Sleater Kinney, the Butchies and the Gossip, 8pm, $10, 18+. C: Pineapple Ranch Hands, 7pm, Board of Education, 10pm.
Milky Way
The Bourbonnaires, Grubstake, Lucky 57, 10pm, $7.
Museum of Fine Arts
Bell Atlantic Jazz Fest with Sonny Fortune and Rashied Ali Duo and Greg Osby's Quintet, 7:30pm.
Oak Bar
Diana Fischer.
Playhouse Lounge
Will Dailey's "Bean War Sessions," 9:45pm, $3.
Regattabar
The Dane Vannatter Quintet, 8pm, $12.

It's a bad boy bash—Blink 182 and Bad Religion play at the Worcester Centrum Centre May 29.

Ryles
Bell Atlantic Jazz Festival with Mark Elf Trio, 8:30pm, $12.
Sanders Theater
Bell Atlantic Jazz Fest with Charlie Haden's Quartet West with String Orchestra, Ravi Coltrane Quintet and Bobby Zankel Quartet, 8pm.
Sculler's
Bell Atlantic Jazz Fest with Jeff 'Tain' Watts, Joey Calderazzo Trio, John Patitucci, 8pm and 10pm, $18.
Toad's
The Buckners, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
WMWM Battle of the Bands.
Western Front
Three Stripes with DJ G-Spin, 9pm, $5.

Friday, May 19

Avalon
John Acquaviva.
Bob the Chef's
Hiro Honshuuku's A-No-Ne Jazz Band, 7:30pm.
Bristol Lounge
Bert Seager, 5pm, Suzanne Davis Jazz Trio, 8:30pm.
Cantab Lounge
U: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Common Ground
Booty, 10pm, cover varies.
Good Life Downtown
Issi Rosen Quartet, no cover.
Good Life Uptown
Art Bailey Trio, no cover.
Goodtimes
Eklectic Music Showcase with Off The Wall and Longevity, 8pm, $5 advance, $8 at the door.
Grand Canal
Juggernot, $5.
Green Briar Restaurant
Lulus in Crisis, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Green Dragon Tavern
Classic Trax, Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
Green Street Grill
Delta Blues with the Tarbox Ramblers.
Harper's Ferry
James Montogomery Band with El Camino, 9:30pm.
House of Blues
Babaloo, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Jordan Hall
Bell Atlantic Jazz Fest with Ali Akbar Khan, 8pm.
Karma
The Gravel Pit with the Red Telephone and Heavy Stud, 9pm, $8, 18+.
Les Zygomates
The David Eure Trio, 9pm.
Lizard Lounge
Kevin So, 21+.
Middle East
U: Tricycle, Winefield, Labb, Mike Dunton ,$7, 18+. D: WBCN Rock'n' Roll Rumble semi-finals, $8, 18+. C: Kyler.
Midway Cafe
Bayou Gator, cover varies.
Milky Way
The Gunga Din, the In/Out, 10pm, $7.
Mr. Dooley's
Sunday's Well, $3.
Museum of Fine Arts
Bell Atlantic Jazz Fest with David Sanchez Sextet and William Hooker Trio, 7:30pm.
Oak Bar
Diana Fischer Trio.
Regattabar
The Charlie Mariano Quintet with Herb Pomeroy and Ray Santisi, 8pm and 10pm, $12.
Ryles
Bell Atlantic Jazz Festival with Ryles Jazz Orchestra featuring Saxophonist Ed Calle, 9pm.
Sculler's
Roy Hargrove Quintet, 8pm and 10pm, $22.
Toad's
Amphibian, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Superhoney, the Flying Neutrinos, Kearney Square, $8.
Western Front
Vibe Wise, 9:30pm, $10.
Wonderbar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Saturday, May 20

Bob the Chef's
Michael Kelly and the Hot Blue Q, 7:30pm.
Bristol Lounge
Bert Seager, 5pm, Suzanne Davis Jazz Trio, 8:30pm.
Cambridge Brewing Co.
Honest Bob and Lime Green, 10pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
U: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm. D: DJ Joey Demers and Crew, 9pm.
Club Passim
Don White, Ellen Schmidt.
Common Ground
The Allstonians, 10pm, cover varies.
Good Life Downtown
Yasko Kabuto and the Power Jazz Unit, no cover.
Grand Canal
5 Helena's, $5.
Green Briar Restaurant
Days at Dawn, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Green Dragon Tavern
4 on the Floor, $3.
Green Street Grill
Giancarlo Buscaglia.
Harper's Ferry
The Shaboo All stars, 9:30pm.
House of Blues
Hubert Sumlin, 10pm, $12, 21+.
Karma
Super Mario.
Kirkland Cafe
Uprise, Psychedelic Conspiracy, Flat Five and the Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
Les Zygomates
Eula Lawrence, 9pm.
Lizard Lounge
Big Lazy, Dennis Brennan, 21+.
Middle East
U: Groovehounds, Laurie Geltman, Primrose Path, $5, Milkshake, $7, 18+. D: WBCN Rock 'n' Roll Rumble Semi-Finals, $8, 18+. C: Tom Bianchi.
Midway Cafe
The Crank Tones, cover varies.
Mr. Dooley's
Sunday's Well, $3.
Museum of Fine Arts
Bell Atlantic Jazz Fest with Dave Douglas Sextet and David S. Ware Quartet, 1pm and 3:30pm.
Oak Bar
Diana Fischer Trio.
Playhouse Lounge
Bill and Jay, 11:45pm.
Regattabar
The Charlie Mariano Quintet with Herb Pomeroy and Ray Santisi, 8pm and 10pm, $14.
Ryles
Bell Atlantic Jazz Festival with Lance Martin Band, 9pm, $10.
Scullers Jazz Club
Bell Atlantic Jazz Fest with Roy Hargrove Quintet, 8pm and 10:30pm, $22.
Slade's
John Dougherty Hammond B-3 Jazz trio, 8pm.
Toad's
Armadillos, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Raging Teens, Jimmy Sutton's Four Charms and Katie and Arina, $8.
Western Front
Vibe Wise, 9:30pm, $10.

Sunday, May 21

The Attic
Acoustic Jam Night with the Coalboilers, 9:30pm.
B-Side Lounge
Kurt "Yuki" Konk and Bob Konk, 10:30pm.
Berklee Perfomance Center
Sherrie Maricle and Diva, 7:30pm.
Bill's Bar
Various artists, 10pm, no cover.
Bob the Chef's
Chihiro Yamanaka Quartet, 11am.
Bristol Lounge
Dan Greenspan, 11am.
Cantab Lounge
Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
City Hall Plaza
Bell Atlantic Jazz Fest with Sun Ra Arkestra, Groove Collective, the Flying Neutrinos, Sex Mob, Russell Malone Quartet and Bobby Zankel Quartet, 3pm.
Club Passim
Tony Trischka.
Good Life Downtown
Grant Langford Trio, no cover.
Green Briar Restaurant
Inchicore, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Green Dragon Tavern
Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
Harper's Ferry
The Rockett Band and Friends, 9:30pm.
House of Blues
Younder Mt. String Band, Mori Stylez, 9:30pm, $8.
Kirkland Cafe
Lyre's, Odds, Kenne Highland Clan, $5.
Middle East
U: Toxic, 10pm, $5, 18+. D: Modest Mouse, Califone, Les Savy Fav, 8pm, $12, 18+. C: Jazz Brunch with Noah Maltzberger, 1pm, Gifrants Trio, 7pm, Balla Tounkara, 10pm.

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Midway Cafe
Chandler Travis and the Phil, cover varies.
Scullers Jazz Club
Bell Atlantic Jazz Fest with Toninho Horta, 7pm and 9pm.
Thirsty Scholar
Mystic Highway, 9:30pm, no cover.
Toad's
Union Square Screw Machine, 8pm and 10pm.
Top of the Hub
Chris Neville Trio, 8pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Raymond, Carry the Zero, Cosmo, 71 Sunbeam, $4.
Veronique Restaurant
Steve Rochinski, 11:30am.
White Horse Tavern
Regina, 8pm.
Wonderbar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Monday, May 22

B-Side Lounge
Kurt "Yuki" Konk and Bob Konk, 10:30pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
U: Geoff Bartley's Open Mike, 8pm; Whose Muddy Shoe, 9:30pm. D: Comedy Open Mike, 8pm.
Green Briar Restaurant
Irish Session, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Green Street Grill
Jennifer Halprin, no cover.
Harper's Ferry
Ron Levy's Wild Kingdom, 9:30pm.
House of Blues
Rick Russell Blues Buffet and Jam, 9pm, $6, 18+.
Johnny D's
Hot Tamale Brass Band, 9pm.
Karma
Syphlloids with guests, 9pm, $5, 18+.
Kirkland Cafe
Le Cous Cous, $4.
Lizard Lounge
The Fringe, 10pm, 21+.
Middle East
U: Sand Machine, Kid Tested, Hurricand Jane, $6, 18+. C: Katt Hernzndez, 7pm, the Tom Bianchi Show with Chris Montecalvo, 10pm.
Milky Way
Tin Hat Trio, 10pm, $7.
The Rack
22 Buy Out, 8:30pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Chris Neville Trio, 8pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Jennifer Tefft and friends, $3.

Tuesday, May 23

Bristol Lounge
Joe Barbato, 8pm.
Cantab Lounge
Leicester Flat, 9pm, Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 10pm.
Harper's Ferry
Another Planet and Friends, 9:0pm.
House of Blues
Nozmo King, 9pm, $6, 18+.
Kirkland Cafe
Chris Zahnleiter Jazz Trio, no cover.
Les Zygomates
The Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm.
Middle East
U: Planes Mistaken for Stars, Crash Activated, Del Ray, Kill Sadie, $7, 18+. D: *Black Chrome* world premier, $10, 7pm, C: Pee Wee Fist, 7pm, the Coots, 10pm.
Oak Bar
Diana Fischer.
Regattabar
The John Payne Saxophone Choir, 8:30pm, $8.
Scullers Jazz Club
Henry Cook Quartet with Bobby Ward, 8pm and 10pm, $12.
Sidney's Grille
Ken Clarke Organ Trio.

Medeski, Martin and Wood are at Jordan Hall May 17 and 18 for the Bell Atlantic Jazz Fest.

Thirsty Scholar
Jakobs Plea, 9:30pm, no cover.
Toad
Lovewhip with the Willie Bernstein Experience, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Zippergirl, Segue, Gulliver Foyle and Smokstik, $4.

Wednesday, May 24

Bristol Lounge
Bert Seager, 5pm; Joe Barbato, 8pm.
Cantab Lounge
U: Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm. D: Boston Poetry Slam, 8pm.
Common Ground
What A Way To Go-Go, 10pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
Melissa Ferrick.
Harper's Ferry
Brother Chameleon with Giant's Workshop, 9:30pm.
House of Blues
Soulive, 9pm, $15, 18+.
Karma
The Deep End with Bicycle, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Kirkland Cafe
Divya Kumar, Kathy Duff, Sarin, $4.
Les Zygomates
The Rusty Scott Trio, 8pm.
Lizard Lounge
Francine, 21+.
Middle East
U: Victory at Sea, A-Set, Skeleton Killers, $6, 18+. D: Big Daddy Cane, Juggaknots, Skitzofreniks, Take Out Order $15, 18+. C: The Rezophonics, 7pm.
Playhouse Lounge
Emerson Explosion, 9:45pm.
Regattabar
Boston Musical Theatre with Mara Bonde and Homero Alejandro, 8pm, $14.
Ryles
Project YES Brazil (Nova Bosa Brazil), 9pm, $6.
Scullers Jazz Club
Kevin Mahogany, 8pm and 10pm, $14.
Sidney's Grille
Hot Blue Q.
Toad
Johnny A and the Bam Boom Ensemble, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Stereo Total with The Rondelles and The Warren Commission, $7.
White Horse Tavern
David's Foote, 9pm.

Thursday, May 25

Axis
Eddie Richards.
Bill's Bar
Quick Fix, American Hi-Fi and the Flashing Lights.
Bob the Chef's
Paulo Danay Quartet, 7:30pm.
Bristol Lounge
Bert Seager, 5pm, Joe Barbato, 8pm.
Cantab Lounge
U: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Common Ground
Soul Work, 10pm, cover varies.
Green Briar Restaurant
Finbar Doyle, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Green Street Grill
Giancarlo Buscaglia.
Harper's Ferry
Slipknot, 9:30pm, 21+.
House of Blues
Soulive, 10pm, $15, 18+.
Karma
Indigenous, 7:30pm, $14, 18+.
Kirkland Cafe
Dead Cat Bounce, C'mon Man and North House, $5.
Lizard Lounge
Vinal Avenue String Band, Iron Lung, Reverse and LaMont.
Middle East
U: The Zips, Vue and Rape Vaccine, $7, 18+. D: WBCN Rock 'n' Roll Rumble finals, $10, 18+. C: Michael McLauglin Trio, 7pm; Board of Education, 10pm.
Oak Bar
Diana Fischer.
Playhouse Lounge
Garyoke, 9:45pm.
Regattabar
The Bruce Katz Band, 8:30pm, $10.
The Roxy
The Wailers, Gregory Isaacs and the Skatalites, 7pm, 18+, $35.
Scullers Jazz Club
Diane Schuur, 8pm and 10pm, $20.
Thirsty Scholar
Honeysuckle Vine, 9:30pm, no cover.

eX-Girl, the all-girl pop-rock trio, strut their stuff at the Linwood May 18 for a performance.

Toad
Holt Hopkins, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Joseph Arthur.
Western Front
Three Stripes with DJ G-Sping, 9pm, $5.

Friday, May 26

Avalon
Bad Boy Bill.
Bob the Chef's
Herman Johnson Quartet with Ron Murphy, 7:30pm.
Bristol Lounge
Bert Seager, 5pm, Suzanne Davis Jazz Trio, 8:30pm.
Cantab Lounge
U: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Common Ground
Booty, 10pm, cover varies.
Green Dragon Tavern
Trax, Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
Green Street Grill
Tarbox Ramblers.
Harper's Ferry
The Boston Horns with Mission of Blues, 9:30pm.
House of Blues
Entrain, 10pm, $15, 21+.
Karma
Gage with Ohm and Rumble, 9pm, $8, 18+.
Kirkland Cafe
Richie Lee and Diggin Around and the Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
Les Zygomates
The Charles Lewis Trio, 9pm.
The Lizard Lounge
Acoustic Junction, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Middle East
D: Bim Skala Bim, the Allstonians, Beat Soup, Steady Earnest, Shoeless Joe, Jaya the Cat, Jumpsuit Jerry and Green Island, $8, 18+. C: the Mingus Three.
Midway Cafe
The Jones Brothers, Nash Satterfield, cover varies.
Milky Way
The Aislers Set and Aden, Mark Robinson, 10pm, $7.
Mr. Dooley's
Patsy Whelan and Pat Dunlea, $3.
Regattabar
Edu Tancredi y el Bandon 33, 8&10pm, $10.
Ryles
Soul Kitchen, 9pm, $8.
Scullers Jazz Club
Diane Schurr, 8pm and 10:30pm, $20.
Toad
Typhoon Ferry, no cover.
Western Front
Anthem, 9:30pm, $10.
Wonderbar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Saturday, May 27

Bob the Chef's
Sonny Watson Quartet, 7:30pm.
Bristol Lounge
Bert Seager, 5pm, Suzanne Davis Jazz Trio, 8:30pm.
Cambridge Brewing Co.
SlotMachine and Tobin Bridge, 10pm, noc over.
Cantab Lounge
U: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm. D: DJ Joey Demers and Cres, 9pm.
Grand Canal
Fat Tuesday, $5.
Harper's Ferry
Memphis Train, 9:30pm.
House of Blues
Chris McDermott's Love Perimeter, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Karma
In My Eyes, Right Brigade, Close Call and the Hope Conspiracy, 2pm, $8, all ages.
Kirkland Cafe
Jones Brothers, $5.
Les Zygomates
Chiara Civello, 9pm.
Lizard Lounge
Edith, 21+.
Middle East
U: Half-Cocked, Cheerleadr, Tracy Husky and Camelia, $7, 18+. D: Legendary Pink Dots and Dead Voices on Air, $10, 18+. C: Roger Nicholson and the Psych Ward Orchestra.
Midway Cafe
Red Beans and guests, cover varies.
Mr. Dooley's
Patsy Whelan and Pat Dunlea, $3.
Regattabar
The New Black Eagle Jazz Band, 7pm and 9:30pm, $14.
Ryles
Toni Lynn Washington, 9pm, $10.
Slades
The John Dougherty Hammond B-3 Jazz trio, 8pm.
Toad
Union Sq. Screw Machine, 8pm, Tim Gearan Band, no cover.

Western Front
Anthem, 9:30pm, $10.

Sunday, May 28

The Attic
Acoustic Jam Night with the Coalboilers, 9:30pm.
Bill's Bar
Shaka Black, 10pm, no cover.
Bob the Chef's
Sonny Watson Quartet, 11am.
Bristol Lounge
Dan Greenspan, 11am.
Cantab Lounge
U: Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
Green Briar Restaurant
Fiddler's Green, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Green Dragon Tavern
Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
Harper's Ferry
The Rockett Band and Friends, 9:30pm.
House of Blues
Mr. Lif, Anti-Pop Consortium, 10pm, $12,18+.
Kirkland Cafe
Le Cous Cous, $4.
Lizard Lounge
Poetry Jam featuring the Jeff Robinson Trio, 21+.
Middle East
D: Changelings, Reflecting Skin, Balkan Tribes, Round Thy Sound, 8pm, $7, 18+. C: Jazz Brunch with Noah Maltzberger, 1pm; Dana Stewart's rockabilly/bebop jam, 4pm; Tony Marino, 7pm; Balla Tounkara, 10pm.
Midway Cafe
Intruder 5 with Buck 50, cover varies.
Ryles
Jazz Brunch, 10am-3pm, Big Band Sundays: Ryles Jazz Orchestra, 4pm, $5, Samanta Balassa (Sambalassa), 9pm, $8.
Thirsty Scholar
Shoot the Moon, 9:30pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Tim Ray Trio, 8pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Baby Strange, King Fly, Beverage, $5.
Veronique Restaurant
Steve Rochinski, 11:30am.
White Horse Tavern
Acoustic Showcase, 8pm.
Wonderbar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Monday, May 29

Cantab Lounge
U: Geoff Bartley's Open Mike, 8pm, Julie Dougherty, 9:30pm.
Green Briar Restaurant
Irish Session, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Green Street Grill
Dan Rockett, no cover.
House of Blues
Big Bill's Band, 9pm, $6, 18+.
Johnny D's
Hot Tamale Brass Band, 9pm.
Kirkland Cafe
Chris Zahnleiter Jazz Trio, no cover.
Lizard Lounge
The Fringe, 10pm, 21+.
Middle East
U: Cross My Heart and Slowfore, $7, 18+. C: Dan Finn, 7pm; The Tom Bianchi Show with Chris Montecalvo, 10pm.
Top of the Hub
Tim Ray Trio, 8pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Adfrank and friends, $3.
Wonderbar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Tuesday, May 30

Bristol Lounge
Joe Barbato, 8pm.
Cantab Lounge
U: Howie Tarnower and Friends, 9pm; Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 10pm.
Harper's Ferry
Another Planet and Friends, 9:30pm.
House of Blues
Fat Mama and Freelance Bishops, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Karma
Los Infernos with Supersuckers.
Los Zygomates
The Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm.
Scullers Jazz Club
Geoffrey Dana Hicks Quartet, 8pm and 10pm, $15.
Thirsty Scholar
Jakobs Plea, 9:30pm, no cover.
Toad
Lovewhip with the Mingus 3, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Strangle Me, Indecision and the Autonomous Collective, $4.

Music Venues

The Attic *107R Union St., Newton (964-6615).*
B-Side Lounge *92 Hampshire St., East Cambridge (354-0766). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Berklee Performance Center *136 Mass. Ave., Boston (747-2261). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (743-2286). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's Jazz Cafe *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-6204).*
The Brenden Behan Pub *378 Center Street, Jamaica Plain (522-5386).*
Bristol Lounge *Four Seasons Hotel, 200 Boylston St., Boston (338-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Clery's *113 Dartmouth St., Boston (262-9874). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*
Club Passim *47 Palmer St., Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
The Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (783-2071).*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
Gallery Bershad *99 Dover St., Somerville (641-8094). MBTA: Red Line to Davis .*
Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston 451-2622). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Grand Canal *57 Canal Street, Boston (523-1112). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (367-0055). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Green Street Grill *280 Green St., Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard.*
Hennessy's *25 Union St., Boston (742-2121). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Jake Ivory's *1 Lansdowne St., Boston (247-1222). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Davis Square, Somerville (776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Karma *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9595). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Kendall Cafe *233 Cardinal Medeiros Ave., Cambridge (661-0993). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (783-9400). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Kirkland Cafe *425 Washington St., Somerville (491-9640). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
The Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (267-8644). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.*
The Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Milky Way Lounge *403-405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-3740).*
Mr. Dooley's *77 Broad St., Boston (338-5656). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
O'Brien's *3 Harvard Ave, Allston (782-6245). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Paddy Burke's Pub *132 Portland Street, Boston (367-8370). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
The Playhouse Lounge *74 Warrenton St., Boston (482-2227). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (725-1051). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Regatta Bar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330).*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Road, Cambridge (562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Slades *958 Tremont St., Boston (442-4600).*
Toad *1912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (497-4950). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Top of the Hub *800 Boylston St., Boston (536-1775). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Western Front *343 Western Ave., Cambridge (492-7772).*
White Horse Tavern *116 Brighton Ave., Allston (254-6633). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard Ave., Allston (351-COOL). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard Ave.*

Even though he needed the fare, Hector steered his cab towards the puddle, soaking the drunken yuppies to the bone.

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How to use this section
The following listings contain information that is subject to change. Contact the organization for changes in specific events.

CLUBS, BARS & HANGOUTS

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years these folks have been crankin' out some of the best Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. It's well worth a visit—if not for the three separate dance floors then for all of the male dancers. 9pm, $15, 21+.

Buzz (Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays)
51 Stuart St. in the Theatre District, Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. On Saturday nights this place boasts two dance floors, two DJs, a pool room and a lounge. Two levels of dancing and schmoozing will keep the boys busy until 2am. 10pm, $5, 21+.

Chaps (Daily)
*100 Warrenton St., Boston (695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boyl*ston. www.chapsofboston.com. Sun.: Dance music of DJ Danae Jacovidis; Mon.: Grand Baby and Grand Piano night; Tue.: Retro DJ night; Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adielson Caesar; Thu.: DJs Billy and Fran: High Energy Dance; Fri.: Taboo Erotique with DJ Sammy; Sat.: High Energy Dance, DJ Danae Jacovidis.

City Girl Cafe (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri: 11am- 9pm; Sat: 10am-9pm; Sun: 10am-7pm. A small (5 tables), laid-back cafe in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated. This cozy spot is home to a mixed gay/hetero crowd that lounges about, munching on sandwiches. Brunch on Saturday and Sunday, 10am-2pm.

Club Cafe (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-0966). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri 11:30am-2am; Sat. 2pm-2am; Sun. 11am-2am. This trendy South End spot draws a mixed crowd that comes for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back (Moonshine). A dressy bunch that likes to mingle. No cover, 21+. •Carol O'Shaughnessy performs with Steve Heck, Dottie Dean or David Sparr, Thursdays.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (542-4494). Mon.-Fri. 3pm-2am; Sat. 1pm-2am; Sun. 12pm-2am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This is your friendly neighborhood bar with a quiet setting. It's best known for scrumptious Sunday brunches (12-4pm). A simple joint with all of the trappings of a true bar: smoky and dark. The place starts hopping as it gets closer to 2am.

Fritz (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Stroll in for a quiet drink or a rowdy night on the town. The folks here are friendly—and really into sports. Not only does Fritz have Direct TV set up with sets scattered everywhere, it's also home base to a great softball league. 12pm, no cover, 21+.

Lava Bar (Saturdays)
575 Commonwealth. Ave., Boston (267-7707). The Lava Bar's Tabu night boasts DJ Fran spinning out high-energy house with a taste of Latin beats. 10pm.

The Lizard Lounge (Wednesdays)
1667 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. "Marlene Loses It at the Lizard" is the title of this eclectic evening of poetry, live music, theater and cabaret in front of a diverse crowd. Shows begin at 10pm. $5 cover, 21+.

Luxor (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (423-6969). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from the latest music scenes and classic old movies—compiled by the bar's own VJ. Downstairs is Jox. No cover, 21+.

Man Ray (Thursdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (864-0400). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed.-Fri., 9pm; Sat., 10pm. A bustling hot spot caters to a young, alternative clientele. Two dance floors fill up on Thursdays for Campus, a predominately male night where DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen take over. 10pm, $8 for 19+, $5 for 21+.

119 Merrimac (Daily)
119 Merrimac St., Boston (367-0713). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Sat., 10:30am-2am; Sun. 12pm-2am. This male cruise bar is the place to stop for drinks before or after FleetCenter events. Shoot a leisurely game of pool or the hit the video games. Merrimac features DJs playing hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s. 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. On Thursday nights, the Lesbian AIDS Project of Mass. unofficially takes over this laid-back cafe for "dyke nyte." The cafe always has something brewing—live bands, DJs and drag queen parties. Party starts at 8pm, no cover, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (494-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Central. On Monday, a bartender not only mixes drinks but strips too. Male strippers are featured, Wed.-Sat. Mon. is Gothic night; Tue. is techno and Thu. is college night. On Fridays DJ Sam Sampson spins, and on Sat. hear DJ Brad Gwynn. 5pm, no cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (266-2986). Green Line to Kenmore. 12pm-2am. The largest leather bar in the East enforces a tight dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room). Downstairs on Fri., Sat. (10pm-2am) and Sun. (7pm-12am) is the Machine, the sleekest hard-core club in town. Fri. has DJ Darrin Friedman, Sat. DJ Brad Gwynn and Sun. is "Dragon Tea Dance," an Asian inspiration night with DJ James Hughes, a dragon show and performances. $7, 21+.

Strapping lads and lassies at Jacques

***79 Broadway, Boston (426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.* If you're looking to relax with a friendly crowd of gays and straights, and you're in the mood to mingle with disco-dancing drag queens, you have found the place. Sun. and Mon. are local band nights, when acts rock into the wee hours. Tues. through Sat., however, divas rule the stage. 10:30pm, $4, weekends $6, 21+.**

SHOWS & EVENTS

Fenway Dinner Party
Sheraton Hotel, Boston (267-8862). $125. May 20, 6:30pm. Join more than 1,000 women at the ninth annual Fenway Dinner Party event benefitting the Women's Care Fund at Fenway Community Health. This year's event features comedienne Kate Clinton.

Image of God: Conversation Meditation and Labyrinth Walk
Sproat Hall, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 138 Tremont St., Boston (484-5800). MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. May 21, 5:30-8pm. The Lesbian and Gay Fellowship of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul presents Ben Marlock, a lecturer in Pastoral Theology at the Episcopal Divinity School. Also, Jep Streit, Dean of the Cathedral, gives a talk.

Life Is Still a Cabaret
Lyric Stage, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (859-3036 ext. 27). May 21, 7-10:30pm. $50, $75 with VIP reception. The AIDS Care Project hosts its third major benefit with performances by Kandi Kane, Mark Hetherington, Will McMillan, Mary Scarlata-Rowe and Valerie Sneade an—plus an auction overseen by the Hat Sisters.

Millennium Rainbow: Celebrating Greater Boston's LGBT Youth
Gallery Lounge, Northeastern University, Curry Student Center, Boston (349-6486). MBTA: Green Line to Northeastern. Through May 31. The History Project sponsors this invigorating event that celebrates the history, diversity and vitality of local lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered youth with an exhibition of words and images. At the core of the exhibit is a series of photos taken by students. Also featured are collages, notebooks and a time capsule.

The Gay and Lesbian Film Festival
Tickets, $7-$8. (369-3770). Through May 20.
•May 18, 6:15pm **Fun for Boys and Girls: Gay and Lesbian Youth Short Films:** Two friends struggle to express their mutual affection in **Waves** *1998,* directed by Frank Mosvold. **Below the Belt** *1999,* by Dominique Cardona and Laurie Colbert, portrays 17-year-old girls who share a boxing ring. In **LiuAwaiting Spring** *1998,* by Andy Soo, the ancient art of Chinese Opera meets a modern coming-of-age tale. In **Space Jazzeros** *1997,* by Nicole Chung, a young girl confronts the hard realities of gay-bashing. **The Wait** *1999,* by Michael Velliquette, celebrates two boys' exploration of desire. The documentary **I Know Who I Am... Do You?** *1998,* by the Skyline Community group, features proud young gays and lesbians. **Why I Hate Bees** *1997,* by Sarah Abbott, explores a girl's attraction to her best friend. In **Birthday Time** *2000,* by Lawrence Ferber, a 17-year-old vows to be kissed by his 18th birthday. **Untouchable** *1998,* by Thirza Cuthand, presents a young toughie with an assertive approach to growing up different. Thomas is affectionately teased by his favorite classmate in **Thomas Trips** *1998,* by Pascal Vincent.
•May 18, 8pm **Joys of Smoking** *1999.* Confounded by his lover's infidelity, a student filmmaker sets out to document his friends' views on relationships. Directed by Nick Katsapetses. Preceded by **Forgetting** *1999.* The directors of both films will be present.
•May 19, 6:30pm **When Love Comes** *1998.* Liberal sex, plenty of drugs and the fugitive dreams of rock 'n' roll pervade this love story with a dynamic cast of characters. Directed by Garth Maxwell.
•May 19, 8:15pm **The Broken Hearts League** *2000.* The film focuses on the relationships between seven gay men. Director Greg Berlanti will be present.
•May 20, 3:30pm **The Man Who Drove with Mandela.** This revealing portrait blends dramatized incidents in Cecil Williams' life, a leading Johannesburg theater director, freedom fighter and gay man, with archival footage, home movies and a rare interview with Nelson Mandela. Directed by Greta Schiller.

Queer Youth Performance Slam
Spontaneous Celebrations, 112 School St., Jamaica Plain (524-6373). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook. May 19, 7pm. Free admission. Hosted by local performer and comedienne **Karen Malmie**, 10 talented local youths express themselves through a variety of music, poetry, dance and monologue. The Theater Offensive True Colors Troupe, a professional group offering theatre opportunities and individual voice to queer youth, will perform as special guest of the evening.

A Weekend with Our Brothers
Berkshires, Western Mass. (247-3964). May 19-21. $195, includes lodging and meals. Brothers Together hosts this men's retreat weekend where spirituality and celebration abound in the company of men. Enjoy social gatherings and personal-growth workshops in an alcohol-, drug- and attitude-free environment.

Youth Pride Day and Prom
Boston City Hall (227-4313). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. May 20, 7:30-11:30pm. $5 in advance or $8 at the door. The BAGLY presents their 20th annual prom—with an estimated 1,500 youth attendees—following the day-long Youth Pride Celebration. The celebration is sponsored by the Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth and starts at 12pm at State House steps, followed by a festive gathering at the Hatch Shell (727-3600 ex. 312.)

ONGOING

Bawl
This lesbian softball league offers opportunities to join teams in both the recreational and competitive divisions. Call Liz (508-628-5477).

Best Foot Forward
Ballet Etc. Dance Studios, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (522-1444). MBTA: B Green Line to Washington St. For gays/lesbians/bisexuals of all swing skill levels.

The Boston Rainbow Gospel Choir
The BRGC is about to launch its second season and periodically holds auditions. Call 424-6740.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). A 1,500-member gay club with hiking, biking, camping, skiing and other outdoor activities for men and women.

Common Bond
(781-433-7023). www.dwellings.com/acb. An international support group for gay/lesbian/bisexual current or former Jehovah's Witnesses.

Cosmetically-Correct
Tremont Tea Room, 48-50 Winter St., 3rd floor, Boston. A social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month 7:30-10pm. Lipstick optional. For more info, e-mail *m.antoinette@ididitmyway.com.*

Dykes Who Hike
(522-6185). This hiking group is specifically for lesbians in Boston and the surrounding areas who want to conquer the wilderness.

East Coast Wrestling Club
With more than 160 members, this is an extraordinarily popular New England spot for gay male wrestlers. Call Marc at 401-467-6737, or go online at *http://members.tripod.com/~ecwc* or e-mail *ecwc@juno.com.*

Encounters
Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston. An informal social evening for HIV-positive gay and bisexual men held the first Tuesday of every month, 7-9pm.

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave, Boston (824-4266). www.mindspring.com/~frontrunners. A running club for the LGBT community meets every Saturday at 10am for fun runs of various distances.

Gay Volleyball
Cambridge (262-3626). Sundays, 7pm, $7. Typically five teams play on two courts. Teams of men and women are made up each week.

Gender Free Contra Dancing
First Church of Jamaica Plain (522-1115). www.piac.net/users/latte/lcfd/. Come one, come all to evenings of contra and square dancing.

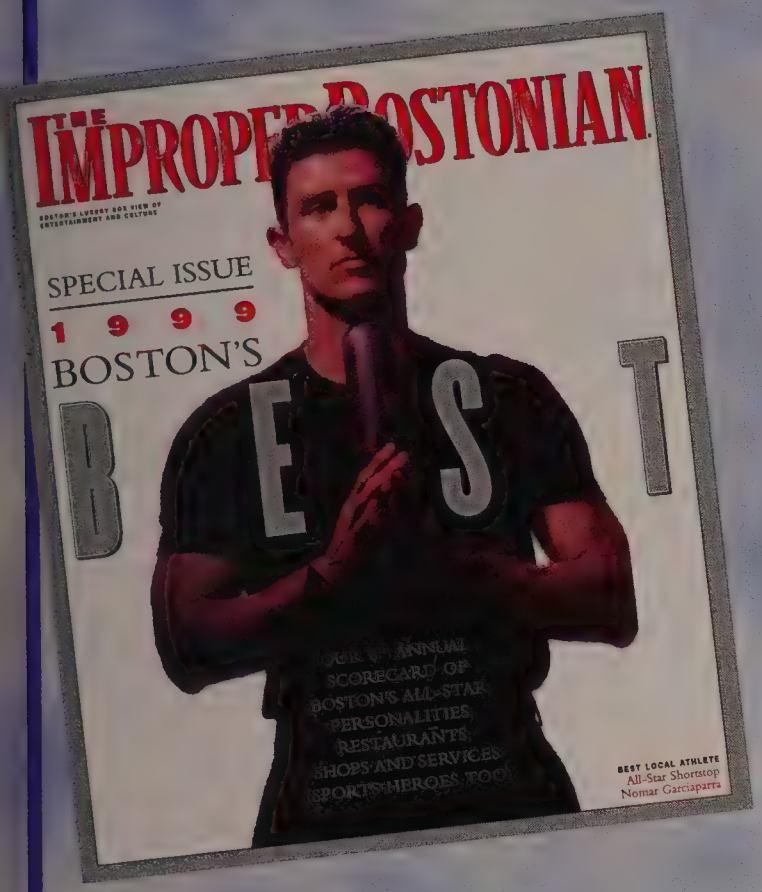
Oops
Melting Pot Coffee House, 2 Belgrade Ave., Roslindale (323-4123). Out on the Parkways, a gay and lesbian organization, invites one and all to come on down for some dinner and coffee.

PFLAG
Fenway Community Health Center, 7 Haviland St., Boston (547-2440). Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets every fourth Monday, 6:30-8:30pm.

Queer Corps
131 Clarendon St., 4th floor, Boston (450-1676). A community mobilization project by and for queer men 25 and under. Meetings are held every Tuesday, 6-8pm.

Tennis4all
Call Ted at 779-7231. Boston's gay and lesbian tennis club, with monthly tournaments and pizza socials.

OUR MOST HIGHLY READ ISSUE!



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body&mind

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information by mail, fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/ Mind, or electronically to body-mind@improper.com. *Include a brief but thorough description of the event, time, date, location and directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.*

EVENTS

Earth Drum Council Weekend
Eagle Drum Council (978-371-2502). www.earth-drum.com. *Camp Hi-Rock, Mount Washington, Mass. June 8-11. $235-$275, includes accommodations and meals, all workshops and activities. $75 extra for the Friday day Drum and Dance intensive, lodging Thursday night and meals on Friday. $35 for Thursday hang out.* Workshops include: Intro to the Drum; African Dance & Drumming; Middle Eastern Drumming; and Afro-Caribbean Dance & Drumming. There will also be an extra day to be together and to drum, swim, hike and play before the weekend begins.

Spring Health Fair
International Chun Do Sun Bup Institute, 256 Hanover St., North End, Boston (227-3706). May 6, 11am-5pm, and May 7, 11am-5pm. Free. Discover the mysteries of your body by participating in any of the following: energy treatments; classes about herbal teas, extracts and oils; live blood-cell examinations, nutrition evaluations; and exploring your aura.

LECTURES/FORUMS

The Essences of Spring: Athena, Venus & Hermes
New Acropolis Organization, First Parish Unitarian Church, 3 Church St., Cambridge (591-9959). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. May 12, 7:30pm. Free. Through the great works of Renaissance writers, this workshop will explore the mythology of love and divine wisdom.

CLASSES/ WORKSHOPS

Circular Breath
In the Moment Wellness Center, 106 Access Road, Norwood (781-762-9281). www.inthemoment.org. *May 20, 1:30-4:30pm. $45.* This breathing practice clears blockages in mind, body and spirit and promotes relaxation, energy and contentment.

Jay-Walking
Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. May 21, 10am-12:30pm. $31. Meet **Jay Ciliglio**, fitness trainer, author and creator of the most successful walking program/philosophy in the country. Listen to a lecture on his holistic attitude towards walking for exercise, followed by a walk through the streets with Jay himself.

Massage for Couples
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. May 19, 7:30pm. $70. Grab your partner and a squeeze bottle of oil for this workshop with massage therapists who will teach you techniques passed down from the Swedish people. Complaining about life will be rendered useless after an application of loving strokes.

This funny fellow, Jay Ciliglio, leads a class on Jay-Walking at the BCAE, May 21.

Meditation and Chanting
The Yoga Studio, 74 Joy St., Boston (523-7138). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. May 21, 11am-1pm. $15. Meditation is a means of realizing the self. Chanting is a unique language used to describe a reality beyond the five senses and conscious logic. This workshop aims to address the inner self that expresses itself through ancient songs from Hinduism, Buddhism and Christianity.

Noontime Workout
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston (737-3500). Thursdays until the end of June, Noon. Exercising can be as rejuvenating as relaxing, especially if you're in office environs a lot of the time.

Partner Yoga
Beacon Light Yoga Center, 215 Brighton Ave., Allston (739-0717). May 21, 2-4pm. $20. Whether you're a beginner or advanced yoga participant—alone or with a friend—this workshop can teach you poses that you never thought could stretch you so well.

Unlimited Body
Theosophical Society in Boston, 21 Maple Street, Arlington (978-439-9956). *May 16,* 7pm, $7. Unlimited Body is a healing method based on the body's natural inclination to heal itself by knowing and listening to body language. Some examples would be, "I have cold feet, I might be afraid" or "I have back problems, I might be backing away from something." This ongoing class meets the first and third Tuesdays.

RETREATS

One Day Retreat: Yoga/Meditation/Massage
Doreen Kleinschmidt at the Green Street Studios, 185 Green St., Studio 2, Cambridge (524-3484). www.onedayretreat.com. *May 21, 12-5pm. $75, $5 off if you bring a friend.* This retreat is a time to relax, refuel and rejuvenate with massage therapists **Doreen Kleinschmidt** and **Michael Basco**. It cleanses the spirit and gives your body some quality time. Take a deep breath or many deep breaths.

Sunday Evening Retreats
Wellspace, Fresh Pond Mall, Cambridge (876-2660). www.wellspace.com. *May 21, 5:30-8:30pm.* Retreat to Wellspace's serene environment for an irresistible three-hour program combining yoga, meditation, and either massage, foot reflexology, Feldenkrais or acupuncture. One hour is focused on therapeutic needs, either specific or general. Use of the sauna and showers comes with the package.

Weekend Retreat with Andrew Cohen
Impersonal Enlightenment Fellowship Boston, Lenox (492-2848). May 26-29. Spend a weekend outside the city. Immerse yourself in dialogues and meditation. Spiritual teacher **Andrew Cohen** will encourage all who attend to passionately pursue their own longing for liberation.

Zen Retreat
Cambridge Zen Center, 199 Auburn St., Cambridge (576-3229). MBTA: Red to Harvard. www.cambridgezen.com. *May 19-21. $50.* This monthly retreat is an excellent opportunity to clear the mind of habitual thinking and generate energy to practice meditation in everyday life. **Mark Houghton**, one of the guiding teachers at the center, will lead the weekend's activities, including 16 hours of Zen practice, work and rest periods, formal vegetarian meals and a private interview with the retreat leader. Beginners are very welcome.

ONGOING

Dance Friday
Rug Cutter's Studio, 23 Main St., Watertown (924-7276). www.dne.org. *MBTA: #57, 70, or 71 bus. Fridays, 8:30pm-12am. $7.* Dance any way you want to, even barefoot, to all kinds of music in this smoke- and alcohol-free environment.

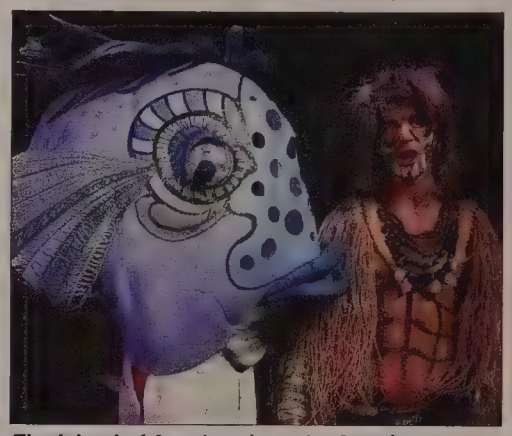
Healing and Meditation Circle
Pinchas Baram, (232-8070). Sundays, 5pm. Free. This occasion happens semi-monthy at different locations in the Boston area. The group focuses on the *Kabbalah*, Jewish mystical wisdom, and features meditation and healing prayer.

Qi Gong
Woolf Holistic Health Center, 651 Washington St., Brookline (738-9144). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Square. Thursdays, 7:30pm. Free. Have you ever wondered what Qi Gong, an ancient form of exercise from China, really is? Check it out at this drop-in session. Discover this time-tested art for maximizing your well-being and increasing your knowledge of mind and body.

Yoga/South End
Union United Methodist Church, 485 Columbus Ave., (522-7199). MBTA: Green Line to Prudential or Orange Line to Back Bay. Tuesdays at 7pm, Wednesdays at noon and Saturdays at 9am. $15/class. Certified Kripalu yoga teacher **Patrice Flesch** teaches mixed-level classes in a spiritual setting. Increase flexibility, relieve stress, build strength, relax and enjoy yourself at any of these ongoing drop-in classes.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Children. Or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*



***The Island of Anyplace* is at the American Repertory Theatre, May 23-June 1.**

TO SEE

April Showers, Where Are the Flowers?
The Back Alley Theatre, 1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (338-1477). May 28, 1pm. $7, $10 at the door. Rosewood is famous for its beautiful tulip gardens that bloom on the same day every May. For years the town has planned a huge celebration and the flowers always opened. But this year, things have been a little different...

The Island of Anyplace
American Repertory Theatre, Loeb Stage, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-8300). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. May 23, 10am, 12:30pm and 7pm; May 27, 1pm; May 24, May 30 and June 1 , 10am. $16, $9 children. Jennifer has been dragged to the theater by her father. At first, she'd rather be home watching TV—but when she takes on the roles of playwright and director herself, she discovers that her imagination can take her to magical places.

Puppet Showplace Theatre
32 Station St., Brookline (731-6400). $8. •*May 19, 7pm. May 20, 1pm and 3pm.* ***Rumpelstiltskin*** by Paul Vincent Davis. •*May 26, 7pm. May 27, 1pm and 3pm.* ***Song of the Nightingale*** by Palm of the Hand Stories.

THINGS TO DO

Archaeology Workshop
Museum of Our National Heritage, 33 Marrett Road, Route 2A, Lexington (781-861-6559). May 20, 10am-12pm. In this hands-on lab, children will clean, identify and interpret artifacts.

Butterflies and Farm Animals at the Zoo
Franklin Park Zoo, 1 Franklin Park Road, Boston (442-2002). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. May 27. $6. •*May 27:* **Butterfly Landing Reopening Celebration** features 1,000 butterflies representing 40 North American species. The celebration will also include visits with animals and children's arts and crafts. •May 27-28: **Farmyard Opening**. Mosey on down to the zoo for that down-on-the-farm feel right in the middle of the city. Check out the new main barn, incubator and brooder building, chicken coop, silo slide and windmill.

Franklin Park Kite Festival
Franklin Park, Boston (635-4505). May 19, 11am-5pm. Raindate: May 21. Free. Enjoy the 32nd flying of this festival, which offers kite-making, kite-flying, music and refreshments for the whole family.

Freshwater Fair
New England Aquarium at Leverett Pond in Jamaica Plain on the Brookline/Boston border (973-0274). www.neaq. org. *May 21, 1-5pm. Free.* Pitch in to help clean up the pond, listen to frog sounds, take a guided nature walk and investigate animal tracks.

May Fair
229 Washington St., Wellesley (781-235-6690). 10am-3pm. $3. A day of activities, including traditional children's games and crafts, storytelling, visits by farm animals, balloon sculpture and face-painting.

Street Performers Festival
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (523-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. May 27-May 29. Free. Performances all day, along with a children's area featuring juggling instructions, balloon twisting and face painting. At noon, enjoy a kazoo parade for children.

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to listings@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

To Watch

New England Revolution
•Foxboro Stadium. Tickets: 1-877-GET-REVS
May 17 (Home): Colorado, 7:30pm, Fox Sports Net.
May 20 (Away): Chicago, 8pm, FSN.
May 24 (Home): Los Angeles, 7:30pm, FSN.
May 29 (Away): Colorado, 5pm, FSN.

Red Sox
•Fenway Park. Tickets: 267-8661.
Games shown on Fox Sports
May 17 (Away): Toronto, 7:05pm.
May 19 (Home): Detroit, 7:05pm.
May 20 (Home): Detroit, 1:05pm.
May 21 (Home): Detroit, 1:05pm.
May 23 (Home): Toronto, 7:05pm.
May 24 (Home): Toronto, 7:05pm.
May 25 (Home): Toronto, 7:05pm.
May 26 (Away): New York, 7:35pm.
May 27 (Away): New York, 1:15pm.
May 28 (Away): New York, 1:35pm.
May 30 (Home): Kansas, 7:05pm.

Events

Fitness! A Noon-Time Workout
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (737-3500). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Thursdays at 12pm, Through June 29. No workout May 25. Grab your co-workers and enjoy this pre-lunch workout.

Fun Run/Walk for Epilepsy
Lee Pool Basin, Charles River Basin, Boston. May 21, 12pm. $15. Free shuttle from Bunker Hill Community College from 8:30am-12pm. This five-kilometer run/walk benefits the Epilepsy Foundation.

10K Herring Run Road Race
Boys and Girls Club, 32 Shore Drive, Somerville. May 20, 10am. $15, $19 on day of race. Race along the banks of the Mystic River and learn more about the herring run that takes place every spring.

Mike LaDouceur Main Street Run
Hi-Lo Supermarket, Jamaica Plain. May 21, 9:30am. $15. This five-kilometer race in memory of Mike LaDouceur, local political and community activist, starts and finishes at the Hyde Square rotary.

New England Open National Karate Championships
Royal Plaza Hotel & Trade Center, Marlborough, Mass. (561-4551). www.newenglandopen.com. *May 20, 9am. Finals at 7:30pm.* All styles of karate, kung-fu, taekwondo and wu shu will be featured in 28 simultaneous rings of action. The major highlight, the Black Belt Superstar Finals, will take place at 7:30pm.

Sports Breakfast
Harvard Square Book Festival, Charles Hotel, Cambridge (781-444-6767). www.bookfestival.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. $25.* NPR commentator Bill Littlefield and Weekend Edition host Scott Simon, author of *Home and Away*, host a Sports Breakfast as part of the sixth annual Harvard Square Book Festival.

Walk for Animals
Borderland State Park on the Sharon Easton town line (508-261-9924). Proceeds from this three-mile fun-walk will be used to provide veterinary care and shelter for homeless animals.

To Play

BASEBALL

Henry's Baseball Club
(781-891-0621). Waltham. Seeking players ages 17-30 and coaches for upcoming season.

BASKETBALL

Basketball City
Adjacent to North Station and the FleetCenter (742-6700). Corporate, midday and weekend leagues.

Co-Ed Indoor Basketball
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 224). Sun.-Thu. nights at various locations. All levels welcome. Leagues in Waltham, Dedham and Brookline.

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Brookline, MA 02445
617-232-8887

NEWTON
55 Needham Street
Newton, MA 02461
617-964-4244

The New England Revolution kicked off its 2000 season with a party at Jillian's April 18.

The Corporate League of Boston
(566-7808).
Men's Basketball League
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990).
Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333). Practice and workout programs for all levels in Greater Boston.
South End Fitness Center League
(534-5823).
Women's Basketball League
(661-9622).
Women's 3 on 3 Basketball
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990).

FOOTBALL

Australian Rules Football
Boston Australian Rules Football Club. Thu. evenings and Sat. mornings, Cambridge (781-440-9266). www.BostonDemons.org. No experience necessary.
Indoor Flag Football
BSSC, Indoor Sports Center in Revere (789-4070). Sundays.
Co-ed Touch Football
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990).

HIKING/WALKING

The Appalachian Mountain Club
Gorham, N.H. (603-466-2727). Hikes and huts in the White Mountains. •Monthly AMC Young Members meetings at AMC headquarters, 4 Joy St., Beacon Hill (523-0655). Second Thursday of every month, 6-10pm, $3. Potluck. BYOB.
New England Walkers
39 Oakland Rd., Brookline (731-9889). www.members.tripod.com/NEWALKERS. This 200-member club hosts race-walk events and clinics. Weekly walks at M.I.T. indoor track on Wednesdays at 7pm.

HOCKEY

Co-ed Floor Hockey
BSSC (789-4070). Individuals and teams.
Co-ed Floor Hockey
Sport & Social Club of Boston, (262-8990).

LACROSSE

Men's and Women's Lacrosse
Sport & Social Club of Boston, (262-8990).

RUGBY

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
Cambridge (781-340-2192). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.bwrfc.org. No experience necessary.

RUNNING

Boston Road Club Weekly Races
(781-646-8955). Sundays. Starts at Wells Ave. in Newton.
Fresh Pond Weekly Road Races
Fresh Pond Reservation. Saturdays, 10am. Choose between a 2.5- or 5-mile run.
NikeTown Boston Running Club
200 Newbury St., Boston (267-3400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Three-to-five-mile loops. Starts at 6:30pm. Monthly mini-clinics as well.
Boston Hash House Harriers
(499-4835). Weekly runs year-round. Serious drinkers with a running problem.
Khoury's Thursday Night Runs
East Somerville. (354-3534). 4.13 miles. 7pm at Khoury's Bar.
Somerville Road Runners Weekly Run
Cambridge Boat House Parking Lot, Cambridge (923-2378). Fridays at 7 pm.

SAILING/BOATING

Boston Sailing Center
54 Lewis Wharf, Boston (227-4198). Year-round lessons and racing programs for all abilities.
Community Boating
21 David Mugar Way, Boston (523-1038). www.community-boating.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. Open Mon.-Fri. 1pm-sunset; Sat.-Sun. and holidays, 9am-sunset. April 1-Oct. 31.* Sailing, windsurfing and kayaking on the Charles for $190 per season including instruction.
Courageous Sailing Center
Charlestown Navy Yard (635-4505). Lessons offered year-round.

SOCCER

BSSC Outdoor Soccer
BSSC (789-4070, ext. 225). Coed teams.
BSSC Outdoor Turf Soccer
BSSC (789-4070, ext. 225). Nine on nine coed soccer. Play outside on a brand new artificial turf field at the Acton Sports Center. Starts May 14 through mid-July.
Sport & Social Club Outdoor Soccer
(262-8990).

SOFTBALL

80-Team Softball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 222). Mon.-Thu. evenings at 6:30pm. Individuals and teams.
Coed Softball
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990).

SWIMMING

Boston Athletic Club Swim Workouts
653 Summer St., Boston (269-4300). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon. and Wed. 6:15-7:15am.
The Charles River Park Club Morning Masters
Charles River Park, Boston (450-9810). Mon., Wed., Fri. 6:30-7:45am.
The Mason Masters Swim Program
The Mason Pool, 159 Norfolk Avenue, Roxbury (236-4923 or 450-9810) Mon.-Fri. 7:30-8:30pm. An early-morning masters swim program led by Alex Primilsky, coach of numerous world, national and Olympic champions.

TENNIS

Mixed Doubles
BSSC (789-4070). Saturday evenings in Waltham.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Boston Ski & Sports Club
(789-4070).
Boston Ultimate Disc Alliance
(928-0882). www.buda.org.

VOLLEYBALL

Adult Co-ed Volleyball League
Waltham YMCA (781-894-5295). Monday nights, began Sept. 13. All levels welcome at this friendly co-ed league.
BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club, (789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. at various locations. Co-ed indoor 6-on-6 leagues. Four different levels of play. Pickup games, clinics and tournaments also available. •Co-ed pickup games Tuesdays and Fridays at West Newton Armory, 1137 Washington St. $5.
Co-ed Volleyball League
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990).
Co-ed Volleyball-Waltham
Waltham YMCA, 725 Lexington St., Waltham (781-894-5295). Monday nights. Begins in April.

WRESTLING

Men's Adult Wrestling
Boston Union, 48 Boylston St., Boston (482-1122). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm; Saturdays 1-3:30pm. All skill levels. Coaching available.

sales& fashion

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for sales and bargains by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sales and Fashion. Or e-mail information to goodbuys@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the event or items. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

AUCTIONS

Earth Night
United States Court House, Fan Pier, Boston (742-8882). www.earthnight.org. *7-11pm. $60.* Bid in a live auction on trips, an autographed copy of President Clinton's last State of the Union address, a dive into the Boston Aquarium's big tank, and tickets to museums, shows and restaurants all around town.
Skinner Auctioneers—Boston
63 Park Plaza, Boston (350-5400). www.skinnerinc.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.* **•Fine Ceramics.** *May 20, 10am. Previews: May 18, 1-5pm; May 19, 1-7pm; May 20, 8-9am.*
Skinner Auctioneers—Bolton
357 Main St., Bolton (978-779-6241). www.skinnerinc.com. **•Discovery Auction.** *May 25, 7pm; May 26, 10am. Previews May 25, 2-6:30pm; May 26, 8-9:30am.* Estate property in an intermediate price range.

OPENINGS

BCBG Max Azria
71 Newbury St., Boston (536-7182). Named for the french phrase *bon chic, bon genre*, a Parisian slang term meaning: good style, good attitude, BCBG Max Azria is known for its signature collection of women's apparel—from separates, suits, evening dresses and denim to footwear, eyewear, swimwear, and handbags.
Marina Rinaldi Boutique
The Heritage on the Garden, on the corner of Arlington and Boylston Streets, Boston. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. The third boutique to open specializing in Italian stylish and sophisticated fashions for full-figured women.

SALES/EVENTS

Design Home 2000
For directions and more info call 450-1347 or visit www.design-home.com. *Tue.-Sun. 10am-4pm. May 2-26. $20, $25 at the door.* Visit this home for the new millennium, a $3 million New England colonial in Weston, Mass., as a part of the Design Home 2000 event.
May Fair
229 Washington St., Wellesley (781-235-6690). 10am-3pm. $3. Early admission is $5. Don't miss the popular Treasures & Trivia Table thrift sale featuring houseware donated by Vella Interiors of Wellesley Hills.

FASHION

Neiman Marcus
5 Copley Place, Boston (536-3660). www.neimanmarcus.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley.* •May 17: Akris Fall Trunk Show in Couture. •May 19-20: Susan Harris Trunk Show in Designer Jewelry. •May 31: Escada Trunk Show in Designer Sportswear.

The newly opened BCBG Max Azria on Newbury Street offers Parisian styles and attitude.

go away

TRAVELING NEAR AND FAR

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NORTH OF BOSTON

Salem 17th Annual Seaport Festival
10 Liberty St., Salem, MA (978-744-0004). May 29-May 31. Enjoy a weekend of fun as more than 150 juried artisans and craftsmen display and sell their work, including oil paintings, fine jewelry, pottery, scarves, tapestry, quilts, baskets and more. Dance to live musical entertainment each day—from New England fiddle music and folk guitar to Celtic/classical compositions.
Showhouse by the Sea
Castle Hill on the Crane Estate, Ipswich, Mass. (978-356-7774). Through May 24, $18-$20. Looking to escape to a seaside cottage? This newly restored, historic turn-of-the-century cottage features 25 rooms decorated by Boston and New England's foremost designers. The Showhouse of the Season features a gourmet cafe, a hospitality barn with unique and whimsical home and garden products and a greenhouse. Take a museum tour of the great house after spending the day touring, lunching and shopping on the Crane Estate.

SOUTH OF BOSTON

Art with a View
South Shore Art Center, 119 Ripley Road, Cohasset, Mass. (781-383-2787). May 19-20. Tours: 10am-4pm, $30-$35; Dinner/auction: 7pm (only May 20). $125 with reservations. For those of you who fancy art and love gardens, these two days are for you. The South Shore Art Center's Art with a View is a two-day event that includes on-site plein-air paintings by 20 South Shore artists and the works of 20 sculptors at some of the most beautiful estates in New England. Take a garden tour through the estates, eight in all in Cohasset and Hingham, and conclude your day with an auction of the newly painted works and sculptures during a black-tie dinner.
R.E.O. Speedwagon and Styx Concert
Tweeter Center for the Performing Arts, 885 S. Main St., Mansfield, Mass. (508-339-2333). May 30, 7pm, $35. Witness the power of rock when R.E.O. Speedwagon, with special guests Styx and Eddie Money, create a supersonic force of electric guitars and pounding drums onstage at the Tweeter.
The Victory Jukebox: A Tribute to the 1940s
The Orpheum Foxborough, 1 School St., Foxborough, Mass. (508-543-2787). May 18-20, 8pm, May 21 at 3pm. $13-$26. Enjoy a dynamic tribute to the brave men and women who fought for America's freedom as singers bring to life popular music of the 1940s. Watch a re-creation of a "live" Armed Forces Radio broadcast and performances of "Chattanooga Choo Choo," "Sentimental Journey," among others. Performers include Donald Blais, Cathy Fox, Daniel F. Kirby, Ed Mastriano, Jill Cairn Pinto and Debbie Scanlon.

WEST OF BOSTON

Springtime in Paradise
Indoors and under tents at the Tri-Country Fairgrounds, Northhampton, Mass. (413-527-8994). May 27-28, 10am-6pm; May 29, 10am-5pm. This three-day festival is one of the most beautiful and competitive juried fairs of contemporary crafts and fine art in the country. Experience ongoing craft demonstrations, tasty international foods and jazz music.

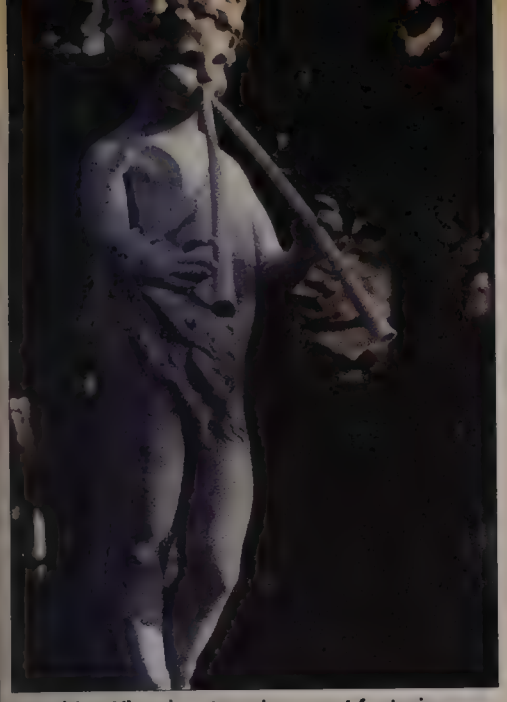
CAPE COD AND THE ISLANDS

4th Annual Nantucket Wine Festival
Nantucket, MA (508-228-1700). May 18-21. Put your drinking caps on and come join this wonderful weekend celebration of food and wine as Nantucket hosts more than 100 wineries.

NORFOLK, VA

Pat McGee Band In Concert
The Norva, Norfolk, Va. May 19. The Virginia-based sextet comes to its home state to share its vibrant, acoustic-based sound. Their new album, *Shine*, is an energetic mix of blues-laden harmonies that includes an eclectic instrumentation.

REVOLUTION: WENDY MIMRAN, BCBG: SUSAN COWAN



Art with a View is a two-day event featuring work by South Shore artists, May 19-20.

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SALEM, NH

Ringo Starr and His All-Starr Band
I Center, 60 Lowell Road, Salem, N.H. (603-893-4448). May 21, 7:30pm. $49.50-$69.50. Ringo Starr celebrates the 10th anniversary of touring with his All-Starr Band. You won't want to miss the ex-Beatle's-first-time performance in New Hampshire and his

mark your daytimer

UPCOMING EVENTS

Get your tickets for Brian Setzer Orchestra, coming to the FleetBoston Pavilion July 10.

CITYSCOPE

Walk for Breast Cancer
June 2, Leominster to Boston
North End Feast Days
Begin June 2, North End, Boston
World's Fair
June 4, Cambridge
Scooper Bowl
June 6, City Hall Plaza
Dragon Boat Festival
June 18, Cambridge

MUSIC

Ray Charles
July 7, FleetBoston Pavilion
Duran Duran
August 5, FleetBoston Pavilion
B.B. King Blues Festival
Sept. 14, FleetBoston Pavilion
Gipsy Kings
Sept. 9, FleetBoston Pavilion
Ricky Martin
June 21, FleetCenter
Lou Reed and Victoria Williams
June 23, FleetBoston Pavilion
Smokey Robinson
Aug. 24, FleetBoston Pavilion
Carlos Santana with Macy Gray
August 1, Tweeter Center
Nina Simone
June 6, FleetBoston Pavilion
Sonic Youth
June 15, Avalon
Tina Turner with Lionel Richie
June 9, FleetCenter

PERFORMING ARTS

Miss Saigon
June 8, Wang Theatre

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allow 2-3 weeks for delivery

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Improper Impersonals

If everyone kept their feelings bottled up like warm beer we'd soon have antisocial behavior exploding all over the place and ruining the upholstery. That's why we have the Improper Impersonals, a column written by you, the reader. Send us your letters of love and spleen, and we'll print them for the world to see. Heck, it's better than making a fool of yourself in person. And **IT'S FREE!** Pick up a pen and tell that babe on the T you like his butt by writing to:

Improper Impersonals
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116
Fax: 859-1446 or e-mail us at impersonals@improper.com.
Recent correspondence follows.

CE—
I cared for you very much, always remember that. Now I have been blessed with someone, someone who loves me as much as I love him. I know that you never meant to hurt me, C.E.
I know you needed your space, especially after what happened with I.H. I have prayed every morning and every night that both you and I.H. would be well, together or with others. I hope that someday you will be able to once again love a woman without feeling fear. Have faith. I wish that we could, at the very least, be friends because you were one of the few people whom I have ever truly liked. Peace.
—Die G^ttin

To Mike from Poly Esthers
No, making out with you will not enhance my memory, nor will it help me remember your phone number after five Margaritas but I did have fun on Friday. You said you liked the way I dance and I wasn't bothered by your presence so I guess we are off to a good start. You should know I also date girls—hey another thing we have in common!
Still interested?
— metrogirl_77@hotmail.com

Dave from the Real World
I am the chicky who was assigned your old phone number by the phone company. I'm not writing this as a fan. I don't even know what you look like, but I have a message for you. Chadwick has been trying to find you. I don't know if he had any luck, but I thought I'd help the poor guy. So if you see this, give him a call.
—Dave's Not Here, Man

Hey You with the Big Shoes
Are you too good for me? You can't even see me!! Pretty girls like you look right through me. I am real unlike the 399ers. If you ever opened those snake eyes you would see a real man and not just a guest check.
—Unlikely Lover

If You Ain't Dutch, You Ain't Much
It's Nick "Fun Here."
I just wanted to say you are such a stud muffin. You make my world fun, and you deserve all the best. Good luck at work. You have really grown up very much since I first met you, and I am very proud of you. Thank you for putting up with me. I want you to know how much I appreciate you and your being here.
—Love, "Chick"

To the Stud in the Ultimate Frisbee Photo
I can't keep my mind off of you. Your right calf is flexed so beautifully, and your expression is so passionate. I want to be the Frisbee that you hug against your chest. How can I be on your team? Email me at
—minkeysfriend@hotmail.com

Brendan—
"Wake from your sleep, the drying of your tears, today we escape, we escape." Peanut butter and shredded wheat at 3am, pink wigs, fun with Polaroid, spilt wine and small plastic pixies. Thank you for all the happiness you have brought me thus far. In case I forget to tell you later, I love you.
—Malia

As I read through countless 'Impersonals'...
...it occurs to me that I am the lucky one. They are seeking. I have found. I love you. And although that will never nearly say enough, it is all that I have to offer, my love, in my outstretched hands to you. With a single glance across a room . . . There are those in life who appreciate opera, would never order soup as an entree and think the movie *The Matrix* absolutely sucked, and then there are all the others. Thank you for being the truest thing I have ever known. Thank you for having coffee with me that Sunday afternoon, even though I kept you waiting. Thank God for serendipity and your father and for bringing you to me. The experience of falling in love with you is one that is so unbelievably beautiful, it would be a shame to only do it once . . . which is why I intend to spend the rest of our lives doing it over and over again, each and every day. My love, I kiss you. I breathe you. Have a wonderful day! Te dua gjithmone.
—Dashni

To the Staff and Owner of Three Cheers
I'd like to thank you for your complete objectivity in deciding who would and would not be allowed to stay at my friend's going-away party on April 19. I do hope you realize that none of the other people who were allowed to stay were 21 or older. Perhaps their fake IDs said they were, but I don't think any of the rest of them were over 20, seeing as how just about all of them were college freshmen. The exclusionary tactics were especially nice considering that a room had been rented for the party and so you already had your money. And it's not like we were going to be invading space for patrons who were of age since it was a Wednesday night. I'd like to commend your excellent business skills. To the best of my knowledge (I wasn't involved in the planning process), the person who booked the room was not informed that there was an age restriction. I thought it was an especially nice touch tossing us out since we got there just as the grill had closed and none of us were 21—oh gee, could it be because that means we couldn't have spent any real money on drinks or food? Hmm...the timing is too good to be coincidence. I'd just like to say that when I turn 21 this time next year, I will make it a point to a) never, ever even consider going to your establishment to get totaled and b) discourage everyone I know from doing so. Kiss your college market goodbye, buster—and keep an eye out for my friend's NYC Mafioso father. He doesn't take kindly to people upsetting his little girl.

Purple Shamrock, April 13
This is to all of those I pissed off: A letter of apology. I cannot remember all of the details of that night. Actually, I can only remember waking up at 6am on the bathroom floor thinking, "Oh my god, what happened last night?" When I did find out the details I was completely embarrassed (too embarrassed to elaborate). That girl was not me. I don't know who she was or where she came from, but when I found out how she acted, I didn't like her. The real me is a nice, fairly reserved woman from Pennsylvania who has a boyfriend. I am not the fool everyone saw that Thursday night. I never acted that way before and never will again. So, to everyone I may have manhandled or completely pissed off, I am so sorry, a thousand times sorry! And, to my friend who had to drag me out of the bar, I am sorry and thank you. Thank you for stopping me before things got worse (as if it were possible). I have learned my lesson! I will never drink so much that I look like a pathetic fool again! Again to all, I'm truly sorry.
—The pathetic dancing fool

Margaux
You have redefined love. I can't believe how great you are, and I can't believe how blessed I am to have you in my life. Although the challenges ahead are intimidating, knowing that you will be with me means that I will be happy no matter what happens. I am in love with you.
—Boo

Rockie Horoscope

May 17 - 30, 2000
BY ROCKIE GARDINER

Taurus
APRIL 20-MAY 20
You, you, it's still about you. You're gonna miss this burst of glory when it finally fades. Will you miss the affection when your Venus ruler meets strict Saturn during the Buddha's full moon celebration? What else isn't forthcoming? More important, will you welcome the eye-opening change when expansive Jupiter in your sign tests unpredictable Uranus this weekend? And what are you planning to commit to when Jupiter joins Saturn for the start of their 20-year cycle on the 28th? More about you, wonderful you, and the self-actualization thing?

Gemini
MAY 21-JUNE 20
Rapier wits have all day Friday to slash and burn with the best of the satirists. Cut down the opposition, thrust and parry with the powers that be while your Mercury ruler, reinforced by militant (often malicious) Mars, faces the Plutonic corruption. Your words won't have this powerful an effect for years. However, there's a chance you could be hurt too, so at a certain point in the attack, you'll probably bite your tongue. With surgical Mars in your sign, this is a good time to have your eyes or ears done.

Cancer
JUNE 21-JULY 22
On one level, the potent Jupiter-Uranus square this weekend, could bring up an issue of friendship and money that only pertains to the two of you. On another, it can portend a societal trend that alters your relationship to a group much larger than your circle of friends. Where do you fit in and how is that niche about to change? Are you a Jet or a Shark? And will a casual push come to an abusive shove when Mars and powerful Pluto face off on Saturday? A more productive, prosperous pairing for Memorial Day weekend.

Leo
JULY 23-AUGUST 22
Keeping an open-mind, being willing to adapt to a new facet of a developing relationship is the best way to handle the surprise sprung by a rare Jupiter-Uranus square this weekend. This challenge can alter your job description, but it'll also bring opportunities that you didn't think were in your ballpark. More about the change next weekend when Jupiter and Saturn in your career midheaven merge. But right now, steel yourself for trouble with the landlord or within the family while Mars and Pluto are at odds.

Virgo
AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22
Like Gemini, you'll rise to the apex of your intellectual and verbal prowess while your Mercury ruler is being incited by insightful Mars. Get straight to the very sharp point of a discussion, grow brave enough to dig for the root of a problem at home, but if there isn't one at the moment, you'll have the physical strength to dig up rotten roots in the garden. You could also learn something to improve your daily work/health routine, something that is cutting edge or as far-out spacy as you've gone to date.

Libra
SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22
Trust Libra to pull the most social forecast of the 12 signs. No matter what else happens when lucky Jupiter sparks interest in the new and unusual, you'll manage to make a festive occasion out of it, e.g. a welcome home party for E.T., a lunch to launch your Web site. Who winds up paying for the fun could turn into an issue to debate with great gusto. Since the ensuing discussion will be brilliant and eminently quotable, plan to dine out on the story for quite a while. Artistic and spiritual highs over the Memorial Day weekend make a deep impression.

Scorpio
OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21
Once every two years when Mars and Pluto, your co-ruling planets, oppose each other, Scorpio can no longer avoid coming to grips with the part of your life that isn't working out. Well, this is the weekend you face your toxic self or an abusive or indolent partner, talk it out (Mars is in vocal Gemini) or move on. Since both rulers are in mobile, mutable signs, making an adjustment won't be especially difficult, even for a fixed "my way or the highway" sign such as yours. Fortunes will change, a new day dawns after the big holiday weekend.

Sagittarius
NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21
Archers who are actively repenting, recharging their batteries or in rehab of some kind, could be under attack this weekend when militant Mars in Gemini opposes Pluto in Sag. This is terrorist tactic stuff, so be careful whom you antagonize, especially if you're on the road, the phone or the Net. Concurrently, finding out more about work and health matters, or the people who provide them, becomes all-important while your Jupiter ruler is being provoked by experimental Uranus. This week, new is better; not necessarily so next week.

Capricorn
DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20
Love will keep it together, no matter what unexpected expense pops up this weekend. You know what you value above all else, what provides emotional security in spite of the markets' rises and falls. Since you are also on a creative high—that could peak as the month ends or start up anew; it goes either way while lucky Jupiter and your prudent Saturn ruler conjunct on the 28th—why not concentrate on your art form and milk current astrological benefits for all they're worth? Now that's being practical, far-sighted, too.

Aquarius
JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18
One by one, the planets in Taurus have been tweaking the essence of your "you-ness" as they've squared your Uranus ruler. They may have changed your plans and given you more family stuff to deal with, however, this week, prosperous Jupiter in that sensual, sensible earth sign can change your luck. It can also change the view from your back window. Any chance of moving on up? Whatever opportunity for growth that presents itself should be seized immediately and thought about later. Take a psychic or spiritual excursion over Memorial Day weekend.

Pisces
FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19
Friction in the family this week, a run-in with the powers that be at work, the little things that turn a peaceable Pisces into a shark with a helluva bite. If words are your weapons of choice, the astute Mercury-Mars merger in Gemini guarantees yours will cut deep and to the quick. This combination also makes for great reporting. However, fiction supersedes the facts next weekend, when your imaginative Neptune ruler receives strong affirmations from the Gemini sun. Then you'll want to party like mad, make wild music and art, but still keep your intake in check.

Aries
MARCH 20-APRIL 19
A little discord is good for the Ram, it gets you out of whatever rut you're stuck in, but don't let information you uncover on Friday propel you into uncharted territory without knowing all the facts. Once every two years, when your Mars ruler opposes Pluto, ruler of the Dark Side, you tend to get sucked into a downward spiral that can take a year to crawl out of. Since Saturday's opposition occurs in your money houses, April Rams into buying, selling and trusting big boys with big bucks should watch out. March Rams should buckle up, also button up those libelous lips.

Curious about the future? Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30 to 40+ pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise over the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $42.50 per report to ROCKIE GARDINER, 1021 N. Genesee, #1, West Hollywood, CA 90046, *www.rockiehoroscope.com*. Read my daily forecast online at *www.laweekly.com*.

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508-365-1004

men seeking women

Casual connection. Hello, I'm an attractive single male with sandy blonde hair, blue eyes, a nice build and a tall stature. I have a great personality, good smile and easy going. I am looking for an attractive single female to spend some fun casual times with. Box 28533

Professional male. Hi, this is Pete. I am a single male, 35, 5'8", 140 lbs., with black hair, brown eyes and a youthful look. Unfortunately, my professional career doesn't present a lot of opportunity for me to meet single women so I've been unable to meet that special someone. I am looking for a sexy single female with great sense of humor and a good personality. Box 28675

Casual relationship. Hello, this is Mannie. I'm a single male, 5'10" and I reside in the Boston area. I am physically fit and considered attractive. I am looking for an independent, open-minded single female for a casual but yet stimulating relationship. Box 28975

Alternative guy. Hi, this is a single male in the Boston area and I'm seeking a sexy female for long drives in the country and romantic dinners. I have an overactive imagination and I looking for an uninhibited female to join me in some fun. If you are smoker that's a plus. Box 28991

Life is too short. Hey beautiful girls. I'm a single Italian male, 5'8" and a terrific cook. I am looking for an attractive blonde female with a petite figure and a good personality. I enjoy everything and anything because life is too short to waste it on idle time so don't hesitate leave me a message. Box 29001

Friendship first. Hey ladies, my name is Eric. I'm a physically fit single male and I'm looking for a friendship first relationship. I have a variety of interests and I'm looking for the same in a female. Box 29010

Relaxed fit. Hi, this is Tom. I'm a single male, 37, 5'8", 170 lbs., and I'm looking for someone to hang out with. I'm interested in a casual relationship where we both can be comfortable in doing what we want when we want. I consider myself understanding, flexible and a good friend. Box 29012

Summer fun. My name is Greg and I'm a single male, 6', 180 lbs., with black hair and light brown eyes. I like to work out, going to the movies, dinners and having fun. I am looking for a single female to join me in the upcoming summer months for fun and good times.

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Live Chat
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TRY OUR LIVE CHAT You won't believe your ears!

women seeking men

Girl next door. Hey guys, I'm a SBF, 6', 200 lbs., with brown hair, brown eyes and dimples. I enjoy going to the movies, sports, playing pool, bowling and relaxing at home. I consider myself to be a sweet, warm-hearted female. Box 2340

Shapely figure. Hi, this is Crystal. I'm a single female, 23, with red hair, blue eyes and a curvaceous full figure. I currently reside in the Milton area and I consider myself outgoing and spontaneous. I can get wild sometimes but when the situation calls for it I can be lady. Box 28690

Long-term relationship. Hello, I'm a single female, 32, 5'2", with brown hair and brown eyes. I am looking for a single male who is honest, hard working, down to earth and fun to be with. My interests are traveling, intimate dinners, movies and relaxing at home. I like children although I do not have any of my own. Box 28984

I'll be the twinkle in your eye. Hi, this is Sparkle. I'm a SBF, 5'5" and I'm a student. I am looking for a single male who is flexible and understanding with my demanding school schedule. I consider myself fun, out-going and goal oriented. Box 29044

Elegant and demure. Hello, this is Victoria. I'm a SBF and I'm looking for a strong SBM for friendship and possible dating. I prefer a gentleman who is sincere, honest, straightforward and no times for games. Box 29091

Great sense of humor. My name is Susan and I'm petite single female, 44, 5'2", 120 lbs., with light brown hair, blue eyes and a youthful look. I am sincere, down to earth, honest, I have a great sense of humor and I'm a lot of fun to be with. I am a nonsmoker and drinker and I am seeking a single male with similar qualities. Box 29097

Looking for that special someone. Hello, I'm an attractive single female, 5'7" with brown hair, green eyes and a shapely full figure. I enjoy a variety of music, dancing, reading, romantic evenings, and working out at the gym. I am looking for that special someone to fill my days and nights. Box 29109

Visit Nightline on the web at www.nightlinepersonals.com and check out more local ads!

The Nightline service does not prescreen callers and assumes no responsibility for personal meetings. Callers must be 18 or over. Toll charges may apply. Optional paid services. Call for details.

improperazzi

The Improper Bostonian's client-related promotions and events

World class reggae artist **Jimmy Cliff** performed at **the Roxy** on Thurday, April 27. The concert was put on by **The Original House of Blues**.

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1. **Jimmy Cliff**.
2. **Courtney Dargie**, Don Pedró Design and **Justin Murphy** of Murphy, Lorden-Murphy & Associates.
3. **Robyn Sarkisian**, Sarkisian Realty Trust and **Greg Sarkisian**, Nextel International.
4. **David Fortin**, **Sergio Sandoval** and **Teo Leyasmeyer**, the House of Blues.
5. **Kim Purdy**, Body Works; **Suki Finnerty**, Broad Reach Productions; **Leroy Roam**, keyboard player with the Jimmy Cliff Band; **Mike Levine**, Les Enfantes du Paradis.

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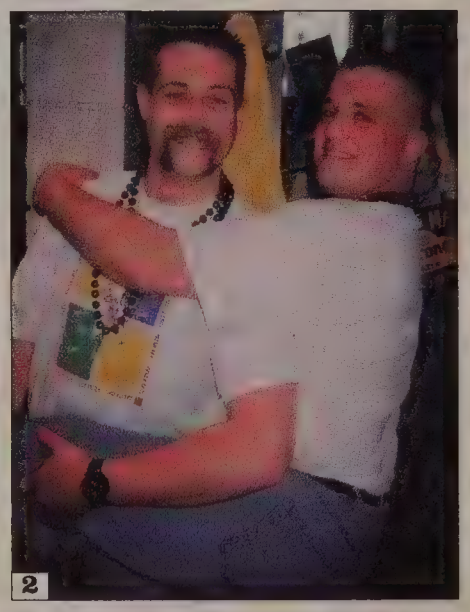
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Partyers at **Austin Grill** went loco on May 5 in celebration of **Cinco de Mayo**. The bar was packed all night with those who stopped by for an after-work drink and found themselves closing the bar.

1. **Bryan Tavares** and **John-Marc Quilter**, both of MIT Information Technology with **Katy Yasinsac,** recruiter.
2. **Gary Dion** and **Jimmy Mackay** take a break from fighting fires to work the door at Austin Grill.
3. **Melissa Vogel** and **Katie Fox** of Boston Scientific; **David Ebersman, Tatiana Slingel** and **Dan Reynaga** of Raytheon.
4. **Kate Mauldin**, fund-raiser for the Neighborhood House Charter School with **Katie Althoff**, Stevens stock broker.
5. **Michael Barrow**, president of Nogs.com and **Mark Chandler**, "core Network Operation Guru" at Nogs.com.
6. **Bryan Campbell**, CPA, wishes good luck to former colleague **Priscilla Burney**, Project Manager of HMEI.

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BARS, CLUBS, RESTAURANTS & BRUNCH

The following are paid advertisements. Please check times and prices in advance. If you'd like to have your restaurant listed, please call The Improper Bostonian Advertising Dept. at 859-1400.

BARS

Billiards

Boston Billiard Club
126 Brookline Ave., 536-POOL. Ranked #1 in the country by Billiards Digest. Free lessons on Mon., 7:30 pm - 9 pm. Boston Billiard Club House Leagues on Mon. and Tues. "In The Biz" night on Sun. and Mon. for patrons in the hospitality industry. Ladies' night on Wed. Featuring a menu of light fare such as grilled chicken sandwiches and appetizers, along with beer, wine, cocktails and a variety of non-alcoholic beverages.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, The Allstonians and Beat Soup.

Brew Pubs

Back Bay Brewing Company
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center.
$7-$18. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Bi-level restaurant/brewery offers an inspirational pairing of outstanding innovative cuisine and award-winning ales and lagers. Upbeat first floor bar and café, second floor dining room and bar with comfortable couches and overstuffed chairs. Mon. - Sun. 11:30am - 1am. Brunch Sun. from 11am - 3pm.

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Company
138 Portland St., Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is now the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, a block from the FleetCenter and steps from Faneuil Hall, Commonwealth Fish & Beer features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

General

Dick's Last Resort
55 Huntington Ave., Prudential Center, Boston, 267-8080. www.dickslastresort. com. Dick's has live music 7 nights a week, no cover, no dress code and certainly no class. They have 74 kinds of beer for the novice or serious/ sudsman, or a full bar for the hard core. Dick's also is a restaurant of sorts with buckets of ribs, shrimp, lobster, chicken, catfish and crab legs. This is the place your Mama warned you about. Free parking after 5pm, cheap til 5 with validation.

The Good Life
Uptown - 99 St. Botolph St., 266-3030; Downtown - 28 Kingston St., 451-2622. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1999 Boston's Best Martini award. The Good Life is a retro lounge that Frank Dean and Sammy would have hung at. Big Drinks, Great American Comfort Food, Hot Jazz and Plenty of Boy Meets Girl. Never a cover, always a good time.

The Good Life In Swingin' Central Square
720 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, 617-868-8800, The winner of The Improper Bostonian's Best Martini Award 1999. Frank, Dean, and Sammy have a new hangout across the river. So should you. Come experience the power of three. Classic cocktails, great American comfort food, and Boston's Best Live Jazz. Never a cover, always a good time.

Harvard Gardens
316 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114, 617-523-2727. A wonderfully relaxed haven located opposite MGH on the back side of Beacon Hill. Serving the finest cocktails and most comfortable food in town. Plant yourself in a comfy booth, a cozy banquette, or at our fully loaded bar and escape from your everyday troubles. Doing it nice & easy 7 days a week - 11am-2am.

Pravda 116
116 Boylston St., 617-482-7799. Located in the heart of Boston's theater district. Pravda offers one of Boston's hottest night clubs, and extraordinary cuisine as well. Pravda boasts the longest bar in Boston, featuring a center ice surface to keep your cocktail cool. If sitting at the bar is not your forte, enjoy a meal at a private table in the dining room or in a plush, secluded booth. Chef Chris Parsons prepares exquisite dishes with the latest seasonal ingredients. Satisfied your hunger? Then feed your crave to rave in Pravda's newly remodeled dance club. DJ's spin high-energy dance music, create an ambiance that radiates with energy. Rest. Hrs: Tues&Wed 5:30-10:30pm, Thurs-Sat 5:30-11pm; Club Hrs: Thurs-Sat 10pm-2am.

Sweetwater Cafe
3 Boylston Place, 351-2515. A classic American bar featuring Boston's best bands and DJ's nightly. A favorite Boston bar for 15 years with two floors of entertainment, an outdoor patio and world class margaritas. Always great music and cold beer, never a dress code. Available for private functions of any kind. (Credit cards: Am Ex, Visa, MC, Diner's) Tues. - Sat. 5 pm - 2 am. Located in "The Alley."

The Big Easy Bar
1 Boylston Place, Boston, 351-7000. Informal. Located in Boston's version of Bourbon Street, "The Alley." The Big Easy Bar is a hot new New Orleans style bar featuring Boston's best live bands and disc jockeys nightly playing music you know and love. Relax in a lounge, listen to the band, play billiards, hang at the bar or dance the night away. The Big Easy Bar has something fun for everyone. Great beer selection, 22 oz. Hurricanes, 4 huge bars, 2 lounges, a balcony, plenty of seating, and a large dance floor. Wed. - Sat. 8 pm - 2 am. Major credit cards accepted. Valet parking available.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, The Allstonians and Beat Soup.

The Sugar Shack
1 Boylston Place, 351-2510. "Home of Boston's Best Party." Set in the middle of a mini-Bourbon Street, The Sugar Shack celebrates Mardi-Gras year-round with a carefree, reckless, spontaneous and unpretentious attitude. Carnival lights, confetti, beads, specialty drinks, live bands and Disc Jockeys playing classics, motown, R&B, funk, disco, and old school hip hop from the last three decades mixed with the best of today's top 40. Home of young professional, young alumni, 20 something hipsters who desire cold beer, cocktails, classic party tunes and unadulterated fun!!

Wine Bars

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar
105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-0966. The hip meeting spot in the Financial District for after work, dinner, late night, or a seductive tryst. The Vault offers some of the most exclusive wines in Boston, which complement the creative American Cuisine prepared by Chef Rebecca Esty. Can't decide on a wine? Relax and compare with our Tasting Flights featuring selections from different reds and whites. So what are you waiting for? Call an old friend, a client, or a co-worker and meet for cocktails at The Vault today.

RESTAURANTS

Back Bay Brewing Company
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center.
$7-$18. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Bi-level restaurant/ brewery offers an inspirational pairing of Chef Michael Burgess's innovative cuisine and Tod Mott's hand-crafted ales and lagers. Upbeat first floor bar and café, second floor dining room and bar with comfortable couches and overstuffed chairs. Sunday Buffet Brunch 11am - 3pm, $14.95. Mon. - Sun. 11:30am - 1am.

Cactus Club
939 Boylston St., 236-0200. Get a taste of the Southwest in Boston. Specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, Cajun Catfish. Save 1/2 off entire menu Mon. - Fri., 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm in the bar. Sample the firewater menu while you are there, including Coyote Killer (Light and dark rum, peach schnapps, ginger beer and mixed juices), or a Chambord Margarita. The daring may go for a dip in the Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Amex, Diners Club, MC and Visa.

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Jillian's Boston
Behind Fenway Park, 437-0300. Upscale 70,000 Sq. ft. megaplex of interactive entertainment. Play breakthrough interactive communication games, participate in a live game show & watch a giant video wall while dining on innovative American cuisine at Atlas Grill on Jillian's new 1st floor. Jillian's offers motion simulator rides, more than 250 cutting edge electronic & virtual reality games, 50 billiard tables, table tennis, & "just for fun" black jack. Five full bars & 50 TVs that broadcast sporting events. Great for late night dining & private parties 25-3000. Open Daily.

Kashmir
279 Newbury St., Boston, 536-1695. Kashmir has been raising the bar of Indian restaurants in quality, style and service since it opened. Its Best of Boston, Boston's Best and Readers' Choice awards are a result of great execution. Indoors in three elegantly styled dining rooms and outdoors on the best people watching corner in town, Kashmir serves the finest Tandoori and curry dishes and most imaginative specials and the best lunch and brunch buffet in town. Wine and beer are available as well as takeout, delivery, private parties and catering.

Ma Soba Asian Cuisine & Sushi
156 Cambridge Street on Beacon Hill, Boston, 973-6680. Enjoy premium sushi and Ma Soba's unique blend of contemporary and traditional Asian cuisine prepared by award-winning chefs. Relax with a fine wine selection from Ma Soba's comprehensive wine cellar in a setting described as "strikingly attractive and ultra urbane" by the Boston Herald. Open daily: Sun-Wed until 10:30pm, Thurs-Sat until 11:00pm. When in Harvard Square/ Cambridge, visit Ma Soba Express at 30 Dunster Street for quick-service pan Asian noodles and rice platters.

Shenandoah Restaurant, Marketplace Cafe, Brewskellar Pub
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston 227-1272. Located in the North Market Building of Faneuil Hall, Shenandoah Restaurant, The Marketplace Cafe, and Brewskellar Pub have something for everyone. Whether you're interested in a casual dinner on one of Boston's largest outdoor patios or the quiet more elegant surroundings of Shenandoah Restaurant, we offer it all. Having a function? We cater personally to all events you may be planning. Visit us soon and let us surprise you.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve both lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar
105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-9966. A wonderful secret hidden in Boston's Financial District. The Vault offers contemporary American cuisine and an extensive and exclusive affordable wine list. Come in and enjoy our new spring menu, including an expanded raw bar, Maine crab cakes, seared tuna and much more. Lunch Mon. - Fri. from 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Dinner Mon. - Wed. from 5:30 - 10:30 pm, Thurs. - Sat. from 5:30 - 11 pm. Closed Sun.

Venezia
Venezia Restaurant & Function facility. Boston's "hidden jewel" offers romantic and intimate waterfront dining, spectacular views of the Boston skyline. European casual elegance and a unique blend of northern Italian and Mediterranean cuisine. Live entertainment and dancing in our lounge on weekends. Just off of Neponset Circle, open for lunch Mon. - Fri.; dinner every night. Call for daily specials and information 617-436-3120

The Wrap & Smoothie Bar
137 Mass Ave., Boston (at Berklee School of Music), 369-9087; 71 Mt. Auburn St., Harvard Square, 354-5838; 1940 Beacon St., Cleveland Circle, 739-0340; 82 Water St., Financial District, 357-9013. The Wrap serves delicious, freshly prepared wraps, burritos and salads as well as healthy and refreshing smoothies. Voted Boston's Best 1998 & 1999 by The Improper Bostonian. Fresh ingredients, great taste, healthy options - words we live by!

BRUNCH

Anago
65 Exeter Street, Boston, 266-6222. Anago, in the historic Lenox Hotel, presents a live Sunday Brunch from 11-2pm, prepared by Boston's whiz kid chef, Jamie "Shaky" Liberge, featuring a sumptuous buffet of appetizers with exquisite freshly baked desserts and breads created by award winning pastry chef, Lee Napoli, to accompany your choice of exceptional entree selections. Reservations are recommended.

Back Bay Brewing Company
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Featuring Chef Michael Burgess's Neo-Continental selections, including Eggs Benedict with Canadian bacon & herbed hollandaise, blueberry pancakes with almond maple syrup, omelet station, French toast, roasted meat carving station, house smoked salmon, and assorted desserts. Sunday Brunch Buffet 11 am - 3 pm. $14.95

Dick's Last Resort
55 Huntington Ave., Prudential Center, Boston, 267-8080. www.dickslastresort. com. Sundays, Dick gets religion and has a Heavenly Gospel Brunch from 10am to 3pm, serving fruit, salads, eggs benedict, fried chicken with a ham and roast beef station. Help yourself to the waffle or omelet stations and dessert bar and listen to old fashion uplifting live gospel music. Open for Lunch, Dinner and late night entertainment 7 days a week, no cover.

Museum of Science - Skyline Room
Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston, MA 02114. Reptiles: Real and Robotic, through May 29. Enjoy Sunday brunch in the beautiful Skyline Room overlooking the Charles River at noon, then experience the amazing Mugar Omni Theater: Dolphins and Mysteries of Egypt, through June, at 2pm. Tickets are $28 for Adults, $26 for Seniors/Children. Brunch only is $20. On-site parking is included. Reservations recommended, call (617)723-2500.

The Wrap & Smoothie Bar
137 Mass Ave., Boston (at Berklee School of Music), 369-9087; 71 Mt. Auburn St., Harvard Square, 354-5838; 1940 Beacon St., Cleveland Circle, 739-0340; 82 Water St., Financial District, 357-9013. The Wrap serves delicious, freshly prepared wraps, burritos and salads as well as healthy and refreshing smoothies. Voted Boston's Best 1998 & 1999 by The Improper Bostonian. Fresh ingredients, great taste, healthy options - words we live by!

MISC.

Sports

Boston Paintball
131 Beverly St., Boston, 742-6612. The rules are simple. There are teams and everyone has paintball guns. You are inside of a large warehouse (near the Boston Garden). They are firing balls straight at you. You scream, dodge, hide, wipeout and have a blast!!! Great for bachelor/bachelorette parties, corporate outings, birthday parties, and much more.

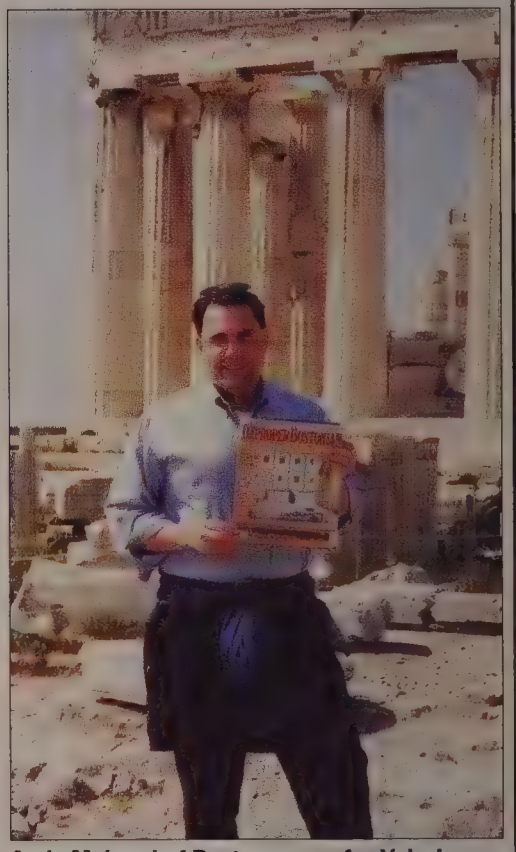
Improper Sightings

Unlike the rest of your friends, we want to see the photos from your next trip.

Where do you take us? We want to know! Send us a picture of you or a friend, or better yet, someone famous reading The Improper Bostonian and tell us where you were. The more creative you are, the faster we'll publish your pic! (Hey, we have no shame!)

Bryan G. Quilliams lounges in the Turks and Caicos Islands with Zemar—and a naked guy.

The wild and crazy folks at Boston Ski & Sports Club vacation together in Grindelwald, Switzerland. The strapping young lad holding the magazine in the middle is Gerry Dennison.



Andy McLeod of Boston poses for Valerie Forti at the Parthenon in Athens, Greece.

Susan Lapping, formerly of Watertown, remembers to bring her "Boston Rocks" issue when she travels halfway around the world to Marlborough Wine Country on New Zealand's South Island.

Sidney and John, operators of Kit Kat Lagoon Cruises on One Foot Island, near Aituaki in the Cook Islands, pose with Diane Krebun. Yes, the giant clam is real.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:
Running in costume at the Bay to Breakers in San Fransico, one of the largest foot races in the world.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116. Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail and photo location. All photos become property of *The Improper Bostonian Magazine* and will not be returned.

CLASSIFIEDS

GENERAL CLASSIFIEDS

TAKE A TOUR
Stop just thinking about owning your own business! Take your first step & tour our Boston office! Prime territories are still avail. in Boston suburbs. Call to learn about an industry that's growing 20% annually, 617-742-8787, exit.225

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SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN

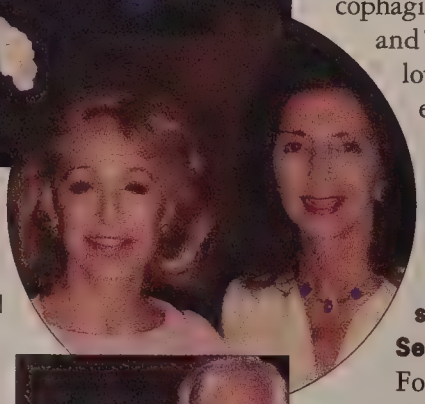
Last Scene Here

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Best of All, No "Charlie on the MTA"...

Those snappy, cracklin' **Boston Pops** opened their new season with a bang, as music-loving socialites crammed into **Symphony Hall** for cocktails, a picnic supper and a concert featuring impish maestro **Keith Lockhart**, 14-year-old violin prodigy **Byoung Jin Kang** and Tony award-winning song and dance man **Ben Vereen**.

Spotted in the audience: TV entertainment-atrix **Sara Edwards** and her colleague **Joyce Kulhawik**, affable blue-blood **Peabo Gardner**, the eternally fabulous **Jill Goldweitz**, former senatorial spouse and blonde bombshell **Joan Kennedy**, WCRB's red-hot morning mama **Laura Carlo** and her opera-singing spouse, **John Coelho** (just back from a stint at the Met), jazzman and hepcat **Ron della Chiesa** and the lovely **Joyce**, TV *éminence grise* **John Henning**, supermarket mogul **Avram Goldberg** and his business expert other half, **Carol**, party pair **Ellen** and **Robert Jaffe**, and event planner extraordinaire **Bryan Rafanelli**, to name a few.



At the opening of the Pops: (top to bottom): Keith Lockhart and the orchestra; Ellen and Robert Jaffe; Joan Kennedy and Stephanie Warburg; Joyce and Ron della Chiesa; and Laura Carlo and John Coelho.

For the finale, Lockhart & Co. launched into "The Stars and Stripes Forever," at which point white balloons bearing the logo of corporate sponsor Fidelity Investments cascaded down from the ceiling and were popped in a mad frenzy by the audience.

"Is this a bad omen that the stock market bubble's about to burst?" wondered one guest.

Meanwhile, in the "Touche!" Department, the following exchange was overheard in the lobby:

"I've been coming to Opening Night of the Pops since the days of Arthur Fiedler and Big Bird."

"That must make you feel geriatric."

"It does. But let's not forget that you're several years older than me."

Walk Like an Egyptian....

The first course wasn't Caesar Salad, and Latin singing sensation Marc Anthony didn't perform, but those missed opportunities aside, **Cleopatra's Ball** was still one hell of a party.

A fund-raiser for the **Boston Ballet**, it was held at the **Seaport Hotel** and attracted the likes of co-chairs **Linda Nickles** and **Debbie Swenson**, mega-philanthropists **John** and **Diddy Cullinane**, the ever-sparkly **Susan Poduska** (looking like the Queen of the Nile), board chair **Susan Friedman** (in a beaded headdress), gracious balletomane **Flossie Gerstein**, socialite **Sylvia Pope** and her father **Richard Thorndike** (decked out like sarcophagi in gold body paint), party pair **Joan** and **Ted Benard-Cutler**, the achingly lovely **Stephanie Warburg**, the über-elegant **Pam Humphrey**, Venezuelan painter **Raphael James-Branger** and the ever-affable **Eliot Wright**, fashionisti **Suzanne Frodigh** and **Gilbert Hickman** of Armani, brunette bombshell **Allison Bibbins**, TV personality **Toni Senecal**, and a cast of thousands.

Following cocktails and chit-chat, guests followed the Procession of the Non-Sectarian Gold Object upstairs to the ballroom, where dinner was served. For entertainment, members of the company mounted a spectacle worthy of Busby Berklee, complete with a sabre dance, toga-wearing go-go boys, gyrating mummies, and an appearance by Indiana Jones. As it turned out, the ominous warning printed in the program—"Please be prepared to leave the Plaza Ballroom at a moment's notice"—was merely a way of warning guests that they should follow the performers downstairs for the remainder of the performance, dessert and dancing.

The professional talent left some guests feeling intimidated when it came time to hit the dance floor. In the words of one self-effacing woman: "If you think I'm going to shake my fat ass in front of dancers from the Boston Ballet, you're dumber than you look."

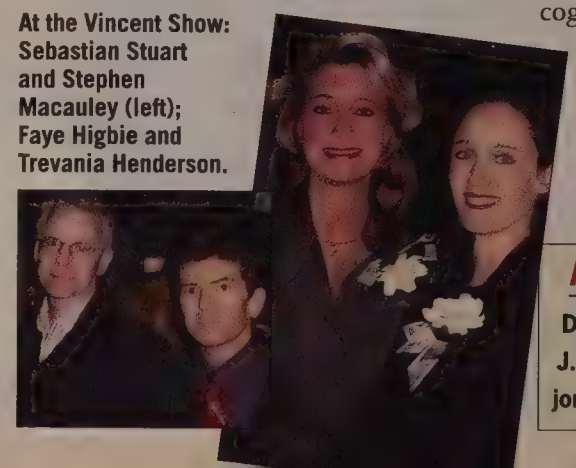
At Cleopatra's Ball above and left: Egyptian gods; Sabre dancers. Right from top: Diddy Cullinane and Richard and Cathy Taylor; Richard Thorndike and Sylvia Pope; Susan Poduska; sabre dancer; Pam Humphrey and Stephanie Warburg.

Shaken, Not Stirred...

Those blue-blooded do-gooders at the **Vincent Club** scored another coup with the 108th annual **Vincent Show** at the **Hasty Pudding Theater**.

One of the last remaining bastions of Brahminism, the club raises money for the Vincent Memorial Hospital at MGH, and this year's show was a *James Bond* spoof, titled *00-Vincent, License to Thrill, Dressed to Kill*. Imagine a group of well-bred Junior Leaguers behaving like Vegas showgirls for the evening, and you begin to get the idea.

Spotted in the audience on opening night: social stalwarts **Cokie** and **Lee Perry**, arts patron **Trevania Henderson**, Chestnut Hillion **Lenore Gustafson**, mastachio'd muchacho **Juan Prieto** (there to cheer on stockbroker/can-can girl **Caroline Coco**), the lovely **Molly Crowe** and Thurston Howell III lookalike **Bob** (whose daughter, **Caitlin**, was in the show), white-hot novelists **Stephen Macauley** and **Sebastian Stuart**, eminent eye doctor **Macy Finkelstein** and her fiancé **Robert Himmel**, artist and tennis ace **Ann Fitzpatrick**, club-member **Carla Cabot** (who manned the box office), and one man who left the theater saying, "There was a lot more sexual innuendo than I expected, but I'm still disappointed that no one mentioned Pussy Galore."



At the Vincent Show: Sebastian Stuart and Stephen Macauley (left); Faye Higbie and Trevania Henderson.

What's the Buzz...

Mazel tov to comedic genius **Ryan Landry**, whose pee-in-your-pants funny musical, ***Joan of Arkansas***, enjoyed a sold-out run at **Machine**. The play, ostensibly about a group of backwoods lesbians feuding over the deed to a mountain, includes references to ex-gay ministries, Joan of Ark and the *Muppet Show*, and attracted all the cognoscenti from Boston's theater and gay scenes. If you missed it, you'll find yourself feeling left out at cocktail parties in the South End and Provincetown in the coming months. Just remember to laugh real hard at any reference to "Chicken in a Can." IB

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EDITED BY MARY NOBILE KING

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE

letters

A Run for His Money

Having read Ezra's last column on the atrocities of locker-room nudity and the conspicuous lack of gonad concealment, I was moved to tears. On the outside, I was laughing so hard my lacrimals were secreting large quantities of saline (while my abdominals joined together in six-pack formation) but on the inside, my heart was sobbing lugubriously.

My new gym, like yours, is a place where liberated persons burn their sports bras in metaphorical bonfires and, free of the constraints of clothing, expose more epithilial epidermis than one would care to see. The locker-room itself, a stronghold of Queen Penthesilea and her pack of bare-breasted Amazonian warrior princesses, is a shrine to the unclad.

Not only do the aforementioned flaunt their mammary glands along with other quaint regions of their anatomy at innocent bystanders such as yours truly (a recent college alumnai working in the Longwood area), who merely enters the locker-room in search of a refreshing shower and (perhaps) a quick flexing session in front of the mirror (over which a phenomenal lighting arrangement accentuates even the smallest of myoblasts.

Thus, one's anterior deltoids throw an oblong shadow over one's upper biceps, instilling a feeling of pride and satisfaction in the deep reaches of one's ventricles and offer some some compensation for those interminable hours on one of Creation's most evil inventions after *Alley McBeal* the Stairmaster 2000). They also prance, hop, and caper, while speaking to fellow members of the nudist persuasion, seemingly unconscious of a dearth of undergarments and other clothing paraphernalia on their persons. As one tries to peacefully dry one's hair with the hand blower, hordes of naked women stand in front of the mirror, scrutinizing their bare bodies and throwing looks of disapproval at their neighbors.

They also make unwarranted (though impressive) displays of fascinating tattoo designs where the sun may not shine, but the harmful UV rays of private tanning salons certainly do.

In short, I know exactly where you are coming from and I say to you, "Don't let the Metamucil chewers and their respective genitalia scare you away." Let us persevere in our quest for "intense muscle striation" and in the end, we shall bring the shining light of Hanes underwear into the proverbial darkness of locker-rooms the world over.

MAAYAN
Via e-mail

Summer Stock

I did a double-take when I saw the cover of your last issue ["Summer Fun"]. I am an avid reader of the magzine and I usually keep every issue. I was surprised to see practically the same cover as last year. Why not mix it up a bit and change your look every once in a while? Maybe run a (half-clad) man for a change—or a (perhaps same-gendered) couple? Anything but another thin leggy models! Enough already. Come on guys, get a bit more creative.

HAL SANT'LOGRIO
Via e-mail

I was worried for you when I saw that the *Phoenix* was going to be free. But when I picked up your summer issue and saw how far you've come in recent months, I realized that you are in another category all together. Just promise your readers you don't go *Boston Magazine* on us and start charging us now. Keep it up!

ALISON PURDY
Arlington

Well-wired

I've been reading with much interest the Internet columns by Geoffrey James, and I felt it was time I wrote and congratulated you for this addition to your magazine. To someone like myself, who is interested, but not well-schooled, in these issues, Mr. James' voice is a refreshing one—he does not kowtow to corporate ideology and is decidedly humane and sensitive to issues which involve the Internet and everyman. His most recent column on the willingness of "entrepreneurs" to make a quick buck without looking past the dollar sign was both chilling and eye-opening—as was the column about the Y2K "crash" prognosticators.

It's great to see someone actively taking a stand against unquestioningly following the dictates of these moguls/"experts," or taking their "predictions" as fact. Incredibly, people are currently so paranoid about the Internet and all of its influence that when people like Capers Jones say "jump," everyone simply asks "off what building?" Thanks for getting your magazine, as well as the rest of us up to speed on the information superhighway. Now when can we all expect to see the IMPROPER Web site up and running, anyway?

JOE SEDUKIS
Via email

"Incredibly, people are currently so paranoid about the Internet and all of its influence that when people like Capers Jones say "jump," everyone simply asks, "off what building?"

—Joe Sedukis
Via email

Corrections

Adam Gibbons should have been credited as the photographer of Mr. Lif, pictured on page 36 of May 17's "Summer Fun" issue.

Because of reporting and editing errors, the nature of a recent Muddy River rally was mis-characterized in the May 2-16 issue ("Pride and Preservation: the Heated Battles Behind Olmsted's Emerald Necklace").

Irene Gillis arranged to have a cow stand in Boston Common for a rally stressing the history and importance of the river for Boston and Brookline. Two Greenpeace volunteers dressed up as "cows" to show how cattle had been driven from Brookline pastures down the Muddy to Boston Common. At the rally, then-state Senator Jack Backman and then-City Councillor David Scondras spoke about the importance of the river, its history and its polluted state. At no time during or before the rally did Ms. Gillis "drive" a cow, as THE IMPROPER mistakenly reported.

Brendan Donovan, in the picture on page 24, is a member of Restore Olmsted's Waterway (ROW), but is not on its board of directors.

Tell Us What You Think

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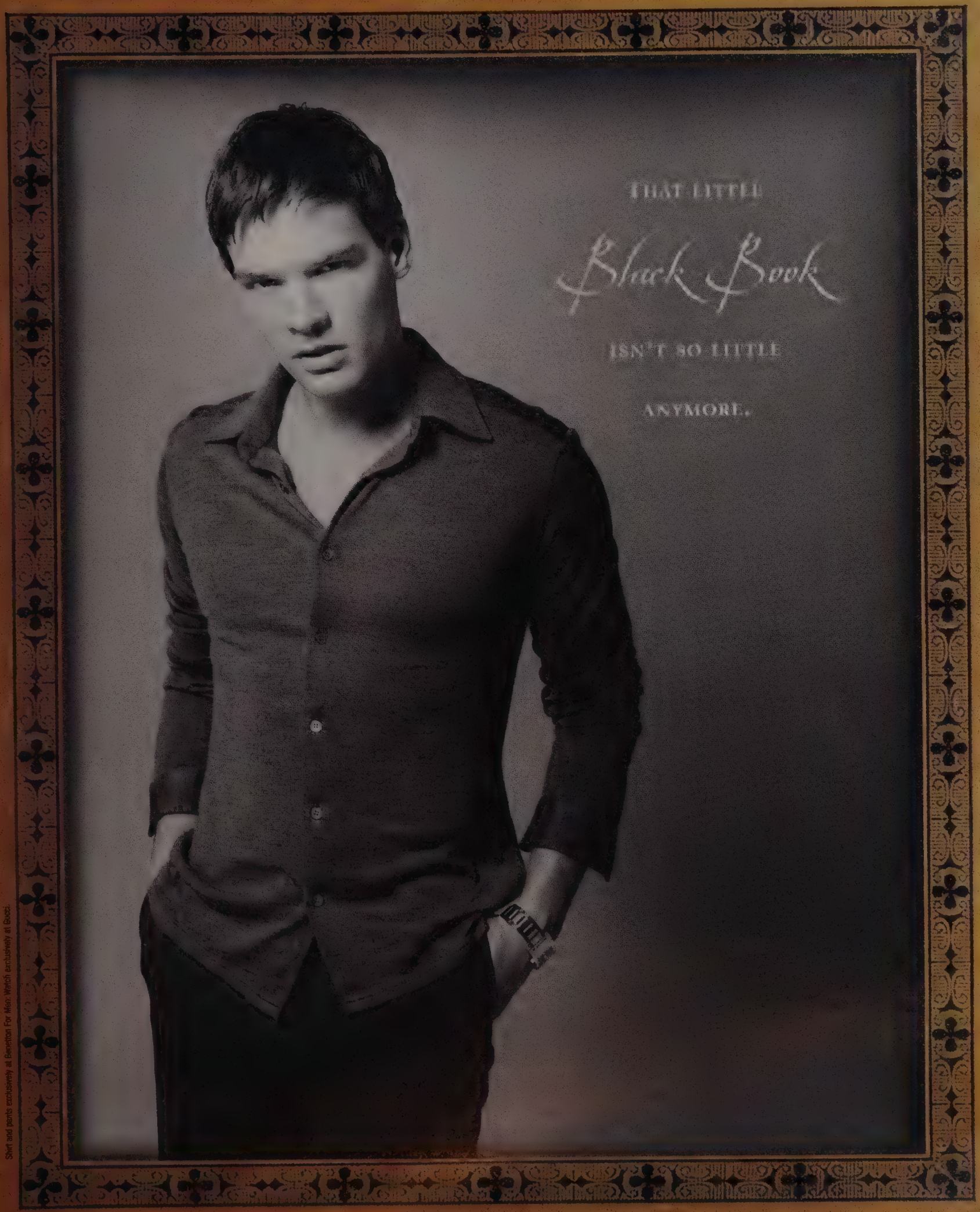

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IMPROPERSPEAKING

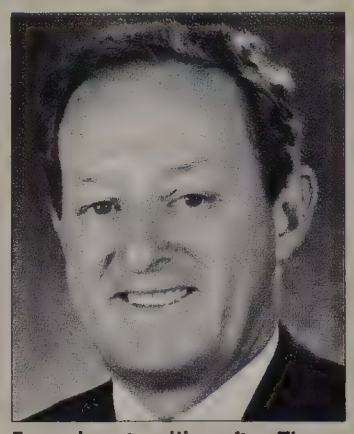
FATAL ERROR

A recent *Boston Globe* Editor's note was more intriguing than many news stories. It followed the *Globe*'s story on Police Sgt. **Michael O'Rourke's** death. The 17-year-veteran died in a single-car crash. B.P.D. Commissioner **Paul Evans** phoned a *Globe* bigshot to say O'Rourke had suffered a heart attack. No scandal, just tragedy. That information apparently did not reach reporter **Jamal Watson.** Watson wrote a tiny story. City Editor **Joe Williams** told Watson to write longer, and remind readers that O'Rourke was accused, and acquitted, in a 1991 hit-and-run accident. Williams left the office. Watson worked. Story ran. All hell broke loose. The *Globe* was flooded with angry callers who wanted to know why the paper couldn't have let O'Rourke rest in peace. An inquisition was held for Watson. But once his side of the story was heard, it seems management quickly lost interest in assigning blame. A formal apology were sent to O'Rourke's family, from the paper. The *Globe's* ombudsman **Jack Thomas** did a fine job of telling readers how it all went wrong. The end. (Unless you consider all those subscriptions cancelled by the boys in blue.)

For the record

■ **Editor's note:** A story in Saturday's Metro/Region section about the death on Thursday of Boston Police Sergeant Michael J. O'Rourke focused inappropriately and at unnecessary length on a nine-year-old chapter in the deceased's life: charges stemming from a hit-and-run death on Boylston Street in Boston in 1991 of which he was acquitted. A heart attack was given as the cause of death of Sergeant O'Rourke, whose car struck a wrought-iron fence on Dorchester Street in South Boston. He was 43 and had served on the Boston police force for 17 years. An obituary is on Page C11.

■ **Correction:** Because of a reporting error, Webs

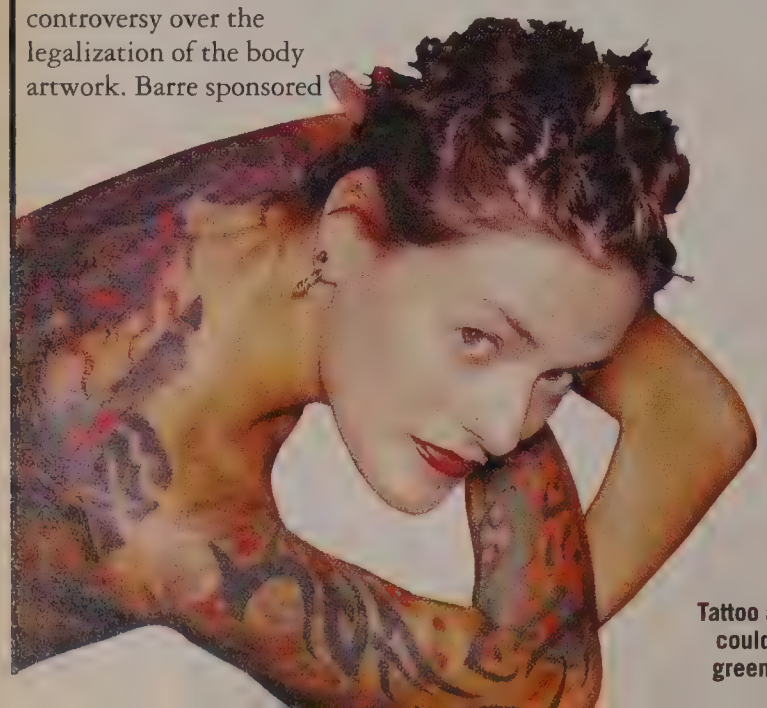


Evans is not smiling after *The Boston Globe* mishandled a story on officer's death.

TATTOOS HEAD FOR HOUSE VOTE

When someone mentions tattoos, Attorney General **Tom Reilly's** name isn't the first that comes to mind. And State Rep. **David Tuttle** (R-Barre) would also be a reach. But these two guys are wrapped up in controversy over the legalization of the body artwork. Barre sponsored a bill in favor of lifting the ban on tattoos, and it's making its way toward a full vote in the House. Reilly's office is on the record saying that is the worst idea they have heard since someone suggested Reilly should car pool with **Lois Pines**.

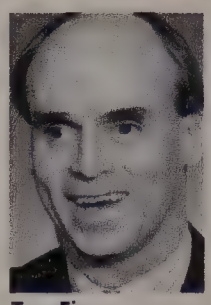
Health care workers know Hepatitis-C is the fastest growing virulogical epidemic in the western hemisphere today. And the most likely transmitters of Hep-C are are unclean needles used for body piercing. Tuttle declined to comment. But Reilly doesn't lke anyone else changing his laws. (No matter what you hipsters at the Deli Haus say.)



Tattoo artists could get a green light.

GENTLEMEN, START YOUR ENGINES

For those who haven't noticed, former state and national Democratic Party Chairman **Steve Grossman's** announcement earlier this month that he was starting an exploratory committee for a 2002 gubernatorial campaign marks the starting line for the party's Democratic nomination for the 2002 election. Now the fun starts. But other corner office aspirants, such as Senate President **Tom Birmingham** and House President **Tom Finneran**, won't have much free time this summer if they meet for their annual dysfunctional dance over the state's budget.



Tom Finneran

LESS BANK FOR YOUR BUCK

Once upon a time, we were told that large corporations gobbling each other up created "synergy" and "greater efficiency," and lots of smiling bank tellers. But an IMPROPER friend shared his recollection of a recent experience following the **Fleet** and **BankBoston** merger:

"Our corporate credit card account is through Fleet. Last month Fleet moved its credit card processing center from Oklahoma to Delaware in preparation for their big merger. Since the move, I have been having trouble getting requests processed." Our friend reported this to a customer service representative. Her response, he said, made his jaw drop. Our friend heard: "Well, we are a bigger bank now, you can not expect us to be as efficient as we were." That would make a great slogan for the new outfit.

Suffolk University dismissed Swift. Now if she would only leave her post on Beacon Hill.

NOT SO SWIFT

One has to wonder how much more south Lt. Gov. **Jane Swift** can slide before she disappears from the world atlas. Her latest adventure was a dismissal from the **Suffolk University** law faculty. That means there is an opening for a $25,000-per-semester stint. And only three students! To fill Swift's shoes, you need to be mediocre at your day job but full of unbridled ambition.

BRAIN DRAIN

The *Boston Globe* has been losing top talent at an alarming rate for the last nine months, but the latest departure calls for us to stop the presses. Thirty-one-year veteran medical editor **Richard Knox** will leave the Globe June 16th to become senior science correspondent for National Public Radio. Knox will be based in Boston."I've loved working at the *Globe*," Knox told THE IMPROPER. "But this was too much to pass up. It's a new medium. I love radio. It's an opportunity to be much more intimate with an audience than you can be in print." We're happy for Knox, and for NPR, but the recent brain drain has us worried. Investigative reporter **Daniel Golden** left nine months back. He landed at the *Wall Street Journal.* He was followed by a handful of regular writers, from various sections—Business, Metro-Region and the Washington Bureau. Why can't the Globe keep reporters as long as they used to? Remember the days when our *Globe* reporters signed on for life? Does this mean we need to make yet another plea to former editor **Tom Winship** for help? iB

Speaking of Boston

Got an inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to speaking@improper.com

THE KERRY QUESTION

Don't leave us, John!

The recent speculation about U.S. Sen. **John Kerry** possibly ascending to the number two spot on the Democratic presidential ticket behind presumptive nominee **Al Gore** raises intriguing possibilities on the local scene.

Were a Gore-Kerry ticket to win come November, that would leave Massachusetts short one senator in Washington. The only person with the power to fill that vacant position on an interim basis is the governor of of the state with the vacant senator. He can name anyone he wants—including himself. So we're looking at the possibility of **Paul Cellucci** choosing himself to fill Kerry's seat next fall. (Chances are, he will be looking for something to do.) But wait, where does that leave us? Uh-oh. Jane Not-so-swift as the state's chief executive? Just when we thought it couldn't get worse.

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New in Town

CREPES—TRES CHIC!

The sight of a few Somervillians strolling through Davis Square eating hot crepes on a recent Saturday was enough to bring loads of hungry locals to **Mr. Crepe**, the new Davis Square cafe owned by Redha Betrouni. "There were so many people on the first day, we had to turn some away," says Betrouni, who prepares the paper-thin pancakes filled with sliced apples, brie, blueberries and more. Betrouni uses a secret recipe, a thicker batter than most, with 50 fillings from which to choose. The Holland Ave. creperie, which opened May 15, is riding the crest of Boston's crepe craze. Fine diners across the city are scrambling to find the right recipe, or restaurant, for the consummate crepe. We found mouth-watering samples at **Le Gamin Cafe** in the South End and Harvard Square's **One Arrow Street Crepes.**

"People are going back to the classics," explains Williams-Sonoma store manager Andrew Tidd. "Last fall, it was fondue. This spring it's crepes." So next summer these any-time-of-day treats might be passé?

After all, we remember Faneuil Hall's Magic Pan, the '80s hot spot that closed when fickle Bostonians decided their love affair with crepes had only been a crush.This time, we hope it's the real thing. *Mr. Crepe, 83 Holland St., Somerville (628-1500).*

This Just In

EASY GIVING

Sure, you can spend your weekend allowance sipping gin-and-tonics and wondering what the poor people are doing. Or you can sit home alone and try to take solace in knowing that you made a charitable contribution to those less fortunate than you. Before you mull those choices, there is an option that allows you to feel good and do good at the same time.

Just jump online and search for *www.charityamerica.com* for a list of celebrations hosted by any of 150 participating organizations.

These parties allow you to make charitable contributions of money or time while you mingle and mix. On this Web site, you can click on the Event Causeway for a list of black-tie galas. Search the Volunteer Causeway for opportunities to spend time painting houses or planting gardens. (As your mother says, you never know whom you might meet.) And you can even donate that ragged sofa, the one filled with memories of your old girlfriend, to a shelter in need. It will get picked up quicker than you ever did.

Full Service

BUYING POWER

We did a double-take when two shiny, new pieces of plastic landed on our desk last week. One was the BostonVIP card (*www.bostonvipcard.com*), the other the Nightlife Express VIP card (*www.vipcards.com*). If you've seen one VIP card, haven't you seen them all?

"No!" was the emphatic answer we received from our less-than-objective judge, Scott Marder, creator of the 3-month-old BostonVIP card. "Our card gets you VIP savings and benefits—up to 75 percent off—at restaurants, stores, nightclubs and other attractions and services," explains Marder. All that for a low, low price of $25. The veteran VIP card, Nightlife Express Card, debuted four years back. It costs $79 (prorated) and provides the cardholder and a guest with free admission and front-of-the-line privileges to more than 100 nightclubs. (No, we don't know what happens when everyone in line has a VIP card.) *BostonVIP (569-4301) and Nightlife Express (888-567-8477).*

Around Town

WHAT ONCE WAS STILL WILL BE, WILL BE

A good thrift store or antique shop is known as much for its no-pressure sales team as it is for its endless supply of things that you never realized you needed until now.

But the vintage store **What Once Was** has another selling point: late-night shopping hours that make it feel more like a house party than a warehouse for vintage clothing, vinyl chairs, and one-of-a-kind coat racks.

"We're always running late," says owner Kristine Bollinger. "We never seem to get out of here before 10:30pm. The late hours are getting a lot of response so far, and we're excited to let our Brighton Ave. customers know what happened to us."

What happened was the store recently moved to Inman Square from the Allston home it kept for eight years. With its bags of clothing and boxes of trinkets, the shop is a great fit for those who like to spend time sorting through tons of stuff to discover that hot little number, perhaps a purple suede dress with a fringe hemline. We stopped by around 10pm and the place was swinging with buyers and browsers. Bollinger is still setting up shop, stuffing clothing, furniture and jewelry into the cozy new address. The shop opens at 2pm. *Tue.-Sun. 159 Hampshire St. Cambridge (441-5444).*

DAVIS SQUARE: ELIZABETH MARKEL ; BRANDA, WENDY MINDAN, THRIFT STORE, JOHN BOSWORTH

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Proper Bostonians

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

Celebrating the Treasures of the Boston Public Library Spring Gala 2000 was held at the historic library in Copley Square May 12. More than 800 business, political and community leaders gathered to honor Mayor Thomas Menino, who was the recipient of the Washington Medal. Menino received the award for his continued support to preserve the library's mission to be free and accessible to all. This year, the foundation sponsored an after-hours event for the city's young professionals, which included cocktails, dessert and dancing to the party band, Eye to Eye. More than $1.5 million was raised at the $1,500-per-ticket event.

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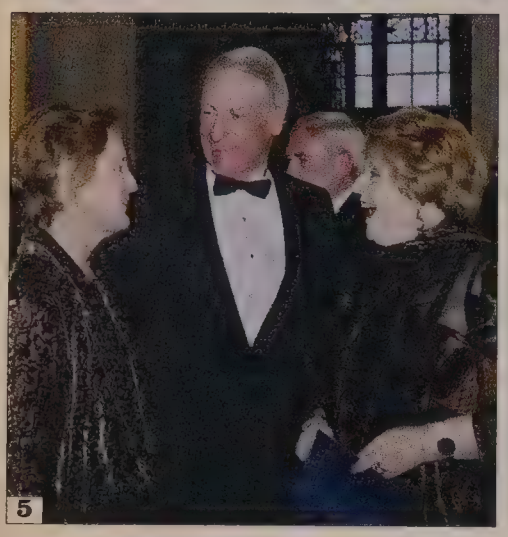
1. **David D'Alessandro**, president of John Hancock, with his wife, **Jeanette**.
2. **Brad Griffith**, president of Legget McCall Properties, and his wife, **Patty**.
3. **Sean Mullaney**, executive vice president of Zefer Corp., with his wife, **Stacy**, an attorney for FleetBoston.
4. From left, **Bernie Margolis**, president of the Boston Public Library, and his wife, **Amanda Batey**, with **Karyn Wilson**, marketing director for the Zefer Corp., and her husband, **Miles Byrne**, manager of the Harbor Point Apartments in Dorchester.
5. From left, **Kathryn Hamil**, her husband, **John**, former president of Fleet Bank and current chairman and CEO of Sovereign Bank New England, and **Rosalie Cohen**, board member of the FleetBoston Celebrity Series.
6. From left, **Robert Pozen**, president and CEO of Fidelity Management Co. and co-chair of the event, and his wife, **Liz**, with **Larry Fish**, chairman, president and CEO of Citizens Bank, and his wife, **Atsuko**.
7. **Missy** and **Marshall Carter**, chairman of State Street Bank.
8. **Mary** and **William M. Bulger**, president of University of Massachusetts.
9. **Selma Botman**, vice president for academic affairs at UMass, with her husband, Senate president **Tom Birmingham**.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The 19th annual **EVVY Awards** ceremony was held May 13 in the Emerson Majestic Theatre. Modeled after the Oscars and Emmys, the EVVY Awards program is the country's largest awards show for student-produced works. It highlights superior student achievement in writing, photography, TV, film and production. Radio talk-show host David Brudnoy was honored with the John C. Zacharis Memorial Award.

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10. **David Brudnoy** (l), host of *The David Brudnoy Show* on WBZ radio, and **Mike Garrity**, Emerson student and organizer of the event.
11. **Alec Chuany**, post producer of MTV's *Fanatic* show, and **Rex Trailor**, owner of RTV Productions and assistant professor at Emerson college.
12. From left, **Cha-Chi LoPrete**, marketing and promotions director at WBCN 104.1 FM, and **Cynthia Wachs**, senior vice president of strategic planning and partnerships at the Share Group in Somerville, with her husband, **Joshua**, CTO of Circle.com.

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UPCOMING 2000 AUCTIONS

JUNE 2000

20TH CENTURY FURNITURE & DECORATIVE ARTS including Glass, Lamps, Pottery and Metalwork from the Art Nouveau, Arts & Crafts, Art Deco & Modern Movements
June 3, 11 a.m. - Boston

AMERICAN FURNITURE & DECORATIVE ARTS
June 11, 11 a.m. - Bolton

FINE JEWELRY
June 13, 12 noon - Boston

DISCOVERY
June 22, 7 p.m. - Bolton
June 23, 10 a.m. - Bolton

ASIAN WORKS OF ART
June 24, 11 a.m. - Boston

JULY 2000

TOYS & DOLLS
July 8, 10 a.m. - Bolton

ENGLISH & CONTINENTAL FURNITURE & DECORATIONS
July 15, 11 a.m. - Boston

JULY 2000 *continued*

THE STUDIO AUCTION
July 20, 7 p.m. - Bolton

DISCOVERY
July 27, 7 p.m. - Bolton
July 28, 10 a.m. - Bolton

AUGUST 2000

AMERICAN FURNITURE & DECORATIVE ARTS
August 13, 11 a.m. - Bolton

DISCOVERY
August 24, 7 p.m. - Bolton
August 25, 10 a.m. - Bolton

SEPTEMBER 2000

FINE JEWELRY
September 12, 12 noon - Boston

COUTURE, DESIGNER CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES
September 14, 7 p.m. - Boston

DISCOVERY
September 14, 7 p.m. - Bolton
September 15, 10 a.m. - Bolton

AMERICAN & EUROPEAN PAINTINGS & PRINTS
September 22, 4 p.m.,Prints and Photography, 7 p.m., Paintings - Boston

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DOT-COM FEVER

Everyone and his brother is hoping to hit it big in the high-tech world.

All my friends are working for dot-com companies. I'm not complaining, but I used to enjoy having pals who weren't high tech. Gone are the days when I was the only guy in the crowd who knew about the Web. Friends who two years ago didn't know their ISP from their elbow are so far into the dot-com scene that I'm almost beginning to feel left out.

Take my buddy Larry Jacobs, for example. Though he has a master's degree in education and has had a variety of management positions, he's now the lead sales guy at a Groton-based company called WebPresence, which is selling Web services to the radio industry. When Larry worked for a traditional media firm, I could call him basically anytime and he'd be willing to shoot the bull for an hour or so. Not anymore. Larry is so busy making deals that he simply hasn't got the time to chat. If I didn't do a radio show with the guy, I doubt if I'd ever get the chance to talk to him.

Once they get the dot-com bug, most of my friends get addicted to the hectic pace. Rather than looking for a sane and stable job, they hop from firm to firm, looking for the one that will make them millionaires. In a way, I hope that they don't succeed, if only for selfish reasons. My one friend who did make it big stopped returning my calls, although that might be because I got sloshed on a $200 bottle of wine that she bought and accidentally drank out of her husband's glass.

The quest for financial freedom isn't always a bed of roses, though. One of my friends ended up working for a Web infrastructure firm in Tyngsboro. "When the investors wanted to install a more experienced CEO, the founder went nuts," she explained. "He ranted and raved, smashed pictures off the wall, and called employees in the middle of the night to see which side they were on…" Now she's with a different firm, staffed by ex-employees who want to work somewhere that's more sane. "It's still a lot of hard work," she admits, "but at least we don't have to put up with temper tantrums."

I've got other friends who've been burnt. Ted Larsen, who used to be a WBZ radio news reader, went to work for an Internet media firm in Florida. They paid him top dollar and sent him on great business trips, but the company evidently had a burn rate that quickly consumed its working capital. Now Ted's back in Boston, none the worse for the wear. Luckily, he's still in high demand and has had no trouble finding another good job, so he has no regrets. "I had a great time and met a lot of interesting people," he says.

One thing is for certain—once the dot-com bug bites you, you're likely to get hooked for life. I can think of only one friend, Jim O'Leary, who's gone back to a normal job. He's an excellent attorney who started his own Web editing firm. But personnel problems—that bane of the small company—bit him in the proverbial backside, and now he's working for the state government. "It's nice to have some job security," he says. "The work is interesting and not nearly as hectic."

Another one of my dot-com friends is Joseph Ferlazzo, director of corporate strategy at Andover-based CMGI Inc., a company that has become a prolific investor in the future of the Internet. Ferlazzo, who knows far more about high-tech business than I do, assesses the potential of Internet firms. I asked him what people should look for in a dot-com firm if they're looking to work there. Here's his advice:

- If you don't like the people or the work environment, don't join up. You'll be working for long hours and it can be hell if you're not compatible with the culture.
- Make sure that the company isn't just a bunch of concepts. If you can't get to a level of detail about the product that's actually being sold, you're wasting your time.
- Insist on seeing the business plan. Walk away if they won't show it to you. The company should have a revenue stream and a date when the company will be profitable. And there should be enough funding in place so that the firm won't run out of cash before it reaches that point.
- Don't count your millions before they hatch. The time is gone when you could count on making a bundle on the IPO, because the market is forcing Internet companies to adhere to the same business principles as traditional brick-and-mortar firms.

Not likely to change, however, are the long hours that are the hallmark of the dot-com world. Ferlazzo, for example, is working 12-hour workdays and barely has time to see his lovely wife. In fact, the more I think about it, the more I think I'm just going to keep writing freelance. My uncle once told me that the ultimate sign of success is when you can take a nap whenever you want. And, speaking of naps, it's about time for mine. Ciao. iB

Joseph Ferlazzo, director of corporate strategy at CMGI, is all too familiar with the long hours that are the hallmark of the dot-com world.

Geoffrey James (*www.geoffreyjames.com*) co-hosts *Funny Business*, heard Saturdays, 10pm-12am on WRKO, AM 680.

STEVEN PHILLIPS

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Soroff/On

Hillary B. Smith

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Soap opera diva Hillary B. Smith, who plays attorney Nora Buchanan on ABC's *One Life to Live*, was born in Boston and raised in Palm Beach. At 14, she returned to this area to attend the Dana Hall School in Wellesley. While there, she interned with a geneticist at the New England Medical Center and then attended Pine Manor College in Chestnut Hill, transferring to Sarah Lawrence College to study genetics and theater. While still a senior, she performed in the off-Broadway production of *Song Night in the City*. She has also appeared on Broadway in *A Real American Hero* and *The Heidi Chronicles*, as well as off-Broadway in Terrence McNally's *Lips Together, Teeth Apart*. Film credits include *Hair, Purple Hearts* and *Love Potion #9*, while her numerous jobs on television include a six-and-a-half-year stint playing policewoman Margo Hughes on *As the World Turns*. In 1994, she won the Daytime Emmy Award for outstanding lead actress, an honor for which she was nominated again this year. Still married to a man she met at age 14, she has two children and lives in New Jersey.

Jonathan Soroff: *What's the worst thing that ever happened to Nora?*

Hillary B. Smith: (Laughs.) I'd say probably the brain tumor that left me blind while I was being stalked by a rapist.

JS: *Wow. Ever worry that every time you see a script where you get a headache, you're about to be written off the show?*

HS: No; I already had my brain tumor and survived it.

JS: *Ever confuse something that happened to your character on the show with something that happened in real life?*

HS: I confuse everything all the time, so yeah. But not brain tumors.

JS: *Ever get mistaken for Patti Lupone?*

HS: Only by her.

JS: *You do bear a certain resemblance. Ever heard that before?*

HS: No. I get mistaken for Julia Roberts a lot, and I never correct people when it happens.

JS: *Strangest experience with a fan?*

HS: One grabbed onto me while I was walking across the tarmac to board a plane. She had to be physically removed. I'd also been sitting down having lunch with someone and a fan just pulled up a chair and joined us.

JS: *You already have one Emmy, but you're nominated for another. Are you doing anything superstitious to help your chances?*

HS: Lots. I'm not writing a speech, cause that's a jinx. I've already figured out who I want to win and who will win, to ease the disappointment.

JS: *Speaking of which, did you ask Susan Lucci the things she did, so you could avoid doing them?*

HS: (Laughs.) No.

JS: *More importantly, what are you gonna wear?*

HS: A Donald Deal dress. He's absolutely spectacular. Oprah Winfrey tackled me last year as I was walking back to my seat, asking "Who dressed you?"

JS: *My friends say your soap opera name is your middle name combined with the street you grew up on, so mine's Andrew Hobart. What's yours?*

HS: That's great! Mine would be Converse North Lake Way.

JS: *Not too good, unless you were one of those British people with lots of hyphens.*

HS: Y'know, on the show, my character's name is Nora Hannon Gannon Buchanan, so anything's an improvement.

JS: *You met your husband when you were 14, which is something straight off a soap. Do you have a soap opera marriage?*

HS: No. We have a fairy tale marriage.

JS: *What's the strangest thing you've ever read about yourself in a tabloid or* Soap Opera Digest?

HS: When I left *As the World Turns*, *Star* magazine reported that I was moving to California without my husband and children. My mother called, very concerned. I told her it wasn't true, and she said, "Well, it's in the *Star*."

JS: *Soap operas always have people suffering bizarre maladies like amnesia.*

HS: I know! I'm dying for amnesia. I would kill for amnesia. Actually, I get temporary amnesia whenever it's useful.

JS: *Ever actually meet someone who had it?*

HS: Yes. I did a pilot for the Lifetime network about a woman who had been beaten so senseless by a student that she couldn't remember how to walk or read. She couldn't remember her husband or her children. Her husband and kids stood by her, even though she told them, "Y'know, you can leave, because I don't remember anything."

JS: *You're not a lawyer, but you play one on TV. Do you use that in real life when it suits you?*

HS: Yeah, like when a cab driver doesn't want to take me to the airport and I'm already in the cab. It does come in handy, to just start spewing legal jargon. You don't need to know what you're talking about, as long as the words are polysyllabic.

JS: *I'm pretty sure that's what the bar exam is all about. Now you studied genetics. What do you think of those people in England who are trying to profit by unscrambling the human genetic code and patenting it?*

ANDREW ECCLES

HS: Well, what precisely are they trying to patent?

JS: *I don't know. I'm asking a question I don't really understand.*

HS: So basically I just blew you out of the water because I play a lawyer on TV. But I've also played a doctor, and a cop, so you're under arrest for the misuse of medical terminology.

JS: *I plead no contest. On* As the World Turns, *your real son played your fictional son?*

HS: Yup. I'd left the show because I wanted to spend more time with my kids. When they asked me to come back, I asked if I could have him with me. So I came back after supposedly giving birth to this little monster on a Greek Isle with no anesthesia—yeah, right—and he played my son for 18 months. He was the best baby I've ever worked with. As a matter of fact, when I left the show, they asked if he could stay. They were not real upset about me leaving; it was him.

JS: *You went to Pine Manor, which people love to call Pine Mattress...*

HS: It's one of the best educations around. I went to Sarah Lawrence afterward, and I was overqualified for all the math and science courses because of what I learned at Pine Manor.

JS: *You also love word games. What's the best word you've ever used in Scrabble?*

HS: Y'know, I'd never played before, but Benjamin Hendrickson [Hal on *As the World Turns*] brought a board to the set once. He made the first word, and then I used all of my letters combined with a letter of his to make the word "quotient." I thought he was going to kill me.

JS: *Who are your fans?*

HS: I actually have a lot of prisoners who watch me. They write and ask me to take on their cases. It's hilarious. Prisoner number 754329 thinks I'm the nads.

JS: *You've done Broadway. Is it harder than TV?*

HS: No. I think TV's harder. You're getting new material every single day, and some of it is 40 to 60 pages of dialogue you have to memorize and some of it's done with people who don't know what they're doing. A play is creatively gratifying, but you're not struggling for the words.

JS: *How many male soap stars are secretly gay?*

HS: Well, if they're secretly gay, how in the world would I know?

JS: *What's the most ridiculous thing you've ever done on the soap?*

HS: Sleeping with a man to give my husband a baby because I thought he'd kill himself if I wasn't pregnant.

JS: *One last question: You look fab. What's your beauty secret?*

HS: I don't eat or drink anything. iB

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HOT

summer DINING

As the mercury rises, menus tend to shed a layer—and add some sizzle. Here's a sampling of what to expect. >>

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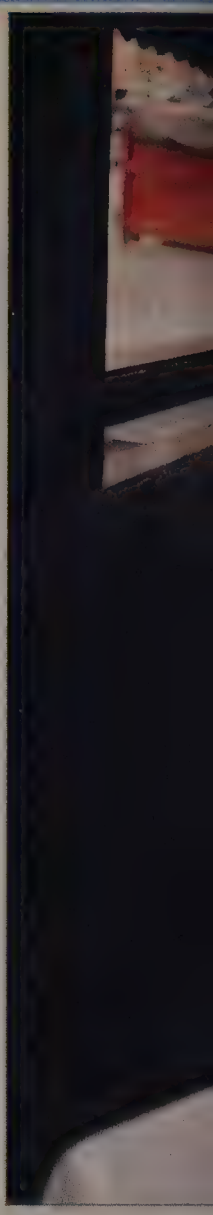
PHOTOGRAPH BY FURNALD/GRAY

SETTING THE Summer TABLE



Heaps of fresh produce, sizzling seasonal menus, Jasper White's newest culinary venture—and the city's latest epicurean hits and hotspots.

By Carolyn Faye Fox

Whether you lean toward a simple slice of watermelon or a sumptuous lobster with truffle butter, whether you're on a tight budget or have enough dot-com lucre to treat yourself to a shiny sports car and all the foie gras in New England, the city has much to offer tastebuds this time of year.

And in the spirit of summer—light, relaxed, taking nothing too seriously except what's on our plate—here's a preview of summer dining around town. There's plenty on the plate here: a couple hot new restaurants; chefs experimenting with New England's abundance of seasonal ingredients; the unveiling of lighter summer menus; and tips on where to find the most elegant and charming alfresco dining.

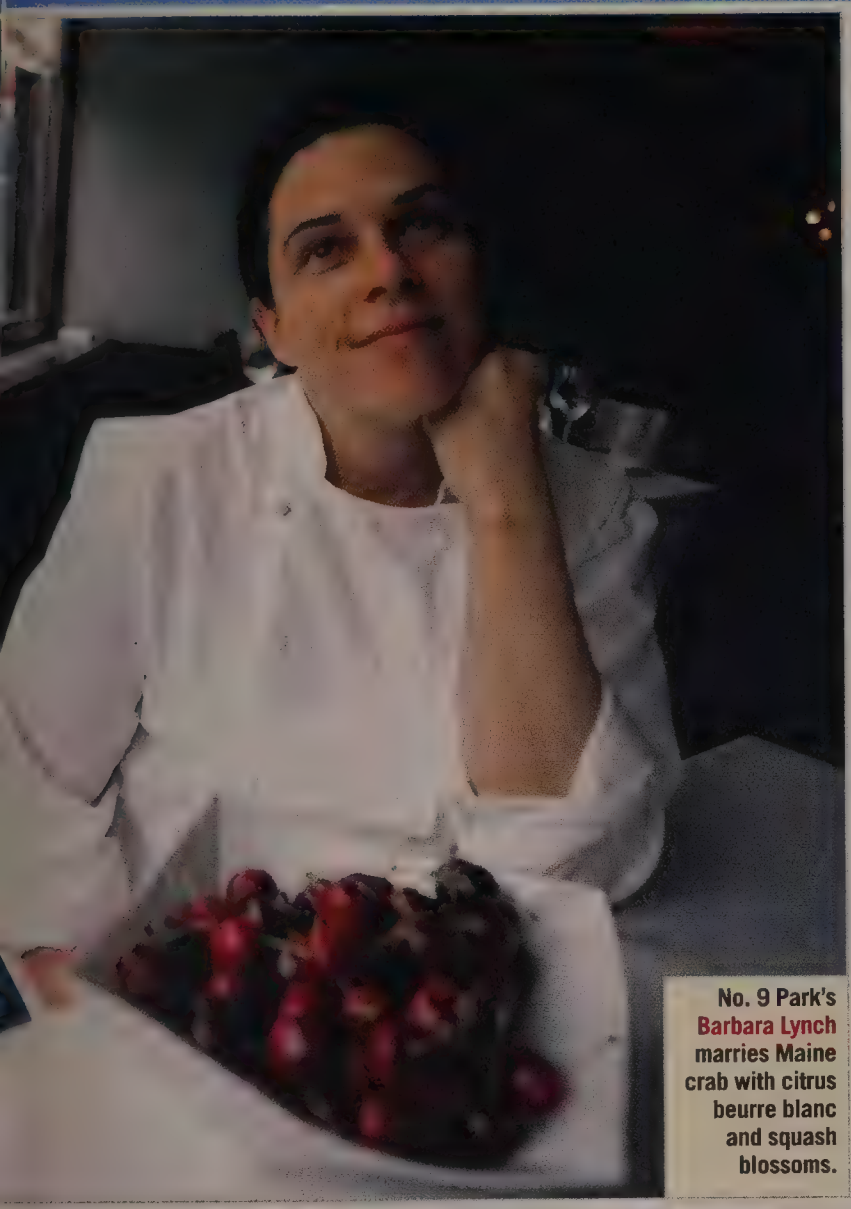
So here it goes—from tender baby lettuces to the hardshelled meaty lobsters, from plump native corn to briny-fresh Wellfleet oysters. The feast of culinary possibilities seems endless…at least until Labor Day rolls around.

ALEWIFE AQUARIUM?

The blockbuster of the summer is **Jasper White**'s latest project: **The Summer Shack** out in Alewife. The newly opened restaurant promises to be a year-round crowd-pleaser with its festive, almost campy, seaside theme and high gastronomic standards.

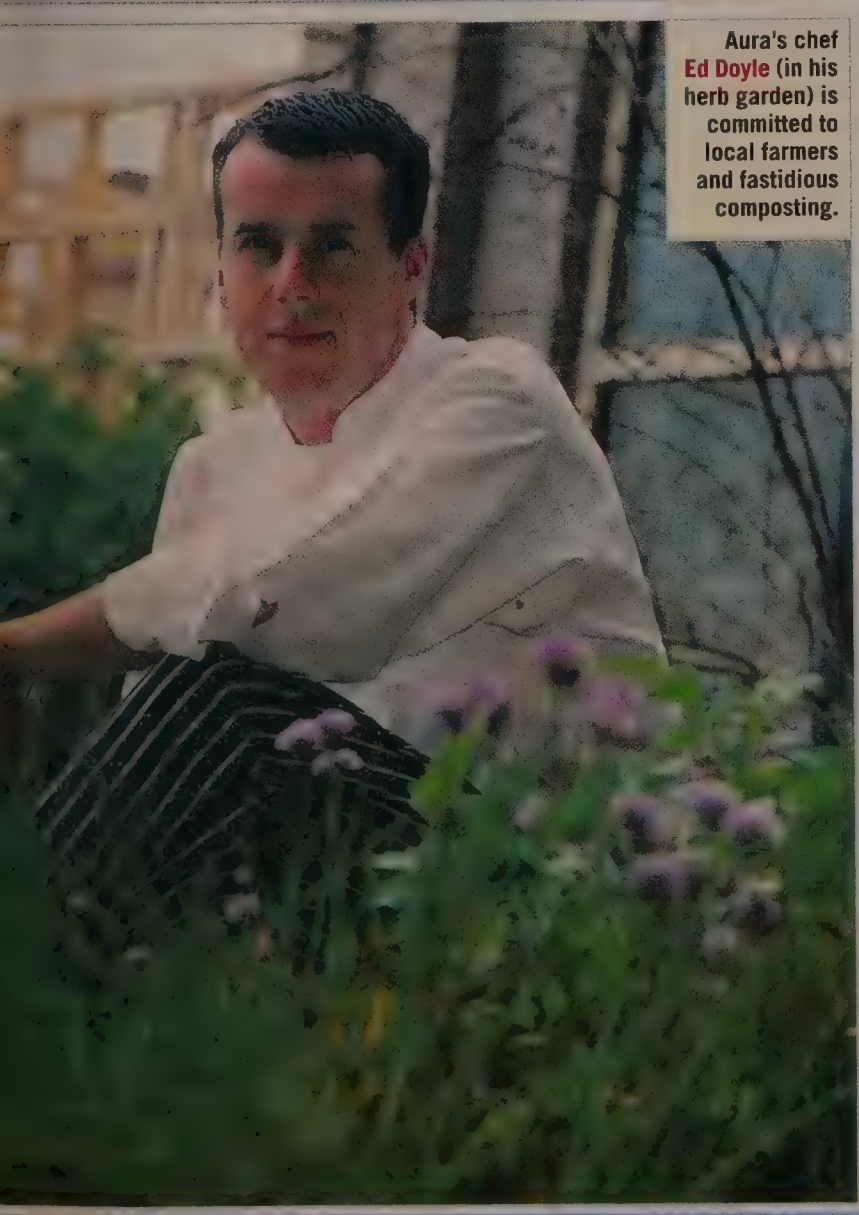
It's a huge place, seating 300 on two levels with booths, small tables and picnic tables. It also features two bars: a raw bar with a large communal table, and a lounge accessed by a separate entrance that offers live entertainment, cocktails and a full menu.

The main event, though, is a 1500-gallon lobster tank at the center of the restaurant that can accommodate up to 1,000 pounds of the luscious crustaceans. When a lobster's number is up, says White, a specially-designed pulley system lifts it from the tank and drops it into one of two custom 80-gallon steam kettles positioned along the kitchen "lobster line."



No. 9 Park's Barbara Lynch marries Maine crab with citrus beurre blanc and squash blossoms.

Local celeb chef Jasper White serves plenty of lobster at his festive new Summer Shack.



Aura's chef Ed Doyle (in his herb garden) is committed to local farmers and fastidious composting.

At Henrietta's Table in Cambridge, Peter Davis is the culinary king of fresh, organic produce.

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: BERTA A. DANIELS (2), STEVEN BILLUPS, COURTESY OF HENRIETTA'S TABLE

Dine alfresco at Sonsie and enjoy the ever-entertaining Newbury Street parade.

"We can cook 80 at a time!" says White, who says he's "totally in love with lobsters. I would never hurt one intentionally…if I wasn't going to eat it," he adds with a grin. At the Summer Shack, you can eat Lobster steamed, wood-grilled, wok-seared with ginger and scallions, baked and stuffed with shrimp, as part of a clambake or pan-roasted.

What you can't eat at the Summer Shack is a super-sized lobster. In the interest of sustaining the lobster population, White doesn't offer lobsters any bigger than three pounds. Not big enough? Hey, have two.

Or have a corn dog…yes, a corn dog. Because White wants his Summer Shack to have a "country fair" feel, the menu includes this Southern snack staple— but with a Jasper White upgrade. The hot dogs are specially developed by a local meatpacking company; the batter is made from scratch; and the result is "unbelievable," says White.

As for the rest of the expansive menu, it includes five types of chowders, one of which is a main-dish "crab meatball" chowder adapted from a turn-of-the-century San Francisco cookbook and included in White's upcoming chowder cookbook. Fried seafood ranges from calamari and skate wings to fish and chips and wood-grilled seafood. Lighter fare includes a Vietnamese shrimp and cabbage salad and braised haddock and mussel with leeks in a saffron broth. And for the kids, there's macaroni and cheese, burgers, alphabet soup, sasparilla float and fresh fruit snow cones. *149 Alewife Brook Parkway, Cambridge (520-9500). Lunch: Mon.-Fri, 11:30am-2:30pm; dinner: Mon.-Thu., 5-10pm, Fri. 5-11pm, Sat, 12–11pm, Sun. 12-9pm.*

SALT BY THE SEA

Another newly-opened restaurant is **Sel de la Terre** on the Boston waterfront. Certainly less formal than co-owner **Frank McClelland**'s L'Espalier, this restaurant is hardly a shack. The theme here is Provençal bistro, complete with streetside awnings, a rustic stone floor and a storefront boulangerie offering charcuterie, cheese, teas and coffees and the breads of chef/co-owner **Geoff Gardner**. The former sous chef at L'Espalier, Gardner is devoted to bread that's naturally leavened with an organic grape starter. He feeds his yeast starters—white and rye—twice a day, every day. And he'll feed you with robust, earthy Provençal fare like tapenade-crusted striped bass and incredible desserts including a rustic peach tart with almond cream and fresh figs served with lavender honey ice cream and dried cherry biscotti.

"Provencal cuisine holds a very special place in my heart," says Gardner, who is equally devoted to tending his extensive personal garden of vegetables, edible flower and herbs. Watch for unusual offerings from his home garden—angelica, mint, and lemon balm, for example—to spark the summer menu at Sel de la Terre. *255 State Street. Call 720-1300 or visit* www.seldelaterre.com. *Lunch: Mon.-Sat, 11:30am-2:30pm; dinner: Mon.-Sun. 5:30-10pm; Sun. Brunch: 11:30am-2:30pm.*

ALFRESCO FARE

One of the touchstones of summer is the rooftop herb garden terrace at **Up Stairs at the Pudding**. Amid custom-grown espaliered trees, trellised clematis and passion flower, pots of nasturtium and honeysuckle, Pudding proprietors **Mary-Catherine Deibel** and **Deborah Hughes** welcome diners to a Harvard Square experience that's evolved into a perennial favorite.

"I like to have two gardens—the kitchen garden with its herbs and the formal English country garden—but it all melds into one out on the terrace," says Hughes, whose most recent menu offers up an exuberant panoply of seasonal tastes. Soft shell crabs are "crisp-fried," served with fresh herb aioli, new potato salad with green mayonnaise, roasted corn relish and "petite salade." A vegetable pot au feu combines English peas, braised fennel, native fiddlehead ferns and pattypan squash richly melded with truffle butter. Long Island duck breast is sauced with Pacific Echo Rose Champagne, apricots and candied grapefruit and served with a quenelle of spring-dug parsnips and flambéed dates.

And to top it off, what must be the archetypal (at least in terms of title) Cantabrigian dessert: "wedding cake for one." It has everything but the little plastic couple on top. It's a coconut cake with crushed almond macaroons and lemon crème frosted with royal icing and shredded coconut. This dreamy confection is presented on swirls of raspberry sauce and almond crème anglaise and served with pistachio ice cream. (What could be more appropriate after a dinner with flambéed dates?)

Just down the road from Harvard Square, between Inman and Kendall Squares, **Daddy-O's** offers a funkier approach to al-fresco dining. Open for its ninth season, the back patio is spilling over with perennials, trees and an expanded variety of herbs that find their way into the casual, moderately-priced menu. Some great summer flavors to enjoy under the wisteria include Wellfleet clams roasted with fresh cranberry beans and tomato, grilled breast and smoked leg of duck with rhubarb sauce and a bargain-priced rack of lamb ($18) with a garlic potato cake, harissa and sauteed greens.

Over in the Back Bay, some say it isn't summer until **Sonsie** opens its doors onto the Newbury Street sidewalk. Despite its terrific location and reputation for a sizzling scene, chef/partner **Bill Poirier** isn't resting on his stylish laurels when it comes to providing cuisine with cachet. His latest menu incorporates lovely herbal touches in traditional dishes such as an appetizer of Maine crab cakes with sorrel hollandaise. He makes inventive use of the quirky fiddlehead fern, adding it to a lobster and cheddar cheese pizza. And he features sweet little candy cane beets in an unusual salad of lamb carpaccio with arugula and sheep's milk cheese.

"We change our menus four times a year," says Poirier, "but we listen to what our customers really like. We try to make them happy." When the Sonsie summer menu is unveiled in late June, happy choices will include herb-grilled snapper in a backyard crayfish boil, swordfish with avocado butter and summer crabcakes with a garden vegetable coleslaw and basil foam. Poirier says he's looking forward to cooking with all his favorite summer ingredients: "definitely tomatoes, basil, fresh melons and lavender."

Up Stairs at the Pudding *10 Holyoke St., Cambridge. Call 864-1933 or visit* www.upstairsatthepudding.com. *Brunch: Sun. 11am-2pm; lunch: Mon.-Sat. 11:30am-2:30pm; dinner: Sun.-Thu. 5:30-10:00pm; Fri.-Sat. 5:30-10:30pm.*

Daddy-O's *134 Hampshire St., Cambridge. Call 354-8371 or visit* www.daddy-os.com. *Dinner: Tue.-Sun. 5-10pm, Sun. brunch: 11am-2pm.*

Sonsie *327 Newbury St., Boston. Call 351-2500 or visit* www.wheretoeatboston.com. *Daily, 7am-1pm.*

UPSCALE AND CHILLED

Al fresco dining has its undeniable charms, but on a sticky-hot summer evening in the city, wouldn't you really prefer a comfortable air-conditioned room? If your dining companion begs to differ, your powers of persuasion will be enhanced when you list the star attractions on the latest menus at **No. 9 Park** or **Mistral**.

Chill out at No. 9 Park with new seasonal fare such as paupiettes of sole with

Up Stairs at the Pudding: a perennial summer favorite.

SONSIE: PERTA A. DANIELS

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HARPOON BREWERY STAFF

HARPOON BREWED in BOSTON

Daddy-o's in Cambrdige offers up funky fare in an intimate garden setting.

Maine crab, squash blossoms and citrus beurre blanc; black bass with young garlic, morels, asparagus and sauce Bordeaux; or Chef **Barbara Lynch**'s legendary Crispy Duck, with shaved fennel, blood oranges and aged balsamic vinegar. If your finances are less than red-hot, consider the excellent café menu, from which you may order such delicacies as prosciutto-wrapped foie gras terrine with pear carpaccio and brioche toast; spaghetti with baby clams, ramps, and bread crumbs; or truffled gnocchi with lobster, peas and mushrooms (at $20, the priciest item). For dessert, definitely try the vanilla-scented strawberries with lavender cake and mint glace.

At Mistral, early summer flavors come together in a dish of crispy soft shell crabs with wild ramp and pancetta mash and a spicy saffron-tomato coulis. A whole fish roasted with spicy ginger and garlic is served with pea vines in a lime-crustacean broth. And, for those with simpler tastes, Mistral linguine is presented with tiny tomatoes, arugula and shaved parmesan. The dessert menu presents an irresistible late spring/early summer choice: strawberry-rhubarb crostata with crème fraiche ice cream. An added bonus to dining indoors: At evening's end, you can get up without getting stuck to your chair.

No. 9 Park *9 Park St., Boston (742-9991). Lunch: Mon.-Fri. 11:30am-2:30pm; dinner: mon.-Sat. 5:30-10pm; cafe menu: Mon.-Sat. 5:30-11pm.*
Mistral *223 Columbus Ave., Boston. Call 867-9300 or visit* www.mistralbistro.com. *Dinner, Sun.-Sat. 5:30-11pm; late night dinner menu, Thu.-Sat., 11pm-12am.*

FROM GARDEN TO TABLE

At **Henrietta's Table** in The Charles Hotel, executive chef **Peter Davis** preaches the virtues of simplicity. "Our main priority is the taste of the food, so we try not to put more than three or four ingredients on a plate," he says. Those ingredients, however, are superb, and mostly drawn from what's organic, freshest and closest. Davis is a devoted customer of local farmers such as Verrill and Hutchins Farms in Concord and Eva's Herb Garden in Westport, thanking them in print on the Henrietta's menu. And he puts his money where your mouth is, with daily specials such as roasted pork tenderloin with native wilted spinach and orange-peach chutney or a vegetarian entrée like baked stuffed artichoke with braised sweet onions and mushrooms with seasonal vegetables.

Another strong supporter of local farmers is **Peter McCarthy**, chef/owner of **EVOO** in Somerville. McCarthy also buys produce from Verrill and Hutchins and Eva's; what's more, he has a share in Steve Parker's Waltham farm. The latter is a potluck kind of arrangement, with McCarthy the willing recipient of an ad hoc assortment of whatever is ready to be picked on any given day. Parker makes occasional visits to EVOO starting in spring with fiddleheads, morels, rhubarb and wild ramps. As the weather warms into summer, there's increasing variety and volume.

"I'll get a bunch of different greens, peppers, tomatoes—hopefully, this season will be better than last year's—eggplant, zucchini, onions, lots of basil," says McCarthy. "Every day in the summer, he just shows up at the back door with stuff, and it's like, oh, cool,—what're we gonna do with this?"

What he's been doing thus far is using Eva's wild greens in a salad of smoked rabbit confit and fava beans, with semolina wafer bread, goat cheese and verjus vinaigrette; and partnering native fiddleheads with grilled salmon, morels and tarragon butter. How does he determine the best way to feature seasonal ingredients on the menu? Well, it's not exactly a scientific method, according to McCarthy: "You just get your food and you play around with it."

McCarthy has a special fondness for pickling cukes. "They're a beautiful thing," he says enthusiastically, and he'll take all that he can get, making enough pickles so that he can make gifts of them to his customers in the dead of winter. From farmer to chef to restaurant guest, it's one big reciprocal relationship.
Henrietta's Table *One Bennett St at The Charles Hotel, Cambridge (661-5005). Lunch, Mon.-Sat. 12-3pm; Sunday brunch: 12-3pm; dinner: Sun.-Thu. 5:30-10pm; Fri.-Sat. 5:30-11pm.*
EVOO *118 Beacon St., Somerville (661-EVOO). Dinner: Mon.-Thu. 6-10pm; Fri. 6-11pm; Sat. 5-11pm.*

URBAN RENEWAL

Up on the roof of the Seaport Hotel, above the kitchens of **Aura**, director of culinary services (a.k.a chef) **Ed Doyle** grows tarragon, basil, peppermint, chives and lemon thyme in his organic herb gardens. Since he started the garden a few years back, he's added lavender, strawberrries, gooseberries, honeysuckle and raspberries. Everything that flourishes on-site is a resource for Doyle's seasonal cuisine, in which he treats custom-aged meats and day-boat seafood with care and creativity. Grilled local oysters, for example, may be accompanied by crispy pancetta, smoked tomato and white bean rouille. Pan-seared Hudson Valley foie gras is paired with sushi-grade tuna and sparked with the herbal surprise of lemon verbena. And those are just three of the starters on Aura's new summer menu.

Yet there's a darker side—literally—to Doyle's garden. This down-to-earth chef nourishes his cherished herb gardens with a little-known kitchen strategy: a huge on-site composting bin.

It's 10 feet long and four feet deep and wide, the "City Soil Maker" holds up to 1,000 pounds of compost made up of fruit and vegetable scraps. It's not fussy, either. "It'll eat anything," says Doyle, "but it has a hard time with onion peels."

The bin is more than a quirky novelty. It's literally the means of providing tons of happy returns to local farmers who deliver their homegrown fresh produce to Aura. Every day, between fifty and a hundred pounds of "vegetative waste" is added to the mix, which was initially jump-started with a special blend of pine needles and red wriggler worms. When completely cured, the composted mulch is fertilizer with a philosophy: Doyle's commitment to maintaining a mutually beneficial partnership with his most valued suppliers.

In the future, Doyle plans to expand the Seaport's café seating, and "eventually, fine dining outdoors." As for the present, the rest of us can look forward to a summer fragrant with basil and lavender, bright with corn and tomatoes, and tantalizing with the many-splendored tastes of the season.
Aura *is at the Seaport Hotel, One Seaport Lane, Boston. Call 385-4300 or visit* www.seaporthotel.com. *Lunch: 11:30am-2:30pm; dinner: 5:30-10:30pm; Sunday brunch: 12-2:30pm.* iB

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FILL UP

Culinary jaunts that promise plenty of fresh fare and fresh air.

By Carolyn Faye Fox
Photograph by Steven Billups

Each summer, Chris Schlesinger of East Coast Grill fame, heads down to his summer digs: the fabulous Back Eddy in Westport, Mass.

In the heat of summer, the road beckons—whether your interests lead you to the beach, the mountains, Tanglewood or Provincetown. If you belong to the Epicurean ilk, there are several trips well worth a few hours on the open road. So shake off memories of hot vinyl car seats and damp, sandy bathing suits; it's time to hit the road for some of New England's culinary summer hot spots.

ARROWS: One Enchanted Evening

A few minutes inland from the coast of Ogunquit, Arrows Restaurant conjures up a spell that's far more than the sum of its parts: two acres of extraordinary fruit and vegetable gardens; a charming, elegant 18th-century farmhouse; and cuisine that celebrates the glorious possibilities of native ingredients and exotic cultures.

The thing is, co-owners/co-chefs Clark Frasier and Mark Gaier like to travel. They returned from last winter's trip to New Zealand with plans for "A New Zealand Wine Dinner" (June 11). It's one of a series of regional food and wine dinners scheduled throughout the summer and fall (visit their Website for more information). Also new this year: custom-made china from Thailand, an enlarged "wine attic" and an expanded edible-flower and herb garden.

The entire garden is organic, and provides most of the fruit, vegetables and herbs for Arrows' sophisticated dishes. The ever-changing menu has featured fare such as grilled Maine diver-harvested sea scallops with spring pea puree, morels, saffron risotto, and chervil duck essence; venison with celery root pancake, fiddleheads and black truffle potato chips; and equally gorgeous desserts from pastry chef Lucia Vasquez, a past James Beard award winner.
Berwick Rd., Ogunquit, Maine (207-361-1100) Dinner only; call for hours.

ALYSON'S ORCHARD: Ripe for the Pickin'

Less dressed up but no less appealing, is Alyson's Orchard in Walpole, N.H. Within sight of the Connecticut River and the Green Mountains, Alyson's is a working orchard, a cooking school and a farmstand rolled into one.

It's not a major culinary destination but rather a charming and eclectic work in progress—in a flat-out gorgeous setting. What's more, there are other local attractions—including the original Burdick's chocolate shop in picturesque Walpole Center and the Miss Bellows Falls Diner, a true landmark just over the border in Bellows Falls, VT.

Back at the orchard, stroll through close to 100 acres of high-density planting. Crops include six kinds of plums, eight kinds of pears, and close to 50 varieties of apples, from Maiden's Blush to Esopus Spitzenburg.

The chef at Alyson's is Billy Boudreau, who was chef at the regrettably short-lived 02129 in Charlestown and, before that, pastry chef at Seasons in The Regal Bostonian. At the Orchard, Billy teaches Tuesday classes on dessert and bread basics, including his signature bread-and-butter pudding (see recipe on page 24), and is working with owner Bob Jasse to develop and manage projects ranging from a line of homegrown food products to special dinner events. In the meantime, visitors are always welcome. And if you're picking your own fruit, a word of advice: the little yellow plums that ripen in August are delectable.
Wentworth Rd., Walpole, N.H. Call 603-756-9090 or visit www.alysonsorchard.com

STONEHEDGE INN: Lilacs & Littlenecks?

Usually, clambakes and English country gardens just don't mix. But if anyone can bring off this surreal juxtaposition with integrity and panache, it's chef Jon Mathieson at Stonehedge Inn in Tyngsboro. Starting in June and continuing through August, every Thursday evening will be New England Clambake Night at The Gazebo, an elegant screened-in structure set amid gardens lush with foxgloves, peonies and delphiniums.

The menu includes the classic bake—whole steamed Maine lobster, corn on the cob, clams—with added flourishes such as creamer potatoes with chervil, and fresh shortcake made with berries from local farms. Clearly, this is not the place to chug a cold frosty; Stonehedge Inn, with a wine collection of over 64,000 bottles, is a recipient of *Wine Spectator*'s Grand Award for outstanding wine list.
160 Pawtucket Blvd., Tyngsboro, Mass. Call 978-649-4400 or visit www.stonehedgeinn.com

THE BACK EDDY: Coastal Flavor

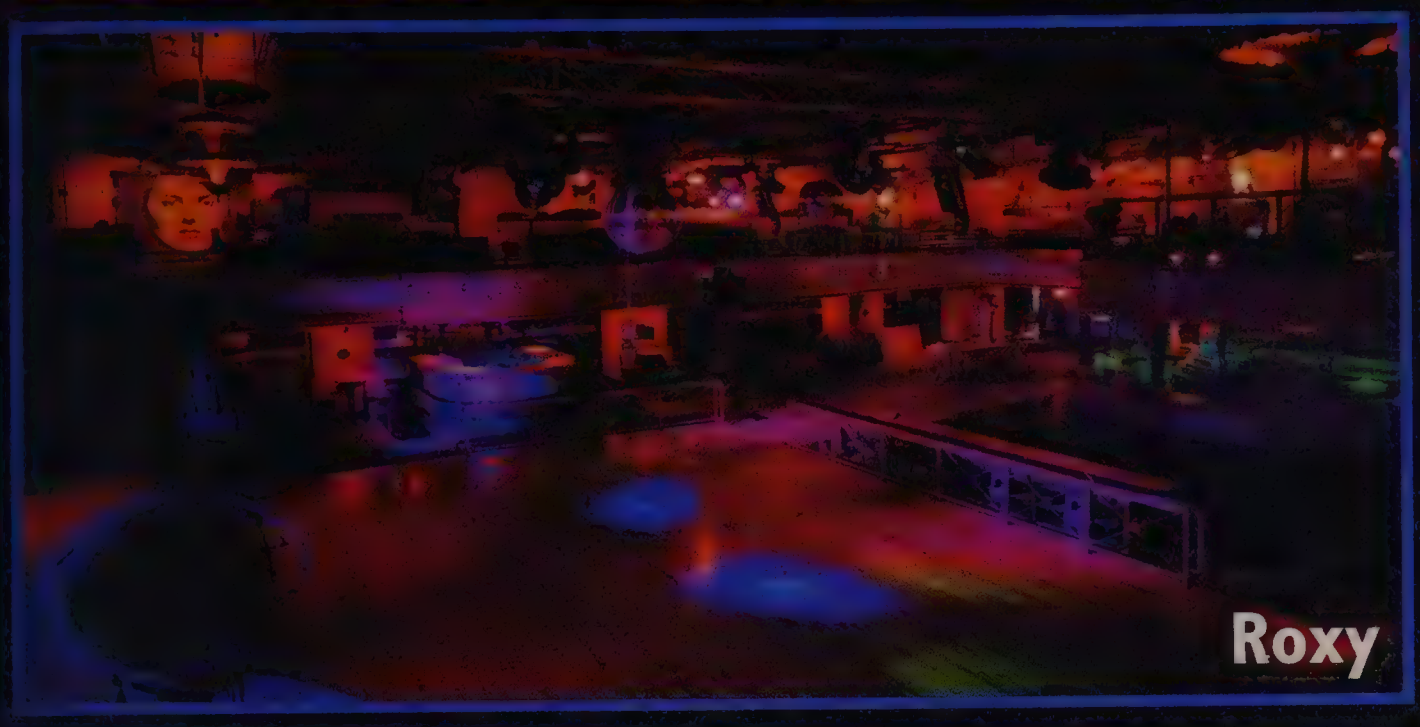
If it's a beach view you seek, head south of Boston to the Back Eddy at Horseneck Beach in Westport. Here, owner/chef Chris Schlesinger enhances his predominantly seafood fare with the same devotion to ultra-fresh, local products and fine-tuned grilling skills that made his East Coast Grill famous in Cambridge. Coastal farms supply much of the produce, and cheese is provided by local artisans. It's a casual place, with an outdoor dock that affords a spectacular view—if your timing is right—of the sun setting over Westport Point.

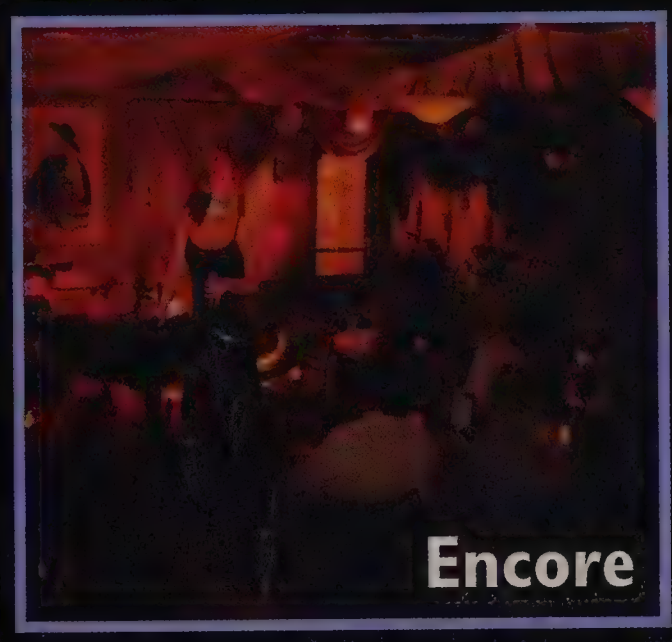
If your timing doesn't coincide with a perfect view, take comfort in the menu. Whether your tastes lead you to a traditional lobster roll, a classic bouillabaisse or pulled-pork BBQ with mashed sweets, slaw and cornbread, the message here is simple: Think coastal; eat local. You'll be glad you did.
1 Bridge St., Westport, Mass. (508-636-6500); call for hours.

TOSCA: On the Waterfront

Also south of the city and worth the trip is Tosca, on the Hingham waterfront. Many of the dishes on chef Kevin Long's summer menu feature seafood from the immediate vicinity. You'll find, for example, sweet butter-poached local lobster with black truffle whipped potatoes and seared New Bedford sea scallops with butternut squash risotto, butternut jus and balsamic syrup. And rest assured, these dishes taste as good as they sound.
14 North St., Hingham, Mass. (781-740-0080); Mon.-Thur., 5-10pm, Fri.-Sat., 5-11pm; Sun., 2-10pm. iB

DANCING DINING SINGING LOUNGING DRINKING





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RECIPES FROM THE FIELD

No matter how stultifying the heat or how minimal your cooking skills, whip up fabulous summer fare by following the lead of some local wünder chefs.

Compiled by
Carolyn Faye Fox
Photographs by
Tania Schnapp

Cape Breton Bread and Butter Pudding

BILLY BOUDREAU, CHEF OF ALYSON'S ORCHARD

Serves 6-8

INGREDIENTS

1 cup cream
2 cups milk
6 eggs
¾ cup brown sugar
2 teaspoons vanilla
1 stick butter
1 loaf bread, preferably French baguette (stale is OK)
cinnamon and nutmeg

DIRECTIONS

Liberally butter an 11x17 inch baking dish. Slice the bread into ½-inch-thick slices, and lightly butter each slice on both sides. Arrange the slices, overlapping, in the baking dish.

Heat the milk. Whisk the warm milk with the eggs, sugar and vanilla, and pour over the bread. Let mixture sit for an hour, or overnight, in the refrigerator. Before baking, sprinkle the top lightly with nutmeg and cinnamon and cover with aluminum foil.

Place in a water bath and bake for 30 minutes at 350 degrees. Remove foil and bake for an additional 30 minutes. Serve warm. Garnish with confectioners' sugar and strawberries.

Grilled Striped Bass with Warm Fruit Salad and Pea Tendrils

BY PETER DAVIS, EXECUTIVE CHEF, HENRIETTA'S TABLE

Serves 4

INGREDIENTS

4 8-ounce striped bass fillets
1 lb. pea tendrils
4 oz. chanterelle mushrooms
1 cup fresh orange juice
2 oz. extra virgin olive oil
1 fresh peach, pitted and sliced
1 nectarine, pitted and sliced
1 pear, cored and sliced
1 teaspoon fresh tarragon, finely chopped
salt & pepper to taste

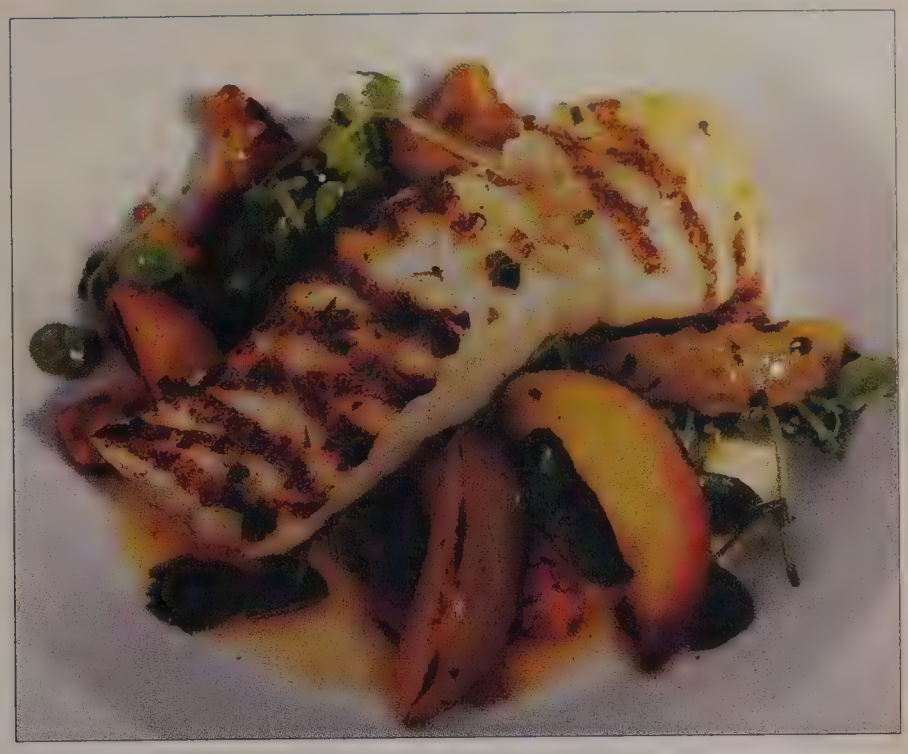
DIRECTIONS

Saute mushrooms over medium heat in a drop of olive oil until tender. Cover and keep warm.

Next, combine the olive oil, tarragon and orange juice in a small bowl and set aside. Season the fruit lightly with salt and pepper, and grill over high heat until seared but firm. Remove the fruit from the flame and place into the orange juice mixture. Cover and keep warm.

Season the bass lightly with salt and pepper and grill over high heat until tender; fish will flake when pierced with a fork. Remove and keep warm.

Mix the pea tendrils with the chanterelle mushrooms, grilled fruit and the orange juice (now vinaigrette). Place the sea bass on top of the salad and serve.



Orange-Chipotle Barbecue Sauce

PETER MCCARTHY, CHEF/OWNER OF EVOO

Serves 3 to 4

At EVOO, this simple barbecue sauce is brushed on smoked turkey breast steak, which McCarthy serves with roasted-garlic grits. But if you're keeping things basic, says McCarthy, just use it on burgers, steaks and chicken.

INGREDIENTS

2 cups orange juice
6 tablespoons molasses
¼ cup Dijon mustard
1 tablespoon chopped garlic
1 cup ketchup
1 cup minced onion
2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
1 chipotle pepper (available canned or dried at most supermarkets)
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 whole clove

DIRECTIONS

Combine all ingredients in a 2-quart saucepan over medium-high heat. Cook until sauce is reduced by one-third. Puree and strain. Refrigerated, it will keep for a couple of weeks. And when canned in an attractive jar, it's the perfect gift for a barbecue party.

Crabmeat Salad with Pink Aioli

CHEF DEBORAH HUGHES, UPSTAIRS AT THE PUDDING

Serves 3 to 4

INGREDIENTS

1 pound crabmeat, top quality, fresh
1 cup mâche (salad greens)
1 head Bibb lettuce
dash salt
dash white pepper
1 tablespoon orange juice or lemon juice
½ cup mayonnaise
touch tomato paste
1 cup chives, fresh and chopped
1 tangelo, orange or clementine
1 pink grapefruit
1 white grapefruit
1 avocado
lemon vinaigrette (see recipe)

DIRECTIONS

Lemon vinaigrette: Whisk together ⅓ cup rice wine vinegar, 1 cup olive or canola oil. Then whisk in juice of two lemons and 1 tablespoon of honey. Add salt, pepper, chopped chives and chopped garlic to taste.

Aioli: Whisk gently together: ½ cup of mayonnaise, a touch of fresh orange juice and a touch of tomato paste.

Preparation: Drain the crabmeat, remove excess water and cartilage.

Mix crabmeat with a tablespoon of orange or lemon juice and a dash of salt and white pepper. Lightly toss mixture with a small amount of mayonnaise. Set aside.

Peel three types of fresh citrus fruits and avocado and cut into slices. Set aside.

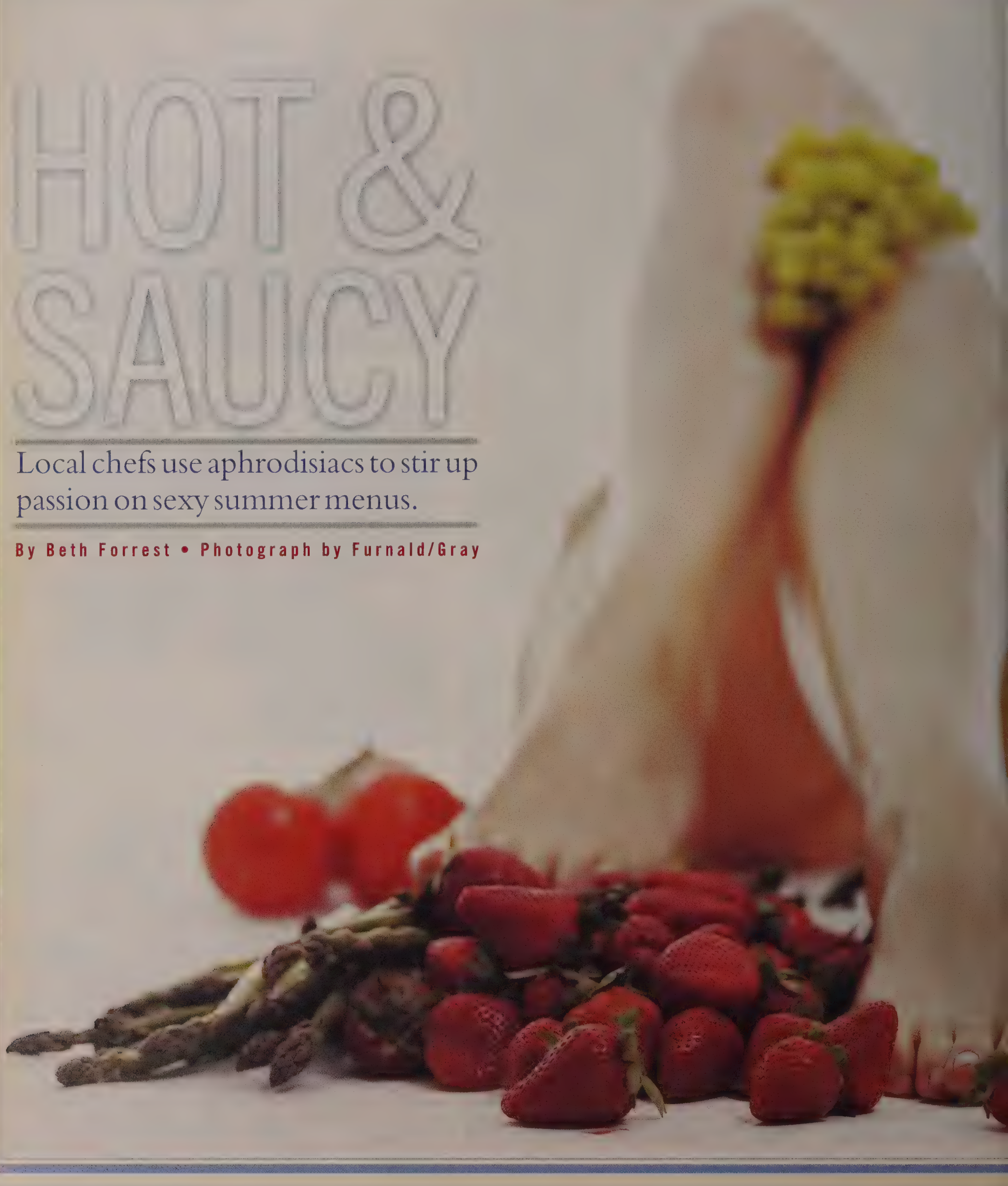
Clean and pat dry lettuce—selecting the best interior leaves. Gently wash and dry the mâche. Set aside.

Assemble salad by placing Bibb lettuce leaves on plate. Drizzle with lemon vinaigrette and top with scoops of crabmeat. Sprinkle a tablespoon of pink aioli on the crabmeat. Finally, sprinkle mâche and chopped chives on edges of plate and top with citrus and avocado slices.

HOT & SAUCY

Local chefs use aphrodisiacs to stir up passion on sexy summer menus.

By Beth Forrest • Photograph by Furnald/Gray



HAIR AND MAKEUP: AMY KERNAHAN/TEAM; MODEL: JUANITA/CLICK

It's a sultry summer evening in South Boston, with a slight breeze off the ocean. A hopeful paramour is cooking you dinner. As you sit sipping pinot grigio, ambivalent feelings about your date swirl in your head like the aromas of the meal—the garlic in the escarole soup, and the sweet, dark chocolate in the dessert souffle. As you savor your creamy risotto, you realize that you find this man more interesting with every mouthful. By the time you get to the raspberry sauce on the souffle, you realize that you, your friends, and your therapist were wrong about this guy. He now looks so appealing, so sexy, so...delicious.

The next morning you might be surprised to learn that the ingredients of that special meal—garlic, truffles and chocolate, all are aphrodisiacs, foods that some say enhance your sexual prowess and interest. That explains how a woman might wind up in bed, or on the kitchen table, with the chef.

Our Boston Casanova was following the lead of the 18th century Giovanni Casanova, renowned for his insatiable and adventurous sex life. The real Casanova apparently knew the supposed power of natural aphrodisiacs. He is said to have begun each day with his lover in a bath, where they would share 50 raw oysters. Likewise, Madame Pompadour lived on a diet of vanilla, truffles and celery so that she might maintain a level of passion equal to that of her lover, King Louis XIV. In fact, popular culture since antiquity has equated certain foods with lovemaking and desire. So this summer, why not follow Casanova's cue by experimenting with sexy foods—and getting closer to the object of your desire.

CHOCOLATE-COVERED YAMS, ANYONE?

Aphrodisiacs can be roughly divided into a handful of groups. The first, seafood, gets its reputation from Greek mythology. The logic is that since Aphrodite, the goddess of love, was born in the sea, all creatures born in the sea are also aphrodisiacs. This means caviar is an ideal romantic appetizer, and even better with salmon. Then, order lobster tail for dinner.

Another kind of aphrodisiac is explained by the doctrine of signatures, whereby foods that resemble genitalia have an aphrodisiacal effect. Thus, any food that make prepubescent boys giggle—asparagus, bananas, carrots, sausage—will do the trick.

The third group of foods is comprised of providers of virility, such as rabbit. Some say that eating foods from animals perceived to be virile increases sexual potency. But before you cross that vegetarian off your dating list, remember Madame Pompadour and her celery.

Finally, there are fruits, lusted after until they are ripe, sweet and juicy; poets throughout time have written of the seeds of passion with good reason.

The Food & Drug Administration folks say that there is no evidence that any foods have any aphrodisiacal effects, other than as a placebo. In other words, foods make you feel sexy if you believe they will.

But there are plenty who disagree. Christine McLennan, research nutritionist at the Institute on Lifestyle & Health at Boston University's School of Medicine, and Glenn Rothfeld, M.D., at American WholeHealth's Arlington-Cambridge Center, believe that foods can definitely play a concrete role in a person's sex life. "Chocolate and coffee are stimulants that affect blood levels, and thus sexual activity, and wild yams contain an estrogenic ingredient that improves the sex life of women," offers Dr. Rothfeld. McLennan continues, "In Ayurveda (the ancient healing system of India, the same culture that brought you the Kama Sutra), zinc was found to be the ingredient that aided in the development in male sex organs. In addition, spicy foods enhance circulation." This category of aphrodisiacs is found in many cultures — foods that cause us to react like we might to exhausting sex, increasing our heart rates and causing us to sweat.

PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION

Let's face it, no matter how global Boston has become, it is still impossible to find the rare, and often illegally acquired, delicacies that are enjoyed elsewhere. (Tiger penis soup, for example.) But luckily, there are a number of safe and delicious sexy dishes that can be found in local restaurants, especially at this time of year.

If you want obvious sex appeal, then head to **Dali**, where lingerie is strung across the wall in a playful fashion. *(415 Washington St., Cambridge, 661-3254)*. Just down the street, trade in brassieres for candlelight at the Catalan restaurant **Rauxa**. The menus offers a plethora of garlic and saffron, figs, artichokes, onions, duck and rabbit. *(70 Union Square, Somerville, 623-9939)*.

For truffles, lobster, asparagus and quince, head to the romantic brownstone that houses intimate salon rooms at **L'Espalier**. *(30 Gloucester St., 262-3023)*. **Mistral**, with its white walls and unusually high ceilings has a celestial feel. One of the chef's favorites is a spicy ginger and garlic-roasted whole fish. *(223 Columbus Ave., 867-9300)*.

To get your heart rate pumping, check out **Masa** in the South End. The menu is loaded with chipotles and chili powder, served in high-back booths. *(439 Tremont St., 338-8884)*. Nearby is **Addis Red Sea,** an Ethiopian restaurant with ingredients out of the *Perfumed Garden* (an early 15th-century Tunisian Erotogy manual) including cardamom, lentils, nutmeg and honeyed mead. No silverware is required, and that makes this a great place to share food. *(544 Tremont St., 426-8727)*.

The East Coast Grill & Raw Bar is still one of the best places to enjoy raw oysters and clams. And they have a great selection of spicy grilled fish that would make Aphrodite proud. Waiting time varies. Get there early. *(1271 Cambridge St., Cambridge, 266-6106)*.

For Asian food, head out of town to **Blue Ginger**, where the décor is minimalist and the accent is on the food. An exotic fusion of spices that mark each meal, which includes lamb, shrimp, strawberries, and chocolate. *(583 Washington St., Wellesley, 781-283-5790)*.

If money is an aphrodisiac, then the **Federalist** is the place to go. The atmosphere, rich with mahogany and silver, is opulent, as is the food. Caviar and champagne flow—enough said. *(15 Beacon St., 670-2515)*.

You can also find aphrodisiacs at your local produce market, fishmonger or butcher.

At **Formaggio's Kitchen** there is Pointu Gaborit, a creamy French cheese dusted with ash, and shaped like a woman's breast. *(244 Huron St., Cambridge, 354-4750)*. At **Celia's** in Davis Square, you can buy Tom & Sally's Chocolate Body Paint and a paintbrush. *(236 Elm St., Somerville, 591-1922)*. And at Condom World, they sell pasta and candy shaped like breasts and penises, if you decide to take the most direct route *(332 Newbury Street, Boston. 267-7233)*.

So have a seductive summer, Boston, and if you have any regrets the morning after, you can always blame it on the chocolate yams. iB

Ming Tsai (center) and the "backbone" of his kitchen (from left to right): pastry chef Marina Brancely, assistant pastry chef Jeffrey Stuart, sous-chef Tom Berry, executive sous-chef Budi Kazali, and sous-chef Amy Trujillo.

PHOTO ASSISTANT: JEFF NUGENT; GROOMING: ROBIN ERB

ming WITH A mission

Blue Ginger chef MING TSAI is well on his way to creating a culinary cult.

By Susan Abbattista • Portrait by Kevin Morrill

Chances are, you might recognize the confident gaze, the muscular forearms, the jocular demeanor and the boy-next-door charm. Chances are, you've seen his face before. • He runs one of the most successful new restaurants in the country. His cooking show on the Food Network won a daytime Emmy. He converts cynical food critics into gushing admirers. He's been profiled in *USA Today*, *The New Yorker*, *Esquire* and the *New York Times*. His face, adorning a new cookbook, smiles out from behind the glass of bookstore windows. His striking good looks have landed him on *People*'s recent list of most beautiful people. He gets thousands of emails from star-struck fans every week. And he has begun to build a small empire on the Internet, with a one-stop-shopping strategy that combines straightforward cooking techniques with an easy way to obtain ingredients and equipment. >>

Behind the line at Blue Ginger.

He is 36-year-old Ming Tsai, one of America's top celebrity chefs. And you can find him in Boston's own backyard, at Blue Ginger, an East-West bistro in Wellesley.

The menu at Blue Ginger is exotic in its complexity and contrasts: Macademia-crusted halibut with coconut sticky rice, thyme-poached lobster with lemongrass risotto, five-peppercorn beef with ginger-port demi. The cuisine is called "Asian fusion," and it brings the ingredients and techniques of the East (China, Southeast Asia, Japan) together with those of the Western world (America and Europe).

This kind of food has certainly been done before. Too often, though, Tsai explains, when chefs attempt to juggle the tastes of many cultures, "there is chaos on the plate and in the mouth." To avoid this, Tsai lets the strength of each culture speak for itself. In some dishes, French threads—such as a creamy mustard sauce—are more pronounced. In others, it's the tangy Asian flavors of ginger and miso. But always, there is harmony—between the spicy and the mild, the cool and the hot, the soft and the crunchy.

Although the dishes are sometimes complex, Tsai translates labyrinthine culinary techniques for the laycook. In fact, it was his easy-to-follow cooking instructions and down-to-earth manner on *East Meets West with Ming Tsai* that won him the Emmy in 1999. He'd prepared for the show by hiring a media trainer, who taught him how to talk to the camera and *never, ever* to say anything negative on television. The work paid off. It was the first time that the Food Network, which has 42 million viewers, had ever been nominated for the Emmy. And when Tsai was honored with the award for best service-show host, he beat out both Martha Stewart and Julia Child.

If you want to learn how to make, say, hoisin-marinated chicken with Napa slaw, you can find out by watching the show. Or you can purchase the *Blue Ginger: East Meets West Cooking with Ming Tsai* cookbook (Clarkson Potter). Or you can visit *www.ming.com.* Don't have something called *sambal oelek,* a hot chili paste? You can purchase it right from the site, along with other items in Ming's Pantry. Need a sharper knife to chop that ginger? Well, Tsai just happens to sell a signature line of ceramic knives, made by Kyocera.

Perhaps the restaurant, the television show and the dishes themselves are so successful because the man behind them, a first-generation Chinese American, also embodies the same harmony. He is a shrewd businessman well versed in the precepts of American consumerism, but he runs his life by the Eastern philosophies of Taoism: Basically, go with the flow.

The Web site and his new book, *Blue Ginger,* are just part of Tsai's mixed-media marketing.

Like a composer whose music reflects the emotions of his life or the writer whose stories mirror real-life experiences, Tsai's food—in fact, his entire way of being—reflects the East-West union that is at his core. "I don't just make East-West cuisine," Tsai says. "I live the East-West way. I believe in a balanced, high-quality life."

That balance can be traced to Tsai's boyhood in Dayton, Ohio. Though Ming was born in this country, his parents are from Beijing. While his Yale-educated father forged a career as a chief scientist at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, his mother opened a traditional Chinese restaurant, called the Mandarin Kitchen, at a local strip mall. "For me, ages 13 through 15, working at my mom's restaurant was the summer job I didn't have to interview for," he explains. "I did everything: washed rice, made spring rolls, managed money, mopped floors. It gave me the bug to work in a restaurant."

Today, when you watch Tsai at work, you can see that the restaurant business is in his blood. Along the 40-foot counter of an open kitchen, he oversees his team of devoted sous chefs, calling out food orders with the respect and command of a culinary Captain Kirk—"Budi, fire tuna. Order pork, please. Steam bass." He is so much like a fish in water that it seems as if he must have followed a very direct path to this place. But this isn't the case.

A dish like the Asian gazpacho with cilantro-jicama cream hints at Tsai's culinary training in the Southwest.

Because he came from a long line of engineers, Tsai was expected to have a future in numbers. "I was always mathematically minded. My dad's an engineer, my brother studied engineering, and all my uncles are engineers," Tsai says. "And because I'm Chinese, there were stereotypical math-whiz expectations attached to that."

In 1979, Tsai enrolled at Phillips Academy in Andover, where he became a star squash player. His athleticism compensated for slightly wilted grades and helped get him into Yale. By packing his bags for the Ivy League school, Tsai followed in the footsteps of both his father and grandfather, who came here from China to study engineering and economics, respectively.

At Yale, Ming decided to major in mechanical engineering. But he "was not the typical nerd" at school. Instead, he did what many American young men do: He joined a fraternity, played squash, drank beer and tried to meet girls.

"I had a good time in college," he says with a smile that hints at wilder times. "I went to the library, but that was more to see my friends and meet, ya know, the right person. It was kinda like Fonzie cruising the grocery store with the cart."

But in junior year, under the murky haze of academic expectations, he had a revelation. He was taking a final exam in dynamics, the study of motion, forces and energy—and he froze on one question: *There is a 33 rpm phonograph turning one way, and on top of it is a disc going the other way, and upon that disc is a spot. What is the angle of acceleration of that spot?*

"This was a typical small engineering class," Tsai recalls, "and if you got a 30 or 40 percent on the test, you'd get an A 'cuz the curve was so strong. Out of eight people in the class, maybe six were Asian, and there was this one guy from Russia, and everyone was furiously tapping away on their calculators." Tsai sat there, looking around. Then he wrote down his answer: *I don't care.*

"That's when I knew I wasn't going to be a good engineer because I really didn't care. I didn't give a flying hoot about the acceleration of any spot," Tsai says, smiling. "I don't recommend writing that on many tests," he adds with a laugh. "The teacher was not pleased."

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The following summer, he went to Paris to study at Le Cordon Bleu cooking school. He returned to Paris after finishing his engineering degree and, working as a sous-chef in an upscale bistro called Natacha, he slowly began to experiment with adding Asian ingredients—five-spice powder, fermented black beans, and ginger—to traditional dishes like stuffed sole. Accompaniments like standard pilaf were transformed into dishes like garlic-chive fried rice.

The degree in engineering—followed by a master's from Cornell in hotel administration—taught Tsai to see all of life's problems as equations. "Nowadays, the biggest thing I do is make decisions," he says. "There are tons of opportunities coming my way, and I have to think of things from both sides: from a chef's point of view and from a business point of view. Life is like that—lots of variables. You have to know how to make sound decisions. You can't vascillate. And if you don't make up your mind quickly, opportunities will pass you by."

In the past decade or so, those opportunities began to bubble up like salted water coming to a rapid boil: After honing his cooking skills in Paris and studying with a Japanese sushi master in Osaka, Tsai took his first American job as a sous-chef in 1992 at Silks, a prominent restaurant in San Francisco. Later, opportunity knocked again, this time in Santa Fe, where he was executive chef at Santacafe. Food critics were beginning to take notice of his East-West fare: *The Zagat Guide 1996* honored Tsai as best chef in Santa Fe.

Blue Ginger's launch in early 1998 blew the lid blew off the pot. The restaurant developed an instant following, partially buoyed by Tsai's popularity on the Food Network. People came from all over to meet the celebrity chef. *Esquire*'s John Mariani, one of the country's best-known food critics, named Tsai chef of the year. He raved about the tuna carpaccio and the Chilean sea bass marinated in sake and miso: "I'd certainly eaten similar dishes," Mariani wrote, "and I was familiar with the all the ingredients. But I had never seen them combined with such savvy."

Before moving to this coast, Tsai—along with his wife and business partner, Polly—analyzed a lot of variables before they chose Wellesley as the perfect place to run a restaurant. "I love this town," Tsai says. "It's obviously a strong economy out here. Lots of good money, strong money. You want the spenders. You don't want the ones who are saving in a cookie jar."

Blue Ginger may have been far removed from exams on dynamics and the laws of motion, but Tsai still was concerned about the movement of energy. While in the building phase, Tsai hired a feng-shui master in Taipei to analyze the storefront that was formerly occupied by a Bildner's gourmet grocery store. "Feng-shui," Tsai explains, "literally means 'wind-water.' It is the study of energy—or chi—through any space."

Typical of Tsai's dishes, these lobster mango summer rolls beguile not only the taste buds—but the eyes as well.

"I was always mathematically minded....And because I'm Chinese, there were stereotypical math-whiz expectations attached to that."

The feng-shui master would help Blue Ginger retain its positive energy. But an old-world art had to be performed with new-world tools, via email, fax and FedEx. After Tsai sent all the required elements to Taipei—a close-up photo of himself, the time and date of his birth, the exact compass readings of every wall, and a floor plan—he waited for the prognosis.

The feng-shui expert made a slew of recommendations such as adding a water sculpture to help with energy flow and making sure that floor plan followed several sharp turns (a straight line between the front and back doors would allow money to flow in and out). From a feng-shui perspective, there was only one major problem: the funeral home across the street.

"Although funerals are a celebration of life," Tsai says, "some people die poorly. The ones that pass poorly tend to be the ones who weren't nice to people. Evil spirits will come out. It's a karmic thing. My parents, especially, were very concerned that those spirits would come into the restaurant."

With business being so brisk, it seems that the spirits have been kept at bay, or perhaps they've just had trouble navigating the restaurant's corners. "I'm always amazed that we're so busy," Tsai says. "It's mind-boggling that on a Monday night, we do 250 dinners sometimes."

Of course, a busy restaurant makes for a busy life. Ming carves out time for himself by finding time in the morning for exercise—usually pilates or Bikram-style yoga. "Isn't yoga the *best?*" he says emphatically. "It's what keeps me sane." He has a personal trainer who helps him maintain the solid muscularity that strains beneath his chef's jacket. And lately he has started playing squash again—and he loves "just being able to whack the ball and get the aggression out." He quickly qualifies that statement, "it's not like I have a lot of aggression, but I do love competition."

Back at home, Ming and Polly rarely cook dinner anymore, especially now that they have 4-month-old David, who has his father's deep brown eyes and a hint of his mom's blonde hair in the pale gossamer fuzz atop his head. Most of the time, the Tsais get take-out, either from their own restaurant or from local eateries near their home in Neeham: Joy Luck for Chinese, Bai Thong for Thai, and Sweet Basil for Italian. Sometimes they'll have a pizza delivered from the nearby Pizzeria Uno. Or they'll just have cereal.

Once or twice a month, the Tsais will cook a meal together in their own kitchen. "Polly is the type of cook who loves to follow recipes," he says. "And what usually happens is, she'll go out and shop and then organize everything. Some things she'll leave for me to chop, because obviously I can do it very quickly. And then after I chop everything, I usually jump in and take over. I can't help myself."

At least once a week, Ming and Polly will venture into Chinatown, usually for dim sum at China Pearl or dinner at New Shanghai. Dinners out are a chance for the couple to relax and to cultivate new menu ideas. "Polly loves to eat, too," Tsai says. "And she's obviously my most favorite dining partner. I see some couples, and the man is a huge wine freak and loves good food, and the woman eats carrot sticks—or vice versa. I say to myself, I don't know how you guys could be married! Cuz for me food is my life, both on and off work."

This hearty appetite for good food, of course, ties back to his Chinese heritage. "You might think we're warped. But when I grew up, we'd talk about what we were going to eat tomorrow while we were still enjoying the lobster that we were eating that night. Same for the Jewish culture, the Mexican culture, the Italian culture. Food is the culture."

That respect for culture is what brings balance to the dishes that Tsai creates, a harmony on the plate that mirrors a harmony he strives for in his life, whether in the kitchen, within his family or with himself. And balanced energy, whether it be governed by the laws of dynamics or the principles of feng-shui, is the staple of a successful, sane life.

There is something supernaturally charged about Tsai's quickly accumulating credits, which will no doubt be multiplied by a second cable TV show, called *Ming's Quest* (now in production) and his plans to launch a line of prepared foods.

But somehow he can step back and appreciate that not every chef gets this far. "People always ask me, 'Hey, Ming, ya still choppin' garlic?' And no, I'm not. Every day, I'm blessed and amazed and do not take for granted the business that we have. And I'm humbled and honored to be on TV. There are not a lot of Asians on television. Jackie Chan...Connie Chung. I'm happy to promote being Asian. I've lived lucky, I know." IB

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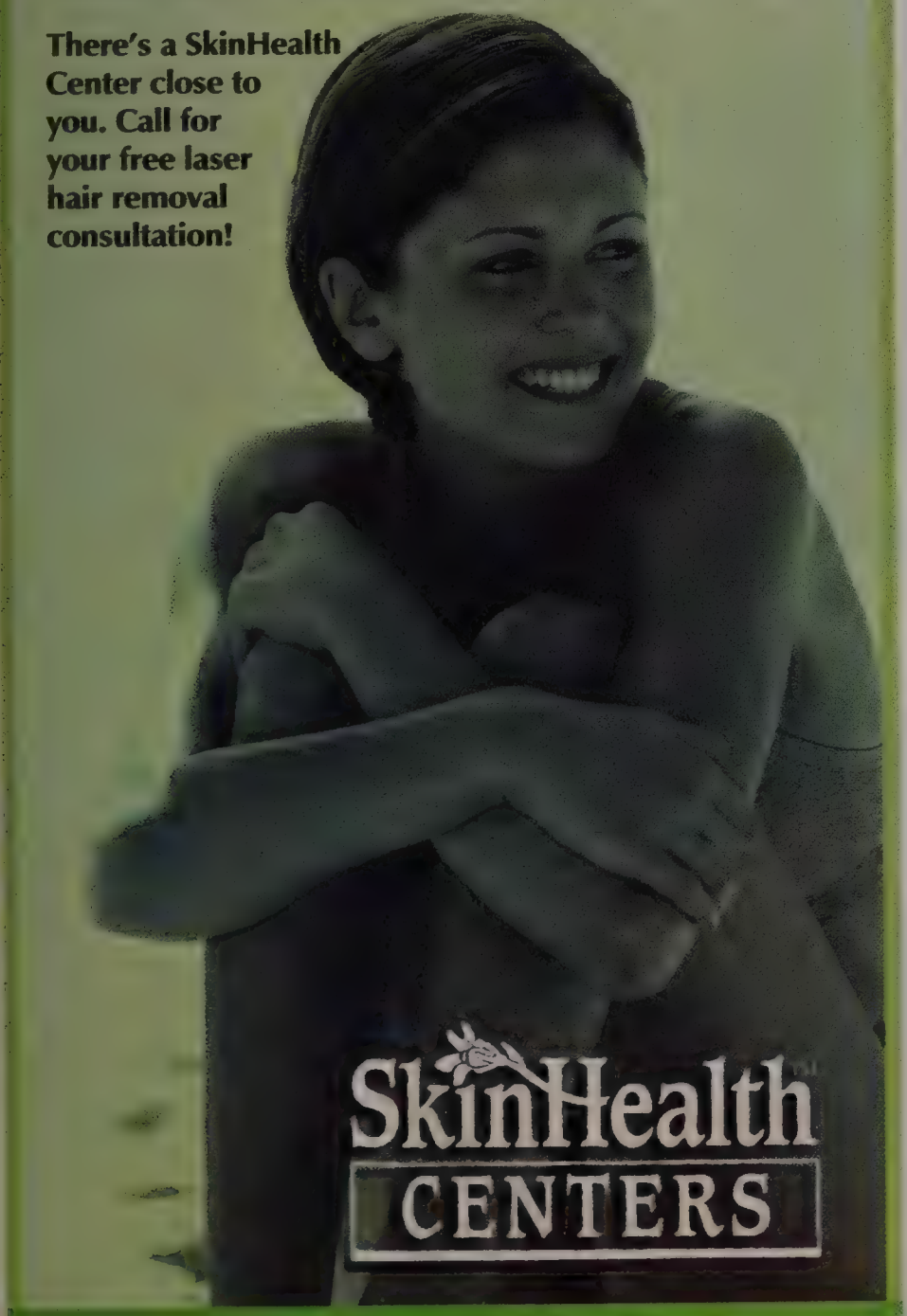

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By Rachel Strutt • Photographs by Peter Smith

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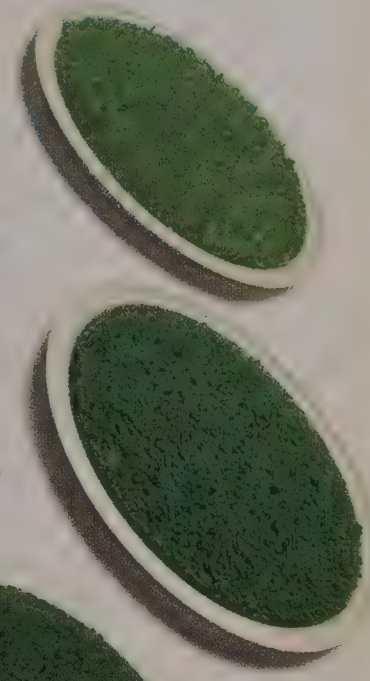
Whether it's scanning a recipe's ingredients or salivating over the photography, *The Taste of Summer* will inspire you to whip up sumptuous summer fare. It's available at Chiasso for $36. That's located in the Prudential Center Shops *(859-1808); Mon.-Sat., 10am-8pm, Sun., 11am-6pm.* www.chiasso.com



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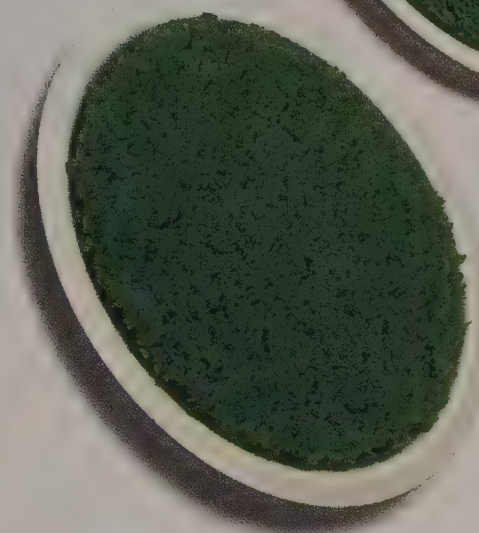
Finally, Astroturf made elegant. These coasters will appeal to golf buffs and fussy housewives alike. They're available for $2.50 each at *Laboratory, 577 Tremont St. (266-7300); Mon.-Fri., 10am-8pm, Sat., 11am-7pm, Sun., 11am-6pm* www.labhome.com



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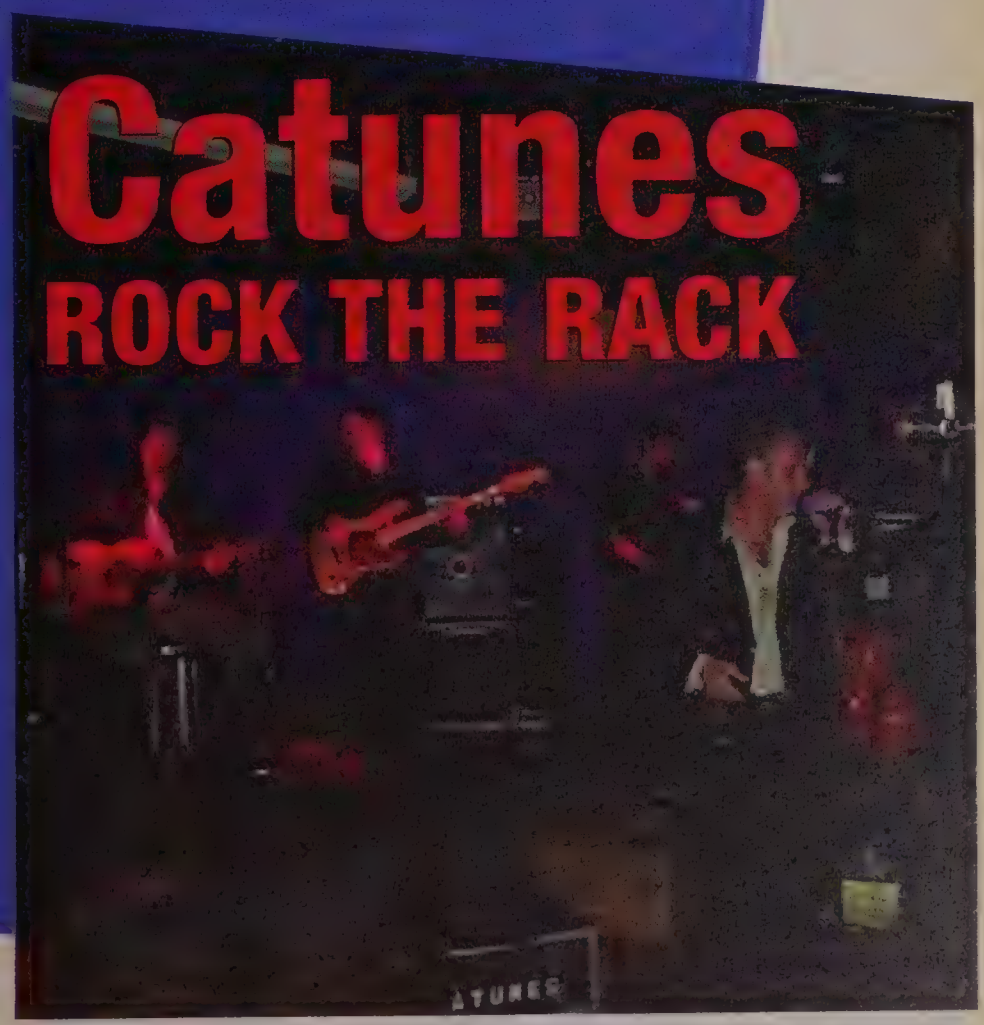

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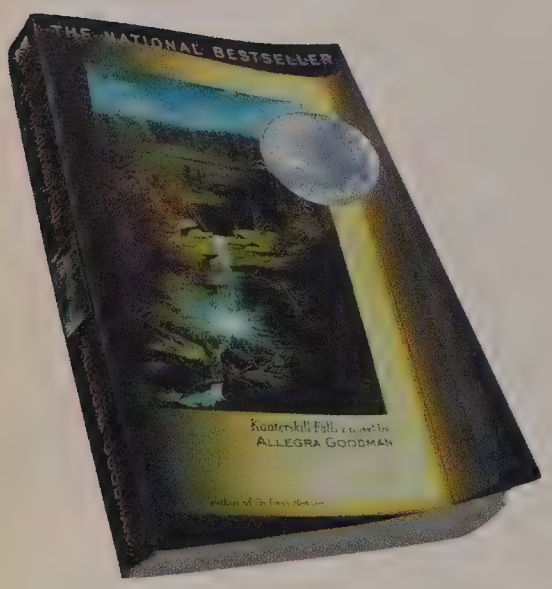

A JEWISH CLOISTER

Kaaterskill Falls, by Allegra Goodman, author of *The Family Markowitz*, now in paperback, was a National Book Award Finalist.

The feeling of graceful intimacy in Allegra Goodman's *Kaaterskill Falls* is partly created by her telling the story in the present tense.

More intimacy yet spills like summer tree-shade from the setting—a community in upstate New York where the disciples of Rabbi Kirshner cluster in 1976, closely observing Jewish rituals and traditions. "A narrow place. Always safe and always binding," as Elizabeth, mother of five girls thinks of it, as she both obeys and rebels against the imposed parameters of her life. Obedient, she also seeks something more—which in her case entails opening a Kosher grocery for the community, a marginally radical act for a woman highly observant. Each character—the Rabbi's two heir-apparent sons, with their subtly different shades of piety and intensity; the tormented Andras; a breezier English couple, Cecil and Beatrix; and Elizabeth's children—measures his or her identity according to his or her chosen distance from or closeness to the containing, sometimes constraining, orthodox spirit. The stern Kirshner reveals his own interior pain and complexity. The relation between the Yankee locals and the community highlights the Jews' exoticism. They, meanwhile, huddlingly, have their own tensions. A lush, absorbing read, *Kaaterskill* feels like a 19th-century novel.

PLAN IT WITH THE PLANETS

Dorothy Oja of Mindworks does astrological and metaphysical consulting. Call 926-8841 or e-mail *doja96@aol.com*.

One way that Dorothy Oja vivifies the meaning of astrology is by writing about famous people, connecting their personal traits to their starry verities. In the case of Calista (Sun in Scorpio) Flockhart and her alter-ego, Ally McBeal, with her "hazy, loopy, somewhere-else, quizzical" ways, it's a Neptunian style. Albert (Sun in Pisces) Einstein apparently had a dream that prompted the Theory of Relativity. Needless to say, a countervailing groundedness (some Taurus, Virgo and Capricorn) brought it down to earth. Oja, in her weekly e-mail "Planet Weather," elaborates the sign's current configuration. Her consulting, which comes with a high degree of positivism, cheer and a desire to help you "work with the energy at hand, not wait for the good or the bad," emphasizes what she calls "rebalancing." Couples looking into the stars in each other's eyes can hire Oja to request her DoubleWheels chart to assess the potential of the relationship, astrology-wise. In a soothsaying mode, clients scheduling weddings or surgery may consult her for the most auspicious time for these predictable crises. Even bigger and wider is meta-coaching to assess life dreams and plans to help you "identify the soul intention behind/beneath your commitment" to your life goals.

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A poor man's view of the rich

BY EZRA DYER

I was going to write an article about procrastination, but I've decided I'll do it later. Instead, today's focus is money. "How did you do this year?" asks *Parade Magazine* in its "What People Earn" edition. "Not as well as a lot of people, apparently," is my answer.

I made more than Shari Kramer, the owner of a general store in Dufur, Oregon ($8,552), but I made considerably less than Oklahoma rodeo cowboy Ricky Huddleston, who pulled in $103,000. Then again, it's a rare day at the office that I get my sphincter gored by an angry bull, but 100 grand is 100 grand. Tom Hanks made $43 million last year. The only way I have a chance of making a fraction of that money is if Tom Hanks gets drunk and runs me down in a crosswalk.

Here's one of my problems: although I'm basely materialistic, I lack the ability to perceive the money-making side of a given situation. For instance, Parade informs us that "baby wranglers"—the people who make babies smile for pictures and commercials—make up to $800 per day. I look at those smiling-baby-dressed-up-as-a-tiger posters and think, "Who the hell buys these things?" (Answer: women everywhere, plus my brother's freshman-year roommate, but that's another discussion.) However, somebody is looking at those posters and saying to themselves, "How did they get that baby to smile? I could make money doing that."

So money-making is not my strong suit. Neither is money management. This is putting a serious strain on my plan to retire by age 30.

So money-making is not my strong suit. Neither is money management. This is putting a serious strain on my plan to retire by age 30. I've carefully gone over my portfolio, and even including the change under the floor mats of my car and the one-dollar-winning scratch tickets in my bedroom, it looks like I'm a bit short—unless I follow through with my plan to become a hobo.

However, I at least know why I'm poor, because I read *The Millionaire Next Door* by Thomas J. Stanley and William D. Danko. Let me sum up this book up for you so you can get on with that Danielle Steele novel. After years of exhaustive research and interviews with actual millionaires, Danko and Stanley came up with a simple formula for getting rich: Make lots of money and don't spend it. In nearly every case, this is how people accrue a million dollars. Although I scoured the book, I could not find one documented instance of someone recklessly spending their $20,000 income and becoming a millionaire. Stanley and Danko's ideal person would be a CEO of a large corporation who lives in a tent under a highway overpass, drives a Yugo and spends spare time clipping discount coupons for Ramen noodles. This person would be what they call a PAW (prodigious accumulator of wealth). If you're not a PAW, then you're an UAW (under accumulator of wealth—and no, Mssrs. Danko and Stanley do not come up with very snappy acronyms). I, however, am a PADS (prodigious accumulator of decrepit snowmobiles), and so unless there is suddenly an insatiable demand for 1979 Arctic Cat Panthers with purple seats among the moneyed set, I will never be a PAW.

This is a hereditary thing, I'm afraid. When my mother decided to start investing, she too chose a market not known for high returns: Beanie Babies. And over the course of several birthdays and Christmases and whatnot, I too have accumulated my own arsenal of Beanies. What—you don't remember those Beanie Babies that were all the rage about a year ago? No? Well, we'll see who doesn't remember these highly valuable, plastic-pellet-filled nylon bags when my retired Nuts the Squirrel buys me a beach house in Malibu.

All right, so I'm never going to be rich. My consolation is that if wealth were measured in loved ones and friendships, then I would be rich beyond the dreams of the most extravagant sultan. Ha. My real consolation is that the dot-coms are all tanking now, and soon 95 percent of these Internet millionaires are going to be broke like me—at least momentarily. To which I say: ha ha, ha ha ha. But I'm all in favor of the Internet CEOs, the baby wranglers, the rodeo cowboys, and Tom Hanks making big bucks. In fact, I'm counting on them having lots of disposable income. Somebody's gotta buy these damn Beanie Babies. IB

You think that's funny?

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INSIDE: Atara Bistro & Wine Bar opens in the former Uva digs in Brighton; Fleming's serves up steak on Stuart Street; a culinary horoscope

Banquettes abound in Sel de la Terre's dining room. Opposite page: grilled Mediterranean flatbread pizza (above); chef/partner Geoff Gardner (below).

REVIEW

Salt of the Earth

Frank McClelland's Sel de la Terre is a gastronomic oasis upon the Big Dig battlefield

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI

I have been in Boston for 10 years and, contrarian that I am, have yet to visit Frank McClelland's L'Espalier. I have been reluctant to tackle that culinary icon, fearful that it will not live up to the hype that Boston foodies lavish upon it. Hence I was delighted that Mr. McClelland has provided a more relaxed and pocketbook-friendly venue in which to sample his fare: Sel de la Terre, the newest entrant in Boston's red-hot-restaurant sweepstakes.

Sharing a nondescript waterfront building with a branch of Legal Seafood, Sel de la Terre is certainly not relying on its location to sell itself. In fact, virtually at ground zero of the Big Dig battlefield, Sel de la Terre has no view other than chain-link fences, signs and construction equipment outside its picture windows. It is accessible only to intrepid pioneers who are willing to brave the ever-changing street and sidewalk patterns of Atlantic Avenue. Inside, however, the warmth and hospitality of this gastronomic oasis, and the superb quality of the food, are ample rewards.

Sel de la Terre—"salt of the earth"—is entered by way of a small foyer with a showcase and sales counter selling the restaurant's estimable breads and baked goods. The dining room is large and well laid out, with a slate tile floor, black wrought-iron chandeliers and white shaded sconces, comfortable banquettes and booths. Along one wall there is a striking green and earth-tone mural evocative of Provence. Black tables are set with oversized white cloth napkins, sparkling, faceted tableware, white plates and ample wine glasses.

Sel de la Terre's wine list is superb, far from the clichéd, predictable and pricey wine lists found in all too many restaurants. France's "Midi," or South, to which many frugal oenophiles have been driven by the high prices of France's more famous wine-growing regions, is a source of many of the offerings. A 1998 Coteaux d'Aix en Provence, Les Matines, was a standout for the remarkably low price of $23. This enjoyable red wine boasted good structure, forward fruit, a pleasant bouquet, and that unmistakable *gout de terroir* of the Provence soil.

McClelland's good sense in pricing does not stop with the wine list. Apparently in recognition of the fact that, with few exceptions, particular ingredients are not the dominant determinator of cost, he has priced all menu offerings uniformly: $8 for appetizers, $21 for main courses, and $7 for desserts. With the element of price removed from the process of selection, one can decide on the basis of palate, not pocketbook.

The flavor of Provence conveyed by the mural is perfectly replicated in the food, and the glorious vegetables comprising and accompanying virtually all of the menu offerings proclaim the South of France. Of the three appetizers that we sampled, the sea scallops were the winner in a close race. Big, tender, succulent and sweet, they arrived in a magnificent sauté with sweet Vidalia onions, smoky chunks of country ham, al dente green peas and a hauntingly beautiful herb from the mint family, probably lavender. Almost as good were the Provincal mussels, poached in a delectable sauce of white wine, garlic, parsley and shallots (or perhaps leeks), accompanied by a small plate of hot, fresh, crunchy French fries flecked with rosemary. In an authentically French gesture, our waiter brought a *poubelle de la table*—a wastebasket for depositing the empty mussel shells.

Only a modest step down from the other two appetizers was the lobster crepe, not because it wasn't delicious—it was, with kernels of sweet corn, chunks of avocado and tomatoes, and slivers of chives in an ambrosial sauce—but because the promised lobster consisted of a few skimpy cubes of claw.

Main course included the very best bouillabaisse we have ever tasted this side of Marseilles. Inhabitants of Marseilles are

protective of their signature dish, arguing that authentic bouillabaisse cannot be created more than six miles from Marseilles's Vieux Bassin (Old Port), because its success depends upon the kinds of Mediterranean fish from that region. Be that as it may, Sel de la Terre's saffron-infused extravaganza of monkfish, cod and littleneck clams, together with chunks of potatoes, pearl onions and big, green kidney beans, with just a hint of rosemary, was extraordinary. Tapenade-crusted striped bass with Nicoise salad also showcased sunny Provincal flavors and perfumes, especially the luscious richness of olives. The Nicoise salad accompaniment was a delicate sauté of slender, tender *haricots verts* (string beans), hard-boiled egg, red and orange peppers, potatoes, capers and anchovies. Our only complaint about the fish was its texture, which could have been firmer.

The restaurant's obvious gesture to serious carnivores was the grilled peppered beef sirloin. Served with roasted garlic and a finely constructed ratatouille of eggplant, zucchini, yellow squash, tomato and onion, the steak was rare and fork-tender, with fully robust beef flavor.

Sel de la Terre's excellence did not stop with its appetizers and main courses. Of the three desserts we sampled, it was hard to choose a clear winner. The lemon tart, at once mellow and tangy and garnished with seven or eight beautiful raspberries, was heavenly. The lavender honey *pot de crème* was a perfectly rendered custard of velvety texture and exquisite taste, accompanied by crunchy biscotti impregnated with dried cherries and a red-currant marmalade. Only the manner of presentation of the *pot de crème*—in a tacky, clear glass container that resembled a baby food jar—disappointed. Finally, the *bete noire*, an intensely chocolate flourless cake with espresso *crème anglaise*, was a chocoholic's dream. The port-marinated cherry garnish was an engaging tangy counterpoint to the deep, dark richness of the chocolate.

In a restaurant marked with superlatives, one is reluctant to criticize, but we did have a couple of minor quibbles. A side order of French fries, while fresh, hot and crisp, was exceedingly sparse given its aggressive price tag ($5), which was way out-of-keeping with Sel de la Terre's otherwise reasonable prices. Service was uneven. It was exemplary when we first arrived and had little competition for our waiter's attention, but it began to decline as the restaurant filled up. Still, we were impressed with our waiter's knowledge and enthusiasm, his willingness to recommend particular dishes and his graciousness in volunteering to have the kitchen divide one of our entrees into two so it could be shared.

Sel de la Terre—a metaphor signifying merit, value and enduring character—is well named. This marvelous eatery on the fringe of the Financial District will build a strong and loyal following. **IB**

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DISH

Au Revoir, Uva!

A new bistro blooms in Brighton

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

Busy in Brighton: Atara's Chef Larry Kessel, GM Kelly Connerton and sous chef Rob Acheson.

Remember when most restaurants had names that were self-explanatory, or at least easy to pronounce? There was minimal mystery attending **The Capital Grille**, **Back Bay Brewing Company** or **Up Stairs at the Pudding**. Then along came **EVOO** in Somerville, a great acronym for those in-the-know about olive oil. More recently, **Aspasia** opened in West Cambridge, sending the curious scurrying to their Greek history books. Then **Barcode** bewildered even those patrons who made their way to the stylish dining room. "Hey, what *is* the name of this place?" asked one befuddled diner early on, as he opened his menu.

Now we have **Atara Bistro & Wine Bar**, located in the Commonwealth Avenue digs that formerly housed **Uva**. Owner/chef **Larry Kessel**, who was opening chef at Uva and opening pastry chef at **Ambrosia on Huntington**, has taken over Uva's beer and wine license, but alas, not the treasured contents of its cellar. It's whispered that Uva owner **Chris Campbell** may be seeking a spot downtown.

"We plan to open in early June," says Atara GM **Kelly Connerton**, formerly at **Tremont 647** & **Red Clay**. A glance at the menu reveals "neighborhood bistro" fare ranging from artichoke and goat cheese dip with flat griddle bread to pastas, grilled pizzas and entrees such as roasted halibut with buttery savoy cabbage.

Welcome back, ***Where to Eat***! The new spring/summer issue of this smartly designed dining guide has "doubled in size and expanded to the suburbs!" says publisher **Jill Epstein**.

Speaking of doubling in size, yet another cholesterol castle—yes, a steakhouse—is entering the Boston meat market: **Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar** on Stuart Street, across from the Park Plaza Hotel. **Chris Gifford**, operating partner, says "Boston is still a meat-and-potatoes town." He should know; he was GM of the Capital Grille on Newbury Street for five years.

So what's different about Fleming's, Chris? "The whole restaurant is nonsmoking. The steaks are about $5 cheaper (than at the Grille) because they're prime instead of choice. And it's less intimidating, more woman-friendly."

Let's face it, says Fleming: "Capital Grille is like a men's locker room with clothes." We can all be thankful for the clothes in that image.

THE ENVELOPE, PLEASE

The first time (nominated) was a charm for **Radius** chef/co-owner **Michael Schlow**, who was honored with the title of Best Regional Chef in the Northeast by the James Beard Foundation...**Amanda Lydon** of **Truc** in the South End was the *other* local chef recently named "Best New Chef" by *Food & Wine Magazine* (sorry for the inadvertent omission in the last issue)...**Todd English** has been named one of Massachusetts' Top Ten Entrepreneurs by *Massachusetts Investors Digest*...**Bill Bradley**, executive chef at **Restaurant Bricco** in the North End, is a finalist in the Bocuse d'Or 2000-USA Concourse world cuisine contest.

I'd like two of those, please: **Sonsie**'s spring dessert menu offers a "mocha Paris breast (sic) with caramel and almonds." A Paris-Brest, of course, is a classic French pastry named in honor of a bicycle race between Paris and Brest. The Sonsie version, with its implanted "a," certainly pumps up more attention. iB

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant?
Send it to dish@improper.com

Tastings BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for tastings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

EVENTS

Anthony's Pier 4 Concert Trolley
140 Northern Ave., Boston (482-6262). Eat dinner at Anthony's Pier 4 before one of the FleetBoston Pavilion concerts and you can park your car in the restaurant's lot and jump aboard a free trolley to and from the show.

The Fine Art of Cheese Tasting
5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. June 12, 6-9pm. $49. Move beyond Gouda, havarti, cheddar and brie with Formaggio Kitchen owner **Ihsan Gurdal**. Accompanied by basic dry red and white wines, sample a number of cheeses from around the world, including Montgomery cheddar, Emmi cave-ripened Gruyere, Trade Lake cedar sheep *tomme* and Jacquin chevre.

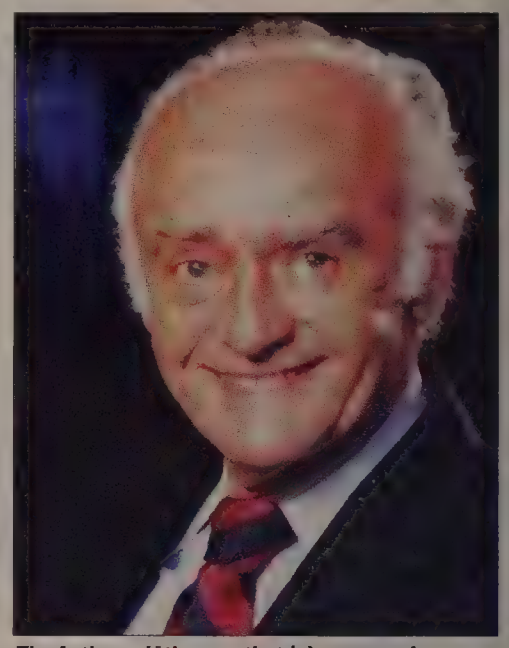
Friday Tastings
The Wine Bottega, 341 Hanover St., Boston (227-6607). Taste wines and then head to a North End restaurant for pasta. •June 2: Southern France, 1998. From the Rhone Valley to Rousillon, France's best values. •June 9: Summer reds. The best choices for warmer weather.

Guest Chefs at Eat
253 Washington St., Somerville (776-2889). Monday evenings. Eat's **Charlie Robinson** hosts a different chef every Monday night. •June 5: **K.C. O'Hara** of the Harvard Faculty Club. •June 12: **Stefano Zimei** from the Federalist.

The New Spain
Rauxa, 70 Union Square, Somerville (623-9939). June 6, 6:30pm. $75. This dinner will showcase the upstarts, innovators and individualists who are putting the "new" Spain on the world wine map. Sample wines from importer **Jorge Ordonez**.

Sangria 7 Tapas Fantasticas
Brookline High, Brookline (730-2700). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. June 8, 6-9pm. $51. Learn to cook *tapas*, or Spanish appetizers, with chef **Louise Natenshon**. Then venture outdoors to toast the evening with sangria and tapas.

Sommeliers Series
5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. June 12 and June 19, 6-7:30pm. $70. Named one of the city's best sommeliers, **Jeannie Rogers** has created a much recognized wine list for Il Capriccio in Waltham. Join Rogers for a sampling of wines from some of Italy's small wineries.



The **Anthony (Athanas, that is), owner of Anthony's Pier 4, offers a trolley service for diners attending a FleetBoston Pavilion concert.**

The Wine and Food of No. 9 Park
5 Comm. Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. June 12, 6-9pm. $73. Join No. 9 Park *chef de cuisine* **David Bazirgan** and wine director **Cat Silirie** for a taste of the restaurant's acclaimed cuisine and wine selection.

Wine Tastings
Brookline Liquor Mart, 1354 Commonwealth Ave., Allston (734-7700). An educational tasting series. •May 31, 5-8pm: Wines from Napa and Sonoma. •June 3, 1-5pm: German wines. •June 10: Wines of California.

Wine Tasting Wednesdays
Turner Fisheries Lounge, the corner of Stuart and Dartmouth streets, Boston (424-7425). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 5-7pm. $2 per glass. Wine experts will describe the origin, body and flavor of each wine as well as suggest food pairings. •May 31: Chateau St. Michelle, Washington; Enate, Spain; Louis Latour, France; R.H. Phillips, California; Villa Del Borgho, Italy. •June 7: Caymus and Liberty School from California.

Wine Tasting with Lorenzo
Les Zygomates, 29 South St., Boston (542-5108). Tue., 6pm and 8pm. $25. Enjoy a wine and food pairing. •May 30: South African reds. •June 6: Portuguese reds.

TASTY TIDBIT

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It's Saturday night, and you're ready to dine out. But where to go? Will it be Asian, Italian, Mexican or nouveau American? Can't decide? Well, help is on the way: Visit www.foodline.com and find out what the moon and stars tell you about your dietary desires each month. Foodline.com's culinary horoscope offers whimsical gastronomical predictions concerning what and when to eat. For example, practical Capricorns should tread carefully around coconut and frozen drinks, and fiery Aries like to keep it hot and flavorful with tapas and tandoori. After consulting your food forecast, you can make an online restaurant reservation on the site.

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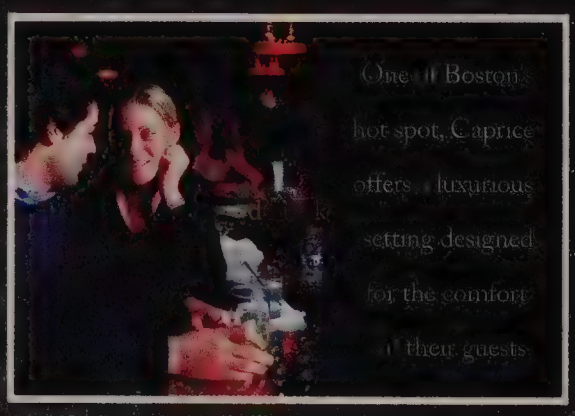

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Julie and Erin

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improper picks

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<<Miss Saigon
Broadway's hit love story lands at the Wang Theatre, June 8-25.

Wednesday, May 31

Erin: Jefferson Starship Acoustic performs Jefferson Airplane's *Volunteers* at the House of Blues. (See Music.)
Julie: Head north for the outdoor, daylong 17th annual **Salem Seaport Festival**. (See Go Away.)

Thursday, June 1

Erin: Club d'Elf returns to the Lizard Lounge tonight. (See Music.) Also, **Edward Rosser** discusses the work of Emil Mayer, a turn-of-the-century Viennese street photographer, at the Harvard Coop. (See Books & Poetry.)
Julie: The Brattle features ***Coming Out*** and ***Solo Sunny***. (See Film.)

Friday, June 2

Julie: Dance on the dock at Community Boating's **Blues Night Benefit**. (See CityScope.)
Erin: Check out the **Feast of Santa Maria DiAnzano** on Hanover Street in the North End. (See CityScope.) Or see the **Flamenco Festival** at the Emerson Majestic Theatre. (See Dance.)

Saturday, June 3

Erin: **The Big Bang: An Unnatural Benefit** at Mass MoCA is an evening of dancing under the stars, theater and a private viewing of a new exhibition. (See CityScope.)
Julie: Funny guy **Bill Bellamy** of *MTV Jams* is at the Comedy Connection tonight. (See Comedy.)

Sunday, June 4

Julie: At the **Beacon Hill Art Walk**, you can wander along the cobblestone streets and purchase original works from the artists themselves. (See CityScope.)
Erin: There's literally something for everyone at the annual **Central Square World's Fair**. (See Music.)

Monday, June 5

Erin: The Coolidge's **Jazz on a June Night** series features documentary films with live jazz performances by New England Conservatory musicians. (See Film.)
Julie: The **Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble** performs at the New England Conservatory at Jordan Hall. (See Classical Music.)

Tuesday, June 6

Erin: Hmm...it's a toss-up: **Nina Simone** is at the FleetBoston Pavilion. (See Music.) But **Screen on the Green** is showing *The Adventures of Robin Hood* on the Common. (See Film.)
Julie: The South End is lit up with 15,000 pink lights at the **Pridelights Festival**. (See Gay & Lesbian.)

Wednesday, June 7

Erin: The *Car Talk* guys visit the Coolidge to read from their latest book, *In Our Humble Opinion*. (See Books & Poetry). Also, **Mary Lou Lord** and the **Fly Seville** play at the Lizard Lounge. (See Music.)
Julie: I'll be running in the **Chase Corporate Challenge**. It's a great way to meet other healthy, buff young professionals. (See Sports.)

Thursday, June 8

Erin: **Tina Turner**'s here tonight, but those of us without tickets should head downtown for an ice cream orgasm at the **Scooper Bowl** on City Hall Plaza. (See CityScope.)
Julie: It's the first of three days of beer-soaked fun at Harpoon Brewery's **Brewstock 2000**. (See CityScope.)

Friday, June 9

Julie: Find out what the animals really do at night after the visitors go home at the Franklin Zoo's **Zootopia! 2000**. (See CityScope.)
Erin: At the annual **Summer Festival of New Plays** at Mass. College of Art, discover hot new playwrights before they go on to fame and fortune. (See Theater.)

Saturday, June 10

Julie: More than 25 local artists showcase their art and crafts at the **Coolidge Corner Arts Festival**. (See Art.) At night, head to the Wang Theatre for ***Miss Saigon***. (See Theater.)
Erin: It's also **Gay Pride Day**. Tens of thousands of people march to the Common. (See Gay & Lesbian.)

Sunday, June 11

Julie and **Erin**: Some 45 Copley Society artists will scatter throughout Boston to paint the city's parks, gardens, waterfront and historic buildings for the **Fresh Paint 2000 Auction**. (See CityScope.)

Monday, June 12

Erin: **KISS** appears with special guests **Ted Nugent** and—better still—**Skid Row** tonight and tomorrow at the Tweeter Center. (See Music.)
Julie: The **Elliot Norton Awards** at the Ritz-Carlton honor the very best in local theater. (See CityScope.)

Tuesday, June 13

Erin: **Russell Banks** returns to the Coolidge to share from *The Angel on the Roof*, his new collection of short stories. (See Books & Poetry.)
Julie: **Power Plays: Shakespeare's Lessons in Leadership and Management** at Old South Meeting House should be a terrific lecture. (See Education.)

CITYSCOPE **52** • PERFORMING ARTS **58** • ART **62** • FILM **64** • EDUCATION **66** • BOOKS & POETRY **68** • CLASSICAL MUSIC **70** • DANCE CLUBS **72** • MUSIC **74** • GAY & LESBIAN **80** • BODY & MIND **82** • CHILDREN **82** • SPORTS **82** • SALES & FASHION **84** • GO AWAY **84** • MARK YOUR DAYTIMER **85** • EDITED BY: **ERIN HAGEDORN** • Art, Books & Poetry, Dance Clubs, Dance, Film, Gay & Lesbian, Go Away, Museums, Music. **JULIE SHORT** Children, CityScope, Comedy, Education, Go Away, Sales & Fashion, Sports, Tastings, Theater • **ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY: Laurel Kirtz** Body & Mind **Joes Musser** Dance Clubs • **Paul Sherman** Film Capsules

cityscope

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a list of festivals, events and benefits taking place in the Boston area by date.

Festivals, Events Expos & Benefits

Friday, June 2

Avon Breast Cancer 3-Day
Leominster to Boston (888-3DAY-AVON). www.avoncrusade.com. *June 2-4 .* More than 2,000 people will walk 60 miles from Leominster to Boston. Over the course of three days, participants will walk the distance to raise money in the fight against breast cancer.

Second Annual Blues Night Benefit
Community Boating on the Charles River Esplanade next to the Hatch Shell, Boston (523-1038). MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. 8pm-12am. $20 (barbecue and dancing), $10 (dancing only). Feast on a Southern barbecue as the sun sets over the Charles and dance on the dock to the sounds of Two Picks and a Bone, one of Boston's hottest blues bands. Proceeds benefit CBI's Junior Program.

First Friday of the Month Singles Dance
The Knights of Columbus Hall, Corners of Winslow and Prescott Streets, Arlington (781-721-1886). www.funfunfun.org. *8:30pm-12:30am. $10.* A singles dance with a DJ, bar, door prizes and a big dance floor for singles ages 21 to 49.

Italian-American Fiestas: Feast of Santa Maria DiAnzano
Hanover Street, North End, Boston (536-4100). June 2 at 2pm through June 4. It wouldn't be summer without the North End's Italian fests. A different patron saint is honored almost every weekend with a procession, music, carnival games and pounds of pasta.

Friday, June 3

The Big Bang: An Unnatural Benefit
Mass MoCA, 87 Marshall St., North Adams, Mass. (413-662-2111). www.massmoca.org. *$125-$140.* An evening of dancing under the stars, magical theater and a private viewing of a groundbreaking new exhibition, *Unnatural Science.*

Big Boys Toy Show of Boston
SquareOne Mall, Route 1 South, Saugus (781-230-EXPO). June 3-4. Boys will be boys—all that changes is the price of their toys. This selling expo will feature everything from novel sports cars, powerboats, motorcycles, sporting goods and audio and visual technologies to computers, exotic vacations, clothing and jewelry.

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Fridays. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

Sunday, June 4

AIDS Action Walk
Hatch Shell, Boston (424-9255). June 4, 10am. These shoes were made for walking, and they're set to walk 6.2 miles to benefit the AIDS Action Committee.

Beacon Hill Art Walk
Start at 135 1/2 Charles Street. Walk travels from Charles Street along Putnam Avenue and along Phillips Grove, Revere and Anderson Streets, Boston (523-5045). Free. June 4, 12-6pm. Rain date June 11. More than 100 artists from Beacon Hill and beyond exhibit and sell their work. The artists set up their displays in the gardens, courtyards and entryways of Beacon Hill.

Central Square World's Fair
Central Square, Cambridge (868-3247). www.worldsfair.csquare.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. 12-6pm.* See box for more information.

Tuesday, June 6

CyberBrew
The Big Easy, The Alley, One Boylston Place, Boston (227-2822). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 6:30-9pm. $10. CyberBrew is the largest networking event for the interactive media industry in New England. This monthly meeting, sponsored by the Massachusetts Interactive Media Council, is an informal exchange of ideas and a social centerpoint for those involved in the high-tech community.

Gardens of the Back Bay Tour
5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (424-7186). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 10am-5pm. See box on page 54.

Pridelight's Bridge Builder Tree Lighting Concert
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (781-433-7073). www.pridelights.org. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. 7:30pm. This free outdoor event is an opportunity for the straight and gay to come together and enjoy a musical performance and the illumination of Clarendon Square in 15,000 pink Pridelights.

Scooper Bowl/Boston Dairy Festival
Boston City Hall Plaza (632-3300). June 6-8, 11:30am-6pm. $5. Prepare to eat more ice cream than you've ever had in one day. Indulge at this all-you-can-eat, three-day ice cream festival hosted by nine of New England's finest ice cream makers, including Ben & Jerry's, Brigham's, Edy's, Haagen Dazs, HP Hood, Kemps and West Lynn Creamery. Proceeds benefit the Jimmy Fund.

Screen on the Green
Boston Common at Beacon Street and Charles Street, Boston (635-4505). Sunset. Free. An outdoor film festival on the Common, Screen on the Green will feature *Adventures of Robin Hood* tonight.

6th Annual Women's Leadership Event
Sheraton Boston, 39 Dalton St., Boston (351-7622). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. 12-2pm. $125. At this celebratory luncheon, the YWCA Boston will induct 12 distinguished women who have displayed exemplary leadership through their civic participation, professional success and positive community action into its Academy of Women Achievers.

Preview

Central Square Fair

There is literally something for everyone at the annual Central Square World's Fair, June 4—from arts and crafts to international cuisine. Stages located throughout the square will feature Irish, Gospel, Caribbean, Latin, country-bluegrass, local and national jazz, blues and rock music. See the Music section of the calendar for a complete list of bands. *Cambridge (868-3247). www.worldsfair.csquare.org. MBTA: Red Line to Central. June 4, 12-6pm.*

Wednesday, June 7

Chase Corporate Challenge
Boston (439-7700). June 7, 7pm. The streets of Boston fill with runners on a 3.5-mile road race that began in 1977 with 200 runners from 50 companies. Today, it's the largest participatory corporate sporting event in the United States, with runs in 15 locations worldwide and more than 192,500 runners from nearly 6,500 companies.

13th Annual Tribute to Abigail Adams Event
FleetBoston Financial, 100 Federal St., 2nd Floor, Boston (451-9294). 5:30pm. $100. This event recognizes six Massachusetts women who have demonstrated through their work and/or community activism an outstanding commitment to the realization of equal political, economic and social rights for women. This year's recipients include Randy Albelda, economist from UMass Boston; Vicki Donlan, publisher and founder of Women's Business; Justine M. Liff, commissioner of Boston Park and Recreation Department; and Helene Solomon, principal of Bischoff Solomon Communications.

Thursday, June 8

Harpoon Brewstock
Harpoon Brewery, 306 Northern Ave., Boston (574-9551). June 8, 5:30-11pm; June 9, 5:30-11pm; June 10, 2-11pm. $10 (includes one beer). See box for more info.

Young Professionals' Team Spring Fund Raising Event
The Boston Harbor Hotel, Rowes Wharf, Boston (746-5624). 6-12pm. $35/$45 at the door. Business attire. Enjoy dinner and dancing with Eye 2 Eye and silent and live auctions with this committee of volunteers from the Catholic Schools Foundation/Inner-City Scholarship Fund.

Friday, June 9

MegaFest 2000
St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, 57 Brown St., Weston (781-237-5561). June 9, 4-10pm; June 10, 11am-10pm; June 11, 11am-3pm. Free. Featured will be Greek food, scrumptious Greek pastries, Greek music and dancing and creative boutiques.

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Fridays. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

Zootopia! 2000
1 Franklin Park Road, Boston (541-LION). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. 6:30-12pm. $250. Creative black tie. Party like animals at this annual gala fund-raiser with a gourmet buffet, open bar, silent and live auction and rug-cuttin' classic pop music by the band Blue Heaven.

Saturday, June 10

Coolidge Corner Arts Festival
Beacon and Harvard Streets, Brookline (739-1330). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 9am. This event attracts more than 25 artists showcasing their handmade jewelry, stained glass, stoneware and pottery, watercolors, acrylic and oil paintings, origami, photography and cards. Also sample food from local vendors.

Gay Pride Day March
Through the streets of Boston (520-3350). 12pm. Tens of thousands of people march from Copley Square through the South End to the Common for entertainment, arts and crafts and informational exhibits.

MegaFest 2000
St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, 57 Brown St., Weston (781-237-5561). June 9, 4-10pm; June 10, 11am-10pm; June 11, 11am-3pm. Featured will be Greek food, scrumptious Greek pastries, Greek music and dancing and creative boutiques.

Music in the Orchard and Strawberry Festival
Nashoba Valley Winery, 100 Wattaquadoc Hill Road, Bolton (978-779-5521). 12-5pm. Free. Enjoy the bluegrass sounds of Amy Gallatin & the Stillwaters and pick your own strawberries. Bring your own picnic basket, or enjoy a down-home barbecue, freshly made strawberry shortcake and lots of ice cream treats.

Sunset Safari—An Evening Down on the Farm
1 Franklin Park Road, Boston (541-LION). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. 6-8pm. $12, $8 children. Enjoy a special nighttime soiree at the zoo with storytelling, muscial entertainment and an ice cream sundae bar. Be sure to check out all the features of the new Farmyard exhibit.

Sunday, June 11

Charles Hotel Farmer's Market Opens
Harvard Square, Cambridge (234-8099). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Sundays, 10am-3:30pm. Through Nov. 19. This open-air market features organic produce, farm-raised flowers, condiments and homemade baked goods.

Fresh Paint 2000 Auction
Fairmont Copley Hotel, 138 St. James Ave., Boston (536-5049). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Silent and live auctions and dinner, $75; with preview reception at 5pm, $125. Some 45 Copley Society artists will scatter throughout Boston from 8am-3pm to capture the city's parks, gardens, waterfront and historic buildings in water colors, oils and pastels. For art lovers, it's an opportunity to meet the artists, observe them at work, and then later bid for one of their framed "fresh paintings" at the auction that night at 6:30pm.

The Great Race: Boston to Sacramento Car Race
Parade follows Boylston Street from Copley Square to the entrance of the Mass. Turnpike. The Great Race features 120 vintage cars (dating from 1905 to 1960) in a two-week-long timed rally race from downtown Boston to Sacramento. See them off with the wave of a flag.

St. Anthony's Procession
Hanover Street, Boston (536-4100). 2pm. It wouldn't be summer without the North End's Italian fests. A different patron saint is honored almost every weekend.

Second Sundays: Wine and Tango
Veronique Restaurant and Ballroom, 20 Chapel St., Brookline (731-4800). www.bostoneventguide.com. *MBTA: D Green Line to Longwood. 2-5pm. $10.* The event will feature an educational wine sampling, light hors d'oeuvres and tango music by the George Mel Trio in the company of young professionals.

Monday, June 12

Elliot Norton Awards
The Ritz-Carlton, Arlington Street, Boston (542-9155). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 6pm. $20, $25 after June 5. The Elliot Norton Awards honor outstanding achievement in Greater Boston theater.

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Tuesday, June 13

Reflections 2000
The Grand Ballroom, Sheraton Boston Hotel, 29 Dalton St., Boston (357-8182). $100. This fund-raising dinner for Victory Programs features the words of author and lecturer Marianne Williamson, a silent auction of artist-rendered mirrors and a raffle.

Screen on the Green
Boston Common at Beacon Street and Charles Street, Boston (635-4505). Sunset. Free. An outdoor film festival on the Common, Screen on the Green will feature *Philadelphia Story* tonight.

Volunteer

Avon Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk
(491-3329). Event date: June 2-4. Volunteers needed to work on mailings, phone banking and data entry.

Boston Cares
(263-CARE). More than 70 volunteer opportunities available in Greater Boston.

Boston Living Center
(236-1012). HIV/AIDS service organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Boston-New York AIDS Ride
(859-8282, ext. 230). Ride is Sept. 15. Volunteers needed for work on mass mailings, phone banking and other projects.

Community Servings
(445-7777). Help prepare and deliver meals for individuals and families dealing with AIDS.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

Friday Night Supper Program
Arlington Street Church, corner of Arlington and Boylston streets, Boston (536-7050, ext. 22). Need volunteers to help prepare, cook and serve meals on Fridays, 5-7pm.

The Greater Boston Food Bank
(617.427.5200). Groups needed to sort donated food.

Mass. Eating Disorder Association
(558-1881). Volunteers needed for 4 hours per week for help line, assisting clinical staff and special events.

Pan-Massachusetts Challenge
(800-WE-CYCLE). www.pmc.org. *Event: Aug. 5-6.* Volunteers needed for the ride weekend to help with setup, registration, food service and cleanup.

Pine Street Inn
(521-7626). Seeking volunteers for summer to serve meals and act as receptionist for homeless guests.

Rosie's Place
(442-9322). Volunteers needed for the dining room, clothing room, the groceries program and office work.

United Services Organization (USO)
(720-4949). Volunteers needed to welcome Navy ships, participate in hospital visits, provide office support, coordinate receptions and assist with events.

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Seeks individuals to assist legal immigrants and refugees to become naturalized citizens.

Tours

Boston Bike Tours
On Boston Common (308-5902). Begins April 15. Daily 9:30am-6:30pm. Daily two-hour tours, Mon.-Sat. 1-3pm; 4-6pm. Low-impact, guided sightseeing tours of Boston on bicyles. Rentals available.

Boston by Foot
(367-2345). www.bostonbyfoot.com. *May-October. $8.* Guided 90-minute walks highlight the architecture and history of the city.

Boston by Sea
Tours depart from Long Wharf (227-4321). Weekends until Memorial Day; daily through Oct. 9. 1pm and 3pm. $25. Against the backdrop of the sights, smells and sounds of the harbor, the cruise—featuring live theater performances, sea shanties and video vignettes—will allow visitors to learn about pirates, clipper ships, the old immigration station, the *USS Constitution*, the lighthouse and the Boston Tea Party.

Boston Duck Tours
Prudential Center, Boston (723-DUCK). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. April-October. $21. The 80-minute tour on amphibious landing crafts takes groups through downtown and makes a final splash into the Charles.

Ghosts & Gravestones Tour
Meet at the Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Ave., Boston (269-7150). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Thursdays through Nov. 1 at dusk. Two hours. $29. This tour includes a walk through some of the city's burial grounds hosted by an 18th-century gravedigger.

Ghost Tours
Meet at Boston Common Visitor Information Center, 147 Tremont St., Boston (781-235-7149). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street. Selected evenings, 7:30pm. $12. Tour downtown Boston's most infamous haunted locations.

Hike the Emerald Necklace
Meet at Boston Common Visitor Information Center, 147 Tremont St., Boston (635-7383). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street. June 3, 10am-4pm. Free. Explore the hidden treaures of Boston's Emerald Necklace. Rangers will guide you on this seven-mile hike.

JFK's Boston
Meet at the Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Ave., Boston (269-7150). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Sundays, 1-3pm. Through Columbus Day. $30. This fully narrated tour visits the places that helped shape young Jack Kennedy into the nation's 35th president. Price includes admission to the JFK birthplace in Brookline and the JFK Library and Museum.

The Literary Trail
Tour begins at the Omni Parker House, corner of Tremont and School streets, Boston (574-5950). Saturdays, 9am-12:30pm. $35. Explore the heritage of some of the country's greatest authors, poets and social activists at eight literary historical landmarks in the Boston area.

Stargazing
Meet at Arnold Arboretum, Peter's Hill, Bussey Street Gate, Jamaica Plain (635-7383). June 9 and June 28, 9-10pm. Free. Park rangers will bring a telescope to allow groups to get a closer view of celestial bodies.

Young Friends of the Public Garden Tour
Meet in front of George Washington statue at Arlington Street entrance, Boston (489-1291). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Thursdays, 6-6:45pm. June 1-Aug. 31. Join the Young Friends of the Public Garden every week and learn about various statues, sculptures, flowers and trees.

Sights to See

Boston Tea Party Ship and Museum
Congress St. Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Open daily, March-May and Sept.-Nov., 9am-5pm; closed Dec.-March. $8, $7 students, $4 children. You can dump your own bale into the harbor—and watch a museum guide scramble to retrieve it—at this replica of one of the ships emptied by colonists (disguised as Indians) during the Dec. 16, 1773, tea raid. Afterward, enjoy a cup of tax-free tea.

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Fifth Floor, Boston (353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), Oct.-March 7:30-8:30pm; April-Sept. 8:30-9:30pm. Free. BU's astronomers are available to answer questions and assist with telescopes as you check out Orion, Cassiopeia and the Big Dipper.

Bunker Hill Monument
Monument Square, Charlestown (242-5641). Open daily 9am-5pm. Free. What's long and hard and shaped like a pencil? It's not what you think. It's the 221-foot monument that honors the men who died in the Battle of Bunker Hill. But an exhausting climb up 294 stairs reveals little more than a stunning view of I-93.

Christian Science World Headquarters
Massachusetts and Huntington Avenues, Boston (450-2000). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential. Tue.-Sat. 9:30am-4pm, Sun. 11am-2pm. Tour the Mother Church—a giant basilica that seats 3,000 worshippers; a 700-foot-long reflecting pool; and a photo exhibit.

Copp's Hill Burial Ground
Hull and Snowhill Streets, Boston. MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Open dawn-dusk. Admission free. From Boston's second-oldest cemetery, you can see all the way across the Inner Harbor to Charlestown. Famous residents include the well-known Puritanical Mather family and Prince Hall, a prominent member of the free black community.

John Hancock Observatory
200 Clarendon St., Boston (572-6429). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open Mon.-Sat. 9am-11pm, Sun. 10am-11pm (May-Oct.) and noon-11pm (Nov.-April). Admission $4.50. The tallest building in New England (62 floors) offers much more than an awesome view. Listen to air-traffic controllers at Logan, test your knowledge of the city with a computer quiz, or relive some of Boston's most famous and infamous events.

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (566-7937). Wed.-Sun. 10 am-4:30pm. The birthplace and early boyhood home of the nation's 35th president.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat. 10am-2pm. Admission free. Alongside Boston's first Anglican church—a gloomy, granite apparition—you'll find a burial ground with equally ominous-looking headstones dating back to 1630. On Sundays, listen for the distinctive peal of the church bell cast by Paul Revere's foundry.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (635-3105). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Open daily 9am-5pm. Guided tours every half-hour, starting at 9am. Free. Known as the "Cradle of Liberty," Faneuil Hall—we're talking about the part above the eatery—was the site of many an angry man ranting and raving about the damn British in the mid-1700s. Today, you can check out the white-walled assembly room, but most people come here for the marketplace.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily 9 am-5pm. Free. Here, Paul Revere saw two lanterns shining on April 18, 1775, indicating that the British troops were crossing the Charles River to Lexington and Concord via boat. You remember... "One if by land, two if by sea."

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays 10am-4pm, weekends 10am-5pm. $3. A thousand fed-up men gathered in this church to decide whether or not to send three ships full of tea back to England. Guess what? They didn't. •New permanent exhibit: *Voices of Protest* traces the use of Old South Meeting House over three centuries for religious, political and social debate. Artifacts, lifelike figures and interactive exhibits illuminate how Old South has championed the right to free speech and assembly despite acts of official censorship. •Middays at the Meeting House, a lunchtime music series. Thursdays, 12:15-1pm. $4.

Paul Revere House
19 North Square, Boston (523-2338). Nov. 1-April 14, 9:30am-4:15pm; April 15-Oct. 31, 9:30am-5:15pm. Built in 1680 and owned by Paul Revere from 1770 to 1800, this house offers a self-guided tour with illustrated text panels and museum interpreters.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-10pm, Sun. noon-10pm. $4, $3 seniors and students. After that tiring, 50-floor elevator ascent, you deserve a drink at the Top of the Hub lounge before you check out Boston's only 360-degree view tower. On a good day, you can see New Hampshire. The view here is slightly better than that of rival John Hancock.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8am-6pm. Free. Designed by H.H. Richardson and constructed in 1877, the huge Romanesque church in Copley Square rests upon 4,500 submerged wooden pilings, which help hold up the church's massive tower. A shaded courtyard offers respite from the heavily trafficked plaza. On Fridays at 12:15pm, stop by for a free organ concert.

Museums

Boston Tea Party Ship & Museum
Congress Street Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. March-Nov., 9am-dusk. $7, $5.50 students, $3.50. Colonial-clad sailors take you aboard *The Beaver*, a replica of the smallest of the three ships involved in the infamous tea rebellion. Paul Revere leads the hourly tea throwing and explains all about the fateful day irate Bostonians poured out the tea in protest of the tax decree issued by British parliament. Try your hand at rope-tying too.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June Tue.-Sat. 10 am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm; June-Aug. daily 10am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm. $5, children and seniors $3: Follow the red and white signs to the mother of all milk bottles. As you walk under it you'll feel as diminutive as your munchkin companion. See *Arthur's World* from the popular television series and children's books. This infamous aardvark is one of many hands-on favorites. •**Sesame Street Exhibition**. Three decades of the revolutionary children's television series. Step into one of the world's most famous TV neighborhoods.

Harriet Tubman House
566 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-8610). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. Weekdays 8am-8pm. Free admission. The Harriet Tubman Museum exhibits a collection of this influential black leader's achievements.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (929-4523). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily 9am-5pm (last film begins at 3:55pm). $8, students and seniors $6, children $4. This permanent collection on the life and legacy of President John F. Kennedy offers a re-created world of the early 1960s with period settings and 25 dramatic multimedia exhibits. Visitors experience firsthand the challenges faced by America during Kennedy's presidency. *John Glenn and the Space Race*, an exhibit about the man with the mission is now showing. •*Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy: First Lady*. Ongoing •*Treasures of the Kennedy Library*. A selection of the treasures, including sculpture, jewelry, paintings and documents. Through May 2000. •*Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy*. New ongoing exhibit. •Opening May 27: *Jacqueline Kennedy Travels Abroad*. A special exhibit on items presented to the former First Lady on her travels to Paris, London, Rome, India and Pakistan. Through Nov. 1. •Opening June 3: *John F. Kennedy—Man of the Sea*. This exhibit documents JFK's naval career and celebrates his lifelong love of the sea and sailing. Items include his collections of scrimshaw, tall ship models and maritime paintings; his boyhood sailing trophies; and the 26-foot sailboat, *Victura*.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (739-1200) www.afroammuseum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays 10am-4pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.* The place is bustling after its recent endowment of more than $1 million to restore the meeting house's hallowed sanctuary. See the African Meeting House, the oldest black church in America.

A Bloomin' Good Tour

Once a year, Boston Brahmins let the rest of us peek behind their brownstones and view their lush gardens as a part of the Gardens of the Back Bay Tour, set to bloom this year on June 6. You'll see 14 private gardens on Commonwealth Avenue, Marlborough Street and Beacon Street. Start with a continental breakfast at the Boston Center for Adult Education at 9:30am and then hop on a shuttle for the tour. *5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (424-7186). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. June 6: 9:30-11am (breakfast), 10am-5pm (tour). $20, $25 on day of tour.*

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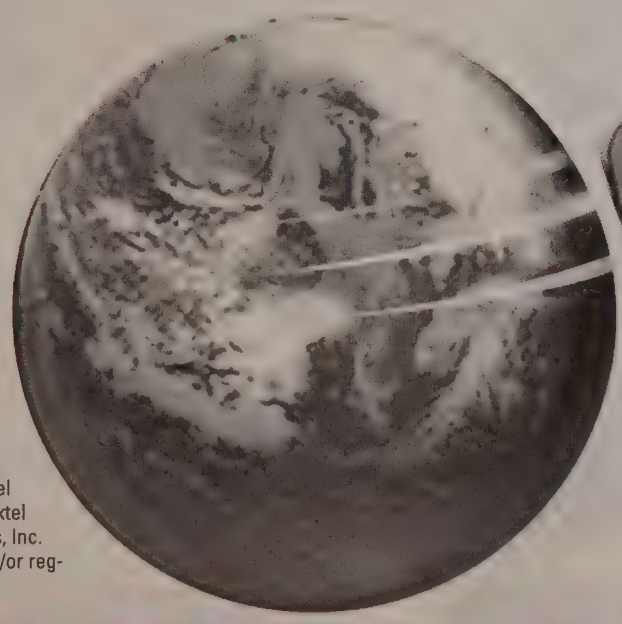

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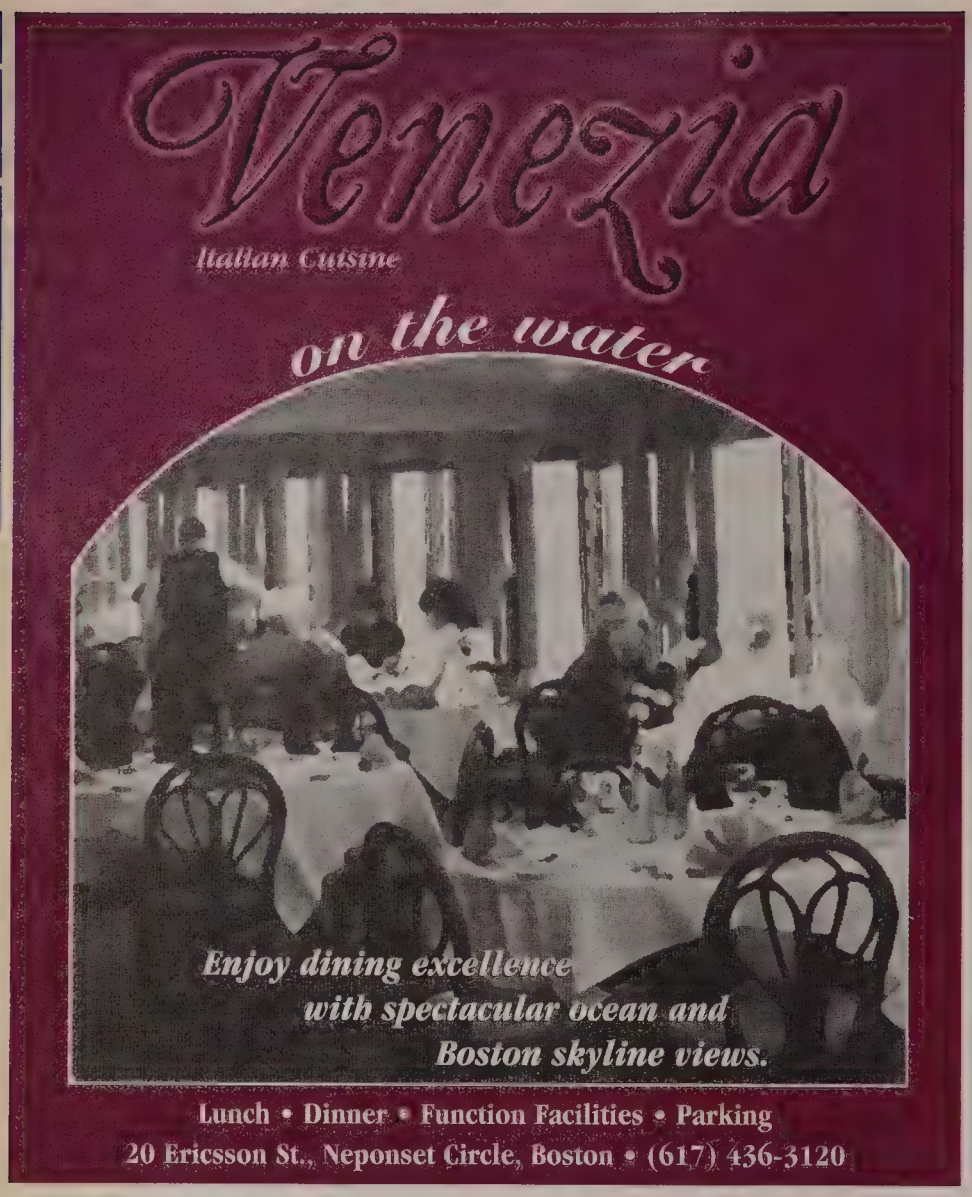

Harpoon Brewstock

Enjoy a celebration of the best elements of summer—frothy beer, lively tunes and barbecued food—with friends at Harpoon Brewstock 2000, June 8-10. Boston's up-and-coming bands, including the Shods, Gravel Pit, Waltham, Free Lunch and Brewmasters of Reality, play everything from rock to reggae. *Harpoon Brewery, 306 Northern Ave., Boston (574-9551). June 8, 5:30-11pm; June 9, 5:30-11pm; June 10, 2-11pm. $10 (includes one beer). 21+.*

Museum of Natural History

26 Oxford St., Cambridge (495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, students and seniors $4, children $3; free to all Sat. 9am-12pm.* This Harvard museum is made up of four factions: The **Botanical Museum**, **The Museum of Comparative Zoology**, the **Mineral & Geological Museum**, and the **Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology**. A number of exhibitions tie together all four of these distinct collections. The most famous is the Botanical Museum for its glass flowers collection—more than 3,000 models of more than 480 plant species. At the Museum of Comparative Zoology, check out the 42-foot-long mounted Kronosaurus (a really big lizard) and countless stuffed insects. The Mineral & Geological Museum's got a 16,000-pound Brazilian amethyst geode, and there's the dollhouse-esque Worlds in Miniature display at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnography. •New at the Peabody: *Heads and Tales: Adornments from Africa*. African people have developed hairstyles, headdresses, hats and many artifacts of visual interest to communicate messages to their friends and community about themselves and their society.

Museum of Our National Heritage

33 Marrett Road, Route 2A, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.mnh.org. *Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 12-5pm. Free admission.* Explore history through pop culture. Topics range from Revolutionary artifacts to the latest in jigsaw-puzzle-solving techniques and American circus posters. •*Initiating America*, a historical look at fraternal organizations. Ongoing. •*The Lynn Beach Painters, Art Along the North Shore*, 1880-1920. Through Aug. 20. •Opened April 8: *Weaving the Dance: The Yeibichai Tradition in Navajo Rugs.* An exhibition on 20th-century Navajo pictorial textiles.

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu. 9am-5pm; Fri. 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children. Omni Theater, Hayden Planetarium or laser shows all $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children.* Find out how much you weigh on the moon, strap yourself into a space module or sift through sand on an archaeological dig. Enjoy 600 hands-on exhibits, including the *Theater of Electricity*, *Seeing Is Deceiving* and *Science in the Park* (Newtonian physics introduced through such accessible items as playground equipment and skateboards). •*To See the Sea* explores the ocean from the perspective of a deep-sea diver. •Now open: *Messages:* Discover why communication is central to everyday life. *Human Body Connection*: exhibits on anatomy, physiology and health. *The Light House: Beaming, Bouncing and Bending Light*: Learn the principles of optics, color and the nature of light with 18 hands-on activities. •*Reptiles: Real and Robotic*, through May 29. Learn about a variety of reptiles and their diverse habitats, which can live in searing deserts or the cold North Sea. •New: Cahners ComputerPlace. A lively environment filled with multimedia-rich software and Web-based experiences. •*Secrets of Aging* opens April 5. Explores the science behind the universal experience of aging. •Mugar Omni Theater: *Mysteries of Egypt*; *Dolphins.* Opened May 5: *Michael Jordan to the Max.*

Charles Hayden Planetarium

Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children. Time of show changes daily.* Get high! High up, that is. And (then) go see the stars and rock-music laser shows. Check out the ongoing out-of-this- world multimedia installations *Life and Death of the Sun* and *The Sky Tonight*, and enjoy daily laser shows to the music of the Beastie Boys, Pink Floyd, Korn, Tool, Jimi Hendrix, Nine Inch Nails, among others. It's a trip. •*Journey to the Edge of Space and Time*: Ideas once considered crazy (like black holes) are now the building blocks of new knowledge. What next? •*Welcome to the Universe.* Now open. •Friday Night Stargazing, 8:30-10pm. Free. Weather permitting. •***Catastrophes In Space—When Stars End Their Lives.*** Audiences will learn that all stars grow old and die, and the death of a massive star creates new life, seeding space with new chemical elements and triggering the formation of new stars and planets. Through fall 2000.

Museum of Transportation

15 Newton St. (in Larz Anderson Park), Brookline (522-6547). MBTA: D Green Line to Reservoir, to bus 51. April-Oct., Wed.-Sun. 10am-5pm; Nov.-March, Wed.-Sun. 10am-4pm. $5, $3 seniors and students. This 1888 carriage house is the automobile buff's paradise—and the country's oldest private collection of antique autos. Featured cars range from Fords and Corvettes to Cadillacs and Italian imports. Lawn events are held on Sundays, 10am-2pm, throughout the summer, with food, refreshments, picnic areas, judging of cars and museum exhibits. •June 4: Brass and Gas Day. •June 11: German Car Day.

Old State House Museum

206 Washington St., Boston (720-3290). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily 9am-5pm. $3, students and seniors $2. Built in 1713, this original seat of colonial government was the place pre-Independence Bostonians first heard the Declaration of Independence read. •Opened March 31: ***Burning Issues: A History of Boston Through Fire***. This exhibit considers the significance of eight fire events in Boston's history with interactive experiences for the family.

Sports Museum of New England

FleetCenter, Boston (624-1234). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Adults, $5, children and seniors, $4. Exhibits of the great sports traditions of the Boston Garden, FleetCenter and Celtics.

USS Constitution & Museum

Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (426-1812). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, bus 93 to Navy Yard. Nov.-April 30: Open daily 10am-5pm. Free. The stories of the individuals who authorized, built and served on the *USS Constitution*, the oldest commissioned warship afloat. Learn about its 200-year history hands on—hoist a sail, take the wheel, fire a cannon or swing in a hammock.

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Submit updated press releases by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Theater. Or e-mail information to performing@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Theater
JUST OPENED

Annual Summer Festival of New Plays
Tower Auditorium, Massachusetts College of Art, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston (232-1555). Thu.-Sat. 8pm. June 8-17. $15. Discover hot new playwrights before they go on to fame and fortune. Each evening features a series of short new works. •June 8-10, 8pm: *Bird Girl on Walkabout*; *An Unwelcome Guest*; *Swallowing the Spider*; *The Millennium Arrives in Suburbia*; and *Dessert*. •June 15, 8pm: *Two to Die at Dawn*; *Me and Sam*; *The Queen of Persia*; and *Encounter with a Scottish Poet*. •June 16-17, 8pm: *On Buying a New Car*; *All on Account of a Dog*; *Tit for Tat*; *The Quality of Being Holy*; *The Things You Do*; *Gone Fishing*; and *The 12:22 from London Victoria*.

Bel Canto
Theater Offensive, Black Box Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Call for times and pricing. June 13-24. Part of the Plays at Work series, this one by Daniel Alexander Jones follows a young man's struggle to negotiate between the magical world of opera and the hard-edged jazz-like reality around him.

Cruel and Barbarous Treatment: Short Stories by John Cheever and Mary McCarthy
Gloucester Stage Company, 267 East Main St., Gloucester (978-282-1350). Wed.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 5pm. Through June 4. $20-$30. These extraordinary stage adaptations of McCarthy's *The Man in the Brooks Brothers Shirt* and *Cruel and Barbarous Treatment* and Cheever's *The Five Forty-Eight* played to critical acclaim in New York City last season. The original NYC cast will come to New England for the premiere of this witty work.

Dames at Sea
Hovey Players, Abbott Memorial Theater, 9 Spring Street at Joel's Way, Waltham (781-893-9171). Through June 10. $15. This musical is a funny and heartfelt homage to the great tap dancing musicals of the '30s.

First Love
Gloucester Stage Company, 267 East Main St., Gloucester (978-282-1350). Wed.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 5pm. Through June 4. $20-$30. Richard Vetere's new play is about a widow's first date after her husband's death.

Five Bottles in a Six Pack
Theater Offensive, Black Box Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Call for times and pricing. June 9-24. In the face of everyday racism and misogyny, wouldn't it make perfect sense to be, well, mad? Renita Martin calls the bluff on sanity and challenges the very notion of health and sickness in a world as messed up as ours.

Here for a Little Time
Leland Center, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu.-Sat. 7:30pm and Sun. 1pm and 7:30pm. June 1-11. $10. Through the story of a teenage girl who runs away from her foster home, this play portrays the struggles of young people in urban youth "systems" (juvenile detention, education and foster care).

Homeward Bound
Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (492-3347). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. June 2, 8pm; June 4, 3pm and 7pm. $20. This play is about how domestic violence and immigration laws conspire to keep a young girl imprisoned. Proceeds benefit the AWAKE Project at Children's Hospital.

The House of Bernarda Alba
Actors Workshop, 40 Boylston St. Boston (423-7313). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Fri.-Sat. 8pm. June 2-24. $12. Frederico Garcia Lorca's masterpiece of seduction and betrayal is a study of family relationships under the strain of culturally imposed sexual taboos.

I Kissed Dash Riprock! One Grrrls Confession
Charlestown Working Theater, 442 Bunker Hill St., Charlestown (628-4750). Thu.-Sun. 8pm. June 1-25. She was a struggling Hollywood wannabe, fed up with the LA grind. She had met powerful, drop-dead gorgeous men before, but never anyone quite like dashing film star Dash Riprock (names have been changed to protect the innocent). Travel with the lovesick heroine as she circles the globe and romances the stars.

***Miss Saigon*, the Broadway blockbuster musical, touches down at the Wang Theatre, June 8-25.**

Immaculate Infection
Theater Offensive, Black Box Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Call for times and pricing. June 8-24. What do a stoic Latina housewife and a cranky Jewish diva have to offer each other? From their opening poultry wars, it is clear that Yolanda Burgos, with her arroz con pollo, and Mary Cohen, with her Jewish soup, are not a match made in heaven—in fact, their friendship is made in an AIDS treatment clinic.

King Hedley II
Huntington Theatre, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (266-0800). Tue.-Thu. 7:30pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Through June 18. $10-$52. August Wilson's new drama chronicles the African-American experience through each decade of the 20th century.

Miss Saigon
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Wed. 8pm; Thu. 2pm and 8pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm; Sun. 2pm and 7:30pm. June 8-25. $15-$65. This Broadway blockbuster musical tells a story of love and self-sacrifice between a young Vietnamese girl and an American soldier at the time of the fall of Saigon in 1975. Two young lovers are torn apart by the outside world yet held together by a burning passion.

Morning, Noon and Night
Trinity Repertory Company, 201 Washington St., Providence, RI (401-351-4242). Tue. 7pm; Wed.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. June 6-18. $32-$35. Spalding Gray continues his tradition of storytelling excellence as he explores the everyday events in the life of his partner, Kathie, and their kids, Marissa, Forrest and Theo, who live in a small town in eastern Long Island.

The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told
Speakeasy Stage Company, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-ARTS). Wed.-Fri. 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 7pm. June 1-24. This comedy ponders what the world would be like had God made Adam and Steve, not Adam and Eve. It's about the struggle for faith, from Mesopotamia to Chelsea. Adam and Steve and Jane and Mabel—Earth's first two couples—seek God on the ark, beside the pyramids and at K-Mart on Christmas Eve.

Night of the Iguana
The Peabody House Theatre, 277 Broadway, Somerville (625-1300). Thu.-Sat. 8pm. Through June 10. Tennessee Williams' play takes place in a cheap Mexican resort hotel where the desperate and lonely converge to find unexpected compassion. The hardened hotel proprietress; the neurotic, defrocked minister; and the gentle maiden lady from New England lay exposed under the flashes of lightning so that they may, perchance, be washed clean by the torrential rains.

Not About Nightingales
Boston Theatre Works, Studio 210, Boston University Theatre, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (824-8000). Thu.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 7pm. June 2-25. $20. Set in a large prison during the Great Depression, this Tennessee Williams play tells the story of a group of prisoners in a standoff against a brutal warden as they protest living conditions in the prison.

The Philadelphia Story
Ruth Nagel Jones Theatre, Wellesley College, Alumnae Hall, Wellesley (283-2000). Wed.-Thu. 7pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm. June 7-24. $15. The headstrong daughter of a family of wealth and privilege has long been used to getting her way. Chaos and hilarity ensue when her playboy first husband shows up at her second wedding.

The Real Inspector Hound
First Baptist Church, Cambridge (312-8597). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. June 2 and June 10. $12. In Tom Stoppard's "whodunnit" mystery, the fourth wall of the stage comes down and the line between reality and fiction becomes increasingly blurred. Murder, sex and mystery are all rolled into a witty package.

The Student Prince
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly, Mass. (978-921-6351). Tue. 8pm; Wed. 2pm and 8pm; Thu.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Through June 4. $18-$56. The classic forbidden romance: A handsome prince longs to wed a sweet, naive girl who's not of royal blood. The show includes a rousing score that features love songs, waltzes, moonlight serenades and drinking songs.

Stupid Kids
SpeakEasy Stage Company, Black Box Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu. 8pm; Fri.-Sat. 8pm and 10:30pm; Sun. 7pm. June 1-24. $21-$23.50. In the TV-saturated reality of modern childhood, quirky outcasts search for love, lust and acceptance in this hilarious sendup of timeless and contemporary traumas of teenage life.

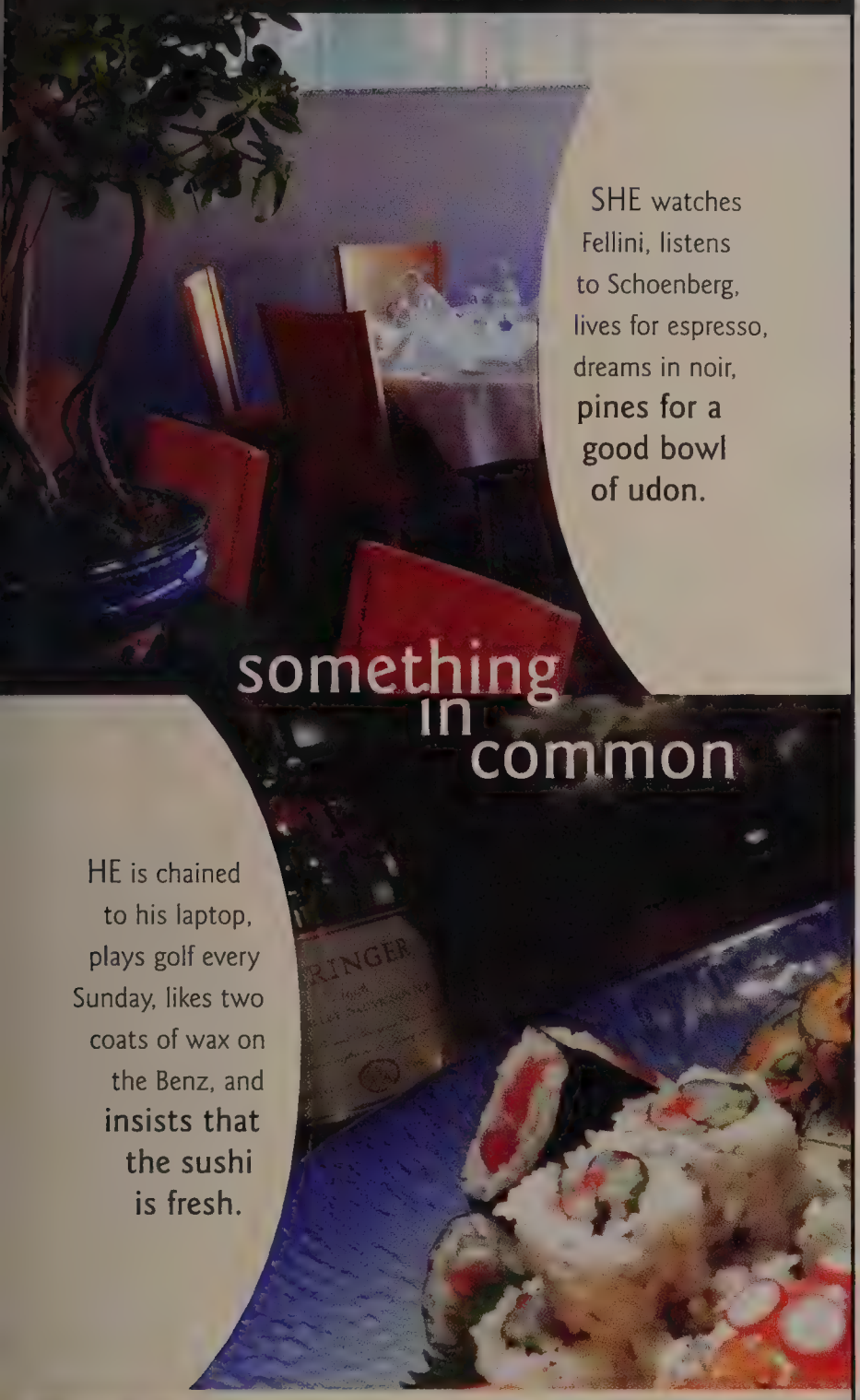
Unlaunch'd Voices—An Evening with Walt Whitman
The Brimmer Street Studio Theatre, 69 Brimmer St., Boston (931-2000). Thu.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 3pm. Through June 4. $17. A new play about America's greatest poet, his art and his times told through slides, poetry and Whitman's own words. The play follows Whitman's struggles as a man and an artist through a remarkable period in American history.

The Wharton One-Acts
Shakespeare & Company, The Wharton Theatre, The Mount, Lenox, Mass. (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. *Thu.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 3:30pm and 8pm; Sun. 3:30pm. May 26-Sept. 2.* Two plays by Edith Wharton kick off the 2000 season. •**The View Beyond**: Mrs. Manstey, an elderly woman who has lived alone without sight for 12 years, still enjoys her "view" of a small garden outside her window. Despite its current detioration, she remembers the garden in full bloom—her reason for being. When the landlady tells her that a wall must replace the vista, Mrs. Manstey glimpses an after-life that offers her a more remarkable view beyond the garden. •**Oh! Mr. Chekhov**: Alex pursues love and connubial bliss with Olya, Zoe and Zhenya. The ups and downs of courtship provide laughter and insight in this witty farce.

***I Kissed Dash Riprock!* at the Charlestown Working Theater, June 1-25.**

"sumptuous sushi" -Improper Bostonian

"a slice of heaven" -Boston Magazine



SHE watches Fellini, listens to Schoenberg, lives for espresso, dreams in noir, pines for a good bowl of udon.

something in common

HE is chained to his laptop, plays golf every Sunday, likes two coats of wax on the Benz, and insists that the sushi is fresh.

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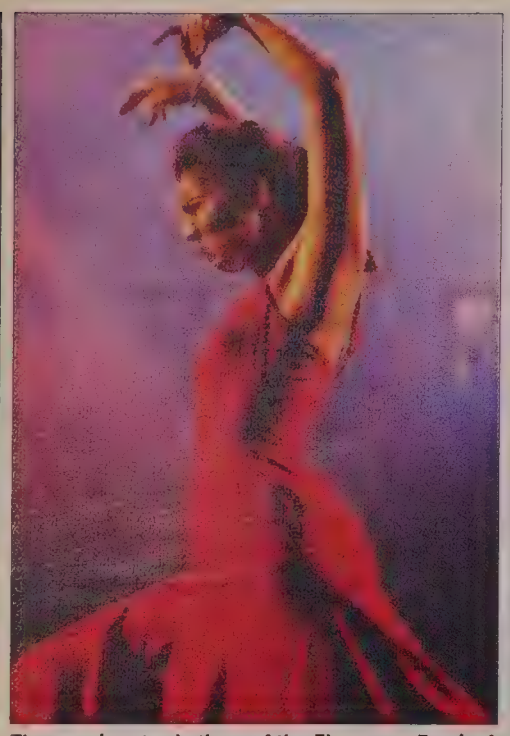


The passionate rhythms of the Flamenco Festival heat up the Emerson Majestic, June 2-4.

NOW RUNNING

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed.-Thu. 8pm; Fri.-Sat. 7pm and 10pm; Sun. 3pm and 6pm. $39-$49. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to get its point across with tribal rock music, performance art, humorous antics, props (including plastic tubes and Twinkies) and three men painted blue.

Fall
Trinity Repertory Company, 201 Washington St., Providence, RI (401-351-4242). Tue. 7pm; Wed.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Through June 25. $26-$38. This playful and bittersweet coming-of-age comedy tells the story of a young girl obsessed with scuba diving who is forced to accompany her parents to a swing-dancing camp for the summer. As her parents try to lindy some romance back into their marriage, Lydia begins a surprising flirtation of her own.

Jesus Christ Superstar
Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton (244-0169). Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Through June 4. $19. The passion of Christ explodes on stage in the powerful music of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. Witness the last week of Jesus's life, culminating in his crucifixion and the quest by his followers searching for meaning in his death.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 6:30pm and 9:30pm; Sun. 3pm and 7:30pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This hilarious whodunit is set in a unisex hair salon. The production holds the record as the longest-running play in the history of Boston theater.

The Winter's Tale
American Repertory Theatre, Loeb Stage, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-8300). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Through June 11. One of the last plays that Shakespeare wrote, this one combines elements from each dramatic genre—from the savage tragedy of jealous Leontes to the festive comedy of Pedita and Florizel.

COMING SOON

Honk!
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly, Mass. (978-921-6351). Tue. 8pm; Wed. 2pm and 8pm; Thu.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm. June 13-July 2. $18-$56. A hilarious new musical based on Hans Christian Andersen's well-known story, "The Ugly Duckling." The British team of George Stiles and Anthony Drewe have turned the inspirational fairy tale into a surprisingly sophisticated comedy.

INTERACTIVE THEATER

Medieval Manor
246 East Berkeley St., Boston (423-4900). Red Line to Broadway. Mon., Wed., Thu., Fri. 8pm; Sat. 5pm and 9:30pm; Sun. 6pm. Ongoing. $9.60-$32. Eat, drink and be merry at a Renaissance dining experience. Don't worry about etiquette. You won't find knives and forks, and the soup of the day is in your face—literally. A fun group activity.

Mystery Cafe
290 Congress St., Boston (781-320-0040). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Dinner and show: Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm. Ongoing. $34. Saturdays: The interactive murder mystery, *The Devil Made Me Do It*, a heavenly mystery in a tropical setting. Solve the crime and win the supersleuth prize.

Mystery Cruise
Long Wharf, Boston (781-320-0040). June 25, 7pm (boarding). Cruise departs 7:30pm. $49/person, includes dinner and cruise. Gather clues during a cruise through the Harbor, meet characters and interrogate suspects as you attempt to piece together the mystery.

Nonna's Cruise to Nowhere
Locations around the Greater Boston area (781-933-1363). $35/includes dinner. These folks have taken everyone's favorite Italian grandmother (Nonna) and placed her on an imaginary cruise ship, along with her zany family, after misleading Nonna into thinking she's going back home to Italy. The audience laughs, dances and plays along with the cast.

Dance
SHOWS AND EVENTS

Axis Dance Company
Emerson Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (824-8000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. June 9-11. $22, $27 or $32. Dance Umbrella presents this innovative troupe, an internationally recognized pioneer in the emerging genre of integrated dance that features dancers in and out of wheelchairs. It brushes aside traditional concepts to create dynamic works, including this year's program created by Bill T. Jones.

Dance Complex Events
536 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-9363). MBTA: Red Line to Central. •Opening *May 19, 7:30-11pm. $10-15 includes movement jam with live music following the performance.* A night of improvisational movement to the sounds of double bass, cello, percussion and other toys featuring **Liz Roncka**, **Su Eaton**, **Gene Broadway**, **Rick Roberts** and others. •**Pointe/Click** *May 27, 8pm; May 28, 7pm. $10 donation.* DanceMonth 2000 comes to a close with these final evening premieres of the fine faculty choreography of **Margot Parsons**, **Daniel McCusker**, **Rozann Kraus**, **Debra Bluth**, **Lisa Simon** and others.

Flamenco Festival
Emerson Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (824-8000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Compania de Danza Flamenca Carmen Cortés: June 2, 8pm; Compania Manuel Soler: June 3, 8pm and June 4, 2pm. $28, $35 or $40. Compania Manuel Soler features the fast and firey footwork of international flamenco artists Manuek Soler, Juana Amaya, Fernando Romero and Israel Galvan. Born in Barcelona, Carmen Cortés is one of the world's most distinguished flamenco dancers. With exhilerating choreography, passionate melodies and intricate rhythms, she captures the emotions of flamenco dance. She will be accompanied by male dancer Rafael del Carmen, two guitarists and two singers.

How to Build a Raft
Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center, 41 Second St., Cambridge (577-1400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. June 9 and 10, 8pm. $15, $12 students, seniors and members. A performance by Cave Dogs explores the "rough waters" of migrations, movement and work. Cave Dogs brings together a diverse group of visual artists, musicians and writers in the spirit of experimental and improvisational collaboration to create stories through cast shadows, video and sound.

JOIN IN

Club Joy
533 Washington Street, Boston (354-5780). Saturday nights. This Latin night spot now offers classes: salsa, merengue, bachata and more.

Dancing at Ryles Jazz Club
Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. •*Saturdays, 9pm-1:30am, $12, $10 after 11:30pm.* Join in a variety of dance moves—here you'll find jazzy mambos, swing dancing, cheeky cha chas and sassy salsa numbers. •*Tuesdays 10pm-1:30am. $6.* Just Swing It night features the Black Tie Affair Orchestra and DJ music. Requests are taken and dancers are encouraged to bring their own music. •*Wednesdays, 9pm.* Get your Brazilian ballroom-dance fix with Samba, Forro, Lambada and Axe. •*Thursdays, 8:30-11pm. $10-$12.* Salsa and merengue dance.

Friday Night Dance Craze
The Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. June 9-July 14, 7-9pm. $12 each or $50 for the series. With a little bit of Latin, disco, swing, flamenco and contra dancing, this night has something for everything.

TICKETS

Bostix
(723-5181) www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of Faneuil Hall); Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth); and Harvard Square (in the Holyoke Center arcade at 1350 Mass. Ave). Same-day tickets half-price.*

Next Ticketing
(423-NEXT). www.boston.com/next.

Ticketmaster
(931-2000) www.ticketmaster.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(247-1300 or 800-442-1854). A good place to get tickets if a show is sold out at the box office.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail info. to comedy@improper.com. *Include address, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a description of the performances or comedians. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (248-9700). Mon.-Wed. 8pm; Thu. 8:30pm; Fri. and Sat. 8pm, 10:15pm; Sun. 7pm. $8-$10 (weekend prices vary). The oldest comedy club in Boston draws big-name, national comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •June 1, 8:30pm, $12: Frank Santos, the "R-Rated Hypnotist." •June 2, 8:15pm and 10:30pm; June 3, 10:30pm; June 4, 7pm ($20): Bill Bellamy of *Any Given Sunday* and MTV. •June 5, 9:15pm, $12: Black Comedy Explosion hosted by Johnathon Gates. •June 6: Showcase with Kevin Knox. •June 7-8: Boston Headliners. •June 9, 8:30pm, $12: Frank Santos, the "R-Rated Hypnotist." •June 10: Darrell Hammond of *Saturday Night Live*. •June 11, 9:15pm, $12: Black Comedy Explosion hosted by Johnathon Gates. •June 12: Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox. •June 13: Boston Headliners.

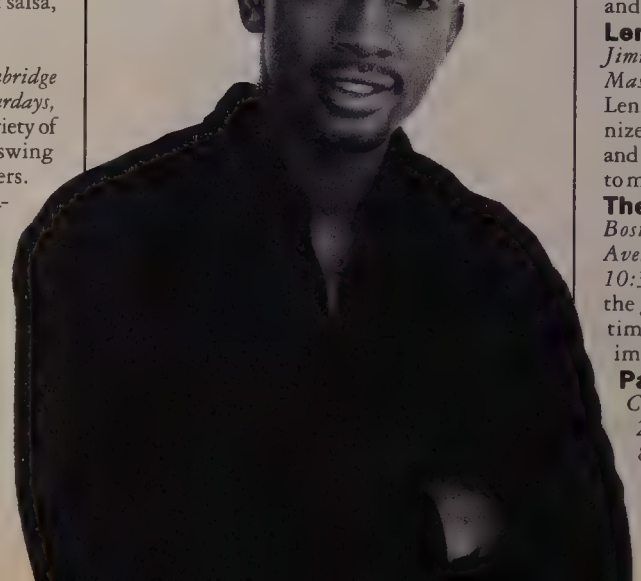
The Comedy Studio at the Hong Kong
1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu.-Sun. 8pm. $5-$7. Sketch comedy troops and local comedians perform. •June 1: Thursday Night Fights. Comedians game show and debate. $5. •June 2: Eugene Mirman with Brendon Small from the Cartoon Network show *Home Movies*. $7. •June 3: Female comedians, featuring Karen Sackowitz, Lee Ann Price and Jan Davidson. $7. •June 4: Lamont Price, Paul Sarkis and Greg Rodriguez. •June 8: Thursday Night Fights with Tim McIntire, Sean Kelly and Lamont Price. •June 9: Eugene Mirman and Brendon Small. Guest is Rob Reuter. •June 10: Theresa Craggen, Pat O'Shea and Ben Joplin. •June 11: Sketch Comedy with Blue Harvest, Laurie Hoffman and Dan Sulman.

Dick Doherty's Comedy Escape Comedy Vault
Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun. 9pm. $10. Features local stand-up comedians. Thursdays: Stand-up comedy. Fridays and Saturdays: Dick Doherty's Comedy Pro Tour. Sundays: Open-mike night.

Nick's Comedy Stop
100 Warrenton St., Boston (482-0930). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Fri. 8:30pm; Sat. 7:45pm and 10pm; Sun. 8pm. $10-$15. Wednesdays: Open mike at 8:30pm. •May 18, 8:30pm: Craig Fitzsimmons, Kerri Louise and Ira Proctor. •May 19-20, 8:45pm: Craig Fitzsimmons, Kerri Louise and Ira Proctor. •May 25, 8:30pm: Joe Yannetty, Frank Santorelli and Matt Blake. •May 26-27, 8:45pm: Joe Yannetty, Matt Blake and PJ Walsh.

Bill Bellamy Jams

As a junior at Rutgers University, Bill Bellamy, former host of *MTV Jams*, entered a male beauty pageant—without realizing that he had to showcase a talent. "The only thing I knew I could do was make my friends laugh," Bellamy says. "So I came up with a comedy routine and I won the pageant." Thus began his illustrious career. Since then, he's made appearances on "Showtime at the Apollo" and HBO's "Def Comedy Jam," hosted his own Showtime special "Booty Call," and appeared in this summer's football drama *Any Given Sunday*. Bellamy appears at the Comedy Connection, June 2-4. *245 Quincy Marketplace, Faneuil Hall, Boston (248-9700).*



IMPROV & MAGIC

Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston (263-6887). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Shows: Thu. 8pm; Fri. and Sat. 8pm and 10pm. Main Stage: $10-$15. Now playing on the main stage is the critically acclaimed improvisational and sketch comedy show—voted one of Boston's best improvisational comedy troops.

ImprovBoston at Back Alley Theater
1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1253). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe makes things up as they go along. Fri.-Sat. 8pm ($12) and 10:30pm ($12). Sun, 2pm ($7). •Fridays and Saturdays: 90 minutes of wholesome fun with scenes, games, original music and lots of audience participation. Sundays: family matinee. •Thursdays, 8pm: **Sitcom**. A fully improvised show based on suggestions from the studio audience and an on-stage computer. 10pm: **Open Improv Jam**. All visitors of any skill level are invited to participate in a no-pressure, fun-filled atmosphere where everybody gets to play. •Fridays, 8pm: ImprovBoston. 10:30pm: Theatre-Sports Boston vs. Sitcom. Best of five match. •Saturdays, 8pm and 10:30pm: ImprovBoston.

Magicians & Spirits
Green Street Grill, 280 Green St., Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Shows every Tuesday at 9pm. $10 cabaret show ($5 with dinner). Billed as "Intimate Nights of Sleights of Hand," Green Street Grill patrons enjoy close-up magic as two or three magicians perform tricks behind the bar and among the crowd.

COMEDY SHOWS

Joey & Maria's Comedy Wedding
Tremont House Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston or Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Fri. and Sat. 7:30pm. Ongoing. $39-$45. Join the fun at this absolutely zany Italian wedding. Big hair, polyester and blue tuxedos optional.

Lenny Linguini's Last Big Bang Party
Jimmy's Allenhurst Restaurant, Route 114, Danvers, Mass. (978-774-5200). June 2, 7:30pm. $35. Join Lenny Linguini celebrate his retirement from organized crime with his very strange "family." So come and dance, sing, laugh and have a great time. It's sure to make your night end with a bang!

The Orange Show's Pi
Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (353-5899). Fri. 8pm; Sat. 8pm and 10:30pm. June 2-10. $12.50. This show combines the greatest hits of the Orange Show into one multimedia extravanganza with sketch comedy, quick improv, videos and live bands.

Paula Poundstone
Copley Theater, 225 Clarendon St., Boston (931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. June 10, 8pm. $35. Funny woman Paula Poundstone will perform her award-winning stand-up comedy at this benefit for the Wayside Youth & Family Support Network.

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art

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information for gallery and museum listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail to arts@improper.com. *Include opening and closing dates, nearest T stop, price of admission, if any, and telephone numbers. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a partial list of the largest art museums, art institutes and galleries in the Boston area. The • symbol denotes a temporary exhibition.

Museums

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat. 10am-12pm. The Sackler houses ancient Islamic and Asian art, an array of Neolithic bronze Buddhas, Greek pottery, and Hellenistic and Roman sculpture. •*Wall Drawing #830* features four isometric figures with dynamic colors. Ongoing. •Every Thursday is a free guided tour of Shahn's work, 10:30am. •A free talk titled *A Decade of Collecting: Recent Acquisitions of Islamic and Later Indian Art* is given by the associate curator of Islamic and later Indian art. June 10, 11:30am.

Boston Public Library
900 Boylston St., Boston (542-4000). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. •The *Boston Authors' Club* exhibition celebrates the 100th anniversary of the club with correspondence, manuscripts and signed copies of members' books. Through May 31. •The *Shroud of Turin* examines varying opinions about the relic. Through May 31.

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat. 10am-12pm. It's better to visit the Fogg the same day you go to the Sackler, as admission includes all of Harvard's museums. Highlights include Van Gogh's self-portrait and Bellini's clay figures. A free talk titled *A Decade of Collecting: Recent Acquisitions of Photography* will be given by Deborah Martin Kao, Richard L. Menschel, curator of photography. June 11, 2pm.

Gibson House Museum
137 Beacon St., Boston (267-6338). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Guided tours every Sat. and Sun. at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm. $5. With 75 percent of its original items in place, the museum allows visitors to understand 19th-century domestic life and design. Ongoing.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (266-5152). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Wed.-Sun. 12-5pm; Thu. 12-9pm. $6, $4 students and seniors. •Marijke van Warmerdam's *7 Thoughts* marks the first time the artist's innovative work will be displayed in a solo U.S. museum exhibition. Through July 2. •Free guided walk-throughs take place each Thursday at 6:30pm: June 1 is led by Dana Moser, associate professor at Mass. College of Art. June 8 is led by Denise Marika, visual artist.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (566-1401). www.boston.com/gardner. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun. 11am-5pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, under 18 free. Guided on Fridays 2:30pm.* This 15th-century Venetian palace is home to more than 2,500 objects and twice as many flowers. Boston's most famous museum is named for the house's owner, Isabella Stewart Gardner (1840-1924), an infamously incorrigible individualist. Only after her death was her house completely opened to the public. Now everyone can see the works of Titian, Botticelli and Matisse, as well as furniture and architectural details from European churches and palaces.

MIT Museum
265 Mass Ave., Cambridge (253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5pm, weekends 12-5pm. $3, $1 for students, seniors and children. Where else would you be but at MIT when you contemplate Morton G. Bradley Junior's *Math in 3-D: Geometric Sculptures*? The museum's other permanent exhibits include *Flashes of Inspiration: The Work of Harold Edgerton*, and *Gestural Engineering* and *Cultural Engineering: The Sculptures of Arthur Ganson*, the mechanical engineer/choreographer. •On the last Sunday of the month, explore oceanography, astronomy, the science of buildings and other mysteries of science with interactive activities for all ages from 2-4pm, no reservations required. Call 452-2827 for details. •*A Day in the Life of an Astronaut, LEGO Car Rally, Out There!* and *Observing the Observers* show throughout the spring.

Museum of Bad Art
580 High St., Dedham (325-8224). Mon.-Fri. 6:30-10pm, Sat. and Sun. 1-10pm. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. The one and only museum that boasts "art too bad to be ignored." A favorite is *Lady Chardonnay*, a piece illuminating a poodle-head dancer.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Mon.-Tue. 10am-4:45pm; Wed. 10am-9:45pm, Thu.-Fri. 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. 10am-5:45pm. West Wing only Thu.-Fri. 5-9:45pm. $12, students and seniors $10.* The MFA has earned its rep as the second-best-run art museum in the nation (after the Metropolitan Museum of Art) with its top-notch exhibitions, educational programs and galleries of African, Oceanic and American art. •*Crowning Glories: Two Centuries of Tiaras* shows through June 25.

The Peabody House Museum
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (496-1027). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5 adults; $4 students and seniors; $3 children 3-13. No fee Sat. mornings until 12pm. •*Heads and Tales: Adornments from Africa*, includes sculptures and artifacts from the Peabody Museum collections, which highlight the messages communicated by head adornments in sub-Saharan Africa. Through Oct. 1, 2001.

The Revolving Museum
288-300 A St., Boston (439-8617). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed.-Fri. 12-5pm. •*Freewheeling*, paintings incorporating industrial parts, by Jackie Ellis, shows through June 6.

***Green Mums* by Billy Sullivan is being displayed at Judy Ann Goldman Fine Arts through June 17.**

Galleries
FINE ART

Allston Skirt Gallery
119 Braintree St., Allston (254-7027). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm and by appointment. •*Overcast* features paintings and photography by Karolyn Hatton, Lisa Krivacka and Ruth Pastine. Through June 24.

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (536-4465). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •Ben Aronson's *Still Lives and CityScapes* shows through May 31. •New Talent displays June 3-30.

Andrea Marquit Fine Arts
38 Newbury St., Boston (859-0190). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Wed.-Sat. 11am-5pm. Shows contemporary masters and emerging artists and is a consulting group for corporate and private collectors.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (247-0610). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 11am-5:30pm; Sun. 1-5pm. Representing an eclectic mix of styles, from abstract to super-realist. •Susan Swinand's oils on wood and acrylic on canvas, *Called by the Moon*, is on display June 3-28.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., 5th Floor, Boston (262-4490). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. Paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures by emerging and established artists. •Michael Mazur's exhibition displays through June 7.

Barton-Ryan Gallery
38 Newbury St., 4th floor, Boston (867-0662). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5:30pm, Sat., 11am-5pm and by appointment. The gallery specializes in American and European works of art by emerging and established artists.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm. •*Turn on the Light: Recent Work by Barry Simons* is on display through June 10.

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (482-2477). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sun., 10:30am-5:30pm. •*Joshua Deaner: Index* shows May 31-June 24.

Bromfield Gallery
560 Harrison Ave., Boston (451-3605). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm. •In Gallery I is James Janecek's *Recent Pictures: Mixed-Media Abstractions*. In Gallery II is Eve Jessen Gordon's *World Turned Inside Out*. Through June 17.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (236-2255). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm. •*Creatures Great and Small,* an international glass show, displays through June 17.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (859-7222). Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •Bernd Haussmann's work displays June 1-28.

Child's Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (266-1108). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri. 9am-6pm; Mon. and Sat. 10am-5pm. American and European paintings, prints, drawings and sculpture, from 1500 through 1950.

Clark Gallery
145 Lincoln St., Lincoln (781-259-8303). Tue.-Sat. 10am-5pm. The gallery represents 30 artists, primarily regional. Media regularly include glass, ceramics, oil, acrylic on canvas, wood and studio furniture. •Randy Deihl's work shows through June 15.

Copley Society of Boston
158 Newbury St., Boston (536-5049). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat. 10:30am-5:30pm; Sun. 1-5pm. America's oldest nonprofit art association is a platform for young and established artists. •Robert Maloney's work shows through June 3. •*Spring/Summer Members Show: A Juried Exhibition* shows June 8-July 1.

Creiger Dane Gallery
36 Newbury St., Boston (536-8088). www.creigerdane.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm.* •*New Work,* an exhibit featuring abstract paintings by Martin Mugar, shows May 31-June 24.

Crosstown Arts, Inc.
One North Square, Boston (720-0100). www.crosstown.com. •This new gallery, which opened May 20, features as its opening exhibit *The Ability to Obsess*, on view through June 17. It introduces the work of new contemporary artists Stepehn deFilippis, Josette Ghiseline, Megan McNaught and Peter Inglis.

Crystal Fine Art
93 Summer St., Suite 4L, Boston (728-9818). www.crystalfineart.com. *MBTA: Red and Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Tue.-Fri. 11am-6pm.* A multicultural gallery that regularly displays the work of national, international and local artists.

Dyansen Gallery
132 A Newbury St., Boston (262-4800). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. You'll always find paintings, bronzes and fine-art prints. Collections include Rembrandt, Picasso, Chagall, Miro, Dali, Cassatt, Snowden and more.

Eclipse Gallery
167 Newbury St., Boston (247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9am-6pm. •Brenda Pizzo and David Thompson's *Living Dolls*, a satiric look at 20th-century icons, is on display through June 3. •The color photography by Barbara Filo shows June 6-July 8.

Elias Fine Arts
120 Braintree St., Brighton (783-1888). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. •*Look Back, Look Forward,* a group show made up of eight artists, celebrates the third anniversary of the gallery. Through June 24.

Gallery Bershad
99 Dover St., Somerville (629-9400 ex.3). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Wed., Thu., Sun., 12-6pm; Fri. and Sat. 12-8pm. •*Digital Imagery,* by Bill Hayward and Maggie Taylor, shows with Will Sherwood's new black-and-white photographs. Through June 4. •Hamid Zavareei's work shows June 10-July. •*Coast to Coast: New Paintings,* by Sarah Frances Egan and Hamid Zavareei, displays June 9-July 30.

***Mirror*, mixed media by Jane Sherrill, shows as part of the Gibbs Gallery's new exhibition.**

Gallery NAGA
67 Newbury St., Boston (267-9060). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. Paintings, studio furniture, sculpture, photography and holography. •Robert Ferrandini's *New Work* shows through June 3.

Gallery Seventy-Nine
79 Newbury St., Boston (262-5918). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Thu., 11am-6pm; Fri., 9:30am-4:30pm. Landscape Markings, paintings and drawings by Laura Perry, shows through June 9.

Genovese Sullivan Gallery
47 Thayer St., Boston (426-9738). Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. MBTA: Orange Line to New Medical Center. •Robert Hooper's recent paintings show in *Chocolate and Afternoon TV* through May 31.

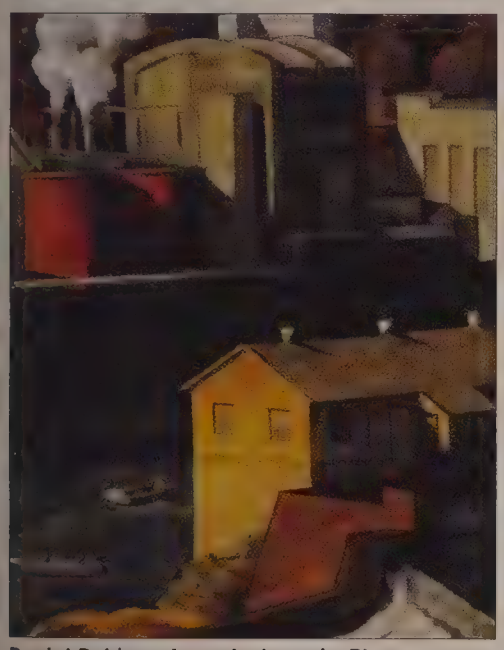
Gibbs Gallery
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm. Explorations in Spirit and Nature, by Michelle Lougee and Jane Sherrill, shows through July 7.

Gurari Collections
91 Charles St., Boston (367-9800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington or Red Line to Charles MGH. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. This gallery has an impressive collection of 16th- to early-20th-century etchings, engravings and drawings. Also showing is the work of Wendy Artin, an artist living in Rome.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St. Boston (536-6339). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 10am-6pm; Sat. 10am-5pm. •An assortment of 18th- and 19th-century historic and decorative antique engravings and lithographs.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (262-0550). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. www.hyg. com. •*Philip Sirosis: New Paintings* shows with *Howard Johnson: Band Aid Drawings* June 2-27.

Hurst Gallery
53 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (491-6888). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sat. 12-6pm. Thu, 12-7pm.



Daniel Robinson's work shows in *Elements*, a collaborative exhibition at the Mercury Gallery.

Visitors are greeted with a wide variety of art and artifacts from six continents.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (375-0076). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. The gallery's exhibition features a wide variety of vintage posters from Europe and Russia.

Judy Ann Goldman
14 Newbury St., Boston (424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. Call for an appointment. The gallery regularly displays paintings, sculpture and works on paper. •*Billy Sullivan: New Work* is a collection of still life paintings and pastels. Through June 17.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 Saint Stephen St., Boston (247-1719). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue.-Sat., 1-5pm. •*Japanese Calligraphy and Brush Painting,* by Kaji Aso and his students, shows through May 31.

Mercury Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (859-0054). www.mercurygallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat., 10am-6pm.* •*Elements*, a group exhibition by 16 artists, shows through June 14.

Mills Gallery
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sun., 1-4pm; Thu.-Sat., 7-10pm. •*The Drawing Show*, juried by artist Ellen Gallagher, shows through June 25. There will also be a Meet the Artists discussion May 30, 7-9pm.

Mobius
354 Congress St., Boston (542-7416). $10, $8 students and seniors. •*Certain Moments*, a collaboration between artist Liz Sweibel and choreographer/dancer Jody Weber, is an installation art piece/modern dance combo. It takes place June 8-10, 8pm. The audience is invited into the installation space after each performance. $10, $8 students and seniors.

MPG
285 Newbury St., Boston (437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •May-Ann Christensen's *Passionate Landscape* shows Through June 11. •Land Sea and Beyond I includes the work of Gail Bessette, Rachel Claflin and George Lynde. June 15-July 16.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (266-4835). www.nielsen gallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm.* Founded in 1964. •*Miniatures,* by Joan Snyder displays through June 10 in Gallery 1. •*Small Paintings,* by Sam Messer, shows in Gallery 2 with *Portraits,* by Vincent Sferrazza. Through June 10.

Out of the Blue Gallery
168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun. 12-7pm. This gallery, owned and operated by several artists, always has a variety of interesting artwork and art-related events going on. •*Third Anniversary Show* is on display through May 31. •Poetry readings take place every Saturday, and the gallery hosts a rotating guest list of jazz musicians every Wednesday.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (236-4497). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •*Michael David: New Landscapes, Paintings and Drawings*, shows through June 24.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (267-9473). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun. 1pm-5pm. •The gallery hosts its fourth exhibition of the works of Japanese artist Shigeru Matsuzaki. His fanciful acrylic and ink drawings are presented in *A Personal Theater II*, which displays through June 7.

Qingping Gallery Teahouse
231 Shamut Ave., Boston (236-4846). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Open every day, 9am-12am. This newly relocated, authentic Chinese teahouse specializes in avant-garde and contemporary antiques, teapots and furniture.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (266-3321). MBTA: Green Line to Arlingron. www.richardson- clarke.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tues.-Sat. 10am-5pm.* •American and European 19th- and 20th-century paintings, drawings and sculpture. Ongoing. •Truman Seymour's *Moroccan Watercolors* is also now on display.

Space 12 Gallery
12 Union Park St., Boston (423-9760). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed. 6-9pm; Thu.-Sat. 1-5pm. •*Richard Livingstone: Lessons Learned,* mixed-media paintings and prints, shows through June.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (450-0321). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. Artist William St. George displays his lush and colorful paintings. •Now showing *Colors of Provence*, William St. George's expressive landscapes in oil.

A Touch of France
173 Newbury St., Boston (247-6966). MBTA: Green line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-7pm; Sun., 12-6pm. This gallery imports contemporary French artists' works, including paintings from famous French painters: M. Tigrane, R. Kefflin, C. Ferrer and striking dried-flower arrangements made near Saint Tropez.

Via Gallery
83 Newbury St., 2nd Floor (424-6200). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri. 10am-4pm. •Linda Mahoney's *New Silver Prints*, a collection of still lifes and landscapes, shows through June 12.

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (536-6176). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 8am-5:30pm; Sat. 9am-4pm. •The current exhibition is *Works on Paper Exhibition*, a guide on the selection and care of watercolors, pastels and drawings. Through June 3.

Zeitgeist Gallery
312 Broadway St., Cambridge (876-2182). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu.-Sun., 2pm-7pm. The gallery displays a variety of local artists' work. •A Playground Jazz Series takes place on Friday nights. •Monday is literary night with the Stone Soup Poets performing. •Every Wednesday is a figure-drawing session. •Sunday is a vegan potluck supper, often accompanied by live music and poetry. Open to one and all.

Beacon Hill Art Walk

More than 100 artists from Beacon Hill and beyond exhibit and sell their work at the 11th annual Beacon Hill Art Walk. The artists set up their displays in the gardens, courtyards and entryways of Beacon Hill from Charles St. along Putnam Ave. and along Phillips Grove, Revere and Anderson Streets. *June 4, 12-6pm. Rain date June 11. Walk starts at 135 1/2 Charles St. Admission is free (523-5045).*

PHOTOGRAPHY

Artists for Humanity
288-300 A Street, Boston (868-1516). www.photovoice.org. *Through July 1.* April 30 marked 25th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. In commemoration, Artists for Humanity displays *Street Visions*, a project affiliated with the Ho Chi Minh City Child Welfare Foundation, which teaches photography to young Vietnamese children. The exhibition is showing with Hanoi Photographs, a collection of work by Timothy Karr. Also, Artists for Humanity exhibits Mayhem, its collection of American urban youth art.

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2051). Tues.-Sat. 11am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm; Closed Mondays. The Multiple is a gallery investigation that explores works of art produced more than one time. Ongoing.

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (423-4299). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Fri., 10am-3pm; Sat., 12-5pm. •Robert Goss, Laura Blacklow, Gary Duehr and Susan Schmidt combine their work in Descriptions/Depictions/Decisions, which shows through May 26.

Gallery One
537 Comm. Ave., Boston (437-1868). Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm. Affiliated with the New England School of Photography. •The work of Karin Rosenthal, whose work has shown in the MFA, the Brooklyn Museum, Fogg Art Museum and the International Center of Photography, shows through June 2 in an exhibition titled *Interconnections: Figure and Landscape.*

Panopticon Gallery
187 Bay State Rd., Boston (267-8929). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford. Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm. This gallery offers fine-art photographic prints and media licensing of images for print, video and stock photography. •*Bradford Washburn: Mountain Photography* shows through the end of May.

Photographic Resource Center
602 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (353-0700). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford. Tue.-Sun., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-8pm. •*2000 Photographic Resource Center Members' Exhibition* is juried by Richard B. Woodward, Editor at Large for *DoubleTake* and John P. Jacob, Executive Director of the PRC. Through June 30.

CRAFTS

Allanza Gallery
154 Newbury St., Boston (262-2385). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. A variety of arts and crafts are on display. •Sheets of Glass, a collective show that explores the sculptural use of sheet glass by contemporary artists, shows through June 30.

Cambridge Artists Cooperative
59A Church St., Cambridge (868-4434). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; 10am-8pm; Sun. 1-6pm. Twelve artists own and operate this gallery that features 2D design and jewelry.

Clayground
91 Hampshire St., Cambridge (661-7376). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 12-6pm; Sat. 11am-5pm. Porcelain and stone objects galore. Classes are usually available.

Feet of Clay Pottery
21 Station St., Brookline Village (731-3262). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. May 4, 6-10pm; May 5-7, 10am-6pm. The pottery studio hosts its Spring Show and Sale, a collection of local artists' works.

Fresh Pond Clay Works
368 Huron Ave., Cambridge (492-1907). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard to Bus 72. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm. A wide range of firing techniques, from terra cotta to porcelain.

Gateway Gallery
62 Harvard St., Brookline Village, Brookline (734-1577). MBTA: C Green Line to Brookline Village. Mon.-Sat., 11am-6pm. This nonprofit gallery features all sorts of arts and crafts.

Infinity Gallery
24 Union Park St., Boston (423-5555). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat 11am-7pm; Sun 11am-6pm. This small gallery features Wayne Fuerst's work.

Signature Gallery
Dock Square, Boston (227-4885). Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Thu., 10am-7pm; Fri. and Sat., 10am-9pm; Sun., 12-6pm. Pottery, metal and glass works.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (266-1810). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm; Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. •*New Baskets* shows through June 28.

Preview

Arts Fest

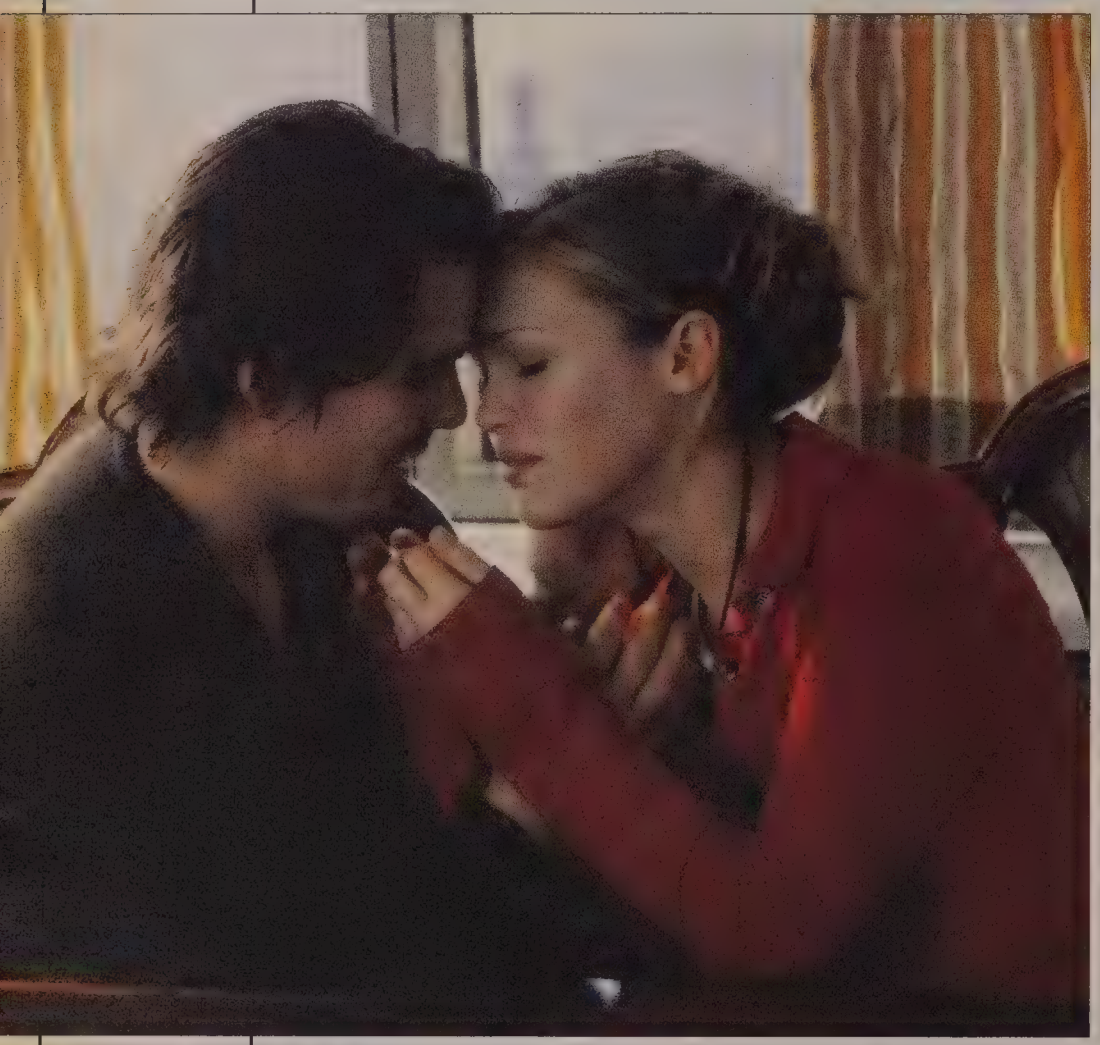
Culture at Coolidge

The 22nd annual Coolidge Corner Arts Festival in Brookline is fast approaching: June 10, 9am-6pm. The Arts Fest spotlights local artists and craftspeople. An outdoor celebration, it is open to the public and encourages one and all to meander through the artist booths. For more info, call the Brookline Chamber of Commerce *(739-1330). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.*

SHAKESPEARE IN MUDDLE

New Bard movie is Hamlet-fisted blend of past and present. BY PAUL SHERMAN

Let down, thy name is Hamlet. Not just any Hamlet, but director Michael Almereyda's modern-day take on the William Shakespeare play, which the filmmaker has set in big-business New York. In it, Denmark is a corporation, the king is the CEO, Elsinore is a hotel—and the whole concept becomes old after about three minutes. Ethan Hawke plays this movie's Hamlet, who returns home to find his father (Sam Shepard) has suddenly died, his mother (Diane Venora) has already married her dead husband's brother (Kyle MacLachlan) and his dreaded new stepdad is now running the corporation. Something sure smells rotten in Manhattan and, between periods of grief-stricken numbness, the morose hero strives to get to the bottom of the intrigue.



Ethan Hawke and Julia Stiles play the lovelorn couple, Hamlet and Ophelia.

It's easy enough to substitute the ruthlessness of big business for the Machiavellian machinations of 16th-century monarchies, so Almereyda's overall concept is not a problem. What he's done with it, however, presents a multitude of snags. Most obviously, the director has chosen to use Shakespeare's words, in their original archaic English, and not to update the language, a move that would have at least allowed the script to better tailor its situations for its new setting.

Sure, big business and big government can both be all about power, but in this Hamlet that power is awfully generic. Almereyda enlists visuals to fill in some details the dialogue doesn't supply, yet we never learn the specific function of the Denmark corporation nor the relationships of all the characters within it, for instance. The result is a movie that seems to be overstuffed with plot, yet never really gives us enough information to savor its dramatic turmoil.

With Shakespeare's original language locked in—although Almereyda pruned the story under two hours (most noticeably losing Hamlet's graveyard "skull" speech)—that means the need to fill in gaps with visuals often gets in the way. A major factor in getting into Shakespeare's dialogue is being able to see the actors mouth the words. It is a foreign dialect of sorts, yet Almereyda has made no allowance for the need to see the actors as much as possible, cutting away to reaction shots too often and supplying many of Hamlet's monologues in mopey voice-overs (the last thing Hawke needed was a character that encouraged him to be more mopey).

Compounding the already uneasy mix of plot and setting is the fact that Shakespeare's English comes out of the cast in a variety of discordant styles. While Hawke and Bill Murray (who plays the father of Hamlet's love interest, Ophelia) give informal, contemporary readings, Liev Schreiber (as Ophelia's brother, Laertes) gives near-arch readings and, as the ghost of Hamlet's father, Sam Shepard (who just played Hawke's dad in *Snow Falling on Cedars*) rushes through his lines and kills much of the drama of his scenes. MacLachlan, Julia Stiles (as Ophelia) and Diane Venora (as Hamlet's mother, Gertrude) bring a more appealing balance of relaxation and loftiness to their roles.

But the performances are really secondary here. In mixing archaic and poetic language with a sometimes crude 2000 setting—like when Hamlet's "to be or not to be" monologue comes partly as he walks the aisles of a Blockbuster and partly on a video monitor—Almereyda has created a movie that is less than the sum of its parts. By the end, he still hasn't enriched his premise of juxtaposition more than he had after the first minute. The only recent such film to have done so is 1995's *Richard III,* which did an electrifying job of transcending that play to the fascism of the 1930s. Like the sometimes obnoxious *William Shakespeare's Romeo+Juliet*, the unfocused and derivative *Titus,* this Hamlet is just another self-satisfied post-modern novelty. Let's hope Kenneth Branagh's upcoming version of Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Lost* (see capsule review), which has been refashioned into a 1930s-era musical, is more substantial than this. **iB**

Hamlet ★

Directed by Michael Almereyda. Based on the play by William Shakespeare. With Ethan Hawke, Julia Stiles, Kyle MacLachlan, Diane Venora, Bill Murray, Liev Schrieber and Sam Shepard. Rated R. Miramax Films.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Jamie Foxx and Eduardo Yanez star in ***Held Up.***

The Color of Paradise ★★★½
Rarely does a movie cut to the hearts of its characters as does this latest by Iranian director Majid (*Children of Paradise*) Majidi. Following an 8-year-old blind boy (Mohsen Ramezani) who leaves his Tehran school for the blind to spend summer in the rural village of his father, grandmother and two sisters, the story revolves around the relationship between the boy and the emotionally scarred father (Hossein Mahjub), who'd rather not have to care for the boy himself. But, as the story unfurls, the boy's very survival depends on the father's willingness to love him (or not). In its full range of human emotions and glib-free beatitude of the storytelling, the only recent movie to compare with this in tone is David Lynch's *The Straight Story*.

Committed ★★
The combination of quirks and emotions practiced by writer-director Lisa Krueger here lacks the spark of her previous *Manny & Lo*. Heather Graham plays a fiery young New Yorker who lives by her word and who won't give up her marriage vows after husband, Luke Wilson, has a crisis of faith and leaves her. She tracks him to El Paso and, in a comic twist on stalking, hangs around in order to give him the full opportunity to recommit himself to her. The comedy here is most amusing around the edges, especially in the performance of *Like Water for Chocolate* director Alfonso Arau as a desert sage. But it's too lightweight in the middle, so Graham's romantic quest seems like more than a kooky affectation.

Held Up ★★½
It's hardly a must-see, but this little-hyped film turns out to be a decent ensemble comedy and more than just a vehicle for Jamie Foxx (*Booty Call*, TV's *Jamie Foxx Show*). Girlfriend Nia Long dumps Foxx mid-vacation in the middle of the Arizona desert, where he soon becomes one of the hostages in a bungled mini-mart robbery. The hayseed locals are often amusing, and the comedy never turns obnoxious,which is more than you can say for most comedies. It's hardly original, but in its own way this overachieves.

High Fidelity ★★★
This adaptation of Nick Hornby's novel surrounds star (and co-producer) John Cusack with lots of familiar faces from his past movies, such as *Grifters* director Stephen Frears and co-stars like Tim Robbins, Lili Taylor and sister Joan Cusack. Cusack also cowrote the script with his *Grosse Pointe Blank* team and plays a familiarly flawed but sincere character. Even if that does give the movie a sense of deja vu, there's enough fun in the details to make the story of a record-shop owner's love life work. Its most memorable action pits Cusack's character against his anti-social record-shop employees, played by Jack Black (*Cradle Will Rock*) and Todd Louiso. Killer soundtrack, too.

Human Traffic ★★
If you don't like someone sober, you're not likely to like them drunk or stoned. So it goes with this Welsh *Trainspotting* wannabe about a weekend spent by a group of twentysomething clubbers who escape the drudgery of meaningless jobs for the ecstasy (the drug and the feeling) of music-drenched, dance-filled nights out. But, unlike *Trainspotting*'s Danny Boyle, *Human Traffic* writer-director Justin Kerrigan is unable to translate his characters' frustrations and narcotic escapes into a visceral cinematic style. In the first half-hour in which we're introduced to the group of friends, he just has them rant on or talk really loudly, making them too obnoxious to care about.

HAMLET: LARRY RILEY. HELD UP: ALAN MARKFIELD

Love's Labour's Lost ★★★
It's often uneven and flimsy, but Kenneth Branagh's transposition of Shakespeare's comedy to 1939 Europe and his transformation of it into a musical of song standards, most of which originated in Fred Astaire & Ginger Rogers films, is a charmer. With an eclectic cast that includes American film actors like Alicia Silverstone and English stage vets like Branagh, the director is smart enough to leave most of the dramatic heavy lifting to himself and most of the humor to comedy vets Timothy Spall (*Topsy-Turvy*) and an especially amusing Nathan Lane. Much preferred over the current *Hamlet*, but much preferred over Branagh's Hamlet, too.

Screwed ★
Clever screenwriters Scott Alexander and Larry Karaszewski turn clumsy directors in this low-brow, low-wattage comedy. The duo may have penned the bold biopics *Ed Wood*, *The People vs. Larry Flynt* and *Man on the Moon*, but their directorial debut about two schmucks (Norm Macdonald and Dave Chappelle) who botch crime after crime can't even compare with the Problem Child movies they wrote before such later triumphs. Elaine Stritch and Danny DeVito add a few funny moments as the schmucks, but this makes you wonder if directors Tim Burton and Milos Forman made the biopics work, not Alexander and Karaszewski.

Sex: The Annabel Chong Story ★★★
The old saying "Does she or doesn't she?" takes on new meaning in this fascinating documentary about Grace Quek, a Singapore-born college student who became porn star Annabel Chong. To make a name for herself in her chosen profession, the gender studies student slept with 251 men on one January 1995 day, something she claims to have done to challenge gender roles, acting like a male stud in a society that calls women who do such things "sluts." The unanswered question of whether this motivation holds true, or is just a shield for more mundane reasons like escaping her rigid upbringing, keeps the movie unpredictable, as does director Gough Lewis' ability to blend the dramatic, the disturbing and the comic.

Small Time Crooks ★★
In what is essentially Woody Allen's underwhelming version of *The Honeymooners*, the writer-director and Tracey Ullman play a lowbrow couple who strike it rich, and then find their new hoity-toity lives pulling them apart. While she hires art dealer Hugh Grant to culture her, he longs for the simple life they once had. Although this pokes fun at the Manhattan intellectualism to which Allen usually kisses up, as well as spoofing the nouveau riche couple, it never gets very involving, and with Allen, Ullman and Grant dominating the midsection, it's full of overmannered performances. About par for an Allen movie these days—not horrible, but not the least bit memorable.

South: Ernest Shackleton and the Endurance Expedition ★★★
If I had been attempting a dangerous expedition to be the first person to cross Antarctica through the South Pole in 1915, the last thing on my mind would be to bring along a film crew. But, thanks to the arrogance of the British empire at its apex, that's exactly what Sir Ernest Shackleton did. This recently rediscovered and restored silent film is an awe-inspiring chronicle of that legendary expedition (as documented in the 1990s book *Endurance*), with the trekkers' boat getting trapped in ice and then gradually folding up like a ball of tin foil by the frozen seas. At the Museum of Fine Arts, with sporadic showings between May 31 and June 18.

The Virgin Suicides ★★★
In a sense, Sofia Coppola's debut as director aims at an easy target, the emotional repression of suburbia. But, despite some missteps, her adaptation of Jeffrey Eugenides' novel, set in mid-1970s Michigan, does so with a melancholy mood that brings sympathy to most of its characters: the teen sisters whose discontent leads to suicide, the adolescent boys who reach out to them but can't quite emotionally connect with them, the parents confused by their kids' puberty. Coppola also portrays the special relationship hormonal younger teens have with pop music as few movies have.

Winter Sleepers ★★★
Before he made the 1999 arthouse highlight *Run Lola Run*, German director Tom Tykwer made this moodier psychological thriller set in the snowy mountains. Call it *Ski Lola Ski*. The lives of a moviehouse projectionist (Ulrich Mattes), a nurse (Marie-Lou Sellem), a ski instructor (Heino Ferch), a translator (Floriane Daniel) and a farmer (Josef Bierbichler) cross paths in eerie and unexpected ways, especially after the projectionist and the farmer suffer the car crash that sets events in motion yet leaves them with only vague recollection of what happened. Slightly reminiscent of Atom Egoyan's film of Russell Banks, *The Sweet Hereafter*, because of its wintry setting and unsettling aftermath following a tragedy, this is slow-moving and sometimes overly labyrinthine, but haunting nonetheless.

Cary Grant embraces Katherine Hepburn in the 1940 romantic comedy *The Philadelphia Story*.

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Cinemas
214 Harvard Ave. (277-2140). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
Trapelo Rd. (484-1706). Red Line to Harvard, 73 bus.

BOSTON

Boston Film • Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (536-1540). Green Line to Hynes.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (536-5400). Green Line to Copley.

Cheri
50 Dalton St. (536-2870). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum Of Science, Omni Theater
Science Park (723-2500). Green Line to Science Park.

Nickelodeon
606 Comm. Ave. (424-1500). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford St.

Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle.

Coolidge Corner
290 Harvard St. (734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theater
40 Brattle St. (876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (495-4700). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Sq. (494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony Theater
10 Church St. (864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Sq.

Somerville Theater
55 Davis Sq. (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston. (277-2500). B Green Line to Chestnut Hill.

West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (964-6060).

Alternatives & Revivals

Advice to Contributors
Submit film listings by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Although film listings are correct at the time of publication, they are subject to change. Doublecheck showtimes by calling the theater or 333-FILM.

Boston Public Library

Fifth Annual Iberoamerican Film Fest
May 31 and June 7, 8, 14, 21 and 28, 6pm.

•May 31 **La Voz del Corazón** (*The Voice of the Heart*) *1998.* The confusion of a great loss and the search for an ideal is what moves a man to travel into the forest on a missionary journey. Posing as a truck driver, he meets a woman who presents a program titled "The Voice of the Heart," on an old radio station deep in the jungle. Directed by Carlos Oteyza.

•June 7 **Tesis** (*Thesis*) *1996.* While a woman is working on a university thesis on violence on film, she discovers a "snuff film" and learns that the film was shot in the university. Determined to uncover the truth, she finds that she may be the next victim. Directed by Alejandro Amenábar.

•June 8 **Casa de Lava** (*Down to Earth*) *1994.* A Cape Verdean construction worker is injured on site in Lisbon. A young nurse assists him in his recovery from surgery and a coma and volunteers to accompany him home to Fogo Island. Directed by Pedro Costa.

Precode Hollywood Series 1930-1933

•June 5, **Freaks** *1932.* Tod Browning directs this unique movie about a traveling sideshow and the camaraderie of its unusual performers, goaded to vengeance by a cruel trapeze star. Horror-film master Tod Browning gathered an incredible cast of real-life sideshow freaks for this bizarre and fascinating film.

•June 12, **Tarzan, the Ape Man** *1932.* A British gentry meets jungle savagery when the daughter of a English hunter is captured by Tarzan and decides she prefers his primal charms to those of her high-falutin' fiance. Directed by W.S. Van Dyke.

Brattle Theater

Most shows are $7, including double features.

Mondays—Film Noir Is Back

•June 5, 7:30pm **The French Connection** *1971.* Maverick cop Popeye Doyle and his partner as they doggedly chase down heroin traffickers in New York.

•June 5, 5:15pm and 9:40pm **The Friends of Eddie Coyle** *1973.* This intense neo-realist, neo-noir turns a naked lens on the underworld dealings in our own backyard as it spins a tale of gunrunners and dirty cops in the streets of Boston.

•June 12, 7:3pm **Lady From Shanghai** *1948.* Orson Welles directs and co-stars with Rita Hayworth in one of the greatest film noirs of all time—Hayworth is the ultimate femme fatale who enchants Welles.

•June 12, 5:15pm and 9:30pm **Gilda** *1946.* A sizzling and slightly psychotic love-hate relationship blooms in Buenos Aires, when the sultry yet sympathetic Gilda threatens the bonding of gambler Glenn Ford (her old flame) and his new boss (her new husband).

Tuesdays—True to Life: Recent Documentaries

•June 6, 5:30pm, 7:30pm and 9:30pm **My Best Fiend—Klaus Kinski** *1999.* German New Wave director Werner Herzog's uniquely revealing memoir of the volatile actor Klaus Kinski depicts their relationship as one of the stormiest in movie history, marked by screaming tirades, death threats, and insane risks in hazardous locations.

•June 13, 7:40pm and 9:30pm **Genghis Blues** *1999.* Powerhouse bluesman Paul Pena—a blind Creole singer-guitarist—first discovered throat singing on a short-wave radio broadcast from overseas. Gripped by what he heard, he devoted the next 10 years to studying this singing style.

Wednesdays—Recent Raves

•May 31, 7:40 **Mifune** *1999.* The latest film from the Dogma 95 collective is this unsettlingly funny feature about the futility of trying to lie away one's past.

•May 31, 5:15pm and 9:45pm **Ghost Dog: the Way of the Samurai** *1999.* Jim Jarmusch (*Down by Law, Dead Man*) brings us this atmospheric tale of a mob hitman who lives by the ancient code of the Samurai. Through Jarmusch's typically ingenious direction we see a cross-cultural fusion of Eastern philosophy, hip-hop music and urban darkness.

•June 7, 7:30pm **The Cup** *1999.* It is 1998, and World Cup fever has reached the Indian Himalayas. As the cup final fast approaches, a monastery is swept along, but there is one problem: With no TV, how will the monks be able to watch the match?

•June 7, 5:15pm and 9:30pm **Kadosh** *1999.* A more sober examination of ancient tradition living in a modern world, it reveals the relationships between two sisters and three men in an ultra-orthodox Jerusalem neighborhood.

Thursdays—From the East

•June 1, 7:30pm **Coming Out** *1989.* The first East German feature film about homosexuality, it is unswervingly true to its story about two young gay men and the woman who loves one of them.

•June 1, 5:15pm and 9:50pm **Solo Sunny** *1980.* A huge box office success in Eastern Europe, this film addresses the longings and frustrations of East German youth. Its '70s style is evident in the glitzy visuals and catchy soundtrack.

•June 8, 5pm, 7:30pm and 9:50pm **After Life** *1998.* Hirokazu Kore-eda's film takes place at a mysterious way station where the newly dead are asked by heavenly bureaucrats to choose one memory to carry with them for eternity. The director interviewed hundreds of real people with his question and some of them appear in the film.

Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays—Special Engagements

•June 2-June 4, 7:20pm (Sat. and Sun. matinees at 3pm) **The Graduate** *1967.* Mike Nichols' timeless sex comedy features a very young Hoffman as a recent college graduate who has an affair with the married sexpot Anne Bancroft (Mrs. Robinson).

•June 2-4, 5:10pm and 9:30pm (Sat. and Sun. matinees at 1pm) **Casablanca** *1942.* Get nostalgic over this story of love, betrayal and loyalty set in smoky Rick's cafe during the Nazi occupation of Casablanca.

•June 9-11, 5pm and 7:30pm (Sat. and Sun. matinees at 2:30pm) **Life Is to Whistle** *1999.* A love letter from a Cuban director to his own country, this uniquely Cuban blend of visual flair, absurdist humor and mystical realism is set to the pulsating music of Bola de Nieve and Benny More.

•June 9-11, 10pm **Buena Vista Social Club** *1999.* Wim Wenders' (*Wings of Desire*) document follows longtime friend Ry Cooder's second voyage to Cuba, the first yielded the Grammy award-winning album.

Coolidge Corner Theater

Jazz on a June Night
Every Monday in June, the Coolidge and WGBH team up to present live jazz performances by New England Conservatory musicians with jazz films. Focusing this year on documentary and live performance films, jazz on a June night features **Last of the Blue Devils: Count Basie and his Orchestra, Big Joe Turner** and **Jay McShann** (June 5); **Texas Tenor: The Illinois Jacquet Story** (June 12); double feature of **Different Drummer: Elvin Jones** and **Sonny Rollins: Live at Laren** (June 19); **Mingus: Charles Mingus** (June 26). *$10, $8 for WGBH members, Coolidge members, seniors and kids (734-2500).*

Midnight Movies
June 2, 12am **Donald's Last Dance** *1998.* Adam Mutterperl's debut feature film chronicles five guys in their attempt to relive their glorious high school days by reuniting their rock 'n' roll band, The Donald Avocado. The film is a quirky character-based comedy with great original music written and performed by the actors.

Sharon Mitchell appears in at the Coolidge Corner Theatre for two stimulating shows June 6.

Now Playing

•Opening June 9 **Beau Travail** *1999.* Acclaimed director Claire Denis takes a look at the rituals of life in the French Foreign Legion, an army with no real purpose. A mercenary emotionally isolated from the men with whom he rigorously trains.

•Opening in June **Kiku Jiro** *1999.* Takeshi Kitano (*Fireworks, Sonitaine*) makes a bizarre left turn with this compassionate tale of a boy on a seemingly endless search for his mother. Masao is a lonely 9-year-old who sets off to find the mother he has never known.

Sharon Mitchell Film Festival

Miss Sharon Mitchell appears in at the Coolidge for two big shows June 6, 7:30pm and 9:30pm. An adult-film star for more than 25 years, Mitchell comes for a show titled *Daddy Make Me a Star*, an exclusive showing of this not-yet-released video. She gives us an insider's look at the adult-film industry, including a Q&A about the biz from Miss Mitchell herself. The second program at 9:30 is the Sharon Mitchell Film Festival, clips from her lengthy and fulfilling career in the biz. *$10, $15 for a double feature. 18+.*

Special Engagements

•May 31, 10pm **The Eighth Annual Short Attention Span Film and Video Festival Tour**, which started its 16-city tour April 1 in San Francisco, arrives in Brookline presents nearly two hours of brand-new films and videos from around the globe, none of which are more than two minutes long. This year's show includes animation, comedy, short dramas, political satire and more.

•June 17, 12am **Storefront Hitchcock**. A Jonathan Demme concert film features Robyn Hitchcock, Deni Bonet and Tim Keegan. With a special appearance by Robyn Hitchcock.

Harvard Film Archive

Premieres

•June 1–7, 7pm **Dream of Light**. Recently voted the No. 1 film of the 1990s in an international poll of critics, *Dream of Light* is a magnificent work from Victor Erice, best known for his 1973 film *The Spirit of the Beehive.* The film follows Madrileño painter Antonio Lopez as he labors over a painting of a quince tree in his garden.

Love and Anarchy: Films by Vera Chytilová and Juraj Jakubisko

•June 8, 7pm and June 10, 7 pm **Daisies** *1966.* Two bored girls, both named Marie, decide to take revenge on consumer-oriented society with a series of pranks and the destruction of material goods. One of the most adventurous films of the Czech New Wave.

•June 8, 8:30pm and June 11, 7pm **The Millennial Bee** *1983.* Using the life of bees as its central metaphor, Juraj Jakubisko's film chronicles the ups and downs in the life of a family during the 30-year period prior to World War I.

•June 9, 7pm and June 13. 7pm **An Ambiguous Report about the End of the World** *1997.* This bitter parable of mankind is a surreal fairy tale for adults. It recounts the destruction of a remote mountain village when it is thrust into contact with civilization. The prophecy of Nostradamus is fulfilled as wolves invade, houses sink into the ground, crops go up in flames, and helicopters attack.

•June 9, 9:30 m and June 12, 8:45pm **The Jester and the Queen** *1987.* Directed by Vera Chytilová, this lively juxtaposition of pathos, comedy, fantasy, and politics presents the doubled-story of a medieval court jester who is obliged to entertain his queen and of his counterpart, the chateau's present-day caretaker, who thinks he has discovered the former queen in a German tourist.

•June 10, 8:30pm and June 12, 7 pm **Birds, Orphans and Fools** *1968.* Made in the shadow of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, this classic of the Czech New Wave was suppressed for more than 20 years until its release in 1990. It depicts a world devastated by war as it focuses on two crazy pals living in a deserted church. Directed by Juraj Jakubisko.

Museum of Fine Arts

Most film screenings are $6.

Premiere Engagements

•June 1, 6pm, June 3, 1:45pm, June 7, 8pm, June 8, 6pm and June 11, 12pm **Welcome Back, Mr. McDonald** *1997.* The production of a live radio play threatens to unravel the threads binding an artistic crew. Directed by Koki Mitani.

•May 31, 8pm; June 1, 8pm; June 2, 6pm; June 3, 12pm and June 4, 4pm **South: Ernest Shackleton and the Endurance Expedition** *1919.* In the pioneer days of Antartic exploration, Sir Ernest Shackleton attempted to be the first to cross Antartica via the South Pole. Ship photographer Frank Hurley's feature film was shot during this exhibition.

•June 2, 8pm and June 3, 3:30pm **Baya of the Mountains** *1997.* This film is both a captivating fable and a vivid lesson in Algerian history. In 1857, the Berber people were subject to a bloody attack by imperialist forces. Baya is the embodiment of their determination.

•June 9, 6 and 8pm; June 10, 4:15pm and June 11, 4pm **Dribbling Fate** *1998.* Lingering dreams clash with adult realities in this absorbing film set in Lisbon and Cape Verde. The story centers on Mané, the proprietor of a small bar who is obsessed with soccer and its fading promises.

Encore Screenings

•June 10, 10:30am and June 11, 2pm **A Hero for Daisy** *1999.* The story of Yale rowing legend Chris Ernst, who in 1976 galvanized her rowing team to storm the Yale athletic director's office to protest the lack of locker-room facilities for women, is directed by Mary Mazzio.

•June 10, 10:30am and June 11, 2pm **Run Like a Girl** *1999.* A look at a variety of girl athletes explores how sports can help girls resist forces that stunt spiritual growth or thwart self-confidence. Directed by Carol Cassidy.

•June 4, 12pm **94 Years and 1 Nursing Home Later** *1999.* Laurel Greenberg's documentary explores how her beloved grandmother, a Russian immigrant and caretaker of others, ended up alone at the end of her life.

Birth and Death of Film

•May 31, 5:30pm; June 4, 2:30pm and June 10, 2:30pm **Death: A Love Story** *1998.* A documentary that confronts our fears of death and reaffirms the exhilarating experience of life is directed by Michelle Le Brun.

•May 31, 7pm and June 4, 1:30pm **For Tamaya** *2000.* Tara Alexander's documentary captures the wonders of natural birth.

•June 7, 6pm and June 10, 2:30pm **Letting Go: A Hospice Journey** *1996.* Through sensitive portraits of three patients, this film explores the process of dying and its encompassing roles for family and hospice workers.

Museum of Science

Omni Shows

•Through June 22. The Omni features **Dolphins**, an underwater exploration about these sea creatures in the wild and their forms of communication.

•Through June 22. **Mysteries of Egypt** reveals the stories and splendors of an ancient empire in a story-telling narrative. See stunning, panoramic views of Egypt's landscapes and breathtaking monuments, and watch ancient burial rituals.

Screen on the Green

•June 6, sunset **The Adventures of Robin Hood** *1938.* Errol Flynn is dashing as the man in tights, and Olivia de Havilland plays his maidenly true love as Maid Marian. The film got an Oscar for the rousing Korngold music.

•June 13, sunset **The Philadelphia Story** *1940.* This comedy pits Katherine Hepburn against Cary Grant. She's a spoiled heiress about to embark on her second marriage. Grant plays her old husband and Jimmy Stewart won an Oscar for his part as a love-struck reporter.

education

Advice to Contributors

Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Education. Or e-mail information to education@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

CLASSES/LECTURES

Wednesday, May 31

Behind the Screen: FairMarket

FairMarket, 500 Unicorn Park Drive, Woburn (227-2822). 6:30-8:30pm. Free. FairMarket is one of the most well-known names in online auctions and e-commerce. Hear founder and CEO **Scott Randall** talk about what it takes to start and grow a company at warp speed.

Mapping Boston Talk

Abbey Room, Boston Public Library, Boston (536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 5:30pm.* Architects and designers will give and tour and a talk about the *Mapping Boston* exhibition.

Thursday, June 1

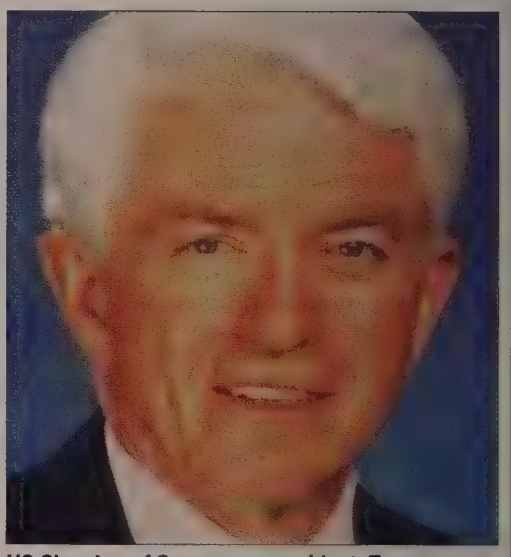
Commonwealth Conference on International Business

World Trade Center, Boston (262-2280). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. This conference features interactive workshops on international e-commerce and global markets, with speakers **Thomas Donohue**, president of the US Chamber of Commerce, and **Al Zollar**, president and CEO of Lotus Development Corp.

Wednesday, June 7

Investing Using the Internet

Brookline High School, 115 Greenough St., Brookline (566-6660). Thursdays, 6-8pm, beginning June 8. $70. It's all the rage—investing on the Internet without the help of a broker. Learn how to use Web site resources to track reports and gather information like the brokers do, so that you can make informed decisions on your own.



US Chamber of Commerce president, Tom Donohue discusses international business, June 1.

Thursday, June 8

The Struggle of Women in Massachusetts Politics

Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Free. **Betty Taymor**, author of *Running Against the Wind: The Struggle of Women in Massachusetts Politics*, talks about her own experiences as a prominent activist in the Democratic party and on women's lack of success in breaking through the political glass ceiling.

Tuesday, June 13

Power Plays: Shakespeare's Lessons in Leadership and Management

Ford Hall Forum, Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (373-5800). MBTA: Orange or Blue Line to State Street. 6:30pm. Free. In their new book, authors **Tina Packer** and **John Whitney** convincingly demonstrate that no one but the beloved bard could ever penetrate the secrets of leadership with such piercing brilliance and invaluable instruction. Best of all the two cite real-world models of success and failure, including such monarchs (both reigning and deposed) as GE's Jack Welch, AT & T's Robert Allen and Apple's John Sculley.

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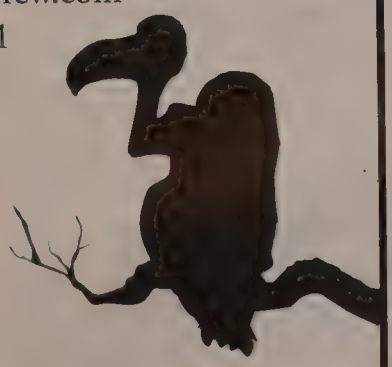

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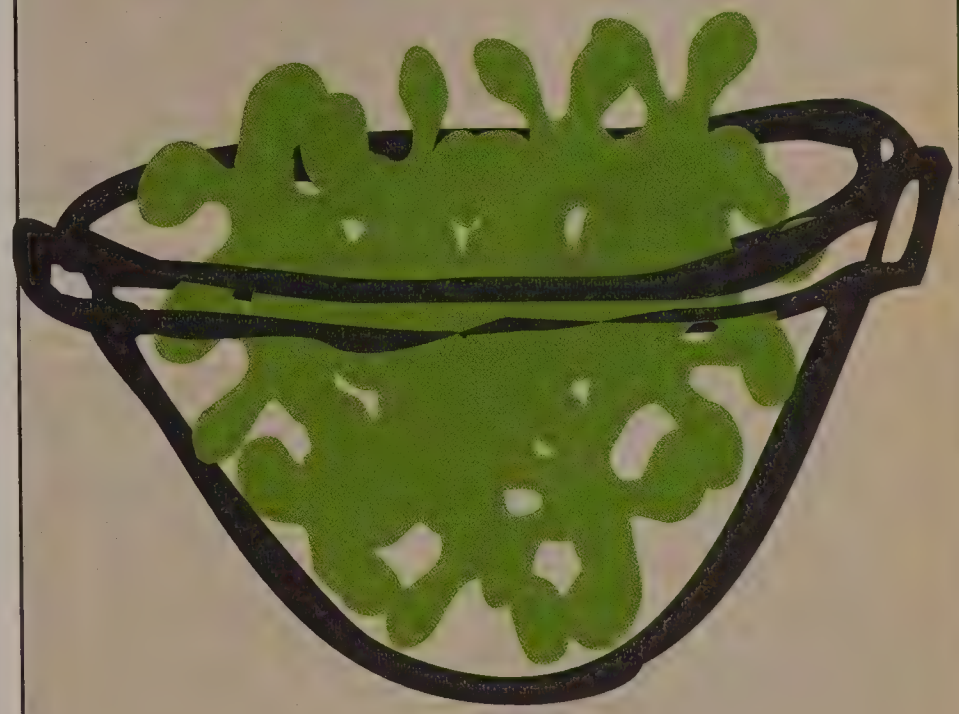

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READINGS & SIGNINGS

Wednesday, May 31

Brookline Booksmith Author Series
279 Harvard St., Brookline (739-6002). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. **Stacy Schiff**, author of *Vera (Mrs. Vladimir Nabokov)* discusses her compelling look into the Nabakov marriage.

Thursday, June 1

Brookline Booksmith Author Series
279 Harvard St., Brookline (739-6002). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. From the greatly praised author of *Machine Dreams* and *Shelter* comes a major new novel. Brookline novelist **Jayne Anne Phillips** reads from her new book, *Motherkind*.

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (236-7421). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. **Edward Rosser** talks about *Viennese Types: Photographs C. 1910 by Dr. Emil Mayer.* This book introduces one of the great photographers of our century, Emil Mayer, a turn-of-the-century Viennese street photographer whose prints were largely destroyed by the Gestapo after his death.

Charlotte Bacon, author of *Lost Geography*, gives a reading June 13 at Newtonville Books.

Newton Free Library Series
330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). 7:30pm. This Newton resident decided to correct a popular misconception regarding mystery books: The genre is extremely rich and varied, and its history is, in fact, quite diverse. **Rosemary Herbert** is an editor of the *Oxford Companion to Crime and Mystery Writing*, an authoritative and playful compendium that sheds a light on the devices and historical dimensions of the form.

Poets Share Reading Series
Rhythm & Muse, 403A Centre St., Hyde Square, Jamaica Plain, (524-3816). 7:30pm. **Elizabeth Galloway** is tonight's featured poet in the Rhythm & Muse book store author series.

Friday, June 2

Brookline Booksmith Author Series
279 Harvard St., Brookline (739-6002). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Today Show weatherman **Al Roker** reads from *Don't Make Me Turn This Car!: Adventures in Fatherhood.*

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (236-7421). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. East Hartford poet and bassist **Vernon Frazer** has released a news anthology of his writing, *Sing Me One Song of Evolution*, in which he addresses the revelation, late in his life, that he has Tourette's syndrome, a neurological condition.

Sunday, June 4

Brookline Booksmith Author Series
279 Harvard St., Brookline (739-6002). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 6pm. Today, **Jane Smith** visits Brookline and reads from her debut novel, *Nobody's Fool.*

Monday, June 5

Brookline Booksmith Author Series
279 Harvard St., Brookline (739-6002). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Best known for his short stories, **Charles Baxter** has also produced three novels. His fourth, *Feast of Love*, unearths the myriad manifestations of extraordinary love between ordinary people.

Harvard Medical Coop Reading
333 Longwood Ave., Boston (499-3300). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 11:30am. **Margie Davis** discusses themes found in her book, *The Healing Way: A Journal for Surviving Cancer.*

Tuesday, June 6

Harvard Bookstore Author Event
Boston Public Library, Rabb Lecture Hall. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6pm. **Ellen Goodman** and **Patricia O'Brien** read from *I Know Just What You Mean: The Power of Friendship in Women's Lives*. Drawing on their own staunch friendship and the friendship between other women, Goodman and O'Brien get to the heart of what makes this special connection often more enriching and sustaining than familial ties.

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (236-7421). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. **David Allyn** discusses *Make Love, Not War: The Sexual Revolution in America*, a tour of the sexual tun-of-events that took place three decades ago in America. He'll also go over the history of the sexual pioneers of the '60s and '70s.

Wednesday, June 7

Brookline Booksmith Author Series
Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6000). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 6pm. $2. The Car Talk Guys (**Tom** and **Ray Magliozzi**) visit the Coolidge to read from their latest book, *In Our Humble Opinion.* A book signing follows across the street at Brookline Booksmith.

New Words Live Reading Series
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 6pm. Free admission. **Cecelia Tan**, **Hanne Black**, **Jaclyn Friedman**, **Raven Kaldera** and **Marilyn Jaye Lewis** share from their new book, *Best Bisexual Erotica.*

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free admission. **Janine Bempechat** discusses her work, *Getting Our Kids Back on Track.* She is an assistant professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education as well as a nationally noted commentator on education reform.

Wall Street Journal Columnists
Federal Wine & Spirits, 29 State St., Boston (367-8605). MBTA: Orange Line to State St. 5-7pm. **Dorothy Gaiter** and **John Brecher**, the wife-and-husband team whose Tasings Column in the *Wall Street Journal* has become a must-read for downtown wine aficianados, sign copies of their *Guide to Wine.* Guests can also taste wines selected by Len Rothenberg as part of Federal wine's weeklit Wednesday series.

Thursday, June 8

Boston Public Library Author Event
The Egleston Square branch of the Boston Public Library, 2044 Columbus Ave., Roxbury (445-4340). MBTA: Orange Line to Jackson Square. June 8, 7pm. The second annual Pride Reading takes place in celebration of National Gay and Lesbian Pride Month. The Pride Reading features lesbian and gay authors reading from their work. Writers appearing at the event include **Scott Helm**, author of the mystery novels *Mysterious Skin* and *In Awe*, as well as a book of poetry, *Saved From Drowning*. **Amy Hoffman**, author of *Hospital Time*, a memoir about caring for friends with AIDS, joins **Letta Neely**, author of *Juba,* a collection of poetry, and **William J. Mann**, journalist and author of the novels *The Biograph Girl* and *The Men from the Boys,* the best-selling gay novel of 1997.

Brookline Booksmith Author Series
279 Harvard St., Brookline (739-6002). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. A triple bill of

Brookline novelist Jayne Anne Phillips discusses *Motherkind* June 1 at Brookline Booksmith.

tremendous fiction from Houghton-Mifflin includes **Tom Drury** (*Hunts in Dreams*), **Elizabeth Gilbert** (*Stern Men*) and **Porter Shreve** (*The Obituary Writer*).

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free admission. **Thea Halo** reads from her new memoir, *Not Even My Name: From a Death March in Turkey to a New Home in America, A Young Girl's True Story of Genocide and Survival.* The memoir is an account of exile from Turkish genocide, brought to light for the first time in Sano Halo's story. After the reading and discussion, which will also feature Halo's mother, Sano, the pair will answer questions.

Friday, June 9

Brookline Booksmith Author Series
279 Harvard St., Brookline (739-6002). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. **Shannon Olson** reads from her debut work, *Welcome to My Planet*, a compelling book about love and confusion in Minneapolis. She renders an up-front perspective on issues of family and love, therapy and debt.

Monday, June 12

Brookline Booksmith Author Series
279 Harvard St., Brookline (739-6002). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. **Myra Montaro** reads from her erotic novel, *The Last Night I Spent With You.* The Cuban-born author's fifth novel depicts the temptations to that a middle-aged married couple succumb to during a Caribbean vacation.

Tuesday, June 13

Brookline Booksmith Author Series
Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6000). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. $2. **Russell Banks** returns to the Coolidge Corner Theatre to share from *The Angel on the Roof*, his new collection of short stories that will be published this month.

New tonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free admission. **Charlotte Bacon** reads from her literary debut novel, *Lost Geography*. Educated at Harvard and Columbia, she teaches English at the University of New Hampshire in Durham. Her collection of stories, *A Private State*, was awarded the PEN/Hemingway Award for First Fiction in 1998.

Victory Programs' 25th Anniversary
Sheraton Hotel, Dalton St., Boston (357-8182). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. $100. Victory Programs' Reflections 25th Anniversary fund-raiser dinner and silent art auction celebrates 25 years of renewing lives. *New York Times* best-selling author **Marianne Williamson** is the honored guest speaker, and the bash is hosted by comedian **Jimmy Tingle** of *60 Minutes II* and **Mary Richardson** of *Chronicle.*

Wordsworth Reading Series
Brattle Theatre, 40 Brattle St., Cambridge (354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Havard. 5:30pm. **Garry Willis**, the Pulitzer Prize-winning historian, presents *Papal Sin,* a controversial argument regarding the inability of the Catholic Church to admit past errors, and hence to continue to espouse questionable doctrine.

ONGOING

Agape, Tuesdays
Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (266-6710). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8-10pm. Every Tuesday, this somewhat sophisticated poetry group gathers to share versions of their latest work. Everyone is welcome.

Cantab Lounge, Wednesdays
738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8-10pm. $3. Wednesday nights at the Cantab always packs in more than 30 poets in just two hours for open mike and a slam.

Club Passim, Tuesdays
47 Palmer St., Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. $5. All open-mike fanatics must experience this open-mike night—a training ground for up-and-coming performers, poets and storytellers. Sign up Tuesdays, 7:30pm.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Night, Sundays
1667 Mass Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. $4 cover. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes every Sunday to the featured poet of the week.

O'Brien's Pub, Mondays
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. A mix of rock and spoken word is performed one Monday a month at 9pm—the performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry, Saturdays
Out of the Blue Gallery, 168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $3. Every Saturday is poetry night, and an incredible spoken-word and music event also takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month. It features music by Rob Gonzalez and his band and spoken word with Nola Kelley.

Rhythm and Muse Open Mike, Thursday
403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-6622). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook. A headlining poet is followed by an open-mike session on the first Thursday of every month, 7:30pm.

Stone Soup Poetry Night
Zeitgeist Gallery, 312 Broadway St, Cambridge (227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. 7:30pm. $3 donation. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets have served up steamy confessions and soothing inspirations with their weekly readings. Keep the good vibes going every Monday at these open readings with featured writers each week.

Bestsellers

HARDCOVER FICTION
1. **Before I Say Goodbye** by Mary Higgins Clark
2. **Anil's Ghost** by Michael Ondaatje
3. **Easy Prey** by John Sanford
4. **Make Way for Ducklings** by Robert McCloskey
5. **Harry Potter & the Prisoner of Azkaban** by J.K. Rowling
6. **Me Talk Pretty One Day** by David Sedaris
7. **Fierce Invalids Home from Hot Climates** by Tom Robbins
8. **Harry Potter & the Chamber of Secrets** by J.K. Rowling
9. **The Bluest Eye** by Toni Morrison
10. **Hugger Mugger** by Robert B. Parker

HARDCOVER NON-FICTION
1. **Who Moved My Cheese?** by Spencer Johnson
2. **All Souls** by Michael McDonald
3. **'Tis** by Frank McCourt
4. **Irrational Exuberance** by Robert Schiller
5. **Tipping Point** by Malcolm Gladwell
6. **The Heartbreaking Work of a Staggering Genius** by Dave Eggers
7. **Ten Things I Wish I'd Known** by Maria Shriver
8. **Girlfriends Forever** by Susan Branch
9. **Invitation** by Oriah Dreamer
10. **Flags of Our Fathers** by James Bradley

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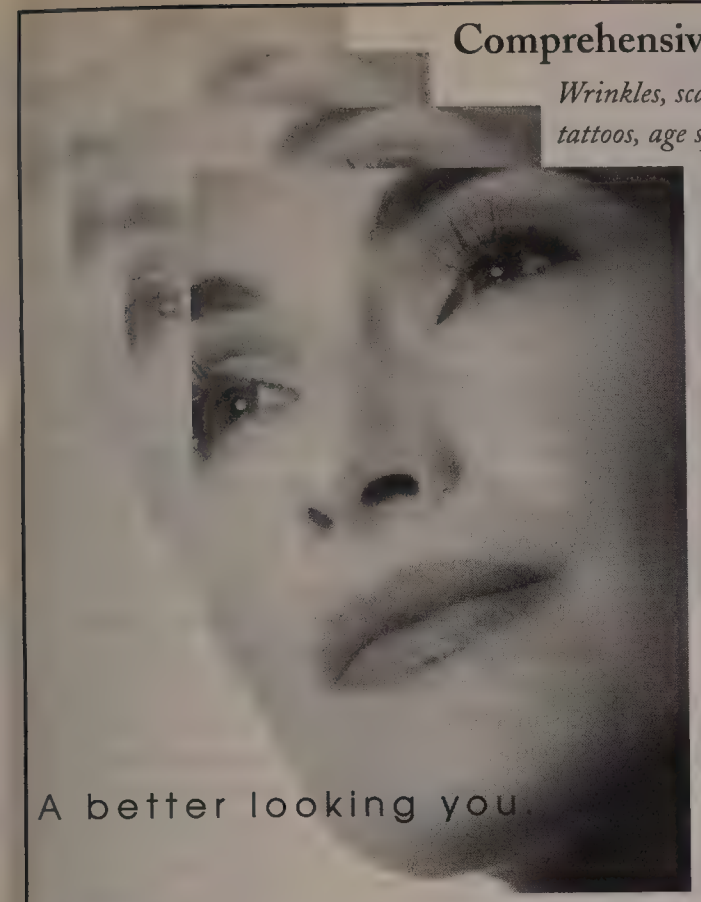

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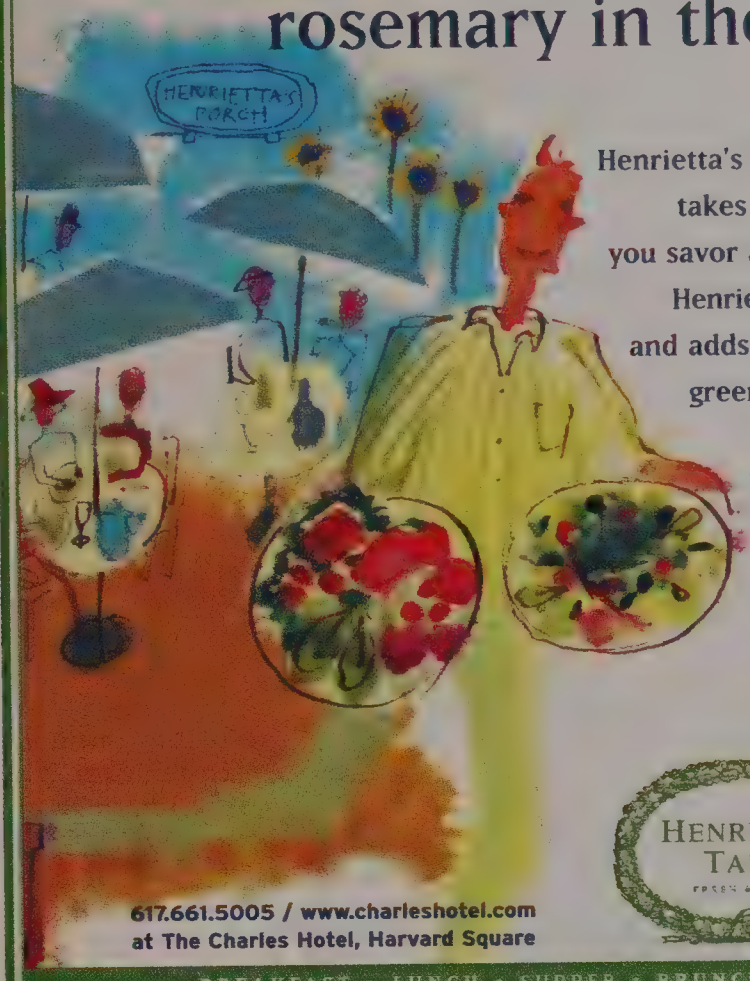

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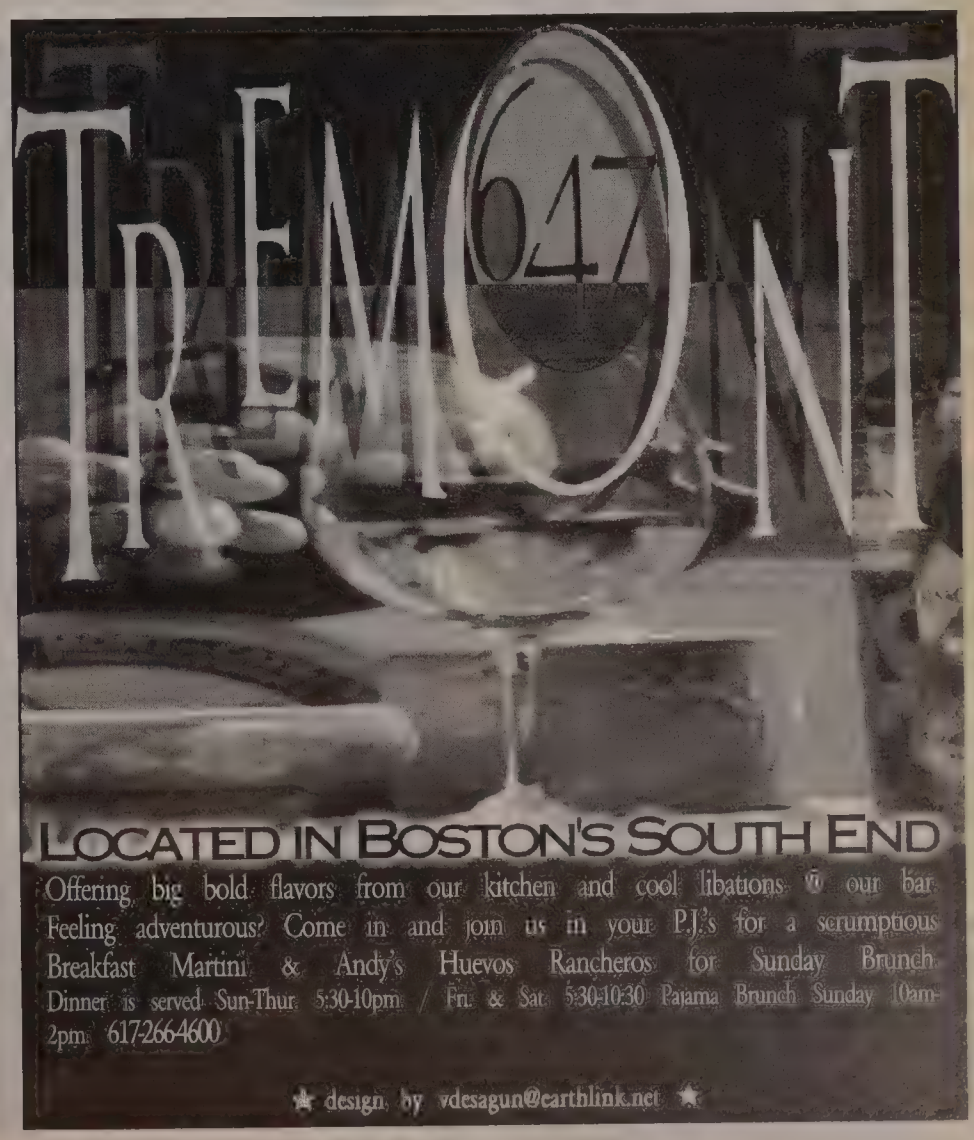

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THREE'S A CROWD

Nineteenth annual Rockport Chamber Music Festival focuses on piano trios. BY KEITH POWERS

For 19 years, June in Rockport has meant chamber music. Founded in 1981 by Lila Deis, David Alpher and Rockport businessman Paul Silva, the Rockport Chamber Music Festival fills the void in New England music that used to exist from the end of the BSO season in May to the beginning of Tanglewood in July. RCMF presents 16 concerts over the course of four weeks, beginning June 8.

For the fifth year, pianist David Deveau directs the festival. RCMF tends to think of Deveau as its own. It's easy to forget that he is also a nationally famous artist, in great demand as a soloist and as a collaborator. "From Sept. to May, I played 35 events, and with my teaching schedule at MIT [where he is senior lecturer in music] and running Rockport, I'm a busy guy. It's either a labor of love or a love of labor."

Deveau frequently teams with clarinetist Richard Stolzman, who returns himself to the festival on June 25. The duo played a high-energy concert at Jordan Hall last month as part of the Celebrity Series. "We play about 10 dates a year together. I think we really cook," Deveau said with a touch of pride. Deveau also has appearances later this summer at the Highland Festival in North Carolina and two weeks at the Strings in the Mountains Festival in Steamboat Springs.

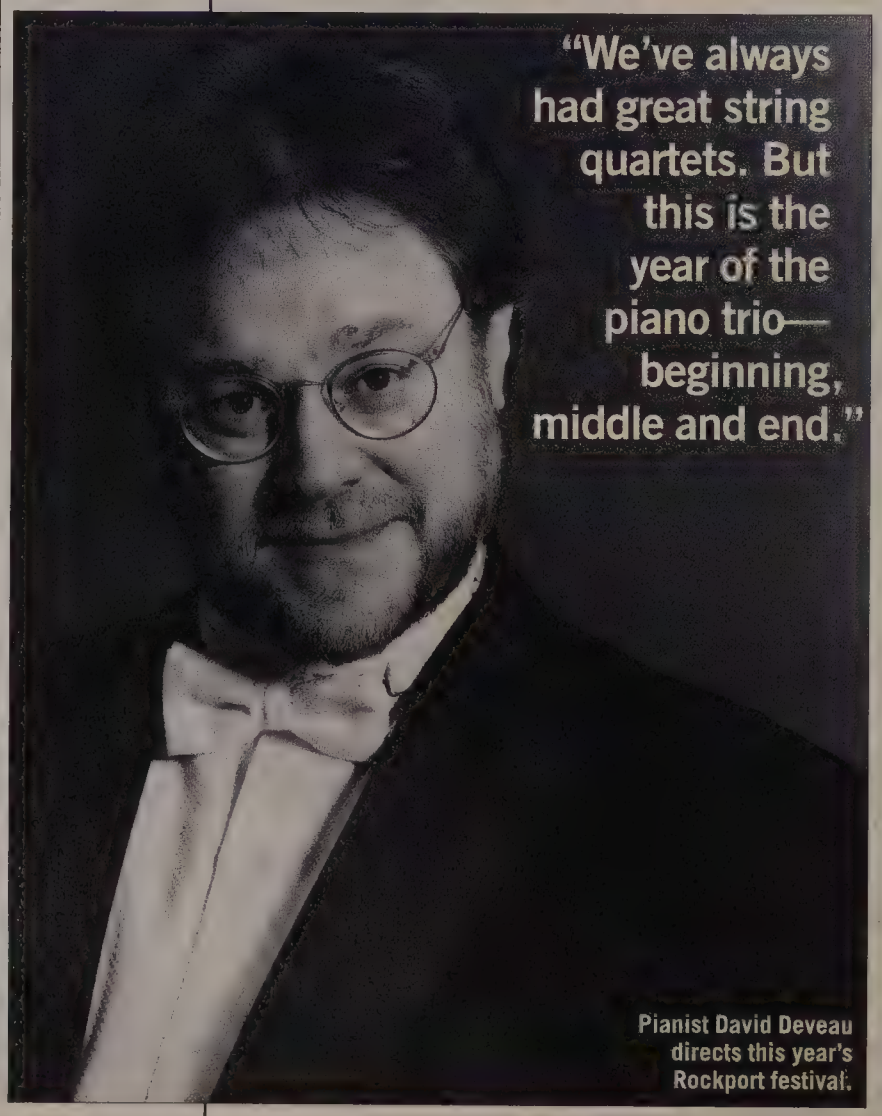
This year's festival focuses on music for piano trio, with five different trios passing through. "We've always had great string quartets," Deveau points out. "But this is the year of the piano trio—beginning, middle and end. We start opening night with two great Beethoven trios, including the Archduke. I'm playing with Nick Eanet, the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra concertmaster, and Jennifer Culp, cellist with the Kronos Quartet. And then on Sunday, June 11, I'm collaborating with Andres Cardenes and Anne Martindale Williams, playing the Haydn Trio in C and the Schubert E-flat.

"Then CORE Ensemble on June 16 plays trios of a different kind, for piano cello and percussion. This is a great young group, and the music they're playing is fascinating. We're setting them up in the other end of the hall so there is room for all the percussion. They're doing a piece by one of my favorite composers working today, Oswaldo Golijov, and they do arrangements of Jelly Roll Morton and Duke Ellington as well."

But it doesn't stop there. On Father's Day (June 18) the flamboyant Eroica Trio—Adela Pena, (violin), Sara Sant'Ambrogio (cello) and Erika Nickrenz (piano)—take the stage. The trio—three stunningly beautiful women known equally for their terrific recordings, their compelling stage presence and their eye-catching wardrobe—cause a stir whenever they perform. Joining them for the Schumann quartet is violist Scott Nickrenz, father of pianist Erika, and founding member of several renown groups, including the Vermeer String Quartet. "It's hard to believe that he's playing with the trio for the very first time," Deveau adds.

But we're still not done with piano trios. The festival finale brings the Boston Trio to Rockport for the first time. The trio is one of the most exciting groups to be formed in recent years. It's made up of Lucia Lin (violin) and Andrew Pearce (cello) from the BSO, joined by pianist Heng-jin Park Ellsworth. The fact that the electrifying Lin is also the wife of Pops conductor Keith Lockhart does nothing to dim the group's luster. The program is spectacular: the Ives Piano Trio, the Dvorak F imnor, and Paul Schoenfield's Café Music.

For complete concert schedules and ticket information, call (978) 546-7391.



Pianist David Deveau directs this year's Rockport festival.

Coda

The roster of pianists coming to Rockport is something to behold as well.

Deveau is always presenting pianists that only insiders know about, like **Anton Kuerti** and **John Browning**. This year is no different: a performance June 15th by Juilliard piano faculty chair **Jerome Lowenthal**. "Jerome is an incredible artist. His playing is elegant and unpretentious, and his repertory is enormous. He's not a household name, but he's known to cognoscenti. The chairmanship at Juilliard is just the crown of a long and successful career. He and **Russell Sherman** [who performs June 9] both studied with **Eduard Steuermann**, so it will be fun to hear them a week apart." Other pianists coming in this summer are Judith Gordon and Helene Grimaud. String quartets are not be completely abandoned either, with appearances by the **Brentano String Quartet**, **Shanghai**, and this year's Concert Artists Guild winner, the **Avalon String Quartet**. iB

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Advice to Readers

Information for the music section is compiled from many different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to doublecheck dates and times.

Wednesday, May 31

Organ Music Recitals
Methuen Memorial Music Hall, 192 Broadway (Route 280), Methuen (978-685-0693). 8pm. $60-$180. James Busby performs Copland, Leach, Antalffy-Zsiross and Sowerby.

New England Conservatory Concerts
Brown Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *8pm. Free. Mousiké: Union of Music and Dance* is selected waltzes and mazurkas of Chopin. The program includes Chopin's *Funeral March from Piano Sontata No. 2 in B-flat Major* and Brahms Waltzes, Op. 39. With choreography of Isadora Duncan danced by Patricia Adams and Sandra Zarotney. Featuring Sarah Takagi on piano.

Thursday, June 1

Longy School of Music Concert Series
Longy's Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (876-0956). 5pm and 8pm. First, the Artist Diploma Recital features violinist Susanna Cortesio with pianist Victoria Mazin performing works by Beethoven, Vaughan Williams, Ravel and Pärt. At 8pm, cellist Isabel Chao, student of Iseut Chuat, is joined by pianist Synthia Sture.

WCRB's Classical at Copley Concerts
Reflecting pool of the fountain at Copley Square Park, Boston (781-893-7080). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Free. Keith Lockhart and friends perform.

Friday, June 2

Boston Music Theatre Project
Suffolk University, 55 Temple St., Boston (573-8282). 8pm. The Boston Music Theatre Project at Suffolk University features a professional cast in its staged reading of a new musical, *Beasts and Saints*, an exuberant love story by Mindi Dickstein and Daniel Messé.

Gospel Concert
Old South Church, 645 Boylston St., Boston (524-8891). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 7pm. $10. The Habitat for Humanity Boston hosts its second gospel concert with a variety of musical guests.

New England Conservatory Concerts
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (585-1122). www.new englandconservatory.edu. *8pm. $10, $5 students and seniors.* The NEC Youth Philharmonic Orchestra is led by Benjamin Zander, music director. Wong's *Piano Concerto No. 2* features Cynthia Wong, piano.

Saturday, June 3

Boston Music Theatre Project
Suffolk University, 55 Temple St., Boston (573-8282). 8pm. The Boston Music Theatre Project at Suffolk University features a professional cast in its staged reading of a new musical, *Beasts and Saints*, an exuberant love story by Mindi Dickstein and Daniel Messé.

New England Conservatory Concerts
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (585-1122). www.new englandconservatory.edu. *2-5pm. Free.* The NEC Prepatory School Festival features Sandra Doneski, associate director; the String Training Orchestra, Bonnie Black, conductor; Prepatory String Training Orchestra, Adam Grossman, conductor and the Youth Repertory Orchestra, Melba Sandberg, conductor.

Sunday, June 4

Verdi's Otello
Jordon Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (267-7442). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. 3pm. $20-$50. Chorus pro Musica and Jeffrey Rink collaborate on a concert opera production of Verdi's *Otello*, featuring tenor Allan Glassman as Otello. Also appearing is soprano Maria Ferrante as Desdemona, baritone Robert Honeysucker as Iago and bass Mark Evans as Cassio.

La Fontegara
CCAE, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789 ext. 1). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 4pm. $10. The medieval and renaissance musical trio of Natalie Palme, Raymond Rosenstock and Brian Warnock perform the favorites Browning, Fors seulement, Jay pris amours and La Gamba among others.

The New England Conservatory Metropolitan Flute Orchestra performs at the French Library and Cultural Center, June 7, 7pm.

New England Conservatory Concerts
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (585-1122). www.new englandconservatory.edu. *8pm. $10 adults, $5 students and seniors.* The Youth Philharmonic Orchestra is led by Benjamin Zander, music director. Featuring Wong's *Piano Concerto No. 2* with Cynthia Wong, piano.

Monday, June 5

New England Conservatory Concert Series
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (585-1122). www.new englandconservatory.edu. *7:30pm. Free.* The Junior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble is led by David Samour, music director. With music by Stravinsky, Grainger, Ellingtoon and Ives.

Tuesday, June 6

King's Chapel Recitals: Charles Kaufman
King's Chapel, 64 Beacon St., Boston (227-2155). MBTA: Green Line to Park. 12:15pm. Charles Kaufman plays the C.B. Fisk Organ.

Boston Pops in Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices vary. Conductor Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops present "Encore!," a collection of the best-loved music from their five hit recordings.

Wednesday, June 7

New England Conservatory Metropolitan Flute Orchestra
French Library and Cultural Center, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (266-4351). 7pm. $8-$12. This evening's concert features works by Bizet, Faure and Boismortier.

Boston Pops in Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices vary. Same program as June 6.

Organ Music Recitals
Methuen Memorial Music Hall, 192 Broadway (Route 280), Methuen (978-685-0693). 8pm. $60-$180. Richard J. Clark performs Couperin, Schumann, Alain, Bach, Clark, Buxtehude and Messiaen.

Verdi's Otello
Jordon Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (267-7442). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. 3pm. $20-$50. Chorus pro Musica and Jeffrey Rink collaborate on a concert opera production of Verdi's *Otello*, featuring tenor Allan Glassman as Otello. Also appearing is soprano Maria Ferrante as Desdemona, baritone Robert Honeysucker as Iago and bass Mark Evans as Cassio.

Thursday, June 8

Boston Pops in Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices vary. Same program as June 6.

WCRB's Classical at Copley Concerts
Reflecting pool of the fountain at Copley Square Park, Boston (781-893-7080). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Free. Lara St. John performs on the violin.

Friday, June 9

New England Conservatory Concerts
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (585-1122). www.new englandconservatory.edu. *8pm. $10 adults, $5 students and seniors.* The NEC Youth Symphony performs Mark Beaulieu conducting Mednelssohn's *Symphony No. 3 "Scottish,"* Sibelius' *Violin Concerto* with Mario Gotah, violin.

Tuesday, June 13

Boston Pops in Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices vary. Same program as June 6.

Boston Lyric Opera Announces
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dance clubs

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Submit information by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Clubs or e-mail to clubs@improper.com. Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to pub date. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Nights

Mondays

Vertigo Mondays
Vertigo. Caesar and Giorgio throw a party for those of you who never stop dancin'. Smooth Lounge upstairs, Deep House downstairs; DJ Arsit. Dress slick. 10pm, no cover.

Static
Axis. DJ Jay Ine and the gorgeous drag shows hosted by Mizery. 10pm. 19+. $5 cover.

Language
Hibernia. DJs G White, Dot, Surface and SORA spin a top selection of hip, diverse drum and bass at Boston's newest drum-and-bass weekly. 8pm. 21+. $2 cover.

Tuesdays

Cigar and Jazz Night
The Exchange. Smoke, kick back, lounge and listen to the smooth sounds of jazz. Plus, you score a free Gina Cigar and complimentary buffet when you relax here. No cover.

Fat Tuesdays
Bill's. This off-the-hook night features DJ Chaos scratching out hip-hop music to college clubbers while house masters DJ Justin Hoffman and WBCN's DJ Jynx keep the tunes spinning downstairs. 11pm, $10 cover.

The Forum
Lava Bar. Join Mission Control and support the local DJ scene as local talents share the floor in hopes of gaining a headlining spot on the Lava stage. 10pm, 21+.

Got Milk?
Venu. If you're chic and fabu you'll be at Venu for Milk—a smart and devilishly hip party. Resident DJ Osheen spins house for the trés chic. Dress is funky. 21+.

Mingle Tuesdays
The Modern. This fancy spot screams sophistication. With local DJs every week, a raw bar, vodka bar and late lounge. 10pm. 21+.

Zanzibar Tuesdays
The Big Easy. Dress to impress (black is always a hit) for Boston's premiere International Night. The Big Easy's got DJ Manolo, spinning Latin and international music. 11pm. 19+. $10.

Wednesdays

College Night
The Aquarium. Guest DJs spin on all three funky floors of this relatively new venue at 10pm.

Good Karma
Karma/Mambo. Misery plays host to a roster of rotating DJs. Expect a mixed crowd and special guest performers. 10pm. 19+. $5 cover.

Hibernia Wednesdays
Hibernia. DJ C.T.O. is the Godfather of Say Word night—with plenty of funk, rare groove, soul and old-school hip-hop. 9pm. 21+. Cover varies.

Backstage
DJ Jonny C. spins top-40 dance classics. 10pm. No cover, 21+.

Modern Living
The Modern. Here, DJ Dale Charles spins while minglers strut their stuff, munch from a raw bar and sip martinis. 10pm. 21+.

Musical Mayhem
The Exchange. WBCN's DJ Jynx of Cybersounds plays house upstairs while Tym Ryan of WFNX and DJ Brisc take over and spin in the Vault. 10pm.

Pravda 116
Come spend the night with Boston's premiere promoters at one of the city's most decadent hot spots—set to the beats put out by DJ Alex and DJ Felix. Proper dress required, 21+.

Status
Axis. It's all about status when DJs Darrin Friedman and Richie Rich spin house music and weekly Fashion and Hair Salon Show. 10pm, 19+, $10.

The Sugar Shack
The Sugar Shack. If you're 19+ and a woman, you get in for free before 11pm —otherwise, the cover is $10. Plenty of funk, disco and hip-hop. 10pm.

Scenes from International Thursday night at Avalon: clubbers hit the dance floor as DJ Manolo spins Eurohouse; Marney the bartending babe poses close-up with Maine club girl Cambria.

Preview

Beyond Velvet Ropes

Coat check? • Buh-bye. Four-dollar, quarter-mile cab fares? • Buh-bye. Busting your ass on a frictionless slab of ice during a graceful entry into the club? • Buh-bye.

Spring was in the air and faded quickly, but now it's time for barbecues, graduations, and roof-deck house parties. It has warmed up, and I'm gearing up for a hot summer. Judging by some recent events, it's going to get hot, hot, hot. For starters, it would appear that the "Bunny" was in town recently. The Playboy Bunny, that is. The June 2000 issue spotlighted Lansdowne Street's The Modern, for its sinful champagne concoction appropriately labeled "the Hugh Hefner." According to the article, it has become the drink of choice among the female clientele. Hey—if it works for Hef...

Meanwhile, next door, things are getting under way at Embassy (formerly known as The Playhouse) with its grand opening slated for June 6. Catering to the more discerning nightclub clientele, the new space is going to be quite sophisticated—a maitre d' will escort the Boston elite (under lots of indirect lighting) to their soft and plush seats and old fashioned cocktails. Steve Adelman, the creative force driving the $250K+ renovation, said he is very pleased with its progress and that he thinks that the progressive, glam design of the club—plus the slew of high-profile events that will happen there—will bring in the crowds en masse. DJs will also get the royal treatment, with the largest DJ booth on Lansdowne Street (yes, even bigger than Avalon's!). Eddie K is slated to open the new venue on opening night.

In other news, school is out for the kids, and that was evident a few weeks ago, as Avalon played host to a 2,500+ capacity crowd when Alice Deejay rolled into town. International Thursdays resident Manolo shared the decks with the Dutch duo, whose hits include "Back in My Life" and "Better Off Alone," in what was a "pre-graduation" party for the students from BU. DJs Kalmani (the blonde one) and Pronti (the tall guy) kept the house moving with a fresh mix of their own stuff and ethereal trance.

Since just about all of the students have been set free (except our friends at Northeastern, sorry!), Sundays at The Exchange have been becoming off-the-hook as of late. John Mansfield and company have been busy making this an extremely popular night with great dance and techno upstairs, and hip-hop in the Vault downstairs. Best of all? No cover. What a way to start the week off.

Since this is still a new gig, I am looking for any feedback, so feel free to drop me an e-mail, *Joe@improper.com.* I will gladly accept donations, invitations for drinks, and can be paid off in large bills (preferably 100s).

Oh, and by the way, Marney, that was a Ketel One and tonic. —*Joe Mama*

Thursdays

The Aquarium
The Kiss 108 FM dance party features Randy from the *Matty in the Morning Show.* 10pm. $3.

Backstage
Tonight's adrenaline high features special guest Randy from KISS 108's *Matty in the Morning Show* spinning top-40 dance and club classics. 10pm, 21+. $5.

Charlie's Angels Night
Polly Esther's. Dress as your favorite Brady and dance as DJ Beez spins all your favorite '70s, '80s and '90s music on the *Saturday Night Fever* dance floor. 8pm. $5, 21+.

Chrome
Axis. Resident DJs John Debo and Ali Ajami spin Mucky House and trance. 10pm. 19+. $10 cover.

Downtempo Lounging
The Modern. DJ Ricky Fatts spins while you enjoy the raw bar and vodka bar. 9pm-2am, 21+.

Emily's
Enjoy a variety of soul, house and dance music. Doors open at 5pm.

Funkalicious Thursdays
The Exchange. DJ G-Squared takes you on a blast from the past as he spins the sounds of '70s and '80s. Added bonus: free after-work buffet. No cover.

Il Panino
A social playground for young professionals in Boston: cocktails and dancing. Proper dress. 9pm. 21+.

International Thursday
Avalon. A mixed crowd fills up this nightspot as DJ Manolo spins Eurohouse and DJ Anthony spins Latin in the Playhouse. 10pm. 19+. $15.

Kit Kat Klub
Sugar Shack. This night features an ever-changing roster of guest DJs spinning hip-hop to college clubbers, 10pm, 19+.

Latin Quarter
The Roxy. You know it's time to get down when the Roxy breaks out hip-shaking salsa, merengue and Latin dance mixes.

The List
Lava Bar. *Lavabar.com.* DJ 7L and guests along with Verse/D bring you soul, funk, old school and all things funky. 10pm. 21+.

Speed
Karma/Mambo
Special Guest DJs and resident DJs Bruno and Masta Millions spin the latest hip-hop and R&B. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover.

Venu
Swank American top-40 and house, this hot spot features the incredible DJ Adilson, creator of the Roxy's Saturday night party.

Fridays

Avaland
Avalon. Everything about the room screams "Party!" With world-famous DJs spinning, including DJ Manolo and John Debo, this has become the single-most NY-style club night. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover.

Backstage
Backstage kicks off its all-night dance party, part one with the sounds of DJ Jonny C spinning top-40. Doors open at 10pm. $5, proper dress, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans themed nightspot has some of the best mainstream DJs in town. It offers four bars and two lounges, as well as billiards and a super-cool wraparound balcony.

Buzz Fridays
Buzz. Roger M lays down the Latin and international house tracks while upstairs visiting DJs pay homage to the house music gods. 11pm, $15 cover, 19+.

Disco Inferno
Polly Esther's. Get ready for disco-inferno Fridays as DJ Uncle Bob turns out the very best of '70s disco while DJ Mad Max brings you back into '80s in the Culture Club and DJ Mark C spins '90s high-energy dance in the laser-lit Club DVD. 8pm, $10, 21+.

Emily's
An after-work venue during the week, this spot transforms itself into a dance kingdom on weekends. Jam to soul, house and dance music. 5pm.

Envy
This extraordinarily popular Friday night hot spot is filled with a swarming mass of sweaty 'n' ready dancers. 9pm, $5 cover after 10pm, 21+.

Exchange Fridays
The Exchange. Up High, Tiziano and Maurizio, Boston's best DJ duo, guides you on a house trip while DJ G-Squared opens the Vault door with mainstream dance and hip hop. Doors at 9pm.

Focus
Hibernia. You can't go wrong with DJs Chuck Caseroc, Keith Kene and Skot Havens. 9pm, 21+.

LOUIS TANGUAY

Lava Bar
Life. *lavabar.com.* Dance to a different dummer with DJ Fran Englehardt's deeply rooted soulful rhythms. Doors at 10pm.

Ultra Lounge
The Modern. DJ Mixin Matt Ruben. 9pm 2am, 21+.

Nocturnal Fridays
Bill's Bar. WBCN day guy and football swami, Bill Abbate, spins up a delectable smorgasbord of rock with a pinch of roll. 9pm. $5 cover, 21+.

Pure
Karma/Mambo. World Class Drum and Bass DJs come to visit with a weekly rotating roster of guest DJs. 19+, $15. See *www.puredrumandbass.com.*

Roxy 2000
Roxy/Mondo Bar. What goes around comes around. Go crazy as the intimacy of the Roxy consumes you and DJ Felix spins house and international music throughout the night. 10:30pm. $15 cover, 21+.

Spin Cycle
Axis. Glitzed-out club hoppers shake it to the progressive house beats of DJ Tim Ryan downstairs as well as DJ David James' retro tunes upstairs. 10pm, $12, 19+.

Venu
The scene is elegant and the line is long for this jacket-required international romp. Get your Gucci attire as DJ Tassos and DJ Arsit spin. 21+.

Saturdays

The Aqarium
Saturday night dance party hosted by resident DJ. 10pm-1am, $5 cover.

Downtown
Avalon. Resident DJs Manolo and Mattie O. gyrate your ass with the latest hits and club classics. 10pm. 21+. $15 cover.

Backstage
DJ Freddie C spins top-40 dance and club classics. 10pm. $5, proper dress, 21+.

Bill's Bar
DJ Laurie Gail with guest DJs promise to make Bill's a night full of dancing to the best of the '70s, '80s and '90s. 9pm, $3 cover, 19+.

Club Juliana
Boogieing cuties converge on Boston's newest Latin Night starting at 10pm. Dress to impress. $10.

Club Nicole
The faces are familiar and the mob thick for this exclusive Euro trendsetter. DJ Alex spins Eurohouse. Reservations recommended, jackets required. 21+.

Elements of Life
Karma/Mambo. DJ Supa Mario and world class DJs spin house music in the main room while DJ Hoffman plays funk in the Mambo Lounge. 10pm. 19+. $15.

Emily's
Serious soul, house and dance music. DJs spice up Saturday nights and transform this after-work venue into a dance kingdom. 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Envy
From 9pm-2am, DJ Tom Baxter blasts top-40, house and dance throughout the night. 9pm, $5 cover after 10pm, 21+.

Exchange Saturdays
The Exchange. DJ Diesel renovates the upper level with full-on house while DJ Jynx spins all the funky beats in the lower Vault lounge. 9pm.

Fajitas and Ritas
Chill out for the Weekly Dig Lounge Series with Alan Strack and Mason.

Hibernia Saturdays
Hibernia. Masters of house, techno and dance, DJs Dino and David West take the reins and whip the crowd into a frenzy. 9pm, 21+, cover varies.

Lava Bar
Anything Goes. DJ Fran and Kris Kono unite with high-energy house and Latin beats. 10pm, 21+.

Miami Club Night
Club Joy/Yesterday's. Get a taste of Miami nightlife with La Rueda de Casino, a Cuban salsa game. 9:30pm (ladies free before 11pm), $10 cover, 21+ (ladies, 19+).

Mischief
The Modern. Feeling mischievous? Ultra lounging with decadent desserts and erotic electronica. 21+.

Mythos
Venu. Greek International with DJ Yorgo Jr. spinning the hits from the famous party islands of Greece.

Saturday Night Fever
Polly Esther's. Groove to three decades' worth of beats in the laser-lit Club DVD. 8pm, $10, 21+.

Sugar Shack
Spice up your night with '70s, '80s and '90s dance music as DJ Rich Centi spins the hottest sounds.

Who's on First?
The latest and greatest in hip-hop, reggae, R&B, and Latin house with DJ Lil' Mike, 10:30pm, $12, 18+.

X night
Axis. DJ Mike Gioscia spins cutting edge faves of '90s alternative while DJ David James spins '80s hits in the Left Over Lounge. 10pm, $10 cover, 21+.

Sundays

Avalon
Boston's biggest gay night with special guest DJs and Resident DJ Darrin Friedman. 10pm, $10.

Backstage
Get ready for urban night with T Clark from WILD spinning hip-hop, reggae and old school. Doors open at 10pm, $10 cover, proper dress, 21+.

Common People
An Tua Nua.
Brit-pop, new wave, indie and more with DJ Adrienne—all of those one-word bands you love. 19+, 9pm-2am $3.

Emily's
Industry Night "Club Soda" with DJ Silly. 10:30pm.

Exchange Sundays
A fusion of Heavy Lounge and Miami House. No cover.

Il Panino
Mainly attracting Euros, this night features all sorts of music by DJ Alex of Boston Beat and DJ Roger M. 21+, no cover.

Latin Night
Karma/Mambo Lounge. Weekly Live Latin Bands. 10pm. 19+. $25 cover.

Lava Bar
Pandora's Box (Club Culture). DJ Vinny and Sir Richard and Sterling spin '60s Exotica, loungecore, psychedelic flowerpop and Motown. With French music videos. 10pm. 21+.

Salavation
This Boston vibe serves up an intimate evening of soul—all provided courtesy DJ Soul. $5, until 10pm.

Venu
Carnival comes to Boston every Sunday as DJ Adilson brings the heat of Rio to Venu, spinning the hottest music from Brazil. 21+. Call 338-8061 for reservations.

Club Venues

An Tain *31 India St., Boston (426-1870). MBTA: Blue Line to State St.*
AnTua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (262-2121). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Aquarium *65 Holland St., Somerville (623-3200). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (437-0300). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Backstage *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston (726-1110). MBTA: Blue Line to Govet. Center.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Buzz Boston/Europa *51-67 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Park St.*
Club Juliana *20 Hudson St., Boston (542-4411).*
Club Nicole *40 Dalton St., Boston (236-4746). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*
Club Stella *1234 Soldiers Field Rd., Brighton (254-0554).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Upstairs, Boston (423-3649). MBTA: Red or Green Lines to Park Street.*
Envy *25 Boylston Place, Boston (542-3689). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Exchange *148 State St., Boston (723-7755). MBTA: Orange Line to State Street.*
Hibernia *25 Kingston St., Boston (292-2333). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Karma *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9595). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Lava Bar *575 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-7707). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Oskar's *107 South Street., Leather District, Boston (542-6756). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Polly Esther's *262 Friend St., Boston (720-1966). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (482-7799). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Salavation *20 Hudson St., Boston (781-668-2392). MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown.*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (338-8061). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Vertigo *126 State Street, Boston (723-7277).*
Who's on First? *19 Yawkey Way (247-3353). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*

Music

NOTES FROM THE UNDERGROUND

Avant-garde jazzacists Medeski, Martin & Wood mix it up

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

Before their version of a summer vacation, Medeski Martin & Wood went back to school. As in New England Conservatory, where keyboardist John Medeski and bassist Chris Wood both studied—before finding drummer Billy Martin, and assembling the prime jazz-groove combo of the '90s.

Opening the recent Boston edition of the Bell Atlantic Jazz Festival, MMW played two nights at NEC's Jordan Hall in support of its new live CD, *Tonic*. And speaking of a homecoming, on both that disc and its spring tour, MMW returned to—and expanded upon—its origins as an acoustic piano trio.

"It's about exposing a side of us that we don't get to expose much, 'cause when we're rehearsing in Brooklyn, we'll play all day—just piano, bass and drums," says Medeski, sitting backstage at Jordan Hall before the band's second show there. "This is like an opportunity for us, and anyone else who cares, to check out a more fully realized development of that."

Medeski, Martin & Wood can "get up and make music for hours."

But more important, how will that influence the group as it returns to its funkier electric incarnation, at summer dates as wide-ranging as the Cape Cod Melody Tent Aug. 10 and the Berkshire Mountain Music Festival Aug. 13, and the release of another just-recorded album in the fall?

"Everything affects everything," he says. "Doing that [next electric disc] affected what we're doing now, which will, in turn, affect what we play in electric sets. Personally, getting back to the piano makes everything better. It makes me realize why I crave the colors and power of the B-3 organ and the clavinet and stuff like that. As much as, for me, the piano is the ultimate instrument, the B-3 is another ultimate instrument. The variety is good for us. That's what we're about. Music is set up to turn people into limited-offer caricatures of themselves, and we don't want to become that."

Indeed, at times in recent years, MMW has veered close to such a rut, doing funky dance grooves for young fans who may relate more to Bob Marley and Sly Stone than Sun Ra and Thelonious Monk, though all are MMW influences. However, the band closed the decade by experimenting with turntablist DJ Logic (on both 1998's *Combustication* and the road) and settling into New York's Tonic club last year for an acoustic residency that was recorded in simple fashion, only to become MMW's latest on major label Blue Note.

"We don't really plan, and I think that's something that's frustrating for the business people associated with us," Medeski says. "One of the special things about this group is that we can, really without an agenda, get up and make music for hours, and just go different places together. We all like to explore different colors, and by limiting the different instruments we use, we have to further explore one possibility."

Granted, the band's acoustic setup wasn't pure at Tonic—or on its spring tour. Wood played acoustic and electric bass, while Medeski dabbled on a retuned upright piano ("It's like a percussion instrument, for coloring," he says), a toy piano, a melodica (for stage-front hoedowns with Martin and Wood) and even a small, primitive synthesizer in addition to baby grand. But at Jordan Hall, it was clear that the three musicians were pushing—and listening to—each other with a higher improvisational intensity.

"We're trying to find our own individual growth, our independent selves again, and that helps," Medeski says. "Billy's playing stuff I've never heard him do before, and he doesn't get to do that when we're more groove- and dance-oriented. He's an amazing colorist and percussionist."

"We're musicians; we should at least be able to communicate in different settings," he says. "It's amazing, the variety of situations we've played in as a vocal-less, guitar-less trio. It's pretty funny. We played Jordan Hall, opened for Beck at the Bumbershoot Festival in Seattle and, the day before, A Tribe Called Quest in Washington, D.C., where they were yelling 'Play that funky music, white boys.' We've had some amazing experiences."

And MMW hopes to build on those with its next electric CD, recorded with guests including guitarist Marc Ribot, Sun Ra saxophonist Marshall Allen, cellist Jane Scarpantoni and ex-Dambuilders violinist Joan Wasser. "A lot of it is us getting orchestral," says Medeski, who was classically trained on piano from age 5 before discovering jazz. "It's more expansive."

"We're a work-in-progress basically," he says. "It's all related, and everyone finds their own relationships to things. It's not that difficult to switch from Debussy to funk to avant-garde... It's really about keeping it fresh, 'cause we're having fun, and then that feeling is going to be there for the audience too. When we communicate, there's a synergy." iB

Medeski, Martin & Wood

The group performs at the Cape Cod Melody Tent Aug. 10 and the Berkshire Mountain Music Festival Aug. 13.

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fax (859-1446); by mail to Calendar/Music; or by email to music@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, phone numbers and nearest T stops. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double check dates and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

Concerts

Patti Smith
June 2, Avalon
KISS Concert 2000
June 3, Tweeter Center
Dervish
June 3, Somerville Theatre
Don Henley
June 5, FleetBoston Pavilion
Nina Simone
June 6, FleetBoston Pavilion
Tina Turner and Lionel Richie
June 8 and 9, FleetCenter
Rockapella
June 9, Somerville Theatre
Indigo Girls
June 10 and 11, FleetBoston Pavilion
MDFMK
June 10, Avalon
KISS with Ted Nugent and Skid Row
June 12 and 13, Tweeter Center

CONCERT HALLS

Avalon
15 Lansdowne Street, Fenway (262-2424) MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.
FleetCenter
One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (624-1000). MBTA: Red Line to Park Street.
FleetBoston Pavilion
290 Northern Avenue, Boston (734-9000). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.
Somerville Theater
55 Davis Square, Somerville (628-3390). MBTA: Red Line to Davis Square.
Tweeter Center
Mansfield (931-2000).

Rock, Jazz and Blues

Wednesday, May 31

Atrium Lounge
Nancy West (solo piano), 5:30pm, no cover.
Bristol Lounge
Joe Barbato (solo jazz piano), 8pm. Also, Bert Seager (solo jazz piano), 5-7:30pm.
Common Ground
What a Way to Go-Go, (Mod Night with DJ Vin), 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff
James McKenna, 9pm.
The Good Life Downtown
Fascinatin' Trio, no cover.
Green Street Grill
Allen Chase and guests, no cover.
Harpers Ferry
Laughing Water, $4.
House of Blues
Jefferson Starship Acoustic performs Jefferson Airplane's *Volunteers*, 10pm, $23-$28, 18+.
The Kirkland Cafe
Honey Deluxe, Fikus and Daft Samuel, $4.
Johnny D's
Hot Club of Cowtown, 8:30pm.
Jose McIntyre's
Dub-Station Reggae, 9pm.
Les Zygomates
Brian McCree, Frank Wilkins, 8pm; Ellen Contarrow.
Lizard Lounge
Jedediah Parish, Francine, the Gravy, 9pm, 21+.
Middle East
U:Mash; Thalia Zadek, Carol Defeciani, Sue Metro and Colleen (ex-Hush Puppy), Laurie Weeks, Karyn Kulth (ex-Sex Pod), Megan McLaughlin, 8:30pm, $7, 18+.
Midway Cafe
Black Ice and Nemo, cover varies.
Paddy Burke's Pub
Tom Hegarty, 6pm; Boston Folk and Singers Club.
The Playhouse Lounge
Emerson Explosion, 9:45pm, 21+.

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Preview

World's Fair

There is something for everyone at the annual Central Square World's Fair, June 4—from arts and crafts to international cuisine. The 10th annual fair features stages located throughout the square that will feature Irish, Gospel, Caribbean, Latin, country-bluegrass, local and national jazz, blues and rock.

Media One/AT&T Stage: Rockett Band, John Brown's Body, Jiggle the Handle, All the Queen's Men
Lotus Stage: Addison Groove Project, Balkan Tribes, Reverse, Michael Wolf and Impure Thoughts, Kilombo Mambo
Latin Stage: Rumba Na' Ma, Manguito, Team Malín, La Timba Loca, hosted by Giancarlo Buscaglia
Caribbean Stage: House of Prayer Gospel Brass Band, Pete Williams and Brothers, Silver Lining Gospel Singers, the Bibeltone Gospel Singers, the Silverleaf Gospel Singers, the New Revelation Gospel Singers, hosted by Shorty Baker
Honky-Tonk Stage: The Dave Foley Band, Scratch My Back, the Tarbox Ramblers, the Jones Brothers, John Lincoln Wright and the Sourmash Boys, the Legendary Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, hosted by John Lincoln Wright
The Burren's Traditional Irish Music Stage: Tommy McCarthy Jr., Louise Costello, Brian Hanlon, Ronan Quinn, the Steam Packet, Kathleen Coneely, Helena Delaney, Shannon Aaron, the Burren Ceile Band, Set Dancing with Ger Cooney, hosted by Thomas and Louis McCarthy.
Central Square, Cambridge (868-3247). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 12-6pm.

The Rack
Hung Jury, 9pm, no cover.
Regattabar
The Mark Kross Five-Piece Trio, 8:30pm, $10.
Ryles
Project Yes Brazil (Nova Bossa Brazil), 9pm, $6.
Scullers
Ronnie Jordan Quintet, 8pm and 10pm, $16.
Swingin' Central
Weepin' Willie and His All-Star Band.
Toad
Union Square Screw Machine, Little Memphis, 7pm.
Top of the Hub
Jeff Auger Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Drunk Stuntman, the Figments, Ware River Club and Lo Fine, $6.

Thursday, June 1

Bob the Chef's
Lionel Giradeau Latin Jazz, 7:30pm, cover varies.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
Mark Erelli, Sheila Nicholls, 8pm.
Common Ground
Double Jointed, 10pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort
The Mudhens, 7pm, no cover.
The Good Life Downtown
Jose Ramos and the Special Blend, no cover.
The Good Life Uptown
Rick Costa Trio, no cover.
House of Blues
Jefferson Starship featuring Paul Kantner and Marty Balin, 10pm, $23, 18+.
Johnny D's
Evan Harlan Quartet and the Alan Chase Quartet.
Jose McIntyre's
Bruce Jacques, 9pm.
Les Zygomates
The Jinga Trio, 8pm.
Lizard Lounge
Club d'Elf, 9pm, cover varies.
Middle East
U: Groovie Ghoulies, the Cretins, Buck, the Dimestore Haloes, $7, 18+. D: Deeper Concentration Tour featuring Planet Asia, People Under the Stars, J-Boogie, $12, 18+.
Oak Bar
Diana Fischer, 8pm, no cover.
The Playhouse Lounge
Tom Bianchi, 9:45pm, 21+.
Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett, 9pm, $3.
The Rack
The Return, 6:30pm.
Regattabar
Gary Burton and Makoto Ozone, 8:30pm, $12.
Ryles
Rusty Scott Quartet, 8:30pm, $8.
Scullers
The Ray Brown Trio, 8pm and 10pm, $18.
Swingin' Central
Matt Gordie Group, no cover.
Toad
Enuma Elish, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Jeff Auger Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Calendar Girl, Prime Rib, Major Major, High Ceiling.

Friday, June 2

The Attic
Zoux CD-release party with Rane, cover varies, 21+.
The Black Rose
U: Feenian Sons. D: Curragh's Fancy, 9pm, $5.
Bob the Chef's
Stan Strickland and Ascension, 7:30pm, cover varies.
The Burren
Dave Foley.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, Delta 88, 9pm.
Common Ground
Pressure Cooker, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogans Bluff
Pigpen, 9pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band, Classic Trax, 7pm.
The Good Life Downtown
Weepin' Willie and His All-Star Band, no cover.
The Good Life Uptown
Mick Hicks Trio.
Green Dragon Tavern
Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
House of Blues
John Mooney.
Johnny D's
Slipknot, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's
Thomas Park, 9pm, $3.
Les Zygomates
Valerie Stephans, 9pm.
Lizard Lounge
Hospital, Ray Mason and Asa Brebner, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East
U: Addison Groove Project, Fat Head and Psychedelic Breakfast, $8, 18+. D: the Dismemberment Plan, Tugboat Annie CD release, Vic Firecracker and the Ivory Coast, $8, 18+.
Oak Bar
Diana Fischer, 8:30pm, no cover.
The Playhouse Lounge
Will Dailey, 11:45pm, $5, 21+.
Purple Shamrock
Bacchanalia, 9pm, $5.
Regattabar
Gary Burton and Makoto Ozone, 8pm and 10pm, $14.
Ryles
Thaddeus Hogarth, 9pm, $9; Joao Marcos Quintet.
Rhythm and Spice
Caribbean Cruize Band, 10:30pm, $8, 21+.
Scullers
The Ray Brown Trio, 8pm and 10:30pm, $20.
Swingin' Central
Fascinatin' Rhythm, no cover.
Toad
Brook Batteau and Love Whip, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Jeff Auger Trio, 9pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Turbines, Bourbonaires Mr. Airplane Man and Hovorka, $10.
The Western Front
Dub Squad, 9:30pm, $10.
Wonder Bar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Saturday, June 3

The Black Rose
Curragh's Fancy, Sunday's Well, John Corcoran, 9pm.
Bob the Chef's
Stan Strickland and Ascension, 7:30pm, cover varies.
Common Ground
The Buckners and the Vic Morrows, 10pm.
Coogans Bluff
The Return, 9pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort
The Generators, 7pm.
The Good Life Downtown
Waldron Ricks Band, no cover.
The Good Life Uptown
Larry Franquez Trio, no cover.
Green Dragon Tavern
The Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
Jacob Wirths
The Jay Sweet Trio.
Jose McIntyre's
Cape Fear, 9pm, $5.
Les Zygomates
Eula Lawrence, 9pm.
Lizard Lounge
Penny Wheel, Booda Velvets and the Buck Dewey Big Band, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East
U: Lyres, Classic Ruins, the Coopers, Rick Blaze and the Ballbusters, $7, 18+. D: Sugar Coat, Uncle Sam, Loopdreams and Who's the Fat Guy, $8, 18+.
Oak Bar
Diana Fischer, 8:30pm, no cover.
The Playhouse Lounge
Mind the Gap, 11:45pm, 21+.
Purple Shamrock
Syndicate and Scott Danguard, 9pm, $5.
Regattabar
Gary Burton and Makoto Ozone, 8pm and 10pm, $16.
Scullers
The Ray Brown Trio, 8pm and 10:30pm, $20.
Slade's
The John Dougherty Hammond B-3 Jazz Trio, 8pm.
Swingin' Central
Rich Greenblatt and His Vibes, no cover.
Toad
Todd Thibaud, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Jeff Auger Trio with Maggie Galloway, 9pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Wheat, the Shyness Clinic and Bright Eyes $7.
The Western Front
Dub Squad, 9:30pm, $10.
Wonder Bar
The Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30pm.

Sunday, June 4

The Attic
The Coalboilers, 9:30pm, cover varies, 21+.

Rockapella comes to the Somerville Theatre for one show. June 9.

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Bill's Bar
Sonbeam, 11:30pm.
The Black Rose
John Corcoran and Sunday's Well, 9pm.
Bob the Chef's
Jazz Brunch; Paulo, Danay Quartet, 11am.
Cantab Lounge
U: Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort
Evelyn McDonald Gospel Group, 10am; Rob Gonzalez, 7pm.
The Good Life Downtown
Grant Langford, no cover.
The Good Life Uptown
Rick Costa Trio; Sunday Brunch.
Johnny D's
Blues Jam, 4:30pm.
Lizard Lounge
The Asylum Street Spankers, 8:30pm, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East
D: Secret Chiefs and Estradasphere, $10, 18+.
The Rack
Chad LaMarsh, 9:30pm, no cover.
Ryles
Ryles Jazz Orchestra, 4pm; Vinicios Pienasola, 9pm, $6.
Swingin' Central
The Trio; Sunday Brunch, no cover.
Toad
Cherry Shake, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Drexel, Cooter and Smackin' Isaiah $6.
Wonder Bar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Monday, June 5

The Black Rose
Tony O'Riordan, 9pm.
Cantab Lounge
U: Geoff Bartley's Open Mike, 8pm; Paul Horton, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort
Big Toe, 7pm, no cover.
The Good Life Downtown
Waldron Ricks Trio, no cover.
Johnny D's
Twang, 8pm.
Lizard Lounge
The Fringe, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East
U: The Jupiter Project, Plastics Hi-Fi, William, $6.
Purple Shamrock
Dave Smyth, 9pm.
The Rack
Nate Wadkins, 8pm, no cover.
Toad
Tim Gearan Band, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Eric Barlow, Jessica and Rick of Krebstar, Michelle and Nicole of the Decals, Josh Pickering of Kodachrome $3.
Swingin' Central
Larry Franquez Trio, no cover.

Tuesday, June 6

The Black Rose
Sunday's Well, 9pm.
Cantab Lounge
The Bagboys, Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band, 7pm, no cover.
The Good Life Downtown
Issi Rosen Trio, no cover.
House of Blues
Moxy Fruvous.
Johnny D's
Les Sampou, Diane Ponzio, Mindy Jostyn, 8:30pm.
Les Zygomates
The Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm.
Middle East
U: The Gloria Record, National Skyline, Alotia, $7, 18+. D: Del Tha Funkee Homosapien, Blackalicious, MC Paul Barman, $18.
Oak Bar
Diana Fischer, 8pm, no cover.
The Rack
Stu Sinclair, 8pm.
Scullers
Roe Haynes Trio with Danilo Perez and John Patitucci, 8pm and 10pm, $18.
Swingin' Central
Fascinatin' Trio, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place
The Moves, Lower 48, Pizza, the Common Cold $5.

Wednesday, June 7

The Black Rose
Sunday's Well, 9pm.
Coogan's Bluff
James McKenna, 9pm.
The Good Life Downtown
Larry Franquez Trio, no cover.
House of Blues
Moxy Fruvous.
Johnny D's
Balla Tounkara and Beth Cohen, 8:30pm.
Les Zygomates
The Mat Gordy Trio, 8pm.
Lizard Lounge
Star Hustler, Mary Lou Lord and the Fly Seville, 8:30pm, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East
U: Warhorse, Solace, 66 Goat, 5ive, $7, 18+. D: Calexico, Macha and Knife in the Water, $8, 18+.
Oak Bar
Diana Fischer, 8pm, no cover.
The Rack
Big City Beat, 9pm, no cover.
Ryles
Project Yes Brazil (Nova Bossa Brazil), 9pm, $6.
Scullers
Roy Haynes Trio with Danilo Perez and John Patitucci, CD release celebration, 8pm and 10pm, $18.
Swingin' Central
Weepin' Willie with His All-Star Band, no cover.
Toad
Matt Squire and the Whitey Bulgers, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Superdrag, Star Ghost Dog and Peter Searcy $8.

Thursday, June 8

Avalon
Johnathan Peters.
The Black Rose
Sunday's Well, 9pm.
Bob the Chef's
Lionel Giradeau Latin Jazz, 7:30pm, cover varies.
Common Ground
Double Jointed, 10pm, cover varies.

For an estimated $300 per scalped ticket, you can see either Tina Turner June 8 or 9 —or you could hire a private dancer of your own.

The painted fearsome foursome, better known as KISS, perform June 12 at the Tweeter Center.

Dick's Last Resort
Ricky and the Giants, 7pm, no cover.
The Good Life Downtown
Nick Goumas Quintet, no cover.
The Good Life Uptown
Larry Franquez Trio, no cover.
Harpoon Brewery
The Shods, Gravil Pit, the Mudhens, Popgun, Waltham, Joel Cage, Clutch Grabwell, One People, Free Lunch, Brewmasters of Reality, 5:30pm, $10, 21+.
House of Blues
Moxy Fruvous.
Johnny D's
Bruce Daigrepont, 9pm.
Jose McIntyre's
Bruce Jacques, 9pm.
Les Zygomates
Rusty Scott Duo, Joel Smith, 8pm.
Lizard Lounge
Merrie Amsterburg CD-release party, 9pm, 21+.
Middle East
U: The Delta 72, the Damn Personals, Radio 4 (ex-Garden Variety) and Rod, $8, 18+. D: L7, Black Halos and RC Crimewave, $12, 18+.
Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett, 9pm, $3.
The Rack
Chad LaMarsh, 6:30pm, no cover.
Regattabar
The Chiara Civello Quartet, 8:30pm, $10.
Ryles
Natraj with Marc Rossi, 9pm, $9.
Scullers
Kendrick Oliver New Life Jazz Orchestra, 8pm and 10pm, $15.
Swingin' Central
Paulo Danay Quartet, no cover.
Toad
Willie Bernstein CD-release party, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
The Continental Drifters, Fuzzy, Split Lip Rayfield $7.

Friday, June 9

Coogans Bluff
Second Story, 9pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band and Soul City, 7pm, no cover.
Green Dragon Tavern
Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
The Good Life Downtown
Fascinatin' Trio, no cover.
The Good Life Uptown
Larry Franquez Trio, no cover.
Harpoon Brewery
The Shods, Gravil Pit, the Mudhens, Popgun, Waltham, Joel Cage, Clutch Grabwell, One People, Free Lunch, Brewmasters of Reality, 5:30pm, $10, 21+.
House of Blues
Al Copley.
Johnny D's
Luther "Guitar Junior" Johnson, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's
Guy Smiley, 9pm, $5.
Les Zygomates
Stan Strickland, 9pm.
Lizard Lounge
Merrie Amsterburg CD-release party, 9pm, 21+.
Middle East
U: Racketeers, $7, 18+. D: Jazz Mandolin Project, $12, 18+.
The Rack
Hit Squad, 6:30pm.
Regattabar
The Benny Green Trio, 8pm and 10pm, $14.
Ryles
Wildest Dreams, 9pm, $9.
Scullers
African Odyssey Tour featuring Hugh Masekela and Sibongile Khumalo, 8pm and 10:30pm, $28.
Swingin' Central
Mickey Bones and the Jump Crew, no cover.
Toad
Jennifer Matthews, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Chris Taylor Quartet, 9pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Tim Finn, Charlie Chesterman and the Legendary Motorbikes and the Shelley Winters Project, $12.
Western Front
Heights-Crew with Shaka Black, 9:30pm, $10.
Wonder Bar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Saturday, June 10

The Black Rose
Dave Foley, Sunday's Well, Tony O'Riordan, 9pm, $5.
Bob the Chef's
Jose Ramos and the Special Blend, 7:30pm.
Coogans Bluff
Punch Monkey, 9pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort
The Generators, 7pm, no cover.
Green Dragon Tavern
Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
Harp
Entrain.

Harpoon Brewery
The Shods, Gravil Pit, the Mudhens, Popgun, Waltham, Joel Cage, Clutch Grabwell, One People, Free Lunch, Brewmasters of Reality, 2pm, $10, 21+.
House of Blues
Tommy Castro CD-release party.
Jacob Wirths
The Jay Sweet Trio.
Johnny D's
Kilombo Mambo, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's
Syndicate, 9pm, $5.
Karma
David Gray with Peter Salett, 7pm, $14, 18+.
Les Zygomates
Alma Vocinic, 9pm.
Lizard Lounge
Lars Vegas, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East
U: Quintaine Americana, Barbero, Lamont, Alum (ex-Slug Hog), the Atomic Numbers, $7, 18+. D: Musique and Electro Organic Sound System, $10, 18+.
Purple Shamrock
Mother Funk, 9pm, $5.
Regattabar
The Benny Green Trio, 8pm and 10pm, $16.
Ryles
Michigan Blacksnake, 9pm, $10. U: Ryles Dance Hall, 9pm, $12.
Rhythm and Spice
Jack Lee and Divercity, 10:30pm, $8, 21+.
Scullers
Kennedy Center's African Odyssey Tour featuring Hugh Masekela and Sibongile Khumalo, 8pm and 10:30pm, $28.
Slade's
The John Dougherty Hammond B-3 Jazz Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Swingin' Central
Roxbury Blues Aestetic, no cover.
Toad
Lucky 57, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Lockgroove, the Medea Connection CD release, Purrr and the Decals $7.
Western Front
Heights-Crew withShaka Black, 9:30pm, $10.
Wonder Bar
The Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30pm.

Sunday, June 11

Bill's Bar
Skiffington, 11:30pm.
The Black Rose
Tony O'Riordan, 9pm.
Bob the Chef's
Nat Simpkins' B3 Jazz Trio, 11am.
Dick's Last Resort
Rob Gonzalez, 7pm.
The Good Life Downtown
Grant Langford Trio, no cover.
The Good Life Uptown
Dave Vincola Band; Sunday brunch, no cover.
House of Blues
Tommy Maxwell and the Minor Drag.
Johnny D's
Blues Jam, 4:30pm.
Middle East
U: Over It, the Stryder, West Beverly and the National Blue, $7, 18+.
The Rack
Chad LaMarsh, 6:30pm, no cover.
Ryles
Guancho Herrera Group, 9pm, $8.
Swingin' Central
The Trio: Sunday Brunch, no cover.
Toad
Pluto and Friends, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Hideous Plaything, $4.
Wonder Bar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Monday, June 12

The Black Rose
Tony O'Riordan, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band, 7pm.
The Good Life Downtown
Waldron Ricks Trio, no cover.
Johnny D's
Twang, 8pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge
The Fringe, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East
U: Shannon Wright, Heidi Saperstein and the Dishes, $7, 18+.
Purple Shamrock
Dave Smyth, 9pm.
Swingin' Central
Mike Hicks Trio, no cover.
Toad
Tim Gearan Band, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Kitty Kill, Jill Kurtz, Nell Bryden and Jay Wightman $3.

Tuesday, June 13

The Black Rose
Eugene Byrne, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band, 7pm, no cover.
The Good Life Downtown
Issi Rosen Trio, no cover.
Johnny D's
Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band, 8:30pm.
Les Zygomates
The Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm.
Lizard Lounge
Colleen Sexton and the Faith Soloway Trio, 8:30pm.
Middle East
U: Tommy and the Terrors, Forced Reality, Razorwire, the Banned and the Roachenders, 8pm, $6, 18+.
The Rack
James McKenna, no cover.
Ryles
Fourminusone CD release party, 8:30pm, $8.
Scullers
Sophia Belides with Doug Hammer , 8pm , $12.
Swingin' Central
Rick Costa Trio, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Majagaer, Bully Pulpit, Mason's Sleepwalkers and Zen Flower $4.

Music Venues

The Attic *107R Union St., Newton (964-6615).*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (743-2286). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-6204).*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Coogans Bluff *173 Milk Street., Boston (451-7415). MBTA: Orange Line to State St.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
Good Life Downtown *28 Hingston St., Boston (451-2622). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Good Life Uptown *99 St. Botolph St., Boston (451-2622). MBTA: B Green Line to Hynes Convention Center.*
Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (367-0055). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Jacob Wirth's *31-37 Stuart St., Boston (338-8586). MBTA: Green Line to Boyslton.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Davis Square, Somerville (776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
The Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (267-8644). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.*
The Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
O'Brien's *3 Harvard Ave, Allston (782-6245). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
The Playhouse Lounge *74 Warrenton St., Boston (482-2227). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (227-2060). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (725-1051). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Regatta Bar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330).*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Rd., Cambridge (562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*

gay&lesbian

If you want to be listed
Submit information including telephone numbers and nearest T stop by fax to (859-1446), mail or e-mail to gaylesbian@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted by phone.*

How to use this section
The following listings contain information that is subject to change. Contact the organization for changes in specific events.

CLUBS, BARS & HANGOUTS

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years these folks have been crankin' out some of the best Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. It's well worth a visit—if not for the three separate dance floors then for all of the male dancers. 9pm, $15, 21+.

Buzz (Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays)
51 Stuart St. in the Theatre District, Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. On Saturday nights this place boasts two dance floors, two DJs, a pool room and a lounge. Two levels of dancing and schmoozing will keep the boys busy until 2am. 10pm, $5, 21+.

Chaps (Daily)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. www.chapsofboston.com. Sun.: Dance music of DJ Danae Jacovidis; Mon.: Grand Baby and Grand Piano night; Tue.: Retro DJ night; Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adielson Caesar; Thu.: DJs Billy and Fran: High Energy Dance; Fri.: Taboo Erotique with DJ Sammy; Sat.: High Energy Dance, DJ Danae Jacovidis.

City Girl Cafe (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri: 11am- 9pm; Sat: 10am-9pm; Sun: 10am-7pm. A small (five tables), laid-back cafe in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated. This cozy spot is home to a mixed gay/hetero crowd that lounges about, munching on sandwiches. Brunch on Saturday and Sunday, 10am-2pm.

Club Cafe (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-0966). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri 11:30am-2am; Sat. 2pm-2am; Sun. 11am-2am. This trendy South End spot draws a mixed crowd that comes for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back (Moonshine). A dressy bunch that likes to mingle. No cover, 21+. •Carol O'Shaughnessy performs with Steve Heck, Dottie Dean or David Sparr, Thursdays.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (542-4494). Mon.-Fri. 3pm-2am; Sat. 1pm-2am; Sun. 12pm-2am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This is your friendly neighborhood bar with a quiet setting. It's best known for scrumptious Sunday brunches (12-4pm). A simple joint with all of the trappings of a true bar: smoky and dark. The place starts hopping as it gets closer to 2am.

Fritz (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Stroll in for a quiet drink or a rowdy night on the town. The folks here are friendly—and really into sports. Not only does Fritz have Direct TV set up with sets scattered everywhere, it's also home base to a great softball league. 12pm, no cover, 21+.

Jacques
79 Broadway, Boston (426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. If you're looking to relax with a friendly crowd of gays and straights, and you like to mingle with disco-dancing drag queens, you have found the place. Sun. and Mon. are local band nights. Tues. through Sat., however, divas rule the stage. 10:30pm, $4, weekends $6, 21+.

Lava Bar (Saturdays)
575 Commonwealth. Ave., Boston (267-7707). The Lava Bar's Tabu night boasts DJ Fran spinning out high-energy house with a taste of Latin beats. 10pm.

The Lizard Lounge (Wednesdays)
1667 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. "Marlene Loses It at the Lizard" is the title of this eclectic evening of poetry, live music, theater and cabaret in front of a diverse crowd. Shows begin at 10pm. $5 cover, 21+.

Luxor (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (423-6969). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from the latest music scenes and classic old movies—compiled by the bar's own VJ. Downstairs is Jox. No cover, 21+.

Man Ray (Thursdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (864-0400). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed.-Fri., 9pm; Sat., 10pm. A bustling hot spot caters to a young, alternative clientele. Two dance floors fill up on Thursdays for Campus, a predominantly male night where DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen take over. 10pm, $8 for 19+, $5 for 21+.

119 Merrimac (Daily)
119 Merrimac St., Boston (367-0713). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Sat., 10:30am-2am; Sun. 12pm-2am. This male cruise bar is the place to stop for drinks before or after FleetCenter events. Shoot a leisurely game of pool or the hit the video games. Merrimac features DJs playing hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s. 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. On Thursday nights, the Lesbian AIDS Project of Mass. unofficially takes over this laid-back cafe for "dyke nyte." The cafe always has something brewing—live bands, DJs and drag queen parties. Party starts at 8pm, no cover, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (494-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Central. On Monday, a bartender not only mixes drinks but strips too. Male strippers are featured, Wed.-Sat. Mon. is Gothic night; Tue. is techno and Thu. is college night. On Fridays DJ Sam Sampson spins, and on Sat. hear DJ Brad Gwynn. 5pm, no cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (266-2986). Green Line to Kenmore. 12pm-2am. The largest leather bar in the East enforces a tight dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room). Downstairs on Fri., Sat. (10pm-2am) and Sun. (7pm-12am) is the Machine, the sleekest hard-core club in town. Fri. has DJ Darrin Friedman, Sat. is DJ Brad Gwynn and Sun. is "Dragon Tea Dance," an Asian inspiration night with DJ James Hughes and a dragon show. $7, 21+.

BOOKS

Boston Public Library Author Event
The Egleston Square branch of the Boston Public Library, 2044 Columbus Ave., Roxbury (445-4340). MBTA: Orange Line to Jackson Square. June 8, 7pm. The second annual Pride Reading takes place in celebration of National Gay and Lesbian Pride Month. Writers appearing include **Scott Heim**, author of the mystery novels *Mysterious Skin* and *In Awe*, as well as a book of poetry. **Amy Hoffman**, author of *Hospital Time*, a memoir about caring for friends with AIDS, joins **Letta Neely**, author of *Juba*, a collection of poetry, and **William J. Mann**, journalist and author of *The Men from the Boys*, the best-selling gay novel of 1997. A book signing and reception will follow the readings.

Scenes from last year's Gay Pride Parade: studs on floats, dancing drag queens and dykes on bikes.

Preview

True Colors

Gay Pride Day

By far the biggest event of the year in the gay and lesbian community, this annual pride fest sees tens of thousands of festive, exuberant paraders marching from Copley Square through the South End and on to the Common. In addition to the float-filled parade, there's all sorts of art and informational exhibits and an award ceremony to honor the best groups and floats during the celebration on the Common. There's also several VIPs showing their support: Wilson Cruz (from TV's hit series *My So-Called Life*), Sister Sledge, Melissa Ferrick and the OUTBand, as well as a slew of local and national acts. *Through the Streets of Boston (520-3350). June 10, 12-6pm.*

Glad Day Bookshop
673 Boylston St., Boston (267-3010). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu. 9:30am-10pm, Fri. and Sat. 9:30am-11pm, Sun. 12-5pm. This exclusively gay/lesbian bookstore has all sorts of paraphernalia.

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge. (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Fri. 10am-8pm, Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 12-6pm. New England's oldest women's book shop offers a comprehensive selection of the latest literature. Its monthly author series will resume in the spring. •*June 7, 6pm. Free.* **Cecelia Tan**, **Hanne Black**, **Jaclyn Friedman**, **Raven Kaldera** and **Marilyn Jaye Lewis** share from their new book, *Best Bisexual Erotica*.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6:30pm; Sun., 11:30am-5:30pm. Boston's literary gay and lesbian bookstore.

SHOWS & EVENTS

AIDS Action Walk
Hatch Shell, Boston (424-9255). June 4, 10am. www.aac.org. For this 15th-annual fund-raising event, tens of thousands of men, women and children gather on the Esplanade to kick off this event that benefits AIDS Action Committee and other outstanding statewide organizations. The walk, which starts at 9am, begins and ends at the Hatch Shell and follows a 6.2-mile route through Boston, Brookline and Cambridge. Along the way, walkers are serenaded by some local politically minded musical acts, who take to the street and perform free of charge to support the effort.

Covenant Cabaret Concert
Church of the Covenant, 67 Newbury St., Boston (547-6789 ext.333). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. June 11, 3pm. Free will offering. Cabaret singer **Will McMillan**, who has emerged as a leading exponent of the passionate art of cabaret singing, has performed for sold-out houses at Scullers and the CCAE. Tonight's show features *Connected,* in which he and pianist Doug Hammer weave together jazz standards, songs from Broadway/Tin Pan Alley and original compositions.

Gay Pride Dance
The ballroom of Sons of Italy in Winchester. June 10, 8-12pm (781-648-0722). www.djdee.com. *$10.* Featuring hot dance music with DJ Dee, this celebration for Women takes place on the beautiful, sparkling 3,000-square-foot dance floor. With a cash bar and complimentary snacks.

Millennium Rainbow: Celebrating Greater Boston's LGBT Youth
Gallery Lounge, Northeastern University, Curry Student Center, Boston (349-6486). MBTA: Green Line to Northeastern. Through May 31. The History Project sponsors this invigorating event that celebrates the history, diversity and vitality of local lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered youth with an exhibition of words and images. At the core of the exhibit is a series of photos taken by students.

PrideLights Festival
In front of the Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-5000). June 6, 7:30 pm. The Sixth Annual Bridge Builder Concert and Tree Lighting Celebration is an opportunity for straights and gays to come together and celebrate the presence and contributions of Boston's gay and lesbian community. Emceed by NBC affiliate Channel 7's Randy Price, this year's festivities include performances by Cabaret satirist John Patrick Schultz, singer/songwriter Ernest David Lijoi and Boston's 50-member multicultural, multigenerational choir—Inspirational Freedom Choir—under the direction of Janice Allen.

ONGOING

Bawl
This lesbian softball league offers opportunities to join teams in both the recreational and competitive divisions. Call Liz (508-628-5477).

Best Foot Forward
Ballet Etc. Dance Studios, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (522-1444). MBTA: B Green Line to Washington St. For gays/lesbians/bisexuals of all swing skill levels.

Boston Glass
Community Center, 93 Mass Ave., Boston (266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center. Daily 8-10pm. Support groups and social activities for adolescents ages 13-25.

The Boston Rainbow Gospel Choir
The BRGC is about to launch its second season and periodically holds auditions. Call 424-6740.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). A 1,500-member gay club with hiking, biking, camping, skiing and other outdoor activities for men and women.

Common Bond
(781-433-7023). www.dwellings.com/acb. An international support group for gay/lesbian/bisexual current or former Jehovah's Witnesses.

Community Rainbow
Boston Living Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston. 7:45 pm. An organization whose mission is to advocate for the community. Meets Thursdays.

Cosmetically-Correct
Tremont Tea Room, 48-50 Winter St., 3rd floor, Boston. A social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month 7:30-10pm. Lipstick optional. For more info, e-mail *m.antoinette@ididitmyway.com.*

Dykes Who Hike
(522-6185). This hiking group is specifically for lesbians in Boston and the surrounding areas who want to conquer the wilderness.

East Coast Wrestling Club
With more than 160 members, this is an extraordinarily popular New England spot for gay male wrestlers. Call Marc at 401-467-6737, or go online at *http://members.tripod.com/~ecwc* or e-mail *ecwc@juno.com.*

Encounters
Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston. An informal social evening for HIV-positive gay and bisexual men held the first Tuesday of every month, 7-9pm.

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave, Boston (824-4266). www.mindspring.com/~frontrunners. A running club for the LGBT community meets every Saturday at 10am for fun runs of various distances.

Gay Volleyball
Cambridge (262-3626). Sundays, 7pm, $7. Typically five teams play on two courts. Teams of men and women are made up each week.

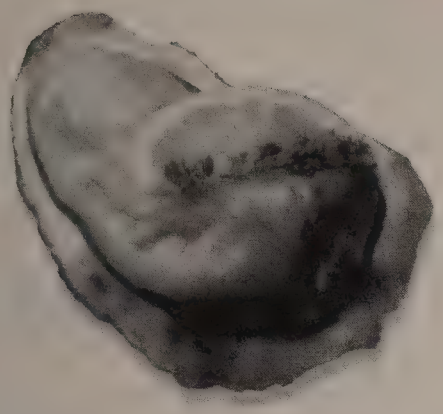
Gender Free Contra Dancing
First Church of Jamaica Plain (522-1115). www.piac.net/users/latte/lcfd/. Come one, come all to evenings of contra and square dancing.

OOPS
Melting Pot Coffee House, 2 Belgrade Ave., Roslindale (323-4123). Out on the Parkways invites one and all to come on down for some dinner and coffee.

PFLAG
Fenway Community Health Center, 7 Haviland St., Boston (547-2440). Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets every fourth Monday, 6:30-8:30pm.

Queer Corps
131 Clarendon St., 4th floor, Boston (450-1676). A community mobilization project by and for queer men 25 and under. Meetings are held every Tuesday, 6-8pm.

Tennis4all
Call Ted at 779-7231. Boston's gay and lesbian tennis club, with monthly tournaments and pizza socials.



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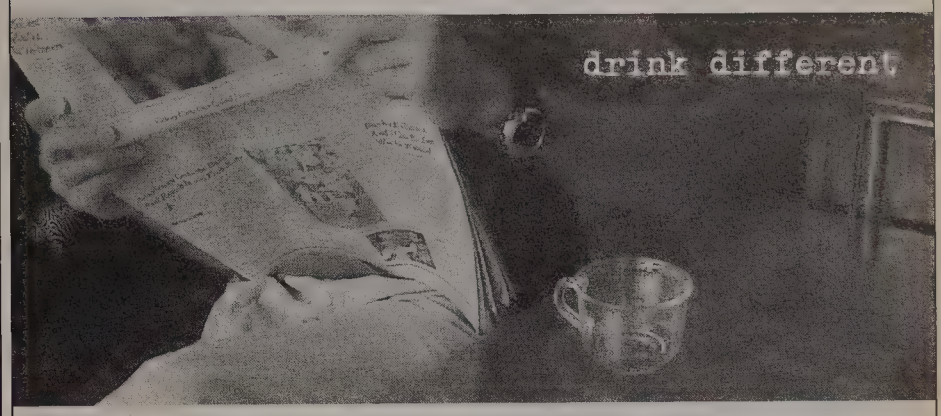

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body&mind

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Submit updated information by mail, fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/ Mind, or electronically to bodymind@improper.com. *Include a brief but thorough description of the event, time, date, location and directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.*

Loretta Laroche helps others deal with stress using wit and humor at Joe Tecce's, June 8.

EVENTS

Friday Night Dance Craze
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Friday nights: June 9-July 14, 7-9:30pm. $12. No partners or experience necessary—just the desire to get out and dance with people. Every Friday features a different genre: Latin, disco, swing, flamenco, and contra dancing. Go to any or all of these summer dance nights.

That's Amore: Dinner with Loretta Laroche
Sponsored by Self Esteem Boston Educational Institute, Joe Tecce's Ristorante, 61 N. Washington St., Boston (983-1111). June 8, 7-9pm. $100, tickets charged through Ticket Master (931-2000). Enjoy a family-style Italian dinner with the extremely funny **Loretta Laroche**. She's prized as an expert in helping people manage stress and start healing with humor and wisdom.

LECTURES/FORUMS

Wellness Thursdays
Wellspace, Fresh Pond Mall, Cambridge (876-2660). www.wellspace.com. *June 1 and 11, 7:30-9pm. $5.* These Thursday evening lectures are held in the peaceful environment of Wellspace. Just being there is enough to make you feel good, and hearing a lecture couldn't hurt. The next two lectures are Making Relationships Work with Movement & Role Play, hosted by massage therapist **Olivia Cheever** and **Dr. Stephan Steisel**, and Hypnosis for Health and Wellness with Devorah Steinberg.

CLASSES/ WORKSHOPS

Breathing Lessons
The Yoga Studio, 74 Joy St., Boston. (523-7138). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. This class teaches breathing techniques that can help you change your bad breathing habits. Yoga expert **Barbara Benagh** designed this class to aid with her own difficulties with asthma.

Increase Your Self-Esteem
Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. June 3, 9:30am-4:30pm. $91. You could say that lack of self-esteem is the root of many of life's difficulties. If you don't think you're getting the respect and caring you deserve, then at this class, you'll learn ways to make sure that's not a problem anymore.

Meridian Hatha Yoga
Beacon Light Yoga Center, 215 Brighton Ave., Allston (739-0717). June 3, 2-5pm. $30. This introductory class will teach you work with yoga poses and the energy meridians used in acupuncture to stimulate, release and balance energy. After learning those things, you might not need coffee anymore.

Shiatsu
Tapestry Complementary Healthcare, 2364 Washington St., Newton Lower Falls (969-6300). June 6. $20. This integrative health clinic holds classes on alternative treatments you can use for maintaining health. This class focuses on the Japanese form of massage Shiatsu, which focuses the fingers to work on the specific areas of the body used in acupuncture.

Stop Smoking with Hypnosis
The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge (354-8807). Free. Whether you've never tried to stop smoking or tried a hundred different ways, there *is* hope that you can quit. Psychotherapist **Jean Fain** can assist you in overcoming the psychological dependency on cigarettes in an inexpensive and natural way.

Take If Off with Kim Airs
Grand Opening!, 318 Harvard St., Suite 32, Arcade Building, Brookline (731-2626). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. May 31, 7:30-9:30pm. $20. By far their most popular class, this workshop will teach you how to sexily remove your clothes with confidence and style. Women only.

Thank You for Being Such a Pain
Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). www.ci.newton.ma.us. June 12, 7:30pm. Free. The speaker tonight is **Mark Rosen**, management professor and author of *Thank You for Being Such a Pain: Spiritual Guidance for Dealing With Difficult People.* He'll provide straightforward guidelines and suggestions to help you find ways to use humor to defuse tensions, know when it is time to back off and leave, understand why the other person is being so difficult and learn what to say and when.

Theosophy in the 21st Century
Theosophical Society in Boston, 21 Maple Street, Arlington (978-439-9956). *June 3, 3-5pm.* Theosophy is religious theory based on mystical insight into the nature of God. Pretty deep. Visiting speaker **Dr. Robert S. Ellwood**, author of *Finding the Quiet Mind*, will speak on Theosophy in the 21st Century, and he will hopefully clarify some vague notions for listeners.

RETREATS

Zen Retreat
Cambridge Zen Center, 199 Auburn St., Cambridge (576-3229). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.cambridgezen.com. *June 10-11. $50.* This monthly retreat is an excellent opportunity to clear the mind of habitual thinking and generate energy to practice in everyday life. This retreat is led by Zen Master **Dae Gak**, an author and Zen monk who has practiced Zen for over 26 years and psychotherapy for 25 years. The weekends activities include Zen practice, work and rest periods, vegetarian meals and a private interview with the retreat leader. Beginners are very welcome.

ONGOING

Dance Friday
Rug Cutter's Studio, 23 Main St., Watertown (924-7276). www.dne.org. *MBTA: #57, 70, or 71 bus. Fridays, 8:30pm-12am. $7.* Dance any way you want to, even barefoot, to all kinds of music in this smoke- and alcohol-free environment.

Healing and Meditation Circle
Pinchas Baram, (232-8070). Sundays, 5pm. Free. This occasion happens semi-monthly at different locations in the Boston area. The group focuses on the Kabbalah, Jewish mystical wisdom and features meditation and healing prayer.

Qi Gong
Woolf Holistic Health Center, 651 Washington St., Brookline (738-9144). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Square. Thursdays, 7:30pm. Free. Have you ever wondered what Qi Gong, an ancient form of exercise from China, really is? Well your chance has manifested at the Woolf Center's drop-in session. Discover this time-tested art for maximizing your well-being and increasing your knowledge of mind and body.

Taming the Mind
Shambhala Meditation Center, 646 Brookline Ave., Brookline (734-1498). www.shambhala.org. *MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. Tuesdays, 8pm.* Buddha was a normal man who lived on the earth and became enlightened. These evenings will present the teachings of Buddha, so that you can learn just how he did it.

Yoga/South End
Union United Methodist Church, 485 Columbus Ave., (522-7199). MBTA: Green Line to Prudential or Orange Line to Back Bay. $15/class. Certified Kripalu yoga teacher Patrice Flesch teaches mixed-level classes in a spiritual setting. Increase flexibility, relieve stress, build strength, relax and enjoy yourself at any of these ongoing drop-in classes: Tuesdays at 7pm, Wednesdays at noon and Saturdays at 9am.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Children. Or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

TO SEE

Folktale Adventures of Nigel Pepper
The Back Alley Theatre, 1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (338-1477). June 11, 1pm. $7, $10 at the door. Each month Nigel Pepper, an antique dealer with a magic globe that can transport him to any place he chooses, visits a new locale and becomes hte main character in some of the area's favorite folktales.

Puppet Showplace Theatre
32 Station St., Brookline (731-6400). $8. • June 2, 7pm. June 3, 1pm and 3pm. ***Jack and the Beanstalk*** by Spring Valley Puppet Theatre. • *June 9, 7pm. June 10, 1pm and 3pm.* ***Donkey in the Lion Skin*** by Pat's Puppet.

THINGS TO DO

Butterflies and Farm Animals at the Zoo
Franklin Park Zoo, 1 Franklin Park Road, Boston (442-2002). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. May 27. $6. • **Butterfly Landing** features 1,000 butterflies representing 40 North American species. • **Farmyard**. Mosey on down to the zoo for that down-on-the-farm feel right in the middle of the city. Check out the new main barn, incubator and brooder building, chicken coop, silo slide and windmill.

Jamaica Pond Family Fishing Festival
Jamaica Pond Boathouse, Jamaica Plain (522-4505). June 10, 10am-2pm. Children and their families are invited to enjoy a free day of fishing on Jamaica Pond. Bait, instution and tack all provided.

Newton Free Library Activities
Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. • June 6, 3:30pm: **World Cultures Tribute to the Cows Holiday Program**. Introduces children to this Basque region holiday with a story, craft and yummy treat. Plays: • June 2, 4pm: ***Moon Shot***. • June 12, 4pm: ***Cock-A-Doodle-Doo***. A play about a rooster who learns how to cook.

Realm of the Reptiles
New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, Boston (973-5200). www.neaq. org. *MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. June 4. $12.50.* Celebrate the newest exhibit *Nyanja! Africa's Inland Sea*. Get a temporary tattoo, meet a chuckwalla and learn what a Nile crocodile eats for breakfast.

Scooper Bowl/Boston Dairy Festival
Boston City Hall Plaza (632-3300). June 6-8, 11:30am-6pm. $5. Indulge at this all-you-can-eat, three-day ice cream festival hosted by nine of New England's finest ice cream makers. Proceeds benefit theJimmy Fund.

Sunset Safari
1 Franklin Park Road, Boston (541-LION). June 10, 6-8pm. $12, $8 children. Enjoy a special nighttime soiree with storytelling, musical entertainment and an ice cream sundae bar. Be sure to check out all the features of the new Farmyard exhibit.

Mmm...ice cream at the Scooper Bowl, June 6-8.

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

To Watch

New England Revolution
• Foxboro Stadium. Tickets: 1-877-GET-REVS
June 3 (Home): Miami Fusion, 7:30pm, Fox Sports.
June 10 (Home): San Jose Earthquakes, 4:30pm, Fox.

Red Sox
• Fenway Park. Tickets: 267-8661.
June 1 (Home): Kansas City Royals, 7:05pm, NESN.
June 2 (Away): Philly Phillies, 7:35pm, NESN.
June 3 (Away): Philly Phillies, 7:05pm, NESN.
June 4 (Away): Philly Phillies, 1:35pm, FOXSports.
June 5 (Away): Florida Marlins, 7:05pm, NESN.
June 6 (Away): Florida Marlins, 7:05pm, NESN.
June 7 (Away): Florida Marlins, 7:05pm, NESN.
June 8 (Home): Cleveland Indians, 6:05pm, Fox.
June 9 (Away): Atlanta Braves, 7:40pm, Fox.
June 10 (Away): Atlanta Braves, 7:10pm, NESN.
June 11 (Away): Atlanta Braves, 1:10pm, Fox.
June 12 (Away): New York Yankees, 7:05pm, Fox.
June 13 (Away): New York Yankees, 7:05pm, Fox.

Events

Chase Corporate Challenge
Boston (439-7700). June 7, 7pm. A 3.5-mile road race that began in 1977 with 200 runners from 50 companies. Today, it's the largest participatory corporate sporting event in the United States, with runs in 15 locations worldwide and more than 192,500 runners from nearly 6,500 companies.

Fitness! A Noon-Time Workout
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston . MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Thursdays at 12pm. Through June 29. Grab your co-workers and enjoy a pre-lunch workout.

Special Olympics Summer Games
Boston University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and UMass (800-628-2736, ext. 226). June 10-11. The Summer Games provide competition for individuals with mental retardation or closely related developmental disabilities.

To Play

BASEBALL

Henry's Baseball Club
(781-891-0621). Waltham. Seeking players ages 17-30 and coaches for upcoming season.

BASKETBALL

Basketball City
Adjacent to North Station and the FleetCenter (742-6700). Corporate, midday and weekend leagues.

Co-Ed Indoor Basketball
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 224). Sun.-Thu. nights at various locations. All levels welcome. Leagues in Waltham, Dedham and Brookline.

The Corporate League of Boston
(566-7808).

Men's Basketball League
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990).

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333). Practice and workout programs for all levels in Greater Boston.

South End Fitness Center League
(534-5823).

Women's Basketball League
(661-9622). Tuesdays 5:30-7pm and Sundays, 6-7:30pm. Starts July 9.

Women's 3 on 3 Basketball
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990).

FOOTBALL

Australian Rules Football
Boston Australian Rules Football Club. Thu. evenings and Sat. mornings, Cambridge (781-440-9266). www.Boston Demons.org. No experience necessary.

Co-ed Touch Football
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990).

Indoor Flag Football
BSSC, Indoor Sports Center in Revere (789-4070). Sundays.

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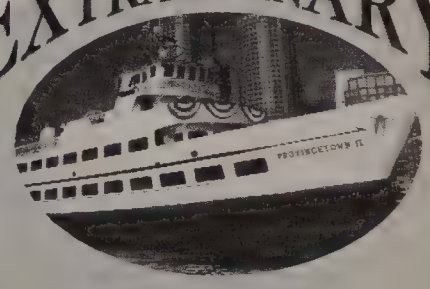

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For more information, call us at (617) 735-9023, M-F, 9-5 p.m.
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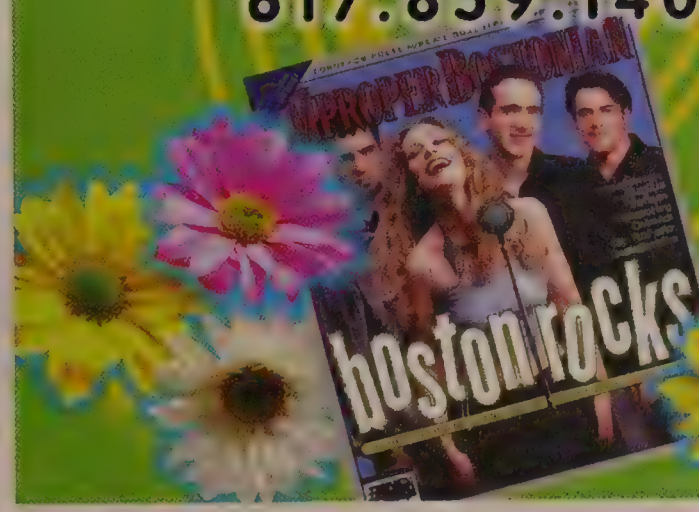


Preview

Fight Breast Cancer

More than 2,000 people will walk 60 miles from Leominster to Boston as a part of the Avon Breast Cancer 3-Day, June 2-4. Over the course of three days, participants will walk the distance to raise money and awareness in the fight against breast cancer. Monies raised will fund medical research; support services for breast cancer survivors, patients and their famlies; educational seminars; and early detection services. Call 888-3DAY AVON or visit *www.avoncrusade.com*.

HIKING/WALKING

The Appalachian Mountain Club
Gorham, N.H. (603-466-2727). Hikes and huts in the White Mountains. •Monthly AMC Young Members meetings at AMC headquarters, 4 Joy St., Beacon Hill (523-0655). Second Thursday of every month, 6-10pm, $3. Potluck. BYOB.

Boston Ski & Sports Hiking Trips
(789-4070). •June 10, $20: **Lonesome Lake Hike**. Head to the White Mountains for a fun, moderate six-mile hike. •June 2-4, $124: **White Mountain Weekend**. Spend a weekend in North Conway hiking Mt. Madison and Mt. Crawford. Saturday's hike up Mt. Madison will go above the tree line with an elevation gain of about 4,300 feet. Advanced hikers only.

New England Walkers
39 Oakland Rd., Brookline (731-9889). members.tripod.com/NEWALKERS. This 200-member club hosts race-walk events and clinics. Weekly walks at M.I.T. indoor track on Wednesdays at 7pm.

ROCK CLIMBING

BSSC Outdoor Rock Climbing
BSSC (789-4070). June 11, 8am-4pm. $90. A full day of outdoor rock climbing in Central Mass. Includes instruction for beginners and experienced climbers, as well as equipment and lunch.

RUGBY

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
Cambridge (781-340-2192). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.bwrfc.org. *Tue. and Thu. evenings.* No experience necessary.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
(499-4835). Weekly runs year-round. Serious drinkers with a running problem.

Boston Road Club Weekly Races
(781-646-8955). Sundays. Starts at Wells Ave. in Newton.

Fresh Pond Weekly Road Races
Fresh Pond Reservation. Saturdays, 10am. Choose between a 2.5- or 5-mile run.

Khoury's Thursday Night Runs
East Somerville. (354-3534). 4.13 miles. 7pm at Khoury's Bar.

NikeTown Boston Running Club
200 Newbury St., Boston (267-3400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Three-to-five-mile loops. Starts at 6:30pm. Monthly mini-clinics as well.

Somerville Road Runners Weekly Run
Cambridge Boat House Parking Lot, Cambridge (923-2378). Fridays at 7 pm.

WATER SPORTS

Boston Sailing Center
54 Lewis Wharf, Boston (227-4198). Year-round lessons and racing programs for all abilities.

Boston Ski & Sports Club Adventures
(789-4070). •June 1, 6pm, $60: **After-Work Paddle & BBQ**. Enjoy a kayak or canoe paddle on the Charles River followed by a Red Bones BBQ. •June 3, 8:15am, $80: **Sea Kayaking**. A three-hour sea kayaking tour through the estuaries of the Essex River for beginners or intermediates. •June 3, $55: **Hobie Cat Sailing**. Members of Hobie Fleet 28 will take the group out on their beach cats for an afternoon sail and to learn the basics of sailing a catamaran. •June 9-11: **Rouge River In Montreal**. Weekend adventures include accommodations, transportation, most meals and rafting.

Community Boating
21 David Mugar Way, Boston (523-1038). www.community-boating.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. Open Mon.-Fri. 1pm-sunset; Sat.-Sun. and holidays, 9am-sunset. April 1-Oct. 31.* Sailing, windsurfing and kayaking on the Charles River for only $190 per season, including instruction. What a bahgain!

Courageous Sailing Center
Charlestown Navy Yard (635-4505). Lessons are offered here year-round.

SOCCER

BSSC Outdoor Soccer
BSSC (789-4070, ext. 225). Coed teams.

BSSC Outdoor Turf Soccer
BSSC (789-4070, ext. 225). Nine on nine coed soccer. Play outside on a brand new artificial turf field at the Acton Sports Center. Games started May 14 and continue through mid-July.

Sport & Social Club Indoor/ Outdoor Soccer
(262-8990).

SOFTBALL

80-Team Softball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 222). Monday through Thursday evenings at 6:30pm. Join as an individual or as a team.

Coed Softball
Sport & Social Club of Boston (262-8990).

SWIMMING

Boston Athletic Club Swim Workouts
653 Summer St., Boston (269-4300). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon. and Wed. 6:15-7:15am.

The Charles River Park Club Morning Masters
Charles River Park, Boston (450-9810). Mon., Wed., Fri. 6:30-7:45am.

The Mason Masters Swim Program
The Mason Pool, 159 Norfolk Avenue, Roxbury (236-4923 or 450-9810) Mon.-Fri. 7:30-8:30pm. An early-morning masters swim program led by Alex Primilsky, coach of numerous world, national and Olympic champions.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Boston Ski & Sports Club
(789-4070).

Boston Ultimate Disc Alliance
(928-0882). www.buda.org.

sales& fashion

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for sales and bargains by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sales and Fashion. Or e-mail information to goodbuys@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the event or items. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

AUCTIONS

Skinner Auctioneers—Boston
63 Park Plaza, Boston (350-5400). www.skinner inc.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.* •**20th Century Furniture & Decorative Arts**. *June 3, 11am. Previews: June 1, 2-5pm; June 2, 2-7pm; June 3, 8:30-10am.* Auction includes glass, lamps and metalwork from the Art Nouveau, Arts & Crafts, Art Deco and Modern Movements. •**Fine Jewelry**. *June 13, 12pm. Previews: June 11, 12-5pm; June 12, 12-7pm; June 13, 9-11am.*

Skinner Auctioneers—Bolton
357 Main St., Bolton (978-779-6241). www.skinner-inc.com. •**American Furniture & Decorative**. *June 11, 11am. Previews: June 7, 2-5pm; June 8, 2-5pm; June 9, 2-5pm; June 10, 12-4pm; June 11, 8-10:30am.*

SALES/EVENTS

Coolidge Corner Arts Festival
Beacon and Harvard streets, Brookline (739-1330). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. June 10, 9am. This event attracts more than 25 artists showcasing their handmade jewelry, stained glass, stoneware and pottery, watercolors, acrylic and oil paintings, origami, photography and cards. New this year will be food vendors dishing up delicious treats.

Hosta and Shade Perennial Sale
The Lyman Estate Greenhouses, 185 Lyman St., Waltham (781-891-4882). June 2-3, 10am-4pm. More than 50 varieties of hostas will be available, including the large, striking blues, emerald greens, golds, unusual variegated types, as well as small miniature plants.

Wildflower Sale
New England Wild Flower Society, 180 Hemenway Road, Framingham (508-877 7630). April 15-October 31. $6. •June 10, 10am-3pm: New England's largest sale of wildflowers—including more than 200 varieties—will take place.

FASHION

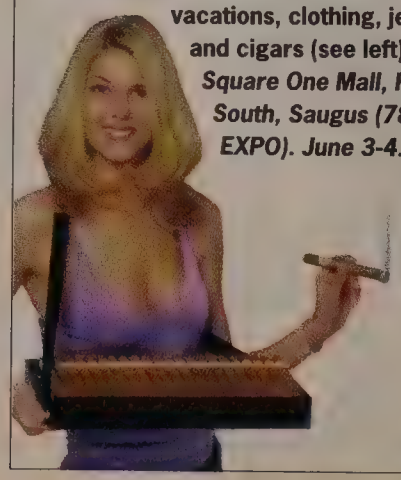
Neiman Marcus
5 Copley Place, Boston (536-3660). www.neimanmarcus.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley.* •May 31: Escada trunk show in Designer Sportswear.

BEAUTY

Bombshell Makeovers
Demiche Makeup & Image Studio, 423 Main St., Melrose (781-662-1796). www.demiche.com. *June 1, 1-8pm.* Complimentary makeovers in celebration of Marilyn Monroe's birthday (mole optional).

Big Boys Toy Show of Boston

Boys will be boys—and all that changes is the price of their toys. This selling expo will feature everything from novel sports cars, cigars, powerboats, motorcycles, sporting goods and audio and visual technologies to computers, exotic vacations, clothing, jewelry and cigars (see left). *Square One Mall, Route 1 South, Saugus (781-230-EXPO). June 3-4.*



go away

TRAVELING NEAR AND FAR

Advice to Contributors
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NORTH OF BOSTON

17th Annual Discover Jazz Festival
Waterfront Park, Burlington, Vermont (802-863-7992). June 5-11, prices vary. For six days, Burlington's downtown is filled with a unique mix of concerts, dances, street parties and workshops. A mix of world-renowned musicians, Vermont's finest artists and students from around the state participate in this "Living Legends/Modern Masters" event. Enjoy the music of Chucho Vlades Quintet, Herbin "Tamango" van Cayseele "Urban Tap," the Dave Douglas Sextet, the Elvin Jones Jazz Machine and Jeff "Twain" Watts and more.

Salem 17th Annual Seaport Festival
10 Liberty St., Salem, Mass. (978-744-0004). May 31. Enjoy a weekend of fun as more than 150 juried artisans and craftsmen display and sell their work, including oil paintings, fine jewelry, pottery, scarves, tapestry, quilts, baskets and more. Dance to live musical entertainment each day—from New England fiddle music and folk guitar to Celtic/classical compositions.

Southern N.H. Scottish Games and Celtic Music Festival
Oak Park, Greenfield, N.H. (603-464-9506). June 3, 9am, $7 adv, $8 at gates. Enjoy a full day of Celtic music, festivities and games as well as Scottish food, dancing, piping, storytelling and sheepdog and weaving demonstrations. The festivities include a children's tent, a solo and pipe band competition and a Women's Highland Heptathalon. Enjoy the music or try your hand at making Celtic knots and weaving.

WEST OF BOSTON

Art in the Park
DeCordova Museum, Lincoln, Mass. (781-259-8355). June 4, 10am-5pm, $6-$8. More than 100 New England artists showcawse their art, while you have the chance to meet and greet them in person. Enjoy live, music and art activities as you browse through the talent.

Higgins Faire
Higgins Armory Museum, 100 Barber Ave., Worcester, Mass. (508-853-6015). June 10, 10am-5pm, $6, $5 advance, free for children ages 5 and under. Enter the times of King Arthur for a day of swordplay and fencing demonstrations, a medieval fashion show, games, face painting, a magical wizard, jugglers and jesters. Take part in workshops on arms and armor, chain mail and forging, or dragon and unicorn mask making.

SOUTH OF BOSTON

Fleet Dinosaurs! A Journey to Extinction
Roger Williams Park Zoo, 1000 Elmwood Ave., Providence, R.I. (401-785-3510). Opened May 13. 9am. $3.50-$6. Gawk at the largest outdoor full-scale robotic dinosaur exhibit in the United States. See 22 large-as-life and terrifying prehistoric creatures hunt their prey and nurture their young, all in a prehistoric landscape. The exhibit includes a 48 foot high T. Rex, a Baryonyx and hands-on activities for kids.

Psychic Crafts Fair and Silent Auction
Bridgewater Fellowship Lodge, 39 Central Square, Bridgewater, Mass. (508-378-9650). June 3, 10am-4pm. This curious event is hosted by the Society of Elder Faiths, a pagan church. There will be plenty of fortune-tellers, magical wares and a silent auction (telepathic bids only). Proceeds go to the AIDS Action Committee.

CAPE & THE ISLANDS

22nd Annual Antiques Show and Sale
Heritage Plantation, 67 Grove St., Sandwich, Mass. (508-888-3300). June 4, 10am-4pm, $4.50-$9. Calling all collectors! View a variety of antiques, including period and country furniture, 18th and 19th century American paintings, Oriental rugs, early lighting, architectural garden elements, hearth items, primitives, folk art and more. Spend the day browsing pewter, copper and brass pieces as well as antique children's prints, dolls and toys.

Hyannis Harbour Festival
Bismore Park, Ocean St., Hyannis (508-775-2201). June 3-4. If you don't mind braving the traffic, this festival is worth the exhaust fumes on Route 3. Enjoy the

Roger Williams Park Zoo becomes a veritable Jurassic Park with the Fleet Dinosaurs exhibition.

blessing of the fleet, a boat race, entertainment, seafaring demonstrations, a kids fair, and pie-eating and clam-shucking contests.

NEWPORT

Great Chowder Cook-Off
Newport Yachting Center, Newport, R.I. (401-846-1600). June 3, 11am-6pm. $12. Kick off the summer season at the traditional National Chowder Championship. The cook-off features more than 25 restaurants competing for the coveted title of "Best Chowder in the Nation" in three categories: clam, seafood and creative. Chow down and enjoy live entertainment, culinary demonstrations and children's activities.

NEW YORK CITY

Taste of Tribeca
Duane Street, between Greenwich Street and Hudson Street, New York, N.Y. (212-925-8918). June 3, 11:30am-3pm. $30. Taste of Tribeca is a grand outdoor luncheon buffet benefit. In this annual spring tradition, 40 of Tribeca's finest restaurants and caterers prepare signature dishes. Diners stroll down charming Duane Street, stopping to sample sublime dishes prepared by Tribeca's chefs and delight in musical entertainment.

TORONTO

Mississauga International Children's Festival
Toronto, Canada (905-306-6000). June 7-10. Amazing performers from around the world celebrate children and the arts, with theater, music, puppetry and storytelling. The festival also includes an array of visual arts activities, workshops and a parade.

LONDON

Wimbledon-Lawn Tennis Championships
Wimbledon, Southwest London (0181-946-2244). Late June to early July. This exciting tournament that started in 1877 in Wimbledon has always drawn a socially prominent crowd.

ST. PETERSBURG

White Nights
St. Petersburg, Russia (212-758-1162). June and July. It's 3am in St. Petersburg on a warm night in June and instead of sleeping peacefully in their beds, the locals are strolling through the streets, drinking and dancing as if it were broad daylight. Well, in fact, it is. Twilight descends ever so briefly upon northern Russia in the midsummer months, and the locals celebrate. Experience Dostoyevsky's inspiration for *White Nights*.

VALAIS

Cow Fights
Valais, Switzerland (212-757-5944). June. Head to the Alpine meadows of Switzerland to watch the black Herens cows lock horns to determine who will be king of the cowdom.

mark your daytimer

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ray Charles is at FleetBoston Pavilion, July 7.

CITYSCOPE

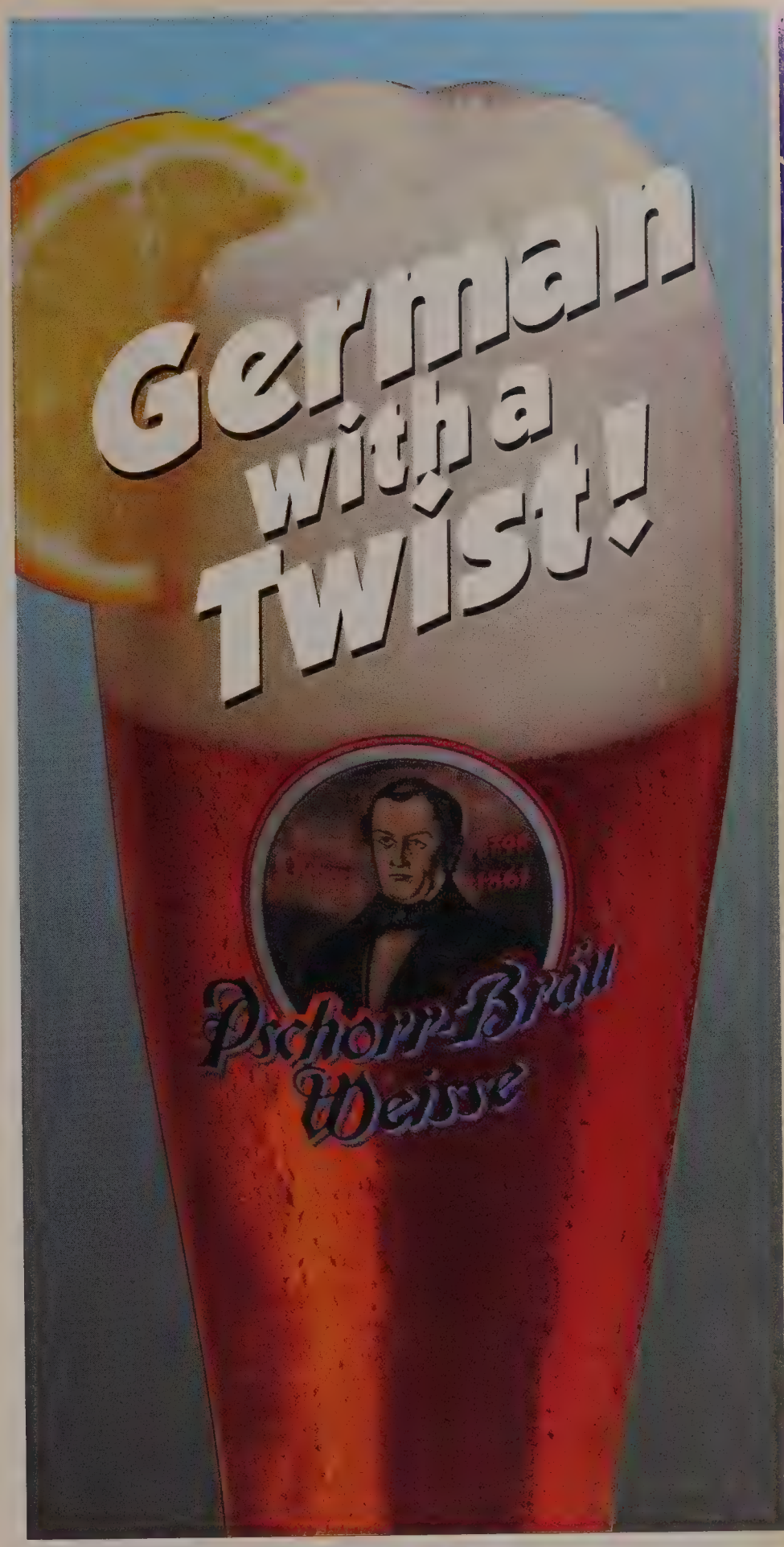
Dragon Boat Festival
June 18, Cambridge
Harborfest
June 28, City Hall Plaza
Sail Boston 2000
July 11, Boston Harbor

MUSIC

Sonic Youth and Stereolab
June 15, Avalon
Kool Keith
June 24, Middle East
Warped Tour
July 20, Suffolk Downs
Mötley Crue, Megadeath and Anthrax
August 9, Tweeter Center
Creed and 3 Doors Down
August 22, Tweeter Center
Smokey Robinson
August 24, FleetBoston Pavilion
Culture Club
Sept. 22, FleetBoston Pavilion

PERFORMING ARTS

Marcel Marceau
June 27, American Repertory Theatre
Shakespeare In the Park
July 21, Boston Common



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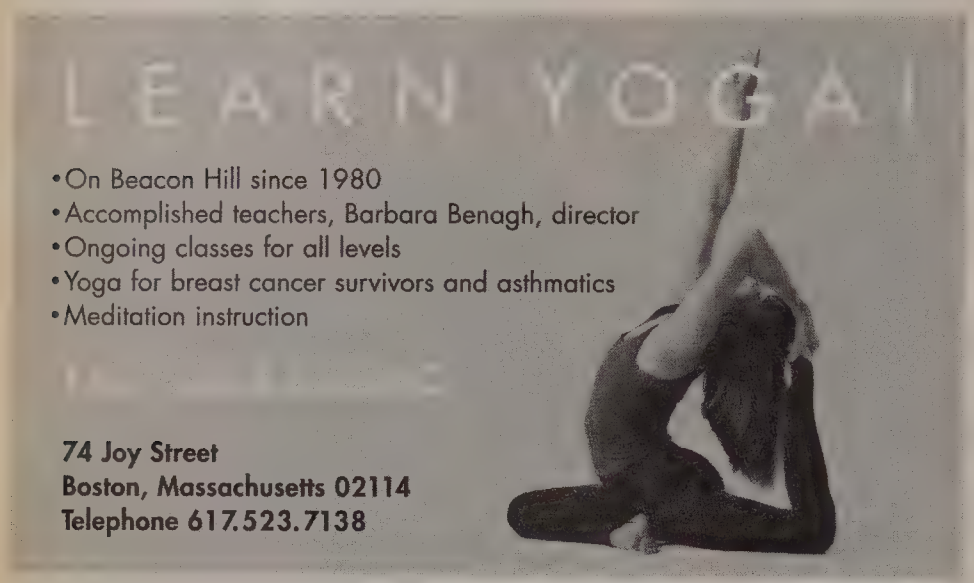

Improper Impersonals

If everyone kept their feelings bottled up like warm beer, we'd soon have antisocial behavior exploding all over the place and ruining the upholstery. That's why we have the Improper Impersonals, a column written by you, the reader. Send us your letters of love and spleen, and we'll print them for the world to see. Heck, it's better than making a fool of yourself in person. And IT'S FREE! Pick up a pen and tell that babe on the T you like his butt by writing to:

IMPROPER IMPERSONALS
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116
FAX: 859-1446 E-MAIL: impersonals@improper.com.
Recent correspondence follows.

Margaux
You have redefined love. I can't believe how great you are, and I can't believe how blessed I am to have you in my life. Although the challenges ahead are intimidating, knowing that you will be with me means that I will be happy no matter what happens. I am in love with you.
—Boo

To The Kitchen Club
Looking fly (Captain) Butter fly, yes to please you pleases me. Tattoos? mmm not...fleur-de-lis of yours, I've been.Tell me when.
—Michelle

To 99 Mike
Oh yeahhhhhhhhhhh we do. love. each other.Your rocket. My space. Read my lips. Mwah!
—Your fans

My Vampire Boyfriend
You drink me in. Your mist surrounds me. Your touch is perfection. You are evil and gentle. You possess my mind. Will you ever let me go? Or shall we dance this jaded love affair for eternity? You have complete power over me. I feel myself at your mercy. You leave me in complete fascination. My wonderful wonderful master, I will forever dazzle you. I am yours.
—Your sweet, gorgeous angel

To my boyfriend, Brendan
"Wake from your sleep, the drying of your tears, Today we escape, we escape." Peanut butter and Shredded Wheat at 3am, pink wigs, fun with Polaroid, spilt wine and small plastic pixies. Thank you for all the happiness you have brought me thus far. In case I forget to tell you later, I love you.
—Malia

I saw you briefly at the Museum of Fine Arts
on Friday, April 28 at around 9pm. You were walking in as I was leaving. I was in a light gray jacket and dark blue pants. You wore dark dress. You were probably going to MFA Fridays. You gave me the most beautiful smile I have ever seen. Unfortunately, I had a few glasses of red wine and couldn't react instantly. I can't stop thinking about you.
If you remember me and are interested, e-mail me at *lgcount@hotmail.com.*
—LG

Dear Chef Robert
No one loves you and your Wellington more than me. Nightly I dream of foie gras, lobster bisque and your sweet scowling face. You are my crabby amuse and I am your finnan haddie tart!
—Love, Sparkles

To Megan, the Traveling Girl...
I very much enjoyed our little conversation about traveling, Belmont, Vietnamese food, and beer, but I'm sorry I had to make you feel like you were being rushed along. I got up thinking that the next opportunity I get I was going to ask you to dinner... and then you didn't come back. Shame, that—I'd love to talk more about where you've been and what you've done. So, if you're not out there videotaping the world when this gets printed and you happen to see this message, give me a shout out right here or drop by again—I'd love to get together sometime.
—Brian (connorbd@yahoo.com)

To the babe-alicious perv punk boy
Whether we're hard at work or baring all for board games, being snooty wise-asses or mushballs, playing with records or flamingos, going upstairs or down, one thing's consistent—you're making me one happy goofball. And it's not so bad after all. Hope I can return the favor. So, um, wanna go steady? Okaybye.
—Superstar groupie girl

Out of sight but definitely in the mind
To R. Sometimes, you just want to get something off of your chest despite the inhibitions you carry with yourself. This is one of those things. R., I don't know where you stand on this, and I'm hoping that this is the right way to go about things. I feel partly enlivened since meeting you on Tremont Street. You're attractive, intelligent and like no one I've known before. Within the short span of time we've known each other, I think about you from time to time. You've even given me strength (without knowing it, I'm betting) to get myself out of a stagnant situation. This is a declaration of comradeship. The reason I'm taking this indirect route is because, I think it's probably the only way I could fully express these feelings. Even though I'm shipping off to New York by the time you read this, I couldn't hold it in for much longer. I'm attracted to you as a friend (with the possibility of more). I'm hoping you feel the same way and know that my hand stands outstretched for as long as you'll have it.
—Midwestern blue sunglasses

MFA Friday Night, May 5:
You: guy, short brown hair, glasses, around 5 feet, 8 inches, wearing a greenish shirt and khaki pants.
Me: girl, shoulder-length dark blond, about same height, reddish tie-dye shirt/skirt.
We fled the claustrophobic scene and looked at the tiara exhibit (among others), me about 20 ft behind you, too shy to speak. At Copley T, asked you for the time, we chatted a second, then you caught the D train. Would like to talk more! E-mail me at...
—hatshepsut4@hotmail.com

To Mass Wine Gal
I was sitting at the bar at the Barking Crab this past Friday and you were tasting your wines with the buyer. You offered my friend a sample, and I was the guy who grinned and said that you looked like Sharon Stone. I should have asked you out right there and then but didn't have the nerve. Are you out there??
—Cheers, John

To the Beautiful, Boston Pisces-Dragon
You just left this morning and I can still smell you on me. I don't want to take a shower. I'm realizing I'm feeling Real Love for the first time. What is Real Love? The wonderful mix of friendship and sexual connection, and your ability to open me like a book and see what's inside. Feel the love and let it sink into your skin.
—Love, The captivating T.O. Pisces-Dragon

Fenway Park
Sunday, May 7: You two: 2 YANKEES, YES YANKEES fans from CT...very cute, too. You also went to NU. Me: one of the guys sitting to your right. E-mail me please, we need continue our discussion about the whole NY/BOSTON thing :)
—goredsox2000@hotmail.com

To the Woman With A Quick Smile
Sunday, May 7. We talked furniture and country of origin, we talked of Blaxton and Bradford and the little girl standing next to him. You found me so quickly at the reception, we continued our conversation from a few hours earlier with the new information you had learned. Then you turned so quickly to get the food. I would like to talk again about Blaxton and Bradford and furniture and what else might come our way.
—saberlegchairs@mail.com

Rockie Horoscope

MAY 31 – JUNE 13, 2000

BY ROCKIE GARDINIER

These are not current forecasts. Rockie is on vacation, but she thought you would like to see how her predictions for the new millennium are unfolding. Do they bear any resemblance to your life as you know it?

GEMINI MAY 21-JUNE 20

Plotting Mercury's forward-backward course through 2000: Direct in early Capricorn until Feb. 21 when it turns retrograde in watery Pisces. Direct on March 14 until June 23, then retrograde in Cancer until July 17. (Figure that your Fourth of July holiday plans will be complicated, if not compromised.) Mercury moves ahead until Oct. 18 when it flips in mid-Scorpio; Halloween should be wonderfully creepy. On Nov. 7, Election Day, your ruling planet turns direct (9:28pm EST) by which time the polls will be closed, so if you wait until late, your vote will hardly matter.

CANCER

JUNE 21-JULY 22

Your moon ruler calls the shots, so both solar and lunar eclipses have special significance for you. Besides the first lunar eclipse on Jan. 21, there's a second one on July 16 visible in the West, Hawaii, Australia, etc. Partial solar eclipses (when the moon dominates the sun and Crabs lord it over Lions) occur on Feb. 5, (when the Chinese Lunar Year of the Dragon 4698 begins), July 1, July 31 and Dec. 25. Plan trips accordingly.

LEO

JULY 23-AUGUST 22

Read the Cancer forecast for a schedule of eclipses due this year. There are lots of partial solars that could knock your energy level down, especially the ones in February (new moon opposing your sun ruler) and July (new moon in Leo). And the total lunar eclipses are nothing to sneeze at either. You might want to take a peek. May is major, not only because of the Great Alignment (sun, moon and five planets within 26 degrees of each other), but because this unusual event takes place in your Taurus midheaven. That's where your stellar reputation is made.

VIRGO

AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

Read for Gemini. Then you'll know your Mercury ruler's retrograde periods, those three weeks three times a year when things go down the toilet and even Virgins don't function well. Mark the dates on your calendars (have two because you may misplace one during the first retrogression) and refer to them before making travel arrangements or crucial appointments. Since very little new stuff happens during Mercury retrograde, you could use those weeks to catch up with old friends or to revise (as in perfect) ideas you've already come up with.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

You may have been overcome by an intense desire, stunned by the depth of your passion while your Venus ruler merged with Pluto in late December—but for what? A thing of beauty that should be a joy forever? A principle that begs for your heartfelt defense? It's always difficult to predict what can happen when mysterious Pluto rises to the surface and reveals hidden motivation. Now, doesn't that sound interesting? To know the general tenor of the year, read every sign's forecast—that'll keep you informed and in tune with your dearly beloveds.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

Your slow-moving Pluto co-ruler advances a mere three degrees into Sagittarius and is retrograde from mid-March to mid-August, so not much changes on that front. Mars, your other ruler, barely makes it to Scorpio before the year is over. Figure that dynamic Martian energy will be felt most strongly when it opposes your sun while in Taurus (mid-March and April) and squares when in Leo (August to mid-September). Partnerships benefit, primarily financially, from having lucky Jupiter in Taurus (mid-February through June).

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

The main ingredient in the Great Alignment in Taurus is Jupiter's placement there. And it's Jupiter's conjunction with Saturn on May 28 that inaugurates a 20-year financial cycle. This aspect also accounts for the habit of US Presidents dying in office—the Lincoln (elected 1860) through JFK (1960) curse. Whether Reagan (1980), who was wounded, was a conscious Chief Executive is still in question. Think before you vote. Jupiter, your ruling planet, enters Gemini on June 30, flips as September ends and goes direct in Gemini early next year. Do I hear wedding bells?

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

If you loved the feeling you had on Jan. 1 when the Capricorn sun was favoring your Saturn ruler in Taurus, you should like the rest of the year. The rewarding trine relationship between two earth signs becomes even stronger during Virgo, the other earth sign. Consider putting all your eco-eggs in one basket to save the planet and the parcel you lay claim to. As jolly Jupiter joins Saturn in May, your focus may shift to children, an educated lover and really rich entertainers.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18

Your Uranus ruler continues on course, advancing from 14 degrees to almost 21 Aquarius this year. Neptune's progress is slower, from 3 to 6+ Aquarius. If you have planets on your natal chart close to these numbers, expect sudden, brilliant changes from rebellious Uranus and artistry, greater spirituality (psychic ability or spaciness too) from Neptune. Stay plugged into the ever-expanding Internet, experiment with something brand-new to you and work on your glamorous persona. Lucky at love on Jan. 12.

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19

Energetic Mars in Pisces bestows curiosity and courage until Feb. 11; go off on an adventure, if only in your mind. Venus drops in for a visit on March 13 and leaves on April 6, so if you want an active social life, plan your parties then. That's also the time aesthetic tastes and artistic talents thrive. Mercury flips in water signs this year; the messenger transits Pisces from Feb. 5, the Chinese New Year, to April 12. It will be retrograde from Feb. 21, Presidents' Day, until March 14.

ARIES

MARCH 20-APRIL 19

In the year 2000: Your Mars ruler opens in watery Pisces, so you'll be drinking with pals, playing guitar until Feb. 11. While Mars transits Aries until March 22, you'll focus on your body and intrinsic needs, like surgery. After Mars enters Taurus, it'll be money, honey; sensual awareness and sartorial splendor. Come May, Mars in gadabout Gemini packs your bags, sells your stuff, etc. Family-conscious Cancer brings you home for Father's Day. August is hot; Mars plays in Leo until the pristine Virgo vibe takes over in mid-September. Marriage-minded Libra sets in just before Election Day, and for Christmas, there'll be a sexy Scorpionic you.

TAURUS

APRIL 20-MAY 20

Since your Venus ruler transits all the signs, some twice, in the course of the year, starting with early Sag on Jan. 1 and ending in late Aquarius next New Year's Eve, you can pretty much expect the course of true love and real money—matters ruled by Venus— to run smoothly, albeit swiftly. However, in May when Venus is in Taurus (as are the sun, moon, Mercury, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn) major changes take place, new cycles begin. This is a big year for the Bull, even if it should turn bearish.

Curious about the future? Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30 to 40+ pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise over the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $42.50 per report to: ROCKIE GARDINER, 1021 N. Genesee, #1, West Hollywood, CA 90046. *www.rockiehoroscope.com.* Read my daily forecast online at *www.laweekly.com.*

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men seeking women

Baby blue eyes. Hi, this is Scott. I'm a single male, 29, 6'1", 220 lbs., with light brown hair, blue eyes and I reside north of Boston. I am seeking an attractive SWF who is HWP and between the ages of 20-31. Box 11189

Discreet encounters. Hi, my name is Mike. I'm a SWM, 18 and I reside 15 minutes west of Boston. I am interested in meeting some single females to hang out with and possibly more. Box 11194

Originally from New York. Hi, this is Aquarius. I'm an attractive single male, 5'11" with black curly hair and I'm Hispanic and Chinese. I'm a singer and a model and I attended Berkley College of Music. I'm looking for a single female who is interested in being friends first and hopefully more in the future. Box 11208

College student. Hello, this is Mitch. I'm an attractive SBM, 23, 5'8" and I attend school. I have a variety of interests such as music, sports and I'm looking for the same in a single female. Box 11195

Looking for a fun lady. Hi, I'm a single male and I'm looking for an exciting female who is fun loving and adventurous. Box 11216

No strings attached. Hi, I'm a physically fit SBM, 6', 165 lbs., and well groomed. I enjoy going out and having fun. I am looking for a no strings attached relationship with some fun loving single females. Box 11231

Intimate encounters. Hello, my name is Kevin. I'm a SBM, 27, 5'7" with a light complexion. I am looking for discreet, intimate meetings with exotic women. Box 11213

Handsome gentleman. Hello, this is Bryan. I'm a single male, 5'10", 160 lbs., with a medium build and a nice complexion. I am looking for a single female who is attractive, intelligent and sexy. Box 11233

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Live Chat
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Connect live, one on one with other singles on-line right now! Call 617-245-1004 and follow the easy to use prompts. There are exciting singles on line 24 hours a day!

TRY OUR LIVE CHAT You won't believe your ears!

women seeking men

Looking for an honest man. Hi, this is Tina. I'm a SBF, 27 and I'm a non-smoker and a light drinker. I have a great personality, and I'm open and honest. I am looking for a single male who is honest and knows how to treat a woman right. Box 11029

College student. Hello, my name is Sarah. I'm a single female, 19, tall with brown hair and hazel eyes. I am looking for a single male who is between 19-25. If you're older then 25, please do not apply. Box 11186

Friendship with possibly more. Hi, I'm a full figured SBF, 30 and I'm looking for a friend first relationship. I am interested in developing the friendship into dating and possibly more with the right man. Box 11229

Beautiful Hispanic female. Hello, I'm a single Hispanic female, 5'5", with long brown curly hair, brown eyes and a light complexion. I am looking a single male who is open-minded, honest and outgoing. I prefer a friend's first relationship and then more. Box 110275

Do you want to hang out? Hi, this is Shannon. I'm a single female, 23, 5'7", 125 lbs., with dark brown hair, brown eyes and I reside in the Northshore area. I'm looking to meet people around my age to hang out with. Box 11279.

Outdoor male wanted. Hello, this is Angel. I'm a single female, 20, 5'5", with black hair, brown eyes and light complexion. I consider myself fun and I'm willing try anything once and twice if it's fun. I'm looking for a single male who is fun, outgoing and enjoys outdoor activities. Box 11360

Professional female. Hi, my name is Kathy. I'm a single professional female, 45, 5'6", HWP and physically fit. I am a single parent and I have a variety of interests. I am looking for a single male who wants companionship and friendship. Box 11378.

Looking to add a little spice in my life. Hello, I'm a single female, 21, 5'6", 160 lbs., with long black hair and brown eyes. I enjoy concerts, walks on the beach and clubbing and I have a variety of tastes in music. I am looking for a single guy with common interests or someone different to add some spice to my life. Box 11416

Long-term relationship. Hi, I'm an attractive single female, 30ish, 5'5", 105 lbs., with long jet-black hair and brown eyes. I am looking for an attractive single male who is intelligent, romantic and interested in commitment. I am interested in a friendship first relationship and I find men with dark hair an especially attractive. Box 14147

Curvaceous figure. Hello, I'm an attractive single female, 37, 5'4" with a curvaceous full figure. I reside in the Southshore area and I'm drug and disease free. I am looking for a single male who is tall, intelligent and financially secure. Box 27335

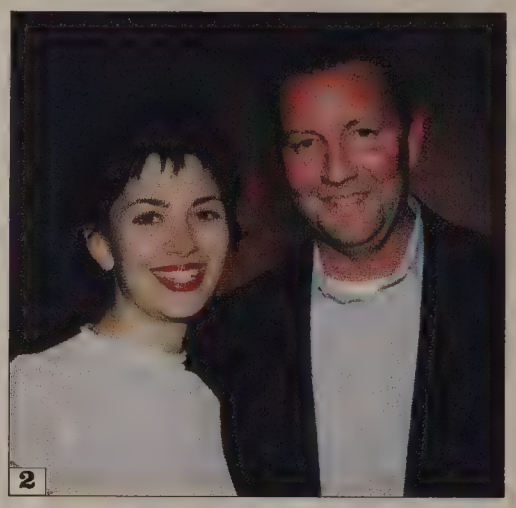
Visit Nightline on the web at www.nightlinepersonals.com and check out more local ads!

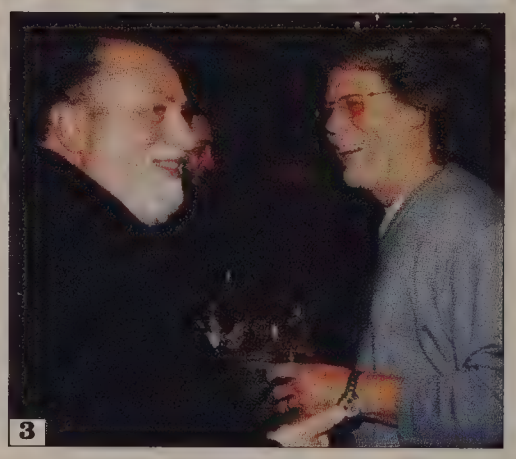
The Nightline service does not prescreen callers and assumes no responsibility for personal meetings. Callers must be 18 or over. Toll charges may apply. Optional paid services. Call for details.

improperazzi

The Improper Bostonian's client-related promotions and events

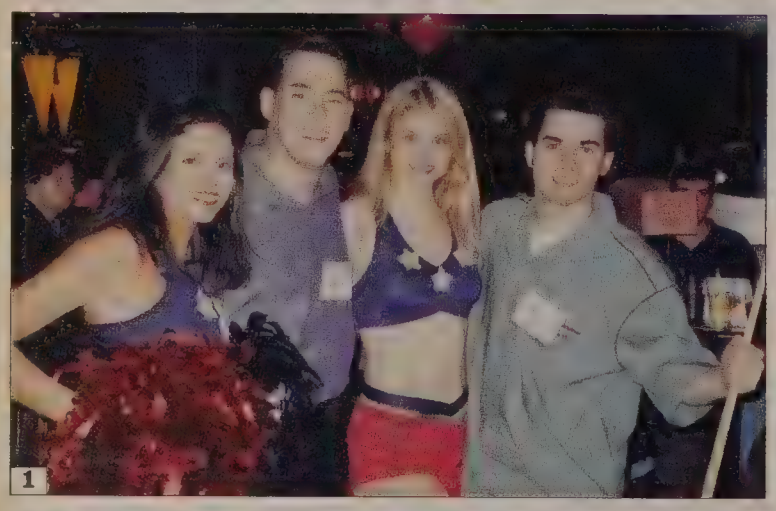
Joey Grill, president of **Click International** and **Click Models of Boston** hosted an intimate gathering of advertising agency executives, fashion photographers and retailers on April 27 at **Aujourd'hui, Le Matin** at **The Four Seasons Hotel**, in celebration of their one year anniversary. Grill's recent opening of a Boston office (formerly Models Inc.) introduces Boston as a major player in the worldwide modeling industry.





1. **Nancy Conaty, Lisa Elliott, Karen Brooks** all of Hill Holliday and **Carolyn Ross**, photographer.
2. **Jenna Adams**, assistant director of Click Boston, **George Pessotti**, Fashion Studio Director of Filene's.
3. **Bobby Dimarzo**, photographer, **Thom McCarthy**, creative director at Holland, Mark, Edmound, & Ingalls.
4. **Ron Lawner**, CCO Arnold Communications, **Suzy Marden**, Director of Click Boston, **Joey Grill**, President of Click International.

On Tuesday, May 9, the **Red Cross Rack 'n Roll** event took place at **The Rack** to benefit the local disaster relief fund of the **American Red Cross of Massachusetts Bay**. This event was sponsored by **Boston Ski & Sports Club**, with live music by the **Catunes**.



1. New England Patriots cheerleaders **Doni Akers** and **Stephanie Hammond** with Kiss 108 joc and assistant music director **Skip Kelly** and **Randy**, morning show personality.
2. **Matt Hollister**, volunteer co-chair of American Red Cross & Special Risk of New England, **April Thibeault**-Miss Massachusetts and **Mary Halpin** of American Red Cross of Mass. Bay.
3. **David Nahabedian**, Integrated Partners Corporation along with **Vasken Babigian** of Law Offices of K.Vasken Babigian.
4. Boston Bruins legend **Rick Middleton** with **Jay Severin**, on air personality 96.9.

On Thursday, May 11, the infamous Rick Rockwell a.k.a. "Why You Should Marry a Poor Man" performed at the **Comedy Connection**. He was actually pretty funny. For those of you who don't remember, he was the multi-millionaire on Fox T.V.'s "Who Wants to Marry a Multi-Millionaire?" show. He ended up marrying and divorcing Darva Conger quicker than you can say "I do, but wish I didn't".

1. Flat of the Hill owner **Katherine Morse,** manager North American Customer Service for Lotus, **Kristina McKay**, Designer for Don Pedro Design of Costa Rica, **Courtney Dargie**, Multi-Millionaire, **Rick Rockwell**, Director of Communications, FreeStateLotto.com, **Susan Frigoletto** and **Alison Dargie**, senior account executive for PreVision Marketing

PHOTOS: WENDY SEMONIAN (THE RACK, COMEDY CONNECTION)

BARS, CLUBS, RESTAURANTS & BRUNCH

The following are paid advertisements. Please check times and prices in advance. If you'd like to have your restaurant listed, please call The Improper Bostonian Advertising Dept. at 859-1400.

BARS

Billiards

Boston Billiard Club
126 Brookline Ave., 536-POOL. Ranked #1 in the country by Billiards Digest. Free lessons on Mon., 7:30 pm - 9 pm. Boston Billiard Club House Leagues on Mon. and Tues. "In The Biz" night on Sun. and Mon. for patrons in the hospitality industry. Ladies' night on Wed. Featuring a menu of light fare such as grilled chicken sandwiches and appetizers, along with beer, wine, cocktails and a variety of non-alcoholic beverages.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, The Allstonians and Beat Soup.

Brew Pubs

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Company
138 Portland St., Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is now the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, a block from the FleetCenter and steps from Faneuil Hall, Commonwealth Fish & Beer features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

General

BARCODE
Enjoy the intimate, windowed dining room or a signature cocktail in the lounge. BARCODE offers a creative martini selection, a balanced and affordable wine list and both bottled and draft beer. Drinks are available until 2 am daily, food served until 1 am.

Dick's Last Resort
55 Huntington Ave., Prudential Center, Boston, 267-8080. www.dickslastresort. com. Dick's has live music 7 nights a week, no cover, no dress code and certainly no class. They have 74 kinds of beer for the novice or serious/ sudsman, or a full bar for the hard core. Dick's also is a restaurant of sorts with buckets of ribs, shrimp, lobster, chicken, catfish and crab legs. This is the place your Mama warned you about. Free parking after 5pm, cheap til 5 with validation.

The Good Life
Uptown - 99 St. Botolph St., 266-3030; Downtown - 28 Kingston St., 451-2622. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1999 Boston's Best Martini award. The Good Life is a retro lounge that Frank Dean and Sammy would have hung at. Big Drinks, Great American Comfort Food, Hot Jazz and Plenty of Boy Meets Girl. Never a cover, always a good time.

The Good Life In Swingin' Central Square
720 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, 617-868-8800, The winner of The Improper Bostonian's Best Martini Award 1999. Frank, Dean, and Sammy have a new hangout across the river. So should you. Come experience the power of three. Classic cocktails, great American comfort food, and Boston's Best Live Jazz. Never a cover, always a good time.

Harvard Gardens
316 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114, 617-523-2727. A wonderfully relaxed haven located opposite MGH on the back side of Beacon Hill. Serving the finest cocktails and most comfortable food in town. Plant yourself in a comfy booth, a cozy banquette, or at our fully loaded bar and escape from your everyday troubles. Doing it nice & easy 7 days a week - 11am-2am.

Pravda 116
116 Boylston St., 617-482-7799. Located in the heart of Boston's theater district. Pravda offers one of Boston's hottest night clubs, and extraordinary cuisine as well. Pravda boasts the longest bar in Boston, featuring a center ice surface to keep your cocktail cool. If sitting at the bar is not your forte, enjoy a meal at a private table in the dining room or in a plush, secluded booth. Chef Chris Parsons prepares exquisite dishes with the latest seasonal ingredients. Satisfied your hunger? Then feed your crave to rave in Pravda's newly remodeled dance club. DJ's spin high-energy dance music, create an ambiance that radiates with energy. Rest. Hrs: Tues&Wed 5:30-10:30pm, Thurs-Sat 5:30-11pm; Club Hrs: Thurs-Sat 10pm-2am.

Sweetwater Cafe
3 Boylston Place, 351-2515. A classic American bar featuring Boston's best bands and DJ's nightly. A favorite Boston bar for 15 years with two floors of entertainment, an outdoor patio and world class margaritas. Always great music and cold beer, never a dress code. Available for private functions of any kind. (Credit cards: Am Ex, Visa, MC, Diner's) Tues. - Sat. 5 pm - 2 am. Located in "The Alley."

The Big Easy Bar
1 Boylston Place, Boston, 351-7000. Informal. Located in Boston's version of Bourbon Street, "The Alley." The Big Easy Bar is a hot new New Orleans style bar featuring Boston's best live bands and disc jockeys nightly playing music you know and love. Relax in a lounge, listen to the band, play billiards, hang at the bar or dance the night away. The Big Easy Bar has something fun for everyone. Great beer selection, 22 oz. Hurricanes, 4 huge bars, 2 lounges, a balcony, plenty of seating, and a large dance floor. Wed. - Sat. 8 pm - 2 am. Major credit cards accepted. Valet parking available.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, The Allstonians and Beat Soup.

The Sugar Shack
1 Boylston Place, 351-2510. "Home of Boston's Best Party." Set in the middle of a mini-Bourbon Street, The Sugar Shack celebrates Mardi-Gras year-round with a carefree, reckless, spontaneous and unpretentious attitude. Carnival lights, confetti, beads, specialty drinks, live bands and Disc Jockeys playing classics, motown, R&B, funk, disco, and old school hip hop from the last three decades mixed with the best of today's top 40. Home of young professional, young alumni, 20 something hipsters who desire cold beer, cocktails, classic party tunes and unadulterated fun!!

Wine Bars

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar
105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-0966. The hip meeting spot in the Financial District for after work, dinner, late night, or a seductive tryst. The Vault offers some of the most exclusive wines in Boston, which complement the creative American Cuisine prepared by Chef Rebecca Esty. Can't decide on a wine? Relax and compare with our Tasting Flights featuring selections from different reds and whites. So what are you waiting for? Call an old friend, a client, or a co-worker and meet for cocktails at The Vault today.

RESTAURANTS

Back Bay Brewing Company
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center.
$7-$18. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Bi-level restaurant/ brewery offers an inspirational pairing of Chef Michael Burgess's innovative cuisine and Tod Mott's hand-crafted ales and lagers. Upbeat first floor bar and café, second floor dining room and bar with comfortable couches and overstuffed chairs. Sunday Buffet Brunch 11am - 3pm, $14.95. Mon. - Sun. 11:30am - 1am.

BARCODE
BARCODE offers creative food and drink with a truly unique, casual style and atmosphere. Simple yet exotic and flavorful, Executive Chef George Leu's menu features a variety of French bistro fare touched with Asian influences. Lunch weekdays 11:30 am - 4:30 pm, dinner daily 5 pm - 1 am, brunch Sat & Sun 11:30 am - 4 pm

Cactus Club
939 Boylston St., 236-0200. Get a taste of the Southwest in Boston. Specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, Cajun Catfish. Save 1/2 off entire menu Mon. - Fri., 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm in the bar. Sample the firewater menu while you are there, including Coyote Killer (Light and dark rum, peach schnapps, ginger beer and mixed juices), or a Chambord Margarita. The daring may go for a dip in the Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Amex, Diners Club, MC and Visa.

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Company
138 Portland Street, Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, near the Fleet Center and Faneuil Hall, Commonwealth features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

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Jillian's Boston
Behind Fenway Park, 437-0300. Upscale 70,000 Sq. ft. megaplex of interactive entertainment. Play breakthrough interactive communication games, participate in a live game show & watch a giant video wall while dining on innovative American cuisine at Atlas Grill on Jillian's new 1st floor. Jillian's offers motion simulator rides, more than 250 cutting edge electronic & virtual reality games, 50 billiard tables, table tennis, & "just for fun" black jack. Five full bars & 50 TVs that broadcast sporting events. Great for late night dining & private parties 25-3000. Open Daily.

Kashmir
279 Newbury St., Boston, 536-1695. Kashmir has been raising the bar of Indian restaurants in quality, style and service since it opened. Its Best of Boston, Boston's Best and Readers' Choice awards are a result of great execution. Indoors in three elegantly styled dining rooms and outdoors on the best people watching corner in town, Kashmir serves the finest Tandoori and curry dishes and most imaginative specials and the best lunch and brunch buffet in town. Wine and beer are available as well as takeout, delivery, private parties and catering.

Ma Soba Asian Cuisine & Sushi
156 Cambridge Street on Beacon Hill, Boston, 973-6680. Enjoy premium sushi and Ma Soba's unique blend of contemporary and traditional Asian cuisine prepared by award-winning chefs. Relax with a fine wine selection from Ma Soba's comprehensive wine cellar in a setting described as "strikingly attractive and ultra urbane" by the Boston Herald. Open daily: Sun-Wed until 10:30pm, Thurs-Sat until 11:00pm. When in Harvard Square/ Cambridge, visit Ma Soba Express at 30 Dunster Street for quick-service pan Asian noodles and rice platters.

Shenandoah Restaurant, Marketplace Cafe, Brewskellar Pub
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston 227-1272. Located in the North Market Building of Faneuil Hall, Shenandoah Restaurant, The Marketplace Cafe, and Brewskellar Pub have something for everyone. Whether you're interested in a casual dinner on one of Boston's largest outdoor patios or the quiet more elegant surroundings of Shenandoah Restaurant, we offer it all. Having a function? We cater personally to all events you may be planning. Visit us soon and let us surprise you.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve both lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar
105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-9966. A wonderful secret hidden in Boston's Financial District. The Vault offers contemporary American cuisine and an extensive and exclusive affordable wine list. Come in and enjoy our new spring menu, including an expanded raw bar, Maine crab cakes, seared tuna and much more. Lunch Mon. - Fri. from 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Dinner Mon. - Wed. from 5:30 - 10:30 pm, Thurs. - Sat. from 5:30 - 11 pm. Closed Sun.

Venezia
Venezia Restaurant & Function facility. Boston's "hidden jewel" offers romantic and intimate waterfront dining, spectacular views of the Boston skyline. European casual elegance and a unique blend of northern Italian and Mediterranean cuisine. Live entertainment and dancing in our lounge on weekends. Just off of Neponset Circle, open for lunch Mon. - Fri.; dinner every night. Call for daily specials and information 617-436-3120

The Wrap & Smoothie Bar
137 Mass Ave., Boston (at Berklee School of Music), 369-9087; 71 Mt. Auburn St., Harvard Square, 354-5838; 1940 Beacon St., Cleveland Circle, - 739-0340; 82 Water St., Financial District, 357-9013. The Wrap serves delicious, freshly prepared wraps, burritos and salads as well as healthy and refreshing smoothies. Voted Boston's Best 1998 & 1999 by The Improper Bostonian. Fresh ingredients, great taste, healthy options - words we live by!

BRUNCH

Anago
65 Exeter Street, Boston, 266-6222. Anago, in the historic Lenox Hotel, presents a live Sunday Brunch from 11-2pm, prepared by Boston's whiz kid chef, Jamie "Shaky" Liberge, featuring a sumptuous buffet of appetizers with exquisite freshly baked desserts and breads created by award winning pastry chef, Lee Napoli, to accompany your choice of exceptional entree selections. Reservations are recommended.

Back Bay Brewing Company
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Featuring Chef Michael Burgess's Neo-Continental selections, including Eggs Benedict with Canadian bacon & herbed hollandaise, blueberry pancakes with almond maple syrup, omelet station, French toast, roasted meat carving station, house smoked salmon, and assorted desserts. Sunday Brunch Buffet 11 am - 3 pm. $14.95

BARCODE
Creative brunch with a truly unique, casual style and atmosphere. George Leu's almost-traditional brunch is sure to please all, with selections ranging from homemade granola with yogurt and fruit to Eggs Benedict to BARCODE French-Asian specials. Served Sat & Sun 11:30 am - 4 pm

Dick's Last Resort
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Sports

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Nelson Aquino of the South End and Squire Paige of Everett take a break from backpacking through Asia to share the film issue over scenic Taal Volcano in Tagatay, Philippines.

Flight attendant buddies Diane Tarantino, Robin Hendricks, Cindi Wicker and Deborah Bradshaw get grounded by perusing through an IMPROPER while cleaning their pores with mud masks.

Newtonville's own J. Fernando Corredor takes a Hefeweisen break to pose with some friends in front of the festivities at the Oktoberfest celebration in Munich.

Reading their fave magazine under the Natural Bridge in Aruba, Dutch Antilles are Judy and Chip Manning, Peggy and John Cummings, Bill Emmott, and Joanne and Terrence McAteer.

Tom Murphy, Andy Wysocki, Bill Sanderson (in the shadow) and Dave Horton pose with street performers on Fisherman's Wharf during a recent trip to San Francisco.

Michelle Sweet takes a break from hard-core relaxing while kicking back on a Caribbean cruise aboard the Carnival ship *Fascination* to read about yoga guru Baron Baptiste.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:

Re-enacting the moment King Arthur plucked the sword from the stone at Worcester's Higgins Faire, a day of medieval knightings, swordplay and wizardry.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116.
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Last Scene Here BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Lights, Camera, Party....

The glitz! The glamour! The sheer, unadulterated fabulousness of it all!

The American Repertory Theater's annual black-tie hoo-ha, held at the **Four Seasons**, gave guests a heaping helping of Hollywood with special guest appearances by homeboys-gone-supernova **Ben Affleck** and **Matt Damon**, a side order of **Gwyneth Paltrow** (looking lovely in a pale green dress) and, as a garnish, future Oscar winners **Casey Affleck** (the little brother with the big talent) and **Joaquin Phoenix** (whose star turn as Commodus, in the blockbuster hit *Gladiator,* opened that very evening).

Among the local celebs on-hand: latter day Dashiell Hammet **Robert B. Parker** and his stunning spouse, **Joan**, the patron saint of litigiousness, **Alan Dershowitz**, NFL Napoleon **Bob Kraft** and the Empress **Myra**, broadcasting gazillionaires **Ed Ansin** (with dashing tie designer **Tony Corey**) and **Richie Balsbaugh** (with the babe-a-licious **Maureen**), Harvard poobah **Henry Rosovsky** (whose name adorns one of those ivy-clad buildings in Cambridge), ART artistic director **Bob Brustein**, quintessential Cambridge couple **Jan** and **Jeremy Geidt**, theater panjandrum **Don Sturdy**, swanlike socialite **Vivian Spiro**, architect and philanthropist **Graham Gund** and the ever-stylish **Ann** (sporting a super-cool silver necklace-y thing), event chair and fashion plate **Gwenn Cohen**, board member **Barbara Lee** (who videotaped mazel tovs from the stars for her son's bar mitzvah), and one woman who confided that her decollatage was courtesy of a "Waterbra" from Frederick's of Hollywood.

Following cocktails and flashbulbs, there was dinner and drama—with Damon and the Afflecks performing snippets from new plays by David Mamet and Christopher Durang. Then it was time for the live auction, during which the actors heckled high-rollers into bidding unheard-of sums on items like a poolside lunch with them at the Four Seasons in Beverly Hills.

All in all, a glittery evening, and one I wouldn't have missed for anything...except maybe to go to the movies.

At the American Repertory Theater's annual black-tie party at the Four Seasons, clockwise from top: Gwyneth Paltrow, Casey Affleck and Joaquin Phoenix; Vivian Spiro and Ann Gund; Bob Brustein, Bob Kraft and Jean Beinart; Ben Affleck and Matt Damon.

101 Things to Do with Spaghetti...

As always, everything at **Edible Art** looked too good to eat.

The annual fundraiser for the **Art Institute of Boston**, held at **Shreve Crump and Low**, calls on chefs from the city's top restaurants to interpret famous works of art using food.

To that end, Mistral copied the Rodin sculpture *The Kiss* in chocolate, while Bomboa re-created Rodin's *Gates of Hell* in pâté, 29 Newbury Street mimicked a Vasarely painting with Jell-o shots and Aujourd'hui did a psychedelic Peter Max, 1960s fantasy, complete with a continuous video loop from the Beatles' *Yellow Submarine* and restaurant staff dressed in Sergeant Pepper garb. However, top honors went to Radius, which presented a tableaux of dogs playing poker using chocolate cards and chips, with **Chris Myers** and Co. dressed as canines and a real bulldog slobbering nearby.

At the Edible Art fundraiser: Bernie and the pasta loincloth (above) and Tony Ambrose (below).

Among the attendees and participants: Aerosmith bassist **Tom Hamilton** and his arts-patron wife, **Terry**, honorary chair and professional wino **Bob Rubin**, the Copley Society's **Susan Ritchay**, Kiss 108 heartthrob **Billy Costa**, AIB overseer **Lynne Kortenhaus**, the AIB's big Kahuna, **Stan Trecker**, studly celebrity chef **Tony Ambrose**, stunning restaurateur **Michaela Larson**, gentilhomme **Jamie Mammano**, and so on and so forth through the Who's Who of Boston Foodies and Socialites.

One of the evening's most entertaining sights: the look on the face of judge **Anne Hawley**, director of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, when she stumbled upon L'Espalier's entry—an empty picture frame representing the museum's missing Vermeer.

Even more provocative, however, was the recreation of Michelangelo's *David* cooked up by Galleria Italiana's **Marissa Iocco** and **Rita D'Angelo**. Featuring an adonis named **Bernie**, painted bronze from head-to-toe and wearing nothing but a G-string, it provoked salacious stares and the following humorous exchange:

"Well, that's nice and all, but what part of it is edible?"

In response, Bernie glanced down at his crotch, making the person blush fiercely and say, "Very funny."

"I meant the loincloth," Bernie said. "It's made out of pasta."

Better Homes and Galas....

Imagine a giant beehive of interior designers, all buzzing about wall coverings and window treatments. Add the city's most prominent business, civic and social leaders. Throw in cocktails, music and several scrumptious buffets, and you have the **Boston Design Center**'s Spring Gala to benefit the **Boys and Girls Clubs**.

Present and accounted for: furniture peddler **Rick Garofalo** of Repertoire, office supplies mogul **Tom Stemberg** and wife **Dola**, decorating duo **Chris Drake** and **Lee Bierly**, the ethereal **Fotene Demoulas**, junior socialites **Peter** and **Emily Webster**, brunette bombshell **Allison Neder** and **Edward Johnson**, his sister, **Abby** (heir apparent of Fidelity Investments), Kennedy School bigwig **Ira Jackson**, and the toothsome twosome of **Kristin Linskey** and **Betsy Daubney**, decked out in earrings made from fabric samples and matching shawls.

There was no lack of dining room tables in the furniture showrooms, except that you couldn't put anything down on them, while the evening's most amusing comment, overheard in the crowd, was: "If I spill my wine on it, can I get it at cost?" iB

At the Boston Design Center's Spring Gala from top: Betsy Daubney and Kristin Linskey; Nora Cappellano and Fotene Demoulas; Rick Garofalo.

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That is why we're here, in this space, in this publication: to share with you in the coming months the changes that have taken place, and the things Philip Morris USA is doing to address tobacco-related issues.

TOBACCO TODAY
one in a series

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Our purpose is not to debate, but instead to open a dialogue. For instance, we want to help address the problem of underage smoking and the issue of cigarette smoke in public places.

We believe we have a role to play as society addresses tobacco-related issues, and we'd like to let you know what our company is doing.

One thing is clear: the changes brought about by the Master Settlement Agreement—as well as other initiatives we are undertaking that go beyond the agreement—provide us with an opportunity to move forward and resolve tobacco-related issues.

We believe opening this dialogue will help bring us more in accord with public expectations of a responsible company in a changing world. For more information, visit our Web site at www.philipmorrisusa.com. If you don't have Internet access, please call 1-877-PMUSAWEB.

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN®
STON'S ANGST-RIDDEN GUIDE TO ENTERTAINMENT AND CULTURE

Juliana Hatfield

The two sides of a melody maker

BY JONATHAN SOROFF AND
AUL ROBICHEAU

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IN FERMENTUM VERITAS

ANNO 1366

STELLA ARTOIS

LEUVEN BELGIUM

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE

letters

SUMMER SLAMS

First off, I'd like to know how Britt Carpenter can be described as "extraordinarily talented" based on what appears to be a simple, straight-on semi-full of a pretty woman, set against what looks like a blue curtain (albeit a quasi-professionally lit curtain with some visible shadow).

It doesn't look like he "pulled together" any of the elements he lists in his posturing little ego blurb, rather that he pulled together the elements of: landing a cool assignment, getting the mag to budget him a model and getting the not-very-interesting photo handed in on time. Very average work. Extra-ordinarily lucky.

Now on to the Soroff column which utterly ignored (or simply did not know about) the gorgeous stretches of beach on the North shore. From White's beach and West beach, to Wingaersheek and Good Harbor, it is clear that Soroff can only find what his assistants point him toward. He missed about a third of Massachussetts' best coastline. Amateur. I understand that your magazine is free, and I appreciate the distraction while on the Green Line. But complimentary should indicate the price, not the quality of your publication. Hire some real journalists, or get Soroff a better research staff. Just trying to help.

LEE ROTHSTEIN
West Roxbury

Editor's response: Soroff's article was not intended to be a summary of local beaches. Refer to the "Reach the Beach" article on page 30.

RE: NAKED MEN

I picked up and read my first issue of the IMPROPER BOSTONIAN and read Ezra's article about the locker room behavior at gyms. I have to give Ezra kudos for addressing this issue. I am faced with this similar situation daily, and it sickens me that as a paying member of a predominently wealthy club, I have to witness the type of behavior Ezra describes to a tee. It just goes to show that, in general, people behave like a bunch of filthy animals in public and have absolutely no consideration about the other people around them. In addition, the article may provide me with the motivation to object to such behavior publically, because now I know that I am not the only one who has these thoughts. I hope that the IMPROPER will continue to expose the type of nonsense I put up with regualrly. I look forward to reading future issues.

JIM BALLAM
Acton

How can Britt Carpenter be described as "extraordinarily talented" based on what appears to be a simple, straight-on semi-full of a pretty woman, set against what looks like a blue curtain?

—Lee Rothstein
West Roxbury

I read your article regarding naked men at the gym and I can relate to what you are saying. I go to an all-female gym four times a week before work and the women in the morning all walk around in the buff. The best is when they want to strike up a conversation with you—while totally naked! I am glad that someone else feels the same why I do. Cover up; not everybody wants to see your hoo-hoo or in your case, hoo-hoo-dilly.

SUSAN FIDLER
Via email

CORRECTIONS

The photo for I Kissed-Rip Rock! on page 58 of the Summer Dining issue should have been credited to David Chick.

The photo of pianist David Deveau on page 70 of the Summer Dining issue should have been credited to Justin A. Knight.

Tell Us What You Think

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MICHAEL INDRESANO

Michael Indresano is an award-winning photographer based in Boston who specializes in both people and products. Recent subjects have included Nomar Garciaparra, Lawyer Malloy, Mo Vaughn and a host of other celebrated athletes and personalities. He is currently expanding his business to include a new facility devoted to digital photography.

STEPHANIE SCHOROW

Stephanie Schorow is assistant lifestyles editor of the *Boston Herald*; previously she worked for the Associated Press in Boston and the *TAB* newspaper chain. Her interest in the case of Sacco and Vanzetti was sparked at age 10 when she read *Boston*, Upton Sinclair's novel that is based on the case. Also, as a kid, she and her parents camped in the shadow of Mount Rushmore.

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IMPROPERSPEAKING

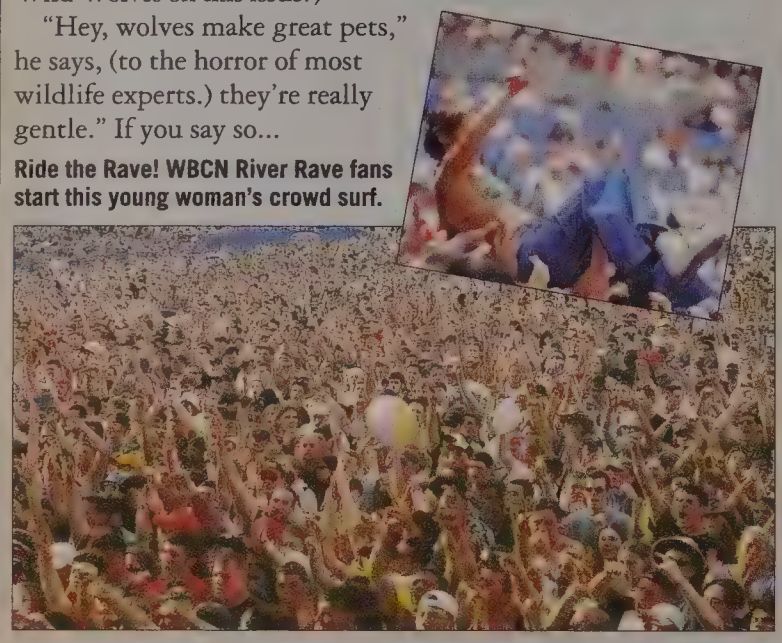
BY RICHARD MANNING

THE CALL OF THE WILD

WBCN program director **Oedipus** was full of scorn for what he called the "hypocritical proper Bostonians" who raised a fuss over a lot of young women raising a lot more than a fuss—in fact, their shirts as well—at WBCN's "River Rave" over the long Memorial Day Weekend. "I mean what's the big deal about a bunch of girls bearing their breasts?" Oedipus confided to THE IMPROPER. "This is the 21st century for crying out loud. I mean wake up, Boston. Woodstock was over 30 years ago."

Meanwhile, Oedipus has decided to get far from the maddening crowds by going salmon fishing in Alaska for two weeks. While in the land of the tooth and fang, Oedipus will also be picking up his second baby wolf pup to raise at his place in woody and oh-so-suburban Dover. This is his second; the first was recently called to the great wolf den in the sky. (Where are the Dover Mothers Against Wild Wolves on this issue?)

"Hey, wolves make great pets," he says, (to the horror of most wildlife experts.) they're really gentle." If you say so...



Ride the Rave! WBCN River Rave fans start this young woman's crowd surf.

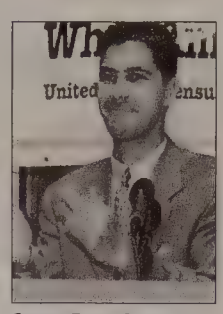
REBUILDING YEAR

As this space reported at the end of last month, the Health and Science department at the ***Boston Globe*** took a serious hit when it was announced that 31-year veteran medical reporter **Richard Knox** was leaving to go to work for National Public Radio. The section sustained another blow at the same time when health columnist **Judy Foreman** let it be known that she was taking the entire summer off "to play." She says she—and her column—will return in September, but news around the newsroom is that with one foot out the door already, she may not return.

That means it's time to find new team captains to lead the popular section. For the paper of record, the challenge is not only finding new talent to replace those lured away in the red-hot economy, but also reporters with perspective. (Meanwhile, the Business pages are growing leaps and bounds. Look for lots of new hires to cover the New Economy.)

LIVING THE VIDA LOCA

Even more curious than the alleged all-night legislative drunkfests at the State House is the newest class for State House aides. (No, it's not Babysitting 101.) It's Salsa! These days, if you can't salsa, you can forget about looking like you are in touch with the voters. So State Rep. **Jarrett Barrios** (D-Cambridge) hosts weekly lessons in Hearing Room 1A. More than 50 staffers show up some nights to learn the 1-2-3's of salsa from a dance instructor with Cambridge connections. The image of most elected officials moving to Latin music is not a pleasant one. But this is a reminder to all those white guys on the hill: If **Ricky Martin** can do it, so can you!



State Rep. Jarrett Barrios: Salsa for the masses

OUT FOR THE COUNT

Much was made last month of Harvard University's president **Neil Rudenstine**'s decision to quit his job after only 10 years of service. After all, Rudenstine's predecessor, Derek Bok, was on the job for twenty years, and Bok's predecessor, Nathan Pusey, held the chair for sixteen.

We'd like to point out that it's quality, not quantity that counts, and Rudenstine worked himself so hard during his first three years on the job that he collapsed, literally, on the job. And he made the university's endowment grow faster than purple lustrife in August.

Besides, popularity counts.

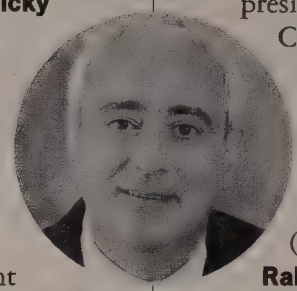
When the thinly-admired Pusey announced in 1969 that he was leaving Harvard to go run the Mellon Foundation, the headline in the next day's Harvard Crimson read "Pusey Named Mellon Head."

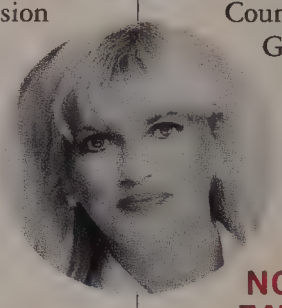
BIG NAMES AND BIG BUCKS FOR FREE CARE

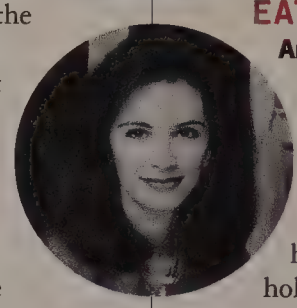
Too bad if you missed it, but the place to be last Saturday night was the Marriott Hotel in Copley Place for the Fourth Annual fund raising Gala to benefit Boston Medical Center.

Why bother to mention it? For good reason. This city has only slightly more hospitals than churches, and a number of them give away medical services to the homeless, and indigent, free of charge. Chief among them is Boston Medical Center—which last year delivered $160 million worth of free health care services, $42 million of which was never reimbursed to the hospital.

The event was co-chaired by **John Buckley**, executive vice president of the Red Sox, **Thomas Hollister**, chairman, president and CEO of Citizens Bank of Massachusetts, **Paul La Camera**, president and general manager of WCVB-TV, (Channel 5), and **Ralph Martin**, Suffolk County district attorney. Gala Committee members include **Marjorie Claprood** of WTKK radio and WCVB anchor **Heather Kahn**.







NO PARKING? EAT IT.

Anthony's Pier 4, that venerable Boston waterfront institution, has come up with a creative way to feed hungry ticket-holders before they rush to FleetBoston concert events. Parking for the Pavilion concerts, down by the old Black Falcon Terminal, is about the tightest in the city.

Parking at Fleet Boston Pavilion—not a pretty picture.

For now, Anthony's is providing free parking during the shows to people who dine at the restaurant. And they, unlike the concert sponsors, or our team of urban planners, will provide free trolley service to and from the Pavillion. (Or, dine at home and spend your bucks on a limousine driver.) iB

Speaking of Boston

Got an inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to speaking@improper.com

PINSKY SHIPS POETRY TO P-TOWN

Aspiring poets benefitted from a Rialto restaurant party last weekend. The Charles Hotel Rialto restaurant was the meeting spot for those who wanted to help out the **Fine Arts Work Center** in Provincetown. The special guest was **Robert Pinsky**, the Boston University poet who recently concluded his term as Poet Laureate of the United States. The party was a celebration of Pinsky and his work, including his most recent project, the Favorite Poem Project, an mixed-media work featuring Americans, notable and not, reading a favorite poem of theirs.

It was up to Pinsky to choose the Fine Arts Work Center as the beneficiary of the event. The Fine Arts Work Center is recognized as the nation's leader in residency programs, offering 20 seven-month Winter Fellowships to artists and writers. It is the largest program of its type in the country.

Pinsky was reelected to a third term as Poet Laureate of the United States in March, 1999. Pinsky published six books of poetry, including *Jersey Rain*, published this spring, and *The Figured Wheel: New and Collected Poems 1965 - 1995*, nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. It received the Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize. His translation of *Dante's Inferno* was awarded the *Los Angeles Times Book Prize* and the Harold Morton Landon Translation Award.

Poet Laureate Pinsky passes money to P-town protegés

RIVER RAVE: PIA SCHACTER (2), PINSKY: WENDY MIMRAN, BARRIOS: JACK LEONARD

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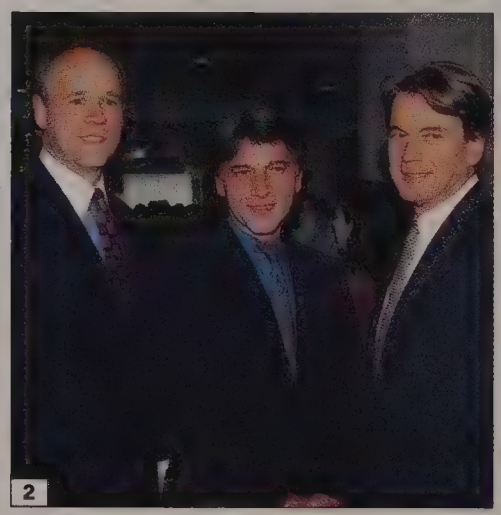
Proper Bostonians

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

The **Franciscan Children's Community Leadership Award Dinner** was held May 18 at the Seaport Hotel. Some 500 friends of the hospital gathered to honor Lee Kennedy, CEO of the Lee Kennedy Construction Co., law firm Goodwin Procter and Hoar, and radio personality Charles Laquidara for their contributions to improving the quality of life for children with special needs. The party included a cocktail reception, dinner and a raffle drawing selected by Red Sox pitcher Tim Wakefield. The grand prize was a brand-new 2000 BMW Z3 convertible or Mercedes Benz ML 320-SUV. Tickets were $250 per person, and more than $460,000 was raised for the Franciscan Children's Hospital, New England's largest pediatric rehabilitation hospital.

1

1. Morning radio personalities **Charles Laquidara** (l) and **Matt Siegel** of WZLX and KISS 108, respectively.
2. From left, **Rich Krezwick**, president of the FleetCenter, **Paul DellaRocco**, president and CEO of the Franciscan Children's Hospital, and **Don Law**, president of SFX Entertainment.
3. **Natalie Jacobson**, news anchor for Channel 5, and **Dr. Murray Feingold**, director of the National Birth Defects Center in Waltham.
4. From left, State Senator **Stephen Lynch**, dinner co-chair **Grady Hedgespeth**, president of New Markets Equity, State Senator **Steve Tolman** and **Drew Parkin**, natural resources policy consultant and member of the board of directors for the Franciscan Children's Hospital.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5. **Oedipus** (l), vice president/program director for WBCN, and **Carter Allen**, DJ for WZLX.
6. From left, **Stuart Kagel** and **Selena Kok**, respectively vice president of marketing/development and director of development for the Franciscan Children's Hospital, with **Lee Kennedy**, event honoree and chairman/CEO of the Lee Kennedy Company in Dorchester.
7. **Mary Bures**, the hospital's director of community relations, and **Mike Kosek**, general manager of Microsoft, New England.

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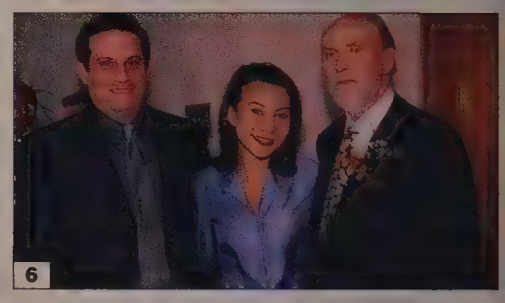
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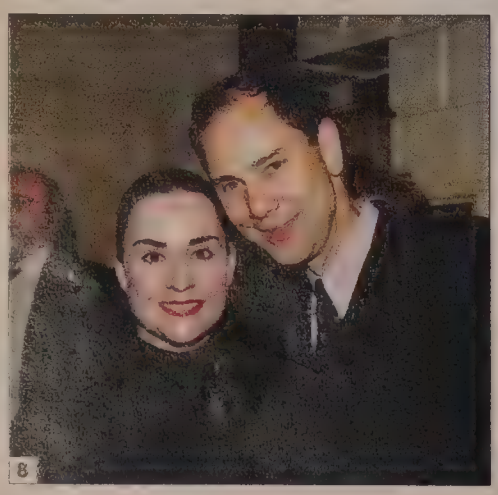
The Hampshire House hosted the **opening night cast party** of ***Macbeth*** May 24. The show's pre-Broadway stint at the Colonial Theatre stars three-time Emmy Award-winner Kelsey Grammer and acclaimed actress Diane Venora. During the evening, friends, family and cast members toasted the official opening of the limited, three-week engagement. After Boston, *Macbeth* heads to Broadway for its eight-week run.

9

8. Actress **Diane Venora**, who plays Lady Macbeth, and **Bill Conner**, president of Broadway in Boston/SFX Theatrical.
9. Actor **Michael Gross** (l), former star of the sitcom *Family Ties*, and **Terry Hands**, director of *Macbeth* and director emeritus of the Royal Shakespeare Company.
10. Actor **Kelsey Grammer** (l) and **Tom Kershaw**, owner of the Hampshire House and the Bull and Finch Pub.
11. Singer **Deborah Dietrich** and actor **Stephen Markle**, former cast member of the soap opera *One Life to Live*.
12. Television/film writer **Richard Eckhaus** and his wife **Kate**, executive assistant to the president of AER Inc. in Cambridge.
13. **Timothy Gillette**, computer programmer at People to People.com, and his mother, actress **Anita Gillette**.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UPCOMING 2000 AUCTIONS

JUNE 2000

DISCOVERY
June 22, 7 p.m. - Bolton
June 23, 10 a.m. - Bolton

ASIAN WORKS OF ART
June 24, 11 a.m. - Boston

JULY 2000

TOYS & DOLLS
July 8, 10 a.m. - Bolton

ENGLISH & CONTINENTAL FURNITURE & DECORATIONS
July 15, 11 a.m. - Boston

THE STUDIO AUCTION
July 20, 7 p.m. - Bolton

DISCOVERY
July 27, 7 p.m. - Bolton
July 28, 10 a.m. - Bolton

AUGUST 2000

AMERICAN FURNITURE & DECORATIVE ARTS
August 12, 11 a.m. - Bolton

THE PAUL & MARGARET WELD COLLECTION
August 13, 11 a.m. - Bolton

DISCOVERY
August 24, 7 p.m. - Bolton
August 25, 10 a.m. - Bolton

SEPTEMBER 2000

FINE JEWELRY
September 12, 12 noon - Boston

COUTURE, DESIGNER CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES
September 14, 6 p.m. - Boston

DISCOVERY
September 14, 7 p.m. - Bolton
September 15, 10 a.m. - Bolton

AMERICAN & EUROPEAN PAINTINGS & PRINTS
September 22 - Boston
Prints and Photography, 4 p.m.
Paintings, 7 p.m.

ORIENTAL RUGS & CARPETS
September 23, 12 noon - Bolton

OCTOBER 2000

ENGLISH & CONTINENTAL FURNITURE & DECORATIONS
October 7, 11 a.m. - Boston

DISCOVERY
October 12, 7 p.m. - Bolton
October 13, 10 a.m. - Bolton

BOOKS & MANUSCRIPTS
October 14, 10 a.m. - Boston

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CITY LIMITS

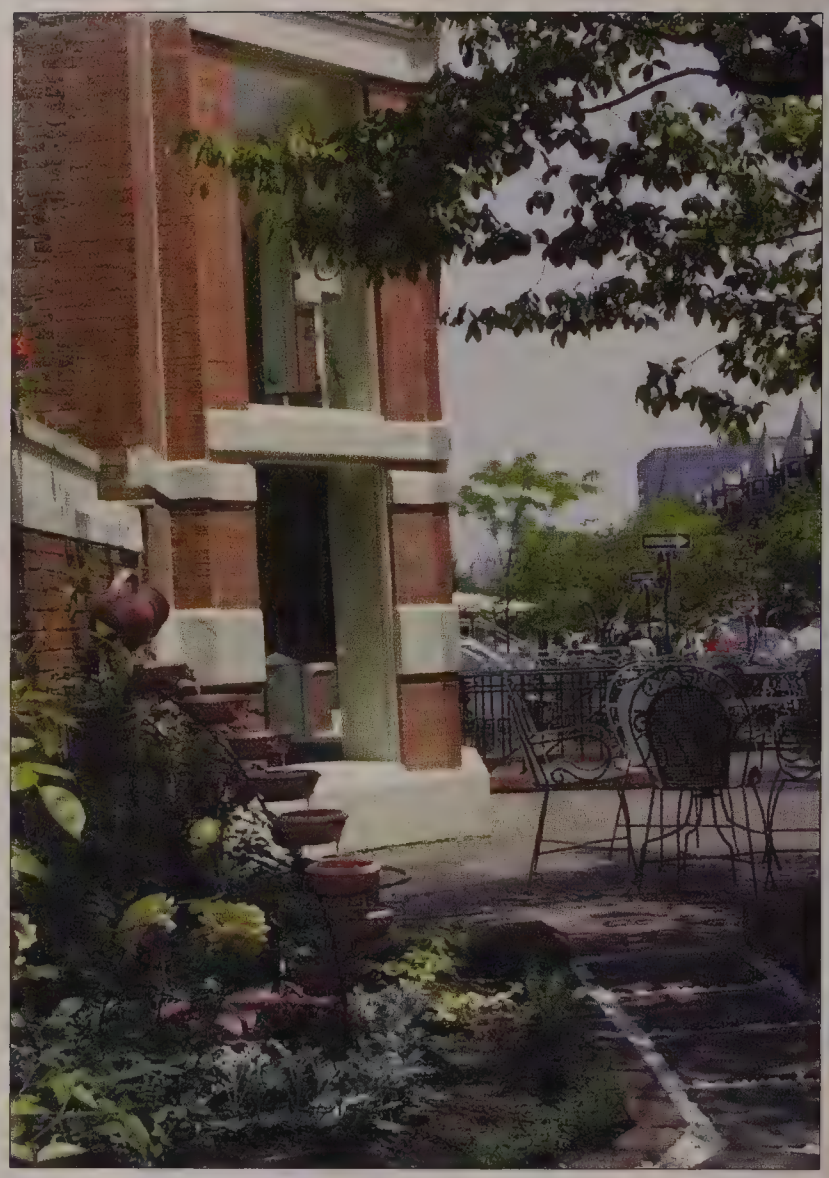
Good stuff, glamour and goings-on

BY ERIN HAGEDORN & JULIE SHORT

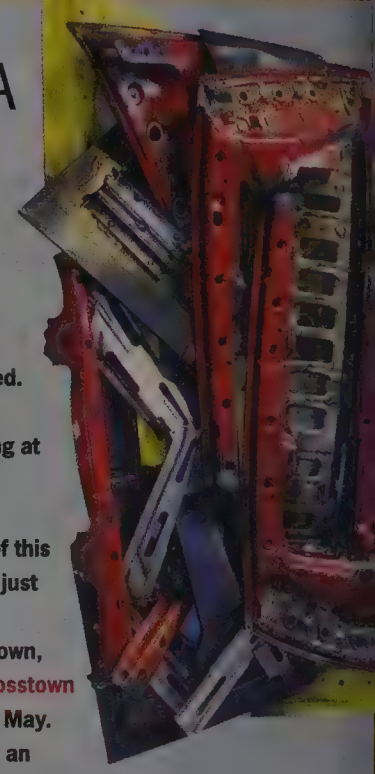
New in Town
AMERICAN INDIAN

It's not often that a five-star chef from New Delhi, India, is swayed to Boston, bringing his secret recipes to a new location and a Newbury Street audience. But **Harj Saini,** owner of newly opened Epicurian wonder **Saffron**, convinced chef **Olaf Niemeier** to pack his bags and head for Boston. Saini swears this Indian restaurant will be like no other, with a menu that sophisticated diners will judge as superb. The decor is decidedly West, not East. It's pristine, with an art-gallery feel. And the food (get this) is going to blend Western themes with Eastern dishes. Niemeier calls his specialties contemporary Indian cuisine. That means barbecued prawns flavored with Indian spices and Tandoori-marinated rack of lamb. Those will be served on long, communal tables (hand-crafted) in Saffron's spectacular sunlit dining room. "We spent years traveling to find the right chef to create the kind of cuisine we were looking for—Indian with a Western touch," says Saini. "We found him in Neimeier."

With perennial favorite **Kashmir** located just down the street, does Saffron expect to duke it out for all the naan and curry customers? "Not at all," says Saini. He says that second- and third-generation Indians who grew up in the States use American and Italian spices to cook up lighter Indian meals. So look out for lasagna in a nut-saffron sauce, roasted chicken in a wild rice yogurt fritter and other distinctive offerings. *279A Newbury St., Boston (536-9766). 11:30am-11pm, daily. Bar open until 1am.*



All the Buzz
GALLERIA ITALIA



When Sandro Carella was putting the finishing touches on his new art gallery at One North Square in the North End, a born-and-bred North Ender peered inside through the glass and disbelievingly asked, "Another restaurant?"

"I told him, 'Oh no, we're an art gallery,' " said Carella. The elderly man looked confused. Then he said: "But you've got a sign for clam chowder up there." The passerby was pointing at Andy Warhol's Campbell's soup print.

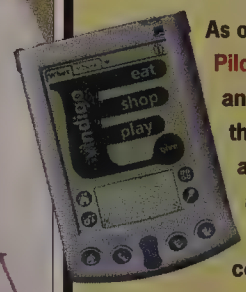
Carella gets a kick out of that story. He recognizes that an art gallery in the midst of this Italian enclave is an unusual sight—and not just for the neighborhood folk. Bostonians are accustomed to the string of galleries downtown, but not in these parts. Nevertheless, the Crosstown Art Gallery opened with a huge party in late May. (The crowd was reportedly thrilled to attend an opening in this city for something other than a restaurant.)

The first exhibit was titled *The Ability to Obsess*. "We feature contemporary artists who are dedicated—perhaps obsessed—with making art, even in the absence of recognition," says Carulla. With its eclectic array of work by local artists, it's sure to be a neighborhood favorite. Just ask Carella's Mom. She works below the gallery as a dressmaker—as she has for the last 40 years. "I'm really just known as Maria's son around here," Carella says. *One North Square, Boston (720-0100). Daily, 9am-5pm.*

This Just In
BEAUTY ON THE FLY

This is yet another new business we wish we'd started. It's for all those women, and men, who need professional manicures to impress all those people whose hands they shake. It's called Nailport, and it's a way to stop at a mini-salon for a manicure and foot massage ($17.50) while you are waiting for a flight or on the way to a power lunch. "We aim to be the Starbucks of the nail-care industry," says founder Kimberly Mairs. Now you can Visit Nailport kiosks at Terminals A and E in Logan Airport. Next stop for Nailport is the Copley Place shopping mall. *For more information, call 227-2977.*

Around Town
VINDIGO TO GO-GO



As of June 4, the PalmPilot junkies had yet another reason to snub those of us who still use a leather-bound appointment book and run into convenience stores to ask for directions. It's called Vindigo, and it delivers location-specific information about places to go and things to do. It's like an electronic tour guide. Simply download it onto your PalmPilot (versions III, V or VII) by visiting *www.vindigo.com*.

Vindigo has already received glowing reviews in New York from consumer writers and users alike. Find yourself stranded at the corner of Berkeley and Columbus streets without a clue, and you can enter your location and desire (where to eat, dance, drink or see a show). Vindigo will provide options, costs, directions and more. You can even get movie and restaurant (Zagat's) reviews. And the best news is that the up-to-date information is free!

This Just In
GONE SURFIN'

Just a few weeks after WZLX- DJ **Charles Laquidara** underwent a makeover to shock his teen-age daughter at her high school graduation (at right, we snapped the three steps to the new look), the legendary DJ provided another shock. The 62-year-old is giving up his gig as the highest paid DJ in town. He got his start way back in '69. And he often spun his protest politics along with classic rock tunes. (Remember when listeners cut up their Shell Oil credit cards for him?) Now he will relax Maui style. Hang Loose, Laq'.

SAFFRON: SUSAN COWAN; GALLERY: ERIN HAGEDORN; NAILS: WENDY MIMRAN

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A New Menthol

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Stupid CEO Tricks

Leading a major corporation does not always yield a propensity for public savvy.

One of the most important jobs that a CEO must do is to assume the role of public spokesperson. Some top managers—Apple's Steve Jobs comes to mind—have a peculiar genius for this kind of work and can, with a single on-camera or onstage appearance, establish instant credibility. Most CEOs, alas, are not so fortunate, and the high-tech world has certainly had its share of corporate execs who've bungled the job pretty badly.

Veteran CEO watchers have fond memories of Ken Olsen, the former CEO of Digital Equipment Corp. Olsen never hesitated to make public statements that might undercut his company's business. For example, while Digital was trying desperately to build a personal computer for use in the office, Olsen, like an Old Testament prophet, declared that "the personal computer will fall flat in business." Similarly, when the company was just beginning to create a viable Unix business, Olsen told the world that "Unix is snake oil." One can only imagine what the marketing manager in charge of Digital's Unix revenues felt when that choice comment hit the wires.

Given Olsen's propensity for shooting from the hip, you'd think that Digital's marketing executives would have avoided using him as a spokesperson. Unfortunately, Digital's product announcements were so deadly dull that the only way to fill press seats was to put Olsen on the agenda so reporters would show up (hoping that he'd drop another bomb). Since Olsen refused to read prepared speeches, marketing execs had the grueling experience of sitting in the back of the briefing room crossing their fingers that, somehow, Olsen would manage to get through the event without accidentally torpedoing the campaign.

Olsen, of course, is only one of many CEOs displaying quirky behavior when dealing with the press. For example, Beny Alagem, former chairman of Packard Bell NEC, refused interviews and kept so aggressively anonymous that most Packard Bell NEC employees didn't even know what he looked like. "He was very security conscious," explains one executive who served under Alagem. "He located his office behind multiple locked doors and security guards—we called it 'the Bunker.'"

Even CEOs who are normally media-savvy have been known to perform a disappearing act at just the wrong moment. That's what happened at Intel in October of 1994, when information about a computing error in the new Pentium chip hit the Internet. It was an occasion that, from a marketing standpoint, simply begged for the reassuring presence of Andy Grove, who should have been right in front of the camera, telling everyone that Intel would fix the problem. Instead, Grove made like "Where's Waldo," issuing an online press release that was so low key that some observers thought it was a hoax. By the time Grove finally emerged from hiding and told the world that he would replace flawed Pentiums on request, IBM had halted shipments of Pentium-based PCs, and Intel's blue-chip stock had lost some of its luster.

> CEOs THAT STAY OUT OF THE LIMELIGHT ARE AN EXCEPTION TO THE RULE...FAR MORE COMMON ARE CEOs WHO HAVE SUCH AN EXAGGERATED OPINION OF THEIR ABILITIES THAT THEY CAN'T RESIST GRANDSTANDING.

CEOs that stay out of the limelight are an exception to the rule, though. Far more common are CEOs who have such an exaggerated opinion of their abilities that they can't resist grandstanding. In some cases—Larry Ellison and Scott McNealy come to mind—the bloated ego is backed by some real talent. But it can be a major marketing disaster when a company has a CEO who thinks he's more brilliant than he actually is.

You won't catch CMGI's David Wetherell posing in a Speedo bathing suit any time soon.

Perhaps the best example of this was when John Sculley, then-CEO of Apple Computer, appointed himself chief technical officer. The notion that Sculley, whose previous experience was as an executive at Pepsi Cola, could guide the technical direction of one of the most innovative computer companies in the world was so laughable that many reporters at first thought that the appointment was a joke. Despite the fact that nobody took Sculley seriously, he told this reporter that appointing himself CTO was the "best decision I ever made."

CEO vanity isn't limited to the intellectual variety. When CrossWorlds Software Inc. in Burlingame, Calif., launched an ad campaign in 1998, it featured glamour photos of founder/chairman Katrina A. Garnett taken by *haute couture* shutterbug Richard Avedon. While it no doubt flattered Garnett to be treated like Cindy Crawford, the implication that a woman's appearance is more important than her brains probably set the women's movement back about 20 years. After all, when was the last time you saw CMGI's David Wetherell posing in a Speedo?

But the award for CEO vanity has to go not to a woman, but to a man—Robert Palmer, who replaced Ken Olsen as the head of Digital. Nicknamed "*GQ* Bob" because of his habit of wearing gold jewelry and expensive suits, Palmer's sartorial splendor was, to many employees, an insulting reminder of his $3.84 million yearly salary. This princely sum earned Palmer the No. 2 slot in *Business Week*'s 1996 Hall of Shame—CEOs with the highest salary relative to the crummy performance of their company's stock.

In Palmer's opinion, however, he was well worth the money, as evidenced by his giving himself a raise only a few days after announcing massive layoffs. Palmer insisted on making his raise into a marketing event by announcing it over DEC's video network, presumably because he felt that he had enough media appeal to put the right spin on the news. Needless to say, the plan backfired. At one DEC facility, where Palmer's perfectly groomed face was displayed on a large TV screen in the cafeteria, the announcement of the raise was greeted with stunned silence. Then, with perfect timing, a comment came from the back of the room: "OK, but what I want to know is whether Beavis is getting a raise, too." iB

Geoffrey James (*www.geoffreyjames.com*) is the author of numerous books and the co-host of Funny Business, heard Saturdays 10pm-12am on WRKO, AM 680.

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The Real McCoy

What do Mayor Menino and porn star Jenna Jameson have in common? PR princess **Seth Andrea McCoy**. She left Boston for L.A. and found that politics and porn are just about the same game. BY KIM McGRATH • PORTRAIT BY STEPHANIE CHERNAK

Seth Andrea McCoy shows off her stuff on a California beach. At left, popular porno films she helped sell.

It all started with the distinguished Massachusetts Senator Edward M. Kennedy. Or was it movie star Alec Baldwin? Either way, Seth Andrea McCoy got her start in local politics. Before that, she was an Emerson College student who, like so many of us, wanted her own late-night television talk show. "But then I decided what I wanted most was to help people," says McCoy, detailing her career start in politics and her move to Los Angeles—and the pornography industry.

A promoter and and publicist in L.A., McCoy has spent the last 18 months as director of public relations for *Wicked Pictures*, featuring big-name porn stars with names like Jenna Jameson. But she learned the tricks of her trade, she says, at Boston's City Hall. While in college, she wanted to do something to make the world a better place. So she sought out good causes. "I went to one Kennedy event. Alec Baldwin spoke, and I was hooked," McCoy says. When the campaign finished, and she graduated college (1995), McCoy tapped her political connections to get a Boston City Hall job.

Mayor Menino, spotting her obvious talent, gave her a job reading grant proposals. Just three months later, she was promoted to neighborhood coordinator for District 8 (Beacon Hill, Back Bay, Fenway, Mission Hill). Pretty impressive for the native of Attleboro. Two years later, McCoy became director of city council relations, keeping Menino informed of all the City Council's, well, relations. "I learned a lot in the Mayor's Office," McCoy says. In California, McCoy drew on her political experience and helped lobby in support of First Amendment rights. But how did her Boston City Hall job help her secure a high-profile position in the world of pornography? Same skills, different job, McCoy says. "I think what translates to working for *Wicked* is being able to deal with, or relate to, people," McCoy explains.

Sure, she says, she understands that she's not working in mainstream Hollywood. "It's not like Gwyneth Paltrow is ever going to have to worry about Jenna Jameson's acting," she jokes. So she plans to leave the job soon and pursue her public relations career as an independent contractor. That way, she can devote time to her role in a small, independent film. (No, not a *Wicked* production.) iB

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The Boston Public Library will loan the Sacco and Vanzetti death masks to the Old South Meeting House for a Summer 2000 exhibit.

SACCO AND VANZETTI: Who will keep them alive?

The state's memorial to the two men executed after Boston's most infamous trial is kept hidden (almost) by broken promises and political sidestepping. BY STEPHANIE SCHOROW

RICHARD TAZZARA

"I think we will see this memorial as a symbol of our commitment to

1. Bartolomeo Vanzetti (left) and Nicola Sacco facing death seven years after their seven-week trial. 2. Sacco and Vanzetti supporters take to the streets in the summer of 1927. Man carries sign protesting Gov. Alvan T. Fuller's comments on trial. 3. The bronze bas-relief first offered to the city in 1947. The memorial was rejected by officials. 4. Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino and Massachusetts Governor Paul Cellucci at a 1997 press conference. The two Italian-American officials were the first to "accept" a memorial to the pair.

To find the city's only public monument to the most infamous political trial in Massachusetts history, you have to be determined.

First, you have to ride the MBTA's Green Line to Copley Square, or dare to drive, and park, downtown. You then walk through the historic doors of the McKim Building, the original Boston Public Library. From there, your search gets challenging. You climb the stairs to the third floor, and follow a long corridor leading to the Fine Arts Library. At the far end of the room, a door leads to a small gallery, where you will find an alcove and a 3-by-7-foot sculpture, a plaque that artists know as a plaster bas-relief. It shows the faces of two men, one stern and clean-shaven, the other with a walrus mustache and sad eyes.

That completes the state's tribute to Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, two Italian immigrants and adamant anarchists who were executed in Massachusetts in 1927, men whose names still conjure images of world-wide protests.

And so many years later, Sacco and Vanzetti are names only whispered by city and state officials who seem depesperate to avoid the passionate argument that still rages about whether or not the pair were the victims of a corrupt system fueled by paranoia—or not.

It has been three years since an Italian-American mayor, Thomas M. Menino, and an Italian-American acting governor, Paul Cellucci, crammed into a BPL alcove and "accepted" the Sacco and Vanzetti memorial on behalf of the city and state. They were painstakingly careful in their characterization of the trial. "I think we all know that at that period of time there was intolerance and bias in our state," Cellucci said. "As we reflect on that, I think we will see this memorial as a symbol of our commitment to a tolerant city, a tolerant state." From Menino's office came the news that a search was on for public funds, and space, for the Sacco and Vanzetti memorial. But the plan never materialized.

FEAR AND LOATHING

The Sacco and Vanzetti story began with two brutal murders. On April 15, 1920, in South Braintree, a shoe-factory paymaster and a security guard were gunned down and robbed of $15,700 in payroll. Three weeks later, two Italian immigrants, Nicola Sacco, a shoemaker, and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, a fish peddler, were arrested and charged with the killings.

Both men were carrying loaded pistols when arrested. And almost immediately, investigators discovered both men were members of a group of active anarchists committed to a violent overthrow of the U.S. government. Sacco and Vanzetti were arrested at a time when recent terrorist bombings in New York had heightened fears of of communist plots, or the "Red Menace." The U.S. Justice Department was assigned the task of finding and deporting immigrants deemed to be radical or dangerous. (Those sweeping efforts were labeled the "Palmer Raids," named after U.S. Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer.) In many minds, Sacco and Vanzetti were proven guilty as soon as they spoke in their thick accents, and their uncompromising views of capitalism, and the U.S. government, were heard.

Their trial lasted seven weeks. It was marked by conflicting eyewitness testimony and a circus atmosphere. Dedham District Court Judge Webster Thayer was reported as having said to a colleague: "Did you see what I did to those anarchist bastards the other day?" The record shows Webster charged the jury by saying that the pair was "morally culpable" even if jurors were not convinced they were guilty as charged.

On July 14, 1921, the pair was found guilty of first-degree murder.

Their appeals lasted seven years, as protesters around the world decried "Massachusetts justice." Felix Frankfurter—the Harvard University law professor later appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court—argued to Massachusetts Gov. Alvan T. Fuller that the state should consider clemency. But Fuller was eventually swayed by a committee, chaired by Harvard University President A. Lawrence Lowell, which concluded the trial was "on the whole" fair. Fuller refused to stay the execution.

FORGETTING HISTORY

For 70 years, Massachusetts officials have essentially ignored the artist's tribute, and the story of Sacco and Vanzetti, though their executions paved the way for this state's long-standing opposition to the death penalty; the widow of the pair's defense attorney led a statewide effort to abolish it.

If Boston seemed an unlikely backdrop for a case that is remembered as a mockery of a fair trial, then artist Gutzon Borglum was as unlikely a candidate for the man who would create the only memorial to the pair.

Borglum, the sculptor who turned a South Dakota's Mount Rushmore into a landmark recognized around the world, was nearly fanatical in his love of America, and was known for his gushing praise of it. He also had a favorable view, for some time, of the Ku Klux Klan.

Still, while he celebrated the United States that Sacco and Vanzetti wanted to change so radically and was linked with white supremacists, Borglum was inspired by the plight of the two men on trial in Boston.

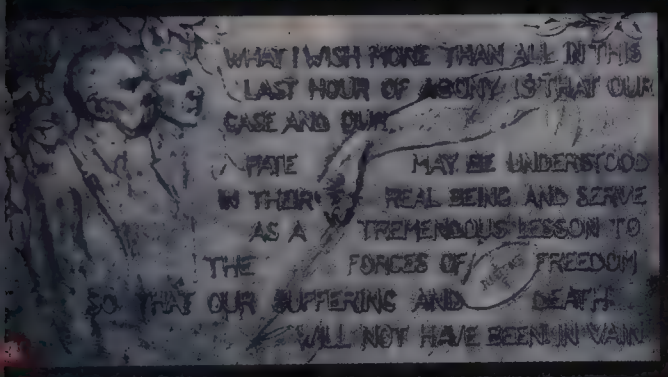
In a letter to Boston supporters who remained faithful to their cause long after the executions, Borglum wrote: "Fear not. I will take up the cause of these two men. If they have been wronged... I will do anything I can to make the martyrdom of these men a burning, living protest against the injustices practiced in the name of modern jurisprudence."

Borglum issued his first artistic tribute, a bronzed piece, in 1928, one year after their executions. Four years later, his plaster work, finessed more to his liking, was completed.

During the next 20 years, three attempts were made by supporters of Sacco and Vanzetti to present Borglum's work

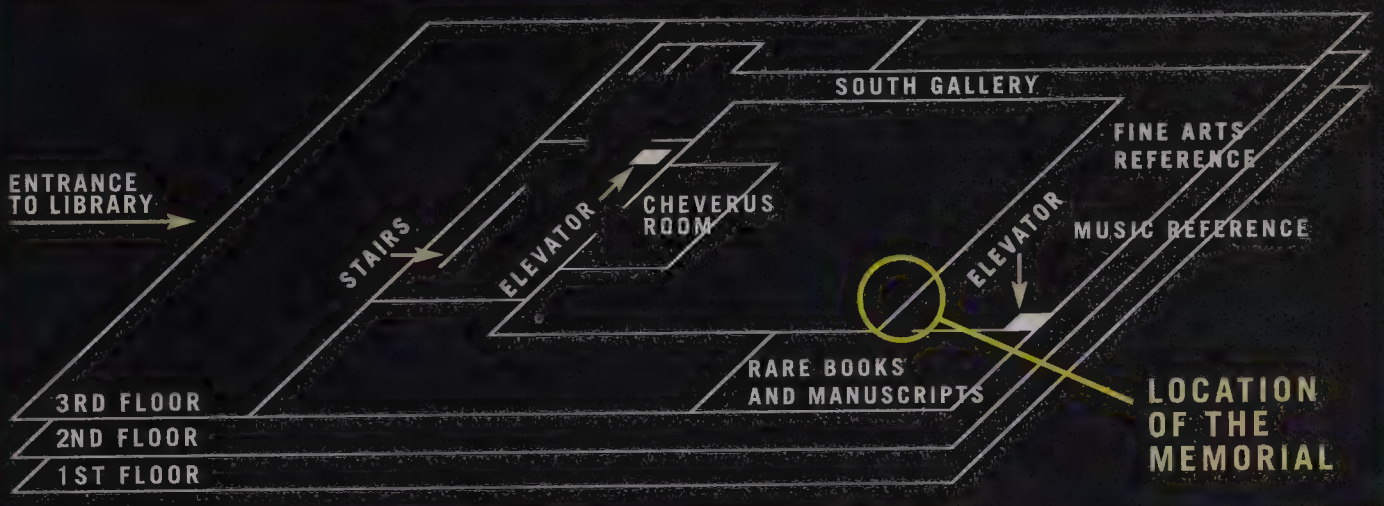
BOSTON HERALD (2)

lerant city, a tolerant state."—Governor Paul Cellucci, at 1997 BPL press conference.



HOW TO FIND THE SACCO-VANZETTI MEMORIAL

The Boston Public Library's McKim Building houses the plaster bas-relief created by Mount Rushmore artist Gutzon Borglum. Mayor Menino's office began three years back to search for a more public space for the Sacco and Vanzetti memorial. Below, we chronicled the walk to the Rare Books and Manuscripts collection to find the dimly lit display.



to Boston, or Beacon Hill. Three times it was refused.

This was not the kind of tribute envisioned by the Sacco and Vanzetti Defense Committee, a group based in the North End and led by printer Aldino Felicani, a friend of both Sacco and Vanzetti, and Gardner Jackson, a crusading *Boston Globe* reporter who was convinced the pair were wrongly convicted.

The committee offered the bronze bas-relief to the city, and the state, on the 10th anniversary of the executions and requested a Boston Common showcase for it. Gov. Charles Hurley dismissed the offer as "patently absurd." Former Boston Mayor Frederick Mansfield made his position clear: "If I may have a final say on the matter, it has no possible hope," Mansfield said.

The committee persisted. Ten years later, in 1947, it issued a plea to Gov. Robert Bradford and Mayor John B. Hynes to accept the plaque as a public memorial. A petition was signed by former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt; actor and producer Howard Lindsay; and Congress of Industrial Organizations President Philip Murray. From Princeton, N.J., Albert Einstein wrote: "Everything should be done to keep alive the memory of the tragic affair of Sacco and Vanzetti in the conscience of mankind. They remind us of the fact that even the most perfectly planned democratic institutions are no better than the people whose instruments they are."

Bradford and Hynes did not refuse the offer. They simply never responded.

SLOW ACCEPTANCE

In 1977, on the 50th anniversary of the execution, Gov. Michael Dukakis issued a carefully worded statement declaring that Sacco and Vanzetti did not have a fair trial. That simple statement was enough to spark outrage in the Republican ranks. "Sacco and Vanzetti received perhaps a fairer trial than anyone else accused of a major crime in the state of Massachusetts," Rep. David H. Locke (R-Wellesley) declared to reporters. The son of Gov. Fuller, Alvan T. Fuller Jr., was so furious over the questions Dukakis had raised about his father's integrity that he made public demands that Dukakis resign. Twenty years later, Mayor Menino and acting Governor Cellucci "accepted" the plaster version of the bas-relief, which had been donated to the Boston Public Library in 1979. The gesture was not, they said, intended to convey any opinion on the innocence or guilt of Sacco or Vanzetti. Rather, Menino said, "to remind us of the dangers of miscarried justice and the right we all have to a fair trial."

Sacco and Vanzetti died in the electric chair just after midnight, Aug. 23, 1927. Outside the old state prison in Charlestown, police kept angry crowds blocks away from the prison doors. Protesters took to the streets in New York, Paris, London, Geneva, Barcelona, Buenos Aires and Tokyo. In Boston, an estimated 200,000 people lined the streets for a funeral march from the North End to the Forest Hills Cemetery in Jamaica Plain. (Today the cremated remains of Sacco and Vanzetti are part of the Boston Public Library's display.)

The trial continues to fuel a mini-industry of legal re-examinations. A national conference devoted to the case, and spearheaded by Charlestown District Court Judge Peter W. Agnes Jr., is scheduled for 2002. The meeting is planned for the 75th anniversary of the executions. But Sacco and Vanzetti barely rate a mention in Boston guide books. The tourists who walk Beacon Hill might wander into the John McCormick Building, where they will see a cryptic reference etched into a collage of historical facts and names.

Faded but visible are the names "Nicolo e Bartolo."

Deemed too fragile to move, the plaster remains just outside the Rare Books and Manuscripts room, which houses an extensive collection of Sacco and Vanzetti materials, including their ashes and death masks. (Those masks have been loaned to Boston's Old South Meeting House for its summer 2000 exhibit.)

Three metal copies have been made of the plaster cast. An aluminum version serves as the secular "altar" at the Community Church of Boston. Another is in Brandeis University's Gardner Jackson room, named for the newsman who supported the case. And one is at a museum dedicated to Borglum in Keystone, S.D. Any one of these copies could—barring legal complications—serve as the template for a tribute that would fulfill Jackson and Borglum's dream of a permanent public memorial.

They have been called martyrs by some, and murderers by others. But there is no disputing that the trial, and executions, of Sacco and Vanzetti remain vital chapters in Massachusetts' history books.

For now, though, elected officials in this city seem reluctant to say or do anything that might be construed as support for two men put to death more than 70 years ago. Perhaps their avoidance is due to modern-day efforts to bring back the death penalty in this state, or a simple aversion to a painful past.

An effort to memorialize the pair, in an obvious public space, would serve to enlighten many, without the mayor or governor, or anyone, having to issue their verdict on the case.

A few of the last words spoken by one of the men can be read at the BPL exhibit. Perhaps they were meant for us to hear now:

"What I wish more than all in this last hour of agony is that our case and our fate may be understood in their real being and serve as a tremendous lesson to the forces of freedom so that our suffering and death will not have been in vain." iB

Stephanie Schorow is an assistant lifestyles editor at the *Boston Herald*. She became interested in Sacco and Vanzetti at age 10, after reading *Boston*, Upton Sinclair's novel based on the trial.

on the road again

BY TAMARA WIEDER
PORTRAITS BY LIZ LINDER

One long day in the life of **Ellis Paul**, one of Boston's biggest and most hard-working folksingers

It is 9:30am, a dismal Friday in Boston. On the Mass Pike, the sky is throwing water darts at the last remnants of rush-hour traffic. It's been raining for days, and Ellis Paul has had enough.

"This is why California is where it's at," says the Maine-bred, Medford-based singer-songwriter, who's just returned from a two-week touring stint on the other coast. Though his body has begun to adjust to being back in Beantown, his attitude is lagging. "I'd wake up every morning and the sun would be shining and it would be 70 degrees."

He glances sideways at the water snaking down his window and shakes his head: "I need a change."

It seems he's getting his wish. After nearly 10 years of toiling on the [illegible] sing national singer-songwriter circuit, logging more than 200 live shows annually, the folk musician now appears to be taking his career to the next level.

Last weekend, when moviegoers flocked to see *Me, Myself & Irene*—Jim Carrey's newest cinematic romp and another buzzed-about film from the Farrelly brothers—they got what, for most of them, was a first taste of Ellis Paul. "The World Ain't Slowin' Down," a tune he wrote for his last studio album, 1998's *Translucent Soul*, was handpicked by the filmmakers to be the movie's featured song. The night before the film opened, Paul sang the National Anthem when the Red Sox took on the dreaded Yankees at Fenway Park. Paul, who is accustomed to audiences in the high single digits, last week managed to charm a capacity crowd of, oh, just 32,000 or so, give or take a few single digits.

All of which is a break for Paul, and a welcome one. Forget what you've heard about folk singers and their idealistic desire to lead quiet, wholly artistic lives as far from the commercial, corporate music world as their VW buses will carry them. Paul will gladly take the commerce and the corporations—and the money and fame that are sure to follow—as long as he can continue making the kind of music he wants to make.

Which is why, on this waterlogged Friday morning, when most of those who aren't required to be doing time in an office are surely doing their best to sleep off the gloom, Paul, along with his longtime manager and friend, Ralph Jaccodine, is barreling down the Pike—reporter in tow—toward New York City, where he'll play to a sold-out crowd at the Fez.

And that's not all. The East Village concert is actually a release show for his new double *Live* CD. And while in New York, he'll also interview at SESAC, a performing rights organization, which will arrange for United Airlines to air his work this summer on its in-flight channel.

This Medford guy is taking on the world, and he seems to be winning.

"I've been up 'till six o'clock every night this week—why should tonight be different? I might as well just stay up..."

It didn't start out that way. Growing up in rural Presque Isle, Maine, this grandson of a potato farmer and son of an agriculture specialist never planned to become a professional musician—but neither did he intend to follow in his family's farming footsteps. "I'd rather just grow pot in my backyard," admits Paul, 35.

It wasn't until his junior year at Boston College, where he'd gone on a track scholarship (Paul's 1984 time still stands as one of BC's top-five performances in the 10,000 meters), that a knee injury and subsequent surgery left him with time on his hands. During that time, he picked up a guitar, taught himself to play and never turned back.

"I started playing on the open-mike circuit in Boston with a bunch of friends who were songwriters just starting out," he says. "I would go from club to club every night and we'd gather around and drink and cavort and share stories. It was a great, thriving hotbed for songwriters. The singer- songwriter scene has always been great around Boston, with all the radio support and famous clubs that have been around forever, and eager audiences—it's a great place to figure out how to write songs."

Paul has released four CDs since 1995, including his latest, *Live*, recorded at the Somerville Theatre.

For a novice, he figured it out quickly. Accolades rained down: 10 Boston Music Awards, enraptured audiences from Carnegie Hall to the Newport Folk Festival, and a "Best Bet for Stardom" prediction from *USA Today*.

The only thing that has proved elusive is commercial radio exposure. "The question is, What is the dartboard you're aiming for?" Paul says. "My dartboard isn't a very commercial one. I'm playing with handmade darts."

The Folk Following

"Remember when it was exciting to go to New York to play?" Paul says, wistfully, to Jaccodine. "We were like, 'Oh, it's so cool, we're playing in New York.'"

It is noon and still raining. Hard. The virgin thrill of gigging in Manhattan has long since worn off. What's exciting to Paul now is the thought of drawing bigger crowds, increasing publicity. After so many years of crisscrossing the country alone in his Honda Civic, playing to rooms whose audiences numbered in the single digits, it's about time.

Probably that the sacrifices he was making by living on the road—including a normal personal life and, ultimately, his marriage—would eventually bring about some measure of national recognition and monetary success. To an extent, he has attained both—but they've been equally slow to arrive.

"When I went out on the road for the first time, when I was 27, 28, there were 15 people a night, and now in all of those places there are 150 people," says Paul, who has, more than once, filled the 850-seat Somerville Theater to capacity.

He is momentarily quiet before hammering home the result of just such a digression: "I played to eight people in Carson City, Nevada, last week."

It is 2 o'clock. Ralph Jaccodine accidentally aims the car the wrong way down a one-way Manhattan street before shrieking horns prompt a U-turn. He heads towards the SESAC offices on West 54th Street. In July and August, the interview Paul's doing here will air on an in-flight channel on thousands of United Airlines jets—not to mention on Air Force One.

"I don't know how many people will actually listen to the channel, but the good thing is that the in-flight magazine will have my photograph, and that'll be good publicity," Paul says.

So, will having his voice broadcast into the ears of millions of air travelers make him an honorary member of the famed mile-high club?

"I doubt it. But I jerked off in an airplane bathroom once," Paul jokes. "What is that club called?"

"The loser club," answers Jaccodine.

Sound check is at 5 o'clock. Tucked away beneath the Time Café on Lafayette Street, the Fez is buzzing with pre-show energy. But it's not for Paul's show. Before he takes the stage at 10, there's a drag performance from Kiki and Herb on tap. The evening's waiters and busboys, an attractive and flamboyant group of young men, clearly gravitate more toward Kiki's side of the spectrum. They obviously want little to do with Paul and his guitar.

"I have such a fucking headache," moans one waiter as Paul airs out "Sweet Mistakes," a recent addition to his repertoire. The soundman makes adjustments on the board as Paul changes a string.

Paul's trademark high tenor echoes in the empty club. He is known equally for this voice and for his lyrics—story songs, many of them are called, that describe with nuanced details people and places, love lost and found. His recordings have won awards and critical praise, but it is his live performance that has drawn most of his fans. They drive for miles to hear him weave tales with words and notes.

"There's a weird smell in here, isn't there?" Paul wonders aloud. "A combination of vomit and cleaning products." The smell isn't much better in the dressing room, where he sets up camp after sound check. The rain hasn't let up, and the ceiling is leaking. On a metal coffee table, Paul is ironing the wrinkled blue shirt he plans to wear for the show.

Show Time

Kiki and Herb's performance runs long. By the time they scurry off the stage at 9:30pm, bits of feathers trailing from Kiki's pink sequined boa, Paul has given up hope of warming up in the shared dressing room and is sitting backstage, surrounded by empty beer kegs and cartons of melons.

He has to fight to hear himself over the whine and thunk of a generator. Waiters and busboys turn sideways to squeeze past him. He doesn't look up.

Paul seems comfortable there amid the fruit and frenzy. These are the people and places he writes about. Most often, it is real life that finds its way into his music.

"I write songs about people that I bump into along the way," he says. "I just go around and I treat myself like an antenna and listen to people and what they have to say about themselves, and then try to get it into a song if I can."

Show time. It's one of those nights when everything clicks: the voice, the music, the vibe. The audience is adoring, and Paul is adoring them right back, opening the concert with the masterful "Maria's Beautiful Mess," a song that, at the end of the night, his fans will convince him to play a second time.

It's a packed house, filled with young yuppies and older hippies, many of whom seem to know every word to every song—and who aren't shy about singing along, even before Paul invites them to.

Ralph Jaccodine is holding court in a booth at the back of the room, selling CDs as the show blazes on. Though he also manages the local band The Push Stars, he's known Paul longer. He knows him better, too—the musician is even godfather to one of Jaccodine's two young children—and Paul's good nights are Jaccodine's good nights as well.

"We both kind of put our lives on the line for this," Paul will say later. "It's not exactly paying off in a grand financial way, but I think we're going to be fine."

At 10:20, Paul unplugs his guitar and makes his way into the center of the club, where he sings without a microphone, his voice magnified by pure adrenaline, joy etched on his face. There's the money and then there's this, the other payoff—to be loved by a crowd, to play a perfect song, to turn a quiet space into a room that's alive with music.

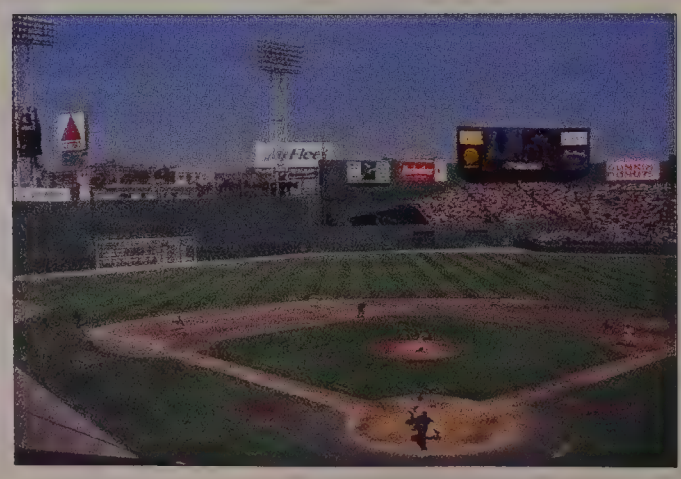
At 2:15am, FDR Drive is nearly empty. Paul's next destination: Kingston, N.Y,. for an 8am "Acoustic Breakfast" show.

He's on a post-gig high, recapping the night's events with Jaccodine, who's fighting sleep in the back seat. They've just spent the last hour and a half huddled around drinks with a posse of media types, including MTV VJ Dave Holmes, who attended the show at Jaccodine's invitation.

"I thought the energy was amazing," Paul croaks. He's barely slept in days, and this show—more than two hours long—has knocked his voice over the edge. "Next year is just going to be fucking nuts. I think what will happen—because all the shows I'm doing now are just going so great—is that the impact of these shows is going to bring in a bunch of new people, and then..."

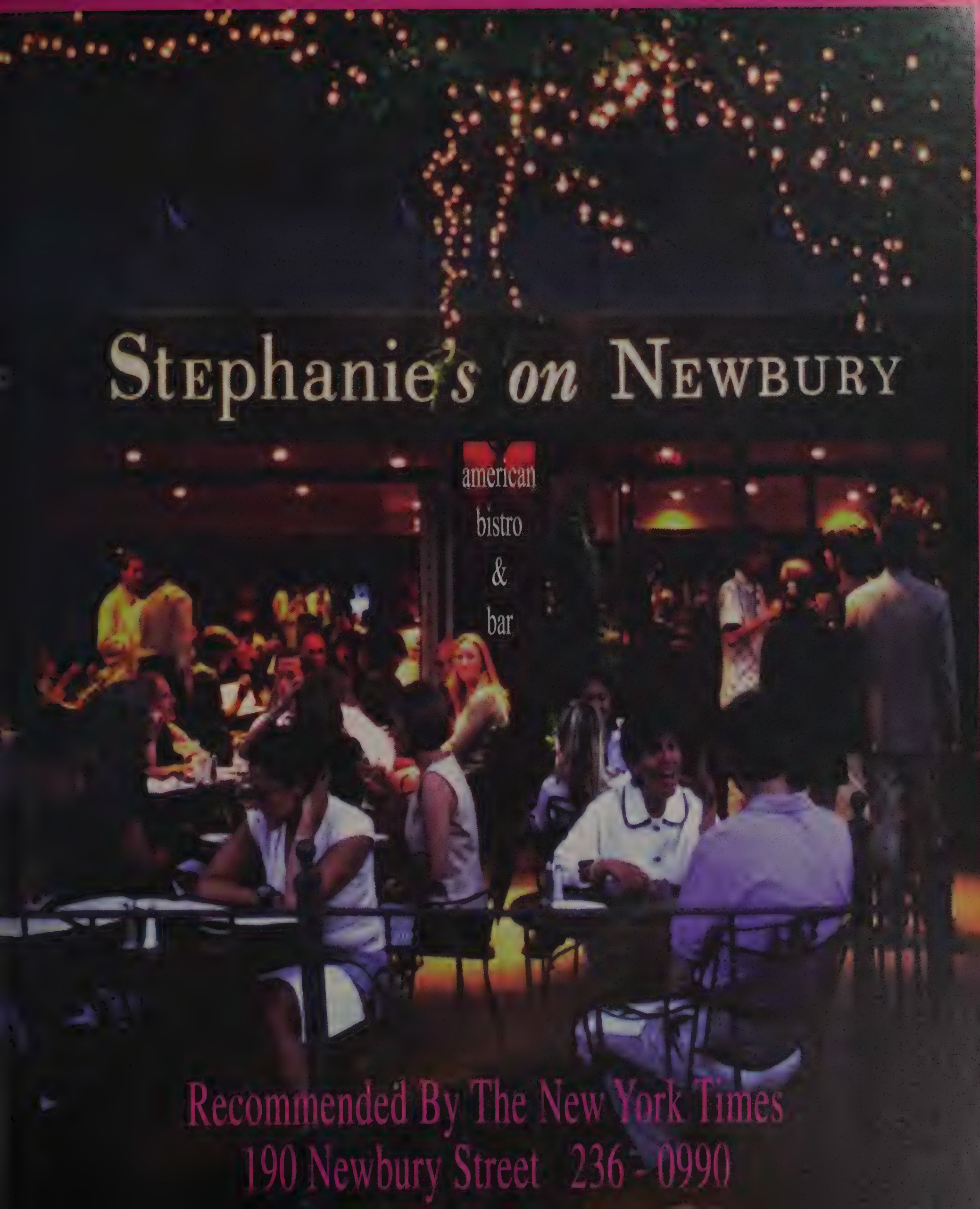
"You shouldn't be talking," Jaccodine interrupts. "Your voice is shot."

"I'm drinking water," Paul insists. "I say a sentence, then I drink. Watch—just like that." He squeezes the bot-



Last weekend you may have caught Paul's distinctive folkie sound either at Fenway or in the new Jim Carrey movie, *Me, Myself & Irene*.

BOTTOM LEFT: COURTESY OF THE BOSTON RED SOX;BOTTOM RIGHT: GLENN WATSO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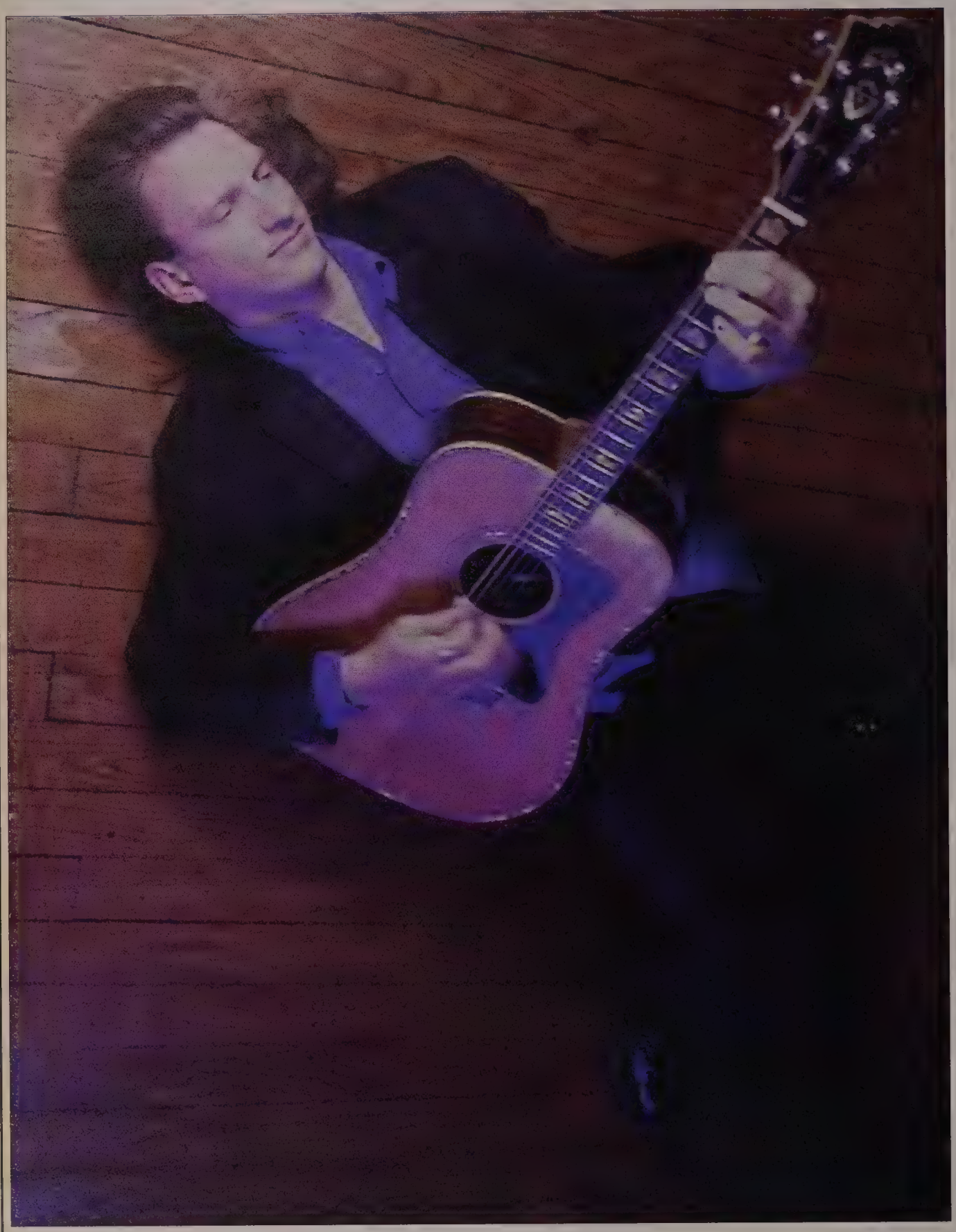

tle and shakes his head. "Nothing's going to save me for tomorrow morning, man. I might as well be Tom Waits. I'm not going to sleep. I've been up 'till six o'clock every night this week— why should tonight be any different? I might as well just stay up until the fucking show, and then play." Then again, he has to be onstage at 8am, and in his years on the road, Paul has learned the hard way that early morning sets, especially those that come on the heels of nights like these, are painful. He rethinks his options.

"Do you know how long I'm playing tomorrow?" he asks.

"About a half hour," responds Jaccodine.

"Thank God," Paul breathes, sipping water. "I can fake anything for half an hour."

The New York State Thruway is still wet at 3am, and the spray thrown from the tires of the few other cars is nearly blinding, but Paul presses on, unfazed. There is a hotel room waiting for him in Kingston, before he performs at 8.

But on Paul's mind now is the show he just finished. "I made $2,000 tonight," he grins, tapping the wheel. There is no music. Paul's stereo was stolen out of his car months ago. Now, when he goes on the road, he spends most of his time thinking—about writing, about business ideas. He doesn't sing.

"Oh, shit," Paul announces, as blue lights whirl in the rearview mirror.

The state trooper is humorless at 3am.

"Do you know why I pulled you over?" he asks. "You were going 76 in a 55, and it's raining."

Within minutes, Paul is back on the road. The ticket—one of several he receives each year, an occupational hazard—is half-crumpled on the dashboard.

"I made $1,800 tonight," he says.

Acoustic Breakfast

Despite his earlier determination to stay awake until his show, Ellis Paul succumbs to two hours of dreamless sleep at the Holiday Inn in Kingston before a shrill 7 am wake-up call rousts him out of bed and back into the car.

It's mornings like these that make Paul long for the financial stability that could keep him off the road for more than a few weeks at a time. He wants to take a month off this summer, sit at home and write songs.

He wants to cut his touring schedule back to 100 gigs a year.

"That way I could actually have a home life," he explains.

With luck, the release of *Me, Myself & Irene* and its soundtrack will be the next step on Paul's long trek to that life.

"It's one of these little nugget breaks that you hope for as a musician," he says. "It's like a carrot—it keeps you going. It's like, 'Oh, I'm not working for nothing, I'm actually doing something that people are recognizing.'

"I don't want to be Emily Dickinson and die with a bunch of poems that never get seen by anybody until after I'm gone," Paul adds, as the West Strand Grill slides into view.

Inside, folk musician Mindy Jostyn is already performing, the first in the three-set "Acoustic Breakfast" program that includes Paul and Jules Shear, broadcast live on Radio Woodstock. Except for a handful of gregarious children, the 50 or so people in the place are all heavy-lidded; the effort it's taken to get out of bed on this chilly Saturday morning is testament to the unrivaled devotion of the folk fan.

Paul camps out with his guitars on a sofa in a corner of the drafty room, wearing the same rumpled blue shirt from last night's show. He does not expect to sing well today. He doesn't think he'll be able to find his voice.

But, somehow, he does—though after the performance, as Paul mingles with his audience, sipping coffee, he is his toughest critic. "It was a struggle to hit every note," he says.

It is not yet noon, and already Paul and Jaccodine are back on the road, this time headed east, towards home. It is still raining, but despite Paul's frequent threats to relocate to meteorologically superior California, at this moment he wants nothing more than to make his way to his bed in Medford.

The musician and his manager take turns sleeping and driving. This kind of traveling companionship is a rare luxury for Paul, who's grown used to the solitary life of a touring musician.

"When I was going through that period when my marriage was breaking up, there were two or three years where my heart wasn't into touring, and I was just trying to keep things going," he remembers. "Now I'm enjoying it and my attitude's in the right place, and I've spent the last year and a half playing with a lot of passion, and it's stirred things up again."

He won't soon forget the years of work it's taken him to get to this place, or what he's given up along the way. "You have to have been where you were in order to get where you are," says Paul, as his car winds its way toward Boston, towards home. "And here I am." IB

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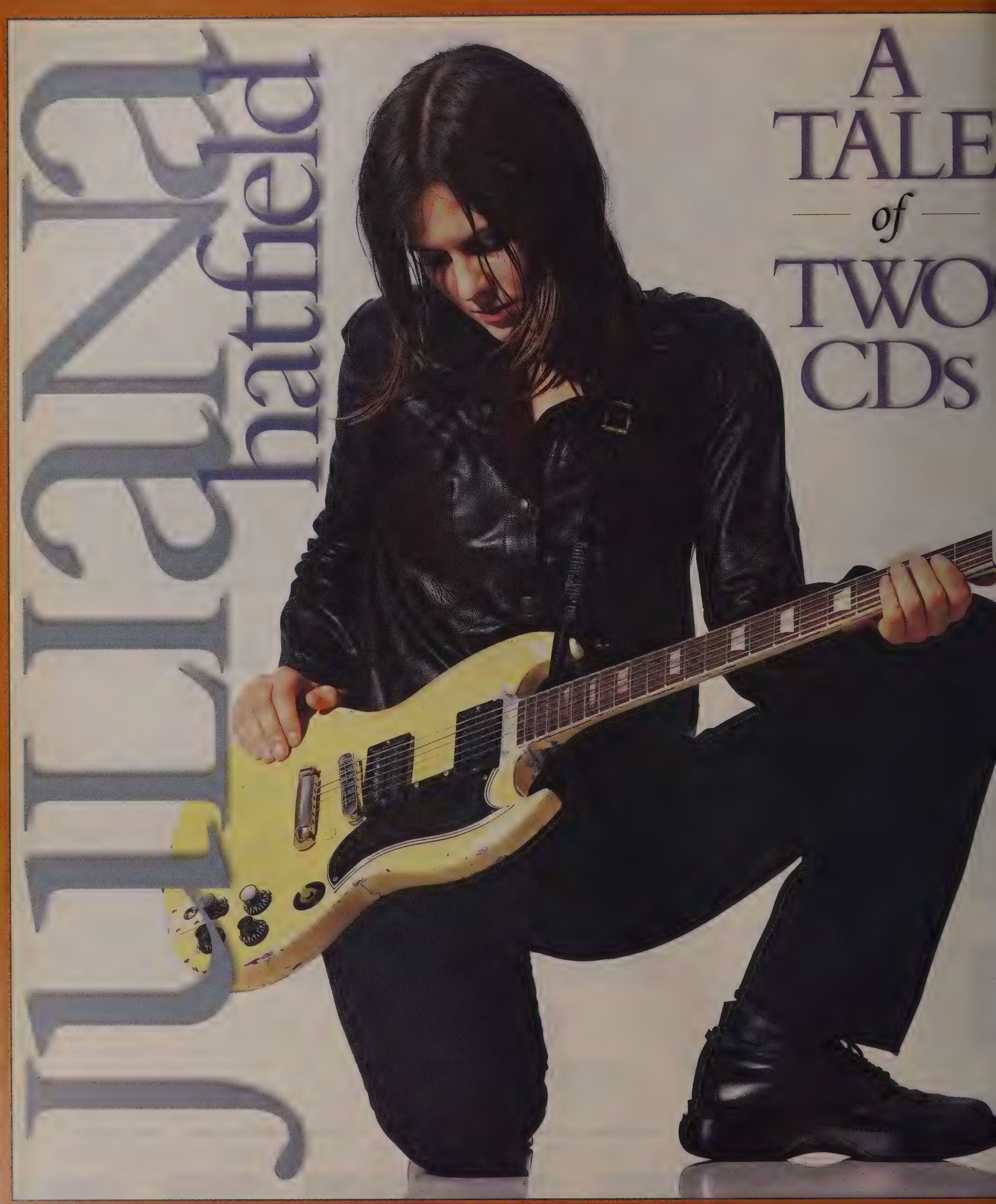
A TALE of TWO CDs



PHOTOGRAPHER'S ASSISTANT: JOEL LAINO; STUDIO MANAGER: HEATHER JULIAN; STYLIST: MARCI DUARTE/TEAM
HAIR AND MAKEUP: PAMELA SIEGEL; BLUE TOP, OPPOSITE PAGE: TOCCA AT SAKS FIFTH AVENUE

Boston's sultry chanteuse just released two discs simultaneously—one leans toward winsome pop, and the other is a foray into hard rock. Intrigued by this display of split personality, we put our own Paul Robicheau and Jonathan Soroff on the case.

PORTRAITS BY MICHAEL INDRESANO

Juliana behind the music

BY Paul Robicheau

At different times over the past decade, Juliana Hatfield could be considered both Boston's most overrated and most underrated rock artist.

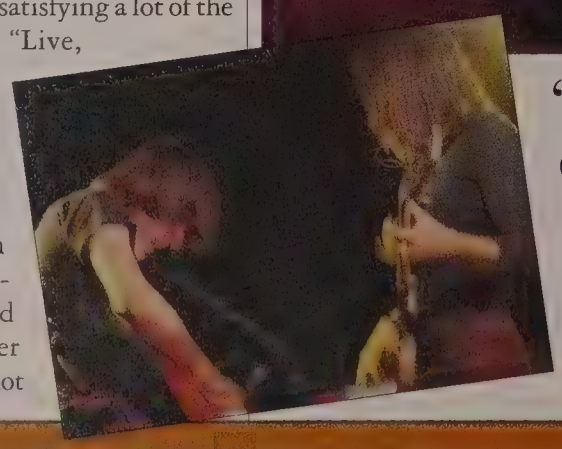
"If there's any kind of hype, it skews everything and doesn't present an accurate picture of me," says the singer-guitarist, who graced many a magazine cover amid the buzz surrounding her early '90s solo albums. "I was this little girl trying to make sense of my place. I was just trying to figure out how to live, and how to make music, and I was so inexperienced. I'm still learning how to sing and play and write, and I haven't reached my potential yet. Back then, I knew a lot less about what I was doing, and I got all this attention when I felt like I didn't deserve it yet."

Today, on the other hand, Hatfield deserves more attention for *Beautiful Creature* and *Total System Failure*, her oddly simultaneous new releases for Rounder imprint Zoë. The former is more of a well-crafted pop album, expanding from acoustic-based love songs to lo-fi electronic trappings. The other is a spontaneous, three-piece exorcism of her rock impulses.

"I've gotten back into more of a free and independent position where I'm pretty much doing whatever I feel like doing, like making the records I want to make, and not thinking about singles at all when I'm writing," says Hatfield, 31, who caps a month-long tour with a June 28 concert at the Somerville Theatre. "I just want to entertain myself."

"I'm lucky, because I have a manager who owns a recording studio," she says in reference to Gary Smith at Fort Apache. "When there are free days at the studio, I'm able to just go in and fuck around with every idea."

"Recording is more satisfying a lot of the time," Hatfield says. "Live, you've only got one chance to put on a good show. If you screw something up, you've screwed it up. You can't correct it. In the studio, you can really perfect stuff and have more control over the situation. There's not any pressure. Plus, it's the first time that stuff is coming to life. Just being there, when things are being born for the first time, is exciting."



Hatfield found several ways to generate excitement with her songs for *Beautiful Creature* by collaborating with different producers. Scott Litt (R.E.M., Indigo Girls and Hatfield's 1993 *Become What You Are*) handled the winsome "Someone Is Waiting For Me," while ex-Orbit bassist Wally Gagel lent an interesting edge to "Cool Rock Boy" and "Don't Rush Me" with the offbeat programming touch he gave the Folk Implosion hit "Natural One."

"I loved 'Natural One' 'cause it had modern technology, but it was kinda sloppy at the same time," Hatfield confirms of a new direction for her on those two songs. "That stuff was recorded all on Pro Tools and computer, and when I listen to that stuff next to the stuff that's done on analog tape, I just think the tape kinda sounds better. I'm old-fashioned that way. But I like mixing technology with the warmness of old-fashioned ways."

And nothing was more old-fashioned than her whim to record *Total System Failure*, a grungy, alter-ego blowout with drummer Stephan Courtney and bassist Mikey Welsh under the moniker Juliana's Pony. "It wasn't until [*Beautiful Creature*] was finished that I found myself with nothing on my schedule and said, 'There's something that I still want to do,'" Hatfield says. "I called my two rock friends to play drums and bass and we did it really fast." Fast, as in a total of about two weeks, writing included.

Lyrically, *Total System Failure* also took on a more sardonic, uncensored tone, from the human-nature breakdown of the title track to "Houseboy" (where the singer beckons her "slave" to fetch groceries and drugstore items, condoms included) and "Let's Get Married," where she barks, "Let's get a doggie and tie it to a chain. Fight over TV. My headache grows..."

"[That album] was reacting against all the love songs I had written and the vulnerability I had expressed," Hatfield says. "I just wanted to show the completely other side of me than the poor little waif from *Beautiful Creature*. And I think the Pony thing was influenced by having just spent six months in Los Angeles, and the attitude of kinda disgust. Being in LA rubbed me in that kind of way. Some of it is not that pleasant. I just didn't feel any need to hold anything back. I just wanted to do something that was totally extreme and that had a certain vibe—fun negativity."

A more pleasant trip ensued late last year when Hatfield went to Indiana and reunited with the members of her original indie-rock band, the Blake Babies, including onetime member Evan Dando. They made a CD for release later this year, on an uncertain label. "We all kinda missed each other, I think, and felt that we wanted to try recording together, just for fun really," says Hatfield, reporting of the results, "The music is a little more laid back, and less tense, and my voice has gotten a bit lower."

The Blake Babies might even tour if scheduling allows, she says. But for now, Hatfield is on the road with a group including guitarist Jon Skibic, drummer Fred Eltringham (both of Gigolo Aunts fame) and bassist Josh Lattanzi. "No one hates each other yet," she says dryly from a Pittsburgh tour stop, noting that they're playing a lot of the new songs, from both discs. "At this point in my career, I definitely do not care whether a new CD is going to be accepted by a lot of people. I'm just trying to have fun."

"I'm sure most people out there think, 'Oh, she's over,' like I already happened," Hatfield says. "But that's not going to stop me from trying to improve, and to keep doing it. I'm not going to quit because of peoples' perceptions of me. Did van Gogh quit painting because no one bought a painting?" She pauses. "Then again, van Gogh went crazy and killed himself." iB

Hatfield hit the road in late May to promote her two recent releases (below). Along for the ride was guitar whiz John Skibic of the Gigolo Aunts.

"At this point in my career, I definitely do not care whether a new CD is going to be accepted by a lot of people. I'm just trying to have fun."

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Singer, songwriter and bass player Juliana Hatfield was born in Wiscasset, Maine, and raised in Duxbury. After graduating from Duxbury High School, she attended B.U. and then transferred to Berklee College of Music, where she earned a degree in songwriting. In 1990, while still a student, she and two classmates formed the critically lauded indie trio the Blake Babies. Two years later, her solo debut, *Hey Babe*, became the year's most successful indie release. She hit the big time with *Become What You Are*, the album featuring her hit single "My Sister," which landed her on the cover of such music magazines as *Spin* and *Alternative Press*.

Frustrated by a lack of label support for her last record with Atlantic, *God's Foot*, she struck out on her own in 1996, producing *Bed*, which was released by Zoë/Rounder Records. She lives in Boston.

From her early days at the piano to her indie rock band, the Blake Babies, to her recent releases, Hatfield seems most content—and comfortable—when making music.

BY Jonathan Soroff

juliana OFF THE record

"I do think there's a lot of conformity in music videos. They try to make everyone look the same—brush the hair, stick the boobs out—and it's kind of boring."

Jonathan Soroff: *You've released two albums at once. Isn't that a little nuts?*
Juliana Hatfield: Yeah, but who said I'm not nuts? I'm completely insane, so it makes total sense to me.
JS: *It's sorta schizophrenic, 'cause one album is very light and one is very dark.*
JH: Yeah, it's basically the two different sides of my split personality.
JS: *How do you feel about being called an alternative-rock goddess?*
JH: Umm, I guess it's flattering, I suppose, but I don't see myself that way. I have to look in the mirror in the morning after not getting enough sleep, and that's not what I see.
JS: *Good point. So who would you rather be stuck on an elevator with—Fiona Apple or Alanis Morissette?*
JH: Fiona Apple. She seems a little bit twisted, in a fun way. I think it would be interesting to see who would crack up first—me or her—whereas I think Alanis seems very earnest and [would] keep very calm.
JS: *So how did a nice Waspy girl from a good family wind up being a rocker chick?*
JH: What did you call me—a nice Waspy girl from a good family? I wouldn't call myself that. I come from a normal dysfunctional family.
JS: *Most overrated band in heavy rotation on the radio these days?*
JH: Hmmm. There are so many, I don't want to single anyone out.
JS: *Because of MTV, isn't it tough to be a musician unless you're photogenic?*
JH: Yeah, it's like it's not enough to be a good musician or songwriter. You have to be an actor, too. And I, for one, consider myself to be a very bad actor.
JS: *So do you resent that emphasis on presentation and looks?*
JH: No, I don't resent it. I haven't made a video in about five years, so it's not really a part of my life anymore, but I do think there's a lot of conformity in videos. They try to make everyone look the same—brush the hair, stick the boobs out—and it's kind of boring.
JS: *OK. Now for the breakfast-cereal portion of the interview. Are Trix just for kids?*
JH: I'm the wrong person to ask.
JS: *How about Lucky Charms. Are they really magically delicious?*
JH: No comment.
JS: *OK. So would you ever date a guy named McCoy?*
JH: Never! McCoys are to be avoided, especially if your name is Hatfield.
JS: *Ever buy anything from TV—exercise equipment, a juicer, anything from Ronco?*
JH: I think I bought a compilation of greatest love songs from the '70s.
JS: *Ouch!*
JH: I find those things very hard to resist. They dangle all the great songs from your childhood in front of you; you have to buy it.
JS: *Any other guilty pleasures—ABBA, maybe, or the Bay City Rollers?*
JH: Faith Hill, Savage Garden. There's a whole long list. I'm famous for guilty pleasures.
JS: *Name three CDs in your stereo right now.*
JH: Shelby Lynn: *I Am Shelby Lynn*. I'd also have to say I've been listening to the Sex Pistols a lot lately—*Never Mind the Bollocks*. And a band called Califone, which is kind of like late-night blues-pop from Chicago.
JS: *Cool. So what was your worst experience with a record company weasel?*
JH: My problems were never really with the record company people. It was more like photographers who'd try to get me to put on leather pants or a bustier and tell me to stick my boobs out. I've had a lot of battles with photographers.
JS: *{WBCN DJ} Nik Carter has a major crush on you. Anything you'd like him to know?*
JH: I'm very flattered by it, and actually, I'm sort of a fan of his. I think he stands out in his field because he's not a total chauvinist pig on the air. His self-deprecation is sort of charming. A lot of those rock DJs are narcissistic pigs, and he seems to be somewhat humble.
JS: *Any song lyric you're embarrassed that you wrote or recorded?*
JH: Oh, so many.
JS: *What's the worst?*
JH: "I'm ugly with a capital U" is pretty embarrassing.
JS: *How about your favorite lyric?*
JH: I have more memories of the ones that make me want to cringe.
JS: *Ever fantasize about Courtney Love beating the tar outta Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera?*
JH: I haven't, but I'm sure she could.
JS: *Don't you think she ought to?*
JH: Oh, I don't know. I don't hate those two girls. I think they both have talent. So does Courtney Love.
JS: *Very tactful. So is {Letters to Cleo singer} Kay Hanley the coolest Mom you know?*
JH: She is pretty cool, but I have to say I know a handful of very cool Moms.
JS: *For most male rockers, the guitar is like a surrogate penis. What is it for a female rocker?*
JH: It's still a surrogate penis. That's how I can fulfill the rock-star fantasy and work out my penis envy, all at the same time.
JS: *If you could do a duet with anybody...*
JH: I'd love to record a duet with Paul Westerberg. For many years, I thought of myself as kind of a female version of him. He's sort of an inspiration to me.
JS: *Best backstage pass you ever had?*
JH: I had a Cheap Trick backstage pass, but I was too nervous to go. I was so freaked out and shy. I had an anxiety attack.
JS: *Last question: Don't you think a Grammy Award would make a nice paperweight?*
JH: There's a lot of things you can do with a Grammy, but it's not something I covet. A lot of terrible albums win Grammys, and I don't need one to feel good about myself. iB

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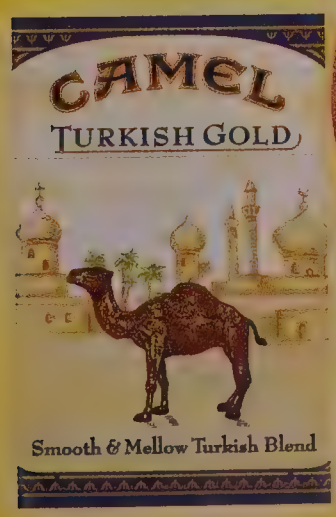

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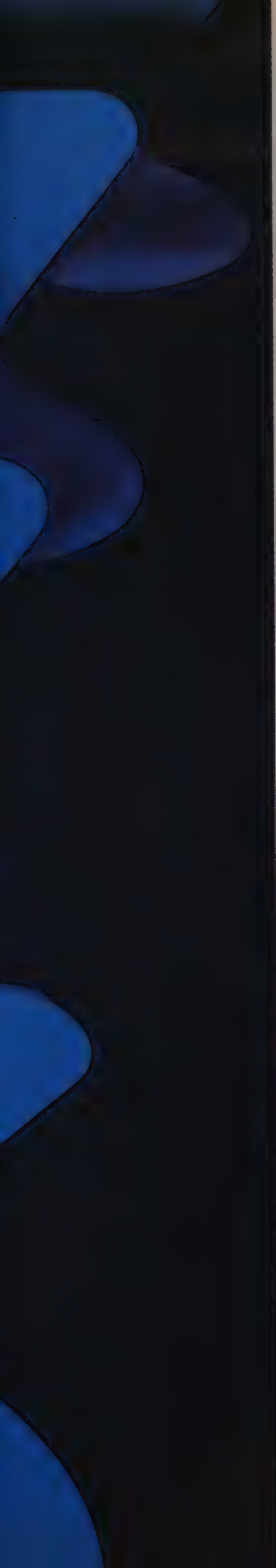

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Serendipitous shopping: Our unfettered correspondent seeks out the salubrious and the cerebral.

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY

KISSING BRIDES ATOP CAKE MAGNIFICO!

Verna's Cake Decoration at 2348 Mass. Ave. in Cambridge (864-7745), near St. John's Church, has supplies, assistance and classes (not actual cakes) that will make you want to bake.

Customers fondly remember the now-retired Verna, whose family continues to run this frosting-smoothing, friendly, hands-on business. Verna's is where you come for the ornate, often highly architectural structures and supports that go into making an important cake for a wedding, birthday, sweet 16, and so on, for purchase or rent. People come for the personalized service, leaning like eager math students as the "Vernas" sketch out the way to assemble, say, a Ziegfield-esque extravaganza cake of many parts, with a working, bubbling fountain and walkways connecting the cake estate, populated by wedding-party figurines. Verna's frosting tips alone number in the hundreds. One—creating "grass"—was used on a display cake celebrating Mr. Retirement, who hangs in a hammock surrounded by a barbecue and palm trees. Well worth a motivational cruise are display cakes of *The Wizard of Oz*, crosses, graduates and Fourth of July stars. A mock-despairing RIP Over the Hill birthday cake is adorned with mournful crows. Diversity figurines—remember, this *is* Cambridge—celebrate various colors and races. Equipment to make graduation lollipops, beautiful calla lilies, numerous ornaments and more comic cake-covering doodads than you can imagine fill this fun shop. A cake is worth a thousand words.

DOCTORING PHOTOGRAPHS

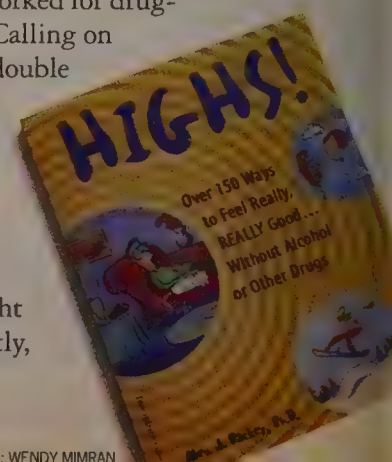
Edward Mason's digitally altered photographs look very much like paintings. Catch his shows around town or call 354-6496.

The marriage of camera and computer proves to be full of opportunities for amazing lusciousness, as psychiatrist Dr. Edward Mason's work shows. In his transmogrified photographs, what may begin as a highly representational picture is manipulated through software and, in fact, softened to the point of abstraction or a kind of impressionism. Mostly, the resulting picture has departed entirely from its dead-ahead form: A building at the Harvard Business School he's playfully titled "Golden HBS" shows simply an array of lozenges of light shimmering with gold. One picture evokes the pointillism of the painter Seurat with interestingly distorted, skinny figures. Other photographs of scraps of papers, tumbling nails connected in a belt for a rat-a-tat hammer, or stacks of cardboard begin and end rather abstractly. Mason's Photoshop manipulations bring on blurriness in some pictures, a watercolor feeling in others, but they always plunge you into a rich, saturated, inviting palette of colors. His subjects range from a glass jar crammed with lemons or a thrillingly deep, watery quarry in China to a charged rendering of already-colorful Miami. Locally, he's played with the dramatic Northern Avenue Bridge in Boston and pastoral scenes on the Charles.

THIS IS YOUR BRAIN ON ENDORPHINS

Highs! Over 150 Ways To Feel Really, Really Good Without Alcohol or Other Drugs, by Alex J. Packer, Ph.D., lays out some healthy, legal up-sides.

While self-deprecatingly calling his doctoral degree a "Fidd," psychologist Alex Packer Ph.D. pitches some of life's natural highs to the people most likely to look for less natural ones: teens. Having worked for drug-education programs, he knows that replacement, not just abstinence, is the answer. Calling on pleasures and leisures known to children (then forgotten during the murky years of double digits)—spinning, swinging, staring in and out of focus with a friend, rubbing your eyeballs (even educated monks do it), looking at a fire ("Good cave-parents used to tell their children "Don't sit too close to the fire, you'll ruin your eyes")—Packer reminds us how primal, sensually shimmering and easily attainable "altered states" can be. Other high-makers are imported from quieter adult climes—meditation, temporary sensory deprivation (in a big dishwasher-delivery box) and role-playing games on and off the Net. Or wilder places, literally high, like trapezing or ultra-light flying ("All you need is a dearth of common sense," he jokes.) Seeing things differently, through change of habit or perspective, can help. Wonderful quotes are sprinkled throughout: "No object is mysterious. The mystery is your eye" (Elizabeth Bowen).



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Ezra

King of a Hill

The joys of living the low life

BY EZRA DYER

I have come to a conclusion about social circles: It is far better to be the king of the trailer park than the scrounge of the country club (unless you really do have a lot of money and are merely acting in a scrounge-ish manner to annoy the other members).

I had this revelation on a recent Sunday after a round of golf and subsequent dinner. First, the golf. In fairness to the Colonial Golf Course in Wakefield, it should be noted that my golf game lacks polish—and not just in the hitting-the-little-white-ball-into-the-hole arena. I do not own a pair of golf spikes, my clubs are a mongrel set purchased from a friend for $15, and my bag is decidedly oblong from my having run it over with a cart during the tail end of a beer-a-hole tourney about a year back. However, nearly every course I've visited has been willing to have me and my Sandra Palmer pitching wedge grace their roughs because I pay just as much as people who don't look as if they equipped themselves at the local landfill.

Colonial is different. At $60 a round, I would not characterize the place as inexpensive, but I recognize that you gots to pay to play, and $60 is not an inordinate sum for a good public course. So after ponying up $240, our foursome approached the starter, and my roommate, Dave, queried him as to where we might begin. The sour old curmudgeon regarded Dave as if he'd just asked for assistance with lancing a pesky boil and replied that next time we should be more punctual. This occasioned everyone to consult their watches. Glances of incredulity from my comrades revealed that everyone else's watch agreed with mine—which is to say that we showed up at about 12:00:10 for a noon tee time. He then admonished us to show up earlier, "if you ever come back."

As we made our way to the first hole, I decided that the starter was having an off day due to some small woodland creature lodged in his personal rough, and I resolved not to let his derisiveness bother me. What did bother me, however, were the geese. Colonial is covered with geese. I'm sure that they'd like to poison all the geese and throw them in the swamp that surrounds the course, but the EPA probably isn't down with that. So there are geese everywhere, many of them looking like they've come out on the wrong side of an argument with a #3 Top-Flite.

By about the fifth hole I was very annoyed. My thoughts ran to, "Here I am, standing in a pile of goose shit, surrounded by a swamp and flocks of geese with golf balls stuck in their heads, and I have paid $60 for the privilege of having a rude man send me here." After slugging out 18 holes, it was time for a change of pace. It was time for Hooters.

At Hooters, I instantly ascend from dirty, chastised cur to possibly the most sophisticated person extant. I'd begun to think that my roommates might be in the running here as well until Scott voiced his proposal that "We should start a restaurant where all the waitresses wear thongs, and we should call it 'Poopers.'" Dave enthusiastically backed this motion, adding a heartfelt "Damn, I told you we should have sat in that section over there."

Sitting in Hooters, drinking Budweiser and eating Buffalo wings, I was in my element. Here, I was not a bad golfer with off-brand clubs and a profound ignorance of the anal-retentive rules of etiquette that govern every aspect of the game. Here, my friends, I was the only person who thought that the pay-per-view wrestling showing on every TV was fake. Two of my fellow patrons actually jumped out of their booth during a particularly rousing sequence of ass-grabbing wrestling action and began wildly imitating the moves of their favorite stars. Plainly, these guys had sprung from the shallow end of the gene pool.

At Hooters, I instantly ascend from dirty, chastised cur to possibly the most sophisticated person extant.

These individuals, and the other sloping-forehead denizens of Hooters, made me feel like a new man. By typical Hooters standards, I was a fabulously erudite and sophisticated playboy. Before that day, I may not have known that it's bad form to step across someone's line on the green, but—in marked contrast to everyone else in the establishment—I did know that the waitresses weren't really flirting with me. At Hooters, if nowhere else, I am a scratch player. iB

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SHE watches Fellini, listens to Schoenberg, lives for espresso, dreams in noir, **pines for a good bowl of udon.**

something in common

HE is chained to his laptop, plays golf every Sunday, likes two coats of wax on the Benz, and **insists that the sushi is fresh.**

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INSIDE: Sel de la Terre braves the Big Dig battleground; Daddy-O's throws a fiesta benefit

Lala Rokh is a distinctive Eastern Mediterranean restaurant in New England (above). Opposite page: *morgh*, a dish of saffron-seared chicken in a light tomato broth (above); owners Azita Bina-Seibel and Babak Bina (below).

REVIEW

Persian Pleasures

Lala Rokh delivers the richness of Persian culinary tradition to Beacon Hill.

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI

Boston is a city of contrasts. On the one hand, it can be parochial, almost provincial, with a self-image ranging from arrogant to smug. On the other hand, Boston is a delightfully cosmopolitan city, enriched, broadened and enlightened by the infusion of immigrants, students, tourists and businesspeople from around the globe. Nowhere is this cosmopolitanism better showcased than in the marvelous array of foreign and ethnic restaurants scattered among Boston's neighborhoods. One of the most inviting and exotic, Lala Rokh, is improbably located near the foot of Mt. Vernon Street on Beacon Hill.

Persia, which became Iran in 1935, is a country most Americans know precious little about. Students of ancient Greece do know that the Persian armies were defeated by the Greeks at the Battle of Marathon, ushering in the golden age of Periclean Athens. Students of modern history recall with chagrin the overthrow of the U.S.-supported Shah and the ensuing seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. Beyond that, Iran is *terra incognito*.

Lala Rokh is named for a romance written by an English poet in the early 19th century, based on the stories brought back by European travelers to the East. The name means "tulip cheeks," a term of endearment in the Persian language. The restaurant's interior, which is slightly below-grade as this part of Mt. Vernon Street descends steeply to Charles Street, is not without charm, despite the low ceilings. Framed prints of old Persian texts and intricate calligraphy dating from the 9th century hang on beige walls, all illuminated by track lighting. Tables are set with dark-red tablecloths covered with butcher paper. Iran's cuisine reflects the position of the country astride historic trade routes between Asia, Europe, the Indian subcontinent and the Anatolian peninsula. Small dishes of green and brown olives appeared while we perused Lala Rokh's extensive menu, which evokes the richness of Persian culinary traditions. It proposed more than a dozen choices for appetizers and soups, another dozen side dishes, relishes and salads, and 18 main courses.

We began with *meugo* ($6), four or five grilled shrimp in a lemon-butter sauce, garnished with delicate greens. The shrimp boasted a superb crunchy texture and a subtle sweetness. *Kotlet-e gusht* ($6) were two flavorful patties of minced beef and potato. A combination of Eastern and Mediterranean spices gave these croquettes a subtle but hauntingly memorable flavor. *Mirza ghasemi* ($6) turned out to be a provocatively smoky eggplant spread, enriched with roasted garlic and tomato, a Persian version of ratatouille. Salads included *fasle* ($4), consisting of crisp romaine leaves, tomatoes, red onions, cucumbers and Balsamic vinaigrette dressing, while *shirazi* ($5) was a felicitous melange of chopped cucumbers, tomatoes and red onions in a virgin olive-oil-and-fresh-lime dressing, refreshingly chilled. The *shirazi* was a reminder that Alexander the Great, bringing Greek culture and cuisine, swept through Persia in the 4th century BC. Side dishes of *sabzi khordan* ($4), a jungle of fresh basil leaves, mint and tarragon served with raw scallions, radishes and feta cheese was another refreshing taste-bud perker, while the *sir* ($2), whole garlic cloves aged in the sun for at least a year, were at once robust and mellow.

Lala Rokh's main courses were uniformly excellent. Dominated by stews and grills, they focused on lamb, chicken and beef. Standouts included the *bareh* ($16), kebabs of succulent lamb grilled to a rare and tender turn after a leisurely bath in a fruity olive-oil marinade. Red onions, green peppers and potatoes were a delightful accompaniment. *Sultani* ($17), was a mixed grill of *kubideh*, lean ground-sirloin meatballs spiced with turmeric and saffron, and *barg*, thin strips of sirloin

JOEGREENEPHOTO.COM (3)

and grilled tomato. All of the grills were served with aromatic basmati rice—light, almost ethereal, with each tender, dainty kernel distinct.

Turning from the grills to the stews, we tried the *morgh* ($14), a casserole of chicken thigh and leg meat seasoned with saffron, cumin and cinnamon, in a tomato sauce that was both delicate and flavorful. Finally, and most enjoyable, was the *ghormeh sabzi* ($16), resilient but tender chunks of robustly flavored lamb leg, braised in a bouquet of dried lime zest, suffused with warm, exotic spices and served with a garnish of aromatic greens. The savory flavors and perfumed aromas reminded us of a fine Moroccan *tagine*.

Lala Rokh's main course portions were ample but not excessive. Its excellent desserts, however, seemed surprisingly sparse, perhaps because they were so intriguingly delicious. *Fereni* ($4.75) consisted of a rice-flour and rose-water custard with slivered almonds, topped with fresh strawberries and kiwi. The *baglava* was Persia's rendition of baklava, small morsels of ultra-thin filo dough with almonds and rose water, sweet but not cloying, the flaky texture of the filo complemented by the crunch of the nuts.

Lala Rokh has a wine list, but we elected instead to choose from its first-rate selection of draft beers ($4.25 per pint). Geary's Pale Ale, a rich semi-bitter brew from Maine, and Wild Goose Amber, equally flavorful, made terrific accompaniments to the food, while Geary's Maine Porter, sweet and dark, was a more stand-alone drink, a pleasant way to conclude the meal and a welcome supplement to the tiny dessert portions.

Service was gracious and informative. Our server patiently took time to explain the unfamiliar menu. The hostess showed particular enthusiasm and knowledge in describing the ancient Persian calligraphy in some of the framed prints. It was clear that she saw her role as restaurateur to be as much an ambassador of Persian culture as a purveyor of food and drink. We came away from Lala Rokh with our hunger satisfied and our souls enriched. **iB**

Lala Rokh

97 Mt. Vernon St., Beacon Hill (720-5511) .

HOURS Daily 5:30-10pm

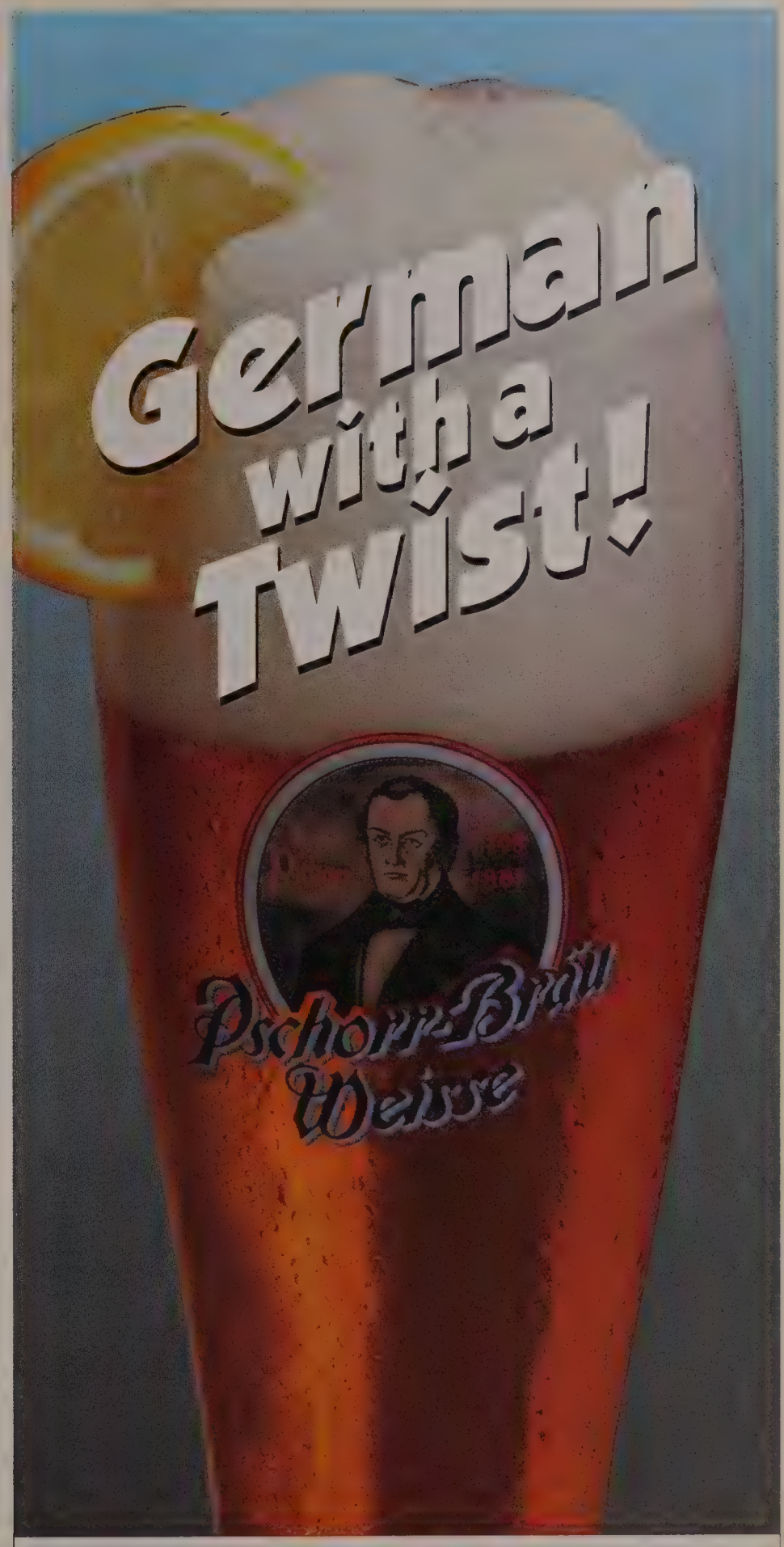
RESERVATIONS recommended

CREDIT CARDS all major, except Diner's Club

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE yes

PARKING on-street parking

LIQUOR LICENSE wine and beer



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DISH

Between Heaven and Sel de la Terre

Herbal essence…Tango at Rialto… That peeling feeling… BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

Pay no attention to that Porta-potty outside the front door. In fact, just ignore all the din and heavy construction equipment of the Big Dig that surrounds **Sel de la Terre**, because once you're inside, your senses will be soothed with what can only be described as aromatherapy. Order a signature martini, and as it's poured, the heady fragrance of the lavender-infused vodka wafts gently across your table. More bracingly aromatic is the champagne cocktail, slightly astringent with its infusion of rosemary, ginger and orange topped with Cremant de Loire. At once lulled and bestirred, your palate is now ready for a basket of excellent earthy breads and a selection of starters that range from crisp, flavorful Mediterranean flatbread pizza to sauteed sea scallops with country ham, peas and grilled Vidalia onions, rich with herbal undertones. Don't forgo dessert—pastry chef **Michael Rhoads** makes an ethereally silken lavender/honey *pot de crème*.

SECOND COURSE

More difficult than salsa….more sophisticated than Ricky Martin….more intellectually demanding than Jennifer Lopez… it's tango time.

Every Thursday night at **Rialto**, the furniture is moved to the sides of the dining room, and at 10:30pm, the center of the floor is given over to practitioners of the sultry dance. Why the tango? And why now?

Jody Adams, chef/owner of Rialto, says inspiration struck when she was planning Rialto's New Year's Eve benefit for the Dance Umbrella. Although flamenco, swing and hip-hop dance were also featured, it was the tango that caught Adams' fancy, and so "I was hooked up with a dance instructor last September for private lessons," she recounts. "It's a really, really hard dance to learn, it requires enormous focus—you have to be in tune with your partner."

Adams' dance instructor, Hamza Zeytinoglu, can help you get in tune, too. Between 9 and 10pm on Thursdays, at the health club downstairs from Rialto, he's offering free tango classes.

Meanwhile, beginners are welcome to join the experts upstairs, and if you just want to watch—one diner describes the scene as "food for the eyes"—that's OK, too. For $10, you can take a seat and nibble at a light buffet of finger foods inspired by Argentine fare, which is, as Adams points out, heavily Italian-influenced: "We've had vegetable pizzas; little phyllo strudels with mushrooms, spinach and feta; focaccia sandwiches; grilled andouille sausage; fresh fruit, cheeses…" You get the picture.

Can you eat and tango at the same time? "No, it can't be done," says Adams firmly. "You need both arms to tango."

Another hot item on the summer agenda is Rialto's fifth annual Wine Barbecue. On July 17, Adams will host and feature James Beard Award-winning chef **Bobby Flay**, who is currently host of *Hot off the Grill* on cable's Food Network. But don't expect all Flay and no work for Adams—she'll join the chef/owner of New York City's **Mesa Grill** and **Bolo** at the outdoor Rialto grill to cook up a seven-course menu.

"We'll both do grilled hors d'oeuvres," says Adams, "definitely including grilled clams. Then, it's whatever we can get from the farm, or bluefish or striped bass." Also on the menu: guest winemaker **Andrew Murray**, who will match his Rhone-style wines to the Flay/Adams collaborative cuisine.

Tech update: On Amazon.com's new kitchen site, check out what Chef **Daniel Boulud** considers the most frustrating kitchen preparation: peeling the skin off of baby English peas. iB

Table Tech: *Cook's Illustrated*'s Christopher Kimball (left) was among the guests at the Federalist for Amazon.com's recent announcement of its new online kitchen store.

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant?
Send it to *dish@improper.com*

WINE

Vouvray BY SANDY BLOCK MW

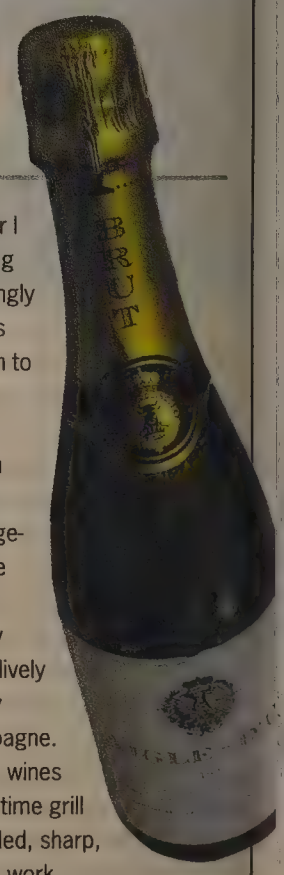
If there's a wine style more versatile than Vouvray, I've yet to discover it. There's a bottle to fit every mood and occasion: high-quality sparklers to begin dinner; dry, medium-dry and fully sweet white wines with razor sharp fruit acidity to complement dishes as diverse as trout, duckling in an apricot glaze, pork with apples, or pear tart; and finally, wines that have evolved into complex, golden nectars after decades of aging.

This latter style was a shock to me when I first tasted a 40-year-old Vouvray whose honeyed, waxy flavors left me speechless several years ago. The owner of a venerable old Vouvray estate pulled it out from under a table at a tasting and poured me a sip. Concealing the label, he asked me to guess the vintage. "76?" I ventured, knowing this was a great year of reputed longevity in the Loire. "1947," he whispered from behind a cupped hand, as if he were initiating me into a secret society. I've since had firsthand experience with much older Vouvrays that still taste lively and balanced.

How can a wine made from the chenin blanc grape, universally despised and disparaged, age so beautifully? After all, isn't this the insipid varietal that produces much of the cheap, sweetish, quasi-jug wine from California? It's the same grape, but it makes a different wine in the Loire Valley, particularly in the part of Touraine hugging the north bank of the noble river that surrounds the village of Vouvray. Here the soil is a kind of soft, porous yellow stone, interspersed with chalk and gravel, that imparts a sharp, minerally tang to add nuance and depth to the grape's natural fruit flavors. In this cool, northern French climate, Chenin Blanc generally makes a wine of sharp, uncompromising acidity, the exact attribute required to preserve white wines for lengthy bottle aging.

Because most good Vouvray has such tart, edgy flavors, the wines are often made with some degree of residual sugar to provide balance. The sweetness level varies considerably though, based on how warm the weather was during the growing season, the timing of the harvest and the stylistic preferences of the winemaker. This is the factor that makes buying Vouvray confusing: We rarely know the exact style of wine we're getting because although some winemakers label their wines "sec" (dry), "demi-sec" (half dry) or "moelleux" (sweet), the categories overlap considerably. Others avoid classifying the wines entirely because they feel that their characteristics change over time and that a wine that starts out with an impression of searing dryness can mellow and taste sweeter 10 years after bottling.

The variations among Vouvrays are created by changing weather patterns in this unpredictable region. Vintages that are cooler than average see a high proportion of sparkling wine produced—as the grapes required for these wines don't benefit from ripe, sunny flavors—while exceptionally hot years produce a higher percentage of the luscious Moelleux dessert-style varieties. It's also important to note that Vouvray is a large appellation, producing more than a million cases of wine a year, and that the best wines generally emanate from individual estates rather than from the cellars of merchants or winemaking cooperatives. Look for "mis en bouteille au domaine" on the label to indicate an estate-bottled wine.



This is the time of year I find all Vouvrays appealing because of their refreshingly direct fruit flavors, but it's particularly the time I turn to the underappreciated sparkling wines. Vouvray Mousseux (the legal term applied to the district's bubblies) are lively, vintage-dated bottles made in the classic method, but their exuberant, slightly earthy apple-y flavors are more lively than the subdued, yeasty characteristics of Champagne. They're charming, casual wines to accompany a summertime grill or Asian cuisine. The chilled, sharp, slightly tangy fruit flavors work wonders with hot aromatic spices, leaving your palate refreshed and invigorated. They're also, on average, $10 to $15 less expensive than the Brut Non Vintage Champagne. iB

Tastings BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for tastings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

EVENTS

Adventurous American Cuisine
Tremont 647, Boston (266-4555). June 19, 7pm. $75. Guest speakers from J. Lohr Winery join **Andy Husbands** and **Jason Santos** for a five-course dinner and a discussion of the unique wine pairings.

Bricco's One-Year Anniversary
241 Hanover St., Boston (734-4175). June 15, 6pm (cocktails), 7pm (dinner). $125. Chef **Bill Bradley**'s anniversary menu will include Californian and Italian wines and selected cheeses from Formaggio Kitchen (plus a visit from Paul Revere). Proceeds benefit Old North Church.

Father's Day Barbecue Brunch Buffet
Cafe Fleuri, Le Meridien, 250 Franklin St., Boston (451-1900). June 18, 11am-3:30pm. $43. This Father's Day BBQ brunch buffet created by executive chef **Mark Sapienza** will feature barbecued beef, pork and chicken and stations offering salad, Provençal cuisine, seafood and breakfast selections.

First Day of Summer Smoke-Out
The B Side Lounge, 92 Hampshire St., Cambridge (354-0766). June 21. $30. On the third Tuesday of each mont, Chef **Jeff Unger** hosts a "3 Cooks—3 Courses" event, during which he chooses a timely ingredient or theme and invites two other chefs along to each prepare a course. This evening's smoke-out features **Todd Carey** of Linwood Grill, **Keith Maurizi** of Redbones and **Ruben Garza** of Blue Ribbon.

Greek Food Festival
Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church, 29 Central St., Somerville (625-2222). June 16, 5-10pm; June 17, 12-11pm; June 18, 12-8pm. Sample homemade *souvlaki*, Greek salads and baklava at this festival of dance and music.

Grill 23 & Bar: A Perfect Pairing of Food and Wine
Brookline High, Brookline (730-2700). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. June 26, 6-9pm. $59. Review the basics and science of food and wine pairing with **Jay Murray**, executive chef, and **Alicia Towns**, wine manager and sommelier at Grill 23. In this evening of cooking demonstrations, you will be wined and dined with a four-course meal and a full spectrum of wines.

Guest Chefs at Eat
253 Washington St., Somerville (776-2889). Monday evenings. Eat's **Charlie Robinson** hosts a different chef every Monday night. •June 19: **Ray Gillespie** of 224 Boston Street. •June 26: **Jorg Lopes** from the Blue Room.

International Wine Tasting Series
Angelo's Ristorante, 575 Boylston St., Boston (536-4045). Tuesdays, 5-9pm. $35. Four foods from the menu are paired with four wines from international vineyards.

La Cucina Toscana
Ciclismo Classico, 30 Marathon St., Arlington (800-866-7314). June 16, 4:30-6:30pm. These specialists in Italian active vacations are offering an open house during which you'll learn about the region of Tuscany and learn how to make such dishes as bruschetta, panzanella, pesto and biscotti di prato.

Macy's Great Chef Series
Swissotel Boston, One Avenue de Lafayette, Boston (888-MACYS NY). $25. Join today's finest culinary stars as they share their secrets in a series of in-depth cooking classes. •June 27, 5:30pm: **Mary Ann Esposito**.

From left, Fiesta organizers Peter Franklin (PeterBread Consulting), Julia Shanks (Interactive Cuisine), Loretta Hugues (El Pelon) and Paul Sussman (Daddy-O's).

TASTY TIDBIT

OLÉ!

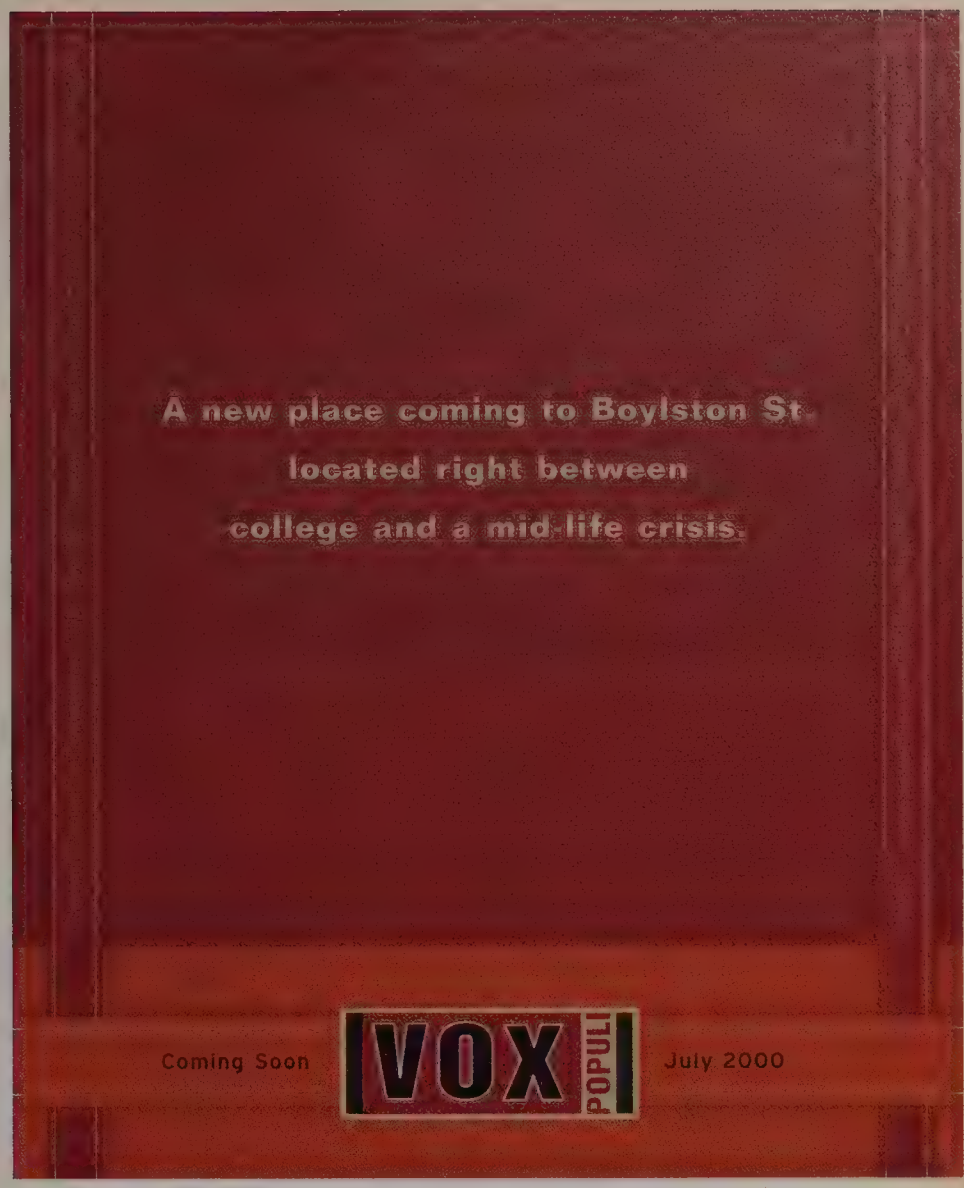
Remember what it was like to crack open a piñata and dive for the candy spilling to the floor? You can relive those childhood memories at Operation Frontline's Fiesta on Daddy-O's patio June 26. Aside from the colorful piñata and live music, there'll be a Latin menu featuring such delicacies as *lechon asado* (roasted suckling pig) with spicy salsas, *asado mixta* (assorted grilled meats), paella, tuna seviche, mini Cuban sandwiches, enchiladas in green *mole* sauce, roasted vegetables, rice and black beans and, for dessert, triple Mexican chocolate cookies with tequila sorbet. Los Banditos (see above), a group of volunteer chefs with Operation Frontline, planned the event. All proceeds go to Operation Frontline, a program of Share Our Strength, the nation's largest anti-hunger organization. *Daddy-O's, 134 Hampshire St., Cambridge (354-8371). June 26, 3-10pm. $30.*

7th Annual Sparkling Wine Gala
Westport Rivers Vineyard & Winery, 417 Hixbridge Road, Westport (508-636-3423). June 24, 6-9pm. $125. **Frank McClelland** of L'Espalier is the guest chef at this event. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres while watching the sun set over the vineyard and then feast on a three-course, sit-down dinner under the festival tent.

Summer Tequila Dinner
West Side Lounge, 1680 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (441-5566). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. June 27, 6:30pm. $40, $45 at the door. This three-course dinner will feature south-of the-border food by chef **Tim Partridge**, paired with creative tequila libations from bar manager **Kevin Fethe**.

Tango at Rialto
One Bennett St., Cambridge (661-5050). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thursdays. $10. Chef **Jody Adams** hosts tango lovers, learners and those curious about this dance. Price of admission includes a light buffet with empanadas, traditional flans, fresh fruit, vegetable pizzas and cheese—foods with both Argentine and Italian influences.

Wine Tasting Wednesdays
Turner Fisheries Lounge, Stuart and Dartmouth Streets, Back Bay (424-7425). 5-7pm. $2 per glass. Wine experts will describe the origin, body and flavor of each wine as well as suggest food pairings. •June 14 and June 21: Caymus and Liberty School from California.



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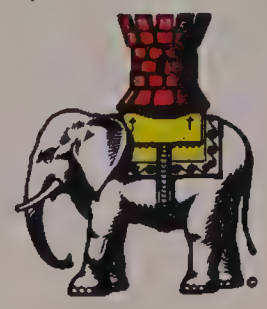

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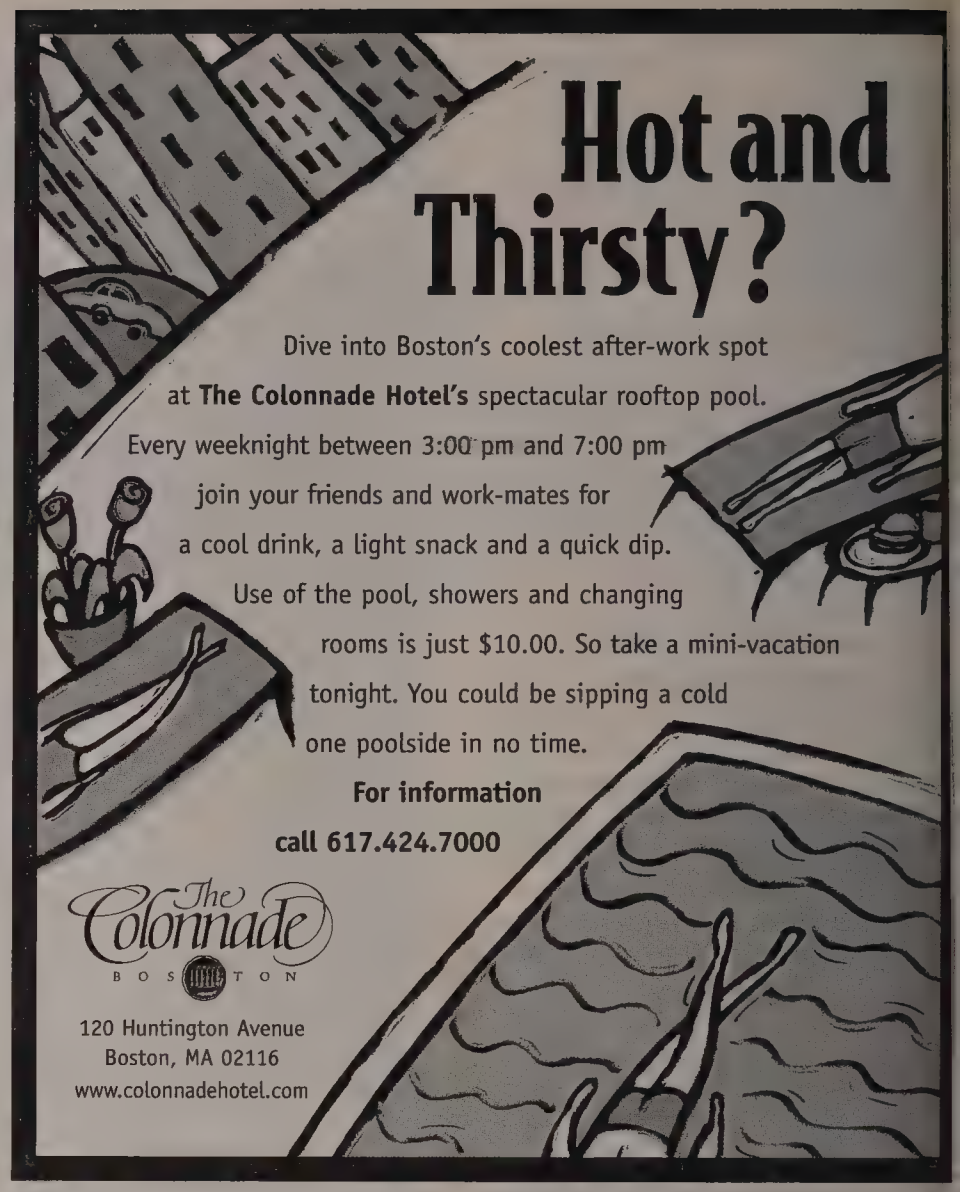

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agenda

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Erin and Julie

THE CALENDAR GIRLS'

improper picks

Too busy (or just too lazy) to plan your own schedule? Life don't get easier than this.

Wednesday, June 14

Erin: Spaulding Gray continues his tradition of storytelling excellence with ***Morning, Noon and Night*** at the Trinity Repertory Company. (See Performing Arts.)
Julie: How will Big Dig construction alter the face of Boston? Find out at the heated debate "**Boston Under Construction**," at the Old South Meeting House. (See Education.)

Thursday, June 15

Erin: Sonic Youth and **Stereolab** are at Avalon. Also, **The Smut Peddlers**, **Mr. Lif** and **Akrobatic** are Downstairs at the Middle East. (See Music.)
Julie: The entire block behind **Jose McIntyre's** becomes one big party, with music and plenty of beer. (See CityScope.)

Friday, June 16

Erin: If you like baklava, don't miss the **Greek Food Festival** in Somerville. (See Tastings.) Also, moonwalker **Buzz Aldrin** reads from his new novel, *Science Fiction*. (See Books & Poetry.)
Julie: A new rock musical version of ***The Scarlet Letter*** is at the C. Walsh Theatre. (See Theater.)

Saturday, June 17

Erin: **Celebrate Seaport** is a two-day festive marketplace extravaganza. (See CityScope.)
Julie: Bargain-hunters should head to the **Yard Sale** at the Brookline Arts Center. (See Sales & Fashion.)

Sunday, June 18

Julie: The annual **Dragon Boat Festival** is an incredible festival of dance, music and, of course, colorful dragon boats racing down the Charles. (See CityScope.)
Erin: Bring your dad down to the Common for a huge Father's Day celebration featuring lots of famous dads. (See CityScope.)

Monday, June 19

Erin: The Brattle features ***Grass***, filmmaker Ron Mann's look at the history of marijuana prohibition in the U.S. Narrated by hemp activist Woody Harrelson. (See Film.)
Julie: The **Guest Chefs at Eat** series features Ray Gillespie of 224 Boston Street. (See Tastings.)

Tuesday, June 20

Erin: It's **Screen on the Green** night. Pack up a picnic and go see *Forbidden Planet*. (See Film.)
Julie: The **Summer SOULstice Festival** at the Christian Science Plaza has musical entertainers and storytellers. (See CityScope.)

Wednesday, June 21

Erin: The **Boston Pops** perform *Celtic Nights* at Symphony Hall. (See Classical Music.)
Julie: He's so dreamy, I'm going to see him twice. **Ricky Martin** shakes his booty at the FleetCenter tonight and tomorrow. (See Music.)

Thursday, June 22

Erin: Diner aficionados should head to **Diner-Rama** (the Great American Diner Museum's annual event) for a half-day tour of diners across R.I. and Mass. (See Go Away.)
Julie: The **American Cancer Society Corporate Regatta** is an evening of competitive sailing, waterfront dining and moonlight dancing. (See CityScope.)

Friday, June 23

Julie: Yet another Greek fest takes place in Watertown. The **Grecian Festival** has traditional food, crafts and dance parties. (See CityScope.)
Erin: As part of the Harvard Film Archive's "The Left Bank Revisited" series, director **Agnès Varda** presents his film, *Cleo from 5 to 7*. (See Film.)

Saturday, June 24

Julie: The South End's **Street Fair/Flea Market** has 35 vendors selling antiques, collectibles and art. (See Sales & Fashion.)
Erin: **Tremont Brewery Music Fest 2000** will feature nine hours of local music. (See Music.) Or head to the South Shore for the **Quincy Blues Festival**. (See Music.)

Sunday, June 25

Julie: **Celebrity Challenge for Charity** at the Fairmont Copley Plaza features auctions and entertainment by swingers Big Bad Voodoo Daddy. (See CityScope.)
Erin: Last chance to see ***Miss Saigon*** at the Wang. (See Theater.)

Monday, June 26

Julie: **The New England Sports Awards** at the FleetCenter pays tribute to amateur and professional athletes. (See Sports.)
Erin: The Coolidge and WGBH present live jazz performed by New England Conservatory musicians accompanied by the film ***Mingus: Charles Mingus***. (See Film.)

Tuesday, June 27

Erin: Once again, it's **Screen on the Green** night on the Common. Tonight, see Hitchcock's *North by Northwest*. (See Film.)
Julie: The world's most famous mime, **Marcel Marceau**, comes to the A.R.T. (And he won't ask you for spare change.) (See Theater.)

Michael Jordan to the Max

The new IMAX film featuring the former Chicago Bulls star slam dunks at the Museum of Science through Sept. 21.

cityscope

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a list of festivals, events and benefits taking place in the Boston area by date.

Festivals, Events Expos & Benefits

Wednesday, June 14

Tour Historic Hingham Homes
Old Ordinary, 21 Lincoln St., Hingham, Mass. (781-749-2731). 1-8:30pm. $15, $18 on the day. Five homes and several historic buildings in Hingham will be open for viewing, including the Old Ordinary, Old Derby, Old Ship Meeting House, St. Paul's Catholic Church, Memorial Bell Tower and Hingham Cemetery.

MIMC Interactive Leadership Awards
Royal Sonesta Hotel, 5 Cambridge Parkway, Cambridge (227-2822, ext. 201). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 6:30-9:30pm. $100. These awards recognize key players who have advanced the interactive media industry in New England. Sponsored by the Massachusetts Interactive Media Council.

Thursday, June 15

Block Party
The entire block of Central Street behind Jose McIntyre's, 160 Milk St., Boston (488-2894). 5-11pm. $5. This is the seventh annual block party to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. The invitees and performers include the Catunes, Dub Station, Thomas Park, Novakane and DJ Dan McCarthy.

WGBH Dance Party
Veronique Ballroom, Brookline (300-1623). MBTA: D Green Line to Longwood. 7-10pm. $60. Dust off your dancing shoes for a night of dancing hosted by WGBH 89.7FM's Ron Gill (*The Jazz Gallery*) with music by Bob Bachelder's Totem Pole Orchestra. Cha-cha, samba, tango, waltz, fox trot, jive—and dance the night away.

A Gift of Life
Hilton Boston Logan Airport, 85 Terminal Road, East Boston (978-946-3486). MBTA: Blue Line to Airport. 6-11pm. $30. The Anthony Picarello Foundation hosts this dinner-dance to benefit the New England Organ Bank. Anthony, a 28-year-old East Boston resident, recently underwent a successful liver transplant.

Midnight Tango
Weeks Footbridge on Memorial Drive, across from DeWolfe Street, Cambridge. 8-11pm. Dance tango by the light of the moon with folks from the Tango Society of Boston.

4th Annual Rose Garden Party
Kelleher Rose Garden, Back Bay Fens, Boston (635-4505, ext. 6525). 5:30-8pm. $100. Guests are encouraged to wear garden party attire for this unique event surrounded by 2,000 rose bushes of more than 100 varieties.

Young Professionals Night
Il Panino, 295 Franklin St., Boston (338-1000). Thursdays, 9pm. Free. This night features a social playground for young professionals in Boston with cocktails, dancing and friends.

Friday, June 16

Greek Food Festival
Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church, 29 [illegible] St., Somerville (625-2222). June 16, 5-10pm; [illegible] 12-11pm; June 18, 12-8pm. Sample homemade Greek salads and baklava at this festi[illegible] music.

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). Fridays. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

Rock for a Cure: Kyler, Adrianne and Holbrook Gracia
Rhythm & Muse, 403A Centre St., Jamaica Plain. www.rk4cure.org. 9pm. A special show to benefit Rock for a Cure, a non-profit organization dedicated to the fight against breast cancer.

Sail-Into-Summer Soiree
New Waterfront Ballroom, Bayside expo Center, Boston (720-0442). MBTA: Red Line to JFK. 8pm-12am. $50. Boston Charities, a non-profit charity start-up made up of Bostonians under 40 years old committed to contributing to the community, will host this summer party with music and dancing to benefit the Kids Fund of Boston Medical Center.

Tailgate Party
The Bay Tower, 60 State Street, 33rd floor, Boston (742-4828). 8pm-12am. $15. **DJ Locomotion** hosts this swinging party for single professionals. Hors d'oeuvres, mix and match games and prizes ensure a fun night out.

Saturday, June 17

Antiques and Artisans
First and Second Church, Berkeley and Marlborough streets, Boston (536-3726). Hale Barnard Services for Older People, a non-profit organization serving elders, will hold this outdoor fair featuring premier antiques and artisan exhibitors from Greater Boston.

Celebrate Seaport
Seaport District, adjacent to the Seaport Hotel and the World Trade Center, Boston (385-5955). June 17-18. MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Celebrate Seaport is a two-day festive marketplace extravaganza featuring unique activities—from hydrobiking on the Boston Harbor to a farmers' market—along with food sampling, shopping and live entertainment.

18th Annual Juvenile Diabetes Foundation Gala
Boston Marriott Copley Place, Grand Ballroom, Boston (781-431-0700). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6pm. $250. Guests will enjoy live entertainment from the Pointers (as in, the famous singing sisters), live and silent auctions and an appearance by Mrs. C, Marion Ross from *Happy Days*.

Keeping Traditions Alive for the Next Generation
Massassoit Community College, Route 27, Brockton (884-4227). June 17-18, 11am-6pm. See Hoop Dancing by Pete Four Winds, Brockton's Antler River Singers and intertribal dancing by Wendell Deer with Horns and Carol Mills, among others.

Annual Yard Sale
Brookline Arts Center, 86 Monmouth St., Brookline (566-5715). MBTA: C Green Line to St. Mary's. 10am-3pm. BAC's annual yard sale serves as a clearinghouse for some of Brookline's best addresses, and hundreds of items will be available at this indoor and outdoor sale of jewelry, furniture, small appliances, household goods, kitchen items; toys, board games, sports equipment and books.

Sunday, June 18

Dads Make a Difference
Boston Common Parade Ground, Charles and Beacon streets, Boston (451-0049). MBTA: Green Line to Park. 1-5pm. Free. Hosted by Ramiro of WJMN 94.5, the event features celebrity dads from sports and the media, including Steve Israel, former N.E. Patriots cornerback and news anchors Steve Sbraccia of New Center 5 and Mike Nikitas of New England Cable News. Enjoy a diverse lineup of performers, ice cream treats, a Velcro obstacle course and basketball, golf and fly-fishing clinics for the dads.

Day Cape Codder
South Station, Boston (361-4445). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. 8am-9:30pm. $65. Enjoy the only Amtrak service from Boston to the Cape via the unique vertical-left railroad bridge at Buzzards Bay over the Cape Cod Canal. The MBTA's new Old Colony Railroad trip will include lunch and a Hyannis harbor cruise. Sponsored by the Mystic Valley Railway Society.

Tuesday, June 20

BMW Ultimate Drive
Herb Chambers BMW, 1172 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (725-1623). 10am-6pm. At this nationwide event, BMW donates $1 to Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation for every mile that is test-driven.

Screen on the Green
Boston Common at Beacon Street and Charles Street, Boston (635-4505). Sunset. Free. An outdoor film festival on the Common, Screen on the Green will feature *Forbidden Planet* tonight.

Summer SOULstice Mini Festival
Christian Science Plaza, 175 Huntington Ave., Boston (450-3131). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. June 20-24. Enjoy a new music and arts festival every Tuesday at noon. This four-day mini festival kicks off the Summer SOULstice season with a host of musicians, artists and storytellers. •June 20, 12-2pm: participatory world music and a visit from the Plantmobile. •June 21, 1pm: jazz. •June 22, 12pm: 3rd and 4th grade students dance. Also Sidwalk Sam leads children in chalking. •June 23, 12pm: songteller Janice Allen with African-American folk and gospel music, circle games and folklore. •June 24, 12pm: Cottage Park Yacht Club arrives with miniature yachts to sail in the reflecting pool.

Thursday, June 22

12th Annual American Cancer Society Corporate Regatta
Courageous Sailing Center, Pier 4, Charlestown Navy Yard, Charlestown (556-7400). June 22, 6-11pm. $50, $60 at the door. Enjoy one of Boston's best pier-side parties featuring an evening of competitive sailing, waterfront dining prepared by Gargoyles on the Square, onshore activities, the Sail of Hope and moonlight dancing.

Fifth Annual City Hall Dance Party
Cambridge City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge. MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7-11pm. Dance the night away under the stars outside City Hall, which will be illuminated for the city's big millennium celebration that takes place throughout the year.

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Fridays. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

Young Professionals Night
Il Panino, 295 Franklin St., Boston (338-1000). Thursdays, 9pm. Free. This night features a social playground for young professionals in Boston with cocktails, dancing and friends.

Friday, June 23

Grecian Festival
Taxiarchae-Archangels Greek Orthodox Church, 25 Bigelow Ave., Watertown (924-8182). June 23-24, 11am-11pm; June 25, 12-10pm. Free. Expect evening dance parties, plenty of Greek food, crafts sales and raffles at this annual church fund-raiser.

Saturday, June 24

Family Arts Festival
Town Hall Auditorium, 10 Mudge Way, Bedford (781-276-0700). 12-10pm. Half-day, $7.50, full-day $14. An all-day indoor/outdoor family arts festival, featuring Hurdy Gurdy Monkey and Me plus six other acts for all ages, including a storytelling, comedy, performance art and an evening concert by pop/folk singer Susan Werner.

Free-Sailing Event
Boston Sailing Center, Lewis Wharf, Boston (227-4198). 1-6pm. Free. Seasoned skippers and landlubbers alike are invited to join in the festivities at this free-sailing event aboard boats ranging in length from 23 to 40 feet.

Fourth Annual Immigrant Festival
Magazine Street Beach Park on Memorial Drive between Magazine and Brookline streets, Cambridge. 10am-6pm. A festival celebrating the local immigrant communities with food, crafts/bazaar, performers, children's activities and a soccer tournament.

Order for Preservation of Indian Culture
Prowse Farm, 5 Blue Hill River Road, Canton (781-337-4308). Intertribal dancing and drumming are the highlights of this event. Buy native crafts and handmade jewelry and clothing.

11th Annual Street Fair/Flea Market
Corner of Columbus Avenue and Wellington Street, Boston. MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave. 9am-3pm. This event includes 35 vendors selling antiques, collectibles, art and home furnishings, along with face painting and balloon animals for children, raffles, refreshment stands and live music.

Tremont Brewery Music Fest 2000
Tremont Brewery, 50 Terminal St., Charlestown (646-3400). www.tremontale.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Square. Shuttle to brewery. June 24, 1-10pm. $10.* Enjoy a festival of local music with acts ranging from rock to electronica...not to mention plenty of frothy Tremont Brewery beer. See the Music section on page 70 for a list of bands.

Quincy Blues Festival
Veterans Memorial Stadium, Quincy, Mass. (376-1990). 11am-8pm. Now in its eighth year, this blues festival is recognized as one of the region's top cultural events, gathering nationally renowned blues musicians. The non-alcohol, family-oriented day draws thousands for the music, art and photography show, children's entertainment and food.

Sunday, June 25

Italian-American Fiestas: St. Jude Procession
Hanover Street, North End, Boston (536-4100). 2pm. It wouldn't be summer without the North End's Italian fests. A different patron saint is honored almost every weekend with a procession, music, carnival games and wheels of pizza. St. Jude's is a procession only.

MasterCard Celebrity Challenge for Charity
Fairmont Copley Plaza, Boston (557-9910). www.reachingback.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 7-11pm. $100.* An evening of auction and entertainment featuring swing band sensation Big Bad Voodoo Daddy and jazz pianist Marcus Johnson and vocalist Alyson Williams. Comedian Lenny Clarke will host this benefit for the Reaching Back Foundation.

Monday, June 26

Raw Is War
Worcester's Centrum Centre, Worcester (228-6000). June 26, 7:45pm. $20-$40. The Rock, Triple H, The Big Show, Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley, Chyna, D-Generation X, The Radicals, Too Cool, Chris Jericho, Kane and Kurt Angle...It could only mean one thing. The superstars of the World Wrestling Foundation lay the smackdown at the Centrum Centre.

Preview

Dragon Boat Festival

You'll hear the rhythmic beating of a drum well before you reach the Charles River, as the brightly colored Dragon Boat Festival paddles into town, June 18. About 40 teams compete in this race, while visitors enjoy arts and crafts and performances on the shore. Don't miss the One World Taiko, traditional Japanese festival drummers from Disney's Epcot Center, and the traditional Chinese lion dance performed by local martial arts school, Wah Lum Kung Fu. *Along the Charles River by Harvard University, on Memorial Drive, between JFK and the Western Avenue Bridge, Cambridge (426-65000, ext. 778). www.dragonboat@bostonkids.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. June 18, 12-5pm. Free.*

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Saturday July 15th - Sunday July 23rd

Saturday, July 15 (10am - 6pm)
Downhill Skateboarding Qualifying and Competitions
Sunday, July 16 (9am - 6pm)
Street Luge Qualifying and Competitions
Monday, July 17 (12pm - 5pm)
Wakeboarding Practice
Tuesday, July 18 (9am - 3:30pm)
Wakeboarding Competitions
Wednesday, July 19 (12pm - 6pm)
Aggressive Inline / Bike Practice
Thursday, July 20 - Sunday, July 23 (11am - 8:30pm)
Aggressive Inline / Bike / Freestyle Motocross / Skateboarding

Friday, July 21
Bike Vert Practice (6pm-8pm), Bike Vert Final (8pm-9:30pm)
Saturday July 22
Skateboarding Vert Practice (6pm-8pm)
Skateboarding Vert Final (8pm-9pm)
Sunday July 23
Bike Street Practice (4pm -8pm), Bike Street Finals (8pm- 9:30pm)
Thursday, July 20 (4:30pm - 6:30pm)
Film Festival
Friday, July 21 - Sunday, July 23 (5:30pm - 8:00pm)
Free live concerts provided by Universal Music and College Television Network

Check out the product displays, food and the interactive area including a mini street and dirt course, vert ramp, dive tank and climbing wall

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Downtown on the Farm

Farmers' markets around the city have opened for business, hawking everything from flowers and hanging plants to seasonal fruits and vegetables, native honey, herbs, cheeses and fresh baked breads. Check 'em out at the following locations: •Boston City Hall (Mondays and Wednesdays, 11am-6pm) •Copley Square (Tuesdays and Fridays, 11am-6pm) •Cambridge's Central Square (Mondays 12-6pm) and Harvard Square at the Charles Hotel (Sundays 10am-3:30pm) •Somerville's Davis Square (Wednesdays 12-6pm). *For more information, call the Federation of Massachusetts Farmers' Markets at 781-893-8222 or visit* massfarmersmarkets.com.

New England Sports Awards

FleetCenter, Boston (978-1038). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. 7:30pm. $10 general admission. This event, which pays tribute to amateur and professional athletes for their performances this past season, will feature current members of the Boston Bruins, Red Sox, Celtics, Patriots and Revolution, as well as live musical performances and comedic entertainment. Proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society.

Tuesday, June 27

Screen on the Green

Boston Common at Beacon Street and Charles Street, Boston (635-4505). Sunset. Free. An outdoor film festival on the Common, Screen on the Green will feature *North by Northwest* tonight.

Volunteer

Alliance for Children

(781-431-7148). June 15, 7-9pm. Adopt a child from China, Vietnam, Russia and Ecuador, among others.

American Cancer Society's Corporate Regatta at Courageous Sailing Center

(556-7432). June 22, 6-11pm. Join the planning committee or give a few hours during the event assisting with registration and other activities.

Boston Cares

(263-CARE). More than 70 volunteer opportunities available in Greater Boston.

Boston Living Center

(236-1012). HIV/AIDS service organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work and special events.

Boston-New York AIDS Ride

(859-8282, ext. 230). Ride is Sept. 15. Volunteers needed for work on mass mailings, phone banking and other projects.

Community Servings

(445-7777). Help prepare and deliver meals for individuals and families dealing with AIDS.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

(632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

Friday Night Supper Program

Arlington Street Church, corner of Arlington and Boylston streets, Boston (536-7050, ext. 22). Need volunteers to help prepare, cook and serve meals on Fridays, 5-7pm.

The Greater Boston Food Bank

(427-5200). Groups needed to sort donated food.

Horizons Initiative

(287-1900). Training sessions: June 27-28. Volunteers needed to play with children living in shelters. Commit to two hours per week for six months. Daytime and evening hours available.

The Jimmy Fund

(632-3861). June 9-mid-July. Volunteers are needed to pass the canisters in local movie theaters.

Mass. Eating Disorder Association

(558-1881). Volunteers needed for four hours per week for help line, assisting clinical staff and special events.

Pan-Massachusetts Challenge

(800-WE-CYCLE). www.pmc.org. *Event: Aug. 5-6.* Volunteers needed for the ride weekend to help with setup, registration, food service and cleanup.

Pine Street Inn

(521-7626). Seeking volunteers for summer to serve meals and act as receptionist for homeless guests.

Rosie's Place

(442-9322). Volunteers needed for the dining room, clothing room, the groceries program and office work.

United Services Organization (USO)

(720-4949). Volunteers needed to welcome Navy ships, participate in hospital visits, provide office support, coordinate receptions and assist with events.

Volunteers for Citizenship

(800-234-0110). Seeks individuals to assist legal immigrants and refugees to become naturalized citizens.

WBUR

(800-909-WBUR). Seeking volunteers to help answer phones during on-air fund-raisers.

Tours

Boston Bike Tours

On Boston Common (308-5902). Begins April 15. Daily 9:30am-6:30pm. Daily two-hour tours, Mon.-Sat. 1-3pm; 4-6pm. Low-impact, guided sightseeing tours of Boston on bicycles. Rentals available.

Boston by Foot

(367-2345). www.bostonbyfoot.com. *May-October. $8.* Guided 90-minute walks highlight the architecture and history of the city. •June 25: Charlestown. Meet at City Square Park, Chelsea Street and Rutherford Avenue, Charlestown.

Boston by Sea

Tours depart from Long Wharf (227-4321). Weekends until Memorial Day; daily through Oct. 9. 1pm and 3pm. $25. Against the backdrop of the sights, smells and sounds of the harbor, the cruise—featuring live theater performances, sea shanties and video vignettes—will allow visitors to learn about pirates, clipper ships, the old immigration station, the *USS Constitution*, the lighthouse and the Boston Tea Party.

Boston Duck Tours

Prudential Center, Boston (723-DUCK). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. April-October. $21. The 80-minute tour on amphibious landing crafts visits downtown and makes a final splash into the Charles.

Forefathers Day

Granary Burying Ground, Tremont Street (across from Bromfield Street), Boston (635-7383). June 18, 1-2pm. Free. Celebrate Father's Day with a glimpse into the lives of our forefathers, including Samuel Adams, John Hancock, Peter Faneuil and John Winthrop.

Freedom Trail Starter

Boston Common Visitor Information Center, Boston (635-7383). MBTA: Green Line to Park. June 17 and June 24, 10:30am-12pm. Free. Start your walk of the Freedom Trail with a Boston Park Ranger. They'll guide you from pleasure ground to burying ground.

Ghosts & Gravestones Tour

Meet at the Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Ave., Boston (269-7150). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Thursdays through Nov. 1 at dusk. Two hours. $29. This tour includes a walk through some of the city's burial grounds hosted by an 18th-century gravedigger.

Ghost Tours

Meet at Boston Common Visitor Information Center, 147 Tremont St., Boston (781-235-7149). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street. Selected evenings, 7:30pm. $12. Tour downtown Boston's most infamous haunted locations.

JFK's Boston

Meet at the Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Ave., Boston (269-7150). Sundays, 1-3pm. Through Columbus Day. $30. This fully narrated tour visits the places that helped make young Jack Kennedy the nation's 35th president. Price includes admission to the JFK birthplace in Brookline and the JFK Library.

The Literary Trail

Tour begins at the Omni Parker House, corner of Tremont and School streets, Boston (574-5950). Saturdays, 9am-12:30pm. $35. Explore the heritage of some of the country's greatest authors, poets and social activists at eight literary historical landmarks in the Boston area.

Olmsted Park: The Lost Jewel

Meet at the Daisy Ballfield on Willow Pond Road, Jamaica Plain (566-1689). June 18, 1pm. Free. Explore the design and history of one of the least known segments of the Emerald Necklace of parks.

The Riverway: Ribbon of Green

Meet at the MBTA station, Chapel Street, Brookline (566-1689). MBTA: D Green Line to Longwood. June 25, 5pm. Free. A 90-minute evening stroll along the Riverway examines the marrige of landscape art and clever engineering.

Saltmarsh to Glass Tower

Commonwealth Avenue and Arlington Street, Boston (635-7383). June 25, 1-2:30pm. Free. Join the rangers for a discussion of the topographical changes made to the Back Bay as well as architectural styles and important historical statues.

Cruise

Massachusetts Bay Lines

60 Rowes Wharf, Boston (542-8000). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium or Red Line to South Station. Daily 55-minute harbor tours sail Sun.-Sat. on the hour from 11am-6pm. $9. Nightly sunset cruises also available from 7-8:30pm for $16, and moonlight cruises from 8:45-10:15pm. •Wednesday evenings, 7-10pm, $16: **Live Blues Cruise**. June 14: Porch Rockers. June 21: Electric Blue Flames. •Thursdays: **Rock n' Roll Cruise**, 7:30-10:30pm, $16. June 15: Caution. June 22: Michigan Black Snake.

Boston to Provincetown Ferry

Bay State Cruise Company (748-1428). www.baystatecruisecompany.com. This boat has been outfitted to reflect the great tradition of the steamships that have made the run since 1847.

Sights to See

Boston Tea Party Ship and Museum

Congress St. Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Open daily, March-May and Sept.-Nov., 9am-5pm; closed Dec.-March. $8, $7 students, $4 children. You can dump your own bale into the harbor—and watch a museum guide scramble to retrieve it—at this replica of one of the ships emptied by colonists (disguised as Indians) during the Dec. 16, 1773, tea raid. Afterward, enjoy a cup of tax-free tea.

Boston University Observatory

725 Comm. Ave., Fifth Floor, Boston (353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), Oct.-March 7:30-8:30pm; April-Sept. 8:30-9:30pm. Free. BU's astronomers are available to answer questions and assist with telescopes as you check out Orion, Cassiopeia and the Big Dipper.

John Hancock Observatory

200 Clarendon St., Boston (572-6429). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open Mon.-Sat. 9am-11pm, Sun. 10am-11pm (May-Oct.) and noon-11pm (Nov.-April). Admission $4.50. The tallest building in New England (62 floors) offers much more than an awesome view. Listen to air-traffic controllers at Logan, test your knowledge of the city with a computer quiz, or relive some of Boston's most famous and infamous events.

King's Chapel

58 Tremont St., Boston (227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat. 10am-2pm. Admission free. Alongside Boston's first Anglican church—a gloomy, granite apparition—you'll find a burial ground with equally ominous-looking headstones dating back to 1630. On Sundays, listen for the distinctive peal of the church bell cast by Paul Revere's foundry.

Old North Church

193 Salem St., Boston (523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily 9 am-5pm. Free. Here, Paul Revere saw two lanterns shining on April 18, 1775, indicating that the British troops were crossing the Charles River to Lexington and Concord via boat. You remember... "One if by land, two if by sea."

Old South Meeting House

310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays 10am-4pm, weekends 10am-5pm. $3. A thousand fed-up men gathered in this church to decide whether or not to send three ships full of tea back to England. Guess what? They didn't. •New permanent exhibit: *Voices of Protest* traces the use of Old South Meeting House over three centuries for religious, political and social debate. Artifacts, lifelike figures and interactive exhibits illuminate how Old South has championed the right to free speech and assembly despite acts of official censorship. •Middays at the Meeting House, a lunchtime music series. Thursdays, 12:15-1pm. $4.

Prudential Center Skywalk

800 Boylston St., Boston (859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-10pm, Sun. noon-10pm. $4, $3 seniors and students. After that tiring, 50-floor elevator ascent, you deserve a drink at the Top of the Hub lounge before you check out Boston's only 360-degree view tower. On a good day, you can see New Hampshire. The view here is slightly better than that of rival John Hancock.

Trinity Church

206 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8am-6pm. Free. Designed by H.H. Richardson and constructed in 1877, the huge Romanesque church in Copley Square rests upon 4,500 submerged wooden pilings, which help hold up the church's massive tower. A shaded courtyard offers respite from the heavily trafficked plaza. On Fridays at 12:15pm, stop by for a free organ concert.

Museums

Boston Tea Party Ship & Museum

Congress Street Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. March-Nov., 9am-dusk. $7, $5.50 students, $3.50. Colonial-clad sailors take you aboard *The Beaver*, a replica of the smallest of the three ships involved in the infamous tea rebellion. Paul Revere leads the hourly tea throwing and explains all about the fateful day irate Bostonians poured out the tea in protest of the tax decree issued by British parliament. Try your hand at rope-tying too.

Children's Museum

300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June Tue.-Sat. 10 am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm; June-Aug. daily 10am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm. $5, children and seniors $3: Follow the red and white signs to the mother of all milk bottles. As you walk under it you'll feel as diminutive as your munchkin companion. See *Arthur's World* from the popular television series and children's books. This infamous aardvark is one of many hands-on favorites. •**Construction Zone!** Dig, tunnel, build (and tear down!) in this new exhibition inspired by the Big Dig.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum

Columbia Point, Dorchester (929-4523). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily 9am-5pm (last film begins at 3:55pm). $8, students and seniors $6, children $4. This permanent collection on the life and legacy of President John F. Kennedy offers a re-created world of the early 1960s with period settings and 25 dramatic multimedia exhibits. •Opened May 27: *Jacqueline Kennedy Travels Abroad.* A special exhibit on items presented to the former First Lady on her travels to Paris, London, Rome, India and Pakistan. Through Nov. 1. •Opened June 3: *John F. Kennedy—Man of the Sea.* This exhibit documents JFK's naval career and celebrates his lifelong love of the sea and sailing. Items include his collections of scrimshaw, Tall Ship models and maritime paintings; his boyhood sailing trophies; and the 26-foot sailboat, *Victura*.

Museum of Afro-American History

46 Joy St., Boston (739-1200) www.afroamericanmuseum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays 10am-4pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.* The place is bustling after its recent endowment of more than $1 million to restore the meeting house's hallowed sanctuary. See the African Meeting House, the oldest black church in America.

Museum of Natural History

26 Oxford St., Cambridge (495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, students and seniors $4, children $3; free to all Sat. 9am-12pm.* This Harvard museum is made up of four factions: The **Botanical Museum**, **The Museum of Comparative Zoology**, the **Mineral & Geological Museum** and the **Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology**. A number of exhibitions tie together all four of these distinct collections. The most famous is the Botanical Museum for its glass flowers collection—more than 3,000 models of more than 480 plant species. At the Museum of Comparative Zoology, check out the 42-foot-long mounted Kronosaurus (a really big lizard) and countless stuffed insects. The Mineral & Geological Museum's got a 16,000-pound Brazilian amethyst geode, and there's the dollhouse-esque Worlds in Miniature display at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnography. •New at the Peabody: *Heads and Tales: Adornments from Africa*. African people have developed hairstyles, headdresses, hats and many artifacts of visual interest to communicate messages to their friends and community about themselves and their society. •New at the Harvard Museum of Natural History: a 1 million-year-old saber-toothed cat.

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu. 9am-5pm; Fri. 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children. Omni Theater, Hayden*

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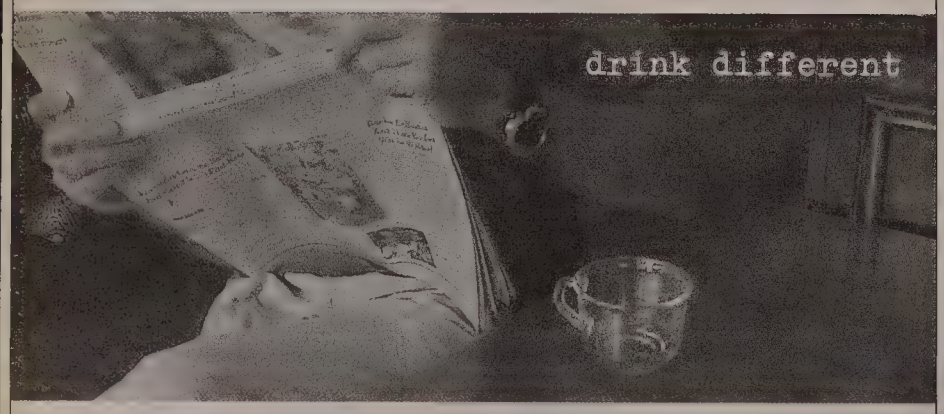

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The new exhibition *John F. Kennedy—Man of the Sea* opened at the JFK Museum June 3.

Planetarium or laser shows all $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children. Find out how much you weigh on the moon, strap yourself into a space module or sift through sand on an archaeological dig. Enjoy 600 hands-on exhibits, including the *Theater of Electricity*, *Seeing Is Deceiving* and *Science in the Park* (Newtonian physics introduced through such accessible items as playground equipment and skateboards). •*To See the Sea* explores the ocean from the perspective of a deep-sea diver. •Now open: *Messages:* Discover why communication is central to everyday life. *Human Body Connection*: exhibits on anatomy, physiology and health. *The Light House: Beaming, Bouncing and Bending Light*: Learn the principles of optics, color and the nature of light with 18 hands-on activities. •*Reptiles: Real and Robotic*, through May 29. Learn about a variety of reptiles and their diverse habitats, which can live in searing deserts or the cold North Sea. •New: Cahners ComputerPlace. A lively environment filled with multimedia-rich software and Web-based experiences. •*Secrets of Aging* opened April 5. Explores the science behind the universal experience of aging. •Mugar Omni Theater: *Mysteries of Egypt*; *Dolphins.* Opened May 5: *Michael Jordan to the Max.*

Charles Hayden Planetarium

Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children. Time of show changes daily.* Get high! High up, that is. And (then) go see the stars and rock-music laser shows. Check out the ongoing out-of-this- world multimedia installations *Life and Death of the Sun* and *The Sky Tonight*, and enjoy daily laser shows to the music of the Beastie Boys, Pink Floyd, Korn, Tool, Jimi Hendrix, Nine Inch Nails, among others. It's a trip. •Friday Night Stargazing, 8:30-10pm. Free. Weather permitting. •***Catastrophes in Space—When Stars End Their Lives***. Audiences will learn that all stars grow old and die, and the death of a massive star creates new life, seeding space with new chemical elements and triggering the formation of new stars and planets. Through fall 2000.

Museum of Transportation

15 Newton St. (in Larz Anderson Park), Brookline (522-6547). MBTA: D Green Line to Reservoir, to bus 51. April-Oct., Wed.-Sun. 10am-5pm; Nov.-March, Wed.-Sun. 10am-4pm. $5, $3 seniors and students. This 1888 carriage house is the automobile buff's paradise—and the country's oldest private collection of antique autos. Featured cars range from Fords and Corvettes to Cadillacs and Italian imports. Lawn events are held on Sundays, 10am-2pm, throughout the summer, with food, refreshments, picnic areas, judging of cars and museum exhibits. •June 25: MG Day.

Old State House Museum

206 Washington St., Boston (720-3290). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily 9am-5pm. $3, students and seniors $2. Built in 1713, this original seat of colonial government was the place pre-Independence Bostonians first heard the Declaration of Independence read. •Opened March 31: ***Burning Issues: A History of Boston Through Fire***. This exhibit considers the significance of eight fire events in Boston's history, with interactive experiences for the family.

USS Constitution & Museum

Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (426-1812). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, bus 93 to Navy Yard. Nov.-April 30: Open daily 10am-5pm. Free. The stories of the individuals who authorized, built and served on the *USS Constitution*, the oldest commissioned warship afloat. Learn about its 200-year history hands on—hoist a sail, take the wheel, fire a cannon or swing in a hammock.

Zoos & Gardens

Arnold Arboretum

125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain (524-1718). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open weekdays: 9am-4pm, weekends: 12-4pm. Free. More than 14,000 exotic trees, shrubs and flowers make this the place to go when you need to escape the hustle and bustle of city life. There's no picnicking allowed, but biking, dog-walking and Frisbee-throwing are encouraged.

Franklin Park Zoo

1 Franklin Park Road, Boston (541-LION). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open Oct.-March daily 10am-4pm; April-Sept. weekdays 10am-5pm, weekends and holidays 10am-6pm. Admission $7, senior $6, children (ages 2-15) $4. A 72-acre oasis of green in the city with waterfalls, lush vegetation, gorillas, leopards, hippos and free-flying birds. •Opened May 27: **Butterfly Landing**, with 1,000 butterflies representing 40 North American species. The celebration will also include visits with animals and children's arts and crafts. •Opened May 28: **The Farmyard**. Mosey on down to the zoo for that down-on-the-farm feel right in the middle of the city. Check out the new main barn, incubator and brooder building, chicken coop, silo slide and windmill. •June 24, 11am-3pm: Guru of gardening, Paul Parent, comes to the zoo to discuss butterfly gardening.

Mount Auburn Cemetery

580 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard, transfer to #71 or #73 bus. Open daily 8am-7pm (summer) and 8am-5pm (winter). Admission free. Rest in peace among the grave sites and crypts of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes, "Battle Hymn of the Republic" author Julia Ward Howe and Winslow Homer, among other famous Americans. A great place for birdwatchers and botanists.

New England Aquarium

Central Wharf, Boston (973-5200). www.neaq. org. *MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Early Sept.-June: Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. and holidays 9am-6pm. $12.50.* Boston's biggest fish bowl has much more than just goldfish. In the three-story saltwater tank swim turtles, sharks, eels and the occasional mermaid (or mer-male), who entertains crowds as she or he cleans the tank. Be sure to visit with the silly seals on your way in and out of the aquarium. •*Storm Over Stellwagen*, a new 15-minute, interactive multimedia production, allows you to control the outcome of the film. •***Unforgettable Boston***: This movie highlights many of Boston's favorite landmarks. $4. •Opened April 15: ***Nyanja! Africa's Inland Sea*** opens. This exhibit features East Africa's Lake Victoria, the world's second-largest lake, telling a story of the people, biodiversity, fisheries, history and future of the lake.

Roger Williams Park Zoo

1000 Elmwood Ave., Providence, R.I. (401-785-3510). South on 1-95 from Providence to exit 17 (Elmwood Ave.). $6, $3.50 seniors and children. Open every day except Dec. 25. Nov.-March 9am-4pm. April-Oct. 9am-5pm. Lions and tigers and a 150-pound baby polar bear named Triton. Oh my! More than 600 birds and mammals inhabit the African plains and rain forests. •Opened May 13: **Fleet Dinosaurs! A Journey to Extinction**. This amazing new exhibition features 22 larger-than-life prehistoric creatures hunting their prey, roaring a challenge and nurturing their young, all in an simulated prehistoric landscape.

Stone Zoo

149 Pond St., Stoneham, Rte. 93 North, Exit 34 (781-438-5100). Mon.-Fri. 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. and holidays 10am-6pm. $6 adults, $4 children. The polar bear, named Major, remains, as he always has been, the star attraction at this 32-acre zoo—as he has for the last 33 years. •*What in the World Is It?* A maze with five mystery animal stations. Find your way in and then try to find your way out. •Opened May 27: *Snowy Owl Creek*. This new exhibit brings you on a trek through the tundra and the Canadian north woods. Discover lynxes, snowy owls, arctic foxes, bald eagles and a trio of reindeer in a new habitat.

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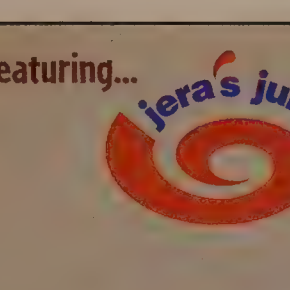

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Theater
JUST OPENED

Annual Summer Festival of New Plays

Tower Auditorium, Massachsuetts College of Art, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston (232-1555). Thu.-Sat. 8pm. Through June 17. $15. Discover hot new playwrights before they find fame and fortune. Each evening features a series of short new works. •June 15, 8pm: *Two to Die at Dawn*; *Me and Sam*; *The Queen of Persia*; and *Encounter with a Scottish Poet*. •June 16-17, 8pm: *On Buying a New Car*; *All on Account of a Dog*; *Tit for Tat*; *The Quality of Being Holy*; *The Things You Do*; *Gone Fishing*; and *The 12:22 from London Victoria*.

Auntie Mame

Footlight Club, 7A Eliot St., Jamaica Plain (522-3200). June 16-17, 8pm. $15. Auntie Mame shows her nephew what it means to be alive.

The Baltimore Waltz

Ruth Nagel Jones Theatre, Wellesley College, Alumnae Hall, Wellesley (283-2000). Mon.-Thu. 7pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm. June 20-29. $10. In Pulitzer Prize-winner Paula Vogel's play, a school teacher and her brother travel through Europe.

Bel Canto

Theater Offensive, Black Box Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Call for times and pricing. June 13-24. Part of the Plays At Work series, this one by Daniel Alexander Jones follows a young man's struggle to negotiate between the magical world of opera and the hard-edged jazz-like reality around him.

Berkshire Theatre Festival

Stockbridge, Mass. (413-298-5536). Mon.-Sat. 8:30pm. $18. •Main Stage, June 21-July 8: ***Camelot***. This musical, magical fairy tale details the love between Queen Guenevere, King Arthur and Sir Lancelot. •Unicorn Theatre, June 16-July 1: ***Best Kept Secret, A Dangerous Liaison in the Cold War***. Based on a true story, Katharine Houghton's two-person play explores the vast spectrum of emotions triggered by an intense relationship between Katya, a young American woman with a crippling disease struggling to find independence, and a Soviet engineering student trapped within the emotional, psychological, intellectual and physical confines of Communist Russia.

Cruel and Barbarous Treatment

Gloucester Stage Company, 267 East Main St., Gloucester (978-282-1350). Wed.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 5pm. Through June 18. $20-$30. These extraordinary stage adaptations of Mary McCarthy's *The Man in the Brooks Brothers Shirt* and *Cruel and Barbarous Treatment* and John Cheever's *The Five Forty-Eight* played to critical acclaim in New York City last season. The original NYC cast will come to New England for the premiere of these witty and dark works.

Five Bottles in a Six Pack

Theater Offensive, Black Box Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Call for times and pricing. Through June 24. In the face of everyday racism and misogyny, wouldn't it make perfect sense to be, well, mad? Renita Martin calls the bluff on sanity and challenges the very notion of health and sickness in a world as messed up as ours.

Honk!

North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly, Mass. (978-921-6351). Tue. 8pm; Wed. 2pm and 8pm; Thu.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm. June 13-July 2. $18-$56. A hilarious new musical based on Hans Christian Andersen's *The Ugly Duckling*. The British team of George Stiles and Anthony Drewe have turned the inspirational fairy tale into a surprisingly sophisticated comedy.

The House Not Touched by Death

Pilgrim Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Call for times and pricing. June 15-July 1. A provocative, moving and often hilarious musical performance about the contemporary person's disengagement with death and process of dying.

The House of Bernarda Alba

Actors Workshop, 40 Boylston St. Boston (423-7313). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Fri.-Sat. 8pm. Through June 24. $12. Frederico Garcia Lorca's masterpiece of seduction and betrayal is a study of family relationships under the strain of culturally imposed sexual taboos.

Immaculate Infection

Theater Offensive, Black Box Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Call for times and pricing. Through June 24. What do a stoic Latina housewife and a cranky Jewish diva have to offer each other? From their opening poultry wars, it is clear that Yolanda Burgos, with her *arroz con pollo*, and Mary Cohen, with her Jewish soup, are not a match made in heaven—in fact, their friendship is made in an AIDS treatment clinic.

Marcel Marceau

American Repertory Theatre, Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (495-2668). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. June 27-July 23. Face blanched white. Eyes burning with joy or sadness. Cheeks twitching to the design of rail-thin red lips. Eyebrows educated to infinite suggestion. Hailed as the world's greatest living mime, Marcel Marceau has almost single-handedly preserved and promoted this silent art. See him live.

Marni Nixon: The Voice of Hollywood

The Orpheum Foxborough, One School Street, Foxborough Common, Foxsborough, Mass. (508-543-2787). Thu.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 3pm. June 15-18. $26. Legendary performer Marni Nixon will share songs, stories and film clips from her days as the singing voice behind screen stars Audrey Hepburn in *My Fair Lady*, Natalie Wood in *West Side Story* and Deborah Kerr in *The King and I*.

Tennessee Williams' *Night of the Iguana* is at the Peabody House Theatre through June 17.

The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told

Speakeasy Stage Company, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Fri. 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 7pm. Through June 24. This comedy ponders what the world would be like had God made Adam and Steve, not Adam and Eve. It's about the struggle for faith, from Mesopotamia to Chelsea. Adam and Steve and Jane and Mabel—Earth's first two couples—seek God on the ark, beside the pyramids and at K-Mart on Christmas Eve.

The Publick Theatre

On the Banks of the Charles River, Soldiers Field Road, Boston (782-5425). June 16-17 (raindate June 18). $25. This annual fund-raiser celebrates the past 30 years of hit shows, including selections from *Sweeney Todd*, *Into the Woods*, *Anything Goes*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Nine*, *Guys & Dolls*, *Of Thee I Sing*, *Man of La Mancha* and Gilbert and Sullivan operettas.

Stupid Kids

SpeakEasy Stage Company, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu. 8pm; Fri.-Sat. 8pm and 10:30pm; Sun. 7pm. Through June 24. $21-$23.50. In the TV-saturated reality of modern childhood, quirky outcasts search for love, lust and acceptance in this hilarious sendup of timeless and contemporary traumas of teenage life.

Urban Cowboy (The Musical)

Gloucester Stage Company, 267 East Main St., Gloucester (978-282-1350). Wed.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 5pm. June 21-July 9. $20-$30. This world premiere is the pre-Broadway tryout of *Urban Cowboy (The Musical)*, a lively new Broadway musical based on the Paramount Pictures hit movie starring John Travolta.

NOW RUNNING

Blue Man Group

Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed.-Thu. 8pm; Fri.-Sat. 7pm and 10pm; Sun. 3pm and 6pm. $39-$49. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to get its point across with tribal rock music, performance art, humorous antics, props (including plastic tubes and Twinkies) and three men painted blue.

Fall

Trinity Repertory Company, 201 Washington St., Providence, RI (401-351-4242). Tue. 7pm; Wed.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Through June 25. $26-$38. This playful and bittersweet coming-of-age comedy tells the story of a young girl obsessed with scuba diving who is forced to accompany her parents to a swing-dancing camp for the summer. As her parents try to lindy some romance back into their marriage, Lydia begins a surprising flirtation of her own.

I Kissed Dash Riprock!
One Grrrls Confession

Charlestown Working Theater, 442 Bunker Hill St., Charlestown (628-4750). Thu.-Sun. 8pm. Through June 25. She was a struggling Hollywood wannabe, fed up with the LA grind. She had met powerful, drop-dead gorgeous men before, but never any one quite like dashing film star Dash Riprock (names have been changed to protect the innocent). Travel with the lovesick heroine and she circles the globe and romances the stars.

King Hedley II

Huntington Theatre, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (266-0800). Tue.-Thu. 7:30pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Through June 18. $10-$52. August Wilson's new drama chronicles the African-American experience through each decade of the 20th century.

Miss Saigon

The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Wed. 8pm; Thu. 2pm and 8pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm; Sun. 2pm and 7:30pm. Through June 25. $15-$65. This Broadway blockbuster musical tells a story of love and self-sacrifice between a young Vietnamese girl and an American soldier at the time of the fall of Saigon in 1975. Two young lovers are torn apart by the outside world yet held together by a burning passion.

Morning, Noon and Night

Trinity Repertory Company, 201 Washington St., Providence, RI (401-351-4242). Tue. 7pm; Wed.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. Through June 18. $32-$35. **Spalding Gray** continues his tradition of storytelling excellence.

Night of the Iguana

The Peabody House Theatre, 277 Broadway, Somerville (625-1300). Thu.-Sat. 8pm. Through June 17. $15. Tennessee Williams' play takes place in a cheap Mexican resort hotel. Here, the desperate and lonely converge to find unexpected compassion. The hardened hotel proprietress, the neurotic, defrocked minister and the gentle maiden lady from New England lay exposed under the flashes of lightning so that they may, perchance, be washed clean by the torrential rains.

Not About Nightingales

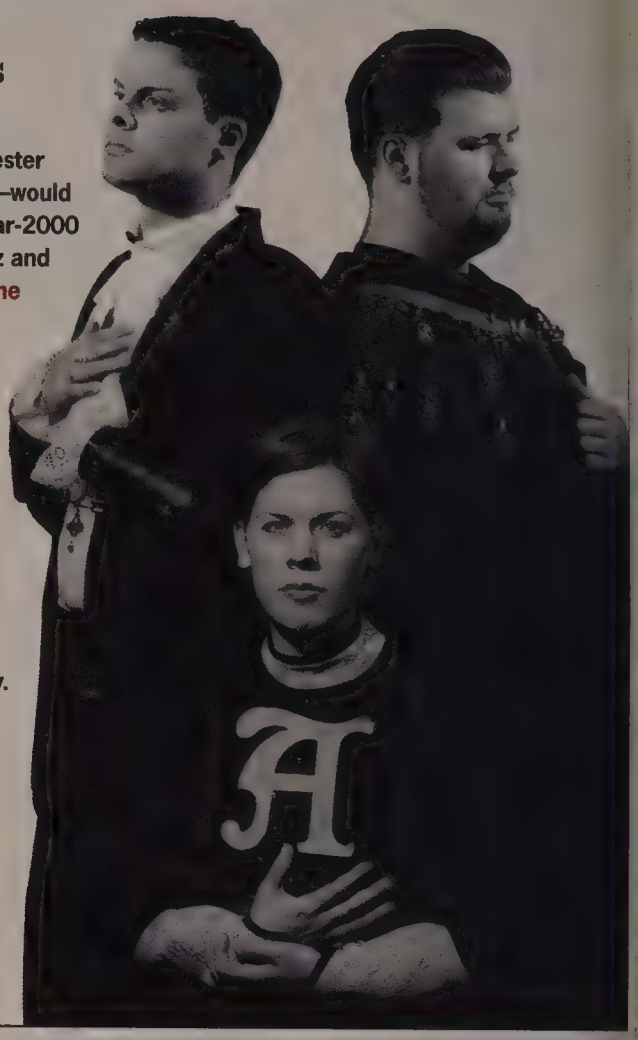
Boston Theatre Works, Studio 210, Boston University Theatre, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (824-8000). Thu.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 7pm. Through June 25. $20. Set in a large

Preview

The Scarlet Letter

Composer Mark Governor updates the classic tale

Who would guess that someday Hester Prynne—complete with nose ring—would be dancing across a stage to a year-2000 mix of rock, acapella, grunge, jazz and rap? The new musical version of *The Scarlet Letter* has been officially sanctioned by the Nathaniel Hawthorne Society to honor the 150th anniversary of the book's publication. While it's faithfully based on Hawthorne's classic story of a young woman in 17th-century New England who is persecuted for having an illegitimate child and refusing to reveal the father's identity, the lyrics and music are contemporary. You can catch this moving drama of sin, sex, revenge and redemption at Suffolk University's C. Walsh Theatre, June 16-17 at 8:30pm, and at the Norwood Theater, 55 *Temple St., Boston. Norwood Theatre, 109 Central St., Norwood, Mass. Call 781-762-4060 for tickets. $18.*



LEFT: BRENDAN HUGHES; UPPER RIGHT: ANDY CAULFIELD

prison during the Great Depression, this Tennessee Williams play tells the story of a group of prisoners in a standoff against a brutal warden as they protest living conditions in the prison.

The Philadelphia Story
Ruth Nagel Jones Theatre, Wellesley College, Alumnae Hall, Wellesley (283-2000). Wed.-Thu. 7pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm. Through June 24. $15. The headstrong daughter of a family of wealth and privilege has long been used to getting her way. Chaos and hilarity ensue when her playboy first husband shows up at her second wedding.

Shakespeare & Company
Shakespeare & Company, The Mount, Lenox, Mass. (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. *Thu.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 3:30pm and 8pm; Sun. 3:30pm.* • ***The Wharton One-Acts****: May 26-Sept. 2.* Two plays by Edith Wharton kick off the 2000 performance season. • ***The View Beyond***: Mrs. Manstey, an elderly woman who has lived alone without sight for 12 years, still enjoys her "view" of a small garden outside her window. Despite its current detioration, she remembers the garden in full bloom—her reason for being. When the landlady tells her that a wall must replace the vista, Mrs. Manstey glimpses an afterlife that offers her a more remarkable view beyond the garden. • ***Oh! Mr. Chekhov!***: Alexi Markovitch pursues love and connubial bliss with Olya, Zoe and Zhenya. The ups and downs of courtship provide laughter and insight in this witty farce. • ***Much Ado About Nothing***: June 16-Sept. 3. Don Pedro and his men discover the wars they return home from are not nearly so dangerous as the verbal barbs of the Messina ladies. The nihilistic Benedick is more than matched by the enigmatic Beatrice, both in varying states of denial of their passion for one another.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri. 8pm ; Sat. 6:30pm and 9:30pm; Sun. 3pm and 7:30pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This hilarious whodunit is set in a unisex hair salon. The production holds the record as the longest-running play in the history of Boston theater.

COMING SOON

Eric Idle Exploits Monty Python
The Wang Theatre, Tremont St., Boston (931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. June 29, 8pm.

INTERACTIVE THEATER

The Elvis Files
Club Cabaret, Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (738-2967). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. June 25, 8pm. $27.50 (includes light dinner). Find out what really happened to the King in this interactive, intergalactic murder mystery. Watch Special Agents Wolf Molder and Deena Sully team up with Lt. Colombus to help solve the Crime Scene of the Millennium. The guest list includes celebrity look-a-likes Madonna, Cher, Michael Jackson, Austin Powers, Joan Quivers and the guest of honor, The King.

Medieval Manor
246 East Berkeley St., Boston (423-4900). Red Line to Broadway. Mon., Wed., Thu., Fri. 8pm ; Sat. 5pm and 9:30pm; Sun. 6pm. Ongoing. $9.60-$32. Eat, drink and be merry at a Renaissance dining experience. Don't worry about etiquette. You won't find knives and forks, and the soup of the day is in your face—literally.

Mystery Cafe
290 Congress St., Boston (781-320-0040). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Dinner and show: Fri. 7:30pm; Sat. 7pm. Ongoing. $36. Saturdays: The interactive murder mystery, *Murder on the Campaign Trail*, is a comedic mystery parody of campaign 2000.

Mystery Cruise: Murder on the Ocean Queen
Ft. Independence, Long Wharf, Boston (781-320-0040). Cruise departs Saturdays, 8pm. $49/person, includes dinner and cruise. Gather clues during a Harbor cruise, meet characters and interrogate suspects as you attempt to piece together the answer to the mystery.

Dance

SHOWS AND EVENTS

Concordia & the Pavane Dance Ensemble
St. Peters Church, Weston (625-1898). 8pm, $12/ $8 for students and seniors. The Society for Historically Informed Performance presents *Golden Dreams: Shakespeare's World in the Music and Verse of His Contemporaries.* The Boston Recorder Society's performance consort, Concordia, with Maria Georgekarakou (soprano), Richard Maloney (lute), Rosalind Brooks Stowe (viola da gamba), actors Graham Christen and Nancy Winneg, and the Pavane Renaissance Dance Ensemble.

These *Stupid Kids* are at the BCA, through June 24.

JOIN IN

Club Joy
533 Washington Street, Boston (354-5780). Saturday nights. This Latin night spot now offers classes: salsa, merengue, bachata and more.

Dancing at Ryles Jazz Club
Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. • *Saturdays, 9pm-1:30am, $12, $10 after 11:30pm.* Join in a variety of dance moves—here you'll find jazzy mambos, swing dancing, cheeky cha chas and sassy salsa numbers. • *Tuesdays 10pm-1:30am. $6.* Just Swing It night features the Black Tie Affair Orchestra and DJ music. Requests are taken and dancers are encouraged to bring their own music. • *Wednesdays, 9pm.* Get your Brazilian ballroom-dance fix with samba, forro, lambada and axe. • *Thursdays, 8:30-11pm. $10-$12.* Salsa and merengue dance.

Folk Dance Events
Folk Arts Center of New England, Inc., 1950 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge (491-6083). • June 16 and 23: **International Folk Dance**, Park Avenue Congregational Church, Park Ave. at Paul Revere Road, Arlington Heights, 8-11pm, $6 (491-6083) • June 16: **Cajun Dance with Grand Bois**, Calvary United Methodist Church, 300 Mass. Ave., Arlington. 7:30pm, $7 (781-662-8967). • June 16 and 23: **Balkan Dance**, Scalzi School of Dance, 101 Bigelow Ave., Watertown. 8-10:30pm, $8 (840-2362) • June 18 and 25: **Israeli Folk Dancing**, Harvard-Radcliffe Hillel, 52 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8-10:30pm, $3 (487-3267) • June 19: **Tuesday Night Revival (experienced Balkan)**, Church of Our Saviour, 21 Marathon St., Arlington. 8-10pm, $3 (781-648-6887) • June 19 and 26: **Balkan Dance Class**, Green Studio, 185 Green St., Cambridge. 7:30-9:30pm, $12 (840-2362) • June 19 and 26: **Scottish Country Dance**, YWCA, 7 Temple St., Cambridge. MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8-10:30pm, $8 (484-0950) • June 19 and 26: **Israeli Folk Dancing**, Temple Kehillath Israel, 384 Harvard St., Brookline. MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 8-12pm, $4 (484-4282) • June 20: **CDS Tuesday Series**, Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave., Cambridge. 8-10:30pm, $6 (354-1340) • June 21: **English Country Dance,** Park Avenue Congregational Church, Park Ave. at Paul Revere Road, Arlington Heights, 7:30-10:30pm, $6 (354-1340) • June 22: **New England Contras & Squares**, VFW Hall, 688 Huron Ave., Cambridge. 8-11pm, $5 (354-1340). • June 27: **English Country Dancing**, 1st Church of Jamaica Plain, Unitarian-Universalist, Centre & Eliot Sts., Jamaica Plain. 7:30-10:30pm, $5 (781-891-3296).

Friday Night Dance Craze
The Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. June 9-July 14, Fridays, 7-9pm. $12 each or $50 for the series. A little bit of Latin, disco, swing, flamenco and contra dancing.

Tailgate Party
The Bay Tower, 60 State Street, 33rd floor, Boston (742-4828). June 16, 8pm-12am. $15. **DJ Locomotion** hosts this swinging party for single professionals. Hors d'oeuvres, mix and match games and prizes ensure a fun night out.

Tango Rialto
Rialto, The Charles Hotel, One Bennett Street, Cambridge (661-5050). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Every Thursday night. 10:30pm-1:30am. $10. One of Boston's most popular restaurants, Rialto in Harvard Square, opens its doors to tango dancers of all levels and backgrounds for nights of a light buffet and lots of dancing. Free tango lessons are available every Thursday at the Wellbridge Fitness Center (adjacent to the Charles Hotel) prior to "Tango Rialto," so go get those dancing shoes ready.

TICKETS

Bostix
(723-5181) www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of Faneuil Hall); Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth); and Harvard Square (in the Holyoke Center arcade at 1350 Mass. Ave).* Same-day tickets half-price.

Next Ticketing
(423-NEXT). www.boston.com/next.

Ticketmaster
(931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(247-1300 or 800-442-1854). A good place to get tickets if a show is sold out at the box office.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail info. to comedy@improper.com. *Include address, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a description of the performances or comedians. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (248-9700). www.comedyconnectionboston.com. *MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed. 8pm; Thu. 8:30pm; Fri. and Sat. 8pm, 10:15pm; Sun. 7pm. $8-$10 (weekend prices vary).* The oldest comedy club in Boston draws big-name, national comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. • June 14: Boston Headliners. • June 15 ($31) and June 16, 7pm ($27): Kevin James, CBS-TV *The King of Queens*. • June 17, 9:15pm, $12: Black Comedy Explosion hosted by Johnathan Gates. • June 18: Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox; Boston Headliners; Don Gavin. • June 19, 8:30pm, $12: Frank Santos, the "R-Rated Hypnotist." • June 20-21: Mark Curry from *Hangin' with Mr. Cooper*. • June 22, 9:15pm, $12: Black Comedy Explosion hosted by Johnathan Gates. • June 23: Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox. • June 24: Boston Headliners. • June 25: Don Gavin. 8:30pm, $12: Frank Santos, the "R-Rated Hypnotist." • June 26: Dane Cook of *Mystery Men* and *SimonSez*.

The Comedy Studio at the Hong Kong
1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu.-Sun. 8pm. $5-$7. Sketch comedy troops and local comedians perform.

Dick Doherty's Comedy Vault
Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun. 9pm. $10. Features local stand-up comedians. Thursdays: Stand-up comedy. Fridays and Saturdays: Dick Doherty's Comedy Pro Tour. Sundays: Open-mike night.

Nick's Comedy Stop
100 Warrenton St., Boston (482-0930). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Fri. 8:30pm; Sat. 7:45pm and 10pm; Sun. 8pm. $10-$15. The talent here is not quite as big-name as the Comedy Connection, but the crowds are just as enthusiastic, and you're guaranteed to leave with a smile on your face. Wednesdays: Open mike at 8:30pm. • June 15, 8:30pm: Frank Santorelli, Chance Langton, Ramu. • June 16, 8:45pm: Joe Yannetty, Chance Langton and Ramu. • June 17, 8:45pm: Tony V, Joe Yannetty and Ramu. • June 22, 8:30pm: Joe Yannetty, Steve Hurley and Johnny K. • June 23-24, 8:45pm: Joe Yannetty, Steve Hurley and Johnny K.

IMPROVISATIONAL COMEDY & MAGIC

Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston (263-6887). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Shows: Thu. 8pm; Fri. and Sat. 8pm and 10pm. Main Stage: $10-$15. Now playing on the main stage is the critically acclaimed improvisational and sketch comedy show—voted one of Boston's best improvisational comedy troops.

ImprovBoston at Back Alley Theater
1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1253). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe makes things up as they go along. Fri.-Sat. 8pm ($12) and 10:30pm ($12). Sun, 2pm ($7). • Fridays and Saturdays: 90 minutes of wholesome fun with scenes, games, original music and lots of audience participation. • Thursdays, 8pm: Sitcom. A fully improvised show based on suggestions from the studio audience and an onstage computer. 10pm: Open Improv Jam. All visitors of any skill level are invited to participate in a no-pressure, fun-filled atmosphere where everybody gets to play. • Fridays, 8pm: ImprovBoston. 10:30pm: Theatre Sports Boston vs. Sitcom. Best of five match. • Saturdays, 8pm and 10:30pm: ImprovBoston.

Magicians & Spirits at the Green Street Grill
280 Green St., Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Shows every Tuesday at 9pm. $10 cabaret show ($5 with dinner). Patrons enjoy close-up magic as two or three magicians perform tricks behind the bar and among the crowd. At 10pm, the cabaret show begins upstairs with local and national magicians reading minds, making birds appear out of nowhere and levitating objects onstage.

COMEDY SHOWS

Battle of the Sexes
290 Congress St., Boston (426-1999). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sat. 10:30pm. $15-$18. A participatory comedy.

Joey & Maria's Comedy Wedding
Tremont House Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston or Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Fri. and Sat. 7:30pm. Ongoing. $39-$45. Join the fun at this absolutely zany Italian wedding. Big hair and blue tuxedos optional.

SitcomBoston
The Works Theater, 255 Elm St., Somerville (538-3205). MBTA: Red Line to Davis Square. Fridays and Saturdays, 8pm and 10:30pm. A fully improvised show that looks exactly like an hour of prime-time television.

The King is back...in the *Elvis Files* at Club Cafe, June 25.

STUPID KIDS: LBK PHOTOGRAPHY

art

Advice to Contributors

Submit updated information for gallery and museum listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail to arts@improper.com. *Include opening and closing dates, nearest T stop, price of admission, if any, and telephone numbers. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers

The following is a partial list of the largest art museums, art institutes and galleries in the Boston area. The • symbol denotes a temporary exhibition.

Museums

Arthur M. Sackler Museum

485 Broadway St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat. 10am-12pm. The Sackler houses ancient Islamic and Asian art, an array of Neolithic bronze Buddhas, Greek pottery, and Hellenistic and Roman sculpture. •*Wall Drawing #830* features four isometric figures with dynamic colors. Ongoing. •Every Thursday is a free guided tour of Shahn's work, 10:30am.

Boston Public Library

900 Boylston St., Boston (542-4000). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. •*Iso Papo: Drawings and Watercolors* shows through July 17 in the Wiggin Gallery. •Manuscripts, photographs and memorabilia from the Rare Books collection and the Massachusetts Historical Society collections show with *Shipping, Sailing and the Sea.* ThroughJuly 31 in the Rare Books exhibit area. •*Millennium Leaders of Boston as seen through the Lens of Bachrach* shows through June 30 in Deferrari Hall. It is an exhibition of photographs of Boston leaders from all walks of life, including men and women in the fields of business, medicine, education, politics, the arts, music, sports and the media.

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)

32 Quincy St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA:Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat. 10am-12pm. It's better to visit the Fogg the same day you go to the Sackler, as admission includes all of Harvard's museums. Highlights include Van Gogh's self-portrait and Bellini's clay figures. •On June 17, 11:30am, Lana Branton gives a talk titled *Origins of Abstractions* at the Fogg.

Gibson House Museum

137 Beacon St., Boston (267-6338). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Guided tours every Sat. and Sun. at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm. $5. With 75 percent of its original items in place, the museum allows visitors to understand 19th-century domestic life and design. Ongoing.

Institute of Contemporary Art

955 Boylston St., Boston (266-5152). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Wed.-Sun. 12-5pm; Thu. 12-9pm. $6, $4 students and seniors. •Marijke van Warmerdam's *7 Thoughts* marks the first time the artist's innovative work will be displayed in a solo U.S. museum exhibition. Through July 2. •Free guided walk-throughs take place each Thursday at 6:30pm: Robert-Patton-Spruill, filmmaker on June 15; Betsy Connors, holographer on June 22.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

280 The Fenway, Boston (566-1401). www.boston.com/gardner. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun. 11am-5pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, under 18 free. Guided on Fridays 2:30pm.* This 15th-century Venetian palace is home to more than 2,500 objects and twice as many flowers. Boston's most famous museum is named for the house's owner, Isabella Stewart Gardner (1840-1924), an infamously incorrigible individualist. Only after her death was her house completely opened to the public. Now everyone can see the works of Titian, Botticelli and Matisse, as well as furniture and architectural details from European churches and palaces.

MIT Museum

265 Mass Ave., Cambridge (253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5pm, weekends 12-5pm. $3, $1 for students, seniors and children. Where else would you be but at MIT when you contemplate Morton G. Bradley Junior's *Math in 3-D: Geometric Sculptures?* The museum's other permanent exhibits include *Flashes of Inspiration: The Work of Harold Edgerton*, and *Gestural Engineering* and *Cultural Engineering: The Sculptures of Arthur Ganson*, the mechanical engineer/choreographer. •On the last Sunday of the month, explore oceanography, astronomy, the science of buildings and other mysteries of science with interactive activities for all ages from 2-4pm, no reservations required. Call 452-2827 for details.

Museum of Bad Art

580 High St., Dedham (325-8224). Mon.-Fri. 6:30-10pm, Sat. and Sun. 1-10pm. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. The one and only museum that boasts "art too bad to be ignored." A favorite is *Lady Chardonnay*, a piece illuminating a poodle-head dancer.

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Mon.-Tue. 10am-4:45pm; Wed. 10am-9:45pm, Thu.-Fri. 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. 10am-5:45pm. West Wing only Thu.-Fri. 5-9:45pm. $12, students and seniors $10.* The MFA has earned its rep as the second-best-run art museum in the nation (after the Metropolitan Museum of Art) with its top-notch exhibitions, educational programs and galleries of African, Oceanic and American art. •*Vietnamese Ceramics*, the glazed ceramic tradition of Vietnam represents one of the most important remaining cultural legacies of Vietnam's history. Ongoing. •*Crowning Glories: Two Centuries of Tiaras* shows through June 25. •*Common Threads: Samplers from Around the Globe* is 65 pieces from the museum's Textile and Costume collection that spans 300 years and four continents. Through July 23. •Tickets for *Van Gogh: Face to Face*, which displays July 2-Sept. 24, are now available at 542-4MFA.

The Peabody House Museum

11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (496-1027). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5 adults; $4 students and seniors; $3 children 3-13. No fee Sat. mornings until 12pm. •*Heads and Tales: Adornments from Africa*, includes sculptures and artifacts from the Peabody Museum collections, which highlight the messages communicated by head adornments in sub-Saharan Africa. Through Oct. 1, 2001.

The Revolving Museum

288-300 A St., Boston (439-8617). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed.-Fri. 12-5pm. •Possibly the last exhibition we'll see here for a while due to financial woes: *Student Artists Invitational PerformanceArt All Stars* with an installation by Joel Hurlbert. July 1-Aug. 4.

Galleries

FINE ART

Allston Skirt Gallery

119 Braintree St., Allston (254-7027). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm and by appointment. •*Overcast* features paintings and photography by Karolyn Hatton, Lisa Krivacka and Ruth Pastine. Through June 24.

Alpha Gallery

14 Newbury St., Boston (536-4465). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •*New Talent* displays through June 30.

Andrea Marquit Fine Arts

38 Newbury St., Boston (859-0190). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Wed.-Sat. 11am-5pm. Shows contemporary masters and emerging artists and is a consulting group for corporate and private collectors.

Arden Gallery

129 Newbury St., Boston (247-0610). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 11am-5:30pm; Sun. 1-5pm. Representing an eclectic mix of styles, from abstract to super-realist. •Susan Swinand's oils on wood and acrylic on canvas, *Called by the Moon*, is on display through June 28.

Barbara Krakow Gallery

10 Newbury St., 5th Floor, Boston (262-4490). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. Paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures by emerging and established artists. •*William Kentridge: Editioned Work* shows through July 28.

Berenberg Gallery

4 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm. •Michael Madore's collection shows June 14-July 29.

Bernard Toale Gallery

450 Harrison Ave., Boston (482-2477). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sun., 10:30am-5:30pm. •*Joshua Deaner: Index* shows through June 24.

Brickbottom Gallery

1 Fitchburg St., Somerville (776-3410). MBTA: Green Line to Lechemere. www.brickbottomartists.com .•The seventh annual *People's Art Show* (professionals and non-professionals artists) displays through June 24.

Bromfield Gallery

560 Harrison Ave., Boston (451-3605). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm. •In Gallery I is James Janecek's *Recent Pictures: Mixed-Media Abstractions.* In Gallery II is Eve Jessen Gordon's *World Turned Inside Out.* Through June 17.

Pure **shows as part of Kathleen Bitetti's series of works, *Nursery*, at the new Dietrich von Buhler Gallery.**

Cambridge Art Association

25 Lowell St., Cambridge (876-1880). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Sat. 11am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. The Book as Art: Artists' Books in New England is juried by Peter Madden, through July 6.

Cambridge Arts Council

11 Whyte St., Cambridge (349-4380). MBTA: Red Line to Porter. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-5pm. Tabitha Vevers exhibits three provocative series of conceptual work that explore the themes of violence, cloning and fertility in *Tabitha Vevers: Monochrome.* Through July 2.

Chappell Gallery

14 Newbury St., Boston (236-2255). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm. •*Creatures Great and Small,* an international glass show, displays through June 17. •*Global Village* is a selection of international glass artists. June 22-Aug. 18.

Chase Gallery

129 Newbury St., Boston (859-7222). Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •Bernd Haussmann's work displays through June 28.

Child's Gallery

169 Newbury St., Boston (266-1108). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri. 9am-6pm; Mon. and Sat. 10am-5pm. American and European paintings, prints, drawings and sculpture, from 1500 through 1950. •Henry Rodman Kenyon's work shows in the Main Gallery. •*American Wood Engravings* is in the Lower Gallery. •*Pictures for the Public: American Illustration and Drawing* is on display in the Alcove Gallery.

Clark Gallery

145 Lincoln St., Lincoln (781-259-8303). Tue.-Sat. 10am-5pm. The gallery represents 30 artists, primarily regional. Media regularly include glass, ceramics, oil, acrylic on canvas, wood and studio furniture. •Randall Deihl's *New Paintings*, shows through June 15. •A *Summer Group Show* displays June 20-July 28.

Clifford•Smith Gallery

450 Harrison Ave., Boston (695-0255). MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5pm. www.clifford-smithgallery.com. A thematic collective exhibition, *H (looking at him back)*, features the work of Aaron Cobbett, David Deal, Duane Michals, Mark Morrisroe, Jack Pierson and Luke Smalley. Through June 24.

Copley Society of Boston

158 Newbury St., Boston (536-5049). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat. 10:30am-5:30pm; Sun. 1-5pm. America's oldest nonprofit art association is a platform for young and established artists. •*Spring/Summer Members Show* shows through July 1.

Creiger Dane Gallery

36 Newbury St., Boston (536-8088). www.creigerdane.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm.* •*New Work,* an exhibit featuring abstract paintings by Martin Mugar, shows through June 24.

Crosstown Arts, Inc.

One North Square, Boston (720-0100). www.crosstown.com. •This new gallery features as its opening exhibit *The Ability to Obsess*, on view through June 17. It introduces the work of new contemporary artists Stephen deFilippis, Josette Ghiseline, Megan McNaught and Peter Inglis.

Crystal Fine Art

93 Summer St., Suite 4L, Boston (728-9818). www.crystalfineart.com. *MBTA: Red and Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Tue.-Fri. 11am-6pm.* A multicultural gallery that regularly displays the work of national, international and local artists.

Dietrich von Buhler Gallery

16 Ashford St., Boston (783-2421). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Sat., 2-4pm and by appointment. www.drawbridge. com/dvbgallery. •In her first show, *Nursery,* Kathleen Bitetti shows work that specifically addresses aspects of childhood. Bitetti is the executive director of the Artists Foundation and is also the director of the Lillian Immig Gallery at Emmanuel College. June 22-Aug. 12.

Dyansen Gallery

132 A Newbury St., Boston (262-4800). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. You'll always find paintings, bronzes and fine-art prints. Collections include Rembrandt, Picasso, Chagall, Miro, Dali, Cassatt, Snowden and more.

Eclipse Gallery

167 Newbury St., Boston (247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9am-6pm. •Brenda Pizzo and David Thompson's *Living Dolls*, a satiric look at 20th-century icons, is on display through June 3. •The color photography of Barbara Filo shows through July 8.

Elias Fine Arts

120 Braintree St., Brighton (783-1888). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. •*Look*

Back, Look Forward, a group show made up of eight artists, celebrates the third anniversary of the gallery. Through June 24.

Gallery Bershad
99 Dover St., Somerville (629-9400 ex.3). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Wed., Thu., Sun., 12-6pm; Fri. and Sat. 12-8pm. •Hamid Zavareei's work shows through July. •*Coast to Coast: New Paintings,* by Sarah Frances Egan and Hamid Zavareei, displays through July 30.

Genovese Sullivan Gallery
47 Thayer St., Boston (426-9738). Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. •*New Paintings,* by David Omar White, displays through July 4.

Gibbs Gallery
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm. Explorations in Spirit and Nature, by Michelle Lougee and Jane Sherrill, shows through July 7.

Gurari Collections
91 Charles St., Boston (367-9800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington or Red Line to Charles MGH. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. This gallery has an impressive collection of 16th- to early-20th-century etchings, engravings and drawings. Also showing is the work of Wendy Artin, an artist living in Rome. •*Masterpieces of Antique European City Plans* displays through July 21.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St. Boston (536-6339). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 10am-6pm; Sat. 10am-5pm. •An assortment of 18th- and 19th-century historic and decorative antique engravings and lithographs.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (262-0550). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. www.hyg. com. •*Philip Sirosis: New Paintings* shows with *Howard Johnson: Band Aid Drawings* through June 27. •Also, the work of Katarina Andersson, Clem Crosby, Carol Kaufman, Marie Rafalso and Brian Zink, shows through June 30.

Hurst Gallery
53 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (491-6888). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sat. 12-6pm. Thu, 12-7pm. Visitors are greeted with a wide variety of art and artifacts from six continents.

Judy Ann Goldman
14 Newbury St., Boston (424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. Call for an appointment. The gallery regularly displays paintings, sculpture and works on paper. •*Billy Sullivan: New Work* is a collection of still-life paintings and pastels. Through June 17.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 Saint Stephen St., Boston (247-1719). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue.-Sat., 1-5pm. •*Calligraphy & Sublime,* a group exhibition, shows June 17-July 31.

Lyman-Eyer Gallery, Inc.
1347 Washington St., West Newton (964-3470). Tue.-Fri., 4-7:30pm; Sat., 11am-7:30pm; Sun., 11am-5pm. City Heat, paintings by Shirley Wallitch, is a series of vibrant urban landscapes. June 23-July 20.

Mills Gallery
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sun., 1-4pm; Thu.-Sat., 7-10pm. •*The Drawing Show,* juried by artist Ellen Gallagher, shows through June 25.

Mobius
354 Congress St., Boston (542-7416). $10, $8 students and seniors. •*Consumer: i am the consenting part of the fashion system,* an installation that attempts to address the love-hate relationship with consumer culture, by Sand T, displays June 14-July 1.

***Frosty Joy*, oil on canvas by Randall Deihl, is one of a collection of new paintings on display at the Clark Gallery through June 15.**

MPG
285 Newbury St., Boston (437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •*Land Sea and Beyond I* includes a variety of work by Gail Bessette, Rachel Claflin and George Lynde. Through July 16.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (266-4835). www.nielsen gallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm.* Founded in 1964. •The current exhibition is *In the Spirit of Landscape V,* a collective exhibition. June 17-July 29.

Out of the Blue Gallery
168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun. 12-7pm. This gallery, owned and operated by several artists, always has a variety of interesting artwork and art-related events going on. •Poetry readings take place every Saturday, and the gallery hosts a rotating guest list of jazz musicians every Wednesday.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (236-4497). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •*Michael David: New Landscapes, Paintings and Drawings,* shows through June 24.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (267-9473). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun. 1pm-5pm. •*Onda Yaki—Japanese Folk Pottery* is a collaborative show, on display June 17-July 5.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (266-3321). MBTA: Green Line to Arlingron. www.richardson clarke.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tues.-Sat. 10am-5pm.* •American and European 19th- and 20th-century paintings, drawings and sculpture. Ongoing. •Truman Seymour's *Moroccan Watercolors* is also now on display.

Space 12 Gallery
12 Union Park St., Boston (423-9760). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed. 6-9pm; Thu.-Sat. 1-5pm. •*Cuba Cuba,* a collaboration between the gallery and Espacio 52 of Habana, Cuba, exhibits prominent Cuban contemporary artists. Through July 31.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (450-0321). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. Artist William St. George displays his lush and colorful paintings. •Now showing *Colors of Provence,* William St. George's expressive landscapes in oil.

A Touch of France
173 Newbury St., Boston (247-6966). MBTA: Green line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-7pm; Sun., 12-6pm. This gallery imports contemporary French artists' works, including paintings from famous painters M. Tigrane, R. Kefflin, C. Ferrer and striking dried-flower arrangements made near Saint Tropez.

Via Gallery
83 Newbury St., 2nd Floor (424-6200). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri. 10am-4pm. •Heinz Guth's *The Nude Show* will be on display starting June 16.

Zeitgeist Gallery
312 Broadway St., Cambridge (876-2182). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu.-Sun., 2pm-7pm. The gallery displays a variety of local artists' work. •A Playground Jazz Series takes place on Friday nights. •Monday is literary night with the Stone Soup Poets performing. •Every Wednesday is a figure-drawing session. •Sunday is a vegan potluck supper, often accompanied by live music and poetry. Open to one and all.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Artists for Humanity
288-300 A Street, Boston (868-1516). Through July 1. April 30 marked 25th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. In commemoration, Artists for Humanity displays the exhibition *Street Visions*, a project affiliated with the Ho Chi Minh City Child Welfare Foundation, which teaches photography to Vietnamese children. The exhibition shows with *Hanoi Photographs,* a collection of photographs by New York-based artist Timothy Karr. Also, Artists for Humanity exhibits *Mayhem*, a collection of American urban youth art.

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2051). Tues.-Sat. 11am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm; Closed Mondays. The Multiple is a gallery investigation that explores works of art produced more than one time. Ongoing.

Gallery One
537 Comm. Ave., Boston (437-1868). Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm. Affiliated with the New England School of Photography. •*Class of 2000,* a student exhibition, shows through July 30.

Photographic Resource Center
602 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (353-0700). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford. Tue.-Sun., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-8pm. •*2000 Photographic Resource Center Members' Exhibition* is juried by Richard B. Woodward, editor at Large for *DoubleTake* and John P. Jacob, executive director of the PRC. Through June 30.

CRAFTS

Alianza Gallery
154 Newbury St., Boston (262-2385). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. A variety of arts and crafts are on display. •*Sheets of Glass*, a show that explores the sculptural use of sheet glass, shows through June 30.

Cambridge Artists Cooperative
59A Church St., Cambridge (868-4434). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; 10am-8pm; Sun. 1-6pm. Twelve artists own and operate this gallery that features 2D design and jewelry.

Clayground
91 Hampshire St., Cambridge (661-7376). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 12-6pm; Sat. 11am-5pm. Porcelain and stone objects galore. Classes are usually available.

Fresh Pond Clay Works
368 Huron Ave., Cambridge (492-1907). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard to Bus 72. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm. A wide range of firing techniques.

Gateway Gallery
62 Harvard St., Brookline (734-1577). MBTA: C Green Line to Brookline Village. Mon.-Sat., 11am-6pm. This nonprofit gallery features all sorts of arts and crafts.

Infinity Gallery
24 Union Park St., Boston (423-5555). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat 11am-7pm; Sun 11am-6pm. This small gallery features Wayne Fuerst's work.

Signature Gallery
Dock Square, Boston (227-4885). Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Thu., 10am-7pm; Fri. and Sat., 10am-9pm; Sun., 12-6pm. Pottery, metal and glass works.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (266-1810). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm; Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. •*New Baskets* shows through June 28.

***Women & Knives*, by Tabitha Vevers, is a series of conceptual works at the Cambridge Arts Council.**

SAGEBRUSH HOUR

Jackie Chan lassos the Old West in *Shanghai Noon*.

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Hong Kong action, the best in the world in the late 1980s and early 1990s, has really come home to roost in Hollywood. Although Hong Kong's heyday has influenced American action movies for a decade and Hollywood has employed Asian creative talent more frequently in the past five years, Hong Kong's imprint has become unavoidable lately. First, Jet Li rode atop the box office in March with *Romeo Must Die,* and now Memorial Day's big action releases were expatriate H.K. director John Woo's *Mission: Impossible 2* and Jackie Chan's *Shanghai Noon*.

Jackie Chan and Owen Wilson duke it out in Hong Kong action film *Shanghai Noon*.

Although I have not yet seen the unusual marriage of soulful action master John Woo (*Hard-Boiled*, *Face/Off*) and often soulless star Tom Cruise in *M:I-2*, *Shanghai Noon* is everything you could hope for in an East-West marriage. And by West, I don't just mean Hollywood. *Shanghai Noon* takes Chan to the Old West, for a story that is essentially a more entertaining version of *Rush Hour*, the 1998 action-comedy-buddy movie that paired Chan with Chris Tucker.

As in that movie, Chan plays a Chinese cop who comes to America to help investigate a kidnapping. But here it is 1881, Jackie is a lowly Imperial Guard in China's Forbidden City and his destination is the rowdy frontier of Carson City, Nevada. The kidnapping victim is Princess Pei Pei (Lucy Liu of *Ally McBeal*), who arranges passage to America with her English tutor (Jason Connery) to avoid an arranged marriage. But she doesn't realize she's been kidnapped until the tutor delivers her into the clutches of a former Imperial Guard (Roger Yuan), who's made a fortune in America running a labor camp in which imprisoned Chinese immigrants lay railroad track.

Chan's Chon Wang has no idea what's in store for him in America, either. As he naively makes his way to remote Carson City, most of his detours involve Roy O'Bannon (Owen Wilson), an underachieving outlaw who botches the robbery of the train Chon Wang is on, leaving Chan's character in the middle of nowhere. This leads to a very amusing sequence in which he is swept into a Native American tribe's celebration and wakes to find himself married to the chief's daughter (Brandon Merrill).

The more Chon Wang and Roy intersect, including in a free-for-all barroom brawl, the more they begrudgingly discover Chon's chances of finding the princess and Roy's chances of succeeding at anything are better when they work together. This is all predictable buddy-movie stuff. But it comes across unusually convincingly, thanks to the genuinely affectionate chemistry between Chan and Wilson, the unpredictable touches of Alfred Gough and Miles Millar's script (which places the characters in a heightened, *Adventures of Brisco County* sort of *Wild West*) and the credibility of the stars.

Chan's appeal as a determined underdog has long been one of his trademarks, and here Chon Wang's determination drives the story just as Chan's hero did in *Rumble in the Bronx*. Wilson—who, in *Bottle Rocket,* debuted with another character who dreams of being bad but whose benign nature won't let him—is more of a surprise here, keeping up with Chan in a role more significant than the many ensemble roles he's had since, in such movies as *Anaconda* and *Armageddon.*

The situations are entertaining enough to make *Shanghai Noon* a satisfying comedy with action, rather than an action movie with some good showdowns but a pedestrian story. The latter category is where *Rush Hour* and Chan's last two Hong Kong movies, *Who Am I?* and *Gorgeous*, fell. But *Shanghai Noon*, which culminates in a battle royal involving Chon Wang, Roy, the kidnapper, the princess, the other Imperial Guards (from whom Chon Wang had become separated) and a trigger-happy sheriff (Xander Berkeley) is a rousing little thrill ride. iB

Shanghai Noon ★★★

Directed by Tom Dey. Written by Alfred Gough and Miles Millar. With Jackie Chan, Owen Wilson, Lucy Liu, Roger Yuan and Brandon Merrill. Rated PG-13. Touchstone Pictures.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

The Butterfly ★★
This coming-of-age story is a sort of failed, tragic version of *Cinema Paradiso*, set in mid-1930s Spain. Asthmatic tyke Moncho (Manuel Lozeno) is the focus, a perpetually worried-looking boy who finds comfort in his relationship with grandfatherly teacher Don Gregorio (Fernando Fernan Gomez of *All About My Mother*). That is, until fascism rears its head and the leftist teacher is branded a traitor. Before then, the story goes through some quaint but dull coming-of-age paces, occasionally touching, but not enough to give the ultimate breach of its central relationship the fireworks it tries to spark.

Chutney Popcorn ★★½
Director, co-writer and star Nisha Ganatra's debut is a warm but only mildly involving comedy-drama on family values. She plays Reena, a lesbian saddled with an old-world Indian-American mom (Madhur Jaffrey) and an intent-on-breeding newlywed sister (Sakina Jaffrey, the elder Jaffrey's real-life daughter). When the sister is unable to bear children, the black sheep of the family offers to be artificially inseminated and carry the child. Although everyone goes along at first, such an arrangement causes such problems for everyone, including the sister's husband (Nick Chinlund) and Reena's girlfriend (Jill Hennessy), especially after Reena gets pregnant and decides to have the kid herself when the sister says she doesn't want it. There's a pleasing bittersweetness to the way in which everyone must learn to live with Reena's decision, but the story often cuts only sitcom deep.

The Color of Paradise ★★★½
Rarely does a movie cut to the hearts of its characters as does this latest by Iranian director Majid (*Children of Paradise*) Majidi. Following an 8-year-old blind boy (Mohsen Ramezani) who leaves his Tehran school for the blind to spend summer in the rural village of his father, grandmother and two sisters, the story revolves around the relationship between the boy and the emotionally scarred father (Hossein Mahjub), who'd rather not have to care for the boy himself. But, as the story unfurls, the boy's very survival depends on the father's willingness to love him (or not). In its full range of human emotions and glib-free beatitude of the storytelling, the only recent movie to compare with this in tone is David Lynch's *The Straight Story*.

Dribbling Fate ★★
The first feature from Cape Verde offers some incredible views but a rather forgettable story about a 50-year-old bar owner (Carlos Germano) who's been nursing the regret of turning down a chance to play for an elite Portuguese soccer team for 30 years. His mentoring of a potentially great teen player (Paulo Miranda), whom he's pushing to fulfill the dream he didn't, and a reunion with the teammate (Horacio Santos) who did take the Portuguese offer are only mildly interesting. And the drama is too slow and superficial to really make you feel the fellow's plight.

Gladiator ★★
Director Ridley Scott's Roman tale is less escapist than most Hollywood spectacles. But despite the grand scale, it's still simplistic, this time in the form of personal action-drama. After a long setup, it settles into its primary conflict, in which Roman General Maximus (Russell Crowe), the trusted military leader of Emperor Marcus Aurelius (Richard Harris), plots revenge on the old emperor's son (Joaquin Phoenix), who has stolen the throne upon his father's death and had Maximus' family slain. Disgraced and thought dead, the general ultimately gains fame as a fearless gladiator who fights his way to a showdown with the scheming dictator. The way the movie repeatedly drives home the motivations for Phoenix's paternally scorned neurosis and Crowe's proud victim becomes repetitious; you think they could have brought some more shading to the characters in 160 minutes.

Grass ★★★
Those who remember *The Atomic Cafe*, which poked fun at Cold War hysteria through old educational films and newsreels, will find similarities in Ron (*Comic Book Confidential*) Mann's similarly amusing, head-shaking look at the government's obsession with demonizing marijuana and using the war on drugs for political gain. Narrated by Woody Harrelson, the film also exposes Harry J. Anslinger, the country's long-reigning first drug czar, as a shameless bastard who deserves a place alongside J. Edgar Hoover, Joe McCarthy and Tricky Dick Nixon on the Mount Rushmore of American infamy.

Hamlet ★
The idea of setting Shakespeare's tragedy in the modern-day Manhattan business world might seem promising, but as rendered in Michael Almereyda's film, it's deadly. The contemporary setting with

DOUGLAS CURRAN

hakespeare's original language take to each other ke oil and water. Because Almereyda hasn't altered ne dialogue—or, more important, the information onveyed in that dialogue—the business setting is n uneasy fit (just what business is the movie's Denark Corporation in? you'll ask yourself). In the itle role, Ethan Hawke proves that the last thing he eeded was a role that encouraged him to be more nopey. In supporting roles, Julia Stiles and Kyle MacLachlan fare better.

The Idiots ★★★
Has another premise for a movie been as immediately ompelling and distasteful as that of director Lars Von Triers' 1998 movie (which took so long to open in America, he's already made the Bjork-starring, Cannes prize-winner *Dancer in the Dark*)? This Danish ilm made under the Dogma 95 "vow of chastity" follows a group of twentysomething friends who spend much of their time "spassing," acting as if they were mentally retarded in public. Sometimes they do this to make outsiders uncomfortable, with Andy Kaufman-style stunts; on a larger level, they do it to try to get in touch with their "inner idiot" and access their true natures. Although most of the group are interchangeable as characters, their collective "spassing"—which both puts up emotional defenses and tears them down—is challenging, fascinating stuff from the director of *Zentropa* and *Breaking the Waves*.

Love's Labour's Lost ★★★
It's often uneven and flimsy, but Kenneth Branagh's transposition of Shakespeare's comedy to 1939 Europe and his transformation of it into a musical of song standards, most of which originated in Fred Astaire & Ginger Rogers films, is a charmer. With an eclectic cast that includes American film actors like Alicia Silverstone and English stage vets like Branagh, the director is smart enough to leave most of the dramatic heavy lifting to himself and most of the humor to comedy vets Timothy Spall (*Topsy-Turvy*) and an especially amusing Nathan Lane. Much preferred over the current *Hamlet*, but much preferred over Branagh's *Hamlet*, too.

Sex: The Annabel Chong Story ★★★
The old saying "Does she or doesn't she?" takes on new meaning in this fascinating documentary about Grace Quek, a Singapore-born college student who became porn star Annabel Chong. To make a name for herself in her chosen profession, the gender studies student slept with 251 men on one January 1995 day, something she claims to have done to challenge gender roles, acting like a male stud in a society that calls women who do such things "sluts." The unanswered question of whether this motivation holds true, or is just a shield for more mundane reasons like escaping her rigid upbringing, keeps the movie unpredictable, as does director Gough Lewis' ability to blend the dramatic, the disturbing and the comic.

Small Time Crooks ★★
In what is essentially Woody Allen's underwhelming version of *The Honeymooners*, the writer-director and Tracey Ullman play a lowbrow couple who strike it rich, and then find their new hoity-toity lives pulling them apart. While she hires art dealer Hugh Grant to culture her, he longs for the simple life they once had. Although this pokes fun at the Manhattan intellectualism to which Allen usually kisses up, as well as spoofing the nouveau riche couple, it never gets very involving, and with Allen, Ullman and Grant dominating the midsection, it's full of overmannered performances. About par for an Allen movie these days—not horrible, but not the least bit memorable.

South: Ernest Shackleton and the Endurance Expedition ★★★
If I had been attempting a dangerous expedition to be the first person to cross Antarctica through the South Pole in 1915, the last thing on my mind would be to bring along a film crew. But, thanks to the arrogance of the British empire at its apex, that's exactly what Sir Ernest Shackleton did. This recently rediscovered and restored silent film is an awe-inspiring chronicle of that legendary expedition (as documented in the 1990s book *Endurance*), with the trekkers' boat getting trapped in ice and then gradually folding up like a ball of tin foil by the frozen seas. This finishes its run at the Museum of Fine Arts on June 17 (at 1:15pm) and June 18 (at 3:45pm).

Timecode ★★½
Form slightly elevates content in Mike (*Leaving Las Vegas*) Figgis, Hollywood tale shot on digital video, which unfurls in four continuous takes on a screen quartered into concurrent scenes (with the sound passing from one scene to another and back). The story, involving a love triangle, a film company and characters played by, among others, Stellan Skarsgard, Salma Hayek, Jeanne Trippelhorn, Saffron Burrows and Holly Hunter, is nothing special. But the impromptu feel sets this apart and the unexpected touches of humor even include a pretentious "artiste" pitching the film company on the very sort of movie she's in.

Shakespearean comedy is transported to 1939 Europe in an adaptation of *Love's Labour's Lost*.

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Cinemas
214 Harvard Ave. (277-2140). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
Trapelo Rd. (484-1706). Red Line to Harvard, 73 bus.

BOSTON

Boston Film • Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (536-1540). Green Line to Hynes.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (536-5400). Green Line to Copley.

Cheri
50 Dalton St. (536-2870). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum Of Science, Omni Theater
Science Park (723-2500). Green Line to Science Park.

Nickelodeon
606 Comm. Ave. (424-1500). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford St.

Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle.

Coolidge Corner
290 Harvard St. (734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theater
40 Brattle St. (876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (495-4700). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Sq. (494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony Theater
10 Church St. (864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Sq.

Somerville Theater
55 Davis Sq. (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston. (277-2500). B Green Line to Chestnut Hill.

West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (964-6060).

Alternatives & Revivals

Advice to Contributors
Submit film listings by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Although film listings are correct at the time of publication, they are subject to change. Doublecheck showtimes by calling the theater or 333-FILM.

Boston Public Library

Fabulous Fenway
•June 15, 6pm **Fabulous Fenway: America's Legendary Ballpark**. Tribute Films, a Boston-based production company, will show its one-hour-long documentary, a commemorative history of Fenway Park. Narrated by Mike Barnicle, it features former Sox players Carl Yastrzemski, Ted Williams, Johnny Pesky, Bill Lee, Bob Stanley, Dick Raddatz, Billy Conigliaro, Walt Dropo and Frank Malzone.

Fifth Annual Iberoamerican Film Festivel
•June 14, **Quién diablos es Juliette?** (*Who the Hell is Juliette?*) *1997*. In Spanish with English subtitles.
•June 21, **Central do Brasil** (*Central Station*) *1998*. In Portuguese with English subtitles. From Brazil.

Precode Hollywood Series 1930-1933
•June 19, **She Done Him Wrong** *1933*. Grant is invited by Mae to come up and see her sometime—he does, and fireworks result. Mae sings "Frankie and Johnny" and "Easy Rider" in her best film, which she co-scripted from her Broadway hit.
•June 26, **Scarface** *1932*. In this infamous film by Howard Hawks and Richard Rosson, the one-and-only gangsta film has Paul Muni delivering emotionally charged performance as mobster with more than just a soft spot for his sister.

Brattle Theater

Most shows are $7, including double features.

Special Engagements
•June 17-22, 5:30pm, 7:30pm and 9:30pm (Sat. and Sun. matinees at 1:30pm and 3:30pm, no 5:30pm show on June 22) **Grass** *2000*. Filmmaker Ron Mann turns his fascination with unexamined history to marijuana prohibition in the United States. Smoked by generations of artists, musicians, students and normal everyday folks, it continues to be reviled by the vast majority of governments around the world. Using archival footage, narration by actor (and hemp activist) Woody Harrelson, art by Paul Mavrides and a provocative soundtrack, Mann examines how marijuana became the scapegoat of a government drug policy.
•June 23-29, 5:15pm, 7:30pm and 9:45pm (Sat. and Sun. matinees at 1pm and 3pm **Chutney Popcorn** *1999*. One of the over-the-top hits at the recent Boston International Festival of Women's Cinema, the comedy is about the trials and tribulations of changing family values, cross-cultural lifestyle, and tradition vs. modernity. It follows a woman (played by filmmaker Ganatra) living in New York City with her girlfriend.

Coolidge Corner Theater

Jazz on a June Night
Every Monday in June, the Coolidge and WGBH team up to present live jazz performances by New England Conservatory musicians with jazz films. Focusing this year on documentary and live performance films, jazz on a June night features double billings of **Different Drummer: Elvin Jones** and **Sonny Rollins: Live at Laren** (June 19); **Mingus: Charles Mingus** (June 26). *$10, $8 for WGBH members, Coolidge members, seniors and kids (734-2500).*

Midnight Movies
•June 24, 12am **Surrealist Shorts** features **Ghosts Before Breakfast** *1927*. Hans Richter's seven-minute film; **Conquest of the North Pole** *1912* by George Melies (10 minutes); **At Land** *1944* by Maya Deren (16 minutes); **Nenilmontant** *1925* by Dmitri Kirsanov (25 minutes); **The Cure** *1917* by Charlie Chaplin (15 minutes). These are accompanied by **The Empty House Collective**, featuring Chris Brokaw of Come and David M. Curry of Willard Grant Conspiracy and Saturnalia.

Now Playing
•Opening June 23 **Beau Travail** *1999*. Acclaimed director Claire Denis takes a look at the rituals of life in the French Foreign Legion, an army with no real purpose. A mercenary is emotionally isolated from the men with whom he rigorously trains.
•In June **Kiku Jiro** *1999*. Takeshi Kitano (*Fireworks, Sonitaine*) makes a bizarre left turn with this compassionate tale of a boy on a seemingly endless search for his mother. Masao is a lonely 9-year-old who sets off to find the mother he has never known.

Special Engagements
•June 17, 12am **Storefront Hitchcock**. The Jonathan Demme concert film features Robyn Hitchcock, Deni Bonet and Tim Keegan. With a special appearance by Robyn Hitchcock.

Nisha Ganatra (left) falls for Jill Hennessy in Ganatra's directorial debut, *Chutney Popcorn*.

Harvard Film Archive

Close Encounters
•June 14, 7 pm **Princess Tam Tam** *1935*. Introduced by Karen C. C. Dalton and directed by Edmond Greville, this is one of six features that the émigré American performer Josephine Baker made. It's an exotic Pygmalion story set out as a musical comedy: A French author (Préjean) goes to North Africa to write a novel but becomes distracted by a native girl.

Premieres
•June 15, 7 pm and 8:30 pm; June 16, 7 pm; June 17, 7:30 pm and June 18, 7pm. **South** *1998*. Originally conceived as a meditation on the beauty of the American south inspired by her love of William Faulkner and James Baldwin, this latest documentary by Chantal Akerman was transformed by a racist crime that occurred days before filming: the notorious dragging-murder of James Byrd Jr. in Jasper, Texas.

The Left Bank Revisited: Marker, Resnais and Varda
•June 16, 8:30pm and June 17, 9pm **La Jetee** (*The Jetty*) *1962*. Chris Marker's sole fiction film is constructed from still photographs that are combined in serial fashion with voiceover narration and music. The ecstatic, lyrical film conveys the pain and weight of modern history and the intense power of images.
•June 16, 8:30pm and June 17, 9pm **Je T'Aime, Jet' Aime** *1968*. Alain Resnais' poetic work is an exploration of memory and time. A man is rescued by scientists from suicide and sent traveling in time, accompanied by a mouse who has been used in such experiments previously.
•June 18, 8:30pm and June 22, 9:15pm **L'Année dernière à Marienbad** (*Last Year at Marienbad*) *1961*. Characters meet in an opulent hotel with an elaborate geometric garden, tense with notions of what

might have occurred a year ago, including a murder and a love affair. Based on a script by the celebrated novelist Alain Robbe-Grillet.

•June 19 7 pm **Du Coté de la Cote** (*The Riviera—Today's Eden*). Directed by Agnès Varda, this is one of his films made for the French Tourist Office. Elegant images and witty commentary contrast the crowded pleasures of the beaches with the private gardens of the rich, indicating that all humanity seeks a paradise on earth.

•June 19, 7 pm **La Pointe Courte**. Varda had trained in art history and worked as the official photographer for the Théâtre Nationale Populaire in Paris before turning to cinema. In her first film, she weaves two parallel stories to create a portrait of a Mediterranean fishing port.

•June 19, 9pm **Les Statues Meurent Aussi** (*Even Statues Die*). This collaborative film by Alain Resnais and Chris Marker was banned for more than a decade by French censors as an attack on French colonialism. It is a study of the decline of African art.

•June 19, 9 pm **Dimanche à Pékin** (*Sunday in Peking*) *1955.* After World War II, Marker traveled across the world as a journalist and still photographer and as editor of a series of French travel books. This was his first solo film and must be one of the first accounts by a western filmmaker of Mao's China.

•June 19, 9pm **Le Mystère Koumiko** (*The Koumiko Mystery*) *1965.* Directed by Chris Marker, this film essay is his first account of Tokyo, during the Olympic games. Mixing elements of the city with fragments of comic books and other cultural materials, Marker creates a rich portrait of Tokyo.

•June 20, 7pm **Le Joli Mai** (*Lovely May*) *1963.* With voiceover commentary by Simone Signoret, this beautifully photographed study of Paris and its people during the month that marked the end of the Algerian War includes interviews with an assortment of citizens.

• June 21, 9pm **Muriel, ou le temps d'un retour** *1963.* Alain Resnais presents the story of Muriel, which emerges gradually from the nearly thousand discrete scenes Resnais weaves together with an innovative sound track.

•June 22, 7pm **Lion's Love** *1968.* Agnès Varda spent three years in L.A. in the late '60s with her husband, Jacques Demy, and in addition to filming a pair of documentaries, made this feature film about hippie culture and the political chaos surrounding it.

•June 23, 7pm and June 26, 7pm (special event—all seats $8; Director Agnès Varda in person) **Cleo From 5 to 7** *1961.* This funny and emotionally affecting film made Varda famous. A beautiful young pop singer (Marchand) awaits the results of a doctor's report that may indicate cancer.

•June 23, 9:30pm **Guernica** *1950.* Alain Resnais made a number of creative documentaries on art in the late '40s. It opens with a photograph of the destroyed town of Guernica and uses fragments of Picasso's epic painting and a passionate poetic text by Paul Éluard to create a protest against war.

•June 23, 9:30pm **La Guerre Est Finie** (*The War Is Over*) *1966.* One of Resnais' most politically committed films, this tells of an aging Spanish leftist who travels between Paris and Spain as part of a clandestine group dedicated to the overthrow of the Franco regime.

•June 24, 3pm **Le Fond de l'air est Rouge** (*A Grin Without a Cat: Scenes from the Third World War 1967–1977*). After a number of years working anonymously with a filmmaking collective dedicated to activist production, Chris Marker re-emerged to make films under his own name again. Here he surveys the rise and fall of the worldwide revolutionary movement of the '60s and '70s.

•June 24, 7 pm **Delight of Love in Iran** (*Plaisir d'amour en Iran*) *1976* (special event—all seats $8). Director Agnès Varda will attend the screening of this film, which stirred controversy in feminist and non-feminist circles alike.

•June 24, 7pm **Le Bonheur** (*Happiness*) *1964.* In this acclaimed but controversial film, the Drouots and their real-life children portray an idyllically happy family residing in the suburbs of Paris. And yet its portrait of boundless joy is quite disturbing.

•June 24, 9:15pm **Le Dernier Bolchevik ou le Tombeau d'Alexandre** *The Last Bolshevik 1993.* Marker's video is a tribute to the Soviet director Alexander Medvedkin, who operated the famous "agitprop" train in the 1930s. Marker presents the film in the form of letters to his friend, with words and images that evoke the man, his works and the history of the Soviet Union.

•June 25, 7pm (Director Agnès Varda in person) and June 27, 9pm **L'Opera-Mouffe** *1958.* Music links these documentary scenes from the vegetable market on the rue Mouffetarde in Paris. Varda herself was pregnant when she made this film, and the images and moods reflect the subjectivity of her condition.

•June 25, 9:30pm and June 27, 7pm **Providence** *1977.* In his first English-language production, Resnais employs a script by the British playwright David Mercer, an outstanding ensemble cast and an effective score by Miklos Rozsa. The film is a reflection on the creative process.

Museum of Fine Arts

Most film screenings are $6.

Premiere Engagements

•June 14, 6pm; June 15, 6:15pm and June 16 5:45pm; June 18, 11:30am; June 21, 8:15pm; June 22, 5:45pm; June 23 6:15pm; and June 25, 2:15pm **Dribbling Fate** *1998.* Lingering dreams clash with adult realities in this absorbing film set in Lisbon and Cape Verde. The story centers on Mané, the proprietor of a small bar who is obsessed with soccer and its fading promises.

Encore Screenings

•June 14, 7:45pm **A Hero for Daisy** *1999.* The story of Yale rowing legend Chris Ernst, who in 1976 galvanized her rowing team to storm the Yale athletic director's office to protest the lack of locker-room facilities for women, is directed by Mary Mazzio.

•June 14, 9pm **Run Like a Girl** *1999.* A look at a variety of athletes explores how sports can help girls resist forces that stunt spiritual growth or thwart self-confidence. Directed by Carol Cassidy.

Museum of Science

Omni Shows

•Through June 22. The Omni features **Dolphins**, an underwater exploration about these sea creatures in the wild and their forms of communication.

•Through June 22. **Mysteries of Egypt** reveals the stories and splendors of an ancient empire in a storytelling narrative. See stunning, panoramic views of Egypt's landscapes and breathtaking monuments, and watch ancient burial rituals.

Screen on the Green

•June 20, sunset **Forbidden Planet** *1956.* Fred M. Wilcox's version of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* follows Dr. Morbius and his daughter Altaira, who have survived a hideous monster that roams the planet.

•June 27, sunset **North by Northwest** *1959.* Hitchcock's comedy-thriller sees bewildered Cary Grant chased cross country by both spies and the police.

Head to the Common June 20 at sunset to see the tempestuous *Forbidden Planet* on the big screen.

education

Advice to Contributors

Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Education. Or e-mail information to education@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

CLASSES/LECTURES

Wednesday, June 14

Sailing in the British Telecom Global Challenge 2000

The College Club, 44 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 7:30-9pm. $21. Financial planner gone competitive sailor? Meet **John Bailes** as he explains his decision to dedicate two years to intense training for a 30,000-mile sailing race around the globe. Up to 15 identical yachts will depart from Southhampton, manned by professional skippers and a 17-person crew composed of novices from throughout the world. Bailes will be among them and wants to tell you why.

Using the Gift of Long Life

Skyline Room of The Museum of Science, Boston (723-2500). MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Wednesdays, June 14-July19, 12-1pm. Free. The first in a six-part lecture series dealing with the emotional and physical pitfalls and benefits of aging features **James E. Birren**, the associate director of the UCLA Center on Aging. The lectures are scheduled to correspond with the *Secrets of Aging* exhibit at the Museum of Science. All lectures, on themes such as health, longevity, and genetics, are interactive, and audience members are encouraged to bring questions.

Saturday, June 17

Wild Adventures

Franklin Park Zoo, 1 Franklin Park Road, Boston (989-2093). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. 2:30-3:30pm. $8. As gorilla populations diminish throughout Africa and the world, the Franklin Park Zoo is doing its part to educate adults on the importance of primate conservation. Tufts Professor **Michele Goldsmith**'s lecture on the mountain gorillas of the Bwindi-Impenetrable forest in Uganda is the second in a series of discussions concerning conservation projects.

Writing for Children

Fisher College, 116 Beacon St., Boston (623-8100). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 10am-5pm. $100. For some of us, the desire to entertain children is not satiated by funny faces and Disney impressions. The Grub Street Writers school will hold a workshop for anyone who wishes to learn the craft of writing children's literature and potentially earn a wide audience for those locally popular bedtime tales. **Lisa Jahn-Clough**, the seminar leader, is an author and illustrator of seven picture books and will teach participants character and plot development, dialogue writing and other writing skills.

Tuesday, June 20

The Future of the Web

1 Main St., ground floor conference room, Cambridge (227-2822). www.mimc.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. 7-9pm. Free.* The Massachusetts Interactive Media Council is sponsoring an open panel discussion on the next five to 10 years of the Internet. Experts from disparate fields will offer perspectives on the future of online communication, potential startup companies and various other broad technological themes.

Wednesday, June 21

Reinventing Work: Brand Power

The Westin Copley Place, 10 Huntington Ave., Boston (800-873-3451). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8:30am-3:30pm. $399. Walk in a flagging businessman, leave a "problem-solving dynamo." That's the promise of **Tom Peters**, acclaimed author and lecturer, and his newest workshop on leadership and getting ahead in the business world. Topics range from career advancement to teamwork in the workplace. The event is hosted by Boston University's Corporate Education Center.

Reflections of Heaven: A Millennial Odyssey of Miracles, Angels and the Afterlife

The College Club, 44 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 6:30-9pm. $33. Author **Peter Shockey** explores the elusive issues related to spirituality. His lecture will relate traditional religious life to modern spiritual concerns, and elucidate the overarching commonalities that unify all creatures. Hint: the keyword is "love."

Warning: Hard Hat Area—Boston Under Construction

Pundits, journalists and Big Dig experts have undertaken a daunting task: to make sense of the cacophonous sounds and chaotic traffic jams that define downtown Boston under a construction siege. The panel, sponsored by the Old South Meeting House on the Freedom Trial, features Anthony Flint of *The Boston Globe*. Flint is charged with coordinating a debate on how the Big Dig and South Boston waterfront construction will alter the face of this New England metropolis.

Critic and author Ann Holtz Kay and Robert O'Brian, co-chair of Boston 2000 Working Group, among others, will offer conflicting views and opinions concerning the often-controversial construction projects. Elizabeth Padjen, editor of *Architecture Boston*, also plans to attend. What has got Arizona U.S. Senator John McCain so up in arms? Judge for yourself on two guided walking tours—one of Boston's Central Artery, the other at the Seaport District—on June 24 at 2pm, planned to coincide with the panel discussions. *Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). Forum: June 14, 6pm. Walking tours: June 24, 2pm.—B.G.*

Thursday, June 22

Speed Is Life—Navigating the Foxholes While Starting an Internet Business.

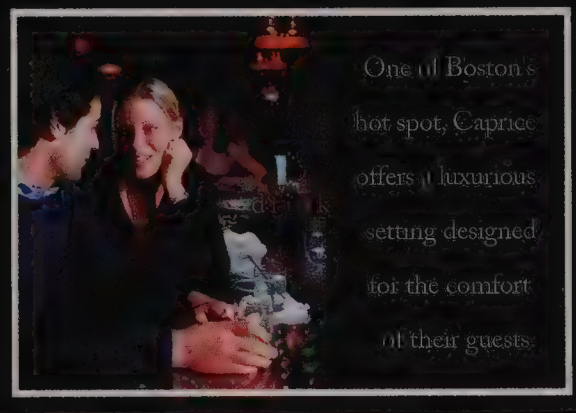
Omni Parker House, 60 School St., Boston (227-2822). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park. 6:30-9pm. $75. **Jeffrey Crown**, former vice president of corporate development for Lycos, now leads LycosLabs, a company that provides funding, advice and other resources to Internet startup companies in New England. Crown brings his expertise to this dinner/discussion that seeks to guide young online companies through the murky waters of choosing a public relations firm, structuring business deals and obtaining funding, among other challenges.

Friday, June 23

Socrates Speaks—The Conscience of Athens

First Parish Unitarian Church, 3 Church St., Cambridge (591-9959). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. Free. New Acropolis presents this lecture entitled "The Life and Death of a Philosopher."

FORBIDDEN: MGM STUDIOS



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READINGS & SIGNINGS

Wednesday, June 14

Borders Books and Music Series
10-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Downtown Crossing. 6pm. **Sharon Saltzberg** talks about the collection she edited, *Voices of Insight: Teachers of Buddhism in the West Share Their Wisdom, Stories and Experiences of Insight and Meditation*. The book shares the insights of 17 teachers of mindfulness and other aspects of Theravada Buddhism. She will be joined by contributors Joseph Goldstein, Carol Wilson and Michele McDonald-Smith.

Brookline Booksmith Author Series
279 Harvard St., Brookline (739-6002). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. **Zadie Smith** reads from her bestseller *White Teeth*, a Bookissue 76 pick.

New Words Live Reading Series
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 6pm. Free admission. Join **Joli Sandoz** and **Joby Winans** with **Carrie Dearborn**, **Susan Eisenberg** and **Pat Griffin** as they share from their book, *Whatever It Takes: Women on Women's Sports*. It's the first anthology of women's experiences in competitive sports.

WordsWorth Books Reading Series
WordsWorth Reading Room, 30 Brattle St., Cambridge (498-0084). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free admission. Meet **Joyce Johnson** when she reads from her new book, a collection of love letters between herself and Jack Kerouac. Set up on a blind date by Alan Ginsburg in '57, Johnson and Kerouac's affair spanned two years. *Door Wide Open* is a chronicle of their time together.

Thursday, June 15

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (236-7421). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. **Ronald Takaki** discusses his work, *Double Victory: A Multicultural History of America in World War II*.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free admission. **Fred Dillen** and **Zhu Xiao Di** read stories from the anthology *Father: Famous Writers Celebrate the Bond Between Father & Child*.

WordsWorth Books Reading Series
WordsWorth Reading Room, 30 Brattle St., Cambridge (498-0084). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free admission. Join historian **Blanche Wiesen Cook** when she discusses her biography, *Eleanor Roosevelt: Volume 2, The Defining Years*. A bestseller in hardcover, this biography is the second volume in a series on the life of Eleanor Roosevelt.

Friday, June 16

Borders Books and Music Series
10-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Downtown Crossing. 6pm. Has the economic boom passed Gen-Xers by? In the last few years, the stock market has doubled, inflation has reached record lows and jobs abound. But the untold story of these prosperous times is that many people in their 20s and 30s haven't had it so easy. Bring your financial questions for **Beth Kobliner**, as she discusses *Get a Financial Life: Personal Finance in Your Twenties and Thirties*.

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (236-7421). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 12:30pm. On July 20, 1969, millions of astounded viewers witnessed one of the biggest events in American history—the first man to walk on the moon. And **Buzz Aldrin** was there, leaving his footprints on the moon. An MIT graduate and an Air Force Colonel, Aldrin is still deeply involved in the space program. He'll sign copies of his new science fiction novel, *The Return*, which he wrote with John Barnes.

M.I.T. Coop Author Series
3 Cambridge Center, Cambridge (499-3200). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. 7pm. The first man to walk on the moon, **Buzz Aldrin**, returns to his alma mater to discuss his new science fiction novel, *The Return*, which he wrote with John Barnes.

Buzz Aldrin takes another giant leap, this time a literary one. Hear him speak June 16 and 17.

Saturday, June 17

Borders Books and Music Series
10-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Downtown Crossing. 2pm. Again, **Buzz Aldrin** will speak about his new science fiction novel.

Brookline Booksmith Author Series
279 Harvard St., Brookline (739-6002). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 2pm. **Matt Tavares** signs copies of his book for kids, *Zachary's Ball*, just in time for Father's Day.

Sunday, June 18

New Words Live Reading Series
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 3pm. Free admission. **Mako Yoshikawa** reads from *One Hundred and One Ways*, a debut novel that tackles the issues of intergenerational communication and intercontinental divides.

Tuesday, June 20

Borders Books and Music Author Event
Atrium Mall, Chestnut Hill (630-1935). 12pm. Free admission. One of the most celebrated American singers of the century, **Eileen Farrell** shows off her other voice—her literary one. A classically trained dramatic soprano who also loves to belt pop songs, she reminisces about her professional and personal life in *Can't Help Singing*, which was co-authored by **Brian Kellow**.

Borders Books and Music Series
10-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Downtown Crossing. 6pm. **Gary Braver**'s new mystery, *Elixer*, tells of a Boston biologist who discovers a rare medicinal plant that can reverse the aging process. Yet as he tampers with the secrets of nature, the consequences are increasingly horiffic.

Brookline Booksmith Author Series
279 Harvard St., Brookline (739-6002). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Scituate-based author **Claire Cook** reads from and discusses her debut novel, *Ready to Fall*.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free admission. **Thomas Beller** reads from his literary debut, *The Sleep-Over Artist*. His stories have appeared in *Best American Short Stories, The New Yorker, Harper's Bazaar* and *Ploughshares*. He is founding editor of *Open City* and lives in New York.

Wednesday, June 21

Brookline Booksmith Author Series
279 Harvard St., Brookline (739-6002). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. **Elizabeth Marshall Thomas** reads from *The Social Lives of Dogs*.

Thursday, June 22

Borders Books and Music Series
10-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Downtown Crossing. 6pm. The Chief: The Life of William Randolph Hearst is the first full biography of Hearst in more than 40 years and it contains some surprising new information. Author **David Nasaw** obtained access to some fiercely guarded Heast papers that have never been written about.

Brookline Booksmith Author Series
279 Harvard St., Brookline (739-6002). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. **Lauren Slater** reads from her memoir, *Lying*.

Harvard Book Store Author Series
Rabb Lecture Hall, Boston Public Library (536-5400 ext. 336). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6pm. **Harold Bloom**, well-known English professor at Yale, will talk about his new book, *How to Read and Why*.

Kate's Mystery Book Store Events
2211 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (491-2660). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. 6pm. **Mark Zurbo** discusses and signs copies of his latest Tom Mason mystery, *One Dead Drag Queen*.

Friday, June 23

Borders Books and Music Author Event
Atrium Mall, Chestnut Hill (630-1935). 12pm. Free admission. In **Gary Braver**'s biotech thriller *Elixer*, a biologist heads fot the rainforests of Paupa New Guinea in search of medicinal plants to cure diseases. Little does he know that he'll also bring home a delicate flower rumored to by a tribal shaman to prevent aging.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free admission. Boston-based writer **Charles Pierce** discusses his first book, Hard to Forget: An Alzheimer's Story. He has written for *Esquire*, *The Boston Globe* and *The Atlantic Monthly* and contributes to NPR.

Sunday, June 25

New Words Live Reading Series
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 3pm. Free admission. Underground faves **Elena George**, **Lauren Sanders** and **Cheryl B.** come together to celebrate the release of their new books together in the Glam Lit Book Tour.

Monday, June 26

Brookline Booksmith Author Series
279 Harvard St., Brookline (739-6002). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. **Anchee Min** reads from her latest novel, *Becoming Madame Mao*.

Tuesday, June 27

Borders Books and Music Series
10-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Downtown Crossing. 6pm. In *As the Romans Do*, **Alan Epstein** celebrates the spirit of this ancient city. Epstein holds a Ph.D. in European history.

Brookline Booksmith Author Series
279 Harvard St., Brookline (739-6002). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. **David Sedaris** speaks about his latest book, *Someday Me Talk Pretty*.

French Library Reading Series
52 Marlborough St., Boston (266-4351). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 6:30pm. Free admission. **Pierre-Augustin Caron**, known as Beaumarchais (1732-1799) led a life of adventure as the personal watchmaker of King Louis XV, secret missions abroad (most notably to help the American Revolution), and whose wit and musical talent made him one of the emblematic figures of his time. The Library's De Vive Voix Café Theatre presents his work.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free admission. **Leila Ahmed** reads from her memoir, *A Border Passage: From Cairo to America—One Woman's Journey*.

ONGOING

Agape, Tuesdays
Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (266-6710). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8-10pm. Every Tuesday, this somewhat sophisticated poetry group gathers to share versions of their latest work. • Featured readers are **Michael Zach** (June 20) and **Robert K. Johnson** (June 27).

Cantab Lounge, Wednesdays
738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8-10pm. $3. Wednesday nights at the Cantab always pack in more than 30 poets in just two hours for open mike and a slam.

Club Passim, Tuesdays
47 Palmer St., Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. $5. All open-mike fanatics must experience this open-mike night—a training ground for up-and-coming performers, poets and storytellers. Sign up Tuesdays, 7:30pm.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Night, Sundays
1667 Mass Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. $4 cover. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes every Sunday to the featured poet of the week.

O'Brien's Pub, Mondays
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. A mix of rock and spoken word is performed one Monday a month at 9pm—the performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry, Saturdays
Out of the Blue Gallery, 168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $3. Every Saturday is poetry night, and an incredible spoken-word and music event also takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month. It features music by Rob Gonzalez and his band and spoken word with Nola Kelley.

Rhythm and Muse Open Mike, Thursday
403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-6622). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook. A headlining poet is followed by an open-mike session on the first Thursday of every month, 7:30pm.

Stone Soup Poetry Night
Zeitgeist Gallery, 312 Broadway St, Cambridge (227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7:30pm. $3. Since '71, the Stone Soup Poets have served up steamy confessions and soothing inspirations with their weekly readings. Keep the good vibes going every Monday at these readings with featured writers each week.

Bestsellers

HARDCOVER FICTION
1. **Cradle and All** by James Patterson
2. **Make Way for Ducklings** by Robert McCloskey
3. **Anil's Ghost** by Michael Ondaatje
4. **White Teeth** by Zadie Smith
5. **Oh, The Places You'll Go** by Dr. Seuss
6. **Harry Potter & the Prisoner of Azkaban** by J.K. Rowling
7. **Harry Potter & the Chamber of Secrets** by J.K. Rowling
8. **Easy Prey** by John Sanford
9. **Hugger Mugger** by Robert B. Parker
10. **The Bluest Eye** by Toni Morrison

HARDCOVER NON-FICTION
1. **In the Heart of the Sea** by Nathan Philbrick
2. **Tuesdays with Morrie** by Mitch Albom
3. **Flags of Our Fathers** by James Bradley
4. **Indwelling** by Tim Lahaye
5. **Ten Things I Wish I'd Known** by Maria Shriver
6. **Extraordinary Boston** by S. Dunwell
7. **Tipping Point** by Malcolm Gladwell
8. **Who Moved My Cheese?** by Spencer Johnson
9. **All Souls** by Michael McDonald
10. **Bobos in Paradise** by David Brooks

Provided by Borders Books and Music at Downtown Crossing for the week of May 22-29.

GÉRARD RANCINAN

Tanglewood

SEIJI OZAWA MUSIC DIRECTOR
BERNARD HAITINK PRINCIPAL GUEST CONDUCTOR

TO ORDER TICKETS:
Call **(888) 266-1200** or order online at **www.bso.org**. Beginning June 9, you may purchase tickets at the Tanglewood Box Office (main entrance) West Street, Lenox, MA.

All programs and artists are subject to change. Each ticket ordered by phone/internet is subject to a $3.25 handling fee. Please note, no refunds or exchanges.

TDD/TTY (617) 638-9289

Tanglewood

TDK

Proud sponsors of free Tanglewood lawn tickets for children under 12.

JUNE 30 FRIDAY

8:30pm Ozawa Hall
Boston Symphony Chamber Players
MOZART Flute Quartet in D, K.285
JANÁČEK *Mládí* (*Youth*), for wind sextet
BRAHMS Serenade No. 1 in D, Op. 11 (chamber version)

JULY 1 SATURDAY

LAWN TICKETS ONLY

5:45pm Shed
A Prairie Home Companion at Tanglewood with Garrison Keillor
Live broadcast
National Tour sponsored by Lands' End Direct Merchants.
Regional Sponsor: Crane & Co., Inc.

JULY 2 SUNDAY

2:30pm Ozawa Hall
Boston Symphony Chamber Players
Christopher O'Riley, piano
BRITTEN Sinfonietta, Op. 1; COPLAND Sextet for clarinet, piano, and string quartet
MOZART String Quintet in G minor, K.516

JULY 4 TUESDAY

7pm Shed
Peter, Paul & Mary
Family entertainment throughout the day (grounds open at 2pm) fireworks to follow the concert

JULY 5 WEDNESDAY

8:30pm Ozawa Hall
Gil Shaham, violin
Jian Wang, cello
Paul Meyer, clarinet
Garrick Ohlsson, piano
FAURÉ Violin Sonata No. 1 in A, Op. 13
COPLAND Sonata for violin and piano
MESSIAEN *Quartet for the End of Time* for clarinet, violin, cello, and piano

JULY 7 FRIDAY

8:30pm Shed
Opening Night Performance
Boston Symphony Orchestra
Seiji Ozawa, conductor
Yo-Yo Ma, cello
Edgar Meyer, double bass
COPLAND *Fanfare for the Common Man*
COPLAND *Quiet City*; HAYDN Cello Concerto in C; MEYER Double Concerto for cello, double bass, and orchestra; STRAVINSKY Suite from *The Firebird* (1919 version)
Sponsored by NEC

JULY 8 SATURDAY

8:30pm Shed
Boston Symphony Orchestra
John Williams, conductor
Gil Shaham, violin
WILLIAMS Essay for strings; PROKOFIEV Violin Concerto No. 2 in G minor, Op. 63; WILLIAMS *TreeSong* for violin and orchestra (world premiere)
TCHAIKOVSKY *Francesca da Rimini* Symphonic fantasy after Dante, Op. 32

JULY 9 SUNDAY

2:30pm Shed
Boston Symphony Orchestra
Roberto Abbado, conductor
Garrick Ohlsson, piano
BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-flat, Op. 73, *Emperor*; DEBUSSY *Printemps*
RESPIGHI *Roman Festivals*

JULY 12 WEDNESDAY

8:30pm Shed
Boston Pops Concert
Keith Lockhart, conductor
American classics, Broadway hits, and light orchestral music by favorite composers.

JULY 13 THURSDAY

8:30pm Ozawa Hall
Dubravka Tomsic, piano
BACH (trans. BUSONI) Prelude and Fugue in D, BWV 532
LISZT Sonata in B minor
PROKOFIEV Sonata No. 4 in C minor, Op. 29
LISZT *St. Francis of Assisi: Sermon to the Birds*
LISZT *Mephisto* Waltz No. 1

JULY 14 FRIDAY

8:30pm Shed
Boston Symphony Orchestra
James DePriest, conductor
Horacio Gutiérrez, piano
FAURÉ Suite from *Pelléas et Mélisande*
PROKOFIEV Piano Concerto No. 2 in G minor, Op. 16; BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 7 in A, Op. 92

JULY 15 SATURDAY

8:30pm Shed
The Leonard Bernstein Memorial Concert
Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra
Seiji Ozawa, conductor (Verdi)
André Previn, conductor (Elgar)
Robert Spano, conductor (Bernstein)
Tanglewood Festival Chorus, John Oliver, conductor
BERNSTEIN *Opening Prayer*
ELGAR Variations on an Original Theme, Op. 36, "Enigma"; VERDI *Falstaff*, Act 3

JULY 16 SUNDAY

LAWN TICKETS ONLY

2:30pm Shed
Boston Symphony Orchestra
Seiji Ozawa, conductor
Itzhak Perlman, violin
BRAHMS *Tragic* Overture, Op. 81
LUTOSŁAWSKI Concerto for Orchestra
BEETHOVEN Violin Concerto in D, Op. 61

JULY 18 TUESDAY

8:30pm Ozawa Hall
Barbara Bonney, soprano
Margo Garrett, piano
Fenwick Smith, flute
William Hudgins, clarinet
Sato Knudsen, cello
ARGENTO *Elizabethan Songs*
COPLAND "As It Fell Upon a Day"
PREVIN Four Songs to texts by Toni Morrison
COPLAND *Twelve Poems of Emily Dickinson*

JULY 21 FRIDAY

8:30pm Shed
Boston Symphony Orchestra
Jeffrey Tate, conductor
Hélene Grimaud, piano
WAGNER *Siegfried Idyll*
SCHUMANN Piano Concerto in A minor, Op. 54
HAYDN Symphony No. 99 in E-flat

JULY 22 SATURDAY

8:30pm Shed
Boston Symphony Orchestra
James Conlon, conductor
Barbara Bonney, soprano
WAGNER Overture to *The Flying Dutchman*
SCHOENBERG *Verklärte Nacht*, Op. 4
MOZART *Exsultate, jubilate*, Motet for soprano and orchestra, K. 165(158a) ; WAGNER Preludes to Acts 3 and 1 of *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*

JULY 23 SUNDAY

2:30pm Shed
Boston Symphony Orchestra
Seiji Ozawa, conductor
Peter Serkin, piano
LIEBERSON *Red Garuda* for piano and orchestra
TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 5 in E minor, Op. 64

JULY 27 THURSDAY

8:30pm Ozawa Hall
Ida Haendel, violin
Itamar Golan, piano
BRAHMS Sonata No. 3 in D minor, Op. 108
BACH Chaconne from Partita No. 2
CHAUSSON *Poéme*
SZYMANOWSKI *La Fontaine d'Arethuse*
WIENIAWSKI Polonaise in D

JULY 28 FRIDAY

2:30pm Theatre
VERDI *Falstaff (Dress Rehearsal)*
8:30pm Shed
Boston Symphony Orchestra
James Conlon, conductor
Emanuel Ax, piano
This concert will be projected to sections of the lawn on video screens
ALL-MOZART PROGRAM
Symphony No. 25 in G minor, K. 183(173dB); Piano Concerto No. 22 in E-flat, K.482; Symphony No. 40 in G minor, K. 550

JULY 29 SATURDAY

2:30pm Theatre
VERDI *Falstaff (Dress Rehearsal)*
8:30pm Shed
Boston Symphony Orchestra
Emmanuel Villaume, conductor
Louis Lortie, piano
This concert will be projected to sections of the lawn on video screens
BERLIOZ Overture to *Benvenuto Cellini*
RAVEL Piano Concerto in G
FRANCK symphony in D minor

SONG OF THE SILKIE

Composer Elena Ruehr's latest work explores Irish sea myths. BY KEITH POWERS

No better place than the oceanside setting of the Rockport Chamber Music Festival to explore myths of the sea. The festival made its first commission under musical director David Deveau, composer Elena Ruehr's *Song of the Silkie*, written for baritone Stephen Salters and the Shanghai String Quartet. *Silkie* premieres at the festival on June 29. Laura Harrington, who also teaches at MIT, wrote the libretto.

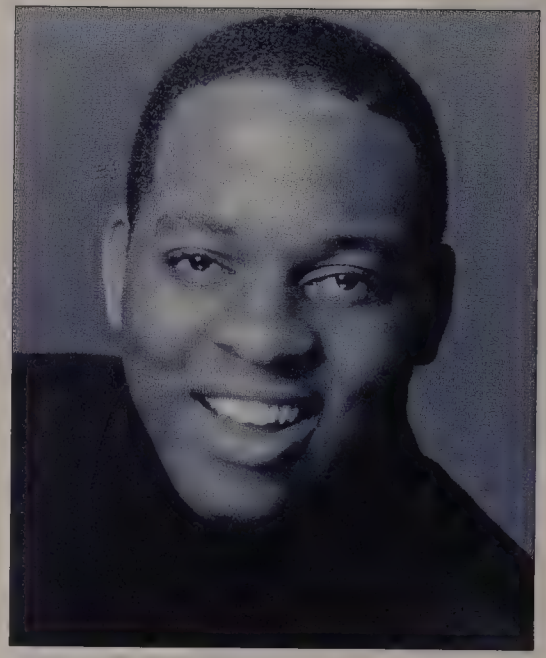
Ruehr is a lecturer in music and theatre arts at MIT, but she insists, "I'm trying to be a composer." Her long list of collaborations—with the Metamorphosen Chamber Ensemble, clarinetists/composer Evan Ziporyn, Dinosaur Annex and the Back Bay Chorale, among others—proves that point.

Ruehr and Salters have already had great success together. "We first met at BU," Ruehr says. "My setting of some Emily Dickinson poems ["Cricket, Spider, Bee"] was performed in 1996 by the Marsh Chapel Choir. Stephen was in the audience—he was still a student then—and he came up to me after the concert and asked me to write some songs for him. I didn't know him at all, and I just said, 'Yeah sure, send me a tape, whatever.' When I got his tape, I was floored.

"Stephen has all the things that great singers have, but there is something else as well. It's like a click went off in my head or something. So I wrote him one song and told him 'If you like this, I'll write more.' Well, he loved it, and so I wrote a whole cycle for him based on the poems of Langston Hughes. He used them in the Naumberg competition, and he won! He later sang the songs in the Celebrity Series in 1998."

Deveau wanted a work with some connection to the sea, and the silkie myth was a natural. "In Irish mythology," Ruehr explains, "a silkie is a seal that can assume male or female human form by taking off its skin. In Laura's libretto, this silkie is a woman who's fallen in love and married. Her husband had hidden her skin so she wouldn't leave, but she's found it and gone back to the sea. In the song he pleads with her to come back."

Musically, *Silkie* is a challenge. "I wanted to differentiate between the man and the silkie," Ruehr explains. "So in the three or four sections where Stephen sings the silkie voice, it's all above middle C, like a boy soprano." The score was completed in late April. "I've only heard Stephen sing it over the phone from Paris. He doesn't have trouble getting to the pitches, but he's not able to use his big instrument. The trick is to make it sound like a spooky woman, not like a man trying to sound like a woman. I am kind of concerned about it."



"When I got his tape, I was floored. Stephen has all the things that great singers have, but there is something else as well."

The string part is also a nail-biter. "Although there are no virtuosic solo parts, it's ensemble virtuoso—it'll be hard to put together. The cellist saw it and said that it really looked hard. "The string players set the ocean atmosphere. In certain sections there are alternating rhythms, like the rhythm of the ocean waves, splashing regularly but not constantly the same.

"I wanted the piece to carry the folksong it's based on, and to seem natural, even though it is an art song," Ruehr says. "As a composer, I'm most interested in combining ancient music with modern things."

Coda

David Deveau was delighted when he saw *Silkie*. "You know," he said, "sometimes you do a commission and it doesn't quite turn out. But Elena's score looks terrific." Ruehr's future plans include an opera, but she is reluctant to reveal the libretto. "My friends have told me not to talk about the subject," she says. "They say it's too hot right now." Other news: The **Longy School of Music** is celebrating its 85th year with the creation of the Longy Achievement Awards, honoring music educators and performers alike.

The first winners, music teacher **Rosebud C. Holland**, conductor **Harry Ellis Dickson** and soprano **Eileen Farrell**, will be honored at a concert celebration at Symphony Hall June 19. IB

Composer Elena Ruehr (top) and baritone Stephen Salters.

Rockport Chamber Music Festival

Composer Elena Ruehr's *Song of the Silkie* premieres at the Rockport Chamber Music Festival June 29.

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled Classical by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Classical Music or e-mail to classical@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers Web site information and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to deadline. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from many different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to doublecheck dates and times.

Wednesday, June 14

Boston Pops In Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices vary. Conductor Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops present Flag Day Spectacular, featuring the Tanglewood Festival Chorus.

Thursday, June 15

Boston Pops In Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Northeastern Night with conductor Keith Lockhart.

Saltarello
Emmanuel Church, Boston (625-1898). 8pm, $12, $8 students and seniors. The Society for Historically Informed Performance presents *Canzone e Stravaganze,* 16-century chansons and their 17-century legacies.

WCRB's Classical at Copley Concerts
Reflecting pool of the fountain at Copley Square Park, Boston (781-893-7080). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Free. Featuring Richard Stoltzman (clarinet).

Friday, June 16

Boston Pops In Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices vary. Conductor Keith Lockhart and the Pops perform an array of American classics and Broadway hits. Featuring Isabel Bayrakdarian (soprano).

Saturday, June 17

Boston Classical Orchestra
Faneuil Hall Market Place, Congress Street, Boston (423-3883). 8pm. Music Director Steven Lipsitt conducts Hayden's *Il Mondo della Luna Overture,* Garfein's *London* from *Places to Live,* Mozart's *Violin Concerto No.3 in G Major* and Beethoven's *Symphony No.7.*

Boston Pops In Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices vary. Conductor Keith Lockhart and the Pops perform an array of American classics and Broadway hits.

The Lydian Quartet
Brandeis University, Slosberg Recital Hall, Waltham (781-736-3401). 8pm, $10, $5 for Brandeis faculty and staff. The Lydian Quartet will perform Hyla's *String Quartet No. 4.* Other works include Mozart's *String Quartet in B-flat Major, K. 458 Hunt* and Brahms' *String Quartet in A Minor Opus 51, No. 2.*

Sunday, June 18

Boston Pops In Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 7:30pm. Prices vary. Conductor Charles Floyd and the Pops present Gospel Night, featuring the Pops Gospel Choir.

Monday, June 19

New England Conservatory Concerts
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *7:30pm. Free.* The Junior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble is led by David Samour. With music by Stravinsky, Grainger, Ellington and Ives.

Tuesday, June 20

Boston Pops In Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices vary. Conductor Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops present Celtic Nights. Performing selections from the Boston Pops' Grammy-nominated *The Celtic Album.*

BU Summer Concert Series
Tsai Performance Center, 685 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-8724). MBTA: B Green Line. 8pm, $10, $5 students and seniors. Director Mark Kroll presents The Musical Offerings by Bach. Featuring Wendy Rolfe (baroque flute), Carol Lieberman (baroque violin), Waltraut Wachter (baroque violin), Thomas Fritzsch (baroque cello) and Mark Kroll (fortepiano).

Wednesday, June 21

Boston Pops In Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices vary. Keith

Head to Waltham's Gore Place June 21, 7:45pm to listen to a Midsummer's Eve Concert.

Lockhart and the Pops present Celtic Nights. With selections from the Boston Pop's Grammy-nominated *The Celtic Album.*

Midsummer's Eve Concert
Gore Place, 52 Gore Street, Waltham (781-894-2798). 7:45pm (rain or shine), $20. Featuring Peter H. Bloom (flute), Carol Lewis (viola da gamba) and Olav Chris Henriksen (lute) performing *La Grande Siecle;* Court and Salon Music of France, 1650-1750.

Thursday, June 22

Boston Pops In Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Conductor Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops will perform an array of American classics and Broadway hits.

BU Summer Concert Series
Tsai Performance Center, 685 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-8724.) MBTA: B Green Line. 8pm, $10, $5 students and seniors. Director Mark Kroll presents Bach the Violinist. Trios and Sonatas including Bach's *Unaccompanied Sonata in G Minor,* arranged for piano and violin.

Concordia
Lindsay Chapel, Emmanuel Church, Boston (625-1898). 8pm, $12, $8 students and seniors. The Society for Historically Informed Performance presents Golden Dreams: Shakespeare's World in the Music and Verse of his Contemporaries. With Maria Georgekarakou (soprano), Richard Maloney (lute), Rosalind Brooks Stowe (viola da gamba), actors Graham Christen and Nancy Winneg and the Pavane Renaissance Dance Ensemble.

WCRB's Classical at Copley Concerts
Reflecting pool of the fountain at Copley Square Park, Boston (781-893-7080). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Free. Featuring all sorts of chamber music.

Friday, June 23

Boston Pops In Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Keith Lockhart and the Pops will perform an array of American classics and Broadway hits.

Brandeis Summer Music Festival
Brandeis University, Slosberg Recital Hall, Waltham (781-736-3401). 8pm, free admission. The Lydian Quartet will perform works as part of the American Originals Project.

Saturday, June 24

Boston Pops In Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices vary. Conductor Bruce Hangen and the Boston Pops present The Best of Broadway, featuring members of the theater department from the Boston Conservatory.

Sunday, June 25

Boston Pops In Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 7:30pm. Prices vary. Same program as June 24.

Tuesday, June 27

Boston Pops In Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices vary. Conductor Bruce Hangen and the Boston Pops present Swing, Swing, Swing, featuring the swingin' sounds of Basie, Miller and Goodman.

BU Summer Concert Series
Tsai Performance Center, 685 Comm. Ave, Boston (353-8724) MBTA: B Green Line. 8pm, $10, $5 students and seniors. Director Mark Kroll presents Elzbieta Stefanska. It's the American debut of the distinguished harpsichordist and professor at the Academy of music of Krakow, Poland.

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dance clubs

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Nights

Mondays

Vertigo Mondays
Vertigo. Caesar and Giorgio throw a party for those of you who never stop dancin'. Smooth Lounge upstairs, Deep House downstairs; DJ Arsit. Dress slick. 10pm, no cover.

Static
Axis. DJ Jay Ine and the gorgeous drag shows hosted by Mizery. 10pm. 19+. $5 cover.

Language
Hibernia. DJs G White, Dot, Surface and Sora spin a top selection of hip, diverse drum and bass at Boston's newest drum-and-bass weekly. 8pm. 21+. $2 cover.

Tuesdays

Cigar and Jazz Night
The Exchange. Light up, kick back, lounge and listen to the smooth sounds of jazz. Plus, you score a free Gina Cigar and complimentary buffet when you relax here. No cover.

Fat Tuesdays
Bill's. This off-the-hook night features DJ Chaos scratching out hip-hop music to college clubbers while house masters DJ Justin Hoffman and WBCN's DJ Jynx keep the tunes spinning downstairs. 11pm, $10 cover.

The Forum
Lava Bar. Join Mission Control and support the local DJ scene as local talents share the floor in hopes of gaining a headlining spot on the Lava stage. 10pm, 21+.

Got Milk?
Venu. If you're chic and fabu you'll be at Venu for Milk—a smart and devilishly hip party. Resident DJ Osheen spins house for the trés chic. Dress is funky. 21+.

Mingle Tuesdays
The Modern. This fancy spot screams sophistication. With local DJs every week, a raw bar, vodka bar and late lounge. 10pm. 21+.

Zanzibar Tuesdays
The Big Easy. Dress to impress (black is always a hit) for Boston's premiere International Night. The Big Easy's got DJ Manolo, spinning Latin and international music. 11pm. 19+. $10.

Wednesdays

College Night
The Aquarium. Guest DJs spin on all three funky floors of this relatively new venue at 10pm.

Good Karma
Karma/Mambo. Misery plays host to a roster of rotating DJs. Expect a mixed crowd and special guest performers. 10pm. 19+. $5 cover.

Hibernia Wednesdays
Hibernia. DJ C.T.O. is the Godfather of Say Word night—with plenty of funk, rare groove, soul and old-school hip-hop. 9pm. 21+. Cover varies.

Backstage
DJ Jonny C. spins top-40 dance classics. 10pm. No cover, 21+.

Modern Living
The Modern. Here, DJ Dale Charles spins while minglers strut their stuff, munch from a raw bar and sip martinis. 10pm. 21+.

Musical Mayhem
The Exchange. WBCN's DJ Jynx of Cybersounds plays house upstairs while Tym Ryan of WFNX and DJ Brisc take over and spin in the Vault. 10pm.

Pravda 116
Come spend the night with Boston's premiere promoters at one of the city's most decadent hot spots—set to the beats put out by DJ Alex and DJ Felix. Proper dress required, 21+.

Status
Axis. It's all about status when DJs Darrin Friedman and Richie Rich spin house music and weekly Fashion and Hair Salon Show. 10pm, 19+, $10.

The Sugar Shack
The Sugar Shack. If you're 19+ and a woman, you get in for free before 11pm—otherwise, the cover is $10. Plenty of funk, disco and hip-hop. 10pm.

Scenes from all three levels of The Boat: Joe, Julie L., Greg L. and Kristin R. (left) and Adrienne G. Donna D. and Terri F., MC at Karma on Sundays and hostess of Pachanga Latina *WUNI-TV.*

Jammin' Jaunts

Summer hours: Getting around after dark

Sunshine. It's here. Just not when I'm awake, for the most part. I did manage to catch a few rays intense enough to blur my memories of this past Memorial Day weekend, though (or perhaps it was the sizzling tequila). As it was a long weekend and all, a few friends convinced me to get out of Boston and try something new. What the heck.

After a short drive to Worcester, we opted to check out the local scene. Now mind you we were in Worcester, not Boston, so we figured we had fewer options for a Thursday night out. Hmm, I think that might have been an understatement.

Young twentysomethings as well as those under 21 were sweating en masse at the Palladium to top-40 dance, hip-hop, and R&B hits here. Fun place, but don't forget your earplugs to soften the harsh echo..echo..echo.... I will say this: It was nice getting change back from a $10 for two Long Islands.

We wanted to actually dance, not just bounce around, so we headed around the corner, when, to my ears' delight, there was a steady *dum-dum* pulsing out from the door—House? Disco-House right here? Upon closer examination, the truth came out. Amen. No, that's the club's name, silly. This place was slamming. Having just moved into its new digs around the corner from the Centrum, Amen sports three intimate levels of dancing and drinking fun, with resident DJ Chris Meadows spinning soulful, funky, blends of house, disco, and high energy dance to the masses. A diamond in the rough not to be missed.

So I woke up on Second Beach in Newport, Friday morning, freshly sun-kissed, or "sun tongued" as it would turn out. Wait a second, rewind. How did...Oh yeah, $3 Long Islands. Never mind. I did some detective work to find out what was happening in this city, and let me tell you, 2am is late for these folks. Plan on getting out by 7pm to avoid the hour-plus wait. Did I mention that they close at 1am as well? Here's the skinny: By day, the Atlantic Beach Club (a.k.a. ABC) hosts live bands and DJs entertaining close to 2,500 twenty- and thirty-somethings.

When night falls, the Landing has live DJs spinning on the weekends, as well as live bands; same with Christie's down the street. For those yearning to dance to harder techno and house, The Club is just a stone's throw away on Pelham Street. And one of the more happening places is The Boat. Sporting three levels on yes, a real boat, it makes for some interesting dancing.

Just before the long weekend, though, Boston was privy to DJ John Acquaviva on the turntables at Avalon. I was lucky enough to attend with Miss Terri Fuentes (hostess of the Spanish music video show *Pachanga Latina* on WUNI-27, and MC at Karma on Latin Sundays) and a few of her girlfriends. Mr. Acquaviva kept the room moving with a special blend of disco-infused house and techno—and didn't let up until the wee hours.

Well, I will say this: I am glad to be back in Boston, and I'm letting my skin shed its burnished covering so that I can hit the dance floors once again, though someone keeps whispering something about Ibiza in my ear. Hey Julie (you know who you are), thanks for the dance. —*Joe Mama*

Thursdays

The Aquarium
The Kiss 108 FM dance party features Randy from the *Matty in the Morning Show.* 10pm. $3.

Backstage
Tonight's adrenaline high features special guests spinning top-40 dance and club classics. 10pm, 21+. $5.

Charlie's Angels Night
Polly Esther's. Dress as your favorite Brady and dance as DJ Beez spins all your favorite '70s, '80s and '90s music on the *Saturday Night Fever* dance floor. 8pm. $5, 21+.

Chrome
Axis. Resident DJs John Debo and Ali Ajami spin Mucky House and trance. 10pm. 19+. $10 cover. •DJ DT spins June 15. •DJ Tilt spins June 22.

Downtempo Lounging
The Modern. DJ Ricky Fatts spins while you enjoy the raw bar and vodka bar. 9pm-2am, 21+.

Emily's
Enjoy a variety of soul, house and dance music. Doors open at 5pm.

Funkalicious Thursdays
The Exchange. DJ G-Squared takes you on a blast from the past as he spins the sounds of '70s and '80s. Added bonus: free after-work buffet. No cover.

Il Panino
A social playground for young professionals in Boston: cocktails and dancing. Proper dress. 9pm. 21+.

International Thursday
Avalon. A mixed crowd fills up this nightspot as DJ Manolo spins Eurohouse and DJ Anthony spins Latin in the Playhouse. 10pm. 19+. $15.

Kit Kat Klub
Sugar Shack. This night features an ever-changing roster of guest DJs spinning hip-hop to college clubbers, 10pm, 19+.

Latin Quarter
The Roxy. You know it's time to get down when the Roxy breaks out hip-shaking salsa, merengue and Latin dance mixes.

The List
Lava Bar. *Lavabar.com*. DJ 7L and guests along with Verse/D bring you soul, funk, old school and all things funky. 10pm. 21+.

Speed
Karma/Mambo
Special Guest DJs and resident DJs Bruno and Masta Millions spin the latest hip-hop and R&B. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover.

Venu
Swank American top-40 and house, this hot spot features the incredible DJ Adilson, creator of the Roxy's Saturday night party.

Fridays

Avaland
Avalon. Everything about the room screams "Party!" With world-famous DJs spinning, including DJ Manolo and John Debo, this has become the single-most NY-style club night. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover. •DJ Josh Wink spins June 16. •DJ Dave Ralph spins June 23.

Backstage
Backstage kicks off its all-night dance party, part one with the sounds of DJ Jonny C spinning top-40. Doors open at 10pm. $5, proper dress, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans–themed nightspot has some of the best mainstream DJs in town. It offers four bars and two lounges, as well as billiards and a super-cool wraparound balcony.

Buzz Fridays
Buzz. Roger M lays down the Latin and international house tracks while upstairs visiting DJs pay homage to the house music gods. 11pm, $15 cover, 19+.

Disco Inferno
Polly Esther's. Get ready for disco-inferno Fridays as DJ Uncle Bob turns out the very best of '70s disco while DJ Mad Max brings you back into '80s in the Culture Club and DJ Mark C spins '90s high-energy dance in the laser-lit Club DVD. 8pm, $10, 21+.

Emily's
An after-work venue during the week, this hot spot transforms itself into a dance kingdom on weekend nights. Jam to soul, house and dance music. 5pm.

Envy
This extraordinarily popular Friday night hot spot is filled with a swarming mass of sweaty 'n' ready dancers. 9pm, $5 cover after 10pm, 21+.

Exchange Fridays
The Exchange. Up High, Tiziano and Maurizio, Boston's best DJ duo, guides you on a house trip while DJ G-Squared opens the Vault door with mainstream dance and hip hop. Doors at 9pm.

JOE MAMA

Focus
Hibernia. You can't go wrong with DJs Chuck Caseroc, Keith Kene and Skot Havens. 9pm, 21+.

Lava Bar
Life. *lavabar.com*. Dance to a different dummer with DJ Fran Englehardt's deeply rooted soulful rhythms. Doors at 10pm.

Ultra Lounge
The Modern. DJ Mixin Matt Ruben. 9pm 2am, 21+.

Nocturnal Fridays
Bill's Bar. WBCN day guy and football swami, Bill Abbate, spins up a delectable smorgasbord of rock with a pinch of roll. 9pm. $5 cover, 21+.

Pure
Karma/Mambo. World Class Drum and Bass DJs come to visit with a weekly rotating roster of guest DJs. 19+, $15. See *www.puredrumandbass.com.*

Roxy 2000
Roxy/Mondo Bar. What goes around comes around. Go crazy as the intimacy of the Roxy consumes you and DJ Felix spins house and international music throughout the night. 10:30pm. $15 cover, 21+.

Spin Cycle
Axis. Glitzed-out club hoppers shake it to the progressive house beats of DJ Tim Ryan downstairs as well as DJ David James' retro tunes upstairs. 10pm, $12, 19+.

Venu
The scene is elegant and the line is long for this jacket-required international romp. Get your Gucci attire as DJ Tassos and DJ Arsit spin. 21+.

Saturdays

The Aqarium
Saturday night dance party hosted by resident DJ. 10pm-1am, $5 cover.

Downtown
Avalon. Resident DJs Manolo and Mattie O. gyrate your ass with the latest hits and club classics. 10pm. 21+. $15 cover.

Backstage
DJ Freddie C spins top-40 dance and club classics. 10pm. $5, proper dress, 21+.

Bill's Bar
DJ Laurie Gail with guest DJs promise to make Bill's a night full of dancing to the best of the '70s, '80s and '90s. 9pm, $3 cover, 19+.

Club Juliana
Boogieing cuties converge on Boston's newest Latin Night starting at 10pm. Dress to impress. $10.

Club Nicole
The faces are familiar and the mob thick for this exclusive Euro trendsetter. DJ Alex spins Eurohouse. Reservations recommended, jackets required. 21+.

Elements of Life
Karma/Mambo. DJ Supa Mario and world class DJs spin house music in the main room while DJ Hoffman plays funk in the Mambo Lounge. 10pm. 19+. $15. •Anthony Acid spins June 17.

Emily's
Serious soul, house and dance music. DJs spice up Saturday nights and transform this after-work venue into a dance kingdom. 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Envy
From 9pm-2am, DJ Tom Baxter blasts top-40, house and dance throughout the night. 9pm, $5 cover after 10pm, 21+.

Exchange Saturdays
The Exchange. DJ Diesel renovates the upper level with full-on house while DJ Jynx spins all the funky beats in the lower Vault lounge. 9pm.

Fajitas and Ritas
Chill out for the Weekly Dig Lounge Series with Alan Strack and Mason.

Hibernia Saturdays
Hibernia. Masters of house, techno and dance, DJs Dino and David West take the reins and whip the crowd into a frenzy. 9pm, 21+, cover varies.

Lava Bar
Anything Goes. DJ Fran and Kris Kono unite with high-energy house and Latin beats. 10pm, 21+.

Miami Club Night
Club Joy/Yesterday's. Get a taste of Miami nightlife with La Rueda de Casino, a Cuban salsa game . 9:30pm (ladies free before 11pm), $10 cover, 21+ (ladies, 19+).

Mischief
The Modern. Feeling mischievous? Ultra lounging with decadent desserts and erotic electronica. 21+.

Mythos
Venu. Greek International with DJ Yorgo Jr. spinning the hits from the famous party islands of Greece.

Saturday Night Fever
Polly Esther's. Groove to three decades' worth of beats in the laser-lit Club DVD. 8pm, $10, 21+.

Sugar Shack
Spice up your night with '70s, '80s and '90s dance music as DJ Rich Centi spins the hottest sounds.

Who's on First?
The latest and greatest in hip-hop, reggae, R&B, and Latin house with DJ Lil' Mike, 10:30pm, $12, 18+.

X night
Axis. DJ Mike Gioscia spins cutting edge faves of '90s alternative while DJ David James spins '80s hits in the Left Over Lounge. 10pm, $10 cover, 21+.

Sundays

Backstage
Get ready for urban night with T Clark from WILD spinning hip-hop, reggae and old school. Doors open at 10pm, $10 cover, proper dress, 21+.

Common People
An Tua Nua.
Brit-pop, new wave, indie and more with DJ Adrienne—all of those one-word bands you love. 19+, 9pm-2am $3.

Emily's
Industry Night "Club Soda" with DJ Silly. 10:30pm.

Exchange Sundays
A fusion of Heavy Lounge and Miami House. No cover.

Il Panino
Mainly attracting Euros, this night features all sorts of music by DJ Alex of Boston Beat and DJ Roger M. 21+, no cover.

Latin Night
Karma/Mambo Lounge. Weekly Live Latin Bands. 10pm. 19+. $25 cover.

Lava Bar
Pandora's Box (Club Courtesy). DJ Vinny and Sir Richard and Sterling spin '60s Exotica, loungecore, psychedelic flowerpop and Motown. With French music videos. 10pm. 21+.

Salavation
This Boston vibe serves up an intimate evening of soul—all provided courtesy DJ Soul. $5, until 10pm.

Venu
Carnival comes to Boston every Sunday as DJ Adilson brings the heat of Rio to Venu, spinning the hottest music from Brazil. 21+.

Club Venues

An Tain *31 India St., Boston (426-1870). MBTA: Blue Line to State St.*
AnTua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (262-2121). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Aquarium *65 Holland St., Somerville (623-3200). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (437-0300). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Backstage *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston (726-1110). MBTA: Blue Line to Govet. Center.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Buzz Boston/Europa *51-67 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Park St.*
Club Juliana *20 Hudson St., Boston (542-4411).*
Club Nicole *40 Dalton St., Boston (236-4746). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*
Club Stella *1234 Soldiers Field Rd., Brighton (254-0554).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Upstairs, Boston (423-3649). MBTA: Red or Green Lines to Park Street.*
Envy *25 Boylston Place, Boston (542-3689). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Exchange *148 State St., Boston (723-7755). MBTA: Orange Line to State Street.*
Hibernia *25 Kingston St., Boston (292-2333). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Karma *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9595). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Lava Bar *575 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-7707). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Oskar's *107 South Street., Leather District, Boston (542-6756). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Polly Esther's *262 Friend St., Boston (720-1966). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (482-7799). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Salavation *20 Hudson St., Boston (781-668-2392). MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown.*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (338-8061). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Vertigo *126 State Street, Boston (723-7277).*
Who's on First? *19 Yawkey Way (247-3353). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*

Music

IZZI POP

Jazz guitarist Izzi Rozen on the Improv

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

Naming his CDs *Red Sea* and *Homeland Blues* seems like an obvious marketing move. But Israeli jazz guitarist Izzi Rozen's heritage inhabits his music in understated ways.

"It's really easy with jazz, because it lends itself to all types of different scales and feels, and because it's improvised, you play what you hear, and what you hear is everything included," says the Brookline-based Rozen, whose summer schedule includes a June 20 date at the Regattabar. "What you grew up with, and what you hear later on—once it's inside your mind, it just comes out. There are ways, like when people say they want to play just bebop, that you can force yourself to play like that. But I'd rather just include everything that I've heard, and see what comes up. I think that makes it more natural."

Brookline-based guitarist Izzi Rozen performs June 20.

His point is well-taken after hearing Rozen's work, which marries his airy tone with a contemplative simplicity that doesn't sound restricted. Where so many guitarists try to impress with burning notes, then toss in a ballad as a changeup, Rozen favors thoughtful terrain, which lets his more nimble flurries creep up on you.

"It brings up the melodies," the 33-year-old guitarist says of his style, which might be traced back to his pre-teen years in Israel, when he was fascinated by kids who played guitar, then "actually started practicing and playing maybe a year later when my dad bought me a Beatles tape. I couldn't stop listening to it."

Rozen was also exposed to his share of burning guitarists, from his interest in blues and progressive rock to his first jazz exposure through a guitar teacher who played him Joe Pass. "I didn't even know you could play guitar like that, and it was unbelievable, 'cause he did the bass line, the chords and the melody all at the same time," Rozen says.

Later, he discovered John McLaughlin and fusion, eventually tiring of that genre, but settling on a processed, hollow-bodied electric tone reminiscent of Pat Metheny and other guitarists on the ECM label in the late '70s. But, as Rozen agrees, "It's what you do with it, and you can trace it back actually to Jim Hall if you want, years before Pat Metheny."

"This is the tone that I hear when the music is coming out," says Rozen, relating how he always paid attention to his tone, to the point of documenting his precise amplifier settings in high school, before realizing he didn't have to be quite that exact. "That's the sound I like to play with. Even when I pick up another guitar or a different amp, if I don't get the sound that I'm looking for, it's hard for me to play, because it's not my sound."

Rozen honed his tone, and playing, first at the Rimon School of Jazz and Contemporary Music (which was opened in Tel-Aviv by graduates of Berklee College of Music) and then at Berklee itself. "The main thing about Berklee is people come from all over the world, and some of them are such great players," says Rozen. "To meet them and do sessions and play with them is so important."

But like Brazilian music, which his father also exposed him to ("There's a big Brazilian community in Israel, and a lot of Brazilian artists would come," Rozen says), the guitarist enjoyed another unlikely major influence when he joined a gospel band while at Berklee. "It took me a few weeks to learn how to play it, 'cause it's so different," he says. "The melodies too, but it's mostly the emotion and the energy that comes out of the band."

It all comes through somehow in his music, from the blues that infuse *Homeland Blues* more than his first CD, through reharmonized adaptations of Middle Eastern music, like the new disc's lead track "Shir Hanoded," a traditional Israeli melody. "The nice thing about jazz is when you improvise, you can incorporate other harmonies or chromaticisms," says Rozen, who also covers jazz standards, as well as originals. "If I had to play [that piece] traditionally, it would be completely different. I would use a much narrower choice of notes, but I decided OK, I'll make it more jazz, so it's open to a lot of changes."

Rozen also benefits from a sympathetic band in Israeli-born pianist Gilad Barkan, bassist Dave Smallwood (with whom Rozen also plans duo dates at Maison Robert June 15 and July 27) and Surinam-bred drummer Harvey Wirht, who also plays with Either/Orchestra. "Harvey has something different about his playing," Rozen says. "He doesn't sound like someone else, and again, it's probably a fact of where he comes from." **iB**

Izzi Rozen in Concert

See him perform his improvisational combination of jazz and blues June 20 at the Regattabar.

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fax (859-1446); by mail to Calendar/Music; or by email to music@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, phone numbers and nearest T stops. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double check dates and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

Concerts

The Allman Brothers Band
June 23, Tweeter Center
Mary J. Blige
June 16, FleetBoston Pavilion
Ian Brown
June 16, Axis
The Cure
June 14, Tweeter Center
Cesaria Evora and Cassandra Wilson
June 25, FleetBoston Pavilion
Groove Armada and Faze Action
June 17, Axis
Patti LaBelle
June 21, FleetBoston Pavilion
Ricky Martin
June 21 and 22, FleetCenter
Jose McIntyre's Block Party
June 15, Central Street
Steve Miller Band and Gov't Mule
June 17, Tweeter Center
No Doubt, Lit and Blackeyed Peas
June 22, FleetBoston Pavilion
Lou Reed and Victoria Williams
June 23, FleetBoston Pavilion
Sonic Youth and Stereolab
June 15, Avalon
311 and Incubus
June 15, Tweeter Center
Tremont Brewery Music Festival 2000
June 24, Tremont Brewery

CONCERT HALLS

FleetCenter
One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (624-1000). MBTA: Red Line to Park Street.
FleetBoston Pavilion
290 Northern Ave., Boston (734-9000). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.
Somerville Theater
55 Davis Square, Somerville (628-3390). MBTA: Red Line to Davis Square.
Tweeter Center
Mansfield (931-2000).

Rock, Jazz and Blues

Wednesday, June 14

The Black Rose
Eugene Byrne, 9pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff
James McKenna, 9pm, no cover.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm, no cover.
The Good Life Cambridge
Weepin' Willie and his All Star Band, 9pm, no cover.
The Good Life Downtown
Fascinatin' Trio, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
Harper's Ferry
Ron Levy's Wild Kingdom with Volume 6, 9:30pm, $3.
Hennessy's
Me and Julio, 8:30pm, cover varies, 21+.
House of Blues
Same Ole Band, 10pm, $20, 18+.
Jose McIntyre's
Dub-Station Reggae, 9pm, no cover.
Les Zygomates
The Sonny Watson Group, 8pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge
Star Hustler, Fuzzy and Chris Colbourn, 8:30pm, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East
U: Dr. Akward, Burt Nielson Band and Stymie, $6, 18+; C: Belly Dancing, 10pm.
Milky Way
The Autumns and Live to Experience, 9pm, $7.

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Cassandra Wilson sings with Cesaria Evora June 25 at the FleetBoston Pavilion.

Playhouse Lounge
Emerson Explosion, 9:45pm, 21+.
The Rack
Hung Jury, 9pm, no cover.
The Roxy
Jerry Jeff Walker and Jesse Colin Young, 8pm, $25.
Ryles
Project Yes Brazil, 9pm, $6.
Scullers
Spyro Gyra, 8pm and 10pm, $28.
Sky Bar
The Zips, Prime Rib and The Crush, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Toad
Cranktones, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Brian Charles and Friends featuring Aaron Perrino of the Sheila Devine, members of the Gravy and members of the Douglas Fir, $5.
White Horse Tavern
Laurie Geltman and Friends, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Thursday, June 15

Avalon
Strangefolk, 7pm, $15.25, 18+.
The Black Rose
Eugene Byrne, 9pm, no cover.
Bob the Chef's
Lionel Giradeau Latin Jazz, 7:30pm, cover varies.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies.
Common Ground
Double Jointed, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort
Ricky and the Giants, 7pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown
Inner Orchestra, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Uptown
The Trio, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
The Green Dragon Tavern
The Spitting Vinnies, 9:30pm, $3. 21+.
Harper's Ferry
Two Ton Shoe with Moon Boot Lover, 9:30pm, $6.
Hennessy's
Under Cover, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
House of Blues
Johnny A., 10pm, $8, 21+.
Jose McIntyre's
Bruce Jacques, 9pm, no cover.
Les Zygomates
The Jinga Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Linwood
Photon Torpedoes and Dumpster Junkies, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Lizard Lounge
Nini Camps and Trina Hamlin, 7pm; Matt Maneri Trio, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East
U: Chasing Gray, Trobadours, Generic and The Modeles, $7, 18+; D: Smut Peddlers, Mr. Lif and Akrobatik, $15, 18+; C: Board of Education.
Milky Way
Synaesthesia with Caserock, $7.
Playhouse Lounge
Will Dailey's "Bean War Sessions," 9:45pm, $3, 21+.
Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett, 9pm, $3.
The Rack
Search Party, 6:30pm, no cover.
Regattabar
The Chucho Valdes Quartet, 8 and 10pm, $18.
Ryles
Laszlo Gardony, 8:30pm, $9.
Scullers
Spyro Gyra, 8 and 10pm, $28.
Sky Bar
Banter, The Complaints and Labb, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Toad
Nash Satterfield, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Long Distance Runner, Prizefighter, Orange Island and Center of Earth, $6.
The Western Front
More Fire with DJs Voyager: 01 and Culture B, 9pm, $5.

Friday, June 16

The Attic
Slipknot, cover varies, 21+.
Axis
Groove Armada and Faze Action, 7pm, $25, 18+.
The Black Rose
U: The Crossing; D: Eugene Byrne, 9pm, $5.
Bob the Chef's
Gary Jones Quartet, 7:30pm, cover varies.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, City Beat, 9pm.
Common Ground
Almost Speechless and Love Whip, 10pm, 21+.
Coogan's Bluff
Thomas Park, 9pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band, 7pm; Booty, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Cambridge
Waldron Ricks Quartet, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown
Ron Levy, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Uptown
Larry Franquez Trio, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
The Grand Canal
5 Helena's, 10pm, $5, 21+.
The Green Dragon Tavern
Classic Trax, 9:30pm, $3, 21+.
Harper's Ferry
Entrain with Brian Maes Band, 9:30pm, $10.
House of Blues
Michael Tarbox, 12:30pm, no cover; Kenny Neal, 10pm, $12, 21+.
Johnny D's
Irma Thomas, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's
Pocket Trash, 9pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe
Nancy S. Mroczek Ph.D, 11:30pm.
Les Zygomates
Leonard Brown and Joyful Noise, 9pm, no cover.
Linwood
Colbalt 60, Volition and the Silent Goodbye, 10pm, $6, 21+.
Lizard Lounge
Ware River Club, Stone Coyotees and Drunk Stuntmen, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East
U: Quick Fix, Bellrays, Bottom and Vanity Press, $7, 18+; D: Stocklan and Woodland Creatures, $8, 18+; C: Garage Doors, 10pm.
Midway Cafe
North Street & the Drinks, 21+.
Milky Way
The Bourbonnaires, Cadillac Hitmen and the Kings of Nothing, $7.
Mr. Dooley's
Sundays Well, 9pm, $3, 21+.
Playhouse Lounge
Anna Freitas, 11:45pm, 21+.
Plough & Stars
Paved Country, 9pm, $3, 21+.
Purple Shamrock
Block Head, 9pm, $5.
Regattabar
The Chucho Valdes Quartet, 8 and 10pm, $20.
Ryles
C Jammers, 9pm, $9.
Sky Bar
Chris Canty Band, Toyboat and Glen Echo, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Toad
Amphibian, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Chris Taylor Quartet, 9pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Splashdown, Caged Heat, Jennifer Tefft Band and Hurricane Jane, $8.
The Western Front
Crucial Massive, 9:30pm, $10.
Wonderbar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

Saturday, June 17

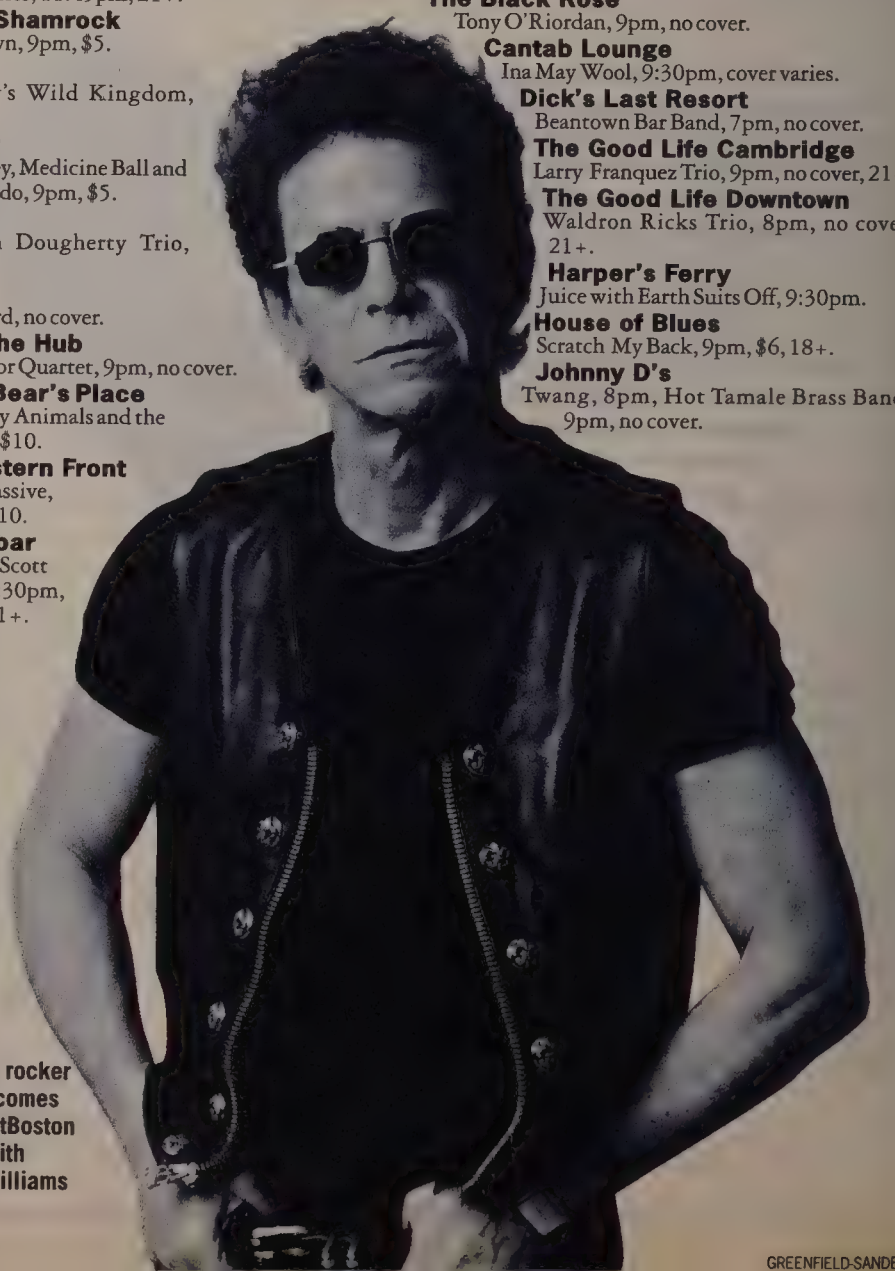
The Attic
North Street with Beverage and Kaluka Bone , 21+.
The Black Rose
John Corcoran, 3pm; U: The Crossing; D: Sunday's Well, 9pm, $5.
Bob the Chef's
Ray Brown Quartet, 7:30pm, cover varies.
Cantab Lounge
U: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies; D: Big City Beat, 9pm, cover varies.
Common Ground
Soul Work and Inner Orchestra, 10pm, 21+.
Coogan's Bluff
Novakane, 9pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Cambridge
The Power Jazz Unit, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown
Roxbury Blues Asthetic, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Uptown
Larry Franquez Trio, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
The Grand Canal
Cape Fear, 10pm, $5, 21+.
The Green Dragon Tavern
Virgil Clan, 9:30pm, $3, 21+.
Harper's Ferry
Superhoney with Vykki Vox, 9:30pm, $7.
House of Blues
Russ Costa and Jacques Raymond, 1pm, no cover; Barrence Whitfield & the Savages, 10pm, $12, 21+.
Johnny D's
Chandler Travis Orchestra, 9:45pm.
Les Zygomates
Jim Bridges, 9pm, no cover.
Linwood
Allstonians, Nosmo Kings and Moonshot, 10pm, $6, 21+.
Lizard Lounge
Dennis Brennan Band, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East
U: Royal Trux, Gunga Din and Jucifer, $8, 18+; D: Ha Ha the Moose, $15, 18+; C: Roger Nicholson.
Midway Cafe
The Cranktones, 21+.
Mr. Dooley's
Sundays Well, 9pm, $3, 21+.
Playhouse
Brian Charles, 11:45pm, 21+.
Purple Shamrock
Felix Brown, 9pm, $5.
Ryles
Ron Levy's Wild Kingdom, 9pm, $10.
Sky Bar
Will Dailey, Medicine Ball and Sweet Libido, 9pm, $5.
Slade's
The John Dougherty Trio, 8pm.
Toad
DB Leonard, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Chris Taylor Quartet, 9pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Super Furry Animals and the New Year, $10.
The Western Front
Crucial Massive, 9:30pm, $10.
Wonderbar
The Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

Sunday, June 18

Bill's Bar
I-Vibes, 11:30pm.
The Black Rose
Eugene Byrne, 9pm.
Bob the Chef's
Sonny Watson Quartet, 11am.
Cantab Lounge
Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort
Silverlining, 10am; Rob Gonzalez, 7pm, no cover.
The Good Life Cambridge
Jazz Brunch: Dave Vincola Group, 11:30am, no cover; Rick Costa Trio, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown
Grant Langford Trio, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
The Green Dragon Tavern
The Swinging Johnsons, 9:30pm, $3, 21+.
Harper's Ferry
The Rockett Band & Friends, 9:30pm, $5.
House of Blues
Jazz Brunch: Rev. Lee Mitchell and Friends, 10am; Miracle Orchestra and ULU, 9pm, $8, 18+.
Lizard Lounge
Poetry Jam featuring the Jeff Robinson Trio, 8:30pm, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East
U: The Wicked Farleys, The Up On In, Fashion Colt and The Beatings, $7, 18+; D:The Damage Manual and Meg Lee Chin, $12, 18+.
Midway Cafe
Photon Torpedos and 13 Ghosts, 21+.
Milky Way
Roots Reggae Night with DJ Magnum and Hurricane Sound, $3 after 11pm.
The Rack
Chad LaMarsh, 9:30pm, no cover.
Ryles
Mangos Herrera Group, 9pm, $8.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Step Light, Crushworthy, Mindfield and Freezepop, $4.
Veronique
Jazz Brunch: Steve Rochinski, 11:30am.
White Horse Tavern
Acoustic Showcase, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
Wonderbar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

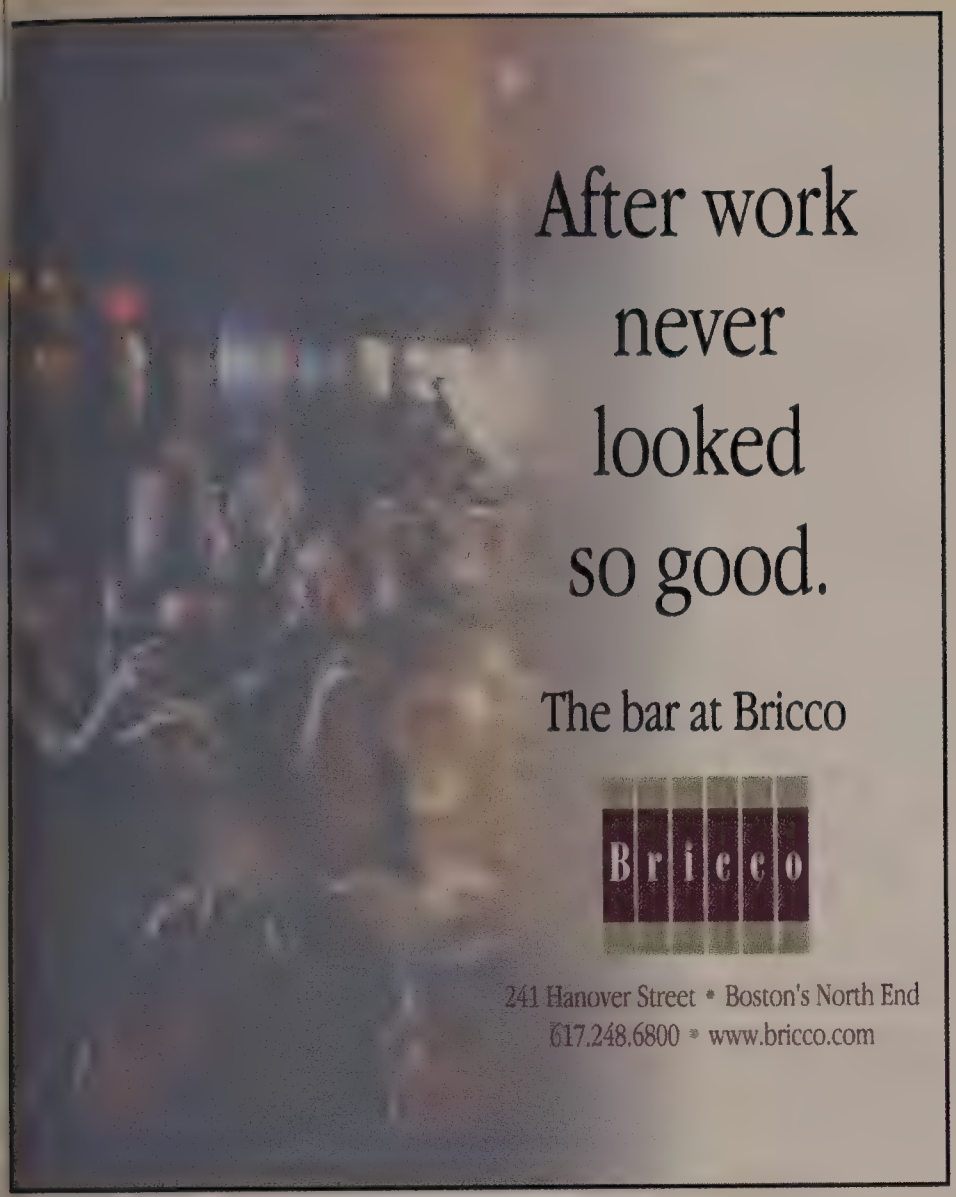
Monday, June 19

The Black Rose
Tony O'Riordan, 9pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Ina May Wool, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band, 7pm, no cover.
The Good Life Cambridge
Larry Franquez Trio, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown
Waldron Ricks Trio, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
Harper's Ferry
Juice with Earth Suits Off, 9:30pm.
House of Blues
Scratch My Back, 9pm, $6, 18+.
Johnny D's
Twang, 8pm, Hot Tamale Brass Band, 9pm, no cover.



Legendary rocker Lou Reed comes to the FleetBoston Pavilion with Victoria Williams June 23.

GREENFIELD-SANDERS



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JUNE 30TH "Los Pericos" live from Argentina
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JULY 14TH Paquito Guzman and Band
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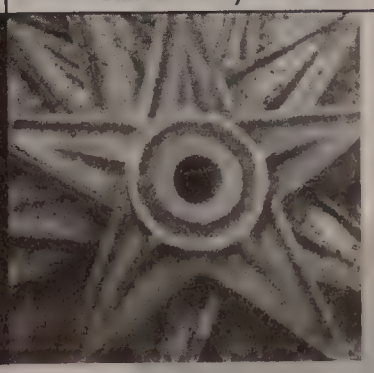

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Above, Kool Keith in his "Black Elvis" incarnation. Hear him June 24 at the Middle East.

Preview

Let the Doctor Rap

Kool Keith and others make the Middle East a summertime hip-hop hub

Local indie/underground rap heads should be pretty happy with the Middle East over the coming weeks. If you missed the Blackalicious and Del (Heiroglyphics) show last week, don't fret—there are still a bunch of backpack packin' bills on the horizon. On June 15, DJ Mighty Mi and Mr. Eon, a.k.a. the High & Mighty, join up with the notorious Cage (who will hopefully show up this time, and not repeat his disappointing disappearing act from earlier in the year), under the name Smut Peddlers. Their single, now out on Rawkus, is just a taste of the soon-to-be-released full-length. The Peddlers will be joined by local MC champs Mr. Lif and Akrobatik, which should prove a tough team to follow. Next up on June 24, is the ever-unpredictable Kool Keith, who's been part of the rap scene since its birth—first as an Ultramagnetic MC, and then on his own, in a series of aliases. The most well-known of these include (but are not limited to): Dr. Octagon, Dr. Dooom, Reverend Tom, Sinister 6000 and Robbie Analog. His live show is reported to be mad off-the-hook, yo—and you know we'll be there. On July 1, MetroConcepts presents the Goodvibe Tour 2000, featuring Bahamadia, Cali Agents (Planet Asia and Rasco), Slum Village and others. And rounding out this phat phour weeks of hip-hop phun is an underground all-star lineup on July 14: Mr. Lif appears once again, this time with Brooklyn's own Non-Phixion, Rip Shop and the always-unsettling Necro (known in the scene for producing records about grisly sex and passionate murder, with incredibly well-crafted beats). —A.G.

Lizard Lounge
The Fringe, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East
U: Kodachrome, Private Circus, Fools Rush In and Those Who Wait, $6, 18+.
Purple Shamrock
Dave Smyth, 9pm, no cover.
The Rack
Nate Wadkins, 8pm, no cover.
Toad
Shwang, featuring Anita Suhanin, 8pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Jay Allen and Friends, $3.

Tuesday, June 20

The Black Rose
Sunday's Well, 9pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
True Life Bluegrass, 9pm, cover varies; Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 10pm, cover varies.
The Good Life Cambridge
Harry Fix Trio, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown
Issi Rosen Trio, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band, 7pm, no cover.
Harper's Ferry
Another Planet and Friends, 9:30pm, $3.
House of Blues
Jiggle the Handle and Dan Rockett, 9pm, $10, 18+.
Johnny D's
Sam Broussard, 8:30pm.
Les Zygomates
The Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge
Todd Thibuad and Barbara Kessler, 8:30pm, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East
U: High Wire Moves, Lifter Puller with the Loud Clappers and Audio Explorations, $6, 18+.
The Rack
Stu Sinclair, 8pm, no cover.
Regattabar
Issi Rozen, 8:30pm, $10.
Ryles
Bruce Bartlett Trio, 8:30pm, $7.
Scullers
Bamboleo, 8 and 10pm, $19.
Sky Bar
Liniment, the Tiger Method and the Flat Five, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub
Chris TaylorTrio, 8:30pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Jodi Griffith, T-House of the Almighty, Rattletaxi and Boatyard Resin, $4.

Wednesday, June 21

The Black Rose
Sunday's Well, 9pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm, cover varies.
The Good Life Cambridge
Weepin' Willie and his All Star Band, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown
Mike Kelly & the Hot Blue Q, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm, no cover.
Harper's Ferry
Ron Levy's Wild Kingdom with Dr. Hector and the Groove Injectors, 9:30pm, $3.
Hennessy's
Me and Julio, 8:30pm, cover varies, 21+.
House of Blues
Jiggle the Handle and the Big Wu, 9pm, $10, 18+.
Jose McIntyre's
Dub-Station Reggae, 9pm, no cover.
Les Zygomates
The Philippe Crittien Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge
Star Hustler, Junio Corduroy and Kipper Tin, 8:30pm, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East
U: Breathless, Rockets Burst from the Streetlamps, Choice of Tragic Wives and Valerie, $7, 18+; C: Belly Dancing.
Midway Cafe
Chris Canty Band, 21+.
Playhouse Lounge
Emerson Explosion, 9:45pm, 21+.
The Rack
Big City Beat, 9pm, no cover.
Ryles
Project Yes Brazil, 9pm, $6.
Scullers
Bamboleo, 8 and 10pm, $19.
Sky Bar
Capital City, Jumprope and Butterscott, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Toad
Lil' Memphis, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Brian Charles and Friends, $5.
White Horse Tavern
Avery, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Thursday, June 22

The Black Rose
Sunday's Well, 9pm, no cover.
Bob the Chef's
Paulo Danay Quartet, 7:30pm, cover varies.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies.
Common Ground
Double Jointed, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
The Good Life Cambridge
Matt Gordie Group, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown
Mickey Bones and the Jump Crew, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Uptown
Rick Costa Trio, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort
Michigan Black Snake, 7pm, no cover, 21+.
Harper's Ferry
Bruce Mandaro Band with Scott Murawski, featuring some members of Max Creek and Slipknot, 9:30pm, $5.
Hennessy's
Under Cover, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
House of Blues
Scott Holt, 10pm, $8, 21+.
Les Zygomates
The Joel Smith Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Linwood
Buck Dewey Big Band, Elbow and Cash Money and the Jetsetters, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Lizard Lounge
Buckners, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East
U: Revelation, Lustre and Nemo, $7, 18+; D: Jets to Brazil, $12, 18+; C: Board of Education.
Milky Way
Halogens, Zola Turn and Red Telephone, $6.
Playhouse Lounge
Garyoke, 9:45pm, 21+.
Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett, 9pm, $3.
The Rack
The Return, 6:30pm, no cover.
Regattabar
The Ron Carter Quintet, 8:30pm, $12.
Ryles
Maeve Spain, 8:30pm, $10.
Scullers
The Conga Kings featuring Candido, Potato Valdes and Giovanni Hidalgo, 8pm and 10pm, $20, 21+.
Sky Bar
Fat Boy, Thought Brigade and Gulliver Foyle, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Toad
Tobin Bridge, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Chris TaylorTrio, 8:30pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Nancy Mroczek Ph.D. and All The Queens Men, $6.
The Western Front
More Fire with DJs Voyager:01 and Culture B, 9pm, $5.

Friday, June 23

The Attic
Katrin with Rat Wakes Red, cover varies, 21+.
The Black Rose
U: Dave Foley, 9pm, $5; D: Sunday's Well, 9pm, $5.
Cantab Lounge
U: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, no cover; D: The Phil Pemberton Band, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Common Ground
Booty, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Coogan's Bluff
Pig Pen, 9pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band, 7pm; Soul City, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Cambridge
Mike Kelly & the Hot Blue Q, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown
Waldron Ricks Band, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Uptown
Harry Fix Trio, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
The Green Dragon Tavern
Belly Up, 9:30pm, $3, 21+.
Harper's Ferry
Babaloo with The Jones Brothers, 9:30pm, $7.
House of Blues
Ross Robinson, 12:30pm, no cover; Seth Yacovone Band, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Les Zygomates
Bill Lowe, 9pm, no cover.
Linwood
Wide Iris, Reverse, Shelley Winters Project and Devotchka, 10pm, $6, 21+.
Lizard Lounge
Big Lazy and Seks Bomba, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East
U: 4:20, Random Road Mother, Christian Montgomary and Roma, $7, 18+; C: Jason Gardner.
Midway Cafe
The Roys and Random Access Memory, 21+.
Milky Way
The Spurs CD Release Party, $8.
Mr. Dooley's
Patsy Whelan and Pat Dunlea, 9pm, $3, 21+.
Playhouse Lounge
Julie Woods, 11:45pm, 21+.
Purple Shamrock
Thomas Park, 9pm, $5.
The Rack
Search Party, 6:30pm, no cover.
Regattabar
The Ron Carter Quintet with Houston Person and Stephen Scott, 8 and 10pm, $14.
Ryles
Moksha, 9pm, $10.
Sky Bar
Voilet Tide, Amusia and Illustrious Day, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Toad
Trailer Park, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Chris TaylorQuartet, 9pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Cheerleader, Banjo Spiders and 71 Sunbeam, $7.
The Western Front
Fitzie Niceness and the Rebel Heat Band, 9:30pm, $10.
Wonderbar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

Saturday, June 24

The Black Rose
John Corcoran, 3pm; U: Dave Foley; D: Sunday's Well, 9pm, $5.
Bob the Chef's
Michael Kelly & The Hot Blue Q, 7:30pm, cover varies.
Cantab Lounge
U: Weepin' Willie and the All-Star Blues Band, 9pm, cover varies; D: The Phil Pemberton Band, 9pm, cover varies.
Common Ground
18 Abbey, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Coogan's Bluff
Bacchanalia, 9pm, $5.

SCOTT SCHAEFER

The Cure reunites for a summer tour—catch their show at the Tweeter Center June 14.

Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm; Tiger Lily, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Cambridge
Grover Mooney & the Moon Unit, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown
Power Jazz Unit, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Uptown
The Trio, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
The Grand Canal
Fat Tuesday, 10pm, $5, 21+.
The Green Dragon Tavern
Dreamscape, 9:30pm, $3, 21+.
Harper's Ferry
The Mud Hens, 9:30pm, $7.
House of Blues
Elijah Wald Duo, 1pm, no cover; Swingin' Steaks, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Jose McIntyre's
Punch Monkey, 9pm, $5.
Les Zygomates
Karuko, 9pm, no cover.
Linwood
Ohm, The Flux and Steelhead, 10pm, $6, 21+.
Middle East
U: Freelance Bishops, Jinx Motive and David's Foote, $7, 18+; D: Kool Keith, $17, 18+; C: The Mingus Three, 10pm.
Midway Cafe
Chixxxen, 21+.
Mr. Dooley's
Patsy Whelan and Pat Dunlea, 9pm, $3, 21+.
Playhouse Lounge
Misop Baynun & The Retirent Lions, 11:45pm, 21+.
Purple Shamrock
World Premier Band, 9pm, $5.
Regattabar
The Ron Carter Quintet with Houston Person and Stephen Scott, 8 and 10pm, $16.
Ryles
Megawatt Blues Crushers, 9pm, $10.
Sky Bar
Buck Dewey Big Band, Hypnotic and Reverend Glasseye, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Slade's
The John Dougherty Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Toad
Coots, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Chris Taylor Quartet, 9pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
The Cretins, Kings of Nuthin, Darkbuster and the Vigilantes, $7.
The Western Front
Fitzie Niceness with the Reble Heat Band, 9:30pm, $10.
Wonderbar
The Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

Sunday, June 25

Avalon
Dropkick Murphys, the Bouncing Souls, the Dwarves and the Distillers, 4pm, $12.
The Attic
The Coalboilers, 9:30pm, cover varies, 21+.
The Black Rose
John Corcoran, 3pm; Sunday's Well, 9pm, no cover.
Bob the Chef's
Jazz Brunch: Michael Kelly and the Hot Blue Q, 11am, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort
Jazz Brunch featuring the Evelyn McDonald Gospel Group, 10am, no cover; the Rob Gonzalez, 7pm, no cover.
The Good Life Cambridge
Jazz Brunch: Harry Fix Trio, 11:30am, no cover; Dave Vincola Group, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown
Grant Langford Trio, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
Harper's Ferry
The Rockett Band and Friends, 9:30pm, $5.
House of Blues
Jazz Brunch: Sensational Golden Hearts, 10am; Uncle Trouble, 9pm, $6, 18+.
Lizard Lounge
Poetry Jam featuring the Jeff Robinson Trio, 8:30pm, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East
U: Solex, Science Park and Hip Tanaka, $7, 18+.
Midway Cafe
Green Room Project, WInterboy and Kara Tondorf, 21+.
Milky Way
Roots Reggae Night with DJ Rodigan, $3 after 11pm.
The Rack
Chad La Marsh, 9:30pm, no cover.
Toad
Leicester Flat, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Smoke Poetic, Thickly Settled, Revelation and Juniper's Daughter, $4.
Veronique
Jazz Brunch: Steve Rochinski, 11:30am.
White Horse Tavern
Joel Cage, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
Wonderbar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

Monday, June 26

The Black Rose
Tony O'Riordan, 9pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Joel Cage, 9:30pm, cover varies.
The Good Life Cambridge
The Trio, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown
Waldron Ricks Trio, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
House of Blues
Carla Ryder, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Johnny D's
Michael McClure and Ray Manzarek, 8pm, cover varies, 21+; TheHot Tamale Brass Band, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Lizard Lounge
The Fringe, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East
C: The Tom Bianchi Show with Chris Montecalvo, 10pm.
Milky Way
Solo et Duo and Alyssa Cardone, $2.
Purple Shamrock
Dave Smyth, 9pm, no cover.
Toad
Shwang, featuring Anita Suhanin, 8pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
The Other Side of the Bear Acoustic Series featuring ADFrank and Friends, $3.

Tuesday, June 27

The Black Rose
Celtic Clan, 9pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Hattie Campbell, 9pm, cover varies, 21+; Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band, 7pm, no cover.
The Good Life Cambridge
Grover Mooney and the Moon Unit, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown
Issi Rosen Trio, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
Harper's Ferry
Another Planet and Friends, 9:30pm, $3.
House of Blues
Chris Fitz Band, 9pm, $6, 18+.
Les Zygomates
The Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Middle East
U: Devil Gods, Johnny A, Mascara and Chris Brokaw, $6, 18+.
The Rack
James McKenna, 8pm, no cover.
Ryles
The Elio DeLuca Module, 8:30pm, $7.
Sky Bar
Sarin, Edith and Dress Betty, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub
Chris TaylorTrio, 8:30pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
The Gladstones, Vibrotica, Pat Burtis Band and I'm Thirsty, $4.

Music Venues

The Attic *107R Union St., Newton (964-6615).*
B-Side Lounge *92 Hampshire St., Cambridge (354-0766). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (743-2286). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-6204).*
Brenden Behan Pub *378 Center St., Jamaica Plain (522-5386).*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Coogans Bluff *173 Milk St., Boston (451-7415). MBTA: Orange Line to State St.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
Good Life Downtown *28 Hingston St., Boston (451-2622). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Good Life Uptown *99 St. Botolph St., Boston (451-2622). MBTA: B Green Line to Hynes Convention Center.*
Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston (523-1112). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (367-0055). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard.*
Hennessy's *25 Union St., Boston (742-22121). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Jacob Wirth's *31-37 Stuart St., Boston (338-8586). MBTA: Green Line to Boyslton.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Davis Square, Somerville (776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
The Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (267-8644). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.*
The Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Milky Way Lounge and Lanes *405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-3704).*
O'Brien's *3 Harvard Ave, Allston (782-6245). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Paddy Burke's Pub *132 Portland St., Boston (367-8370). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket,*
The Playhouse Lounge *74 Warrenton St., Boston (482-2227). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (227-2060). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (725-1051). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Regatta Bar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Rd., Cambridge (562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
T.T. The Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (429-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard Ave., Allston (351-COOL). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*

PAUL COX

gay&lesbian

If you want to be listed
Submit information including telephone numbers and nearest T stop by fax to (859-1446), mail or e-mail to gaylesbian@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted by phone.*

How to use this section
The following listings contain information that is subject to change. Contact the organization for changes in specific events.

CLUBS, BARS & HANGOUTS

Anthem (Thursdays)
Machine, 1256 Boylston St., Boston (536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. DJ Richie turns it out at Boston's newest Thursday party destination. The mega-dancefloor also offers drag diva Destiny. $5, 19+.

Asian Inspiration Night (Sundays)
Machine, 1256 Boylston St., Boston (536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. DJ Mark Hodges and Tony T serve the city's freshest "tea" at Dragon Tea Dance, New England's only night for gay Asians and their friends. Diamond Dunhill, Destiny, Crystal and Sexy Lexy entertain at a 10pm show. 8pm, $3, 21+.

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years these folks have been crankin' out some of the best Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. It's well worth a visit—if not for the three separate dance floors then for all of the male dancers. 9pm, $15, 21+.

Buzz (Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays)
51 Stuart St. in the Theatre District, Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. On Saturday nights this place boasts two dance floors, two DJs, a pool room and a lounge. Two levels of dancing and schmoozing will keep the boys busy until 2am. 10pm, $5, 21+.

Chaps (Daily)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. www.chapsofboston.com. Sun.: Dance music of DJ Danae Jacovidis; Mon.: Grand Baby and Grand Piano night; Tue.: Retro DJ night; Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adielson Caesar; Thu.: DJs Billy and Fran: High Energy Dance; Fri.: Taboo Erotique with DJ Sammy; Sat.: High Energy Dance, DJ Danae Jacovidis.

City Girl Cafe (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri: 11am- 9pm; Sat: 10am-9pm; Sun: 10am-7pm. A small (five tables), laid-back cafe in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated. This cozy spot is home to a mixed gay/hetero crowd that lounges about, munching on sandwiches. Brunch on Saturday and Sunday, 10am-2pm.

Club Cafe (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-0966). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri 11:30am-2am; Sat. 2pm-2am; Sun. 11am-2am. This trendy South End spot draws a mixed crowd that comes for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back (Moonshine). A dressy bunch that likes to mingle. No cover, 21+. •Carol O'Shaughnessy performs with Steve Heck, Dottie Dean or David Sparr, Thursdays.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (542-4494). Mon.-Fri. 3pm-2am; Sat. 1pm-2am; Sun. 12pm-2am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This is your friendly neighborhood bar with a quiet setting. It's best known for scrumptious Sunday brunches (12-4pm). A simple joint with all of the trappings of a true bar: smoky and dark. The place starts hopping as it gets closer to 2am.

Fritz (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Stroll in for a quiet drink or a rowdy night on the town. The folks here are friendly—and really into sports. Not only does Fritz have Direct TV set up with sets scattered everywhere, it's also home base to a great softball league. 12pm, no cover, 21+.

Jacques
79 Broadway, Boston (426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. If you're looking to relax with a friendly crowd of gays and straights, and you like to mingle with disco-dancing drag queens, you'e found the place. Sun. and Mon. are local band nights. Tues. through Sat., however, divas rule the stage. 10:30pm, $4, weekends $6, 21+.

Lava Bar (Saturdays)
575 Commonwealth. Ave., Boston (267-7707). The Lava Bar's Tabu night boasts DJ Fran spinning out high-energy house with a taste of Latin beats. 10pm.

The Lizard Lounge (Wednesdays)
1667 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. "Marlene Loses It at the Lizard" is the title of this eclectic evening of poetry, live music and theater. 10pm, $5 cover, 21+.

Luxor (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (423-6969). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from the latest music scenes and classic old movies—compiled by the bar's own VJ. Downstairs is Jox. No cover, 21+.

Man Ray (Thursdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (864-0400). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed.-Fri., 9pm; Sat., 10pm. A bustling hot spot caters to a young, alternative clientele. Two dance floors fill up on Thursdays for Campus, a predominantly male night where DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen take over. 10pm, $8 for 19+, $5 for 21+.

119 Merrimac (Daily)
119 Merrimac St., Boston (367-0713). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Sat., 10:30am-2am; Sun. 12pm-2am. This male cruise bar is the place to stop for drinks before or after FleetCenter events. Shoot a leisurely game of pool or the hit the video games. Merrimac features DJs playing hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s. 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. On Thursday nights, the Lesbian AIDS Project of Mass. unofficially takes over this laid-back cafe for "dyke nyte." The cafe always has something brewing—live bands, DJs and drag-queen parties. Party starts at 8pm, no cover, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (494-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Central. On Monday, a bartender not only mixes drinks but strips too. Male strippers are featured Wed.-Sat. Mon. is Gothic night; Tue. is techno and Thu. is college night. On Fridays DJ Sam Sampson spins, and on Sat. hear DJ Brad Gwynn. 5pm, no cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (266-2986). Green Line to Kenmore. 12pm-2am. The largest leather bar in the East enforces a tight dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room). Sun.: buffet and mandance with DJ Brad Gwynn. Mon." pool tournament and pizza. Tue." spice 4 life with DJ Kal Muzak. Wed. Twitch 2000 with DJ SGT Dennis. Thu.: Primal Dance with DJ James Hughes. Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danaw Jacovidis. Sat.: Leather Cruise with DJ Dennis Sargent.

The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told

The comedic play *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told* questions what the world would be like if God had made Adam and Steve, not Adam and Eve. It's about the struggle for faith, from Mesopotamia to Chelsea. Adam and Steve and Jane and Mabel—Earth's first two couples—seek God on the ark, beside the pyramids and at K-Mart on Christmas Eve. *Speakeasy Stage Company, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Fri. 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 7pm. Through June 24.*

BOOKS

Glad Day Bookshop
673 Boylston St., Boston (267-3010). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu. 9:30am-10pm, Fri. and Sat. 9:30am-11pm, Sun. 12-9pm. This exclusively gay/lesbian bookstore has all sorts of paraphernalia.

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge. (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Fri. 10am-8pm, Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 12-6pm. New England's oldest women's book shop offers a comprehensive selection of the latest literature. Its monthly author series will resume in the spring. •June 14: Join **Joll Sandoz** and **Joby Winans** with **Carrie Dearborn**, **Susan Eisenberg** and **Pat Griffin** as they read from their book, *Whatever It Takes: Women on Women's Sports*. It's the first anthology of women's experiences in competetive sports. •June 18: **Mako Yoshikawa** reads from her book, *One Hundred and One Ways*, a debut novel that tackles the issues of intergenerational communication and intercontinental divides. •June 25: Underground faves **Elena George**, **Lauren Sanders** and **Cheryl B.** come together to celebrate the release of their new books together as part of the Glam Lit Book Tour.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6:30pm; Sun., 11:30am-5:30pm. Boston's literary gay and lesbian bookstore.

SHOWS & EVENTS

Chutney Popcorn
Brattle Theater, 40 Brattle St. (876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. June 23-29, 5:15pm, 7:30pm and 9:45pm. One of the over-the-top hits at the recent Boston International Festival of Women's Cinema, the comedy is about the trials and tribulations of changing family values. It follows a woman (played by filmmaker Ganatra) living in New York with her girlfriend.

Immaculate Infection
Theater Offensive, Black Box Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Call for times and pricing. Through June 24. What do a stoic Latina housewife and a cranky Jewish diva have to offer each other? From their opening poultry wars, it is clear that Yolanda Burgos, with her *arroz con pollo*, and Mary Cohen, with her Jewish soup, are not a match made in heaven—in fact, their friendship is made in an AIDS treatment clinic.

ONGOING

Bawl
This lesbian softball league offers opportunities to join teams in both the recreational and competitive divisions. Call Liz (508-628-5477).

Best Foot Forward
Ballet Etc. Dance Studios, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (522-1444). MBTA: B Green Line to Washington St. For gays/lesbians/bisexuals of all swing skill levels.

Boston Glass
Community Center, 93 Mass Ave., Boston (266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center. Daily 8-10pm. Support groups and social activities for adolescents ages 13-25.

The Boston Rainbow Gospel Choir
The BRGC is about to launch its second season and periodically holds auditions. Call 424-6740.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). A 1,500-member gay club with hiking, biking, camping, skiing and other outdoor activities for men and women.

Common Bond
(781-433-7023). www.dwellings.com/acb. An international support group for gay/lesbian/bisexual current or former Jehovah's Witnesses.

Community Rainbow
Boston Living Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston. 7:45 pm. An organization whose mission is to advocate for the community. Meets Thursdays.

Cosmetically-Correct
Laurel's Restaurant, 142 Berkeley St., Boston. A social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month 7:30-10pm. Lipstick optional. Small donation covers appetizers. For more infoormation, log on to *www.egroups.com/community/cosmeticallycorrect*.

Dykes Who Hike
(522-6185). This hiking group is for lesbians in Boston and the area who want to conquer the wilderness.

East Coast Wrestling Club
With more than 160 members, this is an extraordinarily popular New England spot for gay male wrestlers. Call Marc at 401-467-6737, or go online at *http://members.tripod. com/~ecwc* or e-mail *ecwc@juno.com*.

Encounters
Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston. An informal social evening for HIV-positive gay and bisexual men held the first Tuesday of every month, 7-9pm.

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave, Boston (824-4266). www.mindspring.com/~frontrunners. A running club for the LGBT community meets every Saturday at 10am for fun runs of various distances.

Gay Volleyball
Cambridge (262-3626). Sundays, 7pm, $7. Typically five teams play on two courts. Teams of men and women are made up each week.

Gender Free Contra Dancing
First Church of Jamaica Plain (522-1115). www.piac.net/users/latte/lcfd/. Come one, come all to evenings of contra and square dancing.

Latino Social Group
Latino Gay Men's Project *(350-6900 ext. 125)* and the Women's Social Groups *(350-6900 ext. 124)*.

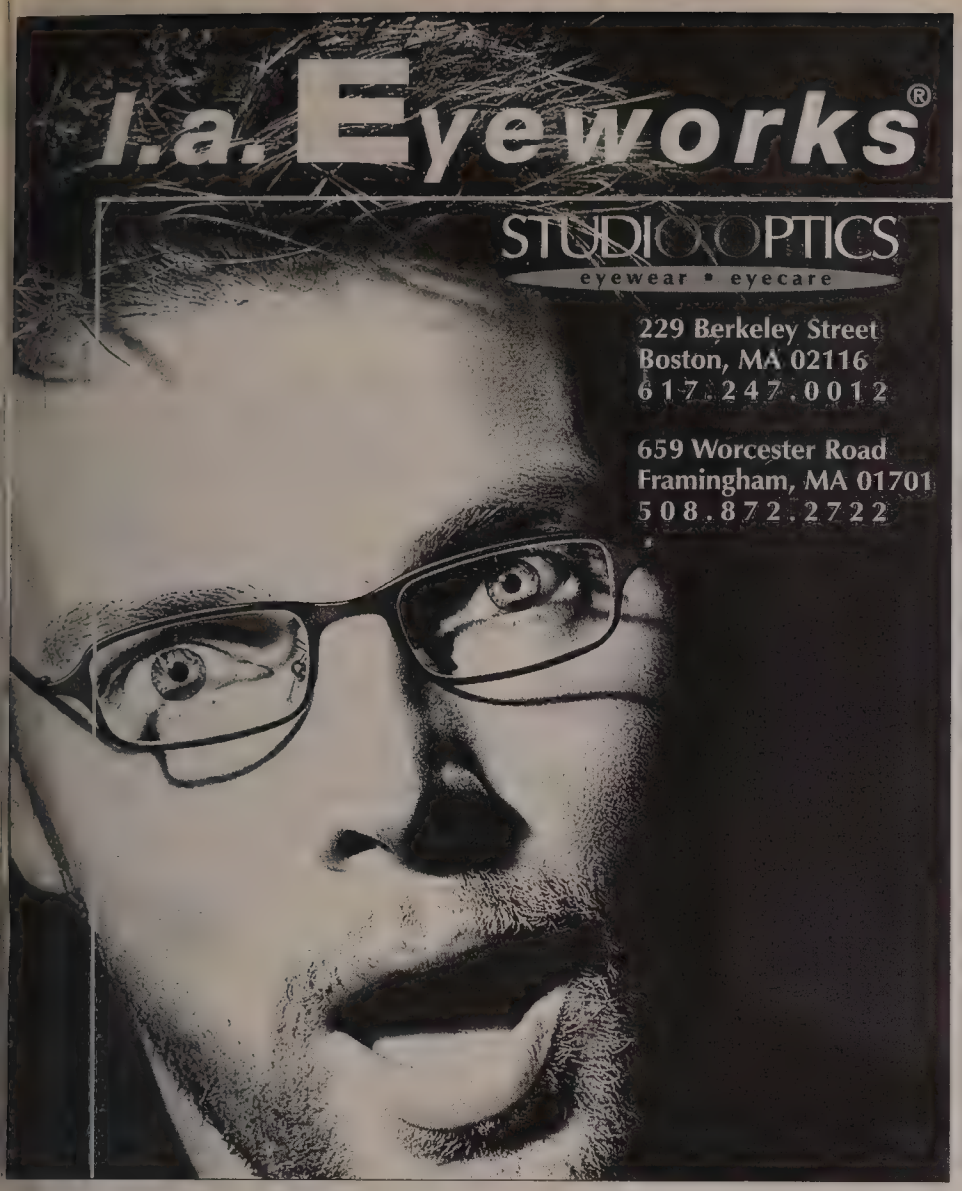
OOPS
Melting Pot Coffee House, 2 Belgrade Ave., Roslindale (323-4123). Out on the Parkways invites one and all to come on down for some dinner and coffee.

PFLAG
Fenway Community Health Center, 7 Haviland St., Boston (547-2440). Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets every fourth Monday, 6:30-8:30pm.

Queer Corps
131 Clarendon St., 4th floor, Boston (450-1676). A community mobilization project by and for queer men 25 and under. Meetings are held every Tuesday, 6-8pm.

Tennis4all
Call Ted at 779-7231. Boston's gay and lesbian tennis club, with monthly tournaments and pizza socials.

LBK PHOTOGRAPHY



SUPPORT MSPCC AT THE

"DRIVE FORE KIDS" GOLF TOURNAMENT

TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2000
STOW ACRES COUNTRY CLUB

The Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (MSPCC) is a private, non-profit child welfare agency with a long-standing commitment to the children and families of Massachusetts.

Proceeds from "Drive Fore Kids" benefit GoodStart, MSPCC's nationally-acclaimed prevention program that reaches out to parents of "at-risk" children ages birth to three years.

FOR INFORMATION ON REGISTRATION CALL
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body&mind

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information by mail, fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/ Mind, or electronically to bodymind@improper.com. *Include a brief but thorough description of the event, time, date, location and directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.*

EVENTS

Open House at the Theosophical Society in Boston
21 Maple Street, Arlington (781-648-0101). June 25, 12-5pm. $10. Open yourself up to the broad thinking of theosophy, the comparative study of religion and philosophy, at this open house. There will be presentations, refreshments and a chance to have a private session with a practitioner of tarot, astrology, palmistry, reiki or pranic healing. Enjoy meditating in the meditation hall or browse the bookshelves of one of the oldest theosophical libraries in the country.

Summer Solstice Festival
Cambridge Zen Center, 199 Auburn St., Cambridge (576-3229 or 868-8211). MBTA: Red Line to Central. www.cambridgezen.com. *June 24.* This all-day festival is much healthier than the common carnival (no fried dough and cotton candy). There will be raffles, an art show and Buddhist books for sale, along with astrology readings and short shiatsu massage sessions. Then, at the end of the day, there's dinner and a multimedia performance. Now that's a way to celebrate the life-giving sun.

Visitation with Amma: Sri Karunamayi Bhagavati
First Parish Church of Watertown, 50 Church St., Watertown (978-544-2737). June 19-21, 6-11pm. Free. This is a chance to meet someone who lives his life dedicated to unconditional love. The evening meetings consist of group meditation, discourse by Amma and individual blessings.

LECTURES/FORUMS

Integrative Healthcare
Tapestry Complementary Healthcare, 2364 Washington St., Newton Lower Falls (969-6300). June 14 and 19. $20. This integrative health clinic holds classes on alternative treatments you can use for maintaining health. The next two classes will teach attendees about partner massage and acupuncture for maintaining good health.

Motivational Breakfast with Anne Teachworth
The Ritz Carlton, 15 Arlington St., Boston (983-1111) June 22, 7-9:30am. $59. Sponsored by Self Esteem Boston, this session is one of a series focusing on women helping women. On this date, the author of *Why We Pick the Mates We Do* will teach you ways of figuring out the underlying issues in your relationships. With this awareness, you can identify and solve problems.

Wellness for Back and Neck
Wellspace, Fresh Pond Mall, Cambridge (876-2660). www.wellspace.com. *June 22 and 29, 7:30-9pm. $5.* Thursday evening lectures are held in the peaceful environment of Wellspace. Just being there is enough to make you feel good and listening to a lecture couldn't hurt. The next two lectures are *Acupuncture Mini-Clinic for Back and Neck Pain* and *Relieve Your Aching Back and Neck.*

CLASSES

Edible Wild Plants
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. June 22, 6-8pm. $31. You wouldn't believe how many nutritious and medicinal plants there are growing all around. This class can teach to identify, collect and prepare them, while enjoying the outdoors. Then you can earn your urban scouting badge.

Free Yoga Lessons
The Yoga Studio, 74 Joy St., Boston (523-7138). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street. A day of free classes as the studio switches from spring to summer scheduling.

Intro to Hatha Yoga
Beacon Light Yoga Center, 215 Brighton Ave., Allston (739-0717). June 17, 3-5pm. $20. Maybe you've heard the praises of yoga from friends and loved ones. Well if you've become curious, this workshop is designed to expose you to every aspect: the basic poses, breathing and meditating.

Miracles, Angels and the Afterlife: The Love Connection
Boston Center for Adult Education, The College Club, 44 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. June 21, 6:30-9pm. $33. How do you define spiritual experience? What are miracles, angels and the afterlife? What role does love play in the many spiritual disciplines? These questions and more are presented and explored by visiting author and film-festival award-winner **Peter Shockey**.

Satisfying Sex Classes
Grand Opening Sexuality Boutique, 318 Harvard St., Suite 32, Brookline (731-2626). www.grandopening.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge. • June 26, 7:30-9:30pm. $20. Men only.* **Sex Tips for Men.** This is a very popular sex class for guys, but that's no surprise. Learn how to use your bat and balls, and you'll be scoring between the sheets. **Kim Airs** has spoken with many females and will give you some pointers on how to please them and make you a winner. Taught in an encouraging and supportive atmosphere. *• June 28, 7:30-9:30pm. $20. Women only.* **Sex Tips for Gals.** In this wildly popular class, owner **Kim Airs** will share some tricks of the trade to try on your guy that are sure to increase pleasure and fun. So you'll be a sex goddess in no time.

Summer Yoga Camp
Roni Brissette, 57 Waverley St., Brookline (738-9561). June 19-Aug. 26. Call to register. Remember camp? You got to go away and do all the things you never got to do during the year. What do we never have time for today? Is it focus on our health? Well this camp is designed to make it easy. You purchase a card good for eight out of 16 classes over an eight-week period. Remember—yoga's all about flexibility.

Western Herbs
New England School of Acupuncture, 40 Belmont St., Watertown (926-1788 ex. 5). www.nesa.edu. *June 18, 7 hours. $95.* Learn how to fully understand, use and select effective and safe herbal remedies for acute and long-term symptoms and how to determine which health problems are best treated by herbs.

RETREATS

Dance Meditation Retreat
Candlewood Center, Cape Cod (888-220-4208) June 17-18. $225. Preregistration is required. This special retreat focuses on dance as a healthy exercise for the body and mind. Try moving yoga, slow flow movement, belly dance, trance dance and deep relaxation. The center is very peaceful, has a private beach and is surrounded by woods and rhododendrons. For $95, you may choose to attend only Saturday.

Relive your childhood years at Roni Brissette's Summer Yoga Camp, June 19-Aug. 26.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Children. Or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

The popular Butterfly Landing exhibit has reopened at the Franklin Park Zoo.

TO SEE

Our Worst Vacation Ever
Pocket Full of Tales Theatre, The Back Alley Theatre, 1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (338-1477). • June 25, 1pm. $7, $10 at the door. Ever been to Boring Gulch, Calif.? James and Shatara have, and they'll never forgive their parents for choosing this spot. Everything that could go wrong has, and now they're stuck camping for one last night in the middle of an empty lot. But with the help of our audience, maybe they can save this vacation after all.

Puppet Showplace Theatre
32 Station St., Brookline (731-6400). $8. • June 16, 7pm. June 17, 1pm and 3pm. **The Monkey's Heart** by Palm of the Hand Stories. *• June 23, 7pm. June 24, 1pm and 3pm.* **The Big Surprise** by Perry Alley Theater.

THINGS TO DO

Butterflies and Farm Animals at the Zoo
Franklin Park Zoo, 1 Franklin Park Road, Boston (442-2002). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. • June 14, 10:30-11:30am (3- to 4-year-olds): **Ants! 3:30-4:30pm (5- to 6-year-olds): Butterflies! •** *June 15, 3:30-4:30pm (7-8 years):* **Leopards! •** *June 16, 3:340-4:30pm (9-11years):* **Bats! •** *June 24, 2-3:30pm (Family Program):* **Butterflies!** Butterfly Landing features 1,000 butterflies representing 40 North American species. Enjoy a family program about these beautiful creatures of flight.

Newton Free Library Activities
Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. • June 19, 7pm: **Storyteller Diane Edgecomb.** This program features stories that take kids from the mountaintops to the stratosphere to the highest branches of an apple tree. • June 24, 10:30am: ***Pantely Family Concert.*** The Pantely family will give a time-line concert showing the progression of music through the ages. • June 22, 10:30am: ***Teddy Bear Picnic.*** Bring a teddy bear, lunch and blanket and join the librarians for a sing-a-long.

Dads Make a Difference
Boston Common Parade Ground, Charles and Beacon streets, Boston (451-0049). MBTA: Green Line to Park. June 18, 1-5pm. Free. Hosted by Ramiro of WJMN 94.5, the event features celebrity dads from sports and the media, including Steve Israel, former N.E. Patriots cornerback and news anchors Steve Sbraccia of News Center 5 and Mike Nikitas of New England Cable News. Enjoy a diverse lineup of performers, ice cream treats, a Velcro obstacle course and basketball, golf and fly-fishing clinics for the dads.

Summer SOULstice Mini Festival
Christian Science Plaza, 175 Huntington Ave., Boston (450-3131). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. June 20-24. Enjoy a new music and arts festival every Tuesday at noon. This four-day mini festival kicks off the Summer SOULstice season with a host of musicians, artists and storytellers. • June 20, 12-2pm: participatory world music and a visit from the Plantmobile. • June 21, 1pm: jazz. • June 22, 12pm: 3rd and 4th grade students dance. Also Sidewalk Sam leads children in chalking. • June 23, 12pm: songteller Janice Allen with African-American folk and gospel music, circle games and folklore. • June 24, 12pm: Sail miniature yachts in the reflecting pool.

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

To Watch

New England Revolution
• Foxboro Stadium.
Tickets: 1-877-GET-REVS
June 21, 10pm (Away): San Jose Earthquakes, Fox.
June 24, 7:30pm (Away): Columbus Crew, Fox.

Red Sox
• Fenway Park. Tickets: 267-8661.
June 14 (Away): NY Yankees, 1:05pm, Fox 25.
June 16 (Home): Toronto Blue Jays, 7:05pm, NESN.
June 17 (Home): Toronto Blue Jays, 5:05pm, Fox.
June 18 (Home): Toronto Blue Jays, 1:05pm, Fox.
June 19 (Home): New York Yankees, 7:05pm, NESN.
June 20 (Home): New York Yankees, 7:05pm, Fox.
June 21 (Home): New York Yankees, 7:05pm, NESN.
June 22 (Home): New York Yankees, 7:05pm, Fox.
June 23 (Away): Toronto Blue Jays, 7:05pm, NESN.
June 24 (Away): Toronto Blue Jays, 4:05pm, Fox.
June 25 (Away): Toronto Blue Jays, 1:05pm, NESN.
June 27 (Home): Baltimore Orioles, 7:05pm, NESN.

Events

Against the Tide
On the beach at Hopkinton State Park (781-891-0180). www.mbcc.org/swim. *June 24, 9am.* Some 300 swimmers will take the plunge in the fight against breast cancer during this one-mile swim. Spectators are needed to cheer on these cold-water friends.

Amateur Boxing Show
Hanscom Air Force Base (972-1711). June 21, 6:30pm. The first-ever show at Hanscom featuring military and civilian amateurs.

The Boston Red Sox Yard Ball Tour
Columbus Park, Boston (888-991-5690). June 24-25, 9am-4pm. $80/team; spectators free. The official four-on-four baseball game and festival of Major League Baseball features tournament games played for five innings or 45 minutes on reduced-sized fields with plastic balls and bats.

Fitness! A Noon-Time Workout
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston. MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Thursdays at 12pm. Through June 29. Grab your co-workers and enjoy a pre-lunch workout—complete with music and tons of fit, young professionals with plenty of energy to expend.

Free-Sailing Event
Boston Sailing Center, Lewis Wharf, Boston (227-4198). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. June 24, 1-6pm. Free. Seasoned skippers and landlubbers alike are invited to join in the festivities at this free-sailing event aboard boats ranging in length from 23 to 40 feet.

New England Sports Awards
FleetCenter, Boston (978-561-1038). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. June 26, 7:30pm. $10 general admission. This event, which pays tribute to amateur and professional athletes for their performances this past season, will feature current members of the Boston Bruins, Red Sox, Celtics, Patriots and Revolution, among others, as well as live musical performances and comedic entertainment. Proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society.

POW-MIA Race/Walk for Freedom
Boston Teachers Union parking lot, Day Boulevard, South Boston (781-961-2110). June 25, 10am. $20. A 10-kilometer race/walk to benefit the POW-MIA Awareness Committee.

Raw Is War
Worcester's Centrum Centre, Worcester (228-6000). June 26, 7:45pm. $20-$40. The Rock, Triple H, The Big Show, Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley, Chyna, D-Generation X, The Radicals, Too Cool, Chris Jericho, Kane and Curt Angle...It could only mean one thing. The superstars of the World Wrestling Foundation lay the smackdown at the Centrum Centre.

10th Annual Scenic Bike Tour
Bentley College, Waltham (965-5262). June 18. 20-mile race begins at 10am, 40-mile at 9am, 60-mile at 8am. $30. Three race routes traveling through Walden Pond, Meadows Wildlife Refuse and Minutemen Bike Path are geared for the relaxed rider or avid biker. Proceeds benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

LEFT: ANDREÉ LERAT

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Chad Pierpont III leapt onto the boardroom table and pulled off his shirt, revealing a pierced navel and a Shakespeare tattoo.

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The Boston Red Sox Yard Ball Tour is a four-on-four baseball tournament and festival at Columbus Park, June 24-25.

To Play

BASEBALL

Henry's Baseball Club
(781-891-0621). Waltham. Seeking players ages 17-30 and coaches for the upcoming season.

BASKETBALL

Basketball City
Adjacent to North Station and the FleetCenter (742-6700). Corporate, midday and weekend leagues.

Co-Ed Indoor Basketball
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 224). Sun.-Thu. nights at various locations. All levels welcome. Leagues in Waltham, Dedham and Brookline.

The Corporate League of Boston
(566-7808).

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333). Practice and workout programs for all levels in Greater Boston.

South End Fitness Center League
(534-5823).

Women's Basketball League
(661-9622). Tuesdays 5:30-7pm and Sundays, 6-7:30pm. Starts July 9.

CYCLING

Club Ciclismo Classico
(781-646-3377). June 17. These leisurely rides take you along the bike path from Lexington to Bedford and back to the town green.

FOOTBALL

Australian Rules Football
Boston Australian Rules Football Club. Thu. evenings and Sat. mornings, Cambridge (781-440-9266). www.BostonDemons.org. No experience necessary.

Indoor Flag Football
BSSC, Indoor Sports Center in Revere (789-4070). Sundays.

HIKING/WALKING

The Appalachian Mountain Club
Gorham, N.H. (603-466-2727). Hikes and huts in the White Mountains. •Monthly AMC Young Members meetings at AMC headquarters, 4 Joy St., Beacon Hill (523-0655). Second Thursday of every month, 6-10pm, $3. Potluck. BYOB. Learn about upcoming trips and meet other hikers.

Boston Ski & Sports Hiking Trips
BSSC (789-4070). Call for a schedule of hiking trips available with this group of young professionals.

New England Walkers
39 Oakland Rd., Brookline (731-9889). members.tripod.com/NEWALKERS. This 200-member club hosts race-walk events and clinics. Weekly walks at M.I.T. indoor track on Wednesdays at 7pm.

Walking Group
(247-8267). This group sponsors weekly walks on Wednesday evenings in the Back Bay. Meet new people while gettingsome exercise.

HOCKEY

Co-ed Floor Hockey
BSSC (789-4070). Individuals and teams, co-eds, all levels in Newton.

RUGBY

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
Cambridge (781-340-2192). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.bwrfc.org. *Tue. and Thu. evenings.* No experience necessary.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
(499-4835). Weekly runs year-round. Serious drinkers with a running problem.

Boston Road Club Weekly Races
(781-646-8955). Sundays. Starts at Wells Ave. in Newton.

Fresh Pond Weekly Road Races
Fresh Pond Reservation. Saturdays, 10am. Choose between a 2.5- or 5-mile run.

Khoury's Thursday Night Runs
East Somerville. (351-5682). 4.13 miles. 7pm at Khoury's Bar.

NikeTown Boston Running Club
200 Newbury St., Boston (267-3400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Three-to-five-mile loops. Starts at 6:30pm. Monthly mini-clinics as well.

Somerville Road Runners Weekly Run
Cambridge Boat House Parking Lot, Cambridge (923-2378). Fridays at 7 pm.

SOCCER

BSSC Outdoor Soccer
BSSC (789-4070, ext. 225). Coed teams.

BSSC Outdoor Turf Soccer
BSSC (789-4070, ext. 225). Nine on nine coed soccer. Play outside on a brand-new artificial-turf field at the Acton Sports Center. Games started May 14 and continue through mid-July.

SOFTBALL

80-Team Softball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 222). Monday through Thursday evenings at 6:30pm. Join as an individual or as a team.

SWIMMING

Boston Athletic Club Swim Workouts
653 Summer St., Boston (269-4300). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon. and Wed. 6:15-7:15am.

The Charles River Park Club Morning Masters
Charles River Park, Boston (450-9810). Mon., Wed., Fri. 6:30-7:45am.

The Mason Masters Swim Program
The Mason Pool, 159 Norfolk Avenue, Roxbury (236-4923 or 450-9810) Mon.-Fri. 7:30-8:30pm. An early-morning masters swim program led by Alex Primilsky, coach of numerous world, national and Olympic champions.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Boston Ski & Sports Club
(789-4070).

Boston Ultimate Disc Alliance
(928-0882). www.buda.org.

VOLLEYBALL

Adult Co-ed Volleyball League
Waltham YMCA (781-894-5295). Monday nights, began Sept. 13. All levels welcome at this friendly co-ed league.

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club, (789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. at various locations. Co-ed indoor six-on-six leagues. Four different levels of play. Pick-up games, clinics and tournaments also available. •Co-ed pickup games Tuesdays and Fridays at West Newton Armory, 1137 Washington St. $5.

Co-ed Volleyball-Waltham
Waltham YMCA, 725 Lexington St, Waltham (781-894-5295). Monday nights. Begins in April.

WATER SPORTS

Boston Sailing Center
54 Lewis Wharf, Boston (227-4198). Year-round lessons and racing programs for all abilities.

Community Boating
21 David Mugar Way, Boston (523-1038). www.community-boating.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. Open Mon.-Fri. 1pm-sunset; Sat.-Sun. and holidays, 9am-sunset. April 1-Oct. 31.* Sailing, windsurfing and kayaking on the Charles River for only $190 per season, including instruction. What a bahgain!

Courageous Sailing Center
Charlestown Navy Yard (635-4505). Lessons are offered here year-round.

WRESTLING

Men's Adult Wrestling
Boston Union, 48 Boylston St., Boston (482-1122). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm; Saturdays 1-3:30pm. All skill levels. Coaching available.

sales& fashion

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for sales and bargains by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sales and Fashion. Or e-mail information to goodbuys@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the event or items. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

AUCTIONS

Skinner Auctioneers—Boston
63 Park Plaza, Boston (350-5400). www.skinner inc.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.* **•Asian Works of Art.** *June 24, 11am. Previews: June 22, 12-5pm; June 23, 12-7pm; June 24, 9-10am.*

SALES/EVENTS

Annual Yard Sale
Brookline Arts Center, 86 Monmouth St., Brookline (566-5715). June 17, 10am-3pm. BAC's annual yard sale serves as a clearinghouse for some of Brookline's best

Buy this Nut & Cigar Box for Dad at Fastachi.

addresses, and hundreds of items will be available at this indoor and outdoor sale. Featured items include jewelry, furniture, small appliances, household goods and kitchen items, toys, sports equipment and books.

Antiques and Artisans
First and Second Church, Berkeley and Marlborough streets, Boston (536-3726). An outdoor fair featuring premier antiques and artisan exhibitors.

Father's Day Sale
Fastachi, 164 Northern Ave., Boston (800-466-3022). June 18. The Father's Day Nut & Cigar Box includes more than a pound of fresh roasted cashews and pistachios, accompanied by two hand-rolled cigars.

Improper Sale at Country Road
140 Newbury St., Boston (262-3820). June 25, 10am. IMPROPER BOSTONIAN readers can receive an additional 10 percent off all sale merchandise on Sunday only (in addition to savings of up to 70 percent). Just bring this listing into the store.

11th Annual Street Fair/Flea Market
Corner of Columbus Avenue and Wellington Street, Boston. MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave. June 24, 9am-3pm. This event includes 35 vendors selling antiques, collectibles, art and home furnishings.

FASHION

Neiman Marcus
5 Copley Place, Boston (536-3660). www.neimanmarcus.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley.* •June 15-16: Chanel trunk show in Couture.

BEAUTY

Rave Girl Makeovers
Demiche Makeup & Image Studio, 423 Main St., Melrose (781-662-1796). www.demiche.com. *•June 22, 1-8pm:* **Rave Girl Makeovers.** Get phat makeup looks from the industry's hottest makeup artists. Free makeover with a minimum $15 purchase.

go away

TRAVELING NEAR AND FAR

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Go Away. Or e-mail information to goaway@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the event or items. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

NORTH OF BOSTON

Mt. Washington Road Footrace
Gorham, N.H. (603-863-2537). www.gsrs.com. *June 17.* Light torture has never been so much fun. Test your stamina in this 7.6-mile run up 6,228-foot Mt. Washington. Ruefully dubbed "the race with only one hill," it's considered by many to be the most challenging in New England. Non-participants can always help the runners back down.

21st Annual Newburyport Garden Tour
The Cushing House Museum, 98 High St., Newburyport, Mass. (978-462-2681). June 17, 10am-5pm. $12, $15 on the day. "Ugh!" you say of a garden tour. "Isn't that more of an event for aunts and grandmothers?" That may be so, but if you have yet to see these North Shore gardens, it's worth the trek to see 10 of these beauties.

Summer Splash Day
Whale's Tale Waterpark, Lincoln, N.H. (745-6621). June 20. Enjoy a day of watery fun. Tickets include all-day admission, a barbecue dinner and activities.

SOUTH OF BOSTON

Festival on the Common
South Shore Art Center, 119 Ripley Road, Cohasset, Mass. (781-383-2787). June 16-18. This festival transforms Cohasset Common into a picture-postcard vision of a small-town art fair in New England. The work of fine craft artists fills the common, along with food vendors, children's activities, demonstrations and musical performances. Better yet, the Second Congregational Church will hold its Strawberry Festival at the same time on the common.

Quincy Blues Festival
Veterans Memorial Stadium, Quincy, Mass. (376-1990). 11am-8pm. Now in its eighth year, this blues festival is recognized as one of the region's top cultural events, gathering nationally renowned blues musicians. The non-alcohol, family-oriented day draws thousands for the music, art and photography show, children's entertainment and food.

WEST OF BOSTON

Jacob's Pillow 2000 Festival
Located in Becket, Mass. (413-637-1322). www.jacobspillow.org. Representing cultures and dance styles from the U.S., France, Japan, Ireland, Africa, Sweden, Brazil, Spain, Canada and the Netherlands, this

mark your daytimer

UPCOMING EVENTS

CITYSCOPE

Harborfest
June 28, City Hall Plaza

Sail Boston 2000
July 11, Boston Harbor

MUSIC

Warped Tour
July 20, Suffolk Downs

Duran Duran
Aug. 5, FleetBoston Pavilion

Mötley Crue, Megadeth and Anthrax
August 9, Tweeter Center

Creed and 3 Doors Down
August 22, Tweeter Center

Smokey Robinson
August 24, FleetBoston Pavilion

B.B. King Blues Festival
Sept. 14, FleetBoston Pavilion

Culture Club
Sept. 22, FleetBoston Pavilion

SPORTS: NAVA BENJAMIN

world-renowned dance festival is the place to see and experience dance in a way that cannot be found at any other U.S. festival. • June 21-25: Opening the festival will be **Garth Fagan Dance**, returning for the first time since Fagan won a Tony Award for his choreography in *The Lion King*. • June 22-25: **RhythMEK**, a new group of former Alvin Ailey stars, will make its world debut.

Verrill Farm Strawberry Festival

11 Wheeler Road (approx. 2 miles from Sudbury Road exit off Route 2), Concord, Mass. (978-369-4494). June 17, 11am-3pm. Free. Celebrate the local crop with pick-your-own strawberries, hayrides, live Dixie Land music and yummy strawberry shortcake.

Western Mass. Highland Games and Celtic Festival

New England Motel and Antique Market, Route 20, Brimfield, Mass. (413-568-7628). June 24, 9am-6pm. $8. Scottish clans like to gather, and this event promises to be fun for the rest of us as well. You'll find music, food, crafts, duck herding and a most unusual recitation of an ode to a sausage.

CAPE & THE ISLANDS

Nantucket Film Festival

Nantucket Island, Mass. (508-228-1700). www.nantucketfilmfestival.org. *June 19-24.* If movies are your thing, you won't want to miss this opportunity to join screenwriters, producers, actors and other avid film fans for a week of debuts and workshops. The festival is renowned for its eschewing of Hollywood glamour and its focus on the substantive art of screenwriting.

Provincetown International Film Festival

Box Office: 170 Commercial St., Provincetown, Mass. (824-8000). June 15-18. $9 per film. $15 for symposium, $45 for town meeting, $10 for brunch cruise and closing night party. This up-and-coming film festival will feature more than 40 film and video premieres and "sneak previews" from around the world. In addition, on June 16 at 6pm, **Filmmaking on the Edge 2000: A Filmmaker Symposium** will include a host of filmmakers, screenwriters, producers, directors and actors from recognizable films. On June 17 at 6pm, the festival presents **A Town Meeting**, starring Lily Tomlin. Don't miss an opening gala celebration, a filmmaker brunch cruise around Cape Cod Bay and a closing night party.

NEWPORT

Third Annual Sunset Music Festival

Newport Yachting Center, Newport, R.I. (401-846-1600). www.newportfestivals.com. *Mon.-Thu. 5:30-9:45pm. June 26-29. $15-$50.* A legendary Newport sunset enhances the atmosphere while world-class artists perform on the waterfront.

NEW YORK CITY

Coney Island Mermaid Parade

Coney Island Beach, Surf Avenue at Atlantic Shore, Brooklyn, N.Y. (718-372-5159). June 24, 2pm. If you've been dreaming about mermaids ever since you saw Daryl Hannah in *Splash*, here's your chance to live out your fantasy to meet a mer-person. Throw on your best tux and "tail" and head to this wacky fest.

TORONTO

Benson & Hedges Symphony of Fire

Toronto (416-314-9900). June 17-July 8. Six evenings of incredible fireworks synchronized to music at the world's largest offshore fireworks competition.

International Body Art Exhibition

Toronto (416-261-8888). June 17-20. The biggest body-art and culture convention in Canada features "exhibitors" from around the world.

LONDON

City of London Festival

Venues around London, England (0181) 377-0540). Mid-June to mid-July. This annual arts festival takes place all around the city.

BALAYAN

St. John's Pig Parade

Balayan, Philippines (212-575-7915). June 24. Townsfolk carry fully clothed roast suckling pigs through town as part of a parade to honor St. John the Baptist. After baptizing them, they eat 'em.

HARO

The Wine War

Haro, Spain (212-759-8822). Mid-June. Sure you can drink wine, but it might be more fun to do as the Spaniards do and squirt it at your travel mates from your bota bag.

Davis Square's Rosebud Diner attracts a mix of regulars and excited first-timers for its standard greasy fare. See this classic eating establishment, and others, on a half-day tour, June 22-25.

Preview

Diner Days

You know the soft feel of the red leather booth in the back corner, the lingering taste of pie in your mouth after you've watched it spin in the glass display case for hours, and the thin-lipped smile of your favorite waitress. You are a diner junkie. You're not alone, however—secretly, many of us are. There are fewer of these great American relics than ever before, but Diner-Rama (The Great American Diner Museum's annual event) will ensure that not one gets by you. Offering two half-day tours of diners across Rhode Island and Massachusetts, plus exhibits, speakers and memorabilia sales, this event promises to be anything and everything in the world of diners. Providence, R.I. (401-331-8575). June 22-25. $210. —E.S.

SUSAN COWAN

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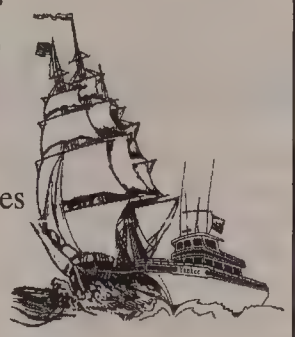

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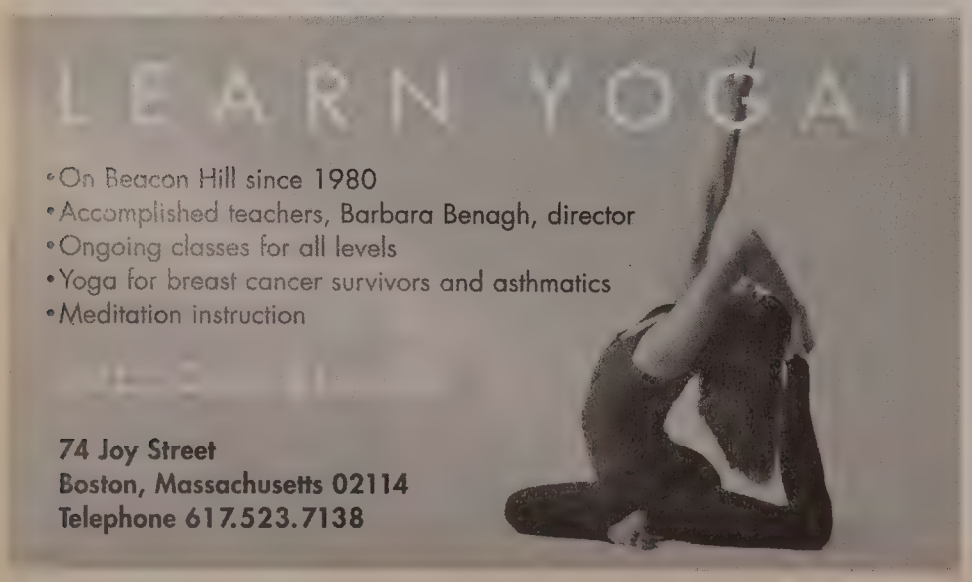

Improper Impersonals

If everyone kept their feelings bottled up like warm beer, we'd soon have antisocial behavior exploding all over the place and ruining the upholstery. That's why we have the Improper Impersonals, a column written by you, the reader. Send us your letters of love and spleen, and we'll print them for the world to see. Heck, it's better than making a fool of yourself in person. And IT'S FREE! Pick up a pen and tell that babe on the T you like his butt by writing to:

IMPROPER IMPERSONALS
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116
FAX: 859-1446 E-MAIL: impersonals@improper.com
Recent correspondence follows.

To P-Funk (Patrick Kelliher)
I was going to write a response to the fiasco that the "Foodies" (Jen and Jimi) have been subjecting us to for the past couple of weeks when I came across the letter from your girlfriend. I was moved. You absolutely have someone who loves you and cares about you and most likely knows what really makes a relationship work. We all should be so lucky. Maybe Jen and Jimi could take a step back and look at a real relationship from someone they both know quite well. Maybe she wouldn't be running off to another country (although I've heard things have changed, too bad) and then he wouldn't be going off to Cali. You're a lucky guy. Best of luck to the both of you...
—Mistress M

To Adam Freeman on Comm. Ave.
Thanks for ruining my 21st birthday, you repulsive cretin. What you attempted to do to me was the most fat and disturbing tableau imaginable. I haven't been spanked since I was 9 years oid, you sick bastard. I hope you rot in hell like the maggot you are, but before that, I hope someone treats your daughter the way you treated me. Look who got screwed now, Adam.
—Angela

Used-to-Live-in-Apartment #6
You are the "cutiest" boy in Boston, with the most beautiful eyes and the most beautiful dog.
—Still-Lives-in-Apartment #5

You were at the Red Sox game on May 7
...seated in the section only a few feet in front of mine where you were with your teammates from the B.C. hockey team wearing a navy blue Red Sox T-shirt. After you turned around a few times and I glanced your way, I thought you were adorable and wanted to say something to you after the game, but I kind of got lost in the shuffle of the post-game crowd. If you happen to see this, you can contact me here. Maybe we could get together for coffee or something.
—Brunette in the Green Shirt

To Princess Celica
You were at the corner of Comm. Ave. and Chestnut Hill Ave. on May 26 in your silver Toyota. I was checking you out and I THOUGHT you were digging me until for some reason you rolled your eyes and laughed before speeding away, blasting some outdated Hole song. I was in the black 4 Runner with Vermont plates. Let me run into you again in Cleveland Circle and we'll see who laughs then. Some advice, BE KIND TO YOUR FELLOW DEADHEADS. Lose the Courtney Love crap. You may be a halfway decent chick, LOSE the ATTITUDE....
—unclejohn02135@hotmail.com

To Coolidge Corner Girl (#12 & 35)
Working hard? No, hard at work, thanks to you...you keep me guessing but I think I've learned my lesson: never say never (except whenever). Ocean's 11 and the evening's at seven; I never thought the sixth floor could be so close to heaven. And yes, I still wonder where's the dumbly missing (under where?)...Around & lost & found that Boston record stores weren't this much fun before—free food & drinks to savor & yes, you may return the flavor—when baring it all, you tha Baron Von Bomb—I can be reached at awww.yeah.com.
—Mr. Rylf

Looking for that Gorgeous Guy
I saw you as you walked into the Asian grocery store in Chinatown on Friday, May 19, at around 4pm, and I can't get you off my mind. You were standing in line and staring at me with those beautiful eyes and short cropped hair. I couldn't help but stare back a bit, but my family from out of town distracted me from doing anything. I wanted to stop you, say hello and offer to buy you a cup of coffee or a drink somewhere. I noticed that once outside the door of the grocery store you turned back, looked at me and waited a bit. Now I wished that I had excused myself from my family and rushed to the door to give you my phone number. If you're that guy and are still interested, e-mail me at
—wormy200@hotmail.com

Chistery
Up and down, back and forth, this way and that way. Whichever direction the past has taken us has no bearing on these two years (almost) time spent—which I would never change one thing about (except for that one time you fell through my window—ouch). Last night, as you sat on my couch with a Budweiser in one hand, and waffle and pickle in the other, I realized how much all your quirks and things you do make me smile—enough to send this to THE IMPROPER. I don't need to publicize my feelings in this here free mag...it's stuff you already know. But because I know you love hearing it more than not hearing it, I'll spill an itty-bitty bit. It's been a joy to have you in my life. You have taught me a lot more than anyone or anything has. You've shown me what the important things in life are, and what really matters. It's a pretty basic thing—if you want to know, ask me and I'll tell you (instead of my graceful way of e-mailing you). You are super-duper at everything you do—except realizing it. You have the ability to win over anyone. You have talent oozing out of every seam in your hot hot, sexy, sexy body. You are the funnest and by far funniest person I've ever been with in my whole entire life. You are real, GEN U INE, sweet and sincere.You don't fake anything. You are good people. You make me feel wonderful. You are honest, strong and tough. You are all man. You are my favorite thing. And most importantly, you make me feel all these things about myself (except the man part, you make me feel AAALLL woman). Keep doing what you're doing, don't change anything. I love your guts, kiddo.
—Glinda

To My Favorite Boy
Happy 25th birthday, cutie! You've come a long way since I first met you (an already adorable 18-year-old in Haskell Hall). Seven years later, you're that much better.
I love you, friend!
—Pedulie

The Tattooed Lady in the Spring Streets of Boston
You wear the bright, impudent, emancipated piercing tattoos. Please e-mail Thomas A., me, the fond admirer of female tattoos. And then:
My heart'll beat fast in exultation,
And after days of bitter strife,
I'll find delight and inspiration,
And love, and happiness and life.
—tattoo200@hotmail.com

You were walking through Copley Place
...on May 8 around 5pm. You're a beautiful brunette, long black dress walking with your friend.You looked at me (twice), white shirt, brown tie carrying my umbrella, walking toward Neiman Marcus. Wanted to say hi, but we were both in a hurrry. How about a drink??
Taking a chance...
—emsy77@hotmail.com

Va-Jessica
You were an excellent travel companion...despite my tales of crashed planes and sitting up straight. You make four hours sitting in an airport a super fun experience. Can't wait to be a part of the Nature Club this summer. I've got my hiking boots on already...
—Gina (as in Va)

Mommy
Thanks for picking us up.
—The 1:30am-ers

Rockie Horoscope

JUNE 14-27,2000

BY ROCKIE GARDINIER

GEMINI MAY 21-JUNE 20

Gad-about Gemini should make time ASAP in your busy schedule to attend to those Mercury-related tasks—the comings and goings and calls. Because your ruling planet is turning retrograde, the hassles that'll happen during the next four weeks will hang you up more than the other signs. Even though you've learned how best to deal with these glitches in time, each retrograde period is unique. The one that starts on June 23 in your Cancerian money house centers on earnings, expenses and family fortunes, not to mention deep-rooted feelings.

CANCER

JUNE 21-JULY 22

Aren't you the lucky one! Not only is the solstice and the start of summer just around the corner, but there to welcome it with open arms is that happy, horny couple, Mars and Venus. The planets of dating and mating enter your sign over the romantic full moon weekend, so you're liable to become even more amorous than usual, and for that we are grateful. The sacred solstice should be commemorated with appropriate rituals, so pick a water sport you haven't tried before and check it out. Mercury turning retro on June 23 in your sign will be, if nothing else, educational.

LEO

JULY 23-AUGUST 22

A fun full moon for a change—nothing heavy-duty or inexplicably weepy. Instead, you'll be surrounded by a circle of friends, relating, in the poetic Gemini tradition, the legends and lore you've recently acquired. Or, if you follow the athletic Sagittarian lunar influence, you could be out riding the range or playing the field, but always in the company of intelligent, enthusiastic folks. The summer soltice, the moment when your sun ruler enters Cancer and your mood, as well as the season, changes, occurs June 20 at 9:48pm.

VIRGO

AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

Like Gemini natives, you'll feel the shift of your Mercury ruler from direct to retrograde a few days ahead of the official date: June 23. This sensitivity can be eerie, since you sometimes see the event happening in your mind's eye before it actually occurs. What you'll see under the light of the Sagittarius full moon this weekend might reveal a lot about the family, real estate and the direction your career is heading. Drive carefully because Mercury's flip means more fenderbenders. Who can concentrate?

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

Basically, you're in for a pleasurable interlude, but career and family pressures may start to build once summer arrives. So enjoy the last days of Gemini and the mobility afforded by the Sagittarius full moon this weekend. It's a good time to think about your next trip, even to make some arrangements before Mercury turns retrograde on June 23. If you wait, you'll run into more travel hassles and misinformation than usual. Words can't adequately describe your desire for a hunk of burning love while horny Mars merges with your Venus ruler midweek.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

Some call it divine love, some an education in ritual sexual relations—whatever. It's available when Venus and your Mars co-ruler get together on Wednesday in early Cancer. Blessing their union is the first rays of the summer sun, a celebration of the solstice that you might as well join in. You're not slated to have such a romantically rewarding experience for another two years, the time it takes for Mars to go around the zodiac and meet up with Venus again. May 2002 in mid-Gemini. Why would you wait?

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

The full moon in your sign, falling on a Friday no less, is reason enough to celebrate. Once the Capricorn moon kicks in, parenthood and the responsibilities of maintaining continuity take over. That might be appropriate for Father's Day, but there won't be a whole lot of hootin' and hollerin' goin' on. There will, however, be plenty of huggin' and kissin' midweek when Venus and Mars, the peacemaker and the warrior, get together at the tail end of your marriage house. If you need to reconnect, make a date for Wednesday.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

Another solstice, another excuse to let your essential, earthy Capricorn qualities hang out. No astrological phenomenon supports a cardinal sign, such as yours, more than the entrance of the sun into another primary element (e.g., Aries-fire, Libra-air). And when Sol steps into your watery Cancer marriage house, so much the better. Adding to the significance of this sacred event is the wedding of Mars and Venus in Cancer. If everything else is working out okay, now would be an excellent time for you to tie the knot too.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18

Friends and fooling around, sports and speculation, teammates and traveling—just another weekend under a full moon? This one could be a lot more fun for you. The area of your life that is lit is your house of romance, recreation and risk. Stick Venus, the love goddess, and Mars, her sexy paramour, in there, and you've got the makings of a memorable time. FYI: Mercury goes retrograde in your house of work and health. You'll be working on your tan instead of the job?

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19

It always gets a little nervy for Fish this time of year. Maybe it's the weirdness of Father's Day, but more likely this weekend it's the full moon in your Sagittarius career midheaven opposing the Gemini sun in your house of family history and food. Both lights add tension to your natal Pisces planets, but so what? You'll have plenty of time to run the ensuing sequence of events through your head once Mercury turns retrograde. Don't change your address during the next four weeks.

ARIES

MARCH 20-APRIL 19

The shift in tone and temperament from Gemini to Cancer that your Mars ruler makes can catch you unaware. One day you're fluctuating in Gemini duality, literally on the road, exploring the light and dark sides of your life with equal interest. The next day you wanna go home, nestle into the arms of your family and share memories and pet peeves. After Venus joins Mars on the 21s, however, you'll be ready for your bi-annual love nest, a period of pure joy and great sex when the female and male aspects of your personality are in balance.

TAURUS

APRIL 20-MAY 20

There's not much to think about this week other than raking in the gifts for whichever occasion you're part of, buying a few goodies for yourself and anticipating that something special is about to take place. It is. After the full moon this weekend, you can become much less interested in the myriad details of stimulating ideas and more willing to share quiet moments and telling looks. Call it love—I call it a tryst between horny Mars with your sensual Venus ruler.

Curious about the future? Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30 to 40+ pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise over the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $42.50 per report to: ROCKIE GARDINER, 1021 N. Genesee, #1, West Hollywood, CA 90046. *www.rockiehoroscope.com*. Read my daily forecast online at www.laweekly.com.

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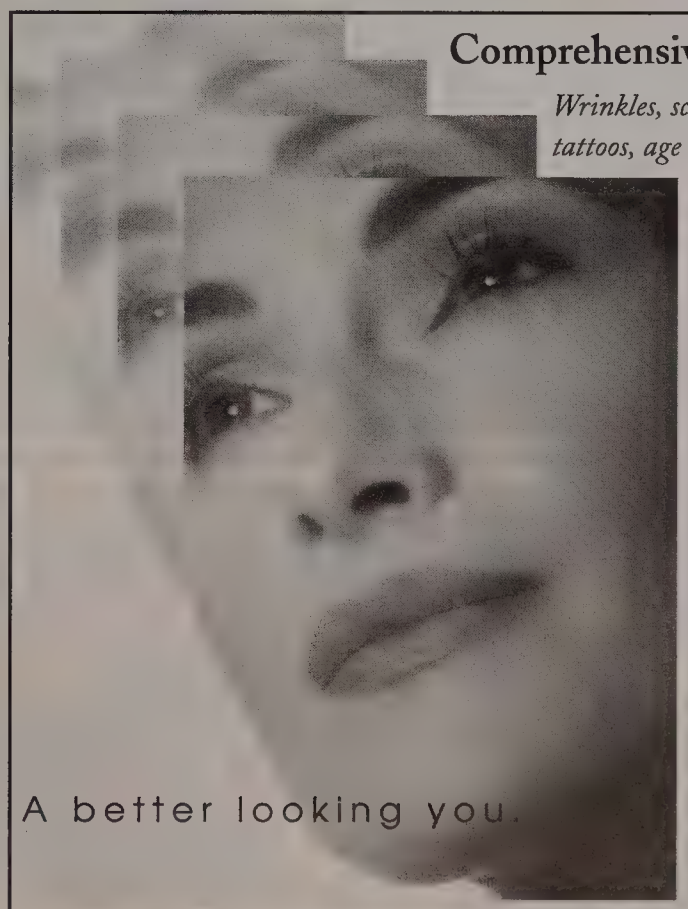

improperazzi

THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN's client-related promotions and events

Clickatwork.com celebrated the recent publication of their new corporate guidebooks at the **Big Easy Bar** on Thursday, June 1. Clickatwork.com and **Sam Adams** both shared their good fortune by donating the evening's proceeds to the **Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless.**

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1. **Jared Mancini**, **Theresa DeVine, Mike Jolley**, **Dana Engstrom, Jen Downing** and **Doug Drenik**, all from the MA Coalition for the Homeless.
2. **Kate Fagan**, **Heather Obst**, **Matt Zarzecki**, **Jennifer Ward**, and **Henry Ahn.**
3. **Matt Curtin**, Art Technology Group and **Liz Barnes**, UMASS.
4. **Ron Kasner**, TH&T, and **Jennifer Ward**, Clickatwork.com.

Eight young ladies with Irish heritage competed in the **Boston Rose of Tralee Regional Qualifier** at the **Times Irish Bar & Restaurant**, Thursday, May 25. Maureen Kiely won a $400 beauty package from **Maksou** and the honor of representing Boston in the New England Rose of Tralee Pageant where she will compete for a trip to the more than 30-year-old competition in Tralee, Ireland. **Irish Mist** also sponsored the event.

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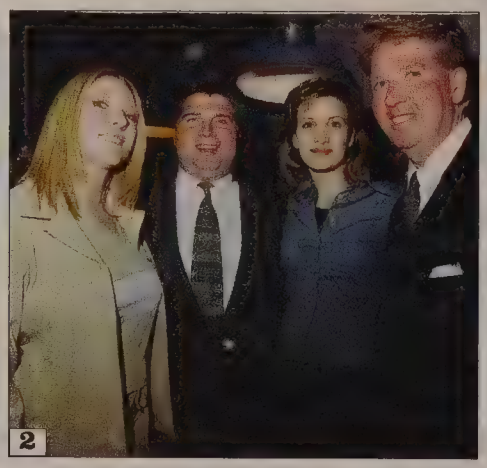
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1. **Brian O'Conner**, **Cathal Hickey**, **Corinne Zaczek, Megan O'Conner** and **Lynne O'Conner.**
2. **Lorraine Barrett**, Marketing/P.R. manager of the Times, **Jim Broe**, NE regional sales manager of main sponsor Irish Mist, **Layla Maksou**, owner of sponsor Maksou Hair Salon & Day Spa and Tralee Judge, **Patrick Walsh**, Tralee Judge.
3. Times owner **Frank Delaney** with Boston Rose **Maureen Kiely**.

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1. **Xiomara** and **Christian Lara**, Owners of Plaza Garibaldi.
2. **Don Harney**, Journal Transcript Newspapers, **Cynthia Harney,** and **Ken Harney**, Village Voice.
3. Plaza Garibaldi Bartenders **Nahiomy Stacks** and **Sonia Marin**.
4. **Shirley Whitley**, **Dave Lavoie** and **Pat Whitley** of Dining-out.com.

After the ribbon-cutting ceremony with Revere Mayor Thomas Ambrosino, guests at **Plaza Garibaldi**'s grand opening extravaganza enjoyed an outstanding Mexican meal, accompanied by a procession of entertainment: a Mariachi band, Flamenco dancers and singers, a Samba performance and Salsa dancers. Notable attendees included Spanish Ambassador Ricardo Piedro Conde, Costa Rican Consulate Gerardo Pazos, Mexican Ambassador Carlos Rico and radio show host Pat Whitley.

PHOTOS: BERTA DANIELS (BIG EASY, THE TIMES); ALISON MORANT (PLAZA GARIBALDI)

BARS, CLUBS, RESTAURANTS & BRUNCH

The following are paid advertisements. Please check times and prices in advance. If you'd like to have your restaurant listed, please call The Improper Bostonian Advertising Dept. at 859-1400.

BARS

Billiards

Boston Billiard Club
126 Brookline Ave., 536-POOL. Ranked #1 in the country by Billiards Digest. Free lessons on Mon., 7:30 pm - 9 pm. Boston Billiard Club House Leagues on Mon. and Tues. "In The Biz" night on Sun. and Mon. for patrons in the hospitality industry. Ladies' night on Wed. Featuring a menu of light fare such as grilled chicken sandwiches and appetizers, along with beer, wine, cocktails and a variety of non-alcoholic beverages.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, The Allstonians and Beat Soup.

Weggie's Pub
162 Lincoln St., 617-542-7080. Boston's "Chinatown-Leather District" near South Station. Cozy ambience where people drink and socialize. Cultural diversity is an institution in this area. We permit patrons to bring in take-out orders to complement drinks. Two TV's. One pool table and video games with CD player. Coldest A/C in the city with very cold beer. Great place to come after sporting events. Walk up bar, no waitperson service. Unique, intimate, dark atmosphere, and a cacophony of sounds all around. Inexpensive drinks. $2 for bottled Bud! Mon-Sat 11 am - 2 am. Sun 6 pm - 2 am. No credit cards. ID req.

Brew Pubs

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Company
138 Portland St., Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is now the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, a block from the FleetCenter and steps from Faneuil Hall, Commonwealth Fish & Beer features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

General

BARCODE
Enjoy the intimate, windowed dining room or a signature cocktail in the lounge. BARCODE offers a creative martini selection, a balanced and affordable wine list and both bottled and draft beer. Drinks are available until 2 am daily, food served until 1 am.

Dick's Last Resort
55 Huntington Ave., Prudential Center, Boston, 267-8080. www.dickslastresort.com. Dick's has live music 7 nights a week, no cover, no dress code and certainly no class. They have 74 kinds of beer for the novice or serious/ sudsman, or a full bar for the hard core. Dick's also is a restaurant of sorts with buckets of ribs, shrimp, lobster, chicken, catfish and crab legs. This is the place your Mama warned you about. Free parking after 5pm, cheap til 5 with validation.

The Good Life
Uptown - 99 St. Botolph St., 266-3030; Downtown - 28 Kingston St., 451-2622. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1999 Boston's Best Martini award. The Good Life is a retro lounge that Frank Dean and Sammy would have hung at. Big Drinks, Great American Comfort Food, Hot Jazz and Plenty of Boy Meets Girl. Never a cover, always a good time.

The Good Life In Swingin' Central Square
720 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, 617-868-8800, The winner of The Improper Bostonian's Best Martini Award 1999. Frank, Dean, and Sammy have a new hangout across the river. So should you. Come experience the power of three. Classic cocktails, great American comfort food, and Boston's Best Live Jazz. Never a cover, always a good time.

Harvard Gardens
316 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114, 617-523-2727. A wonderfully relaxed haven located opposite MGH on the back side of Beacon Hill. Serving the finest cocktails and most comfortable food in town. Plant yourself in a comfy booth, a cozy banquette, or at our fully loaded bar and escape from your everyday troubles. Doing it nice & easy 7 days a week - 11am-2am.

Pravda 116
116 Boylston St., 617-482-7799. Located in the heart of Boston's theater district. Pravda offers one of Boston's hottest night clubs, and extraordinary cuisine as well. Pravda boasts the longest bar in Boston, featuring a center ice surface to keep your cocktail cool. If sitting at the bar is not your forte, enjoy a meal at a private table in the dining room or in a plush, secluded booth. Chef Chris Parsons prepares exquisite dishes with the latest seasonal ingredients. Satisfied your hunger? Then feed your crave to rave in Pravda's newly remodeled dance club. DJ's spin high-energy dance music, create an ambiance that radiates with energy. Rest. Hrs: Tues&Wed 5:30-10:30pm, Thurs-Sat 5:30-11pm; Club Hrs: Thurs-Sat 10pm-2am.

Sweetwater Cafe
3 Boylston Place, 351-2515. A classic American bar featuring Boston's best bands and DJ's nightly. A favorite Boston bar for 15 years with two floors of entertainment, an outdoor patio and world class margaritas. Always great music and cold beer, never a dress code. Available for private functions of any kind. (Credit cards: Am Ex, Visa, MC, Diner's) Tues. - Sat. 5 pm - 2 am. Located in "The Alley."

The Big Easy Bar
1 Boylston Place, Boston, 351-7000. Informal. Located in Boston's version of Bourbon Street, "The Alley." The Big Easy Bar is a hot new New Orleans style bar featuring Boston's best live bands and disc jockeys nightly playing music you know and love. Relax in a lounge, listen to the band, play billiards, hang at the bar or dance the night away. The Big Easy Bar has something fun for everyone. Great beer selection, 22 oz. Hurricanes, 4 huge bars, 2 lounges, a balcony, plenty of seating, and a large dance floor. Wed. - Sat. 8 pm - 2 am. Major credit cards accepted. Valet parking available.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, The Allstonians and Beat Soup.

The Sugar Shack
1 Boylston Place, 351-2510. "Home of Boston's Best Party." Set in the middle of a mini-Bourbon Street, The Sugar Shack celebrates Mardi-Gras year-round with a carefree, reckless, spontaneous and unpretentious attitude. Carnival lights, confetti, beads, specialty drinks, live bands and Disc Jockeys playing classics, motown, R&B, funk, disco, and old school hip hop from the last three decades mixed with the best of today's top 40. Home of young professional, young alumni, 20 something hipsters who desire cold beer, cocktails, classic party tunes and unadulterated fun!!

Wine Bars

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar
105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-0966. The hip meeting spot in the Financial District for after work, dinner, late night, or a seductive tryst. The Vault offers some of the most exclusive wines in Boston, which complement the creative American Cuisine prepared by Chef Rebecca Esty. Can't decide on a wine? Relax and compare with our Tasting Flights featuring selections from different reds and whites. So what are you waiting for? Call an old friend, a client, or a co-worker and meet for cocktails at The Vault today.

RESTAURANTS

Back Bay Brewing Company
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center. $7-$18. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Bi-level restaurant/ brewery offers an inspirational pairing of Chef Michael Burgess's innovative cuisine and Tod Mott's hand-crafted ales and lagers. Upbeat first floor bar and café, second floor dining room and bar with comfortable couches and overstuffed chairs. Sunday Buffet Brunch 11am - 3pm, $14.95. Mon. - Sun. 11:30am - 1am.

BARCODE
BARCODE offers creative food and drink with a truly unique, casual style and atmosphere. Simple yet exotic and flavorful, Executive Chef George Leu's menu features a variety of French bistro fare touched with Asian influences. Lunch weekdays 11:30 am - 4:30 pm, dinner daily 5 pm - 1 am, brunch Sat & Sun 11:30 am - 4 pm

Cactus Club
939 Boylston St., 236-0200. Get a taste of the Southwest in Boston. Specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, Cajun Catfish. Save 1/2 off entire menu Mon. - Fri., 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm in the bar. Sample the firewater menu while you are there, including Coyote Killer (Light and dark rum, peach schnapps, ginger beer and mixed juices), or a Chambord Margarita. The daring may go for a dip in the Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Amex, Diners Club, MC and Visa.

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Company
138 Portland Street, Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, near the Fleet Center and Faneuil Hall, Common-wealth features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

Harvard Gardens
316 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114, 617-523-2727. A wonderfully relaxed haven located opposite MGH on the back side of Beacon Hill. Serving the finest cocktails and most comfortable food in town. Plant yourself in a comfy booth, a cozy banquette, or at our fully loaded bar and escape from your everyday troubles. Doing it nice & easy 7 days a week - 11:30 am - 2 am.

Jillian's Boston
Behind Fenway Park, 437-0300. Upscale 70,000 Sq. ft. megaplex of interactive entertainment. Play breakthrough interactive communication games, participate in a live game show & watch a giant video wall while dining on innovative American cuisine at Atlas Grill on Jillian's new 1st floor. Jillian's offers motion simulator rides, more than 250 cutting edge electronic & virtual reality games, 50 billiard tables, table tennis, & "just for fun" black jack. Five full bars & 50 TVs that broadcast sporting events. Great for late night dining & private parties 25-3000. Open Daily.

Kashmir
279 Newbury St., Boston, 536-1695. Kashmir has been raising the bar of Indian restaurants in quality, style and service since it opened. Its Best of Boston, Boston's Best and Readers' Choice awards are a result of great execution. Indoors in three elegantly styled dining rooms and outdoors on the best people watching corner in town, Kashmir serves the finest Tandoori and curry dishes and most imaginative specials and the best lunch and brunch buffet in town. Wine and beer are available as well as takeout, delivery, private parties and catering.

Ma Soba Asian Cuisine & Sushi
156 Cambridge Street on Beacon Hill, Boston, 973-6680. Enjoy premium sushi and Ma Soba's unique blend of contemporary and traditional Asian cuisine prepared by award-winning chefs. Relax with a fine wine selection from Ma Soba's comprehensive wine cellar in a setting described as "strikingly attractive and ultra urbane" by the Boston Herald. Open daily: Sun-Wed until 10:30pm, Thurs-Sat until 11:00pm. When in Harvard Square/ Cambridge, visit Ma Soba Express at 30 Dunster Street for quick-service pan Asian noodles and rice platters.

Shenandoah Restaurant, Marketplace Cafe, Brewskellar Pub
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston 227-1272. Located in the North Market Building of Faneuil Hall, Shenandoah Restaurant, The Marketplace Cafe, and Brewskellar Pub have something for everyone. Whether you're interested in a casual dinner on one of Boston's largest outdoor patios or the quiet more elegant surroundings of Shenandoah Restaurant, we offer it all. Having a function? We cater personally to all events you may be planning. Visit us soon and let us surprise you.

The Rack
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The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar
105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-9966. A wonderful secret hidden in Boston's Financial District. The Vault offers contemporary American cuisine and an extensive and exclusive affordable wine list. Come in and enjoy our new spring menu, including an expanded raw bar, Maine crab cakes, seared tuna and much more. Lunch Mon. - Fri. from 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Dinner Mon. - Wed. from 5:30 - 10:30 pm, Thurs. - Sat. from 5:30 - 11 pm. Closed Sun.

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The Wrap & Smoothie Bar
137 Mass Ave., Boston (at Berklee School of Music), 369-9087; 71 Mt. Auburn St., Harvard Square, 354-5838; 1940 Beacon St., Cleveland Circle, 739-0340; 82 Water St., Financial District, 357-9013. The Wrap serves delicious, freshly prepared wraps, burritos and salads as well as healthy and refreshing smoothies. Voted Boston's Best 1998 & 1999 by The Improper Bostonian. Fresh ingredients, great taste, healthy options - words we live by!

BRUNCH

Anago
65 Exeter Street, Boston, 266-6222. Anago, in the historic Lenox Hotel, presents a live Sunday Brunch from 11-2pm, prepared by Boston's whiz kid chef, Jamie "Shaky" Liberge, featuring a sumptuous buffet of appetizers with exquisite freshly baked desserts and breads created by award winning pastry chef, Lee Napoli, to accompany your choice of exceptional entree selections. Reservations are recommended.

Back Bay Brewing Company
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Featuring Chef Michael Burgess's Neo-Continental selections, including Eggs Benedict with Canadian bacon & herbed hollandaise, blueberry pancakes with almond maple syrup, omelet station, French toast, roasted meat carving station, house smoked salmon, and assorted desserts. Sunday Brunch Buffet 11 am - 3 pm. $14.95

BARCODE
Creative brunch with a truly unique, casual style and atmosphere. George Leu's almost-traditional brunch is sure to please all, with selections ranging from homemade granola with yogurt and fruit to Eggs Benedict to BARCODE French-Asian specials. Served Sat & Sun 11:30 am - 4 pm

Dick's Last Resort
55 Huntington Ave., Prudential Center, Boston, 267-8080. www.dickslastresort.com. Sundays, Dick gets religion and has a Heavenly Gospel Brunch from 10am to 3pm, serving fruit, salads, eggs benedict, fried chicken with a ham and roast beef station. Help yourself to the waffle or omelet stations and dessert bar and listen to old fashion uplifting live gospel music. Open for Lunch, Dinner and late night entertainment 7 days a week, no cover.

Museum of Science - Skyline Room
Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston, MA 02114. Enjoy Sunday brunch in the beautiful Skyline Room overlooking the Charles River at noon, then experience the amazing Mugar Omni Theater: Dolphins and Mysteries of Egypt, through June, at 2pm. Tickets are $28 for Adults, $26 for Seniors/ Children. Brunch only is $20. On-site parking is included. Reservations recommended, call (617)723-2500.

The Wrap & Smoothie Bar
137 Mass Ave., Boston (at Berklee School of Music), 369-9087; 71 Mt. Auburn St., Harvard Square, 354-5838; 1940 Beacon St., Cleveland Circle, 739-0340; 82 Water St., Financial District, 357-9013. The Wrap serves delicious, freshly prepared wraps, burritos and salads as well as healthy and refreshing smoothies. Voted Boston's Best 1998 & 1999 by The Improper Bostonian. Fresh ingredients, great taste, healthy options - words we live by!

MISC.

Sports

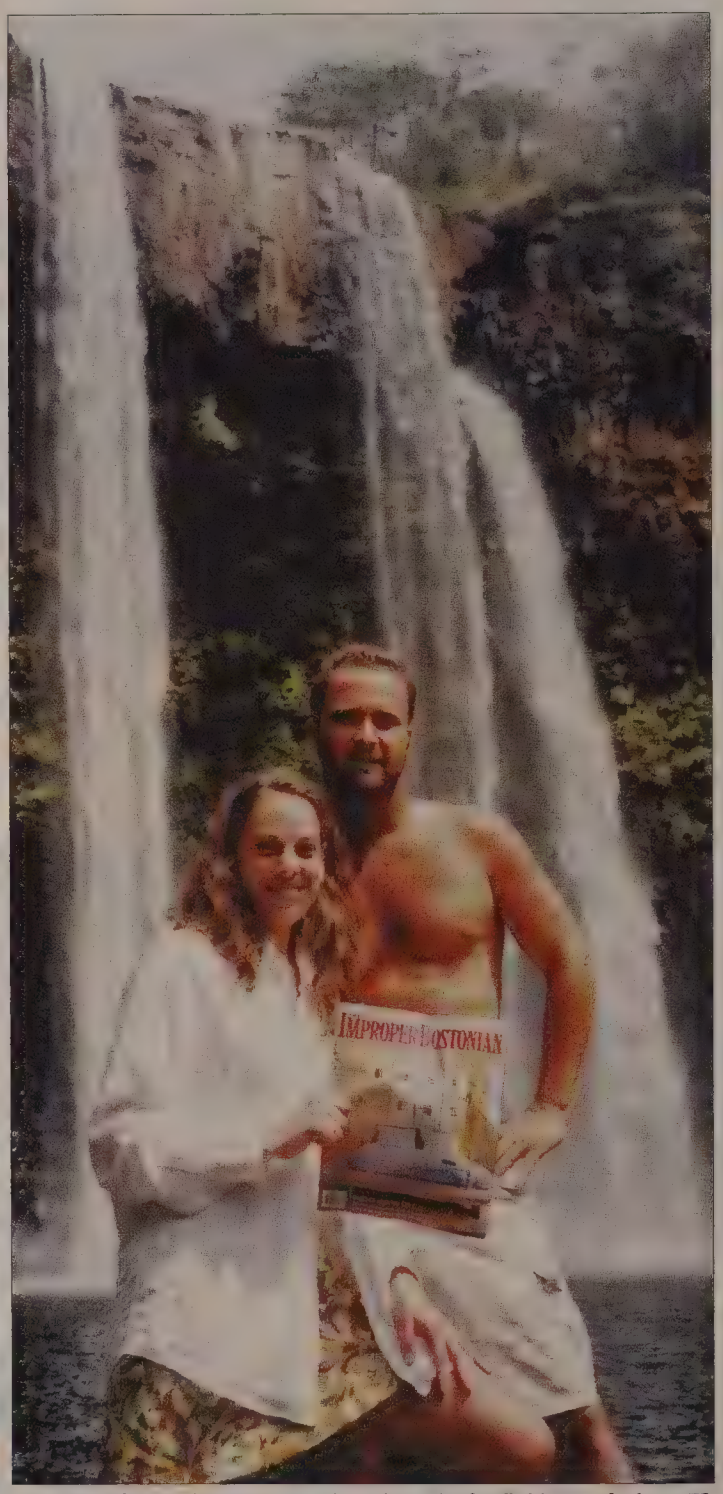
Boston Paintball
131 Beverly St., Boston, 742-6612. The rules are simple. There are teams and everyone has paintball guns. You are inside of a large warehouse (near the Boston Garden). They are firing balls straight at you. You scream, dodge, hide, wipeout and have a blast!!! Great for bachelor/bachelorette parties, corporate outings, birthday parties, and much more.

Improper Sightings

Unlike the rest of your friends, we want to see the photos from your next trip.

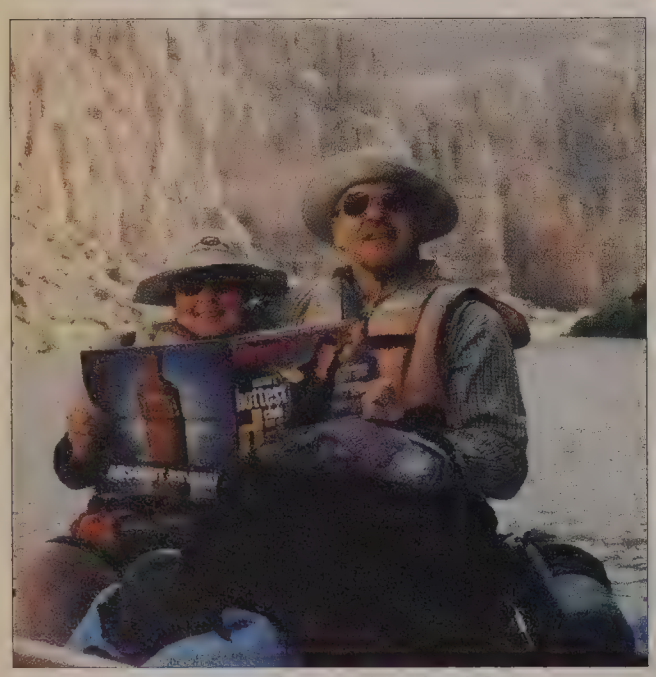
Where do you take us? We want to know! Send us a picture of you or a friend, or better yet, someone famous reading THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN and tell us where you were. The more creative you are, the faster we'll publish your pic! (Hey, we have no shame!)

Culinary wonder and IMPROPER coverboy Ming Tsai (back right) dines with Tom Berry, Elmer Guzman, Sam Choy, Samantha Guzman, Jennifer Hamilton and Marina Brancley in Hawaii.



Anna Besciak and Brendan McCray from Springfield pose in front of Wailua Falls in Kauai, Hawaii. They point out that these are the falls that are featured in the opening credits of *Fantasy Island*.

Somervillians Kelsey Koehler and Sean Dearborn test out the magazine's absorbency and aquatic durability while snorkling off the coast of Catalina Island in the Dominican Republic.



Carla Scott and Ken Schmidt, both from South Dakota, grabbed an IMPROPER while visiting Boston last month. Here they're rafting down the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon.

IMPROPER fans David Strickler, Kathy Pattison, Sam Rizzico and Jane Cosler, all from Boston, soak it all in at Iceland's lava-rock-encircled geothermal wonder, the Blue Lagoon.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:

Duck herding while toting a bagpipe at the highly unusual kilt-friendly Western Mass. Highland Games and Celtic Festival in Brimfield, Mass.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, *The Improper Bostonian Magazine,* 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116.
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Last Scene Here BY JONATHAN SOROFF

GIRRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN...

How many lesbians does it take to fill a hotel ballroom?

Apparently, 1,131, which is how many people (mostly Sisters of Sappho and those who love them) attended **Dinner Party 2000**, at the **Back Bay Sheraton**, to benefit the Women's Care Fund at the Fenway Community Health Center.

Conspicuous among them: co-chair **Gail Ponzeck**, beauty queen **Catherine Hinds**, media buyer **Ellen Freeman**, art collector **Ellen Poss** and her other half, **Linda Pavis**, **Mayor Menino**, his super-amusing operative, **Mike Kelly**, his former chief of staff, **Ann Maguire** (who went on to make a killing in real estate and, for years, operated the popular hangout Someplace Else in P-town), Geoffrey's proprietor **Paula Habib** with sidekick **Carl Anderson**, talk show mistress **Sue O'Connell**, Fenway board member **Tom Leavitt**, lawyer-at-large **Austin Scott O'Toole**, and one lovely lady who pulled up to the valet stand in a black Mercedes convertible with vanity plates that said "Wymyn."

Following cocktails and chitty-chat, there was dinner and dancing, as well as a massive silent auction, entertainment by comedian **Kate Clinton**, and the presentation of the Susan M. Love Award to former state senator **Lois Pines**.

All in all, an enchanting evening, with the added bonus that there was no line for the men's room.

GLUTTONY FOR A GOOD CAUSE....

Any sane person will jump at the chance to graze at **Radius**, which explains the impressive turnout for the **Big Sister Association's Celebrity Chef Evening**, featuring food by resident chow-meisters

At the Big Celebrity Chef Evening at Radius, clockwise from top: Frances Moseley, Lani Guanier and Verna Myers; Esti Benson; Deirdre Lord and Alisyn Camerota; Michele Cotler and Amy Masters; and Will and Nancy Korman.

Michael Schlow and **Paul Connors**, Mistral's **Joanne Chang**, Galleria Italiana's **Marisa Iocco**, Clio's **Ken Oringer** and Sandrine's **Raymond Ost**.

Seen tying on the feedbag: the Clinton administration's loss but Harvard's gain **Lani Guanier**, the stunning **Verna Myers**, soignee socialite **Frances Moseley**, board member **Nancy Korman** and her lawyer son, **Will**, TV reporters **Alisyn Camerota** of Fox and **Sean Hennessey** of Channel 7, the ubiquitous **Greg Norgent**, former restaurateur and eternal adventurer **Linda Schwabe**, redheaded siren **Tammy Gilbert**, professional gastronome **Alex Shapiro** of *Foodline.com*, TV news producers **Amy Masters** and **Michele Cotler**, new energy vixen **Deirdre Lord**, renowned paparazzo **Leo Gozbekian** and countless others who supped, sipped and socialized, fueled by the delicious grub and some high-octane cocktails called Boston Sidecars. (Recipe: three quarters brandy, a quarter cointreau, and a splash each of fresh lemon juice, simple syrup and cranberry juice, served in a martini glass with a sugared rim. Any more than two is lethal.)

The evening's most amusing exchange:

"If I eat another thing, I'll explode," said one guest.

"If I drink any more, I'll fall down," said her companion.

"Well, I'm driving," she said reasonably. "So why don't you have another drink and grab me one of those chocolate things while you're up."

At Dinner Party 2000 at the Back Bay Sheraton: Mike Kelly and Sue O'Connell; Catherine Hinds; Kate Clinton; Gail Ponzeck and Tom Leavitt.

LIFE'S TOUGH...

When it comes to AIDS, reality bites, but the **Realist Council of the AIDS Action Committee** took a bite out of the epidemic with its **Remember When** event at the **Locke Ober Club**, to raise money for the Boston AIDS Walk.

Hosted by Haitian hepcat **Ferguson Heriveaux**, the party attracted the likes of fashion editor **John Lane**, attorney/party girl **Lori Sullivan**, Talbot's flack **Kate Shamon**, Internet entrepreneur **John Rosbrook** of *Tourgoods.com*, french-fried business consultant **Annaliese Marchand**, stylist to the stars **Eddie Blair**, Massport mouthpiece **Jose Juves** and the enchanting **Allison Waldron**, the fearsome threesome of **Carlos Salib**, **Richard Tilkin** and **Glenn Nardone**, Dudley Dooright doppelgänger **Duncan Hughes**, Arctic blonde art dealer **Anja Kola**, Charles Hotel cutie **Hannah Lefkowitz**, racehorse syndicator and slave to Chanel **Cynthia Frederick**, interior designer **Kent Hammond Keatinge** (a.k.a., Ken-tay Kating-ay, chief of the fierce warrior tribe known as Prada), and so on and so forth, throughout the roster of the city's young and relentless.

Overheard at the bar:

"I should go home. I have to be up early tomorrow."

"Morning meeting?"

"No. A one o'clock ferry reservation for the Vineyard." iB

At the Remember When event at the Locke Ober Club, from top: John Lane and John Rosbrook; Jose Juves and Allison Waldron; and Eddie Blair.

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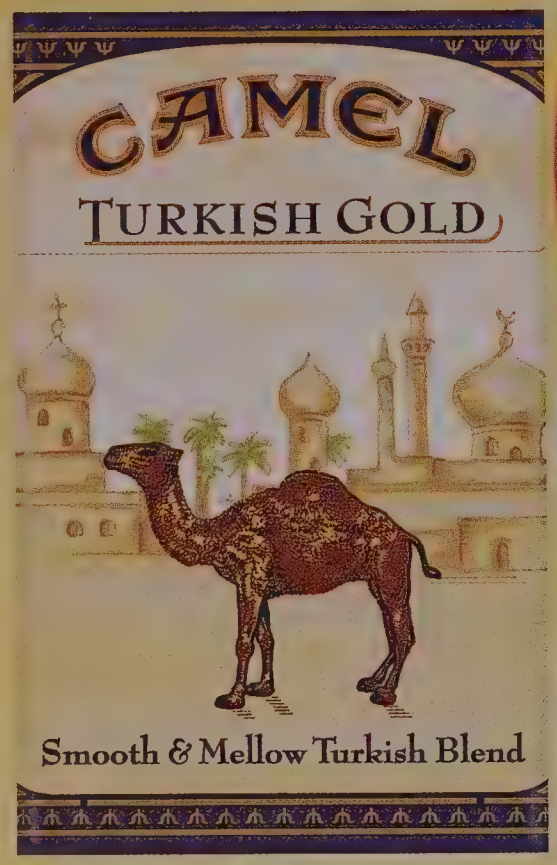

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inside RACK

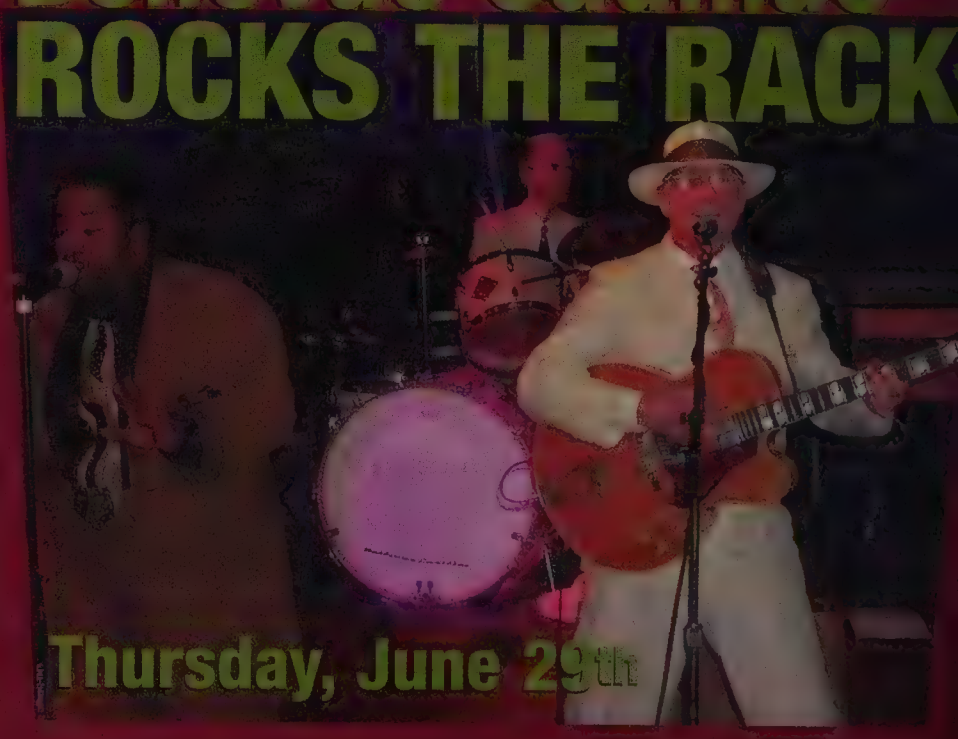
Monday, June 26th - Red Sox shortstop, Nomar Garciaparra, is having an after-hours bash and you are invited! Party with Nomar and other surprise celebrities and support the Nomar 5 Fund, a charity organized to benefit inner-city kids and BHA Youth Centers 10pm- 2am

Thursday, June 29th - Bellevue Cadillac and Mix 98.5's Gregg Daniels at 6pm. DJ Deja 10pm-2am

Thursday-Monday, July 10th-13th - Come sail away with Lynn Hoffman and Mix 98.5 as we celebrate Sail Boston 2000. Win tickets for Tall Ship cruises and other great prizes. Live bands all week, and dancing from 10pm-2am

Wednesday, July 19th - Beach Party with the BaHa Brothers! Join us with The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 93.7 crew and Margaritaville Tequila 5pm-2am

Bellevue Cadillac ROCKS THE RACK



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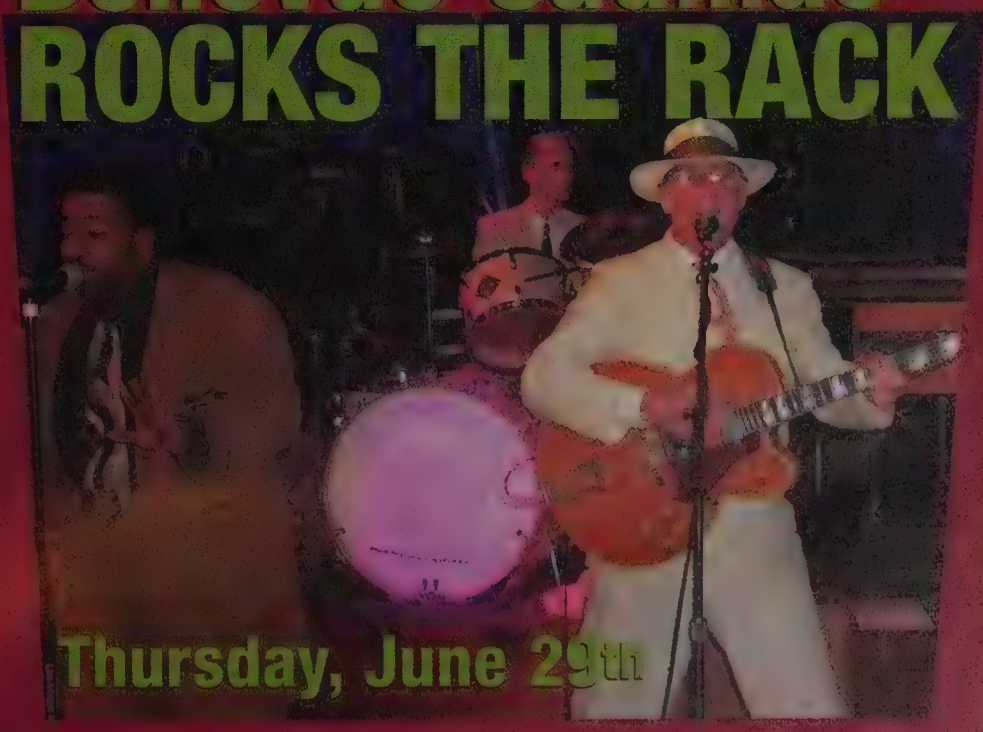

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Central Square celebrates diversity at the annual World's Fair.

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BY JONATHAN SOROFF

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On the Cover:
Photograph for THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN by **Berta A. Daniels**

From left: Tariq Bashir, Neilla Rhone-Lee and Kevin Woods

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE

TOP TO BOTTOM: WENDY MIMRAN, STEVEN BILLUPS, LAWRENCE E. MILLER

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letters

"...GETTING TO THE PAVILION IS NOT AS DIFFICULT AS YOU SUGGEST. YOU DON'T HAVE TO EAT AT ANTHONY'S PIER 4 OR RENT A LIMO IN ORDER TO SEE A CONCERT."—*Loretta C. Hawkes*

DISS-TRIBUTION

I enjoy your magazine quite a bit. However, I resent having to drive to Newton, which I am pretty sure is not in Boston, to find a copy. I own a business in West Roxbury and would like to find the IMPROPER closer to home.

What's the matter? Aren't we cool enough over here for you ? Please rethink your distribution policy. Thank you.

ILENE SEGAL
West Roxbury

SPEAKING OF THE T

First off, I would like to say how much I've enjoyed reading the IMPROPER for over five years now. Each year you get better and better and if I ever move out of Boston, I think I'll get a subscription to keep me in touch with the best city in the world.

I'm writing in reply to your recent Improper Speaking, where you commented on the inconvenience of getting to and parking at the FleetBoston Pavilion. I just wanted to let your readers know that getting to the Pavilion is not as difficult as you suggest. You don't have to eat at Anthony's Pier 4 or rent a limo in order to see a concert.

I went to my first Pavilion concert on Sunday, June 11 (the Indigo Girls). I walked off the T at South Station and straight onto a shuttle bus to the Pavilion. Mind you—the shuttle bus could be more prominently marked, but so could most of South Station. After the show, in the rain, I was able to get on the first bus to leave (and no, I didn't leave during the encore). I guess more people drove than took the T. But, needless to say, I was impressed with the new Pavilion location, and I found it to be a great Boston outdoor venue (even in the rain)! I plan on seeing a couple more shows there because I enjoyed the venue so much. So, take the T to the Pavilion—they will have shuttle buses there to get you to the show on time. Why would you ever want to drive into the Big Dig mess anyway? Thanks for being Boston's connection to all things Improper!

LORETTA C. HAWKES
Chestnut Hill

EZRA, NUTS

I'm writing to you because I'm very interested in obtaining your Nuts the Squirrel Beanie Baby. OK, I'm just kidding—I actually just wanted to tell you that I think your column is great. It's one of the few columns that makes me laugh out loud on a regular basis, and I truly look forward to reading it. Keep it up. By the way, any chance you're single?

KASEY
Via email

Correction

In reporting on the ART Spring Fundraiser (June 14 issue), Jonathan Soroff in Last Scene Here misidentified Ron Astin for his brother, Ed, who lives in Miami. He regrets the error.

Tell Us What You Think

SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR TO:
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Letters to the editor must be signed; please include your town and phone number. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

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≪ELLEN O'BRIEN

Ellen O'Brien is a new Senior Editor at THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN. She joins the magazine after a decade of daily newspaper reporting. A graduate of the Universtiy of Massachusetts at Amherst, she began her media career at *The Boston Globe* as a cooperative education student. In 1991, she headed West and spent three years in Texas as a *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* beat reporter. Raised in Malden, Mass., she returned to Boston, and *The Globe*, in 1994. A Names and Faces columnist for a year, she spent the next five years as a Metro/Region staff reporter.

"I'm excited about the opportunity to cover Boston in a new format, from a new perspective. The IB staff is so motivated—and happy, too. This is going to be fun."

STEVEN BILLUPS

Steven Billups studied art with a concentration in photography at San Jose State University. Two years ago he headed to Boston, where he's been working as a photographer—primarily on editorial projects. He prefers shooting people rather than products (see his shot of Lilli's club owners on page 30). "I enjoy interacting with people," he says, "preferably 'real' people rather than models." For the Lilli's shoot, loud construction at the site prohibited him from talking with his subjects; but luckily for him, the Lilli's trio was pretty at ease in front of the camera, cracking jokes nonstop.

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IMPROPERSPEAKING

BY RICHARD MANNING

A SPECIAL DISPENSATION?

Boston glitterati dining at the oh-so upscale **Sonsie** on Newbury Street on Father's Day might have been surprised to see there was only one diner dressed in a long-sleeved T-shirt, hiking boots and a Sox baseball cap. A major major *faux pas*, clearly, for anyone but George Clooney. He was in the area doing promo work for what's sure to be this summer's box office blockbuster ***"The Perfect Storm."***

George Clooney and fellow Boston buddy, Mark Wahlberg, on *The Perfect Storm* set.

A special dress code dispensation? As another George—Orwell—once wrote: "All animals are created equal, but some are more equal than others."

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Keep an eye on things at the ***Boston Globe*** in the days and weeks ahead as a suit filed earlier this month by a group of Globe freelancers makes its way through the courts. A lawyer representing the freelancers filed suit against the paper in Massachusetts Superior Court, complaining that the newspaper has no right to demand that freelancers, or part- time writers and photographers who are paid by the piece, sign a licensing agreement giving the newspaper the right to use the writers' and photographers' work on the paper's web site without paying contributors for the use of the work in cyberspace.

Who owns the rights to freelance pieces?

On the face of it, this case raises huge national issues regarding intellectual property—just who "owns" a piece of work once it is published—the publisher or the person producing the property. Of further interest is the fact that the *Globe* designed the licensing agreement to be not only forward looking in nature but retroactive as well. That means the newspaper would be able to post a 5-year-old photograph on its web site and not have to pay the person who took the photo a single plugged nickel. Normally newspapers pay photographers for works they print (granted, often on a sliding downward scale for each use).

The freelancers have until this coming Saturday to sign the agreement, or they will no longer be able to have their works published in any form by the *Globe*—in newsprint or in cyberspace. Does this sound fair? Not to this writer.

STICKING POINT

Meanwhile, across town at the ***Boston Herald***, things are equally unsettled, if for slightly more prosaic reasons.

Talks over a new contract with employees are at a deadlock, and newsroom staffers are getting increasingly antsy. One bone of contention, as it usually is in these cases, is a pay increase. But the chief sticking point is health-care coverage. At present the newspaper pays only 8 percent of the average reporter's health insurance, while the reporters pay the tab on the remaining 92 percent.

"This is totally ridiculous," a *Herald* staffer told THE IMPROPER. "First they pay us shit, and then they expect us to pay 92 percent of our health insurance from the shit wages. It's outrageous."

Herald reporters want more money.

INTERACTIVE POLITICS

Some interesting doings at **Viewpoint Strategies**, the Newton-based political consulting firm that does a lot of work in what are called "down-ballot" election races—state reps and state senators who can't afford to pay their own full-time political consultants so they use the services of this consulting consortium. Viewpoint is also the general consultant for the group that wants to ban Greyhound racing in Massachusetts.

The owner and senior political director of Viewpoint Strategies are, respectively, **Doug Rubin** and **Karen Sharma**. (Doug's the son of **Ted Rubin**, owner of Ruby Wines, one of the state's largest liquor wholesalers/distributors.)

Next week Rubin and Sharma will team up with internet strategist **David Geisinger** to form **DemocracyToday.com**, a nifty new Web site that links voters to their elected officials. Appropriately enough, the site launches July fourth.

Says Geisinger: "The response—from investors, potential clients and most importantly from voters, has been nothing short of spectacular. For decades, fewer and fewer have gone to the polls. Now, through the use of the Internet, we're giving ordinary people a chance to participate in democracy again, and that's a great feeling."

UP IN ARMS

Also on the Grossman front, veteran Democratic fund-raiser **Colleen McGee** of Medford, daughter of former House Speaker **Thomas McGee** of Lynn and brother of State Rep. **Thomas McGee Jr.** of Lynn, has joined the Grossman Committee as finance director.

McGee was most recently finance director for the Massachusetts Democratic Party. Birmingham is said to be privately gonzo over this latest development. McGee's the main reason the state party has any money whatsoever to begin with, and now she's going to raise dough for the opposition.

Viewpoint Strategies' political director Karen Sharma and owner Doug Rubin want to link voters with officials.

ECLECTICISM ON DISPLAY

Those interested in celebrating July Fourth with a little eclecticism might want to take in *Second Show*, a presentation of Brookline-based painter **Willoughby Walling**'s figure paintings and abstract works at the **Harbor Art Gallery** through July 15.

You want eclectic? Walling, 57, is certainly that. A self-taught artist who began painting 10 years ago, Walling has been a fund-raiser, a high-level government official and an administrator of schools for high school dropouts. He has three graduate degrees: a Harvard MBA, a CAS from Harvard Graduate School of Education, and an MDiv from Union Theological Seminary. And the guy can paint.

His figure paintings reflect his diverse background, and his abstract pieces seem to give the message that life does have a structure or relatedness, even if it's only vaguely discernible.

Now that's painting what you know. *The Harbor Art Gallery is located at 100 Morrissey Blvd., Boston (287-7988).* IB

Willoughby Walling: a true Renaissance man

Speaking of Boston

Got an inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to speaking@improper.com

SPIN CONTROL

The whining has begun: Grossman aides say their candidate's been done wrong.

And still again, meanwhile—the people at the **Steve Grossman**-for-Governor campaign are mildly peeved at the coverage the ***Boston Phoenix*** afforded Senate President **Tom Birmingham**'s performance at last month's Democratic State Convention in Lowell.

"Steve Grossman was the story of that convention," one aide told THE IMPROPER in something of a rage. "As the only potential candidate there, he had the best organization on the floor. He had buttons, T-shirts, a booth on the concourse. He shook most of the hands in the room...Yet Birmingham spins his way out of this by saying he got to spend more quality time with people than Grossman—or **Warren Tolman**. That's complete and utter bullshit. Steve took the time to speak with every person he met. People had to drag him away from groups because he was behind schedule from listening to every person he met," the aide continued.

"And who the hell wants exclusivity at a convention? [It's] all about rah-rah and masses of people meeting their elected officials. What good is a convention if you can't meet the candidates?

"The 2002 election is going to be won by retail politics: who meets and convinces the most voters and who has the best organization. That's how it gets won. It's not about spending millions on advertising and not reaching out to your constituents."

Whew. Maybe next time he'll tell us how he really feels.

STORM: CLAUDETTE BARRIUS; HERALD, SHARMA AND RUBIN, WALLING: RICHARD TAZZARA; GROSSMAN: AP/WORLDWIDE

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CITY LIMITS

Good stuff, glamour and goings-on

BY ERIN HAGEDORN & JULIE SHORT

Around Town

CALVALCADE OF COD

When 100 five-foot fiberglass codfish appear on sidewalks or hanging from trees next week, don't be alarmed. It's all part of a grand plan organized by Mass. College of Art director of exhibitions Jeff Keough and ICA director Jill Medvedow.

Calvalcade of Cod, a whimsical public art exhibit that's part of business leader David Mugar's Boston 2000 (B2K) Celebration, will feature cod that were designed by celebrities (including Mayor Menino and Keith Lockhart), local artists and everyday people. The designs run the gamut, says Keough—"from puns like 'Corn-on-the-Cod' and 'Caped Cod' to works of art." Our favorites: William Wegman (of Weimaraner fame) offers up a fur-covered cod that barks, and motivational speaker Loretta Larouche's cod chastises onlookers to stop listening to fish and get on with their lives. Inspired by Chicago's successful "Cows on Parade" show last summer, *Calvalcade of Cod* will be around all summer until the fish are sold at auction in early fall. "We tried to think of something representative of Boston," Keough says. "We tossed around the idea of ducks, swans and lobsters. Then my wife suggested cod, and I nearly fell over. Of course—cod."

Artist Fred Liang paints a cod in his South Boston studio.

New in Town

SCREEN MONSTER

Boston film fans who are fed up with the dearth of state-of-the-art movie theaters no longer have to haul out to Framingham for 13-screen movie-viewing. The old Sears Building in the Fenway is now home to a 13-screen General Cinema megaplex that boasts a game room and two 500-seat THX-certified theaters (one is lovingly dubbed the "screen monster," with a nod to its Fenway Park neighbor).

It serves Uno's pizza and fresh-brewed cappuccino, and pampered patrons will also appreciate the top-notch amenities—digital surround sound, high-backed stadium seating and spacious legroom. Probably the best part about the complex is the parking deal—validated, it's a mere $2 for three hours. Artsy film fans fear not—Brian Callaghan, director of communications for General Cinema, promises that the theater won't focus solely on Hollywood blockbusters—indie and foreign films will also be on the bill.

The public got its first taste of the theater experience June 21 at "Dollar Day"—all titles were $1—and at the grand opening June 23. In the near future, look for a *Perfect Storm* bash (with rumored guest appearances by a hunky leading man or two) and the return of Talk Cinema, the cinema/lecture group currently taking place in Chestnut Hill. *The Fenway 13, Landmark Center, Brookline Ave., Boston. MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.*

The Dissed List

BAD GIRRLS GO

She's not a bad girl per se—just someone who wants to keep her community performance space open for the public to enjoy. Jessica Brand (pictured below), who has run **Bad Girrls Studio** in Jamaica Plain for the past five years, met with her landlords, Stavros Frantzis and Mordechai Levin, on March 1 for what she thought was a routine lease renewal—instead, she was told that her rent would be hiked up by just over 35 percent. Plus, they wouldn't permit any more live performances.

Brand's studio has earned citywide acclaim for its range of offerings, notably its mentoring program for local girls, and its commitment to up-and-coming artists and live shows. Despite earning letters of endorsement from the Boston Entertainment Licensing Committee, the police department and numerous members of the community, the landlords have won: The studios will close July 1. We refer to the words of one supporter who wrote in on behalf of the studio, "Bad Girrls studio represents the old spirit of J.P., the alternative and experimental, which is being lost to higher rents and the homogenizing of residents." Amen.

Have you been dissed? Treated with over-the-top (and unprompted) rudeness by a public figure? You don't have to be unduly evicted—minor disses are just as good. Email us, and we'll share your story: howrude@improper.com.

All the Buzz

$8,000 POTTY

In our search for the scoop on the much-publicized bathroom for the MBTA's transsexual employee and his/her customized lavatory, we came across something that might be helpful for people whose employers won't fork over $8,000 for their own privvy: The Safe Bathroom for Transsexuals and Transgender People List. It's a list of single stalls around the city that offer users more privacy—places where you can go about your business in peace. "The hardest thing to do is to go from male to female," explains Holly Ryan (below), board member of the Tiffany Club, Boston's transgender support organization. Tiffany Club members simply don't want strangers stunned, and staring. *Call the Tiffany Club at 781-891-9325 or visit* www.tcne.org *for places you can go alone.*

This Just In

NO SMALL MATTER

If you thought buying tiny sweaters and pint-sized khakis at Gap Kids was a little on the extravagant side, hold on to your wallet. **Gucci** has come out with a line of clothing exclusively for babies—featuring such necessities as teensy suede booties with the trademark Gucci horse-bit buckle ($90-$165), black leather motorcycle jackets ($1,495) with matching zip-through trousers, and white mink coats ($4,250). For those who want baby to travel in style, there's a even a luggage collection ($225-$960) that includes a baby carrier, a travel backpack with a thermal bottle lining and a fastening for nappies. The collection hits the Copley Place Gucci store in July. Remember: There's no accessory like a well-dressed child. *49 Copley Place, Boston (247-3000).*

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: JOEL VEAK, WENDY MIMRAN, COURTESY OF GUCCI (2), IRINA ROZOVSKY, WENDY MIMRAN

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Proper Bostonians

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

The 19th annual **Presidents at Pops 2000**, with conductor Keith Lockhart and Pops laureate conductor John Williams, shared the stage with the Boston Pops Orchestra on June 7 at Symphony Hall. CEOs, executives and presidents from more than 140 New England-based companies gathered for cocktails and a gourmet picnic supper, followed by a lively concert, at the Pops' annual corporate fund-raiser. Williams conducted music from the film *Angela's Ashes*, for which he received an Academy Award nomination. Guests also enjoyed a preview of the Pops' upcoming Latin album, which will be released this fall. This year's sold-out gala raised more than $900,000 for BSO programs.

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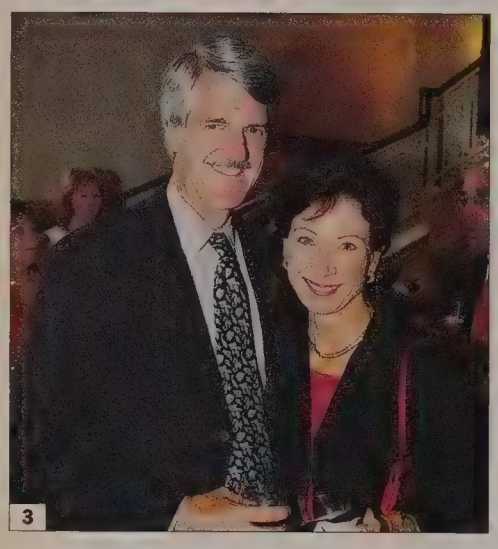
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1. **Mark Bianco**, group copy manager for the Fidelity Agency, and his wife, **Susanne**, a senior account executive for Hill Holliday.
2. Boston attorney **John Mee** (l) and **Jack Curtin**, former president of the American Bar Association.
3. **Larry Dorman**, senior vice president of Liberty Mutual Insurance Co., and his wife, **Jan**, member of the MFA Ladies Committee.
4. From left, **Steve Smith**, vice president of marketing for Stop 'n Shop in Quincy, and his wife, **Brenda Baden Smith**, a freelance writer, with **Sara Warwick**, group account director for Arnold Brand Promotion, and her husband, **Kyle**, principal at Spaudling & Slye Colliers International.

5

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5. From left, **Tom Hynes**, president of Meredith & Grew Inc., and his wife, **Nicole**, with **Linda** and **Peter Manning**, chairman of the event and vice chairman of FleetBoston.
6. **Mimi LaCamera**, director of marketing for the Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau, and her husband, **Paul**, general manager and president of Channel 5.
7. **Mark Volpe** (l), managing director for the Boston BSO and the Boston Pops, and **Patrick Purcell**, publisher of the *Boston Herald*.

The fourth annual **Rose Garden Party** was held June 15 at the Kelleher Rose Garden in the Back Bay Fens. Some 250 Boston socialites gathered to help kick off FleetBank's ParkArts Program, which sponsors visual, performing and participatory art performances and more than 45 art workshops throughout downtown Boston and in neighborhood parks. The party was hosted by Mayor Menino and his wife, Angela, who is chairman of the Rose Garden Committee, and Justine Liff, commissioner of the Parks and Recreation Department.

8

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8. **Otile McManus** (l), director of special projects for the Corcoran Jennison Co., and **Sydney Elsass**, co-director of marketing and public relations for Winston Flowers.
9. From left, **Nancy Crasco**, a teacher at the Ottoson Middle School in Arlington, her husband, **Kenneth**, chief landscape architect for the Boston Parks and Recreation, and **Nancy Kafka**, project manager for the Trust for Public Land.
10. **Courtney McNeill** (l), public relations manager at the Four Seasons Hotel, and **Carolyn Rodeno**, director of Ford Model Management.
11. **Joyce Kulhawick** (l), arts and entertainment reporter for Channel 4 and **Karen Marienella**, television anchor for Channel 56.
12. **Daniel Salera**, director of community relations and sponsorship for FleetBank, and **Kim Martucci**, weekend meteorologist for Channel 25, Fox New England.

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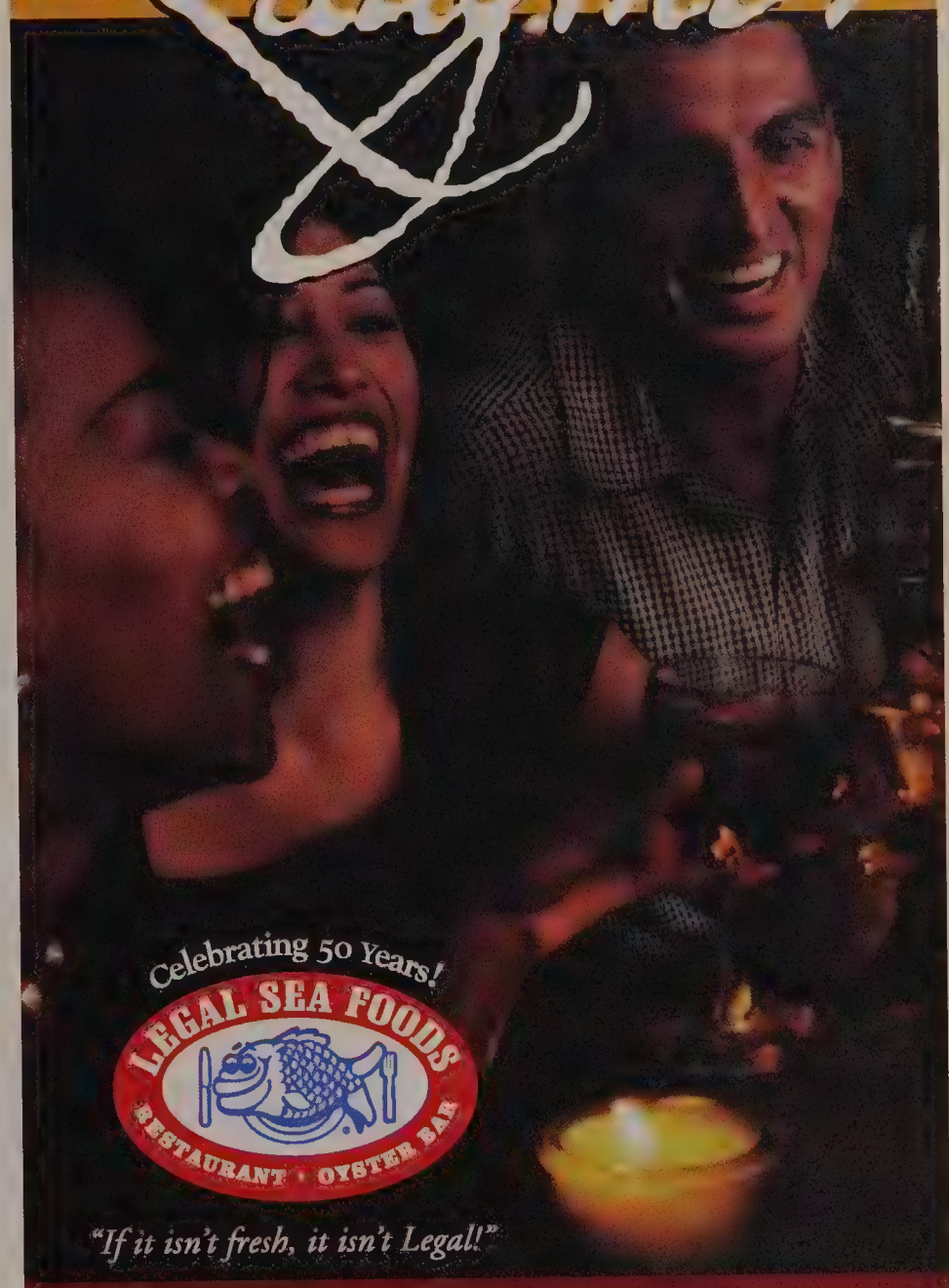

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Sex, Lies and High-Tech Marketing

High-tech companies sink big bucks into far-fetched marketing schemes.

OK, I confess. I used to work in marketing. I was one of those guys who has to figure out how to get high-tech products into the hot little hands of all the Dilberts in the world of business. Now, I'm not going to pretend that high-tech marketing is exactly the most exciting job in the world, although it does have its little perks. One time I got sent to Munich and Paris to do "market research" that consisted of 18 hours (over two weeks) of focus groups. I spent the rest of the time bopping around Europe with two rather fetching "research associates."

As my own experience illustrates, there's so much money in the computer industry that a lot of it gets wasted. Over the years, I've had the opportunity to see big bucks dropped into some bonehead campaigns—the kind of initiatives so terminally weird that they make you wonder about the sanity of the marketeers who thought them up, not to mention the CEOs who signed the checks.

I'VE...[SEEN] BIG BUCKS DROPPED INTO SOME BONEHEAD CAMPAIGNS—THE KIND OF INITIATIVES SO TERMINALLY WEIRD THAT THEY MAKE YOU WONDER ABOUT THE SANITY OF THE MARKETEERS WHO THOUGHT THEM UP.

For example, when Waltham-based Honeywell Information Systems merged with France's Groupe Bull, the executives decided that they needed a corporate name. Focus groups were launched and some inspiring names proposed, only to be countermanded by top management in Paris, who were convinced that the best thing to do would be to build on Groupe Bull's existing brand-name equity. The final decision was to name the new company "Bull Worldwide Information Systems." I remember having a drink with a salesman for the new company after the decision had been announced. "Oh, that's just lovely," he said, after taking a long pull at his beer, "Now I have two choices. I can go to a customer and ask, 'Do you want to buy some bull?' or I can simply say, 'Hello, I'm the man from bull whiz.'"

Bull WIS isn't the only company that's wasted a lot of money trying to change its image. Consider Xerox's decades-long campaign to position itself as "The Document Company." Now, you and I and everyone else knows what a Xerox machine is, what a Xerox copy is and what it means to Xerox something. There's not a snowball's chance on Satan's barbecue that anybody is ever going to think of anything other than copy machines when they hear the word "Xerox." Those multimillions spent on advertising to reposition Xerox as "The Document Company" might as well have been thrown into the paper shredder to make little green confetti for the company picnic for all the effect that they've had.

These days, it's the dot-coms that are overspending oodles of money, mostly on advertising. Some of these ads are so obscure that I have no idea what the Web site is all about. Others feature celebrities, many of whom have been throwing themselves at Internet start-ups, hoping to secure an equity position. So far, these endorsements have featured "personalities" such as Whoopi Goldberg and Spike Lee, but I suppose it's only a matter of time before some marketing dweeb gets the bright idea to hire a sexpot like Angelina Jolie or Denise Richards to hawk some ridiculously obscure online widget.

Along the same lines, spokesmodels are making a big comeback in high-tech marketing, especially for computer gaming companies, who hire the women to "entertain" journalists. (As a computer journalist, I'm outraged by this practice—not because it leads to biased reporting, but because I never get asked to review computer games.) Cheesecake marketing, of course, is nothing new. Korean computer vendor Samsung has had trade events with fashion models carrying notebooks, and Taiwanese conglomerate UMAX has featured the San Francisco cheerleaders at a number of trade shows. However, while such events might attract the Dilbert types into a booth at the show, one wonders about the viability of a marketing campaign where the sexiest thing is silicone rather than silicon.

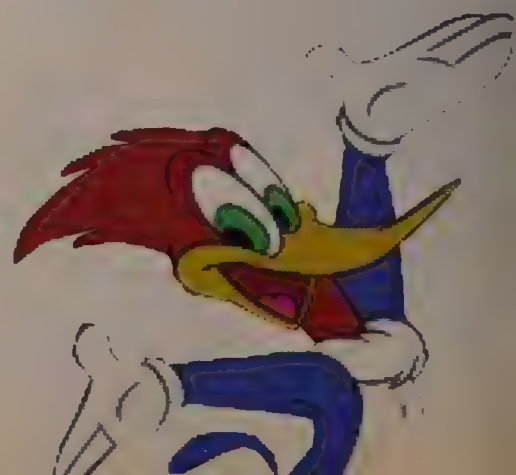
However, the prize for the biggest computer marketing boner probably should go to Matsushita's Japanese PC division. When they wanted to release a new home PC for the Japanese domestic market, they decided that they needed a mascot, someone who was funny, bright, cute—just like their new PC. They decided to use one of the most popular cartoon characters in Japan, one who, like Jerry Lewis in France, is more respected abroad than in his native land. I'm speaking, of course, of none other than Woody Woodpecker.

Spike Lee (below left) and Whoopi Goldberg (above) have offered themselves up as celeb endorsers for dot-coms. Below: Japan's favorite woodpecker was the inspiration behind the name of Matsushita's new home PC.

Matsushita launched its new home PC, which was named—you guessed it—the "Woody." As it happens, the Woody had several advanced features, including a touch-screen capability. To tie into the main theme of the product, they named this feature the "Touch Woody." The company invited the international press to the product announcement. A day before the event, an American employee let on to the marketing executives why the journalists kept smiling whenever an executive started talking about the new product.

It was too late to change the Woody name, but Matsushita execs were able to change "Touch Woody" into the "Woody Touch Screen" in all marketing materials. To distract the press from that gaffe, company officials decided to emphasize another neat feature of the Woody—an online, automated support capability available through the company's Web site. Unfortunately, this capability just happened to be called—I kid you not—the "Internet Pecker." iB

Geoffrey James (*www.geoffreyjames.com*) is the author of numerous books as well as the co-host of Funny Business, heard Saturdays 10 to midnight on WRKO, AM 680.



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Soroff/On

Donnie Yen

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Born in the Chinese province of Canton, action-movie director and star Donnie Yen lived in Hong Kong until he was 11 and then moved to Boston, where his mother, the world-famous Wushu and tai chi master Bow Sim-Mark, runs the Chinese Wushu Research Institute. His father, Klysler Yen, is the Boston editor of the international Chinese newspaper *Sing Tao*. After studying classical piano and martial arts, Donnie was sent to Beijing, where he spent two years training with the Beijing Wushu Team, becoming the first non-People's Republic citizen accepted into the school. En route back to the United States, he stopped in Hong Kong and met film director Yuen Wo-Ping, who had launched Jackie Chan's career and gave Yen his first role.

Since his debut at 19, he has starred in numerous films opposite stars like Jet Li and Michelle Yeoh, has been nominated for a Hong Kong Film Award, and has branched out into directing both film and television. Last year, he began directing the German TV series *Codename: Puma*, appeared in the Miramax film *Highlander: Endgame* and signed a three-picture deal with Dimension Films. He is now based in New York and L.A.

Jonathan Soroff: *First of all, what's a nice boy from Boston doing making martial arts movies?*

Donnie Yen: I wouldn't consider myself a nice boy; I'd consider myself a nice man. But it's fate.

JS: *Who'd win in a no-holds-barred brawl—Bruce Lee or Jackie Chan?*

DY: No doubt, Bruce Lee.

JS: *How about Jet Li or John Woo?*

DY: Depends on who gets drunk first.

JS: *Are you fast enough to catch a fly in your hand?*

DY: If it's big enough, yes.

JS: *Are any parts of your body insured?*

DY: Mentally, every part of my body is insured.

JS: *List the parts of your body you've broken making movies.*

DY: My wallet.

JS: *How about bones?*

DY: Shoulder, fractured fingers, y'know, burns, the usual.

JS: *As a kid, did you get into a lot of fights?*

DY: No. I'm a peaceful man. Honestly, martial artists don't like violence. Martial arts teach you discipline, and what is violence? It's created by a lot of adrenaline and nowhere to dispel the energies. In other words, a lack of discipline. True martial artists, really dedicated, spend all day training. When they get home, they're too damn tired for violence.

JS: *Best Chinese restaurant in Boston?*

DY: Probably my mother's house.

JS: *If a mugger asked you for your wallet, what would you do?*

DY: I'd give it to him, because usually it's empty.

JS: *Most dangerous stunt you've ever done?*

DY: Hmmm. I don't know. I'm pretty safe. As a director, and as an actor, I plan everything very carefully. I don't think of it as dangerous. After all, it's just filmmaking. My intention is to convince the audience that the guy falling out the window is in danger—you can hear the body slamming, boom!—but the process is pretty safe. A little pain here and there, but nothing serious.

JS: *What's the most amazing physical feat you can perform?*

DY: I dunno. Everybody thinks I'm one of the fastest guys on the planet. When I did *Highlander,* people thought I was so fast the camera had to slow down. I've had a lot of situations where the stuntman or the camera couldn't catch up with me because I was moving too fast.

JS: *Stupidest thing you've ever seen in a martial arts movie?*

DY: There are too many to list.

JS: *Strangest thing you ever used as a weapon in a movie?*

DY: Umm, in Hong Kong films, we use anything—chopsticks, toothpicks. Anything that can do damage.

JS: *What's the difference between being a star in Hong Kong and being a star here in the States?*

DY: I don't know, because I'm not a star in the States. Yet.

JS: *Michelle Yeoh—the most perfect woman in the world, or what?*

DY: She's the perfect friend for me, but what is the ideal, perfect woman? I'm not too sure. It depends how you look at it. You flip through these sex magazines, you'll see a lot of perfect women. What kind of standards?

JS: *OK, Michelle Yeoh or Maggie Chung: Who kicks more butt?*

DY: Oh, of course, Chung. She'd definitely kick her ass.

JS: *Any opinion on Tae-Bo?*

DY: Great exercise. As a martial artist, I like to see martial arts used for more than the conventional purpose, which is self-defense and health and fitness. But Tae-Bo took it to another level. It's become an aerobic workout for the masses, which is great. It's another way of promoting martial arts.

JS: *What would you say to people who object to the violence in Hong Kong action films?*

DY: To be honest, some people can't distinguish between film and reality. To me, film is film. Either you're entertained, or you're not. But you have to recognize it as a movie. If hard-core violence, which, in a way, is just hard-core excitement, can stimulate the mass audience, by all means.

JS: *Hardest part of directing?*

DY: It's not hard for me. It's fun. Producing is the hardest. Even directing and starring at the same time isn't as hard. With producing, you're holding money at the same time as trying to be creative, trying to be a businessman and an artist. That's hard.

JS: *Most overrated action hero in movies?*

DY: There's too many.

JS: *Ever karate chop boards or bricks just as a party trick or to impress someone at a bar?*

DY: Never. I don't want to break my hand.

JS: *Easiest way to kill somebody?*

DY: Depends on the situation, but again, peace. And courage. I'd rather encourage someone to control the situation rather than kill. Killing is too primitive.

JS: *Mike Tyson. Could you kick his ass?*

DY: Probably not.

JS: *So would he wipe up the floor with you?*

DY: I like him. I was one of his fans, until he bit someone's ear off.

JS: *So who is the toughest person you know?*

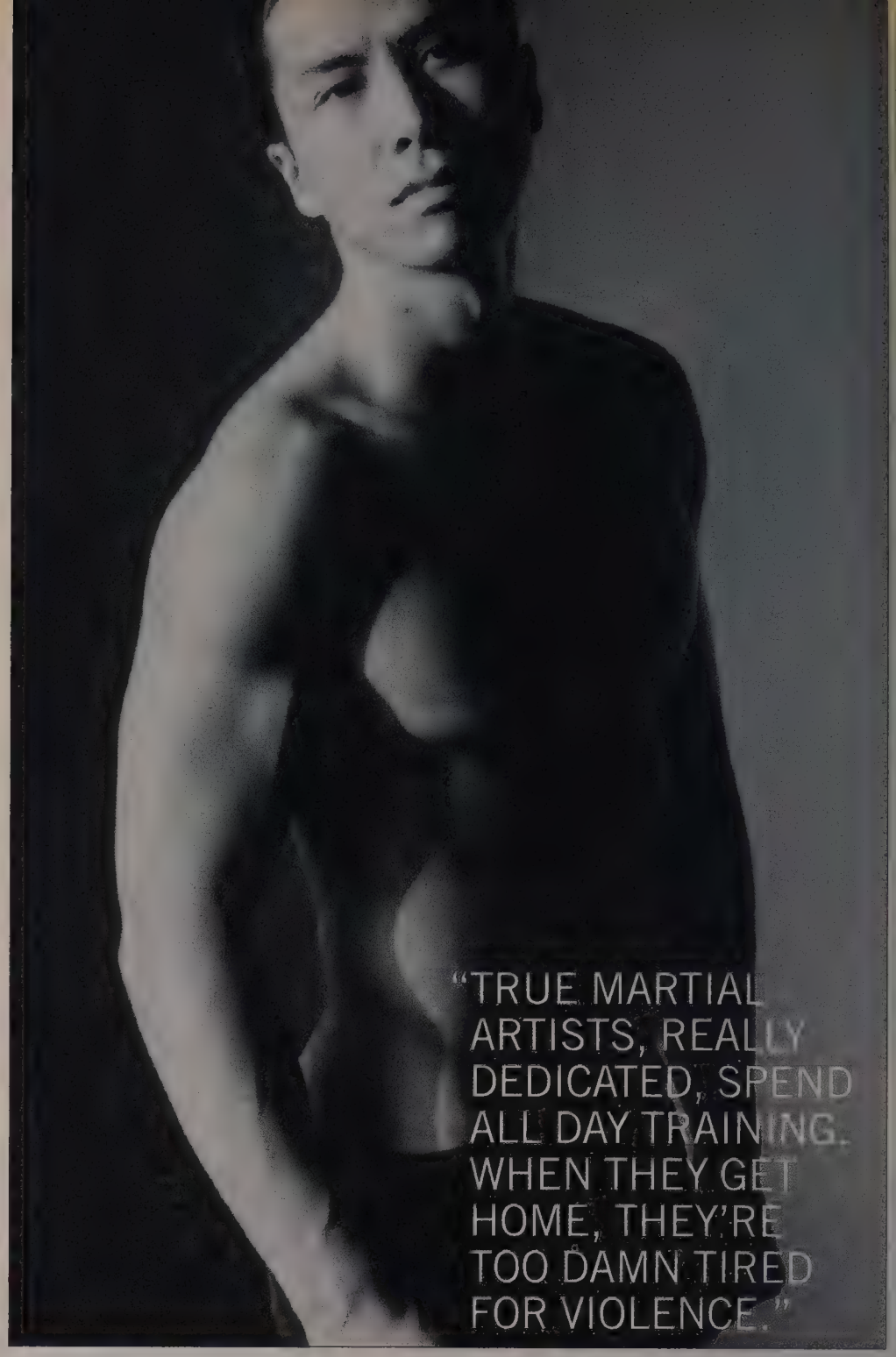
DY: No one. I think humans are pretty vulnerable. You can be the baddest ass-kicker, the best martial artist, but there's always someone better than you. And someone better than him. So everything under the sun is relative, and the toughest man, to me, is the one with discipline, control and self-esteem. I think a monk is pretty strong. It's tough to live with purity and simplicity.

JS: *Is there anyone you wouldn't want to run into in a dark alley?*

DY: Probably not. I have great peace of mind, and I can't imagine hating anybody or having anybody hate me.

JS: *But I'll bet your mom could still whip your butt.*

DY: Of course she could. She's my mom. Even if she couldn't, I'd let her. IB



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CENTRAL SQUARE

The 10th annual Central Square World's Fair drew a record crowd—and some controversy over corporate sponsors lending their names.

WENDY MIMRAN

disenchanted village

Central Square goes high-end. And the neighbors wonder how much it will wind up costing.

BY ELLEN O'BRIEN

On the surface, this summer's 10th annual Central Square World's Fair seemed to represent the same things that it has for a decade: unity and diversity.

Everything was delivered as promised: The mighty voices of the Silver Lining Gospel Singers; Little Joe Cook's dizzying act; and John Lincoln Wright's crooning; the scent of curry; the steady thunder of drums; steamy salsa dancers and the children's face-painting artists.

An estimated 100,000 people crowded Massachusetts Avenue on a Sunday afternoon, and the event received the expected headlines and feel-good reports about this haven for hipsters and families alike, an international community that is thriving in this slice of the People's Republic.

But the Central Square 2000 Sunday celebration was anything but typical to those who best know this square. Instead, many longtime residents say, it was a disapointment, one that left them with an uneasy feeling that all was not right with the World's Fair, or Central Square.

The long-established Central Square World's Fair slogan, "Unity. Diversity" was altered this June. Instead, the mottoshirts read: "Central Square: Unity. Diversity...Technology?"

This being Cambridge, there was, at least one public protester to the change. Bob Smith (Smitty), designer of People's Republic T-shirts, fashioned a new T-shirt for the event. It read: "World's Unfair," and was detailed with a dollar sign. The new slogan was a nod to companies like Media One and AT&T, along with Razorfish and Abuzz, two local dot-com companies that sponsored the event for the first time. From their busy stalls, company representatives solicited techies, would-be employees, from the crowd.

The founder of the fair, 56-year-old John Clifford, has courted high-tech sponsors in the past, but this year he landed big-name neighbors, like Lotus.

This year, Clifford says, he visited Lotus personally, and brought along two of his friends: former Cambridge Mayor and current City Councilor Ken Reeves, and Harvard University's renowned professor of Afro-American studies, Henry Louis Gates Jr. "They helped me explain about the event and how good it is to be associated with it," says Clifford.

He is the owner of the legendary Green Street Grill, a jumpin' joint showcasing live music and Johnny-the-chef's mean jumbalaya. He is also the man who restaurants, pub or shop owners pay—as much as perhaps $5,000—to help fund the fair. He is a godfather, of sorts, to Central Square.

The bottom line at the World's Fair this year was some fair volunteers and participants (who requested anonymity) thought Clifford was personally benefitting from sponsor dollars. Silently or otherwise, some boycotted the World's Fair. Clifford has heard the whispers on the street, and he denies profiting from the event.

"Three years ago, we named it a for-profit," Clifford offers. "We couldn't keep control of it otherwise. Although it hasn't generated enough money to make any money."

In clarifying, Clifford says that any profit from the fair would be returned to the Worlds's Fair fund. He has no idea, he says, how much that profit margin might be this year. Whatever it is, he says, it's nominal. Still, the undercurrent of controversy surrounding the fair this year is emblematic of the growing pressures on Central Square. In the last year, the people here have heard a lot about money making, and less about their tradition of supporting non-profits and small businesses owned by people who live in the square, or are invested in it in a way that does not show on paper.

It is all anyone talks about, it seems: the price paid for the home on the corner, the number of SUVs on narrow city streets, the Banana Republic bags replacing People's Republic T-shirts.

In February of this year, the city commissioned the Commercial Market Study. It is the start of an effort by officials to help determine which retail mix would best meet the demands placed on the new Central Square.

From top: The legendary Rev. Larry Love, the best known Central Square personality, can be seen daily at the 1369 coffee shop, and other Central Square locations; one of the more that 50 featured entertainers at the World's Fair this summer; Rob Williams, a recent Harvard Business School graduate who chose Central Square as headquarters for his new dot-com venture. Wacky characters, live music, and an international community make the square a draw for locals and newcomers.

The square is still too dirty, complained many interview subjects. Too many alcoholics huddle in doorways, in the shadows, making train commuters uncomfortable as they made their way home.

Inside the city's multiservice agency that serves the homeless, the number of clients has been increasing alongside the prices for apartments and condominiums, says Susan Marshall, associate executive director of the agency.

"There is a change in the number, and the type," Marshall says. "Now we are seeing two working parents who have worked and lived in Cambridge for a long time," she says.

In Central Square, the locals talk about Harvard Square in a fearful way, as if they believe Abercrombie & Fitch could inch its way along Mass. Ave., closer to these beloved few blocks. The anti-Harvard Square sentiment was repeated by respondents to the study. Central Square workers; business owners; people who earn more than $60,000 annually; Massachusetts Institute of Technology students; and Haitian Creoles were among those interviewed.

There were some widely differing views on which new restaurants and nightlife they would like in Central Square. (Forty-two percent of respondents were in favor of absolutely nothing new in the way of restaurants and nightclubs.)

"What they need is art," says Tom Tipton, who, owner of the small Out of the Blue gallery. (Plenty of those surveyed did say they would like places to go in the square aside from restaurants and bars.)

At 50, the wiry Tipton is a familiar face in Central Square, along with his snow-white Samoyed dog, Bear. His gallery features local artists and makes no money, it's no secret.

"People who show their art with us may never be recognized as important artists," Tipton says. "They may not ever sell a painting. But that doesn't make them any less valid as artists."

Not in Tipton's Central Square, at least. Tipton was recently inspired by Citizens Bank, which agreed to display gallery artwork on bank walls, and to host a reception

TOP TO BOTTOM: WENDY MIMRAN (2), BERTA A. DANIELS

SQUARE PEGS: Jessica Katz, 28 RAISED IN CENTRAL SQUARE; HER OFFICE AND HOME ARE THERE.

"When Starbucks moved into Central Square, people paraded outside my window carrying a coffin, bemoaning the "death" of Central Square. My first reaction was, this could only happen in Cambridge; I love this place. Having grown up here, there's a Cambridge Snob in me that refuses even to enter the much-demonized coffee joint. But no one has ever tied me up and poured a Frappuccino down my throat, even though for a while the entire neighborhood was up in arms, as if Starbucks had declared war.

Don't get me wrong: I love living in a place where people feel such pride and ownership of their neighborhood. I've always been happy that I grew up here, even when I heard that the City Council passed a resolution deeming Cambridge a "nuclear-free zone." I've had Canadian customs officials take one look at my passport and ask condescendingly, "People's Republic, eh?" I felt nothing but pride. Hey, I happen to be nuclear-free myself, and some of my best friends are whales; I just don't have room on my bumper to prove it.

Let's choose our battles wisely. If we focus all our time and energy (two things Cantabridgians seem to have in spades) on the symbols of our changing neighborhood like Starbucks, we'll end up with symbolic victories. The worst example of this is the "Peace Park," the public square directly across the street from Starbucks that pays rather bland homage to the Central Square community through its multicultural messages of love and togetherness written in the many languages of people who have since been priced out of Central Square's rental market altogether.

Having been born in a communist country, and having grown up in a family that fought tooth and nail to leave it, I have little patience for the bright-eyed faux-communism Cambridge is so famous for. I was brought up to fight for what I believe in and to rail against what I find unacceptable, but always to remain grateful that I have the luxury to do so safely. So let's not squander the fight for Central Square with misplaced energy.

Why is Central Square so important to those of us who live here? When Abercrombie & Fitch moved into Harvard Square, it was nothing more than a great excuse to demonize you-know-who U; most of us gave up saving Harvard Square somewhere in the neo-HMV era. Try walking from the Kendall Square T station to the Landmark Movie Theater: It used to be a wasteland, but now it's a wind tunnel. Our reaction? Oh well, it's just those dot-com pocket protectors at it again. Gigantic CVS swallows Porter Square? Great! Let's go buy a toothbrush! Central Square inspires a different kind of loyalty; it's just for us townies. It's what makes Cambridge more than a college town, more than a suburb of Boston.

I'd like to see this fierce possessiveness of Central Square amount to something more than a fear of change and a chance to dust off the ol' picket signs. Our neighborhood is a lot safer than it used to be, and I think we're all thankful. With that renaissance come forces that threaten to make its benefits inaccessible to those of us who call Central Square home. However, getting rid of Starbucks (or the Gap, or the Good Life) isn't going to prevent Central Square from becoming a place where only the $9 martini set can afford to live.

A blanket dismissal of corporate America or gentrification isn't bringing us any closer to preserving our community and our local establishments in Central Square. Instead, let's make sure to patronize the places that we'd like to see continue their long life in Central Square—and work to create new local spots that will add to the vibrancy of the neighborhood. Let's work toward ways to keep rents reasonable so that we can continue to live here, and preserve the Central Square we love. We've got such a unique neighborhood, which on our hands that won't stay that way for long if we lose focus and let Cambridge Drama (our best and worst) win out over more practical efforts. Then where will we move? Davis Square?

He is hopeful about Central Square's chances to retain the welcoming, laid-back place that made it so attractive to him.

"At some point, bigger, faster, better, shinier is going to level off, right?" Tipton asks hopefully. If you can judge a neighborhood by its bulletin boards, Central Square has not yet changed beyond recognition. The 1369 coffee shop bulletin board on any day will have a collection of offerings that are quintessentially Cambridge, and more importantly, Central Square. There is Medieval Feast, a healing class that combine meditation and clay, and workshop on how to most effectively oppose capitalism. In the women's room, one of the amusingly disaffected coffee-counter workers is reading the bathroom wall, where a dissatisfied customer has accused the staff of having "unjustified God complexes." Four—no five, now that the Good Life is open, clubs will feature live music this night, and there is news that the Middle East is growing again, acquiring the restaurant space next door.

"I still think it's the most diverse place around," says Ernesto Gianola, a 26-year-old musician and performer of Mexican music at the Middle East.

"It's just really cool to hang out here, you know?'

New Central Kitchen restaurant owner and chef, Gary Strack, says he has faith that Central Square residents will support mostly independent owners, like himself.

"Everyone talks about it becoming Harvard Square," says Strack. whose wine savvy fit crowds crams his restaurant most nights.

"But I see Central Square looking more like New Orleans, because of the proximity of low- and high-income housing around it. Strack is talking about the housing projects around the corner from his restaurant, and the $995,000 Magazine Street condominium that is priced just right, realtors say, because of its nine rooms and superior detail. Strack lives in Arlington but is a Cantabridgian at heart (he volunteers to fix used bicycles for city kids without wheels). He has faith, he says, that the neighborhood mix will keep, and he wants to keep it that way, even if he has to spend half the night sometimes tossing dealers out of the restaurant bathroom.

"Look what survives around here," says Strack. "It's small, independent stores. That's what people will support."

Maybe.

The MIT students want a Pier 1, according to the Gibbs Planning Group Inc.report. Central Square workers want a Gap, and maybe a Legal Sea Foods, and a list of other stores that are in nearby Kendall and Harvard squares. The Central Square employees say they don't need another grocery store, with a Bread & Circus and the Harvest Co-op nearby. But those making more than $60,000 would like a Market Basket in the square, closer than the Star Market in University Park.

A good number of people who live and work here told interviewers they wanted a shopping experience that felt distinctly American—a Target or a T.J. Maxx.

The Central Square makeover was shepherded by former Mayor and current City Councilor Ken Reeves. True to their reputation for keeping their civic duty, local residents argued and pondered every detail of the new sidewalk benches. The issue of whether they should be configured so as to prevent people from reclining on them was among the most contentious topics related to the public benches.

A backroom player who supported the square's most controversial development, Green Street's John Clifford says he could have helped protesters secure more than 11 units of affordable housing. But they alienated people from the start, he says.

"Some of them were protesting Imperialism," Clifford says."Some were protesting racism. Some of them were protesting capitalism. They accomplished nothing, and they drove everyone crazy."

The high-rise eradicated the Lucy Parson's Center, a bookstore where anti-capitalist views were traded over the counter. Now the largest display of Communist paraphenalia is in the People's Republik bar. (Owner Robert Blair had a heck of a time getting the city's permission to use that name. A licensing official, a man who fought in the Korean war, stood opposed to the glorification.)

For now, the purging of longtime local residents is the most obvious downside to the new, upscale Central Square."The musicians left when rent control ended, and they are never coming back," says Clifford. "But we'll still be here. And the Middle East will be. And we're cool, right?" iB

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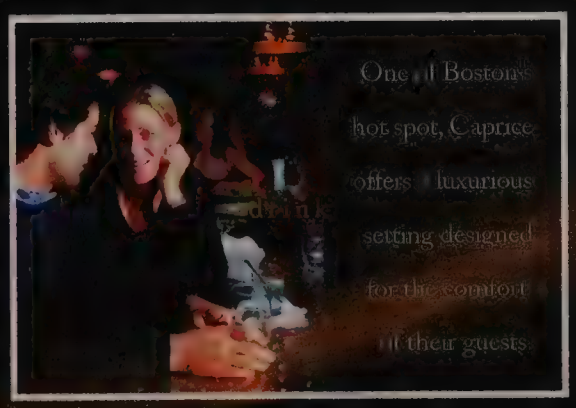

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SQUARE PEGS: State Representative Jarrett Barrios

BEGAN HIS POLITICAL CAREER ON ESSEX STREET, WHERE THE WOMEN'S REFUGEE CENTER WAS HOUSED. A CAMBRIDGE RESIDENT, BARRIOS IS A REGULAR CUSTOMER AT JOHN'S BARBER SHOP IN CENTRAL SQUARE.

My campaign for state representative in 1998 took me to every door of every resident of the four neighborhoods converging in Central Square. Central Square, the Cambridge crossroads, became a symbol in the campaign. One candidate sued a developer of a new building in the square; another candidate talked about standing on the corner in Central Square when he was a youth—making the point that I was not from the neighborhood, and was therefore less worthy of support. Funny, these sort of divides were not what Central Square was, and is, about.

This was not the Central Square I knew. "Central" became a rallying cry, a code word, a way of keeping the lines clear: newcomer vs. lifelong Cantabridgian, working class vs. yuppie, tenant vs. condo owner, good vs. bad. Neighborhoods change. What we often call gentrification is a term used too loosely to capture the nuances of this evolution. Central Square has held on, shed a skin and shines bright in its new coat. The old has not disappeared, though many of its denizens have. Still, the welcoming spirit I sensed in its brick and mortar a decade ago now seems elusive. Its departure marks, for me, a far greater loss than a renovated building or a defeated down-zoning petition. I hope this loss is temporary, a convulsion, a struggle to adapt to its new coat.

(Barrios is currently the target of a neighborhood awareness campaign that links him to the mysterious death of a goose along the riverway stretch that he has worked to renovate. There are plans for an official autopsy of the goose, requested by a group of people who say the park will harm the natural habitat and believe Barrios may have conspired to kill the goose as a way of intimidating them. Barrios denies this.)

SQUARE PEGS: Jake Garrelson, 34

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES HISTORY TEACHER. RAISED IN CAMBRIDGE. HAS LIVED IN CENTRAL SQUARE FOR 20 YEARS.

The Central Square of the PPE (pre-Palm Pilot Era) was a lively bazaar of the bizarre. Its unofficial greeter, the ubiquitous Reverend Larry Love, beckoned you on rollerskates to the land of Off the Wall Cinema, Cheapo's Records and the Bow Tie Diner. Utterly self-sufficient, a person could get all he or she needed at Woolworth's, Purity Supreme and, of course, Ace Beauty Supply. Ma 'n' Pa stores abounded. Needed a health club? The Y would have done nicely, as long as you didn't mind rusty barbells or insects of uncertain taxonomy.

Most of all, though, Central Square was rockin' good fun—absolutely deadly for those of us suffering from Peter Pan syndrome. There was Jack's, the Plough and Stars, TT's, the Western Front and more. If you were on the scene frequently enough, you probably caught at least one soon-to-be legendary band. I remember a roommate who once came come home effusive in his praise of a hot new band called 10,000 Maniacs. Phish, the Replacements and Nirvana all passed through as well during that time. Mostly, though, Central Square clubs were about the best places to meet the opposite (or any) sex, before this practice became a complicated matter of applied sociology.

Little did we know that the age when guitars outnumbered PCs would soon be over. Looking back, I recall certain harbingers. One totem of change was the Middle East Cafe. In the early 80s, it was still an ethnic enclave, usually sparsely attended. Entertainment consisted of weekly belly dancers and Middle Eastern music played on a single stage. Yet upon my return from a year spent in England, it had evolved into the present-day hipster haven touted in *Rolling Stone*. It even had a booking agent who maniacally scheduled national acts for three separate stages. The old bowling alley up the street (probably the only one ever built in a basement and perennial hot spot for 9-year-olds' birthday parties) was center stage!

Suddenly, we were hip. Long lines snaked out of clubs everywhere. Getting a pint at the Plough became a rugby scrum, a kind of full-contact Cheers. The old Cantab now hosted poetry slams and open mikes, making it one of the essential stops of the Central mecca.

Still, this renaissance would present other consequences. People had long chosen to remain in Cambridge after graduation, but most had not chosen Central Square. Until now. The old 'hood had newly acquired cachet and was, for the moment, more affordable than most sections of the city. The upwardly mobile set rapidly began snapping up newly converted condos or buying units in the massive new buildings that had consigned parking lots to antiquity.

At first, this didn't alter our neighborhoods in any serious way. We watched with amusement as specialty grocery stores and boutiques sprang up like distant relatives at the reading of a will. It didn't really bother us that econovans and Dodge Darts were being replaced by Turbo Saabs. It certainly didn't bother me that it became reasonably safe to run at night. Troublesome, however, were the new four-digit rents. We were understandably ecstatic when a mild recession hit in the early 90s, the better to ward off what we feared most—improvement!

Then the bomb dropped. The November 1994 abolition of rent control, the statewide initiative that gave the people of Athol the power to alter the demographics of my street, passed by the slimmest of margins. Longtime brainchild of real estate mogul/city councilor/convicted felon William Walsh, it set off a civically sponsored economic cleansing.

The impact was immediate and dramatic. Even rents not artificially depressed quadrupled. As an educator then working in the city, I remember that even school enrollments had to be adjusted. By the close of the century, entire blocks had been razed for mall space. Among the casualties: the Bow Tie.

Where does this leave Central Square today? Will Cambridge become the city that priced everything but valued nothing? I hope not.

Happily, vestiges remain to remind us that we are not yet Newton. I can still be served a cup of joe by the Goth chick at the 1369, discuss Third World politics and philosophy with Jimi, an itinerant academic from Zaire. Reverend Love, rarely on rollerskates anymore, no longer directs traffic but presides like King Lear.

The new edition of Central Square is shinier, sleeker, safer, legally tolerant and smoke-free. It is everything. Except better.

BERTA A. DANIELS (2)

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high times

Central Square's stock is rising. But who's buying now?

BY ELLEN O'BRIEN

It is called a "significant renaissance."

That's the way a recent market survey of Central Square commissioned by the city summarizes what is happening in these few, legendary city blocks.

The significant renaissance refers to the face-lift, the upgrade, the Central Square makeover that sent property rates skyrocketing; and a high-tech rush that made office space near the high-tech university more popular than ever.

Wider sidewalks, public benches and canopy trees that form a plush arch along Magazine Street are all the result of a $3 million-dollar clean-up project in the new Central Square.

This is the Central Square that is attracting new neighbors, according to the city survey, younger families with higher incomes than before. As the cost of commercial space soars, realtors are scrambling to find rentals and homes for the high-tech employees working in University Park, or nearby Kendall Square. Coldwell Banker Hunneman realtor David Gaviglio says rumors of the market slowing down are greatly exaggerated. "The demand still far outweighs the supply, he says. So, can you get a two-bedroom for less than $2,200? "There's some starting at $1,400. But that's not the square. We have very nice stuff a little closer to Davis Square, but I guess people want to be closer to the action."

Central Square is still home to more people under 35 than any other part of Cambridge. Sixty-two percent of them are white, and 80 percent told surveyors they work in white-collar jobs. And most are single (25% are married, says the survey).

The renaissance, as it's called, is what spurred Brian O'Neill, owner of the Good Life restaurant, to open a second jazz-and-martini spot on Mass. Ave. "You can just feel something good is going to happen here," says O'Neill, whose jumpin' place has been jammed in its first two months of business. It's a surprise to those who hang out on the east edge of the square, the ones who didn't think Central Square would provide the top-shelf, cell phone customers O'Neill does.

Tariq Bashir, Neilla Rhone-Lee and Kevin Woods (left to right) live, work and play in Central Square. Like most residents, they are finding it hard to ignore the square's escalating costs and their impact on community diversity.

"I looked at Harvard Square," O'Neill says. "And then I really looked at Harvard Square. It didn't have the feel I wanted. I wanted something real."

In Central Square, he had no trouble finding it. "This is one of those lucky neighborhoods," he says.

"It's better than watching TV. I mean, where else can you see Larry Love walking around?" (O'Neill is referring to the square's most beloved local character, Rev. Larry Love, who most days sits outside the 1369 coffee shop. At different times, the reverend is outfitted as either a volunteer police officer, a marching-band leader or a crossing guard.)

O'Neill better be careful when he talks about the locals as if they are free entertainment. His arrival has already been likened by some Central Square veterans to the arrival of Starbucks.

"We do have Pabst Blue Ribbon, you know," says O'Neill. And his bar is filled, he says, with a typical Central Square mix.

"They're Jamaican; they're Asian," he says. "They're Central Square."

O'Neill says he can't bemoan the arrival of wealth to Central Square, adding that his business is driven by the commercial rents that have just about doubled in the last five years.). "For us," O'Neill says, "gentrification means that we have to get a better children's menu."

However, the square suffers in ways that are not always obvious when locals are priced out of the market,' says Neilla Rhone-Lee.

"We are in a tough position," says Neilla Rhone-Lee, a yoga instructor at the Mass. Ave. Dance Complex.

"We have to be in charge of the building, yet we are going to have to find places to live that will be far away from the square," she says. "And that makes it tougher to keep places open," says Rhone-Lee. "But I'm going to have to move soon," she says. "It's just too expensive."

A group of local dancers purchased the lease on the historical building nine years back, when the Joy of Movement moved from the space. Stories like that are not so unusual in Central Square. In Cambridge, realtors join forces with social service agencies to help the homeless find apartments, and the funds to secure them.

It is, after all, the People's Republic.

"I'm not one of these people that are always against change, running around protesting Foot Locker," says Kevin Woods, a Plough and Stars bartender. "I do care that people I know who cared about the square, and participated in building up the square, cannot live here anymore."

The Central Square Foot Locker closed its doors recently, and the large space is currently empty. In a curious twist about what's best for Central Square, many low-income residents bemoaned the loss of the chain store. They liked the fact that the local teens did not have to travel to Downtown.

However, the Foot Locker's arrival was also met with disdain by plenty of development protesters who big retail outlets are not as viable to the community as small, independent stores.

BERTA A. DANIELS

The hotly contested Holmes Trust corner building recently rose high enough to block a landmark Central Square mural. Hunneman-Coldwell Banker, whose V.P. is a major investor in the project, will lease the 72 "luxury" units—11 of which have been set aside for affordable housing.

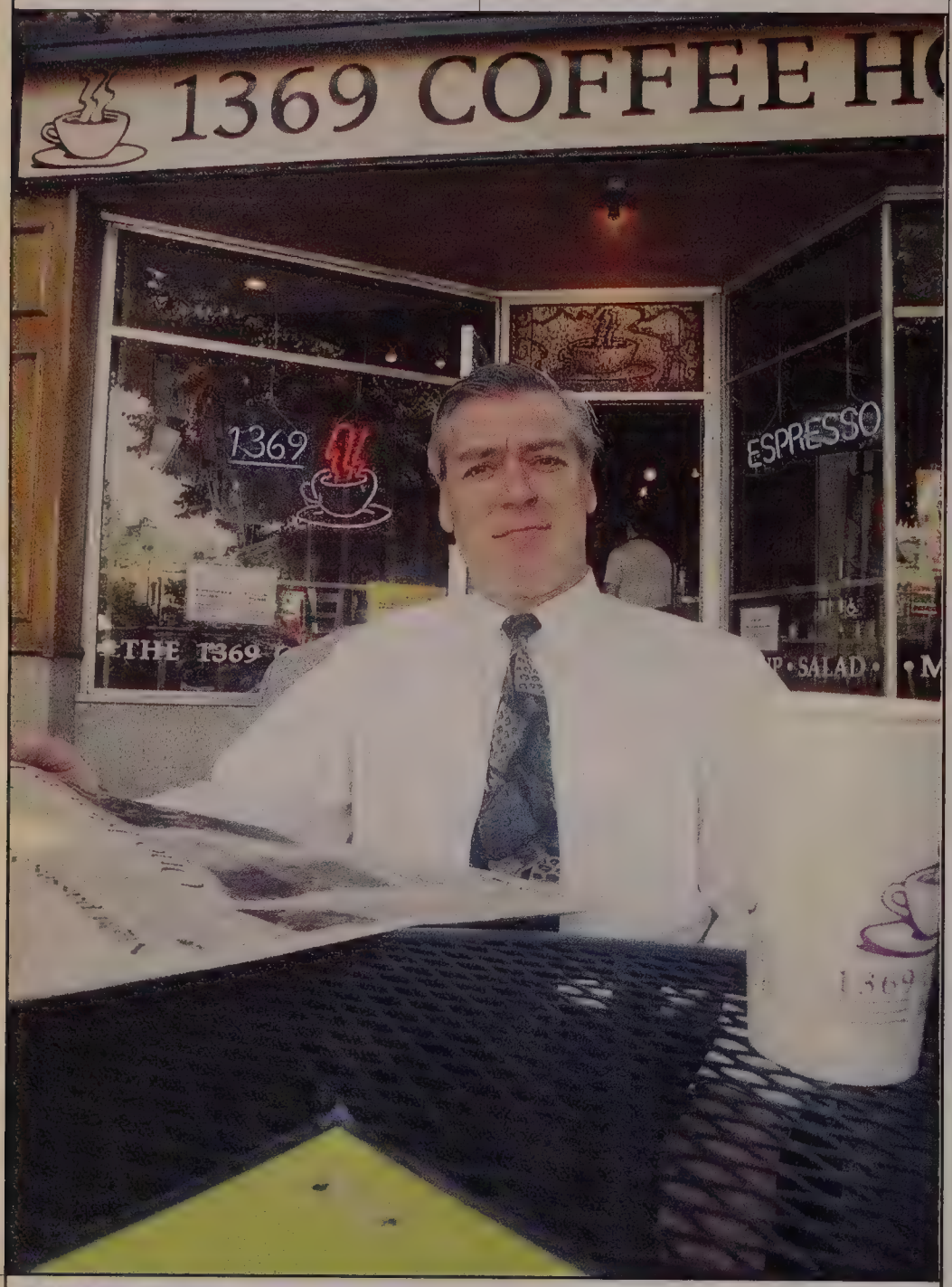
WENDY MIMRAN

DeWolfe realtor David Pap says Cambridgeport, between Central Square and the Charles River, is the most rapidly appreciating neighborhood in Cambridge, with some properties priced over the $1 million mark.

The record high prices, even as buyers move closer to the busy and gritty square, continue to stun realtors. No. 34 Magazine St. (a single-family renovated Victorian) for $695,000. The $1 million mark in the neighborhood has already been surpassed.

The commercial market is fueled by the high-tech rush and companies that want to provide a diverse, funky place for employees, less isolated than, say, Route 128.

"If we were in a different location, we would probably lose the edge to our humor," says Harvard Business School graduate Rob Williams, who runs what he describes as an urban humor magazine, with an African-American slant, from a Mass Ave. location (*www.inner-city blues.com*). For inspiration, he says, he can always walk to the heart of the square, and the small business that has endured for years, outfitting the neighborhood teens. "I can walk to Manhattan's for some feedback," says Williams. "I can't do that anywhere else. It's about diversity."



SQUARE PEGS: John Murphy, 40

MARKETING DIRECTOR, ARRIVED IN CAMBRIDGE AS A COLLEGE FRESHMAN AND NEVER LEFT.

Though happily entrenched in Cambridge, I'm concerned that the surge in residential and commercial real estate will anesthetize the neural cortex of Central Square. Subtle changes in the sights and sounds of my daily experience suggest that Central Square's funk, its charm, has been sent to the dry cleaners. When strolling down Mass. Ave., it was not uncommon (or unpleasant) to cross paths with someone babbling incoherently and gesturing wildly. These days, that person is usually some dot-com zealot on a hands-free cell phone muttering technobabble and VC strategies.

Stores, bars and restaurants flourished on Mass. Ave. in the early '90s, mostly because they were owned and operated by independent, charismatic and visible members of the Central Square community. On a Saturday afternoon, we could visit a boutique offering comfortable, affordable garb from Indonesia (Access), a shop with cool shoes and stylish leather jackets (Penny Lane), and new Irish pubs (People's Republik, Field and Phoenix Landing).

But it really wasn't the same as buying gifts or bar-hopping anywhere else. You were visiting a neighbor or a friend. You were welcomed as though you were a guest, not a customer, and you might spend an hour chatting and not shopping.

I worry that the developers have launched a bidding war for space in the square. It's only a matter of time before we'll be left with a canyon of national chains with faceless franchisers. Sorry, but a cup of chain-store coffee and a "Welcome to J. Crew, sir" located within walking distance are not the kinds of experiences that drew many of us to Central Square.

If that's the homogenous, branded, antiseptic experience that attracts the dot-com and bio-tech drones, we're done. Put a roof over Central Square. Add another level of escalators, and tell the folks at the Marriott that it's safe to come to Central Square.

LUXURY, LOSS AND DISCOVERY

For Tariq Bashir, owner of the Penny Lane clothing store on Prospect Street, the square's new popularity poses a curious problem. "I know that it's good for business to have more people here shopping," says Bashir. "But I need the diversity, you see. My customers are diverse, and they want to shop in a place that is interesting, and feels international. If young people cannot afford Central Square, I lose."

The coffee-shop chat this summer is about the luxury apartments on the corner of Magazine and Mass. Ave. leased exclusively by Hunneman Commercial Company. The busy corner is known as the "main-main" corner in city planning circles, the core of the square.

The seven-story project mixes commercial and residential property. Because of its prominent location, and knowing that the public will have access to its stores, residents argued against the initial design. It was changed so that it doesn't face inward, with its center at the middle. (Also, the 630 Mass. Ave. building will have 11 units set aside as affordable housing.)

Due to be finished in the spring of 2001, the seven-story structure is closer to completion each day, finally rising high enough to shield a landmark neighborhood mural.

A screaming banner advertisement for 72 "luxury apartments" is strung across its front. The average price a two-bedroom unit is expected to rent at is about $2,700.

Opponents to the high-rise, who delayed construction for a year, enjoyed a small victory when developers agreed to alter the design so that it faced inward, all of its open space in the center, shielded by the building.

The block of property once housed the Lucy Parsons Center, the non-profit bookstore that carries lefty literature, a symbolic departure. The store sees a lot less business in its new South End location.

"Central Square was so lively," says Jon Bekken, one of the volunteers who runs the store. "Our African-American section has just plummeted," Bekken says. And the Spanish section is not moving. In terms of reaching out, it's devastating."

For those still doing business here, the growth of dot-coms is having a trickle-down effect, says Christian Gotfredson, a Hunneman Commercial realtor.

SQUARE PEGS: Julia Perez

DIRECTOR OF CAMBRIDGE SISTERS PROJECT, A PRIVATELY FUNDED PROGRAM IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS; HOMEOWNER; AND GRANDMOTHER.

I think my point of view is simple. This is a time for people to make money, and they don't care about the total expense. They don't care what gets lost.

I don't want to get into nostalgia. I want to talk about reality. I want to know who is making all the money in Central Square, the same Central Square we all help pay for.

When I first started talking with people about Central Square, I said, "My concern is that I know a 12-year-old female who wants to be able to walk home from the square alone; it's just two blocks." I went to a community meeting with this on my mind. I went thinking about a small group of men who often drink in the square, and I would not feel comfortable with them being around while she was walking home after school.

Then I sat there, and I listened. And each one of us had these little problems. Some people didn't like the traffic or the noise. Or they didn't like the big building or the coffee shop—all these little things.

Then, I realized, those guys who drink and sit on the bench are not the problem. The little issues are not it.

There is a huge sense of loss here. You can feel it. It's about money. It's about greed. It's not so much those people hanging out on the benches that are ruining Central Square.

It's that people don't want to see them.

Well, there might be more of them now. And that's our reality.

"It's high-tech, but it's also these dot-coms that are growing," he says. "They absorb a lot of space. They are not always the most credit-worthy clients, but they are driving the market."

"It's nice that people want to live here," says Paul McGowan, a booking agent for local bands at the Plough and Stars, on the corner of Mass Ave. and Hancock Street.

"But if it's all one kind of people, there is a bigger division between us and them," he says. McGowan, 35, lives nearby with his wife and infant son.

(He has a neighborhood friend, a homeowner, who does not charge his family exorbitant rents.)

"A lot of musicians, regulars, moved to Somerville. But they don't see each other on the street the way you do here. It's totally different."

DeWolfe's Pap says it is too early to determine the long-term effect the real-estate boom will have in the square. "The whole area is just changing so rapidly," says Pap. "It's been discovered." iB

BERTA A. DANIELS (2)

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Buckaroo's Mercantile
Owner Brooks Morris with his homemade mouse pads, which sell for $14 each.

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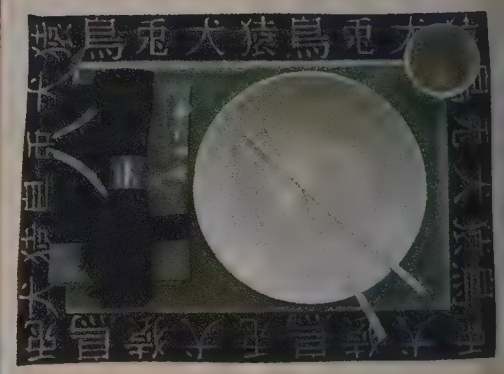

Ten Thousand Villages
Pick up a fabulous table setting for under $40.

shopping central

Eclectic. International. P.C. The quirky shops along this stretch of Mass. Ave. reflect the ethos of Central Square. BY RACHEL STRUTT

We've heard rumors that a GAP is moving in," says Brooks Morris of Buckaroo's Mercantile on Mass. Ave. "It's just a rumor, but it wouldn't be a surprise." Indeed, the landscape of Central Square may be shifting—and whispers of chain-store openings may persist—but this is still the place where small, independently run stores can open their doors and thrive. Some of these shops feature international goods; some give profits to charity; and some highlight the work of local artisans and designers. True to their Cantabridgian roots, they all share an offbeat charm and eclecticism. Central Square shopping is a long way from walking the mall, but if you're looking for something unique, you've got it in the bag. Take the Red Line to Central Square and hit the Mass. Ave. pavement in either direction.

MOUSE MEETS MADONNA

If you've got an appetite for kitsch, head to **Buckaroo's Mercantile,** where you can feast on funky, often hilarious fare. You'll find tiki glasses, lunchboxes and mousepads—one features the Madonna; another, a '50s Maidenform pin-up girl (both icons, right?). You'll also find festive clothing, like a dress festooned with flamingos and hemmed with pink boa; such garb, no doubt, is meant to be worn with irony. Store owner Brooks Morris happily reports that business is great at his leased location, but notes: "Mass. Ave., a bit closer to Harvard Square, is already priced out, and it's starting to trickle down toward Central Square." But so far, sales are steady—viva camp!
858 Mass Ave., Cambridge (864-3637). Mon.-Sat., 11am-7pm; Sun., 12-6pm.

NO MALL SHAWL

"I try to find things that are eclectic—just like Central Square is eclectic," says Paul Murray, owner of **Access**, a snug boutique featuring gifts and women's clothes that range from funky and feminine to crunchy. Murray finds his wares around the globe (Bali is a favorite business trip), at trade shows featuring national designers, and through local artists. He tries to avoid buying from countries renowned for poor human-rights records and, whenever possible, supports small manufacturers (15 employees or less). If you fancy something at Access—whether it's a silk-and-pearl scarf or a whimsical wrought-iron earing holder from Bali—snatch it up. Murray prides himself on finding one-of-a-kind wares.
862 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (864-6700). Mon.-Sat., 10:30am-7pm; Sun., 12-5pm.

GUILT-FREE SHOPPING

Step into **Ten Thousand Villages** and enjoy a vicarious global jaunt. In this sizable store, you'll find handcrafted housewares and gifts—including African basketry and masks, Vietnamese ceramics (pictured above) and Bangladeshi jewelry—made by Third World people. Perhaps ironically, Ten Thousand Villages is a chain with more than 40 stores spread across the country. But unlike most chains, this international marketplace is just one part of a large nonprofit program (run by the Mennonite Central Committee) designed to provide vital income to developing nations. Manager Ed Neufeld reports that since the store opened three years ago, "business has far surpassed expectations."
694 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (876-2414). Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm.

MORRIS: WENDY MIMRAN; SCARF, PLACE SETTING: RICHARD TAZZARA

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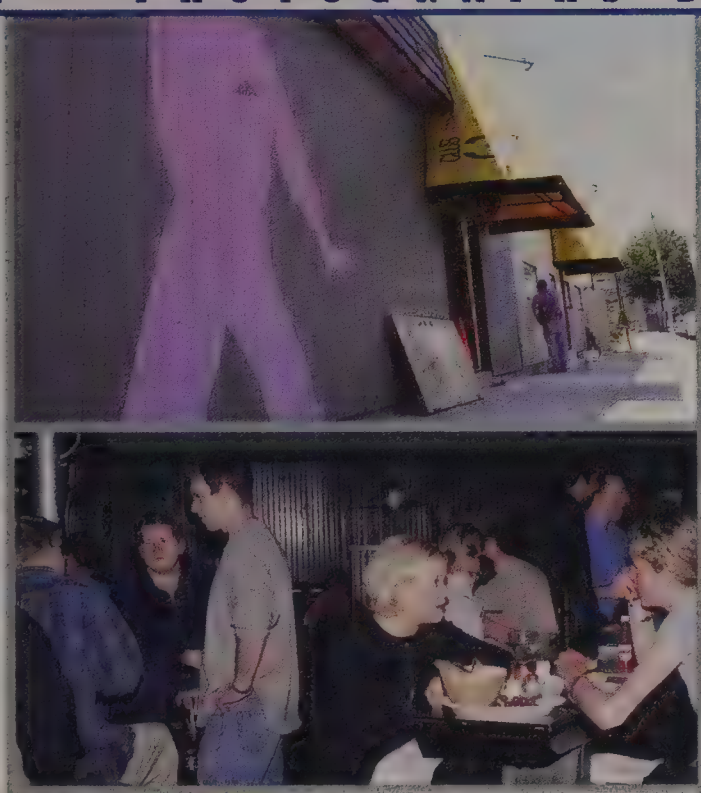
From left to right: B-Side owner Patrick Sullivan, rock maven Lilli Dennison and lounge-music luminary Brother Cleve.

nightmoves

Three friends pair business savvy and a love of nocturnal noise and novelty to create **Lilli's**, an upscale lounge-meets-rock spot in Somerville. Here, the club-making trio tells us what to expect.

BY RACHEL STRUTT • PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEVEN BILLUPS

Once Lilli's, a club that promises to be not only hip but swish and swanky, opens its Somerville Ave. doors on July 1, the tag "Slummerville" will seem more outdated than ever. The 300-capacity nightspot will have a late-'60s lounge-y feel with vintage barstools, a red velvet stage curtain, groovy light fixtures—and a downright decadent dressing room for bands. The team behind the club has a collective résumé that almost guarantees success. First, there's Patrick Sullivan, who made the B-Side swing beyond his wildest dreams. Then there's Lilli Dennison, who's legendary in Boston rock circles—from booking the Rat in the '80s, to starting up the Milky Way in '98 and, most recently, creating the celebrity DJ night at the B-Side. Last, there's lounge-lizard Brother Cleve (neé Robert Toomey), keyboard player/composer/DJ, B-Side cocktail consultant and member of the now-disbanded Del Fuegos and Combustible Edison. Along with scenester "Skeggy" Kendall booking bands, the place promises to rock—but with real glasses rather than plastic cups. A few weeks ago, I met up with the trio of wisecracking friends; after a tour of Lilli's, we headed to the B-Side for an interview.



Lilli's, which is taking over the old Club 3 space (top), hopes to attract the same über-hip crowd that flocks to the B-Side (below).

Rachel: *How will Lilli's compare with other clubs around town—like the Middle East or Avalon?*

Patrick: Well, we don't sit around and think we're going to compete with anyone. We're just trying to book music that we like and have fun—and offer really good service.

Lilli: I'm like family with the Sater brothers at the Middle East. Everyone from the clubs has been incredibly gracious and has wished us well.

Rachel: *Will your clientele be a little older?*

Lilli: We're not catering to students or 21-year- olds. Our plan is to cater to people who have professional lives or have kids. I know a lot of people—even artists and musicians—who have been "clocked out" of a lot of entertainment because it happens too late. So we'll do fun things—like have organ trios playing on the house Hammond B-3 organ—early on, before the bands.

Rachel: *Will you have a niche in Boston, in that regard?*

Lilli: Well some jazz bars do early sets. But this will be more funky, let-your-hair-down. It will be nice for these people to have a place to go where they won't feel like the teacher.

Patrick: Yeah, like: [claps his hands twice] "C'mon, kids, this is how you rock!"

Rachel: *What music do you have lined up?*

Cleve: We've got a lot of DJ festivities coming up. Arling and Cameron from Holland are coming. They've got music in an Acura commercial that's getting a lot of airplay right now. And music in *The Sopranos*.

Lilli: They're brilliant; the CD is amazing.

Cleve: We also have Ursula 1000 coming up from NY. He's extremely popular in Europe. He samples all these old easy-listening records and then puts break beats behind it.

Lilli: And we'll also be doing a lot of live music. We're starting a Wednesday-night series called something like "Live on the Somerville Strip"; it will be a garage rock, Las Vegas-grind kinda thing. Garage rock has its roots deeply in Boston. Everywhere else in the country—and now I hear London—is going nutty about garage rock. We're going to draw attention to it, dude it up and make it fun. The Lyres are starting us off, doing a residency every Wednesday night in July.

Rachel: *What about the cocktails?*

Cleve: We want to do a lot of tall drinks, Tiki-style things, Polynesian drinks, stuff that's festive, colorful fun—and of course, high octane.

Rachel: *How involved have you gotten in building the club? Have you actually taken out hammers?*

Patrick: Well, we've all been over there painting.

Lilli: See my watch! [Points out green splattering.]

Rachel: *Will there be 24-hour days?*

Patrick: There have been already. This has taken far more effort and time than any of us imagined.

Lilli: In a way it's like *Little Rascals* putting on a show; we all do everything and friends are helping us out. We're pulling in our talents and skills of everyone we know. We have friends who are designers and they'll come help us—like Seth West, a glass blower who's been so generous . He's blowing us these fabulous creations. Paul Kolderie [of Fort Apache] is consulting on our sound equipment. The list goes on and on.

Rachel: *What will the cover charge be?*

Patrick: Five and up.

Rachel: *Opening night, you'll have Buffalo Tom; how much will those tickets be?*

Patrick: I think $15.

Lilli: We're trying to build a world-class venue, on a small scale. If some big artist wants to come and do an intimate show in a nice setting, we might have to charge more.

Rachel: *So tell me about the location. Do you foresee a problem with noise complaints? I know that was a concern when Shred [of WBCN] first started booking the Skybar down the street.*

Cleve: Well the old Club 3 owner was there for over 20-odd years, and she's never had a complaint.

Lilli: And it helps that the only residential neighbors within a block are her tenants; everything else is industrial.

Cleve: It's an industrial wasteland, it's beautiful!

Lilli: We're calling it the Somerville Sunset Strip.

Rachel: *The Skybar seems to be doing well.*

Cleve: I drove by there the other night at midnight and there was a line out front.

Patrick: You're kidding.

Cleve: Yeah, I think it was Friday night.

Rachel: *Does it worry you not being right by the T?*

Lilli: Well we're a seven-minute walk—with my stride, anyway—from Porter. We're really close to Davis and Harvard squares. And think about the Milky Way in JP; that was much farther away from the T and it was never problem.

Patrick: The lesson we learned from [the B-Side] is that you can be in the middle of nowhere. There's no parking, no T here. And I don't know where they come from, but they come every night (knocks on wood).

Rachel: *Do you think the geography of the city's nightlife is shifting in the Somerville direction?*

Lilli: Well, I've read it is! (Laughs.) As a matter a fact, I think I read it in the IMPROPER BOSTONIAN! It's funny, because when people ask about the club, nearly everyone says: "I live right around the corner from there!" Somerville is the most densely populated city in the state, more populated than Boston. And now it seems to be where starving artists—and above-starving artists—are all living. A lot of people have been priced out of Boston—and Cambridge.

Patrick: It's the Paris of the millennium.

Rachel: *Do you think you're becoming the equivalent to the Seth Greenbergs of this world, but on this side of the river?*

Lilli: [Laughs.] Well, I've got a supermodel boyfriend.

Patrick: So do I.

Lilli: Yeah, his name is Thor. No, I don't think of us as impresarios. I think we're a little more grassroots.

Cleve: Emphasis on the *grass*.

[At this point, a waiter presents veggies and dip.]

Lilli: It's crudites time!

Patrick: I'm not afraid to double-dip; I don't find it offensive at all.

Cleve: I'll go triple.

Patrick: That's gross. What kind of person triple-dips?

Cleve: Me.

Rachel: *Triple-dipper. OK, last question. So what comes after Lilli's; is this the beginning of a club empire?*

Cleve: Lilli's 11 in Saugus coming soon! iB

For more information about the club, go to *www.lillisclub.com*

the main course

Typewriter bag, $850; bracelet, $285; scarf, $265; available at Chanel.

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David Carmack

Stylist:
Steven Giedymin

Location:
The Ritz-Carlton

cocktail hour

Autoscaph watch, $1,950;
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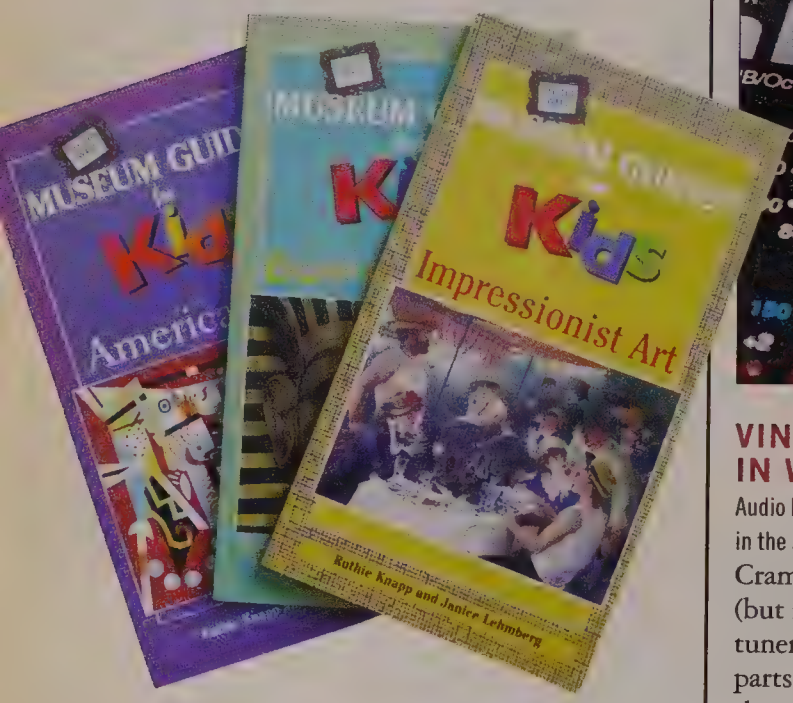
check in

Backpack, $410; duffle bag, $605; available at Burberry; suitcases, $1,600 and $1,700; umbrella, $160; available at Bottega Veneta; Prada shoes, $370; available at Saks Fifth Avenue.

Mopsy

Serendipitous shopping: Our unfettered correspondent seeks out the salubrious and the cerebral.

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY



LILLIPUTIAN ART HISTORY

Off the Wall Museum Guides for Kids, by Ruthie Knapp and Janice Lehmberg, cover Impressionist, Egyptian and American art, respectively. Available at the Museum of Fine Arts.

How to take the sober enormity of art history—those large, imposing paintings and the hushed marble world of museums, and make it all appetizing for kids? Ruthie Knapp and Janice Lehmberg, veterans of thousands of tours at the MFA, have produced child-sized books, *Off the Wall Museum Guides for Kids*, that make art cozy, accessible—even game-like.

Hopscotched through the mini-whirlwind of Impressionist paintings shown (Renoir, Manet, Cassatt and so on) are enticing observations and questions and little Sherlocky "Closer Look" sections that invite children to search for primary and complementary colors. The authors urge readers to notice the stable verticals and the motion-creating diagonals, to understand the famous blurriness of the Impressionist style.

A "paint hunt" invites little Berensonettes to find "globs, dollops, dots, squiggles, slashes," and to discover the underlying geometric shapes in a picture, causing the beholders to stop, look and analyze in a more micro way. Tales of gossip, rivalries and quotes jazz it all up: Degas said planning his paintings took "the cunning of a crime." One of Manet's disfavored paintings was cut in two, and the pieces hang in separate cities. These art hors d'oeuvres—breezy, informative and fun—will whet young "artpetites."

VINTAGE AUDIO, REBORN IN WATERTOWN

Audio Pro at 779 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown (926-8020) specializes in the repair of old audio equipment.

Cramped, crammed to the very gills, up to the ceiling (but never disrespectfully put on the ground) with old tuners, receivers, tape recorders, turntables and stereo parts, Audio Pro is one of those amusing spots where the philosophy behind the service looms large.

Presiding spirit Vince Naeve talks a mile a minute, conversationally jam-packing the place with highly detailed information about these zealously revered pieces he and his staff keep alive. "I'm not into digital; there's a hint of the Luddite in me." It is his contention that many audio components from 20 to 40 years ago (including KLH, Advent and so on)—if rebuilt for around $200—will outperform new equipment costing $1,000. His engaging scorn, highly documented, for much of the new, overpriced, salesman-driven, top-name-brand equipment is inspiring to listen to. Naeve believes in educating people about the real sound quality of their audio, factoring out, for instance, the effects of nicotine and indeed hype. Penetratingly, he asks "What are you expecting this equipment to do? For whom? For how much?" He deplores "sinfully" tossing stereo corpses into landfills. And Naeve has a soft spot for "the warmth and slight grittiness of old-turntable sound."

EVOKING THE SCHEHERAZADE IN EVERYONE

Therapist and storyteller Al O'Hare and his musicians, violinist Peter Hughers and percussionist Lori Rowan, bring Life Stories Theater to businesses and other groups. *781-793-0084*

Storyteller Al O'Hare brings an open-palmed receptivity to his work, and this starry curiosity inspires the crowd. He tells stories of his own to wet the collective narrative whistle, but really his quest is to get groups of people to open up their own pack of pithy, ringing vignettes. "When people tell their stories, there is subliminal music in and behind the words," he says, so O'Hare brings some musicians to improvise along with the tale. The tradition he follows is that of the "schenechie," a roving Irish character who told and collected stories along the hedgerows and in the pubs. At a recent meeting of psychology professors, he schenechie'd stories of triumph, humor, sadness and a stirring recounting by one woman about her childhood community and the way it connected through children's dancing games. Images, details and telling emotional energy seem to spontaneously appear from these stories, tightening the group into mesmerized, cozy connection. In one corporate setting, he asked the group to associate to the meaning of home. Metaphor always floats overhead, rather magically. O'Hare also presides at celebrations or memorials, where the focus is already determined.

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Improper Bostonian

"a slice of heaven"
Boston Magazine

SHE watches Fellini, listens to Schoenberg, lives for espresso, dreams in noir, pines for a good bowl of udon.

something in common

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Chatham Tales

One man's take on the Cape

BY EZRA DYER

Over Memorial Day weekend, I made my first real trip to the Cape. The time had come to see what all the fuss is about down on the curvy peninsula. So, armed with invariably convoluted Mapquest directions, B&B reservations and navigator Jen, I set off for Chatham.

About one hour after our arrival, I'd formed my impression of the town: Chatham is a nice-enough place. It has an expansive beach, an impressive lighthouse and a few good restaurants. But Chatham's charms are nothing that can't be found in innumerable New England communities from Maine to Rhode Island. So why, then, is it all but impossible to find a parking spot along Main Street that's not already occupied by a Porsche, Mercedes or Wagon Queen Family Truckster (a.k.a. Lincoln Navigator)?

SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT ANY TOWN THAT ALLOWS THOMAS KINKADE PAINTINGS YET BANS VINYL SIDING IS SENDING A SERIOUS MIXED MESSAGE.

It's all about fashion, my dear. Of course you could find a nice meal and a suitable summer beach house in Gloucester—as well as a much better supply of heroin, if that's your thing—but who wants to tell their friends that they're going to Gloucester? There are grubby fishermen there, you know, and George Clooney is in town ever so infrequently. Say you're going to the Cape, however, and you've got status and infinite good taste. You've got a license to throw a "CC" sticker on your bumper and complain at length about the traffic congestion caused by the insufferable Bourne and Sagamore bridges. You are in.

The powers that be in Chatham are well aware that quaintness and fashionability write the town's meal ticket, and a recent *Globe* article detailed the astounding number of rules governing any change that might affect the Chatham aura. For instance, a local church kept its roof in disrepair for months because the Committee of Those with Good Taste decided that replacing the wooden roof shingles with more economical and maintenance-free asphalt ones would be aesthetically inexcusable. Eventually a compromise was reached wherein the church was allowed to fix its roof with synthetic shingles that look like wood. This type of fascist control extends to which exterior paint colors you can use and whether or not you can have a paved driveway. The last vinyl siding salesman to roll into town was besieged by an angry mob and beaten within an inch of his life with weathered shingles.

OK. I realize that some degree of control must be exercised in these matters, and I agree that a K-Mart located next to the beach would significantly alter the town's atmosphere. But who is the anointed design maven who decides what is in good taste, down to the last drop of paint? If they've got such refined sensibilities, then why is there a Thomas Kinkade gallery on Main Street?

If you're not familiar with the work of Thomas Kinkade, his scenes generally feature a woodland cottage or glen suffused with an eerie luminescence. To my untrained eye, Kinkade paintings look like scenes that should be airbrushed on the back of a Winnebago and adorned with a slogan "Retired and lovin' it!" And yet these overwrought monuments to sentimentality have been embraced by certain sects of the nouveau riche as if their creator was the second coming of van Gogh. Suffice it to say that any town that allows Thomas Kinkade paintings yet bans vinyl siding is sending a serious mixed message.

But the Kinkade gallery, however tacky, is at least a chink in the Chatham armor of picturesque homogeneity. I have a plan to expand that chink. If any recent Powerball winners or Raytheon execs are reading this, I implore you to buy a house in Chatham. Work your way onto that esteemed committee, and then allow yourself to paint your house pastel green. Encourage neighbors to follow your lead, enthusiastically celebrating every holiday, no matter how minor (I'm thinking quarter-scale, motorized rooftop replicas of the Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria would do nicely for Columbus Day). Lawn ornaments are good, too, particularly if they're in the form of a Monte Carlo up on blocks. Hang Thomas Kinkade paintings on the outside of your abode. Please, make Chatham unfashionable. Then maybe next time I'll be able to find a parking spot. iB

You think that's funny?

If you do, email ezra@improper.com.

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INSIDE: A 17-year-old wonder chef wows at Marcuccio's; Ice Cream Tea at Finale

A large party feasts on cuisine from northern and eastern China at New Shanghai restaurant in Chinatown. Opposite page: crispy beef with sesame (above); Chef C.K. Sau (below).

REVIEW

A Gem in Chinatown

New Shanghai stands out among its neighbors with superior service and cuisine

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOE GREENE

It was a good omen early one Saturday evening, when we swung off Kneeland Street onto Hudson to find a car departing one of the treasured parking spaces in this part of town, directly across the street from the New Shanghai Restaurant. Climbing the eight steps to the front door, we entered a surprisingly attractive interior. A sparkling aquarium inhabited by lively colorful tropical fish dominated the entrance and one of three approximately equal-sized dining rooms. White walls above a wainscoting were hung with handsome floral silk screens or prints, with a rich rose color—approximating the hue of a ripe peach—below. The carpeted floor and upholstered high-backed chairs and banquettes helped keep the ambient noise at a level conducive to conversation. Tables were smartly set in crisp, white tablecloths with large, absorbent cloth napkins—both extraordinary appointments for a restaurant whose prices are as reasonable as those of the New Shanghai. Only the neon Budweiser sign in one window injected a slightly tacky note.

New Shanghai's black-and-white-attired waitstaff was most obliging, agreeing without hesitation to bring us appetizers while we spent time studying the restaurant's extensive five-page menu. The appetizers were inconsistent and clearly not New Shanghai's strongest suit. We found the spring rolls (two for $2.95) and the pan-fried scallion pie ($3.25) a little greasy, and the pan fried ravioli (six for $4.50) just ordinary. The hot-and-sour soup ($1.95) was, however, first-rate, as were the lean, tender, slightly sweet barbecued boneless spareribs ($4.95).

New Shanghai's cuisine emphasizes China's north and east, but as befits a restaurant named for China's great cosmopolitan port city, it offers a number of dishes associated with south China as well. Among the chef's specialties—the slightly more expensive dishes set forth at the head of the menu—we found Delight of Three on Sizzling Plate ($9.95), a melange of rough-cut shrimp, strips of beef and chunks of chicken, stir-fried with red and green peppers, straw mushrooms, bright-green snow peas, crunchy broccoli flowerets and baby corn, served on a sizzling platter. Betraying just a hint of garlic and ginger, the dish's marvelous taste, texture and color contrasts delighted the senses. More assertive in its flavoring was the shredded pork and chicken with hot garlic sauce ($9.95). In contrast to the Delight of Three, the meats in this dish were cut into thin strips, replicating the green and red pepper and onion strips. Smoky shriveled black mushrooms added an earthy flavor and velvety texture, and water chestnuts, a welcome crunch.

Beef chow foon ($5.75), one of our family's standard requests at Chinese restaurants, brought broad noodles tossed among onions and scallions, strips of tender beef and crunchy bean sprouts,

all with a slightly smoky flavor from the rich sesame oil. Another chef's specialty, crispy aromatic duck ($11.95), was served with a deep, dark sweet plum sauce. The salty, crispy skin; moist, succulent flesh; and fruity sauce made a pleasant combination, and the dish was garnished with crispy rice noodles. Only the wilted lettuce leaves on which the duck rested was disappointing.

Seafood is a strong suit at New Shanghai. Whole lobster in ginger and scallion sauce ($14.95) was a real treat. Carefully steamed to preserve its tender but resilient texture, the lobster was bathed in a rich brown sauce redolent of garlic, scallions and ginger. Eating the lobster demanded that we abandon any hint of decorum and use our hands to capture every last morsel of sweet lobster and as much of the sauce as we could slurp from the roughly chopped shells. Dragon and Phoenix ($10.95) was an extraordinary combination of crispy fried chicken chunks and large prawns, stir-fried with a toothsome array of crunchy vegetables, including baby corns, red and green peppers, snow peas and broccoli flowerets, all bathed in a rich brown sauce enlivened with garlic and fresh ginger.

In Chinese restaurants we usually content ourselves with a crunchy fortune cookie to mark the conclusion of a meal, but New Shanghai's robust sauces left us with an urge to refresh and soothe our palates. Accordingly, we ordered the lychees ($2.95). Our waitress brought a large plate with more than a dozen cool, delectable lychees on a bed of ice, their restrained sweetness, flowery, fruity flavor and satin texture making the perfect complement to what had preceded them.

New Shanghai serves wine and beer, including Tsing Tao ($3.50 a bottle), our preferred beverage with Chinese food. As a consequence of its excellent cuisine, efficient and friendly service, attractive and comfortable appointments, and very reasonable prices, New Shanghai is a very popular restaurant at both lunch and dinner. Reservations are taken and respected. We strode through an overflow crowd one Friday at noon and were promptly seated per the reservation made by one of our party—a result that almost surprised me. Across the board, this a very credible restaurant, worth a special visit. **iB**

New Shanghai

21 Hudson St., Boston (338-6688)

HOURS Sun.-Thu. 11:30am-10pm; Fri.-Sat. 11:30am-11pm

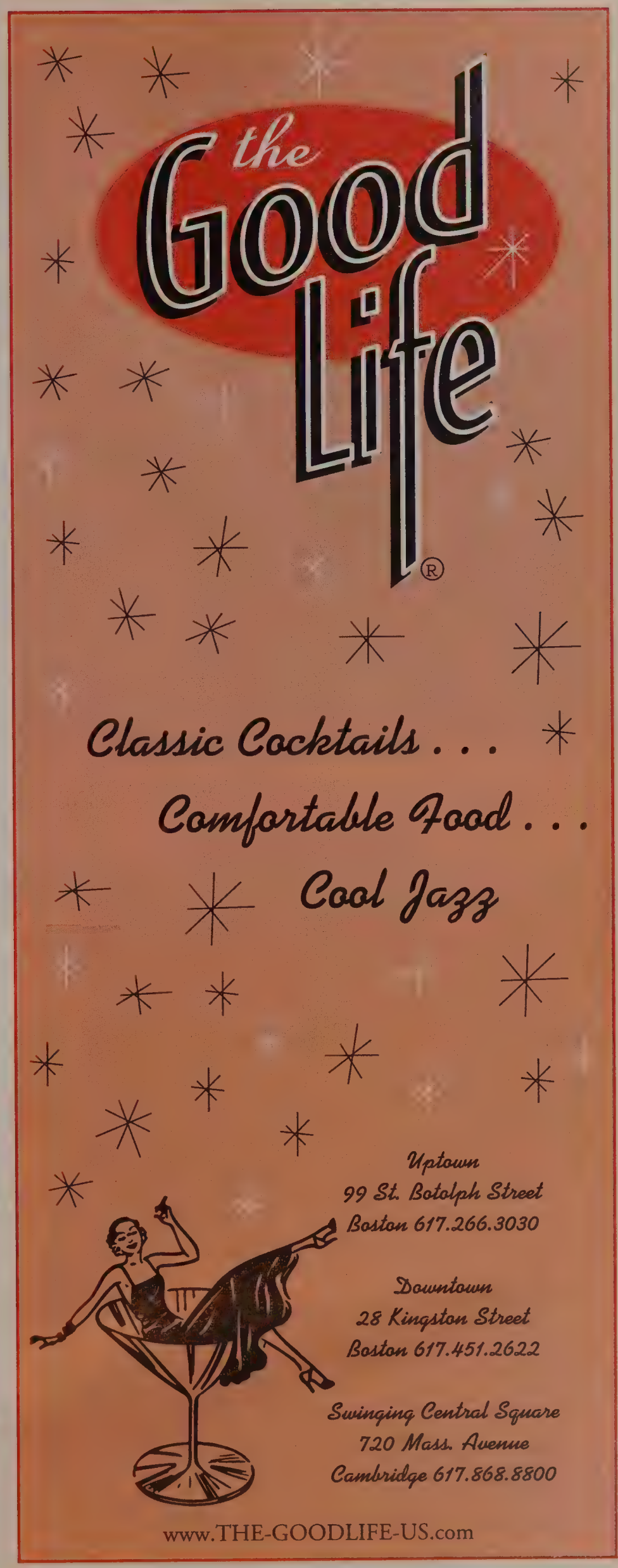
RESERVATIONS recommended for parties of four or more

CREDIT CARDS all major

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE no

PARKING on-street parking

LIQUOR LICENSE full

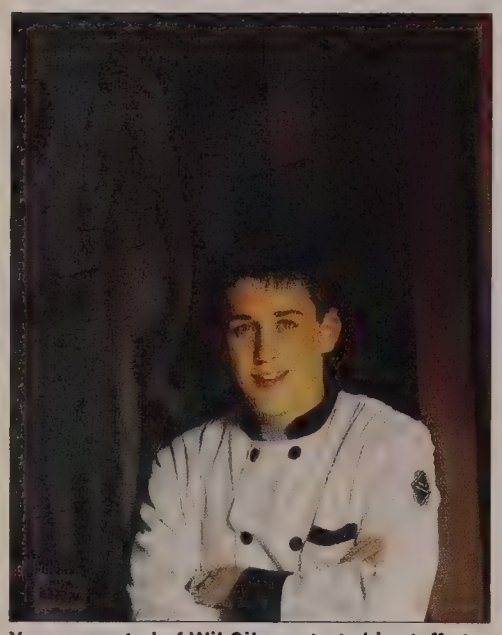


DISH

I Was a Teenage Guest Chef!

Wil o' the Whisk.... Somerville Snubs Sweetbreads.... The Better Life....

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX



Young guest chef Wil Gilson struts his stuff at Marcuccio's in the North End Aug. 22.

Consider the basic, run-of-the-mill teen prodigy: He or she plays the violin, graduates medical school at age 16, maybe figures out how to squeeze a few billion out of the Internet. Ho-hum.

Now consider a teenager who is such an accomplished, industrious, creative rising star that he is being featured as perhaps the youngest guest chef in Boston this summer. Seventeen-year-old **Wil Gilson**, who has established a professional kitchen at his family's farm in Groton, is the protégé of **Charles Draghi**, chef/owner of **Marcuccio's** in the North End. Gilson is presenting a Mediterranean herb dinner on Aug. 22. Draghi cannot praise Gilson enough—his only question is, "Will he be another Marco-Pierre White, or will he be nicer?"

SECOND COURSE

Thymus up! When chef **Nick Speros** recently took over the kitchen at **eat** in Somerville, he revamped the menu and added one of his favorite dishes: sweetbreads. Sweetbreads in Somerville? "They're not going over great," Speros acknowledged, "but there's a following... some nights we serve 10, some nights one. Whoever tried them, liked them," he added. One couple, though, developed cold feet after their order of crispy sweetbreads arrived at the table and they realized exactly what was beneath the panko coating. They "freaked out," says Speros, and they sent the plate back to the kitchen.

More than one good life to live: You may have heard that **Brian O'Neill**, the jovial spirit behind the spirited **Sonsie** and the **Good Life** (Good Lives?) and star chef **Rene Michaelena**, formerly of **La Bettola** and a **Charlie Trotter** alum, are teaming up to open not one, but two, new restaurants. Why, we ask, is Mr. "Fight the Foie Gras" opening an upscale, totally redesigned, renovated and chef-driven restaurant in the former **Good Life Uptown**?

"Good question!" O'Neill laughs. "It's an unbelievable opportunity...and we're not gonna serve foie gras." What will be served, he says, will incorporate "Polynesian, Malaysian and Filipino" influences in a fine-dining setting upstairs, and "a looser, more informal downstairs."

As for the financial part of the opportunity, he acknowledges that what he calls "one of the great spaces in Boston" is one pricey piece of real estate. "The Good Life is a terrible use for that location; the rent is really high," he says.

Meanwhile, next to the **Good Life Central** in Cambridge, it's "full steam ahead" on a moderately priced "fun Italian restaurant" with "Rene's food," pizzas, pastas, and medium-priced wines. O'Neill expects the unnamed eatery to open "late, late August or early September."

Diving in: Superchef **Jasper White** put his best fish forward with a supersize opening party at **Summer Shack**. Happily packed in like sardines were familiar faces **Lydia Shire** from **Biba**, **Laura Brennan**, **Casablanca**'s **Ana Sortun**, **Grill 23**'s **Tim Lynch** and **Chris Douglass** of **Icarus**. Festive touches—bright plastic leis, champagne in paper cups—set the scene for fabulous fried clams, buttery lobster rolls, grilled shrimp with chorizo and Bahamian fish chowder.

Rauxa roundup: Pastry chef, **Tonie Rapa**, queen of the *crema cremada*, has moved to New Hampshire, leaving behind her recipe for that signature dessert and creating a space ably filled by **Kelly Pickle**. Pastry chef Pickle, whose *assiette du chocolat* earned her the adoration of chocoholics at **Aquitaine**, has created a Spanish specialty of figs and blackberries soaked in Oloroso syrup with honey goat cheese cream. Also new is general manager/sommelier **Jerry Rosa**, most recently manager and wine buyer at **Pignoli**. iB

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant?
Send it to dish@improper.com

Tastings BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for tastings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

EVENTS

Artful Sushi
Brookline High, 115 Greenough St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. July 10, 6-9pm. $51. **Bon Koo** teaches you how to prepare nigiri (pressed sushi) with seaweed and vegetables. Techniques for how to tell a good-tasting fish without tasting it, cutting salmon and tuna, and rice presentation will be included.

Beer Here!
5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. June 29 and July 6, 6-7:30pm. $48. Belgian ales are known throughout the world. Join beer buyer and home-brewer Dane Bass to sample a variety of beers while learning the basics of the brewing process, the history of the ales and how they have influenced beers produced around the world.

18th Annual Chowderfest
City Hall Plaza, Boston (227-1528). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. www.bostonharborfest.com. *11am-6pm. $5-$7.* Some 2,000 gallons of New England's most delectable soup will be ladled out during this annual chowder orgy. A perennial favorite, Chowderfest brings together 10 to 12 of the city's best restaurants to compete for the title of "Boston's Best Chowder."

Clambake Buffet
Cafe Fleuri at Le Meridien Boston, 250 Franklin St., Boston (451-1900, ext. 7125). July 10-16, 6-10pm. $29.95. Executive chef **Mark Sapienza** presents his popular Lobster Clambake Buffet, usually available only on Thursday evenings, for the entire week of Sail Boston 2000. The meal includes a lobster and an assortment of mussels, shrimp, steamers, barbecued chicken, clam chowder, corn, salads and dessert.

The Every Day Gourmet Seafood Grill
42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. June 30, 6:30-9pm. $37. **Michael Malkoff**, author of *The Everyday Gourmet Cookbook*, sparks up the grill with fresh delights: shrimp satay, barbecued salmon with pineapple (Michael's favorite dish of the summer), Tandoori trout and mustard tarragon shark kebabs.

Food & Film Series
5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. June 28, 6:30-9:30pm. $35. Join Italian actress and screenwriter Isabella Perricone for an evening of fine food prepared by Page Carter Catering, a poignant film (*The Big Chill*) and a discussion afterward.

Harvest's Chefs Tasting Menu
Harvest Restaurant, 44 Brattle St., Cambridge (868-2255). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. $38. Choose your *prix fixe* preference: two options for starters and entrees, three for dessert. This separate menu offers daily fresh local fish, produce, cheese and fruit. Peeky Toe crab, Great Hill blue cheese, day-boat scallops and bing cherries featured now.

Hot Not Bothered: The Joy of Grilling
Brookline High, 115 Greenough St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. Two Wednesdays, 6:30-9:30pm, beginning June 28. $79. At your next barbecue, forget the hamburgers and hotdogs; wow your friends with grilled meats, veggies and fruits with homemade marinades and sauces. **Russell Mitchell** teaches you how to have a five-star grilling season.

Guest Chefs at Eat
253 Washington St., Somerville (776-2889). Monday evenings. Eat's **Charlie Robinson** hosts a different chef every Monday night. • July 10: **Tomas Garcia** from the B Side Lounge.

International Wine Tasting Series
Angelo's Ristorante, 575 Boylston St., Boston (536-4045). Tuesdays, 5-9pm. $35. Four foods from the menu are paired with four wines from international vineyards.

Wine Tasting Wednesdays
Turner Fisheries Lounge, the corner of Stuart and Dartmouth Streets, Back Bay (424-7425). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 5-7pm. $2 per glass. Wine experts will describe the origin, body and flavor of each wine, as well as suggest food pairings.

Wine Tasting with Lorenzo
Les Zygomates, 29 South St., Boston (542-5108). Tue., 6pm and 8pm. $25. Enjoy a wine and food pairing. • July 11: Bordeaux whites.

TASTY TIDBIT

ICE CREAM TEA

Forget the typical stuffy image that comes to mind when you picture (insert British accent here) "afternoon tea." Chef Nicole Coady offers a selection of housemade ice creams and sorbet, subtly inspired with teas, at Finale, on weekdays this summer. Her *Ice Cream Tea* will include four different types of ice cream—chocolate creme de la Earl Grey, sweet chamomile mint, rare Yalta Ceylon honey and vanilla masala chai—served with petit fours and tea cookies on a porcelain platter. Wash it down with fresh brewed ice tea or housemade lemonade. *Columbus Place, Boston (423-3184). Mon.-Fri. 3-4:30pm. $15 per person (not including tax or tip). Reservations only.*

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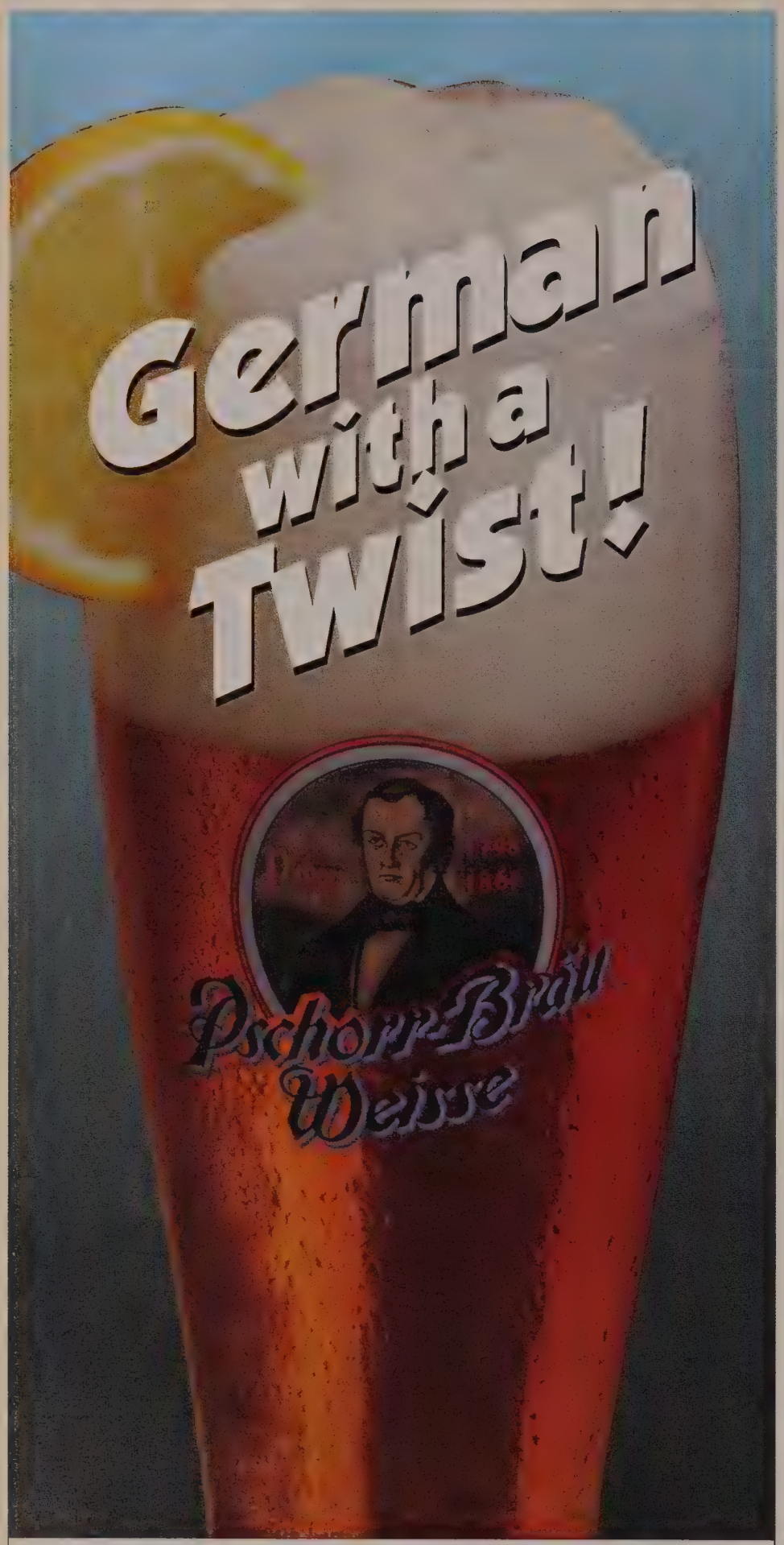

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agenda

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN OR OUT IN BOSTON.

Boston Harborfest 2000

Middlesex County Volunteers Fire an [illegible] guard during the reading of the Declaration of Independence at the Old State House July 4. (See CityScope.)

Erin and Julie

THE CALENDAR GIRLS'

improper picks

Too busy (or just too lazy) to plan your own schedule? Life don't get easier than this.

Wednesday, June 28

Erin: Head to the Milky Way to see **Solaris**, with DJs **Mark Flynn** and **Brother Cleve**. (See Music.)
Julie: It's the opening ceremonies for **Boston Harborfest**. Four Guys in Tuxes will perform at lunchtime at Faneuil Hall, and then there's the **Sunset Parade** at Charlestown Navy Yard at night. (See CityScope.)

Thursday, June 29

Erin: The wait is finally over to see ***Van Gogh: Face to Face*** at the MFA. The show reunites more than 70 of the artist's finest portraits for the first time at any major museum. (See Art.)
Julie: Hop aboard any one of the cruise lines for a spectacular view of the **Fireworks SkyConcert 2000**. (See CityScope.)

Friday, June 30

Julie: Boston Harborfest's **TGIF Concert** this year features Popgun Seven. (See CityScope.)
Erin: Bring a lawn chair and sit under the stars for a presentation of ***H.M.S. Pinafore*** at the *USS Constitution* with the Boston Academy of Music. (See Performing Arts.)

Saturday, July 1

Erin: Check out Somerville's new rock club, Lilli's, and hear **Buffalo Tom**. (See Music.)
Julie: **Entrain** performs live at the Party on the Plaza, part of the Boston Harborfest activities. (See CityScope.)

Sunday, July 2

Julie: Yum! The 18th annual **Chowderfest** takes over City Hall Plaza with some 2,000 gallons of chowdah. (See Tastings.)
Erin: If you're like me and hate chowder, go see **Jimmy Page** and the **Black Crowes** at the Tweeter Center. (See Music.)

Monday, July 3

Erin and **Julie**: During the day, treat yourself to the Zydeco sounds of the **Hypnotic Clambake** show at City Hall Plaza. Then take in the **Sunset Parade** at Charlestown Navy Yard. (See CityScope.)

Tuesday, July 4

Julie and **Erin**: Start the day with a reading of the ***Declaration of Independence*** at the Old State House. Then head to City Hall Plaza for the **Cape Verdean Festival** and round off the night at the Esplanade for the **Boston Pops**' rendition of the "1812 Overture" and a 30-minute **fireworks** bash. (See CityScope.)

Wednesday, July 5

Julie: One of my favorites, **Natalie Merchant**, plays at the FleetBoston Pavilion with **Wilco**. (See Music.)
Erin: The Shriners converge upon Boston for the 2000 International Shriners Convention. Best known for their colorful pageantry and charitable acts, don't miss the yearly **Shriners Parade**. (See City Scope.)

Thursday, July 6

Julie: What Matters Most, a **Franklin Covey** workshop, addresses the value of time, prioritizing and defining values. (See Education.)
Erin: A rock and spoken-word event at the Linwood features the bands **Vanity Press**, **Binge** and **Is It Jazz**. (See Books & Poetry.)

Friday, July 7

Julie: **David Benoit** plays at Scullers twice tonight, at 8pm and 10:30pm. (See Music.)
Erin: **Ray Charles** comes to the FleetBoston Pavilion as part of the *Boston Globe* Jazz & Blues Festival. (See Music.)

Saturday, July 8

Julie: John Williams conducts the **BSO** in a concert at Tanglewood. (See Classical Music.)
Erin: Its a poetry and barbecue event at Out of the Blue Gallery, with music, poetry by **Nola Kelley** and **Tim Emswiler** and lots of food. (See Books & Poetry.)

Sunday, July 9

Julie: It's the first time in more than 30 years that the **Boston Pops** perform live in Franklin Park as part of the B2K Celebration festivities. (See CityScope.)
Erin: The **French Film Festival** at the MFA, with 20 features, represents the most extensive collection of French cinema presented this year in the US. (See Film.)

Monday, July 10

Erin and **Julie**: There's a new **Outback Steakhouse** in Faneuil Hall. Stop by, have some red meat and enjoy its opening party/benefit for the Quincy Interfaith Sheltering Coalition. (See CityScope.)

Tuesday, July 11

Julie: Don't miss the **Parade of Sails** as Tall Ships breeze into Boston Harbor. Then go to **Sail Boston 2000 Salute Ball** at Fan Pier. (See CityScope.)
Erin: The Institute of Contemporary Art heads up the exhibit ***Art on the Emerald Necklace***, presented throughout the nine parks and green-ways. (See Art.)

CITYSCOPE **46** • PERFORMING ARTS **50** • ART **52** • FILM **54** • EDUCATION **56** • BOOKS & POETRY **58** • CLASSICAL MUSIC **60** • DANCE CLUBS **62** • MUSIC **64** • GAY & LESBIAN **68** • BODY & MIND **70** • CHILDREN **70** • SPORTS **70** •SALES & FASHION **72** • GO AWAY **72**. EDITED BY: **ERIN HAGEDORN:** Art, Books & Poetry, Dance, Dance Clubs, Film, Gay & Lesbian, Go Away, Music.
EDITED BY: **JULIE SHORT:** Children, CityScope, Comedy, Education, Go Away, Sales & Fashion, Sports, Tastings, Theater. ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY: **Laurel Kirtz** Body & Mind • **Paul Sherman:** Film Capsules

cityscope

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a list of festivals, events and benefits taking place in the Boston area by date.

Festivals, Events Expos & Benefits

Thursday, June 29

Harborfest Fireworks Cruise
Boston Ski & Sports Club, M/V Nantascot, Commonwealth Pier, World Trade Center, Northern Avenue, Boston (789-4070). Board 7:30pm, cruise 8-11pm. $27. Celebrate July Fourth in June with fireworks over the Boston Harbor with 175 guests and members of the Boston Ski & Sports Club. Enjoy a DJ and cash bar.

Project Gesher Party
Sugar Shack, The Alley, Boylston Street, Boston (457-9789). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 7pm. $10, $12 at the door. Play Jewish geography and let Gesher help you make new friends and bond with old ones with games, prizes, food, dancing and drinks.

Friday, June 30

Creative Allies Takes Over Club Passim
Club Passim, 77 Palmer St., Cambridge (236-6996). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. $40 (includes dinner and ticket). Meet new people, enjoy a Mediterranean dinner and the music of Faith Soloway.

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Fridays. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

Saturday, July 1

Fourth Annual Barbershop Festival
Marketplace Center, 200 State St., Boston (478-2040). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. July 1-2, 11am-5pm. The largest barbershop event in New England features quartets and choruses.

Tuesday, July 4

Boston Harborfest & Fourth of July on the Esplanade
Various venues around the city. www.bostonharborfest.com. For a complete list of Fourth of July-related events, please see page 48.

Fourth of July Fair
Community Boat Club, Embankment Road, Boston (523-1038). Annual Fourth of July Fair offers 1,500 tickets for a barbecue, live entertainment and a front row seat to watch the fireworks over the Charles River. Proceeds benefit the Junior sailing program.

Wednesday, July 5

Shriners Parade
Copley Square, down Boylston Street, left on Tremont Street up to Government Center and on to Cambridge Street, Boston. www.shrinershq.org. *July 5, 7pm. Free.* See July 4 for more information.

Thursday, July 6

Celebration of Dalai Lama
Swedenborg Chapel, 50 Quincy St., Cambridge (354-2788). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 9am-9pm. Free. Celebrate the 65th birthday of the Dalai Lama (and World Tibet Day) with a bring-your-own picnic, Tibetan barley beer and musical entertainment and dance at this unique chapel.

Friday, July 7

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). Fridays. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

Saturday, July 8

Free to Be Me
Freedom Trail, Boston. 11am. Sidewalk Sam and the Mayor's Youth Arts corps will be on the Freedom Trail re-creating works of art in chalk on the sidewalk.

On July 8, the massive flotilla of Tall Ships will sail into the Port of Boston, led by the *USS Constitution*. More than 7 million spectators are expected to celebrate their arrival.

Preview

Tall Ships Breeze In

Sail Boston 2000

Some 7 million spectators are expected to visit Boston welcome more than 200 international and domestic sailing vessels representing 35 nations as part of the Sail Boston 2000 festivities.

But first, a little background: In early April, the Tall Ships fleet assembled in Southampton, England, and Genoa, Italy, and raced simultaneously to Cadiz, Spain. From Spain, the flotilla set off on the westbound trans-Atlantic race to Bermuda in early June. On July 8, the Tall Ships will parade into the Port of Boston led by the *USS Constitution*. From July 11-20, visitors can climb aboard the ships and participate in various other events related to the ships. A schedule of opening day ceremonies follows:

•July 10: Assorted vessels arrive all day in the Boston Harbor. •10:30am-12pm: Opening ceremonies in the archway of the Boston Harbor Hotel. •4pm: Fleet in Anchorage in the Broad Sound. •4-8pm: The Grey Hulls arrive at various piers. •7:19pm: The *USS JFK* arrives at North Jetty.

•July 11, 9am-3pm: The Grand Parade of Sail in Boston Harbor. •4-10pm: Public boarding of the Tall Ships at the following piers: Black Falcon, North Jetty World Trade Center and Navy Yard. •8-10pm: The Sail Boston Salute Ball at Fan Pier. •10pm: Fireworks celebration over Boston Harbor. *For more information, call 204-4242 or visit* www.sailboston.com.

Row 2000 Hull
Hull Lifesaving Museum, Hull (781-925-5433). July 8-11. Row 2000 is a series of highly contested international open-water rowing events in and around Boston Harbor. More than 200 youth and adult rowers will convene to celebrate the harbor and islands on the eve of Sail Boston 2000.

Sunday, July 9

B2K Celebration
Franklin Park, Boston (877-B2K-8885). www.B2Kevents.com. •July 9. •12-4pm: **B2Kids Family Festival**. A family festival with special displays, exhibits and activities organized by numerous Boston cultural institutions. •5-7pm: **Boston Pops in Franklin Park**. This outdoor concert conducted by Keith Lockhart will be the first time in more than 30 years that the Boston Pops Orchestra will perform live at Franklin Park. Bring a picnic basket and a blanket to relax and enjoy the music.

Second Sundays
Veronique Restaurant and Ballroom, 20 Chapel St., Brookline (731-4800). www.bostoneventguide.com. *MBTA: D Green Line to Longwood. 2-5pm. $10.* The event will feature an educational wine sampling, light hors d'oeuvres and live jazz music by the George Mel Trio in the company of young professionals. This month bring your tango shoes and take a lesson from the Tango Society of Boston.

Monday, July 10

Aussie-Themed Benefit
Outback Steakhouse, 227 Parking Way, Boston (813-282-1225). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. July 10, 6-9pm. $15. This benefit for Father Bill's Place (sponsored by the Quincy Interfaith Sheltering Coalition) celebrates the opening of the newest Outback Steakhouse in the area.

Tuesday, July 11

Parade of Sail
New England Aquarium, Boston (973-5206). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. 7:30am-4:30pm. $100-$175 (lunch included). The majestic Tall Ships from around the world are visiting Boston Harbor. The aquarium's fleet of vessels is embarking on day-long harbor excursions to enjoy this rare floating parade.

Sail Boston 2000 Salute Ball
Fan Pier next to the Federal Courthouse (204-4242). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. 8pm-12am. $75. Dress black tie or nautical (break out those sailor uniforms). A night with a traditional nautical theme highlighted by fireworks and military personnel in their formal whites. The Bo Winiker Swing Orchestra and the Wildest Dreams Calypso Band will entertain.

Summer SOULstice Mini Festival
Christian Science Plaza, 175 Huntington Ave., Boston (450-3131). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. June 20-24. Enjoy this music and arts festival every Tuesday at noon with a host of musicians, artists and storytellers and fun by the fountain.

Volunteer

Boston Cares
(263-CARE). More than 70 volunteer opportunities available in Greater Boston.

Boston Living Center
(236-1012). HIV/AIDS service organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Boston-New York AIDS Ride
(859-8282, ext. 230). Ride is Sept. 15. Volunteers needed for work on mass mailings, phone banking and other projects.

Community Servings
(445-7777). Help prepare and deliver meals for individuals and families dealing with AIDS.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

Friday Night Supper Program
Arlington Street Church, corner of Arlington and Boylston streets, Boston (536-7050, ext. 22). Need volunteers to help prepare, cook and serve meals on Fridays, 5-7pm.

The Greater Boston Food Bank
(427-5200). Groups needed to sort donated food.

Horizons Initiative
(287-1900). Training sessions: June 27-28. Volunteers needed to play with children living in shelters. Commit to two hours per week for six months.

The Jimmy Fund
(632-3861). Through mid-July. Volunteers are needed to pass the canisters in local movie theaters.

Mass. Eating Disorder Association
(558-1881). Volunteers needed for four hours per week for help line, assisting clinical staff and special events.

Pan-Massachusetts Challenge
(800-WE-CYCLE). www.pmc.org. Event: Aug. 5-6.

Volunteers needed for the ride weekend to help with setup, registration, food service and cleanup.

Pine Street Inn
(521-7626). The Pine Street Inn is seeking volunteers for the summer to serve and prepare meals and act as receptionist for homeless guests.

Rosie's Place
(442-9322). Volunteers needed for the dining room, clothing room, the groceries program and office work.

United Services Organization (USO)
(720-4949). Volunteers needed to welcome Navy ships, participate in hospital visits, provide office support, coordinate receptions and assist with events.

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Seeks individuals to assist legal immigrants and refugees to become naturalized citizens.

WBUR
(800-909-WBUR). Seeking volunteers to help answer phones during on-air fund-raisers.

Tours

Big Dig and South Boston Waterfront
Boston (426-1885). Saturdays, 11am. Through Nov. 4. $8. Learn about casting basins, slurry walls, bridges and tunnels and the history of the South Boston Waterfront. Observe firsthand how the Big Dig is progressing and how the waterfront is developing. The route passes over the old Northern Avenue bridge, pass the Federal Courthouse, Fan Pier, the Boston Fish Pier and the 19th-century Fort Point Channel warehouses.

Boston Bike Tours
On Boston Common (308-5902). Begins April 15. Daily 9:30am-6:30pm. Daily two-hour tours, Mon.-Sat. 1-3pm; 4-6pm. Low-impact, guided sightseeing tours of Boston on bicycles. Rentals available.

Boston by Foot
(367-2345). www.bostonbyfoot.com. *May-October. $8.* Guided 90-minute walks highlight the architecture and history of the city. •June 30: Literary Landmarks. Meet at the plaza, corner of Washington and School streets, Boston. •July 4, 9am-12pm, $12: Footloose on the Freedom Trail. Meet at State House steps, Beacon Street, Boston.

Boston by Sea
Tours depart from Long Wharf (227-4321). Weekends until Memorial Day; daily through Oct. 9. 1pm and 3pm. $25. Against the backdrop of the sights, smells and sounds of the harbor, the cruise—featuring live theater performances, sea shanties and video vignettes—will allow visitors to learn about pirates, clipper ships, the old immigration station, the *USS Constitution*, the lighthouse and the Boston Tea Party.

Boston Duck Tours
Prudential Center, Boston (723-DUCK). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. April-October. $21. The 80-minute tour on amphibious landing crafts takes groups through downtown and makes a final splash into the Charles.

Evening Tour of SoWa
Historic Neighborhoods (426-1885). June 28, 5:30-7:30pm. $30. Historic Neighborhoods invites groups to tour SoWa, the vicinity of Washington Street in the South End. New restaurants, night life, intense interest in residential development and the MBTA's new Silver Line have sparked a renaissance in this emerging area. Discover the newest lofts, galleries and residences.

Ghosts & Gravestones Tour
Meet at the Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Ave., Boston (269-7150). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Thu.-Sun. at dusk, through Nov. 1. Two hours. $29. This tour includes a walk through some of the city's burial grounds hosted by an 18th-century gravedigger.

Ghost Tours
Meet at Boston Common Visitor Information Center, 147 Tremont St., Boston (781-235-7149). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street. Selected evenings, 7:30pm. $12. Tour downtown Boston's most infamous haunted locations.

JFK's Boston
Meet at the Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Ave., Boston (269-7150). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Sundays, 1-3pm. Through Columbus Day. $30. This fully narrated tour visits the places that helped shape young Jack Kennedy into the nation's 35th president. Price includes admission to the JFK birthplace in Brookline and the JFK Library and Museum.

The Literary Trail
Tour begins at the Omni Parker House, corner of Tremont and School streets, Boston (574-5950). Saturdays, 9am-12:30pm. $35. Explore the heritage of some of the country's greatest authors, poets and social activists at eight literary historical landmarks in the Boston area.

Spirits of Freedom Walking Tours
Boston Common Visitor Information Center, Boston (635-7383). July 7-9, July 14-16, 2:30-4pm. $10. Enjoy a special guided tour along the Freedom Trail. In the different historic sites, you'll be greeted by the Freedom Trail Players, who will talk about Revolutionary history.

Shriners Parade

Red fezzes will abound as the Shriners converge upon Boston for the 2000 International Shriners Convention at the Hynes Convention Center, July 1-6. The Shriners, a fraternal organization best known for its colorful pageantry and charitable acts, will host the Shriners Parade, July 4 and 5. Hundreds of midget cars, trick cars bouncing off roller coaster ramps, biplanes, trolleys, camels, clowns, antique cars, motorcycles horses and teeny tiny fire trucks parade down the street. It's a sight not to be missed. *Copley Square, down Boylston Street, left on Tremont Street up to Government Center and on to Cambridge Street, Boston.* www.shrinershq.org. *July 4, 1pm, and July 5, 7pm. Free.*

Young Friends of the Public Garden Tour
Meet in front of the George Washington statue at Arlington Street entrance, Boston (489-1291). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Thursdays, 6-6:45pm. Through Aug. 31. Join the Young Friends of the Public Garden every week and learn about the various statues, sculptures, flowers and trees that are scattered about the park.

Cruise

Boston to Provincetown Ferry
Bay State Cruise Company (748-1428). www.baystatecruisecompany.com. This boat has been outfitted to reflect the great tradition of the steamships that have made the run since 1847.

Harborfest—Boston by Land and Water
Times, lengths and prices vary. Reservations requested. See the Harborfest fireworks by sea. •A.C. Cruise Line (261-6633) •Bay State Cruises (748-1428) •Boston Duck Tours (723-3825) •Boston Harbor Cruises (227-4321) •Charles River Boat Co. (621-3001) •Integrity Yacht Charters (242-7837) •Mass Bay Lines (542-8000) and •Old Town Trolley (269-7010).

Massachusetts Bay Lines
60 Rowes Wharf, Boston (542-8000). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium or Red Line to South Station. Daily 55-minute harbor tours sail Sun.-Sat. on the hour from 11am-6pm. $9. Nightly sunset cruises also available from 7-8:30pm for $16, and moonlight cruises from 8:45-10:15pm. Whale watching, daily 10am. $24. •Wednesday evenings, 7-10pm, $16: **Live Blues Cruise**. June 28: Undaunted: Professor Harp—Harborfest Blues Cruise; July 5: Place Blues Band. •Thursdays: **Rock 'n' Roll Cruise**, 7:30-10:30pm, $16. July 6: Lipplock.

Sea Harbor Tours
New England Aquarium, Boston (973-5206). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Daily. What lurks beneath the surface of Boston Harbor? Budding scientists pull lobster traps, check for salinity and turbidity and learn about the health of the harbor on this 90-minute cruise sponsored by the aquarium.

Sights to See

Boston Tea Party Ship and Museum
Congress St. Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Open daily, March-May and Sept.-Nov., 9am-5pm; closed Dec.-March. $8, $7 students, $4 children. You can dump your own bale into the harbor—and watch a museum guide scramble to retrieve it—at this replica of one of the ships emptied by colonists (disguised as Indians) during the Dec. 16, 1773, tea raid. Afterward, enjoy a cup of tax-free tea.

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Fifth Floor, Boston (353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), Oct.-March 7:30-8:30pm; April-Sept. 8:30-9:30pm. Free. BU's astronomers are available to answer questions and assist with telescopes as you check out Orion, Cassiopeia and the Big Dipper.

Bunker Hill Monument
Monument Square, Charlestown (242-5641). Open daily 9am-5pm. Free. What's long and hard and shaped like a pencil? It's not what you think. It's the 221-foot monument that honors the men who died in the Battle of Bunker Hill. But an exhausting climb up 294 stairs reveals little more than a stunning view of I-93.

Christian Science World Headquarters
Massachusetts and Huntington avenues, Boston (450-2000). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential. Tue.-Sat. 9:30am-4pm, Sun. 11am-2pm. Tour the Mother Church—a giant basilica that seats 3,000 worshippers; a 700-foot-long reflecting pool; and a photo exhibit.

Copp's Hill Burial Ground
Hull and Snowhill Streets, Boston. MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Open dawn-dusk. Admission free. From Boston's second-oldest cemetery, you can see all the way across the Inner Harbor to Charlestown. Famous residents include the well-known Puritanical Mather family and Prince Hall, a prominent member of the free black community.

John Hancock Observatory
200 Clarendon St., Boston (572-6429). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open Mon.-Sat. 9am-11pm, Sun. 10am-11pm (May-Oct.) and noon-11pm (Nov.-April). Admission $4.50. The tallest building in New England (62 floors) offers much more than an awesome view. Listen to air-traffic controllers at Logan, test your knowledge of the city with a computer quiz, or relive some of Boston's most famous and infamous events.

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (566-7937). Wed.-Sun. 10 am-4:30pm. The birthplace and early boyhood home of the nation's 35th president.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat. 10am-2pm. Admission free. Alongside Boston's first Anglican church—a gloomy, granite apparition—you'll find a burial ground with equally ominous-looking headstones dating back to 1630. On Sundays, listen for the distinctive peal of the church bell cast by Paul Revere's foundry.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (635-3105). Open daily 9am-5pm. Guided tours every half-hour, starting at 9am. Free. Known as the "Cradle of Liberty," Faneuil Hall—we're talking about the part above the eatery—was the site of many an angry man ranting and raving about the damn British in the mid-1700s. You check out the white-walled assembly room, but most people come here for the marketplace.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily 9 am-5pm. Free. Here, Paul Revere saw two lanterns shining on April 18, 1775, indicating that the British troops were crossing the Charles River to Lexington and Concord via boat. You remember... "One if by land, two if by sea."

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays 10am-4pm, weekends 10am-5pm. $3. A thousand fed-up men gathered in this church to decide whether or not to send three ships full of tea back to England. Guess what? They didn't. •New permanent exhibit: *Voices of Protest* traces the use of Old South Meeting House over three centuries for religious, political and social debate. Artifacts, lifelike figures and interactive exhibits illuminate how Old South has championed the right to free speech and assembly despite acts of official censorship. •Middays at the Meeting House, a lunchtime music series. Thursdays, 12:15-1pm. $4. •June 28, 2pm: Inside the Sanctuary of Freedom. Join an architectural tour from balcony to basement. •June 30, 2pm: A Revolution Is Brewing: Join in the fiery colonial tea tax debates. •July 1, 11am and 2:30pm: Summer Town Meeting. Costumed re-enactors portray both Loyalists and Patriots arguing their cases for or against the tax. •July 2, 2pm: Colonial Clothing: Kids play dress-up in 18th-century style. July 6, 10am: A Revolution Is Brewing. •July 8, 2pm (at Faneuil Hall): A historical talk and debate about the tea tax.

Paul Revere House
19 North Square, Boston (523-2338). Nov. 1-April 14, 9:30am-4:15pm; April 15-Oct. 31, 9:30am-5:15pm. Built in 1680 and owned by Paul Revere from 1770 to 1800, this house offers a self-guided tour with illustrated text panels and museum interpreters.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-10pm, Sun. noon-10pm. $4, $3 seniors and students. After that tiring, 50-floor elevator ascent, you deserve a drink at the Top of the Hub lounge before you check out Boston's only 360-degree view tower. On a good day, you can see New Hampshire. The view here is slightly better than that of rival John Hancock.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8am-6pm. Free. Designed by H.H. Richardson and constructed in 1877, the huge Romanesque church in Copley Square rests upon 4,500 submerged wooden pilings, which help hold up the church's massive tower. A shaded courtyard offers respite from the heavily trafficked plaza. On Fridays at 12:15pm, stop by for a free organ concert.

Museums

Boston Tea Party Ship & Museum
Congress Street Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. March-Nov., 9am-dusk. $7, $5.50 students, $3.50. Colonial-clad sailors take you aboard *The Beaver*, a replica of the smallest of the three ships involved in the infamous tea rebellion. Paul Revere leads the hourly tea throwing and explains all about the fateful day irate Bostonians poured out the tea in protest of the tax decree issued by British parliament. Try your hand at rope-tying too.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June Tue.-Sat. 10 am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm; June-Aug. daily 10am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm. $5, children and seniors $3: Follow the red and white signs to the mother of all milk bottles. As you walk under it you'll feel as diminutive as your munchkin companion. See *Arthur's World* from the popular television series and children's books. This infamous aardvark is one of many hands-on favorites. •**Construction Zone!** Dig, tunnel, build (and tear down!) in this new exhibition inspired by the Big Dig.

Harriet Tubman House
566 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-8610). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. Weekdays 8am-8pm. Free admission. The Harriet Tubman Museum exhibits a collection of this influential black leader's achievements.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (929-4523). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily 9am-5pm (last film begins at 3:55pm). $8, students and seniors $6, children $4. This permanent collection on the life and legacy of President John F. Kennedy offers a re-created world of the early 1960s with period settings and 25 dramatic multimedia exhibits. Visitors experience firsthand the challenges faced by America during Kennedy's presidency. *John Glenn and the Space Race*, an exhibit about the man with the mission is now showing. •*Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy: First Lady*. Ongoing

Preview

Whoop It Up!

Boston celebrates the Fourth

With the big Fourth of July celebrations taking place on Tuesday this year, many bosses are telling employees "Take a four-day weekend." Good thing—there are too many activities going on in this city to cover in just a few days. At least 2.5 million people are expected to join in the more than 200 events of the Boston Harborfest, including Chowderfest, Children's Day, the famous Fireworks SkyConcert, walking tours, afternoon concerts, Revolutionary-era historical re-enactments, visits from U.S. and foreign naval ships and much more along Boston's waterfront. Boston's Fourth of July on the Esplanade promises a spectacular concert and pyrotechnics as well. Here's a look at some of the more entertaining events taking place through July 4.

A crowd at Boston Harborfest opening ceremonies, which take place June 28.

Wednesday, June 28

Boston Harborfest: Opening Ceremonies
On the West End of Faneuil Hall Marketplace (227-1528). www.bostonharborfest.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 12-12:30pm.* Kick off the 19th annual Boston Harborfest. A versatile instrumental ensemble, Four Guys in Tuxes, will take to the Harborfest stage to liven up the lunchtime lull and perform an all-request concert extravaganza.

Boston Harborfest: Sunset Parade
US Navy, Pier One, Charlestown Navy Yard, Charlestown (951-2690). 7:30-8:45pm. Enjoy a Sunset Parade, an age-old military tradition during which the flag and nation are honored in a moving ceremony adjacent to the *USS Constitution*. The Middlesex County Volunteers Fifes and Drum will also perform in the ceremonies, which culminate in the lowering of the Stars and Stripes.

Thursday, June 29

Boston Harborfest: Children's Day
On the Plaza at City Hall (227-1528). www.bostonharborfest.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 10am-3pm.* Fun and festivities with jugglers, face painters, interactive games and activities.

Boston Harborfest: The Fireworks SkyConcert 2000
Boston's Inner Harbor (227-1528). wwww.bostonharborfest.com. *4pm (pre-fireworks festivities at the U.S. Coast Guard Base at 427 Commercial St., Boston); 9:30pm (fireworks begin).* The famous pyrotechnic family Grucci designs this firework spectacular synchronized to music. The best spots for viewing at the U.S. Coast Guard Base, the North End's Puopolo Park, the Charlestown Navy Yard and East Boston's Pier One.

Friday, June 30

Boston Harborfest: TGIF Concert
On the Plaza at City Hall (227-1528). www.bostonharborfest.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 12-2pm.* The Popgun Seven, a seven-piece, horn-fueled dance/pop/ska/reggae band will take to the stage. Don't miss 'em. (They're regulars at the Middle East and T.T. the Bear's Place.)

Saturday, July 1

B2K Celebration: B2K Torch Run
City Hall Plaza, Boston (877-B2K-8885). www.B2Kevents.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 8am.* This daylong relay torch run measures 40 miles long from City Hall Plaza through the streets of Greater Boston. Each runner—from professionals to amateurs and celebrities—carries the torch for a quarter of a mile. Mayor Menino will kick off the 16-day B2K Celebration festivities. Cheer the runners as they come through your 'hood.

Boston Harborfest: Party on the Plaza
On the plaza at City Hall, Boston (227-1528). www.bostonharborfest.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 6-10pm.* An evening of dancing and socializing under the stars. The Boston-based band Stymie will kick off the festivities with their unique brand of gospel, soul, hip-hop and pure rock fusion. At 7pm, headliner Entrain will move you and groove you.

Sunday, July 2

Boston Harborfest: Independence Day Service
Old North Church, 193 Salem St., North End (523-6676). 11am-12pm. Worship in the church where the lanterns of freedom were hung.

The Middlesex County Volunteers Fifes and Drum perform adjacent to the *USS Constitution* during Boston Harborfest's Sunset Parade, which will be held this year on June 28 and July 3.

18th Annual Chowderfest
City Hall Plaza (227-1528). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. www.bostonharborfest.com. *11am-6pm. $5-$7.* Some 2,000 gallons of New England's most delectable soup will be ladled out during this annual chowder orgy. A perennial favorite, Chowderfest brings together 10 to 12 of the city's best restaurants to compete for the title of "Boston's Best Chowder."

Monday, July 3

Boston Harborfest: Sunset Parade
US Navy, Pier One, Charlestown Navy Yard, Charlestown (951-2690). 7:30-8:45pm. Enjoy a Sunset Parade, an age-old military tradition during which the flag and nation are honored in a moving ceremony adjacent to the *USS Constitution*. The Middlesex County Volunteers Fifes and Drum will also perform in the ceremonies, which culminate in the lowering of the Stars and Stripes.

Boston Harborfest: Hypnotic Clambake in Concert
On the Plaza at City Hall (227-1528). www.bostonharborfest.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 12-2pm.* Take a break and treat yourself to a funky sampling of Zydeco, folk and hints of genres yet to be defined. Hypnotic Clambake plays the world's only caffeinated, Cajun (klezmerfied), trans-Atlantic, rockin' polka music. These guys have opened for Phish and the Dave Matthews Band.

Tuesday, July 4

Boston Harborfest: July Fourth Celebrations
•*9am-10am*: **Celebration of Independence** at City Hall. Flag raising followed by a short parade. •*10-10:30am*: **Reading of the Declaration of Independence** on the balcony at the Old State House. •*12pm:* **21 Gun Salute to the Nation** off the *USS Constitution* near Castle Island, South Boston. •*12:05pm:* **19 Gun Salute to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts** at Fort Independence, Castle Island, South Boston.

Shriners Parade
Copley Square, down Boylston Street, left on Tremont Street up to Government Center and on to Cambridge Street, Boston. www.shrinershq.org. *July 4, 1pm, and July 5, 7pm. Free.* Hundreds of midget cars, trick cars bouncing off roller coaster ramps, biplanes, trolleys, camels, clowns, antique cars, motorcycles horses and teeny tiny fire trucks parade down the street in celebration of the 2000 International Shriners Convention.

Cape Verdean Festival
City Hall Plaza, Boston (635-3404). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 2-7pm. The usual shebang with Cape Verdean music, food, art, dance, martial arts and performances.

Boston's Fourth of July on the Esplanade
Esplanade, Boston (267-3763). MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. www.july4th.org. *6am: Esplanade opens to the public; 12pm: recorded music program; 8-10:30pm: Pops concert; 10pm: fireworks display. Free.* This day-long celebration culminates with Boston's biggest musical event of the year, the annual Boston Pops concert of patriotic music, including the "1812 Overture," led by Keith Lockhart, followed by the traditional fireworks spectacular. A 30-minute "pyromusical" will include a riveting display of fireworks over the Charles River, choreographed to an international mix of recorded classical, jazz and popular music.

•*Treasures of the Kennedy Library.* A selection of the treasures, including sculpture, jewelry, paintings and documents. Through May 2000. •*Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy.* New ongoing exhibit. •Opened May 27: *Jacqueline Kennedy Travels Abroad.* A special exhibit on items presented to the former First Lady on her travels to Paris, London, Rome, India and Pakistan. Through Nov. 1. •Opened June 3: *John F. Kennedy—Man of the Sea.* This exhibit documents JFK's naval career and celebrates his lifelong love of the sea and sailing. Items include his collections of scrimshaw, Tall Ship models and maritime paintings; his boyhood sailing trophies; and the 26-foot sailboat, *Victura*.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (739-1200) www.afroammuseum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays 10am-4pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.* The place is bustling after its recent endowment of more than $1 million to restore the meeting house's hallowed sanctuary. See the African Meeting House, the oldest black church in America.

Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, students and seniors $4, children $3; free to all Sat. 9am-12pm.* This Harvard museum is made up of four factions: The **Botanical Museum**, **The Museum of Comparative Zoology**, the **Mineral & Geological Museum**, and the **Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology**. A number of exhibitions tie together all four of these distinct collections. The most famous is the Botanical Museum for its glass flowers collection—more than 3,000 models of more than 480 plant species. At the Museum of Comparative Zoology, check out the 42-foot-long mounted Kronosaurus (a really big lizard) and countless stuffed insects. The Mineral & Geological Museum's got a 16,000-pound Brazilian amethyst geode, and there's the dollhouse-esque Worlds in Miniature display at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnography. •New at the Peabody: *Heads and Tales: Adornments from Africa.* African people have developed hairstyles, headdresses, hats and many artifacts of visual interest to communicate messages to their friends and community about themselves and their society. •New at the Harvard Museum of Natural History: a 1 million-year-old saber-toothed cat.

Museum of Our National Heritage
33 Marrett Road, Route 2A, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.mnh.org. *Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 12-5pm. Free admission.* Explore history through pop culture. Topics range from Revolutionary artifacts to the latest in jigsaw-puzzle-solving techniques and American circus posters. •*Initiating America*, a historical look at fraternal organizations. Ongoing. •*The Lynn Beach Painters, Art Along the North Shore*, 1880-1920. Through Aug. 20. •Opened April 8: *Weaving the Dance: The Yeibichai Tradition in Navajo Rugs.* An exhibition on 20th-century Navajo pictorial textiles.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu. 9am-5pm; Fri. 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children. Omni Theater, Hayden Planetarium or laser shows all $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children.* Find out how much you weigh on the moon, strap yourself into a space module or sift through sand on an archaeological dig. Enjoy 600 hands-on exhibits, including the *Theater of Electricity*, *Seeing Is Deceiving* and *Science in the Park* (Newtonian physics introduced through such accessible items as playground equipment and skateboards). •*To See the Sea* explores the ocean from the perspective of a deep-sea diver. •Now open: *Messages:* Discover why communication is central to everyday life. *Human Body Connection*: exhibits on anatomy, physiology and health. *The Light House: Beaming, Bouncing and Bending Light*: Learn the principles of optics, color and the nature of light with 18 hands-on activities. •New: Cahners ComputerPlace. A lively environment filled with multimedia-rich software and Web-based experiences. •*Secrets of Aging* opened April 5. Explores the science behind the universal experience of aging. •*T Rex Exhibition.* July 2-September 2000. "Sue" is a fully mounted cast of the largest and most complete Tyrannosaurus ever unearthed. The exhibit will include video footage, interactive, touchable replicas and colorful graphics. •Mugar Omni Theater: *Mysteries of Egypt*; *Dolphins.* Opened May 5: *Michael Jordan to the Max.*

Charles Hayden Planetarium
Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children. Time of show changes daily.* Get high! High up, that is. And (then) go see the stars and rock-music laser shows. Check out the ongoing out-of-this- world multimedia installations *Life and Death of the Sun* and *The Sky Tonight*, and enjoy daily laser shows to the music of the Beastie Boys, Pink Floyd, Korn, Tool, Jimi Hendrix, Nine Inch

Nails, among others. It's a trip. • *Journey to the Edge of Space and Time*: Ideas once considered crazy (like black holes) are now the building blocks of new knowledge. What next? • *Welcome to the Universe*. Now open. • Friday Night Stargazing, 8:30-10pm. Free. Weather permitting. • ***Catastrophes in Space—When Stars End Their Lives***. Audiences will learn that all stars grow old and die, and the death of a massive star creates new life, seeding space with new chemical elements and triggering the formation of new stars and planets. Through fall 2000.

Museum of Transportation

15 Newton St. (in Larz Anderson Park), Brookline (522-6547). MBTA: D Green Line to Reservoir, to bus 51. April-Oct., Wed.-Sun. 10am-5pm; Nov.-March, Wed.-Sun. 10am-4pm. $5, $3 seniors and students. This 1888 carriage house is the automobile buff's paradise—and the country's oldest private collection of antique autos. Featured cars range from Fords and Corvettes to Cadillacs and Italian imports. Lawn events are held on Sundays, 10am-2pm, throughout the summer, with food, refreshments, picnic areas, judging of cars and museum exhibits.

Old State House Museum

206 Washington St., Boston (720-3290). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily 9am-5pm. $3, students and seniors $2. Built in 1713, this original seat of colonial government was the place pre-Independence Bostonians first heard the Declaration of Independence read. • Opened March 31: ***Burning Issues: A History of Boston Through Fire***. This exhibit considers the significance of eight fire events in Boston's history, with interactive experiences for the family.

Sports Museum of New England

FleetCenter, Boston (624-1234). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Adults, $5, children and seniors, $4. Even if there's no game going on at the FleetCenter, you can still enjoy exhibits of the great sports traditions of the Boston Garden, FleetCenter and Celtics.

USS Constitution & Museum

Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (426-1812). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, bus 93 to Navy Yard. Nov.-April 30: Open daily 10am-5pm. Free. The stories of the individuals who authorized, built and served on the *USS Constitution*, the oldest commissioned warship afloat. Learn about its 200-year history hands on—hoist a sail, take the wheel, fire a cannon or swing in a hammock.

Zoos & Gardens

Arnold Arboretum

125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain (524-1718). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open weekdays: 9am-4pm, weekends: 12-4pm. Free. More than 14,000 exotic trees, shrubs and flowers make this the place to go when you need to escape the hustle and bustle of city life. There's no picnicking allowed, but biking, dog-walking and Frisbee-throwing are encouraged.

Franklin Park Zoo

1 Franklin Park Road, Boston (541-LION). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open Oct.-March daily 10am-4pm; April-Sept. weekdays 10am-5pm, weekends and holidays 10am-6pm. Admission $7, senior $6, children (ages 2-15) $4. A 72-acre oasis of green in the city, with waterfalls, lush vegetation, gorillas, leopards, hippos and free-flying birds. • Opened May 27: **Butterfly Landing** with 1,000 butterflies representing 40 North American species. The celebration will also include visits with animals and children's arts and crafts. • Opened May 28: **The Farmyard**. Mosey on down to the zoo for that down-on-the-farm feel right in the middle of the city. Check out the new main barn, incubator and brooder building, chicken coop, silo slide and windmill.

Garden in the Woods

New England Wild Flower Society, 180 Hemenway Road, Framingham (508-877-7630). April 15-October 31. $6. The largest collection of wildflowers in the Northeast. • May to mid June: See the spring ephemerals, including trilliums, jack-in-the-pulpits, pink-shell azaleas, pasque flowers, redbud, creeping phlox and Japanese Solomon's Seal, among numerous others.

Mount Auburn Cemetery

580 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard, transfer to #71 or #73 bus. Open daily 8am-7pm (summer) and 8am-5pm (winter). Admission free. Rest in peace among the grave sites and crypts of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes, "Battle Hymn of the Republic" author Julia Ward Howe and Winslow Homer, among other famous Americans. A great place for birdwatchers and botanists.

New England Aquarium

Central Wharf, Boston (973-5200). www.neaq.org. *MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Early Sept.-June: Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. and holidays 9am-6pm. $12.50.* Boston's biggest fish bowl has much more than just goldfish. In the three-story saltwater tank swim turtles, sharks, eels and the occasional mermaid (or mer-male), who entertains crowds as she or he cleans the tank. Be sure to visit with the seals on your way in and out of the aquarium. • *Storm Over Stellwagen*, a new 15-minute, interactive multimedia production, allows you to control the outcome of the film. • ***Unforgettable Boston***: This movie highlights Boston's favorite landmarks. $4. • Opened April 15: ***Nyanja! Africa's Inland Sea*** opens. This exhibit features East Africa's Lake Victoria, the world's second-largest lake, telling a story of the people, biodiversity, fisheries, history and future of the lake. • July 8, 9:15am: **Fierce Fishes Tour**. Piranhas, eels and sharks. Learn about ferocious animals of the deep. $8.

Roger Williams Park Zoo

1000 Elmwood Ave., Providence, R.I. (401-785-3510). South on 1-95 from Providence to exit 17 (Elmwood Ave.). $6, $3.50 seniors and children. Open every day except Dec. 25. Nov.-March 9am-4pm. April-Oct. 9am-5pm. Lions and tigers and a 150-pound baby polar bear named Triton. Oh my! More than 600 birds and mammals inhabit the African plains and rain forests. • Opened May 13: **Fleet Dinosaurs! A Journey to Extinction**. See 22 larger-than-life prehistoric creatures hunt their prey, roar a challenge and nurture their young, all in an authentic prehistoric landscape.

Stone Zoo

149 Pond St., Stoneham, Rte. 93 North, Exit 34 (781-438-5100). Mon.-Fri. 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. and holidays 10am-6pm. $6 adults, $4 children. We offer condolences to the Stone Zoo for the death of their polar bear Major, who was the star attraction for the last 33 years. He will be greatly missed. Please enjoy our short ode to a polar bear: "Oh, dear Major, you were a star; people came to see you from near and far; thousands of kids want to tell you they care; so long, dear Major! our favorite polar bear." • What in the World Is It? A maze with five mystery animal stations. Find your way in and then try to find your way out. • Opened May 27: Snowy Owl Creek. This new exhibit brings you on a trek through the tundra and the Canadian north woods.

Minuteman Trolley's Ghosts & Gravestones tour spooks visitors Thursday through Sunday at dusk.

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Submit updated press releases by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Theater. Or e-mail information to performing@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Theater
JUST OPENED

The Baltimore Waltz
Ruth Nagel Jones Theatre, Wellesley College, Alumnae Hall, Wellesley (283-2000). Mon.-Thu. 7pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm. Through June 29. $10. In Pulitzer Prize-winner Paula Vogel's play, a school teacher and her brother travel through Europe.

Berkshire Theatre Festival
Stockbridge, Mass. (413-298-5536). Mon.-Sat. 8:30pm. $18. •Main Stage, June 21-July 8: ***Camelot***. This musical, magical fairy tale details the love between Queen Guenevere, King Arthur and Sir Lancelot. •Main Stage, July 11-22: ***Toys in the Attic***. Set in New Orleans in 1960, strewn with characters consumed by childhood dreams and expectations, the three siblings in *Toys* are as familiar as any of those found in the dysfunctional families of today. •Unicorn Theatre, through July 1: ***Best Kept Secret, A Dangerous Liaison in the Cold War***. Based on a true story, Katharine Houghton's two-person play explores the vast spectrum of emotions triggered by an intense relationship between Katya, a young American woman with a crippling disease struggling to find independence, and a Soviet engineering student trapped within the emotional, psychological, intellectual and physical confines of Communist Russia. •Unicorn Theatre, July 6-29, ***Coyote on a Fence***: Two men, each in a single cell on death row, both convicted murderers, both struggling to find meaning in the deadening violence of prison life, unwittingly forge a contentious relationship.

Shakespeare & Co.'s *The Wharton One-Acts* plays in Lenox, Mass., through Sept. 2.

Eric Idle Exploits Monty Python
The Wang Theatre, Tremont St., Boston (931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. June 29, 8pm. $26-$56. Along with Eric Idle, this zany two-hour event will feature the Rutland Sympathy Orchestra under the baton of John DuPrez, Sir Dirk McQuickly of the semi-legendary Rutles, the Bruces (an all-Australian Drinking Quartet) and Dolly Taylor, the great transvestite country and Western singer.

A Festival of New Plays
Boston Theatre Works, Boston University Theatre, Studio 210, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (728-4321). MBTA: Green Line to BU. June 29-July 2. $15. This week-long festival consists of readings and workshops of previously unproduced scripts.

Honk!
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly, Mass. (978-921-6351). Tue. 8pm; Wed. 2pm and 8pm; Thu.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm. June 13-July 2. $18-$56. A hilarious new musical based on Hans Christian Andersen's *The Ugly Duckling*. The British team of George Stiles and Anthony Drewe have turned the inspirational fairy tale into a surprisingly sophisticated comedy.

The House Not Touched by Death
Pilgrim Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Call for times and pricing. Through July 1. A provocative, moving and often hilarious musical performance about the contemporary person's disengagement with death and the process of dying.

Macbeth
The Publick Theatre, on the Banks of the Charles River, Soldiers Field Road, Boston (782-5425). Wed.-Sun. 8pm. June 29-July 23. $20-$24. William Shakespeare's tale of sexuality, violence and ambition. Blood, thunder, hectic passion and screeching witches all haunt the darkened landscape of one of Shakespeare's most popular tragedies. Based on historic figures, it's the story of a Scottish king who, having attained the throne by murdering his predecessor, finds himself plunging even deeper into tyranny and guilt.

Marcel Marceau
American Repertory Theatre, Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (495-2668). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. June 27-July 23. Face blanched white. Eyes burning with joy or sadness. Cheeks twitching to the design of rail-thin red lips. Eyebrows educated to infinite suggestion. Hailed as the world's greatest living mime, Marcel Marceau has almost single-handedly preserved and promoted this silent art. See him live.

The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber
Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). Thu.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 1pm and 7pm. July 13-16. $35-$65. Michael Bolton joins a cast of singers and dancers and a 28-piece onstage orchestra in a celebration of Andrew Lloyd Webber's greatest works.

Urban Cowboy (The Musical)
Gloucester Stage Company, 267 East Main St., Gloucester (978-282-1350). Wed.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 5pm. Through July 9. $20-$30. This world premiere is the pre-Broadway tryout of *Urban Cowboy (The Musical)*, a lively new Broadway musical based on the Paramount Pictures hit movie starring John Travolta.

NOW RUNNING

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed.-Thu. 8pm; Fri.-Sat. 7pm and 10pm; Sun. 3pm and 6pm. $39-$49. There's no dialogue in this long-running show, but somehow this multimedia production manages to get its point across with tribal rock music, performance art, humorous antics, props (including plastic tubes and Twinkies, among other strange objects) and three men painted blue.

The Scarlet Letter
Norwood Theatre, 109 Central St., Norwood, Mass. (781-762-4060). Through July 9. $18. Who would guess that someday Hester Prynne—complete with nose ring—would be dancing across a stage to a year-2000 mix of rock, a capella, grunge, jazz and rap? This new musical version has been officially sanctioned by the Nathaniel Hawthorne Society to honor the 150th anniversary of the book's publication. While it's faithfully based on Hawthorne's classic story of a young woman in 17th-century New England who is persecuted for having an illegitimate child and refusing to reveal the father's identity, the lyrics and music are contemporary.

Shakespeare & Company
Shakespeare & Company, The Mount, Lenox, Mass. (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. *Thu.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 3:30pm and 8pm; Sun. 3:30pm.* ***•The Wharton One-Acts****: Through Sept. 2.* Two plays by Edith Wharton kick off the 2000 performance season. *•The View Beyond:* Mrs. Manstey, an elderly woman who has lived alone without sight for 12 years, still enjoys her "view" of a small garden outside her window. Despite its current deterioration, she remembers the garden in full bloom—her reason for being. When the landlady tells her that a wall must replace the vista, Mrs. Manstey glimpses an afterlife that offers her a more remarkable view beyond the garden. *•Oh! Mr. Chekhov!:* Alexi Markovitch pursues love and connubial bliss with Olya, Zoe and Zhenya. The ups and downs of courtship provide laughter and insight in this witty farce. ***•Much Ado About Nothing***: Through Sept. 3. Don Pedro and his men discover the wars they return home from are not nearly so dangerous as the verbal barbs of the Messina ladies. The nihilistic Benedick is more than matched by the enigmatic Beatrice, both in varying states of denial of their passion for one another. ***•Twelfth Night or What You Will***: June 30-Aug. 6. Shakespeare's classic tale.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 6:30pm and 9:30pm; Sun. 3pm and 7:30pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This hilarious whodunit is set in a unisex hair salon. The production holds the record as the longest-running play in the history of Boston theater.

Michael Bolton sings *The Songs of Andrew Lloyd Webb* at the Wang Theatre July 13-16.

H.M.S. Pinafore

Bring a lawn chair and blanket and spread out under the stars to enjoy a unique presentation of *H.M.S. Pinafore*—lavishly staged and costumed at the USS Constitution, June 30-July 2. Boston's professional opera repertory company, the Boston Academy of Music, hosts this first-ever production beside "Old Ironsides." *Pier One, Charlestown Navy Yard, Charlestown (242-5616). June 30-July 1 at sunset; July 2, 2pm.*

KEVIN SPRAGUE/CLIVE GRAINGER

COMING SOON

The School for Scandal
Pilgrim Theatre, Black Box Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Call for times and pricing. July 12-29. Sex, secrets and scandal. Written by Richard Brinsley Sheridan in 1777, this humorous exposition of society's passion for uncovering what goes on behind closed doors is as delightfully indicting of contemporary culture as it was of the 18th century.

Shakespeare on the Common: The Tempest
The Boston Common, Parkman Bandstand, Boston (423-7600). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 7pm. July 21-Aug. 13. Pack up a picnic and watch the story of Prospero, the deposed Duke of Milan, his daughter Miranda, and Ariel and Caliban, the inhabitants of the island Prospero is banished to. Drawing on traditions as diverse as African storytelling, Japanese Butoh dance, Italian *commedia dell' arte* and the spirit of Carnival, the CSC production will create a swirl of music, movement and theatricality.

INTERACTIVE THEATER

The Elvis Files
Club Cabaret, Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (738-2967). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. June 25, 8pm. $27.50 (includes light dinner). Find out what really happened to the King in this interactive, intergalactic murder mystery. Watch Special Agents Wolf Molder and Deena Sully team up with Lt. Colombus to help solve the Crime Scene of the Millennium. The guest list includes celebrity look-a-likes Madonna, Cher, Michael Jackson, Austin Powers, Joan Quivers and the guest of honor, The King.

Medieval Manor
246 East Berkeley St., Boston (423-4900). Red Line to Broadway. Mon., Wed., Thu., Fri. 8pm ; Sat. 5pm and 9:30pm; Sun. 6pm. Ongoing. $9.60-$32. Eat, drink and be merry at a Renaissance dining experience. Don't worry about etiquette. You won't find knives and forks at this place, and the soup of the day is in your face—literally.

Mystery Cafe
290 Congress St., Boston (781-320-0040). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Dinner and show: Fri. 7:30pm; Sat. 7pm. Ongoing. $36. Saturdays: The interactive murder mystery, *Murder on the Campaign Trail*, is a comedic mystery parody of campaign 2000.

Mystery Cruise: Murder on the Ocean Queen
Ft. Independence, Long Wharf, Boston (781-320-0040). Cruise departs Saturdays, 8pm. $49/person, includes dinner and cruise. Gather clues during a Harbor cruise, meet characters and interrogate suspects as you attempt to piece together the answer to the mystery.

Nonna's Cruise to Nowhere
Locations around the Greater Boston area (781-933-1363). $35/includes dinner. These folks have taken everyone's favorite Italian grandmother (Nonna) and placed her on an imaginary cruise ship, along with her zany family, after misleading Nonna into thinking she's going back home to Italy. The audience laughs, dances and plays along with the cast.

Dance

SHOWS AND EVENTS

The Boston Summer Dance Festival
Jeannette Neill Dance Studio, 261 Friend St., 5th floor, Boston (523-7732). July 10-28, 6pm. Free admission. The fifth annual Boston Summer Dance Festival celebrates the history of American jazz, tap and musical-theater dance. This year features an internationally renowned faculty of 18 dance professionals, ranging from dance pioneers to young innovators. Donald McKayle, a Tony Award-winning and Emmy-nominated choreographer, and Matt Mattox (Broadway veteran peformer) are two of the dance legends headlining. There is also a free lunch-time discussion with the artists on Thursdays, 1pm.

JOIN IN

Club Joy
533 Washington Street, Boston (354-5780). Saturday nights. This Latin night spot now offers classes: salsa, merengue, bachata and more.

Dancing at Ryles Jazz Club
Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. •Saturdays, 9pm-1:30am, $12, $10 after 11:30pm. Join in a variety of dance moves—here you'll find jazzy mambos, swing dancing, cheeky cha chas and sassy salsa numbers. *•Tuesdays 10pm-1:30am. $6.* Just Swing It night features the Black Tie Affair Orchestra and DJ music. Requests are taken and dancers are encouraged to bring their own music. *•Wednesdays, 9pm.* Get your Brazilian ballroom-dance fix with samba, forro, lambada and axe. *•Thursdays, 8:30-11pm. $10-$12.* Salsa and merengue dance.

Friday Night Dance Craze
The Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Through July 14, Fridays, 7-9pm. $12 each or $50 for the series. A little bit of Latin, disco, swing, flamenco and contra dancing.

Tango Rialto
Rialto, The Charles Hotel, One Bennett Street, Cambridge (661-5050). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Every Thursday night. 10:30pm-1:30am. $10. One of Boston's most popular restaurants, Rialto in Harvard Square, opens its doors to tango dancers of all levels and backgrounds for nights of a light buffet and lots of dancing. Free tango lessons are available every Thursday at the Wellbridge Fitness Center (adjacent to the Charles Hotel) prior to "Tango Rialto," so go get those dancing shoes ready.

Michael Minery is just one of many performers at the Boston Summer Dance Festival held July 10-28.

TICKETS

Bostix
(723-5181) www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of Faneuil Hall); Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth); and Harvard Square (in the Holyoke Center arcade at 1350 Mass. Ave).* Same-day tickets half-price.

Next Ticketing
(423-NEXT). www.boston.com/next.

Ticketmaster
(931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(247-1300 or 800-442-1854). A good place to get tickets if a show is sold out at the box office.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail info. to comedy@improper.com. *Include address, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a description of the performances or comedians. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (248-9700). www.comedyconnectionboston. com. *MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed. 8pm; Thu. 8:30pm; Fri. and Sat. 8pm, 10:15pm; Sun. 7pm. $8-$10 (weekend prices vary).* The oldest comedy club in Boston draws big-name, national comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •June 27: Boston Headliners. •June 28: Don Gavin. •June 29, 8:30pm, $12: Frank Santos, the "R-Rated Hypnotist." •June 30: Dane Cook, *Mystery Men* and *Simon Sez*. •July 1: Dane Cook. •July 2, 7pm: Dane Cook. •July 3: Showcase. •July 4: Boston Headliners. •July 5: Boston Headliners. •July 6, 8:30pm, $12: Frank Santos, the "R-Rated Hypnotist." •July 7: Allan Havey from Comedy Central's *Night After Night with Allan Havey, Letterman Show* and *Comic Relief IV & V*. •July 8: Boston Headliners. •July 9: Showcase. •July 10: Boston Headliners. •July 11: Boston Headliners.

The Comedy Studio at the Hong Kong
1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu.-Sun. 8pm. $5-$7. Sketch comedy troops and local comedians perform.

Dick Doherty's Comedy Vault
Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun. 9pm. $10. Features local stand-up comedians. Thursdays: Stand-up comedy. Fridays and Saturdays: Dick Doherty's Comedy Pro Tour. Sundays: Open-mike night.

Nick's Comedy Stop
100 Warrenton St., Boston (482-0930). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Fri. 8:30pm; Sat. 7:45pm and 10pm; Sun. 8pm. $10-$15. The talent here is not quite as big-name as the Comedy Connection, but the crowds are just as enthusiastic, and you're guaranteed to leave with a smile on your face. Wednesdays: Open mike at 8:30pm. •June 29, 8:30pm: John David, Dave Russo and Paul Keenan. •June 30, 8:45: Mike Donovan, Dave Russo and Paul Keenan. •July 1, 8:45pm: Mike Donovan, Mark Scalia and Paul Keenan.

IMPROVISATIONAL COMEDY & MAGIC

Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston (263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. *Shows: Thu. 8pm; Fri. and Sat. 8pm and 10pm. Main Stage: $10-$15.* Now playing on the main stage is the critically acclaimed improvisational and sketch comedy show—voted one of Boston's best improvisational comedy troops. •Wednesdays, 8pm: The Improv Asylum Training Center graduate show, ***Gary's Pocket***, followed by the Improv Asylum Touring Company. $10.

ImprovBoston at Back Alley Theater
1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1253). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe makes things up as they go along. Fri.-Sat. 8pm ($12) and 10:30pm ($12). Sun, 2pm ($7). •Fridays and Saturdays: 90 minutes of wholesome fun with scenes, games, original music and lots of audience participation. •Thursdays, 8pm: Sitcom. A fully improvised show based on suggestions from the studio audience and an on-stage computer. 10pm: Open Improv Jam. All visitors of any skill level are invited to participate in a no-pressure, fun-filled atmosphere where everybody gets to play. •Fridays, 8pm: ImprovBoston. 10:30pm: Theatre Sports Boston vs. Sitcom. Best-of-five match. •Saturdays, 8pm and 10:30pm: ImprovBoston performs live.

Comedian Gallagher smashes fruit at the North Shore Music Theater July 7 at 8pm.

Magicians & Spirits at the Green Street Grill
280 Green St., Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Shows every Tuesday at 9pm. $10 cabaret show ($5 with dinner). Patrons enjoy close-up magic as two or three magicians perform tricks behind the bar and among the crowd. At 10pm, the cabaret show begins upstairs with local and national magicians reading minds, making birds appear out of nowhere and levitating objects onstage.

COMEDY SHOWS

Battle of the Sexes
290 Congress St., Boston (426-1999). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Saturdays 10:30pm. $15-$18. A participatory comedy.

Comedy Acts
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly, Mass. (978-921-6351). July 6, 8pm: **Ellen Degeneres**. •July 7, 8pm: **Gallagher**.

Comedy at the Isle
The Emerald Isle Bar and Lung, 1501 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester (288-3481). MBTA: Red Line to Fields Corner. June 30, 9pm. $5, $10 on the day of the show. Tom Cotter, Robbie Printz and Dave Walsh do stand-up comedy.

Joey & Maria's Comedy Wedding
Tremont House Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston or Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Fri. and Sat. 7:30pm. Ongoing. $39-$45. Join the fun at this absolutely zany Italian wedding. Big hair and blue tuxedos optional.

Secret Society
The Works Theater, 255 Elm St., Somerville (538-3205). MBTA: Red Line to Davis Square. •June 30 and July 1, 8pm. What does it mean when we talk too much? What does it mean when we love too much? Why do we do what we do when we do? Why don't we do what we know we should do? These and other questions will be answered in Blue Screen Production's newest long-form improvisation show, Secret Society. Secret Society is a comedic view into the mind of society through the eyes of an audience participant chosen by The Society.

SitcomBoston
The Works Theater, 255 Elm St., Somerville (538-3205). MBTA: Red Line to Davis Square. •June 29, 8pm; June 30 and July 1, 10:30pm. A fully improvised comedy show that looks exactly like an hour of prime-time television.

art

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information for gallery and museum listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail to arts@improper.com. *Include opening and closing dates, nearest T stop, price of admission, if any, and telephone numbers. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a partial list of the largest art museums, art institutes and galleries in the Boston area. The • symbol denotes a temporary exhibition.

Museums

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat. 10am-12pm. The Sackler houses ancient Islamic and Asian art, an array of Neolithic bronze Buddhas, Greek pottery, and Hellenistic and Roman sculpture. •*Wall Drawing #830* features four isometric figures with dynamic colors. Ongoing. •Every Thursday is a free guided tour of Shahn's work, 10:30am.

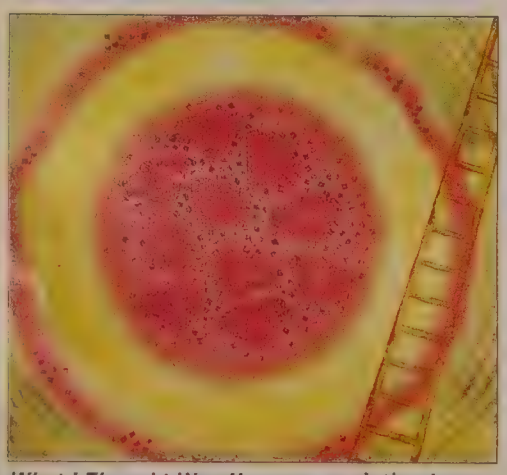
Boston Public Library
900 Boylston St., Boston (542-4000). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. •*Iso Papo: Drawings and Watercolors* shows through July 17 in the Wiggin Gallery. •Manuscripts, photographs and memorabilia from the Rare Books collection and the Massachusetts Historical Society collections show with *Shipping, Sailing and the Sea.* ThroughJuly 31 in the Rare Books exhibit area. •*Millennium Leaders of Boston as Seen Through the Lens of Bachrach* shows through June 30 in Deferrari Hall. It is an exhibition of photographs of Boston leaders from all walks of life, including men and women in the fields of business, medicine, education, politics, the arts, music, sports and the media.

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park
51 Sandy Pond Rd., Lincoln (781-259-8355). •*The DeCordova Annual Exhibition* features 10 New England artists and their work in various media. Through Sept. 4.

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA:Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat. 10am-12pm. It's better to visit the Fogg the same day you go to the Sackler, as admission includes all of Harvard's museums. Highlights include van Gogh's self-portrait and Bermini's clay figures.

Gibson House Museum
137 Beacon St., Boston (267-6338). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Guided tours every Sat. and Sun. at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm. $5. With 75 percent of its original items in place, the museum allows visitors to understand 19th-century domestic life and design. Ongoing.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (266-5152). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Wed.-Sun. 12-5pm; Thu. 12-9pm. $6, $4 students and seniors. •Marijke van Warmerdam's *7 Thoughts* marks the first time the artist's innovative work will be displayed in a solo U.S. museum exhibition. Through July 2. •*Art on the Emerald Necklace* will be presented throughout the nine parks and green-ways designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. The exhibit includes Barnaby Evans' *Moving Water* and will run July 1-Aug. 20. •Free guided walk-throughs take place each Thursday at 6:30pm.



What I Thought Was Heaven, a painting by Andrew Tavarelli, shows at Gallery Naga.

Lullaby: Madame Augustine Roulin Rocking a Cradle (1889) is included in the Museum of Fine Arts' recently opened exhibition, Van Gogh: Face to Face. It is on display July 2-Sept. 24.

Preview

Portrait of an Artist

Van Gogh exhibition opens at the MFA

The Museum of Fine Arts' much anticipated new exhibition, *Van Gogh: Face to Face*, will reunite more than 70 of his finest portraits for the first time in any major museum. More than a century after the artist's death, works from all stages of his career are featured, including not only the famous portraits he painted in France but also the little-known studies of characters whom he encountered in the Netherlands. One of the highlights of the exhibition will be an extraordinary assembly of the artist's self-portraits, from the earliest paintings done shortly after his arrival in Paris in 1886 to the canvas completed a few months before his death in 1890. It will also showcase a group of 17 portraits of the family of Joseph Roulin, the postman at Arles, including the MFA's two oils of Roulin and of his wife, Augustine. *Call 542-4MFA for tickets.*

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (566-1401). www.boston.com/gardner. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun. 11am-5pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, under 18 free. Guided on Fridays 2:30pm.* This 15th-century Venetian palace is home to more than 2,500 objects and twice as many flowers. Boston's most famous museum is named for the house's owner, Isabella Stewart Gardner (1840-1924), an infamously incorrigible individualist. Only after her death was her house completely opened to the public. Now everyone can see the works of Titian, Botticelli and Matisse, as well as furniture and architectural details from European churches and palaces.

MIT Museum
265 Mass Ave., Cambridge (253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5pm, weekends 12-5pm. $3, $1 for students, seniors and children. Where else would you be but at MIT when you contemplate Morton G. Bradley Junior's *Math in 3-D: Geometric Sculptures?* The museum's other permanent exhibits include *Flashes of Inspiration: The Work of Harold Edgerton*, and *Gestural Engineering* and *Cultural Engineering: The Sculptures of Arthur Ganson*, the mechanical engineer/choreographer. •On the last Sunday of the month, explore oceanography, astronomy, the science of buildings and other mysteries of science with interactive activities for all ages from 2-4pm, no reservations required. Call 452-2827 for details.

Museum of Bad Art
580 High St., Dedham (325-8224). Mon.-Fri. 6:30-10pm, Sat. and Sun. 1-10pm. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. The one and only museum that boasts "art too bad to be ignored." A favorite is *Lady Chardonnay*, a piece illuminating a poodle-head dancer.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Mon.-Tue. 10am-4:45pm; Wed. 10am-9:45pm, Thu.-Fri. 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. 10am-5:45pm. West Wing only Thu.-Fri. 5-9:45pm. $12, students and seniors $10.* The MFA has earned its rep as the second-best-run art museum in the nation (after the Metropolitan Museum of Art) with its top-notch exhibitions, educational programs and galleries of African, Oceanic and American art. •*Vietnamese Ceramics*, the glazed ceramic tradition of Vietnam, represents one of the most important remaining cultural legacies of Vietnam's history. Ongoing. •*Common Threads: Samplers from Around the Globe* is 65 pieces from the museum's Textile and Costume collection that spans 300 years and four continents. Through July 23. •*Van Gogh: Face to Face* displays July 2-Sept. 24.

The Peabody House Museum
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (496-1027). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5 adults; $4 students and seniors; $3 children 3-13. No fee Sat. mornings until 12pm. •The exhibition *Heads and Tales: Adornments from Africa* includes sculptures and artifacts from the Peabody Museum collections, which highlight the messages communicated by head adornments in sub-Saharan Africa. Through Oct. 1, 2001.

The Revolving Museum
288-300 A St., Boston (439-8617). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed.-Fri. 12-5pm. •Possibly the last exhibition we'll see here for a while due to financial woes: *Student Artists Invitational Performance Art All Stars*, with an installation by Joel Hurlbert. July 1-Aug. 4.

Galleries
FINE ART

Allston Skirt Gallery
119 Braintree St., Allston (254-7027). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm and by appointment. Out & About: Summer Photo Show, features work by eight photographers who capture contemporary life from a variety of angles. July 6-29.

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (536-4465). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •*New Talent* displays through June 30. •A group show features a collection of paintings. July 1-Aug. 31.

Andrea Marquit Fine Arts
38 Newbury St., Boston (859-0190). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Wed.-Sat. 11am-5pm. Shows contemporary masters and emerging artists and is a consulting group for corporate and private collectors. Open by appointment only.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (247-0610). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 11am-5:30pm; Sun. 1-5pm. Representing an eclectic mix of styles, from abstract to super-realist. •New Work, by Tom Paiement & Tom Seghi, features Paiement's oil on canvas paintings and Seghi's fruit still lifes. July 4-31.

Artists Foundation
516 East Second St., #49, Boston. (464-3559). Saturdays, 12-5p.m. Evidence, an interactive installation by Alice Vogler in the Office Gallery, and *Gone Fishing,* with video and film by Ann Steuernagel, are included in the gallery exhibits. Through July 8.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., 5th Floor, Boston (262-4490). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. Paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures by emerging and established artists. •*William Kentridge: Editioned Work* shows through July 28.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm. •Michael Madore's collection shows through July 29.

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (482-2477). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sun., 10:30am-5:30pm. Closed Saturdays. •*Gallery Group Show, June 28-July 28.*

Cambridge Art Association
25 Lowell St., Cambridge (876-1880). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Sat. 11am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. The Book as Art: Artists' Books in New England is juried by Peter Madden, through July 6.

Cambridge Arts Council
11 Whyte St., Cambridge (349-4380). MBTA: Red Line to Porter. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-5pm. Tabitha Vevers exhibits three provocative series of conceptual work that explore the themes of violence, cloning and fertility in *Tabitha Vevers: Monochrome.* Through July 2. •*Maria Wallace: Figure/Ground* shows July 10-30.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (236-2255). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm. •*Global Village* is a selection of international glass artists. Through Aug. 18.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (859-7222). Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •Bernd Haussmann's work displays through June 28. Babs Kletter's art is featured July 1-30.

Child's Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (266-1108). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri. 9am-6pm; Mon. and Sat. 10am-5pm. American and European paintings, prints, drawings and sculpture, from 1500 through 1950. •Henry Rodman Kenyon's work shows in the Main Gallery. •*American Wood Engravings* is in the Lower Gallery. •*Pictures for the Public: American Illustration and Drawing* is on display in the Alcove Gallery.

Clark Gallery
145 Lincoln St., Lincoln (781-259-8303). Tue.-Sat. 10am-5pm. The gallery represents 30 artists, primarily regional. Media regularly include glass, ceramics, oil, acrylic on canvas, wood and studio furniture. •*The Summer Group Show* displays through July 28.

Copley Society of Boston
158 Newbury St., Boston (536-5049). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat. 10:30am-5:30pm; Sun. 1-5pm. America's oldest nonprofit art association is a platform for young and established artists. •*Spring/Summer Members Show* shows through July 1.

Creiger Dane Gallery
36 Newbury St., Boston (536-8088). www.creigerdane.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm.* • *Where Do You Draw the Line?*, traditional and experimental forms of drawing on display June 29-August 12.

BOTTOM:DAVID CARAS

Crosstown Arts, Inc.
One North Square, Boston (720-0100). www.crosstown.com. •This new gallery features as its opening exhibit *The Ability to Obsess*, on view through June 30. It introduces the work of new contemporary artists Stephen deFilippis, Josette Ghiseline, Megan McNaught and Peter Inglis. •*Metal*, painted metal assembly and sculpture by Stephen deFilippis, shows July 4-Aug. 25.

Crystal Fine Art
93 Summer St., Suite 4L, Boston (728-9818). www.crystalfineart.com. *MBTA: Red and Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Tue.-Fri. 11am-6pm.* A multicultural gallery that regularly displays the work of national, international and local artists.

Dietrich von Buhler Gallery
16 Ashford St., Boston (783-2421). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Sat., 2-4pm and by appointment. www.drawbridge. com/dvbgallery. •In her first show, *Nursery*, Kathleen Bitetti shows work that specifically addresses aspects of childhood. Bitetti is the executive director of the Artists Foundation and is also the director of the Lillian Immig Gallery at Emmanuel College. Through Aug. 12.

Dyansen Gallery
132 A Newbury St., Boston (262-4800). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. You'll always find paintings, bronzes and fine-art prints. Collections include Rembrandt, Picasso, Chagall, Miro, Dali, Cassatt, Snowden and more.

***Before the Book*, by Ken Beck, is at Gallery Naga.**

Eclipse Gallery
167 Newbury St., Boston (247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9am-6pm. •*Circles, Squares & Straight Lines*, the abstract, color photography of Barbara Filo, shows through July 8. *La Belle Fleurs*, mixed media, works on paper, runs July 11-Aug. 5.

Elias Fine Arts
120 Braintree St., Brighton (783-1888). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. •*Look Back, Look Forward*, a group show made up of eight artists, celebrates the third anniversary of the gallery. Through June 24. •In *Real Fun*, 16 national and international artists present photographs made with toy cameras. Curated by Monique Johannet and Karolyn Hatton. July 6-Sept. 16.

Gallery Bershad
99 Dover St., Somerville (629-9400 ex.3). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Wed., Thu., Sun., 12-6pm; Fri. and Sat. 12-8pm. •Hamid Zavareei's work shows through July. •*Coast to Coast: New Paintings*, by Sarah Frances Egan and Hamid Zavareei, displays through July 30.

Gallery Naga
67 Newbury St. ,Boston (267-9060). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tues.-Sat., 10a.m.-5:30p.m. Closed Saturdays in July •*Proximate Stillness* features new paintings from Ken Beck. *Conversations with Willie and Van* features the artwork of Andrew Tavarelli. Both exhibits run through July 14.

Gallery Seventy-nine
79 Newbury St., Boston (262-5918). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Thu., 9:30am-6pm; Fri. 9:30am-4:30pm. •A group show displays the work of Jeffrey Ringdahl, Francis Domec, Eileen Namaka, Eileen Wagner and Dagmar Nickerson. Through Aug. 18.

Genovese Sullivan Gallery
47 Thayer St., Boston (426-9738). Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. •*New Paintings*, by David Omar White, displays through July 4. *Abstraction Today Part 2*, by Martin Ball, Catherine Carter and others, displays July 7-Aug. 1.

Gibbs Gallery
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm. Explorations in Spirit and Nature, by Michelle Lougee and Jane Sherrill, shows through July 7.

Gurari Collections
91 Charles St., Boston (367-9800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington or Red Line to Charles MGH. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. This gallery has an impressive collection of 16th- to early-20th-century etchings, engravings and drawings. Also showing is the work of Wendy Artin, an artist living in Rome. •*Masterpieces of Antique European City Plans* displays through July 21.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St. Boston (536-6339). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 10am-6pm; Sat. 10am-5pm. •An assortment of 18th- and 19th-century historic and decorative antique engravings and lithographs.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (262-0550). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. www.hyg.com. •*Philip Sirosis: New Paintings* shows with *Howard Johnson: Band Aid Drawings* through June 27. •Also, the work of Katarina Andersson, Clem Crosby, Carol Kaufman, Marie Rafalso and Brian Zink shows through June 30.

Hurst Gallery
53 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (491-6888). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sat. 12-6pm. Thu, 12-7pm. Visitors are greeted with a wide variety of art and artifacts from six continents.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (375-0076). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. Midsummer Magic celebrates the beauty of original vintage posters. It also features newly aquired work by Leonetto Cappiello, A.M. Cassandre and Jean de Paleologue. July 1-Sept. 4.

Judy Ann Goldman
14 Newbury St., Boston (424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. Call for an appointment. The gallery regularly displays paintings, sculpture and works on paper.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 Saint Stephen St., Boston (247-1719). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue.-Sat., 1-5pm. •*Calligraphy & Sumi-E*, a group exhibition, shows through July 31.

Lyman-Eyer Gallery, Inc.
1347 Washington St., West Newton (964-3470). Tue.-Fri., 4-7:30pm; Sat., 11am-7:30pm; Sun., 11am-5pm. City Heat, paintings by Shirley Wallitch, is a series of vibrant urban landscapes. Through July 20.

Mass Art Gallery
President's Gallery, 11th floor, Tower Building, Massachusetts College of Art, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston. (232-1555 ext. 716). Mon.-Friday, 9am-5pm. Beverly Hallam: A Return Visit features 39 still lifes in mixed media, prints, acrylics and pastels.

Mobius
354 Congress St., Boston (542-7416). $10, $8 students and seniors. •*Consumer: i am the consenting part of the fashion system*, an installation that addresses the love-hate relationship with consumer culture, by Sand T, displays through July 1.

MPG
285 Newbury St., Boston (437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •*Land Sea and Beyond I* includes a variety of work by Gail Bessette, Rachel Claflin and George Lynde. Through July 30.

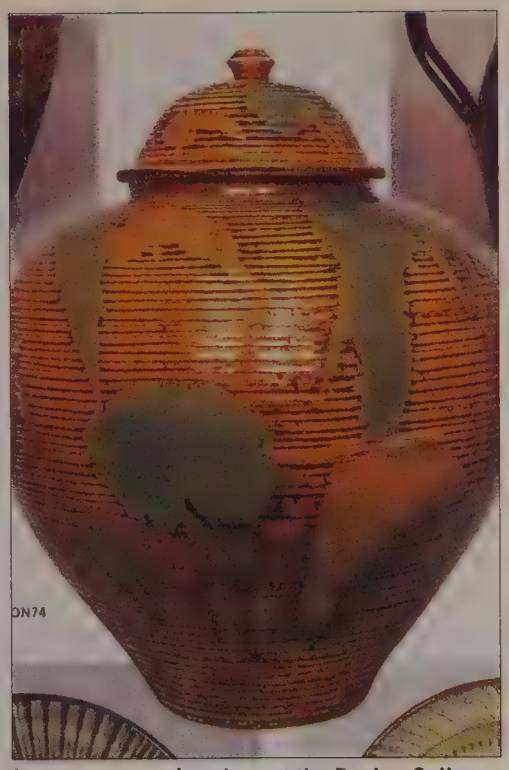
Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (266-4835). www.nielsen gallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm.* Founded in 1964. •The current exhibition is *In the Spirit of Landscape V*, a collective exhibition. Through July 29.

Out of the Blue Gallery
168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun. 12-7pm. This gallery, owned and operated by several artists, always has a variety of interesting artwork and art-related events going on. •Poetry readings take place every Saturday, and the gallery hosts a rotating guest list of jazz musicians every Wednesday. •*Ten Students from the Rhode Island School of Design* shows July 1-31.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (236-4497). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •*Landscapes by Gallery Artists and Guests* is a series of paintings and drawings. July 6-28.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (267-9473). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun. 1pm-5pm. •*The Ceramic Art of Onda*, Japanese Folk Pottery, is on display through July 5. •*Fine Choices* opens July 8.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (266-3321). MBTA: Green Line to Arlingron. www.richardson clarke.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tues.-Sat. 10am-5pm.* •American and European 19th- and 20th-century paintings, drawings and sculpture. Ongoing. •Truman Seymour's *Moroccan Watercolors* is also now on display.



Japanese ceramics show at the Pucker Gallery.

Space 12 Gallery
12 Union Park St., Boston (423-9760). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed. 6-9pm; Thu.-Sat. 1-5pm. •*Cuba Cuba*, a collaboration between the gallery and Espacio 52 of Habana, Cuba, exhibits prominent Cuban contemporary artists. Through July 31.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (450-0321). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. Artist William St. George displays his lush and colorful paintings. •Now showing *Colors of Provence*, William St. George's expressive landscapes in oil.

A Touch of France
173 Newbury St., Boston (247-6966). MBTA: Green line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-7pm; Sun., 12-6pm. This gallery imports contemporary French artists' works, including paintings from famous painters M. Tigrane, R. Kefflin, C. Ferrer and striking dried-flower arrangements made near Saint Tropez.

Via Gallery
83 Newbury St., 2nd Floor (424-6200). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri. 10am-4pm. •Heinz Guth's *The Nude Show* will be on display through July 31.

Zeitgeist Gallery
312 Broadway St., Cambridge (876-2182). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu.-Sun., 2pm-7pm. The gallery displays a variety of local artists' work. •A Playground Jazz Series takes place on Friday nights. •Monday is literary night with the Stone Soup Poets performing. •Every Wednesday is a figure-drawing session. •Sunday is a vegan potluck supper, often accompanied by live music and poetry. Open to one and all.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Artists for Humanity
288-300 A Street, Boston (868-1516). Through July 1. April 30 marked 25th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. In commemoration, Artists for Humanity displays the exhibition *Street Visions*, a project affiliated with the Ho Chi Minh City Child Welfare Foundation, which teaches photography to Vietnamese children. The exhibition shows with *Hanoi Photographs*, a collection of images by New York-based artist Timothy Karr. Also, Artists for Humanity exhibits *Mayhem*, a collection of American urban youth art. Through July 1.

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2051). Tues.-Sat. 11am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm; Closed Mondays. The Multiple is a gallery investigation that explores works of art produced more than one time. Ongoing.

Gallery One
537 Comm. Ave., Boston (437-1868). Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm. Affiliated with the New England School of Photography. •*Class of 2000*, a student exhibition, shows through July 30.

Photographic Resource Center
602 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-0700). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford. Tue.-Sun., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-8pm. •*2000 Photographic Resource Center Members' Exhibition* is juried by Richard B. Woodward, editor at large for *DoubleTake*, and John P. Jacob. Through June 30.

CRAFTS

Alianza Gallery
154 Newbury St., Boston (262-2385). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. A variety of arts and crafts are on display. •*Sheets of Glass*, a show that explores the sculptural use of sheet glass, shows through June 30.

Cambridge Artists Cooperative
59A Church St., Cambridge (868-4434). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; 10am-8pm; Sun. 1-6pm. Twelve artists own and operate this gallery that features 2D design and jewelry.

Clayground
91 Hampshire St., Cambridge (661-7376). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 12-6pm; Sat. 11am-5pm. Porcelain and stone objects galore. Classes are usually available.

Fresh Pond Clay Works
368 Huron Ave., Cambridge (492-1907). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard to Bus 72. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm. A wide range of firing techniques.

Gateway Gallery
62 Harvard St., Brookline (734-1577). MBTA: C Green Line to Brookline Village. Mon.-Sat., 11am-6pm. This nonprofit gallery features all sorts of arts and crafts.

Infinity Gallery
24 Union Park St., Boston (423-5555). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat 11am-7pm; Sun 11am-6pm. This small gallery features Wayne Fuerst's work.

Signature Gallery
Dock Square, Boston (227-4885). Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Thu., 10am-7pm; Fri. and Sat., 10am-9pm; Sun., 12-6pm. Pottery, metal and glass works.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (266-1810). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm; Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. •*New Baskets* shows through June 28. •SAC 2000 Artist Awards shows July 8-Aug. 31.

***Nevada Nights* is included in Barbara Filo's *Circles, Squares & Straight Lines* at the Eclipse Gallery.**

LEFT: BILL KIPP

JEKYLL AND SNIDE

Two Farrellys, two Carreys help *Irene* rise above simple gimmickry. BY PAUL SHERMAN

Peter and Bobby Farrelly might not break any new ground in *Me, Myself & Irene*, their first movie since *There's Something About Mary.* But they do break some more comic taboos. As in *Mary*—and *Dumb and Dumber,* and *Kingpin* before it—the Rhode Island-born brothers show an uncanny knack for milking big laughs out of socially uncomfortable and taste-skirting situations. While those earlier movies dared to have the mentally and physically handicapped, dog-wrassling and the Amish be fodder for the comedy, *Irene* brings an albino and a midget into the comic fold. It also builds many this-would-be-offensive-if-it-weren't-so-funny gags around such topics as breast-feeding and the foul language of three black teens.

Jim Carrey plays mild-mannered cop Charlie Baileygates and Charlie's hyper-aggressive alter-ego, Hank.

As has often been the case in the Farrellys' movies, its protagonist is on a quest that turns bizarre. In one sense, the quest of Rhode Island state trooper Charlie Baileygates (Jim Carrey) is a simple, romantic one: to win the heart of Irene (Renee Zellweger), the prisoner he's escorting to upstate New York, where the EPA wants to interrogate her about the illegal doings of her ex-boss (Daniel Green), of which she may have been an accessory. When it becomes clear to Charlie that Irene is in danger because of what she knows, and wasn't an accessory, he and Irene hit the road, trying to avoid both the ex-boss and the crooked local cop (Chris Cooper) who has put them on the wanted list.

But the main obstacle to Charlie's romancing Irene is closer than her enemies. It's his other personality, Hank, who has all the charm of Dirty Harry on a bad day. In the hilarious prologue to Charlie's first encounter with Irene, we see how 18 years earlier Charlie had married his dream girl (Traylor Howard), only to have her fall for their midget limo driver on their wedding day. Only Charlie doesn't find out about her indiscretion until nine months later, when she gives birth to triplets who, like the driver, are black.

Charlie sucks up all this mental abuse and just soldiers on when his wife leaves him, singlehandedly raising the three sons (Anthony Anderson, Mongo Brownlee and Jerod Mixon), who are both incredible child geniuses (because their mother and the driver are Mensa members) and incredibly foul-mouthed (thanks to their love of Richard Pryor and Chris Rock). After 18 years of being the town pushover, Charlie's repressed emotions finally boil over into brutal, uncontrollable man of action Hank. When the pills that keep Hank away get left behind during Charlie and Irene's flight from danger, the unsuspecting woman gets to spend time with both wild Hank and mild Charlie.

The premise of a love triangle involving just two bodies is not what makes *Me, Myself & Irene* work. Frankly, you could see that gimmick turning up in a run-of-the-mill Martin Lawrence or Rob Schneider movie (and this movie's anal fixation can be sophomoric, too). It's the Farrellys' free-wheeling style and Carrey's physical abandon that pushes *Irene* above most Hollywood comedies. Hank's unchecked aggression is often amusingly uncivil, Charlie's victimization is often painfully amusing (as he usually suffers for Hank's excesses), and Carrey's contortions and inner conflict during the climactic sequence when Charlie and Hank struggle for control of Charlie's body are disarmingly funny yet somehow dramatic, rivaling Steve Martin in *All of Me.*

And the Farrellys fill the film with trademark touches. An encounter between Charlie and an ailing cow is an obvious successor to Mary's dog antics. Similarly, the inclusion of the midget limo driver and an albino waiter (Michael Bowman) who joins Charlie and Irene's road trip continues their films' dedication to portraying everyone with as much sympathy or scorn as anyone else, while local comedy fixtures such as Steve Sweeney and Lenny Clarke return in choice supporting roles. iB

Me, Myself & Irene ★★★

Directed by Peter and Bobby Farrelly. Written by Peter Farrelly, Mike Cerrone and Bobby Farrelly. With Jim Carrey, Renee Zellweger, Chris Cooper, Robert Forster and Anthony Anderson. Rated R. 20th Century Fox.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Nia Long and Martin Lawrence are the two leading ladies in ***Big Momma's House.***

Big Momma's House ★½
Let's see, Eddie Murphy did the cop-as-crook thing in *48 HRS.*—so Martin Lawrence did it in *Blue Streak*. Murphy did the womanizer getting his come-uppance in Boomerang—so Lawrence did that in *Thin Line Between Love and Hate*. And Murphy did the comic under layers and layers of fat make-up in *The Nutty Professor*—so now Lawrence has done that in this one-joke underachiever about an FBI agent who must impersonate a large, 60-year-old African-American woman whose niece (Nia Long), the ex-girlfriend of an escaped armed robber, is coming to visit. The problem is Lawrence just straps on Southern grandma cliches for his "role" as the character under the make-up, and the whole thing is too predictable.

Boys and Girls ★½
Miramax is cranking out the Freddie Prinze Jr. romantic comedies so quickly that it seems little care is being taken in the generic screenplays. Like the recent *Down to You*, this college-set comedy has Prinze's control freak character develop a friendship-turned-romance with Claire Forlani's more impulsive character. This effort can't compare to a film like *She's All That*. Cliches abound in the supporting characters, and Prinze just keeps playing the same role again and again, though Heather Donahue of *The Blair Witch Project* adds an amusing, small part.

Butterfly ★★
This coming-of-age story is a sort of failed, tragic version of *Cinema Paradiso*, set in mid-1930s Spain. Asthmatic tyke Moncho (Manuel Lozeno) is the focus, a perpetually worried-looking boy who finds comfort in his relationship with grandfatherly teacher Don Gregorio (Fernando Fernan Gomez of *All About My Mother*). That is, until fascism rears its head and the leftist teacher is branded a traitor. Before that, the story goes through some quaint but dull coming-of-age paces, occasionally touching, but not enough to give the ultimate breach of its central relationship the fireworks it tries to spark.

The Color of Paradise ★★★½
Rarely does a movie cut to the hearts of its characters as does this latest by Iranian director Majid (*Children of Paradise*) Majidi. Following an 8-year-old blind boy (Mohsen Ramezani) who leaves his Tehran school for the blind to spend summer in the rural village of his father, grandmother and two sisters, the story revolves around the relationship between the boy and the emotionally scarred father (Hossein Mahjub), who'd rather not have to care for the boy himself. But, as the story unfurls, the boy's very survival depends on the father's willingness to love him (or not). In its full range of human emotions and glib-free beatitude of the storytelling, the only recent movie to compare with this in tone is David Lynch's *The Straight Story*.

Gladiator ★★
Director Ridley Scott's Roman tale is less escapist than most Hollywood spectacles. But despite the grand scale, it's still a simplistic, this-time-it's-personal action-drama. After a long setup, it settles into its primary conflict, in which Roman General Maximus (Russell Crowe), the trusted military leader of Emperor Marcus Aurelius (Richard Harris), plots revenge on the old emperor's son (Joaquin Phoenix), who has stolen the throne upon his father's death and had Maximus' family slain. Disgraced and thought-dead, the general ultimately gains fame as a fearless gladiator who fights his way to a showdown with the scheming dictator. The way the movie repeatedly drives home the motivations for Phoenix's paternally scorned neurotic and Crowe's proud victim becomes repetitious; you think they could have brought some more shading to the characters in 160 minutes.

ME, MYSELF: GLEN WATSON / MOMMA'S HOUSE: NICOLA GOODE

Grass ★★★
Those who remember *The Atomic Cafe*, which poked fun at Cold War hysteria through old educational films and newsreels, will find similarities in Ron (*Comic Book Confidential*) Mann's similarly amusing, head-shaking look at the government's obsession with demonizing marijuana and using the war on drugs for political gain. Narrated by Woody Harrelson, the film also exposes Harry J. Anslinger, the country's long-reigning first drug czar, as a shameless bastard who deserves a place alongside J. Edgar Hoover, Joe McCarthy and Tricky Dick Nixon on the Mount Rushmore of American infamy.

Hamlet ★
The idea of setting Shakespeare's tragedy in the modern-day Manhattan business world might seem promising, but as rendered in Michael Almereyda's film, it's deadly. The contemporary setting with Shakespeare's original language take to each other like oil and water. Because Almereyda hasn't altered the dialogue—or, more important, the information conveyed in that dialogue—the business setting is an uneasy fit (just what business is the movie's Denmark Corporation in? you'll ask yourself). In the title role, Ethan Hawke proves that the last thing he needed was a role that encouraged him to be more mopey. In supporting roles, Julia Stiles and Kyle MacLachlan fare better.

Kikujiro ★★
The surprising thing about the latest from Japanese writer, director, editor and actor Beat Takeshi (*Fireworks*) isn't that he's made one of those sentimental arthouse buddy movies about an orphan tyke and a surly adult who bond, rather than his usual crime picture. The surprising thing is that, in this story that recalls *Kolya*, *Central Station* and *King of Masks*, he's kept his trademark sadistic streak. Only in this road movie, in which Takeshi's thuggish character escorts a lonely 9-year-old (Yusuke Sekiguchi) in his attempt to find his mother, Takeshi only verbally berates characters instead of physically humiliating them. Such Don Rickles moments are often funny, but the mix of sentiment and cruelty make for a schizophrenic movie of limited impact.

Love's Labour's Lost ★★★
It's often uneven and flimsy, but Kenneth Branagh's transposition of Shakespeare's comedy to 1939 Europe and his transformation of it into a musical of song standards, most of which originated in Fred Astaire & Ginger Rogers films, is a charmer. With an eclectic cast that includes American film actors like Alicia Silverstone and English stage vets like Branagh, the director is smart enough to leave most of the dramatic heavy lifting to himself and most of the humor to comedy vets Timothy Spall (*Topsy-Turvy*) and an especially amusing Nathan Lane. Much preferred over the current *Hamlet*, but much preferred over Branagh's *Hamlet*, too.

Ran ★★★★
Think of it as *Gladiator* with better fight scenes and characters who are more deeply defined. Akira Kurosawa had already crafted one inspired adaptation of Shakespeare (*Throne of Blood* from *Macbeth*) when he made this 16th-century-Japan variation on *King Lear*. An instant classic upon its 1985 release, and a rich epic that loses a lot on video, it's back on the big screen June 30-July 6 at the Brattle Theater. In addition to Lear, Kurosawa also based his story of a warlord (Tatsuya Nakadai) who abdicates power and sets off a struggle between his three sons on a real-life medieval warlord. Full of epic battle scenes, enough intrigue to fill three palaces and the Lear-like madness that seizes the old warlord, this was Kurosawa's last great movie.

Shanghai Noon ★★★
Rush Hour - Chris Tucker + Owen Wilson = *Shanghai Noon*. With Jackie Chan once again playing a Chinese cop who comes to America to rescue a kidnapping victim and ends up bonding with an unlikely ally—albeit in the Old West this time—much of the reason why this is better than Chan's other American action-buddy comedy is the improvement of having laconic, off-kilter Wilson opposite him instead of jive-talking, predictable Tucker. You actually feel some affection between Chan's Forbidden City palace guard and Wilson's underachieving outlaw here—unlike in *Rush Hour*, where it was all formula.

Small Time Crooks ★★
In what is essentially Woody Allen's underwhelming version of *The Honeymooners*, the writer-director and Tracey Ullman play a lowbrow couple who strike it rich, and then find their new hoity-toity lives pulling them apart. While she hires art dealer Hugh Grant to culture her, he longs for the simple life they once had. Although this pokes fun at the Manhattan intellectualism to which Allen usually kisses up, as well as spoofing the nouveau riche couple, it never gets very involving, and with Allen, Ullman and Grant dominating the midsection, it's full of overmannered performances. About par for an Allen movie these days—not horrible, but not the least bit memorable.

Russell Crowe is the fearless Roman-general-turned-slave/fighter in Ridley Scott's dramatic *Gladiator*.

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Cinemas
214 Harvard Ave. (277-2140). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
Trapelo Rd. (484-1706). Red Line to Harvard, 73 bus.

BOSTON

Boston Film • Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (536-1540). Green Line to Hynes.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (536-5400). Green Line to Copley.

Cheri
50 Dalton St. (536-2870). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum Of Science, Omni Theater
Science Park (723-2500). Green Line to Science Park.

Nickelodeon
606 Comm. Ave. (424-1500). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford St.

Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle.

Coolidge Corner
290 Harvard St. (734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theater
40 Brattle St. (876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (495-4700). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Sq. (494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony Theater
10 Church St. (864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Sq.

Somerville Theater
55 Davis Sq. (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston. (277-2500). B Green Line to Chestnut Hill.

West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (964-6060).

Alternatives & Revivals

Advice to Contributors
Submit film listings by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Although film listings are correct at the time of publication, they are subject to change. Doublecheck showtimes by calling the theater or 333-FILM.

Boston Public Library

Iberoamerican Film Festivel
•June 28, 6pm **El Septimo Cielo** *(Eating Me Alive) 1978.* Joselito, a Colombian immigrant living in New York, strives to turn over a new leaf but descends into mayhem as his machismo, alchoholism and prejudices get the best of him.

Summer Film and Video Festival
•July 10, 3pm and 6pm **Words and Music** *1948.* This Hollywoodized biography of songwriters Rodgers (Drake) and Hart (Rooney) is set to wonderful music.

Al Pacino: The Seventies
•July 11, 3pm and 6pm **The Godfather** *1972.* From Mario Puzo's novel about the violent life and times of Mafia patriarch Don Corleone (Brando) comes this epic, masterfully done film set to Nino Rota's music. Academy Award winner for Best Picture, Actor (Brando), and Screenplay (Coppola and Puzo).

Brattle Theater

Most shows are $7, including double features.

Special Engagements
•Through June 29, 5:15pm, 7:30pm and 9:45pm (Sat. and Sun. matinees at 1pm and 3pm) **Chutney Popcorn** *1999.* One of the over-the-top hits at the recent Boston International Festival of Women's Cinema, the comedy is about the trials and tribulations of changing family values, cross-cultural lifestyle, and tradition vs. modernity. It follows a woman (played by filmmaker Ganatra) living in New York with her girlfriend.
•June 30-July 6, 4:30pm, 8pm (Sat., Sun. and Mon. matinees at 1pm) **Ran** *1985.* When the aging warlord Hidetora splits his kingdom between his three sons, chaos and turmoil ensues in this typically Japanese version of Shakespeare's *King Lear*. Hidetora's lesson is that he wants his sons to stay loyal to each other but his advice falls on deaf ears.

Coolidge Corner Theater

Midnight Movies
•June 30 and July 1, 12am **Kids in the Hall: Brian Candy** *1996.* In the Kids' first big screen feature, a scientist creates a new antidepressant called Gleemonex, which allows users to relive a favorite memory and causes and national sensation. Many of the Kids' favorite characters appear in the movie, including the notorious—and controversial—Cancer Boy.
•July 7, 12am; July 8, 12 am **Dead Alive** *1993.* When a freshly immigrated and vicious Sumatran rat monkey poisons Lionel's mother, it is up to this reluctant hero to save New Zealand from the bloodlusting undead his mother has become. Trusty lawnmower in hand, he sets out in his crusade, battling blood, gore, and a sick sense of humor on the director's part with the halp of a fanny-kicking priest.

Feature Presentations
•July 5, 7:30pm **Rear Window** *1954.* Voyeurism never looked as good as it does here, thanks to director Alfred Hitchcock and his incredible attention to technical detail. James Stewart stars as a wheelchair-bound news photographer who sees some suspect goings-on in his apartment courtyard. Grace Kelly's presence is luminous in the recently reissued film that features fully-restored color for the first time since its original debut.
•Now playing **Beau Travail** *1999.* Acclaimed French director Claire Denis takes a captivating look at the rituals of life in the French Foreign Legion, a foreign army with no real purpose anymore. Denis Lavant stars as Galoup, a mercenary who is emotionally isolated from the men with whom he rigorously trains, exercises and drills. Focusing on the beauty of the human form , Denis presents life in the African landscape (familiar territory for the French director who was raised on the continent) with haunting intensity.
•Opening in July **Jesus' Son** *2000.* A film by Alison Maclean, this star-studded film (Billy Crudup, Samantha Morton, Holly Hunter, Dennis Hopper and Denis Leary) is based on a collection of short stories of the same name by acclaimed fiction writer Denis Johnson. It is the intense, edgy story of a young man's circuitous journey from drug dependency and petty crime to a life redeemed by a startling discovery of compassion. The story is set in the drug subculture of the 1970s, and its protagonist careens through his days getting stoned, stealing or scamming. Through it all, he tries to make sense of the mutually destructive passion he shares with a beautiful woman.

Harvard Film Archive

•June 28, 7pm; June 29, 9:30pm **Jacquot de Nantes** *1991.* Hovering between fiction and non-fiction, the film is a re-creation of director Agnes Varda'a childhood in Nantes. As her relationship to both the man and the work emerge, this creative documentary make a loving and intelligent tribute to her recently deceased husband.
•June 28, 9:15pm and June 30, 9:15pm **Mon Oncle d'Amerique** *(My Uncle in America) 1980.* A Parisian actress, a media executive with political aspirations and a farmer turned textile-plant director all take hope in the proverbial "uncle," who made good in America to come and save the day. The winner of a special Critics' Prize at Cannes, this film explores the theories of French behavioral scientist Henri Labroit.
•June 29, 7pm; June 30, 7pm **One Day in the Life of Andrei Arsenevitch** *(Une Journee d'Andrei Arsenevitch) 2000.* The life, love and passion of Russian filmmaker Andrei Tarkovsky is studied in this moving tribute. Opening with footage from the reunion between Tarkovsky and his son, who had been held back in the USSR after the director's exile, the rest of the film explores his life, offering commentary along the way.
•June 29, 7pm and June 30, 7pm **An Approximation of Alain Resnais, Discreet Revolutionary** *(Une Approche d'Alain Resnais, Revolutionnaire Discret) 1980.* In order to put together a documentary portraying the notoriously shy filmmaker Alain Resnais, director Michel Leclerc pulls in excerpts from his films and testimonies from friends, actors and collaborators.

Cinema A-Z: Treasures from the Harvard Film Archive
•July 5, 7pm **Days of Heaven** *1978.* One of the most critically acclaimed American films of the past quarter-century, this was Terrence Malick's second feature. Set in the rich farmlands of Texas during the early part of the century, it focuses on a young couple who drift across the country with a younger sister in tow.
•July 5, 9pm **Dodsworth** *1936.* With a career that stretched from the silent cinema through the sixties and ranged from war films to musicals, historical epics to romantic comedies, Wyler was the consummate Hollywood professional. Among his first major works was this adaptation of Sinclair Lewis' celebrated novel.
•July 6, 7pm **Entre Deux Soeurs** *1991.* Caroline Leaf's animated short challenges ideas about beauty by presenting a relationship that is both cruel and tender.
•July 7, 7pm **Fat City** *1972.* In the decade following *The Misfits*, John Huston completed a handful of mainly European productions—Fat City marked his return to work in this country. Set in central California within the working-class environs of migrant laborers and drifters, this is the story of two smalltime boxers
•July 8, 8:30pm **The Garden of Earthly Delights** *1981.* Stan Brakhage's extraordinary film is composed entirely of mountain-zone vegetation applied to celluloid.
•July 9, 9pm **High Hopes** *1988.* One of the key works in the re-emergent New British Cinema of the 1980s,

JAAP BUITENDIJK

A grand-prize winner at the 1999 Cannes Film Festival, the French film *L'humanite* is being screened at the Museum of Fine Arts, June 29 at 5:30pm and June 30 at 7:30pm.

Preview

Attention: cinéaste

The Museum of Fine Arts celebrates cimema

With 20 features, this festival (July 6-23) represents the most extensive collection of French cinema presented this year in the States. Featured are new films by veteran directors such as Claude Chabrol, Diane Kurys and Philippe Garrel, as well as emerging talents and mid-career artists. The Boston French Film Festival is presented in cooperation with the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in Boston and was coordinated by Sean McDermott. Also, in conjunction with the festival, Maison Robert will host a celebratory French dinner with musical accompaniment July 11. See listings below for specific films.

this film relaunched the filmmaking career of English independent filmmaker Mike Leigh.

•July 10, 7pm **Innocence Unprotected** *1968.* In an exploration of the boundaries between fiction and nonfiction, Dusan Makavejev resurrects a primitive Serbian talkie made during the Nazi occupation.

•July 10, 8:45pm **I Am Cuba** *1964.* Reminiscent of the city symphonies of the '20s and inspired by Einstein's unfinished film ode to Mexico, Kalazov's film is a portrait of Mother Cuba by Mother Russia that compares the realities of life during the Batists era with the perceived triumphs of the Castro revolution.

•July 11, 9pm **Jesus of Montreal** *1989.* Winner of the Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival, this is a political satire that employs an unusual vehicle for social critique—the Passion Play. Set in a prominent Montreal basilica, the film follows the efforts of a young actor who has been hired to revitalize the church's decrepit version of this sacred performance.

Museum of Fine Arts

Most film screenings are $6.

Premiere Engagements

•June 29, 5:30pm and June 30, 7:30pm **L'humanite** *1999.* This grand-prize winner at the '99 Cannes Film Festival pulls together the lives of a trio of characters: rural detective Pharaon De Winter, his sexually aggressive 23-year-old neighbor and her boyfriend. As the characters' lives are wound more tightly together, the film builds to an unforgettable realization.

•June 29, 8:15pm and June 30, 5:30pm **The Interview** *1999.* At stake are an innocent man's future and the careers of his flinty interrogators. A merciless atmosphere, suspect motivations for each character and tension leave the interview room pulsating with suspense.

French Film Festival

•July 6, 7:30pm **Ma Petite Entreprise** *1999.* Pierre Jolivet's film takes a humorous look at the never-ending struggle of entrepreneurship. An owner of a small woodworking business is dismayed when a fire consumes everything in his workshop. In order to avoid bankruptcy and further ruin, he turns to illegal pursuits. Opening night reception to follow, $12.

•July 7, 5:45pm and July 23, 12pm **Trois Ponts sur la Rivière** *1999.* In Jean-Claude Biette's dramatic comedy, a history teacher travels from Paris to Lisbon for a dose of inspiration from an eminent historian. He goes with an ex-lover and kindred spirit. As the two travel, they discover their own thwarted potential, both individually and as a couple.

•July 7, 8pm and July 15, 1:30pm **Children of the Marshland** *1999.* Jean Becker sets the film in the 1930s in the Marais, a quiet region of the Loire River. Two friends, men of the marshland, comprise the hub of this film, around which their friends and family rhythmically twist. One of France's biggest hits in 1999.

•July 8, 10:30am and July 16, 6 pm **The Children of the Century** *1999.* The film, directed by Diane Kurys (*Les Enfants du Siecle*), explores the fascinating bond between Sand and Alfred de Musset, the acclaimed 19th-century poet. As Sand gained notoriety in Paris for dressing like a man and breaking taboos in her novels, the young Musset squandered his time in orgies. Yet the two became each other's muses and lovers.

•July 8, 1pm **Time Regained** *1999.* Based on the final volume of *In Search of Lost Time*, this is an adaptation of Proust's monumental novel. It captures the dreamlike weave through memory unique to Proust's work—with a dream cast including Catherine Deneuve, Emmanuelle Béart, Vincent Perez and John Malkovich.

•July 8, 4pm and July 15, 11:30am **Empty Days** *1999.* A thoughtful study of dependence and desire as it rises from unexpected sources. Marie and Pierre are employees of a large company who anchor opposite ends of its hierarchy—until both are laid off. With nothing to do, the two find companionship and an attraction to each other, complicated by the fact they're married.

•July 9, 11:45am and July 16, 11am **I'm Not Afraid of Life** *1999.* Directed by Noémie Lvovsky, this film's title is a saucy taunt to life itself from four teenage girls in its messy throes. It was filmed over several years so that the actresses could grow up along with their characters.

•July 9, 9pm and July 23, 4pm **Lulu Kreutz's Picnic** *1999.* When an elderly Parisian couple of Viennese Jewish extraction come to Evian for their son's concert, a weekend of confessions and confrontations ensues. •July 9, 4pm and July 13, 8pm **Would I Lie to You?** *1997.* By Thomas Gilou (*La vérité si je mens*). Set in the Sentier—the Jewish garment district of Paris—this touching comedy of mistaken identities was phenomenally successful when it was released in France.

Museum of Science

Omni Shows

•Through Fall 2000. The Omni features **Dolphins**, an underwater exploration about these mammals in the wild and their forms of communication.

•Through October 5. Michael Jordan soars to bold new heights in **Michael Jordan to the Max**, the first-ever big-screen film that showcases the personal and athletic attributes that makes Jordan one of the most admired athletes and one of the most recognizabe people in the world.

education

Advice to Contributors

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CLASSES/LECTURES

Wednesday, June 28

Breakfast with Champions: Martha Fields

FleetBank, One Federal St., 37th Floor, Boston (536-0700, ext. 240). 8-9am. The Center for Women & Enterprise presents **Martha Fields**, president, CEO and founder of Fields Associates Inc., as well as a leader in management consulting. Fields prides herself on being a "corporate cupid" and a strong supporter of social responsibility.

Unlocking the Secrets of Aging

Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston (723-2500). MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. 12-1pm. To complement its new traveling exhibit, Secrets of Aging, the museum is offering six lectures that delve into the mysteries of how and why we age. •June 28: **Ann Webster**, Ph.D., from the Mind/Body Medical Clinic at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, presents "Healthy Aging Through Mind/Body Medicine." •July 5: **David Schlessinger**, Ph.D., chief of the Laboratory of Genetics at the National Institute on Aging, presents "Genes and the Biology of Aging."

Thursday, June 29

Doing Business on the Golf Course

5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. June 29, 6-9pm. $33. The golf course provides a great opportunity to combine building stronger business relationships with getting to know your business partners better. Engage in lively in-class discussion about the opportunities and means of using the green to forge stronger business ties.

Saturday, July 1

18th-Century Towne Meeting

Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. July 1, 11am; 2:30pm. $3. Participants can debate the Tea Tax of 1773.

True Tales of the *USS Constitution*

USS Constitution, Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (426-1812). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, bus 93 to Navy Yard. July 1-4, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm and 3pm. $3. Meet heroes and heroines from Old Ironsides' past and participate in a live theater performance.

Sunday, July 2

1776: Liberty or Loyalty—Take a Stand

Old State House, 206 Washington St., Boston (720-3290). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 11am and 2pm. Join Congress and debate independence with future President John Adams in an interactive drama with the staff of Adams National Historical Site. Sponsored by the Bostonian Society.

Tuesday, July 4

Reading of the Declaration of Independence

Old State House, 206 Washington St., Boston (720-3290). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 10am. Celebrate the freedom of America with the reading of the Declaration of Independence from the Old State House balcony.

Thursday, July 6

What Matters Most: Franklin Covey Workshop

The Colonnade Hotel, 120 Huntington Ave., Boston (877-552-2948). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential. July 6, 8:30am-4:30pm. $189. This life-changing workshop includes an understanding of the value of time, prioritizing and defining values; determining roles, goals and missions; overcoming procrastination; and daily planning.

Saturday, July 8

Voices of Freedom: Michael Dukakis

Somewhere along the Freedom Trail (venue to be determined), Boston (227-8800). Early evening. Former presidential candidate Michael S. Dukakis will speak with 18th-century patriots and audience members about grassroots activism and the immigration experience.

World of Private Investigation

5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (254-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 9:30am-12:30pm. $36. Get the facts on anyone—your ex-spouse's hidden assets, a new client's credit history, your lover's secret past. And it can all be done quickly and legally. **Ed Pankau**, one of America's leading private investigators, teaches techniques that PIs and law-enforcement agencies use to gather information.

ONGOING

Arlington Center for the Arts

41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). Fees range from $35-$105. Summer session begins June 26 with classes in pastels, figure painting, life drawing, watercolor, tai chi, meditation and fiction.

Boston Center for Adult Education

5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (254-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. One-shot classes and two-month courses available.

Boston Toastmasters

40 Comm. Ave., Room 215, Boston (367-3463). MBTA: B Green Line to BU Central. First and third Tuesdays, 5:45pm. Learn public speaking techniques.

Brookline Adult and Community Education Program

115 Greenough St., Brookline High School, Room 101, Brookline (730-2700). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. Hundreds of classes in liberal arts, cooking, sewing , computers, dance, crafts and exercise are available.

Cambridge Center for Adult Education

42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Call for catalogues and course information.

Danforth Museum School

123 Union Avenue, Framingham (508-620-0050). Classes begin June 19. More than 70 arts, crafts and photography classes for adults, including evening classes in drawing, painting, sculpture, installation, photography, ceramics, weaving and jewelry.

Revolutionary Cambridge

On July 1, the Historic Cambridge Collaborative will re-create the city's atmosphere in the early months of the Revolution. As the site of preparations for the Battle of Bunker Hill, Cambridge saw many a conflict between patriot and loyalist. It is also where General George Washington organized the Continental Army, and Cambridge buildings served as officers' quarters, hospitals and command posts during the siege of Boston in 1775-76. Visit with Abigail Adams (see above) and other historic figures and hear tales of life in the Revolutionary era. *42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789).*

Dining in Harvard Square
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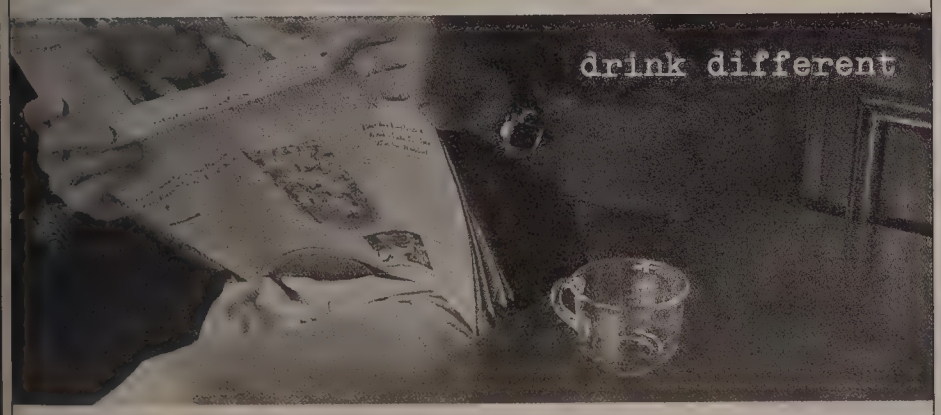

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READINGS & SIGNINGS

Wednesday, June 28

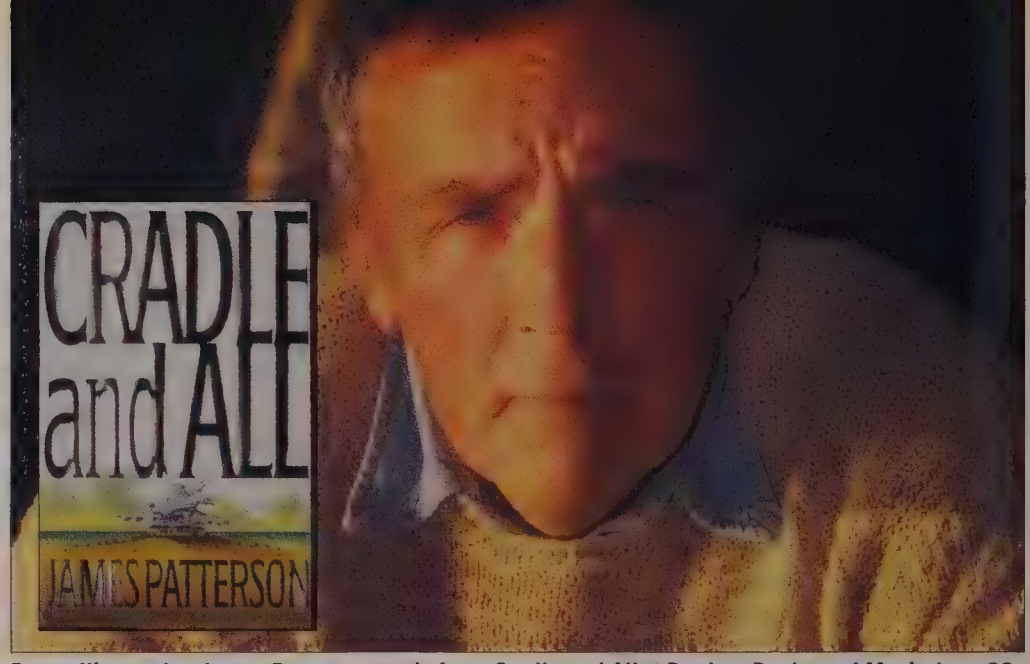
Borders Books and Music Series
10-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Downtown Crossing. 6pm. Harvard grad **Brad Washburn** will sign copies of *National Geographic*'s new *Expedition Atlas*. The former director of Boston's Museum of Science and elected Honorary Director for Life is a well-known cartographer, photographer and leading expert on Alaska's mountains and glaciers. He has mapped Mount Everest, Mount McKinley, the Grand Canyon and New Hampshire's Presidential Range.

Borders Books and Music Author Event
Atrium Mall, Chestnut Hill (630-1935). 7pm. Free admission. Byran S. Fazio shares his advice and discusses various topics in an investment seminar titled Financial Planning for the New Millennium. He'll talk about retirement planning, education planning, insurance coverage and estate planning.

Brookline Booksmith Author Series
279 Harvard Street, Brookline (739-6002). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Boston Globe reporters **Dick Lehr and Gerard O'Neill** will read from their mob exposé *Black Mass: The Irish Mob, the FBI and a Devil's Deal.* Black Mass tells the story of Boston's most powerful gangsters, the infamous Whitey Bulger and his brother. Lehr and O'Neill investigate one of the worst scandals in FBI history.

New Words Live Reading Series
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 6pm. Free admission. **Leila Ahmed** tells the story of her life. Beginning with her Egyptian childhood amid the rich traditions of Islamic women and ending with her identity as a feminist living in America, *A Border Passage* reflects upon issues of language, race and nationality.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free admission. **Julia Alvarez**, author of *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accent, In the Time of the Butterflies* and *Yo!*, reads from her latest novel, titled *In the Name of Salome.* She has also published three collections of poetry and, most recently, *Something to Declare*, a collection of essays. She lives in Vermont and in the Dominican Republic, where she and her husband run a coffee plantation.



Bestselling author James Patterson reads from *Cradle and All* at Borders Books and Music June 30.

Thursday, June 29

Borders Books and Music Series
10-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Downtown Crossing. 6pm. Noted New York chef **Anthony Bourdain** broke the code of silence for kitchen workers when he brought to the public's attention what really goes on in restaurants behind the scenes. He'll read from his book, *Kitchen Confidential: Adventures in the Culinary Underbelly.*

Harvard Coop Author Series
Level Three, 1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (236-7421). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. This discussion of *Connecting to Creativity: Ten Keys to Unlocking Your Creative Potential* is led by **Elizabeth Bergmann** and **Dr. Elizabeth O. Colton**. They discuss their 10-step process meant to unleash the creativity within.

New Words Live Reading Series
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 6pm. Free admission. **Lucy McCauley** speaks with **Tehila Lieberman** and **Emily Hiestand** about their book, *A Woman's Path: Women's Best Spiritual Travel Writing*, tales of discovery that offer an uncommon look at personal transformation.

Friday, June 30

Borders Books and Music Series
10-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30pm. Bestselling author **James Patterson** will sign his book *Cradle and All*. His mystery/thriller tells of two pregnant teenagers located on opposite sides of the world whose only common thread is that they are both virgins. Thy're unaware of a prophecy that one will give birth to the Messiah and the other to the child of Satan.

Wednesday, July 5

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free admission. In celebration of the paperback release, **Janet Fitch** reads from her debut novel, *White Oleander*. The event is followed by a book signing and a Q&A session.

Thursday, July 6

Brookline Booksmith Author Series
279 Harvard Street, Brookline (739-6002). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. **Jack Powers**, founder of Stone Soup, will read from his latest collection of poems from Somerville's Ibbetson St. Press.

Rhythm & Muse Reading Series
403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-3816). 7:30pm. **Lori Lubeski**'s reading, part of the Poets Share monthly reading series, is followed by an open-mike session.

Rock and Spoken Word
The Linwood, 69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (781-320-1901). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway. 8pm. $5, 21+. Morrighan Productions presents a spoken word and music event with **Tim Catz** and **Ken Cormier**. Bands include Vanity Press, Binge and Is It Jazz.

Saturday, July 8

Poetry and Barbecue
Out of the Blue Gallery, 168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $3. Music, poetry and food... what more could you ask for? This spoken-word extravaganza features **Nola Kelley**, **Tim Emswiler** and others, with an open-mike session.

Sunday, July 9

Ibbetson Street Press Events
Book Cellar, 1941 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (628-2313). MBTA: Red Line to Porter. 5pm. An evening with **Jack Powers** and friends, featuring Doug Holder, Dorian Brooks, Lisanne D'Andrea Windlow and others.

Tuesday, July 11

Brookline Booksmith Author Series
279 Harvard Street, Brookline (739-6002). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. **Karl Ackerman** reads from his novel *Dear Will*. His book is a funny view about family, parenthood and modern romance.

ONGOING

Agape, Tuesdays
Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (266-6710). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8pm. Every Tuesday, this sophisticated poetry group gathers to share versions of their latest work. • **John Hofstra** July 11.

Cantab Lounge, Wednesdays
738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8-10pm. $3. Wednesday nights at the Cantab always pack in more than 30 poets in just two hours for open mike and a slam.

Club Passim, Tuesdays
47 Palmer St., Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. $5. All open-mike fanatics must experience this open-mike night—a training ground for up-and-coming performers, poets and storytellers. Sign up Tuesdays, 7:30pm.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Night, Sundays
1667 Mass Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. $4 cover. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes every Sunday to the featured poet of the week.

O'Brien's Pub, Mondays
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. A mix of rock and spoken word is performed one Monday a month at 9pm—the performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry, Saturdays
168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. Every Saturday is poetry night, and an incredible spoken-word and music event also takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month, with music by Rob Gonzalez and spoken word with Nola Kelley.

Rhythm and Muse Open Mike, Thursday
403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-6622). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook. A headlining poet is followed by an open-mike session on the first Thursday of every month, 7:30pm.

Stone Soup Poetry Night
Zeitgeist Gallery, 312 Broadway St, Cambridge (227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7:30pm. $3. Since '71, the Stone Soup Poets have served up steamy confessions and soothing inspirationss. Keep the good vibes going every Monday with featured writers each week.

Bestsellers

HARDCOVER FICTION
1. **Me Talk Pretty One Day** by David Cedaris
2. **Cradle and All** by James Patterson
3. **Make Way for Ducklings** by Robert McCloskey
4. **Oh, the Places You'll Go** by Dr. Seuss
5. **Anil's Ghost** by Michael Ondaatje
6. **Harry Potter & the Chamber of Secrets** by J.K. Rowling
7. **Harry Potter & the Prisoner of Azkaban** by J.K. Rowling
8. **Fierce Invalids Home from Hot Climates** by Tom Robbins
9. **White Teeth** by Zadie Smith
10. **Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's Stone** by J.K. Rowling

HARDCOVER NON-FICTION
1. **Black Mass** by Dick Lehr
2. **Kitchen Confidential** by Anthony Bourdain
3. **In the Heart of the Sea** by Nathan Philbrick
4. **Flags of Our Fathers** by James Bradley
5. **Who Moved My Cheese?** by Spencer Johnson
6. **Tipping Point** by Malcolm Gladwell
7. **Tuesdays with Morrie** by Mitch Albom
8. **Ten Things I Wish I'd Known** by Maria Shriver
9. **The Art of Happiness** by the Dalai Lama
10. **In Sunburned Country** by Bill Bryson

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Classical Music

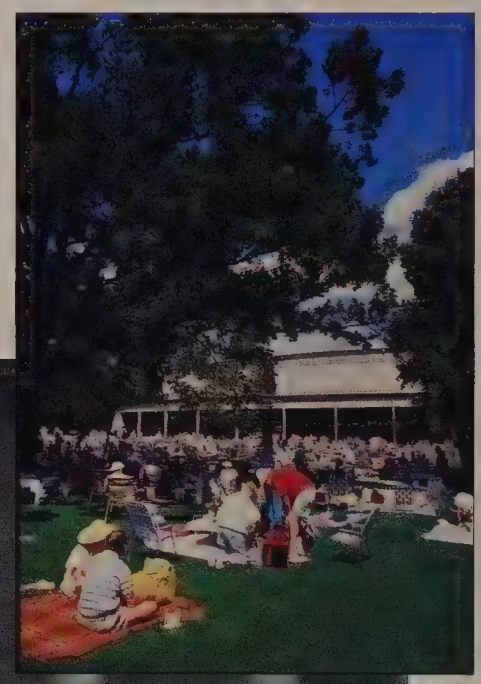
ONCE BURNED, TWICE DETERMINED

Ellen Highstein continues to light a fire under the Tanglewood Music Center. BY KEITH POWERS

Imagine being named CFO of a company and having the CEO and the president resign immediately in protest. Three years ago Ellen Highstein—at the time the executive director of Concert Artists Guild, a young-artists incubator—was approached by BSO management to consult on the Tanglewood Music Center. (TMC is the teaching institute that percolates beneath the genteel surface of the BSO's summer home.)

Just as Highstein had finished her recommendations to the BSO board and was about to be named director of the TMC, both faculty chairman Gilbert Kalish and artistic director Leon Fleisher angrily resigned. Negative perceptions abounded, especially about Seiji Ozawa's role in the process. Highstein became the focus of the attacks but did her best to deflect the attention. "I do not see this as a story with heroes and villains," she said last summer. "But I do believe we are headed in the right direction now."

Judging by the renewed interest in the TMC by the BSO players themselves, you have to think she's right. "More members of the orchestra are involved in the teaching program than ever before—all on a voluntary basis," she notes. A summer at the TMC is a dream for most young musicians. Each year graduate-level players are invited to study with performers and educators for eight weeks. "There is a lot of informal but intense training—all at a very high level," says Highstein. "One thing it's not is another two months of conservatory. The players who come here don't need someone looking over their shoulder to make sure their hand position is correct."



Tanglewood Music Center's Ellen Highstein and a Tanglewood audience.

Highstein's own musical background is astonishing. She began composing at age 5. "My mother is a terrific piano teacher, and her method was to have all of her students compose a little piece in the style of the work they were studying." Mom also showed Highstein's youthful work to some Juilliard faculty; at age 6 she entered the Juilliard preparatory division, and stayed there until she was 19. But in graduate school she left composing behind—"I just couldn't bear the isolation"—for a career that took her through theater, music teaching and finally, executive positions, first at the New York State Arts Council, and then as the head of Concert Artists Guild.

And now the students at the TMC are her passion. "There are 153 students here this summer—enough to make up an entire orchestra, along with half a dozen composers, four conductors, and about 35 singers," she says. "The highlight of the summer is a staging of Verdi's *Falstaff* [complete performances take place July 30 and 31]. It's part of a four-year plan to get students involved in different types of opera—a major work, a small opera [last year's Gianni Schicchi], an experimental work and a new composition." Plans for next year's opera are still being finalized. The composition students have a special place in Highstein's heart—we *are* talking about a woman who spent over a dozen years studying composition at Juilliard and who also spent time studying with the legendary Nadia Boulanger in Paris, after all. "We're getting the composition students involved with different performers," she points out. "John Williams has worked with them in composition and film, and will do it again in 2002. Last year they worked at Jacob's Pillow with dancers. For composers, this has the potential to change the face of the industry," Highstein says.

Lofty pronouncements perhaps, but they're buttressed by her own years of writing music alone in front of the piano. "By making composers the visual focus of the campus," she says emphatically, "you change the way they interact with the Center and with their colleagues."

Coda

Best of luck to **Susie Bonta**, who leaves the BSO publicity office this month after 12 years. Susie will head up the PR effort at Sturbridge Village. Even though she's leaving the BSO, let's hope she maintains her viola seat in the Civic Symphony. With the appointment of **Zarin Mehta** as executive director of the New York Philharmonic, it seems apparent that **Riccardo Muti** will replace **Kurt Masur** as conductor of the orchestra, although the final details are still being worked out. One thing is certain: whoever replaces **Seiji Ozawa** will have an easier time with the Boston press than Muti will have in New York after replacing the Olympian Masur. iB

LEFT: WALTER H SCOTT, RIGHT: WILLIAM MERCER

The brass quintet Innovata performs July 5.

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled Classical by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Classical Music or e-mail to classical@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers Web site information and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to deadline. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from many different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to doublecheck dates and times.

Wednesday, June 28

Boston Pops in Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices vary. The Pops celebrate conductor Keith Lockhart's fifth anniversary season with a tribute to the "Great American Songbook." The Pops will perform legendary pieces by Duke Ellington, Rodgers and Hammerstein, George Gershwin and others.

BU Summer Concert Series
Tsai Performance Center, 685 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-8724). MBTA: B Green Line to BU Central. 12pm. Free admission. Mark Kroll plays the harpsichord and directs during this performance.

Longy School of Music Concerts
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, One Follen St., Cambridge (876-0956). 12:15pm. Free. The Willow Flute Ensemble entertains through the lunchtime hour, performing jazz works.

Thursday, June 29

Boston Pops in Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Same program as June 28.

BU Summer Concert Series
Tsai Performance Center, 685 Comm. Av.e, Boston (353-8724). MBTA: B Green Line to BU Central. 8pm. $10, $5 students and seniors. French harpsichordist Olivier Baumont makes his Boston debut.

Ensemble Chaconne
Emmanuel Church, Boston (625-1898). 8pm. $12; $8, students and seniors. Peter Bloom on flute.

WCRB's Classical at Copley Concerts
Copley Square Park, Boston (781-893-7080). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. The Community Music Center performs in Classical 102.5's outdoor concert series.

Friday, June 30

Boston Pops in Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices vary. Same program as June 28.

Boston Symphony Chamber Players
Ozawa Hall, Tanglewood, Lenox (266-1200). 8:30pm. $76-$16. Performance includes a Mozart piece titled *Flute Quartet in D.*

Saturday, July 1

Boston Pops in Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Prices vary. Same program as June 28.

Live Broadcast at Tanglewood
Tanglewood shed, Lenox (266-1200). 5:45pm. $24-$85. Millions of listeners sit next to their radios, tuned in to broadcaster Garrison Keillor as he delivers the news to the sounds of orchestral music.

Sunday, July 2

Boston Pops in Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 7:30pm. Prices vary. Same program as June 28.

Boston Symphony Chamber Players
Tanglewood shed, Lenox (266-1200). 2:30pm. $16-$76. Britten Sinfonietta, Op. 1 and more.

Tuesday, July 4

Independence Day at Tanglewood
Tanglewood shed, Lenox (266-1200). 7pm. $85-$24. In addition to a concert by Peter, Paul and Mary, the July 4th festivities all begin at 2pm, with a classical concert and fireworks in evening.

Wednesday, July 5

Concerts in the Carriage House
Gore Place, 52 Gore St., Waltham (781-894-2798). 7:30pm. $10. Musical notes high and low will echo through the gardens of the historic Gore Place as the brass quintet Innovata performs Bach, Joplin, John Phillip Sousa and more. The Carriage House, which houses the concert, was built in 1793.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, One Follen St., Cambridge (876-0956). 12:15pm. Free. Another installment in the *Bach Lunch Series,* this features Eric Sawyer on piano and Francine Trester on violin.

Summer Organ Recitals
Methuen Memorial Music Hall, 192 Broadway, Methuen. (978-685-0693). 8pm. $6. James Hildreth performs Bach, Paine, Brahms and others.

Tanglewood Concerts
Ozawa Hall, Lenox (266-1200). 8:30pm. $16-$76. Today, Gil Shaham is featured on violin.

Friday, July 7

BSO Opens Tanglewood Season
Tanglewood Shed, Lenox (266-1200). 8:30pm. $16-$76. The Boston Symphony Orchestra opens its 2000 summer season with a special performance by soloist Yo-Yo Ma. The BSO will perform two pieces by Aaron Copland during the gala event.

Saturday, July 8

BSO at Tanglewood
Tanglewood Shed, Lenox (266-1200). 8:30pm. $16-$76. John Williams conducting.

Sunday, July 9

BSO at Tanglewood
Tanglewood Shed, Lenox (266-1200). 2:30pm. $16-$76. Garrick Ohlsson on piano.

Tuesday, July 11

Amphion's Lyre
St. Peter's Church, Weston (625-1898). 8pm. $12, $6 students and seniors. Six musicians gather to perform "This and That," an assortment of classical music highlighted by harpsichords, violins and flutes.

Preview

In and Out

Two new conductors appointed

Both the Handel & Haydn Society and the Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra ended their search for new music directors last week. Pro Arte announced that Isaiah Jackson (top) will replace Gisele Ben-Dor. Jackson, one of very few black conductors in the world, takes over immediately, but scheduling conflicts will keep him from conducting the group until February 2001. Jackson will continue to maintain his directorship of the Youngstown (Ohio) Symphony. H&H announced that Grant Llewellyn (bottom) will replace outgoing director Christopher Hogwood, effective at the end of Hogwood's contract next spring. Llewellyn spent three years at the BSO from 1991-93 as assistant conductor.—*Keith Powers*

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dance clubs

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Submit information by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Clubs or e-mail to clubs@improper.com. Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to pub date. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Nights

Mondays

Vertigo Mondays
Vertigo. Caesar and Giorgio throw a party for those who never stop dancin'. Smooth Lounge upstairs, Deep House downstairs; DJ Arsit. Dress slick. 10pm, no cover.

Static
Axis. DJ Jay Ine and the gorgeous drag shows hosted by Mizery. 10pm. 19+. $5 cover.

Language
Hibernia. DJs G White, Dot, Surface and Sora spin a selection of hip, diverse drum and bass at Boston's newest drum-and-bass weekly. 8pm. 21+. $2.

Tuesdays

Cigar and Jazz Night
The Exchange. Light up, kick back, lounge and listen to the smooth sounds of jazz. Plus, you score a free Gina Cigar and complimentary buffet when you relax here. No cover.

Fat Tuesdays
Bill's. This off-the-hook night features DJ Chaos scratching out hip-hop while house masters DJ Justin Hoffman and DJ Jynx spin downstairs. 11pm, $10.

The Forum
Lava Bar. Join Mission Control and support the local DJ scene as local talents share the floor in hopes of gaining a headlining spot on the Lava stage. 10pm, 21+.

Got Milk?
Venu. If you're chic and fabu you'll be at Venu for Milk—a devilishly hip party. Resident DJ Osheen spins house for the trés chic. Dress is funky. 21+.

Inasense
Karma. Come listen to sounds that lift the spirit with DJ Timmy Allen spinning and classic and soulful house and R&B. $10, 19+.

Mingle Tuesdays
The Modern. This spot screams sophistication. With DJs, a raw bar, vodka bar and late lounge. 10pm. 21+.

Wednesdays

Backstage
DJ Jonny C. spins top-40 dance classics. 10pm. No cover, 21+.

College Night
The Aquarium. Guest DJs spin on all three funky floors of this relatively new venue at 10pm.

Good Karma
Karma/Mambo. Misery plays host to a roster of rotating DJs. Expect a mixed crowd. 10pm. 19+. $5 cover.

Hibernia Wednesdays
Hibernia. DJ C.T.O. is the Godfather of Say Word night—with plenty of funk, rare groove, soul and old-school hip-hop. 9pm. 21+. Cover varies.

Modern Living
The Modern. Here, DJ Dale Charles spins while minglers strut their stuff, munch from a raw bar and sip martinis. 10pm. 21+.

Musical Mayhem
The Exchange. DJ Jynx plays house upstairs while Tym Ryan of WFNX and DJ Brisc spin in the Vault. 10pm.

Pravda 116
Spend the night with Boston's premiere promoters at one of the city's most decadent hot spots—set to beats by DJ Alex and DJ Felix. Proper dress required, 21+.

Status
Axis. It's all about status when DJs Darrin Friedman and Richie Rich spin house music and weekly Fashion and Hair Salon Show. 10pm, 19+, $10.

Thursdays

The Aquarium
The Kiss 108 FM dance party features Randy from the *Matty in the Morning Show*. 10pm. $3.

Backstage
Tonight's Saturdaline high features special guests spinning top-40 dance and club classics. 10pm, 21+. $5.

Big Easy
New Orleans-themed nightspot with some of the best DJs in town, 9pm

Charlie's Angels Night
Polly Esther's. Dress as your favorite Brady and dance as DJ Beez spins all your favorite '70s, '80s and '90s music on the *Saturday Night Fever* dance floor. 8pm. $5, 21+.

It's Musical Mayhem at the Exchange on Wednesdays with DJ Jynx, Tym Ryan and DJ Brisc.

Chrome
Axis. Resident DJs John Debo and Ali Ajami spin Mucky House and trance. 10pm. 19+. $10 cover.

Downtempo Lounging
The Modern. DJ Ricky Fatts spins while you enjoy the raw bar and vodka bar. 9pm-2am, 21+.

Emily's
Enjoy a variety of soul, house and dance music. Doors open at 5pm.

Funkalicious Thursdays
The Exchange. DJ G-Squared takes you on a blast from the past as he spins the sounds of '70s and '80s. Added bonus: free after-work buffet. No cover.

Il Panino
A social playground for young professionals in Boston: cocktails and dancing. Proper dress. 9pm. 21+.

International Thursday
Avalon. A mixed crowd fills up this nightspot as DJ Manolo spins Eurohouse and DJ Anthony spins Latin in the Playhouse. 10pm. 19+. $15.

Latin Quarter
The Roxy. You know it's time to get down when the Roxy breaks out hip-shaking Latin dance mixes.

The List
Lava Bar. *Lavabar.com*. DJ 7L and guests along with Verse/D bring you soul, funk, old school and all things funky. 10pm. 21+.

Speed
Karma/Mambo
Special Guest DJs and resident DJs Bruno and Masta Millions spin the latest hip-hop and R&B. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover.

Venu
Swank American top-40 and house, this hot spot features the incredible DJ Adilson.

Fridays

Avaland
Avalon. Everything about this screams "Party!" With the likes DJ Manolo and John Debo spinning, this has become the most NY-style club night. 10pm. 19+. $15.

Backstage
Backstage kicks off its all-night dance party, part one with the sounds of DJ Jonny C spinning top-40. Doors open at 10pm. $5, proper dress, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans–themed nightspot has some of the best mainstream DJs in town. It offers four bars and two lounges, as well as billiards and a wraparound balcony.

Buzz Fridays
Buzz. Roger M lays down the Latin and international house tracks while upstairs visiting DJs pay homage to the house music gods. 11pm, $15 cover, 19+.

Disco Inferno
Polly Esther's. Get ready for disco-inferno Fridays. 8pm, $10, 21+.

Emily's
An after-work venue during the week, this hot spot transforms itself into a dance kingdom on weekend nights. Jam to soul, house and dance music. 5pm.

Envy
This extraordinarily popular Friday night hot spot is filled with a swarming mass of sweaty 'n' ready dancers. 9pm, $5 cover after 10pm, 21+.

Exchange Fridays
The Exchange. Up High, Tiziano and Maurizio, Boston's best DJ duo play house trip while DJ G-Squared opens the Vault with dance and hip hop. 9pm.

Focus
Hibernia. You can't go wrong with DJs Chuck Caseroc, Keith Kene and Skot Havens. 9pm, 21+.

Lava Bar
Life. *lavabar.com*. Dance to a different dummer with DJ Fran Englehardt's deeply rooted soulful rhythms. Doors at 10pm.

Ultra Lounge
The Modern. DJ Mixin Matt Ruben. 9pm 2am, 21+.

Nocturnal Fridays
Bill's Bar. WBCN day guy and football swami, Bill Abbate, spins up a delectable smorgasbord of rock with a pinch of roll. 9pm. $5 cover, 21+.

Pure
Karma/Mambo. World Class Drum and Bass DJs has a weekly rotating roster of guest DJs. 19+, $15.

Roxy 2000
Roxy/Mondo Bar. DJ Felix spins house and international music all night. 10:30pm. $15 cover, 21+.

Spin Cycle
Axis. Glitzed-out club hoppers shake it to the progressive house beats of DJ Tim Ryan and DJ David James' retro tunes upstairs. 10pm, $12, 19+.

Venu
The scene is elegant for this jacket-required international romp. Get your Gucci on as DJ Arsit spins. 21+.

Saturdays

The Aquarium
Saturday night dance party hosted by resident DJ. 10pm-1am, $5 cover.

Downtown
Avalon. Resident DJs Manolo and Mattie O. gyrate your ass with hits and club classics. 10pm. 21+. $15.

Backstage
DJ Freddie C spins top-40 dance and club classics. 10pm. $5, proper dress, 21+.

Bill's Bar
DJ Laurie Gail with guest DJs make Bill's a night full of dancing to '70s, '80s and '90s. 9pm, $3 cover, 19+.

Club Juliana
Boogieing cuties converge on Boston's newest Latin Night starting at 10pm. Dress to impress. $10.

Club Nicole
The mob thick for this exclusive Euro trendsetter. DJ Alex spins Eurohouse. Jackets required. 21+.

Elements of Life
Karma/Mambo. DJ Supa Mario and world class DJs spin house music in the main room while DJ Hoffman plays funk in the Mambo Lounge. 10pm. 19+. $15.

Emily's
DJs spice up Saturday nights and transform this after-work venue into a dance kingdom. 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Envy
From 9pm-2am, DJ Tom Baxter blasts top-40, house and dance throughout the night. 9pm, $5 after 10pm.

Exchange Saturdays
DJ Diesel renovates the upper level with full-on house while DJ Jynx spins the funky beats in the Vault. 9pm.

Fajitas and Ritas
"World Hop" music includes Cape Verdean, reggae, hip hop, Brazilian, zouk, Latin, and house. 11pm, $7.

Hibernia Saturdays
Hibernia. Masters of house, techno and dance, DJs Dino and David West take the reins and whip the crowd into a frenzy. 9pm, 21+, cover varies.

Lava Bar
Anything Goes. DJ Fran and Kris Kono unite with high-energy house and Latin beats. 10pm, 21+.

Miami Club Night
Club Joy/Yesterday's. Get a taste of Miami nightlife with La Rueda de Casino, a Cuban salsa game. 9:30pm (ladies free before 11pm), $10 cover, 21+ (ladies, 19+).

Mischief
The Modern. Feeling mischievous? Ultra lounging with decadent desserts and erotic electronica. 21+.

Mythos
Venu. Greek International with DJ Yorgo Jr. spinning the hits from the famous party islands of Greece.

Saturday Night Fever
Polly Esther's. Groove to three decades' worth of beats in the laser-lit Club DVD. 8pm, $10, 21+.

Sugar Shack
Spice up your night with '70s, '80s and '90s dance music as DJ Rich Centi spins the hottest sounds.

Who's on First?
The latest and greatest in hip-hop, reggae, R&B, and Latin house with DJ Lil' Mike, 10:30pm, $12, 18+.

X night
Axis. DJ Mike Gioscia spins cutting-edge faves of '90s alternative while DJ David James spins '80s hits in the Left Over Lounge. 10pm, $10 cover, 21+.

Sundays

Backstage
Get ready for urban night with T Clark from WILD spinning hip-hop, reggae and old school. Doors open at 10pm, $10 cover, proper dress, 21+.

Common People
An Tua Nua.
Brit-pop, new wave, indie and more with DJ Adrienne. 19+, 9pm. $3.

Emily's
Industry Night "Club Soda" with DJ Silly. 10:30pm.

Exchange Sundays
A fusion of Heavy Lounge and Miami House. No cover.

Il Panino
This night features music by DJ Alex of Boston Beat and DJ Roger M. 21+, no cover.

Latin Night
Karma/Mambo Lounge. Weekly Live Latin Bands. 10pm. 19+. $25 cover.

Lava Bar
Pandora's Box (Club Courtesy). DJ Vinny and Sir Richard and Sterling spin '60s Exotica, loungecore, psychedelic flowerpop and Motown. 10pm. 21+.

Salavation
This Boston vibe serves up an intimate evening of soul—all provided courtesy DJ Soul. $5, until 10pm.

Venu
Carnival comes to Boston every Sunday as DJ Adilson brings the heat of Rio to Venu. 21+.

Club Venues

An Tain *31 India St., Boston (426-1870). MBTA: Blue Line to State St.*
AnTua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (262-2121). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Aquarium *65 Holland St., Somerville (623-3200). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (437-0300). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Backstage *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston (726-1110). MBTA: Blue Line to Govt. Center.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Buzz Boston/Europa *51-67 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Park St.*
Club Juliana *20 Hudson St., Boston (542-4411).*
Club Nicole *40 Dalton St., Boston (236-4746). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*
Club Stella *1234 Soldiers Field Rd., Brighton (254-0554).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Upstairs, Boston (423-3649). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*
Envy *25 Boylston Place, Boston (542-3689). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Exchange *148 State St., Boston (723-7755). MBTA: Orange Line to State Street.*
Hibernia *25 Kingston St., Boston (292-2333). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Karma *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9595). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Lava Bar *575 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-7707). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Oskar's *107 South Street., Boston (542-6756). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Polly Esther's *262 Friend St., Boston (720-1966). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (482-7799). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Salavation *20 Hudson St., Boston (781-668-2392). MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown.*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (338-8061). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Vertigo *126 State Street, Boston (723-7277).*
Who's on First? *19 Yawkey Way (247-3353). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*

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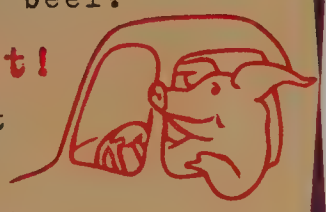

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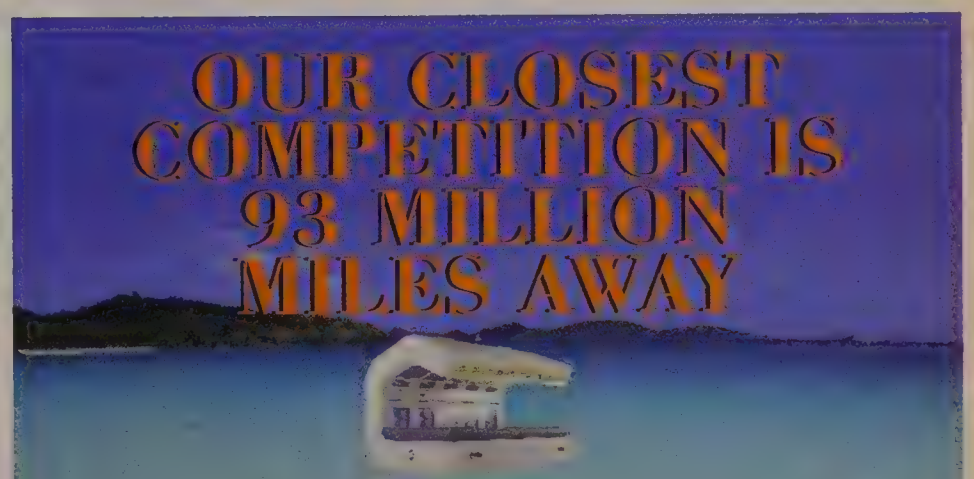

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Music

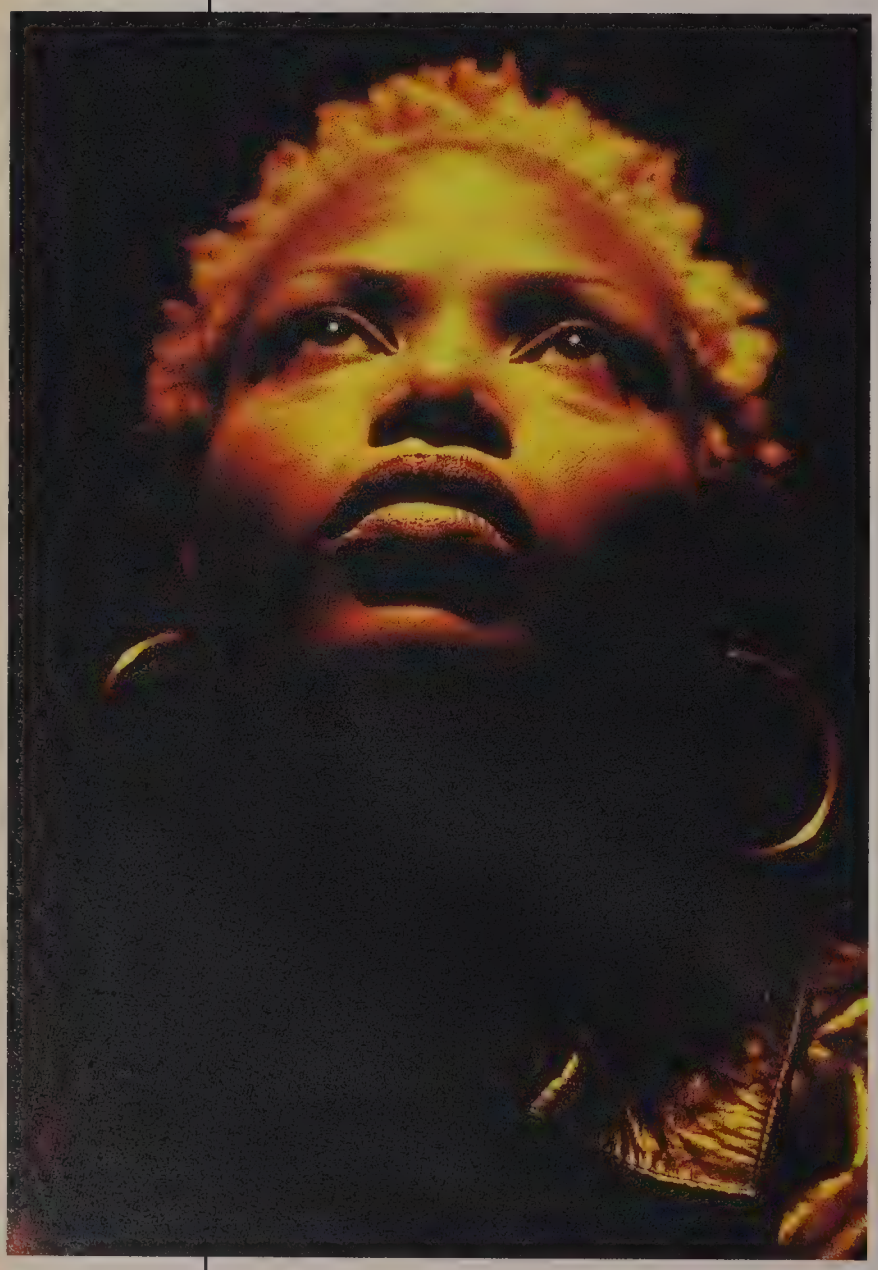
KARMA SMILES UPON KINA

Brownstone grad Kina puts a hard-edged spin on R&B

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

It's not easy for an eclectic soul sister to crack the pop mainstream. Macy Gray has proven one exception in the past year. And if you're looking for a good bet this year, meet Kina, a Detroit-bred songwriter whose powerhouse vocals and rock-polished style give her an edge at grabbing attention.

"I think it was difficult for Macy Gray to find a place, and she has helped me find a place just a little easier," says Kina (her last name is Cosper), who took a turn in R&B girl group Brownstone before going solo. Kina is managed by Benny Medina, who helped launch the music careers of Will Smith, Sean "Puffy" Combs and Jennifer Lopez. She plays at Karma July 14, before the July 18 release of her debut CD, *Kina,* and a performance on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno."



Detroit-native Kina got her musical background from the diverse tastes of her mother and uncle.

"There's always a place for us in the R&B world to be R&B, but when you add a rock element, it's very difficult," Kina says. "I knew I wanted to be more of a belter, and I wanted guitars. I didn't know how rock [the CD] would be, and there were points where I started to try to censor myself, because I felt it was becoming a little too rock. Not that I didn't love what I was doing, but because I was like, 'Nobody's really gonna accept this.' Then, at some point, I had to say, 'Just be the artist you are, and go for it.' "

That's just what Kina is doing. She's been busy touring around the country before her CD is even released, and a video of "Girl from the Gutter" is already garnering a buzz on MTV, VH-1 and BET. "It seems karma is making its rounds; it's my turn now," she declares in that song about payback for those who hurt her pride.

"I was still a little underestimated as an artist, and I definitely had the attitude that 'I'm gonna show you,' " Kina says of the dark place she initially found herself in after leaving Brownstone, acknowledging the threat that the song could initially pigeonhole her as an angry young woman, the way people reacted to Alanis Morrisette's "You Oughta Know" as her first single. "I still get people asking the 'angry question' but, for the most part, people are inspired. They find their own inspiration through this song."

Indeed, many of Kina's songs impart a sense of personal affirmation, sharpened by emotional directness. "I'm not really very good at small talk, and I'm very direct," she says from her adopted base of Los Angeles. "If I love you, I'll say 'I love you.' If I can't stand you, I won't say 'I can't stand you,' but I'll definitely keep my distance. I wrote the record very direct, and even the happy songs are very to the point. I don't know any other way to be."

The Detroit native's musical grounding came from her mother and uncle, who fed Kina such diverse sounds as Rufus with Chaka Khan, Jean-Luc Ponty, Parliament-Funkadelic and Led Zeppelin around the house. "I was from the 'hood, but I even remember Rod Stewart when he was played on the radio—black radio. I remember the Tears for Fears thing. I had Tears for Fears on my wall. It was a mixture [of music], especially in the late '70s and '80s. I was listening to everything."

"Music found me," Kina says. "It wasn't until high school that I realized I could really sing—I think in ninth or 10th grade—and Whitney Houston came out, and God, I could kinda sound like her. She was my idol, and she still is. But it was my discovering her when I decided that I wanted to sing around the house. I was really shy, so I wouldn't sing in front of anybody. Nobody knew I could sing."

"I didn't get in front of an audience and sing until I got to college," she adds of one talent show when she met a future member of Brownstone, who encouraged Kina to move to California. She later toured with Brownstone for two and a half years. "I left to be an artist," Kina says. "This wonderful opportunity presented itself, so I took it, but my desire to be an artist never stopped. I don't think what I do, and my style vocally, really fit [in Brownstone]."

When a scout from DreamWorks heard Kina sing in a studio where she was recording a demo, the wheels were put in motion. "I was a struggling artist again, so I was very happy," she says of that record deal. Karma had begun making its rounds. **iB**

Kina in Concert

She performs at Karma July 14, before the July 18 release of her debut CD, *Kina.*

PAUL ROBICHEAU

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fax (859-1446); by mail to Calendar/Music; or by email to music@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, phone numbers and nearest T stops. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double check dates and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

Concerts

Marc Anthony
July 2, FleetBoston Pavilion
Ray Charles
July 7, FleetBoston Pavilion
George Clinton and the P-Funk All-Stars
July 9, the Roxy
Great Big Sea
June 29, Copley Square Park
Juliana Hatfield and Papas Fritas
June 28, Somerville Theater
Insane Clown Posse and Twisted
June 30, Avalon
Boston Harborfest Concert with the Popgun Seven
June 30, Plaza at City Hall
Boston Harborfest: Party with Stymie and Entrain
July 1, Plaza at City Hall
Miriam Makeba "Mama Africa"
July 8, Berklee Performance Center
Dave Matthews Band
July 8 and 9, Foxboro Stadium
Martina McBride
July 9, South Shore Music Circus
Natalie Merchant and Wilco
July 5, FleetBoston Pavilion
Jimmy Page and the Black Crowes
July 2, Tweeter Center
Peter, Paul and Mary
July 4, Tanglewood
Brian Setzer Orchestra
July 10, FleetBoston Pavilion
Susan Tedeschi and Toni Lynn Washington
July 8, FleetBoston Pavilion
The Tragically Hip
June 29 and 30, Somerville Theatre
Wynonna with Michael Johnson
June 30, FleetBoston Pavilion

CONCERT HALLS

Avalon
15 Lansdowne Street, Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.
FleetCenter
One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (624-1000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.
FleetBoston Pavilion
290 Northern Avenue, Boston (734-9000). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.
Somerville Theatre
55 Davis Square, Somerville (628-3390). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.
South Shore Music Circus
Cape Cod Melody Tent, Cohasset (781-383-1400).
Tanglewood
West St., Lenox (931-2000).
Tweeter Center
Mansfield (931-2000).

Rock, Jazz and Blues

Wednesday, June 28

Bill's Bar
DJ Tim Collins, the Chris McDermott Love Perimeter with Distant Relatives, 9pm, $5, 18+.
The Black Rose
Celtic Clan, 9pm, $5.
Cantab
Joe Cook's Blues Jams, 9pm, cover varies.
Common Ground
What a Way to Go-Go, 10pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort
The Generators, 7pm, no cover.
The Good Life Downtown
Larry Franquez Trio, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
Hennessy's of Boston
Me and Julio, $3.

Henrietta's Table
Merri Amsterburg, 6pm, no cover.
Harpers Ferry
Ron Levy's Wild Kingdom.
House of Blues
Blue Floyd, 10:30pm, $25, 18+.
Jacob Wirths
The Jay Sweet Trio.
Johnny D's
Black Rose Records 20th-anniversary party, 8:30pm.
Les Zygomates
The Rusty Scott Duo, 5pm; the Rusty Scott Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge
Star Hustler, Ware River Club and the Pee Wee Fist, 8:30pm, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East
U: Drowning Man, Darkest Hour; $7, 18+.
Midway Cafe
Long Tones Quintet.
Milky Way
Solaris with DJs Mark Flynn and Brother Cleve.
Oak Bar
Steve Soars, 8pm, no cover.
Playhouse Lounge
Emerson Explosion, 9:45pm, no cover, 21+.
The Rack
Code 51, 9pm, no cover.
Ryles
Project Yes Brazil, 9pm, $6.
Sky Bar
Teamwe, Bully Pulpit and Kimone, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Toad
Ray Mason and Charlie Chesterman, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
T.T. The Bear's Place
Charles and Friends, $5.
White Horse Tavern
The Spirit House Band, 9pm.

Thursday, June 29

Axis
Five Iron Frenzy, 7pm, cover varies.
Bill's Bar
Take 5 with Checkered Cabs and Soul Merchants, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Bob the Chef's
Paulo Danay Quartet, 7:30pm, cover varies.
Cantab
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies.
The Black Rose
Celtic Clan, 9pm, $5.
Common Ground
Double Jointed, 10pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort
The Chad la Marsh Band, 7pm, no cover.
The Good Life Cambridge
Jacob Ford Jazz Odyssey, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown
Jose Ramos and the Special Blend, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Uptown
The Trio, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Harpers Ferry
Screamin' Cheetah Wheelies.
Hennessy's of Boston
Under Cover, proper dress required, $3-5.
House of Blues
Charlie Hunter, 8:30pm and 10:30pm, $12, 18+.
Johnny D's
Kalman Balogh and the Gypsy Cimbalom Band, 9pm.
The Kirkland Cafe
Fikus, Runaway Brain and Drew Ambrose, $4.
Middle East
U: Victory at Sea, Helms, Rose of Sharon and RC/DC; $7, 18+. D: the Peter Brotzmann Chicago Tentet +2, $15, 18+. C: Board of Education, 10pm; Tony Marino Quartet; 7pm.
Les Zygomates
Larry Roland and Greg Berg, 5pm; the Jinga Trio, 9pm, no cover.
Linwood
The Dubnicks, the High-Steppin' Nickel Kids and Drexel, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Lizard Lounge
Midnight Mass, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Maison Robert
Rick Schilling and Rose Jamieson, 6pm, no cover.
Middle East
U: Helms and Vita Bruno, $7, 18+.
Oak Bar
Steve Soars, 8pm, no cover.
Parker's Bar
Rose Jamieson and Rick Schilling, 8pm, no cover.
The Rack
Code 51, 9pm, no cover.
Rhythm and Spice
DJ Bim and Sound Vibration, 10pm, $5, 18+.
Ryles
Patricia Adams, 8:30pm, $12.
Scullers
Acoustic Alchemy, 8pm and 10pm, $18.
Sky Bar
Averi and Who's the Fat Guy, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Toad
Gypsy Mechanics, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Chris Taylor Trio, 9pm, no cover.
T.T. The Bear's Place
Joypopper, AM Stereo, Elsewhere, Djeringers, $6.
The Western Front
More Fire, DJs Voyager 01 and Culture B, 9pm, $5.

Friday, June 30

The Abbey
Troy, 10pm, $5, 21+.
The Attic
Pretty Cool Chair with Giant's Workshop and Kaluka Bone, cover varies, 21+.
Bill's Bar
The Gentlemen with Little Red Rocket, 9pm, $7, 18+.
The Black Rose
The Crossing, 9pm, $5; Celtic Clan, 9pm, $5.
Bob the Chef's
Sonny Watson Quartet, 7:30pm, cover varies.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies.
Common Ground
Booty, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Coogan's Bluff
Pig Pen, 9pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band Soul City, 7pm, no cover.
The Good Life Cambridge
Waldron Ricks Band, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

The quintet The Tragically Hip play at the Somerville Theatre June 29 and 30.

BOTTOM: ANDREW MAC NAUGHTON

It's a boy's dream: Dave Matthews Band crash into you at Foxboro Stadium June 8 and 9.

The Good Life Downtown
Weepin' Willie and His All Star Band, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Uptown
Rick Costa Trio, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Green Dragon Tavern
The Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3; Trax, 9:30pm, $3, 21+.
Harpers Ferry
15th Annual Boston Battle of the Blues Bands.
Hennessy's of Boston
Me and Julio, 5-7pm, proper dress required, $3-5.
House of Blues
David Maxwell, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Johnny D's
Dwayne Dopsie, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's
The Return, 9pm, $5.
The Kirkland Cafe
Dianna Williams, Local Jack and the Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
Les Zygomates
The Skip Smith Duo, 5pm; Herman Johnson, 9pm, no cover.
Linwood
Rockscience and Channeling Owen, 10pm, $6, 21+.
Middle East
U: the Outlets, the World Is My Fuse, Say Hi to Lisa and Naked Sams, $8, 18+. D: the Shods, A Poor Excuse, Lost City Angels, Cash Monies and the Jet Setter, $8, 18+. C: Crash 22.
Midway Cafe
Uprise Reggae and 18 Abbey.
Mr. Dooley's
Patsy Whelan and Tony O'Riordan, 9pm, $3, 21+.
Oak Bar
Steve Soars Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
Parker's Bar
Rose Jamieson and Rick Schilling, 8pm, no cover.
Playhouse Lounge
Tropical Fire, 10:30pm, $8, 21+.
Purple Shamrock
Second Story, 9pm, $5.
Rhythm and Spice
Tropical Fire, 10:30pm, $8, 21+.
Ryles
Edu Tancredi y el Bandon 33, 9pm, $10.
Scullers
Acoustic Alchemy, 8pm and 10:30pm, $20.
Sit n Bull Pub
The Sara Wheeler Band, 9:15pm.
Sky Bar
Betwixt, Asciento and Keenum, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Toad
Armadillos, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Chris Taylor Quartet, 9pm, no cover.
T.T. The Bear's Place
Big Wig, Drop 360, Edable Gray and Projek DH, $7.
The Western Front
Kolors, 9:30pm, $10.

Saturday, July 1

Common Ground
Edable Gray, 10pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort
Rob Gonzalez, 7pm; Part Time Lovers, 10pm, no cover.
Green Dragon Tavern
Bark Like a Dog, $3.
Hennessy's of Boston
Traditional Irish Session, 4-7:30pm, $3-5.
Johnny D's
Laura Love Band, 9:45pm.
Karma
Blood for Blood and Diecast.
Kirkland Cafe
Nell Bryden, Seng, Aviators and Leah Siegel, 8pm, $5.
Les Zygomates
David Eure, 6pm; Eula Lawrence, 10pm, no cover.
Lilli's
Buffalo Tom, cover varies.
Linwood
Scissorfight, Roadsaw, Milligram and There, 10pm, $6, 21+.
Middle East
U: Uz Jsme Doma, The Reverend Glasseye and His Wooden Legs, $7, 18+. D: "Goodvibe 200 Tour" with Bahamadia, Slum Village, Cali Agents, Spontaneous and Nuthouse, Mountain Bros., $15 adv/$20dos, 18+.

Ray Charles is the guest of honor at this year's Jazz and Blues Fest. He plays at the FleetCenter July 7.

Preview

A Bevy of Blues Stars

The Boston Globe Jazz and Blues Festival

From July 7-16, national and local performers celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Boston Globe Jazz & Blues Festival. Expect a range of performers, from blues to swing, and contemporary artists to the legendary. This year, the festival kicks off with a performance by jazz and blues great Ray Charles (July 7, 7:30pm at the FleetCenter). The next day, an all-female concert takes over the stages as Susan Tedeschi performs with blues singer Toni Lynn Washington at the FleetBoston Pavilion at 7:30pm. On July 10, the Brian Setzer Orchestra initiates the swing of things (July 10, 7:30pm FleetBoston Pavilion). John Scofield, guitarist and vocalist, gives a free performance at Copley Square at 5:30pm. New Orleans-based The Dirty Dozen Brass Band, brings their eclectic sound to Fan Pier July 12 at 8pm.

Copley Square is filled with the sounds of the Dizzy Gillespie Alumni All-Stars as they give a free show July 13, 5:30pm. Then head over to Fan Pier for an 8pm concert by soul groove trio Soulive. July 14 sees modern jazz and Latin sounds as Pancho Sanchez and his octet entertain at Copley Square at 5:30pm. Soul City perform their jazzy, upbeat tunes at Fan Pier at 8pm. July 16, starting at 3pm, the Hatch Shell hosts a free spectacular featuring The Robert Cray Band, The Neville Brothers and Rebecca Paris. For more schedule and ticket information, visit *www.boston.com/jazzfest* or call 267-4301.

Midway Cafe
Ray Mason Band and Charlie Chesterman.
Mr. Dooley's Tavern
Patsy Whelan and Tony O'Riordan, $3.
Oak Bar
Steve Soars Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
Parker's Bar
Rose Jamieson and Rick Schilling, 8pm, no cover.
Rhythm and Spice
Caribbean Cruize Band, 10:30pm, $8, 21+.
Sit n Bull Pub
Didi and the Road Kings, 9:15pm.
Sky Bar
Bench Head, Volition, All the Queens Men and Katie Terrio, 9pm.
Slade's
The John Dougherty Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Chris Taylor Quartet, 9pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
The Figgs, Francine, Dave Aranoff and the Details, $7.

Sunday, July 2

An Tua Nua
Common People, 9pm, $3.
The Attic
The Coalboilers, 9:30pm, cover varies, 21+.
Bill's Bar
Shinehead, 11:30pm.
Dick's Last Resort
Sunday Gospel Brunch with Evelyn McDonald, 10am; Rob Gonzalez, 7pm, no cover.
Green Dragon Tavern
Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
Middle East
U: Kingsbury Manx and Charlene, $7, 18+. D: Jahmala, Static, Kevlar Omega, Chino, Black Stars and Dynamite Band, 8pm, $10 before 10pm, 18+.
The Rack
Chad LaMarsh, 9:30pm, no cover.
Rhythm and Spice
DJ Bim and Sound Vibration, 10pm, $5, 18+.
Veronique Restaurant
Sunday brunch withSteve Rochinski, 11:30am.
White Horse Tavern
Gary Gore, 8pm.

Monday, July 3

Irish Embassy Pub
Jukebox, 9:30pm, cover varies, 21+.
Johnny D's
Hot Tamale Band, 9pm, no cover.
Middle East
U: New Music Night: Sundog, Kusasi's Secret, 51 Pegasy, $6, 18+.

Tuesday, July 4

Dick's Last Resort
July 4 Party featuring Beantown Bar Band, 7pm, no cover.
Oak Bar
Steve Soars, 8pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Chris Neville Trio, WCRB Simulcast July 4 Celebration.

Wednesday, July 5

Common Ground
What a Way to Go-Go, 10pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm, no cover.
Green Dragon Tavern
The Swinging Johnsons, $3.
Hennessy's of Boston
Me and Julio, $3.
Irish Embassy Pub
Flynn, 9:30pm, cover varies, 21+.
Johnny D's
Spider John Koerner, 8:30pm.
Kirkland Cafe
Twisted Rico Acoustic Revue featuring Jill Kurtz, Nell Bryden, Matt York, Jay Whightman and Noah and Jay, $5.
Les Zygomates
Chuch Langford, 5pm; Skip Smith and Mark Greel, 8pm, no cover.
Oak Bar
Steve Soars, 8pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Jeff Auger Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Brian Charles and friends; $5.
White Horse Tavern
The Amazing Mudsharks, 9pm.

Thursday, July 6

Dick's Last Resort
Booty, 7pm, no cover.
Green Dragon Tavern
Johnny Bahama Night Beach Party Featuring: The Spitting Vinnies, $3.
Hennessy's of Boston
Under Cover, $3.
Irish Embassy Pub
Troubadors, 9:30pm, cover varies, 21+.
Johnny D's
Randy McAlister, 9pm.
Kirkland Cafe
Audiants, Loud Clappers and T Flight Davis, $5.
Les Zygomates
Grace Chung, 5pm; the Jinga Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Maison Robert
Chris Luard, 6pm, no cover.
Middle East
U: Spacehog, $7, 18+. D: Toneburst, Paint, Howard Stelzer and Brenden Murray, $7 ($5 with canned good), 18+.
Oak Bar
Steve Soars, 8pm, no cover.
Parker's Bar
Rose Jamieson and Rick Schilling, 8pm, no cover.
The Rack
The Return, 6:30pm, no cover.
Scullers
David Benoit, 8pm and10pm, $20.
Top of the Hub
Jeff Auger Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
T.T the Bear's Place
Damn Personals, the Mooney Suzuki and Strangle Me, $7.

Friday, July 7

The Attic
Dr. Awkward with Sugar Coat, cover varies, 21+.
Axis
Sunny Day Real Estate, 7pm, $15, 18+.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band, 7pm; Soul City, 10pm, no cover.
Green Dragon Tavern
Fat Tuesday; The Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
Hennessy's of Boston
Me and Julio, 5-7pm, $3-5.
Johnny D's
Rosie Ledet, 9:45pm.
Kendall Cafe
The Scoldees, 9:30pm.
Kirkland Cafe
Step Light, Mazor Ruckham, Eighteen Abbey and Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
Les Zygomates
The John Thomas Duo, 5pm; Karen Parker, 9pm, no cover.
Middle East
U: Treehouse Union, Groove Homes Band, Joint Custody, $7, 18+. D: Alex Chilton, Star Ghost Dog, $10.
Mr. Dooley's Tavern
Patsy Whelan and Tony O'Riordan, $3.
Oak Bar
Steve Soars Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
Parker's Bar
Rose Jamieson and Rick Schilling, 8pm, no cover.
The Rack
Search Party, 6:30pm, no cover.
Scullers
David Benoit, 8pm and 10:30pm, $20.

Metallica rocks Foxboro Stadium June 30.

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: HERB RITTS; GLEN LAFERMAN

Local rockers The Popgun Seven give a free performance as part of the Boston Harborfest Concert June 30 at City Hall Plaza.

Top of the Hub
Jeff Auger Trio with Jeff Auger and Maggie Galloway, 9pm, no cover.
T.T the Bear's Place
The Raging Teens, the Stillmen, Jimmy Nations Combo and Bombastics; $8.

Saturday, July 8

Common Ground
The Allstonians, 10pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm; Rob Gonzalez, 10pm, no cover.
Green Dragon Tavern
4 on the Floor, $3.
Hennessy's of Boston
Traditional Irish Session, 4pm, $3-5.
Jacob Wirths
The Jay Sweet Trio.
Johnny D's
Jim Weider, 9:45pm.
Kirkland Cafe
Random Access Memory, Rhythm and Angels, Blues Toulouse and Bangalore, $5.
Les Zygomates
Karen Parker, 6pm; Valerie Stephens, 10pm, no cover.
Middle East
U: Jack Drag, Blake Hazard, $7, 18+. D: Rippopatomus and Buck Dewey Band, $8, 18+. D: Rippopotamus, Buck Dewey Big Band, Allagash 4 and Elbow, $8, 18+.
Mr. Dooley's Tavern
Patsy Whelan and Tony O'Riordan, $3.
Oak Bar
Steve Soars Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
Parker's Bar
Rose Jamieson and Rick Schilling, 8pm, no cover.
Slade's
The John Dougherty Trio, 8pm, no cover.
The Times
Ransom.
Top of the Hub
Jeff Auger Trio with Maggie Galloway, 9pm, no cover.

Sunday, July 9

An Tua Nua
Common People, 9pm, $3.
The Attic
The Coalboilers, 9:30pm, cover varies, 21+.
Bill's Bar
K-Don and Friends, 11:30pm.
The Blackthorne Tavern
Savoi Brown, 8:30pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort
Rob Gonzalez, 7pm, no cover.
Green Dragon Tavern
The Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
Middle East
Sergio Vega and Kimone; $7, 18+.
The Rack
Chad LaMarsh, 9:30pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Atomic Voodoo, the Returnables, Something Ira and Groove Street Junction; $4.
Veronique
George Mel Trio, 2pm, $10.
White Horse Tavern
Sal Baglio and Al Haliday, 8pm

Monday, July 10

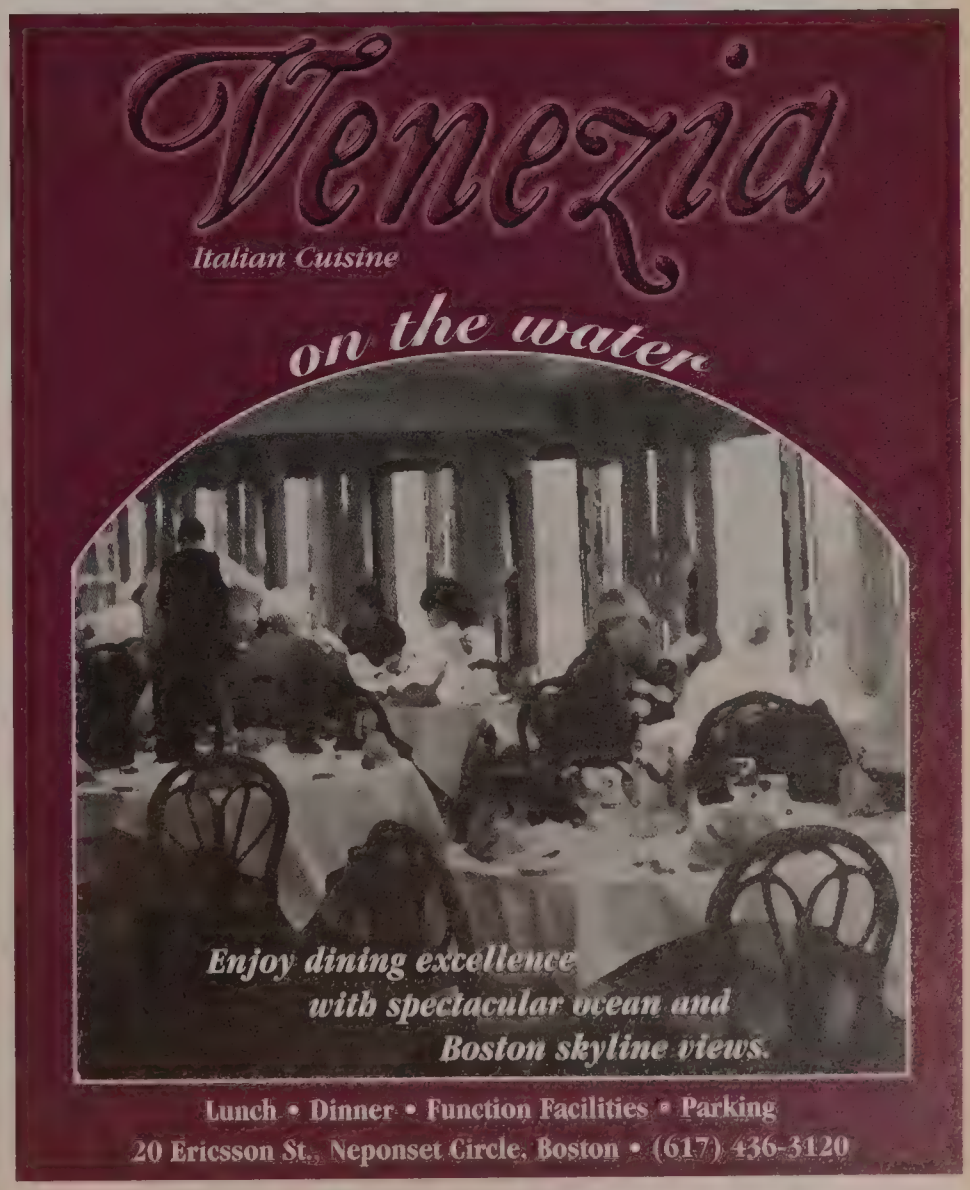
The Blackthorne Tavern
Mary Lou Lord, 8pm, 8$.
Dick's Last Resort
Big Toe, 7pm, no cover.
Irish Embassy Pub
Jukebox, 9:30pm, cover varies, 21+.
Johnny D's
Hot Tamale Brass Band, 9pm, no cover.
Les Zygomates
Rusty Scott, 5pm, Mappari, 9pm, no cover.
Middle East
U: Pizza, the Movies, Oxes and the Katie Geoghegans, $6, 18+.
The Rack
Nate Wadkins, 8pm, no cover.

Tuesday, July 11

Dick's Last Resort
Tall Ships Party featuring Beantown Bar Band, 7pm, no cover.
Les Zygomates
Brian McCree and Frank Wilkins, 5pm, The Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Middle East
U: Cursive, the Bismarck, Kolya and the National Blue, $7, 18+.
Oak Bar
Steve Soars, 8pm, no cover.
The Rack
Stu Sinclair, 8pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Jeff Auger Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Daren's Head, Stage, Generic and the Fleece, $4.

Music Venues

The Attic *107R Union St., Newton (964-6615).*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (743-2286). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-6204).*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Coogans Bluff *173 Milk Street., Boston (451-7415). MBTA: Orange Line to State St.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
Good Life Cambridge *720 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston (451-2622). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Good Life Uptown *99 St. Botolph St., Boston (451-2622). MBTA: B Green Line to Hynes/ICA.*
Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (367-0055). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Jacob Wirth's *31-37 Stuart St., Boston (338-8586). MBTA: Green Line to Boyslton.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Davis Square, Somerville (776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
The Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (267-8644). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.*
The Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
O'Brien's *3 Harvard Ave, Allston (782-6245). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
The Playhouse Lounge *74 Warrenton St., Boston (482-2227). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (227-2060). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (725-1051). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Regatta Bar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Rd., Cambridge (562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*



gay&lesbian

If you want to be listed
Submit information including telephone numbers and nearest T stop by fax to (859-1446), mail or e-mail to gaylesbian@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted by phone.*

How to use this section
The following listings contain information that is subject to change. Contact the organization for changes in specific events.

CLUBS, BARS & HANGOUTS

Anthem (Thursdays)
Machine, 1256 Boylston St., Boston (536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. DJ Richie turns it out at Boston's newest Thursday party. The mega dance floor also offers drag diva Destiny. $5, 19+.

Asian Inspiration Night (Sundays)
Machine, 1256 Boylston St., Boston (536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. DJ Mark Hodges and Tony T serve the city's freshest "tea" at Dragon Tea Dance, New England's only night for gay Asians and their friends. Diamond Dunhill, Destiny, Crystal and Sexy Lexy entertain at a 10pm show. 8pm, $3, 21+.

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years these folks have been crankin' out some of the best Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. It's well worth a visit—if not for the three separate dance floors then for all the male dancers. 9pm, $15, 21+.

Buzz (Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays)
51 Stuart St. in the Theatre District, Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. On Saturday nights this place boasts two dance floors, two DJs, a pool room and a lounge. Two levels of dancing and schmoozing will keep the boys busy until 2am. 10pm, $5, 21+.

Chaps (Daily)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. www.chapsofboston.com. Sun.: Dance music of DJ Danae Jacovidis; Mon.: Grand Baby and Grand Piano night; Tue.: Retro DJ night; Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adielson Caesar; Thu.: DJs Billy and Fran: High Energy Dance; Fri.: Taboo Erotique with DJ Sammy; Sat.: High Energy Dance, DJ Danae Jacovidis.

City Girl Cafe (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri: 11am- 9pm; Sat: 10am-9pm; Sun: 10am-7pm. A small (five tables), laid-back cafe in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated. This cozy spot is home to a mixed gay/hetero crowd that lounges about, munching on sandwiches. Brunch on Saturday and Sunday, 10am-2pm.

Club Cafe (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-0966). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri 11:30am-2am; Sat. 2pm-2am; Sun. 11am-2am. This trendy South End spot draws a mixed crowd that comes for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back (Moonshine). A dressy bunch that likes to mingle. No cover, 21+. •Carol O'Shaughnessy performs with Steve Heck, Dottie Dean or David Sparr, Thursdays.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (542-4494). Mon.-Fri. 3pm-2am; Sat. 1pm-2am; Sun. 12pm-2am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This is your friendly neighborhood bar with a quiet setting. It's best known for scrumptious Sunday brunches (12-4pm). A simple joint with all of the trappings of a true bar: smoky and dark. The place starts hopping as it gets closer to 2am.

Fritz (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Stroll in for a quiet drink or a rowdy night on the town. The folks here are friendly—and really into sports. Not only does Fritz have Direct TV set up with sets scattered everywhere, it's also home base to a great softball league. 12pm, no cover, 21+.

Jacques
79 Broadway, Boston (426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. If you're looking to relax with a friendly crowd of gays and straights, and you like to mingle with disco-dancing drag queens, you've found the place. Sun. and Mon. are local band nights. Tues. through Sat., however, divas rule the stage. 10:30pm, $4, weekends $6, 21+.

Lava Bar (Saturdays)
575 Commonwealth. Ave., Boston (267-7707). The Lava Bar's Tabu night boasts DJ Fran spinning out high-energy house with a taste of Latin beats. 10pm.

The zany *Eric Idle Exploits Monty Python*, featuring the Rutland Sympathy Orchestra and Dolly Taylor, the great transvestite country and Western singer, is now playing at the Wang Theatre.

The Lizard Lounge (Wednesdays)
1667 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. "Marlene Loses It at the Lizard" is the title of this eclectic evening of poetry, live music and theater. 10pm, $5 cover, 21+.

Luxor (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (423-6969). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from the latest music scenes and classic old movies—compiled by the bar's own VJ. Downstairs is Jox. No cover, 21+.

Man Ray (Thursdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (864-0400). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed.-Fri., 9pm; Sat., 10pm. A bustling hot spot caters to a young, alternative clientele. Two dance floors fill up on Thursdays for Campus, a predominantly male night where DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen take over. 10pm, $8 for 19+, $5 for 21+.

119 Merrimac (Daily)
119 Merrimac St., Boston (367-0713). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Sat., 10:30am-2am; Sun. 12pm-2am. This male cruise bar is the place to stop for drinks before or after FleetCenter events. Shoot a leisurely game of pool or play the video games. Merrimac features DJs playing hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s. 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. On Thursday nights, the Lesbian AIDS Project of Mass. unofficially takes over this laid-back cafe for "dyke nyte." The cafe always has something brewing—live bands, DJs and drag-queen parties. The party starts at 8pm, no cover, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (494-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Central. On Monday, a bartender not only mixes drinks but strips too. Male strippers are featured Wed.-Sat. Mon. is Gothic night; Tue. is techno and Thu. is college night. On Fridays DJ Sam Sampson spins, and on Sat. hear DJ Brad Gwynn. 5pm, no cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (266-2986). Green Line to Kenmore. 12pm-2am. The largest leather bar in the East enforces a tight dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room). Sun.: buffet and mandance with DJ Brad Gwynn. Mon.: pool tournament and pizza. Tue.: spice 4 life with DJ Kal Muzak. Wed.: Twitch 2000 with DJ SGT Dennis. Thu.: Primal Dance with DJ Danaw Jacovidis. Sat.: Leather Cruise with DJ Dennis Sargent.

BOOKS

Glad Day Bookshop
673 Boylston St., Boston (267-3010). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu. 9:30am-10pm, Fri. and Sat. 9:30am-11pm, Sun. 12-9pm. This exclusively gay/lesbian bookstore has all sorts of paraphernalia.

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge. (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Fri. 10am-8pm, Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 12-6pm. New England's oldest women's book shop offers a wide selection of literature. Its monthly author series continues throughout the summer. •June 28, 6pm: **Leila Ahmed** tells the story of her life in *A Border Passage*, from her Egyptian childhood amid the rich traditions of Islamic women and ending with her identity as a feminist living in America. •June 29, 6pm: **Lucy McCauley** speaks with **Tehila Lieberman** and **Emily Hiestand** about their book, *A Woman's Path: Women's Best Spiritual Travel Writing*, tales of discovery that offer an uncommon look at personal transformation.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6:30pm; Sun., 11:30am-5:30pm. Boston's literary gay and lesbian bookstore.

SHOWS & EVENTS

Chutney Popcorn
Brattle Theater, 40 Brattle St. (876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Through June 29, 5:15pm, 7:30pm and 9:45pm. One of the over-the-top hits at the recent Boston International Festival of Women's Cinema, the comedy is about the trials and tribulations of changing family values. It follows a woman (played by filmmaker Ganatra) living in New York with her girlfriend.

Eric Idle Exploits Monty Python
The Wang Theatre, Tremont St., Boston (931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. June 29, 8pm. $26-$56. Along with Eric Idle, this zany two-hour event will feature the Rutland Sympathy Orchestra under the baton of John DuPrez, Sir Dirk McQuickly of the semi-legendary Rutles, the Bruces (an all-Australian Drinking Quartet) and Dolly Taylor, the great transvestite country and Western singer.

Ellen DeGeneres
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly (978-232-7200). July 6, 8pm. Comedian and actress Ellen DeGeneres returns to the area to perform a stand-up act.

ONGOING

Bawl
This lesbian softball league offers opportunities to join teams in both the recreational and competitive divisions. Call Liz (508-628-5477).

Best Foot Forward
Ballet Etc. Dance Studios, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (522-1444). MBTA: B Green Line to Washington St. For gays/lesbians/bisexuals of all swing skill levels.

Boston Glass
Community Center, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center. Daily 8-10pm. Support groups and social activities for adolescents ages 13-25.

The Boston Rainbow Gospel Choir
The BRGC is about to launch its second season and periodically holds auditions. Call 424-6740.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). A 1,500-member gay club with hiking, biking, camping, skiing and other outdoor activities for men and women.

Common Bond
(781-433-7023). www.dwellings.com/acb. An international support group for gay/lesbian/bisexual current or former Jehovah's Witnesses.

Community Rainbow
Boston Living Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston. 7:45 pm. An organization whose mission is to advocate for the community. Meets Thursdays.

Cosmetically-Correct
Laurel's Restaurant, 142 Berkeley St., Boston. A social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month 7:30-10pm. Lipstick optional. Small donation covers appetizers. For more information, log on to *www.egroups.com/community/cosmeticallycorrect.*

Dykes Who Hike
(522-6185). This hiking group is for lesbians in the Boston and the area who want to conquer the wilderness.

East Coast Wrestling Club
With more than 160 members, this is an extraordinarily popular New England spot for gay male wrestlers. Call Marc at 401-467-6737, or go online at *http://members.tripod. com/~ecwc* or e-mail *ecwc@juno.com.*

Encounters
Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston. An informal social evening for HIV-positive gay and bisexual men held the first Tuesday of every month, 7-9pm.

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave, Boston (824-4266). www.mindspring.com/~frontrunners. A running club for the LGBT community meets every Saturday at 10am for fun runs of various distances.

Gay Volleyball
Cambridge (262-3626). Sundays, 7pm, $7. Typically five teams play on two courts. Teams of men and women are made up each week.

Gender Free Contra Dancing
First Church of Jamaica Plain (522-1115). www.piac.net/users/latte/lcfd/. Come one, come all to evenings of contra and square dancing.

Latino Social Group
Latino Gay Men's Project *(350-6900 ext. 125)* and the Women's Social Groups *(350-6900 ext. 124).*

OOPS
Melting Pot Coffee House, 2 Belgrade Ave., Roslindale (323-4123). Out on the Parkways invites one and all to come on down for some dinner and coffee.

PFLAG
Fenway Community Health Center, 7 Haviland St., Boston (547-2440). Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets every fourth Monday, 6:30-8:30pm.

Queer Corps
131 Clarendon St., 4th floor, Boston (450-1676). A community mobilization project by and for queer men 25 and under. Meetings are held every Tuesday, 6-8pm.

Tennis4all
Call Ted at 779-7231. Boston's gay and lesbian tennis club, with monthly tournaments and pizza socials.

We thank you in advance for joining us to support a great cause!

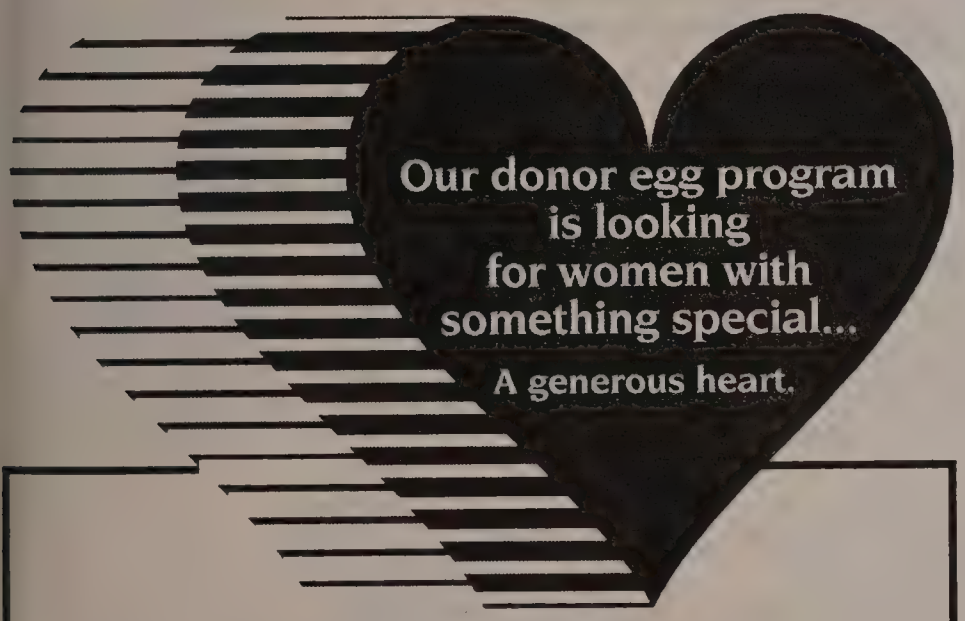
Date: Wednesday, July 12th
Time: 6 p.m.
Location: The Rack, Faneuil Hall Market Place, Boston

Enjoy our special section with
complimentary pool tables and appetizers starting at 6pm
A minimum donation of $15 is greatly appreciated!

YOUR DONATION WILL BENEFIT
THE PAN-MASS CHALLENGE...

The Pan-Massachusetts Challenge (PMC) is a 192 mile bikeathon, which will take place on August 5&6 from Sturbridge to Provincetown to benefit The Dana Farber Cancer Institute. Some of your hosts will be riding on the ***Leslie's Links*** *Riding Team in memory of Leslie Semonian. All money raised by Leslie's Links riders will go directly to the Leslie's Links Ewing's Sarcoma Fund at The Dana Farber. Before Leslie lost her battle to cancer on, December 14, 1999, she along with her friends created a web site* ***www.lesliesLinks.com****. To learn more about the PMC, see* ***www.pmc.org****. The purpose of this site is to raise money for cancer and have some fun. It is specifically dedicated to Ewing's Sarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer, which primarily strikes young adults. The site links patients, doctors and family members together to find a cure.*

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



You have the opportunity to give the gift of childbirth to an infertile couple. Boston IVF is looking for egg donations from healthy women between the ages of 21 and 34. Donors will be required to take medication and undergo a minor surgical procedure. Donors will be compensated for their time and effort. Participation is completely confidential.

For more information, call us at (781) 434-6500 M-F, 9-5 p.m.
Serious inquiries only.

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body&mind

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information by mail, fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/ Mind, or electronically to bodymind@improper.com. *Include a brief but thorough description of the event, time, date, location and directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.*

EVENTS

Nutrition and Health
YogaEast, 20 Del Carmine St., Wakefield (781-224-0722). July 7, 7:30-9:30pm. $40. Expert naturopathic consultant **Dr. Al Costanza** is a vast resource of information. This evening is for you to ask any questions concerning natural health practices, and healthy snacks will be provided.

LECTURES/FORUMS

Integrative Healthcare
Tapestry Complementary Healthcare, 2364 Washington St., Newton Lower Falls (969-6300). June 27 and 28. $20. This integrative health clinic holds classes on alternative treatments you can use to maintain health. The next two classes will focus on traditional Chinese exercises and partner massage.

Freedom From Allergies
Wellspace, Fresh Pond Mall, Cambridge (876-2660). www.wellspace.com. *July 6, 7:30-9:00pm. Free.* Join Wellspace naturopathic physician **Dr. Bradley Bongiovanni** for a potentially life-changing evening and a future without allergies. Get to the root of the problem and learn how to decrease your susceptibility through dietary, nutritional, herbal and other natural healing strategies.

What Is Enlightenment?
Impersonal Enlightenment Fellowship Boston, 38 Cameron Ave., Cambridge (492-2848). July 9, 7:30pm. Investigate the nature of enlightenment and the liberating potential of spiritual inquiry with author and spiritual teacher **Andrew Cohen**.

CLASSES/ WORKSHOPS

Creativity on Demand
Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. July 11, 6-8pm (3 sessions). $57. Creativity can help you produce an invention, write a killer screenplay or even win arguments. This class will teach you to unleash the powerful creative self.

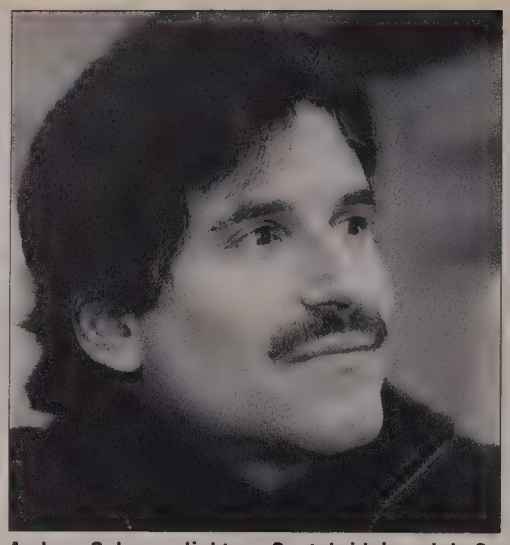
Creative Conflict
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. July 11 and July 18, 5:45-7:45pm. $56. Do you have trouble handling conflict? Does it make you act strange or feel uncomfortable? Come learn how to think clearly in the face of the stress by understanding the biological basis behind anger and fear while owning a secure attitude.

Headache Massage Therapy
Brookline Adult and Community Education, Brookline High School Dance Studio, 115 Greenough St., Brookline (730-2700). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. July 12, 7-9pm. $45. Are you plagued by sinus pain, migraines or stress headaches? Learn a variety of ways to tend to this problem naturally: how to use massage to relax the muscles in your face, neck and head, visualization and breathing exercises, plus information about nutrition and aromatherapy.

One-Day Yoga Workshop
The Yoga Studio, 74 Joy St., Boston (523-7138). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. This special class with **Mary Pafford** incorporates many bodywork disciplines. One such practice is exploring the *chakras* to deepen the exercise of the yoga poses.

Outdoor Movement Group
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. July 8, 6-8pm. $60. This class focuses on moving and exercising within your environment. The effect is to bring a greater awareness through your senses, which in turn, can help you to live life more consciously.

Understanding the Opposite Sex
Brookline Adult and Community Education, Brookline High, 115 Greenough St., Brookline (730-2700). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. July 11, 6:30-9pm. $30. You can help your mind get over the differences of the sexes: Communication is key. Just because we're different doesn't mean we can't get along. With a bit of compassion and understanding, you too can have a healthy relationship.



Andrew Cohen enlightens Cantabridgians July 9.

Women's Fun, Activity-Based Relaxation Class
New Directions for Yoga, Health and Psychotherapy, 5 Harvard Ave., Brookine (738-1648). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village or C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Three-part series, Tuesdays 7:30-8:30pm; Thursdays 9-10pm. $60. Learn fun ways to bring relaxation into your daily life.

RETREATS

Focusing: Listening to the Deeper Self
Kripalu Center, Lenox, Mass. (800-741-7353). www.kripalu.org. *July 7-9. $150 tuition, plus two nights room and meals.* Kripalu provides a relaxing environment for these weekend getaways. The Focusing practice is a useful mind/body exercise that allows you to avoid distracting thoughts and find out what you're truly asking yourself. Daily living will be far less confusing with this skill.

Zen Retreat
Cambridge Zen Center, 199 Auburn St., Cambridge (576-3229). MBTA: Red Line to Central. www.cambridgezen.com. *July 8-9. $50.* This monthly retreat is an excellent opportunity to clear the mind of habitual thinking and generate energy to practice in everyday life. Zen master **Soeng Hyang** will lead the weekend's activities, including Zen practice, work and rest periods, formal vegetarian meals and a private interview with the retreat leader. Beginners are very welcome.

ONGOING

Dance Friday
Rug Cutter's Studio, 23 Main St., Watertown (924-7276). www.dne.org. *MBTA: #57, 70, or #71 bus. Fridays, 8:30pm-12am. $7.* Dance any way you want to, even barefoot, to all kinds of music in this smoke- and alcohol-free environment.

Falun Dafa Meditation Exercises
Boston Common, Boston. Contact Michael (781-646-7099). www.falundafa-newengland.org. *Sundays 1-4pm.* Join others for some outdoor meditation. *Falun dafa* is an advanced meditation system helpful for improving the condition of the heart, mind and body, and has far-reaching effects in stress relief.

Lunch Time Yoga
The Yoga Studio, 74 Joy St., Boston (523-7138). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. Tuesdays, 12-1pm; Thursdays, 1-2pm. If you work downtown, you can spend your lunch getting healthy with ease. Grab a yogurt and spend some time being good to yourself.

Qi Gong
Woolf Holistic Health Center, 651 Washington St., Brookline (738-9144). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Square. Thursdays, 7:30pm. Free. Have you ever wondered what *qi gong*, an ancient form of exercise from China, really is? Well your chance has manifested at the Woolf Center's drop-in session. Discover this time-tested art for maximizing your well-being and increasing your knowledge of mind and body.

Taming the Mind
Shambhala Meditation Center, 646 Brookline Ave., Brookline (734-1498). www.shambhala.org. *MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. Tuesdays, 8pm.* Buddha was a regular guy who lived on the earth and became enlightened. These evenings will present the teachings of Buddha, so that you can learn just how he did it.

Yoga/South End
Union United Methodist Church, 485 Columbus Ave., (522-7199). MBTA: Green Line to Prudential or Orange Line to Back Bay. $15/class. Certified Kripalu yoga teacher **Patrice Flesch** teaches mixed-level classes in a spiritual setting. Increase flexibility, relieve stress, build strength, relax and enjoy yourself at any of these ongoing drop-in classes: Tuesdays at 7pm, Wednesdays at 12pm and on Saturdays at 9am. New summer classes begin July 11.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Children. Or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

TO SEE

H.M.S. Pinafore
Pier One, Charlestown Navy Yard, Charlestown (242-5616). June 30-July 1 at sunset, July 2, 2pm. Children and parents alike will enjoy this unique presentation of *H.M.S. Pinafore*—lavishly staged and costumed at the *USS Constitution*. Boston's professional opera repertory company, the Boston Academy of Music, hosts this first-ever production beside "Old Ironsides."

Puppet Showplace Theatre
32 Station St., Brookline (731-6400). $8. •*June 30, 7pm; July 1, 1pm and 3pm:* ***Tales of Tails*** by Puppettellers. After the animals are created, learn about hte tails of coyote, bre'r rabbit and the golden dragon. •*July 5, 10:30am and 1pm.* ***Going, Going, Gone Whaling*** by the Poobley Greegy Puppet Theatre.

Mosey on down to the Franklin Park Zoo for that down-on-the-farm feel right in the middle of the city at the Farmyard exhibition.

THINGS TO DO

Boston by Little Feet
Meet in front of Faneuil Hall, at the statue of Samuel Adams on Congress Street, Boston (367-2345). www.bostonbyfoot.com. MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Saturdays and Mondays, 10am; Sun. 2pm. A child's-eye view of the Freedom Trail's architecture and history designed especially for young walkers ages 6 to 12.

Boston Harborfest: Children's Day
On the Plaza at City Hall (227-1528). www.bostonharborfest.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 10am-3pm.* Fun and festivities with jugglers, face painters, interactive games and activities. Mayor Menino will read children a story. There will also be fun learning activities with Boston Duck Tours, the New England Aquarium, the USS Constitution Museum and the D.E.M. Forest on Wheels.

Franklin Park Zoo
1 Franklin Park Road, Boston (442-2002). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. •*June 30-July 1, 7pm-9am. $40. Ages 6 and older:* **Family Overnight Program**. Camp overnight in the African savannah. •Through the end of the summer: **Farmyard**. Mosey on down to the zoo for that down-on-the-farm feel right in the middle of the city. Check out the new main barn, incubator and brooder building, chicken coop, silo slide and windmill.

Free to Be Me
Freedom Trail, Boston. 11am. Sidewalk Sam and the Mayor's Youth Arts corps will be on the Freedom Trail re-creating works of art in chalk on the sidewalk.

Summer SOULstice
Christian Science Plaza, 175 Huntington Ave., Boston (450-3131). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Tuesdays, 12pm. Enjoy a music and arts festival every Tuesday at noon with musicians, artists, storytellers and fun in the fountain.

Youth Sailing Program
One First Ave., Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (242-3821, ext. 12). Classes begin July 5. Students can choose from a variety of lessons—from a half-day beginner class to a competitive racing class.

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

To Watch

New England Revolution
•Foxboro Stadium. Tickets: 1-877-GET-REVS
July 1 (Home): Kansas City Wizards, 7:30pm, FSN
July 4 (Away): Miami Fusion, 4:30pm, FSN

Red Sox
•Fenway Park. Tickets: 267-8661.
June 28 (Home): Baltimore Orioles, 7:05pm, NESN.
June 29 (Home): Baltimore Orioles, 7:05pm, Fox.
June 30 (Away): Chicago White Sox, 8:05pm, Fox.
July 1 (Away): Chicago White Sox, 1:15pm, Fox.
July 2 (Away): Chicago White Sox, 2:05pm, Fox.
July 3 (Away): Minnesota Twins, 8:05pm, NESN.
July 4 (Away): Minnesota Twins, 7:05pm, NESN.
July 5 (Away): Minnesota Twins, 8:05pm, NESN.
July 6 (Away): Minnesota Twins, 8:05pm, NESN.
July 7 (Home): Atlanta Braves, 7:05pm, Fox.
July 8 (Home): Atlanta Braves, 5:05pm, Fox.
July 9 (Home): Atlanta Braves, 1:05pm, Fox.
July 11: All Star Game, 8:30pm, Fox.

Women's Gold Cup 2000
•Foxboro Stadium. www.womensgoldcup.com. Tickets: 1-877-GET-REVS
July 3 (Home): Gold Cup Finals (6:30pm) and Championship (9pm). $28-$70.

Events

B2K Celebration: B2K Torch Run
City Hall Plaza, Boston (877-B2K-8885). www.B2Kevents.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 8am.* This daylong relay torch run measures 40 miles long from City Hall Plaza through the streets of Greater Boston and back to City Hall. Each runner—from professionals to amateurs and celebrities—carries the torch for a quarter of a mile. Mayor Menino will kick off the 16-day B2K Celebration festivities. Cheer the runners as they come through your 'hood.

Row 2000 Hull
Hull Lifesaving Museum, Hull (781-925-5433). July 8-11. A series of highly contested international open-water rowing events in and around Boston Harbor and in Hull. More than 200 youth and adult rowers will convene to celebrate the harbor and islands on the eve of Sail Boston 2000.

Tommy's American Running Series
Norwood (212-423-2284). www.tommyrun.com. *July 4.* This is just one in a 13-cityFourth of July celebration featuring adult and children's road races (5K), picnics, fireworks and other family activities to support the fight against multiple sclerosis.

To Play
BASKETBALL

Basketball City
Adjacent to North Station and the FleetCenter (742-6700). Corporate, midday and weekend leagues.

Co-Ed Indoor Basketball
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 224). Sun.-Thu. nights at various locations. All levels welcome. Leagues in Waltham, Dedham and Brookline. Co-ed teams now forming.

The Corporate League of Boston
(566-7808).

NBA's Hoop-It-Up
(888-997-PLAY). www.hoopitup.com. July 15-16. Register teams by July 7. $112 per team. The largest three-on-three street basketball tour in the U.S. will come to Boston on more than 75 courts set up at Suffolk Downs. Players form teams of up to four members.

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333). Practice and workout programs for all levels in Greater Boston.

South End Fitness Center League
(534-5823).

Women's Basketball League
(661-9622). Tuesdays 5:30-7pm and Sundays, 6-7:30pm. Starts July 9.

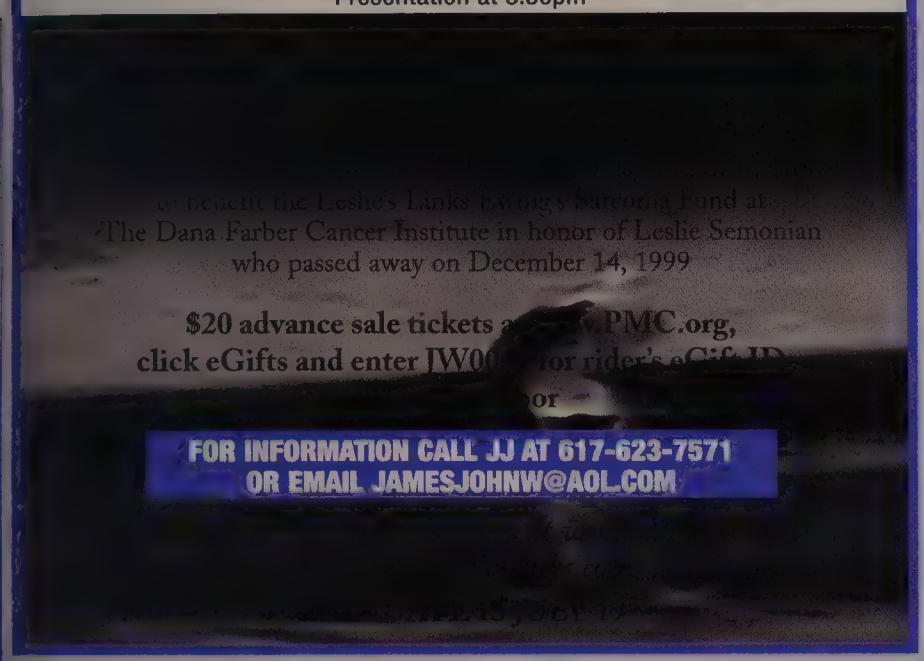
JJ Productions Presents

CHANGE GEARS, TAKE A BREAK

and join us for a PMC/LESLIE'S LINKS
SUMMER SOCIAL on Sam's patio!

Sam's

100 City Hall Plaza, Boston
Wednesday, July 12
6 to 10 pm
Presentation at 8:30pm



to benefit the Leslie's Links Ewing's Sarcoma Fund at
The Dana Farber Cancer Institute in honor of Leslie Semonian
who passed away on December 14, 1999

$20 advance sale tickets a[illegible].PMC.org,
click eGifts and enter JW00[illegible] for rider's eGift ID
or

FOR INFORMATION CALL JJ AT 617-623-7571
OR EMAIL JAMESJOHNW@AOL.COM

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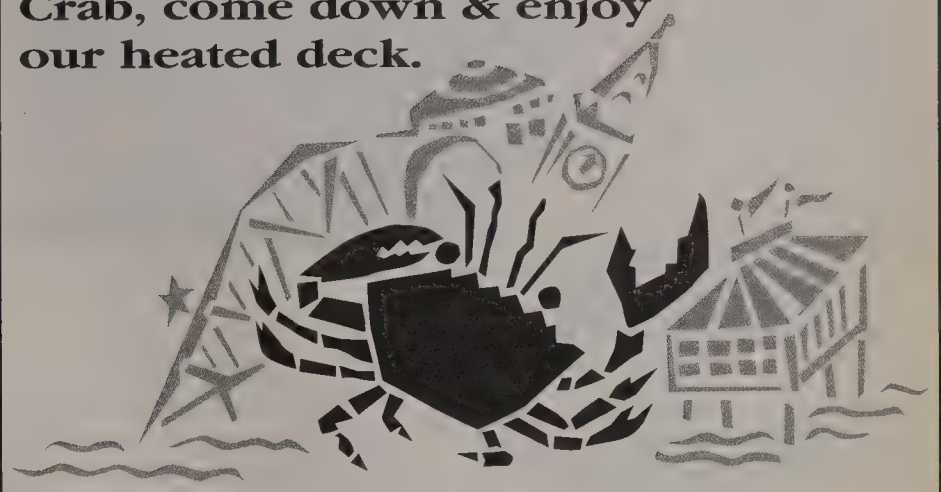
BARKING CRAB
RESTAURANT

Summer is already here at The Barking Crab, come down & enjoy our heated deck.



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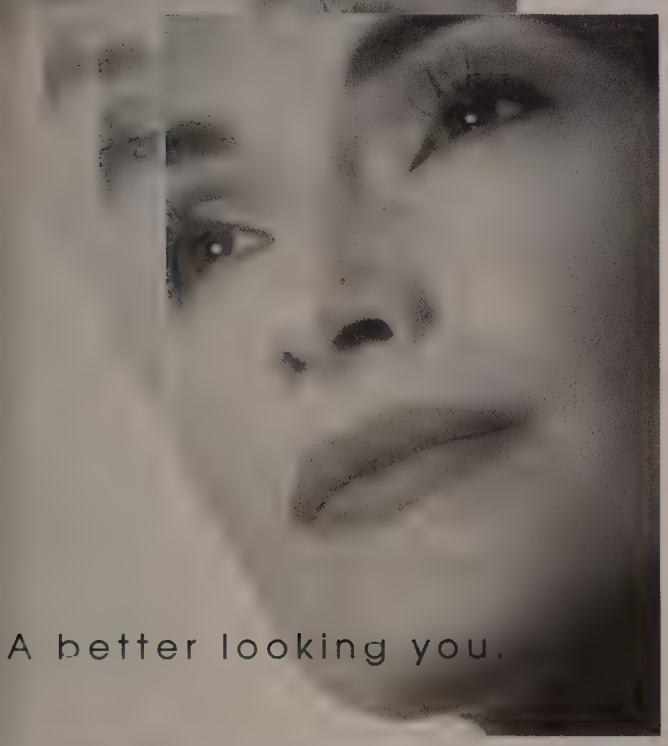

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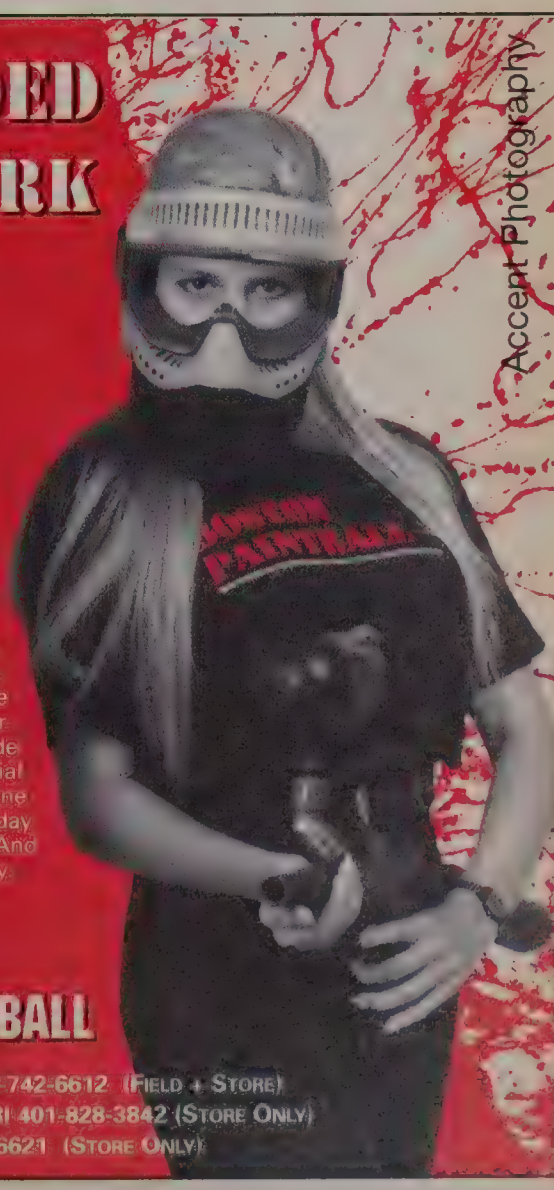

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Red Sox shortstop Nomar Garciaparra signs autographs for his fans at Fenway Park.

HIKING/WALKING

The Appalachian Mountain Club
Gorham, N.H. (603-466-2727). Hikes and huts in the White Mountains. •Monthly AMC Young Members meetings at AMC headquarters, 4 Joy St., Beacon Hill (523-0655). Second Thursday of every month, 6-10pm, $3. Potluck. BYOB.

Boston Ski & Sports Hiking Trips
(789-4070). •July 8: **Castle in the Clouds**. $45. Spend the day exploring the 5,2000-acre mountain estate. After a leisurely morning hike, you'll enjoy a picnic lunch overlooking Lake Winnipesaukee. Take a self-guided tour of the castle, as well as a guided tour of the bottling plant for Castle Spring water.

New England Walkers
39 Oakland Rd., Brookline (731-9889). members.tripod.com/NEWALKERS. This 200-member club hosts race-walk events and clinics. Weekly walks at M.I.T. indoor track on Wednesdays at 7pm.

Summer Walk
5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. July 6, 5:30-7pm. $55. Shake out that workday stress, limber up muscles and head off to a different destination each week for a sociable walk.

Walking Group
(247-8267). This group sponsors weekly walks on Wednesday evenings in the Back Bay. Meet new people while getting some exercise.

IN-LINE SKATING

In-Line Skating Classes
BCAE, meet at the end of Dartmouth Street at the footbridge, Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Beginner classes (three sessions beginning): July 9: 10-11:15am; 11:30am-12:45pm; 1-2:15pm; July 12, 6-7:15pm. Intermediate class: July 9, 2:30-3:45pm. $68. Develop a smooth freestyle.

RUGBY

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
Cambridge (781-340-2192). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.bwrfc.org. *Tue. and Thu. evenings.* No experience necessary.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
(499-4835). Weekly runs year-round. Serious drinkers with a running problem.

Boston Road Club Weekly Races
(781-646-8955). Sundays. Wells Avenue in Newton.

Fresh Pond Weekly Road Races
Fresh Pond Reservation. Saturdays, 10am. Choose between a 2.5- or 5-mile run.

Khoury's Thursday Night Runs
East Somerville. (354-3534). 4.13 miles. 7pm at Khoury's Bar.

NikeTown Boston Running Club
200 Newbury St., Boston (267-3400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Three-to-five-mile loops. Starts at 6:30pm. Monthly mini-clinics as well.

Somerville Road Runners Weekly Run
Cambridge Boat House Parking Lot, Cambridge (923-2378). Fridays at 7 pm.

SOCCER

BSSC Soccer
BSSC (789-4070, ext. 225). Coed teams for both indoor and outdoor soccer. Call the Boston Ski & Sports Club for more details.

SOFTBALL

80-Team Softball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 222). Monday through Thursday evenings at 6:30pm. Join as an individual or as a team. Sign up now for fall league.

SWIMMING

Boston Athletic Club Swim Workouts
653 Summer St., Boston (269-4300). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon. and Wed. 6:15-7:15am.

The Charles River Park Club Morning Masters
Charles River Park, Boston (450-9810). Mon., Wed., Fri. 6:30-7:45am.

The Mason Masters Swim Program
The Mason Pool, 159 Norfolk Avenue, Roxbury (236-4923 or 450-9810) Mon.-Fri. 7:30-8:30pm. An early-morning masters swim program led by Alex Primilsky, coach of numerous world, national and Olympic champions.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Boston Ski & Sports Club
(789-4070).

Boston Ultimate Disc Alliance
(928-0882). www.buda.org.

VOLLEYBALL

Adult Co-ed Volleyball League
Waltham YMCA (781-894-5295). Monday nights. All levels welcome at this friendly co-ed league located in Waltham.

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club, (789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. at various locations. Co-ed indoor six-on-six leagues. Four different levels of play. Pick-up games, clinics and tournaments also available. •Co-ed pickup games Tuesdays and Fridays at West Newton Armory, 1137 Washington St. $5.

Co-ed Volleyball-Waltham
Waltham YMCA, 725 Lexington St, Waltham (781-894-5295). Monday nights.

WATER SPORTS

Boston Sailing Center
54 Lewis Wharf, Boston (227-4198). Year-round lessons and racing programs for all abilities.

Community Boating
21 David Mugar Way, Boston (523-1038). www.community-boating.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. Open Mon.-Fri. 1pm-sunset; Sat.-Sun. and holidays, 9am-sunset. April 1-Oct. 31. $190.* Sailing, windsurfing and kayaking on the Charles River, including instruction, for only $190. What a bahgain!

Courageous Sailing Center
Charlestown Navy Yard (635-4505). Lessons are offered here year-round.

Ski Market Kayak Demo Center
Edward J. McCormack Bathhouse, 165 William J. Boulevard, South Boston (464-3291). Wednesdays, 4-7pm; Thu.-Sun. 10am-6pm. Sing person boats $10 per house; $30 for four hours. Demo Ski Market's kayaks now through Labor Day.

Whitewater Rafting
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070). •July 14-16: Kennebec River in Maine. •Aug. 18-20: Penobscot River in Maine. These weekend adventures include accommodations, transportation, most meals and whitewater rafting.

sales& fashion

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for sales and bargains by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sales and Fashion. Or e-mail information to goodbuys@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the event or items. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

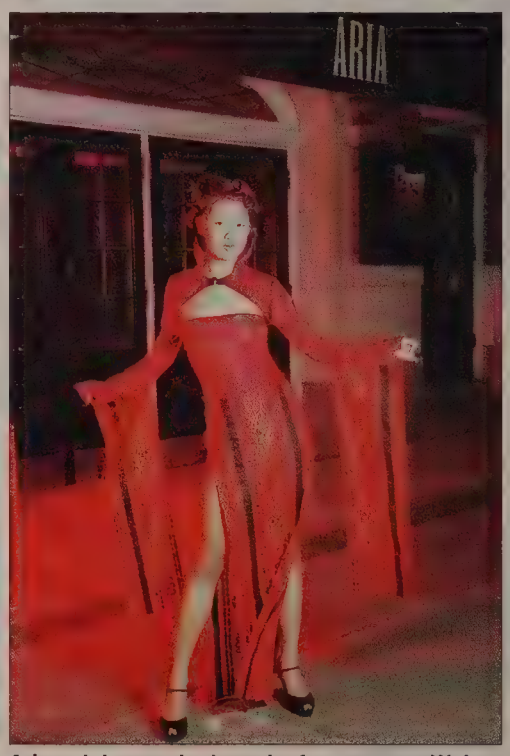
AUCTIONS

Skinner Auctioneers—Bolton
357 Main St., Bolton (978-779-6241). www.skinnerinc.com. **•Toys & Dolls**. *July 8, 10am. Previews: July 6, 2-5pm; July 7, 2-7pm; July 8, 8-9:30am.*

SALES/EVENTS

Get a Little Racy!
www.ramybeautytherapy.com. Ramy Beauty Therapy founder Ramy Gafni will donate 100 percent of proceeds from the sale of Racy! lipstick to Race for the Cure.

Shrine Marketplace
Hynes Convention Center, Hall A, Boylston Street, Boston. July 1, 1-6pm; July 2, 9am-6pm; July 4, 9am-6pm; July 5, 9am-6pm; July 6, 9am-12pm. Purchase shrine pins, buttons and imprinted logo souvenirs.



Aria celebrates the launch of a sexy new Web site, Swimsuitmodelmagazine.com, June 29.

FASHION

Fashion Fundraiser
Pravda 116, 116 Boylston St., Boston (357-2754). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. June 30, 9pm. $15. In a unique evening of fashion, Pravda 116 hosts designers Sheela Mehrotra, with her Passion 2000 Collection, and young designer Roupina Ajoian of Roupina Couture in a benefit for the Phillips Vision Fund.

Neiman Marcus
5 Copley Place, Second Floor, Boston (53603660). •June 28-30, 11am-7pm: Guerlain event in Cosmetics. •June 28-29, 10am-7pm: Michael Dawkins trunk show in Designer Jewelry.

Swimsuitmodelmagazine.com Opening Party
Aria, 246 Tremont St., Boston (338-7080). June 29, 11pm. $10. MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Aria nightclub has lined up two events and combined them into one big glamorous party. Safar's "A Night in Ibiza" will help launch a sexy new Boston-based Web site, *Swimsuitmodelmagazine.com.*

BEAUTY

Bridal Makeup Event
Demiche Makeup & Image Studio, 423 Main St., second floor, Melrose (781-662-1796). www.demiche.com. *•June 29, 1-8pm:* Brides-to-be get a complimentary makeup application from the official makeup artists of the Miss Massachusetts USA Pageant.

go away
TRAVELING NEAR AND FAR

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Go Away. Or e-mail information to goaway@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the event or items. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

NORTH OF BOSTON

Basin Bluegrass Festival
Brandon, Vermont (802-247-3275). July 7-9. Camping and field picking is encouraged at this three-day traditional bluegrass festival. You'll find music workshops, food and more.

Hillsboro Balloon Festival
Grimes Field, Hillsboro, N.H. (603-464-5858). July 6-9. www.balloonfestival.org. Forget about flying a kite, it's hot air balloon season in New Hampshire. Take a ride in a ladybug-shaped hot air balloon—or even a helicopter. From any vantage point, you can check out the antique car show. But if you're scared of heights, don't fret; there will be an abundance of carnival rides, food and entertainment close to the ground.

Lowell Summer Music Festival
Lowell, Mass. (978-970-5000). July 6-Sept. 9. www.lowellsummermusic.org. Pack a picnic supper and enjoy contemporary folk, blues, Irish, and pop music, including acts by Eddie from Ohio, Herb Reed and the Mick Taylor Band.

Potato Blossom Festival
Fort Fairfield, Maine, (207-472-3802), July 8-16, www.fortfairfield.net. Who knew the potoato was Maine's most important crop? Some 85 events commemorate the mighty Maine spud (and its purple and white bloosom), which has been celebrated since 1937.

SOUTH OF BOSTON

The Marion Wine & Arts Festival
Island Wharf, Exit 20 off Rte. 195, Marion, Mass. (508-994-2900). www.marionwineandarts.com. *July 8, 11am-7pm. $45.* A festival featuring nearly 300 different wines and 60 artists in a juried fine arts show.

New Bedford Summerfest
New Bedford, Mass. (508-999-5231). July 7-9, 11am-9pm. Free. A family-oriented, three-day festival, this fishy bash is chock full of scallop and seafood dinners—plus six stages of entertainment with top names in folk, blues and jazz. There's arts and crafts exhibits galore, a Riverdance show, whale boat races and fireworks.

WEST OF BOSTON

Jacob's Pillow 2000 Festival
Located in Becket, Mass. (413-637-1322). *www.jacobspillow.org.* Representing cultures and dance styles from the U.S., France, Japan, Ireland, Africa, Sweden, Brazil, Spain, Canada and the Netherlands, this world-renowned dance festival is the place to see and experience dance in a fun, all-encompasing way. •July4-9: **Grupo Corpo** of Brazil, 1999's opening act, returns to give the U.S. debut of *Benguelé,* an African-Brazilian-inspired mix of modern dance, ballet and folkloric styles. It celebrates African and Brazilian culture. •July 6-9: Dublin's **CoisCéim** will perform *Ballads,* a piece depicting the struggles and devastation caused by the Irish famine of the 1880s.

Eastern European Festival
Memorial Hall Museum, 1 Memorial St., Deerfield, Mass. (413-774-7476, ext. 10). July 9, 1-5pm. Free. Tempt your taste buds with cuisine from Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. After you eat, dance the afternoon away to some Eastern European tunes, sit and enjoy tales told by Polish storytellers or learn the art of Ukranian and Polish egg painting.

SkyWatch—Planetary Nebulae
EcoTarium, 222 Harrington Way, Worcester, Mass. (508-929-2712). www.ecotarium.org. *June 28, 9pm. $12 adults.* See for yourself how the Ring and Dumbbell Nebulae earned their names. Also, check out summer constellations through powerful telescopes and round out the night of stargazing with wine and cheese.

CAPE & THE ISLANDS

Island Scoop Ice Cream Festival
St. Augustine's Church back lot, Franklin Street, Vinyard Haven, Martha's Vineyard, Mass. (508-693-7917). July 8-9, 12-6pm. I scream, you scream—that's right, we all scream for some tasty ice cream on the Cape. Cool off with an afternoon extravaganza of all-you-can-eat ice cream, clowns, jugglers, music and more. Proceeds benefit Islanders with disabilities.

GARCIAPARRA: WENDY MIMRAN

Some 2,000 musicians head to Montréal for the International Jazz Festival June 29-July 9.

NEWPORT

Newport Music Festival

Newport, R.I. (401-846-1133). July 7-23. Millionaires lend their neoclassical baroque ballrooms and lawns for 60 classical concerts with 70 international artists playing on the grounds of great estates. In its 32nd year, the festival will feature works from 19th century chamber music, vocal repertoire and Romantic-era piano literature.

NEW YORK CITY

New York International Independent Film and Video Festival

Various venues in New York, N.Y. (212-777-7100). July 7-17. www.nyfilmvideo.com. The largest independent film festival in the world will be showcasing 150 features, shorts, animation, screenplays and experimental films from England, Hong Kong, Australia, Korea, Japan, Chile, Mexico, Denmark, Spain, Germany, India and Canada, just to name a few. The opening gala at Madison Square Garden is sure to be a don't-miss event where artists will be manning booths to showcase their films and network.

MONTRÉAL

Montréal International Jazz Festival

Montréal, Quebec (888-515-0515). June 29-July 9, 12am-12pm. www.montrealjazzfest.com. Two thousand of the finest musicians from more than 20 countries will convene in Montréal along with many notable local acts to perform nearly 400 concerts—300 of which are free. Four city blocks in the heart of Montréal will be transformed into a musical oasis to accommodate the carnival-like, family-friendly atmosphere. The festival will include jazz, blues, gospel, Cajun, Latin and African music with a special tribute to the great jazz trumpeter Louis Armstrong. Featured performers include **Sting** and his Brand New Day tour and living legend **Ray Charles.**

QUÉBEC

du Maurier Québec City Summer Festival

Various venues, Québec City, Québec, Canada. (888-992-5200). www.infofestival.com. *July 6-16. $8.* This is one of the most eclectic music festivals of the summer, featuring 800 artists and 500 shows taking place in historic Old Québec. World beat and French-language songs will have top billing, but you can also take in outdoor concerts of rock, pop, jazz, cajun, ska, folk, hip-hop, funk, blues, baroque and classical music on a huge open-air stage.

LONDON

Arts Worldwide Bangladesh Festival

Bangaltown, London's East End, London, England, U.K. (202-588-7800). July 7-25. Free. Why not go to London to celebrate the colorful culture of Bangladesh? This is the most extensive celebration of its kind, displaying exhibitions, music, poetry and crafts and serving up tons of food.

TUSCANY

Cabio Cinema International Short Film Festival

Tuscany, Italy (+39 06 44 24 93 53). July 5-9. www.capalbiocinema.com. The premiere film festival highlighting short films in all of Europe is sure to be exciting. Centered in the intellectual tourism hot spot of Italy, this festival promotes the intensity of short films and their ability to deliver strong images, sounds, colors, movements and emotions in 15 minutes or less. You won't need a super-size popcorn and Coke for these short flicks.

BERLIN

Love Parade 2000

Ku'damm Street and various locations, Berlin, Germany (+49 30 390 66 60), July 8. www.loveparade.com. Touted as the largest party of international youth, this love fest draws over 1million "techno-heads" sporting leather, spiked jwelery, tattoos and piercings, all in the name of love. Ravers party to the music of more than 40 DJs spinning techno tunes from trucks lining the Ku'damm, one of Berlin's busiest streets. It's a wild celebration, with this year's theme being "One World One Love." The parade itself is only five hours long, but the party goes all day and all night. If it's too hot, the firefighters even show up and mist the crowd. The Love Parade idea has gone global this year with simultaneous shindigs going on in Leeds, England, and Vienna, Austria, but if you're a love-fest virgin, make this one in Berlin your first.

mark your daytimer

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hot Water Music plays as part of the Vans Warped Tour at Suffolk Downs July 20 .

CITYSCOPE

Bastille Day Bash
July 14, Marlborough Street

Battle of the Barges
July 15, Boston Harbor

Boston Tug Boat Muster
July 25, Charlestown Navy Yard

MUSIC

Warped Tour
July 20, Suffolk Downs

Duran Duran
Aug. 5, FleetBoston Pavilion

Mötley Crue, Megadeth and Anthrax
August 9, Tweeter Center

Creed and 3 Doors Down
August 22, Tweeter Center

Smokey Robinson
August 24, FleetBoston Pavilion

B.B. King Blues Festival
Sept. 14, FleetBoston Pavilion

Culture Club
Sept. 22, FleetBoston Pavilion

THEATER

Seussical the Musical
Aug. 27, Colonial Theatre

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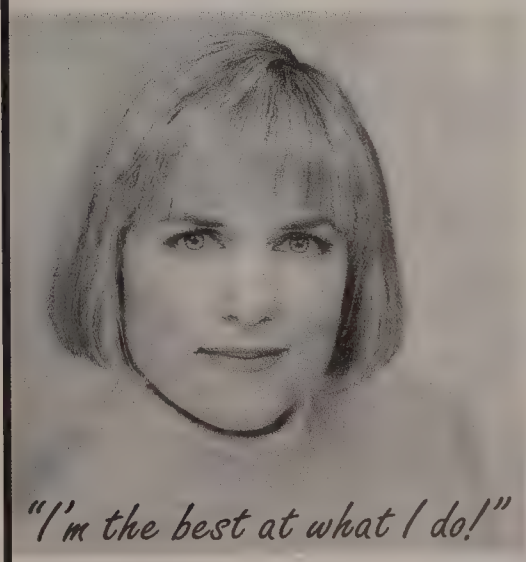

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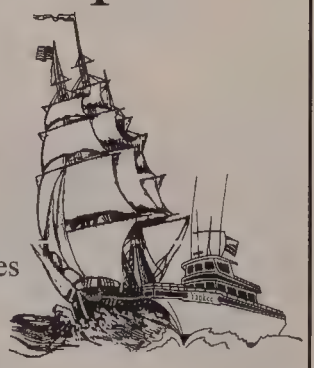

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Improper Impersonals

If everyone kept their feelings bottled up like warm beer, we'd soon have antisocial behavior exploding all over the place and ruining the upholstery. That's why we have the Improper Impersonals, a column written by you, the reader. Send us your letters of love and spleen, and we'll print them for the world to see. Heck, it's better than making a fool of yourself in person. And IT'S FREE! Pick up a pen and tell that babe on the T you like his butt by writing to:

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116
FAX: 859-1446 E-MAIL: impersonals@improper.com
Recent correspondence follows.

Guy in black "Acrid" T-shirt, MFA lobby, April 16, Sunday, 4pm-ish
You are very tall, have dark short hair, fair skin and beautiful, huge blue eyes. We locked eyes, we smiled for a long time. I went around the corner and have regretted not saying hello. I'm the tall, long blond-haired woman you smiled and fixed your gaze at. I was wearing a long gray skirt and long-sleeved, gray shirt. I'm guessing Acrid is a band?? I was at the MFA for a concert and really feeling exhausted—and then too shy when I saw you to strike up conversation. I hope you get this and email me, so we can say hello, etc.
—SongBos@aol.com

Guy at Campus at Manray
You: Pierced, tall, white cap, UNH grad. Me: Asian, orange-ish shirt and baggy pants, MIT nerd. About a month-and-a-half ago we met at the Ms. Pacman machine (the most idyllic spot at Manray, I'm sure) and poked fun (not maliciously, of course) of general gay culture (the guy with the feathered boa walked by on cue), talked about Bjork's music video collection (we both esp. liked the Big Time Sensuality video—but who doesn't?) and ended up dancing together for a little while. I kind of assumed we would meet up afterwards so I didn't really think about asking you for your phone number when you went to dance on the house floor and I wanted to stay on the new wave-y floor, but you weren't around afterwards, and I've been kicking myself for being so aloof. Interested in hanging out some time? Hope to hear from you again ...
—nacho@mit.edu

Series 7 Girl
Tuesday, May 9, you were riding the Green Line with your Series 7 exam book. You were wearing a tan, sleeveless dress with a white sweater. I was wearing a green shirt, standing in the well. Eye contact was made that, in a more feasible situation, would have led me to talk to you. Being rush hour on a packed T, that was difficult to do. Email me:
—seekingseries7@yahooo.com

Guy at Les Zygomates
i don't know which is more amusing to me, the fact that i'm sending this out into the void just so i can continue indulging in my silly daydream or the fact that this ad is going to run next to ones bursting with bitchiness. at any rate, last friday (may 5 to be quite exact) i was at les zygomates for an end-of-term dinner with a rather large group of people when i noticed you walk in with an older gentleman. you were wearing black, i believe, and the closest i could figure out who you reminded me of was chris O'Donnell. i'm asian, glasses, blue jacket. as chance would have it, you ended up sitting facing me, and as the evening progressed i found myself looking over at you more and more and i think you noticed. given the circumstances, i couldn't think of any more subtle way to express my interest than having the waitress deliver a hastily scrawled message to you, so i sat and stewed and eventually gave it up as being a completely futile situation. my question to you is: what were you thinking at the time and what would you say to dinner sometime? we could go to a mcdonald's and order greasy fries just for the contrast. if you're in a relationship already that's quite all right —it'd still be great to hear from you.
—merman77@hotmail.com

To Tony, the drummer rock star in my life...
You've given me so much happiness since we met in November and we've experienced so much together. From the innocent days of asking for office supplies to eating beef tartar, look at where we are now. We've had new discoveries as rich as spinach salad and you've introduced me to new music from Sting to Dream Theatre. Thank you for being the supportive person that you continue to be in my life...I thank my lucky stars to have found you in this crazy world of ours. Thank you for loving me and putting up with my emotional ways; I can't wait to walk along the beaches in California with you this summer. I love you, sweetie!
—Always, Your Candi-Kane

Bar Code, June 9
The three feet of space and half inch of glass between us made for a truly awkward situation (for me, at least). When my friend and I got in line at Bar Code (Friday, June 9, black jeans and blue jean shirt) you were inside looking out and maybe you said something about us to the couple you were with. I smiled and was struck dumb, in every sense of the word, and just as we reached the front of the line, you emerged (less than happy?). Astonishing wit at the ready, I announced, "Well... Now I don't want to go in." What I didn't manage to say was "Hi," and I suspect that I'll regret that for a very long time. (Unless that's you reading this.)
—cmmeast@aol.com

An Open Letter to the People of Boston
Allow me to divert your attention from unrequited crushes for a moment to express my anger at the behavior of some of our citizens. I have been informed of at least three incidents where people visiting from Vermont have been harassed and abused because of the state decision to legalize gay marriage. Since it's so obvious I don't need to point out that not everyone living in Vermont is gay. But that shouldn't matter. In this diverse city, we live, work, frequent the same restaurants and clubs, take the T, share the highways with homosexuals, African Americans, Asians, Latinos etc. every damn day. In this day and age, how can people still resist the reality of the melting pot? To the offenders, you are sick, depraved, evil and don't deserve to breathe the same air as most Vermonters who are honest, charitable and kind. To anyone who witnesses a hate crime, please take action. If one of these incidents becomes an act of ugly, horrifying violence like the Matthew Shepard murder or the police brutality of New York, we'll all be affected.
—A former Vermonter ashamed to call Boston her home

Doug
It's time you were told: YOU ARE A BLOODY IDIOT! Thank you.
—Lance Armstrong

John
Central Square World's Fair. I thought you were a dead ringer for a friend of mine. You were thoughtful enough to share your pretzels with me. Would very much like to get to know you better.
—Realitygrrl@hotmail.com

I heard the echoes...
Of our laughs, our poems, our hopes of moans
Filling that hidden, empty, basement auditorium.
I stumbled upon those echoes the other day
As I wandered aimlessly down blessed stairwells.
The echoes told me how much I miss you.

How much I will.
It had felt so natural.
And I wondered...

The longest day draws nigh.
Had you begun to laugh and write and think to moan again?
Had you considered laughing with me?
We did. We could. We can.

—aandd713@yahoo.com

To My Big-Haired Roomie
You're absolutely psycho, and I can't wait until I move out.
—the one who's never there

Rockie Horoscope

JUNE 28-JULY 11, 2000

BY ROCKIE GARDINIER

CANCER

JUNE 21-JULY 22

Jupiter in your 12th house of the unconscious, old karma, spiritual retreats and dream-life enriches those aspects of your personality. Your ambition to achieve success in what is euphemistically called "the real world" might suffer unless you're heading a charitable foundation or campaigning to be the next Pope. However, if a caring Cancer needs to become more compassionate or improve his or her psychological health, this is an opportune time. Gurus, shrinks and psychics should do well. However, this weekend every Crab can succeed in the art of love.

LEO

JULY 23-AUGUST 22

Friendship, friendship, just the perfect blendship. Jupiter's foray into Gemini will bring Lions more group involvement, especially with people who are "connected," and I don't mean to the Corleones. You can also be financially rewarded or recognized (11th house matters) over the next year for what you've contributed to your profession. But for the present, retreating to your den while cherry bombs explode and Roman candles sizzle, or more likely fizzle, is the preferred Leonine way to celebrate the nation's independence.

VIRGO

AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

Virgos still hell-bent on having it all get help from Jupiter in your Gemini mid-heaven this year. The Greater Benefic will provide opportunities for career rewards and recognition, the success you've been hungering for, only because you really, truly deserve it. Some Virgins will travel to faraway places or teach in a professorial capacity–none of this nursery school, fun and games stuff. Leave that to artistic imaginative Pisces. The price to pay for your success: working too hard, overestimating your ability to handle the stress.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

Libra natives can find themselves in exotic places this year. Some foreign travel is likely and you may take a class simply to broaden your mind, no financial payoff intended. (That'll come later.) The more academically-inclined could wind up teaching a subject close to their hearts. Reap benefits from reading, writing, advertising and connecting to cultures alien to yours. This is also the year to seek out your spiritual mentor, a guru to guide you toward satori–your easy come, easy go-to guy.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

Double jeopardy. You'll be playing for higher stakes while magnanimous Jupiter transits your Gemini eighth house, the area of life under Scorpio's control. If you can imagine having better sex and greater intimacy, more successful investment strategies and a chance to comprehend the secrets of the occult, then you can pretty much plot your course for another year. Airy Gemini governs businesses related to ideas, communication, sales, education, and the day-by-day comings and goings that are anything but ordinary.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

Send in the clowns, professors and princes, but no paupers this time. Over the next year, you'll pull in partners who bring special gifts–learning, wealth or laughs–to the table. While your Jupiter ruler visits Gemini, your cosmic complement, benefits come through significant others, marriage and other legally binding agreements. However, too much Jupiterian enthusiasm, an excessive state of mind Sagittarians know only too well, can mean trouble from legal action or a partner who won't say no. Fun or folly? Only time will tell.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

It may take a while for jolly Jupiter to change your daily habits, but rest assured that the planet of luck and laughs will soon brighten up your Gemini workplace. It may bring you another pet to love and more lucrative, prestigious job offers. Your health can improve and co-workers can turn into a source of joy. The little things that mean a lot will mean more, too. The only problem, especially for a workaholic Capricorn: having too much to do. For the Independence Day holiday, however, hooking up with a Moon Child is action enough.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18

Considering adding a baby to your list of creative interests? Jupiter transiting your fifth house this year might find you pregnant, besides adding significantly to general feelings of abundance. It could also get you in trouble with your bookie. Taking risks while the planet of sheer luck passes through your house of risk and recreation is an iffy proposition. But since so much has been going your way, maybe the odds are still in your favor. Meanwhile, the Cancer new moon this weekend starts a cycle of love and compassion you can count on.

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19

Generous Jupiter at the bottom of your solar chart might give you land–lots of land–before next summer rolls around. It could also bring you closer to your parents. Will you be adding an extension to the house so they can come live with you? Whatever benefits the planet of plenty eventually bestows on the family, you can bet your bottom dollar there'll be strings attached–enough to trap an elusive Fish with promises of prosperity and protection. The reality: more stress and the probability of overextending financially and emotionally.

ARIES

MARCH 20-APRIL 19

How will Jupiter's crossing over to Gemini affect you? Before this time next year, you'll probably get a new set of wheels. You might take a writing class, learn how to speak in public, make money with a neighbor or join a neighborhood association. Siblings will be much nicer to you than they have been lately. In fact, you might see evidence of their newfound interest–some dare call it affection–as early as this Fourth of July holiday when the Cancer sun and your Mars ruler combine to make you strong, invincible and a killer cook.

TAURUS

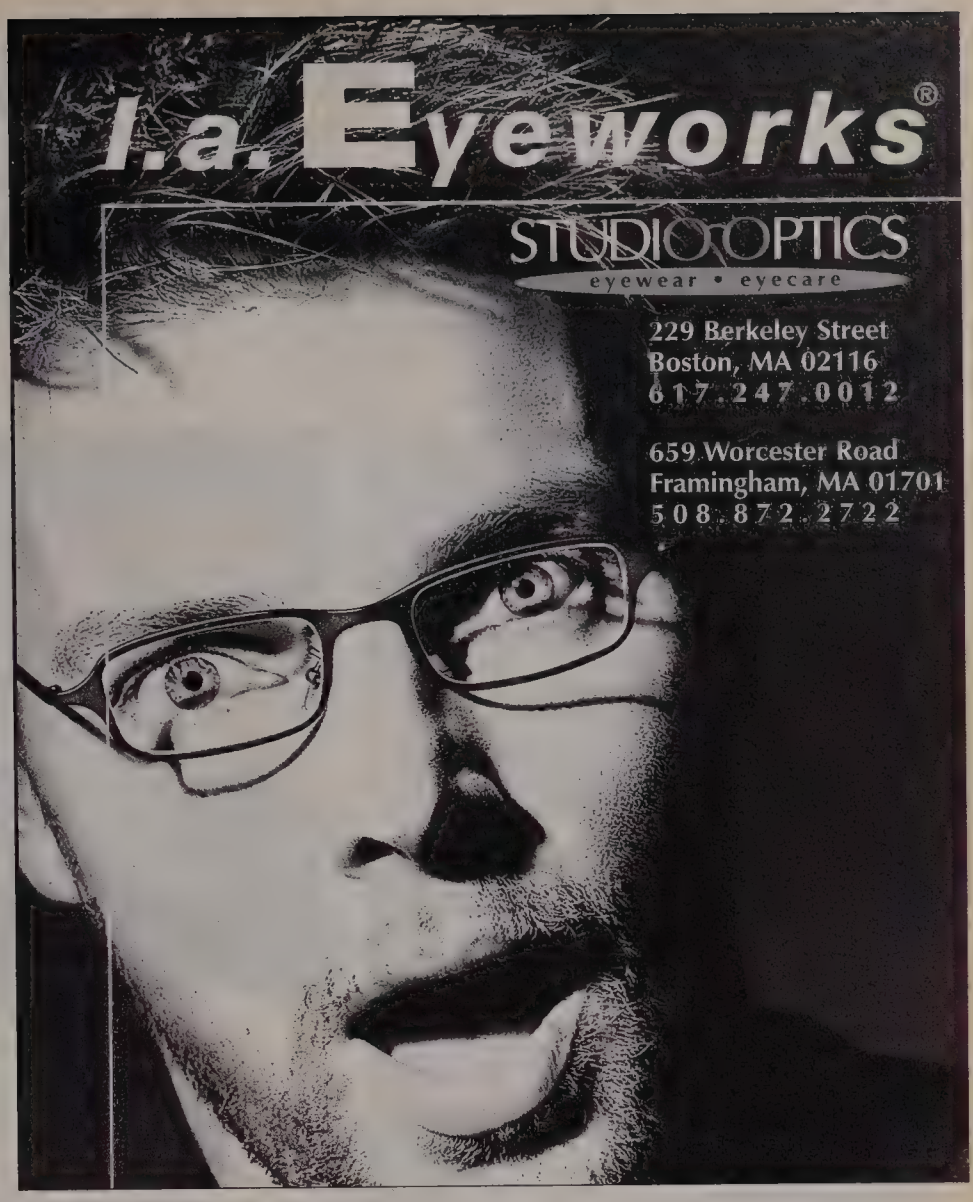
APRIL 20-MAY 20

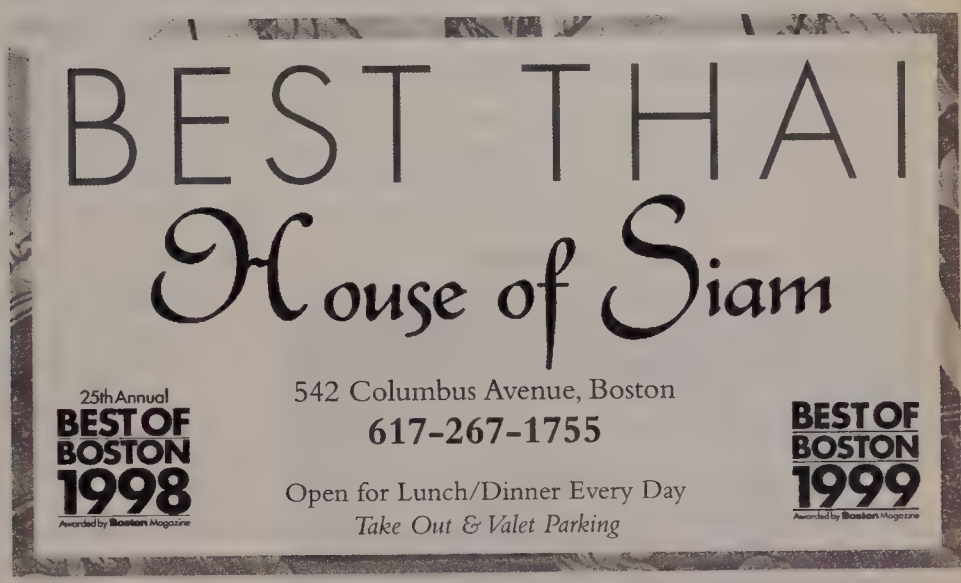
Continue to be charming and chatty, but circumspect. No reason to moan and groan since Jupiter, by leaving your sign, could be leaving you wealthier and wiser than you were. But if you haven't capitalized on the opportunities the planet of plenty offered when it was in Taurus, you'll have another chance to expand your possessions and income while Jupiter transits your Gemini house of self-worth and net worth for the next 12 months. Is there a danger you'll over-indulge in sensory pleasures and spend with gay abandon? Do you care?

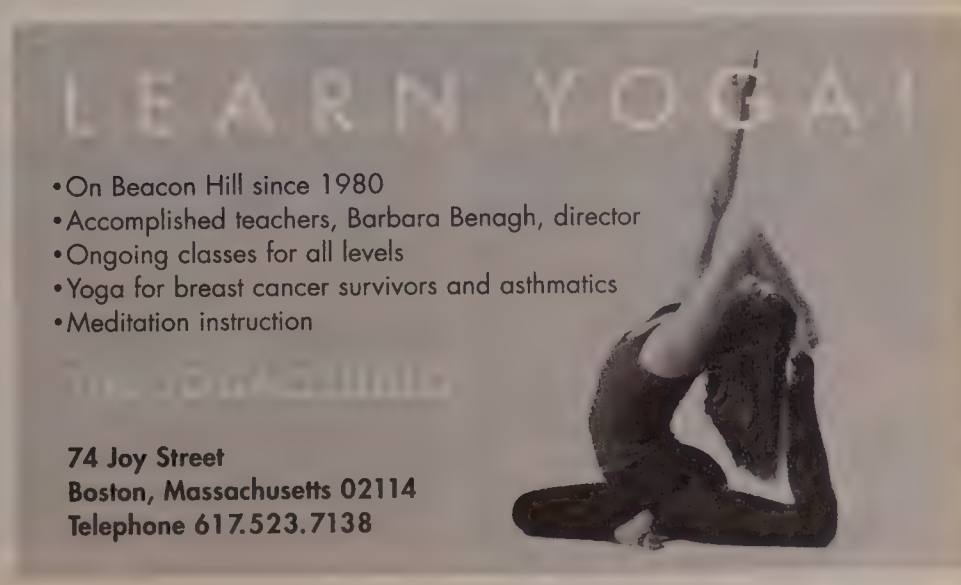
GEMINI MAY 21-JUNE 20

Welcome jolly Jupiter into your life as it enters your sign on Friday. Suddenly, as if the gods decreed it, you'll have more opportunities to stretch, show your intelligence, get healthy and be noticed. You might also put on weight as Jupiter tends to expand in all directions at once. Relationships improve, and you'll get offers to travel, teach and promote what is intrinsically yours. July 4th will center on a sweetheart of a guy or gal who could become sweet on you, perhaps a neighbor or a friend, someone drawn to your family circle.

Curious about the future? Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30 to 40+ pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise over the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $42.50 per report to: ROCKIE GARDINER, 1021 N. Genesee, #1, West Hollywood, CA 90046. *www.rockiehoroscope.com*. Read my daily forecast online at www.laweekly.com.







improperazzi

The Improper Bostonian's client-related promotions and events

To thank the many patrons who have made it one of Boston's hottest nightclubs, **Caprice** threw a one year anniversary party on Thursday, June 1. The funky, young crowd enjoyed drinks and appetizers and plenty of socializing.

1

2

3

1. **Darlene Morris, Angelia, Marcy**, and Designer **Elena Farberova**
2. **Darlene Morris** and **Christophe Muller**
3. **Nick Tsimouris**, Designer **Rick Lange**, **Alexandra Greenawalt** of ProveReal.com, and **Ali Greenfield**

Boston's **Harpoon Brewery** celebrated summer by hosting its seventh annual — and largest — beer and music festival on June 8-10. A selection of Harpoon's Boston-brewed beers were served and ten local bands, performing a variety of music from rock to reggae, provided hours of entertainment.

1

2

3

1. Lead Singer of Clutch Grabwell, **John Boyle**.
2. **Brian Turbide**, Harpoon Promotions Director, and **Jon Green**, Director of Business Development.
3. **Charlie Storey**, Harpoon Senior V.P and Brand Manager joins Harpoon Brewers **Chris LaPierre** and **John Diehl**.

Cosmetic genius **Trish McEvoy** helped bring out the beauty in **Neiman Marcus** shoppers on June 14 with a personal appearance at the Copley Place store. Many women enjoyed a personal consultation with McEvoy, during which she stressed the importance of quick and easy multifunctional products, and a free makeover by one of McEvoy's talented makeup artists.

1

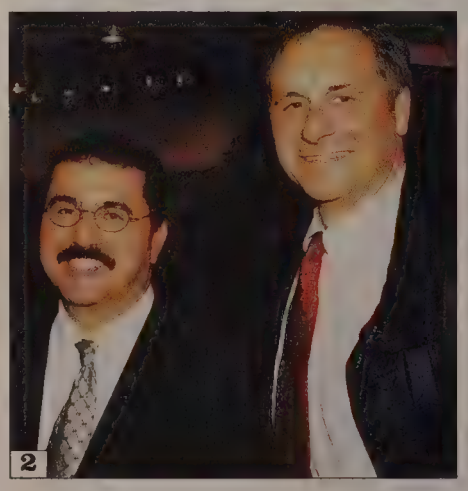
1. **Trish McEvoy** helps a local artist choose the right products for her look and lifestyle.
2. Makeup artists show customers how to use Trish McEvoy products most effectively.
3. **Ron Fukuhara**, Vice President and General Manager of Neiman Marcus at Copley Place, **Dave Dodge**, Cosmetics Department Manager, and **Sally Funk**, Manager of Public Relations.

2

3

1

1. **Roger Berkowitz**, owner of Legal Sea Foods with chef **Kevin Fisk** and **Julia Child**
2. **David Alphonse**, Director of Beverage Operations at Legal Sea Foods with **Richard Doyle,** CEO Harpoon Brewery
3. **Zvi Cole** of General Cinemas with **Julia Child**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On Friday, June 15th, Roger Berkowitz hosted a party to celebrate their fresh new look of **Legal Sea Foods at Copley Place.**

PHOTOS: SEAN SULLIVAN (CAPRICE); BERTA DANIELS (HARPOON); ERICA BAITLER (NEIMAN MARCUS); JOEL VEAK (LEGAL SEA FOODS)

BARS, CLUBS, RESTAURANTS & BRUNCH

The following are paid advertisements. Please check times and prices in advance. If you'd like to have your restaurant listed, please call The Improper Bostonian Advertising Dept. at 859-1400.

BARS

Billiards

Boston Billiard Club
126 Brookline Ave., 536-POOL. Ranked #1 in the country by Billiards Digest. Free lessons on Mon., 7:30 pm - 9 pm. Boston Billiard Club House Leagues on Mon. and Tues. "In The Biz" night on Sun. and Mon. for patrons in the hospitality industry. Ladies' night on Wed. Featuring a menu of light fare such as grilled chicken sandwiches and appetizers, along with beer, wine, cocktails and a variety of non-alcoholic beverages.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, The Allstonians and Beat Soup.

Weggie's Pub
162 Lincoln St., 617-542-7080. Boston's "Chinatown-Leather District" near South Station. Cozy ambience where people drink and socialize. Cultural diversity is an institution in this area. We permit patrons to bring in take-out orders to complement drinks. Two TV's. One pool table and video games with CD player. Coldest A/C in the city with very cold beer. Great place to come after sporting events. Walk up bar, no waitperson service. Unique, intimate, dark atmosphere, and a cacophony of sounds all around. Inexpensive drinks. $2 for bottled Bud! Mon-Sat 11 am - 2 am. Sun 6 pm - 2 am. No credit cards. ID req.

Brew Pubs

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Company
138 Portland St., Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is now the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, a block from the FleetCenter and steps from Faneuil Hall, Commonwealth Fish & Beer features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

General

BARCODE
Enjoy the intimate, windowed dining room or a signature cocktail in the lounge. BARCODE offers a creative martini selection, a balanced and affordable wine list and both bottled and draft beer. Drinks are available until 2 am daily, food served until 1 am.

The Good Life
Uptown - 99 St. Botolph St., 266-3030; Downtown - 28 Kingston St., 451-2622. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1999 Boston's Best Martini award. The Good Life is a retro lounge that Frank Dean and Sammy would have hung at. Big Drinks, Great American Comfort Food, Hot Jazz and Plenty of Boy Meets Girl. Never a cover, always a good time.

The Good Life In Swingin' Central Square
720 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, 617-868-8800, The winner of The Improper Bostonian's Best Martini Award 1999. Frank, Dean, and Sammy have a new hangout across the river. So should you. Come experience the power of three. Classic cocktails, great American comfort food, and Boston's Best Live Jazz. Never a cover, always a good time.

Harvard Gardens
316 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114, 617-523-2727. A wonderfully relaxed haven located opposite MGH on the back side of Beacon Hill. Serving the finest cocktails and most comfortable food in town. Plant yourself in a comfy booth, a cozy banquette, or at our fully loaded bar and escape from your everyday troubles. Doing it nice & easy 7 days a week - 11am-2am.

Pravda 116
116 Boylston St., 617-482-7799. Located in the heart of Boston's theater district. Pravda offers one of Boston's hottest night clubs, and extraordinary cuisine as well. Pravda boasts the longest bar in Boston, featuring a center ice surface to keep your cocktail cool. If sitting at the bar is not your forte, enjoy a meal at a private table in the dining room or in a plush, secluded booth. Chef Chris Parsons prepares exquisite dishes with the latest seasonal ingredients. Satisfied your hunger? Then feed your crave to rave in Pravda's newly remodeled dance club. DJ's spin high-energy dance music, create an ambiance that radiates with energy. Rest. Hrs: Tues&Wed 5:30-10:30pm, Thurs-Sat 5:30-11pm; Club Hrs: Thurs-Sat 10pm-2am.

Sweetwater Cafe
3 Boylston Place, 351-2515. A classic American bar featuring Boston's best bands and DJ's nightly. A favorite Boston bar for 15 years with two floors of entertainment, an outdoor patio and world class margaritas. Always great music and cold beer, never a dress code. Available for private functions of any kind. (Credit cards: Am Ex, Visa, MC, Diner's) Tues. - Sat. 5 pm - 2 am. Located in "The Alley."

The Big Easy Bar
1 Boylston Place, Boston, 351-7000. Informal. Located in Boston's version of Bourbon Street, "The Alley." The Big Easy Bar is a hot new New Orleans style bar featuring Boston's best live bands and disc jockeys nightly playing music you know and love. Relax in a lounge, listen to the band, play billiards, hang at the bar or dance the night away. The Big Easy Bar has something fun for everyone. Great beer selection, 22 oz. Hurricanes, 4 huge bars, 2 lounges, a balcony, plenty of seating, and a large dance floor. Wed. - Sat. 8 pm - 2 am. Major credit cards accepted. Valet parking available.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, The Allstonians and Beat Soup.

The Sugar Shack
1 Boylston Place, 351-2510. "Home of Boston's Best Party." Set in the middle of a mini-Bourbon Street, The Sugar Shack celebrates Mardi-Gras year-round with a carefree, reckless, spontaneous and unpretentious attitude. Carnival lights, confetti, beads, specialty drinks, live bands and Disc Jockeys playing classics, motown, R&B, funk, disco, and old school hip hop from the last three decades mixed with the best of today's top 40. Home of young professional, young alumni, 20 something hipsters who desire cold beer, cocktails, classic party tunes and unadulterated fun!!

Wine Bars

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar
105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-0966. The hip meeting spot in the Financial District for after work, dinner, late night, or a seductive tryst. The Vault offers some of the most exclusive wines in Boston, which complement the creative American Cuisine prepared by Chef Rebecca Esty. Can't decide on a wine? Relax and compare with our Tasting Flights featuring selections from different reds and whites. So what are you waiting for? Call an old friend, a client, or a co-worker and meet for cocktails at The Vault today.

RESTAURANTS

Back Bay Brewing Company
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center. $7-$18. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Bi-level restaurant/ brewery offers an inspirational pairing of Chef Michael Burgess's innovative cuisine and Tod Mott's hand-crafted ales and lagers. Upbeat first floor bar and café, second floor dining room and bar with comfortable couches and overstuffed chairs. Sunday Buffet Brunch 11am - 3pm, $14.95. Mon. - Sun. 11:30am - 1am.

BARCODE
BARCODE offers creative food and drink with a truly unique, casual style and atmosphere. Simple yet exotic and flavorful, Executive Chef George Leu's menu features a variety of French bistro fare touched with Asian influences. Lunch weekdays 11:30 am - 4:30 pm, dinner daily 5 pm - 1 am, brunch Sat & Sun 11:30 am - 4 pm

Cactus Club
939 Boylston St., 236-0200. Get a taste of the Southwest in Boston. Specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, Cajun Catfish. Save 1/2 off entire menu Mon. - Fri., 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm in the bar. Sample the firewater menu while you are there, including Coyote Killer (Light and dark rum, peach schnapps, ginger beer and mixed juices), or a Chambord Margarita. The daring may go for a dip in the Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Amex, Diners Club, MC and Visa.

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Company
138 Portland Street, Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, near the Fleet Center and Faneuil Hall, Common-wealth features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

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Kashmir
279 Newbury St., Boston, 536-1695. Kashmir has been raising the bar of Indian restaurants in quality, style and service since it opened. Its Best of Boston, Boston's Best and Readers' Choice awards are a result of great execution. Indoors in three elegantly styled dining rooms and outdoors on the best people watching corner in town, Kashmir serves the finest Tandoori and curry dishes and most imaginative specials and the best lunch and brunch buffet in town. Wine and beer are available as well as takeout, delivery, private parties and catering.

Ma Soba Asian Cuisine & Sushi
156 Cambridge Street on Beacon Hill, Boston, 973-6680. Enjoy premium sushi and Ma Soba's unique blend of contemporary and traditional Asian cuisine prepared by award-winning chefs. Relax with a fine wine selection from Ma Soba's comprehensive wine cellar in a setting described as "strikingly attractive and ultra urbane" by the Boston Herald. Open daily: Sun-Wed until 10:30pm, Thurs-Sat until 11:00pm. When in Harvard Square/ Cambridge, visit Ma Soba Express at 30 Dunster Street for quick-service pan Asian noodles and rice platters.

Shenandoah Restaurant, Marketplace Cafe, Brewskellar Pub
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston 227-1272. Located in the North Market Building of Faneuil Hall, Shenandoah Restaurant, The Marketplace Cafe, and Brewskellar Pub have something for everyone. Whether you're interested in a casual dinner on one of Boston's largest outdoor patios or the quiet more elegant surroundings of Shenandoah Restaurant, we offer it all. Having a function? We cater personally to all events you may be planning. Visit us soon and let us surprise you.

Skipjack's
199 Clarendon St., Copley Sq., 536-3500; 2 Brookline Pl., Brookline, 232-8887; and 55 Needham St., Newton, 964-4244. Enjoy fresh grilled seafood flown in from around the world, in a casual, comfortable atmosphere. Specialties include blackened tuna sashimi, Skipjack's moonfish, Maryland crabcakes, lobsters and gingered calamari. Swing with the infamous Winiker Orchestra and enjoy our Jazz Brunch every Sunday, 11 am - 3 pm in Boston. Also performing in Brookline every Fri. and Sat. evenings from 6 - 10 pm. Reservations accepted and discounted underground parking in Boston and Brookline.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve both lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar
105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-9966. A wonderful secret hidden in Boston's Financial District. The Vault offers contemporary American cuisine and an extensive and exclusive affordable wine list. Come in and enjoy our new spring menu, including an expanded raw bar, Maine crab cakes, seared tuna and much more. Lunch Mon. - Fri. from 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Dinner Mon. - Wed. from 5:30 - 10:30 pm, Thurs. - Sat. from 5:30 - 11 pm. Closed Sun.

Venezia
Venezia Restaurant & Function facility. Boston's "hidden jewel" offers romantic and intimate waterfront dining, spectacular views of the Boston skyline. European casual elegance and a unique blend of northern Italian and Mediterranean cuisine. Live entertainment and dancing in our lounge on weekends. Just off of Neponset Circle, open for lunch Mon. - Fri.; dinner every night. Call for daily specials and information 617-436-3120

The Wrap & Smoothie Bar
137 Mass Ave., Boston (at Berklee School of Music), 369-9087; 71 Mt. Auburn St., Harvard Square, 354-5838; 1940 Beacon St., Cleveland Circle, 739-0340; 82 Water St., Financial District, 357-9013. The Wrap serves delicious, freshly prepared wraps, burritos and salads as well as healthy and refreshing smoothies. Voted Boston's Best 1998 & 1999 by The Improper Bostonian. Fresh ingredients, great taste, healthy options - words we live by!

BRUNCH

Anago
65 Exeter Street, Boston, 266-6222. Anago, in the historic Lenox Hotel, presents a live Sunday Brunch from 11-2pm, prepared by Boston's whiz kid chef, Jamie "Shaky" Liberge, featuring a sumptuous buffet of appetizers with exquisite freshly baked desserts and breads created by award winning pastry chef, Lee Napoli, to accompany your choice of exceptional entree selections. Reservations are recommended.

Back Bay Brewing Company
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Featuring Chef Michael Burgess's Neo-Continental selections, including Eggs Benedict with Canadian bacon & herbed hollandaise, blueberry pancakes with almond maple syrup, omelet station, French toast, roasted meat carving station, house smoked salmon, and assorted desserts. Sunday Brunch Buffet 11 am - 3 pm. $14.95

BARCODE
Creative brunch with a truly unique, casual style and atmosphere. George Leu's almost-traditional brunch is sure to please all, with selections ranging from homemade granola with yogurt and fruit to Eggs Benedict to BARCODE French-Asian specials. Served Sat & Sun 11:30 am - 4 pm

Dick's Last Resort
55 Huntington Ave., Prudential Center, Boston, 267-8080. www.dickslastresort. com. Sundays, Dick gets religion and has a Heavenly Gospel Brunch from 10am to 3pm, serving fruit, salads, eggs benedict, fried chicken with a ham and roast beef station. Help yourself to the waffle or omelet stations and dessert bar and listen to old fashion uplifting live gospel music. Open for Lunch, Dinner and late night entertainment 7 days a week, no cover.

Museum of Science - Skyline Room
Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston, MA 02114. Enjoy Sunday brunch in the beautiful Skyline Room overlooking the Charles River at noon, then experience the amazing Mugar Omni Theater: Dolphins at 2pm. Tickets are $28 for Adults, $26 for Seniors/ Children. Brunch only is $20. On-site parking is included. Reservations recommended, call (617)723-2500.

Skipjack's
Swing with the infamous Winiker Orchestra and enjoy our Jazz Brunch every Sunday, 11 am - 3 pm in Boston. Located at 199 Clarendon St. at Copley Square. Indulge yourself with our delicious Smoked Salmon and Caviar Tasting served on a warm corn blini, or our Fresh Crab Pie made with eggs and jack cheese. Do not forget to sample our award-winning clam chowder. Validated parking available. Reservations accepted. Call 617-536-3500.

The Wrap & Smoothie Bar
137 Mass Ave., Boston (at Berklee School of Music), 369-9087; 71 Mt. Auburn St., Harvard Square, 354-5838; 1940 Beacon St., Cleveland Circle, 739-0340; 82 Water St., Financial District, 357-9013. The Wrap serves delicious, freshly prepared wraps, burritos and salads as well as healthy and refreshing smoothies. Voted Boston's Best 1998 & 1999 by The Improper Bostonian. Fresh ingredients, great taste, healthy options - words we live by!

MISC.

Sports

Boston Paintball
131 Beverly St., Boston, 742-6612. The rules are simple. There are teams and everyone has paintball guns. You are inside of a large warehouse (near the Boston Garden). They are firing balls straight at you. You scream, dodge, hide, wipeout and have a blast!!! Great for bachelor/bachelorette parties, corporate outings, birthday parties, and much more.

Improper Sightings

Unlike the rest of your friends, we want to see the photos from your next trip.

Where do you take us? We want to know! Send us a picture of you or a friend, or better yet, someone famous reading THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN and tell us where you were. The more creative you are, the faster we'll publish your pic! (Hey, we have no shame!)

Taking a photo break during a European tour that included France, Spain, Tunisia, Sicily, Italy, and Monaco, 13-year-old Stephanie Nichols from Tewksbury poses with her IMPROPER in Tunis, Tunisia.

She snagged an IMPROPER on her trip to Boston. Tamami Hirao brought it to Kyoto, Japan.

Sarah Hall and Nick Tyner shake it up with the IMPROPER at Carnival 2000 in Rio de Janeiro.

Taj Mahal meets Medford resident Jaindeep Talwalker. With him are his aunt, Monica Sharma, (left) and his mom, Rohini (right). The trio study the THE IMPROPER's design issue in Agra, India.

Recognize these mountains? How about these faces? Nate Rogers from Somerville and Keith Michel from Boston pose with the magazine in Kleine Scheidegg, Switzerland. Behind them are Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau—the very same mountains are pictured on Evian water bottles.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:
Claiming IMPROPER territory on Mount Everest's summit with a native Tibetan guide (a *Sherpa)* in the background—or, of course, reading over your shoulder.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, *The Improper Bostonian Magazine*, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116.
Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail and photo location. All photos become the property of THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE and will not be returned.

CLASSIFIEDS

GENERAL CLASSIFIEDS

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but if you can't take NO for an answer, why not join our team?

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Experienced self starter with proven track record. Must have a minimum of 4 years in media sales with a reputable organization and thorough industry knowledge. Strong organizational, planning and leadership skills are a must. Excellent compensation package.

SALES ASSISTANT

Be at the center of activity at our fast-paced city magazine. Sure there are deadlines, but there are also plenty of fun and rewarding moments inbetween! Candidates should have a college degree and at least two years of administrative experience.

Send cover letter, resume and salary history to:

THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN
ATTN: HR
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor Boston, MA 02116-5143
or fax: 617.859.1446 or email: HR@improper.com

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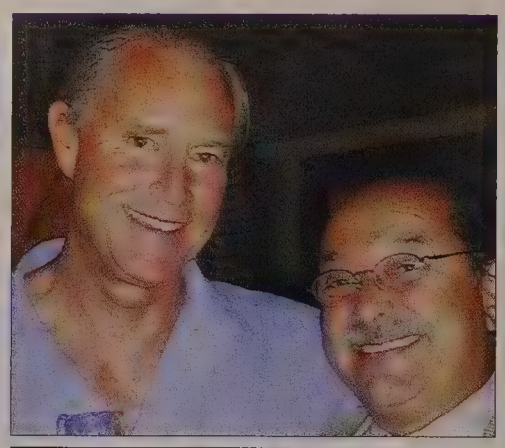
BOSTON'S BEST 1999 "Awarded Best Moving Company" THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN

Last Scene Here

BY JONATHAN SOROFF



At Rialto in Cambridge, clockwise from top: Hunter O'Hanian and Michela Larson; Ike Williams and Donald Winter; Ed Harlow; Michael Tavares and Bill Ralph; poet laureate Robert Pinsky.

THERE ONCE WAS A POET NAMED PINSKY....

The tip of Cape Cod was transplanted to Cambridge when the **Fine Arts Work Center** in Provincetown held a Sunday afternoon soiree at **Rialto**.

Hosted by restaurateurs **Michela Larson** and **Jody Adams** (who cooked up a storm), the party paid tribute to **Robert Pinsky** for his three terms as U.S. poet laureate.

On hand to congratulate him were such local literati as agent and publishing Pimpernel **Ike Williams** of Palmer and Dodge, *Globe* film critic **Jay Carr**, the center's puckish executive director **Hunter O'Hanian**, swanlike TV producer **Lisa Pierpont** of *Chronicle*, P-town gadflies **Donald Winter** and **Richard DiFrummolo** (making their first social appearance after their round-the-world-cruise), modeling den mother **Maggie Trichon**, philanthropist and patron of the arts **Flossie Gerstein**, Cambridge fashion plate **Joan Parker**, miracle worker **Dede Ketover**, perennial partygoer **Martin Slobodkin**, famed artist Michael Mazur and tenor saxophonist **Ed Harlow**, who played "A Lush Life" in Pinsky's honor.

Returning the favor, Pinsky read his poem "Ginza Samba," which left everyone speechless and humbled.

As one guest put it: "I guess that limerick I read on the men's room wall wasn't so clever, after all."

SOME THINGS ARE BETTER LEFT UNSAID....

The invitation should have suggested wearing pants with an elastic waistband, when **Jasper White** hosted the grand opening of his new boîte, the **Summer Shack**.

The kitchen continuously cranked out copious quantities of food, which was gobbled up by a crowd who mostly opted to graze within shouting distance of the bar, instead of sitting at one of the many tables in the gigantic dining room.

While the place might be ultra-casual, the guest list was super-fabulous, boasting

At the Summer Shack grand opening party, from top: Courtney McNeill; Jeet Singh; Lucy and Kristina Hare Lyons.

people like Jasper's partner in the venture, **Patrick Lyons**, and his structurally flawless wife, **Kristina**, affable restaurateur and nightclub owner **Vince Cirincione** and his stunning other half, **Suzanne Meredith**, anti-handgun crusader and real estate mag-daddy **Jon Rosenthal**, the patron saint of foodies, **Julia Child**, dot-com-ocrat **Jeet Singh**, celebrity grubslinger **Lydia Shire**, Brahmin-about-town **George Lewis**, flanked by the luscious **Judith Fabre** and **Mounia Smaali** (fresh from her native Casablanca), gorgeous Puerto Rican firecracker **Carolina Balsbaugh**, Lansdowne Street alumnae **Jeff Marshall** and **John Tasse** and the *Herald*'s inveterate gossipeuse and token vegetarian, **Laura Raposa**, who provided comic relief when she took a bite of a corndog, realized it contained meat, and frantically searched for a polite place to spit it out.

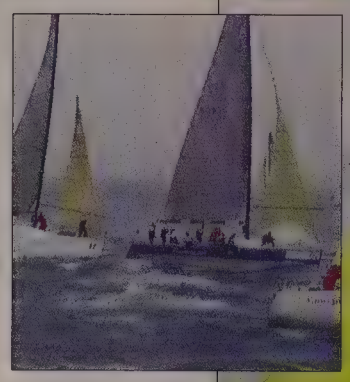
"Hmm," said one witness. "I always had her pegged as the type who swallowed."

NUTS AHOY...

According to Noel Coward, "Mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun," but apparently, the same goes for Nor'easters.

Case in point: Back Bay yachtsman **Jim Richardson** and his S.O., white-hot literary agent **Esmond Harmsworth**. In 1998, Richardson and his team—**Barking Mad**—won the world championship **Farr 40** sailing races in Miami. This year, the competition was held in Newport, where Harmsworth (a son of the English press baron Lord Rothermere) happens to own one of the Bellevue Avenue mansions, Four Winds, which he inherited from his mother (an oil heiress from Dallas).

For race week, the pair chartered a 60-foot power boat from which Harmsworth could catch all the action and invited a colorful assortment of characters to join him. Among the guests: Harmsworth's business partner, literary lioness **Lane Zachary**, dashing Back Bay art collector **Gene Kelly**, Harmsworth's neice, **Geraldine** (a former Warhol girl and Studio 54 denizen), her husband, the noted Welsh poet **Glyn Maxwell** (whose latest work, a 200-page epic poem, will be published in the fall), and some sailing nuts from New Zealand, who came along just to up the *Gilligan's Island* quotient.



At Newport: Jim Richardson; Geraldine and Esmond Harmsworth; scenes from the races.

Tuesday turned out to be the worst storm in recent memory, but rather than doing the sane thing and staying on dry land, the party donned foul-weather gear and climbed aboard. In gale-force winds, the observation boat chugged out to the race course, somewhere in the middle of **Narragansett Bay**.

Needless to say, the sailing was exciting—the tip of one boat even punched a hole in the hull of another. Those of us who were warm and dry (eating chicken salad sandwiches and drinking beer on a plush power yacht) felt slightly guilty, watching the competitors battle it out like gladiators.

Barking Mad finished the day in second place, but the remainder of the week wasn't as kind to Richardson. He came in fourth, behind **George Andreadis** (the Greek shipping magnate), **John Kilroy** (the heir to some absurdly large fortune), and **John Calvert-Jones** (a gazillionaire businessman), who took the trophy home with him to Australia.

In any case, late afternoon found everyone safely back at **Four Winds**, with Geraldine taking a bubble bath and her uncle genially entertaining yours truly with a pitcher of gin martinis, disproving the conclusion of Coward's poem: "But Englishmen detest a siesta." **iB**

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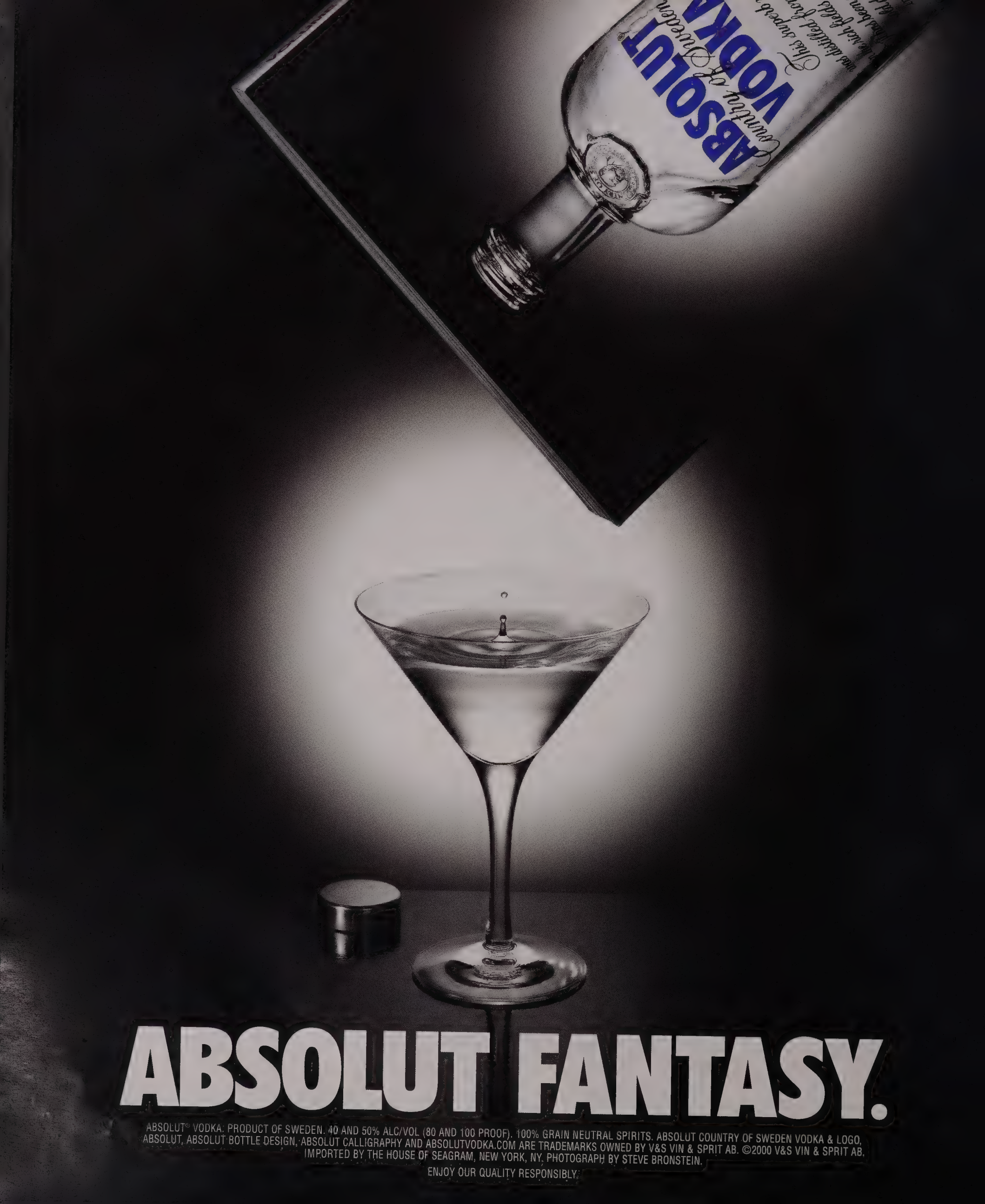

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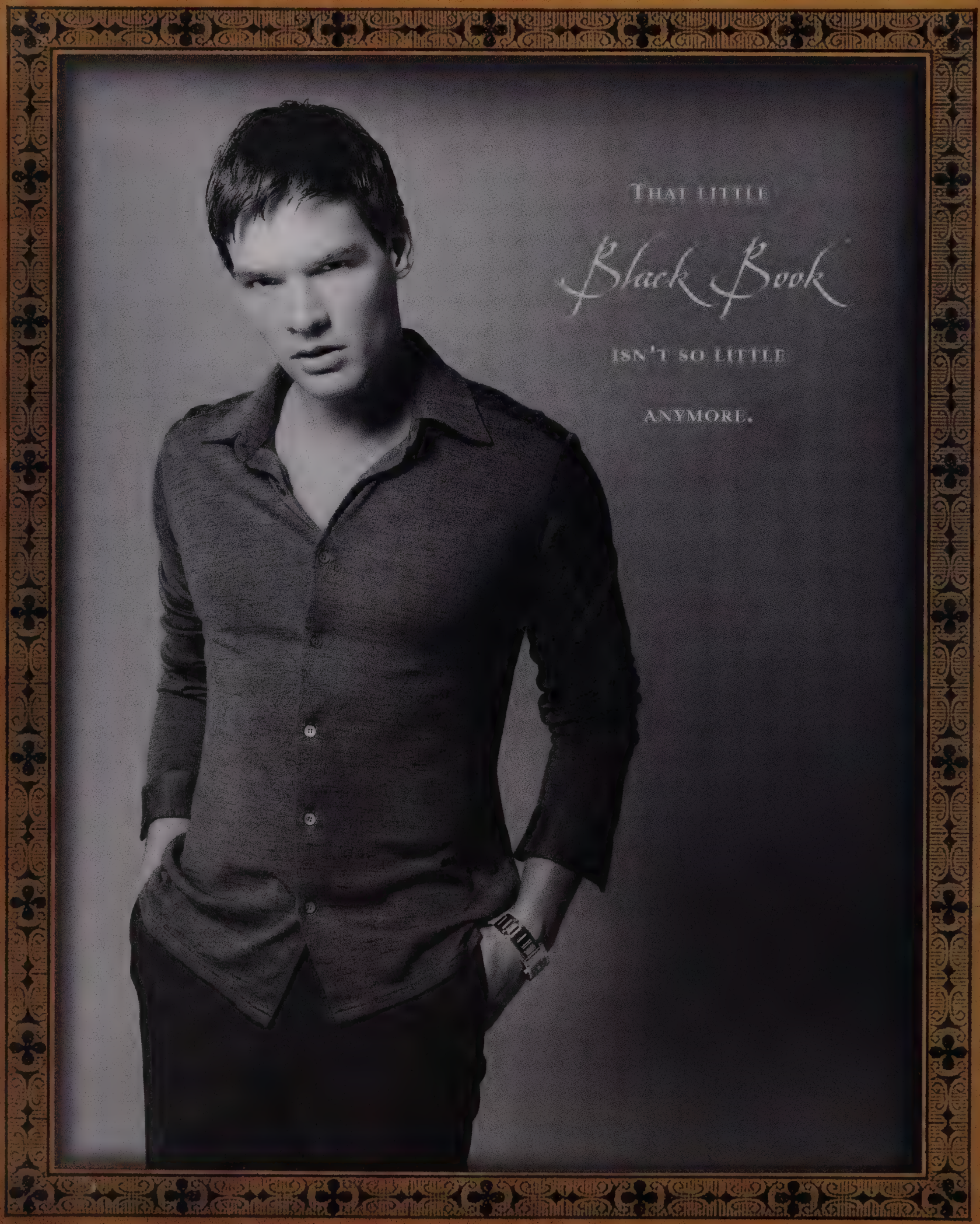

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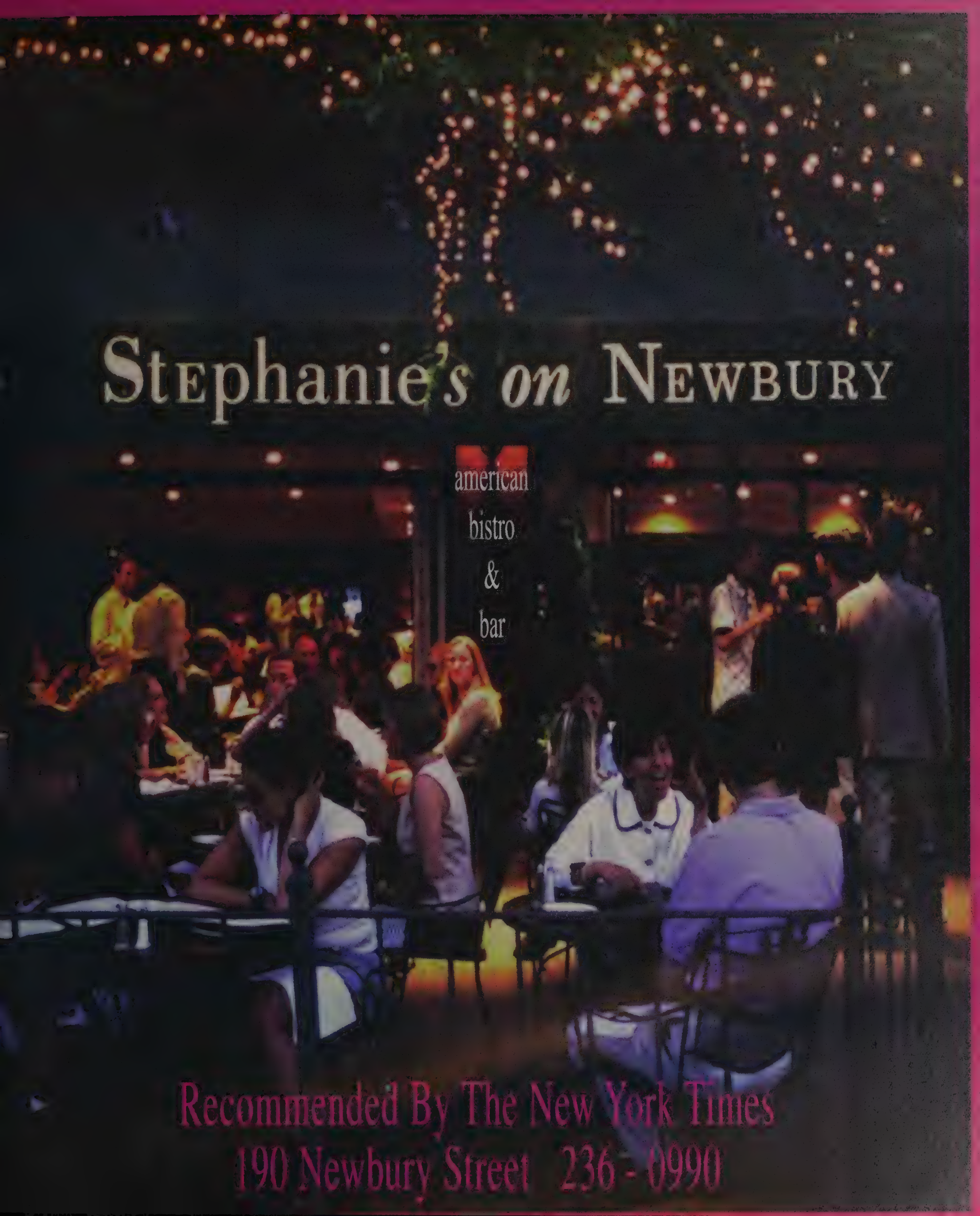
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inside RACK

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Wednesday, July 12th - Pan-Mass Challenge Party to benefit Leslie's Links at The Dana Farber Cancer Institute. Enjoy our special section with complimentary pool tables and buffet. Party starts at 6pm.

Wednesday, July 19th - "Waste the Night Away" with The BaHa Brothers! Beach Party with *The Improper Bostonian Magazine*, the 93.7 crew and Margaritaville Tequila from 5pm-2am. Special prize giveaway – Jimmy Buffet Tickets. Complimentary food buffet and no cover charge.

Thursday, August 17th - Have you ever heard of Dog Day Afternoon? Join us with Mix 98.5's Lynn Hoffman and *The Improper Bostonian Magazine*. Please don't forget to bring your four-legged party animal! Chad LaMarsh will be rockin' doggie style. Proceeds will benefit the local animal shelter.

Our new neighbor, Todd English, owner of KingFish Hall with Nomar Garciaparra at our Nomar 5 Fund after hours bash!

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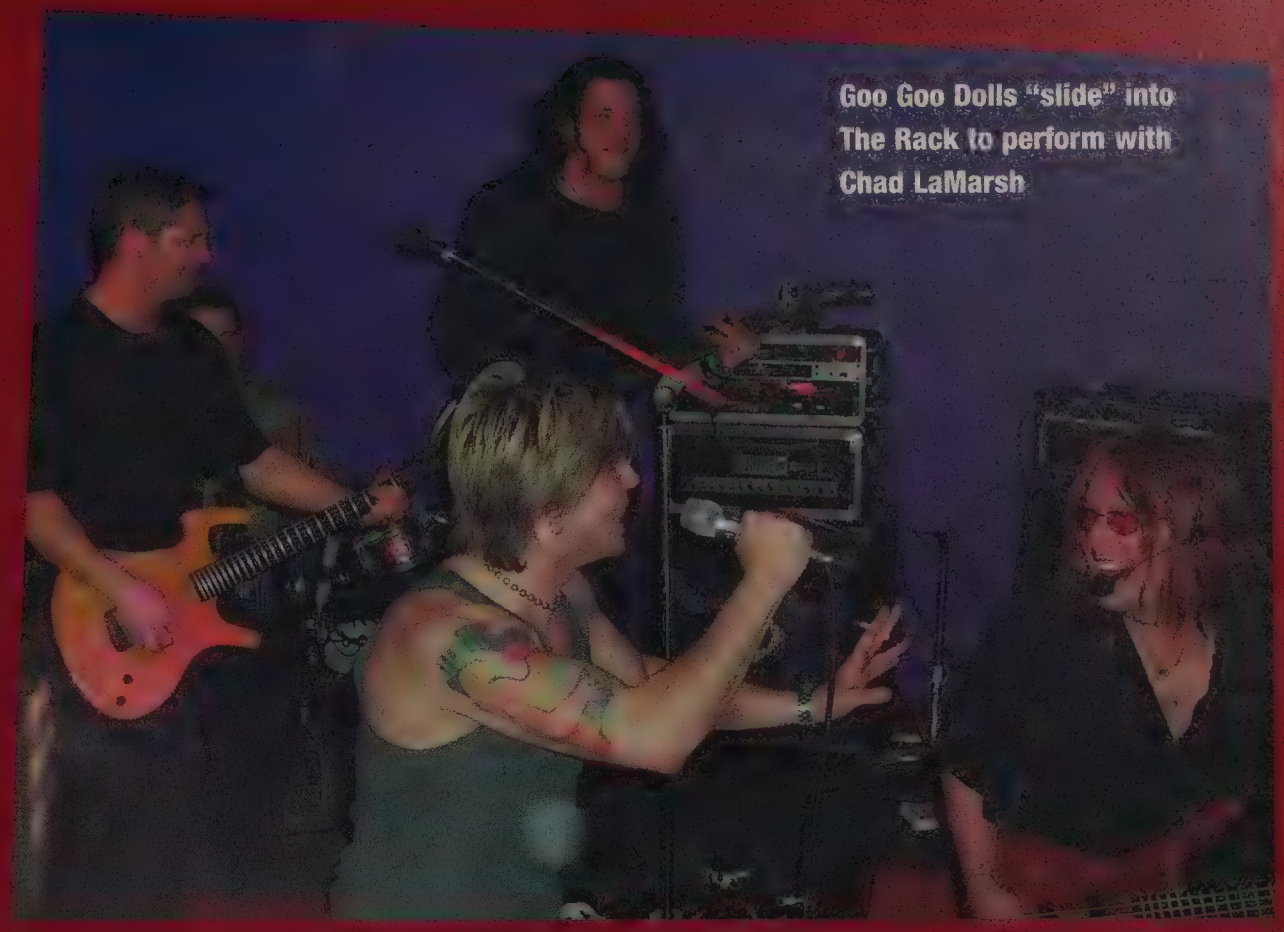
Billboard's #1 singer, Sonique proves "It Feels So Good" sandwiched between The Rack's manager's Tommy and Keith



Goo Goo Dolls "slide" into The Rack to perform with Chad LaMarsh

RACK

Vinnie Peruzzi with Super Middle-Weight 6 Time World Champion Vinny Pazienza a.k.a. "The Pazmania Devil!"

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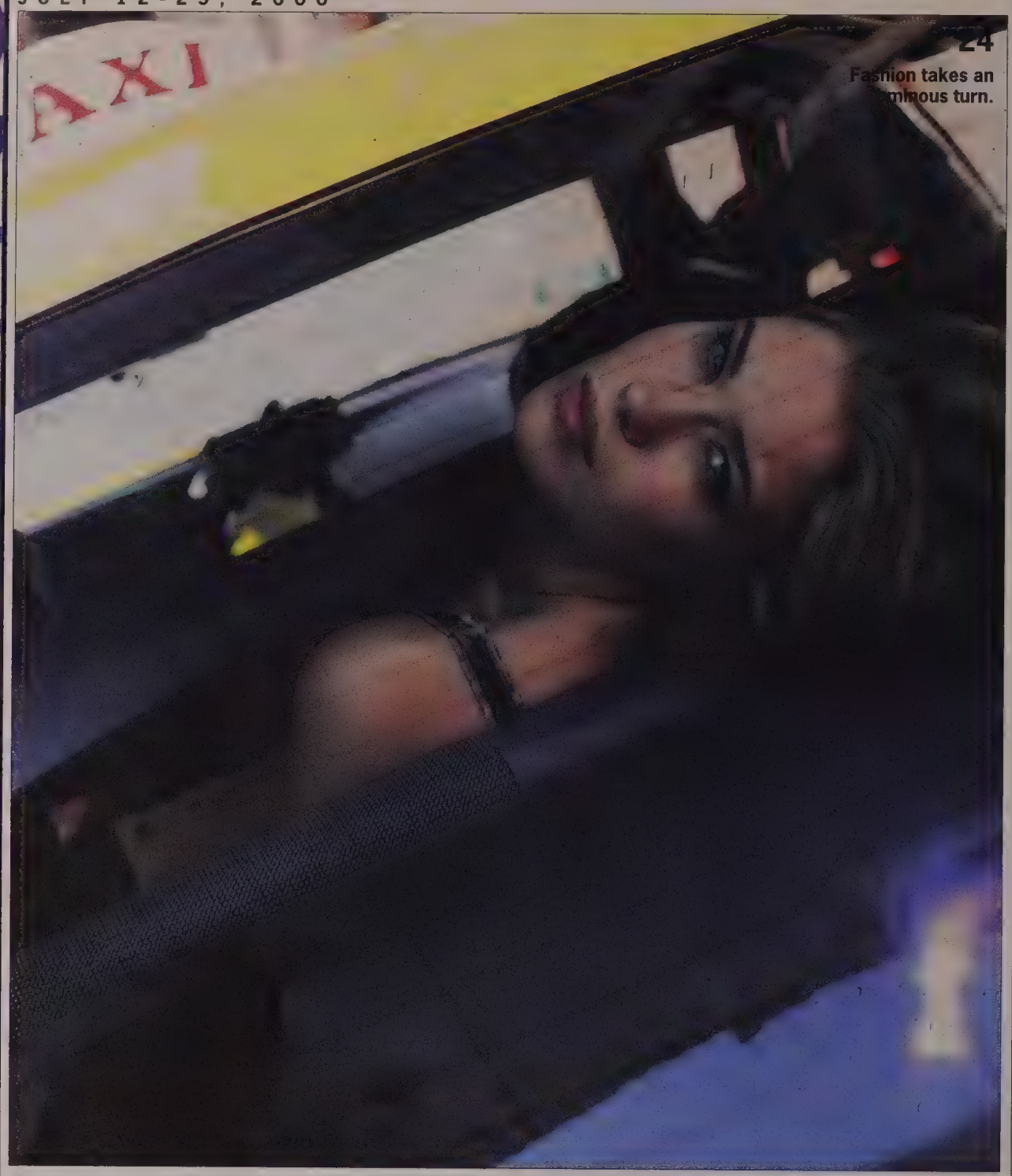

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Fashion takes an ominous turn.

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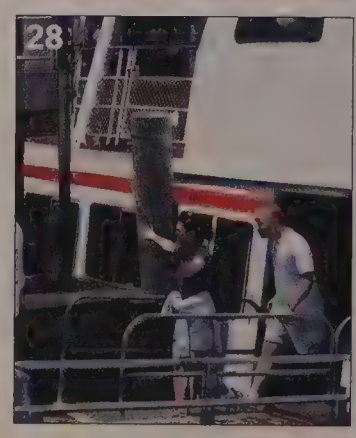
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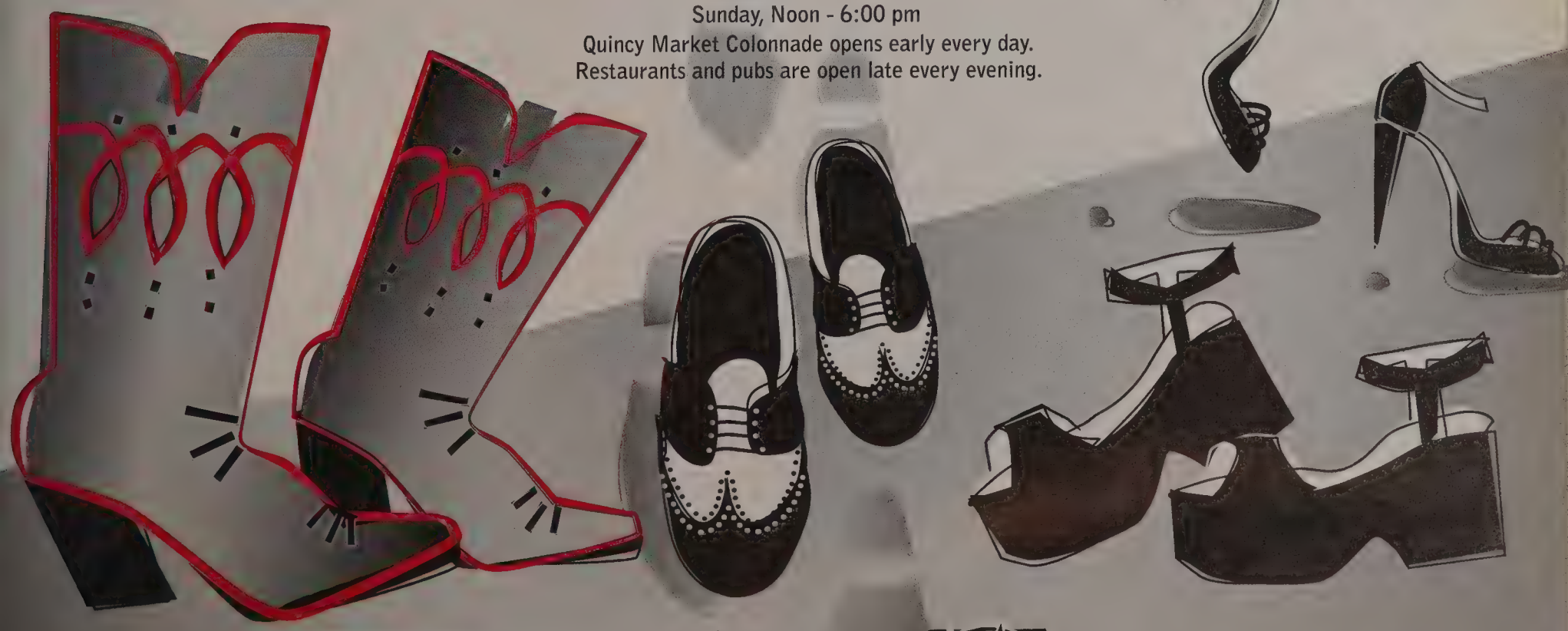

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letters

BEYOND BIRMINGHAM

Poor Colleen McGee. Not only does Richard Manning paint her hermaphroditic (do you guys need a proofreader?), but then she gets portrayed as a party traitor because of her position as finance director for the Grossman-for-governor committee. Why should her former position with the Democratic State Committee automatically mean she has to open checkbooks for Tom Birmingham?

And why the "deep throat" treatment of the remarks by an alleged Grossman staffer? If you are going to quote someone, albeit ad nauseum, at least get a name. I look forward to what I am sure will be an entertaining and informative cover story on the illustrious Mr. Birmingham.

DONALD FARWELL
Boston

SCENE CORRECTLY

Is Jonathan Soroff (Last Scene Here in the "Central Square" issue) making a comment about Jeff Marshall and John Tasse, or is he merely Latin-impaired? Alumnus—from the Latin for "stepchild"—is male. Alumni: two or more males. Alumna: female. Alumnae—as Soroff used in reference to Marshall and Tasse—means two or more females.

DON LEBEAU
Cambridge

EZRANIAN ACCOLADES

As I sit here at work reading the IMPROPER, I feel so compelled to write and tell you how right-on you were with your Chatham column. My parents and all their friends are South Shore residents—in towns where they restrict what colors you can paint your house and everyone tries to have the best-looking yard. They stock up on those damn Thomas Kinkade paintings and I think, "How generic. If you were really cultured, you'd pick an obscure artist that is good." I love reading Ezra's column and can identify with it every week, but this one was too funny. Than you!

AMANDA E. HUNTER
Via email

Steve Grossman

"AND WHY THE "DEEP THROAT" TREATMENT OF THE REMARKS BY AN ALLEGED GROSSMAN STAFFER? IF YOU ARE GOING TO QUOTE SOMEONE, ALBEIT AD NAUSEUM, AT LEAST GET A NAME."

—*DONALD FARWELL*
BOSTON

Clarification

In our last issue, THE Improper Bostonian *inaccurately reported that State Representative Jarrett Barrios (D-Cambridge) was the target of a campaign alleging that he killed a goose that was discovered dead along the Charles River. The group did not target Barrios as the killer of the goose in question. Barrios supports the M.D.C. effort to produce park space where geese currently live, and protesters have publicized their complaints about him.*

Correction

The correct website for Inner City Blues magazine is www.innercityblues.com

Tell Us What You Think

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CONTRIBUTORS

JOE GREENE

Boston photographer Joe Greene photographed the couple, Jessica Hicks and Todd Burns, featured on our cover. The image was shot on location at Steps Beach in Nantucket. Greene specializes in what he calls "powerful portraits" and still-life photography. His commercial work can be seen on brochures, billboards and magazine covers. His photography can be found in of hotels, restaurants and private homes. More information about Greene's work is located online at *www.joegreene.com*. The IMPROPER would like give special thanks to Cape Air/Nantucket Airlines and Hy-Line Cruises for providing transportation. We'd also like to thank Chip at Cap'n Tobey's and Tim at Affordable Rentals of Nantucket.

PAUL SHERMAN

Paul Sherman, who has been working with the IMPROPER BOSTONIAN as a contributing editor for Film since 1998, got his cinematic education at Mattapan Square's Oriental Theatre, the Park Square Theatre and the Brattle Theatre. In the years since he started to review movies while a student at UMass/Boston (where he never took a film course or a journalism course), he has also been a regular contributor to the *Boston Herald*. Although currently president of the Boston Society of Film Critics, he's not yet giving up his dream of becoming a professional candlepin bowler.

ROSEMARY FEITELBERG

Rosemary Feitelberg visited Nantucket for the IMPROPER BOSTONIAN from her family's home in Westport. Having visited Nantucket since she was a child, and through her Boston College summer vacations, Feitelberg is familiar with its offerings. (She has spent many nights "fogged in.") Feitelberg's work has appeared in *Women's Wear Daily* and *Women's Sports and Fitness* magazine. She has been known to fly to the island, but swears she enjoys the slow SSA boat, where passengers can glimpse the island through the mist.

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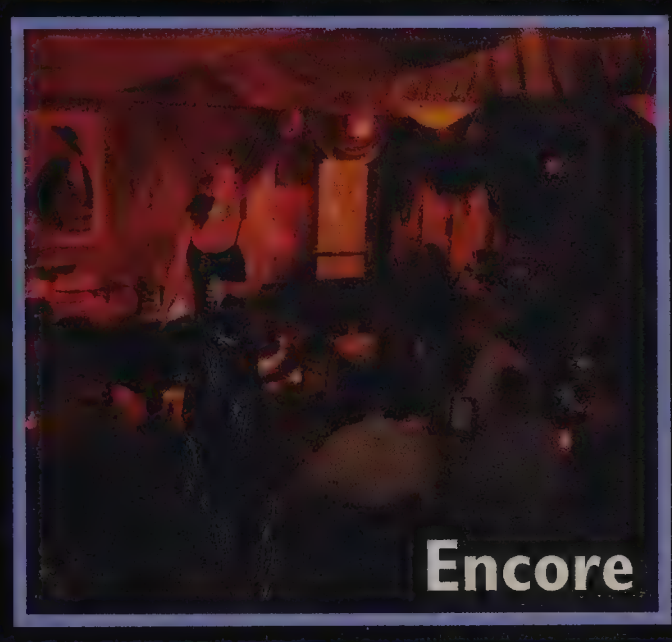

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IMPROPERSPEAKING

BY RICHARD MANNING

Filmmakers in Gloucester shoot disaster-movie scenes.

A PERFECT THEME PARK

The summer's hottest blockbuster movie, Warner Brothers' ***The Perfect Storm,*** based on the best-seller by **Sebastian Junger,** is reaping a windfall for the city of Gloucester, the setting of the tale. The 1991 rare convergence of three horrendous storm systems killed six fishermen.

Gloucester officials have organized bus tours featuring several stops at places where exterior shots of the movie were filmed. There's even a "Design a Perfect Window" decorating contest sponsored by the local Chamber of Commerce. Business owners are being asked to design windows with a nautical theme.

All of which seems to prove the old hypothesis that, if given a chance and enough potential tourist dollars, most of America would turn itself into a disaster-oriented theme park.

Aren't people forgetting that people actually died in this storm, and that Junger and some of his friends actually went so far as to set up a foundation to provide educational opportunities for the dependents of the fishermen who died in the perfect storm? Questionable taste.

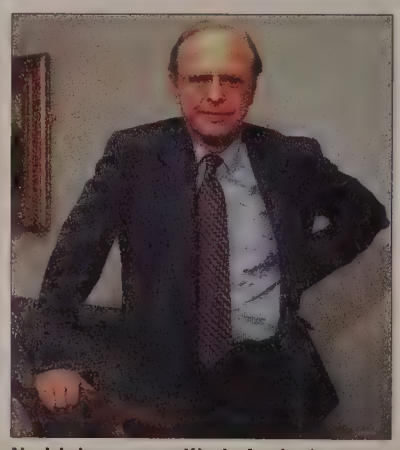
A SNOWBALL'S CHANCE

Recent speculation over the sale of the Quincy ***Patriot Ledger*** has centered around **William Dean Singleton's** MediaNews Group, which already owns papers in Lowell, Fitchburg, North Adams and Pittsfield. Then there is **Ned Johnson**'s Community Newspaper, the oft-chaotic media subsidiary of Fidelity Investments. Even though CNC President **Kirk Davis** says, "We're very serious about the opportunity"—it ain't never gonna happen.

Johnson had the opportunity to buy the ***Boston Herald*** many years ago. But he backed off as soon as he discovered that the *Herald* was a union shop. So is the *Patriot Ledger*. Johnson hates unions so much that when employees of his Cape Cod papers attempted a union drive five years ago, he sent a corporate lieutenant and several assistants to Hyannis and elsewhere to squash the movement. Johnson won that battle, but it's not likely he could step on the union tradition at larger newspapers. Look for Singleton to have the inside track on this one.

RUN FOR THE EXITS

Across town, ***Boston Magazine*** is in a state of chaos. First, Editor **Craig Unger** showed himself the door after withstanding four years of needless meddling from owner **Herbert Lipson**. Then senior editor, and longtime survivor of the Boston media scene, **John Strahinich** showed himself the door once it became apparent that Lipson was not going to name him as the next editor. And now, THE IMPROPER has learned, those remaining are keeping their options open, for



Ned Johnson not likely for Ledger.

sure. "They've got three people people putting out the magazine," one observer told THE IMPROPER. "And nobody knows what's going on."

BACK ON THE SCENE

Returning to the Boston publishing scene after a short absence is **Robert Birnbaum,** the former staffer at the ***Boston Phoenix*** and ***Stuff@Nlight*** magazine. He's back, heading up a new launch entitled ***Ego Trip***, which is a one of those shameless butt-kissing mags that fawns over celebs and keeps the paparazzi busy. He's looking to give *Stuff @Night* a competitor on the local celebrity front by providing content so light the magazine floats away.

TROUBLED TIMES

Pity the poor Republican Party in Massachusets. Just years ago it actually looked like a party—you know, one of those political organizations that does things like field candidates for fall elections. While much attention has been focused in recent weeks on Senatorial hopeful **Jack E. Robinson's** struggle to get enough valid signatures to qualify for a spot on the Republican party primary ballot, another tale says more about the dry rot now settling in on the state GOP. **Fred Berry** (D-Peabody) has been a state senator since 1982. He's a good guy and does a good job. But the 2nd Essex District has historically boasted a fairly strong Republican enclave. So the party decided to field a candidate to challenge Berry—**Jesse S. Reyes** of Beverly. Then the the State Ballot Law Commission threw Reyes' name off the primary ballot because, it found, he has not lived in Massachusetts for the required five years. Consequently, there will be no Republican candidate for state senator on the 2nd Essex September primary ballot.

This means that either (a) there are no longer any Republicans left in Essex County; (b) the only Republicans in Essex county are all recent transplants from

Palace king Russell Robatt.

Texas; (c) the Republican party in Massachusetts is not fit to organize two people in the same room; or (d) all of the above.

Call it the legacy of **Joe Malone** and **Paul Cellucci**.

WINNER TAKES ALL

We're probably not alone in wondering about the timing of a bill that went before the legislature last month.

The bill would provide for a taxpayer-funded bailout of Massachusetts race tracks, including dog tracks. Why is this questionable timing? Because there's an initiative question on next November's ballot in which Massachusetts voters will get a chance to vote on whether greyhound racing should be banned in the Commonwealth.

"It would be more more appropriate for the legislature to address this issue, at least with respect to dog tracks, after the people of Massachusetts have spoken in November," says **Carey Theil**, deputy director of Grey2K, the principal group behind the movement to ban dog racing. "This bill . . . is an irresponsible use of public money for private profit."

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

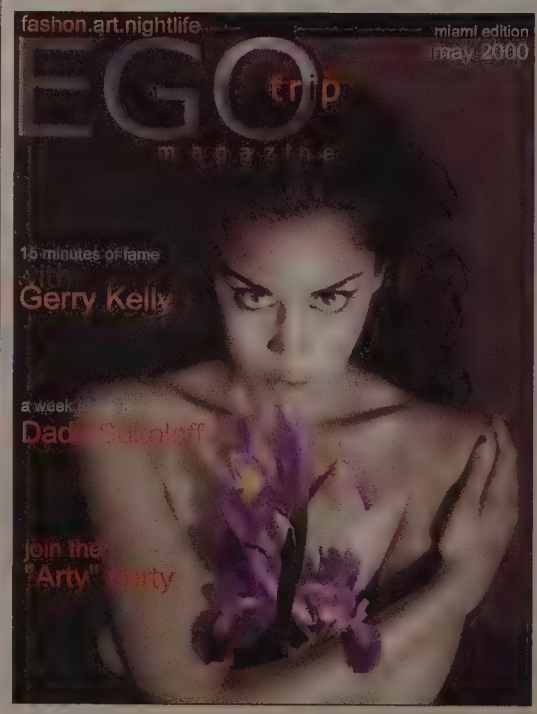
Entertainment kingpin **Russell Robatt**, owner of the Palace Entertainment Complex in Saugus, thought he had a good thing going when he revamped one of the Palace's clubs, the Bahama Beach Club, and turned it into BBC 2000, a futuristic disco featuring three-foot dancing aliens, lasers and surroundsound.

When Robatt filed a trademark registration application with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, the British Broadcastin Corp. in London immediately filed a cease and desist order against Robatt and the club.

The "Beeb," as it's also known, cried trademark infringement. Robatt cried international insanity. "It's ludicrous for them to think that anyone could confuse my nightclub with the BBC," he says. We agree.

Speaking of Boston

Got a inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to speaking@improper.com



EGO TRIP

Robert Birnbaum returns to town with a new celeb magazine.

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CITY LIMITS

Good stuff, glamour and goings-on

BY ERIN HAGEDORN AND JULIE SHORT

There are no Slurpees at this 711 (Boylston, that is). Above: lobster cobb salad.

NEW IN TOWN

AT YOUR CONVENIENCE

If only everyone had the pleasure of touring Back Bay's new hot spot, 711 Boylston, with owner Joe Cimino (of Ciao Bella, Dad's and Daisy Buchanan fame), the granite tables would be packed every night of the week.

This man loves every minuscule detail of this spectacularly designed restaurant/bar—from the hand-sewn suede seat covers to the Marilyn Monroe motif—and he can't wait until Boston scenesters discover this stationery-store-turned-stylish lounge-and-restaurant. No expense was spared for Cimino's latest endeavor—even the ladies' room is equipped with a plush banquette and an oriental rug.

As it is, 711 Boylston is subtly chic—tucked quietly below street level between Dunkin' Donuts and Restoration Hardware—and has not yet seen the hordes of young professionals that it hopes to attract. No worries, however: Those in the know (like us) will surely become fans of 711—if not for the elegant cuisine prepared by Ciao Bella executive chef Mike Travers (pictured above), then for the allure of its softly lit lounge and piano bar. The chef's favorites include his seafood bouillabaisse, free-range duck and linguine with shrimp. "It's some Italian, some Continental and a bit of Asian," says Cimino. There will be a lighter late-night menu available until 1:30am. Says Cimino, "I wanted to create an upscale place with a buzz—where people come and eat good food and then hang out afterward." *711 Boylston St., Boston (437-0002).*

ALL THE BUZZ

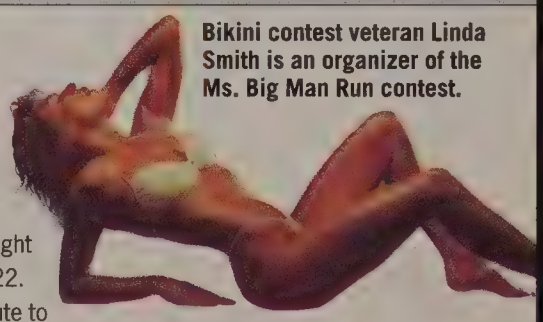
SPEED RACER

It was with some trepidation that we zipped up our crash suits and pulled helmets over our heads to test the new **F1 Boston** indoor race track—the newest rage in corporate conference circles. Were we prepared to race at speeds as high as 45 miles per hour in a kart merely three inches off the ground?

Maybe not. But when the light turned green, we roared out of the starting gate and around the track, passing other racers until we finished, placing third and seventh. How did it feel? "Exhilarating," was the enthusiastic consensus among our fellow racers. Former competitive racecar driver and F1 Boston founder Richard Valentine has brought a trend that is immensely popular in Europe here to the U.S.—or Braintree, more specifically. Valentine has added luxury to his track: a gourmet eatery; a bar; a billiards room; and virtual reality games. For the suits, there is a 6,000-square-foot function hall. Not only does Valentine offer a funhouse for those looking to revisit their childhood, but he also hopes to draw corporate bigwigs away from the putting green and onto the race track. Groups can start their day in a conference room equipped for audio and video presentations and Internet access. Then they take a break and don their gear for a race around demanding corners and tight turns. Picture those challenging road courses at Monza, Spa or Laguna Seca—only smaller and indoors. *290 Wood Road, Braintree (781-848-2300).* www.f1boston.com. *Mon.-Wed., 10am-11pm; Thu., 10am-1pm; Sat., 8am-1am; Sun., 8am-11pm.*

AROUND TOWN

BIG FUN



Bikini contest veteran Linda Smith is an organizer of the Ms. Big Man Run contest.

Warning: Hundreds of huge men will thunder through the streets of Somerville for the **Big Man Run** (minimum weight requirement: 190 lbs.) July 22. But before you alter your route to avoid the city, we should mention the latest addition to the schedule: a **Ms. Big Man Run bikini contest**.

That sounds a bit more appealing, eh? There's no weight requirement, as there is for the Big Man Run, says event co-host Linda Smith. "We don't mean to attract big women. It's a regular bikini contest—with a $500 first prize."

Smith, a former bikini contest competitor, hopes to see her husband win the Big Man beforehand. "It's not just a bunch of fatties," she says. "The run allows bigger, muscular men to compete fairly against other serious runners." The event originally came about to recognize how physically fit large guys can be, Smith says.

The big men start the run at Somerville's Bill Boy Theatre at 4:19pm and run one full lap around the 400 meter track. Then the pace grows considerably slower, as runners cover a rollercoaster 5.5 miles in scenic Somerville. Here's the catch: Three times during the race, runners must stop to eat one hotdog and drink either an 8-ounce glass of beer or a 12-ounce coke. (Note: If you heave before finishing the course, you get disqualified). The race finishes up at the VFW Logan Post at 1194 Broadway, where the bikini contest gets under way at 7pm. *To enter, contact Paul (508-775-0143) or Linda (603-624-0303).*

THE DISSED LIST

A SCREECHING HALT

Anyone who's ever ridden the B train during rush hour knows that it's often faster to *crawl* down Comm. Ave. than to board one of these slugs. And how much closer can you get to a stranger than when you travel the Green Line home from work? The B train ranks at the bottom of our city traveling options. And this summer, things got even worse. Apparently, the busiest of the four Green Line branches (30,000 commuters on busy spring days) will be closed on weekends through Labor Day for much-needed repairs. How convenient. Just in time for those Red Sox games. Buses will transport passengers from the Boston College stop to Kenmore station. "Thousands of people will be affected," admits MBTA spokesman Joe Pesaturo. "But we tried to pick the time of year that would affect the least amount of people." Sorry, B-liners, looks like you've been dissed once again. *Been dissed? Email us your story:* howrude@improper.com.

711, MBTA: WENDY MIMRAN; RACE CARS: KERRY BRETT HURLEY

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Proper Bostonians

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

George Clooney and Mark Wahlberg, stars of ***The Perfect Storm***, gathered with film's director/producer, Wolfgang Petersen, producer Gail Katz and executive producer Duncan Henderson for a special screening at the Loews Liberty Tree Mall in Danvers June 28. The cast and crew of came together to thank the town of Gloucester and its citizens for their cooperation while the production was filmed on location. Tickets for the movie and premiere party were $150, and all proceeds will go directly to the Gloucester Fund, a organization composed of local charities serving Gloucester.

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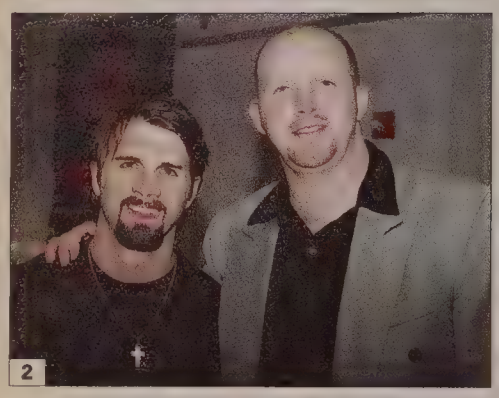
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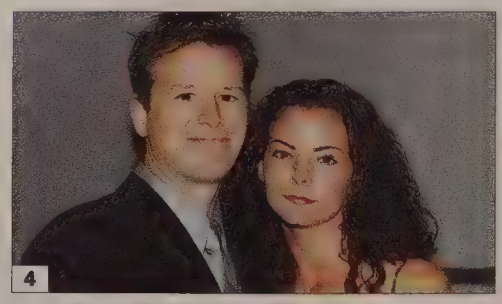
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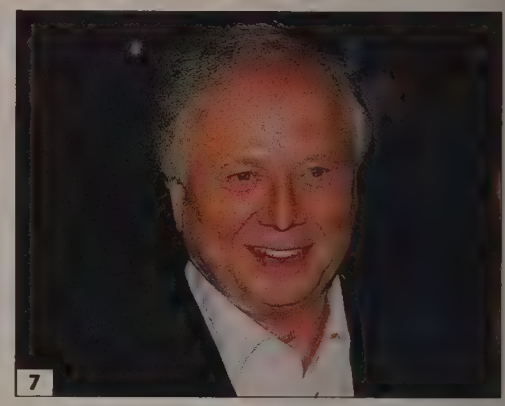
1. **Yauny Wheaton** (l), an intern at the Massachusetts Film Office, and **Robin Dawson**, director of the Massachusetts Film Office.
2. Writer of the movie *Southie* and actor **Jimmy Cummings** (l) and **Phillip Barrieau**, public relations consultant.
3. Boxer/model **Rich LaMontagne** and designer **AnnMarie LaFauci**.
4. Actor **Bob Wahlberg** and his wife, **Gina**.
5. Actor **Danny Devito**.
6. **Mark Wahlberg** (l) and **George Clooney**, stars of *The Perfect Storm*.
7. *The Perfect Storm* director and producer **Wolfgang Petersen**.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The opening reception for ***Van Gogh: Face to Face*** was held June 26 at the Museum of Fine Arts. Some 900 guests gathered at the opening gala to admire the first comprehensive exhibition devoted exclusively to Vincent van Gogh's achievements in portraiture. The exhibition comprises 81 paintings and drawings borrowed from collections from around the world. Highlights of the evening included a strolling accordion player and actors creating *tableaus vivant* of van Gogh's paintings, including *Self Portrait in Straw Hat, Postman Joseph Roulin, La Berceuse* and *L'Arlesienne*. *Van Gogh: Face to Face* will be on view at the MFA through Sept. 24.

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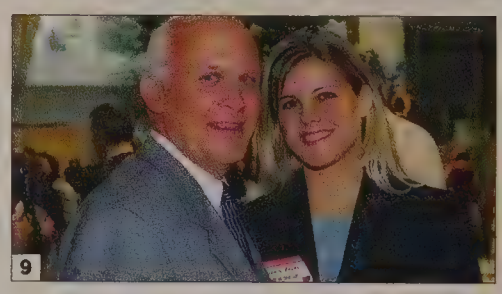
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8. From left, **Jack Williams**, news anchor for Channel 4, with **Carolyn** and **Ed Goldman**, vice president/general manager of WBZ-TV Channel 4.
9. **Rick Blasser** and **Errin Baval**, respectively regional operations manager and zone manager, respectively, for Ford Motor Co. in Southboro.
10. **Jantine van Gogh**, great-grandniece of Vincent Van Gogh, and actor **Neil Gustafson**.
11. From left, **Andy Rushford**, a teacher at the Mary Stapleton School in Framingham, musician **Julio Giannotti** and **Kate Shamon**, senior public relations specialist for Talbots.
12. Actress **Natalie Brown** and WBZ radio talk-show host **David Brudnoy**.

12

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Porn for the Populace

It's pervasive and profitable—so why the big uproar over porn on the Web?

Colin and Skye live in a town not far from my office. They're a typical upper-middle-class couple. They live in a typical upper-middle-class house. If you saw them at the local Starbucks, you wouldn't bat an eyelash. They're also the owners of Wasteland.com, the largest and most successful bondage and fetish adult Web site in the world.

We're not talking *Penthouse* cheesecake here, folks. We're not even talking the kind of hard-core stuff that you can find in the back room of your local mom-and-pop video store. No siree, Bob—we're talking about the kind of pictures and videos that make some people queasy—women bound in leather, guys who like the pinch of clothespins, and folks who get off by peeing in the backyard. It's the kind of Web site that would make Dr. Ruth scratch her head and wonder what the heck it's all about.

IF IT WERE ANY BUSINESS BUT PORN, INVESTORS AND VENTURE CAPITALISTS WOULD BE THROWING MONEY AT IT. BUT...PEOPLE ARE LEERY OF INVESTING IN A BUSINESS WHERE THE STOCK IN TRADE INCLUDES PHOTOS OF WOMEN IN STOCKS.

Lest you think otherwise, this is no small-time operation. Colin and Skye's company, the Phoenix Group, employs more than a dozen people in several states and subcontracts work to over a hundred more. It has studios in Detroit, where submissive strippers do their thing live in front of Web cameras, and a farm of 11 heavy-duty Web servers located in Arizona. The big infrastructure is necessary because the Web site is wildly popular. One month a couple of years ago, *www.wasteland.com* was, by itself, responsible for almost a full percentage of all the Web traffic in the world.

Now there are three things about this situation that I find ironic: First, here's a business that has a growing, loyal clientele and a proven track record of making money on the Web. If it were any business but porn, investors and venture capitalists would be throwing money at it. But the truth is that, despite all the noise about e-commerce and despite the fact that most dot-coms are losing money like crazy, people are leery of investing in a business where the stock in trade includes photos of women in stocks.

Second, Colin and Skye are a real rag-to-riches story. They started with less than $200 and have grown the Phoenix Group into a multimillion-dollar business. By all rights, they should be profiled on the cover of *Success Magazine* as entrepreneurs of the year. Instead, they've had to play it cool with the mainstream press, because they're justifiably afraid of "investigative journalists" who pander to an audience that wants simultaneously to be titillated and to feel morally superior.

Finally, Colin and Skye are clearly the kind of "nice" people that anybody would want living next door. But they feel that they must be very careful that the locals don't get wind of what they really do for a living. In short, my neighbors have to tread pretty damn lightly simply because we live in a society that's terrified of sexual desire—especially sexual desire that lies outside the so-called mainstream.

I understand their anxiety. Look at the insanely overblown reaction when Ally McBeal traded a wet one with a female coworker. The way that some religious leaders were talking, you would have thought that a little chica-a-chica tongue action was the first horseman of the apocalypse. And that was just two women necking—a sexual fantasy that's practically universal among men and pretty damn common among women too, if my female friends can be believed. Imagine the ruckus if Ally had, say, approached her ex-boyfriend with a strap-on dildo.

Despite the outward attitude of society, the material on *www.wasteland.com* has clearly got a big, big audience. To my mind, it's vaguely sad that there's all this intense sexual energy floating around and probably not one person in a thousand who'd be willing to admit that this stuff turns them on. (For the record, I liked the pictures of the twins who tie each other up.)

The saddest part is that so many people are so incredibly guilty about their sexual preferences. Every day, the Phoenix Group gets calls from a wife or two wanting to know why there's a $24.95 charge on her husband's credit card. One can only imagine the cringing that must occur when hubby (or wifey) gets home from a hard day at the office.

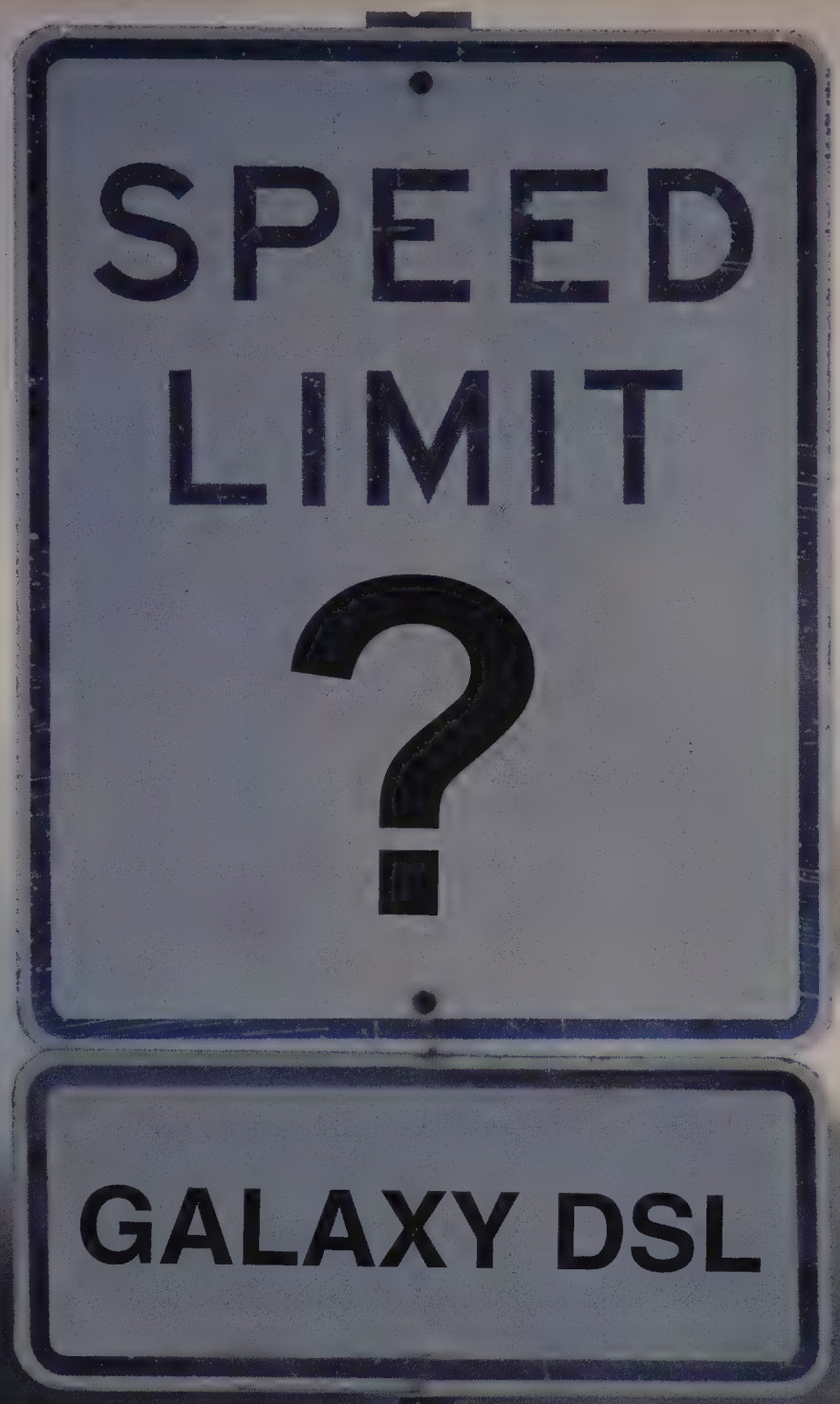
In any case, I'm glad that my neighbors have a porn site, and I'm happy that they're making money hand-over-fist. After all, they aren't trying to tell me what to do with my life—they aren't ringing my doorbell to convince me to become a Jehovah's Witness—and they aren't pointing a gun at me because I cut them off on the highway.

More power to them, as far as I'm concerned. **iB**

Geoffrey James (*www.geoffreyjames.com*) is the author of numerous books as well as the co-host of Funny Business, heard Saturdays 10pm-12am on WRKO, AM 680.

Skye (pictured above) and her husband Colin run Wasteland.com, the largest and most successful bondage and fetish adult Web site in the world.

BERTA A. DANIELS



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Soroff/On

Rebecca Eaton

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

ExxonMobil Masterpiece Theater and *Mystery* executive producer Rebecca Eaton, 52, was born in Boston and raised in L.A. After earning a degree in English literature at Vassar, she went to work for BBC radio in London for several years. In 1971, she returned to Boston to work at WGBH radio and started what she jokingly refers to as a "meteoric rise to the top...It only took 17 years." After working in radio, she segued into television as a production assistant on a nightly community access program called *Catch 44*. She became associate producer, and then producer, of documentaries at WGBH. In 1985, she came to *Mystery* and *ExxonMobil Masterpiece Theater*. Since then, the two series have won nine Emmys, six Edgar Allen Poe awards, seven Peabodys, a Golden Globe and two Academy Award nominations. Under her leadership, *ExxonMobil Masterpiece Theater* co-produced two feature films, the critically acclaimed *Mrs. Brown* and *Persuasion*.

A founding member of Women in Film and Video New England, she was honored by the organization in May for her many achievements. She lives in Newton with her husband, Paul Cooper, a sculptor, and their daughter, Katherine.

Jonathan Soroff: *For most people,* Masterpiece Theater *conjures up a very strong image. How would you describe it?*

Rebecca Eaton: It's like a little black dress, meaning classic, elegant, always appropriate.

JS: *Describe your average viewer.*

RE: Demographically, we know who they are. They're mostly college-educated women over the age of 50. In other words, myself. In general, women watch more drama on TV than men. But we're working hard to expand that profile.

"I THINK LIFE IS A SOAP OPERA. IF YOU LOOK AT THE GREAT CLASSICS, THEY'RE ABOUT THE SAME THINGS... LOVE AND MONEY AND BETRAYAL AND REDEMPTION."

MICHAEL LUTCH

JS: *Do you choose the stories that become* Masterpiece Theater, *and if so, what are the criteria?*

RE: Half of what we present is already produced. My husband gets up every morning at 5, so if we watch something at night and he's awake after the opening credits, then we buy it. Just kidding. There are standards of excellence that I look for in terms of writing, acting, directing and production values. If we're producing, I look for the promise of those qualities. They can come as an idea, a script or a book.

JS: *Which one classic from the canon would you most like to see adapted for* Masterpiece Theater?

RE: I have a couple. Lawrence Durrell's *The Alexandria Quartet*, which is a little obscure.

JS: *What's the best thing on commercial TV?*

RE: Either *60 Minutes* or *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*

JS: *The worst? Anything that just turns your stomach?*

RE: Most of it.

JS: *Any guilty pleasures*—Baywatch, *or* Married with Children?

RE: All the award shows. I love them. I love watching the prime-time Emmys, although truth be known, I'd prefer to be on them, nominated. And then there's *Malcolm In the Middle.* Does that count?

JS: *Oh, yes. A lot of people accuse PBS programming of being elitist. Any comment?*

RE: I think it's an image we don't deserve and would like to shake. It's actually incredibly democratic, because it's truly free, so the opposite is true.

JS: *Mystery seems to tend toward period pieces. Is there any chance of having a contemporary American detective?*

RE: Those are two separate things. We actually have a lot of contemporary pieces, over half, but they're not American. That's going to change, because one of my fondest wishes—a little red, white and blue dream I've had—is about to come true. There's going to be a nine-part series called *Masterpiece Theater's American Collection*.

JS: *What do you think of* Who Wants to be a Millionaire*?*

RE: I loved the first one, and by the second time, I got so impatient with it. It is so slow. Waiting endlessly for people to think of the answers drives me crazy.

JS: *What do you think is the biggest problem with public television?*

RE: Not enough money. It's chronically underfunded.

JS: *Biggest problem with commercial TV?*

RE: It's unimaginative.

JS: *A lot of* Masterpiece Theater *could be characterized as high-brow soap operas—lots of sex, intrigue, convoluted plots. Are you a soap fan?*

RE: No, but I think life is a soap opera. If you look at the great classics, they're about the same things as soap operas: love and money and betrayal and redemption.

JS: *You led* Masterpiece Theater *into theatrical production. Did you feel too limited by TV?*

RE: No. That's what we've been doing consistently for years, making things like *Mrs. Brown*, or *Persuasion,* but that suddenly became fashionable in Hollywood. They suddenly discovered us.

JS: *Which of the corporate entities you've dealt with is most annoying: WGBH, the BBC or Hollywood studios?*

RE: Are you kidding? You think I'm gonna answer that?

JS: *Does it ever bother you that ExxonMobil, your corporate sponsor, is viewed, justifiably, as a major polluter?*

RE: No.

JS: *If you needed help solving a murder, which of your detectives from* Mystery *would you go to and why?*

RE: Oooh. Well, my dream is that they'd all come to my rescue. However, I think I'd have to say, because I was the one who chose him for the show, Inspector Morse.

JS: *Love him. My other favorite part of* Mystery *are the opening credits by Edward Gorey.*

RE: I know. We have no plans to change them.

JS: *What do you do with your spare time?*

RE: Sleep. Argue with my daughter. Read American novels to get away from British.

JS: *How do other people in the television business relate to you when they learn what you do?*

RE: The title *Masterpiece Theater* engenders tremendous respect, and people are very gracious to me about it.

JS: *Do they expect you to be a real prig?*

RE: I think they're surprised to discover my age. I think they expect someone older and more scholarly looking and more serious minded.

JS: *So many people have parodied* Masterpiece Theater *in so many ways. What's your favorite?*

RE: The Cookie Monster as Alistair Cookie is a personal favorite.

JS: *What's the difference in budget between one of your shows and something on network or cable?*

RE: I'm not sure what they are on commercial TV, but costume drama is the most expensive television you can make, and ours are running about $2 million an hour.

JS: *So* Mrs. Brown *only cost $4 million? That's chickenfeed!*

RE: Absolutely. This is the best deal in town, because what we are doing, in co-producing and licensing these productions, is putting in a fraction of the total budget, and presenting them to millions and millions of viewers.

JS: *Have cable channels like A&E or Bravo hurt your business?*

RE: It comes and goes, because what we do goes in and out of fashion. It may affect us on a given day, but over the long term, we prevail. We're 30 years old.

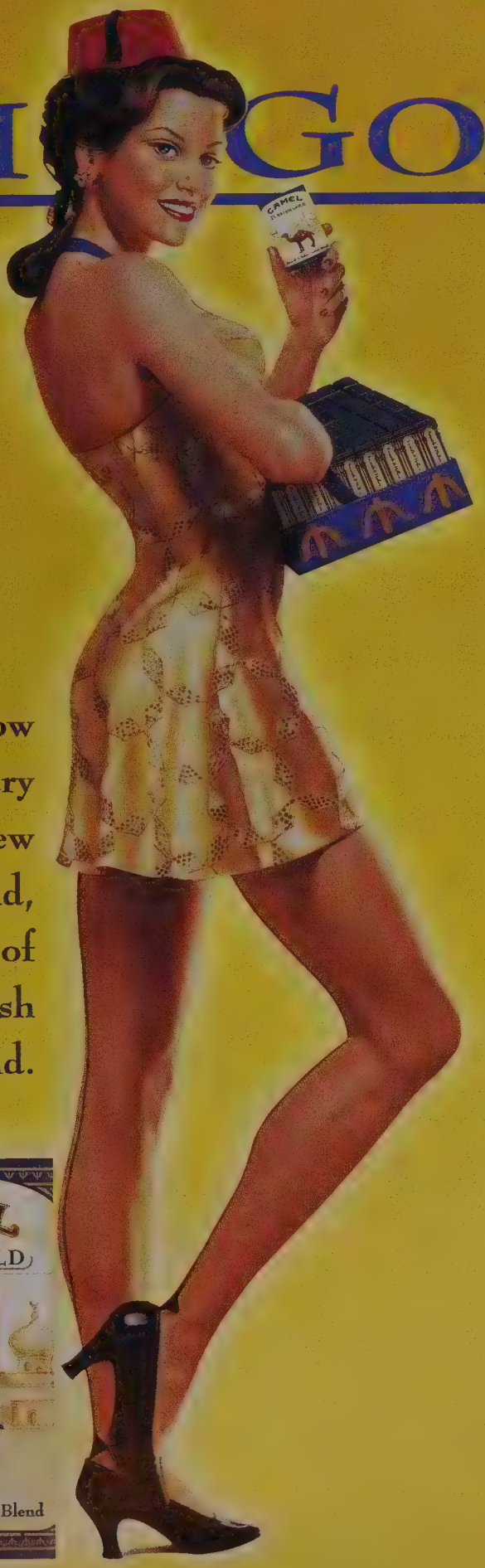
JS: *One last question. Can I replace Diana Rigg on* Mystery *when she retires?*

RE: (Laughs.) Do you have good legs? Hers are great, so I'd have to see yours. iB

NEW

CAMEL

TURKISH GOLD



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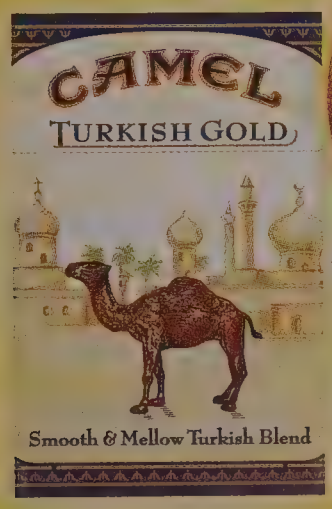

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PLEASURE TO BURN

fields OF DREAMS

The stars aren't only on the screen at six area drive-ins.

BY PAUL SHERMAN >>

Back in the early '60s, Medford's now defunct Wellington drive-in was an early hub for Bostonians

The Chleo family and friends arrive at the Rustic Tri-View early to secure a good spot for picnicking and viewing (inset); the Rustic's neon sign alone will take you on a nostalgic trip.

What's wrong with this picture? In its recent set of stamps commemorating the '50s, the United States Postal Service included a drive-in movie theater—along with such long-gone phenomena as the Brooklyn Dodgers and Rocky Marciano. Sure, the post-World War II years saw a proliferation of outdoor theaters, with 4,000 opening in the United States between 1948 and 1958. But even though drive-ins conjure images of mid-century car culture, they are not soley a thing of the past.

The boom may be long gone, but drive-ins—like diners and bowling alleys, two other '50s pop culture staples—are still part of today's landscape. They're just not as plentiful as they once were—and those that have persisted tend to be marginalized as low-tech novelties.

Enjoying today's drive-ins takes more commitment from Bostonians than the average trip to the movies, in the form of 75-90 minute drives each way. Starting from the north and moving counterclockwise, there are still accessible drive-ins in Milford, N.H.; Lunenburg; Gardner; Shrewsbury; Mendon; and North Smithfield, R.I. Most have one screen, with the Milford and Mendon theaters having two and North Smithfield's Rustic Tri-View having three; all play the same first-run movies as indoor theaters, but in double and sometimes triple features. Farther afield, there are drive-ins in Northfield, Leicester, Wellfleet, Saco, Maine and at Weirs Beach in Laconia, N.H., that are perfect to incorporate into driving vacations.

While the new breed of indoor movie theaters, like the Showcase Revere and the General Cinema Fenway, are essentially cinematic malls with mall-like food courts and heavily marketed wide-release movies that are the equivalent of chain stores, the drive-in has no such cookie-cutter feeling. Between features, some play homemade ads for local businesses or fun concession trailers that attempt to seduce you with images of dancing candy or sizzling burgers ("Five...you have five minutes left to visit the concession stand"); some still start the evening with a cartoon.

"To watch a movie under the stars is incredible to me—always was," says Sue Swanson, who never owned or even worked in a movie theater before she saw a "for sale" sign on the Mendon Drive-In in her hometown in 1987. Sitting in a booth in the theater's snack bar while cars line up at the not-yet-opened box office late one Saturday afternoon, she's an example of the hard work that has sustained the remaining drive-ins.

"I think there are a lot of contributing factors for the revival of drive-ins," she says. "There's a need for family entertainment at a reasonable price—there's nothing out there anymore. For a family to go to a baseball game or a football game, you're talking hundreds of dollars. [A drive-in] is a whole night out for a family for $15—to see two first-run movies and to let the kids enjoy running around. That's a big reason. Also, years ago, there was a drive-in every five miles. If that were the case today, we would probably be in trouble."

Dave Fedeli agrees that the closings of the '70s and '80s have ultimately helped the remaining outdoor theaters. A drive-in warrior for decades, his father built Lunenburg's Tri-Town (on the Fitchburg line), one of the two drive-ins he now owns, along with Gardner's Mohawk. "There's a population of 250,000 in my area, and there aren't many drive-ins, so you can pull from the whole area," he says. "People's choices are limited if they want to go to a drive-in. Drive-ins aren't playing the action and slasher films anymore, so that helps, too. You can pile a bunch of kids in the cars and just go."

Drive-ins "en Mass."

Surprisingly, for a state where summer is sometimes fleeting, Massachusetts was quick to jump on the drive-in bandwagon after inventor Richard Hollingshead opened the first one in Camden, N.J., in 1933. Four of the 18 drive-ins that opened nationally during the 1930s were in the Bay State, in Lynn, Shrewsbury, Weymouth and Methuen. The state's seven active drive-ins are no comparison to the high of 86 in 1958 and the still-thriving 83 in 1972, a figure that plummeted to 20 by 1987, by which time increasing suburban sprawl saw most drive-in owners bought out by developers.

Here in Greater Boston, all the drive-ins are long gone; the site of Dorchester's Neponset is now Pope John Paul II Park (the drive-in wasn't holy enough?) and others, like those in Medford and Weymouth, have been replaced by shopping malls, Medford's

WHERE THEY ARE

The following area drive-ins take an ambivalent attitude towards luring us city folk. Some, like the Mendon and the Milford, regularly run listings in the *Boston Globe* arts section, some seem to do so only sporadically and others not at all. These phone numbers will get you recordings about what each theater is playing and, in some cases, directions. All are about 75-90 minute drives from Boston. Prices are, of course, subject to change.

Edgemere Drive-In
Route 20
Shrewsbury, MA; 508-753-5011.
Screens: 1; $15 per carload.

Mendon Drive-In
Route 16, Mendon, MA; 508-473-4958.
Screens: 2; $15 per carload.
www.mendondrivein.com

Milford Drive-In
Route 101A
Milford, NH; 603-673-4090.
Screens: 2; $15 per carload.

Mohawk Drive-In Theater
Route 2A, Gardner, MA. 978-632-2818.
Screens: 1; $12 per carload.

Rustic Tri-View Drive-In
Route 146
North Smithfield, RI; 401-769-7601.
Screens: 3; $13 per carload
($11 on Thursdays).

Tri-Town Drive-In
Youngs Road
Lunenburg, MA; 978-345-5062.
Screens: 1; $12 per carload.

RICHARD TAZZERA

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On a recent evening at the Mendon drive-in's concession stand, young customers lined up for snacks before *Chicken Run* (inset) hit the screen.

While videos and home computers may turn us into a society of individuals alienated from each other, the drive-in has a communal, at-the-beach spirit...

Meadow Glen Mall even taking the name of the drive-in it replaced. In some cases, like at the Braintree park 'n' fly lot where the old South Shore's movie screen still looms over Route 93, the remnants of our drive-ins are painfully plain to see.

And in this age of stadium seating, digital surround-sound and on-screen special effects, the drive-in is indeed an anomaly. But just as every good pop song should still sound good on a tinny, mono transistor radio, no matter how polished and hi-tech it is, so too should every good movie be able to pass the drive-in test. If a movie stinks at the drive-in, it stinks, period—and no amount of Dolby sound or digital projection will be able to save it.

Take the Money and Run

Fortunately, the drive-ins that remain near Boston are generally in remote commercial areas near industrial plants and mechanics' garages—hardly hot surburban real estate. Beyond their off-the-beaten-track locations, demographics are shifting away from "exurbia," in other words, city living is more appealing these days and the suburbs aren't booming quite so such. So for the time being, drive-in real estate's potential for housing or retail use is hopefully slim. Still, in today's deal-happy economy, land sales to those who couldn't care less about drive-ins always threaten moviegoers' pleasure.

Just listen to Mohawk and Tri-Town owner Fedeli, who practically grew up at the drive-in and who used to also own Fitchburg's Whalom Auto Park and Orange's Pioneer Valley Drive-In, selling them off in the 1980s (he also owns indoor theaters in Fitchburg and West Boylston): "There's no question, there's a temptation when someone comes in and offers you a bunch of money," he says. "I still enjoy having the drive-ins, but I'm over 50 now. If someone offered me a bunch of money, I'd probably take it, because my kids aren't at the age yet where they could buy them from me."

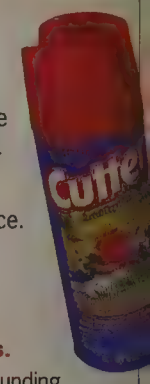
"But the drive-ins are still profitable," Fedeli continues. "We're giving the screen at the Mohawk a coat of paint, and we've done some paving and put in new bathrooms at the Tri-Town, so you've got to put some work into them to show people you care."

The work of Fedeli and his fellow drive-in owners seems to be appreciated. On a recent weekend, throngs flocked to see *Dinosaur* and *Gladiator* at the Mendon. And the Mohawk's recent pairing of *Mission: Impossible 2* and *Road Trip* also packed a field with cars and trucks.

Moviegoers are drawn, no doubt, by the chance to see hit movies in a setting steeped with nostalgia. But that's really just the beginning of a drive-in's appeal, the preview. While videos and home computers may turn us into a society of individuals alienated from each other, the drive-in has a communal, at-the-beach spirit that can be hard to find elsewhere. People pile out of the beds of pick-up trucks, share a picnic, kick soccer balls around while the kids run off to play on swing sets.

Eventually, nature dims her lights sufficiently, and it's show time. **iB**

WHAT TO BRING



It's part-camping, part-picnic, part-road trip and part-moviegoing. Heading to the drive-in isn't just more fun than the sometimes literally mall-like experience of going to the multiplex, it's also higher maintenance. You're going to need to bring certain things:

A boom box with fresh batteries. Except in rare instances, the tinny-sounding speakers that hung on metal poles and latched onto your car window are things of the past. Today, drive-in theaters transmit audio over the radio. They'll tell you which frequency when you buy your tickets. You can sit inside and listen to the movie over your car radio, as most people do; but if you want to get the most out of the drive-in, sit outside and listen to it on a boom box.

Lawn chairs. Much more comfortable than sitting on your car hood or on a blanket on the ground.

Bug repellent and matches. Most drive-ins are in the country, near forests, and are havens for flying pests after your junk food and your blood. You're best off getting Pic bug repellent coils, which you light and then burn for several hours. Most drive-in concession stands sell them.

Food and beverages. Unlike the multiplex, the drive-in is a place that actually encourages you to bring a meal and eat it before or during the movie. Of course, they all have snack bars, prone to long lines and greasy offerings, but just like at a football game, tailgating is a way to extend the experience (though barbecuing and alcoholic beverages are no-nos).

Warm clothes. It might be 85 degrees when you get to the drive-in, but once the sun starts to go down in the country, the temperature drops very quickly. Long pants, sweatshirts, fall jackets and hats are all necessities if you want to watch the movie under the stars, and especially if you plan to stick around for the second (or third) feature.

Drive-in etiquette: If you drive an SUV, minivan, pickup truck or another tall vehicle, park in one of the back rows.

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: IRINA ROZOVSKY; RICHARD TAZZERA

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bird of prey

Part fantasy, part noir: a fashion fable on the edge.

FASHION BY MARY NOBILE-KING
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PHILIP PORCELLA
TEXT BY RACHEL STRUTT

From the beginning, it was all wrong. Even on a park bench soaked by the sun, Maxine sensed a dark presence, at once looming and constant, but elusive and shifting—a shadow one moment, a fluttering of wings the next. Stalked by a mounting sense of danger, Maxine wandered day and night, as the familiar became unfamiliar, and danger and desire became one.

Above: Long slate jacket, $389; Slim pants, $113; black tank, $119; all available at Emporio Armani.

Left: Jean Paul Gaultier nylon stretch dress, $260; available at Saks Fifth Avenue.

Back alleys,
cab rides—
Chinatown
lures her, then
closes in.

A sympa[the]
herbalist offers
salvation

Carmen Marc Valvo ha[l]
top, $270; available
Neiman Marcus; Star Crystal, $
at Ritual Arts

A strange hotel room. Wings beating faster and louder. A few sips of a dangerous elixir.

(To be continued on August 9th.....)

Black back lace-up dress, $129; Lucite platform shoe, $49 available at House of Culture.

ASSISTANTS:
Robert Perachio
Ron Cowie

STUDIO MANAGER:
Jaime Livingood

STYLIST:
Mark Ellis/Ennis

HAIR/MAKEUP:
Coco Grace
Chris Lewis/TEAM

MODEL:
Danielle Pittman/ CLICK

WHERE TO BUY:
Emporio Armani
210-214 Newbury St.
262-7300

House of Culture
286 Newbury St.
236-1090

Riccardi
116 Newbury St.
266-3158

Neiman Marcus
Copley Place
536-3660

Saks Fifth Avenue
Prudential Center
262-8500

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High Output

Snake & Gun:
Ron Cowie

Tattooed woman in elevator: J.J.

Ritual Arts
153 Harvard Avenue, Allston

Herbalist:
B.J. Wang
E. Shan Tang
157 Harvard Ave.
Allston

Assistants:
Arthur and Bob

fogged

Luxury SUV's and cars arrive in steady streams off the SSA ferry. The number of vehicles on the road now means that vacationers and residents have to be careful of "road rage," and the traffic in town can stall drivers for an hour.

in

Why everyone wants to be on Nantucket—and nobody wants to leave.

BY ROSEMARY FEITELBERG

Todd Burns and Jessica Hicks are quintessential young Nantucket.

At 31, Burns is a graduate of the Culinary School of America who has worked his way across the country as a chef. Now he's in construction. Like everybody else here, it seems, he is helping those who have just discovered Nantucket to design and build grand and elaborate new homes.

"Business is amazing," says Burns, who rents a home in Madaket, along with his fiancée, Jessica.

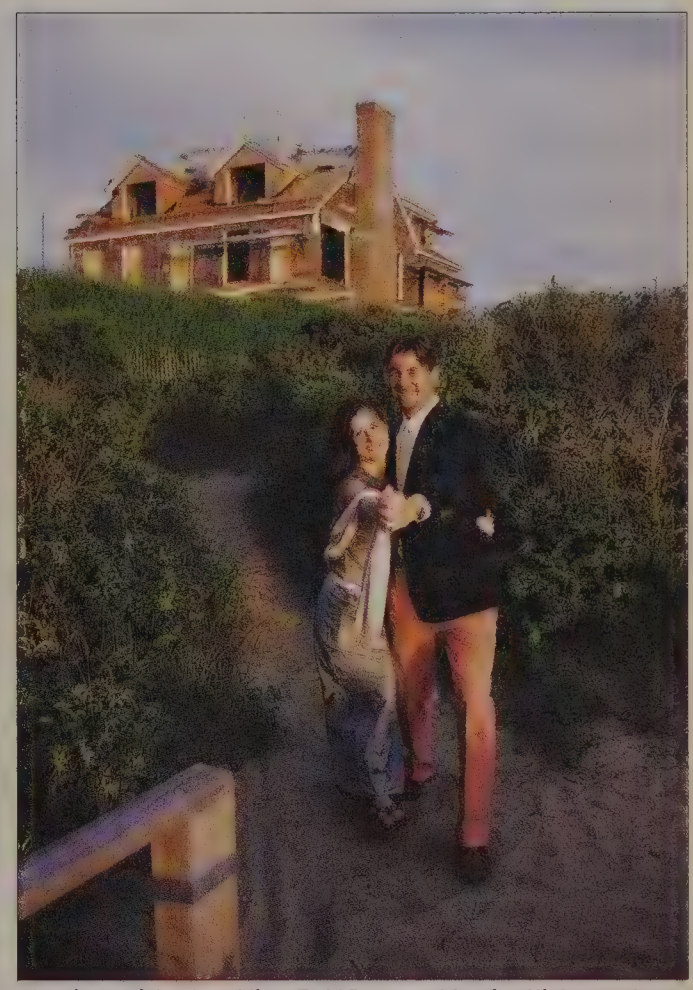
Burns is currently working on a 'showcase' house, a post-and-beam project that he will build so the owners can sell it as soon as it makes sense from a tax perspective.

"Money, money, money," Burns says. "I always say: 'The Vineyard is for millionaires;. Nantucket is for billionaires.' "

His new customers want to do creative things with their money, and it makes for challenging work, says Burns. Still, he knows a handful of people, born and bred here, who have had to move because of the real-estate market; less people want to rent year-round when summer rates go as high as $30,000 for two weeks in a two-bedroom.

"I guess it's disappointing to see some of the extremely wealthy people just tear down historic homes," he says. "The can't tear down homes in the historic district, but they do tear down, or completely gut, houses just outside the district that are important."

Nantucket, dubbed the "gray lady" because of the foggy mist that so often surrounds it, has always been decidedly understated. It is a place where wealth has been kept quietly behind gray shingles for decades.



Planning an island wedding, Todd Burns and Jessica Hicks say they don't know when they will be able to afford their own home here, but vow to never leave Nantucket.

These days it's sort of hard to ignore it. Luxury sport-utility vehicles stream off the ferry, some lawns look more like golf courses than beach fronts, and the passenger sitting next to you on your Cape Air flight represents the satellite-dish company that can bring top-quality television to an island that still has no traffic lights.

By now, Tommy Hilfiger's house on Cliff Road is not news; and neither is the golf course billed as the most exclusive in the country, with membership costs at $250,000, and people like Bill Gates locking in tee times. >>

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE GREENE. ON HER: CLOTHES PROVIDED BY EYE OF THE NEEDLE. HAIR: FRANK MORLSANO/ RJ MILLER SALON.

NANTUCKET

"People come to Nantucket because it's Nantucket," says Peter Prugh, director of the Preservation Institute of Nantucket. "There's a certain cachet to it."

Nantucket is nothing if not civilized, and Prugh means it when he says that, through education, new property owners can learn to preserve the island's history and habitat.

"People used to come and buy old houses, and they felt responsible for them," Prugh says. "There was a sense of stewardship."

These days, the home builders will tell you that they have to laugh when they see millions poured into an old beach shack so it can look like, well, an old beach shack. More often, the new mansions are custom-built to look new.

"These are places with in-home theaters," says Bob Rivers, who has stepped down from his post as administrator at the Nantucket Historical Society but stays involved. "They have his-and-her offices, exercise rooms and gourmet kitchens," Rivers says.

Selectman Tim Soverino explains that expansive private estates are being sold, often in pieces. "Areas that people always thought would be open and free are suddenly having homes built on them," Soverino says.

Last year, 250 homes were sold on the island—a 20 percent increase compared with the previous year. Annual sales have been tracking at that rate for the past few years.

However, the average wait for a building permit is one year, due to the island's current building cap of 200 permits per year. This fall, a points system is expected to be adopted, and permits will be awarded based on necessity. A year-round resident seeking affordable housing would be more likely to get a permit than someone seeking to build a new home. However, Rivers is among those who suspect that some people will just bypass the process by buying an old home and tearing everything down but the frame.

Knowing the toll the market has taken on dedicated island families, Rivers says: "We can't continue to be a vehicle for such opulence."

The summer population on Nantucket swells to 50,000; restaurants and bars like the Boarding House compete for vacation business.

NO TRESPASSING

So, what does this mean for the rest of us?

For one thing, Soverino says, new homeowners are more likely to put up those dreaded "Private Beach" signs, which are so common on Martha's Vineyard, but not here.

"We don't want to wind up as an island with less than 10 percent of beaches being public ones," Soverino says, referring to the Vineyard's public beach status.

The 51.2 miles of beach, rolling surf and starry skies are Nantucket's best feature. (There are publicly owned beaches, such as Madaket.) "There has always been a tacit understanding here that the beaches were for use by everyone," says Prugh of the Preservation Society. "There is some concern here now that some of our newer residents might say 'I paid a lot of money for this property, and I was told it had a private beach."

Homes are selling for as much as $10 million, and a chunk of island property was recently purchased by a private individual for $19 million.

Commuter flights bring hordes of home builders to and from Nantucket daily—where there's no housing to accommodate them.

For now, anyone with a favorite ocean spot is not sharing it with strangers. Sen. John Kerry (D-Massachusetts), caught by a reporter on the steps of St. Mary's Catholic Church on a recent Sunday morning, is among those who decline to name a favorite Nantucket locale, fearful of crowds following.

He sidestepped the question, saying, "It's such a very special place." Looking toward Main Street's red brick building and cottage-like shop, he says: "I mean look at this. There's nothing else like it. You can't beat it." In some ways, you can't. The weather on this 14-mile long island is about 10 percent warmer than Boston in the winter, and 10 percent cooler in the summer.

Kerry is one of the so-called rich and famous people here (he was married in the Nantucket home owned by his wife, Teresa Heinz). But there is no market for celebrities here, no paparazzi following them around, or special appearances at parties. People come here so they can get away, and not be "seen."

New Englad Patriots coach Bill Belichick is a longtime property owner here, and Miami Dolphins owner also Wayne Huizenga spends time on Nantucket. Island homeowner General Electric Chairman Jack Welch was able to help out Bill Clinton a while back, when the Nantucket Golf Club denied him a tee time during a busy period. And Kathie Lee Gifford shops in town.

The commercial real estate market is soaring as well, filling the small town with real-estate offices and designer boutiques. But that means the town is short on necessities.

"You cannot buy underwear or shoelaces here," says Rivers. "You have to go to Hyannis for that."

As expected, competitive, upscale restaurants are providing a backdrop to the scene. The Pearl, American Seasons, Le Languedoc, the Wauwinet and 21 Federal Street compete with imaginative fare. Black Eyed Susans, West Creek Cafe and Fifty-Six Union, a newcomer, make sure to change their menu choices to better serve their repeat customers. Burns and his fiancée dine out whenever they can, (Black Eyed Susans and American Seasons are favorites), and he has a theory about why Nantucket has kept its reputation for fine cuisine.

"People used to go to Nantucket to get away from the suburbs. Now more and more people are bringing the suburbs with them."
— Tom Scott, Nantucket Nectars co-founder.

"It can be a stress sometimes, thinking about buying a house here. But then, you just look around and you know that it's worth it. You can't leave."

—Jessica Hicks, 27, goldsmith. Hicks and her fiancé, Todd Burns, enjoy Nantucket's restaurant scene, and stopped here for a romantic moment.

"You could almost associate it with the mentality of the HDC [Historic District Commission]" says Burns.

"Everything here is kept a certain way," he says. "The houses have to be cedar shakes or clapboard. And I think they have treated food with the same respect."

The couple plans to be married on the island. (They met at the Chicken Box, an aptly named dive where more than a few marriages have been made.) These days, as many as 25 brides compete for space each summer weekend.

"Everyone I know is interested in the island," says Robin Parmalee, a producer for WGBH's *Front Line* who visits Nantucket annually. The prices of renting a summer house intimidate many people, though, who wind up spending a weekend on the island instead. Cycling to Madaket and dining at 21 Federal or The Straight Wharf, are ways that Parmalee spends her on-island time. "I like the high life, even though it's beyond me," Parmalee says.

Robert Norton, a Boston College graduate who moved with his wife to the island a few years ago when his bid for a taxi medallion was finally accepted, was struck by the island's dichotomy last summer. "Last Fourth of July, I was in the thick of it in my taxi, and I called my wife. She told me she'd just come in from riding her horse along the Moors," says Norton. "She'd been on the beach and she hadn't seen a soul," says Norton.

Driving his cab around town in the summer, Norton sees far too many Range Rovers, Ford Excursions and Hummers on the roads. The toll those take on traffic is unnecessary, he said. "It's like, 'Hello, you don't need something that big to get around,' " Norton says. Some local cars have bumper stickers that read: "We're Not All on a Vacation," a not-so-subtle reminders to the 40,000 summer visitors to respect the island's pace, and its inhabitants. Most residents are also adamant proponents of NRTA, the $1 bus service.

Tom Scott, the co-founder of Nantucket Nectars who moved to the island after graduating from Brown University in 1989, recalls the days when he and co-founder Tom First set up a business to service yachts in Nantucket Harbor. "I went to Nantucket because it was a waterfront fishing community," Scott says. "I thought that was cool. I didn't know it was sort of chic." Today he owns an island home in Quaise and plans to spend most of his time there , through the summer and September. He says he will do what many others here do—surf at Nobadeer, rent videos (there is a movie screen in town) and lay low.

"I like that it's a place where you get sand on the floor, sand in your furniture and sand in your car," says Scott. "I've never been in a Range Rover, but I doubt that you would want to get sand in it. That's why I drive a pick-up with a crappy interior," says Scott, reflecting on the changes in the town where he runs his bottled juice empire.

"People used to go to Nantucket to get away from the suburbs," says Scott. Now more and more people are bringing the suburbs with them."

Author Nat Philbrick, whose current book, I*n the Heart of the Sea*, offers a chilling account of the sinking of the Essex, reportedly the inspiration for Herman Melville's ending to *Moby Dick*. Philbrick moved to this onetime whaling village in 1986 as a freelance writer.

SAVING FACE

Despite all the talk about island growth, the current year-round population (about 10,000) is close to the number of residents who lived on Nantucket in its previous heyday.

The island was "discovered" by a well-to-do crowd during the Golden Age of the 19th century, with population peaking in 1840. Indeed, that crowd and the people behind the current-day crush are driven by similar aspirations. They were not traveling in the Astor and Vanderbilt crowd and wanted to escape the glitz of Newport, R.I.

The preservation efforts may go largely unnoticed by visitors, but they are what makes Nantucket different from other American tourist spots. Foreign visitors can often be heard saying that the faraway island feels so "un-American" in its intimate design and original buildings.

Eight hundred Nantucket buildings predate the Civil War. What most people miss during their stay is the 800 buildings that predate the Civil War. A visitor pass purchased from the Nantucket Historical Association allows tourists to view the Hadwen House. One of the few examples of Greek revival architecture on the island, the site was built in 1846 by William Hadwen, a whale oil and candle merchant who was also part-owner of the spermaceti candle factory that now houses the Whaling Museum.

About 40 percent of the island is protected by conservation.

For the past 30 years, the conservation foundation has purchased land and has encouraged people to donate land to the island. In addition, the island was one of the first places in the country to adopt a community land bank, which uses the 2 percent tax on every land transaction to purchase open spaces. For nearly half a century, the Historic District Commission has acted as the island's principal protector, meeting weekly to review remodeling plans for everything from paint jobs to new fences, says Peter Prugh of the Nantucket Preservation Institute.

With the purchase of a visitor pass from the Nantucket Historical Association, people can tour such historic homes as the Hadwen House. Located at the corner of Main and Pleasant streets, it is one of the few examples of Greek revival architecture on the island. The site was built in 1846 by William Hadwen. The first Americans on Nantucket were whalers, the island's whaling museum rests in what was one of first poured concrete building in the United States.

The Nantucket Historical Association has raised $12 million of the $15 million needed to move to its new home, and its new museum, adjacent to the Whaling Museum. Those dollars came from year-round and seasonal residents, says Dorothy Slover, director of the 106-year-old historical association.

"We think a lot of people come to the island for its historical beauty and open spaces," Slover says. "They value that and they're not going to destroy it."

Money like that does more than showcase scrimshaw. The new facility will be open year-round. Visitors to the new site will be able to read whaling ships' logs in the research library. With climate-controlled exhibition spaces, traveling displays—a mainstay for most museums—will be offered for the first time here. Slover says the fundraising effort reflects the best of the changing community. "We don't believe in a drawbridge mentality," she says. "We believe if you come here, you come here to contribute." The island houses 106 nonprofit organizations, supporting AIDS research, hospice patient care and family services.

"What that says to me is there is an awareness by people," Slover says. "They want to protect and provide every good thing they think they can. If that many organizations can be supported, that's a true reflection of how people are."

Jessica Hicks also has hope. At 27, she says she and her future husband will find a way to stay in a place that has little room, even for people who were pretty well-off here just a few years ago. Raised in the Worcester area, it was only four years ago that Hicks first set foot on Nantucket (named by Native American Indians, the island name means "far-away island.") She is one of those people who arrived fresh out of college planning to stay the summer and never did get around to using her return ticket.

"I haven't left since," she says. Hicks works as a goldsmith, designing jewelry, and as a sales assistant, in town. She knows that the cost of living here will provide more of a challenge than the pair expected.

"It can be a stress sometimes, thinking about buying a house here," says Hicks. "But then, you just look around and you know that it's worth it," she says.

"You can't leave." iB

fashion wave

The "Old Gray Lady" shows her new colors. BY ROSEMARY FEITELBERG

Pink python has made its way to Nantucket.

No longer limited to traditional lightship basket purses, touristy T-shirts, khakis and Bermuda shorts, the island's shopping is now geared for fashion-conscious city dwellers who don't want to dress down while on vacation.

Fueled by a robust economy and a broader base of shoppers, boutiques are also serving up a greater variety of labels. That might explain why pink python printed sandals, turquoise capri pants and pastel leather jackets are a few of the must-have summer items.

Even **Murray's**, the Main Street store that specializes in those quintessential "Nantucket reds" (salmon-colored khakis) has branched out to offer trendier looks this year.

"People want to try something new. They're tired of what's always been around," says **David Chase**, who owns a signature boutique on Main Street.

"There are a lot more social events going on here," says Chase. "We're seeing a lot of people from Boston and New York coming in to shop."

At his shop, **Lafayette 148**'s silk taffeta tie-front shirts at $228, Comme Tou Jours's $550 cropped leather pants and coordinating $750 jean jackets have been recent best-sellers. Shoppers also like the looks of Yantsi Fugel's stretch microfiber pants, skirts and jackets.

Jimmy Choo, a footwear designer who's been known to create shoes with real diamond clips and has a cult-like following with celebrities, is another popular label at David Chase. His $400 sandals with three-inch heels—not exactly trekking shoes for cobblestone streets—have been a hit this summer, with Robert Clergerie's slides running a close second.

Knee-length skirts in upholstered fabrics are popular at **Eye of the Needle**, according to store manager Liz Hughes. Aqua, orange, hot pink, lime green and purple are the most important shades in the capri category, with S & D, Chaiken & Copain, Theory, Katayone Adeli, Woman and William B. being the primary resources. Retail prices range from $90 to $250.

"Half our customers know what they want before they walk in the door," Hughes says. "Everyone is wearing brighter colors. Nantucket is one of those places where you can wear them," she explains. "No one gets super dressed up."

In April, the Eye of the Needle opened a shop for girls just a few doors down from its Federal Street store. The company also has another location on Nantucket, as well as spots in Boston and Palm Beach, Fla.

Panache is another Nantucket store that recently expanded, opening a store at 228 Newbury Street in February. Inca's water-resistant $82 beach bags with coordinating $70 beach mats, Panacea's silk and linen blend $310 sweaters and Going Places' $180 linen slip dress are all key looks for Nantucket shoppers, says general manager Lara Fayner.

Women like the looks of Farretx, a cobbler who uses the same European factory as Jil Sander. Slip-ons priced between $125 and $165 have been doing well this season. Helen Joi is another important resource for open-toed shoes, says Fayner.

"Nantucket has a reputation for being a place to shop. There are people who just come for the day to shop," Fayner says. "A lot of our regular customers here also go into the Boston store regularly."

A David Chase shopper shows the taffeta-tie look. At right, designers offer a city edge. Finally, the Nantucket lightship basket. It's always in style.

Many are not particularly price-conscious; typical purchases range from $60 to $5,000, Fayner adds.

Apple green and crayon pinks—as seen in "The Preppy Handbook"—are making a comeback at **The Cashmere Shop**, where sweaters in those shades are being rung up steadily at the register. Sales associate Elizabeth Legg describes the island uniform of choice this summer in three pieces: a $275 two-tone cashmere cardigan with a $275 coordinating shell and a pair of $250 silk dupioni pants.

Pashmina shawls, a look once reserved for young socialites, continues to generate sales even in the dead of summer. Many women are buying two different colors of the silk and cashmere items, which retail between $225 and $280, Legg says.

"Nantucket has its own look. Pashminas come from New York, but we might wear them with jeans and a striped shirt," Legg says. "Someone else might wear a Lilly Pulitzer dress with a Pashmina and a carry a lightship basket."

Huge wedding crowds are helping business, Legg says. In addition, about 35 percent of the store's customers are from the Boston area.

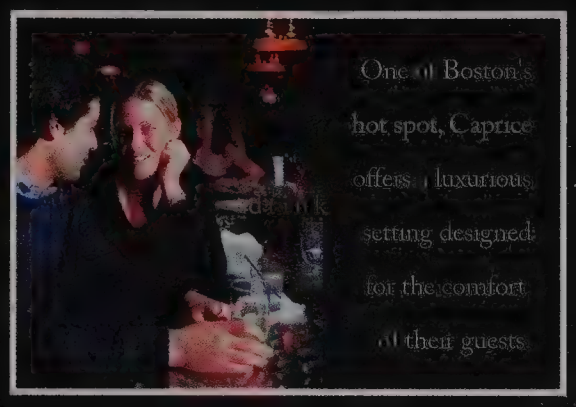
"Nobody needs cashmere. It just catches their eye and they want to have it," says Legg.

Color—for women and children—is also a major draw at the **Lilly Pulitzer**. Not surprising, considering these signature bright prints have been worn by women all over the island for years. Where else but Nantucket would one wear a hot pink sundress embroidered with green lobsters? "Lilly Pulitzer has a strong, dedicated following, and people will come back year after year," says Jennie Moran, store cashier.

At **Vis a Vis**, the focus is on the feet. Jean-Michel Cazabat's pink python printed sandals, Inspired Soles' $66 beaded woven slides, Chinese Laundry's $42 raw silk slides and a variety of platform flip-flops are winning points with shoppers.

Fitted linen shirts with three-quarter-length sleeves in such bright colors as pinks and tangerine are in demand at **Pollacks**. Women are pairing them with How & Wen's flatfront pants in pink, red or black. The outfits cost about $270. For a finishing touch, they're picking up Angela Fracone's $140 laminated handbags with computer generated prints, says Tony Valentine, manager of Pollacks.

"People here have a style that you don't see everywhere," he says. "The other nice thing is that people here have time to shop. When they're in the city, they're scrambling to do other things. On vacation, you have all day to do nothing." iB



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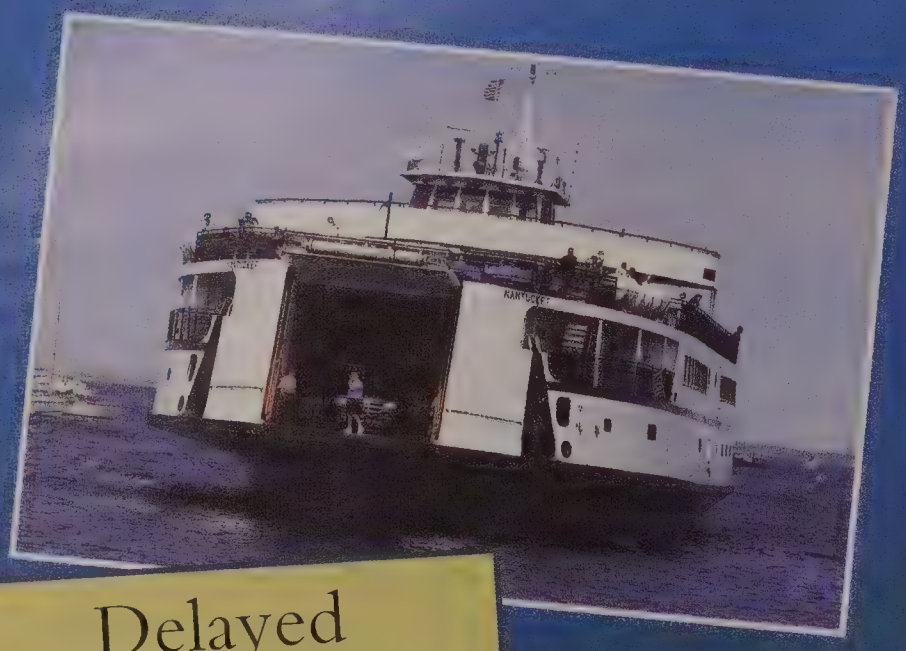

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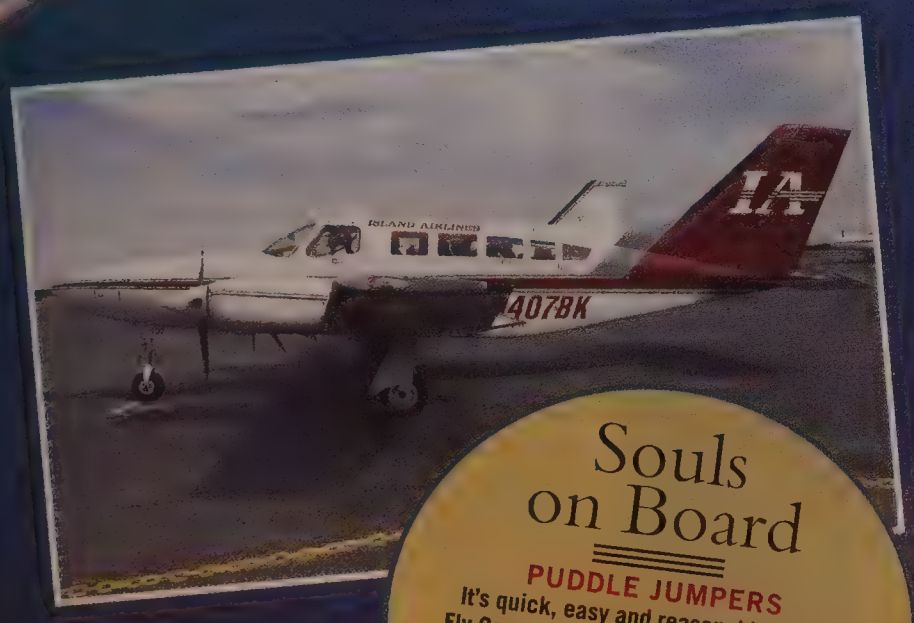

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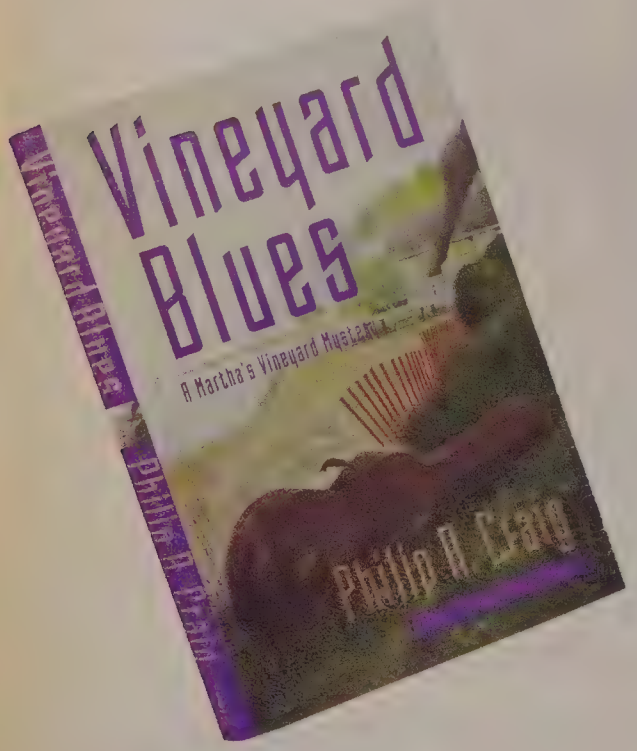
Mopsy

Serendipitous shopping: Our unfettered correspondent seeks out the salubrious and the cerebral.

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY



IS THE VINEYARD BURNING?

Philip R. Craig writes mysteries set on Martha's Vineyard. His latest is *Vineyard Blues*.

How about a mystery story told in a relaxed and casual mode, about the Vineyard, which will be read by many people, in the selfsame spirit, on that very island? This one's *Vineyard Blues*, by Philip R. Craig. It brings together trusty, solid locals—J.W. Jackson and his wife, Zee, parents of two—with untrustworthy, rent-sucking local realtor Ben Krane. Krane's brother Peter isn't too savory himself; in New York, he's a respectable married man, but on the Vineyard he's a practitioner of sadomasochistic arts. Along comes an old African-American bluesman, Corrie Appleyard, an old friend of J.W.'s dead father, who is a bit at loose ends now. Soon after Appleyard rambles off with his guitar to one of Ben Krane's summer-rental firetraps, the place predictably burns down. Arson, starring Krane himself, is the suspected cause. Appleyard is presumed dead.The politics of black and white, of vacationers and year-rounders (the town and gown of summer colonies), the distinctions—even here in paradise—between the People of Solidity and the People of Slime, are what make this a good read. And, for that matter, so does the surprising naughtiness of the seemingly upright.

INNER BODY EXPERIENCE

Clinical social worker Marilyn Unger-Riepe runs workshops and ongoing classes in movement therapy for therapists, artists and laypeople. For information, call 978-443-0688.

In this technological age of ours, we tend to rush around in a state that might be called psychologically non-barefoot. We're often cut off from our earthly rootedness and disconnected from a sense of the free bodies that once contained our childhood selves. Maturity, routine and pain take their toll. At the worst, we can become numb and rigid. To mend and amend this condition, there is something known as "authentic movement," a fluidly meditative, experiential technique that helps bring us back to "the body electric." One person moves in any way that is inviting through a large space—stretching, rolling, creeping, kicking and soaring—with eyes closed. Meanwhile, the "witness" simply observes. In some surprising, even magical way, internal images and emotions, bright and dark, float forth. Constraining words are temporarily trumped by the body's discoveries. People with distorted body images, or locked-in suffering, find themselves more elastically knowing and flowing. Under Marilyn Unger-Riepe's sensitive guidance, participants are helped to mine-in pictures or words—what they discovered in this almost-dreamlike land of motion.What was experienced intuitively in movement points the way to changes that ideally can later become "embodied" in actions, feelings and words.

EXOTIC GLITTER

In her latest store, Kitty Haas presides over unusual jewelry in the Porter Exchange Building in Cambridge (661-4191). Open Mon.-Sat. 1-9pm; Sun. 1-6pm.

Roaming around Cambridge for 60 years, Kitty Haas' peripatetic shops have featured originality, the personal touch and a distinctive offbeatness. Now she has a jewelry shop full of exotic, varied and often dramatic pieces from Afghanistan to Zaire. Many of them are hand-made. Kitty does business like an old-fashioned shopkeeper, explaining the rareness of a piece, and the "ridiculously low prices. People can't believe it," she says, holding up heavy Mexican silver pieces zigzagged together. Kitty is proud of her affordable black pearls; her "hundreds of rings" from $25 to $5,000 in sterling, gold, white gold and platinum; and oversized Australian pearls—all arrayed in the window for shopping lovebirds.

A *National Geographic* magazine depicting an African beauty in a huge necklace shows what some of these big-chunk pieces with a green malachite, star ruby or caramelish amber centerpiece can do for someone with the stature, posture and dramatic presence to carry it off. Garnet, transiting along the red-crimson spectrum, is appealingly clustered in necklaces. Many pretty chains also include delicate pendants, like art deco shapes anchored with a grabbingly blue stone.

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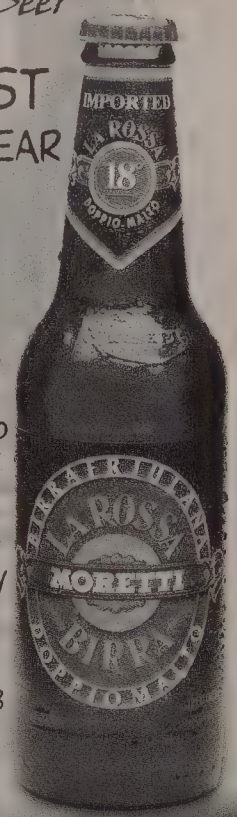

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Ezra

Hangover Hell

The aftermath of a weeknight out on the town

BY EZRA DYER

I am a huge sissy about sleep and hangovers, and that is why I don't typically go out on weeknights. Even on the best of mornings, my alarm clock narrowly escapes getting tossed out my third-story bedroom window, and I'm lucky to make it out of my apartment without forgetting something major, like house keys or pants. When I compound this incoherence by going out on weeknights, my workday is spent as Rain Man, but without the ability to count cards.

So it was with much trepidation that I donned my drinking pants and headed down to Jose McIntyre's block party on a sultry Thursday night. I was joined by friend Steve, who works at a local law firm and has an amazing ability to quaff heroic quantities of booze and then go do legal things the next day. "If he can handle going out on weeknights," I reasoned, "then so can I." What I neglected to consider, however, is that Steve is a goddamn animal.

PEOPLE AT THE OFFICE (ESPECIALLY BOSSES) DO NOT LIKE TO IMAGINE THAT YOU'RE HAPPILY BLOWING OFF WORK WHILE THEY'RE STUCK IN THE GRIND.

The first problem I ran into, and one that did not seem to encumber Steve, was the lack of bathrooms at this event. Everyone I spoke with seemed to have a different idea of where to urinate. "Up front somewhere," the beer vendors would say while gesturing vaguely in the direction of the waterfront. I never found these mythical bathrooms, forcing me to wait inside one of the bars flanking the party. After "breaking the seal," my pea-sized bladder and the lengthy lines conspired to hold me prisoner. I'd urinate and get another beer, slowly drinking it as I waited in line to pee again. I began to wonder if the scores of people outside who happily downed beverages knew something I didn't, like maybe there was a stand somewhere hawking Depends and catheters.

Despite my bladder-related handicap, I remained an enthusiastic block party attendee until 11pm, when the festivities moved inside. At this point Steve upped the ante by coming back from the bar with a Jack-and-Coke and gin-and-tonic for each of us. After that, concerns for the rapidly approaching morning went right out the door. In fact, I actually began to exceed Steve's drinking pace because I have absolutely no game. While he schmoozed with the ladies, I made repeated trips to the bar until I was fully confident in my ability to cut the rug like John Travolta. The rest of the night was consumed by happily bouncing around the dance floor, and at one time—oh yeah—there was even a girl in my general vicinity (we will not dwell here on the fact that she looked as if she'd spent the evening in the Crack Garden). "This is great!" I remember thinking. "Why don't I do this more often?"

Friday morning, that question was resolutely answered. My head ached and the rest of my body felt as if it had been run through a Ronco food dehydrator. The nerve endings in my throat told me that I'd better check in the mirror to see if the toilet scrub brush wasn't lodged in there somewhere. The thought of not going to work wracked me with guilt, but the prospect of rushing from my office to go have a chat with God on the big white phone was none too appealing either. I decided that I would accept responsibility for my irresponsibility by taking an unscheduled vacation day. You've got to pay to play, went my reasoning.

This strategy did not go over well. As it turns out, people at the office (especially bosses) do not like to imagine that you're happily blowing off work while they're stuck in the grind. Intelligent guy that I am, I admitted to no sickness and offered no explanation for my truancy. So while I lay in bed for the better part of the day, painfully tired yet denied sleep by alternating waves of nausea and self-loathing, my coworkers were imagining that I was sitting on a beach somewhere, drinking margaritas and smugly laughing. Steve called from work and left a chipper voice mail suggesting that my wardrobe should include a pink tutu and some pretty slippers. All in all, it was a miserable day. When I later explained the reality of this situation to my boss, he informed me of the following: "The fabric of society is very thin, and it rips easily. If you take an unscheduled day off, you must say that you are sick or you have a family emergency. That's the way the system works."

On that note, I'd like us all to observe a moment of silence for my great-aunt Beatrice. She dies next Friday. iB

You think that's funny?

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INSIDE: A garden party at Up Stairs at the Pudding; LeBocage salutes the Tall Ships

The tiny dining room of Aspasia in Cambridge seats a cozy 40 patrons. Opposite page: pepper-crusted sirloin with *panzanella* salad, Vidalia onion jam and Great Hill bleu cheese (above); chef/owner Christos Tsardounis (below)

REVIEW

All About Aspasia

Chef Christos Tsardounis and his wife open a charming eatery in Cambridge.

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOE GREENE

Cambridge's small neighborhood restaurants draw constituencies from near and far. Aspasia, a delightful, minuscule *boîte* on Walden Street near the intersection of Concord Avenue is a noteworthy addition to this category. It lies just around the corner from Hi-Rise Bakery, an excellent but pricey shop from which Aspasia procures its breads.

Accommodating barely 40 diners, Aspasia is appointed in a minimalist but tasteful way. Walls are bare brick. Rust and green draperies dress the door and the big bay window in which a comfortable banquette seats a party of five or six. Sconces filled with flowers hang on one wall, across from a big framed mirror on the other. A tiny bar with four stools stands between the dining room and open kitchen. Lazy ceiling fans gently circulate the early summer air. Tables are set with crisp, white tablecloths, ample wine glasses and small pewter lamps with white shades that are replicated on black wrought-iron chandeliers.

Aspasia's hostess, Kathleen Malloy, co-owner and spouse of chef Christos Tsardounis, provides a warm greeting and knowledgeable description of the menu and wine list. Aspasia reminds us of innumerable restaurants in France that are run by spousal teams, one handling the ovens and the other the front of the house.

The wine list, while lacking enough inexpensive choices (only one red and two whites are priced under $30), has been carefully selected and is far from the clichéd collection often imposed by distributors. The most reasonably priced red, 1987 Premieres Cotes de Blaye Chateau Les Ricards ($29), was first-rate: full fruit, good structure, pronounced tannins but with a smooth, mellow finish.

Aspasia's menu is small but varied, with seven appetizers and seven main courses. (Why Aspasia insists on calling the main courses "entrees," perpetuating a linguistic quirk of American menus, is a puzzling departure from its authenticity and attention to detail overall.) Black mission figs baked with gorgonzola and prosciutto ($9) were an imaginative and creative treat. The sweetness of the figs, tang of the gorgonzola cheese and salty richness of the ham, together with a small frisée salad with full-bodied balsamic vinegar, made an engaging palate pleaser. Grilled quail with baby artichokes and roasted shallots ($10) combined a plump, moist little bird with golden skin and tender flesh with an array of baby artichokes and golden brown, roasted shallots. While the outer leaves of the artichokes were too course to eat in their entirety, the inner leaves and hearts were tender almost to a fault.

Our request for a half-order of the wild mushroom risotto, listed on the menu as a main course at $20, was promptly and graciously accommodated, with the price cut exactly in half. Creamy in texture, the risotto was studded with pleasantly textured wild mushrooms, slices of black truffle and crunchy asparagus tips.

Aspasia's main courses included a voluptuous rack of lamb accompanied by a moist and flavorful lamb shank. The four hefty ribs, roasted to medium rare as requested, were tasty and tender. A pronounced but not overwhelming dose of garlic and warm Mediterranean herbs enlivened the meat. A medley of young vegetables, including shallots, peas and asparagus, was arrayed on one side of the lamb, with a generous mound of smooth, creamy mashed potatoes on the other. Only the jungle of tough, stemmy greens, which for no understandable reason had been piled alongside and partially covered the meat and potatoes, marred the dish.

Pepper-crusted sirloin with *panzanella* salad, Vidalia onion jam and Great Hill bleu cheese ($25) constituted the second red meat offering. The steak was cut into thick slices, rare and tender, and presented as an intricate sculpture on a pedestal con-

stemmed greens—an unfortunate and ill-advised afterthought—found its way onto the plate like an uninvited guest. Why it is that so many excellent Boston area chefs, whose finesse and skill is otherwise manifest, succumb to the temptation to cover every square centimeter of a plate with extraneous, obtrusive garnishes?

Desserts (both $6) consisted of the obligatory crème brulee, served warm in a small ramekin—its caramelized sugar crust a little too hard and thick—and a flourless chocolate cake, garnished by sparse dripping of raspberry coulis. While the desserts were perfectly serviceable, they did not measure up to the excellence of the dishes that preceded them.

The greeting, explanation of the menu and wine list, and general ambiance of this tiny restaurant started out on a very high note. Unhappily, the attentiveness of the servers and hostess deteriorated in the course of the evening as the place filled up. Their warmth and friendliness, with both regular patrons and among themselves, was admirable, but a bit more care in providing attentive, responsive, consistent service would have been welcome. The considerable merit of this estimable eatery and its talented chef deserve no less. iB

structed of a crouton, onion relish, spinach, tomatoes and bleu cheese. The steak was tender, its robust beef flavor nicely complemented by the bite of the bleu cheese, the sweetness of the tomatoes and onion, and the pleasant bitterness of the spinach. We regretted only the vertical presentation, which distracted and detracted from the merit of the dish.

The final main course we tried, our only venture into the seafood side of the menu, was seared Maine sea scallops with Oregon morels and red bliss potatoes ($23). Since the reopening of the Georges Bank scallop beds, succulent sea scallops have been in great abundance on Boston area menus. These huge exemplars were superb—sweet and tender, with a felicitous accompaniment of sweet shallots; earthy, wrinkled morels; and potatoes first baked and then mashed, with a texture that reflects the combined cooking methods. Sadly, another tangled pile of tough

Aspasia

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Hot Fun, Cold Fish, Un-Indian Summer

Garden Party Goes for the Green.... Fish Dancer Debuts....Vox Lunch

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

Anthony Caturano, chef/owner of the North End's newest, Prezza, cooks rustic Mediterranean.

Why, on a sweltering Sunday afternoon, would the idea of free hot meals draw almost 200 people to a garden party on a city terrace?

Because the hot meals in question are delivered daily by **Community Servings** to hundreds of home-bound people living with AIDS. And because the party was hosted by **Deborah Hughes** and **Mary-Catherine Deibel**, who not only closed the entire dining room of **Up Stairs at the Pudding** for the benefit but also donated the festive fare for the evening. And finally, because the relationship between the Pudding proprietresses and Community Servings is especially warm and uniquely long-lived.

Current executive director **David Waters**, who was a manager at the Pudding when Community Servings was founded 10 years ago, recalled that the organization held its first meetings at the restaurant and kept its records on the Pudding's computer. Today, Community Servings is known for its incredibly efficient fund-raising: 90 percent goes to service and outreach.

Noting that the garden party raised $5,000 (which buys about a 1,000 meals), Waters praised the generosity of the Pudding and expressed gratitude to the area restaurants for their support. "So much of what we are today, we owe to Boston's restaurant community," he said.

That community, of course, is expanding all the time. **Todd** "man-of-a-thousand-concepts" **English** has just opened the downtown doors of **KingFish Hall**, which is big enough to feature four walk-in refrigerators, including one in a 36-degree "Fish Room" reserved exclusively for fish storage and preparation. At the end of the bar, there's a English-designed vertical grill that will rotate whole fish on its spokes. English has dubbed his invention the "Fish Dancer" – you go, gill!

A few steps away from KingFish Hall, the **Exchange** is trying to resurface after opening with a splash a few years ago, and then slipping from the radar screen. Managing partner **Harry** says he's "relaunching the restaurant" with "two young chefs with a lot of enthusiasm" and a straightforwardly enticing offer: a "two-for-one special" at lunch. The new chefs are **Jake Pease**, formerly of **Mistral**, and **Jon Peters** of the **Westin**. So far, so good, says Harry: "In about two months, we've gone from 20 covers at lunch to 120 covers a day."

SECOND COURSE

When is an Indian restaurant not an Indian restaurant? When it's been conceptualized by a consortium, repeatedly exposed to demographic focus groups and designed by an avant garde architectural firm whose vision includes steel mesh privacy screens between banquettes and an enclosed, woven wood "hookah den." And though it's been christened "Mantra" (what *were* those focus groups thinking when they approved a Sanskrit name?) and the chef comes to Boston from **Le Meridien Hotel** in Bombay, let's not jump to conclusions before meditating on the menu, which includes sevian-crusted panache of yellowfin and salmon with gongura vinaigrette; sandalwood smoked quail with curry leaf and quinoa upma; and tropical herb-crusted rack of lamb with a dry ginger and ratanjog jus. Does it walk and talk like a vindaloo duck, or is it the anti-curry? Stay tuned for a September opening at 52 Temple Place.

Less exotic is the reincarnation of the former **Back Bay Brewing Co.** as **Vox Populi**. The brew pub is undergoing a total makeover under the aegis of architect **Steven Sousa**, who revamped sibling restaurants **Barcode** and **Commonwealth Fish & Beer**. Look for a bigger downstairs bar and an upstairs bar with several lounge areas to make the most of a newly acquired full liquor license, and a new dining room to showcase the upscale menu of **Chef Michael Burgess**. Don't look for the kind of entertainment that best fits the restaurant's name: karaoke.

New in the North End: The latest restaurant to spring up around the FleetCenter is **Prezza** at 24 Fleet St., where chef/owner **Anthony Caturano** has been cooking up rustic Mediterranean cuisine since mid-April. **iB**

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant? Send it to *dish@improper.com*

WINE

The Problem with Corks

BY SANDY BLOCK MW

At a wine tasting I conducted some years ago, I could not help noticing the lukewarm reaction given to a normally very popular midpriced Chardonnay. None of the consumers who asked to taste it appeared satisfied. During a momentary lull I discovered why: The now almost empty bottle smelled musty and it had a damp, fruitless flavor. The bottle was "corked."

Nobody who tried the wine mentioned this to me—probably because they didn't recognize it as a flaw. The wine wasn't undrinkable—it was just flat and unpleasant. Most likely people assumed that was how it was supposed to taste so they spilled it out and moved on. The irony is that this Chardonnay, reeking of cork mold, probably should not have been bottled with a cork stopper in the first place because it fell squarely among the 90 percent of the world's wines that are produced for almost immediate consumption.

Wineries use cork because it's a natural substance, impervious to liquids and gases, that effectively keeps air out of a wine bottle requiring storage over several years. But it's estimated that somewhere between 2 and 5 percent of the 15 billion corks that get driven into wine bottles each year are tainted with molds that, to varying degrees, diminish the flavors of the wine. And most industry insiders candidly acknowledge that this percentage has increased in the recent past. Although cork may be the only material that is proven to preserve wines requiring substantial bottle age, it has no more than a cosmetic advantage for the great majority of wines.

It's synthetic vs. authentic when it comes to corkage.

A few important facts: If you order a bottle of wine in a restaurant and it tastes corked, the odds are infinitesimal that the next bottle of the same wine will be tainted as well. If you don't like the second bottle either, it most likely has nothing to do with the cork. Corkiness is a matter of degrees: Some wines are completely ruined, while others taste vaguely unappealing. In the latter case, it's wise to ask someone knowledgeable in the restaurant to confirm your suspicion. Corks often get blamed when a bottle is first opened for any "off" aromas and flavors. In most cases, if you're unsure whether the cork is at fault, swirling the wine in the glass and then letting it rest for a short period of time should solve the problem. A corked bottle of wine gets progressively more objectionable after it's been opened, whereas aeration improves the flavor of most other wines. Finally, and most important, if a bottle is corked and you drink it, there's no danger to your health whatsoever.

Because of the seemingly insoluble problems with corks, a growing movement to find alternatives has developed. Although lacking the same degree of ritualistic mystique, the most popular non-cork stoppers are equally effective in preserving the quality of wines that do not need to age, without any appreciable incidence of moldiness. Screw caps, effective as they may be, share an obvious downscale image that makes them unacceptable as a stopper for fine wines. Synthetic corks, however, made of food-grade foam plastics, have become increasingly popular as they are nonreactive and provide security from spoilage and they share some of the same aesthetic appeal as a real cork.

If you've never seen one of these corks, they do require the use of a corkscrew. In addition to a greater assurance of pristine wine quality, the advantage is that synthetic corks don't split if you insert the point of the corkscrew improperly. Their only potential drawback is that it's harder to pound them back into an unfinished bottle. As might be expected, it's the less tradition-bound wine-producing regions that have embraced these new types of bottle closures. So far public acceptance has been relatively positive. Although many larger wineries have ongoing test marketing experiments to determine how consumers might react to cork alternatives, none have been willing to make the commitment, even though it would clearly preserve quality. In fact, a number of important wine brands have recently converted from screw caps to corks in an effort to build a more upscale image for their products—despite all of the acknowledged quality concerns. **iB**

Tastings BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for tastings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

EVENTS

Bal Musette
Cafe Fleuri, Le Meridien, 250 Franklin St., Boston (451-1900, ext. 7125). July 13, 6-10pm. $39. At this popular event, guests enjoy an elaborate gourmet French country buffet and the singing of French cabaret standout Annie Royer.

Bastille Day at Maison Robert
45 School St., Boston (227-3370). MBTA: Green Line to Park. 7pm. $35 (excluding alcohol). Regulars confirm their tables six months in advance for this thoroughly French experience with wine and hors d'oeuvres on the terrace, followed by a gourmet dinner and dancing under the stars.

Bastille Day Bash
LeBocage, 72 Bigelow Ave., Watertown (923-1210). July 14, 6:30pm. $75. Le Bocage celebrates Bastille Day in the traditional fashion, with a seven-course wine dinner. **Len Rothenberg**, proprietor of Federal Wine & Spirits, will honor French enology.

Brasserie Jo Salutes Tall Ships
120 Huntington Ave., Boston (425-3240). July 11-21. Brasserie Jo will serve a Sail Boston menu, featuring Franco-Italian dishes and Campari cocktails, to commemorate the historic sailing of Italian Tall Ship *Amerigo Vespucci*.

Chefs in Shorts
Seaport Hotel, 164 Northern Ave., Boston (385-4300). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. 7-9:30pm. $40. A casual clambake with some of the area's top culinary talents, including Aura's **Ed Doyle**, Anago's **Bob Calderone**, Icarus' **Chris Douglass**, The Vault's **Michael Foley**, **Andy Husbands** of Tremont 647 and Casablanca's **Ana Sortun**. Proceeds benefit the Boston chapter of Chefs Collaborative 2000.

John Harvard's Brew House Eighth Annual BBQ Festival
33 Dunster St., Cambridge (868-3585). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. July 21-23, 11:30am-11pm. Chef **Frank L'Heureux** makes such specialties as beef brisket, pulled pork, smoked mixed grill of sausages, hush puppies, half-smoked chicken and Kentucky bourbon pecan pie.

Lobster Clambake Buffet
Cafe Fleuri, 250 Franklin St., Boston (451-1900, ext. 7125). July 10-16. $29.95. Chef **Mark Sapienza** cooks up his popular lobster clambake buffet, usually available on Thursday evenings, for the entire week of Sail Boston 2000.

Sandrine's Bistro Bastille Day
8 Holyoke St., Cambridge (497-5300). July 14, 5-11pm. Food will be served from seven of Boston's finest restaurants, along with music and a silent auction to benefit Community Servings.

Sparkling Westport: Seafood Series II
Westport Rivers Vineyard & Winery, 417 Hixbridge Road, Westport, Mass. (508-636-3423). July 22, 5-7:30pm. $40. Taste the best coming out of Georges Bank paired with Westport's newly released sparkers. Chef **Steve Johnson** of Cambridge's Blue Room and a representative of Foley Fish will be among the special guests.

Three Cooks—Three Courses
The B Side Lounge, 92 Hampshire St., Cambridge (354-0766). July 18. $30. On the third Tuesday of each month, Chef **Jeff Unger** hosts a "Three Cooks-Three Courses" event, during which he chooses a timely ingredient or theme and invites two other chefs along to each prepare a course. Tonight, **Todd English** from Olives and Bricco's **Bill Bradley** cook lobster.

TASTY TIDBIT

TALL SHIP SALUTE

Saltbank fishermen back in the late 19th century were hearty eaters, consuming a high-calorie, high-protein diet especially suited to the strenuous and often cold work. "It wasn't very good food," says Edward Tolini, chef/owner of LeBocage (above). "In fact, it was quite terrible," he adds with a laugh. Thus, when Tolini and his staff salute the arrival of the Tall Ships this week with a special menu, he plans to serve food "inspired by what the sailors and fishermen would have eaten," he says. That means he'll dish up tasty, hot leek-and-potato soup with flaked salted cod; sauteed codfish cheeks with fried onions and bacon; and Brittany seafood stew. Take it from us—that's a big improvement on traditional fishermen's fare, with such delicacies as "blood ends"—codfish backbones broiled and served with pork scraps and onions—and Hardown pot pie made of sea ducks found on the Grand Banks. "It wasn't too difficult to make the dishes taste better," Tolini adds. *LeBocage, 72 Bigelow Ave., Watertown (923-1210). July 11-13. Meet a sailor from French ship* Bel Espoir, *and find out what it's like to live on a Tall Ship July 12.*

Van Gogh's Lunch Table
Turner Fisheries Lounge, Stuart and Dartmouth Streets, Boston (424-7425). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 11:30am-2pm. July 3-Sept. 8. $48. Chef **David Teig** has created a special three-course menu inspired by the influential painter. Lunch includes one weekday ticket to the MFA's *Van Gogh: Face to Face* exhibition.

Wine Barbecue
Rialto, One Bennett Street, Cambridge (661-5050). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. July 17, 6:30pm. $125. Chef **Jody Adams**, chef **Bobby Flay** of New York's Mesa Grill and Bolo, and winemaker **Andrew Murray** of Andrew Murray Vineyards in Santa Barbara, present this seven-course grilled meal accompanied by fine wines.

Wine Tasting with Lorenzo
Les Zygomates, 29 South St., Boston (542-5108).
• July 16: Enjoy a Bastille Day celebration with Lorenzo and the staff of Les Zygomates.

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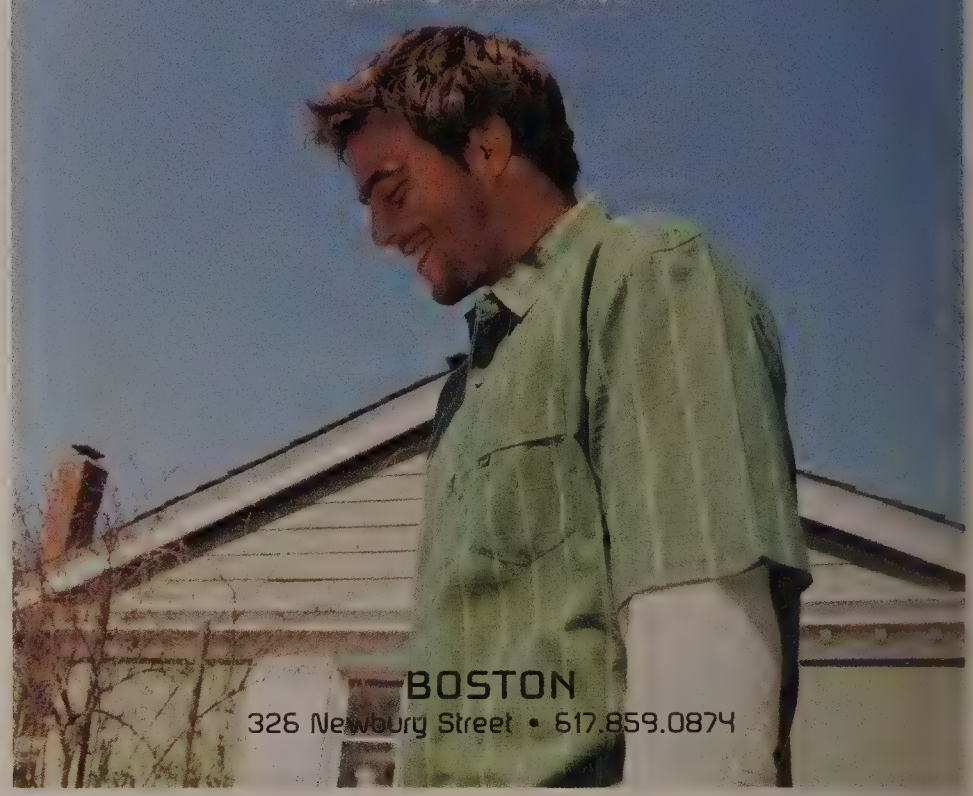

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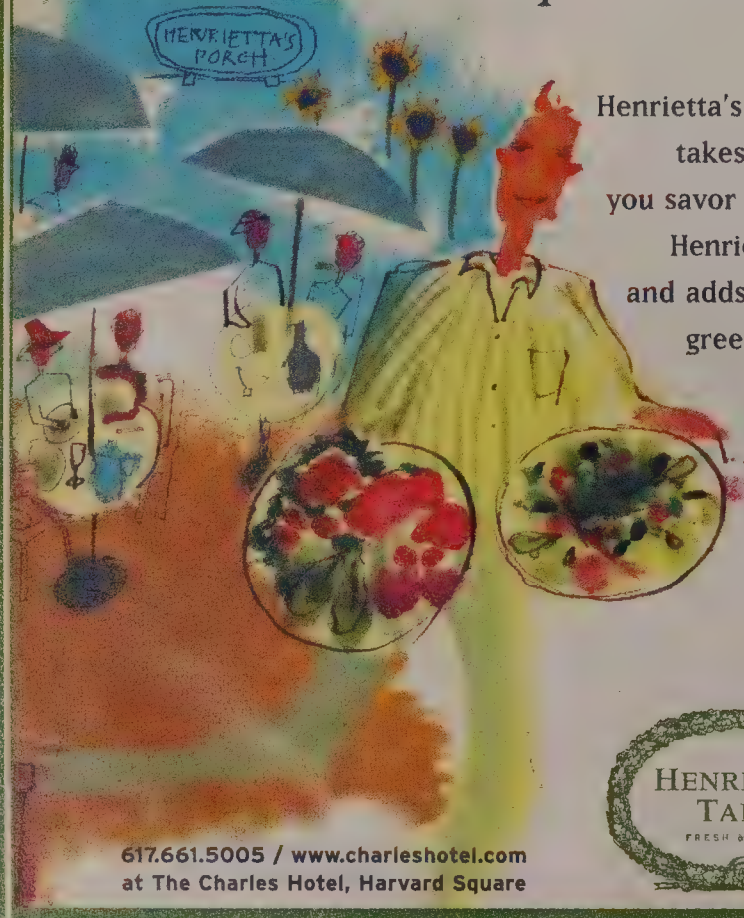

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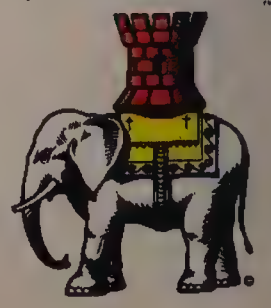

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agenda

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN OR OUT IN BOSTON.

Julie and Erin

Sail Boston 2000
The sailors of the Tall Ships welcome landlubbers aboard their vessels through July 16

THE CALENDAR GIRLS'

improper picks

Too busy (or just too lazy) to plan your own schedule? Life don't get easier than this.

Wednesday, July 12

Erin: Keith Lockhart conducts the Boston Pops first performance of the season at **Tanglewood**. (See Classical Music.)
Julie: All this week you can board the Tall Ships at **Sail Boston 2000.** (See CityScope.)

Thursday, July13

Erin: The **Tall Ships Harbor Cruise** offers unique water views of the Tall Ships. Also, there's an **Outdoor Music Series** at the Boston Center for the Arts. Local bands perform music from Japan, Latin America, Africa and the Caribbean. (See City Scope.)
Julie: For a more peaceful, meditative evening, head to Forest Hills Cemetery for the second annual **Lanern Floating Festival**. (See CityScope.)

Friday, July14

Julie: More than 3,000 Bostonians will help celebrate France's birthday at the French Library and Cultural Center's annual **Bastille Day** block party. (See CityScope.)
Erin: The ***Boston Globe* Jazz and Blues Festival** continues with Mango Blues, the Fully Celebrated Orchestra and Soul City at Fan Pier, plus James Montgomery and Poncho Sanchez at Copley Square. (See Music.)

Saturday, July 15

Erin: The MFA's **French Film Festival** continues with *Children of the Marshland* by Jean Becker and *Empty Days*. (See Film.)
Julie: Two pyrotechnic powerhouses compete at the **Battle of the Barges**. It's also the **Cultural Heritage Festival** on City Hall Plaza. (See CityScope.)

Sunday, July 16

Julie: Bid adieu to the majestic **Tall Ships** at the Boston Harbor. (See CityScope)
Erin: The Coolidge features Alison MacLean's film, ***Jesus' Son***, with a star-studded cast that includes Dennis Hopper, Holly Hunter and Denis Leary. (See Film.)

Monday, July 17

Erin and **Julie**: Dance by the light of the moon on the Charles River footbridge at the **Tango by Moonlight** event. (See Dance.)

Tuesday, July 18

Erin: Porter Square's **Book Cellar** features an evening with **Jack Powers**. (See Books & Poetry.)
Julie: Pack a picnic and a blanket and settle yourself on the grass for Shakespeare on the Common's ***The Tempest***. (See Theater.)

Wednesday, July 19

Julie: Meet the IMPROPER gang at the Rack's **Summer Time Party** featuring the BaHa Brothers. (See CityScope.) It's also Neiman Marcus' **Last Call**. (See Sales & Fashion.)
Erin: During the day, head to City Hall Plaza to see a free concert by **Paul Revere and the Raiders**. At night, Avalon hosts the **Spit Knickers Tour** with De La Soul, Common, Pharoahe Monche, Biz Markie, Talib Kewli and Hi-Tech. (See Music.)

Thursday, July 20

Julie: Some of Boston's best chefs host a casual clambake at the **Chefs In Shorts** event at the Seaport Hotel. (See Tastings.)
Erin: The **Vans Warped Tour** features the Jurassic 5, Dilated Peoples, Hot Water Music and Vision of Disorder at Suffolk Downs. (See Music.)

Friday, July 21

Julie: Hailed as the world's greatest living mime, **Marcel Marceau** is at the American Repertory Theatre this week. (See Theater.)
Erin: Throw on a sweatshirt and head to the Esplanade for **Friday Flicks at the Hatch Shell.** (See CityScope.)

Saturday, July 22

Julie: Join Union and Confederate Volunteers and the MDC for the 27th annual **Civil War Encampment** on George's Island. (See City Scope.)
Erin: My all-time favorite, **Bob Dylan** plays with Phil Lesh at the Tweeter Center. (See Music.)

Sunday, July 23

Julie: **Back to the Beach 2000** is a day of fun at Wollaston beach with music, lifeguard demos, volleyball and sand castle-building contests. (See CityScope.)
Erin. East Boston turns into a piazza of Italian food, games and entertainment at the **Italia Unita** festival. (See CityScope.)

Monday, July 24

Julie: Apparently **Contras and Squares** dances are all the rage. Check out this trend at the Scout House. (See Dance.)
Erin: Don't miss the recently opened ***Van Gogh: Face to Face*** exhibition at the MFA. (See Art.)

Tuesday, July 25

Julie: Take a date to the **Magicians and Spirits** at the Green Street Grill. (See Comedy.)
Erin: Brookline Booksmith hosts bestselling author **Elizabeth Berg** (*Durable Goods*), who reads from *Open House*. (See Books & Poetry.)

CITYSCOPE **48** • PERFORMING ARTS **52** • ART **54** • FILM **56** • EDUCATION **58** • BOOKS & POETRY **59** • CLASSICAL MUSIC **60** • DANCE CLUBS **62** • MUSIC **64** • GAY & LESBIAN **68** • BODY & MIND **70** • CHILDREN **70** • SPORTS **70** •SALES & FASHION **72** • GO AWAY **72**. EDITED BY: **ERIN HAGEDORN:** Art, Books & Poetry, Dance, Dance Clubs, Film, Gay & Lesbian, Go Away, Music. EDITED BY: **JULIE SHORT:** Children, CityScope, Comedy, Education, Go Away, Sales & Fashion, Sports, Tastings, Theater. ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY: **Laurel Kirtz** Body & Mind • **Paul Sherman:** Film Capsules

cityscope

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a list of festivals, events and benefits taking place in the Boston area by date.

Festivals, Events Expos & Benefits

Wednesday, July 12

Sail Boston 2000
Boston Harbor (439-7700). www.sailboston.com. *July 10-20.* Some 7 million spectators are expected to visit Boston to herald in more than 200 international and domestic sailing vessels representing 35 nations as part of Tall Ships 2000. From July 11-20, visitors can climb aboard the ships and participate in various other events related to the ships. Be sure to check out the Web site for a detailed schedule of events.

Thursday, July 13

Tall Ships Harbor Cruise
Boston Harbor (482-1722). 5-7pm. $30. Join the Boston Harbor Association for an early evening harbor tour. Enjoy special on-water views of the Tall Ships.

Outdoor Music Series
Boston Center for the Arts plaza, Boston (426-7700). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay. 6-8pm. Free. Thursday is the first of seven outdoor concerts that will feature local artists performing international music. The Boston bands will play music from Japan, Latin America, Africa and the Caribbean. **Odaiko New England** starts off the series with its unique *taiko* (Japanese drumming) sound. The next installment (July 20) is Gifrants with his guitar and an accompanying seven-piece band that will perform Haitian, Brazilian and jazz songs.

Friday, July 14

Bastille Day 2000!
53 Marlborough St., Boston (266-4351). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 5pm. $200; $20 (street dance only). More than 3,000 Bostonians will help celebrate France's birthday at the French Library and Cultural Center's annual Bastille Day block party. At 5pm, enjoy a dinner and silent auction. From 6-7:30pm, a special time is set aside for puppet shows, street artists, games, hat-making and other activities. At 7:30pm, Marlborough Street transforms itself into Boulevard St. Michel. Relax at an outdoor cafe, dance to the West African rhythms of Rumbafrica, savor a warm crepe or sip a glass of wine while you stroll among the artists.

Boston Globe Jazz & Blues Festival
Locations throughout the city (267-4301). www.boston.com/jazzfest. *Through July 16.* This year's lineup includes a range from soulful blues to hopping swing performed by both national and local performers. See the Music section for more detailed information.

Cultural Heritage Festival
City Hall Plaza, Boston (267-2400). www.B2Kevents.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. July 14-15.* Celebrate Boston's ethnic cultures with music, dance, food and other special events.

Friday Flicks at the Hatch Shell
Esplanade at the Hatch Shell, Boston. MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. Through Aug. 1. Sunset. WBZ sponsors free outdoor flicks at the Hatch Shell. Films are announced one day prior to the event.

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Fridays. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

Saturday, July 15

Battle of the Barges
Boston Harbor (267-2400). www.B2Kevents.com. *9pm.* Two pyrotechnic powerhouses compete in a display of brilliance launched from separate barges.

Cultural Heritage Festival
City Hall Plaza, Boston (267-2400). www.B2Kevents.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. July 14-15.* See July 14 for more information.

Escape the hustle and bustle of the city at the Lantern Floating Festival, held July 13 at Forest Hills Cemetery. The non-denominational ceremony is an opportunity for tranquil introspection.

Preview

Lantern Festival

When dusk falls upon Forest Hills Cemetery on July 13, hundreds of Bostonians will light a candle and send their thoughts (and handmade paper lanterns) floating across the pond to the sound of a lone bagpiper's call. The cemetery is home to the unique Lantern Floating Festival. Pack a picnic and enjoy this evening of ethnic music, dance and song, concluding with the ceremonial launching of paper lanterns. You'll be given paper to write the name of a loved one or a personal message, and calligraphers will be on hand to brush black ink onto the white paper. The non-denominational festival draws on the universal meaning of light as a symbol of life and death—and of remembrance, healing and hope. ***Forest Hills Cemetery, 95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (524-0128). 6:30-9pm.***

Limousine Scavenger Hunt
Meet at Three Cheers, 290 Congress St., Boston (267-4430). 8:30-11:30pm. $50. Gather a group of six at the Boston Center for Adult Education and then board your own stretch limo. With a Polaroid camera and a customized scavenger list in hand, roam the city in search of the items on the list and capture as many of them on film as three hours will allow.

Sunday, July 16

Departing Tall Ships Parade
New England Aquarium, Boston (973-5206). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. 10am-2pm. $50. Bid the Tall Ships adieu on this cruise sponsored by the aquarium.

Monday, July 17

Tango by Moonlight
Weeks Memorial Footbridge, Cambridge (699-6246). July 17, 8pm. In the glow of the full moon, join the Tango Society of Boston for some late-night festivities.

Tuesday, July 18

Summer SOULstice Mini Festival
Christian Science Plaza, 175 Huntington Ave., Boston (450-3131). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Through Aug. 29. Enjoy a new music and arts festival every Tuesday at noon with a host of musicians, artists and storytellers. •July 18, 12pm: *Let's Go West.* See participatory theater about pioneers.

Wednesday, July 19

Swingin' Under the Stars
Faneuil Hall, Boston (523-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Wed. and Thu. evenings, 6-10pm. The marketplace turns into an outdoor dance hall, pulsing with the beats of swing, Latin, country and disco bands.

Summertime Party
The Rack, 24 Clinton St., Boston (725-1051). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 5pm. The Rack welcomes you and summertime with some all-night merry-making. Music provided by the BaHa brothers, guests from Star 93.7 FM, and hip sponsors including your favorite mag (THE IMPROPER, of course) come together for an exciting evening downtown. Special prize: Jimmy Buffet tickets.

Raisin' the Roof
The Black Rhino, 21 Broad St., Boston (524-8891). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 6-9pm. $20. The second annual fund-raising event for Habitat for Humanity at the Black Rhino features the music of Pretty Cool Chair and a raffle.

Thursday, July 20

Chefs in Shorts
Outside the Seaport Hotel and World Trade Center, Boston (385-4300). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. 7-9:30pm. $40. A casual clambake with some of the area's top culinary talent. Proceeds benefit the Boston chapter of Chefs Collaborative 2000.

Summer Merengue Night and Roof Deck Social
Sophia's, 1270 Boylston St., Boston (312-5410). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7pm. $15. Join the young Jewish professionals of the J Connection for a hot summer merengue night and a roof-deck social at Sophia's. Don't know how to merengue? Take a lesson at 8pm.

Friday, July 21

Friday Flicks at the Hatch Shell
Esplanade on the Hatch Shell, Boston. MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. Through Aug. 1. Sunset. WBZ sponsors this free outdoor flicks at the Hatch Shell. Films are announced one day prior to the event.

Italia Unita
Central Square, East Boston (561-3201). July 21-23. 6pm. East Boston transforms into a piazza of Italian food, games and entertainment. This three-day celebration introduces non-Italians to Italian food, folklore and traditions. Indulge in a variety of Italian dishes and desserts, play bocce or watch live tomato jarring demonstrations. Try your hand at Monte Carlo nights, Fri.-Sat., 8pm-1am; Sun. 6-11pm. •July 21: Boogie Nights, New York's popular disco cover band, will entertain. •July 22: The Village People will headline with "YMCA" and "Macho Man." •July 23: Gigione will perform a mix of contemporary and Italian classics.

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). Fridays. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

Tall Ships Salute Singles Cruise and Dance
Rowes Wharf, Boston (781-446-0260). July 21, 5-10pm. $35. Celebrate the Tall Ships coming to town with a cruise. Dine on hors d'oeuvres and then dance the night away.

Saturday, July 22

Civil War Encampment
George's Island (727-7676). July 22, 11am-5pm; July 23, 11am-3pm. Join the Union and Confederate Volunteers and the MDC for the 27th annual encampment where the triumphs and tragedies of the Civil War come to life. Demos include an infantry assault, military drills, camp life and military and civilian dress.

Italia Unita
Central Square, East Boston (561-3201). July 21-23. East This three-day celebration introduces non-Italians to Italian food, folklore and traditions. Try your hand at Monte Carlo nights, Fri.-Sat., 8pm-1am; Sun. 6-11pm. •July 22: The Village People will headline with "YMCA" and "Macho Man."

Sunday, June 23

Back to the Beaches 2000
Wollaston Beach, Quincy (727-1300, ext. 555). MBTA: Red Line to Wollaston. 12-4pm. A day of fun at the beach sponsored by KISS 108FM including the MDC All Star Band, rock 'n' roll bands, lifeguard demonstrations, swimming lessons, volleyball, face painting, kite making, sand-castle-building contests, trivia contests, prizes, a dunk tank, moonbounce and super slide.

Second Annual Tropical Night Fund-raiser
Community Boating Sailing Pavilion, near the Hatch Shell, Boston (523-1038). MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. 8pm-12am. $17. Community Boating's fund-raiser includes dancing and tropical entertainment on the docks with reggae music performed by Hot Like Fire. Proceeds benefit the Junior Program, which provides sailing for Boston-area children for just $1 per season.

Tuesday, July 25

Summer SOULstice Mini Festival
Christian Science Plaza, 175 Huntington Ave., Boston (450-3131). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Through Aug. 29. Enjoy a new music and arts festival every Tuesday at noon with a host of musicians, artists and storytellers. •July 25, 12pm: MFT Dance Company performs. Also, purchase greenery at the Plantmobile, sponsored by the Massachusetts Horticulture Society.

Volunteer

Alliance for Children
(781-431-7148). July 20, 7-9pm. Learn how to adopt a child from abroad.

Boston Cares
(263-CARE). More than 70 volunteer opportunities available in Greater Boston.

Boston Living Center
(236-1012). HIV/AIDS service organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Boston-New York AIDS Ride
(859-8282, ext. 230). Ride is Sept. 15. Work on mass mailings, phone banking and other projects.

Community Servings
(445-7777). Help prepare and deliver meals for individuals and families dealing with AIDS.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

Friday Night Supper Program
Arlington Street Church (536-7050, ext. 22). Help prepare, cook and serve meals on Fridays, 5-7pm.

The Greater Boston Food Bank
(427-5200). Groups needed to sort donated food.

Horizons Initiative
(287-1900). Volunteers needed to play with children living in shelters. Daytime and evening hours available.

Jewish Community Volunteer Program
(558-6585). Volunteers are needed to share fun times with an isolated senior.

The Jimmy Fund
(632-3861). June 9-mid-July. Volunteers are needed to pass the canisters in local movie theaters.

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(536-3557). Assist elders with such tasks as reading, shopping, basic home repairs or going for a walk.

Mass. Eating Disorder Association
(558-1881). Volunteers needed for four hours per week for help line, assisting clinical staff and special events.

Pan-Massachusetts Challenge
(800-WE-CYCLE). Event: Aug. 5-6. Help with setup, registration, food service and cleanup.

Pine Street Inn
(521-7626). Seeking volunteers for summer to serve meals and act as receptionist for homeless guests.

"sumptuous sushi"
Improper Bostonian

"a slice of heaven"
Boston Magazine

SHE watches Fellini, listens to Schoenberg, lives for espresso, dreams in noir, **pines for a good bowl of udon.**

something in common

HE is chained to his laptop, plays golf every Sunday, likes two coats of wax on the Benz, and **insists that the sushi is fresh.**

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sushi bar
fine wines

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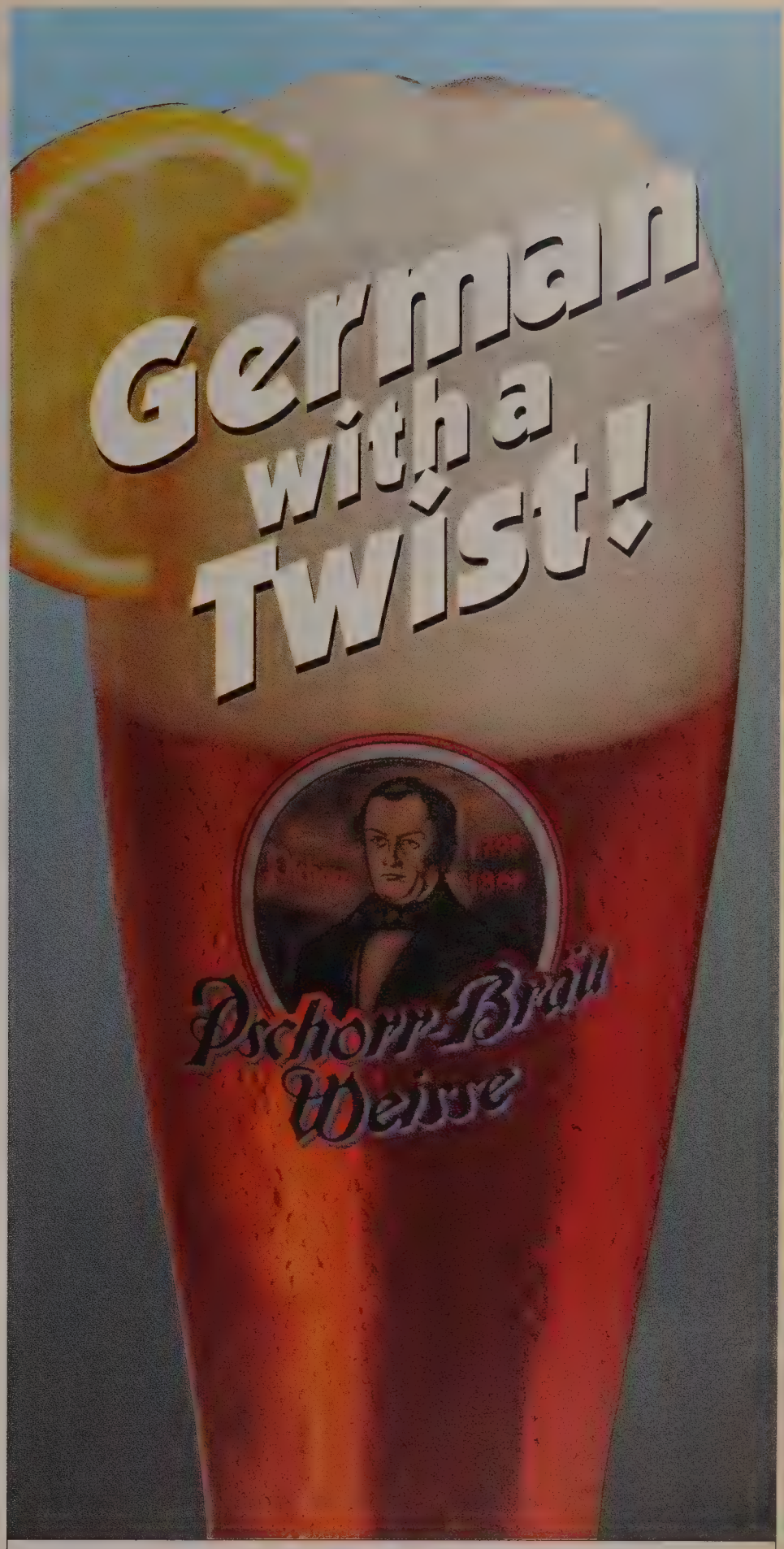

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East Boston transforms into a piazza of Italian food and entertainment at Italia Unita July 21-23.

Ride for Hunger
(723-5000). Sept. 17, 8am and 9am. Two bicycle routes to help the hungry: 40K and 100K.

Rosie's Place
(442-9322). Volunteers needed for the dining room, clothing room, the groceries program and office work.

United Services Organization (USO)
(720-4949). Participate in hospital visits, provide office support, coordinate receptions and assist with events.

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Seeks individuals to assist legal immigrants and refugees to become naturalized citizens.

Tours

Big Dig and South Boston Waterfront
Boston (426-1885). Saturdays, 11am. Through Nov. 4. $8. Learn about casting basins, slurry walls, bridges and tunnels and the history of the South Boston Waterfront. Observe firsthand how the Big Dig is progressing and how the waterfront is developing.

Boston Bike Tours
On Boston Common (308-5902). Begins April 15. Daily 9:30am-6:30pm. Daily two-hour tours, Mon.-Sat. 1-3pm; 4-6pm. Low-impact, guided sightseeing tours of Boston on bicycles. Rentals available.

Boston by Foot
(367-2345). www.bostonbyfoot.com. *May-October. $8.* Guided 90-minute walks highlight the architecture and history of the city.

Boston by Sea
Tours depart from Long Wharf (227-4321). Daily through Oct. 9. 1pm and 3pm. $25. Against the backdrop of the sights, smells and sounds of the harbor, the cruise—featuring live theater performances, sea shanties and video vignettes—will allow visitors to learn about pirates, clipper ships, the old immigration station, the *USS Constitution*, the lighthouse and the Boston Tea Party.

Boston Duck Tours
Prudential Center, Boston (723-DUCK). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. April-October. $21. The 80-minute tour on amphibious landing crafts takes groups through downtown and makes a final splash into the Charles.

Ghosts & Gravestones Tour
Meet at the Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Ave., Boston (269-7150). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Thursdays through Nov. 1 at dusk. Two hours. $29. This tour includes a walk through some of the city's burial grounds hosted by an 18th-century gravedigger.

Ghost Tours
Meet at Boston Common Visitor Information Center, 147 Tremont St., Boston (781-235-7149). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street. Selected evenings, 7:30pm. $12. Tour downtown Boston's most infamous haunted locations.

JFK's Boston
Meet at the Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Ave., Boston (269-7150). Sun. 1-3pm. Through Columbus Day. $30. This fully narrated tour visits the places that helped shape young Jack Kennedy into the nation's 35th president. Price includes admission to the JFK birthplace in Brookline and the JFK Library and Museum.

The Literary Trail
Tour begins at the Omni Parker House, corner of Tremont and School streets, Boston (574-5950). Saturdays, 9am-12:30pm. $35. Explore the heritage of some of the country's greatest authors, poets and social activists at eight literary historical landmarks in the Boston area.

Spirits of Freedom Walking Tours
Boston Common Visitor Information Center, Boston (635-7383). MBTA: Green Line to Park. July 14-16, 2:30-4pm. $10. In the different historic sites, you'll be greeted by the Freedom Trail Players who will talk about Revolutionary history.

Young Friends of the Public Garden Tour
Meet in front of George Washington statue at Arlington Street entrance, Boston (489-1291). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Thursdays, 6-6:45pm. Through Aug. 31. Learn about various statues, sculptures, flowers and trees with other young professionals.

Cruises

Beantown to P-Town
Long Wharf, Boston (227-4321). Boston Harbor Cruises offers high-speed catamaran service to Provincetown.

Boston to Provincetown Ferry
Bay State Cruise Company (748-1428). www.baystatecruisecompany.com. This boat has been outfitted to reflect the great tradition of the steamships that have made the run since 1847.

Kennedy Museum/Little Brewster Island Package
JFK Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (929-4500). Fridays, 10am and 2pm. $29 (includes boat ride, island tour and admission to museum). Tour Little Brewster Island and then see the Kennedy Library on this 3 1/2-hour tour.

Massachusetts Bay Lines
60 Rowes Wharf, Boston (542-8000). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium or Red Line to South Station. Daily 55-minute harbor tours sail Sun.-Sat. on the hour from 11am-6pm. $9. Nightly sunset cruises also available from 7-8:30pm for $16, and moonlight cruises from 8:45-10:15pm. Whale watching, daily 10am. $24. •Wednesday evenings, 7-10pm, $16: **Live Blues Cruise**. •Thursdays: **Rock n' Roll Cruise**, 7:30-10:30pm, $16.

Sea Harbor Tours
New England Aquarium, Boston (973-5206). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Daily. What lurks beneath the surface of Boston Harbor? Budding scientists pull lobster traps, check for salinity and turbidity and learn about the health of the harbor on this 90-minute cruise.

Sights to See

Boston Tea Party Ship and Museum
Congress St. Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Open daily, March-May and Sept.-Nov., 9am-5pm; closed Dec.-March. $8, $7 students, $4 children. You can dump your own bale into the harbor—and watch a museum guide scramble to retrieve it—at this replica of one of the ships emptied by colonists (disguised as Indians) during the Dec. 16, 1773, tea raid. Afterward, enjoy a cup of tax-free tea.

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Fifth Floor, Boston (353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), Oct.-March 7:30-8:30pm; April-Sept. 8:30-9:30pm. Free. BU's astronomers are available to answer questions and assist with telescopes as you check out Orion, Cassiopeia and the Big Dipper.

Bunker Hill Monument
Monument Square, Charlestown (242-5641). Daily 9am-5pm. Free. What's long and hard and shaped like a pencil? It's not what you think. It's the 221-foot monument honoring the men who died in the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Christian Science World Headquarters
Massachusetts and Huntington Avenues, Boston (450-2000). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential. Tue.-Sat. 9:30am-4pm, Sun. 11am-2pm. Tour the Mother Church—a giant basilica that seats 3,000 worshippers; a 700-foot-long reflecting pool; and a photo exhibit.

Copp's Hill Burial Ground
Hull and Snowhill Streets, Boston. MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Open dawn-dusk. Admission free. From Boston's second-oldest cemetery, you can see all the way across the Inner Harbor to Charlestown. Famous residents include the well-known Puritanical Mather family and Prince Hall, a prominent member of the free black community.

John Hancock Observatory
200 Clarendon St., Boston (572-6429). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open Mon.-Sat. 9am-11pm, Sun. 10am-11pm (May-Oct.) and noon-11pm (Nov.-April). Admission $4.50. The tallest building in New England (62 floors) offers much more than an awesome view. Listen to air-traffic controllers at Logan, test your knowledge of the city with a computer quiz, or relive some of Boston's most famous and infamous events.

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (566-7937). Wed.-Sun. 10 am-4:30pm. The birthplace and early boyhood home of the nation's 35th president.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat. 10am-2pm. Admission free. Alongside Boston's first Anglican church—a gloomy, granite apparition—you'll find a burial ground with equally ominous-looking headstones dating back to 1630. On Sundays, listen for the distinctive peal of the church bell cast by Paul Revere's foundry.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (635-3105). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Open daily 9am-5pm. Guided tours every half-hour, starting at 9am. Free. Known as the "Cradle of Liberty," Faneuil Hall—we're talking about the part above the eatery—was the site of many an angry man ranting and raving about the damn British in the mid-1700s. Today, you can check out the white-walled assembly room, but most people come here for the marketplace.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily 9 am-5pm. Free. Here, Paul Revere saw two lanterns shining on April 18, 1775, indicating that the British troops were crossing the Charles River to Lexington and Concord via boat. You remember... "One if by land, two if by sea."

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays 10am-4pm, weekends 10am-5pm. $3. A thousand fed-up men gathered in this church to decide whether or not to send three ships full of tea back to England. Guess what? They didn't. •New permanent exhibit: *Voices of Protest* traces the use of Old South Meeting House over three centuries for religious, political and social debate. •Middays at the Meeting House, a lunchtime music series. Thursdays, 12:15-1pm. $4. •June 28, 2pm: Inside the Sanctuary of Freedom. Join an architectural tour from balcony to basement. •June 30, 2pm: A Revolution Is Brewing: Join in the fiery colonial tea tax debates. •July 13 and July 20, 10am: A Revolution Is Brewing. •July 22, 2pm (at Faneuil Hall): Tea Is Brewing. A historical talk and debate about the tea tax. •July 23, 7:30pm: Free Concert. New England Hymn Festival.

Paul Revere House
19 North Square, Boston (523-2338). Nov. 1-April 14, 9:30am-4:15pm; April 15-Oct. 31, 9:30am-5:15pm. Built in 1680 and owned by Paul Revere from 1770 to 1800, this house offers a self-guided tour with illustrated text panels and museum interpreters.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-10pm, Sun. noon-10pm. $4, $3 seniors and students. After that tiring, 50-floor elevator ascent, you deserve a drink at the Top of the Hub lounge before you check out Boston's only 360-degree view tower. On a good day, you can see New Hampshire. The view here is slightly better than that of rival John Hancock.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8am-6pm. Free. Designed by H.H. Richardson and constructed in 1877, the huge Romanesque church in Copley Square rests upon 4,500 submerged wooden pilings, which help hold up the church's massive tower. A shaded courtyard offers respite from the heavily trafficked plaza. On Fridays at 12:15pm, stop by for a free organ concert.

Museums

Boston Tea Party Ship & Museum
Congress Street Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. March-Nov., 9am-dusk. $7, $5.50 students, $3.50. Colonial-clad sailors take you aboard *The Beaver*, a replica of the smallest of the three ships involved in the infamous tea rebellion. Paul Revere leads the hourly tea throwing and explains all about the fateful day irate Bostonians poured out the tea in protest of the tax decree issued by British parliament. Try your hand at rope-tying too.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June Tue.-Sat. 10 am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm; June-Aug. daily 10am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm. $5, children and seniors $3: Follow the red and white signs to the mother of all milk bottles. As you walk under it you'll feel as diminutive as your munchkin companion. See *Arthur's World* from the popular television series and children's books. This infamous aardvark is one of many hands-on favorites. •**Construction Zone!** Dig, tunnel, build (and tear down!) in this new exhibition inspired by the Big Dig.

Harriet Tubman House
566 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-8610). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. Weekdays 8am-8pm. Free admission. The Harriet Tubman Museum exhibits a collection of this influential black leader's achievements.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (929-4523). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily 9am-5pm (last film begins at 3:55pm). $8, students and seniors $6, children $4. This permanent collection on the life and legacy of President John F. Kennedy offers a re-created world of the early 1960s with period settings and 25 dramatic multimedia exhibits. Visitors experience firsthand the challenges faced by America during Kennedy's presidency. *John Glenn and the Space Race*, an exhibit about the man with the mission is now showing. •*Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy: First Lady*. Ongoing •*Treasures of the Kennedy Library.* A selection of the treasures, including sculpture, jewelry, paintings and documents. Through May 2000. •*Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy*. New ongoing exhibit. •*Jacqueline Kennedy Travels Abroad*. A special exhibit on items presented to the former First Lady on her travels to Paris, London, Rome, India and Pakistan. Through Nov. 1. •Opened June 3: *John F. Kennedy—Man of the Sea*. This exhibit documents JFK's naval career and celebrates his lifelong love of the sea and sailing. Items include his collections of scrimshaw, Tall Ship models and maritime paintings; his boyhood sailing trophies; and the 26-foot sailboat *Victura*.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (739-1200) www.afroam museum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays 10am-4pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.* The place is bustling after its recent endowment of more than $1 million to restore the meeting house's hallowed sanctuary. See the African Meeting House, the oldest black church in America.

Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, students and seniors $4, children $3; free*

She's a T. rex named Sue, and she's the newest exhibit at the Museum of Science.

to all Sat. 9am-12pm. This Harvard museum is made up of four factions: The **Botanical Museum**, **The Museum of Comparative Zoology**, the **Mineral & Geological Museum**, and the **Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology**. A number of exhibitions tie together all four of these distinct collections. The most famous is the Botanical Museum for its glass flowers collection—more than 3,000 models of more than 480 plant species. At the Museum of Comparative Zoology, check out the 42-foot-long mounted Kronosaurus (a really big lizard) and countless stuffed insects. The Mineral & Geological Museum's got a 16,000-pound Brazilian amethyst geode, and there's the dollhouse-esque Worlds in Miniature display at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnography. •New at the Peabody: *Heads and Tales: Adornments from Africa.* African people have developed hairstyles, headdresses, hats and many artifacts of visual interest to communicate messages to their friends and community about themselves and their society. •New at the Harvard Museum of Natural History: a 1 million-year-old saber-toothed cat.

Museum of Our National Heritage

33 Marrett Road, Route 2A, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.mnh.org. *Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 12-5pm. Free admission.* Explore history through pop culture. Topics range from Revolutionary artifacts to the latest in jigsaw-puzzle-solving techniques and American circus posters. •*Initiating America*, a historical look at fraternal organizations. Ongoing. •*The Lynn Beach Painters, Art Along the North Shore*, 1880-1920. Through Aug. 20. •Opened April 8: *Weaving the Dance: The Yeibichai Tradition in Navajo Rugs.* An exhibition on 20th-century Navajo pictorial textiles. •Opened June 24: *The Enchanted Clocks of George McFadden.* The museum presents a selection of 12 of these whimsical and charming timepieces. •Opening July 21: *Made in Massachusetts.* See items commonly found in Massachusetts homes during the past three centuries. •July 13, 10am-1pm: Craft Demonstration.

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu. 9am-5pm; Fri. 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children. Omni Theater, Hayden Planetarium or laser shows all $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children.* Find out how much you weigh on the moon, strap yourself into a space module or sift through sand on an archaeological dig. Enjoy 600 hands-on exhibits, including the *Theater of Electricity*, *Seeing Is Deceiving* and *Science in the Park* (Newtonian physics introduced through such accessible items as playground equipment and skateboards). •*To See the Sea* explores the ocean from the perspective of a deep-sea diver. •Now open: *Messages:* Discover why communication is central to everyday life. *Human Body Connection*: exhibits on anatomy, physiology and health. *The Light House: Beaming, Bouncing and Bending Light*: Learn the principles of optics, color and the nature of light with 18 hands-on activities. •*Reptiles: Real and Robotic*, through May 29. Learn about a variety of reptiles and their diverse habitats, which can live in searing deserts or the cold North Sea. •New: Cahners ComputerPlace. A lively environment filled with multimedia-rich software and Web-based experiences. •*Secrets of Aging* opened April 5. Explores the science behind the universal experience of aging. •*T Rex Exhibition.* July 2-September 2000. "Sue" is a fully mounted cast of the largest and most complete Tyrannosaurus ever unearthed. The exhibit will include video footage, interactive, touchable replicas and colorful graphics. •Mugar Omni Theater: *Mysteries of Egypt*; *Dolphins.* Opened May 5: *Michael Jordan to the Max.*

Charles Hayden Planetarium

Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children. Time of show changes daily.* Get high! High up, that is. And (then) go see the stars and rock-music laser shows. Check out the ongoing out-of-this-world multimedia installations *Life and Death of the Sun* and *The Sky Tonight*, and enjoy daily laser shows to the music of the Beastie Boys, Pink Floyd, Korn, Tool, Jimi Hendrix, Nine Inch Nails, among others. It's a trip. •*Journey to the Edge of Space and Time*: Ideas once considered crazy (like black holes) are now the building blocks of new knowledge. What next? •*Welcome to the Universe.* Now open. •Friday Night Stargazing, 8:30-10pm. Free. Weather permitting. •***Catastrophes in Space—When Stars End Their Lives.*** Audiences will learn that all stars grow old and die, and the death of a massive star creates new life, seeding space with new chemical elements and triggering the formation of new stars and planets. Through fall 2000.

Museum of Transportation

15 Newton St. (in Larz Anderson Park), Brookline (522-6547). MBTA: D Green Line to Reservoir, to bus 51. April-Oct., Wed.-Sun. 10am-5pm; Nov.-March, Wed.-Sun. 10am-4pm. $5, $3 seniors and students. This 1888 carriage house is the automobile buff's paradise—and the country's oldest private collection of antique autos. Featured cars range from Fords and Corvettes to Cadillacs and Italian imports. Lawn events are held on Sundays, 10am-2pm, throughout the summer, with food, refreshments, picnic areas, judging of cars and museum exhibits. •July 16, 10am: **British Car Day**. See nearly 200 MGs, Triumphs, Jaguars, Rolls-Royces, Aston-Martins and other popular British cars old and new. •July 23, 10am: **Day of Triumph**.

Old State House Museum

206 Washington St., Boston (720-3290). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily 9am-5pm. $3, students and seniors $2. Built in 1713, this original seat of colonial government was the place pre-Independence Bostonians first heard the Declaration of Independence read. •Opened March 31: ***Burning Issues: A History of Boston Through Fire***. This exhibit considers the significance of eight fire events in Boston's history with interactive experiences for the family.

Sports Museum of New England

FleetCenter, Boston (624-1234). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Adults, $5, children and seniors, $4. Exhibits of the great sports traditions of the Boston Garden, FleetCenter and Celtics.

USS Constitution & Museum

Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (426-1812). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, bus 93 to Navy Yard. Nov.-April 30: Open daily 10am-5pm. Free. Hear the stories of the individuals who authorized, built and served on the *USS Constitution*, the oldest commissioned warship afloat. Learn about its 200-year history hands on—hoist a sail, take the wheel, fire a cannon or swing in a hammock.

Zoos & Gardens

Arnold Arboretum

125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain (524-1718). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open weekdays: 9am-4pm, weekends: 12-4pm. Free. More than 14,000 exotic trees, shrubs and flowers make this the place to go when you need to escape the hustle and bustle of city life.

Franklin Park Zoo

1 Franklin Park Road, Boston (541-LION). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open Oct.-March daily 10am-4pm; April-Sept. weekdays 10am-5pm, weekends and holidays 10am-6pm. Admission $7, senior $6, children (ages 2-15) $4. A 72-acre oasis of green in the city with waterfalls, lush vegetation, gorillas, leopards, hippos and free-flying birds. •Opened May 27: **Butterfly Landing** with 1,000 butterflies representing 40 North American species. •Opened May 28: **The Farmyard**. Mosey on down to the zoo for that down-on-the-farm feel right in the middle of the city—complete with a barn and incubator.

Mount Auburn Cemetery

580 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard, transfer to #71 or #73 bus. Open daily 8am-7pm (summer) and 8am-5pm (winter). Admission free. Rest in peace among the grave sites and crypts of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes, "Battle Hymn of the Republic" author Julia Ward Howe and Winslow Homer, among other famous Americans.

New England Aquarium

Central Wharf, Boston (973-5200). www.neaq. org. *MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Early Sept.-June: Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. and holidays 9am-6pm. $12.50.* Boston's biggest fish bowl has much more than just goldfish. •*Storm Over Stellwagen*, a new 15-minute, interactive multimedia production, allows you to control the outcome of the film. •***Unforgettable Boston***: This movie highlights many of Boston's favorite landmarks. $4. •Opened April 15: ***Nyanja! Africa's Inland Sea*** opens. This exhibit features East Africa's Lake Victoria, the world's second-largest lake, telling a story of the people, biodiversity, fisheries, history and future of the lake.

Roger Williams Park Zoo

1000 Elmwood Ave., Providence, R.I. (401-785-3510). South on 1-95 from Providence to exit 17 (Elmwood Ave.). $6, $3.50 seniors and children. Open every day except Dec. 25. Nov.-March 9am-4pm. April-Oct. 9am-5pm. Lions and tigers and a 150-pound baby polar bear named Triton. Oh my! More than 600 birds and mammals inhabit the African plains and rain forests. •Opened May 13: **Fleet Dinosaurs! A Journey to Extinction**. See 22 larger-than-life prehistoric creatures hunt their prey, roar a challenge and nurture their young, all in an authentic prehistoric landscape.

Stone Zoo

149 Pond St., Stoneham, Rte. 93 North, Exit 34 (781-438-5100). Mon.-Fri. 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. and holidays 10am-6pm. $6 adults, $4 children. The polar bear remains, as he always has been, the star attraction at this 32-acre zoo, as he has for the last 33 years. •What in the World Is It? A maze with five mystery animal stations. Find your way in and then try to find your way out.

performing arts

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Theater. Or e-mail information to performing@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Theater
JUST OPENED

Berkshire Theatre Festival
Stockbridge, Mass. (413-298-5536). Mon.-Sat. 8:30pm. $18. •Main Stage, July 11-22: ***Toys in the Attic***. Set in New Orleans in 1960, strewn with characters consumed by childhood dreams and expectations, the three siblings in *Toys* are as familiar as any of those found in the dysfunctional families of today. •Main Stage, July 25-Aug. 12: ***The Shadow of Greatness***. Richard Chamberlain is Allen Perry, a renowned and tormented playwright desperate to extricate himself from his tumultuous notoriety. •Unicorn Theatre, through July 29: ***Coyote on a Fence***: Two men, each in a single cell on death row, both convicted murderers, both struggling to find meaning in the deadening violence of prison life, unwillingly forge a contentious relationship.

The God Show
Institute of Contemporary Art, 955 Boylston St., Boston (931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. July 20, 8pm; July 21-22, 8pm and 10pm. $15. Emmy Award-winning comic and writer Paul Wagner takes you to the edge and back with his highly unusual, multimedia comedy show about God, religious fads and the funny things that can happen on your way to spiritual enlightenment. From healers and priests to Jesus and his photographer, Wagner's 20 onstage and on-screen personas offer edgy monologues, adventurous stories and hilarious interactive videos.

Lenya: The Love of Kurt Weill
The Threshold Theatre, 791 Tremont St., corner of Tremont and Northampton, Boston (437-0657). Thu.-Sat. 8pm. July 13-15, Aug. 20-22, Aug. 27-29; Aug. 3-5. The Threshold Theatre (formerly the Beau Jest Moving Theatre) presents this show, named one of the best plays of the year by the *Theater Mirror*.

Macbeth
The Publick Theatre, on the Banks of the Charles River, Soldiers Field Road, Boston (782-5425). Wed.-Sun. 8pm. Through July 23. $20-$24. William Shakespeare's tale of sexuality, violence and ambition. Blood, thunder, hectic passion and screeching witches all haunt the darkened landscape of one of Shakespeare's most popular tragedies. Based on historic figures, it's the story of a Scottish king who, having attained the throne by murdering his predecessor, finds himself plunging even deeper into tyranny and guilt.

Marcel Marceau
American Repertory Theatre, Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (495-2668). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Through July 30. Face blanched white. Eyes burning with joy or sadness. Cheeks twitching to the design of rail-thin red lips. Eyebrows educated to infinite suggestion. Hailed as the world's greatest mime, Marcel Marceau has almost single-handedly preserved and promoted this silent art. See him live.

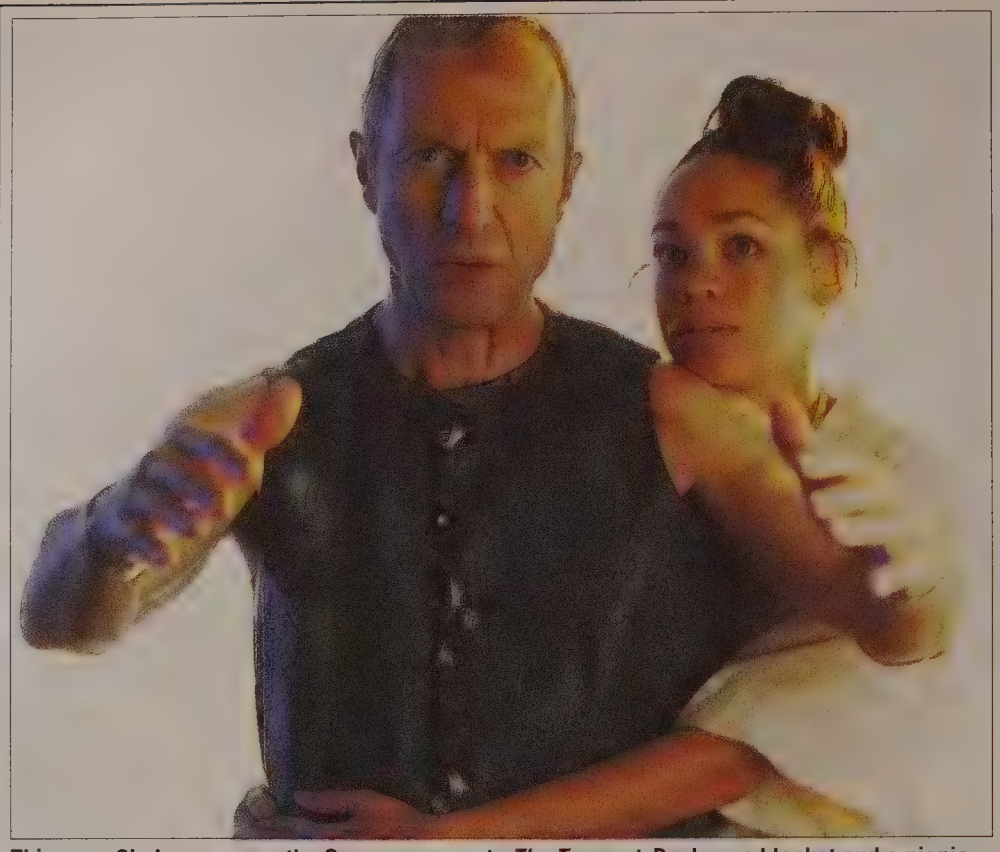
Hailed as the world's greatest mime, Marcel Marceau is at the A.R.T. through July 30.

The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told
Speakeasy Stage Company, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 7pm. Through July 16. $25. This comedy ponders what the world would be like had God made Adam and Steve, not Adam and Eve. It's about the struggle for faith, from Mesopotamia to Chelsea. Adam and Steve and Jane and Mabel—Earth's first two couples—seek God on the ark, beside the pyramids and at K-Mart on Christmas Eve.

Peter Pan
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly, Mass. (978-921-6351). Tue. 8pm; Wed. 2pm and 8pm; Thu.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm. July 18-Aug. 6. $18-$56. **Cathy Rigby** stars in this exhilarating production that follows the story of Peter and his series of adventures with the Darling children, Tinker Bell and the evil Captain Hook. The memorable score includes "I've Got to Crow," the rousing "I'm Flying" and "Never Land."

The School for Scandal
Pilgrim Theatre, Black Box Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Call for times and pricing. July 12-29. Sex, secrets and scandal. Written by Richard Brinsley Sheridan in 1777, this humorous exposition of society's passion for uncovering what goes on behind closed doors is as delightfully indicting of contemporary culture as it was of the 18th century.

Summer Shorts Festival
Abbott Memorial Theater, 9 Spring St., Waltham (781-894-0081). July 20-22, 8pm. $7. The Hovey Players present this night of more than two dozen plays and sketch comedies by 15 local playwrights.


This year, Shakespeare on the Common presents *The Tempest*. Pack up a blanket and a picnic dinner and head to the Common for this outdoor production July 21-Aug. 13.

Preview

Shakespeare, Stars A Blanket and Thou

Pack up a picnic, grab a blanket and settle yourself on the lawn of the Boston Common for the annual production of Shakespeare on the Common, held July 21-Aug. 13. This summer's offering is *The Tempest*, Shakespeare's tale of enchantment and love. Watch the story of Prospero, the deposed Duke of Milan, his daughter Miranda, and Ariel and Caliban, the inhabitants of the island on which Prospero is banished. Drawing on traditions as diverse as African storytelling, Japanese Butoh dance, Italian *commedia dell' arte* and the spirit of Carnival, the production will create a swirl of music, movement and theatricality. *The Boston Common, Parkman Bandstand, Boston (423-7600). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 7pm. July 21-Aug.13.*

Ten Years Apart
Gloucester Stage Company, 267 East Main St., Gloucester (978-282-1350). Wed.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 5pm. July 12-July 23. $20-$30. This is the world premiere of a new musical about a reunion of two brothers, 10 years apart in age. This touching musical is written and performed (using two dozen different musical instruments) by Matthew Bennett and Sean McCourt.

NOW RUNNING

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed.-Thu. 8pm; Fri.-Sat. 7pm and 10pm; Sun. 3pm and 6pm. $39-$49. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to get its point across with tribal rock music, performance art, humorous antics, props (including plastic tubes and Twinkies) and three men painted blue.

Shakespeare & Company
Shakespeare & Company, The Mount, Lenox, Mass. (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. *Thu.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 3:30pm and 8pm; Sun. 3:30pm.* • ***The Wharton One-Acts***: Through Sept. 2. Two plays by Edith Wharton kick off the 2000 performance season: *The View Beyond* and *Oh! Mr. Chekhov*. • ***Much Ado About Nothing***: Through Sept. 3. Don Pedro and his men discover the wars they return home from are not nearly so dangerous as the verbal barbs of the Messina ladies. • ***Twelfth Night or What You Will***: Through Aug. 6. Shakespeare's classic tale. • ***Romeo and Juliet***: July 21-Sept. 2. The classic love story in the romantic setting of the outdoor amphitheater under the white pines. • ***Jack and Jill***: July 14-Oct. 15. Jane Martin mines the subtle and often treacherous depths of modern wedlock from uncomfortable introduction, into romance, through marriage and beyond. • ***The Compleat Works of Willm Shkspr (abridged)***: July 19-Aug. 6. Three actors have an enormous and shameless task: They will perform the complete works of William Shakespeare in less than two hours.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri. 8pm ; Sat. 6:30pm and 9:30pm; Sun. 3pm and 7:30pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This hilarious whodunit is set in a unisex hair salon. The production holds the record as the longest-running play in the history of Boston theater.

COMING SOON

The Scarlet Pimpernel
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue. 8pm; Wed. 7pm; Thu.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 1pm and 7pm. $38.50-$68.50.

Seussical
The Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (426-9366). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Aug. 27-Sept. 17.

INTERACTIVE THEATER

Medieval Manor
246 East Berkeley St., Boston (423-4900). Red Line to Broadway. Mon., Wed., Thu., Fri. 8pm ; Sat. 5pm and 9:30pm; Sun. 6pm. Ongoing. $9.60-$32. Eat, drink and be merry at a Renaissance dining experience. Don't worry about etiquette. You won't find knives and forks, and the soup of the day is in your face—literally.

Mystery Cafe
290 Congress St., Boston (781-320-0040). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Dinner and show: Fri. 7:30pm; Sat. 7pm. Ongoing. $36. Saturdays: The interactive murder mystery, *Murder on the Campaign Trail*, is a comedic parody of campaign 2000.

Mystery Cruise: Murder on the Ocean Queen
Ft. Independence, Long Wharf, Boston (781-320-0040). Cruise departs Sat., 8pm. $49/person, includes dinner and cruise. Gather clues during a Harbor cruise, meet characters and interrogate suspects as you attempt to piece together the answer to the mystery.

Dance
SHOWS AND EVENTS

The Boston Summer Dance Festival
Jeannette Neill Dance Studio, 261 Friend St., 5th floor, Boston (523-7732). Through July 28, 6pm. Free admission. The fifth annual Boston Summer Dance Festival celebrates the history of American jazz, tap and musical theatre dance. This year features an internationally renowned faculty of 18 dance professionals, ranging from dance pioneers to young innovators. Donald McKayle, a Tony Award-winning and Emmy-nominated choreographer, and Matt Mattox (Broadway veteran peformer) are two of the dance legends headlining.

JOIN IN

Club Joy
533 Washington Street, Boston (354-5780). Saturday nights. This Latin night spot now offers classes: salsa, merengue, bachata and more.

Dance Friday
Rug Cutter's Studio, 23 Main St., Watertown Square (924-7276). Every Friday, 8:30pm-12am. $7 adults, $4 teens, children free. Join in the dancing to all types of music–even dance barefoot—in this family-friendly smoke and alcohol free environment.

Dancing at Ryles Jazz Club
Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. •*Saturdays, 9pm-1:30am, $12, $10 after 11:30pm.* Join in a variety of dance moves—here you'll find jazzy mambos, swing dancing, cheeky cha chas and sassy salsa numbers. •*Tuesdays 10pm-1:30am. $6.* Just Swing It night features the Black Tie Affair Orchestra and DJ music. Requests are taken and dancers are encouraged to bring their own music. •*Wednesdays, 9pm.* Get your Brazilian ballroom-dance fix with samba, forro, lambada and axe. •*Thu. 8:30-11pm. $10-$12.* Salsa and merengue dance.

Folk Dance Events
Folk Arts Center of New England, Inc., 1950 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (491-6083). •July 12 and 19: **English Country Dance**, Park Avenue Congregational Church, Park Ave. at Paul Revere Road, Arlington Heights, 7:30-10:30pm, $6 (354-1340). • July 13 and 20: **Experienced International Folk Dance**, First Unitarian Church, 404 Concord Ave., Belmont, 8-11pm, $6 (491-6083). •July 13 and 20: **New England Contras and Squares**, VFW Hall, 688 Huron Ave., Cambridge, 8-11pm, $5 (354-1340). •July 14 and 21: **Balkan Dance**, Scalzi School of Dance, 101 Bigelow Ave., Watertown, 7:30-10:30pm, $8 (840-2362). •July 15: **Nahant Victorian Day Ball**, Nahant Town Hall, Nahant, 7:30-11pm, $20 (781-593-3038). •July 16 and 23: **Israeli Folk Dancing**, Harvard-Rad-

Cathy Rigby stars as the little boy who refuses to grow up, in the North Shore Music Theatre's production of *Peter Pan* July 18 through Aug. 6.

cliffe Hillel, 52 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge, 8-10:30pm, $3 (484-3267). •July 17 and 24: **New England Contras and Squares**, Scout House, 74 Walden St., Concord, 7:30-10:30pm, $6 (781-272-0396). •July 17 and 24: **Scottish Country Dance**, YWCA, 7 Temple St., Central Square, Cambridge, 7:45-10:30pm, $6 (781-483-3323). •July 17 and 24: **Israeli Folk Dancing**, Temple Kehillath Israel, 384 Harvard Ave., Brookline, 8-11:45pm, $4 (484-4282). •July 17 and 24: **Balkan Dance Class**, Greet Street Studio, 185 Green St., Cambridge, 7:30-9:30pm, $12 (840-2362). •July 17 and 24: **Greek Folk Dancing**, Hellenic Cultural Center, 25 Bigelow Ave., Watertown, 7-9pm, $10 donation (547-1095). •July 18 and 25: **Folk Dancing by the Fountain** at Copley Square, Clarendon and Boylston Streets, Boston, 7:30-10pm, weather permitting, free (491-6084). •July 22: **Gender Free Dance**, First Church of Jamaica Plain, Unitarian-Universalist, Centre and Eliot streets, Jamaica Plain, 7:30-11pm, $6 (522-2216). •July 24: **Tuesday Night Revival** (Experienced Balkan), Church of Our Saviour, 21 Marathon St., Arlington, 8-10pm, $3 (781-648-6887).

Foxtrot Workshop

Lobby 13, 105 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (864-4120). July 18 and 25, 8-10pm. $9 per lesson, $24 entire workshop. Learn to foxtrot at this professionally taught workshop.

Friday Night Dance Craze

CCAE, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Through July 14, Fridays, 7-9pm. $12 each or $50 for the series. A little bit of Latin, disco, swing, flamenco and contra dancing.

Just Swing It

Upstairs at the Ryles, 212 Hampshire St., Inman Square, Cambridge (266-2258). Every Tuesday, 10pm-1:30am. $6. 19+. Featuring the Black Tie Affair Orchestra, this will be a great night of swing dancing.

Tall Ships Salute Singles Cruise and Dance

Rowes Wharf, Boston (781-446-0260). July 21, 5-10pm. $35. Celebrate the Tall Ships coming to town with a cruise, hors d'oeuvres and dancing.

Tango by Moonlight

Weeks Memorial Footbridge, Cambridge (699-6246). July 17, 8pm. In the glow of the full moon, join the Tango Society of Boston for some late-night festivities.

Tango Rialto

Rialto, The Charles Hotel, One Bennett Street, Cambridge (661-5050). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Every Thursday night, 10:30pm-1:30am. $10. Rialto opens its doors to tango dancers of all levels and backgrounds for nights of light hors d'oevres and lots of dancing. Free tango lessons are available every Thursday at the Wellbridge Fitness Center.

TICKETS

Bostix

(723-5181) www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of Faneuil Hall); Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth); and Harvard Square (in the Holyoke Center arcade at 1350 Mass. Ave).* Same-day tickets half-price.

Next Ticketing

(423-NEXT). www.boston.com/next.

Ticketmaster

(931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Out of Town Tickets

(247-1300 or 800-442-1854). A good place to get tickets if a show is sold out at the box office.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors

Submit listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail info. to comedy@improper.com. *Include address, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a description of the performances or comedians. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Comedy Connection

245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (248-9700). www.comedyconnectionboston.com. *MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed. 8pm; Thu. 8:30pm; Fri. and Sat. 8pm, 10:15pm; Sun. 7pm. $8-$10 (weekend prices vary).* The oldest comedy club in Boston draws big-name, national comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •July 12: Boston Headliners. •July 13, 8:30pm, $12: Frank Santos, the "R-Rated Hypnotist." •July 14, $15: Bob Marley, "Late Night With Letterman." •July 15, $17: Bob Marley, "Late Night with Letterman." •July 16, 9:15pm, $12: Black Comedy Explosions, hosted by Jonathon Gates. •July 17: Showcase. •July 18: Boston Headliners. •July 19: Boston Headliners. •July 20, 8:30pm, $12: Frank Santos, the "R-Rated Hypnotist." •July 21, $16: Mitch Hedberg. •July 22, $18: Mitch Hedberg. •July 23, 9:15pm, $12: Black Comedy Explosion, hosted by Jonathon Gates. •July 24: Showcase. •July 25: Boston Headliners.

The Comedy Studio at the Hong Kong

1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu.-Sun. 8pm. $5-$7. Sketch comedy troops and local comedians perform. •July 113: Comedy Studio showcase with Karen Sackowitz, Lenny Joffman and Jon Keating. •July 14: PS Absurdo starring Eugene, Brendon and Larry. •July 15: Monologist night. John Keating, Karen Tobin, Mike Dorval and Tim Collins. •July 16: Tony V and Eugene video shorts with guest stand-up from Walter Dixon, Pyllis Albany and Malene Welch. •July 20: Thursday Night Fights with Tim McIntire. Guests: Troy Pernell and Kyria Abrahams. •July 21: PS Absurdo, starring Brendon Small, Eugene and special guest Patric Borelli. •July 22: Rick Jenkins hosts romano & Falconer, Brian Giles and Alana Devich. •July 23: Tony V and Eugene video shorts, Bloody Mayhem sketch and stand-up from Craig Zeltzar and Ellen Stone.

Dick Doherty's Comedy Vault

Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun. 9pm. $10. Features local stand-up comedians. Thursdays: Stand-up comedy. Fridays and Saturdays: Dick Doherty's Comedy Pro Tour. Sundays: Open-mike night.

Nick's Comedy Stop

100 Warrenton St., Boston (482-0930). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Fri. 8:30pm; Sat. 7:45pm and 10pm; Sun. 8pm. $10-$15. The talent here is not quite as big-name as the Comedy Connection, but the crowds are just as enthusiastic, and you're guaranteed to leave with a smile on your face. Wednesdays: Open mike at 8:30pm. •July 13, 8:30pm: Teddy Bergeron, Stephanie Peters and Johnny K. •July 14, 8:45pm: Teddy Bergeron, Stephanie Peters and Johnny K. •July 15, 8:45pm: Teddy Bergeron, Stephanie Peters and Johnny K. •July 16, 8pm: The Joe Yannetty Show. •July 20, 8:30pm: Patty Ross, Joe Carrll and George DeMartino. •July 21, 8:45pm: Patty Ross, Joe Carrol and George DeMartino. •July 22, 8:45pm: Patty Ross, Joe Carrol and George DeMartino. •July 23, 8pm: The Joe Yannetty Show.

IMPROVISATIONAL COMEDY & MAGIC

Improv Asylum

216 Hanover St., Boston (263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Shows: Thu. 8pm; Fri. and Sat. 8p m and 10pm. Main Stage: $10-$15.* Now playing on the main stage is the critically acclaimed improvisational and sketch comedy show—voted one of Boston's best improvisational comedy troops. •Wednesdays, 8pm: The Improv Asylum Training Center graduate show, ***Gary's Pocket***, followed by the Improv Asylum Touring Company. $10.

ImprovBoston at Back Alley Theater

1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1253). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. Fri.-Sat. 8pm ($12) and 10:30pm ($12). Sun, 2pm ($7). Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe makes things up as they go along. •Thursdays, 8pm: Sitcom. A fully improvised show based on suggestions from the studio audience and an onstage computer. 10pm: Open Improv Jam. All visitors of any skill level are invited to participate in a no-pressure, fun-filled atmosphere where everybody gets to play. •Fridays, 8pm: ImprovBoston. 10:30pm: TheatreSports Boston vs. Sitcom. Best of five match. •Saturdays, 8pm and 10:30pm: ImprovBoston.

Magicians & Spirits at the Green Street Grill

280 Green St., Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Shows every Tuesday at 9pm. $10 cabaret show ($5 with dinner). Patrons enjoy close-up magic as two or three magicians perform tricks behind the bar and among the crowd. At 10pm, the cabaret show begins upstairs with local and national magicians reading minds, making birds appear out of nowhere and levitating objects onstage.

COMEDY SHOWS

Battle of the Sexes

290 Congress St., Boston (426-1999). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Saturdays 10:30pm. $15-$18. A participatory comedy that pits the fairer sex against those ugly, hairy men.

The God Show

Institute of Contemporary Art, 955 Boylston St., Boston (931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. July 20, 8pm; July 21-22, 8pm and 10pm. $15. Emmy Award-winning comic and writer Paul Wagner takes you to the edge and back with his highly unusual, multimedia comedy show about God, religious fads and the funny things that can happen on your way to spiritual quest. From healers and priests to Jesus and his photographer, Wagner's 20 onstage and on-screen personas offer edgy monologues, adventurous stories and hilarious interactive videos.

Joey & Maria's Comedy Wedding

Tremont House Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston or Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Fri. and Sat. 7:30pm. Ongoing. $39-$45. Join the fun at this absolutely zany Italian wedding. Big hair and blue tuxedos optional, but laughs are a must as you join the family for Maria's most special day.

Murder on the Campaign Trail

Mystery Cafe Dinner Theater, 290 Congress St., Boston (781) 793-9700. Fri . at 7:30pm. Sat. at 7pm. Ongoing. $36 (Dinner and show). A timely comedy mystery parody of Campaign 2000—complete with posturing politicians.

Murder on the Ocean Queen

Boston Harbor Mystery Cruise, aboard the Ft. Independance, One Long Wharf, Boston (781) 793-9700. Saturdays, 8pm. $49. Deck-to-deck mystery with gourmet food.

Secret Society

The Works Theater, 255 Elm St., Somerville (538-3205). MBTA: Red Line to Davis Square. Fridays and Saturdays, 8pm. What does it mean when we talk too much? What does it mean when we love too much? Why do we do what we do when we do? Why don't we do what we know we should do? These and other questions will be answered in Blue Screen Productions' newest long-form improvisation show, Secret Society. Secret Society is a comedic view into the mind of society through the eyes of an audience participant chosen by the Society.

Frank Santos, the "R-Rated Hypnotist," mesmerizes audiences at the Comedy Connection July 13 and July 20.

art

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information for gallery and museum listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail to arts@improper.com. *Include opening and closing dates, nearest T stop, price of admission, if any, and telephone numbers. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a partial list of the largest art museums, art institutes and galleries in the Boston area. The • symbol denotes a temporary exhibition.

Museums

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat. 10am-12pm. The Sackler houses ancient Islamic and Asian art, an array of Neolithic bronze Buddhas, Greek pottery, and Hellenistic and Roman sculpture. •*Wall Drawing #830* features four isometric figures with dynamic colors. Ongoing. •Every Thursday is a free guided tour of Shahn's work, 10:30am.

Boston Public Library
900 Boylston St., Boston (542-4000). MBTA: Green Liew ne to Copley. •*Iso Papo: Drawings and Watercolors* shows through July 17 in the Wiggin Gallery. •Manuscripts, photographs and memorabilia from the Rare Books collection and the Massachusetts Historical Society collections show with *Shipping, Sailing and the Sea.* Through July 31 in the Rare Books exhibit area. •Susan Jane Belton shows her work, inspired by the South End community gardens. *Sticks and Grids* shows through July 20. •*Curious George Comes to Hattiesburg* is an exhibition of Curious George material on loan from the Children's Literature Collection at the University of Southern Mississippi. Through July 29.

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park
51 Sandy Pond Rd., Lincoln (781-259-8355). •*The DeCordova Annual Exhibition* features 10 New England artists and their distinct work in various media. Through Sept. 4.

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat. 10am-12pm. It's better to visit the Fogg the same day you go to the Sackler, as admission includes all of Harvard's museums. Highlights include Van Gogh's self-portrait and Bermini's clay figures.

Gibson House Museum
137 Beacon St., Boston (267-6338). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Guided tours every Sat. and Sun. at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm. $5. With 75 percent of its original items in place, the museum encourages visitors to understand 19th-century domestic life and design. Ongoing.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (266-5152). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Wed.-Sun. 12-5pm; Thu. 12-9pm. $6, $4 students and seniors. •*Art on the Emerald Necklace* will be performed throughout the nine parks and greenways designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. The exhibit includes Barnaby Evans' *Moving Water* and will run through August 20. •In the group exhibition *From a Distance: Approaching Landscape*, artists investigate new approaches of questioning landscapes and topography using sculpture, video and works on paper. July 19-October 8. •Free guided walkthroughs take place each Thursday at 6:30pm.

This untitled work is part of *Cuba Cuba Part 1*, an exhibition from Havana at Space 12 Gallery.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (566-1401). www.boston.com/gardner. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun. 11am-5pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, under 18 free. Guided on Fridays 2:30pm.* This 15th-century Venetian palace is home to more than 2,500 objects and twice as many flowers. Boston's most famous museum is named for the house's owner, Isabella Stewart Gardner (1840-1924), an infamously incorrigible individualist. Only after her death was her house completely opened to the public. Now everyone can see the works of Titian, Botticelli and Matisse, as well as furniture and architectural details from European churches and palaces.

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5pm, weekends 12-5pm. $3, $1 for students, seniors and children. Where else would you be but at MIT when you contemplate Morton G. Bradley Junior's *Math in 3-D: Geometric Sculptures?* The museum's other permanent exhibits include *Flashes of Inspiration: The Work of Harold Edgerton*, and *Gestural Engineering* and *Cultural Engineering: The Sculptures of Arthur Ganson*, the mechanical engineer/choreographer. •On the last Sunday of the month, explore oceanography, astronomy, the science of buildings and other mysteries of science with interactive activities for all ages from 2-4pm, no reservations required. Call 452-2827 for details.

Museum of Bad Art
580 High St., Dedham (325-8224). Mon.-Fri. 6:30-10pm, Sat. and Sun. 1-10pm. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. The one and only museum that boasts "art too bad to be ignored." A favorite is *Lady Chardonnay*, a piece illuminating a poodle-head dancer.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Mon.-Tue. 10am-4:45pm; Wed. 10am-9:45pm, Thu.-Fri. 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. 10am-5:45pm. West Wing only Thu.-Fri. 5-9:45pm. $12, students and seniors $10.* The MFA has earned its rep as the second-best-run art museum in the nation (after the Metropolitan Museum of Art) with its top-notch exhibitions, educational programs and galleries of African, Oceanic and American art. •*Vietnamese Ceramics*, the glazed ceramic tradition of Vietnam represents one of the most important remaining cultural legacies of Vietnam's history. Ongoing. •*Common Threads: Samplers from Around the Globe* is 65 pieces from the museum's Textile and Costume collection that spans 300 years and four continents. Through July 23. •*Van Gogh: Face to Face* displays through Sept. 24. •*Van Gogh to Mondrian: Dutch Works on Paper*, brings together some 100 works on paper by more than 40 Dutch artists. July 25-Nov. 5.

Nichols House Museum
55 Mount Vernon St., Boston (227-6993) Tues.-Sat. 12:15-4:15pm; guided tours on the half hour. $5 adults, children under 12 free admission. •This house offers a glimpse into 19th and early 20th century life on historic Beacon Hill. The house contains furniture, decorative objects and European and Asian art accumulated over several generations.

The Peabody House Museum
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (496-1027). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5 adults; $4 students and seniors; $3 children 3-13. No fee Sat. mornings until 12pm. •*Heads and Tales: Adornments from Africa*, includes sculptures and artifacts from the Peabody Museum collections, which highlight the messages communicated by head adornments in sub-Saharan Africa. Through Oct. 1, 2001. •*The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition* chronicles Ernest Shackleton's failed expedition to the Antarctic in 1914, featuring photographs by Frank Hurley, a member of the expedition. Through Sept. 10. •*From New England to the Great Salt Lake: The Mormon Legacy of Faith* runs through Aug. 27.

The Revolving Museum
288-300 A St., Boston (439-8617). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed.-Fri. 12-5pm. •Possibly the last exhibition we'll see here for a while due to financial woes is *Student Artists Invitational Performance Art All Stars* with work by Joel Hurlbert. Through Aug. 4.

Galleries
FINE ART

Allston Skirt Gallery
119 Braintree St., Allston (254-7027). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm and by appointment. •*Out & About: Summer Photo Show* features work by eight photographers who capture contemporary life from a variety of angles. Artsts include Jay Elliott, Tama Hochbaum, Stacy Iannacone, Peter Kayafas, Jen Kodis, Annette Lemieux, Nina Nickles and Pia Schachter. Through July 29.

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (536-4465). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •A group show features a collection of paintings from several artists. Through Aug. 31.

Andrea Marquit Fine Arts
38 Newbury St., Boston (859-0190). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Wed.-Sat. 11am-5pm. Shows contemporary masters and emerging artists and is a consulting group for corporate and private collectors. Open by appointment only.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (247-0610). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 11am-5:30pm; Sun. 1-5pm. Representing an eclectic mix of styles, from abstract to super-realist. •New Work, by Tom Paiement & Tom Seghi, features Paiement's oil on canvas paintings and Seghi's fruit still lifes. Through July 31.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., 5th Floor, Boston (262-4490). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm. Paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures by emerging and established artists. •*William Kentridge: Editioned Work* shows through July 28.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm. •Michael Madore's collection shows through July 29.

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (482-2477). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sun., 10:30am-5:30pm. •*Gallery Group Show* is on display through July 28.

Beth Urdang Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5pm. •*Recent Paintings*, a show of Jennifer Riley's oil paintings, runs through July 15.

Cambridge Arts Council
11 Whyte St., Cambridge (349-4380). MBTA: Red Line to Porter. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-5pm. •*Maria Wallace: Figure/Ground* shows through July 30.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (236-2255). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm. •*Global Village* features a selection of international glass artists. Through Aug. 18.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (859-7222). Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •Babs Kletter's *New Paintings* shows through July 30. Also showing in July are the works Stephen Coyle and Michael Zigmond.

Childs Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (266-1108). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri. 9am-6pm; Mon. and Sat. 10am-5pm. American and European paintings, prints, drawings and sculpture, from 1500 through 1950. •Henry Rodman Kenyon's work shows in the Main Gallery. •*American Wood Engravings* is in the Lower Gallery. •*Pictures for the Public: American Illustration and Drawing* is on display in the Alcove Gallery.

Clark Gallery
145 Lincoln St., Lincoln (781-259-8303). Tue.-Sat. 10am-5pm. The gallery represents 30 artists, primarily regional. Media regularly include glass, ceramics, oil, acrylic on canvas, wood and studio furniture. •A *Summer Group Show* displays through July 28. •Group show *New Work by Five* features Jennifer Amadeo-Holl, Whitney Burgund, Andrew Haines, Glenn Takai and Yuon Zuo through July 28.

Copley Society of Boston
158 Newbury St., Boston (536-5049). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat. 10:30am-5:30pm; Sun. 1-5pm. America's oldest nonprofit art association is a platform for young and established artists.

Creiger-Dane Gallery
36 Newbury St., Boston (536-8088). www.creigerdane.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm.* • *Where Do You Draw the Line?*, traditional and experimental forms of drawing, on display through August 12.

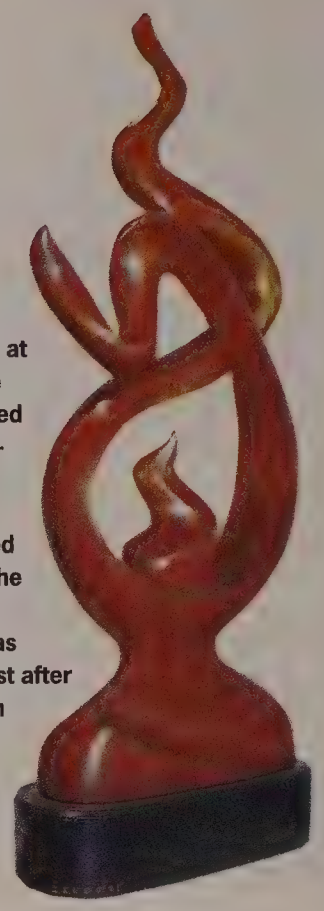
Crosstown Arts Inc.
One North Square, Boston (720-0100). www.crosstown.com. •*Metal*, painted metal assembly and sculpture by Stephen deFilippis, shows through Aug. 25.

Crystal Fine Art
93 Summer St., Suite 4L, Boston (728-9818). www.crystalfineart.com. *MBTA: Red and Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Tue.-Fri. 11am-6pm.* A multicultural gallery that regularly displays the work of national, international and local artists. •A series of landscape paintings and poetry by Li Xubai will run through Aug. 31. *Dreaming* reflects Xubai's homeland of China and utilizes ancient Chinese art styles.

Preview

Time Warp

Ancient meets modern art at the Equator Gallery



When you walk into Newbury Street's newest art gallery, Equator, you feel at once extremely displaced and quite at home. It is as though you have entered an intricately decorated adobe palace. From the stone-painted floor (lined with real stones) to the tiled ceiling, owner Sasha Raiz has designed the cozy gallery to resemble the most popular trade market in Cuzco. The passionate Raiz has dedicated herself to keeping up the Inca tradition that was lost after the fall of the kingdom, displaying contemporary artwok from around the world that contains pre-Columbian motifs. "I tried to imagine what it would be like if the Spanish invasion had never happened," explains Raiz, whose beautiful ceramics are her own vision of "modernized" Columbian Inca art, mirroring their mystic symbols and distinct design.

The gallery is also chock full of woodcarvings—from teensy boxes to giant spheres—all made by several generations of Ecuadorian artists, namely Luis Potosi and Luis Boanerges Almedia R. "I traveled to Ecuador and stumbled upon a small village. The families' works all have pre-Columbian motifs throughout their woodcarvings," she explains. "They are thrilled to have their woodcarvings here." Equator also is sprinkled with Peruvian blankets, small wooden boxes, jewelry and gorgeous plants. ***Equator Gallery, 21 Newbury St., Boston (266-4110). www.equatorgallery.com. Mon.-Fri., 11am-6pm; Sat. and Sun., 12-6pm. All are welcome to attend the reception July 14, 4-9pm.***

Jeffrey Hessing's *Ville de Vence* is part of the Pucker Gallery's show, *Memories Now: Fine Choices.*

Dietrich von Buhler Gallery
16 Ashford St., Boston (783-2421). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Sat., 2-4pm and by appointment. www.drawbridge. com/dvbgallery. •In her first show, *Nursery,* Kathleen Bitetti shows work that specifically addresses aspects of childhood. Bitetti is the executive director of the Artists Foundation and is also the director of the Lillian Immig Gallery at Emmanuel College. Through Aug. 12.

Dyansen Gallery
132 A Newbury St., Boston (262-4800). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. You'll always find paintings, bronzes and fine-art prints. Collections include Rembrandt, Picasso, Chagall, Miro, Dali, Cassatt, Snowden and more.

Eclipse Gallery
167 Newbury St., Boston (247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9am-6pm. •Les Fleurs: A Love Affair with Flowers, works on paper runs through Aug. 5.

Elias Fine Arts
120 Braintree St., Brighton (783-1888). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. •In *Real Fun,* 16 national and international artists present photographs made with toy cameras. Curated by Monique Johannet and Karolyn Hatton. Through Sept. 16.

Gallery Bershad
99 Dover St., Somerville (629-9400 ex.3). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Wed., Thu., Sun., 12-6pm; Fri. and Sat. 12-8pm. •Hamid Zavareei's work shows through July. *•Coast to Coast: New Paintings,* by Sarah Frances Egan and Hamid Zavareei, displays through July 30.

Gallery Naga
67 Newbury St. ,Boston (267-9060). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tues.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. Closed Saturdays in July •Proximate Stillness features new paintings from Ken Beck. *Conversations with Willie and Van* features the artwork of Andrew Tavarelli. Both exhibits run through July 14.

Gallery Seventy-Nine
79 Newbury St., Boston (262-5918). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Thu., 9:30am-6pm; Fri. 9:30am-4:30pm. •A group show displays the work of Jeffrey Ringdahl, Francis Domec, Eileen Namaka, Eileen Wagner and Dagmar Nickerson. Through Aug. 18.

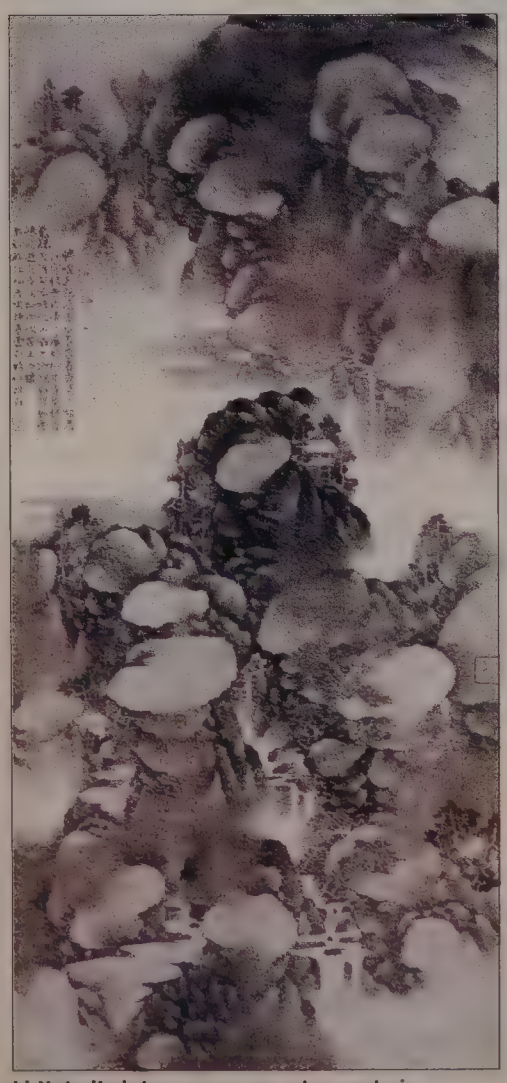
Genovese Sullivan Gallery
47 Thayer St., Boston (426-9738). Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. •Abstraction Today Part 2, paintings by Martin Ball, Catherine Carter and Fred Lynch, displays through Aug. 1.

Gibbs Gallery
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm. Stories Out of School: New Portraits is an opportunity for art educators to share their interpretation of portraiture in the 21st century in all types of media. Through Aug. 25.

Gurari Collections
91 Charles St., Boston (367-9800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington or Red Line to Charles MGH. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. This gallery has an impressive collection of 16th- to early-20th-century etchings, engravings and drawings. Also showing is the work of Wendy Artin, an artist living in Rome. •*Masterpieces of Antique European City Plans* displays through July 21.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St. Boston (536-6339). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 10am-6pm; Sat. 10am-5pm. •An assortment of 18th- and 19th-century historic and decorative antique engravings and lithographs.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (262-0550). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. www.hyg. com. •Works by Duane Michals, John O'Reilly, Tracey Moffatt, Carrie Mae Weems, David Wojnarowicz and others are featured in *Fiction/Non-Fiction,* which runs through August 18.



Li Xubai's ink-on-paper works are being shown throughout July at Crystal Fine Art.

Hurst Galler
53 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (491-6888). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sat. 12-6pm. Thu, 12-7pm. Visitors are greeted with a wide variety of art and artifacts from six continents.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (375-0076). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. Midsummer Magic celebrates the beauty of original vintage posters. This summer, the gallery also features newly acquired works by artists Leonetto Cappiello, A.M. Cassandre and Jean de Paleologue. Through Sept. 4.

Judy Ann Goldman
14 Newbury St., Boston (424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. Call for an appointment. The gallery regularly displays paintings, sculpture and works on paper.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 Saint Stephen St., Boston (247-1719). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue.-Sat., 1-5pm. •Calligraphy & Sumi-E, a group exhibition, shows through July 31.

Lyman-Eyer Gallery Inc.
1347 Washington St., West Newton (964-3470). Tue.-Fri., 4-7:30pm; Sat., 11am-7:30pm; Sun., 11am-5pm. City Heat, paintings by Shirley Wallitch, is a series of vibrant urban landscapes. Through July 20. •Brett Wallace, Hilda Green Demsky, Mike Andreae and Amanda Annis are featured in *New Works.* Their oil, acrylic and bronze pieces will be shown through Aug. 27.

Mass Art
President's Gallery, 11th floor, Tower Building, Massachusetts College of Art, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston. (232-1555 x716). Mon.-Friday, 9am-5pm. Beverly Hallam: A Return Visit features 39 still lifes in mixed media, prints, acrylics and pastels.

MPG
285 Newbury St., Boston (437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •Land Sea and Beyond I includes a variety of work by Gail Bessette, Rachel Claflin and George Lynde. Through July 30.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (266-4835). www.nielsen gallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm.* Founded in 1964. •The current exhibition is *In the Spirit of Landscape V,* a collective exhibition. Through July 29.

Out of the Blue Gallery
168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun. 12-7pm. This gallery, owned and operated by several artists, always has a variety of interesting artwork and art-related events going on. •Poetry readings take place every Saturday, and the gallery hosts a rotating guest list of jazz musicians every Wednesday. *•Ten Students from the Rhode Island School of Design* shows through July 31.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (236-4497). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •Landscapes by Gallery Artists and Guests is a series of paintings, prints, photographs and drawings. Through July 29.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (267-9473). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun. 1pm-5pm. •Memories Now: Fine Choices, the gallery's annual summer show, features new and favorite works by gallery artists. Through Sept. 1.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (266-3321). MBTA: Green Line to Arlingron. www.richardsonclarke.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tues.-Sat. 10am-5pm.* •American and European 19th- and 20th-century paintings, drawings and sculpture. Ongoing. •Truman Seymour's *Moroccan Watercolors* is also now on display.

Space 12 Gallery
12 Union Park St., Boston (423-9760). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed. 6-9pm; Thu.-Sat. 1-5pm. •Cuba Cuba, a collaboration between the gallery and Espacio 52 of Havana, Cuba, exhibits prominent contemporary Cuban artists. Through July 31. •A two-month-long showing of the work of three prominent Cuban artists shows through July 29.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (450-0321). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •Plein air seascapes are displayed in *Maritime Images,* which showcases New England river scenes in oil by William St. George. Through Aug. 15.

Touch of France
173 Newbury St., Boston (247-6966). MBTA: Green line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-7pm; Sun., 12-6pm. This gallery imports contemporary French artists' works, including paintings from famous painters M. Tigrane, R. Kefflin, C. Ferrer and striking dried-flower arrangements made near Saint Tropez.

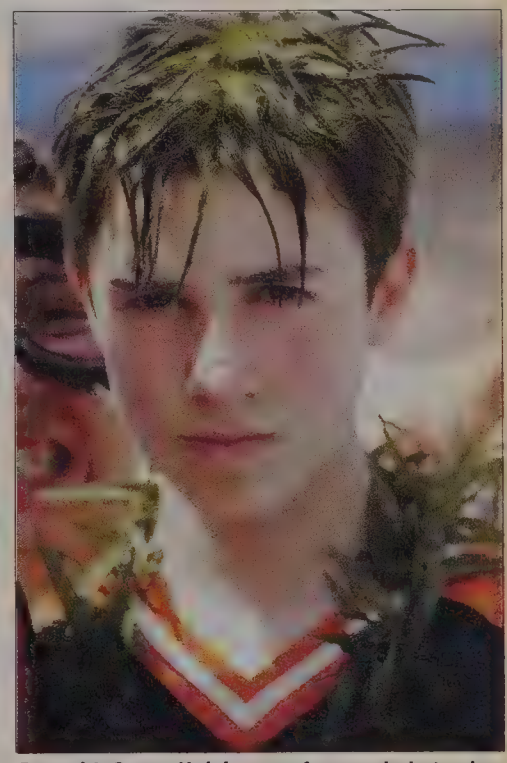
Via Gallery
83 Newbury St., 2nd Floor (424-6200). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri. 10am-4pm. •Heinz Guth's *The Nude Show* will be on display through July 31.

Zeitgeist Gallery
312 Broadway St., Cambridge (876-2182). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu.-Sun., 2pm-7pm. The gallery displays a variety of local artists' work. •A Playground Jazz Series takes place on Friday nights. •Monday is literary night with the Stone Soup Poets performing. •Every Wednesday is a figure-drawing session. •Sunday is a vegan potluck supper, often accompanied by live music and poetry.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2051). Tues.-Sat. 11am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm; Closed Mondays. The Multiple is a gallery investigation that explores works of art produced more than one time. Ongoing.

Gallery One
537 Comm. Ave., Boston (437-1868). Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm. Affiliated with the New England School of Photography. •Class of 2000, a student exhibition, shows through July 30.



***Boy with Green Hair* is one of several photos by Pia Schachter on display with the work of seven other photographers at the Allston Skirt Gallery.**

CRAFTS

Alianza Gallery
154 Newbury St., Boston (262-2385). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. A variety of arts and crafts are on display. *•Tea and Fantasy,* a group show, runs through Aug. 31.

Cambridge Artists Cooperative
59A Church St., Cambridge (868-4434). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; 10am-8pm; Sun. 1-6pm. Twelve artists own and operate this gallery that features 2D design and jewelry.

Clayground
91 Hampshire St., Cambridge (661-7376). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 12-6pm; Sat. 11am-5pm. Porcelain and stone objects galore. Classes are usually available.

Fresh Pond Clay Works
368 Huron Ave., Cambridge (492-1907). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard to Bus 72. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm. A wide range of firing techniques.

Gateway Gallery
62 Harvard St., Brookline (734-1577). MBTA: C Green Line to Brookline Village. Mon.-Sat., 11am-6pm. This nonprofit gallery features all sorts of arts and crafts.

Infinity Gallery
24 Union Park St., Boston (423-5555). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat 11am-7pm; Sun 11am-6pm. This small gallery features Wayne Fuerst's work.

Signature Gallery
Dock Square, Boston (227-4885). Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Thu., 10am-7pm; Fri. and Sat., 10am-9pm; Sun., 12-6pm. Pottery, metal and glass works are on display.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (266-1810). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm; Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. •SAC 2000 Artist Awards shows through Aug. 31.

Film

M:I GAY 2

Cheerleader puts a comic spin on sometimes-too-serious sex and gender roles. BY PAUL SHERMAN

Much like Marlon Brando's classic comeback to the question, "What are you rebelling against?" in *The Wild One*—"Whatya got?" he says with a smirk—director Jamie Babbit's debut film, *But I'm a Cheerleader*, takes an all-inclusive swipe at homophobia, conformity, gender and anything else. Its comic reach is especially pleasing, considering that this could have easily been a one-joke comedy.

That one joke is a good one, though, so this tale of Megan (Natasha Lyonne of *Slums of Beverly Hills*), a high school cheerleader who starts the movie at the top of the social heap, opens strongly. Megan's family and friends are concerned because the pom-pom girl has been trying to get her mom (Mink Stole) and dad (Bud Cort) to eat tofu, seems distracted during make-out sessions with her jock boyfriend (Brandt Wille) and even has a—gulp—Melissa Etheridge poster on her bedroom wall. Before you can say "three-dollar bill," Megan's loved ones stage an intervention and whisk the stunned suburban teen queen off to True Directions, a two-month, five-step halfway house that promises to straighten out bent kids.

Melanie Lynskey, Clea du Vall and Cathy Moriarty hone their cleaning skills in *But I'm a Cheerleader.*

Run by a woman with the disposition of Mommie Dearest Joan Crawford (Cathy Moriarty), who's aided by an ex-gay counselor (an out-of-drag RuPaul Charles), True Directions is a hoot. While there, the girls, who are kept in a pink dormitory, are schooled in such skills as vacuuming and diapering; the boys, meanwhile, get in touch with their inner masculinity by playing football and war games and by working on a car's engine. They all get a major dose of 1952-era sex education, too—most amusingly when the boys are told "foreplay is for sissies."

That spoofing of reactionary homophobics and self-righteous moral watchdogs is very funny, but aiming at this sometimes easy target might have grown tiresome over 90 minutes, if that's all the movie had to offer. Helping *Cheerleader* broaden its story is the fact that Brian Wayne Peterson's script also makes Megan's personal journey involving. Instead of shocking Megan out of whatever lesbian tendencies her loved ones might have detected, the halfway house actually makes her realize that she really is gay, something that never occurred to her before, since she's a popular kid and, in her social circle, "queers" are freaks. She initially thinks of such fellow rehabbers as surly Graham (Clea duVall of *Girl, Interrupted*) and Goth girl Sinead (Katherine Towne of TV's *MYOB*) as freaks, but Megan's realization of her own homosexuality comes along with a crush on Graham, followed by the challenge of trying to have a relationship and avoid getting caught by the anti-gay Gestapo. In a similar vein, one of the other girls (Katrina Phillips), a boyish-looking softball player who everyone's assumed is gay, asserts her heterosexuality.

Cheerleader also cuts deeper than superficial lampooning by spotlighting the self-hatred such behavioral therapy can create in those it's "helping," especially in the way the rehab program seeks to lay blame for homosexuality. Touching upon society's sometimes harsh treatment of those who are different than most also enlarges the movie into a story about nonconformity, not just about sexual preferences. Through its humor, Babbit decries not just the barriers that separate straights and gays, but also the social barriers that say a cheerleader can't be a lesbian, and vice versa.

With its candy-colored set design, exaggerated figures of authority and social commentary, *But I'm a Cheerleader* develops into a grand meshing of later John Waters' comedies like *Hairspray* and the probing satires of Alexander Payne (*Citizen Ruth, Election*). Adding to the comic fun is the casting of such cult-film figures as Stole (*Pink Flamingos*) and Cort (*Harold and Maude*) as the parents, and the story's inclusion of a group of ex-ex-gays who've been through True Directions themselves and who now attempt to lure the teens out of rehab and into activism. iB

But I'm a Cheerleader ★★★ 1/2

Directed by Jamie Babbitt. Written by Brian Wayne Peterson. With Natasha Lyonne, Clea du Vall, Cathy Moriarty, RuPaul Charles, Mink Stole, Bud Cort, Melanie Lynskey and Douglas Spain. Rated R. Lions Gate Films.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Zhu Xu runs an old-style bath house in *Shower.*

Boys and Girls ★½
Miramax is cranking out the Freddie Prinze, Jr. romantic comedies so quickly that it seems little care is being taken in the generic screenplays. Like the recent *Down to You*, this college-set comedy—with Prinze as a control freak in a *When Harry Met Sally* friendship-turned-romance with Claire Forlani's more impulsive character—can't compare to *She's All That*. Cliches abound in the supporting characters and Prinze just keeps playing the same role again and again, though Heather Donahue of *The Blair Witch Project* adds an amusing, small part.

The Butterfly ★★
This coming-of-age story is a sort of failed, tragic version of *Cinema Paradiso*, set in mid-1930s Spain. Asthmatic tyke Moncho (Manuel Lozeno) is the focus, a perpetually worried-looking boy who finds comfort in his relationship with grandfatherly teacher Don Gregorio (Fernando Fernan Gomez of *All About My Mother*). That is, until fascism rears its head and the leftist teacher is branded a traitor. Before then, the story goes through some quaint but dull coming-of-age paces, occasionally touching, but not enough to give the ultimate breach of its central relationship the fireworks it tries to spark.

Gladiator ★★
Director Ridley Scott's Roman tale is less escapist than most Hollywood spectacles. But despite the grand scale, it's still simplistic, this time in the form of personal action-drama. After a long setup, it settles into its primary conflict, in which Roman General Maximus (Russell Crowe), the trusted military leader of Emperor Marcus Aurelius (Richard Harris), plots revenge on the old emperor's son (Joaquin Phoenix), who has stolen the throne upon his father's death and had Maximus' family slain. Disgraced and thought dead, the general ultimately gains fame as a fearless gladiator who fights his way to a showdown with the scheming dictator. The way the movie repeatedly drives home the motivations for Phoenix's paternally scorned neurosis and Crowe's proud victim becomes repetitious; you think they could have brought some more shading to the characters in 160 minutes.

Groove ★★½
Like many movies that try to blend a specific, reality-based backdrop with fiction, the characters sometimes get lost in writer-director Greg Harrison's debut film. Set at an all-night San Francisco rave, Harrison's comedy-drama does indeed cram in "realistic" details (like the real-life DJs who appear with their turntables), and it takes a while for even a few of its dozen characters to finally emerge beyond the one dimension with which they're presented. The standout is Hamish Linklater, as an aspiring writer who's reluctantly dragged to his first rave and who then embraces the communal feeling of the event.

Love's Labour's Lost ★★★
It's often uneven and flimsy, but Kenneth Branagh's transposition of Shakespeare's comedy to 1939 Europe and his transformation of it into a musical of song standards, most of which originated in Fred Astaire & Ginger Rogers films, is a charmer. With an eclectic cast that includes American film actors like Alicia Silverstone and English stage vets like Branagh, the director is smart enough to leave most of the dramatic heavy lifting to himself and most of the humor to comedy vets Timothy Spall (*Topsy-Turvy*) and an especially amusing Nathan Lane. Much preferred over the recent *Hamlet*, but much preferred over Branagh's *Hamlet*, too.

Me, Myself & Irene ★★★
Peter and Bobby Farrelly's comedy about a love triangle between a Rhode Island state trooper with a split personality (Jim Carrey) and the woman (Renee Zellweger) who must put up with his passive and aggressive sides is the brothers' first high-concept comedy. (Try explaining *Dumb and Dumber*, *Kingpin* or *There's Something About Mary* in one sentence.) But if it sometimes seems it could have been material for a gimmicky Rob Schneider or Martin Lawrence movie, it's almost always elevated by the Farrellys' no-holds-

CHEERLEADER: MARK LIPSON

barred gags and Carrey's gift for physically expressing the psychic war raging within.

Mission: Impossible 2 ★
In recent years, Tom Cruise has sought out notable directors—like Brian DePalma for *Mission: Impossible* and Stanley Kubrick for *Eyes Wide Shut*—and then collaborated in some of those director's worst movies. Now he's done the same with John Woo (*Hard-Boiled, Face/Off*). But could any script or any director overcome a performance as smug as Cruise's in this underachieving sequel to an ugly predecessor? As ridiculous and unconvincing as the first, though slightly more streamlined in story, this bombastic Bond wannabe has some of Woo's trademark touches (birds, two-fisted gunplay), but they're no match for Cruise's narcissism. No, Tom, it's not always about you.

The Perfect Storm ★★½
You get the best and the worst Hollywood has to offer in this big-budget rendering of Sebastian Junger's nonfiction book about the tragedy that took the Gloucester swordfish boat *Andrea Gail* and its crew during October 1991's megastorm. While Junger's book rendered tragedy through a very detached perspective, the movie is totally different. It's full of swelling orchestral music and it ludicrously gilds its tragic lily by injecting a life-threatening situation every 10 minutes (I guess the storm of the century just wasn't enough). Its visual rendering of the boat-tossing storm is impressive, and director Wolfgang Petersen builds the story to a very tense last third, but the movie's embellishments are questionable at best, arrogant at worst.

Scary Movie ★★½
Director Keenen Ivory Wayans' fast-paced spoof of *Scream* and *I Know What You Did Last Summer* (and the sequels and imitators they spawned) has more dead spots than the Boston Garden's old parquet floor ever did. But although it screeches to a halt whenever Cheri Oteri comes onscreen to lampoon Courteney Cox, it also has more laughs than any parody of this type has had since the *Naked Gun* movies. Newcomer Anna Faris is actually quite good in the Neve Campbell/Jennifer Love Hewitt heroine role, while Wayans may have discovered a secret for making his often obnoxious little brothers Shawn and Marlon tolerable in movies: let them co-write the script but make sure they're only part of an emsemble cast like this. Its name was actually the working title for *Scream*.

Shanghai Noon ★★★
Rush Hour - Chris Tucker + Owen Wilson = *Shanghai Noon*. With Jackie Chan once again playing a Chinese cop type who comes to America to rescue a kidnapping victim and ends up bonding with an unlikely ally—albeit in the Old West this time—much of the reason why this is better than Chan's other American action-buddy comedy is the improvement of having laconic, off-kilter Wilson opposite him instead of jive-talking, predictable Tucker. You actually feel some affection between Chan's *Forbidden City* palace guard and Wilson's underachieving outlaw here—unlike in *Rush Hour*, where it was all formula.

Shower ★★½
Despite the presence of Zhu Xu, so great in last year's *King of Masks*, this Chinese import fails to sufficiently dramatize its theme, the price of progress. Too often, its story of a businessman (Pu Cun Xin) who returns to the old-style bath house run by his elderly father (Zhu) and his mentally retarded brother (Jiang Wu) overstates the ritual-filled bathhouse's role as a source of community in a world where people rarely take the time to quietly socialize anymore. It's quite moving at times, but might have been more potent with a subtler storytelling touch.

South: Ernest Shackleton and the Endurance Expedition ★★★
If I had been attempting a dangerous expedition to be the first person to cross Antarctica through the South Pole in 1915, the last thing on my mind would be to bring along a film crew. But, thanks to the arrogance of the British empire at its apex, that's exactly what Sir Ernest Shackleton did. This recently rediscovered and restored silent film is an awe-inspiring chronicle of that legendary expedition (as documented in the 1990s book *Endurance*), with the trekkers' boat getting trapped in ice and then gradually folding up like a ball of tin foil by the frozen seas. At the Museum of Fine Arts, with musical accompaniment by the Alloy Orchestra, July 27-30.

The Virgin Suicides ★★★
In a sense, Sofia Coppola's debut as director aims at an easy target, the emotional repression of suburbia. But, despite some missteps, her adaptation of Jeffrey Eugenides' novel, set in mid-1970s Michigan, does so with a melancholy mood that brings sympathy to most of its characters: the teen sisters whose discontent leads to suicide, the adolescent boys who reach out to them but can't quite emotionally connect with them, the parents confused by their kids' puberty. Coppola also portrays the special relationship hormonal younger teens have with pop music as few movies have.

George Clooney stars in director Wolfgang Petersen's driving force of a film, *The Perfect Storm*.

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Cinemas
214 Harvard Ave. (277-2140). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
Trapelo Rd. (484-1706). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

BOSTON

Boston Film • Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (536-1540). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.

Cheri
50 Dalton St. (536-2870). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum Of Science, Omni Theater
Science Park (723-2500). MBTA: Green Line to Science Park.

Nickelodeon
606 Comm. Ave., Boston (424-1500). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford St.

Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle.

Coolidge Corner
290 Harvard St. (734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theater
40 Brattle St. (876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (495-4700). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Sq. (494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.

Loews/Sony Theater
10 Church St. (864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Sq.

Somerville Theater
55 Davis Sq. (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston. (277-2500). B Green Line to Chestnut Hill.

West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (964-6060).

Alternatives & Revivals

Advice to Contributors
Submit film listings by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Although film listings are correct at the time of publication, they are subject to change. Doublecheck showtimes by calling the theater or 333-FILM.

Boston Public Library

Summer Film and Video Festival
Clyde Charisse: A Dancer's Delight
•July 17, 3pm and 6pm **Singin' in the Rain** *1952.* Don Lockwood and Lina Lamont are the darlings of the silver screen, but offscreen Don avoids Lina's real-life advances with the help of his slapstick-inclined friend.
•July 24, 3pm and 6pm **The Band Wagon** *1953.* When a famous singing and dancing movie star collaborates with friends to produce a new Broadway musical, they hire a bigshot "artistic" director. Things get out of hand, and the show becomes a mess, including the addition of a prima-ballerina whom he hates.

Al Pacino: The Seventies
•July 18, 6pm **Scarecrow** *1973.* Max is an ex-con who has been saving money to open a car wash in Pittsburgh. Lionel is a sailor who is returning to home in the Midwest to see the children born while he was at sea. An unlikely friendship ensues as Max learns how Lionel copes with the world.
•July 25, 6pm **Serpico** *1973.* An honest cop, working in the early 1970s in a precinct where the rest of the force routinely extorts from local criminals, is put in danger by his so-called partners and the rest of the police force.

Documentaries: New and Noteworthy
•July 13, 6pm **Kestral's Eye** *1998.* This documentary traces the life of a family of European Kestrels during a breeding season. All aspects of their lives are filmed thanks to a video camera that was discreetly placed in their nest so as not to disturb them. The movie covers all aspects of their lives from breeding and hunting through copulation, growth and fledgling.

Brattle Theater

Most shows are $7, including double features.

Sundays—Boom! It's Liz Taylor
•July 16 **Cat on a Hot Tin Roof** *1958.* Liz Taylor and Paul Newman star in this Tennessee Williams classic that shows what happens when the patriarch of a wealthy family falls ill and his fortune is up for grabs.
•July 16 **Suddenly Last Summer** *1959.* This steamy New Orleans-set film stars Liz Taylor as the mad neice of Katharine Hepburn, a wealthy Southern belle in another Tennessee Williams tale.
•July 23 **Giant** *1956.* Director George Stevens won an Oscar for this film about two generations of Texan families. With performances from a cast that includes Liz Taylor, Rock Hudson and James Dean.

Mondays—Neo Noir
•July 17 **The General** *1927.* A silent film set in the Civil War era, this is the true story of stolen locomotives and Union spies.
•July 17 **Point Blank** *1967.* A thriller about mobsters and revenge, Lee Marvin gives a great performance in an overlooked standout movie of the 1960s.
•July 24 **Experiment in Terror** *1962.* This film lives up to its title as it tells the story of a bank clerk terrorized by a murderous extortionist.
•July 24 **Chinatown** *1974.* Directed by Roman Polanksi and starring Jack Nicholson and Faye Dunaway, this is a story of adultery that leads to murder.

Tuesdays—the Adventures of Kurosawa
•July 18 **Hidden Fortress** *1958.* Two peasant farmers are refugees, trying to return home after a war. This is called Kurosawa's lightest of his samurai films.
•July 25 **Yojimbo** *1961.* A town divided by two criminal gangs decides to play them against each other to free the town.
•July 25 **Sanjuro** *1962.* The sequel to *Yojimbo,* this film has nine young warriers struggling to expose the corrupt among them.

Wednesdays—Recent Raves
•July 12 **Ghost Dog: the Way of the Samural** *1999.* Inner-city-meets-Samurai story, set in New York, written and directed by Jim Jarmusch.
•July 12 **The Limey** *1999.* An ex-con heads to L.A. to avenge his daughter's death and finds himself in far over his head.
•July 19 **Life is to Whistle** *1998.* Characters in present-day Havana deal with their personal beliefs as they struggle for freedom.
•July 19 **Buena Vista Social Club** *1999.* This Oscar-winning documentary depicts the underground life and times of Cuban musicians brought together to record an album.

Thursdays—Italian Nights
•July 13 **The Bicycle Thief** *1948.* An Italian worker finds a job putting up posters, but on his first day, the bicycle vital to his job is stolen and with it goes his chance to provide for his family.
•July 13 **Open City** *1946.* This film follows one of the leaders of the Resistance as he is found out by the Nazis and seeks cover.
•July 20 **Eight and a Half** *1963.* A successful film director can't find peace after making a hit so he retreats into his own world of fantasy. It's Fellini's autobiographical film and it tells of the trials and tribulations of film making.

Fridays and Saturdays—Special Engagements
•July 14 and 15 **Winter Sleepers** *1997.* Ski instructors, mountain villas, car crashes and amnesia. Totaled, they equal a crazy story of love, revenge and skiing.
•July 14 and 15 **Run Lola Run** *1998.* Lola is running to save her boyfriend's life by rescuing his botched money transfer mission—again and again.
•July 21 and 22 **Princess Mononoke** *1997.* "Japanimation" that brings characters in the middle of a war while searching for the cure to a curse.
•July 21 and 22 **After Life** *1998.* Recently deceased people are forced to choose one memory to take with them into the afterlife that will stay with them for all of eternity.

Coolidge Corner Theater

Celebrating the Big Screen
•July 12, 7:30pm **Jaws** *1975.* Twenty-five years later, Spielberg's first blockbuster is still a horrifying favorite. When a great white shark threatens to destroy the summer for vacationers at Amity Island, eliminating this menace becomes the goal of a heroic crew.
•July 19, 7:30pm **The Sound of Music**, *1965.* When nun-turned-governess-turned-Nazi-resister Maria (Julie Andrews) moves into the von Trapp family house, she throws the family for a loop. This event is hosted by Ryan Landry, creative costumes encourage ($15, $8 Coolidge members, seniors and kids).

Premiere Engagements
•Now playing **Jesus' Son** *1999.* Directed by Alison MacLean, this star-studded cast features Billy Crudup, Samantha Morton, Dennis Hopper, Holly Hunter, Denis Leary and Jack Black. Based on the acclaimed short stories of Denis Johnson, the film is the tale of a heroin-addicted drifter who embarks on a series of misadventures.
•July 20, 7:30pm **Climb Against the Odds: Mt. McKinley**. The 88-minute, international award-winning documentary film is an inspirational story of female courage, hope and survival in the face of breast cancer. It documents the 1998 expedition of 12 women—five of whom are breast cancer survivors—attempting to climb Alaska's Mt. McKinley. Narrated by Academy Award winner Olympia Dukakis.

Harvard Film Archive

•July 12, 7pm **The Killers** *1946.* Told through a series of flashbacks, this is the story of a marked man who refuses to flee his hired assassins. It's America in the forties and all that implies—moody cityscapes, a potent Miklose Rosza score and Ava Gardner as the quintessential femme fatale.

Away from the Tweedys' watchful eyes, the chickens at Tweedy's farm shake their tail feathers in the clay-animation film *Chicken Run*.

•July 12, 9pm **The Killing** *1956.* In the final film of Stanley Kubrick's independent period, a racetrack robbery becomes the loose plot.
•July 13, 7pm **Lady Windermere's Fan** *1925.* This sophisticated adaptation of Oscar Wilde's play brings incredible visual detail to the screen, thanks to German director Ernst Lubitsch.
•July 13, 9pm **Love Me Tonight** *1932.* When the "best tailor in Paris" is noticed by a haughty princess, this romantic musical comedy revitalizes an age-old and familiar story line.
•July 14, 7pm **M** (*Eine Stadt sucht einen Moerder*) *1931.* Based on accounts of an actual murder case, the film embodies the despair and corruption of Germany in the early 1930s.
•July 14, 9pm **Monsieur Verdoux** *1947.* In one of the blackest comedies ever to emerge from Hollywood, a hard-working bank clerk who loses his job finds a new way of supporting his family by killing wealthy women.
•July 15, 7pm **Melvin and Howard** *1980.* A loser straight out of a country-western lyric—picks up derelict Howard Hughes in Nevada, and he does not realize the importance of this chance meeting.
•July 15, 9pm **A Movie** *1958.* This film compiles scraps of B-movie condensations, newsreels and novelty shots. It presents a powerful portrait of our culture's fascination with catastrophe.
•July 16, 7pm **Ninotchka** *1939.* When this film was originally released, ads screamed "Garbo laughs!," as it was her first comic movie. As the rigid Russian agent, Garbo visits Paris on government business and falls in the love with the city and with a playboy.
•July 16, 9pm **A New Leaf** *1970.* In her directorial film debut, comedienne Elaine May casts herself as a frumpy, eccentric, klutzy and wealthy botanist who is pursued by an aging rake (Walter Matthau).
•July 17, 7 pm **The Nose** *1963.* A classic work by the master of pin-screen animation, Alexeieff's film is based on the story of a Russian major whose nose is discovered in a loaf of bread by an unsuspecting barber.
•July 17, 9pm **The Night of the Hunter** *1955.* This near expressionistic fable set in a small West Virginian community during America's Depression concerns two children pursued by a madman preacher.
•July 18, 7pm **One Fine Day** (*Un carto giorno*) *1969.* When an advertising executive runs down a laborer on the day he is offered the directorship of the company, he re-examines his life as he stands trial.
•July 18, 9pm **O Lucky Man!** *1973.* A young man is in search of himself and for better things in life—he becomes a coffee salesman en route to becoming an actor.
•July 19, 7pm **Pickpocket** *1959.* A lonely young man embarks on a career as a petty thief and then reflects on the morality of a life of crime after he is arrested. It's director Robert Bressons' first entirely original film script.
•July 19, 9pm **Pickup on South Street** *1953.* When this was first released, it was dismissed as Communist and anti-McCarthyist. The film recounts the story of a pickpocket who obtains top-secret microfilm.
•July 20, 7pm **Que Viva Mexico!** *1932.* The task of creating this film spanned 40 years, as the footage shot in the heartland of Mexico was never sent to Soviet director Sergei Eisenstein.
•July 20, 8:45pm **The Queen of Spades** *1948.* Set in 19th-century Imperialist Russia, British filmmaker Thorold Dickinson portrays a young officer consumed by his obsession to learn the secret of winning at cards.
•July 21, 7pm **The Rules of the Game** *1939.* Jean Renoir's film is an appraisal of the erotic charades of the French leisure class before WW I.
•July 21, 9pm **La Ronde** *1950.* The film was originally deemed too "immoral" for American audiences. Now, it's been made into the hit play *The Blue Room*.
•July 22, 7pm **Show Boat** *1936.* The much-loved Hammerstein musical is adapted to film in the second of the three film versions of this sentimental favorite.
•July 22, 9pm **Steamboat Bill, Jr.** *1928.* Buster the city-bred boy returns to the South and to his steamboat captain father whom he joins to take over the river.
•July 23, 7pm **Sullivan's Travels** *1941.* This film is a probe into the psyche of a comedy filmmaker. Dressed as a hobo, Joel McCrea befriends an actress wannabe.
•July 23, 9pm **Season of Monsters** *1987.* In two parts, this is the story of an emigree professor who commits suicide after returning to Hungary and his former classmate, who is called to the scene.
•July 24, 7pm **The Trial** *1962.* Starring Anthony Perkins as Josef K., director Orson Welles depicts a faithful rendition of Franz Kafka's story of a man arrested for a crime that is never explained to him.
•July 24, 9:15pm **The Third Man** *1949.* Using shadowy cinematography, a haunting score and top-notch performances, director Carol Reed portrays a lonely American in postwar Vienne.
•July 25, 7pm **Two Women** *1960.* Sophia Loren plays an Italian widow who flees south with her 13-year-old daughter after the Alfred bombing of Rome in 1943.
•July 25, 9:15pm **Three Women** *1977.* The enigmatic tone of this film is best explained by the fact that the idea for it came to director Robert Altman in a dream.

Museum of Fine Arts

Most film screenings are $6.

French Film Festival

•July 13, 8pm **Would I Lie to You?** *1997.* Set in the Sentier—the Jewish garment district of Paris—this touching comedy of mistaken identities was phenomenally successful when it was released in France.
•July 15, 1:30pm **Children of the Marshland** *1999.* Jean Becker sets the film in the 1930s in the Marais, a quiet region of the Loire River. Two friends, men of the marshland, comprise the hub of this film, around which their friends and family rhythmically twist.
•July 16, 6pm **The Children of the Century** *1999.* The film, directed by Diane Kurys (*Les enfants du siecle*), explores the fascinating bond between Sand and Alfred de Musset, the acclaimed 19th-century poet.
•July 16, 11am **I'm Not Afraid of Life** *1999.* Directed by Noémie Lvovsky, this film's title is a saucy taunt to life itself from four teenage girls in its messy throes. It was filmed over several years so that the actresses could grow up along with their characters.
•July 23, 4pm **Lulu Kreutz's Picnic** *1999.* When an elderly Parisian couple of Viennese Jewish extraction come to Evian for their son's concert, a weekend of confessions and confrontations ensues.
•July 13, 5:45pm and July 16, 1:15pm **Voyages** *1999.* This is the story of three women, whose desitnies overlap and whose roots are in a generation of immigrants that lost everything in the Holocaust.
•July 14, 6pm and July 22, 10:45am **Perhaps** *1999.* A young man discovers a portal to Paris in the year 2075 during a New Year's Eve party in a Parisian townhouse.
•July 14, 8:15pm and July 22, 2:30pm **Beautiful Mother** *1999.* When free-spirited Catherine Deneuve seduces a hapless male, the only problem is that the hapless male is her son-in-law. A cast of characters includes a lesbian grandmother and a pregnant daughter.
•July 15, 3:45pm **Keep It Quiet** *1999.* A man emerges from prison to find his wife and TV-celebrity brother preoccupied with keeping up appearances. His sanctity stirs up trouble in their upscale French circles.
•July 16, 4pm and July 21, 6pm **The Color of Lies** *1999.* This film paints a suspenseful portrait of small-town machinations when a 10-year-old girl is found strangled in a small coastal town in Brittany.
•July 16, 8:30pm **Goutes d'eau sur pierres brulantes** (*Water Drops on Burning Rocks*) *2000.* Adapted from a play by R.W. Fassbinder, this is a story of sexual politics involving a 50-year-old businessman and a 19-year-old.
•July 20, 8:15pm and July 22, 4:15pm **Criminal Lovers** *1999.* This has been described as a transposition of Grimm's *Hansel and Gretel* fairy tale and a modern setting—keeping the gruesome cannibalism.
•July 21, 8pm **La fille sur le pont** (*The Girl on the Bridge*) *1999.* French pop star Vanessa Paradis plays Adèle, a woman on the brink of despair who becomes the perfect target for an aging knife-thrower and his promises of a exciting, if not better, life.
•July 22, 12:45pm **Night Wind** *1999.* Catherine Deneuve again plays the woman in a dead-end affair with a younger man, this time catching herself between a self-serving lover and a frustrated architect.
•July 23, 2:15pm **La mort du cygne (Ballerina)** *1937.* Three of the greatest stars of the 1930s Parisian dance world are featured in this tale of innocence and evil.

Museum of Science

Omni Shows

•Through Sept. The Omni features **Dolphins**, an underwater exploration about these sea creatures in the wild and their forms of communication.
•Through October 5. **The Magic of Flight**. Place your trays in an upright position and prepare to take to the air.
•Through October 5. Michael Jordan goes to new heights in **Michael Jordan to the Max**, the first big-screen film that showcases the personal and athletic attributes of the basketball legend.

education

Advice to Contributors

Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Education. Or e-mail information to education@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

CLASSES/LECTURES

Wednesday, July 12

What Every Woman Should Know
Mass. General Hospital, O'Keeffe Auditorium, Boston (553-3787). MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. 6-8pm. Free. The "New Developments in the Detection and Management of Gynecologic Cancers" workshop deals with the prevention, detection and management of cervical, ovarian and other gynecological cancers that afflict over 82,000 American women each year. Dinner will be served.

Unlocking the Secrets of Aging
Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston (723-2500). MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. 12-1pm. To complement its new traveling exhibit, *Secrets of Aging*, the museum offers a series of six lectures that delve into the mysteries surrounding how and why we age. •July 12: **Dr. Daniel S. Rooks** speaks about designing personal exercise plans for "healthy aging." •July 19: Brandeis Professor **Dr. Margie E. Lachman** will lecture on the effects of aging on memory. All speakers will answer questions.

Artists Viewpoint Lecture Series
Dante Alighieri Society of Massachusetts, 41 Hampshire St., Cambridge (666-2460). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. $20. Classes focus on the creative processes of the Masters of Western art.

Saturday, July 15

Screenwriting Seminar
Fisher College, 116 Beacon St., Boston (623-8100). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 10am-5pm. $100. The next *Good Will Hunting* is lurking inside your head, but all you can do is talk about your "great movie idea" at dinner parties and out at night. If that describes you—overflowing with cinematic creativity but shy to embark on writing a script—then actress and Emerson College Professor **Leslie O'Flaherty**'s workshop on screenwriting could provide an invaluable experience—or at least one worth a couple million. The day includes writing exercises, film clips and lessons on how to pitch a movie idea, develop characters and other aspects of script writing.

Tuesday, July 18

Prepare to Be Incubated
Ames Mansion, 355 Comm. Ave., Boston (227-2822). www.mimc.org. I-Group has seed capital, office space and valuable advice for high-tech start-up companies. Though the market is ripe for new entries, the invisible hand of American capitalism expels foundering businesses with sink-or-swim alacrity. Don't go it alone, says I-Group, as it welcomes entreprenuers to meet its managing directors and several portfolio companies.

Thursday, July 20

Visual Side of the Web
nSight, 10 Fawcett St., Cambridge (354-2828). www.nSightworks.com. *July 20-21. $708.* Do you have a presence on the Web? The question is unavoidable for small businesses and individuals alike. Novices and and the technologically savvy have something to learn at the nSight two-day workshop on Web page visual design. Classes include lectures on Adobe Photoshop and general information related to page layout and color choice.

Time Management for the Business of Living: Franklin Covey Workshop
The Colonnade Hotel, 120 Huntington Ave., Boston (887-552-2948). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential. $189. It's a full day commitment but promises to save you eons in the long run. The workshop teaches overstressed, over-scheduled people how to best allocate one's most precious resource—time—to achieve both short-term and long-term goals. Be busy, be ambitious, be successful...be stress free.

Can I Switch?
New Englnd Aquarium, Central Wharf, Boston (973-5206). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. 6:15-7:30pm. $75. Does your girl/boyfriend love it when you "talk green"? Or, perhaps you've heard Mother Nature's call to arms. Either way, in the face of increasing evidence of global warming, destruction of the Earth's rain forests, among other catastrophes, many people are choosing to leave their jobs to seek an environmental career. Three seminars (July 20, 27 and Aug. 3) will help you join the trend, with lectures on resume writing techniques to highlight skills applicable to environmental work.

Saturday, July 22

Poetry Workshop
Newton Free Library, Meeting Room A, 330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). 10:30am. Free. An opportunity for experienced poets to showcase their work and receive thoughtful criticism. Presenters should bring eight copies of a poem to the workshop.

Western Lowland Gorillas
Franklin Park Zoo (989-2093). 2:30-3:30pm. $12. The third lecture in a series on primate conservation, **Lyna Watson** will discuss the status of Western lowland gorillas, both in captivity and in their natural habitats.

ONGOING

Boston Center for Adult Education
5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (254-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. One-shot classes and two-month courses available.

Boston Toastmasters
40 Comm. Ave., Room 215, Boston (367-3463). MBTA: B Green Line to BU Central. First and third Tuesdays, 5:45pm. Public speaking techniques.

Brookline Adult and Community Education Program
115 Greenough St., Brookline High School, Room 101, Brookline (730-2700). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. Hundreds of classes in liberal arts, cooking, sewing, computers, dance, crafts and exercise are available.

Cambridge Center for Adult Ed
42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Call for cataloges, schedules and course information.

Preview

Results 2000

An all-star panel teaches success

The ubiquitous motivational speaker Anthony "Tony" Robbins is the executive producer and a keynote speaker at the Results 2000 "Masters of Our Time" event at the Fleet Center. The crew of prominent business people, television personalities and others is a potpourri of celebrities united by one striking commonality: success. Well, success and *notoriety*, when it comes to the paralyzed actor Christopher Reeve (of *Superman* fame), and the enduring business guru Donald Trump (pictured, middle right). The highly quotable Brian Tracy (bottom right) will be in Boston, along with Larry King, host of *Larry King Live*, who will speak about ways to improve conversation skills and the role of humor in effective communication. Joining King from the world of national broadcasting is Joan Lunden (top right), whose segment will focus on her new book, *A Bend in the Road Is Not the End of the Road: Ten Positive Principles for Dealing with Change. Fleet Center, Boston (543-1679). July 30, 8am-5:30pm.*

books& poetry

Advice to Contributors
Submit information by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Books. Or e-mail to books@improper.com. *Include details of dates, times, prices, nearest T stop and telephone numbers. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

READINGS & SIGNINGS

Wednesday, July 12

Borders Books and Music Series
85 Worcester Rd., Framingham (508-875-2321). 7pm. **Darin Strauss**, author of *Chang and Eng*, the turbulent story of the world famous Siamese twins—from their poor childhood in Siam to their lives as international celebrities and then as husbands and fathers in rural North Carolina—is in Boston promoting his acclaimed book.

Brookline Booksmith Author Series
279 Harvard Street, Brookline (739-6002). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. **Daniel Wallace**, author of *Big Fish*, reads from his new novel, *Ray in Reverse.* The book's premise is unusual because the main character, Ray, is dead. He revisits his life in flashbacks and relives critical times in his adult life.

Thursday, July 13

Brookline Booksmith Author Series
279 Harvard Street, Brookline (739-6002). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Didn't catch **Darin Strauss** at Borders? On Thursday, Strauss brings his first book, *Chang & Eng*, to the Writers and Readers series.

Cambridge Public Library Event
449 Broadway, Cambridge (349-4040). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. **Barbara Neely**, author of *Blanche Passes Go*, created the popular character Blanche White in 1992 for her debut novel, *Blanche on the Lam.* Blanche, housewife turned crime fighter, has charmed fans of the mystery genre in a handful of novels since her introduction. Now she returns in Neely's newest work.

New Words Live Reading Series
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 6:30pm. The term "women's issues" belies simple classifications, the category nearly bursting at the seams. Enter author **Kim Gutschow** into the New Words Live Reading Series with her collection of works on Buddhism and its connection to the concerns of the modern woman. Gutschow's lecture will include a slide show that discusses the changing role of women in the Buddhist faith.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free. **Daniel Wallace**, author of *Big Fish*, reads from his novel *Ray in Reverse.* The book's premise is unusual, in that it is the story of Ray, who is dead, revisiting his life in flashbacks and reliving critical times in his life.

Friday, July 14

Borders North Shore
151 Andover St., Peabody (978-538-3003). It is surrounded by ocean, waves crashing against against a charging clipper ship. And, the book—no less dramatic—has not even begun. Turn past the photographic cover of author **David Shaw**'s book, *Flying Cloud: the True Story of America's Most Famous Clipper Ship & The Woman Who Guided Her*, and you'll find tales of greed, speed and a healthy dose of female heroism. It's the story of *Flying Cloud*, a clipper ship that traveled from New York to California during the Gold Rush. *Flying Cloud*, with Eleanor Creesy (the captain's wife) at the helm, made the trip in only 89 days, setting a record not broken until 1989. The book is a day-to-day account of the famous journey.

Monday, July 17

Kate's Mystery Books
2211 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (491-2660). MBTA: Red Line to Davis Square. 6pm. **J.A. Jance** will discuss *Devil's Claw*, her most recent Joanna Brady mystery. Bring or buy the book at Kate's, and Jance will sign it.

Tuesday, July 18

Ibbetson Street Press Events
Book Cellar, 1941 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (628-2313). MBTA: Red Line to Porter. 5pm. An evening with **Jack Powers** and friends features **Doug Holder**, **Dorian Brooks**, **Lisanne D'Andrea Windlow** and others.

Newtonville Reading Series
Newtonville Books, 296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. **Abigail De Witt** will read from *Lili*, her debut novel. From her deeply religious upbringing to her divorce and lesbian love affair, De Witt explores the nature of love as a door to the experience of the Divine.

Radcliffe Author Event
Longfellow Hall, Radcliffe campus, 13 Appian Way, Cambridge . MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Prolific writer **Alice Hoffman**, author of *The River King*, comes to Harvard to talk books. *The River King* tells of the small town of Haddan, Massachusetts, which has been divided between those born and bred in the village and those whose families have attended the prestigious Haddan School for more than 100 years. One night, the two worlds collide due to an inexplicable death.

Wednesday, July 19

Borders Books and Music Series
85 Worcester Rd., Framingham (508-875-2321). 7:30pm. **Sarah Blake**, author of *Grange House*, talks about her book. It is the story of an elegant hotel on an island off the coast of Maine, run by the mysterious Miss Grange. Part family saga, part ghost story, part love story, it is a suspenseful romance set in Victorian Age America.

Brookline Booksmith Author Series
279 Harvard Street, Brookline (739-6002). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. **Amy Sohn** reads from *Run Catch Kiss*, her *Sex and the City*-esque debut novel. Determined to win an Oscar, a college grad moves to New York, where she writes a raunchy column called "Run Catch Kiss."

Thursday, July 20

Newtonville Reading Series
Newtonville Books, 296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Accomplished poet **Sarah Blake** has written a novel, seen it published and left her home in Illinois to tour Boston's literary scene, reading from *Grange House* and signing books at each stop.

Sunday, July 23

New England Poetry Club
Longfellow House, 105 Brattle St., Cambridge (876-4491). 4pm. **F.D. Reeve** will reflect on his recent trip to England and compare American poetry with that of the British mainland. Poets **Dianan Der-Hovanessian** and **Lloyd Schwartz** will likewise be in attendance, sharing their work.

Tuesday, July 25

Brookline Booksmith Author Series
279 Harvard Street, Brookline (739-6002). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. New York Times best-seller and Massachusetts resident **Elizabeth Berg** (author of *Durable Goods* and *Joy School*) reads from her novel, *Open House.*

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free. **John Sedgwick** reads from *The Dark House*, his first book. A Boston investment counselors attempts to escape the dark secrets of his childhood through compulsive voyeurism, which leads him back to the heart of his family nightmare.

ONGOING

Agape, Tuesdays
Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (266-6710). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8-10pm. Every Tuesday, this somewhat sophisticated poetry group gathers to share versions of their latest work. •Featured readers include **B.G. Thurston** (July 18), and **Fontaine Falkoff** (July 25).

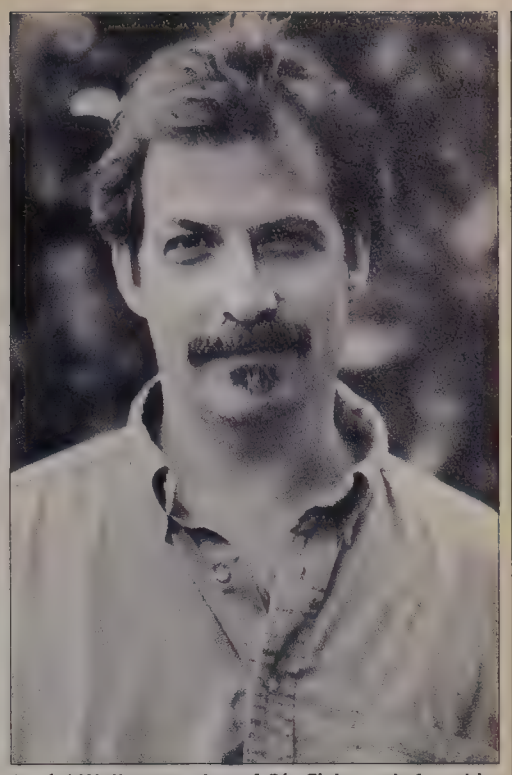
Cantab Lounge, Wednesdays
738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8-10pm. $3. Wednesday nights at the Cantab always pack in more than 30 poets in just two hours for open mike and a slam.

Club Passim, Tuesdays
47 Palmer St., Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. $5. All open-mike fanatics must experience this—a training ground for up-and-coming performers, poets and storytellers. Sign up Tuesdays, 7:30pm.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Night, Sundays
1667 Mass Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. $4 cover. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes every Sunday to the featured poet of the week.

O'Brien's Pub, Mondays
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. A mix of rock and spoken word is performed one Monday a month at 9pm—the performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry, Saturdays
Out of the Blue Gallery, 168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. Donations appreciated. Every Saturday is poetry night, and an incredible spoken-word and music event also takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month. It features music by Rob Gonzalez and his band and spoken word with Nola Kelley. Open mike occasionally follows performances.



Daniel Wallace, author of *Big Fish*, reads from his new novel, *Ray in Reverse*, at Brookline Booksmith July 12 and at Newtonville Books July 13.

Rhythm and Muse Open Mike, Thursday
403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-6622). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook. A headlining poet is followed by an open-mike session on the first Thursday of every month, 7:30pm.

Stone Soup Poetry Night
Zeitgeist Gallery, 312 Broadway St, Cambridge (227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7:30pm. $3. Since '71, the Stone Soup Poets have served up steamy confessions and soothing inspirations with their weekly readings. Keep the good vibes going every Monday at these readings with featured writers each week.

Bestsellers

HARDCOVER FICTION
1. **Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets** by J.K. Rowling
2. **Me Talk Pretty One Day** by David Sedaris
3. **Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban** by J.K. Rowling
4. **Make Way for Ducklings** by Robert McCloskey
5. **Cradle and All** by James Patterson
6. **White Teeth** by Zadie Smith
7. **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone** by J.K. Rowling
8. **Anil's Ghost** by Michael Ondaatje
9. **Brethen** by John Grisham
10. **Julie and Romeo** by Jeanne Ray

HARDCOVER NON-FICTION
1. **Black Mass** by Dick Lehr
2. **Papal Sin** by Garry Willis
3. **Who Moved My Cheese?** by Spencer Johnson
4. **In the Heart of the Sea** by Nathaniel Philbrick
5. **Kitchen Confidential** by Anthony Bourdain
6. **All Souls** by Michael MacDonald
7. **In the Sunbured Country** by Bill Bryson
8. **Tuesdays with Morrie** by Mitch Albom
9. **The Art of Happiness** by Dalai Lama
10. **Flags of Our Fathers** by James Bradley

Provided by Borders Books and Music at Downtown Crossing for the week of June 19-25.

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LILLIAN BAYLEY

Classical Music

LONGY HONORS A LEGEND

Soprano Eileen Farrell did it all—from the Met to Hollywood—with grace and class. BY KEITH POWERS

Name a singer today who is a major opera star, a television guest on dozens of shows, makes jazz and pop recordings that sell millions—and still remains deep down a doting mother and wife? Can't? There are none. Maybe there never will be anyone like Eileen Farrell again—truly one of the great sopranos of the middle century.

She was the anti-diva, equally at ease singing Wagner arias and duets with Carol Burnett. Still witty and not a little saucy at 80, Farrell, who retired in 1995, was in Boston last month to be awarded a lifetime achievement award by the Longy School of Music. She also took the chance to plug her biography, *Can't Stop Singing,* cowritten by *Opera News* executive editor Brian Kellow (Northeastern University Press, $29.95).

Farrell took voice lessons from her music-teacher mother—"she said I would sing the stories from my reader when I was in first grade," Farrell remembers. In 1939 she took a chance audition for the CBS Orchestra—and a career was launched. It was different for singers then. Farrell sang regularly for live radio broadcasts—before television, radio broadcasts were major family entertainment. In 1949 she dubbed the part of Australian soprano Marjorie Lawrence for the movie *Interrupted Melody*. The soundtrack became a bestseller, and Farrell became a star.

After that, she did it all, and all of it well. She sang with great conductors, from Tommy Schippers to Arthur Fiedler to Lenny Bernstein—"the love of my life," she remembers. She sang opera: her Met debut in Gluck's *Alceste* in 1960 earned her 22 curtain calls, even though the production was a flop and hasn't since been repeated. For five years she ruled the Met, battling the notorious Rudolf Bing all the way. She quit for the television circuit, appearing in episodes from *The Ed Sullivan Show* to *The Carol Burnett Show*.

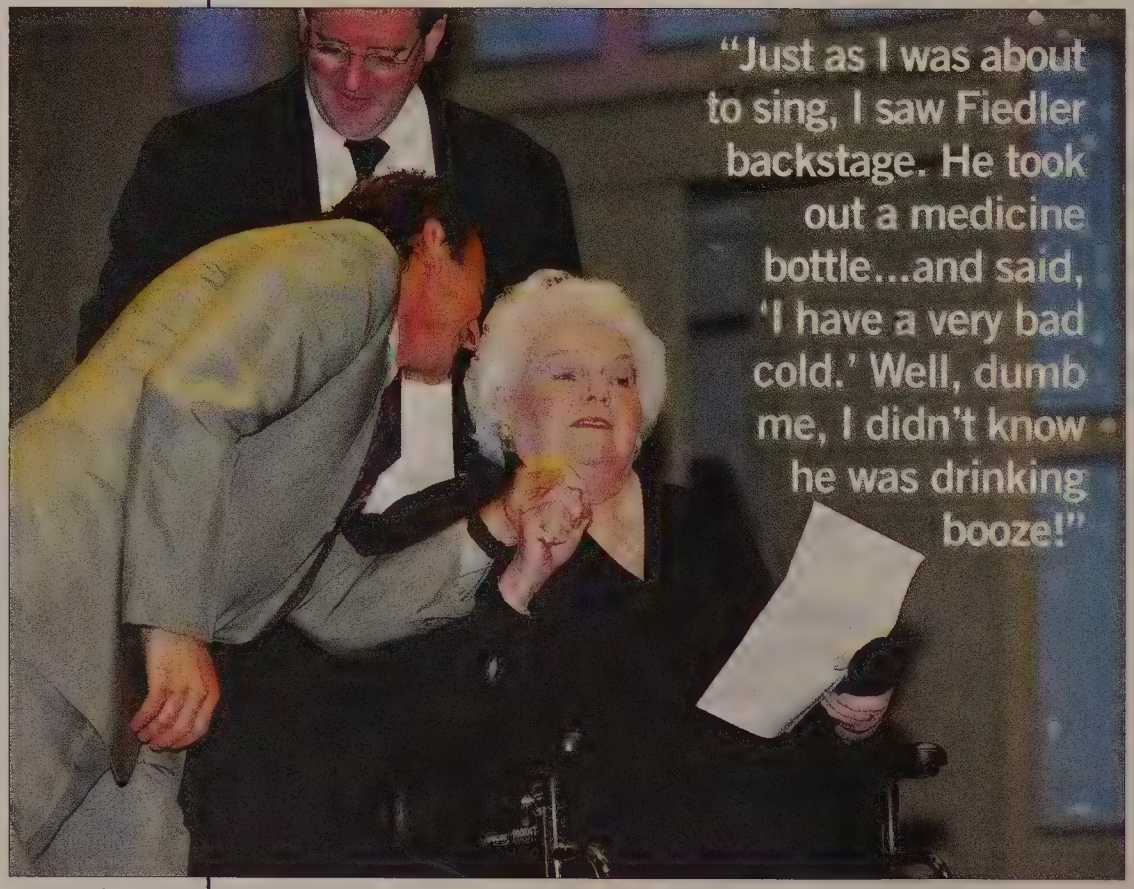
Farrell has an anecdote about everyone and isn't shy about sharing them. A sample: Singing in a recital with tenor Jan Peerce, Farrell had just finished her number and was sitting down as Peerce rose to sing. "You fly's unzipped," she whispered to him, and the poor Peerce spent the whole song glancing down nervously to see if she was kidding (she was) or not.

Once when she and Robert Merrill were both on the floor during a scene from *Forza del Destino*, he whispered to her, "Would you please get your tit out of my mouth?" In the next performance, she snuck a cookie onstage, and when the same moment came, she said to Merrill, "Here's a cookie to go with that milk."

She also adds to the legend of Pops conductor Arthur Fiedler. "The first time I worked with him was in Toronto. Just as I was about to sing, I saw Fiedler backstage. He took out a medicine bottle, grabbed his throat and said, "I have a very bad cold." Well, dumb me, I didn't know he was drinking booze! At Symphony Hall he kept a bottle of whisky in his office. He'd pour himself a drink, stir it up with his baton, then lick the baton and toss down the drink."

Like most American musicians from the '50s and '60s, her affiliation with Leonard Bernstein brings special memories. "It was a religious experience working with Lenny. He wasn't like other conductors—like Szell or Schippers. I never heard him yell at anyone—he was always very tactful. We did so much beautiful Wagner together."

Farrell knows it was easier for singers then. "We had the radio broadcasts. Nobody sings on the radio anymore. That helped my career greatly." Any singers today that remind her of Eileen Farrell? "Well, Deborah Voigt has a voice like mine. I heard her at the Met—it was my first trip to the Met since my last performance—and she was great." For a woman who had it all—fame, happy family life and, most of all, fun—regrets are few. "My only regret is that I didn't sing enough Mahler. When I started to teach [in the '70s], my students would bring in all of this beautiful Mahler—what great vocal music."



Eileen Farrell was in Boston in June to accept a lifetime achievement award by the Longy School of Music.

KERRY BRETT HURLEY

Coda

Other honorees at the Longy awards, a stylish affair with lots of great music and food at Symphony Hall, included Boston music educator **Rosebud Holland** and conductor **Harry Ellis Dickson**. Conductor **Andre Previn** canceled Tanglewood appearances on July 2 and July 15. Previn is still recovering from an eye injury. He will be replaced by **James DePreist**. iB

Preview

Tanglewood at a Glance

The highlights of the opening two weeks

See Dubravka Tomsic July 13.

With the opening of Tanglewood July 7, summer has officially begun for music-loving Bostonians. Too many people have said to me lately, "You know, I've never been to Tanglewood." Do yourself a favor: Some beautiful Sunday, get in the car around 10am, find the Mass. Pike, and get to Lenox by 2:30pm. Spend $15, sit on the lawn with a stylish picnic and enjoy one of the world's great places. Here's some highlights from the first two weeks of concerts:

•Thursday, July 13: Dubravka Tomsic, Boston piano favorite, performs music of Bach, Liszt and Prokofiev's scintillating *Third Sonata*. Ozawa Hall, 8:30pm.

•Saturday, July 15: Leonard Bernstein Memorial Concert. Three conductors (Ozawa, Spano, DePreist), eight singers (including Ramon Vargas and Christine Goerke) and a sneak preview (Act 3) of this summer's opera performance, Verdi's *Falstaff*. One of the highlights of the whole season. Shed, 8:30pm.

•Sunday, July 16: Itzhak Perlman, violin Lutoslawski and Beethoven concertos. BSO conducted by Ozawa. Shed, 2:30pm.

•Tuesday, July 18 and Friday, July 22: Two performances by magical soprano Barbara Bonney, singing music of Copland, Argento and Previn (July 18) and Schoenberg and Wagner (July 22). Ozawa Hall 8:30pm (18th); shed, 8:30pm (July 22)

Lawn tickets are $12.50-$17, seats are $18-$85. Call 888-266-1200 for tickets. For more information, visit www.bso.org.

–Keith Powers

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled Classical by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Classical Music or e-mail to classical@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers Web site information and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to deadline. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from many different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to doublecheck dates and times.

Wednesday, July 12

Berklee College of Music Recital
1140 Boylston St., Boston (747-8820). Times vary. Free. Ricardo Poza will perform original classical compositions on the flute with a small chamber orchestra.

Boston Pops in Concert
Koussevitzky Music Shed, Tanglewood, Lenox (413-637-5280). 8:30pm. Keith Lockhart conducts Boston Pops' first performance of the season at Tanglewood.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, One Follen St., Cambridge (876-0956). 12:15pm. Free. The Bach Lunch Series returns with "A Box of Improvisations."

Thursday, July 13

BU Summer Concert Series
Tsai Performance Center, 685 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-8724). MBTA: B Green Line to BU Central. 8pm. $10, $5 students and seniors. French harpsichordist Olivier Baumont makes his Boston debut.

Friday, July 14

BSO Tanglewood
Tanglewood Shed, Tanglewood, Lenox (413-637-5280). 8:30pm. James Depreist conducts pianist Horacio Gutiérrez on Fauré's *Pelleas et Melisande*, Prokofiev's *Piano Concerto No. 2* and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 7.*

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, One Follen St., Cambridge (876-0956). 8pm. Free. The Longy Summer Orchestra performs works by Schumann, Berlioz, Bartok and Beethoven, conducted by Jeffrey Rink.

Saturday, July 15

Leonard Bernstein Memorial Concert
Tanglewood Shed, Tanglewood, Lenox (413-637-5280). 8:30pm. The Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra, conducted by Seiji Ozawa, will feature numerous well known musicians. They will be playing Bernstein's *Opening Prayer*, Elgar's *Enigma* and Verdi's *Falstaff.*

Sunday, July 16

BSO at Tanglewood
Tanglewood Shed, Tanglewood, Lenox (413-637-5280). 2:30pm. Seiji Ozawa conducts with Itzhak Perlman on on violin. Selections include Brahms and Beethoven.

BU Tanglewood Institute
Koussevitzky Music Shed, Seiji Ozawa Hall, Lenox (413-637-1430). 6pm. Free admission. The Young Artists Wing Ensemble, conducted by Frank Battisti, will be performing various pieces.

Tuesday, July 18

King's Chapel Noon Hour Recitals
School and Tremont Streets, Boston (227-2155). 12:15pm. $2 donation. Kelly Demers, soprano, and Mark Rabuck on the guitar provide incredible lunchtime music.

Tanglewood Concerts
Ozawa Hall, Tanglewood, Lenox (413-637-5280). 8:30pm. Barbara Bonney, soprano, will be performing with piano, flute and clarinet accompaniment.

Wednesday, July 19

Tanglewood Daniel and Shirlee Freed Endowed Concert
Ozawa Hall, Tanglewood, Lenox (413-637-5280). 8:30pm. Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra, conducted by James Conlon, will be performimg Mahler's *Symphony No. 5.*

Friday, July 21

BSO at Tanglewood
Tanglewood Shed, Tanglewood, Lenox (413-637-5280). 8:30pm. Jeffrey Tate will be conducting with Héléne Grimaud on piano. Selections include Wagner's *Siegfried Idyll*, Schumann's *Piano Concerto* and Haydn's *Symphony No. 99.*

Saturday, July 22

BSO at Tanglewood
Tanglewood Shed, Tanglewood, Lenox (413-637-5280). 8:30pm. Soprano Barbara Bonney is once again teamed up with conductor James Conlon to perform pieces by Wagner, Strauss and Mahler.

Sunday, July 23

BSO at Tanglewood
Tanglewood Shed, Tanglewood, Lenox (413-637-5280). 8:30pm. Seiji Ozawa conducts Peter Serkin on piano. They will perform Lieberson's *Red Garuda* and Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 5.*

Monday, July 24

Tanglewood Concerts
Ozawa Hall, Tanglewood, Lenox (413-637-5280). 6pm. The Tanglewood Music Center Fellows present a family concert.

Tuesday, July 25

King's Chapel Noon Hour Recitals
School and Tremont streets, Boston (227-2155). 12:15pm. $2 donation. Concordia Recorder Consort plays English Renaissance music.

dance clubs

Advice to Contributors
Submit information by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Clubs or e-mail to clubs@improper.com. Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to pub date. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Nights

Mondays

Vertigo Mondays
Vertigo. Smooth Lounge upstairs, Deep House downstairs; DJ Arsit. Dress slick. 10pm, no cover.

Static
Axis. DJ Jay Ine and the gorgeous drag shows hosted by Mizery. 10pm. 19+. $5 cover.

Language
Hibernia. DJs G White, Dot, Surface and Sora spin a selection of hip, diverse drum and bass. 8pm. 21+. $2.

Tuesdays

Cigar and Jazz Night
The Exchange. Light up, kick back and listen to jazz. Plus, you score a free Gina Cigar and buffet. No cover.

Fat Tuesdays
Bill's. DJ Chaos scratches out hip-hop while house masters DJ Justin Hoffman and DJ Jynx spin. 11pm, $10.

The Forum
Lava Bar. Join Mission Control and support the local DJ scene as local talents share the floor in hopes of gaining a headlining spot on the Lava stage. 10pm, 21+.

Got Milk?
Venu. If you're chic and fabu you'll be at Venu. Resident DJ Osheen spins house for the trés chic. 21+.

Inasense
Karma. Listen to sounds that lift the spirits with DJ Timmy Allen spinning house and R&B. $10, 19+.

Mingle Tuesdays
The Modern. This spot screams sophistication. With DJs, a raw bar, vodka bar and late lounge. 10pm. 21+.

Wednesdays

Backstage
DJ Jonny C. spins top-40. 10pm. No cover, 21+.

College Night
The Aquarium. Guest DJs spin on all three funky floors of this relatively new venue at 10pm.

Trance
Emilys. Groove to progressive trance. No cover, 21+.

Good Karma
Karma/Mambo. Misery plays host to a roster of rotating DJs. Expect a mixed crowd. 10pm. 19+. $5.

Hibernia Wednesdays
Hibernia. DJ C.T.O. is the Godfather of Say Word night—with plenty of funk. 9pm. 21+. Cover varies.

Modern Living
The Modern. Here, DJ Dale Charles spins while minglers strut their stuff and sip martinis. 10pm. 21+.

Musical Mayhem
The Exchange. DJ Jynx plays house upstairs while Tym Ryan of WFNX and DJ Brisc spin in the Vault. 10pm.

Pravda 116
International Night. Spend the evening at one of the city's most decadent hot spots—set to beats by DJ Alex and DJ Felix. Proper dress required, 21+.

Status
Axis. It's all about status when DJs Darrin Friedman and Richie Rich spin house music and weekly Fashion and Hair Salon Show. 10pm, 19+, $10.

Thursdays

AnTua Nua
Top-40 and old-school hip-hop with DJ Tim Collins.

Aria
Edyta. DJ Roger M. gets things going in the Fashion Lounge with a blend of international house music.

The Aquarium
The Kiss 108 FM dance party features Randy from the *Matty in the Morning Show.* 10pm. $3.

Backstage
Tonight's adrenaline high features special guests spinning top-40 dance and club classics. 10pm, 21+. $5.

Big Easy
New Orleans-themed nightspot with some of the best DJs in town, 9pm.

Charlie's Angels Night
Polly Esther's. Dress as your favorite Brady as DJ Beez spins all your favorite '70s, '80s and '90s music. 8pm. $5.

Chrome
Axis. Resident DJs John Debo and Ali Ajami spin progressive, mucky house and trance. 10pm. 19+. $10.

DJ Mario brings current dance mixes to the scene every Saturday at the pulsating Pravda 116.

Downtempo Lounging
The Modern. DJ Ricky Fatts spins while you enjoy the raw bar and vodka bar. 9pm-2am, 21+.

Funkalicious Thursdays
The Exchange. DJ G-Squared takes you on a blast from the past as he spins the sounds of '70s and '80s. Added bonus: free after-work buffet. No cover.

Graduate School Night
Pravda 116. DJ Mario sucks you right out of the library.

Il Panino
A social playground for young professionals in Boston: cocktails and dancing. Proper dress. 9pm. 21+.

International Thursday
Avalon. A mixed crowd fills up this nightspot as DJ Manolo spins Eurohouse and DJ Anthony spins Latin in the Playhouse. 10pm. 19+. $15.

Latin Quarter
The Roxy. You know it's time to dance when the Roxy breaks out hip-shaking Latin dance mixes. $10, 21+.

The List
Lava Bar. *Lavabar.com*. DJs Paul. Brian and 7L and guests along with Verse/D bring you soul, funk, old school and all things funky. Keep your eyes open for guest DJs. 10pm. 21+.

Speed
Karma/Mambo
Special guest DJs and resident DJs Bruno and Masta Millions spin the latest hip-hop and R&B. 10pm. 19+. $15 cover.

Venu
Swank American top-40 and house, this hot spot features the incredible DJ Adilson.

Fridays

AnTua Nua
DJ Vinny spreads love to fans of the '70s, '80s and '90s.

Aria
Sophie. Vocal house music provided by DJ Raffi while DJ Thanos throws hip-hop and R&B at you in the Angel Room.

Atlas
Top-40 hits start at 10:30pm and rock till 2am—plus concert-ticket giveaways from KISS 108.

Avaland
Avalon. Everything about this screams "Party!" with DJ Manolo and John Debo and world-class DJs at the helm of Boston's Nightlife Extravaganza. 10pm. 19+. $15.

Backstage
Backstage kicks off its all-night dance party, part one with the sounds of DJ Jonny C spinning top-40. Doors open at 10pm. $5, proper dress, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans–themed nightspot has some of the best mainstream DJs in town. It offers four bars and two lounges, as well as billiards and a wraparound balcony.

Buzz
El Tropicana. Roger M lays down the Latin and international house tracks while upstairs visiting DJs pay homage to the house music gods. 11pm, $15, 21+.

Disco Inferno
Polly Esther's. Get ready for disco-inferno Fridays. 8pm, $10, 21+.

Emily's
An after-work venue during the week, this hot spot transforms itself into a dance kingdom on weekend nights. Jam to soul, house and dance music. 5pm. No cover, 21+. Casual atmosphere, but no hats or jeans.

Envy
This is filled with a swarming mass of sweaty 'n' ready dancers. Top-40 and house set the tone. 9pm, $5, 21+.

Exchange Fridays
The Exchange. Up High, Tiziano and Maurizio, Boston's best DJ duo play house trip while DJ G-Squared opens the Vault with dance and hip-hop. 9pm.

Focus
Hibernia. You can't go wrong with DJs Chuck Caseroc, Keith Kene and Skot Havens. 9pm, 21+.

Lava Bar
Life. *lavabar.com*. From the creators of Soul Revival resident DJs Fran Englehardt and Paul Nickerson, along with monthly guest imports. 21+, $8.

Ultra Lounge
The Modern. DJ Mixin Matt Ruben. 9pm-2am, 21+.

Nocturnal Fridays
Bill's Bar. WBCN day guy and football swami, Bill Abbate, spins up a delectable smorgasbord of rock with a pinch of roll. 9pm. $5 cover, 21+.

Pure
Karma/Mambo. World Class Drum and Bass DJs has a weekly rotating roster of guest DJs. 19+, $15.

Pravda
DJ Mario has all some current dance mixes for all those ready to sway, shake and grind.

Roxy 2000
Roxy/Mondo Bar. DJ Felix spins house and international music all night. 10:30pm. $15 cover, 21+.

Spin Cycle
Axis. Glitzed-out club hoppers shake it to the beats of DJ Tim Ryan and DJ David James. 10pm, $12, 19+.

Venu
The scene is elegant for this jacket-required international romp. Get your Gucci on as DJ Arsit spins. 21+.

Saturdays

The Aquarium
Saturday night dance party hosted by resident DJ. 10pm-1am, $5 cover.

AnTua Nua
DJ Tim Collins has top-40s and old school hip-hop for the weekend crowd.

Aria
Edyta. DJ Raffi and DJ Roger M. take you from the American music scene with some International House.

Atlas
Top-40 hits all night, starting at 10:30pm.

Downtown
Avalon. Resident DJs Manolo and Mattie O. gyrate your behind with hit club classics. 10pm. 21+. $15.

Backstage
DJ Freddie C spins top-40 dance and club classics. 10pm. $5, proper dress, 21+.

Bill's Bar
DJ Laurie Gail with guest DJs make Bill's a night full of dancing to '70s, '80s and '90s. 9pm, $3 cover, 19+.

Club Juliana
Boogieing cuties converge on Boston's newest Latin Night starting at 10pm. Dress to impress. $10.

Club Nicole
The mob thick for this exclusive Euro trendsetter. DJ Alex spins Eurohouse. Jackets required. 21+.

Elements of Life
Karma/Mambo. DJ Supa Mario spins house while DJ Hoffman plays funk in the Lounge. 10pm. 19+. $15.

Envy
From 9pm on, DJ Tom Baxter blasts top-40, house, dance and top-40 music throughout the night. 9pm, $5.

Exchange Saturdays
DJ Diesel renovates the upper level with full-on house while DJ Jynx spins the funky beats in the Vault. 9pm.

Fajitas and Ritas
"World Hop" music includes Cape Verdean, reggae, hip-hop, Brazilian, zouk, Latin and house. 11pm, $7.

Hibernia Saturdays
Hibernia. House masters DJs Dino and David West take the reins and whip the crowd into a frenzy. 9pm, 21+.

Lava Bar
Anything Goes. DJ Fran and Kris Kono unite with high-energy house and Latin beats. 10pm, 21+.

Miami Club Night
Club Joy/Yesterday's. Get a taste of Miami nightlife. 9:30pm, $10 cover, 21+ (ladies, 19+).

Mischief
The Modern. Feeling mischievous? Ultra lounging with decadent desserts and erotic electronica. 21+.

Mythos
Venu. Greek International with DJ Yorgo Jr. spinning the hits from the famous party islands of Greece.

Pravda 116
DJ Mario brings current dance mixes to the scene.

Roxy
Nightclub dance music, mixing house, techno and top-40. 9pm. $15.

Saturday Night Fever
Polly Esther's. Groove to three decades' worth of beats in the laser-lit Club DVD. 8pm, $10, 21+.

Sugar Shack
Spice up your night with '70s, '80s and '90s dance music as DJ Rich Centi spins the hottest sounds.

Who's on First?
The latest and greatest in hip-hop, reggae, R&B, and Latin house with DJ Lil' Mike, 10:30pm, $12, 18+.

X night
Axis. DJ Mike Gioscia spins '90s and DJ David James spins '80s hits. WFNX broadcasts live. 10pm, $10, 21+.

Sundays

Aria
Edyta. DJ Roger M. gives you International House. Come and get it.

Avalon
Biggest gay night in New England. $10, 21+.

Backstage
It's urban night with T Clark from WILD spinning hip-hop and old school. 10pm, $10, proper dress, 21+.

Emily's
Industry night "Club Soda" with DJ Silly. 10:30pm.

Exchange Sundays
A fusion of Heavy Lounge and Miami House. No cover.

Latin Night
Karma/Mambo Lounge. Weekly live Latin bands. 10pm. 19+. $25 cover.

Lava Bar
Pandora's Box. DJ Vinny and Sir Richard and Sterling spin '60s Exotica, loungecore and Motown. 10pm. 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ Mario brings dance mixes to the Pravda crowd.

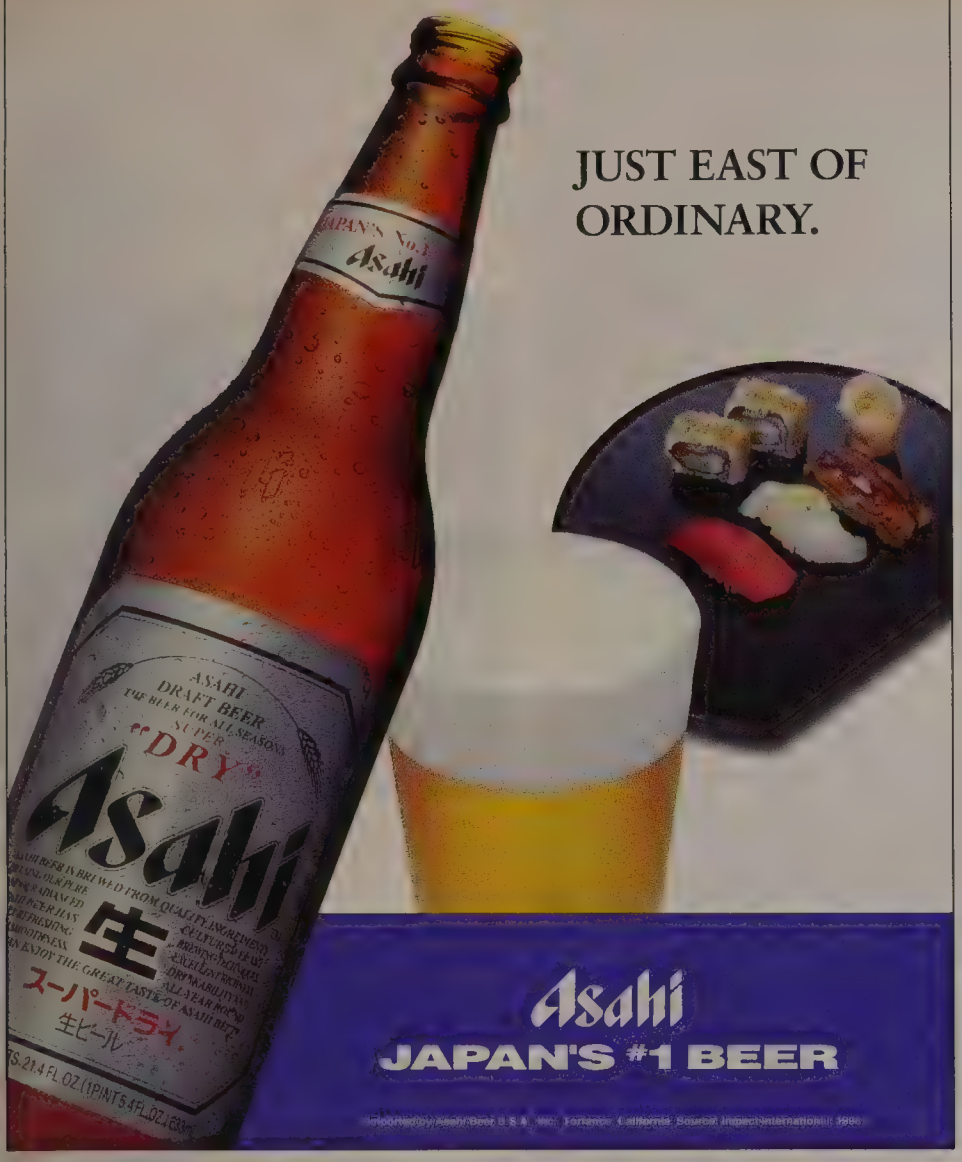
Salavation
This Boston vibe serves up an intimate evening of soul—all provided courtesy DJ Soul. $5, until 10pm.

Venu
Carnival comes to Boston every Sunday as DJ Adilson brings the heat of Rio to Venu. 21+.

Club Venues

Aquarium *65 Holland St., Somerville (623-3200). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (437-0300). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Backstage *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston (726-1110). MBTA: Blue Line to Govt. Center.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Buzz Boston/Europa *51-67 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Park St.*
Club Nicole *40 Dalton St., Boston (236-4746). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*
Envy *25 Boylston Place, Boston (542-3689). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Exchange *148 State St., Boston (726-7600). MBTA: Orange Line to State Street.*
Hibernia *25 Kingston St., Boston (292-2333). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Karma *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9595). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Lava Bar *575 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-7707). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Polly Esther's *262 Friend St., Boston (720-1966). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (482-7799). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Salavation *20 Hudson St., Boston (781-668-2392). MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown.*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (338-8061). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*

RICHARD TAZZARA



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ELECTRIC AVENUE

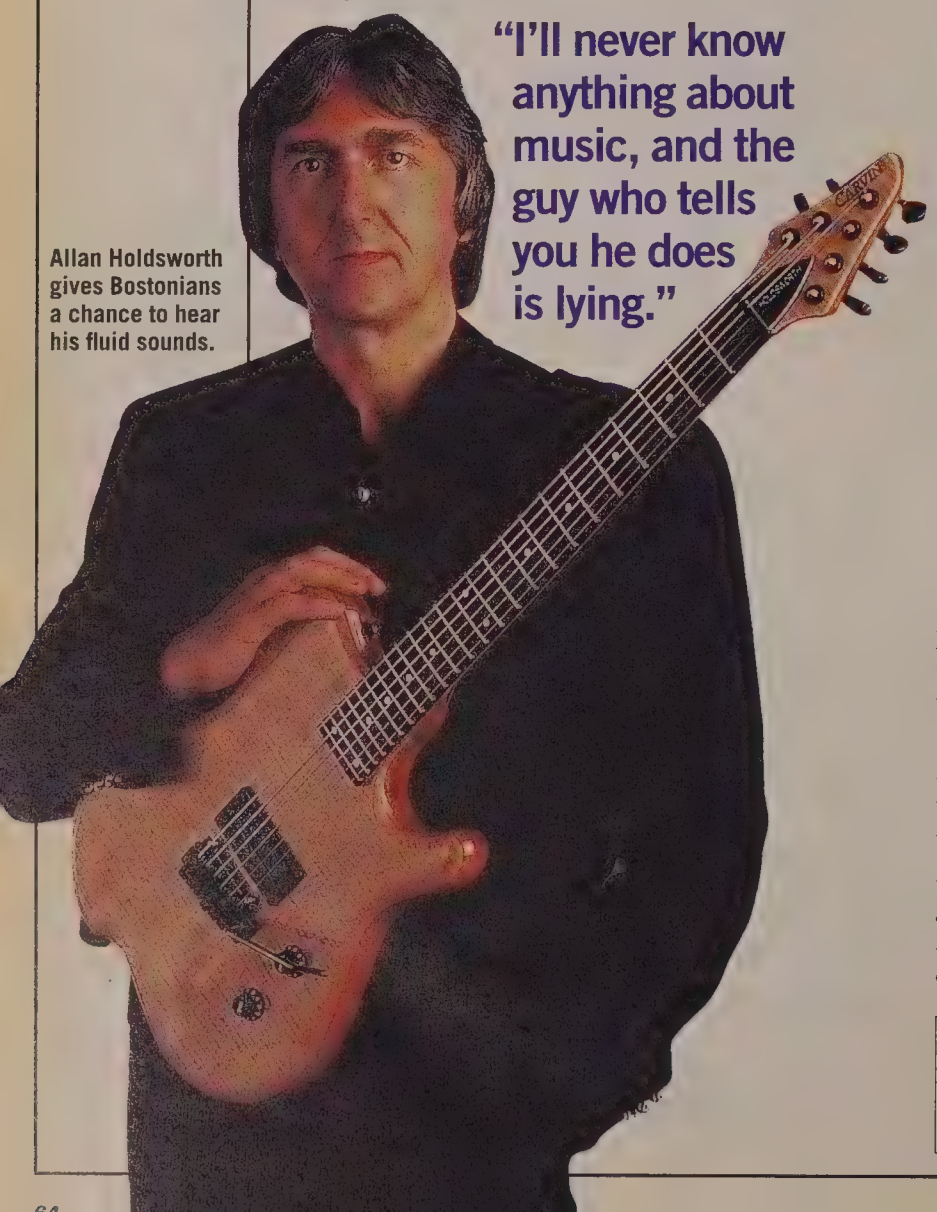
Guitarist Allan Holdsworth dips into the well of endless possibility

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

Allan Holdsworth is one of the most distinctive electric guitarists in the world, having worked with Tony Williams' New Lifetime, Jean-Luc Ponty and Bill Bruford (originally in the '70s prog-rock group U.K.) before launching a solo career in the '80s. However, like many instrumentalists, Holdsworth—who makes his first visit to Scullers Jazz Club in years July 19—finds touring opportunities are dwindling outside Europe and Japan.

"What seems to be happening in America is people with diverse musical interests seem to have faded away," says Holdsworth. "Well, I don't think it has necessarily faded away among audiences looking for that kind of thing, but it has for the people on the management side, or the people who put themselves between the musicians and public, like club owners. A lot of times we get a lot of resistance from club owners who go, 'Who?' "

Those people need only ask the countless guitarists who marvel at—or even imitate—Holdsworth's fluid phrasing, which almost sounds like a horn. "I wanted to play the sax, but I ended up with a guitar so, subconsciously, maybe that played a part in wanting it to sound less like the percussive instrument that it is," says Holdsworth, who arrives here during a rich week for fusion guitar fans, following fellow Ponty alumnus and Tribal Tech head Scott Henderson's bluesier trio at Johnny D's the night before. "But if I played the saxaphone, I would have really missed the chords. It's something I fell in love with later."



"I'll never know anything about music, and the guy who tells you he does is lying."

Allan Holdsworth gives Bostonians a chance to hear his fluid sounds.

"The sound comes first, and when you get something you like, it makes it easier to find what you're looking for in the music," says Holdsworth, who bridges his fleeting, spidery technique with the right touch of electronically enhanced tone. "That's the beauty of music is that you know you'll never know anything about it. It's like the kind of love where the first thing that grabs you is, when you first meet somebody, there's an excitement because you don't understand it yet. Music is like that permanently. You can never find out anything about it, because when you go deeper, you realize there's more and more. That's what fascinates me. I'll never know anything about music, and the guy who tells you he does is lying." Holdsworth's concepts were sown from his early exposure to jazz. "When I heard John Coltrane, it changed my life completely," he says. "When I listened to Cannonball Adderley, I loved what he played, but I could hear where it came from—you understood the thread. But when I heard John Coltrane, it was like he short-circuited it somehow, and he had allowed himself to be himself. He was still playing the same arena, but he wasn't doing it like anybody else. I realized that everybody should try to find that in themselves. You have to find a way to plug yourself into the musical universe without taking it from something else. Everybody's going to learn something from something that happens before—it's natural. Influences are really important, but I think copying should be illegal."

Indeed, Holdsworth admits frustration with those who have mimicked his style. "It's a shortcut to nothing, because when you end up as a clone, you have nothing," he says by phone from his California home. "At the time of Jaco [Pastorius], everybody was trying to play fretless basses, and nobody could play them in tune. They were trying to get the sound but they didn't have the real root of it, which was the music, what the guy was playing—so they were only hearing a part of it. You can't understand what's in someone's head."

Holdsworth, 53, got his start in England when lines between jazz and rock were blurry. "The opportunity to play with Tony was a big milestone for me," says Holdsworth, who left art-rock group the Soft Machine to join Williams, and salutes the late drummer with a dragout on recent CD *The 16 Men of Tain*.

Stints with Ponty, U.K. and Bruford followed. "Because of all the keyboard-oriented things that were happening with Bruford and U.K., I just got fed up with that sound that's always there," he says. "It was like there was no hole left, with constant sustaining chords."

Breaking out on his own as a composer, however, Holdsworth learned the strength of chordal structure and harmony, developed further in his work with the Synthaxe, a guitar synthesizer he still uses in the studio. But at Scullers, he'll have a normal guitar trio with bassist Jimmy Johnson and drummer Gary Husband—well, as normal as Holdsworth can sound. **iB**

Allan Holdsworth Live

Fans of fusion guitar are in for a treat when he plays at Scullers Jazz Club July 19.

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fax (859-1446); by mail to Calendar/Music; or by email to music@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, phone numbers and nearest T stops. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double check dates and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

As part of the Up In Smoke Tour, Dr. Dre (above) Eminem, Snoop Dogg and Ice Cube perform at Worcester Centrum Centre, July 20 and 21.

Concerts

The B-52s with the Go-Gos and the Psychedelic Furs
July 22, FleetBoston Pavilion

George Carlin and Chandler Travis
July 12, South Shore Music Circus

Chicago and the Little River Band
July 16, FleetBoston Pavilion

The Robert Cray Band, the Neville Brothers and Rebecca Parris
July 16, Esplanade

Def Leppard
July 20, Tweeter Center

De la Soul, Common, Pharoahe Monche, Biz Markie, Talib Kewli and Hi-Tech
July 19, Avalon

Dirty Dozen Brass Band
July 12, Fan Pier

Bob Dylan and Phil Lesh
July 22, Tweeter Center

Masterworks Tour with Kansas
July 21, FleetBoston Pavillion

Johnny Mathis
July 22 and 23, South Shore Music Circus

Moody Blues
July 19 and 20, FleetBoston Pavilion

'NSYNC
July 22 and 23, Foxboro Stadium

Kings
July 23, Axis

Diana Ross & The Supremes
July 13, Fleet Center

The Sammy Kaye Orchestra
July 19, South Shore Music Circus

3 Doors Down
July 20, Esplanade

Randy Travis
July 15, South Shore Music Circus

Red Hot Chilli Peppers with Foo Fighters and Blonde Redhead
July 16, Tweeter Center

Kenny Rogers
July 21, South Shore Music Circus

Soul City
July 14, Fan Pier

Soulive
July 13, Fan Pier

Steely Dan
July 15, Tweeter Center

Up in Smoke Tour, featuring Dr. Dre, Eminem, Snoop Dogg and Ice Cube
July 20 and 21, Worcester Centrum Centre

Vans Warped Tour
July 20, Suffolk Downs

Roger Waters
July 16, Providence Civic Center

Brian Wilson
July 18, FleetBoston Pavilion

Yes: the Masterworks Tour with Kansas
July 21, FleetBoston Pavilion

CONCERT HALLS

Avalon
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.
Esplanade
Hatch Shell, Boston. MBTA: Red Line to Charles MGH.
Fan Pier
28 Northern Ave., South Boston, (737-0910). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.
FleetCenter
One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (624-1000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.
FleetBoston Pavilion
290 Northern Avenue, Boston (734-9000). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.
Foxboro Stadium
60 Washington St., Foxboro (508-543-0350).
South Shore Music Circus
Cape Cod Melody Tent, Cohasset (781-383-1400).
Suffolk Downs
111 Waldemar Ave., East Boston (567-3900). MBTA: Blue Line to Suffolk Downs.
Tweeter Center
885 South Main St., Mansfield (508-339-2331).
Worcester Centrum Centre
50 Foster St., Worcester (508-755-6800).

Rock, Jazz and Blues

Wednesday, July 12

Bob the Chef's
Hakim Law Jazz Quartet and Special Guests, 6pm.
Boston Globe Jazz and Blues Festival
Michael Hamilton, Fan Pier, 12pm, free; Stan Strickland and Wanetta Jackson, Copley Square, 12pm, free; Victor Mendoza Latin Jazz Sextet, Fan Pier, 2:30pm, free; John Scofield, Copley Square, 5:30pm, free; Dirty Dozen Brass Band, Fan Pier, 8pm, free.
Cantab Lounge
Joe Cook's Blues Jams, 9pm, cover varies.
City Hall Plaza, Boston
Crystal Gale and the Four Aces with the U.S. Air Force Band of Liberty , no cover.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm, no cover.
Good Life Cambridge
Weepin' Willie and his All Star Band, no cover, 21+.
Harper's Ferry
Ron Levy's Wild Kingdom, 9:30pm, $3.
Hennessey's
Me and Julio, cover varies.
House of Blues
Lil' Band o' Gold, 9pm, $10.
Johnny D's
Tarika, 8:30pm.
Kendall Cafe
Leah-Carla Gordone, free, 21+.
Kirkland Cafe
Ken Clark Organ Trio, Com'on Man, $5.
Les Zygomates
The Waldron Ricks Trio, 8pm.
Lizard Lounge
Merrie Amsterburg's Song Writer Night, 21+.
Maison Robert
Art Bailey, no cover.
Middle East
U: Incus, Segue, Euphonic, $6, 18+. D: Blue Mountain and the Gourds, 8pm, $10, 18+.
Oak Bar
Steve Soars, 8pm, no cover.
Paddy Burke's
Tom Hegarty, 8pm; Boston Folk and Singers Club, 9pm, cover varies.
Playhouse
Sorry Jar, 9:45pm, no cover, 21+.
The Rack
Hung Jury, 9pm.
The Roxy
Kathy Mattea and Asleep at the Wheel.
Scullers
Peter White, 8pm and 10pm, $12.
Top of the Hub
Jeff Auger Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Unholy Trip, featuring Dave Gay, Natalie Flanagan, Pete Weiss and the Weisstronauts, $6.
White Horse Tavern
Equitone, 9pm, 21+.

Thursday, July 13

Bob the Chef's
Sonny Watson Quartet, 7:30pm, cover varies.

Steely Dan's Becker and Fagen hit the Tweeter Center and do it again when they perform July 15.

Boston Globe Jazz and Blues Festival
Super Honey, Fan Pier, 12pm, free; Matt Gordy, Fan Pier, 2:30pm, free; Dizzie Gillespie Alumni All-Stars, Copley Square, 5:30pm, free; Soulive, Fan Pier, 8pm.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies.
Common Ground
The Joint Chiefs, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Good Life Cambridge
Power Jazz Unit, no cover, 21+.
Good Life Downtown
Micky Bones and the Jump Crew, no cover, 21+.
Harper's Ferry
Boston Battle of the Blues Bands Finals, 9:30pm, $6.
Hennessey's
Under Cover, cover varies.
House of Blues
Lavay Smith, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Johnny D's
Marshall Crenshaw, Bruce Henderson, 9pm.
Kendall Cafe
Tom Glynn Duo, 9pm, $5.
Maison Robert
Mike Turk, no cover.
McGann's
Kilt, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Middle East
U: Ted Leo, Pharmacists, Spaceheads, Fat Day, the Turn Offs, $7, 18+. D: Dillinger Escape Plan, Candiria and Isis, $10, 18+.
Les Zygomates
The Jinga Trio, 8pm.
Lizard Lounge
Club d'Elf, cover varies, 21+.
Maison Robert
Mike Turk, 6pm, no cover.
Oak Bar
Steve Soars, 8pm, no cover.
Paddy Burke's
Tom Carroll, 8pm, cover varies.
Parker's Bar
Rose Jamieson and Rich Schilling, 8pm, no cover.
Playhouse
Garyoke, 9:45pm, no cover, 21+.
The Rack
Chad LaMarsh, 6:30pm.
Scullers
Tierney Sutton Trio, 8pm and 10pm, $12.
Top of the Hub
Jeff Auger Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
WBOS Summer Concerts at Copley
Steve Forbert and Jill Sobule, 5:30pm, no cover.

Friday, July 14

The Attic
Marie's Children and the Rob Gonzalez Band, cover varies, 21+.
Big Easy Bar
Syndicate, 9pm, $7, 21+.
Bob the Chef's
Michael Kelly and the Hot Blue Q, 7:30pm, cover varies.
Boston Globe Jazz and Blues Festival
Mango Blues, Fan Pier, 12pm, free; James Montgomery, Copley Square, 12pm, free; Fully Celebrated Orchestra, Fan Pier, 2:30pm, free; Poncho Sanchez, Copley Square, 5:30pm, free; Soul City, Fan Pier, 8pm.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies.
Common Ground
Booty, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band, 7pm; Funky Town, 10pm, no cover.
Good Life Cambridge
Waldron Ricks Band, no cover, 21+.
Good Life Downtown
Grover Mooney and the Moon Unit, no cover, 21+.
Green Dragon Tavern
Tiger Lily, The Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
Harper's Ferry
Clutch Grabwell, the Leadfoot Horns, 9:30pm, $6.
Hennessey's
Me and Julio, 5pm, cover varies.
House of Blues
Commander Cody, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Johnny D's
Neon Grandma, 9:45pm.
Kendall Cafe
Christian Anthony, 9:30pm; Elk City, 10:30pm; Capital City, 11:30pm, $5.
Les Zygomates
Indeya, 6pm and 10pm, $25.
Lizard Lounge
Fly Seville, Marc Robinson, Blake Hazard, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East
U:The Wine Field, Seventeen and the Paul Rudderman Band, $8, 18+.
Mr. Dooley's
Sundays Well, $3.
Oak Bar
Steve Soars Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
Paddy Burke's
Fogal, Tom Carroll, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Parker's Bar
Rose Jamieson and Rich Schilling, 8pm, no cover.
Playhouse
Gary Gore, 11:45pm, no cover, 21+.
The Rack
Big City Beat, 6:30pm.
Regattabar
Los Hombres Calientes, 8pm and 10pm, $14.
The Times
Novakane.
Top of the Hub
Jeff Auger Trio, 9pm, no cover.
T.T. The Bear's Place
Canine, Hanging Francis and Black Night Tuesday, $8.
Wonderbar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

Saturday, July 15

The Attic
Huck, Barry Kingston and Raffi, cover varies, 21+.
Big Easy Bar
Free Style, 9pm, $7, 21+.
Bob the Chef's
Extremely Serious Business Jazz Quartet, 7:30pm.
Cambridge Brewing Company
Bug Juice, 10pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies.
Common Ground
Violet Tide, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm; Booty, 10pm, no cover.
Good Life Cambridge
Amanda Baisinger Band, no cover, 21+.
Good Life Downtown
Roxbury Blues Asthetic, no cover, 21+.
Green Dragon Tavern
Virgil Cain, $3.
Harper's Ferry
Another Brick in the Wall, 9:30pm, $7.
House of Blues
Mike Welch and the Blues All-Stars, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Jacob Wirths
The Jay Sweet Trio.
Kendall Cafe
Finbarr the Saddler, 9:30pm; Flynn, 10:30pm; Rob Gonzalez and His Band, 11:30pm, $5.
Les Zygomates
Indeya, 6pm and 10pm, $25.
Lilli's
Arling and Cameron with Brother Cleve.
Lizard Lounge
Jim's Big Ego, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East
U: Earth Suits Off, Zyrah's Orange, Peter Prince, $7, 18+. D: Uncle Sammy, Addison Groove Project and Cosmic Dilemma, $8, 18+.
Mr. Dooley's Tavern
Sundays Well, $3.
Oak Bar
Steve Soars Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
Paddy Burke's
Fogal, Tom Carroll, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Parker's Bar
Rose Jamieson and Rich Schilling, 8pm, no cover.
Playhouse
Krakow, 11:45pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar
Los Hombres Calientes, 8pm and 10pm, $16.
Slade's
John Dougherty Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Jeff Auger Trio, 9pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
The Silos, Caitlin Cary of Whiskeytown and the Darlings, $8.

Sunday, July 16

An Tua Nua
Common People, 9pm, $3, 19+.
Bill's Bar
Shaka Black, 10pm, cover varies.
Bob the Chef's
Sunday Brunch with Jim Porcella Quartet, 11am, no cover.
Burren
Peter Mulvey.
Cantab Lounge
Joe Cook's Blues Jams, 9pm, cover varies.

FRANK OCKENFELS

Gear Up to Get Warped

The Vans Warped Tour comes to Suffolk Downs July 20. This year, the tour features Jurassic 5 (above), the Mighty Mighty Bosstones, Green Day, Long Beach Dub Allstars, Save Ferris, Bif Naked, NOFX, MxPx, Suicide Machines, Dilated Peoples, Anti Flag, Snapcase, Hot Water Music, Papa Roach, One Minute Silence and Vision of Disorder.

Dick's Last Resort
Rob Gonzalez, 7pm, no cover.
Good Life Downtown
Grant Langford Trio, no cover, 21+.
Green Dragon Tavern
The Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
Harper's Ferry
Rockett Band and Friends, 9:30pm, $5.
House of Blues
Viperhouse, 9pm, $7.
Kendall Cafe
Loveless, 9pm; Chick Graning, 10pm; Mike Gent, 11pm, $5.
Les Zygomates
Indeya, 6pm and 10pm, $25.
Lizard Lounge
Poetry Jam, featuring the Jeff Robinson Trio, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East
U:Hot Rod Circuit, River City High, $7, 18+.
Paddy Burke's
Tom Carroll, 8pm, cover varies.
The Rack
Chad LaMarsh, 9:30pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Jazz Trio, 8pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Sundog, South of Providence, Kusasi's Secret and Officer May, $4.
Veronique
Sunday Brunch with Steve Rochinski, 11:30am.
White Horse Tavern
Nate Watkins, 8pm, 21+.
Wonderbar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

Monday, July 17

Cantab Lounge
Rick Ross, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Good Life Downtown
Waldron Ricks Trio, no cover, 21+.
Harper's Ferry
Honeysuckle Vine, 9:30pm, $2.
House of Blues
Little Milton, 9pm, $18.
Irish Embassy Pub
Jukebox, 9:30pm, cover varies, 21+.
Johnny D's
Hot Tamale Brass Band, 9pm, no cover.
Kendall Cafe
Dave Johnston, 9pm; Tobin Bridge, 10pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge
The Fringe, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East
U: J. Deringers, Elysium, Gulliver Foyle, North House, $6, 18+. D: 6 Feet Under, Bad Luck 13 Ride Extravaganza, $12, 18+.
Top of the Hub
Jazz Trio, 8pm, no cover.

Tuesday, July 18

Cantab Lounge
John Lincoln Wright, 9pm; Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 10pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band, 7pm, no cover.
Harper's Ferry
Another Planet and Friends, 9:30pm, $3.
House of Blues
Phillip Hamilton, 9pm, $10.
Kendall Cafe
Marc Rosenthal, 9pm; Gloria Deluxe, 10pm; Chris Roussin, 11pm, $4.
Middle East
U: The Album Leaf, The Mercury Program, The Fleece, $6, 18+. D: Germina, Scissorkiss and Desar, 8pm, $8, 18+.
Oak Bar
Steve Soars, 8pm, no cover.
Paddy Burke's
Dave Smyth, 9pm, cover varies.
The Rack
James McKenna, 8pm.
Top of the Hub
Jeff Auger Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
The Great Northern, Fools Rush In, Room with a View and Giants Workshop, $4.

Wednesday, July 19

Bob the Chef's
Hakim Law Jazz Quartet, 6pm, cover varies.
Cantab Lounge
Joe Cook's Blues Jams, 9pm, cover varies.
City Hall Plaza
Paul Revere and the Raiders, no cover.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm, no cover.
Harper's Ferry
Ron Levy's Wild Kingdom, 9:30pm, $3.
House of Blues
Kilombo Mambo, 9pm, $7.
Hennessey's
Me and Julio, cover varies.
Irish Embassy Pub
Flynn, 9:30pm, cover varies, 21+.
Kendall Cafe
Terence Martin, no cover.
Maison Robert
George Donchev, no cover.
Middle East
U: Engine Down, Milemarker, Monochrome, $7, 18+. D: the Muffs, 8pm, $8, 18+.
Les Zygomates
The Phillippe Crittien Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge
Merrie Amsterburg's Song Writer Night, 21+.
Oak Bar
Steve Soars, 8pm, no cover.
Paddy Burke's
Tom Hegarty, 8pm; Boston Folk and Singers Club, 9pm, cover varies.
Playhouse
Brett Warwick, 9:45pm, no cover, 21+.
The Rack
Hit Squad, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar
Rod Piazza and the Mighty Fliers, 8:30pm, $14.
Scullers
Allan Holdsworth, 8pm and 10pm, $20.
Top of the Hub
Jeff Auger Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Brian Charles and Friends, $5.
White Horse Tavern
Fools Rush In, 9pm, 21+.

Thursday, July 20

The Blackthorne Tavern
The Paperboys, 8:30pm, $12.
Bob the Chef's
Gary Jones Quartet, 7:30pm, cover varies.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies.
Common Ground
The Joint Chiefs, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort
Michigan Black Snake, 7pm, no cover.
Harper's Ferry
Ceili Rain with Special Guests, 9:30pm, $5.
Hennessey's
Under Cover, cover varies.
House of Blues
Chris Duarte; Seth Yacovone, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Irish Embassy Pub
Jukebox, 9:30pm, cover varies, 21+.
Les Zygomates
Sun Steel, Ron Reed, 8pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge
Mr. Airplane Man, Rev. Glass Eye, cover varies, 21+.
Maison Robert
Mike Turk, 6pm, no cover.
Middle East
U: Nancy S. Mroczek, PhD. D: Percy Hill, $12, 18+.
Oak Bar
Steve Soars, 8pm, no cover.
Paddy Burke's
Tom Carroll, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Parker's Bar
Rose Jamieson and Rich Schilling, 8pm.
Playhouse Lounge
Will Daley's Bean War Sessions, 9:45pm, $3, 21+.
The Rack
The Return, 6:30pm, no cover.
Regattabar
Orlando Valle and Otra Vision, 8pm and 10pm, $18.
Top of the Hub
Jeff Auger Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
The Western Front
G-Spot, 9pm, $5.

Friday, July 21

The Attic
Borderland Allstars, cover varies, 21+.
Big Easy
Jump, 9pm, $7, 21+.
Bob the Chef's
Nat Simpkins, B-3 Jazz Trio, 7:30pm, cover varies.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies.
Common Ground
Erl Shibe 5, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band, Booty, 7pm, no cover.
Green Dragon Tavern
Classic Trax and the Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
Harper's Ferry
Entrain with Special Guests, 9:30pm, $10.
Hennessey's
Me and Julio, 5pm, cover varies.
House of Blues
Toni Lynn Washington, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Johnny D's
Superhoney, 9:45pm.
Kendall Cafe
Kristin Cifelli, 9:30pm; Kyler, 10:30pm; Robby Baier, 11:30pm, $5.
Les Zygomates
Krisanthi Pappas, 9pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge
The Gladstones, Panhead, Eric Marcos, Random Road Mother and Wide Iris, cover varies, 21+.
McGann's
Jack1, 9:30pm, no cover.
Middle East
U: Free Heat, $10, 18+. D: the Dandy Warhols, Rick Bane and His Genius Positions, $10, 18+.
Mr. Dooley's Tavern
Inchicore, $3.
Oak Bar
Steve Soars Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
Paddy Burke's
Fogal and Tom Carroll, 9:30pm, cover varies.

Incredible Brazilian performer Indeya comes to Les Zygomates July 14 and 16 at 6pm and 10pm.

TOP LEFT: ROBERT MATHEU

The enigmatic Beach Boys graduate Brian Wilson gives off some good vibrations as he sings some of his pet sounds at FleetBoston Pavilion July 18.

Parker's Bar
Rose Jamieson and Rich Schilling, 8pm, no cover.
Playhouse Lounge
Victor McSurely, 11:45pm, no cover, 21+.
The Rack
Search Party, 6:30pm, no cover.
Regattabar
Mort Sahl's America, 8pm and 10pm, $16.
Scullers
Freddy Cole, 8pm and 10:30pm, $18.
Top of the Hub
Jeff Auger Trio, 9pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
The Queers, the Lillingtons and the Explosion, Chubacabra Jr., $8.
The Western Front
Tribe of Djembe, 9:30pm, $10.
Wonderbar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

Saturday, July 22

The Attic
Lemonpeelers, Beverage and Steadman, 21+.
Big Easy Bar
Jump, 9pm, $7, 21+.
Bob the Chef's
Roxbury Blues and Jazz Ensemble, 7:30pm.
Cambridge Brewing Company
Kristin Plater, Verona Downs, 10pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies.
Common Ground
Stymie, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm; Soul City, 10pm.
Green Dragon Tavern
Dreamscape, $3.
Harper's Ferry
Mango Blues with Special Guests, 9:30pm, $6.
Jacob Wirths
The Jay Sweet Trio.
Kendall Cafe
Illustrious Day, 9:30pm; Pierce Woodward, 10:30pm; Daniel Barret Sumber, 11:30pm.
Lizard Lounge
Dennis Brennan, Star Hustler, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East
U: Grandaddy, Home and Bright Eyes, $8, 18+.
Mr. Dooley's Tavern
Inchicore, $3.
Oak Bar
Steve Soars Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
Paddy Burke's
Fogal, Tom Carroll, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Parker's Bar
Rose Jamieson and Rich Schilling, 8pm, no cover.
Playhouse
Garygore, 11:45pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar
Mort Sahl's America, 8pm and 10pm, $18.
Scullers
Freddy Cole, 8pm and 10:30pm, $18.
Slade's
John Dougherty Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Jeff Auger Trio, 9pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
The Gravel Pit, Star Ghost Dog, Chubby and the Control Group, $8.
The Western Front
Tribe of Djembe, 9:30pm, $10.

Sunday, July 23

An Tua Nua
Common People, 9pm, $3, 19+.
Bob the Chef's
Sunday Jazz Brunch with Paulo Danay Quartet, 11am, no cover.
Cantab Lounge
Joe Cook's Blues Jams, 9pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort
Rob Gonzalez, 7pm, no cover.
Green Dragon Tavern
The Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
Harpers Ferry
Rockett Band and Friends, 9:30pm, $5.
Kendall Cafe
Aruna, 9pm; Peter Spiegel, 10pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge
Poetry Jam featuring the Jeff Robinson Trio, 21+.
Middle East
U: Mark Kozalek and Drew O'Doherty, $10, 18+.
Paddy Burke's
Tom Carroll, 8pm, cover varies.
The Rack
Chad LaMarsh, 9:30pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Jazz Trio, 8pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Tips Fourteens, Thi Anonymous Richard, Ruby Keeler, Sacred Raisin Cakes, $4.
Veronique
Sunday Brunch with Steve Rochinski, 11:30am.
The Western Front
Noche Latina, 9pm, $5.
White Horse Tavern
Dave Maxwell, 8pm, 21+.
Wonderbar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

Monday, July 24

Cantab Lounge
Deb Cowan, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort
The Generators, 7pm, no cover.
Irish Embassy Pub
Jukebox, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Johnny D's
Hot Tamale Brass Band, 9pm, no cover.
Kendall Cafe
Jack Lukeman, 8:30pm; Tobin Bridge, 10pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge
The Fringe, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
The Rack
Nate Wadkins, 8pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Jazz Trio, 8pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Centro-Matic, Pete Stone and Nathan Brouillet, $5.

Tuesday, July 25

Cantab Lounge
Short Life of Trouble, 9pm; Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 10pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band, 7pm, no cover.
Harpers Ferry
Another Planet and Friends, 9:30pm, $3.
Kendall Cafe
The Brighton Sparhawks, the Purple Ivy Shadows, Frank More and Charlie Chesterman, $4.
Les Zygomates
The Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Oak Bar
Steve Soars, 8pm, no cover.
Paddy Burke's
Dave Smyth, 7pm, cover varies.
The Rack
Stu Sinclair, 8pm, no cover.
Regattabar
Billy Novick and Guy Van Dusser, 8:30pm, $8.
Top of the Hub
Jeff Auger Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Stereo Soul Future, Sand Machine, Nimmer and Lime Green, $4.

Music Venues

The Attic *107R Union St., Newton (964-6615).*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (743-2286). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-6204).*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
City Hall Plaza *Government Center, Boston (635-4505). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Coogans Bluff *173 Milk Street., Boston (451-7415). MBTA: Orange Line to State St.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
Good Life Cambridge *720 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston (451-2622). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (367-0055). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Jacob Wirth's *31-37 Stuart St., Boston (338-8586). MBTA: Green Line to Boyslton.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Davis Square, Somerville (776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
The Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (267-8644). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.*
The Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
O'Brien's *3 Harvard Ave, Allston (782-6245). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
The Playhouse Lounge *74 Warrenton St., Boston (482-2227). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (227-2060). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (725-1051). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Regatta Bar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Rd., Cambridge (562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*

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How to use this section
The following listings contain information that is subject to change. Contact the organization for changes in specific events.

CLUBS, BARS & HANGOUTS

Anthem (Thursdays)
Machine, 1256 Boylston St., Boston (536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. DJ Richie turns it out at Boston's newest Thursday party. The mega dance floor also offers drag diva Destiny. $5, 19+.

Asian Inspiration Night (Sundays)
Machine, 1256 Boylston St., Boston (536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. DJ Mark Hodges and Tony T serve the city's freshest "tea" at Dragon Tea Dance, New England's only night for gay Asians and their friends. Diamond Dunhill, Destiny, Crystal and Sexy Lexy entertain at a 10pm show. 8pm, $3, 21+.

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years these folks have been crankin' out some of the best Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. It's well worth a visit—if not for the three separate dance floors then for all the male dancers. 9pm, $15, 21+.

Buzz (Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays)
51 Stuart St. in the Theatre District, Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. On Saturday nights this place boasts two dance floors, two DJs, a pool room and a lounge. Two levels of dancing and schmoozing will keep the boys busy until 2am. 10pm, $5, 21+.

Chaps (Daily)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. www.chapsofboston.com. Sun.: Dance music of DJ Danae Jacovidis; Mon.: Grand Baby and Grand Piano night; Tue.: Retro DJ night; Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adielson Caesar; Thu.: DJs Billy and Fran: High Energy Dance; Fri.: Taboo Erotique with DJ Sammy; Sat.: High Energy Dance, DJ Danae Jacovidis.

City Girl Cafe (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri: 11am- 9pm; Sat: 10am-9pm; Sun: 10am-7pm. A small (five tables), laid-back cafe in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated. This cozy spot is home to a mixed gay/hetero crowd that lounges about, munching on sandwiches. Brunch on Saturday and Sunday, 10am-2pm.

Club Cafe (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-0966). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri 11:30am-2am; Sat. 2pm-2am; Sun. 11am-2am. This trendy South End spot draws a mixed crowd that comes for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back (Moonshine). A dressy bunch that likes to mingle. No cover, 21+. •Carol O'Shaughnessy performs with Steve Heck, Dottie Dean or David Sparr, Thursdays.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (542-4494). Mon.-Fri. 3pm-2am; Sat. 1pm-2am; Sun. 12pm-2am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This is your friendly neighborhood bar with a quiet setting. It's best known for scrumptious Sunday brunches (12-4pm). A simple joint with all of the trappings of a true bar: smoky and dark. The place starts hopping as it gets closer to 2am.

Fritz (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Stroll in for a quiet drink or a rowdy night on the town. The folks here are friendly—and really into sports. Not only does Fritz have Direct TV set up with sets scattered everywhere, it's also home base to a great softball league. 12pm, no cover, 21+.

Jacques
79 Broadway, Boston (426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. If you're looking to relax with a friendly crowd of gays and straights, and you like to mingle with disco-dancing drag queens, you've found the place. Sun. and Mon. are local band nights. Tues. through Sat., however, divas rule the stage. 10:30pm, $4, weekends $6, 21+.

Lava Bar (Saturdays)
575 Commonwealth. Ave., Boston (267-7707). The Lava Bar's Tabu night boasts DJ Fran spinning out high-energy house with a taste of Latin beats. 10pm.

The Lizard Lounge (Wednesdays)
1667 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. "Marlene Loses It at the Lizard" is the title of this eclectic evening of poetry, live music and theater. 10pm, $5 cover, 21+.

Luxor (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (423-6969). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from the latest music scenes and classic old movies—compiled by the bar's own VJ. Downstairs is Jox. No cover, 21+.

Man Ray (Thursdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (864-0400). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed.-Fri., 9pm; Sat., 10pm. A bustling hot spot caters to a young, alternative clientele. Two dance floors fill up on Thursdays for Campus, a predominantly male night where DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen take over. 10pm, $8 for 19+, $5 for 21+.

119 Merrimac (Daily)
119 Merrimac St., Boston (367-0713). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Sat., 10:30am-2am; Sun. 12pm-2am. This male cruise bar is the place to stop for drinks before or after FleetCenter events. Shoot a leisurely game of pool or play the video games. Merrimac features DJs playing hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s. 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. On Thursday nights, the Lesbian AIDS Project of Mass. unofficially takes over this laid-back cafe for "dyke nyte." The cafe always has something brewing—live bands, DJs and drag-queen parties. The party starts at 8pm, no cover, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (494-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Central. On Monday, a bartender not only mixes drinks but strips too. Male strippers are featured Wed.-Sat. Mon. is Gothic night; Tue. is techno; and Thu. is college night. On Fridays DJ Sam Sampson spins, and on Sat. hear DJ Brad Gwynn. 5pm, no cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (266-2986). Green Line to Kenmore. 12pm-2am. The largest leather bar in the East enforces a tight dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room). Sun.: buffet and mandance with DJ Brad Gwynn. Mon.: pool tournament and pizza. Tue.: spice 4 life with DJ Kal Muzak. Wed.: Twitch 2000 with DJ SGT Dennis. Thu.: Primal Dance with DJ James Hughes. Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danaw Jacovidis. Sat.: Leather Cruise with DJ Dennis Sargent.

BOOKS

Glad Day Bookshop
673 Boylston St., Boston (267-3010). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu. 9:30am-10pm, Fri. and Sat. 9:30am-11pm, Sun. 12-9pm. This exclusively gay/lesbian bookstore has all sorts of paraphernalia.

The Boston Gay Men's Chorus welcomes the London Gay Men's Chorus for a performance at Northeastern's Blackman Auditorium on July 21.

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge. (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Fri. 10am-8pm, Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 12-6pm. New England's oldest women's book shop offers a wide selection of literature. Its monthly author series continues throughout the summer. •July 13, 6:30pm Author **Kim Gutschow** talks about her collection of works on Buddhism.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6:30pm; Sun., 11:30am-5:30pm. Boston's literary gay and lesbian bookstore.

SHOWS & EVENTS

Femme Fever Dance
Sons of Italy Hall, Winchester (781-648-1722). July 15, 8pm. $15. www.djdee.com. Join the cast of *Tomboy* for a dance party, games, flirtation and festivities. Awards will be given to prom king/queen (tuxes and gowns encouraged), sexiest butch/femme (leather or lace), toughest butch (tattoos and piercings) and softest femme (feathers, frills, petticoats and cleavage). There will be door prizes, CD giveaways, a costume contest, free dance lessons and other fun surprises.

London Gay Men's Chorus
Blackman Auditorium, Northeastern University. July 21, 8pm. $12 and $20. The 140-voice Boston Gay Men's Chorus presents the United States concert debut of the acclaimed London Gay Men's Chorus. Founded in '91, the London Gay Men's Chorus has become one of Europe's largest and most visible gay arts organizations. Approximately 60 members are flying to Boston especially for the concert.

The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told
Speakeasy Stage Company, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 7pm. Through July 16. $25. This comedy ponders what the world would be like had God made Adam and Steve, not Adam and Eve. It's about the struggle for faith, from Mesopotamia to Chelsea. Adam and Steve and Jane and Mabel—Earth's first two couples—seek God on the ark, beside the pyramids and at K-Mart on Christmas Eve.

Transgendered Pool Party
Randolph Country Club, off of Route 24, Randolph (781-891-9325). July 15, 1pm. $12. www.tcne.org. Two gender education and support groups, the Tiffany Club of New England and Investments of Cape Cod, are throwing a joint pool party—complete with a barbecued chicken dinner. During the evening, pool party guests are welcome to visit the Randolph Country Club's nightclub for all-night fun. The party is open to all members of the transgendered community and their families, friends and supporters.

ONGOING

Bawl
This lesbian softball league offers opportunities to join teams in both the recreational and competitive divisions. Call Liz (508-628-5477).

Best Foot Forward
Ballet Etc. Dance Studios, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (522-1444). MBTA: B Green Line to Washington St. For gays/lesbians/bisexuals of all swing skill levels.

Boston Glass
Community Center, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Daily 8-10pm. Support groups and social activities for adolescents ages 13-25.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). A 1,500-member gay club with hiking, biking, camping, skiing and other outdoor activities for men and women.

Community Rainbow
Boston Living Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston. 7:45 pm. An organization whose mission is to advocate for the community. Meets Thursdays.

Cosmetically-Correct
Laurel's Restaurant, 142 Berkeley St., Boston. www.egroups.com/community/cosmeticallycorrect. A social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month 7:30-10pm. Lipstick optional.

Dykes Who Hike
(522-6185). This hiking group is for lesbians in the Boston and the area who want to conquer the wilderness.

East Coast Wrestling Club
With more than 160 members, this is an extraordinarily popular New England spot for gay male wrestlers. Call Marc at 401-467-6737, or go online at *http://members.tripod.com/~ecwc* or e-mail *ecwc@juno.com.*

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave, Boston (824-4266). www.mindspring.com/~frontrunners. A running club for the LGBT community meets Saturdays.

Gay Volleyball
Cambridge (262-3626). Sundays, 7pm, $7. Typically five teams play on two courts. Teams of men and women are made up each week.

Gender Free Contra Dancing
First Church of Jamaica Plain (522-1115). www.piac.net/users/latte/lcfd/. Come one, come all to evenings of contra and square dancing.

OOPS
Melting Pot Coffee House, 2 Belgrade Ave., Roslindale (323-4123). Out on the Parkways invites one and all to come on down for some dinner and coffee.

PFLAG
Fenway Community Health Center, 7 Haviland St., Boston (547-2440). Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets every fourth Monday, 6:30-8:30pm.

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Submit updated information by mail, fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/ Mind, or electronically to bodymind@improper.com. *Include a brief but thorough description of the event, time, date, location and directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.*

CLASSES

Astrology in Everyday Life
John Hancock Conference Center, Hall and Suites, 40 Trinity Place, Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Jim Valliere has been an innovator in astrology since the 1980s. His specialty is daily and seasonal cycles. Join him for these three sessions to discover ways to incorporate the tools of astrology into everyday life. •*July 12, 7-9:30pm:* **Planning with Astrology Every Day**. Learn to use simple astrological methods that can help you be a more effective and happier person. Learn to anticipate your strong and weak times during the year and how to maximize your efforts each day. •*July 17, 7-9:30pm:* **The New Astrology of Relationships**. This session shows you astrological techniques that promote harmony and clear communication in your relationships. Leave with newfound skills to increase your happiness and the quality of your life. •*July 25, 7-9:30pm:* **The Astrology of Meditation**: Your times of meditation, prayer and relaxation can be greatly enhanced by taking advantage of times that are in harmony with the sun and the moon. Learn to identify these optimum hours in almanacs, calendars , daily newspapers and on the Internet.

Headache Massage Therapy
Brookline Adult and Community Education, Brookline High School Dance Studio, 115 Greenough St., Brookline (730-2700). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. July 12, 7-9pm.$45. Are you plagued by sinus pain, migraines or stress headaches? Learn a variety of ways to tend to this problem naturally: how to use massage to relax the muscles on your face, neck and head; visualization and breathing exercises; and information about nutrition and aromatherapy.

Intro to Hatha Yoga and Partner Yoga
Beacon Light Yoga Center, 215 Brighton Ave., Allston (739-0717). July 15, 1-3pm. $20. July 23, 2-4pm. $40 per pair. Maybe you've heard the praises of yoga from friends and loved ones. Well if you've become very curious, this workshop is designed to expose you to every aspect: the basic poses, breathing and meditating. Go on your own or bring a partner.

Kabbalah Level One
Ehud Yampuler, 20A Prescott St. #57, Cambridge (492-9267). July 12 and July 19, 7:30pm. Whoever said life doesn't come with an instruction manual didn't take this course. Knowledge from ancient Kabbalistic texts teaches us the purpose of life, the source of all suffering and a strategy for personal fulfillment.

Meditation and Chanting
The Yoga Studio, 74 Joy St., Boston. (523-7138). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. July 23, 11am. This class in mindfulness meditation will focus on breathing and the serenity of being in the present moment. This exploration will address the inner voice that is reflected in the chanting of ancient songs.

Partner Massage
Tapestry Complementary Healthcare, 2364 Washington St., Newton Lower Falls (969-6300). June 27 and 28. $20. This integrative health clinic holds classes on alternative treatments you can use for maintaining health. For the next class on partner massage, you can come by yourself and bring the wisdom home to share.

Psychic Skills 101
Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. July 15, 10-4pm. $77. You only need an open mind to get the most out of this class. Teacher and story-teller **Michael Koran** will introduce you to the act of conversing with your subconscious mind, as well as your body's own healing powers and psychic self-defense. (F.Y.I.: Your very own Body & Mind columnist loved this class.)

QiGong Power
New England School of Acupuncture, 40 Belmont St., Watertown (926-1788 ext.5). www.nesa.edu. *July 22, 9-5pm.*Experienced practitioner **Rene Narvarro** will walk you through a series of exercises that will give you serenity and protection for healing yourself.

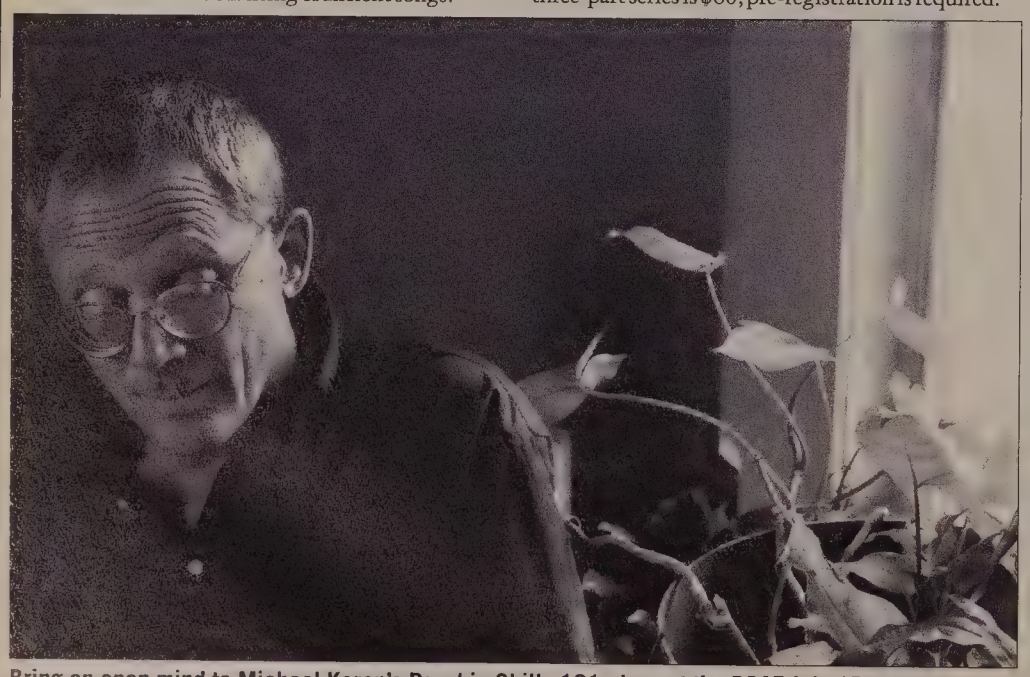
Revitalize with Cleansing
Wellspace, Fresh Pond Mall, Cambridge (876-2660). www.wellspace.com. *July 20, 27 or Aug. 3, 7:30-9:00pm. $75.* Poor eating habits, illnesses, chemical exposure and antibiotic treatments can slow or impair the body's elimination processes. Cleansing promotes overall health and rids the body of toxins. Join Wellspace naturopathic physician **Dr. Bradley Bongiovanni**, and learn all about cleansing interventions including fasting, cleansing diets, sauna, skin brushing, hydrotherapy, and herbal and vitamin supplements.

The Search for Truth in a World of Illusion
*New Acropolis Organization, First Parish Unitarian Church, 3 Church St., Cambridge (591-9959). MBTA: Red to Harvard. July 21, 7:30pm.*This organization introduces ancient knowledge that is useful for personal transformation. The next lecture is "Reality Check: Emerging from Plato's Cave." Plato didn't let the confines of the Matrix keep him from knowing what's up.

Slow Down, Tune-In and Relax
Kripalu Center, Lenox, Mass. (800-741-7353). www.kripalu.org. *July 13-16. $189 tuition, plus three nights room and meals.* Kripalu provides a relaxing environment for these weekend getaways. Treat yourself to a few days of pampering. This weekend will be all about slowing down with yoga, walking, breathing, meditation and music.

Talks on Tuesdays
Harvest Co-op Market, Community Room, 581 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (661-1580). MBTA: Red Line to Central. July 11, 18 and 25, 6-8 pm. Harvest not only has healthy food, but healthful lectures.The next three are: •**All About Herbs** with **Olive Walker**, who has worked with the bulk herbs at Harvest for 10 years. •**The Art and Science of Feng Shui** with **Jadyn Hui**, who will present her "hands on" approach for channeling energy to improve all aspects of life. •**Quantum Touch Energy Healing** with certified practitioner **Henri Furgiuele**, who can teach you to raise the energy level in your hands to perform healing touch.

Women's Fun Activity-Based Relaxation Class
New Directions for Yoga, Health and Psychotherapy, 5 Harvard Ave., Brookine (738-1648). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village and C Green line to Coolidge Corner. Tuesdays 7:30-8:30pm, Thursdays 9-10pm. Learn fun ways to bring relaxation into your daily life. The cost of a three-part series is $60; pre-registration is required.



Bring an open mind to Michael Koran's Psychic Skills 101 class at the BCAE July 15.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Children. Or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

See the premiere of Disney's new film, *Quints*, at the Tweeter Center July 18.

TO SEE

Peter Pan
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly, Mass. (978-921-6351). Tue. 8pm; Wed. 2pm and 8pm; Thu.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm. July 18-Aug. 6. $18-$56. Cathy Rigby stars in this story of Peter and his series of adventures with the Darling children, Tinker Bell and the evil Captain Hook.

Puppet Showplace Theatre
32 Station St., Brookline (731-6400). $8. •*July 12, 10:30am and 1pm; July 13, 10:30am.* **Sir George and the Dragon**. •*July 19, 10:30am and 1pm; July 20, 10:30am:* **The Three Billy Goats Gruff**.

THINGS TO DO

Bastille Day 2000!
53 Marlborough St., Boston (266-4351). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. July 14, 6-7:30pm. $20 (street dance only). Children free. A Bastille Day block party with puppet shows, street artists, games and hat-making.

Boston Youth Sports Festival
White Stadium Sports Center, Franklin Park (635-4505, ext. 6200). July 18-21, 9:30am-2pm. Camp Gatorade offers interactive sports activities for boys and girls in a fun festival environment.

Disney Channel PremEARS in the Park
Tweeter Center for the Performing Arts, Mansfield (206-624-0083). July 18 , 6pm. Free. See the premiere of Disney's new movie, *Quints*, on a giant screen.

Family Field Trips with the Aquarium
New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, Boston (973-5206). www.neaq. org. *MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. $6. Recommended for ages 5 and older.* •*July 15, 10am:* **Family Field Trip to Ward's Pond** in Brookline. Explore this aquatic habitat with aquarium educators. •July 22, 10am: **Family Field Trip to Webb State Park** in Hingham. Explore this coastal habitat.

Franklin Park Zoo Overnight Program
1 Franklin Park Road, Boston (442-2002). July 14, 7pm-July 15, 9am. $40. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Spend the night at the zoo as a part of the Outback Adventure.

Summer SOULstice Mini Festival
Christian Science Plaza, 175 Huntington Ave., Boston (450-3131). Through Aug. 29. Enjoy a music and arts festival every Tuesday at noon. •July 18, 12pm: *Let's Go West*. See participatory theater about pioneers. •July 25, 12pm: MFT Dance Company performs.

Theodore Tugboat Joins the Tall Ships
World Trade Center/Commonwealth Piers, Boston. •*July 12-15, 10am-5pm. Free.* Visit *Theodore Too*, an exact replica of the much-beloved star of the PBS telvision series, *Theodore Tugboat*.

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

To Watch

New England Revolution
•Foxboro Stadium. Tickets: 1-877-GET-REVS
July 12 (Away): Columbus Crew, 7:30pm, Fox.
July 15 (Home): NY/NJ Metrostars, 3:30pm, ESPN.
July 19 (Away): Kansas City Wizards, 8:30pm, Fox.
July 22 (Away): San Jose Earthquakes, 4:00pm, Fox.

Red Sox
•Fenway Park. Tickets: 267-8661.
July 13 (Home): New York Mets, 7:05pm, NESN.
July 14 (Home): New York Mets, 7:05pm, Fox.
July 15 (Home): New York Mets, 1:15pm, Fox.
July 16 (Home): Montreal Expos, 1:05pm, Fox.
July 17 (Home): Montreal Expos, 7:05pm, NESN.
July 18 (Home): Montreal Expos, 7:05pm, NESN.
July 19 (Away): Baltimore Orioles, 7:35pm, NESN.
July 20 (Away): Baltimore Orioles, 7:35pm, NESN.
July 21 (Home): Chicago White Sox, 7:05pm, NESN.
July 22 (Home): Chicago White Sox, 5:05pm, Fox.
July 23 (Home): Chicago White Sox, 1:05pm, Fox.
July 24: (Home): Minnesota Twins, 7:05pm, NESN.
July 25: (Home): Minnesota Twins, 7:05pm, NESN.

Events

The Roxy Fifth Annual Golf Tournament
Sandy Burr Golf Club, 103 Cochitutate Road, Wayland, Mass. (508-358-7211). July 17, 9:30am. $140 per person. This tournament, a benefit for John Gilpatrick, includes a raffle, auction, putting contests and golf poker.

NBA's Hoop-It-Up
(888-997-PLAY). www.hoopitup.com. *July 15-16.* The largest three-on-three street basketball tour in the United States will come to Boston on more than 75 courts set up at Suffolk Downs.

Sugarbowl Five-Miler
South Boston (696-3324). July 20. Five-mile race.

To Play

BASEBALL

Henry's Baseball Club
(781-891-0621). Waltham. Seeking players ages 17-30 and coaches for upcoming season.

BASKETBALL

Basketball City
Adjacent to North Station and the FleetCenter (742-6700). Corporate, midday and weekend leagues.

Co-Ed Indoor Basketball
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 224). Sun.-Thu. nights at various locations. All levels welcome. Leagues in Waltham, Dedham and Brookline. Co-ed teams now forming.

The Corporate League of Boston
(566-7808).

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333). Practice and workout programs for all levels in Greater Boston.

South End Fitness Center League
(534-5823).

Women's Basketball League
(661-9622). Tuesdays 5:30-7pm and Sundays, 6-7:30pm. Starts July 9.

CYCLING

Club Ciclismo Classico
Arlington Center (781-646-3377). Sunday mornings. These leisurely rides take you along the greener parts of the city suburbs.

FOOTBALL

Australian Rules Football
Boston Australian Rules Football Club. Thu. evenings and Sat. mornings, Cambridge (781-440-9266). www.Boston Demons.org. No experience necessary.

Indoor Flag Football
BSSC, Indoor Sports Center in Revere (789-4070). Sundays.

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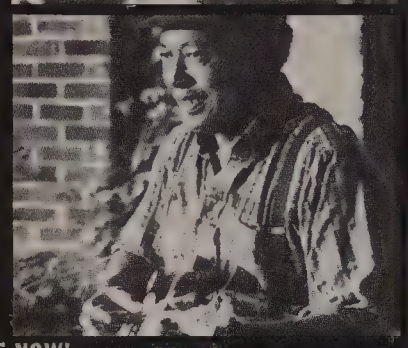

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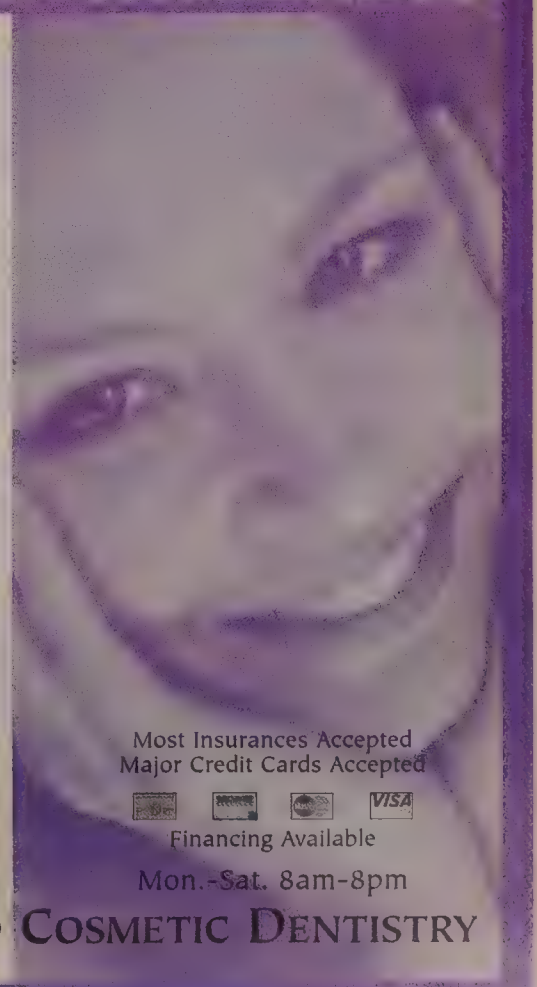

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PREVENTIVE AND COSMETIC DENTISTRY

HIKING/WALKING

The Appalachian Mountain Club
Gorham, N.H. (603-466-2727). Hikes and huts in the White Mountains. •Monthly AMC Young Members meetings at AMC headquarters, 4 Joy St., Beacon Hill (523-0655). Second Thursday of every month, 6-10pm, $3. Potluck. BYOB.

Boston Ski & Sports Hiking Trips
(789-4070).

New England Walkers
39 Oakland Rd., Brookline (731-9889). www.members.tripod.com/NEWALKERS. This 200-member club hosts race-walk events and clinics. Weekly walks at M.I.T. indoor track on Wednesdays at 7pm.

Walking Group
(247-8267). This group sponsors weekly walks on Wednesday evenings in the Back Bay. Meet new people while getting some exercise.

HOCKEY

Co-ed Floor Hockey
BSSC (789-4070). Individuals and teams, co-eds, all levels in Newton. Coed teams now forming.

RUGBY

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
Cambridge (781-340-2192). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.bwrfc.org. *Tue. and Thu. evenings.* No experience necessary.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
(499-4835). Weekly runs year-round. Serious drinkers with a running problem.

Boston Road Club Weekly Races
(781-646-8955). Sundays. These races start at Wells Avenue in Newton.

Fresh Pond Weekly Road Races
Fresh Pond Reservation. Saturdays, 10am. Choose between a 2.5- or 5-mile run.

Khoury's Thursday Night Runs
East Somerville. (351-5682). 4.13 miles. 7pm at Khoury's Bar.

NikeTown Boston Running Club
200 Newbury St., Boston (267-3400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Three-to-five-mile loops. Starts at 6:30pm. Monthly mini-clinics as well.

SOCCER

BSSC Soccer
BSSC (789-4070, ext. 225). Coed teams for both indoor and outdoor soccer.

SOFTBALL

80-Team Softball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 222). Monday through Thursday evenings at 6:30pm. Join as an individual or as a team. Sign up for this incredibly popular fall league in August.

The NBA's Hoop-It-Up three-on-three basketball tournament jump-starts Boston July 15-16.

SWIMMING

Boston Athletic Club Swim Workouts
653 Summer St., Boston (269-4300). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon. and Wed. 6:15-7:15am.

The Charles River Park Club Morning Masters
Charles River Park, Boston (450-9810). Mon., Wed., Fri. 6:30-7:45am.

The Mason Masters Swim Program
The Mason Pool. 159 Norfolk Avenue, Roxbury (236-4923 or 450-9810) Mon.-Fri. 7:30-8:30pm. An early-morning masters swim program led by Alex Primilsky, coach of numerous world, national and Olympic champions.

TENNIS

Boston Tennis Club
(742-6700). Located next to North Station. Adult and youth clinics, socials, open play and matching.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Boston Ski & Sports Club
(789-4070). Some 150 players toss the disc during the summer months.

Boston Ultimate Disc Alliance
(928-0882). www.buda.org. The largest ultimate disc organization in Boston includes more than 2,600 male and female players. In the spring and fall, individuals can sign up and be placed on a team. Sign up as a corporate team in the summer.

VOLLEYBALL

Adult Co-ed Volleyball League
Waltham YMCA (781-894-5295). Monday nights. All levels welcome at this friendly co-ed league of volleyball and after-game fun.

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. at various locations. Co-ed indoor six-on-six leagues. Four different levels of play. Pick-up games, clinics and tournaments also available. •Co-ed pickup games take place on Tuesdays and Fridays at the West Newton Armory, 1137 Washington St., West Newton. $5.

Co-ed Volleyball-Waltham
Waltham YMCA, 725 Lexington St, Waltham (781-894-5295). Monday nights. Leagues offered year-round. Call for more information.

WATER SPORTS

Boston Sailing Center
54 Lewis Wharf, Boston (227-4198). Year-round lessons and racing programs for all abilities.

Community Boating
21 David Mugar Way, Boston (523-1038). www.community-boating.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. Open Mon.-Fri. 1pm-sunset; Sat.-Sun. and holidays, 9am-sunset. April 1-Oct. 31.* Sailing, windsurfing and kayaking on the Charles River for only $190 per season, including instruction. What a bahgain!

Courageous Sailing Center
Charlestown Navy Yard (635-4505). Lessons are offered here year-round.

Fly-Casting for Women
Wild Women Outfitters, 397 Mass. Ave., Arlington (877-345-WILD). •July 22, 9am-12pm: **Intro to Fly-Casting**. This seminar is designed for the novice who has limited prior fly-casting experience. •July 23, 9am-12pm: **Beyond the Basics**. This seminar is recommended for those who have sme prior fly-casting experience but would like to enhance their command of the fly rod.

Ski Market Kayak Demo Center
Edward J. McCormack Bathhouse, 165 William J. Boulevard, South Boston (464-3291). Wednesdays, 4-7pm; Thu.-Sun. 10am-6pm. Sing person boats $10 per house; $30 for four hours. Demo Ski Market's kayaks now through Labor Day.

Whitewater Rafting
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070). •July 14-16: Kennebec River in Maine. •Aug. 18-20: Penobscot River in Maine. Weekend adventures include accommodations, transportation, most meals and rafting with Greater Boston-area young professionals.

Women's Kayaking Lessons
Wild Women Outfitters, 397 Mass. Ave., Arlington (877-345-WILD). July 13, 6-9pm. $40. Calling all female kayakers. This introduction to kayak navigation includes chart-and-compass, GPS and VHFs. Participants will also receive a basic navigation kit, three hours of instruction, class review booklet and a PowerPoint class-materials review diskette.

WRESTLING

Men's Adult Wrestling
Boston Union, 48 Boylston St., Boston (482-1122). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm; Saturdays 1-3:30pm. All skill levels. Coaching available.

sales& fashion

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for sales and bargains by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sales and Fashion. Or e-mail information to goodbuys@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the event or items. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Chanel presents its fall/winter 2000 Ready-to-Wear collection at Bloomingdale's July 13.

AUCTIONS

Skinner Auctioneers—Bolton
357 Main St., Bolton (978-779-6241). www.skinnerinc.com. **•The Studio Auction**. *July 20, 7pm. Previews: July 19, 2-5pm; July 20, 2-6pm.*

Skinner Auctioneers—Boston
63 Park Plaza, Boston (350-5400). **•English and Continental Furniture and Decorations**. *July 15, 11am. Previews: July 13, 2-5pm; July 14, 12-7pm; and July 15, 8:30-10am.*

SALES/EVENTS

Brimfield Fair Antiques & Collectibles
Auction Acres, Route 20, Brimfield, Mass. (508-597-8155). Fri. 6am-5pm; Sat. 8am-5pm. July 14-15. $5. Brimfield hosts fairs three times a year, but this is the company's largest antiques and collectibles show since 1959.

Neiman Marcus Last Call Sale
5 Copley Place, second floor, Boston (536-3660). July 19-23. Anyone in the know recognizes Neiman Marcus' Last Call as the "be all and end all" of sales. It's worth a wait in line to take part in this sale of items marked down at least 50 percent.

FASHION

Bloomingdale's Chanel Trunk Show
Level 1 and 2, Fashion Apparel Building, 55 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill (630-6000). MBTA: D Green Line to Chestnut Hill. July 13, 11am-3pm. Chanel presents its fall/winter 2000 Ready-to-Wear and Accessory collections. A Chanel representative will assist guests with their selections throughout the day.

BEAUTY

The Gilligan's Island Makeover Event
Demiche Makeup & Image Studio, 423 Main St., Second Floor, Melrose (781-662-1796). www.demiche.com. *June 20, 1-8pm. Free.* Are you a Ginger or a Maryann? Get your makeup done like your favorite castaway.

OUTLETS

Wrentham Village Shuttle
Route 1A at the intersection of I45 (exit 15), Wrentham, Mass. (877-404-9909). $33. Back Bay Coach will provide daily transportation to and from Wrentham Village Premium Outlets, which feature more than 130 stores offering savings of 25 to 65 percent. All-day shopping trips leave at 9:30am from Boston area hotels and return at 4pm. Fare includes a VIP coupon book.

go away

TRAVELING NEAR AND FAR

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Go Away. Or e-mail information to goaway@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the event or items. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

NORTH OF BOSTON

Salem Maritime Festival
Salem, Mass. (978-740-1660). July 22, 10am-10pm. Free. Enjoy a full day of fun with traditional maritime music, concerts and demonstrations on how to make a sail, build a boat, tie a knot and more.

Central Maine Egg Festival
Manson Park, Pittsfield, Maine (207-487-3535). www.pittsfield.org/eggfes.html. *July 17-22.* Nowhere but the Egg Festival will you come across a 300-pound frying pan. Five feet in diameter, this hefty piece of cookware will be used to prepare the early bird breakfast. Omelette, anyone? The festival is a celebration of the brown-egg industry and features a parade and a Kiwanis Karnival. Feast on a chicken barbecue, do the chicken dance in the street, enjoy a craft fair and fireworks, but whatever you do, don't miss the 29th annual Egglympics.

Vermont Quilt Festival
Norwich University, Northfield, Vermont (802-485-7092). www.vqf.org. *July 21-23. Admission varies.* More than 350 quilts, ranging from works in progress to antiques, will be on display at New England's oldest and largest annual quilt event. If you've ever had a hankering to quilt something for yourself, bring your quilting needles because classes will be held all weekend. Notable quilts on loan from the Shelburne Museum will be displayed, or you can bring your own entries for a quilt contest. For those who aren't engaged by the quilts, free horse-drawn carriage rides will tour the scenic campus of Norwich University.

SOUTH OF BOSTON

Entrain Family Camp-Out
Stepping Stone Ranch, Escoheag, R.I. (508-753-8882). July 15, 12pm. $25. Bring your friends for this one-night camp-out. Your ticket not only entitles you to hear **Entrain**, one of the hottest bands out of Martha's Vineyard, but you will also be entertained by **Foxtrot Zulu**, **Another Planet** and **Loose Change**. As soon as the concert is over, the camping will begin. Don't forget marshmallows, graham crackers and chocolate bars.

ESPN Great Outdoor Games
Lake Placid, N.Y. (860-766-7362). July 20-23. Calling all tough guys and girls. Top-notch athletes from all corners of the globe will be convening in Lake Placid to participate in 20 events in hopes of getting their hands on some prize money, not to mention getting their mug on cable TV.

WEST OF BOSTON

Jacob's Pillow 2000 Festival
Located in Becket, Mass. (413-637-1322). www.jacobspillow.org. Representing cultures and dance styles from the U.S., France, Japan, Ireland, Africa, Sweden, Brazil, Spain, Canada and the Netherlands, this world-renowned dance festival is the place to see and experience dance in a way that cannot be found at any other U.S. festival. •July 13-16: **Ronald K. Brown** and **Evidence** present the world premiere of *High Life*. It is a work composed of African-style dance that combines traditional forms, jazz and rhythm and blues. •July 19-23: **Compagnie Maguy Marin** of France revives *Waterzooi*. This work, named after Belgian stew, is a witty and eclectic mix of humor, dance, text and music during which performers pick up xylophones, kazoos, toy pianos, bells and whistles. •July 20-23: From the Netherlands comes choreographer **Beppie Blankert**, who will be performing *Dubbelspoor* ("double image" in Dutch). It uses mirrors in its stage design to engage the audience in the scenery.

Glasgow Lands Scottish Festival
Stanley Park, Western Ave., Westfield, Mass. (413-848-2061). www.glasgowlands.org. *July 15, 9am. $7.* This all-inclusive Scottish festival showcases nearly every aspect of Scottish culture. Dine on Scottish foods like scones and take in some Celtic music. Catch the geese herding and sheep dog contests, or if you're not so animal-friendly, there will be Highland dancing contests as well. Scottish athletic games will get your adrenaline pumping, butif you'd rather pick up some Celtic curios, there will be boutiques for you to browse also.

BASKETBALL: ERICH SCHLEGEL

The extreme Summer 2000 Gravity Games shake up Providence, R.I., July 15-23.

CAPE & THE ISLANDS

The Celebration of Heroes with Walter Cronkite
Tabernacle, Oak Bluffs, Vineyard Haven, Mass. (508-696-8514) www.soup4world.com. *July 16, 5:30-7pm. Free.* The Stone Soup Foundation and noted newsman Walter Cronkite team up to honor local Vineyard heroes who exude Vineyard Spirit for doing good deeds and nourishing the Island's spirit of service.

Birds of Sarson's Island Canoe Trip
Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary, Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road, Vineyard Haven, Mass. (508-627-4850). July 14, 9am. $15. No experience is required, just hop into a canoe and start paddling. Destination: Sarson's Island, a nesting spot and migration stopover for a diversity of shorebirds. It's a unique way to experience wildlife on the Cape. Registration necessary.

PROVIDENCE

Summer 2000 Gravity Games
Various locations, Providence, RI (877-7-GRAVTY). www.gravitygames.com. *July 15-23.* The second go-around of these alternative sports competitions is guaranteed to add some spice, if not scabs, to your summer. Fourteen extreme events, such as downhill skateboarding, wakeboarding and street luge, will draw some of the most daring and aggressive athletes. Spectators can join in at Festival Village, an interactive experience where sport simulators will transport you onto an obstacle-filled skateboard street course, and other featured events.

NEW YORK CITY

Midsummer Night's Swing
Lincoln Center Plaza, 62nd to 66th Streets, New York City, N.Y. July 19, 8:15-11pm. $12. Get your groove on at this swing-style hillbilly bop concert. Concert headliners **Big Sandy and His Fly-Rite Boys** and **Wylie & the Wild West** will definitely be looking money in their vintage suits. They top off their swingin' image by arriving in a '49 Flexible tour bus. Jitterbug lessons will be given at a pre-show instruction seminar. Spectators welcome.

MONTRÉAL

Just For Laughs Festival
St. Denis Street and the Quartier Latin Sector, Montréal, Canada (514-790-4242). July 12-23. Prices vary. Montréal turns into the comedy central of the world, and you don't want to be the only one not laughing. Go see more than 600 hilarious artists from 14 countries play in 1,300 shows and performances at indoor and outdoor venues.

BOULIA

Boulia Desert Sands 2000 Camel Races
Camel Race Track, Boulia, Australia (542-8655). July 14-16. Touted as Australia's premiere international professional camel racing festival, the Boulia Desert Sands 2000 is offering $20,000 in prize money for the camel with the fastest hustle. After the races, trainers, jockeys and spectators will be treated to three days of entertainment (as if racing camels weren't entertaining enough). Fireworks, laser shows and skydivers precede a black-tie ball and concert to cap off the camel capers.

JAMAICA

Jamaica Spice Food Festival
UDC Park, Ocho Rios, St. Ann, Jamaica (+876-929-9200-19). July 15. If it hasn't been warm enough in Boston for you, head down to the islands (no, not Nantucket or the Vineyard) and take in some rays. An abundance of spicy Jamaican food will be ready for the tastin'. If you like what you eat, watch some cooking demonstrations and learn to celebrate Jamaican cuisine in your own kitchen. Internationally renowned Jamaican culinary writers will be on hand for book signings if you get too full to eat any more. If you've had your fill, however, plenty of other non-culinary related events are on the schedule.

PARIS

Bastille Day (Fete Nationale)
Various Locations, Paris, France (212-838-7300). July 14. There may not be fireworks but France's Independence Day celebration is a showcase of French pride and nationalism. The date commerates the onset of the French Revolution, when disgruntled French peasants stormed the Bastille fortress with the intention of freeing political prisoners. Attend one of the many parties on the quaint avenues of Paris or hope for an invitation to a swanky after-dark soiree.

THAILAND

Candle Festival
Thung Si Muang Park, Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand (662-694-1222 ext. 1961). www.tat.or.th. *July 15-16.* This festival combines the talent of local artists with displays of religious devotion. It also marks the beginning of Khao Phansa, or the Buddhist Lent, a very religious time when all Buddhist monks must stay in their temples. Beeswax candles of all sizes and shapes decorated with ornate patterns are put on display by their creators and then marched around the city of Ubon Ratchathani before being presented to the sequestered monks at local temples.

mark your daytimer

UPCOMING EVENTS

CITYSCOPE

Chinatown Festival
Aug. 6, Chinatown
August Moon Festival
Aug. 20, Chinatown
Antique & Classic Boat Festival
Sept. 2-3, Boston Harbor

MUSIC

Tracy Chapman
Aug. 3, FleetBoston Pavilion
Duran Duran
Aug. 5, FleetBoston Pavilion
AC/DC
Aug. 8, FleetCenter
Mötley Crue, Megadeth and Anthrax
August 9, Tweeter Center
Creed and 3 Doors Down
August 22, Tweeter Center
Smokey Robinson
August 24, FleetBoston Pavilion
B.B. King Blues Festival
Sept. 14, FleetBoston Pavilion

THEATER

Scarlet Pimpernel
Aug. 1, Wang Theatre
Gypsy
Aug. 3, The Publick Theatre
Seussical the Musical
Aug. 27, Colonial Theatre

YOU CHOOSE.

BOSTON BILLIARD CLUB

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Summer is already here at The Barking Crab, come down & enjoy our heated deck.

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Lunch & Dinner 11:30 AM to 11:00 PM
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Improper Impersonals

If everyone kept their feelings bottled up like warm beer, we'd soon have antisocial behavior exploding all over the place and ruining the upholstery. That's why we have the Improper Impersonals, a column written by you, the reader. Send us your letters of love and spleen, and we'll print them for the world to see. Heck, it's better than making a fool of yourself in person. And IT'S FREE! Pick up a pen and tell that babe on the T you like his butt by writing to:

IMPROPER IMPERSONALS
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116
FAX: 859-1446 E-MAIL: impersonals@improper.com
Recent correspondence follows.

Guitar-Boy, Green Line Between Hynes and Boylston, June 7
I'm still thinking how I took the seat you were using to rest your guitar. Especially when I really didn't need it. And then I wonder what kind of music you play on that guitar and where you were off to with it. Or maybe it's just that I'm dying to write an Impersonal of my own with a delicious little email address at the end. Probably a little of both. I was with my friend but I got off before she did at Boylston, and you don't know it but I was trying to catch your eye as I got off the train in an oh-so-engaging way that's typically not my style. I wanted to be cool and say, "Do you read the IMPROPER BOSTONIAN? No? You should." So if you ever want to play for me...
—uhlisuh@yahoo.com

It's Amazing
You and your brat kids get on the commuter rail every morning. I don't know who makes more noise, you or them. It's truly amazing how nice people continue to be even after you disrupt the last few minutes of peace and quiet we have before work. I won't be so mean as to say where you get on and what you look like. I hope you see this and try to be a little more considerate of your fellow commuters.
—Anonymous

Dancing Queen
Or so I hope... Saturday nights at Man Ray your shirt always ends up in your back pocket, revealing your hot bod as it moves and grooves. I dig your spunk. Your passion for dancing is rivaled only by your sultry eyes and sexy goatee. Next time you end the night center stage, let me buy your next Heineken.
—Shy Guy

Brent (at Prudential Legal Seafoods)
It's time that you knew...I am, by far, your biggest fan.
Sincerely,
—A Teetotaler

To Rob at Cityside
I've been dying to ask: WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED??? I'm not one for taking guys home from bars, certainly not bartenders, but I really felt this vibe or SOMETHING between us so I went for it. And you dissed me. YOU dissed ME... I'm still baffled... And the fact that you work at my favorite bar sucks. I've felt like a complete asshole the few times I've been in since that night... What did I do??? The fact that you wouldn't sleep with me left me with the notion that there might be something to look forward to... I'm still looking!!! Maybe in the future I'll get the balls to come down and ask you to your face. Until then I hope you'll answer me here. Hello to Greg, Anthony and Jay.
—Michelle

It Must Be Known
Who are you? The setting: Village Market, Roslindale Square, Monday, May 8, around 7pm. The characters—YOU: an ebullient dark-haired, dark-eyed, fairly tall woman; Me: a tall, blond/blue fair-skinned man. The scene: I am talking to a server in the prepared foods section when YOU enter stage left in search of something particular, to which the server redirects you. As you pass, your eyes connect with mine, and something more than a casual glance passes between us. Do your entrancing eyes cross these pages? If so, dare to make contact.
—endistance@hotmail.com

SPB
You are my favorite imported wine key. Nothing makes me happier than when you're with me. Even though you have froggy feet, I think you are very sweet. I love you.
—The girl with the freckles

Joe
I just want you to know that you really hurt my feelings. I just want to know why you wanted my number when you saw me walking my dog by the fire station that you work at. Do you firefighters make it a habit of seeing who gets the most phone numbers? (I know firemen have a very hard job, I thank you for the good work you guys do). I really liked you and found you extremely hot. In fact, tell your roommate Ty that he's not a very good friend to you—when I called you he pretended to be you so he could meet with me. He even kissed me, but I told him I was interested in you. What happened? Did he lie and tell you I hit on him or something? Instead of standing me up for our Saturday morning bike ride, you could have had the decency and called me and told me that you didn't want to speak to me. If you're any kind of man, you should really talk to me instead of not taking my calls. All I want to know is why you cut me from your life with not even a phone message. I'm a hardworking woman, straight, cute, no children and very loyal. Why is it so damn hard to find a good man these days?!
—Jacqui

Sunday, May 14
You were the tall, dark and handsome man with beautiful dreds who took the 86 bus from Cleveland Circle at 5:45 with your friend (another very attractive guy) who was reading the IMPROPER. You returned my weak attempt at a smile, and I tried for the rest of the ride to say hello, or at the very least, give my best grin. It didn't happen. I have one story that I want to tell you, and after that you can go along your way, if you wish.
—Easimo@hotmail.com

Help!!!
My sexually repressed friend is annoying the hell out of me. I need to find a woman for him. Problem (or jackpot) is that he's extremely short, attractive in a unique way and has a traditional mindset about male/female relationships. Uppity women need not apply. Although he can't cook, he loves to eat. Dim sum ladies? Or have some of him. E-mail me.
—wantsomedimsum @hotmail.com

David at Harpoon Brewstock 2000, Sat. June 10
We met when I asked if you were the one that was screaming, something you denied, but I still wonder. I had a great time talking with you about London, Tufts and your two sisters who got all the looks in your family (so you say). Eventually, I had to leave to find my sister (yes, she really was my sister) and quickly gave you my cell phone number. For the rest of the night I worried that I said 851, not 857. Maybe I messed up the number or you've just been too busy driving around in your new Jeep to call. I don't know...I just had to give this a shot just in case you still think that 23 isn't too old. If so, drop me at line or call...
—yourbadbook@hotmail.com

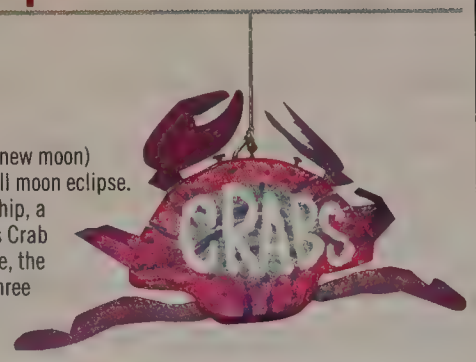
To Angela at "Pine Mattress"
Thanks for your lovely note. If what I did to you was so disgusting, why did you beg and plead for more? Sorry, pumpkin, about the spanking, but you loved every second of it. If the evening was so bad, why did you call me to come over again? As far as rotting in hell, I am sure that I will see you there also. Oh, and by the way, tobacco breath, clean up your act and remember: Daughters take after their mothers.
—Adam

Your waitstaff and bartenders are gorgeous...
...and your pool tables are impressive, but your service sucks. Boston's Best?? WHY ?? Whenever I sit at the bar, it takes forever to get a drink. And why am I paying $3.75 for lousy draft beer??
—Ex patron

Rockie Horoscope

JULY 12-25, 2000

BY ROCKIE GARDINER



CANCER JUNE 21-JULY 22

Situations that have been simmering since July 1 (the Cancer new moon) come to a rolling boil this weekend at the Cancer-Capricorn full moon eclipse. You may find that something is missing from a close relationship, a professional association might have run its course or that this Crab is in hot water. No matter how the eclipse manifests in your life, the concept of family, if not the members, will be involved. After three weeks of re-examining where you stand, Mercury in your sign turns direct on Monday. Moving on? Pretty soon.

LEO

JULY 23-AUGUST 22

With lovable, artistic Venus in your sign, you can practically get away with murder right now. Add the protective cover Jupiter spreads when it sextiles Venus this weekend, and you'll be one lucky Lion. Therefore, Sunday's total lunar eclipse might only affect your workplace or your co-workers, not you. Time (about three months' worth) will tell. A question of romance vs. fantasy, aesthetics vs. faith, or social acceptance vs. New Age practices surfaces midweek; you don't have to take sides until the end of the month.

VIRGO

AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

Rev up your engines. On Monday morning Mercury, your ruling planet, comes out of reverse and faces forward again. But it'll take another two weeks before it returns to the degree in Cancer it flipped at. That means more time to rethink (and perfect) your reputation before you get past where you were, career-wise, on June 23. Virgos are able to make the most of these periodic respites from the daily grind; be sure to take time this weekend to socialize and fantasize. The lunar eclipse might add an odd note to the games you get involved in.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

Not one but two enjoyable weeks ahead, courtesy of your Venus ruler and her habit of drawing beautiful, talented people to your side. Your luck—no matter if it's been good, bad or indifferent lately—improves this weekend as Jupiter lays a profitable financial opportunity or a luxurious gift on you. Your taste in art rises to a higher level midweek while Venus is awash in exquisite Neptunian vibes; that's also when your love life competes with your fantasy life, when it becomes difficult to maintain the classic Libran balance.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

The Cancer-Capricorn lunar eclipse could set the stage for more traveling, both local and long-distance, over the next three months. It may also tweak a desire to learn a foreign language or take a cooking class. Wealthy women and talented artisans make a good impression on your partners, so give your mate leeway when appreciating beautiful objects and what money can buy. Conveniently, Mercury turns direct Monday in your house of joint investments, inheritances and tantric sex. Time to consult the Kama Sutra again, also to see that insurance matters are taken care of.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

Anticipate enjoying a sociable weekend while ever-popular Venus favoring your Jupiter ruler invites you to forget the workload and come out to play. You'll also double your chances of winning whatever you bet on while the two "benefic" planets are allied. Just be somewhat judicious, because the total Capricorn lunar eclipse can affect your finances, both your disposable income and your paper profit, not only for a week and a day, but for the next three months.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

Take what happens to you during the Capricorn full-moon eclipse this weekend personally. Those experiences can reverberate over the next three months and, as far as you're concerned, change the emotional tenor of the times. Young people who have been shoved into the background lately advance to center stage once Mercury turns around in your Cancer complement. Move slowly when dealing with them, going over what has occurred since your last meeting. The time spent will be worth the trouble. Ditto for work assignments and co-workers.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18

Aquarians benefit mightily from having loving Venus in your Leo house of mates and marriage partners. First off, the goddess of art and beauty favors magnanimous Jupiter in your home base, making this an excellent time for acquiring stuff for the house. Then sensuous Venus reaches out to Neptune in Aquarius and ups the level of your artistic output; you'll be inspired by almost everything you see, feel, and, especially, hear. Venus moves on to more erotic expressions next weekend, so clear your calendar of "things to do."

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19

It's that time of year again, the week when your Neptune ruler is overwhelmed by affectionate, artistic and, because the planets form a challenging opposition, overindulgent Venusian vibes. Going over the top is often the only way a Fish can express the diverse influences this combination of aesthetic forces inspires. And since the opposition crosses from your house of peers to your house of creativity, risk and romance, casual friends, lovers, even the kids will be involved.

ARIES

MARCH 20-APRIL 19

This weekend should bring something quite grand for the house, a nice gift from the folks and a reason to indulge your desires a little more. The password is pleasure. Even if the total lunar eclipse early Sunday puts you on edge, you'll still pursue the goodies that are part and parcel of the good life. July 17 adds a different twist as Mercury changes direction in your house of FedEx and UPS. What was routed, to whose address? One day you'll laugh about this odd Mercury retrograde, but not until July and the third eclipse of the month is history.

TAURUS

APRIL 20-MAY 20

Its effects are reputed to last at least three months, so what follows Sunday's total lunar eclipse could impact on plans to travel to distant places or return to school. However, in the happy-go-lucky atmosphere of this weekend, in the satisfaction you feel simply because your Venus ruler is supported by optimistic Jupiter, you probably won't notice that anything is missing. In fact, you probably won't see beyond whatever/whomever is filling your mind's eye while romantic Venus and imaginative Neptune are entranced with each other. Enjoy.

GEMINI

MAY 21-JUNE 20

The full moon eclipse in Cancer-Capricorn can has financial ramifications for the Twins. Money matters related to water and earth, domestic life and professional success, Mom and Pop could dominate. This combination of "try and stop me" cardinal energy is more than an easy-come, easy-go adaptable Gemini can resist—so don't. With Jupiter in your sign all year long, rely on luck to see you over the rough spots that may arise. Your Mercury ruler flip-flops in Cancer on Monday; slow down, be cool—don't you flip too.

Curious about the future? Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30 to 40 plus pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise over the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $42.50 per report to ROCKIE GARDINER, 1021 N. Genesee Ave., #1, West Hollywood, CA 90046. *www.rockiehoroscope.com.* Read my daily forecast online at *www.laweekly.com.*

improperazzi

THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN's client-related promotions and events

On Saturday, June 24th, the **Roxy** hosted a Sound & Vision show. Choreographer Cory Israel and his smokin' dance crew threw down the latest moves while showing off the integrated looks found on today's hottest dance floors. **Players of Newbury St., Karmaloop**, and the **Garment District** were chosen to reflect a progression of clubwear trends.

1

2

3

1. Roxy entertainers
2. Stylists **Jessica** and **Jennifer Quinzani**
3. Backstage with choreographers **Michelle Morales** and **Cory Israel**

On June 21, **Henrietta's Table** threw a BBQ party to celebrate their five-year anniversary and the first day of Summer. The party was also the kick off for their free Summer music series, called **"Beats & Beets"**. Guests enjoyed a perfect evening on the patio with great food and drink, a live performance by the **Tar Box Ramblers** and chain saw sculpting (Henrietta, the pig, was carved on site).

1

2

3

1. **Andy Ferguson** and **Kristin Stevens** of Harvard Business School Publishing
2. **Tom Daily,** Director of Henrietta's Table, **Robyn Thieringer,** Cambridge Tourism Director, **Jonny Blass,** General Manager at Henrietta's
3. **Sam Spiegel** of Brookline, **David Burnin** of Boston, **Joanne Mullane** of Belmont, **Olympia Levinson** of Boston, **Marilyn Stone** of Chestnut Hill

Nestled in the heart of the Big Dig construction zone, Irish bar **The Times** was inspired to call their June 24 summer kick-off bash "The Big Shin Dig." And what a shindig it was – featuring music by the **Chad LaMarsh Band, Novocain, Missing Joe**, the **Gravel Pit**, and **The Sheila Divine** (winners of the 1999 WBCN Rock & Roll Rumble). The rollicking festivities were sponsored by **Mix 98.5** and **Guinness**.

1

1. **Aaron Perrino,** "the other Jim" **Comeau,** and **Jim Gilbert** of **The Shelia Devine,** and **Christine** "The Artist" **Tobin**
2. **Jessica Wyley, Ann-Marie Strvzeleck**, and **Kristi Yessse**, all of Mix 98.5 with **Lorriane Barrett** of The Times.
3. **The Chad LaMarsh Band.**

2

3

On Monday, June 26th, **The Rack** was clearly the place to be. **Nomar Garciaparra** hosted an after-hours bash to support the **Nomar 5 Fund**, a charity organized to benefit inner-city kids and BHA Youth Centers.

1

2

3

1. **Vinnie Peruzzi from Star 93.7** with Red Sox shortstop **Nomar Garciaparra**
2. Owner of Pro-Fit **Gerry Healy** with **Walter McCarty, Jason Coffey** and **Clay Coffey** of the Black Coffey Band
3. Pitcher for the Red Sox **Bret Saberhagen** and his wife **Lynn**

PHOTOS: BOSTONMODELO.COM (THE ROXY); ALISON MORANT (HENRIETTA'S TABLE); ANDREW GRAHAM (THE TIMES) WENDY SEMONIAN (THE RACK)

BARS, CLUBS, RESTAURANTS & BRUNCH

The following are paid advertisements. Please check times and prices in advance. If you'd like to have your restaurant listed, please call The Improper Bostonian Advertising Dept. at 859-1400.

BARS

Billiards

Boston Billiard Club
126 Brookline Ave., 536-POOL. Ranked #1 in the country by Billiards Digest. Free lessons on Mon., 7:30 pm - 9 pm. Boston Billiard Club House Leagues on Mon. and Tues. "In The Biz" night on Sun. and Mon. for patrons in the hospitality industry. Ladies' night on Wed. Featuring a menu of light fare such as grilled chicken sandwiches and appetizers, along with beer, wine, cocktails and a variety of non-alcoholic beverages.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, The Allstonians and Beat Soup.

Weggie's Pub
162 Lincoln St., 617-542-7080. Boston's "Chinatown-Leather District" near South Station. Cozy ambience where people drink and socialize. Cultural diversity is an institution in this area. We permit patrons to bring in take-out orders to complement drinks. Two TV's. One pool table and video games with CD player. Coldest A/C in the city with very cold beer. Great place to come after sporting events. Walk up bar, no waitperson service. Unique, intimate, dark atmosphere, and a cacophony of sounds all around. Inexpensive drinks. $2 for bottled Bud! Mon-Sat 11 am - 2 am. Sun 6 pm - 2 am. No credit cards. ID req.

Brew Pubs

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Company
138 Portland St., Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is now the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, a block from the FleetCenter and steps from Faneuil Hall, Commonwealth Fish & Beer features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

General

BARCODE
Enjoy the intimate, windowed dining room or a signature cocktail in the lounge. BARCODE offers a creative martini selection, a balanced and affordable wine list and both bottled and draft beer. Drinks are available until 2 am daily, food served until 1 am.

The Good Life
Uptown - 99 St. Botolph St., 266-3030; Downtown - 28 Kingston St., 451-2622. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1999 Boston's Best Martini award. The Good Life is a retro lounge that Frank Dean and Sammy would have hung at. Big Drinks, Great American Comfort Food, Hot Jazz and Plenty of Boy Meets Girl. Never a cover, always a good time.

The Good Life In Swingin' Central Square
720 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, 617-868-8800, The winner of The Improper Bostonian's Best Martini Award 1999. Frank, Dean, and Sammy have a new hangout across the river. So should you. Come experience the power of three. Classic cocktails, great American comfort food, and Boston's Best Live Jazz. Never a cover, always a good time.

Harvard Gardens
316 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114, 617-523-2727. A wonderfully relaxed haven located opposite MGH on the back side of Beacon Hill. Serving the finest cocktails and most comfortable food in town. Plant yourself in a comfy booth, a cozy banquette, or at our fully loaded bar and escape from your everyday troubles. Doing it nice & easy 7 days a week - 11am-2am.

Sweetwater Cafe
3 Boylston Place, 351-2515. A classic American bar featuring Boston's best bands and DJ's nightly. A favorite Boston bar for 15 years with two floors of entertainment, an outdoor patio and world class margaritas. Always great music and cold beer, never a dress code. Available for private functions of any kind. (Credit cards: Am Ex, Visa, MC, Diner's) Tues. - Sat. 5 pm - 2 am. Located in "The Alley."

The Big Easy Bar
1 Boylston Place, Boston, 351-7000. Informal. Located in Boston's version of Bourbon Street, "The Alley." The Big Easy Bar is a hot new New Orleans style bar featuring Boston's best live bands and disc jockeys nightly playing music you know and love. Relax in a lounge, listen to the band, play billiards, hang at the bar or dance the night away. The Big Easy Bar has something fun for everyone. Great beer selection, 22 oz. Hurricanes, 4 huge bars, 2 lounges, a balcony, plenty of seating, and a large dance floor. Wed. - Sat. 8 pm - 2 am. Major credit cards accepted. Valet parking available.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, The Allstonians and Beat Soup.

The Sugar Shack
1 Boylston Place, 351-2510. "Home of Boston's Best Party." Set in the middle of a mini-Bourbon Street, The Sugar Shack celebrates Mardi-Gras year-round with a carefree, reckless, spontaneous and unpretentious attitude. Carnival lights, confetti, beads, specialty drinks, live bands and Disc Jockeys playing classics, motown, R&B, funk, disco, and old school hip hop from the last three decades mixed with the best of today's top 40. Home of young professional, young alumni, 20 something hipsters who desire cold beer, cocktails, classic party tunes and unadulterated fun!!

Wine Bars

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar
105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-0966. The hip meeting spot in the Financial District for after work, dinner, late night, or a seductive tryst. The Vault offers some of the most exclusive wines in Boston, which complement the creative American Cuisine prepared by Chef Michael Foley. Can't decide on a wine? Relax and compare with our Tasting Flights featuring selections from different reds and whites. So what are you waiting for? Call an old friend, a client, or a co-worker and meet for cocktails at The Vault today.

RESTAURANTS

Back Bay Brewing Company
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Across from the Prudential Center. $7-$18. Winner of Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston," 1999, 1998 & 1997 award for Best Brew Pub. Bi-level restaurant/ brewery offers an inspirational pairing of Chef Michael Burgess's innovative cuisine and Tod Mott's hand-crafted ales and lagers. Upbeat first floor bar and café, second floor dining room and bar with comfortable couches and overstuffed chairs. Sunday Buffet Brunch 11am - 3pm, $14.95. Mon. - Sun. 11:30am - 1am.

BARCODE
BARCODE offers creative food and drink with a truly unique, casual style and atmosphere. Simple yet exotic and flavorful, Executive Chef George Leu's menu features a variety of French bistro fare touched with Asian influences. Lunch weekdays 11:30 am - 4:30 pm, dinner daily 5 pm - 1 am, brunch Sat & Sun 11:30 am - 4 pm

Cactus Club
939 Boylston St., 236-0200. Get a taste of the Southwest in Boston. Specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, Cajun Catfish. Sample the firewater menu while you are there, including Coyote Killer (Light and dark rum, peach schnapps, ginger beer and mixed juices), or a Chambord Margarita. The daring may go for a dip in the Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Amex, Diners Club, MC and Visa. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurants, in Framingham, Waltham and Needham. www.cactus-club.com.

Caliterra
89 Broad St., Boston, 348-1234, at the New Wyndham Boston Hotel. Caliterra is heating up the dining climate of Boston's financial district. Our Cal-Ital fare combines contemporary Northern California traits with heary Tuscan classics and the freshest New England seafood. We accommodate groups in our private dining room, and private parties in our exclusive wine rooms. Enjoy libations in our spacious Caliterra lounge. Reservations recommended. Valet parking available. Breakfast available Mon. - Fri., 6:30 - 11 am; Sat. & Sun., 7 am - 12 noon. Child's breakfast is free under 12 with an adult. Lunch daily 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Dinner nightly 5 - 10 pm. Located one block from Boston Harbor and Quincy Marketplace.

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Iguana Cantina
313 Moody St., Waltham, 781-891-3039; 1656 Worcester Rd., Rt. 9, Framingham, 508-875-1188; and 66 Chestnut St., Needham, 781-444-9976. The Iguana Cantina serves a variety of Caribbean, Tex-Mex and Southwestern fare. The atmosphere is fun and the food is tasty. Visit our website at www.theiguanacantina.com.

Kashmir
279 Newbury St., Boston, 536-1695. Kashmir has been raising the bar of Indian restaurants in quality, style and service since it opened. Its Best of Boston, Boston's Best and Readers' Choice awards are a result of great execution. Indoors in three elegantly styled dining rooms and outdoors on the best people watching corner in town, Kashmir serves the finest Tandoori and curry dishes and most imaginative specials and the best lunch and brunch buffet in town. Wine and beer are available as well as takeout, delivery, private parties and catering.

Ma Soba Asian Cuisine & Sushi
156 Cambridge Street on Beacon Hill, Boston, 973-6680. Enjoy premium sushi and Ma Soba's unique blend of contemporary and traditional Asian cuisine prepared by award-winning chefs. Relax with a fine wine selection from Ma Soba's comprehensive wine cellar in a setting described as "strikingly attractive and ultra urbane" by the Boston Herald. Open daily: Sun-Wed until 10:30pm, Thurs-Sat until 11:00pm. When in Harvard Square/ Cambridge, visit Ma Soba Express at 30 Dunster Street for quick-service pan Asian noodles and rice platters.

Shenandoah Restaurant, Marketplace Cafe, Brewskellar Pub
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston 227-1272. Located in the North Market Building of Faneuil Hall, Shenandoah Restaurant, The Marketplace Cafe, and Brewskellar Pub have something for everyone. Whether you're interested in a casual dinner on one of Boston's largest outdoor patios or the quiet more elegant surroundings of Shenandoah Restaurant, we offer it all. Having a function? We cater personally to all events you may be planning. Visit us soon and let us surprise you.

Skipjack's
199 Clarendon St., Copley Sq., 536-3500; 2 Brookline Pl., Brookline, 232-8887; and 55 Needham St., Newton, 964-4244. Enjoy fresh grilled seafood flown in from around the world, in a casual, comfortable atmosphere. Specialties include blackened tuna sashimi, Skipjack's moonfish, Maryland crabcakes, lobsters and gingered calamari. Swing with the infamous Winiker Orchestra and enjoy our Jazz Brunch every Sunday, 11 am - 3 pm in Boston. Also performing in Brookline every Fri. and Sat. evenings from 6 - 10 pm. Reservations accepted and discounted underground parking in Boston and Brookline.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve both lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar
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65 Exeter Street, Boston, 266-6222. Anago, in the historic Lenox Hotel, presents a live Sunday Brunch from 11-2pm, prepared by Boston's whiz kid chef, Jamie "Shaky" Liberge, featuring a sumptuous buffet of appetizers with exquisite freshly baked desserts and breads created by award winning pastry chef, Lee Napoli, to accompany your choice of exceptional entree selections. Reservations are recommended.

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Improper Sightings

Unlike the rest of your friends, we want to see the photos from your next trip.

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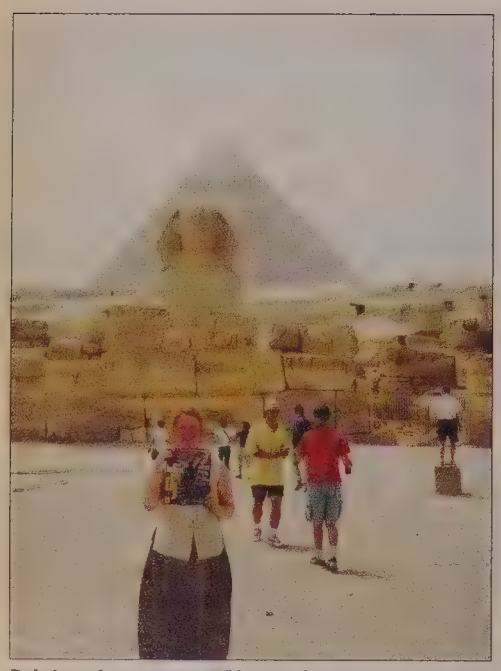
We're wondering why they aren't riding in a gondola, but in any case, Kevin McCarthy and Leslie Perretti pose with their IMPROPER above. Standing canal-side, with Italian architecture behind them, these Beacon Hill residents relax in one of the most romantic cities in the world— Venice, Italy.

Baseball Hall of Famer Lou Brock says "cheese" with the IMPROPER's Chinatown issue.



Brighton's very own Sharon Deleskey pauses to read in front of the sphinx in Giza, Egypt.

Forget air conditioning. How cool must Todd Jones of Brookline be in the South Pole? Actually, he may have been a little too chilly that day, which had a rtemperature of 40 degrees below zero.

Brookliners Peter Lewis, Rebecca Zazoff, Matthew King and Leigh Webster visit Corsica.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:

Scrambling, frying or even poaching eggs in the 300-pound, 5-foot-wide frying pan that is the notorious centerpiece of the Central Maine Egg Festival.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, *The Improper Bostonian Magazine*, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116.
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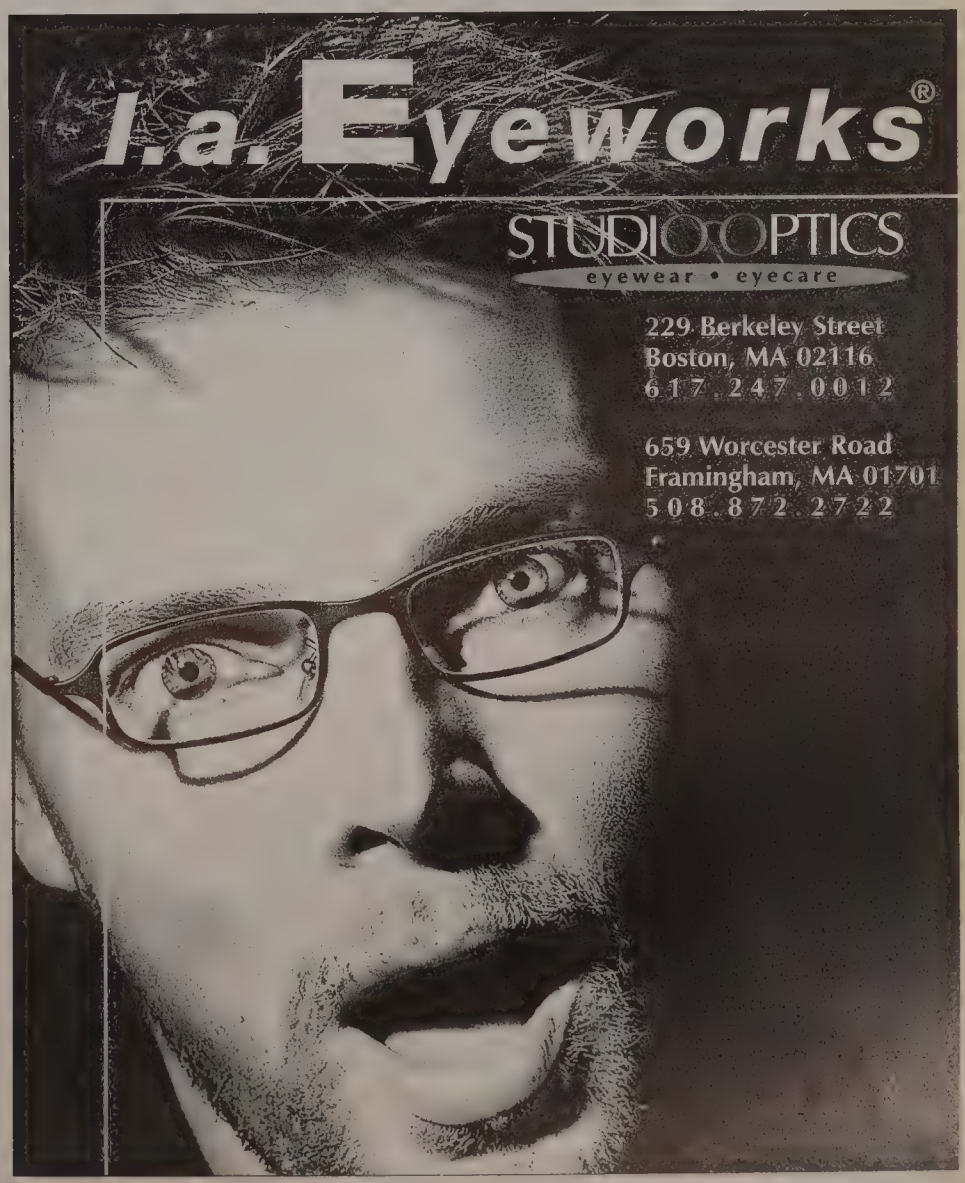
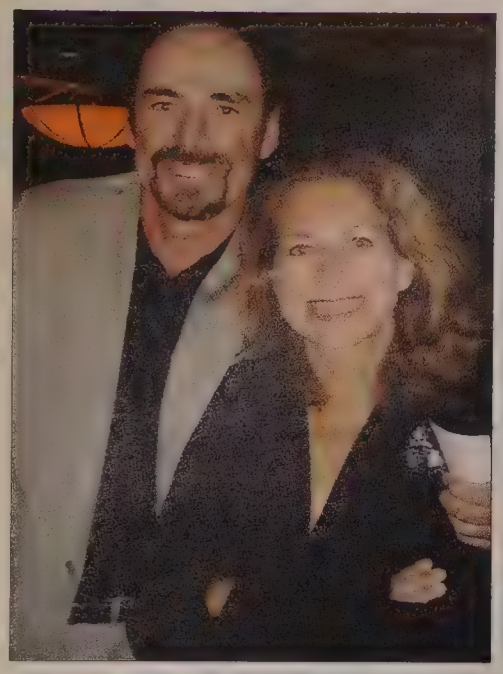
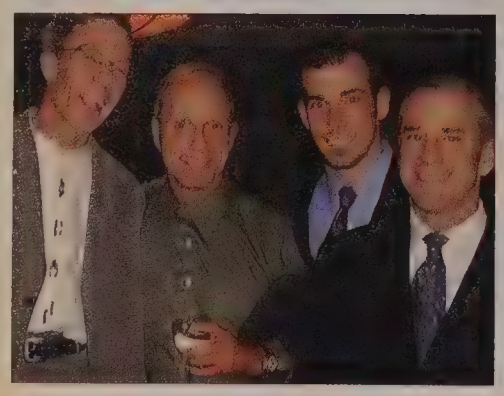


Last Scene Here

BY JONATHAN SOROFF





At the Victory Programs HIV fund-raiser, from top: Steve Sweeney and Diane Sherry; Dan Fournier, Jon Goode, Phillip Spinks and Bill Farmer; April and Joey Kramer, Mary Richardson and Stan Leven; Joelyn Fiorato, Michael McGuill Liz Lapey and Jonathan Scott; Marco Hudson, Teresa Tyler, Steven Tyler and Donna Green.

RECIPE FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUND-RAISER...

Take a worthy cause, like **Victory Programs**, which provides addiction, psychiatric and medical services to people with HIV and AIDS.

Handpick an assortment of celebrities, like co-hosts **Mary Richardson** of *Chronicle* (with her producer/husband, **Stan Leven**), *60 Minutes* talking head **Jimmy Tingle**, renowned author **Marianne Williamson**, Aerosmith rock deities **Steven Tyler** and **Joey Kramer** (with their respective wives, **Teresa** and **April**), and comedian **Steve Sweeney** (squiring telecom cutie **Diane Sherry**).

Add a healthy dollop of good-looking, well-dressed people, along the lines of tie designer **Tony Corey**, Community Servings executive director **David Waters**, songwriter/producer **Marco Hudson**, supersuave South End realtors **Jon Goode** and **Dan** "My Middle Name Is Fun" **Fournier**, artists **Phillip Spinks** and **Donna Green**, Victory Programs' criminally handsome head **Jonathan Scott**, his mother, **Joelyn Fiorato**, his S.O., **Dr. Michael McGuill**, architect **Carlos Lopez**, and Harvard Management's **Manny Correia**.

Mix well in a large hotel ballroom, like the **Back Bay Sheraton**. Bring to a boil with the announcement that the capital campaign has raised $900,000 and remove from heat when **Steven Tyler** whips out a pen, scribbles a check for a hundred grand and says, "Let's make it an even million."

Serves: Several thousand, many of whom would never otherwise get the treatments and services they need.

AIN'T SHE SWEET?

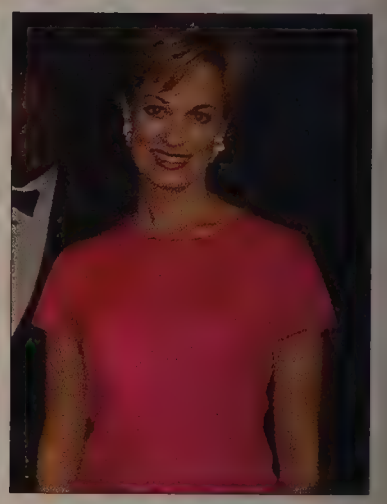
Awards dinners are usually full of artificial sweetness, but there was nothing saccharine about the **Juvenile Diabetes Foundation Gala** to honor **Anne Woolf** as Hero of the Year.

A prominent philanthropist and the widow of legendary sports agent Bob, Woolf is the first woman to receive the award in its 18-year history, and a cast of thousands turned out at the **Marriott Copley Place** to applaud her.

Among them, her nearest and dearest—son **Gary** and his wife, **Diane**, daughters **Tiffany** and **Stacey Woolf-Feinberg** with her husband, **Jeff**, and her boon companion, car czar **Bob Brest**. Also there: an endless succession of close friends, including quintessential sitcom Mom **Marion Ross** (Mrs. C on *Happy Days*), astronaut **Buzz Aldrin**, broadcasting babe **Suzanne Bates** (who served as emcee), the **Pointer Sisters** (who performed after dinner), Brookline delight **Bunni Roberts**, tae kwon do champ and concert pianist **Elaine Kwon**, Chinese dissident and civil rights activist **Wu Jian Xian**, and Anne's almost-adopted sons, **Marty Blume** and **T.K. Ankner**. Then there were those who know her by reputation, like upper-crust Brit **Andrew MacIlwraith** and his Brahmin-y wife, **Tish Robbins**, and the entire **Finkelstein** clan from Waban—noted eye doctor **Elliot** and his wife, **Bette**, daughter **Macie** and her fiancée, **Robert Hammel**, daughter **Happy** and her husband, **Robert Rudnick**, son **Andy** and his wife, **Tirza**, and their 5-year-old, **Cobi**, who probably isn't as shy as he pretends to be.

Following cocktails and finger food, dinner was served in the ballroom, which never looked better, each table decorated with an enormous bouquet of flowers and matching linens. Instead of rubber chicken, there was sea bass and filet mignon, and, perhaps most surprising, the wines served were several steps above plonk.

In other words, it was a lovely evening, and one well-deserved for a woman who has been a hero to many people. Isn't it odd how a person whose system can't handle sugar can be such a total sweetheart? IB



At the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation Gala at Marriott Copley Place, clockwise from top: Tiffany Woolf, Stacey Woolf-Feinberg, Anne Woolf, Gary and Diane Woolf; T.K. Ankner and wife Lianne; Suzanne Bates; Elaine Kwon; Anne Woolf, Buzz Aldrin and Marion Ross; Tish Robbins and Andrew MacIlwraith; Gary Woolf and Marty Blume.

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INSIDE:

Denis Leary's 10 favorite things about Boston

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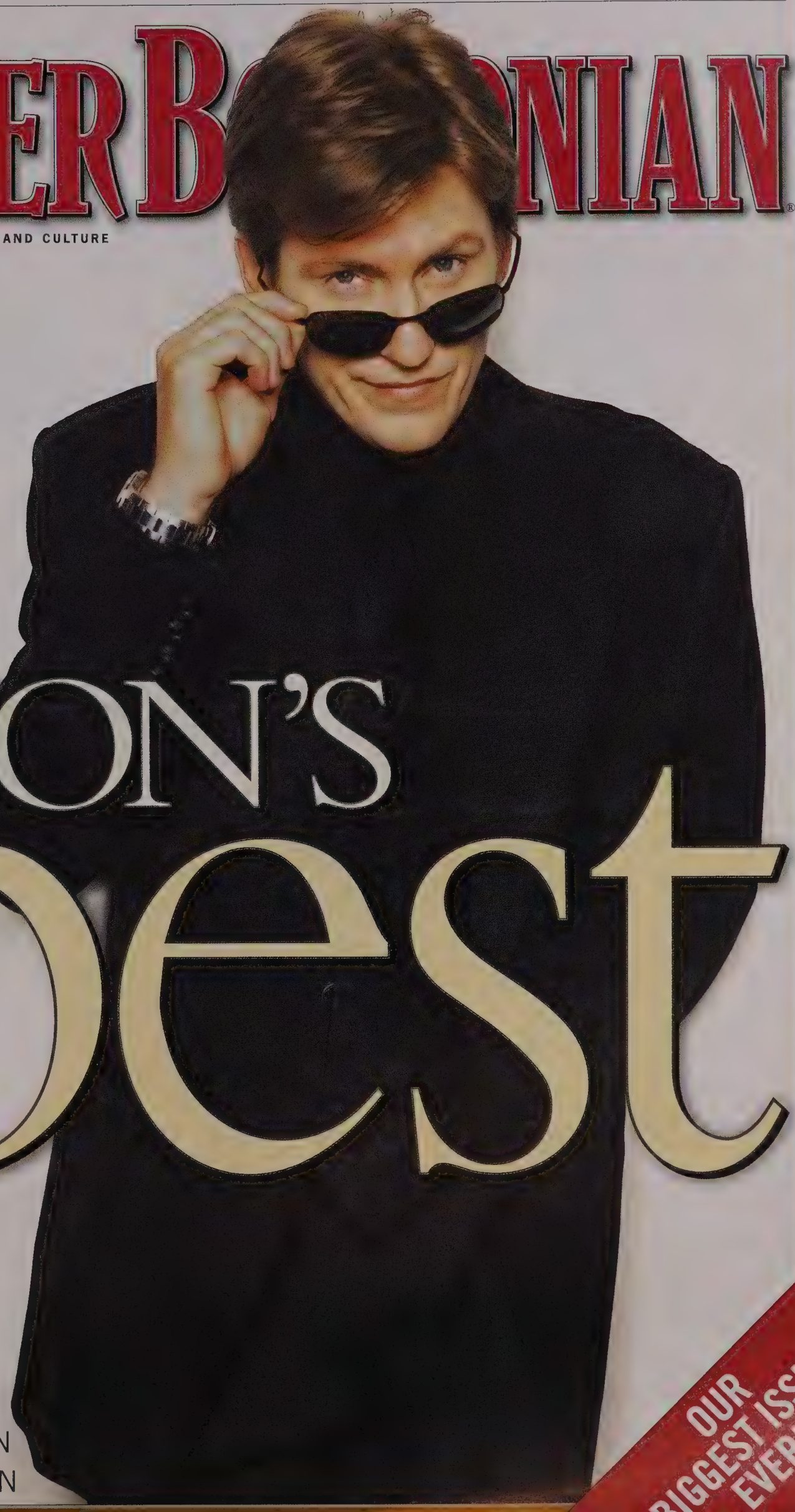

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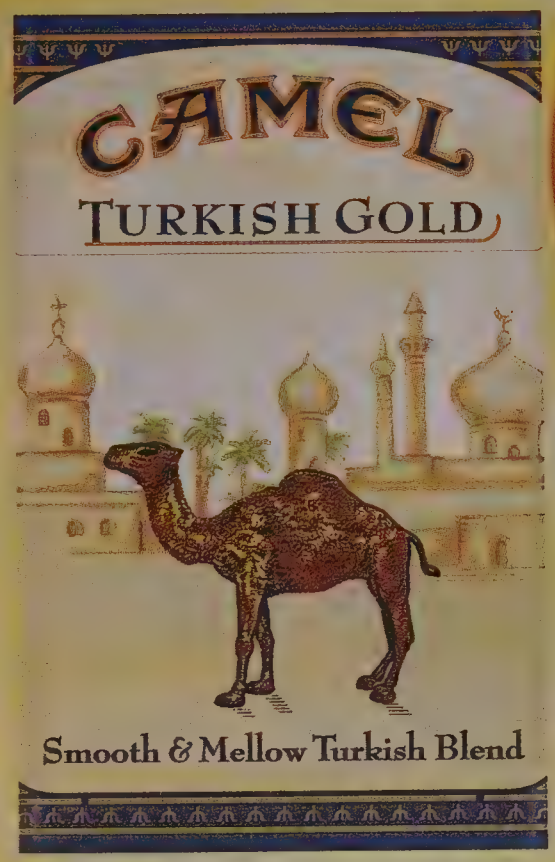

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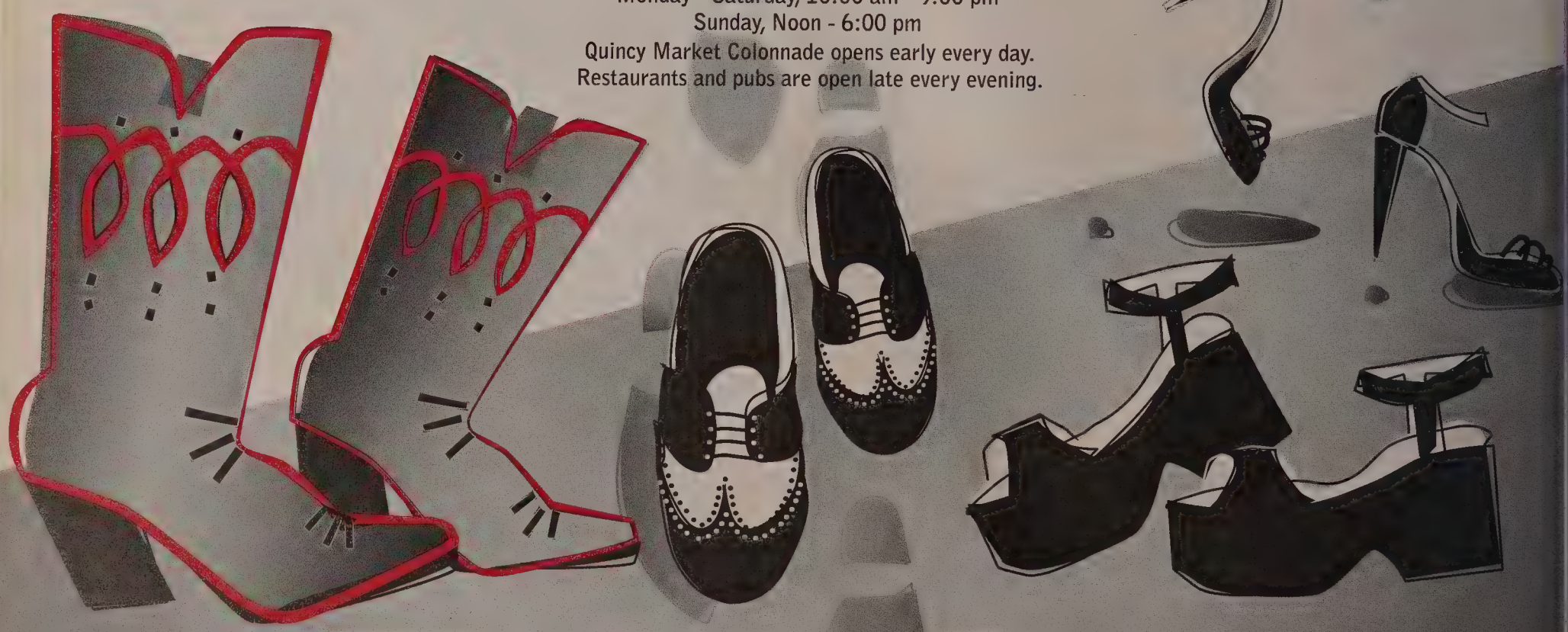

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By Lisa Amand,
Boston Magazine, June 2000

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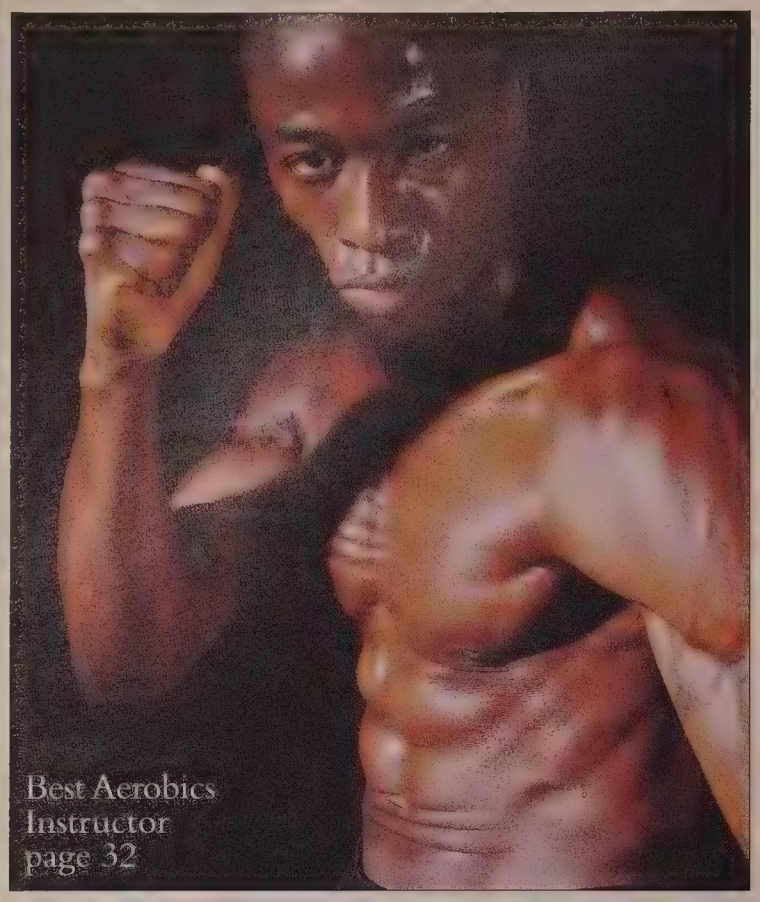

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EDITED BY JONATHAN SOROFF AND RACHEL STRUTT

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BY ELLEN O'BRIEN

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EDITED BY MARY NOBILE KING

On the Cover: Photograph for THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN by **Britt Carpenter** shot on location at Denis Leary's production company, Apostle, in Manhattan. Assistant: Sooji Kim; Styling/Grooming: Rochelle Joseph; Suit by Canali; Shirt by Calvin Klein; Tie by Paul Smith/The HaberDasher.

THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE
JULY 26–AUGUST 8, 2000

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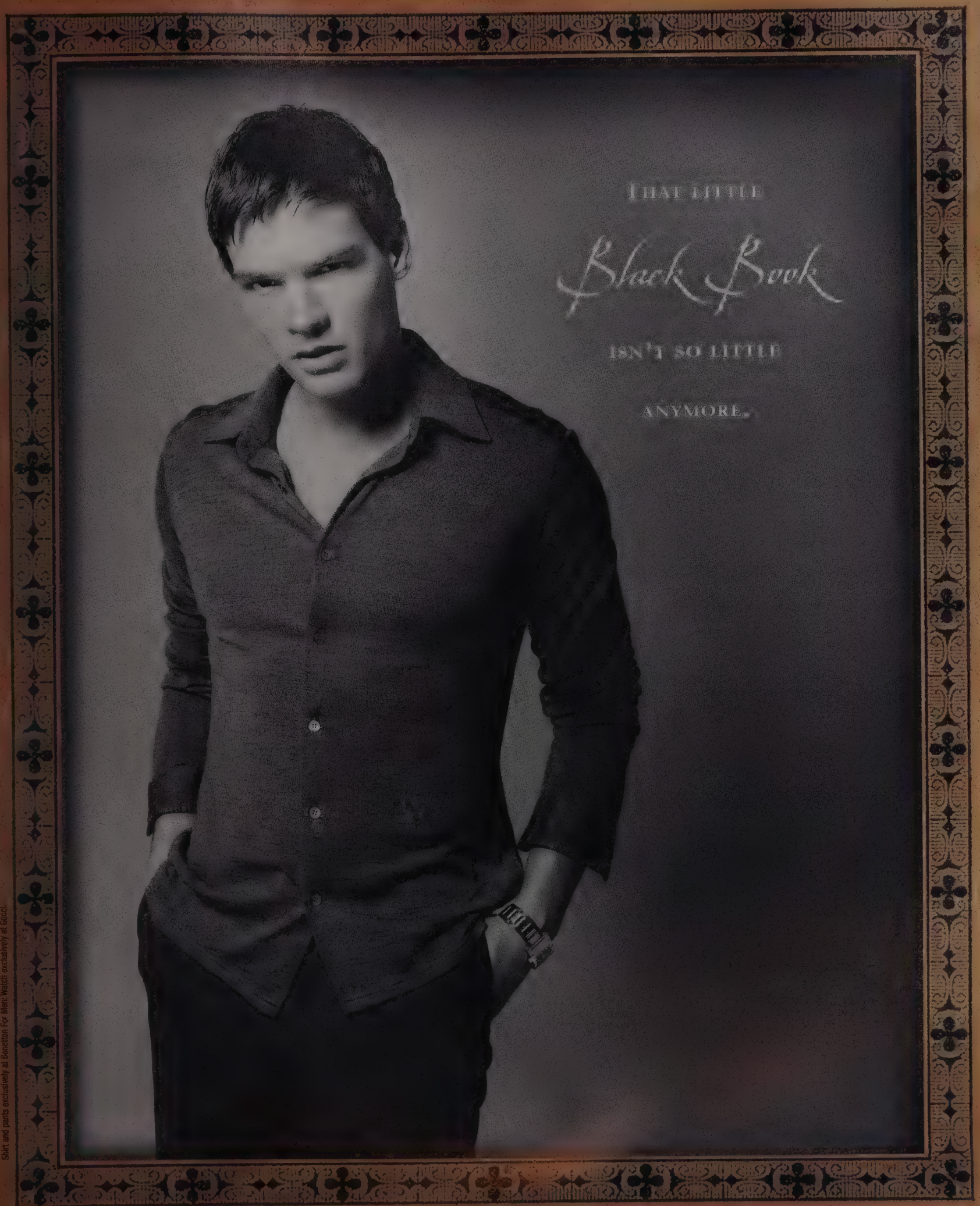

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Boston's Best dinner guests included (top row from left): Andrew Graham, Andy Scherding, Benjamin Zander, Alex Beam and Jeet Singh; (middle row from left): Chuck Mokriski, Julie Short, Toni Senecal, Joan Jolley, Caleb Solomon, Ellen O'Brien, Pagan Kennedy, Kiril Alexandrov, Michelle Toth, Erin Hagedorn, Mark Semonian and Duncan Hughes; (sitting from left): Evan Feigenbaum, Joe Boskin, Peter Blute, Oedipus, Ann Sawyer and Elaine Kwon; (on the floor from left): Rachel Strutt, Jonathan Soroff and Laura Bernieri.

It's that time of year again, when we don the cloak of omniscience and declare the best that our fair city has to offer.

People often ask us why.

We assume that what they really mean is, Why go to all that trouble—choosing, researching, sampling, comparing, testing, poling, arguing, judging and writing about the finest food, shopping, entertainment, services, and on, and on, in the city?

Our answer: It's the same impulse that drives otherwise sane suburbanites to put bumper stickers on their cars declaring that their kid is an honor-roll student at Happy Acres Elementary School. It's pride. It's a desire to acknowledge a job well done. It's the fact that everyone's mother has always said, "It's not polite to brag," so if we don't do it, who will? And yes, it's also the editorial hubris that allows us to think we're qualified to make such pronouncements.

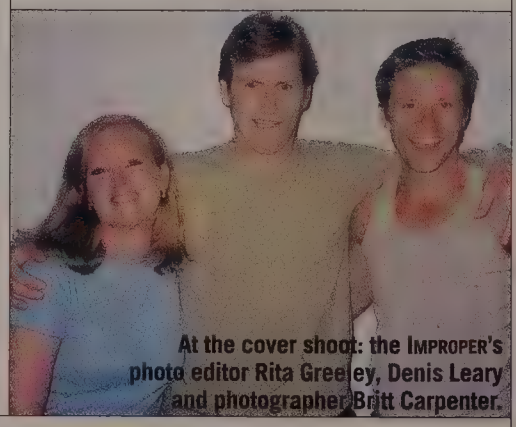
But you don't have to trust just us. To assemble our annual honor roll of the city's superlatives, we recruited a panel of judges, each with a deep knowledge of the city and a desire to share their opinions, as well as a willingness to attend the dinner party at which we tried to loosen tongues through the judicious use of, well, alcohol.

This year's dinner party was held at Kashmir on Newbury Street, and our roster of judges included the following: Boston Philharmonic maestro Benjamin Zander; Internet plutocrat Jeet Singh of Art Technology Group; independent movie mogul Laura Bernieri; *Boston Globe* columnist Alex Beam; former Massport director and current talk-radio host Peter Blute; WBCN program director Oedipus; *Boston Book Review* president Kiril Alexandrov; Channel 7 producer Ann Sawyer; Boston University professor of pop culture Joe Boskin; XV Beacon St. assistant general manager Amy Finsilver; Roxy artistic director Lisa De Pres; *Wall Street Journal* regional editor Caleb Solomon; high-tech marketing guru Duncan Hughes; Web mistress Michelle Toth of the Inner Workout; the Kennedy School of Government's Evan Feigenbaum; executive director of the Berkman Center at Harvard Law School Jonathan Zittrain; local writer Pagan Kennedy; concert pianist Elaine Kwon; and key members of our editorial staff.

Over kebabs and curry (not to mention a few glasses of wine), we hashed out winners in various categories. Then, our dedicated staff reviewed ballots (picking off grains of rice and trying to read through smudges of Vindaloo), tallied votes and ferreted out additional information wherever possible.

For each category, we tried to be as democratic as possible, relying on the majority vote. We asked judges to excuse themselves from voting on categories that presented a conflict of interest. Before our top editors locked on to the final winners, we asked our crack team of interns to call, prod, dig and pound the pavement even further. And, because consistency of performance goes hand-in-hand with excellence, many of our choices this year are repeat winners.

What follows is our Boston's Best, Millennial Edition. We hope you enjoy it. But if you disagree with any choices, feel free to shout "Says who!?" Says us! So there. **iB**



At the cover shoot: the IMPROPER's photo editor Rita Greeley, Denis Leary and photographer Britt Carpenter.

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE

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TOP: KERRY BRETT HURLEY, BOTTOM: SOOJI KIM

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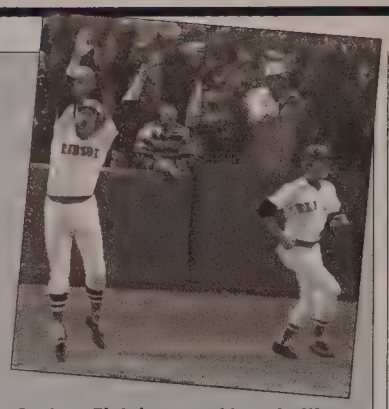
IMPROPERSPEAKING

BY RICHARD MANNING

CAPPING A CAREER

Much attention was paid last weekend to the induction of **Carlton Fisk** into The Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. On his plaque. Fisk sports a Red Sox cap, despite playing the majority of his career with the Chicago White Sox. But the Windy City was not skunked on induction weekend. Singing the national anthem on Sunday was **Dennis DeYoung**, a lifelong White Sox fan and founder and lead singer of the rock group **Styx**.



Carlton Fisk in one of baseball's greatest moments; he jumps for joy after seeing his twelfth-inning home run hit the left-field foul pole to win Game Six of the 1975 World Series against the Cincinnati Reds at Fenway Park.

FIREWORKS AT GLOBE'S OP-ED PAGE

Jeff Jacoby, the ***Boston Globe***'s conservative opinion columnist, has been sent home without pay for four months because of what his bosses say was a more-than-liberal borrowing of previously published material. Plenty of people believe Jacoby was unfairly nailed because of institutional insecurity following the on-again, off-again **Mike Barnicle** affair. Others say Jacoby's so unpopular with traditionally left-wing *Globe* staffers that Editorial Page editor **Renee Loth** wanted a chance to give Jacoby the heave-ho. Some say his July 3 column, a look at the lives of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, did so closely resembled the original source—a message floating around Internet sites—that they consider it a serious lapse in standards. Jacoby's column did have his own reporting in it. He did not tell readers that his column was another version of the original source. (Even some folks who sided with Jacoby were surprised to learn that he routinely e-mails his columns before they appear in print to as many as 100 friends—which is not kosher, the *Globe says.* By all accounts, Jacoby is crushed. The message was strong enough that many believe management would like him not to return. On July 10th, on the Jewish World Review Web site (www.jewish world review.com) carried the opinion of editor-in-chief **Binyamin L. Jolkovsky** began: "Here is what Jeff's punishment is all about. His views are conservative and based upon his value system as a Sabbath observant Jew..." The site featured: "An open letter from Jeff Jacoby to his friends." In part, it read: "I assumed that all the material in my column was in the public domain. It never occurred to me to include a line pointing that out. Six years of superlative evaluations of me are on file in the *Globe*'s personnel records.The *Globe* is poisoning the good name I have spent years building up. This suspension is a brutal overreaction to something that even the *Globe* will not call plagiarism. "I thought my future at the paper was limitless. It has been shocking and traumatic to discover how wrong I was."

The Globe's Jacoby waits out his suspension at home in Brookline.

OUR 15 MINUTES—(TIMES 2)

We were intrigued to find earlier this month that the June 14 cover of **Juliana Hatfield** has managed to command as much as a $23.50 auction price on the e-Bay market. Boston fans of Hatfield figured it would be great to share their enthusiasm about her, and us. So they began selling copies to those who live in faraway places, but keep their Hatfield CDs nearby. The top selling price was close to five times the cover price. (The magazine is priced at $2.50 in areas outside of Boston.) On the same site, A *New Yorker* cover illustrated by the great **Rea Irvin**, circa 1952, goes for $4.50. Not bad. But a 1957 recording of Elvis Presley's *Viva Las Vegas* album still sells for $125. That's the vinyl version. So we find ourselves (and Juliana) priced somewhere between two cultural icons. That suits us fine. In another shameless act of self-promotion, we had to share this photograph of our never bashful leader of the free world showing off his copy of THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN. When **Bill Clinton** graced the recent national governor's conference, he was caught reading up on all that's hip and happening in Cambridge's Central Square. No word yet on whether Clinton plans to subscribe.

Bill thinks we're alright.

A GRAND OPENING

Finally, some good news. That new and expanded Boston Living Center on Stanhope Street opened its doors last month with a gala for the ages. The Boston Living Center currently treats 1,700 AIDS-positive members—and continues to grow at the rate of one new member a day. The center offers four different programs: a Treatment Information Program that provides individualized education on AIDS and HIV; a morning program for homeless members; employment support; and a day-care support program for parents (women comprise 25 perent of the center's patients) who have children. Good news for a good cause.

Today e-bay, tomorrow the world!

A TIP OF THE HAT

A tip of the hat to **John O. Pastore**, who died earlier this month at age 93. One of the leading lights on behalf of liberalism, civil rights and civility in the U.S. senate for 26 years, the only improper thing we can think to say about the man is that his incredible political longevity among his Rhode Island constituents can be traced to the fact that the Italian-Americans knew he was Italian, while the Irish-Anericans thought he was Irish.**iB**

Clarification: The July 12 issue's Improper Speaking column mentioned Robert Birnbaum. He was the founder of Stuff Magazine, *but never a staffer at the* Boston Phoenix *or* Stuff@Night.
Correction: The picture on page 8 was of Christina Ricci filming a scene for Prozac Nation *in Harvard Square. The photograph below should have run instead.*

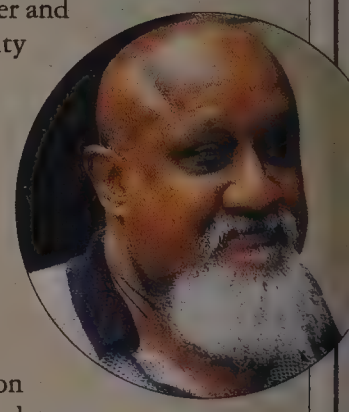
The *Perfect Storm* debut in Danvers; pictured are stars Mark Wahlberg, George Clooney and director Wolfgang Petersen.

Speaking of Boston

Got an inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to speaking@improper.com

WHERE THERE'S SMOKE . . .

There's usually fire. For the latest on where fire may appear on the Boston political scene, look no further than freshman city councillor **Chuck Turner** (right)—Turner and **Charles Yancey** have decided to take City Council President and South Boston booster **James Kelly** to task for devouring most of the "linkage"funds for urban redevelopment associated with the Seaport District. Kelly's argument is that the waterfront is actually part of Southie. Basically, the rest of the city got screwed, and Mayor **Thomas M. Menino** let it happen. Now Turner and Yancey have filed a resolution before the City Council that would mandate no more than 25 percent of redevelopment linkage funds be allotted to a "directly impacted neighborhood."



That would mean Kelly and State Sen. **Steve Lynch** would be stopped from their feeding frenzy—if it were passed. Until then, don't call it the Seaport District. Kelly was successful in having the project renamed the South Boston Waterfront District.

FISK: AP/ WORLDWIDE, JACOBY: RICHARD TAZZARA

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Maybe those other
lights are mislabeled "beer."

The beer drinker's light beer.

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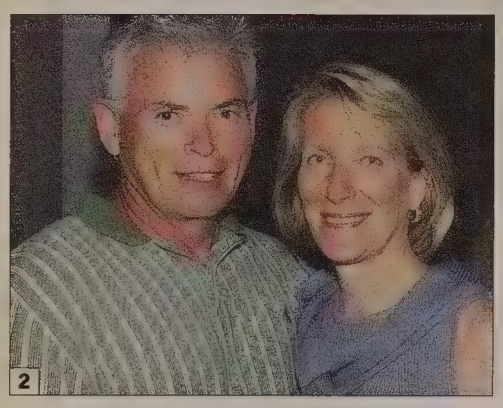
Proper Bostonians

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

Philanthropist David Mugar hosted his annual **Rooftop Party** for a gathering of 250 socialites at 100 Beacon Street July 4. Down below, more than 400,000 concert-goers gathered for the Boston Pops Fourth of July concert on the Esplanade. Highlights included performances by Broadway star Linda Eder; Latin trumpeter Arturo Sandoval; and actor Avery Brooks. Singer-songwriter Don McLean performed his patriotic "American Pie." The night ended with a spectacular 45-minute fireworks display choreographed to music. The free event continues to be produced by David Mugar and Boston's Fourth of July Foundation.

1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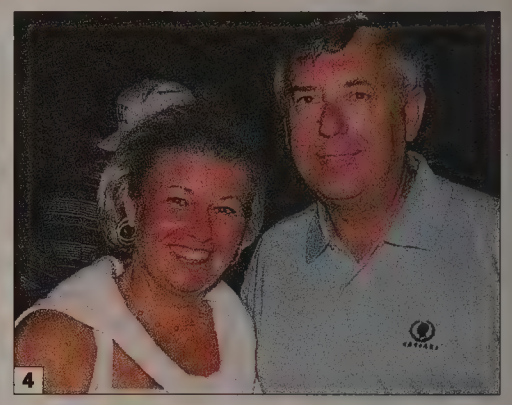
1. **Elaine Driscoll** and **George Regan**, executive assistant and president, respectively, of Regan Communications.
2. **Charles Sullivan**, a news photographer for Channel 7, with his wife, **Linda**, president of NBC, Washington.
3. **Paul Christian**, chief of department for the Boston Fire Department, and his wife, **Kathy**.
4. **Lynne** and **Gary Smith**, senior vice president of Houghton Mifflin.
5. **Lisa McCarthy**, owner of Crossing Main in Hingham, Marblehead, Wellesley and Martha's Vineyard, and **Greg Ahern**, senior vice president of State Street Bank.

3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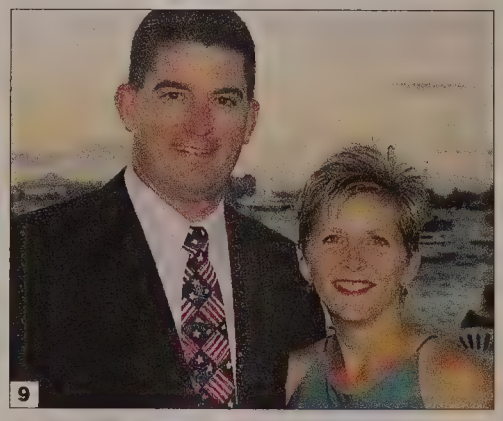
Sail Boston Salute Ball was held July 11 at Fan Pier in Boston. More than 1,000 guests sipped cocktails while watching the sun set over the Tall Ships. Afterward, party-goers gathered in a tent on Fan Pier next to the Federal Courthouse and enjoyed dancing to the Bo Winaker Orchestra and the Wildest Dreams Calypso Band. At the end of the evening, the party made its way to the edge of the pier for a front-row seat for the Sail Boston fireworks show.

6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6. From left, **Angeline Develis**, marketing coordinator for Burns & Levinson, and **Pasha Trayers**, vice president of Wells Fargo in Boston, with attorneys **Leslie Muldowney** and **Christina Murray** of Burns & Levinson.
7. From left, **Bo Winaker**, leader of the Bo Winaker Orchestra, **Jacolyn Firestone**, vice president of *Playbill* and *Panorama*, and **Andy Horvitz**, owner of Horvitz Communications in Newton.
8. **Philip Austin**, manager of marketing for Ernst & Young with his wife, **Carol**.
9. **Tim McCarthy**, director of the Boston Youth Fund, and his wife, **Maureen**, a freelance editor.
10. **Alan Schroeder** (l), professor at Northeastern University, and **Robert Krauss**, real-estate manager and developer at Hall Keene Management in Norwood.
11. **Ron Gendron**, sales operations manager for Open Pages.com in Westford, and his wife, **Kim**, manager at Welch's Juice.
12. **Mark Murphy**, business travel sales manager at Sheraton Boston, and tutor **Elizabeth Feather**.
13. **Sam Phinney** and **Reyn Pijanowski**, research assistants at Mass General Hospital.

12

13

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JULY 2000

DISCOVERY
featuring Musical Instruments
July 27, 7 p.m. - Bolton
July 28, 10 a.m. - Bolton

AUGUST 2000

AMERICAN FURNITURE & DECORATIVE ARTS
August 12, 2 p.m. - Bolton

THE PAUL & MARGARET WELD COLLECTION
August 13, 11 a.m. - Bolton

DISCOVERY
August 24, 7 p.m. - Bolton
August 25, 10 a.m. - Bolton

SEPTEMBER 2000

FINE JEWELRY
September 12, 12 noon - Boston

COUTURE, DESIGNER CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES
September 14, 6 p.m. - Boston

DISCOVERY
September 14, 7 p.m. - Bolton
September 15, 10 a.m. - Bolton

SEPTEMBER 2000 *continued*

AMERICAN & EUROPEAN PAINTINGS & PRINTS
including Photography
September 22 - Boston
Prints and Photography, 4 p.m.
Paintings, 7 p.m.

ORIENTAL RUGS & CARPETS
September 23, 12 noon - Bolton

OCTOBER 2000

ENGLISH & CONTINENTAL FURNITURE & DECORATIONS
October 7, 11 a.m. - Boston

DISCOVERY
October 12, 7 p.m. - Bolton
October 13, 10 a.m. - Bolton

BOOKS & MANUSCRIPTS
October 14, 10 a.m. - Boston

NOVEMBER 2000

FINE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
November 5, 12 noon - Boston

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CITY LIMITS

Good stuff, glamour and goings-on

BY ERIN HAGEDORN AND JULIE SHORT

A new women's soccer team will call Boston home, including Kate Sobrero (back row, third from right) and Kristine Lilly (middle row, second from right).

AROUND TOWN

NAME THAT TEAM

Banking on Boston's increasing love for the game, the Women's United Soccer Association (WUSA) will anchor a world-class team in our hometown come April. Boston's team scored World Cup champ Kristine Lilly (below left), top-notch defender Tracy Sobrero (below right) and goalkeeper Tracy Ducar. This means pony-tailed soccer players now have a team to call their own. More importantly, the folks at WUSA need your help in naming the new squad. "We want the team name to be indicative of the community in which it will play," says Joe Cummings, GM of the Boston franchise. We suggested "The Liberation" (sort of like The Revolution for our men's team) and "The Perfect Storms." Work with us. We're hoping the soccer fans who cram local pubs to catch men's World Cup action wil play along. What about you local league players? Please, no "Beantown Babies" or other cutesy names. These city kickers deserve serious attention. *Submit entries to www.wusaboston.com. All entries should be submitted by Aug. 7.*

NEW IN TOWN

THE FISHER KING

Slap the name "Todd English" on any restaurant and it's bound to be a hit ... or so hope the multitude of investors who've poured funds into English's latest endeavor, **Kingfish Hall.** The celebrity chef (of Olives and Figs fame) has quite a following, and this venture into seafood territory has left many Boston foodies wondering if English can pull it off again. The two-level Faneuil Hall restaurant opened in early July, serving up classic New England favorites like steamers, oysters on the half-shell and Maine lobster. Patrons can sip Bloody Marys at the downstairs bar as they watch their oysters being shucked. Big night out? Try this: the Grand Selection ($24.95), an astonishing selection of oysters, clams, lobster, crab claws, shrimp and mussels served on shaved ice. It's bound to be a trademark Kingfish Hall dish. Upstairs offers a bit more formal dining experience. Can't you just see out-of-towners snapping photos in booths shaped like scallop shells? Four of them swivel toward the kitchen when orders are ready. It must be noted that earlier this summer, renowned Boston chef Jasper White opened the Summer Shack in Cambridge—another pairing of a celeb chef with seafood. Still, Kingfish Hall's location in Faneuil Hall is a distinct advantage in attracting tourists searching for the Freedom Trail. *South Marketplace, Boston (523-8862). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*

Chef Todd English offers a Grand Selection at his new Faneuil Hall restaurant — Kingfish Hall.

ALL THE BUZZ

WHY WEIGHT?

Jo Pino hounded us for so long with samples of his wacky weight belts that we felt pinned against the ropes. We finally figured the fight was over and we surrendered. Pino, creator of **Zbelts**, says the belts help correct posture and increase general well-being. They're also, in his mind, fashionable. We will try anything once, as you know. And we're here to tell you that these weight belts do indeed offer support to those of us who might slouch at our computers. The designs are trendy—platinum silver, tiger prints and zebra stripes festoon the front. Are you having trouble picturing the place where pink boa feathers and weight belts meet? Here's a Zbelt factoid: "Pino the boxer" was inspired to create Zbelts while he was working at his day job as "Pino the hairdresser." Now it all makes sense, right? Boxers who aren't working as hairdressers just aren't the type to create a little leopard number for the gym. These belts do offer much-needed support for people on their feet all day. For us, the flamboyant weight belts have solved a perennial problem. You know how you never know what to get your hairdresser at holiday time? Now you do. *Order a custom-made Zbelt at www.Zbelt.com. You can request signature styles. Prices range from $85 to $300.*

THE DISSED LIST

PLANES, PAINS AND AUTOMOBILES

Anyone trying to get out of town this summer may find it easier to stay at home. At Logan Airport, for example, passengers have been advised of a two-hour delay for incoming flights until further notice. What's going on? Boston pilots are boycotting what they see as a less-than-safe landing procedure known as LAHSO, (land and hold short operations). The procedure requires that an incoming plane stop short of an intersecting runway to allow other planes to depart or land. This allows more planes to arrive at one time. But in layman's terms, it means that two planes head toward each other and the rest of us hope the air traffic controllers know what the hell they're doing. This has us thinking: Go Greyhound!

Speaking of motorized travel, let us share with you how we were dissed by the Budget Rent a Car reps. Over the telephone, they quoted the not-so-low holiday weekend cost of $219, insurance included. When we arrived to pick up the car, there were swarms of other angry Budget customers—all trying to get a straight answer from the purposefully obstinate employees (one woman in particular). They were *so* rude we figured *Candid Camera* was just around the corner. In the end, we paid a whopping $513 for that car (for four measly days) so we could race away. Oh, revenge is so sweet. A word to the wise: Power-tripping customer service reps should be wary of reporters on the prowl. But remember—this space isn't just venting ground for us: Keep the e-mails coming to *howrude@improper.com* and we'll give you the same satisfaction.

KING FISH HALL: RICHARD TAZZARA (2); WEIGHT BELT: TIM LYNCH; AIRPORT: KATYA APEKINA

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Laughs on the Web

Local comedians have discovered the power of marketing over the Internet.

If any U.S. city deserves to be called the city of comedy, it would be Boston. Many top comedians, including Jay Leno, Conan O'Brien, Paula Poundstone, Kevin Meany, Steven Wright and Jonathan Katz, either grew up or went to college in or around the hub. Despite this, most of the action in the comedy business takes place in Los Angeles, where every comedian and his brother hopes to get a sitcom.

John Tobin is out to change that. Last year he launched the Boston Comedy Festival, which featured dozens of comedians performing at a number of different venues around the city. "We got the idea of running a festival here in Boston and getting the talent out here," says Tobin, who serves as the festival's executive director and co-producer. He discovered that it was relatively easy to get comedians to come to Boston. "They want to come home," he says.

Tobin was faced with a problem however. He didn't have an advertising budget and was strapped for cash to develop the projects. Like many entrepreneurs, Tobin decided to use the Internet as a way to bootstrap his company. "We put up a Web page and started getting tons of hits," he says. As he worked to get publicity for the first festival, he begged every reporter who covered the story to publish the Web site name —*www.bostoncomedyfestival.com*—which created more interest in the site and even more interest in the festival.

Tobin's site is only an example of a larger trend toward conducting the business aspects of comedy on the Web. Many comedians, for example, have their own Web sites, and many post their contact information on *www.comedy.com*. Most comedians also have e-mail addresses and now conduct booking arrangements across the Web.

Tobin has recently relaunched the Web site to begin gathering interest for the second annual Boston Comedy Festival, which will be held March 31-April 8, 2001. The site doesn't have any funny stuff on it—other than a lugubrious drawing of a lobster—but I expect that it will become more interesting as the date of the festival approaches.

WRKO WEB SITE

After several months of hiatus, Boston's talk-radio station, AM 680, has finally gotten back onto the Web—this time with a site that runs a live feed of what's playing on the station. This means that the mighty Howie Carr can now be heard in Tibet, which is no doubt a source of entertainment to Tibetans who a) have an Internet hook-up and b) are listening at four in the morning when his show is broadcast in their time zone.

MIGHTY HOWIE CARR CAN NOW BE HEARD IN TIBET, WHICH IS NO DOUBT A SOURCE OF ENTERTAINMENT FOR TIBETANS WHO A) HAVE AN INTERNET HOOK-UP AND B) ARE LISTENING AT FOUR IN THE MORNING WHEN HIS SHOW IS BROADCAST IN THEIR TIME ZONE.

As anyone who's read my bio knows, I do a radio program every Saturday night from 10pm to 12am on that station. The show, Funny Business, was originally a business-oriented program, but now it's billed as "Boston's only all-comedy talk radio." My co-host, Larry Jacobs, and I shoot the bull about whatever's on our mind and hope that other people join the conversation. My favorite topic so far has been "What cartoon character is secretly gay?" in honor of Jerry Falwell's declaration that the purple Teletubby Tinky-Winky was homosexual. The callers helped to "out" everyone from Peppermint Patty (wears sandals and has a girlfriend who calls her "sir") to Batman (dresses in black leather and hangs around with a teenage boy).

Boston Comedy Festival co-producer John Tobin uses the Web to generate interest in his events.

Anyway, last week we were talking about "people whom you find disgusting," and some guy called in and claimed he could vomit on cue. We didn't believe him, so he took his portable phone outside and puked on the air. The idea of that golden moment, available around the world through the magic of the Internet, is certainly enough to make one realize that the phrase "better living through technology" should definitely be taken seriously.

UNINTENTIONAL ZEN ON THE WEB

Two Boston Web pages seem to have a certain Zen-like quality to them.

The first is the Web site for this magazine, *www.improper.com*, which contains little more than the following remark: "At this time we do not have a Web presence, because we're still trying to figure out how magazines are going to make money in this new medium once the inevitable stock market correction occurs and ridiculously overpriced dot-com companies are forced to show a profit." The Zen part comes in when you realize that, right at this very second, you're reading an Internet column for a magazine that doesn't have a real Web site. On the other hand, the Web site as it stands is 100 percent truthful, something that can't be said of most other publications.

The other Zen-like Web page is hidden within the serious Web site for the Aberdeen Group, a local high-tech market research firm. It's *www.aberdeen.com/ab_company/livecam/livecam.htm*, and it's simply a camera shot of the Boston skyline out the window of one of the offices at the company's headquarters 300 feet above the foot of State Street in Boston. The camera view looks east, past the Boston waterfront, the Logan International Airport, and out to the Graves lighthouse. It also shows the Custom House tower, the Central Artery, Logan Airport operations and the corner of the New England Aquarium. It updates every 30 minutes. I have no idea why this page exists. iB

Geoffrey James (*www.geoffreyjames.com*) is the author of numerous books as well as the co-host of Funny Business, heard Saturdays 10 pm-12am on WRKO AM 680.

PORTRAIT BY WENDY MIMRAN

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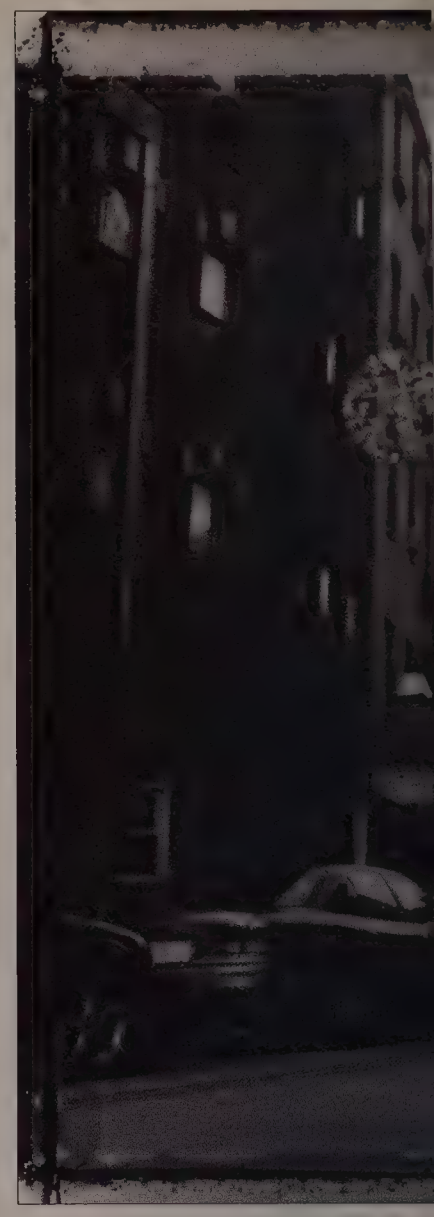

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Saffron

279A Newbury St., Back Bay; 536-9766

Several years in the making, this upscale culinary fusion of East meets West opened in June and is easily the most exotic thing to happen on the local dining scene in a coon's age. Serving western food prepared with Indian spices, the menu includes such specialties as pan fried pork chop served with couscous and vindaloo sauce and carpaccio of Marsala-cured duck with baby green lettuce and mango-blueberry dressing. Owners Harj Saini and Shobana Mahansaria spent two years assembling the imported, handmade furnishings and cutlery, and conducted a three-year search for the right chef, until they found Olaf Neimier in one of New Delhi's finest hotels, a chef whom Harj calls "the best in Asia." Now he's Boston's best.

DINING WITH LIVE MUSIC

Bob the Chef's

604 Columbus Ave., Boston; 536-6204

At this down-home Dixieland bistro, specialties include "glorifried chicken," jambalaya and sweet potato pie. Everything's prepared expertly and is served with a heapin' helpin' of Southern hospitality. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, superb live jazz, blues and gospel add to the already upbeat atmosphere, and the Sunday jazz brunch is a sure bet for fending off Monday morning anxiety. Bonus points for being one of the most visibly integrated eateries in Boston.

WRAPS

The Wrap

137 Mass. Ave.; 247 Newbury St., Boston; 71 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge; 1940 Beacon St., Brookline; 278 Harvard St., Brookline; 82 Water St. (Liberty Sq.), Boston (1-877-4-THE-WRAP)

Not fur nuthin' has this no-fuss, no-muss, in-'n'-out eatery expanded in the past few years to numerous locations. A healthy and lip-smackingly tasty alternative to greasy fast food, wraps are essentially glorified burritos stuffed with multicultural food and swaddled in aluminum foil to make them extremely portable. You can even eat one on the T without feeling like a slob. The tuna, cucumber, red onion, lettuce and fat-free yogurt in a whole wheat tortilla is scrumdilly-icious, as is the grilled chicken with Asian slaw, cucumbers, red onion, jasmine rice and Thai-style peanut sauce. For dessert, they offer scrumptious smoothies, including a chocolate/peanut butter concoction that's so rich it would have Willy Wonka on his knees and yet it is somehow, miraculously, fat-free.

CAPPUCCINO

Cafe Vittoria

296 Hanover St., North End; 227-7606

Face it: Cappuccino is basically just a strong cup of coffee gussied up with foamy milk on top—not exactly brain surgery. But this North End institution and perennial late-night hotspot serves its trademark cappuccino topped with a special sweet chocolate sauce that keeps caffeine addicts coming back again and again. The ambience adds to the experience: pressed tin ceilings, crudely frescoed walls and Sinatra blaring from the jukebox, as well as colorful cigar-smoking characters from the neighborhood. An impressive array of desserts, cordials and liqueurs round out the picture, making this tiny slice of Boston's Little Italy an ideal place to top off a night on the town.

CHEF

Ming Tsai of Blue Ginger

583 Washington St., Wellesley; 781-283-5790

How do we love him? Let us count the ways. One, he turned the culinary backwater of Wellesley into a dining destination with his white-hot restaurant Blue Ginger. Two, his cooking show on the Food Network garnered a well-deserved Emmy, and his hunky good looks landed him on *People* magazine's list of the 100 most beautiful people. Three, his new cookbook demystifies his East-meets-West approach, while his charisma and culinary genius has generated gushing profiles in such publications as The *New York Times*, The *New Yorker* and *Esquire*. Four, Five and Six, that despite all this, he remains a genuine, friendly, down-to-earth guy, who's not caught up in all the backbiting and star-fucking of the food mafia. A celebrity chef who realizes that, after all, it's only food, our toques are off to him.

INDIAN

Kashmir

279 Newbury St., Back Bay; 536-1695

As close as you can get to the Taj Mahal without stocking up on Immodium. This chic, subterranean Back Bay eatery serves exquisite Indian fare in a setting to match—gorgeous marble and tchochkes that look like they come from the days of the Raj. Outside, a pleasant cafe offers al fresco dining, and in warm weather, it's always packed with good-looking, well-dressed students, tourists and ex-pats from the subcontinent. The buffet lunch ($8.95 weekdays, $11.95 on weekends, for an expanded menu) is an exciting change of pace from boring old eggs Benedict. Also an outstanding date spot. As one judge said, "I knew it was authentic when a cab driver recommended it."

VERTIGO-INDUCING DECOR

Bomboa

35 Stanhope St., Back Bay; 236-6363

The food is excellent, the bar scene is happening, and the staff is fabulous, but Oof! That decor! It looks like a cross between El Morocco, ca. 1952, and the guest bathroom of a nouveau riche used-car dealer's split-level in Levittown, ca. 1973. Who ever thought faux zebra skin banquettes, black granite tables, a tropical fish tank installed in the wall and wallpaper that looks like a TV test pattern would look good together? We're assuming they have a vision problem. It is, however, a cheap place to get drunk, since the visuals are dizzying. Also: Best Hallucinogenic Experience Without Mind-Altering Drugs.

ENDANGERED INSTITUTION

Locke Ober

3-4 Winter Place, Downtown Crossing; 542-1340

If those walls could talk. It's been on the auction block for the past four months, but for at least a century before that, it's been one of the most elegant, consistently excellent, old-fashioned fine-dining institutions in America. Why the hell hasn't some white knight come along to rescue it? Rumors of potential buyers have included Sen. John Kerry and ketchup heiress Teresa Heinz, Lydia Shire, Brahmin restaurateur George Lewis and XV Beacon Street owner Paul Roiff. Unfortunately, none of them has, and one of the city's most cherished restaurants is still flappin' in the breeze. We'll foot the bar tab forever for whoever rescues it.

BREW PUB

John Harvard's Brew House

33 Dunster St., Cambridge; 868-3585

An English pub, minus the bad food and 11 o'clock last call, plus an attractive, stylish crowd. One of the few recent (within the past decade) additions to Harvard Square that actu-

BAR FOOD >>

Temple Bar 1688 Mass. Ave., Cambridge; 547-5055

Imagine Sonsie transported to Cambridge, of all places, on the stretch of Mass. Ave. between Harvard and Porter Squares. OK, so the crowd isn't quite so self-consciously fabulous, and the cuisine isn't quite as haute. As far as we're concerned, those are pluses. It's got a cosmopolitan, slightly scene-y ambience, with comfortable-but-chic decor and reasonably priced, fantastic food. The pizzas, in particular, are gigundo and go well with a glass of Cabernet, while a recent steak special—filet mignon in a red-wine sauce with little niblets of corn and sweet potato—was not just superb but a veritable steal. Easy to eat for under $20, it's an excellent hangout and a real find.

Photograph by Van Ackere

ally seems to fit, it's a snug subterranean hangout with good, hearty eats—ale-battered onion rings and a chicken pot pie that would make your grandma jealous are stand-outs. Freshly brewed suds include a selection of ales, lagers, porters and stouts, and the staff is as friendly as the atmosphere. Already a Harvard Square landmark, it's the type of place that alums will revisit nostalgically 10 years from now.

MIDDLE EASTERN

Lala Rokh

97 Mount Vernon St., Beacon Hill; 720-5511

Tucked into a cozy rabbit's warren of rooms on Beacon Hill, this Persian restaurant is low-key and casual, yet sophisticated and super-romantic. The heady scent of exotic spices used in traditional Iranian cooking wafts gently from the kitchen, and unobstrusive but impeccable service lulls the diner into a relaxed, Middle Eastern mode. "I went there not really in the mood for anything exotic," said one judge, "so I ordered the chicken, figuring it would be pretty standard. I'm telling you, it was a revelation. It was just chicken, but it was so tender and delicious, I can't even describe it." Mysterious and sumptuous, this place rates.

SUBURBAN RESTAURANT

Blue Ginger

583 Washington St., Wellesley; 781-283-5790

Perhaps it's not surprising that our best chef presides over our best suburban restaurant, but there you have it. People who haven't schlepped out to Wellesley to sample Ming Tsai's transcendent cooking are denying themselves one of the great (legal) pleasures available in greater Boston. The critics have exhausted their repertoire of adjectives, but praise has done nothing to diminish this place. We defy anyone who tries it to say there's no great dining west of Route 128.

CHEESE SHOP

Formaggio's Kitchen

244 Huron Ave., Cambridge, 354-4750;
268 Shawmut Ave., South End, 350-6996

Whether you want a wheel of brie to impress your in-laws or a chunk of Limberger to scare them away, this Cambridge emporium's got the goods, and with its new South End location, city dwellers can buy the best cheeses without crossing the River. For years, owners Ihsan and Valerie Gurdal have supplied the area's gourmands and gastronomes with the world's best cheeses, as well as produce, baked goods, meats, cooking oils, vinegars and gourmet goodies. About the only thing you won't find here is Velveeta, but then again, if that's what you're looking for, you belong at Costco anyway.

JAZZ DINNER

Les Zygomates

129 South St., South Station; 542-5108

The food at this French Bistro is as phenomenal as the wine list, courtesy of co-owners Ian Just (head chef) and Lorenzo Savona (sommelier). And the space is only getting better, as well: They've doubled the size of the restaurant with a sleek new room that opened during the winter and features live music six nights a week—a highlight is Monday, with its Jazz & the Groove District theme. Performers have included such

Photograph by Derek Kouyoumjian

giant talents as Indeya, The Alvin Terry Trio and Krisanthi Pappas, and there's a cover charge only for special shows. Jazz and French food are alive and well and living in the Leather District.

COFFEE HOUSE

1369 Coffee House

757 Mass., Ave., Cambridge, 576-4600; 1369 Cambridge St., Cambridge, 576-1369

Now that those charmless Seattle franchises have become as common as farts, we cherish this place more than ever. Quirky, well-worn and as Cambridge as can be, this local landmark is the sort of place where graduate students come to work on their theses, tortured intellectuals try to work out the kinks in their novels-in-progress, and other cerebral types kill time by discussing "big issues." That's not to say that you have to be an existentialist, wear a beret or smoke Gitanes to hang out there. Some people patronize the place just because the coffee is so darn good.

MEXICAN RESTAURANT

Olé Mexican Grill

11 Springfield St., Cambridge; 492-4495

Authentic South of the Border cuisine is no farther away than a trip across the Rio Charles to Inman Square. Unfussy, unpretentious and inexpensive, this place did so well at its Arlington location that it opened up a new restaurant in Inman Square that packs 'em in faithfully. Not to worry, though. The bar scene is super cool and the margaritas are among the best we've tasted. As for the food, the tuna and garlic chicken can't be beat, the hot tamales are to die for, and the taco appetizers are so tasty you'll swear you've been blessed by the Virgin of Guadalupe herself. Arriba, arriba! Andale! Make like Speedy Gonzalez and check this place out.

NEIGHBORHOOD BAR

Toad 1920 Mass. Ave., Cambridge; 497-4950

With the Cinderella-like transformation of Porter Square—from Harvard Square's red-headed step-child to super-groovy neighborhood—this funky little hole-in-the-wall has become a honeycomb hideout for hipsters and those in-the-know. Part of the attraction is live music—local acts like Armadillos, Union Square Screw Machine and Amphibian—on most nights, with no cover.

RESTAURANT YOU MAY HAVE OVERLOOKED

Addis Red Sea

544 Tremont St., South End; 426-8727

Cheap eats (meaning under $20 per person) doesn't have to mean McDonald's. In fact, for less than a cab ride to Logan, you can sample the cuisine of an intriguing and faraway North African country, and despite tasteless jokes to the contrary, there is such a thing as Ethiopian cuisine. It's slightly spicy, and a spongy bread serves as both plate and utensils—you use bits of bread to scoop up delicious morsels. The house wine, made from honey, is an unusual treat, and the ornate decorations, using rattan and rich earth tones, gives it a funky, ethnic vibe. An excellent, off-beat, economical alternative for anyone craving something slightly off-the-beaten-path.

BRUNCH

Henrietta's Table

One Bennett St., Cambridge; 661-5005

Any meal at this down-home restaurant inside the Charles Hotel (and named after the owner's pig) is bound to be outstanding, but our judges singled out breakfast as not-to-be-missed. Everything on the menu is made with the freshest of fresh ingredients; it's as if the waiter disappears to a farm to pick it himself after you've ordered. The juices are just-squeezed. The baked goods are superb. In short, it's wholesome, prairie-style cooking without the clogged arteries. Worth waking up early for.

ICE CREAM

Toscanini's

Three Cambridge locations: 899 Main St., Central Square, 491-5877; 1310 Mass. Ave., Harvard Square, 354-9350; 84 Mass. Ave., MIT Student Center, 491-1558

For 20 years, owner Gus Rancatore and his ice-cream making elves have created the confection of choice among Cantabridgians and cognoscenti. Conceived as an ice cream parlor for adults (although the little mouth-breathers love it, too), they use the finest ingredients to create several hundred flavors, many of them strange, interesting, and not necessarily sweet, like basil. Not that it's the reason anyone goes there, but the decor is industrial chic, while the affable, accommodating staff will build your ice cream fantasy to spec. Cone, dish or sundae, if you scream for ice cream, this place can't be beat.

BURRITO

Anna's Taqueria

1412 Beacon St., Brookline, 739-7300; 466 Harvard St., Brookline, 277-7111; 822 Somerville Ave., Porter Square Galleria, Cambridge, 661-8500

Small wonder that this small chain has grown from a single location in Coolidge Corner to two other shops, selling tacos and burritos to go. It's no frills—just a clean, utilitarian storefront painted in bright, primary colors—but the grub is simply glorious and dirt-cheap. The tacos are as good as the ones at the little stand behind the Camino Real Hotel in Mexico City (which is saying *a lot*), and the same goes for the burritos. If you're in the mood for some simple Mexican comfort food, you've come to the right place.

PREPARED FOODS

Bread & Circus

(all locations)

You already know that this chain combines the convenience of a supermarket with the quality of an old-fashioned green grocer, butcher, fishmonger, whatever. But the prepared foods, in particular, drew raves from this year's judges. The chicken salad is chunks of pure white meat with crisp celery and easy on the mayo. Entrees like rotisserie chicken taste made-to-order instead of sat-under-a-heat-lamp-for-five-days. There are dishes to satisfy every taste bud or dietary restriction, and it's not all your standard fare. In short, it's as good as anything you make at home (and we know you're no slouch in the kitchen).

PRODUCE

Bread & Circus

(all locations)

Papaya, parsnips, pomegranates. And those are just some of the P's. Peas (both green and yellow) are two more, and short of picking it yourself, this is as fresh as it gets for everything from the organic to the exotic. If it grows in the ground, they sell it (with obvious exceptions, like hemp). Just as important, the staff will explain the difference between a sweet potato and a yam (apparently, there is one).

PLACE FOR BUSINESS DRINKS

Bristol Lounge at the Four Seasons

200 Boylston St., Back Bay; 338-4400

As subdued as a Savile Row suit. As well-appointed as Jack Welch's jet. As discreet as a deposition at the Rose Law Firm. You won't see many people here drinking Bud long necks, unless they're oil-rich Texans or techie nouveaus. You will see headlines being made, maybe an investment banker haggling over the finer points of a multibillion dollar merger, or someone buttonholing some State House S.O.B. Modern Boston's equivalent of whatever Long Wharf tavern John Hancock and all the other counting-house geezers hung out in during Colonial times.

SPANISH RESTAURANT

Dali

415 Washington St., Somerville; 661-3254

Difficult to find. Impossible to park. Always a wait for a table. All three are true about this place but they cut both ways, serving to discourage those horrific people who go to restaurants just so that they can criticize them loudly or coordinate where they're going next with 20 calls on a cell phone. As for the first three things, simply avoid them. Get explicit directions and arrange to be dropped off and picked up. Soak up the warm, festive ambience while relaxing at the bar with some tapas and sangria until your table is ready. Gorge on the tastiest paella this side of Pamplona, accompanied by a nice Sierra Cantabria. And the next morning, at work, don't tell the office bigmouth where you went last night.

VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT

Five Seasons

1634 Beacon St., Brookline; 731-2500

We're not talkin' militant veganism here. Not even hardcore ovo- lacto-. They serve chicken and fish, and there's a full liquor license, with a bar boasting organic beer, wine and spirits. As for the herbivorous offerings, even a T-Rex

FISH MARKET

Fresh Pond Seafood 355 Fresh Pond Parkway, Cambridge; 497-9821

The same old shack it's always been, this family-owned business has been selling seafood so fresh you could slap it for 28 years. Owner Martin Hagerty knows how to pick 'em, whether it's yellow fin tuna, Chilean sea bass, lobsters or little necks. The business was built on word-of-mouth, so the owners don't do much in the way of advertising or promotion, but people now drive from as far away as New Hampshire to shop there. In season, the store also sells farm-fresh produce like corn and berries. A well-kept secret among the city's best chefs, it's rumored that this is where Julia Child buys her seafood.

Photograph by Wendy Mimran

would love 'em. Vegetables, lentils and brown rice never had it so good, and ooh, what they do with tofu! You don't even have to be from Cambridge to love this place.

LATE-NIGHT DINING
The Franklin Cafe
278 Shawmut Ave., South End; 350-0010
Why is it that so many restaurants claiming to accommodate late-night diners make you feel like you're inconveniencing them by taking them upon the offer? Well, this isn't one of them. It rocks hard until the wee hours, and the specials (if they last) are as fantastic at 12:45 as they were at 7:30. The kitchen closes at half-past one and the bar serves 'til the bitter end, making this the preferred hangout for insomniacs, night-crawlers and vampires-in-training.

JAPANESE/SUSHI
Fugakyu
1280 Beacon St., Brookline; 734-1268
When mispronounced, the name might sound like a lewd invitation to perform an anatomically impossible act, but as soon as you walk through the door, you'll be too busy loving this place to give self-love much thought. The fish is selected and prepared by a sushi chef who knows what he's doing (Duh). There are myriad other Japanese specialties, all uniformly delicious, for those who don't do the raw fish thing. There's a staff that's perfected the subtle art of Japanese hospitality. There's decor that's slightly Disneyland and yet somehow still tasteful. You want something more? Go to Japan. You won't find better around here.

STEAKHOUSE
Grill 23 and Bar
161 Berkeley St., Boston; 542-2255
Boston is blessed with an abundance of superb steak places, making this one of the most excruciating categories to decide. The reasons we selected this one, though, include the fact that it's not a chain and it's by far the most opulent. A quintessential piece of Boston's dining scene, it's located in a historic building (the former headquarters of Salada Tea). The soaring ceilings and marble pillars create an appropriately grandiose setting in which to indulge your inner carnivore.

DIM SUM BRUNCH
Chau Chow City
83 Essex St., Chinatown; 338-8158
If selecting from carts of unidentifiable foods doesn't intimidate you, step right up, sit right down and tie on the feedbag. Here's how it works. You get your bill before you eat anything. Then a continuous conga line of pot-stickers, shu mai, dough-y sweet things and other funky nibblies roll past. You pick what you want and someone stamps your bill. You can play culinary roulette and try things you couldn't pronounce if your life depended on it, or you can stick to the tried and true. Either way, it's out-of-the-ordinary, and your tastebuds are bound to appreciate the change of pace.

COMFORT FOOD
Harvard Gardens
316 Cambridge St., Beacon Hill; 523-2727
There's very little in life that a decent helping of mashed potatoes with gravy won't fix, so it's no wonder that eateries specializing in homespun vittles are consistently packed. This one, however, happens to attract a particularly appealing crowd, heavy on Beacon Hill dwellers and MGH medicos. It also serves some of the consistently best basic, hearty food, at non-extortionate prices. Don't miss the meatballs and Tuscany bread and pay attention to its ad: "Never underestimate the power of Mac and Cheese."

PLACE TO GO WHEN PRICE IS NO OBJECT
The Federalist
XV Beacon St., Beacon Hill; 670-2515
The latest entry in the expensive eatery sweepstakes, this place has the bloodlines and training to win a culinary Triple Crown. Located inside an incredibly luxurious, perfectly charming boutique hotel, it was decorated by white-hot interior decorator Celeste Cooper, who selected everything from the furniture to the paintings, to the sterling silver salt cellars and the cut crystal tumblers that weigh 10 pounds each. Celeste has exquisite (pronounced, very expensive) taste, and the menu is priced accordingly. However, the food is so extraordinary, you won't mind the second mortgage. Also: Best Place to Celebrate Something Major.

CHOWDER
Legal Sea Foods
(all locations)
OK. All together now: "Duh!" One of Boston's most recognizable brand names still has a lock on chowdah. We have no idea how they do it (we're guessing it's a carefully guarded Berkowitz family secret), but Legal always has had—and still does produce—a flawless, perfectly balanced chowder: not too thick, not too thin. The perfect medley of cream, potatoes, onion and delectable little bivalves, on which they don't skimp. Nothing more to say.

UNDERRATED RESTAURANT
Maggiano's Little Italy
4 Columbus Ave. at Park Square; 542-3456
Critics (except for ours) have sniffed at this checkered-table-cloth, candlestick-in-a-Chianti-bottle Italian place with Flinstone-sized portions. Unlike all those other chains that try to drown you in red sauce, however, the food here is excellent. Standard, by-the-book it may be, but when you're in the mood for chicken parmesan or veal Marsala, who needs some nouvelle nonsense? Hearty and reasonably priced, with a surprisingly sophisticated wine list, it's aces in our books. If we were in the mob, this is where all important meetings would take place.

FARM STAND
Tendercrop Farm
108 High Road (Route 1A), Newbury; 978-462-6972
A cornucopia of fresh vegetables—and the sweetest butter-and-sugar corn you could ever find. Choose from among massive Prince Edward Island potatoes, fresh tomatoes, fresh snap peas and a fabulous collection of squash of all kinds. Stop by the dairy case and pick up some fresh mozzarella to go with your fresh tomatoes and basil. Pick up some dried flowers and make your own sachet. Pay for your stuff and then go say hello to Buffy the Buffalo grazing out back in the pasture.

WURSTS
Karl's Sausage Kitchen
142 Broadway (Route One northbound), Saugus; 781-233-3099
Simply the most divine sausages you'll ever find. Never dry. Always juicy. Authentic handmade Weiswurst, Thuringer, Bratwurst and a host of others. As if that weren't enough, its selection of cheeses is equally out of this world.

BUTCHER
Sulmona Meat Market
32A Parmenter Street, North End; 742-2791
Possibly the only butcher shop in the city where the interior decor consists entirely of posters and calendars of the Italian national soccer team. A crown roast of pork? They'll have it for you in 15 minutes. And beyond finding some of the freshest, highest-quality meats in town, you'll have the opportunity to brush up your Italian. Just sit on the bench and say "buona sera" to the lady next to you who's waiting for her vitello (surely she knows veal is their specialty).

DUPLICATION OF A NEW YORK BAR
Pho Republique
1415 Washington St., Boston; 262-0005
An anything-goes mix of dykes and fairies, freaks and hairies, tell me where is sanity? Walking into this den of iniquity, decorated by local artist Dave-O, you'd swear you'd entered a two-dollar whorehouse just before the fall of Saigon. Either that, or an exceedingly hip watering hole in the East Village. The food, which is outstanding, is Vietnamese by way of Miami, while the bamboo bar is always four people deep with a funky, ultra-cool South End crowd. Frequent entertainment has included Brother Cleve spinning dance tunes, a Chinese contortionist, hula dancers from New Hampshire, and a heavy-twang surfer band. A mandatory stop during the nightly peregrinations of the city's super groovy.

BISCOTTI
Anthony's Cafe
252 Commercial St., Boston; 742-2987
Tony, who rounds this tiny shop opposite a lot of Big Dig construction, is one of the friendliest characters on the waterfront. But it's his mother who deserves the credit for the biscotti—always fresh, always superb. The hazelnut variety will send you reeling right into the Big Dig.

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK
Helmand
143 First St., Cambridge; 492-4646
Brown Sugar Cafe
129 Jersey St., Boston; 266-2928
The way we see it, there are two superlative eateries Bostonians could easily miss. Tucked away in Cambridge is the area's first Afghan restaurant, the exotic Helmand. Offering visitors a quick trip to Kabul without having to adjust to the altitude, the food is exotic and delicious, the setting is beautiful and the service impeccable. With a wide variety of dishes to please everyone from carnivore to vegan, it's a welcome alternative to the same-ole same-ole. Moving across town, and further around the globe in culinary terms, there's Brown Sugar Cafe, where the line out front tells you everything: it's tiny (44 seats), and the food is fantastic. Ditto the service, which somehow manages to be both unhurried and gracious. The good news: a new, roomier restaurant is opening on Comm. Ave., making this cozy Thai jewel accessible to a larger audience.

AFTERNOON TEA
The Bristol Lounge at The Four Seasons
200 Boylston St., Boston; 351-2053
A perfectly civilized and soothing way to spend the afternoon. No wonder the Brits are so even-keeled. Choose from a selection of 10 teas, among them, traditional flavors like Earl Gray, orange pekoe and English breakfast, or more exotic offerings like black currant and

STEVEN BILLUPS

jasmine blossom. Nibble from the three-tiered tea tray laden with such finger foods as cucumber or shrimp salad sandwiches, lemon poppyseed scones, or flan and fruit tarts. At $22.50 per person ($29.50 if you want to throw in a glass of champagne at the end), it's a less expensive stress-reducing alternative to massage therapy, psychotherapy and drugs.

PEOPLE WATCHING
Sonsie
327 Newbury St., Back Bay; 351-2500

It may no longer be the razor-edged hotspot in town, but it's still the best place to kick back and watch the world go by. Situated at the funky end of Newbury Street, the endless parade of humanity offers a visual feast: multiply pierced and tattoed punks, trophy wives laden with shopping bags, luscious student bodies, perplexed-looking tourists. The culinary feasting ain't half bad either, and with hours of operation extending from 7am to 1am seven days a week, it's bound to be open whenever you're in the mood for a little liseurely ogling.

EXTREMELY CASUAL DINING
Barking Crab
88 Sleeper St., Boston; 426-2722

If you want white table cloths and finger bowls following your lobster dinner, go someplace else. If, on the other hand, you want to indulge your inner caveman with tasty seafood, reasonably priced, in an easygoing atmosphere, this is your place. Shellfish dishes are served in buckets, with rocks to crack the shells, and the absence of utensils makes eating with your hands a necessity. What it adds up to is an excellent, atavistic time, as you pull apart a crustacean and gorge on its innards a la Neanderthal Man or Henry VIII. Not for the squeamish, it's a great place to bring kids (the menu features such non-shellfish items as burgers and sandwiches), or for anyone feeling the urge to be primitive. Use of napkins is optional.

MARTINI
Abe & Louie's
793 Boylston St., Back Bay; 536-6300

For a bucket o' loudmouth soup, this Back Bay steakhouse can't be beat. All martinis are served in ice buckets so you can take your time savoring them without worrying about that unpleasant warming effect. The bartenders—all of whom have at least 12 years experience—are universally dedicated to mixing the meanest martinis in town and demonstrate equal skill and care with requests for a dirty Bombay Sapphire martini, straight up with olives, to the more exotic chocolate martini, made with Stoli Vanilla, white chocolate shavings and white crème de cocoa. There are 12 different martinis de la maison, although we don't recommend sampling all of them in one sitting.

TRIP TO PARIS FOR UNDER $100
Brasserie Jo
120 Huntington Ave. Boston; 425-3240

Affordable and delicious French food in Boston?!? Sacre Bleu! This casual eatery inside the Colonnade Hotel re-creates the unfussy charm of a Parisian brasserie, minus the jetlag and snippity attitude. The food and wine are superior, and the avid Francophile will find all his or her favorites, from a croque monsieur to a salade nicoise, and coq au vin to crepes Suzette. The wine selection, surprisingly, mimics a French bistro in that it's both excellent and reasonably priced ($60 is the high end), while the view of Huntington Avenue, while not quite as picturesque as, say, a cafe on the Champs Elysee, is nevertheless charming.

SANDWICH
Parish Cafe 361 Boylston St., Boston; 247-4777

What do you expect from a place that convinced the city's top chefs to create signature sandwiches for its menu? In other words, you can enjoy taste sensations concocted by the likes of Biba's Lydia Shire, Todd English of Olives and Tony Ambrose of Ambrosia, without shelling out big bucks (most menu items are $9-13). The appeal of this eternally popular Back Bay hangout is such that it's crowded not only at lunchtime but after work, late night, and all weekend, and it's a favorite among service-industry insiders who know good food when they taste it. Add to that a full bar and an extensive beer selection, as well as some non-sandwich entrees, and you'll understand why the Parish is a frequent stop among cognoscenti who want a bite to eat without all the folderol of fine dining.

TAKE-OUT BBQ
Blue Ribbon
1375 Washington St., Newton, 332-2583;
908 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, 781-648-7427

Short of schlepping down south or hosting a pig-pickin' in your own backyard (which tends to annoy the fire department), this is as close as you'll get to authentic Dixieland BBQ. Their ribs are dry-rubbed with a secret recipe containing 12-14 spices. The pulled pork is all shoulder meat and it's smoked for 14 hours, overnight, as is the brisket. Everything—from sauces to side dishes—is made in-house, and everything is delicious, including the de rigeur drink to accompany such down-home delicacies: iced tea. Our only complaint: They don't serve hush puppies. But nothing in life is perfect.

EAT-IN BBQ
Redbones
55 Chester St., Somerville; 628-2200

Finger-lickin' good and a super-cool honky-tonk to hang out in, to boot. The menu includes such favorites as ribs, brisket , Texas-style pulled pork and barbecued chicken, and it's all mmm-mmm-tasty. The ambience falls somewhere between a Texas truck stop and a Louisiana roadhouse, with bluesy music but without all those toothless troglodytes named Earl. A great place to bring kids, the upstairs is smoke free, while the downstairs bar scene is smokin'. Best of all? They serve some mean hush puppies.

IRISH BAR
The Burren
247 Elm St., Somerville; 776-6896

Oh, The Burren is tops and all Irishmen know it. The Burren, it rocks, and Tufts students know it. The Burren sells hops, and "God luv 'em," don't we know it. Whether you're thirsting for a Guinness or looking to shoot the breeze with some fellow Blarney kissers, the Burren is it. Beyond the genuine neighborhood feel, this place has two rooms that are always populated by a colorful cast of characters and live music seven nights a week. It's less dangerous than those places on Broadway in Southie and more authentic than those tourist traps in Faneuil Hall. Burren go bragh.

DESSERT/PASTRY
Finale
1 Columbus Ave., Boston; 423-3184

How could you not love a restaurant that serves nothing but dessert? And not just any desserts. Co-owners Kim Moore, Paul Conforti and their crew perpetrate some of the most criminally yummy confections ever to tempt a sweettooth. Customers can watch them do that voodoo that they do so well, courtesy of overhead demonstration mirrors. The specialité de la maison is the molten chocolate cake, which is baked to order and served with espresso bean gelato. The decor is super-chic, making this the perfect place to end a date, especially since chocolate is a known aphrodisiac. Please try to keep the orgasmic groaning to a minimum.

BEER BAR
Sunset Grill
130 Brighton Ave., Allston; 254-1331

Any bartender can pop open a Bud longneck, and there are places with the hubris to call themselves beer bars based upon offering five or six drafts. However, year after year, this place wins the category hands-down because of one thing: Selection. We're talkin' 500 beers—112 on tap and close to 400 bottled varieties—ranging from Schlitz to unpronounceable German brews. A suds-lover's paradise, the food ain't half bad, either, and it's not just your typical wings and nachos fare. Then again, you might want to stick to liquids. As granddaddy always said, "There's food in the beer, but no beer in the food."

BEER HALL
Jacob Wirth Restaurant
31 Stuart St., Boston; 338-8586

Beloved institution and local landmark, it's also the closest thing we've found to an old-fashioned, Old World beer hall. Since 1868, they've been serving up well-priced, well-made German specialties (the wursts and the potato salad are especially good), which customers can wash down with a selection of 27 draft beers. (European restaurants rarely serve bottled varieties.) The on-premise bakery cranks out heavenly breads, and it's one of the few places you can enjoy a hearty meal for under $25, depending, of course, on how much you imbibe.

BAGEL
Kupel's Bagels
421 Harvard St., Brookline; 566-9528

You want a round doughy thing with a hole in the middle, go to Dunkin' Donuts. But if you want a bagel a New Yorker would nosh on, this is the spot. Tt has 22 types, the most popular being plain and sesame. Along with all the standards, there are such esoteric flavors as sun-dried tomato and black-olive mushroom. Then there are 20 or so cream cheese varieties, which span from the pedestrian to the unexpected (green olive, and something called Miami, which has both chives and smoked salmon). According to management, Kupels bagels are so heavenly because they're boiled and then baked (rather than steamed) and they never have preservatives. Whatever it is, we just hope they keep doing it.

BURGER
Bartley's
1246 Mass. Ave., Cambridge; 354-6559

After 40 years of flippin' burgers, no wonder Bartley's has got it down pat. Speaking of which, one reason the burgers are so good is that their beef is ground fresh every morning, and the patties aren't hand-formed but done by machine; this is not only more sanitary but also maintains the flavor better. In any case, this Harvard Square institution serves the consistently tastiest burgers, in a mind-numbing variety, as well as (gasp!) veggie burgers—what do you expect in the People's Republic of Cambridge? Not the sort of place where you linger over a long meal, it is one of the few places for a quick bite that isn't part of a multinational chain. Take that, McDonald's!

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CHEAP EATS
Pho Pasteur
119 Newbury St., Boston; 262-8200
682 Washington St., Boston; 482-7467
35 Dunster St., Cambridge; 864-4100
There are a number of places where you can gorge yourself for $12 or under, but none that we know of is quite so good. Asian delicacies like fresh spring rolls, Vietnamese crepes, beef noodle soup and caramelized pork sing from their serving dishes, and there isn't a dud among them. We would let them know that a food-savvy public would gladly pay double their prices, but then again, that would defeat the purpose. Perfect for the gourmet tightwad.

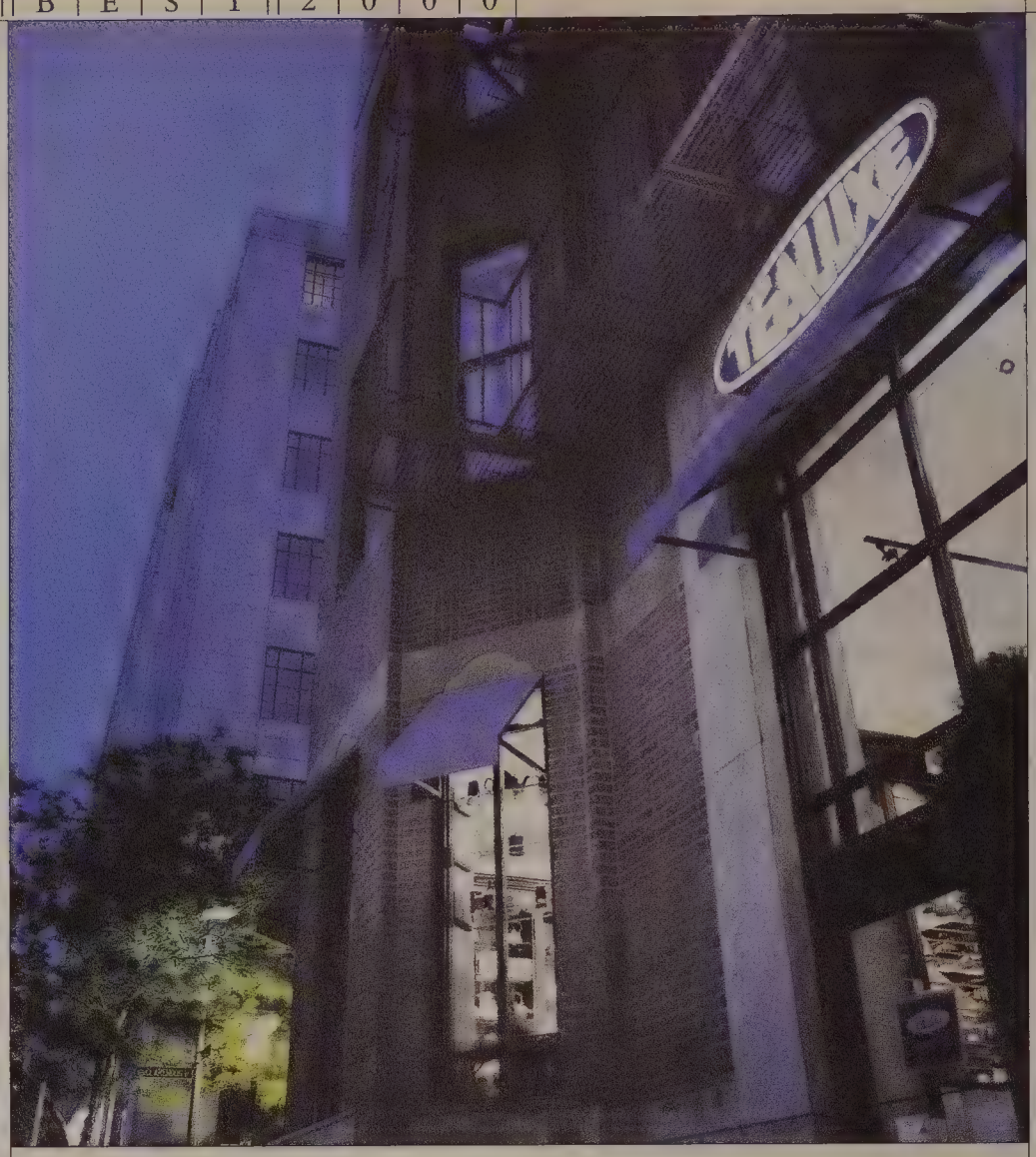
DINER
Rosebud
381 Summer St., Somerville; 666-6015
A Davis Square treasure, it's an authentic prefab diner, manufactured in Worcester in 1941, and the grub's as good as it gets. One french fry is around a quarter of a spud, and the clam chowder and buffalo wings are standouts. Don't stray from typical diner fare, however, and keep in mind that this place is nothing more than it purports to be: a classic diner with blond wood paneling, neon accents, swivel stools, banquettes, and a motherly, no-nonsense waitstaff. Weekend brunch is particularly popular, with Bloody Marys that can be ordered mild or tear-inducing hot.

MARGARITA
Cactus Club
939 Boylston St., Boston; 236-0200
Twelve years of stirring, shaking and splashing margaritas, and the Cactus Club staff has it down to a science. As loyal customers know and newcomers quickly realize, this Mexican-style bar has something for every margarita mood; there are 15 standards, including the signature Horni Margarita (Sauza Hornitos, Cointreau with a splash of fresh lime juice), and expertly trained bartenders are free to improvise. Patrons may chose from a whopping 22 tequilas.

ASIAN MARKET
The 88 Asian Market
50 Herald St., South End/Chinatown; 423-1688
The Super 88
South Bay Shopping Center, 101 Allstate Rd., Dorchester; 541-5624
It's always a good sign to see plenty of Asians and restaurant chefs when wandering around an Asian market. So it is at the 88 Asian Market, a place so authentic that non-natives may need help reading labels. And, if you can't locate a delicacy in the Chinatown store, visit the new, 70,000-square-foot Super 88 in the South Bay Shopping Center—it even has an Asian food court.

TRADITIONAL ITALIAN RESTAURANT
Trattoria á Scalinaterra
253 Hanover St., Boston; 742-8240
Don't dare order eggplant parm at this authentic Italian eatery. Instead, enjoy a vicarious culinary jaunt throughout the boot. Owner Paolo Diecidue may be Sicilian, but chef Dan DeCarpis' constantly changing menu represents varied Italian regions—the Coniglio Farcito (a rabbit dish) is a must. The restaurant's wine cellar houses some 8,000 bottles, one for every handmade pasta creation. All this in the Trattoria's secluded, second-floor location replete with hardwood floors, exposed brick walls and fireplace.

GREASY SPOON
Charlie's Kitchen
10 Eliot St., Cambridge; 492-9646
It's true, the unpretentious Charlie's Kitchen surprised longtime patrons by adding a lobster dinner to its menu recently. But grease lovers can still clog their arteries with a classic double cheeseburger at this well-worn Harvard Square spot. Just leave the starched shirt and attitude at home. With an extensive bar menu including some 60 beers on tap and a friendly atmosphere of laid-back Bacchanalia, Charlie's is the answer to the question: "What happened to The Tasty?"



CAFFEINE BUZZ
Tealuxe 108 Newbury St., Back Bay, 927-0400; Zero Brattle St., Cambridge, 441-0077
In case you hadn't noticed, that Seattle coffee klatch thing is totally over and the truly hip have turned to tea, instead of java, for their daily cup o' hyper. In fact, this two-store chain has plans to open several more locations in the coming months. The secret to their success? These people are freakishly into tea, travelling to tea-producing countries, studying the different varieties (of which they carry a mind-boggling assortment), identifying the best tea-growing regions and the most propitious seasons for production, and generally agonizing over those little leaves the rest of us just steep in hot water to sip with ginger cookies. The fanatical tea fancier will find everything he or she needs to feed the fetish, and even the snottiest Brit will be forced to admit that this place has taken their national ritual and turned it into a religion.

UP-AND-COMING CHEF
Christos Tsardounic
Aspasia, 377 Walden St., Cambridge; 864-4745
Sure, Tsardounic got his start tossing pizzas while studying to become an electrician. But along the way, he caught the culinary bug, and these days, he's dazzling paletes with his simple, yet stunning American and Mediterranean dishes at his new Cambridge restaurant, Aspasia. Tsardounic's résumé includes stints at Olives and No. 9 Park—but his style is his own. In season, nothing beats his lobster and crab creations.

SCENE
Mistral
223 Columbus Ave., Boston; 867-9300
It's impossible to prevent banter and laughter from spilling out of the long, crowded bar, and into the restaurant. Mistral pulses with the energy of a Miami Beach bar but high prices keep out the rowdy element. In their stead are monied thritysomethings—a mix of well-coiffed local biz types and stylish Europeans. Not suited for a relaxing drink after work, Mistral provides food, drink and adrenaline.

PLACE TO FIND RELATIONSHIP OF LIMITED DURATION
Barcode
955 Boylston St., Boston; 421-1818
This stylish establishment is within easy reach of Back Bay 9-to-5ers. And sure enough, since its opening festivities earlier this year, hordes of young professionals have found their way to Barcode, trading cubicles for bar stools and office memos for pickup lines. The last days of the Raj decor—bamboo bars and ceiling fans—have given the space a sorely needed face lift, and most of the staff from the dearly departed Restaurant Zinc have given it a major infusion of class. All in all, the perfect ambience to get you in the mood. And by the looks of the excessive mingling and card swapping, it's working.

CHEAP BREAKFAST
Soundbites
708 Broadway St., Somerville; 623-8338
Soundbites feels like the now-defunct Dolly's daytime cousin; it's crowded, cheap, simple and irresistible. In fact, this snug eatery is so popular among Somervillians and Tufts students, there's always a line on weekends (patrons can help themselves to coffee while waiting). Perhaps it's the waffles piled high with fresh fruit or the killer hash browns—more like mashed potatoes—that pack 'em in. One thing's for sure: The fare may be inexpensive, but owner Yasser Mirza is liberal with his ingredients. The Western omelette literally bursts at the seams with salsa, cheese and black beans. Olé, we say.

ROMANTIC RESTAURANT
75 Chestnut
75 Chestnut St., First floor, Boston; 227-2175
This relative newcomer to the Boston restaurant scene has quickly established itself as the place to go for the quintessential romantic dinner. And indeed, 75 Chestnut has all the right ingredients: a Beacon Hill address, a dimly lit, luxurious little dining room, elegant fare—and, perhaps most important, an ample selection of vino. Although you might expect to pay dearly for such amenities, entrées start at $14 and most run in the mid-$20 range (save the cash for the wedding ring).

BEST ITALIAN NOUVELLE
Marcuccio's
125 Salem St., Boston; 723-1807
Although chef Charles Draghi may boast his "old-school technique," customers and critics laud him for his innovative, light interpretation of Italian cuisine. His full-flavored, transparent broth-sauces will first surprise you, then likely convert you. There's plenty of light and beautifully seasoned fish and greenery on the menu, but heartier dishes like the wild boar and veal are also standouts, as are the rosewater-tinged desserts—and at Marcuccio's (unlike other Italian restaurants in town) you might actually have room for dessert!

LATE-NIGHT DRUNK FOOD
Apollo Grill
84-86 Harrison Ave.; Boston; 423-3888
A late-night haven in Chinatown for tireless night owls with tireless appetites. This Japanese-Korean eatery bustles until 4am, serving up sizable portions of sushi and sashimi, although many opt for barbecue fare, which is grilled right at your table. The service is inconsistent, but the eclectic nocturnal revelers hardly seems to notice.

HAPPY HOUR
The Rattlesnake Bar & Grill
384 Boylston St., Boston; 859-8555
Before you get a chance to go home and plot revenge schemes against your ignoramus of a boss, make a pit stop at the Rattlesnake and drink that rage away in minutes amid a young, bustling crowd. Come as you are, both in dress and in mind, and you'll find a bunch of commiserators trying to take the sting out of the rat race by getting "happy." At the Rattlesnake, it's pretty easy to do.

SUPERMARKET
Bread & Circus
Their motto, printed above the front doors to all of their supermarkets, is to provide the customer with "the food, the whole food, and nothing but the food." It's just one piece of evidence that Bread & Circus takes its food darn seriously. And where else can you find that exotic melon you were looking for—just two aisles away from the only organic salami in Boston? We're not sure if food is truth, but we do know that you are what you eat.

BAKERY
Hi-Rise Bakery
208 Concord Ave., Cambridge; 876-8766
If you're looking for the freshest, heartiest bread in town—be it a baguette or a "Huron" whole wheat—head to Hi-Rise in Cambridge, where

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you can watch bakers lovingly mixing, kneading and braiding while you wait in line. A favorite is the Italian semolina loaf—made with flour that owner Rene Becker gets directly from a mill in Emilia Romagna, Italy. Becker also handpicks all the day's ingredients, from his private orchard or his favorite Boston market. During the summer, the tart, juicy plum and berry pies are divine. Hi-Rise also has a smaller store in Harvard Square where patrons clamor for sandwiches.

ROMANTIC BAR
Oak Room
138 St. James Ave., Fairmont Copley Plaza, Boston; 267-5300
It could be the oversized martinis that induce so many men to propose at this luxurious cabaret. But more likely, it's the Oak Room's warm, cozy atmosphere—replete with oak paneling and deep crimson draperies. Pop the question in a place of such pomp and splendor, and perhaps you'll get a "yes" just by association. If you're not ready for such a leap, a very private table is ideal for whispering those sweet nothings.

GREEK RESTAURANT
Desfina
202 Third St., Cambridge; 868-9098
This casual, inexpensive restaurant is where Greeks go when feeling homesick. Owner Steven Manalkis only lets authentic Grecian fare emerge from his kitchen, whether it's a lamb dish or one of their legendary cheese dishes. If you're looking for a dash of drama, try the Kefalograviera cheese, which is spritzed with a 151-proof rum, set aflame at your table and immediately extinguished with a squeeze of fresh lemon.

PRE/POST DINNER DINING
Caprice
275 Tremont St., Boston; 292-0080
Because of its location, directly across the street from the Wang Center, this sleek eatery specializing in French Mediterranean fare is flooded with theater-goers before and after shows. The waitstaff is not only knowledgable and friendly, it will bend over backward to ensure you make curtain time. Head there once, and you'll be back for an encore.

OENOLOGIST
Christian Vassilev
The Federalist, 15 Beacon St., Boston; 670-2515
Over at the swanky Fed, Ukrainian-born Vassilev has curated a collection of wines that will dazzle the most sophisticated of sommeliers—just peruse the restaurant's 46-page wine list and begin salivating. Currently enrolled in the British program called the Guild of Master Sommeliers, the most rigorous and highly esteemed training program in the industry (of which Sandy Block, the IMPROPER's wine columnist is a graduate) Vassilev hopes to take his "final" exam within the next year or so. Only 2.5 people pass each year. In the meantime, find him at the Fed, where his enthusiasm for Burgundies and pinot noirs can be dangerously infectious—and costly!

FRENCH RESTAURANT
L'Espalier
30 Gloucester St., Boston; 262-3023
Situated in a splendidly outfitted 1886 Back Bay townhouse, owners Frank and Catherine McClelland serve gastronomic creations so delicious, your tastebuds won't know what hit them. The fare—from Edward Island mussels to warm chocolate torte with white chocolate ice cream and strawberry compote—is so seductive, even stingy AAA gave them a 5-diamond rating. For a French restaurant, there's a surprisingly light touch with butter and cream, so you can indulge sans guilt. The effect on your wallet, however, may not be so light. But for special occasions, L'Espalier is the next best thing save a trip to the City of Light.

SPECIALTY WINE STORE
Federal Wine
29 State St., Boston; 367-8605
Located in the towering Financial District, this modest-sized wine store has developed something of a cult following. Perhaps it's proprietor Len Rothenberg's information-packed weekly e-newsletters, which discuss the most recent wine-tasting (held every Wed. from 5-7pm) and mention noteworthy wines and pre-arrival offers. Or perhaps it's because Rothenberg is an indie-minded wine guru; rather than buying based on what wine critics are touting, he trusts his own tastebuds, filling his store with some of the most untraditional wines in town. We say chin-chin.

POWER LUNCH
Your Desk
Who does lunch anymore? The days when anyone who was anyone lunched at the Bay Tower Room are long gone. In the new, fast-paced e-conomy, lunch hour is rarely an hour at all, and take-out sandwiches or office delivery is the norm. It's simple: If you're out to lunch, you could be left behind.

POWER BREAKFAST
Regal Bostonian Hotel
Faneuil Hall, Boston; 523-3600
The Regal Bostonian (just renamed Millennium Bostonian) is still the place to catch a glimpse of former Mayor Kevin White. And the breakfast tables in Seasons, the hotel restaurant, are still filled with politicos and business suits, fueling up before heading to downtown business and law firms. For this old-school ilk, a power bar can hardly replace a power breakfast.

PLACE TO PROVE MONEY CAN BUY LOVE
Capital Grille
359 Newbury St., Boston; 262-8900
The brass-and-mahogony surroundings, the Cuban cigar boxes and the driest martinis make this Newbury Street bar the ideal place for a businessman to enjoy himself after a long, hard day. The bar in this restaurant is also a great place for a pretty women to wait in hopes of meeting a John—or Bob or Tom or Michael. Ask these career women for their evening plans, and they will say they are awaiting an interview. But we say they can be persuaded to blow off the job.

PLACE TO FIND A LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP
The Plough and Stars
912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge; 441-3455
We're not suggesting your true love will be sitting alone at the bar, waiting to shower you with roses and romance. We're suggesting that in a crowded room with live music ranging from folk singer Kevin Connolly to bluesy Mr. Airplane Man, you'll meet people who want to have a good time and, more than likely, want to dance (be forewarned, however: The city of Cambridge prohibits dancing, so you should keep one foot stationary at all times.) Maybe owner George Crawley will even put you on his list of customers who've found nuptial mates on his premises. It happens all the time; recent newlyweds even had the ceremony in the bar.

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD RESTAURANT
The Dish
253 Shawmut St., Boston; 426-7866
This South End secret on the corner of Shawmut and Milford Street feels more like your living room than a restaurant. The cozy, intimate seating makes it a favorite place for neighborhood folks to meet friends for cappuccino or a meal. Menu items include wood-grilled pizza, tuna and an appetizer that is a neighborhood favorite: the garlic strip with ripened tomatoes. Prices go no higher than $14.95 and the desserts are whipped up on the premises, a rarity these days. South Enders know it as a place where you can go alone, and be sure to see someone you know. So far, the downtown crowd has not discovered this gem, though Back Bay and Jamaica Plain residents have been among the new customers anxious for a taste of all things dishy at The Dish.

ONE-STOP ENTERTAINMENT
The Alley
One Boylston Place, Boston; 351-7000
Where else in town can you find four fiendishly fun Southern-style watering holes within crawling distance of each other? It's a rhetorical question, of course: You can't. The Alley comprises four New Orleans-themed bars: The Big Easy, the Sugar Shack, Streetwater Café and Bishop's Pub. The Big Easy features groovin' DJs and bands, a huge dance floor and a wrap-around balcony. For those looking for a more intimate encounter, there's Bishop's Pub. And for those looking for it all—from snug to swank—simply plan to hit all four spots before the last T home. Now that's entertainment.

RESTAURANT HIRE
Olaf Niemeier
Saffron, 279A Newbury St., Boston; 536-9766
It's not often that a five-star chef from New Delhi, India, is convinced to pack his bags and head to Boston, bringing his secret recipes to a new location and a Newbury Street audience. Chef Olaf Niemeier has created a buzz at the newly opened Saffron restaurant, serving what he refers to as "contemporary Indian cuisine." Nicknamed the "Picasso" of the food biz, Niemeier uses his culinary brush to whip up colorful gastronomic works of art. His dishes not only look good, but they taste delectable. With his talent for creating new out of the old, Niemeier uses American and Italian spices to prepare distinctly lighter Indian meals, including lasagna in a nut-saffron sauce and roasted chicken in a wildrice yogurt fritter. These specialties, along with his barbecued prawns flavored with Indian spices and Tandoori-marinated rack of lamb, have tongues wagging across the city.

INTERIOR
Temple Bar
1688 Mass. Ave, Cambridge; 547-5055
The Temple Bar, between Harvard and Porter squares, somehow manages to be both tremendously stylish *and* tastefully understated (a rare aesthetic coup, we'd say). There are muted earth tones—think caffé latte and espresso—art deco lamps with oversized lampshades and expansive windows that reveal bustling Mass. Ave. Fashioned by the Niemitz Design Group, the interior marries exposed brick walls and an authentic barback with modern touches like the oversized art hanging on the wall and copper-crafted tables. All in all, a most elegant backdrop for an amber ale.

LATE-NIGHT DRINK
Pho Republique
1415 Washington St., Boston; 262-0005
Seeing this is not the first award we've lauded upon them, it should be clear that this South End hotspot is just about as groovy as it gets. Although they're only open until 1am, there's always a crowd there, choosing which bar to hit next or deciding where the after-hours will be.

SECRET RENDEZVOUS
Top of the Hub
800 Boylston St./Prudential Center, 52nd Floor, Boston; 536-1775
Have lofty hopes for a romance? Take your paramour to the 52nd floor of Boston's landmark Prudential Center and enjoy a spectacular view of the city. Perhaps paradoxically, this is the perfect spot *not* to be viewed by others. It's packed with tourists (you can easily hide behind a corpulent, camera-toting German), has a dim-lit lounge area and, if necessary, a speedy escape elevator. If, by remote chance, you're caught by one of our town's omnipresent social gossips, just say your "out-of-town friend" read about the Top of the Hub in her Fodor's.

SPORTS BAR
The Sports Depot 353 Cambridge St., Allston; 783-2300
If your idea of a good time is spending an afternoon watching a game over a few Brewskis, this place can't be beat. Four large-screen TVs and 66 26-inchers guarantee a decent view of the action from pretty much wherever you sit, while the food is a cut above the standard nachos and buffalo wings. In addition to those artery-clooging snacks that give so many avid sports fans their telltale guts, finer fare, like lobster dinners, is available. The camaraderie is infectious, there's plenty of parking, and best of all, there's an ATM on the premises, so you can make that schlemiel from New York pony up immediately when he loses that bet on the Yankees vs. the Red Sox game.

STEVEN BILLUPS

A wise-cracking trio of Chinese foodies: Hung Wei Shao of Chrysanthemum, Chunxin Chi of Wang's Fast Food and Ming Tsai of Blue Ginger.

Ari Feinstein (right) might have missed it, but the IMPROPER's Richard Manning (the lone WASP) was surprisingly deft with chopsticks.

Kennedy School fellow Evan Feigenbaum was able to practice his Mandarin (he's fluent) at the tasting—at least when his mouth wasn't full.

Wu Jianxin, owner of the Qing Ping Teahouse and Gallery, was quite passionate when it came to the Chilean sea bass.

Szechuan with Chutzpah

What better way to determine the Best Chinese food in town than to let the cuisine's two reigning authorities, the Chinese and the Jews, duke it out. On a culinary quest, The IMPROPER assembled a crack sino-semitic squad to feast on the food of our six favorite Chinese restaurants. From dim sum to fortune cookies, no detail was passed over. Here's how it played out.

Photographs by Steven Billups

With his *East Meets West* Food Network show being such a hit, we weren't surprised Tsai was a natural in front of the camera.

"Kosher is to American Jews as birth control is to American Catholics," quipped dumpling devotee Alan Dershowitz.

After stuffing our esteemed judges with enough dim sum to feed a Chinese army, we let them swill a Tsingtao or two.

The Jewish calendar is 5,761 years old. The Chinese calendar traces back 4,698 years. So what did the Jews eat for dinner every Sunday night for 1,063 years?

We're not sure. One thing we do know is that when it comes to dining a la Dragon Palace, the Twelve Tribes have been making up for lost time ever since. As one friend puts it: "I may not go to temple every Saturday, but the one way in which I am an observant Jew is that I eat Chinese food every Sunday night."

Or, as our Bubbe might have said, "Jews know from good Chinese food." So, presumably, do Asians.

Because the Best Chinese Restaurant category is always hotly debated and highly contested, we decided this year to stage a Sino-Semitic taste-off to help us make the call.

Captaining the Jewish team was Harvard law professor and noted gastronome Alan Dershowitz, while the Asian team was led by celebrity chef and culinary heartthrob Ming Tsai. The players included Wu Jianxin, owner of the QingPing Teahouse and Gallery and former Chinese dissident; Ari Feinstein, the half-Jewish, half-Thai bon vivant and boutique owner; concert pianist and tae kwan do champion Elaine Kwon; Kennedy School fellow Evan Feigenbaum (whose field is the Chinese military and who speaks Mandarin fluently); acupuncturist and all-around mensch Gary Woolf, owner of the Woolf Holistic Health Center; IMPROPER publisher Mark Semonian (who is, like all Armenians, an honorary Jew); and editor-at-large Rick Manning (the token WASP). Then we invited six of the best Chinese restaurants in the area to serve up three or four of their best dishes for lunch one June afternoon. The featured restaurants: Chrysanthemum, Bernard's, New Shanghai, Wang's Fast Food, Grand Chau Chow and China Pearl.

Because, as one observant person pointed out, there are Chinese restaurants for Chinese people and Chinese restaurants for American Jews, we decided to modify our goal. The purpose was not so much to identify the best dish or dishes (though Rick Manning says he'd walk barefoot through Alaska in his briefs for another taste of Bernard's crispy Chilean sea bass). Instead, the point was to identify great dishes for their taste, their presentation and their appeal to either the Eastern or Western diner.

To begin, we addressed the odd affinity between American Jews and Chinese food.

"I think it developed very early on," said Dershowitz. "The Chinese were clearly immigrants, and we Jews were clearly immigrants, too. We were both outsiders; we had that in common. The other thing is that both Chinese Americans and American Jews developed essentially urban cultures, often near each other, like in New York."

"But what about the Kosher thing?" asked Ming Tsai.

"Kosher is to American Jews as birth control is to American Catholics," quipped Dershowitz. "Maybe 15 percent keep kosher."

Certainly, Tsai observed, there's a major drop-off in clientele at his Wellesley restaurant during major Jewish holidays. "It's uncanny," he said. "As soon as Passover is over, our business shoots right back up. That's the other thing you have to remember. For a long time, Chinese restaurants were the only places open on holidays like Christmas."

"Right," agreed Dershowitz. "It's like Philip Roth once said: Jews love Chinese restaurants because back in the '20s and '30s, they were the only places where they'd be treated like Wasps."

We laughed, and then got down to the serious business at hand. Candor compels us to reveal that there were indeed a few duds among the 24 dishes, but not many. There was a piece of beef with the texture and flavor of tree bark, and a bit of fried squid with the stubbornness of a rubberband. But, for the most part, the dishes were beautifully presented, tasteful and universally appealing.

The spinach dumplings from Wang's Fast Food were so good that Ming Tsai said they were just like the ones his grandmother used to make. A lobster spring roll from New Shanghai had all of us swooning. A Thai jumbo-shrimp dish from Chrysanthemum was so spicy and laden with garlic that it made our toes curl, as did the pea-pod stems in garlic sauce and clams in black-bean sauce from Grand Chau Chow. China Pearl's jumbo shrimp with southern garlic sauce had a lot of us saying we could eat shrimp all day. And the crispy Chilean sea bass from Bernard's? You could just plotz.

One defining moment came when Wu Jianxin let us in on the fact that there's Chinese food and then there's, ummmm, *Chinese food.* (The less said the better about his account of eating a live monkey's brains.)

At any rate, we all seemed to be doing just fine—regardless of Western or Eastern roots—grazing our way through the 24-course extravaganza before us.

Our conclusion? Quite simply, it was some of the finest food we'd eaten, anytime, anywhere. And all of Boston is the better for it. **IB**

Our panel of judges strike a post-prandial pose. Back row (from left to right): Alan Dershowitz, Jack Cheung, C.K. Sau, Yi Wang, Michael Lee, Hong Wei Shao, Alan Lam, George Ting, Chunxin Chi, Jeffrey Lue, Kevin Vien; front row (from left to right): Richard Manning, Elaine Kwon, Ming Tsai, Evan Feigenbaum, Wu Jianxin, Gary Woolf, Ari Feinstein and Barbara Mattaliano.

How to order the best food in a Chinese restaurant

Ming Tsai offers several pointers:

Get up, walk around and look at what other people are eating. If you see something that catches your fancy, make a note of it and tell your waiter.

Ask for the Chinese-language menu. It doesn't matter that you can't read a single character. This is where the real Chinese food is listed.

Look at the prices in the right-hand column. Prices will give you a sense of how many a dish can feed. Ask the waiter what it is, just to make sure it's not dog or live monkey brains. If it sounds good, order it.

Don't sweat the monosodium glutamate (MSG) thing. "There's MSG in everything, even soy sauce," Tsai says. "Telling a Chinese chef not to use MSG is like telling a French chef not to use salt."

The players

Due to the unscientific nature of the tasting (and the judges' overindulgence in Tsingtao beer) no clear winner emerged. The following six restaurants all deserve to be called the Best.

Bernard's

199 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill Mall, Newton (969-3388). Mon.-Thu., 11:30am- 10pm, Fri.-Sat., 4:30 pm-10:30pm, Sun., 4:30pm-9pm. Gourmet Northern Cantonese cuisine with lively sauces. The sort of a Chinese restaurant you'd expect to find in the ritzy Chestnut Hill Mall. Judges cooed over the orange-flavored beef.

China Pearl

9 Tyler St. Chinatown (426-4338). Open seven days a week, 8:30am-3pm for dim sum; 3- 11pm for dinner. dim sum and traditional Cantonese style cuisine. Serving over 60 varieties, there is a dim favorite for everyone. Our Asian judges were especially partial to the roast pork buns.

Chrysanthemum

829 Boylston St. Boston (638-0039). Mon.-Thu., 11:30am-11pm, Fri.- Sat., 11:30am- 12am, Sun., 12pm- 11pm. Upscale Szechuan cuisine with South Asian, especially Thai, thrown in. A typically elegant Back Bay dining experience. Judges gave a special salute to the General Tso's chicken.

Grand Chau Chow

45 Beach St., Chinatown (292-5166) Mon.-Thu., 10am-3am, Fri.- Sat.,10am-4am; closed Sun. Traditional Chinese cuisine with an emphasis on seafood and fresh vegetables. Some judges lauded the clams in black bean sauce; others gushed over the fried salted squid.

New Shanghai

21 Hudson St., Chinatown (338-6688). Sun.-Thu., 11am-10pm, Fri.-Sat., 11am-11pm. Traditional Shanghainese and Mandarin Northern Chinese cuisine in the heart of Chinatown. Simple, straightforward fare with an elegant preparation. Judges concurred that seafood was the standout here.

Wang's Fast Food

509 Broadway, Somerville (623-2982). Mon.-Fri., 4pm- 1am, Sat.-Sun., 11:30am-1pm. Pretty much just the basics as the name suggests: simple Pekingese cuisine. But don't let the "Fast" mislead you; our judges fell in love with their Chinese dumplings.

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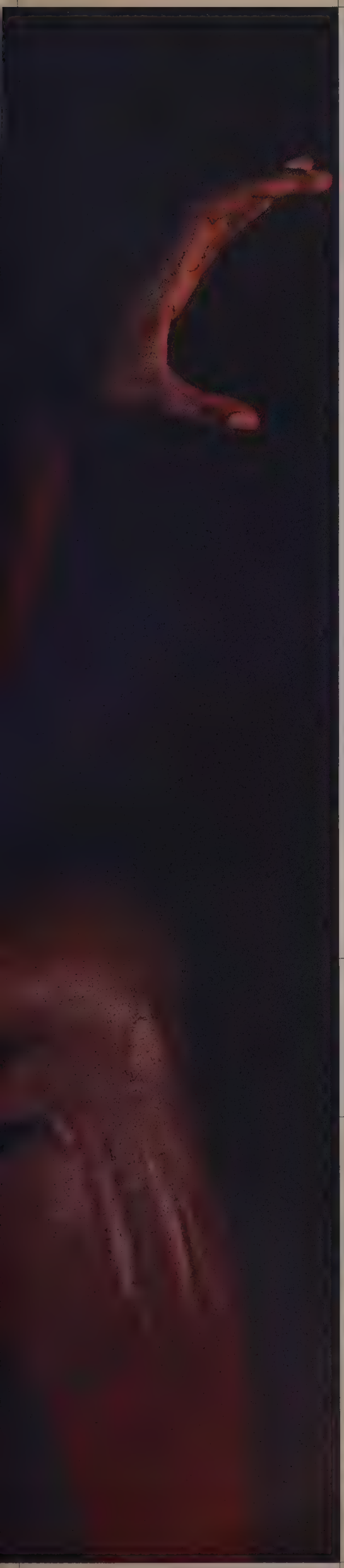


Portrait by Michael Weber

health beauty

Whether you're looking to build a little muscle or shed an epidermal layer, these winners will show you the way.

<< AEROBICS INSTRUCTOR

Alain Bissainthe

Boston Sports Club, 15 Gorham St., Allston, 731-4177;
Gold's Gym, 30 Park Ave., Arlington, 781-646-4653

Take one look at Bissainthe, a master-class instructor at Gold's Gym in Arlington and Boston Sports Club in Allston, and you can see that fitness and strength are deeply engrained in his life. Simply put, the man is buff. Unbelievably buff. And his enthusiasm is contagious. Bissainthe is the developer of Ky-Box (pronounced "key-box"), which brings fluidity, deep breathing and body alignment to the standard kickboxing routine. In the wake of the Tae-Bo craze of cathartic (and often jarring) exercise moves, students rave about how Bissainthe brings more of the "mind" to the "mind/body connection."

ALTERNATIVE HEALING EXPERIENCE

Wellspace

Fresh Pond Mall, Cambridge; 876-2660

From outside, Wellspace looks like an ordinary strip-mall establishment. Inside, however, you'll find a one-stop-shopping sanctuary for health and healing. Whatever the problem—backache, headache, immune-system weakness, carpal tunnel woes or menopausal malaise—Wellspace offers a full arsenal of eclectic services for relief: acupuncture, Chinese herbs, naturopathic medicine, many types of therapeutic massage and educational workshops. There's a healing experience for everyone—without the stress of finding parking.

CHIROPRACTOR

Dr. Georgianna Donadio

Boston Whole Health Services, 100 Boylston St., Suite 1075, Back Bay; 267-0516

With 25 years of chiropractic and alternative-medicine experience, Dr. Donadio has been a true trailblazer for bone manipulation in Boston. She started practicing here in 1976, a time when there were very few practicing chiropractors and clients would ask, "Is this legal?" Today, her small practice draws a range of clients who crave humble, respectful healing. "It is a sacred privilege to touch people," Donadio says, "and I treat every patient as if they are a member of my family." Donadio's hands-on, soft-tissue work, combined with compassionate, respectful listening, gives patients great relief, usually within six sessions.

COSMETICS

Neiman Marcus

5 Copley Place, Boston; 536-3660

You're gorgeous, darling, but it doesn't happen by accident. You take excellent care of yourself. You use nothing but the best skin creams (Kiehl's for your face, perhaps, but Clarins for that delicate zone around your eyes). Your makeup and the tools you use to

PERFUMERY

Fresh 121 Newbury St., Back Bay; 421-1212

If the idea of buying scented soaps, spritzes and lotions conjures up images of glassed-in department-store displays or dusty drugstore shelves, you obviously haven't experienced Fresh. The upscale beauty bistro offers a distinctive menu of scents that are delicious enough to eat. Among customers' favorites: milk-chocolate soap, brown-sugar body polish, lemon shower gel, lychee body lotion and white-truffle moisturizing shampoo. Gift sets, tastefully packaged in Japanese-style boxes, are the perfect presents for brides or best buddies, but you'll definitely be tempted to keep them for yourself.

apply it are flawless. Chances are, you shop here. Heaven for girly-girls, the cosmetics department at this Texan synonym for high-end retail is like a veritable Disney World of beauty. The people behind the counters positively live to make you look more fabulous. So what if it's a little on the pricey side? Beauty don't come cheap.

DAY SPA

Bella Santé

38 Newbury St., Back Bay; 424-9930

Bella Santé, which means "beautiful health," offers both sexes a heavenly hiatus from cell phones, pagers, laptops and screaming children. Whether you choose a single treatment (such as a facial, massage, mud wrap or acupuncture) or a full day of esthetic escape, you'll feel stress melt away as you enter a state of pampered bliss. Bella Santé's seasoned experts and breadth of services are impressive, but it's the small touches that make this a respite to remember: eucalyptus in the steam room, mineral salts in the jacuzzi, oversized chairs with massaging foot rests, and complimentary fruit, lime-infused water and herbal teas sweetened with honey sticks.

EXFOLIATION

Daryl Christopher Spa

37 Newbury St., Back Bay; 424-0250

There's nothing better than a salt rub to cheer up neglected skin, and Daryl Christopher turns exfoliation into a deeply meditative experience. Lie back on a comfortable padded mattress and have your whole body rubbed down with a mixture of Dead Sea salts and essential oils. (Esthetician Ellen McHugh is an expert at making the body-conscious feel more at ease). After relaxing with the tingle of salt on your skin, you will be rinsed without having to move a muscle, courtesy of a five-spouted "Vichy" shower. The spa also carries the hard-to-find Guinot skin care line to use at home.

EYEBROW SHAPING

Robin Erb

30 Newbury Spa, 30 Newbury St., Back Bay; 266-7606

If eyes are the windows to the soul, then eyebrows should pose no unnecessary distractions. Too often, though, women have followed the pencil-thin fads and plucked themselves silly. Enter Robin Erb. With a combination of high-quality Nufreé wax, precision-point tweezers and an amazing eye for the perfect arch, Erb can bring a graceful, natural look to your brows. She also works wonders with men who suffer from uni-brow syndrome.

FACIAL

Sandra Curzi

Sandra Curzi Facials; 30 Newbury St., Back Bay; 645-4305

Whether you have dry skin, acne, sensitive patches or rosacea, Curzi wants to be your skin's best friend. Her expert facials leave skin soft, clean and glowing, but Curzi also goes the extra mile by teaching you how to attain those results at home. Because she sees skin as an extension of the whole person, she never pushes expensive products if you can't afford them. If your skin would benefit from an egg-white mask or a baking-soda paste, she will teach you how to use them, effectively and inexpensively, at home.

GYM (OVERALL)

Boston Athletic Club

653 Summer St., Seaport District; 269-4300

For the total A-to-Z fitness experience, look no further than the BAC. This huge facility, which sprawls over two floors of a warehouse building in the Seaport District, offers the most comprehensive selection of sports, wellness programs and amenities available. Choose from free weights, Cybex equipment, a fully stocked cardio center, or one of many tennis, squash or racquetball courts. Still not satisfied? Swim a few laps in the 20-yard pool, take a spinning class or join one of the many outdoor fitness activities. The locker rooms offer all the accoutrements you could desire. There's also free parking and, for a buck, a shuttle to South Station. If you're in no hurry to get home, treat yourself to a meal at Sobo, a mixed-cuisine restaurant on the premises that serves everything from healthy vegetable wraps to pad thai to shrimp scampi. (Aw, what harm will a little garlic butter do after you've expended a few hundred calories on the treadmill?)

GYM (SINGLES)

Boston Sports Club

561 Boylston St., Back Bay; 536-1247

Where do singles meet other singles? Often it's in one of Boston Sports Club's hoppin' and pumpin' facilities. With health centers in Copley Square, Allston, Government Center, Weymouth, Framingham and the Fenway, you don't have to go far to meet upwardly mobile professionals who, like you, are fitting workouts into a busy schedule. More than a few relationships have started among the Stairmasters and treadmills—thanks to BSC's nonthreatening environment that's encourages friendly banter. For hot-to-trotters looking to sign up, remember to throw a little black book into your gym bag.

CURLY HAIR TREATMENTS

Arthur Harris

Ecocentrix, 30 Newbury St, Back Bay; 262-2222

Harris, the hair-relaxing guru of Boston, says that clients with excessively curly hair—whether fair-skinned or of ethnic descent—need not be afraid of chemicals anymore. He should know. When Harris is not working in the salon, the 13-year veteran of the hair-care industry travels the world teaching straightening techniques for Avalon Industries, a renowned maker of gentle-yet-effective hair-relaxer products.

HAIRCUT (MEN)

Lisa Ravasini

Avanti Salon, 11 Newbury St., Back Bay; 267-4027

For clean-looking cuts that don't look like newly shorn sheep, Ravasini is a must-see. She's especially good for men who are considering a new look and want to know what their options are. "Although they often don't realize it," Ravasini says, "men have just as much versatility as women do." One satisfied customer had another take on Ravasini's approach to cutting men's hair: "Her cuts grow out so well that you can skip a month and not end up looking like Bozo the Clown."

HAIRCUT (WOMEN)

Dean Boudreau

Beaucage, 71 Newbury St., Back Bay; 437-7171

Follow a trail of women who feel good about their hair—and themselves—and you will undoubtedly land on the doorstep of Boudreau, owner/stylist of Beaucage. His emphasis is on subtle sensuality, the way the hair shimmers

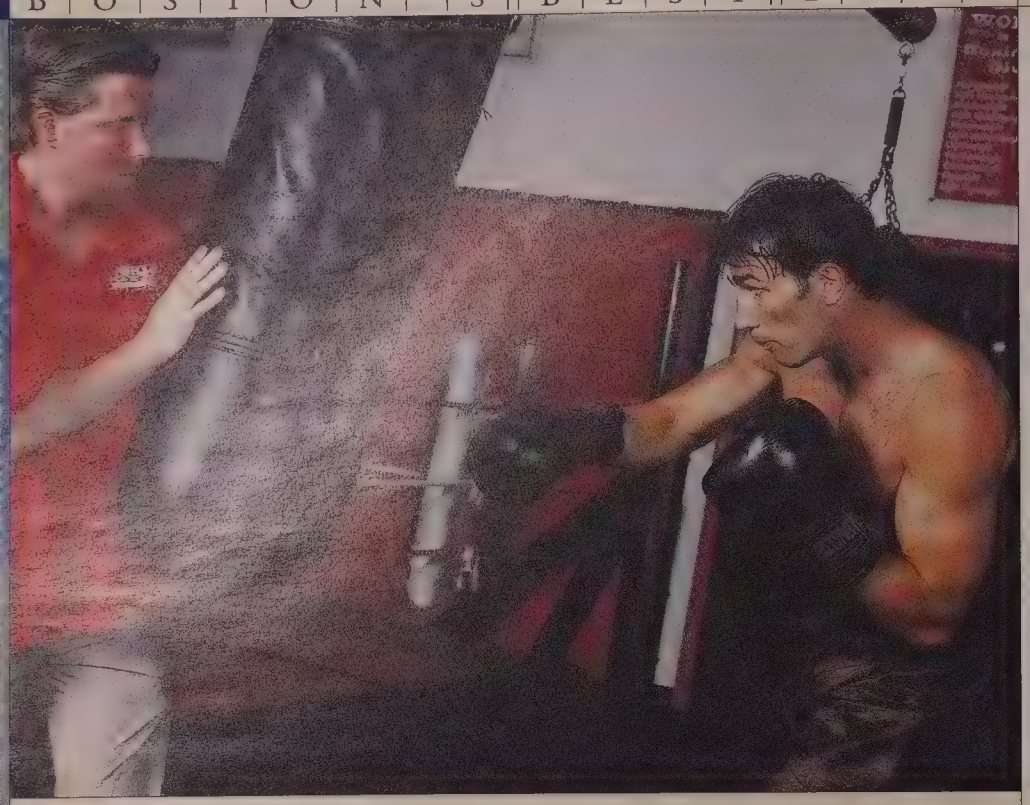
COLORIST>>

Heidi Holmander

Konjo, 35 Newbury St., Back Bay; 247-6222

Holmander, a veritable hair psychic, can take one look at your hair and tell whether you've been abusing it with Clairol or washing it with hard water. Whatever your dream color, she'll give it to you. But the most important element for beauty, Holmander says, is making sure your hair looks healthy. And her color treatments and impeccable work with foil leave hair looking fuller, richer and yes, more healthy and lustrous. Satisfied clients call her a "flawless scientist and artist, all in one."

Photographs by Elizabeth Markel (2)



BOXING GYM

World Gym 16 Sturtevant St., Somerville; 628-4272

When looking for the best boxing gym in town, we turned to Richie LaMontagne, the current United States Boxing Federation cruiser-weight champion. To keep himself in prime physical condition, LaMontagne routinely heads to World Gym in Somerville. "World has everything I need," LaMontagne says. "I do my main training in the boxing room, but they also have treadmills, bikes, a weight room, spinning classes, abdominal-strengthening classes and more." According to the USBF champ, World's boxing equipment has improved over the past few years, due to owner Pat Catino's willingness to take suggestions from the workout community. LaMontagne also recommends the gym's sauna and steam room: "They really help me when I need to relax and when I need to get my weight down before a fight." If this pugilist says World is the best, he's not gonna get an argument from us.

and falls around the face. If you're feeling frumpy, tired or indifferent, Boudreau will deliver the cut to make you feel lively, sexy and wholly you. "Dean can make even the Boston bob look sexy," says one happy client. "And his haircuts are never forced, so you can easily achieve the same look at home."

MOST-WELCOME NEW SALON

Umi

75 Newbury St., Back Bay; 247-0770

To call Umi's pure-white interior landscape "pristine" is an understatement. There is nothing on the walls but white paint, and all hair supplies are kept out of view. In fact, the place is so clean, angular and serenely snow-white that you might feel as if you are stepping onto an artist's blank canvas. And that is precisely the idea. "Without any visual distractions," says owner Jeffrey Dauksevich, "the focus is solely on the clients." That attention to artistry has already brought a steady stream of clients to this salon, which opened its doors just two months ago and has assembled some of the most impressive talent on Newbury Street.

MAKEUP ARTIST

Julie Michaud

Michaud Cosmetics, 297 Newbury St., Back Bay; 262-1607

Michaud believes in accentuating a person's best features with a natural, healthy look. Come in for a two-hour lesson, bring your makeup bag, and she'll teach you how to get the most out of the products you already have at home, whether MAC or Maybelline. Makeup lessons are tailored for the individual. "If a person has three kids and only 10 minutes in the morning, we will design a customized routine that truly works for her," Michaud says. For a splurge, try Michaud's own line of foundations, which are smooth, light and never greasy.

COSMETIC LASER TREATMENTS

Claire McArdle

Beauty Therapies, 1 Brookline Place, Brookline; 739-8300

If those tiny, broken capillaries around your nose have always bothered you, or you've been frustrated by the time-consuming, one-follicle-at-a-time nature of electrolysis, perhaps it's time to ride the new wave of beauty treatments: lasers. McArdle, a registered nurse and licensed esthetician, has traveled extensively to research the newest laser devices. Because she takes extra time to carefully match laser wavelengths to each person's skin and hair, she leaves skin healthy, clear and unblemished.

MASSAGE

Newbury Day Spa

8 Newbury St., Back Bay; 437-7775

The massage therapists at Newbury Day Spa, trained in classical European- and Japanese-style methods, are dedicated to helping you feel more relaxed and mobile, usually within two to three sessions. If you've pulled a shoulder playing racquetball, or have developed chronic neck pain from sitting at a computer all day, Newbury Day Spa's three highly interactive massage therapists will not only work the kinks out with deep-muscle work and shiatsu, but take extra time to explain how your daily activities are affecting your body's flexibility and alignment. Make an appointment, and get ready to say "Ahhh."

MASSAGE (ON-CALL)

Rolling River Massage Therapy

781-641-2525

When that important client of yours is in town and complains of a stiff neck after a long series of meetings, pamper him or her with an on-call therapeutic massage from Rolling River. Within a few hours, a licensed and registered massage therapist will arrive at your guest's hotel room, complete with massage table and oils; the therapists' collective provides a range of muscle-relaxing services (sports massage, deep-tissue work and shiatsu, for example). After one of Rolling River's house calls, your guest may never want to leave.

NAIL CARE

Galina Frishman

Beaucage, 71 Newbury St., Back Bay; 437-7171

Using heated, protein-rich moisturizers, carefully sterilized equipment and a gentle touch, Frishman brings grace and life to tired, overworked hands and feet. Top-of-the-line exfoliation creams and hydrating lotions are massaged into the skin to make it soft and supple. And if you've ever wondered whether you look better in candy-apple red or pearly pink, Frishman will guide you to the polish colors that look best against your skin. Clients leave with nails that are elegantly pretty—never too long, too square or too garish.

PILATES

Clare Dunphy

Progressive Bodyworks, 441 Stuart St., Back Bay; 247-8090

Imagine an incredibly challenging workout that strengthens muscles, increases flexibility, improves posture, redefines your body shape—yet is gentle on the joints and the mind. It may be hard to picture, especially if your typical workout has been a super-step class or a few flailing sets of tennis. Dunphy, a New York-certified Pilates instructor, will teach you how to strengthen and view your body in a wholly different way, using spring-resistant machines and mat-based exercises. Dunphy's combination of fitness expertise, nonjudgmental observation and gentle encouragement is what keeps people motivated, and in better shape than ever.

SPINNING

Gregg D'Andrea

Boston Sports Club, 15 Gorham St., Allston, 731-4177;
Gold's Gym, 150 A St., Needham, 781-444-6537

D'Andrea, a guest instructor at Boston-area health clubs such as Boston Sports Club in Allston and Gold's Gym in Needham, brings an intense passion for spinning into his "cycle-therapy" workouts. This is no ho-hum ride in the park. Instead, expect motivating music (he remixes tunes for the workouts), flickering candles and burning incense. Spinners are told to close their eyes, feel their emotions and push themselves beyond their limits. D'Andrea's exuberance is electric, but the proof of his success can be found in the line of people waiting to take his classes.

TAI CHI STUDIO

Tree of Life Tai Chi Center

440 Somerville Ave., Somerville; 623-1173

This spotless, gorgeous and airy studio offers the true yin-yang experience: a pocket of tranquility located in an unlikely stretch of Somervillian urban landscape. The school's curriculum (including tai chi, chi kung and Taoist meditation) focuses on health, well-being and self-defense. Director Peter Wayne has more than 21 years of training in tai chi and chi kung, and has studied with well-known martial-arts masters such as Robert Morningstar, Arthur Goodridge and Mantak Chia. In his classes, Wayne takes extra time to understand the needs of each student and has a gift for translating Eastern philosophies for the Western mind. Whether you enroll for long-term study or a single workshop, you will feel calm, strong and revitalized in no time. An introductory class is free.

WAXING (FULL-BODY)

Grace Kinahan

Candela Day Spa and Salon

28 Arlington St., Back Bay; 426-6999

Having swathes of hair yanked out is not one of life's most pleasant experiences. But when the weather turns warmer and more skin sees the light of day, people turn to Grace Kinahan. Her gentleness and thoroughness in some of the body's most delicate areas take some of the sting out of hair removal. Kinahan takes her time getting those pesky ingrown hairs, especially around the bikini line, and she never, ever leaves a speck. Hirsute men love her, too, for her ability to bring a smooth, clean-looking finish to once-overgrown backs.

YOGA STUDIO

Baron Baptiste Power Yoga

2000 Mass. Ave., Cambridge; 661-9642

Anyone who thinks yoga is a wussy workout should check out this white-hot Cambridge yoga gym. The heat is turned up to 98 degrees, the instructor will work muscles you didn't even know you had, and you'll leave feeling like your ass was kicked, but only in the most satisfying, Zen-like way. Fitness guru Baptiste (a former IMPROPER cover boy) has sold more than 300,000 videos demonstrating his own brand of unorthodox yoga, and he's been seen on numerous television shows and featured in national and local publications. According to one devotee, "It's an awesome workout, and it's also the sexiest thing in the world. Everybody's all sweaty and physical. I can't imagine how many hookups happen after class." Give it a try, but remember to bring an extra towel and a change of clothes. You will certainly need them.

FACE-LIFT

Dr. Joel Feldman

Mount Auburn Hospital, 300 Mount Auburn St., Suite 304, Cambridge; 661-5998

Tired of hearing that "crows' feet" convey character? For those considering a nip here, and tuck there, few surgeons are as sought after as Feldman. He attended Harvard Medical School, completed a general surgery residency at Mass General and a plastic surgery residency at Johns Hopkins. Having been in practice some 24 years, these days Feldman limits his practice specifically to cosmetic and reconstructive surgery. Marrying science with art, he's deft at minimizing and hiding scars and preserving a natural hairline. And those with jangling jowls should be uplifted: His techniques for rejuvenating and recontouring the neck are legendary within the field.

PLACE TO GET YOUR GROOVE BACK

Jeannette Neill Dance Studio

261 Friend St., Fifth Floor, Downtown Boston; 523-1355

A few steps from the FleetCenter, this dance studio for beginners and professionals alike provides some of the toughest (and most energizing) workouts in the city. (We dare you to take Tommy Coye's video-dance class. No excuses: It's open to all you novices out there.) The studio offers jazz, funk, modern, tap and ballet classes. Jeannette Neill has been providing quality choreography and inspiration to Boston dancers for 20 years. Her summer festival this year showcased the likes of jazz dance legend Matt Mattox (*Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*). Her Boston Youth Moves program offers subsidized classes—without city or state funding—to teens ages 13 through 19. This is also where Rockette kickers and broadway steppers get discovered—and where even people with two left feet can learn to dance, dance, dance.

Photograph by Steven Billups TRUNKS BY ANN MARIE LA FAUCI

FULL FLAVOR

PARLIAMENT

OUT OF THE CLEAR BLUE

DISTINCTLY SMOOTH

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Lights: 9 mg "tar" 0.7 mg nicotine. Full Flavor: 15 mg "tar" 1.1 mg nicotine av. per cigarette by FTC method.

Full Flavor available in limited areas. ©Philip Morris Inc. 2000

SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Quitting Smoking Now Greatly Reduces Serious Risks to Your Health.

services

Who says service isn't what it used to be? We found people who can walk the dog, buy your groceries, find you a secretary and send her flowers—all with first-class flair.

BODYGUARD

Metropolitan Protective Service Inc.

390 Commercial St., Boston; 282-0048

This 24-hour, full-service security company offers rock-solid protection for musicians, actors, celebs and high-profile executives. All the bodyguards at this North End company have rough-and-tumble combat experience—with military or law-enforcement backgrounds. Led by former law-enforcement agent John Glover, the service provided security on the set of *Good Will Hunting*, and more recently, for the Newbury Street League Benefit, when highfalutin execs from Armani, Versace and the like were gracing Back Bay with their presence. Although Glover and his staff specialize in providing bodyguards—or "executive protection," as they call it—they also offer bail enforcement, security guards and consulting.

URBAN TIMESAVER

My Agent Inc.

81A West Cedar St., Boston; 367-3805; www.myagent.org

As you stumble out of bed one morning, a mouse scurries across the floor and into your closet. Do you take a day off to wait for an exterminator? Not if you belong to My Agent, a company that will perform any number of mundane tasks for you, whether calling an exterminator, returning videos, taking care of laundry or dry cleaning, buying groceries or getting shoes repaired—they'll even deliver that long-overdue birthday present to your mother. For a $200-a-month retainer, My Agent offers a 24/7, highly customized service akin to having a personal concierge. With a business base on Beacon Hill and in Back Bay, My Agent prides itself on knowing those neighborhoods inside out.

HOME DELIVERY

Kozmo

www.kozmo.com

It's one of those simple ideas that sounds both too good to be true and so clever that you wish you had thought of it yourself and then retired: Free delivery of nearly anything you could imagine—movies, CDs, food, electronics and more—from the Internet to your doorstep in under an hour. We were sorely tempted to test this claim by requesting something like a partridge stuffed with pomegranate seeds, but we had the feeling Kozmo would deliver as promised and show up at our door with such a specimen. We chickened out, but that doesn't mean you have to.

TRAVEL AGENT

Ashot Gheridian

Tzell New England, 20 Melrose St., Boston; 426-2220; ashotg@tzell.com

Boston's best travel agent prides himself on customer service. Want to talk travel in French, Armenian or Spanish? Then make your plans with hotshot (and multilingual) agent Gheridian. With an undergraduate degree in economics and an MBA in international business, the senior travel agent at Tzell New England loves to educate his clients about the world. His 15 years in the biz, along with his uncanny ability to find the very best deals and extensive travel knowledge of Spain, Turkey, Argentina and England, give him the edge that clients (including numerous Ritz-Carlton patrons) have come to expect. Plus, you can travel with the security of knowing that Gheridian used to run a 24-hour travel emergency service.

TICKET AGENT

Ticket City of Boston

128 Harvard Ave., Allston; 787-2370; www.coolguitars.com/tickets.html

"Front Row Freddie," as he likes to be called, went to see a Broadway musical when he was 6 years old and was spellbound. Today, selling tickets from his counter inside Mr. Music, Freddie still revels at the idea that he may be opening the door to some other 6-year-old's first experience with the magic of theater. He is just as dedicated when it comes to helping a grown-up Phish fan get a good seat at a sold-out show or providing an out-of-town baseball fan with a good view of Nomar Garciaparra. From New York to Eastern Mass., Freddie is the man when it comes to hard-to-find tickets and last-minute good seats.

REAL ESTATE BROKER

Maureen O'Hara

Coldwell Banker-Hunneman/Itzkan & Marchiel, 160 Commonwealth Ave., Suite U2, Boston; 247-2909; mo-ohara@yahoo.com.

Anyone who can say, "At $8.75 million, it's a steal," with a straight face gets our vote. A palatial Back Bay boutique at 58 Comm. Ave. is only one of the properties Maureen O'Hara has listed—and sells on a regular basis. But if million-dollar houses aren't your thing, she's also happy to be your personal go-to gal for those looking for an apartment rental. O'Hara knows the area like no other—she lives and runs in Back Bay and volunteers at the nonprofit Community Boating House on the Charles.

CONCIERGE

Amy Finsilver

Fifteen Beacon St. Hotel, 15 Beacon St., Boston; 670-1500. www.xvbeacon.com

It's all about connections. For those who prefer to feel like they've never left home (even when staying at posh Fifteen Beacon Street!), there's no one quite like Finsilver. If you don't mind forking over as much as $3,000 a night for the privilege of staying in a this swanky home-away-from-home, you'll be treated to her superb care and coddling. Traveling for pleasure? You get the same Finsilver treatment if you stay in a $495-a-night room. Either way, this courteous and professional concierge is there to guarantee you have everything you need—and she knows every inch of Boston and everyone who makes it run.

TEMP SERVICE

KNF&T Staffing Resources

133 Federal St., Boston; 574-8200; www.knft.com

Your secretary just jumped ship to get hitched to a guy named Rocco in Las Vegas? Your biggest client just saddled you with a project that would take a firm 10 times the size of yours to complete? These are the folks to turn to. The KNF&T staffing gurus keep everyone from one-person start-ups to multinational corporations running smoothly by loaning out top-notch helpers on a temporary, permanent or temp-to-hire basis. With more than 30 years of experience, they routinely exceed clients' expectations by providing the highest-caliber entry-level to executive candidates—which most likely stems from their tremendous referral base and selective screening process.

PET WALKER

Paws

3 Oakdale St., Jamaica Plain; 524-7297; www.bostonpaws.com

Ms. Paws

Brighton; 787-1386; www.mspaws.com

Proving that pets aren't the only territorial creatures, two local pet care companies have staked out their 'hoods in no uncertain terms. Paws serves dogs and their owners in the South End, Back Bay, Fenway, North End, Beacon Hill and Jamaica Plain. Ms. Paws walks canine creatures great and small in Brighton, Brookline, Allston and Jamaica Plain. Paws and Ms. Paws (yes, there was a slight tiff over the similarity in name), fiercely protect their respective grounds when escorting Boston area pooches. But they do have one thing in common: They stand whiskers and tails above the rest when it comes to professional, loving care. Both companies will ensure Fido gets good exercise and "socialization" (to use a term from Paws' hilariously earnest Web site).

CAR DEALERSHIP

Herb Chambers

19 locations around Massachusetts; www.herbchambers.com

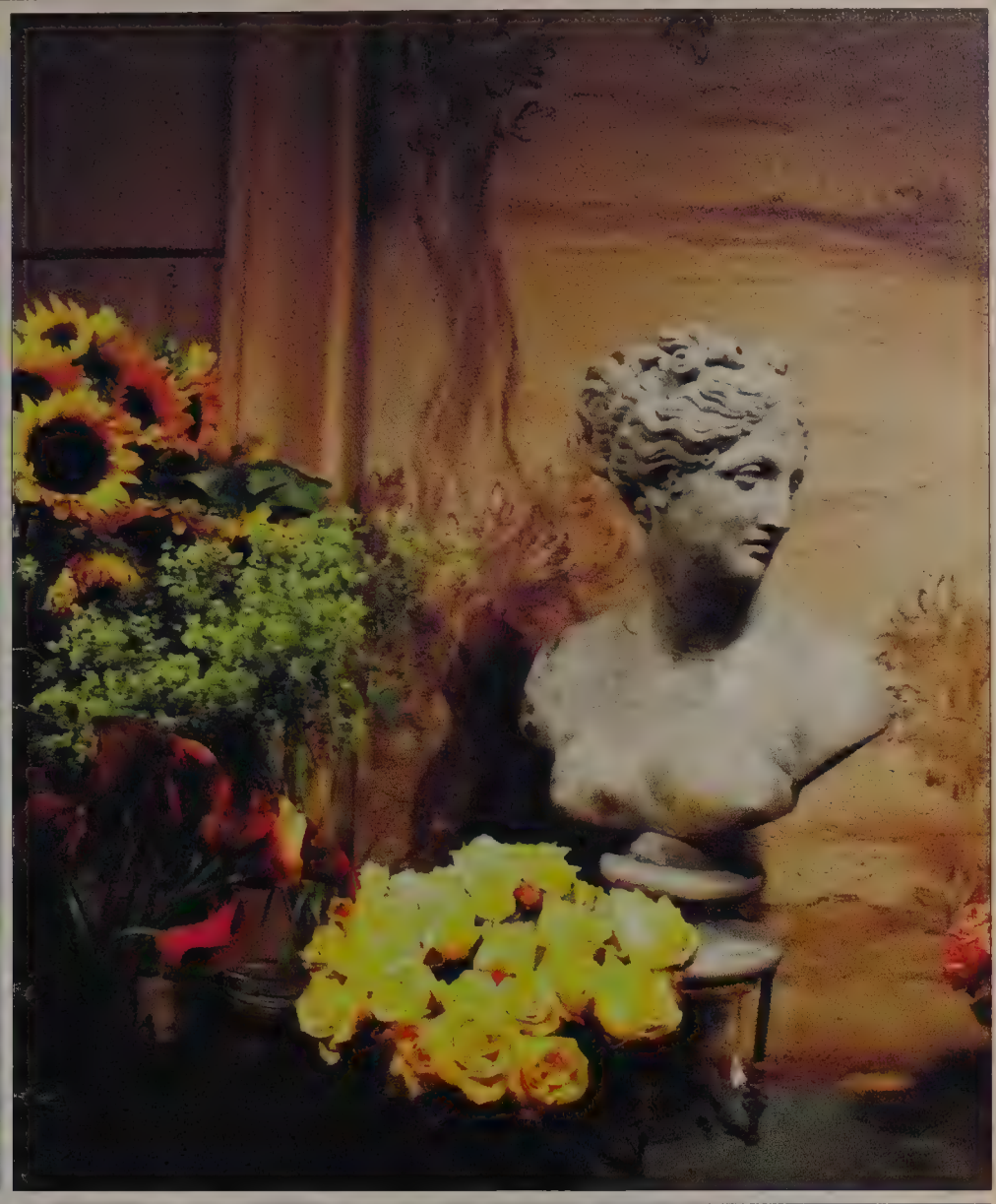
How's this for a guarantee: If you don't like your new used Herb Chambers car for any reason (mauve isn't your color after all, or the bucket seats make you look fat), return it within three days for a no-questions-asked, complete refund. Still not satisfied? If after 30 days, or 1,500 miles, you *still* don't like your used car, trade it in with no depreciation in value. Time and time again, it has been the innovative and fair business practices of the self-made Dorchester native that have turned his dealerships into the giants they are.

FLORIST >>

Winston Flowers

Boston: 131 Newbury St., 141 Congress St., 569 Boylston St.; 541-1100; www.winstonflowers.com

If you're looking for the standard dozen of red roses, head to Kabloom. But if seek the highest quality and artistic panache, walk into Winston Flowers. Winston buyers travel from Vermont to Rhode Island, working with local growers and small farmers who grow products especially for Winston. They've got everything from cottage roses to rare orchids, and their array of lush, exotic foliage puts hackneyed baby's breath to shame. Winston has been around since 1944, and they've been creating beguiling bouquets ever since; there's nothing the unfailingly friendly staff can't create.



Photographs by Katya Apekina

TAILOR

Richard Papazian Bostonian Tailoring, 34 Province St., Boston; 292-7799

Your nephew is about to be nominated the Republican presidential candidate. You need your dress altered and it's got to look fab. Who do you turn to? Papazian, of course. As proprietor of a shop just blocks from the State House, Papazian has sewn for some of the city's most-tailored bureaucrats—one of his most recent clients was the sister of former President Bush. Papazian has spiffed up uniforms for the city's best hotels, as well as nipped and tucked for hotel guests. Perhaps he is such a whiz (and a friendly one at that) because it's in his blood—he hails from a long line of clothiers. His father-in-law, father and three brothers all have experience in the professional tailoring business.

SHOE SERVICE

Rinaldi's Park Square Shoe Service

31 St. James Ave, Boston; 426-6480

Boston weather does a number on shoes. And when your favorite pair needs repairing, you want one thing: a speedy, professional fix-up job. Rinaldi's, with some 50 years of experience, is *the* place to go. Beyond working wonders with worn oxfords and tired mules, this service also spruces up leather goods including handbags, luggage and belts. The high quality of the repairs and the amazingly fast turnaround time (expect two days to get back once-beat-up shoes that you'd now swear were brand-new) will keep you treading back.

HOTEL

Charles Hotel

One Bennett Square, Cambridge; 864-1200; www.charleshotel.com

A luxury hotel with a laid-back attitude is a rare combination anywhere, but in the midst of Harvard Square, it's priceless. Apart from the prime location and friendly, down-to-earth staff, there are stunning touches of originality: a 24-hour, in-room dining service, a 500-volume lending library and an on-site yoga instructor. Of course, there are also more traditional touches of luxury like cozy robes, plush slippers and tempting tonics in the salon de bain. The Charles not only attracts well-heeled travelers, but regularly hosts dignitaries, heads of state and business jet setters as well. For those hungry for comfort *and* a possible celeb encounter, book yourself a room.

MOVING COMPANY

Gentle Giant

29 Harding St., Somerville; 661-3333; www.gentlegiant.com

Since 1980, Gentle Giant has been saving Bostonians heaps of headaches—handling more than 6,000 local relocations annually. Their exceptional care, efficiency and courtesy have made these box busters indispensable when it comes to relocating. Plus, this team of moving moguls offers a complete packing (and unpacking) service, along with an optional 30 days of free storage. And who else offers complimentary packing and preparation seminars for their customers? Gentle Giant makes a typically painful process much less traumatizing.

CATERER

East Meets West

560 Harrison Ave., Boston; 426-3344

For over 10 years, this gourmet catering service has been pushing the limits of creative catering. They can dish up a grilled-lobster quesadilla at the John Hancock Observatory or wild-mushroom dumplings inside FAO Schwarz—wherever the feast, the fare is exquisite. They'll plan a classic or contemporary wedding, a down-home country company outing or a funky charity fundraiser. East Meets West will work to find a locale, plan a menu, set the tables, arrange the flowers and provide the liquor—their waitstaff will dress to match your motif. Now that's service.

MAID SERVICE

MaidPro

180 Canal St., Boston; 742-8080; www.maidpro.com

Usually it's crusading environmentalists that want to clean up America. In this case, it's a bunch of neat freaks. MaidPro's search-and-destroy policy targets 49 areas in your home. If you find even one corner of your sty left unclean, they will come back and sanitize it for no extra charge. They've recently expanded their assault on grime to cover a half-dozen states. Business appears to be booming: a testament to MaidPro's spic-and-span service.

Photograph by Wendy Mimran

Margaritaville...
somewhere between the Port of Indecision and Southwest of Disorder.

N928J

MARGARITAVILLE PREMIUM TEQUILA

NO PASSPORT REQUIRED

QUENCH YOUR SOUL BUT DON'T LOSE YOUR HEAD. AND IF YOU'RE UNDER 21, BE PATIENT.

shopping

Safari vests. DVDs. Zegna suits. Decorative tchotchkes. From Tiffany's to Target, local emporiums have never been so alluring.

STEREO/VIDEO
Tweeter
350 Boylston St., Boston; 262-2299;
and other locations

OK, they've won this award the past couple of years, but deservedly so. Every gadget freak we know swears by this place for the latest in audio and visual gimcrackery. They carry the best brands in every category at competitive prices. And you're in luck if you need to have the latest DVD/HDTV/WHATEVER. Tweeter's strong suit, however, is service. The staff is made up of technophiles who are as excited about showing it to you as you are about getting it home and plugging it in.

WATCHES
Alpha Omega
Harvard Square Galleria
57 JFK St., Cambridge; 864-1227; Prudential Center Mall, 800 Boylston St., Boston; 424-9030

It's such an innocuous question: What time is it? But the style in which you answer says volumes. If you pull up your cuff to reveal a Rolex Oyster watch, it screams, "I'm a high-roller, baby." A Swiss Army watch? You're just killing time before your next assault on Anapurna. An Omega? Time is so precious to me, I need the same watch that helped the Apollo-13 crew make it back to Earth in one piece. No matter what your style is—flashy or understated, high-tech or high-style—they have a mind-boggling array of timepieces to suit every budget and taste. Bonus points for sporting one of our favorites at their Cambridge location: The Swatch Museum, which boasts the largest collection of those plastic Swiss favorites in America.

BOOK STORE
Borders Downtown
10-24 School St., Boston; 557-7188

Boo-hoo all you want about the demise of small independent booksellers and the rise of monolithic megastores and impersonal online retailers. While it is part of a large chain, this pleasant, well-organized and well-stocked bookstore is actually a throwback to when people spent hours browsing through shelves, which explains the accompanying café. Sit and enjoy a cafe au lait while you decide which cheesy detective novels to take on vacation. Plop your little one in the child-friendly kids' section while you retrieve the latest *Harry Potter*. Peruse the magazine racks. Pick up a *New York Times* bestseller or an obscure volume of poetry. It's a bookworm's paradise, and an ideal place to pass a rainy afternoon.

NICHE FURNITURE STORE
Mohr & McPherson
81 Arlington St., Boston; 338-1288;
290 Concord Ave., Cambridge; 354-6662

If Lawrence of Arabia and Marco Polo teamed as decorators, this is where they would shop. Specializing in the exotic, unusual and romantic, this store sells Indian bell jars, Buddha heads, hand-forged French chandeliers, antique Chinese opium beds, painted Moroccan furniture and the like, all culled on the owners' buying sprees in unpronounceable lands. Their prices aren't cheap, and don't expect them to haggle like a Bedouin over the cost of a rug. But the merchandise is worth it, and for the financially challenged, there's an annex in Cambridge, where everything is 20-50 percent off. So go ahead and turn your living room into something from *1001 Arabian Nights*. You only live once, and you might as well live someplace interesting.

PLACE TO PROVE THAT MONEY BUYS LOVE
Tiffany's
100 Huntington Ave., Copley Place Mall, Boston; 353-0222

Holly Golightly had it right—there's no better place to deny the ugliness of life than at the granddaddy of diamond stores. Whether you want to mollify your mistress with an 18-carat square-cut emerald or make your boss think you regard him more than you really do, this is the place to go. They have gifts ranging from the wildly extravagant and absurdly expensive—ropes of diamonds or platinum cufflinks—to the tastefully restrained and reasonably priced—crystal candlesticks, playing cards and stationery. Best of all, everything comes in their trademark packaging. As we've always maintained, you could send somebody a dog turd in one of those little blue boxes, and you'd still get a thank-you note.

MODERN FURNITURE
Machine Age
354 Congress St., Boston; 482-0048

If the high-end ethnic look isn't quite your style and you prefer a sleek, contemporary feel, check out Machine Age. They offer a vast assortment of contemporary designs, including both *trés cher* custom furniture and affordable mass-produced stuff by respected makers like Knoll. Especially strong in the art deco and Scandinavian (Saarinen, Eames, etc.) categories, you'll find some actual bargains lurking in the corners and downstairs. They can also be found online at *www.machineage.com*.

COMPUTER STORE
CompUSA
205 Market St., Brighton; 783-1900;
350 Mass. Ave., Cambridge; 225-0221

We're guessing that shopping for a computer these days is like shopping for a car in 1910. The technology is scary, and you don't want to pay for a lot of extra crap you don't need. Well, here's the place for you—with pretty much everything in the way of PC wizardry, at competitive prices, and salespeople who know their stuff but don't pressure you into spending more than you should. Whether you need to outfit an entire office or just pick up a box of diskettes, they've got what you need without all the extraneous B.S.

ALL-PURPOSE HOME STORE
Pottery Barn
122 Newbury St., Boston; 266-6553;
300 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill; 964-4001;
250 Granite St., Braintree; 849-8510

This chain carries every necessary accessory for the home, and in every price range imaginable. In addition to tables, they sell tabletop merchandise, from flatware and crockery to linens and napkin rings. They also sell stylish barware, from martini sets to wine coolers and racks. As for furniture and decor, they've got draperies, lamps, sofas, chairs and ottomans, as well as a fine variety of rugs. A great place to find reasonably priced yet elegant wedding or housewarming gifts, Pottery Barn is the place to fill in those quotidian blanks in your domestic decor without breaking the bank.

LUGGAGE/TRAVEL STORE
Willowbee & Kent
519 Boylston St., Boston; 437-6700

If Livingston and Stanley were setting out today, they might outfit their African expedition with luggage and travel gear from here. Then again, with this store's travel agency and selection of travel books, the duo would have no trouble finding the source of the Nile. In any case, this is the place where globetrotters find all those nifty little accessories—safari vests, passport holders, electronic translators—that take the sting out of traveling. Whether you're doing the London social scene and need a steamer trunk for all your gowns or you're searching for rare orchids in Borneo and need a hat that'll withstand the humidity, they've got what you need. It's one-stop shopping for jet setters.

HIGH-STYLE FURNITURE STORE
Repertoire
114 Boylston St., Boston; 426-0060
560 Harrison Ave., Boston; 426-3865

The anti-Barry and Elliot, it's an interior designer's dream. This high-style, high-concept showroom specializes in unique and unusual contemporary European furniture. You won't find rumpus room sectionals and pleather recliners. What you will find are the most cutting-edge, one-of-a-kind works of art that are made for sitting on, sleeping in, etc. Owner Rick Garofalo and partner Celeste Cooper are responsible for the breathtaking interiors at Mistral and XV Beacon Street, and while the prices might be nosebleed high, you're getting the finest quality. Better yet, none of your friends are likely to own anything remotely like it. No wonder decorators come from all over the world to shop here. There's nothing else like it, anywhere.

MOST-WELCOME ADDITION
Target
240 Independence Way, Danvers; 978-762-4439

Proof that inexpensive doesn't necessarily mean cheap, this is perhaps the greatest place to bargain shop since Filene's Basement opened its doors. Too bad there isn't a Target closer to

WOMEN'S MODERATELY PRICED CLOTHING
Jasmine
37A Brattle St., Cambridge; 354-6063; 333 Newbury St., Boston; 450-9484

Venture into Jasmine with caution; it can be a dangerous place. From a trendy pair of capris to a gorgeous, glittering evening dress, this boutique carries some of the city's finest threads. You will want to buy *everything*. And chances are, whatever you buy, you'll wear again and again because Jasmine's clothes are stylish and never overly trendy. You'll find snug tees emblazoned with Asian characters as well as sleek, well-tailored suits appropriate for the most upscale business lunches. The original handbags and accessories are all stunning and the jewelry, displayed in glass cases throughout the store, will have you weak at the knees. In addition to the store's flagship location in Harvard Square, there's also a Jasmine on Newbury Street. Might a third be in the offering? We hope so.

Photograph by Steven Billups

MEN'S MODERATELY PRICED CLOTHING

Sola

37A Brattle St., Cambridge; 354-6063; 333 Newbury St., Boston; 450-9484

It all started in Cambridge, where this purveyor of super-cool threads has been outfitting fashion-savvy men since Hector was a pup (or at least an undergrad at Harvard). What we like best about Sola is it carries well-made, fashion-forward menswear by the hipper designers—Wilke-Rodriguez, BCBG, Calvin Klein—but at prices that won't make you feel foolish for buying something that may soon fall out of style. They also walk that fine line between *au courant* and tragically trendy, never giving in to the outrageously idiotic dictates of the rag trade. If you or the guy in your life needs a fashion makeover, Sola has everything you need at prices you can afford.

the city, but it's well worth the trek to Danvers. Home goods, clothing and all the little incidentals of life, at amazing prices with high style and surprisingly good quality. How do they do it? They contract with taste innovators like Michael Graves (who designed their space age line of tea kettles and picture frames), manufacture it in bulk, and then sell it at prices even a college student could afford. Bonus points for developing one of the most eye-catching print advertising campaigns in recent memory. Aptly named, it's a bargain-hunting bull's-eye.

TRADITIONAL JEWELRY STORE

Dorfman

24 Newbury St., Boston; 536-2022

The place in Boston you're most likely to find a flawless engagement ring. This bauble boutique traffics diamonds as big as the Ritz and sapphires you might mistake for a skating rink. As owners Sumner and Barbara Dorfman are fond of pointing out, diamonds shrink; at first they look gigantic, and then seem smaller and smaller. Well, they've dispensed that worry by carrying a blinding assortment of high-quality, high-carat sparklers in settings to make Liz Taylor drool. Of course, they also carry more modest pieces, as well as a vast selection of the world's finest watches, and everything is exquisitely tasteful. Must be seen to be believed.

UNTRADITIONAL JEWELRY

Kosmima Fine Jewelry

1160 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill; 739-8584

A well-kept secret among the monied set, this little hole-in-the-wall near Longwood Cricket Club is the birthplace of visually breathtaking and expertly crafted jewelry. Either on his own or with input from clients, owner Panos Fytopoulos creates imaginative, one-of-a-kind baubles that are both contemporary and classic, using only the finest gems and most precious metals. Needless to say, his workmanship is superb. If you're looking for cookie-cutter, country club jewelry, go someplace else. If you want something no one else is wearing, come here.

INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORE

Harvard Bookstore

1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge; 661-1515

The book-lover's bookshop, it's always crowded, and they routinely have to throw people out at midnight on weekends. Specializing in used books and remainders, Harvard Bookstore is especially strong in the esoteric and academic areas you won't find covered by mainstream chains. Its philosophy section is one of finest in the country, and the art history section is renowned. Recondite or hard-to-find titles are no problem, and the place is staffed by highly knowledgeable bookworms who know their way around the densely packed shelves and those annoying publishers' catalogs. They can order any in-print book you want. So what if they don't serve cappuccino and have leather armchairs? When you're engrossed in the search for a really good book, you don't notice.

ADULT STORE

Grand Opening

318 Harvard St., Arcade Building, Suite 32, Brookline; 731-2626

Where do you go when you need a glass dildo or you want to attend a seminar called "Secrets of Exhibitionism for the Shy"? A world away from the furtive, sleazy sex shops of the Combat Zone, this upscale erotica boutique earns bonus points for being geared toward women, although men are certainly welcome. With more than 15,000 book titles, 500 adult films and every sex toy in the Kama Sutra, there's something here to get anybody's juices flowing. The frank and friendly staff will find what you want and show you how to use it without making you blush. Perhaps the only porn shop in the western hemisphere that won't leave you feeling like a perv.

BIKE STORE

Broadway Bicycle School Ltd.

351 Broadway, Cambridge; 868-3392

There may be glitzier stores in town, but Broadway Bicycle School Ltd.—with its wide range of mountain and touring bikes (new and used), bike clothing and accouterments—offers enough bike know-how to outdo any flash. Selling new Peugeot hybrids, mountain and touring bicycles, they also have a wide assortment of used bicycles for sale, especially urban commuter models. Plus they do expert repairs from flats and adjustments to overhauls, all for a reasonable price. The staff, a knowledgeable and friendly pack of gearheads, is also eager to impart wisdom in the school's numerous bike-repair classes. These folks aren't only informed, they're passionate. Check 'em out at *www.broadwaybicycleschool.com*.

ANTIQUES

East West Antiques

1076 Cambridge St., Cambridge; 234-0001

Roughly 100 dealers converge on one 12,000-foot floor at East West, so save plenty of time for this antiquing jaunt. You'll find Limoge bowls, art deco bookends, a sake set from the '50s—it's a lot like a small, slightly dishevelled museum, but you can actually buy up all the loot. Items range from furniture and statues to nightstands and jewelry, and range from $20 to several thousand dollars. If smaller collectibles are your specialty, the "case room" offers 52 displays of glassed-in delights. The turnover of antiques is tremendous; stay away for two weeks and the displays look completely different from your last visit. You'll find yourself rubbing shoulders with dealers at East West, so be prepared to act like you know what you're doing.

ART GALLERY

Barbara Krakow

10 Newbury St., Boston; 262-4490

The closest thing to a MoMA in this artistically backward town of ours. This is where the art world's heavy-hitters—Jenny Holzer, Agnes Martin, Sol LeWitt and Sean Scully, to name a few—show their work in Boston. The gallery specializes in post-1950 American art and puts together provocative shows that juxtapose up-and-comers alongside established masters. With austere white walls and complete lack of clutter, the space possesses a hallowed, almost religious ambiance. It draws the most devout art worshippers to its fifth-floor location—whether serious collectors with fat wallets or penniless MassArt students. A gallery where even a jaded, smug New York collector would feel at home.

MEN'S SHOES

Saks Fifth Avenue

Prudential Plaza, Boston; 262-8500

Where the well-shod man goes for shoes, Saks carries everything from B-spoke wingtips to those clunky styles that hipsters are sporting these days—but nothing over-the-top trendy. Saks offers the top of the line in quality and style, and by far the best selection of brands in town, including Ferragamo, Prada, Gucci, Bruno Magli and J.P. Todd. The prices are up there too, but keep in mind you get what you pay for. Shoes are an investment, so invest wisely, and your tootsies will thank you for it.

CONVENIENCE STORE

City Convenience

23 Beacon St., Boston; 227-7989

86 Mass. Ave., Boston; 450-9880

You'll find a lot more than Spaghetti-Os and Ho-Hos at this pitt stop. City Convenience, a nine-store chain that got its start as Campus Convenience at B.U., takes pride in offering a range of food and and drinks—from sushi and beer to cappuccino. The store is clean, well-organized and run by friendly, helpful people. And whereas many convenience store clerks will all but ignore your request for assistance, these guys will guide you to whatever you seek—even the store's gourmet cheese and wines.

MUSIC STORE

Tower Records

320 Newbury St., Boston; 247-5900

It's the music Mecca, plain and simple. While other record stores acquire stock based on what headquarters dictates, Tower lets its managers of each musical genre select its new merchandise. So even though Tower is a chain, each store offers an indie feel. But you'll also find the tremendous selection that only a chain can provide—from Pachelbel to Pavement, Miles Davis to Dr. Dre. Beyond CDs, you'll find magazines, videotapes, DVDs, cassettes, 12-inch vinyls and tons of miscellaneous stuff from T-shirts to posters. And if you tastes are truly esoteric, they'll special order whatever your little ears fancy.

SPORTS STORE

City Sports

In Boston: 168 Mass. Ave., 236-2222; 480 Boylston, 267-3900; 11 Bromfield, 423-2015; in Cambridge: 16 Dunster St., 868-9232; in Brighton: 1035 Commonwealth Ave., 782-5022

In the mid-1980s, two thirtysomething guys were trying to buy a basketball in downtown Boston one day. Try as they might, they just couldn't find one. The frustrating experience prompted the two men, Eric Martin and Mike Kennedy, to open City Sports. Today the store's many locations offer a great selection of gear for the serious athletes and amateur. Staff members are thoroughly trained at sports clinics so they can find the best match between equipment and customer. They ask many questions ("Do you have high arches? Wide feet? Do you run on concrete or on the sidewalk?") and take time to explain the features of today's high-tech athletic equipment. Although most sports enthusiasts come to City Sports for running gear, the store has a wide range of other equipment for baseball, softball, biking, golf, tennis, in-line skating, lacrosse and swimming, and more than 500 pairs of shoes and sneakers. And yes, they carry basketballs.

WOMEN'S SHOES

Saks Fifth Avenue

Prudential Plaza, Boston; 262-8500

If you've got a shoe fetish, avoid the Saks women's shoe department at all costs. From strappy, high-heeled sandals to chunky leather boots, this is where you'll find the most delicious array of designer shoes, including Gucci, Prada, Ferragamo, Calvin Klein and Kate Spade. The department reflects the very best in style, artistic flair and craftsmanship, and the sales staff is helpful without being pushy. The average pair sells for about $150-$500, but if you manage to hit a seasonal clearance sale, you might be lucky enough to have a few bucks left over for lunch.

CLOTHING STORE

Louis

234 Berkeley St., Boston; 262-6100

It's only fitting that one of Boston's most elegant buildings houses four floors of the city's most elegant clothing. So elegant and stylish are their sartorial wares, Louis is widely regarded as the standard bearer in fashion retail, nationally *and* internationally. This veritable Boston institution offers impeccable quality, styles ranging from hip to conservative, and attentive, astute clothiers (a far cry from your typical Gap lackey). Men will find names like Helmet Lang, Ralph Lauren and Brioni; women will find names like Jil Sander and Betty's Room. And both genders are bound to find edibles as delicious as the clothing in the store's superb cafe.

MEN'S CLOTHING/HIGH END

Ermenegildo Zegna

39 Newbury St., Boston; 424-9300

Be forewarned: The "g" in "Zegna" is soft and we suggest you bypass the Ermenegildo altogether. Once you've mastered your Italian phonetics, saunter into this elegant Newbury Street boutique and feast on all things *bella*—whether a cashmere blazer, a silk tie or a T-shirt. Of course, you'll pay for such sumptuous fabrics and glorious cuts: Prices range from $100 (and that's for the T-shirt) to $5,000. But it's well worth it. Beyond Continental style, you'll get service from a posh and professional (but never haughty) staff that is schooled in the latest styles. Don a Zegna suit and experience *la dolce vita*.

WOMEN'S CLOTHING/HIGH END

Neiman Marcus

100 Huntington Ave., Boston; 536-3660

At Neiman you could easily shell out $300 for a gray felt jersey, the perfect number to throw over a sleeveless T-shirt. But savvy fashionistas know that when buying even the most casual coordinates, quality matters. Scrutinize Neiman's selection of garments—whether Chanel, Akirs, Chloe or Gaultier—and you will find fine, imported materials, carefully hand-sewn seams and delightful, eye-catching flourishes. Whether you're

STEVEN BILLUPS

looking to make a statement or blend in with the fashion flock, Neiman offers a selection to please almost every taste and age group. If you're looking for a bargain, however, better head out to Target.

WOMEN'S SHOES/NICHE
Arche
314 Boylston St., Boston; 422-0727
For nearly 30 years, women have relied on Arche for soft, comfortable and stylish shoes. Although a pair can cost a few hundred dollars here, Arche's 100 percent latex soles offer uncompromising support and shock resistance, making the investment well worth it. Many 9-5ers quickly become addicted to the brand. And pregnant women swear by them. Does fashion have to be painful? Not at Arche.

MEN'S SUITS
Zareh's
1 Liberty Square, Boston; 350-6070
Lead by those by buttoned-down dot-com whippersnappers, today's professionals continue to push the dress code further and further, toward polo shirts, jeans and sneakers. There is, however, a small, but tenacious population of stalwart businessmen—bankers, lawyers and the like—who shudder at the thought of going tieless to the office. The clothier of choice for this classic, albeit anachronistic lot is Zareh's, where you'll find conservative, exquisitely tailored American-made suits in a limited range of navys and grays. The price range at this Financial District store is lofty, but faithful patrons hardly flinch when paying up to $4,000 for a suit. After all, you can hardly put a price tag on class.

COOKING SUPPLIES
Williams-Sonoma
100 Huntington Ave., Boston; 262-5892
Williams-Sonoma is perfect for cooks, newlyweds and those just starting to sow their oats in the kitchen. Whether seeking a hard-to-find gizmo or a heavy-duty appliance, W-S offers a fantastic spread of sleekly designed culinary items: coffeemakers, ice-cream makers, toasters, bakeware, knives, pastry equipment, dinnerware and special-order ovens and grills. Even those without the skills to whip up a prize-winning souffle can still peruse their many varieties of prepared mustards, pasta sauces, waffle mixes, jams, jellies, oils and vinegars.

OFFBEAT GIFTS
Abodeon
1731 Mass. Ave., Cambridge; 497-0137
This store is so full of nutty merchandise—fondue sets from the '70s, a 1938 waffle iron, a wooden women's bicycle from the 1890s—that numerous customers have suggested they charge admission, like a museum. One thing the merchandise has in common is that at one time or another, it was considered cutting edge. Dale, the owner, describes it as a store specializing in modern design. However, that description doesn't do justice to the odd assortment of stuff, ranging from Scandinavian glassware to decorative tchotchkes to a vinyl room boasting several thousand LPs. The quirky merchandise reflects the owners' interesting taste, as well as the amount of time they spend scouring flea markets and estate sales. Like a yard sale with all the prosaic crap cleared out, it's an ideal place to spend a rainy afternoon. Don't forget to pet Zoe, the store's Chihuahua.

Photograph by Wendy Mimran

people places

Leary lends a hand. Gehry lets his imagination soar. And Zakim leaves us far too soon.

GOOD CAUSE

Leary Firefighters Foundation

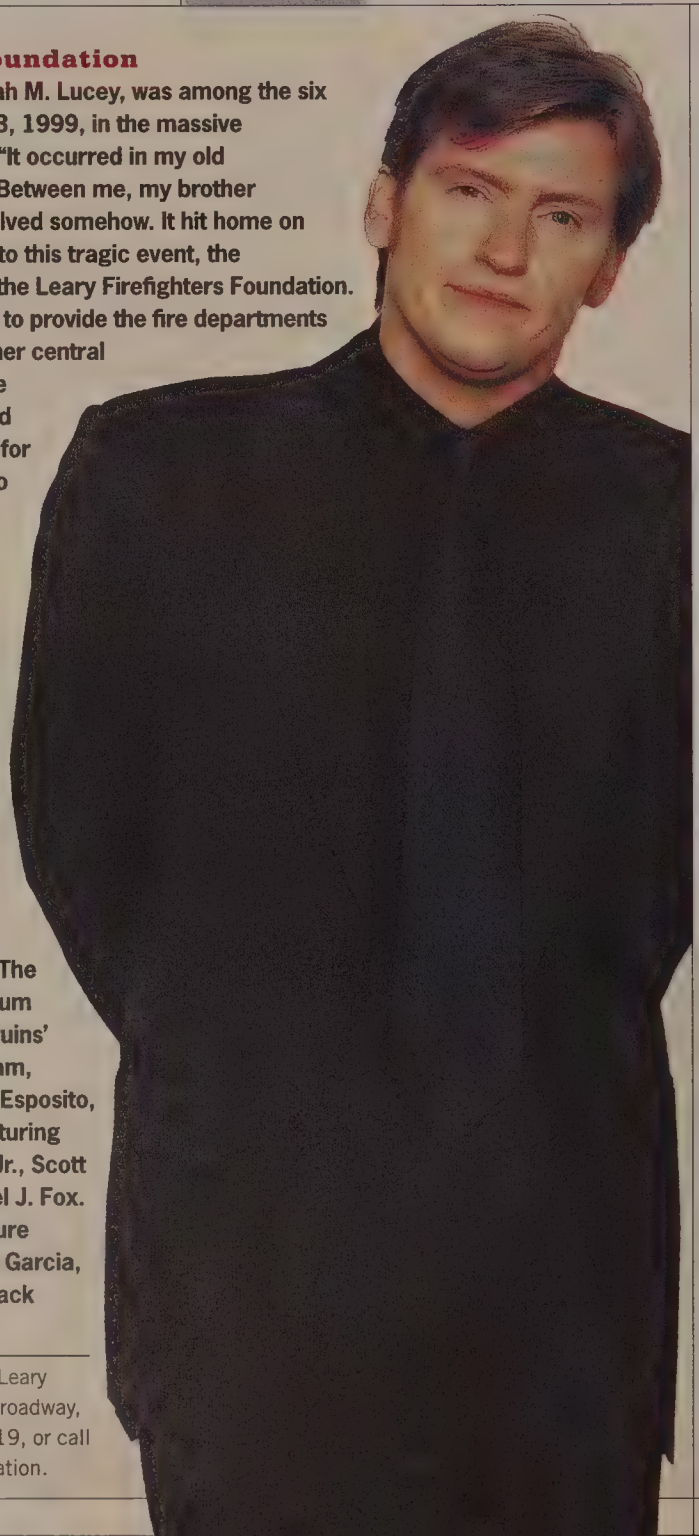
Denis Leary's cousin, Jeremiah M. Lucey, was among the six firefighters killed December 3, 1999, in the massive warehouse fire in Worcester. "It occurred in my old neighborhood," says Leary. "Between me, my brother and sister, everyone was involved somehow. It hit home on so many levels." In response to this tragic event, the actor/comedian has started the Leary Firefighters Foundation.

The foundation's mission is to provide the fire departments of Worcester, and those of other central Massachusetts towns, with the highest level of equipment and training, as well as resources for the families of firefighters who have been injured or have perished in a fire.

"Those guys never had enough money, the right equipment," says Leary of the Worcester department. "Two of the firefighters who died in the fire didn't even have walkie-talkies when they went into the building."

The foundation launches in Worcester on Oct. 1-2 with Celebrity Hat Trick, a star-studded hockey game, golf tournament and gala dinner. The battle of the Worcester Centrum ice will pit members of the Bruins' 1969-70 Stanley Cup title team, including Bobby Orr and Phil Esposito, against a celebrity squad featuring Tim Robbins, Cuba Gooding Jr., Scott Wolf, Mike Myers and Michael J. Fox. The golf tournament will feature Hollywood hotshots like Andy Garcia, Joe Pesci, Cindy Crawford, Jack Lemmon and Joe Mantegna.

To send a donation, write to the Leary Firefighters Foundation, 1697 Broadway, Suite 906, New York, N.Y., 10019, or call 212-541-3423 for more information.



FAVORITE SON

David E. Kelley

The creator of such highly rated prime-time snack fare as *Ally McBeal* and *The Practice*, this TV and film producer has created some of the most memorable television characters and then let them live in Boston. Kelley, who practiced law for many years, is a Beantown native. His unique blend of heart-wrenching and hilarious writing has made him a multiple Emmy and Golden Globe winner. He may have gone Hollywood (he's married to actress Michelle Pfeiffer), but this fall Kelley will premiere yet another show with a Boston backdrop: *Boston Public* will follow the fictional lives of city high school teachers. In the process of furthering his already flourishing career, this tireless TV guru has given the hub heaps of free publicity—making our city look smart and urbane at every turn of the lens. We're pretty darn appreciative and awfully proud.

RENOVATION

Aalto's Baker House

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

People careen along Memorial Drive so fast that they often miss one of this town's architectural gems: M.I.T.'s Baker House dormitory, a moderinst icon designed by world-renowned Finnish architect Alvar Aalto. Next time you're on this stretch of Mem Drive, slow down and look for the facade that undulates like a serpent. This innovative landmark, completed in 1949, was recently renovated with exceptional sensitivity by Boston-based Perry Dean Rogers & Partners, right down to the dorm-room furniture designed by Aalto and his wife, Aino. The spiffing-up cost $24 million—hopefully those Baker House students appreciate their swanky digs.

BEST REASON TO GET OUT OF TOWN

High Rents

At first, it was funny. The neighborhoods that we wanted to escape from—the ones where our parents and grandparents owned triple-deckers—were being vigorously revitalized. Then, it was sad. A two-bedroom in Somerville, priced at $1,200 per month, had become a steal. Now it's enough to force you to consider moving far away from high-priced neighborhoods such as the South End, North End, Jamaica Plain, Charlestown (just about anywhere in the city, or close by) and reconsidering the appeal of places like...Springfield. Seriously, you have to travel so far to get away from $1 million-dollar condominums (ideal for a couple with few belongings), that you might want to leave this city for good—or find some great roommates (often an oxymoron, we know).

REASON NOT TO LEAVE TOWN

Institute of Contemporary Art Coup

Back in November of last year, the ICA snagged a coveted contract to build on the Pritzker family property, alongside the Federal Courthouse. The question of which architect will get dibs on this highly sought-after

CINDERELLA STORY >>

Gwen Butler

The 29-year-old bartender with the megawatt smile and the curly red locks was not banned from any ballroom galas, or made to stay home and mop floors—but she did meet one wealthy prince who is helping make her dreams come true. Okay, so Swiss financier Erich Sager is happily married with children. But there's still a happy ending. Sager met Butler while she was tending bar at The Federalist. He was a customer looking for lunch and a very good Bordeaux. Sager was so impressed with Butler's dazzling personality and professionalism that he told her she should open her own place. That takes money, Butler said. So Sager gave her some—$50,000 directly into her bank account days after she met him and then more than $2 million to launch the business. (Butler will have a 25 percent ownership share.) The new restaurant will be called Zita, after the patron saint of all waiters and waitresses.

PORTRAIT BY BRITT CARPENTER

HAIR/MAKEUP: PAULA DION; STYLING: RITA GREELEY; SHOES BY STUART WEITZMAN $190, COPLEY PLACE; TOP BY KATHLIN ARGIRO ATELIER $165

ARCHITECTURAL PROJECT

Strata Center

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Architect Frank Gehry is everywhere these days. People are still gushing over his Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain. There's also the Experience Music Project (a rock 'n' roll museum) in Seattle and the talk of another Guggenheim satellite musuem in lower Manhattan. And now Gehry has landed in Boston to design M.I.T.'s Strata Center. Construction is just getting under way, and the center, which will house M.I.T.'s computer, information and intelligence sciences, should be completed by 2003. The architectural model looks like something you'd see on a science-fiction movie set, an almost comical conglomeration of dissimilar forms—some angular and symmetrical, some curvaceous and askew. Orange-hued brick will be the primary building material, with stainless-steel and aluminum accents. It promises to be wacky and wonderful. We can't wait.

commision is now the topic of heated debate (Richard Meier of L.A.'s Getty Museum fame sent in his portfolio for consideration within days after the announcement). The potential here is huge: An innovative building on the waterfront and an opportunity for the ICA to actually to make a name for itself in this artistically sleepy town of ours (the institute plans for a multidiscipline space with a theater, a shop and many galleries, including a rooftop sculpture garden). Just think how architect Frank Gehry's crazy, brilliant Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain, put a quiet industrial town in the international spotlight. Our fingers are crossed.

BOSTONIAN YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW BETTER

Jeet Singh

CEO, Art Technnology Group

He is not a Boston native, but he's ours now. After graduating from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Singh, along with his college fraternity brother, Joseph Chung, decided to set up shop. This not-so-little "shop" of theirs is the Art Technology Group, a company that sells software specifically for e-based commerce. The business is booming. These days the 37-year-old's estimated worth, depending on the day, varies between $1 billion and $1.5 billion. But Singh is not intriguing solely because he has money to burn. He is partly Indonesian and was born in Sweden, the son of a foreign diplomat. His manners were cultivated in a missionary boarding school in the Himalayas. And get this, he studied political science at MIT, so he's not a one-track-minded techie. But most importantly, Singh is one of those CEOs who doesn't need a public relations firm; he impresses people by by being himself (which he often does while hanging out with fellow locals at the Franklin Cafe). There are plenty of questions curious observers want to ask Singh—and how to become a billionaire is only one of them.

HERO

Tim Berners-Lee

World Wide Web Consortium

Berners-Lee made the Web as we know it possible by developing the first server and the first hypertext-based browser. If that weren't enough, Berners-Lee chose not to manipulate his development to control the Web; instead, he made it accessible to everyone. As director of the MIT-based World Wide Web Consortium (W3), Berners-Lee has overseen the consortium's efforts to standardize the architecture of the Web, ensuring compatibility between different computers. Some of the current goals of W3 are to bring Web access to hand-held devices and to improve personal privacy on the Internet. But perhaps the most fascinating aspect of this Web wizard is that he has not profited financially from his invention. When you consider the number of people making their millions (and in some cases, billions) by means of the Internet, it is refreshing to think that the one man who invented cyberspace as we know it today has larger things at heart: to unite the people of the world through technology.

MUSEUM ACQUISTION

The Busch-Reisinger Museum

32 Quincy St., Cambridge; 495-9400

When a museum lands a painting by Piet Mondrian, the monolithic modern Dutch master, curators tend to get a little giddy. That was the case when Haravard's Busch-Reisinger Museum acquired Mondrian's *Composition in Blue, Black, Yellow and Red* at the start of this year. It's the first Mondrian painting to enter the Harvard's collections. An early example of the artist's geometric, abstract style and trademark color scheme, the 1922 work was donated by the family of the original owner and is reportedly in superb condition. We're guessing the MFA—which owns two Mondrian drawings, but no paintings—is more than a trifle envious of its kin across the river.

ARCHITECTS

Office dA

57 East Concord St., Suite 6, South End

267-7369

If you haven't already heard of Office dA, expect to see its imprint on Boston's architectural landscape soon. This small but rapidly growing team of architects, lead by Harvard GSD grads and lecturers Mónica Ponce de Léon and Nader Tehrani, is currently working on many local projects including a new restaurant to open on the Common called Mantra. National projects include an apartment building in Miami and an arts center in Green Bay, Wisconsin. The architects have won a whopping five Progressive Architecture awards, and their furniture prototypes—stunning, wildly original designs—are featured in the current issue of *I.D. Magazine*. Oh, and their moniker comes from the Dada art movement (no, not Trio's silly "Da Da Da" ditty used in those Volkswagen commercials).

NEIGHBORHOOD WITH BUZZ

Porter Square

Porter Square is no longer the down-at-heels ugly duckling swimming in the shadow of swanlike Harvard Square. In case you haven't been there in a while, this area has come a long way. It retains the multi-culti diversity for which Cambridge is famed, but there are actually places to eat, drink and shop, such as Toad, the Temple Bar and a new City Sports. Just as significant, rents and real estate prices, although still ridiculous, are within the doable range, making this the hot, new neighborhood among young dot-com-ocrats and other beneficiaries of the new economy.

UP-AND-COMING REAL ESTATE

Fort Hill, Roxbury

Lately it seems that every niche in the city is *the* place to purchase a home. High market prices everywhere have made potential buyers expand their searches. This year's "hot spot" is Roxbury's Fort Hill. A growing number of homebuyers are discovering its stately Greek Revival and Queen Anne-style homes and great views of the Boston skyline. Families who discovered it long ago may not want to sell out—another story of gentrification. But realtors and developers say it's the next place to get hot—like it or not.

OLYMPIC PERFORMANCE LONG AFTER THE FACT

Bill Cleary

Harvard University Athletic Director

A few years ago, hockey gold medalist Bill Cleary returned to Harvard University, this time as athletic director. He's a hero on campus for taking Title IX seriously. Forty years after he took home a gold, he's still winning. (Trivia: He's the bald Harvard hockey coach who donned a blond wig and skated Ryan O'Neal's action scenes during the filming of *Love Story* in 1969.)

MOST SORELY MISSED

Lenny Zakim

When Zakim passed away after a prolonged battle with cancer on Dec. 2 of last year, it left a gigantic tear in the local social fabric and a city with a broken heart. As head of the Anti-Defamation League, he built bridges between the Jewish, African-American and Catholic communities, and he was the driving force behind numerous charitable and social initiatives. Fittingly, Governor Cellucci has proposed naming the new cable-stayed bridge across the Charles River after him. Goodbye, Lenny. We already miss you.

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entertainment

Steve Sweeney cracks us up, Scissorfight scares us silly, and Sophia's sets us swinging. Here's to the amusers, the players and merriment makers.

POP BAND

The Sheila Divine

This trio's brand of fiercely emotive power-pop has won them legions of devoted fans and the admiration of critics and musical peers. Despite the long-distance relationship with singer-guitarist Aaron Perrino (he moved to Providence earlier this year), the band still packs shows and tours feverishly, a year after winning the WBCN Rock 'n' Roll Rumble. And, incidentally, they're big in Belgium, where two of their three singles have gone to No. 1. TSD recently played a couple of Belgian dates, sharing the stage with '80s indie gods, the Violent Femmes, and '90s indie goddesses, Sleater-Kinney. And much closer to home, they shared the Hatch Shell stage a few weeks back with the British band Catherine Wheel; it was a vision of bespectacled power pop splendor.

PLACE TO SALSA

Sophia's

1270 Boylston St., Boston; 351-7001

If Chita Rivera could dream up a nightclub, this would be it. This sizzling hotspot caters to a gorgeously dressed, international crowd, who come to eat (the food is excellent), drink (the cocktails are excellent) and dance (the dancing is beyond excellent). Exposed brick walls and subdued lighting provide a romantic atmosphere, while the rooftop terrace offers a place to catch your breath after working up a good lather on the dance floor. Whether it's a sizzling live band or recorded music, the beat is always irresistible, and best of all, those hordes of sullen fashion victims who monopolize other nightclubs never seem to think of coming here.

CLUB PROMOTER

Steven Adelman of Avalon

Like a Phoenix rising from the ashes, Adelman took what was an almost-played disco inferno at Avalon and poured gasoline on the smoldering embers. This nightlife impresario cut his teeth locally, at venues like the long-departed Hub Club, and then took his act to Manhattan, where he honed his skills at mixing club kids, drag queens, freaks, celebrities and those who have been anatomically blessed. Since bringing his act back to Beantown, he's injected a sorely needed dose of funky edginess to the club scene, and if he stays on, the gray lady of Boston nightspots is sure to stay forever young.

WILD NIGHT OUTSIDE THE CITY

The Mirage

220 Lynnway, Revere; 781-286-3310

We know what you're thinking: Revere—the land of high-haired Debbies and steroidal Neanderthals living life to a Top-40 beat? Well, think again. While all the Boston clubs are packed to the rafters with anorexic wannabe models squeezed into hideous Prada outfits and oozing attitude, this place sizzles with something you don't see that often: people actually having a really good time. A favorite among the international college cognoscenti, it's a different sort of ethnic scene, mostly Russian with Italian and American overtones. Live entertainment, Russian music, huge quantities of Russian food and a steady supply of vodka keep the place buzzing. If you want to make someone think you're really plugged in to what goes on in Hub outside Lansdowne Street and the Theater District, this is the place to go. Also a great excuse to tease your hair to extreme heights.

LOCAL COMEDIAN

Steve Sweeney

No one seems to sum up all the idiosyncrasies of Boston better than this Charlestown native. A comedian who gets belly-laughs for his pronunciation of "re-tahhhhhded," he also teaches serious drama at local colleges. Whether acting in movies like *There's Something about Mary* or promoting HoneyDew Donuts, he never loses his regular-guy appeal and always keeps his stand-up act razor sharp with appearances at local comedy clubs. Funnier than a fourth-grade fart joke. Able to skewer absurdity with a one-liner. Flip him the bird. He's the man.

COMEDY CLUB

Comedy Connection

245 Quincy Marketplace, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston; 248-9700

This Boston institution is the place to catch headlining acts trying out new material and locals just starting out on the long climb to fame. Stand-up greats who have graced its stage include Jay Mohr, Chris Rock, Rosie O'Donnell and Dave Chappelle, as well as hometown laugh-riot Steve Sweeney. The perfect place for a first date—to see if he or she shares your sense of humor—it's also ideal for birthday celebrations, bachelor parties, or to cheer up a friend in need of a good laugh. The only comedy club in Boston offering reserved seating, there are no obstructed views, no waiting in line out in the cold and $5 parking ($6 after 5pm, Sat. and Sun.) with validation at 75 State St. What more could you want?

CIGAR BAR

Capital Grille

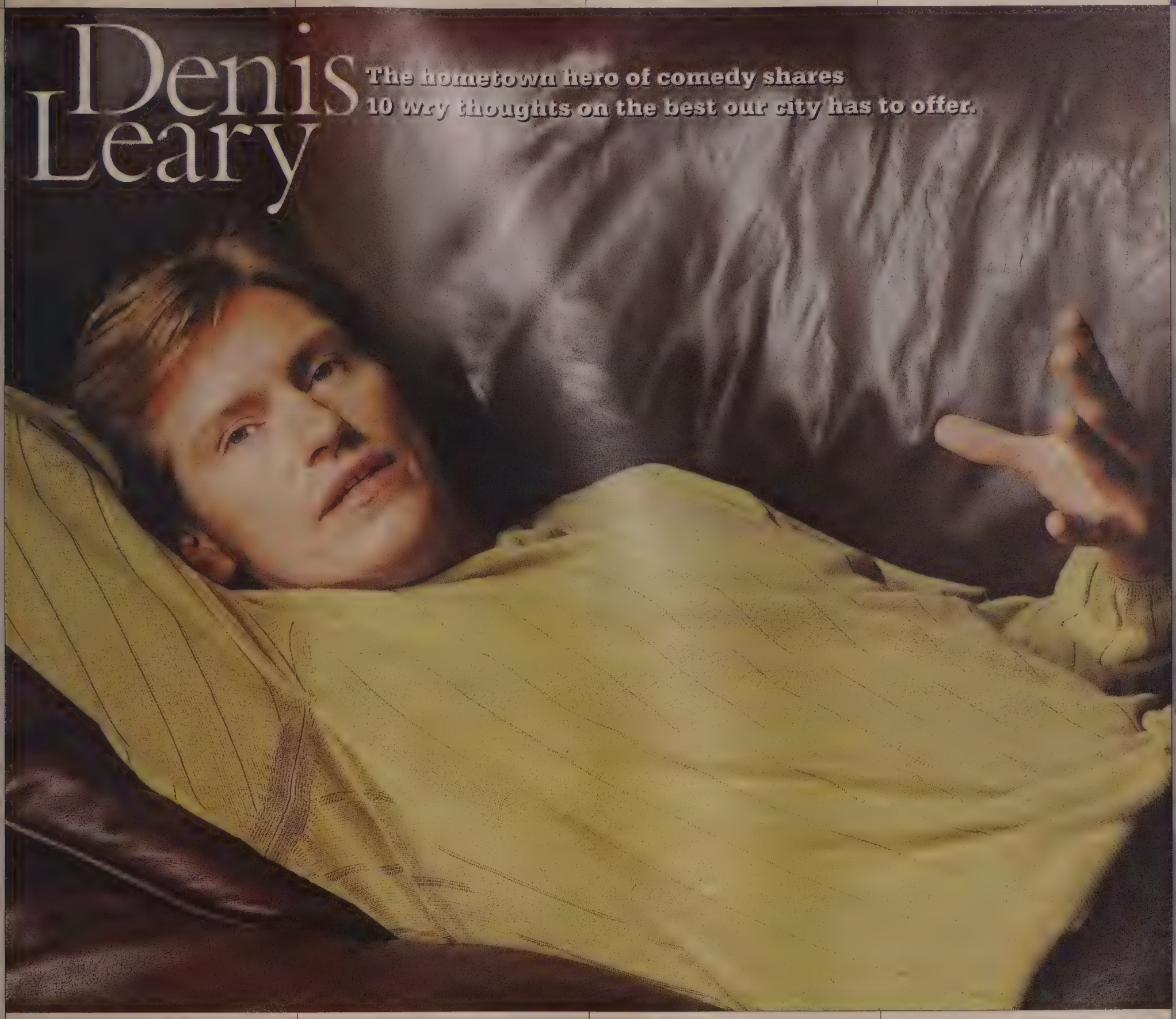
359 Newbury St., Boston; 262-8900

It's over. But for what it's worth, the guys at the Capital Grill blow so much smoke, we expect to see forged steel coming out of their asses.

LIZ LINDER

Denis Leary

The hometown hero of comedy shares 10 wry thoughts on the best our city has to offer.



Leary is "wicked" busy these days. Earlier this year, he played dramatic roles opposite Clint Eastwood in *True Crime*, Pierce Brosnan and Rene Russo in *The Thomas Crown Affair* and Billy Crudup in *Jesus' Son*. And the day before speaking with us about his Boston's Best picks, the acerbic Worcester native finished shooting a dark comedy he co-produced called *Double Whammy*, co-starring Steve Buscemi and Elizabeth Hurley. Look for it next winter.

IMPROPER BOSTONIAN: Who's the best comic to come out of Boston (beside yourself, of course)?

DL: Oh my God, that's trouble. I'm gonna have to go with [former Mayor] Ray Flynn. Remember when there would be a fire or some sort of local catastrophe? They'd go out to find Flynn driving around drunk, or at some bar in Southie watching the Celtics.

IB: Name your best comic experience in Boston.

DL: The Cam Neely Foundation show [*Comics Come Home*]. Boston comics come home every November and do a show at the Orpheum, which then runs on Comedy Central. For me, it's the greatest gig in the world. I walk out and see all my friends. A lot of Worcester firefighters work backstage, although last year they sat in the audience. My cousin was there—that was great.

IB: Name the best or worst review you've ever gotten locally.

DL: It was the first time I ever got mentioned. I did a show with Steve Sweeney, Lenny Clark and Don Gavin. The reviewer was calling all of them "comic geniuses." At the end, I was referred to as a "spiky-haired hipster." That's it! It didn't even say if I was funny or not.

IB: Best bit of trivia about your cousin Conan O'Brien?

DL: He's trying to master at least one sport. Coming from the same bloodlines of our family, which is pretty athletic, there's some pressure there. So he's learning to play tennis. He claims he can slice. But he can't play anything. He's completely physically retarded.

IB: Best reason to visit Boston?

DL: Well, it's such a great town. There's great food. It's right by the ocean. There's great history and sports teams, and there are probably the best bars on the planet outside of Ireland.

IB: Best reason to leave Boston?

DL: To go to the Cape. Or better yet, to go to Lenny Clark's house on the Vineyard. He weighs about 350 pounds and likes to walk around his property naked. For tourists, it's a memorable image.

IB: Best reason to visit Worcester?

DL: The Centrum's great. And there's a bar called Irish Times; it's a legendary bar in downtown Worcester—a great place to watch the Bruins.

IB: What's your favorite movie or TV show set in Boston?

DL: My favorite used to be *Spenser for Hire*. For its second season, they had him living in an apartment which was in Charlestown. We'd go out of our way to mess him up, beeping our horns while driving by. Now I know how annoying that must have been. I was young and stupid.

IB: Who's your No. 1 Boston sports hero?

DL: Bobby Orr. A close second would be Carl Yastrzemski.

IB: Best Boston expression?

DL: Wicked pissah. I use it all the time—some people have no idea what it means.

Turn to page 46 to read about the Leary Fire Fighters Foundation and its upcoming event, "Celebrity Hat Trick."

Portrait by Britt Carpenter ASSISTANT: SOOJI KIM; STYLING/GROOMING: ROCHELLE JOSEPH; KNIT SHIRT BY CALVIN KLEIN

BEST DANCER

Adriana Suárez, Boston Ballet Company

19 Clarendon St., Boston; 695-6950

Since joining the Boston Ballet in 1989 as a member of the *corps de ballet*, Venezuelan native Adriana Suárez has tip-toed her way into Boston's limelight, having already proven herself in her home country. Suárez has spent nearly her entire life dancing, starting with the Ballet National de Venezuela, moving on to the company at New York's City Center, and finally pirouetting into the Boston Ballet. And since earning her current rank of principal dancer in 1994, Suárez has proven her worth to both the Boston Ballet and to Boston audiences. After the unsuccessful production of *Dracula*, the Boston Ballet tried its hand with another brand-name play—this time *Cleopatra*. Garnering praise from Boston reviewers at a crucial time in the company's history, Suárez' performance as the suicidal sultana helped lift the performance to regal heights.

CLUB SCENE

Avaland, Friday nights at Avalon

15 Lansdowne St., Boston; 262-2424

Three years old and still going strong, this pan-sexual, Friday night extravaganza features name-brand DJs, lots of lithe, young (19-plus) bodies moving to the groove, and a general last-days-of-the-Roman-Empire feel. The rest of the week at this grandaddy of Boston discos doesn't suck, either. Thursdays offer the longest-running Euro night in town, Saturdays usually feature live entertainment, and Sundays are the ongoing, gargantuan gay cha-cha. House, techno, jungle, whatever—the music's always kickin', the drinks are finger-lickin' good, and the clientele is so mixed, you're guaranteed to find a dancing partner to suit your fancy.

POOL HALL

The Rack

24 Clinton St., Boston; 725-1051

Easily the most upscale billiards club in the city, its fawn-colored tables and sleek modern decor belie the common stereotype of pool halls as places where toothless down-and-outers hustle suckers for beer money. In addition to a young financial district crowd, the place attracts celebrities like Red Sox shortstop Nomar Garciaparra and the Goo Goo Dolls (recent sightings), and the bartenders are among the best, and best-looking, in Boston. There's live music every night, and a restaurant serving above-average food with an outdoor cafe for warm weather. Whether you're a Minnesota Fats in the making or you don't know an 8-ball from an Adam's apple, it's a guaranteed good time.

CLUB DJ

John Debo

Axis/Chrome, 13 Lansdowne St., Boston

262-2437

You don't have to go to London, Berlin or New York to hear a world-class dance music mix, thanks to Debo, resident at Axis/Chrome. This Boston-based vinyl virtuoso has virtually ruled the city scene since the early '90s, bringing the finest progressive house to this city, as well as hosting some of the world's most influential DJs, including Sasha, Digweed and Oakenfold. His avant-garde tastes and unmatched technical ability on the decks take him to many of the top clubs in the U.S. and Central America. Thanks Debo. You've put us on the world party map. Catch him Thursday nights at Axis /Chrome, 10pm-2am, and Friday nights at Avaland/Avalon, 10pm-2am.

UPGRADE

Riverside Amusement Park to Six Flags New England

1623 Main St., Agawam; 1-888-MY-ESCAPE; www.sixflags.com

They spent over $100 million on improvements, providing New England with its first world-class amusement park. In addition to three roller coasters, the new Superhero Adventures section features the Superman Ride of Steel—at 221 feet, the tallest on the East Coast. More passive thrills for the kiddies can be found at the Batman Thrill Spectacular, a live show boasting stunts, fireworks and special effects, while the brand-new Looney Tunes Movie Town offers an opportunity to visit with Bugs, Taz, Tweety and Daffy. So if you're looking for something to do with the little mouth-breathers this summer, pack 'em into the car and head for Agawam. They may wind up vomiting their little hearts out, but the smiles on their faces will be worth it.

VIDEO STORE

Hollywood Express

1740 Mass. Ave., Cambridge; 497-2001; 765 Mass. Ave., Cambridge; 864-8400; 14 McGrath O'Brien Highway, Somerville; 628-6000

With 40,000 tapes and DVDs between its three locations, they win big points for selection, especially in the esoteric categories of foreign, classic and independent films. No wonder film professors frequently direct their students there. Unlike the huge video chains, they carry rare and outdated films in addition to the latest releases, and the three stores are linked by computers, so that if one location is out of something, an employee will check the other locations for you. Even better, a video rented at one store can be returned to any of them, upping the convenience factor, and the staff's "Hot Picks" are guaranteed to yield something worthwhile that you've never seen, or heard of, before. Beats the bejeezus outta Blockbuster.

MOVIE THEATER

General Cinema's Fenway Theaters

201 Brookline Ave., Boston; 424-6266

The new Fenway theater in the old Sears Building has the new "Screen Monster," the largest screen and only THX system in Boston. It's been a while since Boston had a movie theater worth bragging about, but General Cinema's new ultra-deluxe multiplex in the Fenway has it all. There's a parking garage attached to the theater. Huge screens. Awesome sound systems. Stadium seating! Leg room! Cup holders! You name it, they've thought of it, actually making it worth the $8-plus price of a ticket.

CLUB YOU CAN WEAR SNEAKERS TO

Cantab Lounge

738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge; 354-2685

Just because you want to dance doesn't mean you necessarily want to get all decked out, so thank God for this Central Square institution, which oozes unpretentious character. It's most famous as the home of blues legends Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, but on different nights, they host band competitions, poetry slams and other hip happenings. Whether you're there to shake your groove thang or just hang out, no one will give you attitude, and you're guaranteed to be entertained.

JAZZ CLUB

Scullers

400 Soldiers Field Rd., Cambridge; 562-4111

The drab exterior of a cookie-cutter Double Tree Guest Suites hotel on Soldiers Field Road belies the dazzling music that lies inside. On the hotel's second floor, you'll find Scullers, an elegant, world-class jazz club with dark wooden walls, dimmed lights and a fabulous view of the Charles. Of course, the decor is only a backdrop for more serious matters at hand: the music, which is primarily jazz with a fair amount of Latin, with world and R&B also mixed in. Longtime entertainment manager Fred Taylor has drawn such internationally-renowned musicians as Rita Moreno, Roy Hargrove, Roy Haynes and Clark Terry. And on deck for the fall: Gato Barbieri, Nancy Wilson and Chuck Mangione. With names like these on the roster, Scullers is off the flippin' charts in our book.

JAZZ ACT

Either/Orchestra

Like any relationship, it's not easy keeping a band together—and keeping a large band from wringing each others' necks is nigh impossible. Yet the 15-year-old Either/Orchestra has proven it can be done—and with laudable spirit and freshness. The group, which features such alumni as John Medeski of Medeski, Martin & Wood, is stronger than ever. Maestro Russ Gershon's excitement over the band's durability, tenacity and potential was evident earlier this year when he led his band's foray into, of all things, Ethiopian pop music of the '70s. The band's musicianship makes a hack swoon with jealously, and it's pioneering spirit makes other acts seem so 1999.

WELCOME ADDITION TO THE CLUB SCENE

Lilli's

608 Somerville Ave, Somerville; 591-1661

We were thrilled when local scene queen Lilli Dennison teamed with lounge music luminary Brother Cleve and the B-Side's mastermind Patrick Sullivan to open up a place of her own: Lilli's. Yet another addition to the burgeoning Somerville empire of hipness, the oh-so-swanky and stylish Lilli's is ready to give the people what they want—and this power trio believes that "they" are a bit older than the average club crowd, and what "they" want is a place to see bands a little less crazy than your average Middle East Sunday matinee. Watch this space make some steps forward in the Boston rock and lounge scene.

CUTTING EDGE BAND

Club d'Elf

The accomplished members of Club d'Elf have gained a rep as "musicians' musicians" with their unparalleled form of dynamic music making. Incorporating electronica, hip hop, funk and free jazz, their style is never quite the same due to the Club's rotating roster of musicians. But they consistently wow audiences with their bold, impromptu tunes, which center around

FARNSWORTH/BLALOCK

Mike Rivard's bass, acoustic and electric guitars, keyboards, drums, horns and ethnic percussion. The Club has been visited by notable guests like Reeves Gabrels, John Medeski, DJ Logic, the late Mark Sandman and Joe and Mat Maneri. Best experienced at the Lizard Lounge, where they perform regularly.

ROCK CLUB
Middle East
472 Mass. Ave, Cambridge; 864-3278
Founded and run by the ever-gracious Sater brothers, Joseph and Nabil, the Middle East has come to be the foremost place in Boston to see up-and-coming bands. Musicians—whether power poppers or indie rockers—haven't arrived until they've graced the upstairs stage. And for gig-goers, the spacious downstairs room is one of the best in town, offering an unobstructed view for all—and the best in local and national acts, including the Sheila Divine, Tortoise, Guided by Voices and Luscious Jackson. The savory Middle Eastern cuisine is worthy of note, as well. But it's that gritty rock vibe and the cool cats who populate the place that make it the best.

ROCK BAND
Scissorfight
Just their name radiates threat and primate-style danger. And if you've seen these red-neck rapscallions of rock, you know they're bad-ass. Their larger-than-life aura helps explain the room-filling crowds that attend their shows. But more than that, it's the raw, hard sound which lives up to all the unsettling facets of their name—tearing through ferocious rock songs the way a lion rips open its prey. With two new releases on the local Tortuga label, lots of radio airplay, and their recent set at the WBCN River Rave, Scissorfight is tearing up Boston—which hasn't gone unnoticed by the ever-present spies from the major-label music industry.

COLLEGE RADIO
WMBR (M.I.T.) 88.1-FM
"First on your FM dial" is just one of the claims to fame of WMBR, whose invisible waves of eclecticism radiate from the basement of Walker Memorial on the MIT campus, where the bland college DJ with nothing to say is an endangered species. Presenting a cornucopia of aural stimulation in a surprisingly professional manner (this is college radio, after all), the WMBR weekly schedule runs the gamut from anarchist edutainment to zydeco, passing through punk, American roots music, non-American roots music, electronica and local acts (heard on "Pipeline"). There are also informative talk shows (such as "Black Talk," "Gender Talk" and "Radio With A View"), and just about anything else you could imagine wanting to listen to.

LOCAL THEATER COMPANY
Arlington Friends of the Drama, Inc.
22 Academy St., Arlington; 781-648-9737
If you like quality, high-profile theater—but you're not so interested in the latest imported Andrew Lloyd Weber drivel down on Tremont Street—take a trip up Mass. Ave. to Arlington. That's where the AFD presents a compelling variety of plays and musicals, all with lighting, sound and production values that compare very favorably to—and in some cases surpass—those of Boston's Theater District. The Arlington Friends have been around since 1923, but their elder stature doesn't lead to conservative choice of material. Last year saw critical praise for their production of Ariel Dorfman's *Death and the Maiden*, and their 1998 production of David Henry Hwang's *M. Butterfly* won the EMACT Festival Award for Best Production. Arlington thespians, you're a class act.

BLUES VENUE
House of Blues
96 Winthrop St., Cambridge; 491-BLUE
For a chain, the local chapter of Dan Aykroyd's House of Blues offers a refreshingly gritty venue for world-class blues acts swinging through town. Ranging from the slick Stevie Ray Vaughn-style to the down-and-dirty roots of the genre, this Harvard Square spot is the first place to look when feeling bluesy. But there's more than one sound in the House; reggae acts like Toots and the Maytals have also graced the stage, as have folk firebrand Michelle Shocked; hippie ska band, Entrain; and local hip-hop champ, Mr. Lif. The dress is casual, the décor is eclectic and walls are plastered with folk art. Don't forget to get there early, because that room packs 'em in.

CHEAP THRILLS
F1 Boston 290 Wood Rd., Braintree; 781-848-2300
Already a big hit in parts of Europe, indoor go cart racing has now come to our neck of the woods—and we're loving it. Since its June opening, it's quickly become the newest rage in corporate conference circles and among those looking for a speedy thrill. Owner Richard Valentine, a former competitive race car driver, has added touches of luxury to the funhouse that make it this year's must-do activity: a gourmet eatery, full bar (don't drink and race), billiards room and virtual reality games.

BLUES ACT
Toni Lynn Washington
She was born in North Carolina. We had her when she was a kid, lost her first to New Orleans, and then to Pensacola. But we finally got her back. Toni Lynn Washington's career has been about as diverse as her mailing addresses—from her solo singles as a newcomer, to fronting a swing band, to singing with a pop-soul band in the '70s—she's paid her dues and then some. She's spent the past 15 years delving expertly into blues with great critical acclaim. Toni's broad background is her biggest asset; her sultry voice can go from soulfully smooth to roof-raisingly rough in the same set—sometimes in the same song. She's been nominated for the W.C. Handy award twice, and in 1999, she was presented with the Boston Blues Festival's Lifetime Achievement Award. Not bad for someone whose career is still on the rise.

ORCHESTRAL PERFORMANCE
Newton Symphony Orchestra with Jeffrey Rink
Tremont Temple, Nov. 6, 1999
There were hundreds of great orchestral performances this year—dozens of which could qualify as Boston's Best. But this one was a surprise: Rink conducting the Newton Symphony Orchestra in Leon Biriotti's *Lest We Forget* (Nov. 6, 1999) at Tremont Temple. The N.S.O. is a fine band, but this world premiere of the relatively unknown Uruguayan *Biriotti*, a Holocaust memorial work, was staggering. More evidence of Boston's amazing musical depth.

CONDUCTOR
Benjamin Zander, Boston Philharmonic
If not Seiji, then who? That's the first question to address when selecting Boston's Best conductor. Ozawa, with his "28 days a year in Boston" schedule, doesn't have enough at-bats to qualify for the title. So who's left? Rookie Gil Rose of Boston Modern Orchestra Project and genial Richard Pittman, to name a few. But Zander has the visibility (has anyone else been on *60 Minutes* this year?), the city's only Grammy nomination and an exuberant spirit that wins us over. Beyond his baton talents, Zander gives informative lectures prior to each Philharmonic performance. He's also a motivational speaker! His musical outfit may not have the highest profile in town, but Zander's gusto and enthusiasm translates to tremendous music. Encore.

CHAMBER MUSIC PERFORMANCE
Richard Stolzman and David Deveau
Jordan Hall, April 8, 2000
The coupling of the world's most famous clarinetist with the area's most influential pianist is a sure winner: Stolzman and Deveau, April 8, at Jordan Hall, as part of the BankBoston Celebrity Series. Stolzman makes the clarinet into a lead voice that rivals any of the "sexier" winds, and the classically-minded Deveau keeps him from playing that jazz stuff he loves too much.

OPERA/VOCAL PERFORMANCE
Handel's Hercules
Emmanuel Church, Oct. 15, 1999
We tried to get an opera in here, and while we like the transition Boston opera is making from very dead to cool to warm—and we especially like the whole Egypt thing—we've still got a long way to go. Honorable efforts went on at the Shubert (all the Boston Lyric Opera efforts had good points) and at the Emerson (the joint production of Barber's *Vanessa*—Ellen Chickering!). But Boston's Best vocal performance of the year was tucked away in the Back Bay church where so much good music takes place: a masterful four-hour performance, with stars like Nancy Lieberson and Lorraine Hunt.

SOLOIST
Benjamin Bagby
Beowulf, Old South Church, April 8, 2000
Toughest call. Lots of great pianists (Deveau, Sherman, Gordon, Drury) and perhaps the world's most popular clarinetist (Stolzman)—plus great singers of all kinds. Still, the single most electrifying solo performance was Bagby's musico-literary excursus through *Beowulf*, presented by the Boston Early Music Festival.

THEATER PRODUCTION
The Full Circle
American Repertory Theatre, 61 Brattle St., Cambridge; 547-8300
Based on an ancient Chinese fable, Charles L. Mee's *The Full Circle* was by far the spring's most popular at the American Repertory Theatre. Both audiences and critics heaped effusive praise upon this three-hour production—part uproarious spectacle, part touching fairy tale—which scored director Robert Woodruff a coveted Elliot Norton Award for best director and lead Will Lebow for best actor. It's a talented writer that can turn a tale of high-speed capitalism and crashing economies into a hilarious bravura vaudeville romp. Leave it to the A.R.T. to seek him out.

MOVE
Jacques Zoon, principal flutist, BSO
The principal chairs that Seiji Ozawa has hired for the BSO—Malcolm Lowe, Steve Ansell and Edwin Barker—will leave a mark in this town long after Ozawa is gone. And now there's Jacques Zoon. The cosmopolitan flutist (who looks like a tennis stud and plays that oh-so-hip black wooden flute) has raised the level of an already stellar group. It took a while to convince Zoon to come—but the wait was worth it.

POETRY SCENE
Rhythm & Muse
403 Center St. #A, Jamaica Plain; 524-6622
By day, it's an independently owned book and music store; by night, R & M plays host to a multitude of local and national poets. After the scheduled speakers have bared their souls, feel free to read your own poetry. Just don't forget to drop two bits into the converted cigarette machine—instead of spewing noxious chemicals, this machine dispenses bits of poetry, salubrious to the soul.

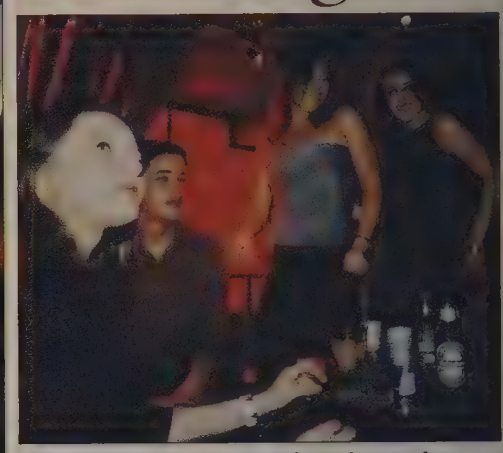
STRIP CLUB
Centerfolds 2000
139 South Ridge Road, North Oxford, Mass. 508-987-5222
Sure, it's nearly an hour drive to North Oxford, but Centerfolds 2000—with a seating capacity of nearly 300, a VIP lounge with multiple booths, a private stage and bar, and state-of-the-art light and sound shows—is *the* place for a friend's bachelor party...or simply a party of bachelors. Inside you'll find a broad selection of oglers gazing longingly upon the birthday suit beauties on stage—a collection of gals made up of roughly equal parts of full-time strippers and ubiquitous college girls paying their way through university. So until the newest, most upscale incarnation of Centerfolds opens in the former Combat Zone (cross your fingers for an early 2001 opening if all goes well), you'll just have to make the hour drive for that glass of champagne—and a chubby to take home to the Mrs.

7 nights in the city

Young? Restless? Fabulous? The best spots to shake your groove thang any given night of the week.

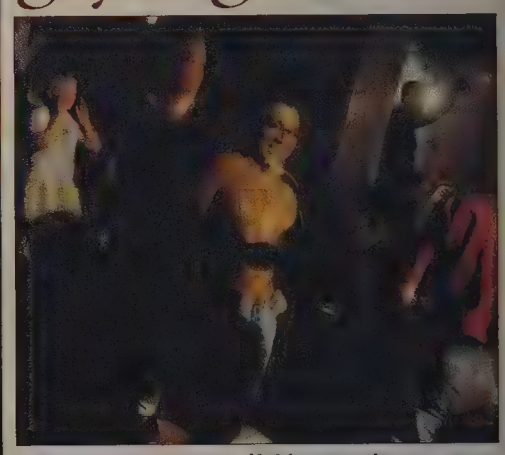
Of all the venues and theme nights, Avaland is the hottest scene in town on Friday nights.

hetero nights »



It's not about who you are, but what you're wearing at the Theater District's Pravda 116.

gay nights »



On Wednesdays, beautiful boys and gorgeous grrls bare all at Chaps' Latino Night.

lesbian nights »

The human sardine can known as Club Cafe is a hot spot on Thursday nights.

AVALAND: **Photograph by Derek Kouyoumjian**

Financial District suits and New York scenesters let loose at Vertigo.

The Roxy's VIP area upstairs attracts a who's who of Boston's grooviest.

the list

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
The place to hang is **Vertigo**, where the options include a loungy atmosphere upstairs and a NY club scene—heavy on the house music—downstairs. Dance your pants off. The night is young and so are you.	Join the highly fashionable, high-end Euro crowd at **Venu**. It's like a quick trip to South Beach without the sunburn.	A great-looking, exquisitely dressed crew collects at **Pravda 116**, but it's a little more eclectic and funkier than other clubs. Case in point: The Smashing Pumpkins recently stopped by for a visit.	Looking to relive the days when nightclubs meant luxurious comfort instead of a claustrophobic sweatbox? The answer is The Club at **Locke Ober**, where host Ferguson Herivaux creates a rich, happening atmosphere of real comfort and true decadence.	One word: **Avaland**. Out of all the venues (and all the theme nights), Avaland is the hottest scene you'll find in this town with its world-class DJs, NY-style vibe and cacophonous party atmosphere. If you're looking for a slightly calmer alternative, check out the **Mondo Bar** at the **Roxy**. The VIP seating area upstairs attracts a who's who of Boston's grooviest nightcrawlers.	It's Amateur Night, so avoid the crowds by having a few pops at **29 Newbury** and then heading to **Pho Republique** for a few more.	Warm up at **Caprice** and then head to **Aria**. There's plenty of champagne and carrying on, not to mention hot-bodied romantic prospects. Once it gets too crowded, check out the heavy lounge scene (9-11pm) and Miami house party (11pm-2am) at **The Exchange**. Monday be damned.
Axis: They own the night. The extremely young, mostly gay crowd comes to dance to tunes spun by DJ Jay Ine and watch the cavalcade of drag queens hosted by Mizery (who, FYI, had all her teeth pulled, wears dentures and looks like she's been on a steady diet of Twinkies and Ho-Hos). The show goes on far too long, but everyone seems to love it.	Rent a movie or go out with your straight friends. There's nothing goin' on tonight, and you have to work tomorrow, anyway.	Head to **Fritz**—the appeal being that no matter what games the guys at the bar are playing, there's always another one to watch on TV.	**Club Cafe**, a.k.a. Club Sashay, is way crowded—the gay equivalent of Coconut Grove. Afterward, head over to **ManRay** to pick up a cute college boy and end the night ogling the strippers at **Paradise**.	**Machine**, downstairs at the **Ramrod**, attracts a bizarre melange of bubble-butted Abercrombie zombies and leather queens from upstairs, which makes for a strange but strangely satisfying oil and vinegar mix.	Take your pick: **Chaps** or **Buzz**. You'll see the same sweaty gym rats gyrating to a techno beat at both places, which turn into swampy disco infernos by midnight. Once that gets unbearable, pile everyone into the car and head to Providence to grope some pecs at the brand-new **Mega-Plex** off of Allens Avenue—a sex club/steam room where everything you can imagine goes on 24 hours a day.	Start early with **Tea Dance** at **Chaps**, and end your night at **Avalon** if, like all the hairdressers who crowd the place, you have Monday off. If you're feeling especially hyper, check out **Rise** for a little late-night cha-cha with that humpy boy you spotted on the beach last week in P-town.
Axis attracts a young, high-energy crowd, including a lot of bi-curious, try-sexual cuties, shakin' their booties to the driving beat. The 19-year-olds may not be looking for a serious relationship, but at least they know how to have a good time.	At **Pho Republique**, mix-tress Emily presides over a happening yet mellow bar, with good tunes and good eats and none of the craziness of the club scene. Just think. You can actually talk to the woman who caught your eye last week.	Oh, yes, it's Ladies' Night, and the feeling's right. Oh, yes it's Ladies' Night at **Boston Billiards**. Rack 'em up with that gal with the great rack, or head over to **Chaps**, where Latino Night attracts a lot of gorgeous Latinas livin' la vida lesbo.	The biggest night on the lesbian calendar. **The Midway** in JP offers the most sedate option: a little bar with eclectic music and a local grrl crowd that might just include the vixen of your dreams. A more mainstream option is to stop by the human sardine can known as **Club Cafe** before playing a few games of pool at the **Hideaway** in Fresh Pond followed by dancing with some super-cuties at **Campus**.	Time to get in the car and go meet some suburban sisters of Sappho. Take your pick: **The Randolph Country Club**, **Friends Landing** in Haverhill, or **Fran's Place** in Lynn. They're all packed to the rafters with mouth-watering wymyn.	The grooviest game in town is **Lava Bar**. Perched atop the **Howard Johnson's** in Kenmore Square, it's a non-attitudinal, upbeat, friendly and attractive crowd who are there to work up a sweat on the dance floor. Fun, fun, fun.	**Avalon**—it's not just for boys anymore. The grandaddy of gay nights is where the girls are (and there are more and more of them all the time)—thus increasing the likelihood of a randy lady finding a fellow femme to canoodle with.

29 Newbury 29 Newbury St., Boston (536-0290)
Aria 246 Tremont St., Boston (338-7080)
Avalon 15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424)
Axis 13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437)
Boston Billiards 126 Brookline Ave., Boston (536-7665)
Buzz 51 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939)
Campus 21 Brookline St., Central Square, Cambridge (864-0400)
Caprice 275 Tremont St., Boston (292-0080)
The Club at Locke Ober 3-4 Winter Place, Boston (542-0404)
Club Cafe 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-0966)
The Exchange 148 State St., Boston (726-7600)
Fran's Place 776 Washington St., Lynn (781-598-5618)
Friends Landing 85 Water St., Haverhill (978-374-9400)
Fritz 26 Chandler St., Boston (482-4428)
Hideaway Pub 20 Concord Lane, Cambridge (661-8828)
Lava Bar 575 Comm. Ave., Boston (267-7707)
Machine 1254 Boylston St., Boston (266-0150)
Man-Ray 21 Brookline St., Central Square, Cambridge (864-0400)
Mega-Plex 257 Allens Ave., Providence, R.I. (401-780-8769)
Midway 3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (524-9038)
Paradise 180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (494-0700)
Pho Republique 1415 Washington St., Boston (262-0005)
Pravda 116 116 Boylston St., Boston (482-7799)
Randolph Country Club 44 Mazzeo Dr., Randolph (781-961-2414)
Rise 306 Stuart St., Boston (423-7473)
Roxy 279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699)
Vapor and the Chaps Lounge 100 Warrenton St., Boston (695-9500)
Vertigo 126 State St., Boston (723-7277)
Venu 100 Warrenton St., Boston (338-8061)

PRAVDA, VERTIGO & CLUB CAFE: JOEL VEAK; CHAPS: WENDY MIMRAN; ROXY: ELIZABETH MARKEL

BOSTON'S BEST 1997 — THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE

BOSTON'S BEST 1998 — THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE

BOSTON'S BEST 1999 — THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE

Join the party on our patio from 11am - 2am

Live broadcast with Vinnie Peruzzi, Star 93.7 every Saturday night

THE

inside RACK

Tuesday, July 25th — Boston Ski & Sports Billiards Tournament! Meet your ski house roommates for this winter while challenging them to a game of pool.

Thursday, August 3rd — Boston's favorite party-time guy, Mix 98.5's Gregg Daniels gets outrageous on our patio as Search Party and D.J. Ricky rock the Rack from 6pm-2am.

Saturday, August 5th — 2nd Annual Celebrity Jamboree with multi-platinum recording artist Brian McKnight. Join Brian and other celebrities like comedian Joe Torry, Antwon Tanner, Mystikal and many more! Proceeds to benefit The Boys and Girls Clubs.

Thursday, August 17th — Stupid Animal tricks, owner-pet look-a-like contest, amateur dog show. Join us for DOG DAY AFTERNOON with Mix 98.5's Lynn Hoffman and *The Improper Bostonian Magazine*. Please don't forget to bring your four-legged party animal! Chad LaMarsh will be rockin' doggie style. Proceeds will benefit World Society for the Protection of Animals & MSPCA.

Local barflies seek refuge at The Rack with Red Sox third baseman John Valentin.

24 Clinton Street, Boston 02109 617.725.1051 www.therackboston.com

Radio-Active: Kiss 108 morning maniac, Randy; **Star 93.7,** Vinnie Peruzzi; **Mix 98.5's** lovely Lynn Hoffman; **Kiss 108,** Kid David... forget about ratings for the night...

Goo Goo Dolls "slide" into The Rack to perform with Chad LaMarsh.

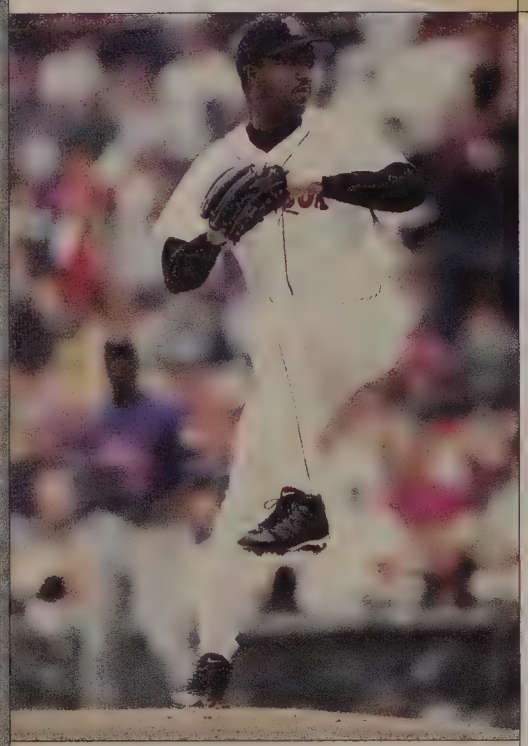
RACK

Teammates Bret Saberhagen and Nomar Garciaparra team up to raise money for a good cause.

COMING SOON LiveWave WWW.LIVEWAVE.COM!

sports

Bourque is gone, Bledsoe bombed and Pitino pains us. For sports heroes, look to players who are winners even when they lose.



BEST THERE EVER WAS
Pedro Martinez

Like Robert Redford's character in *The Natural*, Martinez could stand on any Boston street corner and proclaim, "I'm the best there ever was!" The right-hander does it with a blend of power, guile and near-perfect placement. Unlike his predecessor and staff ace, Roger Clemens, Martinez has the magnetic personality that will help him become a true baseball ambassador for Boston and his native Dominican Republic. As one of the top hurlers of his generation, Martinez's home-starts create an electric feel at Fenway. Even if he can't deliver the team's first World Series crown since 1918, Sox fans are lucky to call him their own.

STEAL
Carl Everett

The Red Sox acquired the center fielder from the Houston Astros in the off-season. The Sox traded two minor-leaguers for what we say is the biggest steal since 1964, when the Chicago Cubs traded Lou Brock to the St. Louis Cardinals for three has-beens (Brock helped lead St. Louis to three World Series titles in five years). With 24 home runs at the All-Star break, Everett could challenge Jimmie Foxx's team record of 50, set in 1938. The All-Star switch-hitter also plays with reckless abandon in the field and makes no secret of his hatred for the New York Yankees, sealing his reputation as a Fenway favorite—and ours too.

ATHLETE
Nomar Garciaparra

Watching the 27-year-old shortstop perform is like watching Isaac Stern play the violin or Savion Glover tap dance. He was born to play baseball. An extraordinary physical specimen, Garciaparra has incredible range in the field, the quickness and agility of a dancer, and an arm like a howitzer. And that's not even his strongest suit. Last year's American League batting champion has flirted with a .400 average throughout the first half of the season and is one of the top power-hitting shortstops in history. Go Nomar.

AMATEUR ATHLETE
Marblehead High School's Shalane Flanagan

At this spring's high school championships, Flanagan blew away the field in the mile, clocking a 4:53.38. Just a few hours later, she dominated the two-mile event in 10:27.46. She wasn't so fortunate at the national championships in Raleigh, N.C., though; she was forced to run in borrowed shoes after her equipment was stolen. Still, her 4:48.47 in the mile was a personal best and good enough for second place. She will attend the University of North Carolina in the fall.

LONG GOODBYE
Ray Bourque

Trade rumors surrounding the Bruins captain swirled for weeks. First he was headed to Philadelphia, then Detroit. Eventually, the Colorado Avalanche offered the most desirable package (Brian Rolston and some talented minor leaguers), and Bourque was shipped to Denver to chase his dream of winning a Stanley Cup. As team captain, No. 77 was a role model for teammates and fans. It was a sad goodbye for fans, and the end of an era for the Bruins. For Bourque, it was a fresh start for some old legs. The defenseman rediscovered his dormant scoring touch as Colorado fell just a win short of the finals. Bourque is back. But he's not here.

BRUIN
Joe Thornton

It's tough to find a bright spot in a highly disappointing season on FleetCenter ice. A dismal start, a crucial holdout and a host of injuries all contributed to the Bruins missing the postseason. But Thornton's progression as a playmaker (23 goals, 37 assists) was the biggest positive, and the center looks ready for the spotlight next season. If his linemates stay healthy, Jumbo Joe could be a big offensive surprise in the league.

COACH QUOTE
Rick Pitino

"The negativity in this town sucks," said the Celtics coach and president following another costly late-season loss. Tell us something we don't know, Rick. Well, maybe we are a proudly pessimistic bunch. But we know there's no hope of changing that. Pitino's tirade got him plenty of negative ink. Still, he vowed the bad press wouldn't sink his team's positive attitude and goal of making the playoffs. He was half right. The team remained upbeat, making a late push for the postseason, but came up short.

MOVE BY A COACH
Pete Carroll

Never known for his strict team discipline, the former Patriots coach finally lay down the law as a lame duck. Mired in a second-half tailspin, Carroll was feeling the heat, but it was wide receiver Terry Glenn who got burned. Carroll suspended Glenn for a game after a series of incidents, including a speeding ticket, tardiness for practice and a supposed case of the flu that left the Patriots shorthanded. Plenty of fans say Carroll should have adopted his tough-love approach much sooner. Then maybe he'd still have a job.

MOVE BY AN OWNER
Robert Kraft

Carroll's wasn't the only head to roll in Foxborough. Another unimpressive season by the New England Revolution cost Coach Walter Zenga his job. Moody and unrelenting, Zenga clashed with his players and the media. Even the goaltending of the player/coach became subpar. Kraft had seen enough and named Fernando Clavijo his replacement. The switch couldn't have worked any better. The Revolution is in line for a playoff berth and has Kraft to thank.

SPORTS FIZZLE
The New England Patriots

Rewind to the Patriots' bye week last season. The team was 6-2, Drew Bledsoe was playing like, well, himself, putting up MVP numbers, and the injury-ravaged New York Jets were coming to Foxborough for a Monday night tilt. That game turned out to be the beginning of the end. The offense folded in the second half, and the team never did seem to recover from that loss. The Patriots finished 2-6 in their last eight games. They finished last in the AFC East. It doesn't get any worse than that.

COACH IN NEED OF A CAREER CHANGE
Rick Pitino

It's safe to say Pitino isn't the second coming of Christ, as many believed in 1997. His guarantee of making the playoffs by Year Three was a bust. Indeed, the Celtics won one fewer game last year (35) than they did in Pitino's first season. Then there are the contracts, the overpriced ones he signed for players not producing. Pitino talks a good game by turning our attention away from the issue—tonight's game—and steers it far into the fantastic future. This guy needs to make a big change. Maybe he should try politics.

COACH
The Patriots' Bill Belichick

No kidding. We've already made our opinion of Pitino clear. And who doesn't love Jimy Williams? He's got the Red Sox dugout relaxed and confident most days. But based on what he hasn't done, we chose Belichick. He has not yet broken promises or our hearts. He has not bemoaned our alleged negativity. He has not shown an injured-player list longer than the beer line at Fenway. Finally, he is not Pete Carroll. And he does not have Carroll's Hollywood hair, which is the only criticism we have so far.

INSPIRATIONAL ATHLETE >>
Karen Smyers

In the past two years, the Lincoln mom battled for first place in world-class swim-bike-run competitions while she was fighting thyroid cancer. She's currently training for Hawaii's excruciating Iron Man course—2.4 mile swim, 112-mile bike and 26-mile run. In 1998, Smyers placed second in the race, weeks after initial medical tests showed worrisome results. Earlier this year, she missed out on the Olympic team, and the U.S. triathlete community mourned along with her. Among other things, Smyers was not at her ideal weight due to her cancer treatments. She's beating the disease and describes her cancer as being in its final stages. Sponsored by Timex watches, Oakley sunglasses and Nike Inc., Smyers represents them with priceless dignity and determination. She often trains alongside her husband, Michael. (They met when he asked her for swimming tips.) The couple's 2-year-old daughter has become a fixture at finishing lines—and Smyers has become a solid reason to believe in the athletic spirit.

COURTESY OF THE BOSTON RED SOX

Portrait by Stephen Sheffield

media politics

Nat and Chet split. Andy Hiller popped a quiz. Peter Blute got the boot. The MCAS failed the test. The Big Dig became a big joke and Jane Swift kept us laughing all year long.

BUSINESS COLUMNIST

Steve Bailey The *Boston Globe*

As readers, we had so much fun when Bailey invited us to lunch with former Boston Mayor Kevin White, and we got a delicious earful. Bailey's work cuts to the core of important issues at a time when the crucial news in this town is generated by the downtown financial crowd—the people he covers. Our money is on Bailey, once again.

PRINT NEWS

The Wall Street Journal's Boston Bureau

The *Wall Street Journal* has been beefing up its New England coverage, and it shows. All editor Caleb Solomon will say is that his staff is having fun. It must be fun to break news as the outsider in this (formerly) two-newspaper town. *WSJ* staffer Geeta Anand interviewed former Big Dig Project Manager Jim Kerasiotes for a story that generated a deafening buzz in this town. In the story, Kerasiotes called Massport CEO Virginia Buckingham a "reptile" and spewed other insults. That story got its start when Anand reportedly made the first press inquiry into the misspent millions in this year's Big Dig budget scandal. *WSJ* bigwigs figure Bostonians today want great business reporting. Then *WSJ*'s Dan Golden nailed a great story about Harvard's Henry Louis Gates Jr. and other prominent African-American scholars planning a high-tech venture. Adding insult to injury, Anand and Golden are former *Boston Globe* reporters. *Globe* and *Herald* reporters don't live to kill each other in print these days when it comes to city news. (The *Herald* has lost some key staffers, and the *Globe* has other priorities.) *WSJ* newsies say the time is right to step into the ring—and win.

SURVIVOR

Matthew V. Storin

Boston Globe Editor

Well, he hasn't been voted off the island yet. Storin still presides over the *Boston Globe*, despite the nonstop naysayers who predicted he would leave — by choice or force — when the *New York Times* arrived as the new owner of New England's largest daily. Storin remains in the corner office, and the paper still has great days. So there.

HEADLINE

Booze Cruise

The *Boston Herald*

It really did say it all. This simple, rhyming headline over the Massport scandal-at-sea story in the *Boston Herald* was a keeper.

FRONT PAGE

The Boston Globe

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Months before May, the new *Boston Globe* Page One design was set in place. In May, the Red Sox got hot. The game scores began appearing in a banner strip across Page One. This pushed all copy down an inch. Readers got a horrific result. A headline read: "Maine town riled by school harassment case." Beneath it was a color photograph showing Palestinians rioting in Ramallah on the West Bank. The headline that should have accompanied the photograph—"Amid Mideast strife, a bid for calm"—was bumped below the fold. Not only was it worth 50 cents; it was priceless.

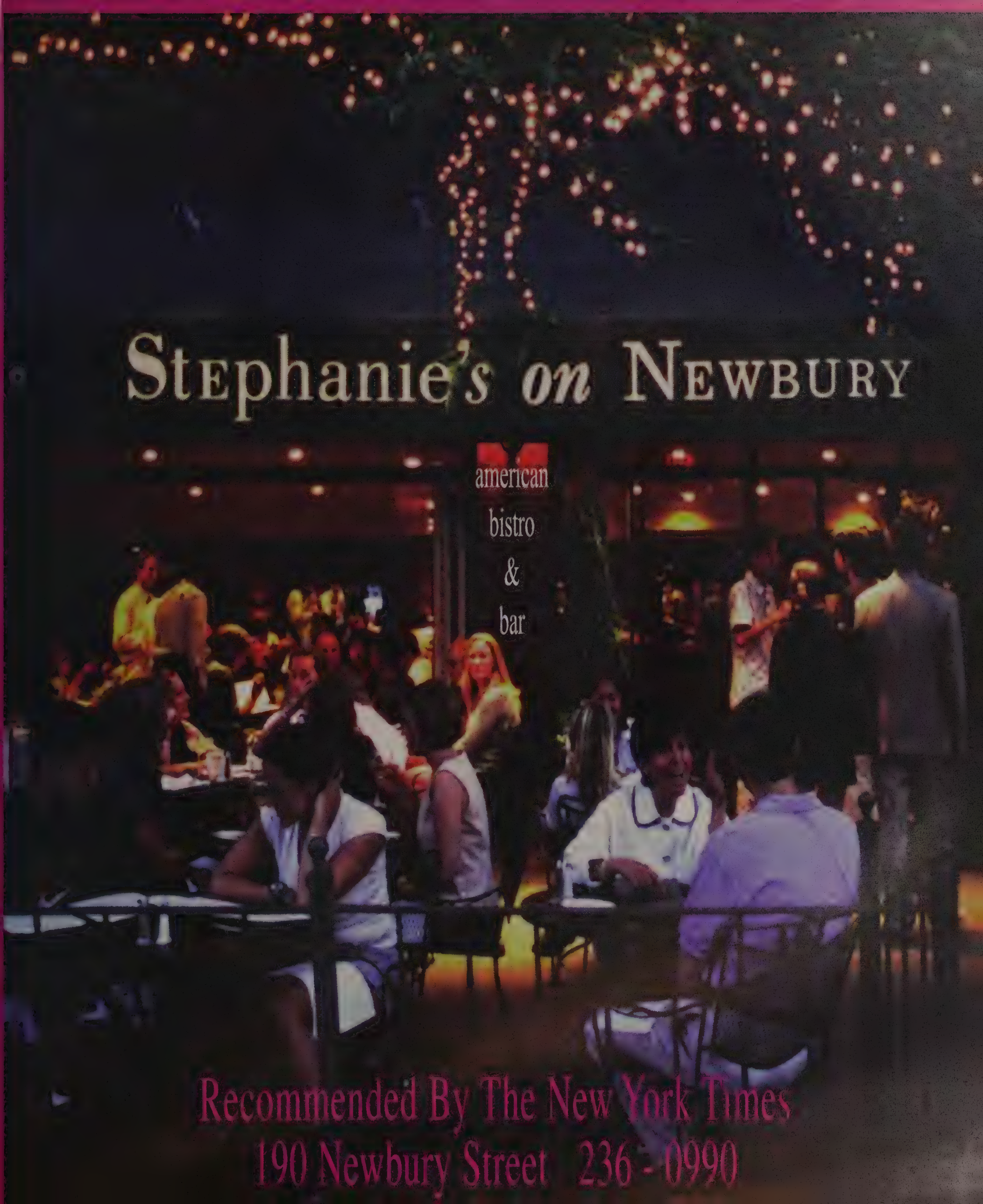
PRINT JOURNALIST

Kevin Cullen

The *Boston Globe*

To win this category, you had to pass our reader-recognition test. Then you had to show us a combination of reporting and writing. Cullen is the man who got the phrase "dope slap" into a recent dispatch from Parliament. As the *Boston Globe's* London Bureau Chief, Cullen has chronicled the troubles in Northern Ireland the past few years. He got his start

Portrait by Joel Veak


Stephanie's on Newbury
american
bistro
&
bar
Recommended By The New York Times
190 Newbury Street 236 - 0990

at the *Boston Herald*, where he thrashed the *Globe* with smart crime stories so often they had to hire him. He won a Livingston, a prize given to outstanding journalists under 35, soon after his arrival. The kid from Malden made good, satisfying *Globe* readers for years with true-crime stories written in standout style. Finally, the egos of journalists in his league are typically as big as the continents they cover. Not Cullen's. He's a regular guy. With exceptional talent.

BEWILDERING MEDIA MOVE

The Sunday Globe on Saturday

We still don't get it.

COLUMNIST

Alex Beam

The *Boston Globe*

Is this a kinder, gentler Alex? His column on the pending sale of *Inc.*, and founder Bernie Goldhirsh's illness, was genuine and touching. Beam could travel to any paper in the country and find fans. He's smart. He's funny. He's ironic. He can be remarkably obnoxious in print, though many days he almost earns the right to behave badly because of his superior writing. Even though he's still impatient with those less cerebral than himself, Beam seems to tolerate the rest of us better these days.

COLUMN FOR GEEKS

Hiawatha Bray

The *Boston Globe*

There are a lot of people offering a lot of advice about computers these days. We applaud Bray for staying on top of the trends in personal computers and expressing the type of incredulity we consumers often share when reviewing the latest software. (We added bonus points for his memorable name.)

NEWS COLUMNIST

Peter Gelzinis

The *Boston Herald*

Since the *Boston Globe* dumped Mike Barnicle, the newspaper has not offered us a columnist with his local know-it-all writing (Pulitzer Prize–winner Eileen McNamara needs new inspiration; Brian McGrory finds himself more interesting than the city; and Adrian Walker goes to extremes–very good or very bad.) Where does this leave us? At the *Boston Herald*, where Gelzinis pounds the pavement, shares his view on the news of the day (what a concept) and lets us feel like we have our ear to the gritty ground. Have you seen the *Herald* today?

SPORTS COLUMNIST

Will McDonough

The *Boston Globe*

In many minds, this needs no explanation. If you want the behind-the-scenes and only-seen-here sports story, then you must go to Will. He understands the joy of victory and the pain of not being able to build a stadium. McDonough sells newspapers, no doubt about it. But the party's over. Management has its rules, and McDonough will turn 65 this year. Apparently the suits are standing strong on the age limit. The only good news is that no one in this town could bring out the terrific crowd that McDonough will for his sendoff—a bittersweet bash for Boston.

LOCAL NEWSPAPER

Back Bay Courant

David Jacobs and his wife Gen Tracy have brought this neighborhood newspaper to 30,000 circulation in the past five years. The staff of 21 helps bring features like "Community Person of the Week" to readers, along with reports from closed-door meetings on whether a new hotel can choose a Prudential locale. Jacobs left a career as an international banker to help his wife carry out her dream—to be a small newspaper publisher. So far, there have been no rude awakenings.

MEDIA SECRET NO. 1

Nat and Chet knew a long time before you did

You know what they say, "What are you, the mattress?" No one can know what goes on behind closed doors, but reliable sources say that WCVB-TV anchor team Chet Curtis and Natalie Jacobson managed to keep a lid on their estranged marriage for more than a year before dropping the bomb on the rest of us. How will we watch Channel 5's Boston Marathon coverage now that Chet and Nat have crossed the finish line?

MEDIA SECRET NO. 2

The "velvet coffin" opens at the Boston Globe

The "velvet coffin" has long been a morbid metaphor on Morrissey Boulevard. It used to refer to Globies who signed onto the paper for life, no matter how disenchanted they might become (where else are you going to go?) or how much their bosses had become disappointed in them. Well, the walking dead have been revived. The *Globe* is no longer a lifetime gig. Even veterans are jumping ship. Dan Golden, Richard Knox, Judy Foreman, Alison Bethel and Alison Bass all bowed out this year. Whether it's the new *Globe* or the new economy is anyone's guess. What it means is the paper's new crop of reporters must be as good or better than those before them. It also means the end of a way of life at the venerable institution.

BEST RADIO TALK-SHOW HOST

Christopher Lydon

WBUR-FM (90.9)

What a connection we feel to *The Connection*, a live daily call-in show hosted by the welcoming and well-informed Lydon. He isn't overbearing; he respects callers, and he's well prepared. That's the work of top-notch producers, but Lydon honors their effort by asking the right questions and he steers the conversation onto thoughtful ground, away from his own agenda or that of some guest. Lydon is smart, and not a showoff. In radio, that's saying quite a lot.

SPIN CONTROL BY A PARTICIPANT

Chet Curtis and Natalie Jacobson

WCVB-TV

Both participants get this award. Together, the partners in prime-time managed to keep happy faces during the sad unraveling of their marriage. By their accounts and appearances, they had a friendly divorce. It was the viewers who acted heartsick and felt betrayed.

BEST DRIVE-TIME D.J.

Lynn Hoffman

MIX 98.5-FM

There is no reason to hit your snooze button when Hoffman is at her usual post, working the 6-9am commuter rush. Hoffman has nonstop energy. She's hip and smart, and was willing to get intoxicated and be tested for sobriety by police officers. (You just don't get quality investigative work like that from other morning disc jockeys.) Plus, she seems to like her listeners as much as she does Barenaked Ladies.

RADIO COMEBACK

Lori Kramer (left) WRKO-AM (1030)

One-half of the defunct nightly WRKO show known as "Two Chicks Dishing," Kramer and her former best friend had a falling out. They decided the show couldn't go on. Kramer, who is, as they say, wicked funny, took herself to New York. (She's a non-practicing attorney who brings some smarts to her girl-talk schtick.) This year she's back on WRKO each night, along with that unforgettable blonde, Darlene McCarthy (right). Kramer does the show from New York, in her slippers and maybe sipping wine. That's why it's called "Leave It to Divas."

AFTERNOON D.J.

Nik Carter

WBCN FM (104.1)

He's they guy Bostonians love. Or hate. For fans, Carter can vary from the amusing to the hilarious. Right now, the radio interns who participate in his goofball pranks have some of the coolest jobs in town.

TELEVISION NEWS

WHDH-TV

Channel 7

This is the news organization Bostonians love to hate. Too quick and flashy for you? Well, someone is watching. Channel 7 set the standard for television news in this town. Truth is, the nightly anchor teams are decent, and hard-working reporters in this town know it's often Channel 7 sleuths they have to watch in competitive situations. Are they sensational? Yes. And they're pretty good, too.

REASON TO CHANGE THE CHANNEL

Boston Neighborhood Network TV

First off, Mayor Menino should not seek out cameras, and hizzoner seems to be the star of this station's lineup. Also, how many times do we have to see Al Gore blessing that fleet of computers in Boston Public Schools? Ever seen the public access stations in other cities? You don't have to go all the way to New York to see how good it can be. Some cities and towns right outside Boston do a fine job of local programming. Hyde Park Live? Is this for real? When the burned-out civil servants start taking calls from shut-ins from city neighborhoods, it's too depressing to bear. Such potential. Such waste.

TV NEWS ANCHOR

Anthony Everett

WCVB-TV

We considered Channel 4's Ted Wayman (solid reporter) or Channel 7's Kim Carrigan (so seemingly interested in New England, she could be the next Natalie.) But Everett has the advantage of replacing that smug Brian Leary. Everett knows how to report news with authority. Also, he looks like a guy your mother would love.

SPORTSCASTER

Gene Lavanchy

WHDH-TV

The level of play in this field has sunk to silly lows. Channel 7's Lavanchy knows the score and manages to provide a minimum of nonsense along with some funny moments on "Sports Xxtra." Still, Bob Lobel's Channel 4 sports-talk show beats the pants off Lavanchy's in the ratings. (Perhaps it's Lobel's guests, *Globe* writers Bob Ryan and Dan Shaughnessy, that help ring up the numbers?)

EXAMPLE OF LOCAL MEDIA STILL HAVING NATIONAL IMPACT

Andy Hiller

WHDH-TV

Hiller stopped George W. Bush in his tracks when he asked the Texas governor to name the heads of state in three international hotspots. Dubbya had some trouble and Hiller and Bush made national headlines. What it really showed us is that Dubbya's staff must be standout stupid. They let Bush sit down alone with Channel 7's Hiller, who has popped quizzes on other pols. Someone didn't do their homework.

TV NEWS REPORTER

David Boeri

WCVB-TV

Boeri combines competitiveness with class. At a time when a new fleet of TV reporters are interchangeable, Boeri keeps hammering as he has for nine years at Channel 5. This year, he brought us Patrick Nee, that delightful character who is believed to be responsible for more than one body discovered in a makeshift Dorchester graveyard. Boeri went undercover in South Boston (which isn't easy) and finally ambushed Nee to ask him, among other things, what he had done with one alleged victim's hands and feet. Boeri often digs deeper than that, and has won several Emmys for his investigative reporting. He knows the city. He knows the players. He knows news. And he looks like he's having a great time sharing it with viewers. (Our nominees were reporters with long histories here. We have yet to find a new TV type to keep an eye on.)

EXAMPLE OF WHERE TELEVISION NEWS IS HEADED

Heather Kahn goes home to Malden High

This is a true story. WCVB-TV had Kahn take viewers to her hometown of Malden to visit the well-preserved bedroom she kept in high school, and her former teenage chums. Fascinating stuff. Who would have ever guessed Kahn was a cheerleader? One gem offered was that Kahn often squealed loudly when she got into a car driven by one girlfriend in particular. It's beyond our comprehension why Channel 5 sabotaged the progress Kahn had made with viewers who wondered if she had enough perspective to provide serious news. She looked uncomfortable and we felt queasy. Her homecoming was even worse than meteorologist Dick Albert's replay of his geeky adolescence.
And that's saying something.

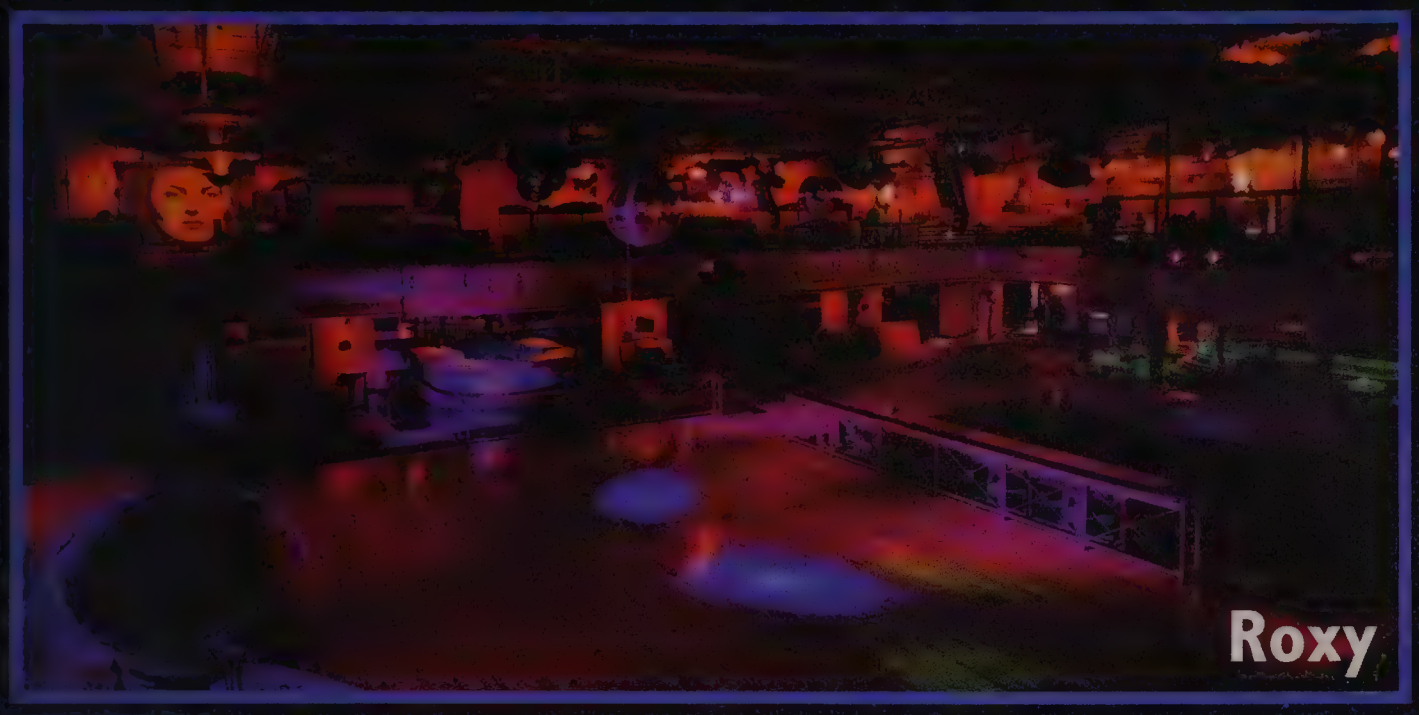
TELEVISION METEOROLOGIST

Mishelle Michaels

WHDH-TV

Don't accuse us of loving Channel 7's Mish because she's beautiful. And it's not her television wardrobe (though she does wear the best broadcast clothes in town.) No, it's about her delivery. She commands respect. In fact, you may feel compelled to take notes on that nasty storm pattern in case Ms. Michaels calls on you next.

DANCING DINING SINGING LOUNGING DRINKING



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POLITICAL JOKE

Jack E. Robinson

Put aside his not-so-good history of domestic abuse. Forget that Governor Paul Cellucci welcomed him to the party like he was welcoming someone with the E. coli virus. Beyond all that is the fact that Mr. Robinson seems to travel under a gray cloud. His luck is so bad we couldn't risk him in office. How many other political candidates do you know who have crashed their car while conducting a radio interview?

STATE POLITICIAN

House Speaker Tom Finneran

Tom stands tall. He refuses to back off issues he has taken a stand against, such as football stadiums and baseball parks funded by taxpayers. Those who disagree with his hard-line approach have to agree that Finneran doesn't confuse the issues. He has vision that stretches way beyond tomorrow and he has shown strong leadership while surrounded by what might be the weakest delegation of legislators in the state's history. All that and a sharp wit make him our guy.

EDUCATIONAL CRISIS

MCAS Test Scores

The standardized test results yielded the embarrassing fact we already knew: The next generation isn't prepared to give you change for a dollar. Don't worry about us hurting their self-esteem and creating a hostile environment that limits their potential. They can't read this anyhow.

BONEHEAD MOVE BY STATE GOVERNMENT

Testing the MCAS

Officials distributed a version with so many vague, or incorrect, answers that it had to be revised. Then the revised version had to be revised. Now we know why teenage protestors hold signs that read: "Cellucci—Kiss My MCAS!"

REASON TO HOPE AL GORE DOES NOT CHOOSE JOHN KERRY AS HIS RUNNING MATE

Paul Cellucci and Jane Swift

Should Kerry ascend to the vice presidency, Cellucci would have to name someone to fill the senator's seat. He can appoint anyone he wants—including himself. Since Cellucci has no future as governor, he might just do that. That means the lieutenant governor could step in for him. All we're saying is you better be prepared for anything. Even Swifty.

SCOOP

The Boston Herald

We can only wonder who dropped the dime that brought *Herald* photographer Matt Stone to the waterfront last summer to record former Massport Director Peter Blute, and the breast-baring Gidget, having a swell time on the harbor. (We do know the *Boston Globe* received a call during the escapade but wound up missing the boat.) Have other newspaper photographers produced pictures of higher quality this year? Sure. Is timing everything? You bet. The *Herald's* team effort takes first prize for being in the right place at the right time, and walking away with a hot summer scoop.

FAKE FUND-RAISER

Peter Blute

Ousted Massport man Peter Blute conducted an on-air fund-raiser for his pal, Jane Swift, during his WRKO morning show. Many observers say Swift was the woman who pointed reporters in Blute's direction; at the least, she delighted in his demise. Blute repaid the favor by soliciting funds in a morning-show prank to help pay for Swift's newly acquired day-care costs and commuter expenses.

POLITICAL SCHTICK

Lt. Governor Jane Swift

It is time to give credit where credit is due. Swift was laugh-out-loud funny at the annual St. Patrick's Day breakfast in South Boston. (She and Tom Finneran were the only two whose stand-up acts were bearable.) Maybe it's the North Adams city kid in her, but she got down and dirty, and got back at some of the yucksters who have been using her as a punch line.

POLITICAL SPEECH

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy

Worcester Memorial Service

Following the Worcester fire that killed six men, Kennedy told grieving families he knew the pain of losing a loved one. Sometimes, he said, life will break your heart. With that, his legendary speaking voice cracked. Months before, the remains of his nephew, John Jr., were removed from the ocean. It was impossible not to hear his grief, and the city of Worcester was touched by his openness.

POLITICIAN TO WATCH

Attorney General Tom Reilly

You won't see Reilly bouncing around black-tie fundraisers. (He's at home in his Boy Scout uniform thinking up ways to catch the bad guys.) But you might see him rising to new political heights. He is equally careful and shrewd. He never makes off-the-cuff remarks or mistakes. He's a Democrat who appeals to Republicans. He's earnest. He really believes that whole "fighting for justice" thing. He's good enough. He's smart enough. And gosh darn it, people like him.

IMITATION OF A REPUBLICAN BY A DEMOCRAT

Steve Grossman

Grossman is considering running for governor in 2002. He's a Democrat, for sure. But he's the kind of bigshot businessman (Massachusetts Envelope) that Republicans are known for recruiting. The Democrats like to stick to longtime pols who have never been corporate execs. A Democrat with private-sector savvy? This could be fun.

IMITATION OF A DEMOCRAT BY A REPUBLICAN

Lt. Governor Jane Swift

It is a time-honored tradition for the network of Democratic Massachusetts pols to make sure their friends, neighbors and their friend's neighbors all get to dine on the taxpayer tab. But it was Republican Swift who made headlines last year for freeloading off the Commonwealth in an almost Curley-like manner. Whether it was her day-care exploits or her helicopter ride, she brought down the house in good-old-boy fashion.

BEST POLITICAL MAKEOVER

Mitt Romney

Remember when we knew him as the right-wing Mormon who was just a little too perfect looking for our liking? Well, guess who has the honor of addressing the global community at the opening ceremonies of the 2000 Winter Olympics? The boy from Belmont. It will give him unprecedented exposure at a time when commentators will be telling the world he saved the Olympics from becoming a disgrace by cleaning up the Salt Lake City committee. Just think. You can say you knew him when.

REASON TO DISTANCE YOURSELF FROM YOUR COUSIN

Because he's Michael Skakel

The cousin to Joseph Kennedy III is now at the center of a homicide case that has captured national attention. Before his abrupt departure, Skakel held a plum position in cousin Joe's nonprofit as director of international programs between 1995 and 1998. Before that, he helped the family by telling anyone who would listen that his cousin, Michael, was spending a lot of time with the family's babysitter. Citizens Energy Corp. sent him on plenty of foreign excursions, but what he did for them remains a mystery. Gee, we hope that nonprofit doesn't squander salaries. That would give us the chills.

SIGN THAT THE END OF CIVILIZATION IS NEAR

Bill Weld moved to New York—and then Hollywood?

The former governor, a world-class guy, ran from Massachusetts. Now he runs with a new crowd, and reportedly wants to (gulp) give acting a try. Something is wrong with this picture.

PARTY YOU WEREN'T INVITED TO

The hangover last fall from this party lasted a lot longer than a good shave. Imagine a Boston company (with a South Boston factory and identity) dipping into its pockets for global corporate bigwigs and renting the entire FleetCenter for an entire evening, so that a songstress of titanic proportions, Celine Dion, could entertain partygoers. By all accounts, there was no trimming of costs. Nary a word about the gala appeared in press reports. You wouldn't want to advertise spending like that. That might cut into your chances at the negotiation table with state officials considering tax breaks or union members wanting raises. You know what sensitive skin those people have.

POLITICAL FANTASY

Kevin White in 2001

You read it here first.

FROM LEFT: PORTRAIT BY ELIZABETH MARKEL, NEWSMAKERS

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internet

The industry's top pioneers, pundits and prognosticators. Plus the boîtes and shops where dot-com hotshots congregate.

JOB TITLE

Emperor of Enlightenment

Patrick Rafter, Trellix; www.trellix.com

We've heard of "tech evangelists" and even "techie-gators" (apparently they do a snappy job at business-to-business sales at Forrester), but "emperor of enlightenment" is the most glorious and gut-busting job title we've heard to date. The man behind the moniker is Patrick Rafter (not to be confused with the Aussie tennis hunk). This self-dubbed emperor handles corporate communications—overseeing public relations and customer service departments—for Concord-based Trellix, which makes Web-site building tools "for mere mortals," as the company says. We salute Rafter for selecting a title that reflects the dot-com ethos: Cutting-edge, yet kicked-back, with plenty of room for zany humor. When not enlightening fellow Web types, Rafter spends time with his wife and twins and sings in an acappela group. (And yes, his business card does indeed read "emperor of enlightenment.")

BEST ISP/DIAL-UP

Shore.net

173 Oxford Street, Lynn; 781-477-2000

www.shore.net

In a world where there are almost as many Internet service providers as there are fish in the sea, it's nearly impossible to find one that won't treat you like a brine shrimp. Shore.net (recently purchased by Primus) realizes that all ISPs offer about the same service for about the same price, so it goes the extra mile to work with people and their communities. Of course, it provides 24-hour customer support, local access to more than 100 Massachusetts communities, and v. 90 service at no extra cost. But in accordance with Shore.net's people-minded philosophy, each year the company hosts a complimentary clambake for customers, just to show them how much they're appreciated. To pitch in with helping the community, Shore.net has donated oodles of free Internet accounts to Massachusetts schools and libraries that otherwise couldn't afford the Net. But if you think that these likable Lynnsters sound too much like a bunch of guppies, think again: For two years in a row, *Inc.* magazine has given them the No. 2 spot on its list of fast-growing inner-city companies, the Inner City 100, citing, among other things, the company's 5000% revenue increase over years 1994 through 1998.

BEST ISP/DSL

HarvardNet

500 Rutherford Ave., Boston; 262-1700

www.harvardnet.com

In today's speed-happy world, modems are moving in the direction of the unfortunate dodo bird as more and more businesses opt for lightning-fast DSL lines. When it comes to local DSL providers, Harvard*Net* wins hands down. It has installed its DSL equipment at all the area telephone offices *and* sells directly to end users, giving them end-to-end connection control. For the consumer, this translates into highly customized service. What's more, Harvard*Net* provides the tools and support to back up the speed with its Business Backup service, which utilizes the power of DSL lines to provide an automatic, secure and consistent backup service. So if your company server crashes in the middle of the night, no worries; Business Backup allows you to restore files from any point in time. Harvard*Net* may not be the cheapest option out there, but it guarantees not only speed, but piece of mind.

BEST WEB HOSTING/GENERAL

HarvardNet

500 Rutherford Ave., Boston; 262-1700

www.harvardnet.com

The Web is a bustling place these days, with everybody from the smallest mom-and-pop to the most monstrous conglomerates putting up Web sites. But whether you're establishing a small dot-com presence or are looking to expand your electronic empire, Harvard*Net* provides hosting options that are versatile enough to meet the needs of any company. It also provides superior outsourcing options for businesses looking to jack the power of their Web site up a notch with a customized server from Hewlett Packard or Sun Microsystems. And no matter how involved you are with your Web site, Harvard*Net* provides round-the-clock hardware monitoring, ensuring that your site is always up and running.

BEST WEB HOSTING/HIGH END

Exodus Communications

600 Winter Street, Waltham; 888-239-6387

www.exodus.net

What do Yahoo, eBay and Priceline all have in common, besides being some of the most heavily trafficked sites on the Internet today? They're all clients of Exodus Communications,

Portrait by Tsar Fedorsky

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- **Solomon Pond Mall**, Marlborough (off I-290)
  508-303-3666
- Also in **Avon, CT** at 380 W. Main Street
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BEST RESEARCH ANALYST

Mary Modahl

Forrester Research, 400 Technology Square, Cambridge; 497-7090; www.forrester.com

Perhaps you've seen this brainy beauty espousing wisdom for the wired on CBS or CNBC, or have seen her quoted in the *Wall Street Journal* or *Wired* magazine. Indeed, since starting with Forrester Research—a firm that analyzes the impact that technologies may have on business, consumers and society—in 1988, Modahl has given critical, life-saving advice to huge Internet companies and has predicted broad, sweeping trends on the Net, such as the profitability of putting business-to-business commerce online, with uncanny accuracy. Recently named one of the E.Biz 25, *Business Week*'s annual list of the most influential and rock-steady leaders of the online world, Modahl recently pushed her company into heavily researching the business-to-business market in her new role as Forrester's VP of marketing. This overachiever also penned a book recently, titled *Now or Never: How Companies Must Change Today to Win the Battle for Internet Consumers.* Our advice: Read it and do what she says.

WEB IMPRESARIO

Bob Metcalfe

When Bob Metcalfe invented the Ethernet, he essentially did for computers what Alexander Graham Bell did for people, by inventing a device that allows computers in close proximity to talk to one another on a local area network, and beyond that, all of cyberspace. It wasn't enough for the tireless and pioneering Metcalfe to invent the most widely used networking system in the world; that was just the beginning. In addition to just finishing a book titled *Internet Collapses and Other InfoWorld Punditry*, he serves on the MIT's board of directors and writes a weekly Internet column called "From the Ether" for *InfoWorld*. Perhaps most important, Metcalfe acts as an incredible facilitator within the international Web community. Each year, he rounds up many of the world's top technology CEOs to share ideas and shape the cyber future at his two annual conferences: Agenda and Vortex. And then there are the now legendary tech salons that he hosts at his fabulous Back Bay mansion (guest lists read like an international who's who of the Internet).

DOT-COM HANGOUTS

Downtown: Les Zygomates

129 South St.; 542-5108

Cambridge: B-Side Lounge

92 Hampshire Street; 354-0766

Ever wonder where cyber types kick back once the whistle blows? Although the trend may be young, we've noticed that both the B-Side Lounge in Cambridge and Les Zygomates downtown attract large numbers of dot-com hotshots. Perhaps it's due to their close proximity to dot-communities. But more likely, it's because they offer a stylish yet relaxed ambience, the perfect place to relax over a cosmopolitan and IPO gossip. At the funky, retro B-Side, located in a residential area of Cambridge not far from techie Kendall Square, expect plenty of artsy-fartsy types mixing with Internet punks. Saddle up to the bar at Les Zyg down on South Street for a somewhat more elegant and intimate dot-com encounter. At either locale, prick up your ears, and you just may glean a juicy tidbit about the raciest Web site or latest dot-com death.

DOT-COM CLOTHIER

Sola/Jasmine

(all locations)

Want to look like a hip dot-commer without looking like you just walked off the set of *Hackers?* Sola and Jasmine are where the technologically inclined conduct their business of the fashion kind. The beauty of these stores is that, while they carry clothing from a number of different designers, such as Calvin Klein, 4 You and Tommy Bahama, everything can be described as being hip, sleek, contemporary and versatile. Wear these duds to the office, then jet over to the nearest bar for that local rock show, and you won't get nasty looks from either crowd suggesting that you're out of your element. You'll pay more here than you will at a place like The Gap, but you won't find out two weeks too late that the neon-orange vest you took a chance on is making you look like a road hazard.

WEB ENTREPRENEURS

Jeet Singh and Joe Chung

Art Technology Group Inc. (ARTG), 25 First Street, Cambridge; 386-1000

The name of their company's flagship software is called Dynamo, but whether that appellation applies more aptly to the software or to either of these MIT alums and former bandmates is unclear. Since the founding of Art Technology Group in 1991, the pair has made great strides to stay on the cutting-edge of Internet technology. In recent years, those strides have turned into giant leaps. Just one year ago, the company was valued at $400 million. This month, following last year's IPO, it's worth $7.5 billion. Given those statistics, you might think of these guys more as slave drivers than as brilliant software developers, until you hear that neither Singh, the company's CEO, nor Chung, chairman and CTO, even keep private offices. They know how to not only engineer a product for the Web that is so successful that (among many others) clients such as BMG Direct and the e-business wing of PricewaterhouseCoopers have offered their accolades, but to transform a talented staff into a prospering business.

WEB PR FIRM

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Each client receives an equal amount of attention. No staffer services any more than three clients at a time, yet Schwartz assigns more employees to each account team than any other PR firm in the country. And so the company doesn't degrade its high quality of representation, it turns down almost as many potential clients as it currently serves each month. Although this business philosophy might seem a tad idealistic, it's worked beautifully for the Waltham-based Schwartz Communications, a PR firm that services emerging-technology companies. One of its most recent success stories was the acquisition of Silknet Software, a company dealing in customer-relationship-management software. When Schwartz first started its partnership with the company three years ago, it consisted of 18 employees working out of an abandoned paper mill. But thanks to the savvy efforts of Schwartz, which saw the company through every stage of its development, it was acquired by the California communications firm Kana for $4.2 billion. Now that's a philosophy you can take to the bank.

business

A big bank merger, ballpark fight and leadership void. No small year for Boston.

AD CAMPAIGN FROM A LOCAL AGENCY FOR A LOCAL CLIENT

Mullen Advertising

It was Super Bowl Sunday, 1999 when Mullen scored a huge win. Based in Wenham, MA, Mullen is a $343 million dollar, full-service agency. The Super Sunday spot, "When I Grow Up" was created for the online job search site, monster.com. It was genius. Young kids told the camera what they wanted to be when they grew up—only they offered the most depressing modern-day reasons to look for a new job. Most people probably walked away from their television to log onto their computers. It was voted best spot of the year by *Advertising Age*.

LAW FIRM FOR WILLS, ESTATES AND TRUSTS

Lourie & Cutler, PC Attorneys

160 State Street, Boston 742-6720

It's a sign of the times; everybody's setting up a trust fund. (In these flush times, it's important to know as much as you can about how to keep your money away from the government.) At Lourie & Cutler, the mess of wills and trusts is cleaned up with good old-fashioned common sense and an understanding of the new economy, and its rules. Our voters say Lourie & Cutler attorneys can counsel you so well you won't even mind finally drawing up that will you keep saying you will.

FUND MANAGER

Jerry Jordan

Hellman Jordan Management Company

Jerry Jordan is so good his clients won't share his name with anyone. When we asked him how his name appears in print, he said: "It doesn't." But our polls of Boston's financial community 'man. He only accepts investments from high-net-worth individuals and institutions, and would only confirm the Gannett Co., Mellon Foundation and the Native American Apache Tribe as among his clients. The bulk of his investors are placed in hedge funds. "We do not diversify," he says. The business has approximately $2 billion in total assets; about $1 billion of which is in hedge funds. A significant portion of that is his own personal investment. So go see him, but don't tell anyone.

BEST BUSINESSMAN TO HAVE IN YOUR CORNER

Jack Connors

He's chairman of Hill, Holliday, Connors, and Cosmopoulos, and makes it look like a part-time job. Connors is everywhere. His signature fundrasing project, to restore the Wang Center, was just the tip of the iceberg. Not only does he raise funds, Connors gives plenty away. This year, he donated $5 million to Brigham and Women's Hospital. He also took over the mortgage on a multisevercice nonprofit agency that was struggling for a home. He's the chairman—and he's the man.

CORPORATE CON ARTIST

John Harrington

Boston Red Sox CEO

Let's say you want a new ballpark and you don't mind paying for it. Even if you have to admit that the argument for a new Fenway is somewhat strange: The Sox allegedly need a new ballpark so they can be at the top of their game; at the same time, they keep winning at Fenway. Add that to the significant omission of an additional $450 million to the price tag for a new Boston baseball park. Harrington did not initially include "site allocation" costs. The real price tag for the new stadium, he has confessed, would be about $627 million. We know this CEO is smart enough to double-check his math.

BUSINESS SECRET

There's No Business Leadership Left in Boston

Without the Vault, that contingent of downtown business leaders that formed to keep an eye on the most important mergers, investments and developments in the city, there's a noticeable lack of leadership in town. The old-guard corporate executives with a sense of history and devotion to Boston are busy chasing the young guns who are setting new rules and winning new business quicker than the seniors can straighten their bow-ties. The new kids on the block are working around-the-clock minting money and really don't waste their time with local politics. (Besides, like our dearly departed ex-governor, they can just relocate to New York once they become established.) Unfortunately that leaves the city in the hands of a visionless political contingent—and in a precarious position when the next economic downturn inevitably occurs.

BUSINESS LIE

Greater Good For the Consumer Fleet/BankBoston Merger

The promises of greater efficiencies spewed from the collective public relations entities flacking for the consolidation of New England's two largest banks. What happened next? Well, you know the story. Bank officials say it's a minority of us whining, when the rest are happy customers. If you find any, let us know.

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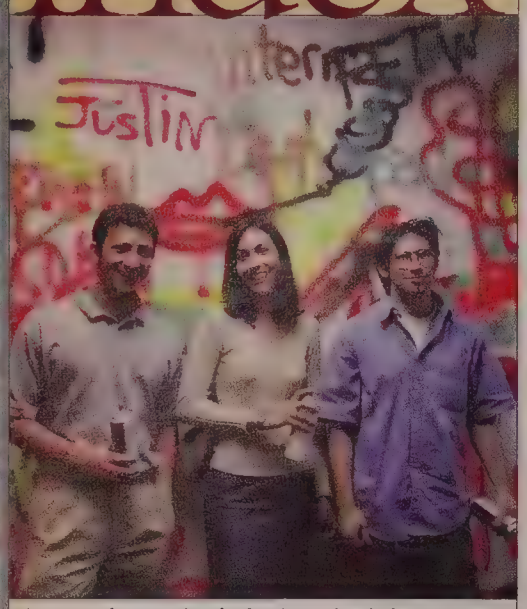

Summer interns Justin Adelson, Leah Gourley and Paul Venuti are the best interns any organization ever had. So are Jane Kim, Elizabeth Solomont and Ben Gedan—not shown here.

Restaurants

1369 Coffee House Coffee House 757 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, 576-4600; 1369 Cambridge St., Cambridge, 576-1369 23
75 Chestnut Romantic Restaurant 227-2175 28
Abe & Louie's Martini 536-6300 26
Addis Red Sea Restaurant You May Have Overlooked 426-8727 23
Anna's Taqueria Burrito 1412 Beacon St., Brookline, 739-7300; 466 Harvard St., Brookline, 277-7111; Porter Square Galleria, Somerville, 661-8500 23
Anthony's Cafe Biscotti 742-2987 25
Apollo Grill Late-Night Drunk Food 423-3888 28
Aspasia Up-and-Coming Chef 864-4745 28
Barcode Place to Find Relationship of Limited Duration 421-1818 28
Barking Crab Extremely Casual Dining 426-2722 26
Bartley's Burger 354-6559 26
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Blue Ribbon Take-Out BBQ 1375 Washington St., Newton, 332-2583; 908 Mass. Ave., Arlington, 781-648-7427 26
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Bomboa Vertigo-Inducing Decor 236-6363 20
Brasserie Jo Trip to Paris for under $100 425-3240 26
Bristol Lounge at the Four Seasons Place for Business Drinks, Afternoon Tea 338-4400 23
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The Burren Irish Bar 776-6896 26
Cactus Club Margarita 236-0200 28
Cafe Vittoria Cappuccino 227-7606 20
Capital Grille Place to Prove Money Can Buy Love 262-8900 29
Caprice Pre/Post Dinner Dining 292-0080 29
Charlie's Kitchen Greasy Spoon 492-9646 28
Chau Chow City Dim Sum Brunch 338-8158 25
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Desfina Greek Restaurant 868-9098 29
The Dish Best Neighborhood Restaurant 426-7866 29
The Federalist Place to Go When Price is No Object 670-2515 25
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Helmand Off the Beaten Track 492-4646 25
Henrietta's Table Brunch 661-5005 23
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John Harvard's Brew House Brew Pub 868-3585 20
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Kashmir Indian 536-1695 20
Kupel's Bagels Bagel 566-9528 26
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Les Zygomates Jazz Dinner 542-5108 22
Locke Ober Endangered Institution 542-1340 20
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Olé Mexican Grill Mexican Restaurant 492-4495 23
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Pho Republique Duplication of a New York Bar, Late-Night Drink 262-0005 25, 29
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Cantab Lounge Club You Can Wear Sneakers Too 354-2685 52
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Centerfolds 2000 Strip Club 508-987-5222 53
Comedy Connection Comedy Club 248-9700 50
F1 Boston Cheap Thrills 781-848-2300 53
General Cinema's Fenway Theaters Movie Theater 424-6266 52
Hollywood Express Video Store 1740 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, 497-2001; 765 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, 864-8400; 14 McGrath O'Brien Highway, Somerville, 628-6000 52
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Lilli's Welcome Addition to the Club Scene 591-1661 52
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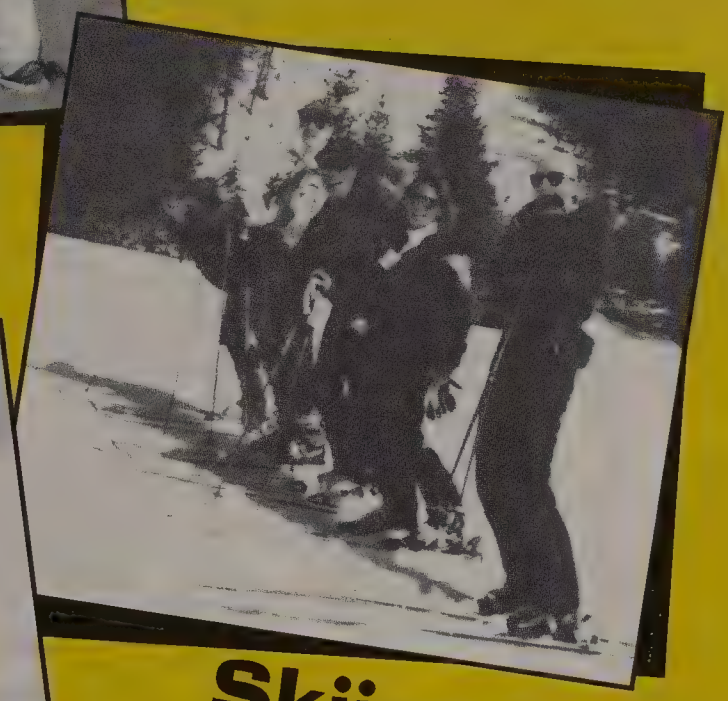
FROM TOP: KATYA APEKINA, STEPHEN SHEFFIELD

Soccer & Softball!



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OFF THE HOOK

It takes a lot of money and a lot of trouble to bring you to one of Boston's best criminal defense attorneys. In this world, the bad guys are only seriously misunderstood individuals, and the good guys get them off the hook.

BY ELLEN O'BRIEN

PORTRAITS BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

The best criminal defense attorneys in this city might share a few character flaws. They are sometimes a shameless, image-conscious, cut-throat lot. In many ways, though, they are nearly flawless. With cool precision, Boston's top trial attorneys confound the Commonwealth—in a way that makes sense to jurors. Theirs is not a hard line, the type that prosecutors draw to separate the good guys from the bad. Theirs is a malleable and movable gray line that needs to be considered as delicately as the handling of their high-paying clients. The work of these trial attorneys is about fishing out mistakes made by prosecutors, and convincing jurors that sometimes life is not so black-and-white.

Richard Egbert, Martin Weinberg, Tom Hoopes, Thomas E. Dwyer, Jr. and, of course, the Revered R. Robert Popeo, are among a small, select group of Boston trial attorneys who cater to the discriminating client. A world-class intellectual community powered by institutes of higher learning, health-care and bio-tech research, Boston is an enviable place to practice law. The same driving forces that lend our city prestige also provide a nefarious underside, namely sophisticated white-collar crime. Intellectual-property theft, Security Exchange Commission violations and health-care fraud make for challenging, big-money casework , the high-caliber stuff accomplished attorneys crave. As the U.S. government continues to pour millions into white-collar-crime task forces, talented Boston defense attorneys increasingly devote much of their practice to handling federal work. Still, few can boast the sort of trial experience had by the handful at the top.

For about $400 per hour (make that about $600 for Popeo), lawyers in this league provide not only advice and comfort, but also a statement for the press, a story for the judge, and a network of politicians, prosecutors and reporters who will take the calls from attorneys they know. If all else fails, they will represent you in court. There they will fight for their reputation as much as yours.

"With a white-collar guy, the conviction is worse than doing jail time," explains attorney Hoopes. "Some guys pull the trigger over that," he adds as a morbid aside. "A reputation is everything."

Hoopes recently represented Needham Selectman Ted Owens in a scandalous assault case. The alleged victim, a girlfriend of the accused, appeared in court still bruised from what she told police was Owens' attack . Sadly enough, Hoopes explained to jurors, the alleged victim had received substandard psychiatric care; the prescription medicines she took were capable of triggering a violent rage. For any jury stragglers not yet convinced of the woman's potential for violence, Hoopes presented a billboard-sized photograph of the alleged victim's tae kwon do studio as further evidence that she was capable of posing a threat to his client. Shameless? It worked.

Hoopes, as they say, walked the guy. In April, he also walked the Woburn dentist who wrote 10,000 Percocet prescriptions—to a single patient—in one year. Dr. Paul Lennon's $2.5 million practice, and his good name, were kept intact after Hoopes consulted with a specialist in "modern-day pain management." That specialist is the same man who helped the doctor of the late Elvis Presley escape criminal charges after allegedly overprescribing medications (Presley's doctor did eventually lose his license to practice medicine.)

"He explained to me that I was looking at this all wrong," says Hoopes. "The question was not whether the client received the medication. The question was, 'Why had he received it?' " Following this sort of argument, the

Left to right: Michael Kelly, Tom Hoopes and Frank Libby opened KLH Boston last month, a law firm advertising the experience of three former prosecutors and trial attorneys who specialize in white-collar crime.

Richard Egbert's career has always been devoted to criminal defense work. His high-profile trial successes mean that he handles the press, the public and prosecutors with equal skill. Some people say he is the best in town—or second best, depending on whom you ask.

high-profile criminal case no longer centered on Dr. Lennon, but on modern-day pain management.

A former Middlesex County prosecutor, Hoopes recently joined forces with two former U.S. attorneys, Paul Kelly and Frank Libby; all three were eager to escape their respective old-school-style law firms. Together, they opened KLH, Boston, a small, "boutique-style" specialty law firm catering to clients in search of intimidating defense attorneys with trial experience and areas of specialty. (As federal prosecutors, Kelly and Libby tried the Charlestown "Code of Silence" case.) The triumvirate toasted themselves at a cigar-and-champagne reception that was held at the Wyndham Hotel last month.

Popeo was there to bless the ceremonies, and was kind enough to feign fear of the new competition. Among the other law-and-order adversaries at hand to toast the trio were Suffolk County District Attorney Ralph Martin, Middlesex D.A. Martha Coakley and Department of Social Services Commissioner Jeffrey Locke (former Norfolk County D.A.), who joked that he likely lost his re-election bid because he chose Kelly, Libby and Hoopes as his consultants. If this snapshot seems strangely cozy, then remember that it's fair game for defense attorneys to raise funds for elected prosecutors. "It's a fact of life," says Hoopes. "It's an elected office. They need money. You never buy a case. And you never buy a favor. All you do is hope they will listen."

SINNERS AND LOSERS

"Not me," says Richard Egbert. "Nobody does me any favors." That's just the type of thing Egbert would say; he's not one to ingratiate himself to anyone. A roll-up-your-sleeves-and-fight breed of attorney, today he's on his way to a national convention of criminal attorneys to present a lecture on the dangers of the increasing number of plea bargains offered to clients. He's scrappy, animated and almost seems out of place in an office so richly appointed—marbled walls, smoked-glass doors and a watercolor of Jimmy Carter, Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin signing the Camp David Peace Accord.

Egbert is the attorney who transformed Florida con man Stephen Fagan from a dirty-rat bastard to a Father's Day favorite. (Fagan, if you don't recall, was charged with kidnapping his two daughters from his estranged wife more than 20 years ago.) Egbert stuck it to former Middlesex D.A. Tom Reilly, who had voiced his hopes that Fagan's daughters would recognize their father as a villain. It hasn't happened yet, and it was obvious from the start that the two young women were the case-breakers, one a college athlete and scholar, the other an aspiring philanthropist. If those had been Reilly's witnesses rather than Egbert's, we likely would have learned the sisters' GPAs and places of worship.

The day after Fagan's trial ended, Egbert did a rare thing. He called a press conference so he could tell the reporters what a vile, insatiable bunch they were. Back then, of course, Egbert was riled up because reporters had labeled him a huckster for setting up a family-style photograph of the Fagans eating dinner in hopes of avoiding the routine media rush and hotel ambush. (The press felt patronized and the stint backfired.)

Egbert's favorite verdict, he says, came when he got an acquittal for a client who had walked into a police station, and confessed to a crime. Later, an eyewitness to the crime confirmed the identity of Egbert's client. Egbert got an acquittal. "The prosecutors were in shock," says Egbert, cracking himself up. "Ba-hahaha!" After a moment, he makes clear that he is not laughing at the verdict, just enjoying a system that allows him to translate complicated legal analysis to well-intentioned citizens. "People come to me in real trouble," he says. "Their whole world has just come down on them. The nicest people can find themselves in situations they never expected."

Martin Murphy, co-chair to the Boston Bar Association's criminal law section and an attorney at Bingham Dana LLP is acknowledged by many as having one of the keenest and quickest legal minds in town. As a First Assistant Middlesex District Attorney, Murphy did what some investigators call "God's work"—seeking, finding and punishing those who commit homicide. His image is pure altar boy, polite and soft-spoken, with a quick wit. He's not a backslapper or a wisecracker. He is the absolute last person you would expect to see on *Inside Edition*. However, back in 1995, Murphy was featured on the television show when a hostile witness tackled him to the floor in a crowded courtroom.

Now he's back at a private law firm doing defense work. Currently he's defending Dr. Kirk Greineder, the Wellesley doctor charged with the murder of his wife. Much of Murphy's work is white-collar fraud cases these days, and he's at a firm where very rarely do the clients' cases involve blood evidence. "People who find themselves in the middle of an investigation want somebody who can see around

"IT'S A FACT OF LIFE. IT'S AN ELECTED OFFICE. THEY NEED MONEY. YOU NEVER BUY A CASE. AND YOU NEVER BUY A FAVOR. ALL YOU DO IS HOPE THEY WILL LISTEN." —ATTORNEY TOM HOOPES

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"BETTER A GUILTY MAN GO FREE THAN I GET EMBARRASSED."
—ATTORNEY R. ROBERT POPEO

R.Robert Popeo of Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo reigns supreme in the world of Boston trial attorneys.

the corner and knows all the angles," says Murphy. When the initial media frenzy surrounded the case, Murphy's mother, like many, heard only the version offered by prosecutors. (A judge later ruled that prosecutors had "flagrantly violated" the rules governing the release of information.) Murphy acknowledged that trial attorneys often face an uphill battle when it comes to the images of their clients portrayed on television. His mother dialed him at the office and left this message, "Son, I will always love you. No matter what you do."

No matter what they do, it's not an easy thing for trial attorneys to retain winning reputations if they are actually going to try cases. If they go to trial, defense counsel has to lose—or compromise, sometimes.

COMPETITIVE CLIMATE

For years, Thomas E Dwyer, Jr. has been one of the most recognized names in Boston criminal defense circles. His breakthrough came when representing former Mayor Kevin White when U.S. Attorney William F. Weld launched an investigation into White's fund-raising tactics. White was never indicted, and Dwyer established a reputation as a blazing trial attorney. Beyond individual wins, Dwyer was among the first in Boston to have a small boutique (meaning specialty) criminal-law firm. Dwyer was ahead of the curve, until the legal landscape changed, quite dramatically. In the early '90s, the feds started pumping in $50 million a year to white-collar task forces whose efforts were initially focused on ferreting out bank fraud. While the government continued to generate cases, and attorneys began specializing in those cases, the competition stiffened. Now Boston is home to a great number of well-known criminal defense attorneys including James L. Sultan, Jacob Atwood, Harvey Silverglate, Andrew Good, Bob George, Robert Sheketoff, Norman Zalkind, Kevin Reddington and others who have been in the spotlight because of their successes, strategies or sensational clients. Once an attorney has a reputation as a winner, trying a widely publicized case is risky business. "Results get around," explains attorney Egbert. "And non-results get around even quicker."

Case in point: Three years ago, Dwyer and co-counsel Cathy Weinman lost a front-page trial centering on Mark Ferber, known then as one of the city's premier financiers. Ferber was charged with embezzling millions in an elaborate kickback scheme with the Merrill Lynch,Co. Dwyer failed to get an acquittal for Ferber. Instead his client was sentenced to 33 months in prison. Perhaps worse than that, Ferber is now remembered as that guy who got caught—and convicted. Dwyer is remembered as the attorney who represented him. The Ferber trial is an example of why the best trial attorneys do their best not to go to trial.

WIN-LOSS-TIE

Success is not always measured in the loss-win column, of course. Legal battles that stretch for years, or uncover new ground, may never turn out the way defense counsel hoped, but there are victories along the way. Martin Weinberg was trial counsel to John Martorano—one of a group of reputed mobsters who challenged the federal government's case against them, and renowned underworld figures James J. "Whitey" Bulger, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi and Francis "Cadillac Frank" Salemmi. Weinberg was one of a team of attorneys who unraveled what he calls the tortured history of the Boston's Federal Bureau of Investigation relationship with informants.

In the end, the Boston FBI office was exposed as a national embarrassment. Martorano pleaded guilty, and agreed to inform on Flemmi and Bulger. The plea agreement was extraordinary; the complex case resulted in a 660-page judge's decision. Martorano admitted killing 20 people; he is expected to serve less than 10 years of a prison (He was not represented by Weinberg when negotiating the plea.) For Weinberg, the case was about taking a stand against the federal government, proving it corrupt.

Some might say J.W. Carney,Jr. who represented a Woburn plastic surgeon who shot his wife's lover, recently did better than lose a case. There were few people who expected Dr. James Kartell to receive less than a 20-year sentence. Carney managed to convince the jury to convict on a manslaughter charge, instead of murder. Kartell will serve eight years.

Somehow, amid all this work and talent, R.Robert Popeo has persevered as the attorney most likely never to lose. His reputation only gets stronger each year, whether he's on trial or not. It was 1985 when Popeo made his name on the Vinnie Piro case; his client, a state senator from Somerville, was caught on a tape recording apparently accepting a bribe. Then he discovered his conscience—and Popeo. Piro gave the money back. After an initial mistrial (hung jury), Popeo tried the case again. And won.

Popeo is about power and powerful people.More than 20 years ago, former state treasurer Robert Crane hired Popeo to make his tax-evasion problems go away.Three years ago, the parents of Michael Kennedy's teenaged babysitter called him when scandal struck. Popeo is the friendly bulldog, a genuine class-act guy who will destroy you if necessary.

The best advice ever given to a kid from Eastie, who now reigns supreme at the law firm of Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, had to do with preparation—and winning. "Someone once told me this," says Popeo.

'Better a guilty man go free than I get embarrassed," he says. "That's a piece of advice I'll always remember." iB

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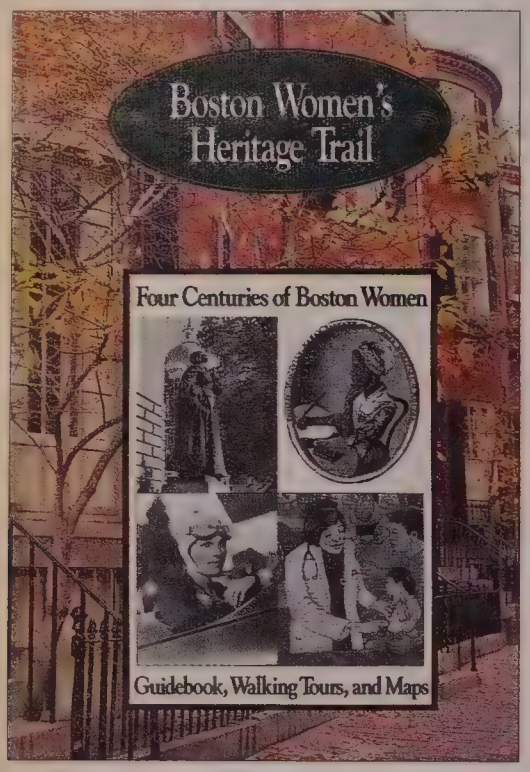
Serendipitous shopping: Our unfettered correspondent seeks out the salubrious and the cerebral.

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY



FOLLOWING FEMINIST FOOTPRINTS

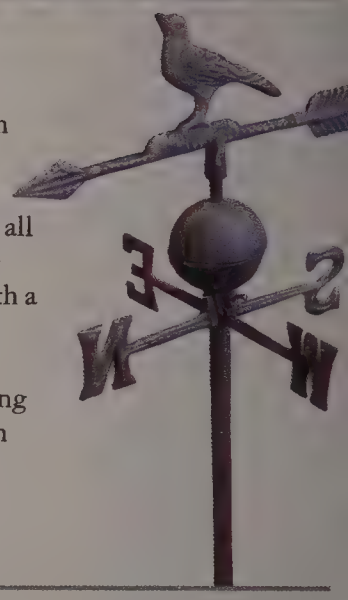
The Boston Women's Heritage Trail is a self-guided walking tour that commemorates women's contributions to our town. Available at local bookstores or call 522-2872.

"Remember the ladies," Abigail Adams admonished her husband, John, in 1776. But the stirring group of amazingly worthy, back-bone-ish women who have left their mark on Boston go rather unrepresented in the familiar tours. To remedy this, the Boston Women's Heritage Trail honors four centuries of Yankee-zesty pioneers in this self-guided tour book. Bristling with "firsts," there's the first African-American doctor and female MIT graduate, the founder of the first U.S. kindergarten and so on. Immigration; education; religion; abolition; peace; suffrage; politics; the arts, including the domestic ones (Fannie Farmer's school) and the radical ones (*Our Bodies, Ourselves*); and Yankee-activism of all kinds are applauded, including well-knowns like Amelia Earhart, Julia Ward Howe and Annie Sullivan, amid less-famous women. One tempting snippet: Fugitive slave Ellen Craft "disguised herself as her master, bandaged as if ill, tended to by her husband as if he were the slave." Find yourself happily foxtrotting around after these zooming valedictorians of progress and spirit, who often lived or worked in beautiful houses (mostly seen from the outside) on this tour. The walks are divided by neighborhoods, and the minibiographies make you itch to read longer ones.

THE GEE! GNOME PROJECT

Gnome & Rose, 1110 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (576-7673), has "eclectic necessities for the home, garden & soul," in Putnam Square, outside Harvard Square.

This is a store that makes you imagine you're spying into a Paris courtyard, where a certain fadedness and rust are beautiful virtues. Maybe Collette is lurking, sitting on a great old, brown wicker chair. There's an ancient-seeming birdbath (in truth, new) and a lacy-patterned chipping metal grate leaning up against the wall. A hand-shaped door knocker, all verdigris, looks a million years old. Owner Abby Harvey seeks out a look of very plausible antiqueness, classy with a hint of melancholy. A beautiful chocolate-red wooden trunk with a steep, roofline-ish top is lettered with the words "Mme de Sevigne" and a Paris address. A little red canoe is made into a table. Battered-looking signs exhort workers of yesteryear: "Don't talk. Save time. Save money." Harvey likes things made of old barn woods, including a miniature scene of domestic country life in a very dry-woody cabinet. There's a door with frosted panels showing pictures of early-movie actors. A big, flat, irregular round board could hold pizza or bread. A tray, hauntingly painted with pears, could be old but is new. Harvey has subtle, shiny-green bowls made of paper. And, also, gnomes.



BACK TO WORK WITH A BETTER BACK

Backworks, 34 Batterymarch St., Boston (451-BACK), offers treatments, East and West.

It's fitting that Backworks is in the Financial District, where craning necks and slouching backs are so assiduously courting stress. Nice, too, that it's located on a sweet back street—London-ish Batterymarch Street, just past the fray, symbolizing peace. Director George Assad and his dozen licensed massage/muscular therapists offer an array of treatments that range from everyday ache-relieving, full-body massages to traditional Chinese medicine, acupuncture and chiropractic. A basic massage begins with the pressure of warm, heated towels and proceeds to the pleasant "bread-kneading" action that inches open the door of tension, liberating, Ah!, relief. Believing in exploring all conservative treatments this side of the knife, Assad extols the importance of bringing maximum elasticity and flexibility to those muscles that play a role in many of the muscular-skeletal disorders that may become, or may already be, downright medical. As such, he works with referring doctors. Using the language of physiology (Assad was a physical education teacher), alongside Eastern-flavored concepts like "chi" and "energy," the Backworks belief is that balance and loosening, especially around the spine, wrist and neck, go a long way to help people with injuries, chronic conditions and "just" stress. Feel better.

GNOME & "BETTER BACK": WENDY MIMRAN (3)

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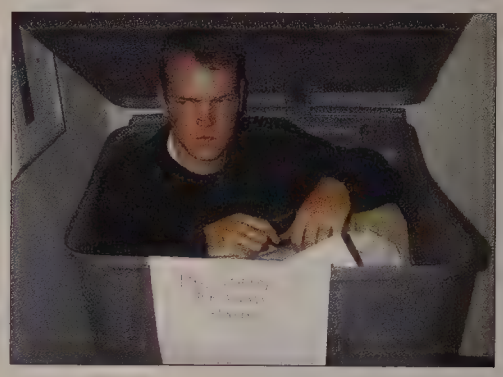
Ezra

Confined to a Box

True confessions of a cubicle-dweller

BY EZRA DYER

I used to be a stud. I used to have an office. My office was a bleak, little room with a view into a hallway, but it was all mine. So I was quite upset when a memo from management came around proclaiming that due to space constraints and the push for increased productivity, several staff members—myself included—would be moving into a big, cubicle-filled room in another part of the building. Initially I hated this idea, as I figured that moving from an office to a cubicle would be like moving from a townhouse to a mud hut. After living inside my cubicle for two weeks, I can see that I was off-base in that assessment. Mud huts at least have roofs.



With no roof (or walls, for that matter), the world of the cubicle-dweller is one of a complete lack of privacy. In my office, I was in control. I could shut my door and seal myself inside my own domain. If visitors did not enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of Ezra, then they could stay in their own offices and leave me alone. Now I feel like I'm in one of those disturbing Disney World dioramas that you see on your way out of Space Mountain: (piped in voice) "Here we have the 21st century writer. As you can see, he produces magazine articles by sitting in a pile of rubbish, looking at pornographic e-mail attachments and scratching himself with a broken pen."

On the subject of illicit e-mails, keeping up with the flow of dirty jokes/pictures/movies is now a daunting task. In my office I faced the door, so that I'd have time to change my desktop to something appropriate should a superior make a surprise entrance. In cubicleland, I have my back to the cubicle entrance, and why not? Assailants need not use the "door," as poking their heads over the "wall"—hi neighbor!—is a much quicker and more efficient means of bothering me. My coworkers, cubicle enthusiasts all, love this. I have already found myself in more than a few dicey situations when opening the kind of attachments that are preceded by comments like, "Remind me never to drink champagne in Germany!" or "That's one lucky horse!" Now, on a whim, my boss can peek over the divider and see that not only am I not being productive, I'm clogging the office server with MPEG videos of people engaged in activities that are illegal in every state except West Virginia.

Cubicle life has also changed my telephone habits. Back when I had a door to close, the odd non-work-related call was no problem. Now my conversations are bound by what I want the rest of the company to hear. This inevitably results in a bizarre, one-sided conversation for the person on the other end.

Caller: So, we've got your tests back here, and you have a couple of options for getting rid of that rash. Do you want to go with the shave-down and topical ointment or the Smegmado fungimycin prescription?

Me: Uh-huh, yes, that's fine.

Caller: So which one do you want?

Me: Yes, my new cubicle is great! Office communication has definitely improved!

On the same note, I'm also in the market for some headphones, as my fellow cube residents have expressed a decided lack of enthusiasm for my music. Apparently not everyone likes to get fired up for the afternoon by listening to the catchy *South Park* ditty, "Salty Chocolate Balls."

And another of my favorite office activities has been not only curbed but eliminated altogether. Between the noise and the constant uninvited visits, sleeping in a cubicle is well-neigh impossible. Perhaps this is a good thing, because the last time I shut down for a quick nap in my office, I was out for a full two hours. I thought I'd gotten away with it until later that afternoon, when a coworker noted that I had an interesting texture much like the sleeve of my sweater branded into my forehead.

So here I am, uncomfortable from holding in my farts and frustrated because I can't open the latest MasterCard parody e-mail. But I am certainly productive! Gosh, if I had a water bottle, a pellet tray and a little wheel in the corner to run on, I might never leave my cubicle. I know, I know. I'm an ingrate. There are starving children in Pakistan who would give anything to have their own cubicle. So let's think positive: I'll bet that in the future, I'm really going to get a kick out of Dilbert. iB

You think that's funny?

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INSIDE: Italian's the cuisine *du jour* in New England; an onion fest in Somerville

Prezza's smartly attired waitstaff offers recommendations to hungry diners. Opposite page: crispy zucchini flowers with tomato, pancetta and polenta (above); chef/owner Anthony Caturano (below).

REVIEW

North End Newcomer

Chef/owner Anthony Caturano's Prezza wows Italian afficionados

BY CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOEL VEAK

It is not an exaggeration to describe what has occurred in the last 10 years in the restaurant scene of Boston's North End as a revolution. Once deprecated as the home of pasta and meatballs, red sauce and little Anthony scurrying home for lunch on Prince spaghetti day, the streets of this neighborhood are now lined with upscale restaurants that have made carpaccio, arugula, and risotto—not to mention Barolo, Barbaresco and Amarone—almost household words. Prezza on Fleet Street is the latest entrant into the North End restaurant sweepstakes. It will pose formidable competition for the dollars not only of increasingly yuppified residents of this neighborhood, but of hungry patrons from throughout Greater Boston.

From the dark wood grain storefront to the spiffy new renovated space inside, Prezza announces its upscale aspirations. A long, slightly narrow dining room is divided by partitions into comfortable seating at booths and banquettes upholstered in modern gray fabric. Along one wall a long bar hosts a lively crowd. Handsome oil paintings and framed prints illuminated by strategically placed track lighting adorn the walls. Tables are set with beige tablecloths and napkins. The waitstaff is smartly attired in black trousers, gray vests, white shirts and black ties.

Prezza's wine list is almost endless, with a number of good values in the lower price ranges. The 1995 Castello de Poppino Chianti Classico Riserva ($24), a very decent Sangiovese blend, was round, even slightly soft, but not flabby. Admirable, hard-crusted peasant bread struck the right opening note. The waiter brought both butter and extra virgin olive oil to dress the bread, with an accompaniment of plump, ripe olives.

Appetizers included crispy zucchini flowers with tomato, pancetta and polenta ($10). While we found the breading on the deep-fried zucchini flowers a little heavy, the creamy polenta and rich tomato ragu were superb, and the portion was more than ample enough to be shared. Beef carpaccio, smashed capers, arugula, virgin olive oil and balsamic vinegar ($11) was an oversized platter of young, pleasantly bitter greens; ultra-thin slices of tender, red beef; and shavings of provolone cheese. Best of the appetizers was the *vitello tonnato* ($9), two large, crisp slices of toast spread with moist tuna and drizzled with extra virgin olive oil aioli, accompanied by two slices of incredibly ripe (particularly for June) tomatoes, and the thinnest, most tender and delicate slices of rare veal we have ever encountered.

The menu lists four fresh pastas. We elected one to share as a *primo piatto* to follow the appetizers and precede the main courses in the classic Italian order of things. Ricotta ravioli with seared sausage, tomato, olives and capers ($16) brought nine tender pillows of pasta stuffed with ricotta bathed in a provocative sauce of fennel-spiced sausage, tomatoes, olives, and capers—a combination that would often be called *putanesca*.

Of the main courses, boneless half-chicken with spring vegetable ragu ($18) was a triumph. A small chicken, carefully boned, it was grilled to a golden turn. Unlike most boneless chicken, this was moist and tender, not dried out. The accompanying vegetable medley of braised fennel, asparagus, carrots, and parsnips in a rich brown sauce was extraordinary. Roasted whole trout with three-onion risotto and a fennel and crab salad ($19) was almost the equal of the chicken. Split, boned (almost flawlessly but not quite) and flattened so that both sides of the golden brown skin faced up, it was served with a mild onion risotto and slaw of crunchy fennel and delicate clumps of crabmeat.

A third main course offering one evening was the grilled double-thick pork loin with spinach and Tuscan bean salad ($23). This was a formidable chop, more than 1½-inches thick, seared on the outside and pink within, with a slightly smoky, sweet flavor. The Tuscan beans that accompanied it were more the nature of a cassoulet than a salad, in a rich, dark sauce containing strips of red pepper and tender leaves of spinach.

Many restaurants in the North End, pleading inadequate kitchen space—or more likely, in an effort to turn over tables—do not offer desserts. Prezza is a significant exception in this regard. Here, desserts, while pushing the upper limits in price (each $9), were stupendous. The chocolate soufflé was a substantial, moist, intensely rich chocolate confection, accompanied by a well turned crème anglaise and an even more intensely flavored bittersweet chocolate sauce. Decorated with a butterflied ripe strawberry and two huge, curled almond cookies, it was a very photogenic dessert. Neighboring diners came over for a look, and one of our party commented that the ensemble looked like the habit of the Flying Nun. The tiramisu, a generous goblet of espresso- and rum-soaked lady fingers and marscapone cheese, was one of the best we have had in some time, not cloyingly sweet like so many tiramisus. It too was garnished with a ripe strawberry as well as a geyser of crystallized red sugar.

Opened only a few weeks ago, Prezza will further heat up the already hot North End restaurant scene. Chef/owner Anthony Caturano and his sous chef Matthew Gennuso have hit the ground running. If they sustain their current high level of quality of food and efficient friendly service, they will put Fleet Street on the map alongside Hanover and Salem. **iB**

Prezza

24 Fleet St., Boston (227-1577).
HOURS Mon.-Thu. 5:30-10pm (bar opens at 4:30pm); Fri.-Sat. 5-10:30pm.
RESERVATIONS recommended
CREDIT CARDS MasterCard, Visa and American Express
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE yes
PARKING valet
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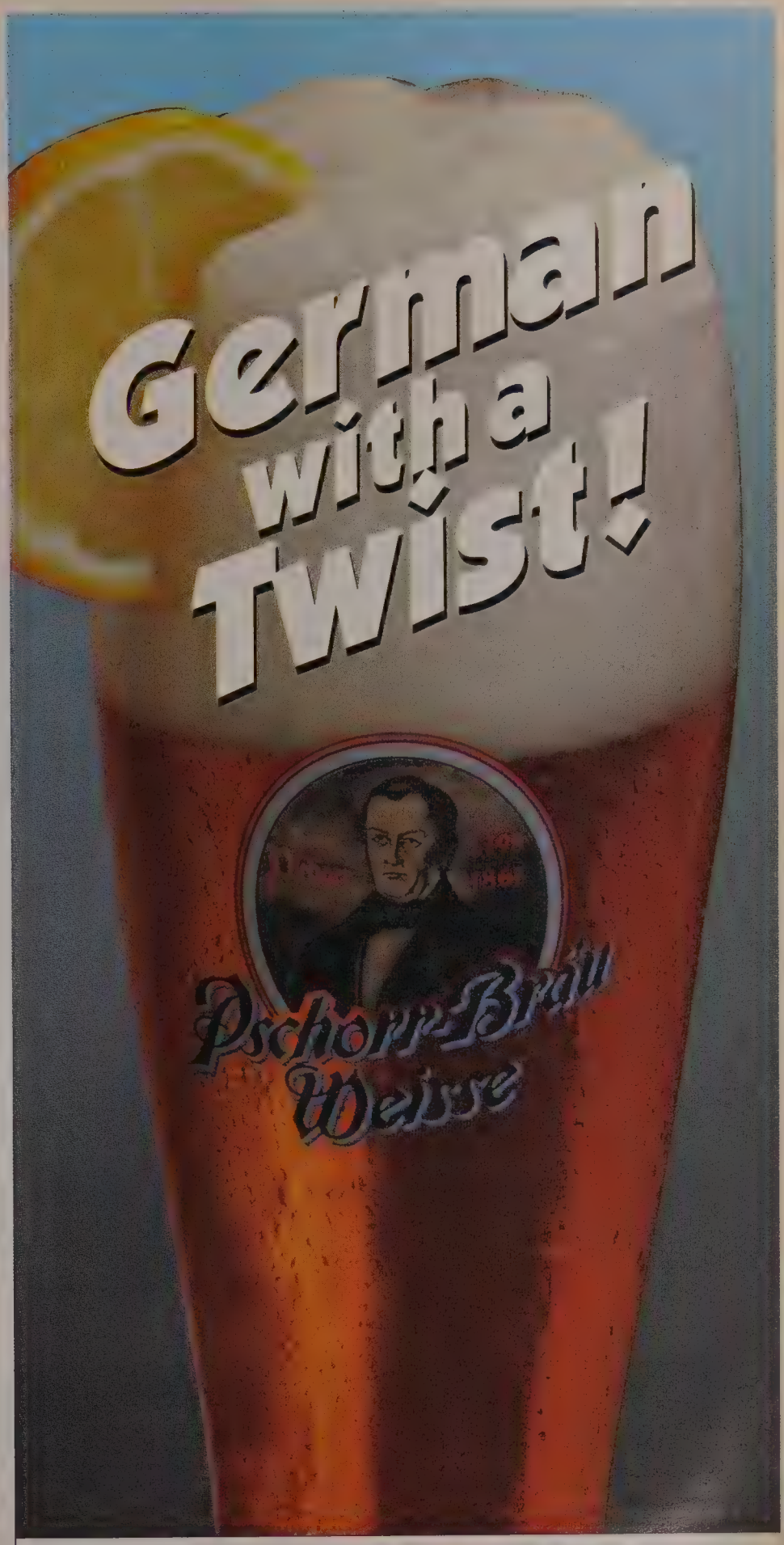

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DISH

Pasta La Vista

Chicken parm need not apply....

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

West Side Lounge in Cambridge has bid adieu to chef Tim Partridge.

Italian restaurants are like 100 sweet tomatoes; there's always room for a couple more. The duo deserving of your attention this week are **Prezza**, in Boston's North End, and **Sfoglia**, soon to open on Nantucket.

Prezza, tucked away on Fleet Street off Hanover, is named after the Italian hometown of chef/owner **Anthony Caturano**'s grandmother. In the credentials department, Caturano himself cooked on the line at **Olives** and **Figs**; sous chef **Matt Genusso** was a line cook at **Hamersley's Bistro**; manager **David Petrilli** ran the front of the house at **Donatello's**; and pastry chef **Gerson Mueller** is, says Caturano, fresh from an unhappy stint at **Temple Bar** and "has gone to cooking schools in Italy and at the CIA and Johnson & Wales."

"Pretty crazy" is the way Caturano describes business so far at Prezza, which has been publicized only by "word of mouth—we have no publicists." What he does have: valet parking, a full liquor license and almost 500 bottles on the wine list. Oh, and a menu that features homemade pastas; wood-grilled, two-pound lobster; and a "pretty wild clam chowder" that Caturano describes as "more like a potato and leek broth that we steam the clams in, with steamed cockles, and fried clams on top." Sounds pretty yummy.

And now, a question for devotees of local restaurant history: What's the name of the chef who took **Barbara Lynch**'s place behind the stove at **Galleria Italiana** after she left to open her own place?

If you drew a blank, you're not alone. **Ron Suhanosky**, whose beautifully crafted regional (mostly Emilio-Romagna) fare made **Alloro** a briefly sparkling gem in the North End, never gained the recognition he deserved at Gal Ital. So he and his then-fiancee, now wife, **Colleen** (former pastry chef at **La Bettola**) moved to New York, then decided to move back to Boston, then stayed in NYC, then spent a summer in Umbria, then...still with me?...they moved to Nantucket last December and plan to open **Sfoglia**, a 35-seat trattoria any day now.

Ron promises that the new place will be "unlike anything else on Nantucket." The dining room will have a "rustic ambience," diners will have the option of sitting at a communal farmhouse table or at Ron's grandparents' porcelain-topped tables, and—most importantly—the menu will showcase Ron's near-fanatical devotion to fresh and authentic ingredients.

"We're making our own vinegar in the basement," Ron says. He's also importing farro and lentils from Italy and plans to emphasize locally-caught seafood and simple preparations of staples such as beans and *bottarga* (dried pressed fish roe).

Reflecting the diversity of several regions—Piedmont, Umbia, Tuscany and Emilio-Romagna—the dishes on the menu will be "more geared to what it was like at Alloro," says Ron, "with an emphasis on fresh pasta." That makes sense, seeing as "sfoglia" translates into "a sheet of something, like uncut pasta."

As for specific dishes, Ron won't say. "It's like telling everybody what your baby's name is before you have the baby!" So we'll just have to wait, secure that baby Sfoglia has two well-qualified parents. Congratulations!

SECOND COURSE

Chef **Tim Partridge**, formerly of **The Back Eddy** and **East Coast Grill**, has passed through the revolving door at the **West Side Lounge** in Cambridge just a few months after replacing opening chef **Tom Tenuta**. Tenuta, whose tenure also was brief, has been helping out fiancee **Loretta Huguez** at her restaurant, **El Pelon**. iB

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant?
Send it to dish@improper.com

Tastings BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for tastings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

EVENTS

Celebrate Chardonnay Festival
Westport Rivers Vineyard & Winery, 417 Hixbridge Road, Westport, Mass. (508-636-3423). Aug. 5, 11:30-1pm (Meet the Winemakers Workshop); 1-4pm festival). $50. Taste more than 50 chardonnays from around the world, including 15 Northeast vintages, listen to French-Cajun music, and visit with local farmers and food producers. Meet 20 prominent chefs from Greater Boston, including **Chris Schlesinger** of the East Coast Grill, the Blue Room's **Steve Johnson**; **Ian Just** from Les Zygomates, No. 9 Park's **Barbara Lynch**, **Ana Sortun** from Casablanca, **Tony Ambrose** from Abrosia and **Mark Hall** of the Elephant Walk.

Clambake at Stonehedge Inn
Stonehedge Inn, 160 Pawtucket Blvd., Tyngsboro (978-649-4400). Thursdays through the end of August. $45. Chef **John Mathieson** and his staff will serve up a hearty New England clambake outside in the gazebo.

Crabfest
199 Clarendon St., Boston (536-3500). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Through Sept. 3. The 14th annual Crabfest will feature blue crabs, Dungeness crab, soft shell crabs and crab jambalaya. Start with peel and eat Old Bay shrimp, blue crab bisque or hot crab dip.

Fresh Shrimp Festival
Magnolias, 193 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1971). www.magnoliascuisine.com. *Through July 29.* Chef **John Silberman** has flown in fresh shrimp from Louisiana to barbecue, blacken and skewer.

Harpoon Brewery Tours
Harpoon Brewery, 306 Northern Ave., Boston (888-HARPOON, ext. 33). www.harpoonbrewery.com. MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Fridays and Saturdays, 1pm. Sample Harpoon's beers in the Tour Room overlooking the brewery as the tour guide explains beer, brewing and gives an insider's look at Harpoon.

Tequila Night
The Vault, 105 Water St., Boston (292-9966). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Aug. 7, 5:30-7:30pm. $25. **Howie Rubin** of Bauer Wines hosts these Monday Night Flights. Start with a watermelon margarita on the rocks and then move on to a tequila flight—a tasting of Silver, Anejo and Reserva tequilas. The evening will feature a duck confit, sauteed Patron-marinated shrimp and corn-on-the-cob. Wash it all down with tequila lime granita.

Three-Course Lobster Tasting Menu
Anago, 65 Exeter St., Boston (266-6222). Daily, through Aug. 31. $58. For die-hard crustacean fans, heaven is a three-course meal starring fresh, firm, sweet New England lobster. Through the end of August, Chef **Bob Calderone** guarantees lobster satiation, right down to the lobster-themed dessert.

Summer Wine Dinner
Up Stairs at the Pudding, Cambridge (864-1933). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Every other Wednesday at 7pm. $70. The Wine Dinner Series features flights of wines complemented by Chef **Deborah Hughes**' cuisine. •July 26: A Summer Refresher—Sauvignon Blanc.

Sunday Night Clambakes
West Side Lounge, 1680 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (441-5566). Pretend you're still at the beach and make the weekend last just a little longer with these Sunday night clambakes complete with lobster, steamers, corn...yum!...even pony beers in a bucket.

Van Gogh's Lunch Table
Turner Fisheries Lounge, the corner of Stuart and Dartmouth Streets, Back Bay (424-7425). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 11:30am-2pm. July 3-Sept. 8. $48. Chef **David Teig** has created a special three-course menu inspired by one of the most influential painters of modern time. Lunch includes one weekday ticket to the MFA's *Van Gogh: Face to Face* exhibition.

Wine Tasting with Lorenzo
Les Zygomates, 29 South St., Boston (542-5108). Tue., 6pm and 8pm. $25. Enjoy a wine and food pairing led by Lorenzo himself. •Aug. 1: Provencal reds. •Aug. 8: Beaujolais reds.

TASTY TIDBIT

SUMMER CALCOTADA CELEBRATION

For a unique evening, head over to Rauxa in Somerville for the Summer Calcotada Celebration July 29. In the tradition of Catalonia, Chef Jim Becker will roast cooked "calcots" (a cross between a spring onion and leek) over a fire and serve them on terra cotta tiles with a bowl of Romesco sauce (made with almonds, hazelnuts, tomato, garlic, oil and vinegar). Bib-bedecked guests dine at long tables on the patio, washing it down with a swig of hearty red wine from a communal *porron*. 70 Union Square, Somerville (623-9939). July 29, 5-6pm. $15 (includes all-you-can-eat onions and wine).

WEST SIDE: RICHARD TAZZARA

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that isn't filled with idiots.

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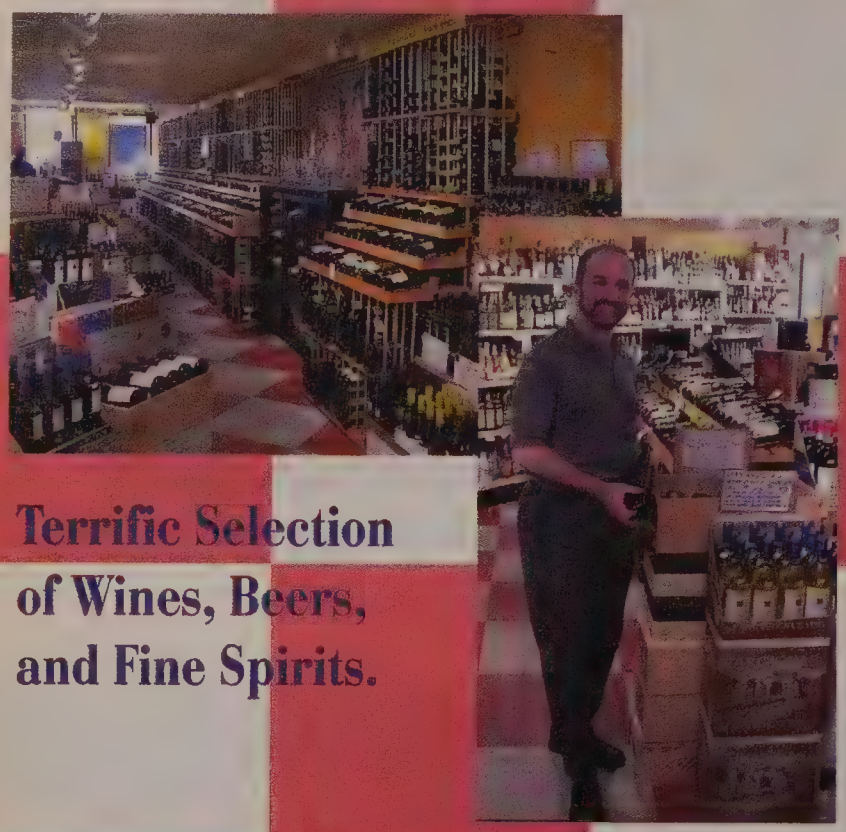

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THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN OR OUT IN BOSTON.

AC/DC
Find out if these '70s hard-rockers still have what it takes at the FleetCenter Aug. 8.

Erin and Julie

THE CALENDAR GIRLS'

improper picks

Too busy (or just too lazy) to plan your own schedule? Life don't get easier than this.

Wednesday, July 26

Julie: Swing your hips as you salsa dance at the **Puerto Rican Festival** in Frankin Park. (See CityScope.)
Erin: The Coolidge Corner Theatre presents the unmangled version of ***Mad Max***—with its original Australian dialogue soundtrack. (See Film.)

Thursday, July 27

Julie: **Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival** features Taylor 2, a six-member company that dances to piano music. (See Go Away.)
Erin: Who says it's only for kids? ***Curious George Comes to Hattiesburg*** is on exhibit at Boston Public Library. (See Art.)

Friday, July 28

Erin: At Lilli's, Bootyque (with Brother Cleve) and Languid perform. (See Music.) There's also the **Feast of St. Joseph** along Hanover Street in the North End. (See CityScope.)
Julie: ***The Scarlet Pimpernel*** is at the Wang Theatre. (See Performing Arts.)

Saturday, July 29

Erin: For five bucks, you can see the **Raging Teens**, **Mr. Airplane Man** and the **Dave Foley Band**—all at the Sky Bar. (See Music.)
Julie: Don't miss **Riverfest 2000** with **Aimee Mann**, **Indigenous** and **the Big Wu**—all free at City Hall Plaza. (See Music.)

Sunday, July 30

Erin: ***South: Ernest Shackleton and the Endurance Expedition*** shows at the MFA with musical accompaniment by the Alloy Orchestra. (See Film.)
Julie: Or head north to Lowell for six stages of music at the hugely popular **Lowell Folk Festival**. (See Go Away.)

Monday, July 31

Julie and **Erin**: Check out the longest-running film festival on the Cape, the ninth annual **Woods Hole Film Festival**, which features some 50 films by many talented New Englanders. (See Go Away.)

Tuesday, Aug. 1

Erin: **My Life with the Thrill Kill Kult**, with its mix of samples, synths and beats, is a hyped-up, stylized, psychedelic/industrial group. (See Music.)
Julie: One of my faves, **Dido**, brings her unique ballads to Avalon. (See Music.)

Wednesday, Aug. 2

Julie: It's your last chance to see the little boy who refused to grow up, ***Peter Pan***, at the North Shore Music Theatre. (See Theater.)
Erin: The Brattle features a Recent Wave series. Tonight, catch a double feature of ***Committed*** and ***High Fidelity***. (See Film.)

Thursday, Aug. 3

Julie: **Tracy Chapman** gives it her all at the FleetBoston Pavilion. (See Music.)
Erin: The musical fable ***Gypsy*** offers a nostalgic look at Vaudeville and motherhood at the Publick Theatre. (See Theater.)

Friday, Aug. 4

Julie: Fellow Tufts superstars, **Guster**, perform at FleetBoston Pavilion. (See Music.)
Erin: A highlight of **Tanglewood** this season is today's performance, with Van Cliburn on piano and Seiji Ozawa conducting the BSO. (See Classical Music.)

Saturday, Aug. 5

Erin: The Regattabar hosts **Linda Hopkins and her All-Star Revue: A Centennial Tribute to Louis Armstrong**, featuring Irvin Mayfield, Delfeayo Marsalis and others. (See Music.)
Julie: If you've got a canine friend, grab a leash and head to Forest Hills for the annual **Dog Walk**. (See CityScope.)

Sunday, Aug. 6

Erin: Check out the **Chinatown Festival**, with dragon and lion dances, tai koo drums, Chinese opera and Korean tae kwon do demos. (See CityScope.)
Julie: The Dubnicks, Smackin' Isiah, Big Wig, **the High-Steppin' Nickel Kids** and Sonic Trauma are at the Middle East upstairs. (See Music.)

Monday, Aug. 7

Julie and **Erin**: It's **Tequila Night** at the Vault. Howie Rubin hosts this tasting of tequilas followed by a gourmet meal of duck confit, sauteed Patron-marinated shrimp and corn-on-the-cob. Wash it all down with tequila-lime granita for dessert. (See Tastings.)

Tuesday, Aug. 8

Julie: Grab a blanket and a sweatshirt for an outdoor performance of ***The Tempest*** on the Boston Common. (See Theater.)
Erin: Ethernet inventor **Bob Metcalfe** discusses his new book at Borders Books. (See Books & Poetry.) Or catch **AC/DC** at the FleetCenter. (See Music.)

CITYSCOPE **92** • PERFORMING ARTS **98** • ART **102** • FILM **106** • EDUCATION **110** • BOOKS & POETRY **112** • CLASSICAL MUSIC **114** • CLUBS **116** • MUSIC **118** • GAY & LESBIAN **126** • BODY & MIND **128** • CHILDREN **128** • SPORTS **128** • SALES & FASHION **130** • GO AWAY **130**. EDITED BY: **ERIN HAGEDORN:** Art, Books & Poetry, Dance, Dance Clubs, Film, Gay & Lesbian, Go Away, Music. EDITED BY: **JULIE SHORT:** Children, CityScope, Comedy, Education, Go Away, Sales & Fashion, Sports, Theater. ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY: **Laurel Kirtz:** Body & Mind • **Paul Sherman:** Film Capsules

MICHAEL HALSBAND

cityscope

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a list of festivals, events and benefits taking place in the Boston area by date.

Festivals, Events Expos & Benefits

Wednesday, July 26

Puerto Rican Festival
Playstead Field, Franklin Park, Boston (971-0603). July 26-28, 6-11pm; July 29-30, 12-11pm. Enjoy traditional dance music, a parade, Puerto Rican gourmet delicacies and plenty of children's activities.

Swingin' Under the Stars
South Market Street, Faneuil Hall, Boston (523-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Wednesday and Thursday evenings, 6-10pm. Faneuil Hall Marketplace turns into an outdoor dance hall, pulsing with the beats of swing, Latin, country and disco bands.

Thursday, July 27

Outdoor Music Series
Boston Center for the Arts plaza, Boston (426-7700). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay. 6-8pm. Free. A series of seven outdoor concerts will feature local artists performing international music. The Boston bands will play music from Japan, Latin America, Africa and the Caribbean. •July 27: **Spluson 2000**. Escape to tropical islands with traditional music from the Cape Verdean Island of Santiago. •Aug. 3: **The Kubota Powerjazz Unit** and **Tsuji Daiko**. Hear a unique blend of ancient instruments from around the world and contemporary jazz music. Tsuji Daiko presents a dynamic mix of high-energy Japanese taiko drumming and martial arts.

Friday, July 28

Friday Flicks at the Hatch Shell
Esplanade on the Hatch Shell, Boston. MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. Through Aug. 1. Sunset. WBZ sponsors this free outdoor flicks at the Hatch Shell. Films are announced one day prior to the event.

Italian-American Fests: St. Joseph
Hanover St., Boston (781-391-7888). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. July 28, 7-11:30pm; July 29-30, 11am-11:30pm. Free. A different patron saint is honored in the North End almost every weekend with a procession, music, carnival games and wheels of pizza. The Riesi Marching Band of Sicily will lead this procession to honor St. Joseph. On Friday night, there's a live rock concert, and on Saturday, Bombay Gin and the Starlights Swing Band perform. On Sunday, dance to Italian favorites spun by a local DJ.

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Fridays. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

Tuesday, August 1

Summer SOULstice Mini Festival
Christian Science Plaza, 175 Huntington Ave., Boston (450-3131). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Through Aug. 29. Enjoy a music and arts festival every Tuesday at noon with a host of musicians, artists and storytellers. •Aug. 1, 11am-2pm: Rami Salami makes balloon sculptures. The Boston Pops' Woodwind Quintet performs.

Wednesday, August 2

MIMC CyberBrew Boat Cruise
Boston Harbor Boat Cruises, Longfellow Wharf, Boston (227-2822). 7-10pm. $25. Climb aboard this social cruise with some of the city's most influential high-tech leaders. Sign up early.

Thursday, August 3

Outdoor Music Series
Boston Center for the Arts plaza, Boston (426-7700). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay. 6-8pm. Free. A series of seven outdoor concerts will feature local artists performing international music. The Boston bands will play music from Japan, Latin America, Africa and the Caribbean. •Aug. 3: **The Kubota Powerjazz Unit** and **Tsuji Daiko**. Hear a unique blend of ancient instruments from around the world and contemporary jazz music. Tsuji Daiko presents a dynamic mix of high-energy Japanese taiko drumming and martial arts.

Summer Cruise
Commonwealth Pier, World Trade Center, Boston (312-5410). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. 7:15pm. $25 before July 28, $35 after. Join the J Connection, a social club for Jewish professionals in their 20s and 30s, for a cruise around Boston Harbor. There'll be a DJ, dancing and hors d'oeuvres.

Friday, August 4

Constitution Classic Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby
Boston Harbor, Boston (451-2860). July 29-30. The sixth annual derby sponsored by Save the Harbor/Save the Bay. Fish from shore, enter your own boat or arrange a charter. Or simply watch the men and women bring 'em in.

Italian-American Fests: St. Agrippina
Hanover St., Boston (367-2756). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Aug. 4, 7-11pm; Aug. 5-6, 12-11pm. Free. A different patron saint is honored in the North end almost every weekend with a procession, music, carnival games and wheels of pizza. Friday, Midnight Crew performs, and on Saturday, the Trammps liven up the streets with their hit, "Disco Inferno." On Sunday, Ball in the House a capella group performs. During the day, watch the Italian Roma Band and the MDC Marching Band, play games, sample food and watch theatrical performances. On Sunday from 1-7pm, don't miss the tug of war over the saint.

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Fridays. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

Saturday, August 5

Dog Walk
Forest Hills Cemetery, 95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (524-0128). 10am-12pm. $8. The fourth annual Dog Walk takes sociable dogs and their owners on a guided tour. See the box on page 93 for more info.

Harbor Defense Weekend
George's, Lovell's and Peddock's islands, Boston Harbor (727-7676). Aug. 5-6. Activities each day explore the history of the military's use of Boston Harbor. Explore with MDC park rangers how soldiers lived on the islands through five wars and in peacetime.

Tam O'Shanter Scottish Highland Festival
Stonehill College, Easton (361-7000). Aug. 5-6, 11am-8pm. $10. All the trappings of a traditional Scottish Highland festival, including more than 50 clan tents, a band competition, royal Scottish country dances, and fish and chips.

Sunday, August 6

Chinatown Festival
Beach and Hudson streets, Chinatown, Boston (635-3485). MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown. 10am-6pm. See the box above for more information. •Additional evening performances and a banquet dinner take place at China Pearl Restaurant at 9 Tyler St., Boston (338-6868). 7pm. $25.

Tuesday, August 8

Summer SOULstice Mini Festival
Christian Science Plaza, 175 Huntington Ave., Boston (450-3131). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Through Aug. 29. Enjoy a music and arts festival every Tuesday at noon with a host of musicians, artists and storytellers. •Aug. 8, 12pm: Victor Cockburn performs children's music, songs and poetry.

Dragon and lion dances are among the highlights of Chinatown's annual celebration Aug. 6.

Preview

Chinatown Festival

More than 20,000 people will flood the streets of Chinatown for the 2000 Boston Chinatown Festival Aug. 6. Throughout the day, the main stage will feature dragon and lion dances, tai koo drums, Chinese opera singing, Korean Tae Kwon Do demonstrations and Thai and Chinese folk dances, just to name a few. On the side, you can learn calligraphy or munch on Asian delicacies. *Beach and Hudson streets, Chinatown, Boston (635-3485). MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown. 10am-6pm. Opening ceremonies at 11:30am.*

Volunteer

Boston Cares
(263-CARE). More than 70 volunteer opportunities available in Greater Boston.

Boston Living Center
(236-1012). HIV/AIDS service organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Boston-New York AIDS Ride
(859-8282, ext. 230). Ride is Sept. 15. Volunteers needed for work on mass mailings, phone banking and other projects.

Community Servings
(445-7777). Help prepare and deliver meals for individuals and families dealing with AIDS.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

Friday Night Supper Program
Arlington Street Church, corner of Arlington and Boylston streets, Boston (536-7050, ext. 22). Need volunteers to help prepare, cook and serve meals on Fridays, 5-7pm.

The Greater Boston Food Bank
(427-5200). Groups needed to sort donated food.

Horizons Initiative
(287-1900). Volunteers needed to play with children living in shelters. Commit to two hours per week for six months. Daytime and evening hours available.

Jewish Community Volunteer Program
(558-6585). Volunteers are needed to share fun times with an isolated senior.

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist elders with such tasks as reading, shopping, basic home repairs or going for a walk.

Mass. Eating Disorder Association
(558-1881). Volunteers needed for four hours per week for help line, assisting clinical staff and special events.

One with One
(254-1691). Tutor/mentor an immigrant or refugee in the Boston area to improve English skills and prepare for the American workplace. Informational meetings held Aug. 2 and Aug. 8.

Pan-Massachusetts Challenge
(800-WE-CYCLE). www.pmc.org. Event: Aug. 5-6. Volunteers needed for the ride weekend to help with setup, registration, food service and cleanup.

Pine Street Inn
(521-7626). Seeking volunteers for summer to serve meals and act as receptionist for homeless guests.

Ride for Hunger
(723-5000). Sept. 17, 8am and 9am. Two bicycle routes to help the hungry: 40K and 100K.

Rosie's Place
(442-9322). Volunteers needed for the dining room, clothing room, the groceries program and office work.

United Services Organization (USO)
(720-4949). Volunteers needed to welcome Navy ships, participate in hospital visits, provide office support, coordinate receptions and assist with events.

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Seeks individuals to assist legal immigrants and refugees to become naturalized citizens.

WBUR
(800-909-WBUR). Seeking volunteers to help answer phones during on-air fund-raisers.

Tours

Beacon Hill Literary Tour
The Charles Street Inn, 94 Charles St., Boston (387-4693). Saturdays, 2-3:30pm. $10. This tour will highlight the illustrious writers who lived in the neighborhood, including Louisa May Alcott, William Dean Howells, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Sylvia Plath.

Big Dig and South Boston Waterfront
Boston (426-1885). Saturdays, 11am. Through Nov. 4. $8. Learn about casting basins, slurry walls, bridges and tunnels and the history of the South Boston Waterfront. Observe firsthand how the Big Dig is progressing and how the waterfront is developing. The route passes over the old Northern Avenue bridge, past the Federal Courthouse, Fan Pier, the Boston Fish Pier and the 19th-century Fort Point Channel warehouses.

Boston Bike Tours
On Boston Common (308-5902). Begins April 15. Daily 9:30am-6:30pm. Daily two-hour tours, Mon.-Sat. 1-3pm; 4-6pm. Low-impact, guided sightseeing tours of Boston on bicycles. Rentals available.

Boston by Foot
(367-2345). www.bostonbyfoot.com. *May-October. $8.* Guided 90-minute walks highlight the architecture and history of the city. •July 30: Special tour. **Literary Landmarks**. Meet at the plaza at the corner of Washington and School streets in Boston.

Boston by Sea
Tours depart from Long Wharf (227-4321). Weekends until Memorial Day; daily through Oct. 9. 1pm and 3pm. $25. Against the backdrop of the sights, smells and sounds of the harbor, the cruise—featuring live theater performances, sea shanties and video vignettes—will allow visitors to learn about pirates, clipper ships, the old immigration station, the *USS Constitution*, the lighthouse and the Boston Tea Party.

Boston Duck Tours
Prudential Center, Boston (723-DUCK). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. April-October. $21. The 80-minute tour on amphibious landing crafts takes groups through downtown, with a final splash into the Charles.

Ghosts & Gravestones Tour
Meet at the Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Ave., Boston (269-7150). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Thursdays through Nov. 1 at dusk. Two hours. $29. This tour includes a walk through some of the city's burial grounds hosted by an 18th-century gravedigger.

Ghost Tours
Meet at Boston Common Visitor Information Center, 147 Tremont St., Boston (781-235-7149). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street. Selected evenings, 7:30pm. $12. Tour downtown Boston's most infamous haunted locations.

Ideas Behind the Design
Arnold Arboretum, Hunnewell Building, Arborway/Route 203, Jamaica Plain (566-1689). July 30, 9-11:30am. Free. The marriage of art and science is evident during this two-hour walking tour of the nation's first arboretum.

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The IMAX film *The Magic of Flight* recently opened at the Museum of Science's Mugar Omni Theater.

JFK's Boston
Meet at the Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Ave., Boston (269-7150). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Sundays, 1-3pm. Through Columbus Day. $30. This fully narrated tour visits the places that helped shape young Jack Kennedy into the nation's 35th president. Price includes admission to the JFK birthplace in Brookline and the JFK Library and Museum.

The Literary Trail
Tour begins at the Omni Parker House, corner of Tremont and School streets, Boston (574-5950). Saturdays, 9am-12:30pm. $35. Explore the heritage of some of the country's greatest authors, poets and activists at eight literary and historical landmarks in the Boston area.

Young Friends of the Public Garden Tour
Meet in front of George Washington statue at Arlington Street entrance, Boston (489-1291). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Thursdays, 6-6:45pm. Through Aug. 31. Join the Young Friends of the Public Garden every week and learn about statues, sculptures, flowers and trees.

Cruises

Beantown to P-Town
Long Wharf, Boston (227-4321). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Boston Harbor Cruises offers this high-speed catamaran service to Provincetown.

Boston to Provincetown Ferry
Bay State Cruise Company (748-1428). www.baystatecruisecompany.com. This boat has been outfitted to reflect the great tradition of the steamships that have made the run since 1847.

Kennedy Museum/Little Brewster Island Package
JFK Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (929-4500). Fridays, 10am and 2pm. $29 (includes boat ride, island tour and museum admission). Tour Little Brewster Island and then see the Kennedy Library on this 3 1/2-hour tour.

Massachusetts Bay Lines
60 Rowes Wharf, Boston (542-8000). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Daily 55-minute harbor tours sail Sun.-Sat. on the hour from 11am-6pm. $9. Nightly sunset cruises also available from 7-8:30pm for $16, and moonlight cruises from 8:45-10:15pm. Whale watching, daily 10am. $24. •Wednesday evenings, 7-10pm, $16: **Live Blues Cruise**. •Thursdays: **Rock 'n' Roll Cruise**, 7:30-10:30pm, $16.

Sea Harbor Tours
New England Aquarium, Boston (973-5206). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Daily. What lurks beneath the surface of the harbor? Budding scientists pull lobster traps, check for salinity and turbidity and learn about the health of the harbor on this 90-minute cruise.

Sights to See

Boston Tea Party Ship and Museum
Congress St. Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Open daily, March-May and Sept.-Nov., 9am-5pm. $8, $7 students, $4 children. You can dump your own bale into the harbor—and watch a museum guide scramble to retrieve it—at this replica of one of the ships emptied by colonists (disguised as Indians) during the Dec. 16, 1773, tea raid. Afterward, enjoy a cup of tax-free tea.

Boston University Observatory
725 Commonwealth Ave., Fifth Floor, Boston (353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), Oct.-March 7:30-8:30pm; April-Sept. 8:30-9:30pm. Free. BU's astronomers are available to answer questions and assist with telescopes as you check out Orion, Cassiopeia and the Big Dipper.

Bunker Hill Monument
Monument Square, Charlestown (242-5641). Open daily 9am-5pm. Free. What's long and hard and shaped like a pencil? It's not what you think. It's the 221-foot monument that honors the men who died in the Battle of Bunker Hill. But an exhausting climb up 294 stairs reveals little more than a stunning view of I-93.

Christian Science World Headquarters
Massachusetts and Huntington avenues, Boston (450-2000). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential. Tue.-Sat. 9:30am-4pm, Sun. 11am-2pm. Tour the Mother Church—a giant basilica that seats 3,000 worshippers; a 700-foot-long reflecting pool; and a photo exhibit.

Copp's Hill Burial Ground
Hull and Snowhill streets, Boston. MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Open dawn-dusk. Admission free. From Boston's second-oldest cemetery, you can see all the way across the Inner Harbor to Charlestown. Famous residents include the well-known Puritanical Mather family and Prince Hall, a prominent member of the free black community.

John Hancock Observatory
200 Clarendon St., Boston (572-6429). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open Mon.-Sat. 9am-11pm, Sun. 10am-11pm (May-Oct.) and noon-11pm (Nov.-April). Admission $4.50. The tallest building in New England (62 floors) offers much more than an awesome view. Listen to air-traffic controllers at Logan, test your knowledge of the city with a computer quiz, or relive some of Boston's most famous and infamous events.

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (566-7937). Wed.-Sun. 10 am-4:30pm. The birthplace and early boyhood home of the nation's 35th president.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat. 10am-2pm. Admission free. Alongside Boston's first Anglican church—a gloomy, granite apparition—you'll find a burial ground with equally ominous-looking headstones dating back to 1630. On Sundays, listen for the distinctive peal of the church bell cast by Paul Revere's foundry.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (635-3105). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Open daily 9am-5pm. Guided tours every half-hour, starting at 9am. Free. Known as the "Cradle of Liberty," Faneuil Hall—we're talking about the part above the eatery—was the site of many an angry man ranting and raving about the damn British in the mid-1700s. Today, you can check out the white-walled assembly room.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily 9 am-5pm. Free. Here, Paul Revere saw two lanterns shining on April 18, 1775, indicating that the British troops were crossing the Charles River to Lexington and Concord via boat. You remember... "One if by land, two if by sea."

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays 10am-4pm, weekends 10am-5pm. $3. A thousand fed-up men gathered in this church to decide whether or not to send three ships full of tea back to England. Guess what? They didn't. •New permanent exhibit: *Voices of Protest* traces the use of Old South Meeting House over three centuries for religious, political and social debate. Artifacts, lifelike figures and interactive exhibits illuminate how Old South has championed the right to free speech and assembly despite acts of official censorship. •Middays at the Meeting House, a lunchtime music series. Thursdays, 12:15-1pm. $4. •July 27and Aug. 3, 10am: A Revolution Is Brewing: Join in the fiery colonial tea-tax debates. •Aug. 5, 2pm (at Faneuil Hall): Tea Is Brewing. A historical talk and debate about the tea tax.

Paul Revere House
19 North Square, Boston (523-2338). Nov. 1-April 14, 9:30am-4:15pm; April 15-Oct. 31, 9:30am-5:15pm. Built in 1680 and owned by Paul Revere from 1770 to 1800, this house offers a self-guided tour with illustrated text panels and museum interpreters.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-10pm, Sun. noon-10pm. $4, $3 seniors and students. After that tiring, 50-floor elevator ascent, you deserve a drink at the Top of the Hub lounge before you check out Boston's only 360-degree view tower. On a good day, you can see New Hampshire. The view here is slightly better than that of rival John Hancock.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8am-6pm. Free. Designed by H.H. Richardson and constructed in 1877, the huge Romanesque church in Copley Square rests upon 4,500 submerged wooden pilings, which help hold up the church's massive tower. A shaded courtyard offers respite from the heavily trafficked plaza. On Fridays at 12:15pm, stop by for a free organ concert.

Museums

Boston Tea Party Ship & Museum
Congress Street Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. March-Nov., 9am-dusk. $7, $5.50 students, $3.50. Colonial-clad sailors take you aboard *The Beaver*, a replica of the smallest of the three ships involved in the infamous tea rebellion. Paul Revere leads the hourly tea throwing and explains all about the fateful day irate Bostonians poured out the tea in protest of the tax decree issued by British parliament. Try your hand at rope-tying too.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June Tue.-Sat. 10 am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm; June-Aug. daily 10am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm. $5, children and seniors $3: Follow the red and white signs to the mother of all milk bottles. As you walk under it you'll feel as diminutive as your munchkin companion. See *Arthur's World* from the popular television series and children's books. This infamous aardvark is one of many hands-on favorites. •**Construction Zone!** Dig, tunnel, build (and tear down!) in this new exhibition inspired by the Big Dig.

Harriet Tubman House
566 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-8610). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. Weekdays 8am-8pm. Free admission. The Harriet Tubman Museum exhibits a collection of this influential black leader's achievements.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (929-4523). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily 9am-5pm (last film begins at 3:55pm). $8, students and seniors $6, children $4. This permanent collection on the life and legacy of President John F. Kennedy offers a re-created world of the early 1960s with period settings and 25 dramatic multimedia exhibits. Visitors experience firsthand the challenges faced by America during Kennedy's presidency. *John Glenn and the Space Race*, an exhibit about the man with the mission is now showing. •*Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy: First Lady*. Ongoing •*Treasures of the Kennedy Library.* A selection of the treasures, including sculpture, jewelry, paintings and documents. Through May 2000. •*Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy*. New ongoing exhibit. •Opened May 27: *Jacqueline Kennedy Travels Abroad.* A special exhibit on items presented to the former First Lady on her travels to Paris, London, Rome, India and Pakistan. Through Nov. 1. •Opened June 3: *John F. Kennedy—Man of the Sea*. This exhibit documents JFK's naval career and celebrates his lifelong love of the sea and sailing. Items include his collections of scrimshaw, Tall Ship models and maritime paintings; his boyhood sailing trophies; and the 26-foot sailboat *Victura*.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (739-1200) www.afroammuseum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays 10am-4pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.* The place is bustling after its recent endowment of more than $1 million to restore the meeting house's hallowed sanctuary. See the African Meeting House, the oldest black church in America.

Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, students and seniors $4, children $3; free to all Sat. 9am-12pm.* This Harvard museum is made up of four factions: The **Botanical Museum**, **The Museum of Comparative Zoology**, the **Mineral & Geological Museum**, and the **Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology**. A number of exhibitions tie together all four of these distinct collections. The most famous is the Botanical Museum for its glass flowers collection—more than 3,000 models of more than 480 plant species. At the Museum of Comparative Zoology, check out the 42-foot-long mounted Kronosaurus (a really big lizard) and countless stuffed insects. The Mineral & Geological Museum's got a 16,000-pound Brazilian amethyst geode, and there's the dollhouse-esque Worlds in Miniature display at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnography. •New at the Peabody: *Heads and Tales: Adornments from Africa*. African people have developed hairstyles, headdresses, hats and many artifacts of visual interest to communicate messages to their friends and community about themselves and their society. •New at the Harvard Museum of Natural History: a million-year-old saber-toothed cat.

Museum of Our National Heritage
33 Marrett Road, Route 2A, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.mnh.org. *Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 12-5pm. Free.* Explore history through pop culture. Topics range from Revolutionary artifacts to the latest in jigsaw-puzzle-solving techniques and American circus posters. •*Initiating America*, a historical look at fraternal organizations. Ongoing. •*The Lynn Beach Painters, Art Along the North Shore*, 1880-1920. Through Aug. 20. •Opened June 24: *The Enchanted Clocks of George McFadden*. The museum presents a selection of 12 of these whimsical and charming timepieces. •Opening July 21: *Made in Massachusetts*. See items commonly found in Massachusetts homes during the last three centuries. •July 27, 10am-1pm: Craft demonstration. Watch a costumed interpreter make herbal remedies to heal the sick in the Colonial period.

IMAX: COURTESY OF MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Dog Day of Summer

Sociable dogs and their owners are invited to the fourth annual Dog Walk, a tour of Forest Hills Cemetery from an animal's point of view Aug. 5. The tour includes visits to "Tip," the memorialized one-eared dog, and the sandstone Newfoundland that watches over the Barnard family. Ranger Dee Morris will share the tales behind these memorials. Treats and strategically placed water bowls will keep the energy up along the way. Added bonus: At the end of the walk, each dog receives a certificate for successful completion of the continuing education course in Animal Sculpture. *Forest Hills Cemetery, 95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (524-0128). 10am-12pm. $8.*

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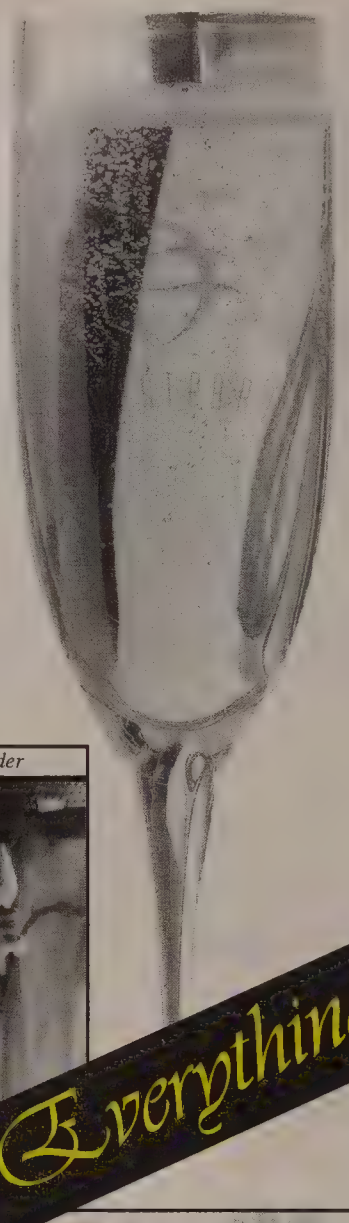

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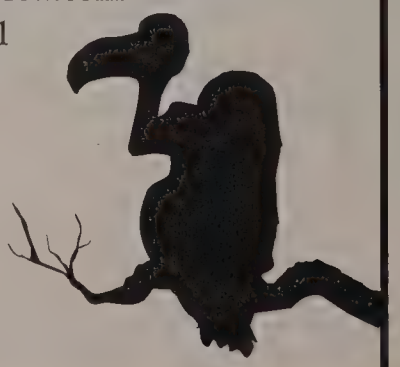

An 18th-century gravedigger leads the Ghosts & Gravestones Tour on Thursday evenings.

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu. 9am-5pm; Fri. 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children. Omni Theater, Hayden Planetarium or laser shows all $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children.* Find out how much you weigh on the moon, strap yourself into a space module or sift through sand on an archaeological dig. Enjoy 600 hands-on exhibits, including the *Theater of Electricity*, *Seeing Is Deceiving* and *Science in the Park*. •*To See the Sea* explores the ocean from the perspective of a deep-sea diver. •Now open: *Human Body Connection*: exhibits on anatomy, physiology and health. *The Light House: Beaming, Bouncing and Bending Light*: Learn the principles of optics, color and the nature of light with 18 hands-on activities. •*Secrets of Aging* opened April 5. Explores the science behind the universal experience of aging. •*T Rex Exhibition*. July 2-September 2000. "Sue" is a fully mounted cast of the largest and most complete tyrannosaurus ever unearthed. The exhibit will include video footage, interactive, touchable replicas and colorful graphics. •Mugar Omni Theater: *Mysteries of Egypt*; *Dolphins*. Opened May 5: *Michael Jordan to the Max*. Now opened: *The Magic of Flight*. Experience the thrill of flight and jet aircraft technology.

Charles Hayden Planetarium

Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children. Time of show changes daily.* Get high! High up, that is. See the stars and rock-music laser shows. Check out the ongoing out-of-this- world multimedia installations *Life and Death of the Sun* and *The Sky Tonight*, and enjoy daily laser shows to the music of the Beastie Boys, Pink Floyd, Korn, Tool, Jimi Hendrix, Nine Inch Nails, among others. •*Journey to the Edge of Space and Time*: Ideas once considered crazy (like black holes) are now the building blocks of new knowledge. •*Welcome to the Universe*. Now open. •Friday Night Stargazing, 8:30-10pm. Free. Weather permitting. •***Catastrophes In Space—When Stars End Their Lives***. Learn that all stars grow old and die, and the death of a massive star creates new life, seeding space with new chemical elements and triggering the formation of new stars and planets. Through fall 2000.

Museum of Transportation

15 Newton St., Brookline (522-6547). MBTA: D Green Line to Reservoir, to bus 51. April-Oct., Wed.-Sun. 10am-5pm; Nov.-March, Wed.-Sun. 10am-4pm. $5, $3 seniors and students. This 1888 carriage house is the automobile buff's paradise—and the country's oldest private collection of antique autos. Featured cars range from Fords and Corvettes to Cadillacs and Italian imports. Lawn events are held on Sundays, 10am-2pm, throughout the summer, with food, refreshments, picnic areas, judging of cars and museum exhibits. •July 30, 10am: **Mercedes Day**.

Nichols House Museum

55 Mount Vernon St., Boston (227-6993) Tues.-Sat. 12:15-4:15pm; guided tours on the half hour. $5. This house offers a glimpse into 19th- and early 20th-century life on historic Beacon Hill. The house contains furniture, decorative objects and European and Asian art accumulated over several generations.

Old State House Museum

206 Washington St., Boston (720-3290). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily 9am-5pm. $3, students and seniors $2. Built in 1713, this original seat of colonial government was the place pre-Independence Bostonians first heard the Declaration of Independence read. •Opened March 31: ***Burning Issues: A History of Boston Through Fire***. This exhibit considers the significance of eight fire events in Boston's history.

USS Constitution & Museum

Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (426-1812). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, bus 93 to Navy Yard. Nov.-April 30: Open daily 10am-5pm. Free. The stories of the individuals who authorized, built and served on the *USS Constitution*, the oldest commissioned warship afloat. Learn about its 200-year history hands on—hoist a sail, take the wheel, fire a cannon or swing in a hammock.

Zoos & Gardens

Arnold Arboretum

125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain (524-1718). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open weekdays: 9am-4pm, weekends: 12-4pm. Free. More than 14,000 exotic trees, shrubs and flowers make this the place to go when you need to escape the hustle and bustle of city life. There's no picnicking allowed, but biking, dog-walking and frisbee-throwing are encouraged.

Franklin Park Zoo

1 Franklin Park Road, Boston (541-LION). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open Oct.-March daily 10am-4pm; April-Sept. weekdays 10am-5pm, weekends and holidays 10am-6pm. Admission $7, senior $6, children (ages 2-15) $4. A 72-acre oasis of green in the city with waterfalls, lush vegetation, gorillas, leopards, hippos and free-flying birds. •Opened May 27: **Butterfly Landing** with 1,000 butterflies representing 40 North American species. The celebration will also include visits with animals and children's arts and crafts. •Opened May 28: **The Farmyard**. Mosey on down to the zoo for that down-on-the-farm feel right in the middle of the city. Check out the new main barn, incubator and brooder building, chicken coop, silo slide and windmill.

Garden in the Woods

New England Wild Flower Society, 180 Hemenway Road, Framingham (508-877-7630). April 15-October 31. $6. The largest collection of wildflowers in the Northeast. •May to mid June: See the spring ephemerals, including trilliums, jack-in-the-pulpits, pink-shell azaleas, pasque flowers, redbud, creeping phlox and Japanese Solomon's Seal, among numerous others. •July 24, 10-11am, $4: **Rain Forest Reptile Show**. See a monitor lizard, a 7-foot boat constrictor, a red-foot tortoise and a 3-foot alligator.

Mount Auburn Cemetery

580 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard, transfer to #71 or #73 bus. Open daily 8am-7pm (summer). Free. Rest in peace among the grave sites and crypts of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes, "Battle Hymn of the Republic" author Julia Ward Howe and Winslow Homer, among other famous Americans. A great place for birdwatchers and botanists.

New England Aquarium

Central Wharf, Boston (973-5200). www.neaq. org. *MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Early Sept.-June: Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. and holidays 9am-6pm. $12.50.* Boston's biggest fish bowl has much more than just goldfish. In the three-story saltwater tank swim turtles, sharks, eels and the occasional mermaid (or mer-male), who entertains crowds as she or he cleans the tank. •*Storm Over Stellwagen*, a new 15-minute, interactive multimedia production, allows you to control the outcome of the film. •***Unforgettable Boston***: This movie highlights many of Boston's favorite landmarks. $4. •Opened April 15: ***Nyanja! Africa's Inland Sea*** opens. This exhibit features East Africa's Lake Victoria, the world's second-largest lake, telling a story of the people, biodiversity, fisheries, history and future of the lake.

Roger Williams Park Zoo

1000 Elmwood Ave., Providence, R.I. (401-785-3510). South on 1-95 from Providence to exit 17 (Elmwood Ave.). $6, $3.50 seniors and children. Open every day except Dec. 25. Nov.-March 9am-4pm. April-Oct. 9am-5pm. Lions and tigers and a 150-pound baby polar bear named Triton. Oh my! More than 600 birds and mammals inhabit the African plains and rain forests. •Opened May 13: **Fleet Dinosaurs! A Journey to Extinction**. See 22 larger-than-life prehistoric creatures hunt their prey, roar a challenge and nurture their young, all in an authentic prehistoric landscape.

Stone Zoo

149 Pond St., Stoneham , Rte. 93 North, Exit 34 (781-438-5100). Mon.-Fri. 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. and holidays 10am-6pm. $6 adults, $4 children. •What in the World Is It? A maze with five mystery animal stations. Find your way in and then try to find your way out. •Opened May 27: Snowy Owl Creek. This new exhibit brings you on a trek through the tundra and the Canadian north woods. Discover lynx, snowy owls, arctic fox, bald eagles and a trio of reindeer in a new habitat.

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Submit updated press releases by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Theater. Or e-mail information to performing@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Theater

JUST OPENED

Berkshire Theatre Festival
Stockbridge, Mass. (413-298-5536). Mon.-Sat. 8:30pm. $18. •Main Stage, July 25-Aug. 12: ***The Shadow of Greatness***. Richard Chamberlain is Allen Perry, a renowned and tormented playwright desperate to extricate himself from his tumultuous notoriety. •Unicorn Theatre, through July 29: ***Coyote on a Fence***: Two men, each in a single cell on death row, both convicted murderers, both struggling to find meaning in the deadening violence of prison life, unwillingly forge a contentious relationship. •Unicorn Theatre, Aug. 3-26: **The Einstein Project**. This play moves back in forth from the 1930s to 1945, from Germany to America to a small farm house on the outskirts of Cambridge, England, where German atomic scientists are prisoners of the Allies. Where does the scientist end and the human being begin?

Chic and Sassy: The Higher the Hair, the Closer to God
International Society, Tremont Theatre, 276 Tremont St., Boston (542-4599). Fridays and Saturdays, through Aug. 26. $15. Revisit Chic and Sassy for a look into their lives back in their hometown of Little Rock, Texas. Follow these "girls," Chic Ana and Miss Sassy, as they enter a playwriting contest to win the money and notoriety they need to escape their dreary trailer-park lives. Meet the wacky locals as this pair of naive, fresh-faced drag queens love, laugh, and fight like crazy to get out of Dodge.

Gypsy
The Publick Theatre, on the Banks of the Charles River, Soldiers Field Road, Boston (782-5425). Wed.-Sun. 8pm. Aug. 3-Sept. 3. $20-$24. This musical fable details the memoirs of Gypsy Rose Lee and takes a nostalgic look at Vaudeville, burlesque, motherhood and the path of stardom. You'll recognize such favorite songs as "Everything's Comin' Up Roses" and "Let Me Entertain You."

Hapgood
Harvard-Radcliffe Dramatic Club, Loeb Experimental Theatre, Cambridge (496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Sun. 7:30pm; Sat. 2:30pm. Through Aug. 5. $12. Discover the secret world of Mrs. Hapgood—Cold War intelligence officer and single working mom extraordinaire. Can she clear herself of treason, expose the double agent and be at her son's rugby game all in the same week? The Harvard-Radcliffe Summer Theatre presents this play by Academy Award-winning writer Tom Stoppard.

Harry and Sam Dialogues
Two Cats Production, The Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (824-4298). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Thu.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm. July 27-30. $10. They talk about anything and everything—from milk and Ding Dongs to beer—trying to make sense of what everything means. They are anything but boring and when these two blue-collar types get together, their conversations are pseudo-philosophical, occasionally infantile, occasionally sensitive and always funny.

The Illusion
Company One, Black Box Theater, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Aug. 3-Sept. 2. $18. A heartbroken father, Pridament, seeks news of his long-lost son deep into the woods at the cavernous dwellings of the magician, Alcandre. The journey begins as the sorcerer conjures up three different episodes from the young boy's life. Inexplicably, each scene finds the boy in a somewhat different world: names change, allegiances shift and fairy tale simplicity evolves into elegant tragedy. Written by Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning playwright, Tony Kushner.

Jump/Cut
Gloucester Stage Company, 267 East Main St., Gloucester (978-282-1350). Wed.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 5pm. July 26-Aug. 6. $20-$30. Neena Beber's romantic comic-drama is about life, love and movie-making.

Playwright Tony Kushner's *The Illusion* plays at the Boston Center for the Arts, Aug. 3-Sept. 2.

Lenya: The Love of Kurt Weill
The Threshold Theatre, 791 Tremont St., corner of Tremont and Northampton, Boston (437-0657). Thu.-Sat. 8pm. Aug. 3-5, Aug. 20-22, Aug. 27-29. The Threshold Theatre (formerly the Beau Jest Moving Theatre) presents this show, named one of the best plays of the year by the *Theater Mirror*.

Marcel Marceau
American Repertory Theatre, Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (495-2668). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Through July 30. Face blanched white. Eyes burning with joy or sadness. Cheeks twitching to the design of rail-thin red lips. Eyebrows educated to infinite suggestion. Hailed as the world's greatest living mime, Marcel Marceau has almost single-handedly preserved and promoted this silent art. See him live.

Peter Pan
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly (978-921-6351). Tue. 8pm; Wed. 2pm and 8pm; Thu.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Through Aug. 6. $18-$56. Cathy Rigby stars in this exhilarating production that follows the story of Peter and his series of adventures with the Darling children, Tinker Bell and the evil Captain Hook. The memorable score includes "I've Got to Crow," the rousing "I'm Flying," and "Never Land."

Sam's Shepard's Action & Killer's Head
Lyric Stage, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Aug. 5, Aug. 9-12, Aug. 16-19: 8pm; Aug. 5, 12 and 19, 4pm; Aug. 6 and Aug. 13, 3pm. $21. ***Action***, Shepard's tribute to Samuel Beckett, highlights the failed attempts of four survivors who attempt to recreate society through daily routine in a post-apocalyptic world. ***Killer's Head***, its companion piece, captures the final thoughts of a condemned man moments before his execution reminiscent of Shakespearean soliloquies.

The Scarlet Pimpernel
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue. 8pm; Wed. 7pm; Thu.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 1pm and 7pm. Aug. 1-6. $38.50-$68.50. Baroness Orczy's classic story of romance, intrigue and swashbuckling adventure is set to music. The beautifully lush score takes audiences from the guillotines of Paris to the Royal Palace in London, as the elusive Pimpernel rescues innocent victims from the clutches of the Reign of Terror and crusades for justice during the tumultuous French Revolution. It's packed full of sword fights, romance, intrigue and comedy.

The School for Scandal
Pilgrim Theatre, Black Box Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Call for times and pricing. Through July 29. Sex, secrets and scandal. Written by Richard Brinsley Sheridan in 1777, this humorous exposition of society's passion for uncovering what goes on behind closed doors is as delightfully indicting of contemporary culture as it was of the 18th century.

The Sound of Music
Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton (244-0169). Wed.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Through Aug. 20. $21. The hills of Newton are alive with the sound of music.

NOW RUNNING

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed.-Thu. 8pm; Fri.-Sat. 7pm and 10pm; Sun. 3pm and 6pm. $39-$49. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to get its point across with tribal rock music, performance art, humorous antics, props (including plastic tubes and Twinkies) and three men painted blue.

Shakespeare & Company
Shakespeare & Company, The Mount, Lenox, Mass. (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. *Thu.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 3:30pm and 8pm; Sun. 3:30pm.* •***The Wharton One-Acts***: Through Sept. 2. Two plays by Edith Wharton kick off the 2000 performance season. •*The View Beyond:* Mrs. Manstey, an elderly woman who has lived alone without sight for 12 years, still enjoys her "view" of a small garden outside her window. Despite its current deterioration, she remembers the garden in full bloom—her reason for being. When the landlady tells her that a wall must replace the vista, Mrs. Manstey glimpses an afterlife that offers her a more remarkable view beyond the garden. •*Oh! Mr. Chekhov!:* Alexi Markovitch pursues love and connubial bliss with Olya, Zoe and Zhenya. The ups and downs of courtship provide laughter and insight in this witty farce. •***Much Ado About Nothing***: Through Sept. 3. Don Pedro and his men discover the wars they return home from are not nearly so dangerous as the verbal barbs of the Messina ladies. The nihilistic Benedick is more than matched by the enigmatic Beatrice, both in varying states of denial of their passion for one another. •***Twelfth Night or What You Will***: Through Aug. 6. Shakespeare's classic tale. •***Romeo and Juliet***: Through Sept. 2. The classic love story in the romantic setting of the outdoor amphitheater under the white pines. •***Jack and Jill***: Through Oct. 15. Jane Martin mines the subtle and often treacherous depths of modern wedlock from uncomfortable introduction, into romance, through marriage and beyond. •***The Compleat Works of Willm Shkspr (abridged)***: Through Aug. 6. Three actors have an enormous and shameless task: They will perform the complete works of William Shakespeare in less than two hours. •***Coriolanus***: Aug. 4-Sept. 3. Shakespeare's final tragedy grapples with modern politics and the ethics of popularity.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri. 8pm ; Sat. 6:30pm and 9:30pm; Sun. 3pm and 7:30pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This hilarious whodunit is set in a unisex hair salon. The production holds the record as the longest-running play in the history of Boston theater.

The Tempest
The Boston Common, Parkman Bandstand, Boston (423-7600). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 7pm. July 21-Aug. 13. Pack up a picnic, grab a blanket and settle yourself on the grass of the Boston Common. This summer's offering of Shakespeare on the Common is *The Tempest*, Shakespeare's tale of enchantment and love. Watch the story of Prospero, the deposed Duke of Milan, his daughter Miranda, and Ariel and Caliban, the inhabitants of the island to which Prospero is banished. Drawing on traditions as diverse as African storytelling, Japanese Butoh dance, Italian *commedia dell' arte* and the spirit of Carnival, the production will create a swirl of music, movement and theatricality.

COMING SOON

Grease
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. Sept. 12-17. $27-$62. Grab that poodle skirt, slick back your hair and get ready to rock 'n' roll '50s-style when this hit musical hits town.

promises.com
Gloucester Stage Company, 267 East Main St., Gloucester (978-282-1350). Wed.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 5pm. Aug. 9-Sept. 3. $20-$30. Set in the world of research medicine, director Israel Horovitz's world premiere is about love, integrity, promises and compromise.

Seussical
The Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (426-9366). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Aug. 27-Sept. 17. This musical weaves together many of Dr. Seuss' most famous stories and characters in unexpected ways.

INTERACTIVE THEATER

Medieval Manor
246 East Berkeley St., Boston (423-4900). Red Line to Broadway. Mon., Wed., Thu., Fri. 8pm ; Sat. 5pm and 9:30pm; Sun. 6pm. Ongoing. $9.60-$32. Eat, drink and be merry at a Renaissance dining experience. Don't worry about etiquette. You won't find knives and forks, and the soup of the day is in your face—literally. Dress down for this one-of-a-kind experience.

Mystery Cafe
290 Congress St., Boston (781-320-0040). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Dinner and show: Fri. 7:30pm; Sat. 7pm. Ongoing. $36 (all inclusive). Saturdays: The interactive murder mystery, *Murder on the Campaign Trail*, is a comedic mystery parody of Campaign 2000.

Mystery Cruise: Murder on the Ocean Queen
Ft. Independence, Long Wharf, Boston (781-320-0040). Cruise departs Saturdays, 8pm. $49/person, includes dinner and cruise. Gather clues during a Harbor cruise, meet characters and interrogate suspects as you attempt to piece together the answer to the mystery.

Nonna's Cruise to Nowhere
Locations around the Greater Boston area (781-933-1363). $35/includes dinner. These folks have taken everyone's favorite Italian grandmother (Nonna) and placed her on an imaginary cruise ship, along with her zany family, after misleading Nonna into thinking she's going back home to Italy. The audience laughs, dances and plays along with the cast.

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Dance

SHOWS AND EVENTS

The Boston Summer Dance Festival
Jeannette Neill Dance Studio, 261 Friend St., 5th floor, Boston (523-7732). Through July 28, 6pm. Free admission. The fifth annual Boston Summer Dance Festival celebrates the history of American jazz, tap and musical theater dance. This year features an internationally renown faculty of 18 professionals, ranging from dance pioneers to young innovators. Donald McKayle, a Tony Award-winning and Emmy-nominated choreographer, and Matt Mattox (Broadway veteran performer) are two of the dance legends headlining.

Meet the Artist Performance Series
Concord Academy, 166 Main St., Concord (978-369-6081). July 27, 8pm. $15. This festival is worth the drive. Join some of the most daring artists as they heat up the stage for the 2000 Summer Stages Dance Program. New York City-based performance team Avila and Weeks will display passionate, physically dynamic works that explore the drama of humanity in this cutting-edge series.

NYC-based performance team Avila and Weeks perform at the 2000 Summer Stages Dance Program July 27.

JOIN IN

Balkan Dance
Scalzi School of Dance, 101 Bigelow Ave., Watertown (840-2362). Friday nights, 7:30-10:30pm. $8. Learn traditional Balkan dance with an experienced instructor. All levels are welcome so don't be shy.

Club Joy
533 Washington Street, Boston (354-5780). Saturday nights. This Latin night spot now offers classes: salsa, merengue, bachata and more.

Dance Education Summer Program
Topf Center for Dance Education, Boston (482-0351). Through August 18. Explore the rhythmical foot movements of tap, gain strength and flexibility through jazz, learn moves from *Chorus Line* in the Broadway jazz class, bust a move in the hip-hop class, or learn the Caribbean rhythms of salsa at Boston's oldest creative dance studio.

Dance Friday
Rug Cutter's Studio, 23 Main St., Watertown Square (924-7276). Every Friday, 8:30pm-12am. $7 adults, $4 teens, children free. Join in the dancing to all types of music—even dance barefoot—in this family-friendly smoke and alcohol-free environment.

Dancing at Ryles Jazz Club
Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. •*Saturdays, 9pm-1:30am, $12, $10 after 11:30pm.* Join in a variety of dance moves—here you'll find jazzy mambos, swing dancing, cheeky cha chas and sassy salsa numbers. •*Tuesdays 10pm-1:30am. $6.* Just Swing It night features the Black Tie Affair Orchestra and DJ music. Requests are taken and dancers are encouraged to bring their own music. •*Wednesdays, 9pm.* Get your Brazilian ballroom shoes on.

Folk Tuesdays
Copley Square, Boston (491-2102). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Every Tuesday. Through Aug. 29. Free. Come celebrate the 30th year of the international folk dance series at Copley Square. Bring a partner , learn new steps and dance the night away.

Greek Folk Dancing
Hellenic Cultural Center, Watertown (547-1095). Mondays, 7-9pm. $10. Join in a lively tradition of group dance. All are welcome.

Just Swing It
Upstairs at the Ryles, 212 Hampshire St., Inman Square, Cambridge (266-2258). Every Tuesday, 10pm-1:30am. $6. 19+. Featuring the Black Tie Affair Orchestra, this will be a great night of swing dancing. Dancers are encouraged to bring their own music and swing dance jams will take place.

Israeli Folk Dance
Temple Kibillath Israel, 384 Harvard Ave., Brookline (484-4282). Every Monday, 8pm-11:45pm, $4. Celebrate a rich dance tradition with a seasoned instructor. Beginners are welcome.

Scottish Country Dance
YWCA, 7 Temple St., Cambridge (484-0950). Every Monday, 7:45-10:30pm. $6. Be a part of this high-spirited class instructed by members of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. Newcomers are welcome.

Swingin' Under the Stars
South Market Street, Faneuil Hall, Boston (523-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Wednesday and Thursday evenings, 6-10pm. Faneuil Hall Marketplace turns into an outdoor dance hall, pulsing with the beats of swing, Latin, country and disco bands.

Tango Rialto
Rialto, Charles Hotel, One Bennett Street, Cambridge (661-5050). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Every Thursday night. 10:30pm-1:30am. $10. One of Boston's most popular restaurants, Rialto in Harvard Square opens its doors to tango dancers of all levels and backgrounds for nights of light hors d'oevres and lots of dancing. Free tango lessons are available every Thursday at the Wellbridge Fitness Center (adjacent to the Charles Hotel) prior to "Tango Rialto," so get those dancing shoes ready.

TICKETS

Bostix
(723-5181) www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of Faneuil Hall); Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth); and Harvard Square (in the Holyoke Center arcade at 1350 Mass. Ave).* Same-day tickets half-price.

Next Ticketing
(423-NEXT). www.boston.com/next.

Ticketmaster
(931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(247-1300 or 800-442-1854). A good place to get tickets if a show is sold out at the box office.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail info. to comedy@improper.com. *Include address, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a description of the performances or comedians. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (248-9700). www.comedyconnectionboston. com. *MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed. 8pm; Thu. 8:30pm; Fri. and Sat. 8pm, 10:15pm; Sun. 7pm. $8-$10 (weekend prices vary).* The oldest comedy club in Boston draws big-name, national comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •July 26: Boston Headliners •July 27, 8:30pm, $12: Frank Santos, the "R-Rated Hypnotist" •July 28, $20: Caroline Rhea from *Sabrina the Teenage Witch* and *Hollywood Squares* •July 29, $22: Caroline Rhea •July 30, 7pm and 9pm, $27: **Damon Wayans** from *In Living Color* •July 31, 7pm and 9pm, $27: **Damon Wayans** •Aug. 4, 8:15pm and 10:30pm, $14 and $18: John Valby, "Dr. Dirty."

The Comedy Studio at the Hong Kong
1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu.-Sun. 8pm. $5-$7. Sketch comedy troops and local comedians perform. •July 27: Thursday Night Fights. Tim McIntire referees comedian squabbles. Chenga Li, Tom Morello and Katie Grady perform. •July 28: Brendon Small and Eugene host "PS Absurdo" with guests Katie Grady and Dan Mintz •July 29: Katie Grady, Elizabeth Gutterman, Rob Reuter and Lori Feidler •July 30: Rich Gustus from *Dr. Katz*, Katie Grady, Maryanne Belmonte and Sean Lily •Aug. 3: Thursday Night Fights. Tim McIntire officiates as comedians debate. Joe Schiappa, Amanda White and Ramu •Aug. 4: Brendon Small and Eugene host Bill Akenis, Mike Dorval and David Walsh •Aug. 5: Stand-up comedy with Kelly Fattman, Laura Kollig and Lea Antolini •Aug. 6: Tony V and Eugene's short videos. Joe Dinkin and Bill D'Agostino.

Dick Doherty's Comedy Vault
Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun. 9pm. $10. Features local stand-up comedians. Thursdays: Stand-up comedy. Fridays and Saturdays: Dick Doherty's Comedy Pro Tour. Sundays: Open-mike night.

Nick's Comedy Stop
100 Warrenton St., Boston (482-0930). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Fri. 8:30pm; Sat. 7:45pm and 10pm; Sun. 8pm. $10-$15. The talent here is not quite as big-name as the Comedy Connection, but the crowds are just as enthusiastic, and you're guaranteed to leave with a smile on your face. Wednesdays: Open mike at 8:30pm. •July 27, 8:30pm: Kevin Knox, Marc Riley and John Joyce •July 28, 8:45pm: Kevin Knox, Marc Riley and John Joyce •July 29, 8:45pm: Kevin Knox, Marc Riley and John Joyce •July 30, 8pm: The Jon Yannetty Show. •Aug. 3, 8:30: Jim Lauletta, Mark Scalia and Mike Prior. •Aug. 4, 8:45: Jim Lauletta, Mark Scalia and Mike Prior. •Aug. 5, 8:45: Jim Lauletta, Mark Scalia and Mike Prior.

IMPROVISATIONAL COMEDY & MAGIC

Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston (263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Shows: Thu. 8pm; Fri. and Sat. 8p m and 10pm. Main Stage: $10-$15. Now playing on the main stage is the critically acclaimed improvisational and sketch comedy show—voted one of Boston's best improvisational comedy troops. •Wednesdays, 8pm: The Improv Asylum Training Center graduate show, Gary's Pocket, followed by the Improv Asylum Touring Company. $10.

ImprovBoston at Back Alley Theater
1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1253). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe makes things up as they go along. Fri.-Sat. 8pm ($12) and 10:30pm ($12). Sun, 2pm ($7). •Fridays and Saturdays: 90 minutes of wholesome fun with scenes, games, original music and lots of audience participation. •Thursdays, 8pm: Sitcom. A fully improvised show based on suggestions from the studio audience and an onstage computer. 10pm: Open Improv Jam. All visitors of any skill level are invited to participate in a no-pressure, fun-filled atmosphere where everybody gets to play. •Fridays, 8pm: ImprovBoston. 10:30pm: TheatreSports Boston vs. Sitcom. Best-of-five match. •Saturdays, 8pm and 10:30pm: ImprovBoston.

Magicians & Spirits at the Green Street Grill
280 Green St., Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Shows every Tuesday at 9pm. $10 cabaret show ($5 with dinner). Patrons enjoy close-up magic as two or three magicians perform tricks among the crowd. At 10pm, the cabaret show begins upstairs with local and national magicians reading minds, making birds appear out of nowhere and levitating objects onstage.

COMEDY SHOWS

Battle of the Sexes
290 Congress St., Boston (426-1999). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Saturdays 10:30pm. $15-$18. A participatory comedy.

Dropkick Bandito
Blue Screen Theatre Productions, The Works Theater, 255 Elm St., Somerville (538-3205). Fri.-Sat. 8pm and 10:30pm. July 28-29. $5. This is the latest and greatest in unstylized, no-holds barred, long-form improv. Featuring the top players of Blue Screen Theater Productions, the show uses audience input, ideas and even participation.

Comedy at the Isle
The Emerald Isle Bar and Lounge, 1501 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester (288-3481). MBTA: Red Line to Fields Corner. July 28, 9pm. $5, $10 at the door. Stand-up comedy featuring Kevin Knox, Jim Colliton, Dave Russo and Mike Prior.

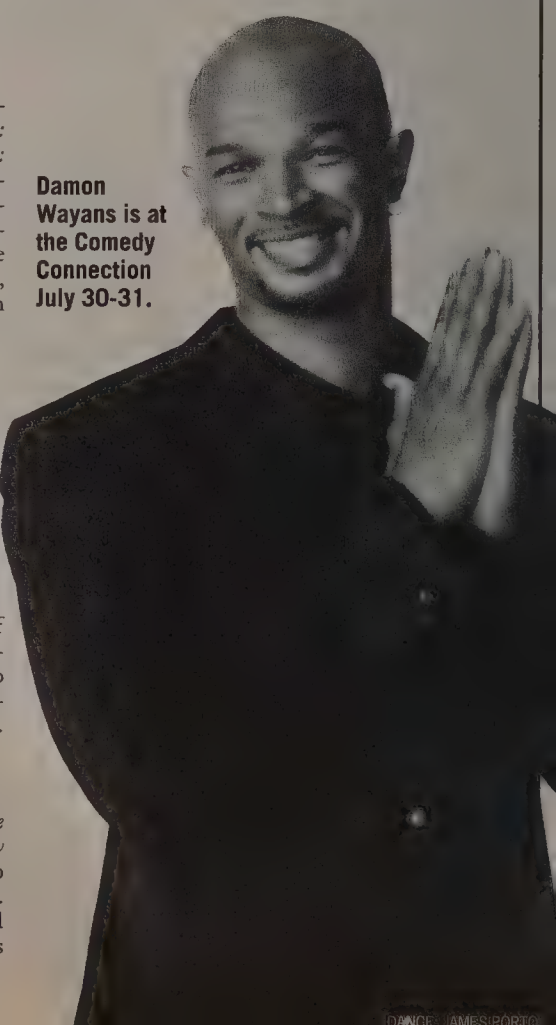
Joey & Maria's Comedy Wedding
Tremont House Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Fri. and Sat. 7:30pm. Ongoing. $39-$45. Join the fun at this absolutely zany Italian wedding. Big hair and blue tuxedos optional.

Micetro
Blue Screen Theater Productions, The Works Theater, 255 Elm St., Somerville (538-3205). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Fri.-Sat. 8pm and 10:30pm. July 28-29. $10. The name of this game is elimination. Starting with 12 improvisers, the audience helps narrow the field to down to two participants. Finally the audience will choose which improviser they want to see act out all on his or her own.

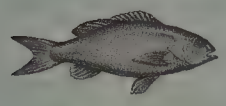
Murder on the Campaign Trail
Mystery Cafe Dinner Theater, 290 Congress St., Boston (781) 793-9700. Fri days at 7:30pm; Saturdays at 7pm. Ongoing. $36 (Includes dinner and show). See this mystery parody of Campaign 2000—complete with unctuous politicians.

Murder on the Ocean Queen
Boston Harbor Mystery Cruise, aboard the Ft. Independence, One Long Wharf, Boston (781) 793-9700. Saturdays, 8pm. $49. Deck-to-deck mystery with gourmet food.

Secret Society
The Works Theater, 255 Elm St., Somerville (538-3205). MBTA: Red Line to Davis Square. Fridays and Saturdays, 8pm. What does it mean when we talk too much? What does it mean when we love too much? Why do we do what we do when we do? Why don't we do what we know we should do? These and other questions will be answered in Blue Screen Productions newest long-form improvisation show, Secret Society. Secret Society is a comedic view into the mind of society through the eyes of an audience participant chosen by the Society.



Damon Wayans is at the Comedy Connection July 30-31.



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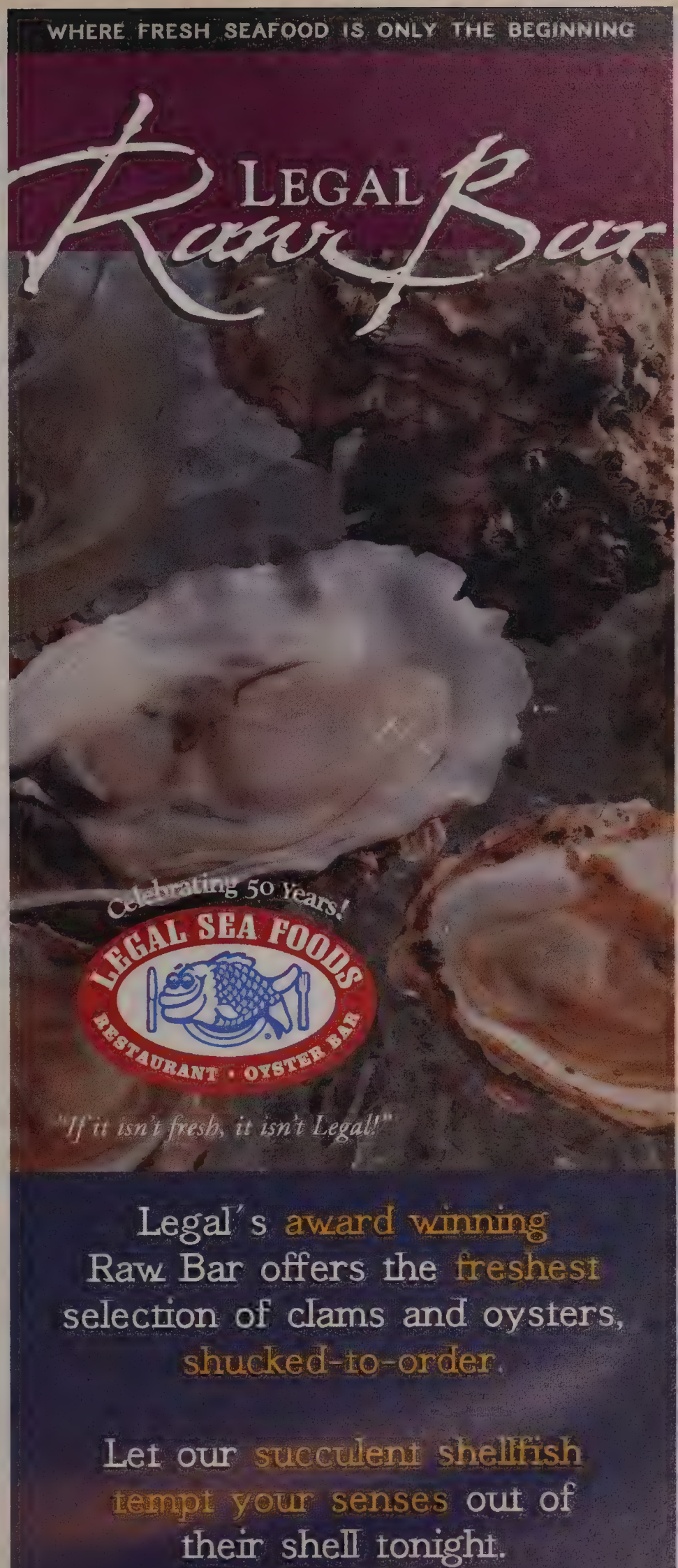

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art

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information for gallery and museum listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail to arts@improper.com. *Include opening and closing dates, nearest T stop, price of admission, if any, and telephone numbers. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a partial list of the largest art museums, art institutes and galleries in the Boston area. The • symbol denotes a temporary exhibition.

Museums

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat. 10am-12pm. The Sackler houses ancient Islamic and Asian art, an array of Neolithic bronze Buddhas, Greek pottery, and Hellenistic and Roman sculpture. •*Wall Drawing #830* features four isometric figures with dynamic colors. Ongoing. •Every Thursday is a free guided tour of Shahn's work, 10:30am.

Boston Public Library
900 Boylston St., Boston (542-4000). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. •Manuscripts, photographs and memorabilia from the Rare Books collection and the Massachusetts Historical Society collections show with *Shipping, Sailing and the Sea.* Through July 31 in the Rare Books exhibit area. •*Curious George Comes to Hattiesburg* is an exhibition of Curious George material on loan from the Children's Literature Collection at the University of Southern Mississippi. Through July 29.

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park
51 Sandy Pond Rd., Lincoln (781-259-8355). •*The DeCordova Annual Exhibition* features 10 New England artists and their distinct work in various media. Through Sept. 4.

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat. 10am-12pm. It's better to visit the Fogg the same day you go to the Sackler, as admission includes all of Harvard's museums. Highlights include Van Gogh's self-portrait and Bermini's clay figures. •Aug. 5 begins a show of Japanese photographer Daido Moriyama with nearly 200 black-and-white photographs of post-war Japan.

Gibson House Museum
137 Beacon St., Boston (267-6338). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Guided tours every Sat. and Sun. at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm. $5. With 75 percent of its original items in place, the museum allows visitors to understand 19th-century domestic life and design. Ongoing.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (266-5152). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Wed.-Sun. 12-5pm; Thu. 12-9pm. $6, $4 students and seniors. •*Art on the Emerald Necklace* will be performed throughout the nine parks and greenways designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. The exhibit includes Barnaby Evans' *Moving Water* and will run through August 20. •In the group exhibition *From a Distance: Approaching Landscape*, artists investigate new approaches of questioning landscapes and topography using sculpture, video and works on paper. Through Oct. 8. •Free guided walkthroughs take place each Thursday at 6:30pm.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (566-1401). www.boston.com/gardner. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun. 11am-5pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, under 18 free. Guided on Fridays 2:30pm.* This 15th-century Venetian palace is home to more than 2,500 objects and twice as many flowers. Boston's most famous museum is named for the house's owner, Isabella Stewart Gardner (1840-1924), an infamously incorrigible individualist. Only after her death was her house completely opened to the public. Now everyone can see the works of Titian, Botticelli and Matisse, as well as furniture and architectural details from European churches and palaces.

MIT Museum
265 Mass Ave., Cambridge (253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5pm, weekends 12-5pm. $3, $1 for students, seniors and children. Where else would you be but at MIT when you contemplate Morton G. Bradley Jr.'s *Math in 3-D: Geometric Sculptures?* The museum's other permanent exhibits include *Flashes of Inspiration: The Work of Harold Edgerton*, and *Gestural Engineering* and *Cultural Engineering: The Sculptures of Arthur Ganson*, the mechanical engineer/choreographer. •On the last Sunday of the month, explore oceanography, astronomy, the science of buildings and other mysteries of science with interactive activities for all ages from 2-4pm, no reservations required. Call 452-2827 for details.

Museum of Bad Art
580 High St., Dedham (325-8224). Mon.-Fri. 6:30-10pm, Sat. and Sun. 1-10pm. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. The one and only museum that boasts "art too bad to be ignored." A favorite is *Lady Chardonnay*, a piece illuminating a poodle-head dancer.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Mon.-Tue. 10am-4:45pm; Wed. 10am-9:45pm, Thu.-Fri. 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. 10am-5:45pm. West Wing only Thu.-Fri. 5-9:45pm. $12, students and seniors $10.* The MFA has earned its rep as the second-best-run art museum in the nation (after the Metropolitan Museum of Art) with its top-notch exhibitions, educational programs and galleries of African, Oceanic and American art. •*Vietnamese Ceramics*, the glazed ceramic tradition of Vietnam represents one of the most important remaining cultural legacies of Vietnam's history. Ongoing. •*Van Gogh: Face to Face* displays through Sept. 24. •*Van Gogh to Mondrian: Dutch Works on Paper*, brings together some 100 works on paper by more than 40 Dutch artists. Through Nov. 5.

The Peabody House Museum
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (496-1027). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5 adults; $4 students and seniors; $3 children 3-13. No fee Sat. mornings until 12pm. •*Heads and Tales: Adornments from Africa*, includes sculptures and artifacts from the Peabody Museum collections, which highlight the messages communicated by head adornments in sub-Saharan Africa. Through Oct. 1, 2001. •*The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition* chronicles Ernest Shackleton's failed expedition to the Antarctic in 1914 featuring photographs by Frank Hurley, a member of the expedition. Through Sept. 10. •*From New England to the Great Salt Lake: The Mormon Legacy of Faith* runs through Aug. 27.

The Revolving Museum
288-300 A St., Boston (439-8617). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed.-Fri. 12-5pm. •Possibly the last exhibition we'll see here for a while due to financial woes is *Student Artists Invitational Performance Art All-Stars* with an installation by Joel Hurlbert. Through Aug. 4.

Twilight, oil on canvas by Babs Kletter, shows in a collection of her work tiltled *New Paintings*, on display at Chase Gallery through the end of July.

Galleries
FINE ART

Allston Skirt Gallery
119 Braintree St., Allston (254-7027). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm and by appointment. By appointment only through August. •*Out & About: Summer Photo Show* features work by eight photographers who capture contemporary life from a variety of angles. Artsts include Jay Elliott, Tama Hochbaum, Stacy Iannacone, Peter Kayafas, Jen Kodis, Annette Lemieux, Nina Nickles and Pia Schachter. Through July 29.

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (536-4465). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •A group show features a collection of paintings from several artists. Through Aug. 31.

Andrea Marquit Fine Arts
38 Newbury St., Boston (859-0190). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Wed.-Sat. 11am-5pm. Shows contemporary masters and emerging artists and is a consulting group for corporate and private collectors. Open by appointment only.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (247-0610). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 11am-5:30pm; Sun. 1-5pm. Representing an eclectic mix of styles, from abstract to super-realist. •New Work, by Tom Paiement & Tom Seghi, features Paiement's oil on canvas paintings and Seghi's fruit still lifes. Through July 31. •A group show of gallery artists runs in August.

Artists Foundation Gallery
516 East Second St. #49, Boston (464-3559). www.artistsfoundation.org. MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. Sat. 12-5pm. •In the Main gallery: a video installation by Bebe Matt Templeton's paintings will be displayed in *Prime Land.00* through Aug. 26.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., 5th Floor, Boston (262-4490). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5:30pm. Paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures by emerging and established artists. •*William Kentridge: Editioned Work* shows through July 28. •The gallery will be closed in August.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm. •Michael Madore's collection shows through July 29. •*Folk Art from the Gallery's Collection* shows Aug. 8-Sept. 9.

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (482-2477). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Fri., 10:30am-5:30pm. Closed for the month of August. •*Gallery Group Show* is on display through July 28.

Cambridge Arts Council
11 Whyte St., Cambridge (349-4380). MBTA: Red Line to Porter. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-5pm. •*Maria Wallace: Figure/Ground* shows through July 30. •The gallery will be closed in August.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (236-2255). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm. •*Global Village* features a selection of international glass artists. Through Aug. 18.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (859-7222). Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm (closed on Sundays in August.) •Babs Kletter's *New Paintings* shows through July 30. Also showing in July are the works Stephen Coyle and Michael Zigmond. •*Portals* by Nar Da Boughton shows with *New Landscapes* by five artists: Laura Anderson, Dana Ruth Harvey, Diane Newton, Cindia Sanford-Garte and Nathan Wilson. Aug. 2-Sept. 4.

Childs Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (266-1108). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri. 9am-6pm; Mon. and Sat. 10am-5pm. American and European paintings, prints, drawings and sculpture, from 1500 through 1950. •*Sailing, Sea and Shore* displays in the Main Gallery. Also, *El Salon de Mexico*, prints and watercolors by Ted Davis, shows through Aug. 31.

Clark Gallery
145 Lincoln St., Lincoln (781-259-8303). Tue.-Sat. 10am-5pm. The gallery represents 30 artists, primarily regional. Media regularly include glass, ceramics,

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starring Jerry Butler
August 1st 8:00 pm
Tickets $25.00, $20.00 & $15.00

At the Wolf Den
The Miracles
July 29th 8:00 pm & 10:00 pm
FREE

*Rain dates are Thursdays, fireworks only.

For more information on any of Mohegan Sun's Hot Summer Fun 2000 activities, visit www.mohegansun.com
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Responsible but Dreaming **by Tracey Moffatt displays as part of** ***Fiction/Non Fiction*** **at Yezerski Gallery.**

oil, acrylic on canvas, wood and studio furniture. •A *Summer Group Show* displays through July 28. •Group show *new work by five* features Jennifer Amadeo-Holl, Whitney Burgund, Andrew Haines, Glenn Takai and Yuon Zuo through July 28. •The gallery is closed in August.

Copley Society of Boston
158 Newbury St., Boston (536-5049). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat. 10:30am-5:30pm; Sun. 1-5pm. America's oldest nonprofit art association is a platform for young and established artists.

Creiger-Dane Gallery
36 Newbury St., Boston (536-8088). www.creigerdane.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm.* •*Where Do You Draw the Line?,* traditional and experimental forms of drawing on display through Aug. 12.

Crosstown Arts, Inc.
One North Square, Boston (720-0100). www.crosstown.com. •*Metal*, painted metal assembly and sculpture by Stephen deFilippis, shows through Aug. 25.

Crystal Fine Art
93 Summer St., Suite 4L, Boston (728-9818). www.crystalfineart.com. *MBTA: Red and Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Tue.-Fri. 11am-6pm.* A multicultural gallery that regularly displays the work of national, international and local artists. •A series of landscape paintings and poetry by Li Xubai runs through Aug. 31. *Dreaming* reflects Xubai's homeland of China and utilizes ancient Chinese art styles.

Dietrich von Buhler Gallery
16 Ashford St., Boston (783-2421). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Sat., 2-4pm and by appointment. www.drawbridge. com/dvbgallery. •In her first show, *Nursery,* Kathleen Bitetti shows work that specifically addresses aspects of childhood. Bitetti is the executive director of the Artists Foundation and is also the director of the Lillian Immig Gallery at Emmanuel College. Through Aug. 12.

Dyansen Gallery
132 A Newbury St., Boston (262-4800). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. You'll always find paintings, bronzes and fine-art prints. Collections include Rembrandt, Picasso, Chagall, Miro, Dali, Cassatt, Snowden and more.

Eclipse Gallery
167 Newbury St., Boston (247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9am-6pm. •*Les Fleurs: a love affair with flowers,* by Mary Breneman, works on paper runs through Aug. 5.

Elias Fine Arts
120 Braintree St., Brighton (783-1888). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. •In *Real Fun*, 16 national and international artists present photographs made with toy cameras. Curated by Monique Johannet and Karolyn Hatton. Through Sept. 16.

Equator Gallery
21 Newbury St., Boston (266-4110). www.equator-gallery.com. Mon.-Fri., 11am-6pm; Sat. and Sun., 12-6pm. Displaying contemporary artwok from around the world that contains Pre-Columbain motifs. The gallery is also chock full of woodcarvings—from teensy boxes to giant spheres—all made by several generations of Equadorian artists, namely Luis Potosi and Luis Boanerges Almedia R. Onoing.

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (423-4299). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Fri. 10am-3pm; Sat. 12-5pm. •*Splinters and Thorns,* a show of contemporary woodcut, features Greg Cisneros, Marc Cote and Gus Mazzocca. Through Aug. 8.

Gallery Bershad
99 Dover St., Somerville (629-9400 ex.3). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Open by appointment only. •Hamid Zavareei's work shows through July. •*Coast to Coast: New Paintings,* by Sarah Frances Egan and Hamid Zavareei, displays through Aug. 31.

Gallery Naga
67 Newbury St. ,Boston (267-9060). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Gallery will be open by appointment only July 15-Sept. 4.

Gallery Seventy-nine
79 Newbury St., Boston (262-5918). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Thu., 9:30am-6pm; Fri. 9:30am-4:30pm. •A group show displays the work of Jeffrey Ringdahl, Francis Domec, Eileen Namaka, Eileen Wagner and Dagmar Nickerson. Through Aug. 18.

Genovese Sullivan Gallery
47 Thayer St., Boston (426-9738). Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. •*Abstraction Today Part 2,* paintings by Martin Ball, Catherine Carter and Fred Lynch, displays through Aug. 1.

Gibbs Gallery
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm. Stories Out of School: New Portraits is an opportunity for art educators to share their interpretation of portraiture in the 21st century in all types of media.Through Aug. 25.

Gurari Collections
91 Charles St., Boston (367-9800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington or Red Line to Charles MGH. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. This gallery has an impressive collection of 16th- to early-20th-century etchings, engravings and drawings. Also showing is the work of Wendy Artin, an artist living in Rome.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St. Boston (536-6339). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 10am-6pm; Sat. 10am-5pm. •An assortment of 18th- and 19th-century historic and decorative antique engravings and lithographs.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (262-0550). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. yezerski@ziplink.net. •Works by Duane Michals, John O'Reilly, Tracey Moffatt, Carrie Mae Weems, David Wojnarowicz and others are featured in *Fiction/Non-Fiction* which runs through Aug. 18.

Hurst Gallery
53 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (491-6888). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sat. 12-6pm. Thu, 12-7pm. Visitors are greeted with a wide variety of art and artifacts from six continents.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (375-0076). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. Midsummer Magic celebrates the beauty of original vintage posters. It also features newly acquired work by Leonetto Cappiello, A.M. Cassandre and Jean de Paleologue. Through Sept. 4.

Judy Ann Goldman
14 Newbury St., Boston (424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 11am-5pm. Or call for an appointment. The gallery regularly displays paintings, sculpture and works on paper. •*Works on Paper from California* shows through Aug. 11.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 Saint Stephen St., Boston (247-1719). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue.-Sat., 1-5pm. •*Calligraphy & Sumi-E,* a group exhibition, shows through July 31. •The gallery will be closed in August.

Lyman-Eyer Gallery, Inc.
1347 Washington St., West Newton (964-3470). Tue.-Fri., 4-7:30pm; Sat., 11am-7:30pm; Sun., 11am-5pm. •Brett Wallace, Hilda Green Demsky, Mike Andreae and Amanda Annis are featured in *New Works* where oil, acrylic and bronze pieces show through Aug. 27.

Mass Art
President's Gallery, 11th floor, Tower Building, Massachusetts College of Art, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston. (232-1555 x716). Mon.-Friday, 9am-5pm. Beverly Hallam: A Return Visit features 39 still lifes in mixed media, prints, acrylics, and pastels.

MPG
285 Newbury St., Boston (437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •*Land Sea and Beyond I* includes a variety of work by Gail Bessette, Rachel Claflin and George Lynde. Through July 30. •*Land Sea and Beyond II* by Jennifer Clement, Philip Koch and Thomas A. D. Watson. Aug. 3-Sept. 25.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm.* Founded in 1964. •The current exhibition is *In the Spirit of Landscape V,* a collective exhibition. Through July 29. •Closed in August.

Out of the Blue Gallery
168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun. 12-7pm. This gallery, owned and operated by several artists, always has a variety of interesting artwork and art-related events going on. •Poetry readings take place every Saturday, and the gallery hosts a rotating guest list of jazz musicians every Wednesday. •*Ten Students from the Rhode Island School of Design* shows through July 31.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (236-4497). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. By appointment only Aug. 1-11. •*Landscapes by Gallery Artists and Guests* is a series of paintings, prints, photographs and drawings. Through July 29.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (267-9473). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun. 1pm-5pm. •*Memories Now: Fine Choices,* the gallery's annual summer show, features new and favorite works by gallery artists. Through Aug. 31.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (266-3321). MBTA: Green Line to Arlingron. www.richardsonclarke.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tues.-Sat. 10am-5pm.* •American and European 19th- and 20th-century paintings, drawings and sculpture. Ongoing. •Truman Seymour's *Moroccan Watercolors* is also now on display.

Space 12 Gallery
12 Union Park St., Boston (423-9760). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed. 6-9pm; Thu.-Sat. 1-5pm. Closed August. •*Cuba Cuba,* a collaboration between the gallery and Espacio 52 of Havana, Cuba, exhibits prominent Cuban contemporary artists. Through July 31. •A two-month long showing of the work of three prominent Cuban artists, shows through July 29.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (450-0321). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. Artist William St. George displays his lush and colorful paintings. •Plein-air seascapes are displayed in *Maritime Images* which showcases New England river scenes in oil by William St. George. Through Aug. 15.

Touch of France
173 Newbury St., Boston (247-6966). MBTA: Green line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-7pm; Sun., 10am-6pm. This gallery imports contemporary French artists' works, including paintings from famous painters M. Tigrane, R. Kefflin, C. Ferrer and striking dried-flower arrangements made near Saint Tropez.

Via Gallery
83 Newbury St., 2nd Floor (424-6200). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri. 10am-4pm. Closed August. •Heinz Guth's *The Nude Show* will be on display through July 31.

Zeitgeist Gallery
312 Broadway St., Cambridge (876-2182). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu.-Sun., 2pm-7pm. The gallery displays a variety of local artists' work. •A Playground Jazz Series takes place on Friday nights. •Monday is literary night with the Stone Soup Poets performing. •Every Wednesday is a figure-drawing session. •Sunday is a vegan potluck supper, often accompanied by live music and poetry.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2051). Tues.-Sat., 11am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm; closed Mondays. The Multiple is a gallery investigation that explores works of art produced more than one time. Ongoing.

Gallery One
537 Comm. Ave., Boston (437-1868). Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm. Affiliated with the New England School of Photography. •*Class of 2000,* a student exhibition, shows through July 30.

Mills Gallery
539 Tremont St., Boston (426-8835). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Sun., 1-4pm; Thurs.-Sat. 7-10pm. •Nick Tobier's *Everyday Places* runs through Aug. 25.

CRAFTS

Alianza Gallery
154 Newbury St., Boston (262-2385). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. A variety of arts and crafts are on display. •*Tea and Fantasy*, a group show, runs through Aug. 31.

Cambridge Artists Cooperative
59A Church St., Cambridge (868-4434). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; 10am-8pm; Sun. 1-6pm. Twelve artists own and operate this gallery that features 2D design and jewelry.

Clayground
91 Hampshire St., Cambridge (661-7376). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 12-6pm; Sat. 11am-5pm. Porcelain and stone objects galore. Classes are usually available.

Fresh Pond Clay Works
368 Huron Ave., Cambridge (492-1907). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard to Bus 72. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm. A wide range of firing techniques.

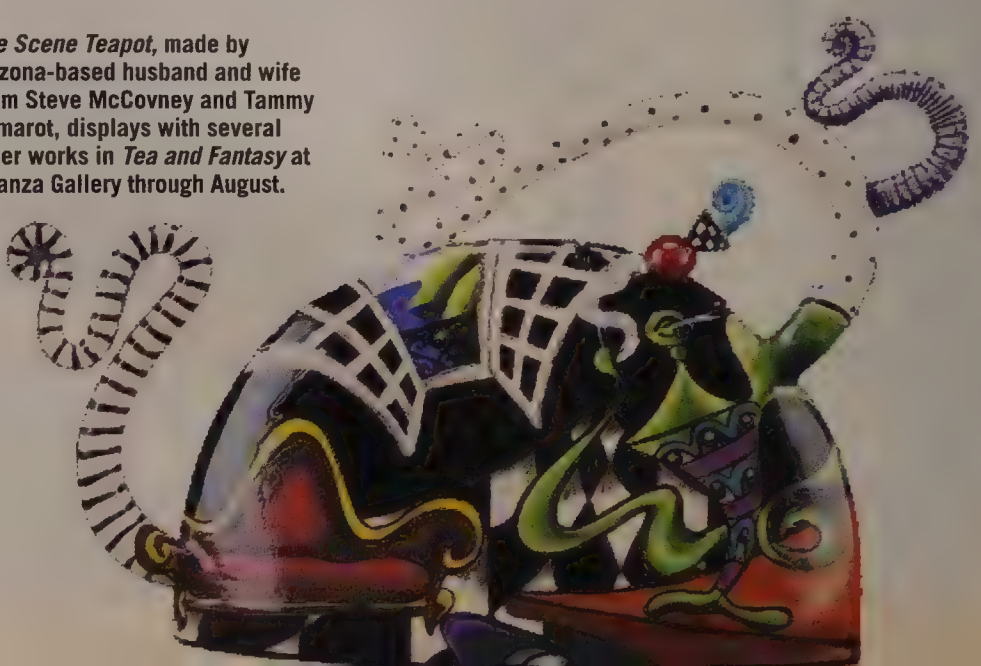
Gateway Gallery
62 Harvard St., Brookline (734-1577). MBTA: C Green Line to Brookline Village. Mon.-Sat., 11am-6pm. This nonprofit gallery features all sorts of arts and crafts.

Infinity Gallery
24 Union Park St., Boston (423-5555). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat., 11am-7pm; Sun 11am-6pm. This small gallery features Wayne Fuerst's work.

Signature Gallery
Dock Square, Boston (227-4885). Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Thu., 10am-7pm; Fri. and Sat., 10am-9pm; Sun., 12-6pm. Pottery, metal and glass works are on display.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (266-1810). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm; Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. •*SAC 2000 Artist Awards* shows through Aug. 31.

The Scene Teapot, **made by Arizona-based husband and wife team Steve McCovney and Tammy Camarot, displays with several other works in** ***Tea and Fantasy*** **at Alianza Gallery through August.**



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BROTHERS IN ARMS

Loneliness cuts deep in *Chuck & Buck*

BY PAUL SHERMAN

The little info that preceded the arrival of *Chuck & Buck*—that it was about a, to be blunt, "gay retard stalker"—made you fear it was one of those desperate-to-shock independent films, like *Happiness* or *Your Friends and Neighbors*, that are so over-the-top in offering dysfunctional characters that they totally lose touch with emotional reality. But extreme emotions are hardly a gimmick in the second movie from director Manuel Arteta (*Star Maps*). In fact, they're what binds the movie's characters together and what draws the viewer to these guys.

Perhaps, in a sense, you might indeed be able to call Buck (played by screenwriter Mike White) a "gay retard stalker." But you wouldn't be getting very much out of the deeper story here if you did. Twenty-seven-year-old Buck suffers from arrested development caused more by a sheltered upbringing than any mental retardation; he may or may not be gay; and there's good reason for his stalking of childhood friend Chuck (Chris Weitz). As the movie opens, Chuck receives a letter from Buck, whom he hasn't seen in 15 years, telling him that his friend's mom has just died. When Chuck (who now prefers to be called Charlie) and his fiancee Carlyn (Beth Colt) attend the funeral, Buck hardly seems to be grieving; his excitement at seeing Chuck far outweighs his grief.

Michael White (Buck) and Chris Wertz (Chuck) have a very unusual friendship.

But, like most any reunion with a friend you haven't seen in years, Chuck is cautious, especially when faced with Buck's eagerness. As Buck soon packs up his toys and his record player from his late mom's northern California home and moves down to Los Angeles to try to inject himself back into Chuck's life, perhaps Chuck, who now works in the music industry, knows what such a quest means for Buck. While Chuck realizes how starved for affection Buck is, he also quickly realizes that Buck also wants to once again start playing "those games," in which the pair had homosexual experiences together as preteens. Perhaps because he doesn't want to be friends with this simple guy anymore, or because he's not physically attracted to Buck, or because he doesn't want to threaten his relationship with his fiancee, Chuck goes from patiently tolerating Buck's intrusions to aggressively avoiding him.

But Buck's quest takes an unpredictable turn after Chuck brushes him off. He marches into the children's theater across the street from Chuck's office, and arranges to hire the theater to stage a play he will write, enlisting the theater manager (Lupe Ontiveros) to direct. He then pens *Hank and Frank*, a fairy tale in which two boys find their friendship cursed by an evil witch. Then he invites Chick and Carlyn to see this tale in which he has, perhaps subconsciously, bared his feelings.

The matter of just how self-aware Buck is, is one of the things that makes *Chuck & Buck* so rich an experience. Is he a Peter Pan trying to make his old friend realize he's sold out by "growing up," or is he just a twisted stalker? He's either, or both. Is Chuck a fraud who's suppressed his homosexuality in order to get ahead in society or just someone who's embarrassed by some past indiscretions? He's either, or both.

If *Chuck & Buck* is unusual in being so open to interpretation, it's also a bit unusual in its techniques. Most of its characters are played by non-actors like White (who's been a producer-writer on TV shows like *Dawson's Creek* and *Freaks and Geeks*), Colt (an agent and producer) and the brothers who wrote and directed *American Pie*, Chris and Paul Weitz (the latter plays a Chuck look-alike Buck casts in his play). And *Chuck & Buck*, which cleverly navigates its way to a disarmingly optimistic resolution, was filmed on Digital Video, and then transferred to film, a process that appears to provide more and more of our future indie film diet. **iB**

Chuck and Buck★★★½

Directed by Miguel Arteta. Written by Mike White. With White, Chris Weitz, Lupe Ontiveros, Beth Colt and Paul Weitz. Rated R. Artisan Entertainment.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Samuel L. Jackson is a NYPD detective who takes the law into his own hands in *Shaft*.

But I'm a Cheerleader ★★★½
Like a cross between the latter-day comedies of John Waters (*Hairspray*) and the barbed satires of Alexander Payne (*Citizen Ruth, Election*), Jamie Babbit's directorial debut is a brightly-colored spoof of gay rehab camps for teens. Packed off to one such place by the parents who fear she's a lesbian, title character Megan (Natasha Lyonne) gets pushed into cooking and cleaning classes, while the male "campers" get to learn how to fix cars and not throw a ball like a girl. This stuff is sometimes hilarious, but this would be only half the movie it is if it didn't ultimately come to be an emotionally endearing tale about the way society treats nonconformists, rather than just a spoof of an easy target, the far right.

Chicken Run ★★★
Although English director Nick Park and Aardman Animation's first feature is not as inspired as their earlier *Wallace & Gromit* shorts, the story of a group of egg-laying hens trying to escape their farm is a total delight. With Julia Sawalha (*Absolutely Fabulous*) voicing the hens' plan-hatching leader and Mel Gibson a "flying rooster" on the lam from the circus, who's reluctantly enlisted to help, the tale is a mix of wryly amusing characters and wonderful voice-overs (with Jane Horrocks, Timothy Spall and Phil Daniels also among the cast). The movie also cleverly peppers the hens' saga with copious references to such POW movies as *The Great Escape*, *Bridge on the River Kwai* and *Stalag 17*.

Gone in 60 Seconds ★½
In these post-*Blair Witch* times in which the trend is toward stripped-down productions, could anything be sillier than a big-budget remake of a rotgut 1970s drive-in movie? This car-thieves' story, about a retired "car boost," (Nicolas Cage) who's pulled back into service to get his little brother (Giovanni Ribisi) out of a jam, may be dolled up, but it's a ridiculously flimsy excuse for a movie. The thief recruits his old crew (including characters played by Robert Duvall and Angelina Jolie) to help take 50 rare cars in three days. But Scott Rosenberg's weak script keeps adding ridiculous obstacles to this task, merely killing time; like a rival car-stealing gang that wants Cage dead; one guy stealing a car with a stash of heroin in it and, (I'm not making this up), a dog swallowing some master keys the crew needs. It's a movie whose sole reason for being is its car crashes, yet it tries to be something more. It's not.

Jesus' Son ★★
There's a lot of story, but not much plot in this adaptation of the 1970s-set short stories of Denis Johnson. Love, loss, self-destruction and an oddball spirituality are all afoot—the title comes from Lou Reed's lyrics to the Velvet Underground's "Heroin"—but the goings-on surrounding its heroin-addict protagonist (Billy Crudup) are just too disjointed and episodic to hold together and drive the heroin addict's path towards redemption. Although they're underwhelming in sum, the individual episodes are sometimes amusingly dark. The cast includes Samantha Morton, Denis Leary, Jack Black, Dennis Hopper and Holly Hunter.

Love's Labour's Lost ★★★
It's often uneven and flimsy, but Kenneth Branagh's transposition of Shakespeare's comedy to 1939 Europe and his transformation of it into a musical of song standards, (most of which originated in Fred Astaire & Ginger Rogers films), is a charmer. With an eclectic cast that includes American film actors like Alicia Silverstone and English stage vets like Branagh, the director is smart enough to leave most of the dramatic heavy lifting to himself and most of the humor to comedy vets Timothy Spall (*Topsy-Turvy*) and an especially amusing Nathan Lane. Much preferred over the recent *Hamlet*, but much preferred over Branagh's *Hamlet*, too.

Me, Myself & Irene ★★★
Peter and Bobby Farrelly's comedy about a love triangle between a Rhode Island state trooper with a split personality (Jim Carrey) and the woman (Renee Zell-

LEFT:MATTHEW GREENFIELD/ RIGHT:ELI REED

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weger) who must put up with his passive and aggressive sides is the brothers' first high-concept comedy. (Try explaining *Dumb and Dumber*, *Kingpin* or *There's Something About Mary* in one sentence.) But if it sometimes seems it could have been material for a gimmicky Rob Schneider or Martin Lawrence movie, it's almost always elevated by the Farrellys' no-holds-barred gags and Carrey's gift for physically expressing the psychic war raging within the poor guy.

Mission: Impossible 2 ★

In recent years, Tom Cruise has sought out notable directors—like Brian DePalma for *Mission: Impossible* and Stanley Kubrick for *Eyes Wide Shut*—and then collaborated in some of those director's worst movies. Now he's done the same with John Woo (*Hard-Boiled, Face/Off*). But could any script or any director overcome a performance as smug as Cruise's in this underachieving sequel to an ugly predecessor? As ridiculous and unconvincing as the first, though slightly more streamlined in story, this bombastic Bond wannabe has some of Woo's trademark touches (birds, two-fisted gunplay), but they're no match for Cruise's narcissism. No, Tom, it's not always about you.

The Perfect Storm ★★½

You get the best and the worst Hollywood has to offer in this big-budget rendering of Sebastian Junger's nonfiction book about the tragedy that took the Gloucester swordfish boat Andrea Gail and its crew during October 1991's megastorm. While Junger's book achieved tragedy through a very detached perspective, the movie is totally different. It's full of swelling orchestral music and it ludicrously gilds its tragic lily by injecting a life-threatening situation every 10 minutes (I guess the storm of the century just wasn't enough). Its visual rendering of the boat-tossing storm is impressive, and director Wolfgang Petersen builds the story to a very tense last third, but the movie's embellishments are questionable at best, arrogant at worst.

Scary Movie ★★½

Director Keenen Ivory Wayans' fast-paced spoof of *Scream* and *I Know What You Did Last Summer* (and the sequels and imitators they spawned) has more dead spots than the Boston Garden's old parquet floor ever did. But although it screeches to a halt whenever Cheri Oteri comes onscreen to lampoon Courteney Cox, it also has more laughs than any parody of this type has had since the *Naked Gun* movies. Newcomer Anna Faris is actually quite good in the Neve Campbell/Jennifer Love Hewitt heroine role, while Wayans may have discovered a secret for making his often obnoxious little brothers, Shawn and Marlon, tolerable in movies: let them co-write the script but make sure they're only part of an emsemble cast like this. Its name was actually the working title for *Scream*.

Shaft ★½

Call it a remake, call it a sequel, call it anything—but above all, call director John Singleton's attempt at updating the 1970's black private eye film pointless and frustrating. As Samuel L. Jackson's NYPD detective John Shaft, the nephew of Richard Roundtree's character in the original, tries to bring a well-heeled, racially-motivated killer (Christian Bale) to justice, the story wants to make some sort of comment about racism, especially the institutional racism Shaft faces in the criminal justice system. But that comment never gets more articulate than "Racism bad"—its credibility suffering from the inclusion of an astonishingly caricatured Hispanic drug dealer (Geoffrey Wright). It's also the sort of movie where the cop gratuitously slugs bad guys, and the audience is supposed to cheer the brutality. Writer Richard Price, who gets a co-writer credit with the screenwriters who revised his script, got his points about urban tribalism across better in Spike Lee's *Clockers*.

Shower ★★½

Despite the presence of Zhu Xu, so great in last year's *King of Masks*, this Chinese import fails to sufficiently dramatize its theme, the price of progress. Too often, its story of a businessman (Pu Cun Xin) who returns to the old-style bathhouse run by his elderly father (Zhu) and his mentally retarded brother (Jiang Wu), overstates the ritual-filled bathhouse's role as a source of community in a world where people rarely take the time to quietly socialize anymore. It's quite moving at times, but might have been more potent with a subtler storytelling touch.

South: Ernest Shackleton and the Endurance Expedition ★★★

If I had been attempting a dangerous expedition to be the first person to cross Antarctica through the South Pole in 1915, the last thing on my mind would be to bring along a film crew. But, thanks to the arrogance of the British empire at its apex, that's exactly what Sir Ernest Shackleton did. This recently rediscovered and restored silent film is an awe-inspiring chronicle of that legendary expedition (as documented in the 1990s book *Endurance*), with the trekkers' boat getting trapped in ice and then gradually folding up like a ball of tin foil by the frozen seas. At the Museum of Fine Arts, with musical accompaniment by the Alloy Orchestra, July 27-30.

If you missed the adaptation of Nick Hornby's *High Fidelity*, you have another chance. The comedy, starring a lovelorn John Cusack, is at the Brattle Aug. 2.

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Cinemas
214 Harvard Ave. (277-2140). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
Trapelo Rd. (484-1706). Red Line to Harvard, 73 bus.

BOSTON

Boston Film • Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (536-1540). Green Line to Hynes.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (536-5400). Green Line to Copley.

Cheri
50 Dalton St. (536-2870). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum Of Science, Omni Theater
Science Park (723-2500). Green Line to Science Park.

Nickelodeon
606 Comm. Ave. (424-1500). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford St.

Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle.

Coolidge Corner
290 Harvard St. (734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theater
40 Brattle St. (876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (495-4700). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Sq. (494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony Theater
10 Church St. (864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Sq.

Somerville Theater
55 Davis Sq. (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston. (277-2500). B Green Line to Chestnut Hill.

West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (964-6060).

Alternatives & Revivals

Advice to Contributors
Submit film listings by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Although film listings are correct at the time of publication, they are subject to change. Doublecheck showtimes by calling the theater or 333-FILM.

Boston Public Library

Clyde Charisse: A Dancer's Delight

•July 31, 3pm and 6pm **Brigadoon** *1953.* Two American hunters happen upon an enchanted, unchartered village in the mountains of Scotland. When one of them falls in love with a local girl, their return plans become more complicated.

•Aug. 7, 3pm and 6pm **It's Always Fair Weather** *1955.* Three soldiers who haven't seen each other in a decade meet again in N.Y.C. only to find they that have little in common. Directed by Stanley Donen and Gene Kelly.

Al Pacino: the Seventies

•Aug. 1, 5pm **The Godfather, Part II** *1974.* Directed by Coppola, this sequel continues the infamous story of mobster Vito Corleone and his notorious crime syndicate in the 1950s.

•Aug. 8, **Dog Day Afternoon** *1974.* A New York man robs a bank to pay for his male lover's sex change operation. He successfully captures hostages and the attention of 250 cops, the F.B.I and over 2,000 onlookers. Based on real events.

Documentaries: New and Noteworthy

•July 27, 6pm **Twixt Heaven and Earth** *1998;* **The Perfect Hero** *1999.* Based on 50 years of research, Dr. Stuart Houstan reveals the secret of Swainson hawk life. In contrast, *The Perfect Hero* reveals the inner workings of a different Harlequin empire. The film portrays the writers, readers, publishers and male models who pose for book covers, all coming together for a conference aboard a cruise ship.

•Aug. 3, 6pm **Moscow, We Have a Problem**. After a perilous 140 days in space aboard Mir, the Russian space station, NASA astronaut Michael Foale speaks out about the two Russian cosmonauts and the story of what happened during Mir's doomed days.

Brattle Theater

Most shows are $7, including double features.

Special Engagements Sundays—Boom! It's Liz Taylor

•July 30, 2:45pm and 7:15pm **A Place In the Sun** *1951.* Liz Taylor stars as a man-stealing vixen opposite Montgomery Clift and Shelley Winters in this remake of Theodore Dreiser's *An American Tragedy*. Recipient of six Oscars, including Best Director (George Stevens).

•July 30, 12:30pm, 5pm and 9:40pm **Butterfield 8** *1960.* Taylor earned herself a Best Actress Oscar for this role as a prostitute who wants to go straight.

•Aug. 6, 1pm, 5:30pm and 9:55pm **Jane Eyre** *1944.* Based on the classic Bronte novel about an orphan girl who grows up to become a governess in a mysterious household, this version stars Taylor, Joan Fontaine and Orson Welles.

•Aug. 6, 3pm and 7:40pm **National Velvet** *1944.* Violet-eyed young Liz Taylor gives a lesson on determination when she trains a horse to win the famed Grand National Race.

Mondays—Neo Noirs

•July 31, 3pm and 7:30pm **Manchurian Candidate** *1962.* This post-Korean War political thriller starring Frank Sinatra depicts the aftermath for one soldier after he returns from war.

•July 31, 5:20pm and 9:50pm **Bunny Lakes Is Missing** *1965.* A woman reports that her young daughter is missing, but there seems to be no evidence that she ever existed. Director Otto Preminger's lost film.

•Aug. 7, 6pm and 10pm **Coffy** *1973.* Pam Grier is Coffy, a nurse who goes after the bad guys. In this case, they're the drug dealers who turned her little sister into an addict.

•Aug. 7, 3:45pm and 7:50pm **Taxi Driver** *1976.* This classic Scorsese film stars Robert DeNiro and a young Jodie Foster. The story centers around DeNiro's post-Vietnam complexes and the city that feeds them.

Tuesdays—the Adventures of Kurosawa

•Aug. 1, 3:30pm and 7:30pm **Seven Samurai** *1954.* The movie that spawned countless spin-offs is resurrected to tell the tale of seven samurai called up to save a small village. Directed by Kurosawa.

•Aug. 8, 4pm and 7:45pm **Kagemusha** *1980.* A sixteenth century thief will be allowed to live if he cooperates with authorities. Called Kurosawa's best directed film.

Wednesdays—Recent Raves

•July 26, 3:45pm and 7:45pm **Virgin Suicides** *1999.* Based on the best-selling novel, Sofia Coppola directs the tale of five suicidal sisters in 1970s suburbia from the point of view of their male neighbors.

•July 26, 5:45pm and 9:45pm **American Psycho** *2000.* Based on the graphic novel by Bret Easton Ellis, this film depicts the day life of a serial killer loose in the '80s and stars Christian Bale.

•Aug. 2, 3:30pm and 7:45pm **Committed** *2000.* A jilted wife goes on a search for her mid-life crisis suffering husband, starring it-girl Heather Graham and local up-and-comer Casey Affleck.

•Aug. 2, 5:30pm and 9:45pm **High Fidelity** *2000.* Based on the novel by Nick Hornby, this comedy about fear of commitment and relationship woes stars a lovelorn John Cusack.

Thursdays—Italian Nights

•July 27, 3:30pm and 7:50pm **The Garden of the Finzi-Continis** *1970.* Recipient of the Oscar for Best Foreign Film, this is the story of a well-to-do Jewish family in the heart of World War II Italy that doesn't acknowledge the Holocaust until it's too late.

•July 27, 5:30pm and 9:45pm **The Conformist** *1970.* Marcello Clerici gets sucked into 1930s fascist Italy and becomes a willing murderer. Directed by Bernardo Bertolucci.

•Aug. 3, 7pm **L'Avventura** *1960.* Rich Italians take the yacht out to an island where they lose some of the crew. An allegory of spiritual and moral decay.

•Aug. 3, 4:45pm and 9:45pm **Blowup** *1966.* Michelangelo Antonioni's pop culture-filled tale

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Sidney's

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about the desensitizing effects of photography, this is a multi-layered, provocative film. Music by Herbie Hancock.

Special Engagements—Fridays and Saturdays

•July 28 and 29, 5pm and 7:30pm (Sat. matinee at 2:30pm) **Eve** *1962.* A Welsh novelist relocates to France hoping to live a life of acclaim and notoriety. When French courtesan Eve enters the picture, he more than meets his match.

•July 28 and 29, 10pm **The Shining** *1980.* Jack Nicholson and Shelley Duvall prove that all work and no play makes for a very scary movie. Directed by Stanley Kubrick.

•Aug. 4 and 5, 3:30pm; 5:40pm; 7:50pm (Sat. matinee 1:20pm) **Discreet Charm of Bourgeoisie** *1972.* Best Foreign Film award-winner, this film depicts a group of friends having a dinner party with surrealistic sequences to produce comedic results.

Coolidge Corner Theater

Premiere Engagements

•Now playing **Jesus' Son** *1999.* Directed by Alison MacLean, this star-studded cast features Billy Crudup, Samantha Morton, Dennis Hopper, Holly Hunter, Denis Leary and Jack Black. Based on the acclaimed short stories of Denis Johnson, the film is the tale of a heroin-addicted drifter who embarks on a series of misadventures while attempting to live a righteous life.

Celebrating the Widescreen

•July 26, 7:30pm **Mad Max** *1980.* George Miller directs Mel Gibson who plays an X-cop who takes matters into his own hands after his wife and child are killed by a gang of bikers. The Coolidge is proud to present the film with its original Australian dialogue soundtrack.

Harvard Film Archive

•July 26, 7pm **Under the Roofs of Paris** *1930.* This lyrical story of a love triangle between a street singer, his best friend and the woman they both love is set against the backdrop of Parisian streets, circa 1920.

•July 26, 9pm **The Unbelievable Truth** *1989.* A small town is disrupted by the return of an alleged murderer, now a mild-mannered mechanic who forms an unlikely liaison with a high-school cynic turned model. Directed by the great Hal Hartley.

•July 27, 7pm **Vertigo** *1958.* The personal favorite of Hitchcock, *Vertigo* depicts a retired detective suffering from a severe fear of heights who is hired by an old friend to keep an eye on his wife.

•July 27, 9:15pm **Viridiana** *1961.* After years in exile, director Lis Bunuel returns to his native Spain to give this dark account of corruption. Sylvia Pinal portrays a novitiate who visits her uncle (a closet transvestite) and tries to help some beggars and peasants.

•July 28, 7pm **Water and Power** *1993.* A study of Los Angelas is transformed through layers of imagery and superimposition.

•July 28, 8:15pm **Walkabout** *1970.* Two English children (including a teenage girl and a 6-year-old brother) are abandoned in the Australian outback after their father commits suicide. They meet an aboriginal teenager who is on his "walkabout"—an initiation ritual involving months of solo survival.

•July 29, 7pm **Yeelen** *1987.* A spiritual battle is waged between father and son in central northwest Africa. More than a coming of age story, the story contains Oedipal overtones and raises issues of social responsibility.

•July 29, 9pm **Yojimbo** *1961.* A masterless samurai wanders into a country where two rivals are bent on destroying each other. He offers his services to both, ultimately playing each against the other.

•July 30, 7pm **Zero for Conduct** *1933.* Situated at a dreadful boarding school in a Paris suburb, this film tells the story of four schoolboys who organize a revolt. Essentially, this film takes a stab at the French educational system in the 1930s.

•July 30, 8pm **Z** *1968.* When Z, the leader of a pacifist opposition party is killed, the investigating magistrate is lead to suspect murder when he uncovers a secret organization. The film is set in an unidentified Mediterranean country.

Museum of Fine Arts

Most film screenings are $6.

•July 27, 6pm **Strike** *1924.* The Alloy Orchestra performs with Sergei Eisenstein's first film, the silent feature in which several factory workers' ire against the fatcat factory owners builds to the breaking point.

•July 27, 8pm **South: Ernest Shackleton and the Endurance Expedition** *1919.* In the pioneer days of Antarctic exploration, Sir Ernest Shackleton led a crew across the continent via the South Pole. Not a life was lost, and remarkably, skip photographer Frank Hurley captured much of the journey on film.

•July 28, 6pm **Dust in the Wind** *1986.* Drawing on her own life experience, director Hou Hsiao-Hsien portrays two young lovers in the crowded city of Taipei who are struggling to find work in the face of the 1960's economic reality.

•July 29, 11am **Iditarod...A Far Distant Place** *1999.* Three mushers brave the Iditarod Sled Dog Race across Alaska, battling exhaustion, arctic temperatures and a treacherous 1,000-mile terrain.

•July 28, 1pm **The Puppetmaster** *1993.* Adapted from the memoirs of Li Tien-lu, Taiwan's most famous puppeteer, this film explores Li's 84 years with staged scenes, performances and Li's spirited direct camera addresses.

•August 3, 6pm **Vincent: the Life and Death of Vincent Van Gogh** *1987.* Using Van Gogh's paintings and extracts of his letter, director Paul Cox explores the artist's life and his sources of inspiration.

•July 30, 1:30pm and Aug. 3, 8pm **Dirt and 16 Decisions** *2000.* Selina was sent away to work when she was seven. She was married at 12 in an arranged marriage. This film tells her story and those of other impoverished Bangladeshi women who are helping to rebuild a stronger rural community.

•Aug. 4, 6pm, **Flowers of Shanghai** *1998.* Surrounded in golden lamplight, gambling, rich food and opium, the chosen flower girls of Shanghai's 19th-century brothels must bury their passions and their despair.

•Aug. 4, 8:15pm; Aug. 5, 4:15pm and Aug. 6, 1:15pm **Train Birds** *1997.* This gentle romantic comedy depicts the story of one train and time table-obsessed man. During his appearance at the First International Competition of Railway Timetable experts, he so focused on winning the contest, that he barely notices his surroundings until the final showdown.

•Aug. 5, 10:30am **Van Gogh** *1991.* Filmed primarily in the village of Auvers-sur Oise, the film tells the story of the artist's last three months of life.

•Aug. 5, 1:20pm **A City of Sadness** *1989.* Tragic and serenely beautiful, this film explores the surrender of Taiwan to China and the ensuing 40-year stretch under Martial law.

•Aug. 6, 11am **Goodbye South, Goodbye** *1996.* Director Hou interprets the "gangster film," by following the misadventures of three hoodlums in Taiwan's sprawling suburbs.

•Aug. 6, 3:15pm **A Time to Live, a Time to Die** *1985.* After moving from mainland China to a small village in Taiwan, rootless and cut off from their cultural heritage, one family struggles to adjust.

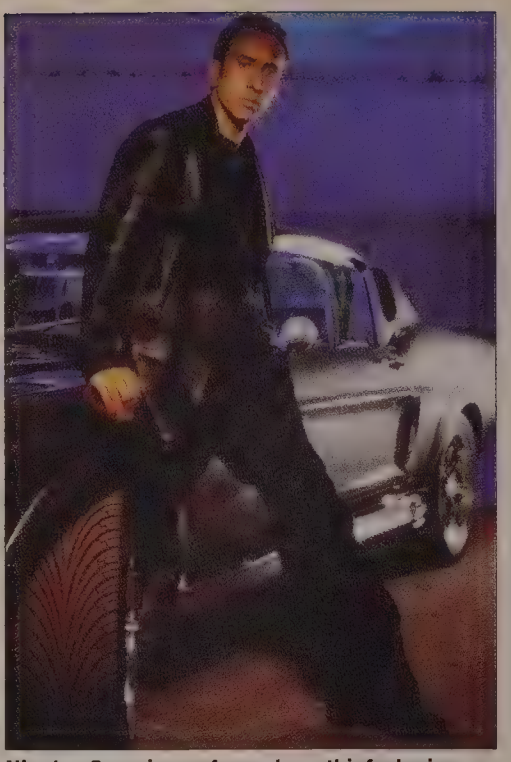
Museum of Science

Omni Shows

•Through Sept. The Omni features **Dolphins**, an underwater exploration about these sea creatures in the wild and their forms of communication.

•Through October 5. **The Magic of Flight**. Place your trays in an upright position and prepare to take to the air.

•Through October 5. Michael Jordan goes to new heights in **Michael Jordan to the Max**, the first big-screen film that showcases the personal and athletic attributes of the basketball legend.



Nicolas Cage is a reformed car thief who is pulled back into service in *Gone in 60 Seconds.*

education

Advice to Contributors

Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Education. Or e-mail information to education@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

CLASSES/LECTURES

Thursday, July 27

Grub St. Writers Screen Writing 101

50 Sewall St., Temple Sinai, Brookline (623-8100). Thursdays, July 27-Aug. 31. 7-10pm. $250. Learn every detail of screen writing, then apply your newfound knowledge to an original treatment by the summer's end. Learn about plot, dialogue and industry trends. (Become the next Matt Damon and Ben Affleck!)

Saturday, July 29

Something Fishy

New England Aquarium, Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. 10-11:30am. $45. The Boston Center for Adult Education brings you behind the scenes of the New England Aquarium into a world of frenetic activity far less tranquil than life in the tanks. What do those straight-out-of-*Beetlejuice* sand worms eat? Visit the room where they prepare animal feed.

Sunday, July 30

Darkroom Workshop

Blacksmith House, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). 10am-5pm. $76. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Use a professional dark room to learn the craft of processing black-and-white photos and more advanced techniques of enlarging prints. Materials will cost an additional $30.

Tuesday, August 1

Basic Flogging for Urbanites

Grand Opening, Brookline (731-2626). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7:30-9:30pm. $20. Do you live and play in a small space? How do you safely whip someone without knocking out the light fixture? What are basic, reliable and safe techniques? How do you select the right equipment for you? You'll learn flogging in high heels, flogging with disability and flogging to avoid injury. Open to all. No joke.

The Joy of Soy

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Smith Building, Room 308, Boston (800-553-3787). 6-8pm. Free. Learn how eating soy products may protect women against cancer and also alleviate some of the pains of menopause. The discussion will be followed by a healthy meal.

Thursday, August 3

Mass. Archives Genealogy Series

State House, Room 337, Boston (727-9268). Free. MBTA: Green or Red Lines to Park Street. Janis Duffy, reference archivist for the Mass. State Archives, is armed with passenger lists from 1848-1891 as she explores Boston's history by looking at visitors to its port.

A Word About Word

nSight, 10 Fawcett St., Cambridge (354-2828). www.nSightworks.com. *$354. MBTA: Red Line to Alewife.* Learn to make Microsoft Word work for you as the ultimate time-time saving tool. The workshop teaches online editing techniques, such as the use of macros and formatting short-cuts. Lecturers will cover topics related to template development, file management and organization.

Help, I'm Terminally Single!

John Hancock Hall Conference Center, 40 Trinity Place, Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 7-9:30pm. $36. For those navigating through a desert of romantic solitude, the arrival of **Gail Prince** to Boston is tantamount to an oasis. Prince, a relationship expert as well as the author of *Soul Dating to Soul Meeting: On the Path to Spiritual Partnership*, will teach singles fail-safe methods of identifying types of suitable partners, and, more importantly, where to find them.

Saturday, August 5

Entrepreneur Workshop

56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard Square. 10am-6pm. $98. The Cambridge Center for Adult Education will offer three classes to train entrepreneurs in the four elements of starting a business: choosing an industry, organizing a company, raising capital and marketing.

ALBERT WATSON

UNDERWEAR!

(Bring an extra pair!)

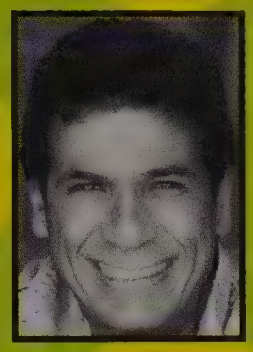
DAMON WAYANS
July 30-31

JOHN VALBY
August 4

BRIAN REGAN
August 11-12

JAKE JOHANNSEN
August 18

BOB SAGET
August 25



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JOE ROGAN
September 22

BOBBY SLAYTON
October 6

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books& poetry

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READINGS & SIGNINGS

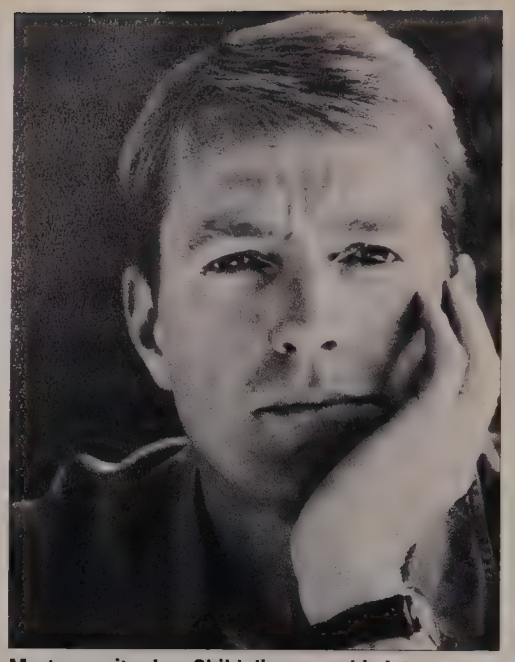
Wednesday, July 26

Tales from the Sea at the BPL
Boston Public Library, Copley Square, Boston (536-5400). 6pm. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Before Hollywood produced *The Perfect Storm* as a major motion picture, the dramatic story of an adventure at sea had reached shore through Sebastian Junger's novel. There is a genre of historical-based literature that draws its plots from humans' dangerous forays on the ocean. **Joseph Garland**, author of *Lone Voyage*, reads from his book, which tells the tale of **Howard Blackburn**'s life, including his record-setting trip across the Atlantic.

Thursday, July 27

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. **Ellen Goodman and Patricia O'Brien** discuss their latest work, *I Know Just What You Mean: The Power of Friendship in Women's Lives*. In this collaborative effort, these two lifelong friends detail the trials and triumphs of their own friendship.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. **Tom Franklin** reads from his award-winning debut short-story collection, *Poachers*. Set in the swamps of the deep South, this is the riveting tale of three brothers so violent



Mystery writer Lee Child discusses his latest, *Running Blind*, at Kate's Mystery Bookstore Aug. 3.

and amoral that they will kill anyone and anything in their path. Angry town members hire a skilled game warden to track the trio down.

Wordsworth Books Reading Series
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (354-5201). 7pm. Local author **John Sedgwick** talks about his latest novel, *Dark House*. A lonely Boston investment counselor attempts to escape the unbearable secrets of his childhood through late-night diversions and compulsive voyeurism. However, when he takes a suspicious co-worker into his confidence, an investigation erupts concerning a decade-old family mystery.

Saturday, July 29

Poetry Workshop
Newton Free Library, Meeting Room A, 330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). Saturdays, 10:30am. Free. An opportunity for experienced poets to showcase their work and receive thoughtful criticism. Presenters should bring eight copies of their poem to the workshop.

Tuesday, August 1

Borders Books and Music Author Event
10-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6pm. **Bob O'Gorman** and **Mary Faulkner** discuss their book, *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Understanding Catholicism*. In the 400 pages, the authors tell the Catholic story from its beginning to its present-day position in issues ranging from abortion and celibacy to the church's apology for painful aspects of its history.

Brookline Booksmith Author Series
279 Harvard Street, Brookline (739-6002). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. **Alice Hoffman** will be reading from *The River King*, a novel based in Hadden, Mass., a town divided between the local residents and the privileged students attending Hadden School, who are eventually brought together by a murder.

Kate's Mystery Books
2211 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (491-2660). MBTA: Red Line to Davis Square. 6pm. **Sarah Smith** discusses and signs her latest mystery, *A Citizen of the Country*, which completes her trilogy dealing with pre-World War I France—another historical thriller.

Thursday, August 3

Borders Books and Music Author Event
10-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6pm. **Aimee Bender** reads from *An Invisible Sign of My Own*, her story of a young second-grade math teacher. Her novel follows her collection of stories, *The Girl in Flammable Skirt*.

Borders Bookshop Author Series
85 Worcester Rd., Framingham (508-875-2321). 7pm. Free. If you missed **Alice Hoffman** in Brookline on Tuesday, here's your second chance to catch her reading from *The River King*, a novel about a Massachusetts town caught up in a murder investigation.

Brookline Booksmith Author Series
279 Harvard Street, Brookline (739-6002). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. **Barbara Neely** reads from *Blanche Passes Go*, the fourth book of her mystery series featuring Boston-born Blanche as the cheeky heroine. This time around, Blanche leaves the Hub behind and heads to her hometown in North Carolina.

Kate's Mystery Books Reading Series
2211 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (491-2660). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. 6pm. **Lee Child** will discuss and sign his latest novel *Running Blind*, Child's fourth tome in the mystery series with Jack Reacher at the forefront of a serial-killer investigation that has him on the suspect list.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free. **Aimee Bender**, touted as a fresh and groundbreaking author, will read from and sign her debut novel, *An Invisible Sign of My Own*. This novel features 20-year-old Mona, owner of an obsession with numbers and other odd habits, and chronicles how she deals with her anxiety through sharp, ironic prose.

Friday, August 4

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Catch **Aimee Bender** again as she reads from *An Invisible Sign of My Own*, her tale of Mona the compulsive protagonist and her adventures in everyday life.

Tuesday, August 8

Borders Books and Music Author Event
10-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6pm. **Bob Metcalfe**, the Internet's resident gadfly and reigning pundit, discusses his book, *Internet Collapses and Other Info World Punditry*. Metcalfe is the inventor of the Ethernet and founder of 3Com Corp., as well as vice-president of technology at the International Data Group.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. **Shane Dubow** and **Steve Almond** read the latest installments of the Short Story Evening Series.

Wordsworth Books Reading Series
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (354-5201). 7pm. **Elizabeth Berg** will read from her novel, *Open House*. Joining her is **Laura Brown**, author of *Quickening*, a novel that paints a vibrant portrait of 19-year-old Mandy Boyle. Mandy's carefully planned life begins to unravel when her father unexpectedly dies and she is sent into a dizzying downward spiral.

ONGOING

Agape, Tuesdays
Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (266-6710). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8-10pm. Every Tuesday, this somewhat sophisticated poetry group gathers to share versions of their latest work. •Featured readers include **Joyce Wilson** (Aug. 1) and **Peddlar** (Aug. 8).

Beacon Hill Literary Walking Tour, Saturdays
The Charles Street Inn, 94 Charles St., Boston (387-4693). MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. 2pm. $10 adults, $7.50 seniors and students. Take a walk around Boston's notable neighborhood and see the home-sweet-homes of more than a dozen famous authors who once called Beacon Hill their home. Residences of Louisa May Alcott, William Dean Howells, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Sylvia Plath, Jean Stratton and Robert Lowell are visited.

Cantab Lounge, Wednesdays
738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8-10pm. $3. Wednesday nights at the Cantab always pack in more than 30 poets in just two hours for open mike and a slam.

Club Passim, Tuesdays
47 Palmer St., Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. $5. All open-mike fanatics must experience this open-mike night—a training ground for up-and-coming performers, poets and storytellers. Sign up Tuesdays, 7:30pm.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Night, Sundays
1667 Mass Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. $4 cover. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes every Sunday to the featured poet of the week.

O'Brien's Pub, Mondays
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. A mix of rock and spoken word is performed one Monday a month at 9pm—the performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry, Saturdays
Out of the Blue Gallery, 168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. Donations appreciated. Every Saturday is poetry night, and an incredible spoken-word and music event also takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month. It features music by Rob Gonzalez and his band and spoken word with Nola Kelley. Open mike occasionally follows performances.

Rhythm and Muse Open Mike, Thursday
403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-6622). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook. A headlining poet is followed by an open-mike session on the first Thursday of every month, 7:30pm. •**Christopher Seifert** takes the stage on Aug. 3.

Stone Soup Poetry Night
Zeitgeist Gallery, 312 Broadway St, Cambridge (227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7:30pm. $3. Since '71, the Stone Soup Poets have served up steamy confessions and soothing inspirations with their weekly readings. Keep the good vibes going every Monday at these readings with featured writers each week.

Bestsellers

HARDCOVER FICTION
1. **Harry Potter & the Goblet of Fire** by J.K. Rowling
2. **Harry Potter & the Chamber of Secrets** by J.K. Rowling
3. **Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's Stone** by J.K. Rowling
4. **Harry Potter & the Prisoner of Azkaban** by J.K. Rowling
5. **Omerta** by Mario Puzo
6. **Make Way for Ducklings** by Robert McCloskey
7. **House on Hope Street** by Danielle Steele
8. **White Teeth** by Zadie Smith
9. **Cradle and All** by James Patterson
10. **Brethren** by John Grisham

HARDCOVER NON-FICTION
1. **Black Mass** by Dick Lehr
2. **Who Moved My Cheese?** by Spencer Johnson
3. **Kitchen Confidential** by Anthony Bourdain
4. **Papal Sin** by Garry Willis
5. **In the Heart of the Sea** by Nathaniel Philbrick
6. **Extraordinary Boston** by Steve Dunwell
7. **In a Sunburned Country** by Bill Bryson
8. **How to Read and Why** by Harold Bloom
9. **Boston Pictorial Souvenir** by Ted Landphair and Carol M. Highsmith
10. **The Art of Happiness** by the Dalai Lama

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Classical Music

SEA MAJOR

The Cape & Islands music festival brings chamber favorites to Cape Cod. BY KEITH POWERS

You might as well ask the guy to do your laundry too—he does everything else. If violinist Nick Kitchen of the Borromeo String Quartet weren't busy enough touring the world and rebuilding his group this summer, he's also taken on the artistic directorship of the Cape & Islands Chamber Music Festival, which runs through the month of August at several venues on Cape Cod.

I ran into Nick at another festival a few weeks ago. "Yeah, I just flew in from Ravinia. Yeesun [his wife, and the group's cellist] is playing here tonight. And tomorrow we fly to Portland. We'll be gone for a month." Like I said, the guy is busy. Borromeo has a long affiliation with Cape & Islands, and Kitchen's assuming the artistic directorship is a natural. "Our first invitation in 1991 was an award from the Young Concert Artists," he remembers. "Since then we have been regulars." Kitchen shares duties this year with the outgoing director, pianist Brian Zeger. "This makes for a smoother transition, and allows me to understand how everything functions."

As most of the music world knows, Borromeo is replacing two longstanding members this year. Violinist Ruggero Allifranchini and violist Hsin-Yun Huang are leaving the group; two much younger players, violinist William Fedkenheuer and violist Mai Motobuchi, are joining. In typical flat-out Borromeo fashion, Kitchen and Kim are still performing with the old members while they rehearse the new. "We auditioned players of different experience levels. A couple were experienced quartet players. Some had extensive orchestral experience. Some were quite a bit older. Some were younger. Overall, it was truly fascinating to see the different chemistries that resulted.

"Will and Mai have a palpable love of string quartet playing. Will has a special insight into the interweaving of musical lines, combined with a witty musical intellect and a precise sense of sound. Mai has a glow and vigor in her concept of sound, and a constantly surprising musical imagination. We already have a good feeling about how it sounds." The new group's debut comes on Aug. 20, to close the festival.

The musical high point falls in the third week, with a series of duo programs featuring music of Martinu, Prokofiev, De Beriot and Gubaidulina. It's a chance for Kitchen and Kim to express part of their personal life in a public setting. "Duos in music mirror duos in life. Even amateurs I know often find music taking a central role in their life. Imagine when a husband and wife both have music as their profession. In this program the audience will see two such duos: Pam Frank and Andy Simionescu (both violinists), and myself and Yeesun.

"The duos range emotionally—perhaps like marriage—from the Du Beriot which is festive, to the Gubaidulina, which is very challenging. The Prokofiev and Martinu are both extraordinarily colorful." Like all good summer festivals, Cape & Islands is a blend of good concerts with extra-musical events like lectures and children's performances. "All summer festivals share a special excitement. There is something slightly enchanted about it. When you come from the winding ways of Woods Hole or the dunes of Wellfleet, and are enthralled with the beauty of Beethoven, it is something priceless." The festival runs for three weeks in August at venues in South Yarmouth, Falmouth, Woods Hole, Chatham and Wellfleet. Call 800-229-5739 for information.

Nicholas Kitchen, William Fedkenheur, Mai Motoucci and Yeesun Kim are the Borromeo String Quartet.

KATHY CHAPMAN

Coda

Summer is a slow time for classical music news, but reports that conductor **Simon Rattle**'s contract with the **Berlin Philharmonic**, presumably set in stone, is still unsigned and in question has several orchestras in a tizzy.

The local band, as you might know, still needs a viable replacement for outgoing **Seiji Ozawa**. The **Philadelphia Orchestra** is still seeking a replacement for **Wolfgang Sawallisch**, and would love to bring the high-profile Rattle onboard to jump-start their flagging reputation. Stay tuned. By the time you read this, the all Bach all the time archives should be online at *www.bachdigital.org*. Manuscripts and scores will be digitally available on the site, expected to go live in late July. The site is a collaboration among IBM, the Berlin library and other assorted German libraries. **iB**

Preview

Two weeks at Tanglewood

July 26-Aug. 8 Highlights

See conductor/pianist Daniel Barenboim July 30 at Tanglewood.

Don't forget. This Sunday, get in your car at 11am with a picnic packed, drive west for two hours, spend $15, sit on the lawn, and listen to the BSO. A summer experience New Englander's can brag about all over the world.

July 30

Daniel Barenboim, piano, Ilan Volkov, conductor, BSO Barenboim, conductor (Chicago, Berlin, Paris) and pianist, performs twice this season. Barenboim's legend stretches back to the '60s (can the world have forgotten Jacqueline de Pre?), with great recordings, performances and recitals from then 'till now. Here he performs the Brahms first concerto. Shed, 2:30pm.

July 30 and 31

Verdi's *Falstaff*

Perhaps Ozawa's personal focus this season. Performed by the TMC Vocal Fellows and Orchestra, with Seiji conducting, David Kneuss directing. Stage design by John Michael Deegan and Sarah Conly. Theatre, 8pm.

Aug. 3

Daniel Barenboim, piano

Nobody who cares about serious piano literature will miss this concert. The program: Albenzi, *Iberia*, Books 1 and 2, and selected Lizst. Ozawa Hall 8:30pm.

August 4

Van Cliburn, piano, Seiji Ozawa conducting the BSO Van Cliburn. The genial legend, still playing the same repertory that vaulted him to Beatles-esque fame 40 years ago, plays the Tchaikovsky first concerto. The orchestra plays the *Pathetique*. The concert falls on the fourth anniversary of the death of his mother, Rilda Bee. Bring kleenex. Shed 8:30pm.

Aug. 6

Britten War Requiem

Ozawa conducts, Christine Goerke soprano, Thomas Quasthoff, bass-baritione. Two of the greatest singers alive. No need to say more. Shed, 2:30pm.

Lawn tickets are $12.50-$17, seated tickets are $18-$85. Call 888-266-1200 for tickets. For more information visit www.bso.org.—Keith Powers

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled Classical by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Classical Music or e-mail to classical@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers Web site information and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to deadline. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from many different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to doublecheck dates and times.

Wednesday, July 26

Longy School of Music Concert Series
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, One Follen St., Cambridge (876-0956). 12:15pm. Free. This week's *Bach's Lunch Concert Series* features Virtuoso Recorder Trios.

Thursday, July 27

Tanglewood Concerts
Ozawa Hall, Tanglewood, Lenox (413-637-5280). 8:30pm. Ida Haendel on violn and Itamar Golan on piano perform Beethoven, Bach and more.

Longy School of Music Concert Series
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, One Follen St., Cambridge (876-0956). 12:15pm. Free. Longy's Summer Flute Orchestra performs, conducted by Trix Kout.

Friday, July 28

BSO at Tanglewood
Koussevitzky Music Shed, Tanglewood, Lenox (413-637-5280). 8:30pm. James Conlon conducts an all-Motzart program with Emaneul Ax on piano.

Saturday, July 29

BSO at Tanglewood
Koussevitzky Music Shed, Tanglewood, Lenox (413-637-5280). 8:30pm. Emmanuel Villaume conducts a program featuring Berlioz and Franck.

Monday, July 31

The International Baroque Institute
First Church, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (876-0956). 8pm. $12. The Boston Bach Ensemble performs the first concert of the International Baroque Institute. They are joined by a period-instrument orchestra.

Tuesday, August 1

Tanglewood On Parade
Koussevitzky Music Shed, Lenox (266-1200). 8:30pm. $17-$85. The only concert of the summer where you can see the BSO, the Pops and the Tanglewood Orchestra all perform together. Seiji Ozawa, Keith Lockhart and John Williams conduct.

Thursday, August 3

The International Baroque Institute
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, One Follen St., Cambridge (876-0956). 8pm. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Free. An evening of vocal and instrumental chamber music featuring Institute participants in *Florilegium Portense*.

Tanglewood Concerts
Ozawa Hall, Tanglewood, Lenox (413-637-5280). 8:30pm. $15-$85. Daniel Barenboim performs solo on piano.

Friday, August 4

The International Baroque Institute at Longy School of Music
First Church, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (876-0956). 8pm. $15, $12 students and seniors. The final concert of the Institute is titled *A Musical Offering* and is performed by Institute students and faculty. Performance includes dance, vocal and instrumental intermezzi and an orchestral performance.

BSO at Tangelwood
Koussevitzky Music Shed, Tanglewood, Lenox (413-637-5280). 8:30pm. $15-$85. Seiji Ozawa conducts an all-Tchaikovsky program with Van Cliburn on piano.

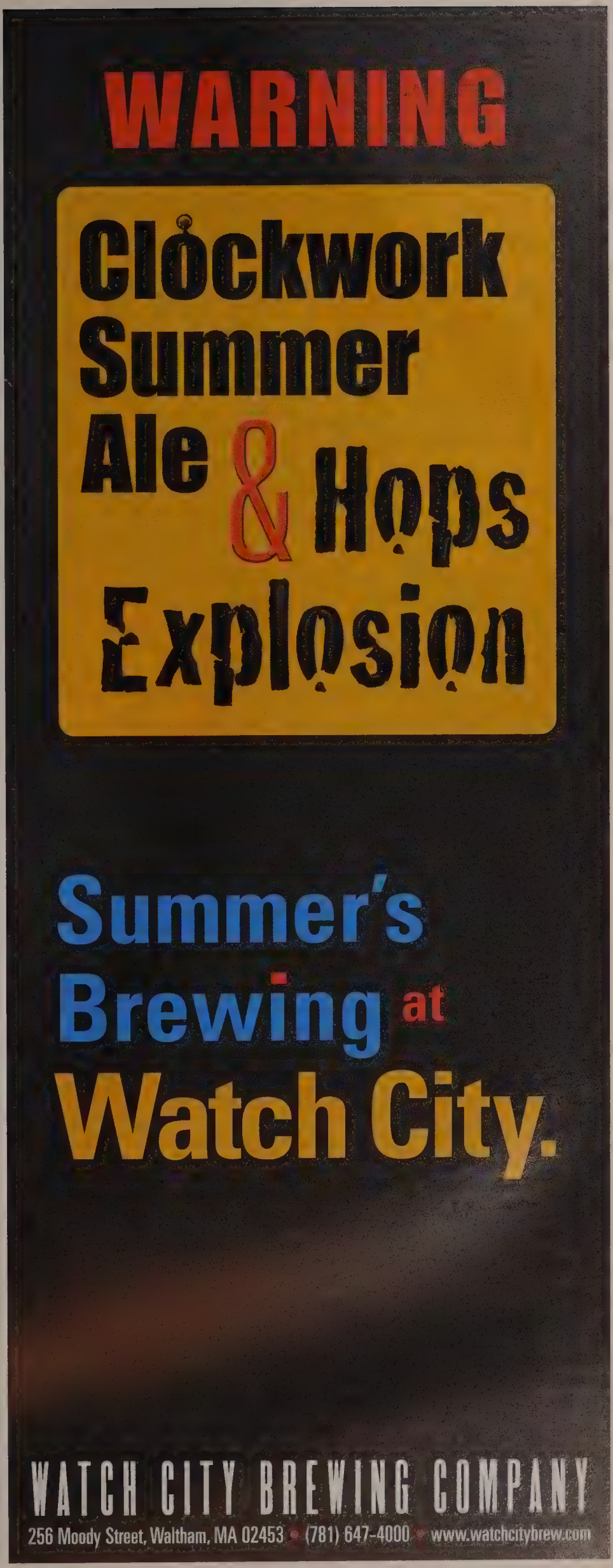
Saturday, August 5

Boston Pops at Tanglewood
Koussevitzky Music Shed, Tanglewood, Lenox (413-637-5280). 8:30pm. $15-$85. Film Night at Tanglewood features music from *The Red Pony* and a tribute to Stanley Donon. John Williams conducts.

Longy School of Music Concert
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, One Follen St., Cambridge (876-0956). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. $22. Longy's Summer Series Russian Romanticism begins tonight with Christian Bor on violin, Marcus Thompson on viola, Ronald Thomas on cello and Edward Auer on piano. Beethoven, Dohnanyi and Schumann will be performed by the Boston Chamber Music Society.

Tuesday, August 8

Tanglewood Concerts
Ozawa Hall, Tanglewood, Lenox (413-637-5280). 8:30pm. Thomas Quasthoff on bass-baritone and Justus Zeyen on piano.



dance clubs

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Submit information by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Clubs or e-mail to clubs@improper.com. Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Nights

Mondays

Language
Hibernia. DJs G White, Dot, Surface and Sora spin drum and bass. 8pm. 21+.

Static
Axis. DJ Jay Ine and the gorgeous drag shows hosted by Mizery. 10pm, $5. 19+.

Vertigo Mondays
Vertigo. Caesar and Giorgio throw a party for those who never stop dancin'. Smooth Lounge upstairs, deep house downstairs with DJ Arsit. Dress slick. 10pm. No cover.

Tuesdays

Cigar and Jazz Night
The Exchange. Light up, kick back and listen to the smooth sounds of jazz. Plus, you score a free Gina Cigar and buffet when you relax here. No cover.

Fat Tuesdays
Bill's. This off-the-hook night features DJ Chaos scratching out hip-hop while DJ Justin Hoffman and DJ Jynx spin downstairs. 11pm. $10.

The Forum
Lava Bar. Join Mission Control and support the local DJ scene as home-grown talents share the floor in hopes of gaining a headlining spot on the Lava stage. 10pm. 21+.

Got Milk?
Venu. If you're chic you'll be at Venu for Milk—a devilishly hip party with DJ Osheen. Dress is funky. 21+.

Inasense
Karma. DJ Timmy Allen spins classic and soulful house and R&B. $10, 19+.

Mingle Tuesdays
The Modern. This spot screams sophistication. With DJs, a raw bar, vodka bar and late lounge. 10pm. 21+.

Wednesdays

Backstage
DJ Jonny C. spins top-40 dance classics. 10pm, no cover. 21+.

College Night
The Aquarium. Guest DJs spin on all three funky floors of this relatively new venue at 10pm.

Good Karma
Karma/Mambo. Mizery plays host to a roster of rotating DJs. Expect a mixed crowd. 10pm, $5. 19+.

Hibernia Wednesdays
Hibernia. Resident DJ C.T.O. is the Godfather of Say Word night—with plenty of funk, rare groove, soul and old-school hip-hop. 9pm. Cover varies. 21+.

Modern Living
The Modern. DJ Dale Charles spins while minglers strut their stuff, munch from a raw bar and sip martinis. 10pm. 21+.

Musical Mayhem
The Exchange. DJ Jynx plays house upstairs while Tym Ryan of WFNX and DJ Brisc spin in the Vault. 10pm.

Pravda 116
Spend the night at one of the city's most decadent hot spots—set to beats by DJ Alex and DJ Felix. 21+.

Status
Axis. It's all about status when DJs Darrin Friedman and Richie Rich spin house music. 10pm, $10. 19+.

Thursdays

Aquarium
The Kiss 108 FM dance party features Randy from the *Matty in the Morning Show.* 10pm. $3.

Backstage
Tonight's adrenaline high features special guests spinning top-40 dance and club classics. 10pm, $5. 21+.

Big Easy
New Orleans-themed nightspot with some of the best DJs in town. Four bars, billiards and lounges. 9pm.

Charlie's Angels Night
Polly Esther's. Dress as your favorite Brady character and dance to '70s, '80s and '90s music. 8pm, $5. 21+.

Chrome
Axis. Resident DJs John Debo and Ali Ajami spin house and trance. 10pm, $10. 19+.

Downtempo Lounging
The Modern. DJ Ricky Fatts spins while you enjoy the raw bar and vodka bar. 9pm-2am, 21+.

Axis hosts hordes of glitzed-out club goers who shake it to tunes spun by some of the city's best DJs.

Funkalicious Thursdays
The Exchange. DJ G-Squared takes you on a blast from the past as he spins '70s and '80s tunes. No cover.

Il Panino
A social playground for young professionals in Boston: cocktails and dancing. Proper dress. 9pm. 21+.

International Thursday
Avalon. A mixed crowd fills this nightspot as DJ Manolo spins Eurohouse and DJ Anthony spins Latin in the Playhouse. 10pm, $15. 19+.

Latin Quarter
The Roxy. You know it's time to get down when the Roxy breaks out hip-shaking Latin dance mixes.

The List
Lava Bar. *Lavabar.com*. DJ 7L and guests, along with Verse/D, bring you soul and funk. 10pm. 21+.

Salsa Night
Europa. Enter the Bacardi Salsa Lounge stretched and ready to dance. Don't know how? Learn how at 9pm.

Speed
Karma/Mambo. Resident DJs Bruno and Masta Millions spin hip-hop and R&B. 10pm, $15. 19+.

Sugar Shack
The best music from three decades pounds through the festival atmosphere where every day is Mardi Gras.

Sweetwater Cafe
Live bands perform, guests sip margaritas outside on an open patio.

Venu
Swank American top-40 and house, this hot spot features the incredible DJ Adilson.

Fridays

Avaland
Avalon. Everything about this screams "Party!" With the likes of DJ Manolo and John Debo. 10pm, $15. 19+.

Backstage
Backstage kicks off its all-night dance party, part one, with the sounds of DJ Jonny C spinning top-40. Doors open at 10pm, $5. Proper dress, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans–themed nightspot has some of the best mainstream DJs in town. It offers four bars and two lounges, as well as billiards and a wraparound balcony.

Buzz Fridays
Roger M lays down house tracks while visiting DJs pay homage to the house music gods. 11pm, $15. 19+.

Envy
This extraordinarily popular Friday night destination is filled with a swarming mass of sweaty 'n' ready dancers. 9pm, $5 cover after 10pm. 21+.

Exchange Fridays
The Exchange. Up High, Tiziano and Maurizio, Boston's best DJ duo play house trip while DJ G-Squared opens the Vault with dance and hip-hop. 9pm.

Focus
Hibernia. You can't go wrong with DJs Chuck Caseroc, Keith Kene and Skot Havens. 9pm, 21+.

Lava Bar
Life. *lavabar.com*. Dance to a different drummer with DJ Fran Englehardt's soulful rhythms. 10pm.

Nocturnal Fridays
Bill's Bar. WBCN's Bill Abbate spins up a delectable smorgasbord of rock with a pinch of roll. 9pm. $5. 21+.

Pure
Karma/Mambo. World Class Drum and Bass DJs. With a weekly rotating roster of guest DJs. $15, 19+.

Roxy 2000
Roxy/Mondo Bar. DJ Felix spins house and international music all night. 10:30pm. $15 cover, 21+.

Spin Cycle
Axis. Glitzed-out club-hoppers shake it to the progressive house beats of DJ Tim Ryan and DJ David James' retro tunes upstairs. 10pm, $12. 19+.

Sugar Shack
Always bustling with crowds of regulars, there's kickin' DJs, specialty drinks and dancing till 2am.

Sweetwater Cafe
DJs KC and Jonesey entertain on two floors of this classic American bar.

Ultra Lounge
The Modern. DJ Mixin Matt Ruben. 9pm-2am, 21+.

Venu
The scene is elegant for this jacket-required international romp. Get your Gucci on as DJ Arsit spins. 21+.

Saturdays

Aquarium
Saturday-night dance party hosted by resident DJ. 10pm-1am, $5 cover.

Club Piteko
This new club, housed in Fajitas & Ritas, features World Hop music, juggling reggae, hip-hop and Brazilian sounds. $7. 21+.

Downtown
Avalon. Resident DJs Manolo and Mattie O. gyrate your arse with hits and club classics. 10pm, $15. 21+.

Backstage
DJ Freddie C spins top-40 dance and club classics. 10pm. $5. Proper dress, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans–themed nightspot has live bands all weekend. Thirsty? There are four bars to boot.

Bill's Bar
DJ Laurie Gail with guest DJs make Bill's a night full of dancing to '70s, '80s and '90s. 9pm, $3. 19+.

Club Juliana
Boogieing cuties converge on Boston's newest Latin Night starting at 10pm. Dress to impress. $10.

Club Nicole
The mob thick for this exclusive Euro trendsetter. DJ Alex spins Eurohouse. Jackets required. 21+.

Elements of Life
Karma/Mambo. DJ Supa Mario and guest world class DJs spin house music in the main room while DJ Hoffman plays funk in the Mambo Lounge. 10pm, $15. 19+.

Emily's
DJs spice up Saturdays and transform this after-work venue into a dance kingdom. 9pm, no cover. 21+.

Envy
From 9pm-2am, DJ Tom Baxter blasts top-40, house and dance. 9pm, $5 after 10pm.

Exchange Saturdays
DJ Diesel renovates the upper level with full-on house while DJ Jynx spins the funky beats in the Vault. 9pm.

Hibernia Saturdays
Hibernia. Masters of house, techno and dance, DJs Dino and David West take the reins and whip the crowd into a frenzy. 9pm, cover varies. 21+.

Lava Bar
Anything Goes. DJ Fran and Kris Kono unite with high-energy house and Latin beats. 10pm, 21+.

Miami Club Night
Club Joy/Yesterday's. Get a taste of Miami nightlife. 9:30pm (ladies free before 11pm), $10. 21+. ladies, 19+.

Mischief
The Modern. Feeling mischievous? Ultra lounging with decadent desserts and erotic electronica. 21+.

Mythos
Venu. Greek International with DJ Yorgo Jr. spinning the hits from the famous party islands of Greece.

Saturday Night Fever
Polly Esther's. Groove to three decades' worth of beats in the laser-lit Club DVD. 8pm, $10. 21+.

Sugar Shack
Spice up your night with '70s, '80s and '90s dance music as DJ Rich Centi spins the hottest sounds.

Sweetwater Cafe
Music from DJs KC and Jonesey on two floors.

Who's on First?
The latest and greatest in hip-hop, reggae, R&B and Latin house with DJ Lil' Mike, 10:30pm, $12. 18+.

X night
Axis. DJ Mike Gioscia spins '90s faves while DJ David James spins '80s hits. 10pm, $10 cover. 21+.

Sundays

Backstage
Urban Night. With T Clark spinning hip-hop, reggae and old school. Doors open at 10pm, $10. 21+.

Common People
An Tua Nua.
Brit-pop, new wave, indie and more with DJ Adrienne. 9pm, $3. 19+.

Emily's
Industry Night "Club Soda" with DJ Silly. 10:30pm.

Exchange Sundays
A fusion of heavy lounge and Miami house. No cover.

Il Panino
This night features music by DJ Alex of Boston Beat and DJ Roger M. No cover, 21+.

Latin Night
Karma/Mambo Lounge. Weekly Live Latin Bands. 10pm, $25. 19+.

Lava Bar
Pandora's Box (Club Courtesy). DJ Vinny and Sir Richard and Sterling spin '60s Exotica, loungecore, psychedelic flowerpop and Motown. 10pm. 21+.

Salvation
This Boston vibe serves up an intimate evening of soul—all provided courtesy of DJ Soul. $5.

Venu
Carnival comes to Boston every Sunday as DJ Adilson brings the heat of Rio to Venu. 21+.

Club Venues

AnTua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (262-2121). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Aquarium *65 Holland St., Somerville (623-3200). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (437-0300). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Backstage *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston (726-1110). MBTA: Blue Line to Government Center.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Buzz Boston/Europa *51-67 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street.*
Club Juliana *20 Hudson St., Boston (542-4411).*
Club Nicole *40 Dalton St., Boston (236-4746). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*
Club Piteko/Fajitas & Ritas *25 West St., Boston (426-1222). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Club Stella *1234 Soldiers Field Rd., Brighton (254-0554).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Boston (423-3649). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*
Envy *25 Boylston Place, Boston (542-3689). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Exchange *148 State St., Boston (723-7755). MBTA: Orange Line to State Street.*
Hibernia *25 Kingston St., Boston (292-2333). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Karma *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9595). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Lava Bar *575 Comm.Ave., Boston (267-7707). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Oskar's *107 South Street., Boston (542-6756). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Polly Esther's *262 Friend St., Boston (720-1966). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (482-7799). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Salvation *20 Hudson St., Boston (781-668-2392). MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown.*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Sweetwater Cafe *5 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2515). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (338-8061). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Vertigo *126 State Street, Boston (723-7277). MBTA: Blue Line to State Street.*
Who's on First? *19 Yawkey Way (247-3353). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*

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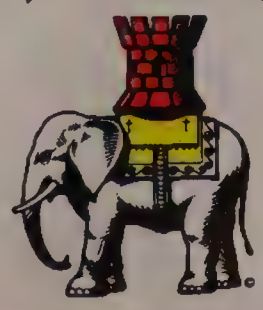

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"a slice of heaven" -Boston Magazine

SHE watches Fellini, listens to Schoenberg, lives for espresso, dreams in noir, pines for a good bowl of udon.

something in common

HE is chained to his laptop, plays golf every Sunday, likes two coats of wax on the Benz, and insists that the sushi is fresh.

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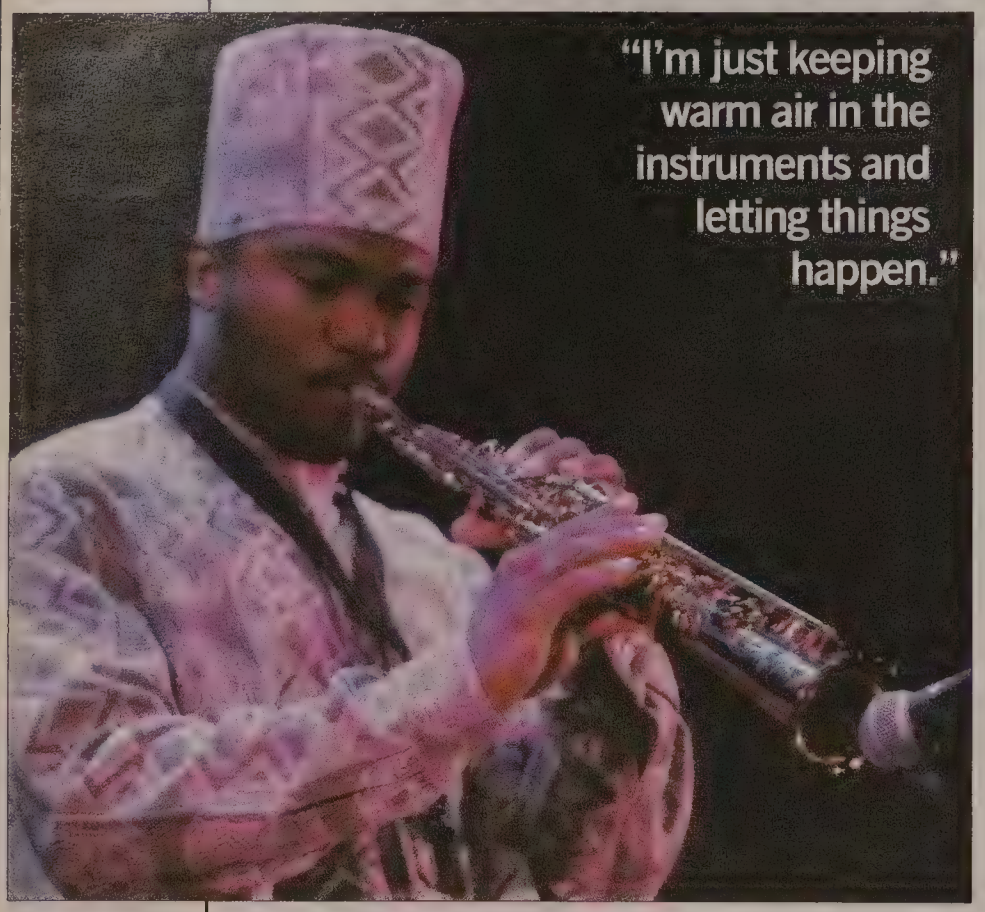
Music

THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL

This summer's outdoor music festival circuit heats up with terrific, cutting-edge jazz. BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

John Zorn had just completed an intense, free-wheeling night of composed and improvised music for his group Masada—in string trio, chamber sextet and quartet—as part of June's New York edition of the JVC Jazz Festival at Symphony Space. "Thanks for coming 'uptown' to hear us," he told the crowd, making a snide reference to the "downtown" label affixed to the jazz-bending music of Manhattan renegades like himself.



James Carter played at the Montreal Jazz Festival with his new electric band.

North American jazz festivals have indeed gone "uptown" in scope this summer—a trend seen in New York, Boston and Montreal, as well as Rhode Island's upcoming JVC festival at Newport. After years of diluted diversity from smooth jazz and blues-rock acts, local audiences are getting the kind of creative improvisation which once flourished only at European fests.

With its collision of Jewish radicalism and Ornette Coleman-style jazz, Zorn's Masada quartet appeared a few weeks ago at the Montreal International Jazz Festival (an impressive event that takes over that city's downtown blocks with a tight spread of ticketed and free shows), and is headed for Newport Aug. 13. Masada trumpeter Dave Douglas also played Montreal with his own sextet, which, in turn, performed in May at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts—under the banner of the upstart Bell Atlantic Jazz Festival. It all amounts to broader exposure for artists on the cutting edge of jazz.

"For my part, flame on, because it's about time to be getting some home credits," says James Carter, the New York-based saxophone hotshot who just played Montreal with his new electric band, which he will bring to Newport Aug. 12 (following a stop two nights earlier at Scullers Jazz Club).

Carter is adept at juggling the accessible and adventurous sides of jazz with a stylish swagger and fiery facility. His horns often seem on the verge of bursting from his audacious technique—and it was an extra treat to see his frisky tenor face off with Ricky Ford in an after-hours jam session at a Montreal hotel bar, taking their solos into the crowd.

But Carter's boldest move this summer is two simultaneous CD releases. *Chasin' the Gypsy* is a tribute to the "Hot Jazz" era, topping a violin-and-accordion-wound sound with black-sheep horns like the bass (which brings an extra-husky tone to Django Reinhardt's "Nuages") and F Mezzo saxes. "Older, unsung axes have voices in them which have been untapped," says Carter, whose personnel on that disc includes drummer Joey Baron and percussionist Cyro Baptista (who both work with versions of Masada) and violinist Regina Carter. The saxophonist's other release, which he's currently supporting on the road, is *Layin' in the Cut*, a funky electric outing whose loose-limbed interplay evokes the harmolodic extension of Ornette Coleman's Prime Time and Ronald Shannon Jackson.

"I'm not looking to be heir to the Ornette Coleman or Ronald Shannon Jackson throne, but it's a hip place to hang," says Carter, 31, whose rhythm section on CD and stage is perhaps not coincidentally composed of bassist Jamaaladeen Tacuma and drummer G. Calvin Weston—sidemen to the aforementioned pioneers. Rounding out the group on disc are guitarists Marc Ribot (also seen in the Masada sextet) and Jef Lee Johnson (of whom Carter says, "He has the same warped sense of humor and passion that I entail"), and guitarist Kelvyn Bell and keyboardist Craig Taborn on the road. It all grew from a spontaneous jam that inspired the name *Layin' in the Cut*. "We had four grooves that had cohesion, and we could build upon, and before I knew it, I was under the mike, putting it down," says Carter, whose open-ended outlook and diversity of palette beyond tenor and soprano saxes can be traced to his Detriot mentor Donald Washington. "He sounded different on every horn," Carter says, "yet his essence came through on every one." By age 17, Carter had earned an invitation from Wynton Marsalis to play with his quintet; he also appeared on Marsalis' Pulitzer-winning 1997 epic *Blood on the Fields*.

"I'm trying to embrace all that I've grown up with, and heard, and synthesize it into me," says Carter, who grew up hearing everything from Miles Davis to Parliament-Funkadelic to Jimi Hendrix played around the house. "I'm just keeping warm air in the instruments and letting things happen."

And luckily for summer music fans, more experimental players like Carter are letting things happen in the warm air of the outdoor festival circuit, sharing a sense of discovery. iB

Summer Outdoor Music Festivals

John Zorn's Masada quartet performs during the Newport Jazz Festival Aug. 13.
James Carter brings his electric band to Newport for a show Aug. 12.

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fax (859-1446); by mail to Calendar/Music; or by email to music@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, phone numbers and nearest T stops. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double check dates and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

Concerts

AC/DC
August 8, FleetCenter
Joan Armatrading
July 28, Sanders Theatre
Pat Benatar
August 6, Cape Cod Melody Tent
Brooks and Dunn
July 30, South Shore Music Circus
Tracy Chapman
August 3, FleetBoston Pavilion
Dido
August 1, Avalon
Duran Duran
August 5, FleetBoston Pavilion
Michael Feinstein with the Big Kahuna and the Copa Cat Pack Big Band
August 4, South Shore Music Circus
August 5, Cape Cod Melody Tent
Peter Frampton with the Eric Stuart Band
July 26, South Shore Music Circus
Guster
August 4, FleetBoston Pavilion
The Irish Tenors: Anthony Kearns, Ronan Tynon, and Finbar Wright
July 30, FleetBoston Pavilion
KC and the Sunshine Band
August 3, South Shore Music Circus
K-Ci and Jojo
July 26, FleetBoston Pavilion
Mayhem with Hate Eternal, Exhumed, Skinless and Torn Asunder
August 1, Upstairs at the Palladium
Jo Dee Messina
August 5, South Shore Music Circus
Willie Nelson and Family
August 9, Cape Cod Melody Tent
Ozzfest 2000 with Ozzy Osbourne
July 29 and 30, Tweeter Center
Peter, Paul and Mary
July 30, Cape Cod Melody Tent
Riverfest 2000 with Aimee Mann, Indigenous and the Big Wu
July 29, City Hall Plaza
Santana and Macy Gray
August 1 and 2, TweeterCenter
Savage Garden
July 28, FleetBoston Pavilion
Sister Hazel
July 28, Avalon
Third Eye Blind with Vertical Horizon and Nine Days
Aug. 4, Tweeter Center
George Thorogood and the Destroyers
Aug. 2, South Shore Music Circus; Aug. 4, Cape Cod Melody Tent
Widespread Panic
July 29, FleetBoston Pavilion

CONCERT HALLS

Avalon
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.
Cape Cod Melody Tent
21 West Main St., Hyannis (508-775-9100).
Esplanade
Hatch Shell Memorial, Boston. MBTA: Red Line to Charles MGH.
Fan Pier
28 Northern Ave., South Boston (737-0910). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.
FleetBoston Pavilion
290 Northern Avenue, Boston (734-9000). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.
FleetCenter
One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (624-1000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.
Foxboro Stadium
60 Washington St., Foxboro (508-543-0350).
Sanders Theatre
45 Quincy St., Cambridge (496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.
South Shore Music Circus
130 Sohier St., Cohasset (781) 383-9850.

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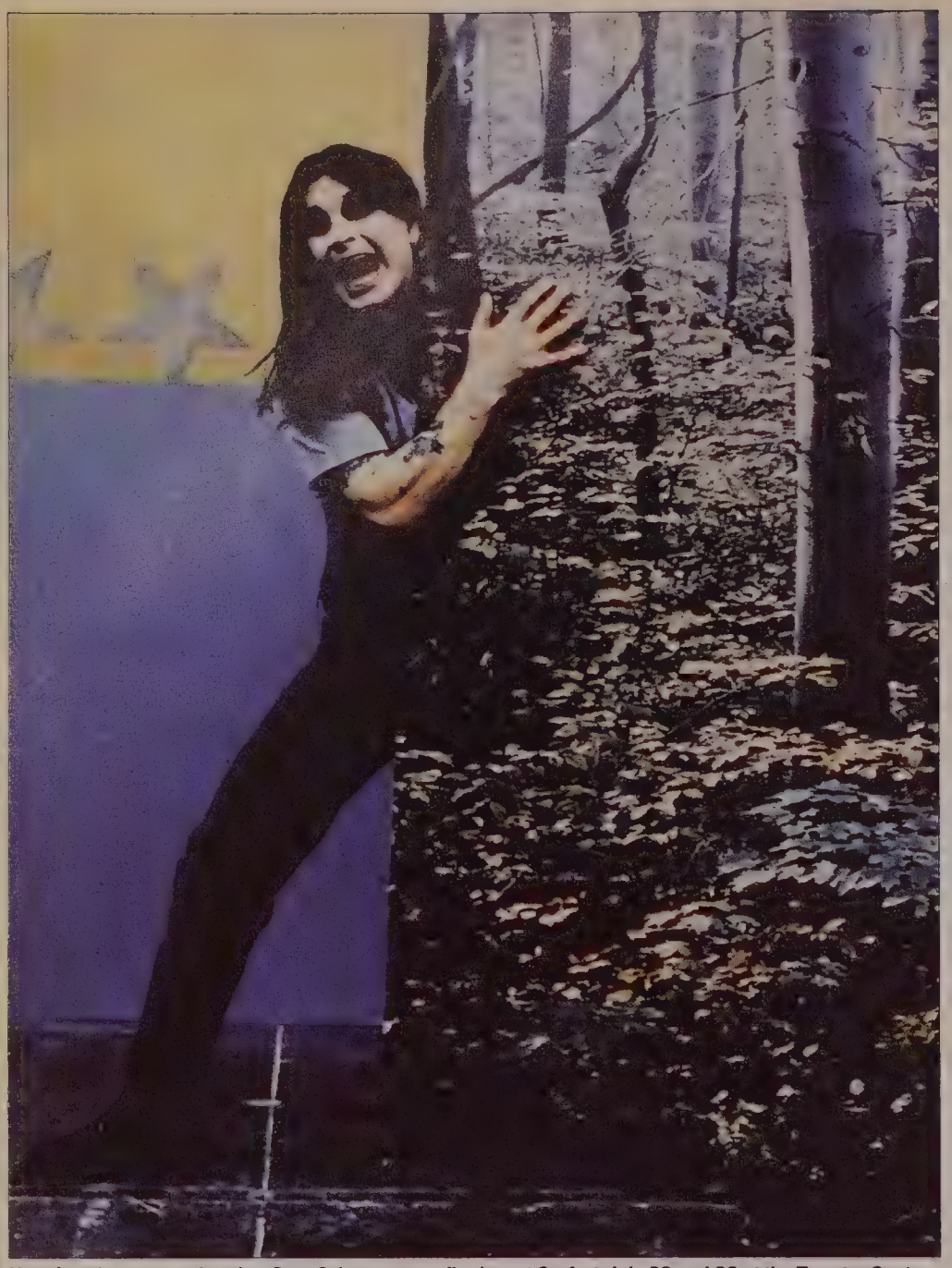

Notorious heavy-metal rocker Ozzy Osbourne gets fired up at Ozzfest, July 29 and 30 at the Tweeter Center.

Suffolk Downs
111 Waldemar Ave., East Boston (567-3900). MBTA: Blue Line to Suffolk Downs.
Tweeter Center
885 South Main St., Mansfield (508-339-2331).

Rock, Jazz and Blues

Wednesday, July 26

Bob the Chef's
Hakim Law Jazz Quartet, 6pm, cover varies.
City Plaza Outdoor Concert Series
Country Night with The Silver Wings of the U.S. Air Force Band, 7pm.
Club Passim
Ramblin' Jack Elliott, 8pm, $15.
Coogan's Bluff
James McKenna.
Dick's Last Resort
The Generators, 7pm, no cover.
Harpers Ferry
Melissa Ferrick, 8pm, $12, 18+; Ron Levy's Wild Kingdom with Freelance and Bishops, 9:30pm, $3.
Hennessy's
Me and Julio, cover varies.
House of Blues
Super Chikan, 9pm, $7, 18+.
The Irish Embassy Pub
Machinery Hall, 9:30pm, 21+.
Johnny D's
Wendo, 8:30pm.
Kirkland Cafe
Ken Clark Organ Trio, $5.
Les Zygomates
Lonely Gus and The One Night Stand, 5pm, no cover.
Lilli's
The Lyres with the Fabulous Itchies.
Middle East
U: Cops and Robbers, Down But Not Out, Brando, Kevorkian's Angels, $6, 18+. D: Jim Carroll, 8pm, $12.
Midway Cafe
Bully Pulpit, Eric Marcos, Noble Noise.
Milky Way
Soulicious, no cover.
Oak Room
Steve Soars, 8pm, no cover.
Paddy Burke's
Tom Hegarty, 8pm; Boston Folk and Singers Club, 9pm, cover varies.
Playhouse Lounge
Misop Baynun and the Reticent Lions, 9:45pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar
Teresa Ines with Helio Alves, 8:30pm, $12.
Sculler's
Carol Fredette with special guest Steve Kuhn, 8pm, $12.
Sky Bar
Words for Snow, the Bismark and Moonshot, 9pm, $5, 21+.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Melissa Ferrick Trio, Brian Charles, 10:15pm, $12, 18+.

Thursday, July 27

Bob the Chef's
Carl Smitty Smooth Group, 7:30pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
Don Conoscenti, 8pm, $10.
Common Ground
Joint Chiefs, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff
Bruce Jacques.
Dick's Last Resort
In the House, 7pm, no cover.
Good Life Central
Rick Greenblatt's Vibe Quartet, no cover.
Good Life Downtown
Weepin' Willy and his All Star Band, no cover.
Harpers Ferry
Nozmo King, Moon Boot Lover with special guests One People, 9:30pm, $5.
Hennessy's
Under Cover, cover varies.
House of Blues
Reggae-African Roots Connection, 10pm, $20, 18+.
Johnny D's
Amazing Mudshark, Bob Malone, 9pm.
Jose McIntyre's
The Return.
Kendall Cafe
Tom Glynn Duo, 9pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe
Joe Merrik, Complaints, Somebody's Sister, $5.
Les Zygomates
The Bill Lowe Duo, 5pm; The Jinga Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Lilli's
The Either Orchestra.
Linwood
ManCain, Headshot, Jezebel, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Maison Robert
Issi Rozen, 6pm, no cover.
Middle East
U: Men's Recovery Project, Arab on Radar, Neptune, Mini-Watt, $7, 18+. D: Strict 9, Breedinground, No Regret, We're All Gonna Die, Motokops 2000, 8pm, $8.
Milky Way
Mistle Thrush, The Fly Seville, Mishima, $7.
Oak Room
Steve Soars, 8pm, no cover.
Paddy Burke's
Tom Carroll, 8pm, cover varies.
Playhouse Lounge
Garyoke, 9:45pm, no cover, 21+.
Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett.
The Rack
Chad LaMarsh, 6:30pm.
Regattabar
The Marcus Roberts Trio with Roland Guerin and Jason Marsalis, 8:30pm, $12.
Sky Bar
Blue Valentine, Stumble and Flat Five, 9pm, $5, 21+.

Friday, July 28

The Attic
The Mudhens and Almost Speechless, cover varies, 21+.
The Big Easy
The Thrill, 9pm, $7, 21+.
Bill's Bar
UnAmerican, cover varies.
Bob the Chef's
Nat Simpkins, B-3 Jazz Trio, 7:30pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
Laurie Geltman, 8pm, $12.
Common Ground
Soul Work, 10pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band, Soul City, 7pm, no cover.
Good Life Central
Nate Aronow Band, no cover.
Good Life Downtown
Jose Ramons and the Special Blend, no cover.
The Green Dragon Tavern
The Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
Harpers Ferry
Two Ton Shoe with special guests, 9:30pm, $8.
Hennessy's
Me and Julio, 5pm, cover varies.
House of Blues
Jeff Pitchell and Texas Flood, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Johnny D's
Boozoo Chavis, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's
Pocket Trash.
Kendall Cafe
Hellcountry, Lucky 57, $7.
Kirkland Cafe
Balboas, RPM's, Big Ray and the Futuras, Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $6.
Les Zygomates
Issi Rozen, 5pm; Ron Murphy, 9pm, no cover.
Lilli's
Bootyque with Brother Cleve and Languid.
Linwood
Boston Brats, Strangle Me and the Medveds, 10pm, $6, 21+.
Middle East
U: Ida, 18+. D: Babaloo and Vibewise, $10, 18+. D: Babaloo and Vibewise, 18+, $8.
Midway Cafe
Burning Sensations, Innerpink.
Milky Way
The Real Kids and the Decals, $7.
Mr. Dooley's
Patsy Whelan and Pat Dunlea, $3.
Oak Room
Steve Soars Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
Paddy Burke's
Focal and Tom Carroll, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Parker's Bar
Rose Jamieson and Rick Schilling, 8pm.
Playhouse Lounge
Tom Bianchi, 11:45pm, no cover, 21+.
Purple Shamrock
Thomas Park.
Regattabar
The Marcus Roberts Trio with Roland Guerin and Jason Marsalis, 8pm and 10pm, $14.
Sky Bar
Pure Fiction, Slackjaw and Practically Einstein, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub
Jeff Auger Trio with Jim Cameron and Maggie Galloway, 9pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
The Push Kings, the Boy Joys and Jumprope, $8.

Saturday, July 29

Bob the Chef's
Nat Simpkins, B-3 Jazz Trio, 7:30pm, cover varies.
Cambridge Brewing Company
4 Minus 1, 10pm, no cover.
Club Passim
Greg Greenway, 7pm and 10pm, $14/$12.
Common Ground
Booty, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff
Novakane, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort
The Generators, Booty, 7pm, no cover.
Good Life Central
Amanda Baisinger Band, no cover.
The Green Dragon
The Return, $3.
Harpers Ferry
Jiggle the Handle, with special guests the Recipe, 9:30pm, $8.
House of Blues
Bird Taylor Band, 10pm, $10, 21+
Jacob Wirths
The Jay Sweet Trio.
Johnny D's
Love Dogs, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's
Second Story.
Kendall Cafe
Daniel Jacobs, Clare Burson and Daniel Jacobs, 9:30pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe
Somerville Billys, Effie, Lazyboy Rockers, $5.
Les Zygomates
The Nadine Chase Duo, 6pm; Henrietta Robinson, 10pm, no cover.
Linwood
Rock City Crimewave, Lamont, Steelhead, Reverse, 10pm, $6, 21+.
Middle East
U: Darkbuster, Heidi and the Forty-Fives, $7, 18+. D: Bim Skala Bim, Tjovi Ginan, Jumpsuit Jerry, $8, 18+.
Mr. Dooley's
Patsy Whelan and Pat Dunlea, $3.
Oak Room
Steve Soars Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
Paddy Burke's
Focal, Tom Carroll, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Parker's Bar
Rose Jamieson and Rick Schilling, 8pm.
Playhouse Lounge
Lisa Rahon, 11:45pm, no cover, 21+.
Purple Shamrock
Pig Pen.
Regattabar
The Marcus Roberts Trio with Roland Guerin and Jason Marsalis, 8pm and 10pm, $16.
Rhythm and Spice
Oceanik, 10:30pm, $8, 21+.
Sky Bar
The Raging Teens, Mr. Airplane Man and the Dave Foley Band, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Slade's
The John Dougherty Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub
Jeff Auger Trio with Maggie Galloway, 9pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Helicopter Helicopter, the Douglas Fir and Asciento, $7.

Sunday, July 30

The Attic
The Coalboilers Acoustic Jam Night, 9:30pm, cover varies, 21+.
Bill's Bar
Everton Blender, Richie Spice & Alpheus, 10pm, cover varies.
Bob the Chef's
Sunday Jazz Brunch with Sonny Watson Quartet, 11am, no cover.

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Charismatic rockers Indigenous continue their U.S. tour at Riverfest July 29 at City Hall Plaza.

Club Passim
Carl Hakansson and Amelia White, 7:30pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort
Gospel Brunch with the Bible Tones, 10am; Rob Gonzalez, 7pm, no cover.
The Green Dragon Tavern
The Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
Harpers Ferry
Rockett Band and Friends, 9:30pm, $5.
House of Blues
Elements of hip-hop, 10pm, $8, 18+.
Kendall Cafe
Terry Kitchen, Joe Rathbone, 9pm, no cover.
Middle East
U: Swirlies,the Ivory Coast CD-release, the Lower 48, Duo Tone (DJ Flack and DJ C of Toneburst), 18+, $7. C: Noah Maltsberger, 1pm; Balla Tounkara, 10pm.
Mr. Dooley's
Freddie White.
Paddy Burke's
Tom Carroll, 8pm, cover varies.
Purple Shamrock
Scott Damguard.
The Rack
Chad LaMarsh, 9:30pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
The For Carnation, David Grubbs, $8.
Veronique
Sunday Brunch with Steve Rochinski, 11:30am.
Wonderbar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

Monday, July 31

Club Passim
Jacinta Whitcome, 8pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort
The Generators, 7pm, no cover.
Johnny D's
Twang, 8pm; Hot Tamale Brass Band, 9pm, no cover.
House of Blues
Mystic Vibes, 9pm, $6, 18+.
Kendall Cafe
Matthew Ryan, Giants Workshop and Tobin Bridge, 8pm.
Les Zygomates
The Lenny Stallworth Duo, 5pm; the Kemp Harris Band, 9pm, no cover.
Lilli's
Languid with Brother Cleve and Mike Walsh.
Middle East
U: Vue, the Faint, the Camera Obscura, Friends With Birds, $7, 18+. C: Pamela Ruby Russell, 7pm; Kendra Flowers, 9pm and the Outside, 10pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place
The Other Side of the Bear Acoustic Series, AdFrank and Friends, $3.

Tuesday, August 1

Axis
My Life with the Thrill Kill Kult.
Johnny D's
Jennifer Kimball, Barbara Kessler, 8:30pm.
Middle East
U: Drunk Horse, Tight Bros From Way Back When (Kill Rock Stars), Crack Torch and Binge, $6, 18+.
The Rack
Stu Sinclair, 8pm.
Regattabar
The John Payne Saxophone Choir, 8:30pm, $8.
Roxy
Ali Farka Toure and R.L. Burnside.
Skybar
Nom de Plume, 10pm.
T.T. The Bear's Place
Overflower, cover varies.

Wednesday, August 2

Coogans Bluff
Scott Damguard, 9pm.
Club Passim
Bill Miller, 8pm, $15.
Johnny D's
Patricia Smith and the Phil Pemberton Ban, 8:30pm.
Maison Robert
Freedom of Assembly with Bert Seager, 6pm.
Middle East
U: Elizabeth Elmore (of Sarge) and Jen Wood, $7, 18+.
Regattabar
The Mili Bermejo Trio with Tim Ray and Dan Greenspan, 8:30pm, $8.

Thursday, August 3

City Plaza Outdoor Concert Series
Helen Redding and Louise DuArt, 7pm.
Club Passim
Lynn Deeves, Laura Higgins and others, 8pm, $10.
Coogans Bluff
Novakane, 9pm.
Good Life Central
Matt Gordie Group, no cover.
Good Life Downtown
Power Jazz Unit, no cover.
House of Blues
Nighthawks.
Johnny D's
Toto La Mompesina, 9pm.
Kirkland Cafe
Nat Simpkins B-3 Trio, $5.
Middle East
D: Headshot, Cylinder and Medicine4Tim, $7, 18+.
Parker's Bar
Rose Jamieson and Rick Schilling, 8pm.
The Rack
Search Party, 6:30pm.
Regattabar
A Centennial Tribute to Louis Armstrong with Irvin Mayfield, Delfeayo Marsalis, Javon Jackson and James Williams, 8pm and 10pm, $16.
Sculler's
Steve Turre, 8pm and 10pm.

Friday, August 4

Club Passim
Todd Thibaud, 8pm, $10.
Common Ground
Superhoney, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogans Bluff
Second Story, 9pm, $3.
Good Life Central
Issi Rosen Band, no cover.
Good Life Downtown
Nate Aronow Band, no cover.
The Green Dragon Tavern
The Swinging Johnson's, 8pm, $3.
Johnny D's
Junior Brown, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's
Pig Pen, 9pm, $5.
Maison Robert
Chris Luard, 6pm, no cover.
Middle East
U: Fernachur, Jennifer Teft Band, Kitty Kill and Caged Heat (acoustic), $7, 18+. D: Rustic Overtones and Agents of Good Roots, $10, 18+.
Parker's Bar
Rose Jamieson and Rick Schilling, 8pm.
Purple Shamrock
Syndicate, 9pm, $5.
The Rack
Hit Squad, 6:30pm.

London-based alternative country/roots rock group UnAmerican plays July 28 at Bill's Bar.

UNAMERICAN: SIMON STOCK

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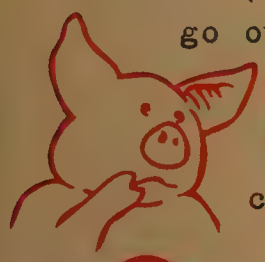

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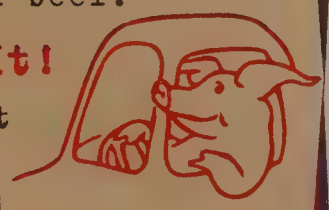

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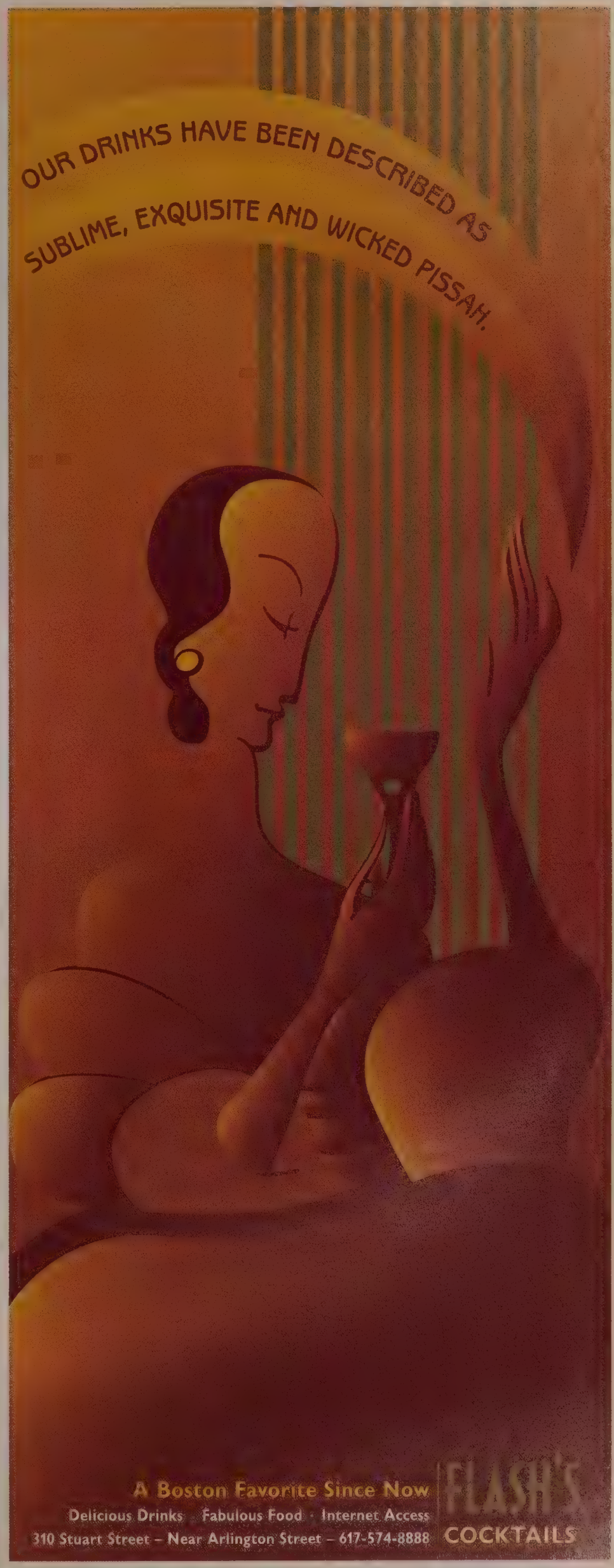

Regattabar
Linda Hopkins and her All-Star Revue: A Centennial Tribute to Louis Armstrong, featuring Irvin Mayfield, Delfeayo Marsalis, Javon Jackson and James Williams, 8pm and 10pm, $18.
Sculler's
Steve Turre, 8pm and 10:30pm.

Saturday, August 5

Cambridge Brewing Company
The Evan Goodrow Band, 10pm, no cover.
Club Passim
Five O'clock Shadow, 7pm and 10pm, $12.
Common Ground
Lovewhip with guest Labb, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogans Bluff
Novakane, $3, 9pm.
Good Life Central
Amanda Baisinger Band, no cover.
Good Life Downtown
Grant Langford Quintet, no cover.
House of Blues
Duke Robillard.
Johnny D's
Swinging Steaks, Say Zulu, 9:45pm.
Josc McIntyre's
Syndicate, 9pm, $5.
Middle East
U: Thee Hallowteens, Photon Torpedos and Mourning Side and Zippo Raid, $7, 18+.
O'Brien's
Nancy S. Mroczek, Ph.D, 12am.
Parker's Bar
Rose Jamieson and Rick Schilling, 8pm.
Purple Shamrock
Wonder Kat, 9pm, $5.
Regattabar
Linda Hopkins and her All-Star Revue: A Centennial Tribute to Louis Armstrong, featuring Irvin Mayfield, Delfeayo Marsalis, Javon Jackson and James Williams, 8pm and 10pm, $20.
Slade's
The John Dougherty Trio, 8pm, no cover.

Sunday, August 6

The Attic
The Coalboilers Acoustic Jam Night, 9:30pm, 21+.

Duran Duran promises to deliver their signature pop-funk sound Aug. 5 when they perform their much-anticipated show at the FleetBoston Pavilion.

Bill's Bar
I-Vibes, 11:30pm.
The Green Dragon Tavern
The Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
Middle East
U: The Dubnicks, Smackin' Isiah, Big Wig, the High-Steppin' Nickel Kids and Sonic Trauma, $7, 18+.
The Rack
Chad La Marsh, 9:30pm.
Veronique
Steve Rochinski; Sunday Brunch, 11:30am.
Wonderbar
The Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

Monday, August 7

Club Passim
Grey Eye Glances, 8pm, $15.
Johnny D's
Hot Tamale Brass Band, 9pm, no cover.
Middle East
C: The Outside, 10 pm.
The Rack
Nate Wadkins, 8pm.

Tuesday, August 8

Club Passim
Grey Eye Glances, 8pm, $15.
Johnny D's
Adrian Legg, 8:30pm.
Middle East
U: L'Altra (Aesthetics Rec.), 33.3 and Threnody Ensemble, $6, 18+.
The Rack
James McKenna, 8pm.
Regattabar
Sugar Ray and the Bluetones with Kid Bangham, Mudcat Ward and Neil Gouvin, 8:30pm, $10.

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Music Venues

An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (262-2121). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Attic *107R Union St., Newton (964-6615). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Center.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (743-2286). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-6204). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
City Hall Plaza *Government Center, Boston (635-4505). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Coogans Bluff *173 Milk Street., Boston (451-7415). MBTA: Orange Line to State Street.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
Good Life Central *720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston (451-2622). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (367-0055). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket or North Station.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Jacob Wirth's *31-37 Stuart St., Boston (338-8586). MBTA: Green Line to Boyslton.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Davis Square, Somerville (776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Lilli's *608 Somerville Avenue in Somerville (591-1661). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
The Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (267-8644). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.*
The Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
O'Brien's *3 Harvard Ave, Allston (782-6245). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
The Playhouse Lounge *74 Warrenton St., Boston (482-2227). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (227-2060). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (725-1051). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Regatta Bar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Central.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Rd., Cambridge (562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boston.*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential Center.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Wally's Cafe *427 Mass. Ave., Boston (424-1408). MBTA: Green Line to Symphony.*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard Ave., Allston (351-COOL). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Les Zygomates *129 South Street, Boston (542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*

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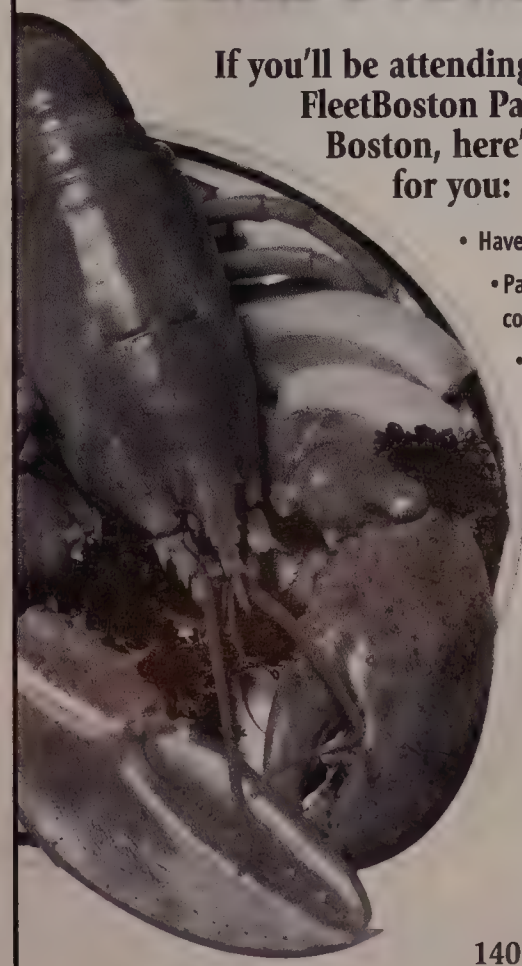

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How to use this section
The following listings contain information that is subject to change. Contact the organization for changes in specific events.

CLUBS, BARS & HANGOUTS

Anthem (Thursdays)
Machine, 1256 Boylston St., Boston (536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. DJ Richie turns it out at Boston's newest Thursday party. The mega dance floor also offers drag diva Destiny. $5, 19+.

Asian Inspiration Night (Sundays)
Machine, 1256 Boylston St., Boston (536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. DJ Mark Hodges and Tony T serve the city's freshest "tea" at Dragon Tea Dance, New England's only night for gay Asians and their friends. Diamond Dunhill, Destiny, Crystal and Sexy Lexy entertain at a 10pm show. 8pm, $3, 21+.

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years these folks have been crankin' out some of the best Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. It's well worth a visit—if not for the three separate dance floors then for all the male dancers. 9pm, $15, 21+.

Buzz (Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays)
51 Stuart St. in the Theatre District, Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. On Saturday nights this place boasts two dance floors, two DJs, a pool room and a lounge. Two levels of dancing and schmoozing will keep the boys busy until 2am. 10pm, $5, 21+.

Chaps (Daily)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. www.chapsofboston.com. Sun.: Dance music of DJ Danae Jacovidis; Mon.: Grand Baby and Grand Piano night; Tue.: Retro DJ night; Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adielson Caesar; Thu.: DJs Billy and Fran, High Energy Dance; Fri.: Taboo Erotique with DJ Sammy; Sat.: High Energy Dance, DJ Danae Jacovidis.

City Girl Cafe (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri: 11am- 9pm; Sat: 10am-9pm; Sun: 10am-7pm. A small (five tables), laid-back cafe in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated. This cozy spot is home to a mixed gay/hetero crowd that lounges about, munching on sandwiches. Brunch on Saturday and Sunday, 10am-2pm.

Club Cafe (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-0966). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri 11:30am-2am; Sat. 2pm-2am; Sun. 11am-2am. This trendy South End spot draws a mixed crowd that comes for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back (Moonshine). It's a dressy bunch that likes to mingle. No cover, 21+. •Carol O'Shaughnessy performs with Steve Heck, Dottie Dean or David Sparr, Thursdays.

Dragon Tea Dance
Machine, 1256 Boylston St., Boston (536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Sundays, 9pm, $3. Socialize and have fun at Boston's only tea dance. Watch Diamond Dunhill and her Dragon Showgirls perform.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (542-4494). Mon.-Fri. 3pm-2am; Sat. 1pm-2am; Sun. 12pm-2am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This is your friendly neighborhood bar with a quiet setting. It's best known for scrumptious Sunday brunches (12-4pm). A simple joint with all of the trappings of a true bar: smoky and dark. The place starts hopping as it gets closer to 2am.

Fritz (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Stroll in for a quiet drink or a rowdy night on the town. The folks here are friendly—and really into sports. Not only does Fritz have Direct TV set up with sets scattered everywhere, it's also home base to a great softball league. 12pm, no cover, 21+.

Jacques
79 Broadway, Boston (426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. If you're looking to relax with a friendly crowd of gays and straights, and you like to mingle with disco-dancing drag queens, you've found the place. Sun. and Mon. are local band nights. Tues. through Sat., however, divas rule the stage. 10:30pm, $4, weekends $6, 21+.

The drag duo returns in *Chic and Sassy*, now playing Fridays and Saturdays at the Tremont Theatre.

Lava Bar (Saturdays)
575 Commonwealth. Ave., Boston (267-7707). The Lava Bar's Tabu night boasts DJ Fran spinning out high-energy house with a taste of Latin beats. 10pm.

The Lizard Lounge (Wednesdays)
1667 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. "Marlene Loses It at the Lizard" is the title of this eclectic evening of poetry, live music and theater. 10pm, $5 cover, 21+.

Luxor (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (423-6969). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from the latest music scenes and classic old movies—compiled by the bar's own VJ. Downstairs is Jox. No cover, 21+.

Machine (Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays)
1256 Boylston St., Boston (536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 10pm-2am; Sun., 7pm-midnight. www.ramrodboston.com/machine. Boston's best gay bar where you will find your friends dancing every weekend. Fri.: NYC DJ/Producer Darrin Friedman spinning. Sat.: Resident DJ Brad Gwynn. Sun.: Asian-inspired nights with Club DJ Mark Hodges & Tony T.

Man Ray (Thursdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (864-0400). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed.-Fri., 9pm; Sat., 10pm. A bustling hot spot caters to a young, alternative clientele. Two dance floors fill up on Thursdays for Campus, a predominantly male night where DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen take over. 10pm, $8 for 19+, $5 for 21+.

119 Merrimac (Daily)
119 Merrimac St., Boston (367-0713). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Sat., 10:30am-2am; Sun. 12pm-2am. This male cruise bar is the place to stop for drinks before or after FleetCenter events. Shoot a leisurely game of pool or play the video games. Merrimac features DJs playing hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s. 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. On Thursday nights, the Lesbian AIDS Project of Mass. unofficially takes over this laid-back cafe for "dyke nyte." The cafe always has something brewing—live bands, DJs and drag-queen parties. The party starts at 8pm, no cover, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (494-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Central. On Monday, a bartender not only mixes drinks but strips too. Male strippers are featured Wed.-Sat. Mon. is Gothic night; Tue. is techno; and Thu. is college night. On Fridays DJ Sam Sampson spins, and on Sat. hear DJ Brad Gwynn. 5pm, no cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (266-2986). Green Line to Kenmore. 12pm-2am. www.ramrodboston.com. The largest leather bar in the East enforces a tight dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room). Sun.: buffet and mandance with DJ Brad Gwynn. Mon.: pool tournament and pizza. Tue.: spice 4 life with DJ Kal Muzak. Wed.: Twitch 2000 with DJ SGT Dennis. Thu.: Primal Dance with DJ James Hughes. Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danaw Jacovidis. Sat.: Leather Cruise with DJ Dennis Sargent.

BOOKS

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge. (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Fri. 10am-8pm, Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 12-6pm. New England's oldest women's book shop offers a wide selection of literature. Its monthly author series continues throughout the summer.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12pm-6pm. Boston's literary gay and lesbian bookstore.

SHOWS & EVENTS

Absolute Jeannie
The Jungle Cabaret at Tropical Joe's, 135 Bradford St. at Standish Point, Provincetown. Through Labor Day, Thurs.-Tues. 8:30pm. $15-17.50. Jeannie Logan stars in this one-woman, multicharacter cabaret act. First, she presents herself as a genie, next, she transforms into three alter egos, and after that, she is barely recognizable. Called a "virtual chameleon," she keeps audiences entertained with a rare combination of theatrical flare, campy shtick and comical performance.

Art of Feminine Domination
Grand Opening, Brookline (731-2626). MBTA: Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 6:30pm-8:30pm. $20. Elegance, power and confidence. Do you want to know how to be a dominant with out being a bitch? Mistress Midori will share her secrets with you. Join her discussion on psychology, politics, practical exercises, techniques, fashion and more. There's something for everyone , from the novice to the experienced player. Women only.

Chic and Sassy: The Higher the Hair, the Closer to God
International Society, Tremont Theatre, 276 Tremont St., Boston (542-4599). Fridays and Saturdays through Aug. 26. $15. Revisit Chic and Sassy for a look at their lives back in their hometown of Little Rock, Texas. Follow these "girls," Chic Ana and Miss Sassy, as they enter a playwriting contest to win the money and notoriety they need to escape their dreary trailer-park lives. Meet the wacky locals as this pair of naive, fresh-faced drag queens love, laugh and fight like crazy to get out of Dodge.

International Cuisine Night
The Elephant Walk, Cambridge. MBTA: Red Line to Porter Square. July 27, 8pm. Join members and friends of the Long Yang Club for some exotic French-Cambodian cuisine and great conversation. Call Geremy to reserve a spot (825-5677).

Intro to SM Relationships
Grand Opening, Brookline (731-2626). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Aug. 2, 7:30pm-9:30pm. $20. Women only. What types of relationships are there in SM? How do you find satisfaction in it? How do you balance a healthy, equal partnership with erotic dominance and submission? How does occasional power exchange fit in with your daily relationship? Can there be SM outside of primary relationship? For all experience levels and orientations tops and bottoms. This is also an excellent class for those who have taken Art of Feminine Domination Level I or II.

Two Fags and a Drag
Crown and Anchor, Provincetown. Wed.-Mon. through Labor Day, 7pm and 9pm. $15-17.50. Mark Pierpont and Nick Massoni star as the "fags," opening up this amazing show with a spirited rendition of "Cabaret." Not forgetting talented vocalist Denise Russel (as the "Drag"), the three deliver pizzazz-filled song and dance that flaunts gay sensitivity but appeals to just about anybody.

ONGOING

Am Tikva
617 883-0893. www.amtikva.org. Greater Boston's Community of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered Jews. •August 4, 8pm. Contemporary Sabbath services held, followed by Kiddush. It all takes place at Weintraub Auditorium, 50 Sewall Ave., Coolidge Corner, Brookline. MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Free.

Bawl
This lesbian softball league offers opportunities to join teams in both the recreational and competitive divisions. Call Liz (508-628-5477).

Best Foot Forward
Ballet Etc. Dance Studios, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (522-1444). MBTA: B Green Line to Washington St. For gays/lesbians/bisexuals of all swing skill levels.

Boston Glass
Community Center, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Daily 8-10pm. Support groups and social activities for adolescents ages 13-25.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). www.chiltern.org/chiltern. A 1,400-member gay club with hiking, biking, camping, skiing and other outdoor activities for men and women.

Community Rainbow
Boston Living Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston. 7:45 pm. An organization whose mission is to advocate for the community. Meets Thursdays.

Cosmetically-Correct
Laurel's Restaurant, 142 Berkeley St., Boston. www.egroups.com/community/cosmeticallycorrect. A social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month 7:30pm-10pm. Lipstick optional.

Dykes Who Hike
(522-6185). This hiking group is for lesbians in the Boston a area who want to conquer the wilderness.

East Coast Wrestling Club
With more than 160 members, this is an extraordinarily popular New England spot for gay male wrestlers. Call Marc at 401-467-6737, or go online at *http://members.tripod.com/~ecwc* or e-mail *ecwc@juno.com.*

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave, Boston (824-4266). www.frontrunnersboston.org. A running club for the LGBT community meets Saturdays.

Gender Free Contra Dancing
First Church of Jamaica Plain (448-2429). www.piac.net/users/latte/lcfd/. Come one, come all to evenings of contra and square dancing.

Long Yang Club
(825-5677) Boston's club for Gay Asian Men and their friends. Bringing the East and West together. www.lomgyangblub.org/boston.
•July 27, 8pm. Join the LYC's visit to one of Boston's more interesting restaurants, the Elephant Walk. 2067 Mass. Ave., Cambridge. Call 825-5677 for reservations.

OOPS
Melting Pot Coffee House, 2 Belgrade Ave., Roslindale (323-4123). Out on the Parkways invites one and all to come on down for some dinner and coffee.

PFLAG
Fenway Community Health Center, 7 Haviland St., Boston (547-2440). www.ma.altranet.com/~gepflag. Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets every fourth Monday, 6:30-8:30pm.

Queer Corps
131 Clarendon St., 4th floor, Boston (450-1676). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A community mobilization project by and for queer men who are age 25 and under. Meetings are held every Tuesday, 6-8pm.

Tennis4all
Call Ted at 779-7231. Boston's gay and lesbian tennis club, with monthly tournaments and pizza socials.

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Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information by mail, fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/ Mind. or electronically to body-mind@improper.com. *Include a brief but thorough description of the event, time, date, location and directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.*

EVENTS

Fetish Flea Market
New England Leather Alliance, Boston (864-0655) www.NLA-NewEngland.org. *MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. July 29, 11am-6pm. $5.* This annual event features vendors that provide information and tools for many fetish interests.

Mukesh Desai: The Sound of Yoga
BKS Iyengar Center, 240A Elm St., Suite 23, Somerville (666-9551). www.yoganow.net. *MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Aug 7, 7-9pm. $15.* This evening with **Mukesh Desai**, a classical vocalist of Indian music, will communicate to your heart. The creative inspiration from the sounds will make you straighten your spine.

CLASSES

Meditation and Clay
CCAE, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). July 29 2-4pm. $38. Clay is a powerful vehicle for creative self-expression. Combined with relaxation and meditation techniques, clay can do wonders for relieving tensions in mind, body and soul. Past students report increased creativity and enhanced well-being.

Revitalize with Cleansing
Wellspace, Fresh Pond Mall, Cambridge (876-2660). www.wellspace.com. *July 27 or Aug. 3, 7:30-9pm. $75.* Poor eating habits, illnesses, chemical exposure and antibiotic treatments can slow or impair the body's elimination processes. Cleansing promotes overall health and rids the body of toxins. Join Wellspace naturopathic physician, **Dr. Bradley Bongiovanni**, and learn all about cleansing interventions including fasting, cleansing diets, sauna, skin brushing, hydrotherapy and herbal and vitamin supplements.

Sexuality and Spirituality
Mystical Times, 273 Bay St., Taunton (508-822-4554). www.redrival.com/mystical_times. *Aug. 6 (four weeks), 10am-5pm. $125.* This course will discuss sex as it relates to energy and the spirit: how energy runs during sexual arousal, how to move the energy for best use and how your energy interacts with your lover's. Do this while learning to appreciate your body for the sacred temple that it is. Tantra techniques and beliefs will be addressed. And don't worry: No sexual/intimate moves will be enacted in the venue. (That's homework!).

SoulShine Singles
Theosophical Society in Boston, 21 Maple Street, Arlington (781-648-0101). Aug. 6, 7:30-9:30pm. $5. All seeking companionship on the spiritual path are welcome at this spiritually minded singles' group. This evening features guest speaker **Steve Gramolini** presenting "Johrei Spiritual Healing." Johrei purifies the spirit by focusing divine energy and encouraging our higher nature to unfold.

Summer Yoga Workshops
The Yoga Studio, 74 Joy St., Boston (523-7138). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. July28-30 and Aug. 4-6. $125 per weekend, $200 for both. **Barbara Benagh** holds annual weekend workshops. The focus will be on Barbara's unique style of teaching breath work and how the breath pumps energy into poses.

ONGOING

Chi Gong and Healing Circle
The Banks of Mystic River. Call Catherine Simmons for directions (666-8281). Wednesday evenings, Chi Gong: 6:30-7:15pm, $15. Healing Circle: 7:30-8:15, $15. $20 for both. Participating in the healing arts is good for you any time of year. But in the season of warmth, it's nice to do it outside. This meditative group meets on the peaceful banks of the Mystic River.

Falun Dafa Meditation Exercises
Boston Common, Boston. Contact Michael (781-646-7099). www.falundafa-newengland.org. *Sundays 1-4pm.* Join others for some outdoor meditation. *Falun dafa* is an advanced meditation system helpful for improving the condition of the heart, mind, and body and has far-reaching effects in stress relief.

Healing & Meditation Circle
Various locations around Boston (232-8070). Contact Dr. Pinchas Baram. Twice monthly on Sunday evenings. A healing and meditation circle based on Kabbalah (Jewish mystical wisdom). The theme is "Feeling good and feeling God."

Try outdoor *falun dafa* meditation on Sundays.

Kripalu and Power Yoga Styles
Beacon Light Yoga Center, 215 Brighton Ave., Allston (739-0717). Thu. evenings and Sat. mornings. Try yoga in a really attractive, inviting, peaceful environment.

Lunch Time Yoga
The Yoga Studio, 74 Joy St., Boston (523-7138). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. Tuesdays, 12-1pm; Thursdays, 1-2pm. If you work downtown, you can spend your lunch getting healthy with ease. Grab a yogurt and spend some time being good to yourself.

Maintain Health
The Marino Center for Progressive Health, 2500 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (661-6225). www.marinocenter.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Porter Square.* The Marino Center has the following ongoing groups and classes: •Adult psychotherapy, Tuesdays: 5-7pm •Kripalu yoga, Mondays: 6-7:30pm •Hatha Yoga, Wednesdays: 6-7:30pm •Tai Chi and Qi Gong, Mondays: 7:30-8:30pm •Qi Gong, Wednesdays and Fridays: 6-7am.

Psychic Medium John Holland
Unicorn Books, 1210 mass Ave., Arlington (781-646-3680). www.unicornbooks.org. *Aug. 7, 14, 21, 28. 7-9pm. $20.* Beginning in August, this U.K.-trained psychic will be at Unicorn Books one Monday per month. After a meditation and lecture on a specific topic, Holland will devote the second half of the evening to psychic medium readings, linking with Spirit to deliver messages to individuals in the audience.

Qi Gong
Woolf Holistic Health Center, 651 Washington St., Brookline (738-9144). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Square. Thursdays, 7:30pm. Free. Have you ever wondered what *qi gong*, an ancient form of exercise from China really is? Well your chance has materialized at the Woolf Center's drop-in session. Discover this time-tested art for maximizing your well-being and increasing your knowledge of mind and body.

Taming the Mind
Shambhala Meditation Center, 646 Brookline Ave., Brookline (734-1498). www.shambhala.org. *MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. Tuesdays, 8pm.* Buddha was a normal man who lived on the earth and became enlightened. These evenings will present the teachings of Buddha, so that you can learn just how he did it.

Women's Fun Activity-Based Relaxation Class
New Directions for Yoga, Health and Psychotherapy, 5 Harvard Ave., Brookine (738-1648). MBTA: near D Green Line to Brookline Village and C Green line to Coolidge Corner. Tuesdays: 7:30-8:30pm, Thursdays: 9-10pm. $60 (three-part series). Learn fun ways to bring relaxation into your daily life.

Yoga/South End
Union United Methodist Church, 485 Columbus Ave., Boston (522-7199). MBTA: Green Line to Prudential or Orange Line to Back Bay. $15/class. Certified Kripalu yoga teacher **Patrice Flesch** teaches mixed-level classes in a spiritual setting. Increase flexibility, relieve stress, build strength, relax and enjoy yourself at any of these on-going drop-in classes: Tuesdays at 7pm, Wednesdays at 12pm and on Saturdays at 9am.

RETREATS

Macrobiotic Conference
Kushi Institute, Westfield State College, Westfield (888-547-2663). July 31-Aug. 6. $690. This is the macrobiotic's dream summer vacation. Learn about cooking, health and healing, and massage; practice body and martial arts; do art; dance; and hang out with whole families who all eat really healthy food. Hey, even sax player **Charles Neville** of the Neville Brothers will be there.

Yoga Summer Retreats
Kripalu Center, Lenox, Mass. (800-741-7353). www.kripalu.org. During mid-summer at the splendid Kripalu nature getaway, there will be a variety of yoga workshops. Why not treat yourself to a holistically rewarding vacation? •July 28-30, $140: Intro to Meditation and Yoga. • July 30-Aug. 4, $295: Meditation and Yoga. •July 28-31, $249: Ayurveda and Asana. •Aug. 4-6, $140: Yoga for a Better Back.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Children. Or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

TO SEE

Peter Pan
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly, Mass. (978-921-6351). Tue. 8pm; Wed. 2pm and 8pm; Thu.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Through Aug. 6. $18-$56. Cathy Rigby stars in this exhilarating production that follows the story of Peter and his series of adventures with the Darling children, Tinker Bell and the evil Captain Hook. The memorable score includes "I've Got to Crow," the rousing "I'm Flying," and "Never Land."

Puppet Showplace Theatre
32 Station St., Brookline (731-6400). $8. •July 26, 10:30am and 1pm; July 27, 10:30am: ***Will the Real Audrey Duck Please Stand Up*** by Susan Linn, ventriloquist puppeteer •*Aug. 2, 10:30am and 1pm; Aug. 3, 10:30am*: ***Hansel and Gretel*** by You and Me Puppet Theatre. •*Aug. 3, 10:30am*: ***Jessica's Friends*** by You and Me Puppet Theatre.

Radio Disney's World Tour 2000
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (888-EARS-018). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. July 29-30, 10am and 2:30pm. The Radio Disney World Tour brings favorite Radio Disney features to life, plus it offers a concert by up-and-coming pop music acts Youngstown, Nobody's Angel, Sister 2 Siser, M2M and Ashley Ballard.

Snow White & Parachute Express
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly, Mass. (978-921-6351). Fridays, 9:30am and 12pm, through Aug. 18. $10. •July 28: **Snow White**. •Aug. 4: **Parachute Express**.

Meet Radio Disney's DJs Don and Susan July 29.

THINGS TO DO

Boston By Little Feet
Meet in front of Faneuil Hall, at the statue of Samuel Adams on Congress Street, Boston (367-2345). www.bostonbyfoot.com. MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Saturdays and Mondays, 10am; Sun. 2pm. A child's eye view of the Freedom Trail's architecture and history designed especially for young walkers ages six to 12.

Make Way for Ducklings
Historic Neighborhoods, Boston (426-1885). Fridays and Saturdays, 11am. Through Aug. 25. $8. Relive the adventures of the Mallard family in Robert McCloskey's classic Boston tale, *Make Way for Ducklings*, on this guided walking tour that meanders through Beacon Hill into the Public Garden.

Puerto Rican Festival
Playstead Field, Franklin Park, Boston (971-0603). July 26-28, 6-11pm; July 29-30, 12-11pm. Enjoy traditional dance music, a parade, Puerto Rican gourmet delicacies and plenty of children's activities.

Summer SOULstice Mini Festival
Christian Science Plaza, 175 Huntington Ave., Boston (450-3131). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Through Aug. 29. Enjoy a music and arts festival every Tuesday at noon with a host of musicians, artists and storytellers. •Aug. 1, 11am-2pm: Rami Salami makes balloon sculptures. •Aug. 8, 12pm: Victor Cockburn performs children's music, songs and poetry.

Tile-Making Workshop
Copley Plaza, Boston (635-4505, ext. 6404). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. July 27, 12-2pm. ParkARTS invites city residents ages five and older to make a permanent contribution to the city's landscape by creating unique ceramic tiles decorated with colorful mosaics.

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

To Watch

New England Revolution
•Foxboro Stadium. Tickets: 1-877-GET-REVS
Aug. 2 (Home): Dallas Burn, 7:30pm, Fox.
Aug. 5 (Home): Columbus Crew, 7pm, ESPN2.

Red Sox
•Fenway Park. Tickets: 267-8661.
July 26 (Home): Minnesota Twins, 1:05pm, WFTX.
July 27 (Away): Oakland A's, 10:05pm, NESN.
July 28 (Away): Oakland A's, 10:05pm, WFTX.
July 29 (Away): Oakland A's, 9:05pm, WFTX.
July 30 (Away): Oakland A's, 4:05pm, WFTX.
July 31 (Away): Seattle Mariners, 10:05pm, WFTX.
Aug. 1 (Away): Seattle Mariners, 10:05pm, WFTX.
Aug. 2 (Away): Seattle Mariners, 10:05pm, NESN.
Aug. 4 (Home): Kansas City, 7:05pm, WFTX.
Aug. 5 (Home): Kansas City, 1:15pm, Fox.
Aug. 6 (Home): Kansas City, 1:05pm Fox.
Aug. 7 (Away): Anaheim Angels, 10:05pm, Fox.
Aug. 8 (Away): Anaheim Angels, 10:05pm, Fox.

Events

Constitution Classic Striped Bass and Bluefish
Boston Harbor, Boston (451-2860). July 29-30. The sixth annual derby sponsored by Save the Harbor/Save the Bay. Fish from shore, enter your own boat or arrange a charter. Or simply watch the men and women bring 'em in.

Pan Mass Challenge
77 Fourth Ave., Needham (781-449-5300). www.pmc.org. *Aug. 5-6.* Since its inception in 1980, the Pan Mass Challenge has raised more than $40million for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute with this annual race. There are six different routes, four of which last for two full days, while the others culminate at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy in Bourne after a one-day ride from Babson College in Wellesley. Intrepid riders, undeterred by the hilly terrain, continue their journey, traversing 40 Massachusetts towns in all.

To Play

BASEBALL

Henry's Baseball Club
(781-891-0621). Waltham. Seeking players ages 17-30 and coaches for upcoming season.

BASKETBALL

Basketball City
Adjacent to North Station and the FleetCenter (742-6700). Corporate, midday and weekend leagues.

Co-Ed Indoor Basketball
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 224). Sun.-Thu. nights at various locations. All levels welcome. Leagues in Waltham, Dedham and Brookline. Co-ed teams now forming.

The Corporate League of Boston
(566-7808).

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333). Practice and workout programs for all levels in Greater Boston.

South End Fitness Center League
(534-5823).

Women's Basketball League
(661-9622). Tuesdays 5:30-7pm and Sundays, 6-7:30pm.

CYCLING

Club Ciclismo Classico
Arlington Center (781-646-3377). Sunday mornings. These leisurely rides take you along the greener parts of the city suburbs.

FOOTBALL

Australian Rules Football
Boston Australian Rules Football Club. Thu. evenings and Sat. mornings, Cambridge (781-440-9266). www.Boston Demons.org. No experience necessary.

Indoor Flag Football
BSSC, Indoor Sports Center in Revere (789-4070). Sundays.

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HIKING/WALKING

The Appalachian Mountain Club
Gorham, N.H. (603-466-2727). Hikes and huts in the White Mountains. •Monthly AMC Young Members meetings at AMC headquarters, 4 Joy St., Beacon Hill (523-0655). Second Thursday of every month, 6-10pm, $3. Potluck. BYOB.

Boston Ski & Sports Hiking Trips
(789-4070).

New England Walkers
(731-9889). members.tripod.com/NEWALKERS. This 200-member club hosts race-walk events and clinics. Weekly walks at M.I.T. on Wednesdays at 7pm.

Walking Group
(247-8267). This group sponsors weekly walks on Wednesday evenings in the Back Bay.

Wild Women Outfitters
397 Mass. Ave., Arlington (877-345-WILD). $5 (includes dinner). •August 6: Daytrip hike on the Wapack Trail from northern Mass. to southern N.H.

HOCKEY

Co-ed Floor Hockey
BSSC (789-4070). Individuals and teams.

RUGBY

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
Cambridge (781-340-2192). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.bwrfc.org. *Tue. and Thu. evenings.* No experience necessary.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
(499-4835). Weekly runs year-round. Serious drinkers with a running problem.

Boston Road Club Weekly Races
(781-646-8955). Sundays. Starts at Wells Ave. in Newton.

Fresh Pond Weekly Road Races
Fresh Pond Reservation. Saturdays, 10am. Choose between a 2.5- or 5-mile run.

Khoury's Thursday Night Runs
East Somerville. (351-5682). 4.13 miles. 7pm at Khoury's Bar.

NikeTown Boston Running Club
200 Newbury St., Boston (267-3400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Three-to-five-mile loops. Starts at 6:30pm. Monthly mini-clinics as well.

SOCCER

BSSC Indoor and Outdoor Soccer
BSSC (789-4070, ext. 225). Co-ed teams.

SOFTBALL

80-Team Softball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 222). Monday through Thursday evenings at 6:30pm. Join as an individual or as a team. Sign up for fall league in August.

SWIMMING

Boston Athletic Club Swim Workouts
653 Summer St., Boston (269-4300). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon. and Wed. 6:15-7:15am.

The Charles River Park Club Morning Masters
Charles River Park, Boston (450-9810). Mon., Wed., Fri. 6:30-7:45am.

The Mason Masters Swim Program
The Mason Pool, 159 Norfolk Avenue, Roxbury (236-4923 or 450-9810) Mon.-Fri. 7:30-8:30pm. A swim program led by Alex Primilsky, coach of numerous world, national and Olympic champs.

TENNIS

Boston Tennis Club
Located next to North Station, Boston (742-6700). Adult and youth clinics, socials, open play and matching.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Boston Ski & Sports Club
(789-4070).

Boston Ultimate Disc Alliance
(928-0882). www.buda.org.

VOLLEYBALL

Adult Co-ed Volleyball League
Waltham YMCA (781-894-5295). Monday nights, began Sept. 13. All levels welcome.

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club, (789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. at various locations. Co-ed indoor 6-on-6 leagues. Four different levels of play. Pick-up games, clinics and tournaments also available. •Co-ed pickup games Tuesdays and Fridays at West Newton Armory, 1137 Washington St. $5.

Co-ed Volleyball-Waltham
Waltham YMCA, 725 Lexington St, Waltham (781-894-5295). Monday nights. Begins in April.

WATER SPORTS

Boston Sailing Center
54 Lewis Wharf, Boston (227-4198). Year-round lessons and racing programs for all abilities.

Community Boating
21 David Mugar Way, Boston (523-1038). www.community-boating.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. Open Mon.-Fri. 1pm-sunset; Sat.-Sun. and holidays, 9am-sunset. April 1-Oct. 31.* Sailing, windsurfing and kayaking on the Charles River for only $190 per season, instruction included. What a bahgain!

Courageous Sailing Center
Charlestown Navy Yard (635-4505). Lessons are offered here year-round.

Introduction to Fly-Casting
Wild Women Outfitters, 397 Mass. Ave., Arlington (877-345-WILD). Aug. 12, 9am; Aug. 13, 1:30pm. $100. An introduction to equipment basics, fly rod mechanics, proper rod arm mechanics and casting techniques. This seminar will provide a solid foundation to build your future fly-casting experiences. Equipment provided.

Ski Market Kayak Demo Center
Edward J. McCormack Bathhouse, 165 William J. Boulevard, South Boston (464-3291). Wednesdays, 4-7pm; Thu.-Sun. 10am-6pm. Singular person boats $10 per hour, $30 for four hours. Demo Ski Market's kayaks now through Labor Day.

Whitewater Rafting
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070). •Aug. 18-20: Penobscot River in Maine. Includes accommodations, transportation, most meals and rafting.

Women's Kayaking Lessons
Wild Women Outfitters, 397 Mass. Ave., Arlington (877-345-WILD). Weekends, throughout the summer. $40. An introduction to kayak navigation including chart-and-compass, GPS and VHFs.

WRESTLING

Men's Adult Wrestling
Boston Union, 48 Boylston St., Boston (482-1122). bymcuwrestler@hotmail.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Mondays and Thursdays, 6:30-8:30pm; Saturdays 1-3:30pm.* Afternoon wrestling practices. All skill levels. Coaching available. Ex-high school/collegiate wrestlers are encouraged to attend.

sales& fashion

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for sales and bargains by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sales and Fashion. Or e-mail information to goodbuys@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the event or items. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

AUCTIONS

Skinner Auctioneers—Bolton
357 Main St., Bolton (978-779-6241). www.skinner-inc.com. •**Discovery Auction** *July 27, 7pm. and July 28, 10am. Previews: July 27, 2-6:30pm; July 28, 8-9:30am.* This auction features musical instruments and porcelain figural groups.

SALES/EVENTS

Cache
Copley Place Shopping Center, Boston (629-5000). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Save up to 75 percent off select summer merchandise through the end of July.

Georgiou
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (523-2900). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Save up to 50 percent at Georgiou's summer sale. Runs through July 31.

Chico's
The Mall at Chestnut Hill, Rt. 9, Chestnut Hill (965-3037). Take an additional 25 percent off already reduced merchandise through July 28.

The Bombay Company
Cambridgeside Galleria, Cambridge (621-8668). MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. This summer clearance sale at the Bombay Company runs through the last week of July.

FASHION

Aria Kicks Off Diva Night
246 Tremont St., Boston (338-7080). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. July 27, 11pm. $10. Aria kicks off its Thusday "Diva" night which features local and national designers, fashion shows and outdoor fashion shoots in front of the club.

Neiman Marcus Fashion Events
5 Copley Place, Second Floor, Boston (536-3660). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. •July 26: John Galliano clinic. •July 28: Calvin Klein clinic.

BEAUTY

Fairytale Hairstyling for the Bride
Demiche Makeup & Image Studio, 423 Main St., Second Floor, Melrose (781-662-1796). www.demiche.com. *July 27, 1-8pm.* Complimentary bridal hair consultations with top stylists. First time clients only.

OUTLETS

Bluefly.com's Blue Sale
July 5-August 11. Bluefly.com, the on-line outlet store for designer brands announces 50 to 80 percent off designer retail prices at their online shopping site. The Blue Sale slashes prices on items from the women's, men's, teen's, kid's and home departments.

Skinner's Discovery Auction kicks off July 27.

go away

TRAVELING NEAR AND FAR

Advice to Contributors
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NORTH OF BOSTON

Vermont Reggae Festival
Various venues, Hardwick, Vermont (802-863-5966). www.vtreggaefest.org. *July 29. Free.* The largest free reggae festival in the U.S. promotes the message of love, non-violence and respect for the earth through music, education and community empowerment. Located in the beautiful Green Mountains of Vermont, this year's festival features an all-star lineup that will blow away any reggae fan. Pack your camping gear and join in.

Lowell Folk Festival
Various venues, Lowell, Mass. (508-970-5000). www.lowellfolkfestival.org. *July 28-30.* Six stages scattered throughout the historic canals of Lowell feature a myriad of musical acts at the largest folk festival in all of New England. There is a large emphasis on crafts, specifically those native to northern New England. This year, they will center around the theme of "New England Traditions in Wood." Learn about the art of dogsled making, furniture carving or covered bridge construction, or just settle down and take in some folk music on one of six stages.

SOUTH OF BOSTON

Feast of the Blessed Sacrament
Madeira Field, New Bedford, Mass. (508-992-6911). Aug. 3-6. The largest ethnic festival in New England (and the largest Portugese festival in the U.S.) offers Portugese traditions, music, food and dance. Stroll the midway and enjoy Portugese culture.

Adelphia Chowderfest
Plymouth Harbor, Plymouth, Mass. (888-746-1620). July 29, 10am. Free. If you fancy yourself a chowder connoisseur and want to test out recipes south of the Hub, this is the place to be. Restaurants will be competing for the chowder crown, and local rock, pop and blues bands will be playing.

WEST OF BOSTON

Jacob's Pillow 2000 Festival
Located in Becket, Mass. (413-637-1322). www.jacobspillow.org. Representing cultures and dance styles from the U.S., France, Japan, Ireland, Africa, Sweden, Brazil, Spain, Canada and the Netherlands, this world-renowned dance festival is the place to see and experience dance in a way that cannot be found at any other U.S. festival. •July 27-30: **Taylor 2**, a six member company, performs *Images* set to live piano music by Debussy. •Aug. 1-6: **Mark Morris Dance Group** returns and Morris himself will dance to *Bedtime* set to three Schubert songs. The group will also perform *Dancing Honeymoon*, a nostalgic piece set to the music of the Gershwins, Jerome Kern and Cole Porter, all performed by live musicians and singers. •Aug. 3-6: Debuting at Pillow, **Annie-B Parson** will present her dance/theatre adaptation of *A Simple Heart*, by Gustave Flaubert. The story chronicles the life of a French girl who devotes her life to her family.

Annual Monument Mountain Climb
Herman Melville's Arrowhead Estate, 780 Holmes Road, Pittsfield, Mass. (413-442-1793). Aug. 6, 10am. Free. Pack your hiking boots and prepare to ascend the very same mountain where Herman Melville, author of *Moby Dick*, first met fellow Berkshire resident Nathaniel Hawthorne, author of *House of the Seven Gables*. One of the greatest all-time meetings of minds, that day—Aug. 3, 1850—began the lifelong friendship between Melville and Hawthorne. Join other fans of the great authors for a reenactment of the meeting, a mountain climb and a picnic lunch.

CAPE & THE ISLANDS

Woods Hole Film Festival
Old Woods Hole Fire Station and various venues, Falmouth, Mass. (232-4722). www.woodshole.com. *July 29-Aug. 5.* The longest running film festival on the Cape has reached new heights in its ninth year. Some 50 films by New Englanders, including shorts, documentaries and features, are scheduled to be screened. Additionally, workshops, panel discussions, staged readings and a broadcast collaboration with WGBH make this an ideal event for both rookie and veteran filmmakers.

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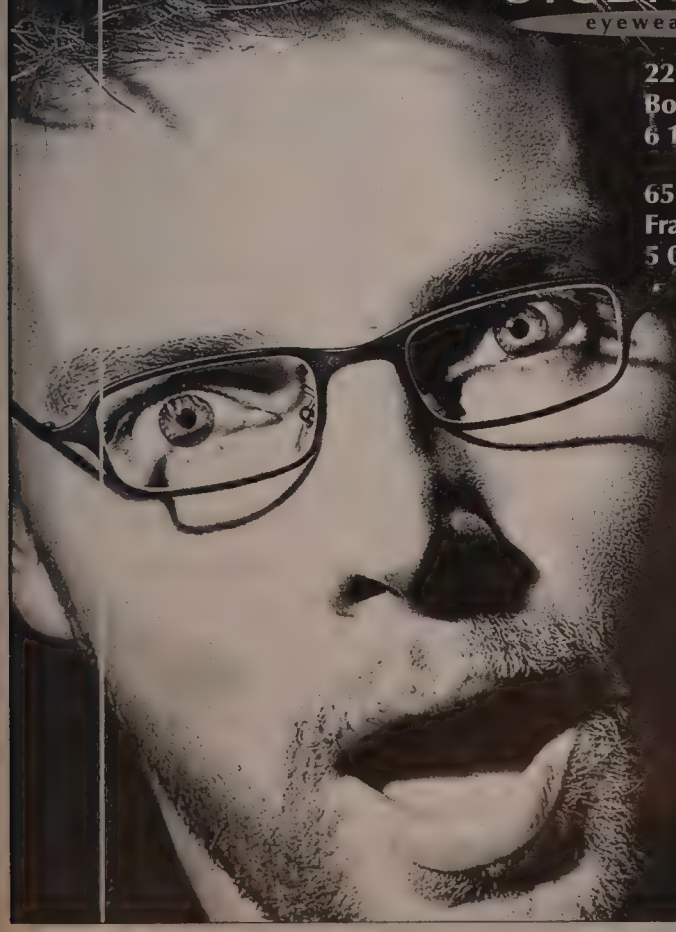

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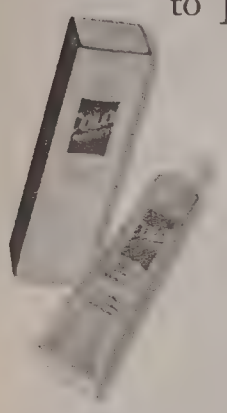

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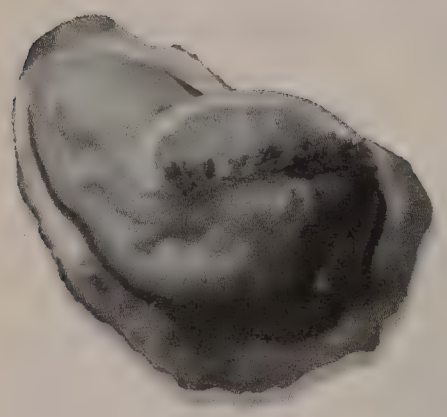

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***Dead Pet*, a film by Caleb Dewart, screens at the ninth annual Woods Hole Film Festival Aug. 5.**

Falmouth Sprint Triathalon
Surf Drive, Falmouth, Mass. (508-477-6311). www.timeoutproductions.com. *July 29, 7am.* Come cheer on 650 athletes as they test themselves with one of the Cape's most grueling triathalons. Contestants begin with a one-third-mile ocean swim in the shadow of Martha's Vineyard then dry off and hop on bikes for a scenic nine-mile ride which hugs the shoreline. The last leg is a 3.1-mile run along the Falmouth Road Race course where the finish is sure to be the most exciting part of the triathalon.

NEWPORT

Newport Folk Festival
Fort Adams State Park and Hotel Viking, Newport, R.I. (401-847-3700). www.newportfolk.com. *Aug. 4-6. $48 per day, $15 children under 12.* This festival is in its fourth decade of bringing the hottest musical acts from all genres to the people of Newport and the thousands of tourists who attend. Bring your blankets and relax to the tunes of **Bela Fleck and the Flecktones**, **Mary Chapin Carpenter**, **Shawn Colvin**, **Natalie Merchant** and **Willie Nelson**, just to name a few of the performers on the roster, or take some time to browse the restaurants and shops.

NEW YORK CITY

Indiegrrl Summer Tour
CB's Gallery and various venues, New York City, N.Y. (212-978-7695). www.indiegrrl.com. *July 30.* This young organization was begun to promote independent music from a female perspective. Here, 30 top independent female musical acts including **Allison Tartalia**, **Kellee Bradley**, **Rachael Sage** and **Jackie Martino** will be taking the stage to showcase their girl power. Indiegrrl will also be distributing free copies of a compilation CD featuring Indiegrrl recording artists.

LONDON

The Campaign for Real Ale's Great British Beer Festival
Olympia, London, England (015 43 25 12 17). Aug. 1-5. Prices vary. If you're tired of the bars Boston has to offer, check out the largest pub in the world. The beer list boasts more than 300 ales from 150 British brewers, plus 200 foreign beers—guaranteeing that even the most finicky of beer drinker can find something to his/her liking. The organizers expect more than 42,000 people to enjoy the various brews and live music.

MANITOBA

Canada's National Ukrainian Festival
Riding Mountain National Park, 119 Main St. South, Dauphin, Manitoba, Canada (204-622-4600). Aug. 4-6. The organizers of this ethnic celebration suggest you leave the pressures of daily life behind and get out your red dancing boots. The 35th anniversary of the festival promises to be the best yet, with authentic fresh Ukranian food, dancing and musical performances. One tip: Don't be frightened if you hear the Cossack cannons—it's just a traditional Ukranian way to add to the fun.

CARAQUET

Acadien Festival of Caraquet
Various venues, Caraquet, New Brunswick, Canada (506-727-2787). Aug. 3-15. Familiarize yourself with the colorful heritage of the Acadien people in this huge cultural celebration rich in tradition and customs. Acadien artists and performers showcase their skills to huge crowds, but the highlight of the festivities is the revival of an Acadien tradition called *tintamarre*, or the "din of Caraquet." Crowds pick up anything they can get their hands on and fiercely make as much noise as possible to create a mighty roar of Acadien pride.

LAS NIEVES

Santa Marta de Ribarteme "Near Death" Pilgrimage
Las Nieves, Pontevedra, Spain (212-265-8822). July 29. To pay homage to Saint Marta de Ribarteme, the patron saint of resurrection, folks in this tiny northwestern town give an open call to people who have had near death experiences in the past year. These lucky survivors are toted around town in coffins by family members who chant their thanks to Saint Marta. A parade of coffins forms and circles the church, ending up at the cemetery, where monetary offerings are made to the fortunate survivors. Though it sounds morbid, this mix of Catholic tradition and pagan ritual has become a lively spectacle, drawing crowds and street vendors who enjoy the macabre show.

WANAKA

Rip Curl World Heli Challenge
Mount Aspiring National Park, Southern Alps surrounding Lake Wanaka, Wanaka, New Zealand (+64 3 443 9561). www.heli-challenge.co.nz. *July 28-Aug. 12.* This sporting event is not for the faint of heart or those afraid of heights. Extreme athletes will be flown by helicopter to the top of some of New Zealand's meanest mountains. They will then compete in skiing and snowboarding events at the world's premiere helicopter-access sporting competition. Commune with the athletes before (and hopefully after!) the events.

mark your daytimer

UPCOMING EVENTS

CITYSCOPE

August Moon Festival
Aug. 20, Chinatown
King Richard's Faire
Aug. 26, Carver, Mass.
Antique & Classic Boat Festival
Sept. 2-3, Boston Harbor

MUSIC

Mötley Crue, Megadeth and Anthrax
Aug. 9, Tweeter Center
Neil Young and the Pretenders
Aug. 12, Tweeter Center
Rhyme and Reason with the Beastie Boys
Aug. 12, Foxboro Stadium
Creed and 3 Doors Down
Aug. 22, Tweeter Center
Smokey Robinson
Aug. 24, FleetBoston Pavilion
B.B. King Blues Festival
Sept. 14, FleetBoston Pavilion

THEATER

Seussical the Musical
Aug. 27, Colonial Theatre
Grease
Sept. 12, The Wang Theatre

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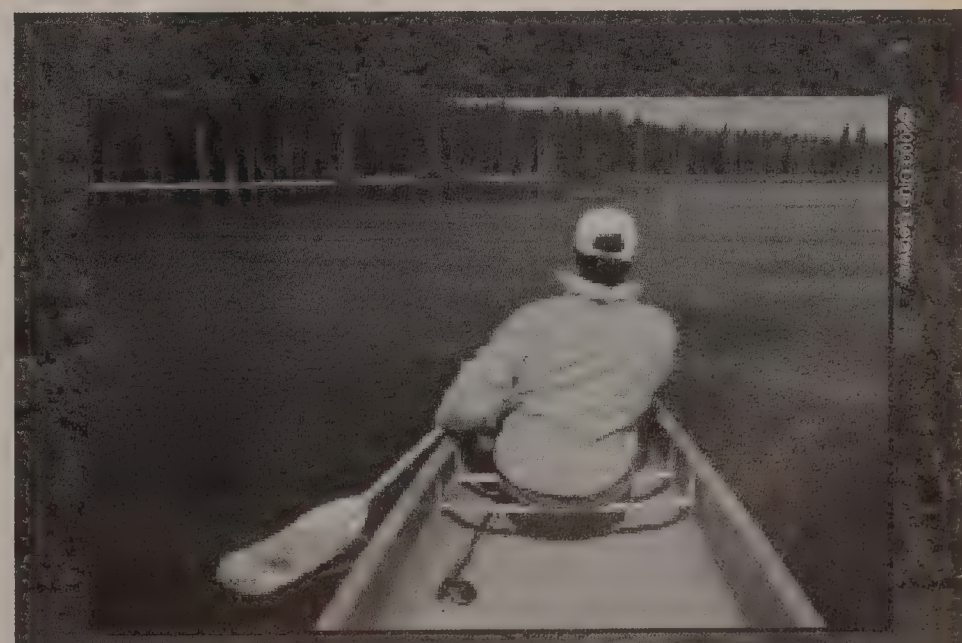

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Improper Impersonals

If everyone kept their feelings bottled up like warm beer, we'd soon have antisocial behavior exploding all over the place and ruining the upholstery. That's why we have the Improper Impersonals, a column written by you, the reader. Send us your letters of love and spleen, and we'll print them for the world to see. Heck, it's better than making a fool of yourself in person. And IT'S FREE! Pick up a pen and tell that babe on the T you like his butt by writing to:

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Boston, MA 02116
FAX: 859-1446 E-MAIL: impersonals@improper.com
Recent correspondence follows:

Am I looking at you or are you looking at me?
Or both? Pretty blonde, you get on the commuter rail at Endicott every morning. I'd like to chat sometime.
—Ruggles

B Line, between Blanford and Harvard Ave., June 13
You have brown cropped hair, black frames and wore a blue coat. I had to wait forever for the B to come and I stood in the rain at the stop. But was it a good thing? You were on the car I stepped onto and I noticed you because of the organic-chemistry book you held and because you might be left-handed. You had the habit of touching your bottom lip with your left hand. This caught my eye—I do that too. I have short curly brown hair, was wearing a black raincoat and got off at Harvard Ave. You stuck in my head and now my friend is making me write an Impersonal to you. Write me a left-handed email.
—left_handed_2001@yahoo.com

Are you an Improper Bostonian?
June 17, 2000, 8:30pm at Tower Records on Mass Ave. You: 6'2", blondish brown hair, beautiful blue-green eyes, great smile!! Me: 5'8", blondish brown hair (tied back), sparkling blue eyes. I noticed you listening to music on headphones as I walked toward the counter, but then I noticed YOU NOTICING ME, noticing you. Regardless that you were with a girl, I kept giving you "the flirty eye." What surprised me is you gave me "the flirty eye" right back, regardless that you were with a girl! So, what I want to know is, if you hadn't been with a girl, would you have responded to the electricity that was filling the air between us? By the way, that girl I was with, she's my sister. Please tell me the girl you were with was your sister too.
—Funcalgal@aol.com

Mr. Fish
Hello, honey! That was the funnest camping trip I've ever had—and it wasn't because it didn't rain. I hope we have the chance to do it again—practice makes perfect (ahem). Then again, you're pretty gosh darn perfect as it is. Here's looking forward to a summer o' love, in all its chaotic discord. Catch ya later.
—Cherry Knowle

Kim
So, the way I figure it, we've met at least four times and we still can't get it right. I thought I finally got it right at the Kells on June 17, but then I lost you. I don't want to wait until the next time I'm lucky enough to bump into you, so if you see this, write me an e-mail and we can finally get together.
—Ed (evil_eddie99@hotmail.com)

Brazilian Guy
Porter Square T, Monday, June 19, 9:30pm. You were carrying a DSW shopping bag. You passed me on the up escalator and glanced at me. I smiled back. When we got to the top of the escalator, you remarked what a nice day it was and how it made you think of Brazil. I was too shy and nervous to say anything more. You had a great smile and gorgeous eyes. I want to chat some more, over coffee perhaps?
—Realitygrrl@hotmail.com

The Cellar, June 17 (Saturday)
You: Adorable, short-haired cutie in grey T-shirt, sitting with two girlfriends, drinking a pint; you came from upstairs and into my frustrated playback. Me: Short, blondish-haired boy in blue T-shirt, sitting with three girls, drinking pints. We: Made eye contact a few times, smiled at each other, missed our chance to talk when I left the bar, you followed, and I got into a cab home. Forgive me, I am terribly shy. So, if you would like to pick up where we left off...
—stockhausen77@hotmail.com

To Jimi D
If you ever do make it out to San Francisco, please drop by Houston and say hello. I'm sorry about everything (always apologizing, I know) but really I am. I love you.
—Michelle

Sox game, Father's Day
Section 30, grandstand. You were with your father, I was with mine. Your father was reading a book. We caught each other's eye and smiled. I thought you were cute, no wedding ring, you were wearing a "Chase Challenge 2000" T-shirt. I was sitting to your left next to my father, blond hair, blue eyes, T-shirt and shorts. If you're interested, write to me and tell me the title of your father's book.
—soxfanhnet@hotmail.com

Pa-J
Hooray for a year-and-a-half!
—Doodles

Toyota 4Runner in a Ferry
Bridgeport, that is, on June 16 at 11:30am. We were parked next to each other. Although I never dreamed I would write, I feel compelled to do so. You sang with such gusto in your car that it made me smile. If you read the mag, please e-mail me. I'd love to know which song it was.
—ferryfemme@aol.com

Dear M
I get it now. Never let it be said that I had to be hit over the head with a club to get the fact that for some reason (unknown to me of, course, because that is always the way with guys) you have now decided to be aloof. That is OK with me. Well, it's not really OK, but I think that if you have such great asshole potential that it's much better to know that now and cut my losses. It would have been far better for me to know that, say, six months ago. For future reference, when you meet someone online (and, this may come in handy with J, whom you've only known for four months), you should really act aloof and distant much earlier in the relationship so it's not a slap in the face as it has been for me the last few weeks. Definitely do not say things like, and I quote directly from your email, "I'm looking forward to you coming to the Boston area in the fall... I'm sure I'll be able to make some trips in to hang out (coffee? :)) and probably even catch a few concerts," or "Hey, just a quick note to tell you how excited I am for you! When you move in, you will have to let me know and I will stop by and visit. I'm around to help you set everything up if you need a hand—PLEASE remember that. Don't hesitate a minute to call me or contact me somehow!!" These are two classic examples of statements that lead one to believe you are interested in seeing him. Now I know that you see yourself as quite a nice person, and perhaps, for the most part, you are. I used to think you were a very nice person, one of the nicest I'd come in contact with, but your recent behavior displays rather disappointing aspects to your personality. When you act in a manner of friendship to someone for nine months and then that person moves within 20 to 30 minutes' driving time of you, it is a friendly and nice thing to offer to meet them in that city and do something fun or show them around a little bit. Please keep this in mind in the future. In closing, I would like to quote to you the very wise words spoken by Lili Taylor in *Say Anything*. In speaking to Lloyd Dobler when he was being a stubborn jerk about contacting his girlfriend with whom he was having some problems, she said, "Don't be a guy. Be a man." Please M, remember those words. Don't be a guy. Be a man.

And because I've wanted to say this for a long time, *Fargo* is one of the worst movies I've ever seen, and I'd choose having my teeth scraped over seeing it again. And also, I'm a Phi Beta Kappa.
—A

Rockie Horoscope

JULY 26 – AUGUST 8, 2000

BY ROCKIE GARDINER

LEO

JULY 23-AUGUST 22

This week revolves around you and Leo risers, e.g., George W., A. Gore and H. R. Clinton. Will the Leo new moon/partial eclipse diminish your image over the next three months (the time it takes to discern the effects of an eclipse)? Or should we put the blame on Mame, a.k.a. the Venus principle? Seductive Venus at 21 Leo—exactly conjunct Bush's natal Venus—is opposed by unpredictable Uranus in Aquarius, the sign of the people. Lions not running for office could have a sudden change of heart, an erratic heartbeat, maybe an erotic adventure.

VIRGO

AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

Slowly, step-by-step, your Mercury ruler has been approaching the degree (20 Cancer) at which it went retrograde last month. The reunion occurs on July 31, so mark your progress from that day forward or until Oct. 18 when Mercury again turns retrograde, this time at 16 Scorpio. Note where that degree sits in your natal chart and you'll have a good idea of what to expect in the interim. Incidentally, retro Mercury turns direct on Election Day. The results could be very interesting.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

Happy days should be here again, what with generous Jupiter in your house of mutual funds and insurance awards trining your Libra sun. Add the psychic gifts that a trine to Neptune brings to the table, and you probably can see if the cashier's check is really in the mail. The only problem is knowing the difference between being a visionary and having delusions—not unlike Joan of Arc. She, however, didn't have to choose between her friends and her lover, or fulfill her kid's unusual demands.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

The planets currently in Leo opposing the two in Aquarius are increasing the pressure on Scorpio, the fixed sign in between. That's why all the good stuff that seems to be coming your way is putting you on edge, providing challenges you didn't know you needed. Well, now you do. Relief comes midweek as the sun trining your Pluto co-ruler offers a few tasty rewards for the trouble Leos have put you through. The emphasis is on the direction your career will take after the new moon/solar eclipse on the 30th.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

This week the spirited Leo sun and Pluto in Sag support your desire to rehabilitate someone, something. In my case, it's the water-logged back bedroom wall, but I'm sure all Archers have a pet peeve ripe for transformation. This is also a good time to envision a partnership venture, to employ standard practices such as prayer and new age devices (like a feng shui-approved, battery-run waterfall) to make the potential profitability of this, the first of three, Jupiter-Neptune trines a reality. Try it. Intention is everything.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

Energy from Mars directed to your Saturn ruler gives you the oomph and the motivation to do something physical as well as recreational with your partner. For some, it might be installing a hot tub, for others, digging for clams. And while the proximity to water is not a necessity, it couldn't hurt. What you want to avoid are the ups and downs of kite-flying, ultimate frisbee or gambling on the Net, pursuits that are too unpredictable and subject to the winds of change for a cautious Cap.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18

Some call it a bigger piece of the pie, but I think it's more room in the spotlight, in front of the cameras. All eyes that aren't watching Leos perform are focused on Aquarians, wondering what you odd-balls will do next. Will you have a sudden change of heart and switch partners when lovable Venus opposes your Uranus ruler? Can you fail to see what's clouding your mind's eye while the sun opposes nebulous Neptune in your sign? And just how religious is your vision of the future, how far to the right or, for that matter, how tied in to the political process. Protesting?

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19

If you remember that planetary aspects can last for days on end, you might not feel so pressured to write the great American novel, compose a musical masterpiece or make a film by the end of the month. Fish are just starting to appreciate the benefits coming from magnanimous Jupiter's trine to your impressionable Neptune ruler. Enjoy the rosy visions you're having, the grandiose plans for your future and the fun of playing with friends who really give a shit and will put their money where their mouths are. A welcome change.

ARIES

MARCH 20-APRIL 19

You may feel restrained by the last ties to Cancerian family matters and fiscal responsibility. However, once your Mars ruler goes off to have fun in Leo on Monday, playing it straight and by the rules, especially if they are not of your own making, will seem counterproductive. Needless to say, things pick up as the month ends and you drop your protective cover. Romance also heats up when an unusual, probably inappropriate association, is formed for "the greater good." Who is doing a favor for whom?

TAURUS

APRIL 20-MAY 20

This week, subtle pressure to be more glamorous, more of an art maven and infinitely more outrageous can be a drag. Not every Bull wants to bask in the spotlight or rule the airwaves. But if you're aware that relatively gentle cosmic screws are being applied, you'll be better equipped to handle this type of torture. Other things to watch out for: A parent or your boss disrupting your happy home on a whim, not because of a dire necessity. Careful, by next weekend, instead of being bright and sunny, you may feel dumb and depressed.

GEMINI

MAY 21-JUNE 20

This weekend only Twins born in May can take over the world, not by force, but by proclamation. Whatever "ism" you're selling, the faithful are lining up to buy it. You can thank lucky Jupiter in Gemini for delivering the first of many boons. Because the Leo new moon occurs in your money house, pay extra attention to finances over the next lunar cycle; during an eclipse, marginal errors tend to slip through. Right now your partner has the juice to resolve an unsatisfactory situation with an offer that cannot be refused.

CANCER

JUNE 21-JULY 22

Moon children are supposed to be more susceptible to the effects of an eclipse, but I'm not convinced that is the case. Let's watch what happens to you Sunday night while your moon ruler eclipses the Leo sun. Will you become more leonine, cavorting like a four-footed beast for the next four weeks, than your sweet crustacean self? The soli/lunar emphasis is on you personally, pal, also on how much influence your friends are exerting on a questionable relationship. Gentle persuasion or a bold-faced warning?

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improperazzi

The Improper Bostonian's client-related promotions and events

Flash's, Boston's newest restaurant/bar on Stuart St., had a grand opening celebration on Wednesday, June 28th. Owned by individuals who are involved with **Bukowski's**, **Rattlesnake** and **Parish Cafe**, it's no surprise that this creative new joint promises to be a fabulous edition to Boston.

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1. Co-owner of Parish Cafe, Bukowski's and Flash's, **Maureen Montanus** with **Kevin McMahon** and her sister **Kate**, who also works at the Parish Cafe.
2. **Tony Cefalu** with his wife **Celeste Cefalu**, both investors in Flash's.
3. Rattlesnake part-owner, **Tony Castagnozzi** with his wife **Joanie** on his left, and **Elaine Harrington**, General Manager and part owner of Flash's.

Three is obviously a charm for **The Vault**, who elegantly thanked their loyal patrons at their third anniversary party, Monday, July 10th. Amidst ice sculptures and an ever-so-chic décor, guests were wined and dined to perfection with cocktails and succulent hors d' oeuvres.

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1. Sous Chef at The Vault, **Gilmar Costa**.
2. **Susan Fortuna**, owner of The Vault with **J. Eric Bornhofft**, Managing Director of MedTech Capital Inc.
3. **Heidi Marcouillier**, Hostess at The Vault, accompanies members of The Board of Medicine, **Nancy Achin-Sullivan**, Executive Director, **Barbara Piselli**, and **Sue Carson**, Operations Director, along with **Peter Hallisey**, businessman.

On Sunday, July 9th, the **Odyssey**, **WMEX-AM 1060** and **The Improper Bostonian** teamed up to co-sponsor the opening reception to kick off the arrival of the **Tall Ships** to Boston. Dockside with the Odyssey at Rowes Wharf, Steve Dutcher-GM of Odessey Cruises and Peter Shields-GM of Rowes Wharf, welcomed the captains of the **Lord Nelson** from England, the **Akogare** from Japan and the **U.S. Navy**.

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2

3

1. Former House Speaker, **Charlie Flaherty**, Former Attorney General, **Frank Bellotti**, **Ann Regan,** Mom of PR guru, George Regan.
2. **Frankie Boyer**, WMEX-AM Radio 1060 on-air personality, **Mary Ellen Burns**, Boston Police Spokesperson, **Alex Langer**, President, WMEX-AM Radio 1060.
3. Ensign, **Matt Miller** and Luitenant Commander, **Ron Hill,** U.S. Navy.

On Thursday, June 29th, Guests enjoyed sipping "Champagne Pop" at **Sonsie.** Paris, NYC and now Boston are the only three cities that have introduced this champagne.

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1. **Rachael Whitney**, Sonsie/POP girl; **Tori Love**, Sonsie/POP girl; **Ed Sparks**, Sonsie co-owner, **Ed Kane**, owner, Eat Well, Inc; **Jimmy Tye**, executive V-P of United Liquors; **Peter Yanulif**, East Coast Vice-President of W.J. Deutsch; **Matt Robinson**, New England field manager of W. J. Deutsch.
2. **Damien Donovan**, general manager/Big Easy Bar; **Stephanie Gibeley**, graduating student; **Matt Maloney**, e-commerce development manager; **Eric Aulenback**, general manager of the Alley.
3. **Amy Wortzman**, Intern at Lyons Group; **Janet Mick**, president, IT Management; **Rachael Whitney**, Sonsie/POP girl; **Tori Love**, Sonsie/POP girl; **Margeaux Morris**, acct. executive at IT Management.

PHOTOS: WENDY SEMONIAN (FLASH'S); MANDY JOHNSON (THE VAULT); BARBARA MATTALIANO (TALL SHIPS); ART AULENBACK (SONSIE)

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Weggie's Pub
162 Lincoln St., 617-542-7080. Boston's "Chinatown-Leather District" near South Station. Cozy ambience where people drink and socialize. Cultural diversity is an institution in this area. We permit patrons to bring in take-out orders to complement drinks. Two TV's. One pool table and video games with CD player. Coldest A/C in the city with very cold beer. Great place to come after sporting events. Walk up bar, no waitperson service. Unique, intimate, dark atmosphere, and a cacophony of sounds all around. Inexpensive drinks. $2 for bottled Bud! Mon-Sat 11 am - 2 am. Sun 6 pm - 2 am. No credit cards. ID req.

Brew Pubs

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Company
138 Portland St., Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is now the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, a block from the FleetCenter and steps from Faneuil Hall, Commonwealth Fish & Beer features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

General

BARCODE
Enjoy the intimate, windowed dining room or a signature cocktail in the lounge. BARCODE offers a creative martini selection, a balanced and affordable wine list and both bottled and draft beer. Drinks are available until 2 am daily, food served until 1 am.

The Good Life
Uptown - 99 St. Botolph St., 266-3030; Downtown - 28 Kingston St., 451-2622; Central Square- 720 Mass Ave, Cambridge, 868-8800. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1999 Boston's Best Martini award. The Good Life is a retro lounge that Frank Dean and Sammy would have hung at. Big Drinks, Great American Comfort Food, Hot Jazz and Plenty of Boy Meets Girl. Never a cover, always a good time.

Harvard Gardens
316 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114, 617-523-2727. A wonderfully relaxed haven located opposite MGH on the back side of Beacon Hill. Serving the finest cocktails and most comfortable food in town. Plant yourself in a comfy booth, a cozy banquette, or at our fully loaded bar and escape from your everyday troubles. Doing it nice & easy 7 days a week - 11am-2am.

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1 Boylston Place, Boston, 351-7000. Informal. Located in Boston's version of Bourbon Street, "The Alley." The Big Easy Bar is a hot new New Orleans style bar featuring Boston's best live bands and disc jockeys nightly playing music you know and love. Relax in a lounge, listen to the band, play billiards, hang at the bar or dance the night away. The Big Easy Bar has something fun for everyone. Great beer selection, 22 oz. Hurricanes, 4 huge bars, 2 lounges, a balcony, plenty of seating, and a large dance floor. Wed. - Sat. 8 pm - 2 am. Major credit cards accepted. Valet parking available.

The Rack
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The Sugar Shack
1 Boylston Place, 351-2510. "Home of Boston's Best Party." Set in the middle of a mini-Bourbon Street, The Sugar Shack celebrates Mardi-Gras year-round with a carefree, reckless, spontaneous and unpretentious attitude. Carnival lights, confetti, beads, specialty drinks, live bands and Disc Jockeys playing classics, motown, R&B, funk, disco, and old school hip hop from the last three decades mixed with the best of today's top 40. Home of young professional, young alumni, 20 something hipsters who desire cold beer, cocktails, classic party tunes and unadulterated fun!!

Vox Populi
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Speak your voice at this comfortably sophisticated Back Bay restaurant and bar. With an eclectic style highlighted by rich, vibrant colors and rustic antiques, Vox Populi offers a hip, sleek and intimate atmosphere. Enjoy the first floor bar and fireplace lounge, the second floor bar overlooking bustling Boylston St., or the elegant second floor dining room, (Outdoor patio dining available sesonally). One of Back Bay's most prominent establishments, Vox Populi truly speaks the popular voice.

Comedy

The Comedy Connection
The Comedy Connection located in the heart of historical Faneuil Hall features the biggest names in comedy with apearances by Jon Stewart, Chris Rock, Wendy Liebman and Jay Mohr. Located on the second floor of the Quincy Market Building, the Connection offers the best in local and national stand-up seven nights a week. For more information call 617-248-9700.

Wine Bars

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar
105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-0966. The hip meeting spot in the Financial District for after work, dinner, late night, or a seductive tryst. The Vault offers some of the most exclusive wines in Boston, which complement the creative American Cuisine prepared by Chef Michael Foley. Can't decide on a wine? Relax and compare with our Tasting Flights featuring selections from different reds and whites. So what are you waiting for? Call an old friend, a client, or a co-worker and meet for cocktails at The Vault today.

RESTAURANTS

The Good Life
Uptown - 99 St. Botolph St., 266-3030; Downtown - 28 Kingston St., 451-2622; Central Square- 720 Mass Ave, Cambridge, 868-8800. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1999 Boston's Best Martini award. The Good Life is a retro lounge that Frank Dean and Sammy would have hung at. Big Drinks, Great American Comfort Food, Hot Jazz and Plenty of Boy Meets Girl. Never a cover, always a good time.

Watch City Brewing Co.
256 Moody St. Waltham 781-647-4000 Top Ten Reasons To Visit Watch City: 10. At the top of Waltham's restaurant row 9. Easy access from Rt.128 & Masspike 8. Free parking 7. The Embassy Cinema next door 6. Award winning chef & brewers 5. www.watchcitybrew.com 4. Live music Wed & Thurs. nights 3. Great grilled seafood, steaks & burgers 2. Only female owned brew pub in USA 1. Great beers, great food, always a great time.

Vox Populi
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BARCODE
BARCODE offers creative food and drink with a truly unique, casual style and atmosphere. Simple yet exotic and flavorful, Executive Chef George Leu's menu features a variety of French bistro fare touched with Asian influences. Dinner served daily 5 pm - 1 am, bar open daily 4:30pm - 2:00am.

Cactus Club
939 Boylston St., 236-0200. Get a taste of the Southwest in Boston. Specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, Cajun Catfish. Sample the firewater menu while you are there, including Coyote Killer (Light and dark rum, peach schnapps, ginger beer and mixed juices), or a Chambord Margarita. The daring may go for a dip in the Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Amex, Diners Club, MC and Visa. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurants, in Framingham, Waltham and Needham. www.cactus-club.com.

Caliterra
89 Broad St., Boston, 348-1234, at the New Wyndham Boston Hotel. Caliterra is heating up the dining climate of Boston's financial district. Our Cal-Ital fare combines contemporary Northern California traits with heary Tuscan classics and the freshest New England seafood. We accommodate groups in our private dining room, and private parties in our exclusive wine rooms. Enjoy libations in our spacious Caliterra lounge. Reservations recommended. Valet parking available. Breakfast available Mon. - Fri., 6:30 - 11 am; Sat. & Sun., 7 am - 12 noon. Child's breakfast is free under 12 with an adult. Lunch daily 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Dinner nightly 5 - 10 pm. Located one block from Boston Harbor and Quincy Marketplace.

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Company
138 Portland Street, Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, near the Fleet Center and Faneuil Hall, Common-wealth features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

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Iguana Cantina
313 Moody St., Waltham, 781-891-3039; 1656 Worcester Rd., Rt. 9, Framingham, 508-875-1188; and 66 Chestnut St., Needham, 781-444-9976. The Iguana Cantina serves a variety of Caribbean, Tex-Mex and Southwestern fare. The atmosphere is fun and the food is tasty. Visit our website at www.theiguanacantina.com.

Backstage
Faneuil Hall's hottest restaurant and nightclub offers the very best in Americana food. Located adjacent to the Commedy Connection you can dance the night away every Wednesday through Sunday with Top 40 and dance classics by DJ's Jonny and Freddi C. For more information call 726-1110.

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156 Cambridge Street on Beacon Hill, Boston, 973-6680. Enjoy premium sushi and Ma Soba's unique blend of contemporary and traditional Asian cuisine prepared by award-winning chefs. Relax with a fine wine selection from Ma Soba's comprehensive wine cellar in a setting described as "strikingly attractive and ultra urbane" by the Boston Herald. Open daily: Sun-Wed until 10:30pm, Thurs-Sat until 11:00pm. When in Harvard Square/ Cambridge, visit Ma Soba Express at 30 Dunster Street for quick-service pan Asian noodles and rice platters.

Shenandoah Restaurant, Marketplace Cafe, Brewskellar Pub
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston 227-1272. Located in the North Market Building of Faneuil Hall, Shenandoah Restaurant, The Marketplace Cafe, and Brewskellar Pub have something for everyone. Whether you're interested in a casual dinner on one of Boston's largest outdoor patios or the quiet more elegant surroundings of Shenandoah Restaurant, we offer it all. Having a function? We cater personally to all events you may be planning. Visit us soon and let us surprise you.

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The Rack
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The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar
105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-9966. A wonderful secret hidden in Boston's Financial District. The Vault offers contemporary American cuisine and an extensive and exclusive affordable wine list. Come in and enjoy our new spring menu, including an expanded raw bar, Maine crab cakes, seared tuna and much more. Lunch Mon. - Fri. from 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Dinner Mon. - Wed. from 5:30 - 10:30 pm, Thurs. - Sat. from 5:30 - 11 pm. Closed Sun.

Mistral
223 Columbus Ave. 867-9300. Acclaimed chef/owner Jamie Mammano's South End restaurant. The design is both elegant and informal, resonating with the ambiance of Provence. Mistral features a crisp linen dining room as well as a casual lounge and bar. Serving dinner Mon-Sun beginning at 5:30pm - 11pm. Late night menu served Thurs-Sat 11pm-12midnight. Reservations recommended-private dining available.

The Wrap & Smoothie Bar
137 Mass Ave., Boston (at Berklee School of Music), 369-9087; 71 Mt. Auburn St., Harvard Square, 354-5838; 1940 Beacon St., Cleveland Circle, 739-0340; 82 Water St., Financial District, 357-9013. The Wrap serves delicious, freshly prepared wraps, burritos and salads as well as healthy and refreshing smoothies. Voted Boston's Best 1998 & 1999 by The Improper Bostonian. Fresh ingredients, great taste, healthy options - words we live by!

BRUNCH

Vox Populi
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Speak your voice on Sunday afternoons at the best brunch in the Back Bay. With an eclectic style all it's own, Vox Populi offers the perfect atmosphere for the comfortably sophisticated lounger in everyone. Enjoy the first floor bar and fireplace lounge, the second floor bar overlooking bustling Boylston St., or the elegant second floor dining room (outdoor patio dining available sesonally). One of Back Bay's most prominent establishments, Vox Populi truly speaks the popular voice.

Museum of Science - Skyline Room
Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston, MA 02114. A T.Rex named Sue, through October 9. Enjoy Sunday brunch in the beautiful Skyline Room overlooking the Charles River at noon, then experience the amazing Mugar Omni Theater: Dolphins at 2pm. Tickets are $28 for Adults, $26 for Seniors/ Children. Brunch only is $20. On-site parking is included. Reservations recommended, call (617)723-2500.

Skipjack's
Swing with the infamous Winiker Orchestra and enjoy our Jazz Brunch every Sunday, 11 am - 3 pm in Boston. Located at 199 Clarendon St. at Copley Square. Indulge yourself with our delicious Smoked Salmon and Caviar Tasting served on a warm corn blini, or our Fresh Crab Pie made with eggs and jack cheese. Do not forget to sample our award-winning clam chowder. Validated parking available. Reservations accepted. Call 617-536-3500.

The Wrap & Smoothie Bar
137 Mass Ave., Boston (at Berklee School of Music), 369-9087; 71 Mt. Auburn St., Harvard Square, 354-5838; 1940 Beacon St., Cleveland Circle, 739-0340; 82 Water St., Financial District, 357-9013. The Wrap serves delicious, freshly prepared wraps, burritos and salads as well as healthy and refreshing smoothies. Voted Boston's Best 1998 & 1999 by The Improper Bostonian. Fresh ingredients, great taste, healthy options - words we live by!

MISC.

Sports

Boston Paintball
131 Beverly St., Boston, 742-6612. The rules are simple. There are teams and everyone has paintball guns. You are inside of a large warehouse (near the Boston Garden). They are firing balls straight at you. You scream, dodge, hide, wipeout and have a blast!!! Great for bachelor/bachelorette parties, corporate outings, birthday parties, and much more.

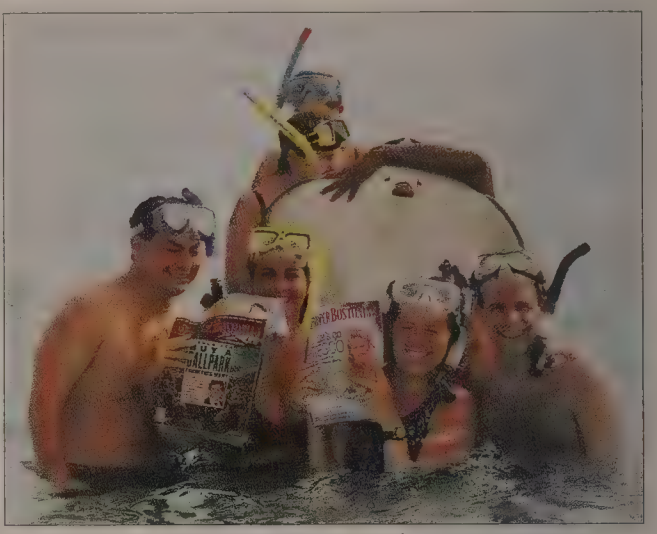
Improper Sightings

Unlike the rest of your friends, we want to see the photos from your next trip.

Where do you take us? We want to know! Send us a picture of you or a friend, or better yet, someone famous reading THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN and tell us where you were. The more creative you are, the faster we'll publish your pic! (Hey, we have no shame!)

With typical London rain clouds looming, Bostonians Carl Johnson and Stanley Wallace don't seem worried as they take a peek at the IMPROPER's summer issue in front of the Tate Modern museum and St. Paul's Cathedral in London, England.

Amy Hollander, advertising manager of the Boston Ballet, tries not to lean back too far as she sits with friends Alex Lopez, Matt Midura, Luke Crafton and Ben Soreff on a recent trip to Montreal. They enjoy an IMPROPER fountain-side in the heart of the city.



No, that's not a beachball with Sam Deich, Amy Rossman, Shari Berger and Bryan Parsons. It's a giant stingray in Stingray City off of Grand Cayman Island. Lucky for us, they seem undaunted and are all smiles with their IMPROPERS.

We like this picture because while we're not happy that loyal IMPROPER reader Jeff Patchel of Brockton has gotten himself locked up in the stocks outside Town Hall in St. George, Bermuda. He still seems pretty happy to be reading the DJ issue.

Fox network commentator Juan Williams flashes his pearly whites while sporting his fave magazine—our May End of an Era issue.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER taking part in the Rip Curl World Heli Challenge, the world's premiere helicopter-access sporting event now taking place in Wanaka, New Zealand.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, *The Improper Bostonian Magazine*, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116.
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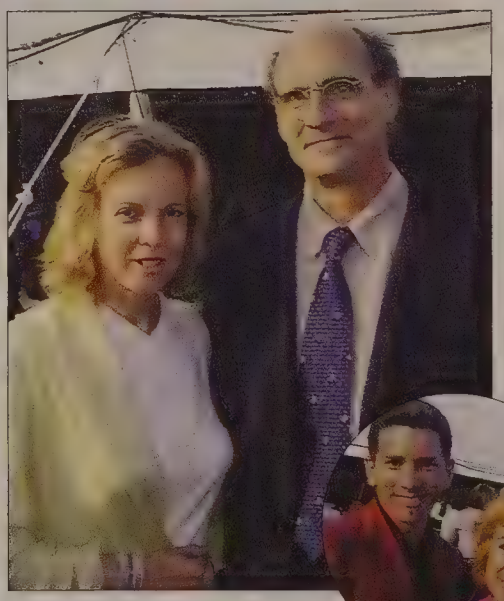

At Tanglewood, clockwise from top: a scene from the party at Highwood; Miranda Boylan, Hilary and Philip Sedgwick Deely; Caroline Smedvig and James Taylor; Mark D'Avila and Janet Goff; Nick Zervas, Motoko and Hisashi Kaneko and Mark Volpe; party scene; sunset.

ONE NIGHT IN THE BERKSHIRES...

The hills were alive, with the sound of music; in fact, the only thing missing was Julie Andrews wearing a dirndl, as **Seiji Ozawa** and the **Boston Symphony Orchestra** opened the 2000 season at **Tanglewood**.

The evening began with a tented dinner on the lawn near **Highwood**, with buffets of French, Italian, Brazilian and Japanese food. (The following fail-safe recipe for a hangover was overheard at the bar: "This is my last sake. Then I'm switching to gin.")

Cocktailing on the grass or grazing among the steam trays was a soigné crowd that included the BSO's **Caroline Smedvig** with her S.O., crooner **James Taylor**, former Secretary of State **George Schultz**, NEC poobah **Hisashi Kaneko** of Japan with his lovely wife, **Motoko**, BSO board president **Nicholas Zervas** and his stunning spouse, **Thalia**, co-chairs **Mary Jane** and **Joseph Handler** and **Margery** and **Lewis Steinberg**, effervescent Bostonian **Miranda Boylan**, MIT factotum **Mark D'Avila**, non-profit princess **Janet Goff** (a.k.a. the Countess Maribucci), and party pair **Hilary** and **Philip Sedgwick Deely**, a former headmaster of Ethel Walker's, the girls' boarding school in Connecticut.

"You were in charge when our daughter was there," said one of his tablemates during dinner.

"Send her my regards," said Deely.

"You almost expelled her for helping a friend polish off a bottle of vodka."

"Oh," said Deely. "Maybe you'd better not mention my name."

(P.S. The wayward girl is now a vice president at Morgan Stanley.)

Following dinner, guests made their way to the Koussevitzky Music Shed for a concert featuring cello deity **Yo-Yo Ma** and composer/double-bassist **Edgar Mayer**, which ended with a thunderous standing ovation.

Then, under starry skies, everyone made their way home, utterly blissed out from a perfect night. One notable exception: A young percussionist who was greeted at the stage door by his proud parents and summed up the evening by saying, "I just sat around and hit the tambourine a coupla times."

AVAST, YE LAND-LUBBERS!

How many Tall Ships does it take to screw up traffic?

Anyone who survived the onslaught knows the answer to that question, but for those lucky enough to party aboard one of the big rigs, the seven-day siege was worth it.

Take Hampshire House owner **Tom Kershaw**, who chartered the racing yacht ***America*** for daily toots around the harbor. Among those he hosted: emerging technologies gambler **Keir McDonough** of Hambrecht and Quist, Internet start-up upstart **David Nakayama**, newspaper moguls **David Jacobs** and **Gen Treacy,** and State Street portfolio bigwig **Joe Motta**, who sailed past the Italian ship, ***Amerigo Vespucci***, docked in Charlestown, while it was hosting a party for **Save Venice**. On-board for that shindig (and a tour of the boat that included the Genoan herb garden on deck) were such scenesters as post-deb party girl **Allison Drescher**, Latin laugh-riot **Juan Prieto**, stockbroking cutie **Caroline Coco**, Haitian hipster **Ferguson Heriveaux**, MFA babe **Tanya Contos**, and plenty of single women and gay men panting after the crew of 450 Italian sailors (oof!).

Later that evening, the high-and-mighty congregated in a tent on **Fan Pier** for the **Salute Ball**, which attracted every bold-faced name within spitting distance, including: the Bermuda-shorts-sporting **Richard DeAgazio** with the lovely **Cathy Angelini**, the nautically attired **Yoshi Belash** and his exquisite wife, **Kate Sweetman**, the newly blond **Martha O'Brien** with the dapper **George Albrecht**, blue-blooded fun couple **Andrew** and **Maud Cabot**, Fidelity scions **Beth** and **Edward Johnson**, kabuki socialite **Marilyn Riseman** and her sidekick, **Judee Shupe**, former senatorial spouse **Joan Bennett Kennedy**, Back Bay dowager empress **Smoki Bacon** and her consort, **Dick Concannon**, TV producer (and daughter-of-Sam) **Jennifer Donaldson Janes** and her investment guru husband, **Tom**, and 1,300 or so, equally fabulous others.

The highlight of the evening were the fireworks over the harbor, after which everyone crowded the dance floor and boogied like it wasn't a Tuesday night in July (which, in fact, it was). But the party stalwart award went to naturally carbonated publicist **Rosanne Mercer** and former state senator **Paul Harold** of Quincy, who stayed on the dance floor 'til the bitter end and wound up leaving with the band. **iB**

The Tall Ships come to Boston, from top: the *Amerigo Vespucci*; cruising on the *America*. At the Salute Ball on Fan Pier: Yoshi Belash and Kate Sweetman; Doreen Corkin.

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What to wear on a hot August night.

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FEATURES

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Despite prodding from our ever-persistent interrogator, it appears that Nomar's locker does not contain drugs, automatic weapons or donuts. However, the scandal-free Sox star does take issue with critical fans who don't flirt with .400 themselves.
BY JONATHAN SOROFF

17 Interiors
Local celebs like culinary wünderkind Todd English, fashion designer David Josef and antiques afficionado Marc Glasberg open their doors to reveal tremendously stylish interiors. Plus: Provocative furniture designs that marry seemingly disparate materials and styles and accessories guaranteed to raise an eyebrow.
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36 Heavenly Creatures
These angels may be sweet and ethereal, but in these fiery-hued clothes, they're sizzling hot. Here's your first glimpse of our new fashion editor's dazzling tastes and talents.
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AGENDA

The two-week forecast from the Calendar Girls, Erin and Julie. Complete listings follow page 49.
•Paul Robicheau gives highlights of **Merrie Amsterburg**'s latest work •Paul Sherman reviews *Cecil B. DeMented* •Keith Powers profiles **Jan Swafford** •Swingin' Under the Stars •The Feast of Madonna della Cava •Cambridge Carnival •*The Illusion* •A Tribute to Elvis •Chalk One Up for the Arts •SoundWaves 2000

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE

FROM TOP: BILL STREICHER, MICHAEL INDRESANO

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letters

BOSTON'S BEST

I read my new edition of the IMPROPER this morning and was delighted to find out that our new Fenway theater was named best movie theater in Boston. It truly IS a great place to see a movie, and we'll do everything we can to make this award an annual tradition!

BRIAN CALLAGHAN
General Cinema Theaters

In the July 26 edition of the IMPROPER BOSTONIAN, I noticed several typographical errors in the Boston's Best article. I realize this is somewhat nitpicky, but isn't this what editors are for? On page 68, under "Best Businessman", the description of Jack Connors spelled multiservice "multisevercice". Any spellchecker would have caught that.

This is unacceptable. In a city with such venerable educational institutions, a glaring spelling mistake like that is unexcusable. In addition, on the same page under fund manager, the description of Jerry Jordan includes the following sentence: "But our polls of Boston's financial community 'man." I can't even figure out what you were *trying* to say. This is a very text-heavy issue, all the more reason to be especially careful with the proofreading. It gives the impression that the editors are careless. I found the issue to be interesting and enjoyable, although I wonder weather Boston magazine puts out a similar Best of Boston issue.

I realize this is not life or death, but I think that it is important to know the impression you are making on your reading audience with a few editing oversights. Just thought you should know.

ELLEN GOODMAN
Cambridge

Editors Note: Knowing that misspellings and typographical errors hurt our credibility, we continue to work toward perfecting our magazine text. (Note to readers: The Ellen Goodman who penned the above letter is not the Ellen Goodman who writes a syndicated newspaper column. We checked. Also, we're not sure whether *those mistakes were* inexcusable.*)*

EZRA IS COOL

Aaarrgh! Having read Ezra's July 12 article on weeknight drinking on my way home from work yesterday, you would think that I might have considered the consequences of a Tall Ships celebration, Budweiser-style. The article was wonderful and completely true. I am at work wishing that I hadn't had that last beer in celebration of the Tall Ships. Although I am functional and at work, I wish I was not. Does the IMPROPER pick up the tab after you write a story like that? Good work.

ANDREW MILLER
Boston

"HOW *DARE* YOU CASUALLY REFER TO 'STARVING CHILDREN IN PAKISTAN' AND COMPARE THEIR MISERY WITH YOUR POMPOUS AND DESPICABLE 'ORDEAL' OF BEING RELEGATED TO A CUBICLE."

—*YASUF NASRULLAH*
BOSTON

OR MAYBE NOT

Your July 26 article, ("Confined to a Box") began well, but ended on a very invidious note. How *dare* you casually refer to "starving children in Pakistan" and compare their misery with your pompous and despicable "ordeal" of being relegated to a cubicle. Americans like you live only for hedonistic delights and drink. Pakistan is in the throes of misery owing to the corrupt elite who have laundered money and deprived the masses of everything. That is why Nawaz Sharif has been convicted and incarcerated for 14 years. As for the children you refer to, they lead lives scarred with labor and poor rewards and still beam with hope. Unlike a stupid girl in New York or Boston, whose whole life is ruined if she breaks a nail, or someone like you whose greatest nightmare would be going without beer on a Saturday night. Loathsome worms!

YUSUF NASRULLAH
Boston

DRIVE-INS

I enjoyed Paul Sherman's feature on eastern Massachusetts drive-ins in the July 12 issue of the IMPROPER, but I wanted to note an omission and correct a small mistake. First, the Wellfleet Drive-In on Cape Cod deserved a mention. Although it's a good two-hour drive from Boston, it's an easy trip from just about anywhere on the mid and outer Cape, and it's a great place to spend a summer evening, post-beach. Second, the Mendon Drive-In is only about an hour's drive from downtown Boston. If you stick around for both movies in the double-feature, it's well worth the schlep. Both have Web sites that list the current movies playing, at *www.wellfleetcinemas.com* and *www.mendondrivein.com*.

SCOTT KIRSNER
Boston

STUFF

In your July 12 article about Robert Birnbaum you compared *Ego Trip* magazine to (your sister publication?) *Stuff@Night* by referring to it as "one of those shameless butt-kissing mags that fawns over celebs" and "provides content so light the magazine floats away." And this is different from *Stuff@Night*, how?

LARRY HANNAY
Via email

Editors Note: What?

CORRECTIONS

The phone number listed for the Leary Firefighters Foundation in the July 26 issue was incorrect. The number is 212-541-4323.

The correct address for the Equator Gallery is 218 Newbury Street, not 21 Newbury.

Bergmeyer Associates should have been credited as the architect and designer of the Aquent office used as a background in the fashion section of the June 14 issue.

In the July 26 Proper Bostonians section, Greg Ahern and Lisa McCarthy are in picture number three, while Paul and Kathy Christian are in picture number five.

Tell Us What You Think

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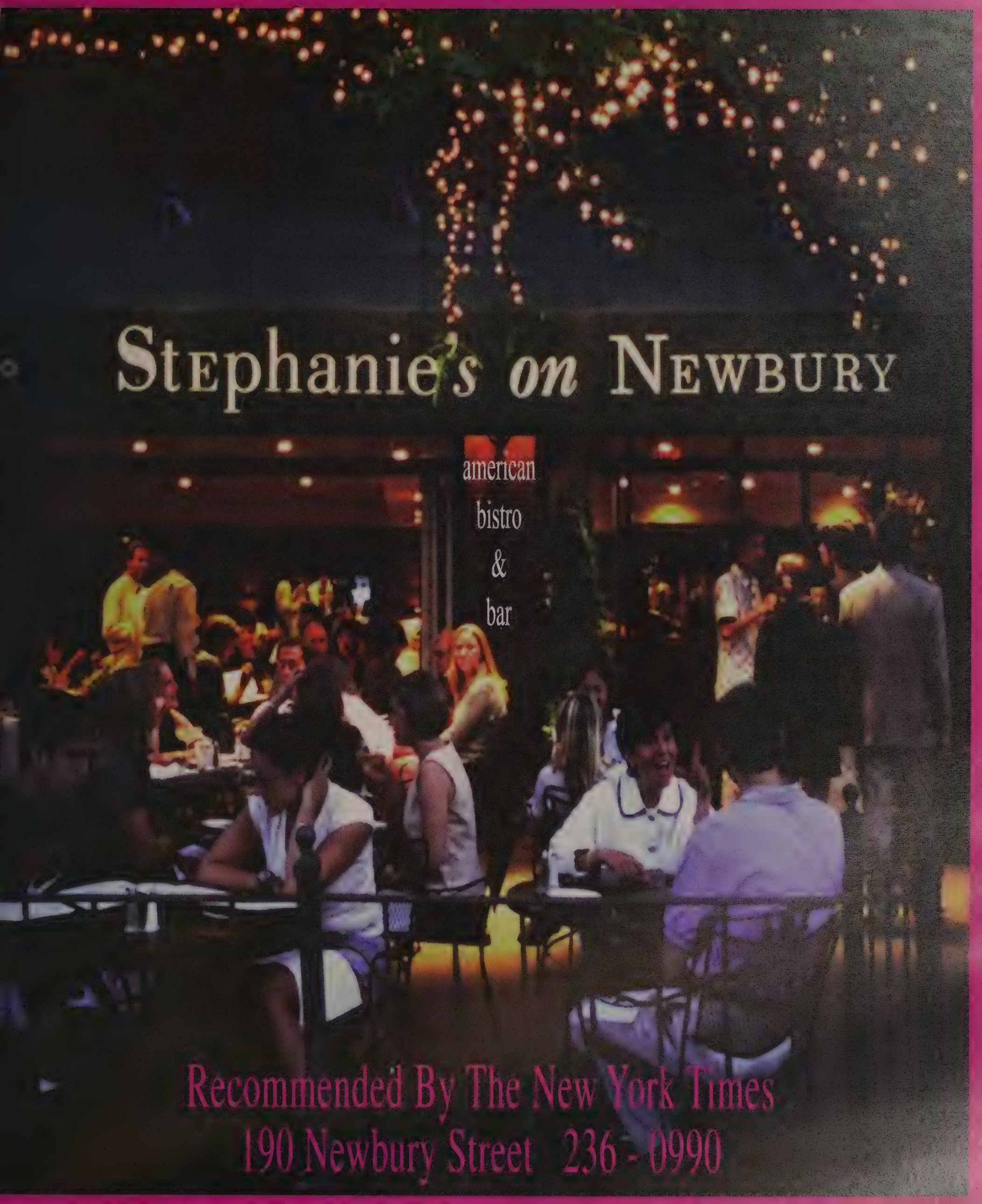
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IMPROPER SPEAKING

BY RICHARD MANNING

Jack E. Robinson (left): Not on Dubbya and Cellucci's speed-dial.

GOING NATIONAL

Last week's Republican National Convention in Philadelphia was noteworthy for several entertaining minidramas —among them was a game of hide-and-seek played out by Texas Gov. **George Dubbya Bush** and Gov. **Paul Cellucci** on the one hand and Massachusetts senatorial aspirant **Jack E. Robinson** on the other. Bush and Cellucci seemed to do everything in their power to stay as far away as possible from Robinson as the festivities wore on. Together, they sidestepped the subject of support for a Robinson candidacy. While we're at the convention, one factoid not commentated on was that Bush and former defense secretary **Dick Cheney** represent the first "All Oil" ticket (Texas and Wyoming) in the history of either party. Bush and Cheney must be praying that gasoline prices will simmer down during the fall presidential campaign—or they'll find themselves in what Bush's father once characterized as "deep doo-doo."

ROCKY SEAS

The continuing saga of multi-millionaire yachtsman, businessman and sometime Cape Cod resident **William I. Koch** (rhymes with the soft drink) continues to intrigue and provide terrific entertainment of no redeeming value. Koch, who currently faces charges of punching and threatening to kill his wife Angela following a Tall Ships 2000 outing last month, is no stranger to scandal.

And what better time to recount all those messes than now? Bostonians no doubt recall Sailboat Willy's dramatic contretemps with his former mistress, **Catherine de Castelbajac** in the fall of 1995. Remember how he evicted her from his Four Seasons condominum? Very messy stuff.

Ultimately, copies of their steamy fax correspondences were entered as evidence in housing court. As a public service, the entire exchange was reprinted in this magazine.

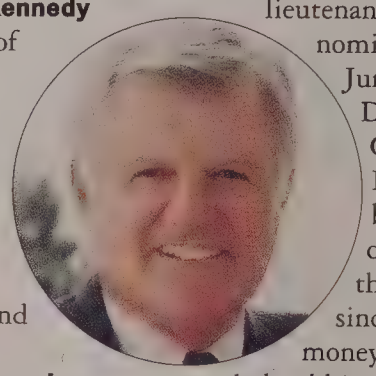
Koch is also known in these parts for buying New England Business magazine from Yankee Publishing in 1989 and then mysteriously losing interest in publishing altogether —hey, it happens. He became absorbed in his bid for the 1991 America's Cup and walked away from his $2 million investment.

But mostly, the puerile mariner is best known as the best friend of the Association of American Trial Lawyers. He has been driving forward a lawsuit against his two brothers for the last 15 years. The feud has to do with his share of their old man's Kansas-based oil inheritance. Such problems. Such money. Counseling him in his latest courtroom drama is **R. Robert Popeo**, known for getting people out of scrapes. Popeo, of **Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo,** will be defending Koch this time and helping him avoid reporters who like to dredge up old history. Stay tuned as the Koch saga moves to Barnstable Superior Court.

William I. Koch is seeking help from the estimable R. Robert Popeo to steer him off of his latest shoals.

WAIT! THERE'S MORE

Seems the rocky seas Sailboat Willy is navigating are crowded with other politicos. Another Massachusetts sailor, Sen. **Edward M. Kennedy** (right) ran afoul of the Coast Guard when he reportedly crashed the Tall Ships exit parade on July 16th. Seems Ted was scheduled to attend a $1,000-a-head fundraiser at **William I. Koch's** Barnstable manse only a matter of days after Koch was charged with assault. Great time for a party, boys. Come to think of it, that is not the type of a gathering an incumbent senator running for re-election should visit. Fate intervened with the death of Georgia Sen. **Paul Coverdell,** and Kennedy was called away before the Koch party started.



LIFE IN A ONE-PARTY STATE

In other news in the rest of the country—that is, states that manage to field two functioning political parties and not just one—state reps and state senators are out beating the bushes for money for this fall's elections. That is not the case in Massachusetts, which, as we know, has not had a functioning statewide republican party since the Civil War.

This curious one-party dynamic makes for huge advantages for state reps and senators aspiring to statewide office. Witness three-term State Rep. **John Slattery** (D.-Peabody), who is running unopposed in the fall. Slattery started running for the 2002 lieutenant gubernatorial nomination at the June 3rd Democratic State Convention in Lowell and has been virtually all over the state in the two months since, raising money and hobnobbing with local mayors and other illuminati.

An unfair advantage? Blame it on titular republican party leader Gov. **Paul Cellucci,** for his failure to organize any party larger than a backyard barbecue.

Cheryl A. Jacques is aiming her crossbow at electronic harrassment.

HANGING UP THE HOUSE

Prompted by the state's Supreme Judicial Court ruling that the law prohibiting harassing telephone calls did not extend to e-mails or threats via fax machines, Sen. **Cheryl A. Jacques** (D.-Needham) filed a bill that would ban electronic harassment.

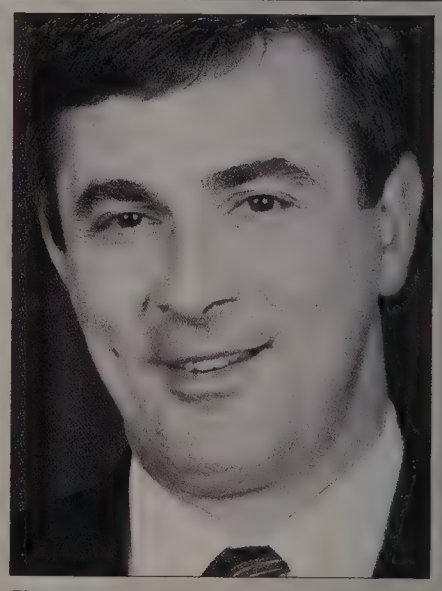
The former prosecutor was inspired by the SJC ruling following a case of alleged harassment at WCVB-TV, where an editorial producer reported repeated harassing and threatening faxes and e-mails. The bill is pending in the Senate and is headed for the House, and should have more clout than the knee-jerk-reaction bill she filed the day after a constituent chose a crossbow as a weapon in a highway incident. (That bill would have banned crossbows.)iB

Speaking of Boston

Got an inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to speaking@improper.com

GOING, GOING . . .

The governor's announcement late last month that he would likely veto more than half the funds set aside for health care in the fiscal 2001 budget seems to be further proof that Gov. **Paul Cellucci** has given up trying to govern the Commonwealth and is merely gunning for a position in a **Bush/Cheney** administration.



Ebeneezer Cellucci has shown that he can veto funds with the best of them.

His health care announcement was strangely reminiscent of his veto a year ago of $94 million in funds set aside for education. That move was so controversial and unpopular that the Legislature voted unanimously to override his veto.

At that point, just as now, Cellucci was so intent on proving his fiscal conservatism to **George W. Bush** that little else mattered. Cellucci has no new job prospect, and he's doing that familar dance known as the Beltway Push.

ROBINSON: BOSTON HERALD

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you're probably not ready.

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CITY LIMITS

Good stuff, glamour and goings-on

BY ERIN HAGEDORN AND JULIE SHORT

NEW IN TOWN

THE PLUCK OF THE IRISH

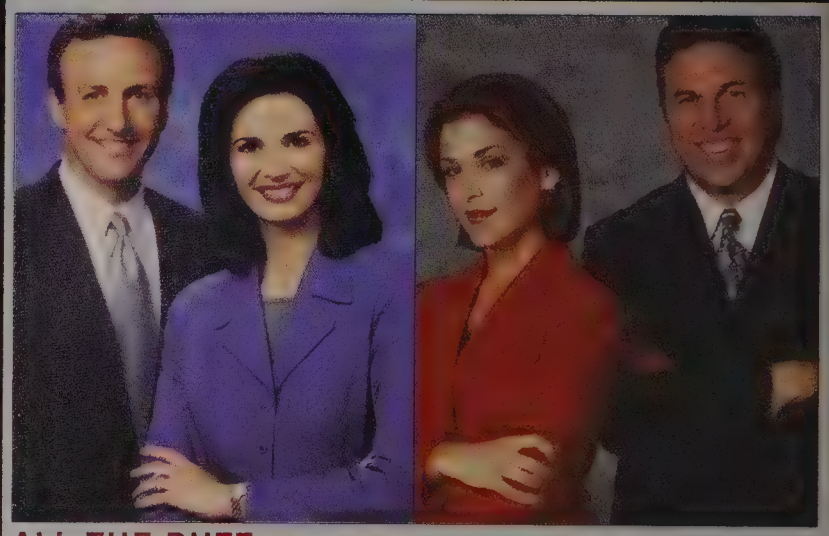
Does this city need another Irish bar? Maybe not. Should we still raise our pints to the opening of **M.J. O'Connor's**? Definitely. Cozy, comfortable and filled with more congenial regulars than tourists, the new Columbus Avenue spot has enough Erie schtick to go around, that's for sure. GM **Desmond Kerins,** who previously managed the Green Briar and the Harp, says "We wanted it to feel like you're back in Dublin." M.J. O'Connor's (named for owner **Austin O'Connor**'s father) is divided into three distinct settings: a Gaelic section around the bar, a Victorian seating area with dark wooden tables on a tiled floor, and a cottage area with fireplace and a stone wall—perfect for sipping tea. We were pleasantly surprised by the kitchen, where the chef spices up meat-and-potato dishes in a creative way. We recommend the Irish stout onion soup or the Harp-battered chicken tenderloins. Of course, a traditional Irish breakfast is also being served daily. *27 Columbus Ave., Boston (482-2255). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*

JUST IN

TRAVEL BUG

If you've got the itch to travel to far and exotic lands this fall, Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health has is giving away cash—with a catch. Travelers can get reimbursed between $300 and $650 if they travel to Cuernavaca, Mexico, or Antigua, Guatemala.

What's the deal? You'll have to take your medicine, or a placebo, to help with research for gastrointestinal distress. This calls for keeping a "diarrhea diary" of sorts. Warning: Some 30 to 60 percent of travelers to these cities suffer from traveler's diarrhea, but now there's hope for a cure. Call 877-205-1941 or visit *www.jhsph.edu/~d paffrs/travelstudy/default.html.*



ALL THE BUZZ

MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL

Things have gotten interesting for TV news consumers who have been so caught up in the Chet Curtis and Natalie Jacobson split—on air and off—that they have ignored the 5:30pm broadcast fun. All those male viewers who rushed home to catch the absolutely gorgeous Heather Kahn (Channel 5) now need a clicker to keep track of Sarah Underwood (Channel 4), whose blue eyes and raspy voice makes hearing bad news easy listening. Who would get your vote—Anthony Everett and Kahn (left) or Ted Wayman and Underwood—for prom king and queen? WCVB-TV and WBZ-TV can talk all they want about how smart their fresh-faced anchor teams are, but we know it's not how you think, darling, it's how you look.

AROUND TOWN

MODERN HUMORIST

In need of a hearty guffaw at work? Log on to a new Web site that intends to give the wise guys at the Onion a run for their readers' attention: *modernhumorist.com*.

Created by two Harvard grads, Newton-native Michael Colton and John Aboud (both former *Lampooners*), Modern Humorist is both irreverent and cutting-edge—avoiding much of the lowest common denominator, boobs-and-bathroom humor that's so rampant among humor sites. "Most sites dumb it down," says Colton. "Our humor is on a smarter level." Rest assured—there's still enough nudity and profanity to keep the most uncensored among us entertained.

One of the features parodies the Encyclopedia Brown series (Encyclopedia solves the JonBenet Ramsey case in one afternoon—Bugs Meaney did it!). Put a bookmark on this site and add Colton and Aboud to your list of local funny guys.

THIS DISSED LIST

RED TAPE PARADE

Somerville mayor **Dorothy Kelly Gay** must have had a lousy time at the city's annual Art Beat festival last month, when angry municipal employees and their supportive families picketed the mayor for allegedly stalling union negotiations—and for Kelly Gay's acceptance of a 17 percent salary raise passed by the previous administration. The good vibes that should have flowed from the Mystical Fish Parade were derailed by protestors' chants and horns honking in support. They even got the wee ones involved—small children, decked out in fish garb for Kelly Gay's celebration, held onto angry picket signs as well as their teddy bears. Otherwise, the Art Beat festival was a great time. The July 20th Davis Square celebration showcased local artists and offered community support for these creative types. We enjoyed ourselves, even if Kelly Gay did not. "The mayor was disappointed" at the disturbance, says spokesman **Sean Fitzgerald**, "but she recognized their right to picket." Guess that's what it means to have someone rain on your parade.

O'CONNOR'S: JOEL VEAK; TRAVEL BUG: RICHARD TAZZERA

NEW

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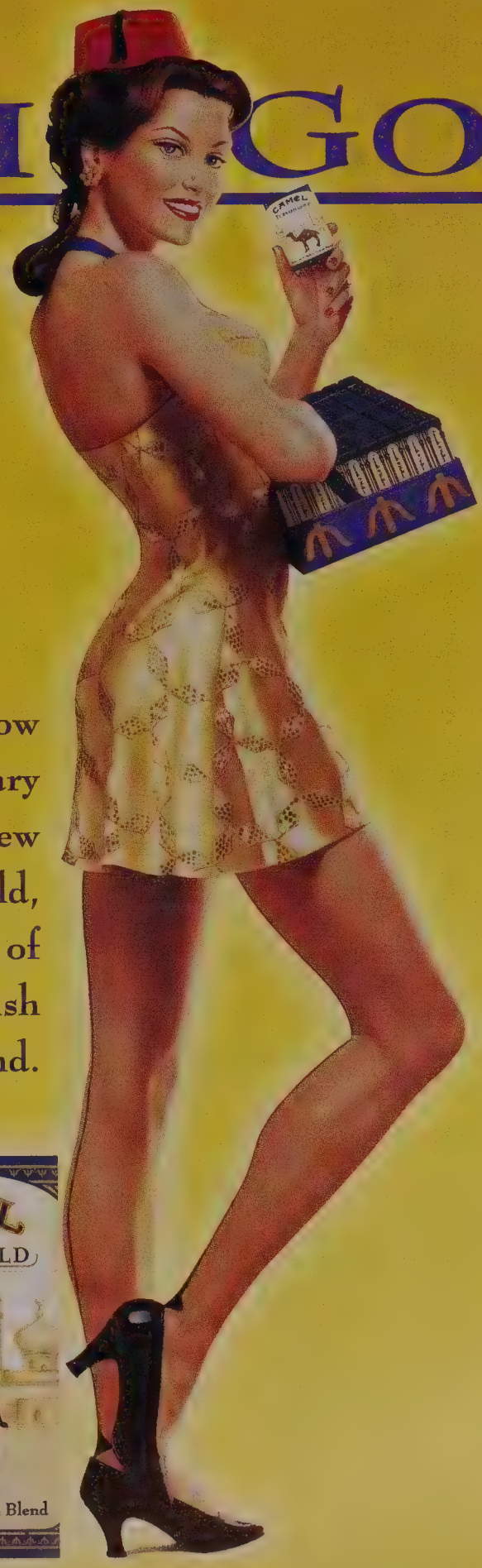

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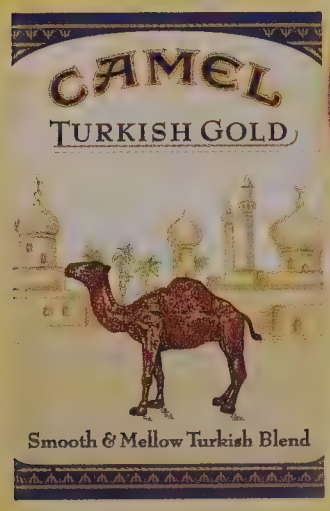

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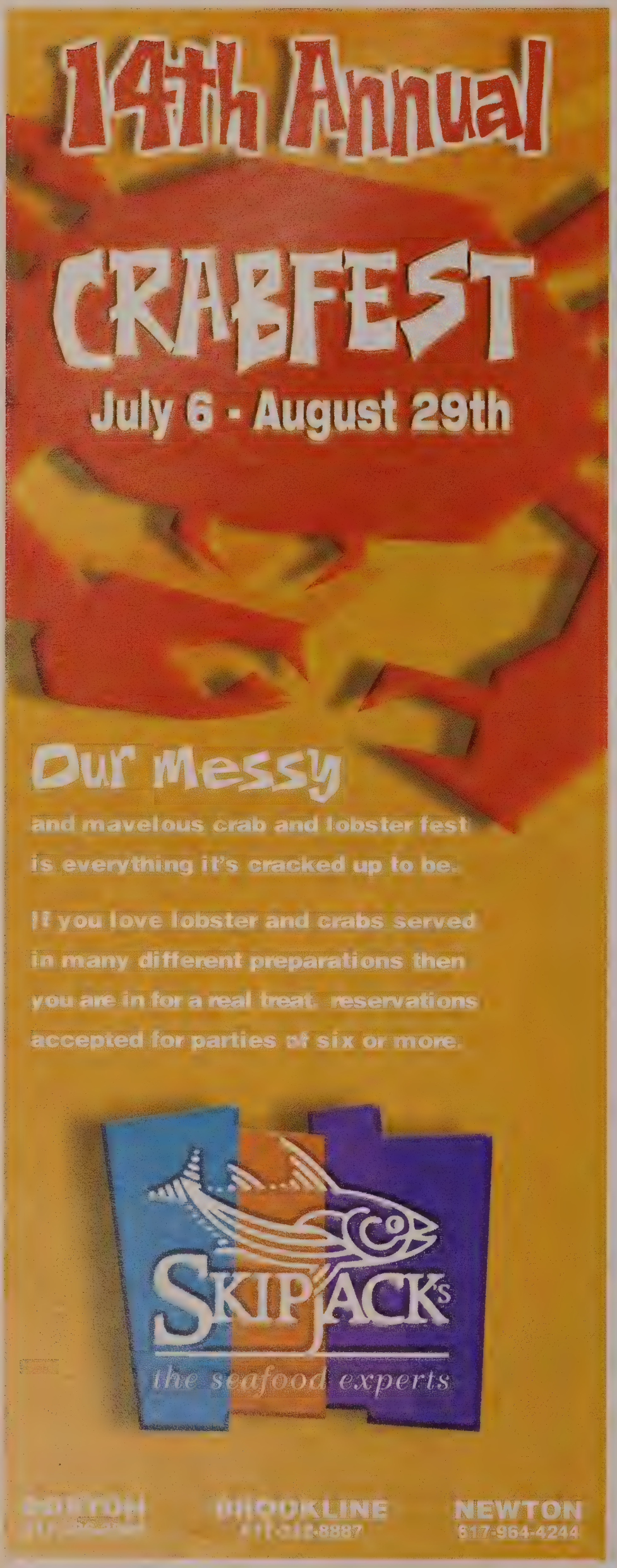

Ezra BY EZRA DYER

I'm a Whore

A few words from FleetEzra

BY EZRA DYER

When it comes to choosing a bank, the game of "would you rather?" comes to mind. As in, would you RATHER…be sealed, naked, in a barrel of rusty nails and rolled down the stairs from the top of the Prudential Building…OR get locked in a glass case in the desert with nothing to drink but a bucket of water from the Charles? Neither option is particularly palatable, is it? Hence, when my new Fleet card arrived, I did not cut it up and head straight to Jim-Bob's Bank and Cow Feed Depot, which has no monthly fees but unfortunately offers only one location in Moose Dropping, N.H.

No, I embraced the Fleet card, because it meant that at least the two-stage transition period was over. Most BankBoston branches in the vicinity of the city became Fleet in "Phase One," while the locations in the more far-flung reaches of the state remained BankBoston until forces could be mustered to seize "Phase Two." I'd originally set up my BankBoston account in a Phase Two area, so I had to drive 15 miles to the nearest Phase Two branch to check my balance. (Phase One branches had apparently already completed the ritualistic burning of all documentation pertaining to ex-BankBoston patrons.) Perhaps this was an intentional move on Fleet's part, but dealing with these kinds of incessant BankBoston-to-Fleet problems made me positively *long* to become part of the Fleet monolith.

> DEALING WITH THESE KINDS OF INCESSANT BANKBOSTON-TO-FLEET PROBLEMS MADE ME POSITIVELY *LONG* TO BECOME PART OF THE FLEET MONOLITH.

And really, is Fleet so bad? In my experience, BankBoston was usually about as helpful as a one-legged place kicker. For instance, I recall one day when I decided to try to get a FastLane pass. Since I inevitably pick the lane where the first guy in line is working out a complex quantum physics equation with the assistance of the toll booth clerk, I figured that the FastLane transponder would help me to avert a fast-approaching ulcer/homicide charge. So I called the FastLane number, which directed me to head to my nearest BankBoston branch to get hooked up. At my nearest BankBoston, they informed me that FastLane accounts were not available at that branch, or in fact at any branch in this particular hemisphere. They then beat me with penny rolls and kicked me out onto the street because it was 2:30pm and time to lock the doors and roll around in the money like Scrooge McDuck (or whatever it is they do in the afternoon at banks). I decided that in the final analysis, it was easier to sit in line and enjoy fantasies of snipers atop the tolls picking off direction-askers, large-bill-users, and exact-change-scroungers than to deal with BankBoston any more than was absolutely necessary.

Eternal optimist that I am then, I expect Fleet to be an improvement. Sure, there might be the matter of some fees here and there, and I've heard criticism of their touchscreen ATMs' incompatibility with blind people. But one need look no further than those same ATMs for evidence that Fleet is a wacky, fun-loving organization. For those who are used to the old BankBoston system, the ATM muscle memory dictates that you insert your card and jab in your pin number on the keypad. The Fleet software throws in an extra step by offering a language selection screen. Interestingly, if you mess up and neglect to pick a language, the machine does not default to English, instead picking a random language according to whatever diabolical whims govern the brains of an ATM. So far I've screwed up this process twice and ended up with Japanese (I think) and Spanish, respectively. The first time this happened I thought that it was just my own general computer illiteracy rearing its ugly head again—until I heard the person at the machine next to me mutter "Japanese—damn!"

There is one other reason why I'm not down on Fleet, and as a responsible journalist, I should probably mention it: I'm trying to get them to sponsor me. I think it would only take a little "mistake" to credit my account with something in the low seven-figure range. That kind of thing happens when mergers go through, so I've heard. In return, I will fill my column with subconscious endorsements, since Fleet already seems to have a handle on endorsements of the non-subconscious, 300-foot-tall-logo variety. There you go, Fleet. Now hand over those yen. iB

Think that's funny?

Fleetly email ezra@improper.com.

High-Tech Isolationism

Complacency, not patriotism, is behind the American fear of foreign labor.

To some people, what Carolyn Jacobs is doing is a danger to truth, justice and the American way. She's the founder of Exeter-based Business English Consultants, which trains foreign-born technical personnel to better understand colloquial English. It turns out that there's a serious shortage of trained engineers in the U.S., so many companies are importing talent from abroad. And that gets under the skin of some people who think that companies should hire Americans first.

Jacobs works with foreign-born engineers in the Boston area, both individually and in groups, to improve their spoken English skills to the point where they can navigate the social situations that are an integral part of being on a team. "Engineers for whom English is a second language are often reluctant to contribute in meetings and brainstorming sessions," Jacobs says. "The pace in most business meetings is too quick and too full of idiomatic expressions, and they get really frustrated because they don't have the language skills to contribute fully."

Here's an example of what can occur: An engineer from China attended a staff meeting where his manager warned, "We better get our ducks in line... or heads will roll." When later asked what the manager meant, the engineer admitted that he didn't have a clue. "It sounded to me as if he were afraid we would accidentally decapitate some ducks." Jacobs has trained workers at the Boston-based facilities of a number of companies, including 3Com in Marlboro. "It's amazing how quickly these communications problems improve once these workers are given the right kind of training," she says.

I happened to mention Jacobs' work in a recent article in a national computer magazine and immediately received half-a-dozen angry letters claiming that foreign-born workers were stealing jobs. One e-mail began: "Are yoiu stupid or something? They are ONLY STEALING FROM AMERICAM PROFESSIONALS!!!" I responded with a single sentence: "No oi am not stupid." Another complained about "the H-1B gang from India" who "spoke nothing but Hindi." Yet another writer said that he lost his job to the "towelheads" because he didn't "brush up on the latest technical skills."

What I found absolutely fascinating about these e-mails—other than their racist overtones —is that the writers seemed totally unaware that there actually is a shortage of trained IT talent in the U.S. In 1999, for example, it was estimated that there was a demand for trained IT professionals in the United States in excess of 850,000, a number which is expected to grow to 1.8 million by the year 2006, according to IBM. There are simply a hell of a lot of IT jobs out there and companies are having a devil of a time getting the positions filled.

> I'M GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC TO JOB HUNTERS, BUT I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL THAT ANY ENGINEER WHO CAN'T GET A JOB IN TODAY'S MARKET EITHER ISN'T LOOKING VERY HARD OR IS OTHERWISE UNEMPLOYABLE.

Despite this, hiring foreign-born high tech workers has become a political football in Washington, where Congress votes every year on how many visas to issue to foreign-born workers. Senator Kennedy, for example, has expressed serious reservations about these visas, and says that he worries about "workers who are laid off by unscrupulous employers and replaced by foreign workers" and "middle-aged computer programmers who work hard to keep up their skills, but are laid off in favor of younger workers who will work longer hours at cheaper pay."

Carolyn Jacobs, founder of Business English Consultants, helps foreign engineers master the litany of idiomatic expressions that can leave them feeling up in the air and out of the loop.

BERTA A. DANIELS

However, if the letters that I received are any indication of the quality of the American workers who feel threatened by this so-called "invasion," I suspect that many of them aren't likely to find work any time soon—regardless of whether we open the gates to a flood of high-tech immigrants. The impression I got from the letters was that the writers are the type of people who'd rather bitch about why they can't get a job than make the extra effort it takes to move their careers forward. I'm generally sympathetic to job hunters, but I can't help but feel that any engineer who can't get a job in today's job market either isn't looking very hard or is otherwise unemployable. (Boys and girls, can you say "loser"?)

As for Jacobs, it's clear to me that she's providing a valuable and important service. There really is a shortage of qualified high tech workers in the country and it makes sense to import talent until such time as there are enough trained U.S. citizens to fill those job positions. If helping foreign-born workers to understand colloquial English makes them more productive, then Jacobs deserves credit for helping to bring them up to speed. iB

Geoffrey James (*www.geoffreyjames.com*) is the author of numerous books as well as the co-host of Funny Business, heard Saturdays 10pm-12am on WRKO, AM 680.

Proper Bostonians

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

The third annual **Chefs in Shorts** benefit was held July 20 on the plaza outside the Seaport Hotel. The event drew more than 400 foodies and featured gourmet samplings from 16 local chefs. Tickets were $40, which included beer and wine. All proceeds will go to the Boston chapter of the Chefs Collaborative, which is a network of chefs and food professionals that promotes sustainable agriculture and supports local farmers.

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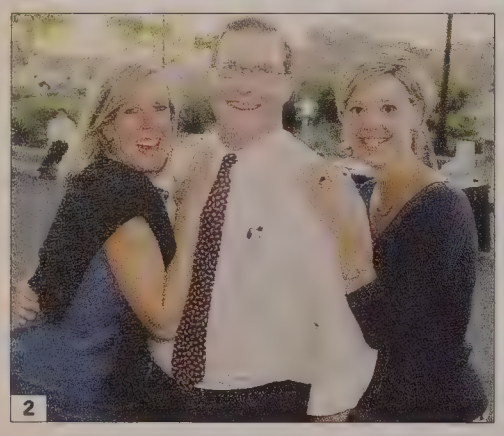
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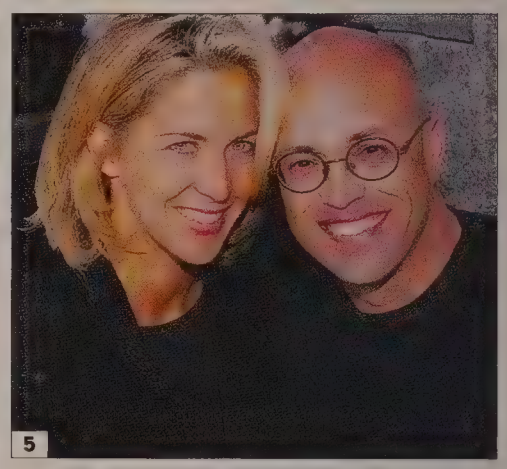
1. From left, **Francie Doyle**, manager at Lumiere, **Chug Perry**, operations manager at Internoded Inc. in Cambridge, **Andrew Young**, general manager of Uno's in Harvard Square, and **Cathy Dawson**, special education teacher.
2. From left, **Tracy Dunn**, corporate catering manager at the Silver Spoon Cafe in Cohasset, **Martin O'Connor**, a Boston attorney, and **Claudine Nawghton**, senior training consultant at AIG in Boston.
3. **Stan Frankenthaler** (l), executive chef at Salamander, and **Ed Doyle**, chef at Aura in the Seaport Hotel.
4. **Amanda Lydon** (l) and **Tessia Berberian**, chef de cuisine and pastry chef, respectively, at Truc.
5. Boston artist **Lori Anderson** and **Nat Guild**, owner of LifeBoat Partners in Concord.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The seventh annual **Lawn Cotillion** took place July 30, at Ocean's Edge Resort in Brewster. At this Great Gatsby-style benefit, guests wore summer whites and vintage ensembles as they competed in a croquet tournament on the five-acre front lawn. Later in the afternoon, a champagne-sabering exhibition was followed by a gourmet dinner. Tickets for the event were $125, which helped raise more than $20,000 for the Brewster Conservation Trust, the Visiting Nurses Association, Cape Cod Child Development and the Cape Symphony Orchestra.

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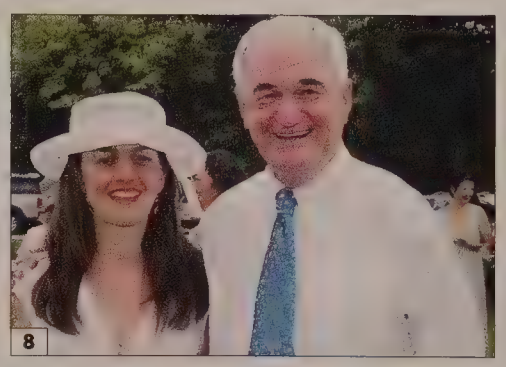
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6. From left, **Francois Nivaud**, former general manager of the Boston Harbor Hotel and currently principal of NEMS New England, **Bob Burke**, owner of Pot au Feu in Providence, restaurateur **Drew Nieporent** and **Kevin Howard**, Ocean Edge Resort's general manager, at the sabering reception.
7. **Jared McNabb**, student at Babson College.
8. **Suzanne Corcoran**, public relations specialist for the Corcoran Jennison Companies, and her father, **Joe Corcoran**, chairman of the Corcoran Jennison Company.
9. From left, **Christina Kemprecos**, owner of Secure Future in Dennis, psychotherapist **Ann Temple** and **J. Schofield Ruggiero**, an artist in Cambridge.
10. From left, **Marie Galvin**, owner of Marie Galvin Designs in Boston, **Alex Dufresne**, model at Click modeling agency, and **Derek Warburton**, makeup artist for Click.
11. **Kimberly Howard** (l), co-chair of the Lawn Cotillion, and **Naomi Turner**, director of Studio 878 in Chatham.
12. **Eileen Malouf** and her husband, **George**, of Knapp-Schenck Insurance in Boston.
13. **Eddie Britt**, pastry chef at Clio, and his wife, **Michelle**, a waitress at the Cottonwood Cafe.

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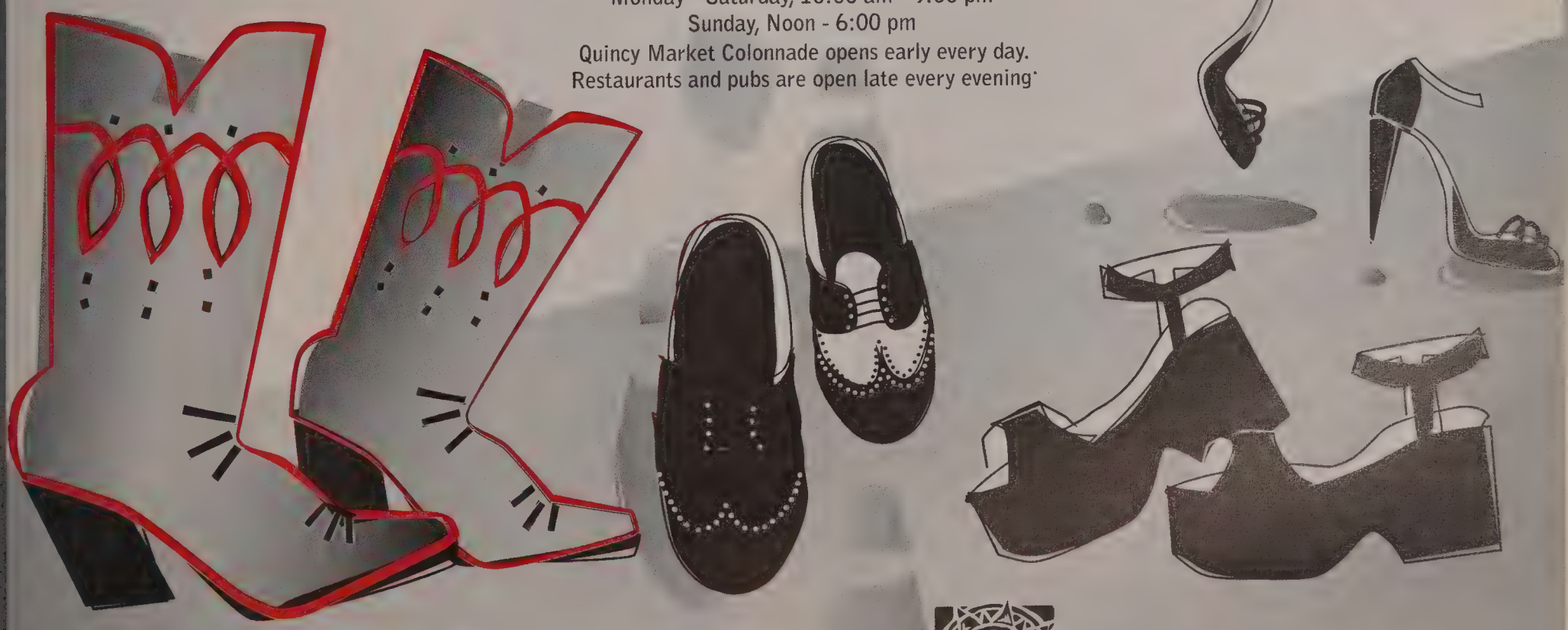

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Soroff/On

Nomar Garciaparra

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Red Sox shortstop and Major League heartthrob Nomar Garciaparra, 27, was born and raised in Whittier, Calif. After graduating from St. John Bosco High School, in Bellflower, Calif., he attended Georgia Tech, where he majored in business management. Six feet tall and 174 pounds, the notoriously superstitious righty (nicknamed The Viper) joined the Red Sox as a first-round draft pick in 1994 and made his Major League debut in 1996. Since then, he has emerged as one of the most talented and popular players in baseball. Among his awards and accomplishments: American League Rookie of the Year, two-time All Star (1997 and 1999), and 1997 AL Silver Slugger. In the past year, he has appeared on numerous magazine covers (*GQ* among them) and increasingly frequent TV ads, but it's his community involvement that distinguishes him from others. His charity, the Nomar Five Fund, is outfitting youth centers in Boston's low-income housing areas with everything from computers to athletic equipment.

Having worn number five since childhood, both he and his community outreach efforts are dedicated to the following five principles: family, education, sportsmanship, citizenship and respect.

Jonathan Soroff: *OK. First of all, what's up with your name? It's really Ramon spelled backward?*

Nomar Garciaparra: That's right. Ramon is my father. I think that should be tattooed on my forehead.

JS: *In Spanish, Nomar means "No sea."*

NG: Yeah, I know.

JS: *So you don't like the ocean?*

NG: I love it.

JS: *The last famous person to come out of Whittier, CA was Richard Nixon. Anything you two have in common?*

NG: Umm. Aside from birthplace?

JS: *Yeah, like maybe prominent noses?*

NG: Nah. Mine has more character.

JS: *You're better looking in general. So the event in June to benefit your charity was a bowl-a-thon. Are you a big bowler?*

NG: No. But why bowling? I thought, "Everybody has golf tournaments, and this is better." You can have kids, more of a family atmosphere. Have fun. You don't have to get dressed up. Go in jeans and a T-shirt and just bowl.

JS: *Favorite thing about Fenway?*

NG: The electricity.

JS: *Least favorite?*

NG: The bad weather.

JS: *Not the parking?*

NG: Oh, actually, yeah. I'd agree with that. Parking's pretty tough.

JS: *Do Ballpark Franks really plump when you cook 'em?*

NG: I hear they do. Y'know, I don't eat hotdogs.

JS: *What?! That's blasphemy—a ballplayer who doesn't like hotdogs? So you don't know which are better—Fenway or Ballpark?*

NG: I couldn't tell you. I've never tried either one.

JS: *OK. You and Derek Jeter and Alex Rodgriguez are being credited with saving the game of baseball. Any reaction?*

NG: Nobody's bigger than this game, and we're just a part of it. That's all. But I think we respect it a lot, so it's nice to be appreciated.

JS: *You guys seem like you have fun playing, as opposed to a lot of pro athletes who seem like they're in it for ego or competition or money.*

NG: Most definitely, there's a true enjoyment. I've always said that I hope the people who come see the game are having as much fun as I am.

JS: *You've got a reputation for being a real squeaky-clean, straight arrow. Any dark side—some unpaid parking tickets or a snack-food habit, perhaps? Something your fans would be shocked to hear about?*

NG: (Laughs.) Umm, no.

JS: *This year, your salary jumped from $900,000 to $3.7 million. Any suggestions on how I can get a $2.8 million raise?*

NG: (Laughs) Start throwing a little tennis ball against the wall and work on the feet, the eye-hand coordination. Try driving the ball. Curveball's a tough one. Most people have trouble with it.

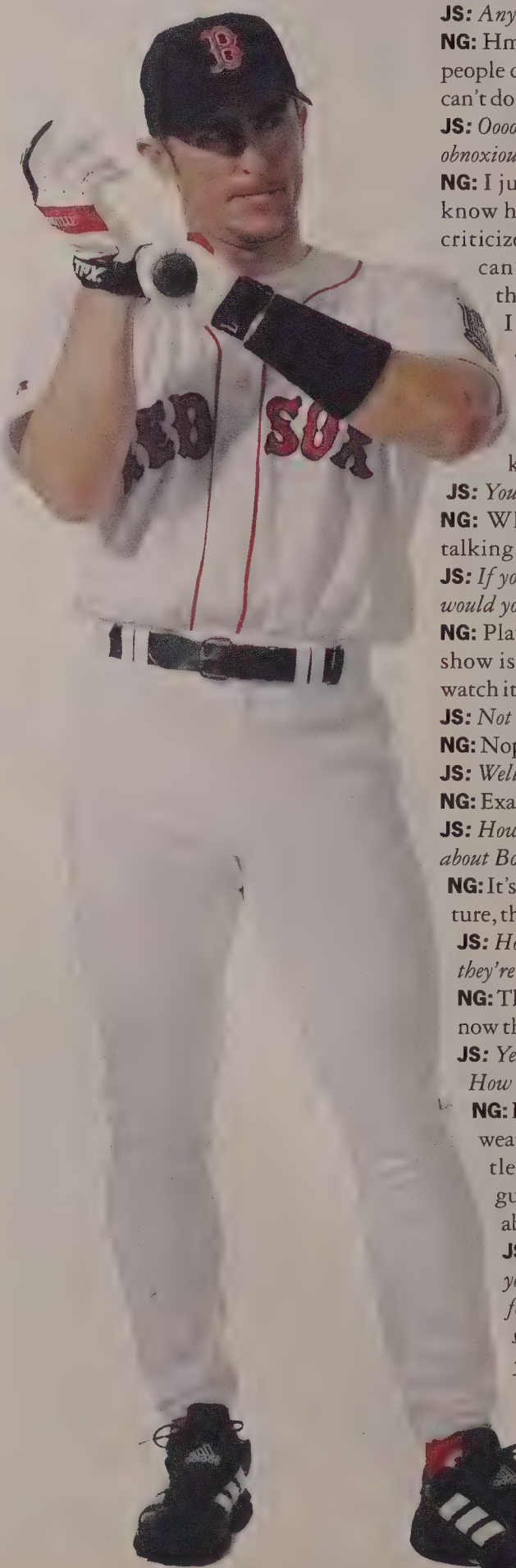
JS: *You're doing a ton of endorsements these days and making a big pile o' dough. What's your biggest self-indulgence? Any major toys?*

NG: No, actually. I probably spend more on my family than on myself. I just make sure I have a comfortable place to live and then make sure they have no stress. I'd rather see a smile on their faces. It doesn't take much to satisfy me. I always felt like I had everything I needed growing up as a kid. I never needed a lot then to make me happy, and I don't need a lot now to make me happy.

JS: *So no Ferraris for you?*

NG: No. My first car was a Chevy Blazer and I still have it.

JS: *Get out! So any products, aside from obvious things like cigarettes, that you wouldn't endorse?*



MICHAEL INDRESANO

NG: Yeah, I'm sure there's a lot of stuff. A lot of the things I've done and the companies I'm with, I'm not really endorsing their product. A good example is Dunkin' Donuts. I'm not really endorsing donuts. You won't see me in an ad, and I'm not going out there and saying, "Eat a donut," or whatever. It's a partnership in which we've come together to promote community service and involvement with charities.

JS: *So you're anti-donut?*

NG: No! I'll have a donut here and there, but I'm certainly not King Donut Guy.

JS: *OK. Is there anything that throws you off your game or really bugs you out on the field?*

NG: Rain delays.

JS: *Any pet peeves about fans?*

NG: Hmm. Well, I'm always amazed how people can criticize something when they can't do it themselves.

JS: *Ooooh. Is that aimed at sports writers or obnoxious Red Sox fans?*

NG: I just laugh at it in general. I don't know how anybody can do that: I can't criticize a writer because I can't write. I can't criticize anybody if I can't do the job they do. That's just the way I was raised.

JS: *In interviews, you've denied knowing about the curse of the Bambino.*

NG: I say, "I'm from L.A. I don't know what you're talkin' about."

JS: *You think it's gone?*

NG: What? I don't know what you're talking about.

JS: *If you weren't a baseball player, what would you do?*

NG: Play soccer. I love it. My favorite TV show is the World Cup, so I only get to watch it every four years.

JS: *Not the World Series?!*

NG: Nope. I don't ever watch that.

JS: *Well, hopefully you'll be in it.*

NG: Exactly.

JS: *How about your favorite thing about Boston?*

NG: It's got a lot of character. The architecture, the place itself. It's like a giant town.

JS: *How about the people. You think they're friendly?*

NG: They're friendly to me. At least right now they are.

JS: *Yeah, because you guys are doin' OK. How about your least favorite thing?*

NG: Being from L.A., I'm spoiled as far as weather's concerned. The winter's a little cold here. But I get to leave, so I guess I don't have anything bad to say about Boston.

JS: *One last question: Any chance you'll follow in Jim Palmer's footsteps and do ads for Jockey so that we can oogle you in your underwear?*

NG: (Laughs.) I posed for *Muscle and Fitness* magazine without a shirt on, so it wasn't that far off. They haven't asked me, but you just never know. iB

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An antique lantern emits a soft glow on the second floor landing of chef Todd English's Brookline home.

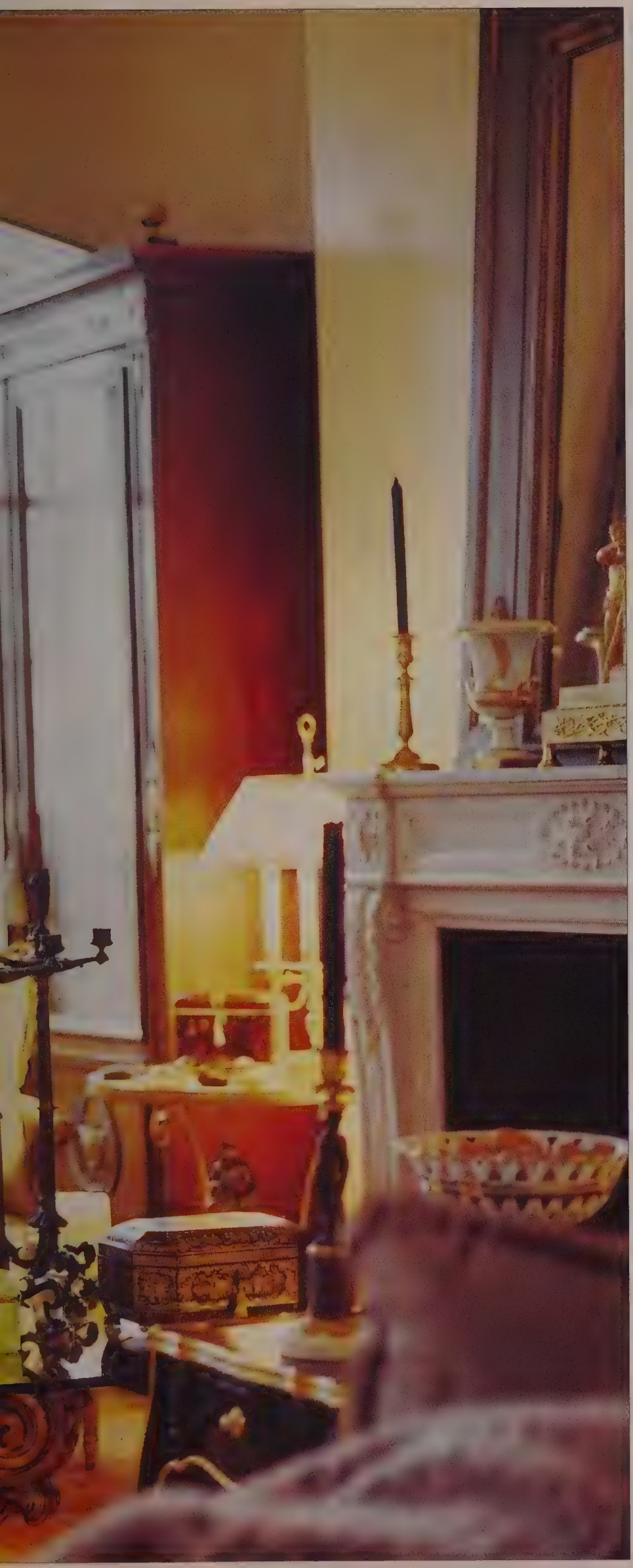
modern interiors: lightness of being

PRODUCED BY SAMANTHA HOUSE • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRAD ZIEGLER • EDITED BY ELLEN O'BRIEN AND RACHEL STRUTT

Additional reporting by Julie Short

Lithe, airy interior design schemes are brightening Back Bay brownstones and giving South End lofts a lift. The newest furniture fashions are clearly defined, architecturally pure pieces that reference and reinterpret past styles in a wholly modern way. Sandy white walls, silvery sheers, seamless floors and soft chenilles comfort us. White is in. So is purple. Single colors and basic geometry make for simple surroundings—the look is minimal, but not stark. There's also a provocative mixing of materials and styles. Designers shine when they add glossy chrome and bright aluminum to ultrasuede sofas and velvet armchairs. Louis XVI and modern stand side-by-side. We visited three local trendsetters to see how these millennial styles are being played out. >>>

In Glasberg's living room, white walls and simple but stately curtains serve as a backdrop for a trove of antiques, which includes an antique settee, a table with an ornate gilt capital as a base, and a Louis XVI white marble fireplace.



Marc Glasberg isn't afraid to mix modern pieces with antiques for an eclectic yet seamless look.

Marc Glasberg

This Newbury Street antiques dealer has decorated his home with a stunning collection of Louis XIV pieces.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRAD ZIEGLER

Newbury Street antiques dealer Marc Glasberg's Commonwealth Avenue home is as detailed as a museum, beckoning visitors to touch the richness of the off-white silk sofa and Louis XVI chairs. The walls are white, yes, but instead of serving as a cold, blank slate, they provide a modern, gallery-like backdrop for Glasberg's trove of antiques and collection of 17th- and 18th-century decorative paintings.

Glasberg opened his antiques shop, Marcoz, nearly three decades ago. Aside from importing and selling antiques, Glasberg counsels clients, mostly urban dwellers, on how to make the most of their often tight metropolitan spaces. Louis XVI period pieces, distinguished by their strong architectural lines and Greco-Roman decorative motifs, are a favorite of Glasberg's. The period pieces are also popular with many decorators "because they mix so nicely with contemporary interiors," explains Glasberg. Not surprisingly, this Newbury Street dealer has plenty of Louis XVI pieces throughout his three-story home, including a dining room table and a child-size chair in the guest bathroom. Among the few modern pieces in Glasberg's home is a transparent, geometric sculpture by the Italian sculptor Zennaro and a sofa, which "looks very much like a sculpture" says Glasberg, with its large, rolled arms and fabric pulled tight to accentuate the piece's form.

Of course, mixing styles is the norm these days. And materials, as well, are being combined in surprising ways. This may seem like a confusing hodgepodge to some, but Glasberg, commenting on this trend, says: "Every generation adds something new to the classics. So maybe something good will come out of all this. In the end, we may take something away from this period—something that lasts."

Marc Glasberg *continued*

In the library, a collection of 18th-century engravings by Piranesi completely covers a wall. Although the art is Italian, the furniture is all French, including a Louis XVI daybed covered with gauffrage velvet.

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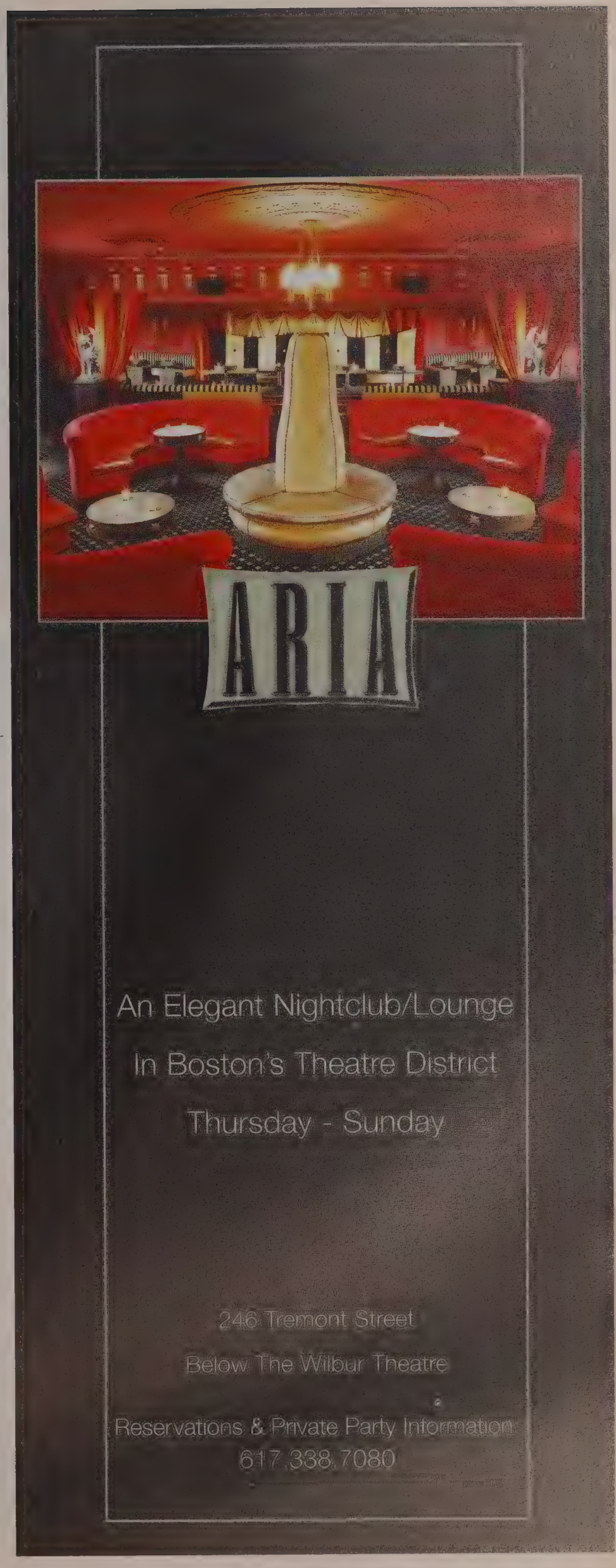
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David Josef (right) and his partner Danny Forrester relax in their living room, which is both elegant and utterly comfortable.

David Josef

Celebrity clothing designer David Josef and his partner, Danny fill their South End space with warm hues and plenty of sunlight.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRAD ZIEGLER

Who's afraid of David Josef? No one, he hopes. The fashion designer who outfits divas like Dionne Warwick wants his clients to relax when they visit his South End studio; so he sets aside his star-quality status by creating a warm, welcoming space. When visitors arrive at the sprawling studio shared by Josef and his partner, Danny Forrester (formerly two apartments and now one magnificent space), the initial reaction is often breathtaking. The interior is distinctly cosmopolitan, and clearly influenced by the pair's many visits to Italy. These trips inspired Josef and Forrester to create elaborate window treatments and select a hardwood floor decorated in a diamond pattern.

In the living room, there are eggshell-white walls and an oversized ivory-hued sofa. In the adjoining bar area, there's a glittering bartop and walls painted and blended in five shades of gold, which glitters as the sun sets. (This penchant for lightness and brightness is in keeping with the current fashion sensibilities: light, airy spaces free of clutter and a nearly translucent feel.) The squarely shaped bar and streamlined barstools are a playful centerpiece, and the site of more than a few meals with famous faces. Indeed, Josef's climb to celebrity is chronicled here; hanging on one wall is a large image of a model wearing Josef's designs and a framed page from *Bizarre* magazine profiling his early days as a designer. In this predominantly bright and spacious environment, Josef and Forrester have added some rich, heavy materials for balance. One window, for example, is framed in weighty, gray-green velvety drapes, appearing almost Medieval. From the so-chic floor to the so-high ceilings, Josef and Forrester have combined the best of old- and new-world decor and arrived at an ambiance so stylish and inviting, guests find it hard to walk out the door.

In the couple's bar—a hotspot for entertaining—the walls are daubed with five different shades of gold. Against this warm backdrop, styles are mixed. A baroque mirror and contemporary chairs are given equal play.

After a steep climb to the bedrooms on the second floor, the Englishes can relax on a cushioned window seat that overlooks the well-manicured yard and gardens below.

It should come as no surprise that chef Todd English of Olives and Figs fame (shown here with wife, Olivia) has a superbly outfitted kitchen.

Todd English

This well-known chef and his wife have created a tranquil haven away from the chaos of daily life.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRAD ZIEGLER

With the guaranteed stress of owning 11 nationally renowned restaurants and starring in a twice-weekly television show, it's no wonder local chef Todd English designed his home as a safe haven from the chaos of daily life.

"My home is a tranquil sanctuary where I can retreat," says English, who purchased a stone cottage in Brookline two years ago with his wife, Olivia. Their interior-design goals were simple: a clutter-free, welcoming space with plenty of personal and well-thought-out touches. Case in point: Knowing that their kitchen could be an intimidating place for visitors, the Englishes designed a welcoming horseshoe-shaped counter with a granite top. There's also a distinctive breakfast nook tucked away between the kitchen and living room. In this semi-circular space, bookshelves and benches (created by Boston furniture designer Kevin McLaughlin) are ingeniously fitted to hug the walls from floor to ceiling.

Wandering through this charming cottage, visitors quickly appreciate the couple's distinctive and eclectic tastes. The two fire-engine-red chairs retrieved from the old Boston Garden and mounted on a wall almost always inspire an appreciative laugh.

From the start, the couple asked architect John McDonald to custom-tailor the home to accommodate their seemingly neverending list of dinner guests. Olivia is quick to explain they didn't want a bold architecural statement, but rather a certain ambiance and a no-frills design to complement their busy schedules. Beyond such overarching goals, Olivia was eager to maximize views of the delightful garden. "Every room has a view of the yard," she says happily.

There are many eclectic touches throughout the English's Brookline home—including two fire-engine-red chairs (pictured above), retrieved from the old Boston Garden and mounted on the wall.

artistic differences

Furniture designers mix materials and styles for a look that bows to the past, but embraces the future.

Today's furniture fashion is a world of seeming contradictions. Table lamps are crafted using the unlikely pairing of aluminum and mahogany. Sofa designers combine soft, luxurious ultrasuede fabric with sleek metal frames. Or consider the ever-popular chairs of Italian designer Bontempi Cassi: beechwood and steel creations, open-backed and airy with clearly defined architectural lines. Designers are not only having great fun mixing seemingly disparate materials, they're mixing styles as well—modernizing your mother's mid-century television console with translucent plastic and chrome door pulls, for example. Still, all the newest furniture brings—perhaps surprisingly—an appreciation for simplicity. Millennium designers are opting for simple lines and color, creating streamlined furniture without frills or excess. In our digital age, this sleek look fits our image, right down to the latest cellular telephone designs.

Today's designers may build with a straightforward, architectural approach, but their sources of inspiration are so varied that selecting and arranging furniture can seem daunting. When we stepped into the 21st century this past January, the popular styles of the last 100 years began reappearing, and colliding, in magazines and showrooms—just as fashion and furniture designers predicted. This explains the resurrection of the '40s look, items like sofas with scallop-shaped backs and stainless-steel martini mixers. It also explains why the Art Deco aesthetic of the '20s is the inspiration for many of today's sofas. And it's why the '50s look is inspiring cast aluminum sofa legs straight out of the Dick Van Dyke Show television set.

So, what, ultimately, are today's furniture rules? Well, less is still more. The minimalism of the '90s persists. No ruffles or pleats distract us from the pleasing pared-down furniture lines we choose. The most popular home furniture today is designed in bold colors—yellow rules!—instead of one of those nail-polish colors, such as sea foam, which were popular with home decorators not so long ago. At the same time, designers are using metals and woodwork in new and creative ways. The combination makes for sellout pieces such as Sonrisa's rain-slicker yellow, enameled steel refrigerators. The same goes for the Decotec Kyma vanity unit in Crayola red with a high-resistance lacquer finish. Table legs are column- or cylinder-shaped, without sculpted feet, providing a romantic, neo-classical feel.

Finally, designers are being tremendously cheeky with fabrics. Cotton and mohair blends are woven so that they throw off shimmery, frosty highlights. Deep, plush velvets, soft chenilles and silk blends surround and soothe us. Black leather sofa pillows surprise us with a soft cotton on the reverse side.

So far, no singular interior style has stood for millennium fashion, but one thing is clear: In this chaotic, harried world of ours, we crave simplicity at home.

PRODUCED BY SAMANTHA HOUSE • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRAD ZIEGLER

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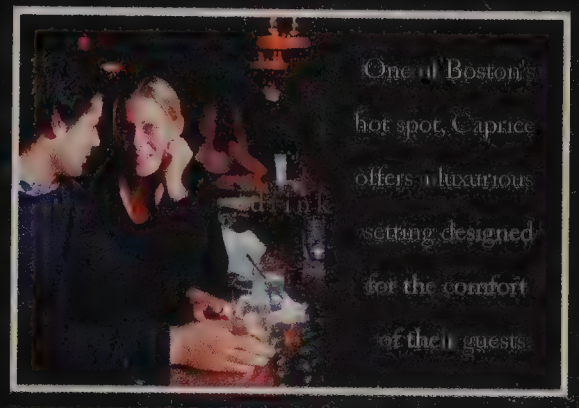

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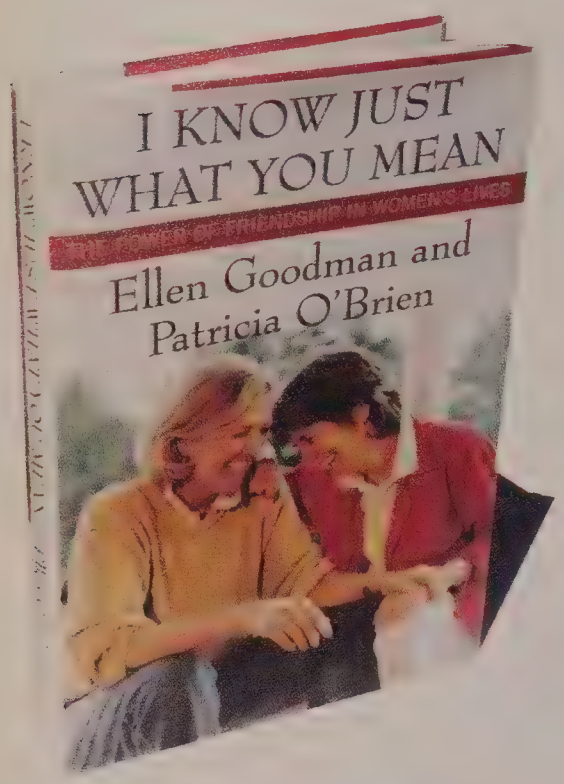
Mopsy

Serendipitous shopping: Our unfettered correspondent seeks out the salubrious and the cerebral.

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY



THE ROMANCE OF FRIENDSHIP

I Know Just What You Mean—The Power of Friendship In Women's Lives is by Ellen Goodman and Patricia O'Brien.

The jacket photo of the two authors, collapsing together in a fit of cozy, helpless laughter, says a lot. What do women want from friendship? ask Pulitzer Prize-winning Ellen Goodman and her journalist/novelist friend of 26 years, Patricia O'Brien. Almost as much—dare they suggest even more?—than women ask from romantic love. The base line of friendship beginning in girlhood plays underneath the other melodies of life, providing sustenance and long-term meaning. They use their own *gemütlich* connection—that has sustained children, marriage, divorce, remarriage, mourning and considerable success for each, in the same field, yet, they also look at snippets of friendships between novelist Mary Gordon and her doctor friend; Lesley Stahl and a pal whose connection foundered for 20 years; The Indigo Girls, two women who met in an elevator and bonded together against a creepy landlord; and one friendship that gave Indian-summer richness to a woman dying of cancer. Along with rapport and intuitive vibrations, they describe misunderstandings and tensions, career competition, tactfully withheld misgivings about a new love, the itchiness of becoming Borrower and Lender to each other, and schoolyard envy that burns into midlife. All the friendships here are compelling, but their own is, well, just like you see in the picture.

RAVEL'S SAKE, ADS AND PROPAGANDA

International Poster Gallery at 205 Newbury St., Boston (375-0076), offers collectible vintage posters of all kinds.

Far from being ephemeral or merely commercial, serious posters, mostly huge, comprise an important, collectible slice of very expensive art. At the International Poster Gallery, image upon brightly colored, vivid image leap from the walls. There are the romantic, bosomy Bel Epoque ladies, one of them curling herself around a gin drink squeezed into a shell. And the Italian poster of a tube of Binaca toothpaste so aesthetic in shades of clean-breath white, blue and yellow, it could happily grace a formal living room. In the Golden Age of travel, when the excitement of the journey became a significant theme, there was Cassandre's famous poster of the cruise ship Normandie looming gigantically at you from the waterline's perspective. Or, almost-abstractly representing the fluttering-heart and clattering-wheels sensation of a speeding train is his Nord Express. A stroll through the Gallery takes you from allegorical, dreamland-prettiness (Leopoldo Metlicovitz's 1906 poster showing a winged, hatted Mercury, seen from behind, sitting on the engine of a locomotive inside the newly opened tunnel through the Alps) to the gorgeously geometric and fiercely propagandist Russian posters showing militaristic, marching shapes, or a bayonet-wielding Communist threatening a cringing capitalist.

DOWN BY THE CITY'S RIVER

Get to know Mystic River Lower Basin on Aug 10 during Mystic at Night at Sandy Beach, Mystic Lake. On Aug. 25 is the "Fingerling Fling," a herring event at Blessing of the Bay Boathouse. Call 781-393-8132, ext. 8882.

Yes, booming Route 93 scorches by so near that you can practically smell the tires. But with only 3 percent of Somerville comprising open land, the green, watery Mystic Basin, rich in tall, tall reeds and grasses; its tributary, Alewife Brook; and Mystic Lake are places of welcome refuge, country-like in spots. Along with being a rather uncrowded place to take a 2.5-mile walk or run, to pass by bird-filled, marshy river's edge areas and parklike green fields with stately trees and climb a little wooden tower that affords a wide river- and city-view, Mystic Basin (and Alewife) are also places to get involved in nature projects. Lisa Brukilacchio of Alewife/Mystic River Advocates wants to "make things visible," including nature, and its evil twin, pollution. You can lead nature walks, organize cleanups and advocate for the river's vital health. In May, the herrings that travel from the harbor to spawn can be seen "boiling" in a silver frenzy in Alewife. A slower, "guidebook and binocular" visit will reveal a rich habitat that includes owls, raccoons, swans, herring, Merganser ducks, mink, muskrats and mice. Park at the Boathouse at 32 Shore Drive, Somerville (623-6137).

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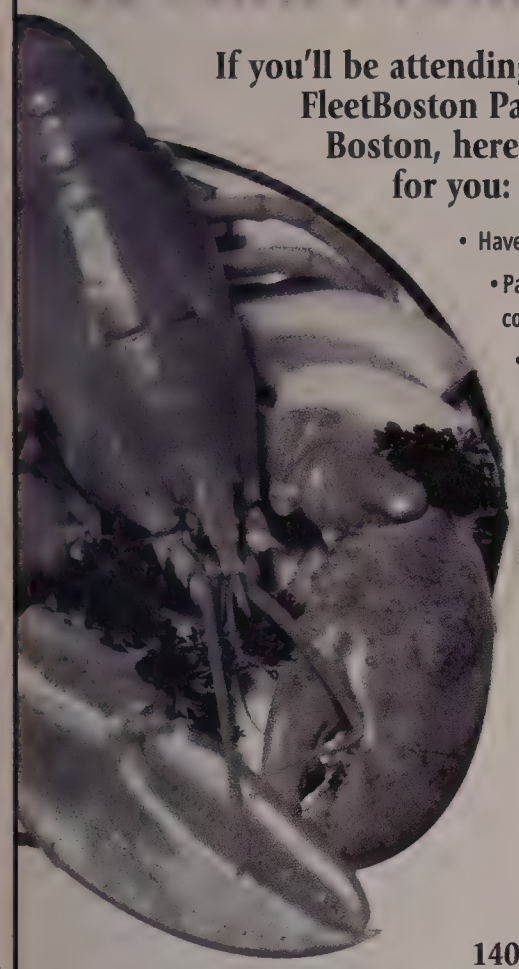

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INSIDE: The Chefs in Shorts event; Cousin Aquitaine; eating "Vincent's ear"

Executive chef Richard Rayment adds a touch of personalized service. Opposite page, front: heirloom tomato and summer truffle salad.

REVIEW

The Dining Room

At the Ritz-Carlton, the cuisine is only part of the package.

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRAD ZIEGLER

The Dining Room at The Ritz-Carlton is an almost perfect venue for celebratory occasions. From the gracious welcome one receives at the attractive entrance, where maitre d' Alfonso Delucia exudes warm, Mediterranean hospitality, to the elegant appointments of the dining room, and the fine cuisine of dining room chef Mark Allen, a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, the Ritz delights from beginning to end of a meal.

Crystal chandeliers and sconces, glossy white pilasters and columns, gold swirls and designs in the sculptured ceiling, blue-green and gold brocade draperies framing windows that look out onto the Public Garden, and comfortable Louis XV upholstered chairs create an ambiance of luxury. Frosted glass-paned doors at both ends of this handsome room lead to private dining rooms, recently added to accommodate parties from six to 16. An accomplished pianist coaxes lilting melodies from composers ranging from Cole Porter to Lloyd Webber to Debussy from an imposing grand piano. Tables are set with handsome cream tablecloths and napkins, a silver shaded candlestick, silver bowls filled with fresh yellow roses and fine wine glasses. A huge vase filled with voluptuous fresh flowers rises from a marble-topped table dominating the center of the dining room.

Having attended more than one major dinner in the Ritz dining room, we had neither hope nor expectation of preserving the anonymity for which we usually strive in visiting restaurants for reviews. Indeed we were greeted and treated like old friends by Alfonso and his colleagues. On the other hand, my note-taking was surreptitious, and little did they know that the ancillary purpose of the visit was journalistic. Moreover, our observation of other diners confirmed that service throughout the dining room—to friends and strangers alike—seemed uniformly excellent.

The Ritz's knowledgeable sommelier, Steven Fisher, helped us negotiate the Ritz's formidable (and pricey) wine list. While the Mercurey Premier Cru from Domaine Lorenzon 1997 vintage ($65) that he helped us find was substantially above our usual wine budget, the tariff was warranted by the merit of the wine—a beautiful red, with a nose-filling bouquet, good structure and a mellow, lingering finish. The town of Mercurey, in Burgundy's Cote Chalonnais, produces a splendid pinot noir, only a little lighter than the more famous Cote d'Or to its north, and this was one of the best Mercureys I have ever tasted.

While we perused the Ritz's formidable menu, small bowls of gazpacho with smoked salmon appeared as an "amuse bouche," something to "delight the mouth." This combination of two disparate but compatible tastes was both imaginative and successful.

Luxury does not come cheap, and the Ritz's basic three-course menu fetches $61. However, one can add a fourth course for an additional $8 and a fifth (presumably cheese course) for only $6 more. The menu is varied and ambitious, offering nine appetizers and five fish and five meat main courses. Some longtime Ritz devotees lament the passing of such classics as Dover sole and Chateaubriand for two, but with special advance notice those Ritz classics can be resurrected and served with all of the traditional flourish and ceremony that have made them sentimental favorites of so many patrons.

Our choices on a recent evening included seared foie gras with roasted peach terrine and balsamic reduction. The warm triangle of sweet, rich foie gras proclaimed the luxury and refinement of the Ritz, felicitously accompanied by fruity chunks of peach encapsulated in gelatin. English pea risotto with blue cheese and Serrano ham pâté, served on a small, white rectangular plate, was exquisite. The creamy texture of the risotto, studded with firm, colorful and flavorful peas, was highlighted by a garnish of crispy fried-onion slivers.

Perhaps the most memorable of the appetizers was the langoustine and wild mushroom profiterole with dill cream. The sweet, tender crustacean; earthy, velvety

textured mushroom; and delectable dill sauce captured the enthusiasm of our whole table. Less successful were the crispy sweetbreads with potato gratin and asparagus with warm bacon vinaigrette. Still, their accompaniments—very thin slices of perfectly cooked potatoes layered in a compact rectangle and prepared "Lyonnaise" with onions and butter—were delightful.

Moving on to main courses, the lobster-stuffed trout with braised leeks and a lemon-parsley sauce was terrific. The dark gray skin of the trout, while it detracted somewhat from the presentation, obviously protected the moist texture of the fish. What was inside—firm-fleshed fish, sweet nutty, lobster—was worth the visual sacrifice. The garnish of buttery, braised leeks was incomparable. A second fish course, peekytoe crab cake and red snapper with spinach and tomato relish and black pepper aioli, was uneven. The snapper, spinach and tomato relish made a fine ensemble. The crab cake was dry and lackluster.

Meat courses included stuffed veal chop with spinach and summer truffle, garlic potato and tomato preserve. An unusual rendering of this popular cut, the thick chop was fully boned, with a layer of spinach-and-truffle custard across the top. While the presentation was eye-catching, we thought the veal a trifle dry, perhaps as a result of being cooked without its bone. The spinach/truffle combination worked very well indeed, and the tomato preserve, or relish, was a piquant treat.

Beefeaters should not fear that their needs will be left unattended, despite the absence of the Chateaubriand from the menu. Beef tenderloin on polenta cake with ratatouille and basil puree yielded two thick, fork-tender slices of wonderfully moist, rare beef tenderloin. Again, the accompaniments—the creamy, herb-enhanced polenta; warm, Mediterranean-accented ratatouille; and a minty basil sauce—were pleasant enhancements, particularly well-suited to the muted flavor of this very tender cut of beef.

Desserts at the Ritz-Carlton were almost over-the-top. Vanilla bean crème brûlèe with mango and Meyers rum compote was spectacular. Served unmolded rather than in the traditional ramekin, it was garnished with a web of crystallized sugar. Peach and blackberry crisp with crème fraîche ice cream brought fruit cobbler to a new level, combining sweet, tangy fruit, crunchy pastry and ice cream rich in butterfat. Kahlua chocolate mousse cake with mixed nuts boasted a variety of tastes and textures, combining mousse whose lightness belied its intense chocolate flavor; the crunch of cashews, pecans and peanuts; and a bittersweet chocolate sauce. Warm chocolate caramel cake with maple sugar ice cream followed by ivory chocolate sabayon and raspberries with sugar almond cookies Napoleon rounded out this impressive trio.

Service throughout a meal in the Ritz-Carlton dining room is impeccable. Servers are attentive and responsive without being obtrusive, warm and friendly without being chummy, and professional and efficient without making one feel the need to surrender the table before being good and ready.

The level of formality of certain aspects of service at the Ritz—large silver cloches surmounted by sculptured lion figurines are removed simultaneously by waiters when all of the main courses have been placed in front of diners—are not to everyone's taste, but even my sister from Oregon, where Birkenstocks and jeans rather than wingtips and tuxes are de rigeur, had to concede that these special flourishes added to the special festivity of a recent family celebration. Moreover, the observance of these formal protocols and the courtly ritual at the Ritz are rendered unintimidating by the friendly warmth and congeniality of the staff and the tone set by the maitre d'. A special meal at the Ritz is a reminder that the relationship of a restaurant to its patrons is that of host to guest, not merely merchant to customer. The Ritz is not for every day, or even for every week; but for that special occasion, it has few peers. **iB**

The Ritz-Carlton Dining Room

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DISH

Short Stories

The Friends of Eddie Doyle... On the Bis

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

Plenty of calves, but no veal. The **Chefs in Shorts** showed off their very best at the **Seaport Hotel**'s annual benefit for the **Chefs Collaborative**, grilling up a figurative storm and thrilling hundreds of guests to support the only chef-managed organization advocating sustainable cuisine.

Aura's Ed Doyle presided, proudly noting that the very first ripe tomato of the season was poised on the vine among his expansive—and ever-growing—herb garden on the hotel terrace. The amiable Doyle served up grilled clams highlighted by preserved lemon, garlic chives and purslane, and perfectly complemented by the soft sea breezes.

Some chefs operated true to form, offering sumptuous samplings of dishes you're likely to find on the restaurant's menu. **Owen Tilley** of **East Coast Grill**, for example, served up enormous Jamaican curry shrimp crisply grilled in the shell, slathered with banana-guava ketchup and lavishly topped with fried plantain strips. Others, however, took advantage of the casual setting to explore an earthier culinary sensibility. **Mark Sapienza** of **Le Meridien** dished up a tasty cinnamon-scented pulled pork with peach barbecue sauce, and though he mumbled something about the neatly presented "timbales," don't expect to chow down on slow-cooked pork butt the next time you dine at Julien.

Other participating chefs: **Ana Sortun** of **Casablanca,** who graciously discussed bass fishing with a guest while grilling up her own wild striped bass and serving it over brandade-stuffed pasta; and **Stan Frankenthaler**, who dished up a scrumptious pork rib/sausage/rice noodle salad combo that he described as a preview of the menu of his upcoming Salamander-plus-Satay Bar at **Trinity Place**. Note: Prepare for Satay Night Fever in October!

SECOND COURSE

Triple threat: **Mario Nocera**, chef/owner of **Terramia,** and **Antico Forno** in the North End, has quietly opened yet a third Hanover Street eatery. This one is called **Taranta**, and started serving lunch and dinner just a few weeks ago. Watch this space for more details...

Bis me, you fool! **Seth Woods**, chef/owner of **Aquitaine Bar a Vin Bistro**, plans to bring his brand of South End sophistication to suburban Chestnut Hill. **Aquitaine Bis**, slated for an October opening, will be strategically located within strolling distance of Bloomingdale's, in the former **Caffe Luna**.

Fresh sole: In no particular order, here are the legs (and decidedly disparate footwear) of Tremont 647's Andy Husbands, East Coast Grill's Owen Tilley and Salamander's Stan Frankenthaler.

Expect the sibling restaurant, like any other sibling, to be similar yet different. Like the original Aquitaine, the baby Bis will be a **Peter Niemitz**-designed production. And Woods' intent is to establish a neighborhood spot with a social atmosphere that will draw a slew of upscale regulars. As for the menu, "the same sort of food sensibility will apply," says Woods, yet with adjustments to encourage frequent dining from the local health-conscious clientele.

"We're going to be very accommodating," says Woods, who is focusing on clean flavors and straightforward preparations. In short, look for more grilled fish and less choucroute. Question: Would the third restaurant in this series be called "Son of a Bis"?

Also expanding her geographic reach is **Barbara Lynch**. The chef/owner of **Number Nine Park** is trying to work out an agreement to lease the former **European** in the North End. Lynch will probably retain the restaurant's name (hey, it worked for the **Harvest** in Cambridge), but would like to add value to the spot with a liquor license and valet parking.

Atara Bistro & Wine Bar has opened on Commonwealth Ave. in Brighton in the former UVA location. Haven't tried the food yet, but the restaurant's logo certainly looks delicious. . . **Andy Husbands** of **Tremont 647** says his new restaurant next-door will be open in a few weeks...

And finally, congratulations to chefs **Tom Tenuta** and **Loretta Huguez** of **El Pelon**, who celebrated their wedding up at Alyson's Apple Orchard in Walpole, New Hampshire. iB

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant?
Send it to *dish@improper.com*

WINE

All Hail the Syrahs

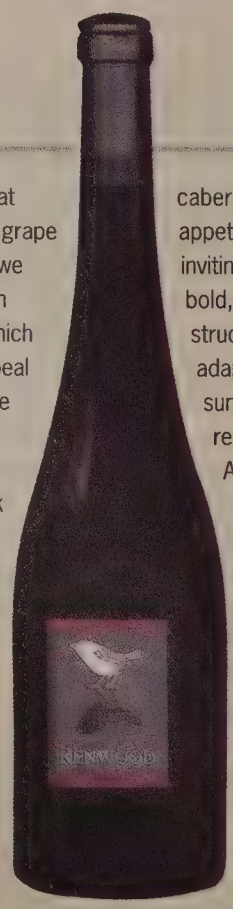
BY SANDY BLOCK MW

The recent New Orleans Wine and Food Experience brought together 17 of the 18 Masters of Wine currently residing in the United States for, among other things, seminars, lectures and a judging of several hundred wines that had been submitted to determine which ones were the best. The wines were tasted blind, to eliminate prejudice, and the blue ribbon panels discussed each entry and whether it merited a gold, silver or bronze medal. Not only did the assembled experts fail to reach consensus, but we actually broke out into heated arguments about the very soundness of some of the wines. Scores were all over the map. In each group of wines we tasted, everyone had a favorite and at least one other person on the panel hated it.

What does this tell you? The first point I make to my beginning wine students is that people naturally disagree about which wines they like and that's OK. Doesn't everyone's taste in food differ? Have you ever felt that you had to "re-educate your palate" to enjoy a meal, that there was something wrong with the way you tasted if you didn't like the liver or the broccoli? But wine is portrayed as such a "right and wrong" issue, and seems so hierarchical and absolute in distinctions of quality and price, that few people can simply choose what they like without checking to see what's "supposed to be" good. Sadly the wine industry, of which I'm a part, promotes this. We encourage consumers to believe myths. That's why you see all of those numbers in bold text when you read a wine magazine, or when you go into a retail shop. If a wine's given a numerical score of 90 points out of a hundred, that's supposed to tell consumers it's worth the $30 price tag. We recommend wines based on what some writer who we think knows more than we do likes, as though his or her preference should reflect what you're going to like when you open the bottle with dinner. But, as we've seen, even the certified experts can't agree. So how much sense does it make to rate wines when my 90-point beauty could be your 75-point dog?

The interesting thing to me about the tasting was not which individual wines we finally decided—with some degree of cynicism all around—deserved top honors, but the fact that there were certain whole categories that stood out. The wines were grouped by grape variety, so we knew, for example, that we were judging chardonnays against each other. The least controversial wines, which struck almost everyone as likely to appeal to a wide group of consumers, were the syrahs. After experiencing dull pinot grigios, dozens of interchangeable chardonnays, cabernets that were dark and brooding and a whole cellar's worth of forgettable merlots, the syrahs stood out sharply for their unique and interesting flavors.

Syrah is far from a household word, but it has all the attributes required to constitute the next hot wine trend. First, in contrast to many of the competing varietals, the syrahs all tasted different. Ripe and raspberry-like, they each varied in the degree of spice and earthiness, the intensity of peppery, leafy aromas, and their richness of texture. Unlike the cabernets, they were all savory and appetizing, with flavors that were open and inviting. And in contrast to the lineup of bold, powerhouse zinfandels, the syrahs struck me as all-weather varietals, equally adaptable and refreshing during a summer heat wave as in the more natural red wine seasons of the fall and winter. As one of my colleagues put it, whereas we had been tasting in black and white, the syrahs stood out in Technicolor. Perhaps this combination of striking flavor and ease of drinking is the reason that syrah has been among the sought-after vines for planting recently on the West Coast. An added bonus: syrahs age beautifully but, in contrast to the other cellar-worthy reds, they have an almost irresistible youthful brightness. So if you buy a case you can drink some today and also see how they turn out a few years from now. iB



This 1996 Renwood ($22) is a syrah from the Sierra Foothills.

DISH: WENDY MIMRAN

Tastings BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for tastings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

EVENTS

Brewer's Dinner
Porters Bar and Grill, 173 Portland St., Boston (742-7678). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Aug. 15. $35. Tremont brewers and Porters' chefs team up to match appetizers and a three-course meal with four of Tremont's award-winning microbrews.

Calling All Chocolate Lovers
5 Comm. Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Aug. 15, 6-9pm. $45. Learn the art of working with chocolate from the woman who won first place in Boston's "Chocolate Madness" competition. **Kristin Livoti**, pastry chef at One Mill Street in Lawrence, will show you how to create truffles, peanut butter cups, caramels and chocolate-dipped fruit.

Clambake at Stonehedge Inn
Stonehedge Inn, 160 Pawtucket Blvd., Tyngsboro (978-649-4400). Thursdays through the end of August. $45. Chef **John Mathieson** and his staff will serve up a hearty New England clambake outside in the gazebo.

Cooking Classes at Rauxa
70 Union Square, Somerville (623-9939). Tuesdays at 6:30pm. Aug. 15-Sept. 5. $75 per class. Students get to participate in preparing and cooking four to five tapas. Then, everyone will sit around a communal table with chef Jim Becker to enjoy the tapas with paella and wine.

Cooking for Singles
Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (254-9500). Aug. 18, 6:30-9:30pm. $40. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Participants either come alone and leave with great recipes for one, or meet new friends and double, triple and quadruple those ingredients. Chef **Diane Manteca** from the Brickyard in Cambridge will share her cooking secrets for Asian-marinated seafood, sauteed chicken in champagne sauce and other local favorites.

Crabfest
199 Clarendon St., Boston (536-3500). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Through Sept. 3. The 14th annual Crabfest will feature blue crabs, Dungeness crab, soft shell crabs and crab jambalaya. Start with peel-and-eat Old Bay shrimp, blue crab bisque or hot crab dip.

Eight Ways to Eat a Lobster
The Kowloon, 948 Broadway, Rte. 1, Saugus (781-233-0077). $16.95 per couple. The Lobsterfest 2000 menu features eight different cooking styles, including broiled twin lobsters, lobster steamed in scallion and ginger, lobster Chinese-style, lobster with a tangy tomato sauce and lobster with spicy garlic sauce.

Friday Wine Tastings
Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (254-9500). Aug. 18, 7-9pm. $31. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. The BCAE offers Friday night wine tastings equipped with plenty of schmooze time and a healthy dose of fine-wine education.

Guest Chef: Mediterranean Herb Dinner
125 Salem St., Boston (723-1807). Aug. 22, 7pm. $70. Young rising star chef and herbalist, 17-year-old **Wil Gilson**, will cook a Mediterranean herb dinner at Boston's Best Italian nouvelle restaurant. Each course will be accompanied by an appropriate Mediterranean wine.

TASTY TIDBIT

VINCENT'S EAR

Inspired by the arrival of the blockbuster Vincent van Gogh exhibition to the Museum of Fine Arts, Anago's pastry chef, Lee Napoli, whipped up "Vincent's Ear"—a life-like cookie confection filled with chocolate mousse and "bleeding" bright red raspberry puree (pictured above with Napoli). Art history buffs and chocolate lovers alike will either be tickled by this delicious and whimsical tribute to one of the world's greatest Impressionist painters—or totally grossed out. We loved it. *Anago, 65 Exeter St., Boston (266-6222). Through the end of August.*

Sunday Night Clambakes
West Side Lounge, 1680 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (441-5566). Pretend you're still at the beach and make the weekend last just a little longer with these Sunday night clambakes complete with lobster, steamers, corn...yum!...even pony beers in a bucket.

Taste of Massachusetts
Nashoba Valley Winery, 100 Wattaquadoc Hill Road, Bolton (978-779-5521). Aug. 12, 12-5pm. $2 per taste. A day of music, cooking demos and food from more than 15 of the area's most unique farms, vendors and restaurants, paired with Nashoba Valley wine.

Three Cooks—Three Courses: It's All Raw Baby!
The B Side Lounge, 92 Hampshire St., Cambridge (354-0766). July 18. $30. On the third Tuesday of each month, Chef **Jeff Unger** hosts a "Three Cooks—Three Courses" event, during which he chooses a timely ingredient or theme and invites two other chefs along to each prepare a course. Tonight is a "three cooks who couldn't cook" cook off. **Owen Tilley** from the East Coast Grill and **Tim Partridge**, formerly of the West Side Lounge, are guest chefs.

Van Gogh's Lunch Table
Turner Fisheries Lounge, the corner of Stuart and Dartmouth Streets, Back Bay (424-7425). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 11:30am-2pm. July 3-Sept. 8. $48. Chef **David Teig** has created a special three-course menu inspired by one of the most influential painters of modern time. Lunch includes one weekday ticket to the MFA's *Van Gogh: Face to Face* exhibition.

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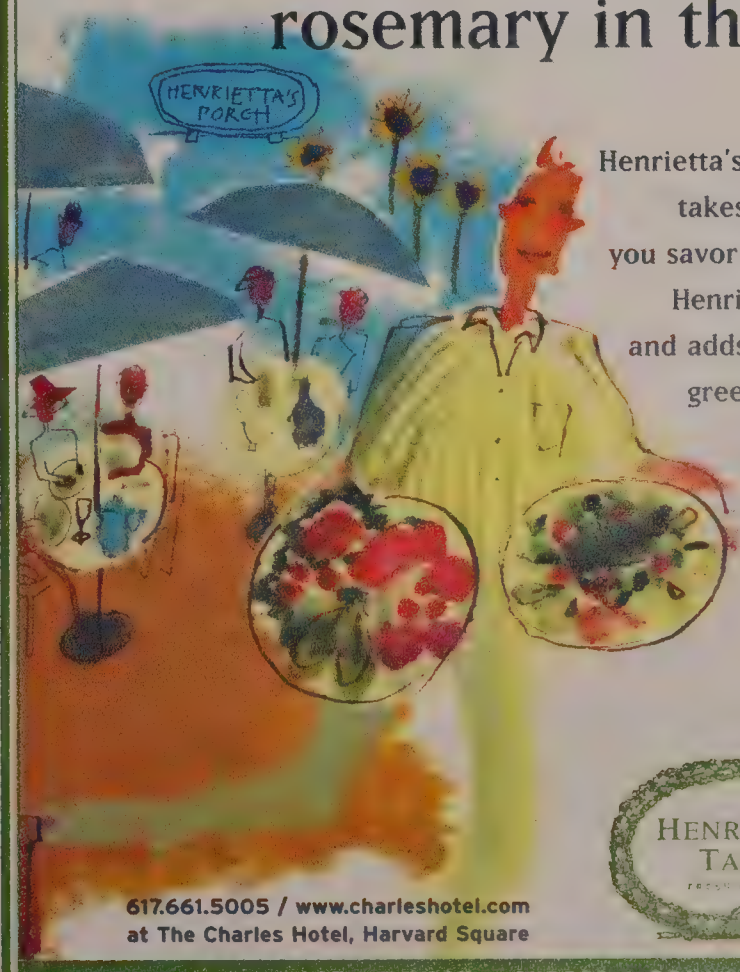
There's a hint of rosemary in the air.



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agenda

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN OR OUT IN BOSTON.

Erin and Julie

THE CALENDAR GIRLS'

improper picks

Too busy (or just too lazy) to plan your own schedule? Life don't get easier than this.

Wednesday, Aug. 9

Julie: Spend the evening dancing under the glow of the moon at the IMPROPER-sponsored **Swingin' Under the Stars** event in Faneuil Hall. (See Dance.)
Erin: John Waters fans are in for a treat. His new indie film, ***Cecil B. DeMented***, is now showing. (See Film Review.)

Thursday, Aug. 10

Julie: Join Olympic swimmers, legendary athletes and local celebs in support of tomorrow's **Boston Harbor Islands Swim** at the Sheraton Boston. (See CityScope.)
Erin: Elias Fine Arts shows ***Real Fun***, a photographic exhibition made entirely with toy cameras. (See Art.)

Friday, Aug. 11

Erin: The **Feast of Madonna della Cava** kicks off with a procession and live music. (See CityScope.)
Julie: Dominicans celebrate their **Independence Day** with 25 live merengue, bachata and salsa bands, a parade, Dominican food and carnival rides. (See CityScope.)

Saturday, Aug. 12

Julie: **Taste of Mass.** is a day of music, cooking demos and food from 15 local restaurants and farms at the Nashoba Valley Winery. (See Tastings.)
Erin: The streets fill with revelers, musicians and foods vendors for the **Cambridge Carnival**. (See CityScope.) Plus, **Neil Young** is at the FleetCenter. (See Music.)

Sunday, Aug. 13

Erin: Rooted in '70s funk, the rap group **Spearhead** performs tonight at the House of Blues. It's 15 bucks— but well worth it. (See Music.)
Julie: Head to Tanglewood to hear some great classical music. **Robert Spano** conducts and **Vadim Repin** plays violin. (See Classical.)

Monday, Aug. 14

Julie: The setting: a bridge over the Charles River. The event: **Tango by Moonlight**. If you love to dance, there's no better place. (See CityScope.)
Erin: For $9 you can see **The Fringe**, always an excellent show, at the Lizard Lounge. (See Music.)

Tuesday, Aug. 15

Erin: The BCAE's ***The Illusion***, written by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Tony Kushner, is the tale of a father who seeks his long-lost son. (See Performing Arts.)
Julie: **D.D. Jackson** is at Scullers Jazz Club. (See Music.)

Wednesday, Aug. 16

Julie: One of our favorite parties of the year is at Dick's Last Resort tonight: **A Tribute to Elvis** commemorates his death of with a candlelight vigil and parade. (See CityScope.)
Erin: Also, the **Abbey Lounge** always has an Elvis-themed vigil. Or see the King in Club Cafe's mystery, ***The Elvis Files.*** (See Theater.)

Thursday, Aug. 17

Julie: Let your creativity run wild at **Chalk One Up for the Arts**, a sidewalk art event. (See CityScope.)
Erin: At the North End's fisherman's feast in honor of **Madonna del Soccorso**, you'll enjoy carnival rides and live bands. (See CityScope.)

Friday, Aug. 18

Julie: A bevy of musicians perform at the **Grecian Festival**, a celebration with crafts, games, a flea market and Greek cuisine in Cambridge. (See CityScope.)
Erin: The Brattle features **Hitchcock in Living Color**. Tonight's double feature is *Rear Window* and *Vertigo*. (See Film.)

Saturday, Aug. 19

Erin and **Julie**: Join Save the Harbor/Save the Bay for **SoundWaves 2000**, the region's largest floating live blues concert with five hours of live music. (See CityScope.) Also, **The Kingston Trio** is at South Shore Music Circus. (See Music.)

Sunday, Aug. 20

Erin: The **August Moon Festival** is a celebration of all things Asian—with food, dance and live music. (See CityScope.)
Julie: See the country's top gymnasts compete at the **U.S. Olympic Team Trials** at the FleetCenter. (See Sports.)

Monday, Aug. 21

Julie: **Lynn Harris** discusses her book, *Breakup Girl to the Rescue! A Superhero's Guide to Love and the Lack Thereof.* It's a humorous look at the strife that comes hand-in-hand with any relationship. (See Books & Poetry.)
Erin: Don't I know it?

Tuesday, Aug. 22

Erin: The Boston Pops Brass Quintet performs at the **Summer SOULstice Festival** at the Christian Science Plaza. (See CityScope.)
Julie: Head to Southie for **Italian Pride Night**, a festival of music, opera and comedy, along with kiddie activities and pizza. (See CityScope.)

CITYSCOPE **50** • PERFORMING ARTS **54** • ART **56** • FILM **58** • EDUCATION **61** • BOOKS & POETRY **62** • CLASSICAL MUSIC **64** • DANCE CLUBS **66** • MUSIC **68** • GAY & LESBIAN **72** • BODY & MIND **74** • CHILDREN **74** • SPORTS **74** •SALES & FASHION **76** • GO AWAY **76**.
EDITED BY: **ERIN HAGEDORN:** Art, Books & Poetry, Dance, Dance Clubs, Film, Gay & Lesbian, Go Away, Music. EDITED BY: **JULIE SHORT:** Children, CityScope, Comedy, Education, Go Away, Sales & Fashion, Sports, Tastings, Theater. ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY: • **Laurel Kirtz** Body & Mind • **Paul Sherman:** Film Capsules

Creed
This hard-rocking foursome plays at the Tweeter Center Aug. 22

SACHA WALDMAN

cityscope

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a list of festivals, events and benefits taking place in the Boston area by date.

Festivals, Events Expos & Benefits

Wednesday, August 9

Swingin' Under the Stars
South Market Street, Faneuil Hall, Boston (523-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Wednesday and Thursday evenings, 6-10pm. Through Aug. 24. Faneuil Hall Marketplace turns into an outdoor dance hall, pulsing with the beats of swing, Latin, country and disco bands.

Thursday, August 10

City Sounds: Outdoor Music Fest
Boston Center for the Arts plaza, Boston (426-7700). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay. 6-8pm. Free. A series of seven outdoor concerts will feature local artists performing international music. The Boston bands will play music from Japan, Latin America, Africa and the Caribbean. • Aug. 10: **DeAma Battle—Art of Black Dance and Music**. Dance to fast-paced music from Africa, the Caribbean and the Americas. • Aug. 17: **Mango Blue**. Take in refreshing new sounds in Afro-Latin and world music.

Harbor Visions Fun Fest
Carson Beach, Boston (788-1170). 10am-4pm. Join the Harbor Visions crew for a day of beach games and interactive environmental workshops.

Swim Across America Boston Harbor Island Swim Kick-Off Party
Sheraton Boston, 39 Dalton St., Boston (508-660-1720). www.swimacrossamerica.org. *8pm.* Join Olympic swimmers, legendary athletes and local celebrities in support of Swim Across America and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. To celebrate the next day's swim, the evening will feature music provided by Mark Morris and the Catunes and a silent auction.

Friday, August 11

Dominican Festival
Franklin Park, Boston (42-6413). Aug. 11, 5-11pm; Aug. 12, 2-11pm; Aug. 13, 12-11pm. Free. Dominicans celebrate their Independence Day with 25 live merengue, bachata and salsa bands, a parade, Dominican food and carnival rides.

Madonna della Cava Feast
Hanover and Battery streets, Boston (523-8842). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket or North Station. Aug. 11, 6:30pm; Aug. 12, 8pm and 10pm; Aug. 13, 10am. It's the 80th annual feast in honor of the Madonna della Cava. • Aug. 11: At 6:30pm, the Madonna is carried from her chapel and, after prayers and a short procession, she is carried to Hanover Street, where she will stay until Sunday evening. At 8pm and 10pm, the doo-wop sensations, Danny and the Juniors.

Swim Across America Boston Harbor Island Swim
Rowes Wharf, Boston (508-660-1720). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. 7am. Olympians and swimming legends alike will join hundreds of participants in diving into Boston Harbor to benefit cancer research for the fifth consecutive year. This 22-mile relay-style swim starts and ends at Rowes Wharf. A minimum fund-raising pledge of $1,500 is required to participate in the swim. The race will be followed by a beach party, sponsored by the MDC and KISS 108, complete with music, entertainment and free refreshments.

Saturday, August 12

Cambridge Carnival
Central Square, Cambridge (661-0457). Aug. 12-13, 1-7pm. Once again, the streets of Cambridge will be filled with elaborate costumes, a kiddies' carnival, live music, steel bands, ethnic foods and arts and crafts. • Aug. 12: There will be a steel band showcase followed by a block party in Central Square. • Aug. 13: The carnival continues with a Caribbean-style costume parade and festival featuring a costume competition, steel bands and live music. The parade begins at 1pm near the Charles River, continues up River Street and ends on Massachusetts Avenue. Afterward, the festivities continue until 7pm with food, fun and music.

Sidewalk Sam (left) encourages creativity at Chalk One Up for the Arts at City Hall Plaza Aug. 17.

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The Singles Executive Club Cocktail Party and Singles Dance
Sheraton Hotel, Trophy Room, 100 Cabot St., Exit 19 off Rte. 128, Needham (781-283-0400). 9pm-1am. $15. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres, free door prizes and music by a DJ for single professionals ages 30-55. Party all night long.

Taste of Massachusetts
Nashoba Valley Winery, 100 Wattaquadoc Hill Road, Bolton (978-779-5521). 12-5pm. $2 per taste. A day of music, cooking demos and food from more than 15 of the area's most unique farms, vendors and restaurants, paired with Nashoba Valley wine.

Sunday, August 13

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Madonna della Cava Feast
Hanover and Battery streets, Boston (523-8842). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket or North Station. Aug. 11, 6:30pm; Aug. 12, 8pm and 10pm; Aug. 13, 10am. It's the 80th annual feast in honor of the Madonna della Cava. • Aug. 13, 10am: Holy Mass in honor of the Madonna at Sacred Heart Church, North Square. 1pm: The image of the Madonna will proceed through the streets of the North End escorted by an 80-piece marching band. 5:30pm: The Classics perform.

Polish Picnic
Lady of the Holy Rosary Church, 80 Bay St., Taunton (508-823-3046). Aug. 12, 12-8pm (Mass. 11am-12pm). Mass is set to polka music at this unusual Sunday service. Afterward, the polka party features Polish specialties like pierogi and kielbasa and plenty of dancing.

Second Sundays: Wine and Jazz
Veronique Restaurant and Ballroom, 20 Chapel St., Brookline (731-4800). MBTA: D Green Line to Longwood. Aug. 13, 2-5pm. Bring your tango shoes for a lesson for young professionals taught by the Tango Society of Boston. The event features an educational wine sampling, light hors d'oeuvres and live jazz music from the George Mel Trio.

Monday, August 14

Tango by Moonlight
Weeks Memorial Footbridge, Memorial Drive, across from DeWolfe Street, east of JFK Street, near Harvard Square, Cambridge (699-6246). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. Free. Tango dancers, would-be tango dancers and spectators are welcome to dance until the moon and inspiration wane at this event presented by the Tango Society of Boston.

Tuesday, August 15

Summer SOULstice Mini Festival
Christian Science Plaza, 175 Huntington Ave., Boston (450-3131). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Through Aug. 29. Enjoy a music and arts festival every Tuesday at noon with a host of musicians, artists and storytellers. • Aug. 15, 12pm: MJT Dance Company performs. • Aug. 22: Boston Pops Brass Quintet performs. The Plantmobile will also be on hand.

Wednesday, August 16

A Tribute to Elvis
Dick's Last Resort, 55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. 8pm. To mark the anniversary of the day Elvis passed on to that big, shiny Cadillac in the sky (Aug. 16, 1977), Dick's is throwing this tribute to the King, complete with a mini-parade on Huntington Avenue, open mike karaoke sing-a-longs and non-stop Elvis flicks. Prior to the parade, there will be an outdoor patio candlelight vigil in memory of the King. Patrons are encouraged to bring their most cherished Elvis memorabilia.

Swingin' Under the Stars
Faneuil Hall, Boston (523-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Wednesday and Thursday evenings, 6-10pm. Through Aug. 24. Faneuil Hall Marketplace turns into an outdoor dance hall, pulsing with the beats of swing, Latin, country and disco bands.

Thursday, August 17

Chalk One Up for the Arts
City Hall Plaza, Boston (244-3171). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 11am-3pm. Now in its fourth year, this citywide event gives inspiring artists an opportunity to create their own chalk "masterpieces" alongside chalk artist Sidewalk Sam.

Feast of Madonna Del Soccorso
North and Fleet streets, North End, Boston (248-0343). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket or North Station. Aug. 17, 7-11pm; Aug. 18, 6-11pm; Aug. 19-20, 12-11pm. Free. At this fishermen's feast, there are carnival rides and games all day. In the evening, local bands perform. • Aug. 18, 7pm: A procession marches through the streets to Christopher Columbus Park for the Blessing of the Waters. • Aug. 20: A procession marches from 12pm until the evening with seven marching bands. At 8pm, a child flies over North Street, imitating the flight of the angel.

Friday, August 18

Feast of Madonna del Soccorso
North and Fleet streets, North End, Boston (248-0343). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket or North Station. Aug. 17, 7-11pm; Aug. 18, 6-11pm; Aug. 19-20, 12-11pm. Free. See Aug. 17 for more information.

Grecian Festival
St. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 14 Magazine St., Cambridge (876-3601). Aug. 18-19, 11am-11pm; Aug. 20, 11am-10pm. Free. Musicians perform at this festival of crafts, games, a flea market and Greek cuisine.

Saturday, August 19

Feast of Madonna del Soccorso
North and Fleet streets, North End, Boston (248-0343). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket or North Station. Aug. 19-20, 12-11pm. Free. See Aug. 17 for more information.

Grecian Festival
St. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 14 Magazine St., Cambridge (876-3601). Aug. 19, 11am-11pm; Aug. 20, 11am-10pm. Free. See Aug. 18 for more information.

Rock & Row Festival and SoundWaves 2000
Hull Lifesaving Museum, Peddock's Island, Boston (781-925-5433). 1-4pm. Learn to row at this annual music fest. Then join Save the Harbor/Save the Bay for SoundWaves 2000, the region's largest floating live blues concert. Five hours of live music featuring the region's best blues bands.

Sunday, August 20

August Moon Festival
Beach and Hudson streets, Chinatown, Boston (635-3485). MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown. 10am-6pm. A celebration of all things Asian—with food, dance and compliments to the moon.

Feast of Madonna del Soccorso
North and Fleet streets, North End, Boston (248-0343). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket or North Station. 12-11pm. Free. See Aug. 17 for more information.

Grecian Festival
St. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 14 Magazine St., Cambridge (876-3601). 11am-10pm. Free. See Aug. 17 for more information.

Tuesday, August 22

South Boston Italian Pride Night
Third Street (between I and K streets), South Boston (635-3911). 6-9pm. Free. Thousands head to Southie for this festival of music, opera and comedy, along with kiddie activities and pizza.

Summer SOULstice Mini Festival
Christian Science Plaza, 175 Huntington Ave., Boston (450-3131). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Through Aug. 29. Enjoy a music and arts festival every Tuesday at noon with a host of musicians, artists and storytellers. • Aug. 22: Boston Pops Brass Quintet performs. The Plantmobile will also be on hand.

Volunteer

Boston Cares
(263-CARE). More than 70 volunteer opportunities available in Greater Boston.

Boston Living Center
(236-1012). HIV/AIDS service organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Boston-New York AIDS Ride
(859-8282, ext. 230). Ride is Sept. 15. Volunteers needed for work on mass mailings, phone banking and other projects.

Community Servings
(445-7777). Help prepare and deliver meals for individuals and families dealing with AIDS.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

Friday Night Supper Program
Arlington Street Church, corner of Arlington and Boylston streets, Boston (536-7050, ext. 22). Need volunteers to help prepare, cook and serve meals on Fridays, 5-7pm.

The Greater Boston Food Bank
(427-5200). Groups needed to sort donated food.

Horizons Initiative
(287-1900). Volunteers needed to play with children living in shelters. Commit to two hours per week for six months. Daytime and evening hours available.

Jewish Community Volunteer Program
(558-6585). Volunteers are needed to share fun times with an isolated senior.

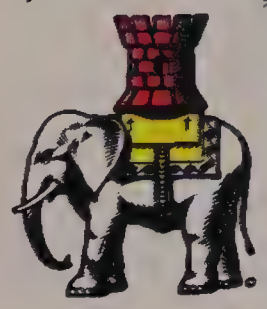
MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist elders with such tasks as reading, shopping, basic home repairs or going for a walk.

Mass. Eating Disorder Association
(558-1881). Volunteers needed for four hours per week for help line, assisting clinical staff and special events.

One with One
(254-1691). Tutor/mentor an immigrant or refugee in the Boston area to improve English skills and prepare for the American workplace. Information meetings held Aug. 17 and Aug. 30.

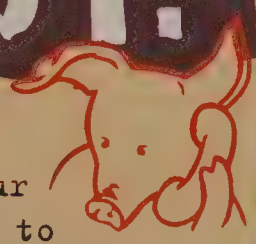
We can handle groups from 10 to 200. So when you're looking for the perfect place to throw your next office party, or hold a conference give us a call.

The Elephant and Castle



161 Devonshire Street, Boston, Ma 02110 • Between Milk & Franklin Sts.
617-423-5966 • Fax: 350-0299 • gmboston@elephantcastle.com

PIG. OUT.



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Our pitmaster will take your order (and have it ready to go out the door in minutes!).

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Hard to do, given the choice of mouth watering ribs, chicken, and beef.

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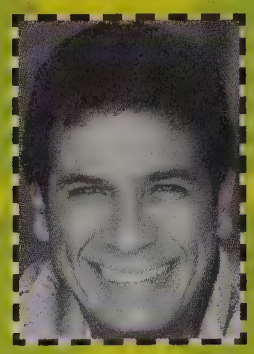
UNDERWEAR!

(Bring an extra pair!)

BRIAN REGAN
August 11-12

JAKE JOHANNSEN
August 18-19

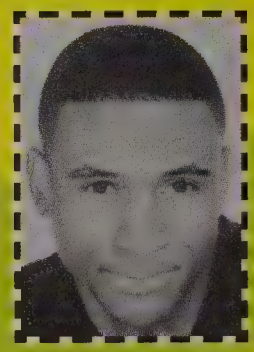
BOB SAGET
August 25-26



BOBBY COLLINS
September 15

JOE ROGAN
September 22

BOBBY SLAYTON
October 6



TOMMY DAVIDSON
October 13

DON IRRERA
October 20

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Pan-Massachusetts Challenge
(800-WE-CYCLE). www.pmc.org. Event: Aug. 5-6. Volunteers needed for the ride weekend to help with setup, registration, food service and cleanup.

Pine Street Inn
(521-7626). Seeking volunteers for the summer to serve meals and act as receptionist for homeless guests.

Ride for Hunger
(723-5000). Sept. 17, 8am and 9am. Two bicycle routes to help the hungry: 40K and 100K.

Rosie's Place
(442-9322). Volunteers needed for the dining room, clothing room, the groceries program and office work.

United Services Organization (USO)
(720-4949). Volunteers needed to welcome Navy ships, participate in hospital visits, provide office support, coordinate receptions and assist with events.

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Seeks individuals to assist legal immigrants and refugees to become naturalized citizens.

WBUR
(800-909-WBUR). Seeking volunteers to help answer phones during on-air fund-raisers.

Tours

Beacon Hill Literary Tour
The Charles Street Inn, 94 Charles St., Boston (387-4693). Saturdays, 2-3:30pm. $10. This tour will highlight the illustrious writers who lived in the neighborhood, including Louisa May Alcott, William Dean Howells, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Sylvia Plath.

Big Dig and South Boston Waterfront
Boston (426-1885). Saturdays, 11am. Through Nov. 4. $8. Observe firsthand how the Big Dig is progressing and how the waterfront is developing.

Boston Bike Tours
On Boston Common (308-5902). Daily 9:30am-6:30pm. Daily two-hour tours, Mon.-Sat. 1-3pm; 4-6pm. Low-impact, guided sightseeing tours of Boston on bicycles. Bike rentals are available.

Boston by Foot
(367-2345). www.bostonbyfoot.com. *May-October. $8.* Guided 90-minute walks highlight the architecture and history of the city.

Boston by Sea
Tours depart from Long Wharf (227-4321). Weekends until Memorial Day; daily through Oct. 9. 1pm and 3pm. $25. Against the backdrop of the sights, smells and sounds of the harbor, the cruise features live theater performances, sea shanties and video vignettes.

Boston Duck Tours
Prudential Center, Boston (723-DUCK). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. April-October. $21. The 80-minute tour on amphibious landing crafts takes groups through downtown and makes a final splash into the Charles.

Ghosts & Gravestones Tour
Meet at the Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Ave., Boston (269-7150). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Thursdays through Nov. 1 at dusk. Two hours. $29. This tour includes a walk through some of the city's burial grounds hosted by an 18th-century gravedigger.

Ghost Tours
Meet at Boston Common Visitor Information Center, 147 Tremont St., Boston (781-235-7149). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street. Selected evenings, 7:30pm. $12. Tour downtown Boston's most infamous haunted locations.

JFK's Boston
Meet at the Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Ave., Boston (269-7150). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Sundays, 1-3pm. Through Columbus Day. $30. This fully narrated tour visits the places that helped shape young Jack Kennedy into the nation's 35th president. Price includes admission to the JFK birthplace in Brookline and the JFK Library and Museum.

The Literary Trail
Tour begins at the Omni Parker House, corner of Tremont and School streets, Boston (574-5950). Saturdays, 9am-12:30pm. $35. Explore the heritage of some of the country's greatest authors, poets and social activists at eight literary historical landmarks in the Boston area.

Marine Park: A Walk on the Strand
Meet at the bandstand at the intersection of William J. Day Boulevard and Farragut Road, South Boston (566-1689, ext. 223). Aug. 20, 1pm. Free. Explore the history and design of this South Boston promenade park that Frederick Law Olmsted called "Pleasure Bay."

Young Friends of the Public Garden Tour
Meet in front of George Washington statue at Arlington Street entrance, Boston (489-1291). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Thursdays, 6-6:45pm. Through Aug. 31. Join the Young Friends of the Public Garden every week and learn about statues, sculptures, flowers and trees.

Join the procession at the 80th annual feast in honor of Maria della Cava in the North End Aug. 11-13.

Cruises

Beantown to P-Town
Long Wharf, Boston (227-4321). Boston Harbor Cruises offers high-speed catamaran service to far-off Provincetown.

Boston to Provincetown Ferry
Bay State Cruise Company (748-1428). www.baystatecruisecompany.com. This boat has been outfitted to reflect the great tradition of the steamships that have made the run since 1847.

Kennedy Museum/Little Brewster Island Package
JFK Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (929-4500). Fridays, 10am and 2pm. $29 (includes boat ride, island tour and admission to museum). Tour Little Brewster Island and then see the Kennedy Library on this 3 ½-hour tour.

Massachusetts Bay Lines
60 Rowes Wharf, Boston (542-8000). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium or Red Line to South Station. Daily 55-minute harbor tours sail Sun.-Sat. on the hour from 11am-6pm. $9. Nightly sunset cruises also available from 7-8:30pm for $16, and moonlight cruises from 8:45-10:15pm. Whale watching, daily 10am. $24. •Wednesday evenings, 7-10pm, $16: **Live Blues Cruise**. •Thursdays: **Rock n' Roll Cruise**, 7:30-10:30pm, $16.

Sights to See

Boston Tea Party Ship and Museum
Congress St. Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Open daily, March-May and Sept.-Nov., 9am-5pm; closed Dec.-March. $8, $7 students, $4 children. You can dump your own bale into the harbor—and watch a museum guide scramble to retrieve it—at this replica of one of the ships emptied by colonists (disguised as Indians) during the Dec. 16, 1773, tea raid. Afterward, enjoy a cup of tax-free tea.

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Fifth Floor, Boston (353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), Oct.-March 7:30-8:30pm; April-Sept. 8:30-9:30pm. Free. BU's astronomers are available to answer questions and assist with telescopes as you check out Orion, Cassiopeia and the Big Dipper.

Bunker Hill Monument
Monument Square, Charlestown (242-5641). Open daily 9am-5pm. Free. What's long and hard and shaped like a pencil? It's not what you think. It's the 221-foot monument that honors the men who died in the Battle of Bunker Hill. But an exhausting climb up 294 stairs reveals little more than a stunning view of I-93.

Christian Science World Headquarters
Massachusetts and Huntington avenues, Boston (450-2000). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential. Tue.-Sat. 9:30am-4pm, Sun. 11am-2pm. Tour the Mother Church—a giant basilica that seats 3,000 worshippers; a 700-foot-long reflecting pool; and a photo exhibit.

Copp's Hill Burial Ground
Hull and Snowhill Streets, Boston. MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Open dawn-dusk. Admission free. From Boston's second-oldest cemetery, you can see all the way across the Inner Harbor to Charlestown. Famous residents include the well-known Puritanical Mather family and Prince Hall, a prominent member of the free black community.

John Hancock Observatory
200 Clarendon St., Boston (572-6429). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open Mon.-Sat. 9am-11pm, Sun. 10am-11pm (May-Oct.) and noon-11pm (Nov.-April). Admission $4.50. The tallest building in New England (62 floors) offers much more than an awesome view. Listen to air-traffic controllers at Logan, test your knowledge of the city with a computer quiz, or relive some of Boston's most famous and infamous events.

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (566-7937). Wed.-Sun. 10 am-4:30pm. The birthplace and early boyhood home of the nation's 35th president.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat. 10am-2pm. Admission free. Alongside Boston's first Anglican church—a gloomy, granite apparition—you'll find a burial ground with equally ominous-looking headstones dating back to 1630. On Sundays, listen for the distinctive peal of the church bell cast by Paul Revere's foundry.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (635-3105). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Open daily 9am-5pm. Guided tours every half-hour, starting at 9am. Free. Known as the "Cradle of Liberty," Faneuil Hall—we're talking about the part above the eatery—was the site of many an angry man ranting and raving about the damn British in the mid-1700s. Today, you can check out the white-walled assembly room, but most people come here for the marketplace.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily 9 am-5pm. Free. Here, Paul Revere saw two lanterns shining on April 18, 1775, indicating that the British troops were crossing the Charles River to Lexington and Concord via boat. You remember... "One if by land, two if by sea."

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays 10am-4pm, weekends 10am-5pm. $3. A thousand fed-up men gathered in this church to decide whether or not to send three ships full of tea back to England. Guess what? They didn't. •New permanent exhibit: *Voices of Protest* traces the use of Old South Meeting House over three centuries for religious, political and social debate. Artifacts, lifelike figures and interactive exhibits illuminate how Old South has championed the right to free speech and assembly despite acts of official censorship. •Middays at the Meeting House, a lunchtime music series. Thursdays, 12:15-1pm. $4. •Aug. 19, 2pm (at Faneuil Hall): Tea Is Brewing. A historical talk and debate about the tea tax.

Paul Revere House
19 North Square, Boston (523-2338). Nov. 1-April 14, 9:30am-4:15pm; April 15-Oct. 31, 9:30am-5:15pm. Built in 1680 and owned by Paul Revere from 1770 to 1800, this house offers a self-guided tour with illustrated text panels and museum interpreters.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-10pm, Sun. noon-10pm. $4, $3 seniors and students. After that tiring, 50-floor elevator ascent, you deserve a drink at the Top of the Hub lounge before you check out Boston's only 360-degree view tower. On a good day, you can see New Hampshire. The view here is slightly better than that of rival John Hancock.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8am-6pm. Free. Designed by H.H. Richardson and constructed in 1877, the huge Romanesque church in Copley Square rests upon 4,500 submerged wooden pilings, which help hold up the church's massive tower. On Fridays at 12:15pm, stop by for a free organ concert.

Museums

Boston Tea Party Ship & Museum
Congress Street Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. March-Nov., 9am-dusk. $7, $5.50 students, $3.50. Colonial-clad sailors take you aboard *The Beaver*, a replica of the smallest of the three ships involved in the infamous tea rebellion. Paul Revere leads the hourly tea throwing and explains all about the fateful day irate Bostonians poured out the tea in protest of the tax decree issued by British parliament. Try your hand at rope-tying too.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June Tue.-Sat. 10 am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm; June-Aug. daily 10am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm. $5, children and seniors $3: Follow the red and white signs to the mother of all milk bottles. As you walk under it you'll feel as diminutive as your munchkin companion. See *Arthur's World* from the popular television series and children's books. This infamous aardvark is one of many hands-on favorites. •**Construction Zone!** Dig, tunnel, build (and tear down!) in this new exhibition inspired by the Big Dig.

Harriet Tubman House
566 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-8610). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. Weekdays 8am-8pm. Free admission. The Harriet Tubman Museum exhibits a collection of this influential black leader's achievements.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (929-4523). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily 9am-5pm (last film begins at 3:55pm). $8, students and seniors $6, children $4. This permanent collection on the life and legacy of President John F. Kennedy offers a re-created world of the early 1960s with period settings and 25 dramatic multimedia exhibits. Visitors experience firsthand the challenges faced by America during Kennedy's presidency. *John Glenn and the Space Race*, an exhibit about the man with the mission is now showing. •*Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy: First Lady*. Ongoing. •*Treasures of the Kennedy Library.* A selection of the treasures, including sculpture, jewelry, paintings and documents. Through May 2000. •*Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy*. New ongoing exhibit. •Opened May 27: *Jacqueline Kennedy Travels Abroad.* A special exhibit on items presented to the former First Lady on her travels to Paris, London, Rome, India and Pakistan. Through Nov. 1. •Opened June 3: *John F. Kennedy—Man of the Sea*. This exhibit documents JFK's naval career and celebrates his lifelong love of the sea and sailing.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (739-1200) www.afroammuseum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays 10am-4pm. $5.* The place is bustling after its recent endowment of more than $1 million to restore the meeting house's hallowed sanctuary. See the African Meeting House, the oldest black church in America.

Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 9am-5pm; Sun. 9am-5pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun. 9am-12pm.* This Harvard museum is made up of four factions: The **Botanical Museum**, **The Museum of Comparative Zoology**, the **Mineral & Geological Museum**, and the **Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology**. A number of exhibitions tie together all four of these distinct collections. The most famous is the Botanical Museum for its glass flowers collection—more than 3,000 models of more than 480 plant species. At the Museum of Comparative Zoology, check out the 42-foot-long mounted Kronosaurus (a really big lizard) and countless stuffed insects. The Mineral & Geological Museum's got a 16,000-pound Brazilian amethyst geode, and there's the dollhouse-esque Worlds in Miniature display at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnography. •New at the Peabody: *Heads and Tales: Adornments from Africa*. African people have developed hairstyles, headdresses, hats and many artifacts of visual interest to communicate messages to their friends and community about themselves and their society. •New at the Harvard Museum of Natural History: a 1 million-year-old saber-toothed cat.

Museum of Our National Heritage
33 Marrett Road, Route 2A, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.mnh.org. *Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 12-5pm. Free admission.* Explore history through pop culture. Topics range from Revolutionary artifacts to the latest in jigsaw-puzzle-solving techniques and American circus posters. •Opened June 24: *The Enchanted Clocks of George McFadden*. The museum presents a selection of 12 of these whimsical and charming timepieces. •Opening July 21: *Made in Massachusetts*. See items commonly found in Massachusetts homes during the last three centuries.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu. 9am-5pm; Fri. 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children. Omni Theater, Hayden Planetarium or laser shows all $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children.* Find out how much you weigh on the moon, strap yourself into a space module or sift through sand on an archaeological dig. Enjoy 600 hands-on exhibits, including the *Theater of Electricity*, *Seeing Is Deceiving* and *Science in the Park* (Newtonian physics introduced through such accessible items as playground equipment and skateboards). •*T Rex Exhibition*. July 2-September 2000. "Sue" is a fully mounted cast of the largest and most complete Tyrannosaurus ever unearthed. •Ongoing at the Mugar Omni Theater: *Dolphins* and *Michael Jordan to the Max*. Now opened: *The Magic of Flight*. Experience the thrill of flight and jet aircraft technology.

Charles Hayden Planetarium
Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children. Time of show changes daily.* Get high! High up, that is. And (then) go see the stars and rock-music laser shows. Check out the ongoing out-of-this- world multimedia installations *Life and Death of the Sun* and *The Sky Tonight*, and enjoy daily laser shows to the music of the Beastie Boys, Pink Floyd, Korn, Tool, Jimi Hendrix, Nine Inch Nails, among others. It's a trip. •Friday Night Stargazing, 8:30-10pm. Free. Weather permitting. •*Catastrophes in Space—When Stars End Their Lives.*

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St. (in Larz Anderson Park), Brookline (522-6547). MBTA: D Green Line to Reservoir, to bus 51. April-Oct., Wed.-Sun. 10am-5pm; Nov.-March, Wed.-Sun. 10am-4pm. $5. This 1888 carriage house is the automobile buff's paradise—and the country's oldest private collection of antique autos. Featured cars range from Fords and Corvettes to Cadillacs and Italian imports. Lawn events are held on Sundays, 10am-2pm, with food, refreshments, picnic areas, judging of cars and museum exhibits. •Aug. 13: **Bicycle Day**. •Aug. 20: **Packard Day**.

City Sounds Outdoor Music Fest at the BCAE features international performers Aug. 10.

Nichols House Museum
55 Mount Vernon St., Boston (227-6993) Tues.-Sat. 12:15-4:15pm; guided tours on the half hour. $5 adults, children under 12 free admission. This house offers a glimpse into 19th- and early 20th-century life on historic Beacon Hill.

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (720-3290). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily 9am-5pm. $3, students and seniors $2. Built in 1713, this original seat of colonial government was the place pre-Independence Bostonians first heard the Declaration of Independence read. •Opened March 31: ***Burning Issues: A History of Boston Through Fire***. This exhibit considers the significance of eight fire events in Boston's history with interactive experiences for the family.

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (426-1812). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, bus 93 to Navy Yard. Nov.-April 30: Open daily 10am-5pm. Free. The stories of the individuals who authorized, built and served on the *USS Constitution*, the oldest commissioned warship afloat. Learn about its 200-year history hands on—hoist a sail, take the wheel, fire a cannon or swing in a hammock.

Zoos & Gardens

Arnold Arboretum
125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain (524-1718). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open weekdays: 9am-4pm, weekends: 12-4pm. Free. More than 14,000 exotic trees, shrubs and flowers make this the place to go when you need to escape the hustle and bustle of city life.

Franklin Park Zoo
1 Franklin Park Road, Boston (541-LION). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open Oct.-March daily 10am-4pm; April-Sept. weekdays 10am-5pm, weekends and holidays 10am-6pm. Admission $7, senior $6, children (ages 2-15) $4. A 72-acre oasis of green in the city with waterfalls, lush vegetation, gorillas, leopards, hippos and free-flying birds. •Opened May 27: **Butterfly Landing** with 1,000 butterflies representing 40 North American species. The celebration will also include visits with animals and children's arts and crafts. •Opened May 28: **The Farmyard**. Mosey on down to the zoo for that down-on-the-farm feel right in the middle of the city.

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard, transfer to #71 or #73 bus. Open daily 8am-7pm (summer) and 8am-5pm (winter). Admission free. Rest in peace among the grave sites and crypts of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes, "Battle Hymn of the Republic" author Julia Ward Howe and Winslow Homer, among other famous Americans.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (973-5200). www.neaq. org. *MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Early Sept.-June: Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. and holidays 9am-6pm. $12.50.* Boston's biggest fish bowl has much more than just goldfish. In the three-story saltwater tank swim turtles, sharks, eels and the occasional mermaid (or mer-male), who entertains crowds as she or he cleans the tank. Be sure to visit with the seals on your way in and out of the aquarium. •*Storm Over Stellwagen*, a new 15-minute, interactive multimedia production, allows you to control the outcome of the film. •***Unforgettable Boston***: This movie highlights many of Boston's favorite landmarks. $4. •Opened April 15: ***Nyanja! Africa's Inland Sea*** opens. This exhibit features East Africa's Lake Victoria, the world's second-largest lake, telling a story of the people, biodiversity, fisheries, history and future of the lake.

Roger Williams Park Zoo
1000 Elmwood Ave., Providence, R.I. (401-785-3510). South on 1-95 from Providence to exit 17 (Elmwood Ave.). $6, $3.50 seniors and children. Open every day except Dec. 25. Nov.-March 9am-4pm. April-Oct. 9am-5pm. Lions and tigers and a 150-pound baby polar bear named Triton. Oh my! More than 600 birds and mammals inhabit the African plains and rain forests. •Opened May 13: **Fleet Dinosaurs! A Journey to Extinction**. See 22 larger-than-life prehistoric creatures hunt their prey, roar a challenge and nurture their young, all in an authentic prehistoric landscape.

Stone Zoo
149 Pond St., Stoneham, Rte. 93 North, Exit 34 (781-438-5100). Mon.-Fri. 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. and holidays 10am-6pm. $6 adults, $4 children. There's still plenty to see here—even though everybody favorite polar bear has passed on to that iceberg in the sky. •What in the World Is It? A maze with five mystery animal stations. Find your way in and then try to find your way out. •Opened May 27: **Snowy Owl Creek**. This new exhibit brings you on a trek through the tundra and the Canadian north woods. Discover lynx, snowy owls, arctic fox, bald eagles and a trio of reindeer in a new habitat.

performing arts

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Theater. Or e-mail information to performing@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Theater

JUST OPENED

Berkshire Theatre Festival
Stockbridge, Mass. (413-298-5536). Mon.-Sat. 8:30pm. $18. •Main Stage, through Aug. 12: ***The Shadow of Greatness***. Richard Chamberlain is Allen Perry, a renowned and tormented playwright desperate to extricate himself from his tumultuous notoriety. •Main Stage, Aug. 15-Sept. 2: **Say Yes!** It's 1940 and the quirky characters are off to the New York World's Fair. What ensues will change their lives forever. •Unicorn Theatre, through Aug. 26: **The Einstein Project**. This play moves back and forth from the 1930s to 1945, from Germany to America to a small farm house on the outskirts of Cambridge, England, where German atomic scientists are prisoners of the Allies. Where does science end and the human being begin?

Chic and Sassy: The Higher the Hair, the Closer to God
International Society, Tremont Theatre, 276 Tremont St., Boston (542-4599). Fridays and Saturdays, through Aug. 26. $15. Revisit Chic and Sassy for a look into their lives back in their hometown of Little Rock, Texas. Follow these "girls," Chic Ana and Miss Sassy, as they enter a playwriting contest to win the money and notoriety they need to escape their dreary trailer-park lives. Meet the wacky locals as this pair of naive, fresh-faced drag queens love, laugh and fight like crazy to get out of Dodge.

Forbidden Broadway
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly, Mass. (978-921-6351). Aug. 19, 8pm. Now in its triumphant 15th year off-Broadway, the spoof known as *Forbidden Broadway* presents a whole new show targeting Broadway's hottest musicals, including *The Lion King*, *Miss Saigon*, *Rent*, *Show Boat*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Chicago*, *Cats* and *A Chorus Line*.

Gypsy
The Publick Theatre, on the Banks of the Charles River, Soldiers Field Road, Boston (782-5425). Wed.-Sun. 8pm. Through Sept. 3. $20-$24. This musical fable details the memoirs of Gypsy Rose Lee and takes a nostalgic look at Vaudeville, burlesque, motherhood and the path of stardom. You'll recognize such favorite songs as "Everything's Comin' Up Roses" and "Let Me Entertain You."

The Illusion
Company One, Black Box Theater, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Through Sept. 2. $18. A heartbroken father, Pridament, seeks news of his long-lost son as he travels to the cavernous dwellings of the magician, Alcandre. The journey begins as the sorcerer conjures up three different episodes from the young boy's life. Inexplicably, each scene finds the boy in a somewhat different world: names change, allegiances shift and fairy tale simplicity evolves into elegant tragedy. Written by Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning playwright Tony Kushner.

Master Class
Centre Stage, Black Box Theater, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Aug. 7-20. Maria Callas reveals her life story in flashback form to her students in a master class.

Peter Pan
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly, Mass. (978-921-6351). Tue., 8pm; Wed., 2pm and 8pm; Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2pm and 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Through Aug. 13. $18-$56. Cathy Rigby stars in this exhilarating production that follows the story of Peter and his series of adventures with the Darling children, Tinker Bell and the evil Captain Hook. The memorable score includes "Never Land."

promises.com
Gloucester Stage Company, 267 East Main St., Gloucester (978-282-1350). Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Aug. 9-Sept. 3. $20-$30. Set in the world of research medicine, director Israel Horovitz's world premiere is about love, integrity, promises and compromise.

Shakespeare & Company's summer theater festival features *Jack and Jill* through Oct. 15.

Sam Shepard's Action & Killer's Head
Lyric Stage, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Aug. 9-12, Aug. 16-19: 8pm; Aug. 12 and 19, 4pm; Aug. 13, 3pm. $21. ***Action***, Shepard's tribute to Samuel Beckett highlights the failed attempts of four survivors who attempt to re-create society through daily routine in a post-apocalyptic world. ***Killer's Head***, its companion piece, captures the final thoughts of a condemned man moments before his execution, reminiscent of Shakespearean soliloquies.

The Sound of Music
Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton (244-0169). Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Through Aug. 20. $21. The hills of Newton are alive with the sound of music.

NOW RUNNING

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 7pm and 10pm; Sun., 3pm and 6pm. $39-$49. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to get its point across with tribal rock music, performance art, humorous antics, props (including plastic tubes and Twinkies) and three men painted blue.

Shakespeare & Company
Shakespeare & Company, The Mount, Lenox, Mass. (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. *Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 3:30pm and 8pm; Sun., 3:30pm.* •***The Wharton One-Acts***: Through Sept. 2. Two plays by Edith Wharton kick off the 2000 performance season. •*The View Beyond:* Mrs. Manstey, an elderly woman who has lived alone without sight for 12 years, still enjoys her "view" of a small garden outside her window. Despite its current deterioration, she remembers the garden in full bloom—her reason for being. When the landlady tells her that a wall must replace the vista, Mrs. Manstey glimpses an afterlife that offers her a more remarkable view beyond the garden. •*Oh! Mr. Chekhov!:* Alexi Markovitch pursues love and connubial bliss with Olya, Zoe and Zhenya. The ups and downs of courtship provide laughter and insight in this witty farce. •***Much Ado About Nothing***: Through Sept. 3. Don Pedro and his men discover the wars they return home from are not nearly as dangerous as the verbal barbs of the Messina ladies. The nihilistic Benedick is more than matched by the enigmatic Beatrice, both in varying states of denial of their passion for each other. •***Romeo and Juliet***: Through Sept. 2. The classic love story in the romantic setting of the outdoor amphitheater under the white pines. •***Jack and Jill***: Through Oct. 15. Jane Martin mines the subtle and often treacherous depths of modern wedlock from uncomfortable introduction, into romance, through marriage and beyond. •***Coriolanus***: Through Sept. 3. Shakespeare's final tragedy grapples with modern politics and the ethics of popularity. •***The Winter's Tale***: Aug. 12-Sept. 3. The baby Perdita, though tossed from her home, matures to an age of love and reason as she redeems her father Leontes' mad jealousy and witnesses a human regeneration still wondrous on today's stage. •**The Eighth Annual Studio Festival of Plays**: Aug. 22-Sept. 3. Get a preview of what the company is considering for next season.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat., 6:30pm and 9:30pm; Sun., 3pm and 7:30pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This hilarious whodunit is set in a unisex hair salon. The production holds the record as the longest-running play in the history of Boston theater.

The Tempest
The Boston Common, Parkman Bandstand, Boston (423-7600). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 7pm. Through Aug. 13. Pack up a picnic, grab a blanket and settle yourself on the grass of the Boston Common. This summer's offering of Shakespeare on the Common is *The Tempest*, Shakespeare's tale of enchantment and love. Watch the story of Prospero, the deposed Duke of Milan, his daughter Miranda, and Ariel and Caliban, the inhabitants of the island to which Prospero is banished. Drawing on traditions as diverse as African storytelling, Japanese Butoh dance, Italian *commedia dell' arte* and the spirit of Carnival, the production will create a swirl of music, movement and theatricality.

CABARET

Love Songs: From Heaven to Hell and Back
56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789, ext. 1). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Aug. 12, 8pm. Julie McVay sings the ups and downs of love. Whether you're dewy-eyed with new love, starting or ending a relationship or are stuck in co-dependency, there's a song written about it.

COMING SOON

Grease
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2pm and 8pm; Sun., 2pm and 7pm. Sept. 12-17. $27-$62. Grab that poodle skirt, slick back your hair and get ready to rock 'n' roll '50s-style when this hit musical hits town.

The King Stag
American Repertory Theatre, Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (495-2668). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Sept. 14-28. An 18th-century fairy tale—complete with costumes, puppets, masks and choreography—for adults and children.

Seussical
The Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (426-9366). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Aug. 27-Sept. 17. This musical weaves together many of Dr. Seuss' most famous stories and characters in unexpected ways.

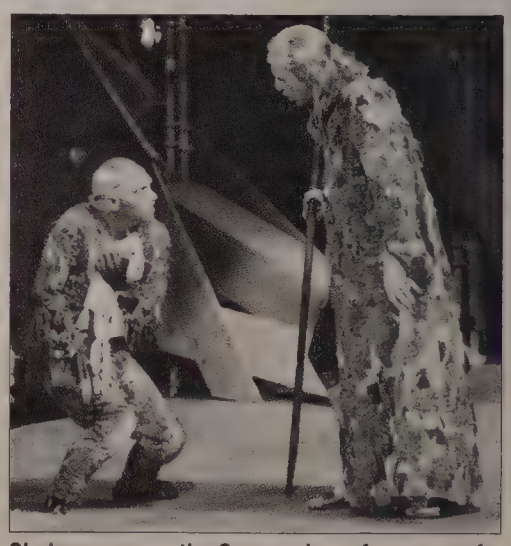
INTERACTIVE THEATER

Elvis Files
Club Cabaret at Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave., South End, Boston (738-2967). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Aug. 16, 7:30pm. $25 (includes light dinner and show). Find out what really happened to "The King" in this interactive intergalactic murder mystery. Watch special agents Wolf Molder and Deena Sully team up with Lt. Colombus to help solve "the crime scene of the millennium." The guest list includes celebrity look-a-likes Madonna, Cher, Michael Jackson, Austin Powers, Joan Quivers and the guest of honor, "The King."

Medieval Manor
246 East Berkeley St., Boston (423-4900). Red Line to Broadway. Mon., Wed., Thu., Fri., 8pm; Sat., 5pm and 9:30pm; Sun., 6pm. Ongoing. $9.60-$32. Eat, drink and be merry at a Renaissance dining experience. Don't worry about etiquette. You won't find knives and forks, and the soup of the day is in your face—literally. Dress down for this one-of-a-kind experience.

Mystery Cafe
290 Congress St., Boston (781-320-0040). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Dinner and show: Fri. 7:30pm; Sat. 7pm. Ongoing. $36 (all inclusive). Saturdays: The interactive murder mystery, *Murder on the Campaign Trail*, is a comedic mystery parody of Campaign 2000.

Mystery Cruise: Murder on the Ocean Queen
Ft. Independence, Long Wharf, Boston (781-320-0040). Cruise departs Saturdays, 8pm. $49/person, includes dinner and cruise. Gather clues during a Harbor cruise, meet characters and interrogate suspects as you attempt to piece together the answer to the mystery.



Shakespeare on the Common's performance of *The Tempest* plays through Aug. 13.

KEVIN SPRAGUE

Dance

SHOWS AND EVENTS

Alankaram: Explorations In Dance and Music
MIT's Kresge Auditorium, Amherst Avenue, Cambridge (253-3913). Aug. 12, 8pm. $10-$35. Dancers, musicians, choreographers and composers from India, Finland and the United States will unite in an innovative and refreshing celebration of Indian dance. Alankram will feature music by Finnish composer Frank Carlberg, performed live by Indian-born jazz vocalist Christine Corea and percussionist Mike Sarin. Jazz and world music group Natraj will also captivate the crowd with its exotic textures and rhythmic energy in this joint-company production.

Blast!
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2pm and 8pm; Sun., 2pm and 7pm. Aug. 22-27, 8pm. $25-$65. Originating on athletic fields across the nation, *Blast!* is a novel art form evolved from the showmanship of outdoor pageantry. It's music in motion. Ranging from classical to the blues, it incorporates jazz, rock 'n' roll and techno-pop. Imagine a marching band with hunky musicians, electronic keyboards and perfectly synchronized, ballet-like drills.

Boston and Brooklyn
Longwood Towers, 20 Chapel St., Brookline (731-4800). Aug. 18, 9pm. $10. An evening of dancing plus a live show by international Latin champions Chris Johnston and Victor Kanevsky. Watch these dance legends prove that their rhythmic fire is still going strong.

Lava Love
MassMoCA, 87 Marshall St., North Adams (413-662-2111). Aug. 19, 8pm. $12-$16. Witness the explosive energy of fearless performers, Lava Love. Choreographer Sarah East Johnson's seven-woman troupe challenges conventional ideas about gender through high-energy dance, gymnastics and trapeze acrobatics.

Tango By Moonlight
Weeks Memorial Footbridge, Memorial Drive, across from DeWolfe Street, east of JFK Street, near Harvard Square, Cambridge (699-6246). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. Free. Tango dancers, would-be tango dancers and spectators are welcome to dance until the moon and inspiration wane at this event presented by the Tango Society of Boston.

JOIN IN

Club Joy
533 Washington Street, Boston (354-5780). Saturday nights. This Latin night spot now offers classes: salsa, merengue, bachata and more.

Dance Friday
Rug Cutter's Studio, 23 Main St., Watertown Square (924-7276). Fridays, 8:30pm-12am. $7 adults, $4 teens, children free. Join in the dancing to all types of music—even dance barefoot—in this family-friendly, smoke- and alcohol-free environment.

Folk Tuesdays
Copley Square, Boston (491-2102). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tuesdays, through Aug. 29. Free. Come celebrate the 30th year of the international folk dance series at Copley Square. Bring a partner, learn new steps and dance the night away.

Four on the Floor
Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. •Saturdays, 9pm-1:30am, $12, $10 after 11:30pm. Join in a variety of dance moves—here you'll find jazzy mambos, swing dancing, cheeky cha chas and sassy salsa numbers.

Just Swing It
Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Inman Square, Cambridge (266-2258). Tuesdays, 10pm-1:30am. $6. Ages 19 and older. Featuring the Black Tie Affair Orchestra, this will be a great night of swing dancing. Dancers are encouraged to bring their own music, and swing dance jams will take place.

Swingin' Under the Stars
South Market Street, Faneuil Hall, Boston (523-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 6pm-10pm. Through Aug. 24. Faneuil Hall Marketplace turns into an outdoor dance hall, pulsing with the beats of swing, Latin, country and disco bands.

Swing Lessons
MIT campus, 105 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (864-4120). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. Tuesdays, August 1, 8, 15 only. $9 lesson/$24 workshop. Learn the moves from a professional dance instructor. No experience or partner necessary.

Tango Rialto
Rialto, Charles Hotel, One Bennett Street, Cambridge (661-5050). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thursdays, 10:30pm-1:30am. $10. One of Boston's most popular restaurants, Rialto in Harvard Square opens its doors to tango dancers of all levels and backgrounds for nights of light hors d'oeuvres and lots of dancing.

Richard Chamberlain is Allen Perry, a renowned and tormented playwright desperate to extricate himself from his tumultuous notoriety, in *The Shadow of Greatness* at the Berkshire Theatre Festival.

Free tango lessons are available every Thursday at the Wellbridge Fitness Center (adjacent to the Charles Hotel) prior to "Tango Rialto"—so get those dancing shoes ready.

TICKETS

Bostix
(723-5181) www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of Faneuil Hall); Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth); and Harvard Square (in the Holyoke Center arcade at 1350 Mass. Ave).* Same-day tickets half-price.

Next Ticketing
(423-NEXT). www.boston.com/next.

Ticketmaster
(931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(247-1300 or 800-442-1854). A good place to get tickets if a show is sold out at the box office.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail info. to comedy@improper.com. *Include address, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a description of the performances or comedians. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (248-9700). www.comedyconnectionboston. com. *MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed., 8pm; Thu., 8:30pm; Fri. and Sat., 8pm, 10:15pm; Sun., 7pm. $8-$10 (weekend prices vary).* The oldest comedy club in Boston draws big-name, national comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •Aug. 9: Comedy Central Laugh Riot •Aug. 10, 8:30pm, $12: Frank Santos, the "R-Rated Hypnotist" •Aug. 11-12, 8:15pm and 10:30pm, $19: **Brian Regan** from Showtime's *What's Wrong with the Regan Boy?* •Aug. 13, 9:15pm, $12/$15: Black Comedy Explosion hosted by Jonathon Gates •Aug. 14: Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox •Aug. 15: Robbie Printz •Aug. 16: Don Gavin •Aug. 17, 8:30pm, $12: Frank Santos, the "R-Rated Hypnotist" •Aug. 18-19, 8:15pm and 10:30pm, $15-$18: **Jake Johannsen** of *The Tonight Show* and *Politically Incorrect* •Aug. 20, 9:15pm, $12-$15: Black Comedy Explosion •Aug. 21: Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox •Aug. 22: Robbie Printz

The Comedy Studio at the Hong Kong
1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu.-Sun. 8pm. $5-$7. Sketch comedy troupes and local comedians perform. •Aug. 10: Malene Welch, Shelby Sims and Ellen Stone, with sketch comedy by the Paradox Players. • Aug. 11: PS Absurdo sketch and video comedy with guests Mike Arlington and Marlene Welch. •Aug. 12: Rick Jenkins hosts Lenny Hoffman, John Bussey and Malene Welch. •Aug. 13: Tony V and Eugene's Indie Film Night with special guest Terry Catchpole. •Aug. 17: Tim McIntire's Thursday Night Fights with guests Shane Kinney, Mike Dorval and Steve Walsh. •Aug. 18: Eugene and Brendon host Brian Kiley, writer of the *Conan O'Brien Show*. •Aug. 19: Jim DeCroteau returns with special guest Brian Kiley. •Aug. 20: Tony V and Eugene with guests "Thank Gladys" and Amanda Hall.

Dick Doherty' Comedy Vault
Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun., 9pm. $10. Features local stand-up comedians. Thursdays: Stand-up comedy. Fridays and Saturdays: Dick Doherty's Comedy Pro Tour. Sundays: Open-mike night.

Nick's Comedy Stop
100 Warrenton St., Boston (482-0930). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Fri. 8:30pm; Sat. 7:45pm and 10pm; Sun. 8pm. $10-$15. The talent here is not quite as big-name as the Comedy Connection, but the crowds are just as enthusiastic, and you're guaranteed to leave with a smile on your face. Wednesdays: Open mike at 8:30pm. •Aug. 10, 8:30pm: Tony V, Todd Parker and Dan Miller. •Aug. 11, 8:45pm: Tony V, Todd Parker and Dan Miller. •Aug. 12, 8:45pm: Tony V, Todd Parker and Dan Miller. •Aug. 17, 8:30pm: Mike McCarthy, Robbie Printz and John Fish. •Aug. 18, 8:45pm: Mike McCarthy, Robbie Printz and John Fish. •Aug. 19, 8:45pm: Mike McCarthy, Robbie Printz and John Fish.

IMPROVISATIONAL COMEDY & MAGIC

Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston (263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Shows: Thu. 8pm; Fri. and Sat. 8p m and 10pm. Main Stage: $10-$15. Now playing on the main stage is the critically acclaimed improvisational and sketch comedy show—voted one of Boston's best improvisational comedy troupes. •Wednesdays, 8pm: The Improv Asylum Training Center graduate show, Gary's Pocket, followed by the Improv Asylum Touring Company. $10.

ImprovBoston at Back Alley Theater
1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1253). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe makes things up as they go along. Fri.-Sat. 8pm ($12) and 10:30pm ($12). Sun, 2pm ($7). •Fridays and Saturdays: 90 minutes of wholesome fun with scenes, games, original music and lots of audience participation • Thursdays, 8pm: Sitcom. A fully improvised show based on suggestions from the studio audience and an onstage computer. 10pm: Open Improv Jam. All visitors of any skill level are invited to participate in a no-pressure, fun-filled atmosphere where everybody gets to play. •Fridays, 8pm: ImprovBoston. 10:30pm: Theatre Sports Boston vs. Sitcom. Best-of-five match. •Saturdays, 8pm and 10:30pm: ImprovBoston.

Magicians & Spirits at the Green Street Grill
280 Green St., Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Shows every Tuesday at 9pm. $10 cabaret show ($5 with dinner). Patrons enjoy close-up magic as two or three magicians perform tricks among the crowd. At 10pm, the cabaret show begins upstairs with local and national magicians reading minds, making birds appear out of nowhere and levitating objects onstage.

COMEDY SHOWS

Battle of the Sexes
290 Congress St., Boston (426-1999). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Saturdays 10:30pm. $15-$18. A participatory comedy.

Comedy at the Isle
The Emerald Isle Bar and Lounge, 1501 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester (288-3481). MBTA: Red Line to Fields Corner. Thursdays 8-10pm. Free. Stand-up open mike night hosted by Keith Mahoney.

Joey & Maria's Comedy Wedding
Tremont House Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Fri. and Sat., 7:30pm. Ongoing. $39-$45. Join the fun at this absolutely zany Italian wedding. Big hair and blue tuxedos optional.

Murder on the Campaign Trail
Mystery Cafe Dinner Theater, 290 Congress St., Boston (781) 793-9700. Fridays at 7:30pm; Saturdays at 7pm. Ongoing. $36 (Includes dinner and show). See this mystery parody of Campaign 2000—complete with unctuous politicians.

art

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information for gallery and museum listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail to arts@improper.com. *Include opening and closing dates, nearest T stop, price of admission, if any, and telephone numbers. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a partial list of the largest art museums, art institutes and galleries in the Boston area. The • symbol denotes a temporary exhibition.

Museums

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat. 10am-12pm. The Sackler houses ancient Islamic and Asian art, an array of Neolithic bronze Buddhas, Greek pottery, and Hellenistic and Roman sculpture. •*Wall Drawing #830* features four isometric figures with dynamic colors. Ongoing.

Boston Public Library
900 Boylston St., Boston (542-4000). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. •Carolyn Muskat's *Vessels Reconsidered,* prints and mixed media, shows in the South End Gallery through Sept. 7. •*Ex Libris* highlights the work of some of the finest printers and artists in the world. Bookplate art reflects a wide range of styles and techniques, and the exhibit also focuses on book design, illustration and printing. Through Aug. 31.

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park
51 Sandy Pond Rd., Lincoln (781-259-8355). •*The DeCordova Annual Exhibition* features 10 New England artists and their distinct work in various media. Through Sept. 4.

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat. 10am-12pm. It's better to visit the Fogg the same day you go to the Sackler, as admission includes all of Harvard's museums. Highlights include Van Gogh's self-portrait and Bermini's clay figures. •A show of Japanese photographer Daido Moriyama's work includes nearly 200 black-and-white photographs of post-war Japan is now on display. •*Mondrian: The Transatlantic Paintings* is the result of a collaboration between the Fogg Art Museum and the Straus Center for Conservation. The exhibition brings together works from major American and European collections, including the Tate Modern, Museum of Modern Art and the Kimbell Art Museum.

Gibson House Museum
137 Beacon St., Boston (267-6338). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Guided tours every Sat. and Sun. at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm. $5. With 75 percent of its original items in place, the museum allows visitors to understand 19th-century domestic life and design. Ongoing.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (266-5152). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Wed.-Sun. 12-5pm; Thu. 12-9pm. $6, $4 students and seniors. •*Art on the Emerald Necklace* will be performed throughout the nine parks and greenways designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. The exhibit includes Barnaby Evans' *Moving Water* and will run through Aug. 20. •In the group exhibition *From a Distance: Approaching Landscape*, artists investigate new approaches of questioning landscapes and topography using sculpture, video and works on paper. Through Oct. 8. •Free guided walkthroughs take place each Thursday at 6:30pm.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (566-1401). www.boston.com/gardner. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun. 11am-5pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, under 18 free. Guided on Fridays 2:30pm.* This 15th-century Venetian palace is home to more than 2,500 objects and twice as many flowers. Boston's most famous museum is named for the house's owner, Isabella Stewart Gardner (1840-1924), an infamously incorrigible individualist. Only after her death was her house completely opened to the public. Now everyone can see the works of Titian, Botticelli and Matisse, as well as furniture and architectural details from European churches and palaces.

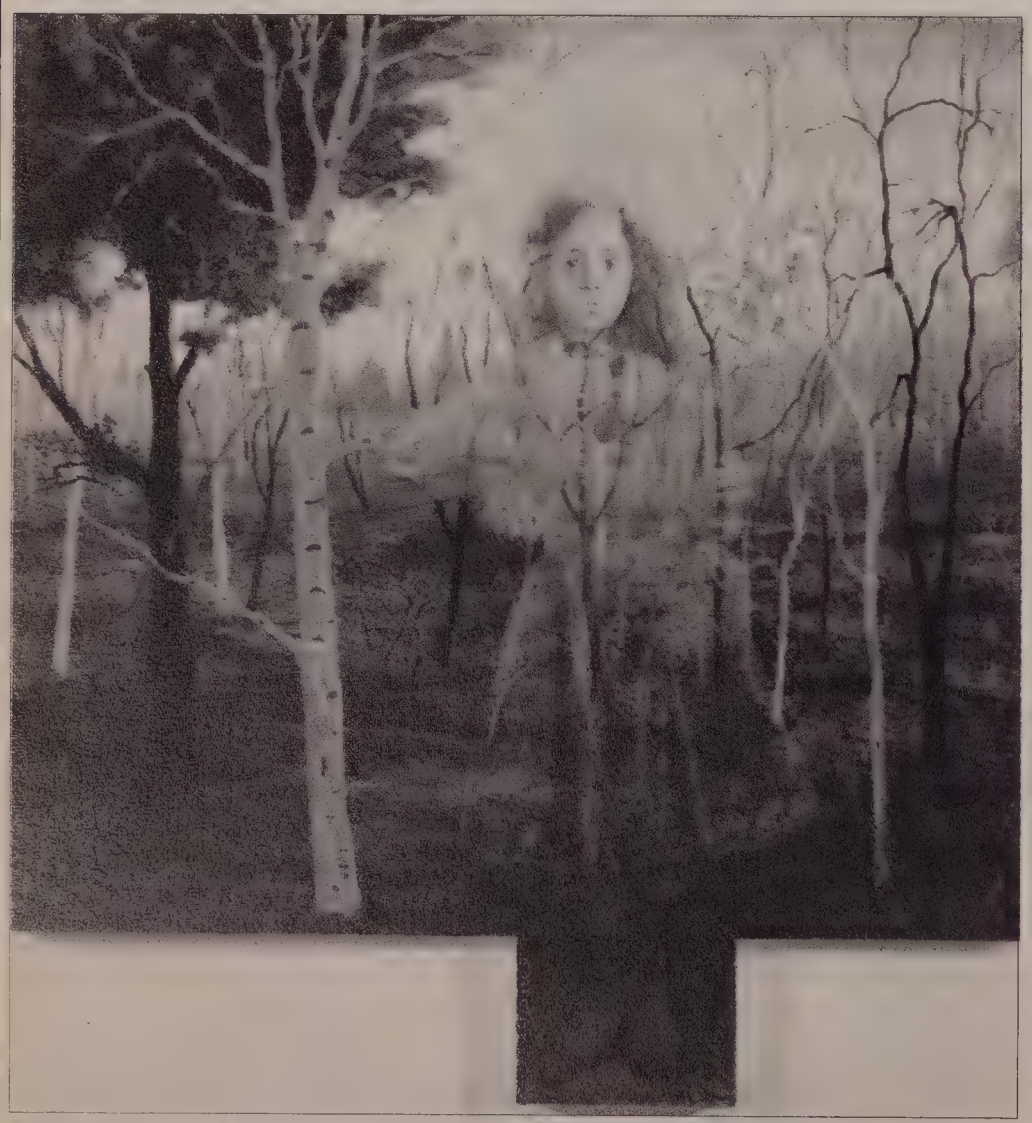
MIT Museum
265 Mass Ave., Cambridge (253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5pm, weekends 12-5pm. $3, $1 for students, seniors and children. Where else would you be but at MIT when you contemplate Morton G. Bradley Jr.'s *Math in 3-D: Geometric Sculptures?* The museum's other permanent exhibits include *Flashes of Inspiration: The Work of Harold Edgerton*, and *Gestural Engineering* and *Cultural Engineering: The Sculptures of Arthur Ganson*, the mechanical engineer/choreographer. •On the last Sunday of the month, explore oceanography, astronomy, the science of buildings and other mysteries of science with interactive activities for all ages from 2-4pm, no reservations required. Call 452-2827 for details.

Museum of Bad Art
580 High St., Dedham (325-8224). Mon.-Fri. 6:30-10pm, Sat. and Sun. 1-10pm. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. The one and only museum that boasts "art too bad to be ignored." A favorite is *Lady Chardonnay*, a piece illuminating a poodle-head dancer.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Mon.-Tue. 10am-4:45pm; Wed. 10am-9:45pm, Thu.-Fri. 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. 10am-5:45pm. West Wing only Thu.-Fri. 5-9:45pm. $12, students and seniors $10.* The MFA has earned its rep as the second-best-run art museum in the nation (after the Metropolitan Museum of Art) with its top-notch exhibitions, educational programs and galleries of African, Oceanic and American art. •*Vietnamese Ceramics*, the glazed ceramic tradition of Vietnam, represents one of the most important remaining cultural legacies of Vietnam's history. Ongoing. •*Van Gogh: Face to Face* displays through Sept. 24. •*Van Gogh to Mondrian: Dutch Works on Paper*, brings together 100 works on paper by more than 40 Dutch artists. Through Nov. 5. •*Charlotte Salomon: Life? or Theatre?* is the title Salomon gave to a series of more than 780 small gouaches that she selected from a total of 1,325, painted while in exile in the South of France between 1940 and 1942. Aug. 9-Oct. 29. •*Christian Boltanski: Reflection* is an installation created specifically for the MFA by contemporary French artist Christian Boltanski. Aug. 9-Nov. 12.

The Peabody House Museum
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (496-1027). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50 adults; $5 students and seniors; $4 children 3-13. No fee Sat. mornings until 12pm. •*Heads and Tales: Adornments from Africa*, includes sculptures and artifacts from the Peabody Museum collections, which highlight the messages communicated by head adornments. Through Oct. 1, 2001. •An upcoming exhibition is *Diverse Traditions: Early Navajo Rugs and Pueblo Embroidery,* selections from the Museum's collection of Navajo rugs, 1880-1920, including Germantown, trading post and pictorial styles. Oct. 5-Nov. 26, 2000.

***Girl,* by Barbara Zeles, is part of *Stories Out of School*, a series of portraits at the Gibbs Gallery.**



Brett Osborn's work is included in *Solitude*, which shows at the Lyman-Eyer Gallery. It also includes paintings and drawings by Robert Adamcik, Susan Avishai and an installation by Mary Beth Maisel.

Galleries
FINE ART

Allston Skirt Gallery
119 Braintree St., Allston (254-7027). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm and by appointment. The gallery will be open by appointment only through August.

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (536-4465). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •A group show features a collection of paintings from several artists. Through Aug. 31.

Andrea Marquit Fine Arts
38 Newbury St., Boston (859-0190). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Wed.-Sat. 11am-5pm. Shows contemporary masters and emerging artists and is a consulting group for corporate and private collectors. Open by appointment only.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (247-0610). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 11am-5:30pm; Sun. 1-5pm. Representing an eclectic mix of styles, from abstract to superrealist. •A group show of gallery artists runs in August.

Artists Foundation Gallery
516 East Second St. #49, Boston (464-3559). www.artistsfoundation.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. Sat. 12-5pm.* •In the Main gallery: a video installation by Bebe Matt Templeton's paintings will be displayed in *Prime Land* through Aug. 26.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., 5th Floor, Boston (262-4490). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5:30pm. Paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures by emerging and established artists. •The gallery will be closed in August. •The upcoming exhibition is Maryellen Latas' *Lead and Gold.* Sept. 9-Oct. 18.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm. •*Folk Art from the Gallery's Collection* shows through Sept. 9.

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (482-2477). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Fri., 10:30am-5:30pm. •Closed for the month of August.

Cambridge Arts Council
11 Whyte St., Cambridge (349-4380). MBTA: Red Line to Porter. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-5pm. •The gallery will be closed in August.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (236-2255). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm. •*Global Village* features a selection of work by international glass artists. Through Aug. 18.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (859-7222). Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm (closed on Sundays in August.) •*Portals* by Nar Da Boughton shows with *New Landscapes* by five artists: Laura Anderson, Dana Ruth Harvey, Diane Newton, Cindia Sanford-Garte and Nathan Wilson. Through Sept. 4.

Childs Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (266-1108). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri. 9am-6pm; Mon. and Sat. 10am-5pm. American and European paintings, prints, drawings and sculpture, from 1500 through 1950. •*Sailing, Sea and Shore* displays in the Main Gallery. Also, *El Salon de Mexico*, prints and watercolors by Ted Davis, shows through Aug. 31.

Clark Gallery
145 Lincoln St., Lincoln (781-259-8303). Tue.-Sat. 10am-5pm. The gallery represents 30 artists, primarily regional. Media regularly include glass, ceramics, oil, acrylic on canvas, wood and studio furniture. •The gallery is closed in August. •The upcoming exhibition is *Sculpture for the Outdoors IV,* the gallery's fourth annual group show featuring art for the land. It shows with Rick Harlow's *Reconstructing Landscape,* abstracted landscapes based on scenes from the rainforest. Sept. 5-28.

Copley Society of Boston
158 Newbury St., Boston (536-5049). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat. 10:30am-5:30pm; Sun. 1-5pm. America's oldest nonprofit art association is a platform for young and established artists. •*New Members Show.* Aug. 10-26.

Creiger-Dane Gallery
36 Newbury St., Boston (536-8088). www.creigerdane.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm.* •*Where Do You Draw the Line?*, traditional and experimental forms of drawing, on display through Aug. 12. •From Aug. 13-Sept. 4, the gallery will be open by appointment only.

Crosstown Arts, Inc.
One North Square, Boston (720-0100). www.crosstown.com. •*Metal*, painted metal assembly and sculpture by Stephen deFilippis, shows through Aug. 25.

Crystal Fine Art
93 Summer St., Suite 4L, Boston (728-9818). www.crystalfineart.com. *MBTA: Red and Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Tue.-Fri. 11am-6pm.* A multicultural gallery that regularly displays the work of national, international and local artists. •A series of

landscape paintings and poetry by Li Xubai runs through Aug. 31. *Dreaming* reflects Xubai's homeland of China and utilizes ancient Chinese art styles.

Dietrich von Buhler Gallery
16 Ashford St., Boston (783-2421). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Sat., 2-4pm and by appointment. www.drawbridge. com/dvbgallery. •In her first show, *Nursery,* Kathleen Bitetti shows work that specifically addresses aspects of childhood. Bitetti is the executive director of the Artists Foundation and is also the director of the Lillian Immig Gallery at Emmanuel College. Through Aug. 12.

Dyansen Gallery
132 A Newbury St., Boston (262-4800). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. You'll always find paintings, bronzes and fine-art prints. Collections include Rembrandt, Picasso, Chagall, Miro, Dali, Cassatt, Snowden and more. •Closed Sundays in August.

Eclipse Gallery
167 Newbury St., Boston (247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9am-6pm. •Ramon S.L. Alcolea's *All About Wood* shows through Sept. 2.

Elias Fine Arts
120 Braintree St., Brighton (783-1888). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. •In *Real Fun,* 16 national and international artists present photographs made with toy cameras. Curated by Monique Johannet and Karolyn Hatton. Through Sept. 16.

Equator Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (266-4110). www.equatorgallery.com. *Mon.-Fri., 11am-6pm; Sat. and Sun., 12-6pm.* Displaying contemporary artwork from around the world that contains Pre-Columbian motifs. The gallery is also chock full of woodcarvings—from teensy boxes to giant spheres—all made by several generations of Equadorian artists, namely Luis Potosi and Luis Boanerges Almedia R. Ongoing.

Gallery Bershad
99 Dover St., Somerville (629-9400 ex.3). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Open by appointment only. •*Coast to Coast: New Paintings,* by Sarah Frances Egan and Hamid Zavareei, displays through Aug. 31.

Gallery M3
300 Summer St., Boston (695-0742). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Fri., 10am-2pm. •Melora Kuhn's *Paintings* address issues of sexuality and female identity through the female figure. It shows through Aug. 21.

Gallery Naga
67 Newbury St. ,Boston (267-9060). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. The gallery will be open by appointment only through Sept. 4. •Upcoming exhibitions are David Palmer's *Orange Crush* and Louis Risoli's *New Paintings.* Sept. 5-30.

Gallery Seventy-nine
79 Newbury St., Boston (262-5918). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Thu., 9:30am-6pm; Fri. 9:30am-4:30pm. •A group show displays the work of Jeffrey Ringdahl, Francis Domec, Eileen Namaka, Eileen Wagner and Dagmar Nickerson. Through Aug. 18.

Genovese Sullivan Gallery
47 Thayer St., Boston (426-9738). Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. •The gallery will be closed in August.

***Portals*, by Narda Boughton, shows with *New Landscapes* at Chase Gallery through Sept. 4.**

Gibbs Gallery
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm. Stories Out of School: New Portraits is an opportunity for art educators to share their interpretation of portraiture in the 21st century in all types of media. Through Aug. 25.

Gurari Collections
91 Charles St., Boston (367-9800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington or Red Line to Charles MGH. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. This gallery has an impressive collection of 16th- to early-20th-century etchings, engravings and drawings. Also showing is the work of Wendy Artin, an artist living in Rome.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St. Boston (536-6339). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 10am-6pm; Sat. 10am-5pm. •An assortment of 18th- and 19th-century historic and decorative antique engravings and lithographs.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (262-0550). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. yezerski@ziplink.net. •Works by Duane Michals, John O'Reilly, Tracey Moffatt, Carrie Mae Weems, David Wojnarowicz and others are featured in *Fiction/Non-Fiction,* which runs through Aug. 18.

Hurst Gallery
53 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (491-6888). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sat. 12-6pm. Thu, 12-7pm. Visitors are greeted with a wide variety of art and artifacts from six continents. •*Hot Spots, Art and Artifacts From Earth's Most Fragile Ecoregions* shows through Sept. 2.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (375-0076). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. Midsummer Magic celebrates the beauty of original vintage posters. It also features newly acquired work by Leonetto Cappiello, A.M. Cassandre and Jean de Paleologue. Through Sept. 4.

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (437-1518). www.fine-arts-unlimited.com/g4.htm. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm. Interiors shows Aug. 17-Sept. 7.

Judy Ann Goldman
14 Newbury St., Boston (424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 11am-5pm or call for an appointment. The gallery regularly displays paintings, sculpture and works on paper. •*Works on Paper from California* features the work of Linda Besemer, Russell Crotty, Jim Isermann and Adam Ross. It shows through Aug. 11.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 Saint Stephen St., Boston (247-1719). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue.-Sat., 1-5pm. •The gallery will be closed in August.

Lyman-Eyer Gallery Inc.
1347 Washington St., West Newton (964-3470). Tue.-Fri., 4-7:30pm; Sat., 11am-7:30pm; Sun., 11am-5pm. •Brett Wallace, Hilda Green Demsky, Mike Andreae and Amanda Annis are featured in *New Works,* where oil, acrylic and bronze pieces show through Aug. 27. •The upcoming exhibition will be *Solitude,* paintings and drawings by Robert Adamcik, Susan Avishai and Brett Osborn, with an installation by Mary Beth Maisel. Sept. 9-Oct. 8.

MPG
285 Newbury St., Boston (437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •*Land Sea and Beyond II* by Jennifer Clement, Philip Koch and Thomas A. D. Watson. Through Sept. 25.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (266-4835). www.nielsen gallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm.* Founded in 1964. •Closed in August.

Out of the Blue Gallery
168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun. 12-7pm. This gallery, owned and operated by several artists, always has a variety of interesting artwork and art-related events going on. •Poetry readings take place every Saturday, and the gallery hosts a rotating guest list of jazz musicians every Wednesday. •*Haitian Art Show* by 10 Haitian artists shows through Sept. 30. •Aug. 12 and 19, 8pm are open-mike poetry and music sessions hosted by Deb Priestly. •Aug. 9 and 16, 9pm, are Jazz Jams with Luther Gray and others.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (236-4497). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •Open by appointment only Aug. 1-10. Closed for the rest of August.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (267-9473). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun. 1pm-5pm. •*Memories Now: Fine Choices,* the gallery's annual summer show, features new and favorite works by gallery artists. Through Aug. 31.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (266-3321). MBTA: Green Line to Arlingron. www.richardsonclarke.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tues.-Sat. 10am-5pm.* •American and European 19th- and 20th-century paintings, drawings and sculpture. Ongoing. •Truman Seymour's *Moroccan Watercolors* is also on display this month.

***The Voyage* by Philip Koch shows as part of MPG's current exhibition *Land, Sea & Beyond II.* The show includes works by Thomas A.D. Watson and Jennifer Clement and runs through Sept. 25.**

Space 12 Gallery
12 Union Park St., Boston (423-9760). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed., 6-9pm; Thu.-Sat., 1-5pm. •Closed in August.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (450-0321). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-5pm. Artist William St. George displays his lush and colorful paintings. •Plein-air seascapes are displayed in *Maritime Images,* which showcases several New England river scenes in oil by William St. George. Through Aug. 15.

Touch of France
173 Newbury St., Boston (247-6966). MBTA: Green line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-7pm; Sun., 10am-6pm. This gallery imports contemporary French artists' works, including paintings from famous painters M. Tigrane, R. Kefflin, C. Ferrer and striking dried-flower arrangements made near Saint Tropez.

Via Gallery
83 Newbury St., 2nd Floor (424-6200). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri. 10am-4pm. Closed in August.

Zeitgeist Gallery
312 Broadway St., Cambridge (876-2182). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu.-Sun., 2pm-7pm. The gallery displays a variety of local artists' work. •A Playground Jazz Series takes place on Friday nights. •Monday is literary night with the Stone Soup Poets performing. •Every Wednesday is a figure-drawing session. •Sunday is a vegan potluck supper, often accompanied by live music and poetry.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2051). Tues.-Sat., 11am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm; closed Mondays. The Multiple is a gallery investigation that explores works of art produced more than one time. Ongoing. •An upcoming exhibit is a multimedia installation, *Cold War Modern: The Domesticated Avant-Garde,* explores the avant-garde in art, music and design in the U.S. between 1945 and the early '60s and the role it played in shaping popular consumer culture. Opening Sept. 15.

Gallery One
537 Comm. Ave., Boston (437-1868). Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm. Affiliated with the New England School of Photography. •Tom McCarthy's *Two Wheel Deal* shows through Sept. 29.

Mills Gallery
539 Tremont St., Boston (426-8835). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Sun., 1-4pm; Thurs.-Sat. 7-10pm. •Nick Tobier's *Everyday Places* runs through Aug. 25.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., fourth floor, Boston (267-7997). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 10am-5:30pm. •In an upcoming exhibition, the gallery presents its third show of photography by the artist Annie Leibovitz, titled *Annie Leibovitz : Women.* This series of large-scale photographs focuses on images of female nudes, originating from a collaboration between Leibovitz and the Mark Morris Dance Group. Sept. 7-Oct. 8.

CRAFTS

Alianza Gallery
154 Newbury St., Boston (262-2385). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. A variety of arts and crafts are on display. •*Tea and Fantasy,* a group show, runs through Aug. 31.

Cambridge Artists Cooperative
59A Church St., Cambridge (868-4434). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; 10am-8pm; Sun. 1-6pm. Twelve artists own and operate this gallery that features 2D design and jewelry.

Clayground
91 Hampshire St., Cambridge (661-7376). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 12-6pm; Sat. 11am-5pm. Porcelain and stone objects galore. Classes are usually available.

Fresh Pond Clay Works
368 Huron Ave., Cambridge (492-1907). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard to Bus 72. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm. Learn a wide range of firing techniques.

Gateway Gallery
62 Harvard St., Brookline (734-1577). MBTA: C Green Line to Brookline Village. Mon.-Sat., 11am-6pm. This nonprofit gallery features all sorts of arts and crafts.

Infinity Gallery
24 Union Park St., Boston (423-5555). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat., 11am-7pm; Sun 11am-6pm. This small gallery features Wayne Fuerst's work.

Signature Gallery
Dock Square, Boston (227-4885). Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Thu., 10am-7pm; Fri. and Sat., 10am-9pm; Sun., 12-6pm. Pottery, metal and glass works are on display.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (266-1810). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm; Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-6pm. •*SAC 2000 Artist Awards* shows through Aug. 31.

NATURAL-BORN FILMMAKERS

John Waters embraces cinematic snobbery in *Cecil B. DeMented*. BY PAUL SHERMAN

Americans today are more likely to line up for the opening day of a heavily hyped movie than they are for elections. Writer-director John Waters comically exploits such sheeplike behavior by the modern moviegoer in *Cecil B. DeMented*, in which a gang of cinematically political radicals brings the same outlaw fervor to moviemaking that many of Waters' generation put into anti-establishment politics in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Led by the title character (Stephen Dorff), a would-be auteur who wants to smash the Hollywood studio system and bring mainstream moviemaking to its knees, Cecil and his cult get jobs at a Baltimore movie theater and then take temperamental movie star Honey Whitlock (Melanie Griffith) hostage at the charity premiere of her latest Hollywood atrocity, *Some Kind of Happiness*.

Whisking the actress away at gunpoint and spiriting her back to their lair inside a long-closed, once-luxurious movie theater, the band of outlaws calling themselves "Sprocket Holes," then gives Honey an involuntary make-over and forces her to act in Cecil's directorial debut, *Raving Beauty*. With the camera rolling, Honey is essentially forced to join in on the gang's do-it-yourself guerrilla actions: storming a theater showing *Patch Adams: The Director's Cut* (and spray-painting "edit" on the box office), crashing a reception hosted by the Maryland Film Commission (where they trade gunfire with police) and sabotaging the filming of the sequel *Gump Again* (more gunplay, this time with Teamsters).

After a few days outside her movie-star cocoon, she even starts to like making these anti-Hollywood raids, out of either newly gained enlightenment or a case of Stockholm Syndrome. *Patch Adams* and *Forrest Gump* are ridiculously easy targets for scorn, two greeting cards disguised as movies, and the movie definitely could have taken shots at the studio-owned "independent" companies that release movies (such as Miramax). But *Cecil B. DeMented* still has more going for it than rants against the occasional vapidness of Hollywood products. Starting with the opening-credits sequences, which pictures theater marquees listing such offerings as a Pauly Shore marathon and a multiplex in which every screen is showing some sort of *Star Wars* or *Star Trek* movie, this is a fun celebration of cinematic nonconformity.

With Cecil yelling, "Power to the people who punish bad cinema!" as he kidnaps Honey, and the "Sprocket Holes" proudly showing Honey their tattoos of such individualist directors as David Lynch, Sam Fuller and Otto Preminger, it's also an often hilarious send-up of movie snobbery. And, in their untrained, opinionated, under-the-radar brand of filmmaking, the gang also spoofs Waters' own movies from the 1970s, like *Pink Flamingos* and *Female Trouble*, though Waters never needed a Hollywood star, and you wonder if someone like Cecil really would, either.

The rest of this Cinematic Liberation Army of sorts are Cecil's cast and crew—including a former porn star (Alicia Witt) and a drugged-up leading man (Adrian Grenier)—and, adding some irony, Cecil is as dictatorial a director as any Hollywood set has ever seen. Although the always-resourceful Witt (*Fun, Citizen Ruth*) is amusingly over-the-top, and Griffith hasn't seemed so comfortable on-screen since *Something Wild* and *Working Girl*, most of the gang never get beyond the one-dimensional (the Satanist make-up artist, the militant lesbian and so on). That makes you wish there were less of them, with those few given more to do.

Outlaw fairy tale that it is, *Cecil B. DeMented* doesn't cut all that deeply, but it's the liveliest, most physical Waters movie since *Cry-Baby*, and it's easy to be swept up in its rants against movies that are as safely packaged as baked goods. And maybe it will get some moviegoers who came of age in the 1990s, when Hollywood began brainwashing people into thinking more about movies' box-office grosses than their quality, to question the need to mindlessly see what everybody else is seeing. **iB**

Cecil (Stephen Dorff) and his gang kidnap Holly Whitlock (Melanie Griffith).

Cecil B. DeMented ★★★½

Written and directed by John Waters. With Stephen Dorff, Melanie Griffith, Alicia Witt, Adrian Grenier, Ricki Lake and Mink Stole. Rated R. Artisan Entertainment.

Keely Smith and Louis Prima in the Vegas documentary *Louis Prima: The Wildest.*

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

But I'm a Cheerleader ★★★½
Like a cross between the latter-day comedies of John Waters (*Hairspray*) and the barbed satires of Alexander Payne (*Citizen Ruth, Election*), Jamie Babbit's directorial debut is a brightly colored spoof of gay-rehab camps for teens. Packed off to one such place by the parents who fear she's a lesbian, title character Megan (Natasha Lyonne) gets pushed into cooking and cleaning classes, while the male "campers" get to learn how to fix cars and not throw a ball like a girl. This stuff is sometimes hilarious, but this would be half the movie it is if it didn't ultimately come to be an emotionally endearing tale about the way society treats nonconformists, rather than just a spoof of an easy target, the far right.

Chicken Run ★★★
Although English director Nick Park and Aardman Animation's first feature is not as inspired as their earlier *Wallace & Gromit* shorts, the story of a group of egg-laying hens trying to escape their farm is a total delight. With Julia Sawalha (*Absolutely Fabulous*) voicing the hens' plan-hatching leader and Mel Gibson playing a "flying rooster" on the lam from the circus who's reluctantly enlisted to help, the tale is a mix of wryly amusing characters and wonderful voice acting (with Jane Horrocks, Timothy Spall and Phil Daniels also among the cast). The movie also cleverly peppers the hens' saga with copious references to such POW movies as *The Great Escape*, *Bridge on the River Kwai* and *Stalag 17*.

Chuck & Buck ★★★½
Few movies are as disarmingly compassionate and emotionally rich as this low-budget story filmed on digital video (and transferred to film) by director Miguel Arteta. It's hard not to connect with both title characters in this story of childlike 27-year-old Buck (screenwriter Mike White), who, following the death of his mother, tries to reconnect with Chuck (Chris Weitz), the boyhood friend he hasn't seen in 15 years. While Buck fixates on his former best buddy, and even wants to resume the homosexual experimentation the pair shared as 12-year-olds, Chuck wants little to do with the uncouth friend that might threaten his music-industry job and his relationship with his fiancée (Beth Colt). The story makes you sympathize with both, and even manages to work its way around to a well-earned optimistic ending. One of the year's best.

The Eyes of Tammy Faye ★★★
We all know about Tammy Faye Bakker the media scandal and Tammy Faye the fashion victim. But how about Tammy Faye the sympathetic survivor? You may not think a documentary could pull off such a sympathetic perspective on the mascara-ed one, but this definitely does. It seems Tammy Faye—now Tammy Faye Messner—has even become a cult hero in the gay community lately. This is essentially an episode of *E! True Hollywood Story* or VH1's *Behind the Music*, but it's a surprisingly good one.

The Five Senses ★★★
More serious than most American dramas, more humorous than most European dramas, this is good Canadian drama in the best sense of the term. In fact, writer-director Jeremy Podeswa's movie definitely shares a sensibility with those of fellow Canadians

ABBOT GENSER

Atom Egoyan (*The Sweet Hereafter*) and Don McKellar (*Last Night*). This ensemble story featuring Mary-Louise Parker, Daniel MacIvor and Molly Parker not only has a heavy dose of trauma (one woman's child disappears, one man is told he's going deaf), but true to its title, it also examines how we use what we experience through our senses to try to relate to other people. In a way, this is a much better (and much shorter) version of the overwrought *Magnolia*.

Loser ★★
This is not one of the better youth movies from Amy Heckerling (*Fast Times at Ridgemont High*, *Clueless*). Her romantic comedy about two struggling college students who become unlikely friends (and then a couple) means to endear us with its victimized characters. But the country bumpkin (Jason Biggs) exploited by his slicker roommates and the ragamuffin beauty (Mena Suvari) used for sex by the glib professor (Greg Kinnear) are too, well, clueless to care about if they can't see through those caricatured nemeses. Without the intended charm, the romantic riggings that bring the pair together just seem gimmicky and ineffective.

Louis Prima: The Wildest ★★★
Somewhere between Elvis and Sinatra was the great Louis Prima, the veteran jazz trumpeter-singer whose career peaked in the 1950s when he combined boogie-woogie beat, post-war jump's hormones and early rock'n'roll's kick with hepcat humor. This affectionate documentary tells of how Prima and wife-partner Keely Smith become Vegas lounge royalty by putting a rocking, comic spin on such songs as "I've Got You Under My Skin" and "That Old Black Magic," as well as "Just a Gigolo," "I Ain't Got Nobody" and "Jump, Jive & Wail"—all of which have been copycat hits for others since Prima's death. The movie interviews Smith as well as members of Prima's band, and includes clips of many TV appearances. At the Museum of Fine Arts, Aug. 11, 13, 18.

The Patriot ★½
If there's a sincere minute in this Revolutionary War epic from the makers of *Independence Day* and *Godzilla*, I missed it. Instead of any genuine drama about the passions that forged this country, the movie offers a whitewashed version of colonial America (Mel Gibson is the only South Carolina plantation owner not to own slaves, apparently) and a very simplistic take on the war with England, with the British being treated with all the dimension of Nazis in a 1940s World War II movie. Whatever is here to get you to care about Gibson's veteran warrior and his gung-ho teen son (Heath Ledger)—like the former's anxiety over separation from his younger kids or the latter's romance—comes across weakly and manipulatively.

The Perfect Storm ★★½
You get the best and the worst Hollywood has to offer in this big-budget rendering of Sebastian Junger's nonfiction book about the tragedy that took the Gloucester swordfish boat *Andrea Gail* and its crew during October 1991's megastorm. While Junger's book achieved tragedy through a very detached perspective, the movie is totally different. It's full of swelling orchestral music and it ludicrously gilds its tragic lily by injecting a life-threatening situation every 10 minutes (I guess the storm of the century just wasn't enough). Its visual rendering of the boat-tossing storm is impressive, and director Wolfgang Petersen builds the story to a very tense last third, but the movie's embellishments are questionable at best, arrogant at worst.

South: Ernest Shackleton and the Endurance Expedition ★★★
If I had been attempting a dangerous expedition to be the first person to cross Antarctica through the South Pole in 1915, the last thing on my mind would be to bring along a film crew. But, thanks to the arrogance of the British empire at its apex, that's exactly what Sir Ernest Shackleton did. This recently rediscovered and restored silent film is an awe-inspiring chronicle of that legendary expedition (as documented in the 1990s book *Endurance*), with the trekkers' boat getting trapped in ice and then gradually folding up like a ball of tin foil by the frozen seas. At the Museum of Fine Arts, with musical accompaniment by the Alloy Orchestra, between Aug. 17 and 27.

The Tao of Steve ★★★
Donal Logue, who's been a familiar face in supporting roles ever since his inspired Jimmy the Cab Driver spots on MTV, finally gets to star in a movie. As Dex, a plumped-up big man on campus who's still living like a student 10 years after graduation, Logue is a charm. He brings a lot of credibility to a character we're supposed to believe is charismatic enough to seduce women and philosophical enough to bundle his rules of courtship into something called the Tao of Steve—Steve being Steve McQueen, Dex's perfect American male—and yet still be endearing. While the story might have been a familiar yarn about a womanizer who gets his come-uppance, thanks to Logue and Greer Goodman (as the woman who makes him rethink his axioms of love), it becomes less formulaic.

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Cinemas
214 Harvard Ave. (277-2140). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
Trapelo Rd. (484-1706). Red Line to Harvard, 73 bus.

BOSTON

Boston Film • Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (536-1540). Green Line to Hynes.
Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (536-5400). Green Line to Copley.
Cheri
50 Dalton St. (536-2870). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.
Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.
Fenway Theatre General Cinema
201 Brookline Ave. (424-6266). MBTA: Green Line to Fenway or Kenmore.
Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.
Museum Of Science, Omni Theater
Science Park (723-2500). Green Line to Science Park.
Nickelodeon
606 Comm. Ave. (424-1500). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford St.
Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle.
Coolidge Corner
290 Harvard St. (734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theater
40 Brattle St. (876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.
Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (495-4700). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.
Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Sq. (494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.
Loews/Sony Theater
10 Church St. (864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Sq.
Somerville Theater
55 Davis Sq. (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston. (277-2500). B Green Line to Chestnut Hill.
West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (964-6060).

Alternatives & Revivals

Advice to Contributors
Submit film listings by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Although film listings are correct at the time of publication, they are subject to change. Doublecheck showtimes by calling the theater or 333-FILM.

Boston Public Library

Clyde Charisse: A Dancer's Delight
•Aug. 14, 3pm and 6pm **Silk Stockings** *1957.* After three bumbling Soviet agents fail in their mission to retrieve a straying composer from Paris, the beautiful Ninotchka is brought in to help.

Al Pacino: the Seventies
•Aug. 15, 1pm and 5pm **And Justice For All** *1979.* In director Norman Jewison's thriller, a corrupt judge is charged with rape, and Arthur Kirkland must defend him.

Documentaries: New and Noteworthy
•Aug. 10, 6pm **One Island, Two Irelands** *1998.* Using original archival materials, director Jean-Michel Meurice tells the story of Ireland, from its struggle for independence, the partition, Civil War and the 31 years of conflict in the North since 1969.
•Aug. 17, 6pm **A Jumpin' Night in the Garden of Eden** *1987.* When New York Jewish immigrants in the 1920s first arrived, they relied heavily on the Eastern European Klezmer influence. By the 1950s, this musical tradition was fading, only to be revisited in the 1970s and subsequently studied by director Michael Goldman through archival footage and interviews.

Brattle Theater

Most shows are $7, including double features.

Special Engagements Sundays—Boom! It's Liz Taylor
•Aug. 13, 3pm and 7:40pm **Reflections in a Golden Eye** *1967.* John Huston's version of Carson McCullers' story portrays the tale of a homosexual army officer, his eager and voluptuous wife and the fun and games they take part in on a Georgian army base.
•Aug. 13, 12:45pm, 5:15pm and 9:45pm **The VIP's** *1963.* Made on the heels of *Cleopatra*, this is a story of the idle rich who get themselves fogged in at a London airport. This is also the first to exploit the real-life love affair between Liz and Dick, who co-star in the film.

Mondays—Neo Noirs
•Aug. 14, 7pm **Lost Highway** *1997.* In David Lynch's unsettling film, a jazzman walks into the darkest recesses of human existence. Starring Bill Pullman and Patricia Arquette.
•Aug. 14, 5pm and 9:40pm **Fallen Angels** *1995.* Director Wong Kar-Wai's film presents the stories of several denizens of Hong Kong: a professional hitman, his glamorous agent, a mute anarchist and his various girlfriends, who eventually all cross paths.

Tuesdays—the Adventures of Kurosawa
•Aug. 15, 4:30pm, 7pm and 9:30pm **Dreams** *1990.* Taken directly from director Kurosawa's own dreams and nightmares, this film is a whimsical, mysterious and funny portrayal of his visions of Japanese spirits, magical meetings with Vincent van Gogh and more.

Wednesdays—Recent Raves
•Aug. 9, 3:30pm and 7:50pm **Timecode** *2000.* Director Mike Figgis experiments with four interrelated, improvisational story lines. All are filmed in real time on digital video stories—on the same screen at the same time.
•Aug. 9, 5:30pm and 9:45pm **The Idiots** *1998.* Challenging and intriguing, this film depicts a group of perfectly intelligent people who form a commune dedicated to disrupting normal people's lives by going out on the street and acting like they are mentally handicapped.
•Aug. 16, 4pm and 7:50pm **Storefront Hitchcock** *1998.* With curious pedestrians pressing their faces against the window, concert film maestro Jonathan Demme captures British folk rocker Robyn Hitchcock in an almost-solo performance in New York City.
•Aug. 16, 5:40pm and 9:30pm **The Filth & the Fury** *2000.* Director Julien Temple investigates his friends, the legendary Sex Pistols, putting punk explosion in context with hard news footage.

Thursdays—Italian Nights
•Aug. 10, 3:30pm and 7:45pm **The Leopard** *1963.* Burt Lancaster stars as the astronomer Prince Don Fubrizio in director Luchino Visconti's adaptation of Guiseppe di Tomasi Lampedua's novel.

Greer Goodman prompts Donal Logue's hefty ladies' man to rethink his rules about dating and courtship in *The Tao of Steve.*

TERI T. RANDALL

•Aug. 17, 4pm and 7:30pm **La Dolce Vita** *1960.* A cynical journalist searches for items on his scandal sheet, and in turn exposes the decadent side of Roman society.

Special Engagements—Fridays and Saturdays

•Aug. 11, 12, 3:30pm, 5:40pm and 7:50pm **The Little Thief** *1999.* When the young protagonist of this film finds himself caught in a situation he is not equipped to handle, the result is a beautifully poignant and brutally honest story.

•Aug. 11 and 12, 10pm **A Clockwork Orange** *1971.* Stanley Kubrick's unsettling film version of Anthony Burgess' story of youth gangs who terrorize a futuristic London.

Hitchcock in Living Color

•Aug. 18 and 19, 3pm and 7:45pm **Rear Window** *1954.* Photojournalist Jimmy Stewart is housebound with a broken leg, with nothing to do but spy on his courtyard. When he thinks he witnesses a series of odd happenings, including murder, he becomes a detective with his girlfriend, played by Grace Kelly.

•Aug. 18 and 19, 5:15pm and 10pm **Vertigo** *1958.* Jimmy is a detective hired by an old friend to keep an eye on his wife. Sweeping cinematography shot on location in San Francisco contribute to making this an enduring classic.

•Aug. 20 and 21, 7pm **North by Northwest** *1959.* Mistaken for a spy, Cary Grant is chased across cornfields and the slippery faces of Mount Rushmore. In the process, he of course finds time to help out a beautiful woman.

•Aug. 20 and 21, 4:30pm and 9:40pm **The Man Who Knew Too Much** *1956.* An American couple gets involved in an international mystery when they witness a murder and their son is kidnapped.

•Aug. 22, 3:30pm and 7:50pm **Dial M for Murder** *1954.* A man plots to kill his rich wife, but goes extremely awry.

•Aug. 22, 5:40pm and 10pm **To Catch a Thief** *1955.* Don't miss the chance to see the technicolor caper of the lives and loves of the ultra-rich, starring Cary Grant and Grace Kelly.

Coolidge Corner Theater

Midnight Movies

•Aug. 11 and 12, 12am **The Toxic Avenger** *1985.* A 98-pound health club nerd becomes the city's hero after falling into a tub of toxic waste. Fighting crime and avenging enemies also become his M.O. Directed by Michael Hertz and Lloyd Kaufman.

•Aug. 18 and 19, 12am **Tromeo and Juliet** *1996.* This Lloyd Kaufman punk adaptation of Shakespeare's tragedy is violent, bawdy, humorous, violent and romantic, garnering the same reactions that Shakespeare's original play did—audience appreciation.

Premiere Engagements

•Aug. 11 **The Tao of Steve** *2000.* Dex, an aging pot-smoking slacker, makes ends meet as a preschool teacher, playing poker and Frisbee golf with his buddies in his spare time. Enter a set designer into the equation and Dex gets all bent out of shape.

Celebrating the Wide Screen

•Aug. 9, 7:30pm **Lawrence of Arabia** *1962.* When T.E. Lawrence is stationed in Saudi Arabia during W.W. I, he becomes an observer to Price Feial, leader of the Arab tribal army. He ultimately stays on to help Feisel in his political and military quests.

•Aug. 16, 7:30pm **Gone with the Wind** *1939.* This epic tale is one of war and love as the feisty Scarlett O'Hara juggles Rhett Butler, her long-time love Ashley and the changes in her life as the U.S. is engulfed in the Civil War.

Museum of Fine Arts

Most film screenings are $6.

•Aug. 10, 8pm **Charlotte: Life or Theatre?** *1992* and **Paula Paulinka** *1995.* This film pieces together the story of German artist Charlotte Salomon's life through an examination of the imagery and text in her artwork. *Paula Paulinka* is an engaging documentary of Charlotte's stepmother, German opera singer Paula Salomon-Lindberg.

•Aug. 10, 5:45pm **Lust for Life** *1956.* This Oscar-winning film, based on the novel by Irving Stone, portrays the relationship between Vincent van Gogh and his friend Paul Gaugin.

•Aug. 11, 6:15pm and Aug. 12, 3:45pm **Train Birds** *1997.* This romantic comedy depicts the story of one train and time-table-obsessed man. During his appearance at the First International Competition of Railway Timetable experts, he is so focused on winning the contest that he barely notices his surroundings until the final showdown.

•Aug. 11, 8pm, Aug. 13, 4:15pm and Aug. 18, 8pm **Louis Prima: The Wildest** *2000.* Tireless performer and ladies' man Louis Prima possessed a superior talent matched only by his charisma as an Italian-American swing band musician. This film celebrates his legacy using vintage TV spots, news-reel footage and performance clips.

•Aug. 12, 11am **A Time to Live, a Time to Die** *1985.* After moving from mainland China to a small village in Taiwan, one family struggles to adjust, rootless and cut off from their cultural heritage.

•Aug. 12, 1:30pm **Vincent: the Life and Death of Vincent van Gogh** *1987.* Using van Gogh's paintings and excerpts from his letter, director Paul Cox explores the artist's life as well as his sources of inspiration.

•Aug. 13, 12:30pm **Charlotte** *1980.* Three elements of German artist Charlotte Salomon's life come together in this film: her love for her voice teacher, her struggle to understand the legacy of suicide on her maternal side and her own artistic evolution.

•Aug. 17, 7:20pm **Van Gogh** *1991.* Filmed primarily in the village of Auvers-sur Oise, the film tells the story of van Gogh's last three months of life.

•Aug. 17, 5:30pm, Aug. 18, 6pm, Aug. 19, 2pm and Aug. 20, 11am **South: Ernest Shackleton and the Endurance Expedition** *1919.* In the pioneer days of Antarctic exploration, Sir Ernest Shackleton led a crew across the continent via the South Pole. Not a life was lost and, remarkably, skip photographer Frank Hurley captured much of the journey on film.

•Aug. 19, 12pm **Dust in the Wind** *1986.* Drawing on her own life experience, director Hou Hsiao-Hsien portrays two young lovers in the crowded city of Taipei who are struggling to find work in the face of the 1960s economic reality.

•Aug. 19, 3:45pm **Good Men, Good Women** *1995.* An actress is ambushed by her past as she prepares to play the role of anti-Japanese resistance fighter Chiang Bi-yu.

•Aug. 20, 1pm **The Puppetmaster** *1993.* Adapted from the memoirs of Li Tien-lu, Taiwan's most famous puppeteer, this film explores Li's 84 years with staged scenes, performances and Li's spirited direct camera addresses.

•Aug. 20, 3:45pm, **Flowers of Shanghai** *1998.* Surrounded in golden lamplight, gambling, rich food and opium, the chosen flower girls of Shanghai's 19th-century brothels must bury their passions and their despair.

Museum of Science

Omni Shows

•Through September. The Omni features **Dolphins**, an underwater exploration about these incredible sea creatures. See them in the wild and witness their forms of communication.

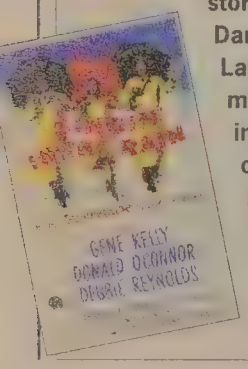
•Through October 5. **The Magic of Flight**. Place your trays in an upright position and prepare to take to the air. This film exlpores the magic of flight, from its earliest beginnings.

•Through October 5. Michael Jordan goes to new heights in **Michael Jordan to the Max**, the first big-screen film that showcases the personal and athletic attributes of the basketball legend.

Zeitgeist Films at Sunset

Sure, Banana Republic's annual Screen on the Green had flair—a fantastic selection of movies, a giant screen and a prime location on the Common. But let's not give them all of the accolades. Central Square's Zeitgeist Gallery film series returns again this summer—and they're upgrading. Formerly held in Carberry's bakery parking lot, this sunset outdoor film series has moved on down the street to Sennott Park. Just like last year, everyone is welcome to pack up a blanket, some chairs and a radio (unlike the Banana Republic "

• Aug. 12, 8:30pm Singin' in the Rain *1952.* Directed by Stanley Donen and Gene Kelly, this famous musical tells the story of on-screen lovers Dan Lockwood and Lina Lamont. When their silent movies switch to "sound" in 1927, Lockwood chooses Kathy (Debbie Reynolds) to voice over Lamont's part on the sly, and when Lamont finds out, it is no walk in the park.



education

Advice to Contributors

Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Education. Or e-mail information to education@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

CLASSES/LECTURES

Wednesday, August 9

The Empire of Number

The Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). Wednesdays, 5:45-7:15pm. $77. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. It takes a rash intrepidity and desire to overcome entrenched aversions. This four-week course will tackle elusive mathematical concepts such as the infinite, zero, limits and calculus, and requires no prior math experience. Taught by **Benito Rakower** of Harvard University, the class seeks to mend the wounds inflicted by mandatory high school math classes.

Thursday, August 10

Genealogy Series

Archives Building, 220 Morrissey Blvd., Boston (727-9268). On most days, there is no guidance in the reading room, and visitors are left alone to navigate the labyrinth of shelves. This workshop, with archivist **Janis Duffy**, offers guidance to family historians in locating documents that date back to 1841. The archives house government birth, death and marriage certificates, among other historical records.

Saturday, August 12

Historic South End

The Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). 10am-12pm. $17. This walking tour begins in the Back Bay T station in the year 2000, and traverses the streets, homes and history of Boston's South End. Although the din of political activism seems subdued, the echoes of past South End residents, Martin Luther King Jr. and Ho Chi Minh, can still be heard. Lunch at Botolph's on Tremont Street follows the local history lesson.

Wednesday, August 16

Market Communications

nSight, 10 Fawcett St. Cambridge (354-2828). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. $354. From office memos to business proposals, effective writing skills are vital to success. This workshop teaches writing and editing techniques for market communication, with an emphasis on organization, interviewing and research.

Adapt or Perish Online

Royal Sonesta Hotel, Cambridge (227-2822). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.mimc.org. *7:30-11:30am. Free.* Event Zero , a popular provider of IT solutions, will sponsor this breakfast seminar that promises to nurture blossoming Internet businesses and downright save those in trouble. Learn invaluable business strategies from **Rob Rosen**, the CEO and founder of Event Zero, and **Michael Kinkead**, a partner at Reach Internet Incubator.

Saturday, August 19

Primate Conservation

Franklin Park Zoo, One Franklin Park Road, Dorchester (989-2093). 2:30-3:30pm. $12. As if you need an excuse to visit the zoo on a summer day. Go see the last speaker in a series on primate conservation. **Dan Beetem**, curator of mammals for the Zoo New England, will speak about efforts to protect primates on St. Catherine's Island, Georgia. Proceeds go to the zoo's conservation efforts.

Film Production Design

CityScape, 227 Roxbury St., Roxbury (442-4200). August 19-20. 10am-4pm. $260. Their names are prominent in film credits, but audiences rarely take notice of a movie's production director, much less credit him/her with setting the movie's tone. This two-day workshop will open participants' eyes to the art of set design and give insight into the technical aspects of the process. Students collect props, build a set and design color schemes before shooting a scene in the manufactured location.

Aquatic Medicine

New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, Boston (973-5206). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. 9:15am. $8 plus admission. Tour the medical facilities at the aquarium and listen to specialists discuss their role in keeping each and every water-dwelling resident healthy and happy. After years of training, animal MDs care for species that can't take their Flintstones.

Rob Rosen, CEO of EventZero, talks business strategy at Adapt or Perish Online Aug. 16.

Monday, August 21

Digital Video Alternative

CityScape, 227 Roxbury St., Roxbury (442-4200). August 21-27. 10am-6pm. $395. Growing numbers of young movie-makers are turning to digital video as an inexpensive alternative to film. Cityscape's one-week program teaches the prerequisite skills for digital video production and general film-making. Participants are given a script and charged with preparing a budget, holding auditions, setting up rehearsals and scheduling production meetings. As the course progresses, the next generation of Hollywood stars design the set, sound and lighting schemes for the short movie. If all goes according to plan, the movie is filmed and students undertake preliminary editing.

Tuesday, August 22

Time Management for the Business of Living: Franklin Covey Workshop

The Colonnade Hotel, 120 Huntington Ave., Boston (887-552-2948). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential. $189. Feel like your life is a puzzle with too many pieces—with business, family and social responsibilities bursting at the seams? This workshop helps you define long-term and short-term goals and better plan your days to minimize stress and maximize success.

ONGOING

Arlington Center for the Arts

41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). Fees range from $35-$105. Summer session begins June 26 with classes in pastel, figure painting, life drawing, watercolor, tai chi and meditation, and fiction.

Boston Center for Adult Education

5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (254-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. One-shot classes and two-month courses available.

Boston Toastmasters

40 Comm. Ave., Room 215, Boston (367-3463). MBTA: B Green Line to BU Central. First and third Tuesdays, 5:45pm. Public speaking techniques.

Brookline Adult and Community Education Program

115 Greenough St., Brookline High School, Room 101, Brookline (730-2700). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. Hundreds of classes in liberal arts, cooking, sewing computers, dance, crafts and exercise are available.

Cambridge Center for Adult Education

42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Call for catalogues and course information.

Danforth Museum School

123 Union Avenue, Framingham (508-620-0050). Classes begin June 19. More than 70 art, craft and photography classes for adults begin, including evening classes in drawing, painting, sculpture, installation, photography, ceramics, weaving and jewelry.

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READINGS & SIGNINGS

Wednesday, August 9

Borders Bookshop Author Series
85 Worcester Rd., Framingham (508-875-2321). 7pm. **Sarah Smith**, author of *Knowledge of Water* and *Vanished Child*, reads from her latest book, *A Citizen of the Country*. The last volume of the *Vanished Child* trilogy, this novel is the story of a silent-film producer making his first film in Victorian France. Praised for its seamless plot, this novel promises greed, suspicion, love, madness and amnesia.

Kate's Mystery Books
2211 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (491-2660). MBTA: Red Line to Porter. 6pm. **John Sedgwick** will be discussing and signing his book *The Dark House.* A lonely Boston investment counselor attempts to escape the unbearable secrets of his childhood through late night diversions and compulsive voyeurism. However, when he takes a suspicious co-worker into his confidence, an investigation erupts concerning a decade-old family mystery.

Thursday, August 10

Borders Books and Music Author Event
10-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6pm. **Adam Fifield** reads from his touching memoir, *A Blessing Over Ashes: The Remarkable Odyssey of My Unlikely Brother.* Fifield's family adopted Soeuth, a 15-year-old refugee from the slavery of Pol Pot's Cambodia, into their Vermont home. When Soeuth discovers his presumed-dead family is actually alive in Cambodia, Fifield and Soeuth journey there for a family reunion.

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. **Stephen Kantrowitz** reads from *Ben Tillman & the Reconstruction of White Supremacy,* his definitive biography of Ben Tillman, a white supremacist from South Carolina who became a U.S. Senator. This novel provides a stark juxtaposition of race and politics and graphically illustrates how Tillman used his platform of hate and intolerance to advance.

Wednesday, August 16

Borders Books Author Series
300 Boylston St., The Atrium Mall, Chestnut Hill, Mass. (630-1935). 7pm. **Joyce Minosh** reads from her auto biographical tale *Caravan Days,* a memoir of three years her family spent in Milano, Italy, in the late '70s. She reflects on the difficulties of transplanting an American family into a different culture and the challenges she faced learning a new language and customs.

Thursday, August 17

Borders Books and Music Author Event
10-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6pm. **Kathy Fitzgerald Sherman** discusses her book *A Housekeeper Is Cheaper Than a Divorce: Why You Can Afford to Hire Help and How to Get It.* Sherman says that hiring help will work miracles for your marriage and your family life and provides an outline of how to go about acquiring it.

Friday, August 18

Borders Books and Music Author Event
10-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6pm. Actor **Michael York** discusses his book *A Shakespearant Actor Prepares.* This book points out sources of energy in Shakespeare's plays and how an actor can liberate those to their full extent.

Saturday, August 19

Borders Bookshop Author Series
85 Worcester Rd., Framingham (508-875-2321). 2pm. Free. **Gary Braver** will be signing *Elixer,* a biotech thriller that relies on nail-biting suspense. It is the story of a medicinal chemist who discovers a flower with the ability to prolong life and the problems that ensue when everyone involved wants a piece of the herbal fountain of youth before its full effects are understood.

Monday, August 21

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (499-2000). 7pm. Free. **Lynn Harris** discusses her book *Breakup Girl To the Rescue!: A Superhero's Guide to Love and the Lack Thereof.* This is a humorous and intelligent look at the strife that comes hand in hand with any relationship. Witty and insightful, the advice Harris has is useful but still can produce a laugh.

Tuesday, August 22

Wordsworth Books Reading Series
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (354-5201). 7pm. **Erik Larsen** reads from his book *Isaac's Storm,* a gripping account of the devastating 1900 hurricane that destroyed the town of Galveston. He will be introduced by local meteorologist Mish Michaels.

ONGOING

Agape, Tuesdays
The Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (266-6710). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8pm-10pm. Every Tuesday, this somewhat sophisticated poetry group gathers to share versions of their latest work.

Beacon Hill Literary Walking Tour, Saturdays
The Charles Street Inn, 94 Charles St., Boston (387-4693). MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. 2pm, $10 adults, $7.50 seniors and students. Take a walk around Boston's notable neighborhood and see the home sweet homes of more than a dozen famous authors who once called Beacon Hill their home. Residences of Louisa May Alcott, William Dean Howells, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Sylvia Plath, Jean Stratton and Robert Lowell will be visited.

Cantab Lounge, Wednesdays
738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8-10pm. $3. Wednesday nights at the Cantab always pack in a large, jolly crowd—and more than 30 poets in just two hours for open mike and a slam.

Club Passim, Tuesdays
47 Palmer St., Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. $5. All open-mike fanatics must experience this open-mike night—a training ground for up-and-coming performers, poets and storytellers. Sign up Tuesdays, 7:30pm.

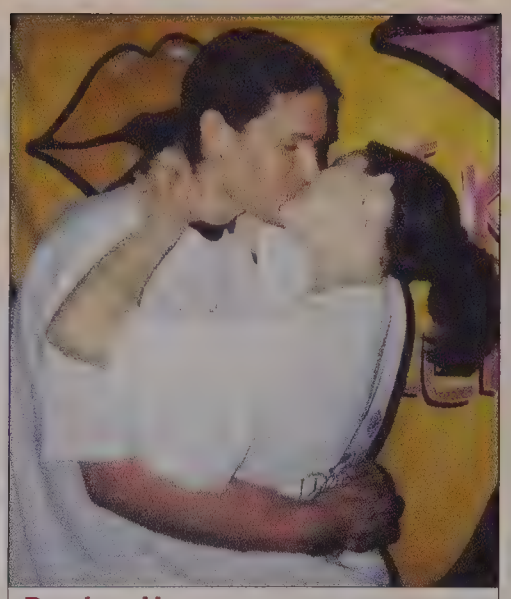
The Lizard Lounge Poetry Night, Sundays
1667 Mass Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. $4 cover. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes every Sunday to the featured poet of the week.

O'Brien's Pub, Mondays
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. A mix of rock and spoken word is performed one Monday a month at 9pm—the performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Gallery's Poetry Night, Saturdays
Out of the Blue Gallery, 168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. Donations appreciated. Every Saturday is poetry night, and an incredible spoken-word and music event also takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month. It features music by Rob Gonzalez and his band and spoken word with Nola Kelley. Open mike occasionally follows performances.

Rhythm and Muse Open Mike, Thursdays
403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-6622). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook. A headlining poet is followed by an open-mike session on the first Thursday of every month, 7:30pm.

Stone Soup Poetry Night, Mondays
Zeitgeist Gallery, 312 Broadway St, Cambridge (227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7:30pm. $3. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets have served up steamy confessions and soothing inspirations with their weekly readings. Keep the good vibes going every Monday at these readings with a wealth of featured writers each week.



Pucker Up

Meet Leah Furman, co-author of *The Everything Dating Book*, which she wrote with her sister Elina. "Experts" in the kissing and dating fields, the pair are well trained to impart words of wisdom regarding kissing do's and don'ts, kissing history and factoids. The boos supplies answers questions like "Will kissing your spouse each morning really make you live longer?"

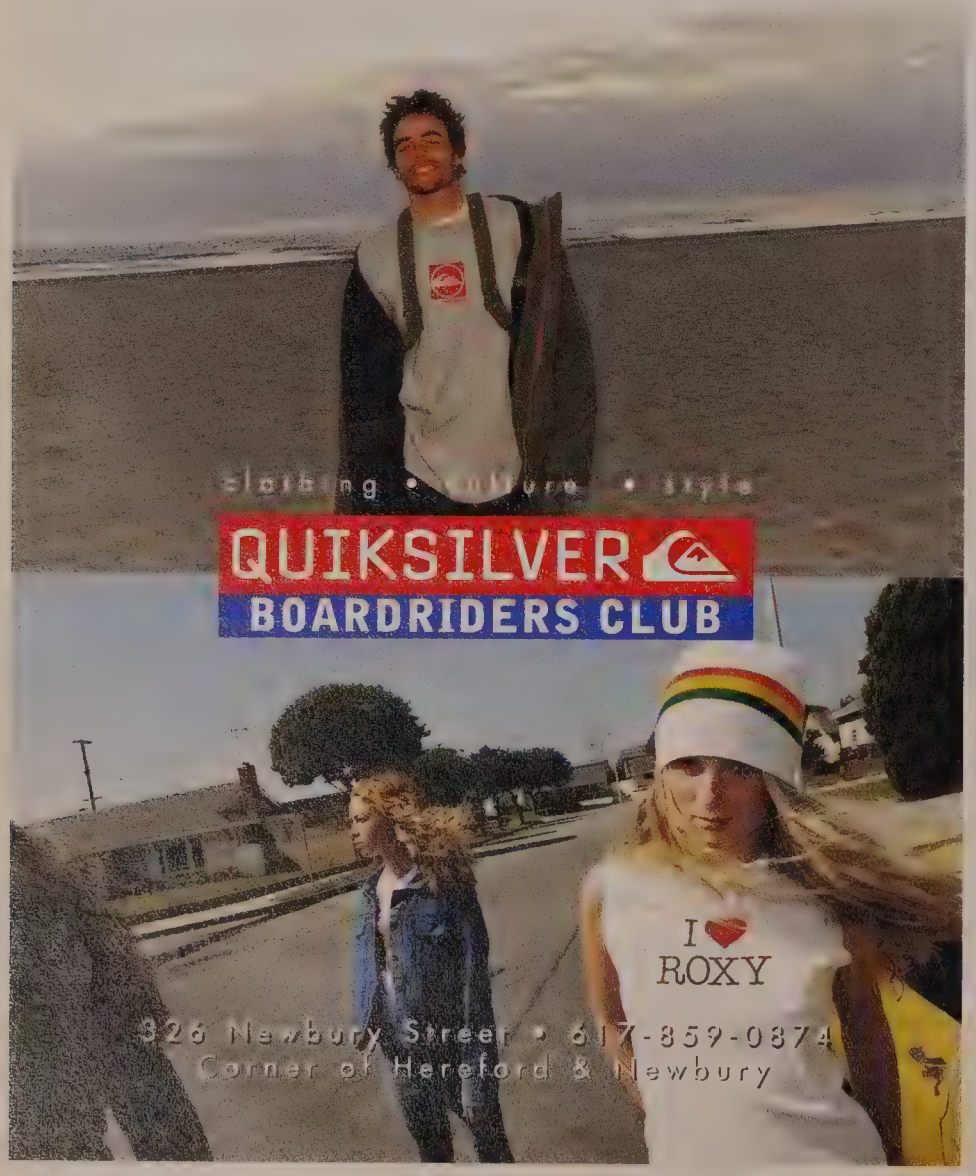
In conjunction with the book tour, there's an event that is *the* perfect opportunity for those in need of a killer first date idea. Part of a 20-city search for "the couple with the most pucker power" is a Longest Smooch Challenge to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma society. Couples go head to head, sucking face to see who has the most stamina for smooching. It's worth braking out the breath mints and Chapstick, as they'll donate $100 for every hour lovebirds make out. Plus, the grand-prize-winning tonsil ticklers get $1,000 cash prize—second place is $500, third place $250. *Aug. 10, 8pm, Dad's Diner. $10 entry fee per couple. Must be 21 or older (296-3237). Judged by reps from the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, WBOS FM and Pucker Schnapps.*

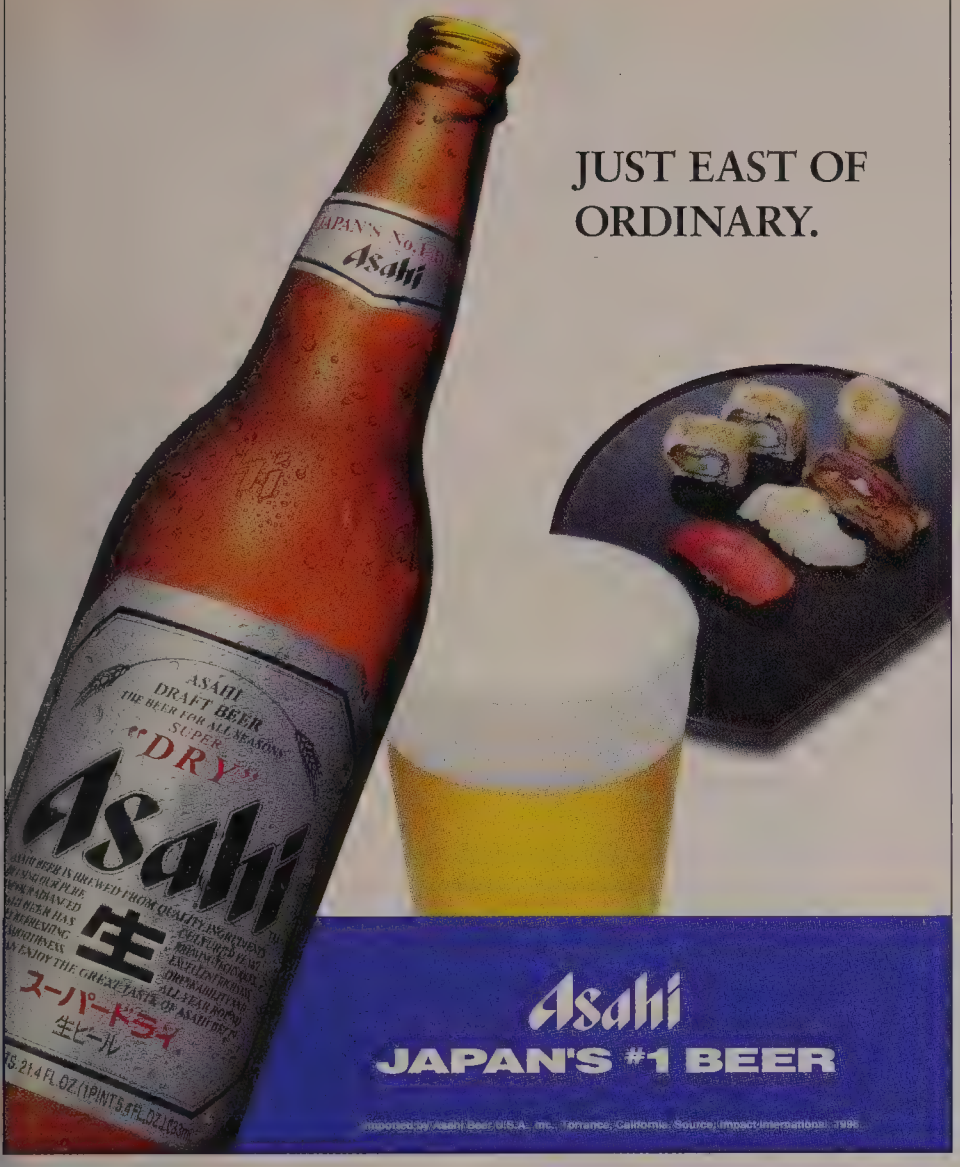
Bestsellers

HARDCOVER FICTION
1. **Harry Potter & the Goblet of Fire** by J.K. Rowling
2. **Harry Potter & the Prisoner of Azkaban** by J.K. Rowling
3. **Harry Potter & the Chamber of Secrets** by J.K. Rowling
4. **Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's Stone** by J.K. Rowling
5. **Oh, the Places You'll Go!** by Dr. Seuss
6. **Make Way for Ducklings** by Robert McCloskey
7. **Not a Day Goes By** by Lynne E. Harris
8. **Omerta** by Mario Puzo
9. **Brethren** by John Grisham
10. **Cradle and All** by James Patterson

HARDCOVER NON-FICTION
1. **Black Mass** by Dick Lehr
2. **Who Moved My Cheese?** by Spencer Johnson
3. **In the Heart of the Sea** by Nathaniel Philbrick
4. **Me Talk Pretty One Day** by David Sedaris
5. **Flying Cloud** by David Shaw
6. **Tuesdays with Morrie** by Mitch Albom
7. **Papal Sin** by Garry Willis
8. **Kitchen Confidential** by Anthony Bourdain
9. **The Day John Died** by Christian Anderson
10. **In a Sunburned Country** by Bill Bryson

Provided by Borders Books and Music at Downtown Crossing for the week of July 16-23.





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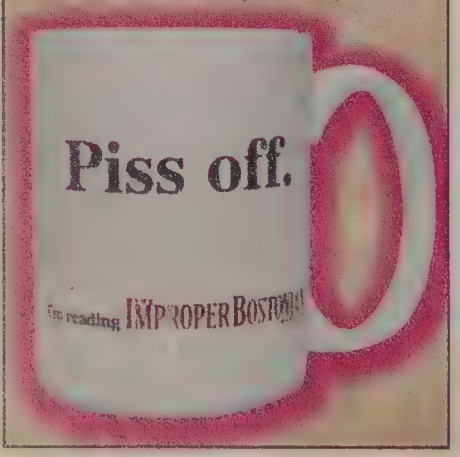


JAN SWAFFORD'S TWO KEYBOARDS

The author of acclaimed biographies of Ives and Brahms—with one of Beethoven coming up next—would rather be composing music. BY KEITH POWERS

Composers generally have poor career prospects. Writing a major piece of music takes years, and performance possibilities for new works are rare. So composers support their work with a "day job"—some perform, some teach, some drive trucks.

Jan Swafford had a different idea. "I don't know what I was thinking," Swafford deadpans. "I decided to support my composing by writing. Can you imagine any two professions that pay less? Everything I do, I do for low pay."

Swafford is the author of well-received biographies of Charles Ives (Norton, 1996) and Johannes Brahms (Knopf, 1997), and is also working on a biography of Beethoven (Houghton Mifflin, due out in 2005). That would be enough experience for some folks, but Swafford has also composed for 30 years, with dozens of works for many different settings. This is in addition to, as he puts it, his "hack career," where he wrote or co-wrote a number of books, mainly history, to support himself.

Swafford's musical beginnings were part accident, part karma—followed by lots of training. "I played trombone in junior high, only because I showed up late the first day and the only person left was the guy renting trombones. I wanted to play trumpet or drums. My only ambition was to be first chair in the band, which meant beating out a large girl named Donna. I used to carry Beethoven scores in my trombone case and conduct silently in front of the mirror."

Theory and composition classes in high school led to musical studies at Harvard. Swafford's experience there was hardly inspiring. "Harvard is terrible for creative people," he says. After graduation and years of teaching, Swafford went back to school, earning a doctorate in music from Yale. Then began a cycle of composing, watching the money run out, writing a quickie book, going back to composing, and so on. "At least I learned how to do research," he says. "Now I know how to go to a library and find what I need."

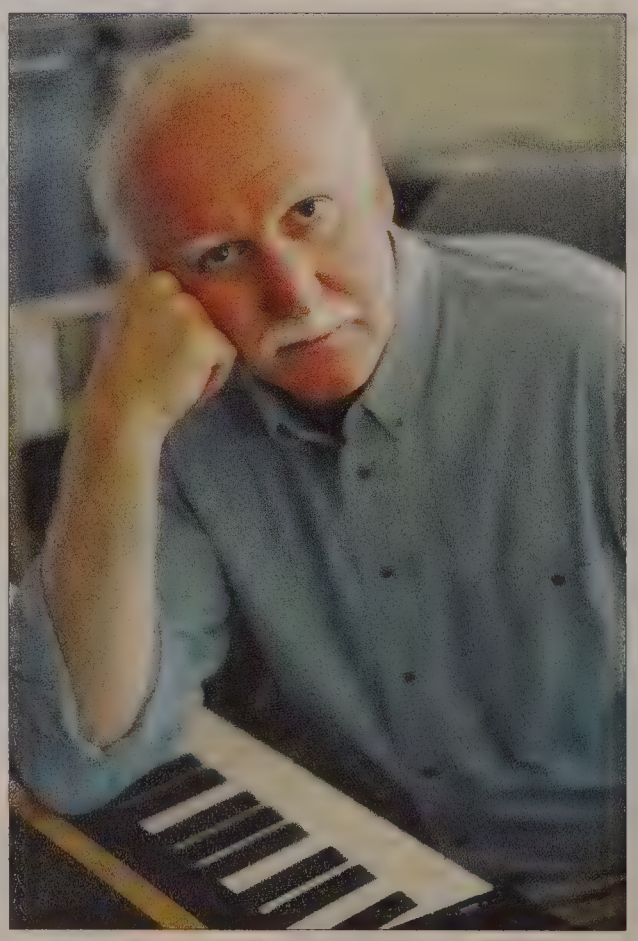
Finally the Ives book came along—"I sent the proposal absolutely cold to Norton, not knowing that they had published other Ives books"—which garnered a PEN nomination. That led to the Brahms bio, and now the Beethoven project, which most music writers would die for. Swafford says, however, "I want to be a composer again. I plan to do half-time research for the next three years, and then write the book full time for the last two years. Right now I'm sketching musical ideas, hoping for a couple of possible commissions, one for a piano trio, and maybe something for a local group. I have three 'season' pieces: 'Midsummer Variations,' 'Requiem in Winter,' and 'After Spring Rain.' So I need an autumn piece."

Swafford has strong ideas about contemporary music—informed as he is on both sides as a scholar and creator. "The first 20 years of the century—Stravinsky, Schoenberg, Bartok and Ives—was one of the great periods in Western music. Then it got rotten. And when modernism got rotten, it was absurd. It came close to destroying Western music—with all the 'isms' that were created.

"For me, it's about getting out of the 'isms' entirely. I've never given a damn about tonality—some of my work is tonal, some not. And we are overinvolved with other traditions. I love raga and Balinese music very much, but I've never tried to write like that."

So far, the creative balance has tilted too far toward the computer keyboard, and too far away from the piano keyboard, Swafford says. "Everyone says writers are jealous of other writers. With me, my composer side is jealous of my writer side. Writing is easy by comparison. My art is my composing. Biography is my craft."

"They say that writers are jealous of other writers, and composers are jealous of other composers. My composer side is jealous of my writer side."



Writer/composer Jan Swafford gets back to his music.

Coda

Sobering numbers from an article in the *Chronicle for Higher Education* (July 28, 2000): From July 1997 to July 1998, there were 3,065 string majors at American colleges, and fewer than 150 jobs for string players advertised during the same time period. Conductor search continued: the *Philadelphia Inquirer* ran a story claiming that the **BSO** and **Metropolitan Opera Orchestra** conductor **James Levine** are involved in intense discussions to replace **Seiji Ozawa**. Levine's spokesperson refused to comment on the rumors. **iB**

WENDY MIMRAN

Preview

Contemporary Music on Tap at Tanglewood

Guest artists take on Luciano Berio's *14 Sequenzas;* Robert Spano, violinist Vadim Repin and the BSO present Prokofiev

•Thursday, Aug. 10: Luciano Berio's *14 Sequenzas*. This is one of Berio's great solo pieces, each for a different instrument. These masterpieces are a challenge for performer and audience alike, and they inevitably draw a strong audience reaction. This is a rare presentation of all 14 solo selections, with guest artists including Eliot Fisk (guitar), Lucy Shelton (soprano), Ju-Ping Song (piano), Ann Hobson Pilot (harp), Tom Martin (clarinet) and others. (7pm, Ozawa Hall).

•Saturday, Aug 12: Eliot Fisk, guitar, with vocal fellows of the TMC, Music of Knussen, Dusapin, Milton Babbit, Ruth Crawford-Seeger, Gunther, Schuller and others, performed by one of the great living guitarists. (2:30pm, Ozawa Hall).

•Sunday, Aug 13: Robert Spano conducts the BSO with Vadim Repin, violin, Prokofiev's first violin concerto, Carter's *Variation for Orchestra* and works by Mozart. (2:30pm, Shed.)

•Monday, August 14: TMC Orchestra conducted by Stefan Asbury and George Benjamin: Works by Carter, Tania Leon, Benjamin's *Palimpsest* and Copland's *Inscape*. (8:30pm, Ozawa Hall.)

Robert Spano conducts a three-part BSO performance Aug. 13 at Tanglewood.

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled Classical by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Classical Music or e-mail to classical@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers Web site information and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to deadline. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from many different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to doublecheck dates and times.

Wednesday, August 9

Au Bon Pain WCRB Concert
Hatch Shell on the Esplanade, Boston (781-893-7080). 7:30- 9pm. Free admission. The Air Force Band of Liberty performs.

Friday, August 11

BSO at Tanglewood
Tanglewood Shed, Lenox (266-1898). 8:30pm. Hans Graf conducts Andre Watts on piano.

Saturday, August 12

Boston Chamber Music Society
Longy School of Music, One Follen St., Cambridge (876-0956). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. $22. The BCMS features the Roselyra Quartet and Randall Hodgkinson on piano in the second part of a four-concert series.

BU Tanglewood Institute Concert
Ozawa Hall, Koussevitzky Shed, Tanglewood, Lenox (266-1200). 2:30pm. The BU Young Artists Orchestra conducted by Julian Wachner.

Monday, August 14

Chorus pro Musica
Old South Church, 645 Boylston St., Copley Square, Boston (267-7442). 7:30pm. $7. No singing experience required, one and all are invited to join the Chorus' Faure Requiem in this concert.

Tuesday, August 15

King's Chapel Concert
King's Chapel, School and Tremont Street., Boston (227-2155). 12:15pm. $2. Carly McIlvaine, soprano, stars in a Bach and Mozart program.

Wednesday, August 16

Au Bon Pain WCRB Concert
Hatch Shell on the Esplanade, Boston (781-893-7080). 7:30-9pm. Free admission. The Longwood Symphony Orchestra performs.

Tanglewood Concert
Ozawa Hall, Tanglewood, Lenox (266-1200). 8:30pm. Nelson Freire on piano.

Thursday, August 17

Julliard String Quartet at Tanglewood
Ozawa Hall, Tanglewood, Lenox (266-1200). 8:30pm. Haydn, Bartok and Mendelssohn, performed by the Julliard String Quartet.

Friday, August 18

BSO and TFC at Tanglewood
Tanglewood Shed, Lenox (266-1898). 8:30pm. The BSO, conducted by Bernard Haitink, performs with the Tanglewood Festival Chorus.

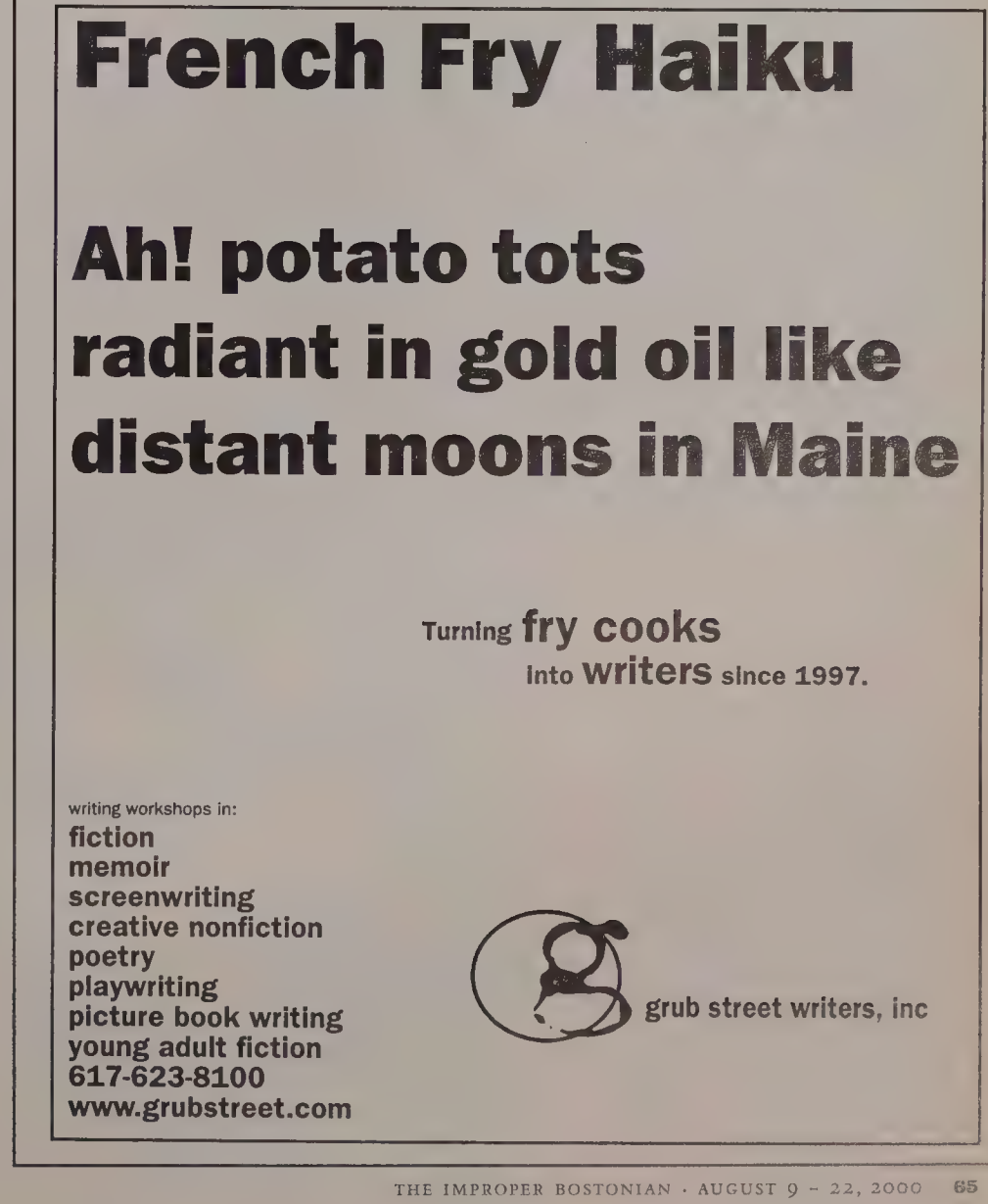
Saturday, August 19

Boston Chamber Music Society
Longy School of Music, One Follen St., Cambridge (349-0080). 8pm. $22. The BCMS plays with Renee Siebert on flute, Benny Kim on violin, Bion Tsang on cello, Mihae Lee on piano and Chris Pedro Trakas, baritone.

Itzhak Perlman at Tanglewood
Tanglewood Shed, Lenox (266-1898). 8:30pm. Itzhak Perlman conducting and on violin.

Sunday, August 20

BSO and TFC at Tanglewood
Tanglewood Shed, Lenox (266-1898). 2:30pm. BSO conducted by Federico Cortese with Nelson Freire on piano. TFC conducted by John Oliver.



dance clubs

Advice to Contributors
Submit information by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Clubs or e-mail to clubs@improper.com. Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Nights

Mondays

Language
Hibernia. DJs G White, Dot, Surface and Sora spin drum and bass. 8pm. 21+.

Static
Axis. DJ Jay Ine and the gorgeous drag shows hosted by Mizery. 10pm, $5. 19+.

Vertigo Mondays
Vertigo. Caesar and Giorgio throw a party for those who never stop dancin'. Smooth Lounge upstairs, deep house downstairs with DJ Arsit. Dress slick. 10pm. No cover.

Tuesdays

Cigar and Jazz Night
The Exchange. Light up, kick back and score a free Gina Cigar and buffet. No cover.

Lot 36
Embassy. DJs Eddie K. and Andrea R. heat things up this summer at the city's newest club. 10pm. $15. 19+.

Fat Tuesdays
Bill's. This off-the-hook night features DJ Chaos scratching out hip-hop while DJ Justin Hoffman and DJ Jynx spin downstairs. 11pm. $10.

The Forum
Lava Bar. Join Mission Control and support the local DJ scene as home-grown talents share the floor. 10pm. 21+.

Got Milk?
Venu. If you're chic you'll be at Venu for Milk—a devilishly hip party with DJ Osheen. Dress is funky. 21+.

Inasense
Karma. DJ Timmy Allen spins classic and soulful house and R&B. $10, 19+.

Mason
Hibernia. Perfect Downtempo and house music for a Tuesday night complete with funky breaks.

Mingle Tuesdays
The Modern. This spot screams sophistication. With DJs, a raw bar, vodka bar and late lounge. 10pm. 21+.

Wednesdays

Backstage
DJ Jonny C. spins top-40 dance classics. 10pm, no cover. 21+.

College Night
The Aquarium. Guest DJs spin on all three funky floors of this relatively new venue at 10pm.

Good Karma
Karma/Mambo. Mizery plays host to a roster of rotating DJs. Expect a mixed crowd. 10pm, $5. 19+.

Hibernia Wednesdays
Hibernia. DJ C.T.O. is the Godfather of Say Word night—with plenty of funk. 9pm. Cover varies. 21+.

Modern Living
The Modern. DJ Dale Charles spins while minglers strut their stuff, munch from a raw bar and sip martinis. 10pm. 21+.

Musical Mayhem
The Exchange. DJ Jynx plays house upstairs while Tym Ryan of WFNX and DJ Brisc spin in the Vault. 10pm.

Pravda 116
Spend the night at one of the city's most decadent hot spots—set to beats by DJ Alex and DJ Felix. 21+.

Status
Axis. It's all about status when DJs Darrin Friedman and Richie Rich spin house music. 10pm, $10. 19+.

Thursdays

Aquarium
The Kiss 108 FM dance party features Randy from the *Matty in the Morning Show.* 10pm. $3.

Backstage
Tonight's adrenaline high features special guests spinning top-40 dance and club classics. 10pm, $5. 21+.

Big Easy
New Orleans-themed nightspot with some of the best DJs in town. Four bars, billiards and lounges. 9pm.

Charlie's Angels Night
Polly Esther's. Dress as your favorite Brady character and dance to '70s, '80s and '90s music. 8pm, $5. 21+.

Chrome
Axis. Resident DJs John Debo and Ali Ajami spin house and trance. 10pm, $10. 19+.

Dress slick and get ready to get down at Vertigo, State Street's swank and swingin' hot spot.

Downtempo Lounging
The Modern. DJ Ricky Fatts spins while you enjoy the raw bar and vodka bar. 9pm-2am, 21+.

Funkalicious Thursdays
The Exchange. DJ G-Squared takes you on a blast from the past as he spins '70s and '80s tunes. No cover.

Hibernia Thursday Night
Hibernia. DJ Jeremy spins a loopy, trippy hip-hop version lovingly referred to as trip-hop.

Il Panino
A social playground for young professionals in Boston: cocktails and dancing. Proper dress. 9pm. 21+.

International Thursday
Avalon. A mixed crowd fills this nightspot with DJ Manolo and DJ Anthony. 10pm, $15. 19+.

Latin Quarter
The Roxy. You know it's time to get down when the Roxy breaks out hip-shaking Latin dance mixes.

Salsa Night
Europa. Enter the Bacardi Salsa Lounge stretched and ready to dance. Don't know how? Learn how at 9pm.

Speed
Karma/Mambo. Resident DJs Bruno and Masta Millions spin hip-hop and R&B. 10pm, $15. 19+.

Sugar Shack
The best music from three decades pounds through the festival atmosphere where every day is Mardi-Gras.

Sweetwater Cafe
Live bands perform while guests sip margaritas outside on an open patio.

The List
Lava Bar. *Lavabar.com*. DJ 7L and guests along with Verse/D bring you soul and funk. 10pm. 21+.

Venu
Swank American top-40 and house, this hot spot features the incredible DJ Adilson.

Fridays

Avaland
Avalon. Everything about this screams "Party!" With the likes of DJ Manolo and John Debo. 10pm, $15. 19+.

Backstage
Backstage kicks off its all-night dance party, part one, with the sounds of DJ Jonny C spinning top-40. Doors open at 10pm, $5. Proper dress, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans–themed nightspot has some of the best mainstream DJs in town.

Buzz Fridays
Buzz. Roger M lays down Latin house tracks while DJs pay homage to the house music gods. 11pm, $15. 19+.

Embassy
Jay C., Eddie K. and Eddie Lee mix up fresh beats at this new venue. 10pm, $15. 19+.

Envy
This popular destination is filled with a mass of sweaty 'n' ready dancers. 9pm, $5 after 10pm. 21+.

Exchange Fridays
The Exchange. Up High, Tiziano and Maurizio, Boston's best DJ duo play house trip while DJ G-Squared opens the Vault with dance and hip-hop. 9pm.

Focus
Hibernia. Cocktails with Alan Strack and tunes by DJs Chuck Caseroc and Skot Havens. 9pm, 21+. •Aug. 11: J-Luv. •Aug. 18: Shay Hannon.

Lava Bar
Life. Dance to a different drummer with DJ Fran Englehardt's deeply rooted soulful rhythms. 10pm.

Nocturnal Fridays
Bill's Bar. WBCN's Bill Abbate spins up a delectable smorgasbord of rock with a pinch of roll. 9pm. $5. 21+.

NYC Jukebox
All the disco and rock you can handle. 9pm, 21+.

Pure
Karma/Mambo. World Class Drum and Bass DJs. With a weekly rotating roster of guest DJs. $15, 19+.

Roxy 2000
Roxy/Mondo Bar. DJ Felix spins house and international music all night. 10:30pm. $15 cover, 21+.

Spin Cycle
Axis. Glitzed-out club hoppers shake it to the progressive house beats of DJ Tim Ryan and DJ David James' retro tunes upstairs. 10pm, $12. 19+.

Sugar Shack
DJs and specialty drinks, dancing 'til 2am.

Sweetwater Cafe
DJs KC and Jonesey entertain on two floors of this classic American bar.

Ultra Lounge
The Modern. DJ Mixin Matt Ruben. 9pm-2am, 21+.

Venu
The scene is elegant for this jacket-required international romp. Get your Gucci on as DJ Arsit spins. 21+.

Saturdays

Aquarium
Saturday night dance party with DJs. 10pm. $5.

Downtown
Avalon. Resident DJs Manolo and Mattie O. gyrate your arse with hits and club classics. 10pm, $15. 21+.

Backstage
DJ Freddie C spins top-40 dance and club classics. 10pm. $5. Proper dress, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans–themed nightspot has live bands all weekend. Thirsty? There are four bars to boot.

Bill's Bar
DJ Laurie Gail with guest DJs make Bill's a night full of dancing to '70s, '80s and '90s. 9pm, $3. 19+.

Club Juliana
Boogieing cuties converge on Boston's newest Latin Night starting at 10pm. Dress to impress. $10.

Club Nicole
The mob is thick for this exclusive trendsetter. DJ Alex spins Eurohouse. Jackets required. 21+.

Club Piteko
Fajitas & Ritas' hot spot juggles reggae, hip-hop and Brazilian sounds. $7. 21+.

Elements of Life
Karma/Mambo. DJ Supa Mario and world class DJs spin house while DJ Hoffman plays funk. 10pm, $15. 19+.

Embassy
Jay C., Eddie K. and Eddie Lee bounce beats off each other and the ceilings and floors. 10pm, $15. 19+.

Envy
From 9pm-2am, DJ Tom Baxter blasts top-40, house and dance. 9pm, $5 after 10pm.

Exchange Saturdays
DJ Diesel renovates the upper level with full-on house while DJ Jynx spins the funky beats in the Vault. 9pm.

Hibernia Saturdays
Steve Porter takes the reins and whips the crowd into a frenzy. 10pm. 21+. •Aug. 12: Miami's Ariel Baund spins.

Lava Bar
Anything Goes. DJ Fran and Kris Kono unite with high-energy house and Latin beats. 10pm, 21+.

Miami Club Night
Club Joy/Yesterday's. Get a taste of Miami nightlife. 9:30pm (ladies free before 11pm), $10. 21+. Ladies, 19+.

Mischief
The Modern. Feeling mischievous? Ultra lounging with decadent desserts and erotic electronica. 21+.

Mythos
Venu. Greek International with DJ Yorgo Jr. spinning the hits from the famous party islands of Greece.

NYC Jukebox
Dance music from the '80s and '90s. 9pm, 21+.

Roxy
High-energy house and dance by DJ Adilson. 9pm, 21+.

Saturday Night Fever
Polly Esther's. Groove to three decades' worth of beats in the laser-lit Club DVD. 8pm, $10. 21+.

Sugar Shack
Spice up your night with '70s, '80s and '90s dance music as DJ Rich Centi spins the hottest sounds.

Sweetwater Cafe
Music from DJs KC and Jonesey on two floors.

Who's on First?
The latest and greatest in hip-hop, reggae, R&B and Latin house with DJ Lil' Mike, 10:30pm, $12. 18+.

X night
Axis. DJ Mike Gioscia spins '90s faves while DJ David James spins '80s hits. 10pm, $10 cover. 21+.

Sundays

Backstage
Urban Night. With T Clark spinning hip-hop, reggae and old school. Doors open at 10pm, $10. 21+.

Common People
An Tua Nua.
Brit-pop, new wave, indie and more with DJ Adrienne. 9pm, $3. 19+.

Exchange Sundays
A fusion of heavy lounge and Miami house. No cover.

Il Panino
This night features music by DJ Alex of Boston Beat and DJ Roger M. No cover, 21+.

Latin Night
Karma/Mambo Lounge. Weekly Live Latin Bands. 10pm, $25. 19+.

Lava Bar
Pandora's Box (Club Courtesy). DJ Vinny and Sir Richard and Sterling spin '60s Exotica, loungecore, psychedelic flowerpop and Motown. 10pm. 21+.

Salvation
This Boston vibe serves up an intimate evening of soul—all provided courtesy of DJ Soul. $5.

Venu
Carnival comes to Boston every Sunday as DJ Adilson brings the heat of Rio to Venu. 21+.

Club Venues

AnTua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (262-2121). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Aquarium *65 Holland St., Somerville (623-3200). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (437-0300). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Backstage *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston (726-1110). MBTA: Blue Line to Government Center.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Buzz Boston/Europa *51-67 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street.*
Club Juliana *20 Hudson St., Boston (542-4411).*
Club Nicole *40 Dalton St., Boston (236-4746). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*
Club Piteko/Fajitas & Ritas *25 West St., Boston (426-1222). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Club Stella *1234 Soldiers Field Rd., Brighton (254-0554).*
Embassy *36 Lansdown St., Boston (536-2100). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Envy *25 Boylston Place, Boston (542-3689). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Exchange *148 State St., Boston (723-7755). MBTA: Orange Line to State Street.*
Hibernia *25 Kingston St., Boston (292-2333). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Karma *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9595). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Lava Bar *575 Comm. Ave., Boston (267-7707). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
NYC Jukebox *275 Tremont St., Boston (542-1123). Green Line to Park.*
Oskar's *107 South Street., Boston (542-6756). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Polly Esther's *262 Friend St., Boston (720-1966). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (482-7799). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Salvation *20 Hudson St., Boston (781-668-2392). MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown.*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Sweetwater Cafe *5 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2515). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (338-8061). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Vertigo *126 State Street, Boston (723-7277). MBTA: Blue Line to State Street.*

JOEL VEAK

Thursday, August 17th

it is a

DOG DAY afternoon

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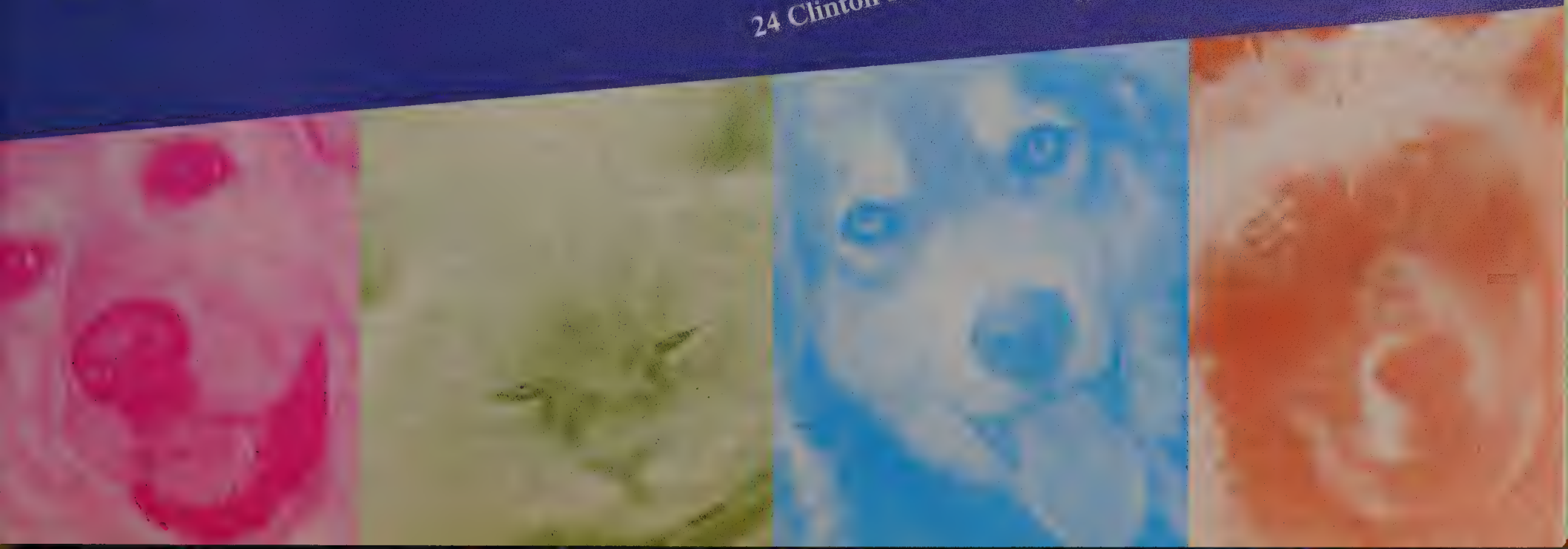


Music

FROM MANDOLINS TO PARROTS

Merrie Amsterburg's second album finds its groove in some unusual places. BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

This summer is a bright and busy one for Merrie Amsterburg, who is supporting the release of her entrancing second CD *Little Steps* with some unusual performances—including a return trip to Fenway Park to sing the national anthem Aug. 6. "It's a pretty heavy experience," says Amsterburg, a Red Sox disciple who also thought about her dad's military service when she sang there on two past occasions. "It's a hymn in a way, and then you're doing it, and 34,000 people are singing the same song with you, and it's really a wonderful thing."

"The Star Spangled Banner" also has a reputation as being tough to sing, and Amsterburg, who's known for her somber soprano, agrees. "If you ever do it, start low," she says.

The locally-based singer-songwriter has interpreted a range of other songs, from the Police' s "Walking on the Moon" (on the Zoe/Rounder reissue of her 1997 Q Division debut *Season of Rain*) to the Pretenders' "2000 Miles," for the Q Division compilation *Viva Noel*. To cap her songwriter' s residency at the Lizard Lounge last month, she even backed Aaron Perrino of the Sheila Divine in tackling Aerosmith's "Dream On."

Merrie Amsterburg departs from guitar licks with her mandolin.

But Amsterburg's songs from *Little Steps* will take rightful precedence when she plays a noon set at Borders Books & Music in downtown Boston Aug. 16, followed by a 6 pm show that same day outside the Charles Hotel in Harvard Square, and another Borders date in Peabody Aug. 17 at 6 pm. "It's bright, and you can see everybody; and the audience is kind of shy," she says. "But I love doing those things because you get to reach a lot of different people that you normally wouldn't."

People can' t go wrong with *Little Steps*, a pop disc quick to let listeners melt into its melancholy moods, much like the best work of Aimee Mann, Beth Orton or the Cowboy Junkies.

"My previous record (*Season of Rain*) was just about trying to figure out why things happen and trying to make sense of things," Amsterburg offers. "But this record is more about moving forward. I don't think it's as dark. There's still a straight-ahead love song on there." That song, "My Romeo," dates back to her years with the '80s pop-rock band, the Natives. During this time, she met her current guitar accompanist and husband, Peter Linton.

"Some of the songs I wrote in D Minor tuning, which is kind of a lower, darker tuning as well," she says. "But I think one of the things I like about the lower stuff is my voice is kind of trebly, and I like the balance of the tonality."

On a novel note, Amsterburg recorded the B-flat drone of her washing machine for the background of the title track, along with a hard-to-catch squawk from her parrot. But she mostly spins deeper textures through her use of mandolin, bouzouki and baritone guitar, in addition to conventional guitars, a trend inspired by local mandolinist, Jimmy Ryan.

Amsterburg acquired an old, unstrung mandolin from a local music store for free. "The action (on the frets) was so high, I had to tune it lower, and I got used to that lower register of the mandolin. So I was looking for something like the mandolin, only lower, for my voice," she says. "The bouzouki was a natural offshoot." For her new CD, she also used more keyboards (she began playing piano at age three) and trumpet, which was her first formal instrument in the fifth grade, before she picked up guitar in junior high.

"In high school, it was a guy's club thing; they didn' t want to have a woman play electric guitar," says Amsterburg, who grew up in Michigan. "So I started the band thing in college, and the first real rock band I was in was an Ozzy Osbourne cover band with my little brother in 1983." In fact, she just recorded "Mr. Crowley" for an upcoming compilation album.

So Amsterburg isn't as timid as she looks on stage. "I get so inside the music, and one of the things that's really great about performing is that the crowd helps me connect to the music more—almost like the same feeling as when you first write the song," she says. "There's something about the energy of the audience when you're performing."

And that goes for the bookstore or the ballpark. iB

Upcoming Borders Performances

Merrie Amsterburg plays Borders Books & Music at 10-25 School St., Boston, Aug. 16 at 12pm, and at 151 Andover St., Peabody, Aug. 17 at 6 pm.

PAUL ROBICHEAU

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fax (859-1446); by mail to Calendar/Music; or by email to music@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, phone numbers and nearest T stops. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double check dates and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

Concerts

The Beach Boys
August 20, South Shore Music Circus
Pat Benetar with Maura Young
August 11, South Shore Music Circus
Counting Crows and Live
August 16, Tweeter Center
Creed
August 22, Tweeter Center
Sonia Dada
August 10, Copley Square Park
Disco Night with the Trammps
August 9, City Hall Plaza
Dixie Dregs
August 14, Roxy
Engelbert Humperdinck
August 18, South Shore Music Circus
The Everly Brothers and the Kingston Trio
August 19, South Shore Music Circus.
Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme
August 22 and 23, North Shore Music Theatre
Little Feat with James Montgomery Band
August 12, South Shore Music Circus
Lord of the Dance
August 11, FleetBoston Pavilion
Lyle Lovett
August 17, South Shore Music Circus; August 19, FleetBoston Pavilion and August 21, Tanglewood.
John McDermott
August 17, South Shore Music Circus
Montreaux Jazz Festival
August 15, FleetBoston Pavilion
Willie Nelson and Family
August 9, South Shore Music Circus
Collin Raye
August 13, South Shore Music Circus
Herb Reed and the Platters
August 16, City Hall Plaza
Rhyme and Reason 2000
August 12, Foxboro stadium
Saw Doctors
August 18, FleetBoston Pavilion
Watcha Tour 2000
August 22, Worcester Palladium
Neil Young and the Pretenders
August 12, Tweeter Center

CONCERT HALLS

Copley Square Park
Green Line to Copley.
FleetBoston Pavilion
290 Northern Avenue, Boston (734-9000). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.
Foxboro Stadium
60 Washington St., Foxboro (508-543-0350).
North Shore Music Theatre
62 Dunham Rd., Beverly (978-232-7200).
South Shore Music Circus
130 Sohier St., Cohasset (781) 383-9850.
Tweeter Center
885 South Main St., Mansfield (508-339-2331).

Rock, Jazz and Blues

Wednesday, August 9

Bob the Chef's
Hakim Law Jazz Quartet, 6pm.
The Colonial Inn
Jimmy Mazzy and the Last Minute Men, 8pm.
Coogan's Bluff
James McKenna, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm.
Henrietta's Table
Tarbox Ramblers, 6pm, no cover.
House of Blues
Mountain of Venus, 9pm, $6, 18+.
Johnny D's
Mary Gauthier, 8:30pm.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Josh Jordan, 9pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe
Ken Clark Organ Trio. $5.
Les Zygomates
Lonely Gus and the One Night Stand, 5pm, no cover.
Lilli's
Rock Bottom, 10pm, $6.
Maison Robert
Mike Turk, no cover.
The Middle East
U: Midtown, Jericho, the Stereo, the Lot Sic and the Honor System, $7, 18+. C: Belly Dancing, 10pm.
Oak Bar
Diana Fischer, 8pm, no cover.
The Playhouse Lounge
Victor McSurely, 9:45pm, 21+.
The Rack
Hung Jury, 9pm.
Regattabar
Grisha Goryachev, 8:30pm, $10.
Scullers Jazz Club
Victor Mendoza Latin Jazz Sextet, 8pm and 10pm, $12.
Toad
The Cranktones, no cover.

Thursday, August 10

Abbey Lounge
Mr. Airplane Man, 9pm $5.
Avalon
Buju Banton, 7pm, $22.75.
Bob the Chef's
Toni Lynn Washington Jazz Quartet, 7:30pm.
The Colonial Inn
John Fitzsimmons and friends, 8pm, no cover.
Common Ground
Dennis Brennan with Nash Satterfield, 10pm.
Coogans Bluff
Rumbletones, 9pm, no cover.
Copley Square Park
Sonia Dada, no cover.
Dick's Last Resort
Rob Gonzalez, 7pm.
Good Life Downtown
Power Jazz Unit, no cover, 21+.
House of Blues
Alvin Young Blood Hart, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Johnny D's
Swampadelica, 9pm.
Kendall Cafe
Justin Rosolino, Rollin and Zoubek, Spinoza, 9pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe
I'm Thirsy, Honey Deluxe and Fools Rush In, $5.
Les Zygomates
Mark Rossi Duo and the Jinga Trio, 5pm, no cover.
Lilli's
The New Deal with DJ Mark Flynn, 10pm, $8.
Linwood
Euphonic, Jaya the Cat and Black Market Medallions, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Maison Robert
Mike Turk, no cover.
The Middle East
U: Crash and Burn, Dead and Gone and Weedeater, $7, 18+. C: Board of Education, 10pm.
Oak Bar
Diana Fischer, 8pm, no cover.
Parker's
Rosie Jamieson and Rick Schilling, 8pm.
The Playhouse Lounge
Garyoke, 9:45pm. 21+.
The Rack
Code 51, 6:30pm, no cover.
Regattabar
Ahmad Jamal, 8:30pm, $14.
Rhythm & Spice
DJ Bim Inc. and Sound Vibration, 10pm, $5, 18+.
Scullers Jazz Club
James Carter Electric Project, 8pm and 10pm, $20.
Toad
Lemonpeeler, no cover.

Friday, August 11

Abbey Lounge
Asa Brebner and Friends, 9pm, $5.
The Attic
Apartment Three with the Jibe.
Bank of Boston Plaza
The Love Dogs.
Bob the Chef's
Paulo Danay Quartet, 7:30pm.
The Colonial Inn
The Workingman's Jazz duo, 8pm, no cover.
Common Ground
The Pressure Cooker, 10pm.
Coogans Bluff
Figure Four, 9pm, $3.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band, 7pm.
Good Life Central
Mike Shea Band, no cover, 21+.
Good Life Downtown
Roxbury Blues Aesthetic, no cover, 21+.
The Green Dragon Tavern
Swinging Johnsons, 8pm.
House of Blues
Cabaret Diosa, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Jose McIntyre's
Cape Fear, 9pm, no cover.
Kendall Cafe
Will Hawkins, Mo Matching Drapes and Xguru, 9:30pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe
Vic Morrows, CLassic Ruins, Dave Summarco and the Mickey Bliss Organ Combo. $5.
Les Zygomates
Issi Rozen Duo and the Alon Yavnai Quartet, 5pm, no cover.
Lilli's
Robert Walter's 20th Congress, 10 pm, $9.
Linwood Grill
Den Mothers and Major Major, $6, 21+.
Lizard Lounge
Lucky 57, Scrimshanders and Hog Mawl.
The Middle East
U: Mothers Brothers, Reverse and Creme Brulee, $7, 18+. C: Bill Robinson, 10pm.
Oak Bar
Diana Fischer Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
Parker's
Rosie Jamieson and Rick Schilling, 8pm.
The Playhouse Lounge
Gary Gore, 11:45pm. 21+.
Purple Shamrock
Marcels, 9pm, $5.
The Rack
Big City Beat, 6:30pm.
Regattabar
Ahmad Jamal, 8pm and 10pm, $16.
Rhythm and Spice
Jamdown, 10pm, $5, 18+.
Ryles Jazz Club
Anrea Bossa Nova, 8:30pm, $10.
Sculler's
Dennis Chambers, Jazztimes Superband, Joey DeFrancesco and Randy Brecker.
Toad
The Armadillos, no cover.
Wonderbar
Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Saturday, August 12

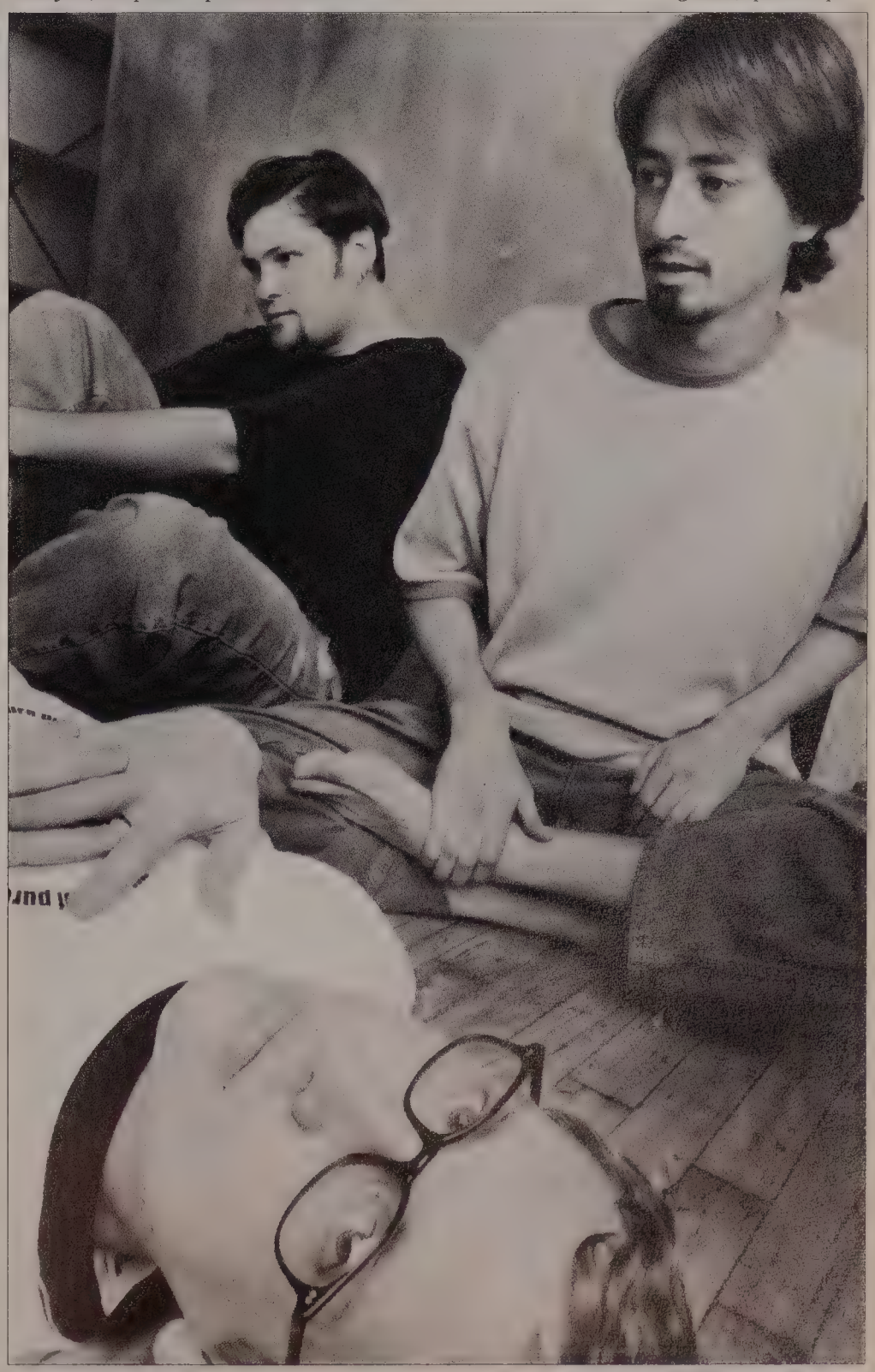
Abbey Lounge
The In Out Fireking, 9pm, $6.
Bill's Bar
Bleu, 8pm, 18+.
Bob the Chef's
Antonio Jackson Jazz Project, 7:30pm.
The Colonial Inn
Hatrack Gallagher's Bluesday with the Workingman's Band, 8pm, no cover.
Cambridge Brewing Company
Bug Juice, 10pm, no cover.
Common Ground
Edable Gray with guests Josh Dodes Band, 10pm.
Coogans Bluff
Thomas Park, 9pm, $3.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm.
Good Life Central
Amanda Baisinger Band, no cover, 21+.
The Green Dragon Tavern
Swinging Johnsons, 8pm-1am.
House of Blues
Paul Rishell Annie Raines Electric Band featuring Troy Gonyea, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Jose Mc Intyre's
Blockhead, 9pm, $5.
Kendall Cafe
Divya Kumar, Katie Terrio and the Coby Brown Band, 9:30pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe
Kenny Larsen, Paul Spiedell Bad, Rumble Dolls. $5.
Les Zygomates
Jaczualine Rossi and the Skip Smith Group, 10pm, no cover.
Lilli's
Fuzzy's, 10 pm, $10.
Linwood
Superhero, Volition and Silent Goodbye, $6, 21+.
Lizard Lounge
Pretty Cool Chair.
The Middle East
U: Plasma Productions Presents, $7, 18+. D: Centaur, Brilliantine and Say Hi To Lisa CD-Release party, AM Stereo, Pop Gun, Calendar Girl, Josh Metcalf and Delwin G., $10, 18+. C: The Room Show, 10pm.
Oak Bar
Diana FischerTrio, 8:30pm, no cover.
Parker's
Rosie Jamieson and Rick Schilling, 8pm.
The Playhouse Lounge
Gary Gore, Shiner Jones. 9:45pm, 21+.
Purple Shamrock
Felix Brown, 9pm, $5
Regattabar
Ahmad Jamal, 8pm and 10pm, $18.
Rhythm & Spice
Jack Lee and Divercity, 10pm, $5, 18+.
Slade's
The John Dougherty Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Toad
Holt Hopkins, no cover.

Sunday, August 13

The Attic
The Coalboilers, 9:30pm. 21+.
Bill's Bar
Dion Knibb, 11:30pm.
Bob the Chef's
Sunday Jazz Brunch with Issi Rozen Trio, 11am.
The Colonial Inn
Massmania, 7pm, no cover.
Dick's Last Resort
Evelyn McDonald Gospel Group, 10am.
Johnny D's
Blues Jam, 4:30pm-8:30pm.
House of Blues
Spearhead, 10pm, $15, 18+.
Kendall Cafe
Dragstrip Cover, Wide Iris and the Gladstones.
The Middle East
U: Spot, Science Park and Mercury Pusher, $7, 18+. C: Noah Maltsberger, 1pm; Balla Tounkara, 10pm.
The Rack
Chad LaMarsh, 9:30pm.
Rhythm and Spice
DJ Bim Inc. and Sound Inc. 10pm, $5, 18+.
Toad
Onus B. Johnson, no cover.
Veronique Restaurant
Steve Rochinski, 11:30am-3pm.
Wonderbar
Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Monday, August 14

B-Side Lounge
Ken Field and Karen Aqua.
Dick's Last Resort
Big Toe, 7pm, no cover.
Johnny D's
Twang, 8pm.
House of Blues
Andrew Clark and Saxattack with Scott Shetler, pm, $6, 18+.
Kendall Cafe
Chasing Gray, Chauncy and Miss Fortune, no cover.
Les Zygomates
Mark Greel Duo and the Douglas Fir, 5pm and 9pm.



Help celebrate Say Hi to Lisa's CD release at the Middle East Downstairs Aug. 12. Also playing are Centaur, Brilliantine, AM Stereo, Pop Gun, Calendar Girl, Josh Metcalf and Delwin G. All for $10.

Lizard Lounge
The Fringe, 9pm. $9.
The Middle East
U: Colepitz and Throe, Spyndkit, $7, 18+. D: The Tubes, $18, 18+. C: The Outside, 10pm.
The Roxy
Dixie Dregs with the Steve Morse Band, 8pm, $20.
Toad
Shwang and Tim Gearan, 8pm, no cover.

Tuesday, August 15

The Colonial Inn
Hatrack Gallagher's Bluesday with the Workingman's Band, 8pm, no cover.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band, 7pm.
Johnny D's
Paul Geramia, 8:30 pm.
House of Blues
Harper, 9pm, $6, 18+.
Kendall Cafe
Alice Peacock, Clayton and Steve, Katie and Arina, 8:30pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe
Chris Zahnleiter Jazz Trio. No Cover.
Les Zygomates
Frank Wilkins, Brian McCree and the Alvin Terry Trio, 5pm and 8pm, no cover.
Lilli's
Anti-Jazz Raygun and Friends Tuesday Thing, 10pm, $6.
Lizard Lounge
Natalie Flannagan.
The Middle East
U: A.C., Tomorrow, Rotary Beginners, the Proclamation, $7, 18+.
Oak Bar
Diana Fischer, 8pm, no cover.
The Rack
Stu Sinclair, 8pm, no cover.
Regattabar
Jon Jarvis Trio, 8:30pm, $10.
Scullers Jazz Club
D.D. Jackson, 8pm and 10pm, $12.
Toad
Michael Tarbox and Meghan Toohey, 7pm, no cover.

Wednesday, August 16

Bob the Chef's
Hakim Law Jazz Quartet, 6pm.
The Colonial Inn
Jimmy Mazzy and the Last Minute Men, 8pm.
Coogans Bluff
Josh Jordan, 9pm, no cover.
Dick's Last Resort
Tribute to Elvis, 8pm.
Henrietta's Table
Tarbox Ramblers, 6pm, no cover.
House of Blues
Guitar Shorty, 9pm, $8, 18+.
Johnny D's
Fruit and Kilt, 8:30pm.
Jose McIntyre's
DJ Josh Jordan, 9pm.
Les Zygomates
Larry Roland Trio, 5pm, no cover.
Lilli's
Rock Bottom, 10pm, $6
Lizard Lounge
Michelle Malone and Pamela Means.
Maison Robert
Gabe Evans.
The Middle East
U: Virtuoso, Skitzofreniks, Professor Shuman, Rex and Lucky Dice, $10, 18+. D: Eric Johnson and Alien Love Child, $20, 18+. C: Belly Dancing, 10pm.
Kirkland Cafe
Mike Dodero Jazz Quartet, Emily Dahmen and Julie Ford, $5.
Oak Bar
Diana Fischer, 8pm, no cover.
Regattabar
Michael Williams Quartet, 8:30pm, $10.
Scullers Jazz Club
Tania Maria, 8pm and 10pm, $20.
Toad
View From Here, no cover.

Thursday, August 17

Abbey Lounge
Mr. Airplane Man, 9pm, $5.
Berklee College of Music
Les Sampou.

One of the most influential and idiosyncratic American singer-songwriters of his generation, Neil Young performs with the Pretenders Aug. 12 at the Tweeter Center.

PEGI YOUNG

Bob the Chef's
Chihiro Yamanaka Jazz Quartet, 7:30pm.
Boston Center for the Arts
Mango Blue, 6pm, no cover.
The Colonial Inn
John Fitzsimmons & Friends, 8pm, no cover.
Common Ground
Josh Lederman y Los Diablos with guests the Benders, 10pm.
Coogans Bluff
Novakane, 9pm, $3.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm.
Fanueil Hall
The Love Dogs.
Johnny D's
Rokia Traure, 9pm.
House of Blues
Vibewise, 10pm, $8, 18+.
Kendall Cafe
One Handed Molly, Ethan Daniel Davidson and I'm Thirsty, 8pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe
Sand Machine, Fred Woodard, John Greenfield, Charlie Chesterman with the Legendary Motorbikes, $5.
Les Zygomates
Nat Simpkins Duo and Rusty Scott Trio, 5pm and 8pm, no cover.
Lilli's
Mike Ireland and Holler, 10pm, $8.
Linwood
Glutton, Banter, Woody and Ultra Jones, $5, 21+.
Lizard Lounge
The Pat Burtis Band, Nash Satterfield and Canine.
Maison Robert
Rick Schilling and Rose Jamieson
The Middle East
U: The Damn Personals, the Interpreters, Rhythm of Black Lines and Moods for Moderns, $7, 18+. D: Fu Manchu, Speed Dealer and 6gig, $12, 18+. C: Board of Education, 10pm.
Oak Bar
Diana Fischer, 8pm, no cover.
Parker's
Rosie Jamieson and Rick Schilling, 8pm-12am.
The Playhouse Lounge
Will Dailey's Bean War Sessions, $3. 9:45pm, 21+.
The Rack
Search Party, 6:30pm, no cover.
Regattabar
Joe Lovano Nonet, 8pm and 10pm, $14.
Scullers Jazz Club
Tania Maria, 8pm and 10pm, $20.
Toad
Reverend Glass Eye, no cover.

Friday, August 18

Abbey Lounge
Lake Boone Fitless, 9pm $5.
The Attic
Zoux and Darkstar Radio, 21+.
Avalon
A Perfect Circle, 7pm, $22.75, All Ages.
Bob the Chef's
Nat Simpkins B-3 Jazz Trio, 7:30pm.
The Colonial Inn
The Workingman's Jazz Duo, 8pm, no cover.
Common Ground
Booty, 10pm.
Coogans Bluff
Bald Water, 9pm, $3.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band, 7pm.
Good Life Central
Roxbury Blues Aesthetic, no cover, 21+.
House of Blues
Bruce Katz, 10pm, $10, 21+.
The Green Dragon Tavern
Swinging Johnsons, 8pm.
Johnny D's
Sleepy LaBeef, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's
Thomas Park, 9pm, $5.
Kendall Cafe
Shiner Jones, Jackie Martino, Deb Talan, 9:30pm, $5.
Kirkland
Ray Corvair Trio, 9th Wave, Alabama Frank and the Mickey Bliss Organ Combo. $6.
Lilli's
Pressure Cooker with Soulwerk, 10pm, $8.
Linwood
Syphlloids, the Nines and Absinthe, $6, 21+.
Lizard Lounge
Neon Grandma.
The Middle East
U: Fleshtones, Classic Ruins, Jon Surette and the Deniros, $8, 18+. D: Akrobatik, Afu-Ra, Breez Evahflowin' and 7L and Esoteric, $12, 18+. C: Roger Nicholson and the Adjustments, 10pm.
Oak Bar
Diana Fischer Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
Parker's
Rosie Jamieson and Rick Schilling, 8pm.
The Playhouse Lounge
Gary Gore, I'm Thirsty, 11:45pm. 21+.
Purple Shamrock
Pig Pen, 9pm, $5.
The Rack
Search Party, 6:30pm.
Regattabar
Joe Lovano Nonet, 8pm and 10pm, $16.
Scullers Jazz Club
JazzTimes Superband, 8pm and 10:30pm, $21.
Toad
Amphibian, no cover.
Wonderbar
Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Saturday, August 19

The Attic
Kristian Montgomery, 21+.
Bill's Bar
Bleau, 8pm, 18+.
Bob the Chef's
Groove 2 This, 7:30pm.
Cambridge Brewing Company
4 Minus 1, 10pm, no cover.
The Colonial Inn
Fay Whittaker with Workingman's Jazz Band, 8pm, no cover.
Common Ground
The Jones Brothers with guests All Mod Cons, 10pm.
Coogan's Bluff
Second Story, 9pm, $3.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm.
Faneuil Hall Marketplace
Rachel Sage, 3 pm, no cover.
Good Life Downtown
Ron Levy's Wild Kingdom, no cover, 21+.
The Green Dragon Tavern
Swinging Johnsons, 8pm.
House of Blues
Milo-Z, 10pm, $12, 21+.
Jose McIntyre's
Tad Poole, 9pm, $5.
Johnny D's
Tab Benoit, 9:45pm.
Kendall Cafe
Joe Whyte, Adam Sherman, Kendra Flowers CD-release and Tobin Bridge, 8:30pm, $5.
Kirkland
Melvern Taylor, Clampetts, Nancy Mroczerk, Ph.D. $5.
Les Zygomates
Kaoruko and Herietta Robinson, 6pm and 10pm.
Lilli's
The Gravel Pit, 10 pm, $8.
Linwood
Wide Iris, Eric Marcos and the Normal Noises and High Ceilings, $6, 21+.
Lizard Lounge
Common Thrill.
The Middle East
C: Patty Giurleo and Kristin Plater
Oak Bar
Diana Fischer Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
Parker's
Rosie Jamieson and Rick Schilling, 8pm.
The Playhouse Lounge
Garyoke, 11:45pm, 21+.
Purple Shamrock
Felix Brown, 9pm, $5.
Regattabar
Joe Lovano Nonet, 8pm and 10pm, $18.
Sculler's
Dennis Chambers, Jazztimes Superband, Joey DeFrancesco and Randy Brecker.
Slade's
The John Dougherty Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Toad
The Aloha Steamtrain, no cover.
Worcester Palladium
Cannibal Corpse with Nile, Krisiun, the Crown, All That Remains, 7:30pm.

Sunday, August 20

The Attic
The Coalboilers, 9:30pm. 21+.
Bob the Chef's
Paulo Danay Quartet, 11am-3:30pm.
Bill's Bar
Paul Wayne, 10:30pm.
The Colonial Inn
John Fitzsimmons, 7pm, no cover.
Dick's Last Resort
Silver Lining, 10am.
House of Blues
Elements of Hip-Hop, 10pm, $8, 18+.

Rockers 6gig perform at Cambridge's Middle East Downstairs Aug. 17. Also playing are Fu Manchu and Speed Dealer. All for $12.

Kendall Cafe
The Kickbacks, Todd Thibaud and the Gladstones.
The Middle East
D: Beyond Repair, Sullen Skies, Double Barrel Sunrise and Trigger Effect, $7. 18+. C: Balla Tounkara, 10pm.
The Rack
Chad LaMarsh, 9:30pm.
Toad
The Resophonics, no cover.
Veronique Restaurant
Steve Rochinski, 11:30am.
Wonderbar
Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Monday, August 21

B-Side Lounge
DJ Joe Bonni.
The Colonial Inn
Seth Connelly, 8pm, no cover.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm.
Johnny D's
Twang, 9pm.
House of Blues
Part Time Lovers, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Kendall Cafe
David Medeiros, Members of the Gravy and Miss Fortune, no cover.
Les Zygomates
Mark Greel Duo, Katie and Arina, 5pm and 9pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge
The Fringe, 10pm, $9.
The Middle East
C: The Outside, 10pm.
The Rack
Nate Wadkins, 8pm.
Toad
Shwang and Tim Gearan, 8pm, no cover.

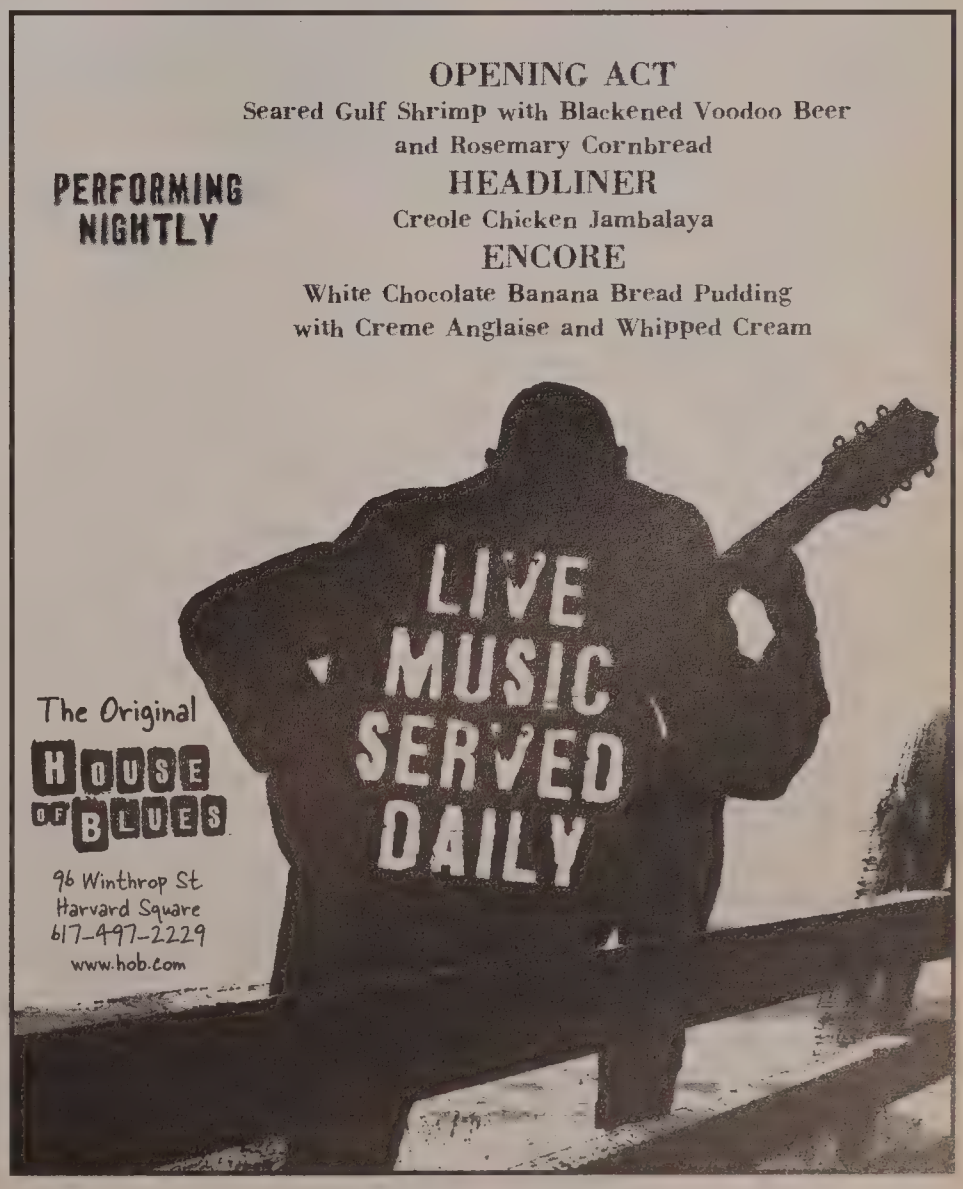
Tuesday, August 22

Axis
Tonic and Stir.
The Colonial Inn
Hatrack Gallagher's Bluesday with Workingman's Band, 8pm, no cover.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band, 7pm.
Johnny D's
Lorin Rowan and Tom Prasado-Rao, 8:30pm.
House of Blues
Delux, 9pm, $6, 18+.
Kendall Cafe
The Pierces, no cover.
Kirkland Cafe
Chris Zahnleiter Jazz Trio. $5.
Les Zygomates
Frank Wilkins, Brian McCree and the Alvin Terry Trio, 5pm and 8pm, no cover.

Lilli's
The Anti-Jazz Raygun and Friends Tuesday Thing, 10pm, $6.
The Middle East
U: The Posies and Shannon Wright, 7pm and 10pm, $10.
Oak Bar
Diana Fischer, 8pm, no cover.
The Rack
James McKenna, 8pm.
Regattabar
Robin McElhatten Quartet, 8:30pm, $8.
Scullers Jazz Club
Alma Vucinic, 8pm and 10pm, $10.
Toad
Michael Tarbox, Meghan Toohey and guests, 7pm, no cover.

Music Venues

An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (262-2121). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Attic *107R Union St., Newton (964-6615). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Center.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (743-2286). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-6204). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
City Hall Plaza *Government Center, Boston (635-4505). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Coogans Bluff *173 Milk Street., Boston (451-7415). MBTA: Orange Line to State Street.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
Good Life Central *720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston (451-2622). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (367-0055). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket or North Station.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Jacob Wirth's *31-37 Stuart St., Boston (338-8586). MBTA: Green Line to Boyslton.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Davis Square, Somerville (776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Kirkland Cafe *425 Washington St., Somerville (482-4920). Red Line to Davis.*
Lilli's *608 Somerville Avenue in Somerville (591-1661). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
The Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (267-8644). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.*
The Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Milky Way Lounge and Lanes *405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
O'Brien's *3 Harvard Ave, Allston (782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
The Playhouse Lounge *74 Warrenton St., Boston (482-2227). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (227-2060). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (725-1051). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Regatta Bar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Central.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Rd., Cambridge (562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boston.*
Toad *1912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (497-4950). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential Center.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Wally's Cafe *427 Mass. Ave., Boston (424-1408). MBTA: Green Line to Symphony.*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard Ave., Allston (351-COOL). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Les Zygomates *129 South Street, Boston (542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*



BECKY NEIMAN

gay&lesbian

If you want to be listed
Submit information including telephone numbers and nearest T stop by fax to (859-1446), mail or e-mail to gaylesbian@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted by phone.*

How to use this section
The following listings contain information that is subject to change. Contact the organization for changes in specific events.

CLUBS, BARS & HANGOUTS

Anthem (Thursdays)
Machine, 1256 Boylston St., Boston (536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. DJ Richie turns it out at Boston's newest Thursday party. The mega dance floor also offers drag diva Destiny. $5, 19+.

Asian Inspiration Night (Sundays)
Machine, 1256 Boylston St., Boston (536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. DJ Mark Hodges and Tony T serve the city's freshest "tea" at Dragon Tea Dance, New England's only night for gay Asians and their friends. Diamond Dunhill, Destiny, Crystal and Sexy Lexy entertain at a 10pm show. 8pm, $3, 21+.

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years these folks have been crankin' out some of the best Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. It's well worth a visit—if not for the three separate dance floors then for all the male dancers. 9pm, $15, 21+.

Buzz (Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays)
51 Stuart St. in the Theatre District. Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. On Saturday nights this place boasts two dance floors, two DJs, a pool room and a lounge. Two levels of dancing and schmoozing will keep the boys busy until 2am. 10pm, $5, 21+.

Chaps (Daily)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. www.chapsofboston.com. Sun.: Dance music of DJ Danae Jacovidis; Mon.: Grand Baby and Grand Piano night; Tue.: Retro DJ night; Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adielson Caesar; Thu.: DJs Billy and Fran, High Energy Dance; Fri.: Taboo Erotique with DJ Sammy; Sat.: High Energy Dance, DJ Danae Jacovidis.

City Girl Cafe (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri: 11am- 9pm; Sat: 10am-9pm; Sun: 10am-7pm. A small (five tables), laid-back cafe in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated. This cozy spot is home to a mixed gay/hetero crowd that lounges about, munching on sandwiches. Brunch on Saturday and Sunday, 10am-2pm.

Club Cafe (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-0966). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri 11:30am-2am; Sat. 2pm-2am; Sun. 11am-2am. This trendy South End spot draws a mixed crowd that comes for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back (Moonshine). It's a dressy bunch that likes to mingle. No cover, 21+. •Carol O'Shaughnessy performs with Steve Heck, Dottie Dean or David Sparr, Thursdays.

Dragon Tea Dance
Machine, 1256 Boylston St., Boston (536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Sundays, 9pm, $3. Socialize and have fun at Boston's only tea dance. Watch Diamond Dunhill and her Dragon Showgirls perform.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (542-4494). Mon.-Fri. 3pm-2am; Sat. 1pm-2am; Sun. 12pm-2am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This is your friendly neighborhood bar with a quiet setting. It's best known for scrumptious Sunday brunches (12-4pm). This simple joint has all of the trappings of a true bar: smoky and dark. The place starts hopping as it gets closer to 2am.

Fritz (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Stroll in for a quiet drink or a rowdy night on the town. The folks here are friendly—and really into sports. Not only does Fritz have Direct TV set up with sets scattered about, it's also home base to a great softball league. 12pm, no cover, 21+.

Jacques
79 Broadway, Boston (426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. If you're looking to relax with a friendly crowd of gays and straights, and you like to mingle with disco-dancing drag queens, then you've found the place. Sun. and Mon. are local band nights. Tues. through Sat., however, divas rule the stage. 10:30pm, $4, weekends $6, 21+.

Comedians Brian Jewell and Karen Malme star in *The Brian+Mal Show* at P-town's The Jungle.

Lava Bar (Saturdays)
575 Commonwealth. Ave., Boston (267-7707). The Lava Bar's Tabu night boasts DJ Fran spinning out high-energy house with a taste of Latin beats. 10pm.

The Lizard Lounge (Wednesdays)
1667 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. "Marlene Loses It at the Lizard" is the title of this eclectic evening of poetry, live music and theater. 10pm, $5 cover, 21+.

Luxor (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (423-6969). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from the latest music scenes and classic old movies—compiled by the bar's own VJ. Downstairs is Jox. No cover, 21+.

Machine (Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays)
1256 Boylston St., Boston (536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 10pm-2am; Sun., 7pm-midnight. www.ramrodboston.com/machine. This is one of Boston's best gay bars where you will find your friends dancing every weekend. Fri.: NYC DJ/Producer Darrin Friedman spinning. Sat.: Resident DJ Brad Gwynn. Sun.: Asian-inspired nights with Club DJ Mark Hodges and Tony T.

Man Ray (Thursdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (864-0400). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed.-Fri., 9pm; Sat., 10pm. A bustling hot spot caters to a young, alternative clientele. Two dance floors fill up on Thursdays for Campus, a predominantly male night where DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen take over. 10pm, $8 for 19+, $5 for 21+.

119 Merrimac (Daily)
119 Merrimac St., Boston (367-0713). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Sat., 10:30am-2am; Sun. 12pm-2am. This male cruise bar is the place to stop for drinks before or after FleetCenter events. Shoot a leisurely game of pool or play the video games. Merrimac features DJs playing hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s. 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. On Thursday nights, the Lesbian AIDS Project of Mass. unofficially takes over this laid-back cafe for "dyke nyte." The cafe always has something brewing—live bands, DJs and drag-queen parties. The party starts at 8pm, no cover, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (494-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Central. On Monday, a bartender not only mixes drinks but strips too. Male strippers are featured Wed.-Sat. Mon. is Gothic night; Tue. is techno; and Thu. is college night. On Fridays DJ Sam Sampson spins, and on Sat. hear DJ Brad Gwynn. 5pm, no cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (266-2986). Green Line to Kenmore. 12pm-2am. www.ramrodboston.com. The largest leather bar in the East enforces a tight dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room). Sun.: buffet and mandance with DJ Brad Gwynn. Mon.: pool tournament and pizza. Tue.: Spice 4 Life with DJ Kal Muzak. Wed.: Twitch 2000 with DJ SGT Dennis. Thu.: Primal Dance with DJ James Hughes. Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danaw Jacovidis. Sat.: Leather Cruise with DJ Dennis Sargent.

BOOKS

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge. (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Fri. 10am-8pm, Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 12-6pm. New England's oldest women's book shop offers a wide selection of literature. Its monthly author series continues throughout the summer.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12pm-6pm. Boston's literary gay and lesbian bookstore.

SHOWS & EVENTS

Absolute Jeannie
The Jungle Cabaret at Tropical Joe's, 135 Bradford St. at Standish Point, Provincetown. Through Labor Day, Thu.-Tue., 8:30pm. $15-$17.50. Jeannie Logan stars in this one-woman, multicharacter cabaret act. First, she presents herself as a genie. Next, she transforms into three alter egos, and after that, she is barely recognizable. As a costumed chameleon, she keeps audiences entertained with a rare combination of theatrical flare, campy shtick and comical performance.

The Brian+Mal Show
The Jungle, 135 Bradford St., Provincetown (508-487-6216). Through Labor Day. Thu.-Tue., 10pm. What's in a name? In the case of *The Brian+Mal Show*, quite a lot. From Abbott and Costello to The Smothers Brothers, comedy duos have been known by their last names. But it's not just a name that sets this act apart. The pair, a gay man and a lesbian, move from physical comedy to character monologues, on to pop culture parodies and clever wordplay.

Chic and Sassy: The Higher the Hair, the Closer to God
International Society, Tremont Theatre, 276 Tremont St., Boston (542-4599). Fridays and Saturdays through Aug. 26. $15. Revisit Chic and Sassy for a look at their lives back in their hometown of Little Rock, Texas. Follow these "girls," Chic Ana and Miss Sassy, as they enter a playwriting contest to win the money and notoriety they need to escape their dreary trailer-park lives. Meet the wacky locals as this pair of naive, fresh-faced drag queens love, laugh and fight like crazy to get out of Dodge.

Two Fags and a Drag
Crown and Anchor, Provincetown. Wed.-Mon. through Labor Day, 7pm and 9pm. $15-$17.50. Mark Pierpont and Nick Massoni star as the "fags," opening up this amazing show with a spirited rendition of *Cabaret*. Not forgetting talented vocalist Denise Russel as the Drag, the three deliver pizzazz-filled song and dance that flaunts gay sensitivity but appeals to anybody.

Jeannie Logan is Juanita Lupita Laputa in *Absolute Jeannie*, now playing at The Jungle Cabaret at Tropical Joe's.

ONGOING

Am Tikva
617 883-0893. www.amtikva.org. Greater Boston's Community of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered Jews.

Bawl
This lesbian softball league offers opportunities to join teams in both the recreational and competitive divisions. Call Liz (508-628-5477).

Best Foot Forward
Ballet Etc. Dance Studios, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (522-1444). MBTA: B Green Line to Washington St. For gays/lesbians/bisexuals of all swing skill levels.

Boston Glass
Community Center, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Daily 8-10pm. Support groups and social activities for adolescents ages 13-25.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). www.chiltern.org/chiltern. A 1,400-member gay club with hiking, biking, camping, skiing and other outdoor activities for men and women.

Community Rainbow
Boston Living Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston. 7:45 pm. An organization whose mission is to advocate for the community. Meets Thursdays.

Cosmetically-Correct
Laurel's Restaurant, 142 Berkeley St., Boston. www.egroups.com/community/cosmeticallycorrect. A social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month 7:30pm-10pm. Lipstick optional.

Dykes Who Hike
(522-6185). This hiking group is for lesbians in the Boston area who want to conquer the wilderness.

East Coast Wrestling Club
With more than 160 members, this is an extraordinarily popular New England spot for gay male wrestlers. Call Marc at 401-467-6737, or go online at *http://members.tripod.com/~ecwc* or e-mail *ecwc@juno.com.*

Fenway Community Health Center
(927-6057). The center is currently conducting a study to help HIV/AIDS patients take medication on time. Participants receive $95.

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (824-4266). www.frontrunnersboston.org. A running club for the LGBT community meets Saturdays.

Gender Free Contra Dancing
First Church of Jamaica Plain (448-2429). www.piac.net/users/latte/lcfd/. Come one, come all to evenings of contra and square dancing.

Long Yang Club
(825-5677) www.lomgyangblub.org/boston. Boston's club for Gay Asian Men and their friends. Bringing the East and West together.

OOPS
Melting Pot Coffee House, 2 Belgrade Ave., Roslindale (323-4123). Out on the Parkways invites one and all to come on down for some dinner and coffee.

PFLAG
Fenway Community Health Center, 7 Haviland St., Boston (547-2440). www.ma.altranet.com/~gepflag. Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets every fourth Monday, 6:30-8:30pm.

Queer Corps
131 Clarendon St., 4th floor, Boston (450-1676). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A community mobilization project by and for queer men who are age 25 and under. Meetings are held every Tuesday, 6-8pm.

Tennis4all
Call Ted at 779-7231. Boston's gay and lesbian tennis club, with monthly tournaments and pizza socials.

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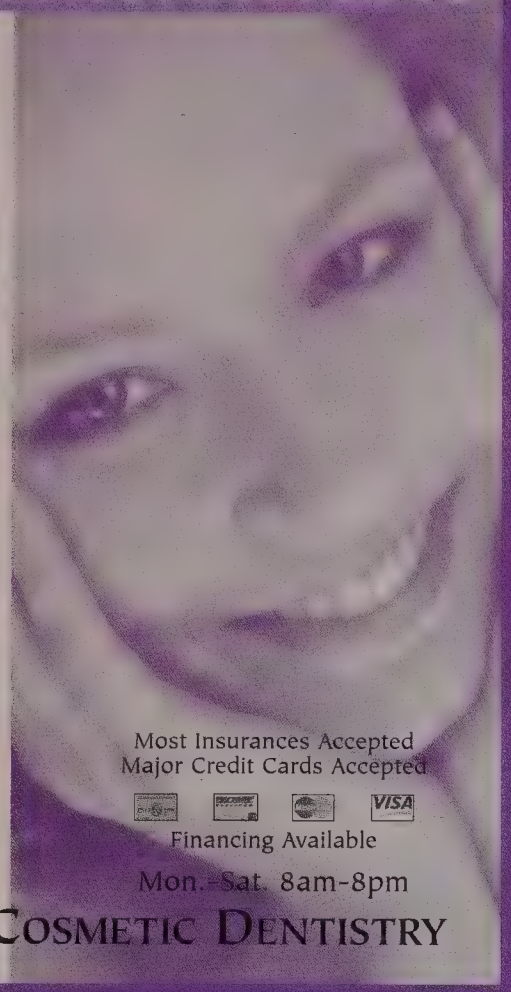

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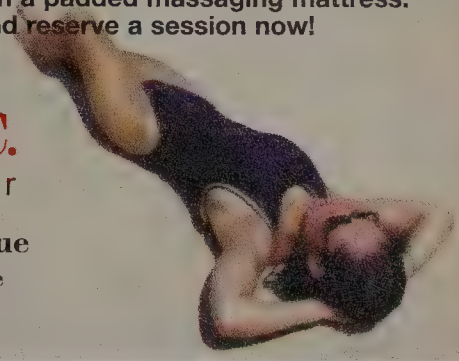

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90.9 WBUR BOSTON'S NPR NEWS STATION

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body&mind

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information by mail, fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/ Mind, or electronically to bodymind@improper.com. *Include a brief but thorough description of the event, time, date, location and directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.*

EVENTS

How to Eat for Health and Well-Being
Spontaneous Celebrations Cultural Center, 45 Danforth St., Jamaica Plain (824-4225). Aug. 13, 5pm. $5-$7, dinner is an additional $10. Sponsored by EarthSave International, this event features nutrition expert **Lisa Green**. She will discuss our bodies' need for nutrients and how to meet those requirements through wise food choices and supplements. You'll also learn the basics of a healthy vegan diet and how it compares with other eating styles, including macrobiotics, ayurveda, raw foods and more. The lecture will be followed by open discussion and a delicious vegetarian dinner.

Jeanine Smith teaches Danskinetics Aug. 12

CLASSES

Awakening Arts
Theosophical Society in Boston, 21 Maple Street, Arlington (781-648-0101). Aug 12, 10:30am-4:30pm. Hosted by art therapist **Carla Mattioli**, this workshop presents an esoteric approach to art as a path to self-discovery based on the inspirations of Rudolf Steiner. Creative movement, watercolor exercises and the imagination are used to explore your inner dynamics.

Danskinetics & Manifesting Your Vision
185 Green St., Cambridge (974-7606). www.bethdance.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Aug. 12, 7:30-9pm. Aug. 21, 7-8:30pm. $15.* A class for the dance-inhibited as well as those who love to dance. Enjoy a day of danskinetics, yoga, deep relaxation and clarity. You'll feel more at ease in your body and more creatively alive.

Discover the Self
Theosophical Society in Boston, 21 Maple Street, Arlington (781-641-0610). Aug. 19-20, 9am-5pm. $150. Through the study of one's individual energies and how those energy streams create and imbue us with uniqueness, strength, tendencies and weaknesses, it is possible to understand, at a foundational level, the causes of one's behavior and that of others. Come learn why you do what you do.

Ki-Energy
Harvest Co-op Market, Community Room, 581 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-1580). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Aug. 16, 6-8 pm. Harvest has not only healthy food, but also healthful lectures. The next talk discusses ki-energy.

Managing Pain Stress & Fatigue—Naturally
Wellspace, Fresh Pond Mall, Cambridge (876-2660). www.wellspace.com. *Aug.10, 7:30-9pm. Free.* This evening will explore how pain, stress and fatigue can be remedied safely and naturally through posture improvement, exercise, and lifestyle and dietary changes. **Dr. Gregg** will cover some of the latest breakthroughs in mind/body medicine and thousand-year-old traditional systems of medicine.

Partner Massage
Tapestry Complementary Healthcare, 2364 Washington St., Newton Lower Falls (969-6300). Aug. 14. $20. This integrative health clinic holds classes on alternative treatments that you can use for maintaining health. For the next class on partner massage, you can come by yourself and bring the wisdom home to share.

RETREAT

Attracting Love
Kripalu Center, Lenox, Mass. (800-741-7353). www.kripalu.org. *Aug 11-13. $140 tuition, plus two nights room and meals.* Kripalu provides a relaxing environment for weekend getaways and workshops. This workshop will focus on one of the most important needs of the mind and body—love. Many folks think they need to "find" love, but it may work better to create the right "signals" so that love can find you. This workshop will help you do that.

ONGOING

Chi Gong and Healing Circle
On the Banks of Mystic River. Call Catherine Simmons for directions (666-8281). Wednesday evenings, chi gong: 6:30-7:15pm, $15; healing circle: 7:30-8:15pm, $15. $20 for both. Participating in the healing arts is good for you any time of year. But in the season of warmth, it's nice to do outside. This meditative group meets on the peaceful banks of the Mystic River.

Dance Friday
Rug Cutter's Studio, 23 Main St., Watertown (924-7276). www.dne.org. *MBTA: #57, 70, or 71 bus. Fridays, 8:30pm-12am. $7.* Dance any way you want to (even barefoot) to all kinds of music in this smoke- and alcohol-free environment.

Falun Dafa Meditation Exercises
Boston Common, Boston. Contact Michael (781-646-7099). www.falundafa-newengland.org. *Sundays 1-4pm.* Join others for some outdoor meditation. Falun Dafa is an advanced meditation system helpful for improving the condition of the heart, mind and body and has far-reaching effects in stress-relief.

Kripalu and Power Yoga Styles
Beacon Light Yoga Center, 215 Brighton Ave., Allston (739-0717). Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. Want to get really into yoga in a really attractive, inviting, peaceful environment? Then try out this yoga center.

Lunch Time Yoga
The Yoga Studio, 74 Joy St., Boston (523-7138). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. Tuesdays, 12-1pm. Thursdays, 1-2pm. If you work downtown, you can spend your lunch getting healthy with ease. Grab a yogurt and spend some time being good to yourself.

Maintain Health
The Marino Center for Progressive Health, 2500 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6225). www.marinocenter.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Porter Square.* The Marino Center has the following ongoing groups and classes: Adult Psychotherapy: Tuesdays, 5-7pm; Kripalu Yoga: Mondays, 6-7:30pm; Hatha Yoga: Wednesdays, 6-7:30pm; Tai Chi and Qi Gong: Mondays, 7:30-8:30pm; Qi Gong: Wednesdays and Fridays, 6-7am.

Move Your Body
Dance Complex, 536 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-9363). http://cambridge.zami.com/dancecomplex. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. $8-13.* Some folks may find yoga too sophisticated of an exercise but would still like to work on moving the body. Why not try one of the following drop-in classes at the Dance Complex? Stretching: Mondays, 6-7pm; Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30pm. Tai Chi: Fridays, 9:30-11am.

Psychic Medium John Holland
Unicorn Books, 1210 Mass Ave., Arlington (781-646-3680). www.unicornbooks.org. *Aug. 14, 21 and 28. 7-9pm. $20.* Beginning in August, this U.K.-trained psychic will be at Unicorn Books one Monday per month. After a meditation and lecture on a specific topic, Holland will devote the second half of the evening to psychic medium readings, linking with spirits to deliver messages to individuals in the audience.

Qi Gong
Woolf Holistic Health Center, 651 Washington St., Brookline (738-9144). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Square. Thursdays, 7:30pm. Free. Have you ever wondered what Qi Gong, an ancient form of exercise from China, really is? Well your chance has materialized at the Woolf Center's drop-in session. Discover this time-tested art for maximizing your well-being and increasing your knowledge of mind and body.

Taming the Mind
Shambhala Meditation Center, 646 Brookline Ave., Brookline (734-1498). www.shambhala.org. *MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. Tuesdays, 8pm.* Buddha was a normal man who lived on the earth and became enlightened. These evenings will present the teachings of Buddha, so that you can learn just how he did it.

Yoga/South End
Union United Methodist Church, 485 Columbus Ave., (522-7199). MBTA: Green Line to Prudential or Orange Line to Back Bay. $15/class. Certified Kripalu yoga teacher **Patrice Flesch** teaches mixed-level classes in a spiritual setting. Increase flexibility, relieve stress, build strength, relax and enjoy yourself at any of these ongoing drop-in classes: Tuesdays at 7pm, Wednesdays at 12pm and Saturdays at 9am.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Children. Or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

TO SEE

Children's Musicals
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly, Mass. (978-921-6351). 9:30am and 12pm. $10. •Aug. 11: **Aladdin & the Magic Lamp**. With the help of a magic lamp, a genie and a princess, a poor street urchin named Aladdin dreams of a better life in Baghdad. •Aug. 18: **Funny Stuff Circus**. What do you get when you put a mime and a clown together on the same stage? A circus full of funny stuff.

Peter Pan
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly, Mass. (978-921-6351). Tue., 8pm; Wed., 2pm and 8pm; Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2pm and 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Through Aug. 13. $18-$56. Cathy Rigby stars in this exhilarating production that follows the story of Peter and his series of adventures with the Darling children, Tinker Bell and the evil Captain Hook. The memorable score includes "Never Land."

Puppet Showplace Theatre
32 Station St., Brookline (731-6400). $8. •Aug. 9, 10:30am and 1pm: ***Jack and the Beanstalk*** by the Spring Valley Puppet Theatre •*Aug. 10, 10:30am and 1pm:* ***Fox Tales*** by Blue Moon Puppets. •*Aug. 16, 10:30am and 1pm; Aug. 17, 10:30am:* ***Clowns???*** by Palm of the Hand Stories.

THINGS TO DO

Cambridge Carnival
Central Square, Cambridge (661-0457). Aug. 12-13, 1-7pm. Once again, the streets of Cambridge will be filled with elaborate costumes, a kiddies' carnival, live music, steel bands, ethnic foods and arts and crafts.

Chalk One Up for the Arts
City Hall Plaza, Boston (244-3171). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 11am-3pm. Now in its fourth year, this citywide event gives inspiring artists an opportunity to create their own chalk "masterpieces" alongside chalk artist Sidewalk Sam.

Children's Festival
George's Island, Boston (727-7676). 11am-4pm. Catch the 10am boat to make the most of the event. Listen to stories, have your face painted and more.

Children's Workshop
Museum of Our National Heritage, 33 Marrett Road, Route 2A, Lexington (781-861-6559). Aug. 16, 10am-12pm. Ages 7-12. $8. Learn about Navajo weavings, then try sandpainting and weaving.

Make Way for Ducklings
Historic Neighborhoods, Boston (426-1885). Fridays and Saturdays, 11am. Through Aug. 25. $8. Relive the adventures of the Mallard family in Robert McCloskey's classic Boston tale, *Make Way for Ducklings*, on this guided walking tour.

Swim with the Sharks
New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, Boston (973-5200). www.neaq.org. *MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Aug. 16, 1pm.* This day features these much maligned ocean creatures with special shark games and activities, presentations by shark experts and a chance to meet some of these toothy animals face to face.

Summer SOULstice Mini Festival
Christian Science Plaza, 175 Huntington Ave., Boston (450-3131). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Through Aug. 29. Enjoy a music and arts festival every Tuesday at noon with a host of musicians, artists and storytellers. •Aug. 15, 12pm: MJT Dance Company performs. •Aug. 22: Boston Pops Brass Quintet performs.

The aquarium presents Swim with Sharks Aug. 16.

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

To Watch

New England Revolution
•Foxboro Stadium. Tickets: 1-877-GET-REVS
Aug. 12 (Away): Metro Stars, 7:30pm, ABC.
Aug. 19 (Home): Tampa Bay, 4:30pm, TEL.

Red Sox
•Fenway Park. Tickets: 267-8661.
Aug. 9 (Away): Anaheim Angels, 10:35pm, NESN.
Aug. 11 (Away): Texas Rangers, 8:35pm, Fox25.
Aug. 12 (Away): Texas Rangers, 8:35pm, Fox25.
Aug. 13 (Away): Texas Rangers, 8:35pm, NESN.
Aug. 14 (Home): Tampa Bay, 7:05pm, NESN.
Aug. 15 (Home): Tampa Bay, 7:05pm, NESN.
Aug. 16 (Home): Tampa Bay, 7:05pm, NESN.
Aug. 17 (Home): Texas Rangers, 7:05pm, Fox25.
Aug. 18 (Home): Texas Rangers, 7:05pm, Fox25.
Aug. 19 (Home): Texas Rangers, 1:15pm, Fox25.
Aug. 20 (Home): Texas Rangers, 1:05pm, NESN.
Aug. 21 (Home): Anaheim Angels, 7:05pm, NESN.
Aug. 22 (Home): Anaheim Angels, 7:05pm, Fox25.

Events

Against the Tide
Nickerson State Park, Brewster (781-891-0180). www.mbcc.org/swim. *Aug. 12, 9am. $100 per entrant.* The Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition's annual one-mile swim fund-raiser is followed by breakfast.

Brian Cody Memorial Softball Tournament
Braintree High School softball fields, 128 Town St., Braintree (770-2588). Aug. 19, 8am-6pm. $175 per team. This softball fund-raiser sponsored by the Boston Ski & Sports Club benefits the ALS Association.

Dick's Parrothead Golf Tourney and Patio Party
Sandy Burr Golf Club, Route 27, 103 Cochituate Road, Wayland, Mass. (267-8080). $125 per player. Aug. 14, 8:30am. Ditch work, throw on a crazy Hawaiian-print shirt and strap on your most outrageous Parrothead headgear for a day of fun on the fairways with the folks from Dick's Last Resort. Afterward, enjoy a patio party at Dick's, 55 Huntington Ave., Boston.

Swim Across America Boston Harbor Island Swim
Rowes Wharf, Boston (508-660-1720). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Aug. 11, 9am. Olympians and swimming legends alike will join hundreds of participants in diving into Boston Harbor to benefit cancer research for the fifth consecutive year. This 22-mile relay-style swim starts and ends at Rowes Wharf.

U.S. Olympic Team Trials—Gymnastics
FleetCenter, Boston (931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Aug. 17-20. $65-$200. Tickets are being sold in strips; each strip includes one seat for all four days of competition. See the country's top gymnasts challenge for the right to compete in the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia. •Aug. 17, 7pm: men's preliminaries •Aug. 18: women's preliminaries •Aug. 19, 4pm: men's all-around competition finals •Aug. 20, 5:30pm: women's all-around competition finals.

To Play

BASKETBALL

Basketball City
Adjacent to North Station and the FleetCenter (742-6700). Corporate, midday and weekend leagues.

Co-Ed Indoor Basketball
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 224). Sun.-Thu. nights at various locations. All levels welcome. Leagues in Waltham, Dedham and Brookline.

The Corporate League of Boston
(566-7808).

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333). Practice and workout programs.

South End Fitness Center League
(534-5823).

Women's Basketball League
(661-9622). Plays on Tuesdays 5:30-7pm and Sundays, 6-7:30pm.

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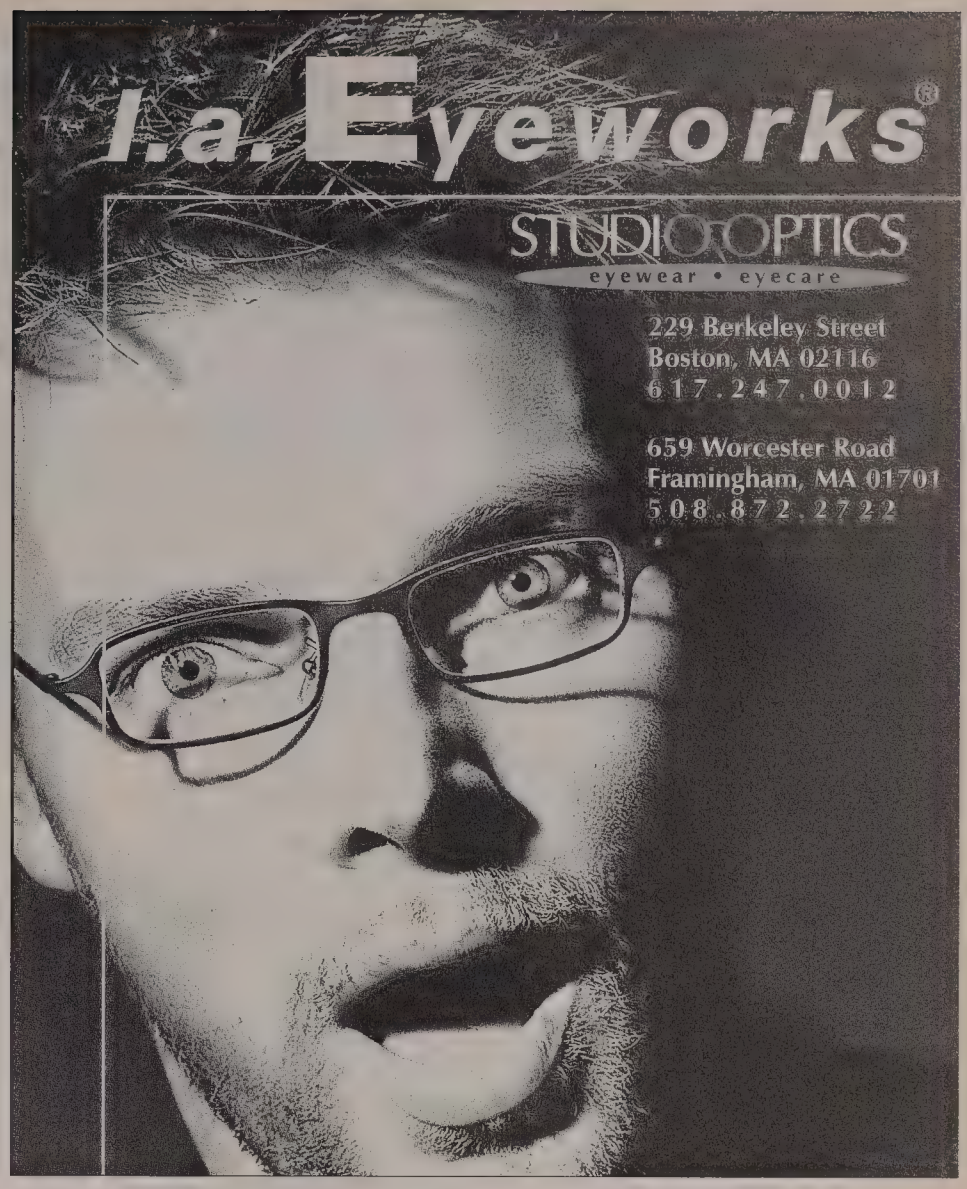

"INTERIORS"

Jason Berger, *"Grandmother's Bedroom, Lagoa, 1979"* o/c, 32"x39"

The Judi Rotenberg Gallery is proud to represent ten artists who continue to draw inspiration from Dufy, Matisse, Van Gogh, Verneer and Stella.

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www.fine-arts-unlimited.com/g4.htm

It's a cold dip in the harbor for swimmers participating in the Boston Harbor Islands Swim Aug. 11.

FISHING

Introduction to Fly-Casting
397 Mass. Ave., Arlington (877-345-WILD). Aug. 12, 9am-12pm; Aug. 13, 1:30-4:30pm. $100. This seminar is designed for the novice who has limited fly-casting experience. It will introduce you to equipment basics, fly rod mechanics, proper rod arm mechanics and will cover the roll cast and basic pick-up-and-lay-down cast and line hand functions.

HIKING/WALKING

The Appalachian Mountain Club
Gorham, N.H. (603-466-2727). Hikes and huts in the White Mountains. •Monthly AMC Young Members meetings at AMC headquarters, 4 Joy St., Beacon Hill (523-0655). Second Thursday of every month, 6-10pm, $3. Potluck. BYOB.

Boston Ski & Sports Hiking Trips
(789-4070).

New England Walkers
39 Oakland Rd., Brookline (731-9889). members.tripod.com/NEWALKERS. This 200-member club hosts race-walk events and clinics. Weekly walks at M.I.T. indoor track on Wednesdays at 7pm.

Walking Group
(247-8267). This group sponsors weekly walks on Wednesday evenings in the Back Bay. Meet new people while getting exercise.

ROCK CLIMBING

Rock Climbing
Middlesex Falls Reservation, Medford (267-4430). Aug. 19, 9am-4pm. $75. Review the basics, then climb a route that matches your abilities.

RUGBY

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
Cambridge (781-340-2192). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.bwrfc.org. *Tue. and Thu. evenings.* No experience necessary.

SOCCER

BSSC Soccer
BSSC (789-4070, ext. 225). Co-ed teams for both indoor and outdoor soccer.

SOFTBALL

80-Team Softball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 222). Monday through Thursday evenings at 6:30pm. Join as an individual or as a team. Sign up to play in the fall league in August.

SWIMMING

Boston Athletic Club Swim Workouts
653 Summer St., Boston (269-4300). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon. and Wed., 6:15-7:15am.

The Charles River Park Club Morning Masters
Charles River Park, Boston (450-9810). Mon., Wed., Fri., 6:30-7:45am.

The Mason Masters Swim Program
The Mason Pool, 159 Norfolk Ave., Roxbury (236-4923 or 450-9810) Mon.-Fri. 7:30-8:30pm. An early-morning masters swim program led by Alex Primilsky, coach of numerous world, national and Olympic champions.

TENNIS

Boston Tennis Club
Located next to North Station, Boston (742-6700). Adult and youth clinics, socials, open play and matching.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Boston Ski & Sports Club
(789-4070).

Boston Ultimate Disc Alliance
(928-0882). www.buda.org.

VOLLEYBALL

Adult Co-ed Volleyball League
YMCA, 725 Lexington St., Waltham (781-894-5295). Monday nights. All levels welcome at this co-ed league.

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club, (789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. at various locations. Co-ed indoor six-on-six leagues. Four different levels of play. Pick-up games, clinics and tournaments also available. •Co-ed pickup games Tuesdays and Fridays at West Newton Armory, 1137 Washington St. $5.

WATER SPORTS

Boston Sailing Center
54 Lewis Wharf, Boston (227-4198). Year-round lessons and racing programs for all abilities.

Community Boating
21 David Mugar Way, Boston (523-1038). www.community-boating.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. Open Mon.-Fri. 1pm-sunset; Sat.-Sun. and holidays, 9am-sunset. April 1-Oct. 31.* Sailing, windsurfing and kayaking on the Charles River for only $190 per season, including instruction. What a bahgain!

Courageous Sailing Center
Charlestown Navy Yard (635-4505). Lessons are offered here year-round.

Kayak Paddle and BBQ
Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (254-9500). Aug. 11, 6-8:30pm. $59. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Learn to paddle, see a sunset and then return to the docks for a well-earned barbecue dinner from Redbones Barbecue in Davis Square.

Ski Market Kayak Demo Center
Edward J. McCormack Bathhouse, 165 William J. Boulevard, South Boston (464-3291). Wednesdays, 4-7pm; Thu.-Sun., 10am-6pm. Single-person boats $10 per hour, $30 for four hours. Demo Ski Market's kayaks now through Labor Day.

Whitewater Rafting
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070). $285. •Aug. 18-20: Penobscot River, Maine. Weekend includes accommodations, transportation, meals and rafting.

Women's Kayaking Lessons
Wild Women Outfitters, 397 Mass. Ave., Arlington (877-345-WILD). Weekends, throughout the summer. $40. An introduction to kayak navigation including chart-and-compass, GPS and VHFs. Participants will also receive a basic navigation kit, three hours of instruction, class review booklet and PowerPoint class materials review diskette.

WRESTLING

Men's Adult Wrestling
Boston Union, 48 Boylston St., Boston (482-1122). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm; Saturdays, 1-3:30pm. All skill levels. Coaching available.

sales& fashion

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for sales and bargains by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar:Sales and Fashion. Or e-mail information to goodbuys@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the event or items. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

AUCTIONS

Skinner Auctioneers
The Heritage on the Garden, 63 Park Plaza, Boston (350-5400). www.skinnerinc.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.* •**American Furniture & Decorative Arts** *Aug. 12, 2pm; Aug. 13, 11am. Previews: Aug. 9, 2-5pm; Aug. 10, 2-5pm; Aug. 11, 2-7pm; Aug. 12, 9am-1pm; Aug. 13, 9-10:30am.* This auction features the Paul and Margaret Weld Collection.

SALES/EVENTS

Baccarat Recontre 2000 Sale
Neiman Marcus, 5 Copley Place, Boston (536-3660). www.neimanmarcus.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Aug. 14-19.* Purchase one-of-a-kind crystal pieces.

Chubb's Antique Roadshow
Bayside Expo, Boston (888-762-3749). www.pbs.org/antiques. *MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Aug. 19, 8am.* Appraisers from prominent auction houses such as Christie's, William Doyle Galleries, Skinner and Sotheby's will be joined by independent appraisers and dealers to offer two verbal appraisals to each ticket holder. (Last year's tour unearthed a 1905 Tiffany lamp worth as much as $125,000 and a post-Revolutionary War land grant signed by Thomas Jefferson valued at $100,000).

2000 Marion Antiques Show
Fish Center, Tabor Academy, Marion, Mass. (508-748-1116). Aug. 19-20, 11am-5pm. $6. More than 70 dealers from all over New England and the Eastern Seaboard will participate in this annual antiques show. •Aug. 20, 1-3pm, $15 (for up to three objects): A highly qualified panel of expert appraisers will verbally appraise any antique article.

FASHION

Diva Thursdays at the Latin Lounge
Aria, 246 Tremont St., Boston (338-8070). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thursdays, 11pm. $10. The weekly Diva nights summer series will include local designer fashion shows and weekly outdoor fashion shoots with pictures taken by professional fashion photographer, Andrew Swain. The fashion shoots will be complete with seamless backdrop, mini runway, lights and music.

BEAUTY

Lip Service: For Sexy Lips
Demiche Makeup & Image Studio, 423 Main St., Second Floor, Melrose (781-662-1796). Aug. 17, 1-8pm. Free. Escape to Demiche for a lip treatment followed by lipstick consultation with the official makeup artists of the Miss Massachusetts USA Pageant.

Purchase knickknacks for your home at the Marion Antiques Show Aug. 19-20.

go away

TRAVELING NEAR AND FAR

NORTH OF BOSTON

Southeast Asian Water Festival
Lowell Heritage State Park, Pawtucket Boulevard, Merrimack River Waterfront at Sampras Pavilion, Lowell, Mass. (978-970-5046). Aug. 19, 10am-5pm. Free. This celebration of Southeast Asian culture is centered around beautifully ornate, canoe-like boats. Learn about Southeast Asian rituals and dine on traditional ethnic cuisine from exotic locations such as Thailand, Cambodia and Laos. Costumed dancers, live bands and crafts provide the backdrop for this festival, but there will also be an emphasis on environmental issues, specifically relating to the river.

Gloucester Waterfront Festival
Stacy Boulevard, Gloucester, Mass. (978-283-1601). www.cape-ann.com/cacc. *Aug. 19-20.* If you're not hesitant to join tourists looking for a piece of *Perfect Storm* memorabilia, head to the North Shore's largest waterfront festival. Rain or shine, there will be more than 200 artisans showcasing their wares, whale-watching excursions, live entertainment, spectacular boat parades and a good old-fashioned New England lobster bake.

Festival of Firewoks
Jaffrey, N.H. (800-321-5008). Aug. 19, 9pm. $30-$100. One of the best fireworks shows in New England, this 30-minute production is put on by a hometown pyrotechnics company that choreographs thousands of colorful blooms and kabooms while the crowd dances, listens to music and loses itself in the melee of entertainment.

SOUTH OF BOSTON

Charles River Valley Bike Tour
Hartford Street, Medfield, Mass. (781-287-2977). Aug. 19, 9am-3pm. Free. Hop on your bike and peddle your way through the placid Charles River Valley Watershed area. Tour guides lead a relax-paced tour and discuss the local significance of conservation efforts in watershed protection. Bring your bike, helmet, lunch and rain gear.

Fall River Celebrates America
Battleship Cove and Heritage State Park, Fall River, Mass. (508-676-5233). www.fallrivercelebrates.com. *Aug. 9-13. $5.* The Portuguese population of Fall River kicks off this lively festival with a Portuguese Heritage Night, complete with costumes, food, singing and dancing. The rest of the festival is a flurry of eclectic events, including the parade of ships, concerts, battle re-enactments, water ski shows, arts and crafts, a road race, a naturalization ceremony, multicultural exhibits, a rubber duck derby and fireworks.

WEST OF BOSTON

Jacob's Pillow 2000 Festival
Located in Becket, Mass. (413-637-1322). www.jacobspillow.org. Representing cultures and dance styles from the U.S., France, Japan, Ireland, Africa, Sweden, Brazil, Spain, Canada and the Netherlands, this world-renowned dance festival is the place to see and experience dance in a way that cannot be found at any other U.S. festival. •Aug. 9-13: **Company Jant-Bi**, an octet from Senegal and Nigeria, performs the U.S. premiere of *Le Coq est Mort*, a 70-minute work combining German and African dance. •Aug. 10-13: **Renny Harris Puremovement** presents *Rome & Jewels*, a loose adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet* retold through the eyes of a hip-hop protagonist. •Aug. 16-20: **O Vertigo Danse** from Canada presents *Chagall*, a fluid, evanescent dance on a dreamlike stage. •Aug. 17-20: **Liz Lerman Dance Exchange** performs a new work, *In Praise of Fertile Fields*, a piece that explores the relationships people forge with the land.

Berkshire Mountain Music Festival
Butternut Ski Basin, Great Barrington, Mass. (888-513-337). www.berkfest.com. *Aug. 11-13. Prices Vary.* Five stages of music bring together some of the hottest acts in New England, giving up-and-coming talent an opportunity to reach a large audience. Don't miss **Bela Fleck and the Flecktones**, **moe**, **Soulive** and **Jiggle the Handle**. Get the full outdoor festival experience by bringing your sleeping bag; camping is available and encouraged.

CAPE & THE ISLANDS

Sand Castle and Sculpture Day
Jetties Beach, Nantucket, Mass. (508-228-1700). Aug. 12, 12 pm. $5 per entry. More than 50 sculptures will emerge from the sand of one of Nantucket's most serene beaches. Teams will vie for awards in many categories and must bring their own equipment and cre-

Jump for joy at August's Jacob's Pillow Festival.

ative ornaments. Even if you don't feel like rolling up your sleeves and digging in, the spectacle of giant sandcastles is a sight you shouldn't miss.

139th Annual Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society Livestock Show
West Tisbury Fairgrounds, Martha's Vineyard, Mass. (508-693-9549). Aug. 17-20. If you're looking for the quintessential summer fair, this is the one for you. Stroll through the midway of games and rides, browse booths stocked with local crafts and home-baked goodies, cheer on contestants in the horse show, root for your favorites in the dog and pet shows or enjoy the music of a fiddling contest.

NEWPORT

JVC Jazz Festival
Fort Adams State Park and various venues, Newport, R.I. (401-847-3700). www.festivalproductions.net. *Aug. 11-13. Prices vary.* This festival was so successful in previous years that a second stage has been added to expand the already diverse range of music offered. You can catch jazz, funk, Nigerian Afro-Beat and Cuban salsa. Featured acts include **Bobby Short & His Orchestra**, **Fourplay**, **Diane Reeves** and **Femi Kuti**.

NEW YORK CITY

FringeNYC
Various venues, Lower East Side, Manhattan, New York City, N.Y. (212-420-8877). www.fringenyc.org. *Aug. 16-27, 12pm-2am. Prices vary.* If traditional theater is too, well, *traditional* for you, this might be more to your liking. It's the largest performance festival in the United States and promises 2,000 hours of programming by 2,000 artists. This Fringe Festival features theater, dance, puppetry, spoken word and multi-media performances by eye-catching, emerging theater companies and performing artists worldwide. Also, a series of panel discussions, workshops and conferences will be featured. Eccentricity, originality and ingenuity are guaranteed.

AMENIA

Amenia World Peace Festival
World Peace Sanctuary, Route 22, Amenia, N.Y. (845-877-6093). www.worldpeace.org. *Aug. 19, 11am-7pm. Free.* Bust out your bellbottoms and locate your love beads because this peace festival could be straight out of the '70s. Thousands of peaceful people will gather on the tranquil wooded grounds of the World Peace Sanctuary and focus on this year's theme, "May Peace Prevail on Earth." **10,000 Maniacs** and many other bands will be performing a free show in support of their common vision of world peace. If you can't make it, however, the event will be Webcast live.

TORONTO

Canadian National Exhibition 2000
Toronto Waterfront, Toronto, Canada (416-263-3800). www.theex.com. *Aug. 18-Sept. 4. $5.* One of the world's largest annual exhibitions, the 122nd year of this cultural event offers a myriad of entertainment and feature exhibits. The goal is to showcase the perspectives of the people of Canada and encourage them to explore their heritage, celebrate achievements, look forward to the future and appreciate the legacy of their country. This is a perfect opportunity to learn more about our northern neighbors.

LONDON

The Notting Hill Carnival
Notting Hill Gate and various venues, London, England (020 8964 0544). www.nottinghillcarnival.net.uk. *Aug. 13-28. Free.* What started in the '60s as a small procession of Trinidadians wielding steel drums is now the largest carnival of its kind in Europe—second only worldwide to the legendary Carnival in Rio de Janeiro. This carnival is a celebration of cultures and races and maintains the mantra that "every spectator is a participant." Five components make up the celebration: elaborate masquerades, competitions of steel bands, performances of calypso and soca music (a blend of soul and calypso) and Static Sound Systems (an opportunity for young people to spin their favorite type of culturally diverse music). The main event of the carnival is a three-mile-long parade that brings together all five elements for one stunning spectacle. The festival also promises to have a huge array of booths offering the best food from around the globe.

KATMANDU

Gaijatra—Festival of the Cow
Various Locations, Katmandu, Nepal (+997-1-247-037). Aug. 15-16. Stemming from the ancient belief that cows aid the deceased along the treacherous path to judgement day, this festival is also called the "Cow Procession." Cows are sacred in Nepal and in the Hindu faith, and for this holiday, the bovines are bedecked with flowers and other trimmings. Surviving family members flank the cows for a parade through the city streets. Mourners hope that the holy cow will guide the spirit of their dead by allowing it to cling to the cow's tail until the spirit comes before Yama Raj, the God of Death, who decides at what level the souls will be reincarnated. Families who cannot afford cows dress up young boys in cow costumes while spectators make this a lively occasion by adorning funny hats, dancing and making noise with kitchen utensils to pay homage to the parading cows.

SIENA

Il Palio di Siena
Il Campo, Siena, Tuscany, Italy (0577-43875). August 16. This viciously corrupt bareback horse race has been taking place since 1147 in Siena. Horses are blessed in the church before the race (it's considered a good omen if the horse poops in a pew). The race is a mere 90 seconds long and only three laps around the town square of Campo. There are 17 fiercely competitive contestants from different regions of Italy who vie for bragging rights, and if they don't settle things in the race, post-race swordfights have been used to aid with negotiations. Everyone is in on the dirty fighting: The jockeys, who are all professional cowboys, push and shove each other while on horseback; bookies try to rig the race; and fans taunt and assault the horses and their riders. The horse who finishes first—with or without its rider—wins.

mark your daytimer

UPCOMING EVENTS

CITYSCOPE

King Richard's Faire
Aug. 26, Carver, Mass.
Antique & Classic Boat Festival
Sept. 2-3, Boston Harbor
Cambridge River Festival
Sept. 9, Cambridge
Art Newbury
Sept. 10, Newbury Street

MUSIC

Tony Bennett
Aug. 25-26, FleetBoston Pavilion
Smokey Robinson
Aug. 24, FleetBoston Pavilion
Luther Vandross & Boys II Men
Sept. 6, FleetBoston Pavilion
B.B. King Blues Festival
Sept. 14, FleetBoston Pavilion

THEATER

Seussical the Musical
Aug. 27, Colonial Theatre
Grease
Sept. 12, The Wang Theatre

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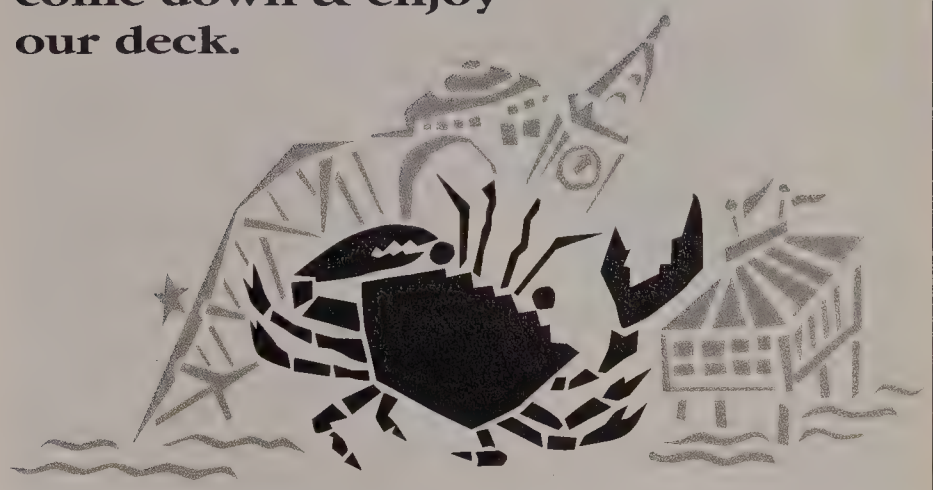

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Improper Impersonals

If everyone kept their feelings bottled up like warm beer, we'd soon have antisocial behavior exploding all over the place and ruining the upholstery. That's why we have the Improper Impersonals, a column written by you, the reader. Send us your letters of love and spleen, and we'll print them for the world to see. Heck, it's better than making a fool of yourself in person. And IT'S FREE! Pick up a pen and tell that babe on the T you like his butt by writing to:

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Boston, MA 02116
FAX: 859-1446 E-MAIL: impersonals@improper.com
Recent correspondence follows.

Michele
Every moron gets it sooner or later. This moron just did. Give me another chance.
—Love, Jay

Cabot's Ice Cream, Newton
Sunday night, June 25. To the Asian woman sitting in the corner booth with red shirt and white shorts, long black hair: You smiled when you caught me admiring you. Please contact me, I would like to see you again!
—tatenba@yahoo.com

An Ode to Book Boy
I've seen you on the T for the past six months or so (I actually saw you again today and I realized that I cannot procrastinate any longer). You get on in the morning at Brigham Circle and are absolutely gorgeous! Normally you have a book with you and you start reading in my line of vision. As lame as it may be, I have named you Book Boy, but that is only because I cannot muster the courage to ask you what your real name is. I am the girl that gets visibly nervous and stares at you when we get on the T. I am usually sitting with my blonde friend and am more often than not wearing a baseball cap. Here's the deal, I'm moving to Los Angeles in September and I will kick myself if I don't learn your name before I go. I would ask you, but for whatever reason I can't bring myself to do it when I see you. If you read this (and decide that I'm not a freak), could you please tell me your name should you see me again on the T? I have wanted to know since the first day I set eyes on you. Book Boy has worked for awhile, but I'm sure your real name is much nicer.
—Carrie

Chris, as in "Christmas"
We met at Copa's in the hip hop room on June 3. You were wearing a white shirt and black pants. If you were too drunk to remember, I was the short Trinidadian and Venezuelan woman with long hair (it was tied up and I took it down to show you). I was wearing a sheer black tank top with black pants. You were impressed by the tattoo I had on my back. I was impressed by how you dedicated yourself to only me the whole evening. Thank-you for those countless shots of Courvosier and Sex-on-the-Beaches. You asked me a question and I would like to prove that I was not lying. I believe in fate, do you? I would like to get to know you on a more profound level. The roses you bought for me may be dead, but my hopes that our paths will cross again are very much alive.
—fatefully yours

Public Transit Peeves
Those of you who will not get off your keesters for an elderly person, pregnant woman, blind person or physically impaired person should have your asses KICKED several times. I had a knee injury a couple of years ago for which I used a cane for two weeks. Not ONE person, man or woman, would get off their butts to let me take a load off when a bus or train was crowded. Also, if I have to get up one more time to give one of the abovementioned individuals a seat, and you're a relatively young man who wouldn't move, so help me I'm gonna stick two fingers down my throat and puke all over you because that's the least you deserve. I don't care if you have an ass full of hemorhoids, GET UP!!
—anonymous

June 22, Au Bon Pain, Berkeley and Boylston, 7pm
You asked me what time it was, that's how I know it was 7. Here's what you don't know. My friend and I left my apartment searching for a place to eat and ended up at that Au Bon Pain because there was a 20 minute wait at Bennigans and the Au Bon Pain at Park Plaza closed at 7. Five minutes later we were in line behind you. What a lovely chain of events to led us there. You ordered a Thai Chicken Salad. I had a Chicken Caesar wrap. Here's what else you don't know: I could hardly stop looking at you. You had cool glasses (cool glasses get me every time) a pleasant, nice face and such an easy manner that when you asked me what time it was I wanted it to be the beginning of a long, long conversation. I wish I knew how to flirt. I wish I had known how to show you I want to know you better. I wish you would e-mail me.
—seven0clock@yahoo.com

Fine Dining at Club Café
I've been smiling all the way home having just met you tonight (Mon. June 26) at Club Café. My waiter, you made me feel extra special with everything you did. I read a book, drank wine, ate a fine dinner and admitted never having been to Morocco. I thanked you for the fantastic service and left. A mistake. I should have asked your name, or said more, but didn't want to be rude by misinterpreting your friendliness when perhaps you were just doing your job. Problem is I can't shake the feeling you had as good a time with me as I did with you. If you read this, remember me and would like to talk again, please get in touch. I'd love to meet outside of work and get to know what's behind those eyes.
—ethicalconfusion@aol.com

Father's Day at the Common, Hailing a Taxi in the Rain
You were going to the Custom House with your two daughters. I should have accepted your invitation to join you, but was uncomfortable doing so with my daughter. You seemed so nice and friendly and I realized immediately that I'd made a mistake. I hope you read this and will reply.
— pawm2000@excite.com

Perfume, cologne, Pepe Le PU
I don't want to smell your perfume of choice. Let me rephrase that, I DON'T WANT TO BE ABLE TO SMELL YOU FROM MORE THAN ONE FOOT AWAY. Take my mother's advice, "No person should be able to smell what cologne, including deodorant, a man or woman has on unless they are within one foot of them. Takes the mystery away and annoys people." Well said, Ma. Besides, some people have really severe allergies to perfumes. Have some courtesy and heck, you'll use less cologne and it'll last longer. Sincerely,
—The Disgruntled Passenger

To Kim & Amy (Block Party)
This is Kareem. I first saw you at the Farewell to Stillings St. Studio's party and then introduced myself at the Cystic Fibrosis benefit outside Jose McIntyre's but lost you. I'm really glad we met and hope I get a chance to make it up to you. Send me an e-mail and I'll explain what happened.
—komyt@yahoo.com

For Emily, wherever I may find her
a pretty, graceful girl utterly faithful slender, fit and trim, happy and relaxed, 21-29, relatively vice-free, sweet, kind & considerate, comparatively chaste, emotionally stable, smart, interested, long hair a decided plus
—for_emily2000@hotmail.com

"From the New Girl in Beantown"
Just missed the T to Alewife.
Isn't it always about the T?
The 5 W's and 1 H of life.
Thank you for welcoming me,
with your blue eyes and white smile.
I'd love to get to know Boston.
Pass the time with me a while.
Let's continue our discussion...
And be friends. 264-4841.
Downtown Crossing to Park 9-10pm, Monday, June 26.
— Laura

Rockie Horoscope

AUGUST 9 – AUGUST 22, 2000

BY ROCKIE GARDINIER

LEO

JULY 23-AUGUST 22

You and those politicos with Leo rising will be the talk of the town as Mercury, Mars and your sun ruler encourage you to boldly go where no Lion has gone before. Taking a trip, preferably in this galaxy, helps you focus on a long-range goal and strengthens your sense of purpose. A close relationship might undergo an abrupt change in status while the sun opposes Uranus during this full moon weekend. Tough it out; come next Wednesday you'll have the determination to rescue what can be saved or clear the debris out of your way.

VIRGO

AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

You'll have the courage to say exactly what's on your mind and the insight to grasp what the group has in mind. The merger of your Mercury ruler and passionate Mars puts you in an interesting position career-wise. It can also uncover one of those family secrets/buried treasures a relative would kill for. Meanwhile, charming Venus in Virgo is making you rely too much on luck and your talent for attracting fat cats. The piper may ask to be paid when the moon is full in your Aquarius house of workloads, debts and services rendered.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

Wretched excess, that endearing vice-virtue, rears its magnificent head while effusive Jupiter tests your Venus ruler this weekend. It goes without saying that so much enthusiasm and free-wheeling spending will add to your financial strain, but the passion that wells up, particularly the bittersweet taste of revenge, should be worth the cost. You could also eliminate something else that has been sticking in your craw when Venus and Pluto align during the full moon, but be discreet.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

That powerful sense of yourself, something way beyond ego gratification, keeps building. If ever you were going to reveal the inner you, your magical self, spill the beans (or write the memoir) this weekend while Mercury favors Mars and Pluto, your two ruling planets. And if you're contemplating shedding one lifestyle and adopting another, the 16th would be the best date to debut that new you. Read the last line aloud by the light of the full moon while spinning counterclockwise and presto—it's a done deal.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

A creative thought and direct action will advance your current agenda more than social schmoozing, expensive gifts, or pretty sentiments. While Venus rubs your enthusiastic Jupiter ruler the wrong way, you can't get no satisfaction, just bigger Visa bills and expectations that won't be met. Underlying resentments and whatever double-dealing you're involved in can surface when Venus also irritates manipulative Pluto in your sign. Anticipate a fight and, if you're lucky, a passionate reconciliation. If nothing else, you won't be bored.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

This week many things will be happening all around you, but if the Goat so chooses, you can walk through the shit oblivious and unsullied. However, thanks to a full moon in your Aquarius money house, you might incur an unexpected expense. But hey, what do you care? As long as erratic Uranus is taking its twisted path through Aquarius, financial matters will be up in the air for quite a while. Also, a principle you value one day can change the next. How does this relate to the Democrats invading L.A.? Beats me.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18

I'd make a run for it. On the 10th, the Leo sun opposes your Uranus ruler, then the sun faces off against the Aquarius moon on the 14th. Powerful Pluto in your career midheaven is on the wobble, about to reveal what you've been neglecting or undermining for the past five months. Mercury and Mars in your partnership house are preparing a caustic diatribe, replete with insights and invectives. They'll be delivered next Wednesday. However, since the moon will be void on Thursday, too, nothing will come of it. No pain, but no gain either. Who scheduled this convention?

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19

Any way you approach the week, as a gamboling Ram simply out for fun and games or a stone-cold sober candidate for President, you're going to have a good time. Over the weekend you may be surprised by a friend's choice of playmates or amazed by the length of your own lucky streak, but not until the 16th, when your Mars ruler trines Pluto in fiery Sag, will you realize just how powerful you are. Not powerful enough to raise the dead, but something similar, e.g., reigniting somebody's sex life. Maybe yours?

ARIES

MARCH 20-APRIL 19

You're innocent. What happens this week won't be a result of your doing, or even your wishing. However, just by being who you are and where you're situated, you could catch some flak. Better to avoid all women seeking perfection while Venus in your Virgo house of partners challenges the Geminis, Scorpios and Sagittarians in your midst. Those gals are harpies, not angels in disguise, and you're too easily riled by their little white lies. This week, make art, not love.

TAURUS

APRIL 20-MAY 20

Mobile Mercury straddling your home base introduces a variety of possibilities: traveling to a family reunion, checking in for some fairly grand hotel living or filling out a change of address card. A tendency to blow things out of proportion or spend too much can leave you feeling unsatisfied, if not downright cheated, and for value-conscious Taurus that is a bummer. Monday's full moon could be a bit rough, not only because it crosses your career-home axis, but because emotions are running high and hot. Jealousy getting to you?

GEMINI

MAY 21-JUNE 20

Straight as an arrow. No, not that "straight." I mean you'll be forthright and precisely on target while your Mercury ruler picks up perspicacity and passion from its meeting with Mars. That feeling of power comes from Mercury's trine to Pluto in your house of partners this weekend. If there's a heart of a matter or, for that matter, a heart of darkness you need to get to, do it this weekend. By Wednesday you may change your mind. There'll be a revelation on the 21st during another of those Mercury-sun conjunctions.

CANCER

JUNE 21-JULY 22

A lot of planetary connections are being made this week, but what matters to a Moon Child is the fact that the full moon Monday night will not be eclipsed. You should simply feel the way you usually do (good, bad, but never indifferent) when your moon ruler dominates the heavens. This is a change from the way you felt in July, when three eclipses disrupted your emotional pattern and your domestic routine. FYI: the next lunar eclipse falls on—yikes—Christmas Day.

Curious about the future? Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30 to 40+ pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise over the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $42.50 per report to: ROCKIE GARDINER, 1021 N. Genesee, #1, West Hollywood, CA 90046. *www.rockiehoroscope.com*. Read my daily forecast online at www.laweekly.com.

RICHARD TAZZARA

KEEP COOL.

Try our new summer refreshers and signature cocktails.
And, check out our new menu chock full of "real food" like our
Ranch Chicken Platter, Meatball Sandwich, Fried Oysters and
infamous favorites like our Half Pound Billiard Burger and Steak Tip Platter!
Serving food until 1 a.m.

BOSTON BILLIARD CLUB

Boston Billiard Club
126 Brookline Avenue, Boston (617) 536-POOL
www.bostonbilliardclub.com

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improperazzi

The Improper Bostonian's client-related promotions and events

On Wednesday, July 19th, **The Rack** hosted a Summer Time Beach Party that was also sponsored by **Margaritaville Tequila, The Improper Bostonian** and **Star 93.7**. **The BaHa Brothers** played Jimmy Buffett tunes all night while guests sipped Margaritas by the tiki hut. The lucky hula hoop contest winner took home Jimmy Buffett concert tickets.

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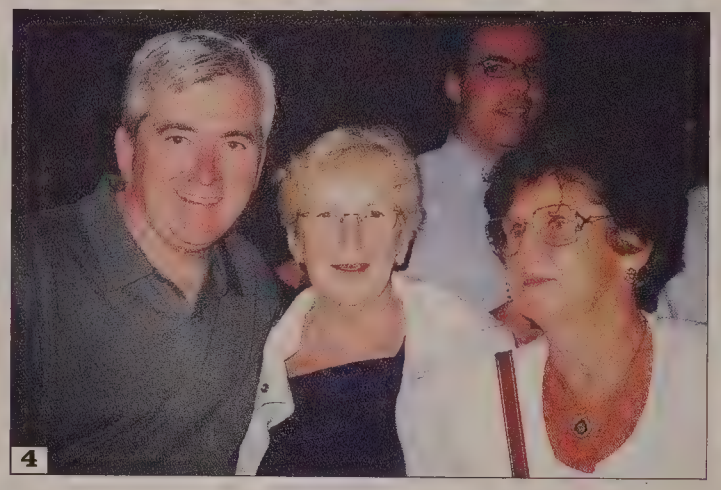
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1. Rack Marketing Director and part-time Parrot Head, **Heather Michalowski** with fellow Parrot Heads, **Gwendilyn Primavera** and **Anna Mandella.**
2. **Heather Gersten,** morning DJ for Star 93.7 with **Debra Taylor,** Links Boston Principal and first women to swim the Vineyard-Nantucket Crossing and **James Pittar,** a blind swimmer who crossed the English Channel and also the first man to swim the Vineyard-Nantucket Crossing.
3. **The BaHa Brothers.**
4. **Paul Barclay,** owner of The Rack, with his mom, **Margaret** and her friend, **Dotty Molignano.**
5. **Erica Frené,** bartender at The Rack running the Margarita Bar in the Tiki Hut.
6. **Lauren Jalette,** representing Ford Models, teased the crowd with Margaritaville T-shirts and hats.
7. **Nicholas Corvinus,** Senior V.P. Putnam with **Peter Leddy,** New York Marketing Manager of Margaritaville Tequila at Seagram Americas.

With the support of sponsors, **WBOS 92.9, AT&T, Boca Burgers, Veryfine** and **Refer.com, The Big Easy** generously hosted a crowd of **Edie Brickell** fans on Thursday, July 27th. This last-minute bash proved that The Big Easy can throw a stellar party at a moment's notice. And Edie Brickell and The New Bohemians proved they still know how to rock.

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1. **Edie Brickell.**
2. **Eric Aulenback,** GM of The Alley, **Matt Phipps,** DJ, **Damien Donovan,** GM of The Big Easy and **Darren Smith,** Assistant Manager of The Big Easy.
3. Veryfine Juice Guys, **Matt Dunbar, Matt Gruber, Mike Delucco** and **Eric Patry.**
4. **Christine Walsh** and **Angela Lumbardi** from the law firm Campbell Campbell and Edwards.
5. **Brandi Tocchio** and **Kimberly Zimmer,** Big Easy Bartenders.

PHOTOS: WENDY SEMONIAN (THE RACK); MANDY JOHNSON (THE BIG EASY)

BARS, CLUBS, RESTAURANTS & BRUNCH

The following are paid advertisements. Please check times and prices in advance. If you'd like to have your restaurant listed, please call The Improper Bostonian Advertising Dept. at 859-1400.

BARS

Billiards

Boston Billiard Club
126 Brookline Ave., 536-POOL. Ranked #1 in the country by Billiards Digest. Free lessons on Mon., 7:30pm - 9pm. Boston Billiard Club House Leagues on Mon. and Tues. "In The Biz" night on Sun. and Mon. for patrons in the hospitality industry. Ladies' night on Wed. Featuring a menu of light fare such as grilled chicken sandwiches and appetizers, along with beer, wine, cocktails and a variety of non-alcoholic beverages.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, The Allstonians and Beat Soup.

Weggie's Pub
162 Lincoln St., 617-542-7080. Boston's "Chinatown-Leather District" near South Station. Cozy ambience where people drink and socialize. Cultural diversity is an institution in this area. We permit patrons to bring in take-out orders to complement drinks. Two TV's. One pool table and video games with CD player. Coldest A/C in the city with very cold beer. Great place to come after sporting events. Walk up bar, no waitperson service. Unique, intimate, dark atmosphere, and a cacophony of sounds all around. Inexpensive drinks. $2 for bottled Bud! Mon-Sat 11 am - 2 am. Sun 6 pm - 2 am. No credit cards. ID req.

Brew Pubs

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Company
138 Portland St., Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is now the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, a block from the FleetCenter and steps from Faneuil Hall, Commonwealth Fish & Beer features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

General

BARCODE
Enjoy the intimate, windowed dining room or a signature cocktail in the lounge. BARCODE offers a creative martini selection, a balanced and affordable wine list and both bottled and draft beer. Drinks are available until 2 am daily, food served until 1 am.

Harvard Gardens
316 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114, 617-523-2727. A wonderfully relaxed haven located opposite MGH on the back side of Beacon Hill. Serving the finest cocktails and most comfortable food in town. Plant yourself in a comfy booth, a cozy banquette, or at our fully loaded bar and escape from your everyday troubles. Doing it nice & easy 7 days a week - 11am-2am.

Sweetwater Cafe
3 Boylston Place, 351-2515. A classic American bar featuring Boston's best bands and DJ's nightly. A favorite Boston bar for 15 years with two floors of entertainment, an outdoor patio and world class margaritas. Always great music and cold beer, never a dress code. Available for private functions of any kind. (Credit cards: Am Ex, Visa, MC, Diner's) Tues. - Sat. 5 pm - 2 am. Located in "The Alley."

The Big Easy Bar
1 Boylston Place, Boston, 351-7000. Informal. Located in Boston's version of Bourbon Street, "The Alley." The Big Easy Bar is a hot new New Orleans style bar featuring Boston's best live bands and disc jockeys nightly playing music you know and love. Relax in a lounge, listen to the band, play billiards, hang at the bar or dance the night away. The Big Easy Bar has something fun for everyone. Great beer selection, 22 oz. Hurricanes, 4 huge bars, 2 lounges, a balcony, plenty of seating, and a large dance floor. Wed. - Sat. 8 pm - 2 am. Major credit cards accepted. Valet parking available.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, The Allstonians and Beat Soup.

The Sugar Shack
1 Boylston Place, 351-2510. "Home of Boston's Best Party." Set in the middle of a mini-Bourbon Street, The Sugar Shack celebrates Mardi-Gras year-round with a carefree, reckless, spontaneous and unpretentious attitude. Carnival lights, confetti, beads, specialty drinks, live bands and Disc Jockeys playing classics, motown, R&B, funk, disco, and old school hip hop from the last three decades mixed with the best of today's top 40. Home of young professional, young alumni, 20 something hipsters who desire cold beer, cocktails, classic party tunes and unadulterated fun!!

Vox Populi
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Speak your voice at this comfortably sophisticated Back Bay restaurant and bar. With an eclectic style highlighted by rich, vibrant colors and rustic antiques, Vox Populi offers a hip, sleek and intimate atmosphere. Enjoy the first floor bar and fireplace lounge, the second floor bar overlooking bustling Boylston St., or the elegant second floor dining room, (Outdoor patio dining available sesonally). One of Back Bay's most prominent establishments, Vox Populi truly speaks the popular voice.

Comedy

The Comedy Connection
The Comedy Connection located in the heart of historical Faneuil Hall features the biggest names in comedy with appearances by Jon Stewart, Chris Rock, Wendy Liebman and Jay Mohr. Located on the second floor of the Quincy Market Building, the Connection offers the best in local and national stand-up seven nights a week. For more information call 617-248-9700.

Wine Bars

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar
105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-0966. The hip meeting spot in the Financial District for after work, dinner, late night, or a seductive tryst. The Vault offers some of the most exclusive wines in Boston, which complement the creative American Cuisine prepared by Chef Michael Foley. Can't decide on a wine? Relax and compare with our Tasting Flights featuring selections from different reds and whites. So what are you waiting for? Call an old friend, a client, or a co-worker and meet for cocktails at The Vault today.

RESTAURANTS

Watch City Brewing Co.
256 Moody St. Waltham 781-647-4000 Top Ten Reasons To Visit Watch City: 10. At the top of Waltham's restaurant row 9. Easy access from Rt.128 & Masspike 8. Free parking 7. The Embassy Cinema next door 6. Award winning chef & brewers 5. www.watchcitybrew.com 4. Live music Wed & Thurs. nights 3. Great grilled seafood, steaks & burgers 2. Only female owned brew pub in USA 1. Great beers, great food, always a great time.

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BARCODE
BARCODE offers creative food and drink with a truly unique, casual style and atmosphere. Simple yet exotic and flavorful, Executive Chef George Leu's menu features a variety of French bistro fare touched with Asian influences. Dinner served daily 5 pm - 1 am, bar open daily 4:30pm - 2:00am.

Cactus Club
939 Boylston St., 236-0200. Get a taste of the Southwest in Boston. Specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, Cajun Catfish. Sample the firewater menu while you are there, including Coyote Killer (Light and dark rum, peach schnapps, ginger beer and mixed juices), or a Chambord Margarita. The daring may go for a dip in the Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Amex, Diners Club, MC and Visa. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurants, in Framingham, Waltham and Needham. www.cactus-club.com.

Caliterra
89 Broad St., Boston, 348-1234, at the New Wyndham Boston Hotel. Caliterra is heating up the dining climate of Boston's financial district. Our Cal-Ital fare combines contemporary Northern California traits with heary Tuscan classics and the freshest New England seafood. We accommodate groups in our private dining room, and private parties in our exclusive wine rooms. Enjoy libations in our spacious Caliterra lounge. Reservations recommended. Valet parking available. Breakfast available Mon. - Fri., 6:30 - 11 am; Sat. & Sun., 7 am - 12 noon. Child's breakfast is free under 12 with an adult. Lunch daily 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Dinner nightly 5 - 10 pm. Located one block from Boston Harbor and Quincy Marketplace.

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Company
138 Portland Street, Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, near the Fleet Center and Faneuil Hall, Common-wealth features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

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Iguana Cantina
313 Moody St., Waltham, 781-891-3039; 1656 Worcester Rd., Rt. 9, Framingham, 508-875-1188; and 66 Chestnut St., Needham, 781-444-9976. The Iguana Cantina serves a variety of Caribbean, Tex-Mex and Southwestern fare. The atmosphere is fun and the food is tasty. Visit our website at www.theiguanacantina.com.

Backstage
Faneuil Hall's hottest restaurant and nightclub offers the very best in Americana food. Located adjacent to the Commedy Connection you can dance the night away every Wednesday through Sunday with Top 40 and dance classics by DJ's Jonny and Freddi C. For more information call 726-1110.

Ma Soba Asian Cuisine & Sushi
156 Cambridge Street on Beacon Hill, Boston, 973-6680. Enjoy premium sushi and Ma Soba's unique blend of contemporary and traditional Asian cuisine prepared by award-winning chefs. Relax with a fine wine selection from Ma Soba's comprehensive wine cellar in a setting described as "strikingly attractive and ultra urbane" by the Boston Herald. Open daily: Sun-Wed until 10:30pm, Thurs-Sat until 11:00pm. When in Harvard Square/ Cambridge, visit Ma Soba Express at 30 Dunster Street for quick-service pan Asian noodles and rice platters.

Shenandoah Restaurant, Marketplace Cafe, Brewskellar Pub
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston 227-1272. Located in the North Market Building of Faneuil Hall, Shenandoah Restaurant, The Marketplace Cafe, and Brewskellar Pub have something for everyone. Whether you're interested in a casual dinner on one of Boston's largest outdoor patios or the quiet more elegant surroundings of Shenandoah Restaurant, we offer it all. Having a function? We cater personally to all events you may be planning. Visit us soon and let us surprise you.

Skipjack's
199 Clarendon St., Copley Sq., 536-3500; 2 Brookline Pl., Brookline, 232-8887; and 55 Needham St., Newton, 964-4244. Enjoy fresh grilled seafood flown in from around the world, in a casual, comfortable atmosphere. Specialties include blackened tuna sashimi, Skipjack's moonfish, Maryland crabcakes, lobsters and gingered calamari. Swing with the infamous Winiker Orchestra and enjoy our Jazz Brunch every Sunday, 11 am - 3 pm in Boston. Also performing in Brookline every Fri. and Sat. evenings from 6 - 10 pm. Reservations accepted and discounted underground parking in Boston and Brookline.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve both lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar
105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-9966. A wonderful secret hidden in Boston's Financial District. The Vault offers contemporary American cuisine and an extensive and exclusive affordable wine list. Come in and enjoy our new spring menu, including an expanded raw bar, Maine crab cakes, seared tuna and much more. Lunch Mon. - Fri. from 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Dinner Mon. - Wed. from 5:30 - 10:30 pm, Thurs. - Sat. from 5:30 - 11 pm. Closed Sun.

Mistral
223 Columbus Ave. 867-9300. Acclaimed chef/owner Jamie Mammano's South End restaurant. The design is both elegant and informal, resonating with the ambiance of Provence. Mistral features a crisp linen dining room as well as a casual lounge and bar. Serving dinner Mon-Sun beginning at 5:30pm - 11pm. Late night menu served Thurs-Sat 11pm-12midnight. Reservations recommended-private dining available.

The Wrap & Smoothie Bar
137 Mass Ave., Boston (at Berklee School of Music), 369-9087; 71 Mt. Auburn St., Harvard Square, 354-5838; 1940 Beacon St., Cleveland Circle, 739-0340; 82 Water St., Financial District, 357-9013. The Wrap serves delicious, freshly prepared wraps, burritos and salads as well as healthy and refreshing smoothies. Voted Boston's Best 1998 & 1999 by The Improper Bostonian. Fresh ingredients, great taste, healthy options - words we live by!

BRUNCH

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Museum of Science - Skyline Room
Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston, MA 02114. A T.Rex named Sue, through October 9. Enjoy Sunday brunch in the beautiful Skyline Room overlooking the Charles River at noon, then experience the amazing Mugar Omni Theater: Dolphins at 2pm. Tickets are $28 for Adults, $26 for Seniors/ Children. Brunch only is $20. On-site parking is included. Reservations recommended, call (617)723-2500.

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The Wrap & Smoothie Bar
137 Mass Ave., Boston (at Berklee School of Music), 369-9087; 71 Mt. Auburn St., Harvard Square, 354-5838; 1940 Beacon St., Cleveland Circle, 739-0340; 82 Water St., Financial District, 357-9013. The Wrap serves delicious, freshly prepared wraps, burritos and salads as well as healthy and refreshing smoothies. Voted Boston's Best 1998 & 1999 by The Improper Bostonian. Fresh ingredients, great taste, healthy options - words we live by!

MISC.

Sports

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Improper Sightings

Unlike the rest of your friends, we want to see the photos from your next trip.

Where do you take us? We want to know! Send us a picture of you or a friend, or better yet, someone famous reading THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN and tell us where you were. The more creative you are, the faster we'll publish your pic! (Hey, we have no shame!)

Paul Ward, a onetime IMPROPER advertising executive, nicks a quiet spot to enjoy his colourful publication, away from the hordes of bloody gits and wankers who normally crowd the Thames.

Kenny Guinn, governor of Nevada, loves to get his IMPROPER. And we love all-night buffets.

Jason Michalak, Toirm Miller, Zeus and Danielle Croffy at a floating bar off St. John.

John Finnegan, co-chairman of the St. Patrick's Day Parade; Joe Finnegan, former chancellor of higher education; and Phil McCabe, St. Paddy's Day grand marshall, bring Dorchester to Florida.

Tony Chaves, deputy director of the Office for Refugees and Immigrants, considers staging a mutiny with wife Sally and heading for Nantucket while aboard the Portuguese tall ship *Sagres II*.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:

At the lobster-boat races on Aug. 13 in Pemequid, Maine. Quadruple points will be awarded for readers sunning on the bow of the 55 mph *Terminator*.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116.
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Last Scene Here BY JONATHAN SOROFF

At the Champagne Pommery *pétanque*-fest, clockwise from top: Lorenzo Savona, Jean-Claude Jasa and Ian Just; Damien Palladino; measuring the balls at the Veuve Clicquot event; more heated Veuve Cliquot *pétanque*; Cedric Addams (l) and Josh Childs.

FRENCH 101: ADVANCED CONVERSATION FOR PARTIERS...

Leave it to the French. A bunch of yahoos liberate a prison (and, incidentally, accomplish very little aside from slaughtering some people who probably didn't deserve it), and 200 years later, they're still using it as an excuse to throw a big hootenanny every July 14.

Conveniently (since champagne hangovers are a bitch midweek), Bastille Day fell on a Friday this year, and the French Library and Cultural Center's annual Marlborough Street block party was even more epic than usual.

For bigshots, the evening began with a champagne reception at the library. Conspicuous among the revelers: philanthropic party pair **Lois** and **Norman Silverman** (whose condo overlooking the Public Garden gives Versailles a run for its money), Cartier smoothie **Chris Shepherd**, stunning former West Point cadet **Tracy Curley** and her husband, **Brad** (one of the event's co-chairs), Episcopal priest and all-around knockout **Barbara Nielsen**, statuesque socialite **Pam Humphrey**, party pair **Steve** and **Lois Kunian**, blue-blooded do-gooder **Yoshi Belash**, Beacon hellions **Karyn** and **Kevin Lamb**, pixie-ish fashion plate **Nan Wetherhorn**, kooky madcap couple **Erin Gilligan** and **Hoil Kim**, Cabot Corp.'s **Justin Dunleavy** and his wife, **Susan** (who looks great in sleeveless), legal eagles **Ed Wayland** and **Mary-Pat Cormier** (who's a laugh a minute), and the eternally suave **Carlos Bhola**, who bid on several paintings in the silent auction just to push the price up but wound up winning them.

The Eiffel Tower decoration growing out of the cheese platter couldn't compete with the artfully lit display of the newest men's watch from Cartier. On their way out the door to board trolleys to different venues for dinner, guests received silver Cartier key rings holding one brass key. A nice enough party favor, but one lucky stiff, upon returning to the library after dinner for more champagne, had the key that opened the case and went home with the watch, which, in all fairness, should have been mine.

Be that as it may, the street fair that followed was fabulous, as always, with three bands (Frederic Galliano, Les Nubians and Rumbafrica) entertaining a crowd of 3,000.

"If you're into frottage, this is the place to be," said one guest; but truth be told, they weren't quite as unruly as the original Bastille Day mob. To prove it, several people were asked if they felt like storming the old Charles Street jail. The most enthusiastic response: "No. But I'd go with you to Buzzy's Roast Beef."

FRENCH 102: LIFE IN THE WINE REGIONS...

The Francophilia continued on Sunday, as Boston hosted not one, but two, major *pétanque* tournaments.

For the uninitiated, *pétanque* is France's version of lawn bowling and its third-favorite sport (after decapitating aristocrats and making fun of Americans).

In the alley behind **Les Zygomates**, Champagne Pommery sponsored a fierce battle between such competitors from the food community as **Silvertone**, **Oskar's**, **Summer Shack**, **Classic Wines** and **United Liquors**, while a bachannalian buffet of roast suckling pig, couscous and salad was served inside. Making merry were such gourmands and gastronomes as **Lorenzo** and **Deborah Savona** with son, **Jacob**, restaurateur and former jai a'lai champ **Jean-Claude Jasa**, chef **Ian Just**, Silvertone proprietor **Josh Childs**, smiley guy **Cedric Adams**, pub owner **Jon Fassman**, jazz musician and Manhattan Transfer arranger **Corey Allen**, vintners **Bob** and **Carol Russell** of Wesport River and Fidelity hotshot **Tom Eberhardt**. Many cases of bubbly later, the champs were Les Zygomates' Team No. 2 and the liquor distributor/winery team of Bidichon.

Meanwhile, in the parking lot between **Bomboa** and **Mistral**, Veuve Clicquot hosted its annual death match, with teams from those two eateries, as well as **Barcode**, the **Palm**, **Al Forno**, **Silvertone**, **Olives**, **the Federalist**, **Ambrosia** and **Tremont 647**. Among the prominent foodies onhand: celebrity chefs **Jamie Mammano**, **Ken Orringer**, **Andy Husbands**, and **Robert Fathman**, GMs like **Jeff Gates**, **Chris Spann**, **Damien Palladino** and **Katie Childs**, restaurant publicist **Chris Haynes** (who dutifully swept the sand on the courts), and random lunatics like mixmasters extraordinaire **Ted Kennedy** and **Jeff Nace**, babe-a-licious blonde **Jennifer Jones** and the aptly named **John Nutting**.

For those who weren't playing, the tournament was essentially a picturesque backdrop for swilling champagne and eating amazing pulled-pork sandwiches (courtesy of **Sonny** from the Federalist), but for the record, **No. 9 Park** won for the second year in a row.

So what did we learn from all this? That champagne hangovers are a bitch on Monday morning. Vive la France! IB

Clockwise, from top: Smoki Bacon and Dick Koncanon; Claire LeTri, Christian de Robert and Sandra Roth; a page from Cartier with watch-winner Pat Peters and Chris Shepherd; Brad Curley and Peter Griffin; Fanny de Lacvivier and Annik de Lacaze.

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Working to help prevent youth smoking is important and it's the right thing to do for our company and for our employees. It's also the right thing to do on behalf of our shareholders and our adult customers. Everyone has a stake in solving the problem of underage smoking. At Philip Morris USA, we are working to help find answers.

For more information about our youth smoking prevention efforts, visit our Web site at www.philipmorrisusa.com. If you don't have Internet access, please call 1-877-PMUSAWEB.

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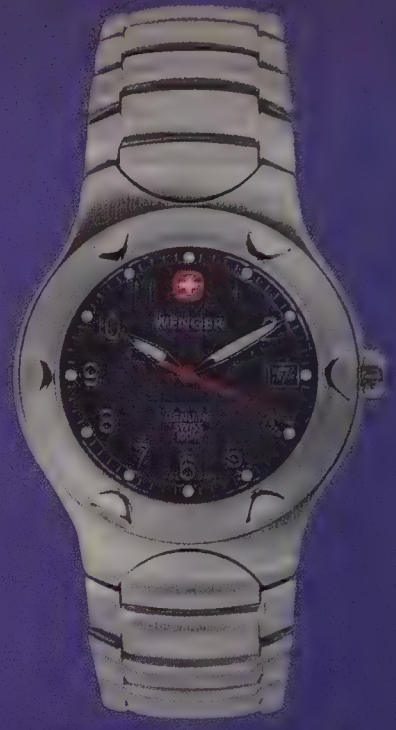

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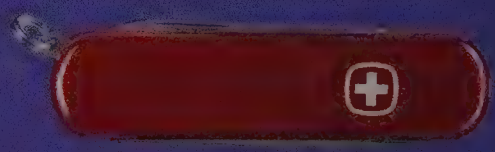

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Fall duds go through the wringer.

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Photograph for THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN by **Jessica Pursley**

Model: **Julian Imma/Paulinés**
Make up: **Robin Warriner**
Clothes: **Faux fur collar from Neiman Marcus, $425**

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PRODUCED BY SAMANTHA HOUSE

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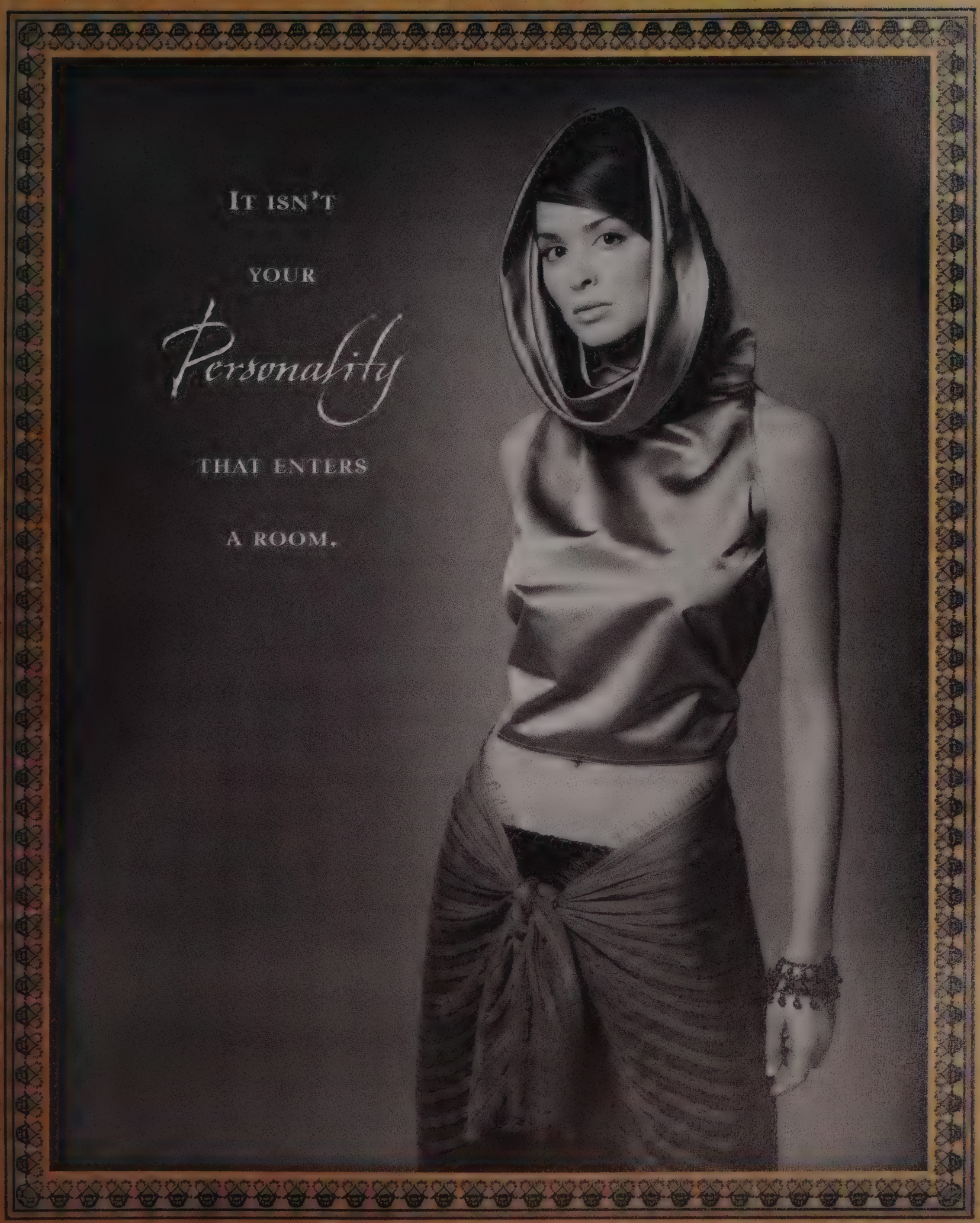
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE

BILL STREICHER



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letters

FASHION PROPS

I just picked up my new issue of the IMPROPER and was floored by the cover. What a wonderful, creative, and eye-catching piece of art. I have to ask about the model featured... Who is that beautiful creature? Could she be from our area of the country? She is a work of art herself. You need to use her much, much more! My hat is off to you for choosing such an awesome model for your cover. Oh yeah, the furniture is cool too. I *will* check out Zoe in the near future.

Thanks again for the eye pleasure and Lauren Krol just became MY supermodel.

—S.E. BLAKE
Via e-mail

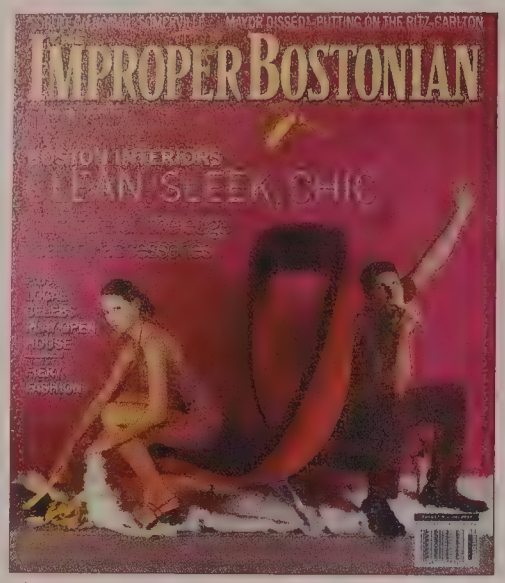
I want to congratulate you on your latest cover story. I am throughly impressed with the new look and feel of your publication and appreciate the caliber of your art direction. I wish you continued success and look forward to your next creation.

—KEVIN J. GESSAY
Andover

MORE GOOD FEELINGS

I recently moved back to Boston after a five year stint in Carrboro, N.C. It has been a bit of a shock moving back to the city but I think your magazine is going to help ease the pain, although it may also make people think I'm wacky. I was reading your Aug 9 issue on the subway this morning and laughing hysterically at Ezra Dyer's article and Jonathan Soroff's interview with Nomar Garciaparra. All I can say is thank you! I needed a good laugh like that and I can't wait to get back on the subway to read on.

—DAN BROWN
Via e-mail



"MY HAT IS OFF TO YOU FOR CHOOSING SUCH AN AWESOME MODEL FOR YOUR COVER. OH YEAH, THE FURNITURE IS COOL TOO. I *WILL* CHECK OUT ZOE IN THE NEAR FUTURE."

—*S.E. BLAKE*
VIA E-MAIL

Hi Ezra. I just wanted to let you know that I do think you are very funny and I always scurry to your column as soon as I get my hands on a new issue of the IMPROPER. I can always count on getting several good, hearty laughs out of it, which makes my trek to work a lot brighter. I think that everyone in Boston—with the possible exception of homeless people and Depression-era folks like my grandmother who still hoard their money under their mattress—can relate to your latest tale of banking woes with this Fleet/BankBoston/Sovereign thing. I hope you do indeed find yourself with a much fatter balance the next time you check. Thanks again for the laughs and please keep them coming!

—KIM BADER
Via e-mail

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I just visited your Web site and I have to say that it is the most dumb thing I have ever read in my life. Are you guys for real? How naive are you people? How out of touch? That was just staggering. I cringe in embarrassment for you.

—KAREN MCDERMOTT
Via e-mail

In the current piece about David Josef, the writer mentioned that Josef had a framed piece in his home of a "page from *Bizarre* magazine."

I believe the writer meant to say *Bazaar* magazine? If so, the correct name of the publication, which has been around for decades, is *Harper's Bazaar*.

The writer claims to have seen the framed image with her own eyes and yet wrote *Bizarre* magazine. Bizarre that no one caught this error.

—BRENDA PIZZO
Via e-mail

I found it funny that in the Boston's Best issue you gave your two lowest ratings (one-and-a-half stars) to *Shaft* and *Gone in 60 Seconds*, yet in your limited photo space in the movie review section you featured photos from... hmmm... those two movies. I guess we still use star power to interest people instead of actual quality.

—MICHAEL ORTLIEB
Via e-mail

CORRECTION

In the Boston's Best issue, the award for antiques was given to East West Antiques. East West Antiques is only one dealer out of over 100, and the store's name should have read "Antiques on Cambridge."

CONTRIBUTORS

SAMANTHA HOUSE

Meet style maven Samantha House, the IMPROPER's new fashion and beauty editor. Hailing from South Beach, Miami, she has been in the print media production business for seven years, and her portfolio includes work for such illustrious outfits as Banana Republic, British *Vogue*, *Marie Claire*, and Guess Jeans. She also brings experience with New York's top modeling agencies and photographers. House's stated mission is to raise the style bar not only for the IMPROPER's fashion section, but for all of the city's publications. Her IMPROPER debut was last issue's "Boston Interiors" feature; more of House's work appears in the Fall Fashion Preview on page 18.

BRAD ZIEGLER

Tell Us What You Think

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE

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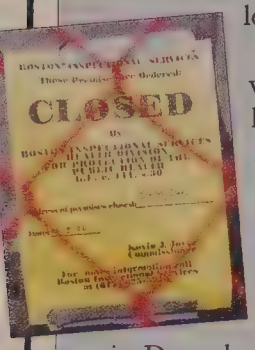
IMPROPERSPEAKING

BY RICHARD MANNING

The Barking Crab restaurant was shut down earlier this month after city officials discovered a ruptured sewage pipe emptying into the harbor.

THE BARKING CRAB VOWS TO REOPEN: LOBSTER TANK WATER TESTS CLEAN

As we go to print, the **Barking Crab**, that eclectic waterfront restaurant and bar, remains shut down by the city and swamped in damaging press—reports about sewage from the restaurant draining into Boston Harbor and questions surrounding the cleanliness of the sea water pumped into their lobster tanks. First things first: The latter worry, aired by city officials earlier this month, has been shelved. City Inspectional Services spokesman **Julie Fothergill** said last week that the sea water in the restaurant's lobster tank "came back clean."



Now the issue is a ruptured sewage pipe that was emptying waste from the restaurant into the harbor, city officials say. It's not clear whether restaurant owner **Doug Lemle** knew the pipe had been ruptured, but it is certain that his attorneys are battling back, saying that the pipe was ruptured during construction of the Northern Avenue Bridge, and that restaurant owners had no way of knowing, or preventing it. Down by the sea, suspicion is rampant that Lemle may have been the recipient of some unwanted special attention from city officials because he has notified the Boston Redevelopment Authority that he is no fan of their Harbor Walkway plan—which he says would essentially cut through his kitchen. In April, Lemle politely blasted the BRA's plan in a three-page memo. In June, the restaurant received a near perfect rating during their routine summer inspection.

Then, in late July, ISD inspector **John Doherty** showed at the restaurant to respond to a report that a customer "got ill from tuna or halibut," according to city records. Doherty wrote in his report that he found "numerous issues" during that visit, (though it turns out the restaurant does not serve halibut.) Two weeks later, the restaurant was closed for the sewage problem. The notion that the Barking Crab was unfairly targeted is ridiculous, said Fothergill, adding that the ruptured pipe was an obvious and serious problem. Commissioner **Kevin Joyce**'s personal appearance at the restaurant, in front of television cameras, was not atypical, she said. "He is a very hands-on [ISD] Commissioner," said Fothergill.The publicized report from a customer who said they became ill after a Barking Crab lobster dinner days before the shutdown has not been substantiated, city officials said. Barking Crab attorneys are working to reconnect to the city's system and have asked the state to investigate the construction of the bridge, charging the pipe was wrongfully ruptured, or rerouted. For now, that's the end of this fishy tale.—*Ellen O'Brien*

AS THE GLOBE TURNS

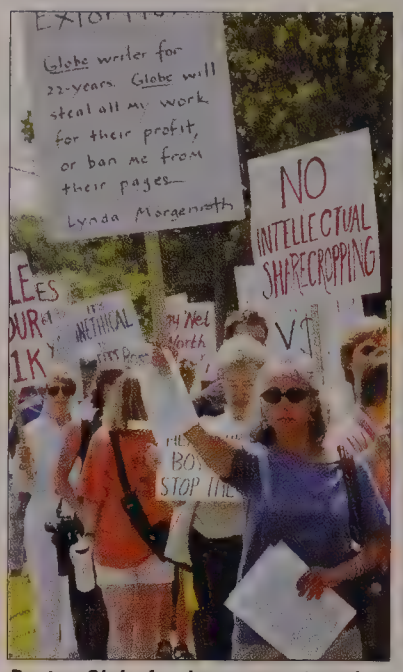
The ***Boston Globe*** has become a battle ground for that new frontier—intellectual property rights. You might notice familiar names of freelance writers or artists disappearing as the *Globe* forces freelancers to sign on the dotted line, or leave their jobs. The contract dispute is likely being watched by publishers around the country. The contract that *Globe* publisher **Richard Gilman** put into effect last month essentially tells freelancers their work can be displayed on the internet, and plenty of other places, without remuneration. Hundreds of freelancers protested, calling the deal presented to them "extortion."

A statement provided by protesting freelancers reads, in part: "Now, with no additional payment, the paper is demanding resale rights to all work, past, present, and future—in some cases 20 years of labor and thousands of contributions. To attempt to extort these rights from people who have worked for the *Globe* for decades is unconscionable, and a disgrace to the newspaper's high reputation." It goes on to say: "The contract...does not simply allow the paper to republish work on the web page—it is for resale rights to all freelance work ever done for the paper, in all media now existing or yet to be invented, forever. Aside from the personal hardship caused to these freelancers, their departure is already leading to a dumbing-down of the paper and a failure to cover local events."

Although those are fighting words, several hundred freelancers who depend on their paying gigs have signed on, while others continue to fight on the front lines of a new battle ground for intellectual property.

EMINEM IN SAUGUS

Now this makes sense. Where else would **Eminem** go after a Worcester concert than... Route 1? That's right, the rap-meister partied at the Palace.



Boston Globe freelancers protest the new contract requiring them to sign away rights to their work—or walk away from their jobs.

PERFECT RIP-OFF

This space has called attention in the past to the rampant hucksterism that swept through the city of Gloucester in the wake of the opening of the film "*The Perfect Storm*" earlier this summer. It's too bad the trend does not seem to be abating any as the summer wears on. Topping our list this week is the **Cape Pond Ice Co.**, a small waterfront firm that churns out ice for the local fishing fleet—and t-shirts for international tourists. The t-shirts—at $16 a pop—feature the company's name on the front and the words "The Coolest Guys in Town" on the back. The cool shirts are hot items because several cast members wear the things in the movie.

And right up there in the rip-off-the-tourists department is a two-hour walking tour of the city called "*The Perfect Tour,*" for which visitors from Hamburg and Liverpool apparently pay $15. And of course, the walking tour ends with lunch at the Crow's Nest, the local watering hole that is featured prominently in the film. The place is packed with tourists every noontime.

Okay. The historically impoverished city deserves the right to make a buck. But this still does seem proof that, if given a chance, most of America will glom onto a misfortune of historic proportions and turn itself into a theme park called "Disasterland." IB

Speaking of Boston

Got a inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to speaking@improper.com

NOW THIS IS MALE BONDING

Who really thought presidential candidate **Al Gore** and Massachusetts' Sen. **John Kerry** could hold their own on a ticket anyhow? No, Gore needed someone who appeared his conservative elder, and he has just that in Senator **Joe Lieberman.** Alright, so he's spun around on that affirmative-action platform. (Was against it, now he's apparently for it.) So, while reporters find Jewish-American voters to interview for opinions on the "history making" candidate, we went looking for funny pictures. We like this one because it's clear Gore and Lieberman are doing that "Eskimo kiss" thing we all learned in kindergarten. (No word on whether it's considered politically correct in Alaska.) Anyway, we're waiting to see these two practice the "butterfly kisses"—you know, that thing kids do when they brush eyelashes. Meanwhile, Lieberman is the most exciting thing to happen to this race since the news that GOP vice-president nominee **Dick Cheney** has an out-of-the-closet lesbian daughter who supports Dad even if her friends don't. Finally, this is fun.

BARKING CRAB: RICHARD TAZZERA; BOSTON GLOBE: CHRISTOPHER FITZGERALD; JOSEPH LIEBERMAN: CHRIS HONDROS/NEWSMAKERS

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Proper Bostonians

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

The Boston Harbor Island Swim Kick-Off Party was held on Aug. 9 at the Sheraton Boston. The kick-off celebration cheered on more than 100 swimmers who dove into Boston Harbor on Aug. 11 for the fifth annual Swim Across America Boston Harbor Island Swim. Olympians and Iron Man champions gathered to help raise funds for the David B. Perini, Jr. Quality of Life Program at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The evening also featured music by Mark Morris and the Catunes, a silent auction and a live auction by Kiss 108's Joe Public.

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1. **Pete Cadwell**, trader at Berkley Capital and **Kathryn Wright**, investment banker for Morgan Stanley.
2. From left, **Tony Abbiati**, **John Scully** and **Mary Belmont**, financial adviser, vice president and executive assistant, respectively, at Goldman Sachs, and **Eric Soller**, creative director for Cyrk Inc. in Gloucester.
3. **Noreen Ferreira** (l), account executive for the Student Advantage Inc. and **Nicole Camiel**, account executive for Lifetips.com.
4. From left, **Juli Nevergelt**, professional triathlete and Iron Man contender; **Janel Jorgenson**, Olympic silver medalist; and **Karen Smyers**, tri-athlete and Iron Man champion.
5. **John MacFarlane**, COO for Tudor Investment Corp., and **Jenny Paradis**, of Island Properties in Nantucket.
6. **George Brown**, CFO of the Wampanoag Tribe in Martha's Vineyard, and his wife, **Paula**, designer and owner of Paul Jaq'lyn in Martha's Vineyard.
7. **Kelly Tuthill** (l) and **Samantha Shapiro**, reporter and producer, respectively, for Channel 5.
8. **Kelty Whitworth,** recruiting manager for Harvard Business School, and **Bill Deacon**, financial consultant at Merrill Lynch in Wellesley.

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A **wine-tasting** to benefit the **Leukemia & Lymphoma Society** was held at the West Side Lounge in Cambridge on Aug. 13. Sisters Robin and Karin Travers, who hosted the party, took a special interest in its success: Their mother is an acute-leukemia survivor, thanks to the society's programs. Some 50 attendees enjoyed wine donated from Ruby Wines Inc. The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society is a nonprofit voluntary health organization whose mission is to cure leukemia, lymphoma, multiple myeloma and Hodgkin's disease and to improve the quality of life of patients.

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9. **Dr. Robin Travers**, of Skin Care Physicians of Chestnut Hill and **William Smith**, financial officer at MIT.
10. **Gregory Fitch**, sales supervisor for Ruby Wines Inc., **Karin Travers**, research fellow at Harvard School of Public Health, and **Tim Duncan**, president of Thomson Financial Interactive.
11. 1998 Olympian **Peter Donohoe** (l) and **Vlad Sejnoha**, researcher at LNH speech products in Burlington.
12. **Mercedes Torres-Segal** (l), residential counselor at the Center for Mental Health in Lexington and **Sofia Willis**, physical therapist at Mass General Hospital.

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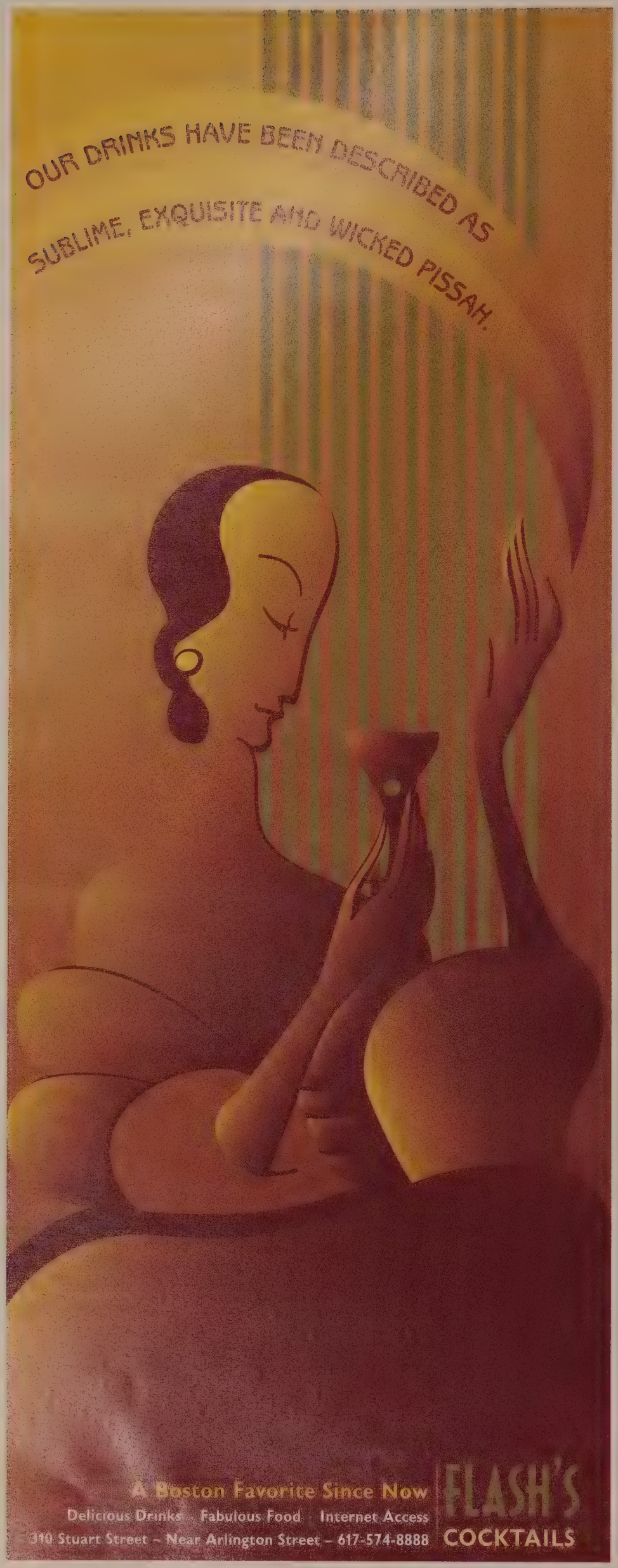


Ezra BY EZRA DYER

Beached Out

Sand is for cats to poop in

It's getting to be the time of year when there are precious few beach days left. To which I say: Hooray.

In theory, going to the beach sounds like a grand outing. We'll pack sandwiches and cold drinks and go sit on a towel by the sea. We'll bask in the sun and read the latest Harry Potter book (that is, if we can manage to hire the two draft horses necessary to drag it into position next to the towel). Of course we will scope out members of whatever gender strikes our fancy and comment on their choice of beachwear. Perhaps this will include mistaking a guy in a Speedo for a topless woman—not that I've ever done that. At the end of the day, we'll be bronzed and happy and ready for a night on the town.

Somehow, it never works out that way for me. One problem is that no matter how hard I try, I just cannot lie on a towel all day. This is mostly because I have both an overactive imagination and the attention span of a pug on Red Bull and speed. So while my companions do fair imitations of roadkill, I lie down in 30-second spurts, punctuated by sitting up and fidgeting. I entertain the thought of falling asleep, but then my brain starts working. What if there's a tsunami tearing in toward the beach? What if there's a seagull overhead, drawing a bead on my nose for a guano-bomb? What if the *Andrea Gail* motors in, its crew having spent the last nine years frolicking with scantily clad natives on a remote island in the South Pacific? (Answer: a sequel.) What if a bevy of Miss Teen USA contestants has just begun a heated match of bikini volleyball nearby? Is my shoulder burning? It feels like it's burning.

ONLY ONCE THIS YEAR HAVE I MANAGED TO LIE ON MY TOWEL FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME.

Only once this year have I managed to stay on my towel for any length of time. And on that occasion I was wrestling with a bit of a hangover. Actually, it was a hangover of such severity that several attempts at drowning myself were thwarted by my inability to muster the energy necessary to haul my porcine body down to the water. Hence I stayed on the towel, groaning and periodically dipping myself into a bucket of Coppertone.

That brings me to another problem: I can count on one hand the number of times in my life that a trip to the beach has rewarded me with a healthy degree of color. My complexion runs to the cadaverous, which is especially annoying given that by the end of the summer my brother always has a tan that makes George Hamilton look like Carrottop. Given this loss at the genetic roulette table, I typically spend about half of my beach time obsessively slathering my body with suntan lotion the consistency of axle grease. Inevitably I get sand in the lotion, so the next time I rub it in the gritty paste exfoliates away any slight tan I may have developed. I would save myself a lot of trouble if I simply gave up on the tan and went to the beach with one of those lead blankets they give you at the dentist's office to keep the x-ray machine from microwaving your reproductive parts.

"Well, Ez, if tanning on the towel doesn't suit you, how about going for a swim?" Sorry, that's out. First of all, the water's too cold. I'm from Maine, and the one time I went swimming in the ocean up there I had to be dragged from the water to have my heart restarted and my testicles brought down from my trachea. I haven't been swimming in Massachusetts because, as anyone with a map can tell you, the Maine ocean and the Massachusetts ocean are clearly connected, and thus the water here is too cold. Case closed.

But even if the water wasn't cold enough to keep Walt Disney in mint condition, there's also the fact that I'm not a very good swimmer. Despite being saddled with size-13 flippers, I stay afloat about as well as an Olympic weight set. I'm convinced that if I so much as dipped a toe in the surf, I would be instantly sucked out to sea by a riptide, to be found weeks later clinging to a navigational buoy, eating kelp and weeping.

So why am I right now packing a bag to go to a place where I am so throughly out of my element? Because I'm down to my emergency underwear (that pair with the itchy tag, and the ones that always give me a wedgie), and frankly, a bad day at the beach is still better than a good day at the laundromat. **iB**

You think that's funny?

Email ezra@improper.com, beach.

CHRISTINA CATURANO

Tracking the Wily E-Tail

Industry analyst Williams shakes up the dot-coms with her canny predictions.

Little known fact: Boston has more computer industry analysts per square foot than any other American city. You'd think that these market researchers would be clustered in California, and Silicon Valley does have its share, but the world looks to Boston when it wants the straight skinny on the high-tech tomorrow.

Boston is the home some of the great sages of the digital age, guys like John Gantz of International Data Corp., who's made the right call about so many major trends for so many years that he's a something of living legend among industry wonks. Recently, however, a new breed of younger, hipper industry analysts has hit the Boston scene, covering the new economy and the wacky world of the dot-coms. And why not? Many of today's Internet CEOs can barely remember a time when the PC didn't exist, so why shouldn't their companies be covered by analysts with the same demographic profile?

WILLIAMS' PREDICTION IS ALL THE MORE BOLD BECAUSE THE TRADITIONAL "BRICK-AND-MORTAR" COMPANIES HAVE HAD A LOT OF PROBLEMS ON THE WEB, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO CUSTOMER SUPPORT.

The cream of this up-and-coming crop could be Seema Williams, senior analyst at Forrester Research Inc., a company that bills itself as "an independent research firm that analyzes the future of technology change and its impact on businesses, consumers and society." Williams covers what's generally known as "e-tailing"—the sale of retail goods over the Internet. Though only 27, she's built an enviable reputation for seeing through the mountain of hype that surrounds the subject.

Last year, Williams was telling the business press that there would be a shake-out in the e-tailing dot-coms as soon as investors noticed that few had business plans that could deliver a profit. She got some flack for those statements, because other pundits were mostly predicting that the dot-coms would soon put everyone else out of business. "Everyone had written off the brick-and-mortar companies," she says.

Williams now sees e-tailing as being increasingly dominated by traditional firms—the kind that also inhabit the local strip malls. "They have deeper pockets and the mind-share advantage of having a store on every corner." She notes that consumers want to be able to return products easily, something that's difficult with a "virtual" company that only exists on the Web.

Williams' prediction is all the more bold because the traditional "brick-and-mortar" companies have had a lot of problems on the Web, especially when it comes to customer support. A survey of online customer service conducted during last year's holiday season revealed that of 125 consumer Web sites contacted via e-mail with simple support requests, almost half (46 percent) took five or more days to respond, never responded, or didn't even post an e-mail address on their site. To make matters worse, e-tailing consumers calling customer service frequently encountered busy signals and those that got through often found that the customer service personnel couldn't check the status of Web orders.

These problems are temporary, according to Williams, who believes it's only a matter of time before the traditional retailers get their act together. "The established retailers encountered more problems because they have bigger and more complicated operations," she insists.

Iconoclastic views like this have helped transform Seema into something of a business media phenomenon. She's a frequent guest on MSNBC and CNBC, has been interviewed on National Public Radio, and has been extensively quoted in magazines ranging from *Wired* to *Upside.* Williams, who has bachelor of science degrees in both finance and engineering, has lived in Boston since 1992. "It's a good place to live if you want to write about high tech," she says.

Forrester Research senior analyst Seema Williams is a standout amongst Boston e-tail industry prognosticators. She foresees greater domination of hybrid storefront/online retailers.

ANIMAL ANTICS ON THE WEB

From the "Some-People-Have-Too-Much-Time-on-Their-Hands" department:

Irene Pepperberg, a visiting professor at MIT, has taught a parrot to use the Internet by manipulating a joystick with claws and beak (the parrot's, not the professor's). Pepperberg—an expert on (I kid you not) parrot intelligence—is researching whether or not the Internet could keep parrots from becoming bored when their owners are out all day at work. To me, this sounds like an excellent way to discover 200 National Geographic videos in your mailbox, all mysteriously charged to your Amazon.com "one-click" account.

Two Massachusetts residents, Steve Bennett and Stacey Miller, have founded a site called MeowMail.com, which bills itself as an online cat colony offering free e-mail for cats. Cats who become members receive free subscriptions to a newsletter, feline horoscopes, the Daily Scoop, Claw Pilots, Waggit's Guide to Fine Feline Dining, chat boards, opinion polls and more. This idea is so freakin' cutesy that I almost coughed up a hairball.

Another Boston entrepreneur (who prefers to remain nameless at this point) intends to put up an Internet site called *www.feedacarnivorousplant.com*. The site consists of a continuous Webcam of a carnivorous plant, with posted feeding times. "We expect to feed it mostly insects," says the Web master, "But we may occasionally feed it some small mammals—like newborn mice—just for variation." Something tells me that PETA probably won't care for this idea. **iB**

Geoffrey James (*www.geoffreyjames.com*) is the author of numerous books as well as the co-host of Funny Business, heard Saturdays 10 to midnight on WRKO, AM 680.

WENDY MIMRAN

CITY LIMITS

Good stuff, glamour and goings-on

BY ERIN HAGEDORN AND JULIE SHORT

NEW IN TOWN

FLASHY MAKEOVERS

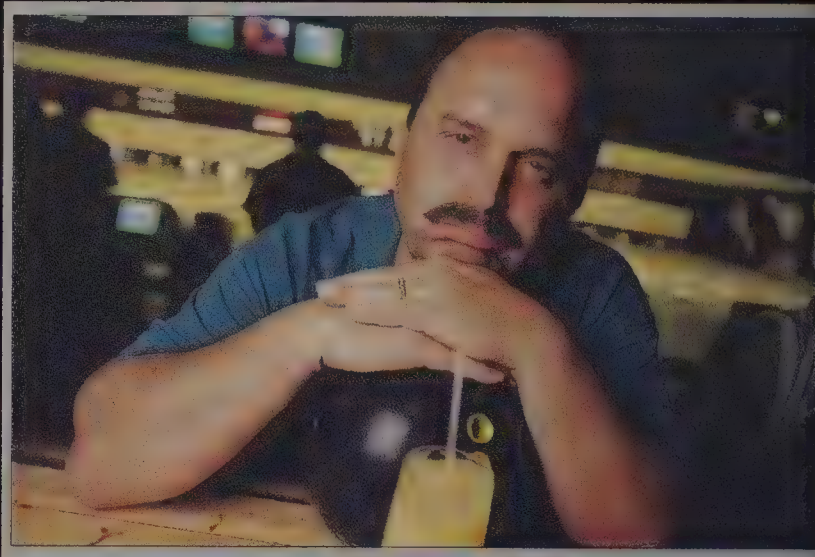
From left to right, Justine Koromhas, Sadie Brown, Anthony Taglieri and Mary Bishop relax at The Point with GM Chris Mullen.

Several bars around town have set out to establish a new image, with a new decor and clientele. We found three fab spots that are definitely worth a second look now that their face lifts are complete. The biggest change is at **The Point**, the Faneuil Hall club formerly known as the Stone Pub, next door to the legendary Bell In Hand. The Stone Pub was a place where the customers used to gather by 9am and stay all day. Not that there's anything wrong with that. "It was a favorite of the early-morning drinking set," admits GM Chris Mullen. "We basically took a hobo bar and remodeled it into an upscale establishment." The result is an inviting, airy, two-story bar with good food and a wide selection of drinks. The prices of a beer have increased from $1.50 to $3.50, or $4, but we say it's well worth it.

Next we discovered a new party-girl favorite. The Back Bay Brewing Company is no longer—the beer vats have vanished and the place has been entirely remade into the swank **Vox Populi**. Head upstairs for music on the jukebox and a full bar. The opening party was a smash. Mirrors, retro-vintage lamps and a neverending wooden bar with Latin verse make it a place for the masses.

For more casual fun, the new owners of **Flash's**, formerly a Greek deli, have spiffed up the place with floor-to-ceiling glass walls and a huge wooden bar. Located near the Park Plaza, lunch here is still a phenomenal deal: $2.95 for a selection of comfort food, including meatloaf and mac 'n' cheese—all in a modern, sunlit setting. *The Point, 147 Hanover St. (523-7020); Flash's, 310 Stuart St. (574-8888); Vox Populi, 755 Boylston St., (424-8300).*

It's a girls' night out at the opening party of Vox Populi.



ALL THE BUZZ

BOWLING AND BOOZING

Two of American's favorite pastimes are about to come together—bowling and drinking. Sort of. In response to the recent lifting of the state-wide ban on alcohol in bowling alleys, Lucky Strike Lanes in Dorchester will be the first to get the green light to serve beer and wine. Other establishments are not far behind—First Boston Tenpin on Morrissey Blvd. eagerly awaits the Licensing Board's decision. In Cambridge, Lanes and Games managers say they will soon apply. With this license, alcohol can be consumed in the lane areas from 5-11pm. But there's no bar area where people can sit and drink all night instead of bowling. Why the restrictions? Licensing Board chairman Daniel Pokanski says, "They should remain places with a family atmosphere. We feel strongly that they should not turn into bars." That's our kind of family fun. Break out the brewskies!

AROUND TOWN

FASHION EMERGENCY

Leon Hall, the flamboyant host of ***E! Fashion Emergency***, will breeze into town to play fairy godmother to four Brighton women Aug. 25-26. Their fashion emergency? "Our 23-year-old male neighbors refer to us the 'Golden Girls,' " says Betsy Pritzker, one of the chosen few. "You try being 26-years-old and called over-the-hill." Hall, with the help of the folks at **James Joseph Salon** and **Yolanda**, will make the women over before taking them to dinner at the Ritz-Carlton, followed by a wild night on Lansdowne. We caught up with Hall in NYC and asked him his thoughts on the way Bostonians dress.

IMPROPER BOSTONIAN: *When you think of Boston style, what first comes to mind? Be honest—don't try to spare our feelings.*

Leon Hall: Certainly preppy classics come to mind. New York City is about fashion, Los Angeles is about Hollywood. Boston is about comfort. Bostonians are not out to be the best dressed or the prettiest. They wear their clothes with a degree of comfort.

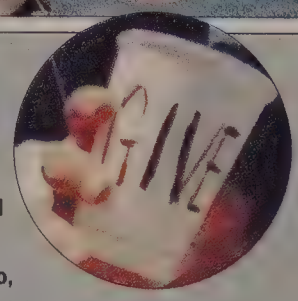
IB: *What's the biggest difference between East and West coast fashion?*

LH: In L.A., you never know what you're going to get—bodies are too toned, breasts are too big and hair is too colored. In Boston, it's either about being dressed up—or jumping right into casual. Boston's the Audrey Hepburn of fashion. [We'll take that.]

Tami Ensio (l) and Betsy Pritzker await their fashion makeovers.

THIS DISSED LIST

HOMELESS BRUSHOFF



The response to our "Dissed List" has been terrific so far—a good number of you have sent in your consumer complaints. However, an interesting thing happened on our way to the Dissed List this week. We've discovered that many people want to complain about the manners and mannerisms of—get this—the homeless. This is one of those yuppie problems that no one wants to hear about in detail—a complaint well-suited for a *Seinfeld* episode. To wit, one reader complained that as she was exiting a Chinese restaurant, a homeless man asked for some money. "We handed over a bag of yummy leftovers instead. As we walked away, my boyfriend said: 'You'll need a fork.' The man yelled back, 'Fork you too, man!' I was offended the rest of the night." You just gotta let things go, we say. Sometimes those less fortunate than us wake up a little grumpy. Frankly, we appreciate his play on words. In the mean time, we're still trying to get the downtown theater crowd to turn off their cell phones. Send complaints to *howrude@improper.com*.

NEW IN TOWN: DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN; AROUND TOWN: JOEL VEAK; ALL THE BUZZ: TRACY POWELL

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Soroff/On

Joe Shortsleeve

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Following the personnel shifts in local TV news, Channel 4's Joe Shortsleeve has emerged as the lead anchor for the station's weekday broadcasts at 5 and 11pm. A native of Newton, he graduated from BC High and earned a bachelor's degree from Holy Cross. He began his broadcasting career in 1979 as a weekend anchor, reporter and producer at WHBF in Rock Island, Ill. In 1980 he became the primary anchor at WITN in Greenville, N.C. before returning to New England and working as an executive producer and anchor for Cablevision News 12 in Westport, Conn. In 1984 he joined WLVI (Channel 56) as a reporter and weekend anchor, and in 1990 moved to WBZ as a general assignment reporter and backup anchor. From 1994 to 1998, he anchored News 4 This Morning. He was named reporter of the year by the Gannett Corp. in 1987, and in 1988 he won the Ohio State Award. He has also received a United Press International Award and a New England Emmy. He lives in Weston with his wife and three children.

Jonathan Soroff: *What's the biggest gaffe you've ever made on the air?*

Joe Shortsleeve: Christmas Eve, 1980. I was doing the news, and the sports guy and I were messin' around. He was cuing me to go live, and he caught his button on the Christmas tree we had on the set. Pulled it right down on my head as we were coming on the air. The general manager was not impressed.

JS: *How about your most embarrassing moment as a reporter?*

JSS: I had to fly with the Blue Angels once on a story, and they tell you beforehand that you're either gonna pass out or throw up, one or the other. I think I did both.

JS: *Who's got the most gravitas in TV news?*

JSS: For reporters? Donaldson owns that. For the network anchors, I'd say Brokaw. He always seems to have a command and a presence about him. He could be saying, "I am going to unbutton my shirt and burp out loud," and the way he delivers it, you'd still take him seriously.

JS: *Where on the food chain do TV news people fall?*

JSS: Not very high up. When people need us, we rise up a little bit in their estimation, but for the most part, we've become a target, I think. Whatever people are mad at, they blame it on the media.

JS: *Which news story from history would you most like to have covered?*

JSS: Probably the assassination of John F. Kennedy. That was really the moment for TV news, the first time that people really couldn't leave their television sets.

JS: *Best perk of being an anchor?*

JSS: It's great for getting reservations in a restaurant. You can almost always get a table.

JS: *Ever get out of things like a speeding ticket because the cop recognized you?*

JSS: Oh, sure. I had a cop stop me on Route 9 in Natick. I was leaving the mall with my wife. I must've really punched the gas, because he stopped me right away. Said, "license and registration." Looked at it and laughed out loud. He goes, "Whoa boy, I caught myself a big fish here." He just said, "Joe, slow down." So, yeah. It helps.

JS: *I heard about you blowing through a tollbooth on the Mass Pike.*

JSS: True. I was doing the morning show, and I overslept. It was the only time I ever did, but I was 15 minutes late for air. I got to the tollbooth just as they were changing shifts, and they had no interest whatsoever in helping me. So I just shot through the toll. I could see them writing down my plate. When I got to the station, they were ribbing me on the air for being late, and I said, "You haven't heard the worst of it yet." I had to send a check for 50 cents to the Mass. Pike... and guess what? They cashed it.

JS: *Do people on the street expect you to know everything that's going on?*

JSS: Oh, yeah. They'll say, "Why is it we can't park on the left side of the street in East Boston on Thursdays?" And I'm like, "I'll look into that. I'm sorry. I really don't know."

JS: *Three dos of TV news?*

JSS: Trust your own judgment. Be yourself. And don't let other people persuade you to do something that doesn't feel right.

JS: *Three don'ts of TV news?*

JSS: Don't get fat. Don't get old. And don't copy other people.

JS: *Most egregious example of wretched excess in TV news coverage?*

JSS: Well, the easiest one to hit is our snowstorm coverage. "Ooooh, there are snowflakes falling in Newton at this hour," and we're interviewing the DPW guy. But you know, people are always watching.

JS: *OK. Suzanne Bates and Heather Kahn see the same thing at Filene's Basement and they both want it. Who wins the catfight?*

JSS: Bates. No question. Hands down.

JS: *Silliest thing about TV news?*

JSS: You do a whole broadcast. You're on for half an hour. Everything goes smoothly, and you deliver some useful information. Then the news director says, "Do you realize that one of the hairs on the side of your head was sticking out the whole time?"

JS: *How do you feel about having a job that requires you to wear makeup?*

JSS: Not very good. My face breaks out all the time, and it's pretty hard on my son. He's like, "Dad, do you really wear makeup?"

JS: *What's the biggest piece of fluff you've ever had to float on a slow news day?*

JSS: There are a lot of days like that, and that's when you start talking about marriages out in Hollywood or what one of the princes in England did over the weekend. And you start wondering what the hell it is that you're doing.

JS: *Do you polish your Emmy?*

JSS: Oh, yeah, but I have to be careful. It broke the night we were celebrating. The little ball on top ended up in someone's drink, and I had to glue it back on.

JS: *Why do male news anchors have such important hair?*

JSS: I guess it's that we're so glad to have any, that we kinda try to make the most of it.

JS: *Any tricks to avoid sneezing, coughing or uncontrollable laughter while you're doing live TV?*

JSS: Fear. You're operating on adrenaline, and you just focus. You never want to give them any reason to question you.

JS: *Three hardest words to read off a teleprompter?*

JSS: Burglary. I can't ever read it. Whenever it comes up, I look at it like I've never seen it before. I always say pitcher, instead of pic-ture. And all the names in tennis. I can never pronounce them.

JS: *Any other names, like Mogadishu or Slobodan Milosevic, that give you trouble?*

JSS: Well, Elian Gonzalez did. We kept switching between a long "e" and a short "e", and it was probably somewhere in between. I doubt we ever got that one right.

JS: *So if you guys are reading off a prompter, what's on all those papers you keep shuffling?*

JSS: That's the hard copy. And trust me, when the prompter goes down, which it does, you're so glad to have that backup.

JS: *Last question. One thing that proves the life of a TV news anchor isn't all glamour?*

JSS: I've got to get up to go to work at 5am tomorrow morning. **iB**

PORTRAIT BY JOEL VEAK

DANCING DINING SINGING LOUNGING DRINKING

THE PIER

BOSTON'S #1 COMPLETE ENTERTAINMENT STOP

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fall 2004

Produced by Samantha House
Photographs by Bill Streicher

Finally, fashion is feminine again. Faux fur and frills, silk blouses that wrap at the waist, and dresses that plunge nearly as far are among the most alluring fall offerings. It's a millennial tribute to Faye Dunaway's sexy '70's power look in *Network*—with a nod to the slinky *Boogie Nights* femininity of Julianne Moore. Fall fashion 2000 is rich, deep in color and decadent in design. That means cranberry snake-print sling-backs to go with suede halter tops and stretch silk pants. Last year's ubiquitous browns have given way to shades of gold and copper, a fashionable celebration of fall foliage. Lamb's wool red slacks and cashmere purple scarves update your collection of basic blacks. Look for lots of supple leather separates, cropped jackets and snug pants with cowboy fringe. Top designers have adopted a Western philosophy and Hollywood's *Coyote Ugly* fashions are the newest rage. Rodeo-style, crocodile-embossed ankle boots and knee-high kickers have slick high heels for a country-chic look. As the weather turns colder, you can pull your boots halfway up your thigh and choose a hat with a cowgirl cut and country-pop singer Faith Hill flair. It's glamour. It's glitzy. And it's gorgeous.

fallfashion

Cat Nip

Gold lurex deep v-neck dress with tiger pendant, $955; available at select Gucci stores.

Chocolate
Ruffled

Black silk gazaar ruffle collar and sleeve dress, $1,865, available at select Gucci stores.

Cool Nights

Black and white herringbone mink coat with black ostrich belt, $17,500; black lurex chiffon skirt, $695; available at Gucci, N.Y.

Where to Buy
Gucci Store
Copley Place
247-3000

Models
Joy/Click NY
Crystal/NMK NY

Patterned Leather

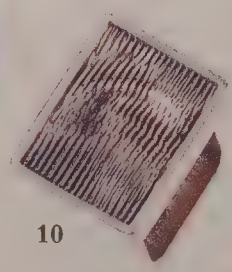
Black and gray herringbone bonded nappa motorcycle coat with leather details, $4,655; matching pants, $2,680; black "Petali" quilt California flat bag with metal handles and gold chain, $975; black lurex jersey bandana, $125; available at select Gucci stores.

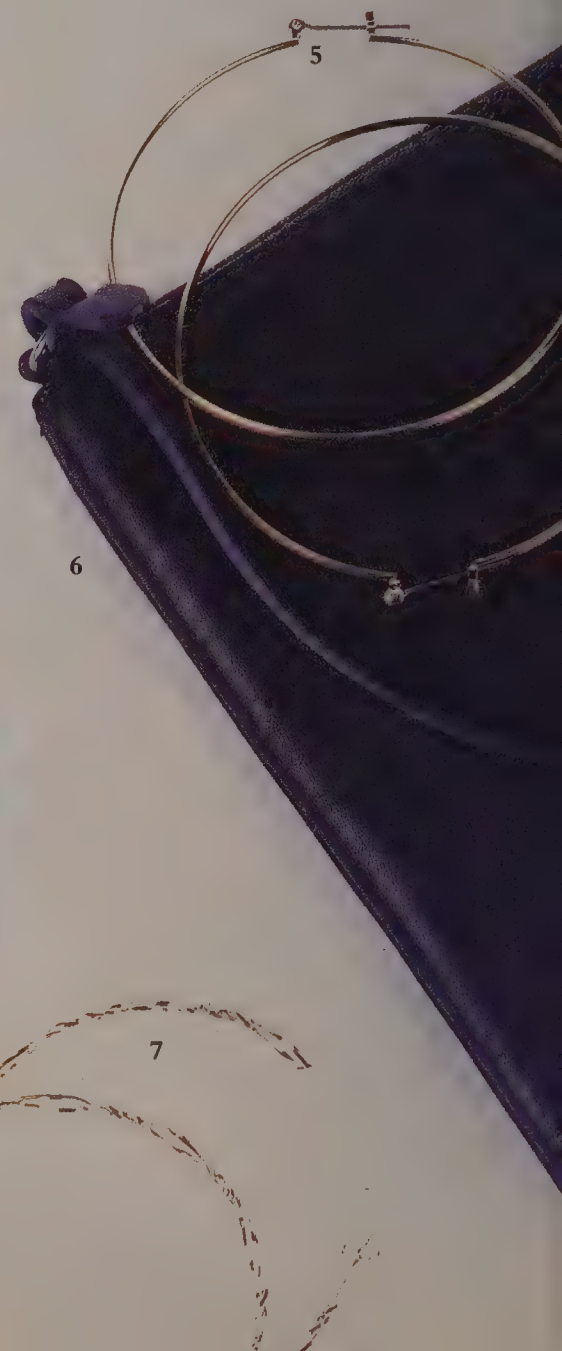
goldrush

Chandelier earrings, waterfall necklaces, beaded bags and stiletto heels are among the fall's best finds

Photograph by Luis Matos

1. Gold hoop earrings, $28, Anthropologie.
2. Dynamic rectangle ring, $500, Popov Design. Available by appt. 781-581-1259.
3. Waterfall necklace, $158, Anthropologie
4. Cave ring, $599, Popov Design
5. Large hoop earrings, $20, DKNY
6. Moss beaded cosmetic bag, $118, BCBG
7. Braided hoop earrings, $45, Anthropologie
8. Gold mesh belt, $24 Anthropologie
9. Gold pearlized stiletto boot, $250, BCBG
10. Ziccurat II ring, $450, Popov Design
11. Gold choker, $138, Anthropologie
12. Coin bracelet, $38, DKNY
13. Kara shoe, $178, DKNY



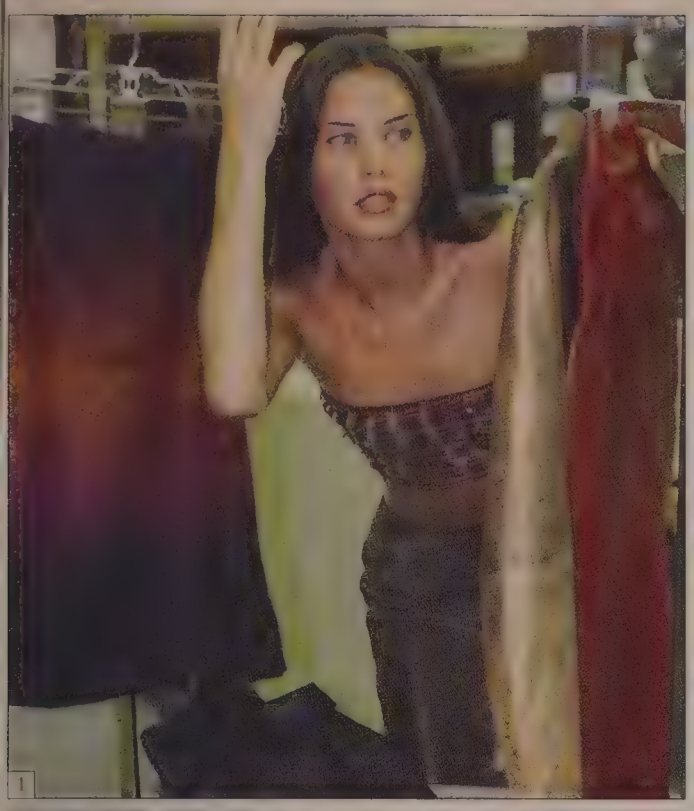


Newly arrived at the Mall at Chestnut Hill

wash'n wear

A full load of fabulous fall duds and soapy suds

Photographs by Bill Streicher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opposite page: Fringed suede pants, Polo Sport, $700. 1. Blanket skirt, Polo Sport, $650; gold leather jacket, BCBG, $366; red leather dress with gold lining, BCBG, $398; Men's dark blue carpenter jeans, Polo Sport, $125.
2. Pony hair skirt, Polo Sport, $600. 3. Plaid pants, BCBG, $338. 4. Orange suede sleeveless shirt, Anthropologie, $138; Pucci-style scarf, Anthropologie, $78. 5. Old Navy white tank, $10.50 . 6. Faux fur vest, Anthropologie, $248. 7. Old Navy white ladies briefs, $3.50.

HAIR, MAKEUP, PRODUCTION: SAMANTHA HOUSE; MODEL: CHRISSY/REINHARD, PA/MAJOR, NY

1 Honeysuckle eyeshadow, Fresh, $20.
2. #38 eyedust, Maksou, $12.
3. #8 eyedust, Maksou, $12.
4. Truffle eyeshadow, Calvin Klein, $15.
5. Rosehips Tea eyeshadow, Fresh, $20.
6. Mission Fig eyeshine, Fresh, $16.
7. Calabrian Bergamot eyeshine, Fresh, $16.
8. Totally tonal shimmer powders, Afterthoughts, $9.
9. Current lip gloss, Vincent Longo, $16.
10. Amethyst lipstick, Calvin Klein, $16.
11. Honey plum lipstick, Fresh, $17.
12. Lure-X lipglass, MAC, $11.50.
13. #106 lipgloss, Maksou, $12.
14. Lure-X nail polish, MAC, $8.
15. Bare blush, Calvin Klein, $24.
16. Revenge blush, MAC, $16.
17. Mocha cream blush, Vincent Longo, $16.

Pale beige foundation stick, Maksou, $21; bare powder blush, Calvin Klein, $24; #11 eyedust, Maksou, $12; honey plum lipstick, Fresh, $17; and russian red lipglass, MAC, $11.50

glamcam

Look picture perfect in starlet-style makeup for everyday scenes

Photographs by Brad Ziegler

Whether wearing jeans and a t-shirt or your black suede backless dress, you simply must wear the most important makeup item on the racks this fall: ruby red lipstick. There is no room for the timid here. This is about deep, rich, velvety red. The gold that dominates your closet this fall is also essential to your makeup collection. Foundations are light with matte finishes. Light reflective foundations are the newest rage, drawing attention away from fine lines. Golds and greens are big for eyes, and the look is polished—paint-on eye shadow, mascara, (purples instead of black-browns) eyeliner, foundation, blush, liner and lipstick—are everyday essentials. It's all part of a fall fashion scene that celebrates everything glamorous.

MAKEUP: SAMANTHA HOUSE; HAIR: INES DESA FOR MAKSOU ARTISAN; MODEL: KELLY/CLICK, BOSTON

1. **Bed head** available at Beaucage salon
Control Freak Frizz control straightening serum, $17.50. Control those flyaways.
Creative genius sculpting liquid, $15.50. Use a little for a natural hold.
Manipulator, $19. A thick pomade, this product creates soft definition.
Uptight heat activated curl maker, $14.25. This creates ultra-light hold and definition for curly or wavy hair.

2. **Laminates shampoo**, $9.50; available at Christopher J. Hawes salon. This is a polishing shampoo; it makes hair shine bright.

3. **MOP pomade** (modern organic products), $15; available at Christopher J. Hawes salon. A thick pomade, this product will keep fly-aways down and keeps blow-dried styles in shape. Perfect for today's hairstyles. Keep away from roots or this MOP will make your hair flop.

4. **Sahag transforming dry oil**, $22; available at Maksou. For a slick, wet look, run this through your locks.

5. **Play gel**, $6.50; available at Dellaria salons. A lightweight gel that is perfect for long hair.
Playcet, $9; available at Dellaria salons. Essentially a hair spray with a medium to firm hold.

6. **Ariella dressy mist**, $11; available at John Santini, the studio for hair. This product is light and not gummy. Perfect for men.

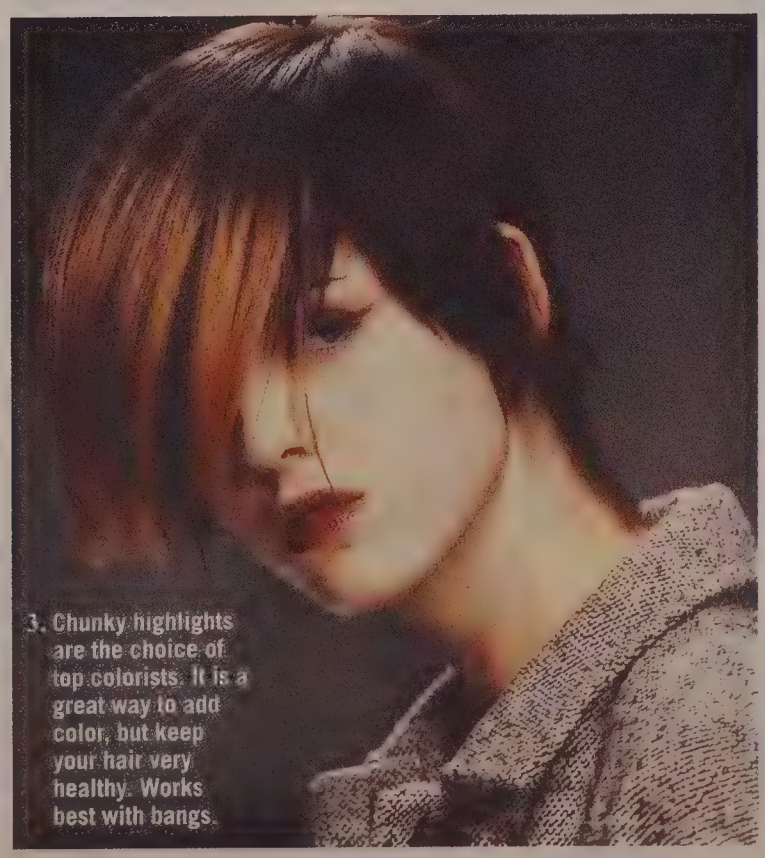
7. **Arielle Fix and Stay**, $11; available at John Santini, the studio for hair. Both these products do a great job of defining and holding. They leave the hair shiny, not looking dry.

shaggychic

Stylists shear locks for shaggy looks, long or short. Dip the tips in color for a fun fall look.

Beauty photographs by Brad Ziegler

Hair rules this fall are easy to follow. Think extremes—pixie short to indisputably long (at least three inches below your collarbone.) Then recall how your hair grows naturally, at uneven lengths. That's the shaggy look that stylists are duplicating this fall. (Supermodel Kate Moss just opted for the super short shag.) The look is wispy and feminine, no blunt cuts allowed. But bangs are back. Color? Yes. Chestnut bangs and tri-colored blondes are in fashion. Look for those shaggy edges to get dipped in color, too. This season's hair products must define and hold, providing that sleek, shiny salon look at home.



PRODUCT PHOTOGRAPHS BY LUIS MATOS; MAKEUP BY SAMANTHA HOUSE; MODELS PROVIDED BY FORD BOSTON

AND THIS LITTLE PIGGY...

On August 1, during Charles Laquidara's final week on the air, the legendary DJ was invited to the State House where the House of Representatives approved an official Charles Laquidara day. When Laquidara asked to speak to House Speaker Tom Finneran, the Speaker allegedly declined, calling Laquidara "a pig" (as reported by a local newspaper).

"No one has ever called me a pig," says Laquidara. "And I've been called a lot of things. I can't figure out where that's coming from—although i once kiddingly said I was gonna move to Mattapan and run against [Finneran]. Anyway," laughs Laquidara, "I'll be making music long after Finneran becomes president of some junior college in Chicopee."

last laugh

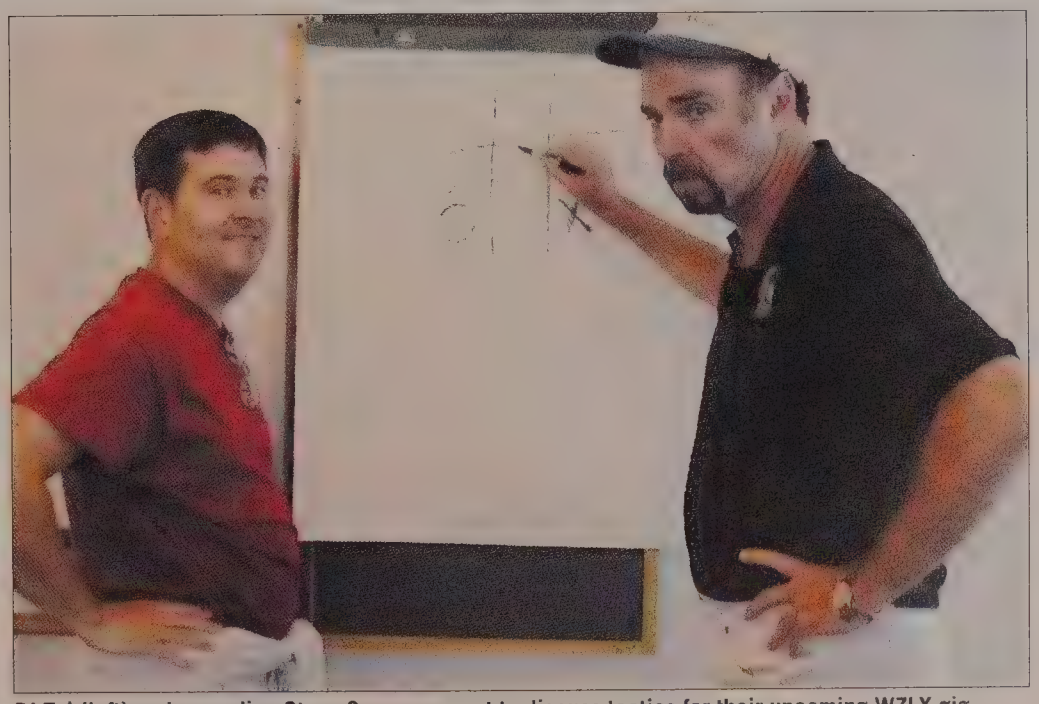
Charles Laquidara may have jetted off to Maui a few weeks ago, but don't expect him to keep quiet. Do expect his WZLX morning show successors, comedian Steve Sweeney and DJ Tai, to stir up Boston's morning airwaves come September. BY RACHEL STRUTT • PORTRAIT BY BRAD ZIEGLER

It was 6am when the party started. Although it was damp and unseasonably cold for the first of August, the send-off poolside party for WZLX-FM (100.7) DJ Charles Laquidara was spirited despite the drizzle atop the Colonnade hotel. Underneath a tent, local celebrity friends KISS DJ Matt Siegel and sportscaster Bob Lobel shared the mike with the guest of honor. Bill Parcells called in to give his rock-jock friend a hard time, one last time. The full radio team, hotel employees and fans donned Hawaiian shirts and leis. There was an elaborate champagne salute, which ended with Laquidara getting doused with bubbly.

The occasion was part of a frenetically paced, two-week-long programming farewell party. Soon, the DJ would be with his family in Maui. For good.

Ever since Laquidara announced plans to leave Boston (he adamantly eschews the word *retirement*) in early June, the local media buzz steadily grew louder, reaching a crescendo during his final week on the air. The *Herald* ran a retrospective July 30. A week later, a lengthy piece by Jim Sullivan appeared in the *Boston Globe Magazine*. But it wasn't just the media partaking in the Laquidara love fest. On July 25, the audiology wing at Franciscan Children's Hospital was renamed after Laquidara. On July 31, Mayor Menino dedicated a walk-of-fame star to the infamous drive-time DJ outside Tower Records on Mass. Ave. "It's like Kathie Lee, the endless goodbye," says comedian Steve Sweeney, who will take over the WZLX morning spot with Tai (a.k.a. Tom A. Irwin), former WFNX-FM and WRKO DJ, starting Sept. 5.

The attention Laquidara garnered during his last months in Boston went far beyond any sort of publicity campaign on the part of WZLX or Laquidara himself. It was an overwhelming outpouring of devotion that seemed to surprise the 62-year-old DJ, who has an endearing, almost childlike appreciation for his celebrity status and the limelight it brings.

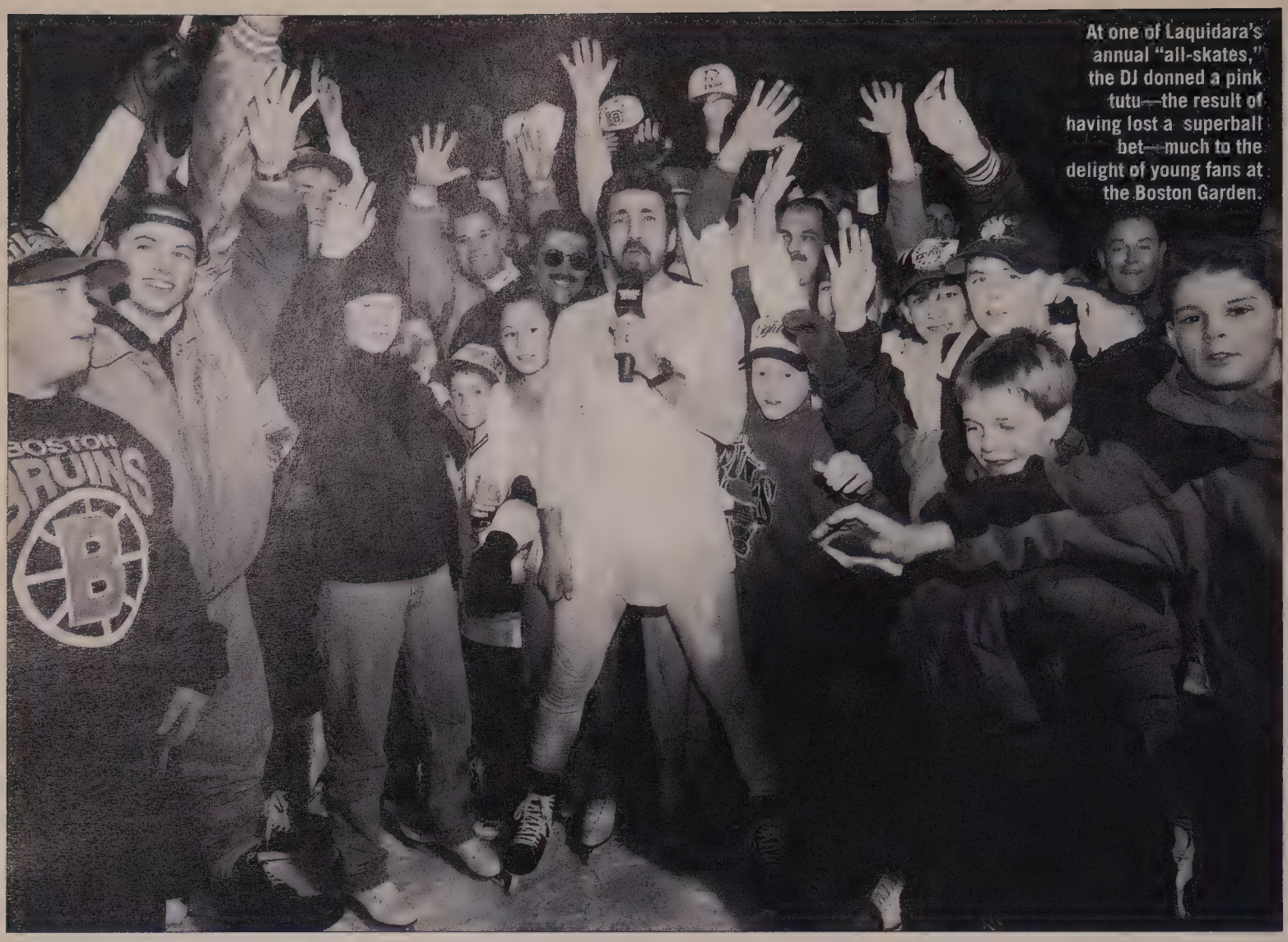


DJ Tai (left) and comedian Steve Sweeney meet to discuss tactics for their upcoming WZLX gig.

"He's a generous person—and he's real," says Tai. He comes from a modest background and understands the working guy. He never let it go to his head. It's like he's thinking, 'Wow, I'm still doing morning radio.'"

Laquidara's successors are excited about taking over the WZLX morning slot. But radio rabble-rouser Laquidara is a tough act to follow—and the new radio duo knows it. "He's the one to set the bar, and I want to reach it," says Tai.

Come September, while Tai and Steve Sweeney step up to challenge the hegemony of Howard Stern (who has a syndicated show each morning on WZLX's big rival, WBCN), Laquidara plans to do more than sip mai tai's with his wife, Doreen. There is talk of an Internet radio show and occasional guest appearances back on WZLX. In short, don't expect Laquidara to disappear into the proverbial sunset.



At one of Laquidara's annual "all-skates," the DJ donned a pink tutu—the result of having lost a superball bet—much to the delight of young fans at the Boston Garden.

[Laquidara] was outlandish in ways that DJs are no longer allowed to be outlandish. In '82, for example, his alter ego, Duane Ingalls Glasscock, played Survivor's "Eye of the Tiger" 40 times in a row in a memorable summer countdown.

The Big Mattress

During the WZLX poolside broadcast a few weeks ago, Laquidara got political, as usual. He ranted about Speaker of the House, Tom Finneran, who allegedly called him a "pig" the day before, when the House met to vote in an official Charles Laquidara day. Later in the broadcast, Laquidara lashed out at the *Globe* for taking advantage of their freelance writers in the recent Web-rights scuffle. He hasn't changed since his early radio days , when he participated in a three-week-long strike against WBCN and led a protest against Shell Oil for its investments in South Africa. The now sixty something DJ is still an outspoken activist who uses the airwaves as a pulpit to spread his liberal-leaning gospel.

But during that poolside broadcast, there were also signs that Laquidara might be getting a little tired.

"I couldn't believe that I froze up at the heaviest listened-to break—I think it's the 8:10," said Laquidara following the broadcast. "[Lobel and Siegel] are looking at me like 'What is this?' I had forgotten what I wanted to say, and I totally went into a blank mode. I was hoping Matt would save me, but he just made fun of me," says Laquidara with a laugh.

Of course he's tired. He has been waking up at 3:30am and going to bed at 8:30pm for the best part of the past 30 years. "In Hawaii, I'll be able to sleep as late as I want," says Laquidara. "I'll be able to see a whole Monday night football game, go to a whole concert."

A Milford native, Laquidara moved to California in the '60s where he studied theater at the Pasadena Playhouse. After a short-lived acting career in Hollywood, Laquidara switched to deejaying, taking an overnight shift at classical station KPPC, located in the basement of a church. When KPPC switched to a rock format, the amateur DJ deftly mixed things up by playing rock with other types of music, including classical—Beethoven, for example, back-to-back with pop songs like the Beatles' "Roll Over Beethoven."

In '69, Laquidara moved back East to replace a DJ at WBCN named Peter Wolf (who was leaving to pursue a career with an up-and-coming J. Geils Band). At the time, Laquidara's salary was a paltry $3 per hour. He left Boston as the city's top-paid DJ.

When Laquidara joined WBCN, one of the first stations on the local FM dial devoted primarily to music, its format was shifting from free-form to progressive rock. In this evolving FM landscape, Laquidara took a number of shifts before settling into the morning drive-time spot in '72 with a show he called *The Big Mattress*. Within two years, the *Mattress* had become a morning ritual for Bostonians with its unique mix of rock, irreverent politics, news and zany humor. Laquidara's style was hard-hitting; he jolted sleepy-eyed morning listeners awake with rock and good-humored verbal assaults. He was outlandish in ways that DJs are no longer allowed to be outlandish. In '82, for example, his alter ego, Duane Ingalls Glasscock, played Survivor's "Eye of the Tiger" 40 times in a row in a memorable summer countdown.

With the exception of a sabbatical from '76 to '78, Laquidara remained at WBCN until early '96. Later that year, he was successfully wooed back to the airwaves by classic-rock station WZLX. "When I first came to WZLX," says Laquidara, "they gave me total freedom. I was going five to six songs' deep on a record. I was playing stuff that hadn't been heard on the radio for years—things like Jimi Hendrix's 'Machine Gun' and groups like Spirit and Country Joe and the Fish."

At first Laquidara did well with his return to more free-form radio.

"But when people understood that I was not going to play their favorite songs," explains Laquidara, "my ratings went way down—and that was doing the best radio musically that you could possibly do. So good radio doesn't always make good ratings. In fact, I don't think you can have both." The veteran DJ is not bitter, but matter-of-fact.

When it comes to ratings, it's ultimately the banter, not the music, that wins fans.

Howard Stern, with his strictly talk-format show, has dominated Boston's morning airwaves ever since WBCN moved him to its drive-time slot on April 1 of '96. Industry raters Arbitron recently released its spring ratings in which WBCN came in with 14.7 percent for the 6-to-10am, 18- to 34-year-old category; KISS garnered 9.8 percent; and WZLX came in with 3.5 percent. Stern was also tops with 25-to-54-year-old males, WZLX's biggest audience segment.

Whether you love him or hate him, Stern—with his often hilarious, but consistently crass and repetitive humor—is the hot jock these days. Ironically, Laquidara's Glasscock, who deejayed the Saturday morning shows in the '70s, was a precursor to Stern. (Perhaps not incidentally, Stern attended Boston University and couldn't have missed Laquidara's Big Mattress—and Glasscock.)

"Duane never really grew up," says a poker-faced Laquidara. "That's how he got his reputation: by doing sexist things and taking cheap shots. Something I would never do. Duane was very immature, not PC at all. Whereas I'm very PC." It was Duane, notes Laquidara, who earned the highest ratings for *The Big Mattress*.

Passing the Mike

Of course, Sweeney and Tai will inherit the challenge of battling radio-titan Stern in the morning ratings. "He kind of owns the market; he's always in first," says Sweeney of the New York-based DJ. "I like listening to Howard Stern, but I always feel like I have to take a shower afterwards. He pushes the envelope. As far as I'm concerned, the envelope can stay where it is."

DESERT ISLAND DISCS

Question: You're stranded on an isle and have only four discs with you; what would they be?

Charles Laquidara ("stranded" Maui resident)
'60s: *Sgt. Pepper's*, The Beatles
'70s: Any Stones album
'80s: *Synchronicity*, The Police
'90s: "I'd put my favorite Garbage songs—such as 'I'm only happy when it rains,' 'Stupid girl" and 'Milk'—on one album using Macster."

DJ Tai (one of Laquidara's successors)
'60s: *The White Album*, The Beatles
'70s: *Physical Graffiti*, Led Zeppelin
'80s: *London Calling*, The Clash
'90s: *Achtung Baby*, U2

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On August 1, Laquidara made an on-air toast atop the Colonnade hotel; the day before, Mayor Menino presented the DJ with a hall of fame star on Mass. Ave.

"I like listening to Howard Stern, but I always feel like I have to take a shower afterwards. He pushes the envelope. As far as I'm concerned, the envelope can stay where it is." —Steve Sweeney

Echoing Laquidara's free-spirited early radio days, Sweeney adds: "I don't give a shit about the ratings. Just pay me."

Regardless of these good-natured, cavalier comments, the Sweeney and Tai combo is a promising radio debut. Sweeney has a fearless, irresistible brand of humor and a distinctly local appeal (plenty of political bite and down-pat dialects) that Stern obviously doesn't provide. He's also a known entity with a résumé that includes a successful stand-up career; some theater, TV and radio experience; and small roles in the movies *There's Something About Mary* and *Me, Myself and Irene*.

Unlike DJ newcomer Sweeney, the lesser-known Tai has been in the radio business for years. He established a predominantly young male audience during his 12 years as "Morning Guy Tai" on alternative-rock station WFNX. In this drive-time slot, Tai achieved that rare mix of wisecracks and intelligence, off-beat comedy and straight-up news. Tai is a joker, but a damn smart one—just like Laquidara, whom Tai has long admired. Following WFNX, a two-year run with a talk show on WRKO from '97 to '99 allowed Tai to cultivate his radio personality and incorporate more politics and humor. When WRKO was sold last October, Tai was out of a job and started looking for another radio gig. He was willing to move—and expected to—until WZLX came knocking.

When Sweeney and Tai launch their 5:30-9am show come September, listeners will hear many familiar voices from Laquidara's radio show. The ever-sarcastic Lance Norris is still on board. As is Anne Cody, the newsperson with the super sultry voice, and "Tank," the boisterous sports guy. Buzz Knight, the program director, is looking for some continuity but is also open to experimenting, to see how things will fall. Says Tai: "We're gonna be as unpredictable as possible. We're not gonna be hesitant or shy at all, we're shooting for the moon. I wouldn't be doing it otherwise."

"I invest in personalities," says Knight, who hopes the new morning duo will lure classic-rock neophytes to WZLX. "I've had my sights on these guys for some time."

When it comes to the music, Tai is a self-proclaimed "obnoxious musicologist" who is comfortable with a wide range of music formats; an exception is classical. Yes, he's most accustomed to an alt-rock format, but Tai claims classic rock is in his blood. "It goes back to my earliest days," he explains. "I was influenced by brother, who is three years older than me. I saw the Beatles on *Sullivan*. I loved the Supremes, the Stones, the Kinks and Cream. I bought all the 45s because I had to hear a song over and over again."

Radio stations like WZLX are constantly expanding the classic-rock canon beyond the '60s and '70s rock hits to include '80s, and even '90s, songs by bands like the Police, U2 and the Talking Heads. However the WZLX format might evolve, Tai will be familiar with the territory.

Of course, commercial DJs have little opportunity to play what they like these days. Laquidara's early days of free-form radio are long gone. If Tai and Sweeney are going to make a name for themselves, it will be because of their their schtick.

Laquidara says of the pair's upcoming debut: "People love change. It's a given that ratings will go up because people will be curious." The question is, Will the duo be able to sustain ratings?

Stay Tuned

For Laquidara's swan song, his last morning broadcast on Aug. 4, WZLX gave him carte blanche, allowing him to play whatever he wanted without commercial interruption. Reliving his early days of free-form radio, Laquidara obviously revelled in the freedom, playing songs like "Lithium" by Nirvana, "Get Up Stand Up" by Bob Marley and three different versions of "All Along the Watchtower" (by Bob Dylan, Jimi Hendrix and Dave Mason) back-to-back. Perhaps most telling, Laquidara's final pick was Tony Bennett's "The Best Is Yet to Come."

Indeed.

As Tai puts it: "The reason Charles is jazzed is because he's not done yet. This is a bittersweet occasion for him. It's been 32 years since *The White Album* came out. He's gotta confront that. But it's only a wave. Charles still wants to contribute."

What is to come for Laquidara? Beyond the sun, sand and family living, the 62-year-old DJ plans to dabble in Internet radio—what he believes will be the next wave of radio, the Wild West, a new frontier. He may broadcast from his Web site (*www.bigmattress.com*). There's also talk of using the WZLX Web site.

"This is just too limited," says Laquidara of FM radio and commercial formats, which are dictated by stringent play lists. "I'd like to think I was part of the last bastion of commercial FM radio. I'd like to be part of the next wave as well. Anybody who's not techno savvy is going to be so out in the next 10 years," continues Laquidara, who surfs the Web with the speed and grace of a 20-year-old.

"Twenty years ago I was ranting about how these people were taping Bob Dylan in concert and stealing his music. The idea of stealing music was unheard of. Now that's changed," he says, alluding to Napster and MP3s. "The people who are fighting that—the record companies and all these supposed PC do-gooders—they're wrong. They're going to have to figure out another way of getting the musicians money. I'm not saying it's morally good or bad to be downloading free music. I'm just saying things change. It's scary to me now, but I'm staying with it."

Times they are a changin'—and it appears Laquidara is ahead of the curve.

Whether it's Laquidara broadcasting cyberstyle, or Sweeney and Tai attempting to fill in the morning WZLX slot of their legendary predecessor: Stay tuned. **iB**

Senior editor Rachel Strutt is still waiting for an "Eye of the Tiger" millennial remix.

Tough guy Steve Sweeney tightens the rein on a nervous DJ Tai—making it clear who will be boss come Sept. 5 when the duo launch their WZLX morning drive-time show.

PARTY: BRAD ZIEGLER

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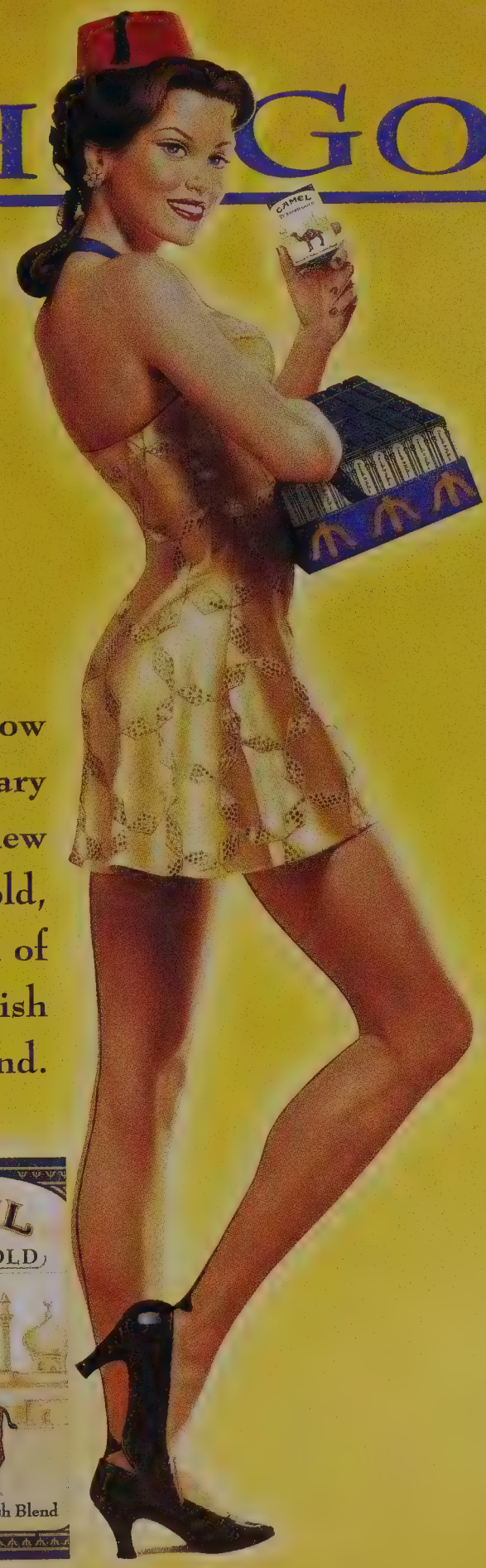

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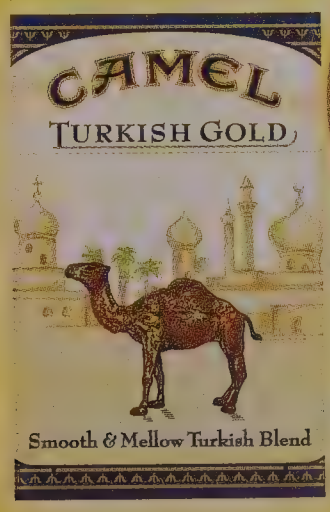

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THE

inside RACK

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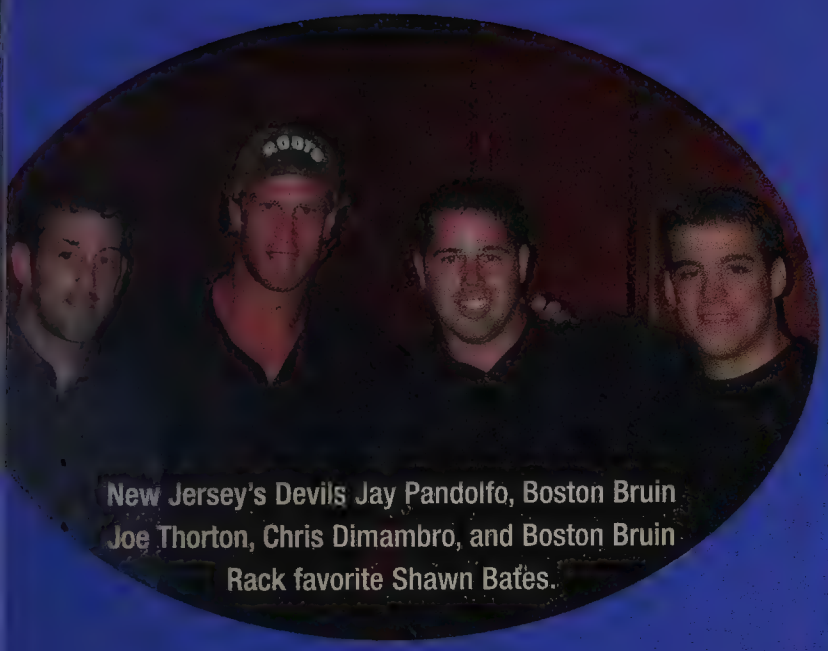
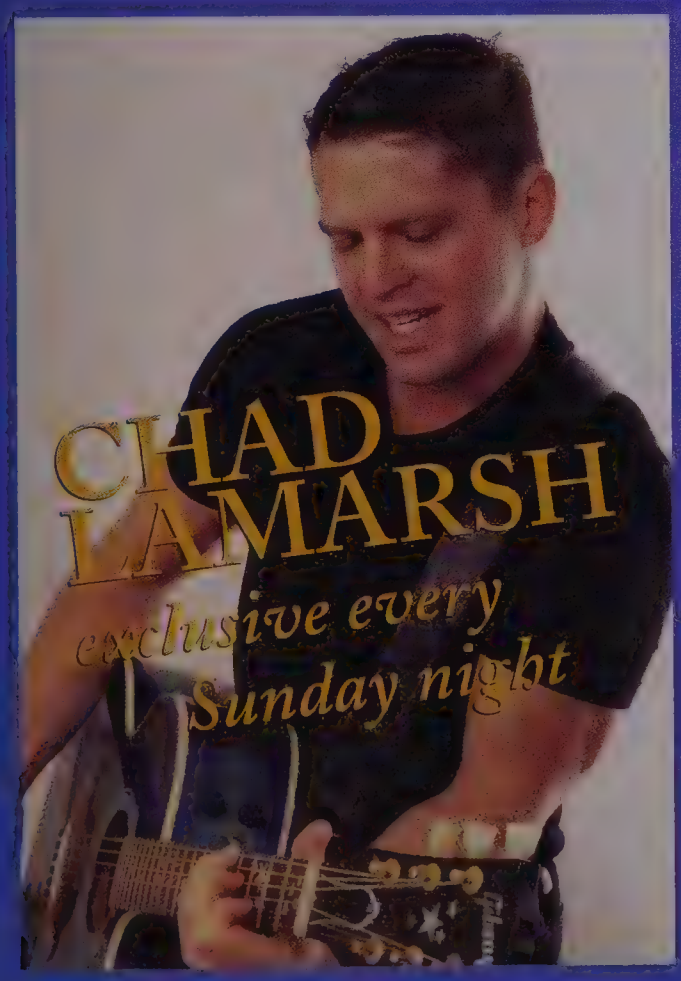


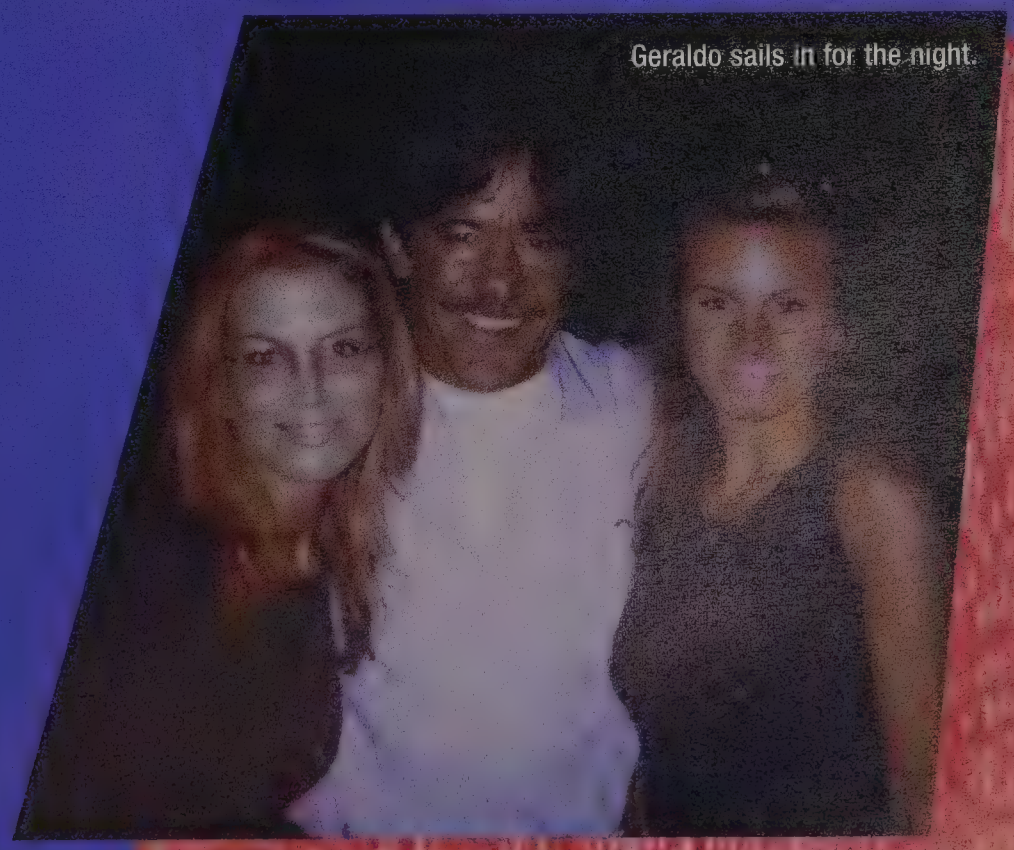
New Jersey's Devils Jay Pandolfo, Boston Bruin Joe Thorton, Chris Dimambro, and Boston Bruin Rack favorite Shawn Bates.

Batia Brothers heat up our Summer party on the patio every Wednesday.

RACK

Fox TV reporter Alisyn Camerota taking a break.





Geraldo sails in for the night.

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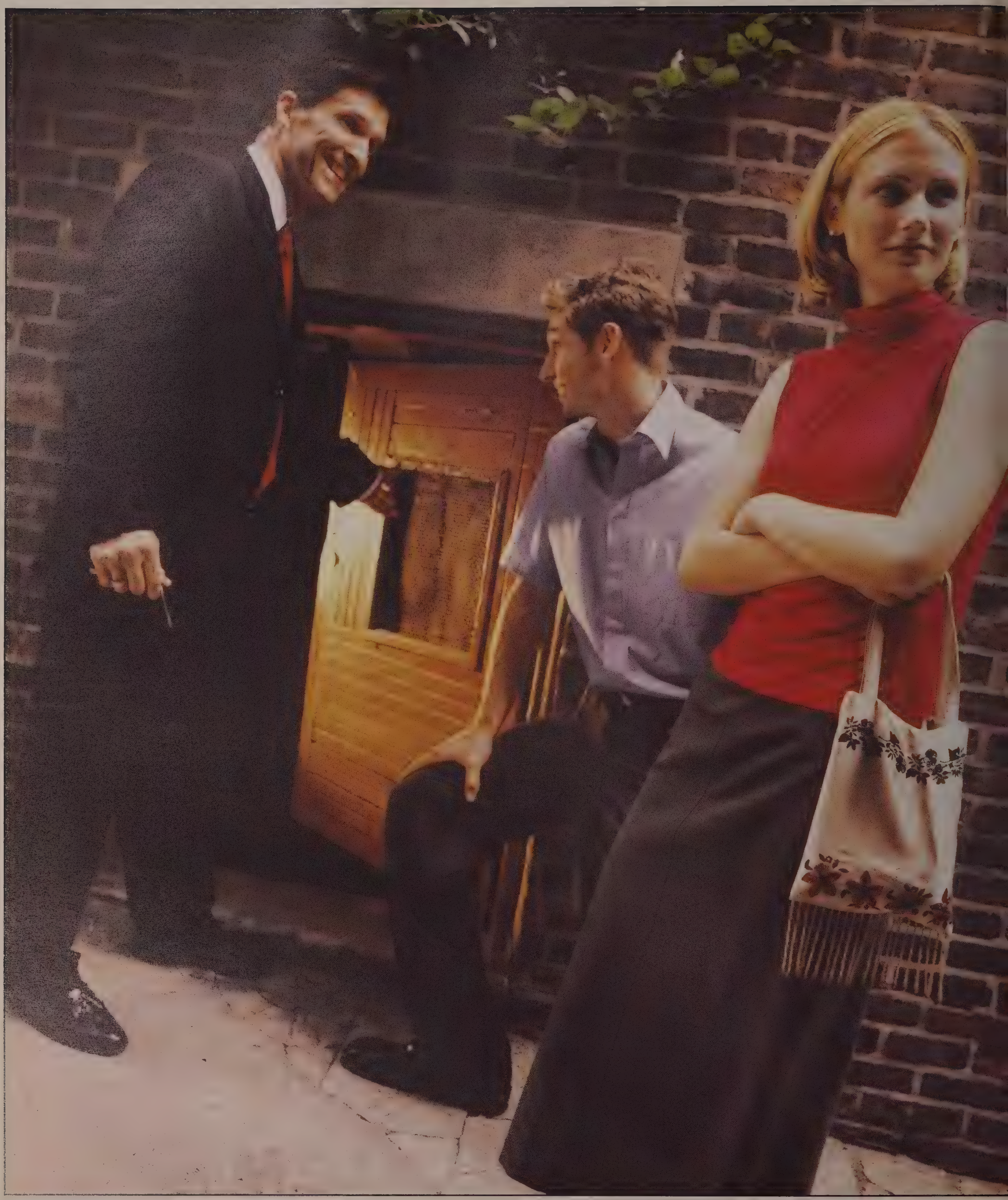


MODELS: KRISTEN COLLINS, BUSTER NELSON, LARRY GUIHAN, ALL FORD MODEL MANAGEMENT; CLOTHING PROVIDED BY COUNTRY ROAD

GOOD LUCK hunting

How tough is it to find an apartment in the city? We sent IB staff writer **Ezra Dyer** in search of rentals, realtors and the real story.

Photographs by Van Ackere

What a $600 bedroom on Beacon Hill looks like: It doesn't have hardwood floors, a brick wall or a bay window. But it's good enough for us guys.

"There's nothing out there right now."

"We've got very little inventory."

"This is a tough year."

So say the realtors. However, these frighteningly cheerful professionals are too polite to laugh in your face when you inquire about vacancies in Boston this fall. What they're really thinking is: "Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha. Woooo. You're screwed."

By all accounts, there is a housing crisis in this city, a demand for apartments that far outweighs the supply and rents that are skyrocketing right through those cathedral ceilings—whatever those are. Still, the more intrepid among us know that our quest to live in the city can be fulfilled if we bring to our search the same dedication that might be applied to our hunt for a new job—or the perfectly poured pint.

Lucky for you, the editors here turned down my story proposal, "What Happens When I'm Locked in a Cage and Poked with Sharp Sticks," and I was forced to satisfy my masochistic urges by chronicling a search for an apartment in these pages. I started out knowing the painful statistics. The inventory of advertised one, two or three-bedroom apartments in Boston has dropped by 65 percent in the last two years, Department of Neighborhood Development officials say. The real-world translation of that factoid means, for example, that Anzalone Realty in the North End had five September listings at press time. Five apartments, and thousands of schmucks like me.

Then, there are the costs. The average price of the apartments remaining on the market has risen from $825 to $1,550 in the last five years. Those are two-bedroom prices. Sort of. I learned that all two-bedrooms were not created equally.

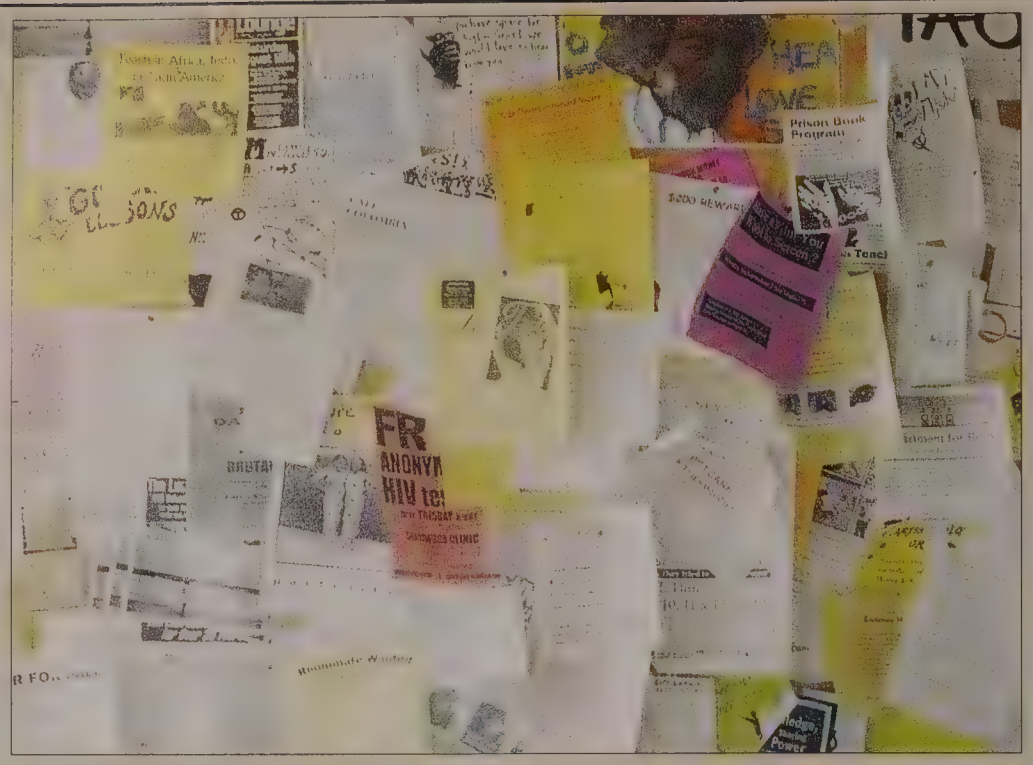
"All the cheap ($1,400 to $1,500) places have the same affliction," says Rakha Madan of Maven Realty in Cambridge. "One bedroom is OK," she says. "But the other is basically a coffin—a walk-in closet."

Despite your initial dissatisfaction, the first rule in this competitive market is to act quickly. There is absolutely no time to consider why it's called an eat-in kitchen if you cannot eat in it—unless you are standing up.

"If something on the market sounds good, you've just gotta go for it," says Mark Newman, owner of the Newbury Street rental agency, Newman & Co. The second rule is to believe the first rule. See, if you're like me, you never believe the hype. I thought that the realtors were just incorrigible dirtbags when they began their high-pressure speech: "If you want this place you'd better write a check right now."

This may be a sales tactic, but it also happens to be true this fall. "The people who get the apartments are the ones who are organized," says Duncan Gillespie, president of Gibson Real Estate. "You have to go out with your references, your checkbook, and all the roommates making the decision."

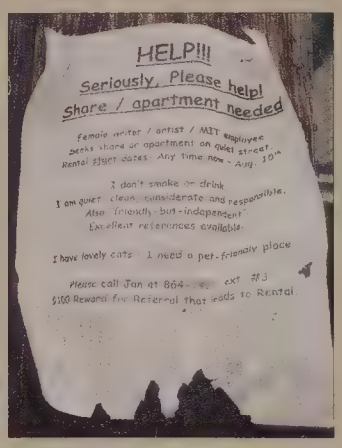
So, don't make the same mistake I did, and when you go to view an apartment, show up with more than a hangover.



PICK ME!

Desperate apartment-seekers crowd community bulletin boards with creative personal advertisements

Vegetarian. Storyteller. Gay-friendly. Eco-conscious. Student. Professional. Non-smoking. Cheerful, clean and responsible. Never before have so many seeemingly ideal tenants crowded coffee-shop bulletin boards with the hope of finding a landlord with space to rent. Just as realtors and homeowners advertise the virtues of their apartments—*sunny and spacious*—so are apartment-seekers selling themselves in a competitive rental market.



Nat and April, for example, are *a fabulous couple seeking a fabulous apartment!* At least, that's how their posting on the 1369 bulletin board in Central Square reads. He's a chef. She's a professor. So, aside from paying the rent, it's likely this couple could impress your dinner guests with fabulous food and conversation. Apparently, being timely with your rent check is not enough in Boston's unprecedented sizzling real estate market.

"Private person who loves people," wrote one woman seemingly determined to show potential landlords just how well-adjusted she is. "I am a woman of maturity," she wrote. "I balance friendliness with times of solitude and study." Slightly less appealing is the news that she is also the owner of a young...parakeet.

The one thing all these potential urban dwellers share is desperation. With that comes shameless appeals and rewards up to $1,000 for anyone willing to hand over their lease, cutting realtors out of the equation.

Nicole Silverman has been this route before. (Her sign says she is clean, has no pets and does not smoke.) Her goal is to spend no more than $1,110 for a one-bedroom. By posting her pitch on the 1369 coffee-shop bulletin board, Silverman found a place last year. Then, disaster struck, and her apartment was ruined in a fire. For now, she is living with her parents in Lexington, waiting to strike it lucky.

South End resident Brian Orter has a room to rent and refuses to use realtors, after having been burned by a South End agency that kept his deposit check, he says, and then forgot to take the space off the market. It was four years ago that Orter arrived to Boston from Miami to find himself without a home. Orter rents a two-bedroom home now, and he recently posted a sign at the Videosmith in his neighborhood, advertising a large bedroom with a private bath in a renovated duplex for $1,350 per month. "It's brutal out there," says Orter, recalling his own search.

"It's just a nightmare. People are very shady, and things go very quickly," he says. "At least this way, I know I don't have to deal with realtors. They can make it worse."—*Paul Venuti*

CHECKING OUT

Now comes the painful part. Your check doesn't necessarily mean you have a hold on the apartment. Since apartments are typically listed with multiple realtors, another urban dweller might be inking the deal while you're at Restoration Hardware choosing a chi-chi shower curtain.

"When we take an application and a check, we need to do all the verifications on the check—the credit check, the employment check, the prior landlord references..." explains Gibson Charlestown realtor Jay Johnston.

"Then we show it all to the landlord, who decides whether to accept that bid," Johnston says. "Up until that point, we might get six other applications in."

This is why some people,(not me) bid more than the asking price on apartments, hoping to entice the owner of the coveted space.

Wanting to live somewhere recognized as hip, or cool, presents a new set of problems. Somervillian Kate Lowe explained to me just how tragically hip her own neighborhood had become.

"They're raising the rent by $400 a month and calling this 'Davis Square,'" Lowe says. "First of all, we're more than a half-mile from Davis Square, and second, Davis Square is cool, but it's become really overrated." (Of course, it's publications like the one I work for that help define neighborhoods as super-cool enclaves. "Matt Damon has a beer at The Burren. Rents go up 20 percent throughout Somerville!")

However, it's the realtors who are redistricting neighborhood maps so that vacant apartments are in fashionable neighborhoods.

Even more surprising were the vocabulary lessons realtors provided me during my search. For example, I was intrigued by a Back Bay listing for a $1,200 two-bedroom. As it turns out, it was rented. And it wasn't in the Back Bay.

"See, it says 'alt' in the ad," said the realtor. "That means 'Back Bay alternative.'"

And where is a Back Bay alternative?

Somerville.

No kidding. See, it's an alternative for those of us who cannot afford the Back Bay. For this reason, you should beware advertisements that say "Somerville alternative," as they're probably apartments in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The least expensive two-bedroom I found in Beacon Hill (a more realistic Back Bay equivalent) was $2,350 per month.

NEIGHBORHOOD GOSSIP

Obviously, moving quickly once you find a suitable abode is crucial, but you can save yourself a lot of aggravation by doing a little basic research before signing on. One of the quickest and most beneficial things you can do is talk to the apartment's current residents. They're moving, and they should have no qualms about telling you what the realtor doesn't want you to know.

Case in point: Last year, I looked at a Somerville spot that was in a general state of disrepair. The stove was broken, but the realtor assured me that it would be fixed immediately. However, when I stole a moment to talk with the apartment's current denizens, they told a different story. The stove had been broken for months, and the landlady had ignored the problem. All she cared about, they said, was collecting the rent, which incidentally was being raised $400. I passed.

South End resident Jennie Record says she'd be happy to warn prospective renters away from the building in which she's lived for the past year. In fact, she has to bite her lip when realtors show the place to keep from screaming, "Noooo! Don't live here! Get out while there's still time! Save yourself!"

Record was one of those residents whose building was apparently redistricted. Upon opening her mailbox for the first time she found a bill for the previous resident, and the address read "Roxbury." Prior to Record's arrival, her address had been changed and the rent raised (last year, the average two-bedroom rent in the South End was $650 more than in Roxbury.)

She has lived with power outages and critters ranging from mice ("the live ones are bad, but the dead ones in the walls are worse") to cockroaches. The apartment is located only a few blocks away from a police station, the fire department and hospital, and she sleeps with earplugs to muffle the omnipresent sirens.

"The place has never been as quiet as it was for the five minutes I was there with the realtor," she says.

When the water main burst in the basement, her clothes were drenched by a rusty brown sludge. At other times, the pipes froze so that she had no water. How did she end up in this situation? Chalk it up to deadline desperation, knowing that she was among thousands of SWFs looking for a home in a neighborhood with less than 10 vacancies. So, it pays to ask the current tenants questions. This market doesn't allow you the opportunity to revisit the place at night or during rush-hour to check out noise levels and parking options.

After viewing at least 20 different apartments in various neighborhoods, I finally found a home. I now live with two roommates in a three-bedroom on Beacon Hill that was optimistically described by the realtor as "a good place for guys." He was right, sort of. It's likely that a group of women would have been more apt to notice the lack of ventilation in the bathroom. (This was only recently pointed out to us by a female guest who suggested a scented candle.)

Then there's my bedroom, which, as you can see from the picture, is just wide enough for my full-size mattress. It's kind of fun, really. I bounce into bed each night without my feet ever hitting the floor, which is entirely covered by my bed. On the upside, the rent is only $1,900 per month for the three-bedroom apartment. Also, I now consider myself mentally and physically prepared for a submarine tour of duty, given the tight space I now inhabit.

My apartment choice is reflective of the current compromises to be made between optimal prices, locations, size and extras—like parking or a bathtub.

My most noteworthy advice in this market is to avoid the real estate listings, and just barge into realtors' offices, asking what they can show you that afternoon.

"By the time it comes out in the paper, it's already gone," says Trimount Real Estate's Linda Mitrano.

"You're better off just going and seeing what they have." Other than that, she only has one piece of advice: "Don't move." IB

Ezra Dyer is a staff writer for the IMPROPER BOSTONIAN. His humor column appears every issue. He likes to roller-skate in the rain.

RICHARD TAZZARA (2)

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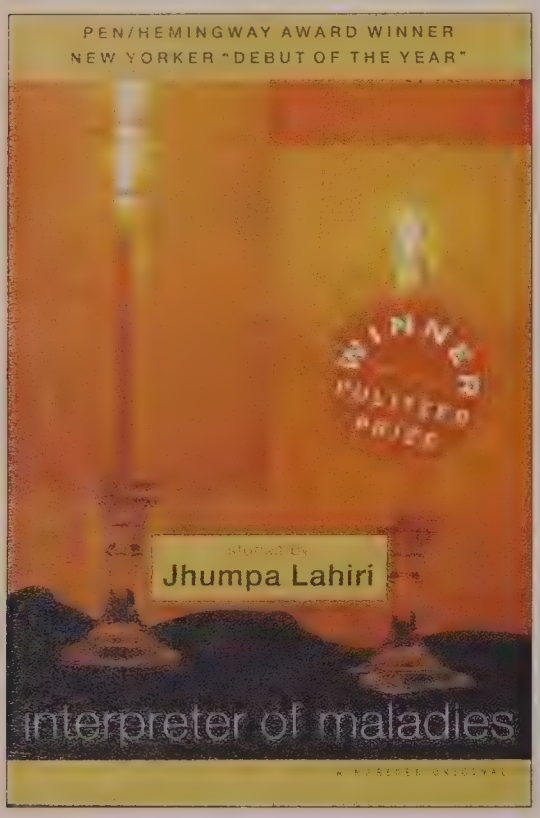
Mopsy

Serendipitous shopping: Our unfettered correspondent seeks out the salubrious and the cerebral.

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY



AMERICAN/INDIAN

Thirty-three-year-old Jhumpa Lahiri won a Pulitzer Prize for her graceful, tightly wrought stories *Interpreter Of Maladies*.

Jhumpa Lahiri, a Boston University-educated Indian from Rhode Island, contains in herself the cultural inter weavings that are the constant themes in her stories. Set in Boston and Cambridge, the "foreignness" in the stories is sometimes located in our own culture as seen through Indian eyes. Or it may be about American-raised Indians returning, as foreigners, to their own country. Lahiri writes affectingly about painful points of near-contact, and non-contact: such as that between an American woman in an adulterous relationship with an Indian man and her brief friendship with a child whose father is himself an adulterer. There's a powerful story about a tour guide and a tourist who suddenly reveals an intimate secret to him in his taxi. Lahiri sees well into the way marriage involves gentle accommodations, sad dislocations and clashing assumptions. Unexpected affinities also appear, as happens in the story about a lonely man from India who lodges in the house of an abrupt, peculiar woman near Central Square who proves to be 103 years old. Lahiri's limpid voice and understated, controlled details startle again and again, leading the reader along quietly to a final, surprising pinch of tears.

KAYAK-NANOOK OF THE MERRIMAC

Adventure Learning, out of Merrimac Mass., offers outdoor adventures in the form of kayaking, birding and rock climbing. 800-649-9728, through September. Introductory sea kayak clinics ($80, $50 for a half-day) are held every Saturday.

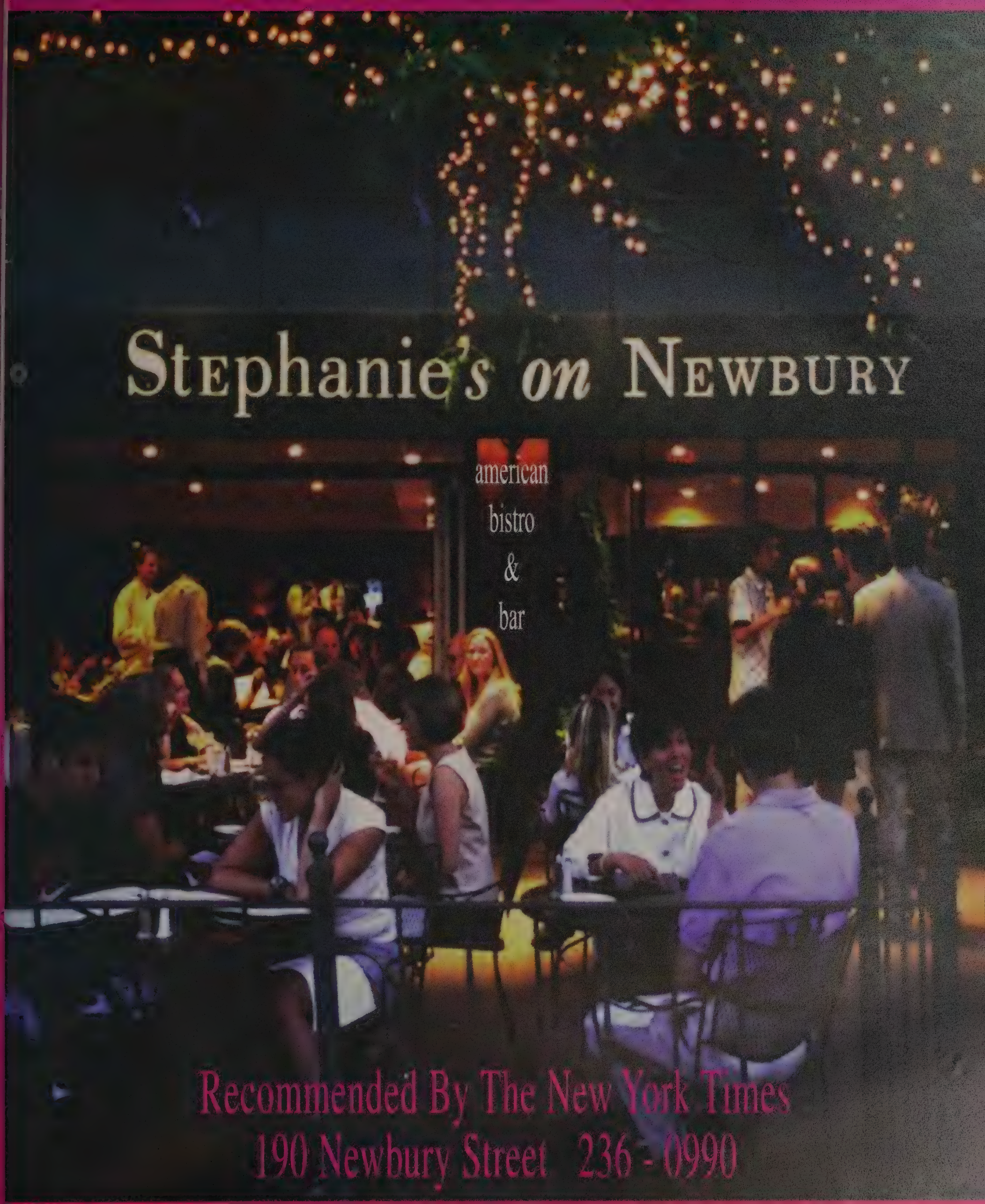
The kayak is a lovely little Sherlock, able to angle and nibble into little small riverside areas just deep enough to float your boat. It also has the muscle and guts for seagoing. You might be surprised to hear, as Adventure Learning reports, that people in their 70s and 80s (assuming some upper-body strength) often partake of what's called kayak sea touring. Conducted in protected waters, the clinics (daylong or half day in duration) use a Goldilocks approach, letting you try different models. They teach strokes, safety, rescues, and knowledge of the tides and currents that are the wildcards of suspense, honing skills. Other courses they offer teach the famous roll; on the other hand, sea-safety involves padded paddles called outriggers and assisted rescue. The paddle-worthy can go onto such thrilling ventures as whale watching (the whales watch you, and keep their distance) birding and fishing. Kayaking is easier than canoeing, since you have a backrest and footpegs to push against. And, just as small commuter planes exist more thrillingly inside the air and weather, kayaks give the paddler a more intimate within-the-waves experience. This little sports car of the water has enough room in it for a camping trip of six weeks.

CAMPY, KITSCHY, SINCE FOREVAH!

What Once Was, From Deco to Disco, now at 159 Hampshire St. Inman Square is open from about 2-10, and sells marvelous period finery and lunacy. 441-5444.

You can just see Liberace, smiling down in red velvet and gloppy jewelry at this store that celebrates charming excess over the ages. The madcaps of each decade from the '20s through the '70s seem to have opened their musty trunks and poured out all manner of enduringly frolicsome attire, from leopard-skin hats and skirts to a comically dignified (and even sexy!) long black Nehru jacket with a cross on the sleeve. Pretty dance dresses from the '50s and '60s in taffeta with huge crinolines to puff them out are on the actually wearable side of the fancy-dress/costume divide that this store straddles. Need a *Three Amigos* silver-threaded sombrero, or a pink silk pants-and-top ensemble with swirling sequin designs, or a fantastic red, real touchable-velvet dress? Or a sudden wedding dress, nice and lacy? Maybe the funniest getup here is a crocheted baseball hat, grandma-cute, rendered stiff with bits of beer cans. There are old medicine signs, pretty on glass, covered with talkative slogans, or light-up bar beer-signs, and store or railway signs that would become dramatic commerce for art's sake.They love crazy lamps here: creeping panthers, bulbous grapes, '50s extravaganzas of living-room ahhht.

KAYAKING: TRACY POWELL;STORE: RICHARD TAZZERA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INSIDE: Fathman has left the building; monkey business with Kira; *Chinese Kitchen*

Above: Line chef Derek Bolk adds a meaty morsel to the rotisserie, which is used for cooking fish, chicken, lobster and "Asian Grill" menu selections like squid and octopus tentacles. Left: From 3 to 5pm, off-the-job slackers and tourists can drop in for cocktail and raw-bar hour.

REVIEW

Fish With Flair

Todd English creates another winner with Kingfish Hall

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRAD ZIEGLER

The Quincy Market/Faneuil Hall area is looking up as a place for serious dining. Although Durgin Park remains a sentimental favorite of ours, much of the rest of this tourist mecca has been cluttered with eminently forgettable restaurants that have come and gone with some frequency. For the past wo years, however, Plaza III Kansas City Steakhouse (anchoring one end of the South Market) has won devotees for its honest steakhouse cuisine. Now, at the other end of that same building, Kingfish Hall has made its debut. It promises to be a great success.

Kingfish Hall is the latest venture of culinary superstar Todd English, whose tiny Olives on Main Street in Charlestown has mushroomed into an empire encompassing a larger Olives at City Square, a number of Figs in and around Boston, and outposts as far afield as Florida and Las Vegas. With Kingfish Hall, he has returned to Boston not only in name, but in person. We spotted the Toddmeister himself behind the revolving rotisserie one recent evening—a sight so unexpected we almost mistook it for an apparition.

One remarkable thing about Kingfish Hall is the rapidity with which the space it occupies was renovated and outfitted in its new grand style. It represents the first Boston foray of designer David Rockwell, whose other efforts include a number of striking eateries in the Big Apple. A high atrium in the middle of the dining room gives the impression of space, despite being hung with a clutter of fish mobiles. Seashell sconces grace columns and walls, and elongated seashell light fixtures hang over the bar. Slate flooring, track lighting and metal ductwork are combined with an assortment of long wooden tables, a few bar-level tables, and a number of upholstered booths, including three or four "revolving booths" on the upper level. The "revolving" may be more theoretical than real, since the considerable effort involved in budging them to swing around so that we might watch our appetizers being turned out by the kitchen struck us as an excessive imposition on our very busy but earnest waiter.

Bread consisted of Parker House rolls, not the best bread available in Boston, but a decent vehicle for mopping up English's formidable sauces. A good selection of wine, as well as a number of draft beers ($4.50 a pint) assuage one's thirst. The 1998 Bouchard Bourgogne Pinot Noir ($23) provided fine value for an authentic burgundy. Among the whites, the 1998 Icardi L'Aurora Cortese ($26) from Italy was a little heavy, and less successful than the 1999 Chateau de Cleray ($25), a crisp, ever-so-slightly ef-

fervescent Muscadet from the Loire.

Over two visits, every one of the appetizers we tried at Kingfish Hall was superb. Pancetta-wrapped tempura soft-shell crab ($10.95) featured a delicate breading and light, clean flash-frying. The sweet saltiness of the Italian bacon provided a deft contrast in taste and texture to the crunchy lightness and subtle flavor of the crab. The refreshingly cool salad of meaty tomato chunks and fresh basil, with rosemary mayonnaise, struck the right Mediterranean note. Sautéed crab cake ($12.50) looked sparse when it arrived, but it was so rich and full of sweet, nutlike crab, wholly devoid of filler, that together with the soothing scoop of guacamole on the side, it turned out to be just the right size to satisfy without completely satiating.

One of the best deals in town may very well be Kingfish Hall's "Bowl o' Steamers" ($9.25), a mountain of large-neck clams steamed in herbed garlic butter and wine studded with shallots and parsley. Served in a large white bowl with a matching bowl on top, which converted into a convenient *poubelle de la table*, the heady sauce put the Parker House rolls to very good use indeed. We applauded the minimum of grit, a phenomenon almost unavoidable in steamed clams.

From the "Asian Grill," we tried the spiced grilled squid ($8), several ringlets of crisp squid, tender to the tooth, and accompanied by a delicious sauce. Even more provocative and tasty were the Greek-style octopus skewers ($7.50), served over a tomato and olive stew. These three octopus tentacles, resilient but not chewy, were so ugly they were actually beautiful. The olive and tomato stew, in which we detected fennel, was an excellent accompaniment.

Kingfish Hall's appetizers were so uniformly superb that I began to rethink my skepticism about Todd English the culinary creator, to whom I have attributed various pathologies of the table-tall food, stacked and layered without respect for the integrity and textures of the ingredients, as well as the inability to resist the temptation to throw just one more item into any square centimeter of bare plate. Perhaps, I thought, my criticism is not of English himself but of the Toddists, slavish imitators who incorporate some of his ideas without approaching his genius—rather like the relationship of the brilliant theologian Thomas Aquinas to his despised followers, the Thomists.

When we reached the main courses, however, I concluded that Mr. English himself is far more of a Toddist than St. Thomas was a Thomist. While the preparations themselves were tasty, with a skillful use of herbs and perennials, they were excessively sauced, resulting in degradation in the texture of the fish. For example, the pan-seared skate wing ($17.25), which the menu represented as following the French tradition of brown butter and fried capers, was accompanied by a parsnip cream and shallot-studded wine essence. While the flavors were delicious, the skate flesh, although nicely boned, was soft and unappealing, not at all firm and resilient as we had hoped. The fried parsnip shavings that crowned the dish were pleasant but, we thought, a superfluous afterthought.

Baked "Captain's Cut" Gloucester cod ($18), served with basil whipped potatoes, was also decent in flavor, but the texture was substandard. This is a fish that should be firm and flaky. We concluded that the layering of the cod alongside and partially on top of the potatoes (and a similar cohabitation of the skate wing and parsnip cream) contributed to the texture problems. Finally, the "dancing fish" of the evening—a name given to fish grilled on the kitchen's revolving wood-fired grill—was halibut, but again the texture was soft and slightly chewy

No such problem accompanied the three-clam perciatelli ($17.50), a combination of littleneck clams, mahogany clams and manilla clams with thick al dente pasta, accompanied by hot cherry peppers and lemon essence. Last among the main courses, and certainly not least—especially where the price was concerned—was the crispy lobster with ginger and scallions "Cantonese" style ($36.95). It was a flavorful ensemble, with sesame hot peppers and soy glaze, and it was served well cracked and easy to extricate from the shell. Chinese cabbage, water chestnuts and other accompaniments made this a terrific dish, but considering the relatively small lobster, we thought the price exorbitant. We have done almost as well in Chinatown for less than half the price.

Desserts were all first rate. Boston Creme Pie ($7.50) was straightforward but picture perfect, sweet but not cloying, served on a plate drizzled with dark chocolate sauce. Vanilla marscapone crème brulee ($8.75) was better than most exemplars of what has become a cliché, with great texture and a very interesting cherry-plum compote accompaniment. Finally, blueberry and nectarine crumble ($7.50) offered good, fresh and succulent fruit, and a scoop of very good ice cream, but precious little crumble to go with it.

Kingfish Hall is a wonderful addition to the Quincy Market scene. While some of the pricing is a little aggressive—oyster crackers are served a la carte for $1.50—one can eat well and even reasonably here if one chooses judiciously. Service is efficient and professional, and the ambiance is lively and pleasant. Mr. English has brought home a winner in his own backyard. **iB**

Kingfish Hall

188 S. Market, Faneuil Hall (523-8862)
HOURS Lunch: 11:30am-3pm; raw bar: 3-5pm; dinner: 5-10pm (5-11pm, Fri-Sat)
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DISH

Heartbreak Hotel

Fathman checks out....pastry chef goes ape... BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

Robert Fathman has left The Federalist, perhaps to pursue a more hands-on position elsewhere.

Robert Fathman has left the building. Yes, the star performer of the kitchen at **The Federalist,** he of the baby-blue eyes and muscular tattooed forearms, is no longer dishing up world-class lobster bisque in the swanky dining room at XV Beacon.

Of course, when a high-profile chef suddenly departs a project in which he invested a huge amount of time and energy (Fathman was on the payroll for a year before The Fed opened for business), suspicious minds crave drama. Boston newspapers breathlessly reported that Fathman had left "in a huff," and that the powers-that-be at XV Beacon were disappointed in the "mediocre" reviews garnered by The Fed.

The truth, as usual, is more down-to-earth. Reached at home, a tired-sounding Fathman scoffed at the "huff" account. "I'm not real happy about leaving, but it was the best choice personally, as well as for the restaurant," Fathman said. "I told **Paul** (**Roiff**, the hotel's owner) and **Chip** (**Sanders**, XV Beacon's General Manager) several weeks ago to look for another chef, someone who enjoys the meetings and that sort of structure."

Roiff and Sanders have apparently found their man in **Eric Brennan**, who's come to Boston after a long-term stint as executive chef at **The Four Seasons** in Toronto.

Fathman, who would rather slave over a hot stove than schmooze with media and glitzy guests, simply wasn't the best fit for a position that required its top chef to oversee breakfast, lunch, dinner, room service and functions, as well as garner national press coverage. After less than a year in the kitchen, Fathman said, there were "a myriad of reasons" why he realized it was time to check out of the hotel.

As for the future, Fathman plans to visit Vermont with some good friends and good wine, then return to Boston to contemplate the opportunities that are adding up as quickly as a dinner tab at The Fed.

SECOND COURSE

Monkey see, monkey threw: What does it take to make a birthday cake for a gorilla? If you thought "bananas," you thought wrong. When the Franklin Park Zoo commissioned pastry chef **Lee Napoli** of **Anago** to prepare the celebratory cake for 1-year-old Kira, Napoli went on-site to set up a bamboo table with the following *mis en place*: eggs, oil, baking powder and baking soda, orange juice, raisins...and lots of pulverized Purina Monkey Chow. Just one detail was overlooked: primate etiquette. It seems gorillas feel disrespected when someone's back is turned, and as Napoli mixed up the batter, Kira's little brother took offense and started pitching carrot chunks at the unsuspecting pastry chef. According to sources, the young troublemaker had pretty good aim. Also according to sources, the finished cake—frosted with vanilla frozen yogurt and garnished with blueberries, figs, raspberries and strawberries—tasted "like a very heavy bran muffin." iB

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant? Send it to dish@improper.com

Tastings BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for tastings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

EVENTS

Cooking Classes at Rauxa
70 Union Square, Somerville (623-9939). Tuesdays 6:30pm. Aug. 15-Sept. 5. $75 per class. Students get to participate in preparing and cooking four to five tapas. Then, everyone will sit around a communal table with chef **Jim Becker**.

Eight Ways to Eat a Lobster
The Kowloon, 948 Broadway, Rte. 1, Saugus (781-233-0077). $16.95 per couple. Through Labor Day. The Lobsterfest 2000 menu features eight different cooking styles, including broiled twin lobsters, lobster steamed in scallion and ginger, and lobster Chinese-style.

Four Seasons: Summer
Westport Rivers Vineyard & Winery, 417 Hixbridge Road, Westport (508-636-3423). Aug. 26, 8:30am-3pm. $60. Start with breakfast and then hop on the bus to visit three local farms, including Wetsport Rivers and Buzzards Bay Brewing. Afterward, there will be a food and beer pairing lunch.

Grand Canal Lobster Special
57 Canal St., Cambridge (523-1112). Grand Canal's lobster specials are single dinners, $12.95, and twin lobster dinners, $21.95. They are served with a baked potato, corn-on-the-cob and drawn butter. A free oyster bar is available every Wednesday from 5-7pm.

Eat Guest Chefs
Eat, 253 Washington St., Somerville (776-2889). Eat has hosted a different guest chef from around Boston every Monday night since it opened four years ago. •Aug. 28: **Jocelyn Clardy**, eat's opening chef.

Magnolia's Crab Festival
1193 Cambridge St. Cambridge (576-1971). Through Sept. 2. Magnolia's has shipped in fresh lump crabmeat from Louisiana for this festival of crabs cooked in a variety of gourmet ways.

Oyster Menu
Le Bocage, 72 Bigelow Ave., Watertown (923-1210). Through the end of September. LeBocage serves oysters only in the months ending with the letter "r"—when the oyster is young and tender. Enjoy a special oyster menu inlcuding Prince Edward island oysters baked with garlic and pancetta, pan-roasted Wellfleet oysters with tasso sauce and steamed Maine Belon oysters with beet and wasabi sauce during the month of September.

Summer Soups for the Soul!
Le Bocage, 72 Bigelow Ave., Watertown (923-1210). Through Sept. 4. $29.50-$48. Le Bocage celebrates the harvest of the season's bounty with late-summer soups made from vegetables and fruit. •Aug. 23-27: Lobster and corn chowder; chilled peach soup with ginger, honey and yogurt; soup pistou with garden veggies and pesto. •Aug. 28-Sept. 3: roasted artichoke and potato vichyssoise; blueberry soup with creme fraiche; curried zucchini soup with native crabcakes. Soups will be incorporated into the prix-fixe, three-course dinner menu.

Summer Wine Dinner
Up Stairs at the Pudding, Cambridge (864-1933). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Every other Wednesday at 7pm. $70. The Wine Dinner Series features flights of wines complemented by Chef **Deborah Hughes**' cuisine. •Aug. 23: Italian red and white wines.

Sunday Night Clambakes
West Side Lounge, 1680 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (441-5566). Through the end of August. Pretend you're still at the beach and make the weekend last just a little longer with these Sunday night clambakes complete with lobster, steamers and corn.

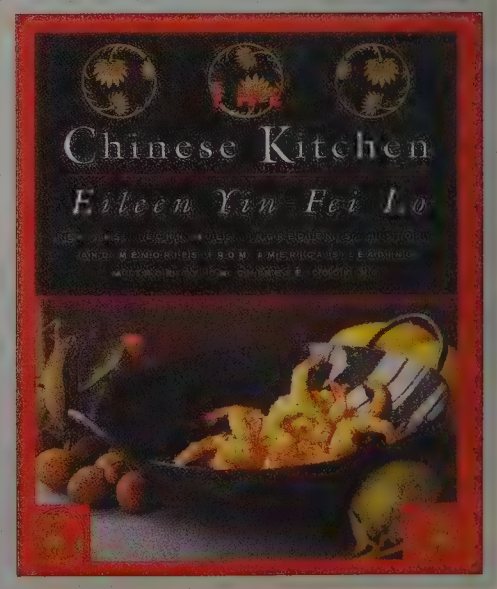
Three-Course Lobster Tasting Menu
Anago, 65 Exeter St., Boston (266-6222). Daily, through Aug. 31. $58. For die-hard crustacean fans, heaven is a three-course meal starring fresh, firm, sweet New England lobster. Through the end of August, Chef **Bob Calderone** guarantees lobster satiation, right down to the lobster-themed dessert.

Visit the New England Produce Center
Boston Market Terminal, 90 New England Produce Center Road, Chelsea (876-0079). Aug. 23, 6pm. $20. This rare, behind-the-scenes tour sponsored by the American Institute of Wine & Food will highlight 16 of the more popular houses (out of 130 within the complex). The center supplies fruits and veggies and agriculturally related items to wholesalers.

TASTY TIDBIT

CHINESE BANQUET

Eileen Yin-Fei Lo's style of cooking is one learned years ago—in her grandmother's kitchen. Perhaps this is the secret to her sumptuous recipes and her talent of creating the perfect blend of *yin* and *yang* in every fried, steamed or cured dish. If you want to discover her talent for yourself, the chef who the *New York Times* has called a "Cantonese Julia Child" will be at Clio on Aug. 23, cooking up a storm and signing copies of her cookbook, *Chinese Kitchen*. A nine-course meal reminiscent of Chinese banquet-style eating will feature foods like *chum geum* spring rolls and *jiu yim har* shrimp. All this at a classic French restaurant. Who'd have thunk? *Clio at The Eliot Hotel, 370 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (536-7200). $95. Aug. 23. —E.B. Solomont*



DISH: JOE GREENE

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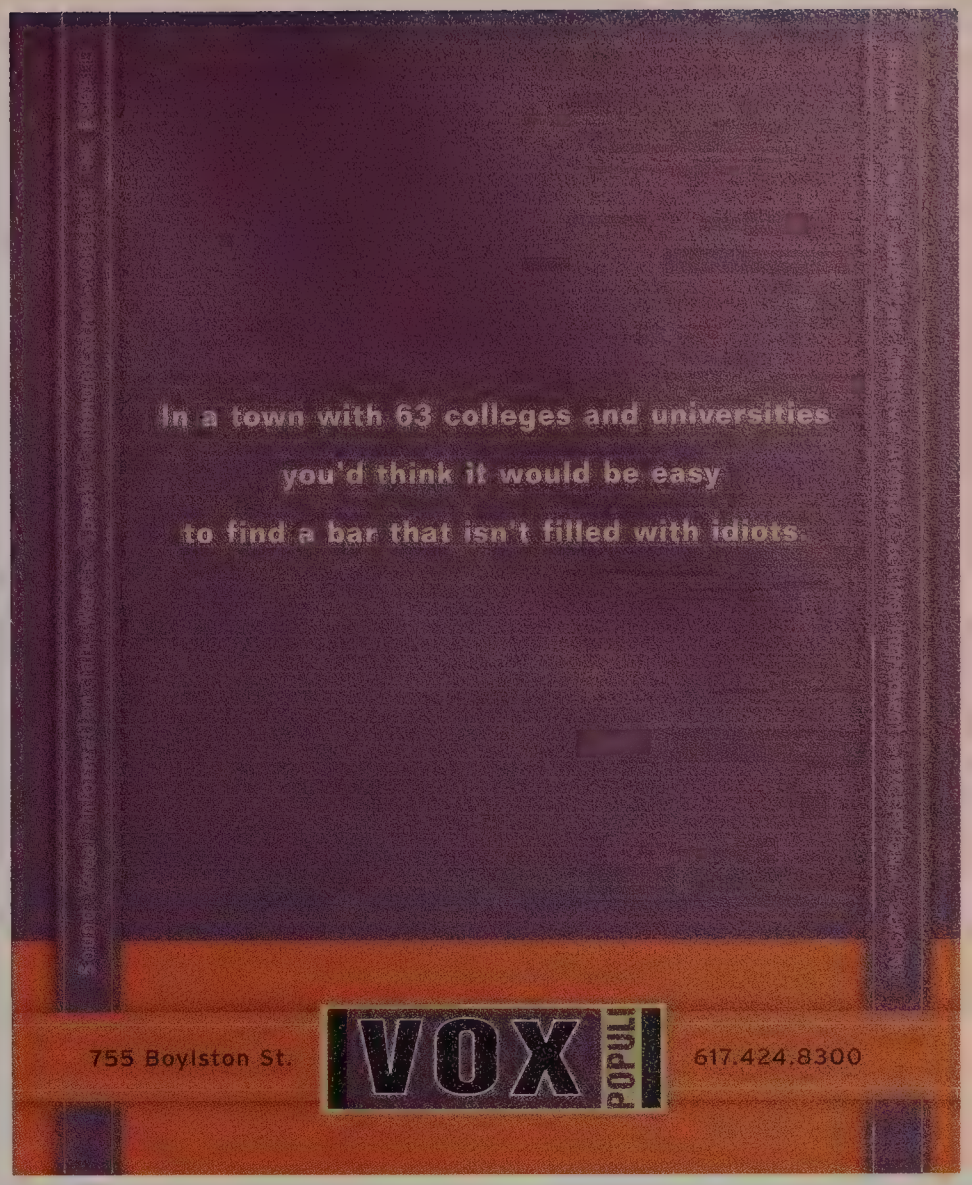

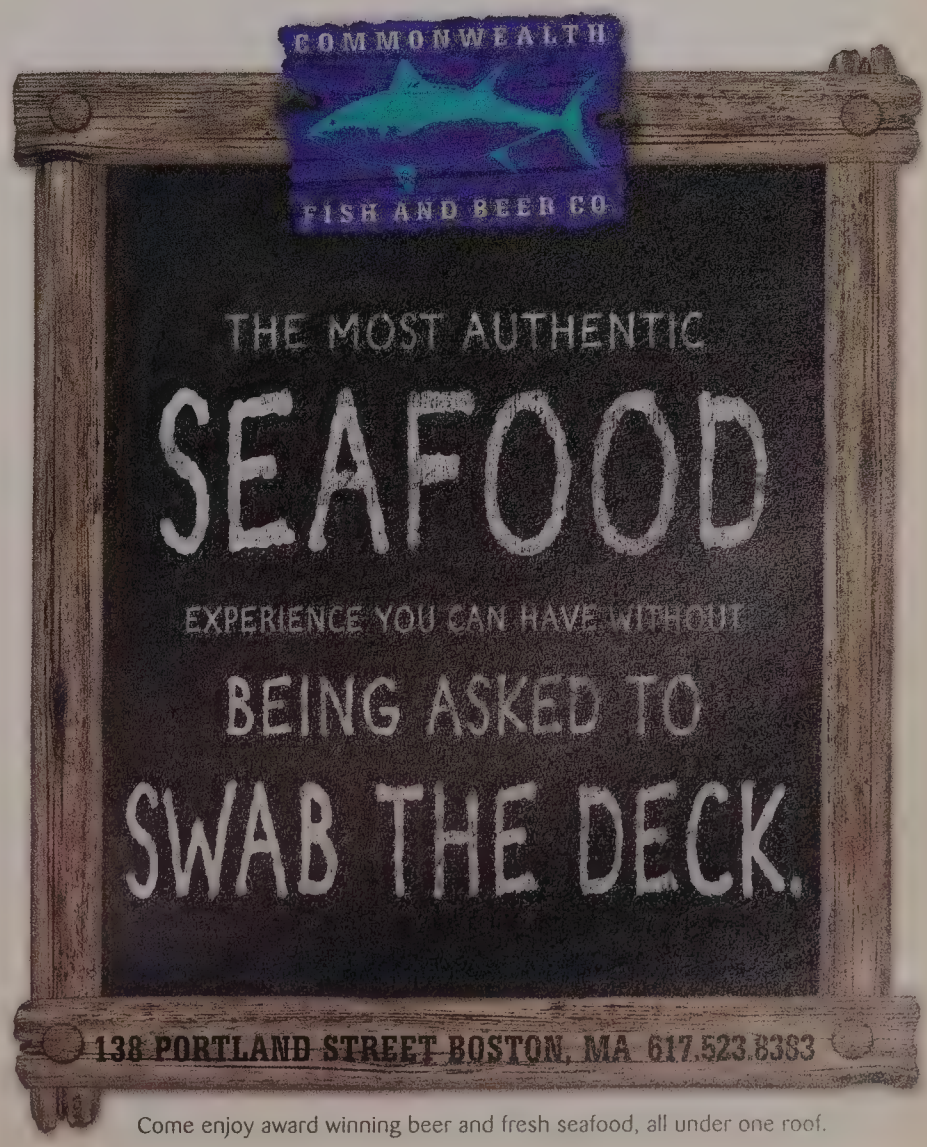

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agenda

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN OR OUT IN BOSTON.

Fantasy Day at Fenway
Baseball fans step up to the plate to benefit the Jimmy Fund Aug. 26.

Julie and Erin

THE CALENDAR GIRLS'

improper picks

Too busy (or just too lazy) to plan your own schedule? Life don't get easier than this.

Wednesday, Aug. 23

Julie: Get a rare, behind-the-scenes tour of the **New England Produce Center**, which supplies fruits and veggies to retailers. (See Tastings.)
Erin: See some musicians' synchronized, ballet-like moves in the Wang Theatre's production of ***Blast!*** (See Dance.)

Thursday, Aug. 24

Julie: Tonight's the last night to dance under the light of the moon at **Swingin' Under the Stars** at Faneuil Hall. Buffett fans should head to Dick's Last Resort for a **Parrotheads Party**. (See CityScope.)
Erin: Or for $7 you can see local rockers **Rocketscience**, **Miss Fortune**, **Bully Pulpit** and **Janke** downstairs at the Middle East. (See Music.)

Friday, Aug. 25

Julie: It's all about peanuts and Cracker Jacks under the lights at the **Oldtime Baseball Game** in North Cambridge. (See Sports.)
Erin: Cambridge's **La Fête du Sisk 5** is a festival of live music, spoken word and indie film. (See Books & Poetry.) Also, **Weezer** plays at Axis. (See Music.)

Saturday, Aug. 26

Julie: Watch contestants try to whack the Green Monster in the Jimmy Fund charity event, **Fantasy Day at Fenway Park**. (See Sports.)
Erin: "Funny guy" **Bob Saget** is at the Comedy Connection tonight. (See Comedy.) Also, Trey Parker's ***Cannibal: the Musical*** is tonight's midnight movie at the Coolidge Corner Theater. (See Film.)

Sunday, Aug. 27

Erin: Enjoy a day of fun in the sun with live music and games at **Back to the Beaches 2000** at Revere Beach. Or go to the House of Blues to see **Taj Mahal**—guaranteed to be an amazing show. (See Music.)
Julie: Make the weekend last a little longer with a **Sunday night clambake** at the West Side Lounge. (See Tastings.)

Monday, Aug. 28

Julie: Eat restaurant in Somerville hosts guest chef **Jocelyn Clardy** tonight. (See Tastings.)
Erin: Psychic medium **John Holland** lectures and then does some one-on-one psychic readings at Arlington's Unicorn Books. (See Body & Mind.)

Tuesday, Aug. 29

Erin: It's the last day to enjoy the **Summer SOULstice Mini Festival**. The Mike Gamble Trio from the New England Conservatory will perform. (See Children.)
Julie: I'd head out to Tweeter Center with a bunch of fanatical friends to see **Pearl Jam**. They also play tomorrow. (See Music.)

Wednesday, Aug. 30

Julie: Tony Kushner's play ***The Illusion*** is at the Boston Center for the Arts through Sept. 2. (See Performing Arts.)
Erin: The Museum of Fine Arts' **Akira Kurosawa** film series is drawing to a close. Today, see the incredible ***Madadayo***, his 30th and final film.

Thursday, Aug. 31

Erin: A rare treat, purveyors of punk **Leatherface**, **Avail** and **Dillinger Four** play at the Worcester Palladium tonight. (See Music.)
Julie: Or gather the grrls for **k.d. lang**'s concert at the FleetBoston Pavilion. (See Music.)

Friday, Sept. 1

Julie: It's worth the drive to see the **Lowell Music Festival**. Today, **Michelle Rohl** performs. (See Go Away.)
Erin: *The Usual Suspects*' **Kevin Pollack** cracks up audiences at the Comedy Connection. Also, ***This Is Spinal Tap*** is re-released in theaters today. (See Film.)

Saturday, Sept. 2

Erin: It's Julie's birthday! Shhh...we're having a surprise party. The rest of you should go to the **Boston Antique and Classic Boat Festival**. (See CityScope.)
Julie: I think I'm going check out the Greek food and fun at the **Grecian Festival** in Brookline. (See CityScope.) Afterward, who knows?

Sunday, Sept. 3

Julie: Today's **Summer Beat 2000** is a free daylong festival with music, contests, games and a fireworks display over Dorchester Bay. (See CityScope.)
Erin: Or you can head to the North Shore for the **Gloucester Schooner Festival**'s parade of sail. (See Go Away.)

Monday, Sept. 4

Julie and **Erin**: If you're in the mood for a drive on Labor Day...and a jig...head to Newport for the **Waterfront Irish Festival**. There will be five stages of live music and plenty of food, dance and crafts. (See Go Away.)

Tuesday, Sept. 5

Julie and **Erin**: See the Cat in the Hat and friends in the Colonial Theatre's production of ***Seussical*** the musical. (See Performing Arts.) Also, **Guster** return to their Somerville roots to play at Johnny D's. (See Music.)

CITYSCOPE **52** • PERFORMING ARTS **56** • ART **60** • FILM **64** • EDUCATION **66** • BOOKS & POETRY **68** • CLASSICAL MUSIC **70** • DANCE CLUBS **72** • MUSIC **74** • GAY & LESBIAN **78** • BODY & MIND **80** • CHILDREN **80** • SALES & FASHION **80** • SPORTS **81** • GO AWAY **82**. EDITED BY: **ERIN HAGEDORN:** Art, Books & Poetry, Dance, Dance Clubs, Film, Gay & Lesbian, Go Away, Music.
EDITED BY: **JULIE SHORT:** Children, CityScope, Comedy, Education, Go Away, Sales & Fashion, Sports, Tastings, Theater. ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY: **Laurel Kirtz** Body & Mind • **Paul Sherman:** Film Capsules

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Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a list of festivals, events and benefits taking place in the Boston area by date.

Festivals, Events Expos & Benefits

Wednesday, August 23

ArtStuff
Northeastern University, 360 Huntington Ave., Boston (373-247). Aug. 23-Aug. 26. Prices vary. The Center for the Arts at Northeastern University hosts this arts festival. •Aug. 23, 12pm: *New Scripts at Noon* in McLeod Suites, Curry Student Center. 12-5pm: *What We Think* in the Curry Student Center Gallery. 8pm: Art of Black Dance and Music and Capoeira Camara Angola in the Blackman Theatre, Ell Hall. •Aug. 24, 12pm: *New Scripts at Noon* in McLeod Suites, Curry Student Center. 8pm: Patricia Smith/Paradigm Shift and Warren Smith's Spain Chang in the Studio Theatre, Ell Hall. •Aug. 25, 8pm: Sound and Spirit Meets Shirim in the Blackman Theatre, Ell Hall. •Aug. 26, 12pm: *New Scripts at Noon* in McLeod Suites, Curry Student Center. 3pm: Patricia Smith/Paradigm Shift and Warren Smith's Spain Chang in the Studio Theatre, Ell Hall. 8pm: *Jails, Hospitals & Hip-Hop* by Obie Award-winning monologist Danny Hoch in Blackman Theatre, Ell Hall.

Swingin' Under the Stars
South Market Street, Faneuil Hall, Boston (523-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Wednesday and Thursday evenings, 6-10pm. Through Aug. 24. Faneuil Hall Marketplace turns into an outdoor dance hall, pulsing with the beats of swing, Latin, country and disco bands. Tomorrow's the last day to enjoy this summer tradition.

Thursday, August 24

City Sounds: Outdoor Music Fest
Boston Center for the Arts plaza, Boston (426-7700). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay. 6-8pm. Free. A series of seven outdoor concerts will feature local artists performing international music. The Boston bands will play music from Japan, Latin America, Africa and the Caribbean. •Aug. 24: **Wushu Theater and Bow Sim Mark**. Experience the power of Chinese martial art "wushu," or kung fu. In 1989, master bow Sim Mark developed theatrical pieces that use authentic martial arts to tell stories. Recent winners from the World Wushu Festival in Shanghai will perform many different forms of tai chi, including straight sword, broad sword and fan routines.

Faneuil Hall Birthday Celebration
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (523-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Join festive party-goers in celebrating this historical marketplace's 24th birthday. Festivities take place at noon at the West End, between Quincy Market and Faneuil Hall, and include a giant slice of birthday cake for all who attend.

Horror on Party Beach
Milky Way, 401 Centre St, Jamaica Plain (524-3740). Enjoy a '60s beach bash with fab mod/pop bands, go-go and hula dancers and a "fun in the sun" fashion show.

Jimmy Buffett-Lovers Parrotheads Party
Dick's Last Resort, 55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. 7pm. The fun starts with tropical Buffett standards by St. Somewhere. So strap on your wildest Parrothead head gear, don your loudest Hawaiian-print shirt and get ready to party with the Parrothead Club of Eastern Massachusetts.

Friday, August 25

Feasts of St. Anthony and St. Lucy
Endicott Street, North End, Boston (723-8669). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Aug. 25, 7-11:30pm; Aug. 26-27, 12-11:30pm; Aug. 28, 5:30-11pm. St. Anthony's procession begins at 7pm on Friday. The outdoor Mass takes place at 5:30pm on Saturday (followed by the blessing of the relic of St. Anthony), and at 12pm on Sunday, the 10-hour procession begins. St. Lucy gets her time in the spotlight on Sunday at 5:30pm. During the day, enjoy music and games, and at night, local bands perform.

La Fete du Sisk 5
The First Parish Church, 3 Church St., Cambridge (442-6555). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Aug. 25-26. $5. This festival includes 25 local visual artists, interactive art, zines and independent publications and political protest. La Cirque du Manifestations will create schematic disasters, a human petting zoo and surrealist bingo on Friday and Saturday. •Aug. 25 will feature music by the Control Group, Cat Loren, High Wire Moves and Hip Tanaka; spoken word by Rich Mackin, Mike Fournier, Clint Catalyst and Miriam Leibowitz; and a film by Erika Tompkins. •Aug. 26 will feature music by Teamwe, Miss Mary, Joppa, Lona and Slept; spoken word by Ian Thal, Sarah Tyler, Rich Mackin and Nola Kelley.

Oldtime Baseball Game
St. Peter's Field, Sherman Street, North Cambridge (978-688-9010). 7pm. Some of Boston's top amateur players will play, wearing reproductions of oldtime uniforms from different eras in baseball history. The game is played under the lights and is truly a baseball postcard, complete with hot dogs, peanuts and period music.

Summer Beat 2000
The Children's Museum, 300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Aug. 25, 1-9pm. FirstNight Boston presents two free, daylong festivals featuring performances, family activities and fireworks (on Sept. 3). •Aug. 25: Enjoy children's games, followed by evening activities, including step dancing, mask theater, hip hop and drumming.

Saturday, August 26

Fantasy Day at Fenway Park
Fenway Park, Boston (800-525-4669). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Aug. 26-27. For $1,500 you too can step onto the green of Fenway Park. The goal is to tag the 37-by-240-foot Green Monster, 310 feet from home plate down the left field line and 279 feet away in left-center. For each ball that makes it, the John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co. donates $1,000 to the Jimmy Fund. Talk about a field of dreams, eh?

Hawaiian Romance Singles Harbor Cruise and Dance
Rowes Wharf, Boston (781-446-0260). 8:30-11:30pm. $35. Single professionals ages 35-55 years old will enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres, a cruise and dancing on the ship. Music will be provided by Bruno.

Massachusetts Marketplace Festival
Elm Bank Reservation, 900 Washington St., Route 16, Dover (536-9280). 10am-4pm. $4. This event will highlight the Bay State's bountiful crops and its burgeoning specialty-foods industry. A full day of activities is planned, including soil testing and gardening info, food sampling, garden tours, hay rides, a petting zoo and crafts sales.

Sunday, August 27

Back to the Beaches 2000
Revere Beach, Boston (727-1300, ext. 555). 12-4pm. A day of fun at the beach sponsored by KISS 108FM includes the MDC All Star Band, rock 'n' roll bands, lifeguard demonstrations, swimming lessons, volleyball, face painting, kite making, sand-castle-building contests, trivia contests, prizes, a dunk tank, moonbounce and super slide. Bring your a towel and a bathing suit.

Irish Festival
Pleasant and Main streets, Malden (81-324-0111). 1-10pm. $5. You're guaranteed a good time at this festival of traditional music, step-dancing and corned beef and cabbage dinners. (Be sure to slather some butter on that soda bread.)

Tuesday, August 29

Summer SOULstice Mini Festival
Christian Science Plaza, 175 Huntington Ave., Boston (450-3131). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Through Aug. 29. Rain or shine. Enjoy a music and arts festival every Tuesday at noon with a host of musicians, artists and storytellers. •Aug. 29, 11:30-1pm: The Mike Gamble Trio from the New England Conservatory perform. They play world music—African, Latin and Afro-Cuban music. Sidewalk Sam will be leading the children in sidewalk drawing. Balloon sculpturist Rami Salami will be make balloon hats and balloon accessories.

Saturday, September 2

Grecian Festival
The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral of New England, 162 Goddard Ave., Brookline (731-6633). Sept. 2, 11am-10pm; Sept. 3, 12-10pm. Free. Some 2,000 Greek enthusiasts will head to Brookline to watch folk dances (and dance themselves), buy crafts and eat gyros and Greek desserts.

Preview

Ships Ahoy!

Celebrate America's maritime heritage with the gleam of polished brass and the deep glow of varnished wood as elegant vessels of yesteryear sail into Boston Harbor for the 18th annual Boston Antique and Classic Boat Festival Sept. 2-3. Step aboard one of more than 40 classic sailboats and powerboats, ranging from 1890s steam launches to luxury commuter yachts. Proud skippers in vintage garb will delight spectators with tales of memorable voyages, nautical history and the labor of restoring these majestic ships. Join in the festivities, swap yarns and marvel at these classic beauties. *Boston Waterboat Marina, Long Wharf, Boston (666-8530). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Sept. 2, 12-5pm; Sept. 3, 11am-3pm.*—Jane Kim

World Wrestling Federation (WWF) Attitude
FleetCenter, Boston (931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. 7:30pm. $18-$40. The World Wrestling Federation returns to the FleetCenter with their new WWF Attitude event.

Sunday, September 3

Quincy Festival
The Fore River Shipyard, Quincy (376-1990). MBTA: Red Line to Quincy Center. 12-7pm. $6. The annual Quincy Family Day features family-oriented event games, amusements and live entertainment.

Summer Beat 2000
Carson Beach and Columbus Park, South Boston (542-1399). Aug. 25, 1-9pm; Sept. 3, 12-8:30pm. FirstNight Boston presents two free, daylong festivals featuring performances, family activities and fireworks. •Sept. 3: Afternoon activities include volleyball and sand sculpture contests, performances, strolling entertainment and trampoline stunts by the Sky Riders. Evening activities feature some of Boston's best local bands and dancing at dusk. The festival will close with a display of fireworks over Dorchester Bay.

Volunteer

ABCD Inc.
(35-6000). Seek volunteers to teach literacy programs.

AIDS Action Committee
(888-332-AUTO). Turn your old car into a tax-deductible donation.

Boston Cares
(263-CARE). More than 70 volunteer opportunities available in Greater Boston.

Boston Living Center
(236-1012). HIV/AIDS service organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Boston-New York AIDS Ride
(859-8282, ext. 230). Ride is Sept. 15. Volunteers needed for work on mass mailings, phone banking and other projects.

Community Servings
(445-7777). Help prepare and deliver meals for individuals and families dealing with AIDS.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

Friday Night Supper Program
Arlington Street Church, corner of Arlington and Boylston streets, Boston (536-7050, ext. 22). Need volunteers to help prepare, cook and serve meals on Fridays, 5-7pm.

The Greater Boston Food Bank
(427-5200). Groups needed to sort donated food.

Horizons Initiative
(287-1900). Volunteers needed to play with children living in shelters. Commit to two hours per week for six months. Daytime and evening hours available.

Jewish Community Volunteer Program
(558-6585). Volunteers are needed to share fun times with an isolated senior.

Mass. Eating Disorder Association
(558-1881). Volunteers needed for four hours per week for help line, assisting clinical staff and special events.

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist elders with such tasks as reading, shopping, basic home repairs or going for a walk.

One with One
(254-1691). Tutor/mentor an immigrant or refugee in the Boston area to improve English skills and prepare for the American workplace. Information meeting will be held Aug. 30.

Pan-Massachusetts Challenge
(800-WE-CYCLE). www.pmc.org. Event: Aug. 5-6. Volunteers needed for the ride weekend to help with setup, registration, food service and cleanup.

Pine Street Inn
(521-7626). Seeking volunteers for summer to serve meals and act as receptionist for homeless guests.

Ride for Hunger
(723-5000). Sept. 17, 8am and 9am. Two bicycle routes to help the hungry: 40K and 100K.

Rosie's Place
(442-9322). Volunteers needed for the dining room, clothing room, the groceries program and office work.

United Services Organization (USO)
(720-4949). Volunteers needed to welcome Navy ships, participate in hospital visits, provide office support, coordinate receptions and assist with events.

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Seeks individuals to assist legal immigrants and refugees to become naturalized citizens.

WBUR
(800-909-WBUR). Seeking volunteers to help answer phones during on-air fund-raisers.

BOSTON SPORTS AWARDS

JOIN ESPN'S **STEVE LEVY**
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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH

3RD Annual Boston Sports Awards

At the Berklee Performance Center

The Awards Gala is the first sports awards program dedicated entirely to Boston Athletes, honoring the tremendous work they do both on and off the field.

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Some of Boston's top amateur players compete under the lights in the seventh annual Oldtime Baseball Game for charity in North Cambridge Aug. 25.

Cruises

Beantown to P-Town
Long Wharf, Boston (227-4321). Boston Harbor Cruises offers high-speed catamaran service to Provincetown.

Boston to Provincetown Ferry
Bay State Cruise Company (748-1428). www.baystatecruisecompany.com. This boat has been outfitted to reflect the great tradition of the steamships that have made the run since 1847.

Kennedy Museum/Little Brewster Island Package
JFK Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (929-4500). Fridays, 10am and 2pm. $29 (includes boat ride, island tour and admission to museum). Tour Little Brewster Island and then see the Kennedy Library on this 3 1/2-hour tour.

Massachusetts Bay Lines
60 Rowes Wharf, Boston (542-8000). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium or Red Line to South Station. Daily 55-minute harbor tours sail Sun.-Sat. on the hour from 11am-6pm. $9. Nightly sunset cruises also available from 7-8:30pm for $16, and moonlight cruises from 8:45-10:15pm. Whale watching, daily 10am. $24. •Wednesday evenings, 7-10pm, $16: **Live Blues Cruise**. •Thursdays: **Rock n' Roll Cruise**, 7:30-10:30pm, $16.

Sea Harbor Tours
New England Aquarium, Boston (973-5206). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Daily. What lurks beneath the surface of Boston Harbor? Budding scientists pull lobster traps, check for salinity and turbidity and learn about the health of the harbor on this 90-minute cruise.

Sights to See

Boston Tea Party Ship and Museum
Congress St. Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Open daily, March-May and Sept.-Nov., 9am-5pm; closed Dec.-March. $8, $7 students, $4 children. You can dump your own bale into the harbor—and watch a museum guide scramble to retrieve it—at this replica of one of the ships emptied by colonists (disguised as Indians) during the Dec. 16, 1773, tea raid. Afterward, enjoy a cup of tax-free tea.

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Fifth Floor, Boston (353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), Oct.-March 7:30-8:30pm; April-Sept. 8:30-9:30pm. Free. BU's astronomers are available to answer questions and assist with telescopes as you check out Orion, Cassiopeia and the Big Dipper.

Bunker Hill Monument
Monument Square, Charlestown (242-5641). Open daily 9am-5pm. Free. What's long and hard and shaped like a pencil? It's not what you think. It's the 221-foot monument that honors the men who died in the Battle of Bunker Hill. But an exhausting climb up 294 stairs reveals little more than a stunning view of I-93.

Christian Science World Headquarters
Massachusetts and Huntington Avenues, Boston (450-2000). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential. Tue.-Sat. 9:30am-4pm, Sun. 11am-2pm. Tour the Mother Church—a giant basilica that seats 3,000 worshippers; a 700-foot-long reflecting pool; and a photo exhibit.

Copp's Hill Burial Ground
Hull and Snowhill Streets, Boston. MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Open dawn-dusk. Admission free. From Boston's second-oldest cemetery, you can see all the way across the Inner Harbor to Charlestown. Famous residents include the well-known Puritanical Mather family and Prince Hall, a prominent member of the free black community.

John Hancock Observatory
200 Clarendon St., Boston (572-6429). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open Mon.-Sat. 9am-11pm, Sun. 10am-11pm (May-Oct.) and noon-11pm (Nov.-April). Admission $6. The tallest building in New England (62 floors) offers much more than an awesome view. Listen to air-traffic controllers at Logan, test your knowledge of the city with a computer quiz, or relive some of Boston's most famous and infamous events.

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (566-7937). Wed.-Sun. 10 am-4:30pm. The birthplace and early boyhood home of the nation's 35th president.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat. 10am-2pm. Admission free. Alongside Boston's first Anglican church—a gloomy, granite apparition—you'll find a burial ground with equally ominous-looking headstones dating back to 1630.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (635-3105). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Open daily 9am-5pm. Guided tours every half-hour, starting at 9am. Free. Known as the "Cradle of Liberty," Faneuil Hall—we're talking about the part above the eatery—was the site of many an angry man ranting and raving about the damn British in the mid-1700s. Today, you can check out the white-walled assembly room, but most people come here for the marketplace.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily 9 am-5pm. Free. Here, Paul Revere saw two lanterns shining on April 18, 1775, indicating that the British troops were crossing the Charles River to Lexington and Concord via boat. You remember, "One if by land, two if by sea."

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays 10am-4pm, weekends 10am-5pm. $3. A thousand fed-up men gathered in this church to decide whether or not to send three ships full of tea back to England. Guess what? They didn't. •New permanent exhibit: *Voices of Protest* traces the use of Old South Meeting House over three centuries for religious, political and social debate. Artifacts, lifelike figures and interactive exhibits illuminate how Old South has championed the right to free speech and assembly despite acts of official censorship. •Middays at the Meeting House, a lunchtime music series. Thursdays, 12:15-1pm. $4.

Paul Revere House
19 North Square, Boston (523-2338). Nov. 1-April 14, 9:30am-4:15pm; April 15-Oct. 31, 9:30am-5:15pm. Built in 1680 and owned by Paul Revere from 1770 to 1800, this house offers a self-guided tour with illustrated text panels and museum interpreters.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-10pm, Sun. noon-10pm. $4, $3 seniors and students. After that tiring, 50-floor elevator ascent, you deserve a drink at the Top of the Hub lounge before you check out Boston's only 360-degree view tower. On a good day, you can see New Hampshire. The view here is slightly better than that of rival John Hancock.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8am-6pm. Free. Designed by H.H. Richardson and constructed in 1877, the huge Romanesque church in Copley Square rests upon 4,500 submerged wooden pilings, which help hold up the church's massive tower. A shaded courtyard offers respite from the heavily trafficked plaza. On Fridays at 12:15pm, stop by for a free organ concert.

Museums

Boston Tea Party Ship & Museum
Congress Street Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. March-Nov., 9am-dusk. $7, $5.50 students, $3.50. Colonial-clad sailors take you aboard *The Beaver*, a replica of the smallest of the three ships involved in the infamous tea rebellion. Paul Revere leads the hourly tea throwing and explains all about the fateful day irate Bostonians poured out the tea in protest of the tax decree issued by British parliament. Try your hand at rope-tying too.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June Tue.-Sat. 10 am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm; June-Aug. daily 10am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm. $5, children and seniors $3: Follow the red and white signs to the mother of all milk bottles. As you walk under it you'll feel as diminutive as your munchkin companion. See *Arthur's World* from the popular television series and children's books. This infamous aardvark is one of many hands-on favorites. •**Construction Zone!** Dig, tunnel, build (and tear down!) in this new exhibition inspired by the Big Dig.

Harriet Tubman House
566 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-8610). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. Weekdays 8am-8pm. Free admission. The Harriet Tubman Museum exhibits a collection of this influential black leader's achievements.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (929-4523). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily 9am-5pm (last film begins at 3:55pm). $8, students and seniors $6, children $4. This permanent collection on the life and legacy of President John F. Kennedy offers a re-created world of the early 1960s with period settings and 25 dramatic multimedia exhibits. Visitors experience firsthand the challenges faced by America during Kennedy's presidency. *John Glenn and the Space Race*, an exhibit about the man with the mission is now showing. •*Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy: First Lady*. Ongoing •*Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy*. New ongoing exhibit. •Opened May 27: *Jacqueline Kennedy Travels Abroad*. A special exhibit on items presented to the former First Lady on her travels to Paris, London, Rome, India and Pakistan. Through Nov. 1. •Opened June 3: *John F. Kennedy—Man of the Sea*. This exhibit documents JFK's naval career and celebrates his lifelong love of the sea and sailing. Items include his collections of scrimshaw, Tall Ship models and maritime paintings; his boyhood sailing trophies; and the 26-foot sailboat *Victura*. Through Nov. 1.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (739-1200) www.afroammuseum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays 10am-4pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.* The place is bustling after its recent endowment of more than $1 million to restore the meeting house's hallowed sanctuary. See the African Meeting House, the oldest black church in America.

Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat. 9am-5pm; Sun. 9am-5pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun. 9am-12pm.* This Harvard museum is made up of four factions: The **Botanical Museum**, **The Museum of Comparative Zoology**, the **Mineral & Geological Museum**, and the **Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology**. A number of exhibitions tie together all four of these distinct collections. The most famous is the Botanical Museum for its glass flowers collection—more than 3,000 models of more than 480 plant species. At the Museum of Comparative Zoology, check out the 42-foot-long mounted Kronosaurus (a really big lizard) and countless stuffed insects. The Mineral & Geological Museum's got a 16,000-pound Brazilian amethyst geode, and there's the dollhouse-esque Worlds in Miniature display at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnography. •New at the Peabody: *Heads and Tales: Adornments from Africa*. African people have developed hairstyles, headdresses, hats and many artifacts of visual interest to communicate messages to their friends and community about themselves and their society. •New at the Harvard Museum of Natural History: a 1 million-year-old saber-toothed cat.

Museum of Our National Heritage
33 Marrett Road, Route 2A, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.mnh.org. *Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 12-5pm. Free admission.* Explore history through pop culture. Topics range from Revolutionary artifacts to the latest in jigsaw-puzzle-solving techniques and American circus posters. •*Initiating America*, a historical look at fraternal organizations. Ongoing. •*The Lynn Beach Painters, Art Along the North Shore*, 1880-1920. Through Aug. 20. •Opened April 8: *Weaving the Dance: The Yeibichai Tradition in Navajo Rugs.* An exhibition on 20th-century Navajo pictorial textiles. •Opened June 24: *The Enchanted Clocks of George McFadden*. The museum presents a selection of 12 of these whimsical and charming timepieces. •Opened July 21: *Made in Massachusetts*. See items commonly found in Massachusetts homes during the last three centuries.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu. 9am-5pm; Fri. 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children. Omni Theater, Hayden Planetarium or laser shows all $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children.* Find out how much you weigh on the moon, strap yourself into a space module or sift through sand on an archaeological dig. Enjoy 600 hands-on exhibits, including the *Theater of Electricity*, *Seeing Is Deceiving* and *Science in the Park* (Newtonian physics introduced through such accessible items as playground equipment and skateboards). •*To See the Sea* explores the ocean from the perspective of a deep-sea diver. •Now open: *Messages:* Discover why communication is central to everyday life. *Human Body Connection*: exhibits on anatomy, physiology and health. *The Light House: Beaming, Bouncing and Bending Light*: Learn the principles of optics, color and the nature of light with 18 hands-on activities. •*Reptiles: Real and Robotic*, through May 29. Learn about a variety of reptiles and their diverse habitats, which range from searing deserts or the cold North Sea. •New: Cahners ComputerPlace. A lively environment filled with multimedia-rich software and Web-based experiences. •*Secrets of Aging* opened April 5. Explores the science behind the universal experience of aging. •*T Rex Exhibition*. July 2-September 2000. "Sue" is a fully mounted cast of the largest and most complete Tyrannosaurus ever unearthed. The exhibit will include video footage, interactive, touchable replicas and colorful graphics. •Ongoing at the Mugar Omni Theater: *Dolphins* and *Michael Jordan to the Max*. Now opened: *The Magic of Flight*. Experience the thrill of flight and jet aircraft technology. All movies show through Oct. 5.

MATT STONE

Charles Hayden Planetarium
Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children. Time of show changes daily.* Get high! High up, that is. And (then) go see the stars and rock-music laser shows. Check out the ongoing out-of-this-world multimedia installations *Life and Death of the Sun* and *The Sky Tonight*, and enjoy daily laser shows to the music of the Beastie Boys, Pink Floyd, Korn, Tool, Jimi Hendrix, Nine Inch Nails, among others. It's a trip. •*Journey to the Edge of Space and Time*: Ideas once considered crazy (like black holes) are now the building blocks of new knowledge. What next? •*Welcome to the Universe.* Now open. •Friday Night Stargazing, 8:30-10pm. Free. Weather permitting. •***Catastrophes in Space—When Stars End Their Lives***. Audiences will learn that all stars grow old and die, and the death of a massive star creates new life, seeding space with new chemical elements and triggering the formation of new stars and planets. Through October.

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St. (in Larz Anderson Park), Brookline (522-6547). MBTA: D Green Line to Reservoir, to bus 51. April-Oct., Wed.-Sun. 10am-5pm; Nov.-March, Wed.-Sun. 10am-4pm. $5, $3 seniors and students. This 1888 carriage house is the automobile buff's paradise—and the country's oldest private collection of antique autos. Featured cars range from Fords and Corvettes to Cadillacs and Italian imports. Lawn events are held on Sundays, 10am-2pm, throughout the summer, with food, refreshments, picnic areas, judging of cars and museum exhibits. •Aug. 27: **Roll Britannia** featuring Rolls-Royce and Bentley. •Sept. 4: GM Day.

Nichols House Museum
55 Mount Vernon St., Boston (227-6993) Tues.-Sun. 12:15-4:15pm; guided tours on the half hour. $5 adults, children under 12 free admission. This house offers a glimpse into 19th and early 20th century life on historic Beacon Hill. The house contains furniture, decorative objects and European and Asian art accumulated over several generations.

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (720-3290). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily 9am-5pm. $3, students and seniors $2. Built in 1713, this original seat of colonial government was the place pre-Independence Bostonians first heard the Declaration of Independence read. •Opened March 31: ***Burning Issues: A History of Boston Through Fire***. This exhibit considers the significance of eight fire events in Boston's history with interactive experiences for the family.

Sports Museum of New England
FleetCenter, Boston (624-1234). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Adults, $5, children and seniors, $4. Exhibits of the great sports traditions of the Boston Garden, FleetCenter and Celtics.

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (426-1812). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, bus 93 to Navy Yard. Nov.-April 30: Open daily 10am-5pm. Free. The stories of the individuals who authorized, built and served on the *USS Constitution*, the oldest commissioned warship afloat. Learn about its 200-year history hands on—hoist a sail, take the wheel, fire a cannon or swing in a hammock.

Zoos & Gardens

Arnold Arboretum
125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain (524-1718). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open weekdays: 9am-4pm, weekends: 12-4pm. Free. More than 14,000 exotic trees, shrubs and flowers make this the place to go when you need to escape the hustle and bustle of city life. There's no picnicking allowed, but biking, dog-walking and Frisbee-throwing are encouraged.

Franklin Park Zoo
1 Franklin Park Road, Boston (541-LION). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open Oct.-March daily 10am-4pm; April-Sept. weekdays 10am-5pm, weekends and holidays 10am-6pm. Admission $7, senior $6, children (ages 2-15) $4. A 72-acre oasis of green in the city with waterfalls, lush vegetation, gorillas, leopards, hippos and free-flying birds. •Opened May 27: **Butterfly Landing** with 1,000 butterflies representing 40 North American species. The celebration will also include visits with animals and children's arts and crafts. •Opened May 28: **The Farmyard**. Mosey on down to the zoo for that down-on-the-farm feel right in the middle of the city. Check out the new main barn, incubator and brooder building, chicken coop, silo slide and windmill.

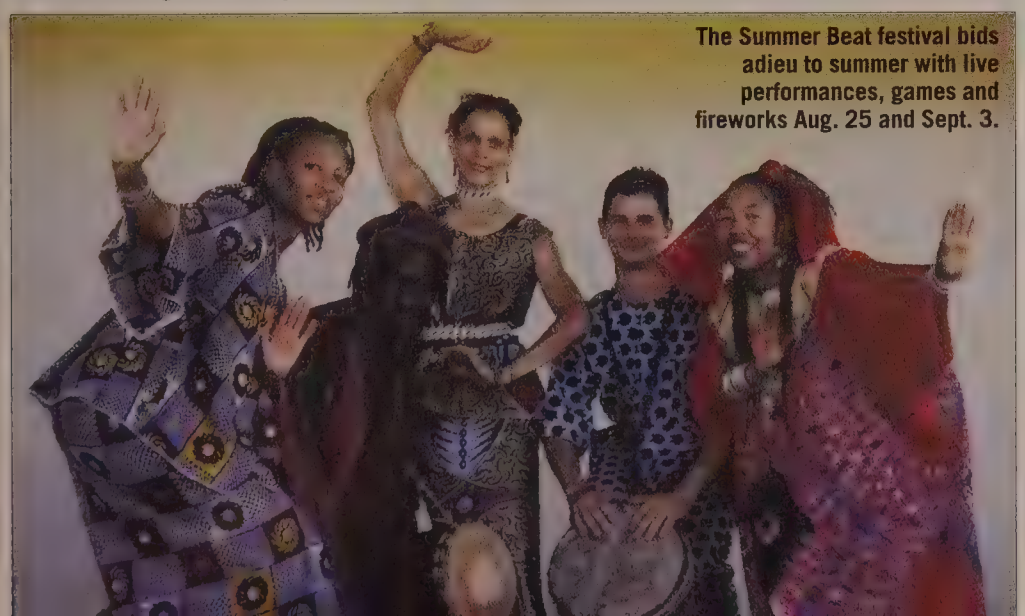
Garden in the Woods
New England Wild Flower Society, 180 Hemenway Road, Framingham (508-877-7630). April 15-October 31. $6. The largest collection of wildflowers in the Northeast. •May to mid June: See the spring ephemerals, including trilliums, jack-in-the-pulpits, pink-shell azaleas, pasque flowers, redbud, creeping phlox and Japanese Solomon's Seal, among numerous others. •Aug. 27: **Flavor and Fragrance—Gardening with Herbs**. Laura Eisener, landscape designer and president of HortResources, will show you some popular herb species, new and ancient varieties, as well as many ways of designing an herb garden to add distinction to your landscape.

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard, transfer to #71 or #73 bus. Open daily 8am-7pm (summer) and 8am-5pm (winter). Admission free. Rest in peace among the grave sites and crypts of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes, "Battle Hymn of the Republic" author Julia Ward Howe and Winslow Homer, among other famous Americans. A great place for birdwatchers and botanists.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (973-5200). www.neaq. org. *MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Early Sept.-June: Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. and holidays 9am-6pm. $12.50.* Boston's biggest fish bowl has much more than just goldfish. In the three-story saltwater tank swim turtles, sharks, eels and the occasional mermaid (or mer-male), who entertains crowds as she or he cleans the tank. Be sure to visit with the seals on your way into and out of the aquarium. •*Storm Over Stellwagen*, a new 15-minute, interactive multimedia production, allows you to control the outcome of the film. •***Unforgettable Boston***: This movie highlights many of Boston's favorite landmarks. $4. •Opened April 15: ***Nyanja! Africa's Inland Sea*** opens. This exhibit features East Africa's Lake Victoria, the world's second-largest lake, telling a story of the people, biodiversity, fisheries, history and future of the lake.

Roger Williams Park Zoo
1000 Elmwood Ave., Providence, R.I. (401-785-3510). South on 1-95 from Providence to exit 17 (Elmwood Ave.). $6, $3.50 seniors and children. Open every day except Dec. 25. Nov.-March 9am-4pm. April-Oct. 9am-5pm. Lions and tigers and a 150-pound baby polar bear named Triton. Oh my! More than 600 birds and mammals inhabit the African plains and rain forests. •Opened May 13: **Fleet Dinosaurs! A Journey to Extinction**. See 22 larger-than-life prehistoric creatures hunt their prey, roar a challenge and nurture their young, all in an authentic prehistoric landscape.

Stone Zoo
149 Pond St., Stoneham, Rte. 93 North, Exit 34 (781-438-5100). Mon.-Fri. 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. and holidays 10am-6pm. $6 adults, $4 children. There's still plenty to see here—even though everybody's favorite polar bear has passed on to that great iceberg in the sky. •What in the World Is It? A maze with five mystery animal stations. Find your way in and then try to find your way out.



The Summer Beat festival bids adieu to summer with live performances, games and fireworks Aug. 25 and Sept. 3.

performing arts

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Theater. Or e-mail information to performing@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Theater
JUST OPENED

Berkshire Theatre Festival
Stockbridge, Mass. (413-298-5536). Mon.-Sat., 8:30pm. $18. •Main Stage, Through Sept. 2: **Say Yes!** It's 1940, and the quirky characters are off to the New York World's Fair. What ensues will change their lives forever. •Unicorn Theatre, through Aug. 26: **The Einstein Project**. This play moves back and forth from the 1930s to 1945, from Germany to America to a small farmhouse on the outskirts of Cambridge, England, where German atomic scientists are prisoners of the Allies.

Chic and Sassy: The Higher the Hair, the Closer to God
International Society, Tremont Theatre, 276 Tremont St., Boston (542-4599). Fridays and Saturdays, through Aug. 26. $15. Revisit Chic and Sassy for a look into their lives back in their hometown of Little Rock, Texas. Follow these "girls," Chic Ana and Miss Sassy, as they enter a playwriting contest to win the money and notoriety they need to escape their dreary trailer- park lives. Meet the wacky locals as this pair of naive, fresh-faced drag queens love, laugh and fight like crazy to get out of Dodge.

The Dining Room
Vokes Theatre, Route 20, Wayland (978-266-1165). Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2pm and 8pm. Aug. 24-Sept. 2. $10-$12. Rebellious teenagers, a heartbroken little boy, an Irish housemaid and a wry psychiatrist are among the characters who gather in the *Dining Room*.

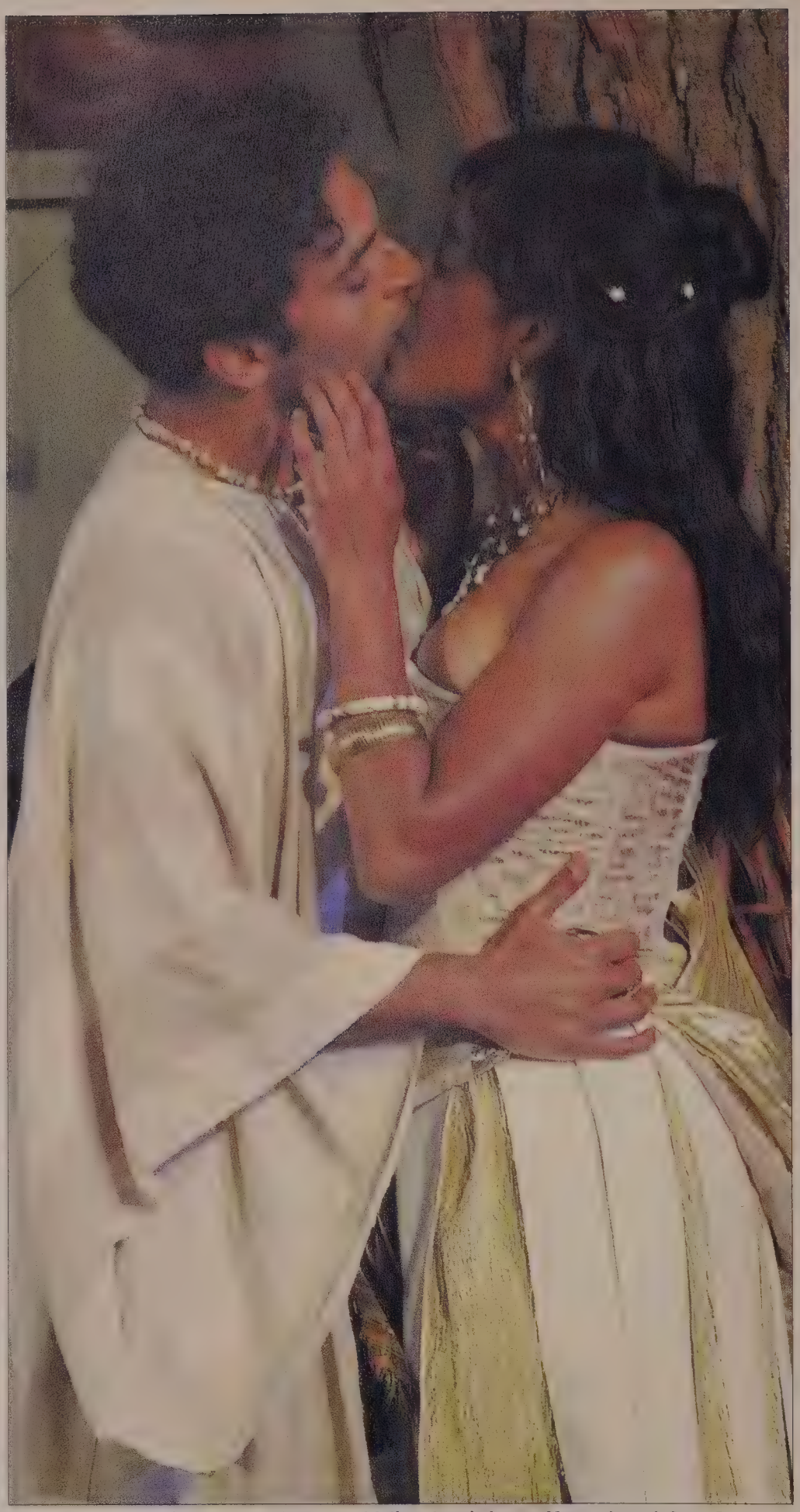
Gypsy
The Publick Theatre, on the Banks of the Charles River, Soldiers Field Road, Boston (782-5425). Wed.-Sun., 8pm. Playing through Sept. 3. $20-$24. This musical fable details the memoirs of Gypsy Rose Lee and takes a nostalgic look at Vaudeville, burlesque, motherhood and the path to stardom. You'll recognize such favorite songs as "Everything's Comin' Up Roses" and "Let Me Entertain You."

The Illusion
Company One, Black Box Theater, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Through Sept. 2. $18. A heartbroken father, Pridament, seeks news of his long-lost son as he travels to the cavernous dwellings of the magician, Alcandre. The journey begins as the sorcerer conjures up three different episodes from the young boy's life. Inexplicably, each scene finds the boy in a somewhat different world: names change, allegiances shift and fairy-tale simplicity evolves into elegant tragedy. Written by Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning playwright Tony Kushner.

Kiss of the Spider Woman
Vernon Street Productions, Actors Workshop, 40 Boylston St., Boston (781-405-2074). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 7pm and 10pm. Aug. 24-Sept. 2. $15. Acclaimed Argentinian writer Manuel Puig weaves an intricate story about a gay window dresser and a political activist who are imprisoned together. Through telling stories of movies of their youth, the two men gradually form a bond that is strained by their conflicting circumstances.

A Little Night Music
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly, Mass. (978-921-6351). Tue., 8pm; Wed., 2pm and 8pm; Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2pm and 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Sept. 5-24. $18-$56. Inspired by Ingmar Bergman's "Smiles of a Summer Night," this witty, touching and often profound show looks at three mismatched couples spending a weekend together in a Swedish country house, juggling their relationships until they fall into proper place. Because it's midsummer, the sun never sets, so the romance lasts all night long. The score features the classic "Send in the Clowns."

promises.com
Gloucester Stage Company, 267 East Main St., Gloucester (978-282-1350). Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Through Sept. 3. $20-$30. Set in the world of research medicine, director Israel Horovitz's world premiere is about love, integrity, promises and compromise.



Shakespeare's classic love story, *Romeo and Juliet*, plays in Lenox, Mass., through Sept. 2.

Seussical
The Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (426-9366). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Aug. 27-Sept. 17. This musical, written by Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens, weaves together many of Dr. Seuss' most famous stories and characters in unexpected ways. When chaos erupts in the "Jungle of Nool," it takes the Cat in the Hat, Horton the elephant, Gertrude McFuzz and others to bring back harmony.

NOW RUNNING

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). Wed.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 7pm and 10pm; Sun., 3pm and 6pm. $39-$49. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to get its point across with tribal rock music, performance art, humorous antics, props (including plastic tubes and Twinkies) and three men painted blue.

Shakespeare & Company
Shakespeare & Company, The Mount, Lenox, Mass. (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. *Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 3:30pm and 8pm; Sun., 3:30pm.* •**The Wharton One-Acts**: Through Sept. 2. Two plays by Edith Wharton kick off the 2000 performance season. •*The View Beyond:* Mrs. Manstey, an elderly woman who has lived alone without sight for 12 years, still enjoys her "view" of a small garden outside her window. Despite its current deterioration, she remembers the garden in full bloom—her reason for being. When the landlady tells her that a wall must replace the vista, Mrs. Manstey glimpses an afterlife that offers her a more remarkable view beyond the garden. •*Oh! Mr. Chekhov!:* Alexi Markovitch pursues love and connubial bliss with Olya, Zoe and Zhenya. The ups and downs of courtship provide laughter and insight in this witty farce. •***Much Ado About Nothing***: Through Sept. 3. Don Pedro and his men discover the wars they return home from are not nearly as dangerous as the verbal barbs of the Messina ladies. The nihilistic Benedick is more than matched by the enigmatic Beatrice, both in varying states of denial of their passion for each other. •***Romeo and Juliet***: Through Sept. 2. The classic love story in the romantic setting of the outdoor amphitheater under the white pines. •***Jack and Jill***: Through Oct. 15. Jane Martin mines the subtle and often treacherous depths of modern wedlock from uncomfortable introduction, into romance, through marriage and beyond. •***Coriolanus***: Through Sept. 3. Shakespeare's final tragedy grapples with modern politics and the ethics of popularity. •***The Winter's Tale***: Through Sept. 3. The baby Perdita, though tossed from her home, matures to an age of love and reason as she redeems her father Leontes' mad jealousy and witnesses a human regeneration still wondrous on today's stage. •**The Eighth Annual Studio Festival of Plays**: Aug. 22-Sept. 3. Get a preview of what the company is considering for next season. •***Shakespeare & Young Company***: Aug. 25 and Aug. 27. Actors ages 16-20 perform multiple roles in dynamic scenes that take a fresh look at Shakespeare's characters and themes.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri. 8pm ; Sat., 6:30pm and 9:30pm; Sun., 3pm and 7:30pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This hilarious whodunit is set in a unisex hair salon. The production holds the record as the longest-running play in the history of Boston theater.

UNIVERSITY/ COMMUNITY THEATER

A Streetcar Named Desire
Loeb Experimental Theater, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (496-3030). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Fri. 7:30pm; Sat. 2:30pm and 7:30pm; Sun. 7:30pm. Through Aug. 26. $9-$12. The fading magic of the Southern aristocracy collides with the gritty reality of the working classes in this ageless tale of passion and enchantment. Blanche, Stanley and Stella struggle against one another—and with themselves—as their fates become inextricably bound in a no-holds-barred battle for survival in which there can be no winner.

INTERACTIVE THEATER

Medieval Manor
246 East Berkeley St., Boston (423-4900). Red Line to Broadway. Mon., Wed., Thu., Fri., 8pm ; Sat., 5pm and 9:30pm; Sun., 6pm. Ongoing. $9.60-$32. Eat, drink and be merry at a Renaissance dining experience. Don't worry about etiquette. You won't find knives and forks, and the soup of the day is in your face—literally. Dress down for this one-of-a-kind experience.

Mystery Cafe
290 Congress St., Boston (781-320-0040). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Dinner and show: Fri., 7:30pm; Sat., 7pm. Ongoing. $36 (all inclusive). Saturdays: The interactive murder mystery, *Murder on the Campaign Trail*, is a comedic mystery parody of Campaign 2000.

Mystery Cruise: Murder on the Ocean Queen
Ft. Independence, Long Wharf, Boston (781-320-0040). Cruise departs Saturdays, 8pm. $49/person, includes dinner and cruise. Gather clues during a Harbor cruise, meet characters and interrogate suspects as you attempt to piece together the answer to the mystery.

COMING SOON

Grease
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2pm and 8pm; Sun., 2pm and 7pm. Sept. 12-17. $27-$62. Grab that poodle skirt, slick back your hair and get ready to rock 'n' roll '50s-style when this hit musical comes to town.

Dead End
Huntington Theatre, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (266-0800). Sept. 8-Oct. 8. At once funny and disturbing, this gritty melodrama draws a powerful portrait of class differences, as luxury apartments encroach upon a broken-down neighborhood, Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Sidney Kingsley's play had such an impact on the American audience when it debuted in 1935 that it sparked the social reform of tenement housing and the judicial system for juvenile delinquents.

The King Stag
American Repertory Theatre, Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (495-2668). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Sept. 14-28. This is an 18th-century fairy tale—complete with costumes, puppets, masks and choreography—for adults and children.

"sumptuous sushi" -Improper Bostonian
"a slice of heaven" -Boston Magazine

SHE watches Fellini, listens to Schoenberg, lives for espresso, dreams in noir, pines for a good bowl of udon.

something in common

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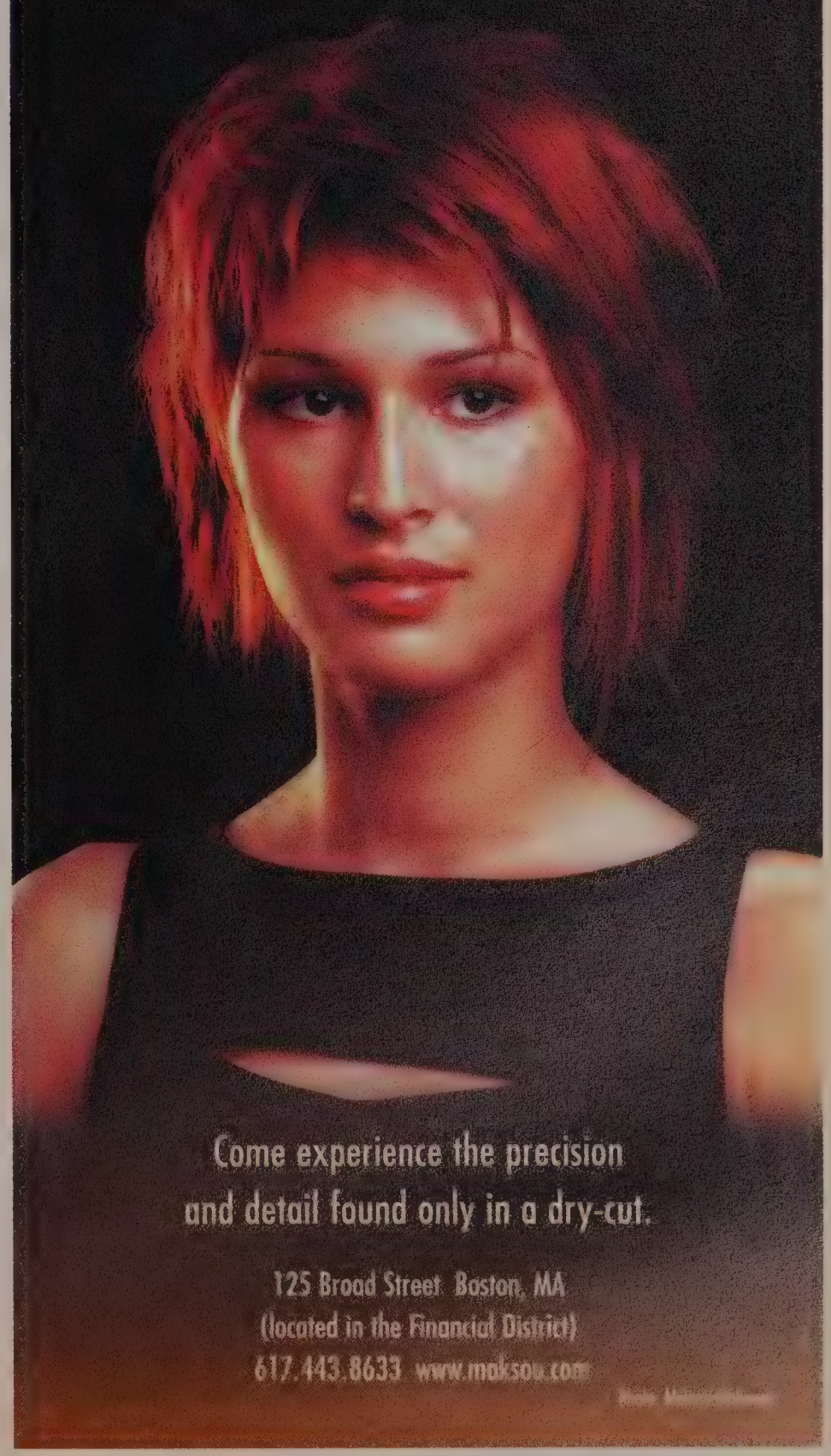

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Dance

SHOWS AND EVENTS

Blast!
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2pm and 8pm; Sun., 2pm and 7pm. Through Aug. 27, 8pm. $25-$65. Originating on athletic fields across the nation, *Blast!* is a novel art form evolved from the showmanship of outdoor pageantry. It's music in motion. Ranging from classical to the blues, it incorporates jazz, rock 'n' roll and techno-pop. Imagine a marching band with hunky musicians, electronic keyboards and perfectly synchronized, ballet-like drills.

JOIN IN

Club Joy
533 Washington Street, Boston (354-5780). Saturday nights. This Latin night spot now offers classes: salsa, merengue, bachata and more.

Dance Friday
Rug Cutter's Studio, 23 Main St., Watertown Square (924-7276). Fridays, 8:30pm-12am. $7 adults, $4 teens, children free. Join in the dancing to all types of music—even dance barefoot—in this family-friendly, smoke- and alcohol-free environment.

Folk Tuesdays
Copley Square, Boston (491-2102). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tuesdays. Through Aug. 29. Free. Come celebrate the 30th year of the international folk dance series at Copley Square. Bring a partner, learn new steps and dance the night away.

Four on the Floor
Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. •Saturdays, 9pm-1:30am. $12, $10 after 11:30pm. Join in a variety of dance moves—here you'll find jazzy mambos, swing dancing, cheeky cha chas and sassy salsa numbers.

Just Swing It
Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Inman Square, Cambridge (266-2258). Tuesdays, 10pm-1:30am. $6. Ages 19 and older. Featuring the Black Tie Affair Orchestra, this will be a great night of swing dancing. Dancers are encouraged to bring their own music, and swing dance jams will take place.

Swingin' Under the Stars
South Market Street, Faneuil Hall, Boston (523-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 6pm-10pm. Through Aug. 24. Faneuil Hall Marketplace turns into an outdoor dance hall, pulsing with the beats of swing, Latin, country and disco bands.

Swing Lessons
MIT campus, 105 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (864-4120). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. Tuesdays, August 1, 8, 15 only. $9 lesson/$24 workshop. Learn the moves from a professional dance instructor. No experience or partner necessary.

Tango Rialto
Rialto, Charles Hotel, One Bennett Street, Cambridge (661-5050). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thursdays, 10:30pm-1:30am. $10. One of Boston's most popular restaurants, Rialto in Harvard Square opens its doors to tango dancers of all levels and backgrounds for nights of light hors d'oeuvres and lots of dancing. Free tango lessons are available every Thursday at the Wellbridge Fitness Center (adjacent to the Charles Hotel) prior to "Tango Rialto"—so get those dancing shoes ready.

TICKETS

Bostix
(723-5181) www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of Faneuil Hall); Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth); and Harvard Square (in the Holyoke Center arcade at 1350 Mass. Ave).* Same-day tickets half-price.

Next Ticketing
(423-NEXT). www.boston.com/next.

Ticketmaster
(931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(247-1300 or 800-442-1854). A good place to get tickets if a show is sold out at the box office.

America's favorite funny guy, Bob Saget, is at the Comedy Connection Aug. 25-26.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail info. to comedy@improper.com. *Include address, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a description of the performances or comedians. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (248-9700). www.comedyconnectionboston. com. *MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed., 8pm; Thu., 8:30pm; Fri. and Sat., 8pm, 10:15pm; Sun., 7pm. $8-$10 (weekend prices vary).* The oldest comedy club in Boston draws big-name, national comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •Aug. 23, 8pm, $10: Don Gavin. •Aug. 24, 8:30pm, $12: Frank Santos, "The R-Rated Hypnotist." •Aug. 25, 8:15pm and 10:30pm, $20: **Bob Saget** of *Full House.* •Aug. 26, 8:15pm and 10:30pm, $22: **Bob Saget**, host of *America's Funniest Home Videos.* •Aug. 27, 9:15pm, $15: "Black Comedy Explosion," hosted by Jonathon Gates. •Aug. 28, 8pm, $10: Showcase, hosted by Kevin Knox. •Aug. 29, 8pm, $10: Robbie Printz. •Aug. 30, 8pm, $10: Don Gavin. •Aug. 31, 8:30pm, $12: Frank Santos, "The R-Rated Hypnotist." •Sept. 1, 8pm: **Kevin Pollack** of *The Usual Suspects.* •Sept. 2, 8pm, **Kevin Pollack** of *End of Days.* •Sept. 3, 7pm: **Kevin Pollack** of *0.* •Sept. 3, 9:15pm, $15: "Black Comedy Explosion," hosted by Jonathan Gates. •Sept. 4, 8pm, $10: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz. •Sept. 5, 8pm, $10: Mike Donovan and Harrison Stebbins.

The Comedy Studio at the Hong Kong
1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu.-Sun. 8pm. $5-$7. Sketch comedy troupes and local comedians perform. •Aug. 24: Thursday Night Fights starring Tim McIntire with guests Val Kappa, Tarun Sheddy and Steve Holda. •Aug. 25: Brendon Small and Eugene host PS Absurdo and guest Bob Hagearty and Brian Melvin. •Aug. 26: Rick Jenkins, Carla Carpenteiri, Tom Morello and John Lynch. •Aug. 27: Tony V and Eugene with "Bloody Mayhem." •Aug. 31: Thursday Night Fights starring Tim McIntire with guests Maryanne Belemonte and Jesse Gersten. •Sept. 1: PS Absurdo featuring Brendon Small, Larry Murphy and Eugene. •Sept. 2: Mike Dorval, Joe Dinkin, Dan Mintz and David Walsh. •Sept. 3: Laura Kollig, Eric Reuben and Teresea Craggan.

Dick Doherty's Comedy Vault
Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun., 9pm. $10. Features local stand-up comedians. Thursdays: Stand-up comedy. Fridays and Saturdays: Dick Doherty's Comedy Pro Tour. Sundays: Open-mike night.

Nick's Comedy Stop
100 Warrenton St., Boston (482-0930). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Fri. 8:30pm; Sat., 7:45pm and 10pm; Sun., 8pm. $10-$15. The talent here is not quite as big-name as the Comedy Connection, but the crowds are just as enthusiastic, and you're guaranteed to leave with a smile on your face. Wednesdays: Open mike at 8:30pm. •Aug. 24, 8:30pm: Paul Gilligan, Charlie Kwaks and Pete Costello. •Aug. 25, 8:45pm: Paul Gilligan, Charlie Kwaks and Pete Costello. •Aug. 26, 8:45pm: Paul Gilligan, Charlie Kwaks and Pete Costello.

The Cat in the Hat makes a Boston appearance in the Colonial Theatre's *Seussical* Aug. 27-Sept. 17.

IMPROVISATIONAL COMEDY & MAGIC

Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston (263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Shows: Thu. 8pm; Fri. and Sat. 8pm and 10pm. Main Stage: $10-$15.* Now playing on the main stage is the critically acclaimed improvisational and sketch comedy show—voted one of Boston's best improvisational comedy troupes. •Wednesdays, 8pm: The Improv Asylum Training Center graduate show, Gary's Pocket, followed by the Improv Asylum Touring Company. $10.

ImprovBoston at Back Alley Theater
1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1253). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe makes things up as they go along. Fri.-Sat. 8pm ($12) and 10:30pm ($12). Sun. 2pm ($7). •Fridays and Saturdays: 90 minutes of wholesome fun with scenes, games, original music and lots of audience participation• Thursdays, 8pm: Sitcom. A fully improvised show based on suggestions from the studio audience and an onstage computer. 10pm: Open Improv Jam. All visitors of any skill level are invited to participate in a no-pressure, fun-filled atmosphere where everybody gets to play. •Fridays, 8pm: ImprovBoston. 10:30pm: Theatre Sports Boston vs. Sitcom. Best-of-five match. •Saturdays, 8pm and 10:30pm: ImprovBoston.

Magicians & Spirits at the Green Street Grill
280 Green St., Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Shows every Tuesday at 9pm. $10 cabaret show ($5 with dinner). Patrons enjoy close-up magic as two or three magicians perform tricks among the crowd. At 10pm, the cabaret show begins upstairs with local and national magicians reading minds, making birds appear out of nowhere and levitating objects onstage.

COMEDY SHOWS

Battle of the Sexes
290 Congress St., Boston (426-1999). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Saturdays 10:30pm. $15-$18. A participatory comedy.

Comedy at the Isle
The Emerald Isle Bar and Lounge, 1501 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester (288-3481). MBTA: Red Line to Fields Corner. Thursdays 8-10pm. Free. Stand-up open mike night hosted by Keith Mahoney.

Joey & Maria's Comedy Wedding
Tremont House Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Fri. and Sat., 7:30pm. Ongoing. $39-$45. Join the fun at this absolutely zany Italian wedding. Big hair and blue tuxedos optional.

Murder on the Campaign Trail
Mystery Cafe Dinner Theater, 290 Congress St., Boston (781) 793-9700. Fridays at 7:30pm; Saturdays at 7pm. Ongoing. $36 (Includes dinner and show). See this mystery parody of Campaign 2000.

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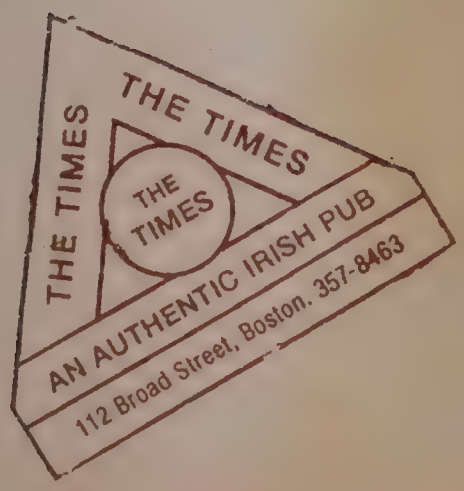
You should hear yourselves around last call.



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9/7 Karaoke

9/8 DJ Jen

9/9 Good to Go

9/12 Blues Night

Every Tuesday is Blues Night.
Wednesday DJ Jen. Thursday Karaoke

art

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information for gallery and museum listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail to arts@improper.com. *Include opening and closing dates, nearest T stop, price of admission, if any, and telephone numbers. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a partial list of the largest art museums, art institutes and galleries in the Boston area. The • symbol denotes a temporary exhibition.

Museums

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. The Sackler houses ancient Islamic and Asian art, an array of Neolithic bronze Buddhas, Greek pottery, and Hellenistic and Roman sculpture. •*Wall Drawing #830* features four isometric figures with dynamic colors. Ongoing.

Boston Public Library
900 Boylston St., Boston (536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. •Carolyn Muskat's *Vessels Reconsidered,* prints and mixed media, shows in the South End Gallery through Sept. 7. •*Ex Libris* highlights the work of some of the finest printers and artists in the world today. Bookplate art reflects a wide range of styles and techniques, and the exhibit also focuses on book design, illustration and printing. Through Aug. 31.

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park
51 Sandy Pond Rd., Lincoln (781-259-8355). •*The DeCordova Annual Exhibition* features the works of 10 New England artists and their accomplishments in various media. Through Sept. 4. •Upcoming exhibits include *Photography in Boston 1955-1985* and Elsa Dorfman's *No Hair Day*, also photography. Sept. 16-Jan. 21, 2001.

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. It's better to visit the Fogg the same day you go to the Sackler, as admission includes all of Harvard's museums. Highlights include Van Gogh's self-portrait and Bermini's clay figures. •A show of Japanese photographer Daido Moriyama's work includes nearly 200 black-and-white photographs of post-war Japan runs through Oct. 29. •*Mondrian: The Transatlantic Paintings* is the result of a collaboration between the Fogg Art Museum and the Straus Center for Conservation. The exhibition brings together works from major American and European collections, including the Tate Modern, Museum of Modern Art and the Kimbell Art Museum. •*A Decade of Collecting: Recent Acquisitions Exhibition* runs though Sept. 24. •*Before and After the End of Time: Architecture and the Year 1000* runs through Dec. 31. This exhibit looks at the beginning of Romanesque architecture in Western Europe after 1000 A.D.

Gibson House Museum
137 Beacon St., Boston (267-6338). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Guided tours every Sat. and Sun. at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm. $5. With 75 percent of its original items in place, the museum allows visitors to understand 19th-century domestic life and design. Ongoing.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (266-5152). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Wed.-Sun., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-9pm. $6, $4 students and seniors. •In the group exhibition *From a Distance: Approaching Landscape*, artists investigate new approaches of questioning landscapes and topography using sculpture, video and works on paper. Through Oct. 8. •Upcoming exhibits: *Customized*, inspired by Hot Rod culture. Oct. 24-Dec. 31. •Free guided walkthroughs take place each Thursday at 6:30pm.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (566-1401). www.boston.com/gardner. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun., 11am-5pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, under 18 free. Guided on Fridays, 2:30pm.* This 15th-century Venetian palace is home to more than 2,500 objects and twice as many flowers. Boston's most famous museum is named for the house's owner, Isabella Stewart Gardner (1840-1924), an infamously incorrigible individualist. Only after her death was her house completely opened to the public. Now everyone can see the works of Titian, Botticelli and Matisse, as well as furniture and architectural details from European churches and palaces.

The vintage poster *Midsummer Magic* displays at the International Poster Gallery through Labor Day.

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5pm, weekends 12-5pm. $3, $1 for students, seniors and children. Where else would you be but at MIT when you contemplate Morton G. Bradley Jr.'s *Math in 3-D: Geometric Sculptures?* The museum's other permanent exhibits include *Flashes of Inspiration: The Work of Harold Edgerton*, and *Gestural Engineering* and *Cultural Engineering: The Sculptures of Arthur Ganson*, the mechanical engineer/choreographer. •On the last Sunday of the month, explore oceanography, astronomy, the science of buildings and other mysteries of science with interactive activities for all ages from 2-4pm, no reservations required. Call 452-2827 for details.

Museum of Bad Art
580 High St., Dedham (325-8224). Mon.-Fri., 6:30-10pm, Sat., and Sun., 1-10pm. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. The one and only museum that boasts "art too bad to be ignored." A favorite is *Lady Chardonnay*, a piece illuminating a poodle-head dancer.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Mon.-Tue., 10am-4:45pm; Wed., 10am-9:45pm, Thu.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun., 10am-5:45pm. West Wing only Thu.-Fri., 5-9:45pm. $12, students and seniors $10.* The MFA has earned its rep as the second-best-run art museum in the nation (after the Metropolitan Museum of Art) with its top-notch exhibitions, educational programs and galleries of African, Oceanic and American art. •*Vietnamese Ceramics*, the glazed ceramic tradition of Vietnam represents one of the most important remaining cultural legacies of Vietnam. Ongoing. •*Van Gogh: Face to Face* displays through Sept. 24. •*Van Gogh to Mondrian: Dutch Works on Paper*, brings together some 100 works on paper by more than 40 Dutch artists. Through Nov. 5. •WBZ-TV and the MFA are sponsoring "Send a Van Gogh to Someone You Love," an online postcard contest. Visit *www.wbz.com* and customize your favorite Van Gogh portrait. You qualify for entry into a weekly drawing for a free family four-pack of passes to the Van Gogh exhibit. Contest ends Sept. 10. •*Charlotte Salomon: Life? or Theatre?* is the title Salomon gave to a series of more than 780 small gouaches that she selected from a total of 1,325, painted while in exile in the South of France between 1940 and 1942. Through Oct. 29. •*Christian Boltanski: Reflection* is an installation by French artist Christian Boltanski. Through Nov. 12.

The Peabody House Museum
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (496-1027). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50 adults; $5 students and seniors; $4 children 3-13. No fee Sat. mornings until 12pm. •*Heads and Tales: Adornments from Africa*, includes sculptures and artifacts from the Peabody Museum collections, which highlight the messages communicated by head adornments. Through Oct. 1, 2001. •An upcoming exhibition is *Diverse Traditions: Early Navajo Rugs and Pueblo Embroidery,* selections from the museum's collection of Navajo rugs, 1880-1920, including Germantown, trading post and pictorial styles. Oct. 5-Nov. 26.

Galleries
FINE ART

Allston Skirt Gallery
119 Braintree St., Allston (254-7027). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm and by appointment. The gallery will be open by appointment only through August.

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (536-4465). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •A group show of gallery artists, *Summer Selections*, runs through Sept. 13.

Andrea Marquit Fine Arts
38 Newbury St., Boston (859-0190). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Open by appointment only. Shows contemporary masters and emerging artists and is a consulting group for corporate and private collectors.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (247-0610). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm; Sun., 1-5pm. Representing an eclectic mix of styles, from abstract to super-realist. •A group show of gallery artists runs in August. •*New Paintings* by Margaret Gerding shows works Sept. 1-Sept. 29 that focus on New England landscapes and panoramas.

Artists Foundation Gallery
516 East Second St. #49, Boston (464-3559). www.artistsfoundation.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. Sat., 12-5pm.* •In the Main gallery: a video installation by Bebe. Matt Templeton's paintings will be displayed in *Prime Land.* through Aug. 26.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., 5th Floor, Boston (262-4490). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue -Fri., 10am-5:30pm. Paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures by emerging and established artists. •The gallery will be closed in August. •The upcoming exhibition is Maryellen Latas' *Lead and Gold.* Sept. 9-Oct.18.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm. •*Folk Art from the Gallery's Collection* shows through Sept. 9.

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (482-2477). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Fri., 10:30am-5:30pm. •Closed for the month of August.

Beth Urdang Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 11am-5pm or call for an appointment. The gallery regularly displays paintings, sculpture and works on paper. •Upcoming show: *Modernist Still Lifes 1915-1945* features a selection of paintings and works on paper. Sept. 9-Oct.7.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (236-2255). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 11am-5:30pm. •Upcoming show: Sept. 14 *Textural Glass* opens, showing new works by Takeshi and Youko Sano. Through mid-October.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (859-7222). Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-5pm (closed on Sundays in August.) •*Portals* by Narda Boughton shows with *New Landscapes* by five artists: Laura Anderson, Dana Ruth Harvey, Diane Newton, Cindia Sanford-Garte and Nathan Wilson. Through Sept. 4. •Joseph Piccillo will be exhibiting drawings on paper and canvas and etchings beginning Sept. 5.

Childs Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (266-1108). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 9am-6pm; Mon. and Sat., 10am-5pm. American and European paintings, prints, drawings and sculpture, from 1500 through 1950. •*Sailing, Sea and Shore* displays in the Main Gallery. Also, *El Salon de Mexico*, prints and watercolors by Ted Davis, shows through Aug. 31. •Upcoming shows: the Main Gallery shows paintings in *New England Women Artists*. Also showing will be Frank W. Benson's *The Sporting Art Tradition* and the woodcuts of Durrer in the Alcove. Sept. 11-Nov. 11.

Clark Gallery
145 Lincoln St., Lincoln (781-259-8303). Tue.-Sat., 10am-5pm. The gallery represents 30 artists, primarily regional. Media regularly include glass, ceramics, oil, acrylic on canvas, wood and studio furniture. •Closed in August. •*Sculpture for the Outdoors IV,* the gallery's fourth annual group show featuring art for the land, shows Sept. 5-Oct. 26. It shows with Rick Harlow's *Reconstructing Landscape,* abstracted landscapes based on scenes from the rain forest, which runs Sept. 5-28.

Clifford Smith Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 3rd Floor, Boston (695-0255). www.cliffordsmithgallery.com. *Weds.-Sat., 11am-6pm.* •Upcoming show: Jenny Dubnau's *New Paintings* Sept. 6-30.

Copley Society of Boston
158 Newbury St., Boston (536-5049). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm; Sun., 1-5pm. America's oldest nonprofit art association is a platform for young and established artists. •*New Members Show.* through Aug. 26. •*Suburbs,* paintings of suburban landscapes by Jason Brockert, runs Aug. 30-Sept.23.

Creiger-Dane Gallery
36 Newbury St., Boston (536-8088). www.creigerdane.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Through Sept. 4, the gallery will be open by appointment only. •Upcoming exhibits include *New Work*, mixed-media works by Karen Moss that focus on the relationship of man to animal and watercolors of constellations by Jane Goldman. Sept. 6-30.

Crosstown Arts, Inc.
One North Square, Boston (720-0100). www.crosstown.com. *Tue.-Fri,. 9am-5pm, Sat., 9am-1pm or by appointment.* •*Metal*, painted metal assembly and sculpture by Stephen deFilippis, shows through Aug. 25. •*Marks and Surfaces*, a mixed-media show by Josette Ghiseline, opens Sept. 9.

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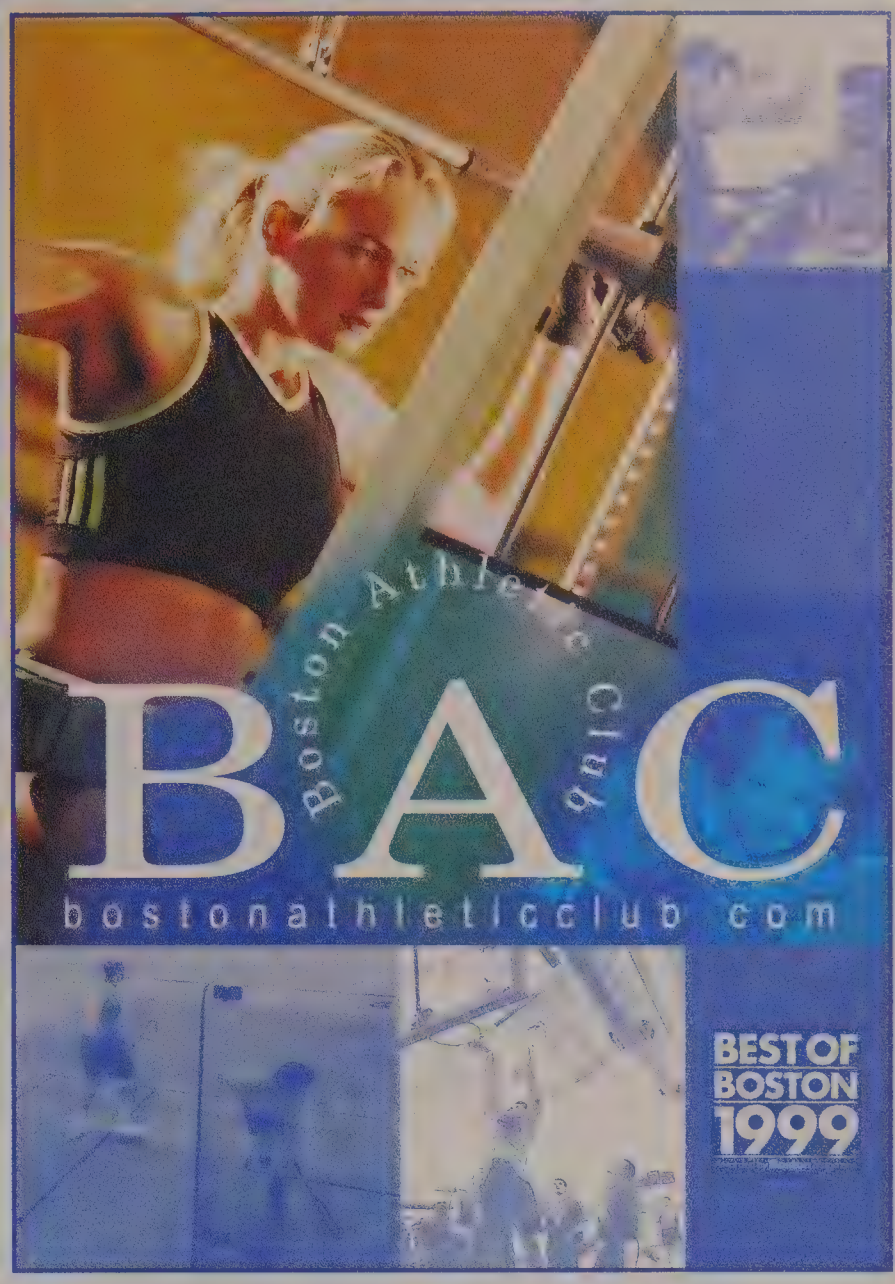

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Crystal Fine Art
93 Summer St., Suite 4L, Boston (728-9818). www.crystalfineart.com. *MBTA: Red and Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Tue.-Fri., 11am-6pm.* A multicultural gallery that regularly displays the work of national, international and local artists. •A series of landscape paintings and poetry by Li Xubai runs through Aug. 31. *Dreaming* reflects Xubai's homeland of China and utilizes ancient Chinese art styles.

Dietrich von Buhler Gallery
16 Ashford St., Boston (783-2421). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Sat., 2-4pm and by appointment. www.drawbridge.com/dvbgallery. *Closed until Sept. 14.* •The upcoming exhibition is Bruce Bemis' *Shades Drawn*, a film installation that shows Sept. 14-28.

Dyansen Gallery
132 A Newbury St., Boston (262-4800). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. You'll always find paintings, bronzes and fine-art prints. Collections include Rembrandt, Picasso, Chagall, Miro, Dali, Cassatt, Snowden and more. •Closed Sundays in August. •*Group Show* through September shows Alexandra Nechita and Andre Renoux as well as selected sculptures.

Eclipse Gallery
167 Newbury St., Boston (247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9am-5pm. •Ramon S.L. Alcolea's *All About Wood* shows through Sept. 2. •*La Pittura*, new landscape works by Joanne Cataldo, shows Sept. 6-30.

Elias Fine Arts
120 Braintree St., Brighton (783-1888). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. •In *Real Fun*, 16 national and international artists present photographs made with toy cameras. Curated by Monique Johannet and Karolyn Hatton. Through Sept. 16.

Equator Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (266-4110). www.equatorgallery.com. *Mon.-Fri., 11am-6pm; Sat. and Sun., 12-6pm.* Displaying contemporary artwork from around the world that contains Pre-Columbian motifs. The gallery is also chock full of woodcarvings—from teensy boxes to giant spheres—all made by several generations of Equadorian artists, namely Luis Potosi and Luis Boanerges Almedia R. Ongoing.

Gallery Bershad
99 Dover St., Somerville (629-9400 ex.3). www.bershad.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Davis.* •Open by appointment only through August. •*Coast to Coast: New Paintings*, by Sarah Frances Egan and Hamid Zavareei, displays through Aug. 31. • An upcoming show, *2000 or Less*, opens Sept. 15.

Gallery M3
300 Summer St., Boston (695-0742). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Fri., 10am-2pm. •Melora Kuhn's *Paintings* address issues of sexuality and female identity through the female figure. It shows through Aug. 21. •Tim Murdoch's work shows Sept. 4-29.

Gallery Naga
67 Newbury St., Boston (267-9060). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. The gallery will be open by appointment only through Sept. 4. •David Palmer's *Orange Crush* and Louis Risoli's *New Paintings* runs Sept. 5-30.

Gallery Seventy-nine
79 Newbury St., Boston (262-5918). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-6pm; Sat. 12-5pm. •James Rayen's *Landscape Markings* shows through Oct. 11.

Genovese Sullivan Gallery
47 Thayer St., Boston (426-9738). Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. •The gallery will be closed in August. •The gallery reopens after Labor Day with works by Christine Fritch and Burt Antonio.

Gibbs Gallery
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm. •*Stories Out of School: New Portraits* is an opportunity for art educators to share their interpretation of portraiture in the 21st century in all types of media. Through Aug. 25. •Upcoming Show: *Symbionts*, featuring mixed-media ceramic sculptural work of Paul Briggs and Sarah Glass, Sept. 9-Oct. 13.

Gurari Collections
91 Charles St., Boston (367-9800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington or Red Line to Charles MGH. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. This gallery has an impressive collection of 16th- to early-20th-century etchings, engravings and drawings. Also showing is the work of Wendy Artin, an artist living in Rome.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St. Boston (536-6339). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 10am-6pm; Sat., 10am-5pm. •An assortment of 18th- and 19th-century historic and decorative antique engravings and lithographs.

Holyoke Center Exhibition Space
Holyoke Center Arcade, 1350 Mass. Ave., Cambridge. •*Paintings* by Geroge Oommen shows through Sept. 7. Oommen uses vibrant colors in his large-scale abstract works to recall the landscapes of his birthplace, Kerala, India.

Form Meets Function

The Museum of Useful Things pays tribute to the human spirit of discovery.

If you're an avid art fan who frequently visits galleries during the summer months, you're used to finding yourself clean out of luck every August when the city's art scene virtually shuts down. Now is the time to visit Cambridge's Museum of Useful Things, which opened in June. Demonstrating the beauty of function in everyday objects, the collection encourages visitors to take another look at the gadgets and run-of-the-mill tools used in everyday life. It is run by husband and wife team Susan and Tim Corcoran, who opened Black Ink seven years ago on Charles Street. Black Ink began as a rubber stamp and paper store and the couple gradually added idiosyncratic products. The MUT is an extension of the Black Ink theme, but this second space focuses more on utilitarian, beautiful and useful materials.

Look through examples from the Permanent Collection of 19th- and 20th-century items, which span a century's worth of tools' evolution—plus how inventors refined a tool, how the era, consumers' demands and the availability of materials are all reflected in the changes. Don't forget to stop by the Museum Shop, where you will find an eclectic collection of currently manufactured products—many of which are created especially for the museum. You'll find four-tiered rubberbands that hold papers together from all angles, Japanese sink nets, industrial canvas hampers, stainless-steel tea kettles and more. Be sure to check out their Web site at *www.themut.com*.

The Museum of Useful Things, 370 Broadway St., Cambridge (576-3322). Mon.-Sat., 11am-7pm; Sun., 12-6pm.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (262-0550). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. yezerski@ziplink.net. •The upcoming exhibition is *Sam Cady: New Paintings*, realist paintings from the mid-coast of Maine. Sept. 8-Oct. 3.

Hurst Gallery
53 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (491-6888). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sat., 12-6pm. Thu, 12-7pm and by appointment. Visitors are greeted with a wide variety of art and artifacts from six continents. •*Hot Spots, Art and Artifacts From Earth's Most Fragile Ecoregions* shows through Sept. 2 with pieces from West Africa, Indonesia, Mesoamerica, Papua New Guinea, Polynesia and the Andes.

Ilya Rozden Gallery
223 Harrison Ave., Boston (338-4695). MBTA: New England Medical Center. Open by appointment only. •*One Last Time*, self portraiture from three separate photographers' points of view, shows through Sept. 15.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (375-0076). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. Midsummer Magic celebrates the beauty of original vintage posters. It also features newly acquired work by Leonetto Cappiello, A.M. Cassandre and Jean de Paleologue. Through Sept. 4.

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (437-1518). www.fine-arts-unlimited.com/g4.htm. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm. •*Interiors* shows through Sept. 7.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 Saint Stephen St., Boston (247-1719). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue.-Sat., 1-5pm. •The gallery will be closed in August. •An upcoming show is *Open Studio 2000*, featuring Kaji Aso, Kate Finnegan, Jeanne Gugino, Mary Ellen Gardner, John Miller, Marg Layman, Hiroyuki Ohtani and Katie Sloss, opens Sept. 23 and runs through October. Watercolors, Sumi paintings, oils, acrylics, drawings and ceramics will be shown.

Lyman-Eyer Gallery Inc.
1347 Washington St., West Newton (964-3470). Tue.-Fri., 4-7:30pm; Sat., 11am-7:30pm; Sun., 11am-5pm. •Brett Wallace, Hilda Green Demsky, Mike Andreae and Amanda Annis are featured in *New Works*, where oil, acrylic and bronze pieces show through Aug. 27. •The upcoming exhibition is *Solitude*, paintings and drawings by Robert Adamcik, Susan Avishai and Brett Osborn, with an installation by Mary Beth Maisel. Sept. 9-Oct. 8.

MPG
285 Newbury St., Boston (437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •*Land Sea and Beyond II* by Jennifer Clement, Philip Koch and Thomas A. D. Watson. Through Sept. 25.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* Founded in 1964. •Closed in August. •*In the Spirit of Landscape V* continues Sept. 5-16.

Out of the Blue Gallery
168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun. 12-7pm. This gallery, owned and operated by several artists, always has a variety of interesting artwork and art-related events going on. •Poetry readings take place every Saturday, and the gallery hosts a rotating guest list of jazz musicians every Wednesday. •*Haitian Art Show* by 10 Haitian artists shows through Sept. 30. •Aug. 23 and 30: Jazz Jam with Luther Gray and others.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (236-4497). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •Closed through Sept. 4. •The upcoming exhibition is *Damon Leher: New Paintings*. Sept. 8-Oct. 3.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (267-9473). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun. 1pm-5pm. •*Memories Now: Fine Choices*, the gallery's annual summer show features new and favorite works by gallery artists. Through Aug. 31. •Upcoming show is *Beauty and Youth: New Work* with stoneware pottery by Tatsuzo Shimaoka. Sept. 9-Oct 4.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (266-3321). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. www.richardsonclarke.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tues.-Sat. 10am-5pm.* •American and European 19th- and 20th-century paintings, drawings and sculpture. Ongoing. •Truman Seymour's *Moroccan Watercolors* displays this month.

Space 12 Gallery
12 Union Park St., Boston (423-9760). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed., 1-9pm; Thu.-Sat., 1-5pm. •Closed in August.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (450-0321). www.stgeorgegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-5pm.* Artist William St. George displays his lush and colorful paintings. •*Equestrian* runs through Sept. 15.

Touch of France
173 Newbury St., Boston (247-6966). MBTA: Green line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-7pm; Sun., 10am-6pm. This gallery imports contemporary French artists' works, including paintings from famous painters M. Tigrane, R. Kefflin, C. Ferrer and striking dried-flower arrangements made near Saint Tropez.

Via Gallery
83 Newbury St., 2nd Floor (424-6200). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-4pm. •Closed in August. •Victor Sandblom and Raina Piligian exhibit pieces in *Recent Works in Oil*, Sept. 8-Oct. 7.

Zeitgeist Gallery
312 Broadway St., Cambridge (876-2182). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu.-Sun., 2pm-7pm. The gallery displays a variety of local artists' work. •A Playground Jazz Series takes place on Friday nights. •Monday is literary night with the Stone Soup Poets performing. •Every Wednesday is a figure-drawing session. •Sunday is a vegan potluck supper, often accompanied by live music and poetry.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2051). Tues.-Sat., 11am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm; closed Mondays. The Multiple explores works of art produced more than one time. Ongoing. •An upcoming exhibit is a multimedia installation, *Cold War Modern: The Domesticated Avant-Garde*, explores the avant-garde in art, music and design in the U.S. between 1945 and the early '60s and the role it played in shaping popular consumer culture. Opening Sept. 15.

Gallery One
537 Comm. Ave., Boston (437-1868). Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm. Affiliated with the New England School of Photography. •Tom McCarthy's *Two Wheel Deal* shows through Sept. 29.

Mills Gallery
539 Tremont St., Boston (426-8835). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Sun., 1-4pm; Thurs.-Sat., 7-10pm. •Nick Tobier's *Everyday Places* runs through Aug. 25.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., fourth floor, Boston (267-7997). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 10am-5:30pm. •The gallery presents its third show of photography by the artist Annie Leibovitz in *Annie Leibovitz : Women*. This series of large-scale images focuses on female nudes, from a collaboration between Leibovitz and the Mark Morris Dance Group. Sept. 8-Oct. 7.

CRAFTS

Alianza Gallery
154 Newbury St., Boston (262-2385). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. A variety of arts and crafts are on display. •*Tea and Fantasy*, a group show, runs through Aug. 31.

Cambridge Artists Cooperative
59A Church St., Cambridge (868-4434). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun. 1-6pm. Twelve artists own and operate this gallery that features 2D design and jewelry.

Clayground
91 Hampshire St., Cambridge (661-7376). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri., 12-6pm; Sat., 11am-5pm. Porcelain and stone objects galore. Classes available.

Fresh Pond Clay Works
368 Huron Ave., Cambridge (492-1907). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard to Bus 72. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm. A wide range of firing techniques.

Gateway Gallery
62 Harvard St., Brookline (734-1577). MBTA: C Green Line to Brookline Village. Mon.-Sat., 11am-6pm. This nonprofit gallery features all sorts of arts and crafts.

Infinity Gallery
24 Union Park St., Boston (423-5555). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat., 11am-7pm; Sun., 11am-6pm. This small gallery features Wayne Fuerst's work.

Signature Gallery
Dock Square, Boston (227-4885). Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Thu., 10am-7pm; Fri. and Sat., 10am-9pm; Sun., 12-6pm. Pottery, metal and glass.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (266-1810). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. •*SAC 2000 Artist Awards* shows through Aug. 31.

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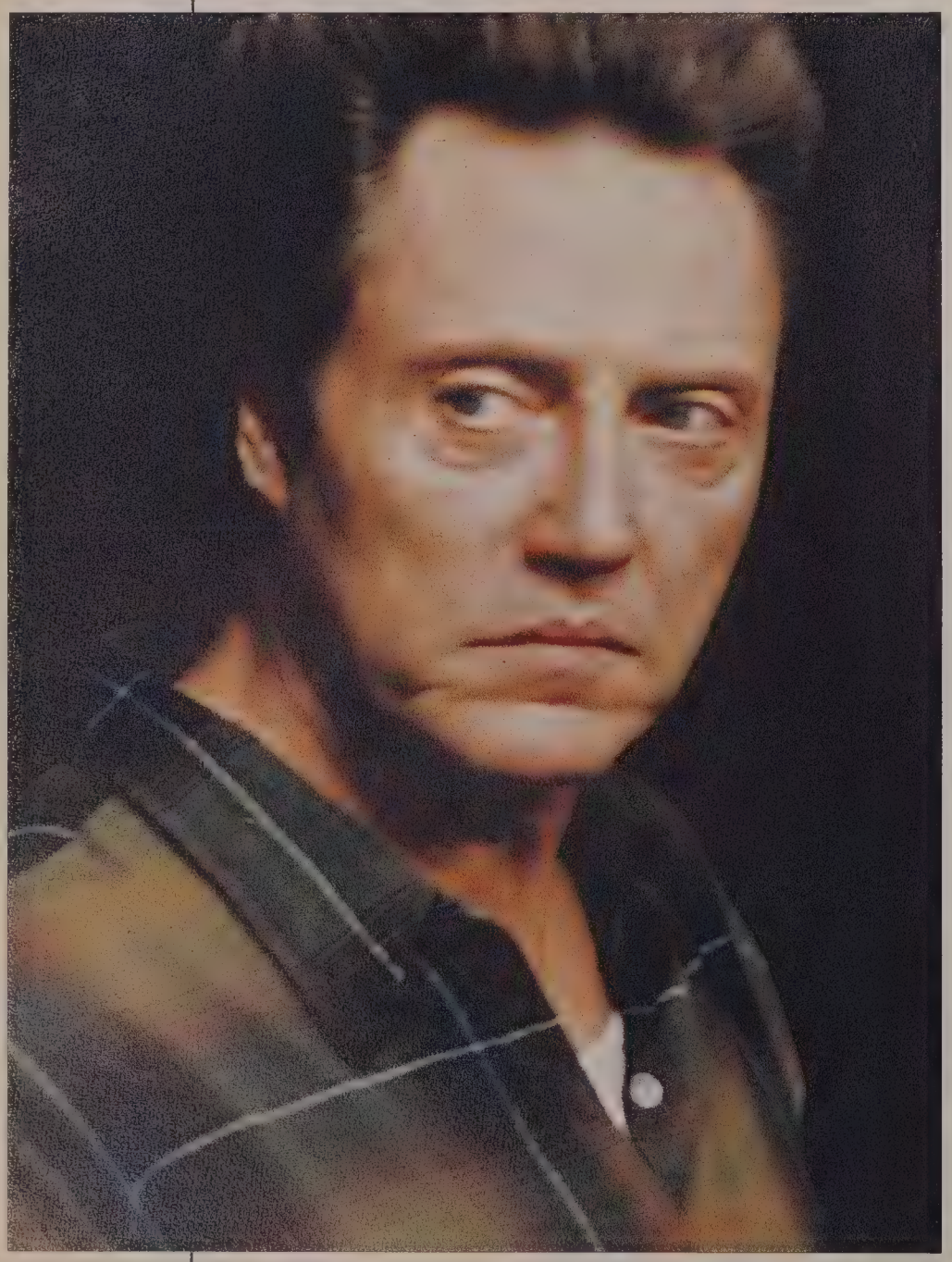
WALKEN WOUNDED

Vague writing hijacks *The Opportunists*' potential

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Amid the garish blare of summertime products like *Coyote Ugly* and *The Replacements*, *The Opportunists* could have been a refreshing change of pace—a down-to-earth story with more emphasis on writing and realism than on slick surface and empty, instant gratification. The characters in Irish-born writer-director Myles Connell' s Queens-set story do indeed travel in the same world as ours, generally speaking, but they and that world remain frustratingly vague. For another change, Christopher Walken gets to play an Everyman of sorts (reformed safecracker Vic Kelly), and he's surrounded by an able cast that includes Cyndi Lauper and Donal Logue (*The Tao of Steve*). But even their solid efforts can't conquer the film's underwhelming feeling.



Christopher Walken stars as reformed safecracker and failed mechanic Vic Kelly.

The story begins with the arrival of Irish Michael (Peter McDonald, of 1998's *I Went Down*) to Vic's working-class neighborhood. Michael says he's a cousin from Ireland, so Vic reluctantly lets him stay in a rundown camper outside the auto-repair garage he runs. Like most everything in Vic's cash-strapped life, the garage is hanging on by a thread. He owes back rent to his workplace's angry landlord (Olek Krupa) and to the nursing home where his Aunt Dee (Anne Pitoniak) lives, and the big money he's expecting from a car restoration literally goes up in smoke when he tries to start up the Buick Riviera he thought he'd fixed.

But, like a lot of things in *The Opportunists*, Vic's cash troubles are never really explained. Is he a bad mechanic? Is he a bad businessman? Did a Pep Boys move in down the street and steal his customers? Vic doesn't even seem to have any employees, so the garage is a sort of void, just a generic business for Vic to teeter on the verge on losing, rather than something that might have enriched his character. His woes might have cut deeper if we were shown that Vic is actually a good mechanic, but that some outer force was thwarting his success.

The same sort of things can be said for his relationship with girlfriend Sally, a bar owner who is given a wonderfully rueful air by Cyndi Lauper despite the fact that her character is barely written. Vic is too proud to take her loan offer, but you don't feel the damper this rejection puts on their relationship as much as you might have had we seen the pair happy together. As written, you don't really understand why they're together in the first place, even though Walken and Lauper do show some bittersweet chemistry.

With Vic getting no money for the Riviera and turning down Sally's loan, he's forced to entertain the overtures of two local security guards (Logue, Jose Zuniga) who have been trying to lure Vic out of retirement to help rob the armored-van company where they work. When newcomer Michael befriends the security guards and offers to help, Vic decides he has no other options. Despite a memorable performance by Tom Noonan as the fussy "tech man," from this point on *The Opportunists* just turns into a conventional story about a group of misfits trying to pull a heist.

What's clearly missing throughout the movie are details. For instance, although Vic seems loyal to his grown daughter (Vera Farmiga) and to his elderly aunt, there's never a quirky detail that makes us feel that loyalty, or understand its root. And although the action apparently takes place all in the same neighborhood, you never get a real sense of it (something that might have been solved by a few wide shots of Vic's turf).

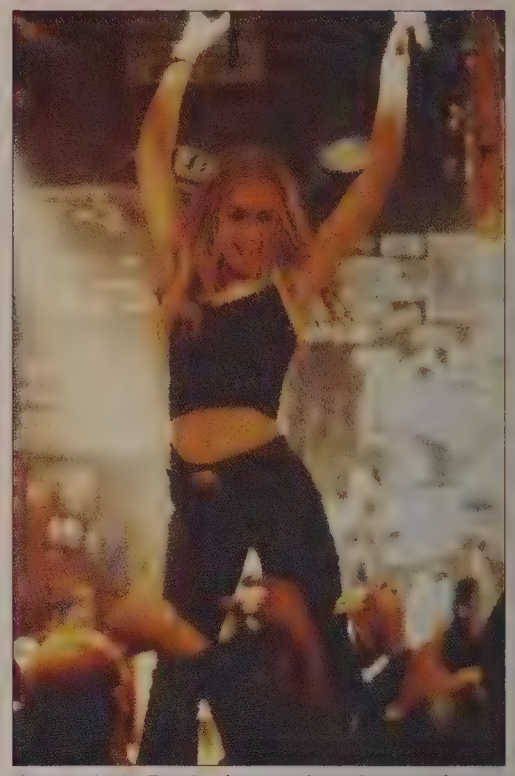
Opportunists executive producer Jonathan Demme has shown that he can make great slice-of-life movies—*Fat City* and *Citizens Band*, for example—but this is not one of them. iB

The Opportunists ★★

Written and directed by Myles Connell. With Christopher Walken, Peter McDonald, Cyndi Lauper and Donal Logue. Rated R. First Look Pictures.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN



***Coyote Ugly*: The boring version of *Showgirls*.**

But I'm a Cheerleader ★★★½
Like a cross between the latter-day comedies of John Waters (*Hairspray*) and the barbed satires of Alexander Payne (*Citizen Ruth, Election*), Jamie Babbit's directorial debut is a brightly colored spoof of gay-rehab camps for teens. Packed off to one such place by the parents who fear she's a lesbian, title character Megan (Natasha Lyonne) gets pushed into cooking and cleaning classes, while the male "campers" get to learn how to fix cars and not throw a ball like a girl. This stuff is sometimes hilarious, but this would be half the movie it is if it didn't ultimately come to be an emotionally endearing tale about the way society treats nonconformists, rather than just a spoof of an easy target, the far right.

Cecil B. DeMented ★★★
Writer-director John Waters takes a fun swipe at Hollywood, cults and moviegoers' tastes in his outlaw fairy tale about the title character (Stephen Dorff). He's part Andy Warhol and part Charles Manson, and he and his gang of eager devotees (who are also his cast and crew) kidnap a bitchy Hollywood star (Melanie Griffith) and force her to be in Cecil's no-budget movie, which she does increasingly willingly. The comedy doesn't cut all that deeply, but it's the liveliest, most physical Waters movie since *Cry-Baby*, and it's easy to be swept up in its rants against movies that are as safely packaged as baked goods.

Chuck & Buck ★★★½
Few movies are as disarmingly compassionate and emotionally rich as this low-budget story filmed on digital video (and transferred to film) by director Miguel Arteta. It's hard not to connect with both title characters in this story of childlike 27-year-old Buck (screenwriter Mike White), who, following the death of his mother, tries to reconnect with Chuck (Chris Weitz), the boyhood friend he hasn't seen in 15 years. While Buck fixates on his former best buddy, and even wants to resume the homosexual experimentation the pair shared as 12-year-olds, Chuck wants little to do with his uncouth friend. The story makes you sympathize with both, and even manages to work its way around to a well-earned optimistic ending. One of the year's best.

Coyote Ugly ★½
Marketed as eye candy for young men, the story in this updated *Flashdance* is actually more like chick-flick material, with a young New Jersey woman (Piper Perabo) trying to make it as a songwriter in New York City. The leer factor comes in when she gets down on her luck and takes a job as a dancing barmaid at the bar from which the movie gets its title. But it's all so corny and goofy, without being quite bad enough to be entertaining, that it's really just the boring version of *Showgirls*.

The Five Senses ★★★
More serious than most American dramas, more humorous than most European dramas, this is good Canadian drama in the best sense of the term. In fact, writer-director Jeremy Podeswa's movie definitely shares a sensibility with those of fellow Canadians Atom Egoyan (*The Sweet Hereafter*) and Don McKellar (*Last Night*). This ensemble story featuring Mary-Louise Parker, Daniel MacIvor and Molly Parker not

COYOTE: FRANK MASI

only has a heavy dose of trauma (one woman's child disappears, one man is told he's going deaf), but true to its title, it also examines how we use what we experience through our senses to try to relate to other people. In a way, this is a much better (and much shorter) version of the overwrought *Magnolia*.

Hollow Man ★½
What happens to a person's behavior when they no longer have to look themselves in the mirror? That's the question at the core of Paul Verhoeven's drama, but it's obscured by the story's tired genre-film plotting. After Kevin Bacon's cocky scientist makes himself invisible and the "reversion" to visibility fails, this becomes the first sci-fi sex fiend movie, as he actually rapes a neighbor. When his fellow researchers can't crack the reversion process and he turns against them, the movie segues into a poor man's *Alien* (crew versus supernatural monster), padding itself with monster-won't-die contrivances. Are we supposed to care about any of this?

Madadayo ★★½
Akira Kurosawa's last movie gets a brief run at the Museum of Fine Arts (Aug. 25-27, 30-31), seven years after it was made and two after the great Japanese director died. If, after 1985's majestic Ran, Kurosawa's subsequent movies that got American distribution (like Dreams and Rhapsody in August) seemed marginal, this won't change that notion. The 1940s story of a retired teacher (Tatsuo Matsumura) who's treated like a favorite uncle by his former students is mildly involving, but it's also slow and long, with sequences often rambling on long after they've served their purpose.

Scary Movie ★★½
Director Keenen Ivory Wayans' fast-paced spoof of *Scream* and *I Know What You Did Last Summer* (and the sequels and imitators they spawned) has more dead spots than the Boston Garden's old parquet floor ever did. But although it screeches to a halt whenever Cheri Oteri comes onscreen to lampoon Courteney Cox, it also has more laughs than any parody of this type has had since the *Naked Gun* movies. Newcomer Anna Faris is actually quite good in the Neve Campbell/Jennifer Love Hewitt heroine role, while Wayans may have discovered a secret for making his often obnoxious little brothers Shawn and Marlon tolerable in movies: let them cowrite the script but make sure they're only part of an emsemble cast like this.

The Tao of Steve ★★★
Donal Logue, who's been a familiar face in supporting roles ever since his inspired Jimmy the Cab Driver spots on MTV, finally gets to star in a movie. As Dex, a plumped-up big man on campus who's still living like a student 10 years after graduation, Logue is a charm. He brings a lot of credibility to a character we're supposed to believe is charismatic enough to seduce women and philosophical enough to bundle his rules of courtship into something called the Tao of Steve—Steve being Steve McQueen, Dex's perfect American male—and yet still be endearing. While the story might have been a familiar yarn about a womanizer who gets his comeuppance, thanks to Logue and Greer Goodman (as the woman who makes him rethink his axioms of love), it becomes less formulaic.

This Is Spinal Tap ★★★★
After actor-turned-director Rob Reiner co-wrote and co-starred in this inspired 1983 satire of rock documentaries with Christopher Guest, Michael McKean and Harry Shearer, who'd've guessed his directing career would result in a steadily declining, increasingly cardboard body of work? Tap still holds up greatly, and its hilarious profile of "the world's loudest band" returns to theaters Sept. 1, mostly to hype its upcoming DVD and VHS re-release. Great news, under any circumstances.

What Lies Beneath ★★½
Director Robert Zemeckis' Harrison Ford-Michelle Pfeiffer thriller has a certain predictability and an underdeveloped character for him, but it's more involving and mature than most Hollywood chillers. Pfeiffer gets to play the more detailed character, a 40-ish woman who starts seeing and hearing things in her and her professor husband's Vermont house. Soon, she comes to realize that the odd phenomena might have something to do with a missing young woman and that that disappearance might have something to do with her husband. Nothing special, but mildly entertaining while it lasts.

X-Men ★★
I'll grant that this film adaptation of the comic book that turned the Cold War into an allegory about mutants being persecuted by normal people has more going on in it than such similar comics movies as *The Shadow* or *The Phantom*. But this is still generally people in goofy uniforms with gimmicky special powers, and it's still mostly silliness played with earnestness, the sort of stuff the underrated *Mystery Men* mocked so well. There are so many of these freaky characters that I didn't give a lick what happened to any of them.

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Cinemas
214 Harvard Ave. (277-2140). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
Trapelo Rd. (484-1706). Red Line to Harvard, 73 bus.

BOSTON

Boston Film • Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (536-1540). Green Line to Hynes.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (536-5400). Green Line to Copley.

Cheri
50 Dalton St. (536-2870). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Fenway Theatre General Cinema
201 Brookline Ave. (424-6266). MBTA: Green Line to Fenway or Kenmore.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum Of Science, Omni Theater
Science Park (723-2500). Green Line to Science Park.

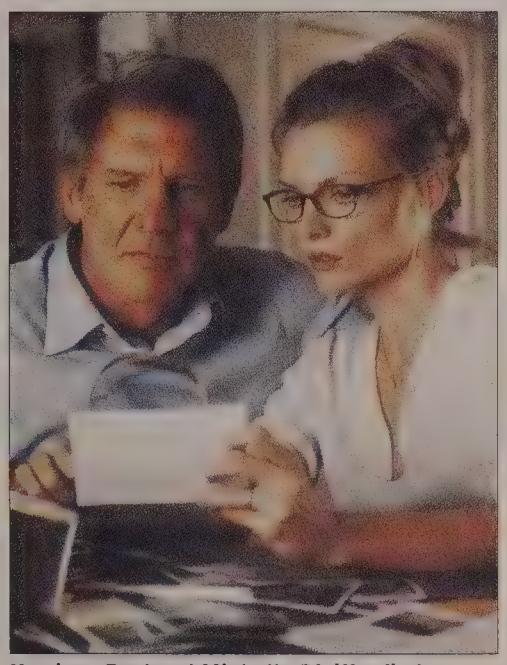
Nickelodeon
606 Comm. Ave. (424-1500). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford St.

Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle.

Coolidge Corner
290 Harvard St. (734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.



Harrison Ford and Michelle Pfeiffer find that dead lovers aren't much fun in Robert Zemeckis' *What Lies Beneath.*

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theater
40 Brattle St. (876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (495-4700). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Sq. (494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony Theater
10 Church St. (864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

SOMERVILLE

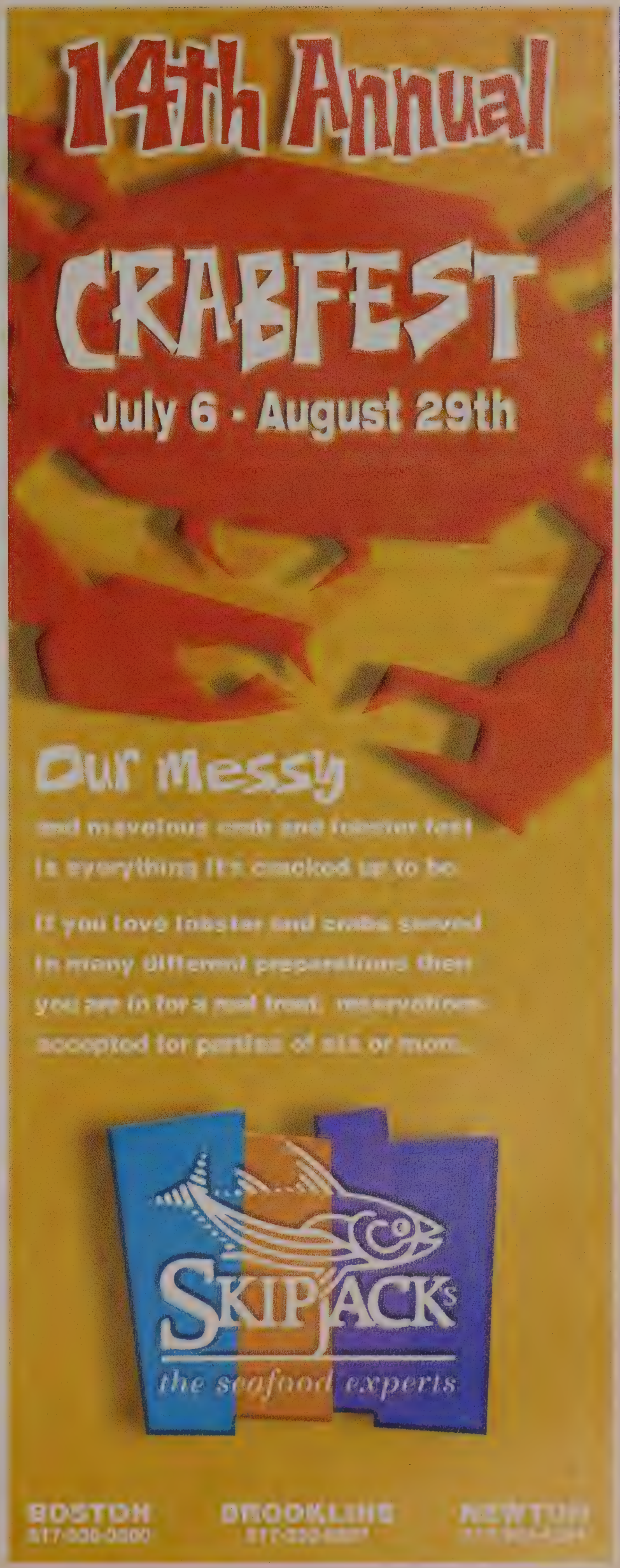
Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Sq.

Somerville Theater
55 Davis Sq. (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston. (277-2500). B Green Line to Chestnut Hill.

West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (964-6060).



FRANCOIS DUHAMEL

Kevin Bacon suffers a traumatic flashback to the *Footloose* tractor-jousting scene during the filming of *Hollow Man.*

Alternatives & Revivals

Advice to Contributors
Submit film listings by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Although film listings are correct at the time of publication, they are subject to change. Doublecheck showtimes by calling the theater or 333-FILM.

Brattle Theater

Most shows are $7, including double features.

Hitchcock in Living Color
•Aug. 23, 3:30pm and 7:50pm **Dial M for Murder** *1954.* This Hitchcock classic involves a man plotting to kill his wealthy wife, only things don't go exactly as he plans.
•Aug. 23, 5:40pm and 10pm **To Catch a Thief** *1955.* Starring Cary Grant and Grace Kelly, this is Hitchcock's notorious tale of a cat burglar in the French Riviera—seen in technicolor.
•Aug. 24 3:30pm and 7:50pm **Rope** *1948.* A professor must guess the fate of two students' missing friend as a dinner guest in their home.
•Aug. 24, 5:15pm and 9:30pm **Marnie** *1964.* With Tippi Hedren and Sean Connery, *Marnie* is the often misunderstood tale of a kleptomaniac (Hedren) and the admirer (Connery) who tries to control her.

Premiere Engagements
•Aug. 25-Sept. 7, 4:45pm; 7:15pm; 9:45pm (Sat. and Sun. mat 2:15pm) **Aimee & Jaguar** *1999.* In 1943, as Berlin is in the midst of burning down, Aimee is busy being the model Nazi housewife and Jaguar the model Jew who is trying to hide her identity. The two break social, political and religious barriers by falling in love and beginning a relationship that is beautiful, risky and inspiring.

Coolidge Corner Theater

Midnight Movies
•Aug. 25 and 26 **Cannibal! the Musical** *1996.* Directed by Trey Parker, this comedy/horror story follows the trials of the sole survivor of an ill-fated mining expedition whose taste for gold has been replaced by that for human flesh. Best of all, this film is also a musical.

Celebrating the Wide Screen
•Aug. 23, 7:30pm **My Fair Lady** *1964.* This famous story stars Rex Harrison as Professor Henry Higgins, who wages a bet with one of his colleagues that he can't make a lady out of Cockney flower girl Eliza Doolittle, played by Audrey Hepburn. A natural for elocution lessons, Hepburn steals the show, and proves the non-believers that she is, indeed, a lady in the greatest sense of the word.

Now Showing
•**Tao of Steve** *2000.* Aging pot-smoking slacker Dex has quite a way with women: male bravado in all its glory plus a few quotes from known philosophers to lure in his romantic conquests. His M.O. changes when he meets Syd, a confident and beautiful set designer whom he cannot win over with his usual supply of romantic tactics.

Special Events
•Aug. 29, 7:30pm **The Sleepwalker** *2000.* Daniel Cayaga's film about a professional tennis player and his roommate. When the roommate reveals a fateful secret about his sleepwalking habits, the tennis pro must decide if he is telling the truth, and if so, what to do about it.

Openings
•Aug. 25 **Aimee & Jaguar** *1999.* In 1943, as Berlin is in the midst of burning down, Aimee is busy being the model Nazi housewife and Jaguar the model Jew who is trying to hide her identity. The two break social, political and religious barriers by falling in love and beginning a relationship that is beautiful, risky and inspiring.

Museum of Fine Arts

Most film screenings are $6.

Special Engagements
•Aug. 24, 8pm and Aug. 30, 8:15pm **Train Birds** *1997.* This romantic comedy depicts the story of one train and time-table-obsessed man. During his appearance at the First International Competition of Railway Timetable experts, he is so focused on winning the contest that he barely notices his surroundings until the final showdown.
•Aug. 25, 7:30pm; Aug. 26, 1:45pm; Aug. 27, 3:30pm; Aug. 30, 5:45pm and Aug. 31, 7:30pm **Madadayo** *1993.* In his thirtieth and final film, famed director Akira Kurosawa depicts the life of teacher and novelist Hyakken Uchida, who was much loved for his dignity, humor, nonconformity and most of all, for his wartime decision to abandon teaching. Instead, he decided to dedicate his life to writing.

Encore Presentation
•Aug. 25, 5:45pm; Aug. 26, 4:15pm and Aug. 27, 12noon **South: Ernest Shackleton and the Endurance Expedition** *1919.* In the pioneer days of Antarctic exploration, Sir Ernest Shackleton led a crew across the continent via the South Pole. Not a life was lost and, remarkably, skip photographer Frank Hurley captured much of the journey on film.

Boston Film Artists Encores
•Aug. 26, 12noon **Iditarod ... A Far Distant Place** *1999.* Three mushers battle arctic temperatures, exhaustion and the treacherous terrainin order to find purpose and self-knowledge—through in the Iditarod dog sled race.
•Aug. 24, 6pm and Aug. 27, 1:45pm **The Jew in the Lotus** *1998.* Writer Rodger Kamenetz is asked to chronicle a meeting in India between the Dalai Lama and a group of rabbis. After meeting with the Buddhist leader, Kamenetz begins a personal journey into his own Jewish roots.

Art on Film
•Aug. 31, 5:30pm **Christian Boltanski** and **Christian Boltanski: Portrait** *1994. Boltanski* centers on a fascinating interview with the enigmatic artist. *Boltanski: Portrait* follows him through several German cities as he speaks of his efforts to save the little memories and small events that comprise life.

Milestone Films
•Sept. 1, 6:30pm **90 Degrees South: With Scott to the Antarctic** *1933.* Director Herbert G. Pontig explores Captain R.F. Scott's fateful expedition to the South Pole in 1911.
•Sept. 1, 8pm and Sept. 3, 4pm **Chac: The Rain God** *1974.* When a village is overcome by drought, a mysterious mountain dweller's advice is sought in order to fix the problem. Practicing mystical and ancient ways, he brings the village of danger's way and revives ancient protocal long ago forgotten by the villagers. Based on director Rolando Klein's two-year experience with the Tzeltal Indians of Chiapas.
•Sept. 2, 11am **With Byrd at the South Pole** *1930.* A documentary of Captain Byrd's journey to the Antarctic, this film culminates with his Polar flight. Directed by Floyd Gibbons.
•Sept. 2, 12:45pm **I Am Cuba** *1964.* Director Mikhail Kalatozov uses brilliant camerawork to convey the stories of four individuals living in Cuba during the revolution that overthrew dictator Batista and installed Fidel Castro.
•Sept. 2, 3:15pm **Why Has Bodhi-Dharma Left for the East?** *1989.* The skeletal plot of this film concerns an old master, a young disciple and an orphaned boy—all in a remote Korean monastary in the mountains. Their story is filled with all of the intricacies that can only be raised by such a relationship, director Yong-Kyun Bae's film has developed somewhat of a cult following.
•Sept. 3, 12noon **Woman in the Dunes** *1963.* Hiroshi Teshigahara weaves an amazing tale of an entomologist searching for insects in the forest who gets trapped in a large hole where, surprisingly enough, she discovers a woman who has been living there.
•Sept. 3, 12:45pm **Antonio Gaudi** *1930.* This film, named for the primary character, is the portrayal of the life of notorious Spanish-born artist Antonio Gaudi.

Museum of Science

Omni Shows
•Throughout September. The Omni features **Dolphins**, an underwater exploration about these incredible sea creatures. See them in the wild and witness their forms of communication.
•Through Oct. 5. **The Magic of Flight**. Place your trays in an upright position and prepare to take to the air. This film explores the magic of flight, from its earliest beginnings.
•Through Oct. 5. Basketball superstar Michael Jordan soars to new heights in **Michael Jordan to the Max**, the first big-screen film that showcases the personal and athletic attributes of this incredible basketball legend.

education

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Education. Or e-mail information to education@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

CLASSES/LECTURES

Friday, Aug. 25

Enlightening Light Lecture
Cityscape, 227 Roxbury St., Roxbury (442-4200). Aug. 25-27, $230. Instructor **Will Barratt**, a Boston-area videographer, likes to show off, so beginners are especially welcome at his three-day workshop on light design for filmmakers. Participants learn lighting techniques for an array of filming locales, from intricately manufactured sets to chaotic and challenging on-location interviews and natural environments. Barratt was the senior electronic cinematographer for Time Warner Communications for five years and plans to reveal each and every industry secret for the lucky 13 students enrolled in his Cityscape course.

Go the Distance Conference
Worcester Conference Center, Worcester (1-800-888-7595). Aug. 25-26. $69. On the heels of a Milwaukee conference, the Promise Keepers will stop in Worcester for a two-day evangelical extravaganza. For 10 years, this group of Christian missionaries has fought to unite men, selling redemption like vacuum cleaners at widely-attended conferences and on paid television programs. Men not satisfied with the pressure to change from the women in their life can receive a new set of lifestyle recommendations governing their relationships with their families, friends and God. The Promise Keepers make no idle promises, according to the official Web site, which boasts a link titled "Meet Jesus."

Saturday, Aug. 26

Homebuyers Workshop
Rabb Lecture Hall, Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston St., Boston (888-302-6222). 9:30am-1:30pm. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Advertised as the "first step to buying a home," this workshop covers the gamut of real estate inquiries.

Horse of Course
Boston Common Ranger Station, Boston (635-7383). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Aug. 26, 12-12:45pm. Free. Meet the Boston park rangers' equine partners. They'll show you how they're groomed and tacked for patrol.

Sandwich Marsh Excursion
New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, Boston (973-5206). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. 10am. $6 plus admission. Educators from the New England Aquarium will wave goodbye to the gate-keeping seals and head to Sandwich to lead an expedition into the coastal habitat. The event offers a hands-on learning experience with the most visual accompaniments imaginable.

Monday, Aug. 28

Basic Internet Skills
The Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). Aug. 28-30. $229. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Are you tired of feeling inferior to your elementary school child as he/she casually navigates the World Wide Web, locating each and every Ricky Martin fan club site as you struggle to find even the Yahoo homepage? (Hint: try Yahoo.com.) Participants will take baby steps into the Internet world, learning how to access search engines and utilize free online services to conduct basic research. The course progresses with lessons on Netscape software, and how to protect your computer from viruses.

Friday, Sept. 1

Art, Architecture Tour
Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston Street, Boston (536-5400). 6pm. Free. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. A "palace for the people," that's what architect Charles Folley McKim called his creation back in 1895 when he designed the new Boston Public Library in the Copley plaza. Forty seven years earlier, in 1848, the original building opened as the first free, municipal library of its size in the United States. Tours of both library buildings at Copley help give fresh images of the library's rich history. The buildings still stand in all their academic splendor, home to over 6 million books and the destination of nearly 2.2 million visitors each year. No pre-registration necessary.

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books& poetry

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READINGS & SIGNINGS

Wednesday, Aug. 23

Borders Bookshop Author Series
85 Worcester Rd., Framingham (508-875-2321). 7:30pm. **Richard Rosenthal**, author of *K-9 Cops: Stories from America's K-9 Police Units*, appears to discuss his latest, *Rookie Cop: Deep Undercover in the Jewish Defense League*. Rosenthal is a working chief of police in a tiny fishing town on the Cape who paid his dues as a detective with the New York City Police Department. This police novel is about a rookie cop with the NYPD in 1970 who is assigned the daunting task of infiltrating an urban terrorist league.

Grub Street Writers' Reading Classes
265 Willow Ave., Somerville, 02144 (623-8100). •*Starting Aug. 23* **Conquering the Russians**. This course aims to reveal how accessible and surprisingly modern great Russian literature is. Read the short stories of Chekhov, short novels by Gogol and Turgenev and one of Tolstoy's biggies. •*Starting Aug. 29* **Summer of Love**. Set a course for adventure and your mind on a new romance. You'll discuss writers such as Margaret Dumas, Ha Jin, Philip Roth and Robert Olin Butler. •*Starting Aug. 29* **American Short Fiction: Heavyweights vs. New Contenders**. Step into the ring and find out if today's fiction competes with writers such as Hemingway, O'Connor and Poe. Are the best stories the classics, or is the best yet to come?

Preview

La Fête du Sisk 5

A spoken-word art fest

Ten bands, seven spoken-word artists, La Cirque du Manifestations, visual artists and filmmakers all gather to celebrate local visual art, films, zines, music and performance art for the fifth installment of this continuing series. Bands Godboy, Slept and Hip Tanaka and spoken-word artists Rich Mackin, Ian Thal, Sarah Tyler, Mike Fournier, Nola Kelley, Clint Catalyst and Miriam Liebowitz will perform. *Aug. 25 and 26, 6pm-12am. The First Parish Church, 3 Church St., Cambridge (442-6555). 6pm-12am.*

Thursday, Aug. 24

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (499-2000). 7pm. **Doug Frelke** reads from his latest work, *Whiskey Nipple*. This collection of stories takes us to unfamiliar and possibly disturbing microcosms and a mix of characters, from a 15-year-old punk rocker to a southern car dealer. Frelke's prose has an old-fashioned Southern feel to it yet his stories remain undoubtedly universal. These accounts expose the raw heart of human desire and the different ways people justify their wants.

Wednesday, Aug. 30

Borders Author Event
Atrium Mall, 300 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill (630-1935). 7:30pm. Newton authors and highly experienced teachers **Naomi Singer** and **Matthew Miller** will introduce their new comprehensive book series covering elementary education. Join in a lively and educational discussion.

Thursday, Aug. 31

Borders Books and Music Author Event
10-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6pm. **Alicia Bay Laurel** discusses the new edition of *Living on the Earth*. Laurel self-published the first edition of this book in 1969 at the age of 21, and it became a bestseller as well as a counterculture lifestyle handbook. This is the 30th anniversary edition, updated with new information on sustainable technology, environmental preservation and new recipes, but the original text and drawings remain intact.

New Words Live Reading Series
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-5310). 6pm. Free. **Grace Chang** reads from her book *Disposable Domestics*. It is a vital account of immigrant women and their experiences being exploited performing undesirable jobs such as janitors and nannies.

Tuesday, Sept. 5

Ibbetson Street Press Poetry Reading
McIntyre and Moore Books, 215 Elm St., Somerville (628-2313). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. 7pm. Free. A collection of Ibbetson Street Press Poets will be reading their own poetry. Selected readers include **Linda H. Conte**, **Doug Holder**, **Marc Wildershien**, **Dorian Brooks**, **Deb Priestly**, **Richard Wilhelm**, **Harris Gardner** and **Laine Senechal**.

ONGOING

Agape, Tuesdays
The Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (266-6710). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8pm-10pm. Every Tuesday, this somewhat sophisticated poetry group gathers to share versions of their latest work. •Aug. 29: Claudia Gary Annis. •Sept. 5: Frank Blessington.

Beacon Hill Literary Walking Tour
The Charles Street Inn, 94 Charles St., Boston (387-4693). MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. 2pm, $10 adults, $7.50 seniors and students. Take a walk around Boston's notable neighborhood and see the home-sweet-homes of more than a dozen famous authors who once called Beacon Hill their home. Residences of Louisa May Alcott, William Dean Howells, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Sylvia Plath, Jean Stratton and Robert Lowell will be visited.

Cantab Lounge, Wednesdays
738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8-10pm. $3. Wednesday nights at the Cantab always pack in more than 30 poets in just two hours for open mike and a slam.

Club Passim, Tuesdays
47 Palmer St., Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. $5. All open-mike fanatics must experience this open-mike night—a training ground for up-and-coming performers, poets and storytellers. Sign up Tuesdays, 7:30pm.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Night, Sundays
1667 Mass Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. $4 cover. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes every Sunday to the featured poet of the week.

O'Brien's Pub, Mondays
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. A mix of rock and spoken word is performed one Monday a month at 9pm—the performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry Night, Saturdays
Out of the Blue Gallery, 168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. Donations appreciated. Every Saturday is poetry night, and an incredible spoken-word and music event also takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month. It features music by Rob Gonzalez and his band and spoken word with Nola Kelley. Open mike occasionally follows performances.

Rhythm and Muse Open Mike, Thursdays
403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-6622). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook. A headlining poet is followed by an open-mike session on the first Thursday of every month, 7:30pm.

Stone Soup Poetry Night, Mondays
Zeitgeist Gallery, 312 Broadway St, Cambridge (227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7:30pm. $3. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets have served up steamy confessions and soothing inspirations with their weekly readings. Keep the good vibes going every Monday at these readings with a wealth of featured writers each week.

Bestsellers

HARDCOVER FICTION
1. **Harry Potter & the Goblet of Fire** by J.K. Rowling
2. **Harry Potter & the Prisoner of Azkaban** by J.K. Rowling
3. **Winter Solstice** by Rosamunde Pilcher
4. **Harry Potter & the Chamber of Secrets** by J.K. Rowling
5. **Oh, the Places You'll Go!** by Dr. Seuss
6. **Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's Stone** by J.K. Rowling
7. **An Invisible Sign of My Own** by Aimee Bender
8. **Omerta** by Mario Puzo
9. **Not a Day Goes By** by Lynne E. Harris
10. **Purple Cane Road** by James Lee Burke

HARDCOVER NON-FICTION
1. **Black Mass** by Dick Lehr
2. **Who Moved My Cheese?** by Spencer Johnson
3. **In the Heart of the Sea** by Nathaniel Philbrick
4. **Tuesdays with Morrie** by Mitch Albom
5. **The Art of Happiness** by Dalai Lama
6. **Kitchen Confidential** by Anthony Bourdain
7. **Boston Freedom Trail** by Jack Frost
8. **It's Not About the Bike** by Lance Armstrong
9. **Driving Mr. Albert** by Michael Paterniti
10. **All Souls** by Michael McDonald

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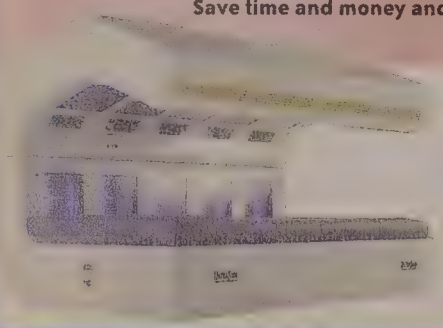
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REVISITING COPLAND AT 100

The centennial of the great composer's birth is a chance to re-evaluate his musical legacy

BY KEITH POWERS

From left to right: Leonard Bernstein, Seiji Ozawa and Aaron Copland

Few American composers have the shimmering reputation that Aaron Copland has. Copland's popular appeal was cemented with his well-known film and dance scores, and his critical reputation was buttressed by almost 50 years of adventurous composing. The country celebrates the 100th anniversary of his birth this year with commemorative concerts across the nation.

Boston orchestras are joining the party. This spring the Pops gave lavish presentations of Copland's music—orchestral suites like *Fanfare for the Common Man* and *El Salon Mexico*, and generous selections from his songbook.

At Tanglewood this summer the BSO presents a broad spectrum of his music, from the unknown (the early ballet score *Grogh*) to famous (*Fanfare* and *Quiet City*). Longy gives a major concert this October, and other local presenters are programming tributes as well.

Born to shopkeepers in New York in November 1900, Copland went to France in 1921 and was the first American to study with the famed Nadia Boulanger. Boulanger's training was traditional, but she also instilled in her students an affinity for new forms of music. This was a radical idea at the time (long before "crossover"), and Copland found it to his liking.

Early compositions from the '20s, like the *First Symphony*, *Music for the Theatre* and the *Piano Concerto*, were jazz-tinged. The '30s and '40s found Copland incorporating folk idioms into his work. During this period he composed in the tuneful and accessible "American idiom" for which he is most popular. *Billy the Kid* (1938), *Rodeo* (1942), *Lincoln Portrait* (1942) and *Appalachian Spring* (1944) were all composed over this time span.

To escape his reputation as a purveyor of Americana, Copland turned to serial compositions, writing 12-tone works like the *Piano Fantasy* (1957) and *Inscape* (1967). These works received a mixed reception, prompting Copland to comment: "The American public suffers from the masterpiece complex. You would think that nothing but the best music is good enough."

Copland stopped composing in 1970 but remained active as a conductor for more than a decade after that. He was a cultural icon up until his death in 1990, and he spent the last 40 years of life in a sort of artistic sainthood.

If the music weren't enough, Copland-the-author had a profound effect on a whole generation of music students and critics. His great reference book, *What to Listen For in Music* (1939), is still in print.

The depth of his musical legacy, however, is still in question. One conductor said to me last year, "Well, we program the usual Copland like *Appalachian Spring*, because audiences love it. But I have to wonder what his long-term international reputation will be." Indeed, a brief search for international events celebrating the Copland centennial turns up empty. It's odd that while the whole world is celebrating the Kurt Weill centennial and Boston is virtually ignoring it, just the opposite seems to be happening with Copland.

"The American public suffers from the masterpiece complex," Copland once said. "You would think that nothing but the best music is good enough."

No American composer has the international reputation of say, a Beethoven, or Bach, or Brahms, or even Wagner or Rossini. In this century, perhaps only Bartok and Stravinsky are destined to join that group. It will interesting to see in another 100 years if Aaron Copland has been elevated to that status.

Coda

The spring Arbitron ratings are out this week, and Waltham's **WCRB** is the second-highest-rated classical station in the country (4.2 percent of market), behind **WGMS** in Washington, DC (4.6). Purists sniff at the "Mozart divertimenti and Vivaldi"–only programming, but it works. Call it Chamberpalloozza: the **Ottawa Chamber Music Festival**, two weeks of concerts, drew 55,000 people. Most popular of the 98 acts were the **Canadian Brass** and the **Tokyo String Quartet**. iB

IRA WYMAN

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled Classical by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Classical Music or e-mail to classical@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers Web site information and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to deadline. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from many different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to doublecheck dates and times.

Wednesday, August 23

Au Bon Pain/WCRB Concert
Hatch Shell on the Esplanade, Boston (781-893-7080). 7:30-9pm. Au Bon Pain and WCRB Classical present Daniel Heifetz with the Classical Band.

Summer Organ Recitals
Methuen Memorial Music Hall, 192 Broadway, Rt. 28, Methuen. 8pm. Adults $6, children $1. Joseph R. Olefirowicz of Berlin performs Bach's *Toccata and Fugue in D*, Howells' *Three Psalm-Preludes*, Boellmann's *Suite Gothique*, Ives' *Variations on "America"* and Vierne's *Pièces de Fantaisie*.

Thursday, August 24

Chopin and Scriabin at Library
Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). 7pm. A concert entitled "Third Sonatas+" will feature pianist Constantin Finehouse of Russia performing the third sonatas of Chopin and Scriabin as well as other pieces.

Friday, August 25

Tanglewood Festival Chorus
Ozawa Hall, Tanglewood, Lenox (413-637-5280). 6pm. John Oliver conducts this Prelude concert, featuring works by Aaron Copland in a centennial tribute to the great American composer long associated with Tanglewood.

BSO at Tanglewood
Tanglewood Shed, Tanglewood, Lenox (413-637-5280). 8:30pm. Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos conducts with Joshua Bell on violin. They will perform works by Sibelius and Mahler.

WGBH Concert
Blackman Auditorium, Ell Hall, 360 Huntington Ave., Northeastern University, Boston (373-2247). 8pm. Ellen Kushner, host of the cultural documentary *Sound and Music*, with the Shirim Klezmer Orchestra.

Saturday, August 26

BSO at Tanglewood
Tanglewood Shed, Tanglewood, Lenox (413-637-5280). 8:30pm. André Previn conducts the BSO in an all-Strauss program. Selections will include *Moonlight Music* and the closing scene from *Capriccio*.

Boston Chamber Music Society
Longy School of Music, One Follen St., Cambridge (876-0956). 8pm. Ida Levin, violin; Nai-Yuan Hu, violin; Cynthia Phelps, viola; Ronald Thomas, cello; Carol Wincec, flute; Nancy Allen, harp.

Sunday, August 27

BSO at Tanglewood
Tanglewood Shed, Tanglewood, Lenox (413-637-5280). 2:30pm. Bernard Haitink conducts; Christine Brewer, soprano; Nancy Maultsby, mezzo-soprano; Richard Leech, tenor; Reinhard Hagen, bass; also featuring the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, conducted by John Oliver. They will perform Ludwig van Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*.

Monday, August 28

Pops at Tanglewood
Tanglewood Shed, Tanglewood, Lenox (413-637-5280). 8:30pm. John Williams conducting.

Chorus Pro Musica
Old South Church, 645 Boylston St., Copley Square, Boston (267-7442). 7:30pm $7 including refreshments. Join the 100+ member Chorus Pro Musica with musical director Jeffrey Rink in a Verdi Requiem.

Tuesday, August 29

King's Chapel Noon Hour Recitals
King's Chapel, School and Tremont Streets, Boston (227-2155). 12:15pm. Fiddlefest IV is back by popular demand with Cathy Goode on the fiddle and Louis Kaplan on guitar and banjo.

Wednesday, August 30

Au Bon Pain/WCRB Concert
Hatch Shell on the Esplanade, Boston (781-893-7080). 7:30-9pm. Au Bon Pain and WCRB Classical present the New England String Ensemble.

Summer Organ Recitals
Methuen Memorial Music Hall, 192 Broadway, Rt. 28, Methuen. 8pm. Adults $6, children $1. Brenda Lynne Leach of Boston will perform Buxtehude's *"Jig" Fugue in C*, Mendelssohn-Hensel's *Prelude in F*, Shostakovich's *Prologue* and Tcherepnin's *Cherubinic Chant*.

Friday, September 1

Jazz at Tanglewood
Ozawa Hall, Tanglewood, Lenox (413-637-5280). 7:30pm. Dizzy Gillespie Alumni All-Stars featuring Jon Faddis, Paquito D'Rivera, Slide Hampton, Kenny Barron, John Lee and Cecil Brooks III.

Saturday, September 2

Jazz at Tanglewood
Tanglewood Shed, Tanglewood, Lenox (413-637-5280). 7:30pm. Tony Bennett with special guest Diana Krall.

Sunday, September 3

80th Birthday at Tanglewood
Ozawa Hall, Tanglewood, Lenox (413-637-5280). 7:30pm. Dave Brubeck Quartet.

Tuesday, September 5

King's Chapel Noon Hour Recitals
King's Chapel, School and Tremont Streets, Boston (227-2155). 12:15pm. Martin Sanders from Germany on the C.B. Fisk Organ.

CHRISTIAN STEINER

Highlights of the final two weeks at Tanglewood

Last call—the summer season (certainly the soggiest in memory) is coming to a close at Tanglewood. Here are some highlights of the closing two weeks:
•Saturday, Aug. 19: BSO, with conductor and violin soloist Itzhak Perlman, who has been creating a larger profile of himself as a conductor lately. Here he plays the Beethoven Romances for violin and orchestra, and conducts symphonies of Mozart and Brahms. *Shed, 8:30pm.*
•Friday, Aug. 25: BSO, conducted by Rafael Fruhbeck de Burgos, with guest soloist Joshua Bell. The dynamic Bell plays Sibelius' violin concerto. Also on the program, the Mahler *First Symphony*. *Shed, 8:30pm.*
•Saturday, Aug. 26: BSO, Andre Previn conductor, with Dame Felicity Lott, soprano All-Richard Strauss program, highlighted by his sublime *Four Last Songs*. *Shed, 8:30pm.*
•Sunday, Aug. 27: BSO, Fruhbeck de Burgos conducting with soloists Christine Brewer and Reinhard Hagen, among others. Traditional Tanglewood season closer: Beethoven Symphony no. 9. *Shed, 2:30pm.*

For tickets and information call 413-637-5280 or go to www.bso.org.
—Keith Powers

dance clubs

Advice to Contributors
Submit information by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Clubs or e-mail to clubs@improper.com. Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Nights

Mondays

Language
Hibernia. DJs G White, Dot, Surface and Sora spin drum and bass. 8pm. 21+.

Static
Axis. DJ Jay Ine and the gorgeous drag shows hosted by Mizery. 10pm, $5. 19+.

Vertigo Mondays
Vertigo. Caesar and Giorgio throw a party for those who never stop dancin'. Smooth Lounge upstairs, deep house downstairs with DJ Arsit. Dress slick. 10pm. No cover.

Tuesdays

Cigar and Jazz Night
The Exchange. Light up, kick back and score a free Gina Cigar and buffet. No cover.

Lot 36
Embassy. DJs Eddie K. and Andrea R. heat things up this summer at the city's hot club. 10pm. $15. 19+.

Fat Tuesdays
Bill's. This off-the-hook night features DJ Chaos scratching out hip-hop while DJ Justin Hoffman and DJ Jynx spin downstairs. 11pm. $10.

The Forum
Lava Bar. Join Mission Control and support the local DJ scene as home-grown talents share the floor. 10pm. 21+.

Got Milk?
Venu. If you're chic you'll be at Venu for Milk—a devilishly hip party with DJ Osheen. Dress is funky. 21+.

Inasense
Karma. DJ Timmy Allen spins classic and soulful house and R&B. $10, 19+.

Mason
Hibernia. Perfect Downtempo and house music for a Tuesday night complete with funky breaks.

Mingle Tuesdays
The Modern. This spot screams sophistication. With DJs, a raw bar, vodka bar and late lounge. 10pm. 21+.

Wednesdays

Backstage
DJ Jonny C. spins top-40 dance classics. 10pm, no cover. 21+.

College Night
The Aquarium. Guest DJs spin on all three funky floors of this relatively new venue at 10pm.

Good Karma
Karma/Mambo. Mizery plays host to a roster of rotating DJs. Expect a mixed crowd. 10pm, $5. 19+.

Hibernia Wednesdays
Hibernia. DJ C.T.O. is the Godfather of Say Word night—with plenty of funk. 9pm. Cover varies. 21+.

Latin Night
The Aquarium. Dance lessons from 9pm-10pm.

Modern Living
The Modern. DJ Dale Charles spins while minglers strut their stuff and sip martinis. 10pm. 21+.

Musical Mayhem
The Exchange. DJ Jynx plays house upstairs while Tym Ryan of WFNX and DJ Brisc spin in the Vault. 10pm.

Pravda 116
Spend the night at one of the city's most decadent hot spots—set to beats by DJ Alex and DJ Felix. 21+.

Status
Axis. It's all about status when DJs Darrin Friedman and Richie Rich spin house music. 10pm, $10. 19+.

Thursdays

Aquarium
The Kiss 108 FM dance party." 10pm. $3.

Backstage
Tonight's adrenaline high features special guests spinning top-40 dance and club classics. 10pm, $5. 21+.

Big Easy
New Orleans-themed nightspot with some of the best DJs in town. Four bars, billiards and lounges. 9pm.

Charlie's Angels Night
Polly Esther's. Dress as your favorite Brady character and dance to '70s, '80s and '90s music. 8pm, $5. 21+.

Chrome
Axis. Resident DJs John Debo and Ali Ajami spin house and trance. 10pm, $10. 19+.

Dancers delight when DJ Eddie K. bounces beats off other DJs, the ceilings and floors at Embassy.

Downtempo Lounging
The Modern. DJ Ricky Fatts spins while you enjoy the raw bar and vodka bar. 9pm-2am, 21+.

Funkalicious Thursdays
The Exchange. DJ G-Squared takes you on a blast from the past as he spins '70s and '80s tunes. No cover.

Hibernia Thursday Night
DJ Jeremy spins a loopy, trippy, trip-hop.

Il Panino
A social playground for young professionals in Boston: cocktails and dancing. Proper dress. 9pm. 21+.

International Thursday
Avalon. A mixed crowd fills this nightspot with DJ Manolo and DJ Anthony. 10pm, $15. 19+.

Latin Quarter
The Roxy. You know it's time to get down when the Roxy breaks out hip-shaking Latin dance mixes.

Salsa Night
Europa. Enter the Bacardi Salsa Lounge stretched and ready to dance. Don't know how? Learn how at 9pm.

Speed
Karma/Mambo. Resident DJs Bruno and Masta Millions spin hip-hop and R&B. 10pm, $15. 19+.

Sugar Shack
The best music from three decades pounds through the festival atmosphere where every day is Mardi-Gras.

Sweetwater Cafe
Live bands perform while guests sip margaritas outside on an open patio.

The List
Lava Bar. *Lavabar.com*. DJ 7L and guests along with Verse/D bring you soul and funk. 10pm. 21+.

Venu
Swank American top-40 and house, this hot spot features the incredible DJ Adilson.

Fridays

Aquarium
DJ Lu spins today's hottest dance hits.

Avaland
Avalon. Everything about this screams "Party!" With the likes of DJ Manolo and John Debo. 10pm, $15. 19+.

Backstage
DJ Jonny C spins top-40. 10pm, $5. Proper dress, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans–themed nightspot has some of the best mainstream DJs in town.

Buzz Fridays
Buzz. Roger M lays down Latin house tracks while DJs pay homage to the house music gods. 11pm, $15. 19+.

Embassy
Jay C., Eddie K. and Eddie Lee mix up fresh beats at this venue. 10pm, $15. 19+.

Envy
This popular destination is filled with a mass of sweaty 'n' ready dancers. 9pm, $5 after 10pm. 21+.

Exchange Fridays
The Exchange. Up High, Tiziano and Maurizio, play house trip while DJ G-Squared opens the Vault. 9pm.

Focus
Hibernia. Cocktails with Alan Strack and tunes by DJs Chuck Caseroc and Skot Havens. 9pm, 21+.

Lava Bar
Life. Dance to a different drummer with DJ Fran Englehardt's deeply rooted soulful rhythms. 10pm.

Nocturnal Fridays
Bill's Bar. WBCN's Bill Abbate spins up a delectable smorgasbord of rock with a pinch of roll. 9pm. $5. 21+.

NYC Jukebox
All th e disco and rock you can handle. 9pm, 21+.

Pure
Karma/Mambo. World Class Drum and Bass DJs. With a weekly rotating roster of guest DJs. $15, 19+.

Roxy 2000
Roxy/Mondo Bar. DJ Felix spins house and international music all night. 10:30pm. $15 cover, 21+.

Spin Cycle
Axis. Glitzed-out club hoppers shake it to the beats of DJ Tim Ryan and DJ David James. 10pm, $12. 19+.

Sugar Shack
DJs and specialty drinks, dancing 'til 2am.

Sweetwater Cafe
DJs KC and Jonesey entertain on two floors of this classic American bar.

Ultra Lounge
The Modern. DJ Mixin Matt Ruben. 9pm-2am, 21+.

Venu
The scene is elegant for this jacket-required international romp. Get your Gucci on as DJ Arsit spins. 21+.

Saturdays

Aquarium
Saturday night dance party with DJs. 10pm. $5. • Aug. 26, Fox Trot Zulu.

Downtown
Avalon. Resident DJs Manolo and Mattie O. gyrate your arse with hits and club classics. 10pm, $15. 21+.

Backstage
DJ Freddie C spins top-40 dance and club classics. 10pm. $5. Proper dress, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans–themed nightspot has live bands all weekend. Thirsty? There are four bars to boot.

Bill's Bar
DJ Laurie Gail with guest DJs make Bill's a night full of dancing to '70s, '80s and '90s. 9pm, $3. 19+.

Club Juliana
Boogieing cuties converge on Boston's newest Latin Night starting at 10pm. Dress to impress. $10.

Club Nicole
The mob is thick for this exclusive trendsetter. DJ Alex spins Eurohouse. Jackets required. 21+.

Club Piteko
Fajitas & Ritas' hot spot juggles reggae, hip-hop and Brazilian sounds. $7. 21+.

Elements of Life
Karma/Mambo. DJ Supa Mario and world class DJs spin house while DJ Hoffman plays funk. 10pm, $15. 19+.

Embassy
Jay C., Eddie K. and Eddie Lee bounce beats off each other and the ceilings and floors. 10pm, $15. 19+.

Envy
From 9pm-2am, DJ Tom Baxter blasts top-40, house and dance. 9pm, $5 after 10pm.

Exchange Saturdays
DJ Diesel renovates the upper level with full-on house while DJ Jynx spins the funky beats in the Vault. 9pm.

Hibernia Saturdays
Steve Porter take the reins and whip the crowd into a frenzy. 10pm. 21+.

Lava Bar
Anything Goes. DJ Fran and Kris Kono unite with high-energy house and Latin beats. 10pm, 21+.

Miami Club Night
Club Joy/Yesterday's. Get a taste of Miami nightlife. 9:30pm (ladies free before 11pm), $10. 21+. Ladies, 19+.

Mischief
The Modern. Feeling mischievous? Ultra lounging with decadent desserts and erotic electronica. 21+.

Mythos
Venu. Greek International with DJ Yorgo Jr. spinning the hits from the famous party islands of Greece.

NYC Jukebox
Dance music from the '80s and '90s. 9pm, 21+.

Roxy
High-energy house and dance by DJ Adilson. 9pm, 21+.

Saturday Night Fever
Polly Esther's. Groove to three decades' worth of beats in the laser-lit Club DVD. 8pm, $10. 21+.

Sugar Shack
Spice up your night with '70s, '80s and '90s dance music as DJ Rich Centi spins the hottest sounds.

Sweetwater Cafe
Music from DJs KC and Jonesey on two floors.

Who's on First?
The latest and greatest in hip-hop, reggae, R&B and Latin house with DJ Lil' Mike, 10:30pm, $12. 18+.

X night
Axis. DJ Mike Gioscia spins '90s faves while DJ David James spins '80s hits. 10pm, $10 cover. 21+.

Sundays

Backstage
Urban Night. With T Clark spinning hip-hop, reggae and old school. Doors open at 10pm, $10. 21+.

Common People
An Tua Nua.
Brit-pop, new wave, indie and more with DJ Adrienne. 9pm, $3. 19+.

Exchange Sundays
A fusion of heavy lounge and Miami house. No cover.

Il Panino
This night features music by DJ Alex of Boston Beat and DJ Roger M. No cover, 21+.

Latin Night
Karma/Mambo Lounge. Weekly Live Latin Bands. 10pm, $25. 19+.

Lava Bar
Pandora's Box (Club Courtesy). DJ Vinny and Sir Richard and Sterling spin '60s Exotica, loungecore, psychedelic flowerpop and Motown. 10pm. 21+.

Salvation
This Boston vibe serves up an intimate evening of soul—all provided courtesy of DJ Soul. $5.

Venu
Carnival comes to Boston every Sunday as DJ Adilson brings the heat of Rio to Venu. 21+.

Club Venues

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Aquarium *65 Holland St., Somerville (623-3200).*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (437-0300).*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424).*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437).*
Backstage *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston (726-1110).*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678).*
Buzz Boston/Europa *51-67 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street.*
Club Juliana *20 Hudson St., Boston (542-4411).*
Club Nicole *40 Dalton St., Boston (236-4746). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*
Club Piteko/Fajitas & Ritas *25 West St., Boston (426-1222).*
Club Stella *1234 Soldiers Field Rd., Brighton (254-0554).*
Embassy *36 Lansdown St., Boston (536-2100).*
Envy *25 Boylston Place, Boston (542-3689).*
Exchange *148 State St., Boston (723-7755).*
Hibernia *25 Kingston St., Boston (292-2333).*
Karma *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9595).*
Lava Bar *575 Comm.Ave., Boston (267-7707).*
NYC Jukebox *275 Tremont St., Boston (542-1123).*
Oskar's *107 South Street., Boston (542-6756).*
Polly Esther's *262 Friend St., Boston (720-1966).*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (482-7799).*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699).*
Salvation *20 Hudson St., Boston (781-668-2392).*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510).*
Sweetwater Cafe *5 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2515).*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (338-8061).*
Vertigo *126 State Street, Boston (723-7277).*

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

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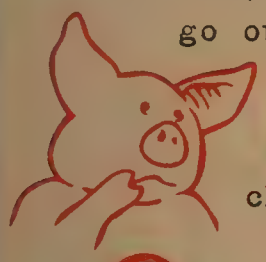

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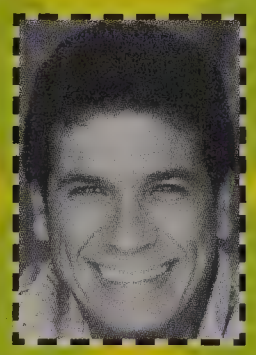
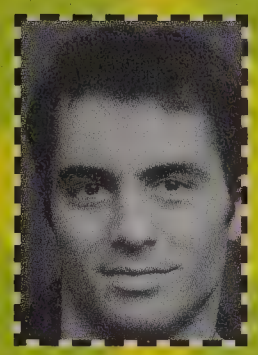
September 9

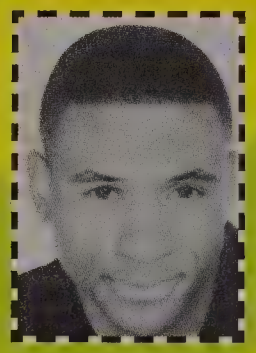


BOBBY COLLINS
September 15



JOE ROGAN
September 22

BOBBY SLAYTON
October 6



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FROM BEAVERS TO FLYING FROGS

Colonel Les Claypool's Fearless Flying Frog Brigade attracts a decidedly un-Primuslike crowd. BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

Les Claypool remembers when his band Primus was looking for something to do in New York one night. "We went to one of these clubs where you have to know somebody, or the big-ass doorman, to get in," the goateed bassist-singer says. "Our road manager went up and said, 'Hey, I've got the guys from Primus here in the van. Can we get 'em in?' And he said, 'Nope, they're too heavy metal for our crowd.'"

Not that every heavy-metal crowd is savvy about Primus' quirky/grungy mixture of pinched wordplay, rubbery bass and King Crimson-esque meter. The Bay Area combo has always been a tad misunderstood, from the funk-punk sweepstakes of the late '80s to the alt-metal scene of the '90s. Yet Primus somehow fit in, from OzzFest to the H.O.R.D.E. Festival.

But popularity with the jam-band crowd blossomed only this year for Claypool, who had also jammed with Phish a couple of times. He invited Phish guitarist Trey Anastasio and their mutual hero, ex-Police drummer Stewart Copeland, to join him in a May superjam during Jazzfest in New Orleans. Playing under the name Oysterhead, the trio spawned the most outrageous ticket frenzy of a bustling week. In more recent outings, Claypool also played at New York's Jammy Awards (with techno-jammers the Disco Biscuits), and Connecticut's Gathering of the Vibes, performing with members of Bob Weir's Ratdog.

Now, with Primus on its first bona fide break since Claypool formed the group in 1984, he is bringing another assemblage, Colonel Les Claypool's Fearless Flying Frog Brigade, to the Somerville Theatre Sept. 1. The quintet includes keyboardist Jeff Chimenti and onetime-Primus drummer Jay Lane, both of Ratdog, plus guitarists Todd Huth (an original member of Primus) and Eenor, a Henry Kaiser protégé. "Everybody in the band is a monster," says Claypool, who has worked with artists from Faith No More/Ozzy Osbourne drummer Mike Bordin and Rush guitarist Alex Lifeson to hipster Tom Waits, who lent his gravelly voice to Primus' 1991 ditty "Tommy The Cat," then tapped the band on his 1999 CD *Mule Variations*.

"Tom Waits one of my heroes, but he has also become one of my friends," says Claypool, 36. "The Rush guys are my friends, and they were big heroes of mine when I was a youngster, and still are. And Stewart Copeland—he was one of my biggest musical influences. I'm a very fortunate guy."

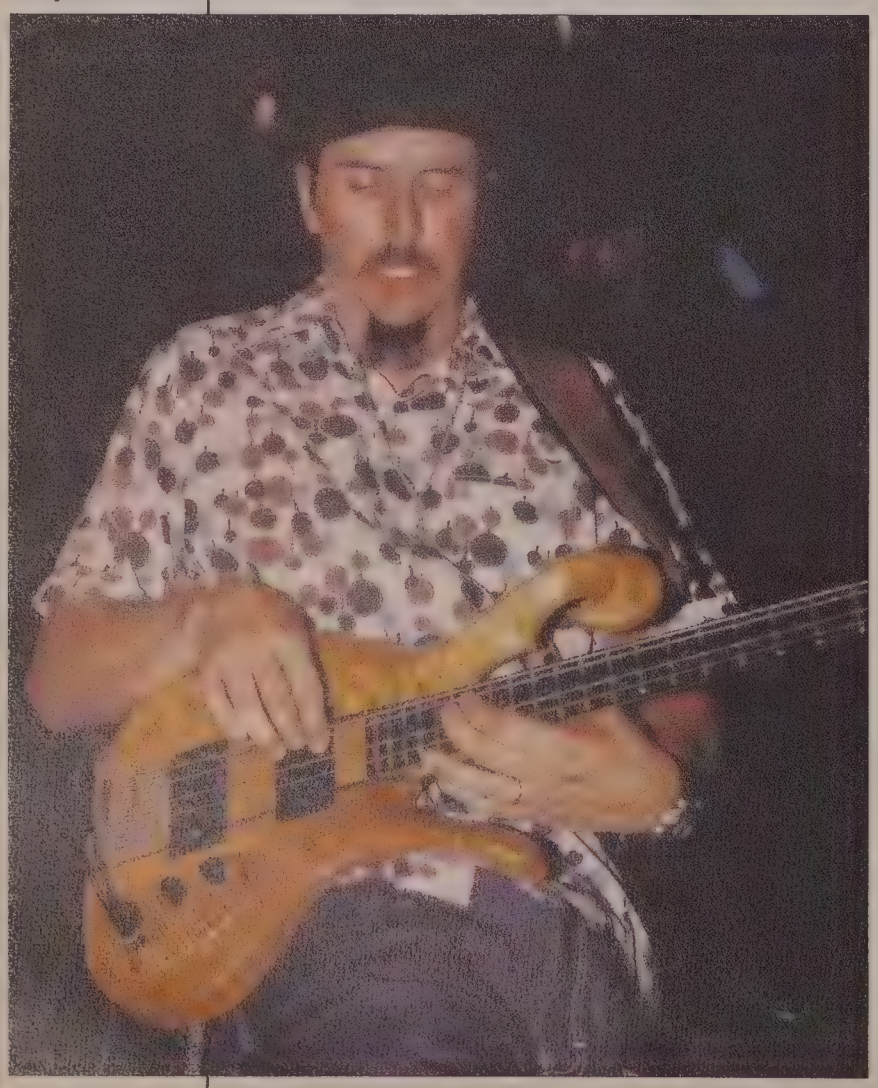
Now Claypool is rubbing new shoulders, and finding new acceptance and excitement. "I've sorta been embraced by the jam-band world," says the bassist, whose prickly punctuations make him a formidable foil. "Primus is one of the more jam-oriented bands in our genre, and it's nothing compared to what jam-band audiences want to see. They want you to go far out, and the farther out you go, and the looser it is, it seems the more they like it.

"Some of the stuff we've done is super-loose, like some of the Oysterhead stuff. We wrote like seven songs in three days, and just went out and played them. We were throwing spaghetti all over the place, and the same thing at the Gathering of the Vibes, and the Disco Biscuits thing too. You can't get more loose and casual than that. It's very exciting.

"For the past couple of years, I've been bored out of my mind with music," Claypool admits by phone from his Northern California home. "I'm not really inspired by anything. Morphine was probably the last band that I really got into. So all of a sudden, I did this Oysterhead thing, and was down in New Orleans for Jazzfest, and it just woke me up. I've been playing a lot, and rehearsing a lot, with a lot of different people."

Rehearsing is one thing he didn't do with the Biscuits. "I met those guys 10 minutes before the doors opened," he says. "It was shooting from the hip." One of the covers that Claypool tackled with that group was Pink Floyd's "Have a Cigar," and one of his plans for the Frog Brigade show is to play Floyd's 1977 album *Animals* from start to finish as one of the night's two sets. "That's always been a dream of mine, and I've got the guys to do it now," says Claypool, who plans other covers, and tunes from side-projects Sausage and the Holy Mackerel as well as Primus.

Of course, fans might say it sucks—"Primus sucks" is a battle cry for followers of his primary group. "That started when we were playing tiny clubs in front of 12 people, saying, 'Hey, we're Primus and we suck,' and would start playing—and it caught on, and made a great tee-shirt." As will Colonel Les Claypool's Fearless Flying Frog Brigade. **iB**



Les Claypool plays what is undoubtedly a funky bass line.

PAUL ROBICHEAU

Les Claypool in Concert

Catch Colonel Les Claypool's Fearless Flying Frog Brigade at the Somerville Theater Sept. 1.

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fax (859-1446); by mail to Calendar/Music; or by email to music@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, phone numbers and nearest T stops. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double check dates and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

Concerts

Bane, Drowning Man and the Hope Conspiracy
Aug. 24, Worcester Palladium
Tony Bennett and Diana Krall
Aug. 25 and 26, FleetBoston Pavilion
Jimmy Buffett and the Coral Reefer Band
Aug. 31 and Sept. 2, Tweeter Center
D'Angelo
Aug. 28, FleetBoston Pavilion
The Jayhawks
Aug. 26, City Hall Plaza
k.d. Lang
Aug. 31, FleetBoston Pavilion
Leatherface, Avail and Dillinger Four
Aug. 31, Worcester Palladium
Guy Lombardo's Orchestra
Aug. 23, City Hall Plaza
Pearl Jam
Aug. 29 and 30, Tweeter Center
The Righteous Brothers and America
Aug. 27, FleetBoston Pavilion
LeAnn Rimes
Sept. 2, South Shore Music Circus
7th Rail Crew
Aug. 24, Worcester Palladium
Smokey Robinson
Aug. 24, FleetBoston Pavilion
The Saw Doctors with Jess Klein
Aug. 25, Cape Cod Melody Tent
Skinlab and Walls of Jerico
Sept. 1, Worcester Palladium
Britney Spears
Aug. 28, Tweeter Center
Rick Springfield
Aug. 25, South Shore Music Circus
Randy Travis
Aug. 25, North Shore Music Theatre
Weezer
Aug. 25, Axis

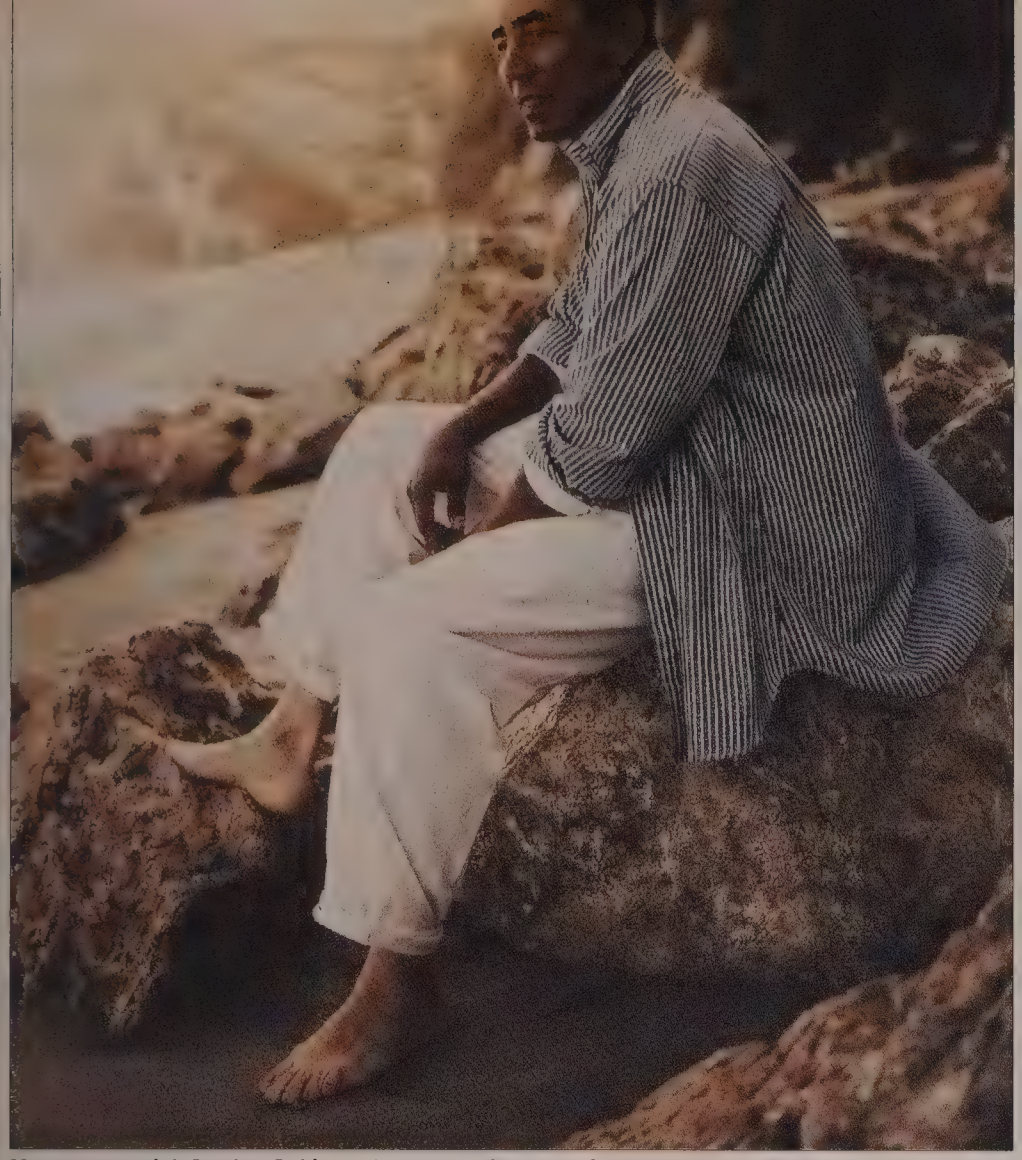
CONCERT HALLS

FleetBoston Pavilion
290 Northern Avenue, Boston (734-9000). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.
FleetCenter
One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (624-1000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.
North Shore Music Theatre
62 Dunham Rd., Beverly (978-232-7200).
South Shore Music Circus
130 Sohier St., Cohasset (781) 383-9850.
Tweeter Center
885 South Main St., Mansfield (508-339-2331).

Rock, Jazz and Blues

Wednesday, Aug. 23

The Attic
Mourning Widows and Nuno Bettencourt, 8pm, $10, 21+.
Black Rose
Eugene Byrne.
Bob the Chef's
Hakim Law Jazz Quartet, 6pm, cover varies.
Colonial Inn
Jimmy Mazzy and the Last Minute Men, 8pm, no cover.
Common Ground
What a Way to Go Go with DJ Vin, 10pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm, no cover, 21+.
Good Life Central
Weepin' Willie and his All Star Band, no cover, 21+.
Good Life Downtown
Issi Rozen Trio, no cover, 21+.
Great Scott's
Fools Rush In, 10pm.



Motown maverick Smokey Robinson lets loose with romantic soul Aug. 24 at FleetBoston Pavilion.

Harpers Ferry
Ron Levy's Wild Kingdom with Brother Chameleon, 9:30pm, $3.
Hennessy's
Johnny Bahama Night Beach Party with Me and Julio, 9pm, cover varies.
House of Blues
Kyler's farewell concert with Katie and Arina, 9pm, $8, 18+.
Irish Embassy
Machinery Hall.
Kirkland Cafe
Ken Clark Organ Trio, $5.
Les Zygomates
Joel Smith Duo and Larry Franquez Trio, 5pm and 8pm, no cover.
Lilli's
Marcia Ballwith Cero/Stein Organ Trio, 10pm, $15.
Lizard Lounge
The Miracle Orchestra.
Maison Robert
Doug Johnson, no cover.
Middle East
U: Trustfall, Every Second, Particle Board and Eight Track Mind, $6, 18+. C: Belly Dancing, 10pm.
O'Brien's
Gile's.
Oak Bar
Diana Fischer, 8pm, no cover.
Playhouse Lounge
Victor Mc Surely, 9:45pm, 21+.
The Rack
Code 51, 9pm, no cover.
Regattabar
Michelle Willson and the Evil Gal Festival Orchestra, 8:30pm, $10.
Scullers
The Coryells, 8pm and 10pm, $16.
Toad
Brian Maes, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Brian Charles and Friends, Den Mothers and Dave Steele, $5.

Thursday, Aug. 24

Black Rose
Eugene Byrne, Fatal Flower
Bob the Chef's
Carl Smitty Smooth Group, 7:30pm, cover varies, 21+.
Colonial Inn
John Fitzsimmons, 8pm, no cover.
Common Ground
DJ Ryan, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogans Bluff
The Return, 9pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort
Buffett Bash featuring St. Somewhere, 7pm, no cover, 21+.
Good Life Central
Mike Shea Quartet, no cover, 21+.
Good Life Downtown
Jose Ramos and the Special Blend, no cover, 21+.
Harpers Ferry
Blessid Union of Souls and the Chad LaMarsh Band, 9:30pm, $20.
Hennessy's
DJ Dan McCarthy, 9pm, cover varies.
House of Blues
Stevie Ray Vaughan Tribute, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Irish Embassy
Jaye-one.
Johnny D's
Grandmothers, 9pm.
Kendall Cafe
The MacVitties, Shake Senora and Drew Ambrose, 9pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe
Seque, Swallows and Slackjaw, $5.
Les Zygomates
John Kordalewski Duo and the Jinga Trio, 5pm and 8pm, no cover.
Lilli's
Buckwheat Zydeco, 10pm, $15.
Linwood
Bush and Gore Tour 2000 featuring Rorschack Test, Bile, Snake River Conspiracy and N17, 10pm, $5.
Lizard Lounge
Club D'Elf, cover varies.
Maison Robert
Mike Turk.
Middle East
U: Thanks to Gravity, Crushworthy and Dan Blakeslee, $7, 18+. D: Rocketscience, Miss Fortune, Bully Pulpit and Janke, $7, 18+. C: Board of Education, 10pm.
Oak Bar
Diana Fischer, 8pm, no cover.
Parker's
Rose Jamieson and Rick Schilling, 8pm, no cover.
Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett.
The Rack
Code 51, 6:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar
The Beijing Trio, 8pm and 10pm, $20.
Rhythm and Spice
DJ Bim Inc. and Sound Vibration, 10pm, $5, 18+.
Scullers
Norman Connors and Starship, 8pm and 10pm, $20.
Toad
Jon Haydon and Ten Worlds, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Red Elvises, Seks Bomba and the Shelley Winters Project, $7.

Friday, Aug. 25

The Attic
Stocklan with the Halogens, 8pm, cover varies, 21+.
Bill's Bar
Loveless with Dave Wanamaker, Jen Trynin and Mike Levesque, 9pm, $7.
Black Rose
Eugene Byrne, Dave Foley, Tony O'Riordan.
Bob the Chef's
Strictly Serious Business, 7:30pm, cover varies, 21+.
Colonial Inn
The Workingman's Jazz Duo, 8pm, no cover.
Common Ground
Apartment Three and Who's the Fat Guy, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogans Bluff
Fat Tuesday, 9pm, $3.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band and Soul City, 7pm and 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Good Life Central
Jose Ramos and the Special Blend, no cover, 21+.
Good Life Downtown
Weepin' Willie and his All Star Band, no cover, 21+.
Green Dragon Tavern
The Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
Harpers Ferry
Bellevue Cadillac and Mission of Blues, 9:30pm, $3.
House of Blues
Otis Clay, 10pm, $15, 21+.
Irish Embassy
DJ Cadillac.
Johnny D's
Babaloo, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's
Second Story, 9pm, $5.
Kendall Cafe
Hellcountry, $6.
Kirkland Cafe
Franc Graham, Edith, Jennifer Marks and the Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
Les Zygomates
Nadine Chase and Kubota Power Jazz Unit, 5pm and 9pm, no cover.
Lilli's
Asa Brebner, the Pierces, the Family Jewels, Heygoods, Mick Mondo, Ghost of Tony Gold, Buttercup and the Hot Tamale Brass Band, 21+.
Linwood
Mishima, Kippertin, the Kitty Kill and Rope Tree, 10pm, $6.
Lizard Lounge
Pamela Means, Colleen Sexton and Trina Hamilton.
Middle East
U: Chicago Underground Duo and Designer, 8pm, $8, 18+. Hyptonic, Psychedelic Breakfast, 11pm, $7, 18+. D: Scissorfight, Roadsaw, Puny Human, Fireball Ministry and Five Horse Johnson, $8, 18+. C: Katrin, 10pm.
Mr. Dooley's
Patsy Whelan and Tony O'Riordan, $3.
Oak Bar
Diana Fischer Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
Parker's
Rose Jamieson and Rick Schilling, 8pm, no cover.
Playhouse Lounge
Solo Mission, 11:45pm, 21+.
Purple Shamrock
Thomas Park, 9pm, $5.
Regattabar
The Beijing Trio, 8pm and 10pm, $22.
Scullers
Norman Conners and Starship, 8pm and 10:30pm, $22, 21+.
Toad
Asa Brebner, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Betwixt, Mistle Thrush and Hurricane Jane, $7.
Western Front
Vibe Wise, 9:30pm, $10.

Saturday, Aug. 26

Bill's Bar
Bleu, 8pm, $5, 18+.
Bob the Chef's
Sonny Watson Quartet, 7:30pm, cover varies.
Colonial Inn
Frances Tuttle with Workingman's Jazz Band, 8pm.
Cambridge Brewing Company
Northstreet, 10pm, no cover.
Common Ground
Stymie, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogans Bluff
Tad Poole, 9pm, $3.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators and Booty, 7pm and 10pm, no cover.
Good Life Central
Amanda Baisinger Band, no cover, 21+.
Good Life Downtown
Chiaro Chivello, no cover, 21+.
Harpers Ferry
The Boston Horns, 9:30pm, $6.
Hennessy's
DJ Dan McCarthy, 9pm, cover varies.
House of Blues
Ronnie Dawson, Jack Smith and Rockabilly Planet, 10pm, $12, 21+.
Irish Embassy
DJ Static.
Johnny D's
Allstonians, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's
Central Basement, 9pm, $5.
Kendall Cafe
Better Days, Naked Poets and Den of Thieves, 9:30pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe
Thought Brigade, Step Light and Vagrant Soldier, $5.
Les Zygomates
The Larry Roland Duo and Valarie Stevens, 6pm and 10pm, no cover.
Lilli's
The Flies, the Titanics, the Turbines, Stranglehold, the Real Kids, Eric Martin and the Illyrians, Pee Wee Fist, Michael Tarbox, Rock City Crimewave, Squad Car, 21+.
Linwood
Pennywheel, the Dubnicks and Mission 120, 10pm, $6.
Lizard Lounge
Deb Pasternak and the Figments, cover varies.
McGann's
DJ Cadillac.
Middle East
U: Lockgroove, Count Zero and Thurman Munsun, $7, 18+. D: Darkbuster, the Colonel and his Lucky Diamonds, Sinners and Saints and Lost City Angels, $9, 18+. C: Nico, 10pm.
Mr. Dooley's
Patsy Whelan and Tony O'Riordan, $3.
Oak Bar
Diana Fischer Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
Parker's
Rose Jamieson and Rick Schilling, 8pm, no cover.
Playhouse Lounge
Julie Woods, 11:45pm, 21+.
Purple Shamrock
Syndicate, 9pm, $5.
Rhythm and Spice
Oceanik, 10:30pm, $8, 21+.
Slade's
The John Dougherty Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Toad
Brendan O'Donnell, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Euphonic, $7.
Western Front
Vibe Wise, 9:30pm, $10.

Sunday, Aug. 27

Bill's Bar
Lyrical Chead, 9pm, $10, 21+.

Heading off to New York, Kyler bids adieu to Boston Aug. 23 with a show at the House of Blues.

JAMES HICKS (TOP); DIANA WHITTEN (RIGHT)

Black Rose
Tony O'Riordan, Eugene Byrne.
Bob the Chef's
Sunday Jazz Brunch with Sonny Watson Quartet, 11am, no cover.
The Colonial Inn
John Fitzsimmons, 7pm, no cover.
Dick's Last Resort
Gospel Brunch with Bible Tones, 10am, Rob Gonzalez, 7pm, no cover.
Good Life Central
Sunday Brunch with the Grant Langford Trio, no cover.
Green Dragon Tavern
The Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
Harpers Ferry
The Rockett Band and Friends, 9:30pm, $6.
House of Blues
Taj Mahal, and the Phantom Blues Band, 7pm and 10pm, $25, 18+.
Johnny D's
Blues Jam.
Kendall Cafe
The Gladstones, The Irresponsibles and Slot Machine, no cover.
Lilli's
Devotion featuring DJ Kris Difixio, $5, 21+.
Middle East
U: Rye Coalition, Ted/Leo Pharmacists, Dalek and the Common Cold, $7, 18+. D: Toxic Narcotic, the Profits, the Creeps and Class Action, 8pm, $7, 18+. C: Balla Tounkara, 10pm.
Mr. Dooley's
Freddie White, 7pm, no cover.
The Rack
Chad LaMarsh, 9:30pm, no cover.
Rhythm and Spice
DJ Bim Inc. and Sound Inc., 10pm, $5, 18+.
Toad
The Benders, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Porn, Thunderball, Rock Theatre and Humbuck Squash, $4.
Veronique Restaurant
Sunday Brunch with Steve Rochinski, 11:30am.
Wonder Bar
Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Monday, Aug. 28

Bill's Bar
Monsta Monday featuring Glampire with Makanism, 9pm, $5, 18+.
Black Rose
Tony O'Riordan.
B-Side Lounge
DJ Brooks Morris.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm, no cover.
House of Blues
Rick Russell Blues Buffet and Jam, 9pm, $6, 18+.
Irish Embassy
Jukebox.
Johnny D's
Wall of Grass, 8pm.
Kendall Cafe
Miss Fortune, Aaron Perrino and Brian Charles, no cover.
Les Zygomates
Skip Smith Duo and Peter Parcek, 5pm and 9pm, no cover.
Lilli's
Languid with DJ Brother Cleve, $5, 21+.
Lizard Lounge
The Fringe, 10pm, $9.
Middle East
U: Slower than Seasons, Mock Orange, Slowfore, Boxing Water and Bradford Ave., $7, 18+. C: the Outside, 10pm.
Purple Shamrock
Scott Damguard.
Toad
Shwang and Tim Gearan, 8pm and 10pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
The Other Side of the Bear Acoustic Series, $3.

Tuesday, Aug. 29

Black Rose
Sunday's Well, no cover.
Colonial Inn
Hatrack Gallagher's Bluesday with the Workingman's Band, 8pm, no cover.
Dick's Last Resort
Beantown Bar Band, 7pm, no cover.
Harpers Ferry
Another Planet and Friends, 9:30pm, $3.
Hennessy's
Ben Glover, cover varies.
House of Blues
Tarbox Ramblers, 9pm, $7, 18+.

England's Frankie Stubbs (guitar/vocals), David Burdon (bass) and Andrew Laing (on drums) of Leatherface take their punk attitude and modernistic rock to the Worcester Palladium Aug. 31.

Preview

Monsters of Punk

Leatherface, Dillinger Four and Avail play non-standard punk rock

It's a long way to Worcester, but it'll be worth it to see these three bands who have won legions of devoted fans for their heartfelt lyrics and compelling songwriting. If your idea of "punk" music goes no farther than the last album by Green Day, the Offspring or (shudder) Limp Bizkit, you probably haven't heard of these bands. But if any of the names ring a bell, you will want to find a ride to the Worcester Palladium on Aug. 31, because this show is one you'll regret missing.

LEATHERFACE: A group from Sunderland, England, who released a string of great records in the late '80s and early '90s, broke up in 1993, and then re-formed in 1998. Singer Frankie Stubbs' raspy vocals (and his songwriting) led to comparisons to Hüsker Du's Bob Mould—as well as Lemmy from Motorhead). Despite their name's heavy-metal overtones, their songs are moving, passionate and expertly crafted works of punk brilliance. For examples of this, check out Stubbs' recent solo EP, which features acoustic versions of some of his own songs, and others as well.

DILLINGER FOUR: D4 hail from Minneapolis and have breathed new life into the underground pop-punk scene with a slew of singles and albums, using catchy, singalong hooks that rail against the hypocrisy involved in capitalism, religion, politics and the punk scene itself. They're certainly not the first band to do it, but one of only a few to do it well: titles of songs like "The Great American Going Out of Business Sale," "Shut Your Little Trap, Inc." and "Inquiring Minds Should Read a Book" give an idea of their tongue-in-cheek approach.

AVAIL: These Virginia natives have been blending pop with hardcore for the better part of a decade. While they describe themselves as (among other things) a hardcore band, they're a step or two beyond the now-ubiquitous bands made up of clean-cut jocks shouting over minor-key heavy metal, championing the mysterious and undefined cause of "unity." Avail's live show is just as intense as those bands', but they manage to communicate a sense of welcome and community, rather than sheer aggression and hostility. (And the kids just love 'em!) —*A.G.*

Irish Embassy
DJ Spice.
Johnny D's
Mylarit, 8:30 pm.
Kendall Cafe
The Pierces, $5.
Kirkland Cafe
Chris Zahnleiter Jazz Trio, no cover.
Les Zygomates
Frank Wilkins and Brian McCree and the Alvin Terry Trio, 5pm and 8pm, no cover.
Lilli's
The Anti-Jazz Raygun and Friends Tuesday Thing, 10pm, $6.
Lizard Lounge
The Pierce Woodward Trio, cover varies.
Middle East
U: Quix O Tic, the Long Goodbye and Green Four, $7, 18+. D: Alabama Thunder Pussy, Milligram and RC Crimewave, $7, 18+. C: John Lincoln Wright, 10pm.
Oak Bar
Diana Fischer, 8pm, no cover.
The Rack
Stu Sinclair, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar
Natraj, 8:30pm, $8.
Scullers
Richard Elliot, 8pm and 10pm, $22.
Toad
Michael Tarbox and Meghan Toohey, 7pm and 10pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Mo' Matching Drapes, Laffing Freeman, Pony and Sarin, $4.

Wednesday, Aug. 30

Bill's Bar
128 Columbia Project with Vessel and Mayan Loon, 9pm, $5, 18+.
Black Rose
Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's
Hakim Jazz Law Quartet, 6pm, cover varies.
Colonial Inn
Jimmy Mazzy and the Last Minute Men, 8pm, no cover.
Common Ground
What a Way to Go Go with DJ Vin, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogans Bluff
Scott Damguard, 9pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort
The Jenerators, 7pm, no cover.
Good Life Central
Weepin' Willie and his All Star Band, no cover, 21+.
Good Life Downtown
Mike Shea Trio, no cover, 21+.
Harpers Ferry
Ron Levy's Wild Kingdom, Jigaivatica, 9:30pm, $3.
House of Blues
Nozmo King, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Johnny D's
Royal Fingerbowl and the Family Jewels, 8:30pm.
Jose McIntyre's
DJ Josh Jordan, 9pm, cover varies.
Kirkland Cafe
Local Jack, Pete Weiss and the Weisstornauts, Sool, $5.
Les Zygomates
Joel Smith Duo and Alon Yavnai trio, 5pm and 8pm, no cover.
Lilli's
The Swinging Neckbreakers, 10pm, $7.
Lizard Lounge
Members of Miracle Orchestra, cover varies.
Maison Robert
Alexei Tsganov, no cover.
Middle East
U: Bird Gets the Smile, $6, 18+. D: Mortician, Exhumed, Deceased, Cephalic Carnage and Origin, $8, 18+. C: Belly Dancing, 10pm.
Oak Bar
Diana Fischer, 8pm, no cover.
Playhouse Lounge
Misop Baynun and the Reticent Lions, 9:45pm.
The Rack
Big City Beat, 9pm, no cover.
Regattabar
Panorama, Calypso and Soca Ensemble, 8:30pm, $10.
Scullers
Richard Elliot, 8pm and 10pm, $22.
Toad
Lil' Memphis, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place
Brian Charles and Friends, $5.

Thursday, Aug. 31

Bill's Bar
The Krush with Baby Strange, $7, 18+.
Black Rose
Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's
Carl Smitty Smooth Band, 7:30pm, cover varies.
Colonial Inn
John Fitzsimmons, 8pm, no cover.
Common Ground
DJ Ryan, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogans Bluff
Rumbletones, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim
Rani Arbo and Daisy Mayhem, 8pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort
Michigan Black Snake, 7pm, no cover.
Good Life Central
The Matt Gordie Group, no cover, 21+.
Good life Downtown
Cha Cha Cha All Stars, no cover ,21+.
Harpers Ferry
Bruce Mandaro Band, 9:30pm, $5.
House of Blues
John Brown's Body, 10pm, $8, 18+.
Johnny D's
Jones Brothers and Thaddeus Hogarth, 9pm.
Kirkland Cafe
Shady Neighbors, Drew Ambrose and My Own Worst Enemy, $5.
Les Zygomates
Chuck Langford Trio and Sun Steel, 5pm and 8pm, no cover.
Lilli's
Ray Corvair Organ Combo, 8pm, 21+.
Linwood
Sona Nyl, Playing for Audrey and Binge, 10pm, $5.
Lizard Lounge
Inhale Mary, cover varies.
Maison Robert
Rick Schilling and Rose Jamieson, no cover.
Middle East
U: Cave In, Barbero and Cancer Conspiracy, 18+. D: Pollyfonic, the Popgun Seven, Edable Gray and Brother Chameleon, 8:30pm, $7, 18+. C: Board of Education, 10pm.
Oak Bar
Diana Fischer, 8pm, no cover.
Parker's
Rose Jamieson and Rick Schilling, 8pm, no cover.
Plough and Stars
Paul Speidel Band, cover varies.
Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett.
The Rack
Chad LaMarsh, 6:30pm, no cover.

Regattabar
The Claudia Acuna Quartet, 8:30pm, $12.
Scullers
Miles Donohoe Quintet, 8pm and 10pm, $12.
Toad
Mother Brothers, no cover.
T.T. The Bear's Place
The Fly Seville, Jr.Corduroy, Our and Clairvoyance, $7.

Friday, September 1

Avalon
Papa Roach and hed (p.e.).
Bob the Chef's
Rusty Scott Jazz Quartet, 7:30pm, cover varies.
Colonial Inn
The Workingman's Jazz Duo, 8pm, no cover.
Good Life Downtown
Walden Ricks Quartet, no cover, 21+.
Kirkland Cafe
Psychedelic Conspiracy, Electric Humus and the Mickey Bliss Organ Trio, $6.
Lilli's
Rippopotamus, $8, 21+.
Middle East
U: Enon, the Starlight Mints and the Ivory Coast, $7, 18+. D: Samiam, $8, 18+.
Oak Bar
Diana Fischer Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
Parker's
Rose Jamieson and Rick Schilling, 8pm, no cover.
Playhouse Lounge
Will Dailey, 9:45pm.
Regattabar
Mighty Sam McClain, 8pm and 10pm, $12.
Somerville Theatre
Colonel Les Claypool's Fearless Flying Frog Brigade, 7:30pm, $20.
Western Front
Crucial Massive, 9:30pm, $10.
Wonder Bar
Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Saturday, Sept. 2

Bob the Chef's
Antonio Jackson Jazz Project, 7:30pm, cover varies.
Good Life Central
The Power Jazz Unit, no cover, 21+.
Johnny D's
Dwayne Dopsie, 9:45pm.
Kirkland Cafe
Violet Tide, $5.
Lilli's
Real Kids and Banjo Spiders, $8, 10pm.
Middle East
U: Dr. Awkward, $7, 18+.
Oak Bar
Diana Fischer Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
Parker's
Rose Jamieson and Rick Schilling, 8pm, no cover.
Regattabar
The Ronnie Earl Duo, 8pm and 10pm, $18.
T.T. The Bear's Place
Little Red Rocket, 18+.
Western Front
Crucial Massice, 9:30pm, $10.

Sunday, Sept. 3

Bill's Bar
Dub Station, 10pm.
Good Life Central
Sunday Brunch with the Grant Langford Trio, no cover, 21+.
Johnny D's
Blues Jam and Salsa Dancing with Rumba NaMa, cover varies.
Middle East
U: Bluebird and Burning Brides, $7, 18+.
The Rack
Chad LaMarsh, 9:30pm, no cover.
Veronique Restaurant
Sunday Brunch with Steve Rochinski, 11:30am, no cover.
Wonder Bar
Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Monday, Sept. 4

Middle East
U: the JazzJune, the Warren Commission, Prizefighter, J. Derringer's, $6, 18+.

Tuesday, Sept. 5

Johnny D's
Guster, 8:30pm.
Kirkland Cafe
Chris Zahnleiter Jazz Trio, no cover.
Middle East
U: Year of our Lord, Life in Vein and Dungeon Bats, $7, 18+.

Music Venues

An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (262-2121). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Attic *107R Union St., Newton (964-6615). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Center.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (743-2286). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-6204). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
City Hall Plaza
Government Center, Boston (635-4505). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.
Coogans Bluff *173 Milk Street., Boston (451-7415). MBTA: Orange Line to State Street.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
Good Life Central *720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston (451-2622). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Green Dragon Tavern
11 Marshall St., Boston (367-0055). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket or North Station.
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Jacob Wirth's *31-37 Stuart St., Boston (338-8586). MBTA: Green Line to Boysltom.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Somerville (776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Kirkland Cafe
425 Washington St., Somerville (482-4920). Red Line to Davis.
Lilli's *608 Somerville Avenue in Somerville (591-1661). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
The Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (267-8644). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.*
The Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Milky Way Lounge and Lanes
405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.
O'Brien's *3 Harvard Ave, Allston (782-6245). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
The Playhouse Lounge *74 Warrenton St., Boston (482-2227). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (227-2060). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (725-1051). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Regatta Bar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Central.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Rd., Cambridge (562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boston.*
Toad *1912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (497-4950). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential Center.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Wally's Cafe *427 Mass. Ave., Boston (424-1408). MBTA: Green Line to Symphony.*
Wonder Bar
186 Harvard Ave., Allston (351- COOL). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.
Les Zygomates *129 South Street, Boston (542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*

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Experienced manager to direct multi-store operations for foodservice and specialty food retail. Responsibilities include merchandising, inventory control, personnel, purchasing and quality control.

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Experienced hands-on manager to run daily operations of dynamic specialty foods/foodservice retailer. Responsible for personnel, including hiring, training, scheduling, merchandising and inventory control.

Cheese Manager
Knowledgeable cheese specialist to direct department. Responsible for inventory control, buying and merchandising.

Chef
Experienced chef in retail, foodservice and catering. Diverse in the culinary arts including the implementation and creation of recipes. Background in inventory control, buying and food costing a plus.

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Counter Manager
Experienced counter manager to handle fast paced counter with multiple employees. The ability to schedule, merchandise, and motivate employees is important.

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Able to deal with retail customers in a friendly professional manner. Will train.

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gay&lesbian

If you want to be listed
Submit information including telephone numbers and nearest T stop by fax to (859-1446), mail or e-mail to gaylesbian@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted by phone.*

How to use this section
The following listings contain information that is subject to change. Contact the organization for changes in specific events.

CLUBS, BARS & HANGOUTS

Anthem (Thursdays)
Machine, 1256 Boylston St., Boston (536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. DJ Richie turns it out at Boston's newest Thursday party. The mega dance floor also offers drag diva Destiny. $5, 19+.

Asian Inspiration Night (Sundays)
Machine, 1256 Boylston St., Boston (536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. DJ Mark Hodges and Tony T serve the city's freshest "tea" at Dragon Tea Dance, New England's only night for gay Asians and their friends. Diamond Dunhill, Destiny, Crystal and Sexy Lexy entertain at a 10pm show. 8pm, $3, 21+.

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years these folks have been crankin' out some of the best Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. It's well worth a visit—if not for the three separate dance floors then for all the male dancers. 9pm, $15, 21+.

Buzz (Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays)
51 Stuart St. in the Theatre District, Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. On Saturday nights this place boasts two dance floors, two DJs, a pool room and a lounge. Two levels of dancing and schmoozing will keep the boys busy until 2am. 10pm, $5, 21+.

Chaps (Daily)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. www.chapsofboston.com. Sun.: Dance music of DJ Danae Jacovidis; Mon.: Grand Baby and Grand Piano night; Tue.: Retro DJ night; Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adielson Caesar; Thu.: DJs Billy and Fran, High Energy Dance; Fri.: Taboo Erotique with DJ Sammy; Sat.: High Energy Dance, DJ Danae Jacovidis.

City Girl Cafe (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri: 11am- 9pm; Sat: 10am-9pm; Sun: 10am-7pm. A small (five tables), laid-back cafe in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated. This cozy spot is home to a mixed gay/hetero crowd that lounges about, munching on sandwiches. Brunch on Saturday and Sunday, 10am-2pm.

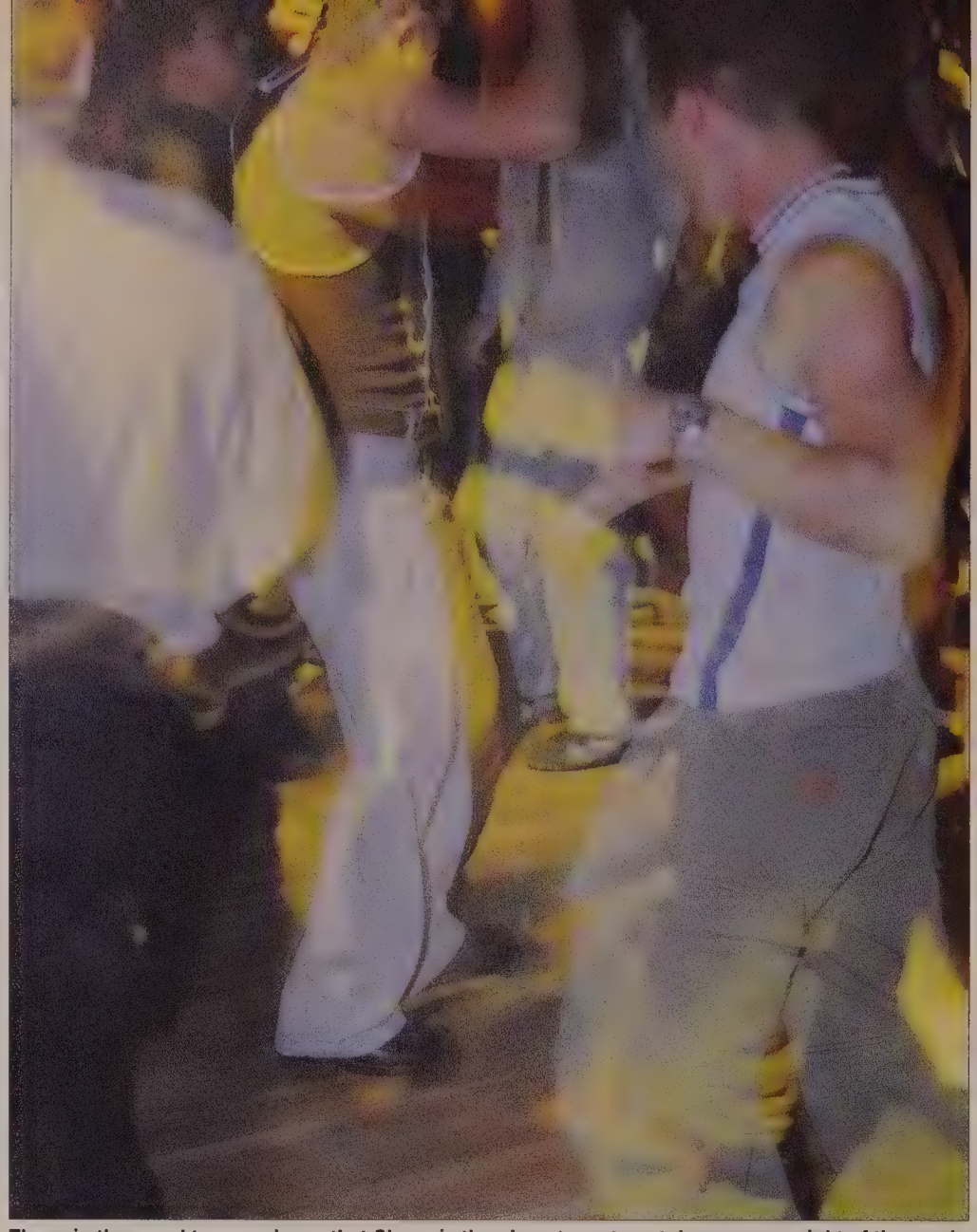
Club Cafe (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-0966). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri 11:30am-2am; Sat. 2pm-2am; Sun. 11am-2am. This trendy South End spot draws a mixed crowd that comes for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back (Moonshine). It's a dressy bunch that likes to mingle. No cover, 21+. •Carol O'Shaughnessy performs with Steve Heck, Dottie Dean or David Sparr, Thursdays.

Dragon Tea Dance
Machine, 1256 Boylston St., Boston (536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Sundays, 9pm, $3. Socialize and have fun at Boston's only tea dance. Watch Diamond Dunhill and her Dragon Showgirls perform.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (542-4494). Mon.-Fri. 3pm-2am; Sat. 1pm-2am; Sun. 12pm-2am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This is your friendly neighborhood bar with a quiet setting. It's best known for scrumptious Sunday brunches (12-4pm). This simple joint has all of the trappings of a true bar: smoky and dark. The place starts hopping as it gets closer to 2am.

Fritz (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Stroll in for a quiet drink or a rowdy night on the town. The folks here are friendly—and really into sports. Not only does Fritz have Direct TV set up with sets scattered about, it's also home base to a great softball league. 12pm, no cover, 21+.

Jacques
79 Broadway, Boston (426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. If you're looking to relax with a friendly crowd of gays and straights, and you like to mingle with disco-dancing drag queens, then you've found the place. Sun. and Mon. are local band nights. Tues. through Sat., however, divas rule the stage. 10:30pm, $4, weekends $6, 21+.



Those in the mood to move know that Chaps is the place to go to get down, every night of the week.

Lava Bar (Saturdays)
575 Commonwealth. Ave., Boston (267-7707). The Lava Bar's Tabu night boasts DJ Fran spinning out high-energy house with a taste of Latin beats. 10pm.

The Lizard Lounge (Wednesdays)
1667 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. "Marlene Loses It at the Lizard" is the title of this eclectic evening of poetry, live music and theater. 10pm, $5 cover, 21+.

Luxor (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (423-6969). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from the latest music scenes and classic old movies—compiled by the bar's own VJ. Downstairs is Jox. No cover, 21+.

Machine (Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays)
1256 Boylston St., Boston (536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 10pm-2am; Sun., 7pm-midnight. www.ramrodboston.com/machine. This is one of Boston's best gay bars where you will find your friends dancing every weekend. Fri.: NYC DJ/Producer Darrin Friedman spinning. Sat.: Resident DJ Brad Gwynn. Sun.: Asian-inspired nights with Club DJ Mark Hodges and Tony T.

Man Ray (Thursdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (864-0400). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed.-Fri., 9pm; Sat., 10pm. A bustling hot spot caters to a young, alternative clientele. Two dance floors fill up on Thursdays for Campus, a predominantly male night where DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen take over. 10pm, $8 for 19+, $5 for 21+.

119 Merrimac (Daily)
119 Merrimac St., Boston (367-0713). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Sat., 10:30am-2am; Sun. 12pm-2am. This male cruise bar is the place to stop for drinks before or after FleetCenter events. Shoot a leisurely game of pool or play the video games. Merrimac features DJs playing hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s. 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. On Thursday nights, the Lesbian AIDS Project of Mass. unofficially takes over this laid-back cafe for "dyke nyte." The cafe always has something brewing—live bands, DJs and drag-queen parties. The party starts at 8pm, no cover, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (494-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Central. On Monday, a bartender not only mixes drinks but strips too. Male strippers are featured Wed.-Sat. Mon. is Gothic night; Tue. is techno; and Thu. is college night. On Fridays DJ Sam Sampson spins, and on Sat. hear DJ Brad Gwynn. 5pm, no cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (266-2986). Green Line to Kenmore. 12pm-2am. www.ramrodboston.com. The largest leather bar in the East enforces a tight dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room). Sun.: buffet and mandance with DJ Brad Gwynn. Mon.: pool tournament and pizza. Tue.: Spice 4 Life with DJ Kal Muzak. Wed.: Twitch 2000 with DJ SGT Dennis. Thu.: Primal Dance with DJ James Hughes. Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danaw Jacovidis. Sat.: Leather Cruise with DJ Dennis Sargent.

BOOKS

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge. (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Fri. 10am-8pm, Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 12-6pm. New England's oldest women's book shop offers a wide selection of literature. Its monthly author series continues throughout the summer.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri. 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12pm-6pm. Boston's literary gay and lesbian bookstore.

SHOWS & EVENTS

Absolute Jeannie
The Jungle Cabaret at Tropical Joe's, 135 Bradford St. at Standish Point, Provincetown. Through Labor Day, Thu.-Tue., 8:30pm. $15-$17.50. Jeannie Logan stars in this one-woman, multicharacter cabaret act. First, she presents herself as a genie. Next, she transforms into three alter egos, and after that, she is barely recognizable. As a costumed chameleon, she keeps audiences entertained with a rare combination of theatrical flare, campy shtick and comical performance.

The Brian+Mal Show
The Jungle, 135 Bradford St., Provincetown (508-487-6216). Through Labor Day. Thu.-Tue., 10pm. What's in a name? In the case of *The Brian+Mal Show*, quite a lot. From Abbott and Costello to the Smothers Brothers, comedy duos have been known by their last names. But it's not just a name that sets this act apart. The pair, a gay man and a lesbian, move from physical comedy to character monologues.

Chic and Sassy: The Higher the Hair, the Closer to God
International Society, Tremont Theatre, 276 Tremont St., Boston (542-4599). Fridays and Saturdays through Aug. 26. $15. Revisit Chic and Sassy for a look at their lives back in their hometown of Little Rock, Texas. Follow these "girls," Chic Ana and Miss Sassy, as they enter a playwriting contest to win the money and notoriety they need to escape their dreary trailer-park lives. Meet the wacky locals as this pair of naive, fresh-faced drag queens love, laugh and fight like crazy to get out of Dodge.

Two Fags and a Drag
Crown and Anchor, Provincetown. Wed.-Mon. through Labor Day, 7pm and 9pm. $15-$17.50. Mark Pierpont and Nick Massoni star as the two "fags" and open up this amazing show with a spirited rendition of *Cabaret*. Not forgetting talented vocalist Denise Russel as the Drag, the three deliver pizzazz-filled song and dance that flaunts gay sensitivity and appeals to everyone.

Kiss of the Spider Woman
Vernon Street Productions, Actors Workshop, 40 Boylston St., Boston (781-405-2074). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. 7pm and 10pm. Aug. 24-Sept. 2. $15. Acclaimed Argentinian writer Manuel Puig weaves an intricate story about a gay window dresser and a political activist and what happens when the pair become imprisoned together. Through telling stories of movies of their youth, the two men gradually form a bond that is strained by their conflicting circumstances.

ONGOING

Am Tikva
(883-0893). www.amtikva.org. A community of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered Jews.

Bawl
This lesbian softball league offers opportunities to join teams in both the recreational and competitive divisions. Call Liz (508-628-5477).

Best Foot Forward
Ballet Etc. Dance Studios, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (522-1444). MBTA: B Green Line to Washington St. For gays/lesbians/bisexuals of all swing skill levels.

Boston Glass
Community Center, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Daily 8-10pm. Support groups and social activities for adolescents ages 13-25.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). www.chiltern.org/chiltern. A 1,400-member gay club with hiking, biking, camping, skiing and other outdoor activities.

Community Rainbow
Boston Living Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston. 7:45 pm. An organization whose mission is to advocate for the community. Meets Thursdays.

Cosmetically-Correct
Laurel's Restaurant, 142 Berkeley St., Boston. www.egroups.com/community/cosmeticallycorrect. A social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month, 7:30pm. Lipstick optional.

Dykes Who Hike
(522-6185). This hiking group is for lesbians in the Boston area who want to conquer the wilderness.

East Coast Wrestling Club
With more than 160 members, this is an extraordinarily popular New England spot for gay male wrestlers. Call Marc at 401-467-6737, or go online at *http://members.tripod.com/~ecwc* or e-mail *ecwc@juno.com.*

Fenway Community Health Center
(927-6057). The center is currently conducting a study to help HIV/AIDS patients take medication on time. Participants receive $95.

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (824-4266). www.frontrunnersboston.org. A running club for the LGBT community meets Saturdays.

Gender Free Contra Dancing
First Church of Jamaica Plain (448-2429). www.piac.net/users/latte/lcfd/. Come one, come all to evenings of contra and square dancing.

Long Yang Club
(825-5677) www.longyangclub.org/boston. Boston's club for Gay Asian Men and their friends. Bringing the East and West together.

OOPS
Melting Pot Coffee House, 2 Belgrade Ave., Roslindale (323-4123). Out on the Parkways invites one and all to come on down for some dinner and coffee.

PFLAG
Fenway Community Health Center, 7 Haviland St., Boston (547-2440). Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets every fourth Monday, 6:30-8:30pm.

Queer Corps
131 Clarendon St., 4th floor, Boston (450-1676). A community mobilization project by and for queer men who are age 25 and under. Tuesdays, 6-8pm.

WENDY MIMRAN

THE
BARKING CRAB
RESTAURANT

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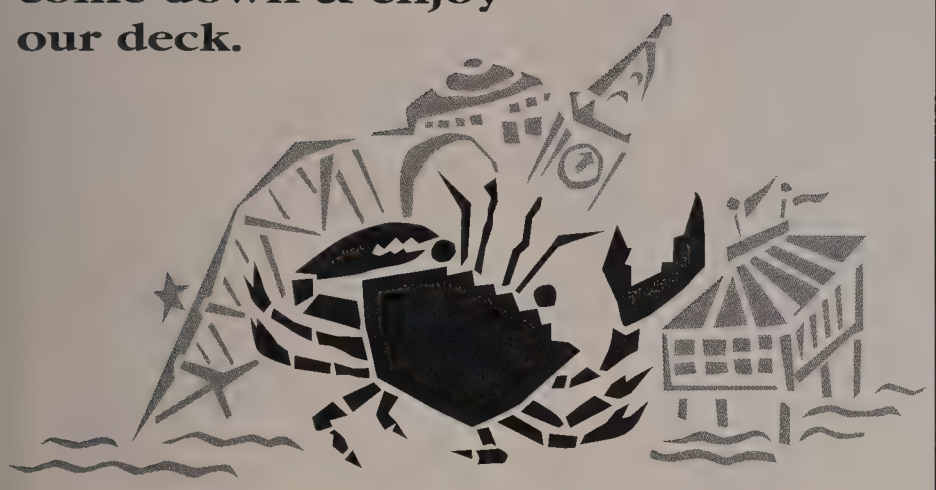

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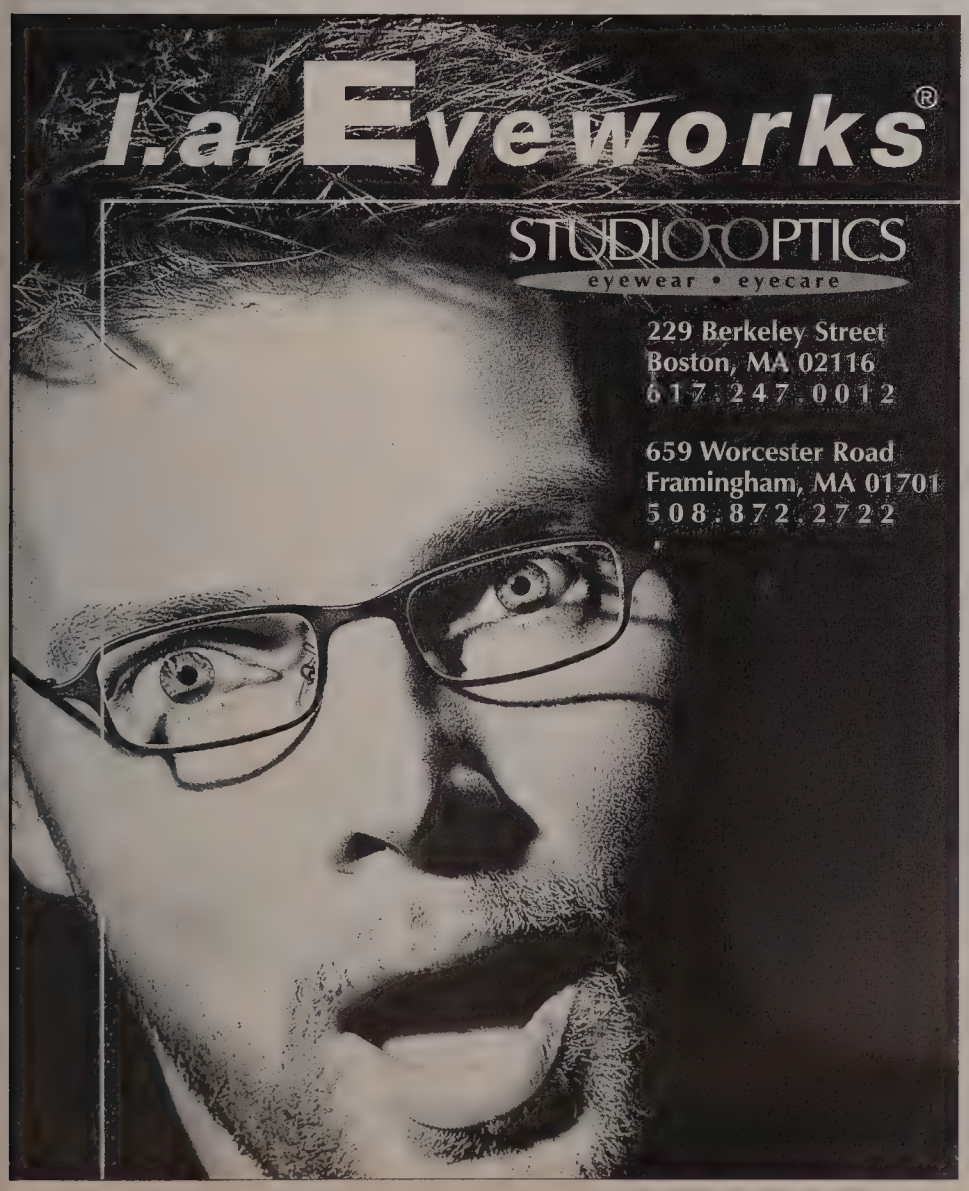

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body&mind

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information by mail, fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/ Mind, or electronically to bodymind@improper.com. *Include a brief but thorough description of the event, time, date, location and directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.*

EVENT

Body & Soul Conference
Boston Park Plaza Hotel, Boston (800-862-7538). www.newage.com. *Sept. 8-10.* This weekend retreat will rejuvenate and educate you. Many experts in the fields of holistic health and self-improvement will be there, including **Deepak Chopra**, M.D., for his first Boston appearance since 1996, and personal coach extraordinaire **Cheryl Richardson**.

CLASSES

Dance Freedom
Eagle Drum Council, First Church Congregational, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (978-371-2502). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Sept. 6, 7:30-10:45pm. $6-$10, sliding scale. This spirited gathering is a multimedia, freestyle, barefoot dance celebration. Dance, mingle, see works in progress, perform rituals and enjoy yourself. Recommended for anyone who finds it hard to dance.

Meditation and Chanting
The Yoga Studio, 74 Joy St., Boston (523-7138). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. Aug. 27, 11am-1pm. $17. This class in mindfulness meditation will focus on breathing and the serenity of being in the present moment. This exploration will address the inner voice that is reflected in the chanting of ancient songs.

Personal Development & Self Care
Wellspace, Fresh Pond Mall, Cambridge (876-2660). www.wellspace.com. Aug. 24, 7:30-9pm. $5. Many folks sense they could function better in life, in work and in relationships. However, it's not always clear what one's strengths and weaknesses are or how to go about using all your gifts to their fullest. This interactive evening with **Dr. Malachy Shaw-Jones** will help you begin to clarify your personal development goals and identify resources for the task.

SoulShine Singles
Theosophical Society in Boston, 21 Maple Street, Arlington (781-648-0101) Sept. 3, 7:30-9:30pm. $5. All seeking companionship on the spiritual path are welcome to attend this spiritually minded singles group. This monthly event features either a discussion, potluck, dancing, games, a video or guest speaker, followed by a social hour.

ONGOING

Chi Gong and Healing Circle
On the Banks of Mystic River. Call Catherine Simmons for directions (666-8281). Wednesday evenings, chi gong: 6:30-7:15pm, $15; healing circle: 7:30-8:15pm, $15. $20 for both. Participating in the healing arts is good for you any time of year. But in the season of warmth, it's nice to do outside. This meditative group meets on the peaceful banks of the Mystic River.

Dance Friday
Rug Cutter's Studio, 23 Main St., Watertown (924-7276). www.dne.org. *MBTA: #57, 70, or 71 bus. Fridays, 8:30pm-12am. $7.* Dance any way you want to (even barefoot) to all kinds of music in this smoke- and alcohol-free environment.

Falun Dafa Meditation Exercises
Boston Common, Boston. Contact Michael (781-646-7099). www.falundafa-newengland.org. *Sundays 1-4pm.* Join others for some outdoor meditation. Falun dafa is an advanced meditation system helpful for improving the condition of the heart, mind and body, and it has far-reaching effects in stress-relief.

Kripalu and Power Yoga Styles
Beacon Light Yoga Center, 215 Brighton Ave., Allston (739-0717). Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. Want to get really into yoga in an attractive, inviting, peaceful environment? Then try out this yoga center.

Lunch Time Yoga
The Yoga Studio, 74 Joy St., Boston (523-7138). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. Tuesdays, 12-1pm. Thursdays, 1-2pm. If you work downtown, you can spend your lunch getting healthy with ease. Grab a yogurt and spend some time being good to yourself.

Maintain Health
The Marino Center for Progressive Health, 2500 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6225). www.marinocenter.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Porter Square.* The Marino Center has the following ongoing groups and classes: Adult Psychotherapy: Tuesdays, 5-7pm; Kripalu Yoga: Mondays, 6-7:30pm; Hatha Yoga: Wednesdays, 6-7:30pm; Tai Chi and Qi Gong: Mondays, 7:30-8:30pm; Qi Gong: Wednesdays and Fridays, 6-7am.

Deepak Chopra returns to Boston for the Body & Soul Conference at the Park Plaza Sept. 8-10.

Move Your Body
Dance Complex, 536 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-9363). http://cambridge.zami.com/dancecomplex. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. $8-$13.* Some folks may find yoga too sophisticated but would still like to work on moving the body. Why not try one of the following drop-in classes at the Dance Complex? Stretching: Mondays, 6-7pm; Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30pm. Tai Chi: Fridays, 9:30-11am.

Psychic Medium John Holland
Unicorn Books, 1210 Mass Ave., Arlington (781-646-3680). www.unicornbooks.org. *Aug. 28, 7-9pm. $20.* Tonight's the last night this U.K.-trained psychic will be at Unicorn Books . After a meditation and lecture on a specific topic, **John Holland** will devote the second half of the evening to psychic medium readings, linking with spirits to deliver messages to audience members.

Qi Gong
Woolf Holistic Health Center, 651 Washington St., Brookline (738-9144). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Square. Thursdays, 7:30pm. Free. Have you ever wondered what Qi Gong, an ancient form of exercise from China, really is? Well your chance has materialized at the Woolf Center's drop-in session. Discover this time-tested art for maximizing your well-being and increasing your knowledge of mind and body.

Taming the Mind
Shambhala Meditation Center, 646 Brookline Ave., Brookline (734-1498). www.shambhala.org. *MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. Tuesdays, 8pm.* Buddha was a normal man who lived on the earth and became enlightened. These evenings will present the teachings of Buddha, so that you can learn just how he did it.

Yoga/South End
Union United Methodist Church, 485 Columbus Ave., (522-7199). MBTA: Green Line to Prudential or Orange Line to Back Bay. $15/class. Certified Kripalu yoga teacher **Patrice Flesch** teaches mixed-level classes in a spiritual setting. Increase flexibility, relieve stress, build strength, relax and enjoy yourself at any of these ongoing drop-in classes: Tuesdays at 7pm, Wednesdays at 12pm and Saturdays at 9am.

Women's Fun Activity-Based Relaxation Class
New Directions for Yoga, Health and Psychotherapy, 5 Harvard Ave., Brookine (738-1648). MBTA: near D Green Line to Brookline Village and C Green line to Coolidge Corner. Tuesdays: 7:30-8:30pm, Thursdays: 9-10pm. Learn fun ways to bring relaxation into your daily life. The cost of a three-part series is $60; pre-registration is required.

RETREATS

The Yoga of Conscious Eating
Kripalu Center, Lenox, Mass. (800-741-7353). www.kripalu.org. *Aug. 27-Sept. 1. $295 tuition, plus five nights room and meals.* Many people have no idea how much eating affects their health. They try to exercise and get enough sleep while having unhealthy eating and drinking habits. Come learn all you need to know on the fundamentals of healthy eating. Issues discussed are attitudes and emotions related to eating, nutritional balances, carbohydrates and fats, meditative eating and more. Kripalu provides a relaxing environment for health retreats.

Wild Writes of Passage for Women
Wild Women Outfitters, West Point Village, Phippsburg, Maine (877-345-WILD). www.wildwomenoutfitters.com. *Aug. 25-27, 3pm. $275-300, depending on accommodations.* This retreat is for women interested in using writing to explore the confluence of the inner and the outer landscapes. Hike, canoe and kayak to assist your writing.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Children. Or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

TO SEE

Puppet Showplace Theatre
32 Station St., Brookline (731-6400). $8. •Aug. 23, 10:30am and 1pm; Aug. 24, 10:30am: ***Bingo the Circus Dog*** by Paul Vincent Davis, Puppet Arts.

Seussical
The Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (426-9366). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Aug. 27-Sept. 17. This musical weaves together many of Dr. Seuss' most famous stories and characters.

THINGS TO DO

Archaeology Workshop
Museum of Our National Heritage, 33 Marrett Road, Route 2A, Lexington (781-861-6559). Aug. 23, 10am-12pm and 2-4pm. $8. Ages 7-12. Excavate a simulated site for pottery and arrowheads. Using real tools, children will screen, measure and bag artifacts.

Boston By Little Feet
Meet in front of Faneuil Hall, at the statue of Samuel Adams on Congress Street, Boston (367-2345). www.bostonbyfoot.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Saturdays and Mondays, 10am; Sun. 2pm.* A child's-eye view of the Freedom Trail's architecture and history designed especially for young walkers ages 6 to 12.

Make Way for Ducklings
Historic Neighborhoods, Boston (426-1885). Fridays and Saturdays, 11am. Through Aug. 25. $8. Last chance! Relive the adventures of the Mallard family in Robert McCloskey's classic Boston tale, *Make Way for Ducklings*, on this guided walking tour.

Stone Zoo's Wild Adventure Program
Stone Zoo, 149 Pond St., Stoneham , Rte. 93 North, Exit 34 (781-438-5100). $8. There's still plenty to see here—even though everybody favorite polar bear has passed on to that great iceberg in the sky. •Aug. 23, 10:30-11:30am; 12:30-1:30pm: Peacocks! for 3- to 4-year-olds. •Aug. 26, 10:30-11:30am: Into the Woods! for 5- to 6-year-olds; 2:30-3:30pm: Exploring Wetlands for 7- to 9-year-olds.

Summer SOULstice Mini Festival
Christian Science Plaza, 175 Huntington Ave., Boston (450-3131). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Aug. 29. Rain or shine. Enjoy a music and arts festival every Tuesday at noon with a host of musicians, artists and storytellers. •Aug. 29, 11:30-1pm: The Mike Gamble Trio from the New England Conservatory performs. Sidewalk Sam will lead the children in sidewalk drawing. Balloon sculpturist Rami Salami will make balloon hats and accessories.

sales& fashion

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for sales and bargains by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sales and Fashion. Or e-mail information to goodbuys@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the event or items. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

SALES/EVENTS

Banana Republic
Copley Place, Huntington Ave., Boston (262-6600). Banana's summer clearance sale has prices from 20 percent off through Aug. 27.

The Bombay Company
Cambridgeside Galleria, Cambridge (621-8668). MBTA: Green Line to Lechemere. Receive 10 to 20 percent off all sale items through the end of August.

Bostonian Shoes
The Mall at Chestnut Hill, Rt. 9., Chestnut Hill (965-3037). Men's casual footwear on sale through Aug. 26.

Chico's
The Mall at Chestnut Hill, Rt. 9, Chestnut Hill (965-3037). Get 20 percent off women's separates through Aug. 26.

Lerner New York
Cambridgeside Galleria, Cambridge (621-8668). MBTA: Green Line to Lechemere. Women's summer dresses are 50 percent off through Aug. 28.

Rug Tent Sale Event
Bloomingdale's, The Mall at Chestnut Hill, 55 Boylston St., Newton (630-6000). MBTA: D Green Line to Chestnut Hill. Aug. 23-Sept. 4. This sale will feature more than 10,000 one-of-a-kind, handmade Oriental rugs from the finest rug-making regions in the world.

BEAUTY

Bloomingdale's Beauty Events
The Mall at Chestnut Hill, 55 Boylston St., Newton (630-6000). MBTA: D Green Line to Chestnut Hill. •Aug. 22-24, 11am-6pm, in the Fashion Store, Level One: **Lancome National Makeup Artist Ross Burton**. •Aug. 23, 2-4pm at the Fashion Store, Level 2, (630-6741): ***Allure* Backstage Beauty**. See *Allure*'s exclusive Backstage Fall 2000 report and video and meet *Allure*'s merchandising editor. •Aug. 25-26, 11am-4:30pm, the Fashion Store, (630-6616): **Bobbi Brown Essentials National Makeup Artist Jillian Veran**.

Stila National Makeup Artist
Saks Fifth Avenue, One Ring Ave., Quincy (262-8500). Aug. 25-26. From the covers of *In Style* (Sandra Bullock), *Elle* (Salma Hayek), *Mademoiselle* (Liv Tyler) and *Jane* (Natalie Portman) to the spring and fall 2000 runways, the work of Stila's makeup team is behind the scenes. Makeup artist **Shawn Peltier** will teach you how to create looks of your own.

Balloon sculpturist Rami Salami entertains children at the Summer SOULstice Festival Aug. 29.

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

To Watch

New England Revolution
•Foxboro Stadium. Tickets: 1-877-GET-REVS
Aug. 26 (Home): Columbus Crew, 7pm, ESPN2.
Aug. 30 (Home): D.C. United, 7:30pm, FSN.
Sept. 2 (Away): D.C. United, 7:30pm, FSN.

Red Sox
•Fenway Park. Tickets: 267-8661.
Aug. 23 (Home): Anaheim Angels, 7:05pm, NESN.
Aug. 24 (Away): Kansas City Royals, 8:05pm, Fox25.
Aug. 25 (Away): Kansas City Royals, 8:05pm, NESN.
Aug. 26 (Away): Kansas City Royals, 9:05pm, NESN.
Aug. 27 (Away): Kansas City Royals, 2:05pm, Fox25.
Aug. 28 (Away): Tampa Bay, 7:15pm, NESN.
Aug. 29 (Away): Tampa Bay, 7:15pm, NESN.
Aug. 30 (Away): Tampa Bay, 7:15pm, NESN.
Sept. 1 (Home): Seattle Mariners, 7:05pm, NESN.
Sept. 2 (Home): Seattle Mariners, 1:15pm, Fox25.
Sept. 3 (Home): Seattle Mariners, 5:05pm, Fox25.
Sept. 4 (Home): Seattle Mariners, 1:05pm, Fox25.
Sept. 5 (Home): Oakland A's, 7:05pm, NESN.

Events

Fantasy Day at Fenway Park
Fenway Park, Boston (800-525-4669). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Aug. 26. For $1,500 you too can step onto the green of Fenway Park. The goal is to tag the 37-by-240-foot Green Monster, 310 feet from home plate down the left field line and 279 feet away in left-center. For each ball that makes it, the John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co. donates $1,000 to the Jimmy Fund. Talk about a field of dreams.

Seventh Annual Oldtime Baseball Game
St. Peter's Field, Sherman Street, North Cambridge (978-688-9010). Aug. 25, 7pm. Some of Boston's top amateur players will play, wearing reproductions of old-time uniforms from different eras in baseball history. The game is played under the lights and is truly a baseball postcard, complete with hot dogs, peanuts and period music.

World Wrestling Federation (WWF) Attitude
FleetCenter, Boston (931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Sept. 2, 7:30pm. $18-$40. The World Wrestling Federation returns to the FleetCenter with their new WWF Attitude event.

To Play

BASKETBALL

Basketball City
Adjacent to North Station and the FleetCenter (742-6700). Corporate, midday and weekend leagues.

Co-Ed Indoor Basketball
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 224). Sun.-Thu. nights at various locations. All levels welcome. Leagues in Waltham, Dedham and Brookline.

The Corporate League of Boston
(566-7808).

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333). Practice and workout programs for all levels in Greater Boston.

South End Fitness Center League
(534-5823).

Women's Basketball League
(661-9622). Practices and games on Tuesdays, 5:30-7pm, and Sundays, 6-7:30pm.

BOXING

Boxing Workout
Vinny Greco's Powerhouse Gym, 125 Walnut St., Watertown (972-1711). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Enjoy the workout of a boxer. Participate in one-on-one instruction in a supervised, safe environment.

CYCLING

Club Ciclismo Classico
Arlington Center (781-646-3377). Sunday mornings. These leisurely rides take you along the greener parts of the suburbs.

N.E. Revolution players Ted Chronopoulos and Wolde Harris rejoice after scoring a goal.

FISHING

Introduction to Fly-Casting
397 Mass. Ave., Arlington (877-345-WILD). Weekends throughout the summer. $100. This seminar is designed for the novice who has limited fly-casting experience. It will introduce you to equipment basics, fly rod mechanics, proper rod arm mechanics, and will cover the roll cast and basic pick-up-and-lay-down cast functions.

FOOTBALL

Australian Rules Football
Boston Australian Rules Football Club. Thu. evenings and Sat. mornings, Cambridge (781-440-9266). www.BostonDemons.org. No experience necessary.

Indoor Flag Football
BSSC, Indoor Sports Center in Revere (789-4070). Sundays.

HIKING/WALKING

The Appalachian Mountain Club
Gorham, N.H. (603-466-2727). Hikes and huts in the White Mountains. •Monthly AMC Young Members meetings at AMC headquarters, 4 Joy St., Beacon Hill (523-0655). Second Thursday of every month, 6-10pm, $3. Potluck. BYOB.

Boston Ski & Sports Hiking Trips
(789-4070).

New England Walkers
39 Oakland Rd., Brookline (731-9889). members.tripod.com/NEWALKERS. This 200-member club hosts race-walk events and clinics. Weekly walks at M.I.T. indoor track on Wednesdays at 7pm.

Walking Group
(247-8267). This group sponsors weekly walks on Wednesday evenings in the Back Bay. Meet new people while getting some exercise.

HOCKEY

Co-ed Floor Hockey
BSSC (789-4070). Individuals and teams, co-eds, all levels in Newton. Coed teams now forming.

ICE SKATING

Learn to Skate
Lessons available at 16 MDC rinks in Greater Boston (781-890-8480). www.iceskatingclasses.com. *Starting in early September.* Wait a minute—it seems that summer just got here and now it's time for ice-skating lessons again? That's right, folks: group lessons for adults, all levels. Use figure or hockey skates.

RUGBY

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
Cambridge (781-340-2192). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.bwrfc.org. *Tue. and Thu. evenings.* No experience necessary.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
(499-4835). Weekly runs year-round. Serious drinkers with a running problem.

Boston Road Club Weekly Races
(781-646-8955). Sundays. Starts at Wells Ave. in Newton.

Fresh Pond Weekly Road Races
Fresh Pond Reservation. Saturdays, 10am. Choose between a 2.5- or 5-mile run.

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COURTESY OF THE N.E. REVOLUTION

Khoury's Thursday Night Runs
East Somerville. (351-5682). 4.13 miles. 7pm at Khoury's Bar.
NikeTown Boston Running Club
200 Newbury St., Boston (267-3400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Three-to-five-mile loops. Starts at 6:30pm. Monthly mini-clinics as well.

SOCCER

BSSC Soccer
BSSC (789-4070, ext. 225). Coed teams for both indoor and outdoor soccer.

SOFTBALL

80-Team Softball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 222). Monday through Thursday evenings at 6:30pm. Join as an individual or as a team. Sign up now for fall league.

SWIMMING

Boston Athletic Club Swim Workouts
653 Summer St., Boston (269-4300). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon. and Wed. 6:15-7:15am.
The Charles River Park Club Morning Masters
Charles River Park, Boston (450-9810). Mon., Wed., Fri. 6:30-7:45am.
The Mason Masters Swim Program
The Mason Pool, 159 Norfolk Avenue, Roxbury (236-4923 or 450-9810) Mon.-Fri. 7:30-8:30pm. An early-morning masters swim program led by Alex Primilsky, coach of numerous world, national and Olympic champions.

TENNIS

Boston Tennis Club
Located next to North Station, Boston (742-6700). Adult and youth clinics, socials, open play and matching.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Boston Ski & Sports Club
(789-4070).
Boston Ultimate Disc Alliance
(928-0882). www.buda.org.

VOLLEYBALL

Adult Co-ed Volleyball League
Waltham YMCA (781-894-5295). Monday nights, began Sept. 13. All levels welcome at this friendly co-ed league.
BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club, (789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. at various locations. Co-ed indoor 6-on-6 leagues. Four different levels of play. Pick-up games, clinics and tournaments also available. •Co-ed pickup games Tuesdays and Fridays at West Newton Armory, 1137 Washington St. $5.
Co-ed Volleyball-Waltham
Waltham YMCA, 725 Lexington St, Waltham (781-894-5295). Monday nights. Begins in April.

WATER SPORTS

Boston Sailing Center
54 Lewis Wharf, Boston (227-4198). Year-round lessons and racing programs for all abilities.
Community Boating
21 David Mugar Way, Boston (523-1038). www.community-boating.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. Open Mon.-Fri., 1pm-sunset; Sat.-Sun. and holidays, 9am-sunset. April 1-Oct. 31.* Sailing, windsurfing and kayaking on the Charles River for only $190 per season, including instruction. What a bahgain! Or rent equipment for the day and hang out with friends on the river.
Courageous Sailing Center
Charlestown Navy Yard (635-4505). Lessons are offered here year-round.
Ski Market Kayak Demo Center
Edward J. McCormack Bathhouse, 165 William J. Boulevard, South Boston (464-3291). Wednesdays, 4-7pm; Thu.-Sun., 10am-6pm. Single-person boats $10 per hour, $30 for four hours. Through Labor Day. Demo Ski Market's kayaks—before you lay down the credit card—now through Labor Day.
Women's Kayaking Lessons
Wild Women Outfitters, 397 Mass. Ave., Arlington (877-345-WILD). Weekends, throughout the summer. $40. An introduction to kayak navigation, including chart-and-compass, GPS and VHFs. Participants will also receive a basic navigation kit, three hours of instruction, class review booklet and PowerPoint class materials review diskette.

WRESTLING

Men's Adult Wrestling
Boston Union, 48 Boylston St., Boston (482-1122). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm; Saturdays, 1-3:30pm. All skill levels. Coaching available. Perfect for former high school or college wrestlers.

go away

TRAVELING NEAR AND FAR

NORTH OF BOSTON

Gloucester Schooner Festival
Western Avenue and Gloucester Harbor, Gloucester, Mass. (800-649-6839). Sept. 1-3. Free. Catch the Mayor's Race as 100-foot schooners race along the waterfront. The parade of sail will be a sight to see, but if you long for an up-close look at these magnificent boats, deck tours will be available. The highlight of the festival will be the Boatlight Parade on Sept. 2 from 8-11:30pm. Lighted and elaborately decorated boats will cruise from Lobster Cove in Annisquam, down the Annisquam River and into the Gloucester Harbor, where a fireworks show will finish off the evening with a bang.
Lowell Summer Music Festival
Boarding House Park, Lowell National Historic Park. Lowell, Mass. (978-970-5000). www.lowellsummermusic.org. *Prices vary.* •Aug. 25: Rockabilly star **Ronnie Dawson** returns to the festival with his fusion of country, rhythm and blues, and gospel. •Aug. 26: **Roomful of Blues** brings their trademark horn-driven Grammy-nominated sound noted for impeccable musicianship in blues, jazz and swing. •Sept. 1: Las Vegas performer and Shania Twain-look-alike, **Michelle Rohl** gives a tribute concert featuring Shania's greatest hits accompanied by a country band. •Sept. 2: Guitarist and Rolling Stones alum **Mick Taylor** brings his all-star band, creatively dubbed the Mick Taylor Band, to Lowell to perform their blues-influenced music.

SOUTH OF BOSTON

Rhythm & Roots Festival
Ninigret Park, Route 1, Charlestown, R.I. (888-855-6940). www.rhythmandroots.com. *Sept. 1-3. Prices vary.* Settle down with your blanket, enjoy some Southern food and celebrate Labor Day outdoors with the tunes of Cajun, zydeco, blues, swing, Americana, folk and other roots music in the scenic setting of Ninigret Park. Enjoy four stages of live entertainment, a dancing tent and a workshop tent where the audience can meet the performers. Headliners include **Geno Delafose & French Rockin' Boogie** and **Junior Brown**, a country guitarist whose hit "Highway Patrol" graced the soundtrack of *Me, Myself & Irene*. Enjoy camping, biking and the nearby ocean beaches.
Jacob's Pillow 2000 Festival
Located in Becket, Mass. (413-637-1322). www.jacobspillow.org. *Prices vary.* Representing cultures and dance styles from the U.S., France, Japan, Ireland, Africa, Sweden, Brazil, Spain, Canada and the Netherlands, this world-renowned dance festival is the place to see and experience dance in a way that cannot be found at any other U.S. festival. •Aug. 23-27: Choreographer Alonzo King's **Lines Contemporary Ballet** delivers the Pillow finale. As one of the country's leading ballet choreographers, King's style incorporates movement, music and rhythm, and will be set to Indian composer Zakir Hussain's live music. The dance troupe will perform *Who Dressed You Like a Foreigner?* to close this year's festival. •Aug. 24-27: **Noche Flamenca**, hailing from Madrid, performs a traditional cabaret-style flamenco show with guitarists and singers.

WEST OF BOSTON

Women's Equality Day Celebration
Abby's House, 21-23 Crown St., Worcester, Mass. (508-756-5486). Aug. 24, 6pm. Free. Abby's House is a shelter for homeless and battered women and their children. Every year they commemorate Women's Equality Day in hopes of remembering all the women and volunteers who have spent time there. Supporters are encouraged bring a plant in honor of their loved ones.
World Artistic Roller Skating Championship
Springfield Civic Center, 1277 Main St., Springfield, Mass. (207-377-6679). www.sportsofamerica.org. *Sept. 4-17. $15 evening events, $10 daytime events.* This event promises performances from the best athletes on four wheels worldwide. Championship titles are up for grabs in pairs, freestyle, racing and roller dancing.
New England Food Sampling Fair
Atkins Country Market, Route 116 and Bay Road, Amherst, Mass. (413-253-9528). Aug. 26, 11am-4pm. Free. This fair provides a rare opportunity for you to speak directly to the New England manufacturers who produce the foods that you put on your table. Get ready to taste more than 30 products, such as jellies, meats, cheeses, spices, seasonings and fresh produce. Manufacturers and local farmers from New England will be on hand to trade recipes and answer any questions.

CAPE & THE ISLANDS

New England Jazz Festival
Concert Tent at Mashpee Commons, Mashpee, Mass. (508-477-2580). Aug. 25-27. Evening concerts: adults $30, seniors $28, youth $15; Jazz brunch: adults $50, youth $25. Three days of jazz is reason enough to pack up and head to the Cape. •Aug. 25, 8pm: Husband-and-wife team **Cleo Laine & the John Dankworth Group** came all the way from Britain to perform at the festival. The duo has been touring together for 42 years, and Cleo has a Grammy to her credit, thanks to her four-octave vocal range. •Aug. 26, 8pm: **Diane Schuur,** a protegé of Dizzie Gillespie, has been nominated for five Grammys and performed with such greats as B.B. King. •Aug. 27, 10:30am: Enjoy a jazz brunch with renowned musician and songwriter **Dave McKenna** with his trademark solo piano performance.

NEWPORT

Newport Waterfront Irish Festival
Newport Yachting Center, America's Cup Avenue, Newport, R.I. (401-846-1600). www.newportfestivals.com. *Sept. 2-4. $12 adults, children under 12 free.* This Irish festival celebrates Irish culture, cuisine, music, crafts and dancing. So popular that it expanded 10,000 square feet from last year, the festival encompasses more than 100 exhibitors and entertainers and a total of five stages. Join in the merriment at the Shamrock Dance Hall, tour the Oyster Garden or just settle down with a pint of Guinness, the festival's sponsor.

NEW YORK CITY

8th Annual Tugboat Challenge
Intrepid Sea Air Space Museum, Pier 86, 12th Avenue and 46th Street, New York, N.Y. (212-245-0072). www.intrepidmuseum.com. *Sept. 3, 10am-4pm.* If the Tall Ships weren't your style, maybe these mighty tugboats are. More than a dozen of New York's toughest tugboats will be going up against each other. The most exciting event will definitely be the nose-to-nose pushing contest where the most powerful tugboat triumphs by plowing through its competition. If you're a landlubber or have a Popeye complex, join in the spinach-eating contests or get yourself a temporary tattoo. Anchors away!

TORONTO

Canadian International Air Show
Lake Ontario, Toronto, Canada (416-408-2800). Sept. 2-4. The 51st year of this air show features aerobatics by the Canadian Snowbirds, airborn ambassadors to the Canadian forces, along with a stunning MIG-Sabre act. The fighting planes will dazzle spectators with a simulated Korean War-era dogfight between Russian and American aircraft. Not impressed with battle scene re-enactments? Later in the show, a stuntman will emerge from his plane's cockpit and grab onto a helicopter skid, where he will perilously dangle until he expertly lands in front of the crowd. These death-defying antics will be made even more dangerous by the setting: directly above the expansive waters of Lake Ontario.

LONDON

Hay's Galleria Oyster and Seafood Fair
London Bridge City, Tooley Street, London, England, U.K. (020-7940-7700). Sept. 1-3. Kick off oyster season by slurping down some shellfish from the other side of the Atlantic. Best to go with an empty stomach because sampling is expected before you buy, and you can buy nearly any kind of seafood your heart (and your stomach) desires. Belly up to the champagne and oyster bar, take in some live music or browse the fishy craft market.

FRIESLAND

Fierljeppen Canal Vaulting Championships
Various locations, Joure, Friesland. Netherlands (212-370-7360). www.fierljeppen.da.ru. *Aug. 26.* Originating in Friesland, an area of northern Holland so isolated that the language is not spoken or understood in the rest of Holland, the ancient practice of vaulting oneself over canals (*fierljeppen*) via aluminum pole is a highly competitive, if not unusual, sporting event. Training since childhood, *ljeppers* (jumpers) try to launch themselves as far as possible over a canal to take home the coveted prize of a silver pole and medal. How is this done? you ask. *Ljeppers* sprint toward a pole that is standing upright in a canal. With innertubes strapped to their feet, they shimmy up to the top of the pole and at the last possible moment, leap toward the banks of the canal. Grab your pole (and your camera) and head to Joure.

BUÑOL

La Tomatina
Plaza del Pueblo, Buñol, Spain (888-657-7246). Aug. 30. What do you get when you gather a crowd drunk on rose wine, douse them with water and equip them with several dump trucks full of ripe tomatos to pelt each other with? La Tomatina, a tomato-fueled food fight. It has no religious or political roots like most European festivals—but it is speculated that more than six decades ago, an impromptu tomato fight among a handful of friends is what inspired this vegetable madness. Nearly 90,000 pounds of imported tomatos will soar through the air in less than a half-hour.

Headliner Geno Delafose plays at the Rhythm & Roots Festival in Charlestown, R.I., Sept. 1-3.

POWYS

World Bog Snorkeling Championship
Waen Rhydd Bog, Llanwrtyd Wells, Powys, Wales, U.K. (+44 1 591 610 236). Aug. 28. Though most summer vacationers would opt for the transparent azure waters of the Carribbean to take a snorkeling trip, not everyone goes for tropical beaches. Adorned in the traditional outfit of fins, masks and snorkels, competitors in the World Bog Snorkeling Championship must drudge their way through the murky Waen Rhydd Bog. If you shudder at the mere thought of stepping in a puddle, the floating carpet of peat moss, algae and various other varieties of aquatic slime that clog the bog will surely turn you off. However, bog snorkelers dive right in and the fastest (and bravest) racer to make his way through the bog wins. The champion just better not be expecting any congratulatory hugs.

mark your daytimer

UPCOMING EVENTS

CITYSCOPE

Cambridge River Festival
Sept. 9, Cambridge
Art Newbury
Sept. 10, Newbury Street
Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus
Oct. 13, FleetCenter

Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus

MUSIC

Phish
Sept. 11-12, Tweeter Center
B.B. King Blues Festival
Sept. 14, FleetBoston Pavilion
Ziggy Marley and the Melody Makers with Other Ones
Sept. 15, FleetCenter
Aretha Franklin
Sept. 23, Symphony Hall
Mixfest 2000
Sept. 23, Suffolk Downs

THEATER

Grease
Sept. 12-17, The Wang Theatre
The King Stag
Sept. 14-28, American Repertory Theatre

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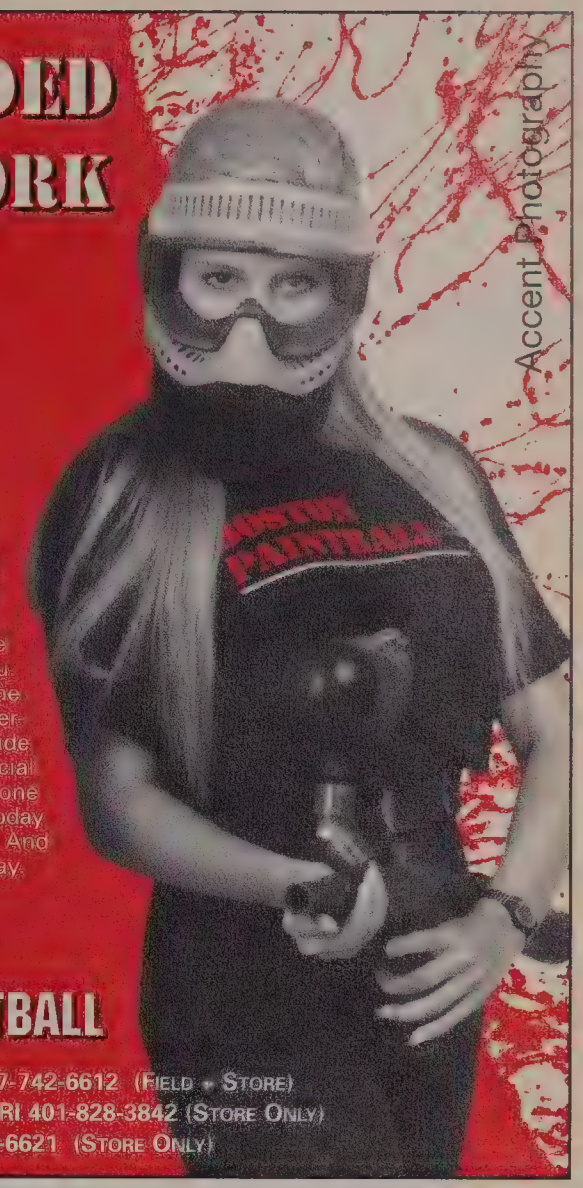

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Improper Impersonals

If everyone kept their feelings bottled up like warm beer, we'd soon have antisocial behavior exploding all over the place and ruining the upholstery. That's why we have the Improper Impersonals, a column written by you, the reader. Send us your letters of love and spleen, and we'll print them for the world to see. Heck, it's better than making a fool of yourself in person. And IT'S FREE! Pick up a pen and tell that babe on the T you like his butt by writing to:

IMPROPER IMPERSONALS
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116
FAX: 859-1446 E-MAIL: impersonals@improper.com
Recent correspondence follows.

To the disgusting second story peeping tom across the street
I think it is pathetic that you sit by your window watching my apartment for signs of me and my roommate. I think it is extremely disturbing that when you see us you start playing your violin in your underwear. I think it is perverse how you waved at me once I noticed you and rushed to close my blinds.You watched me hang curtains to try and block out your voyeuristic tendencies and your face. You need a life, a hobby or something to take up all of your free time instead of trying to catch fleeting glimpses of naked girls across the street. I am sorry that you have nothing better to do than sit in front of your window so long that you fall asleep there. Oh, and even though you now sit on the floor with just your forehead visible, we still know you're there. Nice try.
—from the third floor girls across the street

Save Our Ears
Dear Mr. Santana, Although we enjoy your music and dislike of provolone cheese, we would deeply appreciate it if you would implore the goons who live above us to cease their not-so-smooth homage to you and Mr. Rob Thomas. Sincerely,
—the Subterraneans

To All the Middle-Aged Pervs in JP
I am sick and tired of all you *pendejos* ogling me up and down and making your stupid "*Que grandota*" comments as I pass by! I'm neither Dominican nor Puerto Rican—I'm part Guatemalan malan and I do not consider being called "Big Woman" a compliment! Do you guys let your dicks or your brains control your mouths?! Go screw!
—Fed up and ready to file a sexual harassment suit against all of JP

To My Canadian Pisces Dragon Jeff
Every time I close my eyes, I see your face. Each day that we continue in this relationship, I know more and more that you are the only one for me. You captivate me and have since the first moment I laid my weary eyes upon you. Thank you for loving all the things in me that no one has ever seen. You are quite possibly "the one." I hope we share many years to come. XOXO, your leather bear,
—C

We were on the last B-Train outbound...
on the evening of the 4th of July, around 1:15 AM. You were the cute girl seated at the front of the train facing the rear wearing a red top and black pants. You were with two friends, one male, one female. I was toward the middle of the train wearing a Sox cap, a white T-shirt, and an unbuttoned short sleeve shirt. If you remember me, you probably remember my smile. Now I know we made eye contact a few times, but you didn't look back when you got off at Harvard Ave. Then as the train took off, I noticed you and your friend looking back. Guess what? I got off at the next stop and raced back to Harvard to say hi, but you were gone. It would have been great to meet you. Hopefully it's not too late. Hope to hear from you.
—btrainguy@hotmail.com

4th of July/Whiskeys/lobster hunting
You were waiting for your friends alone, drinking margaritas. After speaking with you my mind was made up! You were the one to help me catch those pesty crustations. We gave up after two failed attempts, but you know what they say, "The third times the charm!" I want to try and catch more lobsters with you but I lost your e-mail. So here's mine.
—rstockwell@vgp.com

Hus
Music, places, faces, everything that crosses my way bring a piece of you along. My thoughts are still in Hemenway Street. It is hard to live with you, but it is much harder without. I wish compromising was not so tricky. I am tired of finding myself in the limbo of loving and reasoning. Would you be up for a sushi-talk? Please get in touch.
—Your X

Upper Crust show @ Lilli's
July 8—I've toyed with sending out an Improper to random pretty strangers I have seen, but thought of it as frivolous. Then I see her. . . dammit. She's front row at the show, not really digging the opening band but then singing along to every word that the Crust sang. She danced in her blue and black shirt as her photographer friend took pictures of the band. I stared as my two friends prodded me into saying something. I was the spiked up, dark brown hair and eyes kinda guy, behind her. I could have sworn she kept looking back at me, but I am clueless when it comes to those things. All I could do was keep staring. For 2 hours. Yup, like those in this column, I couldn't think of a thing to say. When the roadie came by at the end of the show and shook her hand, I walked away, using that as an excuse (i.e. oh, she's probably dating someone in the band). She'll probably never see this, but it doesn't matter. She's the only one that has moved me to write.
—argo123@ collegeclub.com

A Thank-You Note
To the beautiful woman standing in front of me at the Border's Bookshop in Downtown Crossing at lunch time on Thursday, July 13. You were wearing a pink shirt and blue jeans and had short blonde hair. I was in an orange shirt and had a *Forbes Magazine* in my hand when I accidentally walked into you. You laughed it off and told me it was OK, and while I was paying the cashier, you gave me an incredible smile that absolutely warmed me and cleared up a particularly rough and frustrating day. Thank-you for cheering me up.
Sorry I bumped into you.
—Mike

Big Easy in June
I met you at the Big Easy and we hit it off and danced for a while. You were a really cute blonde with an awesome smile and even better personality. I had brown hair and we both went to the same college though you were younger than me. At the end of the night I gave you my number and a little kiss but I've been thinking since that you might not have heard it correctly because it was so loud in there. If you're still interested, e-mail me.I did want to take you to dinner if you were up for it.
—Guyinboston36@hotmail.com

Peachy
You are the adorably handsome blonde man buying two peaches at Bread and Circus on Wednesday, July 19. I am the brunette with the tan and the ponytail. Were you looking at me or was it just wishful thinking ? You got into a white minivan and headed towards Arlington on Fresh Pond Parkway. E-mail me and maybe we can meet for a peach sometime.
—dpatkin@mediaone.net

Conversations on the T, buses, commuter rail
Everyone who has a conversation with someone while strangers are listening, and ya know they are, sounds retarded. You could be Einstein on the Red line going from MIT to Braintree, having a convo with Madame Curie about the theory of relativity and (you'd both be dead but that's beside the point) you would STILL sound like a retard. NO ONE wants to hear about your life, especially your sex life. Yeah ladies, you know who ya are. No one wants to hear how great or badly your man performed last night.
—anonymous

Rockie Horoscope

AUGUST 23 – SEPTEMBER 5, 2000
BY ROCKIE GARDINER

VIRGO
AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22
You're smarter than ever and you know it. While your Mercury ruler is in your sign, there's no way you can avoid the facts or the truth of a matter. And neither hell nor high water can keep you from divulging them. Therefore, if you want to make a big splash over the Labor Day weekend, do your homework, research your subject, check the figures, then step back and watch what happens when the Virgo sun provokes Jupiter and Pluto, the planets of growth and regeneration. If you can't afford to rock the boat, hide out and cool it.

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22
An abrupt change in a casual friendship, the game plan or your membership in a socio-political group like the Ruckus Society might upset you temporarily, but in the long run, it'll be to your advantage. The same holds true for the surprising information you receive over the weekend about a financial matter or something else of value. But once your Venus ruler enters your sign on the 30th, you should feel more secure about everything. That's also when you'll realize that patience is, indeed, the key to heaven.

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21
You're still in the thick of things, maybe feeling tempest-tossed on Tuesday when your Mars co-ruler is on the receiving end of an out-of-control Uranian independent streak. This potent planetary opposition could disconnect you from home and hearth or cause a dispute with your boss. Be nice, or else. Meanwhile Pluto, your other co-ruler, is being challenged by Mercury and the sun. You'll have to fess up to something before Labor Day, and that can affect your career and/or your relationshiop with a parent. Do it and be done with it.

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21
The first challenge to your Jupiter ruler as it transits your Gemini house of partners comes when Mercury squares the jolly giant this weekend. Usually this combo is about getting information, for writers it's about publication. Tuesday's Virgo new moon can twist the screws a little tighter, but it's not until the sun squares Jupiter in Gemini and Pluto in Sagittarius next weekend that you realize that this challenge/opportunity, whichever way you see it, could make a significant difference in your life. Particularly if you have natal planets at 10 Sag.

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20
Expect to be a little rickety for a while as you recover from the first (of many) challenging squares from the sun to your Saturn ruler. However, after Tuesday's new moon in earthy Virgo starts to change the energy, you'll regain your solid footing. By Thursday, as affectionate Venus makes nice to Saturn, you'll feel more loved and appreciated than you've been in a while. The trine is a supportive, rewarding relationship; treasure it. Disputes with friends about money should be avoided, or ignored if possible. You've paid your dues, now it's their turn.

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18
Somebody is up in arms. You'll find out which of your partners it is when hot-tempered Mars opposes your Uranus ruler early in the work week. This could turn nasty, so get the argument over with, put it to rest and be glad that you won't encounter this kind of opposition again until next summer. A higher, more loving, more musical, borderline spiritual vibe takes over for the Labor Day weekend. All sorts of transformations are being made; what are you giving up/taking on?

PISCES
FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19
The Virgo new moon in your house of co-workers and services rendered means that you'll be starting a new cycle in that area. How new and how soon depends on how dramatically things change when the Virgo sun squares Jupiter and Pluto in mutable signs like your own. Translated: if you were born at the end of February, you're about to grow (intellectually, maybe even financially) by leaps and bounds. But something has to be sacrificed because Pluto always demands a return on the investment he makes in you.Not quite Falstaff's deal with the Devil, but close.

ARIES
MARCH 20-APRIL 19
It only happens once every two years, but when your Mars ruler opposes erratic Uranus, all hell can break loose. The eventful day is Tuesday, just before the Virgo new moon kicks off a new cycle of creative fooling around and romantic games. Somewhere along the way a friend might have to be sacrificed, preferably the one who made the moves that disrupted the smooth flow of your love life. A pressing social/political issue could also upset your plans for what's left of the summer. Try to keep your temper in check and your body burn- and bruise-free.

TAURUS
APRIL 20-MAY 20
A few more days of lovey-dovey sybaritic ease, then suddenly, you're screwed by an erratic force that can make you trip, stumble and fall flat on your face. It won't be your fault—more likely a case of being in the wrong place at the wrong time, caught between two warring factions. So until next Thursday, when your Venus ruler comes under the protective wing of safety-first Saturn, watch out. After that, artistic inspiration or an exquisite romantic notion can make you feel like swooning.

GEMINI
MAY 21-JUNE 20
Because Jupiter and Saturn, major movers and shakers, are in your sign, these could be tense times for the Twins. If you're ricocheting from pillar to post, wondering how far you're expanding (turning into a gasbag?) and what you're discarding (stepping in shit?) in the process, try to hang on to a few basic tenets. Only you know what is constant about yourself; these are the qualities that, no matter how they are tested, will endure through this transitory period. Tuesday's Virgo new moon kicks off a family matter that will probably dominate the Labor Day weekend.

CANCER
JUNE 21-JULY 22
Another new moon, this one in early Virgo, probably in your money house, brings a new opportunity to earn bucks before you spend them. Virgo can help order your priorities and bring quality to the top of your list. As we approach the Labor Day weekend, a casual friend can provide the shot you need to take so that you, too, can become a wheeler-dealer in the world of entertainment and recreation. But if all you do is camp out, trust your intuition to come up with an improvement to the camping experience that'll make your fortune.

LEO
JULY 23-AUGUST 22
Seeing red yet? Mars in Leo gives you more energy and desire, but a much shorter fuse. When it opposes erratic, erotic Uranus in your Aquarius house of partners Tuesday, fireworks might explode and the relationship could suddenly change. Proceed with caution; airplane accidents and earthquakes are also associated with this unpredictable aspect. You might feel challenged, pressed to spread your wings or recycle your past while your sun ruler contacts optimistic Jupiter and cathartic Pluto next weekend.

Curious about the future? Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30 to 40+ pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise over the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $42.50 per report to: ROCKIE GARDINER, 1021 N. Genesee, #1, West Hollywood, CA 90046. *www.rockiehoroscope.com*. Read my daily forecast online at *www.laweekly.com*.

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24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, The Allstonians and Beat Soup.

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138 Portland St., Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is now the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, a block from the FleetCenter and steps from Faneuil Hall, Commonwealth Fish & Beer features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

General

BARCODE
Enjoy the intimate, windowed dining room or a signature cocktail in the lounge. BARCODE offers a creative martini selection, a balanced and affordable wine list and both bottled and draft beer. Drinks are available until 2 am daily, food served until 1 am.

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316 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114, 617-523-2727. A wonderfully relaxed haven located opposite MGH on the back side of Beacon Hill. Serving the finest cocktails and most comfortable food in town. Plant yourself in a comfy booth, a cozy banquette, or at our fully loaded bar and escape from your everyday troubles. Doing it nice & easy 7 days a week - 11am-2am.

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The Comedy Connection
The Comedy Connection located in the heart of historical Faneuil Hall features the biggest names in comedy with apearances by Jon Stewart, Chris Rock, Wendy Liebman and Jay Mohr. Located on the second floor of the Quincy Market Building, the Connection offers the best in local and national stand-up seven nights a week. For more information call 617-248-9700.

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Iguana Cantina
313 Moody St., Waltham, 781-891-3039; 1656 Worcester Rd., Rt. 9, Framingham, 508-875-1188; and 66 Chestnut St., Needham, 781-444-9976. The Iguana Cantina serves a variety of Caribbean, Tex-Mex and Southwestern fare. The atmosphere is fun and the food is tasty. Visit our website at www.theiguanacantina.com.

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223 Columbus Ave. 867-9300. Acclaimed chef/owner Jamie Mammano's South End restaurant. The design is both elegant and informal, resonating with the ambiance of Provence. Mistral features a crisp linen dining room as well as a casual lounge and bar. Serving dinner Mon-Sun beginning at 5:30pm - 11pm. Late night menu served Thurs-Sat 11pm-12midnight. Reservations recommended-private dining available.

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24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Market-place Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, & 1999 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve both lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

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105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-9966. A wonderful secret hidden in Boston's Financial District. The Vault offers contemporary American cuisine and an extensive and exclusive affordable wine list. Come in and enjoy our new spring menu, including an expanded raw bar, Maine crab cakes, seared tuna and much more. Lunch Mon. - Fri. from 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Dinner Mon. - Wed. from 5:30 - 10:30 pm, Thurs. - Sat. from 5:30 - 11 pm. Closed Sun.

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Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston, MA 02114. A T.Rex named Sue, through October 9. Enjoy Sunday brunch in the beautiful Skyline Room overlooking the Charles River at noon, then experience the amazing Mugar Omni Theater: Dolphins at 2pm. Tickets are $28 for Adults, $26 for Seniors/ Children. Brunch only is $20. On-site parking is included. Reservations recommended, call (617)723-2500.

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Ashish Chhitwal and an assortment of random drunk folks enjoy Mardi Gras 2000 in New Orleans. Judging by his lack of beads, Ashish must have had a boobie-filled night up to this point.

From left to right: Governor Don Sunquist (R-Tenn), our own A. Paul Cellucci (Republican), and Governor Ed Shaeffer (R-N.D.) smile before arm-wrestling over their lone copy of the IMPROPER.

Kerri Kenerson (l) and Darrah Arnburg catch up on Juliana Hatfield at Machu Picchu, Peru.

Montreal Canadiens defenseman Karl Dykhuis checks out the island life. Montreal: hockey, beer, and Club Super Sexe. Nantucket: Kathie Lee. Easy choice, eh?

Elsewhere in South America, Joe Crawford of Boston brought the 1999 Boston's Best issue to Easter Island, Chile.

Michael Malyszko captured Betty and Rita in front of a Bernini fountain in Rome. They obviously enjoyed the Spring Fashion issue, where noted that "dark collars and heart-shaped tags are IN."

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:

Paddling their way through moss, muck and algae in the World Bog Snorkeling Championship, held Aug. 28 in consonant-rich Llanwrtyd Wells, Wales.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116.
Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail and photo location. All photos become the property of THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE and will not be returned.

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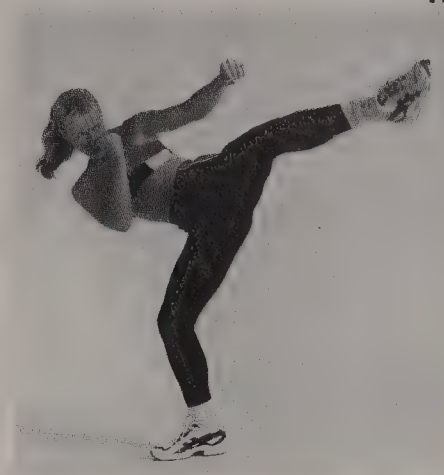

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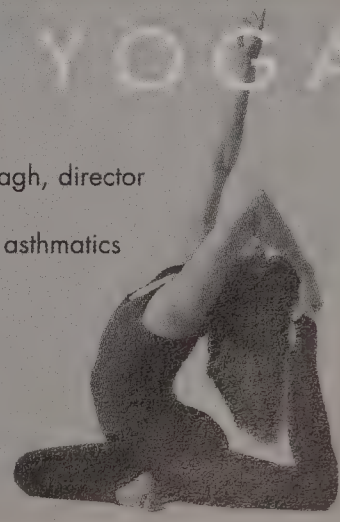

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BEST OF BOSTON 1999

Last Scene Here

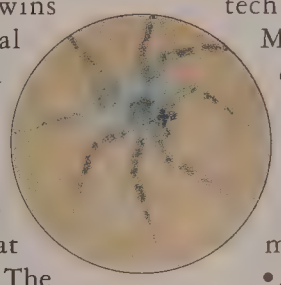
BY JONATHAN SORDET

Above: Somewhere on the Nairobi Road, a group of Maasai villagers demonstrate that fashion is alive and well in the bush. Below: A hot-air balloon is the safest place to view the food chain in action.

WHAT I DID ON MY SUMMER VACATION

Nothing can really prepare you for Africa—not a subscription to *National Geographic*, or visits to the zoo, or even all those old Tarzan movies you watched on TV as a kid. It's a place that confounds expectations and beggars description.

That said, and with apologies to Isak Dinesen, I'll begin by saying: I took a trip to Africa, to the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro, and the plains of the Serengeti. We started out in Arusha, a bustling metropolis of hair salons and butcher shops that serves as the de facto headquarters for "the northern circuit"—a series of national parks and game reserves that take up much of northern Tanzania. My traveling companion was a 71-year-old woman who makes promiscuous use of words like "gorgeous" and "fabulous," and who is known to end discussions by saying, "You don't know what you're taking about. I was in fashion for 37 years." We had a driver named Abdul, and a guide (Andrew), who is descended from the Maasai and studied wildlife management at a college operated by the Frankfurt Zoological Society. Together, the four of us set off on a seven-day adventure, through landscapes that shifted entirely in a matter of minutes—like the Wizard of Oz when it goes from black-and-white to color—from eery, blanched-out, arid moonscapes of acacia trees, to lush, dripping green tropical rain forest, and from endlessly monotonous grasslands to oases of palm trees crowded around watering holes. From Arusha National Park, we visited the Maasai lands, and continued on to Lake Manyara (at the edge of the Great Rift Valley), the Ngorongoro Crater (which wins my vote for the most surreal place on the planet), Olduvai Gorge (which our ape-like ancestors littered with their fossilized remains) and finally, the Seronera Game Reserve (the one part of the Serengeti that doesn't look like Oklahoma). The following are some of my observations along the way:



•After a few hours on safari, you realize that if you started walking, you probably wouldn't get very far before something hunted you down and ate you.

•After a few days on safari, the initial thrill of seeing zebra wears off, and they become nothing more than striped horses that get in your way.

•In Africa, there's no one shouting, "Cue the elephants!" or "Send in the crocodiles!" And unlike here, the animals don't come when you call them.

•There is nothing quite as odd-looking as a baobob tree, unless it's a giraffe.

•No matter how many times you've seen a giraffe, there is no more unlikely or bizarre sight, unless perhaps it's an ostrich...or a warthog...or a rhino.

•Baboons look and act disturbingly like members of your immediate family.

•In America, we take water for granted.

•The next time you complain about your computer, cell phone or other high-tech gadget, consider that the Maasai live in huts made of cow dung and dirt.

•Wildebeest, impala and gazelle might be the Goldfish snack crackers of the savannah, but Cape Buffalo provide a more American-sized portion.

•After eating lunch while watching hippos floating in a pool, it's odd to watch vultures eating a dead hippo for lunch.

•Taking a leak in lion country lends new meaning to the term "pee shy."

•African spiders are creepy, especially when you don't know if they're poisonous and they're headed toward the mosquito netting over your bed.

•Bug spray is preferable to malaria, but does little to prevent getting bitten by tsetse flies, which hurts like hell.

•While watching a cheetah stalk a herd of gazelle, a certain type of woman will whisper things like, "That would make a fantastic coat."

•There is no maximum number of times that a certain type of woman will exclaim, "Those flamingos! I just died over those flamingos!"

•There are very few good reasons for waking up at 4:30am. A hot-air balloon ride over the Serengeti is one of them.

•And finally: To feel, upon returning to Arusha, like you're back in civilization, is proof that you've been in the middle of nowhere.

Following our safari, we spent several days on the island of Zanzibar, a former Arab sultanate that looks like something straight out of *1,001 Nights*. The smell of spices permeates the air in Stonetown, while the seashore offered the opportunity for some serious R&R—snorkeling in the Indian Ocean, collecting seashells or reading under the shade of a palm tree.

And then, before we knew it, our trip was over.

My mind still hasn't caught up with my eyeballs.iB

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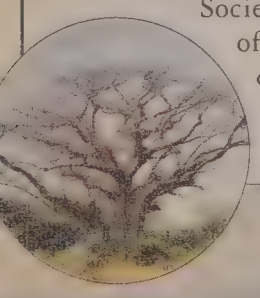

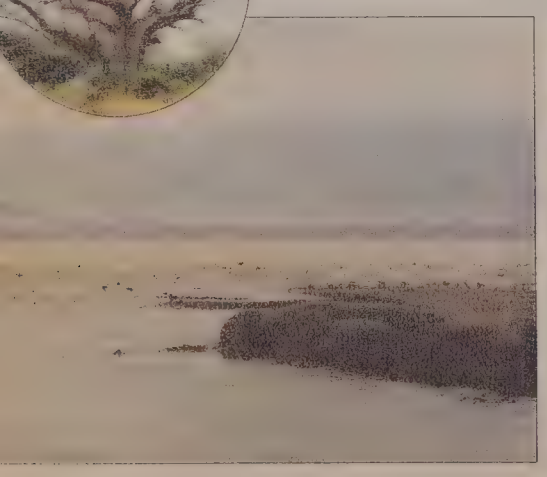

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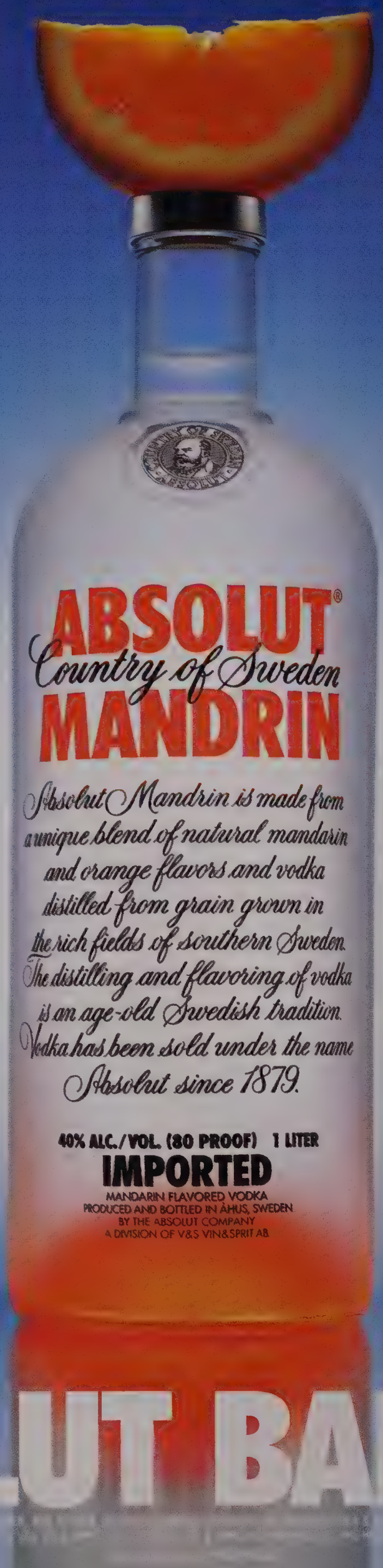

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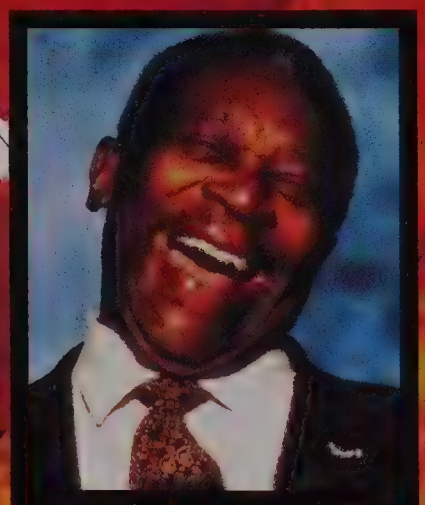

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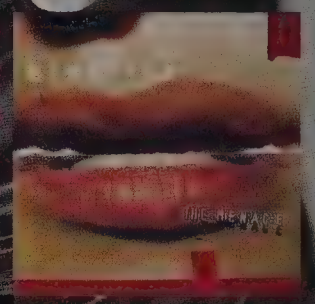

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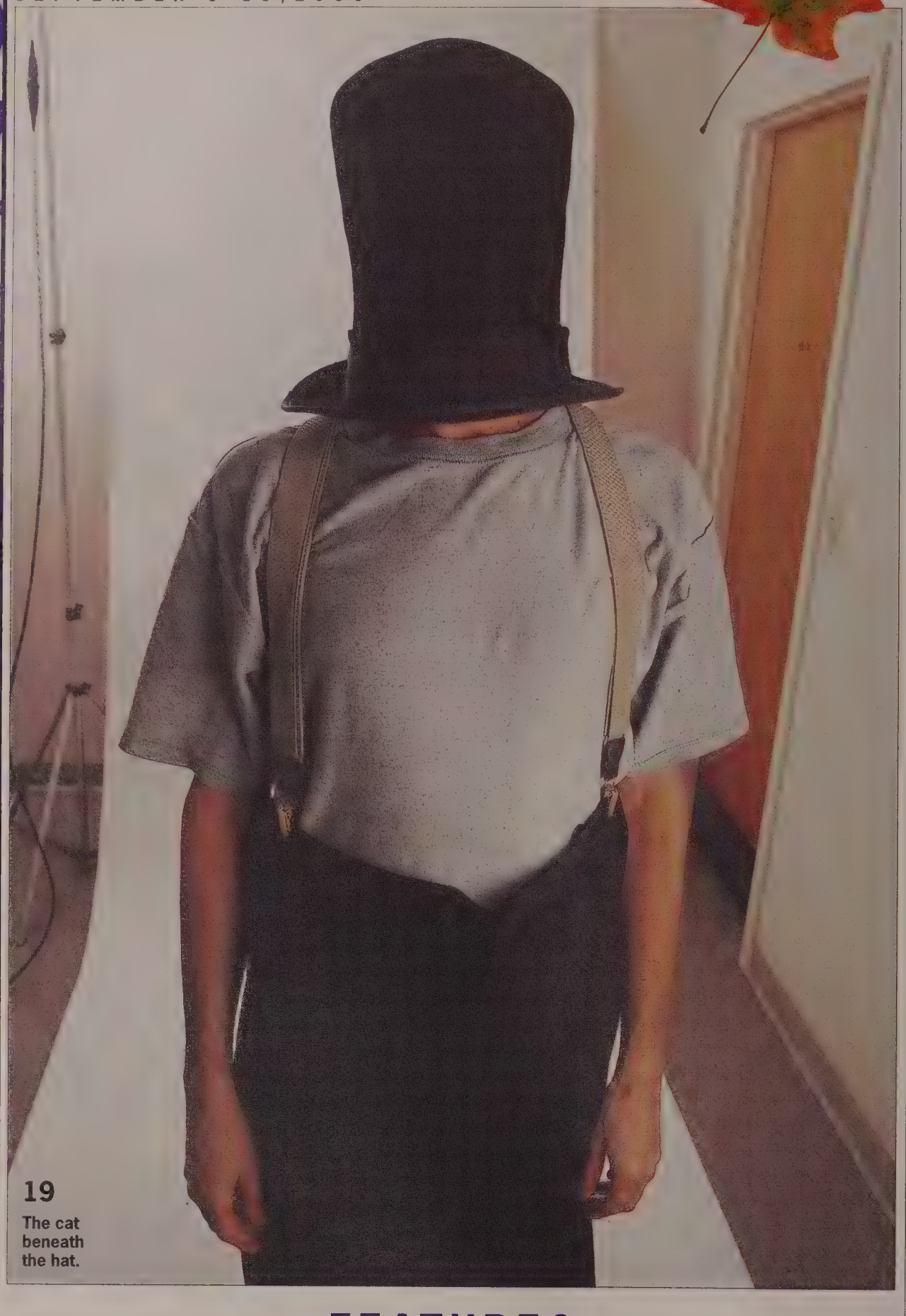

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The cat beneath the hat.

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Leaves supplied by **Mari Quirk**

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FEATURES

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Welcome to our annual exploration of all things art in the city of Boston. Whether you go for Shankar's sitar or Moby's mixes, ballet or the BSO, Leibovitz or lowriders, you'll find something going on this fall to tear you away from the tube and bolster your black-turtleneck credentials.

PLUS: **Soroff/On David Shiner**
Dorchester native David Shiner spent the last 20 years performing in Europe. This fall, he returns to Boston to star in *Seussical The Musical*, which, thankfully for our interviewer, does not demand fluency in French; page 19.
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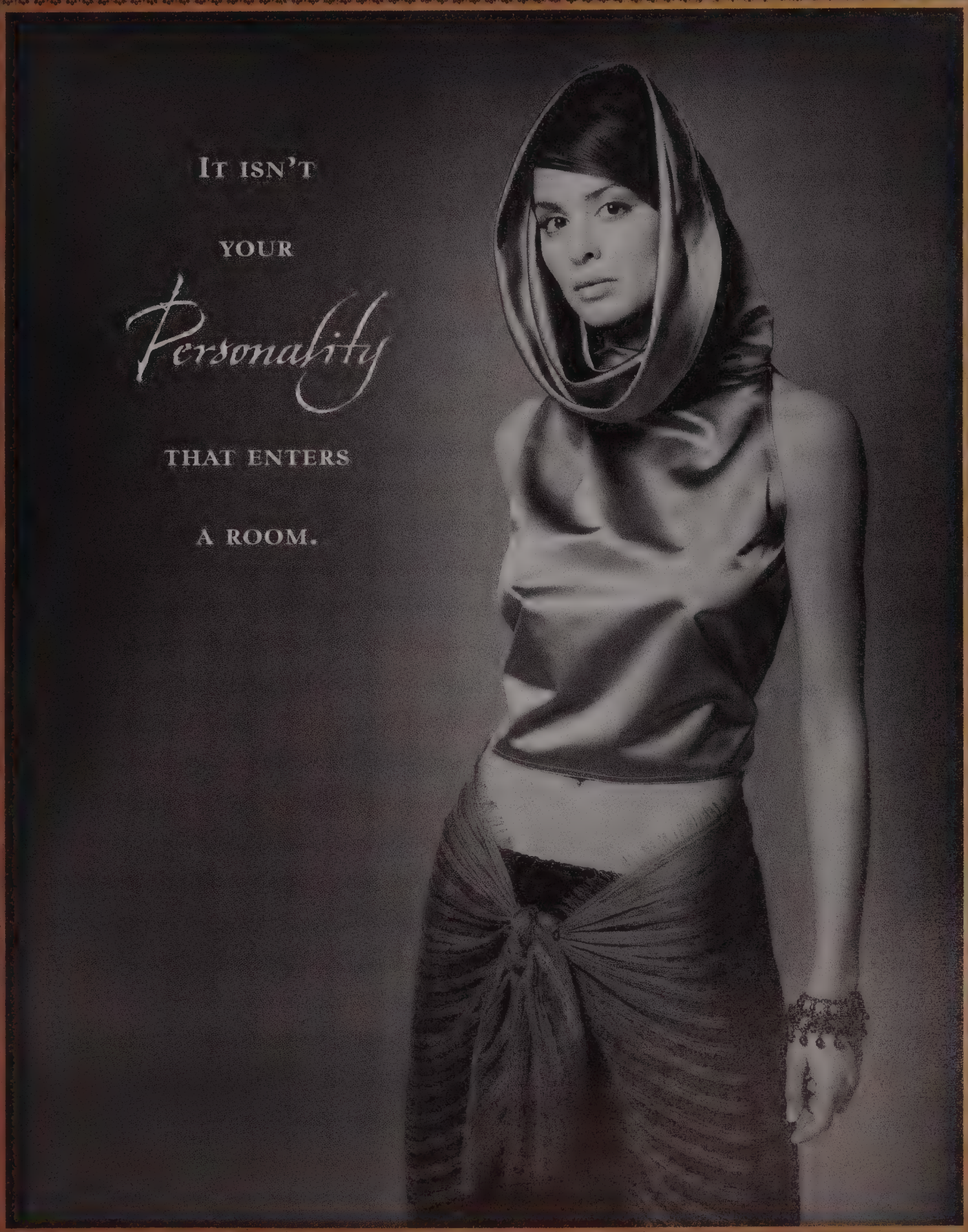

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letters

ATTITUDE ON APARTMENTS

I am tired of hearing the sob stories of how little housing there is in Boston. There are plenty of apartments. The issue is not availability, it's price. People need to realize that living in Boston costs more than it used to. New Yorkers wanting to live in Manhattan have long since faced this fact, and more recently, Bay Area people have come to accept that having a desirable address comes at a price. Boston is no different. Local companies have enjoyed tremendous success recently, and while this has resulted in higher property values, the city is certainly better off as a result of its "new economy" ties. So stop bitching and face the facts—Boston costs more. If you don't like it, move to Revere or Framingham and join the elite ranks of the bridge and tunnel crowd. Regardless, it's still cheaper than NYC, so stop whining.

—SCOTT CASTLE
Boston

Last issue's "Good Luck Hunting" article kept me laughing throughout not because of Ezra's acute, witty sense of humor but because of the pure stupidity of Boston's young professionals. Being a young professional myself and having grown up in a Dorchester neighborhood, I cannot help but voice my opinion about this whole lack-of-apartment-rentals-in-Boston situation. There is no lack of rentals in Boston, unless you're talking about the Back Bay, South End and Beacon Hill. I have a few friends who are from out of state and they're uneducated, city-wise. They rent Beacon Hill shacks, and every time they come to my apartment in Dorchester, they become very jealous. It's got three bedrooms, hardwood floors, laundry, a huge kitchen, a brick backyard patio, and it's a one-minute walk to the Red Line. This place costs my roommate and myself a whopping $900 a month. What does anybody have to do to get a place like this? My first suggestion would be to rethink Dorchester and its reputation. What people don't know about Dorchester is that it is the largest neighborhood in Boston, and there are many areas that have been safe for years. Not to mention the fact that there are some of the most beautiful homes and tree-lined streets that I have seen in Boston. I ask you, IMPROPER, to take a ride through Lower Mills, Cedar Grove, Adams Village, Port Norfolk, Ashmont Hill, Melville Park and Savin Hill and form your own opinion. Hell, send someone to me and I'll give them a tour!

—JASON DORNHOFFER
Dorchester

"THE CITY IS CERTAINLY BETTER OFF AS A RESULT OF ITS 'NEW ECONOMY' TIES. SO STOP BITCHING AND FACE THE FACTS—BOSTON COSTS MORE."

—*SCOTT CASTLE*
BOSTON

TOPEKA'S PRETTY CHEAP

I for one am very tired of your obsessive reporting on expensive clothing and restaurants. Not all of us are here on trust funds. I feel you devote a disproportionate amount of time catering to the super-rich, when there are plenty of issues that can be addressed. I thought your article on the lack of apartments in the city was a good start, but you could have infused it with something of a social conscience. The average person doesn't have $1,500 a month to spend on housing, and the problem seems to be getting worse. Your attitude almost seems to be "screw the people who can't afford to pay $2,000 a month for a tiny space, or $500 for a bag—they don't belong here anyway." As you can tell, I am not from the Boston area (I am from the Midwest, where things are a lot more egalitarian). I could go on, but I am sure you are bored at this point. I can only say that while I am glad I had the opportunity to live in Boston for the last three years, I won't miss the prevailing attitude showcased in your magazine.

—CARRIE LYONS
Boston

Dear *Vapid* Magazine,
At about 4:30am I picked up the IMPROPER, and alas, your letters page was awash with good tidings for your feature writer Jonathan Soroff. I found out later that this was without good reason. I gave him the bathroom read, which is what he deserves. Soroff's sophmoric and sarcastic self-demeaning demeanor belongs on one of those vapid sitcoms our televisions are plagued by. Speaking of vapid, why is it that every time I open to "Improper Bostonians," all I see are white, blue-eyed Aryans? Is this Boston? Where? Chestnut or Beacon Hill? Further, what exactly is the point of your silly magazine? I'll say to you what I said to a former employer, namely Robert Birnbaum of *Stuff* fame. If you spend a lot of time and energy creating fluff, then fluffy is all you will ever be. Give the decent, intelligent, non-college-aged crowd in this town something other than bad college newspaper writing—which is evidently where your staff comes from. And by the way, a little ethnic flare should come from more than a review of Ricky Martin concert or Bomboa.

—LOUIS PAGHN
Boston

KEEPIN' IT OLD-SCHOOL

I must agree with Karen McDermott's Aug. 23 letter about your Web site. If other media outlets have been able to join the 21st century, why not you? While I don't "cringe in embarrassment for you," it would be great to read the IMPROPER online. But I don't think that the Internet will ever double as my umbrella or replace reading on the T. I hope you continue the great work, but reassess your stand on the Web. I'm pretty sure it will be around for a while.

—DAVID A. BRUCE
Boston

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Boston, MA 02116
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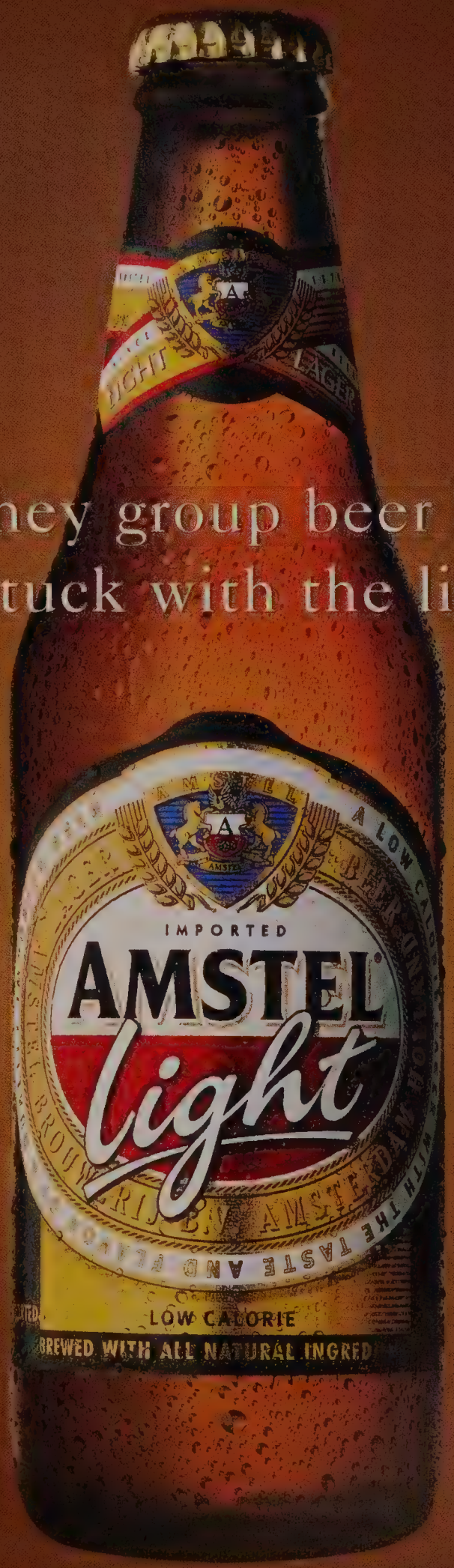
Until they group beer by taste,
we'll be stuck with the light beers.



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IMPROPERSPEAKING

TIM EAGEN CRUISES TO COCKTAIL FAME

Eagen will head to Japan in February for the world bartendng finals.

At the IMPROPER, we like to think we are the authoritative voice on many things, including the city's Best Bartenders. However, the United States Association of Bartending (USAB) also has a say, and, lo and behold, a Boston boy placed 2nd in its national cocktail competition. That's right, South End resident **Tim Eagen**, who tends bar at **Bricco,** that magnifique North End spot, placed first in Boston and second at the New York City battle. The final showdown will be in Tokyo, Japan. Sponsored by Absolut and Heineken, this event is for serious stirrers only.

Now, for the fun. Eagen concocted three prize-winning drinks, recipes we bet you've never heard of before. Bounty of the Sea is made with a raw oyster and clam, Korean cabbage spice and chilled Absolut Peppar; it's then topped with a baby squid! Then comes the Chocolate Rasberry Truffle and the Pinko—fruity, fresh favorites.

So, is his Mom proud of him? "My Mom was actually at the competition and when I placed second, I looked at her and she was hysterically crying," recalls Eagen, 31.

"And actually my Dad is proud of me too, because he actually taught me how to bartend. (Eagean's father is a NYC restaurateur.) And his sister, **Dot Downey**, a former **Pho Republique** bartender now on sabbatical, was the IMPROPER BOSTONIAN's choice for the cover of our Best Bartender 2000 issue. (So we got it half right.)

Eagen has won $5,000 thus far, and selected the AIDS Action Committee as the recipient of a $1,500 charitable donation by contenst sponsors. The gift will be made in the name of his uncle, who died after a battle with the illness.

Eagen, who is bringing his Mom to Japan, spotted a local newspaper advertisement last spring for the contest. Round one was a written exam and knowledge test. The Top 10 finalists headed to Avalon to mix signature drinks, and the winne, Eagen, was off to NYC.

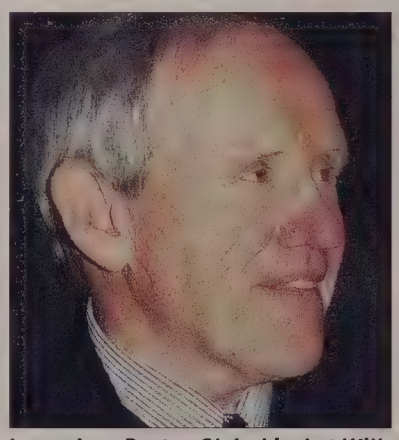
At **Bricco,** where the Italian-Californian menu and funky atmosphere are a perfect backdrop for our hometown hero, the crowds are clamoring for a new conconction. (Here's a tip: For the Japan competition, Eagen will use saki and raw tuna in his Bounty of the Sea drink.)

REGAN'S SPLASHY PARTY MAKES WAVES

George Regan, the public relations showman who never stops working, deserves a big pat on the back for keeping his annual summer party tradition afloat by personally telephoning each of the hundreds of pols, pundits and players invited to his Sandwich manse in the days leading to his annual birthday party. But here's a question for the ages: Why would some of those guests arrive at such a public display with someone other than their spouse, and then complain later about a press obsessed with guest lists? Seems a few guests got burned at the sunny event when their names hit the social columns, sans their better halves. Regan's summer party is one of the last two places you would want to try for discreetness, the other being his winter party.

PENALTY OVERTURNED AFTER REVIEW

Great news! **Will McDonough** is back at the ***Boston Globe***! Well, he never left. It's a confusing *Boston Globe* story, one that seems to have no obvoius explanation. What we do know is that sports fans were led to believe, mostly through reliable sources such as this column, that the city's best known sports writer would be forced to retire when his 65th birthday rolled around this year. He didn't want to go, and publisher **Richard Gilman**, who goes way back with Willy, reportedly didn't want to lose the captain of his all-star sports team. But rules are rules, the veteran columnist was told.



Legendary ***Boston Globe*** bigshot Will McDonough is back in the game.

Then, in a befuddling little note in the Sunday sports section, readers were notified that McDonough was back in the game. It read: *Will McDonough reached age 65 this summer and, because of a misunderstanding of* Globe *policy, was asked to retire. Happily, our error was discovered, and Will returns today to the* Globe *staff as a full-time sports columnist and associate editor.*

So, *Globe* officials misunderstood their own policy? A *Globe* lawyer was assigned the task of decoding the mysterious policy and, just in time, it was discovered that McDonough was excluded from the policy because he didn't have supervisory status. So you can forget that speculation that McDonough might go work for **Pat Purcell**, his close friend at the ***Boston Herald***.(If that talk was meant to help the *Globe* reexamine their own policy, then it worked.)

A LAST DRAFT

Remember this right wing? Former Bruins player **Steve Heinze** (above) and his so-sweet wife, **Lori**, bid farewell to friends at **Clery's Bistro & Bar** in the South End after the Columbus Blue Jackets, a NHL Western Conference expansion team, drafted him. There's no Clery's in Columbus, OH, but now there is hockey. Who knew?

THE AUTUMN HEART

We love success stories from the local arts community. *The Autumn Heart,* a Boston independent feature film opened this week in Cambridge at the Kendall Theater. Kudos go to exec producer **Lisa Schiller** and her Film Cellar partners, **Kelley McMahon** and **Marc Chabot. Steven Maler** of the Boston's Commonwealth Shakespeare Company directed the flick. It was a Sundance Film Festival selection. So go see **Ally Sheedy** and **Tyne Daly** in this indie!

SEEING STARS

Charlie Wilde, morning DJ of Star 93.7 recently caught up with the cast of *Survivor* who was in L.A. taping *Hollywood Squares* (to air Sept. 25-29). Wilde was at the taping with his long-time pal **Linda Blair,** who was also a guest star. **iB**

From left: Charlie Wilde, Survivor Richard, Linda Blair and fellow castaway Jenna.

Speaking of Boston

Got an inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to speaking@improper.com

ODYSSEY IS BOSTON'S LOVE BOAT

In the interest of determining exactly what the chances are of meeting your soulmate at one of those pre-arranged singles events, the IMPROPER sent two of our allegedly emotionally available, easy-on-the eyes twenty-something staffers to sail aboard the Odyssey Cruise Ship at an annual singles event with invitees who received a free ***Boston Globe*** personal ad when they bought a ticket. For our two romantic types, the cruise was a sinker. Not for everyone. **Lisa Sohl** saw an advertisement for the cruise in the paper, and arrived without her friends (just as the dating books advise). The Somervillian met a man from Marblehead halfway through the evening, and people began approaching the pair, saying: "If you are married, then why are you here?" Sohl and Nagle only met last week while cruising, but say they were planning to see each other again. Like they say, you never know...

BARTENDER, ODYSSEY: WENDY MIMRAN

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CITY LIMITS

Good stuff, glamour and goings-on

BY ERIN HAGEDORN AND JULIE SHORT

From left, Jake & Earl's owners Don Yovicsin and Tyler Goff with architect Steven Sousa look out of the restaurant's new digs.

NEW IN TOWN

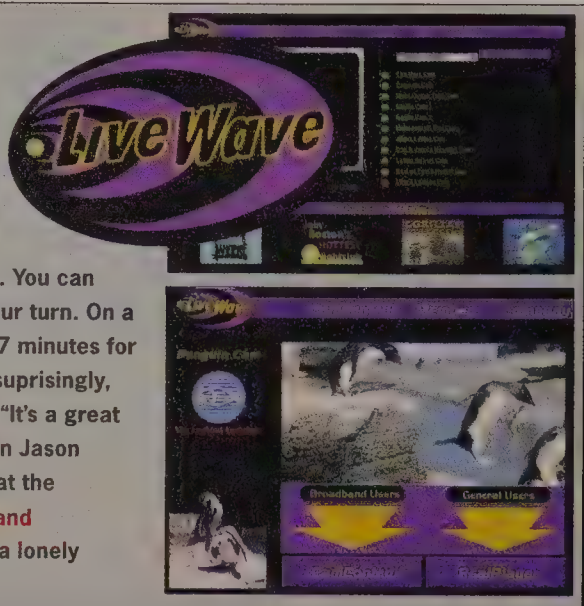
DIXIE DUDES

Since the closing of **Jake & Earl's BBQ** in Inman Square five years ago, there's been a serious absence in Boston's barbecue scene. Owner **Chris Schlessinger** closed the popular takeout operation to expand his East Coast Grill restaurant next door. But the Sept. 1 opening of the new **Jake & Earl's Dixie Roadhouse** in Waltham has pulled-pork-and-brisket connoisseurs rejoicing that the "rib brothers" are back. Stepbrothers **Don Yovicsin** and **Tyler Goff** are busily stoking the ovens of the joint—with help from Schlessinger—on Moody Street. The new space is 2,000 square feet and seats 90—with a full-service restaurant and bar dedicated to BBQ. Most important, the menu is still prepared according to Jake & Earl's original recipes—in a wood-fired barbecue pit.

To hear co-owner Yovicsin wax nostalgic about the old Jake & Earl's is to better understand the obsession: "Schlessinger's North Carolina-style pulled pork was delicious—the combination of the smoky meat with the vinegar, tomatoes and hot pepper sauce," he sighs at the memory. "It was just ... heaven." The latest incarnation of Jake & Earl's will serve barbecue favorites from different regions throughout the country—including Texas-style brisket, Memphis-style, dry-rubbed pork ribs and Buffalo babyback ribs. Says Yovicsin: "The original Jake & Earl's definitely had a cult following." An online rib fan summarizes it best. When the word got out that the restaurant was reopening, a Californian posted a message on a foodie Web site stating, "Damn, you lucky Bostonians! I miss many things about my days in Beantown, but Jake & Earl's is one of the closest to my heart (and stomach)." *220 Moody St., Waltham (781-894-4BBQ). Sandwiches, $4.95-$6.95; platters $10.95-$16.95.*

THIS JUST IN

VIRTUAL NIGHTLIFE

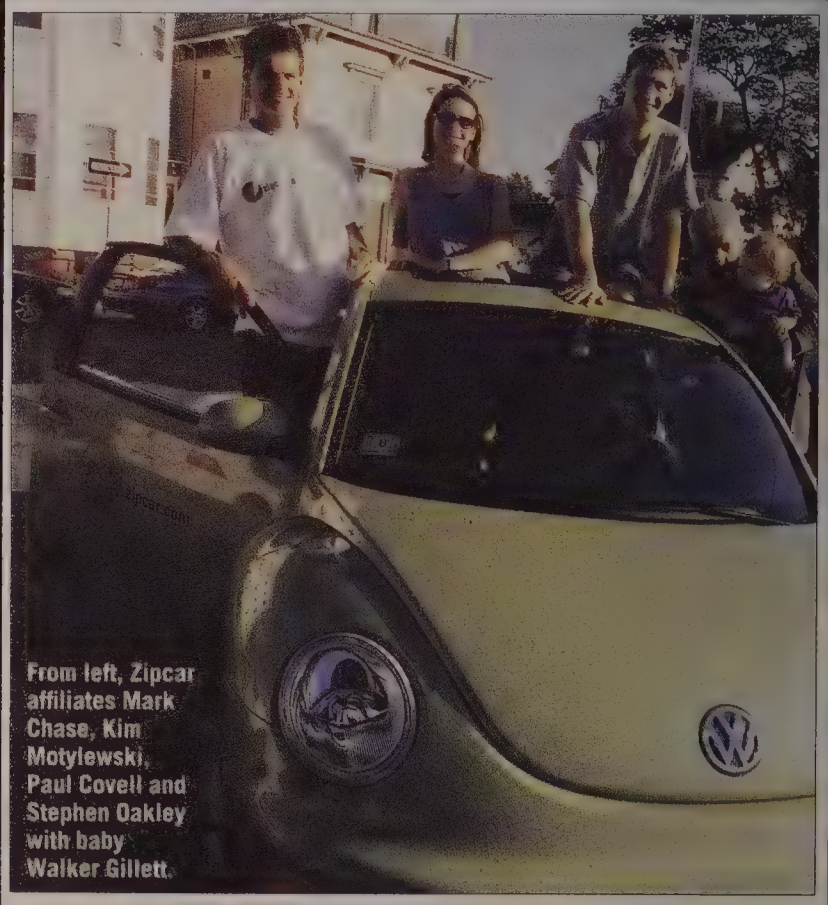


For the latest in surveillance technology, log on to livewave.com. From any computer, you can watch the crowd at the Rack, Jillian's, the Lizard Lounge and other nightspots. So if you're home alone, you can drink, dance or catch some tunes vicariously. It's full-motion, streaming video in real time. You can control where the camera goes—though you'll have to wait your turn. On a recent Friday night, for example, eager viewers had to wait 37 minutes for their turn to focus on the buxom waitresses at the Rack. Not suprisingly, there's slightly less demand for the camera at Logan Airport ("It's a great way to see if there's a backup on the runway," says spokesman Jason Howarth.) For good clean fun, the cameras in the gorilla pen at the Franklin Park Zoo or the giant seawater tank at the New England Aquarium provide great views. Is there a better way to spend a lonely Saturday than with a hairy primate?

THE DISSED LIST

MALL MANIA

The developers of a proposed megamall in South Weymouth submitted a critical environmental notification form just over a month ago, paving the way for a $250 million, 1.1 million-square-foot retail-entertainment complex. The neighbors are not happy about the sprawling tribute to modern-day suburbia. In fact, 300 of them are so livid that they've formed a political action group, COMPARE, or Citizens Opposing the Megamall and Proposed Access Road Extension. They predict a ton of traffic and pollution and have accused developers of using "scare tactics and misrepresentation of fact." There is good reason for their worry. Apparently the development company, Mills Corp., has had incredible success with other malls located around the country, and neighboring residents have had incredible inconveniences. Ontario Mills in Southern California causes major traffic along I-5, for example. And in Virginia, Potomac Mills is the top tourist attraction (edging out Arlington National Cemetery). Quick—reroute the Freedom Trail to Route 3.



From left, Zipcar affiliates Mark Chase, Kim Motylewski, Paul Covell and Stephen Oakley with baby Walker Gillett.

ALL THE BUZZ

ZIP AROUND TOWN

The carless in Boston are usually the lucky ones—no parking hassles, no inflated insurance rates, no repairs. But when it comes to daytripping or taking out-of-town weekend breaks, they're out of luck. Enter **Zipcar**, a new car-share company in Cambridge that allows 15 or so locals to share one car—minus the hefty responsibilities. We heard this trend is all the rage in Seattle's laid-back, tree-hugging community. But will it catch on with slightly more rigid and uptight Bostonians? You be the judge. For just $4.50 per hour, plus mileage (and a $75 annual membership fee), you can have access to wheels. How does it work? Reserve the car by phone or on-line (*www.zipcar.com*) and pick it up at a location convenient to a T stop or bike path. Just leave the VW Golf, Beetle or Passat Zipcar at the same neighborhood parking spot when you're done. It really couldn't be simpler. According to the Zip folks, "If you drive fewer than 4,000 miles a year, our rates make using Zipcar much less expensive than owning a private car, renting or taking a taxi, because you pay only for what you use." In early August, Brookline joined a string of local cities and towns, including Boston, Cambridge and Somerville, offering the Zipcar service. The Zipcar folks pay for gas, do all of the maintenance—and, most important, find you a regular parking spot. *Zipcar, 491-9900.*

NEW IN TOWN: WENDY MIMRAN; ZIPCAR: BERTA DANIELS

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your only experience

with French food

is their fries,

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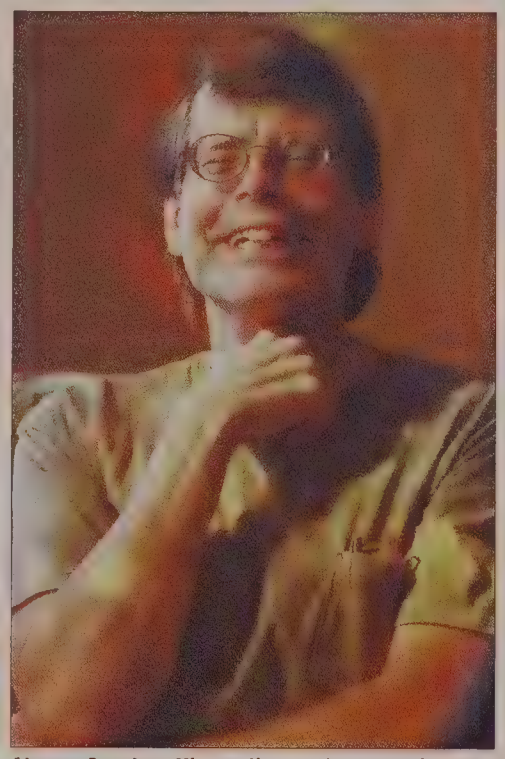
Pirates on the Sea of Prose

Musical artists aren't the only ones trying to keep bootlegged work off the Internet

The so-called digital era is, in some ways, a really bad time to be a writer. As it looks right now, one of the major impacts of the Internet will be to make it more difficult for writers to get adequately paid for their work. A perfect example of this is taking place right here in Boston. The *Boston Globe* recently told all of its freelancers that they could no longer work for the paper unless they signed a license agreement that retroactively gives the company the right to use all the creative work that they've done for the *Globe*—without a single penny of extra payment. The National Writers Union (which represents many of the affected freelancers) is suing the *Globe* and recently picketed the *Globe* offices. According to the union, most of the newspaper's 1,000 major freelancers have refused to sign. (The *Globe* claims that almost 600 freelancers have signed but isn't sure how many of them have been frequent contributors in the past.)



Above: Stephen King relies on fan morality to generate profits online. Above right: Elijah Wald pickets the *Globe* offices.

Music critic and erstwhile *Globe* writer Elijah Wald has not signed and claims that as a result, the *Globe* is no longer adequately covering certain events in Boston. "Some acts from overseas are now avoiding Boston because they know that their appearances here won't be covered," he says. Wald is burned that he was asked to sign away online rights without any compensation. "They're saying over and over that there isn't a lot of resale going on," says Wald. "But if they're not worth very much, why is the *Globe* prepared to force all these people to leave the paper in order to get those rights?"

The *Globe*, however, believes that the licensing agreement is only extending its current brand name, according to company spokesman Richard Gulla. "The stories will only appear under the *Globe* brand, and the writers will keep the copyright of their work." Gulla admits, however, that the paper does sell its stories (still under the *Globe* brand) to online services like Lexus/Nexus. In that case, the *Globe* will be making money—and not passing any of that money along to the writer, even though the appearance of the writer's material on the Web decreases its resale value.

To make matters worse, once a writer's material appears on the Web, copyright becomes largely meaningless. For example, a couple of years ago some bozo posted one of my books, *The Tao of Programming*, on a college Web site. It's a copyrighted work, but since then it's been copied all over the Web and is now available on hundreds of Web sites. Naturally, there's no way in hell that I'm ever going to get paid by any of those sites, nor is it practical for me to attempt to sue so many different sites.

In short, because it's so difficult to make money on the Web, there is a trend to make certain that it's the creative people who pick up the tab. The two big entertainers' unions, AFTRA and SAG, are so concerned about the reuse of material on the Web that they've made it an issue in a recent strike against the advertising industry. Most Web sites prefer to pay a flat fee to artists and thereby avoid the hassles of checking the number of downloads or viewings that a particular work received—not to mention the problem of illegal copying.

> "THEY'RE SAYING OVER AND OVER THAT THERE ISN'T A LOT OF RESALE GOING ON, BUT IF THEY'RE NOT WORTH VERY MUCH, WHY IS THE *GLOBE* PREPARED TO FORCE ALL THOSE PEOPLE TO LEAVE THE PAPER TO GET THOSE RIGHTS?"
>
> —ELIJAH WALD

The entertainment unions believe that the Internet needs to move toward a payment model that includes residuals, so that the artist gets paid every time a work is viewed. One problem with residuals, however, is that nobody is certain at this point of the exact financial value of a piece of web advertising. Since it's unclear how to make money on the Web, the response by the big entertainment companies—just like the big publishers—is to reduce their own risk by not paying the creative people for online rights.

I've seen this kind of thing happen before. About 10 years ago, when Barnes and Noble and Borders began dominating book sales, they used their clout to extract big discounts from the publishers, who turned around and passed that expense on to the authors, who now must accept lower royalties if books are sold at a discount (which most of them are). That may be no big deal for somebody like Stephen King, (who has actually found success on the Web by offering his work on the honor system—you download, you pay) but it's major money to hundreds of thousands of mid-list authors.

The new technology is changing the rules, tearing down hundreds of years of copyright legislation. But don't worry about the big publishers; they'll make money, no matter what. It's the little guys—the freelance writers—who will probably end up footing the bill. **iB**

Geoffrey James (*www.geoffreyjames.com*) is the author of numerous books as well as the co-host of Funny Business, heard Saturdays 10 to midnight on WRKO, AM 680.

FROM TOP: GREG MIDONCHUK, NEWSMAKERS

The Freshmaker

Lord, won't you buy me a little scooter and some Capri pants

It's time to talk about trends, which is always a dangerous undertaking for me. Last year I said that Capri pants are ugly and make your butt look weird, and since then it appears that every single person in the country, including Bob Dole, has bought a pair. This, despite the fact that Capri pants give you a tan line that looks like you're wearing brown socks. Obviously I am so not up on all that is fashionable. What? Oh, I'm sorry, I've just been informed that saying that things are "so not" is so not cool anymore.

I informed Fashion Editor Samantha that I wanted to be cool, and she said, "If you wanted to be cool, you wouldn't be wearing that shirt." On my taste (or lack thereof) Senior Editor Ellen said, "Well, nobody's going to think you're gay." Pity me, for I have fallen out of the lameness tree and hit every branch on the way down.

OK, on then with making me trendy and urban-hip-chic. Transportation: I walk to work, and that must change. Trendy people have wheels, dude. But a bike is out because, A) both of my roommates ride bikes to work, and almost daily they come home with bruises, scrapes and suddenly opened car doors stuck to their helmets, and B) the last time I really rode a bike for any appreciable distance I ended up doing a forward-endo going downhill in 18th gear. On pavement. Without a helmet. I looked like *Saturday Night Live* character Massive Headwound Harry. That kind of experience can turn you off to a mode of transportation for awhile.

MY CAR WILL SOUND LIKE A WATER BUFFALO GETTING MOLESTED BY A HIPPOPOTAMUS, AND I WILL BE SO COOL.

In-line skates are also out, because I can't skate. And even if I could, in-line skates? Please. Yeah, those are cool. And so is listening to Nelson and laughing like Beavis and Butthead.

No, the new thing is little scooters. I'd like to meet the visionary who said, "Hey, I'll bet if I put handlebars on a skateboard, people would really go for that." When those things first came out, I thought that they represented the most undignified use of the wheel since the Yugo. But I see the error of my ways. The populace has voted, and little scooters are—how do the kids say?—"the bomb." I think we can improve on the concept, however, and I've begun riding to work on a pogo stick with a steering wheel.

For longer trips, though, I'll have to drive. But wait, my car is so unfashionably quiet. Thankfully I have seen the way of the cool kids, and so I shall immediately outfit my ride with eight (8) mufflers, of a diameter such that they will actually amplify the sound of my exhaust. My car will sound like a water buffalo getting molested by a hippopotamus, and I will be so cool.

What else is hot? Let's see, how about hands-free cell phones? When cell phones first came out, they were about the size of a triceratops femur. Then they got smaller and cheaper, and everybody bought one except me. This is just as well, because I have at least one friend who is on his third cell phone, his previous models having encountered fates ranging from "I fell down on it and broke it" to "I jumped into the ocean with it in my pocket and broke it." In his case, replacements ran 300 bucks a pop. Personally, I'm not sure I could handle owning a device that requires me to sign a lengthy service plan, and then not lose/break/overuse it. Baby, I'm not ready for that level of commitment. But if I were, I'd definitely get a hands-free model. I saw a man in the park the other day talking on one of those, and I was just amazed at how small they're making the things now. The guy was running around, gesticulating wildly and yelling about how moon-dogs ate his Cracker-Jacks, and I tell you, that phone was so tiny that it almost looked like he was talking to insane voices inside his head!

Alas, it is time for me to scoot away, eating fusion food and drinking a cup of Sumatra mandehling, wearing shiny Capri pants and yellow-tinted, thick-rimmed glasses, reading a C.S. Lewis novel—it's children's literature and it's retro; take that, Harry Potter—listening to unsigned bands on my portable, blueberry-colored transparent-plastic Windows Media player (MP3s are over with), and wondering if I'll be late to my power-yoga class. If perchance, you drive a car and you happen to see me, please run me over. Thin is in. **iB**

You think that's funny?

Voguely email ezra@improper.com.

KATYA POPOVA

Proper Bostonians

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

For Benji, a benefit party for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of America, was held Aug. 17, at Oskar's in Boston. Two hundred friends of Brett Hauser gathered to raise funds for his 6-month-old cousin Benji, who is battling leukemia. To fight the disease, Hauser joined the "Team in Training" program. Its purpose is to raise money for cancer research, while helping its members prepare for marathons, 100-mile bike rides and triathlons. Hauser will be participating in the Pacific Grove triathlon in California this month.

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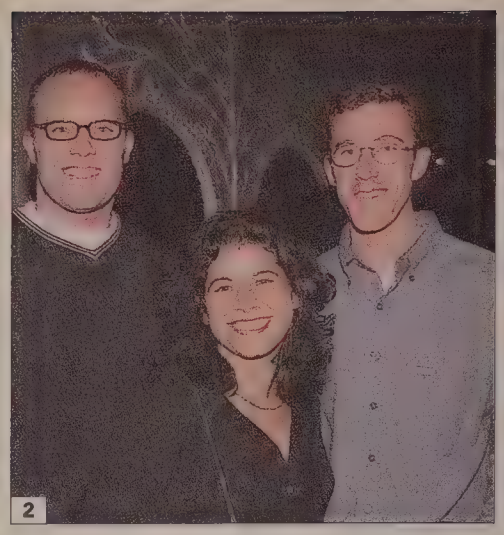
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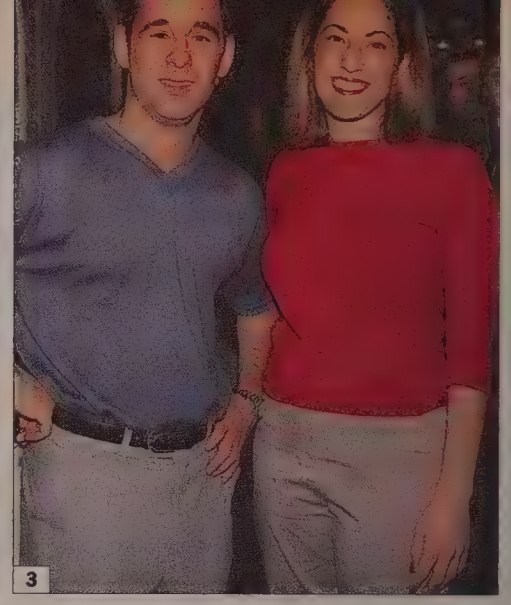
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1. **Andrew Miller**, associate at GenuOne Inc. and **Emily Henderson**, teacher at Derby Academy in Hingham.
2. **Rob Jaffee**, trader at Merrill Lynch, **Debbie Dreier**, corporate marketing manager for Bright Horizons in Watertown and **Rich Hirschen**, manager of accounting for HookMedia.
3. **Brett Hauser**, vice president of operations at GenuOne Inc. and **Emily Sebert**, attorney at Zefer Corp.
4. **Lauren Zises**, commercial real-estate paralegal at Lane Altman Owens and **Keith Weiner**, director of Allstar Staffing.
5. **Craig Rottenberg**, vice president of Merlin-Net.com, **Elizabeth Schneider**, marketing manager at BeanSprout.net and **David Koplan**, strategy consultant at Zefer Corp.

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Skinner/Boston hosted a summer cocktail party for **Chubb's Antiques Roadshow**, at Skinner Aug. 18. Guests gathered to meet and greet the Antiques Roadshow's appraisers, staff and antiques collectors. The event honored the filming of the popular WGBH-TV, Channel 2 program, *Antiques Roadshow*. More than 5,000 collectors attended the filming on Saturday, Aug. 19 at the Bayside Expo Center.

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6. **James Callahan**, director of Asian art at Skinner and **Sheila Barron**, of the Americana department at Skinner.
7. From left, **Dan Finamore**, curator of the Peabody Essex Museum; **Michelle Tolini**, co-director of the couture department at Skinner; **Marie Szurszewski**, gallery director of Skinner, and her husband, **Jonathan Keep**, graduate student at Harvard University.
8. **Conor Fitzgerald**, vice president of arms and amour for the Christi's Auction House and **Elyse Lucay Marx**, vice president of collectibles for the Auction Channel.
9. From left, **Ron Milton**, **Cara Balog**, **Jill Czerepinski** and **John Boyle**; respectively, stage manager, production assistant, production coordinator and director of the *Antiques Roadshow*.
10. From left, **John Hayes**, of the Americana department at Christi's Auction House; **Tara Cederholm**, art consultant and **Wayne Pratt**, Americana dealer.
11. From left, **Mark Haffenreffer**, orthopedic surgeon for the CareGroup, **Dan Elias**, owner of Elias Fine Art and host of the *Antiques Roadshow*, **Nono Haffenreffer**, musician for the Boston Pops Esplanade and **Dave Staab**, owner of Discovery Marketing & Design in Rhode Island.
12. **Timra Freedman**, antiques jeweler and **Stephen Fletcher**, head of the Americana department and co-owner of Skinner.
13. **Ann** and **John Sallay**, both antiques collectors, and **Georgia Jenkins**, antiques dealer for Douglas Jenkins Antiques in South Natick.

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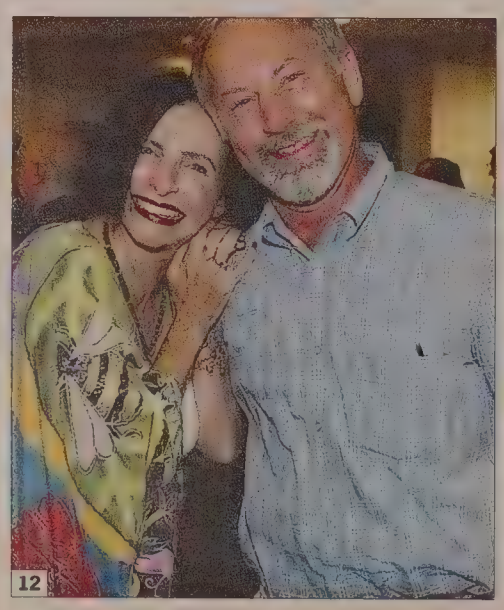
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SEPTEMBER 2000

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September 12, 12 noon - Boston

COUTURE, DESIGNER CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES
September 14, 5 p.m. - Boston

DISCOVERY
September 14, 7 p.m. - Bolton
September 15, 10 a.m. - Bolton

AMERICAN & EUROPEAN PAINTINGS & PRINTS
including Photography
September 22 - Boston
Prints and Photography, 4 p.m.
Paintings, 7 p.m.

ORIENTAL RUGS & CARPETS
September 23, 12 noon - Bolton

OCTOBER 2000

ENGLISH & CONTINENTAL FURNITURE & DECORATIONS
October 7, 11 a.m. - Boston

OCTOBER 2000 *continued*

DISCOVERY
October 12, 7 p.m. - Bolton
October 13, 10 a.m. - Bolton

BOOKS & MANUSCRIPTS
October 14, 10 a.m. - Boston

20TH CENTURY FURNITURE & DECORATIVE ARTS
October 21, 11 a.m. - Boston

AMERICAN FURNITURE & DECORATIVE ARTS
featuring the Estate of Malcolm S. Burroughs
October 28, 2 p.m. - Bolton
October 29, 11 a.m. - Bolton

ASIAN WORKS OF ART
October 28, 11 a.m. - Boston

NOVEMBER 2000

FINE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
November 5, 12 noon - Boston

AMERICAN & EUROPEAN PAINTINGS
November 10, 7 p.m. - Boston

DISCOVERY
November 16, 7 p.m. - Bolton
November 17, 10 a.m. - Bolton

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Dead End Gives Huntington a Great Start

Dead End, a Pulitzer Prize–winning play by Sidney Kingsley that made waves when it premiered in 1935, will be resurrected this fall under the direction of Huntington Theater's Nicholas Martin (inset). Local rough-and-tumble players (from left) include Charlie Day (Tommy), Rollin Carlson (Angel), Keith Elijah (Dippy), Jack Ferver (Miltie), Lucas Papaelias (T.B.) and Dennis Staroselsky (Spit).

MARTIN: ANTON GRASSL, LEAF: CHRIS BEAUDOIN

mass appeal

<<< PHOTOGRAPH BY TRACY POWELL

Don't call it dumbing down. Boston's art institutions have decided to give the people what they want.

Nicholas Martin has arrived. To be sure, the Huntington Theater's new artistic director "arrived," as they say, long before now. In New York, Martin earned a reputation for discovering talented, young unknowns (Calista Flockhart, for one, before she became Ally McBeal). This summer, though, Martin showed up on Boston billboards, wearing sneakers and relaxing with a foot up, a pose meant to send a message to the masses: Theater is cool.

For the Huntington's September production of the Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Dead End,* Martin recruited a cast of young men who look more like the rockers in Limp Bizkit than the traditional Huntington Playbill characters. Later this season, Martin will showcase the work of one of the country's star thirtysomethings, writer John Robin Baitz.

The city's newest artistic director is not alone in his effort to make the theater less intimidating and more appealing to wider audiences. At the Lyric Stage Company, a publicist describes the October 2000 production of *A...My Name Is Alice* as a "chick flick" presented onstage. In the same style, the Institute of Contemporary Art is sure to draw patrons who have not visited before, and may not again, when it debuts its fall highlight: a tribute to hot-rod and lowrider car culture.

It's art for the masses. No apologies.

But "it's still valid," says Nora Donnelly, assistant curator of the ICA's *Art Inspired By American Car Culture.* "I think people who wouldn't normally come to the ICA might come. We are still presenting it in an academic manner, with historical significance. We're dealing with high art, and low art," says Donnelly. "We're bringing them together. It's exciting."

This fall, Dr. Seuss is at the Wang, a Tony award-wining play is at the Lyric State and, come spring, the Boston Ballet will present *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Museum of Fine Arts curators are chatting up Egyptian exhibits on talk radio, and advertisements for the Boston Ballet are downright silly. But don't call it "dumbing down," says Anna Marie Holmes, Boston Ballet's artistic director. She has grown accustomed to the complaints from many old-school patrons in recent years, those who do not appreciate the newer, glib marketing campaigns aimed at thirtysomething males who might consider attending a single live performance each season, if only to satisfy their slightly more cultured girlfriends. "Our response was that we want all types of people to come to the ballet," says Holmes. "You still do the highest quality." (In the last year of her 14-year Boston Ballet tenure, Holmes has been nominated for an Emmy for her public television production of *La Corsaire.*) This fall, Holmes hopes to infuse the Boston Ballet with youthful spirit, opening the season with two pieces by young choreographers, something she says she could not have done in this city a decade ago. Later this fall, the Boston Ballet dancers will produce what Holmes calls one of the best classical ballets around, *La Bayadere.* The ballet, surprisingly enough, has never been presented in Boston. (Four versions were produced last year in London.) "What I like to do is the very best of the classical works, and then do the avant-garde [*Hunchback*] on top of that," says Holmes. Apparently, that strategy is working.

"There are more people than ever coming to performances," says Beth Olson, Boston Ballet's public relations manager. "We're $55,000 ahead of our goal," says Olsen, checking on recent fund-raising numbers. "That's pretty amazing."

The Lyric's producing artistic director, Spiro Veloudos, opens this season with *Side Men*, a big score for the Lyric Stage, which will produce the New England premiere of the 1999 Tony Award winner for best play. In the spring, the Lyric will make a pitch for every Boston sports fan when Veloudos presents the world premiere of the musical *The Curse of the Bambino.*

"This season is much more mainstream subject matter," says Maryann Zschau, director of marketing. "The guy who sits on the couch and watches baseball might have a wife who says 'I want to go to the theater.' And that guy can choose a baseball musical," says Zschau. "Our goal is to sell tickets. We want to fill the house." Veloudos kicked off his first season in Boston with far more risky production choices, such as *Assassins*. (It was a critical success.) However, even before this fall season opens, the Lyric Stage was about 6 percent, or $200,000, ahead in subscription sales this year when compared with 1999 sales.

For Boston, the fall 2000 art season signals a fresh start, a year when the old obstacles—a splintered creative community, a lack of support or space—are dissolving. Throughout the city's artistic community, there is a prevailing optimism, an enthusiasm that draws upon the promise of new performing spaces and crucial funding. Boston has never rated among those cities renowned for their corporate and civic support of the arts (Dallas, Los Angeles and Seattle all share that reputation.) This city still does not have an opera hall, an enormous void that doesn't exist in cities such as Cincinnatti and Houston. The promise of a Boston opera hall lingered shortly this summer, when it was named as a possible development project in the South Boston waterfront area. But the idea faded, leaving many disappointed.

Despite that letdown, the city's arts community is thoroughly energized this year by the ongoing plans for a new Institute of Contemporary Art museum and two new Clarendon Street theaters, one that seats 300 and another about half that size. "I think that's the most exciting thing that has happened in my 25 years here," says Micheal Maso, Huntington Theater's managing director. The deal between developers and the city is the type of progressive arts funding that Boston has been striving toward for years.

"Interestingly enough," says the Lyric's Zschau, "I can say it's the first season that the artistic directors have a strong commitment to keep Boston talent in Boston," Zschau says. "Right now, Boston is just a really great place to be."—*Ellen O'Brien*

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theater

Turner as Tallulah, Delany at Dinner, and Paula Plum in *Side Man* premier

BY JULIE SHORT

Theater-goers should expect an exciting pre-Broadway showcase this fall. Broadway's most anticipated show of the season, *Seussical*, makes its debut here, a flourish of fun for our fair city. "Boston is regaining its reputation as a tryout town for big-name shows before they head to New York," says Ann Sheehan of show-producer Broadway in Boston, a division of SFX Theatrical Group. "Audiences here are sophisticated enough to know what they like without having to read a review in the *New York Times* first," Sheehan says. But Boston isn't all about Broadway previews—it has earned a reputation as a mecca for alternative theatrical productions as well. Read on for a list of some of this fall's more intriguing productions.

Seussical

Take everyone's favorite childhood characters—Cat in the Hat, Horton the elephant, Gertrude McFuzz—and weave them into a musical extravaganza that brings the whimsical world of Dr. Seuss to life, and you've got the much-heralded *Seussical*. For this world premiere, Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty have created a score that includes pop, gospel, and rhythm and blues. When chaos erupts in the Jungle of Nool, it takes the Cat in the Hat (Tony Award winner David Shiner) and others to restore harmony to their world. *The Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (426-9366). Showing through Sept. 17.*

Dead End

"*Dead End* is very rarely performed today due to its grand scale and the immensity of its cast," says Dina Croce of the Huntington Theater Company, which plans to produce the play this fall. New artistic director Nicholas Martin kicks off his debut season with Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Sidney Kingsley's sprawling, gritty melodrama. When it premiered in 1935, this provocative work sparked several social-reform measures. *Huntington Theatre Company, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (266-0800). Sept. 8-Oct. 8.*

Copacabana

Any show that stars Gavin MacLeod, better known as *The Love Boat*'s Captain Stubing, is destined to be a hit, right? Add the stellar song-writing abilities of Barry Manilow and you've got *Copacabana*. Manilow's unforgettable Grammy Award-winning hit song was the inspiration for this tale of romance set in the 1940s. The show enjoyed 18 months of sold-out performances in London's West End. *Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). Sept. 19-24.*

The King Stag

Since its initial performance some 15 years ago, Carlo Gozzi's 18th-century fable, *The King Stag,* has proved to be one of the American Repertory Theatre's best-loved and most successful productions. Don't let the fact that it's a fairy tale turn you off, says Kati Mitchell of A.R.T. With its extravagant costumes, puppets and masks designed by Julie Taymor, *The King Stag* "is for adults and children alike," she says. *American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (495-2668). Sept. 14-28.*

Side Man

Lyric Stage publicist Maryann Zschau is effusive about the company's fall production of *Side Man*, declaring it "one of the best plays I've ever read." Winner of the 1999 Tony Award for best play, *Side Man* is about the lives of jazz musicians throughout history. It focuses on the sacrifices the musicians and their families made by giving in to their passion for music. The New England premiere directed by Spiro Veloudos stars much-loved local actress Paula Plum. *Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Sept. 15-Oct. 14.*

Above: Kathleen Turner is actress Tallulah Banks in the Colonial Theatre's production of *Tallulah*. Below: "Her name was Lola..." and she's in *Copacabana* at the Shubert Theatre.

Fuddy Meers

If South Boston native David Lindsay-Abaire garners the same rave reviews in Boston that he did off-Broadway with his play *Fuddy Meers*, he's destined for great success. The *New York Times* called this comedy about a woman whose memory is mysteriously erased each night as she sleeps "dark, sweet and thoroughly engaging." The Boston Center for the Arts' resident theater company, SpeakEasy Stage, produces this dark-humored comedy under the artistic direction of Paul Daigneault. "It's zany, funny and over-the-top," says Daigneault. *Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-5000). Oct. 5-28.*

Tallulah

Kathleen Turner comes to town with her sultry voice, sexual charisma and enigmatic presence for her role as eccentric real-life actress Tallulah Bankhead. In Sandra Ryan Heyward's one-woman play, the show's namesake sips champagne and divulges secrets, passions and regrets as she prepares to host a fund-raiser for incumbent president Harry S. Truman. TV sitcom director Michael Lessac (from *The Drew Carey Show* and *Everybody Loves Raymond*) directs this pre-Broadway production. *The Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (426-9366). Oct. 10-22.*

Lady in the Dark

The Boston Academy of Music celebrates the 100th anniversary of the birth of composer Kurt Weill with a lavish production of *Lady in the Dark*—staged in the manner Weill originally intended: as an opera. "It's usually produced as a Broadway musical," says BAM's executive director, Carole Charnow. "Ours is one of the few productions with opera singers." The story line, sung in English, revolves around a fashion editor (played by Metropolitan Opera star Delores Ziegler) who, despite her success, suffers from profound unhappiness and haunting dreams. *Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (242-0055). Oct. 20-22.*

The Beauty Queen of Leenane

In their cottage in County Galways, where "you can't kick a cow without someone bearing a grudge for 20 years," single Maureen and her manipulative, infirmed mother Mag engage in a bitter but hilarious battle of wills in this Súgán Theatre Company production directed by Eric Engel. When a handsome neighbor offers Maureen a chance to escape, the final battle for control begins. *Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-5000). Nov. 2-18.*

Dinner with Friends

Dana Delany, two-time Emmy winner for *China Beach,* comes to town with Rita Wilson, Daniel Stern and Kevin Kilner for Broadway in Boston's production of *Dinner with Friends* in early November. This rueful comedy tells the story of two 40-something couples whose friendship becomes fractured when one couple announces they're divorcing. The show was a hit in New York, where the post-show discussion/therapy sessions with audience members were sometimes even more popular than the show itself. *Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont St., Boston (426-4008). Nov. 4-19.* iB

Dave I Am

In *Seussical the Musical*, green-eggs diner **David Shiner**'s role's not minor

BY JONATHAN SOROFF • PORTRAIT BY TRACY POWELL

The star of *Seussical the Musical*, in which he plays the Cat in the Hat, David Shiner was born in Boston and raised in Dorchester before living in Colorado, Washington, D.C., and Virginia. After two years in college he dropped out and became a carpenter, building houses. Ten years later, he decided to become a clown, plying his trade on the streets of Europe, where he has lived for the past 20 years. He eventually starred in some of Europe's most prestigious circuses and developed a two-man show that toured the continent. He made his American debut starring in *Cirque du Soleil* from 1990 through 1991. He appeared in Lincoln Center's Serious Fun Festival, out of which grew a hit Broadway show, *Fool Moon*, that opened in 1993 and for which he won a Special Tony Award in 1999. He has appeared in the feature films *Lorenzo's Oil*, *Silent Tongue* and *Man of the House*. Shiner lives with his wife in Germany, where he serves as guest director of Berlin's Wintergarden Theater and Dusseldorf's Apollo Theater. *Seussical the Musical*'s pre-Broadway run continues through Sept. 17 at the Colonial Theater.

Jonathan Soroff: *You started your clowning career in France, so maybe we should call you Le Gateau in Le Chapeau?*

David Shiner: Where'd you learn your French?! That would be "the cake in the hat." I think you mean *le chat dans le chapeau*.

JS: *Whatever. It would be much more high-toned.*

DS: Of course. Europeans are much more sophisticated.

JS: *So where do you figure Dr. Seuss went to medical school?*

DS: (Laughs.) I think he gave that degree to himself.

JS: *When was the last time you ate green eggs and ham?*

DS: Ages ago. I'm a vegetarian.

JS: *How about this philosophical question: If a Who shouts in the forest and Horton isn't there to hear it, does it make a sound?*

DS: Absolutely not.

JS: *What's a Special Tony Award? It sounds like you were doing differently abled theater.*

DS: (Laughs.) No, it was neither a play nor a musical, so it didn't fit either category. When we first did the show, in 1993, it didn't get an award because of that. It was this vaudeville-style, loony show they didn't know how to categorize.

JS: *So this is your first time performing in Boston. How do you feel about the homecoming?*

DS: Odd. I want to go back to Dorchester, where I grew up. I don't know what it's like, but people tell me it's changed a lot. When I drove through 20 years ago, it was a war zone.

JS: *It's beautiful now, at least in parts.*

DS: That's nice to hear. Y'know St. Stephen's? I used to play in the cemetery near there.

JS: *That sort of explains your career choice.*

DS: (Laughs.) Yeah, all that death. I used to walk through the cemetery wondering what the people were doing down there—you know, were they bored?

JS: *What really inspired you to become a clown, and what do you think it says about you?*

DS: It says a lot. Growing up around a lot of unhappiness. We were a very poor family. I think I started to play around and act silly to keep my mother happy.

"People used to walk by and say, 'That's the worst mime I've ever seen.' And I was. I had this white face and a little striped shirt, and a silly hat with a flower in it."

JS: *Exactly what is it that's funny about a pratfall?*

DS: It goes beyond thought, directly into the subconscious.

JS: *You were a street performer in Paris, Rome, London. Where are people most generous?*

DS: There are great crowds in Italy, but the best audience are the Germans.

JS: *Wow. They're not exactly known for their sense of humor.*

DS: Well, they've gotten a bum rap because of the war and the atrocities and the horror, and the young Germans have suffered greatly because of it. They had nothing to do with it. But many people have a totally wrong impression of Germany.

JS: *So they're actually a madcap, kooky, happy-go-lucky bunch?*

DS: (Laughs.) Yeah, they skip and whistle when they walk down the street. No, seriously, they love to laugh, maybe because there's so much unresolved in their psyche.

JS: *So comedy is a serious business. Mimes performing on street corners, on the other hand—they should be arrested, don't you think?*

DS: Outlawed completely, and they should get real strict sentences, like 10 years with no chance of parole.

JS: *But you've been guilty of performing as a mime.*

DS: Yeah. When I first started working the streets, people used to walk by and say, "That's the worst mime I've ever seen." And I was. I had this white face and a little striped shirt, and a silly hat with a flower in it. I was pathetic. I had the easel with the title of my sketches.

JS: *Pretty grim. What made you wise up?*

DS: I looked at a picture of myself one day, and I had to laugh, I looked so ridiculous.

JS: *From the perspective of a reformed mime and accomplished clown, is Ringling Brothers really the greatest show on earth?*

DS: Of course! It always has been, and it always will be. Don't ever question that.

JS: *Well, they operate a clown college. As a college drop-out, any thoughts?*

DS: The very concept sounds absurd to me.

JS: *How do you feel about animals in the circus?*

DS: Great, if the animals are well-treated and they're happy. Animals have rights and they should be respected, but the animals in the circuses I worked for in Europe were treated very, very well. I'm not sure about the elephants anymore, and endangered species are a different story. I don't think there's a place for that anymore. But horses, dogs, birds? They love it, actually.

JS: *Is there really such a thing as a bearded lady?*

DS: OK, my cover is blown. I'm a bearded lady. You can print that if you want.

JS: *What advice would you give a child who wanted to run away and join the circus?*

DS: Well, if they wanna get away from their parents, there's no better way.

JS: *Did you want to be in the circus as a kid?*

DS: Never thought about it. I never saw a circus until I went to Europe.

JS: *Putting the Cat in the Hat on your acting resume isn't exactly like putting Willy Loman in* Death of a Salesman. *Is it embarrassing at all?*

DS: No way! I can burst into a producer's office and say, "You know who you're dealing with? I originated the Cat in the Hat!"

JS: *Last question: Where do you keep your Tony award?*

DS: On my desk in my office. Y'know, I went all the way from the streets to a Broadway stage and won that Tony. I'm completely self-taught. So I'm proud of that. But now I'm ready just to be at home and mow the lawn. Maybe pat the dog. And I miss my wife. IB

film

DeNiro as Dad, Clooney as a convict and Sarah Jessica Parker tells Mamet's joke. BY PAUL SHERMAN

John Turturro, Tim Blake Nelson and George Clooney star in the latest Coen brothers project, their take on Homer's Odyssey.

There was a time when Labor Day brought a change in movies that was almost as discernible as the shift in New England weather. The summer cotton-candy films would give way to the more prestigious films of the fall. Not any more. In recent years, the fall Hollywood lineup has been almost as safe, and as fluffy, as the summer 2000 film schedule—space-cowboy, action-figure, replacement-player movies.

In December, the movie studios cram every Oscar-craving film they can into theaters. With year-end openings in New York and Los Angeles, many of those movies won't even arrive in Boston until 2001. Still, there is hope this fall. I can guarantee one September 15th gem, *Almost Famous*. It's a coming-of-age story based on director Cameron Crowe's experience as a teenage rock journalist, and its emotional intimacy and rock-and-roll heart make it an unusually ungimmicky Hollywood release. (For a full review, see Page 56.)

Bostonians can look forward to seeing hometown favorite Matt Damon in *All the Pretty Horses*, a movie based on Cormac McCarthy's novel, directed by Billy Bob Thornton. Horses is scheduled for an early November release, and it might hold more promise than Damon's other fall project, *The Legend of Bagger Vance*. In this period piece directed by Robert Redford, Damon plays a golfer, and Will Smith plays his mysterious caddy, dispensing winning advice and displaying other worldly talents.

Frankly, it sounds like Driving Mr. Damon.

For details on intriguing films this fall, check out this collection:

Best In Show

Christopher Guest, who directed and starred in *Waiting for Guffman*, teams up with many of the Guffman crew members (Eugene Levy, Catherine O'Hara and Parker Posey) for a comedy about dog shows, and the people who bring their pooches to them. A Sept. 29 release is planned.

Meet the Parents

The search for a Hollywood comedy that doesn't insult our intelligence is made easier when Robert DeNiro is on screen. *Meet the Parents* is also given a good start by director Jay Roach, whose credits include the wacky and hugely successful *Austin Powers*. It's the story of a male nurse and the challenging family from which his fiancée hails. (DeNiro plays Dad here.) Due for an Oct. 8 release.

Matt Damon (right) and Will Smith play a golfer and his mysterious caddy, Bagger Vance.

Book of Shadows: Blair Witch 2

The first *Blair Witch* stole the thunder from the summer of 1999, as hyped movies; now, it will be just as hyped. Will the series be the same now that the sequel isn't coming from left field? We'll find out in the story of another group of college kids who trek into Maryland's Black Hills. This marks the fiction debut of documentary director Joe Berlinger, co-director of *Brother's Keeper* and *Paradise Lost*. (Oct. 27)

Dancer in the Dark

The latest from Lars Von Trier (*Zentropa, The Idiots*) won a Cannes Film Festival award. It's a musical, a big-screen attempt at a Broadway-style production. Set in the 1960s, *Dancer in the Dark* is about a Czech immigrant who is losing her eyesight. It stars Björk and also features Catherine Deneuve. October release.

Requiem for a Dream

Harvard University graduate Darren Aronofsky produced one of the more imaginative independent films of 1998. This year he collaborated with Hubert Selby Jr. to adapt the novelist's story of drug addiction and life on Coney Island. Ellen Burstyn has a rare starring role, and the cast includes Jared Leto, Jennifer Connelly and Marlon Wayans. November release.

Traffic

The story isn't the potentially interesting thing here. That has Michael Douglas as the newly-appointed Drug Czar of the United States, who discovers his daughter is a drug addict and has fled from rehab, threatening his position. The lure is more the fact that Steven Soderbergh is directing. If he can bring the same smarts and mix of fun and darkness he did to *Out of Sight* and *Erin Brockovich*, it will be a fall highlight. (Dec. 22)

Finding Forrester

Here's another movie where the storyteller could be more important than the story. Its central relationship between an eccentric novelist (Sean Connery) and a young scholar-athlete (Robert Brown) seems to recall *Good Will Hunting*, but it's by GWH director Gus Van Sant, whose rare ability to balance comedy and drama also fueled *To Die For*. Hopefully, he'll turn this into more than the feel-good bromide it might be. (Another December release.)

The Gift

This drama directed by Sam Raimi and written by Billy Bob Thornton and Tom Epperson (who co-wrote the great *One False Move*). But it's not clear if this will mean the return of ol' Billy Bob as a moviemaker. *Daddy and Them*, the movie Thornton directed before *Horses* that was supposed to come out last Christmas, just had its fall release bumped to 2001.

O Brother, Where Art Thou?

The Coen Brothers are back, this time for a film about three escaped convicts (George Clooney, John Turturro, Tim Blake Nelson) on the run during the Depression. The script is loosely based on Homer's *The Odyssey*. You will have to wait until December for this one.

State and Main

David Mamet's work often uses humor subtly, for a sophisticated audience. In this film, Mamet offers far more straightforward appeals for laughter. Sarah Jessica Parker and Alec Baldwin lend spark to a quirky comedy about a small town that is overrun by a film crew. Not due out until late December. iB

FROM TOP: MELINDA SUE GORDON, DAVID JAMES

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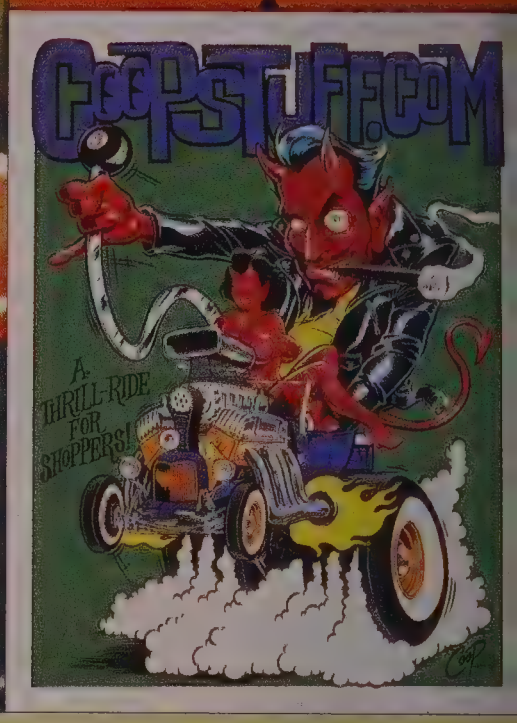
SINCE 19

art

Hot rods, lowriders, Leibovitz, virtual reality and robots drive these eclectic and exciting exhibits. BY ERIN HAGEDORN



Alex Harris' print of a '72 Buick Centurion (above) will be displayed with the creations of artists like Jimi V. (top right) and Coop (bottom right) at the ICA's flashy fall show of hot-rod and lowrider car culture.

Come September, art galleries reopen their doors after an August hiatus, and museums reveal some of their most anticipated shows of the year, leaving art lovers dizzy. Fall is also filled with glorious tributes to local talent—days of open studios when clusters of artists across the city show their work on the same day. In that way, this fall is no different from others. Still, there are several exciting firsts coming to town, one-of-a-kind exhibits. What follows are highlights of a season sure to be savored by artists and their fans.

Art Inspired by American Car Culture

An ambitious, cutting-edge tribute to America's long love affair with the automobile is memorialized in this Institute of Contemporary Art exhibit. Thirteen artists inspired by the hot-rod and lowrider culture of the '40s and '50s will be featured in this multimedium show. Photographs, paintings and films celebrate the fiery, souped-up look of hot rods and lowriders. The exhibit features work by a triumvirate of '60s artists who set the standard in this category of artwork: Von Dutch and his use of pinstripes and flames; Ed "Big Daddy" Roth, who created the icon Rat Fink for his T-shirt biz; and Robert Williamson of Zap Comix fame. This far-out collection is a must-see. *Institute for Contemporary Art, Oct. 25-Dec. 31.*

Daido Moriyama and Albrecht Dürer

The Harvard University Art Museum has several outstanding shows scheduled for fall, but two especially stand out. Daido Moriyama, one of Japan's most innovative photographers, emerged in the '60s with gritty street photography of Japan's post-war images. His photographs reveal the pervasive American military presence of the era as well as bring insight as to the relationship between Japanese society and Western culture. *Harvard University's Fogg Art Museum, through Oct. 29.*

Dürer's Passions represents a landmark exhibit. Foremost a religious artist, Dürer (1471-1528) was the greatest artistic figure in German history before the modern era. He constantly worked on the subject of Christ's Passion. The range of the show is unprecedented—featuring nearly 100 prints and drawings from the Fogg's collections and rare works from private collections and institutions. *Harvard University's Busch-Reisinger Museum, Sept. 9-Dec. 3.*

No Parking Tonight

Pierre Ginger's work focuses on a video projection of a man and woman seated in a car discussing their relationship and combines audio broadcasts, photos, fictions and posters. This is the third in a series of exhibitions by French-based artists this fall. The others are *Reflexion* by Christian Boltanski at the MFA and *From a Distance*, including the work of Koo Jeong-a, at the ICA. *Harvard Yard, Sept. 16-24.*

Dangerous Curves: Art of the Guitar

You may think you've accidentally wandered into the Hard Rock Café instead of the Museum of Fine Arts when you see this display of 120 guitars. The fantastic collection dates from the early 17th-century to the most modern, from delicate Baroque instruments to modernistic electric. Novelty instruments have their place too: check out Barbara Mandrel's lap steel guitar in the shape of a crutch and Rick Nielsen's five-neck guitar. Put on your blue suede shoes for this one. *M.F.A., Nov. 5-Feb. 25.*

Robots and Beyond and Spirited Ruins

MIT's Artificial Intelligence Lab, where scientists have been demystifying AI for decades, opens its doors to those of us still wondering what it all means with *Robots and Beyond.* Following suit, Boston University's Arts and Scientific Computing and Visualization Group bring a magical place called *Spiritual Ruins* to life. Created by computer science researchers and artists, the exhibit lets visitors travel to an imaginary ancient palace, bringing artifacts of lost civilizations to light through virtual reality. *MIT Museum opens Oct. 28. Spirited Ruins, Sherman Gallery, Sept. 21-Oct. 8.*

Annie Leibovitz: Women

Photography fans can't ask for much more than a showing of work by Annie Leibovitz, whose place in the photographic pantheon is unparalleled. For 30 years her name has been synonymous with celebrity portraits. Whether shooting for *Rolling Stone* or *Vanity Fair*, she has produced striking images of the icons of our times. This gallery exhibit showcases her large-scale photographs of female nudes. It sprung from her passion for dance, and is the result of a collaboration between Leibovitz and the Mark Morris Dance Group. This show consists of 10 large photographs, all taken between 1998 and 1999. *Robert Klein Gallery, Sept. 8-Oct. 7.*

Photography in Boston: 1955-1985

Another stunning collection of photography is the first in a series of four exhibitions that documents the history of art media in Boston during the second half of the 20th century. Through 250 images by more than 60 photographers, the exhibit traces the correlation between the city's growth as a hub for education, technology and photographic activity. *DeCordova Museum, Sept. 16-Jan. 21, 2001.*

Cold War Modern: the Domesticated Avant-Garde

This show has been anticipated by art lovers for months. Again, the theme is Cold War ideology, and this show highlights its impact on the arts in the U.S. between 1945 and the early '60s. Through furniture, music, film and art, the exhibit examines the politics of the era and the images of grandeur that were reflected in popular culture. *New Frontiers* explores the rapid advancement of technology and includes space-age, futuristic objects. *New Origins* focuses on the declaration of individuality from European influences, and *Freedom* features artists who strove to invent new visual forms of expression. Don't miss the retro-style opening Sept. 14. *Davis Museum, Sept. 15-June 17, 2001.*

Finally, mark your calendars for nine glorious tributes to local artists, open-studio events in neighborhoods across Boston, where clusters of artists open their galleries and homes on the same day. Jamaica Plain Artists kicks off the fall open-studio season Sept. 23-24. iB

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S A F A R

MUSIC

From blues to beatbox, this season overflows with bountiful bookings. BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

Above: Blues legend B.B. King heads the B.B. King Blues Festival with Buddy Guy and Koko Taylor at the FleetBoston Pavilion. Right: Catch a softer Ani DiFranco at the Orpheum.

As the autumn leaves begin to blow, concerts move their magic indoors. Although the big-name rock acts will dwindle with the closing of the summer sheds, there are wider, more accessible options—including jazz, folk and world music—for Bostonians with eclectic yet budget-conscious appetites.

Admittedly, limiting a fall concert preview to 10 picks only scratches the surface. The number of major acts booked at clubs alone has expanded with the opening of Lilli's, and House of Blues' bookings at the Roxy (led by ex-Fleetwood Mac great Peter Green, with John Mayall, Oct. 6) and the Middle East. The world-music circuit is booming. And there are difficult choices on the calendar. Grateful Dead fans can go for Phil Lesh & Friends at the Orpheum Oct. 4 through 7, or the Dead's other survivors in the Other Ones at the FleetCenter Sept. 15, though either should please. Sadly, Sept. 15 also poses a decision between Mary J. Blige (Orpheum), Dickey Betts (Avalon) and The The (Axis), while Oct. 19 pits Moby (Avalon) against Richard Thompson (Somerville Theatre).

But between expected quality of performance and the rarity of the event, here are my 10 recommendations for the fall:

B.B. King Blues Festival 2000, *with Buddy Guy and Koko Taylor, Sept. 13-14, FleetBoston Pavilion, 290 Northern Ave., 728-1600.* A last gasp of summer with three Chicago-style blues heavyweights who are anything but out of breath. This is class-act King's annual bash, but he's riding higher than usual with a hit CD that teams him with Eric Clapton. Guy, when he's on, is a guitar hotshot who gives Clapton goose bumps. And belter Taylor is a red-hot mama who can even out the bill's gender imbalance. If they team up, watch out.

Ravi Shankar, *Sept. 17, Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., 876-4275.* This is probably our last chance to see India's long-reigning ambassador of the sitar, who turns 80 this fall. The virtuoso Shankar's health has been failing in recent years, and he's already sharing the stage with his heir apparent, sitar-playing daughter Anoushka. Another senior statesmen of his instrument, still at the height of his powers in the jazz world, is tenor-sax titan Sonny Rollins, who turns 70 Sept. 7, at the Berklee Performance Center Oct. 26.

Tina Turner, *Sept. 20, FleetCenter, One FleetCenter, 624-1000.* A return visit from the R&B-pop powerhouse whose June stand at the FleetCenter left fans shaking their heads at her formidable charisma. This is the last leg of what is supposed to be the 61-year-old Turner's farewell tour, but that sounds silly for a singer who still claims the best legs in the business, and the voice to match.

Keith Jarrett Trio, *Sept. 20, Symphony Hall, 876-7777.* Mercurial pianist Keith Jarrett has breathed new life into jazz standards in this trio with bassist Gary Peacock and drummer Jack DeJohnette. Illness led to the cancellation of a 1997 local date, but he's reportedly back in top form. For another standout pianist, see Danilo Perez at Sculler's Jazz Club Sept. 21-22, with underrated Brazilian singer Luciana Souza in his band (as on his exquisite new CD, *Motherland*).

River Fest, *Sept. 24 (noon-8pm), Three County Fairgrounds, Fair Street, Northampton, 413-584-2237 or 800-477-6849.* It's a mix-and-match weekend for rock fests. If you're up for one last warm-weather road trip, there's not a weak act on this eclectic, alternative-minded bill with Ben Harper, Sonic Youth, Galactic, Toots & the Maytals, human beatbox Rahzel, Sleater-Kinney (also hitting the Roxy Sept. 22), Martin Sexton, the Groove Collective and Juliana Hatfield. Closer to home is the more mainstream mish-mash of Mix Fest at Suffolk Downs Sept. 23, including Barenaked Ladies, Macy Gray, Vertical Horizon, the Go-Gos and two-timer Harper.

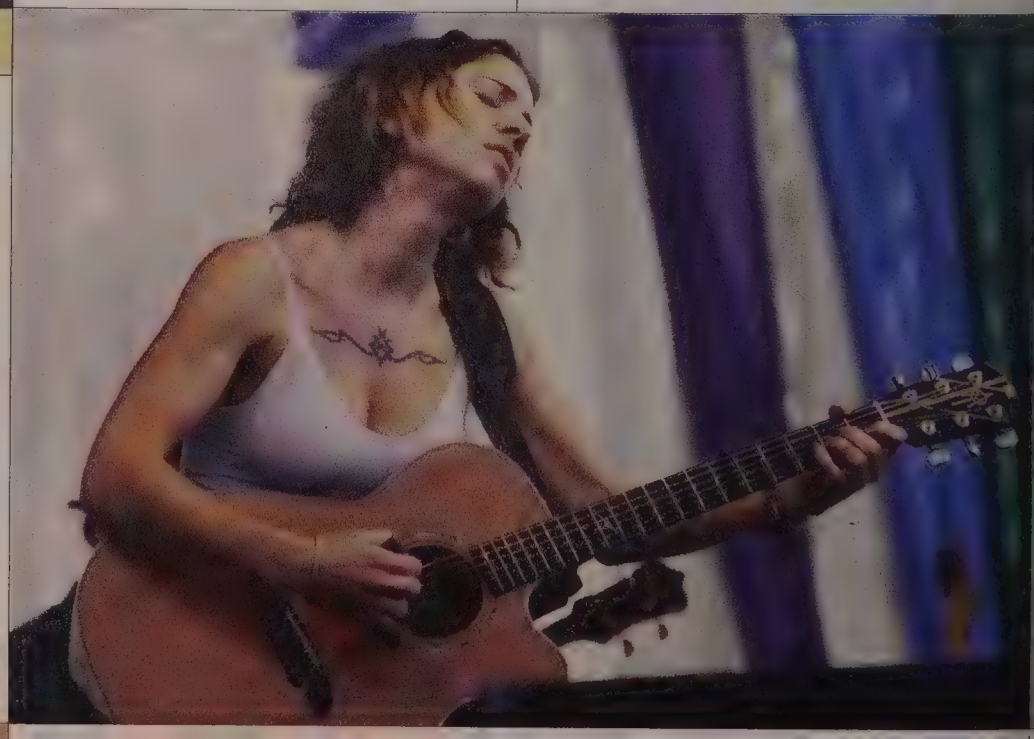
Omara Portuondo, *with Barbarito Torres, Oct. 25, Orpheum Theatre, One Hamilton Place, 876-4275.* *The Buena Vista Social Club* stars are still milking the buzz, but why not? Even taken separately, the Cuban veterans remain a delight. Suave and crusty Company Segundo and Eliades Ochoa each plays Berklee, Sept. 9 and Nov. 14, respectively. But the best date may be Portuondo, the Grammy-winning CD's sole female singer who returns on her own, on a bill with Cuban lute virtuoso Torres, who tours with his own versatile, refreshing band.

Ani DiFranco, *Oct. 26-27, Orpheum, One Hamilton Place, 931-2000.* Folk-punk troubadour DiFranco continues to do things her own way, making idiosyncratic records on her own label. But it's onstage where she shines, playing acoustic guitar with skilled bravado (and tape on her fingers to buffer the assault) and singing with sly, nimble phrasing that whips up the troops. This should be a triumphant two-night return.

Joe Ely, *with Slaid Cleaves and the Tarbox Ramblers, Oct. 27, Lilli's, 608 Somerville Ave., Somerville, 591-1661.* Most people thought this new club would go up against the Middle East with some bookings, but who would have thought the club would tap into the Johnny D's crowd so well? Case in point: bringing Texas outlaw Ely (whose new *Live @ Antones* proves he hasn't lost his touch) to its intimate room, with fellow Austin singer-songwriter Cleaves and Michael Tarbox's local gang of old-timey country ramblers.

Philip Glass and the Kronos Quartet, *performing live music to the film* Dracula *Nov. 9, Orpheum, One Hamilton Place, 876-4275.* Here's a novel event: a post-Halloween screening of the 1931 classic *Dracula*, starring Bela Lugosi, with live music from keyboardist Glass (who recently wrote a score for that film) and Kronos, the best-known string quartet for interpreting intense and unusual music.

Youssou N'Dour, *Nov. 20, Somerville Theatre, 55 Davis Square, 628-3390.* It's been six years since golden-voiced Senegalese superstar N'Dour graced our shores, and his new CD, *Joko (The Link),* suggests he's as vital as ever. His Afro-pop blends the spiritual, commercial and socially conscious, much like friend Peter Gabriel, who used N'Dour on his '80s hit "In Your Eyes" and lends his voice to one song on *Joko.* **iB**



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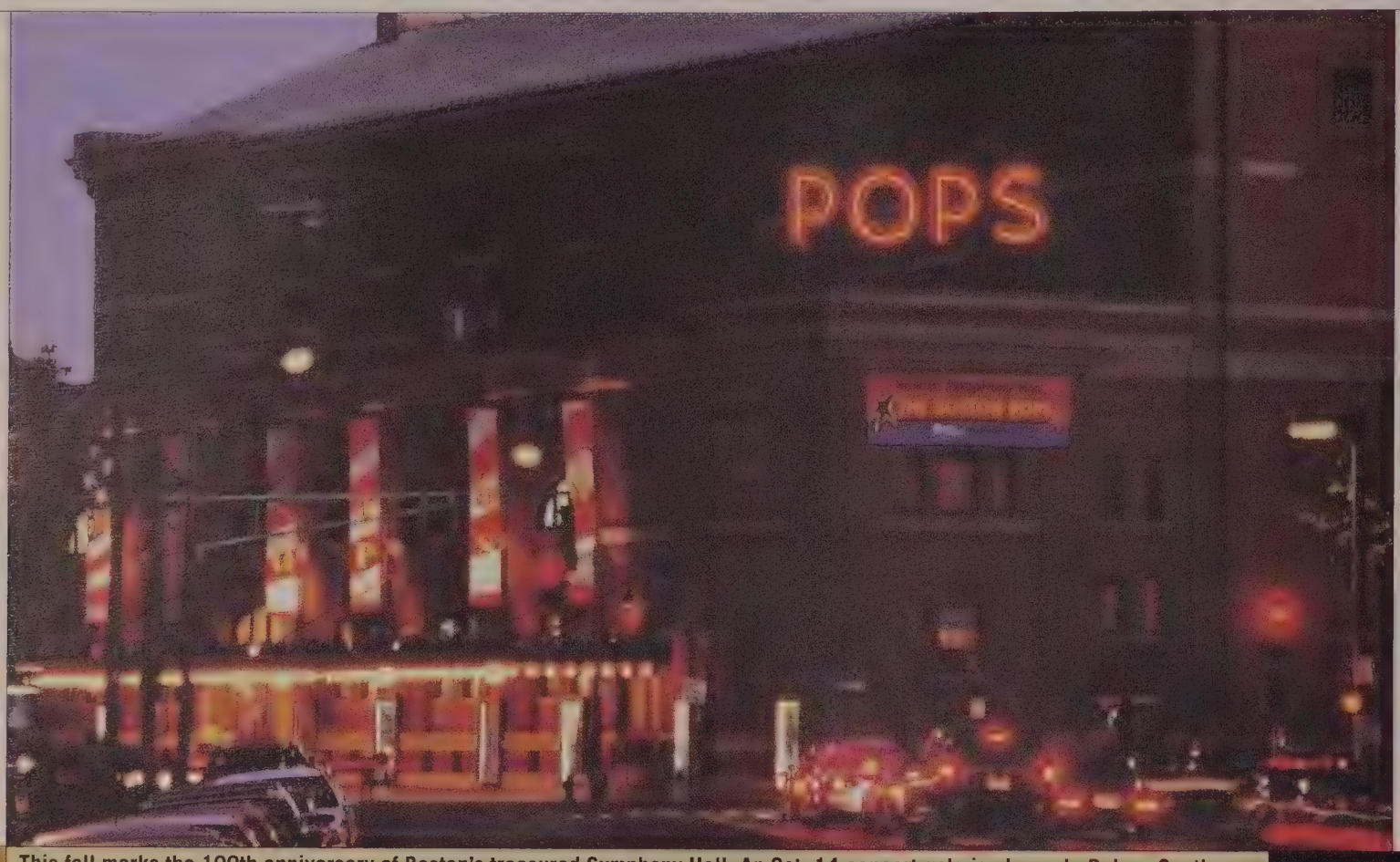
classical music

Birthday galas, guest artists, traditional Sundays and spruced-up venues fill fall calendar

BY KEITH POWERS



This fall marks the 100th anniversary of Boston's treasured Symphony Hall. An Oct. 14 concert gala is planned. Below, Gunther Schuller, Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra principal guest conductor, makes three appearances this fall.

The millennial season of Boston's classical music scene brings plenty of new things to town: A new Symphony Hall (sort of—everything but the concert hall is being refurbished). New conductors for Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra and the Handel & Haydn Society. And a new name for Boston's biggest promoter—the Fleet Boston Celebrity Series. But one thing remains unchanged: plenty of great music, new and old, for classical music lovers.

Orchestra

The **Boston Symphony Orchestra** (266-7575) celebrates the 100th anniversary of Symphony Hall this season. Seiji Ozawa's band starts the season Sept. 28 with Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*. The official Symphony Hall birthday celebration is Oct. 14, featuring the BSO and the Pops. Highlights during the rest of the fall include guest appearances by Pamela Frank, Momo Kodama and Gil Shaham. Guest conductors include Andre Previn, James Conlon and Gennady Rozhdestvensky.

The hippest place on Newbury Street? Well, **Emmanuel Music** (536-3356) celebrates its 30th season by continuing to do what it does best: bringing in some of Boston's best musicians to explore cycles of some of the greatest music ever written. The Bach Cantata Series continues as it has for 30 years, every Sunday at 10am. Seven Schubert concerts, with an outstanding cast of singers and players, are sprinkled throughout the year.

The **Fleet Celebrity Series** (482-6661) always presents top-notch events. The season's opening appearance by the Cleveland Orchestra (Oct. 6) brings one of America's best orchestras to town. The world's most famous mezzo, Cecilia Bartoli, makes her first Boston appearance in years Oct. 22. The first concert of the new Boston Marquee series, featuring Boston-area favorites, comes Nov. 5 with the Boston Camerata. And perennial favorites Yo-Yo Ma and Emanuel Ax appear in recital (Nov. 29).

Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra (661-7067) has an eventful season, with a new conductor (Isaiah Jackson) coming aboard, three appearances by principal guest conductor Gunther Schuller, and a guest appearance by its old conductor, Gisele Ben-Dor.

The **Newton Symphony Orchestra** (965-2555), Jeffrey Rink's stellar community orchestra, kicks off its season Oct. 21. Benjamin Zander's **Boston Philharmonic** (868-6696) opens its year Oct. 14 with mezzo Jane Struss singing Mahler's *Ruekertlieder*. Steven Lipsitt's Boston Classical Orchestra (423-3883) opens its season Sept. 22 with Kenneth Radnofsky playing solo in the Marcello Oboe Concerto.

The **Boston Modern Orchestra Project** (927-5400) explores the connections between classical music and film, technology, rock 'n' roll and more in five concerts that begin Oct. 6 at Jordan Hall. **Boston Musica Viva**, under the direction of Richard Pittman, forges into its third decade with five concerts, including one Nov. 17 entitled "Improper Bostonians." Hmmm.

Metamorphosen Chamber Orchestra (494-5094) has four concerts, each with a world premiere, beginning Sept. 30 at Jordan Hall. The **Longwood Symphony Orchestra** (332-7011) opens its season Oct. 21 with BSO flutist Jacques Zoon.

Early Music

The **Boston Early Music Festival** (661-1812) presents The Academy of Ancient Music (Oct. 28) and the Tallis Scholars (Dec. 8 and 9). **Boston Baroque** (484-9200) presents the first local performance in 20 years of Monteverdi's *The Coronation of Poppea*. The **Handel & Haydn Society** (266-4048) is under the baton of Christopher Hogwood for the last year. Its season opens Oct. 20 with Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. This concert also marks the season premiere of **Coro Allegro** (499-4868), which has two other concerts during the course of the season.

Chamber Music

The **Boston Chamber Music Society** (349-0086) is programming seven concerts of Russian music beginning Oct. 13. The Sunday concerts at the **Gardner Museum** (278-5102) open with Leon Kirchner conducting the Gardner Chamber Orchestra in a tribute to Aaron Copland Sept. 24. Other highlights include a rare Boston appearance by pianist Cecile Licad (Nov. 19), and the debut of the reformed Borromeo String Quartet (Dec. 10). The **Chameleon Arts Ensemble** (472-8200) continues in its third season of thoughtful programming Oct. 7 at First and Second Church in the Back Bay. The **Boston Artists Ensemble** (964-6553), led by BSO cellist Jonathan Miller, presents five concerts of chamber music not regularly heard, like Schoenberg's *Transfigured Night* and Hindemith's *Kammermusik*. First concert of the year is Sept. 10. Up north, the **Andover Chamber Music Festival** presents four concerts, beginning Sept. 23. Guest artists this year include Andrew Kohji Taylor, Michael Kannen and Judith Gordon.

Opera and Chorale

The **Boston Lyric Opera** (800-447-7400) jumps to four operas this year, kicking off the season with Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* Oct. 4 and Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, with guest conductor Federico Cortese, Nov. 8.

The **Boston Academy of Music** (242-0055) led by Richard Conrad, starts its season with one of the very few events celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of Kurt Weill, a staging of *Lady in the Dark* (Oct. 20). The **Spectrum Singers** (492-8902), under conductor John Ehrlich, perform music of Haydn and Mozart with a group of excellent soloists Nov. 18 at Emmanuel Church. **Masterworks Chorale** (781 235-6210) sings Bach's *B Minor Mass* Nov. 12 at Sanders Theater. **Boston Cecilia** (232-4540), led by Donald Teeters, begins its 125th (!) season Oct. 15 with a Bach celebration. And the **Cantata Singers** (267-6502) under David Hoose, open their season Nov. 10 with the Boston premiere of John Harbison's *Four Psalms*.

SYMPHONY HALL: STU ROSNER

TOP-10 UPCOMING CLASSICAL EVENTS IN BOSTON

Emmanuel Music Bach Cantata Series
Every Sunday at 10am. Emmanuel Church. Craig Smith has been presenting a Bach cantata each Sunday for 30 years. Catch one this season.

Longy SeptemberFest 2000: Bach and His Influence *Sept 8-24, Pickman Hall, Cambridge.*

Boston Modern Orchestra Project
Begins Oct. 6, Jordan Hall, Concert Music by Hollywood Composers.

100th Anniversary of Symphony Hall
Oct. 14, Symphony Hall. In this joint concert, the BSO and the Pops celebrate our priceless acoustic treasure.

Jane Struss Sings Mahler's *Ruekertlieder*
Oct. 14, Jordan Hall Oct. 15, Sanders Theater. Boston Philharmonic, Benjamin Zander conductor.

Handel & Haydn Society Presents Mendelssohn's *Elijah*
Oct. 20, Jordan Hall.

Cecilia Bartoli in Recital
Oct. 22. Symphony Hall, Fleet Celebrity Series.

Mozart's *Don Giovanni*
Opens Nov. 8, Shubert Theatre, Boston Lyric Opera.

Cecile Licad, Piano
Nov. 19. Gardner Museum, Gardner Chamber Music Series.

Edwin Barker, guest artist
Nov. 26, Sanders Theater, Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra. BSO principal bassist gets a rare solo turn under the baton of Gunther Schuller. iB

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FLASH'S COCKTAILS

dance

Brazilian thunder, Boston Ballet romance and break-dancing to Shakespeare are fall dance favorites. BY BARBARA MATTALIANO

Nothing moves us quite like the beauty of dance. Real talent shines without props—or even shoes, sometimes. Creative choreography exhilarates, entertains and captivates. In Boston, we are blessed with an enduring world-class dance community despite the fact that we still have to get on the train to New York for those dazzling Broadway-style productions, and that the number of Boston stops on the routes of nationally touring companies is dwindling. It's true that dance still takes a seat behind other performing arts when it comes to funding and audience numbers. Still, Boston is home to prized institutions, premiere dancers and award-winning creative directors. Dance still enjoys the youngest audiences of all the performing arts, and several local artists this fall will present programs created with those fans in mind. So seek out dance performances this fall, and find youthful inspiration at every turn.

Start your dance season with a one-of-a-kind,spellbinding performance presented by Dance Umbrella (617-824-8000; *www.danceumbrella.org*). *The Art of Weightlessness* shines a spotlight on mixed-ability dancer, choreographer and video artist **Bill Shannon, a.k.a. Crutchmaster,** in a Boston premiere. This gifted artist uses a skateboard and crutches for simultaneous weight sharing between his arms and legs. The funky performance is a mix of urban hip-hop, tribal beat and contemporary dance. Performances are Sept. 22-23 at the Copley Theatre. **Rennie Harris**, choreographer and artistic director of **Puremovement,** concludes Dance Umbrella's fall lineup with the hip-hop ballet and opera *Romeo and Jewels*. Puremovement was awarded a 1998-99 National Dance Project grant for their definitely modern intepretation of Shakespeare's timeless love story. Harris uses *Romeo and Juliet* to show off differences in dance styles: The Montegues exercised hip-hop and the Capulets used break-dancing. Along with the street dance, Harris injected references from *West Side Story* dance numbers, guaranteeing exciting fight scenes and love scenes that rely on what Harris describes as a yoga-like sensuality. Performances are Nov. 30-Dec.3 at the Emerson Majestic Theatre.

The **Mark Morris Dance Group** returns to-Boston this fall with three premieres: *Sang-Froid*, *Silhouettes* and *Dancing Honeymoon* in the The FleetBoston Celebrity Series (617-482-6661; *www.celebrityseries.org*). In *Sang-Froid*, Morris offers his own interpretation of some of the most renowned works in piano literature. Set to nine turbulent and seductive pieces by Frederic Chopin, the five women and four men are billed as a group who explore this piece with tender, violent and serene movements. Performances are Oct. 26-29 at the Shubert Theatre.

Boston-based choreographer **Daniel McCusker** kicks off **Green Street Studios**' season with *Indian Summer*, a premiere solo performance by McCusker to an original by Chris Eastburn. McCusker explains, "I am going to be 49 this summer, and I feel like performing. This seems like an Indian Summer kind of moment to me." Performances are September 22-23 at Green Street Studios (617-864-3191; *www.greenstreetstudios.org*).

Boston choreographer Daniel Pelzig created a contemporary look for *Resurrection*, a Boston Ballet fall presentation. Below, mixed-ability dancer Bill Shannon a.k.a Crutchmaster, in *The Art of Weightlessness*, a Dance Umbrella production at the Copley Theatre.

The **Choreographers Group** presents a Contemporary Dance Concert featuring the world premiere works of five leading New England choreographers at the Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center (617-577-1400; *www.cmacusa.org*). Lorraine Chapman creatively unites with Shawn Mahoney to perform a duet. Jody Weber will present *Break*, a tough and humorous look at the duality of femininityin Western culture. Carol Somers will present *Twofold*, featuring the use of four different tempos and textures, and *For Bigger, For Smaller*, a duet. Perla Joy Furr will present *Dark into Light,* and Lillian Carter's work is a culmination of dance and drama. Performances are Nov. 17-19.

The **Dance Complex** in Cambridge (617-547-9363; 536 Massachusetts Ave.) presents a Modern Dance Concert with new works by **Kate Digby**. Performances are Sept. 22-23. Emerging local artists present new works in a Shared Choreographers' Concert on Oct. 28-29. Concluding the Dance Complex's fall line up is an Improvisation Dance Concert with **Liz Roncka** and **Olivier Besson**. Performances are Nov. 17-18.

Due back in Boston this fall is the prestigious Brazilian folk dance company, **Balé Folclórico da Bahia** (617-876-4275; *www.worldmusic.org*) This vivacious Brazilian group of 32 dancers, musicians and singers will be performing *Carnaval 2000*, which embraces carnival dancers, acrobatic *capoeira*, dazzling *maculelê* with its flashing sticks and blades, and the effervescent *samba* blast. Already a fan? New material will be presented this fall. Put on your dancing shoes for this one!Performances are Oct. 19-22 at the Shubert Theatre.

The **Boston Conservatory Dance Theater** (617-536-6340) will stage original choreography of 20th-century masters **Anna Sokolow**, presenting *Ballade,* with music by Alexander Scriabin, and **José Limón** presenting *Psalm*, with music by Eugene Laster. At the height of the holiday season, this promises to be a thrilling weekend of dance. Performances are Dec. 7-10.

Boston Ballet's 37th year opens Sept 28-Oct. 8 with *The Four Seasons*. The program features a world premiere by New York-based dancer/choreographer Christopher Wheeldon. The ballet is set to composer Antonio Vivaldo's popular concerto and offers Wheeldon's trademark combination of classical and contemporary choreography. References to 18th-century Italian theatrics include a colorful palette of costumes and sets. Daniel Pelzig's piece, *Reurrection* debuts at a pre-season "Generations" Gala September 23, with a special performance by cellist Yo-Yo Ma. The event celebrates the 75th anniversary of the Wang Theatre. Performances are Sept. 28-Oct.8. The first-ever performance of the Russian classic, *La Bayadére*, staged by Anna-Marie Holmes after Marius Petipa, is an exotic tale about star-crossed lovers set in India. Performances are Oct. 19-29. Closing out this season is the Boston Ballet's annual holiday classic, *The Nutcracker*. Every season, the Boston Ballet infuses this New England tradition with new touches. This year's second act will feature several newly choreographed scenes by Daniel Pelzig. Performances are Nov. 24-Dec. 31 at the Wang Theatre. Boston Ballet (800-447-7400; *www.boston.com/bostonballet*.). **iB**

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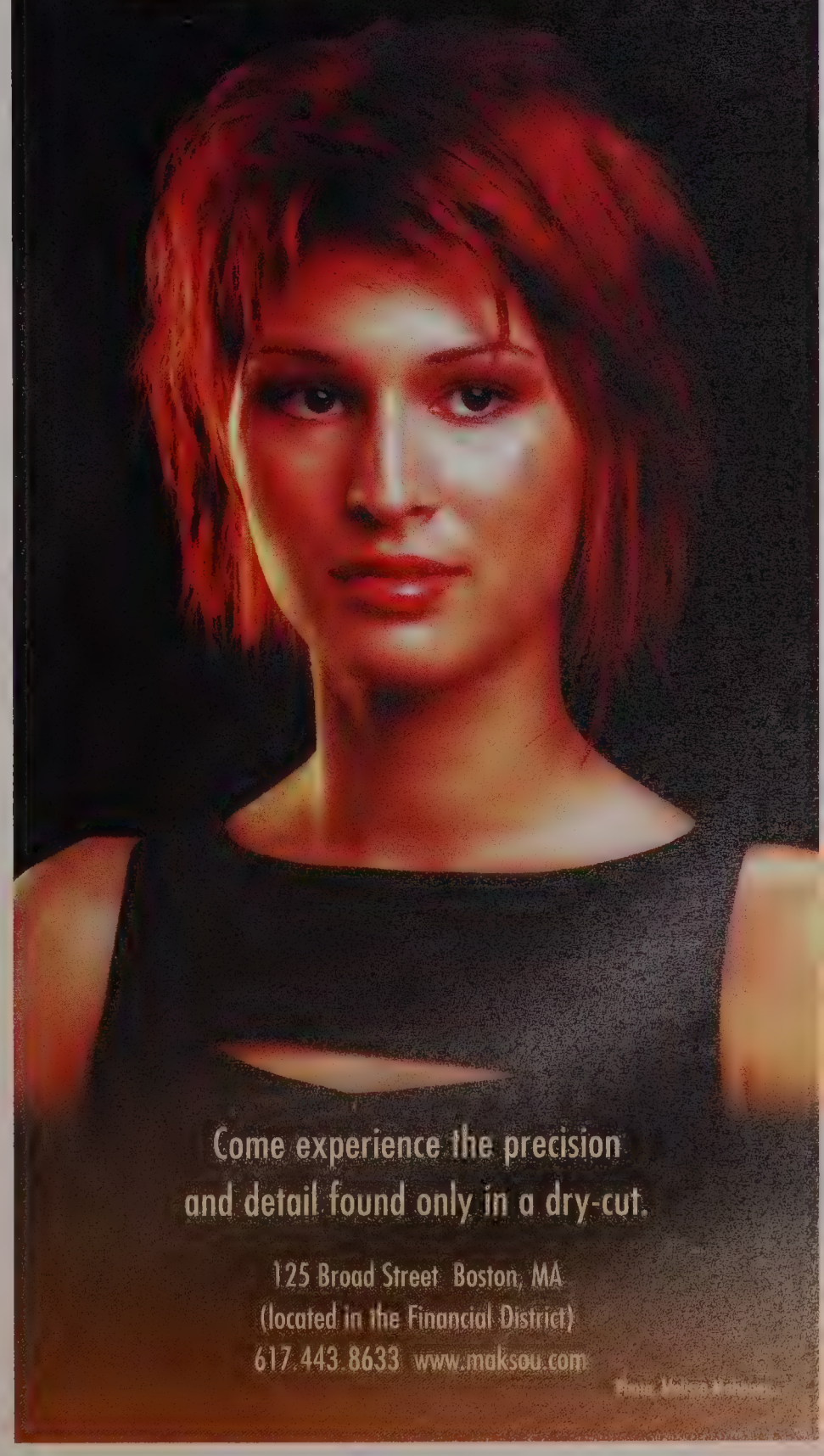

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Wednesday, September 13th — Full Moon Fever Party! Go on a date with the world- Join the Livewave crew for the first online dating game hosted by Star 93.7's Michael Knight. Only a stud would want their date broadcast over the internet. Big City Beat will keep you on the dance floor all night long.

Every Thursday beginning September 21st — Don't forget Mark Morris & The Catunes at 6pm. Get here early!

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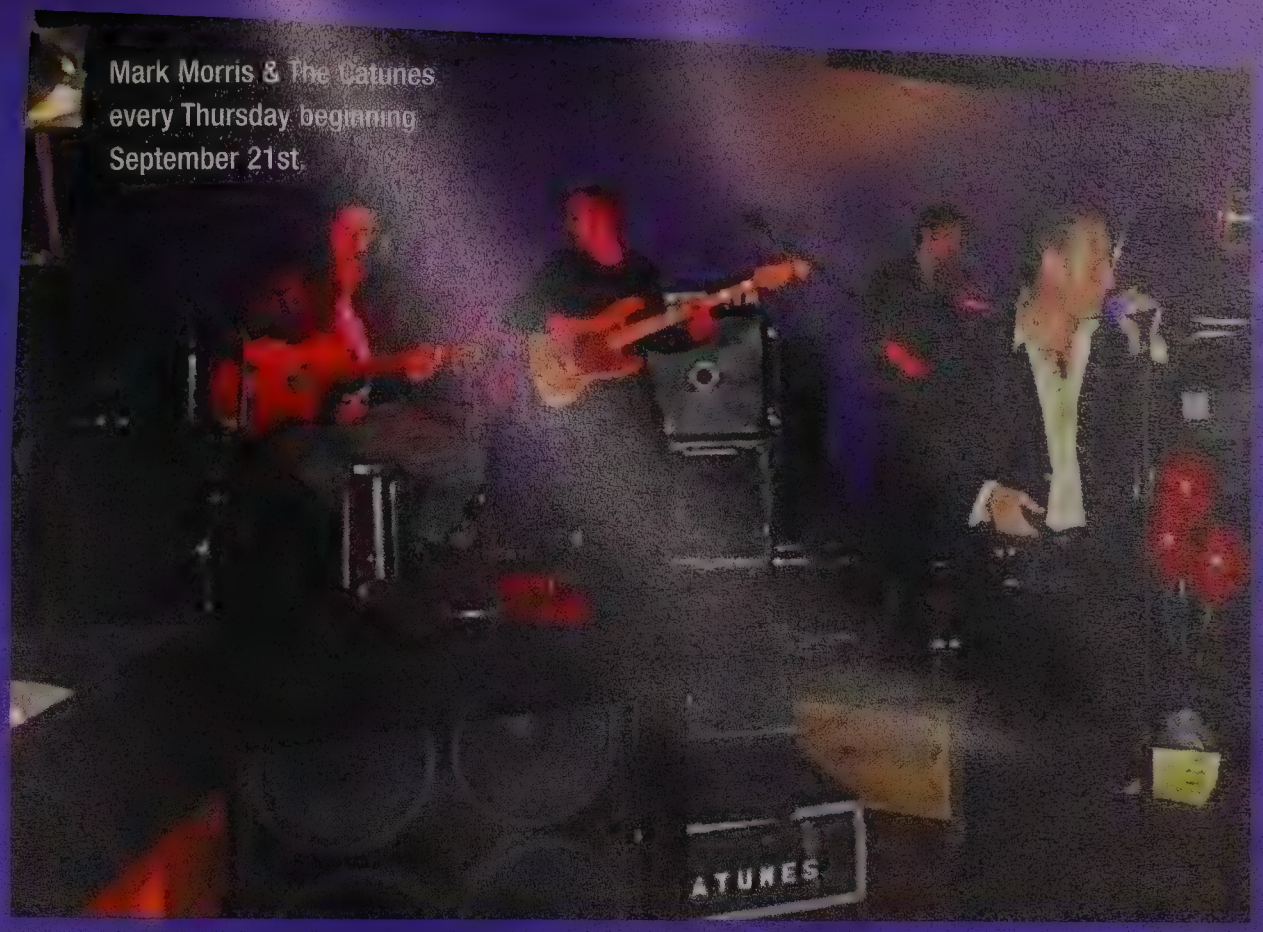

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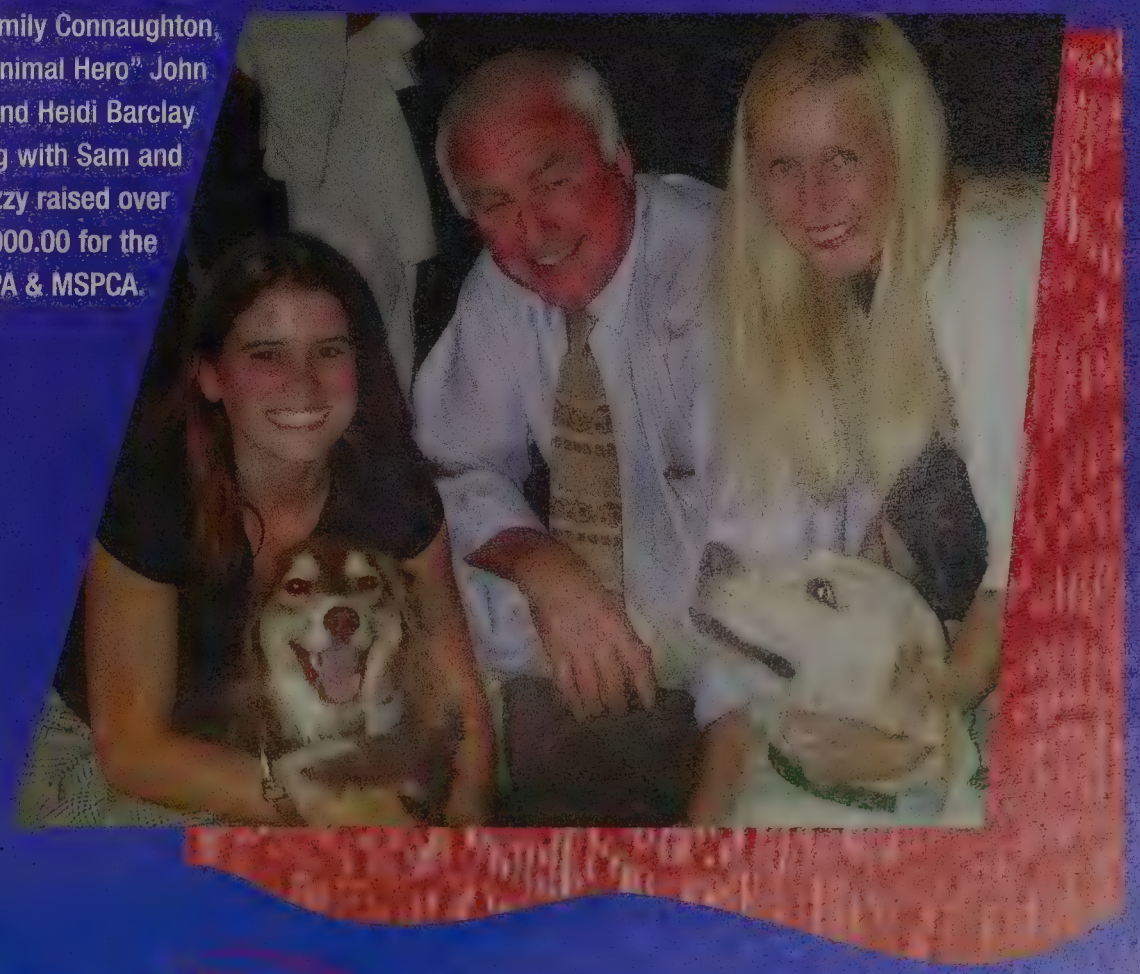

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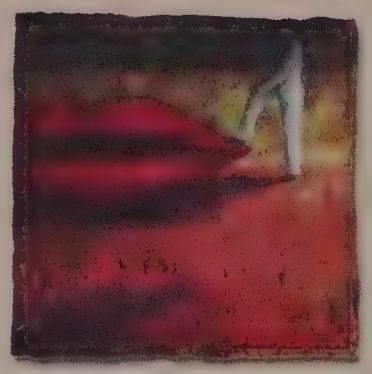
October
4, 6, 8m, 10, 13, 15m, 17, 2000



Don Giovanni

By Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Sung in Italian with English Surtitles
A new Boston Lyric Opera production

Federico Cortese* - Conductor
Leon Major - Stage Director

Jeff Mattsey - Don Giovanni
David Evitts - Leporello
Wendy Nielsen* - Donna Anna
Charles Castronovo* - Don Ottavio
Marie Plette* - Donna Elvira

November
8, 10, 12m, 14, 17, 19m, 21, 2000

Salome

By Richard Strauss
Sung in German with English Surtitles
A new co-production with Glimmerglass Opera

Stephen Lord - Conductor
Leon Major - Stage Director

Marquita Lister* - Salome
Neil Rosenshein* - Herod
Delores Ziegler* - Herodias
Christopher Robertson* - Jokanaan
David Corman* - Narraboth

January 24, 26, 28m, 30
February 2, 4m, 2001

The Daughter of the Regiment

By Gaetano Donizetti
Sung in English with English Surtitles
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Stephen Lord - Conductor
Nick Olcott* - Stage Director

Tracy Dahl* - Marie
Theodore Green* - Tonio
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March 28, 30
April 1m, 3, 6, 8m, 2001

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Serendipitous shopping: Our unfettered correspondent seeks out the salubrious and the cerebral.

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY

COME AND VISIT US, WON'T YOU?

Aunt Sadie's at 18 Union Park Street (the street on the other side of Union Park) is a country store of yore, (357-7117).

Aunt Sadie's is a South End shop with the charm of a country roadside stand, circa 1959. That's no small feat in this thoroughly modern neighborhood. The neon-green Adirondack-style sign with fading "taxicab yellow" stripes resembles an Eisenhower-era holdover; actually, it's new. It is the perfect detail for Aunt Sadie's, a place that conjures up memories of that campsite or seashore shop that sold an odd collection of homey items to vacationers who visited the same store each day. At Aunt Sadies', Howard Johnsoniana is tenderly displayed: a wooden silhouette of the familiar, beckoning Simple Simon logo, interstate plates and highway signs. Old-fashioned tartan thermos coolers and wicker picnic baskets are just the kind of things we used to load into the family Chevy for the summer vacation. Nostalgic aromas come from Balsam fir incense, jars of chunky apple-butter, and candles burning with the scent of—get this—a big bacon breakfast. The real Aunt Sadie lived to 91, and was a grandmother to Brian Schnetzer, who, along with Gary Briggs, runs the Union Park Street store. "It's not touristy," says Briggs. "It's eclectic. We make our own candles, and they are a big seller." Indeed, you can buy the entire Sunday breakfast collection of candles—coffee, bacon, maple and orange. And they're fat free!

EGYPT BY THE CHARLES: MOSES OPTIONAL

Mahoney's Garden Center, 889 Memorial Drive, Cambridge (354-4145) and 242 Cambridge St., Winchester, (729-5900) sells equipment for water gardens.

Like many store displays, Mahoney's tempting square cedar-edged pool full of water, ankle-deep with wild-looking water plants isn't itself for sale. But it represents the watery wherewithal this garden center has to offer that can be put together in your backyard or deck, or more permanently-installed into the very earth of your garden. Using shape-shifting, rubber liners, you can create beautiful irregularity. Mahoneys sells pumps, fountains and filters. Mechanical filters use carbon to clear the water; biological models work by growing organisms that eat bacteria, to eradicate the bad algae (there's good algae guys and bad) without chemicals. By any name, algae's appropriately, gloppily appealing, especially with some resident goldfish gliding around.

It's their wildly unmanicured look that is the charm of water gardens.

Papyrus, lilies, cattails, pickleweed, red chameleon, tall waving grasses along with low-lying underwater plants that stream around underneath, riverbottom-style: Egypt by the Charles. Mahoney's also displays additional water, water everywhere by plunking another fountain into the plant-filled pool, then adding a terra cotta pitcher, drowsily lying sideways over a bulging pot that blurps out even more melodious water. (Inside, mottled copper freestanding fountains provide a smaller, still vivifying, alternative.)

PRACTICAL, IRREVERENT ADVICE

Sin Boldly, Dr. Dave's Guide to Writing the College Paper, by David R. Williams, Ph.D.

Dr. Dave, with his many-angled approach, plants himself on the side of the student. But he has smuggled, from the professorial side, his findings—wise, wily discursive, and often engagingly flip—into this guide to writing term papers. Dave delivers many tart words on the subject of deconstruction—a philosophy preoccupied with the distorting lenses that refract our vision (never mind what we are actually seeing) and with the notion that everything is a mere construct, a hypothetically assumed pose or a function of some embattled identity. But he also instructs the student in strategically playing with different voices, angles, and just-for-now stances. He shows, amusingly, that a term paper can "prove" that Robert Frost's "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" describes a religious pilgrimage. Or, presto! cleverly reconstrued, the student could produce a paper called "Robert Frost, Gentle New England Satanist." But, Dave warns, good grammar, muscular sentences and well-supported arguments (however wacky) are essential. The protein of serious literature (Melville, Dickinson) and the candy of pop culture (*Star Trek*, Monica) illustrate such things as the balanced "slobs and snobs" poles of academic discourse. And good old "compare and contrast" is alive and well.

MAHONEY'S GARDENS: TRACY POWELL; AUNT SADIE'S: WENDY MIMRAN

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INSIDE: A taste of Revere; Indian fusion; cheeses and chocolate

REVIEW

A Tale of Two Menus

Saffron serves up both Indian and Western dishes with adventurous creativity

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPH BY BRAD ZIEGLER

Unless the weather is truly spectacular, forgo lounging on the Wal-Mart-esque patio furniture and view the always-interesting Newbury St. scenery from the bar-height window table inside.

A stylish new eatery, Saffron, has quietly appeared in the Back Bay. Located on the north side of Newbury Street near Fairfield, it shares the block with Kashmir, a highly regarded purveyor of Indian cuisine. Saffron promises to be a formidable competitor, offering two distinct menus: one with almost two dozen choices of traditional Indian dishes, and the other with Western dishes, 10 appetizers and soups and seven main courses, most of them enlivened with Indian spices. Remarkably, Saffron comes up with one triumph after another from both menus.

One muggy summer evening, we eschewed the below-grade, outdoor tables available for al fresco dining and entered the smartly appointed interior space, which has been totally transformed from the sushi bar that formerly occupied it at this location. The upper-level dining room, reached via a black-bordered glass step staircase, roughly resembles the shape of a ship, with a lovely big bay window at one end forming the prow and a white brick section of wall (probably a former fireplace) comprising the stern. A long bar-height table facing Newbury Street enables five or six diners on high-backed chairs to take in the scene below through high, broad windows that let in oceans of natural light that blends with the artful lighting provided by lunar-style sconces and chandeliers.

Shiny black wooden chairs with lattice backs match black-slat ceiling baffles. Upholstered banquettes and a plethora of luxurious pillows provide seating that is at once exotic and comfortable. Recorded music ranges from jazz to rap. Eggshell linens, earthtone tile floors, large wine glasses (which are dutifully changed with each new bottle) and lovely, shiny brushed-aluminum or stainless-steel tableware complete the setting.

Saffron's large and impressive wine list (including some good lower priced choices that we had never seen before) led us to abandon our traditional Asian-food accompaniment of beer. The Norton 1997 Malbec from Argentina, a dry, almost austere red ($21) had good structure and a fine finish. The Mont Gras Riserva, a 1997 Chilean merlot ($25), was soft but not flabby with a good nose and forward fruit. A deeper, rounder red, 1999 A Mano Primitivo ($24), from Puglia—a region in Italy's heel—was deep and full bodied.

We started with vegetarian samosas ($5), two good-sized diamonds of fried pastry with a moist, savory, aromatic filling of potatoes and peas, redolent of cumin. Shrimp masaledar ($8) arrived as five jumbo shrimp, sautéed with ginger and garlic and accompanied by a puffy wedge of poori bread. The shrimp boasted a perfect, moist, resilient texture, and the zesty garlic ginger-accented sauce was studded with tender strips of onions and peppers.

On the Western menu we also tried two appetizers. The mushroom and eggplant tower served with a spicy tomato chutney ($7) was a perfectly formed cylinder of luscious, firm-textured eggplant and velvety, pleasantly earthy mushrooms garnished with crisp fried slivers of chives or scallions. The crispy Parmesan ring ($7) contained a salad of tender, delicate greens, yellow cherry tomatoes and fire-roasted mushrooms. A startling presentation, the crispy Parmesan container was a tasty counterpoint to the salad.

Among main courses, we chose two Indian and two Western dishes. Tandoori mixed grill ($23) was a flavorful array of meats—an aromatic chicken drumstick, marinated in herbed yogurt and baked until tender; boneless chunks of chicken tikka; lamb kababs; seekh kababs (ground lamb meatballs); and tandoori shrimp. The meat was served in a covered white ceramic bowl with a matching candle warmer to keep it hot. The other Indian main course, lamb bhuna ($18), consisted of tandoori lamb cubes prepared with fresh ginger, onions, peppers, tomatoes and garlic. It was also served in a covered white ceramic vessel over a matching warmer. The moist, succulent cubes of lamb were tender and gristle-free, and the fiery spice of the sauce was modulated with just the right touch of sweetness added by the onions.

From the Western menu, the pan-fried tuna steak with sautéed fresh spinach ($25) was a thick, rare, moist, firmly textured triumph. The spinach was heavenly—tender and flavorful. The least successful of the main courses was the wild mushroom risotto ($17), flavored with ginger and studded with asparagus tips. We prefer our risotto soft, bordering on soupy, and this risotto was on the other end of the spectrum, dry and slightly sticky. The flavor, however, was excellent, and the asparagus tips added a proper, al dente crunch.

We finished our repast with three spectacular desserts. First, a five-spice tart ($7), presented complex, inviting flavors in a richly moist confection, between a custardy pudding and cake. The ambrosial flavor and bouquet of the restaurant's namesake spice, was unmistakable. Crème brulee ($8), which even Saffron in its imagination and trailblazing menu could not seem to avoid, was more than ordinary, served unmolded and flavored with cardamom. Finally, chocolate terrine ($9) was an intensely chocolate, flourless cake, surrounded by an elaborate cookie superstructure/sculpture.

Service throughout was first rate. Our indefatigable waitress, Emma was patient with our vacillation over the complex menu choices, obliging in our requests for additional small plates to share tastings, and remained unflappable as we switched from one wine to another. Upbeat till the end, her grace and polish completed the perfection of this exotic, adventurous meal. iB

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DISH

Fall Is for Lovers

'Tis the season of oysters and chocolate

BY JULIE SHORT

WRKO hosts the 17th annual **Taste of Boston** Sept. 16 on the steps of City Hall. Supposedly, this is our chance to sample some of Boston's best cuisine. But as we pored over the list of participating restaurants, we were hard-pressed to find any of the city's big-name eateries. Have Boston's city limits expanded without us noticing? To wit: **Plaza Garibaldi** in Revere and Newton's **Union Street Restaurant** are among the invitees. In a city where a new restaurant opens every other day, where's the long list of *Boston* restaurants?

If it's September, it must be oyster season. "Traditionally, oysters should be eaten in the months that have the letter 'r' in them," says chef **Jim Becker** of **Rauxa** in Somerville. During the summer spawning season, oysters are soft and fatty as they become bloated with water (a familiar complaint?). So it's best to slurp 'em down from September through March, says Becker. Both Rauxa and **LeBocage** in Watertown are offering special oyster-lover menus this month—with the requisite letter "r."

Spicing up Indian...Curry and naan alone just aren't as hip as they used to be. Nope, this week, Indian *fusion* is all the rage. At one end of town, you've got chef **Olaf Niemeier** at **Saffron** serving up Western food prepared with Indian spices on Newbury Street; near Downtown Crossing at **Mantra**, the newest hot spot to hit the dining scene, chef **Thomas John**—by way of the **Le Meridien Hotel** in Bombay—whips up a French-and-Indian cuisine. When Mantra officially opens within the vaults of the Old Colony Trust Bank in mid-October, set your tastebuds for charcoal-grilled tamarind lobster salad, clay oven-roasted monkfish and honey-glazed duck breast with truffled basmati pilaf.

If you've had the pleasure of a visit to the original **Zathmary's** specialty-foods store in Needham, you're probably already a devotee of the open-kitchen format—complete with a 25-foot display case brimming with an awesome array of international entrees, salads and prepared foods. Come late September, Coolidge Corner will be blessed with another version of this popular New York-style market on Harvard Ave. A team of chefs prepare their specialties—from sushi and pizza to freshly baked breads, gourmet sandwiches and comfort food—"all under one roof," says owner **Michael Szathmary**. Take it to go or dine at one of the 20 tables. Of note: The Brookline incarnation will feature a full-service cheese department.

Pastry chef Christophe Feyt unveils this season's Chocolate Bar menu at Le Meridien Sept. 9.

Speaking of cheese, you can learn the intricacies of this dairy delicacy from the city's star cheese expert, **Formaggio Kitchen** owner **Ihsan Gurdal**. He'll be teaching a cheese certificate program at Boston University's **Elizabeth Bishop Wine Resource Center** this fall. For information, call 353-9852.

If cheese ain't your schtick, how about chocolate? **Le Meridien** pastry chef **Christophe Feyt** unveils the newest **Chocolate Bar** menu (the 12th season!) at a special event benefitting the Children's Museum Sept. 9. Sample more than 25 delectable dessert offerings, including our favorite: the chocolate croissant pudding.

SECOND COURSE

Several new restaurants are slated to open this month, among them **Zita** and **Stars on Huntington** (brought to you by the same folks who own the lovely **Tosca** in Hingham). Plus **Stan Frankenthaler's** reincarnated **Salamander** is sure to spice up the fall.

Check out **Vox Populi**, the sleekly revamped makeover of the former **Back Bay Brewing Company**, where *blanquette de veau* replaces burgers and brew.

On the move...Earnest young **Joshua Foley**, who followed the '49ers out to San Francisco to make his fortune after six years at **Harvest**, returned to the Cambridge kitchen last year as sous chef and has recently been named Harvest's new executive chef. At **Le Meridien**, **Brian Corbley** was promoted to the position of chef de cuisine for **Julien**. Congrats men! iB

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant?
Send it to *dish@improper.com*

WINE

Go Exploring

BY SANDY BLOCK, MW

One of the great challenges facing the American wine industry is how to overcome the prevalent notion that wine is just for celebrations and other special events. The thought of making a selection still makes too many of us uncomfortable. Whereas knocking back a glass or two with dinner is traditional in Western and Southern Europe, pollsters tell us that a majority of Americans regard wine as too difficult to understand, and they equate cork-sealed bottles with formal occasions. Formal, as in overly serious, old-fashioned, stuffy, uncool.

There's evidence that younger consumers are strongly attracted to wine and that they're largely free of at least some of those prejudices. To this group wine, has begun to represent a sophisticated, upscale, perhaps even glamorous lifestyle. It's appealing because you can get something unique and even exotic without having to spend a lot of money. And a little bit of research goes a long way toward establishing your good-taste credentials.

I'm convinced that the flowering of interesting, multiethnic cuisine is behind this new openness to wine. Many of the hottest restaurants have taken adventurous steps with the wines they present, while encouraging experimentation by offering voluminous by-the-glass selections. In this way the restaurants introduce unfamiliar regions and grape varieties to the market, immediately vesting them with the imprimatur of quality. In the past some of the most enduringly stylish brands were built this way. But we've gone beyond the old prestige associations, based on hierarchical ideas of which bottles are good, better, and best to a new category of casual, hip wines that seem to taste better precisely because they remain off the snob's radar screen.

One of the best illustrations of how this works can be seen in the vast number of new, informal Latin restaurants that have sprung up. To accompany a lot of the Latin dishes I've enjoyed, I'm partial to red wines with bright fruit flavors and soft textures. But that leaves a lot of room. One of my favorite cutting-edge categories, that's additionally satisfying with the cuisine because of its origins, is a grape called Malbec that's grown in Argentina.

This 1998 Don Miguel Gascón ($11) is an Argentinian Malbec.

Although its commercial potential is far from being realized, Argentine Malbec is one of the poster boys for the popularity wine enjoys among a new generation of wine drinkers. Its attributes? Abundant plum and berry flavors, mild acidity, moderate tannins and a generally smooth, round texture. Since Malbec is the name of a grape variety, there is no complicated nomenclature to master before you buy a bottle. If this sounds like a red wine for everyone, it could well be. But because Argentina has yet to light up the world's export markets, it remains an obscure grape and therefore a wine with which people can still surprise their friends. And, given the quality, it's dazzlingly cheap.

If Malbec tastes vaguely familiar to more experienced pros, it's because this is the grape that's planted (although sparsely today) in Bordeaux, where it sometimes comprises up to 5 percent of a Chateau's blend. This Bordeaux-family grape thrives in Argentina's Mendoza district, in the shadows of the Andes, where dry, sunny weather guarantees consistency. Whereas acreage is declining in rain-plagued French regions, Malbec has become the dominant symbol of Argentina in the wine world, the very focus of the country's export strategy. It's easy to buy and fits perfectly the theme of a casual, but delicious wine that is versatile with food yet not so ordinary that it loses all cache.

Other grape varieties also fit this theme: Shiraz from Australia, Pinot Blanc, Alvarinho. If you see one of these names on a wine card in your favorite restaurant, or on the shelves of a retail shop, give it a try. These aren't wines to fear; they're great expressions of a new direction for our changing wine culture that's more relaxed and inclusive without sacrificing flavor or quality. iB

BELOW, KATYA POPOVA

Tastings BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for tastings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

EVENTS

Acacia Winery at Stonehedge Inn
Stonehedge Inn, 160 Pawtucket Blvd., Tyngsboro (978-649-4400). Sept. 18, 7pm. $95. In 1979, **Michael Richmond** founded Acacia Winery, focusing on vineyard-designated pinot noirs and chardonnays.

African Gastro 2000
African-American Institute, Northeastern University, 40 Leon St., Boston (474-0353). Sept. 9, 6pm. An African food fest featuring dishes from Algeria, Cameroon, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone.

Chocolate Bar Kickoff Party
Le Meridien, 250 Franklin St., Boston (451-1900). Sept. 9. $25. Pastry chef **Christophe Feyt** unveils a new Chocolate Bar menu at this special event benefitting the Children's Museum of Boston. Sample more than 25 different chocolate dessert offerings.

Clambake with a Twist
Atlantic 101, 101 Atlantic Ave., Boston (876-0079). Sept. 12, 7pm. $50. Chef **Clarke Congdon** will begin the evening with a demo and tasting of several varieties of lobster from around the world, followed by his unique rendition of the traditional New England clambake. Sponsored by the American Institute of Wine & Food.

Dinner and Diamonds
Two locations: Shreve, Crump and Low at 199 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill (965-2700) and 330 Boylston St., Boston (267-9100). Sept. 13, 6-8pm. Couples can learn about the four C's of diamond-buying while enjoying cuisine from 75 Chestnut and Red Clay.

Five-Course Oyster Tasting Menu
Rauxa, 70 Union Square, Somerville (623-9939). Sept. 18. $65. The menu features oysters served five different ways, including on the half shell, in soup, and served hot with spinach, saffron Hollandaise and smoked paprika. Price includes Cava and wine pairings.

WGBH Ice Cream Fun Fest
WGBH, 125 Western Ave., Boston (300-1623). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Central, shuttle buses to Allston. Sept. 9-10, 12-4pm. $10. Funfest 2000 promises all the ice cream you can eat, along with musical entertainment.

Martini Soiree
Hampshire House, 84 Beacon St., Boston (227-9600). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Sept. 9, 7-11pm. $55. This soiree includes a sampling of assorted martinis and hors d'oeuvres.

Portuguese Wine Dinner
Gala Restaurant, 138 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington (646-1404). Sept. 18, 6:30pm. Portuguese wine importer **Jeff Slavin** of White Hall Branded will pair six Portuguese wines with a five course meal created by executive chef/owner **Tony Rocha**.

Taste of Boston
City Hall Plaza, Boston. www.thetasteofboston.com. *Sept. 16, 11am-6pm. Free admission. Food tickets will be sold for 50 cents apiece.* In addition to food from Al Dente, Ascari at F1 Boston, the Bay Tower Room, Brasserie Jo, Maggiano's, Pizzeria Regina, the Purple Eggplant Cafe and Union Street, the event will feature live music.

A Taste of Iceland
New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, Boston (973-5200). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Sept. 9. In celebration of the 1,000th anniversary of the Vikings' landing in North America, the aquarium hosts the Viking ship *Icelander*. On Sept. 9, taste your way through Icelandic culture as chefs from the aquarium, Legal Sea Foods and Iceland prepare a seafood sampling.

Three Cooks—Three Courses: Tomatoes
The B Side Lounge, 92 Hampshire St., Cambridge (354-0766). Sept. 19. On the third Tuesday of each month, Chef **Jeff Unger** hosts a "Three Cooks—Three Courses" event, during which he chooses a timely ingredient or theme and invites two other chefs to each prepare a course. Tonight features **John Delpha** from Mistral and **Andy Husbands** from Tremont 647, cooking with tomatoes.

Wine Dinner Series
UpStairs at the Pudding, Cambridge (864-1933). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Every other Wednesday at 7pm. $70. The Wine Dinner Series features flights of wines complemented by Chef **Deborah Hughes**' cuisine. •Sept. 6: A study of chardonnay—American and French.

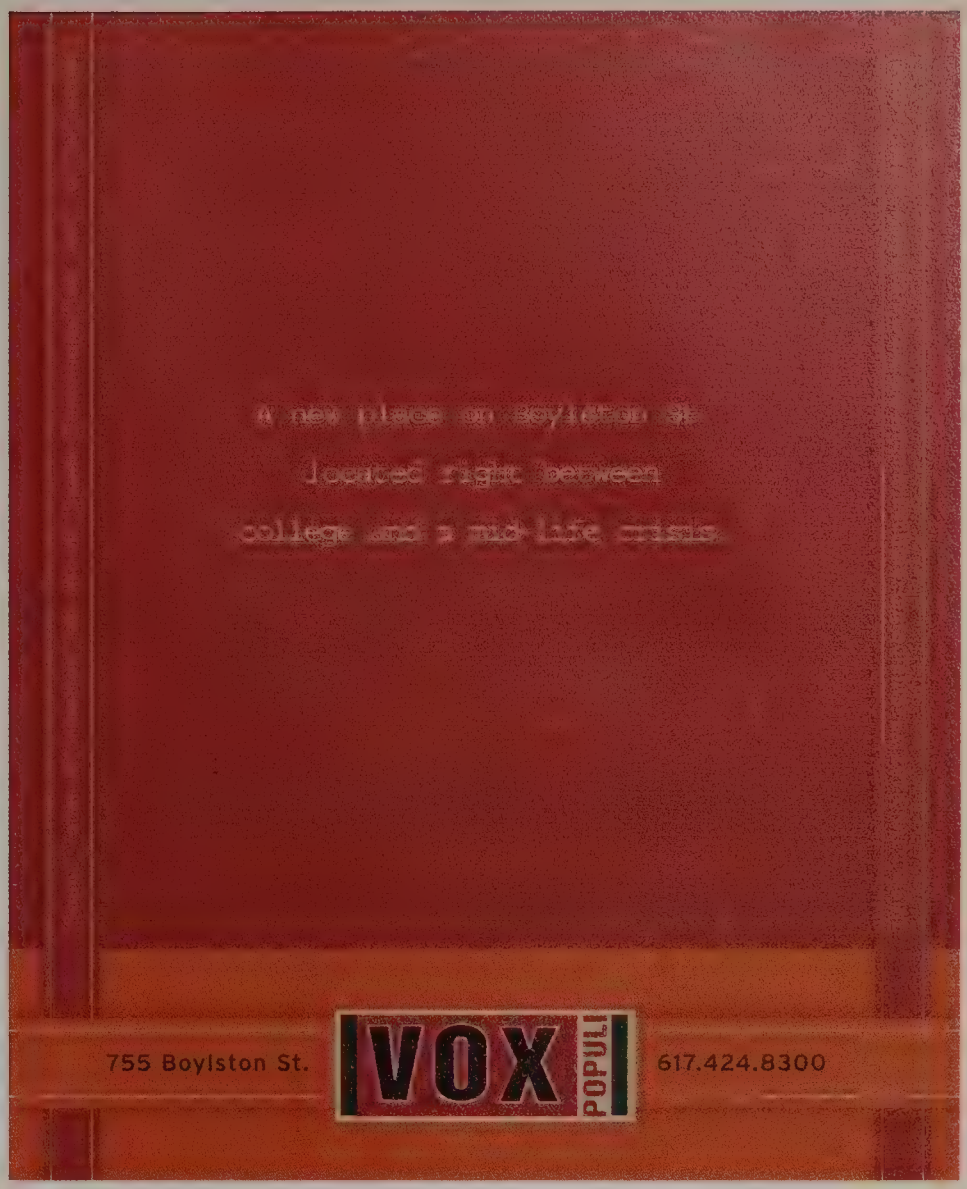
Wine & Pastry: Savory and Sweet
Westport Rivers Vineyard & Winery, 417 Hixbridge Road, Westport (508-636-3423). Sept. 9, 4-6:30pm. $40. **Cindy Salvato**, cookbook author and chef/instructor at Johnson & Wales University, leads a lively demo, pairing breads and pastries with Westport wines.

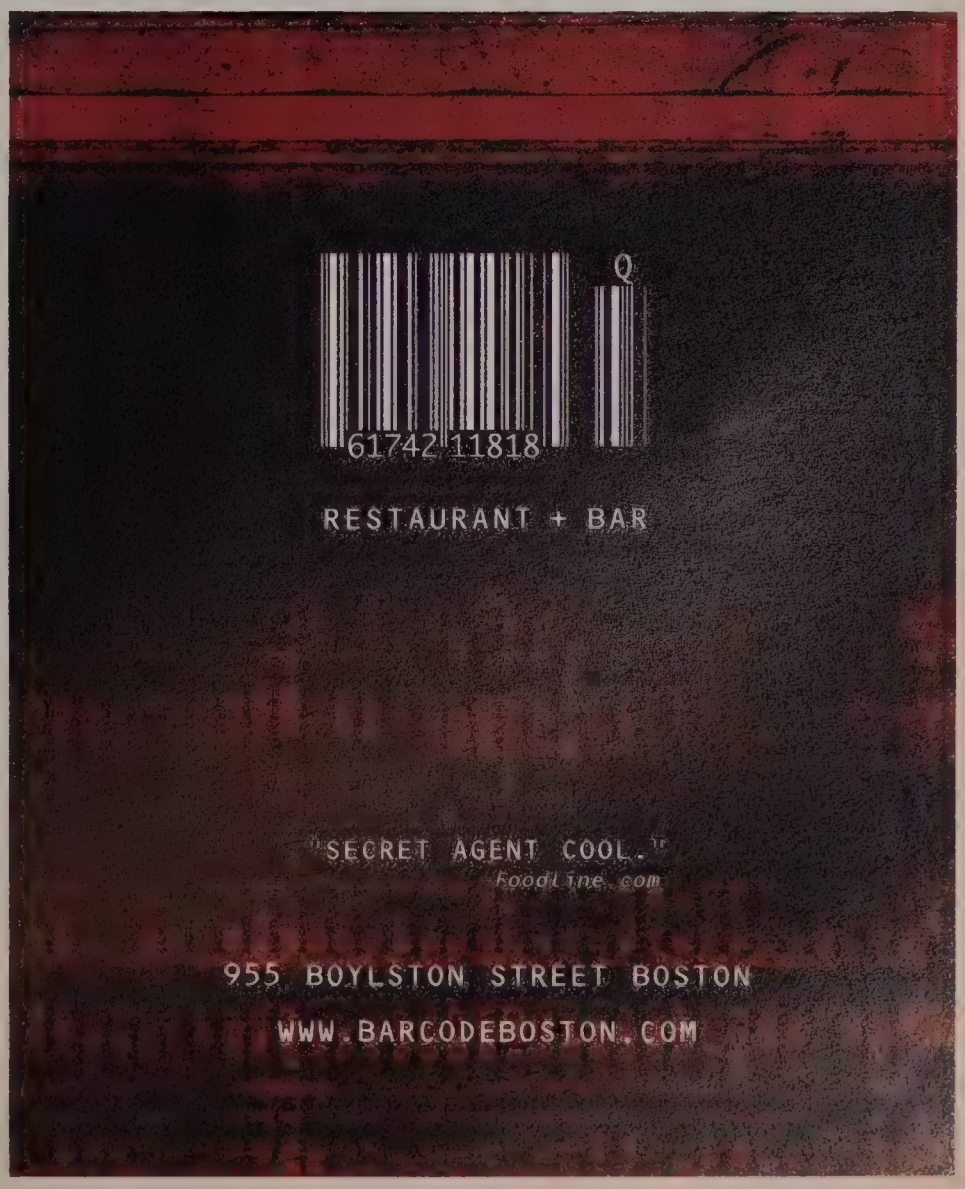
TASTY TIDBIT

IT AIN'T V-8

(Sing aloud to the tune of "Old MacDonald...")
Old Bob Knowles made some juice, E-I-E-I-O,
A Wakefield man with a healthy meal, E-I-E-I-O.
Now a small sip here,
and a large gulp there,
regular, spicy, everywhere!
Veggie juice, a fab idea, E-I-E-I-O!

Even for the most V-8-phobic consumer, a taste of E-I-E-I-O Tomato Smash is a must. Admittedly, we were wary when this tomato drink arrived in the mail—despite enthusiastic advice from "juice man" Bob Knowles to "Drink your vegetables!" But the 13-veggie blend, inspired by a family recipe for gazpacho, jolted our taste buds awake. Tart and tasty, filling and fresh, E-I-E-I-O was officially a hit. A trip to the grocery store ensued, aging tins of V-8 were tossed from the fridge, and the rest is history. The tongue-tingling, spicy drink is here to stay. *Call 781-224-0050 for more info or visit the juice Web site at* www.onthatfarm.com. —E.B. Solomont





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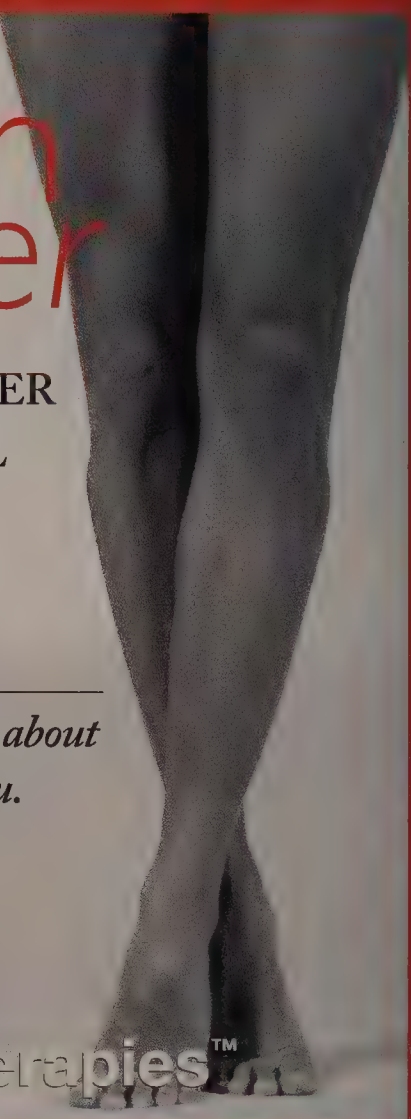

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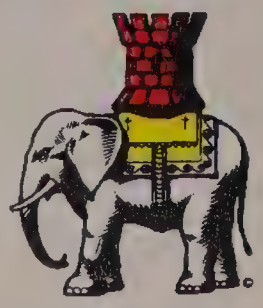

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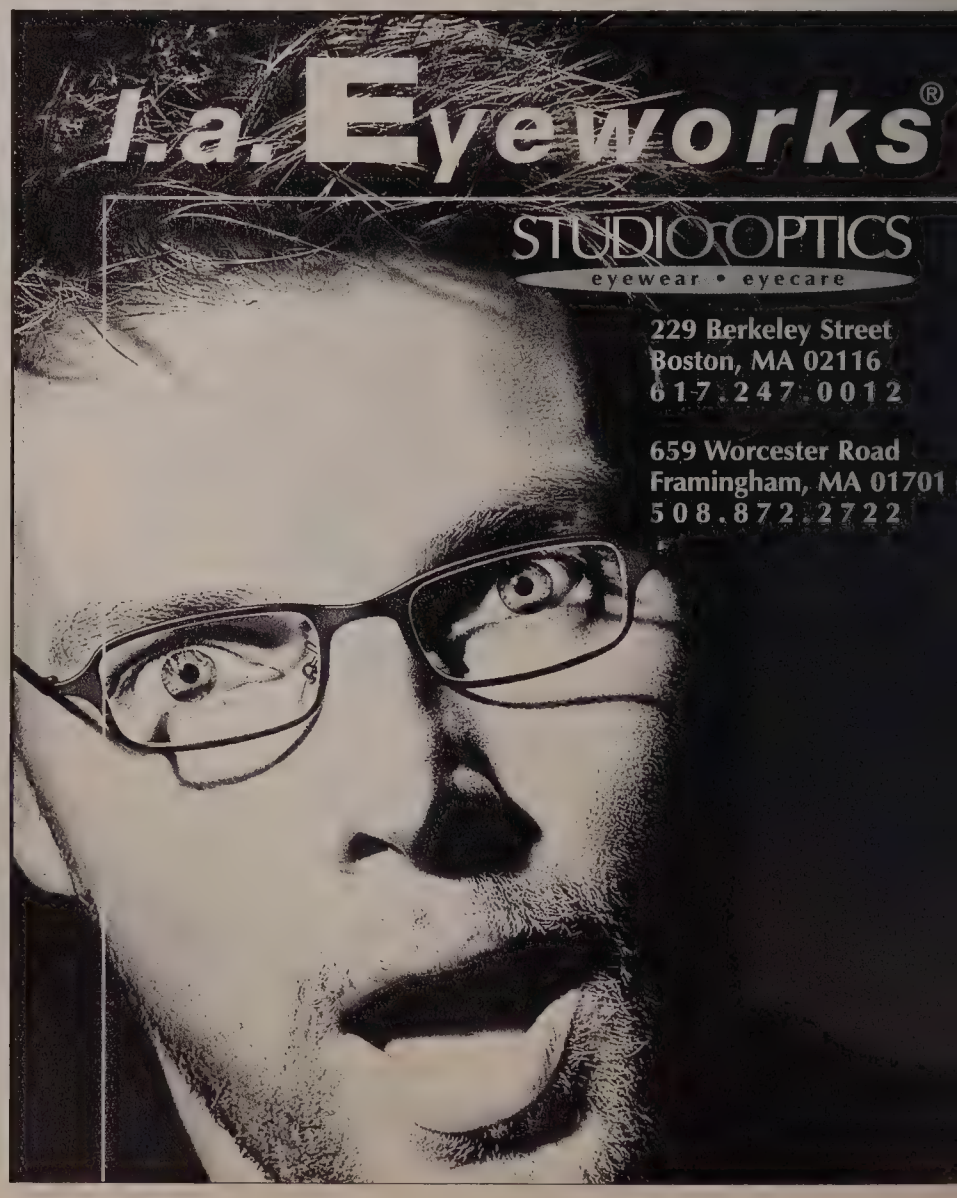


agenda

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN OR OUT IN BOSTON.

Huge Nudes
The Robert Klein Gallery hosts *Annie Leibovitz: Women*, a series of large-scale female nudes.

Erin and Julie

THE CALENDAR GIRLS'

improper picks

Too busy (or just too lazy) to plan your own schedule? Life doesn't get easier than this.

Wednesday, Sept. 6

Julie: The **Wine Dinner Series** at UpStairs at the Pudding features chef Deborah Hughes' cuisine, complemented by chardonnays. (See Tastings.)
Erin: For the ninth year running, Boston's Theater Offensive presents **Out on the Edge: A Festival of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Theater** at the B.C.A.. (See Gay & Lesbian.)

Thursday, Sept. 7

Julie: Party hard at **Brazil's Independence Day Festival** at City Hall Plaza, (See CityScope.)
Erin: Brookline Booksmith's aptly named, all-star panel discussion, **"Stench of Self: Self-Indulgence and the Memoir,"** includes authors Lauren Slater, Sven Birkerts, Emily Fox Gordon and George Packer. (See Books & Poetry.)

Friday, Sept. 8

Julie: A replica of a Viking ship from 1,300 years ago is in town at the **New England Aquarium** to celebrate the 1000th anniversary of Leif Eriksson's landing in North America. (See CityScope.)
Erin: **Helicopter Helicopter, Tugboat Annie, Palomar** and **Sky Survey** all play at the Middle East Upstairs. (See Music.)

Saturday, Sept. 9

Erin: **Travis** is at Avalon. Or catch crazy local rockers **Waltham** with the **Damn Personals** and **Raging Teens** at T.T.'s. It's also all the ice cream you can eat at WGBH's **Ice Cream Fun Fest.** (See CityScope.)
Julie: The **Gypsy Kings** are at FleetBoston Pavilion. There's also the African Gastro 2000 festival of food. (See CityScope.)

Sunday, Sept. 10

Erin: The **Jamaica Plain World's Fair** in Hyde Square is a day of music, arts and crafts and international food. Headliners include local rockers **Babaloo.** (See CityScope.)
Julie: **The Arts Festival of Boston 2000** along Newbury Street is a four-day treasure trove of visual and performing arts. (See CityScope.)

Monday, Sept. 11

Erin and **Julie**: The Coolidge Corner Theater screens the film ***Dead End***, starring Humphrey Bogart, in conjunction with the Huntington Theatre's production of Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Sidney Kingsley's 1935 play of the same name. (See Film and Performing Arts.)

Tuesday, Sept. 12

Erin: The **Hospitality Program Benefit Concert** at Newbury Street's Emmanuel Church features incredible pianist Judith Gordon. (See Classical Music.)
Julie: **Candace Bushnell**, whose novel *Sex in the City* inspired the TV hit, reads from her latest, *Four Blondes*. (See Books & Poetry.)

Wednesday, Sept. 13

Julie: Go Grease Lightnin'! Grab that poodle skirt and head to the Wang Center to see ***Grease***. (See Performing Arts.)
Erin: The Harvard Film Archive shows ***The Trial***, director and writer Orson Welles' 1962 adaptation of Kafka's story starring Anthony Perkins. (See Film.)

Thursday, Sept. 14

Julie: The **B.B. King Blues Festival** is at the FleetBoston Pavilion. (See Music.)
Erin: The play ***Seussical*** weaves together many of Dr. Seuss' most famous stories and characters. See it at the Colonial Theatre. (See Performing Arts.)

Friday, Sept. 15

Julie: See **Ziggy Marley and the Melody Makers** at the FleetCenter. Also, **The The** is at Axis. (See Music.)
Erin: Tonight and tomorrow at midnight, the Coolidge features John Waters' cult classic ***Desperate Living.*** (See Film.) Today you can also support those participating in the **Boston-New York AIDS Ride.** (See CityScope.)

Saturday, Sept. 16

Erin: Director and producer **Mitchell B. Robbins** gives a talk about the process of making independent films today at Harvard's Dudley House. He'll also talk about his work-in-process, titled *XX/XY*. (See Education.)
Julie: The **Taste of Boston** will offer gourmet tidbits from some of Boston's best restaurants at City Hall Plaza. (See Tastings.)

Sunday, Sept. 17

Erin: Reggae/ska greats **Toots and the Maytals** are playing Downstairs at the Middle East tonight. (See Music.)
Julie: Some 500 dogs and their owners are expected to walk 1.7 miles inthe **MSPCA's Walk for Animals.** (See Sports.)

Monday, Sept. 18

Julie and **Erin**: Tonight the IMPROPER BOSTONIAN sponsors the **Boston Sports Award Gala** at Berklee Performance Center. It's the first sports awards program dedicated entirely to Boston athletes. Honor a host of athletes and celebs and then party with them afterward at Embassy. (See Sports.)

Tuesday, Sept. 19

Julie: ***Copacabana*** opens at the Shubert Theatre. (See Performing Arts.)
Erin: **Ravi Shankar**, Indian virtuoso, performs at Symphony Hall tonight. (See Music.)

CITYSCOPE **46** • PERFORMING ARTS **50** • ART **54** • FILM **56** • BOOKS & POETRY **60** • EDUCATION **60** • CLASSICAL MUSIC **61** • DANCE CLUBS **62** • MUSIC **64** • GAY & LESBIAN **68** • BODY & MIND **69** CHILDREN **69** • SPORTS **69** • GO AWAY **70**. EDITED BY: **ERIN HAGEDORN:** Art, Books & Poetry, Dance, Dance Clubs, Film, Gay & Lesbian, Go Away, Music. EDITED BY: **JULIE SHORT:** Children, CityScope, Comedy, Education, Go Away, Sales & Fashion, Sports, Tastings, Theater. ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY: **Laurel Kirtz**: Body & Mind • **Paul Sherman:** Film Capsules

cityscope

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a list of festivals, events and benefits taking place in the Boston area by date.

Festivals, Events Expos & Benefits

Thursday, September 7

Arts Festival of Boston 2000
Newbury Street, Boston (542-8811). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Sept. 7-10. Experience a treasure trove of Boston's visual and performing arts. Don't miss the arts and crafts pavilion, gallery exhibits, theater events, evening galas, outdoor musical performances and the Art Newbury Street Festival.

Brazil's Independence Day Festival
City Hall Plaza, Boston (787-0557). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Sept. 7, 12:30pm. Festivities begin with the official hoisting of the Brazilian flag and performance of the national anthem. At 7:30pm the Coolidge Corner Theatre (290 Harvard St., Brookline) will host the screening of two Brazilian films. •Sept. 9, 11am: The Coolidge screens another Brazilian film, *The Nutty Boy 2*. •Sept. 10, 12-7pm: Brazilian Independence Day. See Sept. 10 for more info.

Annual Bridesmaids' Regatta
Community Boating, Charles River Esplanade, Boston (523-1038). MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. 5:30-9pm. Here's a chance to wear an old bridesmaid's dress and raise money. The regatta and the barbecue afterward are raising funds for the Women's Sailing Program. Men will be allowed to participate as crew, but only if they wear the full bridesmaid's attire.

Friday, September 8

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Fridays. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

Singles Dance
The Knights of Columbus Hall, Winslow and Prescott Streets, Arlington (781-721-1886). www.funfun fun.org. *8:30pm-12:30am. $10.* The Singles Clubs are hosting a dance for singles in their 30s, 40s and 50s.

Saturday, September 9

African Gastro 2000
The African-American Institute, Northeastern University, 40 Leon St., Boston (474-0353). 6pm. This African food fest will feature dishes from Algeria, Cameroon, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. Dance the night away or watch a fashion show of African casual and formal attire.

Apple Harvest Festival
Nashoba Valley Winery, 100 Wattaquadoc Hill Road, Bolton (978-779-5521). 12-5pm. This festival kicks off the apple-picking season with hayrides, balloon sculpting, storytelling and winery tours.

Grand Opening: Boogie Nights
Route 1 North, Saugus (312-5410). www.bostoneventguide.com. 9am-2pm. Join Boston Event Guide for the grand opening of this night with DJ Steve spinning disco, retro and high-energy dance music. Open bar from 9-10pm for those who call beforehand.

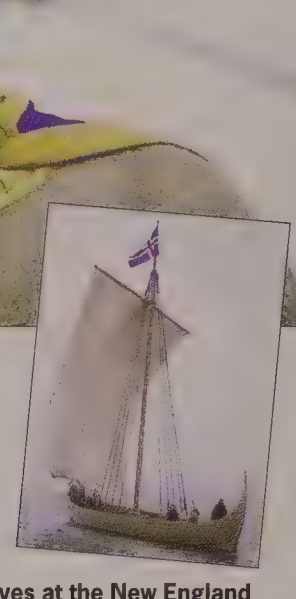
Heritage Festival
Museum of Our National Heritage, 33 Marrett Road, Route 2A, Lexington (781-861-6559). Sept. 9, 10am-5pm; Sept. 10, 12-5pm. $5 per car. Celebrate 25 years of the museum at the annual Heritage Festival. Enjoy music, an archaeology dig, and arts and crafts.

***Self Magazine*'s Workout in the Park**
Boston Common (888-844-SELF). 10am-3pm. Free, but donations appreciated. Get in shape with *Self Magazine*'s workout in the park to benefit the Big Man Foundation.

WGBH Ice Cream Fun Fest
WGBH, 125 Western Ave., Boston (300-1623). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Central, shuttle buses to Allston. Sept. 9-10, 12-4pm. $10. It's all the ice cream you can eat, along with musical entertainment, including singer/songwriter Rick Goldin, Jah Spirit, Arnie Harris and the Hot Tamales, plus activities for kids.

Preview

The Return of the Vikings



The Viking ship *Icelander* (that's *Islendingur* in Icelandic) arrives at the New England Aquarium Sept. 7 to celebrate the 1000th anniversary of the Vikings' landing in North America. The ship left Iceland in mid-June, stopping in Greenland and Canada to re-create Leif Eriksson's adventure. Visitors to the aquarium can meet the crew and tour the ship—a precise replica of a Viking ship from 1,300 years ago. You can watch a play about Eriksson called *Leif the Lucky One* or sing along to the Icelandic group Embla. On Sept. 9, taste your way through Icelandic culture as chefs from the aquarium, Legal Sea Foods and Iceland prepare a seafood sampling. The ship's stay in Boston ends with a competitive rowing contest on the afternoon of Sept. 14. Teams have been assembled to flex their muscles, arm the 32 oars and move the 75-foot, 80-ton ship. *Central Wharf, Boston (973-5200). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Sept. 7-14.*

Sunday, September 10

Brazil's Independence Day Festival
Magazine Beach, Memorial Drive, Cambridge (787-0557). MBTA: Green Line to Government. 12-7pm. The program includes musical presentations by accomplished Brazilian artists, folk groups, arts and crafts, native food and children's activities.

Jamaica Plain World's Fair 2000
Hyde Square, Centre St., Jamaica Plain (522-2424, ext. 255). 12-6pm. Rain date: Sept. 17. A day of music, arts and crafts and international food. The event will feature a world-music lineup with styles that include salsa, merengue, gospel, rockabilly and reggae. Among the headliners: Babaloo, Grupo Chevere, Mariachi Mexamerica, Jones Brothers, the Raging Teens and Silver Leaf Gospel Singers.

Second Sundays
Veronique Restaurant, 20 Chapel St., Brookline (312-5410). MBTA: D Green Line to Longwood. 2-5pm. $10. This educational wine sampling for young professionals features Chilean and Argentinian wines, light hors d'oeuvres and live Latin jazz music by Paulo Danay.

Tot Trot
Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain (635-4505). 10am. The fifth annual Tot Trot at the Arnold Arboretum includes a 1-kilometer walk and a 5-kilometer run.

Wednesday, September 13

CyberBrew
The Big Easy, The Alley, One Boylston Place, Boston (227-2822). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 6:30-9pm. $10. CyberBrew is the largest networking event for the interactive-media industry in New England.

Friday, September 15

Boston-New York AIDS Ride
Northeastern University, Boston. www.aidsride.org. *Sept. 15 (opening ceremonies).* Bid adieu to the more than 3,000 cyclists participating in the three-day, 275-mile journey from Boston to New York.

Saturday, September 16

Art in the Park Festival & Show
City Square Park, Charlestown (242-4485). Sept. 16-17, 12-5pm. Raindate: Sept. 23-24. Sponsored by the Artists Group of Charlestown. The public is invited to view recent works by regional artists.

Best Buddies Gala
Prudential Skywalk, 50th Floor, Boylston Street, Boston (867-0999). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. 8pm-1am. $45. Enjoy breathtaking views from the Prudential Skywalk, as you munch on hors d'oeuvres, drink cocktails, enter the silent auction and dance to a live band.

LifeWisdom.com Gala
The Club at Locke Ober, 3 Winter Place, Boston (312-5410). 9pm. $20. Join LifeWisdom.com for a semi-formal gala with a DJ, dancing and roving entertainment. Hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Make a Mark Fund-Raiser
USS Constitution Museum, Charlestown Navy Yard, Charlestown (242-3821). 6:30-10:30pm. $45, $55 at the door. Enjoy live music, hors d'oeuvres, light dinner, a cash bar and a silent auction to benefit tuition-free sailing for Boston's youth at Courageous Sailing Center.

Quincy ArtsFest
Merrymount Park, Quincy (376-1990). Sat., 10am-8pm, and Sun., 10am - 3pm. Sept. 16-17. A weekend outdoors with art, photography, live music and dance entertainment.

The Singles Executives Club Cocktail Party and Singles Dance
Sheraton Hotel, Trophy Room, 100 Cabot St., Exit 19A, Route 128, Needham (781-283-0400). 9pm-1am. $15. Single professionals ages 30-55 enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres, free door prizes and music by a DJ.

Taste of Boston
City Hall Plaza, Boston. www.thetasteofboston.com. *11am-6pm. Free admission. Food tickets will be sold for 50 cents apiece.* In addition to food from Al Dente, Ascari at F1 Boston, Bay Tower Room, Brasserie Jo, Maggianos, Pizzeria Regina, Purple Eggplant Cafe and Union Street, the event will feature live music from Soul City, Eight to the Bar, Magnus and Tavares. There will also be face painters, exotic animals and a Velcro wall.

Sunday, September 17

MSPCA's Walk for Animals
MSPCA, 350 South Huntington Ave., Jamaica Plain (522-7400). 10am. Some 500 dogs and more than 1,000 people are expected this year to walk 1.7 miles to raise money for homeless cats, dogs, rabbits and other animals. Post-walk activities will include an amateur dog show, a feline festival and booths with information and demonstrations.

A Talent & Fashion Playground
Comedy Connection, Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (247-4112). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 12-4pm. $50/entry. Check out this fashion show of Jon Benet Ramsey look-alikes for boys and girls between the ages of 4 and 16. Proceeds benefit Friends and Shelter for Teens.

Monday, September 18

Boston Sports Award Gala
Berklee Performance Center, 136 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (931-2000). www.bostonsportsawards.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. 7:30pm. $35.* This awards gala sponsored by the IMPROPER is the first sports award program dedicated entirely to Boston athletes, honoring the work they do both on and off the field. During the ceremony, video highlights of Boston's best sports bloopers and blunders from local TV stations will be presented. A host of athletes and celebrities—including Chris Slade from the Patriots, Antoine Walker from the Celtics, Anson Carter from the Bruins, Max Lane from the Patriots—will present this year's awards. Afterward, there will be a post-party event at the Embassy on Lansdowne Street, 9:30pm-2am.

Volunteer

ABCD Inc.
(35-6000). Seek tutors in reading, math, science, writing and social studies.

AIDS Action Committee
(888-332-AUTO or 450-1235). Turn your old car into a tax-deductible donation. Volunteer meeting held Sept. 7, 5:30-9pm.

Boston Cares
(263-CARE). More than 70 volunteer opportunities available in Greater Boston.

Boston Living Center
(236-1012). HIV/AIDS service organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Boston-New York AIDS Ride
(859-8282, ext. 230). Ride is Sept. 15. Volunteers needed for work on mass mailings, phone banking and other projects.

Community Servings
(445-7777). Help prepare and deliver meals for individuals and families dealing with AIDS.

Cycle for Life
Devereux Beach, Marblehead, Mass. (636-5535). Sept. 9. Volunteers needed to help with this 50-mile bicycle race to benefit the Floating Hospital.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

Friday Night Supper Program
Arlington Street Church, corner of Arlington and Boylston streets, Boston (536-7050, ext. 22). Need volunteers to help prepare, cook and serve meals on Fridays, 5-7pm.

The Greater Boston Food Bank
(427-5200). Groups needed to sort donated food.

Horizons Initiative
(287-1900). Volunteers needed to play with children living in shelters. Commit to two hours per week for six months. Daytime and evening hours available.

International Exchange
(542-8995). Host visiting English-speaking entrepreneurs from Russia.

Jewish Community Volunteer Program
(558-6585). Volunteers are needed to share fun times with an isolated senior.

Mass. Eating Disorder Association
(558-1881). Volunteers needed for four hours per week for help line, assisting clinical staff and special events.

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist elders with such tasks as reading, shopping, basic home repairs or going for a walk.

One with One
(254-1691). Tutor/mentor an immigrant or refugee in the Boston area to improve English skills and prepare for the American workplace. Information meetings will be held Sept. 7, 12 and 21.

Pine Street Inn
(521-7626). Seeking volunteers for summer to serve meals and act as receptionist for homeless guests.

Ride for Hunger
(723-5000). Sept. 17, 8am and 9am. Two bicycle routes to help the hungry: 40K and 100K.

Rosie's Place
(442-9322). Volunteers needed for the dining room, clothing room, the groceries program and office work.

United Services Organization (USO)
(720-4949). Volunteers needed to welcome Navy ships, participate in hospital visits, provide office support, coordinate receptions and assist with events.

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Seeks individuals to assist legal immigrants and refugees to become naturalized citizens.

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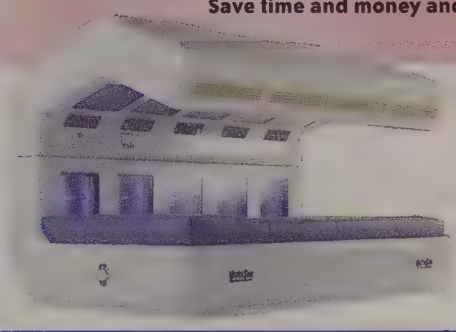

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Pull out your old dresses for the Bridesmaids' Regatta at Community Boating Sept. 7.

Tours

Beacon Hill Literary Tour
The Charles Street Inn, 94 Charles St., Boston (387-4693). Saturdays, 2-3:30pm. $10. This tour will highlight the illustrious writers who lived in the neighborhood, including Louisa May Alcott, William Dean Howells, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Sylvia Plath.

Big Dig and South Boston Waterfront
Boston (426-1885). Saturdays, 11am. Through Nov. 4. $8. Learn about casting basins, slurry walls, bridges and tunnels and the history of the South Boston Waterfront.

Boston Bike Tours
On Boston Common (308-5902). Begins April 15. Daily 9:30am-6:30pm. Daily two-hour tours, Mon.-Sat., 1-3pm; 4-6pm. Low-impact, guided sightseeing tours of Boston on bicycles. Rentals available.

Boston by Foot
(367-2345). www.bostonbyfoot.com. *May-October. $8.* Guided 90-minute walks highlight the architecture and history of the city.

Boston by Sea
Tours depart from Long Wharf (227-4321). Weekends until Memorial Day; daily through Oct. 9. 1pm and 3pm. $25. This cruise features live theater performances, sea shanties and video vignettes about pirates, clipper ships, the old immigration station, the *USS Constitution*, the lighthouse and the Boston Tea Party.

Boston Duck Tours
Prudential Center, Boston (723-DUCK). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. April-October. $21. The 80-minute tour on amphibious landing crafts takes groups through downtown and makes a final splash into the Charles.

Franklin Park: Country in the City
Forest Hills entrance to Franklin Park, corner of Forest Hills Avenue and the Arborway, Jamaica Plain (566-1689, ext. 221). Sept. 10, 1pm. Free. Discover Frederick Olmsted's vision for a "country park" on this two-hour walk.

Ghosts & Gravestones Tour
Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Ave., Boston (269-7150). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Thursdays through Nov. 1 at dusk. Two hours. $29. An 18th-century gravedigger takes you through the city's burial grounds.

Ghost Tours
Meet at Boston Common Visitor Information Center, 147 Tremont St., Boston (781-235-7149). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street. Selected evenings, 7:30pm. $12. Tour downtown Boston's most infamous haunted locations.

Indian Summer Strolls of Dorchester
(333-948). Wednesdays, 6-7:30pm. $5. •*Sept. 6:* **Savin Hill**. *Meet outside Savin Hill T stop on Savin Hill Ave.* •*Sept. 13:* **Melville Avenue**. *Meet outside Shawmut T stop on Clementine Park.* Tours are led by Dorchester historian and author Anthony Sammarco.

JFK's Boston
Meet at the Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Ave., Boston (269-7150). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Sundays, 1-3pm. Through Columbus Day. $30. See the places that helped shape young Jack Kennedy into the nation's 35th president.

The Riverway: Ribbon of Green
Meet at the MBTA Green Line's Longwood stop on Chapel Street, Brookline (566-1689). Sept. 16, 1pm. Free. Examines the marriage of landscape art and clever engineering in the Riverway.

Young Friends of the Public Garden Tour
Meet in front of George Washington statue at Arlington Street entrance, Boston (489-1291). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Thursdays, 6-6:45pm. Through Aug. 31. Learn about various statues, sculptures, flowers and trees with other young professionals.

Sights to See

Boston Tea Party Ship and Museum
Congress St. Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Open daily, March-May and Sept.-Nov., 9am-5pm; closed Dec.-March. $8, $7 students, $4 children. A replica of one of the ships emptied by colonists (disguised as Indians) during the Dec. 16, 1773, tea raid.

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Fifth Floor, Boston (353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), Oct.-March 7:30-8:30pm; April-Sept. 8:30-9:30pm. Free. BU's astronomers are available to answer questions and assist with telescopes as you check out Orion, Cassiopeia and the Big Dipper.

Bunker Hill Monument
Monument Square, Charlestown (242-5641). Open daily 9am-5pm. Free. What's long and hard and shaped like a pencil? It's the 221-foot monument that honors the men who died in the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Christian Science World Headquarters
Massachusetts and Huntington Avenues, Boston (450-2000). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential. Tue.-Sat. 9:30am-4pm, Sun. 11am-2pm. Tour the Mother Church—a giant basilica that seats 3,000 worshippers; a 700-foot-long reflecting pool; and a photo exhibit.

Copp's Hill Burial Ground
Hull and Snowhill Streets, Boston. MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Open dawn-dusk. Admission free. From Boston's second-oldest cemetery, you can see all the way across the Inner Harbor to Charlestown.

John Hancock Observatory
200 Clarendon St., Boston (572-6429). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open Mon.-Sat. 9am-11pm, Sun. 10am-11pm (May-Oct.) and noon-11pm (Nov.-April). Admission $6. The tallest building in New England (62 floors) offers much more than an awesome view.

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (566-7937). Wed.-Sun. 10 am-4:30pm. The birthplace and early boyhood home of the nation's 35th president.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat. 10am-2pm. Admission free. Alongside Boston's first Anglican church—a gloomy, granite apparition—you'll find a burial ground with equally ominous-looking headstones.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (635-3105). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Open daily 9am-5pm. Guided tours every half-hour, starting at 9am. Free. Known as the "Cradle of Liberty," Faneuil Hall—we're talking about the part above the eatery—was the site of many an angry man ranting and raving about the damn British in the mid-1700s.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily 9 am-5pm. Free. Here, Paul Revere saw two lanterns shining on April 18, 1775, indicating that the British troops were crossing the Charles River to Lexington and Concord via boat.

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays 10am-4pm, weekends, 10am-5pm. $3. A thousand fed-up men gathered in this church to decide whether or not to send three ships full of tea back to England. Guess what? They didn't. •*Voices of Protest* traces the use of Old South Meeting House over three centuries for religious, political and social debate. •Middays at the Meeting House, a lunchtime music series. Thursdays, 12:15-1pm. $4.

Paul Revere House
19 North Square, Boston (523-2338). Nov. 1-April 14, 9:30am-4:15pm; April 15-Oct. 31, 9:30am-5:15pm. Built in 1680 and owned by Paul Revere from 1770 to 1800, this house offers a self-guided tour with illustrated text panels and museum interpreters.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-10pm, Sun. noon-10pm. $4, $3 seniors and students. Check out Boston's only 360-degree view tower. The view here (50 floors up) is slightly better than that of rival John Hancock.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8am-6pm. Free. Designed by H.H. Richardson and constructed in 1877, the huge Romanesque church in Copley Square offers free organ concerts on Fridays at 12:15pm.

Museums

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June Tue.-Sat. 10 am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm; June-Aug. daily 10am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm. $5, children and seniors $3: See *Arthur's World* from the popular television series and children's books. This infamous aardvark is one of many hands-on favorites.

Harriet Tubman House
566 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-8610). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. Weekdays 8am-8pm. Free admission. The Harriet Tubman Museum exhibits a collection of this influential black leader's achievements.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (929-4523). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily 9am-5pm (last film begins at 3:55pm). $8. This permanent collection on the life and legacy of President John F. Kennedy offers a re-created world of the early 1960s with period settings and 25 dramatic multimedia exhibits.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (739-1200) www.afroamericanmuseum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays 10am-4pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.* This place is bustling after its recent endowment of more than $1 million to restore the meeting house's hallowed sanctuary. See the African Meeting House, the oldest black church in America.

Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun., 9am-12pm.* This Harvard museum is made up of four factions: The **Botanical Museum**, **The Museum of Comparative Zoology**, the **Mineral & Geological Museum**, and the **Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology**. A number of exhibitions tie together all four of these distinct collections. The most famous is the Botanical Museum for its glass flowers collection—more than 3,000 models of more than 480 plant species.

Museum of Our National Heritage
33 Marrett Road, Route 2A, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.mnh.org. *Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 12-5pm. Free.* Explore history through pop culture. Topics range from Revolutionary artifacts to the latest in jigsaw-puzzle-solving techniques and American circus posters. •Opened July 21: *Made in Massachusetts*. See items commonly found in homes during the last three centuries.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu. 9am-5pm; Fri. 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children. Omni Theater, Hayden Planetarium or laser shows all $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children.* Find out how much you weigh on the moon, strap yourself into a space module or sift through sand on an archaeological dig. Enjoy 600 hands-on exhibits. •Ongoing at the Mugar Omni Theater: *Dolphins* and *Michael Jordan to the Max*. Now opened: *The Magic of Flight*. Experience the thrill of flight and jet aircraft technology. All films show through Oct. 5.

Charles Hayden Planetarium
Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children. Time of show changes daily.* Don't miss the daily laser shows to the music of the Beastie Boys, Pink Floyd, Korn, Tool, Jimi Hendrix, Nine Inch Nails, among others. It's a trip.

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St. (in Larz Anderson Park), Brookline (522-6547). MBTA: D Green Line to Reservoir, to bus #51. April-Oct., Wed.-Sun., 10am-5pm; Nov.-March, Wed.-Sun., 10am-4pm. $5. This 1888 carriage house is the automobile buff's paradise—the country's oldest private collection of antique autos. •Sept. 16 (Saturday): BMW Day.

Nichols House Museum
55 Mount Vernon St., Boston (227-6993) Tues.-Sun. 12:15-4:15pm; guided tours on the half hour. $5 adults, children under 12 free admission. Catch a glimpse of 19th- and early 20th-century life on Beacon Hill.

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (720-3290). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily, 9am-5pm. $3, students and seniors $2. Built in 1713, this original seat of colonial government was the place pre-Independence Bostonians first heard the *Declaration of Independence* read. •Opened March 31: *Burning Issues: A History of Boston Through Fire*.

Sports Museum of New England
FleetCenter, Boston (624-1234). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Adults, $5, children and seniors, $4. Exhibits of the great sports traditions of the Boston Garden, FleetCenter and Celtics.

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (426-1812). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, bus 93 to Navy Yard. Nov.-April 30: Open daily 10am-5pm. Free. Learn about the oldest commissioned warship's 200-year history hands on—hoist a sail, take the wheel, fire a cannon or swing in a hammock.

Members of the New England Revolution support the MSPCA's Walk for Animals Sept. 17.

Zoos & Gardens

Arnold Arboretum
125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain (524-1718). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open weekdays: 9am-4pm, weekends: 12-4pm. Free. Commune with nature and more than 14,000 exotic trees, shrubs and flowers.

Franklin Park Zoo
1 Franklin Park Road, Boston (541-LION). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open Oct.-March daily 10am-4pm; April-Sept. weekdays 10am-5pm, weekends and holidays 10am-6pm. $7. A 72-acre oasis of green in the city with waterfalls, lush vegetation, gorillas, leopards, hippos and free-flying birds.

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard, transfer to #71 or #73 bus. Open daily, 8am-7pm (summer) and 8am-5pm (winter). Admission free. Rest in peace among the grave sites and crypts of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes, "Battle Hymn of the Republic" author Julia Ward Howe and Winslow Homer, among other famous Americans.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (973-5200). www.neaq.org. *MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Early Sept.-June: Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. and holidays, 9am-6pm. $12.50.* Boston's biggest fish bowl has much more than just goldfish. In the three-story saltwater tank swim turtles, sharks, eels and the occasional mermaid (or mer-male).

Roger Williams Park Zoo
1000 Elmwood Ave., Providence, R.I. (401-785-3510). South on 1-95 from Providence to exit 17 (Elmwood Ave.). $6, $3.50 seniors and children. Open every day except Dec. 25. Nov.-March, 9am-4pm. April-Oct., 9am-5pm. Lions and tigers and a 150-pound baby polar bear named Triton. Oh my! More than 600 birds and mammals inhabit the African plains and rain forests.

Stone Zoo
149 Pond St., Stoneham, Rte. 93 North, Exit 34 (781-438-5100). Mon.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. and holidays, 10am-6pm. $6 adults, $4 children. There's still plenty to see here—even though everybody's favorite polar bear has passed on to that great iceberg in the sky.

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Theater
JUST OPENED

Copacabana
The Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (350-6000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Sept. 19-24. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2pm and 8pm; Sun., 2pm and 7pm. $21-$70. "Her name is Lola..." begins Barry Manilow's Grammy Award-winning hit song, "Capacabana," the inspiration for this new musical—a captivating tale of love and romance set amidst the swinging nightclub scene of the 1940s. And guess who's starring? Gavin MacLeod, best known for his 10 years as Captain Stubing on *The Love Boat*. This lavish musical pits a Latin-themed score featuring "Copacabana," "Ay Caramba!," "Lola," "Who Needs to Dream?" and "Sweet Heaven" against a back-drop of bright costumes and thrilling choreography. The music is by Barry Manilow, lyrics by Bruce Sussman and Jack Feldman, and the choreography by Wayne Cilento. The show arrives in Boston after a brief tour in the States and 18 months of sold-out performances in London's West End.

Dead End
Huntington Theatre, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (266-0800). Sept. 8-Oct. 8. At once funny and disturbing, this gritty melodrama draws a powerful portrait of class differences, as luxury apartments encroach upon a broken-down neighborhood, Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Sidney Kingsley's play had such an impact on the American audience when it debuted in 1935 that it sparked the social reform of tenement housing and the judicial system for juvenile delinquents.

Grease
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2pm and 8pm; Sun., 2pm and 7pm. Sept. 12-17. $27-$62. Grab that poodle skirt, slick back your hair and get ready to rock 'n' roll '50s-style when this hit musical comes to town.

The King Stag
American Repertory Theatre, Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (495-2668). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Sept. 14-28. This is an 18th-century fairy tale—complete with costumes, puppets, masks and choreography—for adults and children. Carlo Gozzi's 18th-century fable brings to life King Deramo, the faithful Angela who loves him, his treacherous prime minister Tartaglia, several hare-brained members of the court, a magician, a parrot, magical stags and a giant bear. It's a story of love, intrigue, mirth, magic and pageantry.

A Little Night Music
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly, Mass. (978-921-6351). Tue., 8pm; Wed., 2pm and 8pm; Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2pm and 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Sept. 5-24. $18-$56. Inspired by Ingmar Bergman's "Smiles of a Summer Night," this witty, touching and often profound show looks at three mismatched couples spending a weekend together in a Swedish country house, juggling their relationships until they fall into proper place. Because it's midsummer, the sun never sets, so the romance lasts all night long. The score features the classic "Send in the Clowns."

Out On the Edge 2000: Festival of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Trengender Theater
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-2787). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. www.theteroffensive.org. *Sept. 6-30. $5-$22.* For the ninth year running, Boston's Theater Offensive presents the largest festival of its kind in New England. The four-week extravaganza features performances by Nöel Alumit, Felice Shays, Betsy Salkind, Gabriel Q, Pulp Vixens and Sandra Valls, Tim Miller, Daniel Alexander Jones, Grisha Coleman, Djola Branner & Company. Also, the festival includes performances by the Treu Colors Youth Theater Troupe and by the Usual Suspects. There are 33 performances in total, including double features, puppet shows, staged readings and a full-blown techno disco extravaganza.

The 18th-century fairy tale, *The King Stag*, entertains audiences at the A.R.T. Sept. 14-28.

School for Scandal
Trinity Repertory Theater, 201 Washington St., Providence (401-521-1100). Through Oct. 8. In a world obsessed with rumor, gossip and innuendo, Lady Sneerwell, Benjamin Backbite and Mr. Snake are running wild. In this classic, lusty, uproarious Restoration comedy, characters scheme, seductions swirl, plots thicken and scandal mounts until the tangled web of mischief is set right at last.

Seussical
The Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (426-9366). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Aug. 27-Sept. 17. This musical, written by Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens, weaves together many of Dr. Seuss' most famous stories and characters in unexpected ways. When chaos erupts in the "Jungle of Nool," it takes the Cat in the Hat, Horton the elephant, Gertrude McFuzz and others to bring back harmony.

7 Affidavits on Authority
Pet Brick Productions, Tremont Theater, 276 Tremont St, Boston (642-1456). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Fri.-Sat., 9:30pm; Sun., 7pm. Sept. 15-Oct. 1. $10. Brandon Toropov's often funny, sometimes chilling play examines human relationships and the power struggles within them.

Sex, Drugs and Rock 'n' Roll
Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (723-8916). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Wed.-Sat., 8pm. Sept. 20-Oct. 14. $20. Eric Bogosian's play depicts the many facets of man—running the gamut of every emotion.

Side Man
Lyric Stage Company of Boston, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Sept. 15-Oct. 14. Winner of the 1999 Tony Award for best play, *Side Man* is about jazz musicians—from their heyday after the war through the decline of the big bands and bop, through the rise of rock 'n' roll to the dark years of the '70s and '80s. It is about the sacrifices the musicians and their families made.

Sweeney Astray
Back Alley Theater, 1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1253). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. Sept. 10, 17 and 25, 7pm. $12. Kate Sullivan will perform this haunting and ancient tale of a mad king of Ireland, translated from the Old Irish by Nobel Prize-winning poet Seamus Heaney. Directed by Marshall Hughes and set to original music composed by Sullivan, this show will feature music for four voices (soprano, alto, tenor and bass) and instrumental accompaniment including harp, bodhran and uillean pipes.

The Water Engine
Pet Brick Productions, Tremont Theater, 276 Tremont St, Boston (642-1456). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2pm. Sept. 7-Oct. 1. $20. A powerful drama from one of America's modern masters, David Mamet. Chicago in the 1930s forms the backdrop for this harrowing thriller about a facory worker who must defend himself and his family from the corporate forces pursuing his invention, an engine that runs on water.

You're a Good Man Charlie Brown
Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton (244-0169). Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Sept. 8-24. $21. Enjoy fun and laughter with the Peanuts gang.

NOW RUNNING

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). Wed.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 7pm and 10pm; Sun., 3pm and 6pm. $39-$49. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to get its point across with tribal rock music, performance art, humorous antics, props (including plastic tubes and Twinkies) and three men painted blue.

Shakespeare & Company
Shakespeare & Company, The Mount, Lenox, Mass. (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. *Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 3:30pm and 8pm; Sun., 3:30pm.* • **Jack and Jill**: Through Oct. 15. Jane Martin mines the subtle and often treacherous depths of modern wedlock from uncomfortable introduction through marriage.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri. 8pm ; Sat., 6:30pm and 9:30pm; Sun., 3pm and 7:30pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This hilarious whodunit is set in a unisex hair salon. The production holds the record as the longest-running play in the history of Boston theater.

CABARET

Heart and Soul
Les Zygomates, 129 South St., Boston (542-5108). Sept. 15-17, 5:30pm; 7pm; 9pm; 10pm. $60 (with dinner), $20. Broadway, television and recording artist Nancy Dussault presents her one-woman show, *Heart and Soul*.

Puttin' on the Ritz
Orpheum Foxborough, Foxborough, Mass. (508-543-4434). Sept. 16-17, Sept. 22-24. $13-$26. Acclaimed cabaret artists Lynne Jackson and Mike Palter offer a musical tribute to Irving Berlin, featuring guest artist Jim Repa. As scholars and storytellers, instrumentalists and vocalists, they make tales come alive.

INTERACTIVE THEATER

Medieval Manor
246 East Berkeley St., Boston (423-4900). Red Line to Broadway. Mon., Wed., Thu., Fri., 8pm ; Sat., 5pm and 9:30pm; Sun., 6pm. Ongoing. $9.60-$32. Eat, drink and be merry at a Renaissance dining experience. Don't worry about etiquette. You won't find knives and forks, and the soup of the day is in your face—literally. Dress down for this one-of-a-kind experience.

Mystery Cafe
290 Congress St., Boston (781-320-0040). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Dinner and show: Fri., 7:30pm; Sat., 7pm. Ongoing. $36 (all inclusive). Saturdays: The interactive murder mystery, *Murder on the Campaign Trail*, is a comedic mystery parody of Campaign 2000.

Mystery Cruise: Murder on the Ocean Queen
Ft. Independence, Long Wharf, Boston (781-320-0040). Cruise departs Saturdays, 8pm. $49/person, includes dinner and cruise. Gather clues during a Harbor cruise, meet characters and interrogate suspects as you attempt to piece together the answer to the mystery.

COMING SOON

Lion in the Streets
Spingold Theater, Brandeis University, Waltham (781-736-3400). Commuter Rail to Brandeis/Roberts. Tue.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm and 7pm. Sept. 19-24. $10.50-$14.50. The ghost of a murdered young girl drifts through every scene, a poignant reflection of the loneliness and suffering of the other characters. Judith Thompson's play is searing and dark. As crucial events that shape the lives of this small community unfold, it is clear that they are connected to each other by hope and their need for love.

Little Women
The Wilbur Theatre, TK, Sept. 22-Oct. 8. Louisa May Alcott's greatest novel has been brought to life in this vibrant new musical. Jo March and her family are as alive today as ever.

Dance
SHOW

African Dance Performance
The Dance Complex, 536 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-9363). Sept. 9, 8pm. $10. Performed by Aicha Sagna and student company.

JOIN IN

Club Joy
533 Washington Street, Boston (354-5780). Saturday nights. This Latin night spot now offers classes: salsa, merengue, bachata and more.

Nancy Dussault presents her one-woman show, *Heart and Soul*, at Les Zygomates Sept. 15-17.

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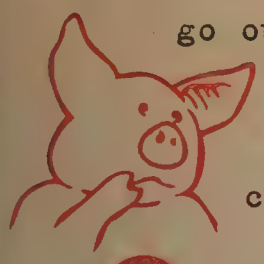

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Dance Your Sacred Journey
The Dance Complex, 536 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-9363). Sept. 16, 2:30-6pm. $30. This workshop is taught by Margaux Skalecki.

Four on the Floor
Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. •Saturdays, 9pm-1:30am, $12, $10 after 11:30pm. Join in a variety of dance moves—here you'll find jazzy mambos, swing dancing, cheeky cha chas and sassy salsa numbers.

Haitian Dance Workshop
The Dance Complex, 536 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-9363). Sept. 10. $10. Learn the art of Haitian dance with Wilmayer Marcelin and St. Cyr.

Just Swing It
Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Inman Square, Cambridge (266-2258). Tuesdays, 10pm-1:30am. $6. Ages 19 and older. Featuring the Black Tie Affair Orchestra, this will be a great night of swing dancing. Dancers are encouraged to bring their own music, and swing-dance jams will take place.

Salsa Workshops
The Dance Complex, 536 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-9363). Sept. 10 and 17, 10:30am-12pm. $10. Learn the latest salsa moves from instructor Christina Pujol.

Singles Dance
The Knights of Columbus Hall, Winslow and Prescott Streets, Arlington (781-721-1886). www.funfun fun.org. *Sept. 8, 8:30pm-12:30am. $10.* The Singles Clubs are hosting a dance for singles in their 30s, 40s and 50s. Take a chance on meeting someone special as you shake it on the dance floor. Proper attire is required, and it is a non-smoking event.

Tango Rialto
Rialto, Charles Hotel, One Bennett Street, Cambridge (661-5050). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thursdays, 10:30pm-1:30am. $10. One of Boston's most popular restaurants, Rialto in Harvard Square, opens its doors to tango dancers of all levels and backgrounds for nights of light hors d'oeuvres and lots of dancing. Free tango lessons are available every Thursday at the Wellbridge Fitness Center (adjacent to the Charles Hotel) prior to "Tango Rialto"—so get those dancing shoes ready.

TICKETS

Bostix
(723-5181) www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of Faneuil Hall); Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth); and Harvard Square (in the Holyoke Center arcade at 1350 Mass. Ave).* Same-day tickets half-price.

Next Ticketing
(423-NEXT). www.boston.com/next.

Ticketmaster
(931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(247-1300 or 800-442-1854). A good place to get tickets if a show is sold out at the box office.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail info. to comedy@improper.com. *Include address, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a description of the performances or comedians. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (248-9700). www.comedyconnectionboston.com. *MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed., 8pm; Thu., 8:30pm; Fri. and Sat., 8pm, 10:15pm; Sun., 7pm. $8-$10 (weekend prices vary).* The oldest comedy club in Boston draws big-name, national comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •Sept. 6: Mike Donovan and Harrison Stebbins •Sept. 7: Frank Santos, the "R-Rated Hypnotist" •Sept. 10: Black Comedy Explosion hosted by Jonathon Gates •Sept. 11: Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox •Sept. 12: Paul Nardizzi and Robbi Printz •Sept. 13: Joe Yannetty and Dave Russo •Sept. 14: Frank Santos, the "R-Rated Hypnotist" •Sept. 15: Bobby Collins hosts VH-1's *Stand Up Spotlight* •Sept. 16: Bobby Collins hosts VH-1's *Stand Up Spotlight* •Sept. 17: Black Comedy Explosion hosted by Jonathon Gates •Sept. 18: Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox •Sept. 19: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz.

Jane Martin's *Jack and Jill* plays at Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, Mass., through Oct. 15.

The Comedy Studio at the Hong Kong
1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu.-Sun. 8pm. $5-$7. Sketch comedy troupes and local comedians perform. •Sept. 7: Thursday Night Fights starring Tim McIntire with guests Craig Zeltzar, Mike Cote and Tony Moschetto •Sept. 8: P.S. Absurdo sketch comedy by Brendon Small and Eugene. Stand-up comedy from T.J. Griffin and the Wishnick Sisters •Sept. 9: Rick Jenkins stand-up showcase with Tony Moschetto, Eric Riley Moore and Victor Ramos •Sept. 10: Comics Workout featuring Dave Russo, Jay Savage and Matt Jablow •Sept. 14: Thursday Night Fights starring Tim McIntire with guests Laurie Hoffman, Walter Driscoll and Sean Lily •Sept. 15: Tony V from the *Conan O'Brien Show*, Eugene Mirman of the HBO *Comedy Arts Festival* and Brendon Small from the Cartoon Network's *Home Movies* •Sept. 16: Tony V of the *Conan O'Brien Show*, Joe Birbiglia and Malene Welch •Sept. 17: Thank Gladys sketch comedy and stand-up from Tom Morello and Anwar Floyd-Pruitt.

Dick Doherty's Comedy Vault
Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun., 9pm. $10. Features local stand-up comedians. Thursdays: Stand-up comedy. Fridays and Saturdays: Dick Doherty's Comedy Pro Tour. Sundays: Open-mike night.

Nick's Comedy Stop
100 Warrenton St., Boston (482-0930). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. $10-$15. The talent here is not quite as big-name as the Comedy Connection, but the crowds are just as enthusiastic, and you're guaranteed to leave with a smile on your face. Wednesdays: Open mike at 8:30pm. •Sept. 7, 8:30pm: Kevin Knox, John Pizzi and John Keating •Sept. 8, 8:45pm: Frank Santorelli, John Pizzi and John Keating •Sept. 9: Frank Santorelli, John Pizzi and John Keating •Sept. 14, 8:30pm: Kevin Knox, Paul Nardizzi and George DeMartino •Sept. 15, 8:45pm: Paul Nardizzi, Phil Smith and George DeMartino •Sept. 16, 8:45pm: Paul Nardizzi, Phil Smith and George DeMartino.

IMPROVISATIONAL COMEDY & MAGIC

Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston (263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Shows: Thu. 8pm; Fri. and Sat. 8pm and 10pm. Main Stage: $10-$15.* Now playing on the main stage is the critically acclaimed improvisational and sketch comedy show—voted one of Boston's best improvisational comedy troupes. •Wednesdays, 8pm: The Improv Asylum Training Center graduate show, Gary's Pocket, followed by the Improv Asylum Touring Company. $10.

ImprovBoston at Back Alley Theater
1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1253). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. $12. Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe makes things up as they go along. •***Election***: Fri. 8pm, Sept. 8-November. Based on audience participation, troupe members will adopt party platforms and run on them throughout the course of the show, with all the requisite political shenanigans. •***Performance Cult***: Sun. 7:30pm, Sept. 17-Dec. 17. $7. Actors, dancers and storytellers will present a series of short, original vignettes. •***Sweeney Astray***: Sept. 10, 17 and 25, 7pm. $12. Kate Sullivan will perform this haunting and ancient tale of a mad king of Ireland. •***TheatreSports***: Fridays, 10:30pm. Witness two local improvisation troupes compete for bragging rights in this no-holds-barred, improvisational fight. The audience decides the winner.

Magicians & Spirits at the Green Street Grill
280 Green St., Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Shows every Tuesday at 9pm. $10 cabaret show ($5 with dinner). Patrons enjoy close-up magic as two or three magicians perform tricks among the crowd. At 10pm, the cabaret show begins upstairs with local and national magicians reading minds, making birds appear out of nowhere and levitating objects onstage.

COMEDY SHOWS

Battle of the Sexes
290 Congress St., Boston (426-1999). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Saturdays, 10:30pm. $15-$18. A participatory comedy.

Comedy at the Isle
The Emerald Isle Bar and Lounge, 1501 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester (288-3481). MBTA: Red Line to Fields Corner. Thursdays, 8-10pm. Free. Stand-up open-mike night hosted by Keith Mahoney.

Joey & Maria's Comedy Wedding
Tremont House Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Fri. and Sat., 7:30pm. Ongoing. $39-$45. Join the fun at this absolutely zany Italian wedding. Big hair and blue tuxedos optional.

Murder on the Campaign Trail
Mystery Cafe Dinner Theater, 290 Congress St., Boston (781) 793-9700. Fridays at 7:30pm; Saturdays at 7pm. Ongoing. $36 (Includes dinner and show). See this mystery parody of Campaign 2000.

Victor Borge
North Shore Music Theater, 62 Dunham Rd., Beverly (978-232-7200). September 18, 7pm. $39-$49. This internationally acclaimed pianist/humorist has brought his unique brand of wit and music to American audiences for nearly half a century. He is an accomplished musician with the ability to laugh at the music he loves, at life, and above all, himself.

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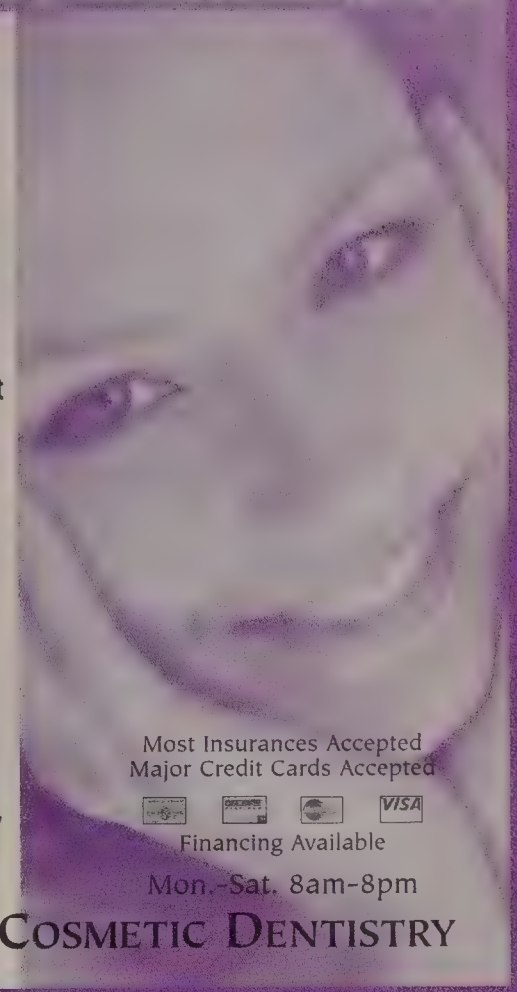

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Advice to Readers
The following is a partial list of the largest art museums, art institutes and galleries in the Boston area. The • symbol denotes a temporary exhibition.

Museums

Art Institute of Boston
Lesley College, 700 Beacon St., Boston (585-6600). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. www.lesley.edu. Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm; Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun., 12-5pm. •*Contemporary Art from Cuba* includes the works of 21 contemporary Cuban artists, many of whom have never before exhibited their work in the U.S. Sept. 7-Oct. 21.

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. The Sackler houses ancient Islamic and Asian art, an array of Neolithic bronze Buddhas, Greek pottery and Hellenistic sculpture. •*Wall Drawing #830* features four isometric figures. Ongoing.

Boston Public Library
900 Boylston St., Boston (536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. •*The Bookplate as an Art Form*, a selection from the collections of the prints of various artists represented in the Boston Public Library Print Department, shows through Sept. 23 in the Wiggin Gallery. •*The Brink's Job*, an exhibition of photographs from the Print Departments *Herald*-Traveler Photo Morgue of "Boston's Crime of the Century," includes courtroom sketches of the tiral, crime scene photos and mug shots. Through Dec. 31 in the Wiggin Gallery Balcony.

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park
51 Sandy Pond Rd., Lincoln (781-259-8355). •*Photography in Boston 1955-1985* and Elsa Dorfman's *No Hair Day* is also on display Sept. 16-Jan. 21, 2001.

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. It's better to visit the Fogg the same day you go to the Sackler, as admission includes all of Harvard's museums. Highlights include Van Gogh's self-portrait and Bermini's clay figures. • A show of Japanese photographer Daido Moriyama's work includes nearly 200 black-and-white photographs of post-war Japan runs through Oct. 29. •*Mondrian: The Transatlantic Paintings* brings together works from major American and European collections, including the Tate Modern, Museum of Modern Art and the Kimbell Art Museum. •*A Decade of Collecting: Recent Acquisitions Exhibition* runs though Sept. 24. •*Before and After the End of Time: Architecture and the Year 1000* runs through Dec. 31. This exhibit looks at the beginning of Romanesque architecture in Western Europe after 1000 A.D.

Gibson House Museum
137 Beacon St., Boston (267-6338). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Guided tours every Sat. and Sun. at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm. $5. With 75 percent of its original items in place, the museum allows visitors to better understand 19th-century domestic life and design. Ongoing.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (266-5152). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Wed.-Sun., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-9pm. $6, $4 students and seniors. • In the group exhibition *From a Distance: Approaching Landscape*, artists investigate new approaches of questioning landscapes and topography using sculpture, video and works on paper. Through Oct. 8. • Upcoming exhibits: *Customized*, inspired by Hot Rod culture. Oct. 24-Dec. 31. • Free guided walkthroughs take place each Thursday at 6:30pm.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (566-1401). www.boston.com/gardner. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun., 11am-5pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, under 18 free. Guided on Fridays, 2:30pm.* This 15th-century Venetian palace is home to more than 2,500 objects and twice as many flowers. Boston's most famous museum is named for the house's owner, Isabella Stewart Gardner (1840-1924), an infamously incorrigible individualist. Only after her death was her house completely opened to the public. Now everyone can see the works of Titian, Botticelli, Matisse and more.

Preview

Art in the Park 2000

The Artists Group of Charlestown teams up with the Department of Environmental Management and the Friends of City Square Park in Charlestown's City Square Park for the second year of Art in the Park 2000. Everyone is invited to stroll through the picturesque grounds of the park, located on the path of the Freedom Trail, and to enjoy the work of more than 60 New England artists. Oils, acrylics, collages, sculptures and works of all media are available for your perusal as well as for purchase in all price ranges. The Friends of City Square Park is also hosting the Annual Antiques Show at the adjacent Commandant's House in the Charlestown Navy Yard, where the *USS Constitution* will be on view. *Sept. 16, 11am-6pm. Rain date Sept. 17. City Square Park, Rutherford Avenue and Chelsea Street, Charlestown. MBTA: Orange Line to Bunker Hill Community College. (241-7641).*

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5pm, weekends 12-5pm. $3, $1 for students, seniors and children. Where else would you be but at MIT when you contemplate Morton G. Bradley Jr.'s *Math in 3-D: Geometric Sculptures*? The museum's other permanent exhibits include *Flashes of Inspiration: the Work of Harold Edgerton*, and *Gestural Engineering* and *Cultural Engineering: The Sculptures of Arthur Ganson*, the mechanical engineer/choreographer. •On the last Sunday of the month, explore oceanography, astronomy, the science of buildings and other mysteries of science with interactive activities for all ages from 2-4pm, no reservations required. Call 452-2827 for details.

Museum of Bad Art
580 High St., Dedham (325-8224). Mon.-Fri., 6:30-10pm, Sat., and Sun., 1-10pm. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. The one and only museum that boasts "art too bad to be ignored." A favorite is *Lady Chardonnay*, a piece illuminating a poodle-head dancer.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Mon.-Tue., 10am-4:45pm; Wed., 10am-9:45pm, Thu.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun., 10am-5:45pm. West Wing only Thu.-Fri., 5-9:45pm. $12, students and seniors $10.* The MFA has earned its rep as the second-best-run art museum in the nation (after the Metropolitan Museum of Art) with its top-notch exhibitions, educational programs and galleries of African, Oceanic and American art. •*Vietnamese Ceramics*, the glazed ceramic tradition of Vietnam represents one of the most important remaining cultural legacies of Vietnam. Ongoing. •*Van Gogh: Face to Face* displays through Sept. 24. •*Van Gogh to Mondrian: Dutch Works on Paper*, brings together some 100 works on paper by more than 40 Dutch artists. Through Nov. 5. •*Charlotte Salomon: Life? or Theatre?* is the title Salomon gave to a series of more than 780 small gouaches that she selected from a total of 1,325, painted while in exile in the South of France between 1940 and 1942. Through Oct. 29. •*Christian Boltanski: Reflection* is an installation by the French artist. Through Nov. 12.

The Museum of Useful Things
370 Broadway St., Cambridge (576-3322). Mon.-Sat., 11am-7pm; Sun., 12-6pm. www.themut.com. Demonstrating the beauty of function in everyday objects, the collection encourages visitors to take another look at the gadgets and run-of-the-mill tools used in everyday life. Ongoing.

The Peabody House Museum
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (496-1027). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50 adults; $5 students and seniors; $4 children 3-13. No fee Sat. mornings until 12pm. •*Heads and Tales: Adornments from Africa*, includes sculptures and artifacts from the Peabody Museum collections, which highlight the messages communicated by head adornments. Through Oct. 1, 2001. • An upcoming exhibition is *Diverse Traditions: Early Navajo Rugs and Pueblo Embroidery,* selections from the museum's collection of Navajo rugs, 1880-1920, including Germantown, trading post and pictorial styles. Oct. 5-Nov. 26.

Galleries

FINE ART

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (536-4465). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. • A group show of gallery artists, *Summer Selections* runs through Sept. 13.

Andrea Marquit Fine Arts
38 Newbury St., Boston (859-0190). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Open by appointment only. Shows contemporary masters and emerging artists and is a consulting group for corporate and private collectors.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (247-0610). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm; Sun., 1-5pm. •*New Paintings* by Margaret Gerding shows works through Sept. 29 that focus on New England landscapes and panoramas.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., 5th Floor, Boston (262-4490). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5:30pm. • Maryellen Latas' *Lead and Gold* shows Sept. 9-Oct.18. • The upcoming exhibition is Maggi Brown's New Paintings, which shows Oct. 21-Nov. 29.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm. •*Folk Art from the Gallery's Collection* shows through Sept. 9.

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (482-2477). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Fri., 10:30am-5:30pm. • Barbara Grad's *Drawings* shows Sept. 6-30.

Beth Urdang Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 11am-5pm or call for an appointment. The gallery regularly displays paintings, sculpture and works on paper. •*Modernist Still Lifes 1915-1945* features a selection of paintings and works on paper. Sept. 9-Oct.7.

Boston University Art Gallery
855 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-3329). MBTA: B Green Line to B.U. West. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat. and Sun., 1-5pm. The 56 objects and 17 photographs in this exhibition derive from two sets of tombs in northern China. They illustrate the differences between the cultures of co-existing dynasties from the late 11th- century China—the Song, an ethnic Chinese dynasty and the Liao, a semi-nomadic people. Sept. 15-Oct. 29.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (236-2255). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 11am-5:30pm. •*Textural Glass* opens, showing new works by Takeshi and Youko Sano. Sept. 14-mid-October.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (859-7222). Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-5pm. • Joseph Piccillo shows drawings on paper and canvas and etchings starting Sept. 5.

Childs Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (266-1108). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 9am-6pm; Mon. and Sat., 10am-5pm. • The Main Gallery shows paintings in *New England Women Artists*. Also showing will be Frank W. Benson's *The Sporting Art Tradition* and the woodcuts of Durrer in the Alcove. Sept. 11-Nov. 11.

Clark Gallery
145 Lincoln St., Lincoln (781-259-8303). Tue.-Sat., 10am-5pm. The gallery represents 30 artists, primarily regional. Media regularly include glass, ceramics, oil, acrylic on canvas, wood and studio furniture. •*Sculpture for the Outdoors IV,* the gallery's fourth annual group show featuring art for the land, runs Sept. 5-Oct. 26. It shows with Rick Harlow's *Reconstructing Landscape,* abstracted landscapes based on scenes from the rain forest, which runs Sept. 5-28.

Clifford Smith Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 3rd Floor, Boston (695-0255). www.cliffordsmithgallery.com. *Weds.-Sat., 11am-6pm.* • Jenny Dubnau's *New Paintings* shows Sept. 6-30.

Copley Society of Boston
158 Newbury St., Boston (536-5049). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm; Sun., 1-5pm. America's oldest nonprofit art association is a platform for young and established artists. •*Suburbs,* paintings of suburban landscapes by Jason Brockert, runs through Sept. 23.

Creiger-Dane Gallery
36 Newbury St., Boston (536-8088). www.creigerdane.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •*New Work*, mixed-media works by Karen Moss, focuses on the relationship of man to animal. Also being displayed are watercolors of constellations by Jane Goldman. Sept. 6-30.

Crosstown Arts, Inc.
One North Square, Boston (720-0100). www.crosstown.com. *Tue.-Fri,. 9am-5pm, Sat., 9am-1pm or by appointment.* •*Marks and Surfaces*, a mixed-media show by Josette Ghiseline, shows Sept. 9-Oct. 21.

Crystal Fine Art
93 Summer St., Suite 4L, Boston (728-9818). www.crystalfineart.com. *MBTA: Red and Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Tue.-Fri., 11am-6pm.* A multicultural gallery that regularly displays the work of national, international and local artists. •*Candice Whittemore Lovely*'s work shows through mid-October.

Cyclorama
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-8835). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. www.bcaonline.org. *Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm; Sat. and Sun., 1-4pm.* •*Covering the Ground in Big Sky Country*, a full-scale installation by Kelly Kaczynski and Anita. This artwork, which dominates the interior of the BCA's large rotunda, transforms the industrial-era aesthetic of the Cyclorama into a fantastic, three-dimensional landscape. Through Sept. 26. • Artist talk Sept. 14, 7-9pm.

Dietrich von Buhler Gallery
16 Ashford St., Boston (783-2421). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Sat., 2-4pm and by appointment. www.drawbridge.com/dvbgallery. *Closed until Sept. 14.* • Bruce Bemis' *Shades Drawn*, a film installation, shows Sept. 14-28.

Dyansen Gallery
132 A Newbury St., Boston (262-4800). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. You'll always find paintings, bronzes and fine-art prints. Collections include Rembrandt, Picasso, Chagall, Miro, Dali, Cassatt, Snowden and more. •*Group Show* through September shows Alexandra Nechita and Andre Renoux as well as selected sculptures.

Eclipse Gallery
167 Newbury St., Boston (247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9am-5pm. •*La Pittura*, new landscape works by Joanne Cataldo, shows Sept. 6-30.

Elias Fine Arts
120 Braintree St., Brighton (783-1888). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. • In *Real Fun*, 16 national and international artists present photographs made with toy cameras. Curated by Monique Johannet and Karolyn Hatton. Through Sept. 16.

Equator Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (266-4110). www.equatorgallery.com. *Mon.-Fri., 11am-6pm; Sat. and Sun., 12-6pm.* Displaying contemporary artwork from around the world that contains Pre-Columbian motifs. The gallery is also chock full of woodcarvings—from teensy boxes to giant spheres—all made by several generations of Equadorian artists. Ongoing.

Gallery Bershad
99 Dover St., Somerville (629-9400 ex.3). www.bershad.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Davis.* • The exhibition *2000 or Less* opens Sept. 15.

Gallery Naga
67 Newbury St., Boston (267-9060). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. The gallery will be open by appointment only through Sept. 4. • David Palmer's *Orange Crush* and Louis Risoli's *New Paintings* runs Sept. 5-30.

Gallery Seventy-Nine
79 Newbury St., Boston (262-5918). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-6pm; Sat. 12-5pm. • James Rayen's *Landscape Markings* shows through Oct.11.

PAINTING: AT THE ESPLANADE BY JOE CARLISS

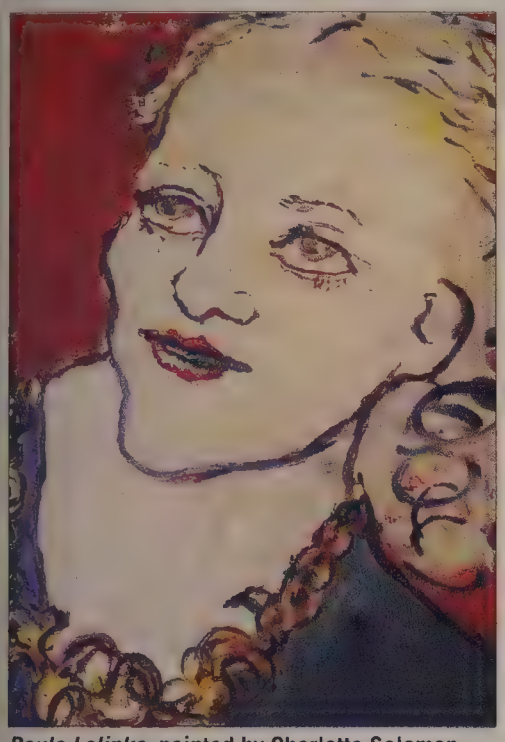
Genovese Sullivan Gallery
47 Thayer St., Boston (426-9738). Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. MBTA: Orange Line to N.E. Medical Center. •Burt Antonio's *Exact Sentimens, Trashy Romance Collages,* shows with works by Christine Fritch. Sept. 8-Oct. 4.

Gibbs Gallery
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm. •*Symbionts* features mixed-media ceramic sculptural work of Paul Briggs and Sarah Glass, Sept. 9-Oct. 13.

Gurari Collections
91 Charles St., Boston (367-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Charles MGH. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. This gallery has an impressive collection of 16th- to early-20th-century etchings, engravings and drawings.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St. Boston (536-6339). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 10am-6pm; Sat., 10am-5pm. •An assortment of 18th- and 19th-century historic and decorative antique engravings and lithographs.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (262-0550). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. yezerski@ziplink.net. •*Sam Cady: New Paintings.* Sept. 8-Oct. 3.



***Paula Lalinka*, painted by Charlotte Salomon, show in *Life? or Theatre?* at the MFA this month.**

Hurst Gallery
53 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (491-6888). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sat., 12-6pm. Thu, 12-7pm and by appointment. Visitors are greeted with a wide variety of art and artifacts from six continents.

Ilya Rozden Gallery
223 Harrison Ave., Boston (338-4695). MBTA: New England Medical Center. Open by appointment only. •*One Last Time,* self portraiture from three separate photographers' points of view, shows through Sept. 15.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (375-0076). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. •A selection of vintage posters is displayed. Ongoing.

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (437-1518). www.fine-arts-unlimited.com/g4.htm. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm.* •*Interiors* shows through Sept. 7.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 Saint Stephen St., Boston (247-1719). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue.-Sat., 1-5pm. •*Open Studio 2000,* featuring Kaji Aso, Kate Finnegan, Jeanne Gugino, Mary Ellen Gardner, John Miller, Marg Layman, Hiroyuki Ohtani and Katie Sloss, opens Sept. 23 and runs through October.

Kingston Gallery
37 Thayer St., Boston (423-4113). Call ahead for hours. •*Continuum* by gallery members, shows Sept. 6-30.

Lyman-Eyer Gallery Inc.
1347 Washington St., West Newton (964-3470). Tue.-Fri., 4-7:30pm; Sat., 11am-7:30pm; Sun., 11am-5pm. •The current exhibition is *Solitude,* paintings and drawings by Robert Adamcik, Susan Avishai and Brett Osborn, with an installation by Mary Beth Maisel. Sept. 9-Oct. 8.

Mills Gallery
539 Tremont St., Boston (426-8835). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Sun., 1-4pm; Thurs.-Sat., 7-10pm. •Twice Born: Beauty, an exhibition of paintings and photographs by contemporary artists that explores the resurgent interest in beauty, shows Sept. 8-Nov. 5.

MPG
285 Newbury St., Boston (437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-5pm. •*Land Sea and Beyond II* by Jennifer Clement, Philip Koch and Thomas A. D. Watson. Through Sept. 25.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* Founded in 1964. •*In the Spirit of Landscape V* shows Sept. 9-16. •Sam Messer's *New Paintings and Retrospective* shows Sept. 23-Oct. 21.

Out of the Blue Gallery
168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun., 12-7pm. This gallery, owned and operated by several artists, always has a variety of interesting artwork and art-related events going on. •Poetry readings take place every Saturday, and the gallery hosts a rotating guest list of jazz musicians every Wednesday. •*Haitian Art Show* by 10 Haitian artists shows through Sept. 30.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (236-4497). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •*Damon Leber: New Paintings* shows Sept. 8-Oct. 3.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (267-9473). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun., 1pm-5pm. •*Beauty and Youth: New Work* with stoneware pottery by Tatsuzo Shimaoka is the third exhibition of new work by this renowned Japanese potter. Sept. 9-Oct 4.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (266-3321). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. www.richardsonclarke.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tues.-Sat., 10am-5pm.* •Truman Seymour's *Moroccan Watercolors* displays this month. •Next month, the gallery shows Judith Belzer's *New Paintings.* Oct. 13-Nov. 25.

Sherman Gallery
775 Comm. Ave., Boston (358-0295). MBTA: B Green Line to B.U. West. Tue.-Fri., 11am-5pm; Sat. and Sun., 1-5pm. The B.U. consortium, High Performance Computing in the Arts and B.U.'s Scientific Computing and Visualization Group bring the magical three-dimensional world of "Spirited Ruins" to the gallery.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (450-0321). www.stgeorgegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-5pm.* Artist William St. George displays his lush and colorful paintings. •*Equestrian,* paintings in oil of Arabian stallions, mustangs, Iceland ponies and Lippizanners, runs through Sept. 15.

Touch of France
173 Newbury St., Boston (247-6966). MBTA: Green line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-7pm; Sun., 10am-6pm. This gallery imports contemporary French artists' works, including paintings from famous painters M. Tigrane, R. Kefflin, C. Ferrer and striking dried-flower arrangements made near Saint Tropez.

Via Gallery
83 Newbury St., 2nd Floor (424-6200). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-4pm. •Victor Sandblom and Raina Piligian exhibit pieces in *Recent Works in Oil,* Sept. 8-Oct. 7.

Zeitgeist Gallery
312 Broadway St., Cambridge (876-2182). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu.-Sun., 2pm-7pm. The gallery displays a variety of local artists' work. •A Playground Jazz Series takes place on Friday nights. •Monday is literary night with the Stone Soup Poets performing. •Every Wednesday is a figure-drawing session. •Sunday is a vegan potluck supper, with by live music and poetry.

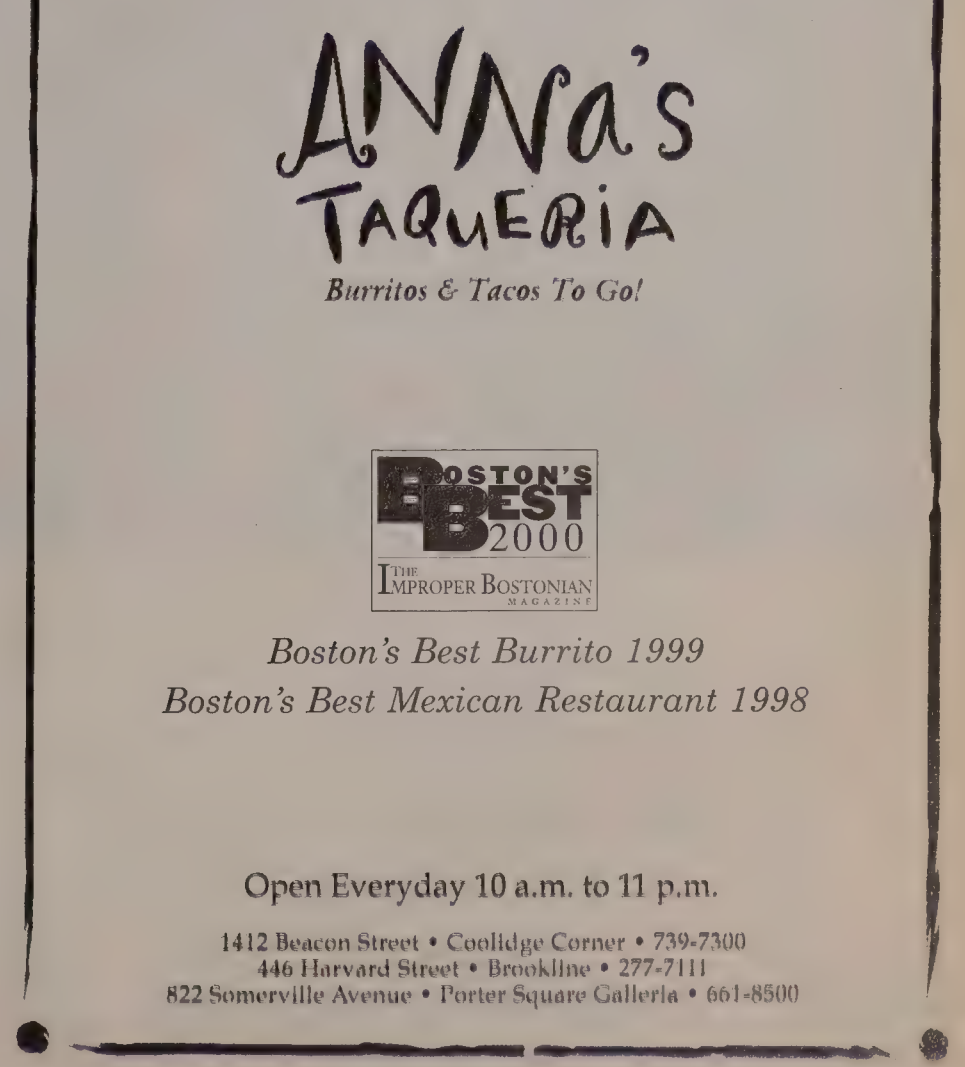
PHOTOGRAPHY

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2051). Tues.-Sat., 11am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. •A multimedia installation, *Cold War Modern: the Domesticated Avant-Garde,* explores the avant-garde in art, music and design in the U.S. between 1945 and the early '60s. Sept. 15-June 10, 2001.

Gallery One
N. E. School of Photography, 537 Comm. Ave., Boston (437-1868). Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm. •Tom McCarthy's *Two Wheel Deal* is a presentation of motorcycle pictures that he has taken since 1980. Through Sept. 29.

Photographic Resource Center
602 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-0700). MBT: B Green Line to Blanford. Tue.-Sun., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-8pm. •*Significant Other: the Human Presence in Contemporary Animal Imagery* is photography by eight artists. Sept. 8-Oct. 20.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., fourth floor, Boston (267-7997). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 10am-5:30pm. •The gallery presents its third show of photography by the artist Annie Leibovitz in *Annie Leibovitz : Women.* This series of large-scale images focuses on female nudes, from a collaboration between Leibovitz and the Mark Morris Dance Group. Sept. 8-Oct. 7.



BACKSTAGE PASSAGE

Cameron Crowe recalls his rock 'n' roll coming of age.

BY PAUL SHERMAN

The quality that most bad movies share is the inability to show you what they're telling you. We've all sat through dozens, if not hundreds, of movies in which the "cool guy" isn't cool, the desirable woman isn't alluring or the bond supposedly shared by friends, family or lovers is not convincingly conveyed. The disparity between what a movie is telling us and what it's showing us can emotionally push viewers away from what's going on up on the screen like a poke to the sternum.

Something that makes writer-director Cameron Crowe's *Almost Famous* so special is that it is able to show us all the bonds that it tells us are there. We don't have to just accept them; we feel them along with the characters. There's a great case in point in Crowe's semi-autobiographical tale of a teen rock journalist (Patrick Fugit) getting a fiery baptism into adult life and professional journalism while covering a band on tour. That's a scene set just after the up-and-coming band, Stillwater, has a fight that nearly breaks them up. They're silently sitting in their tour bus, listening to music as they tear down the highway when the Elton John song "Tiny Dancer" comes on. One of the band starts singing along, then another. Soon, everyone on the bus has joined in, and we see how—despite their regular clashes of egos—music bonds these guys. Any movie that can concoct such a disarmingly emotional scene from such a flimsy song is certainly special. But that's hardly the only example of such a moment in the film.

William (Patrick Fugit) gets ready to go airborne with the band.

William Miller (Fugit) is a 15-year-old aspiring rock 'n' roll journalist from San Diego who seems much like Crowe himself, before he wrote *Fast Times at Ridgemont High* or wrote and directed *Say Anything* and *Jerry Maguire*. William gets a big break in 1973, an assignment from *Rolling Stone*. But before that even happens, he is an unusually interesting adolescent trying to make his way in the world.

In one sense, he's wise beyond his years, having skipped a couple of school years and having a zealot's interest in pop music; in another, he's just one more clueless kid anxious to discover the rules of the adult world. And over the course of the movie, he finds mentors in four crucial relationships: with his mother (Frances McDormand), the real-life, late rock critic Lester Bangs (Philip Seymour Hoffman), a jet-setting groupie who's nearly as young as he is (Kate Hudson) and the conflicted rock-star guitarist of Stillwater (Billy Crudup).

He learns the value of passionately sticking to your ideals from both his protective mother and the principled Bangs. From the groupie and the guitarist, whose lives are often governed by the compromises and self-deceptions we all face, he learns the difficulties of staying honest and keeping your integrity. The lessons and cautionary tales he learns from those four aren't just idle chatter. They speak to what William goes through in his quest to write his article. As the young writer must remain on tour until the elusive guitarist grants him an interview, he gets increasingly over his head: He's granted access to the inner sanctum of the band, but is still, as the band nicknames him, "the enemy." He becomes the bemused mascot of the coterie of groupies who are much more worldly than he is, and he starts to lose journalistic perspective on the band, who are no longer just music on grooves in vinyl, but flesh-and-blood people.

The story's totally upbeat resolution is slightly at odds with its bittersweet tone (but what would a DreamWorks release be without multiple happy endings?). But that's the only dent in an unusually deep story of adolescence, rivaling *Rushmore* and *The Virgin Suicides* for its empathy with the hopes and heartbreaks of youth. iB

Almost Famous ★★★½

Written and directed by Cameron Crowe. With Patrick Fugit, Billy Crudup, Kate Hudson, Frances McDormand and Philip Seymour Hoffman. Rated R. DreamWorks Entertainment.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

The Autumn Heart ★★
There's a lot of heart in writer-actor Davidlee Wilson's locally shot film, but a lot less subtlety. Directed by Steven Maler, the story concerns the reunion of two sides of an estranged family. The three grown working-class sisters (Ally Sheedy, Marceline Hugot and Marla Sucharetza) are reunited with their upwardly-mobile little brother (Wilson) for the first time since their parents' divorce 20 years before, at the insistence of the mother (Tyne Daly) who's just had a heart attack. The culture shock both the brother and the sisters experience sometimes rings true, but it's often a caricature, while the mom-on-her-deathbed subplot gives the whole thing the overwrought feel of a TV movie.

Bring It On ★★
Isn't it silly to make a comedy about cheerleaders and then not have cheerleading be the butt of any jokes? Not even having Kirsten Dunst as one of those Stepford-Wives-to-be can make cheerleading seem any less silly. She plays the new captain of an all-white suburban squad who are defending national champions (yes, there actually is competitive cheerleading). She finds out the former captain stole all their routines, so she and her squad must scramble to create new ones. Although Dunst, Watertown's Eliza Dushku and Jesse Bradford are all appealing, this might have been much funnier had it been more of a backstage satire like *Drop Dead Gorgeous*, Dunst's beauty pageant movie.

Cecil B. DeMented ★★★
Writer-director John Waters takes a fun swipe at Hollywood, cults and moviegoers' tastes in his outlaw fairy tale about the title character (Stephen Dorff). He's part Andy Warhol and part Charles Manson, and he and his gang of eager devotees (who are also his cast and crew) kidnap a bitchy Hollywood star (Melanie Griffith) and force her to be in Cecil's no-budget movie, which she does increasingly willingly. The comedy doesn't cut all that deeply, but it's the liveliest, most physical Waters movie since *Cry-Baby*, and it's easy to be swept up in its rants against movies that are as safely packaged as baked goods.

The Cell ★★
Seven meets *Silence of the Lambs* in this thriller in which more energy seems to have gone into set design and Jennifer Lopez's costume changes than into the characters (not surprisingly, its director is a video and commercial veteran). Lopez plays a therapist who uses a high-tech lab hook-up to enter the minds of the comatose. When a serial killer (Vincent D'Onofrio) who has abducted a young woman goes into a coma-like trance as a result of his schizophrenia, she's called in to try to get his subconscious to tell her where the victim is. Vince Vaughn is also here as a battle-scarred detective, and though the movie may sport a bold look at times, it's generic post-*Seven* gratuitous grisliness, with none of that movie's mournful humanity.

Chuck & Buck ★★★½
Few movies are as disarmingly compassionate and emotionally rich as this low-budget story filmed on digital video (and transferred to film) by director Miguel Arteta. It's hard not to connect with both title characters in this story of childlike 27-year-old Buck (screenwriter Mike White), who, following the death of his mother, tries to reconnect with Chuck (Chris Weitz), the boyhood friend he hasn't seen in 15 years. While Buck fixates on his former best buddy, and even wants to resume the homosexual experimentation the pair shared as 12-year-olds, Chuck wants little to do with the uncouth friend that might threaten his music-industry job and his relationship with his fiancée (Beth Colt). The story makes you sympathize with both, and even manages to work its way around to a well-earned optimistic ending. One of the year's best.

Godzilla 2000 ★★½
After 1998's atrocious, big-budget take on the Japanese monster, it's a welcome change to see a low-grade Japanese *Godzilla* movie released here. This movie pretends to be nothing more than dumb fun, and it generally succeeds. The big question about it is, did the tongue-in-cheek comedy come from its Japanese creators, or from the Westerners who supervised the English dubbing? In any case, despite some slow spots, this return to a guy in a rubber suit stomping on a miniature model of Tokyo has a goofy charm that will win you over.

Hollow Man ★½
What happens to a person's behavior when they no longer have to look at themselves in the mirror? That's the question at the core of Paul Verhoeven's drama, but it's obscured by the story's tired, genre-film plotting. After Kevin Bacon's cocky scientist uses himself as a guinea pig to make himself invisible and then visible again—but the "reversion" to visibility fails—this becomes the first sci-fi sex-fiend movie, when he actually rapes a neighbor. When his fellow researchers can't crack

NEAL PRESTON

Contrary to recently circulating rumors, *The Cell* was not in fact filmed in Attleboro.

the reversion process and he turns against them, the movie segues into a poor man's *Alien* (crew vs. supernatural monster), padding itself with monster-won't-die contrivances. Are we supposed to care about any of this?

The Opportunists ★★
The slice-of-life moviemaking is just a little too flimsy in writer-director Myles Connell's Queens-set movie. For once, Christopher Walken gets to play a character who isn't freaky, a onetime safecracker who's straightened up and become a mechanic. But financial difficulties force him to pull one more job, with the local losers who've been trying to get him to help rob the armored car company at which they work. Unfortunately, Connell lacks the eye for detail needed to make his characters and his blue-collar setting travel beyond the generic. The movie fails to build on these characters, as well as the rueful girlfriend who is wonderfully played by Cyndi Lauper.

Steal This Movie ★★
Why couldn't a movie about Abbie Hoffman have been more fun? This very routine biopic about Worcester's bad boy of 1960s radical politics—the title playing off of Hoffman's *Steal This Book*—fails to capture the spirit of the media-savvy insurrectionist, primarily because it feels so second-hand. It uses the reporter-interviews-friends approach, which then sends the movie into long flashbacks, and though that might have worked for *Citizen Kane*, it distances us from Hoffman. After a while, the movie just seems like Abbie's Greatest Hits (Wall Street, Pentagon, Chicago, the underground), with the shallow gloss of a VH1 movie. Vincent D'Onofrio's performance just wears you out, too, while the cast including Janeane Garofalo, Kevin Corrigan and Donal Logue flounders.

The Tao of Steve ★★★
Donal Logue, who's been a familiar face in supporting roles ever since his inspired Jimmy the Cab Driver spots on MTV, finally gets to star in a movie. As Dex, a plumped-up big man on campus who's still living like a student 10 years after graduation, Logue is a charm. He brings a lot of credibility to a character we're supposed to believe is charismatic enough to seduce women and philosophical enough to bundle his rules of courtship into something called the Tao of Steve—Steve being Steve McQueen, Dex's perfect American male—and yet still be endearing. While the story might have been a familiar yarn about a womanizer who gets his come-uppance, thanks to Logue and Greer Goodman (as the woman who makes him rethink his axioms of love), it becomes less formulaic.

X-Men ★★
I'll grant that this film adaptation of the comic book that turned the Cold War into an allegory about mutants being persecuted by normal people has more going on in it than such similar comics movies as *The Shadow* or *The Phantom*. There's clever casting (like Patrick Stewart and Ian McKellen as heads of the respective good and bad mutant contingents), the breakthrough performance of Aussie Hugh Jackman as sarcastic Wolverine and a lack of pretension from director Bryan Singer. But this is still generally people in goofy uniforms with gimmicky special powers, and it's still mostly silliness played with earnestness, the sort of stuff the underrated *Mystery Men* mocked so well. There are so many of these freaky characters that I didn't give a lick what happened to any of them.

The Way of the Gun ★★
Nope, it's not 1995 again; it's just a movie that belongs in 1995. *The Usual Suspects* writer Christopher McQuarrie makes his debut as a writer-director by offering this story of a couple of underachieving crooks (Benicio del Toro, Ryan Philippe) who see a big score in kidnapping a young woman (Juliette Lewis) who's carrying a baby for a rich couple. But the kidnappers don't know the man in the couple (Scott Wilson) is mob-connected, and pretty soon both the guy's slick bodyguards (Taye Diggs, Nicky Katt) and his old-school pals (James Caan and a bunch of stout guys in Members Only jackets) are on their trail. The characters are mere types, the twists are usually tipped off well in advance, and the whole thing has a post-*Reservoir Dogs* flippancy that's very dated.

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Cinemas
214 Harvard Ave. (277-2140). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
Trapelo Rd. (484-1706). Red Line to Harvard, 73 bus.

BOSTON

Boston Film • Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (536-1540). Green Line to Hynes.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (536-5400). Green Line to Copley.

Cheri
50 Dalton St. (536-2870). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Fenway Theatre General Cinema
201 Brookline Ave. (424-6266). MBTA: Green Line to Fenway or Kenmore.

***Godzilla 2000* reaffirms the entertainment value of bad Japanese-to-English dubbing.**

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum Of Science, Omni Theater
Science Park (723-2500). Green Line to Science Park.

Nickelodeon
606 Comm. Ave. (424-1500). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford St.

Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle.

Coolidge Corner
290 Harvard St. (734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theater
40 Brattle St. (876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (495-4700). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Sq. (494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony Theater
10 Church St. (864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Sq.

Somerville Theater
55 Davis Square (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston. (277-2500). B Green Line to Chestnut Hill.

West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (964-6060).

Alternatives & Revivals

Advice to Contributors
Submit film listings by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Although film listings are correct at the time of publication, they are subject to change. Doublecheck showtimes by calling the theater or 333-FILM.

Boston Public Library

The Immortal James Cagney

•Sept. 11, 6pm **The Public Enemy** *1931.* Criticized at its release for glorifying a life of crime, this film was nonetheless one of James Cagney's early successes. A classic gangster film, it also features Mae Clarke and a young Jean Harlow.

•Sept. 18, 6pm **Blonde Crazy** *1931.* Cagney stars as a small-time con-artist out to pull a fast one on big shot businessmen who are staying at a posh hotel.

Brattle Theater

Most shows are $7, including double features.

Premiere Engagements

•Sept. 8-14, 4:10pm; 6pm; 7:50pm and 9:40pm (Sat. and Sun. matinee 2:15pm) **Water Drops on Burning Rocks** *2000.* Innovative French director François Ozon takes the unproduced play of Rainer Werner and brings it to the big screen. The result is an award-winning, steamy, funny and complicated story of a cozy relationship gone sour, thanks to the resurfacing of one or two old flames.

•Sept. 15-21, 4:45pm and 8pm (Sat. and Sun. matinee 1:30pm) **Time Regained** *1999.* A splendid cast including Catherine Deneuve and John Malkovich brings Marcel Proust's epic story *Rememberance of Things Past* to life. The narrative depicts the end of one era and the beginning of a new one, replete with the images, themes and stories that were present in all of Proust's novels.

Coolidge Corner Theater

Midnight Movies

•Sept. 8 and 9 **Pink Flamingos** *1972.* Director John Waters creates this hilarious cult comedy of sleaze queen Divine and her family.

•Sept. 15 and 16 **Desperate Living** *1977.* A rich housewife murders her husband with the help of her overweight maid in Waters' notorious comedy.

Preview

The Trash Master

The Coolidge offers a month of exquisite bad taste with a salute to John Waters.

When a giant transvestite shoots up liquid mascara, wallows in a playpen filled with dead fish or participates in coprophagy (dog-shit eating), you know it has to be the work of John Waters. Due to his wide range of cinematic perversions, some call him the "king of krude"; others refer to him as the "prince of puke." But William Burroughs said it best: "John Waters is the pope of trash." His cult followers, or those who have just been exposed to his low-art masterpieces with *Cecil B. Demented*, will both cringe and rejoice that the Coolidge Corner Theater is featuring John Waters' films to honor the pop icon, director, author and sometimes actor. All this month, his films return to their midnight-movie roots, the flagrantly gross content of which has consistently shocked and entertained an international audience for decades.

For those with a taste for extreme, disturbing cinema, *Pink Flamingos* is a must-see, Sept. 8 and 9, 12am.

He began with silent 8mm and 16mm films in the mid-'60s, which he screened in rented Baltimore church halls to underground audiences drawn by word-of-mouth and street leaflet campaigns. By the early '70s he was making all sorts of taboo-busting features that were shown as part of the midnight-movie circuits. Notoriety came with *Pink Flamingos* (1972)—a "deliberate exercise in ultra-bad taste" that took off due, in part, to the over-the-top dramatics of lead actor Divine, a 300 pound cross-dresser. Pop-culture icons began to turn up in Waters' films starting with *Hairspray*, and they've been staples ever since, along with his recurring themes of all things kitsch—drive-in movie theaters, Baltimore quirks, bouffant hairdos and over-the-top drag queens.

The series starts off Sept. 8 and 9 with *Pink Flamingos*. The 25th anniversary edition of this low-budget flick has extra scenes and an intro by John Waters. Sept. 15 and 16 is *Desperate Living*, featuring a 300-pound housekeeper who kills a man by sitting on his face and then going on the lam. Sept. 22 and 23 is his first film with a big budget, *Polyester*, which was originally released as *Odorama*, allowing the audience to smell the stinky moments. The series closes with a bang Sept. 29 and 30 with *Hairspray*, Waters' campy, nostalgia-filled flick starring Sonny Bono, Debby Harry, Ric Ocasek, Jerry Stiller, Divine—plus a chubby little Ricki Lake. *The Coolidge Corner Theater, 295 Harvard Ave., Brookline (734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. All shows start at 12am.*

Feature Engagements

•Opening Sept. 8 **Solomon and Gaenor** *1999.* This is the classic story of Romeo and Juliet, set in turn-of-the-century Wales. Tranditional and churchgoing Gaenor falls in love with Solomon, the Jewish son of local pawn shop owners. Solomon hides his identity at first and then reveals it. Wouldn't you know it—the two lovers decide to run away together and escape the hostile world of their parents' making. •**Sneak Preview** Sept. 6, 7:30pm, $12. The Coolidge Corner Theatre Foundation and the Boston Jewish Film Festival present this special screening. Come early to catch an ale-and-cheese reception in the Welsh tradition, courtesy of Bread & Circus Whole Foods.

Special Screenings

•Sept. 11, 7:30pm **Dead End** *1937.* Humphrey Bogart is Baby Face Martin, a big-time gangster who returns to his childhood neighborhood to find that all is not as he left it. A mother who denounces him and a childhood girlfriend who has become a streetwalker add to a colorful cast of Lower East Siders who live in a slum that breeds crime and violence.

Harvard Film Archive

Premieres

•Sept. 15, 7pm; Sept. 17, 9:15pm and Sept. 19, 7pm **Ruins** *1999.* This must be described as a documentary in some sense, since the film explores the Mexican culture in a very real way. Yet director Jesse Lerner calls this an anti-documentary—and, in fact, it is a collection of artifacts and sounds that beautifully convey the intended message. Yet it is all done with material that is not quite authentic.

•Sept. 15, 9pm; Sept. 16, 9pm and Sept. 17, 7pm **Farewell, Home Sweet Home** *1999.* The recent winner of France's Louis Delluc prize is set in and around contemporary Paris and links several different stories. Ultimately, they intertwine, and powerful messages about class division and other melancholies are asserted by director Otar Iosseliani, who himself stars in the film.

Séance Screenings

•Sept. 16, 7pm and Sept. 19, 9pm **F for Fake** *1973.* The last film director Orson Welles released before his death is a compilation of several people's work and footage. Nonetheless, Welles transforms the material into a unified interrogation of truth and illusion, revisiting his own *Citizen Kane* in the process.

Museum of Fine Arts

Most film screenings are $6.

Art on Film

•Sept. 7, 8pm **Love, My Darling, Is Bottomless** *1998* and **Art and Remembrance: the Legacy of Felix Nussbaum** *1993. Love, My Darling, Is Bottomless* begins on a summer day between 1940 and 1942 in France, and depicts artist Charlotte Salomon's time there. *Art and Remembrance* is less about Salomon and her life, and more a tribute to Felix Nussbaum, the German-Jewish artist who created a major body of paintings about Jews during the Holocaust.

Milestone Films

•Sept. 6, 8pm and Sept. 8, 8pm **90 Degrees South: With Scott to the Antarctic** *1933.* Director Herbert G. Pontig explores Captain R.F. Scott's fateful expedition to the South Pole in 1911.

•Sept. 6, 5:45pm **Why Has Bodhi-Dharma Left for the East?** *1989.* The skeletal plot of this film concerns an old master, a young disciple and an orphaned boy in a remote Korean monestary in the mountains. With intricacies that can only be raised by such relationships, director Yong-Kyun Bae's film has acquired somewhat of a cult following.

•Sept. 8, 6:15pm and Sept. 9, 11am **Antonio Gaudi** *1930.* This story, titled after the primary character, is a detailed portrayal of the notorious Spanish-born artist Antonio Gaudi.

•Sept. 9, 4pm **Chac: The Rain God** *1974.* When a village is overcome by drought, a mysterious mountain dweller's advice is sought. Practicing mystical and ancient ways, he brings the village out of danger's way and revives ancient protocol long ago forgotten by the villagers. Based on director Rolando Klein's two-year experience with the Tzeltal Indians of Chiapas.

•Sept. 9, 12:45pm and Sept. 13, 5:45pm **Shackleton's Boat Journey** *1999.* Harding McGregor Dunnett's 30-minute narrative of Ernest Shackleton's expedition to the Antarctic.

•Sept. 9, 2:15pm **El Bruto** *1952.* "The Brute" makes up in muscle what he lacks in intelligence, and so when he is hired by a landlord to intimidate unwanted tennants, it comes as no surprise. What *is* unexpected is that The Brute falls in love with one of the tennant's daughters, much to the displeasure of the landlord's wife, with whom he is also having an affair.

•Sept. 13, 7:45pm **The Trial** *1962.* Director and writer Orson Welles presents Franz Kafka's story. Anthony Perkins stars as a clerk who is abducted and charged with an unknown crime by a confusing web of bureaucrats.

•Sept. 14, 6pm **Fireworks** *1997.* Director Takeshi Kitano stars in his own saga, portraying detective Nishi, who, overcome by the stresses of a sick wife and a handicapped partner, successfully pulls off a bank robbery.

•Sept. 15, 5:45pm **A Day on the Grand Canal with the Emperor of China** *1998.* This film is a collaboration by painter David Hockney and director Phillip Haas. It depicts a 72-foot long Chinese scroll dating back to the late 1690s, which conveys Emperor Kangxi's grand domain.

•Sept. 15, 7:45pm **Red Desert** *1964.* Directed by Michaelangelo Antonioni, this film portrays a depressed housewife and her desperate search for meaning in life. An intense performance by Monica Vitti and brilliant color cinematography add to the story.

•Sept. 16, 12pm **Two Friends** *1986.* In Australian director Jane Campion's directorial debut, she explores the friendship of two girls, looking at what originally brought them together, and what ultimately drives them apart.

•Sept. 16, 3:30pm **People of the Wind** *1976.* This stunning documentary by director Anthony Howarth takes a look at the annual migration of Iran's nomadic Bakhtiari people over an eight-week, 300-mile journey over the Zagros Mountains.

Visiting Film Artists

•Sept. 7, 6pm **The Living Museum** *1998.* Director Jessica Yu explores the 40,000 square-foot art museum and gallery in the Creedmoor Psychiatric Center in Queens. Revolving around the tenet of patient and artist David Halford—that he would rather retain his creativity than be "cured" of his mental illness—the film takes an intimate look at him and other artists.

•Sept. 14, 8pm and Sept. 16, 1:30pm **Our House: A Very Real Documentary about Kids of Gay and Lesbian Parents** *2000.* Director Meema Spadola presents a series of interviews with children of gay or lesbian parents. This film offers more than a stacked-up version of smiling faces, and portrays a range of frank and honest feelings about being "different."

Museum of Science

Omni Shows

•Through September. The Omni features **Dolphins**, an underwater exploration about these incredible sea creatures. See them in the wild and witness their forms of communication.

•Through Oct. 5. **The Magic of Flight**. Place your trays in an upright position and prepare to take to the air. This film explores the principles of flight, from its earliest beginnings.

•Through Oct. 5. Michael Jordan goes to new heights in **Michael Jordan to the Max**, the first big-screen film that showcases the personal and athletic attributes of the basketball legend.

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READINGS & SIGNINGS

Wednesday, Sept. 6

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. **Jonathan Strong**, author of *A Circle Around Her,* reads from his latest book. This novel tells about the transitions of a 50-year-old woman, a jilted wife and mother who uproots her family to a lake-side cottage surrounded by woods. **Alice Lichtenstein** also reads from her novel, *The Genius of the World.* It depicts family life in America in the turbulent '60s and '70s.

Thursday, Sept. 7

Borders Books and Music Author Event
10-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30pm. Free. **Greg Nagan**, co-founder of the Chicago theatrical group igLoo, discusses his book *The Five-Minute Iliad and Other Instant Classics: Great Books for the Short Attention Span.* Nagan parodies 15 classics, from Homer to Kerouac, and gives his twisted take.

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. **Lauren Slater**, author of *Prozac Diary*, **Sven Birkerts**, author of *The Gutenberg Elegies*, **Emily Fox Gordon**, author of *Mockingbird Years: Life In and Out of Therapy* and **George Packer**, author of *Blood of the Liberals,* gather for an all-star panel discussion titled "Stench of Self: Self-Indulgence and the Memoir."

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free. **K.C. Frederck** reads from and signs his new novel, titled *The 14th Day.*

Poets Share Reading Series
Rhythm & Muse, 403 A Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-3816). 7:30pm. **John Ryan** gives a reading, followed by an open-mike session.

Wordsworth Books Reading Series
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. **Rebecca Goldstein** gives a hometown reading of her latest novel, *Properties of Light: A Novel of Love, Betrayal, and Quantum Physics.* Sex and physics have a lot in common in this novel that tells of three scientists caught up in restoring order to the world.

Friday, Sept. 8

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free. **Libby Schmais** reads from her debut novel, *The Perfect Elizabeth: A Tale of Two Sisters.* It tells the story of Liza and Bette, sisters whose names both derive from Elizabeth. Liza feels incomplete, half of the Elizabeth, and wallows in her own sarcastically funny self-pity as she pines after the life that her successful sister has.

Borders Bookshop Author Appearance
85 Worcester Rd., Framingham (508-875-2321). Sept. 8. 7:30pm. Co-author of the bestseller *Raising Cain,* **Michael Thompson** reads from his new book, *Speaking of Boys.* Thompson answers questions about peer pressure, bullies, divorce, girls, sports and siblings.

Wordsworth Books Reading Series
Cambridge Public Library, 449 Broadway St., Cambridge (354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. **John Phillip Santos**, author of *Places Left Unfinished at the Time of Creation*, a memoir of growing up in San Antonio, reads from his lyrical work.

Saturday, Sept. 9

Borders Books and Music Author Event
10-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 2pm. Free. Spiritual leader **Andrew Cohen** discusses his book, *Embracing Heaven & Earth: the Liberating Teachings of Andrew Cohen,* and his radical psychology of liberation.

Monday, Sept. 11

Borders Books and Music Author Event
10-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30pm. Free. **Terry Goodkind** signs the sixth installment of the *Sword of Truth* series, *Faith of the Fallen.* The novel pits Richard Rahl and Kahlan Amnell against the forces of chaos and anarchy in hopes that by traveling to the ends of the earth, the pair can preserve the freedom of the world.

Borders Books and Music Author Event
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (557-7188). 7pm. Free. Photographer **Steve McCurry** discusses his work with a slide show of his latest work from *South Southeast.* The photographs are a collection of colors, faces and forms gathered over 20 years of travel across Asia.

Tuesday, Sept. 12

Borders Books and Music Author Event
10-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30pm. Free. Boston-based author **Jamie Katz** reads from his latest mystery, *A Summer for Dying.* This is the second novel featuring Boston attorney Dan Kardon, but this time he gets involved in what appears to be an easy case to win. However, after some shady happenings and a murder or two, Dan's cousin is the main suspect he's got to clear.

Borders Bookshop Author Series
85 Worcester Rd., Framingham (508-875-2321). 7:30pm. Celebrated Worcester poet **Eve Rifkah**, founder of Poetry Oasis and feature editor of the new poetry journal *Sahara*, hosts an open-mike poetry night and reads her own work.

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. **Candace Bushnell**, whose last novel, *Sex in the City,* inspired the hit television series by the same name, will discuss her latest novel, *Four Blondes.* This book also is based in hip New York City and follows four trendy women, focusing on their triumphs and losses in love and work.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free. If you missed **Jamie Katz** earlier today at Borders, he will again read from and sign his novel, *A Summer for Dying.*

Wednesday, Sept. 13

Borders Books and Music Author Event
10-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6pm. Free. Cambridge author **Audrey Schulman** talks about her new novel, *A House Named Brazil.* Schulman, author of *Swimming with Jonah*, follows up her first novel with a darkly humorous and inventive story of several generations of an expansive, eccentric family.

Thursday, Sept. 14

Borders Books and Music Author Event
10-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6pm. Free. **Jennifer Brown Baverstam** will be discussing her translation of **Per Anders Fogelstrom**'s *City of My Dreams*, originally written in Swedish. It is the first of his five-volume Stockholm series that broke the Swedish bestseller records.

Borders Bookshop Author Series
85 Worcester Rd., Framingham (508-875-2321). 7:30pm. **Noah Gordon** reads from his book, *The Last Jew.* In this historic novel, the story of 13-year-old Jonah, a Jew fleeing persecution in 15th-century Spain, eludes the brutal agents of the Inquisiton. He finds love, peace and a career as a physician throughout his difficult journey.

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave, Cambridge (499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. **Matthew Budd** and **Larry Rothstein** discuss their book, *You Are What You Say: A Harvard Doctor's Six-Step Proven Program for Transforming Stress Through the Power of Language.* These doctors insist that by changing your language, you can improve your physical and mental health, reduce stress and improve communication.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free. **Christopher Shaw** signs and reads from his adventure book, *Sacred Monkey River: A Canoe Trip with the Gods,* a memoir set on the scenic Usamacinta River, which flows through Mexico and Guatemala. Shaw canoed through these once-sacred lands settled by the Mayans and writes of the ecological and environmental concerns of the area, jeopardized by logging and pollution.

Friday, Sept. 15

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
279 Harvard St., Brookline, (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. **Nick Flynn** discusses *Some Ether,* a collection of haunting poems that mirror the wounded childhood of a motherless boy. **Natasha Trethewey** reads from her debut poetry collection, *Domestic Work.*

Tuesday, Sept. 19

Barnes & Noble Author Event
660 Beacon St., Boston (236-7421). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7pm. Free. **Karen Armstrong** discusses her book, *Islam: A Short History.* Armstrong believes that the picture of Islam as a violent, backward and insular tradition should be laid to rest.

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
279 Harvard St., Brookline, (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. **Amy Bloom**, author of *A Blind Man Can See How Much I Love You: Stories* reads from this, her second collection of stories. Most of these stories have characters plagued by some kind of health ailment that challenges them to persevere and attain their goals.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free. **Anita Diamant** and **Karen Kushner** discuss their book, *How to Be a Jewish Parent: A Practical Handbook for Family Life.* It tells how to raise a child in an open society while still keeping Jewish tradition strong and vital to daily life.

ONGOING

Agape, Tuesdays
The Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (266-6710). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8pm-10pm. Every Tuesday, this somewhat sophisticated poetry group gathers to share versions of their latest work.

Beacon Hill Literary Walking Tour, Saturdays
The Charles Street Inn, 94 Charles St., Boston (387-4693). MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. 2pm, $10 adults, $7.50 seniors and students. Take a walk around Boston's notable neighborhood and see the home sweet homes of more than a dozen famous authors who once called Beacon Hill their home. Residences of Louisa May Alcott, William Dean Howells, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Sylvia Plath, Jean Stratton and Robert Lowell will be visited.

Cantab Lounge, Wednesdays
738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8-10pm. $3. Wednesday nights at the Cantab always pack in more than 30 poets in just two hours for open mike and a slam.

Club Passim, Tuesdays
47 Palmer St., Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. $5. All open-mike fanatics must experience this open-mike night—a training ground for up-and-coming performers, poets and storytellers. Sign up Tuesdays, 7:30pm.

The Lizard Lounge Poetry Night, Sundays
1667 Mass Ave. Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. $4 cover. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes every Sunday to the featured poet of the week.

O'Brien's Pub, Mondays
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. A mix of rock and spoken word is performed one Monday a month at 9pm—the performers are all predetermined.

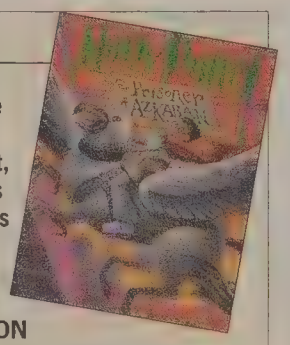
Out of the Blue Gallery's Poetry Night, Saturdays
Out of the Blue Gallery, 168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. Donations appreciated. Every Saturday is poetry night, and a spoken-word and music event also takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month. It features music by Rob Gonzalez and his band and spoken word with Nola Kelley. Open mike occasionally follows performances.

Rhythm and Muse Open Mike, Thursdays
403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-6622). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook. A headlining poet is followed by an open-mike session on the first Thursday of every month, 7:30pm.

Stone Soup Poetry Night, Mondays
Zeitgeist Gallery, 312 Broadway St., Cambridge (227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7:30pm. $3. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets have served up steamy confessions and soothing inspirations with their weekly readings. Keep the good vibes going every Monday at these readings with a wealth of featured writers each week.

Libby Schmais reads from her debut novel, *The Perfect Elizabeth*, Sept. 8 at Newtonville Books.

Bestsellers



With what looks like a permanent fixture on the bestseller list, J.K. Rowling's series of Harry Potter books continue to top the charts.

HARDCOVER FICTION
1. **Harry Potter & the Goblet of Fire** by J.K. Rowling
2. **Harry Potter & the Prisoner of Azkaban** by J.K. Rowling
3. **Stalker** by Faye Kellerman
4. **America's Favorite Poems** by Robert Pinsky
5. **A Blind Man Can See How Much I Love You** by Amy Bloom
6. **The River King** by Alice Hoffman

HARDCOVER NON-FICTION
1. **Kitchen Confidential** by Anthony Bourdain
2. **Me Talk Pretty One Day** by David Sedaris
3. **Black Mass** by Dick Lehr
4. **Haikus for Jews** by David Bader
5. **I Know Just What You Mean** by Ellen Goodman
6. **A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius** by Dave Eggers

Provided by Brookline Booksmith for the week of August 23-29.

TESS STEINKO

education

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Education. Or e-mail information to education@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

CLASSES/LECTURES

Saturday, Sept. 9

Facial Plastic Surgery 2000
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (573-3651). 9am-12noon. $25. Cher has done it, and Michael Jackson is the king of it. For those interested, this nip-and-tuck seminar is the definitive word in facial plastic surgery. Learn all you need to know about facial liposuction, botox injections, good old-fashioned nose jobs, chin jobs and even chemical laser peels from prominent Harvard Medical School faculty. What are you waiting for? The "new you" awaits.

A Model of Your Career World
The Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). $58. Play with clay and perform other right-brain activities. Career counselor **Kate Famulari** will help you decode your creations to determine your ideal career.

Tuesday, Sept. 12

Building Gung-Ho Teams
Westin Copley Place, 10 Huntington Ave., Boston (1-800-873-3451). 12-1:30pm. The legendary **Ken Blanchard** makes a rare Boston appearance to talk about enthusiasm and team-building at work.

Friday, Sept. 15

Executive Etiquette
The Ritz-Carlton, 15 Arlington St., Boston (912-3302). No one wants to watch a sloppy, messy eater. Learn or relearn your manners at this dinner class.

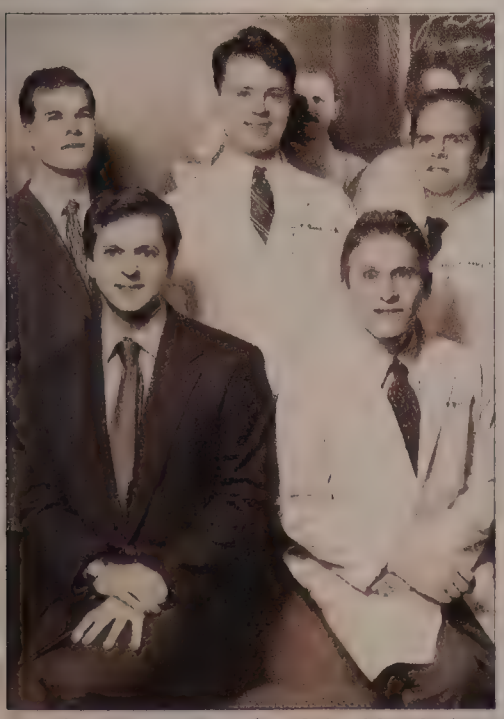
Preventing Eating Disorders
Dedham Hilton, Dedham (558-1881). The Massachusetts Eating Disorder Association presents "Integrating Mind, Body and Spirit in the Prevention and Treatment of Eating Disorders."

Saturday, Sept. 16

Making Independent Films
Dudley House, Harvard University, Cambridge (495-2255). 1-5pm. Director and producer **Mitchell B. Robbins** discusses the making of an independent feature film, analyzing his latest work in progress, *XX/XY.*

Sunday, Sept. 17

Françoise Gilot
Devlin Hall, Boston College, Chestnut Hill (552-8100). 2-4:30pm. To complement her exhibition at Boston College's McMullen Museum of Art, artist **Françoise Gilot**, former companion of Pablo Picasso, will speak about her life and her work.



Nose jobs? Harvard Medical School faculty host Facial Plastic Surgery 2000 Sept. 9.

classical music

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Submit information labeled Classical by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Classical Music or e-mail to classical@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers Web site information and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to deadline. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from many different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to doublecheck dates and times.

Wednesday, Sept. 6

Summer Organ Recital Concert Series
Methuen Memorial Music Hall, 192 Broadway, Rt. 28, Methuen. 8pm. Adults $6, children $1. Carolyn Schuster Fournier of Paris will perform Mendelssohn's *Sonata in D*, Brahms' *Fugue in A-flat*, Liszt's *Prelude and Fugue on Bach*, Vierne's *Carillon de Westminster*, Widor's *Symphony 9*, Alain's *Litanies* and other works by Fournier, Chauvet and Reger.

Thursday, Sept. 7

WCRB's Classical at Copley Concerts 2000
Reflecting pool of the fountain, Copley Square Park, Boston (781-893-7080). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 12-1pm. Free. These casual lunchtime concerts in a convenient location serve as the perfect break from your busy day. Nicholas Kendall on violin performs today.

Friday, Sept. 8

SeptemberFest 2000 at Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (876-0956). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:15pm. Longy Director Victor Rosenbaum introduces this year's festival commemorating the 250th anniversary of Bach's death. His lecture is titled "If It Hadn't Been for Bach." The festival, "Bach's Vox: J.S. Bach and His Influence," is composed of strictly Bach and Bach-inspired musical selections and features an impressive line-up of Longy students and faculty, as well as guest performers and speakers. Following, there will be a concert featuring Bach's *Cantata Arias*, Mendelssohn's *Trio in C Minor for Violin, Cello and Piano* and the premier of Longy student Eric Sawyer's *Contours for Clarinet and Piano.*

Saturday, Sept. 9

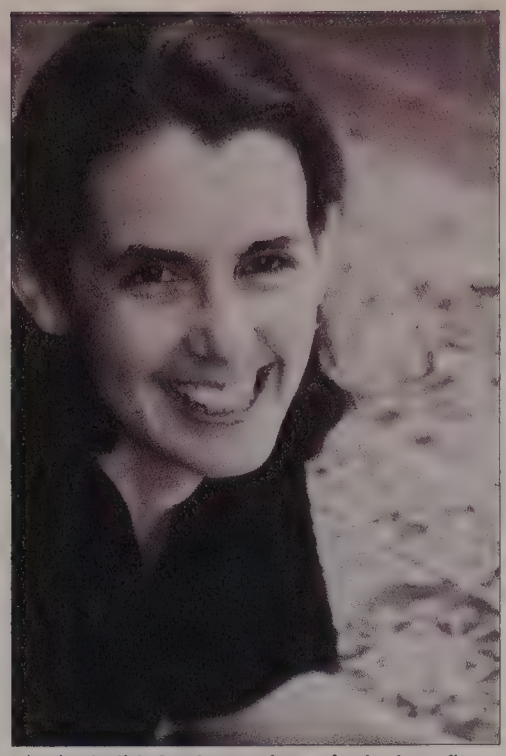
SeptemberFest 2000 at Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (876-0956). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. Tonight's program includes Bach's *Sonata No. 6 for Violin*, Brahms' *Sonata in E Minor for Cello and Piano* and Frazin's *Suite Dreams: Echoes of Early Music and Dance for the New Millennium.*

Sunday, Sept. 10

SeptemberFest 2000 at Longy School of Music
Edward M. PickmanConcert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (876-0956). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Bach's *Suite No. 2 for Cello in D Minor* and *Cantata Arias* and Franck's *Prelude, Chorale and Fugue* and *Sonata in A Major for Violin and Piano* will be performed tonight, following a symposium at 4pm titled "Bach's Vox: Three Centuries of Bach's Influence on Music and Culture." Sharing their musical experience will be David Hoose, conductor of the Cantata Singers; Craig Smith, director of music at Emmanuel College; composer and conductor of the Boston Bach Ensemble Julian J. Wachner; and Yehudi Wyner, composer and keyboard artist for the Bach Aria Group.

Tuesday, Sept. 12

The Hospitality Program Benefit Concert
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (482-4338) MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 8pm. $10-$250. Pianist Judith Gordon, *Boston Globe*'s 1996 "Musician of the Year," headlines the fourth annual concert benefitting the Hospitality Program, a charity that provides low-cost or free temporary housing for families of hospital patients in Boston. Lisa Saffer, soprano, violinist Andrew Kohji Taylor and cellist Andrés Diaz join Gordon to perform *Strauss Lieder* and *The Ravel Trio.* It will be hosted by WGBH's Richard Knisely, and a post-concert reception will follow at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel.



Pianist Judith Gordon performs in the benefit concert for the Hospitality Program Sept. 12.

Wednesday, Sept. 13

SeptemberFest 2000 at Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (876-0956). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. A special event in the SeptemberFest, tonight will host a Community Sing of Bach's *Magnificat* and *Cantata No. 150: "Nach dir, Herr, verlanget mich,"* conducted by Lorda Cooke de Varon.

Thursday, Sept. 14

Classical Piano Recital
Seully Hall, Boston Conservatory, 8 The Fenway, Boston (264-4501). 8pm. Free. Pianist and composer John Ferguson plays his Boston debut recital with an eclectic program of rarely heard pieces. It will feature the premiere of his own work, *Piano Piece No. 4* and also Beethoven's *Seventh Symphony* as transcribed for piano by Liszt, Sibelius' *Kyllikki Op. 41 (Three Lyric Pieces)* and Zorn's *Carny.*

WCRB's Classical at Copley Concerts 2000
Reflecting pool of the fountain, Copley Square Park, Boston (781-893-7080). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 12-1pm. Free. Jennifer Frautschi will perform several works on violin.

Friday, Sept. 15

SeptemberFest 2000 at Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (876-0956). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. Chopin, Bach's *Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue*, Shostakovich, Piston's *Suite for Oboe and Piano* and Schumann will be performed tonight.

Saturday, Sept. 16

SeptemberFest 2000 at Longy School of Music
First Church in Cambridge, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (876-0956). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. Peter Sykes on organ gives a recital that features Bach's *Art of Fugue* as well as works by Liszt, Reger and Schumann.

Sunday, Sept. 17

SeptemberFest 2000 at Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (876-0956). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. A concert of Bach's *Trio Sonata from The Musical Offering*, Rochberg's *Nach Bach*, Villa-Lobos' *Bachianas Brasilieras, No. 4* and Mendelssohn's *Sonata in D Major for Cello and Piano* follow a lecture at 4pm titled "Beethoven's *Grosse Fuge* as a response to J.S. Bach's *Art of the Fugue,*" by Longy faculty member and music historian Barbara Barry.

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dance clubs

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Nights

Mondays

Language
Hibernia. DJs G White, Dot, Surface and Sora spin drum and bass. 8pm. 21+.

Monsta Monday
Bill's Bar. DJ Kaptain Krunch kicks off the week. 9pm. $5, 18+.

Static
Axis. DJ Jay Ine and the gorgeous drag shows hosted by Mizery. 10pm, $5. 19+.

Vertigo Mondays
Vertigo. Caesar and Giorgio throw a party for those who never stop dancin'. Smooth Lounge upstairs, deep house downstairs with DJ Arsit. Dress slick. 10pm. No cover.

Tuesdays

Cigar and Jazz Night
The Exchange. Light up, kick back and score a free Gina Cigar and buffet. No cover.

Fat Tuesdays
Bill's Bar. This off-the-hook night features DJ Chaos scratching out hip-hop. College ID required. 10pm. $12, 18+.

The Forum
Lava Bar. Join Mission Control and support the local DJ scene as home-grown talents share the floor. 10pm. 21+.

Got Milk?
Venu. If you're chic you'll be at Venu for Milk—a devilishly hip party with DJ Osheen. Dress is funky. 21+.

Inasense
Karma. DJ Timmy Allen spins classic and soulful house and R&B. $10, 19+.

Lot 36
Embassy. DJs Eddie K. and Andrea R. heat things up this summer at the city's hot club. 10pm. $15. 19+.

Mason
Hibernia. Perfect Downtempo and house music for a Tuesday night complete with funky breaks.

Mingle Tuesdays
The Modern. This spot screams sophistication. With DJs, a raw bar, vodka bar and late lounge. 10pm. 21+.

Wednesdays

Backstage
DJ Jonny C. spins top-40 dance classics. 10pm, no cover. 21+.

College Night
The Aquarium. Guest DJs spin on all three funky floors of this relatively new venue at 10pm.

Funk and Groove
Bill's Bar. DJ Tim Collins spins live funk, soul, and hip-hop. 9pm. $5, 18+.

Good Karma
Karma/Mambo. Mizery plays host to a roster of rotating DJs. Expect a mixed crowd. 10pm, $5. 19+.

Hibernia Wednesdays
Hibernia. DJ C.T.O. is the Godfather of Say Word night—with plenty of funk. 9pm. Cover varies. 21+.

Latin Night
The Aquarium. Dance lessons from 9pm-10pm.

Modern Living
The Modern. DJ Dale Charles spins while minglers strut their stuff and sip martinis. 10pm. 21+.

Musical Mayhem
The Exchange. DJ Jynx plays house upstairs while Tym Ryan of WFNX and DJ Brisc spin in the Vault. 10pm.

Pravda 116
Spend the night at one of the city's most decadent hot spots—set to beats by DJ Alex and DJ Felix. 21+.

Status
Axis. It's all about status when DJs Darrin Friedman and Richie Rich spin house music. 10pm, $10. 19+.

Thursdays

Aquarium
The Kiss 108 FM dance party. 10pm. $3.

Backstage
Tonight's adrenaline high features special guests spinning top-40 dance and club classics. 10pm, $5. 21+.

Big Easy
New Orleans-themed nightspot with some of the best DJs in town. Four bars, billiards and lounges. 9pm.

Dress as your favorite character from the '60s, '70s or '80s this weekend and head to Polly Esther's.

Charlie's Angels Night
Polly Esther's. Dress as your favorite Brady character and dance to '70s, '80s and '90s music. 8pm, $5. 21+.

Chrome
Axis. Resident DJs John Debo and Ali Ajami spin house and trance. 10pm, $10. 19+.

Downtempo Lounging
The Modern. DJ Ricky Fatts spins while you enjoy the raw bar and vodka bar. 9pm-2am, 21+.

Funkalicious Thursdays
The Exchange. DJ G-Squared takes you on a blast from the past as he spins '70s and '80s tunes. No cover.

Hibernia Thursday Night
DJ Jeremy spins a loopy, trippy, trip-hop.

Il Panino
A social playground for young professionals in Boston: cocktails and dancing. Proper dress. 9pm. 21+.

International Thursday
Avalon. A mixed crowd fills this nightspot with DJ Manolo and DJ Anthony. 10pm, $15. 19+.

Latin Quarter
The Roxy. You know it's time to get down when the Roxy breaks out Latin dance mixes. 10:30pm, 21+.

Europa
Enter Club Destiny with DJ Rip as he spins the best house and trance.

Speed
Karma/Mambo. Resident DJs Bruno and Masta Millions spin hip-hop and R&B. 10pm, $12. 19+.

Sugar Shack
The best music from three decades pounds through the festival atmosphere where every day is Mardi-Gras.

Sweetwater Cafe
Live bands perform while guests sip margaritas outside on an open patio.

The List
Lava Bar. *Lavabar.com*. DJ 7L and guests along with Verse/D bring you soul and funk. 10pm. 21+.

Underground
Bill's Bar. DJ Mark Hamilton showcases up and coming acts and establishd bands. 9pm. Cover varies, 18+.

Venu
Swank American top-40 and house, this hot spot features the incredible DJ Adilson.

Fridays

Aquarium
DJ Lu spins today's hottest dance hits.

American Karma
Karma/Mambo. All-star American Top 40 remixes with DJ Tim Collins. $8, 19+.

Avaland
Avalon. Everything about this screams "Party!" With DJ Manolo and John Debo. 10pm, $15. 19+.

Backstage
DJ Jonny C spins top-40. 10pm, $5. Proper dress, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans–themed nightspot has some of the best mainstream DJs in town.

Buzz Fridays
Buzz. Roger M lays down Latin house tracks while DJs pay homage to the house music gods. 11pm, $15. 19+.

Embassy
Jay C., Eddie K. and Eddie Lee mix up fresh beats at this venue. 10pm, $15. 19+.

Envy
This popular destination is filled with a mass of sweaty 'n' ready dancers. 9pm, $5 after 10pm. 21+.

Exchange Fridays
The Exchange. Up High, Tiziano and Maurizio, play house trip while DJ G-Squared opens the Vault. 9pm.

Focus
Hibernia. Cocktails with Alan Strack and tunes by DJs Chuck Caseroc and Skot Havens. 9pm, 21+.

Lava Bar
Life. Dance to a different drummer with DJ Fran Englehardt's deeply rooted soulful rhythms. 10pm.

Mondo Bar
Roxy. International and house music spun by local, national and European DJs with resident DJs Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. 10:30pm, 21+.

Nocturnal Fridays
Bill's Bar. Guest DJs make this the best night of live music. 9pm. Cover varies. 18+.

NYC Jukebox
All the disco and rock you can handle. 9pm, 21+.

Roxy 2000
Roxy/Mondo Bar. DJ Felix spins house and international music all night. 10:30pm. $15 cover, 21+.

Spin Cycle
Axis. Glitzed-out club hoppers shake it to the beats of DJ Tim Ryan and DJ David James. 10pm, $12. 19+.

Sugar Shack
DJs and specialty drinks, dancing 'til 2am.

Sweetwater Cafe
DJs KC and Jonesey entertain on two floors of this classic American bar.

Ultra Lounge
The Modern. DJ Mixin Matt Ruben. 9pm-2am, 21+.

Venu
The scene is elegant for this jacket-required international romp. Get your Gucci on as DJ Arsit spins. 21+.

Saturdays

Aquarium
Saturday night dance party with DJs. 10pm. $5.

Downtown
Avalon. Resident DJs Manolo and Mattie O. gyrate your arse with hits and club classics. 10pm, $15. 21+.

Backstage
DJ Freddie C spins top-40 dance and club classics. 10pm. $5. Proper dress, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans–themed nightspot has live bands all weekend. Thirsty? There are four bars to boot.

Club Juliana
Boogieing cuties converge on Boston's newest Latin Night starting at 10pm. Dress to impress. $10.

Club Nicole
The mob is thick for this exclusive trendsetter. DJ Alex spins Eurohouse. Jackets required. 21+.

Club Piteko
Fajitas & Ritas' hot spot juggles reggae, hip-hop and Brazilian sounds. $7. 21+.

Elements of Life
Karma/Mambo. Guest DJs spin house while DJ Hoffman plays old school hip-hop. 10pm, $15. 19+.

Embassy
Jay C., Eddie K. and Eddie Lee bounce beats off each other and the ceilings and floors. 10pm, $15. 19+.

Envy
From 9pm-2am, DJ Tom Baxter blasts top-40, house and dance. 9pm, $5 after 10pm.

Exchange Saturdays
DJ Diesel renovates the upper level with full-on house while DJ Jynx spins the funky beats in the Vault. 9pm.

Hibernia Saturdays
Steve Porter and special guests take the reins and whip the crowd into a frenzy. 10pm. 21+.

Lava Bar
Anything Goes. DJ Fran and Kris Kono unite with high-energy house and Latin beats. 10pm, 21+.

Miami Club Night
Club Joy/Yesterday's. Get a taste of Miami nightlife. 9:30pm (ladies free before 11pm), $10. 21+. Ladies, 19+.

Mischief
The Modern. Feeling mischievous? Ultra lounging with decadent desserts and erotic electronica. 21+.

Mythos
Venu. It's Greek International night with DJ Yorgo Jr. spinning the hits from the famous party islands of Greece.

NYC Jukebox
Dance music from the '80s and '90s. 9pm, 21+.

Roxy Saturdays
High-energy house and dance by DJ Adilson. 9pm, 21+.

Saturday Night Fever
Polly Esther's. Groove to three decades' worth of beats from the '60s, '70s and '80s in the laser-lit Club DVD. 8pm, $10. 21+.

Smile
Bill's Bar. DJ Bruno takes over. 10pm. $12, 19+

Sugar Shack
Spice up your night with '70s, '80s and '90s dance music as DJ Rich Centi spins the hottest sounds.

Sweetwater Cafe
Music from DJs KC and Jonesey on two floors.

Who's on First?
The latest and greatest in hip-hop, reggae, R&B and Latin house with DJ Lil' Mike, 10:30pm, $12. 18+.

X night
Axis. DJ Mike Gioscia spins '90s faves while DJ David James spins '80s hits. 10pm, $10 cover. 21+.

Sundays

Backstage
Urban Night. With T Clark spinning hip-hop, reggae and old school. Doors open at 10pm, $10. 21+.

Common People
An Tua Nua.
Brit-pop, new wave, indie and more with DJ Adrienne. 9pm, $3. 19+.

Exchange Sundays
A fusion of heavy lounge and Miami house. No cover.

Il Panino
This night features music by DJ Alex of Boston Beat and DJ Roger M. No cover, 21+.

Latin Night
Karma/Mambo Lounge. Weekly Live Latin Bands. 10pm, $25. 19+.

Lava Bar
Pandora's Box (Club Courtesy). DJ Vinny and Sir Richard and Sterling spin '60s Exotica, loungecore, psychedelic flowerpop and Motown. 10pm. 21+.

Reggae Sundays
Bill's Bar. DJ K-Don spins the best reggae. 10pm. $10, 21+.

Salvation
This Boston vibe serves up an intimate evening of soul—all provided courtesy of—of course, no other than DJ Soul. $5.

Venu
Carnival comes to Boston every Sunday as DJ Adilson brings the heat of Rio to Venu. 21+.

Club Venues

AnTua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (262-2121).*
Aquarium *65 Holland St., Somerville (623-3200).*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (437-0300).*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424).*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437).*
Backstage *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston (726-1110).*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678).*
Buzz Boston/Europa *51-67 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street.*
Club Juliana *20 Hudson St., Boston (542-4411).*
Club Nicole *40 Dalton St., Boston (236-4746). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*
Club Piteko/Fajitas & Ritas *25 West St., Boston (426-1222).*
Club Stella *1234 Soldiers Field Rd., Brighton (254-0554).*
Embassy *36 Lansdowne St., Boston (536-2100).*
Envy *25 Boylston Place, Boston (542-3689).*
Europa *51 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939).*
Exchange *148 State St., Boston (723-7755).*
Hibernia *25 Kingston St., Boston (292-2333).*
Karma *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9595).*
Lava Bar *575 Comm. Ave., Boston (267-7707).*
NYC Jukebox *275 Tremont St., Boston (542-1123).*
Oskar's *107 South Street., Boston (542-6756).*
Polly Esther's *262 Friend St., Boston (720-1966).*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (482-7799).*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699).*
Salvation *20 Hudson St., Boston (781-668-2392).*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510).*
Sweetwater Cafe *5 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2515).*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (338-8061).*
Vertigo *126 State Street, Boston (723-7277).*

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Music

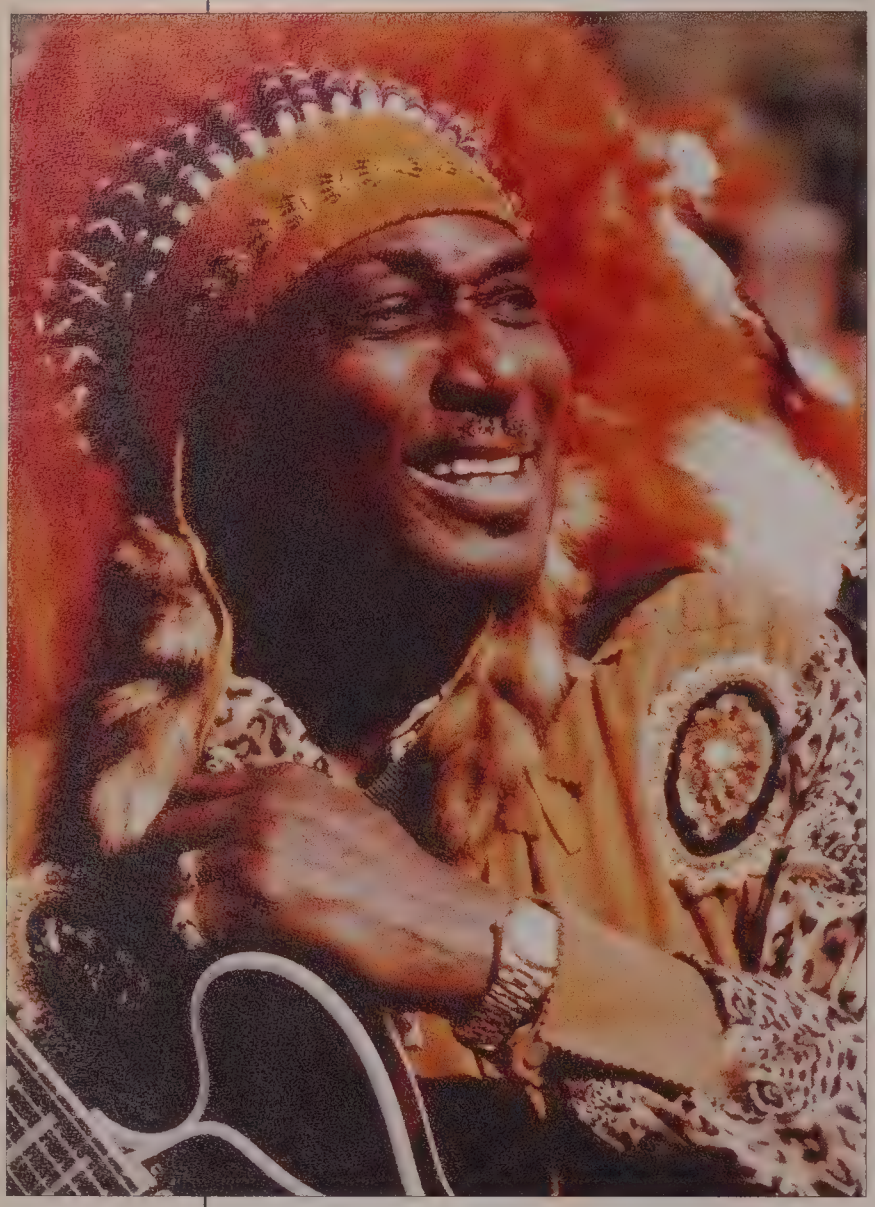
HAIL TO THE CHIEF

Perseverance has paid off for Eddy Clearwater.

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

It has been 50 years this month since Eddy "The Chief" Clearwater moved from Alabama to Chicago, learned the blues alongside Muddy Waters and Magic Sam, and combined it with the rock 'n' roll style of Chuck Berry to find his calling.

But it was the late '70s when Clearwater found what would become his calling card. "I've always been very fond of the American Indian, and my grandmother was a full-blooded Cherokee," the singer-guitarist says. "I went to a party, and this lady had a headdress hanging on her wall, and I said, 'That's a real beautiful piece. I'd like to have that to wear for my stage appearance, to present myself. Can I buy it from you?' And she said, 'No, it belonged to my deceased husband. I can't part with it.'"



Clearwater performs in his signature headdress.

Still, Clearwater knew the woman as a bartender, and kept expressing interest in the bonnet. "She finally said, 'I'll tell you what. Since you want it that bad, here's what I'll do. I won't sell it to you. I'll give it to you as a good-luck charm, provided that you never part with it,'" he says from his home outside Chicago. "So I gave her my word."

Clearwater still has that headdress, which is hanging in his basement until he can display it at a blues club he's opening in Chicago. However, to save wear on the original, he now has five headdresses—and has continued his streak of good luck.

"Everywhere I tour, they always mention to be sure and bring the headdress," says Clearwater, who headlines the first afternoon of the two-day Boston Blues Festival at the MDC Hatch Shell Sept. 23, then plays Johnny D's that night. "When I go to Europe, they put it in the contract."

"It's the wrapping that makes things happen," he says, making an analogy to grocery store items. "The packaging has a lot to do with the salesmanship. But you have to have the goods once they open the package."

Clearwater certainly has the goods on *Reservation Blues*, a new CD out Sept. 12 on the locally based Bullseye Blues & Jazz label. His second CD, produced with Duke Robillard (once of Rhode Island's Roomful of Blues), it runs the gamut from Chuck Berry-influenced rock 'n' roll (including a cover of Berry's "Sweet Little Rock and Roller") to original blues.

"[Robillard] has such a great concept of music itself, so many different styles," Clearwater says. "That's why I feel we relate to each other so well. We have such a good time when we go into the studio. It's like a party."

However, there's also a serious streak in originals like the title track (relating his own history of seeking better work in Chicago), "Walls of Hate" (inspired by a depressing visit to the Berlin Wall years ago) and "Winds of Change," written by ex-Bostonian Karen Leipziger about a tornado's aftermath.

"There are many winds of change in people's lives," says Clearwater, 65. "The many ups and downs you go through and don't think you'll survive , but you do."

For Clearwater, those winds brought a quadruple-bypass operation in 1998. "I forgot about that—that was a real traumatic thing," Clearwater says, relating how he had been feeling fatigued and saw his doctor, who recommended surgery. "I said, 'If you've got to do it, do it now.'"

"My energy came back after the operation," he says. "And I have to stick to a diet, but that's another thing my doctor said is, 'You're not an addictive person. That helps you.'"

Perseverance is more of a trait for the Mississippi native, who began playing professionally in his teens with gospel groups like the Five Blind Boys of Alabama. "It was just a gospel group that was singing around town," Clearwater says, "the same way I thought about Muddy Waters and Howlin' Wolf when I first came to Chicago. I never thought of them becoming famous all over Europe and around the world."

"I got more into the blues as I was here, but I always had blues in my heart," Clearwater says, noting he used to listen to old Chess records in his youth. Then came the day he heard Berry on the radio of his '57 Ford.

"I picked up the Chuck Berry style because that enabled me to not only work in the black clubs," he says. "That allowed me to cross the line and go out into the suburbs and work in a lot of the white venues, which did mostly country and Western, but they would accept me because of the Chuck Berry image. That was one of the walls at that time!" **iB**

Eddy Clearwater

Plays the Boston Blues Festival at the MDC Hatch Shell the afternoon of Sept. 23; Johnny D's that night.

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fax (859-1446); by mail to Calendar/Music; or by email to music@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, phone numbers and nearest T stops. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double check dates and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

Concerts

Christina Aguilera
Sept. 9, Tweeter Center
Dickey Betts
Sept. 15, Avalon
Mary J. Blige
Sept. 15, Orpheum
The Commodores
Sept. 13, Hilton Hotel
Compay Segundo
Sept. 9, Berklee Performance Center
Face to Face
Sept. 10, Palladium
Dan Fogelberg
Sept. 16, Orpheum
The Furthur Festival
Sept. 15, FleetCenter
Gipsy Kings
Sept. 9, FleetBoston Pavilion
Hardy Pond Blues Revue
Sept. 9, Prospect Hill Park
B.B. King Blues Festival
Featuring B.B. King, Buddy Guy and Koko Taylor
Sept. 13 and 14, FleetBoston Pavilion
Danni Leigh
Sept. 7, FleetBoston Pavilion
Luna
Sept. 16, MASS MoCA
Ziggy Marley and the Melody Makers
Sept. 15, FleetCenter
Mudvayne and Nothingface
Sept. 16, Worcester Palladium
Nuné and Djivan with their ensemble
Sept. 17, Berklee Performance Center
Phish
Sept. 12, Tweeter Center
Shadows Fall with All Out War
Sept. 9, Worcester Palladium
Ravi Shankar
Sept. 17, Symphony Hall
Skate 2000
With Face to Face, Saves the Day, New Found Glory, Alkaline Trio, the Amazing Crowns, Weston, Reach the Sky, Shai Halud, Shut Down, One King Down, Right Rigade, Sinners & Saints and the Stryder
Sept. 10, Worcester Palladium
The The
Sept. 15, Axis
Travis
Sept. 9, Avalon
Twiztid with Blaze
Sept. 15, Worcester Palladium
Luther Vandross and Boyz II Men
Sept. 6, FleetBoston Pavilion
Dwight Yoakam
Sept. 7, FleetBoston Pavilion

CONCERT HALLS

Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Berklee Performance Center *136 Mass. Ave., Boston (747-2261). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center/ICA.*
FleetBoston Pavilion *290 Northern Avenue, Boston (734-9000). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
FleetCenter *One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (624-1000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
MASS MoCA *87 Marshall St., North Adams (413-664-4481).*
North Shore Music Theatre *62 Dunham Rd., Beverly (978-232-7200).*
Symphony Hall *301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1492). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony.*
Tweeter Center *885 South Main St., Mansfield (508-339-2331).*
Worcester Palladium *261 Main St., Worcester (508-797-9696).*

ROBERT CORWIN

Vermont's free-form rock 'n' rollers Phish do their goofy form of improvisation and play some regular tunes at the Tweeter Center Sept. 12.

Rock, Jazz and Blues

Wednesday, Sept. 6

Bell in Hand Tavern Nat Walkins, 8pm, no cover.
Bill's Bar DJ Tim Collins, Euphonic, $5, 18+.
Black Rose Eugene Byrne.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim Clare Muldaur, Adrianne and Bleu, 8pm, $10.
Common Ground What a Way to Go Go with DJ Vin, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff Scott Damguard.
Good Life Cambridge Weepin' Willie and his All Star Band.
Harper's Ferry Ron Levy's Wild Kingdom and Jigawatica, $3.
House of Blues Big Bill's Band, 9pm, $6, 18+.
Johnny D's Cuillin, 8:30pm.
Kirkland Cafe Twisted Rico Acoustic Revue with Jay Wightman and friends.
Lizard Lounge Wednesday night residency featuring Seks Bomba with guests Jeff Mellin, 9pm, and the Allstonians, 10pm.
Maison Robert Freedom of Assembly Trio with Bert Seager.
Middle East U: Adventures in Stereo, Chamber Strings, the Solar Saturday, the Waxwings, $7, 18+. D: Taproot, Nok, Eastcide, Colepitz, 8pm, cover varies, 18+.
Rack Search Party, 8pm, no cover.
Regattabar The Matt Gordy Quartet, 8:30pm, $10.
Roxy John Mayall and the Heartbreakers, Peter Green Splinter Group.
Scullers Valeria Anastasio, Tim Harbold, Benjamin Sears and Bradford O'Connor, 8pm, $12.
Sidney's Grille Ken Clarke, 5:30pm.
Sky Bar Freezepop, Chromovoid, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Toad Reverand Glass Eye and his Wooden Legs with special guest Ten Foot Gang Plank, no cover.
Les Zygomates Mark Greel Trio, 8pm, no cover.

Thursday, Sept. 7

Bell in Hand Tavern Central Basement, 9pm, cover varies.
Bill's Bar The Underground with DJ Mark Hamilton, Slackers, Jaya the Cat and Lost City Angels, 18+.
Black Rose Eugene Byrne.
Bob the Chef's Sub Three, 7:30pm, cover varies.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim Kevin So and Alan Gampel, 8pm, $12.
Common Ground DJ Ryan, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff Bruce Jacques.
Encore Lounge Mark Chapman, 7pm, no cover.
Good Life Cambridge Mickey Bones and the Jump Crew.
Good Life Downtown Jose Ramos and the Special Blend.
Harper's Ferry Dr. Didg and Seven Down, $5.
House of Blues Jimmy Johnson, 9pm, $10, 21+.
Johnny D's Louisiana Red, 9pm.
Jose McIntyre's The Return.
Karma Chris Whitley, Yuval Gabay and Sebastian Steinberg, 7pm, $8, 18+.
Kirkland Cafe Cactus Highway, Pierce Woodward.
Lilli's Fastball, 7pm; Saturnalia with Daniel Carter, $8.
Linwood Troy, Cracktorch, Fireking and the Flashcubes, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Club D'elf, 21+.
Maison Robert Rick Schilling and Rose Jamieson, no cover.
McGann's Amo.
Middle East U: the Master Minds, 18+. D: Schleigho, Fat Head, Zyrah's Orange, $10, 18+.
Rack Chad LaMarsh, 6pm, no cover.
Regattabar Rusty Scott Quartet, 8:30pm, $10.
Rhythm & Spice DJ Bim Inc. and Sound Vibration, 10pm, $5, 18+.
Roxy Chico Cesar and Rita Ribeiro.
Scullers Nelson Rangell, 8pm and 10pm, $16.
Sidney's Grille Issi Rozen Group.
Sky Bar Segue, Tiger Method, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Toad Amphibian, no cover.
Western Front G Spot, 9pm, $5.
Les Zygomates The Jinga Trio, 8pm, no cover.

Friday, Sept. 8

The Attic Superhoney and Sugarcoat, cover varies, 21+.
Bell in Hand Tavern Tiger Lily, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Bill's Bar Amazing Crowns, Sinners & Saints and Steerhead, $8.
Black Rose Sunday's Well and Eugene Byrne.
Bob the Chef's Roxbury Blues and Esthetics, 7:30pm, cover varies.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim Kevin So and Kyle Shiver, 8pm, $12.
Common Ground Booty, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff Novakane.
Good Life Cambridge Grant Langford Quintet.
Good Life Downtown Fascinatin' Rhythm.
Harper's Ferry Another Planet, $6.
House of Blues James Montgomery and Joe Bonamassa, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Johnny D's Jim Thackery, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's Pig Pen.
Kirkland Cafe T-Flight Davis, Classic Ruins, Porn, Mickey Bliss Organ Combo.
Lilli's Sugarman 3, $8.
Linwood Favorite Atomic Hero, Go Away Evil and Roma, 10pm, $6, 21+.
Lizard Lounge The Buckners, the Booda Velvets and Lemonpeeler, 21+.
Purple Shamrock Felix Brown.
Rack Hebee Jebees, 6:30pm, no cover.
Regattabar Scott Hamilton Quartet, 7:30pm and 9:30pm, $12.
Rhythm & Spice Tropical Fire, 10:30pm, $8, 21+.
Scullers Rebecca Parris, 8pm and 10:30pm, $14.
Sidney's Grille Paulo Denay, 5pm.
Toad The Bamboo Steamers, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Gentlemen, Quick Fix, Den Mothers, cover varies.
Western Front Fitzi Niceness and the Reble Heat Band, 9:30pm, $10.
Les Zygomates Krisanthi Pappas, 9pm, no cover.

Saturday, Sept. 9

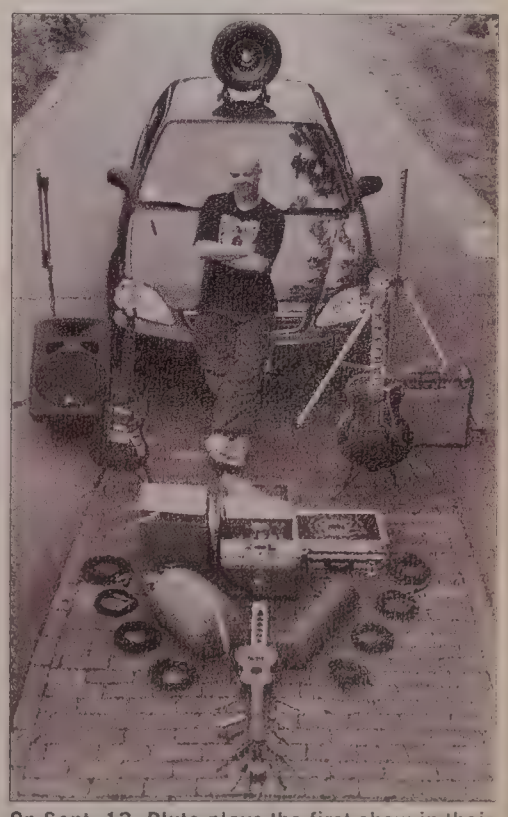
The Attic Averi and Universal Chrome, cover varies, 21+.
Avalon Travis, 7pm, $19.75.
Bell in Hand Tavern Pete Maniscalco, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Black Rose Tony O'Riordan, Sunday's Well and Eugene Byrne.
Bob the Chef's Sonny Watson Quartet, 7:30pm, cover varies.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim Rachel Bissex and Barbara Phaneuf, 8pm, $10.
Common Ground The Allstonians, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff Figure Four.
Good Life Downtown Eric Mintel Quartet.
Harper's Ferry The Mud Hens and Apt. 3, $6.
House of Blues Mick Taylor, 10pm, $20, 21+.
Jose McIntyre's Tad Poole.
Kirkland Cafe Six of One.
Les Zygomates Eula Lawrence, 10pm, no cover.
Lilli's The Pills, Heidi and the Sugar Twins.
Linwood Chelsea on Fire, Lamont, Puny Human and Sinners Club, 10pm, $6, 21+.
Lizard Lounge The Coots CD-release party featuring Jim Fitting with special guests Dennis Brennan, the Heygoods and Asa Brebner, 21+.
Middle East U: Stocklan, $7, 18+.
Purple Shamrock Pig Pen.
Regattabar Scott Hamilton Quartet, 7:30pm and 9:30pm, $14.
Rhythm & Spice Oceanik, 10:30pm, $8, 21+.
Scullers Rebecca Parris, 8pm and 10:30pm, $14.
Sidney's Grille John Kordalewski Trio, 5pm.
Toad David Johnston, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Waltham, the Damn Personals, Raging Teens, cover varies.
Western Front Fitzi Niceness and the Reble Heat Band, 9:30pm, $10.

Sunday, Sept. 10

The Attic Acoustic Jam Night with the Coalboilers, 9:30pm.
Bell in Hand Tavern Nate Walkins and Zen Flower, 4pm and 7:30pm, no cover.
Bill's Bar Reggae Sunday with DJ K-Don and Jem-I, $10.
Black Rose Tony O'Riordan and Eugene Byrne.
Bob the Chef's Sunday Jazz Brunch with Sonny Watson Quartet, 11am, no cover.
Bullfinch's Mexie Ocanez.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim Chris and Meredith Thompson, the Scharff Brothers, 7:30pm, $10.
Good Life Cambridge Grant Langford Band.
Harper's Ferry The Rockett Band & Friends, $5.
House of Blues Ray's Music Exchange and Uncle Sammy, 9pm, $8, 18+.
Johnny D's Blues Jam and salsa with Rumba NaMa.
The Lizard Lounge Poetry Jam featuring the Jeff Robinson Trio and featured poet Crystal Johnson, 21+.
Middle East U: Stick Figures, 7th House, Baby Strange, International Hot Spots, $6, 18+.
Toad Onus B. Johnson, no cover.
The Rack Chad LaMarsh, 9:30pm, no cover.
Rhythm & Spice DJ Bim Inc. and Sound Inc., 10pm, $5, 18+.
Wonder Bar Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.

Monday, Sept. 11

Bill's Bar Monsta Mondays, Trigger Effect with Drop 360 and Headshot, $5.
Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Bullfinch's Paul Broadnax and Peter Kontrimas, 6:30pm.
Cantab Lounge Amber and the Urban Legends, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Encore Lounge Michael Larson and Dorothy Miller, 9pm.
Harper's Ferry Wedding Band Showcase, no cover.
House of Blues Rick Russell Blues Buffet and Jam, 9pm, $6, 18+.
Lilli's Ron Sexsmith, Peter Stuart from Dog's Eye View) and David Mead, 7pm; Languid with DJ Brother Cleve, 10pm, $9, 21+.



On Sept. 13, Pluto plays the first show in their residency at Toad. Also playing is Sticky.

The Lizard Lounge The Fringe, 21+.
Manray Apoptygma Berzerk.
Milky Way Lounge Mixology 101, 9:30pm, cover varies, 18+.
Toad Nick Harper, 8pm and Tim Gearan, 10pm, no cover.
Les Zygomates Pennywheel, 9pm, no cover.

Tuesday, Sept. 12

Bell in Hand Tavern Greg, 7:30pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge John Lincoln Wright and Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 9pm and 10pm, cover varies.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9pm.
Harper's Ferry Another Planet & Friends, $3.
House of Blues Dan Hicks and the Hot Licks, 9pm, $20, 18+.
Johnny D's Equation, 8:30pm.
Kendall Cafe McCarthy's Finger, cover varies.
Kirkland Cafe Chris Zahnleiter Jazz Trio, no cover.
Lilli's The Family Jewels with Fritter, featuring Catie Curtis, Kristen Delmhorst, Jimmy Ryan and Billy Conway, plus the Pierces.
The Lizard Lounge Virtuoso, 21+.
Rack James McKenna, 8pm, no cover.
Regattabar Either/Orchestra, 8:30pm, $10.
Sidney's Grille Rusty Scott, 5pm.
Toad Michael Tarbox, 7pm; Tuesday night residency with Mark Erelli and special guest Kristen Cefelli with Austin Nevins, no cover.
Les Zygomates The Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm, no cover.

Wednesday, Sept. 13

Bell in Hand Tavern Acoustic Army, 7:30pm, no cover.
Bill's Bar Hip Hop Live, Skitzofreniks, Jedi Mind Tricks, Louis Logic, D-Tension, Reks and Mic Stylz, 18+.
Bob the Chef's Hakim Law JazzQuartet, 6pm, cover varies.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
Common Ground What a Way to Go Go. 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff James McKenna.
Harper's Ferry Ron Levy's Wild Kingdom and Deebo, $3.
House of Blues Fat Possum Juke Joint Caravan, 10pm, $15, 18+.
Johnny D's Kevin Welch and Kieran Kane, 8:30pm.
Karma Zebrahead and Wheatus, 9pm, $5, 18+.
Kirkland Cafe Half Life of None, Local Jack, Divya Kumar, no cover.
Lilli's Star Hustler and Fuzzy, 9pm.
The Lizard Lounge Seks Bomba, The Weisstronauts and Big Ray and the Futuras, 21+.
Maison Robert Doug Johnson, no cover.
The Rack Big City Beat, 9pm, no cover.
Regattabar The Aaron Goldberg Trio, 8:30pm, $12.
Scullers Loston Harris, 8pm and 10pm, $12.
Sidney's Grille Ken Clarke, 5pm.
Toad Pluto, 7pm; Sticky, no cover.
Les Zygomates Rusty Scott Duo, 5pm, no cover.

Thursday, Sept. 14

Bell in Hand Tavern Central Basement, 9pm, cover varies.
Bill's Bar The Underground with DJ Mark Hamilton, SuperDiamond, cover varies, 18+.
Bob the Chef's Michal Kelley and the Hot Blue Q, cover varies.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies.
Common Ground DJ Ryan, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff Bruce Jacques.
Harper's Ferry Missing Joe and Rane, $6.
House of Blues Tutu Jones, 10pm, $8, 21+.
Johnny D's Peter Mulvey, 9pm.
Jose McIntyre's Me & Julio.
Kirkland Cafe John Wasserman, Love Scream, Sarin, no cover.
Lilli's Jack Lukeman with the Dangerous Brothers, featuring Duke Levine with members of Hybrasil and Wooden Leg, $12.
Linwood Three Day Threshhold, Steelhead and the Mockingbirds, 10pm, $5, 21+.
The Lizard Lounge Charlene, Hello Attack! and emetrex, 21+.
Maison Robert Mike Turk, no cover.
McGann's Seven Nations.
Middle East D: the "Lookout Freakout Tour" with Mr. T Experience, American Steel, Eyeliners, $8, 18+.
Rack The Return, no cover.
Regattabar The Christian McBride Band, 8pm and 10pm, $14.
Rhythm & Spice DJ Bim Inc. and Sound Vibration, 10pm, $5, 18+.
Scullers Walter Beasley, 8pm and 10pm, $20.
Sidney's Grille Issi Rozen Group, 5pm.
Toad Amy Irwin Miles, no cover.
Western Front G Spot, 9pm, $5.
Les Zygomates The Jinga Trio, 8pm, no cover.

Friday, Sept. 15

Avalon Dickey Betts, 7pm, $19.75.
Axis The The, Joseph Arthur, 7pm, $20, 18+.
Bell in Hand Tavern Brian Maes Band, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Black Rose Dave Foley.
Bob the Chef's Antonio Jackson Jazz Project, 7:30pm, cover varies.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies.
Club Passim Cliff Eberhardt and Laura Higgins, 8pm, $14.
Common Ground The Pressure Cooker, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff Thomas Park.
Harper's Ferry Entrain and Coby Brown Band, $10.
House of Blues Runnin' Pardners, 10pm, $15, 21+.
Johnny D's Beatle Juice, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's Second Story.
Kirkland Cafe Downbeat 5, Kenne Highland Clan, Inner Pink, Mickey Bliss Organ Combo.
Lilli's The Uppercrust and Ross Phasor, $10.
Linwood Make Lisa Rich, Garage Dogs and Nancy Mroczket Ph.D, 10pm, $6, 21+.

Lockgroove at the Milky Way

Local rock outfit Lockgroove head to J.P. Sept. 15, to perform at the Milky Way. Depending on the mood, the band may launch into one long, meandering neo-psychedelic jam. Or perhaps they'll perform a string of irresistible pop songs. Either way, Lockgroove have a pioneering spirit, a big sound and unrelenting magnetism. Also on the bill are space-rockers Hopewell, featuring two members of Mercury Rev.

Lizard Lounge The Shelly Winters Project with Milksop Holly, the Humming, Duncan Winder Johnson (from Heavy Metal Word) and Slot Machine, 21+.
Middle East U: Shiner, the Letter E, the Bismarck, $7, 18+. D: Luna, $13, 18+.
Purple Shamrock Dave Foley.
Regattabar The Christian McBride Band, 8pm and 10pm, $16.
Rhythm & Spice Danny Tucker, 10:30pm, $8, 21+.
Scullers Walter Beasley, 8pm and 10:30pm, $20.
Sidney's Grille Nuage, 5pm.
Toad Lucky 57, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Silkworm, Saturnine, Brokaw, Kadane & Kadane, Kipper Tin, cover varies.
Western Front Jah Spirit, 9:30pm, $10.
Wonder Bar Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.
Les Zygomates Nancy Dussault, 7pm and 10pm, no cover.

Saturday, Sept. 16

The Attic
Rippopotamus and Stone Soup, cover varies, 21+.
Bell in Hand Tavern Chad LaMarsh Band, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Bill's Bar Jump Little Children, 8pm, $8, 18+.
Black Rose Dave Foley and John Corcoran.
Bob the Chef's Paulo Danay Quartet, 7:30pm.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm cover varies.
Common Ground Stymie, 10pm, cover varies.
Harper's Ferry Entrain and Michigan Black Snake, $10.
House of Blues Debbie Davies, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Johnny D's Beatle Juice, 9:45pm.
Kirkland Cafe Nom de Plume, North Street, Cowcatchers, no cover.
Lilli's Babaloo and Ray Corvair Trio, $10
Linwood Kings of Nuthin,' Photon Torpedoes, Rick Black and the Ballbusters, 10pm, $6, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Freak Night! featuring John Sinclair with the Devil Gods, Auto 66 and Winterboy, 21+.
Middle East U: the Knoxville Girls, Speedball Baby, Mr. Airplane Man, $8, 18+. D: Jiggle, Fat Mama, $10, 18+.
Rhythm & Spice Jack Lee and Divercity, 10:30pm, $8, 21+.
Sidney's Grille John Kordalewski Trio, 5pm.
Toad Typhoon Ferri, no cover.
T.T. The Bear's Place Papas Fritas, Tahiti 80, Paula Kelley, Solar Saturday, cover varies.
Western Front Jah Spirit, 9:30pm, $10.
Les Zygomates Nancy Dussault, 7pm and 10pm, no cover.

Sunday, Sept. 17

The Attic Acoustic Jam Night with the Coalboilers, 9:30pm.
Bell in Hand Tavern Acoustic Army and Zen Flower, 4pm and 7:30pm, cover varies.
Bill's Bar Reggae Sunday with DJ K-Don and Shaka Black, $10, 21+.
Black Rose John Corcoran.
Bob the Chef's Sunday Jazz Brunch with Paulo Danay Quartet, 11am.
Bullfinch's Sunday Jazz Brunch with Kaoruko, 11am.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm ,cover varies.
Club Passim Greenfire, 7:30pm, $12.
Harper's Ferry The Rockett Band and Friends, $5.
Johnny D's Blues jam and salsa with Rumba NaMa.
Lilli's DJ Andre spins Brazilian techno, $10.
Lizard Lounge Poetry Jam featuring the Jeff Robinson Trio and featured poet Melissa Goodrum and special guest Dig Big, 21+.
Middle East U: Lynx, Pizza, OK GO, $7, 18+. D: Toots and the Maytals, 8pm, $20, 18+.
The Rack Chad LaMarsh, 9:30pm, no cover.
Rhythm & Spice DJ Bim Inc. and Sound Inc., 10pm, $5, 18+.
Toad Christian McNeill (from HyBrasil), no cover.
Veronique Restaurant Sunday Brunch with Steve Rochinski, 11:30am.
Wonder Bar Chronic Trio, 9:30pm, no cover.
Les Zygomates Nancy Dussault, 7pm and 10pm, no cover.

Monday, Sept. 18

Bill's Bar Monsta Mondays, $5, 18+.
Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Bullfinch's Paul Broadnax and Peter Kontrimas, 6:30pm.
Cantab Lounge Dave Gregg, 9:30pm, cover varies.
Club Passim Araesque, 7:30pm, $8.
Encore Lounge Michael Larson and Dorothy Miller, 9pm.
Harper's Ferry Wolfman & Pink, $2.
House of Blues Trey Gunn, 9pm, $15, 18+.
Johnny D's Twang, 8pm.
Lizard Lounge The Fringe, 21+.
Middle East U: Mid Carson July, Har Mar Superstar, Dragbody, $7, 18+.
Milky Way Lounge Mixology 101, 9:30pm, cover varies, 18+.
Toad Shwang, 8pm; TimGearan, 10pm, no cover.
Les Zygomates Lonely Gus and the One Night Stand, 9pm, no cover.

Tuesday, Sept. 19

Bell in Hand Tavern Greg, 7:30pm, no cover.
Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Cantab Lounge Short Life of Trouble and Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 9pm and 10pm, cover varies.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9pm.
Harper's Ferry Another Planet and friends, $3.

Nuné and Djivan perform along with 12 other musicians Sept. 17 at the Berklee Performance Center.

House of Blues Shake Senora, 9pm, $8, 18+.
Johnny D's Barra McNiels, 8:30pm.
Kirkland Cafe Chris Zahnleiter Jazz Trio, no cover.
Lizard Lounge Clare Burson, 21+.
Middle East U: Joan of Arc, the Lapse, the Glands, cover varies, 18+. D: Isotope 217, Him, DJ Kidtronix, 8pm, $8, 18+.
Rack Stu Sinclair, no cover.
Regattabar The Dominique Eade Trio, 8:30pm, $10.
Scullers Jonathan Butler, 8pm and 10pm, $24.
Sidney's Grille Rusty Scott, 5pm.
Tir na nOg Finbarr, 9.30pm, no cover.
Toad Michael Tarbox, 7pm; Tuesday night residency with Mark Erelli and special guest Kris Delmhorst, 9pm, no cover.
Les Zygomates The Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm, no cover.

Music Venues

An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (262-2121). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Attic *107R Union St., Newton (964-6615). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Center.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Bell in Hand Tavern *45-55 Union St., Boston (227-2098). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (743-2286). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-6204). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
City Hall Plaza *Government Center, Boston (635-4505). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Coogan's Bluff *173 Milk Street., Boston (451-7415). MBTA: Orange Line to State Street.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential or Green Line to Copley.*
Good Life Central *720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston (451-2622). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (367-0055). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket or North Station.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Jacob Wirth's *31-37 Stuart St., Boston (338-8586). MBTA: Green Line to Boyslton.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Davis Square, Somerville (776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Kirkland Cafe *425 Washington St., Somerville (482-4920). Red Line to Davis.*
Lilli's *608 Somerville Avenue in Somerville (591-1661). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
The Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (267-8644). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.*
The Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Milky Way Lounge and Lanes *405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
O'Brien's *3 Harvard Ave, Allston (782-6245). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
The Playhouse Lounge *74 Warrenton St., Boston (482-2227). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (227-2060). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (725-1051). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Regatta Bar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Rhythm & Spice *315 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (497-4308). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square.*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Rd., Cambridge (562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boston.*
Toad *1912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (497-4950). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential Center.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Wally's Cafe *427 Mass. Ave., Boston (424-1408). MBTA: Green Line to Symphony.*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard Ave., Allston (351-COOL). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Les Zygomates *129 South Street, Boston (542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*

Virtuoso Ravi Shankar, pictured with daughter Anoushka Shankar, plays at Symphony Hall Sept. 17.

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Submit information including telephone numbers and nearest T stop by fax to (859-1446), mail or e-mail to gaylesbian@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted by phone.*

How to use this section
The following listings contain information that is subject to change. Contact the organization for changes in specific events.

CLUBS, BARS & HANGOUTS

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years these folks have been crankin' out some of the best Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. It's well worth a visit—if not for the three separate dance floors then for all the male dancers. 9pm, $15, 21+.

Buzz (Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays)
51 Stuart St. in the Theatre District, Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. On Saturday nights this place boasts two dance floors, two DJs, a pool room and a lounge. Two levels of dancing and schmoozing will keep the boys busy until 2am. 10pm, $5, 21+.

Chaps (Daily)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. www.chapsofboston.com. Sun.: Dance music of DJ Danae Jacovidis; Mon.: Grand Baby and Grand Piano night; Tue.: Retro DJ night; Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adielson Caesar; Thu.: DJs Billy and Fran, High Energy Dance; Fri.: Taboo Erotique with DJ Sammy; Sat.: High Energy Dance, DJ Danae Jacovidis.

City Girl Cafe (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri: 11am- 9pm; Sat: 10am-9pm; Sun: 10am-7pm. A small (five tables), laid-back cafe in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated. This cozy spot is home to a mixed gay/hetero crowd that lounges about, munching on sandwiches. Brunch on Saturday and Sunday, 10am-2pm.

Club Cafe (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-0966). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 11:30am-2am; Sat. 2pm-2am; Sun., 11am-2am. This trendy South End spot draws a mixed crowd that comes for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back (Moonshine). It's a dressy bunch that likes to mingle. No cover, 21+. •Carol O'Shaughnessy performs with Steve Heck, Dottie Dean or David Sparr, Thursdays.

Dragon Tea Dance
Machine, 1256 Boylston St., Boston (536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Sundays, 9pm, $3. Socialize and have fun at Boston's only tea dance. Watch Diamond Dunhill and her Dragon Showgirls perform.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (542-4494). Mon.-Fri., 3pm-2am; Sat., 1pm-2am; Sun., 12pm-2am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This is your friendly neighborhood bar with a quiet setting. It's best known for scrumptious Sunday brunches (12-4pm). This simple joint has all of the trappings of a true bar: smoky and dark. The place starts hopping as it gets closer to 2am.

Fritz (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Stroll in for a quiet drink or a rowdy night on the town. The folks here are friendly—and really into sports. Not only does Fritz have Direct TV set up with sets scattered about, it's also home base to a great softball league. 12pm, no cover, 21+.

Jacques
79 Broadway, Boston (426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. If you're looking to relax with a friendly crowd of gays and straights, and you like to mingle with disco-dancing drag queens, then you've found the place. Sun. and Mon. are local band nights. Tues. through Sat., however, divas rule the stage. 10:30pm, $4, weekends $6, 21+.

Lava Bar (Saturdays)
575 Commonwealth. Ave., Boston (267-7707). The Lava Bar's Tabu night boasts DJ Fran spinning out high-energy house with a taste of Latin beats. 10pm.

The Lizard Lounge (Wednesdays)
1667 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. "Marlene Loses It at the Lizard" is the title of this eclectic evening of poetry, live music and theater. 10pm, $5 cover, 21+.

Luxor (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (423-6969). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from the latest music scenes and classic old movies—compiled by the bar's own VJ. Downstairs is Jox. No cover, 21+.

Machine (Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays)
1256 Boylston St., Boston (536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 10pm-2am; Sun., 7pm-midnight. www.ramrodboston.com/machine. This is one of Boston's best gay bars, where you will find your friends dancing every weekend. Fri.: NYC DJ/Producer Darrin Friedman spinning. Sat.: Resident DJ Brad Gwynn. Sun.: Asian-inspired nights with Club DJ Mark Hodges and Tony T.

Man Ray (Thursdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (864-0400). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed.-Fri., 9pm; Sat., 10pm. A bustling hot spot caters to a young, alternative clientele. Two dance floors fill up on Thursdays for Campus, a predominantly male night where DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen take over. 10pm, $8 for 19+, $5 for 21+.

119 Merrimac (Daily)
119 Merrimac St., Boston (367-0713). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Sat., 10:30am-2am; Sun., 12pm-2am. This male cruise bar is the place to stop for drinks before or after FleetCenter events. Shoot a leisurely game of pool or play the video games. Merrimac features DJs playing hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s. 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. On Thursday nights, the Lesbian AIDS Project of Mass. unofficially takes over this laid-back cafe for "dyke nyte." The cafe always has something brewing—live bands, DJs and drag-queen parties. The party starts at 8pm, no cover, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (494-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Central. On Monday, a bartender not only mixes drinks but strips too. Male strippers are featured Wed.-Sat. Mon. is Gothic night; Tue. is techno; and Thu. is college night. On Fridays DJ Sam Sampson spins, and on Sat. hear DJ Brad Gwynn. 5pm, no cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (266-2986). Green Line to Kenmore. 12pm-2am. www.ramrodboston.com. The largest leather bar in the East enforces a tight dress code (leather obligatory for the back room). Sun.: buffet and mandance with DJ Brad Gwynn. Mon.: pool tournament and pizza. Tue.: Spice 4 Life with DJ Kal Muzak. Wed.: Twitch with DJ SGT Dennis. Thu.: Primal Dance with DJ James Hughes. Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danaw Jacovidis. Sat.: With DJ Dennis Sargent.

***Glory Box* (above) and *Cab and Lena* (below) are part of this year's Out on the Edge festival.**

Preview

Out On the Edge

Festival of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Theater

For the ninth year running, Boston's Theater Offensive presents the largest festival of its kind in New England. The four-week extravaganza features performances by Nöel Alumit, Felice Shays, Betsy Salkind, Gabriel Q, Pulp Vixens and Sandra Valls, Tim Miller, Daniel Alexander Jones, Grisha Coleman, Djola Branner & Company. Also, the festival includes perfornabces by the True Colors Youth Theater Troupe and by The Usual Suspects. There are 33 performances in total, including double features, puppet shows, staged readings and a full-blown techno-disco extravaganza.

Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St. #408, Boston (426-2787). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. www.thetheateroffensive.org. Sept. 6-30. $5-$22.

BOOKS

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge. (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Fri., 10am-8pm, Sat., 10am-6pm, Sun. 12-6pm. New England's oldest women's book shop offers a wide selection of literature. Its monthly author series continues throughout the summer.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12pm-6pm. Boston's literary gay and lesbian bookstore.

SHOWS & EVENTS

Visiting Film Artists at the MFA
465 Huntington Ave. (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Sept. 14, 8pm and Sept. 16, 1:30pm. $6. **Our House: A Very Real Documentary about Kids of Gay and Lesbian Parents** *2000.* In this film, director Meema Spadola presents a series of interviews with children of gay or lesbian parents. The documentary offers more than a stacked up version of smiling faces, and portrays a range of honest feelings about being "different."

Special Welcome Shabbat Dinner and Service
Weintraub Auditorium, 50 Seawall Ave., Brookline (883-0893). www.amtikva.org. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Sept. 15, 6pm.* Am Tikva, Greater Boston's community of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered Jews, welcomes all who are interested to attend a dinner and service.

ONGOING

Am Tikva
(883-0893). www.amtikva.org. A community of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered Jews.

Bawl
This lesbian softball league offers opportunities to join teams in both the recreational and competitive divisions. Call Liz (508-628-5477).

Best Foot Forward
Ballet Etc. Dance Studios, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (522-1444). MBTA: B Green Line to Washington St. For gays/lesbians/bisexuals of all swing skill levels.

Boston Glass
Community Center, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Daily 8-10pm. Support groups and social activities for adolescents ages 13-25.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). www.chiltern.org/chiltern. A 1,400-member gay club with hiking, biking, camping, skiing and other outdoor activities.

Community Rainbow
Boston Living Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston. 7:45 pm. An organization whose mission is to advocate for the community. Meets Thursdays.

Cosmetically-Correct
Laurel's Restaurant, 142 Berkeley St., Boston. www.egroups.com/community/cosmeticallycorrect. A social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month, 7:30pm. Lipstick optional.

Dykes Who Hike
(522-6185). This hiking group is for lesbians in the Boston area who want to conquer the wilderness.

East Coast Wrestling Club
With more than 160 members, this is an extraordinarily popular New England spot for gay male wrestlers. Call Marc at 401-467-6737, or go online at *http://members.tripod.com/~ecwc* or e-mail *ecwc@juno.com.*

Fenway Community Health Center
(927-6057). The center is currently conducting a study to help HIV/AIDS patients take medication on time. Participants receive $95.

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (824-4266). www.frontrunnersboston.org. A running club for the LGBT community meets Saturdays.

Gender Free Contra Dancing
First Church of Jamaica Plain (448-2429). www.piac.net/users/latte/lcfd/. Come one, come all to evenings of contra and square dancing.

Long Yang Club
(825-5677) www.longyangclub.org/boston. Boston's club for Gay Asian Men and their friends. Bringing the East and West together.

OOPS
Melting Pot Coffee House, 2 Belgrade Ave., Roslindale (323-4123). Out on the Parkways invites one and all to come on down for some dinner and coffee.

PFLAG
Fenway Community Health Center, 7 Haviland St., Boston (547-2440). Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets every fourth Monday, 6:30-8:30pm.

Queer Corps
131 Clarendon St., 4th floor, Boston (450-1676). A community-mobilization project by and for queer men who are age 25 and under. Tuesdays, 6-8pm.

TOP: DARRELL TAYLOR, BOTTOM: BRET BROOKSHIRE

body&mind

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information by mail, fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/ Mind, or electronically to bodymind@improper.com. *Include a brief but thorough description of the event, time, date, location and directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.*

EVENTS

Andrew Cohen—Talk and Book Signing
Border's Bookstore, 10-24 School St., Boston. (557-7188). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. Sept. 9, 2 pm. Head to Border's for a talk and dialogue with spiritual teacher **Andrew Cohen**, followed by a book signing of his latest release, *Embracing Heaven & Earth*.

Body & Soul Conference
Boston Park Plaza Hotel, Boston (800-862-7538). www.newage.com. *Sept. 8-10.* This weekend retreat will rejuvenate and educate you. Many experts in the fields of holistic health and self-improvement will be there, including **Deepak Chopra**, M.D., for his first Boston appearance since 1996, and personal-coach extraordinaire **Cheryl Richardson**.

Huge Open House for Wellness
New Directions for Yoga, Health and Psychotherapy, 5 Harvard Ave., Brookline (731-0991). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village and C Green line to Coolidge Corner. Sept. 8, 3-7:30pm, and Sept. 9, all day. Free. Classes, activities and demos take place on both days, including yoga, massage, a "Body and Emotions" demo class and Reiki, and activities for families.

Yogathon
Union United Methodist Church, 485 Columbus Ave., Boston. (522-7199). MBTA: Green Line to Prudential or Orange Line to Back Bay. Sept. 9, 10am-4pm. $15 donation. Certified Kripalu yoga teacher **Patrice Flesch** teaches mixed-level classes in a spiritual setting. On this day, there will be non-stop yoga—a new class every hour on the hour. Then enjoy an evening concert featuring interactive chanting with **Chaula Hopefisher** at 8pm. This event is being held to raise money for the church that hosts the yoga classes.

CLASSES

Awakening Intuition
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Sept. 9, 9:30am-5pm. $79. By tracing memory and thought processes along with meditation, brain exercises and the mapping of sound sources, you can learn to differentiate between helpful intuition and dysfunctional messages in the mind.

Chi Gong and Healing Circle
On the Banks of Mystic River. Call Catherine Simmons for directions (666-8281). Wednesday evenings, chi gong: 6:30-7:15pm, $15; healing circle: 7:30-8:15pm, $15. $20 for both. Participating in the healing arts is good for you any time of year. But in the season of warmth, it's nice to do outside. This meditative group meets on the peaceful banks of the Mystic River.

Dance Freedom
Eagle Drum Council, First Church Congregational, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (978-371-2502). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Sept. 6, 7:30-10:45pm. $6-$10, sliding scale. This spirited gathering is a multimedia, freestyle, barefoot dance celebration. Dance, mingle, see works in progress, perform rituals and enjoy yourself. Recommended for anyone who finds it hard to dance.

Danskinetics & Manifesting Your Vision
185 Green St., Cambridge (974-7606). www.bethdance.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sept. 16, 7:30-9pm; Sept. 10 and 24, 7-8:30pm. $15.* For the dance-inhibited (and those who love to dance), enjoy a day of fun Danskinetics, yoga and deep relaxation. You will leave feeling more at ease in your body.

Free Yoga Classes
BKS Iyengar Center, 240A Elm St., Suite 23, Somerville (666-9551). http://world.std.com/~yogactr. *MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Sept. 11-17.* This yoga center offers all regular classes free for one week. Call or look online for the schedule. It's first-come, first-served, so don't slow down until you get to class.

Food and the Human Energy System
Harvest Co-op Market, Community Room, 581 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (661-1580). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sept. 6, 6-8 pm. The next talk discusses the human energy system and its ability to convert food into nutrition. **Jadyn M. Hui**, certified holistic health counselor, will present how overall health is accomplished when our bodies effectively transmit and absorb nutrition innate to our metabolism and ethnic background.

Kabbalah a.k.a. Jewish Mysticism
Wellspace, Fresh Pond Mall, Cambridge (876-2660). www.wellspace.com. *Sept. 10 and Sept. 17, 10:30am-12:30pm. $70.* Curious about Kabbalah, otherwise known as Jewish mystical wisdom? It can both deepen one spiritually and help one to heal physically and emotionally. Join **Pinchas Baram**, Ph.D., and learn its fascinating history and key metaphysical concepts—meditation, breath patterns, visualization, chanting, movement and healing touch.

The G-Spot
Grand Opening Sexuality Boutique, 318 Harvard St., Suite 32, Brookline (731-2626). www.grandopening.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Coolidge. Sept. 19, 7:30-9:30pm. $25.* Owner **Kim Airs** will discuss the myth vs. reality of this "mysterious spot." You'll be excited to learn about the female's amazing anatomy and ability to ejaculate.

Psychic Medium John Holland
Unicorn Books, 1210 Mass Ave., Arlington (781-646-3680). www.unicornbooks.org. *Sept. 11, 7-9pm. $20. Registration required.* After a meditation and lecture on a specific topic, psychic **John Holland** devotes the second half of the evening to psychic medium readings, linking with spirit to deliver messages to individuals in the audience.

Yoga for the Experienced
The Yoga Studio, 74 Joy St., Boston. (523-7138). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. Astanga yoga: Sept. 16, 12-3pm. Intermediate level: Sept. 17, 11am-2pm. $25 per class. Both of these three-hour classes provide a challenge for the yoga enthusiast. The first class is Astanga yoga, a rigorous form that uses a mix of fixed postures and flowing movements. The intermediate class will help deepen your practice.

What Is Enlightenment?
Impersonal Enlightenment Fellowship Boston , 38 Cameron Ave., Cambridge (492-2848). www.andrewcohen.org/boston. *Sept. 10, 4pm.* Investigate the nature of enlightenment and the liberating potential of spiritual inquiry with spiritual teacher **Andrew Cohen**.

ONGOING

Maintain Health
The Marino Center for Progressive Health, 2500 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6225). www.marinocenter.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Porter Square.* The Marino Center has the following ongoing groups and classes: Adult psychotherapy, Tuesdays: 5-7pm. Kripalu yoga, Mondays: 6-7:30pm. Hatha Yoga, Wednesdays: 6-7:30pm. Tai Chi and Qi Gong, Mondays: 7:30-8:30pm. Qi Gong, Wednesdays and Fridays: 6-7am.

Move Your Body
Dance Complex, 536 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-9363). http://cambridge.zami.com/dancecomplex. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. $8-13.* Some folks may find yoga too sophisticated of an exercise, but would still like to work on moving the body. Why not try one of the following drop-in classes at the Dance Complex? Stretching, Mondays: 6-7pm and Wednesdays: 6:30-7:30pm. Tai Chi, Fridays: 9:30-11am.

Taming the Mind
Shambhala Meditation Center, 646 Brookline Ave., Brookline (734-1498). www.shambhala.org. *MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. Tuesdays, 8pm.* Buddha was a normal man who lived on the earth and became enlightened. These evenings will present the teachings of Buddha, so that you can learn just how he did it.

RETREATS

Yoga on the Beach
Beacon Light Yoga Center, 215 Brighton Ave., Allston (739-0717). Sept. 17, 8am-4pm. $65. The instructors at Beacon Light transport attendees to Plum Island for yoga practice. Afterward is an exploration of the local wildlife preserve, a catered lunch and a trip to historic Newburyport.

You too can do yoga on the beach at Plum Island with the instructors from Beacon Light Sept. 17.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Children. Or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

TO SEE

The King Stag
American Repertory Theatre, Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (495-2668). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Sept. 14-28. This is an 18th-century fairy tale—complete with costumes, puppets, masks and choreography—for adults and children.

Puppet Showplace Theatre
32 Station St., Brookline (731-6400). $8. • Sept. 14, 10:30am; Sept. 16-17, 1pm and 3pm: ***The Tortoise and the Hare and Other Fables*** by Blue Moon Puppets.

Seussical
The Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (426-9366). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Aug. 27-Sept. 17. This musical weaves together many of Dr. Seuss' most famous stories and characters.

THINGS TO DO

Apple Harvest Festival
Nashoba Valley Winery, 100 Wattaquadoc Hill Road, Bolton (978-779-5521). Sept. 9, 12-5pm. This festival kicks off the apple-picking season with hayrides, balloon sculpting, storytelling and winery tours.

Ice Cream Fun Fest
WGBH, 125 Western Ave., Boston (300-1623). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Central, shuttle buses to Allston. Sept. 9-10, 12-4pm. $10. Funfest 2000 promises all the ice cream you can eat—and a stomach ache to boot—along with musical entertainment, including singer/songwriter Rick Goldin, Jah Spirit, Arnie Harris and the Hot Tamales, plus clowns and activities for kids.

Jamaica Plain World's Fair 2000
Hyde Square, Centre St., Jamaica Plain (522-2424, ext. 255). Sept. 10, 12-6pm. Rain date: Sept. 17. A day of music, children's activities, arts and crafts and international food.

Kids' Company Fashion Show
Comedy Connection, Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (247-4112). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Sept. 17, 12-4pm. $50/entry. Enter your kiddies in this fashion show of JonBenet Ramsey look-alikes for boys and girls between the ages of 4 and 16. Proceeds benefit Friends and Shelter for Teens.

Peanut Butter and Jelly Dance Company Fall Classes
The church of Our Saviour, Monmouth and Carlton streets, Brookline (738-PNUT). Monday through Thursday, beginning Sept. 18. Session is 11 weeks long. Children ages 3-10 years. $100. This creative movement approach teaches children how to express themselves through dance.

Tot Trot
Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain (635-4505). Sept. 10, 10am. $15. The fifth annual Tot Trot at the Arnold Arboretum includes a children's 1-kilometer walk and a 5-kilometer run. Divisions include the "youngest race on wheels," "fastest overall," "fastest twinner" (stroller carrying two tots), "fastest tripler," "fastest grandparent and tot," "fastest late bloomer" (for those who became parents after age 40) and "best costume."

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

To Watch

New England Revolution
• Foxboro Stadium. Tickets: 1-877-GET-REVS
Sept. 6 (Home): Kansas City Wizards, 7:30pm, FSN.
Sept. 9 (Home): N.Y./N.J. Metrostars, 7:30pm, FSN.

Red Sox
• Fenway Park. Tickets: 267-8661.
Sept. 9 (Home): Yankees, 1:15pm, FSN.
Sept. 11 (Away): Yankees, 6:05pm, Fox25.
Sept. 12 (Away): Cleveland Indians, 7:05pm, Fox25.
Sept. 13 (Away): Cleveland Indians, 7:05pm, NESN.
Sept. 14 (Away): Cleveland Indians, 7:05pm, Fox25.
Sept. 15 (Away): Detroit Tigers, 7:05pm, NESN.
Sept. 16 (Away): Detroit Tigers, 1:15pm, FSN.
Sept. 16 (Away): Detroit Tigers, 7:05pm, NESN.
Sept. 17 (Away): Detroit Tigers, 1:05pm, NESN.
Sept. 19 (Home): Cleveland, 7:05pm, NESN.

New England Patriots
• Foxboro Stadium. Tickets: 931-2222
Sept. 11 (Away): New York Jets, 9pm, ABC.
Sept. 17 (Home): Minnesota Vikings, 4:15pm, Fox.

Events

BMC Software Tour of Arlington
Races start and finish on Massachusetts Avenue at City Hall, Arlington (203-352-6323). www.bmcgrandprix.com. *Sept. 17, 10:30am.* This tour features a 52.5-mile men's circuit race and a 35-mile women's circuit race. The hilly and technical course winds through Arlington. Watch the action from the crest of the 1-mile mark at the top of Rt. 2 Access Road and Park Avenue. Amateur cyclists can ride the race course beginning at 11am.

Boston-New York AIDS Ride
Northeastern University, Boston. www.aidsride.org. *Sept. 15 (opening ceremonies).* Bid adieu to the more than 3,000 cyclists participating in the three-day, 275-mile journey from Boston to New York.

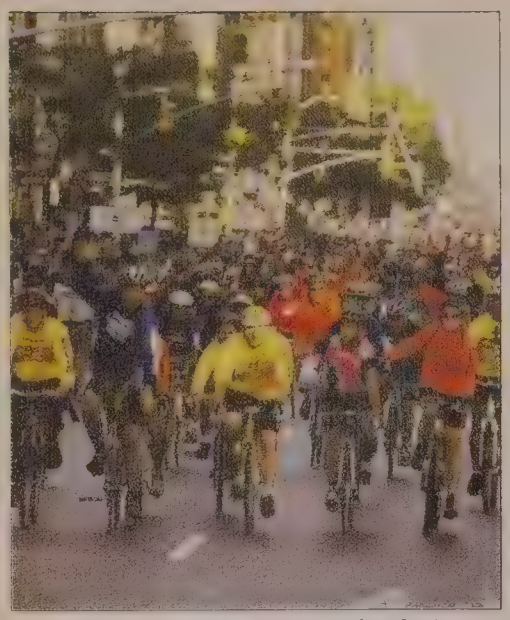
Cycle for Life
Devereux Beach, Marblehead, Mass. (636-5535). Sept. 9. Riders will complete the scenic, 50-mile course through Marblehead and Gloucester to benefit children's programs at the Floating Hospital's Children's Cancer Center. Volunteers needed.

MSPCA's Walk for Animals
MSPCA, 350 South Huntington Ave., Jamaica Plain (522-7400). Sept. 17, 10am. Some 500 dogs and more than 1,000 people are expected this year to walk 1.7 miles to raise money for homeless cats, dogs, rabbits and other animals. Post-walk activities will include an amateur dog show, a feline festival and booths with information and demonstrations.

Nancy Kerrigan Pro-Celebrity Golf Classic
Sheraton Ferncroft, Danvers, Mass. (781-224-9655). Sept. 11, 8am-3:30pm. Two-time Olympic figure skating medalist Nancy Kerrigan hosts this tournament in honor of her mother, who is vision impaired. All proceeds will be donated to various charities for the blind. Joining will be Jane Blalock, Sally Little, Hollis Stacey, Jan Stephenson and TV celeb Alan Thicke.

Boston Sports Award Gala
Berklee Performance Center, 136 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (931-2000). www.bostonsportsawards.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. 7:30pm. $35.* This awards gala sponsored by the IMPROPER is the first sports awards program dedicated entirely to Boston athletes, honoring the work they do both on and off the field. During the ceremony, video highlights of Boston's best sports bloopers and blunders from local TV stations will be presented. A host of athletes and celebrities, including Chris Slade from the Patriots, Antoine Walker from the Celtics, Anson Carter from the Bruins, Max Lane from the Patriots, will present this year's awards.

Oceanside Bike Fest
Southeastern Massachusetts (800-493-9255). www.msnewengland.org. Sept. 9. Cycle 25, 50 or 100 miles past cranberry bogs and beautiful beaches in southeastern Massachusetts to help raise money to fight multiple sclerosis.



Bid adieu to more than 3,000 cyclists in the Boston–New York AIDS Ride Sept. 15.

Self Magazine's Workout in the Park
Boston Common (888-844-SELF). Sept. 9, 10am-3pm. Free, but donations appreciated. Get in shape with *Self Magazine*'s workout in the park.

Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure
Daly Field, Brighton (746-9292). Sept. 10, 7am-12pm. Thousands of runners and walkers of all ages and athletic abilities will participate in this 5-kilometer race/walk. The New England Patriots' cheerleaders will be there, along with Mayor Thomas Menino and TV personalities Dixie Whatley and Meredith Viera.

Ride for Hunger
Boston Common (723-5000). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Sept. 17, 8am. Participants enjoy an autumn day cycling through Beacon Hill, Back Bay, Jamaica Pond, Franklin Park, South Boston's waterfront and Downtown Crossing (40 kilometers). More adventurous participants can ride out to the scenic countryside west of the city (100 kilometers). Proceeds benefit Project Bread.

To Play

BASKETBALL

Basketball City
Adjacent to North Station and the FleetCenter (742-6700). Corporate, midday and weekend leagues.

Co-Ed Indoor Basketball
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 224). Sun.-Thu. nights at various locations. All levels welcome. Leagues in Waltham, Dedham and Brookline. Co-ed teams now forming.

The Corporate League of Boston
(566-7808).

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333). Practice and workout programs for all levels in Greater Boston.

South End Fitness Center League
(534-5823).

Women's Basketball League
(661-9622). Tuesdays 5:30-7pm and Sundays, 6-7:30pm.

BOXING

Boxing Workout
Vinny Greco's Powerhouse Gym, 125 Walnut St., Watertown (972-1711). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Transfer to bus. Enjoy the workout of a boxer—or become one yourself. Participate in one-on-one instruction in a supervised, safe environment with the Boston Sport Boxing Club.

CYCLING

Club Ciclismo Classico
Arlington Center (781-646-3377). Sunday mornings. See the greener parts of the city suburbs.

BSSC Biking Trips
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070). •Sept. 15-17: Bike through Nova Scotia. $255.

HIKING

The Appalachian Mountain Club
Gorham, N.H. (603-466-2727). Hikes and huts in the White Mountains. •Monthly AMC Young Members meetings at AMC headquarters, 4 Joy St., Beacon Hill (523-0655). Second Thursday of every month, 6-10pm, $3. Potluck. BYOB.

Boston Ski & Sports Hiking Trips
(789-4070). •Sept. 29-Oct. 1: Get out of town for a fall foliage weekend hike. $150.

ICE SKATING

Learn to Skate
Lessons available at 16 MDC rinks in Greater Boston (781-890-8480). www.iceskatingclasses.com. *Starting in early September.* Wait a minute—it seems that summer just got here and now it's time for ice skating lessons again? That's right, folks: group lessons for adults, all levels. Use figure or hockey skates.

RUGBY

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
Cambridge (781-340-2192). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.bwrfc.org. *Tue. and Thu. evenings.* No experience necessary.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
(499-4835). Weekly runs year-round. Serious drinkers with a running problem.

Boston Road Club Weekly Races
(781-646-8955). Sundays. Starts at Wells Ave. in Newton.

Fresh Pond Weekly Road Races
Fresh Pond Reservation. Saturdays, 10am. Choose between a 2.5- or 5-mile run.

Khoury's Thursday Night Runs
East Somerville. (351-5682). 4.13 miles. 7pm at Khoury's Bar.

NikeTown Boston Running Club
200 Newbury St., Boston (267-3400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Three-to-five-mile loops. Starts at 6:30pm. Monthly mini-clinics as well.

SOCCER

BSSC Soccer
BSSC (789-4070, ext. 225). Coed teams for both indoor and outdoor soccer.

SOFTBALL

80-Team Softball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 222). Monday through Thursday evenings at 6:30pm. Join as an individual or as a team. Sign up now for fall league.

TENNIS

Boston Tennis Club
Located next to North Station, Boston (742-6700). Adult and youth clinics, socials, open play and matching.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Boston Ski & Sports Club
(789-4070).

Boston Ultimate Disc Alliance
(928-0882). www.buda.org.

VOLLEYBALL

Adult Co-ed Volleyball League
Waltham YMCA (781-894-5295). Monday nights, began Sept. 13. All levels welcome at this friendly co-ed league.

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club, (789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. at various locations. Co-ed indoor 6-on-6 leagues. Four different levels of play. Pick-up games, clinics and tournaments also available. •Co-ed pickup games Tuesdays and Fridays at West Newton Armory, 1137 Washington St. $5.

Co-ed Volleyball-Waltham
Waltham YMCA, 725 Lexington St., Waltham (781-894-5295). Monday nights. Begins in April.

WATER SPORTS

Boston Sailing Center
54 Lewis Wharf, Boston (227-4198). Year-round lessons and racing programs for all abilities.

Community Boating
21 David Mugar Way, Boston (523-1038). www.community-boating.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. Open Mon.-Fri. 1pm-sunset; Sat.-Sun. and holidays, 9am-sunset. April 1-Oct. 31.* Sailing, windsurfing and kayaking on the Charles River for only $190 per season, including instruction. What a bahgain!

Courageous Sailing Center
Charlestown Navy Yard (635-4505). Lessons are offered here year-round.

Women's Kayaking Lessons
Wild Women Outfitters, 397 Mass. Ave., Arlington (877-345-WILD). Weekends, throughout the summer. $40. An introduction to kayak navigation including chart-and-compass, GPS and VHFs.

WRESTLING

Men's Adult Wrestling
Boston Union, 48 Boylston St., Boston (482-1122). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm; Saturdays 1-3:30pm. All skill levels. Coaching available.

go away

TRAVELING NEAR AND FAR

NORTH OF BOSTON

Mud Bowl Championships
Hog Coliseum, North Conway, N.H. (603-356-2096). Sept. 8-10. Touted as the sloppiest sporting event on earth, this championship has touch football, a pep rally and a Tournament of Mud parade on its roster.

Septemberfest Blues Concert
Merrimack and Washington streets, Haverhill, Mass. (978-373-5663). Sept. 15-17. Free. Downtown Haverhill erupts in a frenzy of arts and crafts, children's entertainment and food vendors hawking local favorites. Enjoy a blues concert on Sept. 17 at 2pm.

Essex ClamFest 2000
Memorial Park, Esssex (978-283-1601). Sept. 9, 11am. Fried clams, clam cakes and clam chowder are just a few of the delicacies available for the tastin'.

SOUTH OF BOSTON

Acushnet Apple and Peach Festival
Long Plain Museum, 1203 Main St., Acushnet, Mass. (508-995-2176). Sept. 9-10, 9am-6pm. Free. This festival includes arts and crafts; booths selling fruit, homemade pies and candy apples; and live entertainment.

Wampanoag History Conference
Plimoth Plantation, Plymouth, Mass. (508-746-1622 ext. 8371). Sept. 9-10, 9am-5pm. Prices vary. This educational conference brings the often misreported history of the Wampanoag people to you in an interactive conference. Talks and performances will focus on the 18th century from a Native American's perspective.

WEST OF BOSTON

The "Big E"
Eastern States Exposition, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield, Mass. (413-737-2443). Sept. 15-Oct. 1. Browse the agricultural exhibits, cheer for your favorite cowboys in the rodeo, take in a lumberjack show or find your favorite festival food in the huge selection of concessions. Then settle down for concerts by such stars as **Willy Nelson**, **Destiny's Child**, **Rick Springfield**, **Trisha Yearwood**, **Def Leppard**, **Big Bad Voodoo Daddy** and **Travis Tritt**.

Outdoor Education Fair
Wachusett Mountain, 499 Mountain Rd., Princeton, Mass. (978-464-2300). Sept. 9-10, 12-6pm. $25 for both days. Get a taste of Wachusett during this two-day environmental seminar located in the breathtaking mountain region. Complementing the eco-learning will be a music festival with a Mountain Jam on Saturday followed by a Blues Showcase on Sunday. The **Uptown Horns** and **Mighty Sam McLean** will provide the soundtrack to discussions of local wildlife and preservation.

CAPE & THE ISLANDS

Harwich Cranberry Festival
Various venues, Harwich, Mass. (508-432-0805). www.harwichcranberryfestival.com. *Sept. 7-17. $4 adults, children under 12 free.* The town of Harwich takes pride in its cranberries, celebrating the harvest with live music, crafts, fireworks and a cranberry breakfast.

Bourne Scallopfest
Buzzard's Bay Park, Main Street, Buzzard's Bay, Mass. (508-759-6000). Sept. 8-10. $2, children under 12 free. Savor some succulent shellfish; enjoy daily entertainment and children's rides and games; browse through the offerings of more than 65 craft vendors; and feast on scallop and chicken dinners.

mark your daytimer

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tina Turner
Sept. 20, FleetCenter

Culture Club
Sept. 22, FleetBoston Pavilion

Aretha Franklin
Sept. 23, Symphony Hall

Mixfest 2000 Concert
Sept. 23, Suffolk Downs

Maceo Parker
Sept. 24, The Roxy

Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus
Oct. 13, FleetCenter

Improper Impersonals

If everyone kept their feelings bottled up like warm beer, we'd soon have antisocial behavior exploding all over the place and ruining the upholstery. That's why we have the Improper Impersonals, a column written by you, the reader. Send us your letters of love and spleen, and we'll print them for the world to see. Heck, it's better than making a fool of yourself in person. And IT'S FREE! Pick up a pen and tell that babe on the T you like his butt by writing to:

IMPROPER IMPERSONALS
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116
FAX: 859-1446 E-MAIL: impersonals@improper.com

Recent correspondence follows.

My Captain
You moved into my life one year ago—and I fall into a ring of fire now—as we move on and out I am thrilled to see more of the world with you. Maybe we'll find Ian. You've become a habit rabbit. I love you more today than yesterday but less than tomorrow.
—Your itty bitty pretty one, Nitz

Non-Festivus Grievances
First of all, if you, the dishonorable execs at FleetBoston, wanted to be a bunch of looting, pillaging pirates, you could have at least had the decency to fly the fucking Jolly Roger over your main offices and branches to warn us unsuspecting customers. Consider my account closed. To the drivers of the 66 MBTA bus route: very soon I will be moving to Brighton, and will no longer be at the mercy of your incessant tardiness. Good riddance to most of you forever, especially the one who ignored me when I was steps away from the Eliot Street/JFK stop (twice), and the one who was furious with me for having the audacity to want to travel all the way to Harvard Square after 12:30am (she was going to not finish her route and just go home).
—Feeling a little better now.

Midway Cafe
Thursday in July. You: smell beautiful, have a delicious story to tell in the hearts of your eyes. I am ready to listen. Something tells me you love sea urchin sushi. Can we dance across chopsticks, bad omens and white rice? You called me Sugar-Lips and pressed hard, drew blood. You didn't care that I'm a hemophiliac. Thank God for Blue Cross and ambulances. Call me. You know the number.
—Sugar-Lips

West St. Grille Bartender
Considering the small size of the main bar area, one would think that a single bartender could easily attend to the needs of its patrons. You seem to find nothing but distractions: your cell-phone, the mirror behind the bar, any female under 22, the bathroom (presumably more mirrors!), the television, the stereo... I have frequented the West St. Grille for over a year and up until now never had the misfortune of running into you. Evidently, you think *Cocktail* was an instructional video. Your boss should re-evaluate your status. You are the complete loser we all read about.
—Never to return

Elaine G
I always had a crush on you and thought you felt the same. And surely you agree that kissing coworkers are better than kissing cousins.
—J.D.

Clarke's
Friday Night, Aug. 18. I'm sorry I never introduced myself or asked for your name. (I'm stupid!) You (F) are about 5'6", brown hair, which you had in a ponytail most of the night. (You let it down occasionally). You had on a white shirt, unbuttoned, and a white tank underneath, black pants and black shoes. (Eventually the overshirt was off). I, (M, brown hair, dark green shirt, black pants), was holding up the bar with a friend (actually I love to dance); I asked you if you came from a party, you said yes. You were with a bunch of people you worked with, but you were leaving in two weeks (job, I guess?). When you were dancing you kicked a napkin that was on the floor, and it hit another girl who didn't really seem to accept your apology. You gave her a look, and I said, I saw that! Then a section of the movie, *9 1/2 Weeks*, came on the TV screen. It was when Kim Bassinger danced to "You Can Leave Your Hat On," you were absolutely adorable, dancing in your fun, sexy way. I had trouble keeping my eyes off you. Since I screwed up before: Hello. My name's Mark. If you do see this, PLEASE e-mail me: I stress PLEASE!
—sowhat1@excite.com.

A
So you stayed after all. I used to daydream you would stay, but I never dreamed I'd see you again. That was actually better closure than when we said goodbye—you just walked by, didn't even see me. I never wanted to bother you, sweetheart. The problem was I didn't know what I wanted or how you fit into my life. Now I do, and I know that when you walked by, things ended in a way they didn't before. I threw your card away just last week—now I can let you go, too.
—Ton amie

Ms. Westchester-to-Austria-and Back
We met Saturday, Aug. 12 at the corner of the Good Life bar, and talked until the blinking of the last call lights sent us to our respective taxicabs. I had arrived in the most inappropriate garb for a martini bar, decked out in a shirt still sweaty from my rock gig, pants that I had worn the previous night at Avalon, Doc Martens and a short green mohawk (which I shaved off as soon as I got home). I assure you I generally dress a little differently. You had an orange shirt, a cool necklace, a friendly smile and an impressively dry and acerbic wit. I was too shy to sidle up and speak to you, despite meeting friends new and old at the bar, until my pal Laura came over to you and introduced me. I really enjoyed our conversation. I was captivated by everything you had to say. You are right, "circumspective" is a word—and I read the definition carefully. I hope you didn't feel the need to act circumspective around me! At the end of the night I tried to play it cool—too cool—by just giving my phone number and email, without asking for yours. You showed me that one can actually write on the back of an adhesive sticker. Very important information. Now I regret not knowing your number, or even your last name, in an immense way. I am covering your town with my band's stickers, and also flyers for our next show. Maybe, just maybe, you'll want to show up. You can email me through my band's Web site—with luck, you won't be able to miss the little yellow and green stickers that are proliferating in your part of town (I hope it's your part of town!). You said it's no good when people blurt out that they can imagine the experiences of others. Well, maybe we can meet again and share an experience in reality, rather than in the hazy confines of my imagination. I would love to have another conversation with you, at a martini bar, or over some herbal tea, or at the top of a mountain. Please consider.
Sincerely,
—De-mohawked Boy

Il Panino Express
Hanover Street, Monday, Aug. 14, 9:20pm. If I had thought I'd run into a breathtaking vision like you, I at least would have shaved! You were so beautiful, friendly and easy-going, I wish I wasn't so self-conscious. We briefly discussed my "free" CDs and you recommended me to the SoniaDada Web site—I checked it out and it's great. You're not their PR rep are you? I wish my sub would have taken longer to prepare, then I could have at least gotten your name. If you see this, please drop me a line. We can make—er—appreciate great music together! I'm a nice guy; let me prove it.
—S.

Marshall's Boston
You, in sheets, linen department. Me, on cell phone enchanted by you. When I got off the phone I tried to find you but you were gone. I would like to see you again.
—CSP2734241@aol.com

Rockie Horoscope

SEPTEMBER 6-19, 2000
BY ROCKIE GARDINER

VIRGO
AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22
This is the peak week of Virgo insanity. Even though your Mercury ruler is headed for a more balanced state of mind in Libra, you're still subject to Neptunian vagaries and Uranian eccentricities. And should we mention how intense you can get during the Virgo-Pisces full moon on the 13th, when a limitless Piscean presence bathes you in wave upon wave of inexpressible emotion? Now, that's a challenge! However, you are the star of the hour, and the rest of us will be tolerant, at least until the birthday business is over. Have a happy.

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22
Like a fairy godmother, you seem to be spreading rewards all over the place, to both good and bad boys and girls. Hoping to win a popularity contest or are you running for office? Thank—or blame if it's getting to be too much of an image problem—your Venus ruler for turning you into every Cinderella's graceful saviour. If you want to ensure there's some good luck left for you, make your move on Friday when Venus and generous Jupiter are on more than friendly terms; if you need to grab a loved one's attention, do your thing next Thursday. Big surprises!

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21
A calm, civilizing vibe from Venus can ease the tension between you and a significantly wealthier or more educated other. If the Labor Day holiday turned out to be more of an ordeal than a celebration, any psychic massage will be a welcome relief; take advantage of the offer. The Pisces full moon on the 13th, while not specifically geared to hyperbole, can make a romantic encounter so much sloppier than you find acceptable. Try to keep a lid on a relationship that seems to be flopping around like a fish out of water.

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21
Happily for those Archers who'll gamble on almost anything, the lucky trine between Venus and Jupiter is in full flower this weekend and exact at 10:29a.m. PDT Friday. That's the time to buy lottery tickets, make your call, then sit back and watch the joys of this rewarding aspect reveal themselves. For those who were stressed out by the powerful pull of the recent Pluto-Jupiter opposition, this sociable interlude, filled with sweet surprises, should diffuse some of those feelings, and ease the situation. Even with an antsy full moon in the middle of the week.

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20
You've barely had enough time to adjust to your Saturn ruler embarking on a rickety trip through the dualistic Gemini vibe. Now you have to adjust to its retrograde flip on Tuesday. In the long run, which is the only distance that matters for Capricorns, this change will be an advantage, but for the moment, you could be thrown off stride. However, nice things happen regarding work and family matters because lovable Venus is all over the map, bringing pleasure, rewards and compliments wherever they are needed.

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18
It's what other folks are offering, their generosity, graciousness and intelligence, that'll affect you where you live, literally at the house and figuratively, in your heart/mind, not what you per se do. Because Venus and Jupiter, the planets of good fortune, are favorably aligned, there'll be gifts and blessings, but your Uranus ruler also fits into this pretty picture. Look for a surprise on the 14th that rewards your talent, your unpredictable behavior, even the distance you keep from your nearest and dearest.

PISCES
FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19
You're at your most eloquent on Sunday (in case you have to accept an Emmy), at your most vibrant (or so nervous you're vibrating) on Wednesday when the moon is full in your sign. This is a hell of a week for Fish and their friends. It'll be a pleasure if you're on the prowl, a drag if you have a tight work schedule or feel obliged to toe the line. However, while the harvest moon dances across the buttermilk sky, make an effort to connect with a person of quality (Virgo?) who qualifies as a past, present or potential partner.

ARIES
MARCH 20-APRIL 19
Your season in the sun, or what there was of it, comes to an end on the 16th when your Mars ruler leaves fiery, go-for-it Leo for the routine and rigors of Virgo. That's when you'll have to shape up, pay up and pay attention to what's been piling up on your plate. But until then feel free to have a good time, create to your heart's content and play around. Fortunately, your choice of companions is inspired; lovely, loving Venus in your Libra house of partners is only too happy to solidify a friendship and sweeten financial dealings.

TAURUS
APRIL 20-MAY 20
It's basically an easy segue into the new season, thanks to your Venus ruler making you popular with almost everyone you know. Grace, charm and humor supplants your recent "Just the facts, ma'am" frame of mind and tone of voice. And while you're no less curious, now you can get to the heart of whatever matters without making the people around you uncomfortable. You're lucky in love as well as at cards this weekend and, during the work week, not only are you able to leap tall buildings in a single bound, but you can accomplish other miracles the boss asks for.

GEMINI
MAY 21-JUNE 20
Twins born close to the Taurus border may feel the shift in mood as Saturn in your sign turns retrograde on the 12th, crosses back into Taurus in mid-November, goes direct just after the inauguration in January and returns to Gemini in April. Or not. This week you might be captivated by imaginative, glamorous Neptune's rewarding trine to your Mercury ruler the night of the Emmys. Sheer poetry. Next week, it's oddball Uranus making your life more spontaneous.

CANCER
JUNE 21-JULY 22
You'll feel a seasonal urge to spruce up your digs, entertain the troops and make peace with a relative or neighbor while artistic, sociable and diplomatic Venus practices her ever-so-gentle Libran art of persuasion. If you hang around with personifications of the female principle this weekend, you could get lucky, too. The shine on, shine on harvest full moon throws light on the path you're taking, both the roundabout route to fulfilling life-long goals and the daily commute.

LEO
JULY 23-AUGUST 22
A general air of pleasantness and pleasantries as Venus in Libra tries to make the world a more peaceful place for the next two weeks. How Saturn's change of direction on the 12th disturbs the equilibrium will become apparent once you realize that you're no longer making progress in one direction, but neither are you taking a step backward. It'll be a while until the career picture comes into sharper focus; in the meantime use the harvest full moon energy to take stock of your own resources and those the other people have to offer.

Curious about the future? Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30 to 40+ pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise over the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $42.50 per report to: ROCKIE GARDINER, 1021 N. Genesee, #1, West Hollywood, CA 90046. *www.rockieboroscope.com*. Read my daily forecast online at *www.laweekly.com*.

Improper Sightings

Unlike the rest of your friends, we want to see the photos from your next trip.

Where do you take us? We want to know! Send us a picture of you or a friend, or better yet, someone famous reading The Improper Bostonian and tell us where you were. The more creative you are, the faster we'll publish your pic! (Hey, we have no shame!)

Clockwise from top: Jason Record, Sean O'Brien, David Record, Matt Smith, Kelly O'Brien, Leslie Record, Duane Record, Jennie Record, Beth Record and Kathy Record at the mile-high peak of Mount Katahdin in Maine's Baxter State Park. The ascent took five hours, a—dare we say it?—*record*-breaking time.

Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater transports us everywhere.

From left, Meike Ritzer, Jerome Tomaselli and Liza Elkind take their Improper to Expo 2000 in Hanover, Germany.

Richard DeAgazio, Julie DeAgazio and Cathy Angelini check out the Mayan ruins in Tulum, Mexico.

From left: Genuity execs and shameless publicity hounds Dan O'Brien, Paul R. Gudonis and Jim Freeze bring the Central Square issue to Times Square on the day the company goes public. (And, if it's not yet obvious, we do consider fake pictures for publication.)

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:
Gaining a few pounds at the Testicle Festival in Rock Creek Lodge, Mont., Sept. 14-18. There will be more than four tons of "bull berries" on hand, so bring your appetite!

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116.
Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail and photo location. All photos become the property of The Improper Bostonian Magazine and will not be returned.

BARS, CLUBS, RESTAURANTS & BRUNCH

The following are paid advertisements. Please check times and prices in advance. If you'd like to have your restaurant listed, please call The Improper Bostonian Advertising Dept. at 859-1400.

BARS

Billiards

Boston Billiards Club
126 Brookline Ave., 536-POOL. Ranked #1 in the country by Billiards Digest. Free lessons on Mon., 7:30pm - 9pm. Boston Billiards Club House leagues on Mon. and Tues. "In The Biz" night on Sun. and Mon. for patrons in the hospitality industry. Ladies' night on Wed. Featuring a menu of light fare such as grilled chicken sandwiches and appetizers, along with beer, wine, cocktails and a variety of non-alcoholic beverages.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998,1999 &2000 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, Mark Morris & The Catunes, and BaHa Brothers.

Brew Pubs

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Company
138 Portland St., Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is now the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, a block from the FleetCenter and steps from Faneuil Hall, Commonwealth Fish & Beer features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

General

BARCODE
Enjoy the intimate, windowed dining room or a signature cocktail in the lounge. BARCODE offers a creative martini selection, a balanced and affordable wine list and both bottled and draft beer. Drinks are available until 2 am daily, food served until 1 am.

Harvard Gardens
316 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114, 617-523-2727. A wonderfully relaxed haven located opposite MGH on the back side of Beacon Hill. Serving the finest cocktails and most comfortable food in town. Plant yourself in a comfy booth, a cozy banquette, or at our fully loaded bar and escape from your everyday troubles. Doing it nice & easy 7 days a week - 11am-2am.
Major credit cards accepted. Valet parking available.

Encore Lounge
279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 338-7699
A new twist on Boston's Cabaret Tradition! Live Music 7 nites a week 9:30pm-1am (til 2am on Saturdays). Always open mike! Party where the Stars go after the Show!
Monday: Michael Larson & Dorothy Miller (Cabaret)
Tuesday: Bobby Femino (Piano Bar)
Wednesday & Thursday: Michelle Curry (Piano Bar) Friday: John O'Neil & Jan Peters (Cabaret)
Saturday: DesPres & DeGraff (Contemporary Cabaret)
Sunday: Michael Kreutz (Piano Bar)

Roxy
279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 338-7699
We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City!
Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & ID.
Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID.
Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

Sweetwater Cafe
3 Boylston Place, 351-2515. A classic American bar featuring Boston's best bands and DJ's nightly. A favorite Boston bar for 15 years with two floors of entertainment, an outdoor patio and world class margaritas. Always great music and cold beer, never a dress code. Available for private functions of any kind. (Credit cards: Am Ex, Visa, MC, Diner's) Tues. - Sat. 5 pm - 2 am. Located in "The Alley."

The Big Easy Bar
1 Boylston Place, Boston, 351-7000. Informal. Located in Boston's version of Bourbon Street, "The Alley." The Big Easy Bar is a hot new New Orleans style bar featuring Boston's best live bands and disc jockeys nightly playing music you know and love. Relax in a lounge, listen to the band, play billiards, hang at the bar or dance the night away. The Big Easy Bar has something fun for everyone. Great beer selection, 22 oz. Hurricanes, 4 huge bars, 2 lounges, a balcony, plenty of seating, and a large dance floor. Wed. - Sat. 8 pm - 2 am.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998,1999 & 2000 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, Mark Morris & The Catunes, and BaHa Brothers.

The Sugar Shack
1 Boylston Place, 351-2510. "Home of Boston's Best Party." Set in the middle of a mini-Bourbon Street, The Sugar Shack celebrates Mardi-Gras year-round with a carefree, reckless, spontaneous and unpretentious attitude. Carnival lights, confetti, beads, specialty drinks, live bands and Disc Jockeys playing classics, motown, R&B, funk, disco, and old school hip hop from the last three decades mixed with the best of today's top 40. Home of young professional, young alumni, 20 something hipsters who desire cold beer, cocktails, classic party tunes and unadulterated fun!!

Vox Populi
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Speak your voice at this comfortably sophisticated Back Bay restaurant and bar. With an eclectic style highlighted by rich, vibrant colors and rustic antiques, Vox Populi offers a hip, sleek and intimate atmosphere. Enjoy the first floor bar and fireplace lounge, the second floor bar overlooking bustling Boylston St., or the elegant second floor dining room, (Outdoor patio dining available sesonally). One of Back Bay's most prominent establishments, Vox Populi truly speaks the popular voice.

Comedy

The Comedy Connection
The Comedy Connection located in the heart of historical Faneuil Hall features the biggest names in comedy with apearances by Jon Stewart, Chris Rock, Wendy Liebman and Jay Mohr. Located on the second floor of the Quincy Market Building, the Connection offers the best in local and national stand-up seven nights a week. For more information call 617-248-9700.

Wine Bars

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar
105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-0966. The hip meeting spot in the Financial District for after work, dinner, late night, or a seductive tryst. The Vault offers some of the most exclusive wines in Boston, which complement the creative American Cuisine prepared by Chef Michael Foley. Can't decide on a wine? Relax and compare with our Tasting Flights featuring selections from different reds and whites. So what are you waiting for? Call an old friend, a client, or a co-worker and meet for cocktails at The Vault today.

RESTAURANTS

Backstage
Faneuil Hall's hottest restaurant and nightclub offers the very best in Americana food. Located adjacent to the Commedy Connection you can dance the night away every Wednesday through Sunday with Top 40 and dance classics by DJ's Jonny and Freddi C. For more information call 726-1110.

BARCODE
BARCODE offers creative food and drink with a truly unique, casual style and atmosphere. Simple yet exotic and flavorful, Executive Chef George Leu's menu features a variety of French bistro fare touched with Asian influences. Dinner served daily 5 pm - 1 am, bar open daily 4:30pm - 2:00am.

Cactus Club
939 Boylston St., 236-0200. Get a taste of the Southwest in Boston. Specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, Cajun Catfish. Sample the firewater menu while you are there, including Coyote Killer (Light and dark rum, peach schnapps, ginger beer and mixed juices), or a Chambord Margarita. The daring may go for a dip in the Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Amex, Diners Club, MC and Visa. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurants, in Framingham, Waltham and Needham. www.cactus-club.com.

Caliterra
89 Broad St., Boston, 348-1234, at the New Wyndham Boston Hotel. Caliterra is heating up the dining climate of Boston's financial district. Our Cal-Ital fare combines contemporary Northern California traits with hearty Tuscan classics and the freshest New England seafood. We accommodate groups in our private dining room, and private parties in our exclusive wine rooms. Enjoy libations in our spacious Caliterra lounge. Reservations recommended. Valet parking available. Breakfast available Mon. - Fri., 6:30 - 11 am; Sat. & Sun., 7 am - 12 noon. Child's breakfast is free with an adult. Lunch daily 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Dinner nightly 5 - 10 pm. Located one block from Boston Harbor and Quincy Marketplace.

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Iguana Cantina
313 Moody St., Waltham, 781-891-3039; 1656 Worcester Rd., Rt. 9, Framingham, 508-875-1188; and 66 Chestnut St., Needham, 781-444-9976. The Iguana Cantina serves a variety of Caribbean, Tex-Mex and Southwestern fare. The atmosphere is fun and the food is tasty. Visit our website at www.theiguanacantina.com.

Ma Soba Asian Cuisine & Sushi
156 Cambridge Street on Beacon Hill, Boston, 973-6680. Enjoy premium sushi and Ma Soba's unique blend of contemporary and traditional Asian cuisine prepared by award-winning chefs. Relax with a fine wine selection from Ma Soba's comprehensive wine cellar in a setting described as "strikingly attractive and ultra urbane" by the Boston Herald. Open daily: Sun-Wed until 10:30pm, Thurs-Sat until 11:00pm. When in Harvard Square/ Cambridge, visit Ma Soba Express at 30 Dunster Street for quick-service pan Asian noodles and rice platters.

Mistral
223 Columbus Ave. 867-9300. Acclaimed chef/owner Jamie Mammano's South End restaurant. The design is both elegant and informal, resonating with the ambiance of Provence. Mistral features a crisp linen dining room as well as a casual lounge and bar. Serving dinner Mon-Sun beginning at 5:30pm - 11pm. Late night menu served Thurs-Sat 11pm-12midnight. Reservations recommended-private dining available.

Shenandoah Restaurant, Marketplace Cafe, Brewskellar Pub
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston 227-1272. Located in the North Market Building of Faneuil Hall, Shenandoah Restaurant, The Marketplace Cafe, and Brewskellar Pub have something for everyone. Whether you're interested in a casual dinner on one of Boston's largest outdoor patios or the quiet more elegant surroundings of Shenandoah Restaurant, we offer it all. Having a function? We cater personally to all events you may be planning. Visit us soon and let us surprise you.

Skipjack's
199 Clarendon St., Copley Sq., 536-3500; 2 Brookline Pl., Brookline, 232-8887; and 55 Needham St., Newton, 964-4244. Enjoy fresh grilled seafood flown in from around the world, in a casual, comfortable atmosphere. Specialties include blackened tuna sashimi, Skipjack's moonfish, Maryland crabcakes, lobsters and gingered calamari. Swing with the infamous Winiker Orchestra and enjoy our Jazz Brunch every Sunday, 11 am - 3 pm in Brookline every Fri. and Sat. evenings from 6 - 10 pm. Reservations accepted and discounted underground parking in Boston and Brookline.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998,1999 & 2000 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve both lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar
105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-9966. A wonderful secret hidden in Boston's Financial District. The Vault offers contemporary American cuisine and an extensive and exclusive affordable wine list. Come in and enjoy our new spring menu, including an expanded raw bar, Maine crab cakes, seared tuna and much more. Lunch Mon. - Fri. from 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Dinner Mon. - Wed. from 5:30 - 10:30 pm, Thurs. - Sat. from 5:30 - 11 pm. Closed Sun.

Vox Populi
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Speak your voice at this comfortably sophisticated Back Bay restaurant and bar. With an eclectic style highlighted by rich, vibrant colors and rustic antiques, Vox Populi offers a hip, sleek and intimate atmosphere. Enjoy the first floor bar and fireplace lounge, the second floor bar overlooking bustling Boylston St., or the elegant second floor dining room. (Outdoor patio dining available sesonally). One of Back Bay's most prominent establishments, Vox Populi truly speaks the popular voice.

Watch City Brewing Co.
256 Moody St. Waltham 781-647-4000 Top Ten Reasons To Visit Watch City: 10. At the top of Waltham's restaurant row 9. Easy access from Rt.128 & Masspike 8. Free parking 7. The Embassy Cinema next door 6. Award winning chef & brewers 5. www.watchcitybrew.com 4. Live music Wed & Thurs. nights 3. Great grilled seafood, steaks & burgers 2. Only female owned brew pub in USA 1. Great beers, great food, always a great time.

BRUNCH

Atlantic 101
101 Atlantic Ave., Boston 723-5101. A waterfront live jazz brunch is the perfect Sunday start at Atlantic 101 from 11:30am - 2:30pm featuring a creative a la carte menu and soothing live jazz. Sample such favorites as Eggs Benedict, Huevos Rancheros, or try out our crowd pleasing Poached Eggs with Maine Crab Cakes, Smoked Bacon and Creole Mustard Hollandaise. Burgers, crepes and Lobster round out the menu as well. Call 723-5101 for reservations. Atlantic 101 also features live piano and vocals at night, Tuesday through Saturday. Lunch daily from 11:30am-2:30pm. Dinner daily from 5:00-10:30pm.

Museum of Science - Skyline Room
Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston, MA 02114. A T.Rex named Sue, through October 9. Enjoy Sunday brunch in the beautiful Skyline Room overlooking the Charles River at noon, then experience the amazing Mugar Omni Theater: Dolphins at 2pm. Tickets are $28 for Adults, $26 for Seniors/ Children. Brunch only is $20. On-site parking is included. Reservations recommended, call (617)723-2500.

Skipjack's
Swing with the infamous Winiker Orchestra and enjoy our Jazz Brunch every Sunday, 11 am - 3 pm in Boston. Located at 199 Clarendon St. at Copley Square. Indulge yourself with our delicious Smoked Salmon and Caviar Tasting served on a warm corn blini, or our Fresh Crab Pie made with eggs and jack cheese. Do not forget to sample our award-winning clam chowder. Validated parking available. Reservations accepted. Call 617-536-3500.

Vox Populi
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Speak your voice on Sunday afternoons at the best brunch in the Back Bay. With an eclectic style all it's own, Vox Populi offers the perfect atmosphere for the comfortably sophisticated lounger in everyone. Enjoy the first floor bar and fireplace lounge, the second floor bar overlooking bustling Boylston St., or the elegant second floor dining room (outdoor patio dining available sesonally). One of Back Bay's most prominent establishments, Vox Populi truly speaks the popular voice.

MISC.

Sports

Boston Paintball
131 Beverly St., Boston, 742-6612. The rules are simple. There are teams and everyone has paintball guns. You are inside of a large warehouse (near the Boston Garden). They are firing balls straight at you. You scream, dodge, hide, wipeout and have a blast!!! Great for bachelor/bachelorette parties, corporate outings, birthday parties, and much more.

improperazzi

THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN's client-related promotions and events

On Thursday, Aug. 17th, it wasn't your average day at **The Rack**—it was Dog Day Afternoon. The Rack, **Mix 98.5**'s Lynn Hoffman and **THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN** joined together for this special event, which raised $25,000 for **WSPA & MSPCA**. There were animal tricks and owner/pet look-alike contests.

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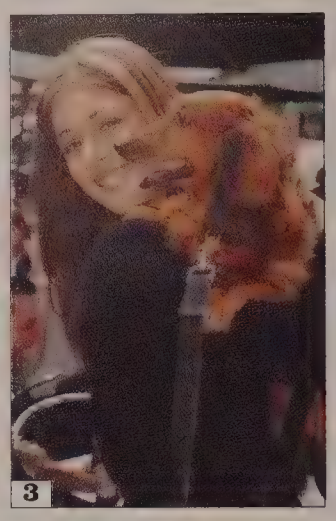
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1. **Emily Connaughton**, student at Salem State College, and the Barclay family, **Paul**, wife **Heidi**, Jazzy and Sammy, with **John Walsh**, international projects director, WSPA.
2. **Alyssa Bergstrom** of The Sky Club, poses with her dog, and friend **Kitty Kistler** of American Airlines. In the back, **Janine Grillo** and **Tim Harvey** of The Sky Club.
3. **Lynn Hoffman** from Mix 98.5 proudly holds Duncan.
4. **Karen Miller** of Karen Miller Paper & Gifts with Roland Charles; **Erica Feldblum** of E.F. Financial and Kate.
5. **Dempsie**, winner of "the cutest dog" contest, is contemplating whether to wash down her steak tips with a Heineken.
6. **Heather Michalowski**, marketing director of The Rack shows her love for Sammy Barclay.

PHOTOS: WENDY SEMONIAN

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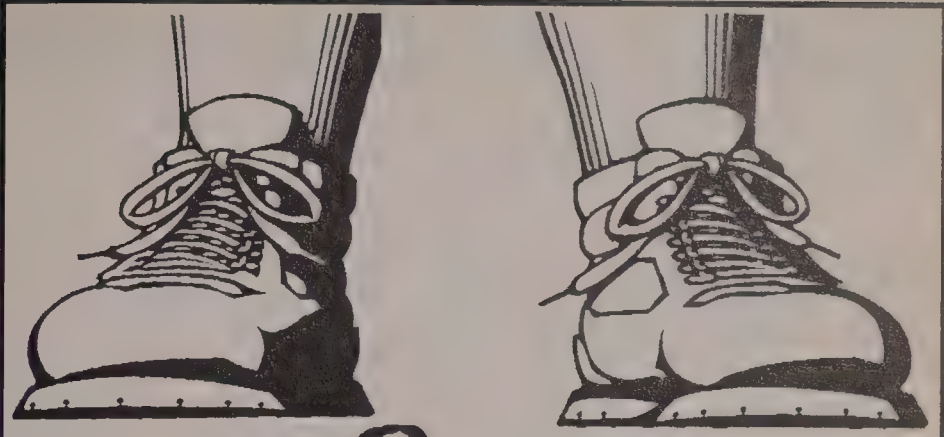

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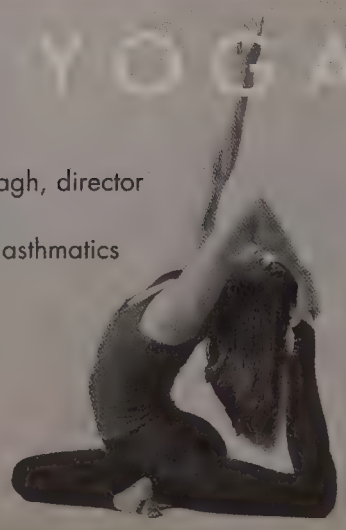

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Last Scene Here

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

CALLING ALL BARFLIES...

The young and the relentless turned out in full force for the VIP opening of Vox Populi, the new eatery/watering hole in Copley Square owned by smiley nightlife guy **Joe Quattrocchi**.

He and partner **Brian Lesser** gladhanded a cavalcade of thirsty partygoers who packed the space that used to be the Back Bay Brewing Company and offered such insightful comments as: "They could have kept the brewing vats and used them as deprivation tanks," and "Now that they serve real booze, I'll come here more often."

Spotted among the throng: investment-banking badboy **Seth Bernstein**; extroverted entrepreneur **Alec French**; emerging-technology whiz **Kieran McDonough** and his wife, arctic blonde art dealer Anja Kola; dot-com-ocrat **Mona Brown** of inc.com; Cape Cod hotel magnate **Liam Monaghan**; fashionista **Suzanne Frodigh** of Giorgio Armani; restaurateur **Jim Apteker** of Veronique; the babe-a-licious **Tulin Graham** and **Renee Asofsky**; satin-clad cutie **Debra Mattaliano**; partygirl **M.L. Bramucci**; booze king **Jim Tye** of United Liquors; and just about every other cocktail-swilling nightcrawler in the greater Boston area.

One uninvited guest did manage to make it past the bouncers, namely a big brown bat that flew through the second floor, terrorizing squeamish guests and prompting one to wonder whether the makers of Bacardi hadn't sent their mascot to bless the place.

It was quickly captured and removed by a brave member of the staff, and flying vermin aside, the evening drew the kind of nocturnal creatures who spend the daytime sitting in downtown office buildings, instead of hanging upside down in caves.

As one female attendee put it: "There's some pretty decent potential boyfriend material here. I should've worn something more low-cut."

From top: On the catwalk, on the catwalk yeah; Alfred Fiandaca and Martha Walters; a big-ass hat; Kay Frank (l) and Peggy Kaufman.

A WISE WOMAN NEVER GIVES AWAY ALL HER SECRETS...

The pink-and-green-clad denizens of Nantucket received an infusion of high fashion when **Alfred Fiandaca** presented his Fall/Winter 2000 collection at the Coffin School, to benefit the Nantucket Tree Fund.

The evening began with champagne and little nibbly things in the garden, followed by the runway show, which featured such modelling glamazons as **Hollis Colby**, **Martha O'Brien** and **Jennifer George**. The beautiful ballgowns—some worn with feathers in the hair, like either an insect, or Cher, I'm not sure which—elicited "oohs," "aahs" and enthusiastic applause, as the exquisitely attired mannequins vamped down the catwalk.

Spotted in the audience: swanlike Chestnut Hillion **Gale Noble**; avatar of chic **Doris Yaffe**; Republican publican **Tom Kershaw** of Cheers; banking bigwig **Joel P. Brown**; the eternally stylish **Irma Anapole**; New York fashionista **Peggy Kaufman** and her affable other half, **Winky**; reclusive blueblood **Muff Childs** (whose ancestors include assorted Vanderbilts); shipping tycoon **Ernie Frank** and his stunning spouse, **Kay**; indomitable grande dame **Martha Walters** and her daughter-in-law, novelist **Nancy Thayer**; Ritz-Carlton GM **Henri Boubee**; ethereal thoroughbred **Sarah Adams** with the always dapper **George Withington**; and so on and so forth, down the list of those who consider Nantucket home, or at least home-away-from-home from Memorial Day to Labor Day, and who would like to ensure that there will still be some trees to provide shade between all those billion-dollar beach cottages.

Following the fashion show, an elegant and sumptuous dinner was served at the Jared Coffin House, where the ladies discussed which of the outfits they wanted to buy at the trunk show the next morning.

"It's a good thing my husband doesn't arrive until Friday," said one. "I can get that dress I want, cut off the pricetag, and hide the receipt before he gets here."

Clockwise, from top: Brian Lesser (l) and Joe Quattrocci; Amy Sieklucki, Anthony Raucci, Shane Coley, Kristine Brooks and Simon O'Leary; Gina Caycedo, Lisa Tarantelli, Mark Spence and Jane Hill.

LIFTING THE HIND LEG....

I usually don't respond publicly to letters or voice-mails that I receive at work, but a recent foray through my messages presented an opportunity too tempting to resist:

"Mr. Soroff. I live in the Prudential Center, and we receive your....well, I guess you could call it a magazine. Anyway, we were all laughing. The conclusion, Mr. Soroff, is that you have Brahmin envy. Get over it! You couldn't even get registered at the American Kennel Club!"

Coming from such a champion bitch, I'll have to take her word for it. iB

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From left, local triathletes Peter Abdinoor, Karen Harnett and Scott Fraser redefine working out.

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BY JONATHAN SOROFF

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRAD ZIEGLER

On the Cover:
Photograph for THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN by **Jürgen Horn**

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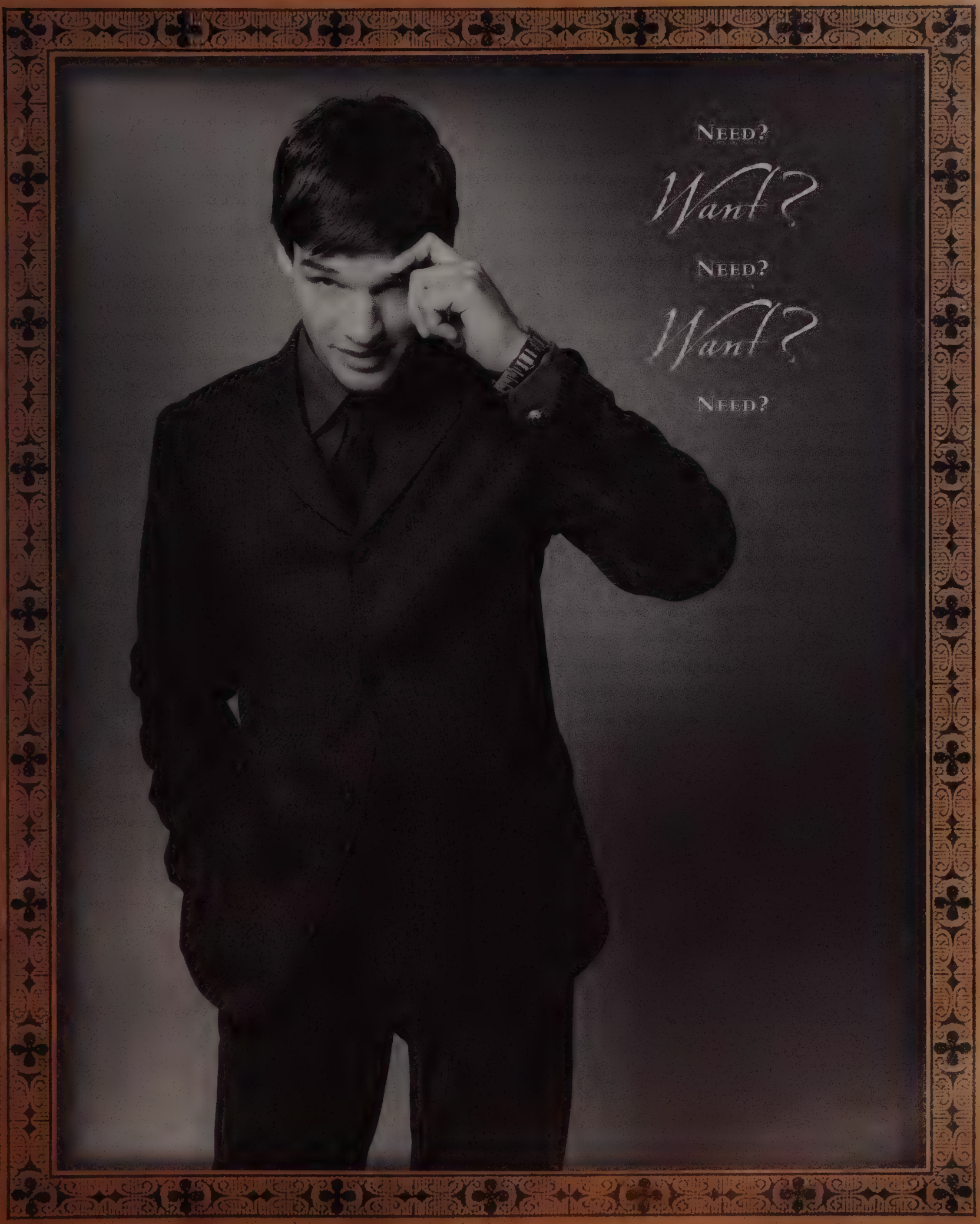
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE

BRAD ZIEGLER (3)



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letters

SICK OF EZRA YET?

Thanks for perking up my workday with "The Freshmaker." You neglected to mention, however, the coolness of driving a car that sits approximately 3.5 inches off the ground (as opposed to the "monster truck look" of my teenage days—and still in some remote parts of upstate N.Y.). Also, I have refused to wear capri pants from day one and I'm glad somebody agrees with me. I'm eagerly awaiting the opposite trend of super-long pants that will naturally occur when the fashion industry has concluded that everybody owns too many capris. Thanks again for the laughs.

—Melissa Fassel
Via e-mail

I regularly read Ezra's column, and this week's was *the best*. It is good to know that I am not the only one ranting about these ridiculous trends, and bucking them. Thanks for the laughs; keep 'em coming.

—Helen Muccitelli
Via e-mail

OK, you are by far one of the funniest people to ever write a column. Maybe that means my reading is rather on the limited side, but I think you are a riot. I too hate capris, the lack of apartments and those absolutely absurd scooters that everyone is using. But, I must admit, I have one of the those hands-free phones...although it is a regular-sized cell phone, you plug in an earbud that attaches to the phone like a Walkman, and there's a microphone in the wire (phones aren't that small!) Hey, it prevents brain cancer, although all the looks I get from people on the street are ridiculous. Anyway, keep up the funny articles.

—Kristen Esfahanian
Via e-mail

THE METHOD OF MAKING SOMETHING BRULEED REQUIRES INTENSE AND DIRECT HEAT. THE LOSS OF STRUCTURE AROUND [AN UNMOLDED] CRÈME MAKES THIS IMPOSSIBLE.

—*CHI WANG*
CAMBRIDGE

SERIOUS ABOUT BRULEE

I want to express concern about the issue of poor representations of crème brulees throughout our city. For example, the "unmolded" one mentioned in your review of Saffron makes me cringe with apprehension. Being a rather accomplished chef, I know for a fact that the method of making something bruleed requires the application of intense and direct heat. The loss of a structure around the crème makes this impossible unless the crème is more firm and gelatinous than a proper crème should be. I had a very sad experience at Laurel with a crème brulee lacking a brulee at all, which is rather like a Ceasar salad without real Parmesan cheese. I plead for the fine restaurants of our city to follow the excellent example of Les Zygomates and do justice to this noble dessert.

—Chi Wang
Cambridge

CORRECTIONS

In the Aug. 23 film review, Jonathan Demme was misidentified as the director of Fat City. *This was an editing error. John Huston was the director of* Fat City.

Seussical The Musical *is not at the Wang, as reported in the Fall Arts Issue. It is at the Colonial Theater.*

Tell Us What You Think

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JÜRGEN HORN

Born near Frankfurt, Germany, 24-year-old Horn moved to the United States three years ago. Since then, he's concentrated on honing his photographic skills, and in June he earned his diploma from the New England School of Photography. His images have appeared in *Boston Magazine*, as well as on Web sites such as *www.bostonbands.com*. A Central Square resident since the beginning of Setember, Horn plans on sticking around Boston for a while (or at least as long as he can continue the song-and-dance routine required by U.S. work laws), but eventually he'd like to take his portfolio to London.

His images of triathletes grace this issue's cover and cover story.

ADAM RZEPKA

A 24-year-old Boston kid, Adam Rzepka divides his time between freelance writing and urban adventuring. A geek for underground art and bizarre spaces, he found a perfect niche as a co-director of the Oni Gallery (now at 684 Washington St. in Chinatown) before deciding to move to Chicago next month to pursue a Master's degree and bigger, weirder factory buildings.

Rzepka's advice on travel in the sketchier parts of India and Turkey has appeared in *Let's Go* guidebooks, and his article on the destruction of the art/music loft at 84 Kingston St. was the Improper cover story in May. For this issue, he visited the MIT Media Lab. See page 20.

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WHAT'S THE RUSH?

IMPROPERSPEAKING

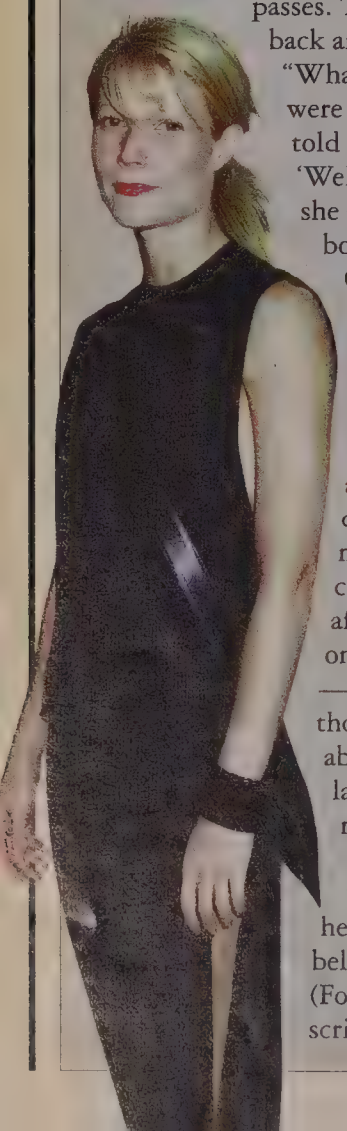
BY ELLEN O'BRIEN

PALTROW WILL STAR IN ROMANTIC COMEDY BY BOSTON SWM W/ SENSE OF HUMOR

This story has all you need for great Boston buzz: Hollywood's IT-girl—**Gwyneth**. The **Farrelly brothers**. A $1.6 million deal. A discovered unknown. And it all went down right here. (At **Hamersley's Bistro**, to be exact.) Let's start at the start. A funny Framingham kid, **Sean Moynihan**, grows up, goes to college (Tufts) and writes to his buddy, **Jimmy Shay**, in L.A. Moynihan and Shay, a couple of yucksters, try to outwit each other with hilarious correspondences.

Sean Moynihan at his home in Charlestown.

Turns out Shay's college roommate is **Peter Farrelly,** of eventual Farrelly brothers fame. (The pair directed *Dumb and Dumber* and *Something About Mary*.) So Farrelly meets Moynihan and says something like: "You know, you're a good writer.You ought to write a script." Now comes the important part. "I get an idea for a film where this guy would have a spell put on him.," says Moynihan, now 37 and living in Charlestown. "He can only see inner beauty. So if a girl is not considered beautiful by society, he sees this gorgeous creature and vice versa. His friends think he has gone nuts." Fast forward. Five rewrites later, Farrelly says he and his brother, **Bobby**,would like to polish the script, sell it at the Farrellys' asking price and split any profit three ways. OK, says Moynihan. Time passes. The boys go out to dinner a few months back and Jimmy Shay says something like, "Whatever happened to that deal you guys were working on?" Now for the news, as told by our man, Moynihan. "Peter says, 'Well, a lot. I sent a copy to **Gwyneth**, and she absolutely loved it. Anyway, Fox bought it and it went for $1.6 million.' " Our guy sees the room spin. "I was pretty shocked," recalls Moynihan. The Farrelly Brothers guaranteed that the premier would benefit **The Foundation Fighting Blindness**. Moynihan is legally blind as a result of a rare, juvenile form of macular degeneration. He is a local board member for the charity. (This means the charity's April gala may be a sell-out affair.) Yes, **Gwyneth Paltrow** has signed on! The glam girl wants to film the flick —*Shallow Hal* —in Boston. The Farrellys, though, have been frightened by stories about Hub filmmaking in a city where large crowds gather around the set, making the director's job a nightmare. Now it's time to start betting on who will play the guy who sees Gwyneth for her true self—while the rest of the world believes she is the antithesis of appealing. (Forget **Tom Hanks**.The big guy loved the script but recently had to decline.)



HARRY POTTER NEXT?

The IMPROPER suggests you and your friends stop sipping champagne through straws (it's so last year) and instead improve your cultural literacy by spending 15 minutes reading aloud at a 24-hour banned book vigil. **Joseph Heller's** *Catch 22*; **William Golding's** *Lord of the Flies;* **Judy Blume's** *Deenie, Forever, Tiger Eyes,* and our favorite, *Blubber,* all are targets. So go to the **Boston Coalition for Freedom of Expression** event at the Leland Center (541 Tremont St.) for your 15 minutes of infamy starting Sept. 24 at 5pm, or call **James D'Entremont** (266-5827). This is your only hope of thanking the guy who wrote *Phantom Tollbooth*, **Norton Juster,** for your first real trip.

DON'T SAY METRO

The ***Boston Globe***'s year long effort to redesign the paper of record represents a seismic cultural shift in this town, one that came as a response to a modern media market that assumes you must make reading fun—in a BIG, FRIENDLY FONT. About 70 percent of the 300 people who telephoned the *Globe* Wednesday mourned the old *Globe*, says ombudsman **Jack Thomas**. Some thought the new version looked like the ho-dunk news. Others didn't like the weather chart or the death notices. Most said they just don't like change. (This is it how it works, people. The *Globe*'s TV guide redesign a few years back prompted a near bloody riot in the lobby; newspapers are reliable constants in a zany world.) In the end, the easy-to-read type is aimed to please veteran readers and catch the eye of those smart, hard-to-reach 30-somethings who are now reading this.

With regard to local news, one bow-tied fussbudget we know suggested that the *Globe's* indisputable intellectual, **Jan Freeman**, explore the root of the word "Metro", which apparently has a low-rent connotation only just discovered by *Globe* editors. Local news is now called "City&Region." Only time will tell whether it matters.

Conga drummer Giovanni Hidalgo will jazz up Sanders Theatre Friday.

ONLY IN CAMBRIDGE

This might be unique to the Land of the Liberals, but the Cambridge Housing Assistance Fund (CHAF) is pairing (get this) real estate agents with families in need.Together they find apartments and funds. On Sept. 22, legendary drummer **Giovanni Hidalgo** and **Sol y Canto** (voted Outstanding Latin Act at the Boston Music Awards) will perform at the **Sanders Theatre** in Cambridge at 8pm for the second annual benefit for the group. Tickets range from $18 to $23; the 6pm swanky **Fogg Museum Courtyard** gala requires an $80 contribution. (*496-2222*)

SHE'S ALL THAT

In the end, the ***Boston Globe*'s** associate editor **Ande Zellman** decided to leave home for New York and ***Newsweek*** instead of staying put or walking over to ***Boston Magazine*** as Editor. She was pop-culture editor during the ***Boston Phoenix*** heydays and ***Sunday Globe Magazine*** editor for a decade. The B.U. grad is also the editor behind two Livingston Awards and the woman who led the *Globe* into their NECN TV partnership. Now she's big time—and we're short one all-star player.iB

The *Globe*'s Ande Zellman has been there, done that.

Speaking of Boston

Got an inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to speaking@improper.com

HOLLYWOOD EXPRESS CLERKS IN FAST LANE

You know how you ask some people what they do, and they say "film" and you're like, "Yeah, you probably work in a video store"? Well, two **Hollywood Express** video store clerks are to be believed. They are winning rave reviews for their short films. **Azem Robinson** (right) won this summer's **Roxbury Film Festival** with *Guilty or Not.* The **Emerson** graduate (one of three students accepted to a post-grad film program there) also had his film featured at this month's **Boston Film Festival.** You can rent his work at the Central Square shop. Coworker **Michael Jefferson** countered with *The Promise*—about a Harvard student coping with his love life in the aftermath of his mother's death. So show some respect to the guys behind the counter, OK?

Azem Robinson won the Roxbury Film Festival with *Guilty or Not.*

PALTROW: NEWSMAKERS; MOYNIHAN, ROBINSON: MICHELLE MCCORMACK; HIDALGO: MARTIN COHEN

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CITY LIMITS

Good stuff, glamour and goings-on

BY ERIN HAGEDORN AND JULIE SHORT

NEW IN TOWN

A NEW MANTRA

Now we know you've already heard about the plans for a new Downtown Crossing restaurant, **Mantra**. What we want to know is why, as image-makers (or breakers), we weren't consulted on their concept. Knowing how hot the city's restaurant scene is, Mantra developers quizzed potential clients in focus groups and came up with "artful trans-ethnic cuisine."

Anyway, you can bet your clove-smoked grilled-lamb-pâté appetizer this place will look as good as its food tastes because a few of the city's best architects, from the award-winning Office dA team, have come up with a way to transform a turn-of-the-century bank into a dazzling showroom with modern accoutrements—keeping the original Italian marble walls, glorious high ceilings and grand pillars. They've added futuristic elements such as mesh privacy screens, heat-sensitive fabrics that glow green, a snaking stainless steel bar and a woven wood hookah den. (All that means a November opening.)

Chef Thomas John (above) has been lured away from Le Meridien Hotel in Bombay and has labored over an exotic, sumptuous French-Indian-inspired menu. Mantra is even in touch with the communal dining trend—30 diners can sit at a single table. *Prices average $60 for dinner, $20 lunch. 58 Temple Place, Boston (542-6740).*

ALL THE BUZZ

SING ALONG

Lately Jamaica Plain's Milky Way Lounge and Lanes has been bursting at the seams during Mary Mary's All Star Karaoke on Tuesday nights. Suddenly everyone and her brother wants to belt out a few tunes—with some hokey help. The night of song and dance—hosted by ex-Babaloo guitarist and queen of the JP scene Mary Mary—has been kicking around a while, but booking agent Darcy Leonard says the real news is that local rockers have been joining the fun—odd, but true. Last week, for example, Michael

Brodeur of the Wicked Farleys and Mary Timony from Helium took the stage—karaoke-style."It's a very non-judgmental atmosphere—anything goes," says Leonard. *Milky Way Lounge and Lanes, 403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-3740). Karaoke Tue. 9:30pm-1am, $2.*

THIS JUST IN

RED BULL RAVES

Over the past few months the Austrian import Red Bull has become the American collegiate drink of choice. Now the very legal, very caffeinated and very sugary tonic is making a splash in the underground as well. Scenesters spending the night on E (that's Ecstasy, Mom) have added Red Bull to their list of E accessories: (pacifiers and glow sticks are good for an oral fix.) Why have high-flying kids at touchy-feely techno love fests stopped draining the bartenders of water in favor of Red Bull? The energizing treat is very good at keeping the E fires burning all night long. Of course, sucking on an orange or downing vitamin C pills are a hell of a lot cheaper methods for staying ecstatic. (Red Bull is $2.19 for 8.3 ounces). Bartenders and store clerks may not be aware of this trend (everyone from Pravda 116 to Store 24 is seriously stocking up)—but you never know just why customers who order a Green Monster (Red Bull and Black Vodka) might be grinning. (*www.redbull.com.*)

AROUND TOWN

IS THAT A GORE ON YOUR CUP?!

Well, we always say **7-Eleven stores** are quintessential Americana. (Now can we get some free Ho-Hos and Slurpees?) You tell us where you get a better taste of the electorate than your corner convenience store. At 5,200 7-Elevens, customers can select their favorite $1.25 hot drink by choosing from red, white and blue Styrofoam cups that read "I vote for Bush," "I vote for Gore" or "Undecided." Not only is it a great way to meet the cute guy holding the Gore cup, but you can also see the nationwide tallies, separated by state, on *www.7-11.com.* (Offer ends Sept. 30.)

THE DISSED LIST

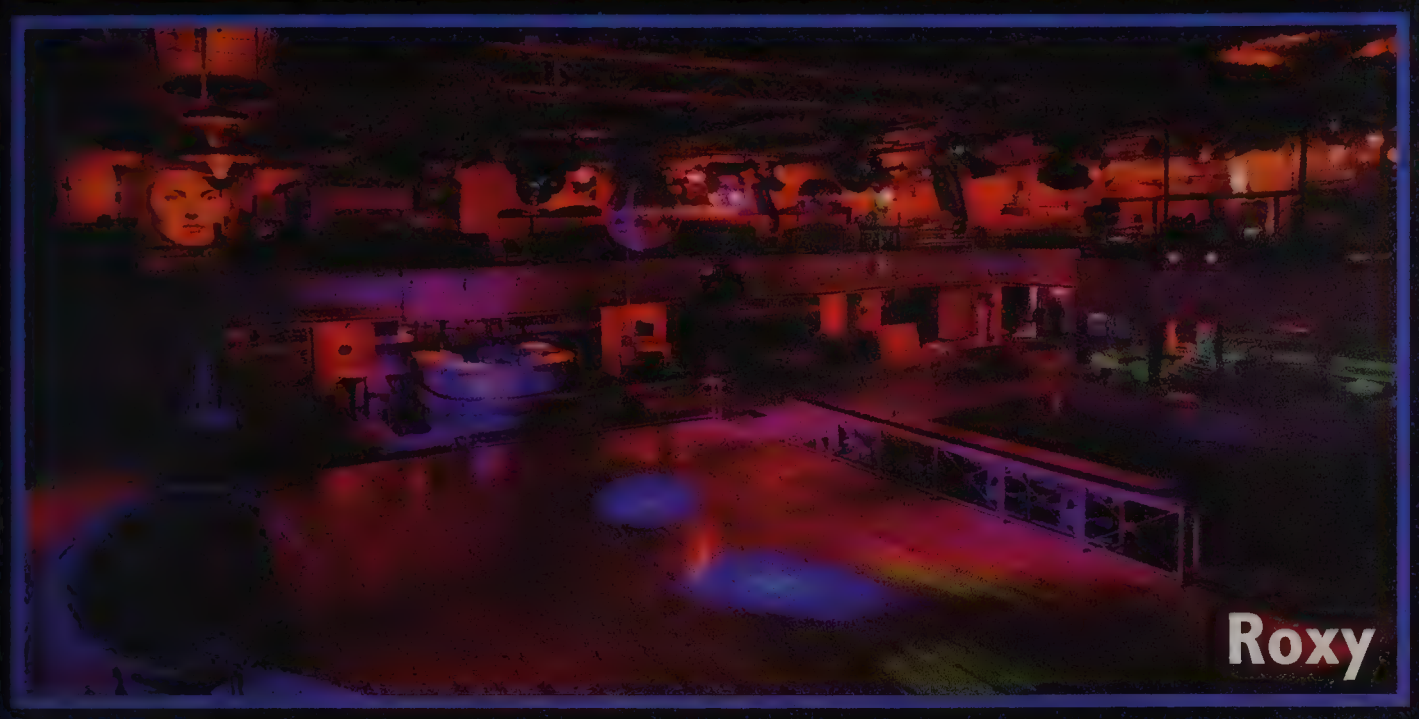
SCOOTER BLOOPER

It's with a heavy heart that we relay the following story, as the foot-propelled scooter trend has certainly provided all of us here with plenty of laughs. We're not above participating in such a fad—and we were excited to bring our toy to the office last week to show off our new scooter skills. Alas, on only our fourth week of zooming delight, the inner workings of our Razor Scooter's plastic wheel crumbled to bits. At least we were careening down a carpeted hall and not along Newbury Street (how we cringe at the thought of the snotty sneers we'd get as we lay sprawled on the pavement).

We aren't the only complainers—the outrageous number of scooter-related injuries this summer has prompted some to question their safety. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission says 9,400 people injured on scooters have shown up in emergency rooms this year—4,000 of the collisions occured in August alone. No fatalities so far. That's not to say that scooters are shoddily made—but with a long list of battle wounds (and scooter parts rupturing at random), something is certainly amiss. It could be worse—our tire did blow out, but we are glad it wasn't a Firestone.

MARY, PIA SCHACHTER; BAR, MICHELLE MCCORMACK; CUPS AND CANS, RITA GREELEY

DANCING DINING SINGING LOUNGING DRINKING



THE PIX

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Don't Believe the Hype

You'll go blue in the face if you hold your breath waiting for these high-tech trends

The computer industry lives on hype. You can hardly pick up a press release from some high tech firm and not be forced to wade through earth-shaking adjectives describing how some obscure gizmo is going to change the world. For those of us who live and breathe high-tech, this ceaseless hype is more or less white noise, but once in a while something comes along—usually a so-called industry "trend"—that is so overhyped that it makes one wonder if the world of high tech has gone slightly insane.

Take, for example, "artificial intelligence"—the attempt to create machines that can think. While real AI gurus, like MIT's Marvin Minsky, are relatively conservative in their predictions about when true AI will be achieved, there's a tendency in the computer industry to predict that enormous breakthroughs are just around the corner. For example, I remember one pundit saying back in the early 1990s that "neural nets" (the AI gizmo du jour) would "someday be considered as important an invention as the telephone and the atomic bomb." Yeah, right.

Despite all the investment and hype, today's attempts at artificial intelligence remain rudimentary. We're still many decades away from a computer that understands the context of a sentence in the wider world or the relationship of shapes and objects to the culture and individuals who created them. In short, the real world has proven to be far more complicated than anyone ever imagined and, because of this, replicating the complexity and richness of true human behavior may be simply impossible.

Another overhyped trend is the so-called "paperless office." All the way back in 1970, futurist Alvin Toffler wrote that making copies was "a primitive use of machines" and predicted that paper in the office would someday be a thing of the past. Since then, just about every office automation "breakthrough"—word processing, desktop publishing, e-mail, online bulletin boards, document management and the Web—has been cited as the technology that will finally remove paper from the office. Last summer, Bill Gates was demonstrating technology that he claimed "for the first time, offers screen resolution good enough to make the paperless office a reality." I'm not holding my breath.

What's funny about this is that the market for computer-connected printers has proven to be one of the most resilient in the industry, despite the widespread use of the Internet. In 1999 alone, U.S. consumers bought 20 million color inkjet printers, a 32% increase over the previous year, according to International Data Corp. "The print button is still our favorite key," quips Carl Frappaolo, EVP at the Boston-based Delphi Group, a research organization that studies document-management trends. There is absolutely no indication that any technological breakthrough will ever lead to a decreased demand for paper.

Another trend that isn't going to happen is "interactive television." This is the kind of bright idea that illustrates how clueless the computer industry can be when it comes to the real world. In the real world, most VCRs are flashing "12:00," the most popular daytime program is *The Jerry Springer Show*, most televisions have such crummy resolution that you can barely read the names of the wrestlers on the screen, and most people interact with the television by single-button channel surfing. In short, TV viewing, unlike using the Internet, is an almost entirely passive and basically mindless activity. That's why they call it the "boob tube," right?

Despite this, companies continue to waste money trying to transform the television into a personal computer. Microsoft paid nearly half a billion dollars for WebTV, a product that it's still flogging, despite the fact that it has less than 1% of Internet users. The truth is that anybody who is literate enough to want to use the Internet, or to write an e-mail message, has probably got enough money—and enough common sense—to buy a real PC. And it's probably going to remain that way for a good long time.

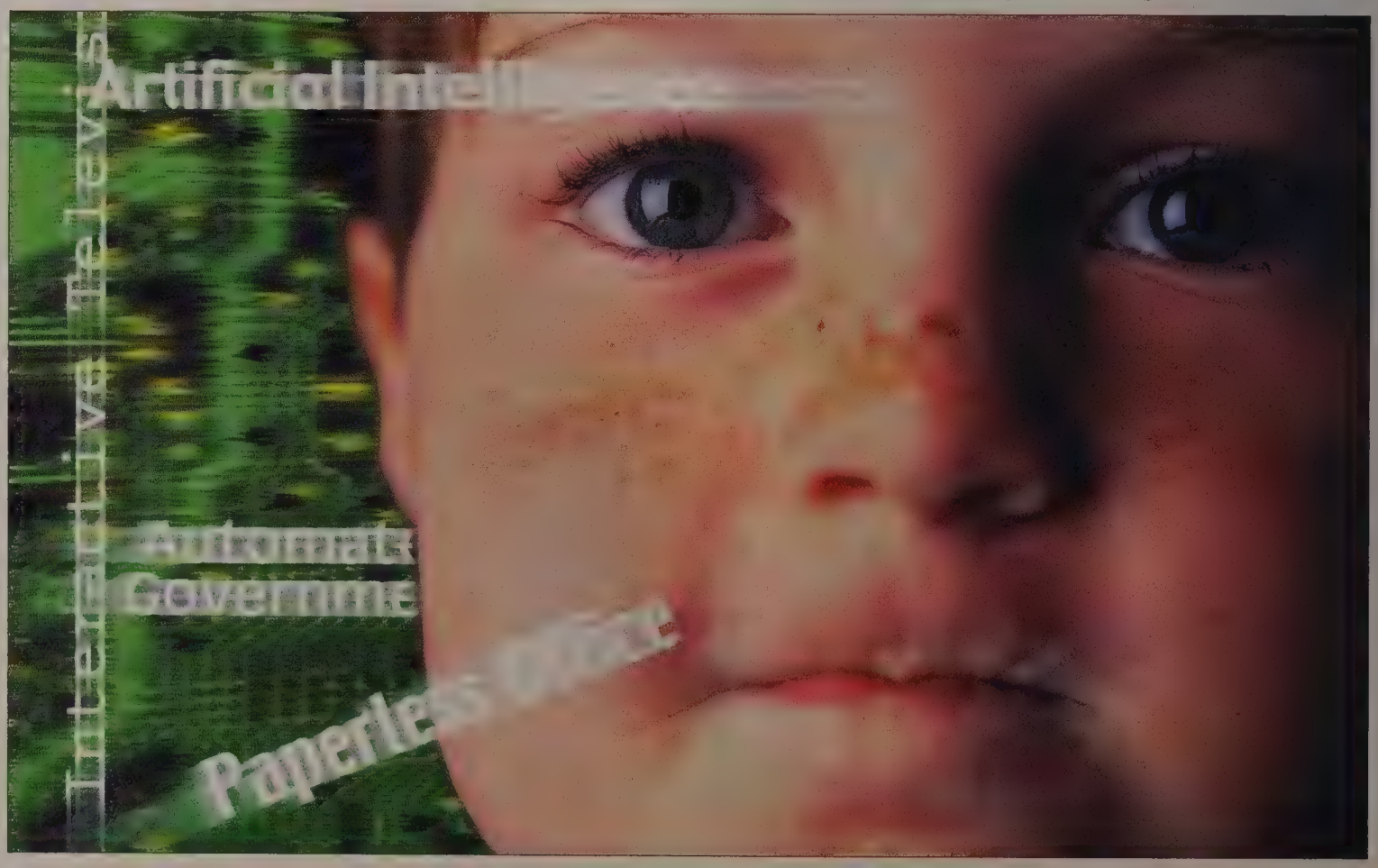
I REMEMBER ONE PUNDIT SAYING BACK IN THE EARLY 1990s THAT "NEURAL NETS" WOULD "SOMEDAY BE CONSIDERED AS IMPORTANT AN INVENTION AS THE TELEPHONE AND THE ATOMIC BOMB." YEAH, RIGHT.

One of the silliest overhyped trends is "automated government." Computer industry marketers are now trying to convince the public that the world will be a better place if governments buy more computers. One current example of this notion is Oracle's "e-government" campaign, which talks in glowing terms about how the government's use of the Internet will empower citizens.

While one sympathizes with the sentiment, a glance at government computer usage reveals that, in general, computer spending is directly proportional to government bloat. In the real world, the government organizations that have spent the most money on computers are usually the ones that are the least responsive. The IRS is a case in point. After spending tens of billions of dollars to upgrade its computer systems, it can barely process an online tax return. The Department of Veterans Affairs is another example: despite spending $200 million to upgrade its computers, it takes longer today to process a claim than it did 10 years ago.

The sad truth is that government computers don't empower the people; they empower bureaucrats—which is the exact opposite. In short, the notion that computers, in and of themselves, will create a better and more efficient government is so laughable that it's amazing that anyone would swallow the tale. **iB**

Geoffrey James (*www.geoffreyjames.com*) is the author of numerous articles and books, and is the co-host of *Funny Business*, heard Saturdays 10 to midnight on WRKO, AM 680.



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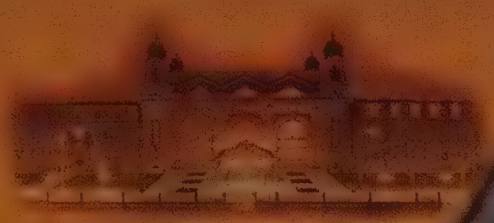

Ellis Island Immigration Museum
Where many fellow immigrants had their names changed.

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IRELAND'S FAVORITE CIDER IS NOW IN AMERICA

A Mass-ive Problem

Do Maine IDs have Spanish on the back?

By and large, I think that protesters need to get lives. Too many protesters in the United States are protesting just because they like feeling socially aware and they're pissed that they missed the 60s, when there was a lot of stuff going on that warranted real indignation. For instance, the people who were protesting genetically engineered foods earlier this year really should get out more. Hey, I won't bother you if you want to go back to your off-the-grid shack in the mountains and eat your weevil-infested organic produce, so don't try to prohibit me from enjoying a nice eight-pound, bomb-proof beefsteak tomato on my salad.

However, even though my world view is admittedly narrow, there are still some outrages in life that make me want to stand up and shout, "Hey, I wish somebody would do something to change that." And one of those personal affronts happens to be the Massachusetts state ID law.

It doesn't matter whether you've got 18 forms of backup ID and osteoporosis; if you lack that sacred Mass. license, you're often S.O.L. For instance, even a real Maine ID looks like it was produced by a guy named Lester working on A) a typewriter and B) his second bottle of Jim Beam. Hence, when my NARD (North American Rural Dweller, for the uninitiated) friends come to town, we have to play the "Find the Sympathetic Bouncer" game.

Ostensibly, the Mass. ID law prevents underage drinking, particularly among Boston's huge and devious college crowd, who would just love to use fake out-of-state IDs. Quick poll of college students: Everyone completely unable to find an illegal drink? Good. At home studying? Good. Not smoking bales of weed and having mad sex with multiple partners? GOOD.

I have a friend who was once caught with a fake ID. He had to go to court and pay a fine. He never ever drank again until he was 21. All of that, except the last sentence, is true.

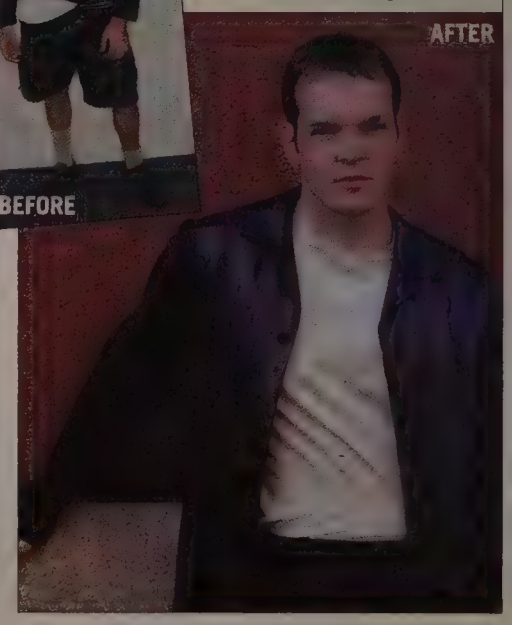
Not that the state doesn't waste a lot of time and money trying to eradicate the sinister specter of underage drinking. Earlier this summer, there was a "sting" in my neighborhood in which police sent a 20-year-old into various liquor stores to attempt to buy booze with a battered Mass. ID. Result: a lot of busted liquor stores. I read about this in the local paper and thought, "I can sleep safely at night, knowing that area liquor stores will now have to fanatically scrutinize anyone under 30." No, I really thought, "Where the hell is my car stereo? Huh? HUH?! Police, have you nothing better to do?" And finally, I thought, "What kind of 20-year-old is such an anchor on the ship of fun that they'd want to go and make life harder for all the other 20-year-olds?" Memo to young police cadet: I hope that, back in high school, you were given lots of wedgies and hung up on your locker daily.

Where was I? Oh yes, the ID thing. As it turns out, the state House of Representatives realizes that the Mass.-only ID rule makes about as much sense as locking Mike Tyson in a padded cell for the rest of his natural life. Wait a minute, that actually does make sense. Bad example. OK, the Mass. ID law makes as much sense as Dennis Miller's comment that "the artist Christo didn't use that much fabric when he wrapped the Pont Neuf" (in reference to Terrell Davis' taped-up ankle in the first Monday Night Football game this year). Dumb man want watch football, Dennis Miller! Not know Pont Neuf from own ass! Next batch nachos need more Velveeta!

Anyway, a bill to allow out-of-state IDs made it through the House, and will await further debate next year. Hopefully, the Senate too will see the light. If not, visitors, welcome to Boston. Enjoy your root beer. iB

The socks still don't match.

After last issue's column, it was clear that Ezra needed a fashion clue. Although I think I created a monster (check out the model gaze) it seems to be a success. Don't worry; he's now back to normal. I think his body rejects anything over $20.
—Samantha House, Fashion & Beauty Editor



(AFTER): PHOTOGRAPH BY BRAD ZIEGLER, CLOTHES PROVIDED BY HUGO BOSS, HAIRCUT BY GIACOMO SALON

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Proper Bostonians

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

The opening-night party for ***Seussical the Musical*** was held Sept. 6 at Omni Parker House, following the opening performance at the Colonial Theatre. Producers, cast members and guests gathered to celebrate the world premiere of *Seussical*. Partygoers enjoyed a late-night dinner courtesy of the Omni Parker House while rubbing elbows with cast members, including local favorite and Dorchester native David Shiner. *Seussical the Musical*'s pre-Broadway run continues through Sept. 24.

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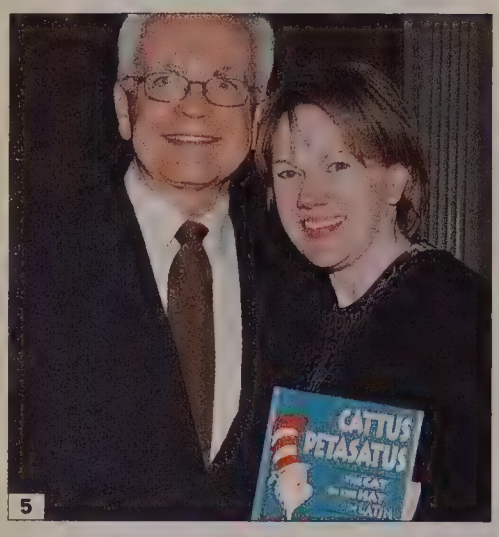
1. **Barry Weissler**, and his wife, **Fran**, both producers of *Seussical*, and **Jon Platt**, chairman of SFX/Broadway in Boston.
2. From left: **Dennis McNamara**, senior vice president of marketing for Decca Broadway; **Chris Roberts**, chairman of Universal Classics Group in New York; and **Oedipus**, vice president of programming for WBCN.
3. **David Shiner** (l) and **Kevin Chamberlin**, The Cat in the Hat and Horton the Elephant, respectively, in *Seussical*.
4. **Jennifer Leigh**, special events coordinator at SFX/Broadway in Boston, and **Mike Chambers**, systems administrator at Captivate Network.
5. **Gary Gunas**, executive producer for SFX/Theatrical and **Kathleen Marshall**, choreographer for *Seussical*.
6. **Lynn Ahrens** (l) and **Janine LaManna**, creator/lyricist and "Gertude McFuzz," respectively, in *Seussical*.
7. **Peter Amster** (l) and **Frank Galati**, theater director and director, respectively, of *Seussical*.



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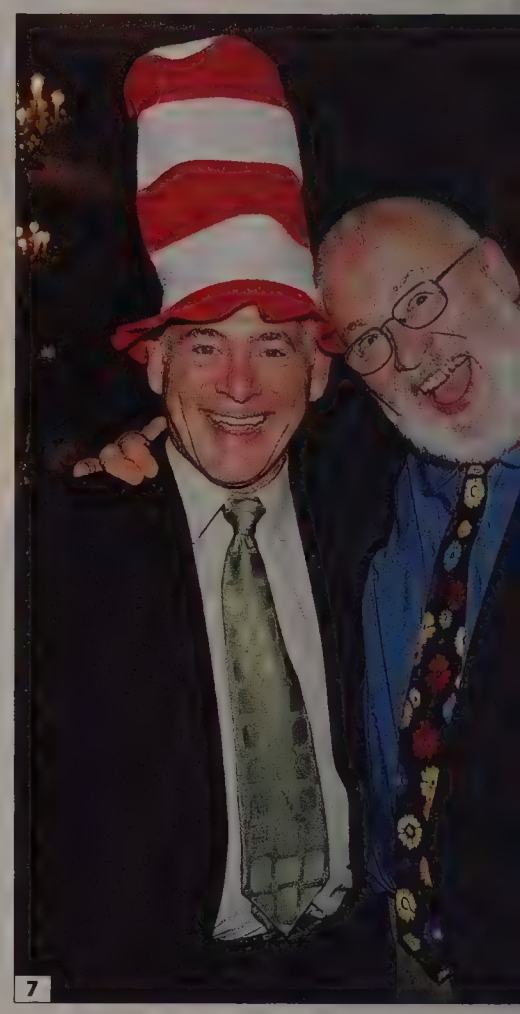
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George Regan's Annual Summer Party was held Aug. 26 at his Cape Cod home in Sandwich. Party hosts were Congressman Bill Delahant; Joe Cimino, owner of Cia Bella, 711 Boylston, Daisy Buchanan's and Dad's Diner; and the PR king himself, George Regan, who was also celebrating his 50th birthday. Two hundred guests enjoyed a clambake-style buffet and full bar. Willow Entertainment provided music from Oceanik, a four-piece steel-drum band. Arriving by helicopter to the Sandwich manse were former BankBoston bigwig Ira Jackson; auto mogel Ernie Boch; Palace owner Russell Robot, former Big Dig chief Jim Kerasiotes, Channel 5 entertainment reporter Dixie Whatley and former Mayor Kevin White, who all were on hand to celebrate Regan's 50th.

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8. From left: Boston city councilor **Mike Ross**; city councilor at large **Steve Murphy** and state representative **Paul Scapicchio**.
9. Congressman **Bill Delahunt** and **Rachelle Cohen**, editorial page editor for the *Boston Herald*.
10. From left: **Angelo Firenze**, director of marketing of Centeron; **Lance Tinstman**, vice president of PCI Services, and **Jeremy Suratt**, application consultant for Wonderware in Newton.
11. From left: **Dr. Malcolm Lloyd**, CEO and co-founder of MedCompanion; **George Regan**, president and owner of Regan Communications; **Dr. Lance Baldo**, vice president of strategic alliances and co-founder of MedCompanion; and **Mikhail Elias**, chief software architect for MedCompanion.
12. **Ira Jackson**, former senior vice president of BankBoston, and his daughter **Kate**.

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September 22 - Boston
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Paintings, 7 p.m.

ORIENTAL RUGS & CARPETS
September 23, 12 noon - Bolton

OCTOBER 2000

ENGLISH & CONTINENTAL FURNITURE & DECORATIONS
October 7, 11 a.m. - Boston

DISCOVERY
October 12, 7 p.m. - Bolton
October 13, 10 a.m. - Bolton

BOOKS & MANUSCRIPTS
October 14, 10 a.m. - Boston

20TH CENTURY FURNITURE & DECORATIVE ARTS
October 21, 11 a.m. - Boston

OCTOBER 2000 *continued*

AMERICAN FURNITURE & DECORATIVE ARTS
featuring the Estate of Malcolm S. Burroughs
October 28, 2 p.m. - Bolton
October 29, 11 a.m. - Bolton

ASIAN WORKS OF ART
October 28, 11 a.m. - Boston

NOVEMBER 2000

FINE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
November 5, 12 noon - Boston

PAINTINGS
November 10, 7 p.m. - Boston

DISCOVERY
November 16, 7 p.m. - Bolton
November 17, 10 a.m. - Bolton

DECEMBER 2000

ORIENTAL RUGS
December 2, 12 noon - Boston

FINE CERAMICS
December 9, 11 a.m.- Boston

TOYS & DOLLS
December 9, 10 a.m.- Bolton

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Soroff/On

Todd Rotondi

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Winchester native Todd Rotondi, 26, joined the cast of the popular daytime soap opera *As the World Turns* last February, in the role of wild child/troubled teen Bryant Montgomery. A graduate of Winchester High, where he was captain of the football team, he attended Bates College, Washington and Lee University, and did a semester at sea before earning a degree in TV journalism from Emerson College. He spent several years working as an investigative reporter for *Inside Edition*, then shifted his focus to acting and landed a three-year contract with the soap. He lives in New York's East Village with his girlfriend, a makeup artist in the fashion industry.

Jonathan Soroff: *So how, exactly, does the world turn? What's your theory?*

Todd Rotondi: I think it's all about evolution and the soul, and not everybody gets it. The people who do realize it know that as the world turns, they exist in the moment and all that exists is that moment, and they learn the lessons they need to learn. So as the world turns, they evolve.(Wicked grin.) What are we talking about?

JS: *I forget. So what's your pet peeve?*

TR: Unevolved people who don't know that they're unevolved.

JS: *Freaky fan experiences?*

TR: This has happened twice: this woman sends me a beautiful letter telling me how great she thinks I am and blah, blah, blah. But attached to it are 15 or 20 articles about death, whether it's obituaries or somebody being murdered. It's very bizarre.

JS: *Soap opera fans are freaks. What's the strangest thing you've read about yourself in* Soap Opera Digest *or a tabloid?*

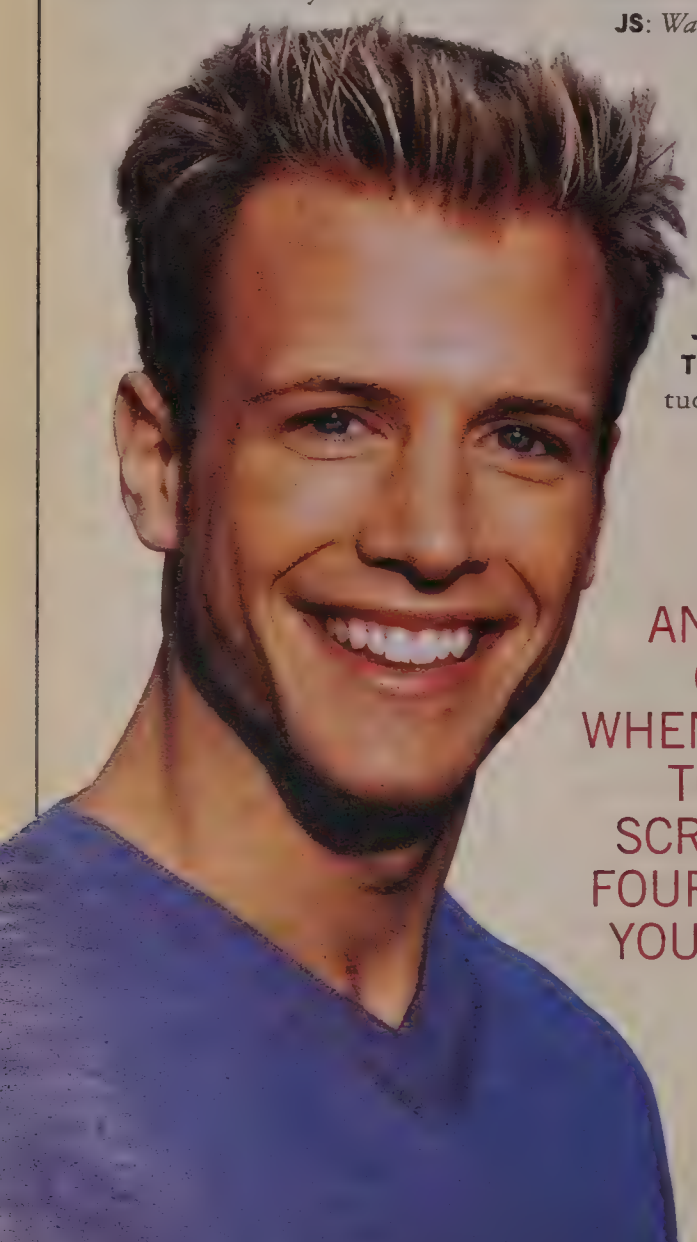
TR: Nothing, yet. I was misquoted once, but it was something trivial.

JS: *Wait 10 minutes. They'll be saying crazy things about you. So who's the biggest star on* As the World Turns*?*

TR: Oh, the new guy named Todd. Just kidding. I'd have to say Liz Hubbard, who plays Lucinda Walsh, my grandmother. She's just a star.

JS: *Any prima donnas?*

TR: There's the typical snob-attitude thing with a few actors—if things aren't done exactly their way on the set, it's like they're on their period every minute of every day. You're trying to just do the work, and they're complaining that their hair isn't done right, or stupid, stupid shit.



"I'M INTO TAKING TIME ON MATERIAL, AND YOU REALLY CAN'T DO THAT WHEN YOU HAVE 30 TO 40 PAGES OF SCRIPT, THREE OR FOUR DAYS A WEEK. YOU HAVE TO JUST MEMORIZE IT AND DO IT."

Chances are, *your* coworkers don't look like Kim Onasch.

JS: *Your character grew up on an island off the coast of South America? Where might that be?*

TR: Montega.

JS: *And exactly where the hell is that?*

TR: Off the coast of Blagan.

JS: *I see. It's a Spanish-speaking country?*

TR: Sí.

JS: *When you joined the cast, you had to study four years of plot lines. Most absurd?*

TR: Hmmm. Well, for my character, I'm in this tiny town, Oakdale, and I've been romancing two best friends for seven months, and neither of them has a clue.

JS: *Any similarities between Winchester and Oakdale?*

TR: (Laughs.) Wow. The diva thing we spoke of—there are plenty in Winchester. There's a lot of mindlessness that goes on in both places, the typical American-dream thing, where there's not much more to life than sex, drugs and rock'n'roll.

JS: *Similarities between your life and a soap opera?*

TR: Day one 'til now, it's been a complete soap opera. One particular episode? After I graduated from Emerson, I was a little lost, so I decided to break up with the girl I'd been living with for two years and move to L.A. to act. On the way, I got as far as Las Vegas and met a woman at a piano bar, and the second I saw her, I was in love. The next day, I asked her to marry me. She said yes, and flew back to upstate New York, where she lived. I then decided, three hours away from L.A., my destination, to turn around and follow her. When I got to upstate New York, I found out that she was already engaged to a very big man, a black belt in something. It was kinda scary.

JS: *Wow. OK. What's more physically demanding: playing football or a soap opera character?*

TR: I've only had a few love scenes or make-out scenes so far, which are pretty demanding emotionally, but physically? I'd have to say football.

JS: *How about those love scenes? Ever get visibly excited, as in sportin' wood?*

TR: Y'know, sure, a few times, naturally, things happen like that.

JS: *Were you a soap fan growing up?*

TR: The first one I ever watched was when I got the gig.

JS: *Procter and Gamble produces the show. Do you get free stuff?*

TR: No, but I think we should. Soap. Medication. I could use some medication, I can tell ya.

JS: *When you worked as an investigative reporter, what's the wildest thing you ever did for a story?*

TR: I was sent down to Roanoke, Va., to do a story on these scam artists who were setting up dance schools marketed toward older women. They'd take their credit-card numbers and suck their accounts dry, bring 'em to Cancun on a so-called "star retreat" and charge 'em $10,000 when it should've cost maybe a grand. Anyway, I was sent down to become an instructor. It went on for a week and a half—I had a hidden camera in my gym bag. I finally got caught, and I had to run outta there with the guy behind me, yelling and threatening me. I jumped into our van and we took off.

JS: *Biggest perk of being a soap star?*

TR: A weird kind of respect. I'll go to a party and when I tell someone what I do, they're impressed.

JS: *Are people on the street starting to recognize you?*

TR: Yeah—70-year-old women. A lot of our audience is more mature.

JS: *How about in Winchester?*

TR: Oh, yeah, but I was always well known there. I was a little bit out there and got in a lot of trouble.

JS: *On the show, you're in deep doo-doo—aggressive reckless driving, I believe. What's the most illegal thing you've ever done in real life?*

TR: When I was 17, I had 11 charges brought against me. DUI, transporting alcohol and a minor, reckless driving, resisting arrest, assaulting an officer. We caused damage to a house by throwing a rock through a window and doing doughnuts on the lawn. I was a bit of a problem child.

JS: *So how much do you get paid?*

TR: Millions per episode. (Laughs.)

JS: *Jennifer Aniston–level salary? What's the hardest thing about doing a soap?*

TR: I'm into taking time on material, and you can't really do that when you have 30 to 40 pages of script, three or four days a week. You have to just memorize it and do it.

JS: *Ever confuse things that happen in real life with stuff on the show?*

TR: Well, my character is basically me a couple of years ago, so there's plenty of overlap.

JS: *One last question: What's the weirdest thing about seeing yourself on TV?*

TR: That it's not really weird at all. There are other people on the show who have never watched it. I like to see how I'm doing, pick up on little mannerisms and correct things. Right now, I'm trying to stop saying "ummm" so much. iB

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SINCE 1913

One of the many rooms, or "pods," at the Brain Opera exhibit, which displays the work of MIT Media Lab's Tod Machover. These interactive rooms allow visitors to become conductors by making music as they touch and stroke the walls. After touring Europe this summer, the exhibit is now permanently installed in the House of Music in Vienna, Austria.

Opposite page: Machover (far right) and a few of his creations: a digitized violin that senses hand motions and a musical Levi's jean jacket—outfitted with conductive threads; put on this number and make music with your every move.

the world unplugged

Say goodbye to technology as we know it—clunky computers and laptops—because MIT's Media Lab aims to dewire the world. Call them artful dreamers, but this tech team foresees a marvelous sci-fi future. **BY ADAM RZEPKA**

Just about every room is crammed with computer guts and assorted circuit boards, and at least one office door has a promotional poster for a particle accelerator as its only decoration. Hard-core science is in the air. Grad students are everywhere, alternating between naps/comas on the couch and feverish bursts of work in windowless closets and cubicles. This is definitely MIT.

But something's different in this particular department. The supercollider ad is offset by a prominently displayed poster for The Matrix. Television crews and their respective anchorpeople wander the corridors like kids lost in Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory—and, like that house of wonders, this department of MIT is littered with bizarre machines the like of which the world has never seen. Tiny, cute and utterly bewildering objects are strewn over every available surface area—triangular, purple bits of plastic that respond to passersby and to each other, squishy balls that emit sonorous orchestral riffs, a cyber-sneaker that translates foot pressure into graphic art.

Welcome to the MIT Media Lab, where everything is much more than it seems. In this sleek new building by the Charles River, our city's most venerated science institution has gathered together physicists, programmers, educators, artists and musicians in an effort to rethink the way technology should function in our everyday life.

The Media Lab has recently attracted a deluge of national and international press, which has primarily focused on the bright, colorful and eminently futuristic art toys that the Lab turns out at a furious pace. Particularly big hits have included the digitized musical instruments designed by Professor Tod Machover, a Julliard-trained musician and composer, and the sensor-equipped sneakers engineered by Professor Joe Paradiso, a former researcher in high-energy physics.

OPPOSITE PAGE: COURTESY OF THE M.I.T. MEDIA LAB; THIS PAGE: BRAD ZIEGLER (3)

On the surface, these are the most whimsical of machines—flagship examples of what high-tech can do when it's divorced from greed and hyper-efficiency and remarried to a sense of playfulness. But the Media Lab's toys, though cute and quirky on the outside, have innards that would shock and impress the most jaded of hyper-geeks. Paradiso and others at the lab have focused much of their efforts on an extremely potent integration of sensor technology (which altogether eliminates the need for external wiring) and digital processing (which allows information to be gathered and used in an almost infinite variety of ways). The result goes way beyond innovative Christmas presents: The technology developed for these nifty gadgets may herald an entirely new, much more powerful and much less visible role for computing systems in our everyday lives.

hi-tech sneakers

Professor Paradiso, whose Dr. Spock-demeanor and rapid-fire speech place him in the high-octane techie camp, holds sway over a small, strange kingdom in the back corner of one of the lab's upper floors (his is the office with that accelerator poster). His research group designed and built most of the sensor technologies that make Machover's hyperinstruments work (see below), but it has remained busy with its own projects as well.

One of these is the remote-sensing sneaker, a recent recipient of Disney's Discover Award and probably the only technology that sits on the cutting edge of both performance art and podiatry. The sneaker transmits 16 different kinds of information about the user's foot, 50 times per second. ("No one's ever gotten this much data off a foot," notes Paradiso.) Detailed micro-measurements about pressure, torque and tension in various parts of the lucky user's feet flow out to an external processor.

Paradiso's team is working with performance artists, who use the data streaming off their feet to generate large-scale video graphics that they can alter with a twitch of the toe. Preliminary work with chiropractors and podiatrists is also under way, since doctors can read a plethora of diagnostic information about posture, stance and pressure instantaneously from anyone wearing the shoe. In fact, they wouldn't even need to be in the same room. Or the same country.

But the shoe is only one example of a much broader line of research. Paradiso heads a loose consortium of Media Lab research groups called Things That Think, or TTT. And this is where things get downright strange.

TTT has been busy imagining a world which Paradiso describes as one "where all objects are somewhat intelligent, and everything talks to everything else." Such objects, he says, "should be more cognizant of what you want to do with them." With talk like that coming out of a serious, hands-on research lab, it's easy to feel like you've missed a beat somewhere—intelligent furniture? Objects that talk among themselves to serve you better?

One of the more radical projects going on within TTT is Professor Hiroshi Iishi's baby, named Tangible Bits. The basic idea: Humans and their computers are currently ill-suited to each other, and that the holy trinity of keyboard, mouse and graphic icons can, and should, be replaced with something more, well, tangible. Iishi and his colleagues are talking about humans and computing systems interfacing through objects: Sit down at your desk and your computer desktop opens, tap your coffee mug twice and your email's downloaded. Add items like remote-sensing walls to the scenario, and your office starts to get even stranger—you might not need a desk at all (or an office, for that matter, because we're talking about completely wireless machines).

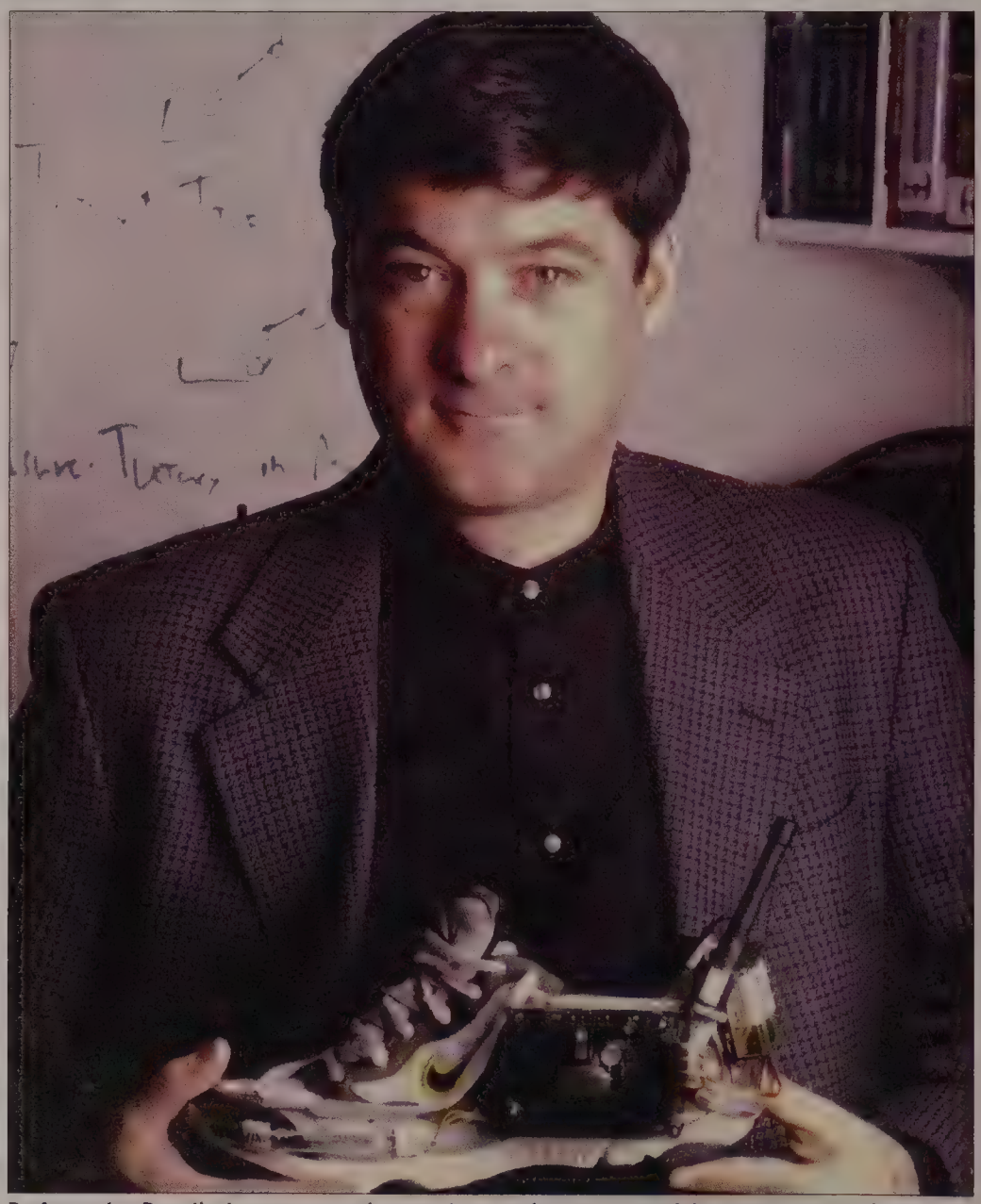
orchestral maneuvers

Paradiso and Machover, while maintaining their separate projects at the Media Lab, have collaborated on the series of sensor-equipped "virtual instruments." Perhaps the most successful of these digitized music tools has been the "sensor chair," which creates a three-dimensional sensor field in front of the person sitting in it. The data generated by the user's hand gestures in this field is translated into musical sound through specially designed software, enabling anyone to compose and generate music in thin air. Machover is aware of the element of apparent magic in this—he featured the sensor chair in a 1994 collaboration with famed magicians Penn and Teller.

The larger idea behind the sensor chair, and behind most of Machover's work, is to use cutting-edge technology to change the way people think about making music. With his trademark Einsteinian frizz-cut and bowtie, and his unshakable idealism, the amicable Machover is perfectly suited to the role of techno-art dreamer. Sitting in his modest office during a brief break from the Media Lab's tornado of activity, he laid out his project in broad strokes. "Music, in the past 100 years, has crept into everyday life," he said, "but fewer and fewer people actually make music—the more they like it, the more intimidated they are." These instruments are designed to break down such inhibitions, and most can be used by even the clumsiest and most musically illiterate of us—witness the series of Nerf-like "squeezable" instruments, which use internal sensors and digitally sensitive threads to blend the user's "touching, tapping and smacking" into a modest symphony.

In fact, many of Machover's instruments are designed for children. A wide array of intuitive electronic instruments like the sensor chair and squeeze ball are being incorporated into a project called "Toy Symphony," in which children playing instruments from Machover's lab will join up with professional soloists and orchestras.

The children will use their instruments, in Machover's words, "to transform, change, and extend" the sound of the soloist, who will in turn be playing a stringless digital sensor-violin originally designed by Machover as a cello for YoYo Ma. The project, like most things at the Media Lab, is well funded and globally active. The conductor of the Vienna Philharmonic, after witnessing a recent Austrian demonstration of Machover's work, has already volunteered his orchestra for the project. Machover's team has also been touring an exhibition called the Brain Opera, an interactive music project. The Brain Opera consists of a series of dimly lit rooms with names like the Mind Forest, each full of pod-like, interactive hyperinstruments. Brain Opera visitors use these instruments to contribute new combinations of sound, which then become part of the ongoing opera. The installation's most recent stop will also be its final home—the Vienna House of Music.



Professor Joe Paradiso's remote-sensing sneaker—which has a surprising number of applications ranging from art to podiatry—was the winner of Disney's Discover Award.

invisible technology

See enough sensor-equipped toys, and you may start to approach every mundane object with a bit of suspicion—the world seems strewn with inanimate objects that are simply waiting to come to life. In fact, this idea of "living objects" isn't too far off the mark, because a central theme of the Media Lab projects is the replacement of identifiable technology (with its graceless wires and screen-based icons) with invisible technology (like remote sensors and processors built into physical objects). The tag line for this aspect of the lab, which has a publicity-friendly, press-worn label for most of its missions, is "dewiring the world."

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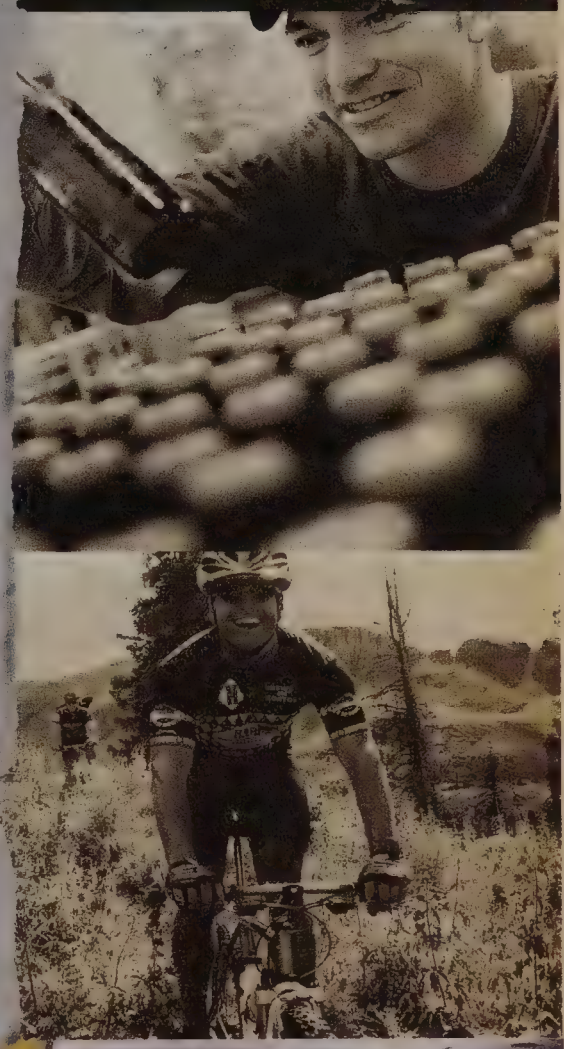


"The world that feels electronic is going to die out," says Machover. "It's just a stage of things. The better technology gets, the more it should disappear." The replacements, he says, will be machines that incorporate themselves more effectively into the human environment—tools that let us use our intuition. The ancient desktop computer and even the clunky laptop have lost any high-tech charm they once had, Machover argues. "We're battered with technology fantasies, but technology itself—who cares? For a lot of people, it's already lost its intrinsic interest, and if it hasn't, it will soon."

So where, then, is this anti-technology technology taking us? Media Lab folks tend to wax a bit poetic on this question. "Our lives could be much more creative and alive than they are now," Machover continues. "This technology is one path toward allowing people to see the beauty around them." This may sound like a slightly unusual mission statement for MIT, but it's right in tune here. There's a kind of holistic spiritualism that creeps in at the big-idea level of the Media Lab, due in part to the fact that its researchers constantly have to explain to reporters and sponsors why their projects are essential to the future of the world. People here tend to talk about technology less as a set of cold machines than as a human-friendly force driving an increasingly magical world. Machover muses: "Our behavior as human beings and the way the world works are so rich and complicated and so wonderful that we can't explain everything that happens."

dewiring the masses

Playing at the lab, it's easy to see what he means. The potent combination of being on the cutting-edge of high tech and designing items meant to liberate people's intuitive powers generates an almost jubilant atmosphere. In a certain sense, the Media Lab sees itself saving the world from the kind of dreary, oppressive, Orwellian future that critics of technology have always feared. "If we don't figure out ways to do something interesting and creative with technology, someone else will figure out how to do something uninteresting and uncreative with it," warns Machover. "It's a moral principle to make technology that's worthy of human beings."

It's sometimes tempting to think of the Media Lab's efforts less as hard science than as a moral mission from above (Paradiso's team is already sending high-tech wireless communications technology to beleaguered Latin American countries). But day-to-day work at the lab is mostly a matter of practical problem solving—the sensor shoes can allow both revolutionary performance art and advances in chiropractic medicine, but only if someone toils away making software that can translate the loads of information it generates into a usable form. For example, Yo Yo Ma playing a hyper-cello seems almost magical, but the thing won't work if the electrodynamics of the bow are contaminated by ambient energy.

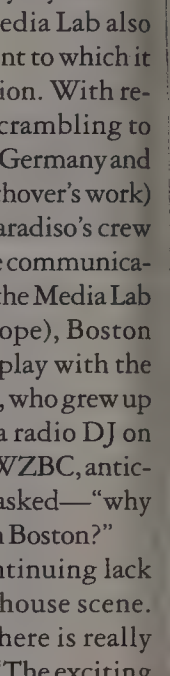
And the tools the lab makes don't stop at the ideal, prototype level. A massive stable of corporate sponsors keeps a close eye on things, constantly working with the researchers here to engineer products that can be effectively marketed. Things That Think alone has some 54 sponsors, most of them multinational corporations like Amgen, British Airways, Deutsche Telekom, DuPont, Shell Oil, Microsoft, Volvo and Disney—even the U.S. Postal Service has a piece of the action. Once a working prototype is completed, the lab generally passes it off to someone else to figure out how it will actually function at a popular level. "We have to move fast," Paradiso explains. "After six months, even the idea of a networked world is not that interesting anymore. Your toaster's online—fine, everybody knows that." In its drive to lead a breakneck field, "the Media Lab does research, and doesn't do product."

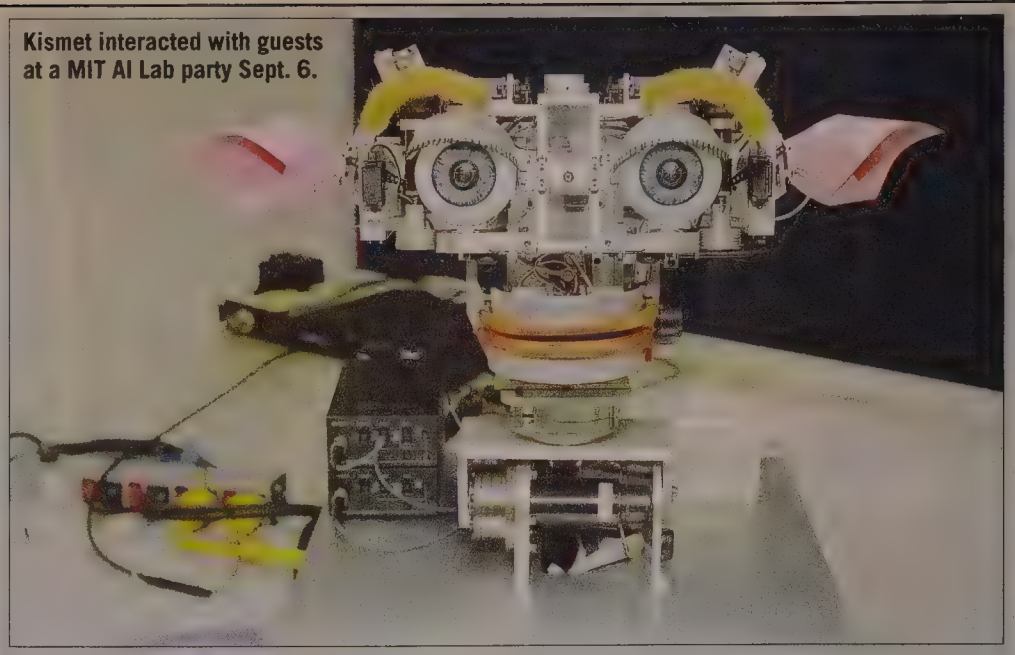
So it remains to be seen how the holistic ideals behind most Media Lab projects end up translating into real-world use. There is immense goodwill at the lab itself, where practical problem-solving is always immersed in ideas about making the world a better place. Still, with the unrelenting forward speed of the lab's research, the sheer scale of international investment in it and its disjunction from the product end of things, there is little to comfort the technologically paranoid except some particularly friendly toys.

The global aspect of the Media Lab also raises a question about the extent to which it functions as a Boston institution. With researchers and grad students scrambling to keep appointments in Austria, Germany and Tokyo (all key countries in Machover's work) as well as Costa Rica (where Paradiso's crew has stationed its mobile remote communications unit) and Ireland (where the Media Lab is setting up a MediaLabEurope), Boston gets relatively few chances to play with the Media Lab's new toys. Paradiso, who grew up in Boston and who fills in as a radio DJ on Boston College's avant-weird WZBC, anticipates the question before it's asked—"why don't we run the Brain Opera in Boston?"

Part of the reason is the continuing lack of visibility of Boston's art-house scene. "The artistic infrastructure here is really lame," Machover points out. "The exciting stuff is usually behind the scenes." Paradiso, despite his long involvement in the Boston music community, concurs: "Boston isn't known for being a hotbed for art—people go to New York."

But there is also, no doubt, a long-standing divide that remains between high-technology, which tends to encourage sweeping ideas and a global picture, and any hands-on application of it at the local level. At the Media Lab, technology is becoming very friendly, very fast. The implications of ideas like Things That Think or dewiring the world are bound to change the way we relate to the machines that increasingly permeate our everyday lives. Each of the intriguing gadgets that the Media Lab produces, no matter how cute, stands to redirect the course of the technology industry. Hopefully, such redirection will incorporate the creativity, beauty and humanism that researchers like Machover and Paradiso envision. Stay tuned: Toys of today may become integral gadgets of tomorrow. iB





Kismet interacted with guests at a MIT AI Lab party Sept. 6.

Robo Charm

Over at MIT's Artificial Intelligence Lab, researchers work toward integrating robots like Kismet into everyday life

Walk into MIT's Artificial Intelligence Lab, and you just might meet Kismet, a surprisingly beguiling robot who, along with numerous other robotic creatures around the world, is the subject of a new book, *Robo Sapiens: Evolution of a New Species*, released in September by The MIT Press.

Kismet sits on the desk of its creator, Dr. Cynthia Breazeal, an AI researcher in the Humanoid Robotics Group who recently earned her doctorate of science at MIT. Depending on Kismet's mood and your approach, this circuited creature will greet you in one of many ways. Most likely, he (it's difficult to use the pronoun "it") will smile and make eye contact, just as a receptionist would greet a visitor. But if you invade Kismet's personal space, a look of annoyance will cloud his typically friendly face.

Kismet may be a robot, but his humanoid features and varied expressions—calm, happy, surprised, angry—are eerily anthropomorphic. Sure, the robot is cute and childlike, but he can be borderline creepy, too. Perhaps it's not Kismet (whose name means "fate" in Turkish) that's creepy, but that he represents the possibility of a not-so-distant future when robots will mix freely with humans. Rosie, the Jetsons' robo-maid of cartoon fame, was innocent enough. But who can forget the menacing Hal? *(For a more conservative view regarding AI projects like Kismet, read Geoffrey James' Internet column on page 12.)*

"Clearing minefields or nuclear waste plants: Those were the traditional applications for autonomous robot research," explains Breazeal. "Now there's a trend toward humanoid robots; we want to introduce these robots to people's workspaces. The point of Kismet to try to build a socially intelligent machine." Breazeal teaches Kismet to respond to social cues as if he were an infant. In such a parent-child situation, a robot like Kismet could ultimately learn how to do specific tasks, such as taking out the garbage.

Already, robots like Kismet are becoming part of our daily lives. "Robots are coming into our homes; they're becoming products," says Breazeal quite matter-of-factly. There's ample evidence of this phenomenon in *Wired*'s September issue, which explores humanoid robotics and its increasing applicable role in society.

Kismet made a public appearance a few weeks back when *Wired* magazine threw a party at the AI Lab that kicked off a Robotics and Automation International conference (held at MIT Sept. 7-8). "Kismet got a lot of attention at the *Wired* party," says Breazeal. "The robot seemed perfectly happy with all the people around, flashing cameras in his face. He was one of the most popular robots. He has a lot of charm." *—Rachel Strutt*

To find out more about Kismet and the MIT AI lab, visit www.ai.mit.edu.

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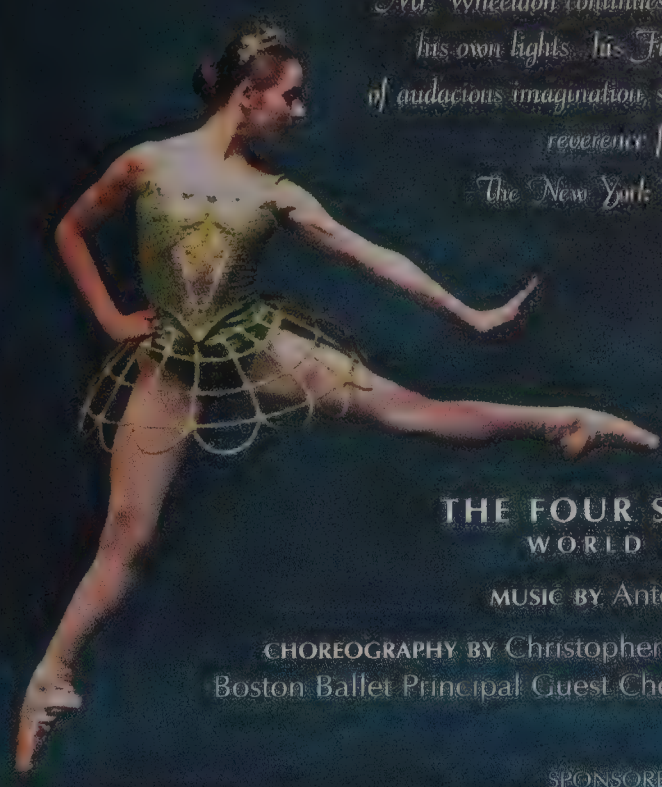

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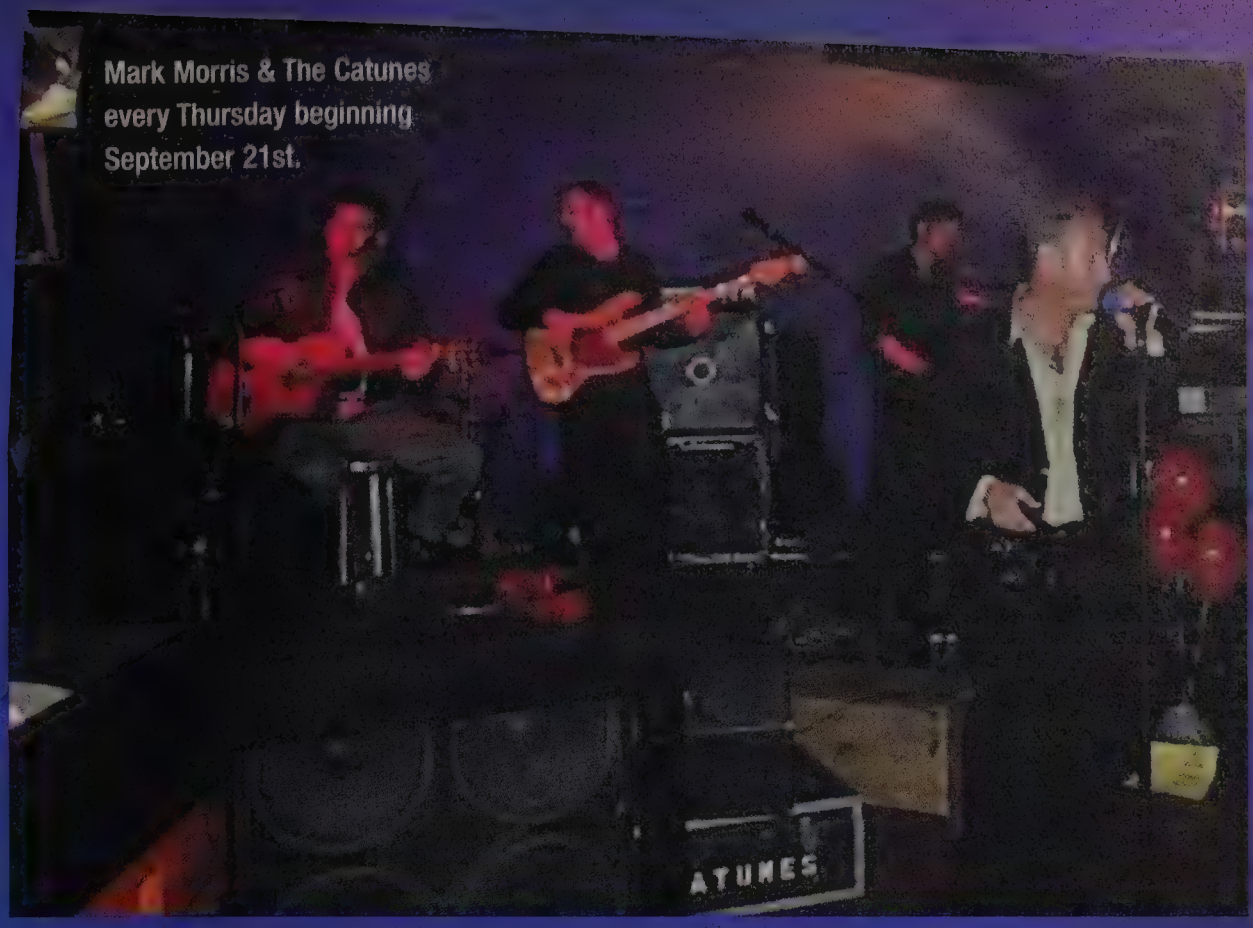

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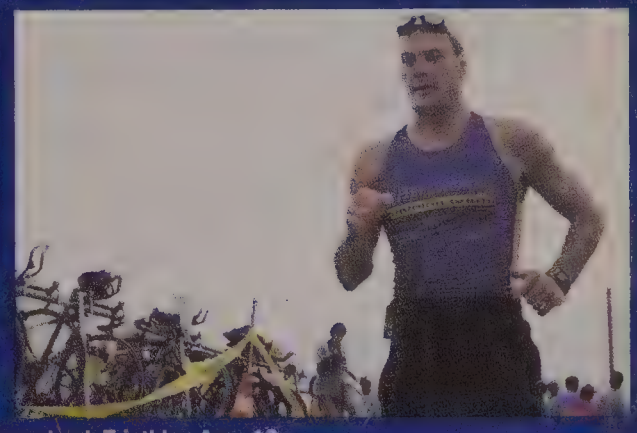

Triathletes rush into the ocean, grab their bikes and head to the finish line at Maine's West Kennebunk Triathlon Aug. 13.

hard

These tri-sport athletes must cross the finish line on their own. But the TRIATHLETE community shares inspiration, a way of life and a lot of fun. >>>

BY JULIE SHORT

The sun has just risen over Cape Cod, and swarms of hard-bodied triathletes are strutting their stuff at the Surf Drive Beach lodge. Rock 'n' roll roars from the loudspeakers, and the scene feels more like an after-hours party than a pre-race gathering at this summer's Falmouth Sprint Triathlon.

Scott Fraser of Cohasset picks up his race number and heads to the transition area, where the athletes begin and end each leg of the race. The pre-race preparation is crucial, setting up for smooth progressions between swimming, biking and running. There's not even enough time to lace a sneaker, and most competitors have expandable laces so that they can slip their shoes on and off.

"Half the battle in a triathlon is making a quick transition," says Fraser, a 29-year-old former Villanova University swimmer whose stats read more like that of a football player: He weighs 205 pounds and stands 6'3". Tossing a towel beside his $3,000 bicycle, he says: "I'm not really nervous." Later, as an afterthought, he adds, "Well, maybe just a little."

Fraser's big worry this morning is whether or not to wear a wet suit. The ocean water, race officials say, is a tepid 70 degrees. Still, a wet suit makes ocean swims easier by keeping a racer buoyant. He sizes up his competitors as he stretches his legs. "Unlike most people here today, I'm not intimidated by the swim," he says. "It's the run that sets me back." At 6:35am, Fraser begins his pre-race routine. He smears Vaseline across his upper body and on his inner thighs to prevent chafing during the swim and the run. Now it's time for a slow jog down Surf Drive.

It's 7am, and racers have begun to gather on the beach. Fraser will race with other 25- to 29-year-olds in one of five heats spaced six minutes apart. He steps into his wet suit, leisurely strolls down to the shoreline and makes last-minute adjustments to his goggles and swim cap. At the sound of a horn blast, Fraser sprints forward, jostling for space among a massive group. Some of the swimmers run as far as they can into the water before diving forward. Others flop right into the chilly brine and start swimming. Fraser quickly strokes to the front of the pack and eventually passes the slower swimmers from the first heat. The swimmers head for the first of five buoys in the bay. The race markers are set in a semicircle, and the rules dictate that competitors must pass the buoys on the right. Volunteers on surfboards redirect those who stray. The more experienced triathletes forge ahead. Eight minutes into the race, Fraser's feet touch the sandy bottom. He stands, rips off his goggles and runs onto the beach, unfastening his wet suit as he goes. By the time he reaches his bicycle, his wet suit is nearly off. He strips down, douses his feet with fresh water, towel dries his body and throws on his socks and shoes. He's on the bike within 45 seconds, helmet secured, and starting down Surf Drive.

Hard bodies: Karen Harnett, 32, has taken a sabbatical from her job so that she can train for triathlons. Scott Fraser, 29, was a standout college swimmer and is often among the first group of triathletes out of the water. They both train seven days a week.

Fraser's fan club (which includes his wife and four friends) cheer wildly. About 25 minutes later, he reappears in the distance, cruising into the transition area to drop off his bike and helmet. Within minutes, he is running alongside cyclists who are just starting the second leg of the race. By the third leg—a three-mile run—smiles are starting to be replaced by looks of deep concentration. The exhilaration the racers felt at the start is now replaced with determination. As predicted, many people pass Fraser during his run. He finishes the race in 58 minutes, 41 seconds—23rd out of 650 entries, but first in his age group for the Clydesdale division(racers who weigh 200 pounds or more). Gasping, he sizes up his performance: "Not bad."

George Bent is the first runner to close in on the finish line. Tall and lanky, with a pair of strap-on glasses wrapped around his damp head, Bent looks more like an 8th-grade science teacher than a triathlete. That perception is actually not too far off; the 35-year-old is a mathematics professor on the Cape part of the year. The crowd shouts out "George!" as he enters the home stretch. He runs onto the beach and across the finish line. At 51 minutes, 13 seconds, Bent is the best today.

A Week in the Life

Drew Gronewold, 27, is an environmental engineer in Burlington, Mass. When he's not working, he trains for triathlons. The following is Gronewold's weekly training regimen. Novices can plan workouts following his schedule, though newcomers to triathlons typically start with much lesser distances and should be careful not to overexert themselves when beginning training.

MONDAY	**3-5pm:** 6- to 7-mile run.
TUESDAY	**6-7:30am:** Swim 2,200-3,000 meters. **6:30-8pm:** 20- to 30-mile bike ride, easy pace.
WEDNESDAY	**6-8pm:** Work on speed training at the track: 2-mile warmup; 2-4 miles of quarter-, half- and 1-mile intervals; 2-mile cool-down.
THURSDAY	**6-7:30am:** Swim 2,200-3,000 meters. **7-9pm:** 30- to 50-mile hard bike ride with hills.
FRIDAY	Day off—or 1- to 1.5-mile swim at Walden Pond.
SATURDAY	Group bike ride (about 50-80 miles).
SUNDAY	Long run (10-13 miles) at Middlesex Fells or Charles River.

TRIATHLETES SAVOR SYDNEY

All triathletes are lone sport enthusiasts, yes. They must reach the finish line on their own. However, these solo athletes are anything but alone. The triathlete trend has grown from a small, fringe group of racers to a staggering number of athletes who want to compete in the swim-bike-run events. This fall the triathlon was finally included in the Olympic games in Sydney, a testament to the sport's popularity around the globe.

In Boston, the tri-sport scene is thriving. Every day, hundreds of men and women in this city follow a routine similar to Fraser's—a 90-minute swim at dawn and rotating evening workouts consisting of an 8-mile run or a 30-mile bicycle ride before retiring at an early hour. Suddenly people who've never before pushed their bodies to this extreme are anxious to test themselves in the sport.

"We're just barely meeting the demand," says Rich Havens, president of Time Out Productions, which organized six triathlons in New England this summer. Rival company Fiske Independent Race Management

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"To be a triathlete—that is, to be a *good* triathlete—you have to have **A BIT OF PSYCHO** in you."

—Karen Smyers, New England's premier professional triathlete

(FIRM), based in Marlborough, hosted 17 triathlons between May and September. Still, FIRM races had long waiting lists, and the company's mailing list grew by 1,000 addresses this year.

So why are triathlons a favorite pastime for so many? "As people become more health-conscious, they're looking for new ways to stay fit," explains swim coach Rich Axtell, who's been training triathletes for six years. For some, it's the appeal of cross-training. For others, it's a goal to work toward as they get their bodies in tip-top shape. Beginner races typically stretch to a quarter-mile swim in a lake or an ocean, a 10-mile bicycle ride and a three-mile run.

To accommodate the novice triathlete, both Time Out Productions and FIRM have begun offering shorter races, called sprints. Plus, they've added more divisions—from the heavyweight Clydesdales to a first-timer category—so that more people can walk away as winners. "This year, four out of 10 racers were first-timers," says Havens. Both he and Fiske have seen tremendous growth in the number of female participants. "Nationally, the percentage of women involved in the sport is about 22 percent—in Boston, we're up around 35 to 40 percent," says Havens.

This month's Olympic race in Australia required impressive endurance. Triathletes had to complete a 1.5-kilometer swim in Sydney Harbour, and then pedal 40 kilometers and run 10 kilometers around Sydney Opera House and the surrounding Royal Botanic Gardens. International Olympic Committee members hope that the sight of hundreds of athletes diving into the water at once will rate as one of the top 10 memories of the Games. If they're right, "Triathlon organizers will be sure to see an increase in interest next year," says Havens. "Watching a sport performed well always gets people excited to play themselves."

To be sure, the surge of interest is not a new phenomenon. Triathlons, which began mostly in Southern California during the '70s, entered their first widespread wave of popularity a decade later. In the late '80s, the sport suffered. Some say it was linked to the sour economy; others say that races were unreasonably long or poorly planned due to inexperienced organizers.

In the last decade, however, the number of triathletes has increased steadily, and this year the numbers are expected to surge beyond anyone's expectations. By late fall, thousands of local triathletes, newcomers and pros, will begin gearing up for spring 2001, when the competitive race schedule starts.

RACING COSTS

So who are these people? Well, it's not so easy to stereotype a triathlete. First off, they vary widely in ages. The rise in popularity of the sport means that college students and CEOs race side by side. However, many of these nonstop athletes, whose days and weekends are divided between training schedules and races, do share a common trait (aside from a noticeable number choosing romantic partners from the pool of competitors). They are all "type A," as Karen Smyers, 39, New England's premier professional triathlete says. "We manage to fit a lot into one day," she continues. "To be a triathlete—that is, to be a *good* triathlete—you have to have a bit of psycho in you."

As a professional triathlete sponsored by Nike, Oakley sunglasses and Timex watches, Smyers can train full-time. The Lincoln mom, married to a man she met on the race circuit, won the celebrated Ironman race in Hawaii five years ago—a rigorous 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike ride and 26.2-mile run. She'll return to Kona next month to travel the intimidating course yet again. Most triathletes, however, must juggle a paying job and workouts at the expense of having any social life outside the post-race gatherings. "My wife refers to my bicycles as 'the mistress' and 'the lover,'" says Fraser, a regional manager for Boston Scientific Co. "That gives you some idea of how she feels about my lifestyle." Fraser's situation is not unique. In fact, *Inside Triathlon* magazine recently published an article entitled "Triathlon...or Your Marriage?"

GATORADE KEGGER

At 5:20am each morning, 27-year-old Drew Gronewold is roused from a deep sleep by two things: the persistent buzz of his alarm clock and a deep desire to swim, bike and run faster than the other guys. The environmental engineer swims some mornings before work. He is able to leave his office at 3pm for a two-hour run and return to work until 8pm. Once he's home, he might have time to throw in a load of laundry before he showers. He sets water to boil for a meal of pasta, which provides much-needed fuel. Meanwhile, he packs his swimsuit and towel and fits his bicycle onto the rack on his car for tomorrow's workout. Shortly afterward, Gronewold is asleep. "I have no idea what a normal person does after 9:30pm," he says. "I'm in bed with the lights out—because if I'm not, I'm useless the next day. When you juice your body by hammering it in the pool, you need sleep or you get sick."

Every minute of the day counts for triathletes, the same way seconds in a race mean the difference between winning and losing. Karen Harnett is currently on sabbatical from her job at MIT's Sloan School of Management so that she can train full-time for the Hawaii Ironman. Still, not working doesn't mean Harnett, 32, can see her friends more often. "You forgo dinner parties," she says, "and you can't go away on weekends."

As a result, triathletes become close friends—clusters of men and women who can empathize when they see a runner tighten up or a swimmer start to fade. They see each other first thing every morning, and many form the type of friendships that can only be developed through team workouts. Triathletes share encouragement, advice and a competitive edge that keeps everyone in the group looking over their shoulders at all times.

Graphic designer and triathlete Mary Beth Welch, 31, says triathletes are social animals. "We don't sit around and eat Power Bars all the time," she says. "The team is not afraid to have a few beers and a plate of nachos after a workout—we have a healthy balance."

Greater Boston is home to a number of popular triathlete clubs. The Wheelworks Triathlon Team has 85 members—with a waiting list of 25 hopefuls. For just $75 a year, race sponsorship and training costs are covered by the Belmont bike shop. "We help out with coaching and training, offer advice on equipment or just help people get motivated," says Wheelworks President Garth Shaneyfelt, a 28-year-old triathlete and a manager at the Internet consulting firm, Harrison & Troxell. "Some people have a rough time training on their own," says Shaneyfelt. "It's much more enjoyable to get up at 5:30am to bike 30 miles if you're meeting a group."

Another Boston-based club, Team Psycho, recruits some of the area's top triathletes through a nomination process. Potential members have to exhibit "psycho karma," says board member Karen Smyers with a sly smile. The 15-member group trains intensely, but plays hard too, hosting bashes at one another's homes and sharing road trips across the state.

THE FINISH LINE

So what motivates a guy like Scott Fraser to spend nearly all his free time training for races he knows he will likely never win (Clydesdale category aside)?

"It's about gauging my fitness level against other top athletes'," says Fraser. Even Karen Smyers, who inspires awe among triathletes for her first place finish in the Hawaii Ironman Triathlon World Championships, says, "I never feel completely on top of the sport. I'm always striving to do better." In 1999, Smyers took second in the race. Larry Guerin, another local who's training for Hawaii, was lucky enough this year to win a race number by entering the lottery system—along with 30,000 others—for one of 150 coveted spots for non-qualifiers. "It's the race that everyone dreams about going to—it's like playing for the Red Sox at Fenway," says the 52-year-old. Guerin trains five days a week and spent two weeks this year in Colorado at a triathlon training camp. A former marathoner, Guerin converted to triathlons because he got tired of the monotony of running. "They're boring—these days people want variety," he asserts. For Drew Gronewold, pre-dawn daily workouts are about "seeing how good you can be or can get."

"Heck," he says, "You've got to be intense about something in life. Right?" iB

IMPROPER Associate Editor Julie Short is an avid runner who aspires to complete a triathlon one day. At 5'10" and 120 pounds, she will never compete in the Clydesdale division.

Resources

RACE ORGANIZERS

Time Out Productions
Rich Havens, race director
508-477-6311
www.timeoutproductions.com
Races based in Mass. and Vermont

FIRM
Bill Fiske, race director
508-485-5855
www.firm-racing.cnchost.com
Races based in Mass., R.I. and Maine

TEAMS/CLUBS

Bay State Triathlon Team
North Easton (508-238-8991)
www.baystatetri.com

New England Multisport
West, Southwest of Boston
JamesHawkins@cs.com

Meta Terra Triathletics
Boston (439-9757)
Owen McGonagle, president
www.unfoldinguniverse.com

Minuteman Road Club
West of Boston (508-881-3603)
Multisport Directors: Chris Kadlick and Margaret Giangregorio
www.minutemanroadclub.com

Team Psycho
Boston
Chris Ramsey at *triguyrams@aol.com*

Wheelworks Triathlon Team
Boston
Garth Shaneyfelt at *gs@hnt.com*
www.hnt.com/gs/crp/

RACE SCHEDULES

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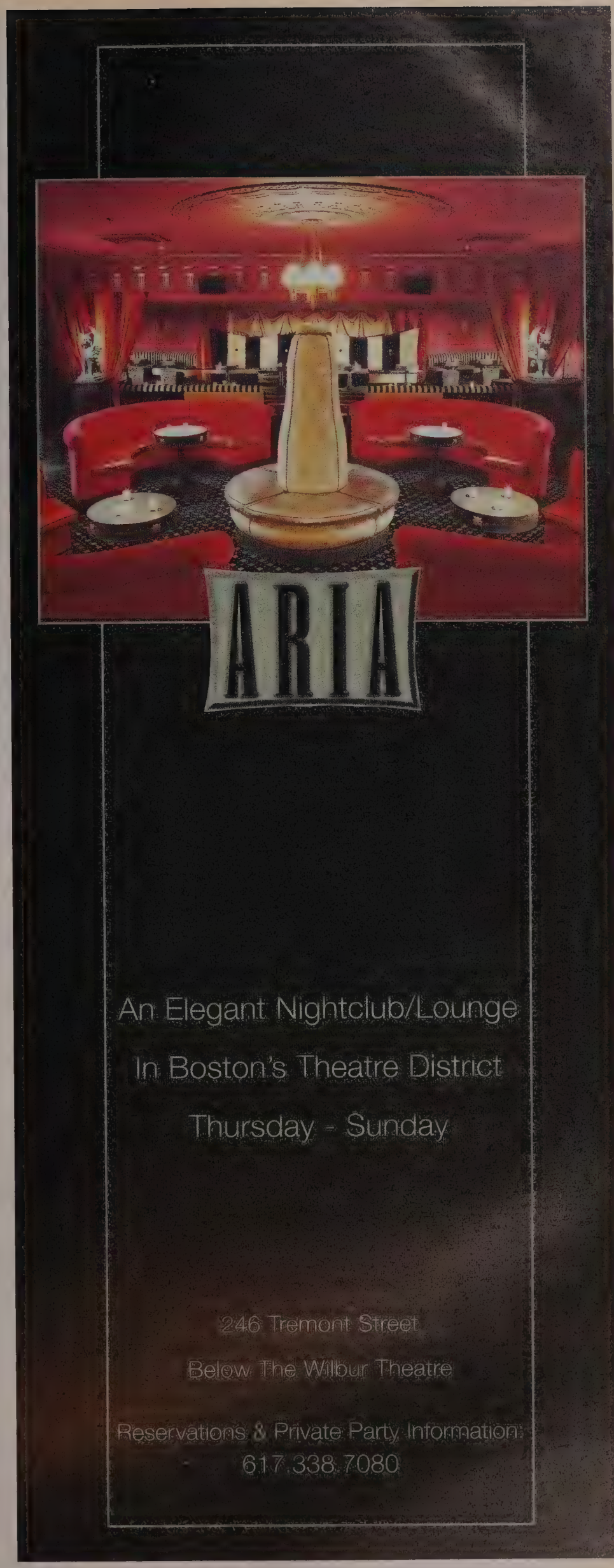

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Photographs by Brad Ziegler
Produced by Samantha House

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Field of dreams

Lined jacket, $1,734; giraffe-print top, $1,059; black skirt, $310; giraffe-print scarf, $280. All available at Versace.

Fashion harvest

Gold and black pants, $255; leather jacket with skunk collar, $2,118. Both available at Versace.

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MAKEUP & STYLING
Samantha House

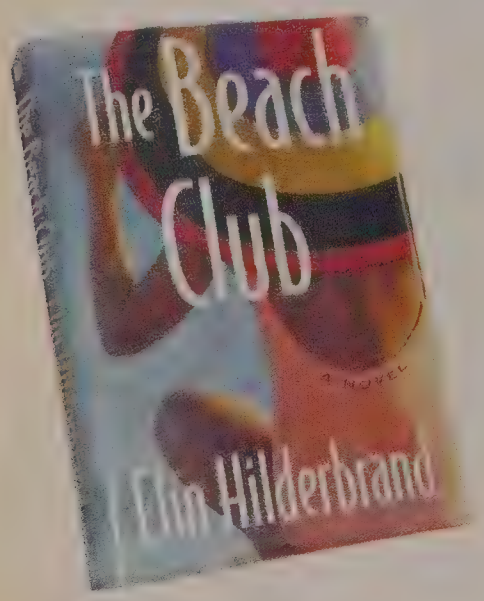
FASHION
Versace
12 Newbury Street
536-8300

MODEL & AGENCY
Kerry Parsons for Ford Model Management/Boston

Mopsy

Serendipitous shopping: Our unfettered correspondent seeks out the salubrious and the cerebral.

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY



LOVE ON THE BEACH

Nantucket-dwelling Elin Hilderbrand's first novel, *The Beach Club*, with its summer-hotel intrigues, will keep your inner summer going, even when the season's actually ended.

Nantucket, buzzing and cozy, is where the characters in this novel come together in a family-owned summer hotel. Owners Bill and Therese have a rebelling teenage daughter, one hovering ghost of a born-dead baby, and a gaggle of employees who serve as surrogate extended family members. The loyalties, tensions, intrigues and shimmeringly suspenseful questions (will long-time hotel-manager Mack finally marry girlfriend Maribel, or will he go off with annual-guest Andrea, mother of an autistic son? Who will inherit the hotel from the owners? Will a mystery-millionaire manage to buy it?) keep the plot tumbling along, almost in the form of a mystery story. Some of the richest relationships are played out between off-duty staffers, in their more brooding and thoughtful moods, with perennial/loyal guests, including connections that span great distances of age. The endearingly mature, the appealingly immature and some high rollers comprise the delicious crew. But rest assured, this colorful, absorbing read has enough romance and who's-with-who? cliffhanging, (including: Who will perhaps-unknowingly father the child of a single woman named Love?) to keep you flipping the pages. You'll imagine yourself lying on a very hot, striped beach towel, still.

TWO LOVING STORES GET MARRIED

Susanna, at 1776 Mass Ave. (492-0334), is merging some clothes with Gregz, at 1766 Mass Ave., Cambridge (441-8989).

OK: these two stores have a commuter marriage. Gregz, a groovy guy's store, is receiving infusions of women's clothes from Susanna, which will hopefully enrich the male sidekick's shopping experience. Deborah Parker's amusing "Bub Shirts" for guys meet up with her versatile, loose-fitting shirts and skirts for women.The simpatico, compatible Susanna look might be termed "seasoned-playful." The grownup who shops here is not looking to carve a business suit around herself (though many clothes are work-possible). No, remembering the looser fancifulness of the '60s, she wants to continue that spirit in some velvet, over which the wisdom-enhancing years have put some black netting. And if a sleek, long black satin skirt were to slip into her everyday life, it would have to look sober enough not to be mistaken for last night's party dress. Velour and other body-friendly fabrics show up in capacious sweaters that make larger women look comfy, and littler ones look protected. Flouncy, flowery hats extend the Indian Summer of youth indefinitely. For gifts, bridesmaid or other, a silvery mesh bag holds a gorgeous, sexy, silky nightgown.

SUSANNA & GREG'S: WENDY MIMRAN: THE GATHERING: H.M. LEET-PELLEGRINI

GATHER 'ROUND THE PLACE OF ESSENTIAL WHOLENESS

The Gathering , a travel adventure club with a spiritual element, goes to Sicily Nov. 4-11. A few spaces are open. Inquire about future trips. $2700 excluding plane fare. 508-358-5158.

For the last 17 years, a constantly-reforming group calling itself the Gathering has wandered the globe annually. Its founders, Helena Leet-Pelligrini and Carolyn Schuham, originally met in a course for therapists and were inspired by its language of soul and spirit that that included concepts like "a place of essential wholeness," "possibility" and "co-creating a quality of being with others." To keep this kind of mindful tone in a wider context, beyond the heady, inspirational workshop setting, they've incorporated it with trips all over the world. The Nov. 4-11 Gathering takes them to Sicily, with its essential roughness and ancient realness—its donkeys, temples, volcanos and crusty bread. Luigi Barzini has said lovingly of the country's expansive, forgiving rhythms:"Even instruments of precision like speedometers and clocks are made to lie in Italy for your happiness." By attending to the group's pulse and spirit, in relation to the specific setting, the Gathering creates an atmosphere that helps keep the fireflies of the trip alive in a figurative jar for later sustenance. Obstacles overcome on the trip, and insights gained in the inevitable rough-and-tumble of travel are the grist for the Gathering's mill.

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INSIDE: Pudding problems; Jay Murray's off-again, on-again dinner

REVIEW

Gopdol Bibimbab, Anyone?

Sapporo offers up time-tested favorites as well as Japanese and Korean exotica

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRAD ZIEGLER

Above: Diners have a full view of the chefs in action. Inset: Sushi chef Yong Cao with a tray of his specialty. Opposite page: gopdol bibimbab.

Named for the principal city of Japan's northernmost island, Sapporo is an enticing addition to the eclectic array of eateries that dot Union Street, across from the T station in Newton Centre. Combining Japanese and Korean cuisine, this modest restaurant delights with its fresh flavors, creatively conceived and carefully executed dishes, and warm, friendly service.

Beneath the homely corrugated metal stairway that leads to Sapporo, its below-grade space has been laid out and decorated in surprisingly pleasant fashion. Potted trees mark the entrance, and a high-backed banquette with attractive embroidered pillows provides seating for waiting patrons. The dining room accommodates over 50 people at well spaced blonde wooden tables with powder blue vinyl tops, and seats another six at the sushi bar. Colorful fabric hangings and a large sushi poster adorn off-white walls. A carpeted floor and tiled ceiling baffle the noise to allow for easy conversation. Weather permitting, al fresco dining is offered in a small deck alongside the restaurant. Japanese and American beer, as well as wine and spirits, are available to accompany the food.

Remarkably, Sapporo serves a full range of Korean and Japanese dishes, from well executed sushi to complex Korean casseroles. We started one evening with the sushi appetizer ($5.95), consisting of four shimmeringly fresh treats ranging from the rich, dark maguro (tuna), pink sake (salmon), lovely, fine textured hamachi (yellowtail), and a crunchy ebi (shrimp), skillfully carved and molded onto mildly vinegared rice. Avocado maki ($3.00) and tekka maki ($4.00), six morsels each of mellow, sweet avocado and fresh tuna, both encased in rice and wrapped with toasted seaweed, were also enjoyable. Both the maki and sushi were accompanied by translucently thin slices of fresh ginger and fiery wasabi (Japanese horseradish).

Other appetizers included sprightly, flavorful gyoza ($4.95), five succulent dumplings of shredded vegetables and meat encased in delicate dough sautéed to a golden brown. A more substantial appetizer, this one Korean in origin, was the stir-fried hot rice cake ($8.95), a large plate of rice flour noodles molded into cylinders and stir-fried with scallions and red pep-

pers. While chili gave the dish a bite, the soothing starch of the rice gave it balance.

On the Japanese side of the menu is a selection of noodle dishes, from which we selected the yaki udon ($9.25), a generous platter of thick noodles and shards of chicken stir-fried with a lively assortment of vegetables. The udon selection included a bowl of miso soup, which was much more substantial in body and flavor that the thin broths to which we have become accustomed in this classic soy soup.

For main courses, we sampled two Korean specialties, one Japanese specialty, and one dish, bulgogi ($13.95), that we cannot attribute. The bulgogi consisted of paper-thin slices of beef, marinated and stir fried with scallions and onions. The rich beef flavor had a delightful sweetness to it, from the marinade or onions or both.

For our Japanese main course, we selected the pork katsu ($14.95), a deep-fried cutlet, the Japanese counterpart to middle European schnitzel. Like good schnitzel, Sapporo's katsu—two generous slices—boasted a delightfully crunchy, lemon accented crust with moist, tender meat inside. There is a ceremonial tradition associated with Japanese katsu, often eaten in commemoration of a bargain or agreement, but we dispatched our katsu with a minimum of ceremony but much gusto.

Among the Korean main courses, the jab chae ($9.95) consisted of stir-fried, almost transparent noodles with beef and vegetables. While the beef was sparse, the ensemble—with onions, carrot slices, green and red pepper strips and scallions—was delicious. Accompanying kim chi, spicy pickled cabbage salad, provided a tangy, pungent counterpoint to the pronounced sweetness of the jab chae, which we understood came from a sweet potato component of the noodles.

The most complex and, we thought, most interesting of Sapporo's dishes—and one with a provocative name to match—was the gopdol bibimbab ($12.95). This extravagant casserole, prepared and served in a hot stone pot, consisted of beef, vegetables (most prominently zucchini) and a fried egg! These disparate but compatible ingredients were carefully layered with rice and enlivened with a sauce both sweet and hot. The unique cooking and serving vessel kept the dish hot and fresh throughout our meal.

All too often, Asian restaurants located in the suburbs seem to pull their punches, muting spices and eschewing exotic preparations and ingredients in an attempt to appeal to the broad, lowest-common-denominator palate assumed to prevail in Middle ° were. Sapporo does not fall into this trap. Its large and varied menu offers dishes to please both the cautious and the curious. Authentic from beginning to end, it is well worth the detour on the Green Line's D train. **iB**

Sapporo

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DISH

Oh, No! Daddy-O!

Inman Square spot will close...Casablanca chef will play it again

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

Upstairs at the Pudding restaurant co-owners **Deborah Hughes** and **Mary-Catherine Deibel** are rallying supporters, sending notices to guests and supporters, keeping them up to date on the controversy that surrounds their lease with Harvard University and the Hasty Pudding Institute. Top-notch Boston attorney **Joel Kozol** is representing the restaurant. (Kozol, described by Hughes as an "esteemed barrister," also happens to be a regular customer of the renowned restaurant.) Speaking for herself and Deibel, Hughes says: "We are perfecting our legal strategy, and look forward to doing business in Cambridge with Harvard for years to come."

Former **Casablanca** chef **Ana Sortun** will finally open her own restaurant this fall in the soon-to-be-former **Daddy-O's** in Inman Square. You have just a few weeks left to sample the funky fare of co-owners/chefs **Paul Sussman** and **Ellis Seidman**, who've put extra people on the line so they can spend some quality time saying their farewells in the dining room. After Daddy-O's closes, watch for Sussman to pop up in local kitchens to guest-chef (a Latin-American dinner with **Manuel Sifnugel** at **Claremont Café** is in the works) while he scouts out locations for **Macondo**, which he plans to open within a year's time.

Jay Murray should be cooking by Halloween.

MARTINI CAMPAIGN

If the sorry state of politics is driving you to drink, park yourself at **The Tini Bar** at the **Charles Hotel** and peruse the PC vs. non-PC selection of cocktails inspired by local, regional and national candidates. Sip a "Right Guard" (Dick Cheney); a "Jane (Swift) of the Jungle" or a "Mitzvahtini" (if you need a clue here, you don't deserve to vote).

The newly super-sized **Grill 23 & Bar** is on track to reopen around Halloween. Meanwhile, executive chef **Jay Murray** took a break from interviewing potential chefs de cuisine this summer to undergo herbal renewal as a guest chef at **The Herb Lyceum** at Gilson's in Groton. Last month, Murray was scheduled to prepare a seafood herbal dinner featuring scallops, trout and tuna, accented by such ethereal touches as orange essence, bay laurel-tomato water, lovage oil and sweet-corn emulsion...everything but wine, for just $50.

Now, it would be unkind to tantalize you like this after the fact, but for one detail: The dinner didn't happen. It was nixed at the eleventh hour after a dozen diners made a last-minute decision to cancel their reservations because of great, late summer weather. Bad news for the few remaining guests who'd signed up for the very limited seating; good news for the rest of us, since chef **Jay Murray** has graciously agreed to reschedule.

On the steak side, the Grill has hired its very own in-house butcher, **Mark "the Knife" Bonocosi**. Good news for carnivores.

Finally, it's time to forget your **Barking Crab** restaurant jokes. By now the regulars, who still say the waterfront restaurant was unfairly targeted by City Hall types, have returned to this casual crustacean. Owner **Doug Lemle** is back in business. It did NOT tank, did NOT go belly-up as feared, and so we hail its return—pass the melted butter, please. iB

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant?
Send it to dish@improper.com

Tastings

BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for tastings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

EVENTS

Fall Beer Tasting Dinner
Cambridge Common, 1667 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (547-1228). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Sept. 26, 6:30pm. $35. Cambridge Common Restaurant and Nutfield Brewery join together to present a beer tasting dinner. The evening will feature a presentation by a Nutfield brewmaster who, along with chef Ian Davison, has paired a Nutfield beer with each of the three courses for the event.

Fire & Ale/Buzzards Bay Brewing
Westport Rivers Vineyard & Winery, 417 Hixbridge Road, Westport (508-636-3423). Sept. 22, 6-8:30pm. $40. Guest chef **Casey Riley**, formerly of Agora in Providence, offers grilled foods to match bold brews.

Food & Film Series
Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Sept. 24, 11:30am-2:30pm. $35. Feast on banana-cinnamon muffins, bagels spread with spicy Brazilian cheeses, potato and chorizo omelets and fresh fruit with mint as you watch the Brazilian comedy *Dona Flor and Her Two Husbands.*

Guest Bartenders at Chez Henri
Chez Henri, 1 Shepard St., Cambridge (354-8980). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Bartender **K.C. Cargill** hosts local "pour-fessors of mixology," **Avery MacDonald** from the Good Life (Sept. 22) and **Rene Adams** from the Lava Bar (Sept. 23).

Harpoon Brewery Octoberfest 2000
Harpoon Brewery, 306 Northern Ave., Boston (888-HARPOON). Sept. 29, 5:30-11pm; Sept. 30, 2-11pm; Oct. 1, 2-7pm. $10. More than 12,000 people are expected to enjoy live music featuring German-style Oompah bands and feast on knockwurst and Harpoon beer.

The Massachusetts Wine Experience 2000
The Seaport Hotel, Northern Avenue, Boston (800-962-3522, ext. 810). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Oct. 3, 2-7pm. M.S. Walker presents a day of fine wines, spirits and cigars.

Mimi Sheraton: The Bialy Eaters
Elizabeth Bishop Wine Resource Center, 808 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (353-9852). Sept. 20, 6:30pm. $30. Former *New York Times* food critic **Mimi Sheraton** travels the world searching for delicious things to eat and write about. This evening she'll share her experiences searching for the right recipe for the bialy.

Opus One Wine Dinner
Julien at Le Meridien, 250 Franklin St., Boston (451-1900). Sept. 28, 7pm. $145. Executive chef **Mark Sapienza** will host this five-course dinner with wine commentary by Carla Morey and Tim Clark of Mondavi.

Pastry Perfection
5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Sept. 25, 6-9pm. $58. **Tom Ponticelli**, Aujourd' hui pastry chef, will demo techniques you need to create impressive confections such as profiteroles and mini croquembouche in your own kitchen.

Sidney's Uncorked Wine Series
Sidney's Grille, Hotel @MIT, 20 Sidney St., Cambridge (494-0011). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. Thursdays, 5:30-7pm. Free. A wine representative will be on hand to discuss a particular wine and to suggest food parings with guests. Executive chef Todd Young will prepare special tapas to complement the wine selection, and live jazz will be featured.

A Taste of the South End
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St, Boston (781-433-7073). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. 6-9pm. $45, $55 at the door. More than 30 South End restaurants offer a tasting of their signature entree or dessert to raise money for Pridelights Foundation. The night also includes live entertainment and a silent auction.

Thursday Night Wine Tasting Series
5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Four Thursdays, beginning Sept. 28, 6-7:30pm. $114. Learn about wines from the Loire Valley, Burgundy and Provence in France and Tuscany and Piedmont in Italy with **Cat Silirie**, wine director of No. 9 Park.

The Tuscan Grill
Brookline High School, 115 Greenough St., Brookline (730-2700). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. $50. Learn the secrets of the Tuscan Grill's success from chef **Josh Ziskin**, who will show you how to prepare some of the more popular dishes on the menu.

The Wine Certificate Course
Elizabeth Bishop Wine Resource Center, 808 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (353-9852). Mon., 6:30-8:30pm, Oct. 2-Nov. 27. $555. This course is for anyone who wishes to gain a basic level of knowledge about wine. The course covers classification, storage and serving techniques. Students sample wine and other beverages to learn basic tasting techniques. Taught by IMPROPER wine expert **Sandy Block**, MW.

Wine Tasting Series
Brookline Liquor Mart, 1354 Commonwealth Ave., Allston (734-7700). The tasting series continues: •Sept. 23, 12-5pm: Wines of Bordeaux. •Sept. 30, 12-5pm: Wines of America. Wines from California, Washington and Oregon.

TASTY TIDBIT

SLOW FOOD

A select group among us has taken the idea of savoring each bite to a new level. The Slow Food Movement is a non-profit organization that boasts goals such as promoting "mankind's inalienable right to pleasure through good eating" and countering the "onslaught of fast-food and supermarket culture." If this sounds good to you, visit Bricco, which hosts a dinner featuring the little-known foods and wines of the northern Piedmont region of Italy Sept. 27. Bricco chef Bill Bradley will prepare *brasato*, braised beef in red wine sauce, and the pasta specialty *tajarin*, among others. All will be complemented by wine and cheese from the Piedmont region. There's no such thing as grabbing a quick bite to eat with these folks, so settle in for the long haul. *Bricco, 241 Hanover St., Boston (248-6800). 7pm. $70. —E.B. Solomont*

GRILL 23: MICHELLE MCCORMACK

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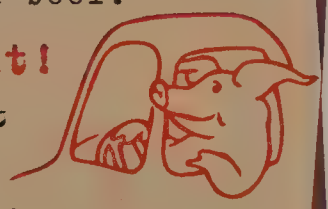

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agenda

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN OR OUT IN BOSTON.

Mix It Up
The Corrs play at Suffolk Downs' Mixfest Sept. 23.

Erin and Julie

THE CALENDAR GIRLS'

improper picks

Too busy (or just too lazy) to plan your own schedule? Life doesn't get easier than this.

Wednesday, Sept. 20

Julie: The **All-Star Tribute** at the Westin Hotel honors the *Boston Herald*'s Pat Purcell and former N.E. Patriot Ron Burton. (See CityScope.) And, of course, **Tina Turner** is at the FleetCenter.
Erin: The Coolidge Corner Theatre has a new series, **Director's Cut**, on the first Wed. of the month. Today, indie film fans can see *Live Free or Die* and meet the two directors. (See Film.)

Thursday, Sept. 21

Julie: The musical inspired by Barry Manilow's Grammy Award-winning song, "**Copacabana**," shows at the Shubert Theatre. (See Performing Arts.)
Erin: Long-time reggae greats **Black Uhuru** perform with the legendary duo from Jamaica, **Sly & Robbie** tonight at Roxy. (See Music.)

Friday, Sept. 22

Julie: The **JP Open Studios reception** features juried selections from the best of Jamaica Plain's artists. (See CityScope.)
Erin: So much music to choose from. All of the original members of the **Toneburst Collective** perform at Mass. College of Art for six hours for this rare reunion event. Plus, punk trio **Sleater-Kinney** play with **White Stripes** at Roxy. (See Music.)

Saturday, Sept. 23

Erin: **Aretha Franklin** is at Symphony Hall. Also, Director **Bruce Ricker** comes to the HFA for a screening of his profile on actor-director Clint Eastwood. (See Film.)
Julie: It's **Mixfest** at Suffolk Downs with the Barenaked Ladies, Goo Goo Dolls and more. (See Music.) And don't miss the all-day **Boston Folk Festival** out at UMass Boston. (See CityScope.)

Sunday, Sept. 24

Erin: Three tents of music feature **Sonic Youth, Juliana Hatfield, Galactic** and **Sleater-Kinney** at the Northampton Riverfest. (See Go Away.)
Julie: I'll be lacing up my running shoes for the **Jimmy Fund Walk** along the Boston Marathon route. (See CityScope.)

Monday, Sept. 25

Erin: Bigwigs **Anthony Arnove, Noam Chomsky** and **Howard Zinn** participate in a panel discussion and talk about their collection of essays at the Coolidge Corner Theatre. (See Books&Poetry.)
Julie: Browse the agricultural exhibits, cheer for your favorite cowboys in the rodeo or take in a lumberjack show at the **Big E.** (See CityScope.)

Tuesday, Sept. 26

Erin: Don't forget to stop by the Robert Klein gallery to see the photographic exhibition ***Annie Leibovitz: Nudes***, which is in town until Oct. 7. (See Art.)
Julie: **Cambridge Common Restaurant** and **Nutfield Brewery** join together to present a fall beer tasting dinner. (See Tastings.)

Wednesday, Sept. 27

Julie: The **Boston Ski & Sports Club** celebrates its 35th anniversary at the Rack tonight. (See Sports.)
Erin: Or see the '99 Tony Award-winner for best play, ***Side Man***, at the Lyric Stage Company. Also, artistic director Nicholas Martin's debut show, ***Dead End***, based on Sidney Kingsley's play, is at the Huntington Theatre. (See Performing Arts.)

Thursday, Sept. 28

Julie: Join No. 9 Park wine director Cat Silirie at the BCAE for the **Thursday Night Wine Tasting Series**. (See Tastings.)
Erin: Author **Margaret Atwood** reads from her new novel at Brookline Booksmith. (See Books & Poetry.) Plus, director **Terence Davies** comes to the showing of his anticipated adaptation of Edith Wharton's *The House of Mirth* at the HFA. (See Film.)

Friday, Sept. 29

Julie: One of my favorite events of the year is the **Harpoon Octoberfest 2000** at the Harpoon Brewery. Drink mugs of beer and munch bratwurst. (See CityScope.)
Erin: *Election*, an improv show about the presidential race, is at the Back Alley Theater. (See Performing Arts.) Then at midnight, see John Waters' ***Hairspray*** at the Coolidge. (See Film.)

Saturday, Sept. 30

Erin: Tonight's the last night of the spectacular **Out on the Edge 2000: Festival of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Theater** at Boston Center for the Arts. (See Gay.)
Julie: Comedian **Dave Chappelle** of *Blue Streak* appears at the Comedy Connection tonight. (See Performing Arts.)

Sunday, Oct. 1

Julie: The **Celebrity Hat Trick** benefits the firefighters who died in Worcester. Enjoy a celeb hockey match between Hollywoodites and former Bruins. (See Sports.)
Erin: Gear up for fall festival season at the **Oktoberfest** and the **Harvest Moon Celebration** in Harvard Square, the **Applefest** on Gallop's Island and the **Fall Festival** at Faneuil Hall. (See CityScope.)

Monday, Oct. 2

Julie and **Erin**: Take the day off and experience the quintessential New England fair at the **Topsfield Fair**—the highlight of which is a giant pumpkin weigh-off, where pumpkins strive to reach the 1,000-pound mark. (See Go Away.)

Tuesday, Oct. 3

Julie: More than 30 South End restaurants offer up tastes of their signature entrees or desserts at the **Taste of the South End**. (See Tastings.)
Erin: Former porn star **Annie Sprinkle** is back in town. Tonight at Grand Openings, she gives tips for women on how to expand sexual repertoires. She's always loads of fun to see. (See Body & Mind.)

CITYSCOPE **48** • PERFORMING ARTS **52** • ART **56** • FILM **60** • BOOKS & POETRY **64** • EDUCATION **65** • CLASSICAL MUSIC **66** • DANCE CLUBS **68** • MUSIC **70** • GAY & LESBIAN **76** • BODY & MIND **78** CHILDREN **78** • SPORTS **78** • GO AWAY **79**. EDITED BY **ERIN HAGEDORN** Art, Books & Poetry, Dance, Dance Clubs, Film, Gay & Lesbian, Go Away, Music. EDITED BY **JULIE SHORT** Children, CityScope, Comedy, Education, Go Away, Sales & Fashion, Sports, Tastings, Theater. ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY **Laurel Kirtz** Body & Mind • **Paul Sherman** Film Capsules

NORMAN JEAN RAY

cityscope

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a list of festivals, events and benefits taking place in the Boston area by date.

Festivals, Events Expos & Benefits

Wednesday, Sept. 20

All-Star Tribute
Westin Hotel, Copley Place, 10 Huntington Ave., Boston (527-5600). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6:30pm. This dinner benefits the American Liver Foundation, honoring Pat Purcell, publisher/president of The *Boston Herald*, and Ron Burton Sr., former New England Patriot. WBZ-TV sports reporter Bob Lobel will serve as emcee.

The "Big E"
Eastern States Exposition, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield, Mass. (413-737-2443). Through Oct. 1. Browse the agricultural exhibits, cheer for your favorite cowboys in the rodeo, take in a lumberjack show or find your favorite festival food in the huge selection of concessions. Then settle down for concerts by such stars as **Willy Nelson**, **Destiny's Child**, **Rick Springfield**, **Trisha Yearwood**, **Def Leppard**, **Big Bad Voodoo Daddy** and **Travis Tritt**.

Friday, Sept. 22

JP Open Studios Reception
Forsyth Chapel, 95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (524-0128). 6-8pm. The juried selections from the best of Jamaica Plain's artists are on display during the weekend of Sept. 23-24. The opening reception is sponsored by the JP Arts Council.

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Fridays. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

Three Apples Storytelling Festival
Town Common, Harvard, Mass. (647-6149). New England's largest storytelling festival features more than 20 different tale spinners.

Toga Party
Dick's Last Resort, 55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. 9pm. Frat boys and sorority girls will be lining up for this "You Make Me Want to Shout" kind of party. For Belushi-wannabes, there's a contest for the most creative toga.

The World on a Street Auction Gala
Ritz-Carlton, 15 Arlington St., Boston (267-2224). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. $250. Enjoy dinner, dancing to the Black Tie Affair Orchestra and fabulous prizes.

Saturday, Sept. 23

American Heart Walk
Lederman Field on the Charles River, Cambridge (800-662-1701, ext. 3158). www.americanheart.org/new england. *10am.* WCVB-TV's Heather Kahn, Mayor Menino and more than 4,000 walkers join this 10-kilometer walk for the American Heart Association.

Bartholdi and Friends
French Library and Cultural Center, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (266-4351). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 5:3pm. $35. Known for his design of the State of Liberty, Frederic Auguste Bartholdi also created the church tower frieze of the First Baptist Church in Back Bay. Tonight for the first time, it will be illuminated. Witness the tower illumination, ringing of the bells and a choral anthem.

Boston Folk Festival
University of Massachsuetts-Boston, Dorchester (287-6900). www.wumb.org/folkfest. *MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. 11am-11pm.* An all-day festival of folk music by Richie Havens, Roger McGuinn, Jesse Winchester, Cheryl Wheeler, Christine Lavin, John Gorka, Garnet Rogers, Tish Hinojosa, Tony Rice and Peter Rowan.

Celebrating Latin Music
Sanders Theater, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. $80. The second annual benefit concert for the Cambridge Housing Assistance Fund will feature the talents of legendary conga player Giovanni Hidalgo and the Berklee Masters playing Latin jazz and Boston Music Award's "Outstanding Latin Act" winner, Sol & Canto.

Danehy Park Family Day
99 Sherman St., North Cambridge (349-4300). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard, bus #74 to park. A day of amusement rides, a kids' stage, live music, hip hop dance instruction, roving performers and a light show. Live music will include jazz, reggae, Caribbean, soul, brass and New Orleans sounds. Skyward Light, a choreographed light and music event with 14 World War II searchlights atop a 75-foot hill, illuminates the sky at 7:30pm.

Generations: A Collaborative Celebration of the Arts
Ritz-Carlton, 15 Arlington St., Boston (482-393, ext. 289). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 5pm. $20-$750. A fund-raising event to benefit Boston Ballet and the Wang Center in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Wang Theatre. The evening will begin with cocktails and dinner. Afterward, gala attendees will be transported to the Wang Theatre for a special performance.

South Station Ballroom 2000: An Elegant Afternoon of Ballroom Dancing
South Station, corner of Atlantic Avenue and Summer Street, Boston (451-2266). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. 12-4pm. Free. Celebrate National Ballroom Dance Week 2000 dancing to the music of Trilogy. .

Sunday, Sept. 24

Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk
Hopkinton at 7am, Wellesley 11am, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, 2pm. (800-632-3562). Walkers may choose to walk a half marathon that begins at Wellesley High School or they can join patients in the 3-mile family walk that starts at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The Jimmy Fund Walk is the only other event sanctioned to use the Boston Marathon's 26.2-mile route. All walkers finish at Copley Square, where there will be music and food.

Bridal Show
Hynes Convention Center, Boylston Street, Boston (781-455-1480). www.weddingdayonline.com *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. 11:30am - 4:30pm.* Boston's biggest bridal event of the year offers brides-to-be an opportunity to shop for everything they need.

Concours d'Elegance Antique Car Show
290 Argilla Road, Ipswich (98-356-4351). 9am-3pm. $20. This antique show features more than 100 Classic Car Club of America-registered classic cars—including such marques as Duesenberg, Packard, Rolls Royce, Pierce Arrow, Aston Martin, Ferrari and Bugatti—will be on premises for viewing.

Wednesday, Sept. 27

Today's Jobs Fair Boston
Bayside Expo Center, Boston (877-906-5627). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Career Network targets professionals in all job categories. More than 800 people will be in attendance.

Thursday, Sept. 28

Boston Ski & Sports Club's 35th Birthday Party
The Rack, 24 Clinton St., Boston (789-4070). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 6pm. Free. Celebrate 35 years of fun with the young and sporty members of Boston Ski & Sports Club. Enjoy appetizers, a cash bar and dancing to the music of the Cattunes.

BT Global Challenge 2000-01
Boston Harbor, Port 2, Boston (267-7366). www.btchallenge.com. The world's toughest yacht race, the BT Global Challenge, is an around-the-world yacht race like no other: Twelve identical 72-foot yachts will leave Southampton, England, each carrying a professional skipper and 17 crew members. The boats will race one another around the world—the wrong way. The 12 yachts sail into Boston Harbor after crossing the Atlantic and will be in town for viewing through Oct. 15.

Furnish the Future
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (523-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. This art auction and cocktail reception will feature more than 100 finished pieces of furniture that have been transformed into works of art by 50 talented artists.

Friday, Sept. 29

Harpoon Octoberfest 2000
Harpoon Brewery, 306 Northern Ave., Boston (888-HARPOON). www.harpoonbrewery.com. *Sept. 29, 5:30-11pm; Sept. 30, 2-11pm; Oct. 1, 2-7pm. $10.* More than 12,000 people are expected to enjoy live music featuring German-style Oompah bands and feast on knockwurst and Harpoon beer.

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Fridays. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

Saturday, Sept. 30

Diversity Initiative
42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 1-6pm. Free. An afternoon of African music, Latin foods, Asian arts, and workshops, talks and a special art exhibit.

Singles Dance
American Legion Post #440, 295 California St., Newton (261-9600). MBTA: D Green Line to Riverside. 8:30pm-12:30am. $10. Ages 21-60. The Catholic Alumni Club of Boston sponsors this dance party.

Sunday, Oct. 1

Applefest and Children's Native American Pow Wow
Gallops Island, Boston (223-8666). 1:30pm. This annual celebration includes cider pressing, music, stories and crafting an Alaskan laughing mask.

The Celebrity Hat Trick
Worcester's Centrum Centre, Worcester (931-200). 1pm. $15-$35. The Leary Firefighters Foundation hosts this benefit to honor the fallen heroes in the Worcester Fire Department who perished in the line of duty. A star-studded Hollywood team, including Michael J. Fox, Tim Robbins and Kiefer Sutherland, will play against the Boston Bruins alumni team, including Bobby Orr, Phil Esposito, John Bucyk, Derek Sanderson and Cam Neely.

Fall Festival
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston. MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 12-4pm. This old-fashioned outdoor fair includes carnival games, food stands, clowns and face painting. The outdoor stage will present pieces by Boston's finest youth arts groups including Ballet Theatre's Youth Works, Riverside Theatre Works, Polynesian Dance Arts, O'Shea-Chaplin Academy of Irish Dance and flamenco dancers. Culminating the events on stage, Ballet Theatre's company will perform variations from classics such as *Sleeping Beauty*, *Cinderella*, *Swan Lake*, and a new work by artistic director Jose Mateo.

Harpoon Brewery celebrates Oktoberfest with an authentic German beer garden Sept. 29-Oct. 1.

More than 200 merchants and food vendors celebrate Harvard Square's Oktoberfest Sept. 30.

Harvest Moon Celebration
Charles Hotel, Harvard Square, Cambridge (864-1200). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 11am-3pm. The Charles Hotel's 15th annual festival features products from more than 30 New England farmers, specialty purveyors, micro-breweries and regional chefs, all under one tent. Strolling musicians, storytellers, a pumpkin patch and art exhibit by children will provide an entertaining day for the family.

Oktoberfest 2000
Harvard Square, Cambridge (491-3434). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 12-6pm. Free. A collection of more than 200 merchants and vendors of artistic crafts, jewelry and clothing and other gifts. There is also a wide variety of ethnic cuisine and five stages of live music and performances.

25th Annual Roslindale Day Parade
Washington Street at Adams Park in Roslindale Village, Roslindale (327-4648). 1pm. Free. Featuring 16 bands, floats, dance schools, military/veterans groups and elected officials. The parade proceeds up South Street, Belgrade Avenue, W.R. Parkway, Centre Street, South Street, ending at Walter Street. Field events take place on Fallon Field following the parade.

Spooky World Opening
Deep in the Woods, Foxboro Stadium, Route 1, Foxboro, Mass. (978-838-0200). www.spookyworld.com. $23.50. Fri.-Sun., 6-11pm. Oct. 1-31. Visit Spooky World's 60 acres of haunted terror, including four haunted houses, three ghoulish museums, nightly horror celebrity guests and the Reaper's Hayride of Terror.

Tuesday, Oct. 3

A Taste of the South End
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St, Boston (781-433-7073). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. 6-9pm. $45, $55 at the door. More than 30 South End restaurants offer a tasting of their signature entree or dessert to raise money for Pridelights Foundation. The night also includes live entertainment and a silent auction.

Volunteer

ABCD Inc.
(35-6000). Seek tutors in reading, math, science, writing and social studies.

AIDS Action Committee
(888-332-AUTO or 450-1235). Turn your old car into a tax-deductible donation. Volunteer meeting held Sept. 7, 5:30-9pm.

All Books for Children (ABC) Book Drive
Starbucks Coffee locations. Through Oct. 3. Donate new or gently used children's books.

Boston Cares
(263-CARE). More than 70 volunteer opportunities available in Greater Boston.

Boston Living Center
(236-1012). HIV/AIDS service organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Community Servings
(445-7777). Help prepare and deliver meals for individuals and families dealing with AIDS.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

Friday Night Supper Program
Arlington Street Church, corner of Arlington and Boylston streets, Boston (536-7050, ext. 22). Need volunteers to help prepare, cook and serve meals on Fridays, 5-7pm.

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Spanish Dinner

October 4th
Alsatian Whites

October 18th
Wines from the Rhone

November 1st
Oregon Pinot Noir

November 15th
Burgundy's Pinot Noir

November 29th
Sonoma Merlot

December 13th
True Millenium
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Food 'til 1am, Open 'til 2am

The Greater Boston Food Bank
(427-5200). Groups needed to sort donated food.
Horizons Initiative
(287-1900). Volunteers needed to play with children living in shelters. Commit to two hours per week for six months. Daytime and evening hours available.
International Exchange
(542-8995). Host visiting English-speaking entrepreneurs from Russia.
Jewish Community Volunteer Program
(558-6585). Volunteers are needed to share fun times with an isolated senior.
Junior Achievement
(367-6891). ckraft@ja-easternmass.org. Volunteers needed to teach kids about business.
Mass. Eating Disorder Association
(558-1881). Volunteers needed for four hours per week for help line, assisting clinical staff and special events.
MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist elders with such tasks as reading, shopping, basic home repairs or going for a walk.
One with One
(254-1691). Tutor/mentor an immigrant or refugee in the Boston area to improve English skills and prepare for the American workplace. Information meetings will be held Sept. 21.
Pine Street Inn
(521-7626). Seeking volunteers for summer to serve meals and act as receptionist for homeless guests.
Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic
(577-1111). Needs volunteers to record textbooks at East Cambridge studio, days and evenings.
Rosie's Place
(442-9322). Volunteers needed for the dining room, clothing room, the groceries program and office work.
United Services Organization (USO)
(720-4949). Volunteers needed to welcome Navy ships, participate in hospital visits, provide office support, coordinate receptions and assist with events.
Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Seeks individuals to assist legal immigrants and refugees to become naturalized citizens.

Tours

Back Bay Fens: Visions and Revisions
Meet at the Leif Ericson statue, Commonwealth Avenue Mall and Charlesgate East, Boston (566-1689). 10am. Free. Olmsted's vision for the Fens, the "filthiest mudflats to be found anywhere in Massachusetts," was to turn the area into an oasis. Take a two-hour walking tour of the area.
Backstage at the Edward Brooke Courthouse
Brooke Courthouse, 24 New Chardon St, Boston (426-1885). 5:30-7:30pm. $15. Tour Massachusetts' newest trial courthouse.
Beacon Hill Literary Tour
The Charles Street Inn, 94 Charles St., Boston (387-4693). Saturdays, 2-3:30pm. $10. This tour will highlight the illustrious writers who lived in the neighborhood, including Louisa May Alcott, William Dean Howells, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Sylvia Plath.
Big Dig and South Boston Waterfront
Boston (426-1885). Saturdays, 11am. Through Nov. 4. $8. Learn about casting basins, slurry walls, bridges and tunnels and the history of the South Boston Waterfront.
Boston Bike Tours
On Boston Common (308-5902). Begins April 15. Daily 9:30am-6:30pm. Daily two-hour tours, Mon.-Sat., 1-3pm; 4-6pm. Low-impact, guided sightseeing tours of Boston on bicycles. Rentals available.
Boston by Foot
(367-2345). www.bostonbyfoot.com. *May-October. $8.* Guided 90-minute walks highlight the architecture and history of the city. •Sept. 24: Kenmore Square. Meet at 416 Comm. Ave., Boston.
Boston by Sea
Tours depart from Long Wharf (227-4321). Weekends until Memorial Day; daily through Oct. 9., 1pm and 3pm. $25. This cruise features live theater performances, sea shanties and video vignettes about pirates, clipper ships, the old immigration station, the *USS Constitution*, the lighthouse and the Boston Tea Party.
Boston Duck Tours
Prudential Center, Boston (723-DUCK). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. April-October. $21. The 80-minute tour on amphibious landing crafts takes groups through downtown and makes a final splash into the Charles.
Ghosts & Gravestones Tour
Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Ave., Boston (269-7150). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Thursdays through Nov. 1 at dusk. Two hours. $29. An 18th-century gravedigger takes you through the city's burial grounds.
Ghost Tours
Meet at Boston Common Visitor Information Center, 147 Tremont St., Boston (781-235-7149). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street. Selected evenings, 7:30pm. $12. Tour downtown Boston's most infamous haunted locations.
Horticulture Tour
Forest Hills Cemetery, 95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (524-0128). Sept. 22, 11am-12:30pm. $18. A walking lecture on the 19th-century gardens.
Indian Summer Strolls of Dorchester
(333-948). Wednesdays, 6-7:30pm. $5. •*Sept. 6:* **Savin Hill**. *Meet outside Savin Hill T stop on Savin Hill Ave.* •*Sept. 20:* **Ashmont**. *Meet outside Ashmont T stop on Dorchester Avenue.* Tours are led by Dorchester historian and author Anthony Sammarco. •Sept. 27: **Lower Mills**. *Meet outside Milton T stop on Adams Street.*
JFK's Boston
Meet at the Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Ave., Boston (269-7150). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Sundays, 1-3pm. Through Columbus Day. $30. See the places that helped shape young Jack Kennedy into the nation's 35th president.
Olmsted Park: the Lost Jewel
Meet at Daisy Field on Willow Pond Road, Jamaica Plain (566-1689). Free. Explore the design and history of one of the least known segments of Boston's Emerald Necklace.
Twilight House Tour
(267-6338). Sept. 21, 6-8:30pm. $15. Five of downtown Boston's historic houses open their doors with tours, music, refreshments and costumed staff. Purchase tickets at the Paul Revere, Otis, Nichols, Prescott or Gibson houses.
Vermont Foliage Special
Mystic Valley Railway Society, meet at South Station, Boston (361-4445). Oct. 1, 7:30am-7:30pm. $70. Travel through the Connecticut River Valley, taking in the many pastoral settings found in the hills of New England to Bellows Falls, Vermont.
Young Friends of the Public Garden Tour
Meet in front of George Washington statue at Arlington Street entrance, Boston (489-1291). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Thursdays, 6-6:45pm. Through Aug. 31. Learn about various statues, sculptures, flowers and trees with other young professionals.

Sights to See

Boston Tea Party Ship and Museum
Congress St. Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Open daily, March-May and Sept.-Nov., 9am-5pm; closed Dec.-March. $8, $7 students, $4 children. A replica of one of the ships emptied by colonists (disguised as Indians) during the Dec. 16, 1773, tea raid.
Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Fifth Floor, Boston (353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), Oct.-March, 7:30-8:30pm; April-Sept., 8:30-9:30pm. Free. BU's astronomers are available to answer questions and assist with telescopes as you check out Orion, Cassiopeia and the Big Dipper.
Bunker Hill Monument
Monument Square, Charlestown (242-5641). Open daily 9am-5pm. Free. The 221-foot monument honors the men who died in the Battle of Bunker Hill.
Christian Science World Headquarters
Massachusetts and Huntington Avenues, Boston (450-2000). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential. Tue.-Sat., 9:30am-4pm, Sun., 11am-2pm. Tour the Mother Church—a giant basilica that seats 3,000 worshippers; a 700-foot-long reflecting pool; and a photo exhibit.
Copp's Hill Burial Ground
Hull and Snowhill Streets, Boston. MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Open dawn-dusk. Admission free. From Boston's second-oldest cemetery, you can see all the way across the Inner Harbor to Charlestown.
John Hancock Observatory
200 Clarendon St., Boston (572-6429). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open Mon.-Sat., 9am-11pm, Sun., 10am-11pm (May-Oct.) and noon-11pm (Nov.-April). Admission $6. The tallest building in New England (62 floors) offers an awesome view.
John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (566-7937). Wed.-Sun. 10 am-4:30pm. The birthplace and early boyhood home of the nation's 35th president.
King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat. 10am-2pm. Admission free. Alongside Boston's first Anglican church—a gloomy granite apparition—you'll find a burial ground with equally ominous-looking headstones.
Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (635-3105). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Open daily, 9am-5pm. Guided tours every half-hour, starting at 9am. Free. Known as the "Cradle of Liberty," Faneuil Hall—we're talking about the part above the eatery—was the site of many an angry man ranting and raving about the damn British in the mid-1700s.
Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily, 9 am-5pm. Free. Here, Paul Revere saw two lanterns shining on April 18, 1775, indicating that the British troops were crossing the Charles River to Lexington and Concord via boat.
Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays, 10am-4pm; weekends, 10am-5pm. $3. A thousand fed-up men gathered in this church to decide whether or not to send three ships full of tea back to England. Guess what? They didn't. •*Voices of Protest* traces the use of Old South Meeting House over three centuries for religious, political and social debate. •Middays at the Meeting House, a lunchtime music series. Thursdays, 12:15-1pm. $4.
Paul Revere House
19 North Square, Boston (523-2338). Nov. 1-April 14, 9:30am-4:15pm; April 15-Oct. 31, 9:30am-5:15pm. Built in 1680 and owned by Paul Revere from 1770 to 1800, this house offers a self-guided tour with illustrated text panels and museum interpreters. •Sept. 30: Tinsmithing. Watch an 18th-century tinner cut and hem sheets of tin.
Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-10pm, Sun. noon-10pm. $4, $3 seniors and students. Check out Boston's only 360-degree view tower. The view here (50 floors up) is slightly better than that of rival John Hancock.
Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8am-6pm. Free. Designed by H.H. Richardson and constructed in 1877, the huge Romanesque church in Copley Square offers free organ concerts on Fridays at 12:15pm.

Museums

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June, Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm; June-Aug., daily, 10am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm. $5, children and seniors $3: See *Arthur's World* from the popular television series and children's books. This infamous aardvark is one of many hands-on favorites.
Harriet Tubman House
566 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-8610). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. Weekdays, 8am-8pm. Free admission. The Harriet Tubman Museum exhibits a collection of this influential black leader's achievements.
John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (929-4523). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily 9am-5pm (last film begins at 3:55pm). $8. This permanent collection on the life and legacy of President John F. Kennedy offers a re-created world of the early 1960s with period settings and 25 dramatic multimedia exhibits.
Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (739-1200) www.afroamnuseum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays 10am-4pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.* This place is bustling after its recent endowment of more than $1 million to restore the meeting house's hallowed sanctuary. See the African Meeting House, the oldest black church in America.
Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun., 9am-12pm.* This Harvard museum is made up of four factions: The **Botanical Museum**, **The Museum of Comparative Zoology**, the **Mineral & Geological Museum**, and the **Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology**. A number of exhibitions tie together all four of these distinct collections. The most famous is the Botanical Museum for its glass flowers collection—more than 3,000 models of more than 480 plant species. •New at Museum of Natural History: *Beauty on the Wing: The Double Lives of Butterflies*. Butterflies of every size, shape and color from all parts of the world are on display. •New at the Peabody: *Diverse Traditions: Early Navajo Rugs and Pueblo Embroidery*. Oct. 5-Nov. 26.
Museum of Our National Heritage
33 Marrett Road, Route 2A, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.mnh.org. *Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 12-5pm. Free.* Explore history through pop culture. Topics range from Revolutionary artifacts to the latest in jigsaw-puzzle-solving techniques and American circus posters. •Opened July 21: *Made in Massachusetts*. See items commonly found in homes during the past three centuries.
Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu., 9am-5pm; Fri., 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children. Omni Theater, Hayden Planetarium or laser shows all $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children.* Find out how much you weigh on the moon, strap yourself into a space module or sift through sand on an archaeological dig. Enjoy 600 hands-on exhibits. •Ongoing at the Mugar Omni Theater: *Dolphins* and *Michael Jordan to the Max*. Now opened: *The Magic of Flight*. Experience the thrill of flight and jet aircraft technology. All films show through Oct. 5.
Charles Hayden Planetarium
Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children. Time of show changes daily.* Don't miss the daily laser shows to the music of the Beastie Boys, Pink Floyd, Korn, Tool, Jimi Hendrix, Nine Inch Nails, among others. It's a trip.
Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St. (in Larz Anderson Park), Brookline (522-6547). MBTA: D Green Line to Reservoir, to bus #51. April-Oct., Wed.-Sun., 10am-5pm; Nov.-March, Wed.-Sun., 10am-4pm. $5. This 1888 carriage house is the automobile buff's paradise—the country's oldest private collection of antique autos. •Oct. 1, 10am-2pm: VW Van Transporterfest
Nichols House Museum
55 Mount Vernon St., Boston (227-6993) Tues.-Sun., 12:15-4:15pm; guided tours on the half hour. $5 adults, children under 12 free admission. Catch a glimpse of 19th- and early 20th-century life on Beacon Hill.
Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (720-3290). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily, 9am-5pm. $3, students and seniors $2. Built in 1713, this original seat of colonial government was the place pre-Independence Bostonians first heard the *Declaration of Independence* read. •Opened March 31: *Burning Issues: A History of Boston Through Fire.*
Sports Museum of New England
FleetCenter, Boston (624-1234). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Adults, $5, children and seniors, $4. Exhibits of the great sports traditions of the Boston Garden, FleetCenter and Celtics.
USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (426-1812). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, bus 93 to Navy Yard. Nov.-April 30: Open daily, 10am-5pm. Free. Learn about the oldest commissioned warship's 200-year history through hands-on—hoist a sail, take the wheel, fire a cannon or swing in a hammock.

Zoos & Gardens

Arnold Arboretum
125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain (524-1718). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open weekdays: 9am-4pm; weekends: 12-4pm. Free. Commune with nature and more than 14,000 exotic trees, shrubs and flowers.
Franklin Park Zoo
1 Franklin Park Road, Boston (541-LION). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open Oct.-March daily 10am-4pm; April-Sept. weekdays 10am-5pm, weekends and holidays 10am-6pm. $7. A 72-acre oasis of green in the city with waterfalls, lush vegetation, gorillas, leopards, hippos and free-flying birds.
Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard, transfer to #71 or #73 bus. Open daily, 8am-7pm (summer) and 8am-5pm (winter). Admission free. Rest in peace among the grave sites and crypts of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes, "Battle Hymn of the Republic" author Julia Ward Howe and Winslow Homer, among other famous Americans.
New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (973-5200). www.neaq.org. *MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Early Sept.-June: Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. and holidays, 9am-6pm. $12.50.* Boston's biggest fish bowl has much more than just goldfish. In the three-story saltwater tank swim turtles, sharks, eels and the occasional mermaid (or mer-male). •New on display: two Pacific batfish
Roger Williams Park Zoo
1000 Elmwood Ave., Providence, R.I. (401-785-3510). South on 1-95 from Providence to exit 17 (Elmwood Ave.). $6, $3.50 seniors and children. Open every day except Dec. 25. Nov.-March, 9am-4pm. April-Oct., 9am-5pm. Lions and tigers and a 150-pound baby polar bear named Triton. Oh my! More than 600 birds and mammals inhabit the African plains and rain forests.
Stone Zoo
149 Pond St., Stoneham, Rte. 93 North, Exit 34 (781-438-5100). Mon.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. and holidays, 10am-6pm. $6 adults, $4 children. There's still plenty to see here—even though everybody's favorite polar bear has passed on to that great iceberg in the sky.

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Theater
JUST OPENED

Blithe Spirit
Abbott Memorial Theater, 9 Spring St., Waltham (781-893-9171). Sept. 22-Oct. 7, 8pm. $12. Waltham's Hovey Players present Nöel Coward's classic comedy directed by Annamarie DaSilva.

Encore!!
Berklee Performance Center, 136 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (542-9155). Sept. 26, 10:30am. $11.95. Chamber Repertory Theatre's show features five dramatic adaptions of classic short stories: Edgar Allan Poe's spine-chilling "The Tell Tale Heart"; Guy de Maupassant's philosphical and ironic drama, "The Necklace"; Washington Irving's highly spirited tale, "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"; W.W. Jacobs' "The Monkey's Paw"; and Mark Twain's "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County."

An Evening of Verismo Italian Opera
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (536-2412). Sept. 23, 8pm. $20-$42. Boston Bel Canto Opera presents this program. See a complete performance of Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana* and arias and ensembles from *La Gioconda*, *La Wally*, *Turandot*, *La Boheme*, *La Rondine*, *Madama Butterfly*, *L'Amico Fritz*, *Pagliacci* and *Manon Lescaut*.

"Thaaat's My Life"

"I do, infrequently, fantasize about hanging myself," says Neil Hamburger, on his album *Left for Dead in Malaysia*. It's not surprising. He's on the road almost every day of the year, and he lives out of a locker in Los Angeles when he's "home." His wife has left him and plans to remarry (a dentist, of all people!), and she has pledged to take his daughter to places he'll never be—"onstage at the *Tonight Show*," for example. But Hamburger, who appears Oct. 1 at the Middle East, perseveres, taking lukewarm (occasionally hostile) audience response in stride, knowing that if he makes one person laugh that night, it's all been worthwhile. *Downstairs at the Middle East, 472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Oct. 1, 8pm. $8. —Andrew Graham*

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change
Stuart Street Playhouse (formerly the 57 Theatre), 200 Stuart St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 5pm and 8:30pm; Sun., 3pm and 7pm. Through Sept. 29. $25-$45. Everything you've secretly thought about dating, romance, marriage, lovers, husbands, wives and in-laws but were afraid to admit is celebrated in this musical review of the modern-day mating game.

Lion in the Streets
Spingold Theater, Brandeis University, Waltham (781-736-3400). Commuter Rail to Brandeis/Roberts. Tue.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm and 7pm. Through Sept. 24. $10.50-$14.50. The ghost of a murdered young girl drifts through every scene, a poignant reflection of the loneliness and suffering of the other characters. Judith Thompson's play is searing and dark. As crucial events that shape the lives of this small community unfold, it is clear that are connected to each other by hope and their need for love.

Mad Dogs and Englishmen: The Music and Wit of Nöel Coward
Boston Center for the Arts, Leland Center, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-2787). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Sept. 27-Oct. 1. A fast-paced, cabaret-style look at the gargantuan talents and extraordinary life of Nöel Coward.

The Performance Cult
Back Alley Theater, 1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1253). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. Sundays, 7:30pm. Through Dec. 17. $7. Actors, dancers and storytellers will present a series of short, original vignettes. Each one will last no longer than 10 minutes. See character work, dance, monologues, movement, singing and sound work. Each performer must base his or her work on the truth.

Scenes from a Bordello
Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (353-5443). Thu., 7pm; Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Sept. 28-Oct. 8. $20. In the Alaskan tundra, a miner discovers gold, and a whorehouse is saved. But can love and commerce coexsist inthe Arctic?

Sweet Charity
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly, Mass. (978-921-6351). Tue., 8pm; Wed., 2pm and 8pm; Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2pm and 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Oct. 3-22. $18-$56. Charity Hope Valentine is a lovable but gullible romantic who makes her living dancing with gentlemen clients at the seamy, steamy Fan Dango Ballroom in Times Square. She dreams of finding a good man who'll marry her and make her more respectable, but she keeps falling in love with losers instead.

The Three of Cups
Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (353-5443). Thu., 7pm; Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Through Sept. 24. $20. A passionate and structurally inventive play by Sinan Ünel tells the story of three gay men grappling with the beauty and pain of love.

Too Jewish Two!
Jewish Theatre of New England, 333 Nahanton St., Newton Centre (965-5226). Sept. 23, 8pm; Sept. 24, 2pm and 7pm. $25. Avi Hoffman's off-Broadway musical comedy review combines songs, dance and comedy with a taste of klezmer music making a happy nostalgic excursion into Jewish culture and history. His intelligent, informative, interesting style celebrates Jewish humor from Groucho Marx, Milton Berle, and Henny Youngman to Paul Reiser and Jerry Seinfeld.

Tour de Force!
John Hancock Hall, 180 Berkeley St., Boston (542-9155). Oct. 2, 10:30am. $11.95. Chamber Repertory Theatre's show includes Edgar Allan Poe's haunting story, "The Fall of the House of Usher"; Ambrose Pierce's stunning examination of a condemned man's final moments, "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge"; Richard Connell's gripping tale of two hunters locked in mortal combat, "The Most Dangerous Game"; the wry wit of Saki in "The Mouse"; and O. Henry's "The Ransom of Red Chief."

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf
Trinity Repertory Theater, 201 Washington St., Providence (401-521-1100). Tue., 7pm; Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm and 7pm. Sept. 22-Nov. 12. $22-$40. After a faculty party in a New England college town, George and Martha invite Nick and Honey home for a nightcap. "One quick drink" turns into a wild night of shocking power games that turn on a dime and change rules at whim, as the whisper-thin social facade shatters to reveal the secrets connecting their lives. Edward Albee's psychological masterpiece reinvented 20th-century American drama.

Gavin "Capt. Stubing" MacLeod and Beth McVey star in the Shubert's *Copacabana* through Sept. 24.

You're a Good Man Charlie Brown
The Footlight Club, Eliot Hall, 7A Eliot St., Jamaica Plain (524-3200). Sept. 22-23, Sept. 26, Sept. 29-30, 8pm. $15. Based on Charles Schultz's comic strip, this classic musical lets Charlie Brown and his friends put their feelings into song.

NOW RUNNING

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). Wed.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 7pm and 10pm; Sun., 3pm and 6pm. $39-$49. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to get its point across with tribal rock music, performance art, humorous antics, props (including plastic tubes and Twinkies) and three men painted blue.

Copacabana
The Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (350-6000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2pm and 8pm; Sun., 2pm and 7pm. Through Sept. 24. $21-$70. "Her name is Lola..." begins Barry Manilow's Grammy Award-winning hit song, "Copacabana," the inspiration for this new musical—a captivating tale of love and romance set amid the swinging nightclub scene of the 1940s. And guess who's starring? Gavin MacLeod, best known for his 10 years as Captain Stubing on *The Love Boat*.

Dead End
Huntington Theatre, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (266-0800). Through Oct. 8. At once funny and disturbing, this gritty melodrama draws a powerful portrait of class differences, as luxury apartments encroach upon a broken-down neighborhood, Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Sidney Kingsley's play had such an impact on the American audience when it debuted in 1935 that it sparked the social reform of tenement housing and the judicial system for juvenile delinquents.

The King Stag
American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (495-2668). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Through Sept. 28. This is an 18th-century fairy tale—complete with costumes, puppets, masks and choreography—for adults and children. Carlo Gozzi's 18th-century fable brings to life King Deramo, the faithful Angela who loves him, his treacherous prime minister Tartaglia, several hare-brained members of the court, a magician, a parrot, magical stags and a giant bear. It's a story of love, intrigue, mirth, magic spells and pageantry.

A Little Night Music
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly, Mass. (978-921-6351). Tue., 8pm; Wed., 2pm and 8pm; Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2pm and 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Through Sept. 24. $18-$56. Inspired by Ingmar Bergman's "Smiles of a Summer Night," this witty, touching and often-profound show looks at three mismatched couples spending a weekend together in a Swedish country house, juggling their relationships until they fall into proper place. Because it's midsummer, the sun never sets, so the romance lasts all night long. The score features the classic "Send in the Clowns."

Out On the Edge 2000: Festival of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Theater
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-2787). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. www.thetheateroffensive.org. *Through Sept. 30. $5-$22.* For the ninth year running, Boston's Theater Offensive presents the largest festival of its kind in New England. The four-week extravaganza features performances by Nöel Alumit, Felice Shays, Betsy Salkind, Gabriel Q, Pulp Vixens and Sandra Valls, Tim Miller, Daniel Alexander Jones, Grisha Coleman, Djola Branner & Company. Also, the festival includes performances by the Treu Colors Youth Theater Troupe and by the Usual Suspects. There are 33 performances in total, including double features, puppet shows, staged readings and a full-blown techno disco extravaganza.

7 Affidavits on Authority
Pet Brick Productions, Tremont Theater, 276 Tremont St, Boston (642-1456). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Fri.-Sat., 9:30pm; Sun., 7pm. Through Oct. 1. $10. Brandon Toropov's often funny, sometimes chilling play examines human relationships and power struggles.

School for Scandal
Trinity Repertory Theater, 201 Washington St., Providence (401-521-1100). Through Oct. 8. In a world obsessed with rumor, gossip and innuendo, Lady Sneerwell, Benjamin Backbite and Mr. Snake are running wild. In this classic, lusty, uproarious Restoration comedy, characters scheme, seductions swirl, plots thicken and scandal mounts until the tangled web of mischief is set right at last.

Sex, Drugs and Rock 'n' Roll
Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (723-8916). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Wed.-Sat., 8pm. Sept. 20-Oct. 14. $20. Eric Bogosian's play depicts the many facets of man—running the gamut of emotions.

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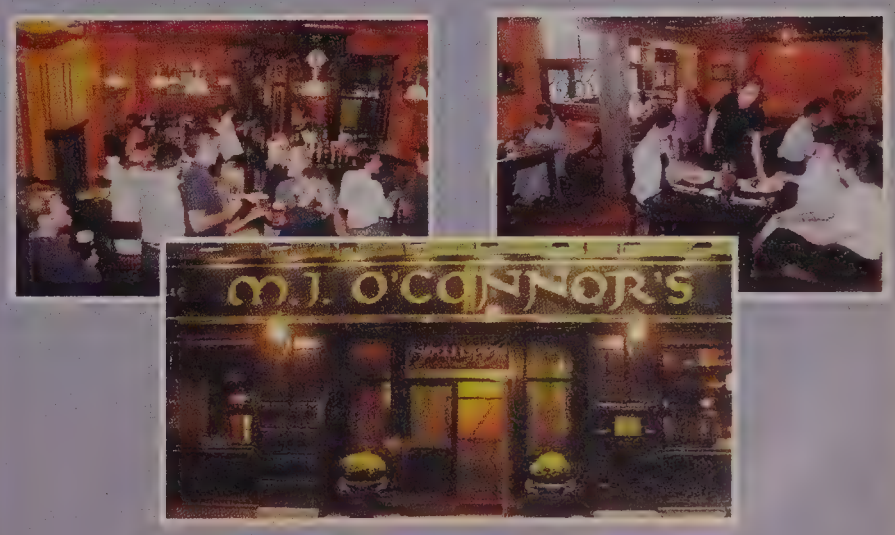

For a taste of the old country, mouthwatering food, a great selection of Irish and local beer on tap, be sure to visit Boston's newest authentic Irish pub M.J. O'Connor's, in the Historic Park Plaza Hotel. Serving Irish breakfast everyday up to 3 pm.

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The cabaret show *Mad Dogs and Englishmen: The Music and Wit of Nöel Coward* is at the Boston Center for the Arts Sept. 27-Oct. 1.

Shakespeare & Company: Jack and Jill
Shakespeare & Company, The Mount, Lenox, Mass. (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. *Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 3:30pm and 8pm; Sun., 3:30pm. Through Oct. 15.* Jane Martin mines the subtle and often treacherous depths of modern wedlock from uncomfortable introduction, into romance, through marriage and beyond.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri. 8pm ; Sat., 6:30pm and 9:30pm; Sun., 3pm and 7:30pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This hilarious whodunit is set in a unisex hair salon. The production holds the record as the longest-running play in the history of Boston theater.

Side Man
Lyric Stage Company of Boston, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Through Oct. 14. Winner of the 1999 Tony Award for best play, *Side Man* is about jazz musicians—from their heyday after the war through the decline of the big bands and bop, through the rise of rock 'n' roll to the dark years of the '70s and '80s.

Sweeney Astray
Back Alley Theater, 1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1253). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. Sept. 25, 7pm. $12. Kate Sullivan will perform this haunting and ancient tale of a mad king of Ireland, translated from the Old Irish by Nobel Prize-winning poet Seamus Heaney. Directed by Marshall Hughes and set to original music composed by Sullivan, this show will feature music for four voices (soprano, alto, tenor and bass) and instrumental accompaniment including harp, bodhran and uillean pipes.

The Water Engine
Pet Brick Productions, Tremont Theater, 276 Tremont St, Boston (642-1456). Wed.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2pm. Through Oct. 1. $20. A powerful drama from one of America's modern masters, David Mamet. Chicago in the 1930s forms the backdrop for this harrowing thriller about a factory worker who must defend himself and his family from the corporate forces pursuing his invention, an engine that runs on water.

You're a Good Man Charlie Brown
Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton (244-0169). Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Through Sept. 24. $21. Enjoy fun and laughter with the Peanuts gang in this tribute to the late cartoonist Charles Schulz.

CABARET

Puttin' on the Ritz
Orpheum Foxborough, Foxborough, Mass. (508-543-4434). Sept. 22-24. $13-$26. Acclaimed cabaret artists Lynne Jackson and Mike Palter offer a musical tribute to Irving Berlin, featuring guest artist Jim Repa. As scholars and storytellers, instrumentalists and vocalists, they make tales come alive.

INTERACTIVE THEATER

Medieval Manor
246 East Berkeley St., Boston (423-4900). Red Line to Broadway. Mon., Wed., Thu., Fri., 8pm ; Sat., 5pm and 9:30pm; Sun., 6pm. Ongoing. $9.60-$32. Eat, drink and be merry at a Renaissance dining experience. Don't worry about etiquette. You won't find knives and forks, and the soup of the day is in your face—literally. Dress down for this one-of-a-kind experience.

Mystery Cafe
290 Congress St., Boston (781-320-0040). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Dinner and show: Fri., 7:30pm; Sat., 7pm. Ongoing. $36 (all inclusive). Saturdays: The interactive murder mystery, *Murder on the Campaign Trail*, is a comedic mystery parody of Campaign 2000.

Mystery Cruise: Murder on the Ocean Queen
Ft. Independence, Long Wharf, Boston (781-320-0040). Cruise departs Saturdays, 8pm. $49/person, includes dinner and cruise. Gather clues during a Harbor cruise, meet characters and interrogate suspects as you attempt to piece together the answer to the mystery.

COMING SOON

Fuddy Meers
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-5000). Oct. 5-28. If South Boston native David Lindsay-Abaire garners the same rave reviews in Boston that he did off-Broadway with his play *Fuddy Meers*, he's destined for great success. The *New York Times* called this comedy about a woman whose memory is mysteriously erased each night as she sleeps "dark, sweet and thoroughly engaging." The Boston Center for the Arts' resident theater company, SpeakEasy Stage, produces this dark-humored comedy under the artistic direction of Paul Daigneault. "It's zany, funny and over-the-top," says Daigneault.

Madama Butterfly
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Oct. 4, 7:30pm; Oct. 6, 7:30pm; Oct. 8, 3pm; Oct. 10, 7:30pm; Oct. 13, 7:30pm; Oct. 15, 3pm; Oct. 17, 7pm. The Boston Lyric Opera presents this heartbreaking tragedy of a beautiful Japanese girl robbed of her innocence by a callous U.S. Navy lieutenant. The show will be sung in Italian with English subtitles.

Tallulah
The Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (426-9366). Oct. 10-22. Kathleen Turner comes to town with her sultry voice, sexual charisma and enigmatic presence for her role as eccentric real-life actress Tallulah Bankhead. In Sandra Ryan Heyward's one-woman play, the show's namesake sips champagne and divulges secrets, passions and regrets as she prepares to host a fund-raiser for incumbent president Harry S. Truman. TV sitcom director Michael Lessac (from *The Drew Carey Show* and *Everybody Loves Raymond*) directs this pre-Broadway production.

Dance

SHOWS AND EVENTS

The Art of Weightlessness
Copley Theatre, 255 Clarendon St., Boston (266-7262). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Sept. 22, 7pm and Sept. 23, 8pm. Dance Umbrella spotlights dancer, choreographer and video artist Bill Shannon, a.k.a. Crutchmaster, in a Boston premiere. Using a skateboard and crutches, the unique artist balances, spins and dances using these unusual, but intriguing props.

Dances/Daniel McCusker
Green Street Studios, 185 Green St., Cambridge (864-3191). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. Sept. 22-23, 8pm. Boston-based choreographer Daniel McCusker presents his original work, featuring movement studies set to Brahms and a solo performed by McCusker himself.

Four Seasons
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Sept. 28-Oct. 8. Boston Ballet's 37th year opens with this show, featuring the premiere of NY-based dancer/choreographer Christopher Wheeldon. Set to Antonio Vivaldo's popular concerto, the show is a trademark combination of Wheeldon's contemporary and classic movements.

Modern Dance Concert
The Dance Complex, 536 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-9363). Sept. 22 and 23, 8pm. Refreshing new works in dance by Kate Digby.

Resurrection/Daniel Pelzig
Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Sept. 23, 5pm. Debuting at the Generations Gala to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Wang Theatre, Daniel Pelzig's show promises to be a special tribute to the venue, and features a special performance by Yo-Yo Ma.

South Station Ballroom 2000
South Station, corner of Atlantic Avenue and Summer Street, Boston (451-2266). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept. 20, 11:30am-1:30pm. Free. Celebrate National Ballroom Dance Week 2000 with dancing demonstrations, mini-lessons and live music.

JOIN IN

Club Joy
533 Washington Street, Boston (354-5780). Saturday nights. This Latin night spot now offers classes: salsa, merengue, bachata and more.

Dance Friday
Rug Cutter's Studio, 23 Main St., Watertown Square (924-7276). Fridays, 8:30pm-12am. $7 adults, $4 teens, children free. Join in the dancing to all types of music—even dance barefoot—in this family-friendly, smoke- and alcohol-free environment.

Four on the Floor
Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. •Saturdays, 9pm-1:30am, $12, $10 after 11:30pm. Join in a variety of dance moves—here you'll find jazzy mambos, swing dancing, cheeky cha chas and sassy salsa numbers.

Just Swing It
Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Inman Square, Cambridge (266-2258). Tuesdays, 10pm-1:30am. $6. Ages 19 and older. Featuring the Black Tie Affair Orchestra, this will be a great night of swing dancing. Dancers are encouraged to bring their own music.

Moving from Center
The Dance Complex, 536 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-9363). Sept. 23. $50/$35 if pre-registered. 1:30pm-5pm. Mixed-level contact improvisation workshop with Patrick Crowley.

Salsa Workshops
The Dance Complex, 536 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-9363). Sept. 24, 10:30am-12pm. $10. Learn the latest salsa moves from instructor Christina Pujol.

Tango Rialto
Rialto, Charles Hotel, One Bennett Street, Cambridge (661-5050). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thursdays, 10:30pm-1:30am. $10. One of Boston's most popular restaurants, Rialto in Harvard Square opens its doors to tango dancers of all levels and backgrounds for nights of light hors d'oeuvres and lots of dancing.

TICKETS

Bostix
(723-5181) www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of Faneuil Hall); Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth); and Harvard Square (in the Holyoke Center arcade at 1350 Mass. Ave).* Same-day tickets half-price.

Next Ticketing
(423-NEXT). www.boston.com/next.

Ticketmaster
(931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(247-1300 or 800-442-1854). A good place to get tickets if a show is sold out at the box office.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail info. to comedy@improper.com. *Include address, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a description of the performances or comedians. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (248-9700). www.comedyconnectionboston. com. *MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed., 8pm; Thu., 8:30pm; Fri. and Sat., 8pm, 10:15pm; Sun., 7pm. $8-$10 (weekend prices vary).* The oldest comedy club in Boston draws big-name, national comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •Sept. 20: Don Gavin •Sept. 21: Frank Santos, the "R-Rated Hypnotist" •Sept. 22: **Joe Rogan** of *News Radio* •Sept. 23: **Joe Rogan** of *News Radio* •Sept. 24: Black Comedy Explosion hosted by Jonathon Gates •Sept. 25: Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox •Sept. 26: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz •Sept. 27: Don Gavin •Sept. 28: Frank Santos, the "R-Rated Hypnotist" •Sept. 29: **Dave Chappelle** of *Half Baked* •Sept. 30: **Dave Chappelle** of *Blue Streak* •Oct. 1: Dave Chappelle •Oct. 2: Amateur Showcase •Oct. 3: Paul Nardizzi.

The Comedy Studio at the Hong Kong
1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu.-Sun. 8pm. $5-$7. Sketch comedy troupes and local comedians perform. •Sept. 21: Tim McIntire's Fight Night with guests Jeanine Pace, Stacy Yanetti, Steve Calechman, John Fisch and Dan Sulman •Sept. 22: PS Absurdo sketch comedy with stand-up from Chris Walsh, Steve Calechman, Benari Poulten and Dave Walsh •Sept. 23: Steve Calechman with Lakshmi Baalachandra, Ben Murray, Dan Ho, Val Kappa and Jules Owen •Sept. 24: Sketch comedy of "Bloody Mayhem" with guests Pat O'Shea, John Curtin, Scott Rutherford, David Walsh, Steve Calechman and Eric Riley Moore •Sept. 28: Tim McIntire hosts Thursday Night Fights at which comedians debate each other. Also Jesse Gersten, Travis Wallace, Dan Newbower and Paul Keenan •Sept. 29: Brendon Small and Larry Murphy with guests Ramu, Matt Jablow, Julie Perkins, Ira Proctor and LeeAnn Price •Sept. 30: Jan Davidson, Ira Proctor, Ben Boime, Kelly McFarland, Ben Joplin and Teresea Craggan •Oct. 1: Improv comedy from Comedie du Jour with guests the Kunene Bros., Dan Levy and Ben Boime.

Dick Doherty's Comedy Vault
Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun., 9pm. $10. Features local stand-up comedians. Thursdays: Stand-up comedy. Fridays and Saturdays: Dick Doherty's Comedy Pro Tour. Sundays: Open-mike night.

Nick's Comedy Stop
100 Warrenton St., Boston (482-0930). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. $10-$15. The talent here is not quite as big-name as the Comedy Connection, but the crowds are just as enthusiastic, and you're guaranteed to leave with a smile on your face. Wednesdays: Open mike at 8:30pm. •Sept. 21-23: Rich Ceisler, Mark Scalia and Cal Verducci •Sept. 28: Kenny Rogerson, Kevin Knox and Jack Lynch •Sept. 29-30: Kenny Rogerson, Stephanie Peters and Jack Lynch.

IMPROVISATIONAL COMEDY & MAGIC

Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston (263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Shows: Thu. 8pm; Fri. and Sat. 8pm and 10pm. Main Stage: $10-$15.* Now playing on the main stage is the critically acclaimed improvisational and sketch comedy show—voted one of Boston's best improvisational comedy troupes. •Wednesdays, 8pm: The Improv Asylum Training Center graduate show, Gary's Pocket, followed by the Improv Asylum Touring Company. $10.

ImprovBoston at Back Alley Theater
1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1253). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. $12. Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe makes things up as they go along. ***•Election***: Fri. 8pm, through November. Based on audience participation, troupe members will adopt party platforms and run on them throughout the course of the show, with all the requisite political shenanigans. ***•TheatreSports***: Fridays, 10:30pm. Witness two local improvisation troupes compete for bragging rights in this no-holds-barred, improvisational fight. The audience decides the winner.

Magicians & Spirits at the Green Street Grill
280 Green St., Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Shows every Tuesday at 9pm. $10 cabaret show ($5 with dinner). Patrons enjoy close-up magic as two or three magicians perform tricks among the crowd. At 10pm, the cabaret show begins upstairs with local and national magicians reading minds, making birds appear out of nowhere and levitating objects onstage.

COMEDY SHOWS

Battle of the Sexes
290 Congress St., Boston (426-1999). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Saturdays 10:30pm. $15-$18. A participatory comedy.

Comedy at the Isle
The Emerald Isle Bar and Lounge, 1501 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester (288-3481). MBTA: Red Line to Fields Corner. Thursdays 8-10pm. Free. Stand-up open mike night hosted by Keith Mahoney.

Joey & Maria's Comedy Wedding
Tremont House Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Fri. and Sat., 7:30pm. Ongoing. $39-$45. Join the fun at this absolutely zany Italian wedding. Big hair and blue tuxedos optional.

Murder on the Campaign Trail
Mystery Cafe Dinner Theater, 290 Congress St., Boston (781) 793-9700. Fridays at 7:30pm; Saturdays at 7pm. Ongoing. $36 (Includes dinner and show). See this mystery parody of Campaign 2000.

UNDERWEAR!

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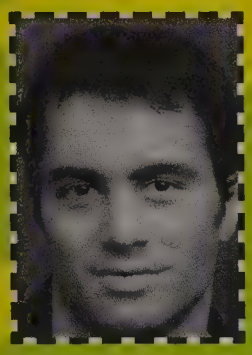

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JIM BREUER
October 6-7

TOMMY DAVIDSON
October 13

DOM IRRERA
October 20

BOBBY SLAYTON
October 27

ROBERT SCHIMMEL
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art

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information for gallery and museum listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail to arts@improper.com. *Include opening and closing dates, nearest T stop, price of admission, if any, and telephone numbers. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a partial list of the largest art museums, art institutes and galleries in the Boston area. The • symbol denotes a temporary exhibition.

Museums

Art Institute of Boston
Lesley College, 700 Beacon St., Boston (585-6600). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. www.lesley.edu. *Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm; Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun., 12-5pm.* •*Contemporary Art from Cuba* includes the works of 21 contemporary Cuban artists, many of whom have never before exhibited their work in the U.S. Through Oct. 21.

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. The Sackler houses ancient Islamic and Asian art, an array of Neolithic bronze Buddhas, Greek pottery and Hellenistic sculpture. *Wall Drawing #830* features four isometric figures. Ongoing.

Boston Public Library
900 Boylston St., Boston (536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. •*The Bookplate as an Art Form,* a selection from the collections of the prints of various artists represented in the Boston Public Library Print Department, shows through Sept. 23 in the Wiggin Gallery. •*The Brink's Job*, an exhibition of photographs from the Print Department's *Herald*-Traveler Photo Morgue of "Boston's Crime of the Century," includes courtroom sketches of the trial, crime scene photos and mug shots. Through Dec. 31 in the Wiggin Gallery Balcony.

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park
51 Sandy Pond Rd., Lincoln (781-259-8355). •*Photography in Boston 1955-1985* celebrates 30 years of photographic history in Boston and features more than 60 Boston area photographers—with a total of more than 230 pieces on display. Also showing is Elsa Dorfman's *No Hair Day* is also on display through Jan. 21, 2001.

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. It's better to visit the Fogg the same day you go to the Sackler, as admission includes all of Harvard's museums. Highlights include Van Gogh's self-portrait and Bermini's clay figures. • A show of Japanese photographer Daido Moriyama's work that includes nearly 200 black-and-white photographs of post-war Japan runs through Nov. 5. •*Mondrian: The Transatlantic Paintings* brings together works from major American and European collections, including the Tate Modern, Museum of Modern Art and the Kimbell Art Museum. •*A Decade of Collecting: Recent Acquisitions Exhibition* runs though Sept. 24. •*Before and After the End of Time: Architecture and the Year 1000* runs through Dec. 31. This exhibit looks at the beginning of Romanesque architecture in Western Europe after 1000 A.D. •*Dürer's Passions* is a collection of the prints and drawings of Albrecht Dürer's (1471-1528) Passion of Christ. Through Dec. 3.

Gibson House Museum
137 Beacon St., Boston (267-6338). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Guided tours every Sat. and Sun. at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm. $5. With 75 percent of its original items in place, the museum allows visitors to better understand 19th-century domestic life and design. Ongoing.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (266-5152). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Wed.-Sun., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-9pm. $6, $4 students and seniors. • In the group exhibition *From a Distance: Approaching Landscape*, artists investigate new approaches of questioning landscapes and topography using sculpture, video and works on paper. Through Oct. 8. •Upcoming exhibits: *Customized*, inspired by hot-rod culture. Oct. 24-Dec. 31. • Free guided walk-throughs take place each Thursday at 6:30pm.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (566-1401). www.boston.com/gardner. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun., 11am-5pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, under 18 free. Guided on Fridays, 2:30pm.* This 15th-century Venetian palace is home to more than 2,500 objects and twice as many flowers. Boston's most famous museum is named for the house's owner, Isabella Stewart Gardner (1840-1924), an infamously incorrigible individualist. Only after her death was her house completely opened to the public. Now everyone can see the works of Titian, Botticelli, Matisse and more.

Jamaica Plain Open Studios

This year, the seventh annual JP Open Studios event invites the public to visit more than 70 locations around Jamaica Plain. Explore the 200 JP artists and the neighborhood of visual artists, galleries, performance artists, musicians and arts organizations. Visit the artists in individual and collective studios, homes, barns, churches and restaurants as they display sculpture, painting, jewelry and video art. Stop by the Eliot School of Fine and Applied Arts at 24 Eliot Street, The Gallery at Green Street inside the Green Street MBTA station, Rhythm & Muse Bookstore at 403A Centre Street or the 59 Armory Street Artists Building to pick up a map. Don't miss Art@night, a Public Art Extravaganza that mixes the palettes of local professional artists and youth on Sept. 23. *Sept. 23 and 24, 11:30am-6pm (524-3816). www.jamaicaplain.com.*

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5pm, weekends 12-5pm. $3, $1 for students, seniors and children. Where else would you be but at MIT when you contemplate Morton G. Bradley Jr.'s *Math in 3-D: Geometric Sculptures?* The museum's other permanent exhibits include *Flashes of Inspiration: the Work of Harold Edgerton*, and *Gestural Engineering* and *Cultural Engineering: the Sculptures of Arthur Ganson*, the mechanical engineer/choreographer. •On the last Sunday of the month, explore oceanography, astronomy, the science of buildings and other mysteries of science from 2-4pm. Call 452-2827 for details. •*Holography: the Light Fantastic* is a selection from the museum's collection—the world's largest—that illustrates the many artistic and scientific facets of that medium.

Museum of Bad Art
580 High St., Dedham (325-8224). Mon.-Fri., 6:30-10pm, Sat., and Sun., 1-10pm. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. The one and only museum that boasts "art too bad to be ignored." A favorite is *Lady Chardonnay*, a piece illuminating a poodle-head dancer.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Mon.-Tue., 10am-4:45pm; Wed., 10am-9:45pm, Thu.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun., 10am-5:45pm. West Wing only, Thu.-Fri., 5-9:45pm. $12, students and seniors $10.* The MFA has earned its rep as the second-best-run art museum in the nation (after the Metropolitan Museum of Art) with its top-notch exhibitions, educational programs and galleries of African, Oceanic and American art. •*Van Gogh: Face to Face* displays through Sept. 24. •*Van Gogh to Mondrian: Dutch Works on Paper*, brings together some 100 works on paper by more than 40 Dutch artists. Through Nov. 5. •*Felicities of Line: Persian and Turkish Drawings* displays through Oct. 12. •*Charlotte Salomon: Life? or Theatre?* is the title Salomon gave to a series of more than 780 small gouaches that she selected from a total of 1,325, painted while in exile in the south of France between 1940 and 1942. Through Oct. 29. •*Christian Boltanski: Reflection* is an installation by the French artist. Through Nov. 12.

The Museum of Useful Things
370 Broadway St., Cambridge (576-3322). Mon.-Sat., 11am-7pm; Sun., 12-6pm. www.themut.com. Demonstrating the beauty of function in everyday objects, the collection encourages visitors to take another look at the gadgets and run-of-the-mill tools used in everyday life. Ongoing.

The Peabody House Museum
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (496-1027). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50 adults; $5 students and seniors; $4 children 3-13. No fee Sat. mornings until 12pm. •*Heads and Tales: Adornments from Africa*, includes sculptures and artifacts from the Peabody Museum collections, which highlight the messages communicated by head adornments. Through Oct. 1, 2001. • An upcoming exhibition is *Diverse Traditions: Early Navajo Rugs and Pueblo Embroidery,* selections from the museum's collection of Navajo rugs, 1880-1920, including Germantown, trading post and pictorial styles. Oct. 5-Nov. 26.

Galleries
FINE ART

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (247-0610). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm; Sun., 1-5pm. •*New Paintings* by Margaret Gerding shows works through Sept. 29 that focus on New England landscapes and panoramas. •Sebastian Picker's portraits show Oct. 2-30.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., 5th Floor, Boston (262-4490). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5:30pm. •Maryellen Latas' *Lead and Gold* shows through Oct. 18. •The upcoming exhibition is Maggi Brown's New Paintings, which shows Oct. 21-Nov. 29.

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (482-2477). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Fri., 10:30am-5:30pm. •Barbara Grad's *Drawings* shows through Sept. 30. •Tom Burkhardt's *New Paintings* is on display with Kathy Butterly's *New Ceramics.* Oct. 4-28.

Beth Urdang Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 11am-5pm or call for an appointment. The gallery regularly displays paintings, sculpture and works on paper. •*Modernist Still Lifes 1915-1945* features a selection of paintings and works on paper. Through Oct. 7.

Boston University Art Gallery
855 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-3329). MBTA: B Green Line to B.U. West. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat. and Sun., 1-5pm. The 56 objects and 17 photographs in *Differences Preserved: Reconstructed Tombs from a Liao and a Song Tomb* derive from two sets of tombs in northern China. They illustrate the differences between the cultures of coexisting dynasties from the late 11th- century China—the Song, an ethnic Chinese dynasty, and the Liao, a semi-nomadic people. Through Oct. 29.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (236-2255). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 11am-5:30pm. •*Textural Glass* opens, showing new works by Takeshi and Youko Sano. Through mid-October.

Childs Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (266-1108). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 9am-6pm; Mon. and Sat., 10am-5pm. •The Main Gallery shows paintings in *New England Women Artists*. Also showing will be Frank W. Benson's *The Sporting Art Tradition* and the woodcuts of Durrer in the Alcove. Through Nov. 11.

Clark Gallery
145 Lincoln St., Lincoln (781-259-8303). Tue.-Sat., 10am-5pm. The gallery represents 30 artists, primarily regional. •*Sculpture for the Outdoors IV*, the gallery's fourth annual group show featuring art for the land, runs through Oct. 26. It shows with Rick Harlow's *Reconstructing Landscape*, abstracted landscapes based on scenes from the rain forest. Through Sept. 28.

Clifford Smith Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 3rd Floor, Boston (695-0255). www.cliffordsmithgallery.com. *Weds.-Sat., 11am-6pm.* •Jenny Dubnau's *New Paintings* shows through Sept. 30. •Joy Episalla's *Recent Photographs* are large works that combine sculpture and photography. Oct. 4-28.

Copley Society of Boston
158 Newbury St., Boston (536-5049). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm; Sun., 1-5pm. America's oldest nonprofit art association is a platform for young and established artists. •*Suburbs*, paintings of suburban landscapes by Jason Brockert, runs through Sept. 23.

Creiger-Dane Gallery
36 Newbury St., Boston (536-8088). www.creigerdane.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •*New Work*, mixed-media by Karen Moss, focuses on the relationship of man to animal. Also being displayed are watercolors of constellations by Jane Goldman. Through Sept. 30. •An exhibition of hard-edged, abstract expressionist paintings by Addison Parks, titled *Hard X*, shows Oct. 3-28.

Crosstown Arts Inc.
One North Square, Boston (720-0100). www.crosstown.com. *Tue.-Fri,. 9am-5pm, Sat., 9am-1pm or by appointment.* •*Marks and Surfaces*, a mixed-media show by Josette Ghiseline, displays through Oct. 21.

Crystal Fine Art
93 Summer St., Suite 4L, Boston (728-9818). www.crystalfineart.com. *MBTA: Red and Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Tue.-Fri., 11am-6pm.* A multicultural gallery that regularly displays the work of national, international and local artists. •*Candace Whittemore Lovely*'s work shows through November.

Cyclorama
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-8835). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. www.bcaonline.org. *Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm; Sat. and Sun., 1-4pm.* •*Covering the Ground in Big Sky Country*, a full-scale installation by Kelly Kaczynski and Anita. This artwork, which dominates the interior of the BCA's large rotunda, transforms the industrial-era aesthetic of the Cyclorama into a fantastic, three-dimensional landscape. Through Sept. 26.

Dietrich von Buhler Gallery
16 Ashford St., Boston (783-2421). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Sat., 2-4pm and by appointment. www.drawbridge.com/dvbgallery. •Bruce Bemis' *Shades Drawn*, a film installation, shows through Sept. 28.

Dyansen Gallery
132 A Newbury St., Boston (262-4800). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. You'll always find paintings, bronzes and fine-art prints. Collections include Rembrandt, Picasso, Chagall, Miro, Dali, Cassatt, Snowden and more. •*Group Show* through September shows Alexandra Nechita and Andre Renoux as well as selected sculptures.

Eclipse Gallery
167 Newbury St., Boston (247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9am-5pm. •*La Pittura*, new landscape works by Joanne Cataldo, shows through Sept. 30. •David Thompson's *Dune Shacks 2000*, a series of 18 paintings, shows Oct. 3-28.

Equator Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (266-4110). www.equatorgallery.com. *Sun.-Wed., 12-6pm; Thu.-Sat., 11am-7pm.* Displaying contemporary artwork from around the world that contains Pre-Columbian motifs. The gallery is also chock full of woodcarvings—from teensy boxes to giant spheres—all made by several generations of Equadorian artists. Ongoing.

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (423-4299). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Fri., 10am-3pm; Sat., 12-5pm. •*Opaque Light* includes work by Jenifer Mumford, Kathleen Soles, Patt Stone and Dorthea Van Camp. Through Sept. 29.

Galerie d'Orsay
33 Newbury St., Boston (266-8001). www.galerie-dorsay.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm.* •Boston's newest art gallery (opened Sept. 7) opened with an exhibition of Rembrandt Etchings. Showcasing images spanning the 17th- to 20th-centuries, the exhibit will feature the master works of artists such as Picasso, Matisse, Chagall, Renoir, Miro, Warhol as well as international contemporary artists. Through Oct. 22.

Gallery Bershad
99 Dover St., Somerville (629-9400 ex.3). www.bershad.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Davis.* •*2000 (or Less)* is a group show that looks back on the gallery's latest season and features more than 20 artists. Through Oct. 27.

Gallery Naga
67 Newbury St., Boston (267-9060). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. •David Palmer's *Orange Crush* and Louis Risoli's *New Paintings* runs through Sept. 30.

Gallery Seventy-Nine
79 Newbury St., Boston (262-5918). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-6pm; Sat. 12-5pm. •James Rayen's *Landscape Markings* shows through Oct. 11.

Genovese Sullivan Gallery
47 Thayer St., Boston (426-9738). Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. MBTA: Orange Line to N.E. Medical Center. •Burt Antonio's *Exact Sentiments, Trashy Romance Collages*, shows with works by Christine Fritch. Through Oct. 4.

Gibbs Gallery
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm. •*Symbionts* features mixed-media ceramic sculptural work of Paul Briggs and Sarah Glass, through Oct. 13.

Gurari Collections
91 Charles St., Boston (367-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Charles MGH. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. This gallery has an impressive collection of 16th- to early-20th-century etchings, engravings and drawings.

Haley & Steele
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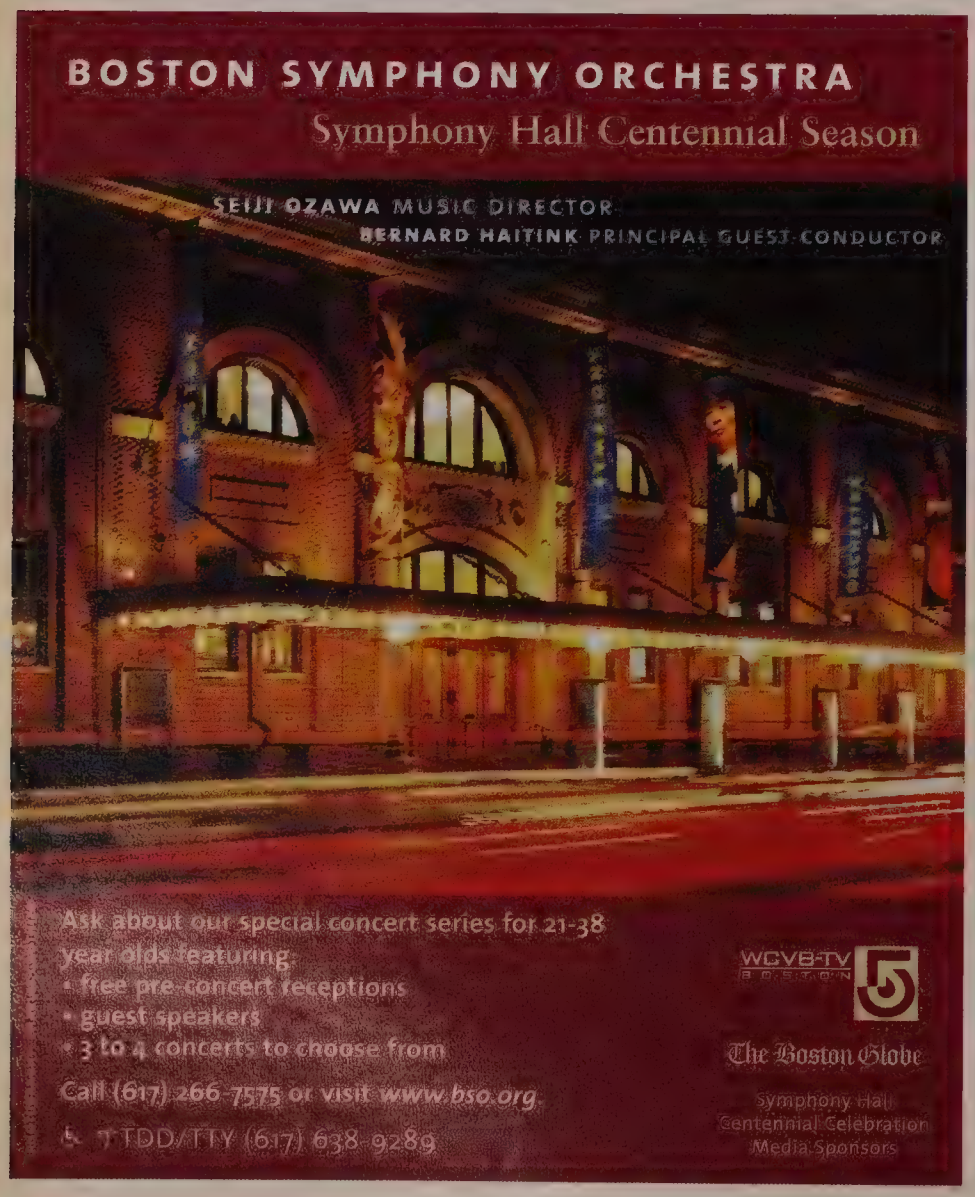

assortment of 18th- and 19th-century historic and decorative antique engravings and lithographs.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (262-0550). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. yezerski@ziplink.net. •*Sam Cady: New Paintings*. Through Oct. 3.

Hurst Gallery
53 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (491-6888). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sat., 12-6pm. Thu., 12-7pm and by appointment. Visitors are greeted with a wide variety of art and artifacts from six continents.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (375-0076). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. A selection of vintage posters is displayed. Ongoing.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 Saint Stephen St., Boston (247-1719). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue.-Sat., 1-5pm. •*Open Studio 2000,* featuring Kaji Aso, Kate Finnegan, Jeanne Gugino, Mary Ellen Gardner, John Miller, Marg Layman, Hiroyuki Ohtani and Katie Sloss, opens Sept. 23 and runs through October.

Kingston Gallery
37 Thayer St., Boston (423-4113). Call ahead for hours. •*Continuum* by members, shows through Sept. 30.

Lyman-Eyer Gallery Inc.
1347 Washington St., West Newton (964-3470). Tue.-Fri., 4-7:30pm; Sat., 11am-7:30pm; Sun., 11am-5pm. •The current exhibition is *Solitude,* paintings and drawings by Robert Adamcik, Susan Avishai and Brett Osborn, with an installation by Mary Beth Maisel. Through Oct. 8.

Mills Gallery
539 Tremont St., Boston (426-8835). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Sun., 1-4pm; Thurs.-Sat., 7-10pm. •*Twice Born: Beauty*, an exhibition of paintings and photographs by contemporary artists that explores the resurgent interest in beauty, shows through Nov. 5.

Mobius
254 Congress St., Boston (542-7416). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. www.mobius.org. *Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm.* •*Wanderlust*, print and video works by Marc Lepson, is an art installation on view through Sept. 23. •*Boston-Macedonia Collaborative Project—Root, Water—Nest Bird* is the second phase of a cultural link established between Macedonia's Centre for Cultural Information and Boston's Mobius. Sept. 25-Oct. 8 (viewing and performance Oct. 7 and 8). •Stephen Sheffield and Gina Cestaro's *Disrobe/Redress* is an installation consisting of robes and mixed media. Sept. 27-Oct. 22.

MPG
285 Newbury St., Boston (437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-5pm. •*Land Sea and Beyond II* by Jennifer Clement, Philip Koch and Thomas A. D. Watson. Through Sept. 25.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* Founded in 1964. •Sam Messer's *New Paintings and Retrospective* shows Sept. 23-Oct. 21.

Out of the Blue Gallery
168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun., 12-7pm. This gallery, owned and operated by several artists, always has a variety of interesting artwork and art-related events going on. •Poetry readings take place every Saturday, and the gallery hosts a rotating guest list of jazz musicians every Wednesday. •*Haitian Art Show* by 10 Haitian artists shows through Sept. 30.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (236-4497). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •*Damon Leher: New Paintings* shows through Oct. 3.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (267-9473). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun., 1pm-5pm. •*Beauty and Youth: New Work* with stoneware pottery by Tatsuzo Shimaoka is the third exhibition of new work by this renowned Japanese potter. Through Oct 4.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (266-3321). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. www.richardsonclarke.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tues.-Sat., 10am-5pm.* •Truman Seymour's *Moroccan Watercolors* displays this month. •Next month, the gallery shows Judith Belzer's *New Paintings*. Oct. 13-Nov. 25.

Rolly-Michaux
290 Dartmouth St., Boston (536-9898). Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm. •Celebrating its 34th season, the gallery begins its fall season with *20th Century Master Graphics.* The month's show includes a 1961 lithograph by Georges Braque depicting his well-known imagery of a bird in flight and a rare 1940 linocut by Matisse.

Sherman Gallery
775 Comm. Ave., Boston (358-0295). MBTA: B Green Line to B.U. West. Tue.-Fri., 11am-5pm; Sat. and Sun., 1-5pm. The B.U. consortium, High Performance Computing in the Arts and B.U.'s Scientific Computing and Visualization Group bring the magical three-dimensional world of "Spirited Ruins" to the gallery. Through Oct. 8. •The upcoming exhibition is Ann Tracy Montero's lushly painted installation pieces. Oct. 19-Nov. 17.

***Sketching Vineyard Dunes*, by Candace Whittemore Lovely, shows at Crystal Fine Art.**

Space 12 Gallery
12 Union Park St., Boston (423-9760). Wed., 6-9pm; Thu., Fri. and Sat., 1-5pm. John Campbell of Kingston, Jamaica, shows his first exhibition in Boston—a series of mixed-media works on canvas. Christopher Kirk Lawrence, also from Jamaica, shows his paintings this month.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (450-0321). www.stgeorgegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-5pm.* Artist William St. George displays his lush and colorful paintings. •*People, Places & Things* shows through Oct. 31.

Touch of France
173 Newbury St., Boston (247-6966). MBTA: Green line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-7pm; Sun., 10am-6pm. This gallery imports contemporary French artists' works, including paintings from famous painters M. Tigrane, R. Kefflin, C. Ferrer and striking dried-flower arrangements made near Saint Tropez.

Via Gallery
83 Newbury St., 2nd Floor (424-6200). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-4pm. •Victor Sandblom and Raina Piligian exhibit pieces in *Recent Works in Oil*, through Oct. 7.

Zeitgeist Gallery
312 Broadway St., Cambridge (876-2182). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu.-Sun., 2pm-7pm. The gallery displays a variety of local artists' work. •A Playground Jazz Series takes place on Friday nights. •Monday is literary night with the Stone Soup Poets performing. •Every Wednesday is a figure-drawing session. •Sunday is a vegan potluck supper, with by live music and poetry.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2051). Tues.-Sat., 11am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. •A multimedia installation, *Cold War Modern: the Domesticated Avant-Garde,* explores the avant-garde in art, music and design in the U.S. between 1945 and the early '60s. Through June 10, 2001.

Gallery One
N. E. School of Photography, 537 Comm. Ave., Boston (437-1868). Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm. •Tom McCarthy's *Two Wheel Deal* is a presentation of motorcycle pictures that he has taken since 1980. Through Sept. 29.

Photographic Resource Center
602 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-0700). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford. Tue.-Sun., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-8pm. •*Significant Other: the Human Presence in Contemporary Animal Imagery* is photography by eight artists. Through Oct. 20.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., fourth floor, Boston (267-7997). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 10am-5:30pm. •The gallery presents its third show of photography by the artist Annie Leibovitz in *Annie Leibovitz: Women*. This series of large-scale images focuses on female nudes, from a collaboration between Leibovitz and the Mark Morris Dance Group. Through Oct. 7.

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RECIPE FOR DISASTER

Like a piece of sticky candy, *Woman on Top* is all empty calories underneath its colorful wrapper. BY PAUL SHERMAN

What's worse—when whites create stereotypical portrayals of minorities or when the minorities portray themselves that way? That's the sort of question you're left to ponder during *Woman on Top*, as you endure what's supposed to be a buoyant romantic comedy but which plods along with little buoyancy, romance or comedy. Since Venezuelan director Fina (*Celestial Clockwork*) Torres' English-language movie is such an immediate dud, about all you're left to chew on is the fact that it's something of a South American magical-realist minstrel show.

Penelope Cruz (*All About My Mother*, *Belle Époque*) stars as a Brazilian chef who escapes the kitchen of the restaurant she runs with her husband (Murilo Benicio) and finds personal liberation as the host of her own TV cooking show in San Francisco. It's the sort of movie in which these and other Brazilian characters are defined by such stock traits as being passionate (the TV show is even called *Passion Food*), believing in voodoo-like religions and dressing only in loud colors. In fact, it seems they can only communicate with each other through food or song. The latter is certainly the only way the husband hopes to win back his wife, when he follows her to Frisco and repeatedly tries to woo her with bossa nova serenades.

Count the stereotypes: A brightly attired Penelope Cruz cooks with passion.

Such clichéd characters are merely typical of Vera Blasi's script—rather than being energized by its cultural colorfulness, *Woman on Top* is dragged down by its Latin American stereotypes. For instance, the title is the old metaphor likening sexual positioning with one's power level in life. See, our plucky heroine gets motion sickness if she's not driving the car she's riding in or in the saddle during sex. But didn't such symbolism go out with bra burning? The script is a cliché merchant in other areas, too. When the chef lands in S.F., it's not 30 seconds until her cab is riding down famous Lombard Street, the world's most serpentine road. To add to the postcard shallowness, the onetime childhood friend she moves in with there is, of course, a drag queen (Harold Perrineau Jr.).

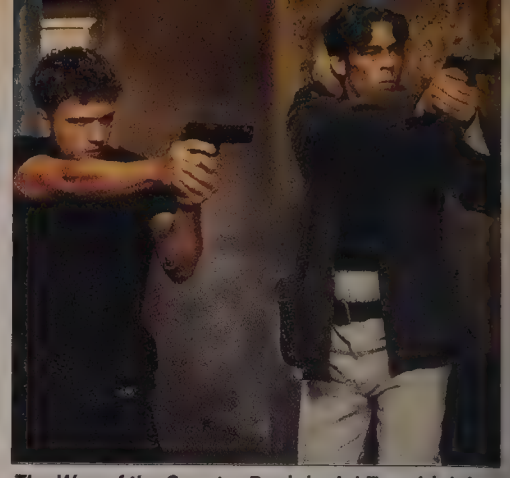
Because of the supposed magical effect of her food (represented by special-effects depictions of its wafting aroma) the chef is discovered by a local TV producer (Mark Feuerstein) who lives near her and gets a whiff. He gives her free reign to create a nightly show using her native seafood recipes (one more cliché—the white guy's uptight!). She becomes an immediate ratings hit, though it's hard to tell if it's because of the cooking or the cleavage since the show's camera focuses more on her dishiness than on the dishes she cooks.

Aside from the fact that, despite this, we're supposed to think the show is "just as she wants it," the lack of emphasis on the finished food is totally unexpected for a movie that's being marketed as another *Like Water for Chocolate*—including a tie-in book that includes recipes. There are some scenes in which the cook rhapsodizes about the aromas of peppers, one of which launches her into a reminiscence about lovemaking, and she certainly discusses the meals she's preparing on the show. But, amazingly, you never even get to see the result of those recipes, and no one ever actually sits down and eats something she cooks. For all we know, after sitting through *Woman on Top*, she might actually turn out to be a lousy cook.

The talented-or-just-pretty question hangs over Cruz herself, too. So far, the Spanish actress has had poor material for her English-language work, like this and last year's *The Hi-Lo Country*, and has not been as impressive as she was in her work for fellow Spaniards Pedro Almodovar and Fernando Trueba. Although *Woman on Top* gathers promising ingredients—beautiful heroine, hunky leading man, breezy music, scenic backdrop—like the dishes prepared on the TV show, it seems as if the finished product is just a neglected afterthought. iB

Woman on Top ★½

Directed by Fina Torres. Written by Vera Blasi. With Penelope Cruz, Murilo Benicio, Harold Perrineau, Jr. and Mark Feuerstein. Rated R. Fox Searchlight Pictures.



The Way of the Gun star Benicio del Toro (right) proves that a guy with a 9mm can still look sassy.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Almost Famous ★★★½
Movies don't come much better-written than the latest from writer-director Cameron Crowe. Crowe again addresses the issues of honesty and sincerity that fueled past films like *Say Anything* and *Jerry Maguire*, but never more potently than in this autobiographical early-1970s story of his days as a teen rock journalist. Newcomer Patrick Fugit supplies just the right blend of smarts and naiveté as the fictionalized Crowe character, who is sent on tour to profile a band but then finds himself losing his objectivity. Most movies lack one relationship that's as involving as the four this teen has—with his supportive but overprotective mom (Frances McDormand), his journalistic mentor Lester Bangs (Philip Seymour Hoffman), a more worldly groupie (Kate Hudson) and the band's star guitarist (Billy Crudup).

The Autumn Heart ★★
There's a lot of heart in writer-actor Davidlee Willson's locally-shot film, but a lot less subtlety. Directed by Steven Maler, the story concerns the reunion of two sides of an estranged family. The three grown working-class sisters (Ally Sheedy, Marceline Hugot and Marla Sucharetza) are reunited with their upwardly mobile little brother (Willson) for the first time since their parents' divorce 20 years before, at the insistence of the mother (Tyne Daly), who's just had a heart attack. The culture shock both the brother and the sisters experience sometimes rings true, but it's often a caricature, while the mom-on-her-deathbed subplot gives the whole thing the overwrought feel of a TV movie.

Bring It On ★★
Isn't it silly to make a comedy about cheerleaders, and then not have cheerleading be the butt of any jokes? Not even having Kirsten Dunst as one of those Stepford-Wives-to-be can make cheerleading seem any less silly. She plays the new captain of an all-white suburban squad who are defending national champions (yes, there actually is competitive cheerleading). She finds out the former captain stole all their routines, so she and her squad must scramble to create new ones. Although Dunst, Watertown's Eliza Dushku and Jesse Bradford are all appealing, this might have been much funnier had it been more of a backstage satire like *Drop Dead Gorgeous*, Dunst's beauty-pageant movie.

Cecil B. DeMented ★★★
Writer-director John Waters takes a fun swipe at Hollywood, cults and moviegoers' tastes in his outlaw fairy tale about the title character (Stephen Dorff). He's part Andy Warhol and part Charles Manson, and he and his gang of eager devotees (who are also his cast and crew) kidnap a bitchy Hollywood star (Melanie Griffith) and force her to be in Cecil's no-budget movie, which she does increasingly willingly. The comedy doesn't cut all that deeply, but it's the liveliest, most physical Waters movie since *Cry-Baby*, and it's easy to be swept up in its rants against movies that are as safely packaged as baked goods.

The Cell ★★
Seven meets *Silence of the Lambs* in this thriller in which more energy seems to have gone into set design and Jennifer Lopez's costume changes than into the characters (not surprisingly, its director is a video and commercial veteran). Lopez plays a therapist who uses a high-tech lab hook-up to enter the minds of the comatose. When a serial killer (Vincent D'Onofrio) abducts a young woman and goes into a coma-like trance as a result of his schizophrenia, she's called in to try to get his subconscious to tell her where the victim is. Vince Vaughn is also here as a battle-scarred detective, and though the movie may sport a bold look at times, it's generic post-*Seven* gratuitous grisliness, with none of that movie's mournful humanity.

The Crew ★½
The idea of a group of retired wiseguys in Miami, bored out of their gourds and looking for excitement, is a fun one, but the resultant movie is a dull drag.

WOMAN ON TOP: PHIL BRAY; THE WAY OF THE GUN: JOHN BAER

Richard Dreyfuss, Burt Reynolds, Dan Hedaya and Seymour Cassell are the one-time gangsters who hope there's still more to life than bingo and early-bird specials. They fake a mob hit to chase the young and the beautiful people away from their South Beach building, inadvertently kicking off a series of events they can't control. Then the "John Doe" corpse they use turns out to be the father of a drug kingpin. But the absurdity level needs to be kicked way up, and the movie is mired in the nearly incessant voice-over by Dreyfuss' character.

Girlfight ★★½
Not many independent productions come off the film festival circuit and pick up distribution by a Hollywood studio. Maybe that pedigree gave writer-director Karyn Kusama's coming-of-age film expectations it couldn't live up to, because now that it's here, it seems decent but nothing special. Michelle Rodriguez is very convincing as a sullen Brooklyn teen who finds an outlet to blow off steam (and a place to pick up life lessons) in the boxing ring. Her struggles both inside and outside the ring have some drama to them, but her fictionalized plight really can't compare to the real-life stories on display in last year's great documentary about a Brooklyn boxing gym, *On the Ropes*.

Love & Sex ★★½
Famke Janssen and especially Jon Favreau are terrific as on-again, off-again lovers who come off as individuals, not just your typical movie stereotypes. But writer-director Valerie Breiman sticks their story within a less successful outer structure, in which Janssen's a magazine writer struggling to write a story on how to have a happy relationship. Her recollections send the movie into flashbacks, but none of the other relationships she dredges up are nearly so interesting as that one (which makes this a bit like a lesser *High Fidelity*). Still, the half of the movie focusing on Janssen with Favreau's artist character has an appealing emotional realism.

Nurse Betty ★★
Although it aspires to supply a blissfully oblivious hero like those in *The King of Comedy* or *Being There*, this film depends on a clumsy gimmick to do so: A sunny midwestern waitress (Renee Zellweger) obsessed with a soap star (Greg Kinnear) goes into a post-traumatic trance that makes her think she exists in the fictionalized world of the soap, so she heads to L.A. to find her man. The gimmick is not very believable, but after a while you give in slightly to the story and enjoy Zellweger and Kinnear's performances. There are also a pair of hitmen (Morgan Freeman, Chris Rock) on the waitress' trail, because she is unwittingly carrying something her husband stole. To reinforce the fantasy vs. reality theme, the older killer somehow thinks Zellweger too is a cold professional, and, as with the whole movie, Freeman's performance elevates the shaky premise a bit. But not enough for it to really work.

The Original Kings of Comedy ★★★½
In capturing a show during Steve Harvey, D.J. Hughley, Cedric the Entertainer and Bernie Mac's stand-up comedy tour, Spike Lee's latest goes beyond mere performance film and becomes a joyous celebration of humor, freedom of expression and African-American culture. From Harvey's ability to bond with the Charlotte Coliseum audience and Hughley's ability to good-naturedly rib it, to Cedric's riffs on the differences between blacks and whites and Mac's rambunctious preaching style, all these guys can make you laugh. But the sum total of the movie is somehow more uplifting than that.

The Tao of Steve ★★★
Donal Logue, who's been a familiar face in supporting roles ever since his inspired Jimmy the Cab Driver spots on MTV, finally gets to star in a movie. As Dex, a plumped-up big man on campus who's still living like a student 10 years after graduation, Logue is a charm. He brings a lot of credibility to a character we're supposed to believe is charismatic enough to seduce women and philosophical enough to bundle his rules of courtship into something called the Tao of Steve—Steve being Steve McQueen, Dex's perfect American male. While the story might have been a familiar yarn about a womanizer who gets his come-uppance, thanks to Logue and Greer Goodman (as the woman who makes him rethink his axioms of love), it becomes less formulaic.

The Way of the Gun ★★
Nope, it's not 1995 again; it's just a movie that belongs in 1995. *The Usual Suspects* writer Christopher McQuarrie makes his debut as a writer-director by offering this story of a couple of underachieving crooks (Benicio del Toro, Ryan Philippe) who see a big score in kidnapping a young woman (Juliette Lewis) who's carrying a baby for a rich couple. But the kidnappers don't know the man in the couple (Scott Wilson) is mob-connected, and pretty soon both the guy's slick bodyguards (Taye Diggs, Nicky Katt) and his old-school pals (James Caan and a bunch of stout guys in Members Only jackets) are on their trail. The characters are mere types, the twists are usually tipped off well in advance and the whole thing has a post-*Reservoir Dogs* flippancy that's very dated.

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Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (536-5400). Green Line to Copley.
Cheri
50 Dalton St. (536-2870). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.
Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.
Fenway Theatre General Cinema
201 Brookline Ave. (424-6266). MBTA: Green Line to Fenway or Kenmore.
Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.
Museum of Science, Omni Theater
Science Park (723-2500). Green Line to Science Park.
Nickelodeon
606 Comm. Ave. (424-1500). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford St.
Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle.
Coolidge Corner
290 Harvard St. (734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theater
40 Brattle St. (876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.
Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (495-4700). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.
Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Sq. (494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.
Loews/Sony Theater
10 Church St. (864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Sq.
Somerville Theater
55 Davis Square (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston. (277-2500). B Green Line to Chestnut Hill.
West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (964-6060).

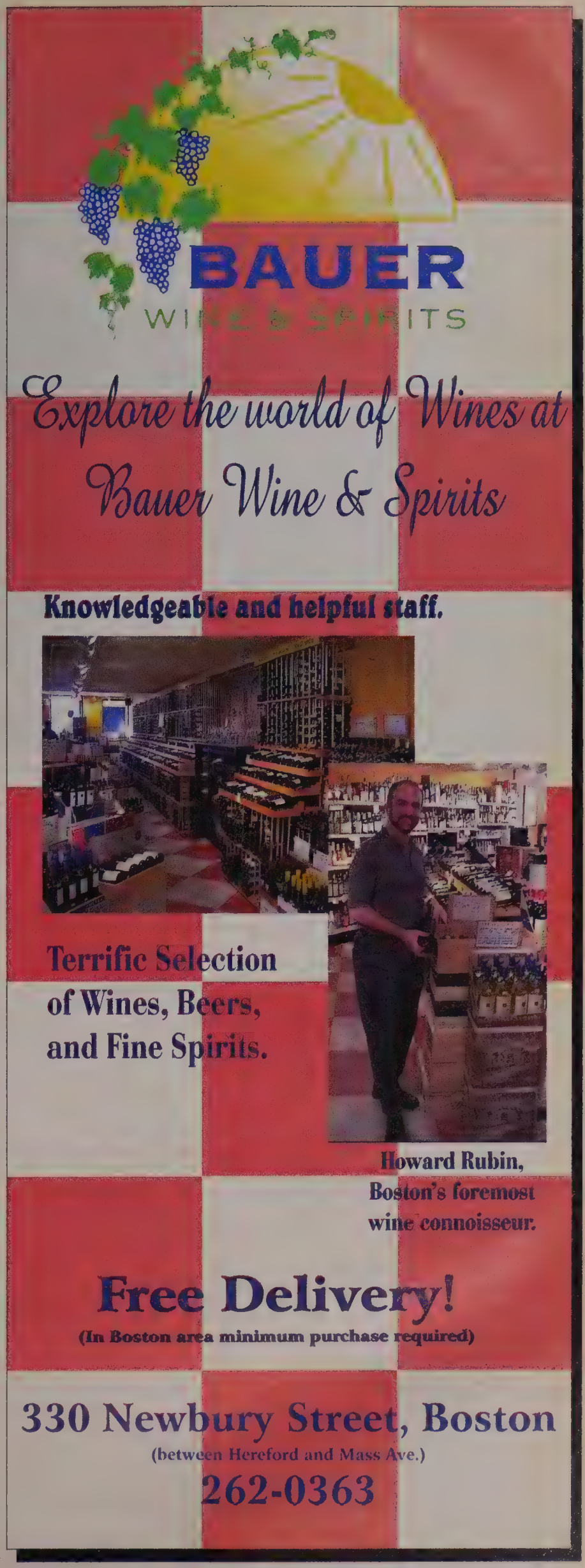
Alternatives & Revivals

Advice to Contributors
Submit film listings by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Although film listings are correct at the time of publication, they are subject to change. Doublecheck showtimes by calling the theater or 333-FILM.

Boston Public Library

The Immortal James Cagney
•Sept. 25, 6pm **Footlight Parade** *1933.* James Cagney plays a Broadway producer who finds himself out of work once talking motion pictures gain popularity. He begins producing musical numbers for movies but struggles to come up with new ideas. The film features a juicy love triangle, spy espionage and dance numbers.
•Oct. 2, 6pm **Lady Killer** *1933.* Cagney plays Dan Quigly, a movie usher who takes up with mobsters after losing his job. Finding that he has a knack for the shady activities of the mob, the police are soon after him. He flees to Los Angeles and rises to stardom but his past life has come back to haunt him.



Brattle Theater

Most shows are $7, including double features.

Premiere Engagements

•Sept. 20 and 21, 4:45pm and 8pm (Sat. and Sun. matinee 1:30pm) **Time Regained** *1999.* A splendid cast including Catherine Deneuve and John Malkovich brings Marcel Proust's epic story, *Remembrance of Things Past,* to life. The narrative depicts the end of one era and the beginning of a new one, replete with the images, themes and stories that were present in all of Proust's novels.

Coolidge Corner Theater

Director's Cut

An exciting new series, held usually the first Wednesday of every month, showcases the Boston theatrical premiere of an important New England independent feature or documentary, or a program of newly produced shorts, with the film and video makers in a face-to-face conversation with the audience. Before the screening and discussion, there will be an informal social hour, an opportunity for those passionate about independent filmmaking to mingle. It's curated by film critic Gerald Peary, who will introduce the filmmakers and lead the Q&A. •Sept 20 **Live Free or Die**. Directed by Marion Lipschutz and Rose Rosenblatt, this is a complex portrait of New Hampshire doctor, who has delivered more than 2,500 babies but has also become a figure of immense controversy because he offers abortion services and teaches sex education classes to junior high students.

Midnight Salutes to John Waters

•Sept. 22 and 23, 12am **Polyester** *1981.* Director John Waters' first film with a big budget and a non-X rating, this film stars Divine as Francine Fishpaw, a middle-class mother driven to the edge with the rigors of daily life. It was originally released in the now-defunct Odorama, which equipped audience members with scratch-and-sniff cards.

•Sept. 29 and 30, 12am **Hairspray** *1988.* Waters' campy, nostalgia-filled flick features an all-star cast: Sonny Bono, Debby Harry, Ric Ocasek, Jerry Stiller, Divine—and a pleasantly plus-sized Ricki Lake as Tracy Turnblad. Tracy tries to teach 1963 Baltimore a thing or two about integration after she becomes the star of a TV dance show.

Feature Engagements

•Opening Sept. 8 **Solomon and Gaenor** *1999.* This is the classic story of Romeo and Juliet, set in turn-of-the-century Wales. Traditional and churchgoing Gaenor falls in love with Solomon, the Jewish son of local pawnshop owners. Solomon hides his identity at first and then reveals it. Wouldn't you know it—the two lovers decide to run away together and escape the hostile world of their parents' making.

•Opening Sept. 22 **Goya in Bordeaux** *1999.* This is director Carlos Saura's portrait of the great Spanish painter Francisco José Goya y Lucientes and his last days living in exile in Bordeaux. Shot by cinematographer Vittorio Storaro, known for his work with Bernardo Bertolucci, this film is visually compelling as it reveals the artist's internal struggles and deep concern for Spain and its people.

Upcoming Special Engagements

•Oct. 4, 7:30pm and Oct. 5, 9:30pm, $15. **An Informan and Intimate Evening with Annie Sprinkle**. This sassy adult film star returns full of old tricks, movie snips, sex tips, lots of stories about her years in the biz and, of course, past performance clips.

Harvard Film Archive

Clint Eastwood: An American Master

•Sept. 20, 7pm and Sept. 24, 8:30pm **Bird** *1988.* Eastwood directs a biopic on the legendary bebop musician Charlie Parker. Eastwood's love for jazz is apparent in this film, which was developed from a screenplay based on the memoirs of Parker's widow. It focuses on the last days of Parker's life, before his suicide using flashbacks to illustrate his artistic genius and unremorseful lifestyle. Forest Whitaker won Best Actor at Cannes for his role as Parker.

•Sept. 22, 7pm and Sept. 24, 6pm **Unforgiven** *1992.* This is Eastwood's return to the genre that made him a star. Eastwood directed and starred in this classic revenge Western where he plays a pig-farming ex-gunfighter lured out of retirement by the chance to earn some money for his children. Morgan Freeman stars as his sidekick, and Gene Hackman won an Oscar for his role as sheriff. Eastwood also took home two Oscars for directing and producing.

•Sept. 22, 9:15pm **The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly** *1966.* The third and final work in the Western trilogy by director Sergio Leone, Eastwood takes the "good" role against Lee Van Cleef as "bad" and Eli Wallach as "ugly." Set in Texas amidst the Civil War, this film focuses on a simple plot to recover stolen Confederate gold.

Special Event

•Sept. 23, 8pm $10 **Clint Eastwood Out of the Shadows** *2000.* Director Bruce Ricker will be present to show Ricker's profile on actor-director Eastwood. The two met while Eastwood was working on *Bird,* and he later was executive producer on Ricker's portrait of Thelonious Monk. This is a thorough portrait of Eastwood from his early B-movies to his headlining roles today.

If you like Burt Reynolds' machismo and nasally Richard Dreyfuss voice-overs, you'll love *The Crew.*

Portrait of an Artist: John Cassavetes

•Sept. 29, 7pm and Oct. 3, 7pm **Shadows** *1959.* This film established Cassavetes' reputation with only a $40,000 budget and a cast of amateurs. It also pushed the boundaries of traditional filmmaking. Shot in New York with a hand-held 16mm camera, this is the portrait of three siblings struggling with their goals and vulnerabilities.

•Sept. 29, 9pm **Love Streams** *1984.* This film is an off-beat interpretation of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. It is self-reflective film for Cassavetes that revisits scenes and characters from his previous films. Cassavetes' wife and collaborator plays opposite him as an estranged wife and mother in one of the most accomplished films of his career.

•Sept. 30, 7pm, Oct. 1, 2pm **A Constant Forge** *2000.* Director Charles Kiselyak will appear at the showing of this film. It is a documentary examining Cassavetes' work methods, thematic concerns and philosophies. Interviews with close friends and family illuminate what made Cassavetes such a strong and inspiring force for filmmakers illuminate his contribution to personal filmmaking.

•Oct. 1, 6pm **Minnie and Moskowitz** *1971.* This is the closest film to a comedy that Cassavetes directed. It pairs Minnie Moore (Gena Rowlands) and Seymour Moskowitz (Seymour Cassel), two very dissimilar people who meet under strange circumstances and become romantically entwined.

•Oct. 1, 8:15pm **Opening Night** *1978.* This is a complex, layered exploration of the nature of "performance." It is a neglected masterpiece of Cassavetes, only released after his death. Gena Rowlands plays an actress haunted by the accidental death of an obsessive fan and her own insecurities as a performer.

•Oct. 3, 9pm **The Killing of a Chinese Bookie** *1976.* Ordered to execute a Chinese gangster to pay off his gambling debts, Cosmo Vitelli (Ben Gazzara) is a nightclub owner who is is trouble with the mob. Cassavetes plays with the crime-genre conventions, but this film met critical and commercial failure both times it was released.

•Oct. 4, 8pm **John Cassavetes: Behind the Scenes**. Author Ray Carney appears to discuss Cassavetes and his pioneering independent works. Carney, a Professor of Film and American Studies at Boston University, will screen and discuss a selection of rare videos from his own collection.

The Cinema of Terence Davies

•Sept. 26, 9:30pm and Oct. 5, 7pm **The Terrence Davies Trilogy**: **Children** *1976,* **Madonna and Child** *1980* and **Death and Transfiguration** *1983.* The critically acclaimed *Trilogy* foreshadows Davies' ongoing concerns and contains glimpses of his style of visual storytelling, subtle use of music and dry wit. The trilogy focuses on Robert Tucker, his home and school troubles, his fear of condemnation when he reveals his homosexuality, and his last days in a geriatric ward.

•Sept. 27, 9:30pm and Oct 5, 9pm **Distant Voices, Still Lives** *1988.* This is Davies' debut feature film, which won the International Critics Award at Cannes. Davies draws from his past and reveals the horrors of family life in working-class Liverpool in the 1940s and 1950s.

Special Event

•Sept. 28, 7pm $10 **The House of Mirth** *2000.* Davies will be present at the showing of his much-anticipated adaptation of Edith Wharton's novel by the same name. It follows alluring socialite Lily Bart (Gillian Anderson) during the Gilded Age of American high society and her struggles with the pressures to marry for stability rather than for love.

Close Encounters: Rev. Peter Gomes

•Sept. 21, 7pm **Babette's Feast** *1987.* Rev. Peter Gomes introduces this film, which was adapted from a short story by Isak Dinesen. It is the tale of two devout sisters who retreat into the safe shell of their pious upbringing. Babette then comes into their lives as a maid and it is not known that she once was a famous chef in her native France. When Babette wins the lottery, she rewards the sisters' kindness and celebrates the triumph of art over puritanical zeal.

Topics In Film: Non-Fiction Film

•Oct. 2, 7pm **A Propos de Nice** *1929.* Jean Vigo directs a film that concentrates on the contrast between the privileged people who laze in the sun and enjoy the casinos vs. the poor, working-class people in the old section of town. •**Land Without Bread** *1932.* This documentary by Luis Buñuel accounts the detestable living conditions in the poor district of northern Spain. It was banned by the Spanish government. •**Blood off the Beasts** *1949.* Georges Franju, one of France's most renowned documentary filmmakers, juxtaposes the calm residents of the suburbs and the poor slaughterhouse workers in post-war France.

Topics In Film: Film Architectures

•Sept. 26, 7pm **Metropolis** *1926.* This is a silent film of the science-fiction genre that takes its story from medieval legends and the conflict between capital and labor. It was photographed in Expressionist style and designed to create powerful visuals. Live piano accompaniment by Martin Marks.

Topics In Film: New German Cinema

•Sept. 2,5 9pm **The Murderers Are Among Us** *1946.* This was the first feature film to come from Germany after the war. The film is set in Berlin, once a thriving capital that was reduced to rubble. It focuses on the struggles of the city's desperate and cynical survivors who are struggling with guilt.

•Oct. 2, 9pm **Cachorka-Muff** *1962.* This is Jean-Marie Straub's adaptation of Heinrich Boll's satire *Bonn Diary*. It presents the story of a West German soldier called to the capital to establish an academy for Military Memories. •**Young Torless** *1966.* This film has gone down in history as a seminal work that announced a new German cinema of international stature.

Museum of Fine Arts

Most film screenings are $6.

Art on Film

•Oct. 1, 1:30pm **Charlotte: Life? or Theatre?** *1992* and **Paula Paulinka** *1995.* This film pieces together the story of artist Charlotte Salomon's life through an examination of the imagery and text in her artwork. *Paula Paulinka* is an engaging documentary of her stepmother, German opera singer Paula Salomon-Lindberg.

•Sept. 21, 6pm **Charlotte** *1980.* Three elements of German artist Charlotte Salomon's life come together in this film: her love for her voice teacher, her struggle to understand the legacy of suicide on her mother's side and her own artistic evolution.

•Sept. 28, 6pm **Christian Boltanski presents Six Short Films** *1969-1973. L'homme qui leche, L'homme qui tousse, Tout ce don je me souviens, Comment pouvons nouse le supporter, Derriere la porte and L'Appartement de la rue Vaugirard* will be shown. These films explore the concepts of identity, privacy and the power of memory.

•Oct. 5, 6pm **Looking for Christian B.** *1997* and **The Dance of the Shadows** *1989. Looking for Christian B.* is a documentary that attempts to reassemble the images created by the artist and those simply associated with him. *La Danse des Ombres* is an unconventional documentary that invites the viewer into Boltanski's world by way of a meandering conversation with art critic Harold Zeeman and by examining three of Boltanski's major works.

Milestone Films

•Sept. 22, 6pm **Pastor Hall** *1940.* Based on the life of German minister Martin Niemoller, *Pastor Hall* is a powerful indictment of the Nazi regime that was made before the escalation of World War II. This drama has not been available in the U.S. since 1947. It has been restored from the original 35mm nitrate material and is now presented unedited and complete for the first time ever.

•Sept. 23, 1:30pm;Sept.24, 5:30pm; Sept. 30, 1pm; Oct. 1, 11am; Oct. 1, 3:30pm **The Sorrow and the Pity: Part One** *1971.* This documentary personalizes the Nazi occupation of France and shows how harrowing it truly was. It is offered back to back with *Part Two*, see below times.

•Sept. 23, 3:40pm; Sept. 24, 7:40pm; Sept. 30, 3:30pm; Oct. 1, 6pm **The Sorrow and the Pity: Part Two** *1971.* The conclusion to the above documentary.

Film Encore

•Sept. 23, 10:30am **The Living Museum** *1998.* Oscar winner Jessica Yu made this documentary about a center in New York where mentally ill patients with conditions ranging from suicidal tendencies to schizophrenia can participate in artistic activities with professional guidance and without constraints.

Engagements

•Sept. 29, 7:45pm and Oct. 5, 7:45pm **Russia's Wonderchildren** *2000.* Since 1932, the Central Music School of the Moscow Conservatory has produced countless musical geniuses, many of them children. Concert footage, interviews and rare archival images comprise this fascinating look into the world of four prodigies.

Boston Film Artists Present

•Sept. 21, 8pm **Zamir: Jewish Voices Return to Poland** *2000.* In 1999, the Zamir Chorale of Boston made a commemorative tour of Eastern Europe. The film combines performances with interviews and archival footage to chronicle the modern-day journey, as well as the historic journey of Jews in the past. Reception with singing by the Zamir Chorale to follow world theatrical premiere.

•Sept. 22, 8pm **Unexpected Openings: Northern Ireland's Prisons** *2000.* This is the world premiere shot in the prisons of Belfast and the homes and offices of Loyalist and Republican ex-prisoners. It studies the evolution of paramilitaries and the peace process in Northern Ireland. Panel discussion follows.

•Sept. 23, 12:15pm **Fruitlands 1843** *1999.* This film dramatizes Bronson Alcott's and the New England Transcendentalists' utopian experiment undertaken in 1843. It was shot in an authentic Shaker farmhouse in rural Massachusetts and is an important historical account. Panel discussion will follow.

•Sept. 28, 8pm **Miss BlindSight: the Wingwall Auditions** *2000* with **Dog Days** *2000* and **Repetition Compulsion** *1997. Miss BlindSight* is a documentary that leads the audience through the daily activities of Alice Wingwall, a blind photographer. She and director Wendy Snyder MacNeil will be present for a discussion following the screening. *Dog Days* is absurd, funny and disturbing. It resembles Shirley Jackson's *The Lottery* and director Ellie Lee confronts class structure and the failure of patriarchal society, among other themes. *Repetition Compulsion*, also by Ellie Lee, is an animated look at battered women.

•Sept. 29, 6pm and Sept. 30, 11:30am **16 Decisions** *2000.* The focus of this documentary is Selina, one of 2.5 million poor Bangladeshi women helping to build a stronger rural economy through businesses they start with $60 loans. Discussions will follow screenings and focus on banking and microcredit.

Special Engagement

Harlan Jacobson's Talk Cinema

Continuing its commitment to independent and foreign cinema in Boston, Harlan Jacobson's Talk Cinema offers a series of films prior to their release followed by a discussion with film critics and other guest speakers. Featuring a combination of American independent and foreign films not previously viewed, the series comprises of seven sessions and offers metropolitan are film lovers a film festival-like experience. Immediately following the sneak screening, audiences participate in discussions led by film critics, filmmakers and other guest speakers. In the past, Talk Cinema has screened such award-winning films as *Being John Malkovich*, *Life Is Beautiful* and *The Usual Suspects*. *$99 for the series, 10am, Sept. 24, Oct. 15, Oct. 29, Nov. 12, Nov. 19, Dec. 13, Dec. 17. General Cinema's Fenway 13, 201 Brookline Ave. (800-551-9221)* www.talkcinema.com.

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READINGS & SIGNINGS

Wednesday, Sept. 20

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
Coolidge Corner Theater, 290 Harvard St., Brookline, (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 6pm. $2. **Elmore Leonard**, author of *Get Shorty*, reads from his latest novel, *Pagan Babies*. It's a funny tale of Father Terry Dunn, a priest whose first Mass is interrupted by terrorists. Signing to follow at Brookline Booksmith.

Club Passim Presents
Club Passim, 47 Palmer St., Cambridge (492-7679). 8pm. $10. This is a superb poetry and music double-billing featuring poet and radical activist **John Sinclair** and music/poetry fusionists **Vox Pop**.

Wordsworth Books Reading Series
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. When the editors of the *New York Times Magazine* asked **Witold Rybczynski** to write an essay on the most useful tool of the millennium, he couldn't write just an essay on the tool, he wrote an entire book titled, *One Good Turn: A Natural History of the Screwdriver and the Screw,* which he discusses tonight.

Barnes & Noble Author Event
660 Beacon St., Boston (236-7421). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7pm. Free. **Alan P. Lightman**, author of *Einstein's Dreams*, reads from his new book, *The Diagnosis: A Novel*. It follows a junior executive who finds he can only remember his company's motto.

Thursday, Sept. 21

Borders Bookshop Author Event
The Atrium Mall, 300 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill (630-1935). 7pm. Free. **Thomas E. Bleier** and **Eric C. Steinart** provide behind-the-scenes glimpses of 36 brains behind Web sites that stand out as intriguiging online ventures with their book *net.people: The Personalities and Passions Behind the Web Sites.*

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
279 Harvard St., Brookline, (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Brookline resident **Noah Gordon** reads from his novel *The Last Jew*. It is a harrowing tale of a 15-year-old Jewish boy caught in the middle of the Spanish Inquisition who is determined to honor his faith against all odds.

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. Memoirist **Kyoko Mori** will discuss her first adult novel, *Stone, Field, True, Arrow.* It is the tale of Maya Ishida and her difficult journey reconciling her past with her present.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free. **Audrey Schulman** will read from her novel, *A House Named Brazil*. Fran was abandoned by her mother at age 14 and years later, her mother began calling her to tell her theatrical stories of her family's past.

Spoken Muse Series
Rhythm & Muse, 403 A Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-6622). 8pm. Free. This series of spoken word performance features Chalice of Eros authors **Lainie Senechal** and **Harris Gardner**. An open mike session will follow.

Friday, Sept. 22

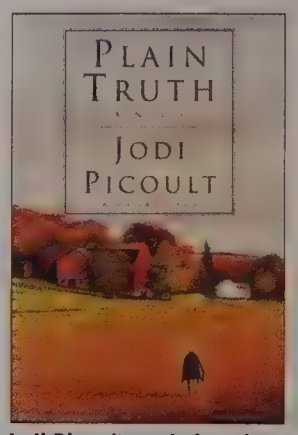
Wordsworth Books Reading Series
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. **Sue Townsend** revives Adrian Mole, beloved diarist, for the third installment titled, *Adrian Mole: The Cappuccino Years.* Adrian, now age 30, is determined to make something of his life, which currently is in ruins.

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
279 Harvard St., Brookline, (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. National Book Award Finalist **Kent Haruf** reads from *Plainsong*. Set on the isolated plains of Colorado, this novel parallels the lives of three people who all seem to have nowhere to turn until a teacher arrives in town and brings them together.

Barnes and Noble Author Event
One Worcester Rd., Framingham (508-628-5567). 7:30pm. Just in time for back-to-school, **Benjamin Kaplan** will discuss his book, *How to Go to College Almost Free.* Kaplan himself graduated from Harvard debt-free and will share his knowledge of how you can get the most financial aid available.

Saturday, Sept. 23

Barnes and Noble Author Event
One Worcester Rd., Framingham (508-628-5567). 3:30-4:30pm. **Valerie Tripp**, author of 25 books in the *American Girls Collection*, will sign her latest series starring new *American Girl* Kit. Tripp authored books about other *American Girls* Josephina, Samantha and Felicity. There will also be a raffle for special *American Girls* prizes, so bring your books and your dolls.



Jodi Picoult reads from her book at Borders Sept. 27.

Sunday, Sept. 24

Grolier Poetry Series
Naumburg Room, Fogg Art Museum, 32 Quincy St., Cambridge (547-4648). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3-4pm, $8. **David Rivard**, author of *Wise Poison,* reads his poetry from *Bewitched Playground.* Rivard calls it his book of domestic voodoo, inspired by his child.

Borders Books and Music Author Event
10-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6pm. Free. **Anna Kasabian** discusses her new book, *East Coast Rooms.* It is a collection of East Coast design from 31 top interior designers from Maine to Florida. Kasabian's work frequently appears in the *Globe,* where she writes about preserving New England mansions and gardens.

Monday, Sept. 25

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
Coolidge Corner Theater, 290 Harvard St., Brookline, (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 6pm. $2. **Anthony Arnove**, **Noam Chomsky** and **Howard Zinn**, author of *A People's History of the United States,* appear for a panel discussion of *Iraq Under Siege: The Deadly Impact of Sanctions and War*, a collection of essays they all contributed to. A signing will follow.

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave, Cambridge (499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. **Esther Wachs Book** will discuss her book, *Why the Best Man for the Job Is a Woman: The Unique Female Qualities of Leadership.* Book lists female qualities that have allowed women to infiltrate male-dominated industries and career fields and to change the face of corporate America.

Tuesday, Sept. 26

Barnes & Noble Author Event
170 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill (965-7621). 7pm. Brockton author **William Brennan** will discuss and sign his book *A Tattered Coat Upon a Stick*. It is a novel written around the controversial case of Sacco and Vanzetti told from an Irish perspective.

Borders Books and Music Author Event
10-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30pm. Free. **Lisa Huang Fleischman** will read and discuss her debut novel, *Dream of the Walled City.* Inspired by Fleischman's grandmother, it is the story of Jade Virtue, a clever and resourceful woman in 20th century China.

Borders Bookshop Author Event
Atrium Mall, 300 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill (630-1935). 7:30pm. Free. Professional illustrator **Karen Jerome** gives a workshop on the process and profession of illustrating children's books. Her work has appeared in *The Littlest Tree* and *When It Rained Cats and Dogs*.

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
279 Harvard St., Brookline, (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. **Larissa Szporiuk** reads from her Iowa Poetry Prize winning poetry collection, *Isolato.* Her poems are coolly troubling with a disctinctly feminine voice. **Liz Waldner** reads her elegant poems from *A Point Is That Which Has No Part*.

Grolier and Adams House Author Event
Lower Common Room, Adams House, Entry C, 26 Plympton St., Cambridge (547-4648). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8-9pm, $2. **Catherine Anderson**, author of *In the Mother Tongue,* reads from *The Work of Hands*. **Carol Frost** will also be reading a collection of her past and new poetry from *Love and Scorn: New and Selected Poems.*

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free. **Amy Bloom** will read from her latest collection of short stories, titled *A Blind Man Can See How Much I Love You.* Her debut collection of stories, *Come to Me,* was nominated for the National Book Award. Bloom is a practicing psychotherapist. A signing will follow.

Barnes & Noble Author Event
660 Beacon St., Boston (236-7421). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7pm. Free. **Charles P. Pierce** will discuss his book, *Hard to Forget: An Alzheimer's Story*. It is a parallel examination of the disease; Pierce recounts his own experiences with five members of his family afflicted and at the same time examines the scientific research and genetic advances that have recently been discovered.

Wednesday, Sept. 27

Borders Bookshop Author Series
85 Worcester Rd., Framingham (508-875-2321). 7:30pm. **Jodi Picoult** reads from her novel, *Plain Truth*. Taking place in Paradise, Pennsylvania, it is the story of a young Amish woman and the urban lawyer who befriends her once a dead infant is found in a nearby barn. Both of their lives are changed as the case unfolds.

Borders Author Event
10-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6pm. Free. **Amram Ducovny** reads from his debut novel, *Coney.* It will transport you back to Coney Island, 1939. Part thriller, part coming-of-age tale, it's a true-to-life chronicle of Coney Island, pre-World War II.

Barnes and Noble Event
One Worcester Rd., Framingham (508-628-5567). 7pm. **Joan Bauer**, author of the humorous book *Rules of the Road*, will discuss her latest book for teens, *Hope Was Here*. This book features a strong, positive female character in the lead role.

Thursday, Sept. 28

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
Coolidge Corner Theater, 290 Harvard St., Brookline, (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 6pm, $2. **Margaret Atwood** reads from her new novel, *The Blind Assassin,* a multilayered mystery with a twist. A signing will follow at Brookline Booksmith.

Barnes & Noble Author Event
660 Beacon St., Boston (236-7421). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7pm. Free. If you missed **Jodi Picoult** at Borders on Wednesday, she will again discuss her novel.

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave, Cambridge (499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. **David E. Gumpert** will dis-

Bestsellers

HARDCOVER FICTION
1. **The Bear and the Dragon** by Tom Clancy
2. **Four Blondes** by Candace Bushnell
3. **Harry Potter & the Goblet of Fire** by J.K. Rowling
4. **A Blind Man Can See How Much I Love You** by Amy Bloom
5. **White Teeth** by Zaide Smith
6. **Very Hungry Caterpillar** by Eric Carle
7. **Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's Stone** by J.K. Rowling
8. **Vini Der Puh** by A.A. Milne
9. **Bridget Jones: Edge of Reason** by Helen Fielding
10. **Purple Cane Road** by James Lee Burke

HARDCOVER NON-FICTION
1. **Nothing Like It in the World** by Stephen E. Ambrose
2. **Me Talk Pretty One Day** by David Sedaris
3. **Office Yoga** by Darrin Zeer
4. **Haikus for Jews** by David M. Bader
5. **All Souls** by Michael Patrick MacDonald
6. **A Heartbreaking Work of a Staggering Genius** by Dave Eggers
7. **In the Heart of the Sea** by Nathaniel Philbrick
8. **Who Moved My Cheese?** by Spencer Johnson
9. **Red Sox Century** by Glenn Stout
10. **Black Mass** by Dick Lehr

Provided by Brookline Booksmith for the week of Aug. 26-Sept 3.

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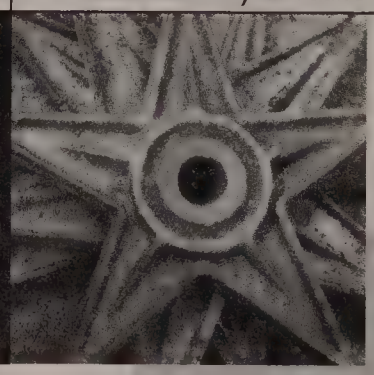
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uss his book, *Better Than Money: Build Your Fortune Using Stock Options and Other Equity Incentives—in Up and Down Markets*. It offers an engaging guide to questions you haven't even thought of yet.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free. If you missed **Noah Gordon** on Thursday the 21st at Brookline Booksmith, catch him again reading from his novel, *The Last Jew.*

Saturday, Sept. 30

Borders Bookshop Author Event
Atrium Mall, 300 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill (630-1935). 3pm. Free. Culinary sensation, restaurant owner and TV cooking show personality **Georgia Sarianides** hosts "Cooking with Georgia!" She will concentrate on Greek cuisine and demonstrate recipes from her cookbook, *Best of Greek Cuisine: Cooking with Georgia.*

Sunday, Oct. 1

Grolier Meet the Poet Series
Naumburg Room, Fogg Art Museum, 32 Quincy St., Cambridge (547-4648). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3-4pm, $8. **Peter Davison**, poetry editor of the *Atlantic Monthly*, will read from his poetry collection, *Breathing Room.* These poems contemplate the paradox of growing old while celebrating the cycle of birth and death.

Monday, Oct. 2

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave, Cambridge (499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. **Elizabeth Cowley Tyler** will discuss her novel, *Murder at Les Halles: An Inspector Henri Corbet Mystery.*

Tuesday, Oct. 3

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave, Cambridge (499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. **Donald Pfarrer**, author of *Temple and Shipman*, will discuss his newest novel with filmmaker Roberto Mighty. It raises the question of race relations, police brutality and spirituality.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free. **Tom Perrotta**, author of *Election*, will read from his newest novel, *Joe College.* This is a comic journey into higher education, love and the food-service industry.

ONGOING

Agape, Tuesdays
The Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (266-6710). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8pm-10pm. Every Tuesday, this somewhat sophisticated poetry group gathers to share versions of their latest work. •Sept. 26: **David Berman**. •Oct. 3: **Jonathon Sisson**.

Cantab Lounge, Wednesdays
738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8-10pm. $3. Wednesday nights at the Cantab always pack in more than 30 poets in just two hours for open mike and a slam.

Club Passim, Tuesdays
47 Palmer St., Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. $5. All open-mike fanatics must experience this open-mike night—a training ground for up-and-coming performers, poets and storytellers. Sign up Tuesdays, 7:30pm.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Night, Sundays
1667 Mass Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. $4 cover. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes to the featured poet of the week.

O'Brien's Pub, Mondays
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. A mix of rock and spoken word is performed one Monday a month at 9pm—the performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry Night, Saturdays
Out of the Blue Gallery, 168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. Donations appreciated. Every Saturday is poetry night, and an incredible spoken-word and music event also takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month. It features music by Rob Gonzalez and spoken word with Nola Kelley.

Rhythm and Muse Open Mike, Thursdays
403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-6622). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook. A headlining poet is followed by an open-mike session on the first Thursday of every month, 7:30pm.

Stone Soup Poetry Night, Mondays
Zeitgeist Gallery, 312 Broadway St, Cambridge (227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7:30pm. $3. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets have served up soothing inspirations with their weekly readings. Keep the good vibes going every with a wealth of featured writers.

education

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Education. Or e-mail information to education@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

CLASSES/LECTURES

Wednesday, Sept. 20

Holocaust Survivor, War Hero and Spy
The French Library and Cultural Center, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (912-0400). 6:30pm. Free. An evening of dialogue dedicated to **André Scheinmann**, who fought in the French Army and who was interned at Natzweiler. Diana Mara Henry will tell his story, and Scheinmann will answer questions.

Thursday, Sept. 21

Conference on Girls, Women & Money
Hynes Convention Center, Boylston Street, Boston (954-2000). Sept. 21-24. This groundbreaking four-day conference offers comprehensive immersion in all facets of economic literacy for all stages of a woman's life.

Sunday, Sept. 24

Paupers and Poor Farms
Wellesley Historical Society, 219 Washington St., Wellesley (781-235-6690). 2:30pm. Free. **Louise Minks** will give a lecture examining the history of the poor and their treatment in Massachusetts and New England.

Tuesday, Sept. 26

Kitchen Table Backlash: The Anti-Feminist Women's Movement
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (373-5800). MBTA: Orange or Red Line to Downtown Crossing. The Ford Hall Forum presents this lecture by **Dr. Jean Hardisty** of Political Research Associates.

Wednesday, Sept. 27

David Gergen—Eyewitness to Power
John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (929-4500) www.jfklibrary.org. *7-8:30pm. Free.* As a White House adviser to four presidents, **David Gergen** shares the lessons he has drawn from the failures and triumphs of presidential leadership.

Lay My Burden Down
Cambridge Forum, The First Parish Church, 3 Church St., Cambridge (495-2727). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. Free. **Dr. Alvin Poussaint** of Harvard Medical School and journalist **Amy Alexander** discuss the mental health crisis among African-American youth.

Understand the Tree, Preserve the Nest
The Boston Society of Architects Lecture Series at the Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston St., Boston (951-1433 ext. 221). 6pm. Free. **Bill McDonough**, architect, educator and writer, assesses the status of "green design."

Thursday, Sept. 28

War Children of Africa
Brookline High School, 115 Greenough St., Brookline (730-2700). 7-9pm, $5. **Ksenya Kinchuk**, director of the Humphrey Fellowship Program, works to raise funds for families of Rwandan genocide victims.

Saturday, September 30

Environmental Writers Festival
New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, Boston (973-5200). (973-5295). 8am-6pm. Learn from award-winning writers, poets and journalists.

Sunday, Oct. 1

A Conversation with Helen Thomas
John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (929-4500) www.jfklibrary.org. *2-3:30pm. Free.* As part of the Distinguished Americans series, veteran journalist **Helen Thomas** shares her experience covering eight American presidents.

Monday, Oct. 2

How Would They Govern?
JFK Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (929-4500). 3:30-5:30pm. Free. This panel discussion with **David Brooks**, **E.J. Dionne**, **Thomas Mann** and **Norman Ornstein** will consider how the two major presidential candidates are likely to govern if elected.

NO CURSE HERE

Boston's best chance at a "world series"? Emmanuel Music on Sundays. BY KEITH POWERS

For beleaguered Boston fans, getting into the "series" is easier than you think. Just visit Emmanuel Church in Back Bay on Sunday. You might not see Pedro, but, thanks to music director Craig Smith, there's been a "world series" going on there for 30 years.

The series in question is Smith's Bach Cantata series, which has run during the concert season since 1970. Smith's modest start at Emmanuel Church was hardly a foreshadowing of what would follow. "In 1970, I had just been appointed interim music director," Smith remembers. "I had never been a church musician, but I wanted to perform the cantatas. So we put together an orchestra and singers. It wasn't until we did about 170 cantatas that we decided to do them all. I certainly wasn't thinking of that at first."

Smith has also presided over chamber and vocal music explorations of composers from Brahms to Debussy. Currently the group is well into a Schubert cycle, presenting most of the songs and all of the chamber music. Still not satisfied, Smith has Saturday evening concerts all year as well, this season featuring a Handel opera, the Bach B-minor mass, and a world premiere of a Peter Sellars production of three Bach cantatas that will eventually tour New York and several European cities. The Saturday series kicks off on Nov. 4 with the Schubert E-flat mass and the Beethoven D-major violin concerto, with Rose Mary Harbison as a soloist.

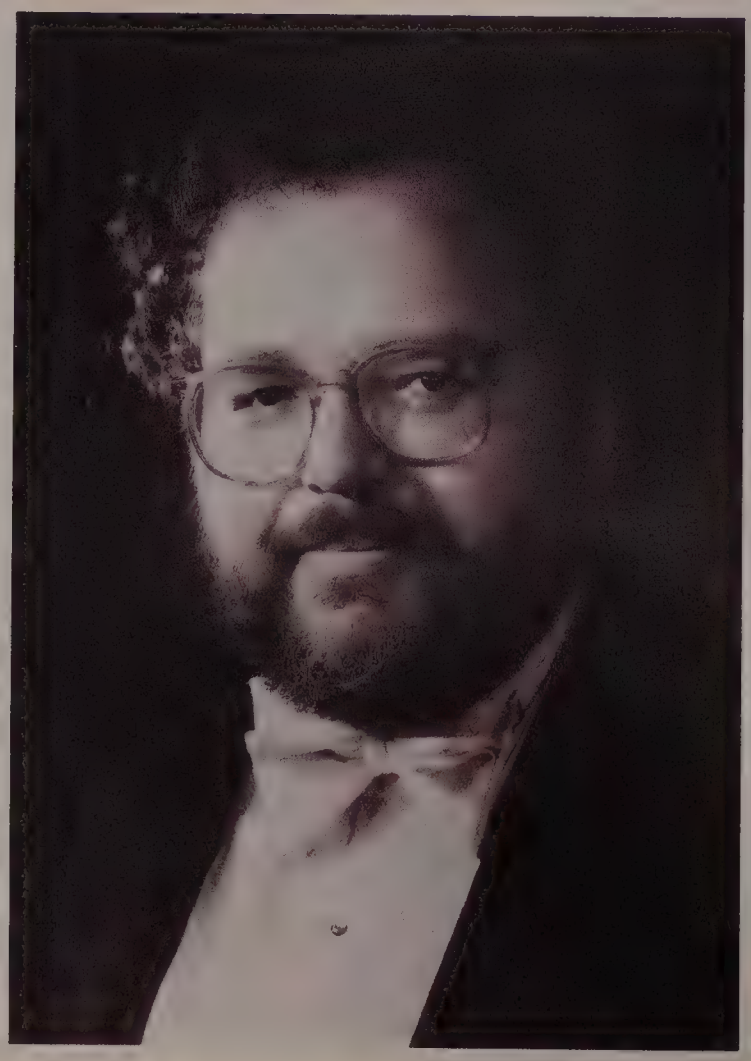
Like many local music directors, Smith got his start at New England Conservatory. "I studied with Russell Sherman, completely in piano. All the other stuff I learned later. As a conductor, one learns by doing and observing. I love seeing the conductors who come to Symphony Hall. I love the older conductors: Monteux, the great Germans. I tremendously admire Joachim. And I'd walk a mile to see Abbado."

Smith's Schubert series is in its fifth year. "It's my pride and joy. When we finish we will have done a large percentage of the songs, some 600 of the 700, along with all the piano music, and all the chamber music."

Thirty years have brought changes in many performance techniques, most notably in presenting Bach. "Historical performance has gradually changed things, especially the string playing. Almost every string player in my group plays period instruments. Oddly an awful lot of the stuff we do is very similar to modern music. There's a new recording with Matthias Goerne singing solo cantatas with Roger Norrington conducting. I played it over and over for friends, and I couldn't tell whether it was new instruments or period instruments until I went to the piano and found the pitch."

What's next for Emmanuel Music? Smith is still deciding. "I have to come up with another theme in the next three years after the Schubert ends. We might do Russian music. I'm thinking Faure, too. I definitely want to do a project with some of the other organizations in town. I talked to David Hoose [leader of the Cantata Singers] about doing the complete works of Webern—coupled with something else, of course. Everyone would go crazy with complete programs of Webern. But it's music that must be heard."

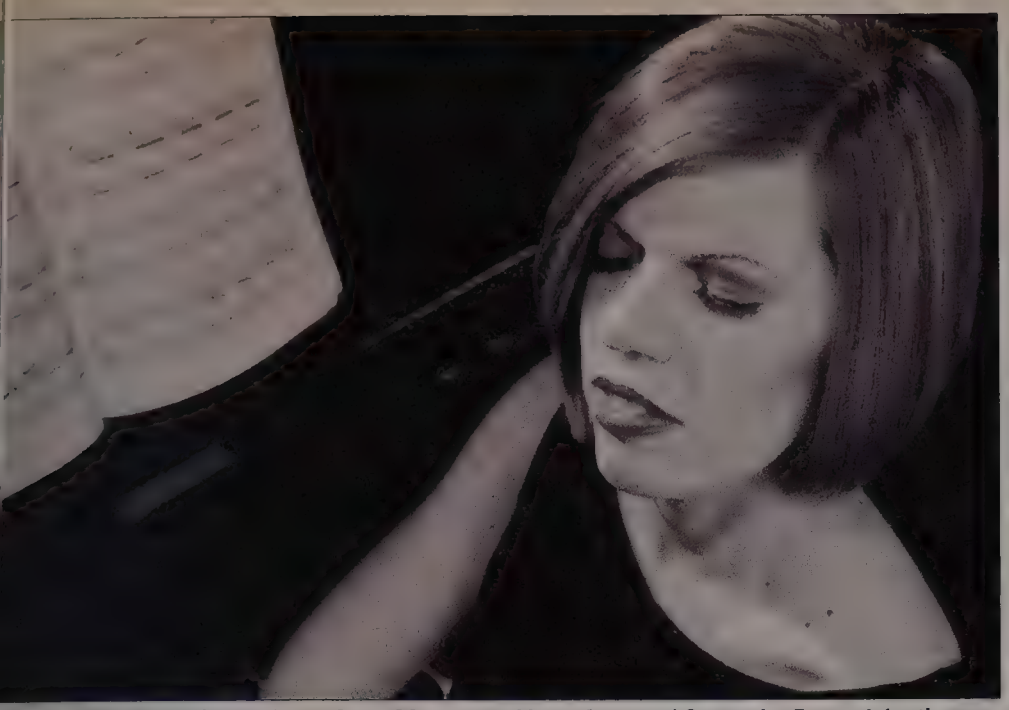
"It wasn't until we did about 170 cantatas that we decided to do them all. I certainly wasn't thinking of that at first."



The Emmanuel Music series is the brainchild of Emmanuel Church music director Craig Smith.

CODA

Say this for **Leonard Slatkin** of the National Symphony in Washington: He keeps it interesting. First he presents his "Bastardizing Beethoven" series (not its real name), where he programmed all of Mahler's re-orchestrations of the Beethoven symphonies. Then word of his controversial dress code for the symphony leaked out. Addressing the issue of female players wearing pants, he basically said, "Since we don't want the big-butted players wearing pants, no women should," claiming that it was the tactful(!) way of handling the issue. Equally hilarious was his "no sleeveless dresses; we don't want to see all those flabby arms" rule. The **Moscow Philharmonic** played a series of well-reviewed concerts before 10,000 spectators in Hong Kong in early August. The catch? It wasn't really the Philharmonic, but a bunch of Russian freelancers working without permission from the mother orchestra. Promoters and musicians alike were pointing fingers at each other for the "mistake." IB



Pianist Eileen Hutchins performs Sept. 22 as part of Longy's annual SeptemberFest celebration.

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled Classical by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Classical Music or e-mail to classical@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers Web site information and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to deadline. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from many different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to doublecheck dates and times.

Thursday, Sept. 21

Completely Clarke
Rapaporte Treasure Hall, Brandeis University, Waltham (776-1809). MBTA: Commuter Rail to Brandeis/Roberts. 8pm. Composer Rebecca Clarke's violin sonatas make their world premiere with Joanna Kurkowicz on violin and Vivian Chang on piano.

WCRB's Classical at Copley Concerts 2000
Reflecting pool of the fountain, Copley Square Park, Boston (781-893-7080). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 12-1pm. Free admission. These casual lunchtime concerts in a convenient location serve as the perfect break from your busy day. Bion Tsang performs on the cello today.

Friday, Sept. 22

SeptemberFest 2000 at Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (876-0956). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. A lecture titled "Bach After 1750," by Harvard University Professor of Music Christoph Wolff, precedes a concert at 8pm. Bach's *Orchestral Suite No. 2 in B Minor*, Villa-Lobos' *Bachianas Brasilieras No. 5 for Soprano and Eight Cellos*, Stravinsky's *Serenade en La* and Beethoven's *Sonata in D Major, Opus 102* will be performed.

Saturday, Sept. 23

Completely Clarke
First and Second Church, Marlborough and Berkeley Streets, Boston (776-1809). 8pm. Composer Rebecca Clarke's violin sonatas will be performed by Joanna Kurkowicz on violin and Vivian Chang on piano.

SeptemberFest 2000 at Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (876-0956). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. The Longy Chamber Orchestra and SeptemberFest Chorus, conducted by Jeffrey Rink, perform. Selections include Mozart's *Adagio and Fugue in C Minor*, Bach's *Orchestral Suite No. 4* and *Brandenburg Concerto No. 1* and Stravinksy's *Cantata*. Logan McCarty, tenor, Sara Bielanski, mezzo-soprano and Tobias Steymans, violin soloist, perform.

Sunday, Sept. 24

Gardner Concert Series
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 2 Palace Rd., Boston (566-1401). MBTA: E Green Line to the Museum of Fine Arts. 1:30pm. The Gardner Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Leon Kirchner, will perform Copland's *Appalacian Spring* and Schumann's *Concerto for Piano and Orchestra in A Minor.* Jeremy Denk is featured on piano.

Pro Arte Concert Series
Sanders Theatre, Quincy and Kirlkand streets, Cambridge (661-7067). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.proarte.org. *3pm. $9-$39.* Guest Conductor Gunther Schullef opens the season with an all-orchestral program showcasing the region's only musician-run orchestra.

Somerville Early Music Afternoons
Somerville Museum, Central Street and Westwood Road, Somerville (666-9810). 3pm. $12. Music from the 16th-18th centuries will be performed on period instruments under the direction of Somerville residents Carol Lewis, viola da gamba, and Olav Chris Henriksen, lutes. Los Dos Amigos perform *Three Centuries of Spanish Dance Music for Two Guitars: Works of Sor, Rodrigo, Santiago de Murcia and Others*. Berit Strong and Olav Chris Henriksen perform on guitar.

Weekly Bach Cantata
Emmanuel Music, 15 Newbury St., Boston (536-3356). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 10am. Free admission. Michael Beattie conducts the Orchestra and Chorus of Emmanuel Music in a performance of Bach's *Cantata BWV 35.*

Tuesday, Sept. 26

Noon Hour Organ Recitals
King's Chapel, School and Tremont Streets, Boston (227-2155). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. 12:15pm, $2. A tribute to Boston composer William Billings will be performed. It honors the 200th anniversary of the death of Boston's best-known colonial composer.

Thursday, Sept. 28

WCRB's Classical at Copley Concerts 2000
Reflecting pool of the fountain, Copley Square Park, Boston (781-893-7080). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 12-1pm. Free admission. These casual lunchtime concerts in a convenient location serve as the perfect break from your workday. Zephyros Quintet performs today.

Saturday, Sept. 30

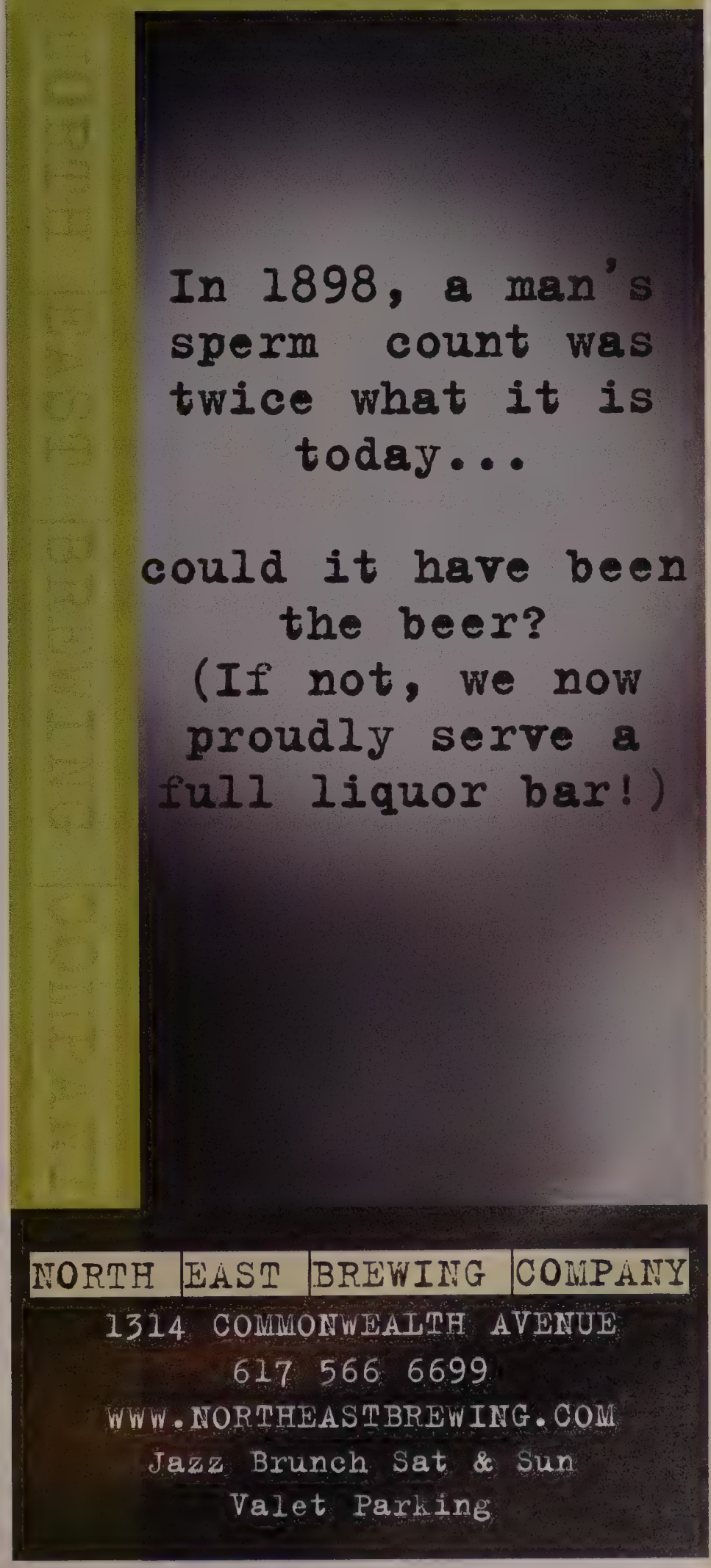
Young Artist Showcase
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 2 Palace Rd., Boston (566-1401). 1:30pm. Esther Budiardjo, award-winning young pianist, will play Godowsky's *Selections from Java Suite*, Beethoven's *Sonata in B-flat Major* and Mendelssohn's *Two Etudes*.

Sunday, Oct. 1

Boston Recorder Society Concert
Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, Nashua Street, Boston (323-2171). MBTA: Green Line to North Station or Science Park. 7:30pm. Topical concerts led by some of Boston's leading early-music specialists will be performed weekly.

Gardner Concert Series
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 2 Palace Rd., Boston (566-1401). 1:30pm. The Orion String Quartet will perform Kurtag's *Microludes* and Dvorak's *String Quartet in G Major.*

Weekly Bach Cantata
Emmanuel Music, 15 Newbury St., Boston (536-3356). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 10am. Free admission. Craig Smith conducts the Orchestra and Chorus of Emmanuel Music in a performance of Bach's *Cantata BWV 149.*



dance clubs

Advice to Contributors
Submit information by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Clubs or e-mail to clubs@improper.com. Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Nights

Mondays

Ceremony
An Tua Nua. Goth and industrial music shakes the house tonight.

Language
Hibernia. Drum and Bass with Cosmo. 8pm. 21+.

Monsta Monday
Bill's Bar. DJ Kaptain Krunch kicks off the week. 9pm. $5, 18+.

Static
Axis. DJ Jay Ine delivers NYC Hardhouse and UK Progressive. There's also a drag/strip event hosted by Mizery. 10pm, $5. 19+.

Vertigo Mondays
Vertigo. Caesar and Giorgio throw a party for those who never stop dancin'. Smooth Lounge upstairs, deep house downstairs with DJ Arsit. Dress slick. 10pm. No cover.

Tuesdays

Cigar and Jazz Night
The Exchange. Light up, kick back and score a free Gina Cigar and buffet. No cover.

Fat Tuesdays
Bill's Bar. This off-the-hook night features DJ Chaos scratching out hip-hop. 10pm. $12, 18+.

The Forum
Lava Bar. Join Mission Control and support the local DJ scene as home-grown talents share the floor. 10pm. 21+.

Got Milk?
Venu. If you're chic you'll be at Venu for Milk—a devilishly hip party with DJ Osheen. Dress is funky. 21+.

Lot 36
Embassy. DJ Eddie K. heats things up with progressive Euro House at the city's hot club. 10pm. $15. 19+.

Hibernia
DJ Lounge is perfect for a relaxed Tuesday night. 7pm.

Mingle Tuesdays
The Modern. This spot screams sophistication. With DJs, a raw bar, vodka bar and late lounge. 10pm. 21+.

Wednesdays

Backstage
DJ Jonny C. spins top-40 dance classics. 10pm, no cover. 21+.

College Night
The Aquarium. Guest DJs spin on all three funky floors of this relatively new venue at 10pm.

Funk and Groove
Bill's Bar. DJ Tim Collins spins live funk, soul, and hip-hop. 9pm. $5, 18+.

Groove Lounge
Downstairs at The Exchange. This lounge with a hard steel shell and soft leather middle has it all—house, funk and soul.

Hedonism
Upstairs at The Exchange. DJ Infinite and DJ Luca provide the soundtrack for you to be naughty to. Hawaiian shirts and bikinis welcome. 21+.

Latin Night
The Aquarium. This aquatic-themed Davis Square club offers dance lessons from 9pm-10pm.

Mason
Hiberbnia. Perfect Downtempo and house music complete with funky breaks.

Pravda 116
Spend the night at one of the city's most decadent hot spots—set to beats by DJ Alex and DJ Felix. 21+.

Thursdays

Aquarium
The Kiss 108 FM dance party. 10pm. $3.

An Tua Nua
Top 40, old school, hip-hop, house and soul spun by DJ Tim Collins.

Backstage
Tonight's adrenaline high features special guests spinning top-40 dance and club classics. 10pm, $5. 21+.

Big Easy
New Orleans-themed nightspot with some of the best DJs in town. Four bars, billiards and lounges. 9pm.

Charlie's Angels Night
Polly Esther's. Dance to '70s, '80s or '90s tunes. 8pm, $5.

Tuesdays through Saturdays, State Street's the Exchange offers club-goers a spirited night out.

Chrome
Axis. Resident DJs John Debo and Ali Ajami spin house and trance. 10pm, $10. 19+.

College Night
The Exchange. Bring your college ID and party to house, hip-hop, R&B and reggae. 9pm, 19+.

Downtempo Lounging
The Modern. DJ Ricky Fatts spins while you enjoy the raw bar and vodka bar. 9pm-2am, 21+.

Embassy Thursday Nights
DJ Anthony hosts Latin Lounge. 10pm, $15, 19+.

Europa
Enter Club Destiny for DJ Rip's house and trance.

Graduate School Night
Pravda 116. DJ Maric spins tunes to relax to.

Heaven
Comedy Connection Backstage. Music by DJs Johnny C and Freddie C. Proper dress. 10pm. No cover.

Hibernia Thursday Night
DJ Jeremy spins a loopy, trippy, trip-hop. 7pm.

Il Panino
A social playground for young professionals. 9pm. 21+.

International Thursday
Avalon. A mixed crowd fills this nightspot with DJ Manolo and progressive Euro House. 10pm, $15. 19+.

Latin Quarter
The Roxy. You know it's time to get down when the Roxy breaks out Latin dance mixes. 10:30pm, 21+.

The Modern
International Thursdays features R&B classics. 10pm, $15, 19+.

Speed
Karma. Resident DJs Bruno spin house to an edgy crowd. 10pm, $12. 19+.

Sugar Shack
The best music from three decades pounds through the festival atmosphere where every day is Mardi-Gras.

Sweetwater Cafe
Live bands perform while guests sip margaritas.

The List
Lava Bar. *Lavabar.com*. DJ 7L and guests along with Verse/D bring you soul and funk. 10pm. 21+.

Underground
Bill's Bar. DJ Mark Hamilton showcases up and coming acts and establishd bands. 9pm. Cover varies, 18+.

Venu
DJ Nailz spins to a huge college crowd. 19+.

Fridays

Aquarium
DJ Lu spins today's hottest dance hits.

An Tua Nua
DJ Vinny puts together a great night of top-40 and your favorites from the '70s, '80s and '90s.

American Karma
Karma. All-star American top-40 remixes with DJ Tim Collins, live on STAR 93.7. 9pm, $8, 19+.

Avaland
Avalon. Everything about this screams "Party!" With Ali Ajami and special guest DJ's. 10pm, $15. 19+.

Backstage
DJ Jonny C spins top-40. 10pm, $5. Proper dress, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans–themed nightspot has some of the best mainstream DJs in town.

Buzz Fridays
Buzz. Roger M lays down Latin house tracks while DJs pay homage to the house music gods. 11pm, $15. 19+.

Envy
This popular destination is filled with a mass of sweaty 'n' ready dancers. 9pm, $5 after 10pm. 21+.

Exchange Fridays
The Exchange. Up High, Tiziano and Maurizio, play house trip while DJ G-Squared opens the Vault. 9pm.

Focus at Hibernia
Cocktails with Alan Strack and deep house. 10pm, 21+.

Life
Lava Bar. Dance to a different drummer with DJ Fran Englehardt's deeply rooted soulful rhythms. 10pm.

Mondo Bar
Roxy. International and house music with resident DJs Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. 10:30pm, 21+.

NYC Jukebox
All the disco and rock you can handle. 9pm, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ Mario spins current dance music at this hot spot.

Revolution
Embassy. Find Latin and progressive Euro House here with DJ Eddie K. 10pm, $15, 19+.

Spin Cycle
Axis. Glitzed-out club hoppers shake it to the beats of DJ Tim Ryan and DJ David James. 10pm, $12. 19+.

Sugar Shack
DJs and specialty drinks, dancing 'til 2am.

Sweetwater Cafe
DJs KC and Jonesey entertain on two floors of this classic American bar.

Venu
The scene is elegant for this jacket-required international romp. Get your Gucci on as DJ Arsit spins. 21+.

Saturdays

Aquarium
Saturday night dance party with DJs. 10pm. $5.

An Tua Nua
DJ Tim Collins mixes top-40, hip-hop, house and soul.

Downtown
Avalon. Resident DJs Manolo and Mattie O. gyrate your arse with hits and club classics. 10pm, $15. 21+.

Backstage
DJ Freddie C spins top-40 dance and club classics. 10pm. $5. Proper dress, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans–themed nightspot has live bands all weekend. Thirsty? There are four bars to boot.

Classic Saturdays
Embassy/The Modern. DJ Eddie K puts out some classic Euro House for a mix of international students, local scenesters and Boston's A-list. 10pm, $15, 19+.

Club Juliana
Boogieing cuties converge on Boston's newest Latin Night starting at 10pm. Dress to impress. $10.

Club Nicole
The mob is thick for this exclusive trendsetter. DJ Alex spins Eurohouse. Jackets required. 21+.

Club Piteko
Fajitas & Ritas' hot spot juggles reggae, hip-hop and Brazilian sounds. $7. 21+.

Downtown Saturdays at Avalon
DJ Monolo spins progressive house. 10pm, $15, 21+.

Envy
DJ Tom Baxter blasts top-40, house and dance. 9pm, $5.

Elements of Life
Karma. Guest DJs spin house while DJ Justin Hoffman spins hip-hop, funk and soul. 10pm, $15, 19+.

Exchange Saturdays
Guest DJs spin house, hip-hop and top-40.

Hibernia Saturdays
Steve Porter whips the crowd into a frenzy. 10pm. 21+.

Lava Bar
Anything Goes. DJ Fran and Kris Kono unite with high-energy house and Latin beats. 10pm, 21+.

Miami Club Night
Club Joy/Yesterday's. Get a taste of Miami nightlife. 9:30pm (ladies free before 11pm), $10. 21+. Ladies, 19+.

Mischief
The Modern. Feeling mischievous? Ultra lounging with decadent desserts and erotic electronica. 21+.

Mythos
Venu. It's Greek International night with DJ Yorgo Jr. spinning the hits from the famous party islands.

NYC Jukebox
Disco and rock hits. 9:30pm, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ Mario provides current dance jams.

Roxy Saturdays
High-energy house and dance by DJ Adilson. 9pm, 21+.

Saturday Night Fever
Polly Esther's. Groove to three decades' worth of beats in the laser-lit Club DVD. 8pm, $10. 21+.

Smile
Bill's Bar. DJ Bruno takes over. 10pm. $12, 19+

Sugar Shack
Spice up your night with '70s, '80s and '90s dance music as DJ Rich Centi spins the hottest sounds.

Sweetwater Cafe
Music from DJs KC and Jonesey on two floors.

Who's on First?
The latest and greatest in hip-hop, reggae, R&B and Latin house with DJ Lil' Mike, 10:30pm, $12. 18+.

X night
Axis. Hear DJs Mike Giosciaand David James spin alternative rock and hits from the 80's. 10pm, $10. 21+.

Sundays

Backstage
Urban Night. T Clark spins hip-hop, reggae and old school. Doors open at 10pm, $10. 21+.

Common People
An Tua Nua. Brit-pop, new wave, indie and more with DJ Adrienne. 9pm, $3. 19+.

Il Panino
This night features music by DJ Alex of Boston Beat and DJ Roger M. No cover, 21+.

Lava Bar
Pandora's Box (Club Courtesy). DJ Vinny and Sir Richard and Sterling spin '60s Exotica, loungecore, psychedelic flowerpop and Motown. 10pm. 21+.

Red Square Lounge
Pravda 116. Party in the front bar that is transformed into a comfortable lounge. 10pm-2am.

Reggae Sundays
Bill's Bar. DJ K-Don spins some of the best reggae around. 10pm. $10. 21+.

Salvation
This Boston vibe serves up an intimate evening of soul, all provided courtesy of DJ Soul. $5.

Venu
Carnival comes to Boston every Sunday as DJ Adilson brings the heat of Rio to Venu. 21+.

Club Venues

AnTua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (262-2121).*
Aquarium *65 Holland St., Somerville (623-3200).*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (437-0300).*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424).*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437).*
Backstage *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston (726-1110).*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678).*
Buzz Boston/Europa *51-67 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street.*
Club Juliana *20 Hudson St., Boston (542-4411).*
Club Nicole *40 Dalton St., Boston (236-4746). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*
Club Piteko/Fajitas & Ritas *25 West St., Boston (426-1222).*
Club Stella *1234 Soldiers Field Rd., Brighton (254-0554).*
Comedy Connection Backstage *Fanuel Hall, Boston (726-1110). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Embassy *36 Lansdowne St., Boston (536-2100).*
Envy *25 Boylston Place, Boston (542-3689).*
Europa *51 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939).*
Exchange *148 State St., Boston (723-7755).*
Hibernia *25 Kingston St., Boston (292-2333).*
Karma *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9595).*
Lava Bar *575 Comm.Ave., Boston (267-7707). MBTA: Green Line to Blandford.*
NYC Jukebox *275 Tremont St., Boston (542-1123).*
Oskar's *107 South Street., Boston (542-6756).*
Polly Esther's *262 Friend St., Boston (720-1966). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (482-7799).*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699).*
Salvation *20 Hudson St., Boston (781-668-2392).*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510).*
Sweetwater Cafe *5 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2515).*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (338-8061).*
Vertigo *126 State Street, Boston (723-7277).*

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BEATING THE RAP

In this era of Kid Rock and Limp Bizkit, Queens of the Stone Age defies the rap-rock formula. BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

On the heels of playing at OzzFest, Queens of the Stone Age was dubbed "hot rock band" in the recent "hot" issue of *Rolling Stone*. It's an unusual coup for a band that doesn't have a hit, or anything to do with the current rage of rap-rock.

"It takes a little longer for people to grasp what's going on, and not be sheeple," says Nick Oliveri, bassist-singer for Queens of the Stone Age, which rolls into Axis Sept. 29. "We're not really into the rap thing. That's not our music."

Instead, QOTSA's music is heavy rock that's old-school—with fresh attitude. "It's kinda what we've always done, to make music that nobody else is making right now, so we have to make it ourselves, 'cause I want to hear good rock!" says Oliveri, injecting a cackling laugh over the phone from a Hollywood rehearsal space before turning to the topic of influences. "It was everything from Discharge to Black Sabbath, Black Flag. A lot of punk rock. We just played our version of what we thought that was, and it became Kyuss."

Queens of the Stone Age strives to wake up the "sheeple."

Kyuss (pronounced kai-uss) was the incubator for Oliveri and guitarist-singer Joshua Homme, who grew up in the Palm Desert region of California. Its early '90s sound wasn't far afield in its down-tuned guitar tones from Northwest bands like Soundgarden and Nirvana. But, Oliveri says, "We were proud we were from the desert—we were kids, 16 and 17 years old. So it was like, 'We're from the desert. We're not from Seattle.'"

"All we had to do was play music because you couldn't really go outside, because it was like 118 degrees," says Oliveri. "There were no venues in the desert area, so we'd have to make our own parties to play at. We'd make our own venue in the middle of the desert, with a generator and a couple kegs of beer."

Indeed, the desert sounds like the perfect training environment for a "hot" band, though Oliveri and Homme eventually left Kyuss as the group built an underground reputation but no longer met their needs. When Homme needed a bass player for the fledgling QOTSA, he called Oliveri. The idea, says the shaven-headed bassist, was to have a band that will tackle any style from song to song, "if we think it doesn't suck."

"Sonically, it's still us, but whatever the direction is, whether it's punky or psychedelic or something that's real slow with a lot of space and air and movement, if it sounds good, we're going to play it," he says. "One of the things I don't like about music is formula. It's cool to be wider."

QOTSA navigates that range well on its second CD, the new *Rated R*, the cover of which sports a small rating sticker like a "Restricted" film. "Why let [the record company] put a weird sticker on a record that has nothing to do with the artwork," pipes Oliveri. "We wanted to censor ourselves."

The movie theme continues with tongue-in-cheek opener "Feel Good Hit of the Summer," which rattles off the names of recreational drugs, with ex-Judas Priest belter Rob Halford joining in. "We're not trying to tell anybody what they should do," Oliveri says. "We're just singing what we like."

From there, the disc juxtaposes the robotic lurch of "Leg of Lamb," the eerie shifts of "Better Living Through Chemistry" (with Barrett Martin of the Screaming Trees on hand drums and vibes), the funky curves of "In the Fade" (with vocals by Screaming Trees' Mark Lanegan) and the pulsing horns of "I Think I Lost My Headache." From the acoustic "Lightning Song" to Oliveri's punk rant, "Quick and to the Pointless," QOTSA isn't afraid to ride extremes beyond sludgy guitars.

"We wanted to have each song move in a different direction, like a different flavor," Oliveri says. "Fortunately for us, we have a lot of friends—talented freaks—that we can call and say, 'Hey, will you come in and do this?'"

Finally, there's the band's name. Chris Goss from Masters of Reality, who produced Kyuss and QOTSA, coined the name, says Oliveri (and not to alienate homophobes on the metal circuit, as has been reported). So why not Kings of the Stone Age?

"Queens brings more girls to the shows," he says. "Kyuss was a dude band, and that gets boring real fast. The last thing I want to see is another dude in the crowd. When it's a good mixture of guys and girls, lights turned down low, people playing grab-ass while we're playing music, it's fun." iB

Queens of the Stone Age

Catch QOTSA at Axis, Sept. 29.

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fax (859-1446); by mail to Calendar/Music; or by email to music@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, phone numbers and nearest T stops. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double check dates and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

Concerts

The Bangles
Sept. 29, Avalon
Battlefield Band
Sept. 22, Somerville Theatre
Raquel Bitton
Sept. 22, Symphony Hall
Boston Folk Festival
With Roger McQuinn (founder of the Byrds), Steeleye Span, Cheryl Wheeler and Richie Havens
Sept. 23 and 24, UMass Boston
Bulgarian Women's Choir
Sept. 28, Sanders Theatre
Joe Cocker
Sept. 20, FleetCenter
Culture Club
Sept. 22, FleetBoston Pavilion
Foxtrot Zulu
Sept. 29, Worcester Palladium
Aretha Franklin
Sept. 23, Symphony Hall
Goldfinger
Sept. 22, Worcester Palladium
David Gray and Five For Fighting
Sept. 24, Avalon
Great Big Sea
Sept. 30, Avalon
Hanson
Sept. 21, Orpheum Theatre
Juliana Hatfield
Sept. 27, Roxy

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Harmer Time

A welcome Canadian import, singer-songwriter Sarah Harmer has just released her U.S. debut, *You Were Here*. Mixing up rock, pop and roots, Harmer conjures a sound along the lines of Sheryl Crow, Liz Phair and Lucinda Williams. National mags such as *Time* and *Billboard* are already singing her praises, and radio stations such as Boston's WXRV (The River) are spinning her ridiculously infectious first single, "Basement Apt." Harmer's national tour brings her to T.T. the Bear's Place Sept. 21. She also plays at Tower Records on Newbury Street Sept. 22. at 6pm.

Lyricist Lounge
Sept. 27, Avalon
M.A.F.I.O.
Sept. 22, Worcester Palladium
Marisa Monte
Oct. 1, Berklee Performance Center
Mixfest
With the Barenaked Ladies, Tracy Chapman, the Goo Goo Dolls, Macy Gray, the Go-Go's, Vertical Horizon, Ben Harper, Fastball, the Corrs and Roxette
Sept. 23, Suffolk Downs
Joan Osborne
Oct. 3, Avalon
Queens of the Stone Age and Vast
Sept. 29, Axis
Sleater-Kinney, White Stripes and Coco
Sept. 22, Roxy
Solas
Sept. 30, Somerville Theatre
Toneburst Collective
Featuring all the original members of the collective, along with special guests
Sept. 22, Mass. College of Art 232-1555
Tina Turner
Sept. 20, FleetCenter

CONCERT HALLS

Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
FleetBoston Pavilion *290 Northern Avenue, Boston (734-9000). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
FleetCenter *One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (624-1000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Mass. College of Art *621 Huntington Ave., Boston (232-1555). MBTA: E Green Line to Longwood.*
Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Symphony Hall *301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1492). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony.*
Tweeter Center *885 South Main St., Mansfield (508-339-2331).*
UMass/Boston *100 Morrissey Blvd. (287-6911). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass.*
Worcester Palladium *261 Main St., Worcester (508-797-9696).*

Rock, Jazz and Blues

Wednesday, Sept. 20

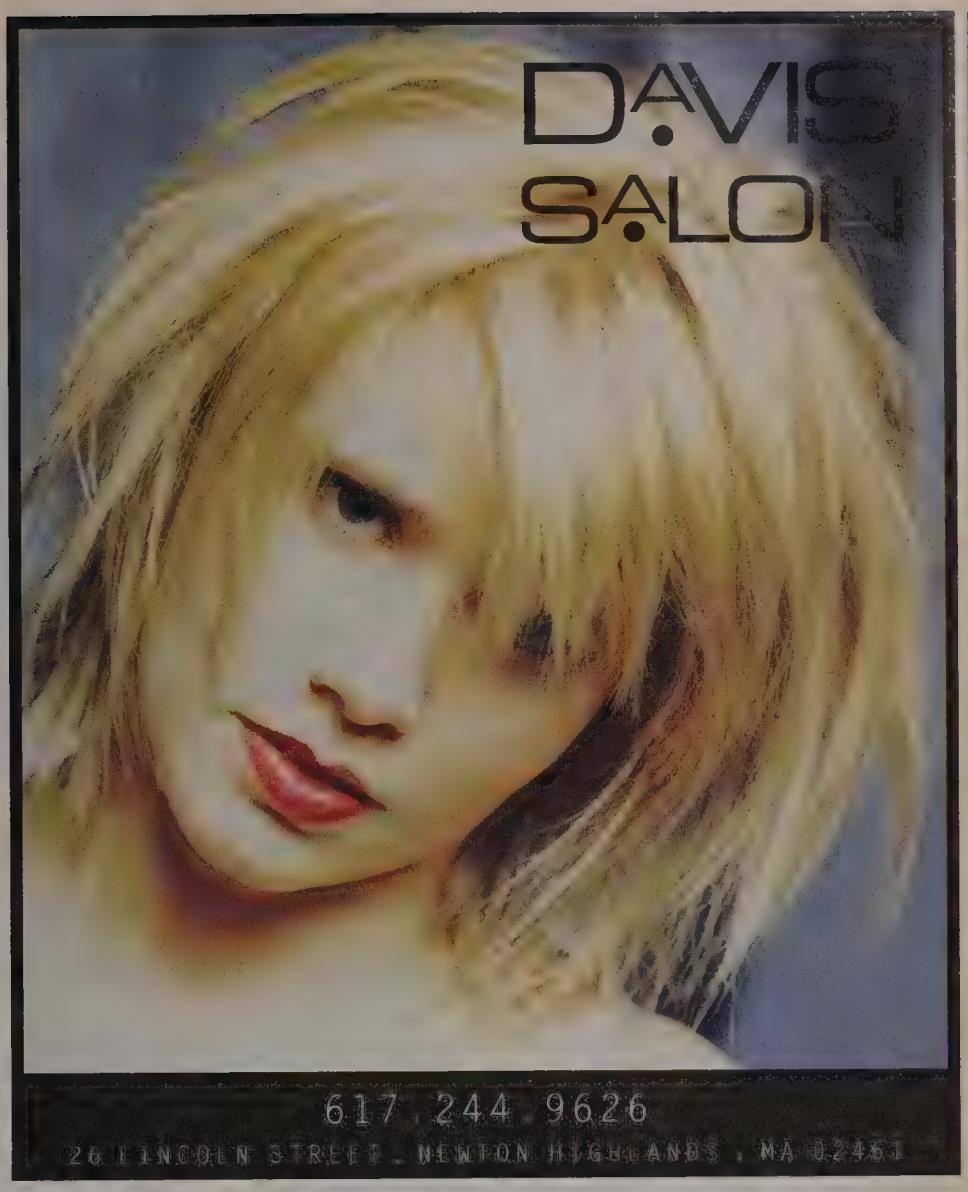
Bell in Hand Tavern Pete Maniscalco, 7:30pm.
Bill's Bar Allagash 4 with guests, $5.
Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Hakim Law Jazz Quartet and special guests, 6pm.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
Clery's Sunday's Well.
Club Passim John Sinclair and Vox Pop, 8pm, $10.
Coogan's Bluff Scott Damguard.
Dick's Last Resort Jenerators, no cover.
Encore Lounge Michelle Curie's piano bar, 9pm.
Green Dragon Tavern Greg Greer.
Harpers Ferry Ron Levy's Wild Kingdom and Brother Chameleon, $3.
House of Blues Young Dubliners, 9pm, $8, 18+.
Irish Embassy Pub Machinery Hall.
Johnny D's Howard Armstrong, Guy Davis and Ernie Hawkins, 8:30pm.
Karma Allagash 4 with guests, $5.
Kendall Cafe Matthew Ryan.
Kirkland Cafe Hammond B-3 Night with Ken Clark Organ Trio, $5.
Lilli's The Somerville Strip with Me First and the Gimme-Gimmes, 10pm.
Lizard Lounge Seks Bomba, Sukey Tawdrey, 9pm and little a, 10pm.
Maison Robert Laura Allen.
Middle East U: Strawberry Bizarre and Mad Hat, $6, 18+. C: Belly Dancing.
Oak Bar Diana Fischer Trio, 8pm.
Paddy Burke's Tom Hegarty, 8pm; Boston Folk and Singers Club, 9pm.
The Rack Hung Jury, 9pm, $5.
Regattabar Peter Parcek, 8:30pm and 11pm, $8.
Scullers Jonathan Butler, 8pm and 10pm, $24, 21+.
Sidney's Grille Ken Clarke, 5:30pm.
Sky Bar Ruby Lashes, Capital City, 9pm, 21+, $5.
Toad Lil Memphis and Pluto, 7pm, no cover.
White Horse Tavern Sound Kings, 9pm.
Wonder Bar Leo Blanco, no cover.
Les Zygomates Chuck Langford Duo, 5pm, no cover.

Thursday, Sept. 21

Axis Fuel and Valle Jo.
Bell in Hand Tavern Zen Flower, 9pm.
Bill's Bar The Bar Room Heroes, Runnin' Riot and Beer Zone, $8.
Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Toni Lynn Washington Jazz Quartet, 7:30pm.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Clery's Sunday's Well.
Club Passim Einstein's Little Homunculus, Gideon Freudmann, 8pm, $10.
Coogan's Bluff Beloved Few.
Dick's Last Resort Rob Gonzalez Band.
Encore Lounge Michelle Currie's piano bar with blues and jazz, 9pm.
The Grand Canal Me & Julio.
Green Briar Pub Finbar Doyle.
Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies.
Harpers Ferry 84 West; One Flew East, $5.
House of Blues Miracle Orchestra, 10pm, $8, 18+.
Irish Embassy Pub Six Mile Bridge.
Johnny D's Quarteto Jobim-Morelen-Baum, 9pm.
Jose McIntyre's Thomas McKenna.
Karma The Bar Room Heroes with Runnin' Riot and Beer Zone, $8.
Kendall Cafe Eric Fontana, 9pm; Flatwater, 10pm; Patrick Emswiler, 11pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe Joaonzine, Flat 5 and David Molinari, $5.
Lilli's Fully Celebrated Orchestra and Binary System, 10pm.
Linwood Element 47, Embryonic, Akwafresh, Tim Catz and Duncan Wilder Johnson, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Club D'Elf, cover varies.
Maison Robert Rick Schilling and Rose Jamieson.
Middle East U: Andrew Bird's Bowl of Fire and the Haygoods, $8, 18+. D: Sugarhill Gang 18+ $12. C: Board of Education.
Mobius Open FauceT Faculty Revü with Ross Hamlin, Trista Beard, Lou SuSi and Niki Ford, 8pm, $7.
Oak Bar Diana Fischer Trio, 8pm.
Paddy Burke's Tom Carroll, 8pm.
Parker's Bar Rose Jamieson and Rich Schilling, 7pm, no cover.
The Rack The Cattunes, 6pm, no cover.
Regattabar The Lee Konitz Trio with Paul Bley and Steve Swallow, 8:30pm, $14.
Roxy Black Uhuru featuring Sly & Robbie; Lucky Dube, 8pm, $35, 18+.
Scullers Danilo Peréz Quintet, 8pm and 10pm, $16.
Sidney's Grille Issi Rozen Group, 5:30pm.
Sky Bar The Gentlemen, Banjo Spiders and the Crush, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Sweetwater Cafe Averi, 5pm, 21+.
Toad The Faders, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Sarah Harmer.
Western Front G Spot, 9pm, $5.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford Review.
Les Zygomates John Kordalewski Duo, 5pm; Alon Yavani Trio, 8pm, no cover.

Friday, Sept. 22

The Aquarium Sugarfoot with the Brass Kicking Band, 10pm.
The Attic Dr. Awkward with Goodpeople and Leisure McCorkle, 21+.
Avalon DJ Icey.
Bell in Hand Tavern Pete Maniscalco, 7:30pm, no cover.
Big Easy Bar Velvet Jones, 9pm, 21+.
Bill's Bar Penny Wheel, Quick Fix and Medicine Ball, $7.
Black Rose Sunday's Well and the Crossing.
Bob the Chef's Frank Wilkins and Company, 7:30pm.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Clery's The Crossing, Sunday's Well.
Club Passim John Stweart and Dave Crossland, 8pm, $18.
Common Ground Soul Work, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Coogan's Bluff Novakane.
Dick's Last Resort Beantown and Soul City.
Encore Lounge John O'Neil and Jan Peters, 9pm.
Green Briar Pub Cape Fear.
Green Dragon Tavern Swinging Johsons and Dog House, 8pm, $3.
The Grand Canal Pig Pen.
Harp Irish Pub The Catunes.
Harpers Ferry Milo Z and Honey Pot, $6.
House of Blues Woodburn Area Band, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Johnny D's Love Dogs CD-release party.
Jose McIntyre's The Return.
Karma Penny Wheel with Quick Fix and Medicine Ball, $7.



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Kendall Cafe The Kickbacks, 9:30pm; Amelia White, 10:30pm; StringBuilder, 11:30pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe Funk 'n' Soul Revue with Jo Jo Star, Uprise, Eighteen Abbey and Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
Lilli's 16 Horsepower, Chris Colbourn and Slim Cessna's Auto Club, 10pm, $9.
Linwood PopGun, Say Hi To Lisa, Rockets Burst From the Streetlamps and Double Barrel Sunrise, 10pm, $6, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Kris Delmhorst, cover varies.
Middle East U: Chris Knox, 18+. D: Big Wu, Keller Williams and Tony Furtado Band, $10, 18+. C: Patty Giurleo, no cover.
Mobius Open FauceT Faculty Revü with Ross Hamlin, Trista Beard, Lou SuSi and Niki Ford, 8pm, $7.
Oak Bar Diana Fischer Trio, 8:30pm.
Paddy Burke's Focal; Tom Carroll, 9:30pm.
Parker's Bar Rose Jamieson and Rich Schilling, 7pm, no cover.
Purple Shamrock Wonder Kat.
The Rack Hit Squad, 6pm, $5.
Regattabar The Lee Konitz Trio with Paul Bley and Steve Swallow, 8pm and 11pm, $14.
Rhythm & Spice Caribbean Cruize Band, 10:30pm, $8, 21+.
Scullers Danilo Peréz Quintet, 8pm and 10:30pm, $16.
Sidney's Grille Paolo Denay, 5:30pm.
Sky Bar Rocket Science, Labb and Something Ira, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Toad The Armadillos, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Deke Dickerson and the Ecco-fonics, the Bourbonaires and Kings of Nuthin.
Western Front Anthem, 9:30pm, $10.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chonic Chronicles.
Les Zygomates Skip Smith Duo, 5pm; Valerie Stephens, 9pm, no cover.

Saturday, Sept. 23

The Attic Girls to the Fourth Power, Jennifer Tefft Band, Ramona Silver, October Baby and Katie Terrio, 8pm, 21+.
Bell in Hand Tavern Zen Flower, 9:30pm.
Big Easy Bar Joe Rockstar, 9pm, 21+.
Bill's Bar Jack Lee and Divercity, 10:30pm, $8, 21+.
Black Horse Tavern Nom De Plume, 9pm.
Black Rose Tony O'Riordan, Sunday's Well and the Crossing.
Bob the Chef's Frank Wilkins, 7:30pm.
Cambridge Brewing Company Pondering Judd.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers.
Clery's Tony O'Riordan, the Crossing, Sunday's Well.
Club Passim Bill Cud-Dyer and Pete Donnelly, 8pm, $12.
Common Ground Lovewhip, 10pm, 21+.
Coogan's Bluff 5 Helena's.
Dick's Last Resort Jenerators; In the House.
Encore Lounge DesPres and DeGraff, 9pm.
Green Briar Pub Thomas Park Band.
Green Dragon Tavern Swinging Johsons, Plaid Daddy, 8pm, $3.
The Grand Canal Cape Fear.
Harp Irish Pub Lovestone.
Harpers Ferry Young Neal and the Vipers; The lydia Warren Band, $6.
House of Blues Superhoney, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Johnny D's Eddie Clearwater, 8:30pm.
Jose McIntyre's Syndicate.
Karma Supa Marion.
Kendall Cafe Joel Aberbach, 9:30pm; Shiner Jones, 10:30pm; Josh Lederman y Los Diablos, 11:30pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe The Bell Tones, $5.
Lilli's Star Ghost Dog and the Fly Seville, 10pm, $8.
Linwood Throttlerod and 5ive, 10pm, $6, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Astroslut.
Middle East U: 764-Hero, Vic Firecracker, Hospital and Auto Interiors, $7, 18+. D: Bim Skala Bim, Blue Beats, the Agents and the Keds, $8, 18+. C: The Room Show, no cover.
Mobius Open Faucet Faculty Revü with Ross Hamlin, Trista Beard, Lou SuSi and Niki Ford, 8pm, $7.
Oak Bar Diana Fischer Trio, 8:30pm.
Paddy Burke's Focal and Tom Carroll, 9:30pm.
Parker's Bar Rose Jamieson and Rich Schilling, 7pm, no cover.
The Rack Vinny Peruzzi, no cover.
Regattabar The Lee Konitz Trio with Paul Bley and Steve Swallow, 8pm and 10pm, $16.
Rhythm & Spice Jack Lee and Divercity, 10:30pm, $8, 21+.
Slade's The John Dougherty Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Sidney's Grille John Kordalewski Trio, 5:30pm.
Sky Bar Calendar Girl, Boy Joys, Mishima and Jupiter Project, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Toad The Kox and Sonicrush, 7pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Ms. Pigeon CD-release Party, Zola Turn, Reverse and Mother Brothers.

The Glasgow-based folk-revival band Battlefield Band play folk-pop Sept. 22 at the Somerville Theatre.

Western Front Anthem, 9:30pm, $10.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet.
Les Zygomates Henrietta Robinson, 10pm, no cover.

Sunday, Sept. 24

The Attic Coalbroilers, 9:30pm, 21+.
Bell in Hand Tavern Nate Walkins, 4pm; Zen Flower, 7:30pm.
Bill's Bar K-Don, Dub Station, 10pm.
Black Rose Tony O'Riordan and Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Nat Simpkins' B-3 Jazz Trio, 11am.
Bullfinch's Sunday Jazz Brunch with Richard Greenblatt, 11am.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
Clery's Tony O'Riordan, Sunday's Well.
Club Passim Richard Cambridge's Poet's Theater presents Askia Toure, 8pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort Rob Gonzalez Band.
Encore Lounge Michael Kreutz's piano bar and showtunes.
Green Briar Pub Inchicore.
Green Dragon Tavern Swinging Johnsons.
Harpers Ferry The Rockett Band and friends, $5.
Hennessy's Ben Glover, 5pm.
House of Blues Dr. Johm, 7pm and 10pm, $25.
Johnny D's Blues Jam, 9pm.
Karma K-Don, $10.
Kendall Cafe Claudia Russell.
Lilli's Bande Aue, 10pm, $15.
Lizard Lounge Poetry Jam with the Jeff Robinson Trio and Margo Lynch.
Middle East U: Deadbolt and the Forty Fives, $7, 18+. C: Balla Tounkara, no cover.
Mr. Dooley's Mike Barrett.
Paddy Burke's Tom Carroll, 8pm.
The Rack Chad LaMarsh, 9:30pm.
Ryles Jazz Club Anita Coelho and her Brazilian Jazz Ensemble, 9pm, $9.
Toad Willie Bernstein with the Lovin Spoonful.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Blackheart Procession with Jr. Corduroy.
White Horse Tavern Kristian Montgomery Band, 8pm.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience.

Monday, Sept. 25

Bill's Bar Shadows Fall with Diecast and Cannae, $8.
Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Bullfinch's Paul Broandax and Peter Kontrimas, 6:30pm.
Cantab Lounge Geoff Bartley's open-mike, 8pm; Juli Ford, 9:30pm.
Clery's Tony O'Riordan.
Club Passim StoryLAB, $5.
Dick's Last Resort The Jenerators, no cover.
Encore Lounge Michael Larson and Dorthy Miller, 9pm.
Harpers Ferry Wedding Band showcase with four bands, no cover.
House of Blues Scratch My Back, 9pm, $6, 18+.
Irish Embassy Pub Juke Box.
Johnny D's Wall of Grass.
Kendall Cafe Alex Maws and friends.
Lizard Lounge The Fringe.
Middle East U: The Vandermark Five, $10, 18+. C: 10 pm: the Outside, no cover.
Toad Shwang, 8pm; Tim Gearan, 10pm, no cover.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience.
Les Zygomates Ron Mahdi Duo, 5pm; Red Beans, 9pm, no cover.

Tuesday, Sept. 26

Bell in Hand Tavern Greg, 7:30pm.
Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Cantab Lounge Dave Foley and Rich Holbrook, 9pm; Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 10pm.
Clery's Celtic Clan.
Club Passim Open-mike session, 8pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort Beantown.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino's piano bar and showtunes, 9pm.
Harpers Ferry Another Planet and friends, $3.
Hennessy's Ben Glover.
Johnny D's Coon Creek.
Kendall Cafe Rob Siegel, 9pm; Kevin Griffin, 10pm; Kelly Buchanan, 11pm, $4.
Kirkland Cafe Chris Zahnleiter Jazz Trio, no cover.
Lilli's The Family Jewels, 10pm.
Middle East U: Camden and Creature Comforts, $7, 18+. D: Elliot, the Weakerthans, Slowfore and the Helgerson Story, 8pm, $8, 18+.
Oak Bar Diana Fischer Trio, 8pm.
Paddy Burke's Dave Smyth, 7pm.
Plough & Stars Nash, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Rack Stu Sinclair, 8pm, $2.
Regattabar Tre Corda with Tim Ray, Greg Hopkins and Eugene Friesen, 8:30pm, $10.
Scullers Salim Washington and the Roxbury Blues, 8pm and 10pm, $10.
Sidney's Grille Rusty Scott, 5:30pm.
Sky Bar South 16, Carry the Zero, 9pm, 21+, $5.
Toad Mark Erelli, Stephen Kellog and Michael Tarbox, no cover.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio.
Les Zygomates Frank Wilkins and Brian McCree, 5pm; The Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm, no cover.

Wednesday, Sept. 27

Avalon Lyricist Lounge.
Bell in Hand Tavern Nate Walkins, 7:30pm, no cover.
Bill's Bar Porn Theater Ushers CD-record release, Cage and K-No, $12.
Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Bob the Chef's Hakim Law Jazz Quartet and special guests, 6pm.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
The Charles Hotel Pierre Hurel Trio, 8:30pm, $10.
Clery's Celtic Clan.
Club Passim Sam and Anne Charters, $10.
Dick's Last Resort Jenerators, no cover.
Encore Lounge Michelle Currie, 9pm.

Ska punk rockers Goldfinger skank up the Worcester Palladium on Sept. 22.

Green Dragon Tavern Greg Greer.
Harpers Ferry Ron Levy's Wild Kingdom; Freelance Bishops and Red Beans, $3.
Hennessy's Johnny Bahama with Me & Julio.
House of Blues Oliver Mtukudzi, 10pm, $15, 18+.
Irish Embassy Pub Hamilton.
Johnny D's Cosmic Dilemma.
Kendall Cafe Kevin Condon of The Gladstones.
Kirkland Cafe Complaints, Elgins, Modeles.
Lilli's Sex Mob and Two Ton Shoe, 10pm.
Lizard Lounge Seks Bomba; Susan Brann; Ray Baby, 9pm.
Maison Robert Alexei Tsganov.
Middle East U: Sharkquest, Aden, True Love Always, Verona Downs, $7, 18+. D: Elliot, the Weakerthans, Drowningman, Slowfore, the Helgerson Story, 8pm, $8, 18+. C: Belly Dancing, no cover.
Oak Bar Diana Fischer Trio, 8pm.
Paddy Burke's Tom Hegarty; Boston Folk and Singers Club, 9pm.
The Rack Big City Beat, 9pm, $4.50.
Regattabar The Pierre Hurel Trio, 8:30pm, $10.
Scullers A Night at the Movies with Will McMillan, Nina Van Such, Michael Ricca and Brian Patton, 8pm, $15.
Scullers Jazz Club At the Movies, a cabaret-style review of songs from '50s and '60s movies, 8pm, $15.
Sidney's Grille Ken Clarke, 5:30pm.
Sky Bar Saturnalia and Tiger Team, 9pm, 21+, $5.
Toad The Cranktones and Pluto, 7pm.
White Horse Tavern The Mulligans, 9pm.
Wonder Bar Leo Blanco.
Les Zygomates Issi Rozen Duo, 5pm; Mark Greel Trio, 8pm, no cover.

Thursday, Sept. 28

Bell in Hand Tavern Central Basement, 9pm.
Bill's Bar Johnny Wishbone with Chubby and Rumble, $7.
Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Bob the Chef's Issi Rozen Trio, 7:30pm.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Clery's Celtic Clan, Rhythm Nights.
Club Passim Tret Fure, Ruthie Foster, 8pm, $15.
Coogan's Bluff Bruce Jacques.
Dick's Last Resort Moonglow.
Encore Lounge Michelle Currie, 9pm.
The Grand Canal Me & Julio.
Green Briar Pub Mudra.
Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies.
Harpers Ferry Pretty Cool Chair; Shake.
House of Blues Dave Matthews' guitarist, Tim Reynolds, 7:30pm, $15, 18+; North Mississippi All-Stars, 10pm, $10, 18+.
Irish Embassy Pub Empty State.
Johnny D's Auktyon.
Jose McIntyre's James McKenna.
Kendall Cafe Dave Llewellyn, 9pm; Georgia Overdrive, 10pm; Hideous Playthings, 11pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe Mic Heavy, Fools Rush In, Gein & the Graverobbers, Dumb it Down, $5.
Lilli's Francine CD-release Party with Tugboat Annie.
Linwood High On Fire, Acid King and Warhorse, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Creme Brulee; Matt Squire.
Middle East U: Josh Rouse, 7pm; Estrella 20/20 and Vaz, 10pm $7, 18+. C: Board of Education, no cover.
Oak Bar Diana Fischer Trio, 8pm.
Paddy Burke's Tom Carroll, 8pm.
Parker's Bar Rose Jamieson, Rich Schilling.
The Rack The Cattunes, 6pm.
Regattabar The Charles Lloyd Quartet with John Abercrombie, Marc Johnson and Billy Higgins, 8:30pm, $14.
Scullers Nancy Wilson, 8pm and 10pm, $30.
Sidney's Grille Issi Rozen Group, 5:30pm.
Sky Bar 7L and Esoteric, Strange Habitat and Mad DJs, 9pm, 21+, $5.
Sweetwater Cafe Jim Devlin, 5pm, 21+.
Toad Brett Rosenburg and Mary Lou Lord, no cover.
Western Front G-Spot, 9pm, $5.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford Review.
Les Zygomates Alon Yavani and Ernesto Diaz Duo, 5pm; The Jinga Trio, 8pm, no cover.

Friday, Sept. 29

Avalon Simitri from Amsterdam.
Axis Queens of the Stone Age and Vast.

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The Bulgarian Women's Choir deliver walloping world music tunes Sept. 28 at Sanders Theatre.

Bell in Hand Tavern Spunky Monkey, 9:30pm.
Big Easy Bar Bob's Day Off, 9pm, 21+.
Bill's Bar 7th Rail Crew CD-release with Ego, $8.
Black Rose D: Celtic Clan. U: The Crossing.
Bob the Chef's Bill Pierce Quartet, 7:30pm.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Clery's The Crossing, Celtic Clan.
Club Passim Anne Heaton, Vanessa Trien, $10.
Common Ground The Inbounds with Almost Speechless, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Coogan's Bluff Pig Pen.
Dick's Last Resort Beantown; Pour Boys.
Encore Lounge John O'Neil and Jan Peters, 9pm.
Green Dragon Tavern Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
Harp The Zone.
Harpers Ferry Two Ton Shoe and the Jones Brothers, $7.
House of Blues Kim Wilson, 10pm, $12, 21+.
Johnny D's Michelle Willson.
Jose McIntyre's Off The Wall.
Kendall Cafe Ryan Adams.
Kirkland Cafe Fred's Bowling Ball, Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
Lilli's Mezcla and the Allstonians, 10pm, $12.
Linwood Nok, Drop 360 and Johnny Wishbone, 10pm, $6, 21+.
Lizard Lounge The Chandler Travis Philharmonic.
Middle East U: New Wet Kojak, the Decals and the Takers, $7, 18+. D: Sector 9, Uncle Sammy and Loopdreams, 18+, $10, 18+. C: Freelance Bishops, no cover.
Mr. Dooley's Patsy Whelan and Tony O'Riordan.
Oak Bar Diana Fischer Trio, 8:30pm.
Paddy Burke's Focal; Tom Carroll, 9:30pm.
Parker's Bar Rose Jamieson and Rich Schilling.
Purple Shamrock Thomas Park.
The Rack Eddy's Shoe, 6:30pm, $5.
Regattabar The Charles Lloyd Quartet with John Abercrombie, Marc Johnson and Billy Higgins, 8pm and 10pm, $14.
Scullers Nancy Wilson, 8pm and 10:30pm, $35.
Sidney's Grille Nuage, 6:30pm.
Sky Bar 707, Pure Fiction, Averi and King Fly, 9pm, 21+, $5.
Toad Nash Satterfield.
Western Front Tribe of Djembe, 9:30pm, $10.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chonic Chronicles.
Les Zygomates Kubota Power Jazz Unit, 9pm.

Saturday, Sept. 30

The Attic Marie's Children with Plank 63, 21+.
Bell in Hand Tavern Felix Brown, 9:30pm.
Big Easy Bar Generation Next, 9pm, 21+.
Black Rose Frank Ryan, Celtic Clan, the Crossing.
Bob the Chef's Bill Pierce Quartet, 7:30pm.
Cambridge Brewing Company Unprovoked Moose Attack.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Clery's Frank Ryan, the Crossing and Celtic Clan.
Club Passim Robbie O'Connell, 8pm, $12.
Common Ground Erl Shibe 5, Buck Dewey Big Band, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Coogan's Bluff Block Head.
Dick's Last Resort Jenerators and the Rob Gonzalez Band, no cover.
Encore Lounge DesPres and DeGraff, 9:30pm.
Green Briar Pub Sam I Am.
Green Dragon Tavern Swinging Johsons, Days at Dawn, 8pm, $3.
Harp The Zone.
Harpers Ferry Max Creek, $10.
House of Blues The Prodigals, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Johnny D's Slipknot, 8:30pm.
Jose McIntyre's Central Basement.
Karma Anthony Acid and Jana.
Kendall Cafe Ryan Adams.
Kirkland Cafe Rootin' Tootin' Country Music Jamboree with David Sammarco Band, Longtone Quintet, Nobody, Lovin Spoonful, $5.
Lilli's The Spurs and Raging Teens, 10pm.
Linwood Ohm, Give and Desire, 10pm, $6, 21+.
Lizard Lounge "Live from Lars Vegas" with Lars Vegas, Drums and Tuba.
Middle East U: The Fucking Champs, Bright and the Last of the Juanitas, $7, 18+. D: The Squad, Shake Senora and Topaz, $8, 18+. C: Tobin Bridge, no cover.
Mr. Dooley's Patsy Whelan and Tony O'Riordan.
Oak Bar Diana Fischer Trio, 8:30pm.
Paddy Burke's Focal; Tom Carroll, 9:30pm.
Parker's Bar Rose Jamieson and Rich Schilling, 7pm, no cover.
Plough & Stars Paul Speidel Band.
Purple Shamrock Syndicate.
The Rack Vinny Peruzzi.
Regattabar The Charles Lloyd Quartet with John Abercrombie, Marc Johnson and Billy Higgins, 8pm and 10pm, $16.
Scullers Nancy Wilson, 8pm and 10:30pm, $35.
Slade's The John Dougherty Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Sidney's Grille John Kordalewski Trio, 5:30pm.
Sky Bar Wolfman and Tink and Honeysuckle Vine, 9pm, 21+, $5.
Toad Asa Brebner and Sonicrish, 7pm, no cover.
Western Front Tribe of Djembe, 9:30pm, $10.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet.
Les Zygomates Sunsteel, 6pm; Jim Bridges Trio, 10pm, no cover.

Sunday, Oct. 1

The Attic Coalbroilers, 9:30pm, 21+.
Bell in Hand Tavern Zen Flower, 7:30pm.
Club Passim Follen Angels, 7:30pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort The Rob Gonzalez Band.
Encore Lounge Michael Kreutz.
Green Dragon Tavern Swinging Johnsons.
Hennessy's Ben Glover.
Johnny D's Blues Jam with Rumba NaMa.
Kendall Cafe Pat Burtis, no cover.
Lizard Lounge Poetry Jam with the Jeff Robinson Trio and VCR.
Middle East U: Les Savy Fav and the Apes, $7, 18+. D: Trans Am, Neil Hamburger and Laddio Balacko, 8pm, $8, 18+.
Mr. Dooley's Mike Barrett.
The Rack Chad Lamarsh, 9:30pm, no cover.
Scullers Nancy Wilson, 7pm and 9pm, $30.
Toad Coleen Sexton, no cover.
Veronique Steve Rochinski, 11:30pm.
White Horse Tavern Will Provost, 8pm.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience.

Monday, Oct. 2

Bullfinch's Paul Broandax and Peter Kontrimas, 6:30pm.
Club Passim The Danny Fox Quintet, 8pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort Jenerators.
Johnny D's Twang.
Toad Shwang, 8pm; Time Gearan, 10pm, no cover.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience, no cover.

Tuesday, Oct. 3

Bell in Hand Tavern Greg, 7:30pm.
Club Passim Open mike, 8pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort Beantown.
Hennessy's Ben Glover.
Johnny D's Fishman Transducers.
Kendall Cafe Blue Pearl with Steve Heck, 9pm; Rob Gonzalez, 10pm.
Kirkland Cafe Chris Zahnleiter Jazz Trio.
Lilli's El Vez and Lars Vegas, 10pm.
Oak Bar Steve Soares, 8pm, no cover.
Plough & Stars Nash Satterfield, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Rack James McKenna, 8pm, no cover.
Toad Uncle Trouble and Michael Tarbox, 7pm.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio.

Music Venues

An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (262-2121). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Attic *107R Union St., Newton (964-6615). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Center.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Bell in Hand Tavern *45-55 Union St., Boston (227-2098). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (743-2286). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-6204). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
City Hall Plaza *Government Center, Boston (635-4505). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Coogans Bluff *173 Milk Street., Boston (451-7415). MBTA: Orange Line to State Street.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
Encore Lounge *275 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Good Life Central *720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston (451-2622). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (367-0055). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket or North Station.*
Harp *200 Portland St., Boston (742-1010). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Jacob Wirth's *31-37 Stuart St., Boston (338-8586). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Davis Square, Somerville (776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Kirkland Cafe *425 Washington St., Somerville (482-4920). Red Line to Davis.*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Lilli's *608 Somerville Avenue in Somerville (591-1661). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
The Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (267-8644). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.*
The Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Milky Way Lounge and Lanes *405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
O'Brien's *3 Harvard Ave, Allston (782-6245). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
The Playhouse Lounge *74 Warrenton St., Boston (482-2227). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Plough and Stars *912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (441-3455). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (227-2060). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (725-1051). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Regatta Bar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Rhythm & Spice *315 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (497-4308). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Central.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Rd., Cambridge (562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boston.*
Toad *1912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (497-4950). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential Center.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Wally's Cafe *427 Mass. Ave., Boston (424-1408). MBTA: Green Line to Symphony.*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard Ave., Allston (351- COOL). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Les Zygomates *129 South Street, Boston (542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*

Texas trio Fastball show off their playful sound during Mixfest at Suffolk Downs Sept. 23.

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How to use this section
The following listings contain information that is subject to change. Contact the organization for changes in specific events.

CLUBS, BARS & HANGOUTS

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years these folks have been crankin' out some of the best Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. It's well worth a visit—if not for the three separate dance floors then for all the male dancers. 9pm, $15, 21+.

Buzz (Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays)
51 Stuart St. in the Theatre District, Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. On Saturday nights this place boasts two dance floors, two DJs, a pool room and a lounge. Two levels of dancing and schmoozing will keep the boys busy until 2am. 10pm, $5, 21+.

Chaps (Daily)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. www.chapsofboston.com. Sun.: Dance music of DJ Danae Jacovidis; Mon.: Grand Baby and Grand Piano night; Tue.: Retro DJ night; Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adielson Caesar; Thu.: DJs Billy and Fran, High Energy Dance; Fri.: Taboo Erotique with DJ Sammy; Sat.: High Energy Dance, DJ Danae Jacovidis.

City Girl Cafe (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri: 11am- 9pm; Sat: 10am-9pm; Sun: 10am-7pm. A small (five tables), laid-back cafe in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated. This cozy spot is home to a mixed gay/hetero crowd that lounges about, munching on sandwiches. Brunch on Saturday and Sunday, 10am-2pm.

Club Cafe (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-0966). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 11:30am-2am; Sat. 2pm-2am; Sun., 11am-2am. This trendy South End spot draws a mixed crowd that comes for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back (Moonshine). It's a dressy bunch that likes to mingle. No cover, 21+. •Carol O'Shaughnessy performs with Steve Heck, Dottie Dean or David Sparr, Thursdays. •"Diva-licious" debuts the first Wednesday of every month. It's a two-hour drag variety show hosted by Drag-on Showgirl Diamond Dunhill and her friends. It's a great idea for bachelorette parties. 9pm, 21+.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (542-4494). Mon.-Fri., 3pm-2am; Sat., 1pm-2am; Sun., 12pm-2am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This is your friendly neighborhood bar with a quiet setting. It's best known for scrumptious Sunday brunches (12-4pm). This simple joint has all of the trappings of a true bar: smoky and dark. The place starts hopping as it gets closer to 2am.

Fritz (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Stroll in for a quiet drink or a rowdy night on the town. The folks here are friendly—and really into sports. Not only does Fritz have Direct TV set up with sets scattered about, it's also home base to a great softball league. 12pm, no cover, 21+.

Jacques
79 Broadway, Boston (426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. If you're looking to relax with a friendly crowd of gays and straights, and you like to mingle with disco-dancing drag queens, then you've found the place. Sun. and Mon. are local band nights. Tues. through Sat., however, divas rule the stage. 10:30pm, $4, weekends $6, 21+. •Sundays host the Drag-on Showgirl Showcase featuring Diamond Dunhill, Destiny and special guest divettes with their new expanded 90-minute show. Bachelorette parties welcome. 10:30pm, 21+.

Lava Bar (Saturdays)
575 Commonwealth. Ave., Boston (267-7707). The Lava Bar's Tabu night boasts DJ Fran spinning out high-energy house with a taste of Latin beats. 10pm.

The Lizard Lounge (Wednesdays)
1667 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. "Marlene Loses It at the Lizard" is the title of this eclectic evening of poetry, live music and theater. 10pm, $5 cover, 21+.

Luxor (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (423-6969). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from the latest music scenes and classic old movies—compiled by the bar's own VJ. Downstairs is Jox. No cover, 21+.

Machine (Fridays, Saturdays)
1256 Boylston St., Boston (536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 10pm-2am; Sun., 7pm-midnight. www.ramrodboston.com/machine. This is one of Boston's best gay bars, where you will find your friends dancing every weekend. Fri.: NYC DJ/Producer Darrin Friedman spinning. Sat.: Resident DJ Brad Gwynn.

Man Ray (Thursdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (864-0400). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed.-Fri., 9pm; Sat., 10pm. A bustling hot spot caters to a young, alternative clientele. Two dance floors fill up on Thursdays for Campus, a predominantly male night where DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen take over. 10pm, $8 for 19+, $5 for 21+.

119 Merrimac (Daily)
119 Merrimac St., Boston (367-0713). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Sat., 10:30am-2am; Sun., 12pm-2am. This male cruise bar is the place to stop for drinks before or after FleetCenter events. Shoot a leisurely game of pool or play the video games. Merrimac features DJs playing hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s. 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. On Thursday nights, the Lesbian AIDS Project of Mass. unofficially takes over this laid-back cafe for "dyke nyte." The cafe always has something brewing—live bands, DJs and drag-queen parties. The party starts at 8pm, no cover, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (494-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Central. On Monday, a bartender not only mixes drinks but strips too. Male strippers are featured Wed.-Sat. Mon. is Gothic night; Tue. is techno; and Thu. is college night. On Fridays DJ Sam Sampson spins, and on Sat. hear DJ Brad Gwynn. 5pm, no cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (266-2986). Green Line to Kenmore. 12pm-2am. www.ramrodboston.com. The largest leather bar in the East enforces a tight dress code (leather obligatory for the back room). Sun.: buffet and mandance with DJ Brad Gwynn. Mon.: pool tournament and pizza. Tue.: Spice 4 Life with DJ Kal Muzak. Wed.: Twitch with DJ SGT Dennis. Thu.: Primal Dance with DJ James Hughes. Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danaw Jacovidis. Sat.: With DJ Dennis Sargent.

BOOKS

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge. (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Fri., 10am-8pm, Sat., 10am-6pm, Sun. 12-6pm. New England's oldest women's book shop offers a wide selection of literature. Its monthly author series continues throughout the summer.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12pm-6pm. Boston's literary gay and lesbian bookstore.

SHOWS & EVENTS

Am Tikva Services
Hebrew College, 43 Hawes St., Brookline (883-0893). MBTA: C Green Line to Hawes. www.amtikva.org. Am Tikva, Greater Boston's community of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered Jews, welcomes all who are interested to attend. •Sept. 29: Erev Rosh Hashanah Service. 8pm, $18. •Sept. 30: Traditional Rosh Hashanah Service. 10am, $18. •Oct. 1: Taschlich ceremony on the banks of the Charles River off Soldier's Field Road in Brighton. 3pm. Free admission.

Lecture with Reverend Peter Gomes
The Old South Church, 645 Boylston St., Boston (536-1970). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 7:30pm. Free admission. The Old South Church sponsors a lecture with the Reverend Peter J. Gomes of Harvard University's Memorial Church. His lecture is titled "The Bible and the Last Prejudice" and will address the topic of homosexuality and the Bible.

Out on the Edge 2000
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St. #408, Boston (426-2787). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. www.thetheateroffensive.org. *Through Sept. 30. $5-$22.* For the ninth year running, Boston's Theater Offensive presents the largest festival of its kind in New England. •Sept. 23 and 24, 2pm: Gabriel Q stars in *Garden Variety Show*, a puppet show for kids of all families. This shows just how queer mother nature really is through characters like Bitter Arugula and Transgen-

The Boston Playwrights' Theatre features *The Three of Cups*, a story of three gay men in love.

Deer. •Sept. 21 and 22, 8pm; Sept. 22 and 23, 9pm: Tim Miller stars in *Glory Box.* This is a raucous, turbocharged sexy story of threatened deportations and international love-in-exile. •Sept. 22-24, 7pm: Daniel Alexander Jones and Grisha Coleman perform as Cab Calloway and Lena Horne in *Cab & Lena.* You are transported back to 1965 and placed in the studio audience of a historic (fictitious) CBS variety special where Jones and Coleman's performances will stun you. •Sept. 27 and 28, 8pm; Sept. 29 and 30, 7 and 10pm: Djola Branner Company puts on *Mighty Real*, a tribute to Sylvester. Disco, jazz, cabaret and gospel come together with Djola Branner as an out-and-incomparable '70s disco diva. This is a dance extravaganza you don't want to miss. •Sept. 29 and 30, 2pm: True Colors Our Youth Theatre Troupe perform *Clear the Floor*, where four unlikely partners are thrown together in a high school class assignment. The mismatched crew travels a rough path through hostile schools, devastating home lives and their own flamboyantly nightmarish fantasies.

The Three of Cups
Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-5443). Thu., 7pm; Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Through Sept. 24. $20. A passionate and structurally inventive play by Sinan Ünel tells the story of three gay men grappling with the beauty and pain of love.

ONGOING

Am Tikva
(883-0893). www.amtikva.org. A community of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered Jews.

Bawl
This lesbian softball league offers opportunities to join teams in both the recreational and competitive divisions. Call Liz (508-628-5477).

Best Foot Forward
Ballet Etc. Dance Studios, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (522-1444). MBTA: B Green Line to Washington St. For gays/lesbians/bisexuals of all swing skill levels.

Boston Glass
Community Center, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Daily 8-10pm. Support groups and social activities for adolescents ages 13-25.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). www.chiltern.org/chiltern. A 1,400-member gay club with hiking, biking, camping, skiing and other outdoor activities.

Community Rainbow
Boston Living Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston. 7:45 pm. An organization whose mission is to advocate for the community. Meets Thursdays.

Cosmetically-Correct
Laurel's Restaurant, 142 Berkeley St., Boston. www.egroups.com/community/cosmeticallycorrect. A social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month, 7:30pm. Lipstick optional.

Dykes Who Hike
(522-6185). This hiking group is for lesbians in the Boston area who want to conquer the wilderness.

East Coast Wrestling Club
With more than 160 members, this is an extraordinarily popular New England spot for gay male wrestlers. Call Marc at 401-467-6737, or go online at *http://members.tripod.com/~ecwc* or e-mail *ecwc@juno.com.*

Fenway Community Health Center
(927-6057). The center is currently conducting a study to help HIV/AIDS patients take medication on time. Participants receive $95.

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (824-4266). www.frontrunnersboston.org. A running club for the LGBT community meets Saturdays.

Gender Free Contra Dancing
First Church of Jamaica Plain (448-2429). www.piac.net/users/latte/lcfd/. Come one, come all to evenings of contra and square dancing.

Long Yang Club
(825-5677) www.longyangclub.org/boston. Boston's club for Gay Asian Men and their friends. Bringing the East and West together.

OOPS
Melting Pot Coffee House, 2 Belgrade Ave., Roslindale (323-4123). Out on the Parkways invites one and all to come on down for some dinner and coffee.

PFLAG
Fenway Community Health Center, 7 Haviland St., Boston (547-2440). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets every fourth Monday, 6:30-8:30pm.

Queer Corps
131 Clarendon St., 4th floor, Boston (450-1676). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A community-mobilization project by and for queer men who are age 25 and under. Tuesdays, 6-8pm.

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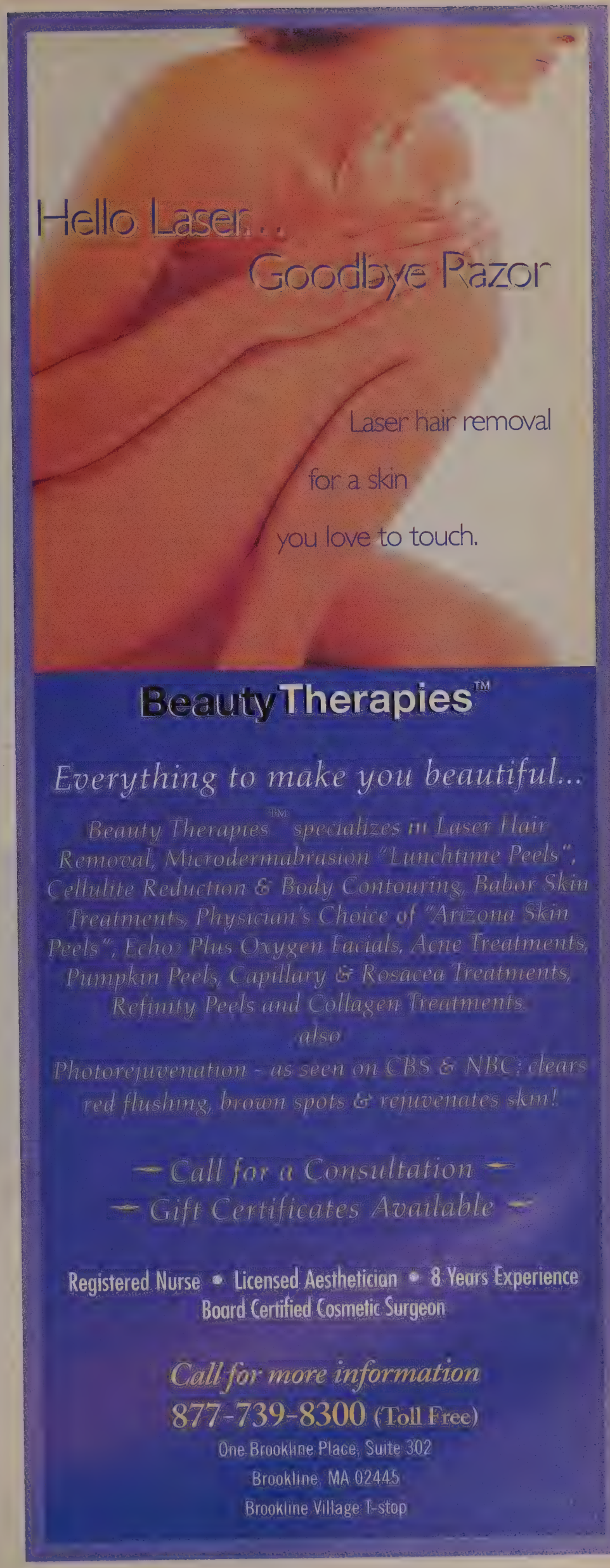

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body&mind

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information by mail, fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/ Mind, or electronically to bodymind@improper.com. *Include a brief but thorough description of the event, time, date, location and directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.*

EVENTS

Dance Complex Open House
Dance Complex, 536 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-9363). www.cambridge.zami.com/dancecomplex. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sept. 24. 12-5pm. Free.* Treat yourself to an afternoon of movement and merrymaking. The Dance Complex's faculty, trained in diverse disciplines, will be holding 20-minute mini-classes for all. At the end of the day, a community meeting will be held, followed by a potluck dinner.

Theosophical Society Open House
21 Maple Street, Arlington (781-648-0101). Sept. 24, 12-5pm. $10. Open up to the broad thinking of theosophy, the comparative study of religion and philosophy, at this open house. There'll be various presentations, some refreshments and a chance to have a private session with an astrologer, palm reader, Tarot reader or other healers of various modalities. Enjoy meditating in the meditation hall or browse the bookshelves of one of the oldest theosophical libraries in the country.

CLASSES

Danskinetics & Manifesting Your Vision
185 Green St., Cambridge (974-7606). www.bethdance.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sept. 24, 7-8:30pm. $15.* A class for the dance-inhibited and those who love to dance. Enjoy a day of fun Danskinetics, yoga, deep relaxation and clarity. You will leave feeling more at ease in your body and creatively alive.

Fat? Da! Fit? Nyet!
Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 10am-12pm and 1-3pm. $29. Soviet Special Forces instructor **Pavel Tsatsouline** is nationally ranked in the Russian sport of kettle bell lifting. He teaches four classes: •Relax! That's an Order! Russian Commando Techniques •Power to the People: Russian Strength Training Techniques •Power Stretching and Beyond Crunches: Hard Science, Hard Abs.

Feng Shui: The Art of Harmonious Living
Brookline Adult and Community Education, Brookline High School, 115 Greenough St., Brookline (730-2700). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. Sept. 25, 7-9pm. $31. "Chi" is the life force within us and all around us. The words feng shui mean "wind and water." The aim of this ancient art is to allow our chi to circulate in our environment like wind and water do in nature. Create a life as peaceful as a sunny day at the beach.

Meditation from the Heart
Harvest Co-op Market, Community Room, 581 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (661-1580). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sept. 26, 6-8 pm. Harvest not only has healthy food, but healthful lectures. The next talk with **Begabati Lennihan** will teach you simple, practical techniques for calming the mind and opening the heart by using concentration, deep breathing and imagery.

Outdoor Movement Group
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Sept. 30 (raindate: Oct. 1), 12-5pm. $60. Opportunities to enjoy the outdoors will soon float away like fallen leaves. This class focuses on moving and exercising in your natural environment. The effect is to bring a greater awareness through your senses, which in turn, can help you to live life more consciously.

Psychic Medium John Holland
Unicorn Books, 1210 Mass Ave., Arlington (781-646-3680). www.unicornbooks.org. *Oct. 2, 7-9pm. $20. Registration required.* Psychic **John Holland** spends one day a month at Unicorn Books, providing insight for all who attend. After a meditation and lecture on a specific topic, Holland devotes the second half of the evening to psychic medium readings, linking with spirit to deliver messages to individuals in the audience.

Super Sex Technologies and Magical Mystery Tour
Grand Opening Sexuality Boutique, 318 Harvard St., Brookline (731-2626). www.grandopening.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Oct. 3, 7:30-10:30pm. $50. Women only.* Learn new and ancient techniques to build, move and utilize your sexual energy. **Annie Sprinkle** will teach both exercises and ideas that will open you up to a much bigger sexual repertoire.

Vinyasa Yoga with Tias Little
BKS Iyengar Center, 240A Elm St., Suite 23, Somerville (666-9551). www.yoganow.net. *MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Sept. 29-Oct. 1 (10 hours total). $150.* Vinyasa yoga is the prolonging of meditative awareness throughout a fluid sequencing of yoga postures. Teacher **Tias Little** holds a master's degree in Eastern philosophy, which he uses to integrate a mental and spiritual understanding to the exercises.

LECTURES

Buddhist Talk with Venerable Khandro Rinpoche
Shambhala Meditation Center, 646 Brookline Ave., Brookline (734-1498). www.shambhala.org/centers/boston. *MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. Sept. 22, 7:30pm.* The revered and dynamic Buddhist teacher, **Venerable Khandro Rinpoche**, will give a public talk on "The Path with Heart."

Healing Practitioners Lecture
New England School of Acupuncture, 40 Belmont St., Watertown (926-1788 ex. 5). www.nesa.edu. *Krista: Sept. 22, 7:30-8:30pm. Free. Donna: Sept. 22, 7-9pm. $10.* Qigong practitioner **Krista Cantrell** will share stories of her experiences working with healing animals. **Donna Eden**, pioneer in the field of energy healing, will give an introduction to consciously working with the energies of the body.

Sustaining Energy
YogaEast, 20 Del Carmine Street, Wakefield (781-224-0722). Sept. 27, 7:30-9pm. $20. Let go of the four universal addictions that drain your energy: boredom, fear of the unexpected, perfectionism and preoccupation with what is not working. This lecture and discussion will help you figure out how to stay in the now.

ONGOING

Chi Gong and Healing Circle
The Banks of Mystic River. Call Catherine Simmons for directions (666-8281). Wednesday evenings. Chi Gong: 6:30-7:15pm, $15. Healing Circle: 7:30-8:15pm, $15, $20 for both. Participating in the healing arts is good for you any time of year. But in the fall, it's nice to do outside. This meditative group meets on the peaceful banks of the Mystic River.

Falun Dafa Meditation Exercises
Boston Common, Boston. Contact Michael (781-646-7099). www.falundafa-newengland.org. *Sundays, 1-4pm.* Join others for some outdoor meditation. Falun dafa is an advanced meditation system helpful for improving the condition of the heart, mind and body and has far-reaching effects in stress relief.

Group for Families Dealing with Loss and Change
Dr. Lore Peters in Arlington (781-641-1102). A special support time for families to share feelings through the creative arts. Manage the difficulties associated with divorce, trauma, illness or death. Six-week groups meet throughout the year.

Lunch Time Yoga
The Yoga Studio, 74 Joy St., Boston. (523-7138). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. Tuesdays, 12-1pm. Thursdays, 1-2pm. If you work downtown, you can spend your lunch getting healthy with ease. Grab a yogurt and spend some time being good to yourself.

Qi Gong
Woolf Holistic Health Center, 651 Washington St., Brookline (738-9144). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Square. Thursdays, 7:30pm. Free. Have you ever wondered what Qi Gong, an ancient form of exercise from China, really is? Well your chance has materialized at the Woolf Center's drop-in session. Discover this time-tested art for maximizing your well-being and increasing your knowledge of mind and body.

Yoga/Allston
Beacon Light Yoga Center, 215 Brighton Ave., Allston (739-0717). Sunday thru Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. $18 per session. Call ahead. If you've wanted to try yoga or work some into your life, then come down to the attractive, peaceful and inviting environment of this yoga center.

Yoga/South End
Union United Methodist Church, 485 Columbus Ave., (522-7199). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. $15/class. New fall classes began September 12, but you can join anytime. Certified Kripalu yoga teacher **Patrice Flesch** teaches mixed-level classes in a spiritual setting. Increase flexibility, relieve stress, build strength and relax at any of these ongoing drop-in classes: Tuesdays at 7pm, Wednesdays at noon and on Saturdays at 10am.

Venerable Khandro Rinpoche talks about "The Path with Heart" Sept. 22.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Children. Or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

TO SEE

Cinderella
Lyric Stage Company of Boston, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Sept. 23-24, 11am. $7. Once Upon a Time presents 45-60-minute audience-participatory children's performances.

The King Stag
American Repertory Theatre, Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (495-2668). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Through Sept. 28. This is an 18th-century fairy tale—complete with costumes, puppets, masks and choreography—for adults and children.

Puppet Showplace Theatre
32 Station St., Brookline (731-6400). $8. •Sept. 23-24, 1pm and 3pm: Androcles and the Lion and *The Golden Touch of Midas* by Paul Vincent Davis of Puppet Arts. •Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 1pm and 3pm: *An Arabian Adventure* by Tanglewood Marionettes.

THINGS TO DO

Applefest and Children's Native American Pow Wow
Gallops Island, Boston (223-8666). Oct. 1, 1:30pm. This annual celebration includes cider pressing, music, stories and crafting an Alaskan laughing mask.

Cahners ComputerPlace
Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park.* Check out the new Cahners ComputerPlace (formerly of the Computer Museum). See the Best Software for Kids exhibit, the Internet, Creativity, Music and Sound and Info Bytes sections.

Danehy Park Family Day
99 Sherman St., North Cambridge (349-4300). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard, bus #74 to park. Sept. 23. A day of amusement rides, a kids' stage, live music, hip hop dance instruction, roving performers and a light show. Live music includes jazz, reggae, Caribbean, soul, brass and New Orleans sounds. Skyward Light, a choreographed light and music event with 14 World War II searchlights atop a 75-foot hill, illuminates the sky at 7:30pm.

Fall Festival
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston. MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 12-4pm. The sixth annual Fall Festival is an outdoor family fair celebrating the performing arts. It's also an old-fashioned outdoor fair that includes carnival games, food stands, clowns and face painting.

Family Concert Featuring Bach
Longy School of Music, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (876-0956). Sept. 24, 2pm and 4pm. A musical visit with Johann Sebastian Bach for children ages 6 and older. Through stories and scenes from Bach's life, children are introduced to colorful and appealing examples of his music.

Meet the Author: *One April in Boston*
Paul Revere House, 19 North Square, Boston (523-2338). Sept. 23. Chat with author Ben Edwards about how he wrote about people who lived in 18th-century Boston and watch artist Cortney Skinner demonstrate techniques he used to create the pen-and-ink illustrations for the book *One April in Boston*.

Oktoberfest 2000
Harvard Square, Cambridge (491-3434). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 12-6pm. Free. Enjoy children's rides, face painting, balloon sculptures, puppet shows and street performances.

Three Apples Storytelling Festival
Town Common, Harvard, Mass. (647-6149). Sept. 22. New England's largest storytelling festival is for adults and children, featuring more than 20 different tale spinners.

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

To Watch

Red Sox
•Fenway Park. Tickets: 267-8661.
Sept. 20 (Home): Cleveland, 1:05pm, NESN.
Sept. 20 (Home): Cleveland, 7:05pm, Fox.
Sept. 21 (Home): Cleveland, 1:05pm, Fox.
Sept. 21 (Home): Cleveland, 7:05pm, Fox.
Sept. 22 (Home): Baltimore, 7:05pm, NESN.
Sept. 24 (Home): Baltimore , TBA, Fox.
Sept. 26 (Away): Chicago, 8:05pm, NESN.
Sept. 27 (Away): Chicago, 8:05pm, NESN.
Sept. 28 (Away): Chicago, 8:05pm, NESN.
Sept. 29 (Away): Tampa Bay, 7:15pm, Fox.
Sept. 30 (Away): Tampa Bay, 4:15pm, Fox.
Oct. 1 (Away): Tampa Bay, 1:15pm, NESN.

New England Patriots
•Foxboro Stadium. Tickets:
Sept. 24 (Away): Miami Dolphins, 1pm.
Oct. 1 (Away): Denver Broncos, 4:05pm.

Events

All Comers 5K Cross Country
Boston Parks & Recreation Department, Franklin Park, Boston (566-7600). Oct. 1, 9:30am. A five-kilometer race sponsored by USA Track & Field New England.

American Heart Walk
Lederman Field on the Charles River, Cambridge (800-662-1701). www.americanheart.org/newengland. *Sept. 23, 10am.* WCVB-TV's Heather Kahn, Mayor Menino and more than 4,000 walkers join this 10-kilometer walk for the American Heart Association.

Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk
Sept. 24: Hopkinton at 7am, Wellesley 11am, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, 2pm. (800-632-3562). Walk a half marathon that begins at Wellesley High School or join patients in the 3-mile walk that starts at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The Jimmy Fund Walk is the only other event sanctioned to use the Boston Marathon 26.2-mile route. All walkers finish at Copley Square, where there will be music, food and entertainment.

Boston Ski & Sports Club's 35th Birthday Party
The Rack, 24 Clinton St., Boston (789-4070). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Sept. 28, 6pm. Free. Celebrate 35 years of fun with the young and sporty members of Boston Ski & Sports Club. Enjoy appetizers, a cash bar and dancing to the music of the Cattunes.

The Celebrity Hat Trick
Worcester's Centrum Centre, Worcester (931-200). Oct. 1, 1pm. $15-$35. The Leary Firefighters Foundation hosts this benefit to honor the fallen heroes in the Worcester Fire Department who perished in the line of duty. A star-studded Hollywood team, including Michael J. Fox, Tim Robbins and Kiefer Sutherland will play against the Boston Bruins alumni team, including Bobby Orr, Phil Esposito, John Bucyk, Derek Sanderson and Cam Neely.

Fall Tennis Tournament
Community House, 671 High St., Dedham (789-4070). Sept. 22, 6:30-9pm. $40. Intermediate players will be placed with different partners for each game, and prizes will be awarded for players with the most wins.

Golf Scramble
Townsend Ridge Country Club, Townsend (978-597-8400). Sept. 23. $79. TRCC opens its doors to its 140-acre scenic course for an open tournament.

Martha's Vineyard Windsurfing Challenge
Martha's Vineyard, Mass. (508-693-7900). www.mvchallenge.com. *Sept. 23-24.* Professional and amateur sailors from around the country will sail a full 55-mile marathon around the island to benefit Martha's Vineyard Community Services.

Reebok Core Board Training
Wellbridge Club in Newton, 135 Wells Ave., Newton (928-2011). Sept. 24-26. Though it looks vaguely like an instrument of torture, the circular platform of Reebok's new Core Board is apparently a terrific workout for the "core" muscles—that is, the abs and torso. Try it out with Reebok instructors.

Try out the newest fitness phenomenon, the Reebok Core Board, at the Wellbridge Club Sept. 24-26.

To Play

BASKETBALL

Basketball City
Adjacent to North Station and the FleetCenter (742-6700). Corporate, midday and weekend leagues.

Co-Ed Indoor Basketball
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 224). Sun.-Thu. nights at various locations. All levels welcome. Leagues in Waltham, Dedham and Brookline. Co-ed teams now forming.

The Corporate League of Boston
(566-7808).

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333). Practice and workout programs for all levels in Greater Boston.

South End Fitness Center League
(534-5823).

Women's Basketball League
(661-9622). Tuesdays 5:30-7pm and Sundays, 6-7:30pm.

CYCLING

BSSC Bike Rides
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070). Sept. 24. $10. Enjoy a bi-state harvest ride through New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Prepare for about 30 miles of scenic cycling from Exeter, N.H., onward.

HIKING/WALKING

The Appalachian Mountain Club
Gorham, N.H. (603-466-2727). Hikes and huts in the White Mountains. •Monthly AMC Young Members meetings at AMC headquarters, 4 Joy St., Beacon Hill (523-0655). Second Thursday of every month, 6-10pm, $3. Potluck. BYOB.

Boston Ski & Sports Hiking Trips
(789-4070). •Sept. 29-Oct. 1: Fall foliage weekend hike. $150. •Sept. 24: Enjoy a beginning trail in north central Massachusetts. $15. •Sept. 30: Explore the 5,200-acre mountain estates of the Ossipee Mountains and Lake Winnipesaukee. $35.

New England Walkers
39 Oakland Rd., Brookline (731-9889). members.tripod.com/NEWALKERS. This 200-member club hosts race-walk events and clinics. Weekly walks at M.I.T. indoor track on Wednesdays at 7pm.

Walking Group
(247-8267). This group sponsors weekly walks on Wednesday evenings in the Back Bay. Meet new people while getting exercise.

HOCKEY

Co-ed Floor Hockey
BSSC (789-4070). Individuals and teams, co-eds, all levels in Newton. Coed teams now forming.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
(499-4835). Weekly runs year-round. Serious drinkers with a running problem.

Boston Road Club Weekly Races
(781-646-8955). Sundays. Starts at Wells Ave. in Newton.

Fresh Pond Weekly Road Races
Fresh Pond Reservation. Saturdays, 10am. Choose between a 2.5- or 5-mile run.

Khoury's Thursday Night Runs
East Somerville. (351-5682). 4.13 miles. 7pm at Khoury's Bar.

NikeTown Boston Running Club
200 Newbury St., Boston (267-3400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Three-to-five-mile loops. Starts at 6:30pm. Monthly mini-clinics as well.

SOCCER

BSSC Soccer
BSSC (789-4070, ext. 225). Coed teams for both indoor and outdoor soccer.

SOFTBALL

80-Team Softball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 222). Monday through Thursday evenings at 6:30pm. Join as an individual or as a team. Sign up now for fall league.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Boston Ski & Sports Club
(789-4070).

Boston Ultimate Disc Alliance
(928-0882). www.buda.org.

VOLLEYBALL

Adult Co-ed Volleyball League
Waltham YMCA (781-894-5295). Monday nights, began Sept. 13. All levels welcome at this friendly co-ed league.

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club, (789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. at various locations. Co-ed indoor 6-on-6 leagues. Four different levels of play. Pick-up games, clinics and tournaments also available. •Co-ed pickup games Tuesdays and Fridays at West Newton Armory, 1137 Washington St. $5. Grab some fellow v-ball enthusiasts and head to Newton.

Co-ed Volleyball-Waltham
Waltham YMCA, 725 Lexington St, Waltham (781-894-5295). Monday nights.

WATER SPORTS

Boston Sailing Center
54 Lewis Wharf, Boston (227-4198). Year-round lessons and racing programs for all abilities.

BSSC Water Sports
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070). •Sept. 30: Sea kayaking and barbecue by the Essex River. Perfect for beginner or intermediate paddler. •Sept. 23-24: Whitewater rafting on the Deerfield River in the Berkshires. $145.

Community Boating
21 David Mugar Way, Boston (523-1038). www.community-boating.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. Open Mon.-Fri. 1pm-sunset; Sat.-Sun. and holidays, 9am-sunset. April 1-Oct. 31.* Sailing, windsurfing and kayaking on the Charles River for only $190 per season, including instruction. What a bahgain!

Courageous Sailing Center
Charlestown Navy Yard (635-4505). Lessons are offered here year-round.

WRESTLING

Men's Adult Wrestling
Boston Union, 48 Boylston St., Boston (482-1122). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm; Saturdays 1-3:30pm. All skill levels. Coaching available.

go away

TRAVELING NEAR AND FAR

NORTH OF BOSTON

Harvest Festival
Spencer Pierce-Little Farm, 5 Little's Lane, Newbury, Mass. (978-462-2634). Sept. 23. Celebrate the dawning of autumn with traditional fall activities. Build a scarecrow, decorate a pumpkin or take a horse-drawn carriage ride through the 230-acre historic estate as you welcome the first days of autumn.

Topsfield Fair
Route 1 N., Topsfield, Mass. (978-887-5000). Sept. 30-Oct. 9. This highlight of this fair is the New England giant pumpkin weigh-off where pumpkins strive to reach the 1,000 pound mark. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police will perform a "Musical Ride," which will be a display of horseback-riding precision. A fall flower show adds some color, a beekeeping and honey show sweetens things up and a tractor pull makes this a real country fair.

SOUTH OF BOSTON

Taste of Rhode Island
Newport Yachting Center, America's Cup Avenue, Newport, R.I. (401-846-1600). Sept. 23-24, 11am. $4. More than 30 of the Ocean State's finest restaurants and caterers will serve up their most delectable dishes. Culinary demonstrations, marketplace goods and live music make this an event worth traveling for.

WEST OF BOSTON

Northampton Riverfest
Three County Fairgrounds, Northampton, Mass. (800-477-6849). Sept. 24, 12-8pm. $30. Hometown favorites **Sonic Youth** headline a show of three tents of music with such acts as IMPROPER cover girl **Juliana Hatfield** and up-and-comers like **Galactic** and **Sleater-Kinney**.

Fall Foliage Festival
North Adams, Mass. (413-663-3735). Oct. 1-9. Free. Ethnic dancing, a parade, a car show, bazaars and community suppers are all made more picturesque by the vibrantly colorful backdrop of the changing leaves.

CAPE & THE ISLANDS

Nantucket Short Play Festival
Actors Theatre, Methodist Church, 2 Centre St., Nantucket, Mass. (508-228-6325). Oct. 1, 7:30pm. $5. The winning short plays selected from a nationwide competition will be performed here—Island-style.

Fall Arts Festival
Provincetown, Mass. (508-487-9960). Sept. 22-Oct. 1. P-town hosts a fall festival promising unique exhibits, readings, performances, theater, seminars, dance, talks, tours, art auctions and panel discussions.

mark your daytimer

UPCOMING EVENTS

CITYSCOPE

Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus
Oct. 13, FleetCenter
Halloween in Salem Oct. 31, Salem
Veteran's Day Parade
Nov. 11, Downtown Boston

MUSIC

Eve 6, O.P.M and Wheatus
Oct. 4, Axis
Jurassic 5, Dialated Peoples, Beat Junkies and Supernatural
Oct. 12, Axis
Moby Oct. 19, Avalon
George Winston Oct. 21, Berklee Performance Center

THEATER

Tallulah Oct. 10-22, Colonial Theatre

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Improper Impersonals

If everyone kept their feelings bottled up like warm beer, we'd soon have antisocial behavior exploding all over the place and ruining the upholstery. That's why we have the Improper Impersonals, a column written by you, the reader. Send us your letters of love and spleen, and we'll print them for the world to see. Heck, it's better than making a fool of yourself in person. And IT'S FREE! Pick up a pen and tell that babe on the T you like his butt by writing to:

IMPROPER IMPERSONALS
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116
FAX: 859-1446 E-MAIL: impersonals@improper.com

Recent correspondence follows.

Shakespeare in the Park

Sat., Aug. 5th, you had green metallic painted toes, I had a green pillow. I borrowed your friend's pen, I want to meet you under the tree again. Computerless, please email me at my friend's address:
—DafneC@aol.com

Dear Moron:

Hurt, pissed off, angry and all of the above. I fully understand now that you have the emotional intelligence of, say, a mango or a ring-tailed lemur, and cannot be counted on for absolutely anything. If you don't want to see me, and you no longer value my friendship in any way, I wish that you would have the courage and the backbone to call me and say it to my face, rather than just ignoring me in the hope that I'll go away. This friendship has caused me more pain and heartache than anything else in recent memory, and the really sad and pathetic thing is, I still consider you a friend; because life is too damn short, and our friendship was important to me, and I thought that it was important to you, but apparently you could care less about it. In a nutshell, you're a prick.
—Me

Turtle Man

We see your turtles painted on Pearl St., Summer St., and Purchase St. We've found four turtles so far. How many more are there? What is the method behind your madness? Who are you? Take credit for your work! You've made us all so happy, walking to and fro, seeing your turtles, high and low.
—The Turtle Hunters

Whiskey's

Friday night, Aug. 4, with a girlfriend of yours. I was the Italian-looking guy who made eye contact with you and we exchanged a few smiles, but, of course, I was too wimpy to approach you, and I stayed with my group of friends at a booth. I walked over to you (maroon shirt and black pants, very cute—your friend had on all black) but didn't get enough guts. Hopefully, I'll get a second chance at asking you out to dinner?
—whiskeysguy@hotmail.com

Line Freak

We've been riding the same bus for awhile now, and at first I couldn't stand you, but after watching you play with a baby my hard line has softened. You might have a chance at being an OK guy, and for all I know maybe you are. It just bugs me that almost every morning you cut everyone off to be the first person on the bus. It's not like we're at Park Street waiting to crowd onto the train. There are only a few people at this bus stop. You could wait two seconds to let people board the bus first, including the elderly or those with young kids. Even if you're running late and we're already in line as the bus approaches, you cut us off and edge your way up front so you can be first. It's ridiculous. Is the cutthroat mob mentality necessary when there isn't a mob? The people you're pushing aside aren't there to get one up on you, mister. We're just standing in the rain like you are, and have probably been waiting longer.
—Somewhere in the back of the line

To A-

I just read your Impersonal to M in the July 26th issue and I swear I thought it was me who wrote that letter! There was a bloody M in my life, too. Just wanted to let you know I can empathize with your sentiments completely...especially that great quote from *Say Anything*. Perfectly said! I hope, in spite of M, you are enjoying the Boston area. If you are interested in coffee, hanging out and good conversation, drop me a line. Have a great day!
—bellabellavita@hotmail.com

Dirtbag

With the hours I work, it was no wonder I was tired enough to leave my Strawberry's bag behind on the train at Forest Hills station last Friday evening. What was a wonder was the fact that after a few frantic calls to the T's Lost & Found Dept,. it was clear that whoever found it kept it. Well, I hope you're happy. I hope you're enjoying youself, using my earphones to listen to my Ministry and Men Without Hats CDs. I would've thought karma was in my favor, since just the other day I turned in a wallet someone had left on a bench at Ashmont station. Somehow I get the feeling that the owner of the wallet is the Stawberry's bag thief. Well, a plague on both your houses, I say! And may your excessive use of my earphones lead to chronic ear infection!
—Tuneless

D'Angelo's,

Route 30 in Framingham. In the lunch lineup. Friday, July 28. You were standing a few people behind me, and we had some eye contact. You are tall and slender, and have brown neck-length hair. You were wearing a pink ruffled shirt that looked like it might go under a tuxedo or blazer. I wanted to say something, but I'm sorry, I couldn't think of anything. I have a bad habit of getting very tongue-tied and shy when I see someone that I have an instant attraction to. The atmosphere also left much to be desired. We later looked at each other across the restaurant as you waited for your order. I told my coworkers that you are the kind of intelligent, pretty, wholesome woman that I like very much! And that I should've asked you if you were just going to, or returning from, a formal party on Broadway. Won't you let me take you out to a much nicer place? Warm wishes
—rodger_22@yahoo.com

Backpack Buttheads

We're all really happy that you're here and are figuring your way around town. We've noticed that the parents of your generation apparently didn't include manners in your upbringing, so let me offer you some T-riding advice. Take off your %#&$% backpacks on crowded trains! You may think that you're daintily wedging your Gen-X body in between a couple of commuters, but you've forgotten that your overstuffed pack has turned you into a trolley riding dromedary. TAKE THEM OFF and put them on the floor in front of you or hold them in front of you. Be forewarned—I have been smacked and bruised by your freight for the last time—and I am not alone!
—Standing tall on the D train

Patrick

Hello from the commuter you met August 29. I wanted to chat more but was shy...Perhaps you can convince me to spend more time in Boston and less in New York. If you're interested, you know where to find me!
—H. (Anyseat@aol.com)

Longwood Medical

(8/29) You were in a group of commuters that got off the "E" Line and headed down Longwood Ave. You were the guy with short, sandy blonde hair and blue scrub shirt. I was heading to work the other way in a black T-shirt and black Oakley sunglasses. Our eyes met for a second and I didn't have enough time to remove the glasses. Let's try a proper introduction.
—longwoodwalker@aol.com

T for Two

Coolidge Corner to Park Street, Tuesday Aug 29th around 1:30 pm. You: light blue shirt, short curly hair; Me: white shirt, red tie. Made anti T remarks after our chatty T driver wished us a nice day. You went down to the Red Line and I went upstairs wondering if I should have followed. Get back to me if you like.
—emsy77@hotmail.com

Rockie Horoscope

SEPTEMBER 20 – OCTOBER 3, 2000

BY ROCKIE GARDINER

VIRGO AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

The birthday parties may be over, but the urge to be with beautiful people turning you on to good-looking stuff lingers on. At least until your Mercury ruler enters Scorpio next Thursday; then you're free to withdraw from the social scene with a new crop of mysteries and fantasies about great wealth and sex to entertain you. Money is always key for you this time of year, so direct the Libra new moon energy to that subject, focus on what bucks can do for you, what you will do with them. Maybe, this time, making new moon magic will work wonders.

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

The autumnal equinox, that magical moment when a fresh egg stands proud and tall, arrives Friday at 1:28 pm EDT, turning lunch that day into a very special occasion. Plan accordingly. Another time to celebrate the essence of Librahood is Wednesday at 3:53 pm, just as the new moon kicks off a new cycle. That's also the day that your charming Venus ruler tests Neptune's willingness to believe. All sorts of miracles will be witnessed while folks are being fueled by so much faith. How you cash in on these factors is up to the (con) artist in you. Happy Birthday.

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

An infusion of sex appeal and wit this week as Venus (on Sunday) and Mercury (next Thursday) transit Scorpio for a lot longer than one would expect. Because Mercury turns retrograde in mid-October, it'll be in your sign until December 3. Unfortunately magnetic Venus doesn't stay that long, but while you're able to attract an assortment of interesting people, you might as well explore the possibilities. Starting next Wednesday, when the aesthetes, perhaps a raucous musician or two, show up.

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

The ball is still in the other guy's court, so don't make any fast moves until you see what is coming at you. You can avoid making a false move on Wednesday, when so-called friends are full of it, by reminding yourself that your Jupiter ruler is turning retrograde on the 29th, and that your perspective is bound to change. Meanwhile, while things are light and lovely, thanks to all the airy Libra-Gemini-Aquarius energy, have fun, exchange ideas, play around and use your charm—forget the wisdom—to advance your career.

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

Although equinox and solstice points may add pressure on your psyche, Capricorns can still have a wonderful weekend, thanks to the supporting trine the Libra sun makes to your Saturn ruler. If trivial pursuits are the only items on the menu, you'll find a way to forsake the "serious" stuff and come out to play with the lightweights. With so many planets in air signs (including reality-based Saturn), it'll be hard to stay grounded when dealing with any subject other than sex, security and that Scorpio.

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18

Air signs like yours thrive during the Libra interlude, so make your intentions known while it's open sesame season, before you start meeting with Scorpionic resistance. The emphasis is on what you share with others, be it sex or a mutual fund. Family members are very supportive right now, so if you want or need something, you only have to ask and they'll do their best to get it to you. There may be moments of outrage or disbelief, but only if you lose faith in your will power and your talent for ignoring the obvious.

PISCES
FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19

Every now and then Pisces and Aquarius have similar stories to tell and midweek is one of those times. It's a good thing, so don't get paranoid. Even if there isn't a lot of sincerity in the telling of the tale, there is enough artistic license to keep us enthralled. Hey, you could be making it up as you go, and who, except the Water-Bearer would know? Things change after Jupiter changes direction on the 29th, but you'll still feel fortunate to be an integral part of your "extended" family. Swimming in the school, not solo?

ARIES
MARCH 20-APRIL 19

Not you. The autumnal equinox on Friday marks the beginning of your intense involvement with the "other," whoever, wherever and whatever is not yet part of your universe. For the next six months, until Aries begins, you'll be taking a trip outside of your self, your environs and your expertise. Since your Mars ruler is in Virgo until the weekend of the election, you probably be much more discriminating than you have been. So, if you feel compelled to acquire something of value, be it practical (Saturn) or artistic (Neptune), first do the research, and know what you're getting into.

TAURUS
APRIL 20-MAY 20

Things, specifically career concerns and an undefined relationship, heat up as soon as your Venus ruler slips into secretive Scorpio on Sunday. You may have to sneak around midweek when duplicitous—or is that merely delusional? —Neptune puts you in a compromising position, but you can wriggle out of it if you don't lay your excuse on too thick. Right now, it's hard to tell the difference between fact and fable, so play it safe, like a Scorpio would, until you've dug deep enough to reach the heart of the matter in question.

GEMINI
MAY 21-JUNE 20

Twins born in May can combine the best of two worlds, the ephemeral and the practical, this week. What you want to hold on to and what you need to let go of are handled through almost no effort of your own. And while advising all Geminis to chat someone up is unnecessary, the more you air your concerns, the sooner they'll fall into place. Harmony and balance, the Libran virtues, prevail, at least until your Mercury ruler enters suspicious Scorpio on the 28th. Then there's a reason to become more cautious and close-mouthed.

CANCER
JUNE 21-JULY 22

Solstices and equinoxes strike chords in the Crab that resonate throughout each season. The beginning of autumn brings you "home" in more ways than one; it is when family, culture, roots, history, children, romance—the classic Cancerian concerns—dominate your solar chart. Since a new cycle begins with the Libra new moon on the 27th, the moon child should use the lunar energy to introduce Libran justice, harmony and tact to a situation that has become thorny, or, worse, tacky.

LEO
JULY 23-AUGUST 22

Libra and Leo go together like milk and cookies—not a steady diet, but a welcome treat. Therefore be sure to get the most from the goodies that'll be placed before you. First comes recognition for consistency and assuming responsibility (sun trines Saturn), then a chance to use your imagination in the company of empathetic folks (sun trines Neptune) like yourself, and, as October begins and the sun trines lucky Jupiter, a bonanza, a ball and blessings from above. Scorpio won't be nearly as much fun.

Curious about the future? Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30 to 40+ pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise over the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $42.50 per report to: ROCKIE GARDINER, 1021 N. Genesee, #1, West Hollywood, CA 90046. *www.rockiehoroscope.com*. Read my daily forecast online at www.laweekly.com.

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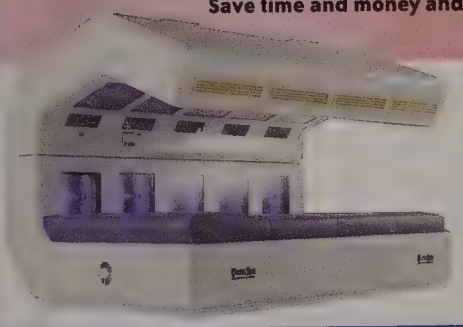

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The Improper Bostonian's client-related promotions and events

It was wasn't your typical V.I.P. party at the **Cactus Club** on Thursday, August 31, it was **Vixen in Pink!** Mix 98.5's **Lynn Hoffman** was a guest bartender and the makeup sponsor was **M.A.C. Cosmetics.** All proceeds benefited the M.A.C. AIDS Fund.

1

2

3

4

5

1. Cactus Club's bartender, **Jen McLean** with Mix 98.5's **Lynn Hoffman** moonlighting as a guest bartender.
2. **Gerard Brule** of M.A.C.
3. **Edlyn Suh** of M.A.C. making up Pandora.
4. Mix 98.5's **Gregg Daniels** with Cactus Club owner **Jim Lifton** and **Lee Maripuu** of Mix 98.5.
5. **Carrie Skinner** and **Trish Alloway**, both of the Cactus Club.

WENDY SEMONIAN (5)

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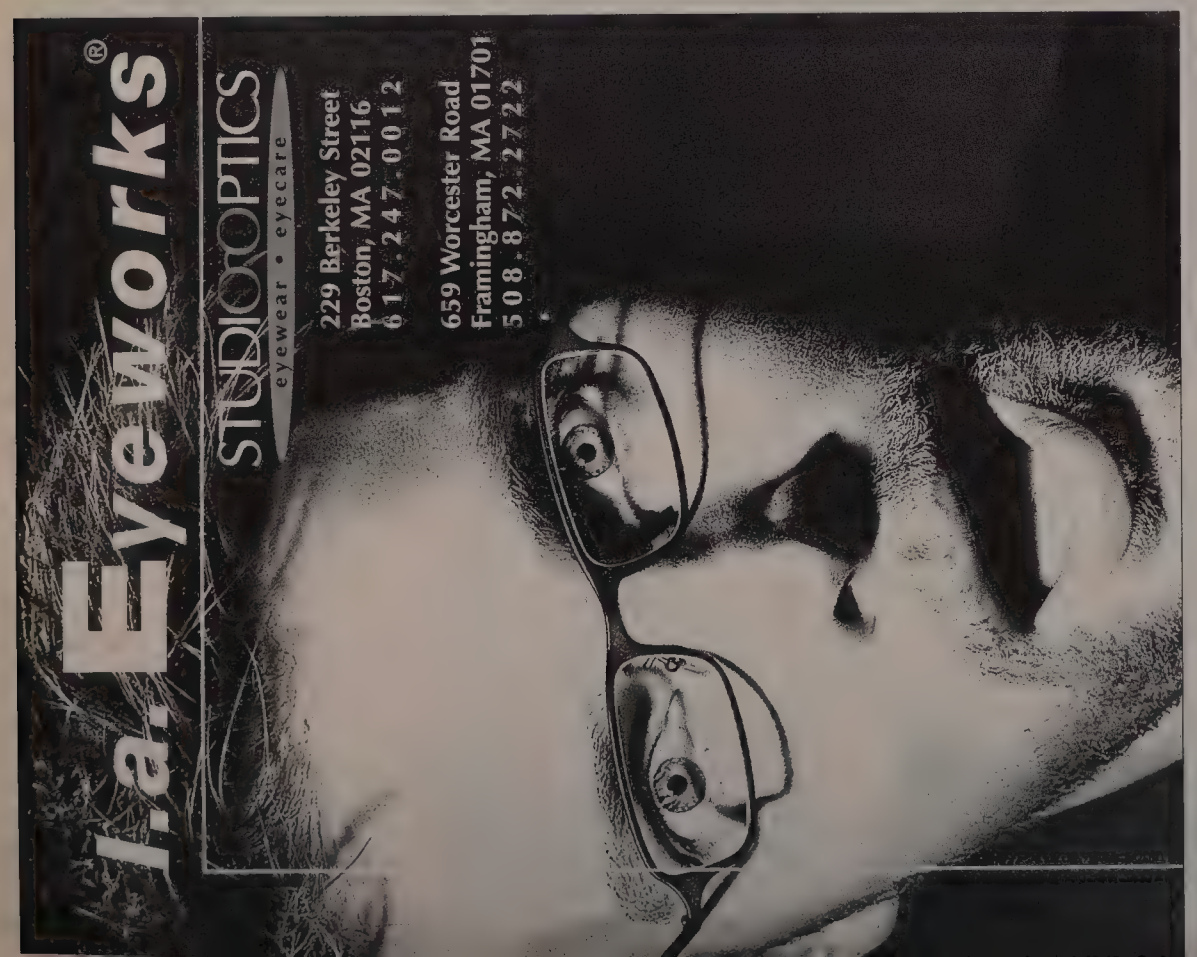


Improper Sightings

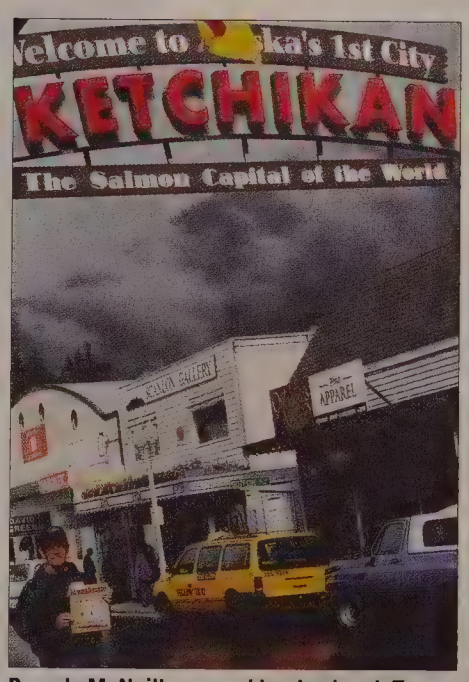
Unlike the rest of your friends, we want to see the photos from your next trip.

Where do you take us? We want to know! Send us a picture of you or a friend, or better yet, someone famous reading THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN and tell us where you were. The more creative you are, the faster we'll publish your pic! (Hey, we have no shame!)

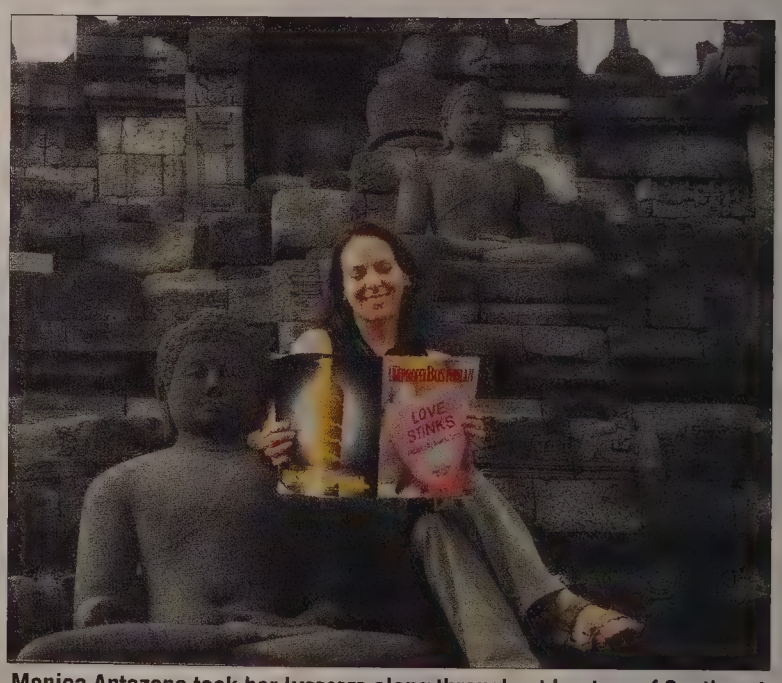
Lexington teacher Alyson Brown (bottom left) and her students recently represented the U.S. in the World Festival of Children's Theater in Toyama, Japan. That's some field trip.

South End residents Lockie and Zac Hunter (with assorted bridesmaids/grooms) check out their post-honeymoon dining options at their wedding in the hills of eastern Tennessee, where a good banjo player is never more than a phone call away.

Mogul-masher Melanie Wright gives the Boston Interiors issue a lift to a rather far-flung exterior—Coronet Peak, in Queenstown, New Zealand.



Beverly McNeill snapped her husband, Tom, celebrating their 8th anniversary IMPROPER-style in Ketchikan, Alaska. It's sushi time!



Monica Antezana took her IMPROPER along throughout her tour of Southeast Asia. Here, she ruminates on love with one of many Buddhas at the ancient Borobudor temple near Yogyakarta, Central Java, Indonesia.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:
At the Chon Buri Buffalo Races, held in Chon Buri, Thailand, in October. Extra bonus points if you take top honors in the Miss Water Buffalo beauty contest.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116.
Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail and photo location. All photos become the property of THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE and will not be returned.

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The Rack

24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998,1999 &2000 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, Mark Morris & The Catunes, and BaHa Brothers.

Brew Pubs

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138 Portland St., Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is now the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, a block from the FleetCenter and steps from Faneuil Hall, Commonwealth Fish & Beer features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

General

BARCODE

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Comedy

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Wine Bars

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105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-0966. The hip meeting spot in the Financial District for after work, dinner, late night, or a seductive tryst. The Vault offers some of the most exclusive wines in Boston, which complement the creative American Cuisine prepared by Chef Michael Foley. Can't decide on a wine? Relax and compare with our Tasting Flights featuring selections from different reds and whites. So what are you waiting for? Call an old friend, a client, or a co-worker and meet for cocktails at The Vault today.

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BARCODE offers creative food and drink with a truly unique, casual style and atmosphere. Simple yet exotic and flavorful, Executive Chef George Leu's menu features a variety of French bistro fare touched with Asian influences. Dinner served daily 5 pm - 1 am, bar open daily 4:30pm - 2:00am.

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939 Boylston St., 236-0200. Get a taste of the Southwest in Boston. Specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, Cajun Catfish. Sample the firewater menu while you are there, including Coyote Killer (Light and dark rum, peach schnapps, ginger beer and mixed juices), or a Chambord Margarita. The daring may go for a dip in the Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Amex, Diners Club, MC and Visa. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurants, in Framingham, Waltham and Needham. www.cactus-club.com.

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89 Broad St., Boston, 348-1234, at the New Wyndham Boston Hotel. Caliterra is heating up the dining climate of Boston's financial district. Our Cal-Ital fare combines contemporary Northern California traits with hearty Tuscan classics and the freshest New England seafood. We accommodate groups in our private dining room, and private parties in our exclusive wine rooms. Enjoy libations in our spacious Caliterra lounge. Reservations recommended. Valet parking available. Breakfast available Mon. - Fri., 6:30 - 11 am; Sat. & Sun., 7 am - 12 noon. Child's breakfast is free with an adult. Lunch daily 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Dinner nightly 5 - 10 pm. Located one block from Boston Harbor and Quincy Marketplace.

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Iguana Cantina

313 Moody St., Waltham, 781-891-3039; 1656 Worcester Rd., Rt. 9, Framingham, 508-875-1188; and 66 Chestnut St., Needham, 781-444-9976. The Iguana Cantina serves a variety of Caribbean, Tex-Mex and Southwestern fare. The atmosphere is fun and the food is tasty. Visit our website at www.theiguanacantina.com.

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156 Cambridge Street on Beacon Hill, Boston, 973-6680. Enjoy premium sushi and Ma Soba's unique blend of contemporary and traditional Asian cuisine prepared by award-winning chefs. Relax with a fine wine selection from Ma Soba's comprehensive wine cellar in a setting described as "strikingly attractive and ultra urbane" by the Boston Herald. Open daily: Sun-Wed until 10:30pm, Thurs-Sat until 11:00pm. When in Harvard Square/ Cambridge, visit Ma Soba Express at 30 Dunster Street for quick-service pan Asian noodles and rice platters.

Mistral

223 Columbus Ave. 867-9300. Acclaimed chef/owner Jamie Mammano's South End restaurant. The design is both elegant and informal, resonating with the ambiance of Provence. Mistral features a crisp linen dining room as well as a casual lounge and bar. Serving dinner Mon-Sun beginning at 5:30pm - 11pm. Late night menu served Thurs-Sat 11pm-12midnight. Reservations recommended-private dining available.

Shenandoah Restaurant, Marketplace Cafe, Brewskellar Pub

Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston 227-1272. Located in the North Market Building of Faneuil Hall, Shenandoah Restaurant, The Marketplace Cafe, and Brewskellar Pub have something for everyone. Whether you're interested in a casual dinner on one of Boston's largest outdoor patios or the quiet more elegant surroundings of Shenandoah Restaurant, we offer it all. Having a function? We cater personally to all events you may be planning. Visit us soon and let us surprise you.

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199 Clarendon St., Copley Sq., 536-3500; 2 Brookline Pl., Brookline, 232-8887; and 55 Needham St., Newton, 964-4244. Enjoy fresh grilled seafood flown in from around the world, in a casual, comfortable atmosphere. Specialties include blackened tuna sashimi, Skipjack's moonfish, Maryland crabcakes, lobsters and gingered calamari. Swing with the infamous Winiker Orchestra and enjoy our Jazz Brunch every Sunday, 11 am - 3 pm in Boston. Also performing in Brookline every Fri. and Sat. evenings from 6 - 10 pm. Reservations accepted and discounted underground parking in Boston and Brookline.

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24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998,1999 & 2000 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve both lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

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Vox Populi

755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Speak your voice at this comfortably sophisticated Back Bay restaurant and bar. With an eclectic style highlighted by rich, vibrant colors and rustic antiques, Vox Populi offers a hip, sleek and intimate atmosphere. Enjoy the first floor bar and fireplace lounge, the second floor bar overlooking bustling Boylston St., or the elegant second floor dining room. (Outdoor patio dining available sesonally). One of Back Bay's most prominent establishments, Vox Populi truly speaks the popular voice.

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Museum of Science - Skyline Room

Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston, MA 02114. A T.Rex named Sue, through October 9. Enjoy Sunday brunch in the beautiful Skyline Room overlooking the Charles River at noon, then experience the amazing Mugar Omni Theater: Dolphins at 2pm. Tickets are $28 for Adults, $26 for Seniors/ Children. Brunch only is $20. On-site parking is included. Reservations recommended, call (617)723-2500.

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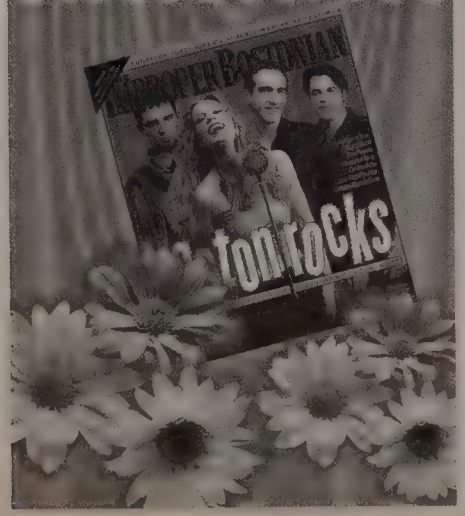

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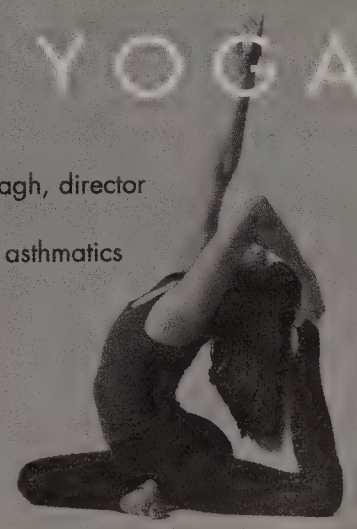

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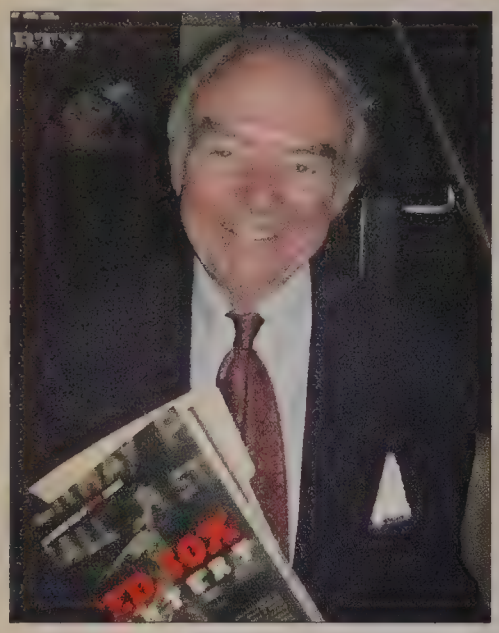
Boston's Best 2000 The Improper Bostonian

Last Scene Here

BY JONATHAN SOROFF



At the FleetCenter, from top right: Katherine Dooley, Nancy and Julia Tobin, and Mary Leary; Sinclair Hitchings; Bill Littlefield; Glenn Stout, Richard Johnson and Dan Shaughnessy; John, Dan and Carol Cronin.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BOOK PARTY...

The **FleetCenter** might seem like an odd place for Red Sox fans to congregate, but they were there in droves when **Houghton Mifflin** and the **Sports Museum of New England** (which is located at the FleetCenter) hosted a reception to mark the publication of the hefty new coffee-table tome ***Red Sox Century***, as well as the opening of a Red Sox photo exhibit.

Like MVPs signing autographs in the dugout, authors **Glenn Stout** and **Richard Johnson** inscribed copies of the book, while high-profile sports nuts like the *Boston Globe*'s **Dan Shaughnessy** and NPR's **Bill Littlefield** rubbed elbows with the likes of the BPL's courtly curator of prints, drawings and photographs, **Sinclair Hitchings**; *Herald* archivist **John Cronin** (with son **Dan** and wife **Carol**); museum board chair **Jan Volk**; FleetCenter CEO **Richard Kreswick** and Houghton Mifflin bigwig **Gary Smith**.

Ballpark fare like hot dogs, beer and bags of peanuts were consumed with abandon, and, as someone pointed out uncharitably, there was a distinct whiff of locker room that lent the proceedings a bit of verité.

The one glaring absence: rabid Red Sox fan **Lib Dooley**, a physical education teacher in the Boston Public Schools who went to every home game for 70 years and became the patron saint of Fenway. Lib died in June, but her sister and two nieces were at this event, regaling guests with recollections.

"When she was dying, she said, 'Tell Ted Williams I'll see him soon,'" recalled her niece, **Nancy Tobin**. "She was buried with a ball from the last game she went to. Unfortunately, it was probably the worst game in Red Sox history."

The most amusing anecdote, however, concerned a priest who once had the misfortune of confessing to her that he was born in New York and was once a Yankees fan.

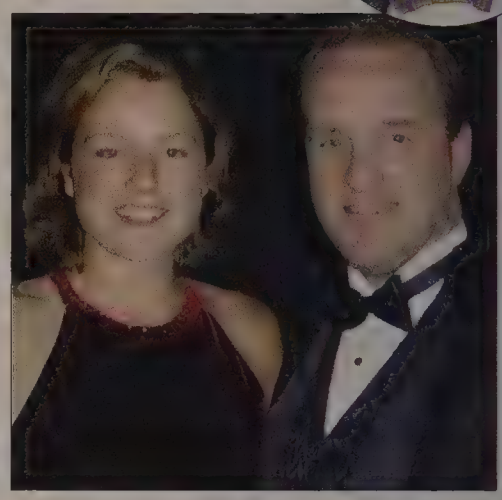
"Father," she scolded him, "men have gone to Hell for less."

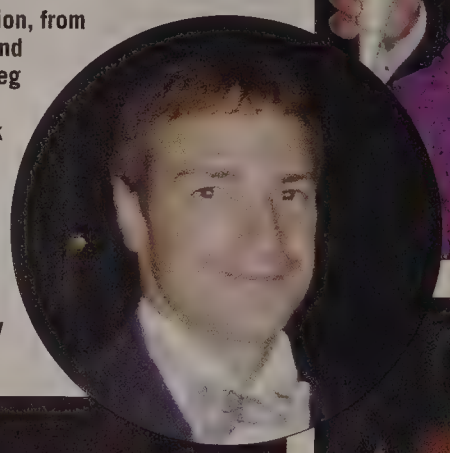
BLACK-TIE SEASON HAS ARRIVED...

What's an arts festival without a big formal hoo-ha? Not much, which is why a horde of upper yuppies swarmed into the opulent marble lobby of the **Wang Center** for **The Grande Illusion**, a ball to celebrate the **Arts Festival of Boston 2000**.

A veritable cavalcade of bright, young things turned out, among them: dreadlocked clothes horse **Drew Martin** with the stunning **Wally Pulsinger**; ubiquitous socialite **Alexandra Zapp** and the ethereal **Amy Sullivan**; event organizer **Greg Norgent**; über-nerd **Sean McInerny** and advertising art director **Kate Jensen**; architect/illustrator **David "Goodinbed" Seeley** with scrumptious scribbler **Linda Bosse**; peripatetic real estate developer **Howard Hall**; St. Petersburg-bred painter **Misha Lenn**; hotel exec **Mark Murphy** and the statuesque **Vicki Lawrence**; super-suave semiconductor mogul **Mike Matule** (from Montana); zany tax attorney **Erin Gilligan** (wearing a rhinestone tiara because it was her birthday) and her madcap other half, **Hoil Kim**.

Local performers entertained the crowd, while guests swanned around socializing, drinking and dancing to the strains of the Black Tie Affair Orchestra. In short, it was a by-the-book charity gig and a clear indication—as if any were needed—that the fall social season is officially under way. **iB**





At The Grande Illusion, from top: Amy Sullivan and Alexandra Zapp; Greg Norgent; Vicki Lawrence and Mark Murphy; Erin Gilligan and Hoil Kim; Mike Matule; Drew Martin and Wally Pulsinger; Tommy James, Emily See and Kelly Markgraf.

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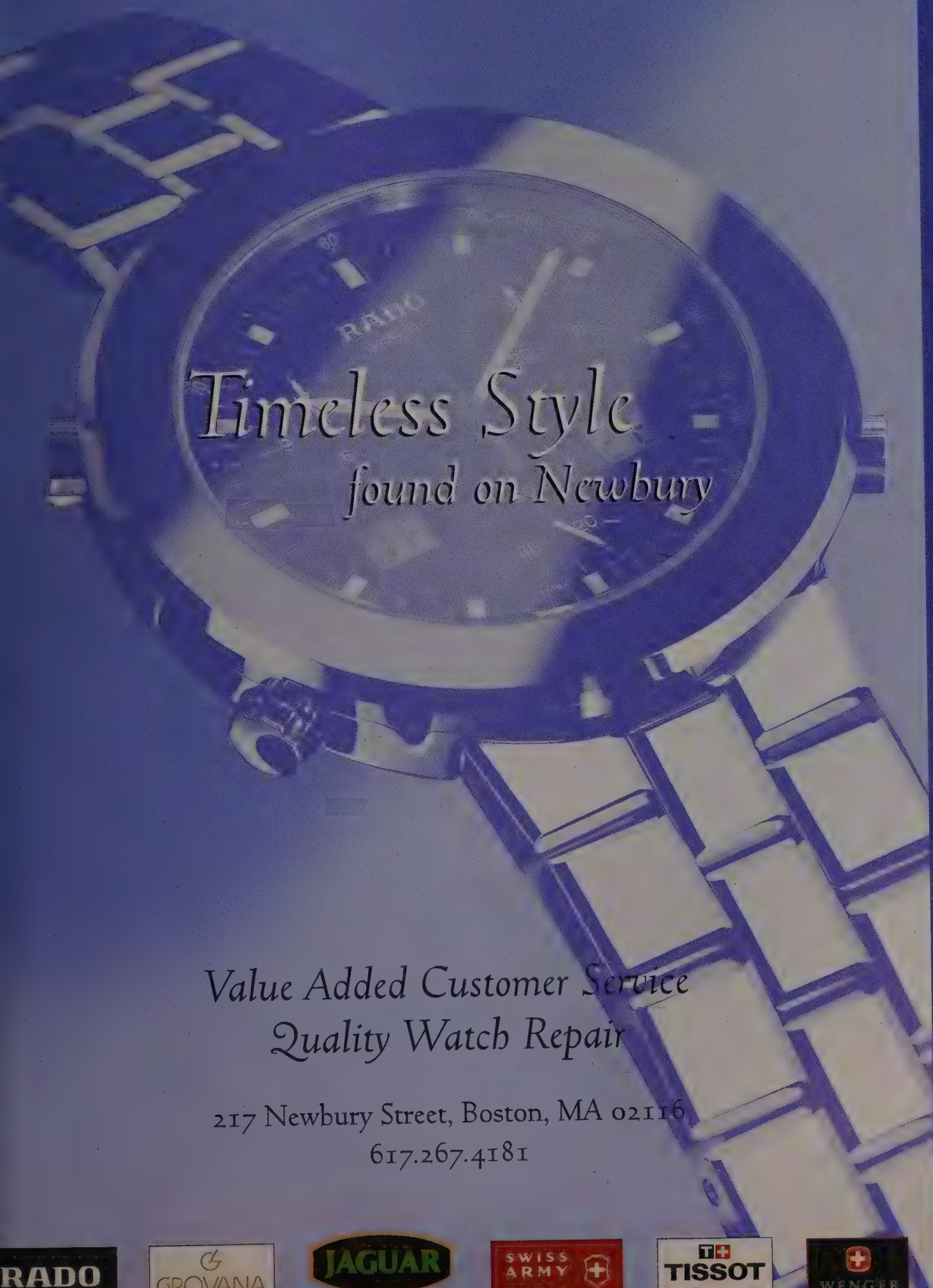

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Born and raised in Saugus, actor, screenwriter and filmmaker Davidlee Willson has played roles ranging from a suicidal gay man to a neo-Nazi skinhead. Along the way he's been beaten up, outed, and even taught how to lose a Boston accent.
BY JONATHAN SOROFF

20 Boston Internet 2000
This is the year the Internet grew up. There were mergers, acquisitions, dot-com deaths and staggering IPOs. Who's hot, who's not, who's left and what's next.
EDITED BY ELLEN O'BRIEN AND RACHEL STRUTT

32 Fashion >>>
This array of bedazzling jewels might be all the clothing you'll ever need.
PHOTOGRAPHS BY BILL STREICHER

On the Cover:
Photograph of Peter Bell of Storage Networks and Boston Skyline image **by Brad Ziegler**

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letters

GETTING FRESH

I was recently informed of that you have acquired a new editor for your magazine. I am writing to let you know that I think it was a wonderful move for your organization. I had lost interest in your magazine for a couple months and recently was hooked by a fresh, new look on the cover. In discussion with a friend I learned that this very same cover was the first to be done by the new guard. I found the look and content to be much improved and am now looking forward to each new edition. I have gotten loads of useful information and hours of entertainment from your magazine over the last few weeks and hope that you will continue to put out editions of the same quality and caliber. Thank you to the new editor. Keep up the great work!

—Stephanie Bates
Via e-mail

Editor's Note: *While recently-hired fashion & beauty editor Samantha House is responsible for much of the "new look" of the magazine, the editorial staff remains the same. Thanks for the encouragement, though.*

AN ORIGINAL IDEA

Your statement about why you do not have a Web site at the present time is the STUPIDEST, most shortsighted thing that I have read lately! You need not put up a full-fledged Web site but having a few pages of your magazine online would let even more people than those who walk by the delivery boxes know what is going on at the Improper. Is your statement supposed to be the thinking man's veiw of the Internet? You need to get out of your cave and into the 21st century! What are you people thinking?

—Kendall Fine
South End

WORDS TO THE WISE

Your magazine constantly runs pictures of people attending some kind of party that no one has ever heard of. I don't particularly care who's at these parties—especially when they represent such a limited demographic. Why haven't we seen more color in your magazine? Let's get some more human interest stories. Let's get more arts. We've got a great underground electronic-music scene here, we have a great hip-hop scene, and we've got more indie-rock than you can shake a stick at! Let the other "Boston" magazine cover the high-brow stuff. Be cool, stay hip and please, bring it back to us...

—Chokdee Rutirasiri
Somerville

...AND SOME MORE ADVICE

While I try to mind my own business for the most part (with the exception of keeping an eye on my upstairs neighbors because they are covert government agents), the time is upon us when I must offer you my help. You are, it seems, running this magazine into the ground, evidently to the point where you can't

I DON'T ESPECIALLY CARE WHO'S AT THESE PARTIES—PARTICULARLY WHEN THEY REPRESENT SUCH A LIMITED DEMOGRAPHIC. WHY HAVEN'T WE SEEN MORE COLOR IN YOUR MAGAZINE? LET'S GET SOME MORE HUMAN INTEREST STORIES.

—*CHOKDEE RUTIRASIRI*
SOMERVILLE

even sell it anymore—I understand you have been reduced to giving it away on the streets like one of those awful men one used to see in Time's Square handing out fliers for shops too vile to describe.

Your main problem seems to be a horrible lack of organization. Rather than produce a bulky issue filled with disconnected ideas and thoughts, you could combine articles to save space and money. Instead of one article on triathletes and another on ravers who take Ecstasy and Red Bull, why not put them together under one headline? They practically go together anyway. Try this: "The Triathlete and Mainlining Red Bull & E." Slap some catchy graphics on that sucker, throw in a few dozen "how-to" bullets and you've got yourself a magazine that sells.

Another problem is the lack of what we media types call "pizzazz." The article on the MIT Media Lab, for instance, would have benefited from a little scandal. It's a college, for crying out loud—were the kids having sex in there, rolling around naked on the floor as the reporter looked on with shock and horror? If not, why not add some sex anyway? After all, who's to say you made up the part about the new Media Lab's pornography problem?

Your humble servant,

—Aaron Bradbury
Via e-mail

Tell Us What You Think

SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR TO:
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Boston, MA 02116
E-mail: editor@improper.com
Fax: (617) 859-1446

Letters to the editor must be signed; please include your town and phone number. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

CONTRIBUTOR

SCOTT OLDHAM

Recent New York transplant Scott Oldham has joined the IB staff as graphic designer. A native of Maryland, Oldham worked for most of the past 10 years as a freelance designer and illustrator in Washington, D.C. His work in the nation's capital ("excruciatingly policy-based") eventually drove him to relocate to the Big Apple, where he earned his Master's degree at Pratt Institute. Boston is familiar territory for Oldham—he graduated from the nearby Rhode Island School of Design in 1991, long before Providence's "renaissance." Most of his weekends were spent here. He currently lives in Somerville.

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WHAT'S THE RUSH?

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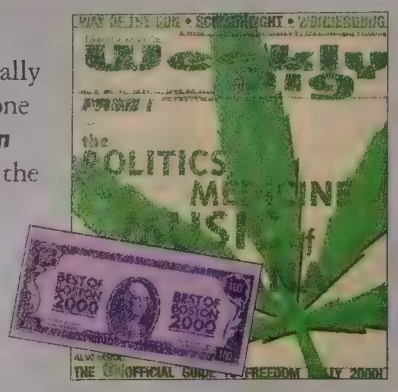
IMPROPERSPEAKING

MEDIA BASHING



For a great example of two radically different media-centric circles, one need look no further than ***Boston Magazine***'s annual best-fest and the ***Weekly Dig***'s first anniversary celebration. Always eager to mingle with other editorial eccentrics, our staff was representin' at both parties. We sought a single guest who would have been just as comfortable at one party as the other.

At the *B Mag*'s annual fund-raiser, held at the World Trade Center, fake money was passed out to elegant revelers while croupiers presided over blackjack tables. The crowd was made up mostly of City Hall types and celeb chefs. That means **Dick Friedman** (Charles Hotel owner) and **Al Mayers** (WRKO head honcho) and lobster bisque from the **Federalist**. Flash-foward to the *Weekly Dig*. The **House of Blues** was packed with members of **Milligram**, **Slide** and **Roadsaw**, as well as **Alvin Long** and **Gail Rush** of **Curve of the Earth** records. Budweiser was definitely the drink of choice, a perfect match for cajun shrimp hors d'oeuvres.

In the end, we found two people who could have crossed the line, so to speak. **Michael Saunders** (***Boston Globe*** "Names & Faces" guy) and **Jo O'Connor Doherty** (WZLX FM 100.7 publicist) were *B Mag* guests who would loved the *Dig*'s gig. (It was tough work, but someone had to do it.)

IN LIKE FLYNN

We found **Sean Flynn** at a party filled with stuffed shirts and short skirts—a big-shot soiree with a low-rent crowd. Flynn's the kind of guy you can trust with your life—that is, if you don't mind dying. A crime-time writer with a pen for a knife—a killer reporter with...well, you get the picture. The former ***Boston Herald*** reporter was in the thick of things in this city for a long time before leaving newspapers for magazines (***Esquire,*** most recently). He just published a book, *Boston D.A.*, about Suffolk County District Attorney **Ralph Martin.** But it's his current project, an account of the lives of the six Worcester firefighters who died battling flames last year that made the pages of ***Variety*** magazine and sparked the notion that Flynn, who reportedly received at least a six-figure book advance, also has a movie deal under way. "There is *no* movie," asserts Flynn. He quashed that rumor and told us he has already heard complaints that he exploited the fatal fire for Hollywood glitz before the book was even published.

WHO DID THAT?

Bill Bradley has landed in Boston, sort of. The former US senator, 2000 presidential candidate and NBA champion has joined **UPromise Inc.**, a 9-month-old Brookline company that bills itself as an enterprise that helps Americans afford the rising cost of sending their children to college. Bradley, who sits on the board of directors, is joined by **Ted Dintersmith,** a veteran venture capitalist of **Charles River Ventures**. Bradley will also serve as a strategic adviser. So he gets paid? Yes, says UPromise's **Liz Carpenter.** Bradley, who lives in New Jersey, will not have to relocate. But regardless of his address, he will still be a Boston player.

O'NEILL LEAVES SPOTLIGHT

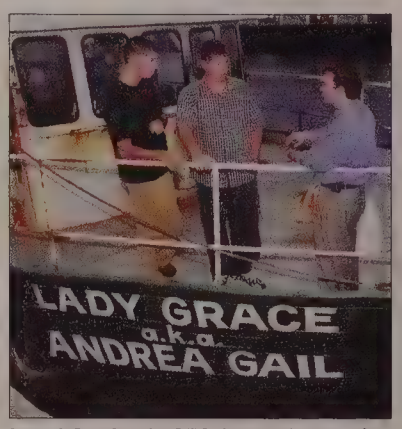
If you live here, you have been lucky enough to benefit from the ***Globe***'s "Spotlight" investigative team, which has taken you through countlesss public records and private doings. Who could forget the story about those government folks who collected disability checks while fishing in Florida? For the past 24 years, venerable **Globe** editor **Gerald (Gerry) O'Neill** has overseen the prestigious project team and has provided loyal readers with the nitty-gritty. Now former Metro (er, City) Chief **Walter Robinson**, of star White House press-corps stock, has been named to that post. O'Neill, who may have been gently nudged out of his territory as part of the *Globe*'s glass-house changes, announced his retirement last week to the staff. He will travel to Oxford University for a coveted fellowship within the next few months. Now it is time to tip your hat to O'Neill for his Pulitzer Prize-winning work. There are a lot of hacks, flaks, convicts and cons who are glad to see him go. Remember, he was on your side—not theirs.

GAIL FORCES

We had to stop the presses for a public-relations event that had merit. The children of the fishermen who perished aboard the ill-fated ***Andrea Gail*** fishing vessel were among those who visited the ***Lady Grace*** earlier this month. That's the boat that was used to portray the *Andrea Gail* during the filming of the *The Perfect Storm*. **Legal Seafoods** purchased *Lady Grace* as part of an educational effort about the fishing industry and held a fund-raiser to benefit the Andrea Gail Children's Education Fund.

STILL A PARTNER

Jan Saragoni of Saragoni & Co. (formerly) now has a public-relations partner, **Mark Young**, who was formerly an attorney

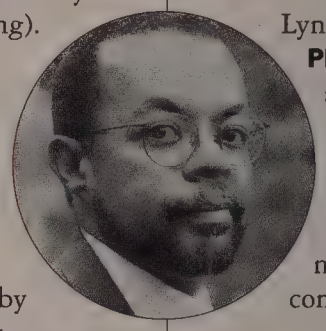


Legal Seafoods CEO Roger Berkowitz (right) speaks with Bobby and Jonathan Shatford, sons of *Andrea Gail* crew member Bobby Shatford.

Jan Saragoni and Mark Young

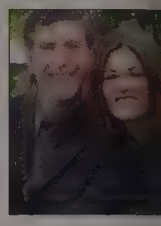
and partner at Peabody & Arnold law firm. Huh? That's right. Young's former law firm hired Saragoni eight months back, and Saragoni apparently corrupted Mr. Young to the point that he volunteered to leave one life behind so that he could become one-half of **Saragoni & Young** (strictly a professional pairing).

WHAT'S THE DEAL?



A funny thing happened while surfing Africana.com, the Web site launched by Harvard University professors **Henry Louis Gates Jr.** and **Kwame Anthony Appiah** (and purchased by Time Warner Inc. last month for a reported $10 million). Along with Ivory Coast updates and analysis of heavyweight facts like testing scores, the site offers advice on constant booty calls. No joke. The lifestyle segment of the site features romance-and-dating pitstop **www.askheartbeat.com**, an advice site started by and for African-American women. Now that's a lesson in links.

WE HEARD HER WHEN



MIX 98.5 morning disc jockey **Lynn Hoffman** traveled to L.A. to tape an episode of *Hollywood Squares*, hosted by former Boston media man **Tom Bergeron** (left) and featuring **Gilbert Gottfried.** We're worried we could lose our Lynn. Turns out **Regis Philbin** is planning a show with female disc jockeys and has his eye on Hoffman as a cohort.Could the next **Kathie Lee** come from Boston? **iB**

Speaking of Boston

Got an inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to speaking@improper.com

AN APPETITE FOR READING

This is a foodfest with a twist: **Bricco** hosted Bostonians who subscribe to ***The Magazine of La Cucina Italiana*** (whose demographics likely match much of the North End). The eatery was one of 60 restaurants across the nation chosen by the magazine to host chef-subscribers who prepared food for the fall event. Chef **Bill Bradley** (above, left) prepared a meal with wines featured by **Mionetto Valdobbiadene,** and representatives of the magazine and winery, **Barbara Ragghianti** and **Mark Tucker,** joined in the tri-part festivities.

SARAGONE: MICHELLE MCCORMACK, LYNN HOFFMAN: SCOTT SAC

rush hour rome

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IRISH WHISKEY
WHAT'S THE RUSH?

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CITY LIMITS

Good stuff, glamour and goings-on

BY ERIN HAGEDORN AND JULIE SHORT

Kapow chef Derek Harrison (left) with designer Dave O.

NEW IN TOWN

MYTHOLOGICAL PROPORTIONS

When Icarus soared into the sky, his wings—made from wax and feathers—melted when he flew too close to the sun. And so this boy of Greek mythology met his fate and plummeted into the Aegean Sea. How does this relate to the hottest new fusion restaurant to hit town? Local artist **Dave O.**, the designer of Pho Republique and Sam's, has just created an Icarus-themed restaurant. It begins with the name, **Kapow**—which Dave O. imagines to be the sound of Icarus exploding into flames.

Despite all the crash-and-burn imagery, Kapow seems destined to soar with diners. Located in the former site of (the highly unsuccessful) Café Japonaise, Kapow, which opened last month, bears no trace of the former occupant. With fire-engine-red leather seats and booths, sparkling red tables, cherry-red carpets and Dave O.'s Icarus-inspired sculptures hanging on fresco-like burnt-sienna walls (Are you catching onto the fire theme yet?), Kapow certainly radiates an inviting glow.

But what about the food? Well, what would you expect from Jamaica-born, French-trained chef **Derek Harrison**, who hails from the South End hot spot, Pho Republique? Perhaps surprisingly, the answer is a Californian menu with an Asian slant. Start with a sushi appetizer and a signature pineapple martini followed by Korean barbecued short ribs or sesame noodles. Or go for the basics with a burger and beer. *1032 Commonwealth Ave., Brookline (738-7200).*

THIS JUST IN

BULL'S-EYE SHOPPING

The Target tally continues as four more stores open "in the area" this month to squeals of delight from penny-pinching hipsters. Unfortunately, the four stores—located in Everett, Woburn, Saugus and Milford—still aren't terribly convenient to carless city-dwellers (hey, fellas, how about one in Downtown Crossing or Alewife?). The 38-year-old retailer, which made its much-anticipated entrance into the Mass. market a little over a year ago, is clearly more interested in cheap real estate than having bustling urban addresses. It doesn't seem to matter as more and more urbanites become Target (pronounced "tar-jay" by those in-the-know) devotees. The draw? Target offers surprisingly stylish clothing and home furnishings for less. Of note is a collection of products for the home (see right) designed by acclaimed architect Michael Graves, who recently oversaw the restoration of the Washington Monument. *www.target.com.*

AROUND TOWN

TOUCHY-FEELY

The brochure promised a new massage technique ideal for stressed-out 9-to-5ers. This vague promo verbiage was all it took: We immediately booked an appointment with massage therapist Marge MacKeith, who combines "guided imagery" techniques with massage to relax both body and mind.

The experience was, well...different. MacKeith walks you, step-by-step, through your "special place" (ours was an idyllic lake in the woods) by spinning a pictorially descriptive narrative. We watched the sun rise, birds take flight and leaves blow in the breeze. At first it simply distracted from the massage and seemed wholeheartedly cliché, but a hypnotic effect eventually kicked in. You find yourself succumbing to the slow cadence of her voice and sinking deeper into fantasyland. Beyond the touchy-feely talk, the massage is wonderful—less of a manhandle than a deep muscle massage—heavy-handed with body oil. By the end, stress is a distant memory—you're glowing with oil head-to-toe and your limbs are looser than Gumby's. *1018 Beacon St., Brookline (734-7576).*

ALL THE BUZZ

PRETTY NEAT

With products named Slinky, Gooey and Pussy Galore, the new cosmetic line Pretty Pretty is bound to lure a few customers—if only for its provocative monikers. But once you try them, you'll be hooked, says our resident beauty guru, fashion editor Samantha House. The line just hit the local scene (after L.A. and Chicago) at Louis Boston. The company offers vitamin-packed cosmetics in their sheerest form to give gals a natural-looking glow. Pretty Pretty's Nick Gavrelis and James Vincent launched most of the department-store brands you buy now, so you can bet they've learned a thing or two about what women want. "Most cosmetics are about glitz and glamour," says House. "Pretty Pretty focuses on the skin to enhance beauty naturally." *234 Berkeley St., Boston (262-6100).*

THE DISSED LIST

VOTE NO ON DUMB PEOPLE

At the IMPROPER, we're on about every mass e-mail list known to humankind. Normally we simply hit the delete key, but the 100th plea to "stop the government from charging us to use e-mail" bogus message pushed us too far.

The desperate-sounding release urges the nation to "Vote no on **602P**" and write Congress to protest the bill that allows the federal government to impose a five-cent surcharge on all e-mail messages. So many suckers were duped by the hoax that the U.S. Postal Service, the Dept. of Energy and the Federal Communications Commission have issued official responses to the e-mail, which has been circulating since April, 1999. We called Senator John Kerry's office to check how many Massholes have joined the ranks of e-morons and were told that already "a handful have called" to register concern, according to spokesman Kyle Sullivan. Come on, folks—why not pass along that "secret" Neiman Marcus $250 chocolate chip cookie recipe while you're at it.

Been dissed? Email us your story: howrude@improper.com

KAPOW: TRACY POWELL, MASSAGE: WENDY MIMRAN

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Polly Esther's
Saturday, October 7 • 9pm - 1am
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American Athletic Club
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Boston Internet BY GEOFFREY JAMES

Wanna Buy a Robot?

They're rare now but someday may follow the PC's path to ubiquity.

Over the past 30 years, our society's perception of computers has changed dramatically. Back in the early 1970s, computers were considered "tools of the establishment," and "do not fold, spindle or mutilate" became a phrase that stood for the inhumanity of an increasingly computerized world. The perception of computers was so bad that a friend of mine who programmed them for Xerox used to tell people that he fixed copiers for a living. "If I told them I was a computer programmer, I'd never get laid," he would say.

His attitude was understandable considering that sci-fi movies of the period featured murderous computers like the soft-spoken HAL9000 in 1968's *2001: A Space Odyssey*, or the world-conquering mainframe in the 1969 potboiler *Colossus: The Forbin Project*. The evil nature of computers was best expressed by the horror reserved for robots—which are (of course) computers that can move. In the classic 1927 silent movie *Metropolis*, a robot is shown as the ultimate tool of oppressive capitalism and appears, in one of the most openly sexual scenes of the period, as the biblical whore of Babylon. Even the robot in the 1960s TV show *Lost in Space* attempted, in the first episode, to kill the humans on board the ill-fated spacecraft.

All of that began to change around the late 1970s. The transition point, in my mind, was the 1977 movie *Star Wars*, the hero of which was a cute, little robot called R2D2. Like millions of other moviegoers, I fell in love with the squeaky little creation. Suddenly robots and (by extension) computers didn't seem so scary. The impact of Star Wars was so great that designers at Apple Computer reportedly mimicked R2D2's design when they created the Macintosh, arguably the first computer that really captured the interest of the non-business world.

Today, nearly everyone has a PC and nobody (aside from Ted Kaczynski and my crunchy-granola massage therapist) is afraid of them any more. However, despite the fact that many people would love to have a cute, little robot around the house (if only to do the housework), robots have remained conspicuously absent in real life. But that won't be the case for long, if you listen to Jeanne Dietsch, vice president of business development at ActivMedia Robotics LLC of Peterborough, N.H. Dietsch says that robots are rapidly becoming more affordable and are beginning to approach the kind of functionality that was once only seen in sci-fi movies.

ActivMedia has designed and manufactured a number of robots, but the one that's most similar to R2D2 is the PeopleBot. Depending on configuration, a PeopleBot can range from 42 inches to around 55 inches tall and can run indoors on flat floors and traverse low sills and household power cords. With upper and lower sensing, a PeopleBot can navigate autonomously and avoid most obstacles. (I note with some amusement that this is a capability that my grandmother currently lacks.)

DESPITE THE FACT THAT MANY PEOPLE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE A CUTE, LITTLE ROBOT AROUND THE HOUSE...ROBOTS HAVE REMAINED CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT IN REAL LIFE.

A PeopleBot can behave like a stuck-up celebrity—moving away whenever unfamiliar people approach. If programmed to be less finicky, a PeopleBot can act as a waiter, wandering around with a tray of hors d'oeuvres. A PeopleBot even has a tabletop gripper, and uses its onboard camera to "see" objects as it picks them up. The machine also obeys voice commands and is capable of speaking real words (unlike R2D2's squeaks) and bantering with humans. PeopleBots can even be trained to follow distinctive colors, so they can parade along behind each other or follow a specially dressed human leader.

Of course, the price for the PeopleBot might seem a little steep—configurations start at around $6,000—but that's about what a PC cost back when they first became commercially available.

Dietsch feels that it's important to differentiate between real robots like the PeopleBot from fake robots like those featured on Comedy Central's *BattleBots*, where radio-controlled "robots" attempt to smash each other into smithereens. "Those are only fancy RC cars," she sniffs, pointing out that real robots would be able to "think" for themselves and wouldn't need a human telling them where and when to move.

In Dietsch's view, a much better display of robot technology is the annual World Robotic Soccer Championships, an event where ActivMedia's products have frequently been winners. While the action is clearly less dramatic than in *BattleBots*, the robots are now successfully managing to kick the ball and pass it to one another. "That's a big improvement from the first tournament, where most of the robots, when the game began, just sat there and twitched," she says.

Anyway, it's clear that affordable robots like R2D2 are just around the corner. While it's likely that they'll be utilized first in businesses—as security guards and the like—it's only a matter of time before they'll become more common inside people's homes. In fact, they're likely to become status symbols, much along the lines of a fancy car or a projection TV. This raises the interesting prospect that I might, someday, be able to pick up women by asking them if they'd like to come over to my place to see my new robot.

Wouldn't my programmer friend have been envious? **iB**

ActivMedia Robotics' Jeanne Dietsch grabs a pepper from one of the company's creations—the PeopleBot, which can navigate autonomously.

Geoffrey James (*www.geoffreyjames.com*) is the author of numerous books as well as the co-host of *Funny Business*, heard Saturdays 10 to midnight on WRKO, AM 680.

PERTA A. DANIELS

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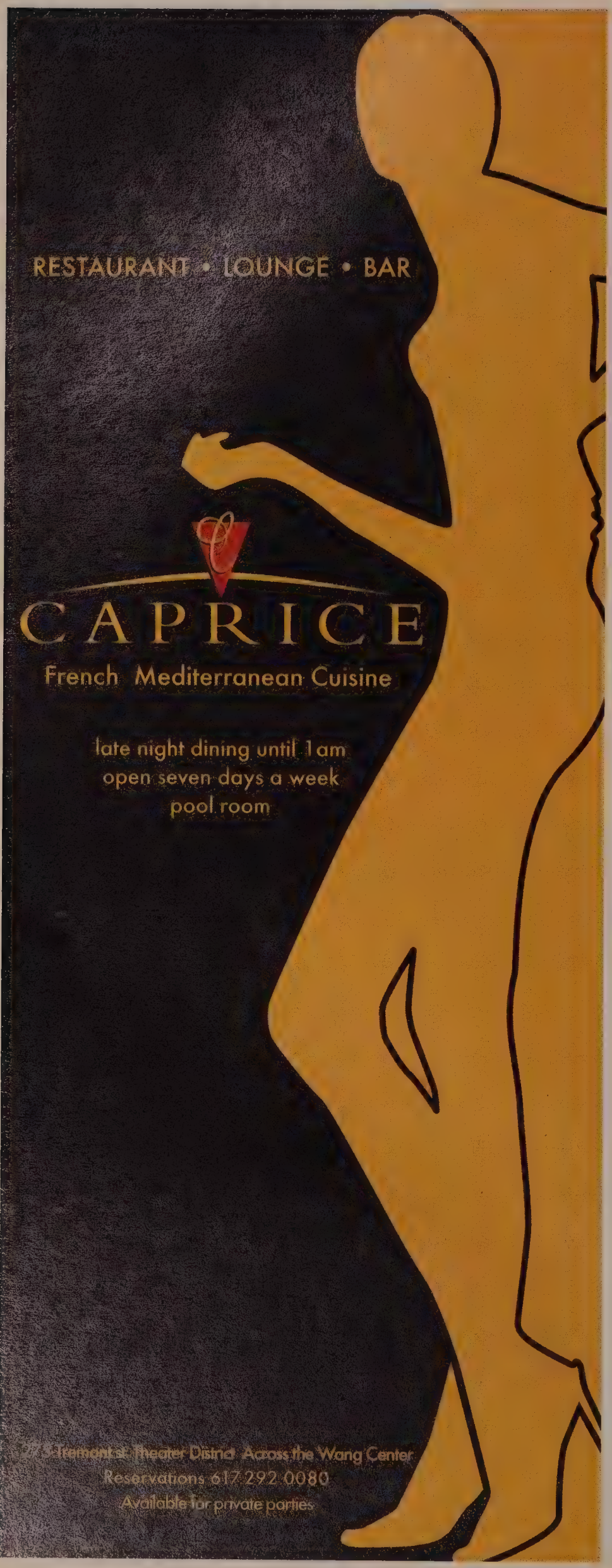

Ezra BY EZRA DYER

Flunkoccino

I didn't make the grade for Coffee College 2000

Every so often, we esteemed members of the press get offers to go on trips. We get these offers because someone is hoping that we'll write up the event in question. These invitations usually say something along these lines: "The National Council on Toenail Fungus Prevention invites you to its annual conference in Des Moines, Iowa. For three days, the NCTFP will hold seminars and workshops on toenail fungus prevention, treatment and awareness. Please join us." And I think: "I'd rather go pee on an electric fence, thank you," before chucking the invitation into the trash.

But recently I got an invite that actually sounded—dare I say it?—fun. It was from Starbucks, asking me if I'd like to attend Coffee College 2000, wherein participants would spend two days in Seattle roaming around learning about coffee. My colleague, associate editor Julie Short, also received an invitation, and we both accepted.

IF YOU THINK THAT'S THE END OF THE ADVICE YOU'LL GET ON ARABIAN MOCHA SANANI, YOU'RE AS WRONG AS FOLGER'S CRYSTALS.

But then, a few days later, the Starbucks lady called back. I'll paraphrase what she said, to eliminate a lot of awkward pauses: "Starbucks has decided that they only have money to send either you or Julie to Seattle. And since she writes about food and you write about farting in your office—well, let's just say you're not going to be snapping photos of the Space Needle any time soon." Ahh, I see. No humor columnists are needed at Coffee College 2000. Well, I was going to write a column about the event when I got back, but just to show that I'm nice and I don't hold a grudge, I'm going to write a whole column about Starbucks anyway.

Because I was denied admission to Coffee College, (Were my SATs not high enough? Did I fall short on extracurricular activities or community involvement? The questions haunt me.) I had to go to the Starbucks Web site to get my coffee learnin'. The first thing any coffee lover should do is look at the Starbucks Annual Report. Did you know that Starbucks had $1.68 billion in net revenues last year? It's true. And I'm proud to say that whatever the bottom line is for 2000, that number will not be diminished by an extraneous student at Coffee College.

Beyond the financial statistics, though, you'll find loads of fascinating coffee information on this site. For instance, say you've got a hankering for a cup of Arabian Mocha Sanani, just like mom used to make. So you go to your favorite purveyor of fine coffee products, but the unthinkable has happened: they've just sold their last cup of Arabian Mocha Sanani. Don't worry, according to the Starbucks Web site, in this event you should "proceed immediately to the nearest Dunkin' Donuts and order a 'large coffee,' you pretentious prick." No, it doesn't actually say that. It says, "Ethiopia Harrar is a great substitute when available. Otherwise, try Arabian Mocha Java."

If you think that's the end of the advice you'll get on Arabian Mocha Sanani, you're as wrong as Folgers Crystals. I'm afraid I'm going to have to ask readers with cardiac problems to put down the magazine now, because I'm about to quote an excerpt from the Starbucks Web site that is just plain...well, you'll see. Ahem: "Just for fun, try Arabian Mocha Sanani next to House Blend." Wooo! That's a little too crrr-aaazy for me, thanks! In fact, I think I saw an ad on *E!* the other night for a video titled *Totally Unauthorized Girls of Spring Break Drinking Arabian Mocha Sanani Next to House Blend.*

But the excitement doesn't end with the coffee itself. In the company overview, I was amazed to learn that Starbucks opened its second roasting plant in Kent, Wash., in 1993. My roommate, Scott, is from Seattle, and he says that Kent is, "full of fat, hairy Seahawks fans who probably roast the coffee in their tobacco drool." Scott, that's not a very nice thing to say!

I wish I had more space, because I want everyone to know that coffee is so much more than a brown drink that wakes you up. I'd also love to talk about Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz's scintillating book, *Pour Your Heart Into It: How Starbucks Built a Company One Cup at a Time.* And I wish I could...er, what was I talking about again?

I hope Starbucks provides its students with plenty of coffee. I have a feeling they'll need it. **iB**

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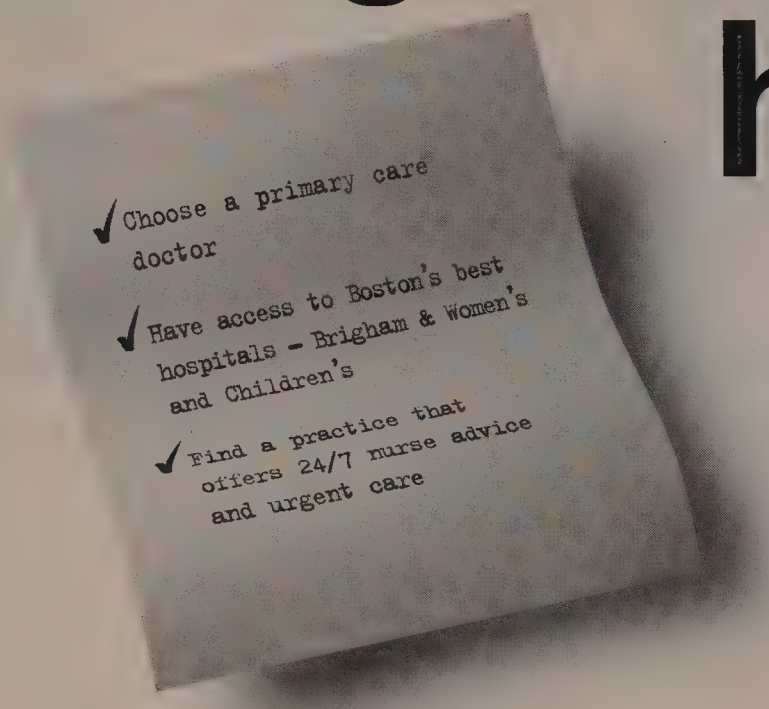

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Proper Bostonians

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

The opening-night party for ***Dead End*** was held Sept. 13, at Studio 210 at Boston University Theatre on Huntington Avenue. Huntington Theatre company celebrated the success of *Dead End*, which is directed by acclaimed director **Nicholas Martin**, the theatre's new artistic director. More than 200 theatergoers, actors and directors enjoyed a pre-performance buffet dinner and cocktail reception. Guests included film actor **Ethan Hawke**, **Michael Ritchie**, producer of the Williamstown Theater Festival, and his wife, actress **Kate Burton**. *Dead End*, a gritty American drama written by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright **Sidney Kingsley** in 1935, runs through Oct. 15.

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1. **Justin Waldman** (l), assistant to the artistic director at the Huntington Theatre Company and **Daniel Goldstein**, former assistant director for *Fully Committed*.
2. **Nick Hurd** (l), managing director at Russell Reynolds & Associates, and **Bill Ramseyer**, chairman of Heitman Financial.
3. **Laura Jacoby**, executive assistant at Bishoff Solomon, and her husband, *Boston Globe* columnist **Jeff Jacoby**.
4. Actor **Ethan Hawke** (l) and **Jack O'Brien**, artistic director of the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego.
5. **Kellie Bradshaw** (l) and **Dina Croce**, special-events manager and communications manager, respectively, for the Huntington Theatre Company.
6. **Nicholas Martin** (l), artistic director of the Huntington Theatre Company, and **Matt Auguste**, assistant director for *Dead End*.

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The third-annual **Emerald Necklace Ball** was held Sept. 15 in the Back Bay Fens. About 450 partygoers attended the black-tie gala, hosted by honorary chairs Mayor **Tom Menino** and his wife, **Angela**. Guests enjoyed cocktails in the Rose Garden, followed by dinner and dancing underneath a big, white tent. The evening was sponsored by State Street Bank. A 2.5-karat emerald ring (with 1 karat of diamonds) was donated by DePrisco Jewelers and was auctioned off to raise funds for the city's parks.

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7. **Scott Roe**, landscape architect for the Boston Parks Department, and **Susan Countryman**, associate editor at Cnet.news.com.
8. **Larry DiCara** (l), attorney at Nixon Peabody LLP, **Bill Nigreen**, vice president of quality management at Fidelity, and **Kathy McDermott**, teacher at Mass Art.
9. Couple on left: **Kathy Rauch** and husband **Carl**, who is CEO of BioPure, **Lars Haegg**, partner at Investcorp, and his wife, **Cristina Fernandez-Haegg**, president of Schooner Capital.
10. **Robert DeGregorio**, executive vice president of Cambridge Trust Company, and his wife, **Barbara**.
11. **Jacqui** and **Wayne Budd**, executive vice president and general counsel, respectively, at John Hancock.
12. **Harry Collings**, executive director of the BRA and **Christine Dunn**, CEO of Dunn Associates.
13. **Peter Mehegan** and **Mary Richardson**, both co-hosts of WCVB-TV's *Chronicle*.

13

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FALL/WINTER 2000 AUCTIONS

OCTOBER 2000

ENGLISH & CONTINENTAL FURNITURE & DECORATIONS
October 7, 11 a.m. - Boston

DISCOVERY
October 12, 7 p.m. - Bolton
October 13, 10 a.m. - Bolton

BOOKS & MANUSCRIPTS
October 14, 10 a.m. - Boston

20TH CENTURY FURNITURE & DECORATIVE ARTS
October 21, 11 a.m. - Boston

AMERICAN FURNITURE & DECORATIVE ARTS
featuring the Estate of Malcolm S. Burroughs
October 28, 2 p.m. - Bolton
October 29, 11 a.m. - Bolton

ASIAN WORKS OF ART
October 28, 11 a.m. - Boston

NOVEMBER 2000

FINE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
November 5, 12 noon - Boston

NOVEMBER *continued*

AMERICAN & EUROPEAN PAINTINGS
November 10, 7 p.m. - Boston

DISCOVERY
November 16, 7 p.m. - Bolton
November 17, 10 a.m. - Bolton

DECEMBER 2000

ORIENTAL RUGS & CARPETS
December 2, 12 noon - Boston

FINE CERAMICS
December 9, 11 a.m. - Boston

TOYS & DOLLS
December 9, 10 a.m. - Bolton

FINE JEWELRY
December 12, 12 noon - Boston

DISCOVERY
December 14, 7 p.m. - Bolton
December 15, 10 a.m. - Bolton

JANUARY 2001

AMERICAN INDIAN & ETHNOGRAPHIC ART
January 6, 10 a.m. - Bolton

DISCOVERY
January 11, 7 p.m. - Bolton
January 12, 10 a.m. - Bolton

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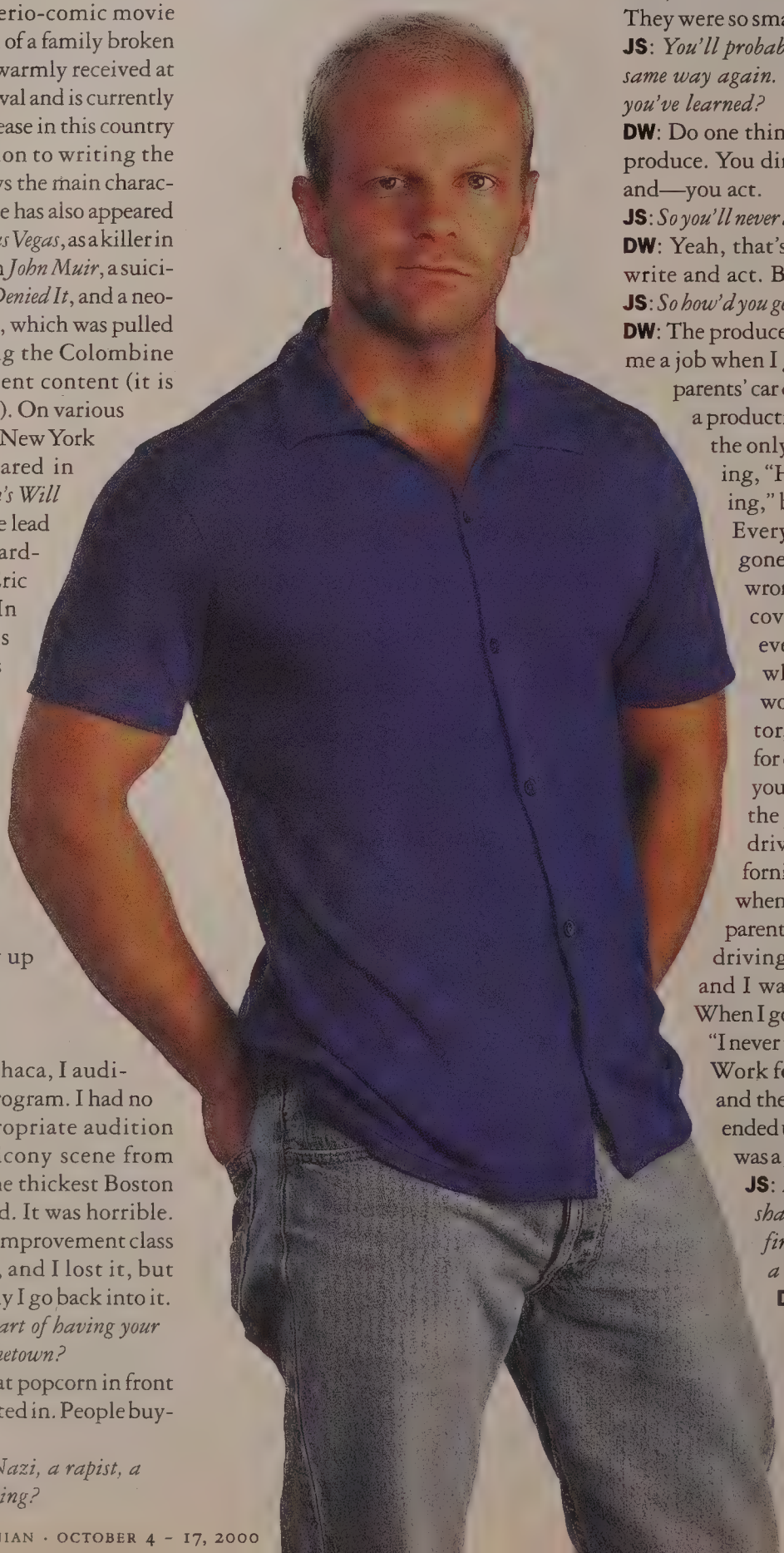
Soroff/On

Davidlee Willson

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Actor, screenwriter and filmmaker Davidlee Willson, 30, was born and raised in Saugus and attended Saugus High. After graduating in 1992 from Ithaca College he began working in film, eventually settling in Los Angeles, where writing screenplays was the only entertainment he could afford. One script, based loosely upon his own family, was made into *Autumn Heart*, a serio-comic movie about the reconciliation of a family broken up by divorce that was warmly received at the Sundance Film Festival and is currently enjoying a theatrical release in this country and in Japan. In addition to writing the screenplay, Willson plays the main character, Daniel. On screen, he has also appeared as the rapist in *Leaving Las Vegas*, as a killer in *Faerie Tales*, a con-man in *John Muir*, a suicidal gay man in *Memory Denied It*, and a neo-Nazi skinhead in *Pariah*, which was pulled from theaters following the Colombine tragedy due to its violent content (it is scheduled for re-release). On various stages in Ithaca, Boston, New York and L.A., he has appeared in *Araby*, *The Dead*, *Heaven's Will* and, most recently, as the lead in an Elliot Norton award-winning production of Eric Bogosian's *subUrbia*. In 1997 he returned to this area to be closer to his family. He lives in the South End with his dog, Klondike.



Jonathan Soroff: *So you're from Saugus—as in, Home of the Hilltop Steakhouse?*

Davidlee Willson: (Laughs.) Yeah, I grew up in the parking lot.

JS: *What happened to your accent?*

DW: When I went to Ithaca, I auditioned for the theater program. I had no idea what was an appropriate audition piece, so I did the balcony scene from *Romeo and Juliet* with the thickest Boston accent you've ever heard. It was horrible. They put me in speech-improvement class for the next four years, and I lost it, but when I'm with my family I go back into it.

JS: *What's the weirdest part of having your film screening in your hometown?*

DW: Watching people eat popcorn in front of a movie I wrote and acted in. People buying refreshments.

JS: *You've played a neo-Nazi, a rapist, a murderer...is that typecasting?*

DW: For a while it was. The guy who did *Pariah* wrote the part with me in mind, after seeing *Leaving Las Vegas*, and he named the character Davidlee. I was so artsy, I said, "Sure, I'll go along with that." Then I saw the movie and I was like, "What was I thinking? Out of all the characters I could've done that for..."

JS: *Tyne Daly and Ally Sheedy are in Autumn Heart. How'd that happen?*

DW: Tyne liked the script right away, and with Ally, it was a big open call. I saw the list, and I saw her name on it—the one recognizable name out of 200. I thought, "No way." Like every shallow schmuck, I was thinking *Short Circuit* and *Maid to Order*. And to Steven and Susan's [the director and casting director's] credit, they said, "We have to cast her." Thank God. They were so smart.

JS: *You'll probably never do anything the same way again. What's the biggest lesson you've learned?*

DW: Do one thing at a time. You produce. You direct. You write. Or—not and—you act.

JS: *So you'll never act and write again?*

DW: Yeah, that's not true. Maybe I'll write and act. But not the other stuff.

JS: *So how'd you get your start?*

DW: The producer of *Boxing Helena* offered me a job when I graduated. So I drove my parents' car down to Atlanta, and I was a production assistant. I think I was the only person on the set thinking, "Hey, gang, this isn't working," but I kept my mouth shut. Everything that could have gone wrong on that film went wrong. So they'd take a P.A. to cover in different positions, even though we had no idea what we were doing. I worked as an assistant director, locations, projectionist for dailies, assistant producer, you name it. Then, at the end, the producer said, "Will you drive this truck back to California for me? I'll fly you home when you're done." So I told my parents that the makeup lady was driving their car back to Boston and I was going to Los Angeles. When I got there, the producer said, "I never told you I'd send you back. Work for me, earn some money, and then I'll send you back." So I ended up doing that for a while. It was a great opportunity.

JS: *Even though you were shanghaied into it? OK—finish this sentence: Making a movie is like....*

DW:...planning a really big party. There are all these different needs you have to anticipate.

JS: *So what's next?*

DW: I worked on a TV pilot with Aaron Spelling and NBC, based on *Autumn Heart*, and NBC asked me to work on something else. I also have a new film, called *A Pretty Good Year*. I write somewhat dark scripts, and I went to a meeting with Disney. I said, "I'm not sure I have anything that's really up your alley, but I do have one script about a nerdy boy in junior high who joins a chorus of all girls." They laughed hysterically and said, "That's great!" I didn't tell them that it was basically true. When I was in 7th grade, I joined a chorus of 200 girls. I was the only boy. And in Saugus, you didn't do that. Boys took shop. Girls took home ec and chorus. I think it was the bravest thing I ever did.

JS: *So you were a big geek?*

DW: I was the kid who had his own cafeteria table. I had really thick Coke-bottle glasses, like I should've been institutionalized. I had big hair, and I was the smallest, shortest, skinniest kid in my class—the biggest loser you could ever imagine.

JS: *And now look at you. So I heard the* Advocate *outed you?*

DW: (Laughs.) Yeah. It was very bizarre. I always intended to come out, but I wanted to do it the right way. The fact that I'm gay doesn't have anything to do with *Autumn Heart*. Anyway, *Pariah* is really controversial. The testosterone and mysogyny levels are very high. The producers started taking heat, so they set up an interview with the *Advocate* saying, "Our lead actor is gay!" Except that whoever talked to the reporter wasn't me. I wasn't upset that they outted me, because I'm not ashamed of anything about myself, but they made me sound like a moron.

JS: *So who's closeted in Hollywood?*

DW: I honestly don't know. There are rumors about everybody—Tom Cruise, Keanu Reeves, Jody Foster, John Travolta, Rosie O'Donnell—and some of 'em are probably true. But I don't want somebody coming out of the closet if they're gonna do it half-assed. I have no problem with an actor keeping his mouth shut and not talking about it.

JS: *You also got beaten up during the filming of* Pariah?

DW: Yeah, I had my cheek broken. I was walking down Hollywood Boulevard dressed as a skinhead. The director wanted real reactions from people on the street, so a bunch of people with chains stopped me, and I was saying, "These tattoos are fake! It's a movie! This is Hollywood!" But they kicked the crap outta me.

JS: *Let me get this straight: You were attacked not because you're a gay actor but because they thought you were a gay-bashing skinhead? What are the odds?*

DW: I know. It's twisted. In another scene, a drag queen was supposed to get stabbed, and they didn't have a prop knife. The knife just stuck in his head. It was one nightmare after another.

JS: *As someone who's been burned by the press, is there anything else you'd like to say?*

DW: Well, maybe you guys should check your facts. iB

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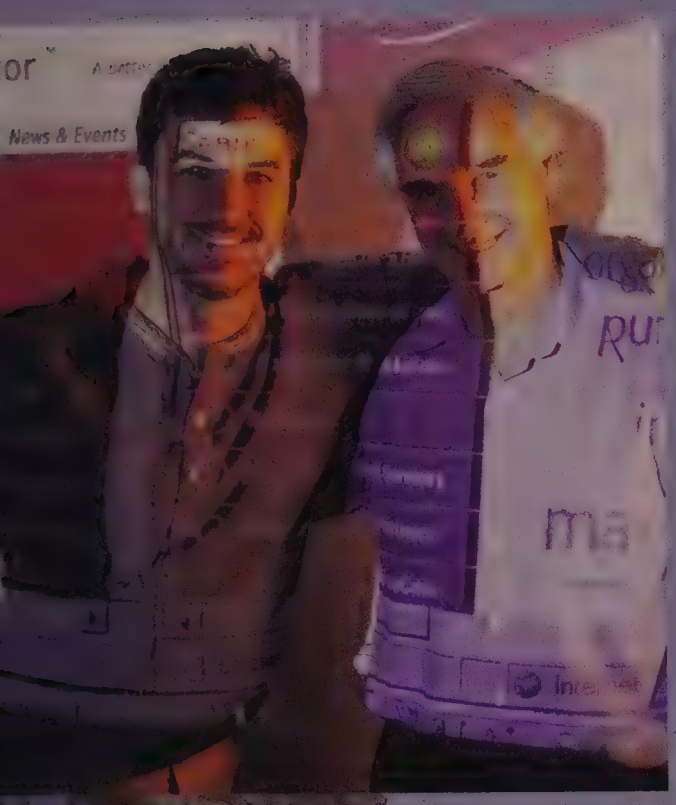
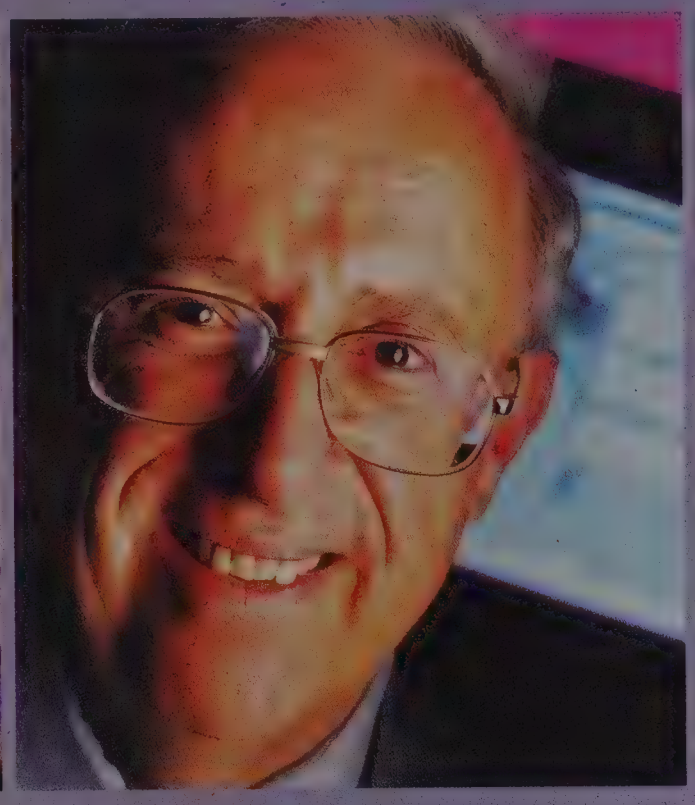
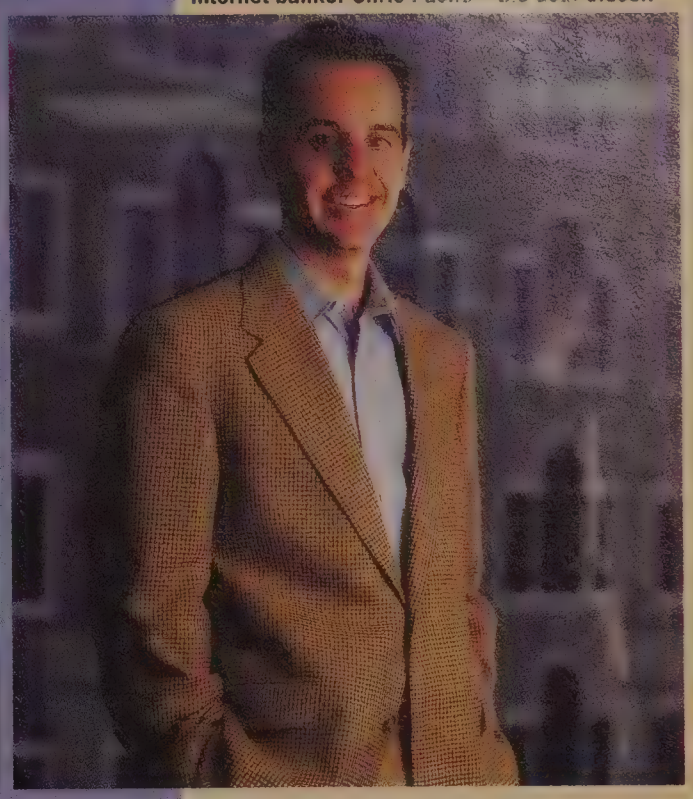
High-tech Boston moves so quickly, it's dizzying. In the last year, we've witnessed technological breakthroughs, staggering IPOs and dazzling creativity—not to mention a sobering dot-com shakeout. Don't blink, hang on. Or the city's cyber cowboys will leave you in the dust.

f a s t

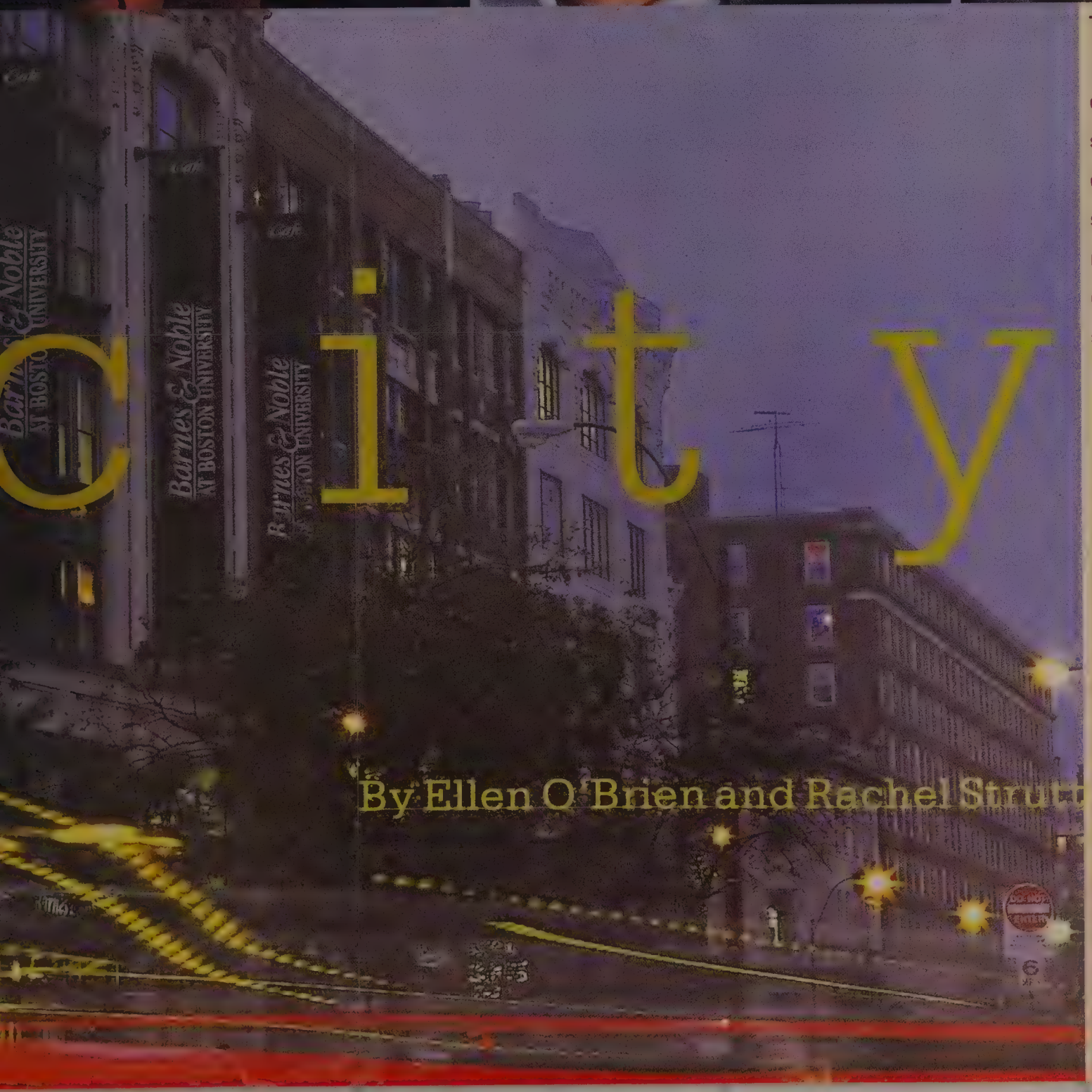
Photograph by Jürgen Hasn







At Cambridge Incubator, father-and-son team Richard and Tim Rowe are fostering start-ups; the legendary visionary and author, MIT's Michael Dertouzos; and Morgan Stanley Boston Internet banker Chris Pasko—the deal closer.



City

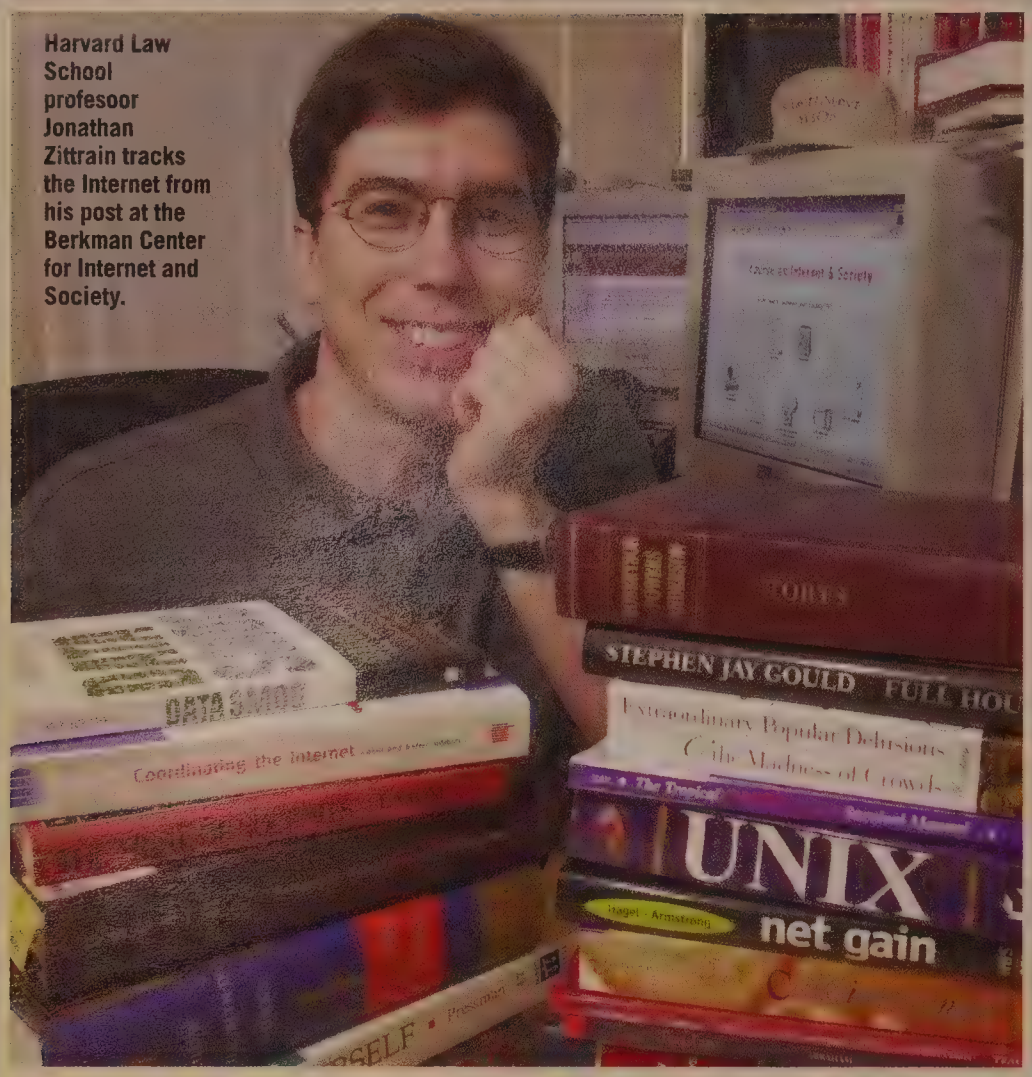
By Ellen O'Brien and Rachel Strutt

THIS WAS THE YEAR THE INTERNET GREW UP.

In less than 10 months, the industry was corrected, calmed and then sent to business school. Now it's coming of age in Boston and elsewhere around the globe. In Massachusetts, the year 2000 will be remembered mostly for mergers and acquisitions—for a deal-or-die climate that meant the birth of several Internet giants—and the death of dot-coms that just never did click.

If you're in the Internet business these days, your lawyer, your venture capitalist and your banker are as crucial as your technology team, and your business plan had better include a promising bottom line. The e-commerce bloodletting that followed a Nasdaq nosedive in the spring revealed faulty business models. MotherNature.com and Furniture.com, so promising last year, have been reeling for months, and ToyS-mart.com went spinning into oblivion.

There were local competitors that did better than just survive, though. Such URLs as Salary.com, edu.com and SmarterKids.com are proving that a good idea, accompanied by a smart business plan, can prevail, even in a not.com climate. >>>



Harvard Law School profesoor Jonathan Zittrain tracks the Internet from his post at the Berkman Center for Internet and Society.

hall of famers

Local Net players keep us in the big leagues.

This Hall-of-Fame is filled with men and women who define the local Internet scene. Winners all, they are among the best reasons Massachusetts is on the Internet map.

Michael Dertouzos

Director of MIT Media Lab for Computer Science, Cambridge.
For consistency's sake, we open once again with Dertouzos. The King of the world, or at least the World-Wide Web.

Bob Metcalfe

Ethernet inventor, 3Com Corp founder and current director and V.P. at IDG, publishing giant. Metcalfe continues to write an internationally syndicated column for InfoWorld and will always be recalled as the man who invented the way computers share information over short distances.

Kathy Biro

Founder and Chief Executive of Strategic Interactive Group (SIG), one of the largest digital companies in the nation. Biro, 46, developed "Digital Marketing" and is considered Boston's most powerful woman on the Web front.

Tim Berners-Lee

Berners-Lee invented a little something called Hypertext (HTML). He's the founder and director of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), based at MIT, which sets technical standards for the Web.

George Colony

Founder, Chairman and CEO of Forrester Research, Inc. Cambridge. This year *The Boston Globe* ranked Forrester 48th on a list of 100 best-performing companies and 11th on their list of 50 fastest groing compaines.Since 1983, Forrester has been analyzing, predicting and forecasting the complex Internet world.

George Conrades

Chairman and CEO of Akamai, also a member of the Akamai Board of Directors of Polaris Venture Partners. Conrades made that rare leap from VC to CEO and led Akamai to its IPO this year. Akamai was all the buz, and so was Conrades.

Jonathan Zittrain

Faculty Co-Director and Assistant Professor of Law at the Berkman Center for the Internet & Society at Harvard Law School. At 30, Zittrain has three times testified before Congress on controversial issues such as content control and management of the Internet address system.

Richard Egan & Michael Ruettgers

EMC's chairman Richard Egan founded The Enterprise Storage Company more than 20 years ago and serves as its director . In 1988, EMC (a corporation name for Egan and departed co-founder Roger Marino) took EMC public. And now Egan and CEO Michael Ruettgers run the company that is a major contributor the market explosion of storage revenues. EMC has pioneered more high-tech advances in the storage industry than any other independent company.

Meanwhile, Boston area technology businesses—those focused on building the Web, its infrastructure and networks—have flourished. The largest local public offerings were for companies like StorageNetworks, Sycamore Systems, Akamai and Avici—each with a product decidedly less sexy to most of us than our favorite Web sites. Their businesses are about data storage, technology that can enhance light to speed up connections and innovations in optical access. StorageNetworks chairman and CEO **Peter Bell**, whose June IPO outperformed any other in New England this year (Wall Street says it's worth more than $9 billion), shows his capacity for high-tech geekdom when he excitedly talks about the hotbed of storage network talent in New England and the prospects for building a global client base. "With all this dot.com shakeout, I think New England is very well positioned because most of the companies are in the infrastructure space," says Bell. "Next year we will be recognized as the region that made the right investments."

In a frenzy for funding, those beloved incubators—organizations which foster high-tech and dot-com start-ups—were referred to by some insiders instead as "incinerators." The rap: Some incubators just can't turn new technology into profits the way a good venture capitalist can. Venture capitalists such as **John Flint** (Polaris Ventures), **Dan Nova** (Highland Capital Ventures) and **Ted Dintersmith** (Charles River Ventures partner and Stanford University Ph.D in engineering) have upped the level of play in a region now renowned for its healthy flow of VC dollars. Still, incubators in the business of finding funding along with space for start-ups are doing great business. At **Tim Rowe** and **Andy Olmsted**'s Cambridge incubator, for example, eight companies came on board this year, two of which—PeopleStreet.com and Vertias Medicine—have raised cash outside the incubator's seed dollars. For the major high-tech players at law firms and investment banks, the past year has lent impressive resume builders.

Hale & Dorr senior partner **John Chory** chairs the high-tech venture group at the leading law firm for East Coast IPOs. His clients include Akamai Technologies (a $300 million IPO in June) and Quantum Bridge Communications Inc., which in April raised about $100 million in VC dollars. Soon the firm's high-tech groupwill relocate—to Waltham, of course, on the high-tech cooridor of Rte. 128. It was a year that has been all about marriages and adoptions, or mergers and acquistions. **Christopher Pasko** is a Morgan Stanley Dean Whitter banker with dozens of Internet IPOs in his portfolio. He is, as they say, a great closer. "I don't think of myself as a dot-com banker. My focus is to bank the leading Internet infrastructure companies," says Pasko, who opened MSDW's first high-tech division in New York in 1993. Back then, the dollar amount attached to Internet acquisitions was about $5 billion. Now it's estimated at somewhere between $300 to $400 billion.

"We're running real businesses now," says Lycos VP **Ronald Sege**, reflecting on the entire industry. "It is about making sure we are making money, growing revenue with smart investments." Sege's favorite projects include Lycos' Digital Rights Management technology (the Internet angle to intellectual property rights) and the way Lycos let loose Tony Braxton's hit single for a 30-day period in its world-wide premiere.

"On a technology front, we launched Lycos television and it's growing like wildfire," says Sege. "Here in New England, it's still about the technology."

At Harvard University's Berkman Center for Internet and Society, co-director **Johathan Zittrain** spends his days trying to track the future of the Internet before it races away. "We are seeing the first wave of a much more controlled vision of the Internet," says Zittrain, talking about the hot-button issue of content control—who will be deciding what you can see and how much you will pay for it. "Napster was the shift that marked the year for me," he says. Zittrain joined **Michael Dertouzos**, director of MIT's Lab for Computer Science, at the World Economic Conference this year in Davos, Switzerland. Dertouzos, a fiery, brainy guy who actually speaks a version of the Internet language that we can all understand, is always ahead of the game (he's the one who predicted the arrival of the PC—back in 1976).

To reverse the pecking order of man catering to the whims of a machine, Dertouzos envisions machines that understand us when we speak. "I am talking about machines that are going to increase our human productivity—and are fun," he says. A self-described revolutionist, the type of change Dertouzos envisions is hard for many others to swallow. He is, he says, as much a humanist as a technologist.

For Dertouzos, the answers are in companies specializing in speech technology. Speechworks, an MIT lab spin-off that went public last month, is a company to watch. "In the next two or three years," Dertouzos says, "there will be an explosion of speech systems for controlling your TV sets, your computer, your electricity, all those goodies around you."

www.RIP

Of course, there are so many start-ups these days, so much pioneering technology in our midst, it's hard to keep track of it all. From a high-tech perspective, we live in a fast city. But there's one Web trend that no could have missed over the past year. Call it "not.com."

Perhaps the most infamous e-tailing casualty of 2000 was Waltham-based ToySmart. This online toy store bravely battled fierce competition for months in a bloated online niche market. But when lead investor Disney pulled out in the spring (along with many other big-time investors growing wary of the e-tailing industry following the stock market slide), ToySmart was forced to close up shop in

JOHN CHASE AT THE HARVARD NEWS OFFICE

May. In a desperate and foolish attempt to make some last-minute cash post-bankruptcy, ToySmart tried to auction off its customer database. Not surprisingly, it was snagged by the Federal Trade Commission, which filed a major lawsuit.

Beyond e-tailing demises like Toy Smart, there are many more companies that are surviving—but by the skin of their teeth. For many, it's simply a faulty business model; others have run into problems with security breaches, botched deliveries and problematic return policies. Framingham-based Furniture.com is fighting to survive after learning that shipping a sofa from Massachusetts all the way to San Antonio is no easy business. Concord-based MotherNature.com, an e-tailer of vitamins and once a prime-time network TV advertiser, laid off 25 employees in September. The list goes on and on. According to pundit **Mary Modahl** of Forrester Research, half of the e-tail sites in business today will be belly-up by 2001.

So, the sobering shakeout has just begun. Who's going to make it? It's like watching the early episodes of *Survivor*: It's still hard to tell.

Brick-and-mortar retailers that are simply extending sales to the Web are ahead of pure e-tailers from the get-go with their established brand and physical assets. But if you are starting out online, "you've really got to be in one of the top three positions or brands[in any one industry]," says **Steve Lewis**, the new CEO of Double Decker, a full-service digital media firm. "The faster you're out there, the higher your chance of success."

Consider the online book retailers, for example: With Amazon, Borders and Barnes & Noble already well established online, forget about carving out any new turf.

The team at SmarterKids, a Needham-based online seller of educational toys ranked No. 2 in Forrester's power rankings for e-tailers (Amazon is No. 1), is determined to survive. By 2002, it hopes to break even. Chief executive **David Blohm** attributes the company's survival so far to prudent spending and a personalized marketing approach.

Instead of expensive TV advertising, Blohm entices potential cyber shoppers through targeted direct e-mailing. "The beauty of direct e-mail," says Blohm, "is that the response is so quick. Marketing on the Web is like direct marketing on steroids."

The upside of this somewhat gloomy e-tale? Despite the dot-com drop-outs, analysts at Forrester still predict $10 billion in Internet sales during the the last five weeks of the year—doubling last year's sales in the same period.

That's Arnold Communications creative team Bill Whelan (left), Tim Brunelle and director Alan Pafenback (holding VW ad).

GetConnected.com founders Tracy Lawrence (left) and Sasha Novakovich promise to break through the product hype by offering objective facts about new companies and technologies.

five fun prospects

Very hot—and so cool—companies that get us all excited.

So, what's hot? Which companies are industry insiders all abuzz about? According to the venerable Massachusetts Software Council President Joyce Plotkin, 600 new high-tech companies were added to the Dot.Commonwealth (her buzz phrase) this year. From switch routers to consumer services, THE IMPROPER chose five fun companies that really get us hot and bothered this year.

Getconnected.com

"Did you even know you had a choice?" asks the Getconnected Web site, which helps consumers comparison-shop "connectivity services." Tell them where you are, and they'll give you an unbiased summary of what the options are for cable, phone, Internet and wireless plans. And $15 million in venture capital. www.getconnected.com

PeopleStreet.com

By the time you read this, PeopleStreet.com, whose home is at Cambridge Incubator, should be announcing $5 million in outside funding. Theirs is a cool concept, for regular folks and corporations alike. Say you move from one job, or office, to another, or your favorite stock analyst does the same. PeopleStreet takes care of the updates in electronic address books. Fostered in Tim Rowe's Cambridge Incubator, this is a place due for more big updates. www.peoplestreet.com

Gold PocketInteractive

As GoldPocket's online trivia game show continues to attract hundreds of thousands of e-contestants vying for the weekly $1 million grand prize, we're sure to see a new era of online events—from voting to real-time auctions, predicts GoldPocket president Scott Newman. Founded in 1999, the Medford company lets everybody play at once. www.goldpocket.com

Bowstreet

Bowstreet, the leading provider of XML infrastructure for business-to-business Web marketplaces, was ranked as one of the top e-commerce start-ups in the country at the Enterprise Outlook Conference and has raised $90 million in VC funds since its founding in 1998. Locally Bowstreet has a New Hampshire and Lynnfield, Ma addresses. But CEO Bob Crowley has a global perspective. www.bowstreet.com

I-Group Hotbank

Since last november, this incubator has been making news as a new name for start-ups to get funding and space. Gorgeous space, for sure. The company renovated the former Oliver Ames mansion, once a resdience to the former Massachusetts governor. The building at Massachusetts and Commonwealth Avenue is now housing about 80, and. Managing Director Ashok Kalelkar is running a very successful show. www.i-group.com

Are You Experienced?

NASDAQ's spring slide not only affected dot-coms, it knocked Internet consulting companies off their feet as well. Investors have never rekindled their investing fervor. Zefer withdrew its initial IPO in April. As recently as September it postponed once again. Razorfish and Viant stock prices are the lowest they've been all year.

Of course there are some notable exceptions to the consulting implosion. Sapient and Digitas and, on a smaller scale, growing companies like Double Decker, are not only hanging tough, but making great strides. Sapient attributes its steadfastness to 10 years in the business, a roster of predominantly Global 1000 clients—and notably, only 16 percent of them dot-com clients.

E-tailers and Web consultants (especially the ones who are making it) increasingly stress one point: Whether it's sales or marketing, business-to-consumer or business-to-business, the Internet is about offering users an interactive, customized experience, providing resources and maximizing convenience.

Smarterkids.com offers teacher recommendations and an analysis that focuses on the characteristics of individual children: Says chief executive Blohm, "We see ourselves as an educational company, not just a toy retailer. Other companies are simply catalogs online, but we leverage the power of Internet and give parents a very personalized experience."

Double Decker's Lewis (a former Lotus senior executive) is infectiously enthusiastic when he talks about his newfound company and its experiential marketing tactics. "It's not about eggheads sitting behind computers anymore, it's about interaction," he says. "We're using not only a real breadth of technology, we're looking at marketing, cognitive design, and cultural and artistic diversity. We're trying to understand human nature."

This is where things start to get interesting. Case in point: Double Decker employs something they call "viral marketing," in which an idea is unleashed on the Web like an insidious virus. Users pick up on this idea—thinking they've come up with it themselves—and act upon it.

Take Double Decker's Dream Doll Designer Web site, for example, which was built for a client named IDolls.inc. This is a highly interactive site where girls can create a doll from infinite variations and make up wish lists of the dolls and doll accessories they want. "The idea," explains Lewis, "is to get children to bring their parents to the point of buying." There's no sales pitch made directly to the buyer, only the innocent request of a child. A clever tactic indeed, and one completely dependent on the Web.

But it's not just Web-based business that sees the Internet as a fertile marketing breeding ground. Arnold Communications, New England's largest advertising agency, is also getting in on the game.

"We don't treat interactive as some completely different media that only interactive people understand," says **Tim Brunelle**, associate creative director. "It's no longer about the 30-second spot."

In the case of the company's Volkswagen campaign for the Turbo Beetle, a 30-second spot was just the beginning. A simple, cheeky TV ad that aired last summer directed viewers to turbonium.com—a Web site that reveals the secret (and fictional) ingredient that gives the turbo Beetle extra zip: turbonium, of course. It was group creative director **Alan Pafenback** who dreamed up the turbonium concept. And it was Tim Brunelle and fellow associate creative director **Bill Whelan** who had only three weeks to develop the site before the ad broke nationally.

"Surprisingly very little blood was let," laughs Brunelle, who along with Whelan created a playful, user-friendly site using flash art and sleek design that has won a slew of awards. "Because of the Internet we're getting the chance to create an online drive-in movie theater for Volkswagen as well an an Internet radio station," says Brunelle The site, designed to build brand identity by fostering an online community of Beetle-loving hipsters, continues to evolve—as do all Internet creations.

With a decade of phenomenal expansion, and a year of growing pains behind them, the Internet community is poised for a glorious, fully integrated, automated world. In New England, the Internet infrastructure, the vessel that will carry us all to the next generation, is being advanced every day. Here, as everywhere, a lesson has been learned: The Internet isn't about big splashes; it's about knowing how to swim. iB

TRACY POWELL

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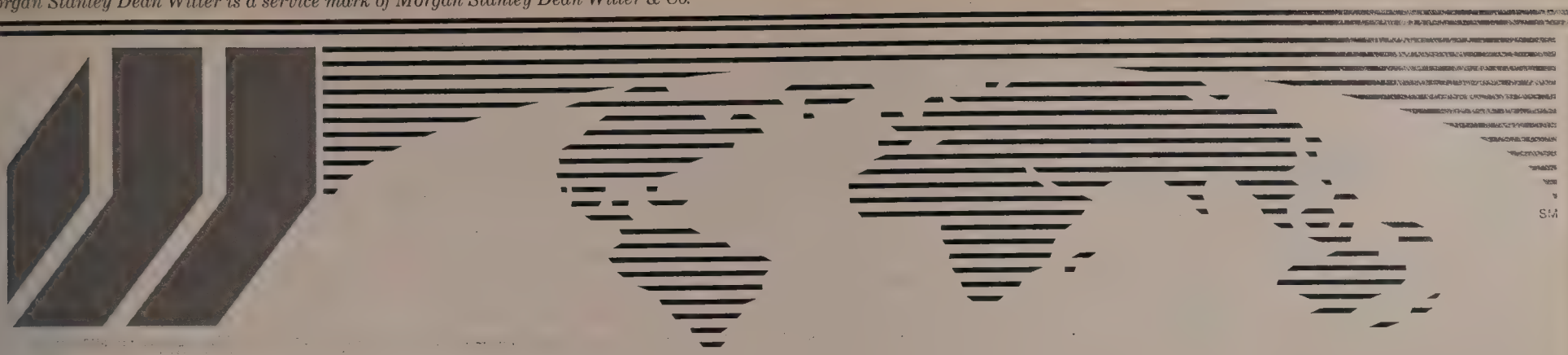

The Investment Banker of Choice for Leading Internet Companies Worldwide

$165,000,000,000 TIME WARNER has agreed to merge with America Online Pending	$7,100,000,000 Software.com has agreed to merge with Phone.com Pending	$6,500,000,000 Healtheon/WebMD has agreed to acquire Medical Manager Corporation & CareInsite, Inc. Pending	$3,972,000,000 infospace.com has agreed to acquire GO2NET Pending	$2,900,000,000 SYCAMORE NETWORKS has agreed to acquire Sirocco Systems Pending	$1,600,000,000 ZDNet has agreed to merge with CNET Pending	webMethods. $1,300,000,000 has agreed to acquire Active Software Pending $165,000,000 Initial Public Offering February 10, 2000	$1,000,000,000 TRANSPOINT has agreed to be acquired by CheckFree Holdings Pending
$930,000,000 Diamond Technology Partners has agreed to acquire Cluster Consulting Pending	$540,000,000 voyager.net has agreed to merge with CoreComm Limited Pending	$387,000,000 COVAD has agreed to acquire Laserlink.net Pending	DIGITAL INSIGHT $124,000,000 Common Stock July 31, 2000 $439,000,000 has acquired nFront, Inc. February 11, 2000	AVICI SYSTEMS $217,000,000 Initial Public Offering July 27, 2000	Mainspring $38,500,000 Initial Public Offering July 26, 2000	VIGNETTE $1,700,000,000 has acquired OnDisplay, Inc. July 6, 2000 $87,400,000 Initial Public Offering February 18, 1999	$2,500,000,000 Healtheon/WebMD has acquired Quintiles Transnational Envoy Unit June 30, 2000
Akamai $250,000,000 Convertible Subordinated Notes* June 14, 2000 $2,800,000,000 has acquired InterVU April 24, 2000	$21,000,000,000 VeriSign has acquired Network Solutions June 9, 2000	$3,200,000,000 has been acquired by E.piphany May 31, 2000	$250,000,000 Breakaway has acquired Eggrock Partners April 1, 2000	$1,860,000,000 has acquired TRADEX March 30, 2000	Net Markets $332,000,000 has acquired iMark.com March 24, 2000 $198,700,000 Initial Public Offering December 9, 1999	Diamond Technology Partners $262,400,000 Common Stock March 21, 2000	DIGITAS $223,000,000 Initial Public Offering March 16, 2000
drugstore.com $108,400,000 Common Stock March 15, 2000 $103,500,000 Initial Public Offering July 27, 1999	SYCAMORE NETWORKS $1,532,600,000 Common Stock March 14, 2000 $284,050,000 Initial Public Offering October 21, 1999	HomeGrocer.com $264,000,000 Initial Public Offering March 9, 2000	$8,000,000,000 USWeb/CKS has merged with Whittman-Hart March 1, 2000	avenue a $126,000,000 Initial Public Offering February 28, 2000	$300,000,000 Telstra has acquired OzEmail from MCI WorldCom February 14, 2000	Chemdex $340,000,000 has acquired Promedix.com February 11, 2000 $129,375,000 Initial Public Offering July 26, 1999	$115,000,000 Chemdex has acquired SpecialtyMD.com February 11, 2000
NETWORK SOLUTIONS $1,909,300,000 Common Stock February 7, 2000	scient $272,000,000 Common Stock January 30, 2000 $69,000,000 Initial Public Offering May 13, 1999	tmp.worldwide $618,500,000 Common Stock January 28, 2000	homestore.com $913,000,000 Common Stock January 26, 2000 $161,000,000 Initial Public Offering August 4, 1999	$400,000,000 has acquired Trading Dynamics, Inc. January 25, 2000	SilverStream $288,400,000 Common Stock January 25, 2000 $55,200,000 Initial Public Offering August 16,1999	N.D. Global OnLine Japan has been acquired by Exodus Communications December 22, 1999	$822,000,000 Excite@Home has acquired Bluemountain.com December 14, 1999
Excite@Home $500,000,000 Convertible Subordinated Notes* December 7, 1999	McAFEE.COM $75,000,000 Initial Public Offering December 1, 1999	$4,200,000,000 c|net CNET, NBC, XOOM, and SNAP! have formed NBCi November 30, 1999	$183,000,000 gettyimages has acquired The Image Bank November 24, 1999	$720,000,000 Transaction Network Services, Inc. has been acquired by PSINet, Inc. November 23, 1999	$430,700,000 ONSALE has merged with Egghead.com November 19, 1999	Expedia, Inc. $83,720,000 Initial Public Offering November 9, 1999	Akamai $234,000,000 Initial Public Offering October 28, 1999
Breakaway $48,300,000 Initial Public Offering October 5, 1999	$353,800,000 USWeb/CKS has acquired Mitchell Madison Group September 7, 1999	$2,300,000,000 AltaVista Compaq has sold an 83% stake of Alta Vista to CMGI August 19, 1999	AMEDA $132,250,000 Initial Public Offering June 22, 1999	$6,666,800,000 @Home Network has merged with Excite May 28, 1999	eBay $1,270,750,000 Common Stock April 12, 1999	priceline.com $160,000,000 Initial Public Offering March 29, 1999	$4,493,000,000 NETSCAPE has merged with America Online March 17, 1999

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Internet All Stars

OUR ANNUAL ROUNDUP OF LOCAL INTERNET PIONEERS, PUNDITS AND PLAYERS

By Ellen O'Brien and Rachel Strutt

>>>The Massachusetts Internet scene is blessed by a powerful force, legions of technology pioneers, world-renowned academics and analysts, scientists and CEOs. Internet successes occurred at an astonishing rate this year, much the way that new technology promises faster-than-the-speed-of-light delivery. Choosing a group of 10 local Internet players to represent the region was not an easy task. We received dozens of suggestions from those who have graced this space before. "Make room for the next wave of talent," we were told. And we did. Five of our Internet all-stars are new to our annual Internet issue. The remaining five are familiar to us and would have fit just as well in our Hall of Fame. This year, though, they have managed to outperform even themselves with stories that must be shared.

Surya Panditi

PRESIDENT/CEO AVICI SYSTEMS

Racing into the fast lane of telecommunications, Avici has a big product—literally. It's a switch router the size of a refrigerator. Avici's "switch" can accommodate 402.5-gigabit lines and Panditi says his product will someday be a terabit switch—a router that allows for 1 trillion bit-per-second transmission. Not interested in math? How about dollars? Avici Systems went public in late July and tripled on its first day of trading. Last month, Avici partnered with IBM so that the global technology giant can install its switch router product. Panditi heads a 340-person firm headquartered in Billerica and right now he's on top of the world.

Mary Modahl

VP OF MARKETING FORRESTER RESEARCH, CAMBRIDGE

In a year when e-commerce lost its way, Modahl published a guide to Internet success—*Now or Never: How Companies Must Change Today to Win the Battle for Internet Consumers*. The reviews could not have been better. The industry analyst who launched Forrester's new media and e-commerce efforts combined technology and marketing in a way Internet CEOs and the highly coveted average consumer could understand. Modahl's book was chock full of statistics and common sense, offering instructions for profiting in the e-conomy. Once *Now or Never* hit the shelves, it seemed everyone wanted a comment from Mary, so it's likely you have heard her sharing her wealth of knowledge on national TV this year. She was named one of the E.Biz 25, *Business Week*'s annual list of the most influential online stars. (Another Forrester colleague, Seema Williams, also has acquired a top-shelf reputation in e-tailing analysis this year.) For raw data alone, the book created a huge buzz, and Modahl became a name to bookmark this year.

Robert Davis

PRESIDENT, CEO AND CO-FOUNDER LYCOS, INC., WALTHAM

This month will mark the historical merging of Lycos Inc. and Terra Networks, a global Internet company that extends Lycos' international reach. The Lycos Network already reaches almost half of U.S. Web users. Now New England, specifically Waltham, will be home to the largest global Internet company. Just think, it was only five years ago that Davis was the first employee of Lycos. He led Lycos to the fastest IPO in NASDAQ history 10 months later and then secured a spot in the NASDAQ 100. Davis gets credit for transforming Lycos from an Internet search engine to one of the most powerful Internet hubs and media companies in the world. Davis is a Northeastern University and Babson College MBA graduate. In other Lycos news, Davis and crew this year launched a voice-recognition project that might allow you, for example, to see a telephone message from Mom scroll across your television screen while you're enjoying Olympic coverage. (Lycos, by the way, was the host for Olympic fans who wanted to chat with athletes.) This year, Davis and Lycos earned a gold medal in the all-around competition.

PANDITI: TRACY POWELL

Jeet Singh & Joe Chung

CEO AND CTO, ART TECHNOLOGY GROUP, CAMBRIDGE

This pair has been at the forefront of e-commerce since founding the Art Technology Group nearly 10 years ago. Could it be that long since we first met the brains behind ATG? It was only last year that Jeet and Joe took their company public, and we convinced Singh (admittedly THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN's favorite son) to have his face painted gold for a glittering magazine cover. ATG's key product is called Dynamo and companies like 3M, America Online, Microsoft and Eastman Kodak use this server-side Web application platform and targeting engine. Dynamo is about personalization and integration, and the product helped Jeet and Joe win this year's Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award. The pair placed 23 and 26, respectively, on the *Fortune Magazine* "Forty Richest Under 40" list last month. *Business Week*, sizing up the strategic design and development of Dynamo, called ATG one of the top 10 fastest growing companies. The two friends met when they were fraternity brothers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and still have the enthusiasm and earnestness of two young upstarts. Boston is darn lucky to have Singh and Chung in their town.

Jerry Greenberg & Stuart Moore

CO-CHAIRMEN AND CEOS SAPIENT, CAMBRIDGE

In an unusual but hugely successful arrangement, Jerry Greenberg and Stuart Moore share the roles of chairman of the board and CEO at Sapient, an Internet strategy consulting company with serious muscle—more than 2,500 employees and 16 offices worldwide including Munich and New Delhi. Since founding the company in 1991, this power duo has lead Sapient in rapid and consistent growth that hasn't gone unnoticed by Forrester Research, which considers the company to be the world's No. 1 e-commerce integrator. In August, the ever-expanding Sapient acquired Human Code, a broadband developer, in what appears to be a continuous mission to round out its end-to-end services. At the recent One Show Interactive Design awards, Sapient took gold and silver awards in the e-commerce category for its Adobe Systems and United Airlines projects. Perhaps most significant, Sapient joined the ranks of blue-chip stocks back in May when it became the first Internet services company to be listed on the Standard & Poor's 500 index. In a stormy environment when other Web integrators are flailing, Greenberg and Moore ensure that Sapient is not only buoyant, but brilliant in its forward thinking and holistic e-biz approach.

David S. Wetherell

CHAIRMAN AND CEO, CMGI INC.
MANAGING PARTNER, CMGI@VENTURES

Where to start? At 45, Wetherell appeared on our Top 40 list last year and was a natural choice this year. Wetherell is building an empire of 70 companies related to every aspect of the Net—content, commerce, broadcasting and infrastructure. CMGI is billed as the largest network of Internet companies on the planet. Wetherell is the former math teacher who took his textbook marketing company public in 1994. That year, he founded BookLink Technologies Inc., a software business that created an early version of the Internet browser. Wetherell, (whose Andover company is the chief investor in the previously mentioned Lycos) is known globally as a billionaire who brings an instinctive gift for Internet investing. Since its IPO, CMGI's stock has grown a jawdropping 26,000 percent. Then there's the stadium deal. New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft announced this summer that CMGI Inc. would pay $7.6 million annually for the naming rights to the team's new stadium. It will be called CMGI Field now, and Kraft swears it was Wetherell, his vision and drive, that sold him on the idea.

Daniel Smith & Gururaj Deshpande

PRESIDENT/CEO AND FOUNDER/CHAIRMAN SYCAMORE NETWORKS INC., CHELMSFORD

Known affectionately as Dan 'n Desh, these two guys opened one hot shop two years back. The Chelmsford-based company introduced the world's first intelligent optical networking system. Last month Sycamore Networks won a prestigious Comet Award for being pioneers in their field—optical networking technology that transports voice and data traffic over wavelengths of light. Last year, just after our Internet issue, Sycamore had a red-hot IPO. Shares of stock sold for a combined $14 billion. That made it the stock market's most successful Internet IPO ever. These days, the market capitalization of this young company hovers around $26 billion. Co-founder and chairman "Desh" was named Industry Player 2000 by the Massachusetts Telecommunications Council, and the company is on *Fortune Magazine*'s top ten 2000 picks. Whew. What a year.

Lisa DeSisto

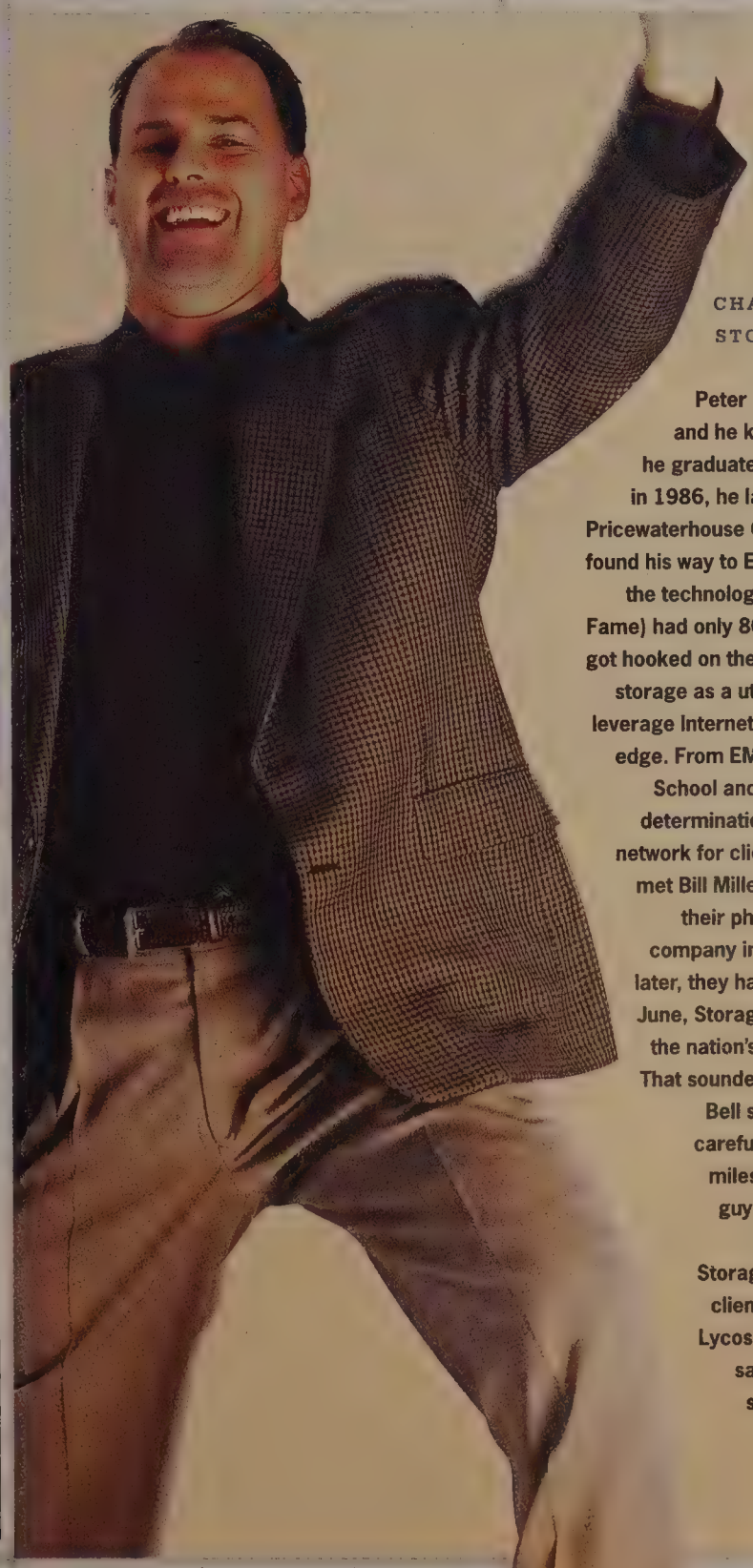
V.P. AND GENERAL MANAGER BOSTON.COM, BOSTON

After our last issue, DeSisto and Boston.com had a shining moment at the MIMC awards, when they beat out behemoth Lycos for the honor of best entertainment site. DeSisto siezed upon the MP3 craze last year, and this year 600 bands are connected to Boston.com. The site has many firsts in its short but impressive history. Boston.com was the first site connected to a newspaper, *The Boston Globe*, to break away and set up shop on its own. Now the site prides itself on round-the-clock news, offering updates on breaking news before your daily newspaper does. This year DeSisto headed up the debut of DigitalMass.com, a site devoted to the local high-tech community. With former Boston.commer Lincoln Millstein promoted to executive vice president of *New York Times* Digital, she is now running the show locally. A University of Massachusetts at Amherst graduate, DeSisto worked in marketing at *Boston Magazine* and the Boston *Phoenix* before getting in on the ground floor of Boston.com. Since then, the site has soared in popularity, with an average month in the year 2000 recording 45 million page views each month. All in all, this was a banner year for DeSisto.

Anthony Zona & Jeff Gwynne

FOUNDER/PRESIDENT/CEO AND FOUNDER/VP MARKETING, QUANTUM BRIDGE COMMUNICATIONS, ANDOVER

Quantum Bridge won Mass Telecom Council's Product of the Year. The company sells equipment to local service providers to gain access at the speed of light, optical networking that brings high-bandwith access to two-way business and residential networks. A few months ago, it made headlines when a client, not your typical investor, ponied up $50 million to be part of the party. Advanced Telcom Group likes its fiber-optic provider so much, they bet on it making plenty of other people happy too. iB



Peter Bell

CO-FOUNDER, CHAIRMAN AND CEO, STORAGE NETWORKS INC., WALTHAM

Peter Bell knows technology, and he knows himself. So when he graduated from Boston College in 1986, he lasted only six weeks at Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP before he found his way to EMC Corp.—back when the technology giant (see our Hall of Fame) had only 80 employees. There he got hooked on the idea of providing data storage as a utility, allowing clients to leverage Internet data for a competitive edge. From EMC to Harvard Business School and back, Bell held onto a determination to provide a storage network for clients. Along the way, he met Bill Miller and the pair founded their phenomenally successful company in 1998. Twenty months later, they had raised $10 billion. In June, StorageNetworks held one of the nation's largest IPOs this year. That sounded impressive to us, but Bell says he and Miller were careful to consider it just one milestone. A renowned nice guy with killer instincts, Bell says the real news at StorageNetworks this year is clients like FleetBoston and Lycos. For StorageNetworks, says Bell, there is no exit strategy. Bell and Miller are in the Web business for the long haul.

BELL: BRAD ZIEGLER

Ditching the Dial-Up

HIGH-SPEED INTERNET ACCESS IS GREAT—IF YOU CAN GET IT. By Ezra Dyer

So you've done it. You've finally tossed out the Commodore 64, headed down to Electronics 'R Us and brought home the latest in high-powered home computing technology. But when you plug your new ICBM Stupendiso R2D2 into your phone jack, you find that the standard 56K dial-up modem turns your monument to modernity into the Internet equivalent of a 1982 Chevette. But there is a solution. High-speed Internet access can solve your woes—if you can get it.

There are two main options for the Bostonian who needs a fat information pipeline. Either a cable modem or a DSL (digital subscriber line) hookup will trounce a dial-up connection on speed, as well as eliminate the tedious process of actually dialing up.

Each setup has its relative merits. For a given speed, let's say, 1.5 megabits per second—about 28 times faster than a 56K modem—the cost of those high-speed options is comparable. For instance, RCN will hook up a cable modem at that speed for $99.95 per month, while a DSL connection from Concentric will cost $89 per month (and, of course, plans offering different speeds and prices are available from a slew of other companies). Since a DSL setup gives you your own line to the phone company's central office—while cable modem users share their hookup with other homes in their neighborhood—the DSL line should theoretically deliver consistently higher speeds. But in the real world, slowdowns are more likely to come from the Internet world that lies beyond the DSL central office or the cable company's shared node.

Regardless of the speed issue, the cable modem's shared connection could present security problems. The RCN Web site includes this ominous warning for potential cable modem users: "As a cable modem subscriber you are a member of an Ethernet bridge group. This means you share a node with other users and it may be possible for them to gain access to your computer." So if you're really paranoid about your neighbors hacking into your hard-drive and finding out that you're so anal you put your grocery list on an Excel spreadsheet, perhaps a DSL line is a better route. Alternately, you could simply turn your computer off when you're not using it.

When considering the two options, there are other variables as well, such as whether or not a given service provider offers a bundled rate with phone or TV packages, and how much it costs for installation. But the decisive factor for many city-dwellers will be simply whether they can get high-speed Internet service at all.

For DSL wanna-haves, the limiting parameter is the distance between your abode and the service provider's central office. That's where your dedicated line is connected to the Internet world at large. If that distance is more than about 18,000 feet, you're probably out of luck. While the Boston area does have good DSL coverage, the infrastructure is always being upgraded, and situations still arise where your neighbor down the street might be able to get the service but you cannot. Mark Washburn, CEO of business DSL provider Harvard*Net* in Medford, says that this can happen anywhere in Boston: "There are cases scattered across our whole territory where people haven't been able to get the service. Boston is more challenging than most places because of the Central Artery project. They dug up a lot of the infrastructure in the early '90s, so you've got to work around that."

Fortunately, ascertaining if you are one of the chosen DSL people is fairly straightforward, given that many DSL Web sites allow you to plug in your phone number and find out on the spot if you've got a central office within range (see box at bottom).

If cable modems are your first choice, you face a similar battle with availability. On the MediaOne Web site there is a list of communities served by the Roadrunner cable Internet access network. Unfortunately, that list goes directly from Boscawen, N.H. to Boxford, Mass. Boston is conspicuous by its absence, like cheap beer at the FleetCenter. This means that denizens of the Cambridge/Somerville side of the Charles have access to the enormous AT&T/MediaOne/Roadrunner network, as do residents of other nearby towns like Winthrop and Chelsea. Once inside Boston, however, you're in the Cablevision zone, and as any 'Net-savvy Cablevision customer probably already knows, Cablevision does not offer high-speed Internet service to its Boston customers. Both its Web site and a company representative were vague about when cable modems might be available, but don't worry; help is on the way. It's just not likely to come from Cablevision.

AT&T is currently working to take over Cablevision's Boston accounts, and the initiative to upgrade the infrastructure should be intensified when that happens. "Clearly, the purchase by AT&T should accelerate the upgrade process," says Paul C. Trane, CEO of Telecommunications Insight Group, a Somerville-based telecom research and consulting firm. "AT&T has a bundled telecom strategy [packaging Internet, phone and TV service on one bill], so they'll be pushing to provide Internet service." Washburn agrees that the AT&T takeover should be a boon for Boston Web users: "It's good for the city of Boston, because AT&T will invest more money in improving the infrastructure," he says. On the other side of the coin, "Verizon has responded to the growth of cable modems by upgrading lots of central offices for DSL," Trane says. Once again, competition has been good for the consumer, providing incentive to keep prices down and to expand coverage.

And if you live outside the umbrella of both DSL and cable Internet service; well, maybe you might not want to bother ditching the Commodore just yet. **iB**

Online Options

To get a broad overview of the services available at your specific location, go to ***www.getconnected.com***. If you have a specific idea of which service you want to go with, you can check cable modem availability at ***www.@home.com***, ***www.mediaonerr.com***, or ***www.rcn.com***. For DSL availability, ***www.concentric.com/products_services/dsl*** or ***www.bel-atl.com/infospeed*** can help you out.

PHOTODISC (1)

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Lia Catalano
Mosaic Artist

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The Site-geist

THE BOOKMARKS OF BOSTON'S INTERNET PLAYERS AND PLAY-ALONGS

Compiled by Andrew Graham and Barbara Mattaliano

Ethan Zuckerman, 27

Geekcorps.org co-founder

Self-appointed geek Ethan Zuckerman hit it big when Lycos bought Tripod, the Berkshires-based Web site provider he co-founded with 'net legend and good friend **Bo Peabody** for $58 million. Like Peabody—who still works in his hometown of Williamstown, pumping cash and support into the region—Zuckerman returned to the area to found his latest philanthropic venture, the nonprofit Geekcorps. In North Adams, with business partner **Alyssa Contaire**, Zuckerman promotes small businesses in developing countries. "We're interested in making sure that people all around the world get equal access to the Internet," he says. This year Zuckerman became the first not-for-profit CEO featured in those Dewar's scotch print ads showcasing fascinating and high-profile people.

WEB HAUNTS?

www.memepool.com "It's just a site filled with links and no advertising."

www.userfriendly.org "It's an entertainment site for IT professionals—complete with a comic strip"

www.slashdot.org The site is "billed as news for nerds, stuff that matters."

HOW DO PEOPLE RESPOND TO YOUR NONPROFIT STATUS? "I never got into the industry to make a ton of money. I feel like it would be really greedy to take advantage of two successes like that." **HOW DID YOU GET YOUR START?** I was doing graphic design for a few years to make beer money. I was just in the right place at the right time, I guess.

Aysan Çelik, 25

Actress, currently starring in *Antigone* at the American Repertory Theater

WEB HAUNTS?

www.oxygen.com

"I like to keep up with admirable women and what they're doing; it's an inspirational thing. Also, the health updates are great—they just had a story on how the US health system is really insufficient for women."

www.imdb.com

"I use this when I want to see more of an actor's work—Daniel Auteuil, for example. I loved him in *Jean de Florette* and *Girl on the Bridge* and wanted to find out what other movies he'd made."

WHAT SITES WOULD ANTIGONE CHECK OUT ON THE WEB?

"Antigone would possibly go to Web sites about Ghandi. She's a lovely example of nonviolent protest, and I imagine she'd like to learn a few more strategies from his work."

Dick Lehr, 46

Journalist (*Boston Globe*) and author (*Black Mass: The Irish Mob, the FBI and a Devil's Deal*)

WEB HAUNTS?

www.poynter.org/medianews

www.espn.com

www.nycop.com

"What can I say? The sites hit three areas of interest—media gossip, sports news and crime."

JUSTIFICATION FOR WEB SURFING: "To disclose would undercut the pleasure principle—secret surfing."

DO YOU THINK WHITEY BULGER HAS READ YOUR BOOK? "He's probably started it—in some library, somewhere. He certainly wouldn't want to "contribute to the cause" by buying a copy."

Sara Edwards, fortysomething

entertainment reporter, WHDH Channel 7

WEB HAUNTS?

www.upcomingmovies.com

"I go to *upcomingmovies.com* for movie reviews. I talk to actors almost every day, so I often go there to find out what someone's new film is about."

www.eonline.com

"Eonline is where I get a lot of my celebrity gossip."

WHAT'S THE JUICIEST PIECE OF GOSSIP YOU LEARNED ON THE WEB? "I read on e-online that Kevin Spacey and Helen Hunt were having a torrid affair on the set of *Pay It Forward* [their new movie]. No one else had the story, and I haven't heard anything else about it. So the next time I interview one of them, I plan to ask about it."

Scott Kirsner, 29

This Boston-based business and technology writer for *Wired* magazine, *Fast Company* and the *Boston Globe* is one of the founding fathers of New England's premier IT networking event, held on Nantucket annually. (*wwww.nantucketconference.com*)

WEB HAUNTS?

www.theonion.com

For humor and news.

www.salon.com

Online literary magazine.

www.drive-ins.com

It's the "definitive source for drive-in information."

ARE BILLIONAIRES GENERALLY NICE PEOPLE? "The ones I've run into have been nice. They have a sense of humor about their billionaire-ness. The question is, Are they still going to be nice people once they're not billionaires?"

Scott Williamson, 38

The director of alliances and affiliations for Dirtpile.com, Williamson's job involves convincing construction contractors to put bulldozers and cranes in their shopping baskets.

WEB HAUNTS?

"Any RealAudio stuff. I lived in Minneapolis for 15 years and I can listen to my local radio station there and feel right at home. And it's interesting to tune in to international news and get a different perspective."

www.terraserver.microsoft.com

"I use this one for business all the time, but it's also an entertaining diversion to zoom in on your neighborhood from a satellite. The site gives you detail down to one pixel per meter, but you know the government can look at your head and say 'hey, you need more mousse.'"

EVER GET PERKS FROM WORKING FOR DIRTPILE?

"I bought a Weedeater, and I got to try it out first."

Jake Trussell, a.k.a. DJ C, 28

Experimental electronic dance musician, founding member of the Toneburst Collective (*www.toneburst.com*), Electro Organic Sound System, Webmaster for MassArt

WEB HAUNTS?

www.indymedia.org

"I visit this site so I can keep up with what's going on in the world from an independent viewpoint. During the Republican National Convention, some of my friends were arrested and kept in jail for two weeks with very high bails. I came across indymedia while trying to find out more information about what was going on there.'

www.superbad.com

"The name says it all."

www.speedbass.com

"Speed bass 'sucks,' or so the banner on their Web site proclaims. It is an emerging form of electronic dance music, generally made on computers, and it's fast."

sodaplay.com/constructor/

"This is the home of Constructor, where you can build and play with little digital life forms made out of masses, springs and muscles."

GUILTY CYBER-PLEASURE?

Yeah, I check out a porn site every once in a while, but it usually ends up being much more annoying than it is gratifying. Guilty—yes; cyber-pleasure—rarely. The real cyber-pleasure is getting a nice e-mail or finding a cool Web site."

LEHR: MICHELLE MCCORMACK

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY BILL STREICHER

PRODUCED BY SAMANTHA HOUSE

Cultured-pearl necklace, $1,630; cultured-pearl earrings and 18-karat white gold with diamonds, $8,670; Tahitian cultured-pearl and diamond ring set in platinum, $8,590; all by Mikimoto.

Model: Molly Laryea;
Oyster Perpetual
Datejust, stainless
steel and 18-karat white gold
with mother-of-pearl
dial, $19,450; each
Oyster Perpetual
Lady-Datejust, with
white-diamond bezel
and 18-karat gold
and platinum, $23,300.
Rolex, Cellini Prince
Canary diamond ring,
set in platinum,
$45,600.

Model: Silvia Perez(t)
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Mopsy

Serendipitous shopping: Our unfettered correspondent seeks out the salubrious and the cerebral.

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY

A TREE THRONE GROWS IN CAMBRIDGE

Mitch Ryerson has carved several stump-chairs in Cambridge: Two are on Lee Street, past Harvard Street: one at 31 Clay Street and one near the Oxford Spa. Pooh Corner is in front of 17 Hurlbut Street.

In various streetside places around Cambridge, nature and art have been brought together through the ingenuity of fine-furniture maker Mitch Ryerson. Once-stately old trees that were dying—silver maples and elms—have been cut down to stumps, then carved and stained to become magnificent chairs. Or, in the case of the smaller stumps, mini-magnificent ones. Ryerson carves short, steep stairs into the wood, so children (and a few dogs) can climb up and sit on them, becoming tiny Charlemagnes who sit taller than their parents. The combined effects of the curly, flowing roots, suggesting life, and the mock-authority of the throne add up to fun. "I think art should be sat on," says Ryerson, laughing. In designing these streetside wonders, he was helped by the suggestions and sketches of Cambridge kids. A far bigger Pooh Corner tree, 10 feet tall, was done in conjunction with Pooh-o-phile anthropologist Irven DeVore. Its roof is topped by a weathervane. Crouch low and look under the roots, and you'll see an adorably tiny underground room, cozily furnished for Pooh and Co., and a door for Mr. Sanders. Children leave behind sweet notes in the tree's huge carved cavity.

NO, IT'S NOT REALLY A MUSEUM

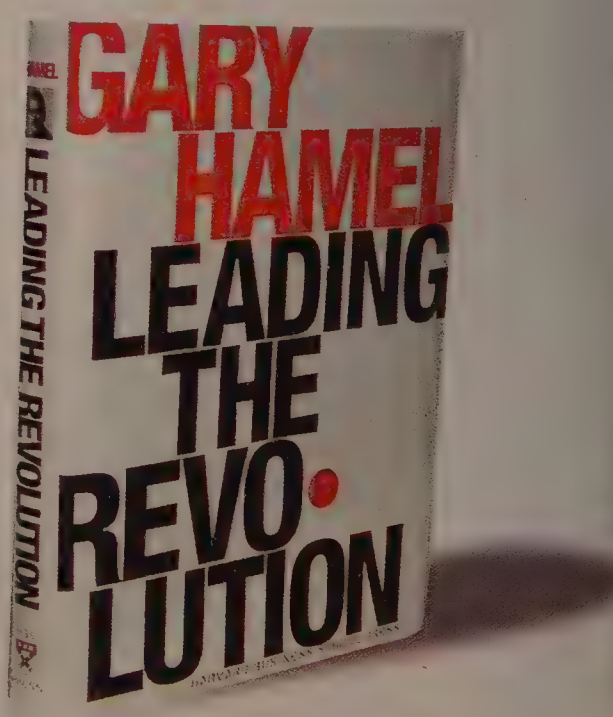
The Museum of Useful Things at 370 Broadway, Cambridge (576-3322) is the Siamese twin of Black Ink @ Home, next door.

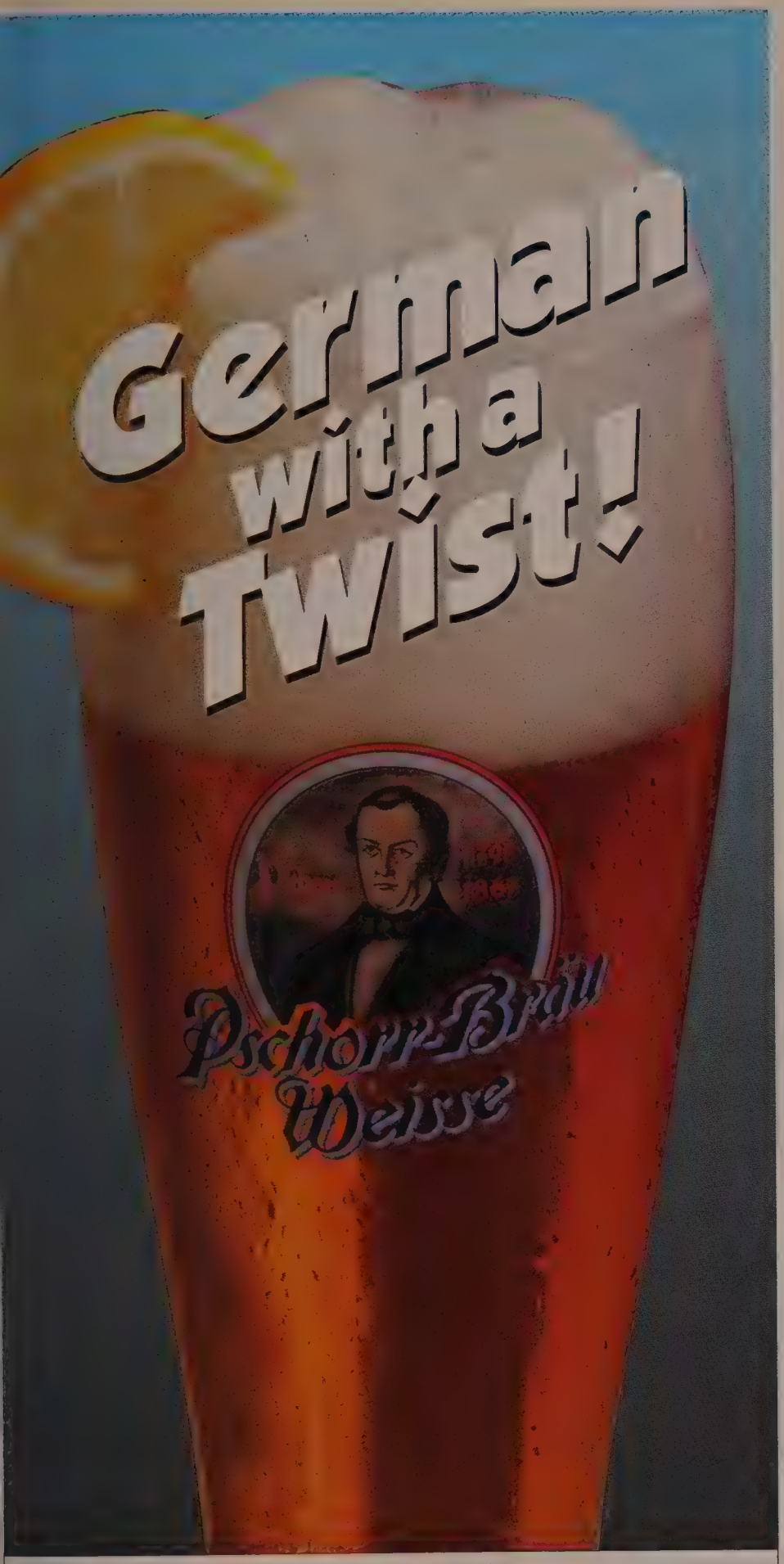
Expanding the notion of form meets function that enlivens Black Ink @ Home next door, this store of practical household things asks that the items be aesthetic, amusing and original. The "Museum" side highlights, in a special display, the antecedents: a lumbering, old, see-through metal mousetrap set alongside the sleek modern trap that uses a ping-pong ball and sequesters the captured rodent, unseen. Elsewhere, among the range of useful items for sale is a "museum-quality" floor mop with a colossal 13-inch sponge, janitorially hefty, that looks sea-spongey and just muscles over that grime. Square carpenter's pencils—sharp as a tack—have their own hefty sharpener. The can opener we've always wanted (as we swear and clean the blood off the shark bite of a haphazardly opened tin top) is here. This design actually produces a totally smooth top that can be chunked back in, like the top of a fancy teabox. A fat chamois, in a doughnut shape, makes you want to clean the inside of your car window. A lap-desk has a cloud-soft underside that converts into a travel pillow. Comfortable and aesthetically understated, MUT offers a black psychoanalyst's couch, now ready for use as a layman's daybed.

IT'S THE NONLINEAR BUSINESS, STUPID

Gary Hamel's *Leading The Revolution*, published by the Harvard Business School Press, brings some of the frisky spirit of the '60s to the booming present.

In the New Economy, businessniks who might have once risen to crusty power need instead to become what business strategist Gary Hamel calls "gray-haired revolutionaries." This entails infusing themselves with paradigm-smashing approaches. Using energized language and jumpy, jazzy graphics, Hamel's book is in part literary MTV, reflecting the refreshing tales of businesses like Cisco, Virgin and Hotmail—outfits that go for sizzling strategies and wild invention. The X-factor Hamel identifies in all these success stories is deft, turn-on-a-dime innovation. A willingness to try renegade notions and refreshing perspectives offered by peripheral or junior upstarts—who can become those juvenile millionaires we hear about—often proves to be the pathway to profitability for these businesses. Hamel's hypomanic inspiration makes a reader feel he could invent, say, an electronic gerbil. There are many routes to brilliant discovery, especially if they celebrate an attitude "more improv comedy than carefully rehearsed Broadway play." And this neo-'60s meritocracy of the inspired does not have to be limited to "small pockets of insurgency." He also delivers lots of interesting info about businesses you deal with every day.





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INSIDE: Sweet-tooth heaven to brighten Harvard Square; Sister Sorel; Fathman finds a home

Above: The bustling dining room is comfortable, except for some inordinately skinny booths. Right: Chef Neil Carter dishes a hunk of what Fleming's does best. Opposite page, from left to right: Bartenders Ricky Reardon, Kevin Scott and Paul DiMario keep the cocktails coming.

REVIEW

Stick to the Steaks

Fleming's knows beef, but needs to trim some fat off of the rest of the menu.

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRAD ZIEGLER

One of my fondest travel memories was a stay at the Hotel Crillon in Paris. Owned by Taittinger Champagne, the Crillon is one of Paris' grand old hotels, with sparkling crystal chandeliers, burnished wood, polished marble, gleaming mirrors and voluptuous flower arrangements. It was not the over-the-top luxury of appointments and ambiance that made the Crillon such a vivid memory, however. It was the smiling faces of its staff, truly warm and hospitable on such a consistent basis.

My visits to Fleming's steak house, the newest entrant in a rapidly expanding array of restaurants in this genre, reminded me of the Crillon. If smiles and an eager, earnest and accommodating staff were the only criteria, Fleming's would be a clear winner. Unfortunately, one cannot live by smiles alone, and on a number of fronts, Fleming's comes up short.

This is the fourth installment—following Phoenix, Newport Beach and La Jolla—of a chain established by Paul Fleming, who earlier founded P.F. Changs. Housed in a handsomely renovated former parking garage that is home to two other significant restaurants—Maggiano's and Legal Seafood—Fleming's is attractive, well appointed and, with one exception, comfortable. The exception consists of some of the booths, which appear to have been designed by an architect with inordinately slim friends, since there is precious little space between the benches and table.

This is a huge restaurant, seating more than 250 diners. Décor includes dark wood paneling for the walls and ceiling, with track lighting and huge semi-spherical hanging fixtures providing illumination. Crisp, white tablecloths, oversized napkins, large wine glasses and massive steak knives adorn the tables. The long, inviting bar and open kitchen stand at opposite ends of the main dining room.

Fleming's boasts a lengthy wine list, offering more than 100 wines by the bottle and the glass, as well as an 80-bottle reserve list. Despite original public-relations materials touting wines for $5 to $15 per glass, the cheapest red we found was $7. Worse, while the original wine list when Fleming's opened a few months ago had a number of red wines in the low-$20 range, the list now offers only two bottles of red slightly under $30 and not very many under $40. Finally, on our first foray to Fleming's, we ordered a Sangiovese di Romagna "Riserva," only to be brought the much less appealing "Superiore." After much scurrying and conferencing, the manager came over and apologized, explaining that the supplier had delivered the wrong wine. He offered instead a red Burgundy, Croix St. Louis, 1996. Although the wine had already been opened outside of our presence—a major service gaffe—we accepted it and found it reasonably decent, with good pinot noir character and bouquet. Our subsequent sampling of Fleming's wine

list was more successful. A glass of '97 Delas Freres Crozes Hermitage ($8 a glass) had a great bouquet, evocative of the South of France, while the Rodney Strong 1997 Cabernet Sauvignon (also $8 per glass) was a rich, robust and spectacular accompaniment to the steak.

The appetizers are not the restaurant's strong suit. On our first visit, we ordered something called simply called "the wedge," which was described as "sliced tomatoes, red onions and crumbled blue cheese." What arrived was a half a head of iceberg lettuce, with two or three pathetic sliced tomatoes and some ordinary-looking blue cheese. Our puzzled look alerted the waitress that we were not expecting lettuce, let alone iceberg lettuce, and with a genuine smile and good humor, she removed the disappointing dish. More apologies ensued, although the head waiter, acknowledging the non-specific nature of the menu description, did explain that "wedge" is a term of art in the steakhouse business that means a wedge of iceberg lettuce.

Our waitress offered another appetizer. We chose the sea scallop sauté ($9.95), which brought four medium-sized sea scallops sautéed in white wine and garlic. While we thought the price aggressive for this minimal offering, we found it enjoyable nonetheless—we have a difficult time finding fault with garlic-laden butter, particularly when we have bread as good as that offered at Fleming's to mop it up. Another appetizer, Wicked Cajun Barbecue Shrimp ($9.95) was extremely disappointing. These four shrimp featured great texture but absolutely no flavor, and the sauce—which we had expected to be a zesty, Cajun experience, along the lines of Pascal Manale's in New Orleans—turned out to be pale indeed. Worst of all, those four sad shrimp were presented in a small pewter ramekin resting on a napkin on a small plate, hardly an impressive presentation for a $10 appetizer. Since the shrimp had to be extricated from their tail shells by using one' s hands, a finger bowl would have been a pleasant, appropriate amenity, but alas, none was forthcoming.

Moving on to the main courses, our initial choices were also substandard. The pork chop ($18) was tough and quite dry. The lamb chops ($26.95) were not dry, but they were fatty and sparse. They were described as "two seven-ounce chops," but if the meat, subtracting the bones and fat, weighed eight ounces total, I'd have been surprised. Flavor and texture were decent, but we choked on the price. To paraphrase Churchill: "Never have so many paid so much for so little..." Perhaps we should have paid better heed to the category of restaurant we were visiting. When we moved to beef, our fortunes improved dramatically. The thick, well-marbled veal chop ($26.95) was tender, succulent and thoroughly satisfying. While we thought that more restraint could have been shown with the peppermill, we enjoyed both the meat and the surprise, unannounced accompaniment of béarnaise sauce. Even better was a strip sirloin steak ($25.50), a beautiful piece of beef, cooked perfectly to "medium rare" as described in the menu: warm and red inside and well seared on the outside.

Following characteristic steakhouse practice, Fleming's offers a number of "sides" of potatoes and vegetables, each for around $5. Our one sampling of a side, the Lyonnaise potatoes, yielded a disappointing mass of what in my house we call "hash browns." While tasty, they had little to do with the preparation named after France' s second city.

Desserts included a credible crème brulee ($5.95), which was thick and creamy but inadequately bruleed. Better was the fresh fruit cobbler ($5.95), a huge oval, ovenproof dish of hot raspberry, strawberry and blueberry cobbler with a rich, buttery crumble pastry, topped by a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

The people who work at Fleming's are so wonderful in demeanor and attitude—smiles without end, earnest assistance and attentiveness and gracious, easy apologies at foul-ups—that it breaks your heart when things don't quite work out. Our advice to patrons: Go right to the steak, mop up the garlic butter or béarnaise with the house's excellent rolls, and if you have any appetite left, dig into the cobbler. Suggestions to the management: Offer some affordable red wines and re-engineer the appetizers. However, whatever you do with the menu, keep the smiles. iB

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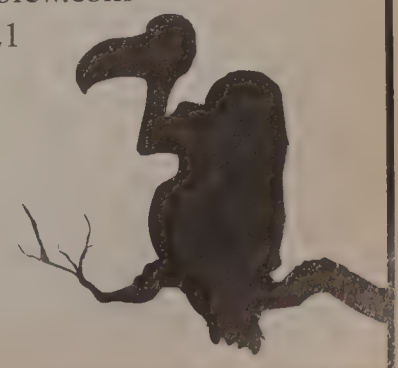


DISH

Late-Baking News

An encore to Finale; Fathman brings functional food to Trio

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

When Harvard Business School grads **Kim Moore** and **Paul Conforti** cooked up the concept of a "dessert-erie" and opened **Finale** in Park Square, industry insiders looked askance at their lack of restaurant experience. That was over two years ago. Now, success has been so sweet that the duo plans to open another Finale (or will it be called "Encore"?) in the Harvard Square area, where MBA will now stand for More Baked Assets!

Another restaurateur doubling his presence on the local scene is **Andy Husbands** of **Tremont 647**. His newly opened café, **Sister Sorel**, is next door to his first South End eatery and is named for his next-of-kin. The real sister Sorel, says Husbands, is "very pleased" by the honor. As for the food, expect a frequently changing menu ("because I have a short attention span," he jokes) focused on local ingredients and big flavors. For Husbands, the biggest thrill in opening this tiny spot (fewer than 30 seats) is the design, which incorporates a bar made of multicolored onyx and a private dining room with a table that literally glows.

By the time you read this, all the lights should also be glowing at **Eclipse**, housed on the second floor of 42 Province Street in downtown Boston. Chef **Rob La Grassa**, formerly of New York's **Rainbow Room**, plans to let seafood and seasonal ingredients shine in dishes such as cedar-planked salmon with pumpkin-seed vinaigrette and pan-roasted lobster with truffle oil. Carnivorous couples can tuck into entrees designed for two—rack of lamb or roast loin of veal—while lighter eaters can choose from a range of "light suppers," including braised monkfish and veal meatloaf. Also a plus: free parking after 5pm.

Meanwhile, back at **Trinity Place**, **Stan Frankenthaler** reports that the new incarnation of **Salamander** will be ready around the middle of November. Right now, he reports, "it's really exciting....the kitchen is laid out in chalk on the floor." Wow! But seriously, the grill for the satay bar sounds impressive: it's being built by folks from Texas.

What do you do for an encore after you've left one of the most strenuously glamorous venues in Boston? If you're **Robert Fathman**, most recently of **The Federalist** at XV Beacon, you take a break from 24/7, make a joke about a new career in taxidermy and sign on as chef for **Trio**, which opens this month at the former **G Lounge** on Lincoln Street.

"These three guys [**Carl Prince**, **Michael Scanlon** and **Mark Cesar**] bought it, ate at The Fed, asked me to help look for a chef," explains Fathman. "After I left The Fed, they hunted me down, I looked at the project and it looked like fun." To keep it fun and flexible, and to keep his long-term options open, Fathman turned down the offer of equity.

Above: Paul Conforti and Kim Moore enjoy a Finale. Right: The fish points the way to Eclipse.

Simplicity, he says, is key: "This is probably exactly what I need to do after The Federalist." His menu will feature what he calls "functional food, no pretense, nothing over $20, except possibly steak, no wines over $60, including champagne."

Joe "On the Road Again" Simone, briefly back in town after cooking for a private client on Nantucket during the summer, says he's working on a cookbook that will feature "simple" recipes. There's no title as of yet....

A toast to **Lisa Mandy-Rosen**, general manager/co-owner/wine goddess of **Salts** in Cambridge—her international wine list earned *Wine Spectator*'s 2000 Award of Excellence. Congratulations!

Tempeh fugit: **Five Seasons** has closed its doors in Brookline's Washington Square. IB

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant? Send it to *dish@improper.com*

WINE

Got Fizz?

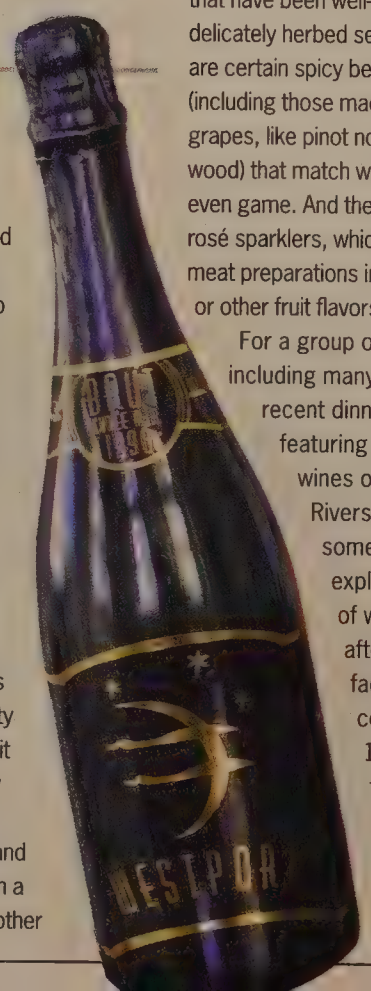
BY SANDY BLOCK, MW

Fine dining in late 19th century America often entailed an elaborate feast of several courses, each served with champagne. This was a period when drinking bubbly was a sure-fire symbol of status and when most of the leisure class sought every opportunity to flaunt their wealth. Today it's rare to match champagne with food except, perhaps, hors d'oeuvres. Luckily, however, the practice of pouring sparkling wine at the dinner table hasn't died out entirely.

Over the past year I've been fortunate enough to attend a number of dinners seeking to revive the arcane practice of matching sparkling wines to multicourse dinners. In each case, if the chef had the requisite skills the effect was electrifying. I love well-conceived wine dinners where a menu is developed around the particular flavors of individual wines. In these instances the guests all learned that far from being just pre-dinner cocktail material, or a beverage suited only for toasts, the well-balanced, interestingly flavored sparkling wine is a knockout winner with the right dish.

The first time a sommelier suggested I order a well-aged bottle of vintage Brut to accompany the lobster and salmon dishes my guest and I had ordered, however, I was initially taken aback. The idea seemed to me novel enough to be worth a try. As it turned out, the rich, velvety-textured seafood and delicate sauces with which they were served proved to be an outstanding backdrop for the steely, firmly structured champagne. It was wonderful.

A key to understanding how to work this magic is to know the character of the sparkling wine, its aromas, flavors and textures. Fruity sparklers, including those with a bit of residual sweetness, work nicely for me with heavily spicy dishes. Sparklers that are bone dry, mild and creamy (generally those made with a preponderance of chardonnay or other white grapes) tend to enhance salty or lemony dishes. The richest-textured champagnes, those that have been well-aged, are often ideal with delicately herbed seafood in buttery sauces. There are certain spicy berry-like, fuller-bodied bubblies (including those made with a preponderance of red grapes, like pinot noir, and perhaps fermented in wood) that match well with white-meat dishes and even game. And there are dramatically flavored rosé sparklers, which can be magical with fish or meat preparations incorporating light tomato, berry or other fruit flavors.



This 1996 Westport ($35) sparkling wine comes direct from Westport, MA.

For a group of the already converted, including many local and regional writers, a recent dinner at the Ritz Carlton Hotel—featuring a tasting of the sparkling wines of Massachusetts' Westport Rivers Winery—not only proved some of these points, but also exploded the myth that this style of wine must be consumed soon after it's released for sale. In fact, among the seven consecutive vintages spanning 1990 through 1997, I thought the most delicious was the well-aged 1993 Brut Cuvee RJR, a vintage long out of commercial channels. This pinot-noir-dominated wine, from a relatively ripe harvest, showed some very smoky, vegetal, sweet and herb-like aromas, and was quite toasty and spicy in flavor. The texture was sheer silk, and there was a persistent core of savory acidity on the palate that enlivened the fruit. The match? Chef Richard Rayment created a buttery-soft confit of duck au Poivre, served with a red-onion marmalade that echoed many of the wine flavors. And, most satisfying, the raciness of the sparkler cut right through the dense confit, balancing its richness to perfection. This reminded me of a spectacular match created by chef Gordon Hamersley at a dinner I conducted last year, where a brilliantly berry-like, barrel-fermented grower's champagne that had aged on the yeast for seven years was served with a slow-roasted pork loin with dried prunes and apricots. This formidably flavored champagne stood up beautifully to the chewy meat dish.

So what's the result of all this gastronomic harmony? Do I ever chill down a bottle of bubbly myself to enjoy with dinner? Only on ultra-hot days. But it's something that I'll remind myself to do more frequently, even though sparkling wine with dinner remains an afterthought to me, as it must be for most of you. IB

Tastings BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for tastings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

EVENTS

Appellation Dinner Series
Butterfish, 5 Craigie Circle, Cambridge (497-5511). Oct. 18, 6:30pm. $80. The kickoff event for this new series will feature a four-course dinner prepared by chef **Christopher Bussell**, with wine pairings from the Sonoma County appellation of Dry Creek Valley.

Chocolate Anniversary Party
Finale, One Columbus Ave., Boston (338-3095). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Oct. 16. To celebrate chef **Nicole Coady**'s second anniversary, Finale invites Valrhona Chocolate pastry chef **Sylvain Leroy** to prepare a special menu.

Creative Cuisine with Master Chefs
5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Oct. 10, 6-9pm, $75; Oct. 17, 6:30-9:30pm, $60. •Oct. 10: No. 9 Park day-chef **Suzanne Nasuti** and wine director **Cat Silirie** create fresh pasta dough and delicate sauces paired with wines from the Emilia-Romagna region in Italy's northwest. •Oct. 17: **Chris Douglass**, chef at Icarus, demonstrates fall recipes.

Four Seasons: Autumn
Westport Rivers Vineyard & Winery, 417 Hixbridge Road, Westport (508-636-3423). Oct. 7, 8:30am-3pm. $60. Tour three farms in the area. A wine-and-food pairing will follow with winery chef **Kerry Downey Romaniello**.

Meet the Chef Events
Elizabeth Bishop Wine Resource Center, 808 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (353-9852). Oct. 4, 6-9pm, $40; Oct. 11, 6-9pm, $40; Oct. 17, 6-9pm, $60 (includes book). •Oct. 4: **Michael Leviton**, the chef/owner of Lumiere who was voted one of the finest new chefs in the country by *Food and Wine Magazine*, will teach you how to prepare some of his signature dishes. •Oct. 11: **Michael Schlow**, the James Beard Award winner for best chef in the Northeast this year, demonstrates some of his signature dishes from his restaurant, Radius. •Oct. 17: Meet chef **Jasper White** of the Summer Shack, who will discuss his new book, *50 Chowders: One Pot Meals—Clam, Corn and Beyond.*

Oktoberfest Pig Roast
Nashoba Valley Winery, 100 Wattaquadoc Hill Road, Bolton (978-779-5521). Oct. 14, 12-5pm. Enjoy an afternoon of German food, wine and microbrews, plus a traditional pig roast.

Port & Dessert Tasting
Finale, One Columbus Ave., Boston (338-3095). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Oct. 3, 7pm. $45. Chef **Nicole Coady** teams up with IMPROPER wine columnist **Sandy Block** for an evening of port wines paired with desserts.

Tea Time
CCAE, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Oct. 4, 6-8pm. $31. Discuss the history of tea, beginning with its origins in the Far East through its proliferation in Europe and around the world, with the folks from Tealuxe. Sample each and taste subtle differences.

What to Do When You Get to a Wine Store
Elizabeth Bishop Wine Resource Center, 808 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (353-9852). Oct. 12 and Nov. 2, 6:30-8:30pm. $40. Food and wine writer **Al Stankus** will meet with the class at Martignetti's to answer some of the following questions: How do you buy wine? How do you read labels? How do you pair wines with your meal?

Williams-Sonoma Guest Chefs
Copley Place, 100 Huntington Ave., Boston (262-3080). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Oct. 7 and Oct. 14, 12-2pm. Free. Complimentary cooking demos: •Oct. 7: **Phyllis Kaplowitz** of Jacob Worth Co. •Oct. 14: **Andreas Horava** of the Westin Hotel.

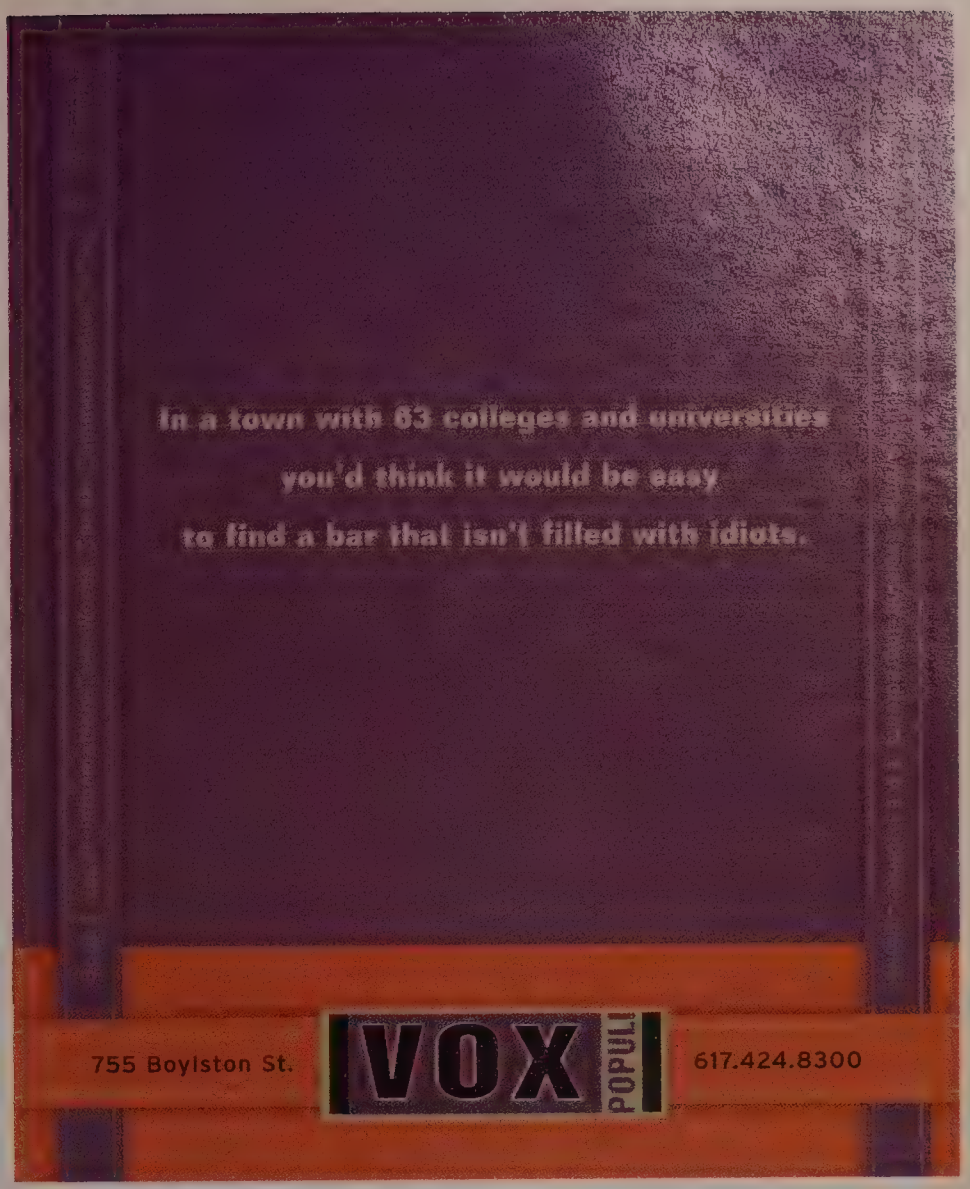
Wine Dinner Series
Up Stairs at the Pudding, Cambridge (864-1933). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Every other Wednesday at 7pm. $70. The Wine Dinner Series features flights of wines complemented by Chef **Deborah Hughes**' cuisine. •Oct. 4: Alsatian wines.

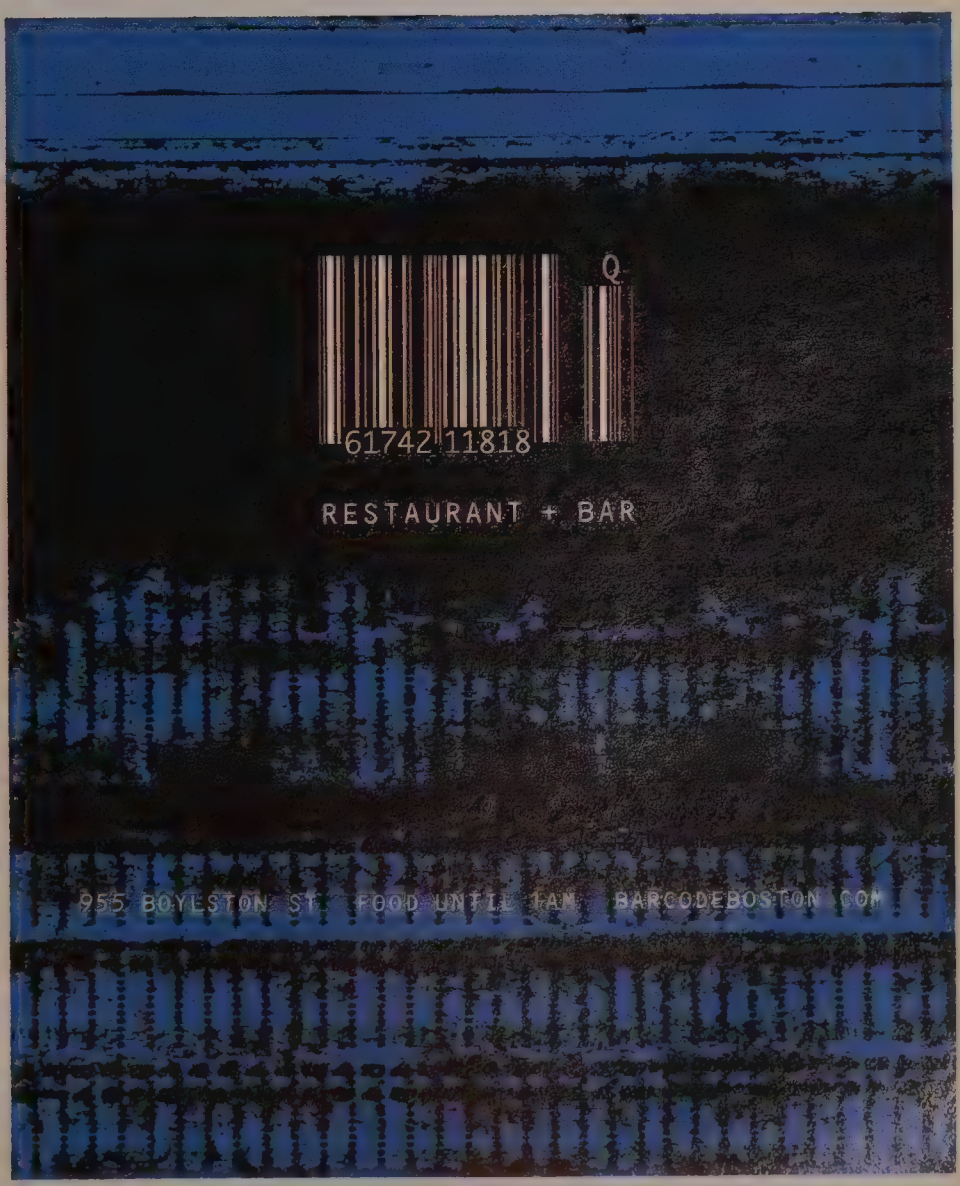
Wine Tasting Series
Brookline Liquor Mart, 1354 Comm. Ave., Allston (734-7700). •Oct. 7, 1-5pm: Alto Adige/Trentino. Taste some of Italy's most exciting wines. •Oct. 14: Wines of Burgundy. World-class chardonnays and pinot noirs.

TASTY TIDBIT

VEGETARIAN PARADISE

Of course, I'm a little biased (being of the vegetarian persuasion), but one of the coolest foodie events of the season is the Boston Vegetarian Food Festival, Oct. 14 at the Reggie Lewis Athletic Center. You don't have to be vegetarian to enjoy all the healthy food samplings (although it doesn't hurt to be a fan of tofu pups, soy cookies and hummus). Noted health and nutrition experts will lecture, and chefs like Ken Bergeron (pictured above), author of *Professional Vegetarian Cooking*, will discuss vegetarian ingredients and cooking methods and demonstrate simple recipes. At noon, Bergeron will duel with chefs Didi Emmons and Cathi DiCocco in a spoof of *The Iron Chef*. For vegetarians and their health-conscious companions, the festival offers an amazing display of all things meatless. *Reggie Lewis Athletic Center, 1350 Tremont St., Boston (424-8846). www.BostonVeg.org. MBTA: Orange Line to Roxbury Crossing. Oct. 14, 10am-6pm. Free parking and admission. —J.S.*





BOSTON'S BEST 1997 — THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE

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THE RACK

inside RACK

Every Monday — "Celebrity Night" hosted by Back Bay Beat.Com's S.J. Torres featuring Chad LaMarsh. Join The Rack, Back Bay Coyote girls, and Fox Sports FOX SPORTS NET for gridiron football, pool and nightlife that can't be beat. It's a night you will never forget or may not be able to remember!

Sunday, October 8th — Columbus Day weekend thanks to Chris or Leif or whatever you choose to believe you don't have to work Monday so party here with Chad LaMarsh and D.J. Paul Ciccolo 8pm- 2am.

Wednesday, October 25th — "Most Eligible Bostonians Party" hosted by The Boston Herald and The Inside Track. Visit Bostonherald.com to see the 20 Most Eligible Bostonian Finalists. Vote daily for the "Most Eligible Bostonians" of your choice. Two nominees (one man and one women) will be eliminated each day as a result of viewer voting. Sound familiar??? Five men and five women will remain and winners will be announced here at The Rack. Hit Squad will break the ice 6pm- 2am.

Tuesday, October 31st — 6th Annual HALLOWEEN Fun Run to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation presented by *The Improper Bostonian Magazine*. Join us and WBCN's Cha Cha for the Post Race Party and Costume contest! D.J. Stephen Walker and dancing all night!

Celtics players Walter McCarty and Paul Pierce serenade Jules Asner

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E!'s party girl Jules Asner trades secrets with Mix 98.5's party-time guy Gregg Daniels

Mark Morris & The Catunes every Thursday at 6pm.

RACK

Boxer Richie LaMontagne and Red Sox third baseman Lou Merloni show their "wild side"

E! Entertainment's Jules Asner filming "Wild on The Rack" scores with Boston Bruins Kyle McLaren and Jason Allison

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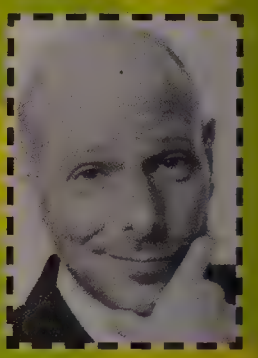

ROBERT SCHIMMEL
November 3

JOHN VALBY
November 10

JEFF DUNHAM
December 1

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agenda

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN OR OUT IN BOSTON.

Madama Butterfly

The Boston Lyric Opera presents the heartbreaking tragedy at the Shubert Theatre, Oct. 4-17.

CITYSCOPE **48**• PERFORMING ARTS **52** • ART **56** • FILM **60** • BOOKS & POETRY **66** • EDUCATION **67** • CLASSICAL MUSIC **68** • DANCE CLUBS **70** • MUSIC **72** • GAY & LESBIAN **78** • BODY & MIND **80** • CHILDREN **80** • SPORTS **80** • GO AWAY **81.**

EDITED BY: **ERIN HAGEDORN:** Art, Books & Poetry, Dance, Dance Clubs, Film, Gay & Lesbian, Go Away, Music.
EDITED BY: **JULIE SHORT:** Children, CityScope, Comedy, Education, Go Away, Sales & Fashion, Sports, Tastings, Theater.
ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY: **Laurel Kirtz** Body & Mind • **Paul Sherman:** Film Capsules

THE CALENDAR GIRLS'

improper picks

Too busy (or just too lazy) to plan your own schedule? Life doesn't get easier than this.

Wednesday, Oct. 4

Erin: The Boston Lyric Opera sings about a beautiful Japanese girl robbed of her innocence in ***Madama Butterfly*** at the Shubert Theatre. (See Performing Arts.) **The Roots**, **Eve 6**, **O.P.M.** and **Wheatus** are at Avalon. (See Music.)
Julie: Bill Littlefield of WBUR offers his local "State of the Union" at the Boston Learning Center's **Boston Sports 101**. (See Education.)

Thursday, Oct. 5

Julie: Adult-film actress **Annie Sprinkle** is at the Coolidge Corner Theatre to show some of her old film clips. (See Body & Mind.)
Erin: Is Napster encouraging CD sales or exploiting artists and record companies? The debate drags on at the **Napster Rap** lecture. (See Education.)

Friday, Oct. 6

Julie: The FleetCenter hosts Steve Harvey, Bernie Mac, Cedric "The Entertainer," Sommore, Adele Givens and Mo'nique for the **Kings of Comedy Tour**. (See Comedy.)
Erin: **Boston University Literary Conference** is a discussion of autobiography, biography and memoirs by such noted authors as **Saul Bellow** and **Jeffrey Meyers**. (See Books & Poetry.)

Saturday, Oct. 7

Erin: Check out local funnyguys **Comedy 4 a Cause** at the Somerville Theater. (See Comedy.) Also, the incredible **Project Logic** featuring DJ Logic spins tonight at Lilli's. (See Music.)
Julie: It's one of the last nights to see Nicholas Martin's fabulous play about tenement life in the '30s, ***Dead End***, at the Huntington Theater. (See Performing Arts.)

Sunday, Oct. 8

Erin: Bombshell singer/ actress **Marlene Dietrich** is celebrated on Sundays at the Brattle. Tonight, see Orson Welles' masterpiece ***Touch of Evil***. (See Film.)
Julie: Tour the 72-foot racing yachts of the **BT Global Challenge** during the Boston stop of their 10-month race around the world. (See Sports.)

Monday, Oct. 9

Julie: Careen down icy slopes with snowboarders and fly with skysurfers at the Museum of Science's new IMAX flick, ***Wild Adventures in California***. (See Film.)
Erin: Salem's hosting a **Jack O'Lantern Festival** for Halloween. (See Go Away.)

Tuesday, Oct. 10

Erin: In **Boston A to Z** at the JFK Museum, historian Thomas O'Connor explores Boston's culture and history. (See Education.)
Julie: ***I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change***, a musical review of the modern-day mating game, is at the Stuart Street Playhouse. (See Performing Arts.)

Wednesday, Oct. 11

Julie: A bunch of celeb look-alikes will gather for the **Elvis Files Fund-Raiser**, an interactive murder mystery to benefit the Parkinson's Disease Association. (See Performing Arts.)
Erin: Winner of the 1999 Tony Award for best play, ***Side Man***, a play about jazz musicians, is at the Lyric Stage Company. (See Performing Arts.)

Thursday, Oct. 12

Julie: The "fifth" Beatle, Sir George Martin, speaks at the fund-raiser, **The Making of Sgt. Pepper**. The evening includes Beatles music and videos. (See Education.)
Erin: **BostonEventGuide.com** hosts a launch party at Vertigo. (See CityScope.) Also, **Dilated Peoples** play with **Jurassic 5** and **Beat Junkies** at Axis. Or go north to catch Ray Charles at the Lowell Auditorium. (See Music.)

Friday, Oct. 13

Julie: Sultry Kathleen Turner comes to town for the Colonial's production of ***Tallulah***. (See Performing Arts.)
Erin: The **Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus** is back at the FleetCenter—replete with death-defying high-wire acts and crazy clowns. (See CityScope.) Plus, **Spike & Mike's 2000 Sick and Twisted Festival of Animation** (so sick, they're funny) starts at the Coolidge. (See Film.)

Saturday, Oct. 14

Julie: Bonnie Angelo, Malachy McCourt, Sue Miller and Michael Paterniti speak at the **Boston Book Festival 2000 Book & Author Luncheon**. (See Books & Poetry.)
Erin: Browse through tons of art and meet 40 creators at the **Cambridgeport Open Studios**. (See CityScope.) Or celebrate Symphony Hall's centennial season with the **BSO** and the **Boston Pops** in a gala concert. (See Classical.)

Sunday, Oct. 15

Julie: **Fashion Week 2000** kicks off with a ceremony honoring local fashion professionals and a show featuring 30 top models.
Erin: **College Fest** isn't just for students—listen to local faves **Sheila Divine** and **Seventeen**. (See CityScope.) Also, the witty **Sandra Bernhard** cracks up audiences at the Berklee Performance Center. (See Comedy.)

Monday, Oct. 16

Julie: Join in Geoff Bartley's open-mic session at the **Cantab Lounge**. (See Music.)
Erin: The Brattle's Mood Noir Mondays' double feature is noir classic ***Third Man*** and Hitchcock's ***Shadow of Doubt***. (See Film.)

Tuesday, Oct. 17

Julie: South Boston playwright David Lindsay-Abaire's off-Broadway hit, ***Fuddy Meers***, is at the BCAE. (See Performing Arts.)
Erin: **Tom Perrotta**, author *Election* (later made into the hit flick) reads from *Joe College*, his latest novel, at Brookline Booksmith. (See Books & Poetry.)

cityscope

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a list of festivals, events and benefits taking place in the Boston area by date.

Festivals, Events Expos & Benefits

Thursday, Oct. 5

Animal Hall of Fame Dinner
Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 Saint James Ave., Boston (522-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6:30pm. $175. Monty Roberts, whose pioneering work inspired *The Horse Whisperer*, and veterinarian and author Dr. Marty Becker, editor of *Chicken Soup for the Pet Lover's Soul*, are among this year's inductees. The event honoring human and animal heroes benefits the MSPCA.

Friday, Oct. 6

Fright Fest
Six Flags New England, Route 159, 1623 Main St., Agawam, Mass. (413-786-9300). Fri., 5-10pm; Sat.-Sun., 11am-10pm. Oct. 6-31. $36.99. Fright Fest screams into town, turning the park into a Halloween playground with haunted houses, a trail of terror and Houdini's Ghost Town.

Make-a-Wish Foundation Benefit Party
Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Ave., Boston (451-WISH). www.wish.org/boston. *8pm-1am. $40, $50 at the door.* At this benefit for the Make-a-Wish Foundation, the Catunes (featuring Mark Morris) will perform. More than 1,200 guests will attend.

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Fridays. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

Spooky World
Deep in the Woods, Foxboro Stadium, Route 1, Foxboro, Mass. (978-838-0200). www.spookyworld.com. *$23.50. Fri.-Sun., 6-11pm. Through Oct. 31.* Visit Spooky World's 60 acres of haunted terror, including four haunted houses, three ghoulish museums, nightly horror celebrity guests and the Reaper's Hayride of Terror.

Saturday, Oct. 7

Fall Foliage and Lighthouse Extravaganza
Boston Harbor Islands (781-740-4290). 10:30am-5pm. $33. Enjoy a fall day along the North Shore coastline cruising past a dozen beautiful and historic lighthouses, including Long Island, Deer Island and Boston Light. New this year is Boon Island, Nubble and Isle of Shoals.

Sunday, Oct. 8

BT Global Challenge Open House
Rowes Wharf, Boston (267-7366). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Oct. 8, 10am-4pm. Tour the 72-foot, state-of-the-art, racing yachts during the Boston stop of their 10-month, 30,000-mile race around the world the "wrong way," against the prevailing winds and currents.

Wednesday, Oct. 11

Elvis Files Fund-Raiser
The Tremont Playhouse, Tremont House Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (738-2967). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Oct. 11, 7pm. $40 (includes dinner). Find out what really happened to "The King" in this interactive, intergalactic murder mystery. All proceeds benefit the American Parkinson's Disease Association.

Thursday, Oct. 12

BostonEventGuide.com
Vertigo, 126 State St., Boston (312-5410). MBTA: Blue Line to State. www.bostoneventguide.com. *7pm.* Join BostonEventGuide.com for a launch party featuring complimentary beer and wine from 7-8pm, hors d'oeuvres and dancing. To be put on the guest list, go to the site and click on "Join the Party List."

The Making of Sgt. Pepper Fund-Raiser
Sanders Theatre, Quincy and Kirkland streets, Cambridge (972-8300). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. $50. In this benefit for the Langstaff Artistic Fund, producer and arranger **Sir George Martin**, sometimes referred to as the fifth Beatle, offers his behind-the-scenes story about the band. This multimedia presentation will include music and footage of the Beatles.

Networking Happy Hour
Cafe Ravello, 48-50 Salem St., Boston (460-3597). 5-8pm. $8. Boston's Missing Link, a new networking organization for people in their 20s and 30s, hosts this happy hour with appetizers and a cash bar.

Friday, Oct. 13

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus
FleetCenter, Boston (931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Tue.-Fri., 7pm; Sat., 11:30am, 3:30pm, 7pm; Sun., 12:30pm and 4:30pm. Oct. 13-23. $11-$37. From death-defying high-wire acts to high-tech, rapid-fire special effects and pyrotechnics to precocious pint-sized pachyderms, performers from all over the world make this the Greatest Show on Earth.

Saturday, Oct. 14

Boston Book Festival 2000 Book & Author Luncheon
Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 Saint James Ave., Boston (929-2641). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6:30pm. 12:30pm. $42. Featured authors include Bonnie Angelo (*First Mothers*); Malachy McCourt (*Singing My Him Song*); Sue Miller (*While I Was Gone*); and Michael Paterniti (*Driving Mr. Albert*).

Cambridgeport Artists Open Studios
203 Pearl St., Cambridge (491-3044). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Oct. 14-15, 11am-6pm. The eighth annual open studios will feature the work of some 40 artists in venues around Cambridgeport. Most of the work will be for sale, and all artists will be there to discuss their pieces. Maps available at Pearl Art, 579 Mass. Ave., Cambridge.

College Fest
Hynes Convention Center, 900 Boylston St., Boston (859-5767). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Oct. 14, 12-7pm; Oct. 15, 12-6pm. $6. You don't have to be a college student to enjoy this two-day entertainment extravaganza featuring more than 100 companies (including Gap, Kaplan, Cellular One and Clinique) and bands like Seventeen and The Sheila Divine. Kelley and Jamie from MTV's *The Real World: New Orleans* will make an appearance.

Oktoberfest Pig Roast
Nashoba Valley Winery, 100 Wattaquadoc Hill Road, Bolton (978-779-5521). Oct. 14, 12-5pm. Enjoy an afternoon of German specialty foods, wines and microbrews, plus a traditional pig roast with oompah bands.

Revels 30th Anniversary Gala
Le Meridien Hotel, Boston (972-8300, ext. 20). 7:30-11:30pm. $200. Festivities include a light dinner, a fund-raising auction and singing and dancing.

Walk to Cure Diabetes
Hatch Shell, Esplanade, Boston (781-431-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. 10:30am. More than 4,000 walkers are expected to participate in the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation's 3.1-mile walk.

Sunday, Oct. 15

Fashion Week Kickoff
Boston Public Library, 666 Boylston St., Boston. www.fashionWEEK.org. *7pm.* Opening night of the sixth annual Boston Fashion Week includes the Vision Awards, a ceremony honoring local fashion professionals and community leaders that make a difference in promoting fashion in Boston, and Model Boston, a fashion show with 30 models.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer
Charles River Esplanade, Boston (877-338-WALK). MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. 8am. Walk the 5.7-mile route along the Charles River for the American Cancer Society.

Tuesday, Oct. 17

Old North Church Fall Fund-Raising Event
Commandant's House, Charlestown Navy Yard, Charlestown (523-6676). 5:30-9pm. Enjoy a light buffet and cocktails, plus a silent auction.

Volunteer

ABCD Inc.
(357-6000). Seek tutors in reading, math, science, writing and social studies.

AIDS Action Committee
(888-332-AUTO or 450-1235). Turn your old car into a tax-deductible donation. Volunteer meeting held Sept. 7, 5:30-9pm.

American Cancer Society
(877-338-WALK). Oct. 15, 8am. Volunteer to help along the 5.7-mile route on the Charles River for the making Strides Against Breast Cancer event.

Old Books, New Life

Where can you get a single page from the *Gutenberg Bible*, valued at more than $55,000? Or a full set of the 007 James Bond books by Ian Fleming? Try the Boston International Antiquarian Book Fair, which opens at the World Trade Center on Oct. 13 along with the New England Antiquarian Print Fair. The nation's oldest and largest event of its kind features rare, collectable and antiquarian books, modern first editions, photographs, and maps. *164 Northern Ave., Boston (266-6540). www.bostonbookfair.com. MBTA: Red Line to South Station, shuttle to WTC. Oct. 13, 5-9pm; Oct. 14, 12-7pm; Oct. 15, 12-5pm. $8.*

Boston Cares
(263-CARE). More than 70 volunteer opportunities are available in Greater Boston.

Boston Living Center
(236-1012). HIV/AIDS service organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Community Servings
(445-7777). Help prepare and deliver meals for individuals and families dealing with AIDS.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

Friday Night Supper Program
Arlington Street Church, corner of Arlington and Boylston streets, Boston (536-7050, ext. 22). Need volunteers to help prepare, cook and serve meals on Fridays, 5-7pm.

The Greater Boston Food Bank
(427-5200). Groups needed to sort donated food.

Horizons Initiative
(287-1900). Volunteers needed to play with children living in shelters. Commit to two hours per week for six months. Trainings take place in October.

Jewish Community Volunteer Program
(558-6585). Volunteers are needed to share fun times with an isolated senior.

Junior Achievement
(367-6891). ckraft@ja-easternmass.org. Volunteers needed to teach kids about business.

Mass. Eating Disorder Association
(558-1881). Volunteers needed for four hours per week for help line, assisting clinical staff and special events.

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist elders with such tasks as reading, shopping and basic home repairs.

Pine Street Inn
(521-7626). Seeking volunteers to serve meals and act as receptionist for homeless guests.

Plant for the Cure
Bread & Circus markets around Boston (800-IM AWARE). When you buy a plant from the Pastel Tulip Collection from Van Bloem Gardens, Bread & Circus will donate 10 percent to the Susan G. Komen Foundation for Breast Cancer Research.

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic
(577-1111). Needs volunteers to record textbooks at East Cambridge studio, days and evenings.

Rosie's Place
(442-9322). Volunteers needed for the dining room, clothing room, the groceries program and office work.

United Services Organization (USO)
(720-4949). Volunteers needed to welcome Navy ships, participate in hospital visits, provide office support, coordinate receptions and assist with events.

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Seeks individuals to assist legal immigrants and refugees to become naturalized citizens.

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Tours

Behind the Scenes on Cremation
Forest Hills Cemetery, 171 Walk Hill St., Jamaica Plain (524-0128). Oct. 14, 2pm. $8. Rachel Siderman lectures on the history of cremation, and superintendent Anthony Hollingshead leads a guided tour of the crematory.

Big Dig and South Boston Waterfront
Boston (426-1885). Saturdays, 11am. Through Nov. 4. $8. Learn about casting basins, slurry walls, bridges and tunnels and the history of the South Boston Waterfront.

Boston Bike Tours
On Boston Common (308-5902). Begins April 15. Daily 9:30am-6:30pm. Daily two-hour tours, Mon.-Sat., 1-3pm; 4-6pm. Low-impact, guided sightseeing tours of Boston on bicycles. Rentals available.

Boston by Foot
(367-2345). www.bostonbyfoot.com. *May-October. $8.* Guided 90-minute walks highlight the architecture and history of the city.

Boston by Sea
Tours depart from Long Wharf (227-4321). Daily through Oct. 14, 1pm and 3pm. $25. This cruise features live theater performances, sea shanties and video vignettes about pirates, clipper ships, the old immigration station, the *USS Constitution*, the lighthouse and the Boston Tea Party.

Boston Duck Tours
Prudential Center, Boston (723-DUCK). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. April-November. $21. The 80-minute tour on amphibious landing crafts takes groups through downtown and makes a final splash into the Charles.

Ghosts & Gravestones Tour
Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Ave., Boston (269-7150). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Thursdays through Nov. 1 at dusk. Two hours. $29. An 18th-century gravedigger takes you through the city's burial grounds.

Ghost Tours
Meet at Boston Common Visitor Information Center, 147 Tremont St., Boston (781-235-7149). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street. Selected evenings, 7:30pm. $12. Tour downtown Boston's most infamous haunted locations.

Jamaica Pond: Of Ponds and Plans
Meet at the Jamaica Pond Boathouse, Pond Street and the Jamaicaway, Jamaica Plain (566-1689, ext. 221). Oct. 8, 1pm. Free. Find out how and why this "pond of shimmering half-lights" was included in the Emerald Necklace.

JFK's Boston
Meet at the Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Ave., Boston (269-7150). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Sundays, 1-3pm. Through Oct. 15. $30. See the places that helped shape young Jack Kennedy into the nation's 35th president.

Sights to See

Boston Tea Party Ship and Museum
Congress St. Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Open daily, March-May and Sept.-Nov., 9am-5pm; closed Dec.-March. $8, $7 students, $4 children. A replica of one of the ships emptied by colonists (disguised as Indians) during the Dec. 16, 1773, tea raid.

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Fifth Floor, Boston (353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), Oct.-March, 7:30-8:30pm; April-Sept., 8:30-9:30pm. Free. BU's astronomers are available to answer questions and assist with telescopes as you check out Orion, Cassiopeia and the Big Dipper.

Bunker Hill Monument
Monument Square, Charlestown (242-5641). Open daily 9am-5pm. Free. The 221-foot monument honors the men who died in the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Christian Science World Headquarters
Massachusetts and Huntington avenues, Boston (450-2000). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential. Tue.-Sat., 9:30am-4pm, Sun., 11am-2pm. Tour the Mother Church—a giant basilica that seats 3,000 worshippers; a 700-foot-long reflecting pool; and a photo exhibit.

Copp's Hill Burial Ground
Hull and Snowhill streets, Boston. MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Open dawn-dusk. Admission free. From Boston's second-oldest cemetery, you can see all the way across the Inner Harbor to Charlestown.

John Hancock Observatory
200 Clarendon St., Boston (572-6429). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open Mon.-Sat., 9am-11pm, Sun., 10am-11pm (May-Oct.) and noon-11pm (Nov.-April). Admission $6. The tallest building in New England (62 floors) offers an awesome view.

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (566-7937). Wed.-Sun. 10 am-4:30pm. The birthplace and early boyhood home of the nation's 35th president.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat. 10am-2pm. Admission free. Alongside Boston's first Anglican church—a gloomy granite apparition—you'll find a burial ground with equally ominous-looking headstones.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (635-3105). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Open daily, 9am-5pm. Guided tours every half-hour, starting at 9am. Free. Known as the "Cradle of Liberty," Faneuil Hall—we're talking about the part above the eatery—was the site of many an angry man ranting and raving about the damn British in the mid-1700s.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily, 9 am-5pm. Free. Here, Paul Revere saw two lanterns shining on April 18, 1775, indicating that the British troops were crossing the Charles River to Lexington and Concord via boat.

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays, 10am-4pm; weekends, 10am-5pm. $3. A thousand fed-up men gathered in this church to decide whether or not to send three ships full of tea back to England. Guess what? They didn't. •*Voices of Protest* traces the use of Old South Meeting House over three centuries for religious, political and social debate. •Middays at the Meeting House, a lunchtime music series. Thursdays, 12:15-1pm. $4.

Paul Revere House
19 North Square, Boston (523-2338). Nov. 1-April 14, 9:30am-4:15pm; April 15-Oct. 31, 9:30am-5:15pm. Built in 1680 and owned by Paul Revere from 1770 to 1800, this house offers a self-guided tour with illustrated text panels and museum interpreters.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-10pm, Sun. noon-10pm. $4, $3 seniors and students. Check out Boston's only 360-degree view tower. The view here (50 floors up) is slightly better than that of rival John Hancock. The Skywalk has recently completed $250,000 in renovations, offering new displays and exhibits.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8am-6pm. Free. Designed by H.H. Richardson and constructed in 1877, the huge Romanesque church in Copley Square offers free organ concerts on Fridays at 12:15pm.

Museums

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June, Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm; June-Aug., daily, 10am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm. $5, children and seniors $3: See *Arthur's World* from the popular television series and children's books. This infamous aardvark is one of many hands-on favorites.

Harriet Tubman House
566 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-8610). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. Weekdays, 8am-8pm. Free admission. The Harriet Tubman Museum exhibits a collection of this influential black leader's achievements.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (929-4523). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily 9am-5pm (last film begins at 3:55pm). $8. This permanent collection on the life and legacy of President John F. Kennedy offers a re-created world of the early 1960s with period settings and 25 dramatic multimedia exhibits.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (739-1200). www.afroam museum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays 10am-4pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.* This place is bustling after its recent endowment of more than $1 million to restore the meeting house's hallowed sanctuary. See the African Meeting House, the oldest black church in America.

The BT Global Challenge sails into town Oct. 8 on a 10-month, 30,000-mile journey around the world.

Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun., 9am-12pm.* This Harvard museum is made up of four factions: The **Botanical Museum**, **The Museum of Comparative Zoology**, the **Mineral & Geological Museum**, and the **Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology**. A number of exhibitions tie together all four of these distinct collections. The most famous is the Botanical Museum for its glass flowers collection—more than 3,000 models of more than 480 plant species. •New at Museum of Natural History: *Beauty on the Wing: The Double Lives of Butterflies*. Butterflies of every size, shape and color from all parts of the world are on display. •New at the Peabody: *Diverse Traditions: Early Navajo Rugs and Pueblo Embroidery*. Oct. 5-Nov. 26.

Museum of Our National Heritage
33 Marrett Road, Route 2A, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.mnh.org. *Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 12-5pm. Free.* Explore history through pop culture. Topics range from Revolutionary artifacts to the latest in jigsaw-puzzle-solving techniques and American circus posters. •Opened July 21: *Made in Massachusetts*. See items commonly found in homes during the past three centuries.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu., 9am-5pm; Fri., 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children. Omni Theater, Hayden Planetarium or laser shows all $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children.* Find out how much you weigh on the moon, strap yourself into a space module or sift through sand on an archaeological dig. Enjoy 600 hands-on exhibits. •*T. rex Named Sue* exhibit runs through Oct. 9. •Ongoing at the Mugar Omni Theater: *Dolphins, Michael Jordan to the Max* and *The Magic of Flight*. All films show through Oct. 5. •Opening Oct. 6: *Adventures in Wild California*.

Charles Hayden Planetarium
Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children. Time of show changes daily.* Don't miss the daily laser shows to the music of the Beastie Boys, Pink Floyd, Korn, Tool, Jimi Hendrix, Nine Inch Nails, among others. It's a trip.

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St. (in Larz Anderson Park), Brookline (522-6547). MBTA: D Green Line to Reservoir, to bus #51. April-Oct., Wed.-Sun., 10am-5pm; Nov.-March, Wed.-Sun., 10am-4pm. $5. This 1888 carriage house is the automobile buff's paradise—the country's oldest private collection of antique autos. Lawn events take place: •Oct. 8, 10am-2pm: European Motorcycle Day. Bring a picnic and tour the museum.

Nichols House Museum
55 Mount Vernon St., Boston (227-6993) Tues.-Sun., 12:15-4:15pm; guided tours on the half hour. $5 adults, children under 12 free admission. Catch a glimpse of 19th- and early 20th-century life on Beacon Hill.

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (720-3290). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily, 9am-5pm. $3, students and seniors $2. Built in 1713, this original seat of colonial government was the place pre-Independence Bostonians first heard the *Declaration of Independence* read. •*Burning Issues: A History of Boston Through Fire.*

Sports Museum of New England
FleetCenter, Boston (624-1234). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. $5. Exhibits of the great sports traditions of the Boston Garden, FleetCenter and Celtics.

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (426-1812). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, bus 93 to Navy Yard. Nov.-April 30: Open daily, 10am-5pm. Free. Learn about the oldest commissioned warship's 200-year history through hands-on—hoist a sail, take the wheel, fire a cannon or swing in a hammock.

More than 40 artists sell and display their creations at the Cambridgeport Open Studios Oct. 14.

Zoos & Gardens

Arnold Arboretum
125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain (524-1718). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open weekdays: 9am-4pm; weekends: 12-4pm. Free. Commune with nature and more than 14,000 exotic trees, shrubs and flowers.

Franklin Park Zoo
1 Franklin Park Road, Boston (541-LION). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open Oct.-March daily 10am-4pm; April-Sept. weekdays 10am-5pm, weekends and holidays 10am-6pm. $7. A 72-acre oasis of green in the city with waterfalls, lush vegetation, gorillas, leopards, hippos and free-flying birds.

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard, transfer to #71 or #73 bus. Daily, 8am-7pm (summer) and 8am-5pm (winter). Free. Rest in peace among the grave sites and crypts of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes, "Battle Hymn of the Republic" author Julia Ward Howe and Winslow Homer, among other famous Americans.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (973-5200). www.neaq. org. *MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Early Sept.-June: Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. and holidays, 9am-6pm. $12.50.* Boston's biggest fish bowl has much more than just goldfish. In the three-story saltwater tank swim turtles, sharks, eels and the occasional mermaid (or mer-male). •New on display: two Pacific batfish

Roger Williams Park Zoo
1000 Elmwood Ave., Providence, R.I. (401-785-3510). South on 1-95 from Providence to exit 17 (Elmwood Ave.). $6, $3.50 seniors and children. Daily. Nov.-March, 9am-4pm. April-Oct., 9am-5pm. Lions and tigers and a 150-pound baby polar bear named Triton. Oh my! More than 600 birds and mammals inhabit the African plains and rain forests.

Stone Zoo
149 Pond St., Stoneham, Rte. 93 North, Exit 34 (781-438-5100). Mon.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. and holidays, 10am-6pm. $6 adults, $4 children. There's still plenty to see here—even though everybody's favorite polar bear has passed on to that great iceberg in the sky.

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Submit updated press releases by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Theater. Or e-mail information to performing@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Theater
JUST OPENED

Bash Latter Day Plays
Actors Workshop, 40 Boylston St., Boston (887-2336). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Fri.-Sat., 8pm. Oct. 6-28. $10, $12 at the door. TheatreZone presents Neil LaBute's unflinching portrait of evil in everyday life—a voyage through a nightmare landscape inhabited by commonplace people capable of unspeakable acts.

Blithe Spirit
Abbott Memorial Theater, 9 Spring St., Waltham (781-893-9171). Through Oct. 7, 8pm. $12. Waltham's Hovey Players present Noel Coward's classic comedy, directed by Annamarie DaSilva.

The Boston Plays
Boston Center for the Arts, Black Box Theater, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-2787). Oct. 13-28. Centastage presents a night of short plays by some of Boston's top playwrights.

Fuddy Meers
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-2787). Oct. 5-28. If South Boston native David Lindsay-Abaire garners the same rave reviews in Boston that he did off-Broadway with his play *Fuddy Meers*, he's destined for great success. The *New York Times* called this comedy about a woman whose memory is mysteriously erased each night as she sleeps, "dark, sweet and thoroughly engaging." The Boston Center for the Arts' resident theater company, SpeakEasy Stage, produces this dark-humored comedy under the artistic direction of Paul Daigneault. "It's zany, funny and over-the-top," says Daigneault.

Hamlet
Tower Auditorium, Mass. College of Art, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston (886-0322). www.ubiquitystage.com. *MBTA: E Green Line to Longwood. Fri., 8pm; Sat., 3pm and 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Oct. 6-21. $15.* Ubiquity Stage presents Shakespeare's classic.

How We Talk in South Boston and Other One-Act Plays
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Oct. 23-14, 20-21, and 27-28, 11pm. $12. The SpeakEasy Stage Company's LateNight programs kick off with this series of one-act plays, including David Lindsay Abaire's *How We Talk in South Boston.* The 10-minute play portrays a dysfunctional South Boston family facing every imaginable social issue from interracial marriage to the Sox/Yankee feud.

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change
Stuart Street Playhouse (formerly the 57 Theatre), 200 Stuart St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 5pm and 8:30pm; Sun., 3pm and 7pm. Through Oct. 22. $25-$45. Everything you've secretly thought about dating, romance, marriage, lovers, husbands, wives and in-laws but were afraid to admit is celebrated in this musical review of the modern-day mating game.

Madama Butterfly
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Oct. 4, 7:30pm; Oct. 6, 7:30pm; Oct. 8, 3pm; Oct. 10, 7:30pm; Oct. 13, 7:30pm; Oct. 15, 3pm; Oct. 17, 7pm. The Boston Lyric Opera presents this heartbreaking tragedy of a beautiful Japanese girl robbed of her innocence by a callous U.S. Navy lieutenant. The show will be sung in Italian with English subtitles.

Mad Dogs and Englishmen: The Music and Wit of Noel Coward
Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton (244-0169). Oct. 6-7 and Oct. 14-15, 8pm; Oct. 15, 2pm. $15-$18. A fast-paced, cabaret-style look at the gargantuan talents and extraordinary life of Noel Coward.

Misalliance
Lyric West Theatre, Mass. Bay Community College, 50 Oakland St., Wellesley (288-7889). Wed.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 5m and 8:30pm; Sun., 2pm. Oct. 6-22. $10-$29. George Bernard Shaw presents a merry mix of English curmudgeon fathers, silly children and post-Victorian ladies who are confused about feminism, socialism, masculine ideals and modern love and marriage.

George Bernard Shaw's comedy, aptly titled *Misalliance*, plays at the Lyric West Theatre Oct. 6-22.

Motel Stories
Industrial Theatre, Leverett Old Library, Mill Street, Cambridge (496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Oct. 6-21. $12. Each of the three one-acts that make up the show is set in a different room of the same run-down motor lodge. In *Ace of Pain*, a tempestuous mother tests the patience of her long-suffering daughter. In *Radio Free Skokie*, the ordinary meets the extraordinary when a traveling salesman encounters a meddlesome radio. In *Oswald's Case*, two brothers take a fateful trip to rid themselves of a troubling past and some serious baggage.

Nocturne
American Repertory Theatre, Hasty Pudding Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (495-2668). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Oct. 13-29. This is a heartbreaking story of a brother piecing together the events of a life shattered by his sister's accidental death and its consequences for the family.

The Performance Cult
Back Alley Theater, 1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1253). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. Sundays, 7:30pm. Through Dec. 17. $7. Actors, dancers and storytellers will present a series of short, original vignettes. Each one will last no longer than 10 minutes. See character work, dance, monologues, movement, singing and sound work. Each performer must base his or her work on the truth.

Radio Check 2330
Boston Center for the Arts, Leland Center, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-2787). Oct. 11-28. This multimedia drama depicts the journey of the 301st Military Intelligence Battalion through a surreal desert landscape. Presented by Essayons Theatre.

Scenes from a Bordello
Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (353-5443). Thu., 7pm; Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Through Oct. 8. $20. In the Alaskan tundra, a miner discovers gold, and a whorehouse is saved. But can love and commerce coexist in the Arctic?

Sweet Charity
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly, Mass. (978-921-6351). Tue., 8pm; Wed., 2pm and 8pm; Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2pm and 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Oct. 3-22. $18-$56. Charity Hope Valentine is a lovable but gullible romantic who makes her living dancing with gentlemen clients at the seedy, steamy Fan Dango Ballroom in Times Square. She dreams of finding a good man who'll marry her and make her more respectable, but she keeps falling in love with losers instead.

Tallulah
The Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (426-9366). Oct. 10-22. Kathleen Turner comes to town with her sultry voice, sexual charisma and enigmatic presence for her role as eccentric real-life actress Tallulah Bankhead. In Sandra Ryan Heyward's one-woman play, the show's namesake sips champagne and divulges secrets, passions and regrets as she prepares to host a fund-raiser for incumbent president Harry S. Truman. TV sitcom director Michael Lessac (from *The Drew Carey Show* and *Everybody Loves Raymond*) directs this pre-Broadway production.

A Trio of Duets
Boston Center for the Arts, Leland Center, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-2787). Oct. 5-8. Humorous and poignant, this concert of three plays explores the passion, rhythm and music of couples in love. Presented by Life Story Theatre.

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf
Trinity Repertory Theater, 201 Washington St., Providence (401-521-1100). Tue., 7pm; Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm and 7pm. Through Nov. 12. $22-$40. After a faculty party in a New England college town, George and Martha invite Nick and Honey home for a nightcap. "One quick drink" turns into a wild night of shocking power games that turn on a dime and change rules at whim, as the whisper-thin social facade shatters to reveal the secrets connecting their lives. Edward Albee's psychological masterpiece reinvented 20th-century American drama.

NOW RUNNING

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). Wed.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 7pm and 10pm; Sun., 3pm and 6pm. $39-$49. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to get its point across with tribal rock music, performance art, humorous antics, props (including plastic tubes and Twinkies) and three men painted blue.

Dead End
Huntington Theatre, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (266-0800). Through Oct. 8. At once funny and disturbing, this gritty melodrama draws a powerful portrait of class differences, as luxury apartments encroach upon a broken-down neighborhood, Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Sidney Kingsley's play had such an impact on the American audience when it debuted in 1935 that it sparked the social reform of tenement housing and the judicial system for juvenile delinquents.

School for Scandal
Trinity Repertory Theater, 201 Washington St., Providence (401-521-1100). Through Oct. 8. In a world obsessed with rumor, gossip and innuendo, Lady Sneerwell, Benjamin Backbite and Mr. Snake are running wild. In this classic, lusty, uproarious Restoration comedy, characters scheme, seductions swirl, plots thicken and scandals mount.

Sex, Drugs and Rock 'n' Roll
Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (723-8916). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Wed.-Sat., 8pm. Through Oct. 14. $20. Eric Bogosian's play depicts the many facets of man—running the gamut of emotions.

Shakespeare & Company: Jack and Jill
Shakespeare & Company, The Mount, Lenox, Mass. (413-637-3353). Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 3:30pm and 8pm; Sun., 3:30pm. Through Oct. 15. Jane Martin mines the subtle and often treacherous depths of modern wedlock.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat., 6:30pm and 9:30pm; Sun., 3pm and 7:30pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This hilarious whodunit is set in a unisex hair salon. The production holds the record as the longest-running play in the history of Boston theater.

Side Man
Lyric Stage Company of Boston, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Through Oct. 14. Winner of the 1999 Tony Award for best play, *Side Man* is about jazz musicians—from their heyday after the war through the decline of the big bands and bop, through the rise of rock 'n' roll to the dark years of the '70s and '80s.

CABARET

Come to the Cabaret
United Parish Church, 210 Harvard St., Brookline (730-2700). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Oct. 12, 7:30pm. $12. Vocalist and jazz singer Gail Loring offers renderings of the music of the great American composers, including Rogers and Hart, George Gershwin, Irving Berlin and Jerome Kern.

Composer/Performer John Bucchino
42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789, ext. 1). Oct. 7, 8pm; Oct. 8, 3pm. $15. This concert celebrates the release of Bucchino's new CD, *Grateful.*

INTERACTIVE THEATER

Elvis Files
The Tremont Playhouse, Tremont House Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (738-2967). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Oct. 11, 7pm. $40 (includes dinner). Find out what really happened to "The King" in this interactive, intergalactic murder mystery with special agents Wolf Molder and Deena Sully, Lt. Columbus, and celeb look-alikes Madonna, Cher, Michael Jackson, Austin Powers and Joan Quivers. All proceeds will be donated to the American Parkinson's Disease Association.

Medieval Manor
246 East Berkeley St., Boston (423-4900). Red Line to Broadway. Mon., Wed., Thu., Fri., 8pm; Sat., 5pm and 9:30pm; Sun., 6pm. Ongoing. $9.60-$32. Eat, drink and be merry at a Renaissance dining experience. Don't worry about etiquette. You won't find knives and forks, and the soup of the day is in your face—literally.

Mystery Cafe
290 Congress St., Boston (781-320-0040). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Dinner and show: Fri., 7:30pm; Sat., 7pm. Ongoing. $36 (all inclusive). Saturdays: The interactive murder mystery, *Murder on the Campaign Trail*, is a comedic mystery parody of Campaign 2000.

"Hey, big spender": Bob Fosse's *Sweet Charity* visits the North Shore Music Theatre Oct. 3-22.

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Mystery Cruise: Murder on the Ocean Queen
Ft. Independence, Long Wharf, Boston (781-320-0040). Cruise departs Saturdays, 8pm. $49/person, includes dinner and cruise. Gather clues during a Harbor cruise, meet characters and interrogate suspects as you attempt to piece together the answer to the mystery.

COMING SOON

Annie
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Nov. 7-12. $35-$65. "It's a Hard Knock Life" for little Annie and her orphan friends.

Annie Get Your Gun
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Oct. 31-Nov. 5. Marilu Henner and Tom Wopat star in this classic tale of the romance and rivalry of the Wild West, featuring such songs as "There's No Business Like Show Business," "Old-Fashioned Wedding" and "Anything You Can Do, I Can Do Better."

WORKSHOP

Theatre Arts Studio
3 Church St., Cambridge (710-3864). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. This new theater arts studio offers two free classes: Oct. 7, 2:30-4:30pm, and Oct. 10, 8-10pm.

Dance

SHOWS AND EVENTS

Alex Fox
The Emerson Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St. Boston (824-8000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Oct. 14, 8pm. $15-$38. This Argentinian guitarist and composer hails from South Beach, Miami. He comes to Boston to share his passionate Rumba and Flamenco rhythms, accompanied by his dancer and band.

Flamenco Andaluz
The Orpheum Foxborough, One School St., Foxborough (508-543-2787). Oct. 13-14, 8pm. Oct. 15, 3pm. $12-$24. The Ramon de los Reyes Spanish Dance Theatre brings the essence of Flamenco roots from the Andulasian Gypsies. In this world premiere show, which features dancers, singers and guitarists, Ramon de los Reyes will join his company to perform traditional works and adaptations. Cha-cha-cha!

Four Seasons
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Through Oct. 8. Boston Ballet's 37th year opens with this show, featuring the premiere of NY-based dancer/choreographer Christopher Wheeldon. Set to Antonio Vivaldi's popular concerto, the show is a trademark combination of Wheeldon's contemporary and classic movements.

The Wasted Hotel Tour
The Spontaneous Celebrations Cultural Center, 45 Danforth St., Jamaica Plain (524-6373). MBTA Orange Line to Stonybrook. Oct. 14 . Parts of the Sister Spit crew will be traveling with a new act, lineup and texts. The show features Michelle Tea, Shar Rednour, Jackie Strano, Kassy Kayiatos, Sash Sunday, Kathe Izzo and Boston's own lovely baton twirler to mystify you all.

JOIN IN

Club Joy
533 Washington Street, Boston (354-5780). Saturday nights. This Latin night spot now offers classes: salsa, merengue, bachata and more.

Dance Friday
Rug Cutter's Studio, 23 Main St., Watertown Square (924-7276). Fridays, 8:30pm-12am. $7 adults, $4 teens, children free. Join in the dancing to all types of music—even dance barefoot—in this family-friendly, smoke- and alcohol-free environment.

Four on the Floor and Just Swing It
Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. •Saturdays, 9pm-1:30am, $12, $10 after 11:30pm. Join in a variety of dance moves—here you'll find jazzy mambos, swing dancing, cheeky cha chas and sassy salsa numbers. *•Tuesdays, 10pm-1:30am. $6. Ages 19 and older.* Featuring the Black Tie Affair Orchestra, this will be a great night of swing dancing. Dancers are encouraged to bring their own music.

Just Swing It
Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Inman Square, Cambridge (266-2258).

Israeli Dancing
Temple Israel of Boston, Longwood Avenue at Plymouth Street, Boston (566-3960). MBTA: D Green Line to Longwood. Oct. 15, 22, 11am-12pm. $5. Beginners are especially welcome to join instructor Vladimir Foygelman for lessons in Israeli folk dancing.

Singles Dances
The Knights of Columbus Hall, Winslow and Prescott Streets, Arlington (781-721-1886). www.funfun fun.org. The Singles Clubs are hosting a dance for singles in their 30s, 40s and 50s. Take a chance on meeting someone special as you shake it on the dance floor.

Renaissance Dance
Jewett Hall, corner of Mason and Garden streets, Cambridge (661-3353). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Oct. 13, 7:30pm. $8. Hear ye, hear ye! Learn to boogie like you're straight out of the 15th or 16th century. Snap out of those stocks and break into the pavan (or the galliard) with the Renaissonics dance group.

Tango Rialto
Rialto, Charles Hotel, One Bennett Street, Cambridge (661-5050). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thursdays, 10:30pm-1:30am. $10. One of Boston's most popular restaurants, Rialto in Harvard Square, opens its doors to tango dancers of all levels and backgrounds for nights of light hors d'oeuvres and lots of dancing.

Why Choose One?
Dance Caliente, 170 Washington St., Arlington (781-646-1233). Mon. and Tue. $25 for one course, $55 for a five week course. Learn it all at this multidance studio where you can pick up salsa, swing, tango or the fox trot.

TICKETS

Bostix
(723-5181) www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of Faneuil Hall); Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth); and Harvard Square (in the Holyoke Center arcade at 1350 Mass. Ave).* Same-day tickets half-price.

Next Ticketing
(423-NEXT). www.boston.com/next.

Ticketmaster
(931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

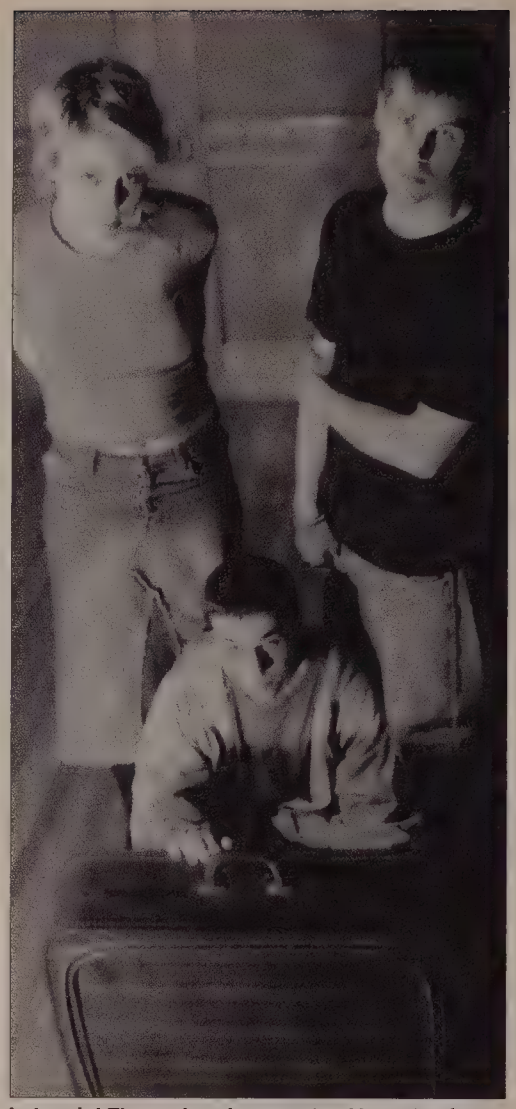
Out of Town Tickets
(247-1300 or 800-442-1854). A good place to get tickets if a show is sold out at the box office.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail info. to comedy@improper.com. *Include address, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a description of the performances or comedians. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (248-9700). www.comedyconnectionboston. com. MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed., 8pm; Thu., 8:30pm; Fri. and Sat., 8pm, 10:15pm; Sun., 7pm. $8-$10 (weekend prices vary). The oldest comedy club in Boston draws big-name, national comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •Oct. 4: Don Gavin •Oct. 5: Frank Santos, "The R-Rated Hypnotist" •Oct. 8: Black Comedy Explosion hosted by Jonathan Gates, 9:15pm •Oct. 9: Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox •Oct. 10: Paul Nardizzi & Robert Prinz •Oct. 11: Jim Lauletta •Oct. 12: Frank Santos, "The R-Rated Hypnotist" •Oct. 13: Tommy Davidon of "In Living Color" •Oct. 14: Kenny Rogerson •Oct. 15, 10:30pm: Tommy Davidson of *Booty Call* •Oct. 16, 7pm: Tommy Davidson of *Woo* •Oct. 17: Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox.



Industrial Theatre's suitcase tale, *Motel Stories*, plays Oct. 6-21. It features three one-acts.

The Comedy Studio
The Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu.-Sun., 8pm. $5-$7. Sketch comedy troupes and local comedians perform. •Oct. 5: Tim McIntire hosts Thursday Night Fights with guests Bill D'Agostino, Andrew Donnell y, Tuss Garmil and Ben Murray. •Oct. 6: Brendan Small and Larry Murphy with guests Art Janvario, Mike Prior and Eric Riley Moore. •Oct. 7: Andrew Donelly, Kori CHambers, Dave Greenberg, Chris Walsh, Laura Hoffma. •Oct. 8: Comics Workout featuring Sam Walter, Laura Kolling, Brenda Mason and Sulman, and Val Kappa. •Oct. 12: Tim McIntire with John Lynch, Amanda White, Tom Caswell, Emily Singer and Benari Poulten. •Oct. 13: Brendon Small hosts Mike Dorval, Jim Celeste, Jeanine Pace, Pat O'Shea and Andrew O'Feish. •Oct. 14: Standup with Janet Cormeri, Alana Devich, Pat O'Shea, Sean Lily, Dave Walsh and Chris Walsh. •Oct. 15: Sketch comedy troupe Thank Gladys with standup by Tom Morello, Steve Holda, Steve Wishnick, Marlene Walch and John Curtin.

Dick Doherty's Comedy Vault
Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun., 9pm. $10. Features local stand-up comedians. Thursdays: Stand-up comedy. Fri. and Sat.: Dick Doherty's Comedy Pro Tour. Sun.: Open-mike night.

Nick's Comedy Stop
100 Warrenton St., Boston (482-0930). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. $10-$15. The talent here is not quite as big-name as the Comedy Connection, but the crowds are just as enthusiastic. Wednesdays: Open mike at 8:30pm. •Oct. 4: Danny Kelley and friends •Oct. 5: Jack Flynn, Jim Colliton, PJ Walsh •Oct. 6-7: Bob Gaurea, Jim Colliton, PJ Walsh •Oct. 11: Danny Kelley •Oct. 12: Chance Lanton, Joe Carroll and Marc Riley •Oct. 13-14: Jon Pinette, Kevin Knox and Marc Riley

IMPROV COMEDY

Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston (263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Shows: Thu., 8pm; Fri. and Sat., 8pm and 10pm. Main Stage: $10-$15.* Now playing on the main stage is the critically acclaimed improvisational and sketch comedy show—voted one of Boston's best improvisational comedy troupes. •Wednesdays, 8pm: The Improv Asylum Training Center graduate show, *Gary's Pocket*, followed by the Improv Asylum Touring Company. $10.

ImprovBoston at Back Alley Theater
1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1253). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. $12. Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe makes things up as they go along. ***•Election***: Fri. 8pm, through November. Based on audience participation, troupe members will adopt party platforms and run on them throughout the course of the show, with all the requisite political shenanigans. ***•TheatreSports***: Fridays, 10:30pm. Witness two local improvisation troupes compete for bragging rights in this no-holds-barred, improvisational fight.

Magicians & Spirits
Green Street Grill, 280 Green St., Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Shows every Tuesday at 9pm. $10 cabaret show ($5 with dinner). At 10pm, the cabaret show begins upstairs with local and national magicians reading minds, making birds appear out of nowhere and levitating objects onstage.

COMEDY SHOWS

Battle of the Sexes
290 Congress St., Boston (426-1999). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Saturdays 10:30pm. $15-$18. A participatory comedy.

Comedy at the Isle
The Emerald Isle Bar and Lounge, 1501 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester (288-3481). MBTA: Red Line to Fields Corner. Thursdays 8-10pm. Free. Stand-up open mike night hosted by Keith Mahoney. •Oct. 8: Don Gavin and Lisa Lampinelli, 8:30pm, $10.

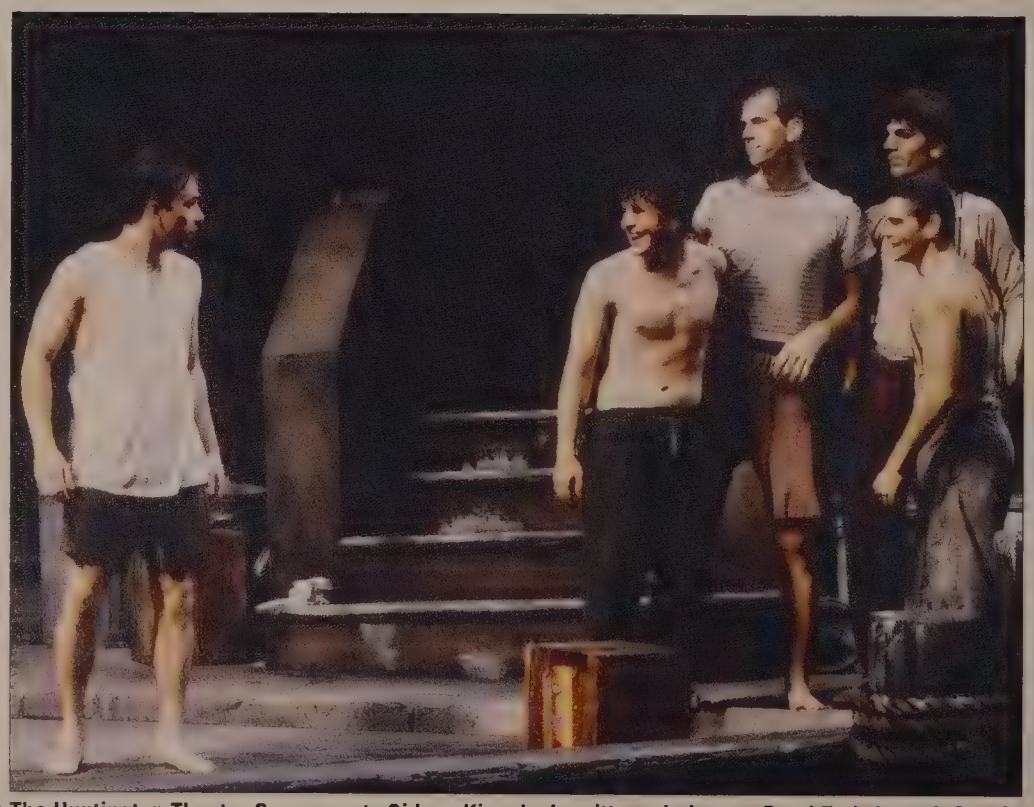
Comics 4 a Cause
Somerville Theater, Holland St., Somerville (931-2000). Oct. 7, 8pm. Bringing together some of Boston's most talented comics—Frank Santorelli, Don Gavin, Teddy Bergeron, Kevin Knox, Paul Nardizzi, John Turco, Greg Boggis, Jim Colliton and emcee Johnny Joyce—this fundraiser promises to combine laughter and the serious message of gun-control, dating and domestic violence. Comics 4 a Cause hopes to raise more than $100,000.

Joey & Maria's Comedy Wedding
Tremont House Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Fri. and Sat., 7:30pm. Ongoing. $39-$45. Join the fun at this absolutely zany Italian wedding. Big hair and blue tuxedos optional.

Kings of Comedy Tour 2000
FleetCenter, Boston (931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Oct. 6, 8pm. $45.50 and $35.50. This show will feature Steve Harvey, Bernie Mac, Cedric "The Entertainer," Sommore, Adele Givens and Mo'nique.

Murder on the Campaign Trail
Mystery Cafe Dinner Theater, 290 Congress St., Boston (781) 793-9700. Fridays at 7:30pm; Saturdays at 7pm. Ongoing. $36 (Includes dinner and show). See this mystery parody of Campaign 2000.

Sandra Bernhard
Berklee Performance Center, 136 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-7455). Oct. 15, 7pm and 9:30pm. $25-$35. Laugh along with funny girl Sandra Bernhard.



The Huntington Theatre Co. presents Sidney Kingsley's gritty melodrama, *Dead End*, through Oct. 8.

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Advice to Readers
The following is a partial list of the largest art museums, art institutes and galleries in the Boston area. The • symbol denotes a temporary exhibition.

Museums

Art Institute of Boston
Lesley College, 700 Beacon St., Boston (585-6600). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. www.lesley.edu. *Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm; Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun., 12-5pm.* •*Contemporary Art from Cuba* includes the works of 21 contemporary Cuban artists, many of whom have never before exhibited their work in the U.S. Through Oct. 21.

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. The Sackler houses ancient Islamic and Asian art, an array of Neolithic bronze Buddhas, Greek pottery and Hellenistic sculpture. *Wall Drawing #830* features four isometric figures. Ongoing.

Boston Public Library
900 Boylston St., Boston (536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. •*The Brink's Job*, a show of photographs from the Print Department's *Herald*-Traveler Photo Morgue of "Boston's Crime of the Century," includes courtroom sketches of the trial, crime scene photos and mug shots. Through Dec. 31 in the Wiggin Gallery Balcony.

DeCordova Museum
51 Sandy Pond Rd., Lincoln (781-259-8355). •*Photography in Boston 1955-1985* celebrates 30 years of photographic history in Boston and features more than 60 Boston area photographers—with a total of more than 230 pieces on display. •Elsa Dorfman's *No Hair Day* is also on display through Jan. 21, 2001.

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. •A show of Japanese photographer Daido Moriyama's work includes nearly 200 black-and-white photographs of post-war Japan. Through Nov. 5. •*Before and After the End of Time: Architecture and the Year 1000* runs through Dec. 31. This looks at the beginning of Romanesque architecture in Europe. •*Dürer's Passions* is a collection of the prints and drawings of Albrecht Dürer's Passion of Christ. Through Dec. 3. •*Philip Guston: A New Alphabet* focuses on a four-year period in the artist's life (1968-1972). Through Feb. 4. •*Franz Marc: Horses* shows through March 18.

Gibson House Museum
137 Beacon St., Boston (267-6338). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Guided tours every Sat. and Sun. at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm. $5. With 75 percent of its original items in place, the museum allows visitors to better understand 19th-century domestic life and design. Ongoing.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (266-5152). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Wed.-Sun., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-9pm. $6, $4 students and seniors. •In the group exhibition *From a Distance: Approaching Landscape*, artists investigate new approaches of presenting landscapes and topography using sculpture, video and works on paper. Through Oct. 8. •Upcoming exhibits: *Customized*, inspired by hot-rod culture. Oct. 24-Dec. 31. •Free guided walk-throughs take place each Thursday at 6:30pm.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (566-1401). www.boston.com/gardner. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun., 11am-5pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, under 18 free. Guided on Fridays, 2:30pm.* This 15th-century Venetian palace is home to more than 2,500 objects and twice as many flowers. Boston's most famous museum is named for the house's owner, Isabella Stewart Gardner (1840-1924), an infamously incorrigible individualist. •*Rembrandt Creates Rembrandt: Art and Ambition in Leiden, 1629-1631* comprises 10 paintings, including the Gardner's early *Self Portrait*, and 10 etchings from collections in the U.S. and Europe. The show illuminates Rembrandt's evolving styles. Through Jan. 7, 2001.

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5pm, weekends 12-5pm. $3, $1 for students, seniors and children. Where else would you be but at MIT when you contemplate Morton G. Bradley Jr.'s *Math in 3-D: Geometric Sculptures*? The museum's other permanent exhibits include *Flashes of Inspiration: the Work of Harold Edgerton*, and *Gestural Engineering* and *Cultural Engineering: the Sculptures of Arthur Ganson*, the mechanical engineer/choreographer. •On the last Sunday of the month, explore oceanography, astronomy, the science of buildings and other mysteries of science from 2-4pm. Call 452-2827 for details. •*Holography: the Light Fantastic* is a selection from the museum's collection—the world's largest—that illustrates the many artistic and scientific facets of that medium.

Museum of Bad Art
580 High St., Dedham (325-8224). Mon.-Fri., 6:30-10pm, Sat., and Sun., 1-10pm. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. The one and only museum that boasts "art too bad to be ignored." A favorite is *Lady Chardonnay*, a piece illuminating a poodle-headed dancer.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Mon.-Tue., 10am-4:45pm; Wed., 10am-9:45pm, Thu.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun., 10am-5:45pm. West Wing only, Thu.-Fri., 5-9:45pm. $12, students and seniors $10.* The MFA has earned its rep as the second-best-run art museum in the nation (after the Metropolitan Museum of Art) with its top-notch exhibitions, educational programs and galleries of African, Oceanic and American art. •*Van Gogh to Mondrian: Dutch Works on Paper*, brings together some 100 works on paper by more than 40 Dutch artists. Through Nov. 5. •*Felicities of Line: Persian and Turkish Drawings* displays through Oct. 12. •*Charlotte Salomon: Life? or Theatre?* is the title Salomon gave to a series of more than 780 small gouaches that she selected from a total of 1,325 painted while in exile in the south of France between 1940 and 1942. Through Oct. 29. •*Christian Boltanski: Reflection* is an installation by the French artist. Through Nov. 12.

The Peabody House Museum
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (496-1027). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50 adults; $5 students and seniors; $4 children 3-13. No fee Sat. mornings until 12pm. •*Diverse Traditions: Early Navajo Rugs and Pueblo Embroidery*, selections from the museum's collection of Navajo rugs, 1880-1920, includes Germantown, trading post and pictorial styles. Oct. 5-Nov. 26.

Rembrandt's etchings are on display at the newly opened Galerie d'Orsay through Oct. 22.

Galleries
FINE ART

Allston Skirt Gallery
129 Braintree St., Allston (254-7027). www.allston-skirt.com. MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. Painters Robin Dash and Michelle Grabner display their series of modern abstractions. Through Oct. 28.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (247-0610). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm; Sun., 1-5pm. •Sebastian Picker's collection of portraits display through Oct. 30.

Artesano Gallery
757A Beacon St., Newton (558-2783). Tue. and Wed., 10am-6pm; Thu.-Sat., 10am-7pm. This new contemporary gallery opened Sept. 8 and features original works from international artists who express cutting-edge design. Featuring Sargadelos ceramics from Spain.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., 5th Floor, Boston (262-4490). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5:30pm. •Maryellen Latas' show, titled *Lead and Gold*, shows through Oct.18. •The upcoming exhibition is Maggi Brown's *New Paintings*, which shows Oct. 21-Nov. 29.

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (482-2477). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Fri., 10:30am-5:30pm. •Tom Burkhardt's *New Paintings* is on display with Kathy Butterly's *New Ceramics*. Oct. 4-28.

Beth Urdang Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 11am-5pm or call for an appointment. The gallery regularly displays paintings, sculpture and works on paper. •*Modernist Still Lifes 1915-1945* features a selection of works from that period. Through Oct. 7.

Boston University Art Gallery
855 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-3329). MBTA: B Green Line to B.U. West. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat. and Sun., 1-5pm. The 56 objects and 17 photographs in *Differences Preserved: Reconstructed Tombs from a Liao and a Song Tomb* derive from two sets of tombs in northern China. Through Oct. 29.

Bromfield Art Gallery
560 Harrison Ave., Boston (451-3605). Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. Tim Nichols' *Fireflies* shows with Debra Giller's *Inside Out: Recent Ceramic Sculpture.* Through Oct. 28.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (236-2255). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 11am-5:30pm. •*Textural Glass* opens, showing new works by Takeshi and Youko Sano. Through Oct. 14.

Childs Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (266-1108). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 9am-6pm; Mon. and Sat., 10am-5pm. •The Main Gallery shows paintings in *New England Women Artists*. Also showing will be Frank W. Benson's *The Sporting Art Tradition* and the woodcuts of Durrer in the Alcove. Through Nov. 11.

Clark Gallery
145 Lincoln St., Lincoln (781-259-8303). Tue.-Sat., 10am-5pm. The gallery represents 30 artists, primarily regional. •*Sculpture for the Outdoors IV*, the gallery's fourth annual group show featuring art for the land, runs through Oct. 26.

Clifford Smith Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 3rd Floor, Boston (695-0255). www.cliffordsmithgallery.com. *Weds.-Sat., 11am-6pm.* •Joy Episalla's *Recent Photographs* are large works that combine sculpture and photography. Oct. 4-28.

Creiger-Dane Gallery
36 Newbury St., Boston (536-8088). www.creigerdane.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •An exhibition of hard-edged, abstract expressionist paintings by Addison Parks, titled *Hard X*, shows through Oct. 28.

Crosstown Arts Inc.
One North Square, Boston (720-0100). www.crosstown.com. *Tue.-Fri,. 9am-5pm, Sat., 9am-1pm or by appointment.* •*Marks and Surfaces*, a mixed-media show by Josette Ghiseline, displays through Oct. 21.

Crystal Fine Art
93 Summer St., Suite 4L, Boston (728-9818). www.crystalfineart.com. *MBTA: Red and Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Tue.-Fri., 11am-6pm.* •*Candace Whittemore Lovely*'s work shows through November.

Eclipse Gallery
167 Newbury St., Boston (247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9am-5pm. •David Thompson's *Dune Shacks 2000*, 18 paintings, shows through Oct. 28.

Elias Fine Art
120 Braintree St., Allston (783-1818). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. •A group show titled *What's So Funny About Color?* shows through Oct. 28.

Equator Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (266-4110). www.equatorgallery.com. *Tue.-Thu., 12-6pm; Fri.-Sun., 11am-7pm.* Displaying contemporary artwork from around the world that contains pre-Columbian motifs. The gallery is also chock full of woodcarvings—all made by several generations of Equadorian artists.

Gallery @ Green Street
141 Green St., Jamaica Plain (522-0000). www.jameshull.com. MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm; Tue., Wed. and Thu., also 6-9pm. •*Young Photographers Crossing Paths* shows through Oct. 21. Artists' talk Oct. 12, 7pm.

Gallery Bershad
99 Dover St., Somerville (629-9400 ex.3). www.bershad.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Davis.* •*2000 (or Less)* is a group show that looks back on the gallery's latest season and features more than 20 artists. Through Oct. 27.

Galerie d'Orsay
33 Newbury St., Boston (266-8001). www.galerie-dorsay.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm.* •Boston's new art gallery opened Sept. 7 with an exhibition of Rembrandt's etchings. The exhibit features the master works of artists such as Picasso, Matisse, Chagall, Renoir, Miro and Warhol. Through Oct. 22.

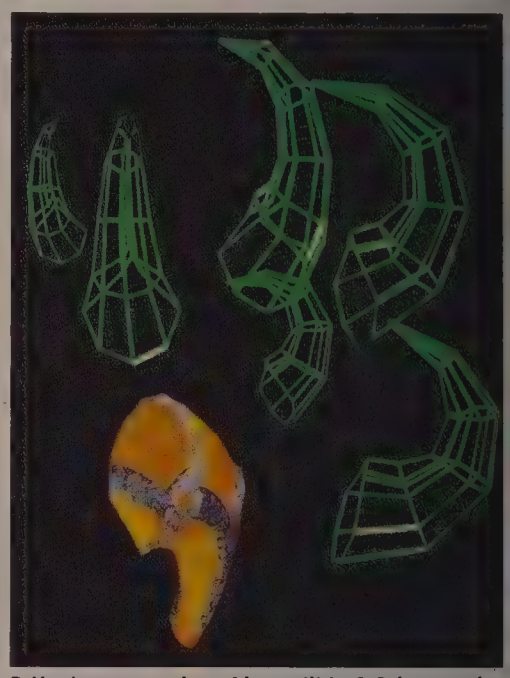
Gallery Seventy-Nine
79 Newbury St., Boston (262-5918). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-6pm; Sat., 12-5pm. •James Rayen's *Landscape Markings* shows through Oct. 11.

Genovese Sullivan Gallery
47 Thayer St., Boston (426-9738). Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. MBTA: Orange Line to N.E. Medical Center. •Burt Antonio's *Exact Sentiments, Trashy Romance Collages*, shows with works by Christine Fritch. Through Oct. 4.

Gibbs Gallery
41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm. •*Symbionts* features the sculptural work of Paul Briggs and Sarah Glass. Through Oct. 13.

Gurari Collections
91 Charles St., Boston (367-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. This gallery has an impressive collection of 16th- to early-20th-century etchings, engravings and drawings.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St. Boston (536-6339). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 10am-6pm; Sat., 10am-5pm. •There is an assortment of 18th- and 19th-century historic and decorative antique engravings and lithographs on display this month.



B.U. shows a series of incredible 3-D images in *Spirited Ruins* at the Sherman through Oct. 8.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (262-0550). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. yezerski@ziplink.net. •Maria Magdalena's *Campos-Pons* shows with Karl Baden's *Contact Print, Self Portrait*. Oct. 6-31.

Hurst Gallery
53 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (491-6888). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sat., 12-6pm. Thu., 12-7pm and by appointment. Visitors are greeted with a wide variety of art and artifacts from six continents. •*Of Land, Sea and Sky: Animals in the Art of the Ancient Americas* is an exhibition of pre-Columbian art from Peru, West Mexico and Mesoamerica. Oct. 14-Dec. 2.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (375-0076). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. A selection of vintage posters is displayed. Ongoing.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 Saint Stephen St., Boston (247-1719). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue.-Sat., 1-5pm. •*Open Studio 2000*, featuring Kaji Aso, Kate Finnegan, Jeanne Gugino, Mary Ellen Gardner, John Miller, Marg Layman, Hiroyuki Ohtani and Katie Sloss, runs through Oct. 12.

Lyman-Eyer Gallery Inc.
1347 Washington St., West Newton (964-3470). Tue.-Fri., 4-7:30pm; Sat., 11am-7:30pm; Sun., 11am-5pm. •*Solitude*, paintings and drawings by Robert Adamcik, Susan Avishai and Brett Osborn, shows through Oct. 8. •*Cooley & Maisel—the Landscape* features new work by Jacob Cooley and Mary Beth Maisel, with an installation by Sarah Ashodian. Oct. 14-Nov. 12.

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Preview

Giant Art

For the past 10 years, Shepard Fairey, an art school grad, skater and punk rock aficionado, has been watching as his own kitschy iconic stickers and posters have taken on a life of their own. When he stopped in Boston and distributed his drawing of a dead professional wrestler with the random slogan "Andre the Giant Has a Posse," it was quickly integrated into the graffiti art, flyering and skater culture. Having sprung from the underground art scene, his iconic works have taken on giant proportions—his thousands of copycat stickers and posters have plastered many a public surface and become a staple form of graffiti art. Now, Giant Has a Posse, his Andre-the-Giant-themed poster and sticker collection, has temporarily replaced record store Smash City's usual wall decorations of album covers and flyers. Fairey has turned the idea into quite the biz—he sells Giant brand skateboards and clothes and now works in San Diego as a graphic designer. His many shows on the East Coast display his graffiti techniques mixed with graphic design concepts.

If you don't quite get it, that's OK. Fairey explains it as a "experiment in phenomenology," which means he's provoking people so they will find meaning in nonsensical creations. "The sticker has no meaning but exists only to cause people to react," he writes in his manifesto. "Andre is so ridiculous that there's nothing left but the process." *Through Oct. 16. at Smash City, 304 Newbury St., Boston (536-0216). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center. www.andrethegiant.com.*

Mills Gallery
539 Tremont St., Boston (426-8835). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Sun., 1-4pm; Thurs.-Sat., 7-10pm. •*Twice Born: Beauty*, an exhibition of paintings and photographs by contemporary artists that explores the resurgent interest in beauty, shows through Nov. 5.

Mobius
254 Congress St., Boston (542-7416). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. www.mobius.org. *Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm.* •*Boston-Macedonia Collaborative Project—Root, Water—Nest Bird* is the second phase of a cultural link established between Macedonia's Centre for Cultural Information and Mobius. Through Oct. 8 (performance Oct. 7 and 8). •Stephen Sheffield and Gina Cestaro's *Disrobe/Redress* is an installation consisting of robes and mixed media. Through Oct. 22.

MPG
285 Newbury St., Boston (437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-5pm. •*Abstracts* is sculpture by Milan Klic and new images by Ruth Fields. Through Oct. 30.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* Founded in 1964. •Sam Messer's *New Paintings and Retrospective* shows through Oct. 21.

Out of the Blue Gallery
168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun., 12-7pm. This gallery, owned and operated by several artists, always has a variety of interesting artwork and art-related events going on. •Poetry readings take place every Saturday, and the gallery hosts a rotating guest list of jazz musicians every Wednesday.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (236-4497). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •Pamela Ellis Hawkes' photographs display Oct. 6-31.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (267-9473). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun., 1pm-5pm. •*Beauty and Youth: New Work* with stoneware pottery by Tatsuzo Shimaoka is the third exhibition of new work by this renowned Japanese potter. Through Oct 4. •*Mallory Lake: Italy Light and Shadow* is a series of Tuscan-inspired landscapes. Oct. 7-Nov. 8.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (266-3321). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. www.richardsonclarke.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tues.-Sat., 10am-5pm.* •Judith Belzer's *New Paintings*. Oct. 13-Nov. 25.

Rolly-Michaux
290 Dartmouth St., Boston (536-9898). Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm. •Celebrating its 34th season, the gallery begins its fall season with *20th Century Master Graphics.* The month's show includes a 1961 lithograph by Georges Braque depicting his well-known imagery of a bird in flight, along with a rare 1940 linocut by Matisse. Through Oct. 28.

Sherman Gallery
775 Comm. Ave., Boston (358-0295). MBTA: B Green Line to B.U. West. Tue.-Fri., 11am-5pm; Sat. and Sun., 1-5pm. The magical three-dimensional world of *Spirited Ruins* shows through Oct. 8. •The upcoming exhibition is Ann Tracy Montero's lushly painted installation pieces. Oct. 19-Nov. 17.

Space 12 Gallery
12 Union Park St., Boston (423-9760). Wed., 6-9pm; Thu., Fri. and Sat., 1-5pm. John Campbell of Kingston, Jamaica, shows his first exhibition in Boston—a series of mixed-media works on canvas. Christopher Kirk Lawrence shows his paintings. Through Oct. 14.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (450-0321). www.stgeorgegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-5pm.* Artist William St. George displays his lush and colorful paintings. •*People, Places & Things* shows through Oct. 31.

Touch of France
173 Newbury St., Boston (247-6966). MBTA: Green line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-7pm; Sun., 10am-6pm. This gallery imports contemporary French artists' works, including paintings from famous painters M. Tigrane, R. Kefflin, C. Ferrer and striking dried-flower arrangements made near Saint Tropez.

Via Gallery
83 Newbury St., 2nd Floor (424-6200). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-4pm. •Victor Sandblom and Raina Piligian exhibit pieces in *Recent Works in Oil*, through Oct. 7. •Rosa Lasaosa's black-and-white mixed-media installation shows Oct. 13-Nov. 11.

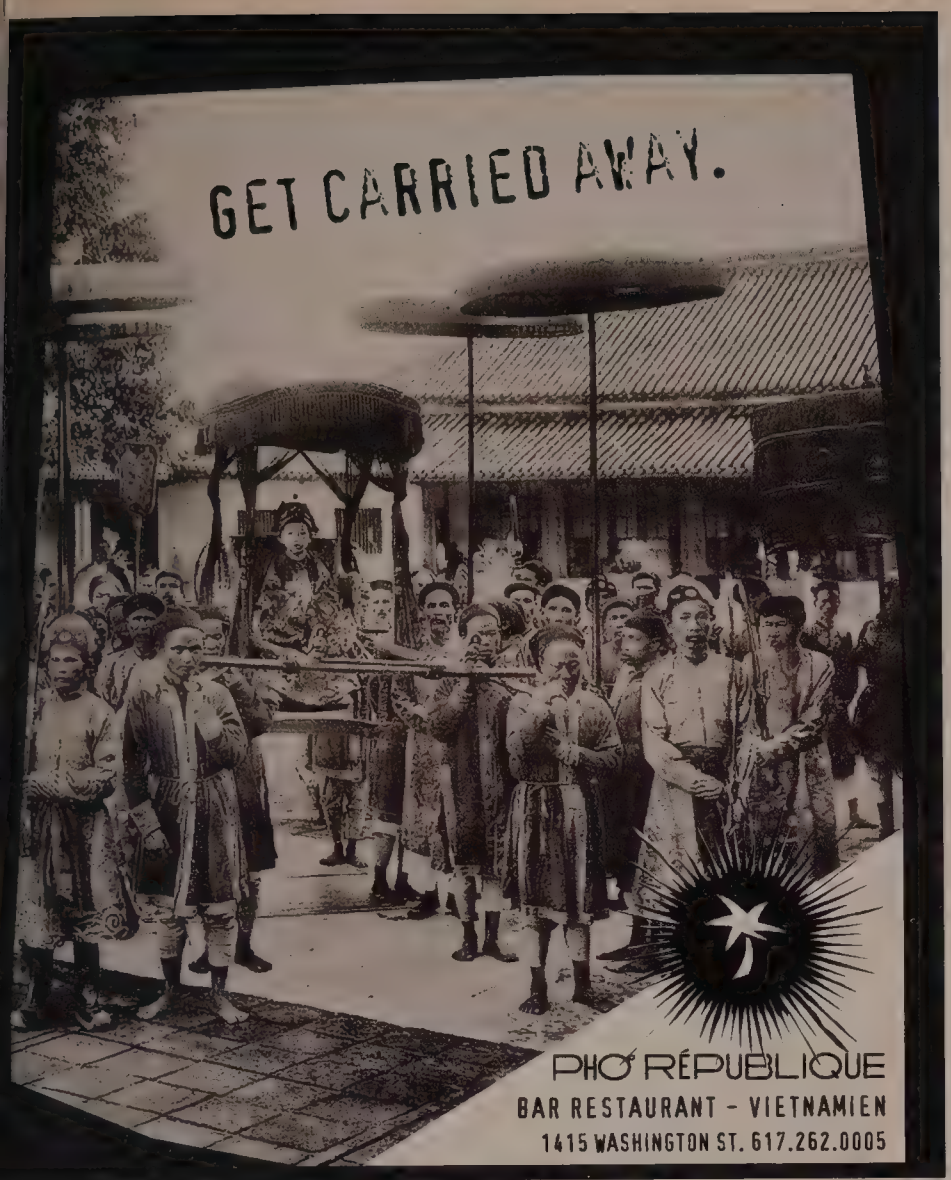
Zeitgeist Gallery
312 Broadway St., Cambridge (876-2182). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu.-Sun., 2pm-7pm. The gallery displays a variety of local artists' work. •A Playground Jazz Series takes place on Friday nights. •Monday is literary night with the Stone Soup Poets performing. •Every Wednesday is a figure-drawing session. •Sunday is a vegan potluck supper, with live music and poetry.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2051). Tues.-Sat., 11am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. •A multimedia installation, *Cold War Modern: the Domesticated Avant-Garde,* explores the avant-garde in art, music and design in the United States between 1945 and the early '60s. Through June 10, 2001.

Photographic Resource Center
602 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-0700). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford. Tue.-Sun., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-8pm. •*Significant Other: the Human Presence in Contemporary Animal Imagery* is photography by eight artists. Through Oct. 20. •*The Nature of Things,* a year-long exhibit from the Arboretum archives, displays through Sept. 8, 2001.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., fourth floor, Boston (267-7997). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 10am-5:30pm. •The gallery presents its third show of photography by the artist Annie Leibovitz in *Annie Leibovitz: Women.* This series of large-scale images focuses on female nudes. Through Oct. 7. •D.W. Meller's *Still Lives* represents decades of his expertise on photographing still lifes, which were photographed in Prague, Amsterdam and London. Oct. 13-Nov. 25.



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LIFE IN A NORTHERN TOWN

Billy Elliot is the "Little Monty". BY PAUL SHERMAN

Give us your tired; huddled masses of English working-class blokes. We will craft stories of triumph about them, comedies of optimism in the face of adversity. We will sympathize with their plight and admire their pluck. Or at least that's the way it's been ever since *The Full Monty*. Now, eight months do not pass without some new cinematic concoction of underclass Brits achieving moral victory.

In a group of wanna-bes that also includes *Among Giants* and *Closer to You*, the new *Billy Elliot* adds some pleasing wrinkles to the usual post-Margaret Thatcher workingman's tale. For one, it's set in 1984, in the middle of Thatcher's reign and in the thick of one of her defining moments: the coal miners' strike in which she came down firmly on the side of big business. Second, instead of focusing on miners, the story concentrates on the 11-year-old title character (played by Jamie Bell), whose hard-nosed father (Gary Lewis) and older brother (Jamie Driven) are miners out on strike in their northeast England town.

The strike provides a tense backdrop and an emphasis on the town's blue-collar self-image, and it lets you feel how the macho identity of the workingman is being challenged. Against this backdrop of increasingly desperate masculinity, the last thing young Billy's widower dad and big brother want to hear about is Billy's desire to take ballet classes. But that's the news he tries to break to them. Although his father struggles to give him 50 pence a week to pay for boxing lessons, ring underachiever Billy is instead drawn to the dance class that shares the local gym. One day after the sparring session is over, he joins in with the all-girl class exercises, and is dared by the blunt teacher (Julie Walters) to return.

Billy does, but he's quick to hide his ballet shoes and make others think he's still attending his boxing lessons. Although the early scenes with Billy privately trying out dance moves in his house's locked bathroom are overly slapstick, young Bell shows the physicality and the acting ability to make Billy seem unconventional but not freaky. As played by likable Bell, Billy is clumsy but not too clumsy; and sensitive but not too sensitive.

Bell's contribution is the least formulaic thing about *Billy Elliot*. Once the truth gets out about where he's been going instead of boxing, his father predictably recoils with "no son of mine takes ballet" gruffness, while the ballet instructor predictably challenges Billy to stand up to the father's strictness (the teacher's middle-class status also colors the working-class dad's resentment of the ballet class). That Lewis (*My Name Is Joe*) and Walters (*Titanic Town*, *Educating Rita*) are playing the same sort of characters they regularly portray only magnifies the formulaic feel.

Director Stephen Daldry also can't seem to decide whether he wants his movie to be a fantasy. One polished dance scene between Billy and the teacher seems at first to signal a passage of time (immediately before that, Billy couldn't dance). Then it appears to have been just a fantasy. Later on, there's a similar scene that may or may not be a fantasy, since it shows Billy tap-dancing, something we never see him learn. In any case, not knowing whether Billy can or cannot dance at a given point keeps you from knowing if the boy is actually making any progress, which could have only helped viewers emotionally invest themselves in his plight.

That's not to say *Billy Elliot* doesn't generate some emotions, or that you don't root for the kid to get what he wants. The father and brother eventually come around to seeing the value of letting Billy dance, and the course of both the miners' strike and the boy's attempt to get into a dance school combine for the movie's bittersweet resolution. **iB**

Billy Elliot ★★½

Directed by Stephen Daldry. Written by Lee Hall. With Jamie Bell, Gary Lewis, Julie Walters and Jamie Driven. Rated R. Universal Pictures.

Billy Elliot (Jamie Bell) struggles to fit in.

GILES KEYTE

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Almost Famous ★★★½
Movies don't come much better-written than the latest from writer-director Cameron Crowe. Crowe again addresses the issues of honesty and sincerity that fueled past films like *Say Anything* and *Jerry Maguire*, but never more potently than in this autobiographical early-1970s story of his days as a teen rock journalist. Newcomer Patrick Fugit supplies just the right blend of smarts and naiveté as the fictionalized Crowe character, who is sent on tour to profile a band but then finds himself losing his journalist objectivity. Most movies lack one relationship that's as involving as the four this teen has—with his supportive but overprotective mom (Frances McDormand), his journalistic mentor Lester Bangs (Philip Seymour Hoffman), a more worldly groupie (Kate Hudson) and the band's star guitarist (Billy Crudup).

Bring It On ★★
Isn't it silly to make a comedy about cheerleaders, and then not have cheerleading be the butt of any jokes? Not even having Kirsten Dunst as one of those Stepford-Wives-to-be can make cheerleading seem any less silly. She plays the new captain of an all-white suburban squad that is the defending national champion (yes, there actually is competitive cheerleading). She finds out the former captain stole all the group's routines, so she and her squad must scramble to create new ones. Although Dunst, Watertown's Eliza Dushku and Jesse Bradford are all appealing, this might have been much funnier had it been more of a backstage satire like *Drop Dead Gorgeous*, Dunst's beauty pageant movie.

The Cell ★★
Seven meets *Silence of the Lambs* in this thriller in which more energy seems to have gone into set design and Jennifer Lopez's costume changes than into the characters (not surprisingly, its director is a video and commercial veteran). Lopez plays a therapist who uses a high-tech lab hook-up to enter the minds of the comatose. When a serial killer (Vincent D'Onofrio) who has abducted a young woman goes into a coma-like trance as a result of his schizophrenia, she's called in to try to get his subconscious to tell her where the victim is. Vince Vaughn is also here as a battle-scarred detective, and though the movie may sport a bold look at times, it's generic post-*Seven* gratuitous grisliness, with none of that movie's mournful humanity.

The Contender ★
Rod Lurie, the L.A. film critic turned writer-director, is making a career of ripping off Cold War thrillers from his youth, turning *Fail-Safe* into *Deterrence* last year, and now *Advise & Consent* into this inept D.C. potboiler. In this post-Clinton political thriller, the confirmation hearings of a female senator (Joan Allen) to fill the vacant vice-presidency turns into an ambush led by a scheming congressman (Gary Oldman). But if real-life hardball politics were as laughably transparent as they are here, charlatans would be rooted out before they made it to Washington. And few movies have as bogus a climax and as many poor performances from dependable actors (like Jeff Bridges and Sam Elliott) as this one does.

Duets ★★
Making a movie about a group of characters who live for the release they get from singing karaoke is a great idea. If only this comedy-drama fulfilled half of that promise. Director Bruce Paltrow's film follows three twosomes whose paths eventually converge at a big-bucks Omaha karaoke tournament, individuals who are all desperately running toward or away from something. Among them are an estranged karaoke-hustler father (Huey Lewis) and his showgirl daughter (Gwyneth Paltrow, the director's daughter), a businessman having a nervous breakdown (Paul Giamatti) and an ex-con (Andre Braugher). Only Lewis and Giamatti bring much depth to their roles, but then again John Byrums script doesn't give the cast much to work with beyond the premise.

Girlfight ★★½
Not many independent productions come off the film festival circuit and pick up distribution by a Hollywood studio. Maybe that pedigree attached expectations to writer-director Karyn Kusama's coming-of-age film that it couldn't live up to, because now that it's here, the end product doesn't seem so special. Michelle Rodriguez is very convincing as a sullen Brooklyn teen who finds an outlet to blow off steam (and a place to pick up life lessons) in the boxing ring. Her struggles both inside and outside the ring have some drama to them, but her fictionalized plight really can't compare with the real-life stories on display in last year's great documentary about a Brooklyn boxing gym, *On the Ropes*.

Nurse Betty ★★
Although it aspires to supply a blissfully oblivious hero like those in *The King of Comedy* or *Being There*, this film depends on a clumsy gimmick to do so—that a sunny midwestern waitress (Renee Zellweger) obsessed with a soap star (Greg Kinnear) goes into a post-traumatic

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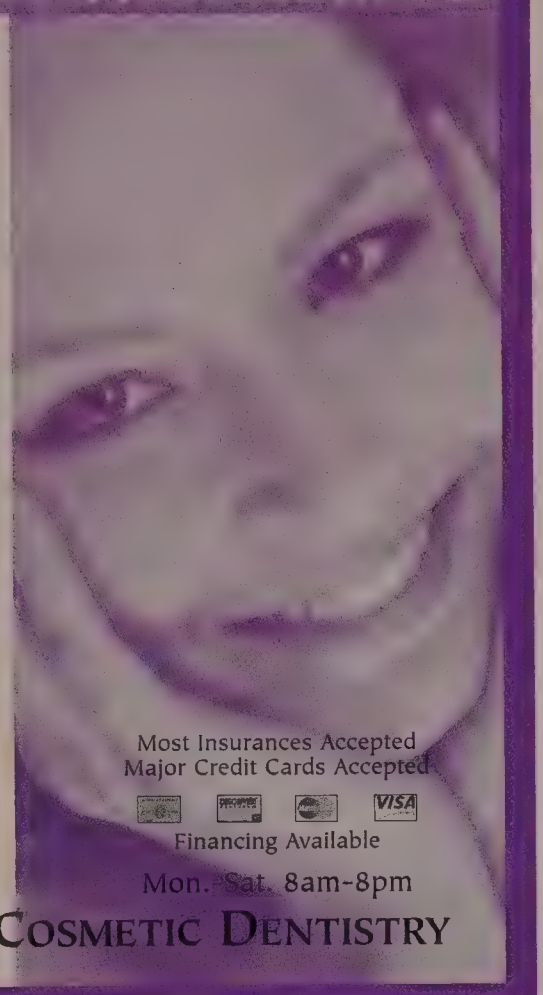

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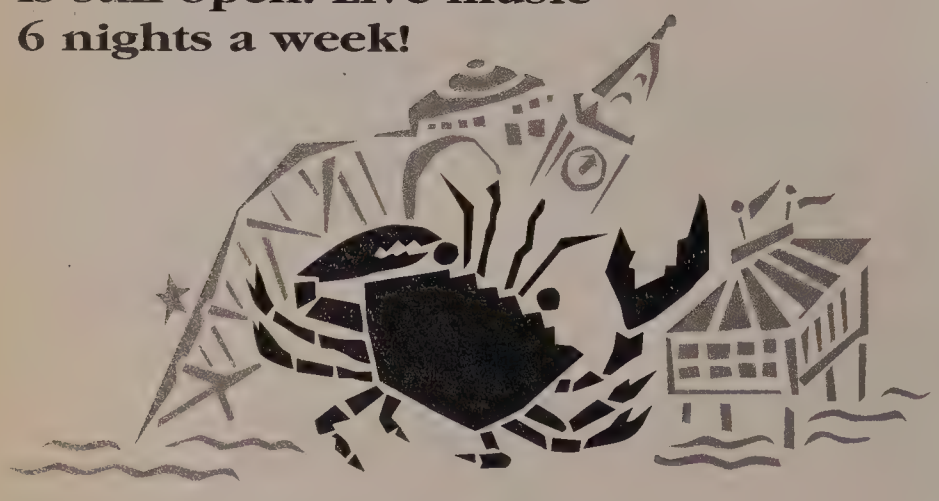

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What do you get when you mix director Bruce Paltrow, Gwyneth, Huey Lewis and karaoke? Er, *Duets*.

trance that makes her think she exists in the fictionalized world of the soap, so she heads to L.A. to find her man. The gimmick is not very believable, but after a while you give in slightly to the story and enjoy Zellweger's and Kinnear's performances. There is also a pair of hitmen (Morgan Freeman, Chris Rock) on the waitress' trail, because she unwittingly is carrying something her husband stole. To reinforce the fantasy vs. reality theme, the older killer somehow thinks she is a cold professional, like him, and as with the whole movie, Freeman's performance elevates the shaky premise a bit. But not enough for it to work.

The Original Kings of Comedy ★★★½
In capturing a show during Steve Harvey, D.J. Hughley, Cedric the Entertainer and Bernie Mac's stand-up comedy tour, Spike Lee's latest goes beyond mere performance film and becomes a joyous celebration of humor, freedom of expression and African-American culture. From Harvey's ability to bond with the Charlotte Coliseum audience and Hughley's ability to good-naturedly rib it, to Cedric's riffs on the differences between blacks and whites and Mac's rambunctious preaching style, all these guys can make you laugh. But the sum total of the movie is somehow more uplifting than that.

Remember the Titans ★★
The real-life story of an Alexandria, Va., high school football team's 1971 racial integration—and state championship—gets the full-blown Hollywood treatment. Denzel Washington is the determined black coach installed in place of the veteran white coach (Will Patton) who begrudgingly becomes his assistant. The new coach forges a united team by making sure his players get to know each other and get beyond their fears. Director Boaz Yakin (*Fresh*), making his first studio movie, shovels on the story pretty thickly at times, even though the word "Vietnam" is never uttered (odd for a movie set in 1971 with 30 or 40 young men soon to be of draft age). But sometimes the conviction outweighs the hokum, particularly in the friendship between a black lineman (Wood Harris) and a white lineman (Ryan Hurst).

The Tao of Steve ★★★
Donal Logue, who's been a familiar face in supporting roles ever since his inspired Jimmy the Cab Driver spots on MTV, finally gets to star in a movie. As Dex, Logue brings a lot of credibility to a character we're supposed to believe is charismatic enough to seduce women and philosophical enough to bundle his rules of courtship into something called the Tao of Steve—Steve being Steve McQueen—and yet still be endearing. While the story might have been a familiar yarn about a womanizer who gets his come-uppance, thanks to Logue and Greer Goodman (as the woman who makes him rethink his axioms of love), it becomes less formulaic.

The Way of the Gun ★★
Nope, it's not 1995 again; it's just a movie that belongs in 1995. *The Usual Suspects* writer Christopher McQuarrie makes his debut as a writer-director by offering this story of a couple of underachieving crooks (Benicio del Toro, Ryan Philippe) who see a big score in kidnapping a young woman (Juliette Lewis) who's carrying a baby for a rich couple. But the kidnappers don't know the man in the couple (Scott Wilson) is mob-connected, and pretty soon both the guy's slick bodyguards (Taye Diggs, Nicky Katt) and his old-school pals (James Caan and a bunch of stout guys in Members Only jackets) are on their trail. The characters are mere types, the twists are usually tipped off well in advance, and the whole thing has a post-*Reservoir Dogs* flippancy that's very dated.

Woman on Top ★½
Pretty as a picture but dull as cardboard. That's the letdown of this story of a Brazilian chef (Penelope Cruz) who leaves her domineering husband (Murilo Benicio) and their restaurant and travels to San Francisco, where she becomes the star of her own nightly TV cooking show. This really takes place in Cliché City, not Frisco: the chef cooks up spicy Latin dishes, the husband follows her to the U.S. and proffers serenades, and her S.F. best friend and TV sidekick is a drag queen (Harold Perrineau Jr.). The final insult? Though the movie is being sold as the next *Like Water for Chocolate*, it never even shows the finished dishes that Cruz's character cooks.

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Cinemas
214 Harvard Ave. (277-2140). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
Trapelo Rd. (484-1706). Red Line to Harvard, 73 bus.

BOSTON

Boston Film • Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (536-1540). Green Line to Hynes.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.

Cheri
50 Dalton St. (536-2870). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Fenway Theatre General Cinema
201 Brookline Ave. (424-6266). MBTA: Green Line to Fenway or Kenmore.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum Of Science, Omni Theater
Science Park (723-2500). Green Line to Science Park.

Nickelodeon
606 Comm. Ave. (424-1500). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford St.

Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle.

Coolidge Corner
290 Harvard St. (734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theater
40 Brattle St. (876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (495-4700). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Sq. (494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony Theater
10 Church St. (864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

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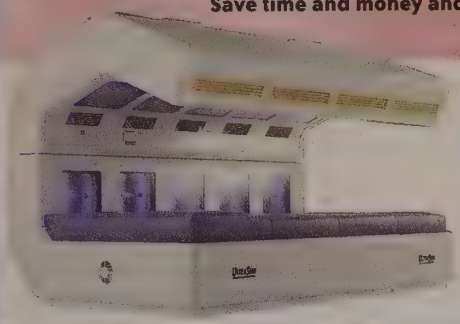

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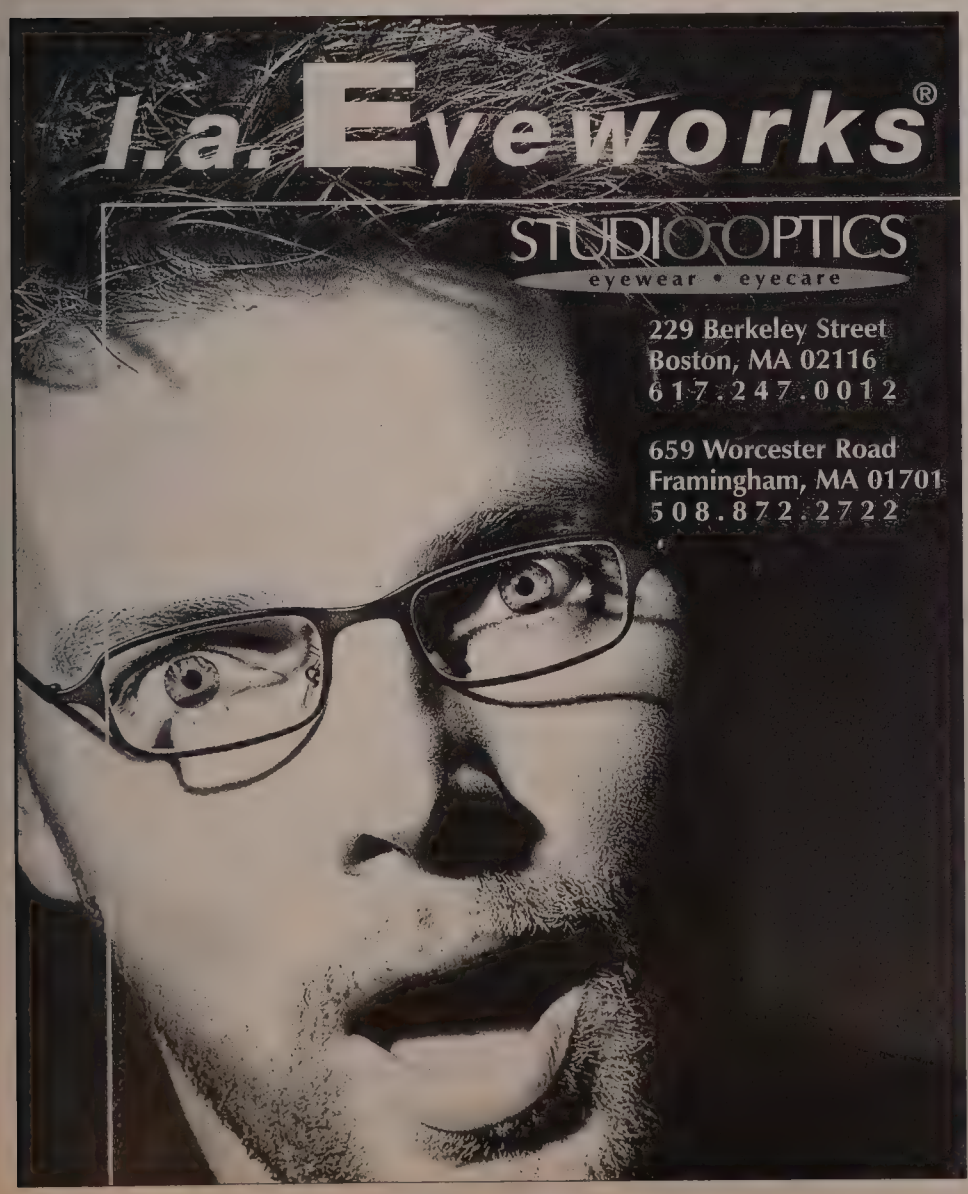

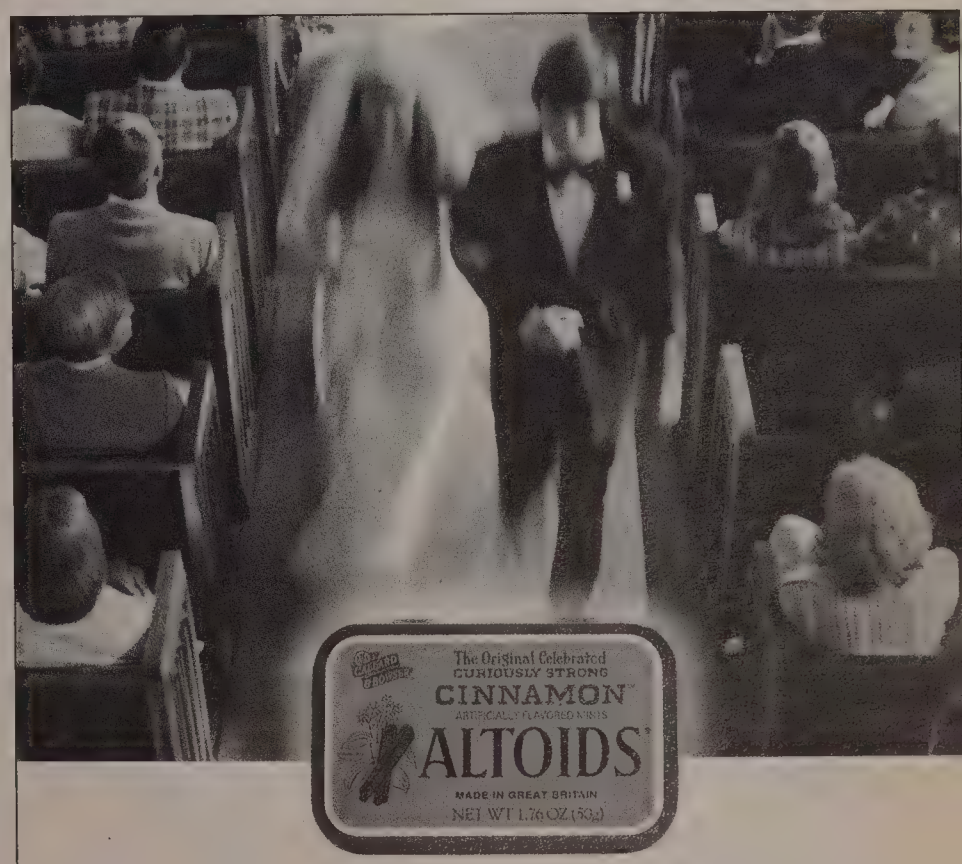

'cause you just can't wait store 24

Preview

Marlene on Screen

The Brattle makes Sundays marvelous with Marlene Dietrich movies.

The glamorous, controversial pop icon and bombshell German singer/actress who is known as much for her outspokenness as her sex appeal (not to mention her illicit love affairs with her leading men) is celebrated this month at the Brattle. Marlene Dietrich started out in the cabaret scene of the 1920s and soon starred in more than a dozen silent films. When Hollywood discovered the talents of the singer/actress, there was no stopping this golden girl. With numerous films under her belt, she toured with the allied effort in World War II and then concentrated on her singing career, with occasional stints in Vegas and on Broadway. The Brattle features the highlights of her career with a series of double features:

•Oct. 8, 3:20 and 7:45pm: *Touch of Evil 1958* (above right). Dietrich stars in Orson Welles' masterpiece B-noir as the madame of a bordello and former mistress of a neurotic, bigoted policeman. •Also showing: 1pm, 5:30 and 10pm: *Witness for the Prosecution, 1957*. This courtroom drama based on an Agatha Christie play stars Dietrich as the wife of the alleged killer.

•Oct. 15, 3:10 and 7:30pm: *Scarlett Empress, 1934*. This film is a musical extravaganza set to the story of Catherine the Great and starring Dietrich, John Lodge and Sam Jaffe. •Also showing: 1:15, 5:30 and 9:30pm: *The Devil is a Woman, 1935* (above middle). Set in Seville, this is the ultimate tale of a femme fatale, where two rivals fight over the most dangerous woman in Spain, played by Dietrich.

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony

35 Middlesex Ave. (628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Sq.

Somerville Theater

55 Davis Square (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema

27 Boylston. (277-2500). B Green Line to Chestnut Hill.

West Newton Cinema

1296 Washington St. (964-6060).

Alternatives & Revivals

Advice to Contributors

Submit film listings by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers

Although film listings are correct at the time of publication, they are subject to change. Doublecheck showtimes by calling the theater or 333-FILM.

Boston Film/Video Festival

•Oct. 11, 7:30pm **The Angry Heart** *2000.* Directed and produced by Jay Fedigan, this documentary examines the relationship between racism and heart disease in African Americans.

Brattle Theater

Most shows are $7, including double features.

Sundays: Marlene on Screen

•Oct. 8, 3:20 and 7:45pm **Touch of Evil** *1958.* Marlene Dietrich stars in Orson Welles' masterpiece. •Also showing: 1pm, 5:30 and 10pm **Witness for the Prosecution** *1957.* This courtroom drama is based on an Agatha Christie play.

•Oct. 15, 3:10 and 7:30pm **Scarlett Empress** *1934.* This film is a musical extravaganza set to the story of Catherine the Great. •Also showing: 1:15, 5:30 and 9:30pm **The Devil Is a Woman** *1935.* Set in Seville, this sexy Dietrich film is the ultimate tale of a femme fatale.

Mondays: Mood Noir

•Oct. 9, 3:10 and 7:15pm **Citizen Kane** *1941.* Director Orson Welles' story of a newspaper magnate is loosely based on William Randolph Hearst told entirely in a series of flashbacks. •Also showing: 1:15, 5:30 and 9:30pm **Cecil B. Demented** *2000.* John Waters features Stephen Dorff as a guerrilla film director out to change the world with the aid of his teenage filmmakers.

•Oct. 16, 7:30pm **Third Man** *1949.* Joseph Cotton stars as the American pulp fiction writer who travels to Europe to visit a friend and stumbles instead onto a deadly secret. •Also showing: 5:15 and 9:30pm **Shadow of Doubt** *1943.* Director Alfred Hitchcock revamps Thorton Wilder's screenplay of a young girl who slowly comes to realize that her visiting Uncle Charly is the "Merry Widow Murderer."

Tuesdays: Dancers in the Dark

•Oct. 10, 7pm **The Kingdom** *1995.* Director Lars von Trier reveals the creepy goings-on at a haunted hospital complete with psychic patients, staff infighting, children's ghosts, secret affairs and a phantom ambulance.

•Oct. 17, 6:30pm **The Kingdom, Part Two** *1997.* Continuing the chronicles of Denmark's ravaged hospital, this film opens with the birth of Nurse Judith's baby as a full-grown man known as "Little Brother."

Wednesdays: Recent Raves

•Oct. 4, 7:30pm **Shower** *1999.* Director Zhang Yang tells the story of a businessman's attitude toward his working-class background. •Also showing: 5:50 and 9:30pm **The Color of Paradise** *1999.* This spiritual film from Iran tells the story of Mohammed, a young blind boy.

•Oct. 11, 5:15, 7:30 and 9:45pm **Time Code** *2000.* Director Mike Figgis experiments in cinema, involving four interrelated stories about what goes on behind the scenes.

Thursdays: Bunuel & Godard

•Oct. 5, 7:30pm **Contempt** *1963.* Brigite Bardot stars as the wife of a screenwriter beset by doubts while working on a film version of *The Odyssey*. •Also showing: 5:30pm and 9:30pm **The Exterminating Angel** *1962.* In this black comedy directed by Luis Bunuel, the guests of a high-society salon party are held captive by unseen forces and lethargy.

•Oct. 12, 7:30pm **Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie** *1972.* This blistering social commentary directed by Bunuel depicts the frustrations of the bourgeoisie. •Also showing: 5:15 and 9:30pm **Weekend** *1967.* A nightmarish weekend traffic jam presents an apocalyptic version of a world self-destructing.

Special Engagements

•Oct. 6 and 7, 3:30 and 7:30pm **Casablanca** *1942.* Revisit this story of love, betrayal and loyalty set in smoky Rick's café during the Nazi occupation of steamy Casablanca. •Also showing: 5:30 and 10pm (Sat mat 1:15pm) **The Big Sleep** *1946.* Director Howard Hawks and writer William Faulkner lead Bogie and Bacall through the twists and turns of a story that features hothouses and gun-toting thugs.

•Oct. 13 and 14, 8 and 10pm (Sat matinees 2, 4 and 6pm) **Wonderwall** *1969.* This virtually plotless fantasy is about an old professor who discovers a secret window into the endless sex life of gorgeous nymph Jane Birkin. •Also showing: **Reflections on Love** *1965. Wonderwall* director Joe Massot features the definitive London "dollybird" Jenny Boyd (sister of George Harrison's model wife Patti Boyd).

Coolidge Corner Theater

Midnight Movies: Italian Horror

•Oct. 6 and 7 **Black Sunday** *1977.* When a demented war veteran played by Bruce Dern plots to kill thousands of Americans during the Superbowl in Miami, he is stopped by a tough Middle Eastern anti-terrorist agent who has uncovered his plot.

•Oct. 13 and 14 **The Bird with Chrystal Plumage** *1970.* Director Dario Argento portrays Sam, an American writer in Rome who witnesses a murder attempt on an art gallery owner's wife.

Feature Engagements

•Oct. 6 **Dancer in the Dark** *2000.* Lars von Trier directs Icelandic pop musician Bjork, starring as an almost blind Czech immigrant who works in a factory in the American Midwest to support her child. She then becomes implicated in a murder.

•Oct. 13 through Oct 19, 7:30pm, 9:30pm and 12am **Spike & Mike's 2000 Sick and Twisted Festival of Animation**. These animated shows are so sick they are funny. Very funny.

Special Events

•Oct. 4, 7:30pm and Oct. 5, 9:30pm **Annie Sprinkle, Live!** Adult film actress and performance artist Annie Sprinkle makes her way to the Coolidge to talk to the audience and show some of her old film clips. This notorious feminist spokeswoman is expected to speak about her multi-faceted career and more.

Harvard Film Archive

Portrait of an Artist: John Cassavetes

•Oct. 4, 8pm **John Cassavetes: Behind the Scenes**. Author Ray Carney appears to discuss Cassavetes and his pioneering independent works. Carney, a professor of Film and American Studies at B.U., discusses a selection of rare videos from his own collection.

The Cinema of Terence Davies

•Oct. 5, 7pm **The Terence Davies Trilliogy: Children** *1976,* **Madonna and Child** *1980* and **Death and Transfiguration** *1983.* The critically acclaimed *Trilogy* foreshadows Davies' ongoing concerns and contains glimpses of his style of visual storytelling.

•Oct. 5, 9pm **Distant Voices, Still Lives** *1988.* This is Davies debut feature film, which won the International Critics Award at Cannes. Davies reveals the horrors of family life in working-class Liverpool in the '40s.

Recent Films from Germany

•Oct. 6, 7pm and Oct. 8, 9pm **Short Sharp Shock** *1998.* Costa the Greek, Bobby the Serb and Gabriel the Turk used to form a gang in the Altona district of Hamburg. As their lives change, the trio must deal with all sorts of major life changes.

•Oct. 6, 9pm and Oct. 7, 9:15pm **Mr. Zwilling and Mrs. Zuckerman** *1999.* Director Volker Koepp explores the relationship between 70-year-old Mr. Zwilling and 90-year-old Mrs. Zuckerman. Both are Jewish survivors of Nazi war camps.

•Oct. 7, 7pm **Farewell** *2000.* Director Jan Schutte makes a personal appearance at the opening of her film—the story of a man who leaves his family and country home to contemplate the complex reality of his life.

•Oct, 8, 7pm and Oct. 10, 9pm **Life Is All You Get** *1997.* Director Wolfgang Becker depicts the young German generation of the late '90s.

•Oct. 11, 9pm and Oct. 13, 9pm **Tuvalu** *1999.* The film explores what happens as institutions and old mantles are passed down from one generation to another.

•Oct. 14, 9pm **Enlightenment Guaranteed** *1999.* Two brothers decide to clean up their lives by traveling to Japan for a retreat in a Zen monastery. Director Doris Dorrie presents her film in person.

•Oct 15, 8pm **Am I Beautiful?** *1998.* Director Doris Dorrie presents her story is of longing and disappointment, as the film follows a group of people seeking change. Throughout the film, they come together and eventually lose sight of one another again.

Masters of Animation: Oskar Fischinger

•Oct. 13, 7pm **Part One: The Masterworks**. Presented in person by Oskar Fischinger's biographer Dr. William Moritz, the show will include 35mm prints of Fischinger's most celebrated films.

•Oct. 14, 7pm **Part Two: The Rarities**. View the artists' rarely seen films, examples of his commercial work, and a documentary on his life and work featuring interviews with wife.

•Oct. 15, 6pm **Part Three: The Legacy**. The final installment of this tribute to Fischinger shows selections from generations of filmmakers who have been inspired by his work.

Topics In Film: Non-Fiction Film

•Oct. 16, 7pm **Night and Fog** *1955.* Breaking taboos with images of power, director Alain Resnais presents a chilling image of the Nazi death camps in postwar Europe. •**Chronicle of a Summer** *1961.* A pioneering work of French cinema, the film assesses the mood of a country by randomly asking passersby if they were happy.

Topics In Film: Film Architectures

•Oct. 10 and 11, 7pm **Sunrise** *1927.* German director F.W. Murnau uses three-dimensional filming in his silent portrayal of the celebrated German novel.

•Oct. 17, 7pm **The Man with a Movie Camera** *1929.* This experimental documentary exemplifies the aesthetic of the Soviet avant-garde of the 1920s as director Dziga Vertow depicts a day in the life of an urban metropolis.

Topics In Film: New German Cinema

•Oct. 9, 7pm **The American Soldier** *1970.* A tribute to Humphrey Bogart and great action directors, this film portrays a charismatic figure who carries out itemized murders. He does so with neither knowledge nor emotion.

•Oct. 9, 9pm **Precautions Against Fanatics** *1968.* A furious old man declares himself the protector of race horses and fights against fanatic trainers. •Also showing is **Signs of Life** *1967.* A turning point in German cinema, the central character is a wounded German soldier sent to sit out the war in an isolated garrison.

•Oct. 16, 9:15pm **The Merchant of Four Seasons** *1971.* This film centers on a repugnant family as the the protagonist yearns for unattainable freedom amid unexceptional people in a lonely city.

•Oct. 17, 9pm **Ali: Fear Eats the Soul** *1973.* In Fassbinder's melodramatic social and sexual commentary, he shows how once the prejudices surrounding a couple begin to lessen, their relationship begins to unravel.

Museum of Fine Arts

Art on Film

•Oct. 5, 6pm **Looking for Christian B.** *1997* and **The Dance of the Shadows** *1989. Looking for Christian B.* is a documentary that attempts to reassemble the images created by the artist. *La Danse des Ombres* invites the viewer into Boltanski's world by way of a conversation with art critic Harold Zeeman.

•Oct. 7, 10:30am **Christian Boltanski** *1994.* The made-for-TV interview with the artist shows him at work and at regular haunts.

•Oct. 8, 1:30pm **Love, My Darling, Is Bottomless** *1998* and **Art and Remembrance: The Legacy of Felix Nussbaum** *1993. Love* carries the viewer back to Charlotte Salomon's last days in Berlin. *Legacy* is not about Salomon but focuses on a genre of work produced during her lifetime.

•Oct. 12, 6pm **Charlotte: Life? or Theatre?** *1992* and **Paula Paulinka** *1995.* This film pieces together the story of German Salomon's life through an examination of the imagery and text in her artwork. *Paula Paulinka* is a documentary of Charlotte's stepmother, German opera signer Paula Salomon-Lindberg.

Milestone Films

•Oct. 6, 6pm **Winstanley** *1975.* Dedicated to creating an authentic historical film about the Civil War, directors Kevin Brownlow and Andrew Mollo borrowed armor from the Tower of London.

•Oct. 6, 8pm; Oct. 13, 6:15pm; Oct. 14, 1pm **The Edge of the World** *1937.* This is the story of of a rugged, proud people who lose their livelihood to depleted soil and the intrusion of commercial fishermen.

•Oct. 7, 1pm **The Sorrow and the Pity: Part One** *1971.* This documentary personalizes the Nazi occupation of France and shows how harrowing it truly was. It is offered back to back with *Part Two*, see below times.

•Also showing Oct. 7, 3:30pm; Oct. 8, 11am **The Sorrow and the Pity: Part Two** *1971.* The conclusion of the above documentary.

•Oct. 13, 8pm **It Happened Here** *1966.* In documentary-style cinematography, Keving Brownlow and Andrew Mollo create a terrifying historical revision. Here, Germany has won World War II, and Nazi troops occupy England.

Film Encores

•Oct. 11, 7:30pm; Oct. 14, 2:45pm **L'humanite** *1999.* This drama continues to play at the MFA—it is the story of a brutal rape and murder and the ensuing manhunt as small-town police try to apprehend the criminal.

Boston Film Artists Present

•Oct. 12, 8pm **Ennis' Gift: A Film About Learning Differences** *2000.* A documentary by Joshua Seftel, this film presents inspirational stories about actors, scientists, business executives and others who have overcome learning differences. Made in the memory of Ennis Cosby.

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books& poetry

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Submit information by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Books. Or e-mail to books@improper.com. *Include details of dates, times, prices, nearest T stop and telephone numbers. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

READINGS & SIGNINGS

Wednesday, Oct. 4

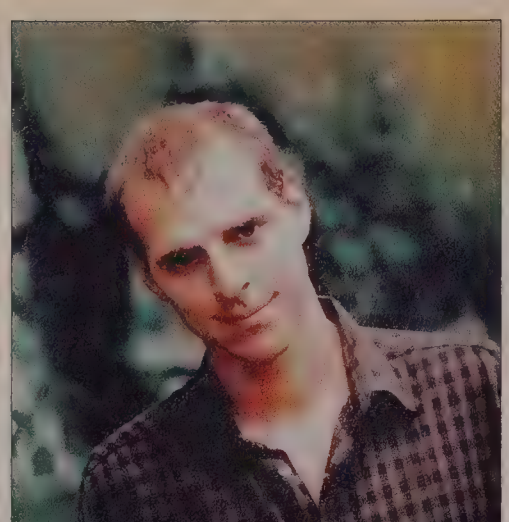
BCAE Writing Festival
5 Commonwealth Ave. (267-4430). 6-8pm. $49. Brush up your writing skills at this workshop, titled "Crafting Character" and taught by **Charlotte Bacon**, author of *Lost Geography*. Learn how to invent original and multifaceted characters.

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. **Barbara Lawrence** discusses and reads *Bitter Ice: A Memoir of Love, Food and Obsession.* Lawrence fosters awareness about anorexia in males by sharing her own ordeal with the illness.

Thursday, Oct. 5

Arlington Center for the Arts Writers
Robbins Library, 700 Mass. Ave., Arlington (781-648-6220). 7:30pm. Free. Authors from the University Press take the stage, among them Anne Whitney Pierce, author of *Rain Late*, Deborah DeNicola, author of *Orpheus & Company* and Adria Bernadi, author of *In the Gathering Woods*.

Borders Bookshop Author Event
The Atrium Mall, 300 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill (630-1935). 7:30pm. Free. **M.C. Beamon** reads from *Dark Recesses*, the tale of a promising young attorney who travels to rural Virginia for a family reunion and becomes entangled in a web of betrayal.


Have lunch with Michael Paterniti and others at the Boston Globe Book Festival, opening Oct. 14.

Borders Author Appearance
85 Worcester Rd., Framingham (508-370-3138). 7pm. **Lily King** discusses her first novel, *The Pleasing Hour*, a coming-of-age story with an unconventional twist: teenage mother Rosie surrenders her newborn baby to her infertile sister.

Barnes & Noble Author Event
660 Beacon St., Boston (236-7421). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7pm. Free. **Elaine Sciolino**, author of *The Outlaw State*, reads from her newest book, *Persian Mirrors: The Elusive Face of Iran*.

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. **Philip J. Davis**, author of *The Mathematical Experience*, reads and discusses his latest book, *The Education of a Mathematician*.

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
279 Harvard St., Brookline, (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. **Susan Estrich** reads from *Sex & Power*, her study on women in the work force. Estrich asks why women account for a mere 3 percent of the nation's top executives.

Poets Share Reading Series
Rhythm & Muse, 403 A Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-6622). 7:30pm. **Susan Eisenberg**, author of *We'll Call You If We Need You: Experiences of Women Working Construction* and *Pioneering: Poems from the Construction Site*, reads, followed by a community open-mike session.

Friday, Oct. 6

Boston University Literary Conference
The George Sherman Union, 775 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (353-4260). MBTA: Green Line to BU Central. 8:30am-5pm. Free. B.U.'s *Partisan Review* hosts this two-day autobiography, biography and memoir conference which brings together Nobel Prize recipient **Saul Bellow**, BU President **Jon Westling** and **Jeffrey Meyers**.

Saturday, Oct. 7

Boston University Literary Conference
The George Sherman Union, 775 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (353-4260). MBTA: Green Line to BU Central. 8:30am-5:30pm. Free. Same program as yesterday's.

Tuesday, Oct. 10

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
279 Harvard St., Brookline, (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Cambridge author **Audrey Schulman** talks about her new novel, *A House Named Brazil*. Schulman, author of *Swimming with Jonah*, follows up her first novel with a darkly humorous story of several generations of an eccentric family.

Grolier and Adams House Author Event
Lower Common Room, Adams House, Entry C, 26 Plympton St., Cambridge (547-4648). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8-9pm, $2. **Lloyd Schwartz**, Professor of English at UMass-Boston, reads from *Cairo Traffic*. He is the author of three poetry books, including *These People*.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free. **Christopher Rice**, son of Anne Rice, reads from his debut novel, *A Density of Souls*. Murder, suicide and madness rage at the heart of this coming-of-age story.

Wednesday, Oct. 11

Borders Bookshop Author Series
85 Worcester Rd., Framingham (508-875-2321). 7:30pm. **Joan Anderson** reads and discusses her memoir, *A Year by the Sea: Thoughts of an Unfinished Woman*. It is the entrancing story of how one woman's journey of self-discovery gave her the courage to persevere in re-creating her life.

Boston Public Library Author Event
Second floor, McKim Building, 700 Boylston St., Boston (536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6pm. Free. Historian **Harlow Unger** introduces Americans to a man better known in his time than George Washington in his book *John Hancock: The Forgotten Patriot.*

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. **Allen B. Ballard** reads from his engaging Civil War novel, *Where I'm Bound*.

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
279 Harvard St., Brookline, (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. **David Mitchell** reads from his debut novel, *Ghostwritten: A Novel in Nine Parts*. At the heart of Mitchell's book is the global extension of the postmodern city.

BCAE Writing Festival
5 Comm. Ave. (267-4430). 6-8:30pm. $49. **Kate Wheeler**, author of *When Mountains Walked*, leads a workshop titled "Feeding the Muse." Wheeler gives advice on how to refine your writing process.

Thursday, Oct. 12

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free. **Delsa Winer** reads from *Almost Strangers*, her suspenseful debut novel.

Friday, Oct. 13

Arlington Center for the Arts New Theatre Works: Staged Reading Series
Fox Library, 175 Mass. Ave., Arlington (781-648-6220). 8pm. $5. Featured works and playrights include *Treed* by Lee Mendenhall, *Salesman* by John Devaney and *Magnetic* by Michael Sallen.

Borders Books and Music Author Event
10-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6pm. Free. **Dennis Must** invites you to join him as he reads and signs copies of his debut collection of short stories titled *Banjo Grease*.

Wordsworth Books Reading Series
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. **Malachy McCourt**, an author featured in tomorrow's Globe Book Festival, reads from *Singing My Him Song*. McCourt picks up where he left off in his memoir, *A Monk Swimming*.

Saturday, Oct. 14

The Boston Globe 2000 Book Festival
The Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James St., Boston (929-2641). www.boston.com/bookfestival. *12:30pm. $42.* Enjoy the luxury of lunch at one of Boston's premiere hotels and the privilege of dining with top-notch authors. **Bonnie Angelo**, **Malachy McCourt**, **Sue Miller** and **Michael Paterniti** are featured.

The Wasted Hotel Tour
Spontaneous Celebrations, 45 Danforth St., Jamaica Plain (524-6373). This is some of the Sister Spit crew traveling with a new act, lineup and texts. Michelle Tea, Shar Rednour, Jackie Strano, Kassy Kayiatos, Sash Sunday, Kathe Izzo perform. Also, Boston's own lovely baton twirler, Laurel Kirtz, will mystify us all.

Sunday, Oct. 15

The Boston Globe 2000 Book Festival
Boston Public Library, Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (536-5400). www.boston.com/bookfestival. *3pm. Free.* Today the Book Festival holds a panel discussion on publishing, workshops and the small press. **Jill Bialosky**, poet and editor at W.W. Norton, **Robert Dana**, poet and workshop leader, **Fiona McCrae**, editor and publisher of Gray Wolf Press and **Diana Der-Hovanessian** all share their expertise.

Grolier Meet the Poet Series
Naumburg Room, Fogg Art Museum, 32 Quincy St., Cambridge (547-4648). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3-4pm, $8. **Galway Kinnell** reads from *The Essential Rilke* and *New Selected Poems*. Kinnell won the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award in 1982 for *Selected Poems* and currently teaches creative writing.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 2pm. Free. **Naomi Singer** and **Matthew Miller** read and demonstrate from their books, *A+ Activities for First Graders* and *A+ Activities for Second Graders*. These interactive books provide inventive ideas for parents and children so they can spend quality time together while advancing the children's skills in important areas.

Monday, Oct. 16

The Boston Globe 2000 Book Festival
Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center Field House, 1350 Tremont St., Boston, (541-3535). www.boston.com/bookfestival. *6-8pm. Free.* In the spirit of the Summer Olympics, **Ron Rapoport** reads from *See How She Runs: Marion Jones and the Making of a Champion*, his tale of the "fastest woman in the world."

The Boston Globe 2000 Book Festival
Boston Public Library, Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., (536-5400). www.boston.com/bookfestival. *6-8pm. Free.* **Peter Tyson** reads from his travel memoir *The Eighth Continent: Life, Death and Discovery in the*

Bestsellers

HARDCOVER FICTION
1. **Four Blondes** by Candace Bushnell
2. **Blind Assassin** by Margaret Atwood
3. **Harry Potter & the Goblet of Fire** by J.K. Rowling
4. **When We Were Orphans** by Kazuo Ishiguro
5. **The Bear and the Dragon** by Tom Clancy
6. **Joe College** by Tom Perrotta
7. **Pagan Babies** by Elmore Leonard
8. **Where Do Balloons Go: An Uplifting Mystery** by Jamie Lee Curtis
9. **A Blind Man Can See How Much I Love You** by Amy Bloom
10. **Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason** by Helen Fielding

HARDCOVER NON-FICTION
1. **The Neal Pollack Anthology of American Literature** by Neal Pollack
2. **Haikus for Jews** by David M. Bader
3. **Nothing Like It in the World** by Stephen E. Ambrose
4. **Dream Catcher** by Margaret A. Salinger
5. **A Heartbreaking Work of a Staggering Genius** by Dave Eggers
6. **I Know Just What You Mean** by Ellen Goodman and Patricia O'Brien
7. **In the Heart of the Sea** by Nathaniel Philbrick
8. **The Art of Happiness** by Dalai Lama
9. **Me Talk Pretty One Day** by David Sedaris
10. **Black Mass** by Dick Lehr

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KELLER&KELLE

Lost World of Madagascar, accompanied by a slide-show presentation. This book shows his interaction with the Malagasy people and the extremely diverse landscape that is removed from the modern world.

The Blacksmith House Poetry Series
56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). 8:15pm. $3. **Dana Levin**, author of *In the Surgical Theatre*, reads with **Fred Marchant**, author of *Tipping Point* and *Full Moon Boat.*

Tuesday, Oct. 17

The Boston Globe 2000 Book Festival
Boston Public Library, Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., (536-5400). www.boston.com/bookfestival. *6-8pm. Free.* Memoirist **Kyoko Mori** reads from her first adult novel, *Stone Field, True Arrow*, the story of a girl who receives a strange parcel from her family in Japan that unlocks secrets of her past. **Ivonne Lamazares** also reads and discuss her book *The Sugar Island.* It deals with love and the struggle for autonomy between mothers and daughters in 1950s Cuba.

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
279 Harvard St., Brookline, (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. **Tom Perrotta**, author of *Election*, reads from *Joe College*, his latest novel, about the humorous misadventures of a Yale student in the '80s.

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. **Michael Young** discusses his poetry along with **Rhina Espaillat**, author of *Where Horizons Go*, a collection of poetry that compares the personal and the impersonal, the transitory and the permanent, the imagined and the real, the internal and the external and the self and the other.

Grolier and Adams House Author Event
Lower Common Room, Adams House, Entry C, 26 Plympton St., Cambridge (547-4648). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8-9pm, $2. **Suzanne Owens** reads from *Daughters of Discordia*, the book on which she based her one-woman play by the same title. **Judith Taylor** also reads from *Curious.*

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free. Irish author **Ann Enright** offers her American debut, *What Are You Like?*, a novel about the lives of twins who were separated at birth but eventually become aware of each other's existence. They both struggle with loneliness and problems derived from living lives based on incomplete truths.

ONGOING

Agape, Tuesdays
The Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (266-6710). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8pm-10pm. Every Tuesday, this somewhat sophisticated poetry group gathers to share versions of their latest work.

Cantab Lounge, Wednesdays
738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8-10pm. $3. Wednesday nights at the Cantab always pack in more than 30 poets in just two hours for open mike and a slam.

Club Passim, Tuesdays
47 Palmer St., Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. $5. All open-mike fanatics must experience this open-mike night—a training ground for up-and-coming performers, poets and storytellers. Sign up Tuesdays, 7:30pm.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Night, Sundays
1667 Mass Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. $4 cover. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes to the sounds of the featured poet of the week.

O'Brien's Pub, Mondays
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. A mix of rock and spoken word is performed one Monday a month at 9pm—the performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry Night, Saturdays
Out of the Blue Gallery, 168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. Donations appreciated. Every Saturday is poetry night, and an incredible spoken-word and music event also takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month. It features music by Rob Gonzalez and spoken word with Nola Kelley.

Rhythm and Muse Open Mike, Thursdays
403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-6622). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook. A headlining poet is followed by an open-mike session on the first Thursday of every month, 7:30pm.

Stone Soup Poetry Night, Mondays
Zeitgeist Gallery, 312 Broadway St, Cambridge (227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7:30pm. $3. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets have served up soothing inspirations with their weekly readings. Keep the good vibes going every with a wealth of featured writers.

education

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Education. Or e-mail information to education@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

CLASSES/LECTURES

Wednesday, Oct. 4

Boston Sports 101
Boston Learning Society, 1089 Great Plain Ave., Needham (781-453-9800). 7-9pm. $45. Bill Littlefield, host of WBUR radio's "Only a Game," offers his own "State of the Union" on Boston sports.

Thursday, Oct. 5

The Napster Rap
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. 12:15-1pm. $5. Is Napster encouraging CD sales or exploiting artists and record companies? **Reebee Garofalo**, author of *Rockin' Out* and *Rockin' the Boat*, lectures.

The Economic Value of Conservation
New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, Boston (973-5295). 7pm. Free. **Geoffrey Heal**, Ph.D., asks: What is the economic value of the services that nature provides?

Friday, Oct. 6

Business Launch
Center for Women & Enterprise, 1135 Tremont St., Suite 480, Boston (536-0700). 9am-4pm. $175. This course will help you start a business; it covers legal, financial and marketing issues.

Saturday, Oct. 7

Screenwriting Expert Dan Decker
Longfellow Hall Auditorium, Harvard University, Cambridge (866-665-8500). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Oct. 7-8. $495. **Dan Decker**, author of *Anatomy of a Screenplay*, offers two days of lectures and practice in creating dynamic screenplays.

Tuesday, Oct. 10

The Nuts and Bolts of Opening Your Own Food Business
Elizabeth Bishop Wine Resource Center, 808 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (353-9852). Oct. 10, 12:30-3pm. Listen to experts in the field describe how they took recipes from their stove tops to the shelves.

Boston A to Z with Tom O'Connor
John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (929-4500). 5:30-7pm. Free. From "Honey Fitz" to Phillis Wheatley and William Lloyd Garrison to Sacco and Vanzetti, historian **Thomas O'Connor** illuminates Boston's life, culture and history.

Wednesday, Oct. 11

The Making of Sgt. Pepper
Sanders Theatre, Quincy and Kirkland streets, Cambridge (972-8300). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. $50. Producer and arranger **Sir George Martin** offers his behind-the-scenes story about the Beatles.

Thursday, Oct. 12

The Culture of Censorship
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. 12:15-1pm. $5. Join lawyer **Wendy Kaminer** for a provocative talk about censorship today.

Friday, Oct. 13

Women's Health: As We Grow Older
The Castle at Park Plaza, 158 Columbus Ave., Boston (912-8540). 8:30am-3pm. The fifth annual conference discusses health risks women face from the physical and cultural environment.

Sunday, Oct. 15

Revisiting the Other America
John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (929-4500) www.jfklibrary.org. *2-3:45pm. Free.* Professor **Maurice Isserman** discusses his new biography of Michael Harrington, author of *The Other American*, which awakened the nation to the problem of poverty in the 1960s.

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Classical Music

SYMPHONY HALL CELEBRATES 100

The BSO's acoustical marvel has a rich history.

BY KEITH POWERS

Let's hope we all look so good at age 100. Symphony Hall, the acoustical marvel on Huntington Avenue, celebrates its centennial this year with a week-long gala in October, and a season's worth of programs that pay tribute to a fabulous century of music making.

At its inception, Symphony Hall benefited from a fortuitous coincidence of science and money. Henry Lee Higginson was a mover and shaker in Boston who had financed the founding of the BSO in 1881. The orchestra's first home—called the Music Hall and situated near the current Park Street T stop—had to come down, and Higginson set out to raise money for a new building.

The effort took 10 years and survived much political wrangling. Unknown to Higginson, a young Harvard physics professor, Wallace Clement Sabine, was finishing a three-year study of acoustics for a proposed auditorium at the Fogg Museum. Sabine was introduced to Higginson by Harvard President Charles Eliot, and Sabine was enlisted in the planning of Symphony Hall from the beginning. Sabine's formula was rudimentary: He calculated how long a note would be sustained across the length of the hall and the number of seat cushions that would absorb the sound. But it worked, and our marvel of sound was born.

Programs for 2000 pay tribute not only to the inaugural season, but also to important composers the orchestra has championed over the past century.

Clockwise, from top: BSO artistic administrator Anthony Fogg; Symphony Hall today; Symphony Hall in the early 1940s.

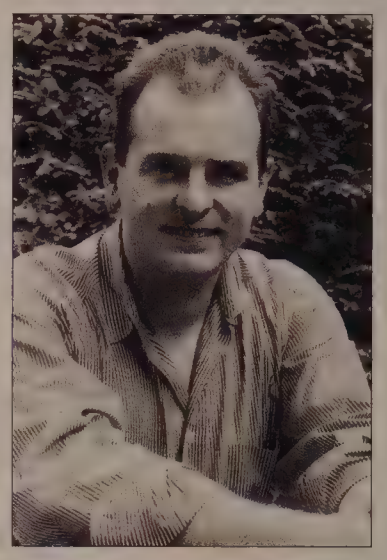
Nobody seems to know how the name was chosen, but the building was christened on Oct. 15, 1900 as Symphony Hall. The first concert, conducted by Wilhelme Gericke, featured a Bach chorale and Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*, with which the BSO opened the current season in September.

Programs for 2000 pay tribute not only to the inaugural season but also to important composers whom the orchestra has championed over the past century. The man at the center of the program planning is Anthony Fogg, artistic administrator of the BSO, who has been Seiji Ozawa's right-hand man for "almost six years. He says I'm his eyes and ears." Before that, Fogg was at the Australian Broadcasting Corp., programming music for six symphonies for 13 years. "I did about 150 concerts a year. Australia is a long way from the musical world; it makes sense to carefully plan a repertoire and schedule."

How does a season of music get decided? "We have planning sessions with [managing director] Mark Volpe and Kim Smedvig, the head of our publicity office. She's been here a while and she has really good instincts.

"Seiji relies on me to do the groundwork and keep an eye on the balance. One of my main jobs is to find new composers." New works this season include composers like Takemitsu, Part, Golijov, Saariaho, Corigliano, Tan Dun and John Adams. Fogg is particularly pleased that the Saariaho, Part and Adams will be presented. "Saariaho is a Finnish composer who's worked in France for many years. Her music brings out the strength of the orchestra. Part's *Como anhela la cierva* was scheduled to premiere with another orchestra, but they were gracious enough to let us do it. And John Adams' *Naïve and Sentimental Music* sums up many of the issues of the late century."

Like all years, the BSO's inaugural season in 1900 presented some musical winners and losers. "Probably 30 percent of what was on the first year's programs has disappeared," Fogg says. "Goldmark was popular in those days—he's hardly heard at all now. Wagner was much more popular. And we premiered many works of Edward Burlingame Hill, a Boston-based composer. But it's really like lesser Dvorak. History has been pretty truthful."



Of course, there were major composers who got their start with the BSO. "Copland and Martinu are two composers that were championed by the orchestra, and they've withstood the test of time," Fogg notes. "And although Prokofiev had a great international reputation, it was Koussevitsky who first brought him to Americans.

Renovations to Symphony Hall are announced for later this season. The concert hall itself will remain unchanged, but major improvements to the rest of the building are planned. Last year I asked Ozawa what he would miss the most when he leaves Boston. Without hesitation, he said, "Symphony Hall. We never have to force the music here. The only thing it really needs is a bar." Maybe his wish will come true before he leaves .IB

Sadly, this is Keith Powers' last column. Keith has been with the IMPROPER, first as Managing Editor and then as a columnist, for more than a year. His enthusiasm, humor and encyclopedic knowledge of classical music will be greatly missed.

SYMPHONY HALL: CHARLES GAUTHIER; FOGG: WALTER H. SCOTT

Advice to Contributors

Submit information labeled Classical by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Classical Music or e-mail to classical@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers Web site information and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to deadline. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers

Information for the music section is compiled from many different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to doublecheck dates and times.

Wednesday, Oct. 4

Musique a Midi

The French Library and Cultural Center, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (912-4351). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 12:15pm. In its 11th season, the Musique a Midi concert series features Korean pianist Hong Chun Youn playing works by Scarlatti, Ravel and Schubert.

Thursday, Oct. 5

Midday Organ Recital

Adolphus Busch Hall, Harvard University, Cambridge (495-4544). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 12:15pm. The Harvard Organ Society will open a celebratory season with works by J.S. Bach and Jan Koetsier.

Friday, Oct. 6

Cleveland Orchestra

Symphony Hall, Boston (266-1492). 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. In honor of the 100th anniversary of Symphony Hall, the Celebrity Series presents a night of music with the Cleveland Orchestra.

Fridays at Trinity

Trinity Church, Copley Square, Boston (536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 12:15-12:45pm. Trinity hosts an organ concert series every Friday, featuring a broad range of music literature.

Saturday, Oct. 7

Chameleon Arts Ensemble

First and Second Church, 66 Marlborough St., Boston (427-8200). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8pm. MBTA: Green line to Arlington. The ensemble presents "I Met the Wind of the Hundred Years," featuring a solo performance by mezzo-soprano and guest artist Mary-Ann McCormick.

Classical Guitar Society

New School of Music, 25 Lowell St., Cambridge (978-263-3418). 7:30pm. The Boston Classical Guitar Society presents Italian guitarist Lorenzo Micheli in its opening concert for the 2000-2001 season.

Sunday, Oct. 8

Emmanuel Music

Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (536-3356). 10am. Weekly Bach cantata featuring the orchestra and chorus of Emmanuel Music.

Gardner Concert Series

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 2 Palace Rd., Boston (566-1401). 1:30pm. The Gardner Chamber Orchestra features Richard Stolzman on clarinet, Lucy Stolzman on violin and David Deveau on piano.

Thursday, Oct. 12

Boston Philharmonic

Mechanics Hall, Worcester (508-754-3231). Featuring Schoenberg, Mahler and Beethoven, with soprano Jane Struss.

Friday, Oct. 13

Boston Chamber Music Society

Boston Chamber Music Society, Jordan Hall, Sanders Theatre, Cambridge (349-0086). 7:30pm. The muscic society will feature work by Mozart, Bernstein and Taneyev, playing piano quartets in G minor and C minor.

Boston Musica Viva

Longy School of Music, 1 Follen St., Cambridge (876-0956). This all-septet concert premieres Barbara White's "Learning to See" and features work by Olly Wilson, William Brown, Arthur Berger and Hanns Eisler.

Fridays at Trinity

Trinity Church, Copley Square, Boston (536-0944). MBTA: Green line to Copley. 12:15-12:45pm. Trinity hosts an organ concert series every Friday, featuring a broad range of music literature.

Saturday, Oct. 14

Boston Symphony Orchestra

Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (266-1492). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. In celebration of Symphony Hall's centennial season, the BSO and the Boston Pops play a gala concert, with Seiji Ozawa, Keith Lockhart and John Williams conducting.

Brandeis University Concert Series

Slosberg Recital Hall, Brandeis University, Waltham (781-736-3400). MBTA: Commuter Rail to Brandeis/Roberts. 8pm. Rhonda Rider on cello, Judith Gordon on piano and James Puglese on percussion perform selections from Beethoven's *Sonata in D Major* and Lee Hyla's *Dream of Innocent III.*

MITHAS Concert Series

Wong Auditorium, MIT, Cambridge (253-4705). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. 7pm. MIT's Heritage of the Arts of Southasia presents a concert series of classical music and dance from South Asia.

Sunday, Oct. 15

The Boston Cecilia

Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, Boston (232-4540). 3pm. "A Celebration of Life" is the theme of the Boston Cecilia's all-Bach concert that honors the 250th anniversary of Bach's death in 1750.

Boston Conservatory Chamber Players

Seully Hall, 4th Floor, 8 The Fenway (912-0400). 4pm. For its season opener, the BCCP presents an all-French program including one of the Pierne Sonatas, the Debussy Violin Sonata and Cello Sonata, the Ravel Duo and Henri Detilleux's Flute Sonata and finally Milhaud's *Scaramoche.*

Emmanuel Music Concerts

Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (536-3356). 10am. Weekly Bach cantata featuring the orchestra and chorus of Emmanuel Music.

Emmanuel Music Schubert Series

C. Walsh Theatre, Suffolk University, 41 Temple St., Boston (536-3356). 4pm. The music of Franz Schubert and guest performers Mark McSweeney, baritone; Leslie Amper, piano; Danielle Maddon, violin; and Craig Smith, piano.

Gardner Concert Series

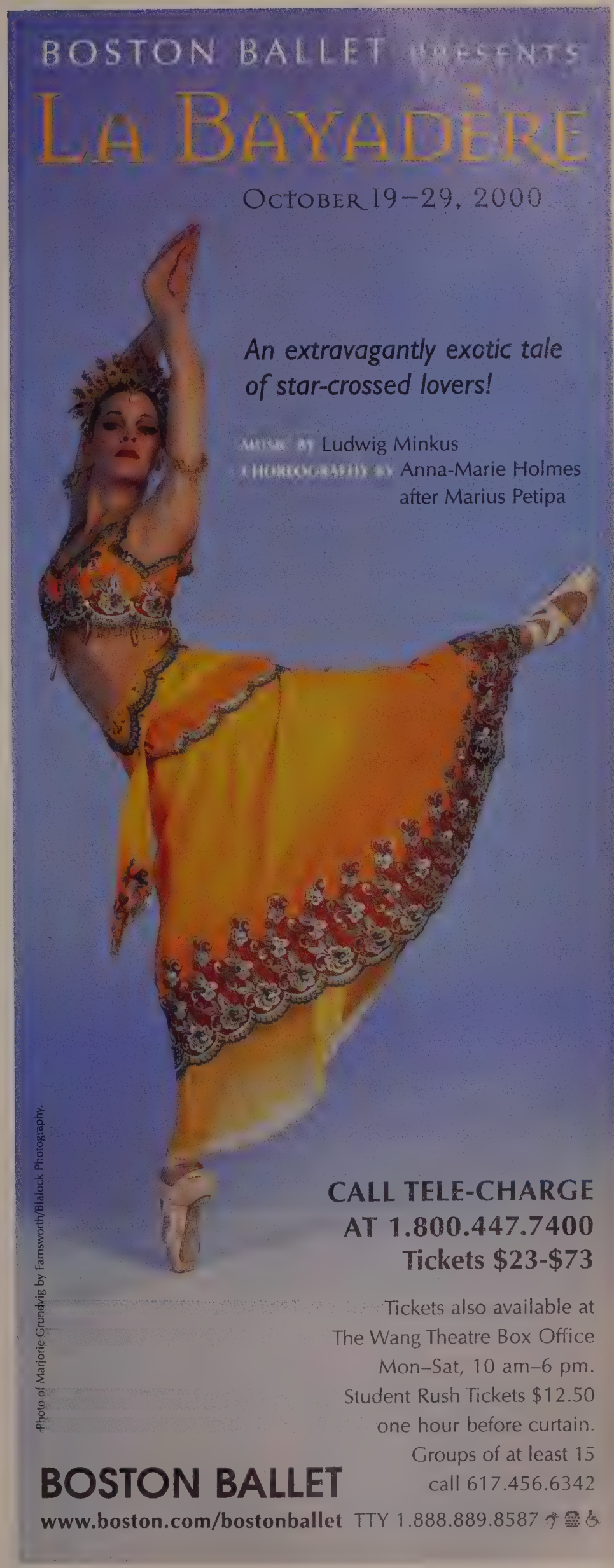
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 2 Palace Rd., Boston (566-1401). 1:30pm. The Piffaro Renaissance Band presents "A Flemish Feast—Music from the Low Countries, 1500-1650."

Shirley-Eustis House Concerts

Shirley-Eustis House, 33 Shirely St., Roxbury (442-2275). 2pm. The Helicon Winds, America'a first wind quintet, performs as part of a Great Hall Concert Series.

Happy Birthday!

Oct. 12-15 kicks off a season-long Symphony Hall Centennial Celebration.
•Oct. 12: Fund-raising Ball with the BSO and the Peter Duchin Orchestra.
•Oct. 13: Ceremony declaring Symphony Hall a National Historic Landmark.
•Oct. 14: Gala Concert with BSO Music Director Seiji Ozawa, Pops Conductor Keith Lockhart and Pops Laureate Conductor John Williams (pictured above).
•Oct. 15: All-day open house featuring performances by the BSO and the Pops.



dance clubs

Advice to Contributors
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Nights

Mondays

Ceremony
An Tua Nua. Pounding goth and industrial music shakes the house.
Cabaret
Encore Lounge. Michael Larson and Dorothy Miller belt out show tunes and Cabaret. Sitins welcome.
Language
Hibernia. Drum and bass with Cosmo. 8pm. 21+.
Monsta Monday
Bill's Bar. DJ Kaptain Krunch kicks off the week. 9pm. $5, 18+.
Static
Axis. DJ Jay Ine delivers Hardhouse and UK Progressive. Plus a drag/strip event with Mizery. 10pm, $5. 19+.
Vertigo Mondays
Vertigo. Caesar and Giorgio throw a party for those who never stop dancin'. Dress slick. 10pm. No cover.

Tuesdays

Fat Tuesdays
Bill's Bar. This off-the-hook night features DJ Chaos scratching out hip-hop. 10pm. $12, 18+.
The Forum
Lava Bar. Join Mission Control and support the local DJ scene as home-grown talents share the floor. 10pm. 21+.
Got Milk?
Venu. If you're chic you'll be at Venu for Milk—a devilishly hip party with DJ Osheen. Dress is funky. 21+.
Lot 36
Embassy. DJ Eddie K. heats things up with progressive Euro House at the city's hot club. 10pm. $15. 19+.
Hibernia
DJ Lounge is perfect for a relaxed Tuesday night. 7pm.
Mingle Tuesdays
The Modern. This spot screams sophistication. With DJs, a raw bar, vodka bar and late lounge. 10pm. 21+.
Showtunes
Encore Lounge. Bobby Femino plays the classic piano bar show tunes.

Wednesdays

Backstage
DJ Jonny C. spins top-40 dance. 10pm, no cover. 21+.
College Night
The Aquarium. Guest DJs spin all sorts of tunes at this relatively new venue at 10pm.
Encore Lounge
Michelle Curie plays blues and jazz at the piano bar.
Funk and Groove
Bill's Bar. DJ Tim Collins spins live funk, soul and hip-hop. 9pm. $5, 18+.
Groove Lounge
Downstairs at The Exchange. This lounge has it all—house, funk and soul.
Hedonism
Upstairs at The Exchange. DJ Infinite and DJ Luca provide the soundtrack for you to be naughty to. 21+.
Latin Night
The Aquarium. This aquatic-themed Davis Square club offers dance lessons from 9pm-10pm.
Mason
Hiberbnia. Perfect Downtempo and house music, complete with funky breaks.
Pravda 116
Spend the night at one of the city's most decadent hot spots—set to beats by DJ Alex and DJ Felix. 21+.

Thursdays

Aquarium
The Kiss 108 FM dance party. 10pm. $3.
An Tua Nua
Top 40, old school, hip-hop, house and soul spun by DJ Tim Collins.
Backstage
Tonight's adrenaline high features special guests spinning top-40 dance and club classics. 10pm, $5. 21+.
Big Easy
New Orleans-themed nightspot with some of the best DJs in town. Four bars, billiards and lounges. 9pm.
Charlie's Angels Night
Polly Esther's. Dance to '70s, '80s or '90s tunes. 8pm, $5.

Beer abounds at Davis Square's aquatic-centered club Aquarium, with specialty nights Tue.-Sat.

Chrome
Axis. Resident DJs John Debo and Ali Ajami spin house and trance. 10pm, $10. 19+.
College Night
The Exchange. Bring your college ID and party to house, hip-hop, R&B and reggae. 9pm, 19+.
Downtempo Lounging
The Modern. DJ Ricky Fatts spins while you enjoy the raw bar and vodka bar. 9pm-2am, 21+.
Embassy Thursday Nights
DJ Anthony hosts Latin Lounge. 10pm, $15, 19+.
Encore Lounge
Michelle Curie plays blues and jazz at the piano bar.
Europa
Enter Club Destiny for DJ Rip's house and trance.
Graduate School Night
Pravda 116. DJ Maric spins tunes to relax you.
Heaven
Comedy Connection Backstage. Music by DJs Johnny C and Freddie C. Proper dress. 10pm. No cover.
Hibernia Thursday Night
DJ Jeremy spins loopy, trippy, trip-hop. 7pm.
Il Panino
A social playground for young professionals. 9pm. 21+.
International Thursday
Avalon. A mixed crowd fills this nightspot with DJ Manolo and progressive Euro House. 10pm, $15. 19+.
Latin Quarter
The Roxy. You know it's time to get down when the Roxy breaks out Latin dance mixes. 10:30pm, 21+.
The Modern
International Thursdays features R&B classics. 10pm, $15, 19+.
Speed
Karma. Resident DJs Bruno spin house to an edgy crowd. 10pm, $12. 19+.
Sugar Shack
The best music from three decades pounds through the festival atmosphere where every day is Mardi-Gras.
Sweetwater Cafe
Live bands perform while guests sip margaritas.
The List
Lava Bar. *Lavabar.com*. DJ 7L and guests along with Verse/D bring you soul and funk. 10pm. 21+.
Underground
Bill's Bar. DJ Mark Hamilton showcases up and coming acts and established bands. 9pm. Cover varies, 18+.
Venu
DJ Nailz spins to a huge college crowd. 19+.

Fridays

Aquarium
DJ Lu spins today's hottest dance hits.
An Tua Nua
DJ Vinny puts together a great night of top-40 and your favorites from the '70s, '80s and '90s.
American Karma
Karma. All-star American top-40 remixes with DJ Tim Collins, live on STAR 93.7. 9pm, $8, 19+.
Avaland
Avalon. Everything about this screams "Party!" With Ali Ajami and special guest DJs. 10pm, $15. 19+.
Backstage
DJ Jonny C spins top-40. 10pm, $5. Proper dress, 21+.
Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans–themed nightspot has some of the best mainstream DJs in town.
Buzz Fridays
Buzz. Roger M lays down Latin house tracks while DJs pay homage to the house music gods. 11pm, $15. 19+.
Cabaret
Encore Lounge. John O'Neil and Jan Peters sing showtunes and cabaret.
Envy
This popular destination is filled with a mass of sweaty 'n' ready dancers. 9pm, $5 after 10pm. 21+.
Exchange Fridays
The Exchange. Up High, Tiziano and Maurizio, play house trip while DJ G-Squared opens the Vault. 9pm.
Focus at Hibernia
Cocktails with Alan Strack and deep house. 10pm, 21+.
Life
Lava Bar. Dance to a different drummer with DJ Fran Englehardt's deeply rooted soulful rhythms. 10pm.
Mondo Bar
Roxy. International and house music with resident DJs Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. 10:30pm, 21+.
NYC Jukebox
All the disco and rock you can handle. 9pm, 21+.
Pravda 116
DJ Mario spins current dance music at this hot spot.
Revolution
Embassy. Find Latin and progressive Euro House here with DJ Eddie K. 10pm, $15, 19+.
Spin Cycle
Axis. Glitzed-out club hoppers shake it to the beats of DJ Tim Ryan and DJ David James. 10pm, $12. 19+.
Sugar Shack
DJs and specialty drinks, dancing 'til 2am.
Sweetwater Cafe
DJs KC and Jonesey entertain on two floors.
Venu
The scene is elegant for this jacket-required international romp. Get your Gucci on as DJ Arsit spins. 21+.

Saturdays

Aquarium
Saturday night dance party with DJs. 10pm. $5.
An Tua Nua
DJ Tim Collins mixes top-40, hip-hop, house and soul.
Downtown
Avalon. Resident DJs Manolo and Mattie O. gyrate your arse with hits and club classics. 10pm, $15. 21+.
Backstage
DJ Freddie C spins top-40 dance and club classics. 10pm. $5. Proper dress, 21+.
Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans–themed nightspot has live bands all weekend. Thirsty? There are four bars to boot.
Blues
Encore Lounge. Shake off your blues and listen to honky-tonk, classic and contemporary rock.
Classic Saturdays
Embassy/The Modern. DJ Eddie K puts out some classic Euro House for a mix of international students, local scenesters and Boston's A-list. 10pm, $15, 19+.
Club Juliana
Boogieing cuties converge on Boston's newest Latin Night starting at 10pm. Dress to impress. $10.
Club Nicole
The mob is thick for this exclusive trendsetter. DJ Alex spins Eurohouse. Jackets required. 21+.
Club Piteko
Fajitas & Ritas' hot spot juggles reggae, hip-hop and Brazilian sounds. $7. 21+.
Downtown Saturdays at Avalon
DJ Monolo spins progressive house. 10pm, $15, 21+.
Envy
DJ Tom Baxter blasts top-40, house and dance. 9pm, $5.
Elements of Life
Karma. Guest DJs spin house while DJ Justin Hoffman spins hip-hop, funk and soul. 10pm, $15, 19+.
Exchange Saturdays
Guest DJs spin house, hip-hop and top-40.
Hibernia Saturdays
Steve Porter whips the crowd into a frenzy. 10pm. 21+.
Lava Bar
Anything Goes. DJ Fran and Kris Kono unite with high-energy house and Latin beats. 10pm, 21+.
Miami Club Night
Club Joy/Yesterday's. Get a taste of Miami nightlife. 9:30pm (ladies free before 11pm), $10. 21+. Ladies, 19+.
Mischief
The Modern. Feeling mischievous? Ultra lounging with decadent desserts and erotic electronica. 21+.
Mythos
Venu. It's Greek International night with DJ Yorgo Jr. spinning the hits from the famous party islands.
NYC Jukebox
Disco and rock hits. 9:30pm, 21+.
Pravda 116
DJ Mario provides current dance jams.
Roxy Saturdays
High-energy house and dance by DJ Adilson. 9pm, 21+.
Saturday Night Fever
Polly Esther's. Groove to three decades' worth of beats in the laser-lit Club DVD. 8pm, $10. 21+.
Smile
Bill's Bar. DJ Bruno takes over. 10pm. $12, 19+
Sugar Shack
Spice up your night with '70s, '80s and '90s dance music as DJ Rich Centi spins the hottest sounds.
Sweetwater Cafe
Music from DJs KC and Jonesey on two floors.
Who's on First?
The latest and greatest in hip-hop, reggae, R&B and Latin house with DJ Lil' Mike, 10:30pm, $12. 18+.
X night
Axis. Hear DJs Mike Giosciaand David James spin alternative rock and hits from the '80s. 10pm, $10. 21+.

Sundays

Backstage
Urban Night. T Clark spins hip-hop, reggae and old school. Doors open at 10pm, $10. 21+.
Common People
An Tua Nua. Brit-pop, new wave, indie and more with DJ Adrienne. 9pm, $3. 19+.
Encore Lounge
Saddle up to the piano bar and listen to Michael Kreutz play showtunes.
Il Panino
This night features music by DJ Alex of Boston Beat and DJ Roger M. No cover, 21+.
Lava Bar
Pandora's Box (Club Courtesy). DJ Vinny and Sir Richard and Sterling spin '60s Exotica, loungecore, psychedelic flowerpop and Motown. 10pm. 21+.
Red Square Lounge
Pravda 116. Party in the front bar that is transformed into a comfortable lounge. 10pm-2am.
Reggae Sundays
Bill's Bar. DJ K-Don spins some of the best reggae around. 10pm. $10. 21+.
Salvation
This Boston vibe serves up an intimate evening of soul, all provided courtesy of DJ Soul. $5.
Venu
Carnival comes to Boston every Sunday as DJ Adilson brings the heat of Rio to Venu. 21+.

Club Venues

AnTua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (262-2121).*
Aquarium *65 Holland St., Somerville (623-3200).*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (437-0300).*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424).*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437).*
Backstage *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston (726-1110).*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678).*
Buzz Boston/Europa *51-67 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street.*
Club Juliana *20 Hudson St., Boston (542-4411).*
Club Nicole *40 Dalton St., Boston (236-4746). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*
Club Piteko/Fajitas & Ritas *25 West St., Boston (426-1222).*
Club Stella *1234 Soldiers Field Rd., Brighton (254-0554).*
Comedy Connection Backstage *Fanuel Hall, Boston (726-1110). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Embassy *36 Lansdowne St., Boston (536-2100).*
Encore Lounge *279 Tremont St. Boston (338-7699).*
Envy *25 Boylston Place, Boston (542-3689).*
Europa *51 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939).*
Exchange *148 State St., Boston (726-7601).*
Hibernia *25 Kingston St., Boston* (292-2333).
Karma *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9595).*
Lava Bar *575 Comm. Ave., Boston (267-7707).*
NYC Jukebox *275 Tremont St., Boston (542-1123).*
Oskar's *107 South St., Boston (542-6756).*
Polly Esther's *262 Friend St., Boston (720-1966). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (482-7799).*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699).*
Salvation *20 Hudson St., Boston (781-668-2392).*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510).*
Sweetwater Cafe *5 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2515).*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (338-8061).*

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

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Music

ROLL OVER, CHOPIN

Donal Fox has no problem defying genre lines and jazzing up the classical canon. BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

Some people may think it unusual for pianist-composer Donal Fox—a 1997 recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship who has worked in classical settings with the Boston Ballet, Boston Musica Viva and the St. Louis Symphony—to play a jazz club like the Regattabar. But like other musicians through history, it's quite natural for the Brookline-bred Fox.

"In the 21st century, it's easier to say I'm a product of all these musics, and you can put it into my personality as one unit," says Fox, who splits the jazz-classical line with an Oct. 11 program titled "Exploring Monk and Bach, Part II" at the Regattabar. "I'm no longer going to stand here as an artist and say, 'Oh, I have to be on this side of the fence and dress this way, and over here, I have to dress that way.' This is who I am. You either dig it or you don't."

Fox isn't alone, after all. Interviewed at his Roxbury home, he reminds us of jazz pianist Bud Powell doing a Bach prelude on one of his '50s records, as well as some of the habits of early classical greats. "A lot of the stories are how they were great improvisers who would come in and take a theme from the audience and go off for 30 minutes—Beethoven was notorious for that, and actually, publishing and writing music down was one way of getting money and making sure they could maintain the memory of what they were doing," says Fox. He adds that in some Mozart concertos, "The orchestra would have its parts, of course, but he'd leave the piano part blank because he'd improvise."

Improvisation on the piano is a fundamental part of Donal Fox's performances.

For his Regattabar date with drummer Pheeroan AkLaff and bassist John Lockwood, a sequel to an earlier performance they did in March, Fox uses favorite composers Thelonious Monk and Bach as a jumping-off point for a night that includes standards and originals. "This time around, I have something of Chopin's, turned into a South African dance," Fox says. "As long as it works—and the last time, there was a piece that didn't quite work, and we all knew it. But everyone was part of the game, so we said, 'OK, let's do another one.'"

Without making the evening into a lecture, explanation is an important element of the show, Fox says. "Then the audience can get inside the music making, the creative process," says the pianist, comparing that rapport to musicians comparing notes. "Whether they agree or not, they can see where it's coming from, and where it works."

"The trio will do a Bach bass line, and I'll do harmonies on top of that, or I'll take the harmonic structure and totally transform the piece," says Fox. "So I'll play the Bach straight, almost like a classical recital. Then we'll go into something where, if you came into the middle of it, you'd have no idea it was Bach."

Born to a Panamanian mother and a Russian-American father, Fox was exposed early to Bach and other music. "Both my parents were musical, and they say when I was 6 years old I was playing Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* in my room," he says. "And my father had a lot of Charlie Parker and Miles Davis recordings, along with the Stravinsky and Bartok. So early on, I didn't see a category [division] between them. It was all interesting, good music."

About that time, he began taking classical piano lessons. "Then I started improvising on the material, improvising on Bach, and by my teens I was actually getting spanked on the hand by my teacher," says Fox, now 48. "He'd come into the room, and I'd take a Beethoven sonata and put a boogie-woogie in it, and he'd start screaming, 'What are you doing?!'"

Fox continued to forge his own path with help from mentors like Gunther Schuller at New England Conservatory and T.J. Anderson at Tufts. By the late '80s, he was established on the chamber-music circuit, then crossed into the jazz world through mavericks like Henry Threadgill, David Murray (with whom he recorded *Ugly Beauty* in 1993) and Oliver Lake.

"Henry and Oliver first heard of me as this composer who did this sort of avant-garde music and played the piano very well, and improvised in that style," Fox says. "All those musicians compose as well. Oliver is doing more composition now for 'classical' forces like string quartet and chamber music ensembles. When we met 10 years ago, the language was right there between us."

"The line between contemporary jazz and contemporary classical is very narrow," Fox says. "It was probably harder 15 years ago. There'd be more flack and questions. Now there is more openness and acceptance." iB

Donal Fox

Fuses jazz and classical at the Regattabar, Oct. 11.

Advice to Contributors

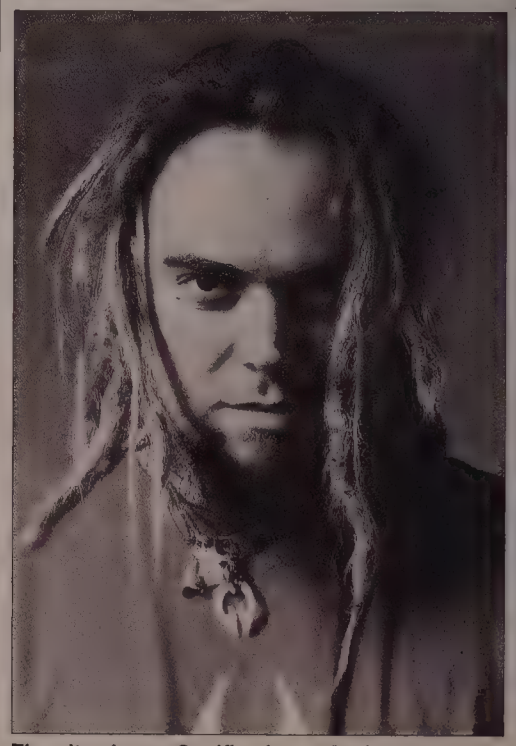
Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fax (859-1446); by mail to Calendar/Music; or by email to music@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, phone numbers and nearest T stops. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers

Information for the music section is compiled from different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double check dates and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

Concerts

Autumn Uprising: Jazz, Improv and Experimental Music
Institute for Contemporary Art, Oct. 13-15
Billy Bragg
Somerville Theatre, Oct. 10
Ray Charles
Lowell Auditorium, Oct. 12
College Fest with Seventeen and the Sheila Divine
Oct. 15, Hynes Convention Center
Alice Cooper
Oct. 8, Orpheum Theatre
Cryptopsy
Worcester Palladium, Oct. 6
Dandy Warhols and Creeper Lagoon
Axis, Oct. 7
Elastica
Karma, Oct. 7
Fourplay with Bob James, Larry Carlton, Nathan East and Harvey Mason
Berklee Performance Center, Oct. 14
Get Up Kids
Worcester Palladium, Oct. 7
The Flaming Lips
Roxy, Oct. 6
Jurassic 5, Dilated Peoples and the Beat Junkies
Axis, Oct. 12
Emmylou Harris and Patty Griffin
Beklee Performance Center, Oct. 17
Phil Lesh and Friends
Orpheum Theatre, Oct. 4-7
Holly Near and Cris Williamson
Sanders Theatre, Oct. 6
Pushstars
Axis, Oct. 7
The Roots, Eve 6, O.P.M. and Wheatus
Avalon, Oct. 4
Martin Sexton
Somerville Theater, Oct. 6
Sol y Canto duo
Brandeis University, Oct. 12
Soulfly, Downset, Primer 55 and Slaves on Dope
Avalon, Oct. 16
Stone Temple Pilots
Oct. 5, Tsongas Arena
Doc Watson
Somerville Theatre, Oct. 13
Paul Weller
Avalon, Oct. 6



The ultra-heavy Soulfly play at Avalon Oct. 16.

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Victoria Williams and Mark Olson of the Jayhawks
The Somerville Theater, Oct. 15
WOFA, Drum and Dance of Guinea
Sanders Theatre, Oct. 14

CONCERT HALLS

Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Berklee Performance Center *136 Mass. Ave., Boston (747-2261). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center/ICA.*
FleetBoston Pavilion *290 Northern Avenue, Boston (734-9000). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
FleetCenter *One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (624-1000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Tweeter Center *885 South Main St., Mansfield (508-339-2331).*
Worcester Palladium *261 Main St., Worcester (508-797-9696).*

Rock, Jazz and Blues

Wednesday, Oct. 4

Bell in Hand Tavern Acoustic Army, 8pm.
Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Hakim Law Jazz Quartet and Special Guests, 6pm.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
Club Passim IndieGrrrl with Ninni Camps, Anne O'Meara Heaton, Sam Shaber, Edie Carey, Beth Amsel and Tara Greenblatt, 8pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort The Jennerators, 7pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Michelle Currie, 9pm.
Good Life Cambridge Weepin' Willie and his All-Star Band, no cover.
Irish Embassy Pub Machinery Hall.
Johnny D's Johnny A and the Vigilantes of Love, 8:30pm.
Kirkland Cafe Twisted Rico Acoustic Revue with Jay Wightman andFriends, $5.
Lilli's Rounder Records 30th anniversary celebration with Jimmie Dale Gilmore, Tony Trischka and Balfa Too Jours, $20.
Lizard Lounge Broken Glass Music Review featuring Puppetmaster Jake, 9:30pm; Eric Royer and his Guitar Machine, 10pm; Alfredo Gomez and His Sweet South American Sounds, 10:30pm; The Reverend Glass Eye and His Wooden Legs, 11pm.
Middle East U: Migration Trap and the 1985, $6, 18+.
Oak Bar Steve Soares, 8pm.
Rack Search Party, no cover.
Regattabar Patricia Barber, 8pm and 10 pm, $14.
Rythm & Spice DJ Bim Inc. and Sound Vibration, $5, 18+.
Scullers The Eric Marienthal Band, Ken Navarro, Slim Man and Smooth Grooves, 8pm and 10pm, $20.
Sky Bar Words For Snow, Fooled By April and Tristanda Cunha, 9pm, 21+, $5.

Indie rockers C60 play at College Fest Oct. 15.

Tír na nÓg Onus B. Johnson.
Toad Jody Blackwell and Patino Vasquez, no cover
T.T. the Bear's Place Spider, Nell Bryden and Rod Webber, $5.
Les Zygomates The Chuck Langford Duo, 5pm; The Issi Rozen Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Wonder Bar Leo Blanco.

Thursday, Oct. 5

Bell in Hand Tavern Central Basement, 9pm.
Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Club Passim Kyle Shiver and Steph Corby, 8pm, $10.
Coogan's Bluff Bruce Jacques.
Dick's Last Resort Booty, 7pm.
Encore Lounge Michelle Currie, 9pm.
Good Life Cambridge Mickey Bones and the Jump Crew, no cover.
Good Life Downtown Grover Mooney's Organ Trio, no cover.
House of Blues Peter Malick CD-release party, 10pm.
Johnny D's Danu, 9pm.
Jose McIntyre's James McKenna.
Kendall Cafe Kenn Lowy, 9pm; Kelli Owens, 10pm; Hamilton, 11pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe Kristin Plater, Mellissa Morris and Rama Winslow, $5.
Lilli's Neon Grandma with Thaddeus Hogarth, $7.
Lizard Lounge Amelia White, Deb Talan and Adrianne.
Middle East U: Isis, Botch, Sunshine and Fin Fam Foom, $7, 18+. D: Benefit for Tenants Legal Defense Fund, Random Roadmother, Pennywheel, Quick Fix, Rocketscience and Car Models Blue, $8, 18+.
Oak Bar Steve Soares, 8pm.
Rack The Cattunes, 6pm, no cover.
Regattabar The Benny Green, Russell Malone and Ray Brown Trio, 8pm and 10pm.
Scullers Melba Moore and Nnenna Freelon, 8pm and 10pm.
Sky Bar Dr. Awkward, 9pm, 21+, $5 .
Tír na nÓg Christian McNeil.
Toad Todd Thibaud, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Betty Ford Pickup, Prime Rib, Sound Of Urchin and the Orange $6.
Les Zygomates The Alon Yavnai Duo, 5pm; The Jinga Trio, 8pm.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford Review.

Friday, Oct. 6

The Attic Babaloo with Tobin Bridge.
Avalon Paul Weller, 7pm, $22, 18+.
Bell in Hand Tavern Pete Maniscalco, 9:30pm.
Big Easy Bar 5 Helena.
Black Rose Dave Foley and Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Paulo Danay Quartet, 7:30pm.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Club Passim Jenny Reynolds and Brenda Evans opens, $10.
Common Ground Glen Echo with Jazz Farmers.
Coogan's Bluff The Return.
Dick's Last Resort Beantown Bar Band and Soul City, 7pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge John O'Neil an d Jan Peters, 9pm.
Good Life Cambridge Nate Aronow and the Companions, no cover.
Good Life Downtown Ron Levy and his Wild Kingdom, no cover.
Green Dragon Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
House of Blues Brian Templeton, 10pm.
Irish Embassy Pub Pig Pen.
Johnny D's BR5-49, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's Complaints, $5.
Kendall Cafe More, 9:30pm; The Scoldees, 10:30pm; Violet Tide, 11:30pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe Giant's Workshop, Lolita's Bliss Nell Bryden and the Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
Lilli's Bleu CD-release with Dave Aaronson and the Details (ex-Shods), $8.
Lizard Lounge Deb Pasternak with Fire in the Boathouse.
Middle East U: Say Hi to Lisa, Chelsea on Fire, Medea Connection, $7, 18+. D: Jets to Brazil, Hey Mercedes and Cave In, $12, 18+.
Milky Way Pressure Cooker.
Oak Bar Steve Soares Trio, 8:30pm.
Purple Shamrock Marcels, $5.
Rack Hit Squad.
Regattabar The Benny Green; Russell Malone; Ray Brown Trio, 8pm and 10pm, $18.
Rhythm & Spice Jamdown, 10pm, $5, 18+.
Scullers Melba Moore and Nnenna Freelon, 8pm and 10:30pm.
Sky Bar Playing for Audrey; Toyboat; Amusia and Slackjaw, 9pm, 21+, $5 .

Preview

Cut Chemistry

Three hip-hop trailblazers meet at Axis.

A genre-defining line-up of hip-hop crews will arrive at Axis Oct. 12 for a show that promises to be a major event in the local rap scene. For starters, mix-tape and compilation-CD wonder the Beat Junkies will set the stage by spinning their masterful turntable work. This group has made a significant name for itself in the underground with its self-titled series of CDs that feature non-mainstream rap artists and the Beat Junkies' own mixing skills; last year, indie rap label Rawkus Records tapped the Junkies to mix the second in their groundbreaking, career-making *Soundbombing* series.

Both Dilated Peoples (right) and the Jurassic 5 (left) have been lurking in the background for a few years, releasing records that caught the attention of critics and hip-hop heads alike. The three Dilated Peoples are Iriscience and Evidence (who doubles as a highly skilled producer) on the mike; and DJ Babu of the Beat Junkies on the turntables. Their album, *The Platform*, was the culmination of years of dues-paying and skill-building work, and though it was released on the same day as Eminem's new album, it found homes in the record collections of many rap fans looking for something a little more interesting. As good as Dilated's vocal styles are, the MC's skills are matched and tested by the beats and sampling production on the album. The most notable tracks were done by Evidence himself and current producer par excellence, The Alchemist.

J5's new record, *Quality Control*, is a long-awaited collection of tracks by this quintet (which actually has six members). After teasing heads in '97 with a brilliant EP that knocked both coasts flat, there was a long wait. Fortunately, *Quality Control* proved to be well worth the wait. It showcases the talents of the individual members as well as the group, and is an expansion on the style which put them on the map—a mix of old-school East Coast delivery and sounds, and new-school West Coast sensibility. Proving that all West Coast rap isn't about gangstas and guns, and that you don't have to be from the East to be part of the "conscious rap" community, Jurassic 5 have raised the bar for hip-hop. To quote the wry cartoon on the back of their EP, "If we all don't come with some new styles soon, we are all going to burn in hell!" —*Andrew Graham*

Toad The Aloha Steamtrain, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Jim Big Ego CD-release, Amy Rigby and Edith, $8.
Les Zygomates The Chuck Langford Trio, 5-8pm; The Skip Smith Trio, 9pm.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chonic Chronicles, no cover.

Saturday, Oct. 7

The Attic El Camino with Barry Kingston.
Avalon The Pushstars, 7pm, $12.25, 18+.
Axis The Dandy Warhols, Creeper Lagoon, 7pm, $10, 18+.
Bell in Hand Tavern BrianMaes, 9:30pm.
Big Easy Bar Velvet Jones.
Black Ros Tony O'Riordan, Dave Foley and Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Sonny Watson Quartet, 7:30pm.
Bull Run Cathie Ryan Band.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Club Passim Rust Farm, Johnsmith Opens, 8pm.
Coogan's Bluff Thomas Park.
Dick's Last Resort The Jennerators, 7pm; In the House, 10pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge DesPres andDeGraff, 9:30pm.
Good Life Downtown Ron Levy and his Wild Kingdom, no cover.
Green Dragon Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
House of Blues Shemekia Copeland, 10pm.
Johnny D's Jim Weider, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's Blockhead, $5.
Karma Elastica, 7pm, 18+, $10.
Kendall Cafe Nobody, 9:30pm; Cosmic Wheel, 10:30pm; Melvern Taylor, 11:30pm, $5.
Lilli's Project Logic featuring DJ Logic, $12.
Linwood Miss Fortune, 9pm.
Lizard Lounge Dennis Brennan's Unbelievable Band and Jabe.
Middle East U: Superzero, 18+ $7. D: Versus, Mary Timony, Franklin Bruno (from Nothing Painted Blue) and Kendall Meade, $10, 18+.
Oak Bar Steve Soares Trio, 8:30pm.
Purple Shamrock Wonder Kat, $5.
Regattabar The Benny Green; Russell Malone; Ray Brown Trio, 8pm and 10pm, $20.
Rhythm & Spice Caribbean Cruize Band, 10pm, $5, 18+.

JURASSIC: B+; DILATED: BLOCK

The grunge-inspired Dandy Warhols play with alternative pop rockers Creeper Lagoon at Axis, Oct. 7.

Sky Bar Charlie Chesterman and His Legendary Motobkes, 9pm, 21+, $5.
Slade's John Dougherty Trio, 8pm-12am.
Toad Josh Ederman y Los Diablos, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Hearbox Live Music Series with Mike Watt and the Pair of Pliers, Bargain Music and Auto Interiors $10.
Les Zygomates The Kim Trusty Duo, 5pm; Valerie Stephens, 10pm.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, no cover.

Sunday, Oct. 8

The Attic The CoalBoilers, 9:30pm.
Bell in Hand Tavern Zen Flower, 7:30-11:30pm, $3.
Bill's Bar Tribute to Dennis Brown, 10pm.
Black Rose Tony O'Riordan and Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Jazz Brunch with Paulo Danay Quartet, 11am-3:30pm.
Bull and Finch Dave Whitney, 11pm.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
Clery's Freelance Bishops, 9pm.
Club Passim Valerie and Walter Crockett CD-release party, 7:30pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort The Evelyn McDonald Gospel Goup, 10am-3pm; Rob Gonzalez, 7pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Michael Kreutz.
House of Blues Yonder Mountain String Band, 9pm.
Johnny D's Blues Jam and Salsa dancing with Rumba NaMa.
Kendall Cafe Pat Burtis.
Lilli's Phase 3 presents Miami Night.
Lizard Lounge Audio Explorations with tracy Shed, 7-9pm; Poetry Jam with the Jeff Robertson Trio and Adrian Alleyne.
Middle East U: The Dubnicks, Chubby, Mission 120 and Favorite Atomic Hero, $7, 18+. D: Gamelan and Toast Presents Blackalicious, Cee Knowledge, Anti-Pop Consortium and Lifesaver, $17, 8pm, 18+.
Rack Chad LaMarsh, 9:30pm.
Tír na nÓg Jacob's Plea.
Toad Pete Donnelly of the Figgs, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Banana Hands, Tootsie, Dee Stroy and the Defex, Porn, $4.
Veronique Steve Rochinski, 11:30am.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience.

Monday, Oct. 9

Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
B Side Lounge Graig Riggs.
Cantab Lounge Geoff Bartley's Open Mike, 8pm and Simon, 9:30pm.
Dick's Last Resort The Jennerators, 7pm, no cover.
House of Blues Watercress, 9pm.
Irish Embassy Pub Juke Box.
Johnny D's Twang, 8pm.
Kendall Cafe XGuru.
Lizard Lounge The Fringe.
Middle East U: Waxwings and Potential Gateway Driver, $6, 18+.
Toad Shwang, 8pm; Tim Gearan, 10:30pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Other Side Of the Bear Acoustic Series with Patric McCormack and More, $3.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience.

Tuesday, Oct. 10

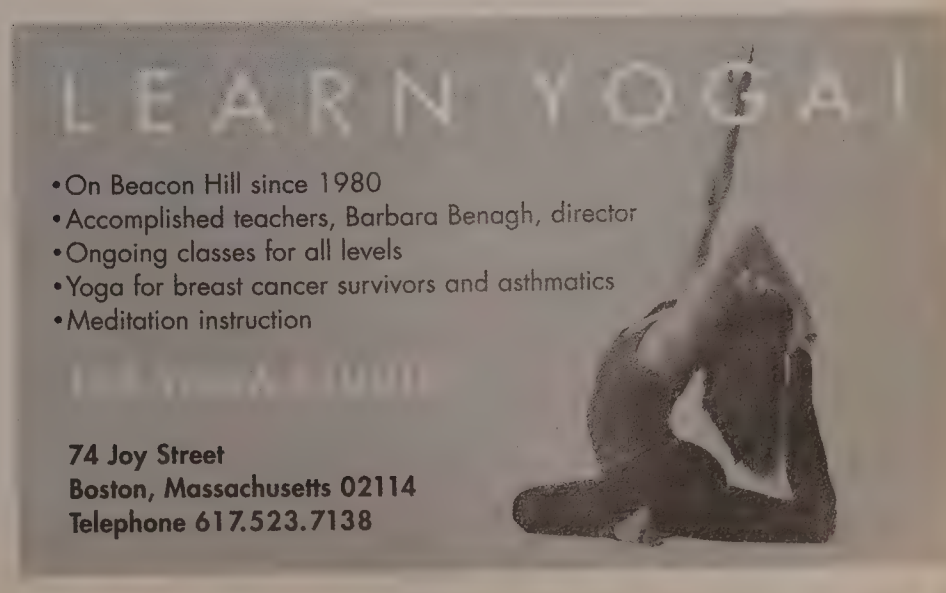
Bell in Hand Tavern Greg, 7:30pm.
Black Rose Eugene Byrne.
Cantab Lounge Flynn Cohen and Pachysandra, 9pm and Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 10pm.
Dick's Last Resort Beantown Bar Band, 7pm.
House of Blues Al Kooper, 9pm.
Irish Embassy Pub Bakpak Nite.
Johnny D's Berrymans, 8:30pm.
Kendall Cafe Local Jack, 9pm; Carla Patullo, 10pm, $4.
Kirkland Cafe Chris Zahnleiter Jazz Trio, $5.
Lilli's Western Electric with Sid Griffin and the Heygoods, $7.
Lizard Lounge Master Mic.
Middle East U: Victory at Sea; Sweep the Leg Johnny, Radio 4 and Kolya, $7, 18+.
Oak Bar Steve Soares, 8pm.
Rack Stu Sinclair, 8pm.
Regattabar The Mark Kross Five-Piece Trio, 8:30pm, $10.
Scullers Jody Ebling, 8pm and 10pm, $12.
Sky Bar Winterboy, 9pm, 21+, $5.
Tír na nÓg Freddie White.
Toad Uncle Trouble, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Emergency Music, the Migration Trap, Longwave and Tristan da Cunha, $5.
Les Zygomates Brian McCree and Frank Wilkins, 5-7pm; The Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio.

Wednesday, Oct. 11

Bell in Hand Tavern Nat Walkins, 8pm.
Black Rose Eugene Byrne.
Bob the Chef's Hakim Law Jazz Quartet and Special Guests, 6pm.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
Club Passim Story-Lab, spoken word concert with Tom McCabe and Jackson Gillman, 8pm, $10.
Coogan's Bluff James McKenna.
Dick's Last Resort The Jennerators, 7pm.
Encore Lounge Michelle Currie, 9pm-1am.
House of Blues Coco Montoya, 9pm.
Irish Embassy Pub Hamilton.
Johnny D's Old Blind Dogs, 8:30pm.
Kendall Cafe Open-mike with Patty Keough.
Kirkland Cafe Local Jack; Rana; Joe Deveau, $5.
Lizard Lounge Broken Music Review featuring the Two Siberians; The Pee Wee Fist; Rich Mackline and the Reverend Glass Eye and His Two Wooden Legs.
Middle East D: New Bomb Turks, Zeke and Bantam Rooster, $8, 8pm, 18+.
Oak Bar Steve Soares, 8pm.
Rack Hung Jury.
Regattabar The Donal Fox Trio: Exploring Bach and Monk, 8:30pm, $14.
Sky Bar Half Life of None, 9pm, 21+, $5.
Tír na nÓg Rust Farm.
Toad The Ken Clark Organ Trio, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Thermal Power In Canada, $4.
Les Zygomates The Sonny Watson Group, 5pm.
Wonder Bar Leo Blanco.

Thursday, Oct. 12

Bell in Hand Tavern Central Basement, 9pm.
Black Rose Eugene Byrne.
Bob the Chef's Toni Lynn Washington Jazz Quartet, 7:30pm.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.



Bleu throws a CD-release party at Lilli's Oct. 6.

Club Passim Rob Laurens, Summer Pierre opens, 8pm, $10.
Coogan's Bluff Bruce Jacques.
Dick's Last Resort Monnglow, 7pm.
Encore Lounge Michelle Currie, 9pm.
House of Blues Bernard Allison and Chris Duarte, 10pm.
Irish Embassy Pub Heart of Soul.
Johnny D's NRBQ with Blazers, 9pm.
Jose McIntyre's The Return.
Kendall Cafe Amy Correia, 9pm; Eric Marcos and Normal Noises, 10pm and the Mike Plume Band, 11pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe Laffing Freemen, Good People and Daniel Jacobs, $5.
Lilli's Karl Denson's Tiny Universe and Anti-Jazz Raygun, $17.
Lizard Lounge Club D'Elf.
Middle East U: Melt Banana, Fat Day and Black Dice, $9, 18+. D: Hovercraft and Kinski, $8, 18+.
Milky Way Rock City Crime Wave; Tunnel of Love; Liquor Trix and Duncan Wilder.
Oak Bar Steve Soares, 8pm.
Rack The Cattunes, 6pm.
Regattabar Patrice Williamson, 8pm and 10pm, $10.
Scullers Mark Murphy with Tom Harrell, 8pm and 10pm.
Sky Bar Quick Fix and friends, 9pm, 21+, $5.
Streetwater Cafe Jim Devlin.
Tír na nÓg The Benders.
Toad Mayone, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Swallows, Jeep, Nook and Honey Tongue, $6.
Les Zygomates The Alon Yanvai Duo, 5-7pm; The Jinga Trio, 8pm.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford Review.

Friday, Oct. 13

The Attic Honeypot with Rane.
Axis Fenix TX, Lefty, Good Charlotte, New Found Glory, 6pm, $10.
Bell in Hand Tavern Chad LaMarsh, 9:30pm.
Big Easy Bar Jump.
Black Rose Celtic Clan and Eugene Byrne.
Bob the Chef's Michael Kelley and the Hot Blue Q, 7:30pm.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Club Passim David Olney; Scott Alarik; Buddy Mondlock, 8pm, $12.
Common Ground The Joint Chiefs.
Coogan's Bluff Pig Pen.
Dick's Last Resort Beantown Bar Band, 7-10pm; Booty, 10pm-2am.
Encore Lounge John O'Neil and Jan Peters, 9pm-1:30am.
Green Dragon Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
Harpers Ferry The Eben Levy Disaster Relief-Fund, 9:30pm; Superhoney, 11pm.
Johnny D's NRBQ with the Blazers, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's Thomas Park, $5.
Kendall Cafe The Splendid Nobodies, 9:30pm; Beth Boucher Band, 10:30pm and Mo Matching Drapes, 11:30pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe Alabamba Frank, Classic Ruins, the Helena Gay band and the Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
Lilli's Karl Denson's Tiny Universe and Anti-Jazz Raygun, $17.
Lizard Lounge The Dangerous Brothers.
Middle East U: Throttle CD-release party with Bottom, $7, 18+. D: The Original P, $25, 18+.
Oak Bar Steve Soares Trio, 8:30pm-12:30am.
Purple Shamrock Novakane, $5.
Rack Drew Ambrose.
Regattabar Mili Bermejo and Claudio Ragazi: Noches Argentinas, 8pm and 10 pm, $14.
Rhythm & Muse Will Provost, 9pm, $5.
Scullers Mark Murphy with Tom Harrell, 8pm and 10:30pm.
Sky Bar Laika and the Cosmonaut; Seks Bomba, 9pm, 21+, $8.
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies.
Toad Amphibian, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Flynn, Kearney Square, and the Shelley Winters Project, $8.
Les Zygomates The James Dower Duo, 5-8pm; The Alon Yavnai Quartet, 9pm.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chonic Chronicles.

Saturday, Oct. 14

The Attic Slipknot.
Bell in Hand Tavern LuLu's in Crisis, 9:30pm.
Big Easy Bar Jump.
Black Rose Frank Ryan, Celtic Clan and Eugene Byrne.
Bob the Chef's Jose Ramos and the Special Blend, 7:30pm.
Bull Run Heidi Muller, $10.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Club Passim Carrie Newcomer and Ina May Wool, 8pm, $12.
Coogan's Bluff Off the Wall.
Copperfield's Far From Blue, 10pm.
Dick's Last Resort The Jennerators, 7pm; Soul City, 10pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge DesPres and DeGraff, 9:30pm.
Green Dragon Swinging Johnsons, 8pm, $3.
Harpers Ferry Superhoney.
House of Blues Seth Tacovone, 10pm.
Johnny D's Toni Lynn Washington.
Jose McIntyre's Van Go Cart, $5.
Kendall Cafe Mike Rosenthal, 9:30pm; Katie Terrio, 10:30pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe Six of One, $5.
Lilli's Los Straightjackets and Mr. Airplane Man, $10.
Lizard Lounge Kipper Tin, Hello, Attack! and Fuzzy.
Middle East U: Willard Grant Conspiracy and Saint Low, $7, 18+. D: The John Doe Thing, Mary Lou Lord and Matt Nathanson, $10, 18+.
Oak Bar Steve Soares Trio, 8:30pm.
Purple Shamrock The Return, $5.
Regattabar The Bruce Katz Band, 8pm and 10pm, $12.
Sky Bar 520s CD-release party and Zoux, 9pm, 21+, $5.
Slade's John Dougherty Trio, 8pm.
Tír na nÓg Jabe.
Toad David Johnston, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Figgs CD-release, Brian Charles and Jed Parish $8.
Les Zygomates Triamazonas, 6pm; Henrietta Robinson, 10pm.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet.

Sunday, Oct. 15

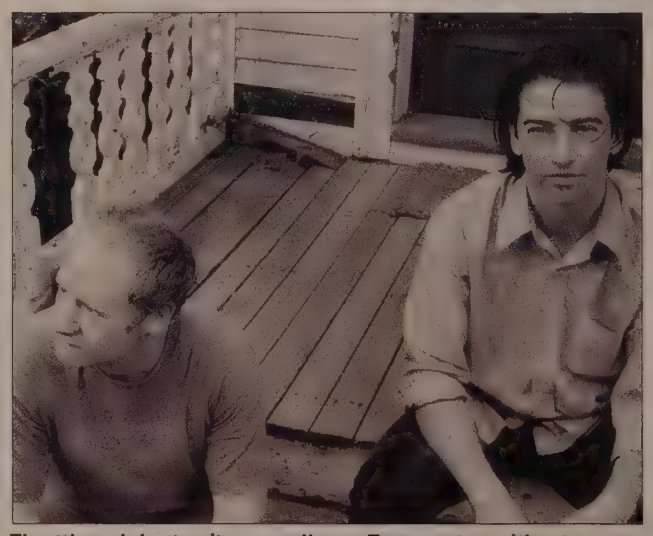
The Attic The CoalBoilers, 9:30pm.
Bell in Hand Tavern Zen Flower, 7:30pm.
Bill's Bar Sonbeam, 10pm.
Black Rose Frank Ryan and Eugene Byrne.
Bob the Chef's Jazz Brunch with Nat Simpkins' B3 Jazz Trio, 11am.
Bull and Finch Portrait in Jazz, 11pm.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
Clery's Freelance Bishops, 9pm.
Club Passim Oscar Brand, 7:30pm, $15.
Dick's Last Resort Silver Lining, 10am; Rob Gonzalez, 7pm.
Encore Lounge Michael Kreutz.
House of Blues Angus, 9pm.
Johnny D's Blues Jam and Salsa dancing with Rumba NaMa.
Kendall Cafe Pat Burtis.
Lizard Lounge Poetry Slam with the Jeff Robinson Trio and Molly Salans.
Middle East U: Bitch and Animal; Megan Toohey, $8, 18+. D: Pere Ubu 25th Anniversary Tour, 8pm, $12, 18+.
Rack Chad LaMarsh, 9:30pm-1:30am.
Rhythm & Muse Jim Rader, 2-4pm.
Toad The Benders, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Wild Colonials, Bully Pulpit and Moye $8.
Veronique Steve Rochinski, 11:30am.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience.

Monday, Oct. 16

Avalon Soulfly, Downset, Primer 55 and Slaves on Dope, 8pm, $17.75.
Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Cantab Lounge Geoff Bartley's Open Mike, 8pm and Deb Cowan, 9:30pm.
Club Passim Al Gardner Armenian Band, 7:30pm, $8.
Irish Embassy Pub Juke Box.
Johnny D's Twang.
Kendall Cafe XGuru.
Lilli's Rock Bottom and Royal Fingerbowl
Lizard Lounge The Fringe.
Middle East U: Sean Na Na, Green Four and Chris Mills, $7. 18+.
Toad Shwang, 8pm; Tim Gearan, 10:30pm, no cover.
Les Zygomates Chuck Langford Duo, 5pm; Katie and Arina with Dennis Brennan, 9pm.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience.

Tuesday, Oct. 17

Bell in Hand Tavern Greg, 7:30pm.
Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Cantab Lounge Rust Farm, 9pm and Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 10pm.
Dick's Last Resort Beantown Bar Band, 7pm.
House of Blues Al Koooper, 9pm.
Irish Embassy Pub Bakpak Nite.
Johnny D's Kilt.
Kendall Cafe Mike Gent; John Powhida and Katie Friend, $5.
Kirkland Cafe Chris Zahnleiter Jazz Trio, $5.
Lilli's The Either Orchestra, Club D'Elf and Wax Poetic, $8.
Lizard Lounge Stew.
Middle East U: Polak; Alien Love Feed the Jupiter Project, $7, 18+. D: Bratmobile, Ted Leo, American Steel and Art School Cheerleaders, 8pm, $8, 18+.
Oak Bar Steve Soares, 8pm.
Rack Stu Sinclair, 8pm.
Roxy Ed Motta; Ivan Lins; Leila Pinheiro in a "Brazilian Night."
Scullers Krisanthi Pappas, 8pm and 10pm.
Tír na nÓg Christian McNeil.
Toad Uncle Trouble, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Live Wire, 84 West, the Audiants and Tracy Husky, $4.
Les Zygomates Brian McCree and Ernesto Diaz, 5pm; The Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio.



Throttle celebrates its new album, *Transporter*, with a two-piece barrage of loud rock upstairs at the Middle East Oct. 13.

Music Venues

An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (262-2121). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Attic *107R Union St., Newton (964-6615). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Center.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Bell in Hand Tavern *45-55 Union St., Boston (227-2098). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (743-2286). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-6204). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
City Hall Plaza *Government Center, Boston (635-4505). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Coogans Bluff *173 Milk Street., Boston (451-7415). MBTA: Orange Line to State Street.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
Good Life Central *720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston (451-2622). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (367-0055). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket or North Station.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Jacob Wirth's *31-37 Stuart St., Boston (338-8586). MBTA: Green Line to Boyslton.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Davis Square, Somerville (776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Kirkland Cafe *425 Washington St., Somerville (482-4920). Red Line to Davis.*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Lilli's *608 Somerville Avenue in Somerville (591-1661). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
The Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (267-8644). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.*
The Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Milky Way Lounge and Lanes *405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
O'Brien's *3 Harvard Ave, Allston (782-6245). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
The Playhouse Lounge *74 Warrenton St., Boston (482-2227). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (227-2060). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (725-1051). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Regatta Bar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Rhythm & Spice *315 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (497-4308). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square.*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Central.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Rd., Cambridge (562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boston.*
Tir na nÓg *366A Somerville Ave., Somerville (628-4300). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Toad *1912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (497-4950). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential Center.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Wally's Cafe *427 Mass. Ave., Boston (424-1408). MBTA: Green Line to Symphony.*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard Ave., Allston (351-COOL). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Les Zygomates *129 South Street, Boston (542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*

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How to use this section
The following listings contain information that is subject to change. Contact the organization for changes in specific events.

CLUBS, BARS & HANGOUTS

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years these folks have been crankin' out some of the best Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. It's well worth a visit—if not for the three separate dance floors then for all the male dancers. 9pm, $15, 21+.

Buzz (Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays)
51 Stuart St. in the Theatre District, Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. On Saturday nights this place boasts two dance floors, two DJs, a pool room and a lounge. Two levels of dancing and schmoozing will keep the boys busy until 2am. 10pm, $5, 21+.

Chaps (Daily)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. www.chapsofboston.com. Sun.: Dance music of DJ Danae Jacovidis; Mon.: Grand Baby and Grand Piano night; Tue.: Retro DJ night; Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adielson Caesar; Thu.: DJs Billy and Fran, High Energy Dance; Fri.: Taboo Erotique with DJ Sammy; Sat.: High Energy Dance, DJ Danae Jacovidis.

City Girl Cafe (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri: 11am- 9pm; Sat: 10am-9pm; Sun: 10am-7pm. A small (five tables), laid-back cafe in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated. This cozy spot is home to a mixed gay/hetero crowd that lounges about, munching on sandwiches. Brunch on Saturday and Sunday, 10am-2pm.

Club Cafe (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-0966). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 11:30am-2am; Sat. 2pm-2am; Sun., 11am-2am. This trendy South End spot draws a mixed crowd that comes for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back (Moonshine). It's a dressy bunch that likes to mingle. No cover, 21+. •Carol O'Shaughnessy performs with Steve Heck, Dottie Dean or David Sparr, Thursdays. •"Diva-licious" debuts the first Wednesday of every month. It's a two-hour drag variety show hosted by Drag-on Showgirl Diamond Dunhill and her friends. It's a great idea for bachelorette parties. 9pm, 21+.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (542-4494). Mon.-Fri., 3pm-2am; Sat., 1pm-2am; Sun., 12pm-2am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This is your friendly neighborhood bar with a quiet setting. It's best known for scrumptious Sunday brunches (12-4pm). This simple joint has all of the trappings of a true bar: smoky and dark. The place starts hopping as it gets closer to 2am.

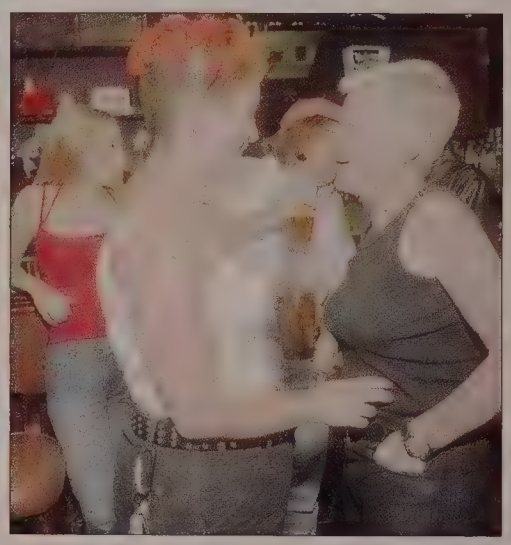
Fritz (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Stroll in for a quiet drink or a rowdy night on the town. The folks here are friendly—and really into sports. Not only does Fritz have Direct TV set up with sets scattered about, it's also home base to a great softball league. 12pm, no cover, 21+.

Jacques
79 Broadway, Boston (426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. If you're looking to relax with a friendly crowd of gays and straights, and you like to mingle with disco-dancing drag queens, then you've found the place. Sun. and Mon. are local band nights. Tues. through Sat., however, divas rule the stage. 10:30pm, $4, weekends $6, 21+. •Sundays host the Drag-on Showgirl Showcase featuring Diamond Dunhill, Destiny and special guest divettes with their new, expanded 90-minute show. Bachelorette parties welcome. 10:30pm, 21+.

Lava Bar (Saturdays)
575 Commonwealth. Ave., Boston (267-7707). The Lava Bar's Tabu night boasts DJ Fran spinning out high-energy house with a taste of Latin beats. 10pm.

The Lizard Lounge (Wednesdays)
1667 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. "Marlene Loses It at the Lizard" is the title of this eclectic evening of poetry, live music and theater. 10pm, $5 cover, 21+.

On Thursdays, the Midway Cafe offers the extremely popular Kristen Porter's Dyke Night. The Jamaica Plain hot spot is always chock full of swingin' live bands, DJs and drag-queen parties.



Luxor (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (423-6969). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from the latest music scenes and classic old movies—compiled by the bar's own VJ. Downstairs is Jox. No cover, 21+.

Machine (Fridays, Saturdays)
1256 Boylston St., Boston (536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 10pm-2am; Sun., 7pm-midnight. www.ramrodboston.com/machine. This is one of Boston's best gay bars, where you will find your friends dancing every weekend. Fri.: NYC DJ/Producer Darrin Friedman spinning. Sat.: Resident DJ Brad Gwynn.

Man Ray (Thursdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (864-0400). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed.-Fri., 9pm; Sat., 10pm. A bustling hot spot caters to a young, alternative clientele. Two dance floors fill up on Thursdays for Campus, a predominantly male night where DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen take over. 10pm, $8 for 19+, $5 for 21+.

119 Merrimac (Daily)
119 Merrimac St., Boston (367-0713). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Sat., 10:30am-2am; Sun., 12pm-2am. This male cruise bar is the place to stop for drinks before or after FleetCenter events. Shoot a leisurely game of pool or play the video games. Merrimac features DJs playing hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s. 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. On Thursday nights, the Midway offers Kristen Porter's Dyke Night with 25 percent of the proceeds benefitting the Lesbian AIDS Project of Mass. The cafe always has something brewing—live bands, DJs and drag-queen parties. The party starts at 8pm, no cover, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (494-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Central. On Monday, a bartender not only mixes drinks but strips too. Male strippers are featured Wed.-Sat. Mon. is Gothic night; Tue. is techno; and Thu. is college night. On Fridays DJ Sam Sampson spins, and on Sat. hear DJ Brad Gwynn. 5pm, no cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (266-2986). Green Line to Kenmore. 12pm-2am. www.ramrodboston.com. The largest leather bar in the East enforces a tight dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room). Sun.: buffet and mandance with DJ Brad Gwynn. Mon.: pool tournament and pizza. Tue.: Spice 4 Life with DJ Kal Muzak. Wed.: Twitch with DJ SGT Dennis. Thu.: Primal Dance with DJ James Hughes. Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danaw Jacovidis. Sat.: With DJ Dennis Sargent.

BOOKS

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge. (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Fri., 10am-8pm, Sat., 10am-6pm, Sun. 12-6pm. New England's oldest women's bookstore offers a wide selection of literature. Its author series continues throughout the fall.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12pm-6pm. Boston's literary gay and lesbian bookstore.

SHOWS & EVENTS

Am Tikva Services
Hebrew College, 43 Hawes St., Brookline (883-0893). MBTA: C Green Line to Hawes. www.amtikva.org. Am Tikva, Greater Boston's community of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered Jews, welcomes all who are interested to attend. •Oct. 8: Kol Nidre Service at the Hebrew College, 43 Hawes St., Brookline. 8pm, $18. •Oct. 9: Yom Kippur Morning Service at the Hebrew College, 43 Hawes St., Brookline, 10am, $18. Ne'ilah/Yizkor Service and Break-the-fast, same location, 6pm.

Lecture with Reverend Peter Gomes
The Old South Church, 645 Boylston St., Boston (536-1970). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 7:30pm. Free admission. The Old South Church sponsors a lecture with the Reverend Peter J. Gomes of Harvard University's Memorial Church. His lecture is titled "The Bible and the Last Prejudice" and addresses the topic of homosexuality and the Bible.

ONGOING

Am Tikva
(883-0893). www.amtikva.org. A community of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered Jews.

Bawl
This lesbian softball league offers opportunities to join teams in both the recreational and competitive divisions. Call Liz (508-628-5477).

Best Foot Forward
Ballet Etc. Dance Studios, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (522-1444). MBTA: B Green Line to Washington St. For gays/lesbians/bisexuals of all swing skill levels.

Boston Glass
Community Center, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-3349); MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Daily 8-10pm. Support groups and social activities for adolescents ages 13-25.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). www.chiltern.org/chiltern. A 1,400-member gay club with hiking, biking, camping, skiing and other outdoor activities.

Common Bond
(781-433-7023). A support group for gay/lesbian/bisexual current or former Jehovah's Witnesses.

Community Rainbow
Boston Living Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston. 7:45 pm. An organization whose mission is to advocate for the community. Meets Thursdays.

Cosmetically-Correct
Laurel's Restaurant, 142 Berkeley St., Boston. www.egroups.com/community/cosmeticallycorrect. A social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month, 7:30pm. Lipstick optional.

Dykes Who Hike
(522-6185). This hiking group is for lesbians in the Boston area who want to conquer the wilderness.

East Coast Wrestling Club
With more than 160 members, this is an extraordinarily popular New England spot for gay male wrestlers. Call Marc at 401-467-6737, or go online at *http://members.tripod.com/~ecwc* or e-mail *ecwc@juno.com.*

Fenway Community Health Center
(927-6057). The center is currently conducting a study to help HIV/AIDS patients take medication on time. Participants receive $95.

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (824-4266). www.frontrunnersboston.org. A running club for the LGBT community meets Saturdays.

Gay Volleyball
Cambridge (822-2148). Sundays, 6pm, $7. Typically seven teams play on three courts. Teams are made up each week depending on who shows up. Mostly men, but women are welcome.

Gender Free Contra Dancing
First Church of Jamaica Plain (448-2429). www.piac.net/users/latte/lcfd/. Come one, come all to evenings of contra and square dancing.

Hump Day
Skupper Jacks in Acton. Every third Wednesday at 5:30pm, Boston's gay, lesbian and transgendered come together to hang. For more information, contact *Tom.Evans@digital.com.*

Latino Social Groups
Latino Gay Men's Project (350-6900 ex. 125) and the Women's Social Group (350-6900 ex. 124).

Long Yang Club
(825-5677) www.longyangclub.org/boston. Boston's club for Gay Asian Men and their friends. Bringing the East and West together.

OOPS
Melting Pot Coffee House, 2 Belgrade Ave., Roslindale (323-4123). Out on the Parkways invites one and all to come on down for some dinner and coffee.

PFLAG
Fenway Community Health Center, 7 Haviland St., Boston (547-2440). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets every fourth Monday, 6:30-8:30pm.

Queer Corps
131 Clarendon St., 4th floor, Boston (450-1676). A community-mobilization project by and for queer men who are age 25 and under. Tuesdays, 6-8pm.

Tennis4all
Boston's gay and lesbian tennis club, with monthly tournaments and pizza socials. Call Tad ay 779-7231.

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Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information by mail, fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/ Mind, or electronically to bodymind@improper.com. *Include a brief but thorough description of the event, time, date, location and directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.*

Porn star Annie Sprinkle discusses her industry at the Coolidge Corner Theatre Oct. 4-5.

EVENTS

Annie Sprinkle: Goddess
Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard Ave., Brookline (731-2626) www.grandopening.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Oct. 4-5.* She was a porn artist right after the sexual revolution, an AIDS activist in the early '80s and one of the first to create feminist porn for couples and porn that included spirituality. Frank Zappa is quoted as having said, "America is better for her efforts." Meet the legend in person.

College of Spiritual Knowledge
Greater Boston Church of Spiritualism, Masonic Center, 32 Church St., Watertown (923-4334). Oct. 14. For 16 years, this spiritual center has held this event. The focus of the day will be Healing: Yesterday's Wisdom, Today's Insights.

Dance of Universal Peace
First Church Congregational, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (876-6883). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Oct. 6, 7:30-9:30pm. $6. Simple, joyous and meditative circle dances honor the world's spiritual traditions.

Gathering of the Five Colors
Eagle Drum Council, University of Massachusetts at Boston (978-371-2502). www.earthdrum.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Oct. 13-15 (27 hours). $50-$95, sliding scale.* This event will explore different ways of dealing with racism and creating social change. Starting Friday with dinner and a keynote address by **Babatunde Olatunji**, the night continues with performances by the Bamidele Dancers and Drummers, storyteller Guy Peartree and Odaiko New England. On Saturday, the Council of Elders of the Five Colors will hold a conference facilitated by **Jimi** and **Morwen Two Feathers**. On Sunday there will be Open Space Talking Circles so that the large group can work in smaller circles. The event closes with the Ceremony of the Four Colors. Meals and drum circles will take place throughout the weekend.

Meet the Practitioners
Marino Center for Progressive Health, 2500 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (661-6225). www.marinocenter.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Porter. Oct 5, 5:30-7:30pm.* Learn more about integrative medicine and meet the staff.

The Mystical Path to Healing & Transformation
Omega Institute in Boston, Arlington Street Church, 351 Boylston St., Boston (800-944-1001). www.omega-inst.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Oct. 7. $145.* Neurosurgeon **C. Norman Shealy** is one of the nation's few Western-trained doctors utilizing alternative healing. In this workshop, he explores mysticism, our sense of connectedness to God and its role in healing and transformation. Through lecture, experiential exercises and guided imagery, Shealy explores the positive light of the soul and how we can heal.

CLASSES

Alignment and the Asymmetric Body
BKS Iyengar Center, 240A Elm St., Suite 23, Somerville (666-9551). http://world.std.com/~yogactr. *MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Oct. 7, 1-5pm. $50.* Strange pains arise in the body by doing unbalanced physical activities. **Karin Stephan** and **Randy Payne** will teach you how to maintain a harmonious spine by studying your asymmetries. Using neuromuscular therapy techniques, learn how your body is being pulled in one direction or the other and learn how to correct those tendencies.

Creating Successful Relationships
BACE, 115 Greenough St., Brookline (730-2700). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. Oct. 3, 7-9:30pm. $31. What makes love so hard? The key is learning and practicing. First find out the dynamics of what goes wrong and then learn some techniques and communication skills that'll ease the stress.

Dreams as Metaphor
CCAE, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Oct. 15, 10am-4pm. $69. Heed your inner voice, they say. But what is it saying? Come to this class and use poetry, art and collage to re-create, explore and decode your dreams. Your secret intuitive messages will be translated by the best person for the job...you.

Fat Loss Strategies for Health
Wellspace, Fresh Pond Mall, Cambridge (876-2660). www.wellspace.com. *Oct. 12, 7:30-9pm. Free.* For those who are tired of being on a "diet," this seminar with **Kate Geagan** explores the latest techniques for losing fat healthfully and reaching and maintaining a healthy weight.

Healing for the Wounded Healer
21 Maple Street, Arlington (781-648-0101) Oct. 7, 12-2pm. $25. Healers sometimes become tempted by the vision of a broken and chaotic world and put faith in sickness rather than truth. **Mary Beth Scalice** offers this seminar to help wounded healers recognize their wholeness.

LECTURES

Chi Kung and Meditation
The Healing Tao Center of Boston, 440 Somerville Ave., 2nd floor, Somerville. (354-8360). Oct. 8, 7-8:30pm. Free. Join the director of this center, **Marie Favorito**, for this lecture sponsored by Cambridge Health Associates. She's been teaching for 16 years and knows how to make the mysterious seem logical.

Rooting Anger Out from Your Heart
Cambridge Friends Meeting House , 9 Longfellow Park, Cambridge (876-6883). Oct. 9 and Oct. 16, 7:30-9:30pm. Free. **Lama Surya Das** and **Lama John Makransky** will each host a lecture and meditation on the topic of dealing with anger in Buddhist fashion.

ONGOING

Activity-Based Relaxation
New Directions for Yoga, Health and Psychotherapy, 5 Harvard Ave., Brookline (738-1648). Saturdays, 7-8 pm, Sundays, 6-7pm, or Mondays, 10-11 am. $20 per class. For adults who enjoy being young at heart. Learn relaxation techniques while enjoying the process. Play games, explore scents and learn fun ways to bring relaxation and stress management into your daily life.

Dance Friday
Rug Cutter's Studio, 23 Main St., Watertown (924-7276). www.dne.org. *MBTA: #57, 70, or #71 bus. Fridays, 8:30pm-12am. $7.* Dance any way you want to, even barefoot, to all kinds of music in this smoke- and alcohol-free environment.

Lunch Time Yoga
The Yoga Studio, 74 Joy St., Boston (523-7138). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. Tuesdays, 12-1pm. Thursdays, 1-2pm. If you work downtown, you can spend your lunch getting healthy and relaxed.

Move Your Body
Dance Complex, 536 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-9363). http://cambridge.zami.com/dancecomplex. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. $8-13.* Try one of the following drop-in classes at the Dance Complex? Stretching, Mondays: 6-7pm, Wednesdays: 6:30-7:30pm. Tai Chi, Fridays: 9:30-11am.

Qi Gong
Woolf Holistic Health Center, 651 Washington St., Brookline (738-9144). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Square. Thursdays, 7:30pm. Free. Qi Gong is an ancient form of exercise from China. Discover this time-tested art for maximizing your well-being and increasing your knowledge of mind and body.

Yoga/Allston
Beacon Light Yoga Center, 215 Brighton Ave., Allston (739-0717). Sunday through Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. $18 per session (call ahead). Practice yoga in an attractive, peaceful and inviting environment.

Yoga/South End
Union United Methodist Church, 485 Columbus Ave., Boston (522-7199). MBTA: Green Line to Prudential or Orange Line to Back Bay. $15/class. Certified Kripalu yoga teacher **Patrice Flesch** teaches mixed-level classes in a spiritual setting. Increase flexibility, relieve stress, build strength, relax and enjoy yourself at any of these ongoing drop-in classes: Tuesdays at 7pm, Wednesdays at noon and on Saturdays at 10 am.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Children. Or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

TO SEE

Kids on the Move
Museum of Transportation, 15 Newton St. (in Larz Anderson Park), Brookline (522-6547). MBTA: D Green Line to Reservoir, to bus #51. Tue.-Sun., 10am-5pm. $5. Opened Sept. 21. This new exhibit examines the evolution of children's vehicles from the 1880s to the 1950s.

Puppet Showplace Theatre
32 Station St., Brookline (731-6400). $8. Suitable for ages five and older. •Oct. 7-8, 1pm and 3pm: *Rumpelstiltskin* by Paul Vincent Davis of Puppet Arts. •Oct. 14-15, 1pm and 3pm: *Jack and the Beanstalk* by Michael Graham of the Spring Valley Puppet Theatre.

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus
FleetCenter, Boston (931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Tue.-Fri., 7pm; Sat., 11:30am, 3:30pm, 7pm; Sun., 12:30pm and 4:30pm. Oct. 13-23. $11-$37. From death-defying high-wire acts to high-tech, rapid-fire special effects and pyrotechnics to precocious pint-sized pachyderms, performers from all over the world make this the Greatest Show on Earth.

THINGS TO DO

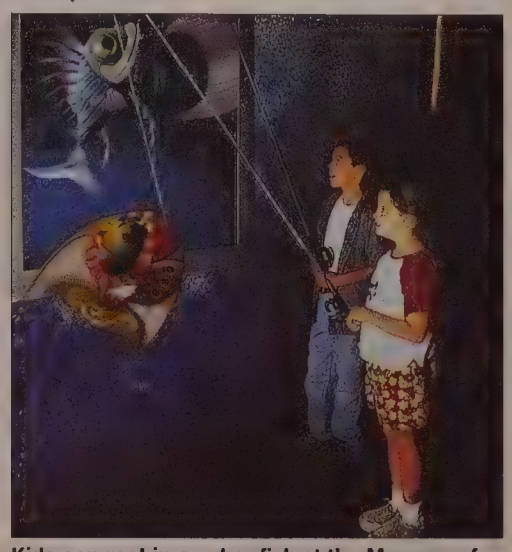
Fright Fest
Six Flags New England, Route 159, 1623 Main St., Agawam, Mass. (413-786-9300). Fri., 5-10pm; Sat.-Sun., 11am-10pm. Oct. 6-31. $36.99. Fright Fest screams into town, turning the park into a Halloween playground with haunted houses, a trail of terror and Houdini's Ghost Town.

Janine's Magic Show
Museum of Our National Heritage, 33 Marrett Road, Route 2A, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.mnh.org. *Oct. 14, 11am. $5.* Children ages four and older are encouraged to participate.

Spooky World
Deep in the Woods, Foxboro Stadium, Route 1, Foxboro, Mass. (978-838-0200). www.spookyworld.com. *$23.50. Fri.-Sun., 6-11pm. Through Oct. 31.* Visit Spooky World's 60 acres of haunted terror, including four haunted houses, three ghoulish museums, nightly horror celebrity guests and a hayride of terror.

Virtual Fish Tank
Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston (723-2500). MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Hook up your fishing rod and cast your line into the new Virtual Fish Tank.

Wild Adventures
•*Franklin Park Zoo, 1 Franklin Park Road, Boston (541-LION). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills.* Learn more about animal life at the zoo. Programs include live animal encounters, hands-on activities (such as stories, puppets, games, videos and arts and crafts), and behind-the-scene tours on zoo grounds. •Oct. 11, 10:30-11:30am: Skunks! 3- to 4-year-olds with parent. •Oct. 12, 3:30-4:30pm: Birds! 5- to 6-year-olds. •Oct. 12, 3:30-4:30pm: Ostrich! 7- to 8-year-olds. •Oct. 13, 3:30-4:30pm: Cats! 9- to 11-year-olds. •Oct. 14, 10:30am-12pm: Owls! 12- to 14-year-olds.



Kids can reel in a cyber fish at the Museum of Science's new Virtual Fish Tank exhibit.

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

To Watch

Boston Bruins
•FleetCenter. Tickets: 931-2000
Oct. 5 (Home): Ottawa Senators, 7pm.
Oct. 7 (Away): Philadelphia Flyers, 7pm.
Oct. 9 (Home): Florida Panthers, 1pm.
Oct. 11 (Away): Anaheim Mighty Ducks, 7:30pm.
Oct. 13 (Away): Los Angeles Kings, 10:30pm.
Oct 14 (Away): San Jose Sharks, 10:30pm.
Oct. 17 (Away): Edmonton Oilers, 9pm.

Boston Celtics
•FleetCenter. Tickets: $10-$75. Call 228-6000
Oct. 12 (Home): San Antonio Spurs, 7pm. Pre-season.

New England Patriots
•Foxboro Stadium. Tickets: 931-2000
Oct. 8 (Home): Indianapolis Colts, 1pm, CBS.
Oct. 15 (Home): New York Jets, 4:05pm, CBS.

Events

All Comers 5K Cross Country
Boston Parks & Recreation Dept., Franklin Park, Boston (566-7600). Oct. 8 and Oct. 15, 9:30am. A five-kilometer race sponsored by USA Track & Field New England.

BT Global Challenge Open House
Rowes Wharf, Boston (267-7366). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Oct. 8, 10am-4pm. Tour the 72-foot, state-of-the-art, racing yachts during the Boston stop of their 10-month, 30,000-mile race around the world the "wrong way," against the prevailing winds and currents.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer
Charles River Esplanade, Boston (877-338-WALK). MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. Oct. 15, 8am. Walk the 5.7-mile route along the Charles River for the American Cancer Society.

Paintball & BBQ
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070). Oct. 14. $40. A fun-filled day in the woods.

Somerville Homeless Coalition 5K
Somerville (623-6111). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. A 5-kilometer race for the Somerville Homeless Coalition.

Tufts Health Plan 10K for Women
Boston Common (888-767-RACE). www.tuftshealthplan.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Park. Oct. 8, 12pm.* This premiere Boston race attracts 6,500 women.

Walk to Cure Diabetes
Hatch Shell, Esplanade, Boston (781-431-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. Oct. 14, 10:30am. More than 4,000 walkers are expected to participate in the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation's 3.1-mile walk.

Zack's Race to a Cure
Dedham Health & Athletic Complex, 200 Providence Highway, Dedham (781-659-6700). Oct. 7, 9am. A 5-kilometer race for Duchenne muscular dystrophy research.

To Play

BASKETBALL

Basketball City
Adjacent to North Station and the FleetCenter (742-6700). Corporate, midday and weekend leagues.

Co-Ed Indoor Basketball
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 224). Sun.-Thu. nights at various locations. All levels welcome. Leagues in Waltham, Dedham and Brookline.

The Corporate League of Boston
(566-7808).

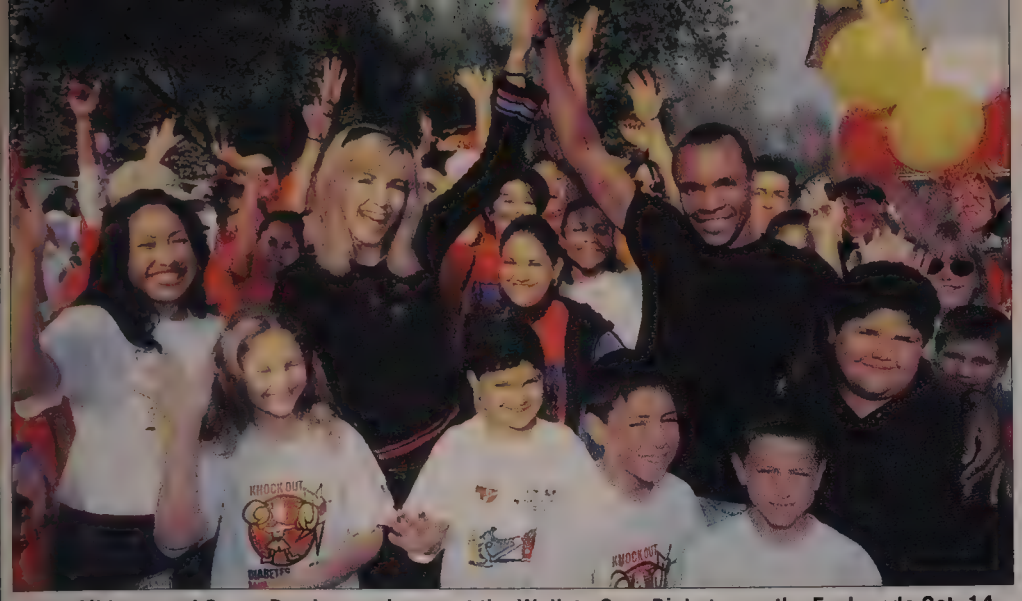
Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333). Practice and workout programs for all levels in Greater Boston.

South End Fitness Center League
(534-5823).

Women's Basketball League
(661-9622). Tue., 5:30-7pm and Sun., 6-7:30pm.

BOXING

Boxing Workout
Vinny Greco's Powerhouse Gym, 125 Walnut St., Watertown (972-1711). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Enjoy the workout of a boxer. Participate in one-on-one instruction in a supervised, safe environment with Boston Sport Boxing Club.



Leeza Gibbons and Sugar Ray Leonard support the Walk to Cure Diabetes on the Esplanade Oct. 14.

FOOTBALL

Australian Rules Football
Boston Australian Rules Football Club. Thu. evenings and Sat. mornings, Cambridge (781-440-9266). www.BostonDemons.org. No experience necessary.

Indoor Flag Football
BSSC, Indoor Sports Center in Revere (789-4070). Sundays.

CYCLING

BSSC Bike Rides
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070). Sept. 24. $10. Enjoy a bi-state harvest ride through New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Prepare for about 30 miles of scenic cycling from Exeter, N.H., onward.

HIKING/WALKING

The Appalachian Mountain Club
Gorham, N.H. (603-466-2727). Hikes and huts in the White Mountains. •Monthly AMC Young Members meetings at AMC headquarters, 4 Joy St., Beacon Hill (523-0655). Second Thursday of every month, 6-10pm, $3. Potluck. BYOB.

Boston Ski & Sports Hiking Trips
(789-4070). •Oct. 6-8, $199 (meals included). Enjoy two days in Killington with hiking and biking trails, golf and an alpine slide.

New England Walkers
39 Oakland Rd., Brookline (731-9889). members.tripod.com/NEWALKERS. This 200-member club hosts race-walk events and clinics. Weekly walks take place at M.I.T. indoor track on Wednesdays at 7pm.

Walking Group
(247-8267). This group sponsors weekly walks on Wednesday evenings in the Back Bay. Meet new people while getting exercise.

HOCKEY

Co-ed Floor Hockey
BSSC (789-4070). Individuals and teams, co-eds, all levels in Newton. Coed teams now forming.

ICE SKATING

Learn to Skate
Lessons available at 16 MDC rinks in Greater Boston (781-890-8480). www.iceskatingclasses.com. *Starting in early September.* Wait a minute—it seems that fall just got here and now it's time for ice skating lessons again? That's right, folks: group lessons for adults, all levels. Use figure or hockey skates.

RUGBY

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
Cambridge (781-340-2192). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.bwrfc.org. *Tue. and Thu. evenings.* No experience necessary.

Old Gold Rugby Club
Newton (742-0678). www.oldgoldrugby.com. *Tue. and Thu., 6:30-8:30pm.* New and experienced players welcome. Games on Saturdays.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
(499-4835). Weekly runs year-round. Serious drinkers with a running problem.

Boston Road Club Weekly Races
(781-646-8955). Sundays. Starts at Wells Ave. in Newton.

Fresh Pond Weekly Road Races
Fresh Pond Reservation. Saturdays, 10am. Choose between a 2.5- or 5-mile run.

Khoury's Thursday Night Runs
East Somerville. (351-5682). 4.13 miles. 7pm at Khoury's Bar.

NikeTown Boston Running Club
200 Newbury St., Boston (267-3400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Three-to-five-mile loops. Starts at 6:30pm. Monthly mini-clinics as well.

SOCCER

BSSC Soccer
BSSC (789-4070, ext. 225). Coed teams for both indoor and outdoor soccer. Fields are located in Greater Boston.

SOFTBALL

80-Team Softball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 222). Monday through Thursday evenings at 6:30pm. Join as an individual or as a team. Sign up now for the ultra-competitive fall league.

SWIMMING

Boston Athletic Club Swim Workouts
653 Summer St., Boston (269-4300). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon. and Wed. 6:15-7:15am. Train with other like-minded athletes.

The Charles River Park Club Morning Masters
Charles River Park, Boston (450-9810). Mon., Wed., Fri. 6:30-7:45am.

The Mason Masters Swim Program
The Mason Pool, 159 Norfolk Avenue, Roxbury (236-4923 or 450-9810) Mon.-Fri. 7:30-8:30pm. An early-morning masters swim program led by Alex Primilsky, coach of numerous world, national and Olympic champions.

TENNIS

Boston Tennis Club
Located next to North Station, Boston (742-6700). Adult and youth clinics, socials, open play and matching.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Boston Ski & Sports Club
(789-4070).

Boston Ultimate Disc Alliance
(928-0882). www.buda.org.

VOLLEYBALL

Adult Coed Volleyball League
Waltham YMCA (781-894-5295). Monday nights, began Sept. 13. All levels welcome at this friendly co-ed league.

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club, (789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. at various locations. Coed indoor 6-on-6 leagues. Four different levels of play. Pick-up games, clinics and tournaments also available. •Co-ed pickup games Tuesdays and Fridays at West Newton Armory, 1137 Washington St. $5.

Coed Volleyball-Waltham
Waltham YMCA, 725 Lexington St, Waltham (781-894-5295). Monday nights.

WATER SPORTS

Boston Sailing Center
54 Lewis Wharf, Boston (227-4198). Year-round lessons and racing programs for all abilities.

Community Boating
21 David Mugar Way, Boston (523-1038). www.community-boating.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. Open Mon.-Fri. 1pm-sunset; Sat.-Sun. and holidays, 9am-sunset. April 1-Oct. 31.* Sailing, windsurfing and kayaking on the Charles River for only $190 per season, including instruction. What a bahgain!

Courageous Sailing Center
Charlestown Navy Yard (635-4505). Lessons are offered here year-round.

WRESTLING

Men's Adult Wrestling
Boston Union, 48 Boylston St., Boston (482-1122). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm; Saturdays 1-3:30pm. All skill levels. Coaching available.

go away

TRAVELING NEAR AND FAR

NORTH OF BOSTON

Haunted Happenings
Various locations, Salem, Mass. (978-744-0013). www.salemhauntedhappenings.com. *Oct. 6-31. Prices vary.* Salem's annual Halloween fright fest kicks off on Oct. 6. •Oct. 6: Catch the Fright Train from North Station in time for the harrowing opening night parade. •Oct. 6-9: Get some pumpkin carving tips at the Jack O'Lantern Festival. •Oct. 6-8: Brush up on your ESP and witchcraft at the Psychic Fair. •Oct. 9: Learn some new recipes at the Apple Festival. •Oct. 13: Don your scariest costume for the Friday the 13th Costume Ball. •Oct. 15: Your pets have their night in the spotlight at the official Cat of Salem pet costume contests.

SOUTH OF BOSTON

Cranberry Harvest Festival
Edaville Cranberry Bogs, Route 58, South Carver, Mass. (508-295-5799). www.cranberries.org. *Oct 7-9, 10am-4pm. Free.* Millions of crimson berries will be corralled in the bogs for harvest, turning the water a brilliant shade of red. Cooking contests, crafts, live music, hayrides and helicopter rides add to the excitement of this celebrated New England tradition.

WEST OF BOSTON

Food for Thought
Old Sturbridge Village, One Old Sturbridge Village Road, Sturbridge, Mass. (508-34-3362). Oct 14-15, 9am-5 pm. Price varies. Bring your appetite and be prepared to learn about early American hearth-cooking, brick-oven baking, herb gardens and the cider-making process at the Village's Cider Mill. Oct. 15 offers accompanying workshops teaching hearth-cooking.

CAPE & THE ISLANDS

Fall On Nantucket
Various locations, Nantucket, Mass. (508-228-1700). Prices vary. Nantucket comes alive with the fall spirit with a myriad of special fall events the entire month of October. •Through Oct. 8: Check out the Nantucket Arts Festival with the best of the island's performance, visual and literary art. •Oct 7-8 and Oct. 13-14: Brush up on your whaling history at the Scrimshaw demonstrations, where skilled artists revive the old art form of carving into ivory and whale bones. •Oct. 13: The Fall Inn Tour stops at Nantucket's most notable, historic and picturesque inns. •Oct. 14: Nantucket Harvest Chowder Contest brings the island's restaurants together for a people's choice vote on the tastiest chowder of Nantucket.

mark your daytimer

UPCOMING EVENTS

CITYSCOPE

Boston Snow Sports Expo
Nov. 16-19, Bayside Expo Center

Enchanted Village
Nov. 20, City Hall Plaza

MUSIC

Moby
Oct. 19, Avalon

George Winston
Oct. 21, Berklee Performance Center

Bon Jovi
Nov. 8, FleetCenter

Dar Williams
Nov. 19, Orpheum

Paul Simon
Dec. 1-3, Orpheum

THEATER

Annie Get Your Gun
Oct. 31-Nov. 5, Wang Theatre

Annie
Nov. 7-12, Wang Theatre

Improper Impersonals

If everyone kept their feelings bottled up like warm beer, we'd soon have antisocial behavior exploding all over the place and ruining the upholstery. So send us your letters of love and spleen, and we'll print them for the world to see. Heck, it's better than making a fool of yourself in person. And IT'S FREE! Pick up a pen or keyboard (hint: we like the fact that e-mailed messages mean that we don't have to risk ruining our manicures by—ugh—typing) and write to:

IMPROPER IMPERSONALS
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116
FAX: 859-1446 E-MAIL: impersonals@improper.com
Recent correspondence follows.

BS Artiste
I was blissfully in love and suddenly in shock when you left me; two weeks of confusion, anger and pain ensued. It seems that things are beyond repair, as you look the other way when we pass on the street. At least I now know where I stand, rather than being blindly misled by your lust for my body and your insinuating some future together. You will have quickly moved on by now and are perhaps with another man. I hope that he will be able to provide you with the sarcasm, wealth and prestige that you need in your life. Yet I will empathize with him as he becomes another sad rendering in the gallery of your Hopper-like existence.
—Antonio

Down with Propecia
The Harp rules—you were such an awesome dance partner. Perhaps we will dance again, my wonderful bald, singing, gentleman!!
—Kate

Doctor, doctor
Sunday, Sept. 3rd, my father's high blood pressure was the reason my family and I rushed to the emergency room of the B.M.C. And there you were, with your stunning looks, explaining his condition to me. I am glad he is well, but right now, I think I am the one that needs special treatment. I have not stopped thinking about you all day and I hope that you will respond to this. If you still don't remember me, I was wearing a long black dress and was unable to stop giggling at my father's silly jokes. But the real reason was that I was nervous to be standing beside you. I will be crossing my fingers.
—MKonomi@hotmail.com

PS...
Il Panino Express, Hanover Street, Monday, August 14, 9:20pm. We briefly discussed my "free" CDs and you recommended me to the Sonia Dada Web site. See last issue for the full story, but here's my e-mail address:
—piksdee@aol.com

Eh...Brutto!
From the moment our eyes met, I knew I would be completely miserable if you weren't in my life! You have been the only person that I have loved with my whole heart and soul without condition. You have become a part of me now. You are etched in my being forever. It is going to be so difficult to have to live without you...to live knowing that I can never have you again! This situation is so unfair and only you can change it. I wish you would, but you can't! Thank you for coming into my life! You are truly my endless love!
—EBO

You fell into me
We were standing next to each other on the Green Line, heading to Boylston. When the train got there, it jerked, and you fell into me. You said you were sorry, a very cute blonde wearing a black skirt and black t-shirt. I said "it's OK" and smiled, but chickened out in saying anything else. We both got off at Boylston, I'm guessing you go to Emerson. I was off to work, hence the dorky clothes. Please e-mail me so we can bump into each other again.
—pleaseanswer33@hotmail.com

Wednesday, Sept.13
Along a small boardwalk by the Charles near Allston with oarsmen and women on the river you, beautiful with shoulder length hair, a wonderful smile and an occasional accent while walking your roommate's dog, Anya, asked me if I had skipped work. You had, taking one of those sick days to enjoy sun and a late summer afternoon instead of selling advertising space for a small magazine. I, a terminal graduate student on the verge of wondrous things, was reading in my small green chair. We spoke for a long while with me sitting and the sun in your eyes and our thoughts seemed the same, joined in mind, sharing. You asked me if I felt we were twins. I should be so lucky...to be as you are, wonderful, beautiful, witty and willing to walk your friend's dog on a self-liberated afternoon. If you're out there I'm looking, and each time I sit to read I turn my head in the direction from which you spoke to me.
—riverreading@aol.com

Hello, beautiful
I met you at the Creed/3 Doors Down concert. I was playing the "big brother" role to a 15-year-old friend of mine, who to me is like family. She and I were standing there, making small talk, waiting for the doors to open to the Tweeter Center. I must have stood out like a wood chip on white linen sheets, considering I was problaby one of five people of color there. Creed kicks ass, so I had to be there. The moment played out like a script from some romantic movie. The wooden door opened and you appeared. My little sister for the day noticed me noticing you, and nudged me. "Call her over here," she whispered. "What?" I breathed faintly at the sight of you, and it brought me to the verge of suffocation. I think most would say it was a swoon. I watched you as your eyes scanned the many lines of anxious little teenie-boppers waiting to get into the concert, until they met mine. In embarrassment, I turned and pretended to converse with my little sister for the day. "She's coming over here," she said through her teeth. And sure enough, when I raised my eyes, you were there. An angel, in an orange *cfx.com* shirt, khaki pants, white jogging shoes, with a clipboard. And, then you spoke. I have no freakin' idea what you said, but I responded, "No I wouldn't, but she would," pointing to my little sister. I just wanted you there so I could appreciate you up-close. Your curly brown hair, hiding beneath your *cfx.com* hat; your soft brown eyes; your caramel skin; your voice, calm and polite; and your lips...one man should so lucky. I am envious of your lipstick. Within five minutes I watched you come into my life and walk out, without asking you for your name—how foolish. Well, caramel angel, if you are there, drop me an email. I'd love to meet in town for lunch or dinner. And, I promise, this time, I won't allow my shyness get in the way. 'Til we speak.
—murcutio@justice.com

Smelly Boy
Why is it that you are such a perfect roommate in so many ways but when it comes down to hygiene you get an F-? Every day for the past week I have left soap, towel and clean socks on your bed, hoping and praying that you will take that short walk to the shower. But no. I am giving you until the end of the month or I will have to wear my woolen balaclava in the apartment. Be warned, "M." You know who you are.
—Desperate

Want a Screw?
Yeah, thanks. This one's for you, UNO master! If every week you're hoping that someone's looking for you (or a friend), you have your answer. Sometimes I see you on the #39, 'times I see you strolling the Back Bay at 2am, 'times I roll over. Have you read Ezra yet? Have you an ad in this issue? Will you show this off to your friends (even strangers)? You make me so happy. Happy unbirthday! Moushy-moushy,
—Your girl w/the Italian hair

Cutie from the Alley
Sept 23 at the Sugar Shack you came up to me and handed me a folded napkin with your number on it. You said you were leaving to go to another bar. I told you I would call you....and well you havn't received my call cause I lost the stupid napkin that night. I really would like to talk to you again....hopefully this message will get back to you.
—Kaya26@hotmail.com

Rockie Horoscope

SEPTEMBER 20 – OCTOBER 3, 2000
BY ROCKIE GARDINER

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22
Contrary to popular opinion, the balance can be quite opinionated, especially while your Venus ruler is in the "my way or the highway" sign of Scorpio (until the 19th). So if a flirtation or other creative game you've been playing suddenly changes gears this weekend, try real hard to make the necessary adjustment. Let go of the grudge the minute you realize you can reap a significant benefit from the new situation. That time comes as the Libra sun trines Uranus, the planet of originality and altruism, on Columbus Day.

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21
Read for Libra. While magnetic Venus is in your sign, everybody wants a piece of you. How this delicious apple cart gets upset depends largely on the crazy folks at your house and an addiction to sex on the Internet. Venus squares erotic Uranus this weekend and that makes relationships, budding and those in full bloom, tense. Will it be "love at first sight" or "fright night"? Plus, the waxing moon sheds its own brand of light. Oh, Mercury turns retrograde in Scorpio on the 18th for three weeks of "What should I have done differently?"

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21
The push is on, and it's coming from a parent or employer who's all fired up because militant Mars is crossing your Virgo midheaven. Are you hearing "shape up or ship out" and "give it the old college try," refrains from a misspent youth, as you try to extricate yourself from the horns of your current dilemma? Will you reinvent yourself while Pluto in Sag urges you to clean up the mess you're in? Do you pursue a lifelong aspiration instead, and leave the problem behind, (over)confident that it will resolve itself? Too much pressure, medicate.

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20
Money is coming, the reputation is growing. Even if a friend, a socio-political or professional group you belong to is pestering you for donations, all for "the greater good," go ahead and give in; you'll still wind up way ahead. For a happy change, the Libra sun at the top of your chart, the place where your good name resides, is favoring a sometimes erratic money situation. This is a fine time to acquire what is needed to put you in the vanguard, also to accept rewards and compliments with grace and good humor.

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18
A change of heart can change everything else you're doing. While Venus challenges your not-that-consisent Uranus ruler this weekend, you might not want what you once wanted so badly. But since the harmonious Libra sun will favor Uranus on the following Monday, the disruption will suit you just fine, and you won't even be thrown off balance. How all this comes together will be a surprise, because that's what Uranus specializes in. January birthdays pick up on what was happening in May, when the planets in your sign went into reverse. Take out the paintbrushes; it's a renaissance.

PISCES
FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19
This weekend is a good time to tranquilize yourself, and, if you can pull it off, to retreat into your own world. You're under too much pressure from aggressive Mars, enthusiastic Jupiter and power-hungry, possibly corrupting, Pluto right now. Add a sneaky suspicion that you won't be able to handle having so much on your plate. Rather than defend yourself from a partner, a parent and the person who signs your paycheck, not to mention your own anxiety, cool it. A turnaround on the 15th when your Neptune ruler moves forward.

ARIES
MARCH 20-APRIL 19
Direct your single-minded determination and a relatively rare (for a Ram) ability to see the practical side of the big picture to increasing your personal income and material assets. Right now you can also transform or resurrect resources that have lost their usefulness—the maxed-out credit card, the slightly disreputable group you ran with. You can recycle your past with a creative end in mind, e.g., write that satiric screenplay, sing your song after Mercury turns retrograde on the 18th.

TAURUS
APRIL 20-MAY 20
Don't put all your eggs in one basket if you are emotionally tied to that basket or, for that matter, to the eggs. Your Venus ruler, in your Scorpio house of partners, is behaving erratically. And while the goddess might be exerting considerable influence over a client or your boss, you can't rely on her ability or her desire to make omelets. Of course, you realize that we all embody this goddess and that the on-again, off-again vibe is coming from you as well as your partners. Patience; the magical full moon on Friday the 13th reveals more than hidden agendas.

GEMINI
MAY 21-JUNE 20
First thing's first. Prepare for your Mercury ruler's backward flip on the 18th: have the vehicles and the appliances repaired. If they get fixed during retrograde, the work will probably have to be redone. Introduce yourself to the people you've been meaning to contact; otherwise it'll be phone tag forever. Buy stuff that you really need, e.g., a new bike or TV, before the god of transportation, commerce and communication shifts into reverse. Mercury turns direct the night of the election—one can only imagine the fuckups and misspeaks that'll pop up in the interim.

CANCER
JUNE 21-JULY 22
During Libra domesticated Crabs are often tied to home and hearth; they can't bring themselves to leave the kitchen, and the kitsch, behind. Counteract your lack of mobility by cruising through cyberspace while high-tech Uranus dominates the Columbus Day weekend. At the full moon on the 13th, you can incorporate what you've learned from your visit. Crabs who are scurrying along, fueled by ambitious Mars in your money house, might be at a crossroads. Choosing power and corruption (is the fix in yet?) over an enthusiastic group of friends?

LEO
JULY 23-AUGUST 22
Those crazy partners! All you can count on this week is more uncertainty and an occasional flash of brilliance from the people with whom you spend most of your time. Take the opportunity to learn what is on their minds, what they foresee in the future and where you fit in. Most importantly, ask how your job is going to change after nebulous Neptune starts to move forward on the 15th. Will you pick up where you left off in May when the planet of idealism, aesthetics and illusions flipped?

VIRGO
AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22
A misunderstanding with a neighbor or sibling doesn't have to upset you, unless someone's heart is being broken. Not yours. If you expect the unexpected from erratic Uranus, you'll be positioned to take advantage of any sudden opportunity to profit by the weirdness. This is a good time to buy high-end electronic equipment, to get all the repairs done and to contact the folks you would like to reach before Election Day affects your immediate environment. It's that time again, folks, your Mercury ruler will be retrograde from the 18th until Nov. 7.

Curious about the future? Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30 to 40+ pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise over the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $42.50 per report to: ROCKIE GARDINER, 1021 N. Genesee, #1, West Hollywood, CA 90046. *www.rockiehoroscope.com.* Read my daily forecast online at www.laweekly.com.

SHIHO OHTSUKI

We came 3,000 miles to pour you the perfect pint.

We took the best pub in Ireland and shipped it over, piece by piece, to create the most authentic Irish pub experience you'll find this side of the pond. Join us in Brighton for a hearty meal, live bands, Irish entertainment, Gaelic Sports, and the best Guinness on tap. Serving lunch dinner and Boston's best Irish Breakfast.

the Green Briar
irish pub

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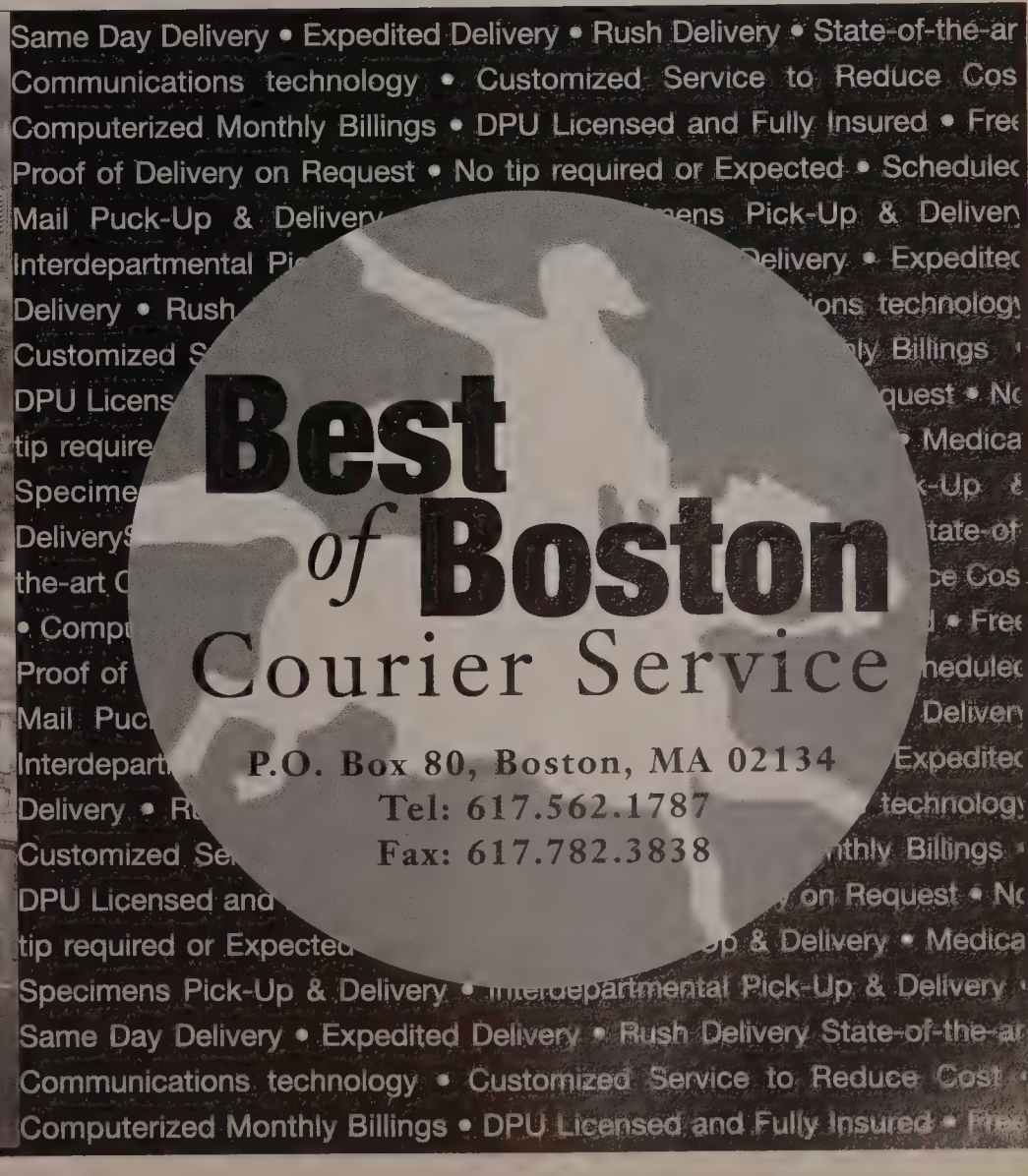

improperazzi

THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN's client-related promotions and events

Monday, Sept. 18, **The Boston Sports Awards** featured hosts Steve Levy and Linda Cohn of **ESPN**.The event was sponsored in part by **THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN, Millennium Events, Back Bay Beat, WBCN Radio** and **The Blue Cat Cafe**. All enjoyed an incredible after-party gathering held at **Embassy** on Landsdowne Street.

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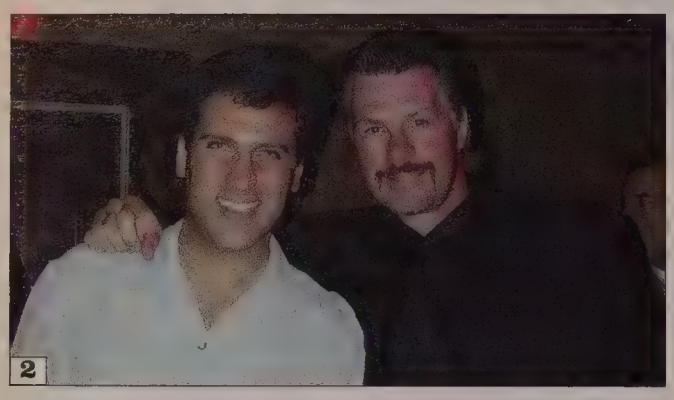
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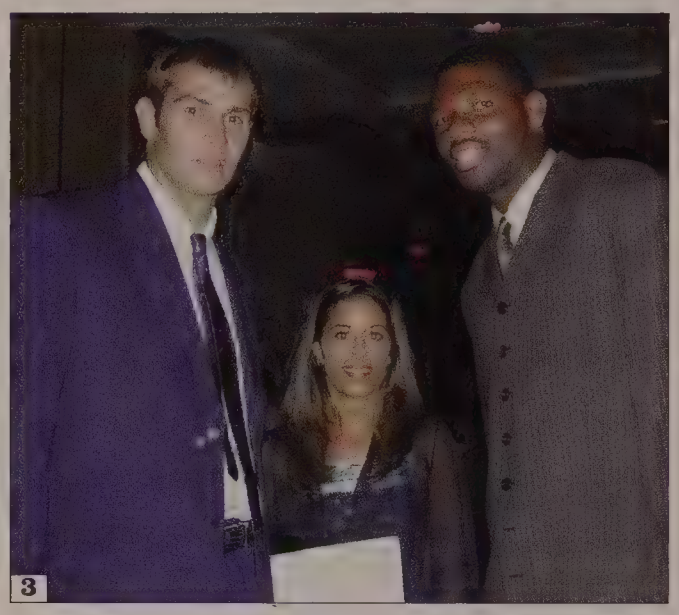
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1. **Ann Marie LaFauci**, IeLa fashion designer; **Richie LaMontagne**, current United States Boxing Federation cruiser weight champion; **S.J. Torres**, co-founder of the BSA and CEO of BackBayBeat.com
2. **Steve Levy**, co-host of the BSA and ESPN Sports Center anchor; **Barry Melrose**, ESPN studio analyst for National Hockey Night.
3. **Vitaly Potapenko**, Boston Celtics center; **Rebecca DeSantis**, executive director of The 8 Foundation; **Walter McCarty**, Celtics forward.

Faneuil Hall had been in the swing all summer with the **Swinging Under the Stars** series sponsored by **THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN** . Above, IB readers enjoy a night with "La Timba Loca" (Latin band on Aug. 10)

On Sept. 15, **Global Fridays** at the **Roxy** presented the Versace 12 Newbury Fashion Show. Models strutted their stuff, while Karim Mohammed of **Versace**, Newbury and **KMP Limited** spun music. A great visual show and lots of fun for the crowd.

On Thursday, Sept. 14, **The Point** celebrated its grand opening party. Guests enjoyed a perfect evening of great Carribean food, complimentary cocktails, and a live jazz performance by the **Ray Brown Quartet**.

1

2

3

1. Guests **Jenny Canino, Sylvie Forte, Karen Chapman** and **Faith Tucker**.
2. Associate **Michelle Russo**, licensing attorney for The Point **Bill Ferullo**, and neighborhood coordinator **Janine L. Coppola**.
3. Patron **Julie Trapani** (left) with owners **Anthony** and **Terry Vergillo**.

BARBARA MATTALIANO (THE POINT); MELANIE GURYANSKY (FANEUIL HALL); BOSTONMODELO.COM (CAPRICE); KAREN DANA (BSA)

CLASSIFIEDS

GENERAL CLASSIFIEDS

TAKE A TOUR

Stop just thinking about owning your own business! Take your first step & tour our Boston office! Prime territories are still avail. in Boston suburbs. Call to learn about an industry that's growing 20% annually, 617-742-8787, ext.225

HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO BE A GAME-SHOW CONTESTANT?

Get your own Game Show going at your party or event with THE GAME SHOW. We send in the system & Host/DJ/MC. Want the best DJ's? Get them all & See it all at www.gamesdj.com or www.decadesofdance.com or call (508) 877-85DJ.

LEADERS WANTED

National marketing group expanding in the Boston area. Seeking someone who has owned or operated a business, or has experience in marketing, teaching or public speaking. Call 617-747-4452 rederick at 617.423.1000

DATING

GAY (OR CURIOUS?)

Meet discretely by phone. Record and listen to ads FREE! Call 24 hours! (781) 860-7383, code 6155, 18+.

MEET SEXY SINGLES!!

The best way to meet locally. Record and listen to personal ads FREE! Call (781) 860-7441, code 6150, 18+.

You have the opportunity to give the gift of childbirth to an infertile couple. Boston IVF is looking for egg donations from healthy women between the ages of 21 and 34. Donors will be required to take medication and undergo a minor surgical procedure. Donors will be compensated for their time and effort. Participation is completely confidential.

For more information, call us at (781) 434-6500 M-F, 9-5 p.m.
Serious inquiries only.

Boston IVF
"Bringing a Little Joy To Life"
One Brookline Place, Brookline, MA 02146
Accessible by Green Line Ⓣ

DON'T WORK HERE

but just in case you don't take NO for answer, we're looking for a few good people

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Experienced self starter with proven track record sought. Must have a minimum of 4 years in media sales with a reputable organization and thorough industry know-ledge. Strong organizational, planning and leader ship skills a must. Excellent compensation package.

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The ideal opportunity for an accomplished business-to-business sales rep to break into a career in media and magazine publishing. Strong organizational, planning, written and verbal skills are a must. Join a great team!

ADVERTISING AND SALES INTERN

The ideal opportunity for a college student to gain experience in media and magazine publishing. Come with enthusiasm, strong office skills, and a flexible schedule. 12-15 hours per week minimum are a must.

Send cover letter, resume and salary history attention:

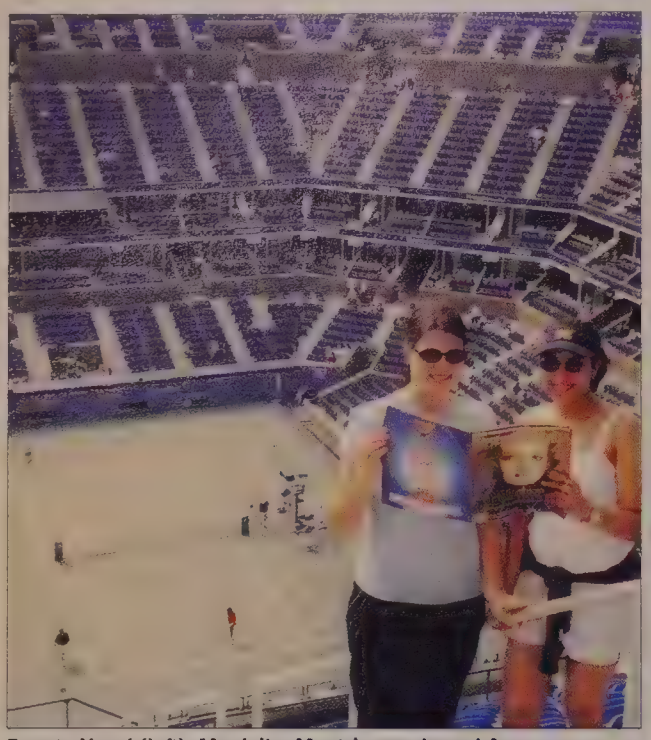
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN
ATTN: HR
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor Boston, MA 02116-5143
or fax: 617.859.1446
or email: HR@improper.com

THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN

Improper Sightings

Unlike the rest of your friends, we want to see the photos from your next trip.

Where do you take us? We want to know! Send us a picture of you or a friend, or better yet, someone famous reading THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN and tell us where you were. The more creative you are, the faster we'll publish your pic! (Hey, we have no shame!)



Renate Yssel (left), Maalvika Mantripragada and Anna Kournikova (small dot on court) at the U.S. Open in New York.

Bostonian Heidi Satz snapped these two IMPROPER circus folks at Florida State University's Flying High Circus in Tallahassee.

Lisa Johnson compares Boston's interior designs with Sydney, Australia's most striking exterior landmark—the opera house.

Alyssa Adreani of Boston and Pawel Kurtycz of Warsaw befriend a jovial fellow outside Malbork Castle in Malbork, Poland.

We are far too mature to question why Renata Roskopf and Irene Tueite visited the gates of Vigeland's Park in Oslo, Norway.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:

At the Cecil Plains Bushman's Festival in Queensland, Australia, this month. Extra bonus points if you're chasing a giant Goanna lizard in the World Sand Goanna Championship.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116.
Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail and photo location. All photos become the property of THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE and will not be returned.

BARS, CLUBS, RESTAURANTS & BRUNCH

The following are paid advertisements. Please check times and prices in advance. If you'd like to have your restaurant listed, please call The Improper Bostonian Advertising Dept. at 859-1400.

BARS

Billiards

Boston Billiards Club

126 Brookline Ave., 536-POOL. Ranked #1 in the country by Billiards Digest. Free lessons on Mon., 7:30pm - 9pm. Boston Billiards Club House leagues on Mon. and Tues. "In The Biz" night on Sun. and Mon. for patrons in the hospitality industry. Ladies' night on Wed. Featuring a menu of light fare such as grilled chicken sandwiches and appetizers, along with beer, wine, cocktails and a variety of non-alcoholic beverages.

The Rack

24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998,1999 &2000 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, Mark Morris & The Catunes, and BaHa Brothers.

Brew Pubs

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Company

138 Portland St., Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is now the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, a block from the FleetCenter and steps from Faneuil Hall, Commonwealth Fish & Beer features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this ■ Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

General

BARCODE

955 Boylston St., Boston, 421-1818. Enjoy the intimate, windowed dining room or a signature cocktail in the lounge. BARCODE offers a creative martini selection, a balanced and affordable wine list and both bottled and draft beer. Drinks are available until 2 am daily, food served until 1 am.

Cactus Club

939 Boylston St., 236-0200. Get a taste of the Southwest in Boston. Specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, Cajun Catfish. Sample the firewater menu while you are there, including Coyote Killer (Light and dark rum, peach schnapps, ginger beer and mixed juices), or ■ Chambord Margarita. The daring may go for a dip in the Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Amex, Diners Club, MC and Visa. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurants, in Framingham, Waltham and Needham. www.cactus-club.com.

Harvard Gardens

316 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114, 617-523-2727. A wonderfully relaxed haven located opposite MGH on the back side of Beacon Hill. Serving the finest cocktails and most comfortable food in town. Plant yourself in a comfy booth, a cozy banquette, or at our fully loaded bar and escape from your everyday troubles. Doing it nice & easy 7 days a week - 11am-2am. Major credit cards accepted. Valet parking available.

Encore Lounge

279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 338-7699 A new twist on Boston's Cabaret Tradition! Live Music 7 nites a week 9:30pm-1am (til 2am on Saturdays). Always open mike! Party where the Stars go after the Show!
Monday: Michael Larson & Dorothy Miller (Cabaret), Tuesday: Bobby Femino (Piano Bar), Wednesday & Thursday: Michelle Curry (Piano Bar) Friday: John O'Neil & Jan Peters (Cabaret), Satruday: DesPres & DeGraff (Contemporary Cabaret)
Sunday: Michael Kreutz (Piano Bar)

Ma Soba Asian Cuisine & Sushi

156 Cambridge Street on Beacon Hill, Boston, 973-6680. Enjoy premium sushi and Ma Soba's unique blend of contemporary and traditional Asian cuisine prepared by award-winning chefs. Relax with a fine wine selection from Ma Soba's comprehensive wine cellar in a setting described as "strikingly attractive and ultra urbane" by the Boston Herald. Open daily: Sun-Wed until 10:30pm, Thurs-Sat until 11:00pm. When in Harvard Square/ Cambridge, visit Ma Soba Express at 30 Dunster Street for quick-service pan Asian noodles and rice platters.

Roxy

279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 338-7699
We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City!
Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D.
Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID.
Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

Sweetwater Cafe

3 Boylston Place, 351-2515. A classic American bar featuring Boston's best bands and DJ's nightly. A favorite Boston bar for 15 years with two floors of entertainment, an outdoor patio and world class margaritas. Always great music and cold beer, never a dress code. Available for private functions of any kind. (Credit cards: Am Ex, Visa, MC, Diner's) Tues. - Sat. 5 pm - 2 am. Located in "The Alley."

The Big Easy Bar

1 Boylston Place, Boston, 351-7000. Informal. Located in Boston's version of Bourbon Street, "The Alley." The Big Easy Bar is a hot new New Orleans style bar featuring Boston's best live bands and disc jockeys nightly playing music you know and love. Relax in a lounge, listen to the band, play billiards, hang at the bar or dance the night away. The Big Easy Bar has something fun for everyone. Great beer selection, 22 oz. Hurricanes, 4 huge bars, 2 lounges, a balcony, plenty of seating, and a large dance floor. Wed. - Sat. 8 pm - 2 am.

The Rack

24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998,1999 & 2000 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, Mark Morris & The Catunes, and BaHa Brothers.

The Sugar Shack

1 Boylston Place, 351-2510. "Home of Boston's Best Party." Set in the middle of a mini-Bourbon Street, The Sugar Shack celebrates Mardi-Gras year-round with a carefree, reckless, spontaneous and unpretentious attitude. Carnival lights, confetti, beads, specialty drinks, live bands and Disc Jockeys playing classics, motown, R&B, funk, disco, and old school hip hop from the last three decades mixed with the best of today's top 40. Home of young professional, young alumni, 20 something hipsters who desire cold beer, cocktails, classic party tunes and unadulterated fun!!

Vox Populi

755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Speak your voice at this comfortably sophisticated Back Bay restaurant and bar. With an eclectic style highlighted by rich, vibrant colors and rustic antiques, Vox Populi offers a hip, sleek and intimate atmosphere. Enjoy the first floor bar and fireplace lounge, the second floor bar overlooking bustling Boylston St., or the elegant second floor dining room, (Outdoor patio dining available sesonally). One of Back Bay's most prominent establishments, Vox Populi truly speaks the popular voice.

Comedy

The Comedy Connection

245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 248-9700. The Comedy Connection located in the heart of historical Faneuil Hall features the biggest names in comedy with apearances by Jon Stewart, Chris Rock, Wendy Liebman and Jay Mohr. Located on the second floor of the Quincy Market Building, the Connection offers the best in local and national stand-up seven nights a week. For more information call 617-248-9700.

Wine Bars

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar

105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-0966. The hip meeting spot in the Financial District for after work, dinner, late night, or a seductive tryst. The Vault offers some of the most exclusive wines in Boston, which complement the creative American Cuisine prepared by Chef Michael Foley. Can't decide on a wine? Relax and compare with our Tasting Flights featuring selections from different reds and whites. So what are you waiting for? Call an old friend, a client, or a co-worker and meet for cocktails at The Vault today.

RESTAURANTS

Backstage

245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 248-9700. Faneuil Hall's hottest restaurant and nightclub offers the very best in Americana food. Located adjacent to the Commedy Connection you can dance the night away every Wednesday through Sunday with Top 40 and dance classics by DJ's Jonny and Freddi C. For more information call 726-1110.

BARCODE

955 Boylston St., Boston, 421-1818. BARCODE offers creative food and drink with a truly unique, casual style and atmosphere. Simple yet exotic and flavorful, Executive Chef George Leu's menu features a variety of French bistro fare touched with Asian influences. Dinner served daily 5 pm - 1 am, bar open daily 4:30pm - 2:00am.

Cactus Club

939 Boylston St., 236-0200. Get a taste of the Southwest in Boston. Specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, Cajun Catfish. Sample the firewater menu while you are there, including Coyote Killer (Light and dark rum, peach schnapps, ginger beer and mixed juices), or a Chambord Margarita. The daring may go for a dip in the Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Amex, Diners Club, MC and Visa. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurants, in Framingham, Waltham and Needham. www.cactus-club.com.

Caliterra

89 Broad St., Boston, 348-1234, at the New Wyndham Boston Hotel. Caliterra is heating up the dining climate of Boston's financial district. Our Cal-Ital fare combines contemporary Northern California traits with hearty Tuscan classics and the freshest New England seafood. We accommodate groups in our private dining room, and private parties in our exclusive wine rooms. Enjoy libations in our spacious Caliterra lounge. Reservations recommended. Valet parking available. Breakfast available Mon. - Fri., 6:30 - 11 am; Sat. & Sun., 7 am - 12 noon. Child's breakfast is free with an adult. Lunch daily 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Dinner nightly 5 - 10 pm. Located one block from Boston Harbor and Quincy Marketplace.

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Company

138 Portland Street, Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, near the Fleet Center and Faneuil Hall, Common-wealth features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am -1 am.

The Elephant and Castle

161 Devonshire St., Financial District, Boston, 350-9977. English style Pub offering over 100 types of beer, great food and the financial district's most comfortable bar. Specialties include beer battered fish and chips and shepherd's pie. We also offer a great selection of single malt scotches and a variety of cigars. We have two levels of operation with our lower level providing private rooms for both business meetings and after work parties.

Harvard Gardens

316 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114, 617-523-2727. A wonderfully relaxed haven located opposite MGH on the back side of Beacon Hill. Serving the finest cocktails and most comfortable food in town. Plant yourself in a comfy booth, a cozy banquette, or at our fully loaded bar and escape from your everyday troubles. Doing it nice & easy 7 days a week - 11:30 am - 2 am.

Iguana Cantina

313 Moody St., Waltham, 781-891-3039; 1656 Worcester Rd., Rt. 9, Framingham, 508-875-1188; and 66 Chestnut St., Needham, 781-444-9976. The Iguana Cantina serves a variety of Caribbean, Tex-Mex and Southwestern fare. The atmosphere is fun and the food is tasty. Visit our website at www.theiguanacantina.com.

Ma Soba Asian Cuisine & Sushi

156 Cambridge Street on Beacon Hill, Boston, 973-6680. Enjoy premium sushi and Ma Soba's unique blend of contemporary and traditional Asian cuisine prepared by award-winning chefs. Relax with a fine wine selection from Ma Soba's comprehensive wine cellar in a setting described as "strikingly attractive and ultra urbane" by the Boston Herald. Open daily: Sun-Wed until 10:30pm, Thurs-Sat until 11:00pm. When in Harvard Square/ Cambridge, visit Ma Soba Express at 30 Dunster Street for quick-service pan Asian noodles and rice platters.

Mistral

223 Columbus Ave. 867-9300. Acclaimed chef/owner Jamie Mammano's South End restaurant. The design is both elegant and informal, resonating with the ambiance of Provence. Mistral features a crisp linen dining room as well as a casual lounge and bar. Serving dinner Mon-Sun beginning at 5:30pm - 11pm. Late night menu served Thurs-Sat 11pm-12midnight. Reservations recommended-private dining available.

Shenandoah Restaurant, Marketplace Cafe, Brewskellar Pub

Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston 227-1272. Located in the North Market Building of Faneuil Hall, Shenandoah Restaurant, The Marketplace Cafe, and Brewskellar Pub have something for everyone. Whether you're interested in a casual dinner on one of Boston's largest outdoor patios or the quiet more elegant surroundings of Shenandoah Restaurant, we offer it all. Having a function? We cater personally to all events you may be planning. Visit us soon and let us surprise you.

Skipjack's

199 Clarendon St., Copley Sq., 536-3500; 2 Brookline Pl., Brookline, 232-8887; and 55 Needham St., Newton, 964-4244. Enjoy fresh grilled seafood flown in from around the world, in a casual, comfortable atmosphere. Specialties include blackened tuna sashimi, Skipjack's moonfish, Maryland crabcakes, lobsters and gingered calamari. Swing with the infamous Winiker Orchestra and enjoy our Jazz Brunch every Sunday, 11 am - 3 pm in Boston. Also performing in Brookline every Fri. and Sat. evenings from 6 - 10 pm. Reservations accepted and discounted underground parking in Boston and Brookline.

The Rack

24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Market-place Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998,1999 & 2000 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve both lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar

105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-9966. A wonderful secret hidden in Boston's Financial District. The Vault offers contemporary American cuisine and an extensive and exclusive affordable wine list. Come in and enjoy our new spring menu, including an expanded raw bar, Maine crab cakes, seared tuna and much more. Lunch Mon. - Fri. from 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Dinner Mon. - Wed. from 5:30 - 10:30 pm, Thurs. - Sat. from 5:30 - 11 pm. Closed Sun.

Vox Populi

755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Speak your voice at this comfortably sophisticated Back Bay restaurant and bar. With an eclectic style highlighted by rich, vibrant colors and rustic antiques, Vox Populi offers a hip, sleek and intimate atmosphere. Enjoy the first floor bar and fireplace lounge, the second floor bar overlooking bustling Boylston St., or the elegant second floor dining room. (Outdoor patio dining available sesonally). One of Back Bay's most prominent establishments, Vox Populi truly speaks the popular voice.

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CAFES

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95 Salem Street, Boston's North End, 227-8365. This cafe-style pasticceria, located in the heart of the North End, offers some of the finest Italian-American pastries, cookies and cakes available anywhere. Enjoy the biscotti, cannoli, tiramisu or simply savor a cappuccino. La Dolce offers retail, wholesale and function-catering; including cookie trays and miniature pastries. Open daily until 9pm, Fri. & Sat. until 11pm.

BRUNCH

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101 Atlantic Ave., Boston 723-5101. A waterfront live jazz brunch is the perfect Sunday start at Atlantic 101 from 11:30am - 2:30pm featuring a creative a la carte menu and soothing live jazz. Sample such favorites as Eggs Benedict, Huevos Rancheros, or try out our crowd pleasing Poached Eggs with Maine Crab Cakes, Smoked Bacon and Creole Mustard Hollandaise. Burgers, crepes and Lobster round out the menu as well. Call 723-5101 for reservations. Atlantic 101 also features live piano and vocals at night, Tuesday through Saturday. Lunch daily from 11:30am-2:30pm. Dinner daily from 5:00-10:30pm.

Museum of Science - Skyline Room

Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston, MA 02114. Powers of Nature, October 6-March 4. Enjoy Sunday brunch in the beautiful Skyline Room overlooking the Charles River at noon, then experience the amazing Mugar Omni Theater: Wild California at 2pm. Tickets are $28 for Adults, $26 for Seniors/ Children. Brunch only is $20. On-site parking is included. Reservations recommended, call (617)723-2500.

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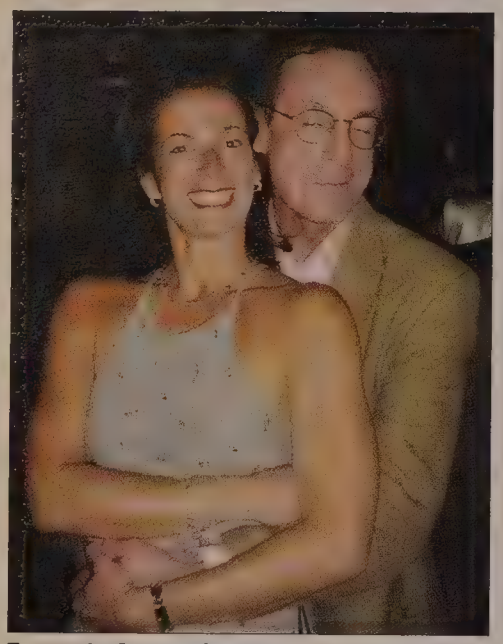
Last Scene Here BY JONATHAN SOROFF



Top, at the Boston Film Festival: Jeff Bridges and Joyce Kulhawik. Top, right: Michela Larsen at Fashionplates. Above: Lois Demko and David Brudnoy at the BFF.

NATURE OR NEUTER?

OK, so it's not exactly Cannes, or Sundance, or even Telluride. Nevertheless, the 16th annual **Boston Film Festival** delivered a few stars, some decent cocktailing, and quite a few laughs.

The reception at the **Lenox Hotel** for Hollywood royal **Jeff Bridges**, for instance, was chock-a-bloc with local luminaries, among them: entertainmentatrix **Joyce Kulhawick**, Mass Film Office cuties **Robin Dawson** and **Tim Grafft**, socialite/news anchor **Kasey Kauffman** and her criminally cute cousin, **AJ DiPersia**, babealicious indie filmmaker **Laura Bernieri**, pipe-smoking movie theater mogul **Alan Friedberg**, and Siamese triplets **Mary Menna**, **Peter Darveau** and **Bev Tilden**.

One could be forgiven for thinking that another major star was present, so overwhelming is the aura of femme fatale/film critic **Lois "The Screen Queen" Demko** (who has been linked in the tabloids with *Perfect Storm* author **Sebastian Junger**).

In fact, talk radio's towering intellect, **David Brudnoy**, proclaimed, "I owe everything I am today to the Screen Queen," by which we assume he meant something other than the fact that he's gay.

HALSTON, GUCCI, FIORUCCI...

Who knew hand-me-downs could be as collectible as, say, Beanie Babies or Pokemon cards? Take **Fashionplates**, the celebrity couture auction that one guest described as "Holly Golightly goes to Filene's Basement," hosted by **Skinner** and **Louis Boston** to benefit Community Servings.

Spotted at the preview party, browsing through racks of vintage Pucci and costumes worn by the likes of Danny Kaye and Rock Hudson, were such local notables as best-selling fiction factories **Robin Cook** and **Robert B. Parker**, the latter's lovely spouse, **Joan**, stunning chow-slinger **Michela Larsen**, interior design avatars **Chris Drake** and **Benn Theodore**, kabuki socialite **Marilyn Riseman**, tie designer **Tony Corey** and media mogul **Ron Ansin**, white-hot New York fashion designer **Keni Valenti**, political cartoonist **Paul Szep**, TV news vixen **Hank Phillipi Ryan**, foodie extraordinaire **Corby Kummer**, philanthropic clothes horse **Barbara Jordan**, Gallic charmer **Serge Denis**, and so on and so forth.

"You have to wear white gloves to touch anything," said one guest. "Yeah," said another, "I think I should do that at my house, too."

From left: Beautiful Gucci people Christina Bohigiam, Adam Gletchell, Lauren Krol and Ilias Pritsoulis; Michael Eisenstein and Kay Hanley. Far right: Joseph Abboud at Saks.

FASHIONPLATES CONTINUED...

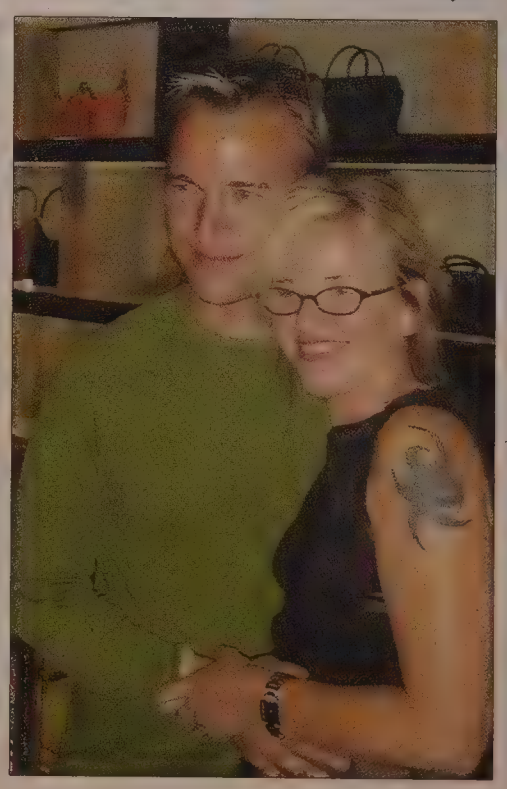
The fabulosity factor was off the charts and the gorgeousness approached critical levels when **Gucci** used the opening of its humungous new boutique in Copley Place as an excuse to host a party for the **Institute of Contemporary Art's New Group**.

Among the super-groovers swilling bubbly, nibbling finger food and offering fashion commentary: Venezuelan aristos **Ricardo** and **Raphael James-Branger** with super-smoothie **Eliot Wright**, alterna-goddess **Kay Hanley** of Letters to Cleo and her hunka-hunka-husband **Michael Eisenstein**, celebrity chef **Seth Woods** and blonde glamazon **Lisa Conrad**, art collector **Arnold Sapenter**, the improbably tall **Douglas Truesdale**, Latin laugh-riot **Juan Prieto**, redheaded retail minx **Amy Gottesman**, ICA hipster **Naomi Arin** and her sister, **Deborah**, supernaturally handsome hairdresser **Gary Croteau**, and everyone else with good bone structure and a fondness for free champagne. Bonus points to the party-planners, for putting bottles of Gucci's new scent, Rush, in the goodie bags so that slaves to fashion can now identify each other by scent.

BETTER TO TEACH AN ARTIST TO PAINT A FISH...

How many big shots can you fit into a tiny cafe? Apparently quite a few, judging by the crowd at a reception held by restaurateur **Debbie Lewis** at **29 Newbury Street** to celebrate the **Cavalcade of Cod**—those fish sculptures that have sprouted up like mushrooms all over town.

Present and accounted for: Philanthroposaurus rex **David Mugar**, real estate magdaddy **Donald Saunders**, divorce lawyers



Debbie Lewis, David Mugar and a cod.

Joel and **Matthew Kozol**, PR czarina **Jan Saragoni**, Back Bay doyenne **Rosalie Cohen** and the ever-affable **Bert**, mega-jewelers **Sumner** and **Barbara Dorfman**, Mass College of Art President **Kay Sloane**, lovable shutterbug **Joe Greene**, investigative reporter **Jorge Quiroga**, and one Philistine who said, "I'm not really clear on this whole fish thing. What's the point if you can't eat them?"

SPEND 'TIL IT HURTS...

It's a winning combination, cocktails and shopping, and what better way to rationalize a spending spree at **Saks Fifth Avenue** than the knowledge that everything is 10 percent off and that 2 percent of every Jimmy Choo pump or Prada bag was a donation to Dana Farber? Throw in good eats by restaurants like Ambrosia, the Fed and Rialto, and you've got the sybaritic shop-a-holic's orgasm that was **Fashion Targets Breast Cancer**.

Seen schmying around the store: clothing designer **Joseph Abboud**, clothing wearer **Alice Bruce**, PBS personality **John Carroll** and style writer **Tina Sutton**, trainer-to-the-stars **Josie Gardiner**, Four Seasons cutie **Courtney McNeill**, *Herald* promo babe **Gwen Gage**, XV Beacon's Little Miss Everything, **Amy Finsilver**, the incredibly tanned, just-back-from-Capri **Karen** and **Manny Golov** (whose artistic offspring, **Brett**, opened an exhibition of his paintings at Louis the night before) and one woman who said, "Ten percent off? I'd rather just make a donation to Dana Farber and fly to Paris to shop." IB

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As part of our commitment to play a role in reducing underage smoking, we have created a Youth Smoking Prevention Department whose sole purpose is to develop and support programs to help reduce the incidence of youth smoking. We've dedicated significant resources—over $100 million last year—toward initiatives based on the key components listed above. We are spending another $100 million against these initiatives in 2000.

Our effort includes support for school-based programs, one of which has been recognized for prevention excellence by the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other national organizations. We're also running national advertising campaigns: one that encourages kids not to smoke, and one that urges parents to talk to their kids about not smoking.

To help prevent minors' access to tobacco products, we support and help fund the Coalition for Responsible Tobacco Retailing's nationwide "We Card" retailer education and training program. This effort has helped train over 500,000 retail store employees to reject attempted purchases by minors.

Working to help prevent youth smoking is important and it's the right thing to do for our company and for our employees. It's also the right thing to do on behalf of our shareholders and our adult customers. Everyone has a stake in solving the problem of underage smoking. At Philip Morris USA, we are working to help find answers.

For more information about our youth smoking prevention efforts, visit our Web site at www.philipmorrisusa.com. If you don't have Internet access, please call 1-877-PMUSAWEB.

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Soroff on Dershowitz

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FROM TOP: DEB DILA, WENDY MIMRAN

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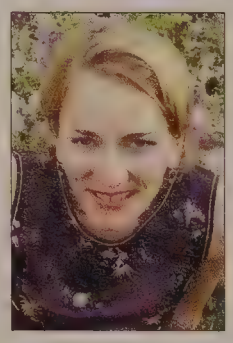
letters

INTERNET HITS

I think it's hysterical that your magazine publishes articles that almost embarrassingly gush and fawn over anything related to the Internet scene, while your Web site backstabs your supposed darlings by calling their companies "ridiculously overpriced" and relishing the "inevitable stock market correction" that will bring them down. Do the people who smile so beautifully and flash their Gucci-stained lives for your pictures know what your Web-site content writer really thinks of them? Maybe I should be grateful that people like me—a Ivy League graduate who is Hispanic, works in nonprofit and can barely afford to survive in this preposterously overpriced city—aren't the target of your two-faced brown-nosing. Not that we ever would be. If I judged Boston's cultural and socioeconomic demographics by your magazine, I'd assume that people like me don't even exist; or worse yet, that our opinions don't even matter. But there are more of us than you think. We shop at Marshall's, we don't have stock options, we refuse to pay high rents and, like it or not, we will be heard.

—SARAH A. RODRIGUEZ
East Cambridge

Editor's Note:

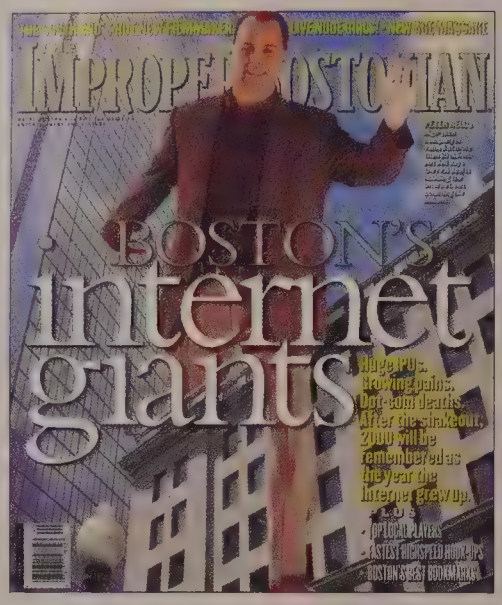


First off, that Web site text is, er, a joke—albeit not a very funny one. Next, we are not responsible for this overpriced city. Also, thank you for casually revealing your Ivy-League status while taking us to task for being class-obsessed. Finally, we give you Rachel (above). Our senior editor, Rachel Strutt, is ONE OF YOU. (Except for the Ivy League bit; she does hold a master of arts from Tufts University, though.) She shops all day at Marshalls, has no stock options, refuses to pay high rent. And perhaps most importantly, she does an impressive job detailing the rest of the staff's Bentleys.

COLUMNIST GRIPES

I couldn't help but notice all those warm and fuzzy letters in the Sept. 20 issue regarding Ezra and his column. Whenever you're done patting yourselves on the back, please let Ezra know that the world already has a Dave Barry, and if he really wants to be a writer, he should develop his own point of view and not "borrow" one from an aging baby boomer.

JACK KELLEHER
Via e-mail



"IF I JUDGED BOSTON'S CULTURAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC DEMOGRAPHICS BY YOUR MAGAZINE, I'D ASSUME THAT PEOPLE LIKE ME DON'T EVEN EXIST; OR WORSE YET, THAT OUR OPINIONS DON'T EVEN MATTER."

—*SARAH A. RODRIGUEZ*
EAST CAMBRIDGE

I must take exception to Paul Sherman's hatchet job on *Woman on Top*. Sherman criticizes the romantic comedy for what he perceives as a lack of substance, and accuses the movie of perpetuating Latin stereotypes. So let me get this straight, Paul: All cinematic output from Latino writers and directors must be deeply profound, civilization-altering works of art, and any attempt at breezy, lighthearted comedy is viewed as a "South American minstrel show"? That one phrase seems more condescending to the Latin community than the stereotypes you allege this film perpetuates. Frankly, I found *Woman on Top* charming, brazenly campy and even slightly deviant from the "romantic comedy" model, which is more than I can say for *Almost Famous*, a flick you fawned over like it was a celluloid epiphany. Let's examine its cast of characters: You've got the gifted but naive adolescent, his overprotective mom, the self-obsessed rock star and the streetwise groupie with a heart of gold. Right, Paul, no stereotypes there. In the future, you might want to try applying the same criteria to all the movies you review.

—DAVID GERARD
Lynn

In your recent review of the Japanese/Korean restaurant Sapporo (Sept. 20 issue) one line stood out as an example of what seems to be just plain journalistic laziness: "we sampled...one dish, bulgogi that we cannot attribute." Bulgogi is a staple of Korean cuisine and I am sure that more careful research by the writer, such as merely asking the waiter, could have unearthed the national origin of the dish.

—JONATHAN BOLCH
Boston

RE: WORCESTER

How appropriate that your tidbit on Sean Flynn's book on the Worcester Six would appear on the same page as a photo of the *Andrea Gail*. It is inevitable, I guess, that in this voyeuristic world some people will find viewing the final end of men such as these to be entertainment. However, for those of us who lost family members in the either the fire or the storm, having their last moments played out via a writer's imagination, either on the big screen or in writing, is horrific. Many of our thoughts and nightmares center on exactly those moments and how we thought the men we knew would react and eventually pass. We pray every day that the reality was not as the vicarious suspense and agony that sells these days will show it.

—PAMELA (LUCEY) MOEN
Worcester

CORRECTIONS

Tim Berners-Lee (the inventor of the World Wide Web), developed the first browser/editor, the first version of Hypertext Markup Language (HTML), and Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP). His many achievements, however, do not include inventing hypertext itself, as we stated in our annual Internet issue.

Kristen Porter's Dyke Night at the Midway Cafe is held every Thursday starting at 10pm. There is a DJ, drag-king shows and a $2 cover charge.

In last issue's Proper Bostonians section, the pictures of Jacui and Wayne Budd and Robert and Barbara DeGregorio were switched. Apologies to both couples.

Tell Us What You Think

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IMPROPERSPEAKING

FOXY MODEL

OK, so Brookline's **Doug Rumsey** didn't win the "Sexiest Bachelor in America" when FOX Sports Network aired its new special earlier this month. But he was chosen from among the national crowd of contenders, and we like to think we helped him to stardom by featuring him in a May issue last year. He's 27, straight and single (making him a hot commodity in this town even without his good looks.)

DAWSON ROCKS

The Boston-based pop rockers **Missing Joe** have liscenced their new album *Breaking Down the Constellations* to the WB Network to appear on the hit show ***Dawson's Creek***. Listen as closely as you watch and you'll catch Missing Joe songs throughout the television year. Dawson fans will also hear music of another local band, the **Banjo Spiders**, some time this season.

Beyond the music, the show's set designers apparently like the art produced by **Q Division**, (a Davis Square-based studio and label). Jen, the show's buxom blonde has a **Poundcake** poster designed by Q Division plastered on her wall. (Poundcake is a defunct Boston band whose lead singer now heads up **Francine**). There's more. The record store slated to open up in Capeside, Dawson's weird little television town which is supposed to be on Cape Cod, will be filled primarily with Q division discs. "It's pretty amusing," says **Jessica Smyser**, Q Division's label manager. "We're hoping that one day, they'll start playing some Q Division music as well."

Missing Joe has the sound for the WB.

This whole Boston-Dawson connection got its start when local singer Paula Cole's *I Don't Wanna Wait* was selected as the show's theme song. Cole has certainly hit the big time, so this is no small break for the likes of Missing Joe and the Banjo Spiders.

CORMAN CONTENDERS

Finally, three finalists have been chosen from among all the hopefuls who send screenplays to CityScape, the motion picture education company bringing resources to local screenwriter and filmmakers. An attorney from Charlestown, **J. Mark Dickison** wrote *The Strangler's Wife;* a Lexington novelist, **Barbara Shapiro**, submitted *Shattered Echoes*; and **Erica Ferencik**, a standup comedienne from Framingham is a finalist for *Mama's Girl*.

Now **Roger Corman** will review the scripts and the students in the CityScape program will revise and rewrite the script with the help of producer **Jean-Paul Oullette**,(who once worked for Roger Corman's New World Cinema before founding Yankee Classic Pictures.) Corman, of course, is the legendary film producer behind so many movies and so many modern-day stars. Corman is helping local film and production companies across the country with contests like this one. There is no telling when Corman will make his decision, so for now the suspense builds.

AIR WAVES

The ballots have been cast for the 6th annual March of Dimes Boston Achievement in Radio Awards. So, what's new on radio? Well, **WBZ** (AM-1030) swept the news category, with three finalists, **Gary LaPierre**, **Anthony Silva** and **Diane Stern**, but WRKO (AM-680) edged into the Best Spot News category with WBZ for its coverage of the fatal Worcester fire. It's easier to find people who weren't finalists in the morning-show category, with six finalists. In the category

Leave if to Divas **WRKO co-hosts Lori Kramer (left) and Darlene McCarthy**

of Best Talk Show Host, **Keith Orr** and **Sue O'Connell** of "One in Ten" fame at WFNX will compete against bad boy RKO's **Howie Carr** and and BZ's legendary **David Brudnoy**. RKO's **Kramer** and **McCarthy** (Darlene and Lori of "Leave it to Divas") will square off against WROR's **J.J. Wright** and **Storm Zbel** on FNX. (Speaking of the Divas, there is a strong buzz coming out of New York that says Kramer has several offers closer to her NYC home, including that **Regis Philbin** televison project that pairs him with female radio personalities. There has been no official word on any program changes, only news that Kramer will soon alter her single status by tying the knot to her New York-attorney beau.)

U.S.Speaker of the House Dennis Hassert (R-Illinois) would rather read the IMPROPER than listen to debates.

The March of Dimes winners will be announced November 2 at a Marriott Hotel gala. Imagine all the chatter in that room.

THE NEWS SHOES

Hughes means news, but what about those shoes? Not in recent memory has any television news anchor received a welcome mat like the one ***Boston Globe*** Living/Arts writer **Bella English** laid out for WBZ-TV's (Channel 4) new newscaster **Lisa Hughes** recently. Was it fawning? Yes. Was it accurate? From what the IMPROPER hears, you betchya. The class-act apparently does know news, according to our talking heads. Let's cut straight to the superficial fluff. Did you see her shoes? Talk about pounding the pavement. Those worn leather puppies looked like Hughes wore them to fires as a rookie reporter. No matter, she's the real deal and can take the teasing that came along with her "real-life" photograph.

ANOTHER TICKET

No, you cannot get a ticket to **Pravda 116's** 1st Anniversary party. The October 19th open-bar and fabulous fashion show at the Boylston Street hotspot will be invitation only. Hosted by **Kim O'Nasch** of *As The World Turns* and produced by the IMPROPER'S own Fashion Editor **Samantha House**, the event will feature models from Q Model Management in New York, whose hair will be styled by **Charles Maksou** of Boston. The collaborative effort is the first time **Louis Boston** has showcased their clothes in a runway show outside their own shop. Go Pravda! (Even if we are engaging in a little self-promotion).iB

Speaking of Boston

Got an inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to speaking@improper.com

BIG SCORE

The Celebrity Hat Trick was a feel-good fundraiser sponsored by the IMPROPER'S cover boy, Worcester native, actor and comedian **Denis Leary**—also a cousin to **Jeremiah Lucey**, one of six Worcester firefighters killed in the December 1999 fire. Skaters **Michael J. Fox** and **Keifer Sutherland**, **Tim Robbins** and **Rick Moranis** came from Hollywood and the Boston Bruins alumni team included **Bobby Orr** , **Phil Esposito**, **John Bucyk** and **Derek Sanderson**. More than $200,000 was raised for the Leary Firefighters Foundation. There was no checking, but a lot of joking.

Pictured are Phil Esposito and Michael J. Fox, participants in the Celebrity Hat Trick. In background is Brian Propp.

HOCKEY: JOHN TARANTINO

rush hour nyc

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CITY LIMITS

Good stuff, glamour and goings-on

BY ERIN HAGEDORN AND JULIE SHORT

Matchmaker Dawn Stapleton watches to see if prospective couple Carrie Rosov and Jim Pendet will hit it off.

ALL THE BUZZ

SPEED DATING FOR GOYS

Plenty of single Jews eagerly climbed aboard the new speed-dating trendwagon last month when they were invited to the Boston premier of the new matchmaking game—which left the rest of the singles all dressed up with nowhere to go. What's a single, lonely non-Jew to do? Well, now there is an option: On Nov. 8, the International Restaurant and Pub will host a non-denominational, eight-minute speed-dating event. The rules: Each person has seven minutes to talk themselves up to a partner of the opposite sex. Keep in mind, certain topics are taboo—work, for one. (Yikes—what else do we talk about?) "We want people to talk about themselves, not how they spend their days," says Dawn Stapleton, 30, who organized the event under the auspices of Missing Link, a new networking organization for young professionals. During the eighth minute, you mark down on a card whether or not you'd be interested in meeting that person again (no pressure here). After you talk with seven prospective dates, Missing Link collects the cards and sends out phone numbers to pairs who match up. What if you see someone across the room that lights your fire, but he's not on your card? "We're going to have extra cards available for the intermission," confides Stapleton. *184 High St., Boston. www.bostonsmissinglink.com.*

THIS JUST IN

URBAN ART-FITTERS

What would happen if Urban Outfitters merged with Pearl Art? They might spawn Fenway's funky new (and uncreatively named) Art Store. With a gargantuan selection of crafts, paper, paints, drawing pencils and brushes, it's a credible art-supply store. But if you throw in stacks of trendy watches, beautifully arranged piles of nifty frames, pyramids of markers shaped like farm animals and shelves of pop art icon-filled notebooks, you've got one trend-i-licious spot, smack in the middle of the rapidly expanding Landmark Center. Billing themselves as "the next generation of art-material stores," the Art Store—with 11 stores total, most on the West Coast—offers more than 10,000 art-material items at discounts of up to 58 percent off list price. The store itself is a work of art, with its rainbow assortment of merchandise and giant color palettes mounted on the walls. Sure, it's über-organized and looks more like a Staples than a cluttered corner art store, but you can't beat the prices and selection. ***The Art Store, 401 Park Ave., Boston (247-3322).***

THE DISSED LIST

SPARE CHANGE?

We've heard from several sources around town that the recent increase in MBTA fares from 85 cents to $1 has caused plenty of confusion—not to mention complaints from commuters who've found out the hard way that some Green Line drivers are refusing to take paper money. Granted, the drivers aren't to blame because the collection machines aren't equipped to take bills. But isn't there a way to accommodate those of us who don't like to lug around pockets full of change? What's the deal? "Good question," said MBTA spokesman Brian Pedro. "Yeah, that's probably something we should have thought of. Let me get back to you on that." We'll get back to you when Pedro gets back to us.

NEW IN TOWN

'50S THROWBACK

We love '50s vintage as much as the rest of the mid-century nostalgics, and we were ecstatic when we heard about the new addition to Cambridge. Candy Castle (the sister shop to the candy store in Lexington) looks like a bona fide '50s corner store from top to bottom: the shelves were piled high with chocolate-covered nuts, truffles, sugar fruits, creams and caramels. We discovered Christina's ice cream, frozen yogurt and all sorts of floats that you can sip at the counter, perched on a diner stool. The setup isn't the only thing that resembles *Leave It to Beaver*; so does the management. After salivating over the goodies, we realized we were flat broke—no cash on hand. "Pay whenever you come back," declared owners Dave and Linda Hackett (above). "It's no big deal. We're not like most businesses." Wow, talk about the good old days. And if you want to keep the retro buzz going, walk down the street to Dagmar's, a new '50s store that sells vintage clothes, rock 'n' roll paraphernalia and cool furniture, with some boppin' Stray Cats tunes playing in the background. ***Candy Castle, 1784 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-2109).***

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: MICHELLE MCCORMACK (3), WENDY MIMRAN, TRACY POWELL

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Wait Online, Not in Line

Massachusetts is jumping on the e-government bandwagon

Last month, Governor Paul Cellucci, Lieutenant Governor Jane Swift and Lycos CEO Bob Davis kicked off something called the Governor's E-Government Task Force. The group, which consists of 60 members of the local high-tech community, is mandated to improve and expand the state's current Web site and e-government capabilities.

What is e-government, you ask? "The goal is to create a full-service government that people can bring into their home or their business on their own schedule," Cellucci explained in a State House News Service press release. This will make "the lion's share of essential state services available 24 hours a day, seven days a week." For normal citizens like you or me, this could mean that we won't have to waste time standing in line at government bureaucracies.

E-government is destined to be a big deal, according to Jeremy Sharrard, an analyst at Cambridge-based Forrester Research Inc. He estimates that fees and taxes paid over the web (to local, state and federal agencies) will exceed $600 billion by the year 2006. "People are getting used to the convenience of the Internet," he says, "and they want to see the same kind of convenience in their interactions with government."

According to a survey of 1,005 adults nationwide conducted by Peter D. Hart Research, 60 percent believe that local government would be more effective if it used the Internet to allow people to register their cars, pay parking tickets, fill out forms and apply for permits.

It's not surprising that Massachusetts is jumping onto the e-government bandwagon, according to Sarah Bourne, the director of the Commonwealth's Internet Service Group, which has responsibility for the state Web site. "There are only seven states that allow you to register your motor vehicles online," she says. "That's something that we've had for five years."

The Massachusetts DMV was the first in the country to go online, mostly due to the Herculean efforts of David Lewis, the former deputy registrar of the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles. When he joined the DMV way back in 1984, it was a total mess—as anyone with a vehicle back then no doubt remembers. A newly registered vehicle sometimes took months to show up in the state's computer system, for example.

MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE IF IT USED THE INTERNET TO ALLOW PEOPLE TO REGISTER THEIR CARS, PAY PARKING TICKETS, FILL OUT FORMS AND APPLY FOR PERMITS.

Lewis drove the implementation of a unified database that eventually made online payment possible. He is also reputed to be the source of a statement that ended up as the title of a 1994 *Wired* magazine article that described his work: "Nobody F—ks with the DMV." Bourne, who works for Lewis, doesn't know whether Lewis actually made the remark, but she does point out that he does have a "great sense of humor" and has learned to be a bit more "sensitive" when it comes to speaking to the press. Lewis is now the CIO for the entire commonwealth—the guy who will be responsible for implementing the proposals that the governor's task force recommends.

Lewis leads an IT group that has a pretty solid reputation in the computer industry. Jim Johnson, chairman of the Standish Group, a West Yarmouth market-research firm, notes that one Massachusetts IT project managed to get an outside company to pay the up-front cost of development in return for a cut of the additional revenue that would be coming in. "The state didn't pay a dime," says Johnson, "It was a really good win for the state of Massachusetts."

Given Lewis' experience in bringing government online—and Massachusetts' track record—it might seem a bit odd that Cellucci felt the need to get 60 people involved. However, it turns out that e-government can end up seeming, well, a bit like "Big Brother" (as in the Orwell novel, not the TV show). Privacy is a big issue, according to Ray Bjorklund, vice president of consulting services at Federal Source, Inc., a company that tracks government computer usage. "Privacy is a management issue that's overarching," he explains.

Only 51 percent of the Americans polled said that they can trust their local government "to do what is right all or most of the time," according to the Hart research study. The figure drops to 35 percent when people are asked about the federal government. Under the circumstances, it's not surprising that some citizens don't trust governments to keep their personal information secret.

One purpose of the task force is to make certain that the community at large is comfortable with the idea of the government gathering and utilizing more information. The issue of how government uses information is a special interest of Lieutenant Governor Jane Swift, according to Bourne. "She's working with the task force and learning about personal information—how it's handled and protected." Of course, given Swift's recent public-relations disasters, it's no wonder that she's worried about personal data getting into the wrong hands. **iB**

David Lewis, the man who drove the DMV online, is now the CIO for the entire state and will be responsible for enacting the next stages of e-government.

MIKE KEAR

Geoffrey James (*www.geoffreyjames.com*) is the author of numerous books, as well as the co-host of *Funny Business*, heard Saturdays 10 to midnight on WRKO, AM 680.

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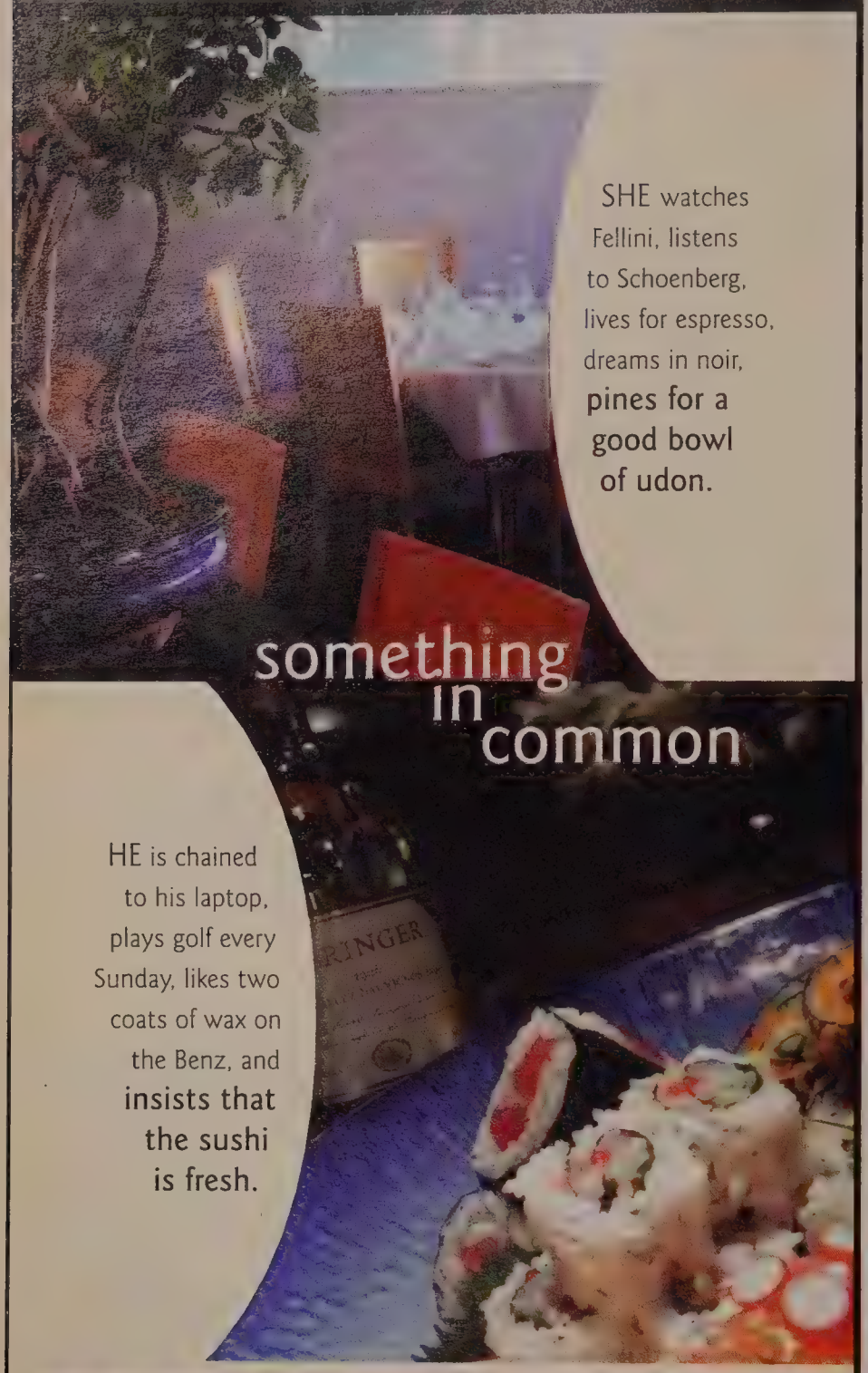

SHE watches Fellini, listens to Schoenberg, lives for espresso, dreams in noir, pines for a good bowl of udon.

something in common

HE is chained to his laptop, plays golf every Sunday, likes two coats of wax on the Benz, and insists that the sushi is fresh.

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Ezra

Foiled Again

Costume conundrums galore

BY EZRA DYER

I'll admit, I'm one of those people who likes to look through *National Geographic* and make fun of other cultures. "Ha ha," I'll say, "these dudes get together each year for the Festival of the Serpent and eat worms and snakes and stuff all day; then they get naked and smear cow dung on themselves and throw someone into the volcano. Freaks." The thing I tend to forget, though, is that off in Upper Grurgistan, there's some Grurgistani villager watching a rerun of a Halloween episode of the Simpsons (trust me, they have Simpsons reruns there) and thinking, "These Americans get together each year for parties where they wear bizarre costumes and drink too much while their children roam the streets in semiflammable plastic outfits from Rite-Aid and, contrary to little-kid rules on the other 364 days of the year, solicit candy from strangers. Freaks."

SOME PEOPLE CAN PULL OFF LAST-MINUTE COSTUMES WITH APLOMB. I AM NOT ONE OF THEM.

I was curious about how this all came about, so I looked around on the Web for a little Halloween background information. According to one "History of Halloween" page I found, "Oct. 31 is the night that Satanists and occultists the world around look forward to for giving the most honor to Satan and praying to him intensely for the fall of the Church of Jesus Christ and the destruction of families... There will be sacrifices of dogs, cats, rats, chickens, goats and even humans. It is *not* an innocent holiday!!" So there you have it. I guess I've found one Geocities.com member who won't be invited to my human sacrifice party.

Then again, demonic possession might explain my younger brother Graham's Halloween exploits. Just last Halloween he was arrested for beating up an M&M. Apparently, some guy in an M&M costume body-checked him on the sidewalk, a scuffle ensued, and both Graham and the M&M were thrown in jail. He eventually ended up with a fine for disorderly conduct, bargained down from the initial charge of Assault of a Chocolate with a Hard Candy Shell.

Although I've not yet been arrested on Halloween, I have my own problem: costume planning. Some people can pull off last-minute costumes with aplomb. I am not one of them. I have a friend who once donned a towel, shampooed the left and right sides of his head, and had a successful evening as the guy from the Denorex commercial. Three years ago I had no costume immediately before a party, so I bought a pair of pantyhose, threw them over my head, and went as a robber. I thought I was clever until my face started sweating (unbeknownst to me, pantyhose have the heat-retaining properties of a roll of Owens-Corning fiberglass insulation) so I rolled them up and spent all night explaining why I was Sweaty-Faced Pantyhose Hat Guy.

Two years ago I bought five rolls of tinfoil, some wire and swatches of white and yellow felt and went out as a baked potato. This took a few hours' worth of preparation, but it went off well. But did I learn that a little preparation goes a long way? No. Last year I made the mistake of allowing myself about 20 minutes to put together a costume for a Halloween party at Avalon. Having had prior success with the tinfoil, I decided to be a robot. My roommate, Dave, was Julius Caesar. To the casual observer, we might have looked like two drunk guys—one wrapped in tinfoil, the other wearing a sheet and a random weed around his head—but I was a robot, I tell you. Unfortunately, when we got to Avalon, we found we were the only costumed revelers (did I mention that this was one of those Halloween parties that didn't actually take place on Halloween?). Standing in line among the beautiful people decked out in the obligatory black designer duds, I have to admit that I was a bit uncomfortable. When we got to the door, the bouncer informed us that the Halloween party ended a half-hour earlier. Oops. As we trudged back past the immense line to Brookline Street to get a cab, the derision was palpable. I don't think anyone really bought my explanation that I was wearing the latest Armani-Reynolds Wrap collaboration. It was then that I made a vow to myself: Next year would be different.

So here I am, and I still have no idea what I'm going to be. Wal-Mart greeter? Fondue? Peace in the Middle East? Magazine writer accompanied by scantily clad Jennifer Lopez lookalike? Pagan blasphemer? Everyone's going to be *that*.

Maybe I'd better go out and pick up some more tinfoil. iB

You think that's funny?

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Proper Bostonians

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

1

The opening-night party for Boston Ballet's **The Four Seasons**, was held Sept. 28 at, appropriately, the Four Seasons Hotel. An elegant dinner celebrating the opening of the season preceded the performance at the Wang Theatre. In attendance: new artistic director Maina Gielgud, current artistic director Anna-Marie Holmes and choreographers Christopher Wheeldon and Daniel Pelzig. A desserts reception followed the performance.

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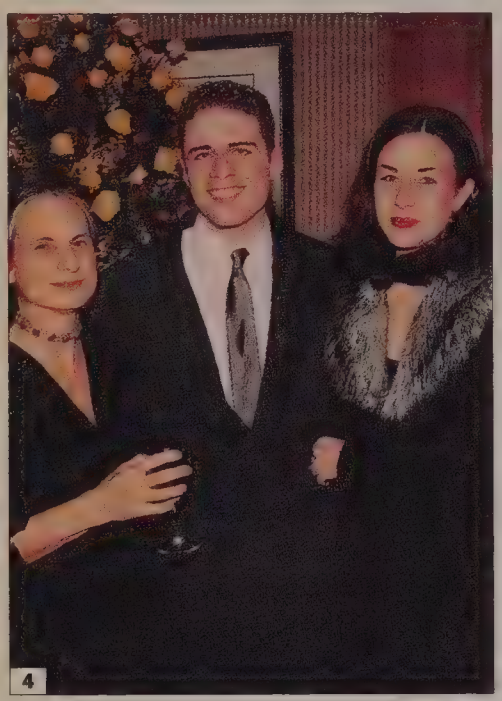
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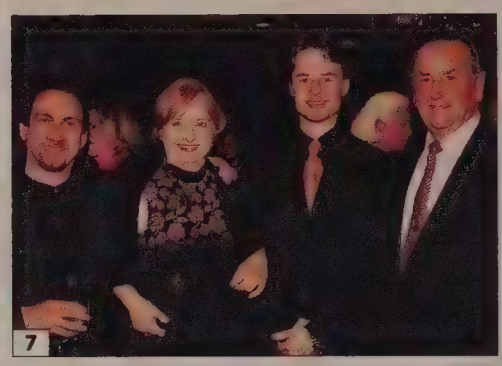
7

1. **Dena Hamilburg** (l), interior designer and owner of Hamilburg Interiors in Whalen and **Jill Goldweitz**, director of special events for the Boys & Girls Club.
2. **Diedre Burger** and husband **David**, a Brown & Brown CPA, and **Jennifer Glaze**, soloist dancer for the Boston Ballet.
3. From left: **Kai Davis**, corps dancer for the Boston Ballet, **Matt Dwyer**, collections analyst for Domain Home Furnishing, and **Lyn Tally**, soloist for the Boston Ballet.
4. **Karen Corsano**, programmer for Chaning Laboratories in Boston, **Zack Grubbs**, corps dancer for the Boston Ballet, and **Sarah Hairston**, dancer for the Boston Ballet.
5. **Trish Lucek**, corporate attorney, and **Daniel Fruciano**, architect at Dinneen Architects in Boston.
6. From left: **Romi Beppu**, corps dancer for the Boston Ballet; **George Chaing**, medical student at Tufts; **Julie Estrada** and husband **Mark,** a corps dancer for the Boston Ballet .
7. From left: **Daniel Pelzig**, choreographer of *Resurrection*, **Anna-Marie Holmes**, artistic director of the Boston Ballet, **Christopher Wheeldon**, choreographer of the *Four Seasons* and **Tom Henderson**, retired vice president of Bank Boston and Boston Ballet Benefactor.

The **2000 Animal Hall of Fame Dinner** was held Oct. 5 at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel. Nearly 350 animal lovers gathered at the annual event, which honored both human and animal heroes while raising funds for the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Proceeds also went to the MSPCA Hall of Fame, a new traveling humane-education exhibit that will teach children lessons in kindness, compassion and heroism. The keynote speaker and Veterinarian of the Year was Dr. Marty Becker, co-author of *Chicken Soup for the Cat & Dog Lover's Soul* and *Chicken Soup for the Pet Lover's Soul*. Also honored as the Humanitarian of the Year was Monty Roberts, whose pioneering work inspired *The Horse Whisperer*. He is also the author of *The Man Who Listens to Horses*.

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8. **Deborah Digges**, English professor at Tufts University, and **Dr. Frank Loew**, president of Becker College in Worchester.
9. **Christopher Prukop**, development director for WSPA in Framingham, and **Saskia Tissi**, campaign assistant for WSPA.
10. **Donna Morrissey** (l), senior vice president for Regan Communications, and **Mari Ellen Burnes**, director of media relations for the Boston Police Department.
11. From left: **Emily Connaughton**, student at Salem State; **Heidi** and **Paul Barclay**, owners of The Rack; and **Karen Keaney**, corporate events planner for Morgan Stanley.
12. "Humanitarian of the Year" **Dr. Marty Becker** (l) and "Veterinarian of the Year" **Monty Roberts**.

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FALL/WINTER 2000 & 2001 AUCTIONS

OCTOBER 2000

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October 21, 11 a.m. - Boston

AMERICAN FURNITURE & DECORATIVE ARTS
featuring the Estate of Malcolm S. Burroughs
October 28, 2 p.m. - Bolton
October 29, 11 a.m. - Bolton

ASIAN WORKS OF ART
October 28, 11 a.m. - Boston

NOVEMBER 2000

FINE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
November 5, 12 noon - Boston

AMERICAN & EUROPEAN PAINTINGS
November 10, 7 p.m. - Boston

DISCOVERY
November 16, 7 p.m. - Bolton
November 17, 10 a.m. -Bolton

DISCOVERY
November 30, 7 p.m. - Bolton

DECEMBER 2000

DISCOVERY
December 1, 10 a.m. - Bolton

DECEMBER *continued*

ORIENTAL RUGS & CARPETS
December 2, 12 noon - Boston

FINE CERAMICS
December 9, 11 a.m. - Boston

TOYS & DOLLS
December 9, 10 a.m. - Bolton

FINE JEWELRY
December 12, 12 noon - Boston

DISCOVERY
December 14, 7 p.m. - Bolton
December 15, 10 a.m. - Bolton

JANUARY 2001

AMERICAN INDIAN & ETHNOGRAPHIC ART
January 6, 10 a.m. - Bolton

DISCOVERY
January 11, 7 p.m. - Bolton
January 12, 10 a.m. - Bolton

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JUDAICA & SILVER
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Soroff/On

Alan Dershowitz

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

A Brooklyn native who has been called "the best-known criminal lawyer in the world," Alan Dershowitz is the Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law at Harvard Law School. A graduate of Brooklyn College and Yale Law School, he joined the Harvard faculty at age 25, after clerking for federal appeals court Judge David Bazelon and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg, and became the school's youngest professor three years later. While he is best known for defending clients such as Soviet dissident Anatoly Sharansky, accused murderers Claus von Bulow and O.J. Simpson, bond trader Michael Milken and boxing champ Mike Tyson, he continues to represent numerous indigent defendants and takes half of his cases *pro bono*. He is the author of a dozen fiction and non-fiction works, and more than a million of his books have been sold worldwide. His most recent nonfiction title is *The Genesis of Justice: Ten Stories of Biblical Injustice that Led to the Ten Commandments and Modern Law*. His most recent novel is *Just Revenge*, and he is also the author of *Reversal of Fortune* (which was made into an Academy Award-winning film by his son, Elon). He lives in Cambridge with his wife, Carolyn Cohen.

Jonathan Soroff: *What's more important: brains or chutzpah?*

Alan Dershowitz: Brains. Chutzpah without brains is really annoying. In order for chutzpah to work, it has to be clever.

JS: *What was your greatest legal victory?*

AD: Sharansky. He was in a Soviet prison in the gulag, and we had to devise a plan to keep him alive without ever meeting him. The goal of the Soviets was to let him die in prison. We put together a strategy that was legal, diplomatic, political and economic. The most important part of it was the media. As soon as we got his picture on the cover of every news magazine in the world, both we and they knew they couldn't just let him die. He's also the one client with whom I identify. I identify with none of my other clients. If his parents had taken a left turn and mine had taken a right leaving Poland, mine would have ended up in Moscow and his would've ended up in New York. He would've been my lawyer, and, I hope, I would've been the dissident.

JS: *Most memorable moment of your career?*

AD: It's repetitive, but seeing Sharansky walk over the Glienicki Bridge to freedom.

JS: *How about your most crushing defeat?*

AD: Mike Tyson. The case was fixed, and I never, ever experienced that before. They switched judges on us and the chief justice disqualified himself because he knew he'd have to cast the deciding vote in our favor. Out of 500 cases I've been involved in in my life, it's the only case where the judges cheated.

JS: *A lot of people use the adjective "abrasive" to describe you. How would you describe yourself?*

AD: Abrasive and confrontational in public and totally conflict-avoidant in private. I never argue with my wife, my children, my family. I think of myself as an iconoclast. I hope that my tombstone reads, "He said out loud what other people whispered."

JS: *OK, finish this joke: Claus von Bulow and O.J. Simpson walk into a bar...*

AD: (Laughs.) And the bartender says, "I've got good news, and I've got bad news..."

JS: *Are either of them really innocent?*

AD: I can't ever comment on the innocence or guilt of my clients, but I can tell you this: There's no question that a horrible crime was committed in the O.J. Simpson case, and I think there's a real question whether any crime was committed in the Claus von Bulow case.

JS: *How'd you feel about Ron Silver's depiction of you in* Reversal of Fortune?

AD: It was a little too over the top and frenetic. You know, I'm actually fairly low-key in my professional life, but since I'm seen on TV as being confrontational, they played me that way. I loved the movie, though.

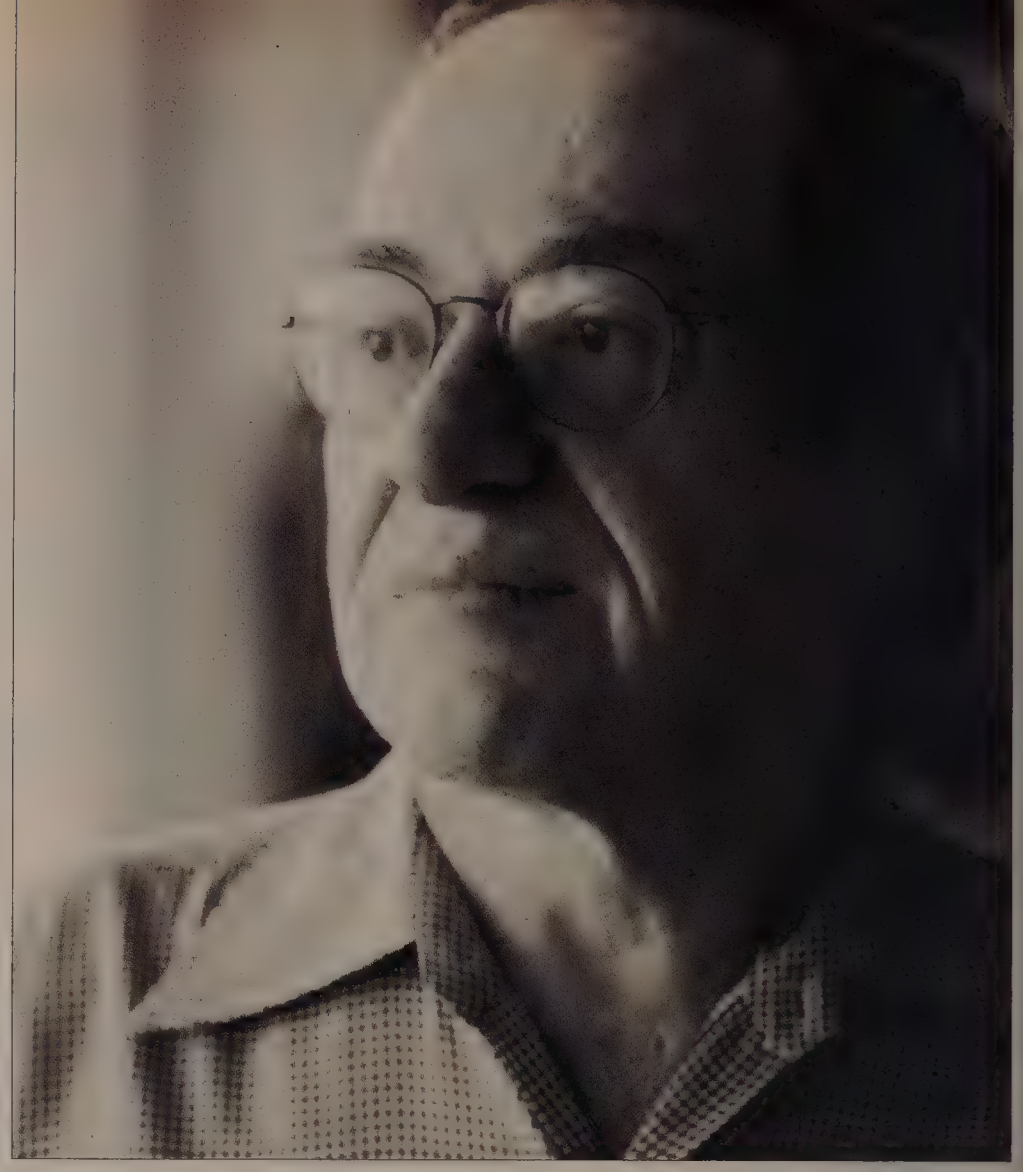
JS: *Did Jeremy Irons ever meet Claus von Bulow?*

AD: I tried to introduce them, but couldn't get them together. Then afterward, they ran into each other.

JS: *In* Henry VI, *Shakespeare says, "The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers."*

AD: Yeah, but it's a tyrant who says it. Tyrants always want to get rid of the lawyers. That's what Stalin did, what Mao did, what Pol Pot did. Hitler was able to co-opt them. The most despicable thing about the legal profession in Germany in the '30s and '40s is that a lot of the judges and lawyers joined the Nazi party. I think that would happen in America, too. They'd join with fascism. A lot of politicians, too. Some of them probably already have the brown shirts in their bottom drawers.

JS: *The case from history you'd most like to try?*



AD: Oh, easy. Jesus. A Jewish lawyer getting Jesus acquitted would've changed history, and I think I could've gotten him off. If you look at the conflicts between the hearsay accounts and the different gospels, I think the evidence against him was pretty weak.

JS: *Biggest miscarriage of justice, to your knowledge?*

AD: Probably the execution of Ethel Rosenberg (charged with espionage in the '50s). Julius was guilty. Ethel was not. And they knew it. They held her hostage trying to get Julius to rat out his buddies, and they thought he'd fold but he didn't. Some very, very high-up people were involved, including, of course, the head of the FBI. Not Eisenhower. He was duped by Hoover and by Judge Kaufman and by Roy Cohn.

JS: *If Harvard Law School was a kind of deli food, what would it be?*

AD: Corned beef on white bread with mayonnaise.

JS: *Legalese...*

AD: There's no such thing. It's just bad English. I teach my students that there's only one way of writing and that's writing well and clearly.

JS: *But lawyers love to obfuscate.*

AD: Well, if you're doing it deliberately, that's one thing, but lawyers have become so used to it that they can't write clearly. Everything has to have dependent clauses. They should at least know how to use the English language. I don't think legalese is an acceptable way to communicate.

JS: *Biggest problem in the American justice system?*

AD: The fact that prosecutors are politicians. We're the only country in the world, virtually, where prosecutors are elected. Everywhere else, they're professionals. Here, they're a future senator, congressman, governor. Every prosecutor wants to be something else, so they're likely to make decisions influenced by that.

JS: *Favorite courtroom drama of all time?*

AD: *Justice for All* with Pacino. I love that because it mocks the system correctly. I don't like sanctimonious courtroom dramas where the judge or the lawyer are heroes. There are very few heroes in the legal system.

JS: *How often has a client posed a moral quandary for you?*

AD: Almost every case. That's why I teach legal ethics.

JS: *A lot of people would say you have represented really reprehensible people....*

AD: I have.

JS: *How do you get there, morally?*

AD: First of all, my criteria for taking a case is, the more reprehensible, the more likely I'll take the case, because I think of myself as the lawyer of last resort. If nobody else will do it, I'll do it. Because I have tenure at Harvard, I have no excuses for not taking a case. I really do believe in the principle that everybody's entitled to a defense. So I can't say, "You take it, but I won't." Inevitably, moral and ethical questions come up. I don't enjoy representing guilty people. I much prefer to represent innocent people. There just aren't enough of them to go around, because our legal system mostly goes after guilty people, and most of my clients in my career have been guilty. But I wouldn't want to live in a country where most people charged with a crime are innocent. People I've represented in China, Russia, Iran...most of them were innocent.

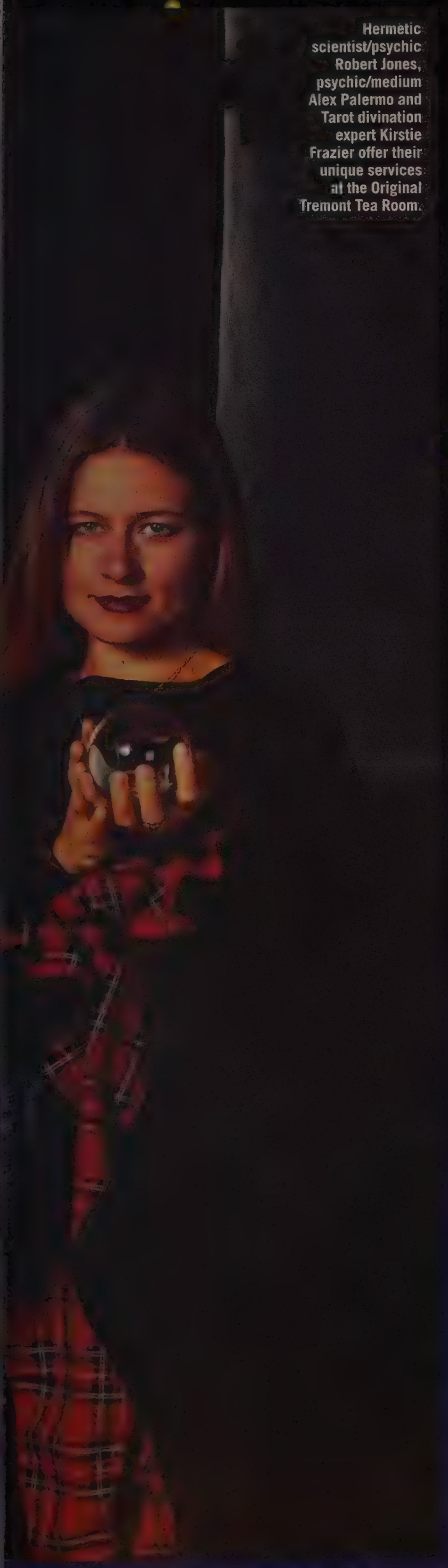
JS: *What's your take on lawyers like Dane M. Shulman, Jim Sokolove, et al?*

SUSAN E. ANDREWS

AD: I think in theory they provide a good service. It's important for lawyers to advertise and alert the public to the fact that they're getting screwed by big corporate greed, which is represented by lawyers who don't have to advertise. These are not ambulance chasers; they're ambulance racers. It's a contest to see who gets to the victim first, and if the insurance company gets there before they get a lawyer, they could sign away their lives. That said, I think too many lawyers make too much money for doing too little work. But in general, I favor outreach to the poor by lawyers. You wouldn't need lawyers like that if the bar mandated pro bono service and every lawyer was required to donate 25 percent of their life to it.

"LAWYERS HAVE TO WORK IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST, AND THE PUBLIC INTEREST MAY MEAN REPRESENTING DESPICABLE PEOPLE..."

JS: *Don't firms require it?*
AD: There was a story, on the front page of the *New York Times* two days ago, saying that law firms are lowering the number of hours devoted to pro bono work. It's a terrible thing. Lawyers have to work in the public interest, and the public interest may mean representing despicable people, but you have to do it.
JS: *In general, are there too many lawyers?*
AD: No, but there are too many lawyers representing too few people, namely the top 1 percent, and not enough representing prisoners on death row, aliens (meaning non-citizens), the disabled, the homeless.
JS: *Smartest person you know?*
AD: I'd have to say my mother.
JS: *The good Jewish-boy answer.*
AD: But it's right. My mother's really smart. She knows how to manipulate, anticipate. She's 87 years old and she never misses a step. In fact, she was recently on a panel with Lieberman's mother—a panel of mothers of famous Jewish sons. They were bragging on each other about whose son is better, but now my mother has to admit that the Liebermans won out.
JS: *Any opinion of F. Lee Bailey?*
AD: I learned a lot from him when he was young, about cross-examination. I wish he learned a little bit more from me about how to handle the money aspect of the legal profession. I hate to see a lawyer get into trouble over money. I also think he's being picked on. A lot of lawyers who do what he's done have never been investigated. The charges against him come from the prosecutor, not the client [a drug lord whom Bailey is accused of robbing]. Prosecutors shouldn't be out there trying to protect clients from F. Lee Bailey. If the client complained, that'd be another thing.
JS: *How about Johnnie Cochran?*
AD: He's a very good lawyer. I didn't agree with everything he said or did during the Simpson case, any more than he agreed with everything I said or did. But he's a good lawyer and he knows how to listen.
JS: *Who'd you rather go in front of in court: Judge Judy or Judge Wapner?*
AD: Wapner. He's a great judge, whereas Judge Judy is a total fraud. She's also a neo-fascist. She's the sadist to masochistic America, and she has nothing to say. Two of my least favorite people in the world are Judge Judy and Dr. Laura. It's really amazing. People sometimes accuse me of being too favorable to Jews, but those are two of my least favorite people on TV.
JS: *OK. I just committed murder. What's the first thing I should do?*
AD: Shut up. Don't say a thing. Don't help the government build a case against you. Second thing you should do is get a very, very good lawyer who cares deeply about you and puts your interest first.
JS: *Biggest mistake murderers make?*
AD: They try to explain. They try to talk their way out. Most murderers are terrible liars and make terrible witnesses. They weave stories any good lawyer can break through. By the way, your next question should be: What if you didn't commit a murder but are accused of one? You do exactly the same. Shut up and get a good lawyer. You don't go speaking to the public and denying you did it.
JS: *So where do lawyers fit on the food chain—blood-sucking parasites?*
AD: Too many of them are. The problem is that the worst are the most honored by the profession: corporate lawyers making a fortune by helping the super-rich get mega-rich. They're the ones who get paid well and honored by the bar association. The ones in the trenches are the ones most criticized.
JS: *Half of your cases are pro bono?*
AD: Actually, 60 percent at this point, but I treat them the same. In fact, I have a fund that I set aside from my paying cases that pays for my pro bono cases.
JS: *You're an outspoken guy. Current pet peeves?*
AD: The fact that even poor people are considering voting for George W. Bush. He promises to give tax breaks to the rich and do everything for them. He's not going to do anything for the poor people. Much of lower-middle class America votes as if they're Rockefellers. It's bizarre.
JS: *You're the Felix Frankfurter professor at Harvard Law. That name's unforgivable, even if he was a great Supreme Court Justice.*
AD: He was a pretty good justice but not a particularly good man. I'm not proud to have my chair named for him. He refused to lift a finger for his brothers and sisters in Europe during the holocaust and was more concerned with maintaining his good relationship with FDR. He was a real ass-kisser. I only met him twice in my life, didn't like him, and he's not my kind of guy.
JS: *One last question: Can I call you Dersh?*
AD: Sure. Lots of people do. But nobody calls me Al. **iB**



Hermetic scientist/psychic Robert Jones, psychic/medium Alex Palermo and Tarot divination expert Kirstie Frazier offer their unique services at the Original Tremont Tea Room.

PHOTOGRAPH BY LUIS MATOS

Seek A Higher Power

The spirited guide to psychic Boston—from aura cams and tea-leaf readings to astrology, demonology and beyond.

BY ERIN HAGEDORN

I wasn't looking for advice. I wasn't out to expose the posers. And I definitely wasn't looking to commune with my long-dead Aunt Rubie. I was simply intrigued. After all, how many times can you walk by a glowing palm- or tarot-reading sign without giving it a shot?

So after years of nagging curiosity, I embarked on a psychic tour of Boston armed with many questions. Are psychics a bunch of charlatans feeding on the gullibility of the masses? Does the stereotype of psychic-goers as lovelorn housewives ring true?

Early on, I discovered that the stereotypes were hopelessly inaccurate. For the most part, psychics are down-to-earth individuals who take their jobs (and calling) very seriously. And in this city, it certainly doesn't require magical powers to find them. Boston offers a wealth of psychic-related offerings—whether it's a past life regression, spirit channeling, medical intuitives or to hex your ex.

While investigating Boston's extensive psychic menu, I noted the equally extensive range of psychic clients. Sure there's a constituency of SUV-driving moms looking to add a spiritual flavor to their lives. But I also saw plenty of laptop-toting business men

While eavesdropping, I overheard more than one New Ager lament, "I just don't think my mirror's edges are feng shui!" Another just wanted a sympathetic ear: "But you don't understand how many phone calls I get at work!"

The point is you can't stereotype a psychic client as someone, say, who eats only organic food or who doesn't need a telephone to talk to a sister in Indiana. Most psychic businesses draw a strong corporate clientele. In fact, a February survey done by the Original Tremont Tea Room in the Financial District showed that of 1,056 polled clients, 38 percent were attorneys, and the average client age was 36. As Alex Palermo, the exuberant manager of the Original Tremont Tea Room, puts it, "We don't get the typical New Age clientele—your stereotypical crystal-wearing wackos who went to Woodstock, are vegetarian and have colonics every week."

Most local psychics claim a strong corporate following. Some even act as business consultants, giving insights on competing companies and possible hires. The most well-known psychic in this category is Lynn Robinson, M.Ed., an articulate seminar leader and author of *The Idiot's Guide to Being Psychic*. It may sound bizarre to seek corporate wisdom of this nature (imagine getting turned down for a job because a prospective employer's psychic didn't get good vibes from your business card), but, as the saying goes, don't knock it until you've tried it. When I gave Robinson a name of a co-worker, she spat back a shockingly accurate description. I'll simply say "porcupine-like" and "remarkably difficult" were the nicer adjectives.

Most psychics are in good spirits these days due to a surge in business. There's always been plenty of psychics and paranormal activity in these parts, due to our proximity to Salem's witch history and Boston's dark past (think the Boston Strangler and haunted Copps Hill in the North End). But lately, a bigger and more diverse group of people are shedding their inhibitions and checking out what psychics have to offer. Reverend Rita Berkowitz of The First Spiritualist Church in Quincy—a hotbed for local workshops in spiritual alchemy, chakras and spirit communication—says attendance at this year's open-to-the-public fall meeting was double what it was last year. "I've been amazed," she says. "People are really seeking it out right now."

One explanation for this interest in all things psychic: It provides quick answers for those living in an age when people seem to have everything but still feel unfulfilled. During periods of transition—whether personal or social—people look for guidance. As Alex Polermo says, "It's a presidential election year. It happens every time."

Media sensationalization is also driving the current psychic hype. Flip through the cable channels and you'll find more toll-free psychic sages than ever before, and any magazine editor will tell you that horoscopes are essential. What's really got local psychics talking is *Crossing Over with John Edward*, the Scifi Channel's new psychic talk show. A medium with a best-selling book, *One Last Time*, Edward channels spirits in front of a studio audience, thus garnering much-needed attention (and, some say, respect) to the profession. For a short time, we had our own psychic show: *The Others*, a supernatural drama series about a Boston-based secret society of psychics aired on NBC, but it didn't make the cut.

Before diving into our bustling psychic city, I called the major sages in the business, received plenty of advice and recommendations and eventually selected five top spots to investigate. I also got a rapid education. There are the clairvoyants (they see energy fields and images), the clairaudients (they hear stuff), psychic mediums (they commune with the dead), medical intuitives (psychics who "see" illness and disease) and a slew of palmists and tarot-card readers. I also learned that there aren't many fortunetellers around thanks to a state-mandated fortuneteller license fee of $200.

Ultimately, I sat down with several psychics from each place to see what they had to say about the biz—and to find out how their advice stacked up. Some fed back generalizations while others seemed to know me inside out, bordering on the total spook-out.

The Original Tremont Tea Room

48-50 Winter St., 3rd floor, Boston, (338-8100), *www.tremont-tearoom.com*

When I nervously walked into Boston's oldest psychic boîte, I absorbed the sultry, spooky ambiance: a darkly illuminated salon-like room replete with cosmic-themed decor. I was promptly handed a menu and told to choose from a past-life reading, psychometry (messages from holding objects), dream interpretation and a slew of specials like fire and wax readings. The motley group of a dozen or so staffers was eager to chat.

Alex Palermo explains how much the Tea room has expanded since its inception in 1936, when it flourished as a hope-dispenser for the down-and-outers of the Depression. "It's changed to meet the needs of the people. It's evolved from its tawdry, carnival-like beginning to what it is today—more of a New Age, sort of metaphysical place for learning." They now offer online readings, Reiki (Japanese energy healings), marriage ceremonies and Wicca classes, and are gearing up for a big Halloween bash Oct. 28. It isn't unusual for staffers to stay for decades. "We know each other pretty well," he says. "When you take a room full of people who make their living from what's called 'hypersensitive,' there are bound to be issues."

I opted for a tarot reading with Peter, a former public school teacher and Reiki master who specializes in an integrative method of tarot (a tricky method that used multiple decks of cards). As he whipped through the cards, looking like a croupier of sorts, he instructed me to pick those that "felt right" using my left hand—the intuitive one, apparently. After I shuffled and chose, (trying to somehow avoid the Death card), he flipped them over and nearly jumped out of his chair, shouting, "You're looking for love in all the wrong places!" And then with sad a head shake, "You're *way* more attracted to him than he is to you. Stop selling yourself so short."

PERSONAL "You're coming up on a moody period." (Always likely.) "I see a car." (I want one.) "I'm seeing a television camera." (I have a TV?).

FAMILY "Your sister hates her managerial job and is having commitment issues." (Dead on.)

ROMANCE I'd be shocked if your relationship lasted the year." (Bummer.)

FORECAST "There's a wedding coming up or maybe a baby." (News to me.)

PRICE $20 for 20 minutes; $30 for 30 minutes; combos (runes, tarot) $50; past-life reading, $60.

BOTTOM LINE Unnerving, but some dead-on insights. Very entertaining.

Jacqueline Tennis settles in for a psychic session at Lilah's Card and Palm Reading.

DEB DILA

Marie displays the aftermath of a coffee grounds reading at Open Doors. Below, Erin's aura cam picture reveals her true colors

Lilah's Card and Palm Reading

230 Tremont St., Boston, (451-7294)

Lilah welcomes clients into her hoopla-free living room in a no-nonsense style. A staple in the Boston psychic network, Lilah has been telling fortunes in Boston and Miami for the past 29 years. Now she's set up shop in the Theater District and runs the family biz with her two daughters. No, they don't sit around reading each others' minds—or cards, for that matter. "Never," Lilah says flatly. "It's bad luck." Of all the psychics I met, Lilah, with her eerie habit of staring right through me, was the most unnerving.

Her daughter, Jacqueline, read my palm. Palm reading is more of a character reading than a tarot reading, which is more event related. "People don't have a clear idea of what's happening at the moment," Jacqueline explained as she turned down the volume on the blaring TV. "They get caught up in relationships, their job, their career. It gives people guidance. Now put the $20 in your hands and make two wishes." After taking the money and asking my sign, she gave me an endearing pep talk in a rapid-fire succession of non sequiturs, not necessarily pertaining to me.

PERSONAL "I see a baker in the family." (I make a mean cookie, but that's about it.) "You'll always be independent." (Cool.) You're very organized." (Yeah right.)

FAMILY "Your sister's having hard time, but not for long. You'll have three kids."

RELATIONSHIP "A lot of young girls get very upset when I tell them a relationship isn't going to work out. But they discover later he's not the one. Yours, he's not the one." (darn!)

JOB "You'll go back to school." (maybe.)

PRICE Readings (past and present), $30; tarot, $25; palm, $20

BOTTOM LINE All in all, endearingly random.

Open Doors

395a Washington St., Braintree, (781-843-8224)

Probably the Tea Room's strongest competitor, Open Doors is another mass conglomeration of psychics. It draws 150 to 200 clients a week and attracts big-name speakers and authors, namely soul sister Nancy Garber—a medium with an out-of-this-world rep among her colleagues. A metaphysical-gift and book store, it's also a learning and healing center owned by Richard Lanza, who has worked in holistic medicine for years and now does hypnosis, acupuncture and medium work. He's also got a new radio show called Psychic Hour (Tuesdays at 11am on 1460 WBET).

Intrigued by the finer points of a psychic's lifestyle, I asked about the times he's really spooked himself. "It was the first time when I read somebody and saw that they were going to die. I just didn't know what to do with that. I'm always faced with the whole issue, do I tell the person or not?" The rule at Open Doors, as it is at most places, is that psychics don't unload morbid predictions. "Most readers come from the perspective that they're here to help people," Richard says. "If they see difficulty, the point is to help them prepare for it or help them change it." The 20 Open Door psychics offer all sorts of readings: tarot, psychometry, past-life regressions, dream analysis—plus (get this) an aura cam.

Thinking that my aura couldn't possibly give me another dreary romantic forecast, I started out there. The camera resembles the contraption that takes drivers' license photos, only this one "picks up the colors in your energy field." I put my hands on metal outlines of palms and tried to radiate yellow (that means intelligence) as Richard said something about a small microwave-level electrical charge. Perhaps the camera caught that moment of sudden fear, but a flash went off and out came a picture of me looking surprised and encased in red. According to the five-page printout, I radiate energy, enthusiasm and creativity. Feeling pretty proud, I made my way to a private room to have my coffee grounds read by Marie, a grandmotherly woman from Lebanon. (Having coffee grounds read is a rare treat—most psychics don't offer this specialty.) As she swirled some gooey black coffee around in a china cup, I tried to emit my confident new hue to encourage the coffee sludge to say positive things. It must have worked, because after I tapped the cup, Marie cooed happily. As she examined the swirly patterns, she lavished the compliments, told me I had good taste in clothes and that my boyfriend was very cute. How couldn't I like her?

FORECAST "You've had a very good year." (True.) "You're confused a lot." (I guess so.) "Next week you'll feel much less stress." (Yeah, because this article will be done.)

JOB "You'll go back to school."

ROMANCE "I really like this new boyfriend, he's smart. You'll be engaged by December." (Woah. Is there no middle ground?)

FAMILY "Your sister will get engaged soon, but she can do better. He's too pushy."

FORECAST "You'll get a car around Christmas." (All right!) "You'll remain as calm as you are now." (I'm just tired.) "There's a TV camera in your future—you might make films." (Cool.)

ADVICE "Men are like babies. If you tell them no, then they'll want yes." (I need to see a psychic to know this?)

PRICE $16, 15 minutes, also by phone.

BOTTOM LINE Open Doors has it all—including the aura cam. Go with friends and stay all day.

Psychic Shopping

Where to find books and materials

Seven Stars, 731 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-1317)

This Central Square New Age bookstore offers a wealth of information, as well as referrals to psychics and astrologers. It no longer hosts a psychic fair due to zoning laws, but the staff remains extremely knowledgeable, especially when it comes to the huge selection of tarot and fortunetelling cards (ask what the difference is, and you'll get a 15-minute explanation).

Ritual Arts, 153 Harvard Ave., Allston (787-4157)

A funky spot for astrology and tarot-card readings (by appointment). It's also a good place to stock up on psychic supplies, including incense and occult figurines. Oh yeah, they've also got a black cat and crystals from here to eternity.

Horai-san, 242 Washington St., Brookline Village (277-4321)

The name means "peace" in Japanese, and this moniker is indicative of the store's ambiance. You'll find crystals, books, soothing world music, and yoga and feng shui supplies. You can also get a 25-paged computerized astrology chart reading.

Unicorn Books

1210 Mass. Ave., Arlington, (781-646-3680)

Some psychics see what they do as a form of healing—a way to educate and inform others as a means to make them better. This is the case for Jan Brink, who was schooled as

WENDY MIMRAN

a psychic and a psychologist. And, she regularly points out, the lines between the two fields aren't always clear-cut. Jan, who was a religious studies professor at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, holds a Ph.D. in psychology and is the store's main astrology reader. "It's not fortune-telling," she says. "It's a tool to self-knowledge. I can tell what job you'd be better at and what's in store as seen through your potential." She likes to stress her title as an "intuitive" more than a psychic. "Most therapists are probably a bit psychic, too." Indeed, talking with her certainly reminded me of my few turns in a shrink's office.

The Unicorn draws a more New Age crowd—from high school kids to aging hippies—interested in holistic and yoga classes, resources and psychic counseling services. There's even a cat named Persephone lounging around the huge house. As I received the tour, I gleaned a touchy-feely and highly therapeutic ambiance. There was trance-inducing music, candles and tons of aromatherapy paraphernalia (I felt like a walking incense stick when I left), bumper stickers ("Born OK the First Time") and a quiet porch where you can drink tea.

If you're looking for winning lottery numbers or advice on house-hunting, Unicorn isn't the place for you. Brink calculated my natal chart, a circle diagram divided into 12 segments, called houses. Each house represents a particular area of psyche and life experience based on how the planets align on your birthday. (You can also get your significant other's chart done to see how well-suited you both are.) So how does it work? "Our best guess is to use the systems theory from metaphysics," says Brink. "If you can observe a large system, then you can predict what will happen to the subsystem." As she went into scientific detail, I glazed over, but revived when she started discussing my past lives. "The Saturn return is coming up, which means that great change is in store for you. This is the life where you will go through great spiritual change. With the way all of your planets fall, it's possible that you were a religious figure of some type in a past life."

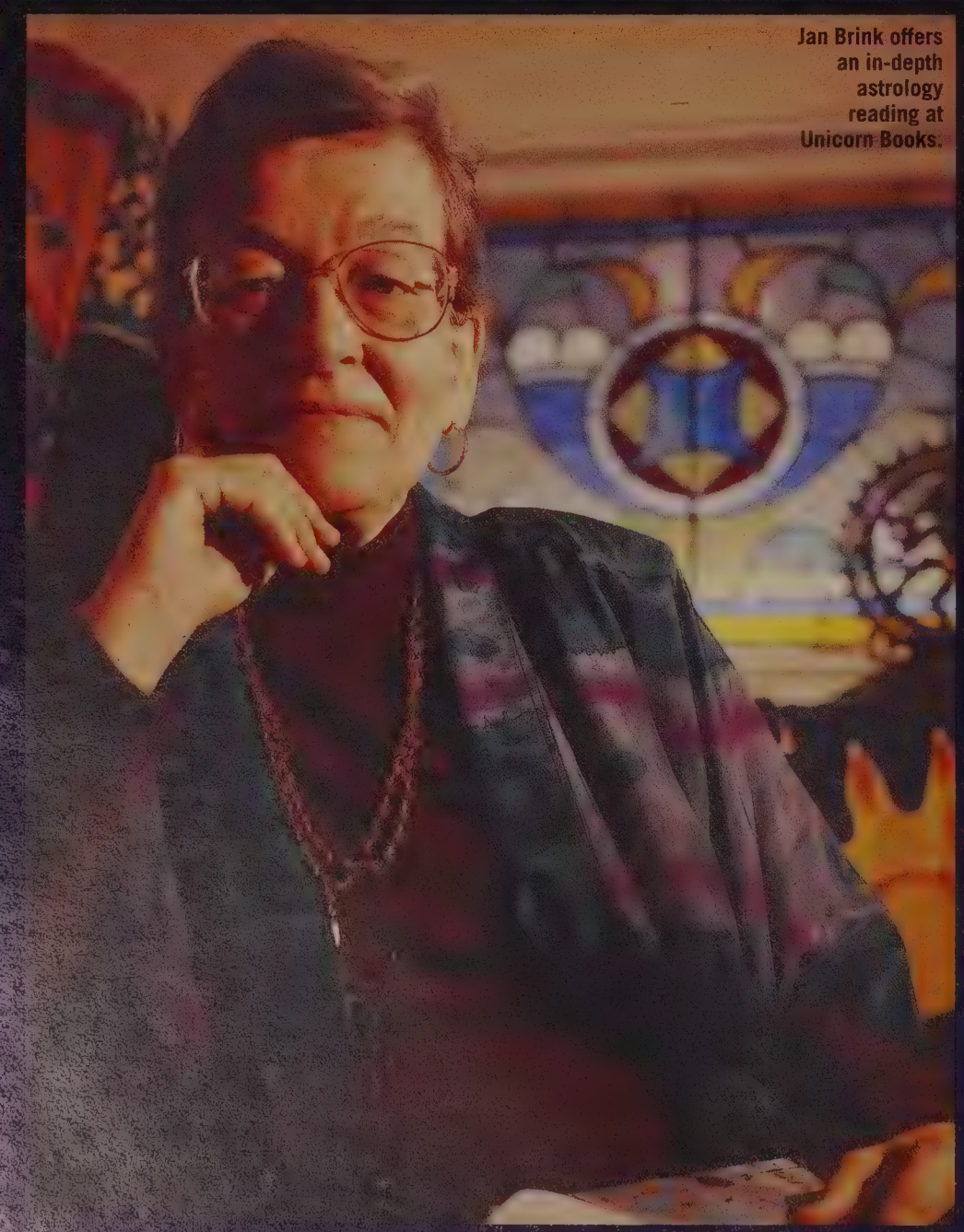
JOB You won't know what you really want to do until you're 40. You'll probably teach at some point. (Plausible.)

ROMANCE DEPT "This is a good time to enjoy the relationship you're in." (Cool.)

FAMILY "You might think your mom didn't pay enough attention to you." (Not really.)

PRICE Birth chart calculated, $4; Natal chart and consultation with Jan, $75-$120; readings, 30 min. for $40 or 60 min. for $65

BOTTOM LINE Viable shrink alternative, extremely relaxing. >>



Jan Brink offers an in-depth astrology reading at Unicorn Books.

Evil-fighters Lorraine and Ed Warren in front of a picture of the famed Amityville house.

Deliver Us from Evil

Ed and Lorraine Warren: Ghost busters

Although not psychics per se, the New England Society for Psychic Research deals with plenty of supernatural phenomena. The society, which bases its ghost-busting techniques on Christian dogma, is situated in the Warrens' house in Monroe, Conn. Essentially, these are two ghost hunters who fly around the world (in planes) to investigate hauntings.

Founded in 1952 by Ed Warren (one of the seven official demonologists in the U.S.) and his spirit-channeling wife, Lorraine, the society and its affiliates investigate 50 to 60 hauntings per month. And in their spare time, they've penned nine books and have been featured on several television series, including MTV's *Fear* and the History Channel's *The Truth About the Amityville Horror* (airing Oct. 31 and Nov. 1).

Sound like a busy schedule for a couple pushing 80? It is. We caught them before they left for a college-circuit lecturing tour (catch them Oct. 28 at Springfield College) right after they returned from Scotland, where they investigated the haunting of a 1422 hotel. It turned out to be pretty standard exorcism, explains Ed matter-of-factly: "It's typical for a place that was previously the site of mass executions. The astrobodies of the earthbound spirits were still there, and it was clear that it had to be exorcised. So we went to a nearby church, got the high church incense [used to call out the spirits] and the holy candle and said our prayers of exorcism." You can see how they rid the hotel of the spirits on Fox TV's *Scariest Ghosts in the World*, which airs Halloween week.

The Warrens have two basic recommendations regarding hauntings:

1) NOT ALL GHOSTS ARE FRIENDLY.

"There are all types of ghosts, millions of them—some people who are killed instantly who don't know they're dead wander about in a daze; some like to hang around their former bodies. Others have made pacts with the devil and stay on earth to haunt. Some are more solid than others—a ghost can kill you, sure."

2) IF A GHOST IS IN YOUR HOUSE, GET HELP IMMEDIATELY.

"Do not pick up a crucifix and wave it around telling the ghost to get out. You'll just make it mad. Don't ever use a Ouija board [an estimated 90 percent of serious cases begin with a Ouija board]. When you call in a spirit, you're asking for trouble. Never do a seance. Also, don't go into an old graveyard unless you're an investigator. They are spawning places for evil spirits that revel in the deterioration of human bodies—that's why ghouls give off such a foul smell. Call in the experts." Visit *www.warrens.net* or call (203) 268-8325.

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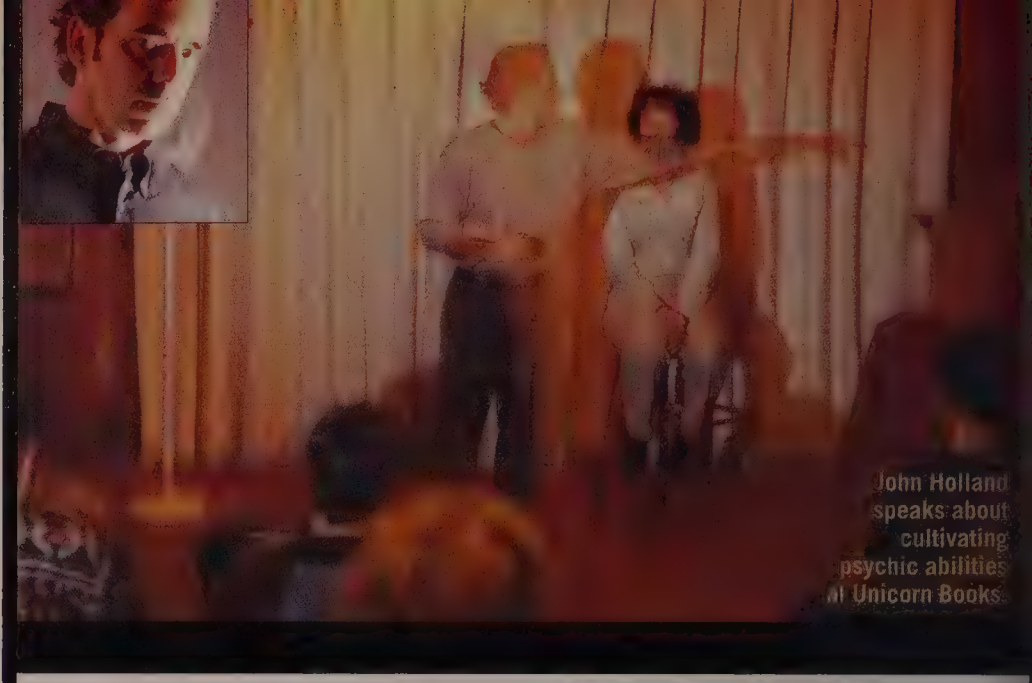

John Holland

Cambridge, (747-4491),
www.psijohn.com

Cambridge-based John Holland was not born with the ability to talk with the dead. When living in California 10 years ago, a serious car accident led him to discover his psychic abilities. He left the States for London to cultivate his newfound powers. In London, he learned that he was, in fact, clairaudient (he hears spirits) as well as clairsentient (he feels spirits). Holland is in high demand these days—well known from his frequent guest stints on WBZ and WBCN radio and from a profile on *Unsolved Mysteries*—resulting in a six-month waiting list to see him. Between teaching, readings and a day job, he rarely takes a breather. I sat in on his two-hour class at the Boston Center for Adult Education: You are Psychic: Learn to Awaken Your Intuitive Voices.

More than 100 eager psychic hopefuls, mostly 40ish white women, sat enraptured (some closed-eyed with outstretched palms) as he explained the energy of colors, chakras and the basics of psychics. "We're all psychic as children but we become desensitized. I tell people to remember how they used to do it," he began. At one point, a woman in a back pew stood up, burst into tears and begged Holland to tell her if her mother had suffered throughout life. He handled it like a pro, taking her backstage to talk in private. "The responsibility is unbelievable," he told me later. "You've got these people in front of you, and they're hanging on every single word. That's why it's good to get some type of counseling skills, which I did."

Holland sees his job primarily as a means of helping the bereaved. But he's anything but melancholy. Very down to earth and upbeat, he was happy to explain the difference between psychics and mediums: A psychic is not always a medium, but a medium is always a psychic. So although Holland can do psychic readings, he concentrates on his mediumship, seeing about 15 clients a week in his Cambridge studio, as well as in workshops and in-business consultations. He's happy to answer the basic "so why you?" question. "I'm good at it because I'm very sensitive. The spirit world overlaps ours. They tune down their frequency; I make mine high enough."

As he opened himself up to try to get some vibes from some of my dead relatives, I was careful to not block one of my chakras (the stomach area is conducive to energy flow), and he picked up someone—possibly my Mom's grandmother?—but it didn't click. The dead are a cryptic lot and besides, I wouldn't have the faintest idea about my great-grandmother. He did offer some insights, though; the creepiest being, "Your sister's being propelled away and she shares a birthday with your Mom, Ileen." My sister just moved away for a job, shares a birthday with my dad, and mom's name is Orlene. (For the record, there's virtually no way he could have known this.)

PERSONAL "I see a Christmas tree over your head—your birthday is in December." (Yep.) "I see a baker." (My cookie-making ability extends into the spirit world.) "I see a TV camera." (Again! I'm destined for stardom.)

PRICE $100 a sitting.

BOTTOM LINE The most down-to-earth psychic I came across. I'm still trying to figure out how he knew some of that stuff. IB

If you go...

- If a psychic says they'll remove an evil spell from your jewelry or de-hex your money, this is a trick. Also, be wary of anyone who asks if you want candles; some charge up to $10 a stick.
- When the psychic asks you what you would like done—tarot, aura reading and so on, it is not, in fact, funny to say "What. You don't know?" They have heard it before.
- Watch out for the standard trick of retrofitting. This is when they toss out several vague clues ("I see the number two") to which you respond accordingly ("Well, I have two sisters") and they say ("Yes, you have two sisters.")
- Tips are standard. If you don't tip, you won't get hexed, but you could certainly get the evil eye.

DEB DILA (2)

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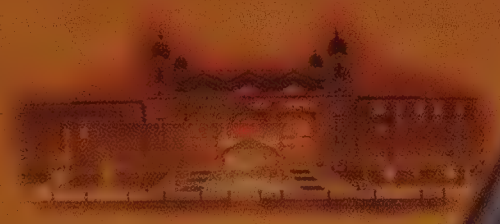

Ellis Island Immigration Museum
Where many fellow immigrants had their names changed.

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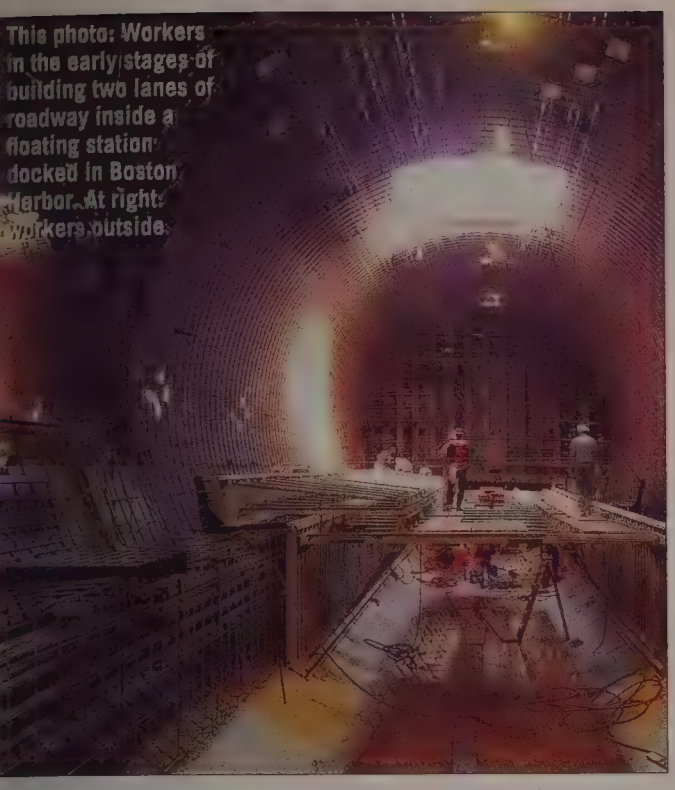
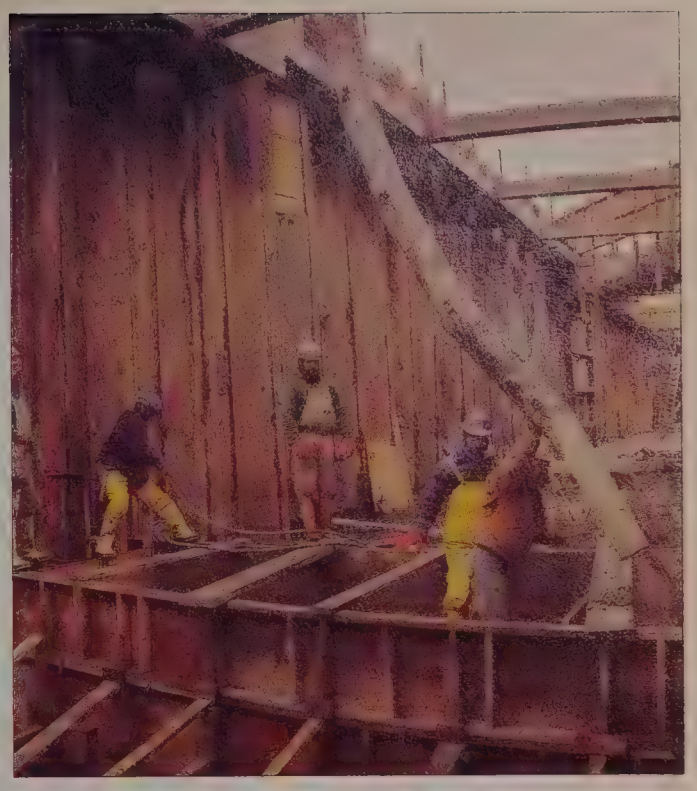
PHOTOGRAPH BY DEB DIL



This photo: Workers in the early stages of building two lanes of roadway inside a floating station docked in Boston Harbor. At right: workers outside.

WHO WROTE THE BOOK OF DIG?



DAN McNICHOL SPENT YEARS FINDING FEEL-GOOD STORIES ABOUT THE BIG DIG FOR THE PRESS. NOW THE FORMER STATE SPOKESMAN HAS WRITTEN THE FIRST BOOK DEDICATED TO THE PROJECT HE LOVES.

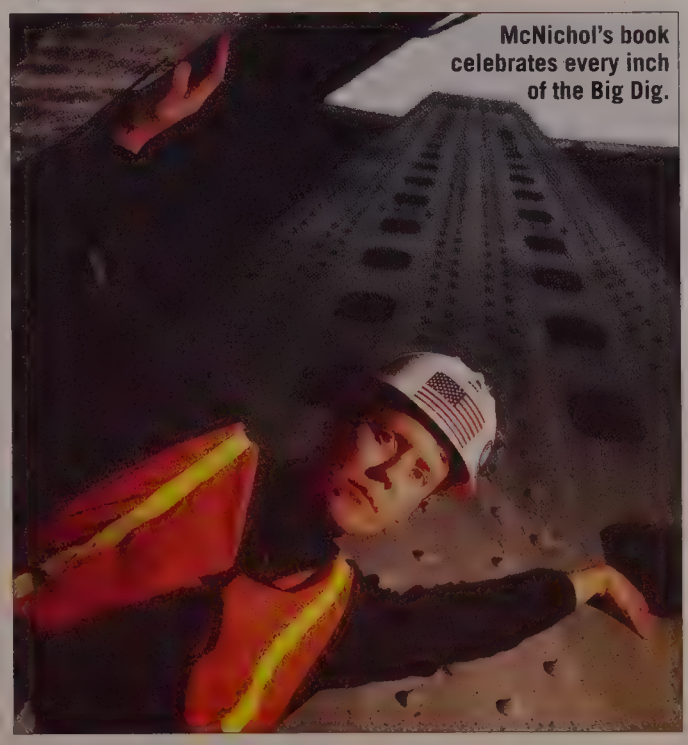
BY ELLEN O'BRIEN

Maybe Dan McNichol is just what the Big Dig needs.

Following a year of criticism, cost overruns, and chaos within the Big Dig bureaucracy, McNichol has written the first book chronicling the historic highway project. Now that might sound like too monstrous an undertaking, or one that could result in a book that reads as dry as dirt. But consider this: McNichol took only nine weeks to pour eight years of working knowledge and undeniable passion into the pages of his debut work. The former deputy director of public affairs for the project, McNichol adores and admires the Big Dig, and he is hoping his hardcover book is appreciated by everyone from engineers and construction workers to urban planners and local residents who want to make sense of the enormous endeavor. In the end, he says, his book is a celebration of the greatest urban construction project in the modern world.

"I've never heard an intelligent argument against the Big Dig. That's because there isn't one," says McNichol, a former salesman, White House appointee (Bush administration) and Big Dig flak whose Pennsylvania family has a long tradition in politics and construction. (His great-grandfather, Sen. Jim McNichol, was the first Irish-American senator from Pennsylvania, and McNichol dedicated the book to his father—"the greatest builder I have ever known.")

"The politics [of the Big Dig] will definitely grind you up," says McNichol, who neatly avoided any of the scandal that surrounded the project in his role as deputy director of public affairs between 1993 and this year. Instead, McNichol was the guy who took reporters and documentary makers to meet the hard hats, the men and women who keep tunneling and digging below the surface of the city while dirt flies in bureaucratic circles above. "I felt like a civil servant," he explains. "I felt like it was my job to help people understand the importance and enormity of this project." McNichol's book: *The Big Dig: the largest urban construction project in the history of the modern world* (Silver Lining Books, $40) will be sent to bookstores by Nov. 1. Of course, the Nov. 2 launch party will be held at the Jacob Wirth restaurant—the spot where engineer and builder Bill Reynolds first sketched his highway plan for then-Secretary of Transportation Frederick P. Salvucci on the back of a dinner napkin.



McNichol's book celebrates every inch of the Big Dig.

In Boston, say McNichol's publishers, booksellers have reported that they could not answer customers who are curious about the construction and want an authoritative voice on the complex project—predicted to cost $15 billion and promising to ameliorate the custom of dreadful Boston driving. McNichol was trying to find the right author for the book, as part of his job requirement, when he realized he was the best candidate out there, he says. "The biggest compliment I have gotten is from engineers," says McNichol, who lectures to professional as well as public groups. "They ask me, 'Where did you get your engineering degree?' I tell them I am a doctor practicing without a license.'"

Make no mistake, McNichol will not be apologizing for any costs, consultants or traffic inconveniences. He says it's no surprise the price tag has risen to $15 billion for the federal-state project. Nor is he apologizing for landing a great loft in the leather district, smack-dab in the middle of the Big Dig, before the market for that space soared. There was no insider trading on information, says McNichol, just a neighborhood tip and the opportunity to live in a building overlooking the trenches of a public project that he literally loves.

To be sure, McNichol was the Big Dig's good-news guy. He donned in-line skates to travel the Ted Williams Tunnel just before its opening (McNichol does not keep a car in Boston; he says it's too expensive. That irony is not lost on him.) And he was alone with the baseball great when he first saw the tunnel named after him.

Still, no matter how bright-eyed, McNichol couldn't have gone unaffected this summer when U.S. Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater named Massachusetts as the state that should be remembered for having betrayed the federal government like none other when massive cost overruns in the federal-state project were revealed. Or could he?

"That hurt," McNichol admits, pausing to assess the damage done to the project. "I felt badly that the public trust had been betrayed," says McNichol. "To me, the Big Dig typifies Boston for all its good—and its bad," he say. The Big Dig represents Boston's proud history of union trade workers—along with the tradition of Massachusetts showcasing back-door, back-patting politics at every turn, McNichol observes.

Rich with full-page images by Andy Ryan, a Big Dig staff photographer, McNichol's book is an appreciation of the engineering marvel.

"Until this book, there wasn't a single source that you could go to if you wanted to know what the Big Dig was all about," says McNichol. "Now there is." iB

TOP LEFT AND RIGHT: FROM *THE BIG DIG*, PHOTOS BY ANDY RYAN; MCNICHOL: DEB DILA

dark

A sad, ethereal beauty wearing simple vintage frocks, she was not

angel

his time. Flowers, candles, a string of white electric—it was useless....

PRODUCED BY SAMANTHA HOUSE
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JESSICA PURSLEY

All clothing supplied by local vintage shops

Opposite page, blue tube dress, $12; this page, cream '40s-style slip dress, $20.

Tangerine babydoll dress, $15. Large pink sequined bobby pin, $10.

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Model:
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for Reinhard

Stylist:
Sharon Cohn

Fashion Assistant:
Cristina Silva

The chill wouldn't leave her. This dark, aquiline beauty was strangely

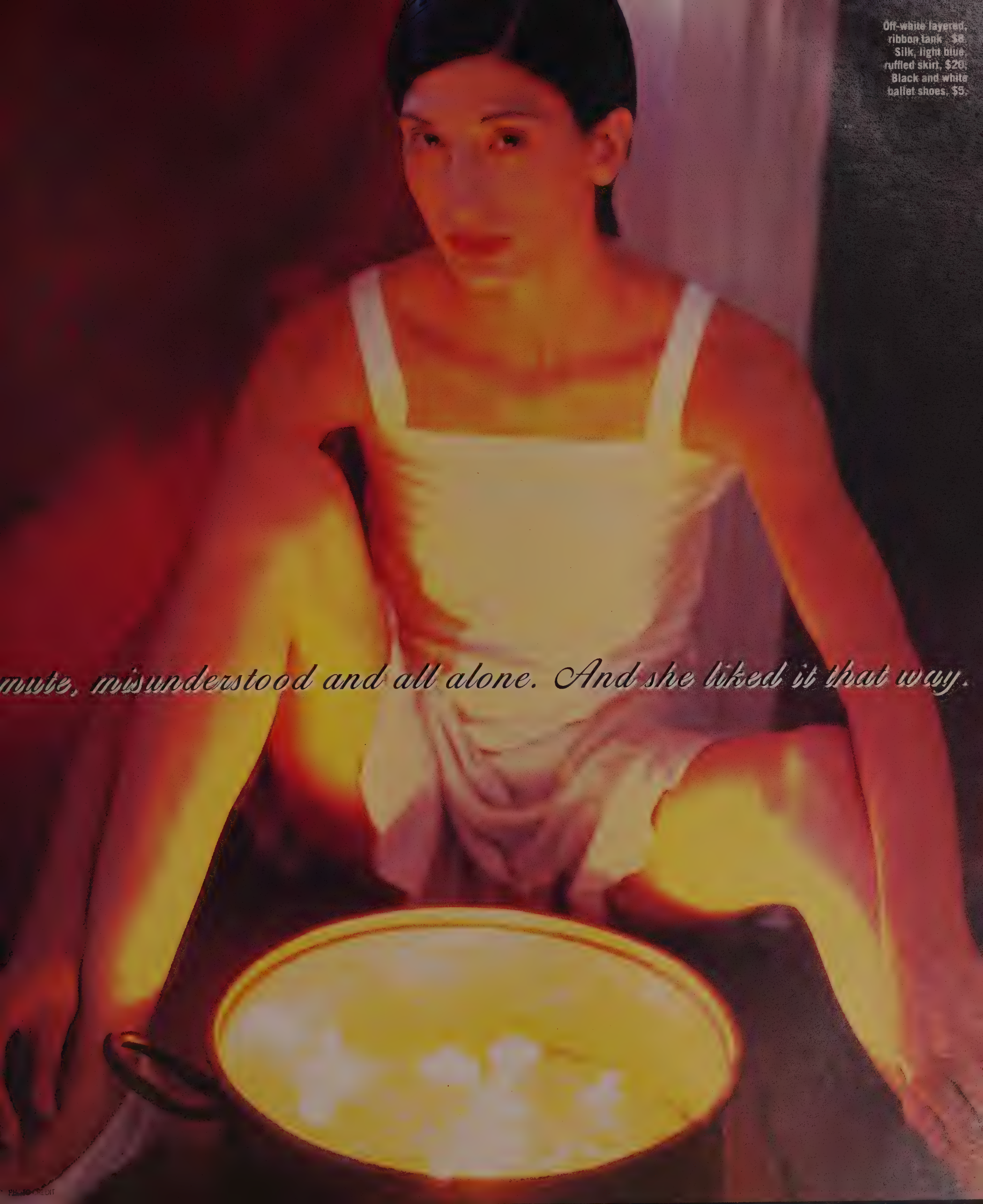

PHOTO CREDIT

As she faded into darkness, a faint smile crept upon her face....

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gloves, $

"It's almost shocking to pay

this little for food this good,

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—*Bon Appétit* magazine, June 2000

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Mopsy

Serendipitous shopping: Our unfettered correspondent seeks out the salubrious and the cerebral.

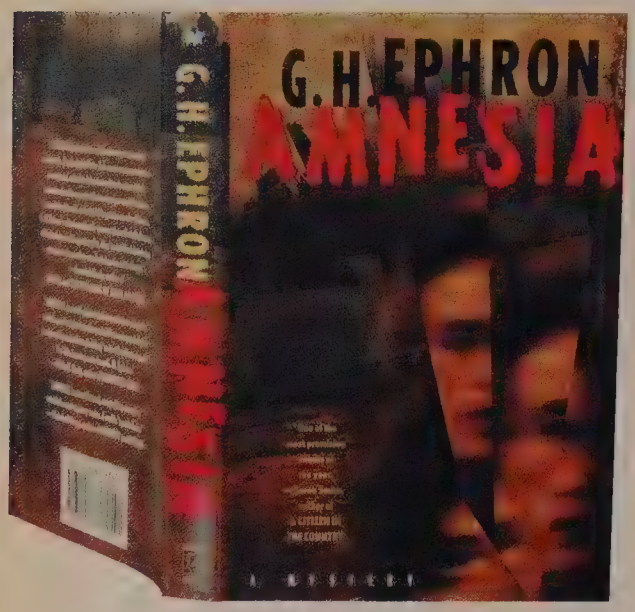
BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY

JEWELS OF LITERARY LIGHT

Daniel Maher Stained Glass has moved from Cambridge to 500 Medford Street, Somerville. 623-8600. He works on restorations, original designs and custom commissions.

Walk into this storefront and design studio when the outside sunlight is at its strongest and get a beautiful blast of stained glass. Maher has restored the stained-glass windows of such substantial ecclesiastical venues as the churches of Trinity and Emmanuel. And, secularly, Maher's studio fully designed the windows at the old Waterstone's on Exeter Street to celebrate literary gods: Twain, Shakespeare, Kerouac, Faulkner. A Cheshire cat, in half tones, responding to the light, does a unique appearing and disappearing act. Using hand painting, or screen painting, Maher and his artists design a range of pieces that could hang free, or be chunked into your house. Stylistically, they are amazingly diverse. A sunburst with light-grabbing bevels casts a surprising colored shadow on your morning floor. Many are abstract, or suggestive of architectural styles: There's a squared-off prairie window, a swirly art-deco medley, and a "nugget" that bursts into a slightly irregular hippie shape. One ambitious piece, *Exquisite Fish*, has different panels, in the wildest patchwork of styles—romantic, industrial, space-shippy, poetic, clever.

"No ashtray is safe from me," says Mayer, pointing to glass " fish-scales" made from the fat ripples of just such glass.

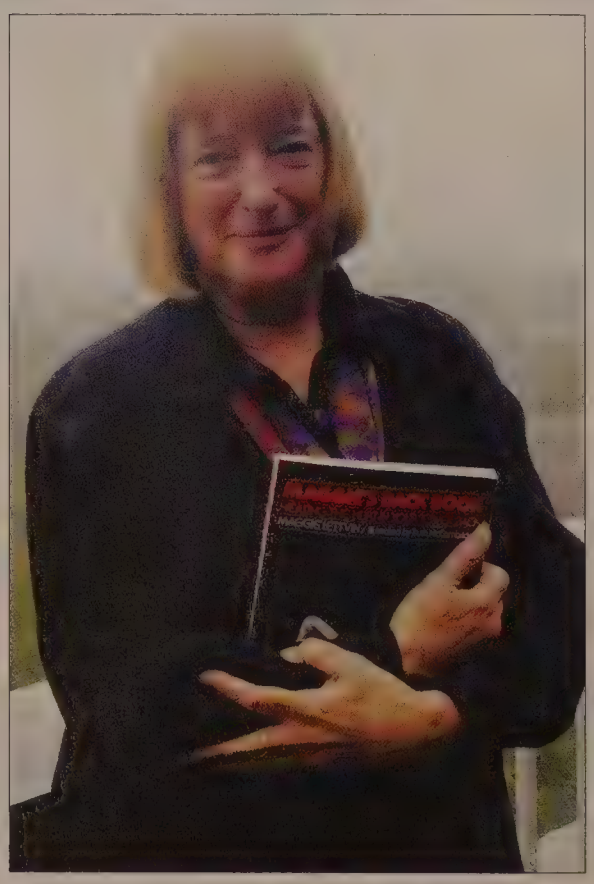


THE BOOK OF MURDER AND FORGETTING

A new mystery, *Amnesia*, by Hallie Ephron and A.A. Greeley, is published under the pseudonym G.H. Ephron.

The setting is Cambridge; the tone is zippy and confident. The guy we're watching is Dr. Peter Zak, a forensic psychologist who used to work for the public defenders and who practices at a hospital much like McLean. Reluctant to continue his psychologist-sleuthing since his wife was murdered, he nonetheless gets pulled into the case of Sylvia Jackson, a woman whose boyfriend had been killed. Sylvia, who was also wounded in the shooting and lost her memory of the crime, remains seductive, even in her compromised state. To piece together the crime, Zak leads her through the blurry world of her Rorschach associations.

Meanwhile, his workday mental-hospital life brings him in contact with a disturbed patient. This woman, whose own story of abuse, real or cooked up by the wonderfully drawn, Dr. Baldridge, a shady, sexual-abuse hound who gets entangled with Sylvia's case. Exciting questions of memory's slippery ways—in amnesia, trauma, legal probing and through slimy manipulations of all kinds—abound in *Amnesia*. Meanwhile, someone's got it in for Zak himself. One of the authors is A.A. Greeley, a psychologist. And yes, Hallie Ephron is the talented fourth sister of writers Nora, Delia and Amy. Eat your *Heartburn* out, Nora.



HAVE A FINE SPINE

Maggie Lettvin, doyenne of exercise on WGBH for decades, now can be found on maggiesback.com, which offers personalized help for slouchers.

Maggie of *The Beautiful Machine* and *Maggie's Back Book* promoted energy, posturepedic flexibility and good feelings on TV and in wildly energetic aerobic classes for decades. Now, regarding that aching back, neck, arms and butt of yours, she offers her diagnostic and prescriptive powers on the Web. Click on to *maggiesback.com*, and she will take you through an elaborate, highly specific set of questions about your own suffering body. Maggie's questions focus on your slouchy or stressy pain-producing posture. Through your answers, you pinpoint for yourself just what's wrong.

You are asked to place a charming little radiating blob, representing pain, precisely on the "ouch spot" on a pictured silhouette, turning up the "volume" to convey the pain's intensity. ("Use the mouse. Enjoy!" laughs real-life Maggie.) The outcome is Maggie's personalized, confidential program (not for the eyes of prying insurance companies) specifying many exercises and postures designed to alleviate your particular woes." I want to get people out of pain as fast as possible." (Maggie, herself, does an hour of exercise before getting out of bed.)

Many exercises can be done leaning against walls, stretching strategically, or lying in bed or draped over chairs, rolling and rocking your neck.

BOOK & LETTVIN: MICHELLE MCCORMACK, STAINED GLASS: WENDY MIMRAN

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INSIDE: Dean Nivaud arrives at Newbury College; Paniagua takes Johnny D's menu upscale

REVIEW

Spain in Somerville

From food to ambiance to value, Dali gets it right.

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRAD ZIEGLER

Dali waiter Gato arrives with a plethora of culinary delights.

The person who wrote that the three most important things about a retail establishment are location, location and location obviously never visited Dali. Hidden on traffic-clogged Washington Street in a mixed-use neighborhood in Somerville, near the Cambridge line, Dali is not a place you would happen upon by accident. Parking can be difficult, and the exterior of the building it shares with a tavern would be unremarkable but for the lush plants and flowers filling its window boxes in the summer and early fall.

A rustic, barn-wood exterior door opens to an animated, extravagantly decorated bistro. Once inside, one is confronted with a lively bar, pleasantly cluttered with hangings of hams and bunches of garlic and peppers. A print of Goya's *Naked Maja* hangs behind the bar, and upbeat Spanish recorded music competes with spirited conversation and boisterous merrymaking. Two steps down from the bar area is a small dining room that seats about 30 at tables decorated with colorful, inlaid Iberian tiles. Plates, fans and figurines hang on the red walls, punctuated by two or three art deco, starburst sconces. A larger dining room farther back accommodates about 40 patrons.

Once you've settled in, a soft spread composed of garbanzo beans, garlic and mushrooms accompanies the bread. Dali's wine list, almost entirely Spanish, offers wines across a broad price range, including several very reasonably priced, under-$20 selections. The 1994 Castillo de Almansa Riserva ($26) was mellow but well structured, with a rich, full bouquet. The waiter decanted it into a silver-and-glass, duck-shaped decanter to aerate it. When I expressed interest in the wine, he graciously offered to steam off the label so that we could take it home. Another red, the 1995 Faustina V Riserva ($26) was enjoyable but was not as elegant as the Almansa.

As befits a Spanish restaurant, Dali offers an array of tapas, ranging in price from $3 to $7.50. These are more like appetizers rather than real tapas, which in Spain are very small treats—usually only a mouthful— served with drinks, at prices that seem almost nominal. The most enjoyable of Dali's tapas were the *alcachofas rebozadas* ($5.50), two big, lovely artichokes, lightly breaded and sautéed in saffron butter. The clear flavor of the artichokes combined with the exotic nuance of saffron, enhanced with a squeeze of fresh lemon, rendered this a sublime treat. *Chorizo a la plancha* ($5) and *butifarras con brevas* ($6) were two different sausage options. While the chorizo was the familiar red, mild grilled Spanish sausage that is often encountered, the coarse-textured, flavorful *butifarras,* served with figs in a sweet and tangy sauce, was as delicious as it was different. Finally, *lombarda rellena* ($5.50), cabbage stuffed with beef and rice, was the Spanish answer

Clockwise, from top: Mussels with avocado; goat cheese with tomato sauce; pork sausage with figs; and pimento stuffed with shrimp. In the center, there is a small bowl of marinated olives.

to Polish *golubka*, served with a rich, brown sauce. In a singular departure from Dali's otherwise flawless performance, the stuffed cabbage was a tad too salty.

Among the main courses, Dali serves one called *Piedra* ($21), named for a stone from the Canary Islands, that is brought hot to the table. After lathering the stone's surface with peanut oil and fresh rosemary, the waiter carefully laid a feast of delicacies—beef tenderloin, chicken breast, sausage slices, shrimp, sea scallops, cod fillets, squid, garlic, scallions, onions, peppers and portobello mushrooms—onto this sizzling griddle, which emitted wonderful, rosemary infused aromas. We found the *Piedra* a good substitute for tapas as a first course, yielding ample treats for the whole table.

Main courses at Dali were uniformly excellent. The *conejo escabechado* ($18) was rabbit braised in a rich, sweet-and-sour sauce flavored with juniper berries, cinnamon, chilies and sherry vinegar. This complex, delicious dish was a little difficult to eat, since the rich, dark sauce obscured the myriad of bones, but it was worth the effort. Served in an earthenware bowl, it was accompanied by a cold salad of potatoes, spinach, peas, corn, cumin and garlic that provided a good counterpoint to the richness of the sauce.

Cordero asado ($19) was misnamed but superb nonetheless. *Cordero asado* is a Castillian specialty—roast suckling lamb, with crackling-crisp skin. Dali's *cordero asado* was a grilled lamb steak, rare and tender, boldly flavored with warm Mediterranean herbs, including bay leaf, together with the garlic.

On the seafood side of the menu, the *pescado a la sal* ($24), was spectacular. This was a whole small sea bass, baked in a shroud of coarse sea salt in the style of Cadiz. Our waiter warned us that the dish took 25 minutes to prepare, but we were more than rewarded by the result. The waiter first presented the bass buried under the salt, then brushed the salt away and expertly extricated the firm, delicate, white fillets from the bones. A selection of sauces, which also accompanied the *Piedra*, included an onion-pepper vinaigrette, along with a mild, coriander-spiked mayonnaise.

Last, but certainly not least, was Dali's *paella* ($23). Served in an authentic, two-handled *paella* pan, this extravaganza of red and brown sausage, chicken, clams, mussels, shrimp, cod, sea scallops, squid, peas, red and green peppers, and artichoke hearts was baked, along with saffron-infused rice, to the point of perfect texture. The fish was firm, the shrimp crunchy, the chicken and sausages succulent and the rice al dente.

Dali's desserts included "ubiquitous *flan*" ($4), which despite its self-deprecating but descriptive name, was most appealing. Even better was the *arroz con leche* ($4.50), a wonderful rice pudding laced with "crackle glaze" and fresh berries. This combination of a rice pudding and crème brulee was at once sweet, tangy and creamy—a real triumph.

Dali' s food, consistently superior, was among the most enjoyable we have encountered in the Boston area. From a value viewpoint—what the French call "*rapport prix qualité*"—it is unbeatable. Served with friendly grace and polish, in an atmosphere of conviviality and hospitality, a meal at Dali is well worth fighting for a parking space near the restaurant. **iB**

Dali

415 Washington St., Somerville (661-3254)

HOURS 5:30-11pm every night

RESERVATIONS Sun-Wed; parties of six or more until 6:30pm

CREDIT CARDS all major except Discover

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE yes

PARKING street

LIQUOR LICENSE wine and beer

DISH

Newbury Nabs Nivaud

Hotelier Nivaud adds class to Newbury College; Stars, bars and kitchen hopping

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

This portrait of Radius chef/owner Michael Schlow is in the Mondavi collection. See next issue for more Dish on the Mondavi dinner.

Once upon a time, Newbury College, a two-year school with low-profile programs in hotel management and culinary arts, slumbered like Sleeping Beauty in the midst of one of Brookline's poshest neighborhoods. Enter the prince of destiny: **Francois Nivaud**, who as general manager of the **Boston Harbor Hotel** created the renowned Boston Wine Festival more than 10 years ago.

Nivaud, who assumes the newly created position of dean of the School of Hotel, Culinary and Tourism, says his goal is to "reposition the college as the finest and most successful school of its kind in New England, if not the country." Taking advantage of Boston's hot hotel market, Nivaud plans to establish liaisons between hotels and Newbury that will serve as "a model of relationship."

He'll work closely with the college's president, Dr. Roy Nirschel, who praises Nivaud as "a giant in the area of cuisine and hospitality." Nirschel has set the stage for a full-scale makeover of the school by establishing a four-year bachelor's degree program, adding **Roger Saunders** and **Chris Spinnazzola** to the Board of Trustees, forging links to major hotels and restaurants, and promising a slew of "exciting new innovations."

Also back in Boston, albeit temporarily, is **Kevin Long**, executive chef at **Tosca** in Hingham. He's taking the helm "full-time, technically," he says, to open the new **Stars on Huntington**, "but running around a lot" to keep the Tosca kitchen in top form. Stars, which is brought to you by the same EatWell folks behind Tosca, **Waterworks**, and the Stars in Hingham, will feature "American-style food, with everything made from scratch," says Long. For example? "Really good fish'n'chips, grilled ribeye with wild-mushroom sauce and housemade fries, pan-roasted cod with vegetable succotash." Sounds really good to us.

Chef **Enrique Paniagua**, who you may remember from a stint at the **Ironside Grill** in Charlestown several years back, has popped up in an unlikely place: **Johnny D's** in Somerville. Yes, it's basically a casual music club whose clientele is more likely to focus on hearing The Love Dogs than eating luscious lobster salad with warm grilled pears. But before showtime at 9:30, Paniagua's appealing menu features selections like duck confit quesadillas; a "tower" of red snapper, wontons, sweet potato puree and watercress; and a killer dessert of crackly caramelized bananas with coconut ice cream. Hottest of all: for the next several months, the club's half-price promotion means you can eat an upscale dinner between 4:30pm and 6:30pm and have money to spend for the rest of the night. Think of it as an Early Bird Special for cool people like yourself.

Pastry, present and future: **Joanne Chang**, formerly pastry chef at **Rialto** and **Mistral**, has opened **Flour Bakery+ Café** at 1595 Washington Street (corner of Rutland St.) in the South End. From breakfast sticky buns and brioche to tuscan sopressata sandwiches and homemade pop tarts, it's an irresistible threat to the low-carb cult.

Also on the dessert front, **Lee Napoli** has packed her pastry bag and made her move from **Anago** at The Lenox Hotel to **Grill 23 & Bar**. One of Boston's best-known pastry chefs, Napoli is founder and president of the Professional Pastry Guild of New England.

Chef **Ruth-Anne Adams** has washed the **Red Clay** off her hands and headed to Harvard Square to head up the kitchen at **Casablanca**. Back at the Atrium in Chestnut Hill, dining room manager **Simon de Swaan** says the parting was entirely amicable, and that Adams' replacement, **Frank Vasello**, will "keep the continuity going." No surprise there—Vasello worked for **Jody Adams** and **Michaela Larson** at Rialto for "many years, since Rialto opened," says de Swaan.

Across Harvard Square, **UpStairs at the Pudding** has hired a new dining room manager. He's **Richard Brunson**, who wrote the "Brunson's Burner" column that preceded the current Dish (for extra-special treatment, compliment him on his bow tie.) iB

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant? Send it to dish@improper.com

Tastings BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for tastings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

EVENTS

Appellation Dinner Series
Butterfish, 5 Craigie Circle, Cambridge (497-5511). Oct. 18, 6:30pm. $80. Chef **Christopher Bussell** prepares a four-course dinner with wine pairings from the Sonoma County appellation of Dry Creek Valley.

French Regional Cuisine
The French Library and Cultural Center, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (266-4351). Oct. 23, 6:30pm. $85. **Antoine Camin** of Brasserie Jo introduces you to three courses from the Burgundy region of France, matched with an appropriate wine.

Guest Chef Cooking Demos
Williams-Sonoma, 100 Huntington Ave., Boston (262-3080). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. •Oct. 21, 12pm: **Heather McDonald** of Harvest. •Oct. 28, 12pm. **Clarke Congdon** of Atlantic 101.

A Guide to Fine Scotch Whiskey
The Green Briar, 304 Washington St., Brighton (730-2700). Oct. 24, 6-9pm. $25. Sample and compare Scotch whiskey blends with **Ian Baylis**.

Halloween Boo-fet
Cafe Fleuri at Le Meridien, 250 Franklin St., Boston (451-1900). Oct. 28, 12-3pm. $23. The popular Chocolate Bar will feature Halloween-themed desserts. Wear a costume.

Homebrewing with Chip Jarry
Elizabeth Bishop Wine Resource Center, 808 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-9852). Oct. 18, 6:30-8:30pm. $40. Learn the basics of brewing with **Chip Jarry**.

Martinez Buianda Dinner
Cafe Fleuri at Le Meridien, 250 Franklin St., Boston (451-1900). Oct. 18, 7pm. $39.95. Enjoy a three-course dinner featuring Spanish specialties.

Mondavi Dinner
Radius, 8 High St., Boston (426-1234). Oct. 18. $175. **Robert** and **Margritt Mondavi** join guest chefs **James Laird** of Restaurant Serenade and **Robert Sulatycky** of Truffles for a seven-course wine makers dinner hosted by owners **Christopher Myers** and **Michael Schlow**.

Multi-Cultural Dinner
YWCA, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (351-7644). Oct. 18, 6-8pm. Free. Feast on a meal featuring food from Boston's diverse communities.

Olivier Leflaive Wine Dinner
Maison Robert, 45 School St., Boston (227-3371). Oct. 25. $80. Export director **Philip Tuinder** pours four of the Leflaive brothers' acclaimed burgundies, accompanied by a four-course dinner.

Portuguese Dinner
Gala Ristorante, 138 Mass. Ave., Arlington (781-646-1404). Oct. 23, 6:30pm. $50. Celebrate the Linguicia region of Portugal with a buffet of linguica, blood sausage, pork ribs and yams.

Seasonal Beer Tasting
Big City, 138 Brighton Ave., Boston (353-9852). Oct. 30, 6pm. $40. **Matt Kadish**, owner of the Sunset Grill and Big City, teams up with the *Herald*'s Mat Schaeffer to introduce seasonal beers.

The Wines of France
53 Marlborough St., Boston (266-4351). Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13 and 20, 6:30-8:30pm. $180. Taste France's favorite regional wines and cheeses with No. 9 Park's wine director, **Cat Silirie**.

Wine Dinner Series
Up Stairs at the Pudding, Cambridge (864-1933). Every other Wednesday at 7pm. $70. Enjoy flights of wines complemented by Chef **Deborah Hughes**' cuisine. •Oct. 18: Roaming the Rhone.

TASTY TIDBIT

COFFEE 101

There's an old *Simpsons* episode in which Bart walks through a mall, only to discover that every storefront is a Starbucks. That's not far from the truth in downtown Seattle, I learned last week while attending Starbucks' Coffee College at the company headquarters. There's a Starbucks on every corner. So much for the proliferation of Seattle's famed independent coffeehouses.

But the loving care that goes into each cup of Starbucks java is worthy of note.

Starbucks tasters (yes, that's an official job title) sample up to 300 cups of coffee in one day. I tried a mere 12 varieties and was bouncing off the walls by the end. (Who knew I was supposed to swirl and spit?) Taster Cecile Hudon took me through the official tasting process: First we sniffed 12 cups of dry ground coffee. Did I smell caramel, citrus or herbs? Nope—more like burnt nuts. Clearly, I failed as a sniffer. She added eight ounces of boiling water to each cup and let it steep for several minutes. With a metal spoon, I broke the crust that formed on top, allowing the nuances of aroma to waft upward. Did I picture fruit, cocoa or curry? Negative again.

O.K., I thought, maybe I'll do better in the tasting. Hudon skimmed the residue off the top and filled a shot glass with an inch of the dark liquid. I slurped a mouthful, allowing air and coffee to enter my mouth at the same time to aerate the brew. "How does it feel on the tongue?" she asked. Panic set in. I looked around at my fellow classmates, trying to peek at their notes. My God, I've resorted to cheating at Coffee College! "Um...dirt?" I ventured. Wrong! They sent me home—and all I brought back was this lousy apron. —*J.S.*

SCHLOW: PAINTING BY RISE DELMAR OCHSNER

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agenda

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN OR OUT IN BOSTON.

Scarin' Erin and spooky Joolie

Boo!
Get spooked on Halloween at Spooky World. (See CityScope.)

WENDY MIMRAN

THE CALENDAR GIRLS'

improper picks

Too busy (or just too lazy) to plan your own schedule? Life doesn't get easier than this.

Wednesday, Oct. 18

Erin: **Bill Bradley** speaks at Barnes and Noble. (See Books & Poetry.) Also, the Ninja Tune records tour comes to the Middle East, featuring **Cold Cut**—with a full-on multimedia extravaganza. (See Music.)
Julie: If you're interested in helping others, don't miss the BCAE's **Volunteer Fair** at the Marriott Copley Plaza. More than 150 non-profits will be in attendance. (See CityScope.)

Thursday, Oct. 19

Erin: Kathleen Turner comes to town for the Colonial's production of ***Tallulah***. (See Performing Arts.) Also, **Moby**'s at Avalon. (See Music.)
Julie: The IMPROPER hosts a fashion show/cocktail party in honor of **Pravda 116**'s one-year anniversary. (See CityScope.)

Friday, Oct. 20

Julie: The Boston Academy of Music celebrates composer Kurt Weill with a lavish production of ***Lady in the Dark*** at the Emerson Majestic Theatre. (See Performing Arts.)
Erin: The Greatest Show on Earth is in town at the FleetCenter: the **Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus**. (See CityScope.)

Saturday, Oct. 21

Erin: **Gwar** and the (new) **Misfits** play at the Worcester Palladium. Also, scores of Olympic ice skaters perform at Harvard for **An Evening of Champions**. (See Sports.)
Julie: It's **Head of the Charles** time again, so head down to the Charles. (See CityScope.)

Sunday, Oct. 22

Julie: Today's the last day of **Fashion Week 2000**. Attend the **Style on Sale** event during the day and then head to the closing party at Aria at night. (See CityScope.)
Erin: The Brattle's **Marlene on Screen** series brings *Destry Rides Again* to the big screen. (See Film.)

Monday, Oct. 23

Erin and **Julie**: The Bayside Expo Center invites some 75,000 people to revel in the six-day **Boston International Festival**, an event featuring exotic food, dance, music and crafts. (See CityScope.)

Tuesday, Oct. 24

Erin: Re-visit the Paradise and see **Ozric Tentacles** and **Star People** (See Music.)
Julie: The Boston Ballet presents the Russian classic ***La Bayadère*** at the Wang Theatre. (See Performing Arts.)

Wednesday, Oct. 25

Julie: **I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change** is a hysterical musical review of the modern-day mating game. (See Performing Arts.)
Erin: See rock rebels **Southern Culture on the Skids** downstairs at the Middle East. Also, **7L** and **Esoteric** are at Axis. (See Music.)

Thursday, Oct. 26

Julie: The 20-year-old **Mark Morris Dance Group** performs a series of works at the Shubert Theatre. (See Performing Arts.)
Erin: **Ani DiFranco** and **Sara Lee** perform at the Orpheum. (See Music.)

Friday, Oct. 27

Julie: It's a night of masquerades. I'll be heading to the Boston Ski & Sports Club's **Halloween Masquerade Ball** at the Royal Sonesta Hotel. (See City Scope.)
Erin: Head to the **Eyes Wide Shut Masquerade Ball** at the Tremont House. Or, **Rounder Records** continues its 30th anniversary celebration at Lilli's. (See Music.)

Saturday, Oct. 28

Julie: It's the last night to catch the Boston Center for the Arts' off-Broadway hit, ***Fuddy Meers***. (See Performing Arts.)
Erin: The **Linwood Halloween Show** features all sorts of great bands—including the (tribute band) Misfits. (See Music.)

Sunday, Oct. 29

Julie: America's top soccer players go head-to-head at the **Women's Soccer Challenge**, featuring such greats as Mia Hamm. (See Sports.)
Erin: The **Library Lovers' Evening** features novelists Elinor Lipman and Barbara Delinsky and *Globe* columnist Alex Beam, among others. (See CityScope.)

Monday, Oct. 30

Julie: The **World Wrestling Federation** (that's WWF!) presents **Raw Is War** at the FleetCenter. (See Sports.)
Erin: Gee, that sounds like fun, but I think I'll head to Big City for a **Seasonal Beer Tasting** with owner Matt Kadish. (See Tastings.)

Tuesday, Oct. 31

Julie: I'll be throwing on my running shoes and a costume for the IMPROPER's annual **Halloween Fun Run** through the streets of Boston. (See Sports.)
Erin: The **Hot Rod Rally!** at the ICA celebrates the new exhibition, *Customized: Art Inspired by Hot Rods, Low Riders & American Car Culture*. (See Art.) Plus, ***Evil Dead II*** screens at the Brattle. (See Film.)

CITYSCOPE **46** • PERFORMING ARTS **52** • ART **56** • FILM **60** • BOOKS & POETRY **66** • EDUCATION **67** • DANCE CLUBS **68** • MUSIC **70** CLASSICAL MUSIC **76** • GAY & LESBIAN **78** • BODY & MIND **80** • CHILDREN **80** • SPORTS **80** • GO AWAY **81**.
EDITED BY **ERIN HAGEDORN:** Art, Books & Poetry, Dance, Dance Clubs, Film, Gay & Lesbian, Go Away, Music. EDITED BY **JULIE SHORT:** Children, CityScope, Comedy, Education, Go Away, Sales & Fashion, Sports, Tastings, Theater. ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY: **Laurel Kirtz** Body & Mind • **Paul Sherman:** Film Capsules

Boston's Best 1997 — The Improper Bostonian Magazine

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Boston's Best 2000 — The Improper Bostonian Magazine

On Saturday, October 28th,

E! Entertainment is back!

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"Wild on E!" and win a $1000 cash prize for the

most creative, exotic, erotic Halloween costum

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inside RACK

Every Monday — "Celebrity Night" hosted by Back Bay Beat Com's S.J. Torres featuring Chad LaMarsh. Join The Rack, Back Bay Coyote girls, and Fox Sports FOX SPORTS NET for gridiron football, pool and nightlife that can't be beat. It's a night you will never forget or may not be able to remember!

Wednesday, October 18th — Open casting call for "Barstool Confessions". Wanted: Women or Men to host an interactive reality television show live from The Rack. Persons must have great on-camera personality and willing to work in a live environment. 1pm-7pm.

Wednesday, October 25th — "Most Eligible Bostonians Party" hosted by The Boston Herald and The Inside Track. Visit Bostonherald.com to see the 50 Most Eligible Bostonian Finalists. Vote daily for the Most Eligible Bostonians of your choice. Two nominees (one man and one women) will be eliminated each day as a result of viewer voting. Sound familiar??? Five men and five women will remain and winners will be announced here at The Rack. Hit Squad will break the ice 6pm- 2am.

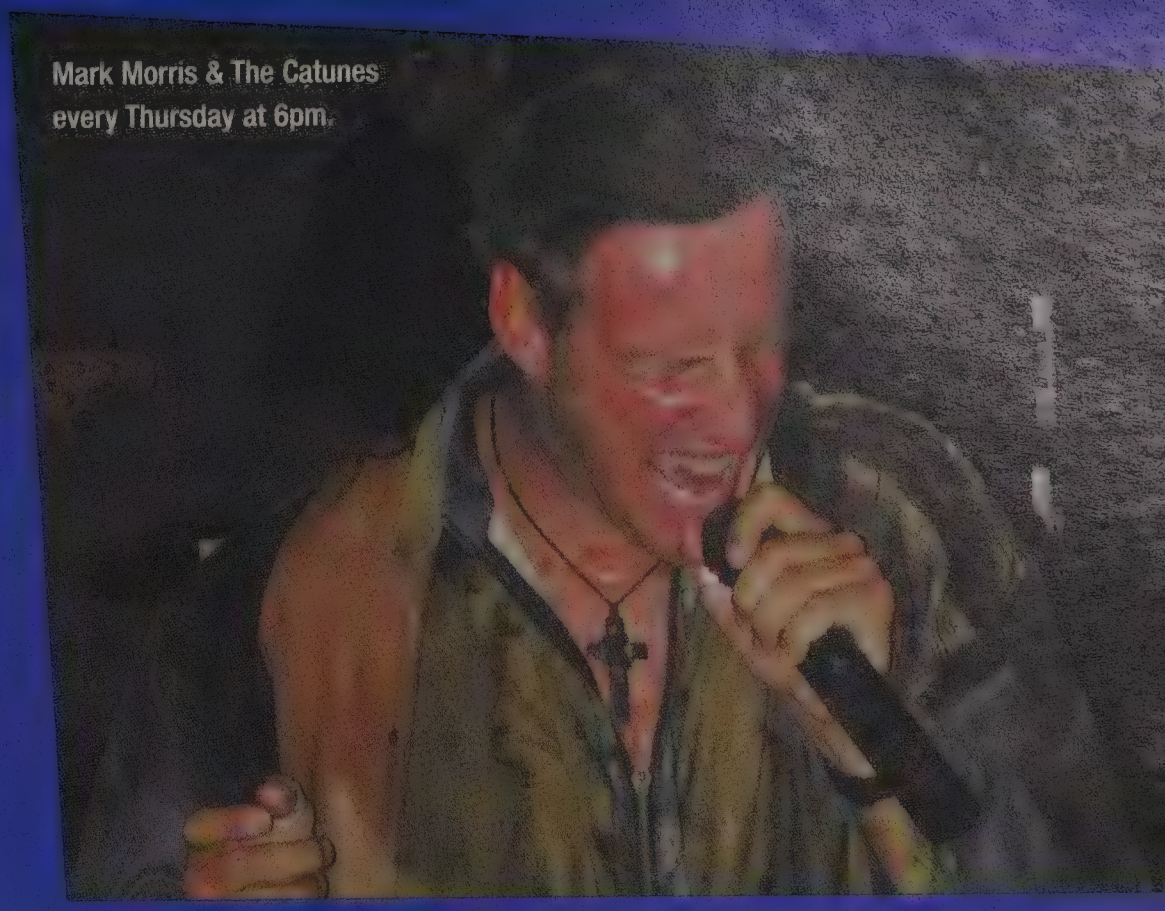
Tuesday, October 31st — 6th Annual HALLOWEEN Fun Run to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation presented by *The Improper Bostonian*. Join us and WBCN's Cha Cha for the Post Race Party and Costume contest! Dancing all night with D.J. Stephen Walker!

THE

Red Sox pitcher, Tim Wakefield and Jeff Fussero

24 Clinton Street, Boston 02109 617.725.1051 www.therackboston.com

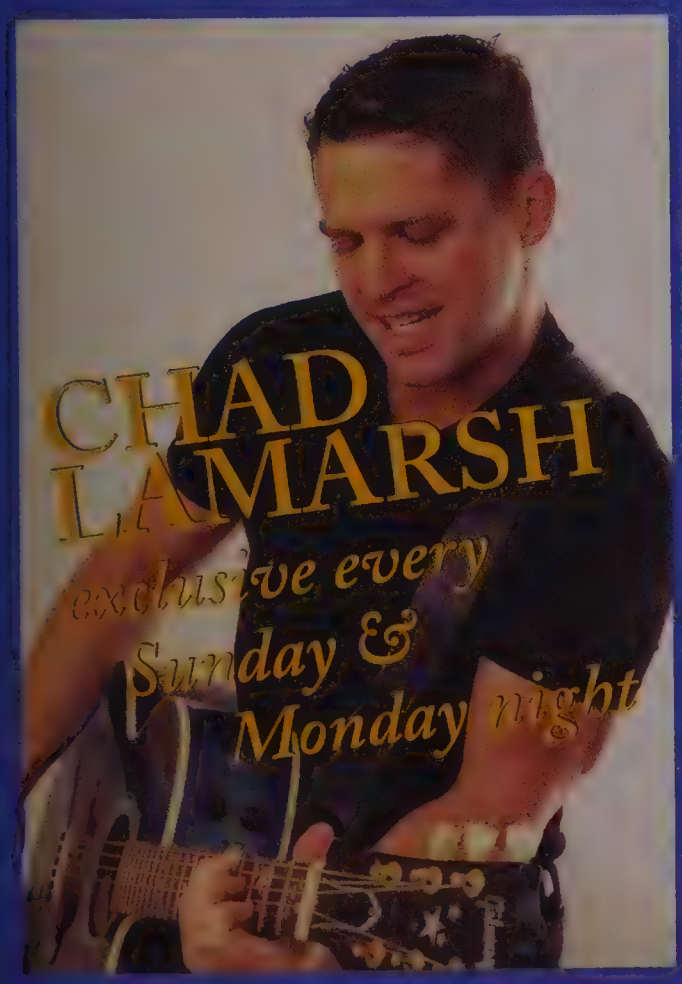
WBCN's Cha Chi and Improper's Wendy Semonian.



Mark Morris & The Catunes
every Thursday at 6pm.

RACK

Heavyweight Boxer,
Johnny Ruiz, flashes
his knock-out smile



Mix 98.5's Lynn Hoffman with
Record Producer Howie Altholtz.

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cityscope

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a list of festivals, events and benefits taking place in the Boston area by date.

Festivals, Events Expos & Benefits

Wednesday, Oct. 18

Dressing Well Fashion Series
The Sheraton Needham Hotel, Needham (800-493-9255). 6:30-9pm. $75. This event to benefit the National Multiple Sclerosis Society will feature the Dressing Well program, with top 10 seasonal fashion picks and a five-step system for pulling together your wardrobe with style and confidence.

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus
FleetCenter, Boston (931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Tue.-Fri., 7pm; Sat., 11:30am, 3:30pm, 7pm; Sun., 12:30pm and 4:30pm. Oct. 13-23. $11-$37. From death-defying high-wire acts to high-tech, rapid-fire special effects and pyrotechnics to precocious pint-sized pachyderms, performers from all over the world make this the Greatest Show on Earth.

Volunteer Fair
Boston Marriott Copley Place, Boston (877-VOL-FAIR). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 4-8pm. Free. Learn about volunteer opportunities at a wide variety of non-profit organizations in Greater Boston. More than 150 non-profits will be represented.

Thursday, Oct. 19

Dublin Marathon Fund-Raiser
711 Restaurant, 711 Boylston St., Boston (312-5410). www.bostoneventguide.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 7:30pm-12am. $10.* The Ellie Fund hosts this fund-raiser with hors d'oeuvres and serious lounging in the swank new restaurant.

Pravda 116 One-Year Anniversary Fashion Show
Pravda 116, 116 Boylston St., Boston (482-7799). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 10pm (cocktail party), 11:30pm (fashion show). The IMPROPER hosts this fashion show/cocktail party in honor of Pravda 116's one-year anniversary.

Friday, Oct. 20

Fashion Week 2000: Denise Hajjar Fashion Show
Boston Public Library, McKim Building, Dartmouth Street, Boston (426-1287). www.fashionweek.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8pm.* Part of the Fashion Week festivities, the Denise Hajjar collection will be highlighted at this fashion show.

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Fridays. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

Riviera Night at the Algonquin
217 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (859-RSVP). 8pm-12am. $95, $110 at the door. The Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay hosts his gala fund-raiser with dining, dancing to the music of the Christopher Luard Orchestra and games of chance.

Saturday, Oct. 21

An Evening with Champions
Bright Hockey Center, Harvard University, Cambridge (493-8172). www.digitas.harvard.edu/~ewc. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Oct. 20, 8pm; Oct. 21, 2pm; Oct. 21, 8pm. $25.* This year's show, hosted by 1992 Olympic silver medalist Paul Wylie, will feature such skaters as Alexei Urmanov, Elena Berezhnaya, Anton Sikharulidze, Kyoko Ina and John Zimmerman.

Fall 2000 Bead Affair
Armenian Cultural Center, 47 Nichols Ave., Watertown (508-785-9097). 10am-5pm. Shoppers will find a colorful variety of beads, materials and supplies presented by nationally and locally known artists and vendors.

Preview

Halloween Haunts

Get in the spooky frame of mind with a wide selection of frightening Halloween events

Boo at the Zoo and the Zoo Howl
•Stone Zoo, 149 Pond St., Stoneham (781-438-5100). Oct. 21-22. Children can trick-or-treat with the animals. ***•Franklin Park Zoo, 1 Franklin Park Road, Boston (541-LION). Oct. 28, 11am-3pm.*** Gather for goblin games, spooky storytelling, creepy crafts and costume contests.

Cinematic Fright Night
•The Brattle Theater, 40 Brattle St., Cambridge (876-6837). Oct. 31, 7:30pm and 9:30pm. In *Evil Dead II*, directors Sam Raimi and Bruce Campbell create the ultimate in horror and comedy for an unforgettable Halloween treat. ***•Harvard Film Archive, 24 Quincy St., Cambridge (495-4700). Oct. 31, 9pm.*** *The American Nightmare*, a new documentary by Adam Simon, proposes that the American horror films of the '70s best represent the fears and desires of America through the decades.

Eyes Wide Shut Masquerade Ball
Tremont House, 275 Tremont St., Boston (479-0154). Oct. 27, 8pm-1am. Don a mask and enjoy a night of mystery with entertainment by Mark Morris and the Catunes.

Fright Fest
Six Flags New England, Route 159, 1623 Main St., Agawam, Mass. (413-786-9300). Fri., 5-10pm; Sat.-Sun., 11am-10pm. Through Oct. 31. $36.99. Fright Fest screams into town, turning the park into a Halloween playground with haunted houses, a trail of terror and Houdini's Ghost Town.

Halloween Haunt Jaunt
Meet at Granary Burying Ground, Tremont Street and Bromfield Street, Boston (635-7383). Oct. 29, 1-2pm. Free. Take your costumed kids on a scavenger hunt within the burying ground.

Haunted Happenings
Various locations, Salem, Mass. (978-744-0013). www.salemhaunted happenings.com. Through Oct. 31. Prices vary. Don't miss Salem's annual Halloween fright fest.

Halloween Boo-fet
Cafe Fleuri, 250 Franklin St., Boston (451-1900). Oct. 28, 12-3pm. $23. The popular Chocolate Bar will feature Halloween-themed desserts. Wear a costume.

Halloween Fun Run
West End of Faneuil Hall, Boston (800-966-0444). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Oct. 31, 7pm. $30, $35 after Oct. 25. Join the folks from the IMPROPER in this costumed run along the streets of Boston. Proceeds benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. There's a party afterward at the Rack.

Linwood Halloween Show
69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (267-8644). Oct. 28. Halloween show with Rock City Crimewave, Cracktorch, Swamp Witch Revival and a special performance by the Misfits.

Monster Jam
FleetCenter, One FleetCenter, Boston (931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Oct. 31, 7:30pm. $45 and $65. Jam'n 94.5 presents a Halloween concert with Lil'Kim, Destiny's Child, Jay-Z, Eve, Nelly, Mya, Pink and others.

The Spooky Little Show
Charlestown Working Theatre, 442 Bunker Hill St., Charlestown (648-5963). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Square. Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 8pm and 10pm. Oct. 19-28. $15. The Mrs. Potatohead Show, the critically acclaimed comedy duo of Margaret Ann Brady and Dorothy Dwyer, opens its Halloween treat bag of sketches, monologues and musical offerings.

Spooky World
Deep in the Woods, Foxboro Stadium, Route 1, Foxboro, Mass. (978-838-0200). www.spookyworld.com. $23.50. Fri.-Sun., 6-11pm. Through Oct. 31. Visit Spooky World's 60 acres of haunted terror, including four haunted houses, three ghoulish museums, nightly horror celebrity guests (from your favorite horror flicks) and the Reaper's Hayride of Terror.

Vampire Legends of New England
The College Club, 44 Comm. Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Oct. 18, 7-9pm. $28. Through lectures and slides, folklorist Christopher Rondina will unearth local legends and rich vampire lore that lurk in the darker shadows of New England history.

Witches, Fishes and Fun
New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, Boston (973-5200). Oct. 28, 9am-5pm. Children ages 3-11 admitted free with costume. Take part in the great pumpkin hunt, face painting, spooky animal tours and arts and crafts.

Sunday, Oct. 22

Boston International Festival
Bayside Expo Center, Boston (TK). Oct. 22-27. Some 75,000 people enjoy this cultural festival.

Charity for the Charles
Nantucket Nectars Courtyard, 45 Dunster St., Cambridge (868-3600, ext. 313). 12-6pm. $25. Enjoy free food, beer and Nectars to benefit the Charles River Watershed Association. Entrain will perform.

Fashion Week 2000
•Style on Sale: *348 Congress St., 3rd Floor, Boston (451-9443).* www.fashionweek.org. *12-5pm.* This group sale offers the public direct access to designer originals from the many local designers who have participated in Fashion Week 2000 (Oct. 15-21). **•Silk Road Gala**: *110 Huntington Ave., Boston (338-2350).* www.fashionweek.org. This contemporary Pan-Asian fashion show of Omaskas Designs' spring 2001 collection by Sheela Mehrotra-Joshi features a silent auction, formal dinner and fashion show to benefit the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence. **•End of Days**: *Aria, 245 Tremont St., Boston (303-6666).* www.fashionweek.org. *10pm.* Bostonfashion.com hosts this Fashion Week closing party.

Friends of First Night
Les Zygomates, 129 South St., Boston (542-1399). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. 6:30pm. $125. Live jazz, good food and fine wine are on the menu for this fund-raiser for First Night's Neighborhood Network.

Wednesday, Oct. 25

Haiti: Roots, Traditions and Beyond...
Boston Center for the Arts, Cyclorama, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-7700). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Free. This festival celebrates Haitian "roots" music, showcasing live performances by renowned Haitian artists. A Haitian buffet will be offered.

Friday, Oct. 27

Eyes Wide Shut Masquerade Ball
Tremont House, 275 Tremont St., Boston (479-0154). 8pm-1am. $59. Don a mask and enjoy a night of mystery and sensuality, with entertainment by Mark Morris and the Catunes.

Halloween Masquerade Ball
Royal Sonesta Hotel, 5 Cambridge Parkway, Cambridge (789-4070). MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. 9pm-1am. $17. $20 at the door. Reserve early. Boston Ski & Sports Club hosts this night of costumery, dancing and a cash bar.

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Fridays. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

Saturday, Oct. 28

Head of the Weir River Race
West Corner, Public Works Building, Hingham/Hull/Cohasset town line (781-925-5433). More than 40 traditional boats and 150 competitors participate in a 5.5-mile race out to pristine Weir River, past Bumpkin Island and through Hull and Hingham bays to the Windmill Point Boathouse. Get a great view from World's End.

A Landmark Night
The Landmark Center, Park Drive and Brookline Avenue, Boston (695-1870). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway. 7pm. Black-tie. $500. This festive gala commemorates the grand opening of the Landmark Center with dinners prepared by Tony Ambrose of Ambrosia, Michael Schlow and Paul Connors of Radius, and Darryl Settles of Bob the Chef's. Enjoy a late-night dancing session with G.E. Smith and the Saturday Night Live Band. Proceeds benefit Wang Center's Young at Arts and ADL's A World of Difference.

Make Your Mark in the Park
Emerald Necklace Park, Fenway area, Boston (695-1870). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway. 11am-4pm. Free. Celebrate the grand opening of the Landmark Center with music by local bands, art booths and dance and music performances.

Sahwira Fashion Show Extravaganza
Central Congregational Church, 85 Seaverns Ave., Jamaica Plain (394-9154). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. 7pm. Enjoy a mix of music and fashion from Africa, Europe, the U.S. and the Caribbean. Rosemary Chimbganda of African Authentics and Ashanti Munir-Douglin, lead vocalist of Umoja 9, will perform.

Sunday, Oct. 29

Library Lovers' Evening
Westin Hotel, Waltham (552-7151). 7:30pm. $75. WBUR's Christopher Lydon is the featured speaker at this dinner featuring novelists Elinor Lipman and Barbara Delinsky, *Boston Globe* columnist Alex Beam, authors Dr. Steven Pinker (*How the Mind Works*) and Daniel Dennett (*Darwin's Dangerous Idea*).

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The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus parades into town at the FleetCenter through Oct. 23.

Walk As One: Unite to Fight Hate
Wang YMCA of Chinatown, 8 Oak St. West, Boston (227-9155). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. www.nccjboston.org/walkasone. *12pm.* Join 3,000 walkers on a five-mile journey through Chinatown, South End and Bay Village neighborhoods to take a stand against bias, bigotry and racism.

Women's Soccer Challenge
FleetCenter, Boston (931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to South Station. Oct. 29, 6pm. $17.50-$37.50. America's premier players go head-to-head against top international stars in an explosive indoor soccer match. Catch US National Team favorites Mia Hamm, Brandi Chastain, Briana Scurry, Julie Foudy, Carla Overbeck, Michelle Akers, Kristine Lilly and Joy Fawcett.

Monday, Oct. 30

WWF: Raw Is War
FleetCenter, Boston (931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to South Station. Oct. 30, 7:45pm. $18-$40. The World Wrestling Federation returns to the FleetCenter with another nationally televised event.

Tuesday, Oct. 31

Hot Rod Rally!
Institute of Contemporary Art, 955 Boylston St., Boston (266-5152). $55. This benefit party with a hot rod rally atmosphere celebrates the ICA's new exhibition, *Customized: Art Inspired by Hot Rods, Low Riders & American Car Culture*, with live entertainment, food and a display of award-winning hot-rod cars.

Volunteer

ABCD Inc.
(357-6000). Seeks tutors in reading, math, science, writing and social studies.

AIDS Action Committee
(888-332-AUTO or 450-1235). Turn your old car into a tax-deductible donation. Volunteer meeting held Sept. 7, 5:30-9pm.

American Cancer Society
(877-338-WALK). Oct. 15, 8am. Volunteer to help along the 5.7-mile route on the Charles River for the making Strides Against Breast Cancer event.

Boston Cares
(263-CARE). More than 70 volunteer opportunities are available in Greater Boston.

Boston Living Center
(236-1012). HIV/AIDS service organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Community Servings
(445-7777). Help prepare and deliver meals for individuals and families dealing with AIDS.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

Friday Night Supper Program
Arlington Street Church, corner of Arlington and Boylston streets, Boston (536-7050, ext. 22). Need volunteers to help prepare, cook and serve meals on Fridays, 5-7pm.

The Greater Boston Food Bank
(427-5200). Groups needed to sort donated food.

Horizons Initiative
(287-1900). Volunteers needed to play with children living in shelters. Commit to two hours per week for six months. Trainings take place in October.

Jewish Community Volunteer Program
(558-6585). Volunteers are needed to share fun times with an isolated senior.

Junior Achievement
(367-6891). ckraft@ja-easternmass.org. Volunteers needed to teach kids about business.

Mass. Eating Disorder Association
(558-1881). Volunteers needed for four hours per week for help line, assisting clinical staff and special events.

Mass. Substance Abuse Info Helpline
(536-0501, ext. 201). Volunteers needed to talk over the phone with persons affected by alcoholism and substance abuse.

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist elders with such tasks as reading, shopping and basic home repairs.

Pine Street Inn
(521-7626). Seeking volunteers to serve meals and act as receptionist for homeless guests.

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic
(577-1111). Needs volunteers to record textbooks at East Cambridge studio, days and evenings.

Red Cross Young Professionals
(375-0700, ext. 280). Help coordinate fun social events to benefit the American Red Cross.

Rosie's Place
(442-9322). Volunteers needed for the dining room, clothing room, the groceries program and office work.

United Services Organization (USO)
(720-4949). Volunteers needed to welcome Navy ships, participate in hospital visits, provide office support, coordinate receptions and assist with events.

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Seeks individuals to assist legal immigrants and refugees to become naturalized citizens.

Tours/Cruises

Big Dig and South Boston Waterfront
Boston (426-1885). Saturdays, 11am. Through Nov. 4. $8. Learn about casting basins, slurry walls, bridges and tunnels and the history of the South Boston waterfront.

Bike! Boston
Meet at Commonwealth Avenue Mall, between Gloucester and Hereford streets, Boston (695-2153). Tours leave daily at 10am and 2pm. $20. Come with a bicycle. See the city by bike. Tour guides speak through FM transmitters.

Boston Bike Tours
On Boston Common (308-5902). Daily 9:30am-6:30pm. Daily two-hour tours, Mon.-Sat., 1-3pm; 4-6pm. Low-impact, guided sightseeing tours of Boston on bicycles. Rentals available.

Boston by Foot
(367-2345). www.bostonbyfoot.com. *May-October. $8.* Guided 90-minute walks highlight the architecture and history of the city. •Oct. 29, 2pm, $9: **The Big Dig**. Meet at the food court at South Station.

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Boston Duck Tours
Prudential Center, Boston (723-DUCK). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. April-November. $21. The 80-minute tour on amphibious landing crafts takes groups through downtown and makes a final splash into the Charles.

Fall Foliage Cruise
Essex River Cruises, 35 Dodge St., Essex Marina, Essex, Mass. (800-748-3706). Oct. 21, 3:30-5:30pm. $22. Experience New England foliage at its peak while sampling hot apple cider and cider donuts.

Ghosts & Gravestones Tour
Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Ave., Boston (269-7150). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Nightly at dusk, through Nov. 1. Two hours. $29. An 18th-century gravedigger takes you through the city's burial grounds.

Ghost Tours
Meet at Boston Common Visitor Information Center, 147 Tremont St., Boston (781-235-7149). MBTA: Green Line to Park Street. Selected evenings, 7:30pm. $12. Tour downtown Boston's most infamous haunted locations.

Spiritualism Tour
Forest Hills Cemetery, 95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (524-0128). Oct. 21, 10am-12pm. $8. Learn about the history of spiritualism, a method of communicating with the dead popular in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Visit the gravesites of some of its leaders.

Sights to See

Boston Tea Party Ship and Museum
Congress St. Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Open daily, March-May and Sept.-Nov., 9am-5pm; closed Dec.-March. $8, $7 students, $4 children. A replica of one of the ships emptied by colonists (disguised as Indians) during the Dec. 16, 1773 tea raid.

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Fifth Floor, Boston (353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), Oct.-March, 7:30-8:30pm; April-Sept., 8:30-9:30pm. Free. BU's astronomers are available to answer questions and assist with telescopes as you check out Orion, Cassiopeia and the Big Dipper.

Bunker Hill Monument
Monument Square, Charlestown (242-5641). Open daily 9am-5pm. Free. The 221-foot monument honors the men who died in the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Christian Science World Headquarters
Massachusetts and Huntington avenues, Boston (450-2000). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential. Tue.-Sat., 9:30am-4pm, Sun., 11am-2pm. Tour the Mother Church—a giant basilica that seats 3,000 worshippers; a 700-foot-long reflecting pool; and a photo exhibit.

Copp's Hill Burial Ground
Hull and Snowhill streets, Boston. MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Open dawn-dusk. Admission free. From Boston's second-oldest cemetery, you can see all the way across the Inner Harbor to Charlestown.

John Hancock Observatory
200 Clarendon St., Boston (572-6429). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open Mon.-Sat., 9am-11pm, Sun., 10am-11pm (May-Oct.) and noon-11pm (Nov.-April). Admission $6. The tallest building in New England (62 floors) offers an awesome view.

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (566-7937). Wed.-Sun. 10 am-4:30pm. Visit the birthplace and early boyhood home of the nation's 35th president.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat. 10am-2pm. Admission free. Alongside Boston's first Anglican church—a gloomy granite apparition—you'll find a burial ground with equally ominous-looking headstones.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (635-3105). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Open daily, 9am-5pm. Guided tours every half-hour, starting at 9am. Free. Known as the "Cradle of Liberty," Faneuil Hall—we're talking about the part above the eatery—was the site of many an angry man ranting and raving about the damn British in the mid-1700s.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily, 9 am-5pm. Free. Here, Paul Revere saw two lanterns shining on April 18, 1775, indicating that the British troops were crossing the Charles River to Lexington and Concord via boat.

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays, 10am-4pm; weekends, 10am-5pm. $3. A thousand fed-up men gathered in this church to decide whether or not to send three ships full of tea back to England. Guess what? They didn't. •*Voices of Protest* traces the use of Old South Meeting House over three centuries for religious, political and social debate. •Middays at the Meeting House, a lunchtime music series. Thursdays, 12:15-1pm. $4.

Paul Revere House
19 North Square, Boston (523-2338). Nov. 1-April 14, 9:30am-4:15pm; April 15-Oct. 31, 9:30am-5:15pm. Built in 1680 and owned by Paul Revere from 1770 to 1800, this house offers a self-guided tour with illustrated text panels and museum interpreters.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-10pm, Sun. noon-10pm. $4, $3 seniors and students. Check out Boston's only 360-degree view tower. The view here (50 floors up) is slightly better than that of rival John Hancock. The Skywalk has recently completed $250,000 in renovations, offering new displays and exhibits.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8am-6pm. Free. Designed by H.H. Richardson and constructed in 1877, the huge Romanesque church in Copley Square offers free organ concerts on Fridays at 12:15pm.

Aria hosts Fashion Week's closing party Oct. 22.

Museums

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June, Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm; June-Aug., daily, 10am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm. $5, children and seniors $3: See *Arthur's World* from the popular television series and children's books. This infamous aardvark is one of many hands-on favorites.

Harriet Tubman House
566 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-8610). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. Weekdays, 8am-8pm. Free admission. The Harriet Tubman Museum exhibits a collection of this influential black leader's achievements.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (929-4523). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily 9am-5pm (last film begins at 3:55pm). $8. This permanent collection on the life and legacy of President John F. Kennedy offers a re-created world of the early 1960s with period settings and 25 dramatic multimedia exhibits.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (739-1200) www.afroamericanmuseum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays 10am-4pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.* This place is bustling after its recent endowment of more than $1 million to restore the meeting house's hallowed sanctuary. See the African Meeting House, the oldest black church in America.

Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun., 9am-12pm.* This Harvard museum is made up of four factions: The **Botanical Museum**, **The Museum of Comparative Zoology**, the **Mineral & Geological Museum**, and the **Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology**. A number of exhibitions tie together all four of these distinct collections. The most famous is the Botanical Museum for its glass flowers collection—more than 3,000 models of more than 480 plant species. •New at Museum of Natural History: *Beauty on the Wing: The Double Lives of Butterflies*. Butterflies of every size, shape and color from all parts of the world are on display. Through March 4. •New at the Peabody: *Diverse Traditions: Early Navajo Rugs and Pueblo Embroidery*. Through Nov. 26.

Museum of Our National Heritage
33 Marrett Road, Route 2A, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.mnh.org. *Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 12-5pm. Free.* Explore history through pop culture. Topics range from Revolutionary artifacts to the latest in jigsaw-puzzle-solving techniques and American circus posters. •Opened July 21: *Made in Massachusetts*. See items commonly found in homes during the past three centuries.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu., 9am-5pm; Fri., 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children. Omni Theater, Hayden Planetarium or laser shows all $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children.* Find out how much you weigh on the moon, strap yourself into a space module or sift through sand on an archaeological dig. Enjoy 600 hands-on exhibits. •*Powers of Nature*: an exhibit on earthquakes, severe storms and volcanoes. Opened Oct. 6. •Ongoing at the Mugar Omni Theater: *Adventures in Wild California*.

Charles Hayden Planetarium
Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children. Time of show changes daily.* Don't miss the daily laser shows to the music of the Beastie Boys, Pink Floyd, Korn, Tool, Jimi Hendrix, Nine Inch Nails, among others. It's a trip.

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St. (in Larz Anderson Park), Brookline (522-6547). MBTA: D Green Line to Reservoir, to bus #51. April-Oct., Wed.-Sun., 10am-5pm; Nov.-March, Wed.-Sun., 10am-4pm. $5. This 1888 carriage house is the automobile buff's paradise—the country's oldest private collection of antique autos. Lawn events take place: •Oct. 22, 10am-2pm: Studebaker Day. Bring a picnic and tour the museum.

Nichols House Museum
55 Mount Vernon St., Boston (227-6993) Tues.-Sun., 12:15-4:15pm; guided tours on the half hour. $5 adults, children under 12 free admission. Catch a glimpse of 19th- and early 20th-century life on Beacon Hill.

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (720-3290). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily, 9am-5pm. $3. Built in 1713, this original seat of colonial government was the place where pre-Independence Bostonians first heard the *Declaration of Independence* read. •*Burning Issues: A History of Boston Through Fire.*

Sports Museum of New England
FleetCenter, Boston (624-1234). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. $5. Exhibits of the great sports traditions of the Boston Garden, FleetCenter and Celtics.

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (426-1812). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, bus 93 to Navy Yard. Nov.-April 30: Open daily, 10am-5pm. Free. Learn about the oldest commissioned warship's 200-year history through hands-on—hoist a sail, take the wheel, fire a cannon or swing in a hammock.

Zoos & Gardens

Arnold Arboretum
125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain (524-1718). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open weekdays: 9am-4pm; weekends: 12-4pm. Free. Commune with nature and more than 14,000 exotic trees, shrubs and flowers.

Franklin Park Zoo
1 Franklin Park Road, Boston (541-LION). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open Oct.-March daily 10am-4pm; April-Sept. weekdays 10am-5pm, weekends and holidays 10am-6pm. $7. A 72-acre oasis of green in the city with waterfalls, lush vegetation, gorillas, leopards, hippos and free-flying birds.

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard, transfer to #71 or #73 bus. Daily, 8am-7pm (summer) and 8am-5pm (winter). Free. Rest in peace among the grave sites and crypts of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes, "Battle Hymn of the Republic" author Julia Ward Howe and Winslow Homer, among other famous Americans.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (973-5200). www.neaq.org. *MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Early Sept.-June: Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. and holidays, 9am-6pm. $12.50.* Boston's biggest fish bowl has much more than just goldfish. In the three-story saltwater tank swim turtles, sharks, eels and the occasional mermaid (or mer-male).

Roger Williams Park Zoo
1000 Elmwood Ave., Providence, R.I. (401-785-3510). South on 1-95 from Providence to exit 17 (Elmwood Ave.). $6, $3.50 seniors and children. Daily. Nov.-March, 9am-4pm. April-Oct., 9am-5pm. Lions and tigers and a 150-pound baby polar bear named Triton. Oh my! More than 600 birds and mammals inhabit the African plains and rain forests.

Stone Zoo
149 Pond St., Stoneham, Rte. 93 North, Exit 34 (781-438-5100). Mon.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. and holidays, 10am-6pm. $6 adults, $4 children. There's still plenty to see here—even though everybody's favorite polar bear has passed on to that great iceberg in the sky.

The Tufts University crew team completes its early morning workout well before the rest of us hit the snooze buttons on our alarm clocks.

Head of the Charles

Last year more than 300,000 spectators watched some of the best rowers in the world from the banks of the Charles River. See 20 rowing events along the three-mile course, which begins at the Boston University Boathouse on Memorial Drive (near the Hyatt Hotel) and ends at Herter Park on Soldiers Field Road. *Along the banks of the Charles River, Cambridge.* www.horc.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Oct. 21, 1:30-4pm; Oct. 22, 7:50am-3:40pm.*

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Submit updated press releases by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Theater. Or e-mail information to performing@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Theater

JUST OPENED

A...My Name Will Always Be Alice
Lyric Stage Company of Boston. 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Thu., 7:30pm: Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4pm and 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Oct. 20-Nov. 18. 20-$26. This bawdy and insightful show offers music ranging fom gospel to country and western and rock to pop ballads. The musical numbers and sketches portray friends, rivals and sisters.

Annie Get Your Gun
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2pm and 8pm; Sun., 7pm. Oct. 31-Nov. 5. $30-$70. Marilu Henner and Tom Wopat star in this classic tale of the romance and rivalry of the Wild West, featuring such songs as "There's No Business Like Show Business," "Old-Fashioned Wedding" and "Anything You Can Do, I Can Do Better."

The Boston Plays
Boston Center for the Arts, Black Box Theater, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-2787). Through Oct. 28. Centastage presents a night of short plays by some of Boston's top playwrights, including Michael Bettencourt, Joe Byers, Janet Kenney, Bill Lattanzi, Ginger Lazarus and Dean O'Donnell. In one evening you'll experience crime, love, adultery, deception, romance, shame, murder and manslaughter.

Danny and the Deep Blue Sea
Institute of Contemporary Art Theater, 955 Boylston St., Boston (26-5152). MBTA: Geen Line to Hynes/ICA. Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Oct. 25-Nov. 19. $21. The Boston premiere of a play written by John Patrick Shanley, Oscar-winning author of *Moonstruck*, is a gut-wrenching love story about two of society's rejects who are incapable of tender emotion but are able to probe within themselves to find forgiveness, which offers hope of a future.

Fiddler on the Roof
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly, Mass. (978-921-6351). Tue., 8pm: Wed., 2pm and 8pm; Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2pm and 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Oct. 31-Nov. 19. $18-$56. Set in a Jewish village on the eve of the Russian Revolution, this winner of nine Tony Awards revolves around Tevye, the philosophical dairyman trying to marry off his daughters and come to terms with a dramatically changing world. The score includes such favorites as "Sunrise, Sunset," "Matchmaker, Matchmaker" and "If I Were a Rich Man."

How We Talk in South Boston and Other One-Act Plays
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Oct. 20-21 and Oct. 27-28, 11pm. $12. The SpeakEasy Stage Company's LateNight programs kick off with this series of one-act plays, including David Lindsay Abaire's *How We Talk in South Boston*. The 10-minute play portrays a dysfunctional South Boston family facing every imaginable social issue from interracial marriage to the Sox/Yankees feud.

Lady in the Dark
Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (824-8000). Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Oct. 20-22. $15-$65. The Boston Academy of Music celebrates the 100th anniversary of the birth of composer Kurt Weill with a lavish production of *Lady in the Dark*—staged in the manner Weill originally had intended: as an opera. "It's usually produced as a Broadway musical," says BAM's executive director, Carole Charnow. "Ours is one of the few productions with opera singers." The story line, sung in English, revolves around a fashion editor (played by Metropolitan Opera star Delores Ziegler) who, despite her success, suffers from profound unhappiness and haunting dreams.

Nevermore...Nevermore
Shakespeare & Company, The Mount, Lenox, Mass. (413-637-3353). Oct. 20-31. Stories from the American master of literary suspense, Edgar Allan Poe, begin the evening of spine-tingling entertainment. Company actors take turns reading excerpts from scary stories.

The Spooky Little Show
Charlestown Working Theatre, 442 Bunker Hill St., Charlestown (648-5963). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Square. Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 8pm and 10pm. Oct. 19-28. $15. The Mrs. Potatohead Show, the critically acclaimed comedy duo of Margaret Ann Brady and Dorothy Dwyer, opens its Halloween treat bag of sketch, monologue and musical offerings.

Waltzing Australia—Tales From Down Under
Kaji Aso Studio, 40 St. Stephen St., Boston (437-0978). Oct. 27-28, 8pm; Oct. 29, 7pm. $10. Experience dreamtime legends from the Australian aborigine heritage, stories from the bush of the early white settlers, songs and poetry of dinky-di Aussies and modern, personal stories of growing up in Australia.

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?
Trinity Repertory Theater, 201 Washington St., Providence (401-521-1100). Tue., 7pm; Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm and 7pm. Through Nov. 12. $22-$40. After a faculty party in a New England college town, George and Martha invite Nick and Honey home for a nightcap. "One quick drink" turns into a wild night of shocking power games that turn on a dime and change rules at whim, as the whisper-thin social facade shatters to reveal the secrets connecting their lives. This Edward Albee psychological masterpiece reinvented 20th-century American drama.

NOW RUNNING

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). Wed.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 7pm and 10pm; Sun., 3pm and 6pm. $39-$49. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to get its point across with tribal rock music, performance art, humorous antics, props (including plastic tubes and Twinkies) and three men painted blue.

Bash Latter Day Plays
Actors Workshop, 40 Boylston St., Boston (887-2336). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Fri.-Sat., 8pm. Through Oct. 28. $10, $12 at the door. TheatreZone presents Neil LaBute's unflinching portrait of evil in everyday life—a voyage through a nightmare landscape inhabited by commonplace people capable of unspeakable acts.

A Fair Country
Huntington Theatre, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (266-0800). Oct.27-Nov. 26. Young playwright Jon Robin Baitz tells the story of the Burgess family; white Americans living in South Africa in 1977 who struggle to keep their tenuous ties to each other in the face of emotional and political turmoil. Surrounded by violence and longing for escape, they find themselves becoming increasingly corrupted by the apartheid system they oppose.

Fuddy Meers
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-2787). Through Oct. 28. If South Boston native David Lindsay-Abaire garners the same rave reviews in Boston that he did off-Broadway with his play *Fuddy Meers*, he's destined for great success. The *New York Times* called this comedy about a woman whose memory is mysteriously erased each night as she sleeps "dark, sweet and thoroughly engaging." The Boston Center for the Arts' resident theater company, SpeakEasy Stage, produces this dark-humored comedy under the artistic direction of Paul Daigneault. "It's zany, funny and over-the-top," says Daigneault.

Hamlet
Tower Auditorium, Mass. College of Art, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston (886-0322). www.ubiquitystage.com. *MBTA: E Green Line to Longwood. Fri., 8pm; Sat., 3pm and 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Through Oct. 21. $15.* Ubiquity Stage presents Shakespeare's classic.

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change
Stuart Street Playhouse (formerly the 57 Theatre), 200 Stuart St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 5pm and 8:30pm; Sun., 3pm and 7pm. Through Nov. 12. $25-$45. Everything you've secretly thought about dating, romance, marriage, lovers, husbands, wives and in-laws but were afraid to admit is celebrated in this absolutely hilarious musical review of the modern-day mating game.

Misalliance
Lyric West Theatre, Mass. Bay Community College, 50 Oakland St., Wellesley (288-7889). Wed.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 5pm and 8:30pm; Sun., 2pm. Through Oct. 22. $10-$29. George Bernard Shaw presents a merry mix of English curmudgeon fathers, silly children and post-Victorian ladies who are confused about feminism, socialism, masculine ideals and modern love and marriage.

Motel Stories
Industrial Theatre, Leverett Old Library, Mill Street, Cambridge (496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Through Oct. 21. $12. Each of the three one-acts that make up the show is set in a different room of the same run-down motor lodge. In *Ace of Pain*, a tempestuous mother tests the patience of her long-suffering daughter. In *Radio Free Skokie*, the ordinary meets the extraordinary when a traveling salesman encounters a meddlesome radio. In *Oswald's Case*, two brothers take a fateful trip to rid themselves of a troubling past and some serious baggage.

Boston Ballet presents the Russian classic *La Bayadère* at the Wang Theatre Oct. 19-29.

Nocturne
American Repertory Theatre, Hasty Pudding Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (495-2668). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Through Oct. 29. $25-$59. This is a heartbreaking story of a brother who pieces together the events of a life shattered by his sister's accidental death and its consequences for the family.

The Performance Cult
Back Alley Theater, 1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1253). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. Sundays, 7:30pm. Through Dec. 17. $7. Actors, dancers and storytellers will present a series of short, original vignettes. Each one lasts no longer than 10 minutes. See character work, dance, monologues, movement, singing and sound work. Each performer must base his or her work on the truth.

Radio Check 2330
Essayons Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-2787). Through Oct. 28. This multimedia drama depicts the journey of the 301st Military Intelligence Battalion through a surreal desert landscape.

School for Scandal
Trinity Repertory Theater, 201 Washington St., Providence (401-521-1100). Through Oct. 8. In a world obsessed with rumor, gossip and innuendo, Lady Sneerwell, Benjamin Backbite and Mr. Snake are running wild. In this classic, lusty, uproarious Restoration comedy, characters scheme, seductions swirl, plots thicken and scandals mount.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 6:30pm and 9:30pm; Sun., 3pm and 7:30pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This hilarious whodunit is set in a unisex hair salon. The production holds the record as the longest-running play in the history of Boston theater.

Sweet Charity
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly, Mass. (978-921-6351). Tue., 8pm; Wed., 2pm and 8pm; Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2pm and 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Through Oct. 22. $18-$56. Charity Hope Valentine is a lovable but gullible romantic who makes her living dancing with gentlemen clients at the seedy, steamy Fan Dango Ballroom in Times Square. She dreams of finding a good man who'll marry her and make her more respectable, but she keeps falling in love with losers instead.

Tallulah
The Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (426-9366). Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2pm and 8pm; Sun., 2pm and 7:30pm. Through Oct. 22. $25-$65. Kathleen Turner comes to town with her sultry voice, sexual charisma and enigmatic presence for her role as eccentric real-life actress Tallulah Bankhead. In Sandra Ryan Heyward's one-woman play, the show's namesake sips champagne and divulges secrets, passions and regrets as she prepares to host a fund-raiser for incumbent president Harry S. Truman. TV sitcom director Michael Lessac (from *The Drew Carey Show* and *Everybody Loves Raymond*) directs this pre-Broadway production.

INTERACTIVE THEATER

Good Will Haunting
Christopher Columbus Society, 24 Endicott St., Salem (781-793-9700). Thu.-Sun. Through Oct. 31. $36 (includes dinner). Salem's Haunted Happenings Festival includes this show with music, magic and special effects.

Mystery Cafe
290 Congress St., Boston (781-320-0040). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Fri., 7:30pm; Sat., 7pm. Ongoing. $36. Saturdays: The interactive murder mystery, *Murder on the Campaign Trail*, is a parody of Campaign 2000.

Preview

City for Sale

With wildly gesticulating hands and animated faces, the San Francisco Mime Troupe visits Boston Oct. 21-22. The story of the clash between Silicon Valley's newly rich and its longtime community residents, *City for Sale* is a bold and colorful satire on the gentrification of neighborhoods that's set to punchy songs and live accompaniment. Do not mistake this show for a quiet evening of theater. Prepare to be amazed by the grace and expressiveness of these actors who get their points across without words. The show has been called witty, saucy and entertaining—so for those who want to be challenged and engaged, this is the show to see. *The Strand Theatre, 543 Columbia Road, Boston (824-8000). Oct. 21, 8pm; Oct. 22, 4pm and 8pm. —E.B. Solomont*

FUDDY MEERS: ERIC LEVENSON; BALLET: FARNSWORTH/BLOCK

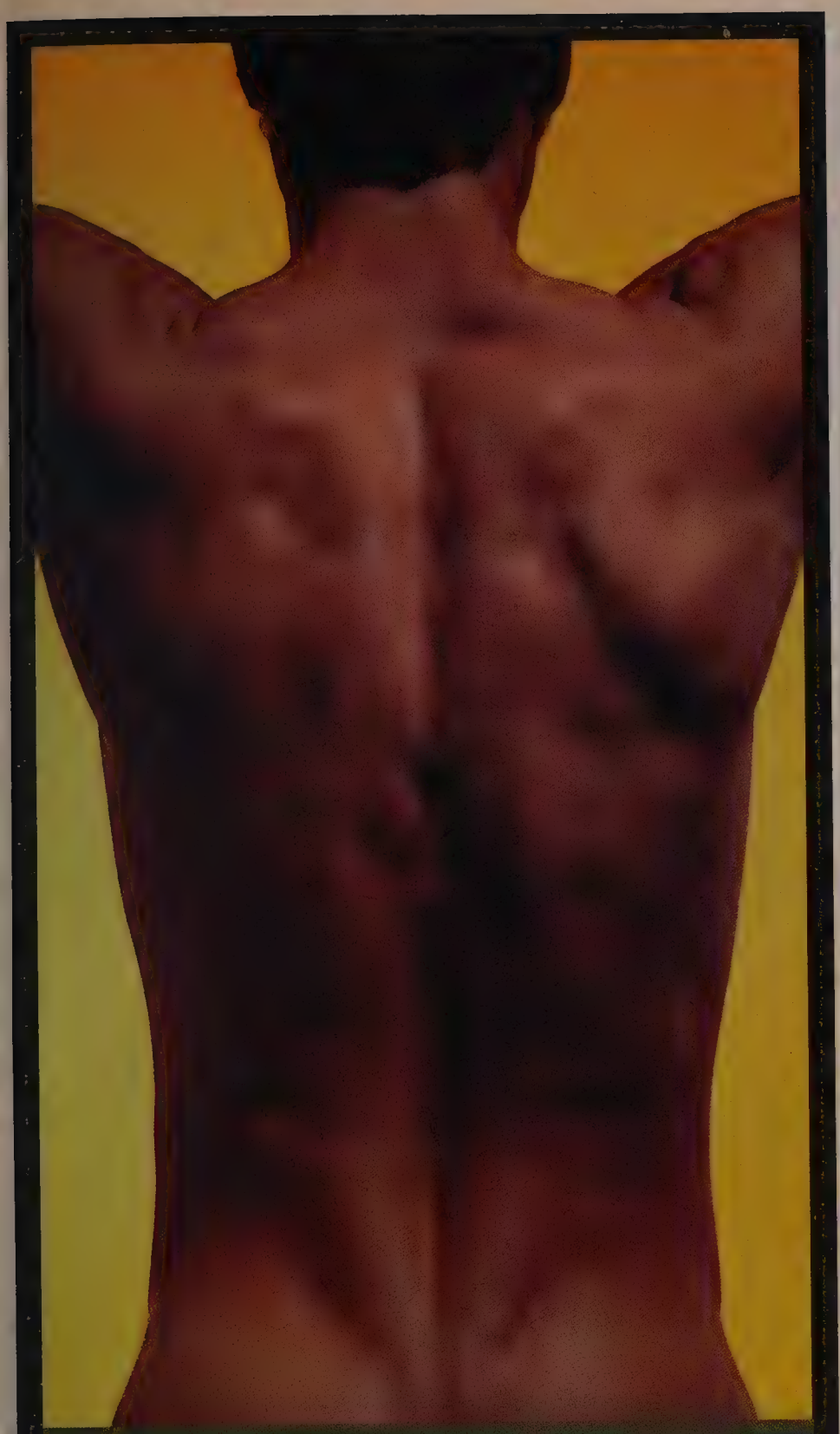

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Photo courtesy of Maxim

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Marie Galvin Fashion Show

Friday, October 20
Gia Ventola Fashion Show

Sunday, October 22
The Official Fashion Week Finale Party

Tuesday, October 31, Halloween
Pimps' and Hoes' Ball

Friday, November 3
DJ Danny Chettos (Resident DJ
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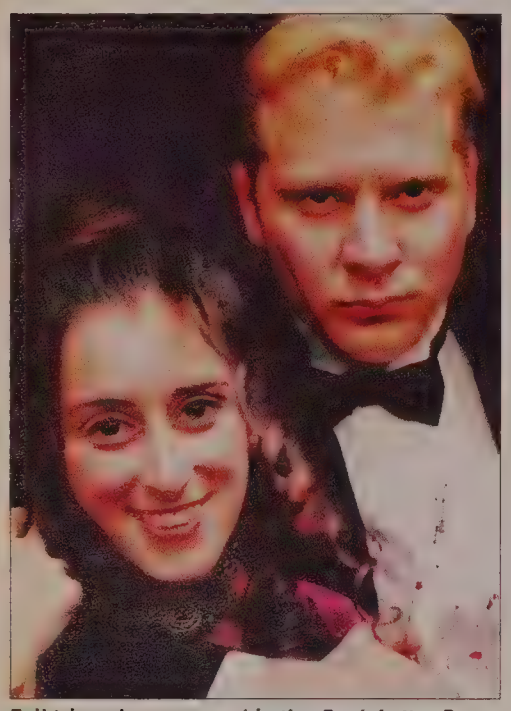
Mystery Cruise: Murder on the Ocean Queen
Ft. Independence, Long Wharf, Boston (781-320-0040). Cruise departs Saturdays, 8pm. $49/person, includes dinner and cruise. Gather clues during a Harbor cruise, meet characters and interrogate suspects as you attempt to piece together the answer to the mystery.

COMING SOON

Annie
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Nov. 7-12. $35-$65. "It's a Hard Knock Life" for little Annie and her orphan friends.

The Beauty Queen of Leenane
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-5000). Nov. 2-18. In their cottage in County Galways, where "you can't kick a cow without someone bearing a grudge for 20 years," single Maureen and her manipulative, infirmed mother, Mag, engage in a bitter but hilarious battle of wills in this Súgán Theatre Company production directed by Eric Engel. When a handsome neighbor offers Maureen a chance to escape, the final battle for control begins.

Dinner with Friends
Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont St., Boston (426-4008). Nov. 4-19. Dana Delany, two-time Emmy winner for *China Beach*, comes to town with Rita Wilson, Daniel Stern and Kevin Kilner. This rueful comedy tells the story of two 40-something couples whose friendship becomes fractured when one couple announces they're divorcing. The show was a hit in New York, where the post-show discussion/therapy sessions with audience members were sometimes even more popular than the show itself.



Evil triumphs over good in the *Bash Latter Day Plays* at the Actors Workshop through Oct. 28.

Delores Ziegler and Rich Conrad star in the Boston Academy of Music's *Lady in the Dark* Oct. 20-22.

Dance

SHOWS AND EVENTS

African Dance Performance
The Dance Complex, 536 Mass Ave., Cambridge (547-9363). Oct. 21, 8pm. $12. Fatou N'Diaye and guests perform African dancing, drumming and singing.

La Bayadère
Boston Ballet, The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Oct. 19, 7pm; Oct. 20, 8pm; Oct. 21, 2pm, 8pm; Oct. 22, 2pm; Oct. 24, 8pm; Oct. 25-26, 7pm; Oct. 27, 8pm; Oct. 28, 2pm and 8pm; Oct. 29, 2pm. $23-$73. This 19th-century Russian classic is an exotic tale of star- crossed lovers set in India.

Life Upon the Wicked Stage
Randolph Country Club, Randolph, Mass. (327-2032). Oct. 20, 9pm. $10. The Chambers Ballet Company presents this evening of entertainment.

Mark Morris Dance Group
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Oct. 26-29, 8pm. $38-$58. This 20-year-old troupe will perform a series of works including *Sang-Froid*, an interpretation of nine turbulent piano pieces by Frédéric Chopin, and *Bedtime*, which is performed by 12 dancers with music by Franz Schubert.

Impulse Dance Company
The Dance Complex, 536 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-9363). Oct. 21-22, 8pm. $12. Watch the Dance Complex's well-trained dancers perform at this modern and jazz dance concert. Impulse reigns.

Spaelimenninir
Calvary United Methodist Church, 300 Mass. Ave., Arlington (491-6084). Oct. 21, 8pm. $12. The Folk Arts Center of New England presents the world of Scandinavian folk dance with musicians from Sweden, Denmark, Faroe Islands and America.

JOIN IN

Club Joy
533 Washington Street, Boston (354-5780). Saturday nights. This Latin nightspot now offers classes: salsa, merengue, bachata and more.

Dance Friday
Rug Cutter's Studio, 23 Main St., Watertown Square (924-7276). Fridays, 8:30pm-12am. $7 adults, $4 teens, children free. Join in the dancing to all types of music—even dance barefoot—in this family-friendly and smoke- and alcohol-free environment.

English Country Dance
Park Avenue Congregational Church, Park Ave., at Paul Revere Rd., Arlington (354-1354). Wednesdays, 7:30-10:30pm. $6 adults, $5 members, $3 students. Enjoy country dancing with music by Bare Necessities.

Four on the Floor and Just Swing It
Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. •Saturdays, 9pm-1:30am, $12, $10 after 11:30pm. Join in a variety of dance moves—here you'll find jazzy mambos, swing dancing, cheeky cha chas and sassy salsa numbers. *•Tuesdays, 10pm-1:30am. $6. Ages 19 and older.* Featuring the Black Tie Affair Orchestra, this will be a great night of swing dancing. Dancers are encouraged to bring their own music.

Israeli Dancing
Temple Israel of Boston, Longwood Avenue at Plymouth Street, Boston (566-3960). MBTA: D Green Line to Longwood. Oct. 15 and Oct. 22, 11am-12pm. $5. Beginners are welcome to join instructor Vladimir Foygelman for lessons in Israeli folk dancing.

Latin Night
Johnny D's, 17 Holland St., Somerville (776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Sundays, lessons at 9pm, dancing at 10pm. $8 lessons, $6 dancing. Lessons for salsa are packed at this Davis Square hangout. Stick around for live music by Gilberto Rivera and Rumva Na Ma.

New England Contras and Squares
VFW Hall, 688 Huron Ave., Cambridge (354-1340). Thursdays, 8-11pm. $5. Learn to square dance to live music, then do-si-do your partner with confidence.

Scottish Country Dance
YWCA, 7 Temple St., Cambridge (484-0950). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mondays, 7:45-10:15pm. $6 adults, $5 students. Dance like a true Scot after some fine lessons. And don't forget your kilt.

Singles Dances
The Knights of Columbus Hall, Winslow and Prescott Streets, Arlington (781-721-1886). www.funfun fun.org. The Singles Clubs are hosting a dance for singles in their 30s, 40s and 50s. Take a chance on meeting someone special as you shake it on the dance floor.

Tango Rialto
Rialto, Charles Hotel, One Bennett Street, Cambridge (661-5050). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thursdays, 10:30pm-1:30am. $10. One of Boston's most popular restaurants, Rialto in Harvard Square, opens its doors to tango dancers of all levels and backgrounds for nights of light hors d'oeuvres and lots of dancing.

Why Choose One?
Dance Caliente, 170 Washington St., Arlington (781-646-1233). Mon. and Tue. $25 for one course, $55 for a five-week course. Learn it all at this multidance studio where you can pick up salsa, swing, tango or the fox trot.

TICKETS

Bostix
(723-5181) www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of Faneuil Hall); Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth); and Harvard Square (in the Holyoke Center arcade at 1350 Mass. Ave).* Same-day tickets half-price.

Next Ticketing
(423-NEXT). www.boston.com/next.

Ticketmaster
(931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(247-1300 or 800-442-1854). This is a good place to get tickets if a show is sold out at the box office.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail info. to comedy@improper.com. *Include address, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a description of the performances or comedians. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (248-9700). www.comedyconnectionboston.com. *MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed., 8pm; Thu., 8:30pm; Fri. and Sat., 8pm, 10:15pm; Sun., 7pm. $8-$10 (weekend prices vary).* The oldest comedy club in Boston draws big-name, national comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •Oct. 18: Don Gavin and John Joyce •Oct. 19: Frank Santos, "The R-Rated Hypnotist" •Oct. 20: Brett Butler of *Grace Under Fire* •Oct. 21: Brett Butler of *Grace Under Fire* •Oct. 22: Brett Butler of *Grace Under Fire* •Oct. 23: Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox •Oct. 24: Paul Nardizzi •Oct. 25: Boston Headliners •Oct. 26: Frank Santos, "The R-Rated Hypnotist" •Oct. 27: Bobby Slaton, "The Pitbull of Comedy" •Oct. 28: Bobby Slayton of *The Rat Pack* •Oct. 29: Bruce Bruce, of BET's *Comic View* •Oct. 30: Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox. • Oct. 31: Paul Nardizzi and PJ Thibedeau.

The Comedy Studio
The Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu.-Sun., 8pm. $5-$7. Sketch comedy troupes and local comedians perform. •Oct. 19: Tim McIntire hosts Thursday Night Fights with guests Lauran Cooney, Ben Joplin, Lakshmi Balachandra and Adam Pearlman •Oct. 20: Brendan Small with guests Ira Proctor, Jay Savage, Jesse Gersten and Teresa Craggan •Oct. 21: Standup Showcase with Anwar Floyd-Pruitt, Karen Sackowitz, Lori Feidler, Walter Driscoll •Oct. 22: Sketch comedy of "BloodyMayhem," also standup from Deb Farrar-Parkman, Matt Jablow, Greg Bogis and Lady B •Oct. 26: Tim McIntire with Rich Gustus of *Dr. Katz*, James Cenamo, Maryanne Belmonte, Teresa Craggan, Dave Greenburg •Oct. 27: Brendon Small and Larry Murphy host Rich Gustus, Maryanne Belmonte, Teresa Craggan, Dave Greenburg •Oct. 28: Rich Gustus, John Keating, Kim & Josh, Tammy Two-tone, Maryanne Belmonte and Dan Sulman •Oct. 29: Sketch comedy from Slow Children @ Play, standup by Rich Gustus, John Keating, Dan Newbower, Dan Ho, Jules Owen and Maryanne Belmonte.

Dick Doherty's Comedy Vault
Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun., 9pm. $10. Features local stand-up comedians. Thursdays: Stand-up comedy. Fri. and Sat. 20-21: Dick Doherty's Comedy Pro Tour. Sun. 22: Open-mike night.

Nick's Comedy Stop
100 Warrenton St., Boston (482-0930). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. $10-$15. The talent here is not quite as big-name as the Comedy Connection, but the crowds are just as enthusiastic. Wednesdays: Open mike at 8:30pm. •Oct. 18: Danny Kelley and friends •Oct. 19, 8:30pm: Vinny Favorito , Tom Cotter, Joe Yannetty •Oct. 20-21, 8:15pm: Vinny Favorito, Joe Yannetty, Johnny K •Oct. 25: Danny Kelley •Oct. 26-28: Teddy Bergeron, Larry Miles and Ira Proctor.

IMPROV COMEDY

Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston (263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Shows: Thu., 8pm; Fri. and Sat., 8pm and 10pm. Main Stage: $10-$15.* Now playing on the main stage is the critically acclaimed improvisational and sketch comedy show—voted one of Boston's best improvisational comedy troupes. •Wednesdays, 8pm: The Improv Asylum Training Center graduate show, *Gary's Pocket*, followed by the Improv Asylum Touring Company. $10.

ImprovBoston at Back Alley Theater
1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1253). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. $12. Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe makes things up as it goes. ***•Election***: Fridays, 8pm, through November. Based on audience participation, troupe members will adopt party platforms and run on them throughout the course of the show, with all the requisite political shenanigans. ***•TheatreSports***: Fridays, 10:30pm. Witness two local improvisation troupes compete for bragging rights in this no-holds-barred, improvisational fight.

Magicians & Spirits
Green Street Grill, 280 Green St., Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Shows every Tuesday at 9pm. $10 cabaret show ($5 with dinner). At 10pm, the cabaret show begins upstairs with local and national magicians reading minds, making birds appear out of nowhere and levitating objects onstage.

COMEDY SHOWS

Battle of the Sexes
290 Congress St., Boston (426-1999). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Saturdays, 10:30pm. $15-$18. A participatory comedy.

Comedy at the Isle
The Emerald Isle Bar and Lounge, 1501 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester (288-3481). MBTA: Red Line to Fields Corner. Thursdays, 8-10pm. Free. Stand-up open mike night hosted by Keith Mahoney.

Human Genome Project
MassMoCa, 87 Marshall St., North Adams (413-662-2111). Oct. 21, 8pm. $18-$24. Comedian Reno voices a funny, often-scorching social commentary. Everyone gets raked over the coals—from her parents to celebrities and politicians.

Joey & Maria's Comedy Wedding
Tremont House Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Fri. and Sat., 7:30pm. Ongoing. $39-$45. Join the fun at this absolutely zany Italian wedding. Big hair and blue tuxedos optional.

Murder on the Campaign Trail
Mystery Cafe Dinner Theater, 290 Congress St., Boston (781) 793-9700. Fridays at 7:30pm; Saturdays at 7pm. Ongoing. $36 (Includes dinner and show). See this mystery parody of Campaign 2000.

Murder on the Ocean Queen
Mystery Cafe Dinner Theater, 290 Congress St., Boston (781) 793-9700. Saturdays at 8pm. Ongoing. $49 (Includes dinner and show). Deck to deck comedy mystery.

LADY IN THE DARK: CLIVE GRAINGER, BASH: DANIELLE FAUTEUX JACQUES

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Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information for gallery and museum listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail to arts@improper.com. *Include opening and closing dates, nearest T stop, price of admission, if any, and telephone numbers. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a partial list of the largest art museums, art institutes and galleries in the Boston area. The • symbol denotes a temporary exhibition.

Museums

Art Institute of Boston
Lesley College, 700 Beacon St., Boston (585-6600). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. www.lesley.edu. *Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm; Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun., 12-5pm.* •*Contemporary Art from Cuba* includes the works of 21 contemporary Cuban artists, many of whom have never before exhibited their work in the U.S. Through Oct. 21.

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. The Sackler houses textiles that represent a new, post-classical era in *The Rich Life and the Dance: Weavings from Roman Byzantine and Islamic Egypt.* Oct. 27-Jan. 14. Also on exhibit is ancient Islamic and Asian art, an array of Neolithic bronze Buddhas, Greek pottery and Hellenistic sculpture. *Wall Drawing #830* features four isometric figures. Ongoing.

Boston Public Library
900 Boylston St., Boston (536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. •*The Brinks' Job*, a show of photographs from the Print Department's *Herald*-Traveler Photo Morgue of "Boston's Crime of the Century," includes courtroom sketches of the trial, crime scene photos and mug shots. Through Dec. 31 in the Wiggin Gallery Balcony. •Drawings and prints by Harold Tovish shows through Dec. 31 in the Wiggin Gallery. •*Jane Austen and Her World* includes biographies, family, adaptations, minor writings, translations, best sellers of her period and early reviews. Through Oct. 31 in the McKim Lobby. •In celebration of the centenary of Symphony Hall, the Music Department displays musical and non-musical events that have taken place in Symphony Hall through the years in *100 Years at Symphony Hall.* Through Dec. 31 in the Koussevitzky Room, West and South Galleries.

DeCordova Museum
51 Sandy Pond Rd., Lincoln (781-259-8355). •*Photography in Boston 1955-1985* celebrates 30 years of photographic history in Boston and features more than 60 Boston area photographers—with a total of more than 230 pieces on display. •Elsa Dorfman's *No Hair Day* is also on display through Jan. 21, 2001.

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. •A show of Japanese photographer Daido Moriyama's work includes nearly 200 black-and-white photographs of post-war Japan. Through Nov. 5. •*Before and After the End of Time: Architecture and the Year 1000* runs through Dec. 31. This looks at the beginning of Romanesque architecture in Europe. •*Dürer's Passions* is a collection of the prints and drawings of Albrecht Dürer's Passion of Christ. Through Dec. 3. •*Philip Guston: A New Alphabet* focuses on a four-year period in the artist's life (1968-1972). Through Feb. 4. •*Franz Marc: Horses* shows through March 18.

Gibson House Museum
137 Beacon St., Boston (267-6338). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Guided tours every Sat. and Sun. at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm. $5. With 75 percent of its original items in place, the museum allows visitors to better understand 19th-century domestic life and design. Ongoing.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (266-5152). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Wed.-Sun., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-9pm. $6, $4 students and seniors. •In the group exhibition *Customized: Art Inspired by Hot Rods, Low Riders & American car culture*, artists examine the imagery and the attitude of American car culture, as well as using hot rod and low rider culture for inspiration. Oct. 25 through Dec. 31. •Free guided walk-throughs take place each Thursday at 6:30pm.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (566-1401). www.boston.com/gardner. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun., 11am-5pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, under 18 free.*

Preview

Hot Rod Halloween

The ICA opens its new show with a rip-roaring party

The Institute of Contemporary Art is transformed into a nightclub for a hot rod-spirited benefit on Halloween. The benefit party, sponsored by Gucci, features performances by former Letters to Cleo lead singer Kay Hanley, western swing band The Spurs and local rockers The Gravel Pit (plus free food and drinks and a chance to see the new exhibition, *Customized: Art Inspired by Hot Rods, Low riders & American Car Culture.*) Capturing the hot rod spirit of show, party-goers are encouraged to don costumes reflecting the hot-rod theme. *ICA, 955 Boylston St., Boston (927-6603). Oct. 31, 8-12pm. $55 general admission, $125 VIP (including a "rev up" cocktail party at Barcode).*

Guided on Fridays, 2:30pm. This 15th-century Venetian palace is home to more than 2,500 objects and twice as many flowers. Boston's most famous museum is named for the house's owner, Isabella Stewart Gardner (1840-1924), an infamously incorrigible individualist. •*Rembrandt Creates Rembrandt: Art and Ambition in Leiden, 1629-1631* comprises 10 paintings, including the Gardner's early *Self Portrait*, and 10 etchings from collections in the U.S. and Europe. The show illuminates Rembrandt's evolving styles. Through Jan. 7, 2001.

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5pm, weekends 12-5pm. $3, $1 for students, seniors and children. •Enjoy an interactive excursion into the world of artificial intelligence in *Robots and Beyond: Exploring Artificial Intelligence at MIT.* Oct. 28-29. The museum's permanent exhibits include *Flashes of Inspiration: the Work of Harold Edgerton*, and *Gestural Engineering* and *Cultural Engineering: the Sculptures of Arthur Ganson*, the mechanical engineer/choreographer. •On the last Sunday of the month, explore oceanography, astronomy, the science of buildings and other mysteries of science from 2-4pm. Call 452-2827 for details. •*Holography: the Light Fantastic* is a selection from the museum's collection that illustrates the many artistic and scientific facets of that medium.

Museum of Bad Art
580 High St., Dedham (325-8224). Mon.-Fri., 6:30-10pm, Sat., and Sun., 1-10pm. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. The one and only museum that boasts "art too bad to be ignored." A favorite is *Lady Chardonnay*, a piece illuminating a poodle-headed dancer.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Mon.-Tue., 10am-4:45pm; Wed., 10am-9:45pm, Thu.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun., 10am-5:45pm. West Wing only, Thu.-Fri., 5-9:45pm. $12, students and seniors $10.* •*Van Gogh to Mondrian: Dutch Works on Paper*, brings together some 100 works on paper by more than 40 Dutch artists. Through Nov. 5. •*In the Holland Garden: 17th and 18th Century Dutch Works on Paper* celebrates Dutch natural history with dozens of artists, including Rembrant. Through Oct. 29. •*Charlotte Salomon: Life? or Theatre?* is the title Salomon gave to a series of more than 780 small gouaches that she selected from a total of 1,325 painted while in exile in the south of France between 1940 and 1942. Through Oct. 29. •*Christian Boltanski: Reflection* a haunting installation by the French artist runs through Nov. 12.

The Peabody House Museum
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (496-1027). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50 adults; $5 students and seniors; $4 children 3-13. No fee Sat. mornings until 12pm. •*Diverse Traditions: Early Navajo Rugs and Pueblo Embroidery,* selections from the museum's collection of Navajo rugs, 1880-1920, includes Germantown, trading post and pictorial styles. Through Nov. 26.

The Revolving Museum
288-300 A St., Boston (439-8617). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed- Fri, 12-5pm. Need info.

The Somerville Museum
1 Westwood Rd., Somerville (666- 9810). MBTA Red Line to Davis. Thu., 2-7pm, Fri., 2-5pm, Sat, 12-7pm. Free. Multiple artists contribute the Fall show titled Supernatural Oddities. Through Oct. 28.

Galleries
FINE ART

Allston Skirt Gallery
129 Braintree St., Allston (254-7027). www.allston-skirt.com. MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. •Painters Robin Dash and Michelle Grabner display their series of modern abstractions. Through Oct. 28.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (247-0610). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm; Sun., 1-5pm. •Sebastian Picker's collection of portraits display through Oct. 30.

Artesano Gallery
757A Beacon St., Newton (558-2783). Tue. and Wed., 10am-6pm; Thu.-Sat., 10am-7pm. This new contemporary gallery opened Sept. 8 and features original works from international artists who express cutting-edge design. Featuring Sargadelos ceramics from Spain.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., 5th Floor, Boston (262-4490). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5:30pm. •Maryellen Latas' show, titled *Lead and Gold,* shows through Oct. 18. •Also, Maggi Brown's *New Paintings* shows Oct. 21-Nov. 29.

Barton-Ryan Gallery
38 Newbury St., 4th Floor, Boston (867-0662). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5:30pm. •The Miriam Adams and Jacqueline Ott show, titled *Drawings,* runs through Oct. 28. Upcoming exhibit by Lissa Houck titled *Improbable Botanicals and Landscapes.* Through Dec. 2.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0800). MBTA: Green Line. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm. •Ronald Cooper and Jimmy Lee Sudduth's *Recent Work* is on display through Oct. 28.

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (482-2477). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 10:30am-5:30pm. •Tom Burkhardt's *New Paintings* displays with Kathy Butterly's *New Ceramics.* Through Oct. 28.

Beth Urdang Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 11am-5pm or call for an appointment. The gallery regularly displays paintings, sculpture and works on paper.

Boston University Art Gallery
855 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-3329). MBTA: B Green Line to B.U. West. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat. and Sun., 1-5pm. The 56 objects and 17 photographs in *Differences Preserved: Reconstructed Tombs from a Liao and a Song Tomb* derive from two sets of tombs in northern China. Through Oct. 29.

Bromfield Art Gallery
560 Harrison Ave., Boston (451-3605). Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. Tim Nichols' *Fireflies* shows with Debra Giller's *Inside Out: Recent Ceramic Sculpture.* Through Oct. 28.

Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center
541 Second St., Cambridge (577-1400). Mon.-Fri 9:30 am-5:30pm. The works of Telsa Borrero, Ana Uribe, josefina Jacquin Bates, Jairo Barragán (Naide) and Jorge Olarte show in *Colombians: Between Emotion, Nation & Immigration.* Through Nov. 22.

Chase Gallery
5129 Newbury St, Boston (859-7222). www.chase gallery.com. MBTA Green Line to Arlington. Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm; Sun 1-5pm. Kathryn Frund exhibits her mixed-media show *New Paintings* through Oct. 30.

Childs Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (266-1108). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 9am-6pm; Mon. and Sat., 10am-5pm. •The Main Gallery shows paintings in *New England Women Artists.* Also showing is Frank W. Benson's *The Sporting Art Tradition* and the woodcuts of Durrer in the Alcove. Through Nov. 11.

Clark Gallery
145 Lincoln St., Lincoln (781-259-8303). Tue.-Sat., 10am-5pm. The gallery represents 30 artists, primarily regional. •*Sculpture for the Outdoors IV,* the gallery's fourth annual group show featuring art for the land, runs through Oct. 26. • New sculpture by Julie Levesque is shown in *Spirit.* Grace DeGennaro exhibits *New Paintings.* Through Oct. 26. •Ruth Bauer shows her *New Paintings* with John Eric Byers' exhibit, *Studio Furniture.* Oct. 31-Nov. 22.

Clifford Smith Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 3rd Floor, Boston (695-0255). www.cliffordsmithgallery.com. *Weds.-Sat., 11am-6pm.* •Joy Episalla's *Recent Photographs* are large works that combine sculpture and photography. Through Oct. 28.

Creiger-Dane Gallery
36 Newbury St., Boston (536-8088). www.creigerdane.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •An exhibition of hard-edged, abstract expressionist paintings by Addison Parks, titled *Hard X,* shows through Oct. 28.

Crosstown Arts Inc.
One North Square, Boston (720-0100). www.crosstown.com. *Tue.-Fri,. 9am-5pm, Sat., 9am-1pm or by appointment.* •*Marks and Surfaces*, a mixed-media show by Josette Ghiseline, displays through Oct. 21.

Crystal Fine Art
93 Summer St., Suite 4L, Boston (728-9818). www.crystalfineart.com. *MBTA: Red and Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Tue.-Fri., 11am-6pm.* •*Candace Whittemore Lovely*'s work shows through November.

Eclipse Gallery
167 Newbury St., Boston (247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9am-5pm. •David Thompson's *Dune Shacks 2000*, 18 paintings, shows through Oct. 28. •Naomi Rubin's *Black and White Photography* opens Oct. 31 and runs through Nov. 25.

Elias Fine Art
120 Braintree St., Allston (783-1818). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. •A group show titled *What's So Funny About Color?* shows through Oct. 28.

Equator Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (266-4110). www.equatorgallery.com. *Tue.-Thu., 12-6pm; Fri.-Sun., 11am-7pm.* Watercolors by Benito Huillcahuamán, woodcarvings by L. Almeida and L. Potosí and ceramics with pre-Columbian motifs by Sasha Raiz. Ongoing.

Fort Point Arts Community
300 Summer St., Boston (423-4299). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Oct. 21-22, 11am-5pm. Free. More than 200 artists display their paintings, sculptures and photography.

Galerie d'Orsay
33 Newbury St., Boston (266-8001). www.galerie-dorsay.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm.* •Boston's new art gallery opened Sept. 7 with an exhibition of Rembrandt's etchings. The exhibit features the master works of artists such as Picasso, Matisse, Chagall, Renoir, Miro and Warhol. Through Oct. 22.

Gallery @ Green Street
141 Green St., Jamaica Plain (522-0000). www.jameshull.com. MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm; Tue., Wed. and Thu., 6-9pm. •*Young Photographers Crossing Paths* shows through Oct. 21.

Gallery Bershad
99 Dover St., Somerville (629-9400 ex.3). www.bershad.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Davis.* •*2000 (or Less)* is a group show that looks back on the gallery's latest season and features more than 20 artists. Through Oct. 27.

Gallery NAGA
67 Newbury St., Boston (267-9060). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. www.gallerynaga.com. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •Lorie Hamermesh's lush work, *Veiled Passions,* runs through Nov. 11.

Gallery Seventy-Nine
79 Newbury St., Boston (262-5918). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-6pm; Sat., 12-5pm. •Michelle Giargiari's exhibit, *Frozen Music*, runs through Nov. 30.

Genovese Sullivan Gallery
47 Thayer St., Boston (426-9738). Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. MBTA: Orange Line to N.E. Medical Center. •Malcom Wright exhibits functional ceramic and sculpture in *Looking into Clay.* Through Nov. 1.

Gibbs Gallery
41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm. • *All That Remains: A Photographic Explo-*

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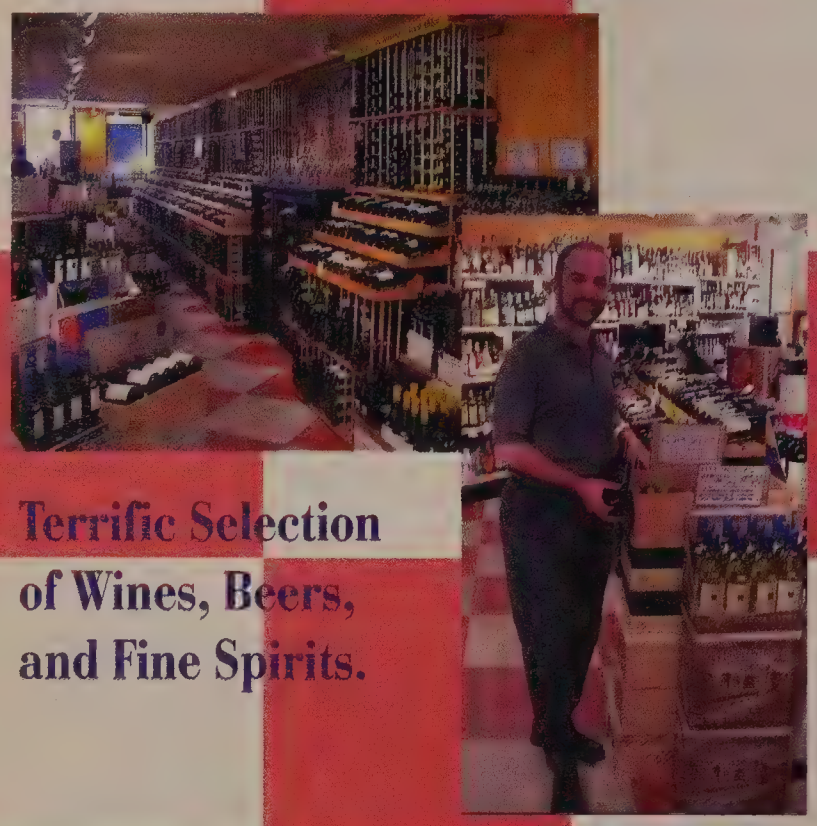

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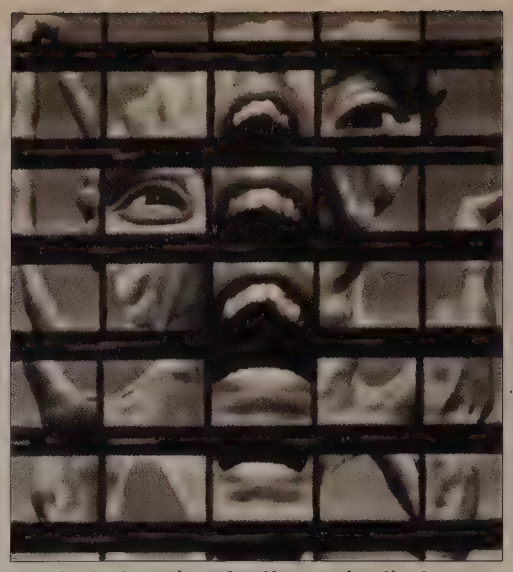

Karl Baden's series of self-portraits display at the Howard Yezerski Gallery through Oct. 31.

ration of America's Abandoned Places, features the work of Nancy Engberg, Ed Esleek and Maxine L. McDonald. Oct. 30 through Nov.3.

Gurari Collections
91 Charles St., Boston (367-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. This gallery has an impressive collection of 16th- to early-20th-century etchings, engravings and drawings.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St. Boston (536-6339). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 10am-6pm; Sat., 10am-5pm. •There is an assortment of 18th- and 19th-century historic and decorative antique engravings and lithographs on display.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (262-0550). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. yezerski@ziplink.net. •Maria Magdalena's *Campos-Pons* shows with Karl Baden's *Contact Print, Self Portrait*. Through Oct. 31.

Hurst Gallery
53 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (491-6888). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sat., 12-6pm. Thu., 12-7pm and by appointment. Visitors are greeted with a wide variety of art and artifacts from six continents. •*Of Land, Sea and Sky: Animals in the Art of the Ancient Americas* is an exhibition of pre-Columbian art from Peru, West Mexico and Mesoamerica. Through Dec. 2.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (375-0076). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. A selection of vintage posters is displayed. Ongoing.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 Saint Stephen St., Boston (247-1719). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue.-Sat., 1-5pm. •Kaji Aso displays his *Watercolor Exhibit* through Nov. 16.

Lyman-Eyer Gallery Inc.
1347 Washington St., West Newton (964-3470). Tue.-Fri., 4-7:30pm; Sat., 11am-7:30pm; Sun., 11am-5pm. •*Cooley & Maisel—the Landscape* features new work by Jacob Cooley and Mary Beth Maisel, with an installation by Sarah Ashodian. Through Nov. 12.

Mercury Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (859-0054). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat., 10am-6pm. •*Fall Show*, works by gallery artists, shows through Oct. 18.

Mills Gallery
539 Tremont St., Boston (426-8835). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sun., 1-4pm; Thu.,-Sat., 7-10pm. •*Twice Born: Beauty*, an exhibition of paintings and photographs by contemporary artists that explores the resurgent interest in beauty, shows through Nov. 5.

Mobius
254 Congress St., Boston (542-7416). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. www.mobius.org. *Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm.* •Milan Kohout and David Franklin perform in *Flying and Flowing*, performance art on the brink of extinction. Oct. 26 through Nov. 4. •Also, Marjorie Morgan performs *Baggage*, which puts together music, movement, shapes and words to address the meaning of baggage.

MPG
285 Newbury St., Boston (437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-5pm. •*Abstracts* includes sculpture by Milan Klic and new images by Ruth Fields. Through Oct. 30.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* Founded in 1964. •Sam Messer's *New Paintings and Retrospective* shows through Oct. 21. • Jon Imber's *Landscape: Primary Perceptions*, Anne Harris' *Works on Paper* and Jane Smaldone's *New Paintings* are on exhibit through Nov. 13. • Joan Snyder's work, *Monoprints and Miniatures* shows Oct. 28 through Nov. 25.

Out of the Blue Gallery
168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun., 12-7pm. This gallery, owned and operated by several artists, always has a variety of interesting artwork and art-related events going on. •Poetry readings take place every Saturday, and the gallery hosts a rotating guest list of jazz musicians every Wednesday.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (236-4497). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •Pamela Ellis Hawkes' photographs display through Oct. 31.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (267-9473). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun., 1pm-5pm. •*Mallory Lake: Italy Light and Shadow* is a series of Tuscan-inspired landscapes. Through Nov. 8.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (266-3321). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. www.richardsonclarke.com. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5pm. •Judith Belzer's, New Paintings is on display through Nov. 13.

Rolly-Michaux
290 Dartmouth St., Boston (536-9898). Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm. •Celebrating its 34th season, the gallery begins its fall season with *20th Century Master Graphics*. The month's show includes a 1961 lithograph by Georges Braque depicting his well-known imagery of a bird in flight, along with a rare 1940 linocut by Matisse. Through Oct. 28.

Sherman Gallery
775 Comm. Ave., Boston (358-0295). MBTA: B Green Line to B.U. West. Tue.-Fri., 11am-5pm; Sat. and Sun., 1-5pm. •The upcoming exhibition is Ann Tracy Montero's lushly painted installation pieces. Oct. 19-Nov. 17.

Space 12 Gallery
12 Union Park St., Boston (423-9760). Wed., 1-5pm, 6-9pm; Thu., Fri. and Sat., 1-5pm. • Star Nigro's work, *Dimensional Photography* is on exhibit Oct. 18 through Nov. 25.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (450-0321). www.stgeorgegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-5pm.* Artist William St. George displays his lush and colorful paintings. •*People, Places & Things* shows through Oct. 31.

Touch of France
173 Newbury St., Boston (247-6966). MBTA: Green line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-7pm; Sun., 10am-6pm. This gallery imports contemporary French artists' works, including paintings from famous painters M. Tigrane, R. Kefflin, C. Ferrer and striking dried-flower arrangements made near Saint Tropez.

Via Gallery
83 Newbury St., 2nd Floor (424-6200). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-4pm. •Rosa Lasaosa's black-and-white mixed-media installation shows through Nov. 11.

Vose Gallery
238 Newbury St., Boston (536-6176). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 8am-5:30pm; Sat., 9am-4pm. •More than 130 works are exhibited in *The Boston Art Club, 1855-1950*, which runs through Dec. 1.

Zeitgeist Gallery
312 Broadway St., Cambridge (876-2182). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu.-Sun., 2pm-7pm. The gallery displays a variety of local artists' work. •A Playground Jazz Series takes place on Friday nights. •Monday is literary night with the Stone Soup Poets performing. •Every Wednesday is a figure-drawing session. •Sunday is a vegan potluck supper, with live music and poetry.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2051). Tues.-Sat., 11am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. •A multimedia installation, *Cold War Modern: the Domesticated Avant-Garde*, explores the avant-garde in art, music and design in the United States between 1945 and the early '60s. Through June 10, 2001.

Gallery One
New England School of Photography, 537 Commonwealth Ave, Boston (437-1868). 9am-5pm, daily. •Chris Faust's photographic exhibit *Midwest perspectives: Landscape as Artifact* runs through Dec. 1.

Photographic Resource Center
602 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-0700). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford. Tue.-Sun., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-8pm. •*Significant Other: the Human Presence in Contemporary Animal Imagery* is comprises work by eight artists. Through Oct. 20. •*The Nature of Things*, a year-long exhibit from the Arboretum archives, displays through Sept. 8, 2001.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., fourth floor, Boston (267-7997). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 10am-5:30pm. •D.W. Meller's *Still Lives* represents decades of still-life photos taken in Prague, Amsterdam and London. Through Nov. 25.

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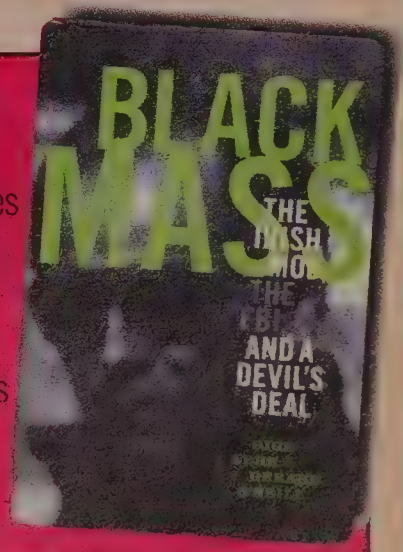

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Film

GOODFELLA

Two Family House lives—and lets live. BY PAUL SHERMAN

Like its lead character, writer-director Raymond De Felitta's 1950s drama *Two Family House* needs some time to find its way, but eventually it discovers where its charms lie. That central character is Staten Island's Buddy Visalo (Michael Rispoli), an Italian-American Ralph Kramden who works in a machine shop but whose main occupation is dreaming up ways to become his own boss and improve his lot in life. As we see in flashbacks, Buddy has already tried opening a limousine service on the small, blue-collar island and, when that was met with indifference, used the car to deliver pizzas—another short-lived failure.

His latest scheme is pouring his limited savings into buying a rundown two-family house. With this plan, he and his wife (Katherine Narducci) would move into the upstairs unit and turn the first floor's 40-foot double parlor into a neighborhood bar. The move would not only free Buddy from the machine shop, but would finally get him out of his in-laws' house after being there a decade and allow him to return to singing, a dream he once gave up to get married. His wife reluctantly agrees, even though it means moving to the Irish-American side of the island and indulging another of her husband's whims.

Michael Rispoli plays Buddy, a machinist and aspiring singer.

As Buddy's plans turn out to be easier said than done, *Two Family House* initially treads a very well-worn path. Buddy's friends are overly macho Italian-American men verging on clichés, and when he and his wife get to their new house, the tenants who were supposed to move out (but haven't) are an Irish couple that includes a drunkard husband (Kevin Conway) and a young pregnant wife (Kelly Macdonald). But the story turns out to have fresher material at its core. It takes a turn for the better when, before Buddy can evict the Irish couple, young wife Mary goes into labor and gives birth. But her baby is black, the result of an affair, and the drunk husband leaves her in shame. Left with a tenant he can't evict, a wife who wants any hint of blackness out of her house and a dream he can't defer any longer, Buddy becomes a reluctant, half-hearted guardian angel for Mary, who's been shunned by her own family. So Buddy first secretly puts Mary up in a hotel and then in a small apartment, much as he would a mistress. In fact, he even lets the apartment's landlord think he's stashing a mistress, so that the fact he hasn't rejected the "Negro lover" won't get out. All of this subterfuge so no one will find out he's associating with a woman who slept with a black is an odd, but effective way of showing the grip racism can have on us (odd primarily because the only black character is the baby, whose voice narrates the movie as an adult looking back). Of course, all of Buddy's hush-hush maneuvering has nothing to do with condoning what she's done; he's helping her only to prevent the guilt he would have felt if he'd ignored her.

But when Buddy's wife becomes increasingly discouraging of her husband's plan to open the bar, he is more powerfully drawn to Mary as a friend, confidante and someone who, like him, feels abandoned by a spouse. The direction the closeness between Buddy and Mary takes is perhaps predictable, and *Two Family House* cheats a bit by making Buddy's intolerant, selfish wife so easy to spurn. But the movie works because it focuses on Buddy's personal dilemma and his need to finally do what he wants, not what those around him want him to do. Rispoli, long a prolific character in such movies as *While You Were Sleeping* and *Summer of Sam*, convincingly portrays both the unthinking, "one of the guys" side of Buddy and the deeper, more decent side that ultimately emerges. **iB**

Two Family House ★★★

Written and directed by Raymond De Felitta
With Michael Rispoli, Kelly Macdonald and Katherine Narducci. Rated R. Lions Gate Films.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Almost Famous ★★★½
Movies don't come much better-written than the latest from writer-director Cameron Crowe. Crowe again addresses the issues of honesty and sincerity that fueled past films like *Say Anything* and *Jerry Maguire*, but never more potently than in this autobiographical early-1970s story of his days as a teen rock journalist. Newcomer Patrick Fugit supplies just the right blend of smarts and naiveté as the fictionalized Crowe character, who is sent on tour to profile a band but then finds himself losing his journalistic objectivity. Most movies lack one relationship that's as involving as the four this teen has—with his supportive but overprotective mom (Frances McDormand), his journalistic mentor Lester Bangs (Philip Seymour Hoffman), a more worldly groupie (Kate Hudson) and the band's star guitarist (Billy Crudup).

Bamboozled ★★
Great first half, lousy second half. That's what you get when writer-director Spike Lee comes up with a fertile premise and a script that doesn't flesh it out. The fertile part is Damon Wayans as a TV writer fed up with his network's thirst for stereotypical blackness. So he proposes a blackface minstrel show to expose their narrow concept of African-Americans. To his horror, the show becomes a big hit. But even as a satire, this movie never convinces you that such a show could be a success. And when the second half tries to add character-driven drama, too, it never gives you enough information to empathize with the writer's dilemma. You never know how much of the show Wayans is writing (network meddling and an all-white staff of writers are referred to), and without that crucial information, the drama remains entirely vague.

Best in Show ★★★
Christopher Guest strikes again. The *This Is Spinal Tap* co-creator and *Waiting for Guffman* driving force supplies another laugh-filled, mostly improvised fake documentary, this time about people "showing" dogs in a prestigious Philadelphia dog show. These canine-obsessed folks include a stressed-out yuppie couple (Parker Posey, Michael Hitchcock), a Carolina hayseed (director-cowriter Guest), and SCTV vets Eugene Levy (who co-wrote) and Catherine O'Hara playing another daffy husband and wife team, as they did in *Guffman*. Not having the musical-parody component of *Tap* and *Guffman* gives this film a little less to offer, but it's usually very funny, with comedy vets Michael McKean, Larry Miller and Fred Willard also memorably contributing. And Guest's Harlan Pepper, a fly-fishing aspiring ventriloquist, adds another to his gallery of unforgettable characters.

Billy Elliot ★★½
The Full Monty premise of English working-class characters trying to scrape up some dignity for themselves gets a decent reworking in this story, set in 1984 in a northern mining town. The title character (a delightful Jamie Bell) is the son and brother of striking coal miners, and his desire to take up ballet shakes their already-threatened masculinity. Although director Stephen Daldry sometimes clumsily injects some borderline fantasy sequences and this has the predictability of a formula film, the lad's plight comes across with sincerity. So do the performances of Gary Lewis as his tough-skinned dad and Julie Walters as his equally flinty ballet teacher.

The Broken Hearts Club ★★
If the recent *The Way of the Gun* was a movie that might have been interesting in 1995 but is unimpressive now, then *The Broken Hearts Club* is one that would have seemed much better in 1992. It's a sitcom-style comedy about a group of gay male friends in Los Angeles, centering around the sort of nice, lovelorn fellow that has long ago become a cliché in gay-themed films. In this case, it's an aspiring photographer (Timothy Olyphant) who's approaching 30. Written and directed by *Dawson's Creek* co-executive producer Greg Berlanti, it actually has its fair share of laughs, but it's awfully safe and pre-packaged, like a pilot for some nonexistent TV show.

The Contender ★
Rod Lurie, the L.A. film critic turned writer-director, is making a career of ripping off Cold War thrillers from his youth, turning *Fail-Safe* into *Deterrence* last year, and now *Advise & Consent* into this inept D.C. potboiler. In this post-Clinton political thriller, the confirmation hearings of a female senator (Joan Allen) to fill the vacant vice-presidency turns into an ambush led by a scheming congressman (Gary Oldman). But if real-life hardball politics were as transparent as they are here, charlatans would be rooted out before they made it to Washington. And few movies have as bogus a climax and as many poor performances from dependable actors (like Jeff Bridges) as this one does.

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Dr. T & The Women ★★
Robert Altman makes a poor Altmanesque movie about a Dallas gynecologist (Richard Gere) and the women driving him round the bend. It's Altmanesque because it has the sort of overlapping dialogue and large-case action the director pioneered in *M*A*S*H* and *Nashville*. It's poor because the tale penned by Anne Rapp isn't as funny as *M*A*S*H* or as involving as *Nashville*—not by half. Too many of the characters are here only to be mocked, like the doc's unstable wife (Farrah Fawcett), tipsy sister-in-law (Laura Dern) and all of his high-society patients. Then, of course, there's the problem of trying to sympathize with anycharacter played by Richard Gere, an obstacle that *Dr. T* does not overcome.

Girlfight ★★½
Not many independent productions come off the film festival circuit and pick up distribution by a Hollywood studio. Maybe that pedigree attached expectations to writer-director Karyn Kusama's coming-of-age film that it couldn't live up to, because now that it's here, the end product doesn't seem so special. Michelle Rodriguez is very convincing as a sullen Brooklyn teen who finds an outlet to blow off steam (and a place to pick up life lessons) in the boxing ring. Her struggles both inside and outside the ring have some drama to them, but her fictionalized plight really can't compare with the real-life stories on display in last year's great documentary about a Brooklyn boxing gym, *On the Ropes*.

The Ladies' Man ★
Why?

The Legend of Drunken Master ★★★
After a decade of making more-modern stories, Jackie Chan made a very entertaining return to the traditional kung fu period piece in 1994's *Drunken Master 2*, sequel to one of the movies that made him a star in the late 1970s. Now, it has received an English dubbing and a new title for a belated American theatrical release. As Wong Fei-Hong, the legendary martial artist that Jet Li also played in the *Once Upon a Time in China* series, Chan insisted on keeping the martial arts real, rejecting the wire-aided high-flying of the Li series. The result is a huge dose of Chan's acrobatic resourcefulness. (The dubbed version was not available for preview at press time, but this recommendation comes with the assumption Chan has dubbed his character's voice.)

Nurse Betty ★★
Although it aspires to supply a blissfully oblivious hero like those in *The King of Comedy* or *Being There*, this film depends on a clumsy gimmick to do so—that a sunny midwestern waitress (Renee Zellweger) obsessed with a soap star (Greg Kinnear) goes into a post-traumatic trance that makes her think she exists in the fictionalized world of the soap, so she heads to L.A. to find her man. The gimmick is not very believable, but after a while you give in slightly to the story and enjoy Zellweger's and Kinnear's performances. There is also a pair of hitmen (Morgan Freeman, Chris Rock) on the waitress' trail, because she unwittingly is carrying something her husband stole. To reinforce the fantasy vs. reality theme, the older killer somehow thinks she is a cold professional, like him, and as with the whole movie, Freeman's performance elevates the shaky premise a bit. But not enough for it to work.

Pay It Forward ★
Yes, we're all emotionally scarred. But in this beyond-bad heartwarmer, that notion is conveyed by giving Kevin Spacey's social studies teacher burn scars over most of his body and by starting Helen Hunt's alcoholic single mom in hideous make-up that makes her look like a Halloween witch (so we can see her improved state of mind in her later improved looks). Such boneheaded literalness kills the story of Hunt's character's son (Haley Joel Osment of *The Sixth Sense*), who comes up with a social studies project to make society better, by having people repay favors by doing one for someone else, not for the person who did one for them (hence, paying it forward). The result is perhaps the most unconvincing, sappy human-interest story ever overstated.

Remember the Titans ★★
The real-life story of an Alexandria, Va., high school football team's 1971 racial integration—and state championship—gets the full-blown Hollywood treatment. Denzel Washington is the determined black coach installed in place of the veteran white coach (Will Patton) who begrudgingly becomes his assistant. The new coach forges a united team by making sure his players get to know each other and get beyond their fears. Director Boaz Yakin (*Fresh*), making his first studio movie, shovels on the story pretty thickly at times, even though the word "Vietnam" is never uttered (odd for a movie set in 1971 with 30 or 40 young men soon to be of draft age). But sometimes the conviction outweighs the hokum, particularly in the friendship between a black lineman (Wood Harris) and a white lineman (Ryan Hurst).

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Cinemas
214 Harvard Ave. (277-2140). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
Trapelo Rd. (484-1706). Red Line to Harvard, 73 bus.

BOSTON

Boston Film • Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (536-1540). Green Line to Hynes.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.

Cheri
50 Dalton St. (536-2870). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Fenway Theatre General Cinema
201 Brookline Ave. (424-6266). MBTA: Green Line to Fenway or Kenmore.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum Of Science, Omni Theater
Science Park (723-2500). Green Line to Science Park.

Nickelodeon
606 Comm. Ave. (424-1500). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford St.

Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle.

Coolidge Corner
290 Harvard St. (734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

Best in Show **writer-director Christopher Guest plays a Carolina hayseed in his latest mockumentary.**

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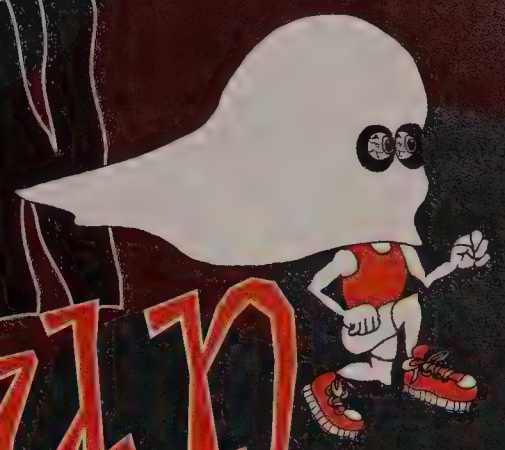

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CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theater
40 Brattle St. (876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (495-4700). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Sq. (494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony Theater
10 Church St. (864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Sq.

Somerville Theater
55 Davis Square (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston. (277-2500). B Green Line to Chestnut Hill.

West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (964-6060).

Alternatives & Revivals

Advice to Contributors
Submit film listings by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Although film listings are correct at the time of publication, they are subject to change. Doublecheck showtimes by calling the theater or 333-FILM.

Boston Film • Video Foundation Festival

•Oct. 25, 7:30pm **Stay Until Tomorrow** and **In My Father's Church**. Laura Colella discusses her experience at the Sundance Institute and shows the former movie, which has been described as *Breakfast at Tiffany's* meets *Day for Night*. In the latter, Charissa King shows footage from a documentary about Methodist pastors who marry gay couples.

Brattle Theater

Most shows are $7, including double features.

Sundays: Marlene on Screen
•Oct. 22, 1:30 and 3:30pm **Destry Rides Again** *1939.* George Marshall directs Dietrich with Jimmy Stewart in this Western spoof. Here, Stewart is out to tame an unruly town.

Mondays: Mood Noir
•Oct. 23, 4:30, 7 and 9:30pm **Somewhere in Time** *1980.* Christopher Reeve plays an unhappy playwright who falls in love with Jane Seymour's 70-year-old portrait and uses self-hypnosis to travel back in time to meet her.

Tuesdays: Dancers in the Dark
•Oct. 24, 5:30 and 9:30pm **Julien Donkey-Boy** *1999.* Director Harmony Korine models a schizophrenic character after his father in his troubling film starring Ewen Bremner. •Also showing, 7:30pm **The Celebration** *1998.* At his father's 60th birthday celebration, Christian delivers a birthday speech that clears the air of family secrets and lies.
•Oct. 31, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30pm **Evil Dead II** *1987.* Directors Sam Raimi and Bruce Campbell create the ultimate in horror and comedy for an unforgettable Halloween treat.

Wednesdays: Recent Raves
•Oct. 25, 5:15, 7:30 and 9:45pm **Beau Travail** *1999.* Against the backdrop of the African landscape, director Claire Denis frames this story of jealousy and suspicion in the French Legion.

Thursdays: Bunuel & Godard
•Oct. 19, 4:30 and 9:30pm **Alphaville** *1963.* Set against the backdrop of modernist Paris at night, director Eddie Constantine depicts the story of a private eye sent across space to rescue a scientist. •Oct. 26, 4:30, 7 and 9:30pm **Breathless** *1959.* This French New Wave film is a romantic essay on cultural conjugality, gangsters and life on the edge. •Also showing, **Un Chien Andalou** *1929.* Featuring some of the most bizarre images on celluloid, director Bunuel delivers this surrealist film.

Special Engagements
•Oct. 20 and 21, 5:15 and 8:30pm (Sat. matinee 2pm) **Ran** *1985.* Director Akira Kurosawa presents a Japanese version of Shakespeare's *King Lear*.
•Oct. 27-Nov. 8, 5, 7:30 and 10pm (Sat. and Sun. matinee 2:30pm) **Rififi** *1955.* This film is a classic heist story, with memorable characters and a legendary 30-minute sequence without dialogue.

Spike & Mike's 2000 Sick and Twisted Festival of Animation is at the Coolidge through Oct. 19.

Coolidge Corner Theater

Midnight Movies: Italian Horror
•Oct. 20 and 21 **The Beyond** *1983.* When a warlock is brutally killed, the crime wreaks havoc for the rest of the crew. Directed by Lucio Fulci.
•Oct. 27 and 28 **The Stendhal Syndrome** *1996.* Director Davio Argento's film portrays a policewoman afflicted with the Stendhal Syndrome. Dizziness and hallucinations plague her whenever she is exposed to paintings, an affliction that impedes her efforts in capturing a serial rapist and killer.

Director's Cut
•Oct. 18 **Happy Accidents** *1999.* A chance meeting and romance in Central Park becomes more complex when Ruby (Marisa Tomei) is told by her new beau that he has traveled in time from the year 2470 because he has fallen in love with an old picture of her.

Feature Engagements
•Oct. 20 **Goya in Bordeaux** *1999.* Director Carlos Saura presents this drama about the life and work of Goya. •Also showing, **The Wind Will Carry Us** *1999.* Director Abbas Kiarostami tells the story of a group of people from the city who arrive at a small village in Iran to await the death of a 100-year-old woman.
•Oct. 27 **Long Night's Journey into Day** *2000.* This documentary by Deborah Hoffman and Frances Reid explores the post-apartheid commission that seeks to heal the wounds of decades of violence and deceit.

Harvard Film Archive

Premieres
•Oct. 31, 9pm **The American Nightmare** *2000.* This new documentary by Adam Simon proposes that the American horror films of the '70s embody the fears and desires of America through the decades.

Recent Films from Germany
•Oct. 18 and 22, 9pm **Paths in the Night** *1999.* Set in post-unification Germany, this is the story of a 55-year-old ex-factory manager who recruits simple-minded youths to ride Berlin's underground as vigilantes.
•Oct. 20, 7pm **The Himmler Project** *2000.* A crucial document of Third Reich ideology, this film presents a minimalist restaging of Heinrich Himmler's three-and-a-half-hour speech in 1943.
•Oct. 21, 6:30pm **Dealer** *1999.* Director Thomas Arslan explores the world of a small-time German drug dealer in Berlin as he loses his friends, his family and his profession.
•Oct. 21, 8pm **Nightfall** *1999.* Fred Kelemen delivers a devastating existentialist account of two lovers in search of redemption who ultimately find each other again in the process.
•Oct. 22, 7pm **Fate** *1994.* Director Kelemen again focuses on two lost souls, this time honing in on a young Russian accordion player and his girlfriend.
•Oct. 27 and 28, 7pm **The Olympic Summer** *1992.* Set between the end of the Olympics in 1936 until the end of the Second World War, this is a tale of a young man and his affair with a wealthy widow in Berlin.
•Oct. 28, 9pm **Little Angel** *1996.* Ramona is a hypersensitive woman obsessed with the dark side of life. When she meets Andrzej, the two fall in love and, for a short time, her gloom is lifted.
•Oct. 27 and 29, 7pm **Fisimatenten** *1999.* A young painter who lives in an old country inn is forced to work on a single picture that he paints over and over to save money for art supplies.
•Oct. 29, 7pm **Vagabonding Images** *1998.* This experimental film was shot on a super 8 over a period of several years, and plays with visual fragments, mini-stories and language. •Also showing, **One Last Glimpse**, *1997.* Cinematographer Helge Weindler's wife finished this film as a tribute to him.

Séance Screenings
•Oct. 25, 9:45pm **Pursued** *1947.* In a rare Western film noir, Robert Mitchum and Judith Anderson open the doors to a new category of psychological Western.

Close Encounters
•Oct. 26, 7pm **Lawn Dogs** *1997.* An imaginative little girl and the outsider who mows the lawn of her gated community develop a relationship that presents a memorable view of friendship.

VES Faculty Screening: Mani Kaul
•Oct. 19, 7pm **Siddeshwari** *1989.* This biographic film covers the life of singer Siddeshwari Devi. The film follows opening remarks made by filmmaker Mani Kaul.

Topics In Film: Non-Fiction Film
•Oct. 23, 7pm **A Happy Mother's Day** *1963.* When quintuplets are born into the Fisher family of Aberdeen, S.D., a media circus and suddenly entrepreneurial neighbors assault the family. •Also showing, **Don't Look Back** *1967.* This depicts the glorious metamorphosis of the young Bob Dylan from folk singer to rock star in England in 1965.
•Oct. 30, 7pm **Basic Training** *1971.* Director Frederick Wiseman documents the transition from civilian to soldier as he follows several draftees through an eight-week Army basic-training program.

Topics in Film: Film Architecture
•Oct. 24, 7pm **La Notte** *1961.* The second of director Michelangelo Antonioni's trilogy explores the Milanese bourgeoisie within the city and country landscapes by tracking one couple as they visit a sick friend.
•Oct. 31, 7pm **The Naked City** *1948.* A neorealist thriller, this ordinary murder tale is told through the accumulation of police's procedural details.

Topics In Film: Visual Representation
•Oct. 18, 7pm **Voyage to Italy** *1953.* Director Roberto Rossellini depicts a very bored British couple who are struggling to keep their marriage alive. With Ingrid Bergman and George Sanders.
•Oct. 25, 7pm **L'Avventura** *1960.* After an argument with her lover during a yachting party, a woman disappears. Her best friend and her lover set out to find her, but slow down their search as they begin their own illicit sexual relationship.

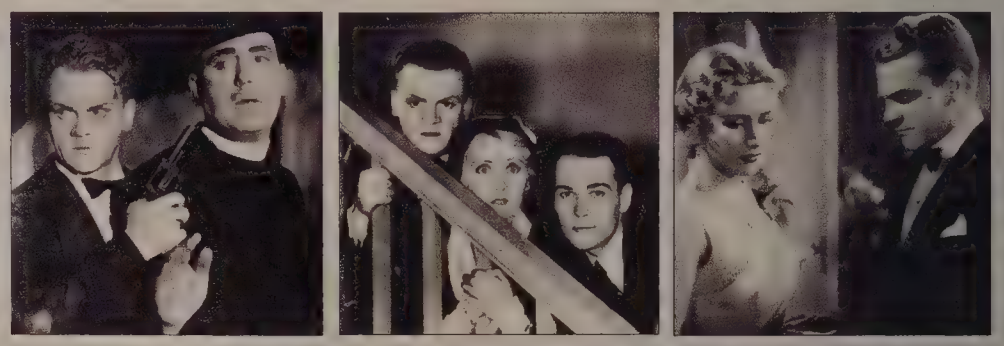
Topics In Film: New German Cinema
•Oct. 23, 9:30pm **The Mystery of Kaspar Hauser** *1974.* When a man is found catatonic in the streets of Nuremberg circa 1828, he is discovered to have not had any human contact since childhood.
•Oct. 24, 9:30pm **Aguirre, The Wrath of God** *1972.* Director Wener Herzog exploits the 16th-century explorer Aguirre in telling his adventure and his performance.
•Oct. 30, 9pm **Alice in the Cities** *1974.* In this melancholy road movie, a German photojournalist travels across the U.S. and becomes burdened by an obstinate little German girl named Alice ,whose mother has abandoned her.

Museum of Fine Arts

Feature Engagements
•Oct. 20, 6:15pm; Oct. 21, 2pm; Oct. 27, 8pm and Oct. 28, 2:30pm **British Advertising Films of 1999.** This is a collection of television ads that reveal Britain's true knack for the art of advertising.
•Oct. 20, 8pm; Oct. 21, 4pm; Oct. 27, 6pm and Oct. 28, 12:45pm **World's Best Commercials of the Century**. The five sections of an homage to the age of consumerism offers an insightful glimpse into the ever-changing history of the medium.

Visiting Film Artists
•Oct. 18, **Grünigers Fall** *1997.* This documentary focuses on the life of the St. Gall police chief who lost his career and reputation by saving hundreds of Austrian Jews during World War II.
•Oct. 26, 8pm **Tale of Tales, Hedgehog in Fog and Heron and Crane** *1978.* These are three animated films by Yuri Norstein, all with feel-good narratives.
•Oct. 28, 4:15pm **New Interviews with Yuri Norstein and Francesca Yarbusova with Overcoat** *2000. New Interviews* is a two-part documentary composed of interviews with Norstein and his wife, artist Yarbusova. *Overcoat* is Norstein's famous work-in-progress, based on Gogol's novel by the same name.

Art on Film
•Oct. 26, 6pm **Love, My Darling, Is Bottomless** *1998* and **Art and Remembrance: The Legacy of Felix Nussbaum** *1993. Love* carries the viewer back to Charlotte Salomon's last days in Berlin. *Legacy* is not about Salomon but focuses on a genre of work produced during her lifetime.
•Oct. 28, 11am **Charlotte** *1980.* Three elements of Charlotte Salomon's life come together here: her love for her voice teacher; her struggle with her family's legacy of suicide; and her own artistic evolution.
•Oct. 21, 10:30am **Looking for Christian B**. *1997* and **The Dance of the Shadows** *1989. Looking for Christian B.* is a documentary that attempts to reassemble the images created by the artist. *La Danse des Ombres* invites the viewer into Boltanski's world by way of a conversation with art critic Harold Zeeman.



James Cagney stars in (from left) *Angels with Dirty Faces, The Public Enemy,* and *The Roaring Twenties.* See his films at the Boston Public Library Mondays at 6pm.

Preview

Tough Guy

Cagney Film Series at the BPL

The films of James Cagney, the toughest little guy in Hollywood, come to the Boston Public Library Mondays at 6pm. Before his three-decade-long dominance of the silver screen (and more than 60 films) he toured in vaudeville, had parts in dramas and in musicals, and gradually worked his way up to starring roles. And what roles they were—mostly as a hot-headed heavy and at times a song and dance man—always with his acerbic wit and that sly smirk. Of course, who can forget when he improvised the scene where he smashed a grapefruit in Mae Clarke's face in The Public Enemy?

•Oct. 23, 6pm A Midsummer Night's Dream *1935*. Faithful to the original Shakespearean text, this production is also a big, glamorous Hollywood film complete with acting by James Cagney, Mickey Rooney, Arthur Treacher, Joe E. Brown and Olivia de Havilland.

•Oct. 30, 6pm Angels with Dirty Faces *1938*. Here, Cagney is paired up with close friend Pat O'Brien (the duo made nine movies together) in this gangster flick. Childhood friends grow older and drift apart—one becoming a priest (Pat O'Brien) and the other a criminal (Cagney).

Upcoming: Nov. 6, Each Dawn I Die *1939*. Nov. 13, The Roaring Twenties *1939*. Nov. 20, City for Conquest *1940*. Nov. 27, The Bride Came C.O.D *1941*.

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READINGS & SIGNINGS

Wednesday, Oct. 18

Barnes & Noble Author Event
395 Washington St., Boston (426-5184). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30pm. Free. Fresh off his run for presidential office, **Bill Bradley** comes to town to sign his new book, *The Journey from Here*. The former U.S. senator offers reflections on the nation through eight essays that blend personal anecdotes, stories from the American people and years of research.

Boston Globe Book Festival
Boston Public Library, Second floor, McKim Building, 700 Boylston St., Boston (536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6pm. Free. The library hosts a tribute to Sylvia Plath. **Karen Kukil**, editor of the *Unabridged Journals of Sylvia Plath*, leads a discussion with special guest **Jill Ker-Conway**, a well-known expert on women's memoirs as well as the former president of Smith College.

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (739-6002). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 6pm. $2. **Kazuo Ishiguro**, celebrated author of *A Pale View of Hills*, *An Artist of the Floating World* and *Remains of the Day* reads from his latest novel, *When We Were Orphans*.

Cynthia Ozick reads from her new collection of essays at the Newton Free Library Oct. 18.

Harvard Book Store Author Event
The Colloquium Room at the Bunting Institute, 34 Concord Ave., Cambridge (661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free. **Wendy Doniger** brings together stories from Shakespeare to Hollywood to show us what it means to wake up with a stranger in her book, *The Bedtrick: Tales of Sex and Masquerade*.

Newton Free Library Reading Series
2330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). 7:30pm. Free. Acclaimed novelist and critic **Cynthia Ozick** speaks on her new book of essays, *Quarrel & Quandry*. In this collection, Ozick tackles many subjects, from the difficulty of translating great books into film or another language, to a controversial view on *The Diary of Anne Frank*. A book signing follows the talk.

Thursday, Oct. 19

Borders Author Appearance
85 Worcester Rd., Framingham (508-370-3138). 7:30pm. Free. Author **W. Jeffery Bolster** speaks about his book, *Black Jacks: African American Seamen in the Age of Sail*. This story centers on 18th- and 19th-century seafaring jobs and looks not only at the danger that surrounded them but also at the career opportunities that were offered to slaves and freed men.

Harvard Book Store Author Event
Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, Philip Auditorium, 60 Garden St., Cambridge (661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. Free admission. **Marcia Bartusiak** traces the story of Einstein's theory of general relativity and explores how physicist's views have evolved over decades in her novel, *Einstein's Unfinished Symphony: Listening to the Sounds of Space-Time*.

Friday, Oct. 20

Borders Bookshop Author Series
24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Orange Line to State Street or Red Line to Downtown Crossing. 6pm. Free. Author **Robert Morgan** speaks about his novel *Gap Creek*, in which a 17 year- old girl struggles through Appalachian fire and flood waters as the 20th century begins. Borrowing from his own upbringing in rural North Carolina, Morgan's book is a national bestseller and winner of the Southern Books Critics Circle Award for fiction.

Borders Bookshop Author Event
The Atrium Mall, 300 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill (630-1935). 7:30pm. Free. Brown University Biology professor **Kenneth R. Miller** takes a creative approach to the evolutionism vs. creationism debate in his new book, *Finding Darwin's God: A Scientist's Search for Common Ground Between God and Evolution*.

Grolier and Adams House Author Event
Arthur M. Sackler Museum Lecture Hall, 485 Broadway St., Cambridge (547-4648). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8-9pm, $5 at the door, $4 in advance, $2 students. Poet **Susan Mitchell** reads from her new collection, *Erotikon*. The author received the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award and was a National Book Award finalist for her last collection of poetry, *Rapture*.

Saturday, Oct. 21

Arlington Center for the Arts Writers
Fox Library, 175 Mass. Ave., Arlington (781-648-6220). MBTA: 77 Bus. 7:30pm. $5, $1 students and seniors. The New Theatre Works hosts a staged reading series. Tonight features **Candice Rowe** reading *The First Half-Hour of Life*;, **Virginia Thayer** reading *David Darling* and **John O'Brien** reading from his work, *I'm Sorry*.

Monday, Oct. 23

Borders Bookshop Author Event
The Atrium Mall, 300 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill (630-1935). 7:30pm. Free. **J. Michael Reidenbach** and **Dana K. Drenkowski** are on hand to talk about their book, *Legacy & Destiny*, a political thriller that explores the challenges a female candidate must face if she is to become the first female president of the United States.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free. **Sena Jeter Nashlund** reads from her debut novel, *Ahab's Wife*, tonight. Be sure to grab a copy for the book signing that follows.

Tuesday, Oct. 24

Borders Bookshop Author Event
The Atrium Mall, 300 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill (630-1935). 7:30pm. Free. Author **Jess Winfield** applies the wit and wisdom of Shakespeare to present day experiences in her book, *What Would Shakespeare Do? Personal Advice from the Bard*. She looks to the playwright for advice on sex, love, youth, aging, changing morals and the meaning of life.

Borders Author Appearance
85 Worcester Rd., Framingham (508-370-3138). 7:00pm. Free admission. Everyone's favorite Victorian-era mystery writer, Anne Perry, discusses her book, *Slaves of Obsession* tonight, her 11th William Monk mystery.

Grolier and Adams House Author Event
Lower Common Room, Adams House, Entry C, 26 Plympton St., Cambridge (547-4648). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8-9pm, $2. **Henri Cole**, winner of the Amy Lowell Poetry Traveling Scholarship, reads from his collection, *The Visible Man*. Cole's poems have appeared in *The Atlantic Monthly* and *The New Yorker*. Also appearing tonight is **Elizabeth Macklin**, who reads from her collection, *You've Just Been Told*.

Vox Pop Event
The Blacksmith House Theatre, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. $10. **Catherine Salmons** and **Elizabeth McKim** perform polyphonic poetry, set to electric roots music from around the world, tonight.

Wednesday, Oct. 25

Borders Author Appearance
85 Worcester Rd., Framingham (508-370-3138). 7:30pm. Free. The book store's Halloween-inspired annual fall mystery party offers readings, raffle prizes and refreshments. Author **Hallie Ephron** discusses her book, *Amnesia*, a murder mystery set in McLean Hospital and elsewhere in Boston. Massachusetts assistant Attorney General **Jamie Katz** talks about *A Summer for Dying*, a legal thriller set in Boston. *Frames Per Second* author **Bill Edison** talks about his latest, *One Bad Thing*, a tale of diamond smuggling, art theft and murder off the Massachusetts coast. Also, Northeastern Professor **Gary Braver** reads from his biotech thriller, *Elixir*.

Harvard Book Store Author Event
Arthur M. Sackler Museum, 485 Broadway St., Cambridge (661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free. Author **Michael Paterniti** tells the story of his unique road trip with Dr. Thomas Harvey to return Albert Einstein's brain to his granddaughter in his novel, *Driving Mr. Albert: A Trip Across America with Einstein's Brain*.

Thursday, Oct. 26

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. Author **Thomas J. Whalen** discusses his book, *Kennedy Versus Lodge: The 1952 Massachusetts Senate Race*.

Barnes & Noble Author Event
660 Beacon St., Boston (236-7421). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7pm. Free. **Bill Vlasic** gives a reading from his book, *Taken for a Ride: How Daimler-Benz Drove Off with Chrysler*.

Arlington Center for the Arts Writers
Robbins Library, 700 Mass. Ave., Arlington (781-648-6220). 7:30pm. Free. **Mary Grimley Mason** reads from her memoir, *Life Prints: A Memoir of Healing and Discovery*, published this past June. Poet **David Nolta** also reads from his works, which were

Bestsellers

HARDCOVER FICTION
1. **When We Were Orphans** by Kazuo Ishiguro
2. **Perish Twice** by Robert Parker
3. **The Blind Assassin** by Margaret Atwood
4. **4 Blondes** by Canace Bushnnell
5. **The Night Listener** by Armisted Maupin
6. **Jimmy Corrigan: the Smartest Kid on Earth** by Chris Ware
7. **Interpreter of Maladies** by Jhumpa Lahiri
8. **The Hours** by Michael Cunningham
9. **Best American Short Stories 2000** Edited by E.L.Doctorow
10. **Waiting** by Ha Jin

HARDCOVER NON-FICTION
1. **Black Mass** by Dick Lehr
2. **Robert Kennedy: His Life** by Evan Thomas
3. **The Neal Pollack Anthology of American Literature** by Neal Pollack
4. **I Know Just What You Mean** by Ellen Goodman and Patricia O'Brien
5. **Overhead at the Museum** by Judith Henry
6. **Mean Genes** by Terry Burnham
7. **All Souls** by Michael Patrick MacDonald
8. **Avengers** by Rich Cohen
9. **Chomsky on Mis-education** by Noam Chomsky
10. **Nothing Like it in the World** by Stephen E. Ambrose

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published in *New Voices*, *Chicago Literary Review* and *The Cranbook Review*.

BCAE Writing Festival
5 Commonwealth Ave. (267-4430). 6-8pm. $49. **Margot Livesey** joins the workshop to teach writers how to develop character in a work of fiction.

Harvard Book Store Author Event
Boston Public Library, Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6pm. Free. Authors **Glenn Stout** and **Richard A. Johnson** celebrate the one 100th anniversary of the Boston Red Sox in their book, *Red Sox Century*. The story explores the history of the team that has helped define its city and its sport.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free. Cambridge native **Nomi Eve** reads from her debut novel, *The Family Orchard*. A signing will follow.

Friday, Oct. 27

Wordsworth Books Reading Series
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free admission. Noted poet, naturalist and essayist **Wendell Berry** reads from his latest novel, *Jayber Crow*, the life story of a man's love for his community.

Monday, Oct. 30

Borders Bookshop Author Event
The Atrium Mall, 300 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill (630-1935). 7:30pm. Free. **Lesley Pratt Bannatyne** dishes the candy corn about the history of Halloween in her book, *Halloween: An American Holiday, an American History*. Halloween-themed poems, recipes, songs and crafts are included inside.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free admission. **Melinda** and **Robert Blanchard** read from their new travel memoir, *A Trip to the Beach: Living on Island Time in the Caribbean*. Stick around for the book signing and food reception that follows the discussion.

ONGOING

Agape, Tuesdays
The Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (266-6710). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8pm-10pm. Every Tuesday, this somewhat sophisticated poetry group gathers to share versions of their latest work.

Cantab Lounge, Wednesdays
738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8-10pm. $3. Wednesday nights at the Cantab Lounge always pack in more than 30 poets in just two hours for open-mike session followed by a poetry slam.

Club Passim, Tuesdays
47 Palmer St., Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. $5. All open-mike fanatics must experience this open-mike night—a training ground for up-and-coming performers, poets and storytellers. Sign up Tuesdays, 7:30pm.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Night, Sundays
1667 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. $4 cover. The Jeff Robinson Trio play some inspirational background tunes to the poetic sounds of the featured poet of the week.

O'Brien's Pub, Mondays
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. A mix of rock and spoken word is performed one Monday a month at 9pm—the performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry Night, Saturdays
Out of the Blue Gallery, 168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. Donations appreciated. Every Saturday is poetry night, and a spoken-word and music event also takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month. It features music by Rob Gonzalez and spoken word with Nola Kelley.

Rhythm and Muse Open-Mike Night, Thursdays
403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-6622). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook. A headlining poet is followed by an open-mike session on the first Thursday of every month, 7:30pm.

Stone Soup Poetry Night, Mondays
Zeitgeist Gallery, 312 Broadway St, Cambridge (227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7:30pm. $3. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets have served up soothing inspirations with their weekly readings. Keep the good vibes going every Monday with a wealth of featured writers.

education

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Education. Or e-mail information to education@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

CLASSES/LECTURES

Wednesday, Oct. 18

The Next Step for the Big Dig
Brookline Adult Education Program, 115 Greenough St., Brookline (730-2700). 7-9pm. $5. **Rick Dimino**, president/CEO of the Artery Business Committee; **Patrice Todisco**, executive director of the Boston Greenspace Alliance; **Andrea D'Amato**, commissioner of transportation and Boston's chief environmental officer; and **Deirdre Buckley**, assistant director of air policy and planning, will take a look at the future of the Big Dig.

Vampire Legends of New England
The College Club, 44 Comm. Ave., Boston (267-4430). 7-9pm. $28. Folklorist **Christopher Rondina** unearths vampire lore that lurks in New England history.

Thursday, Oct. 19

Barbed Wire on the Electronic Frontier
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. 12:15-1pm. $5. Prof. **Jonathan Zittrain**, co-director of the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard Law School, examines the issues of "self-regulation" on the Internet.

Sunday, Oct. 22

Debating National Security
John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (929-4500). 2pm. Congressman **John Tierney** (D-MA) and *Boston Globe* columnist **James Carroll** discuss whether the U.S. should build its defenses against weapons of mass destruction.

Sunday, Oct. 23

Who's Who in Hamlet
Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). 7:30pm. **Dr. Charles Berney** of the Royal Victorian Opera Company will identify which historical figures Shakespeare's characters are based on.

Tuesday, Oct. 24

John F. Kennedy and Campaign 2000
John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (929-4500). Oct. 24, 5:30-7:30pm. Free. Editor **Michael Beschloss** and author **Charles Kenney** discuss the essence of the Kennedy presidency and answer questions about the current presidential campaign.

Wednesday, Oct. 25

Simplifying Transit
Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston St., Boston (951-1433). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6pm. Free. California architect/urban designer/transportation specialist **Martha Welbourne** describes innovations in transit design in Brazil and explains why these ideas are sweeping the United States to help shape livable communities.

Thursday, Oct. 26

Free Expression vs. Civil Rights:
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. 12:15-1pm. $5. Attorney and author **Harvey Silverglate** and chairwoman **Dorca Gomez** from the Mass. Commission Against Discrimination examines the pros and cons of legislating speech restrictions, including hate speech.

Genetically Engineered Food
Brookine Adult Education Program, 115 Greenough St., Brookline (730-2700). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. 7-9pm. $5. **Martin Teitel**, director of the Council of Responsible Genetics, discusses the social, ethical and environmental controversies surrounding the concept of genetically engineered food.

Sunday, Oct. 29

Robert Reich, James Carville and Mary Matalin
Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, R.I. (781-235-2900). $500-$650. This threesome offers their political perspectives at the Human Resources Convention.

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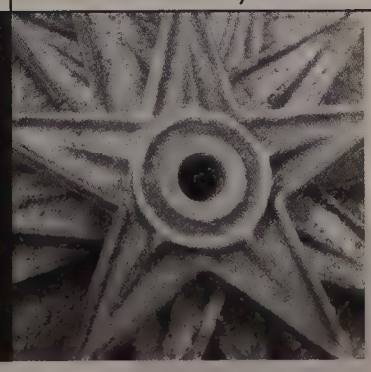

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Nights

Mondays

Ceremony
An Tua Nua. Pounding goth and industrial music shakes the house.

Cabaret
Encore Lounge. Show tunes and Cabaret.

Language
Hibernia. Drum and bass with Cosmo. 8pm. 21+.

Monsta Monday
Bill's Bar. DJ Kaptain Krunch kicks off the week. 9pm. $5, 18+.

Static
Axis. DJ Jay Ine delivers Hardhouse and UK Progressive. Plus a drag/strip event with Mizery. 10pm, $5. 19+.

Vertigo Mondays
Vertigo. Caesar and Giorgio throw a party for those who never stop dancin'. Dress slick. 10pm. No cover.

Tuesdays

Fat Tuesdays
Bill's Bar. This off-the-hook night features DJ Chaos scratching out hip-hop. 10pm. $12, 18+.

Flaunt
Aria. Hip-hop and R&B with guest DJs. 19+, $10.

The Forum
Lava Bar. Join Mission Control and support the local DJ scene as home-grown talents share the floor. 10pm. 21+.

Got Milk?
Venu. If you're chic you'll be at Venu for Milk—a devilishly hip party with DJ Osheen. Dress is funky. 21+.

Lot 36
Embassy. DJ Eddie K. heats things up with progressive Euro House at the city's hot club. 10pm. $15. 19+.

Hibernia
DJ Lounge is perfect for a relaxed Tuesday night. 7pm.

Mingle Tuesdays
The Modern. This spot screams sophistication. With DJs, a raw bar, vodka bar and late lounge. 10pm. 21+.

Showtunes
Encore Lounge. Bobby Femino plays the classic piano bar show tunes.

Wednesdays

Backstage
DJ Jonny C. spins top-40 dance. 10pm, no cover. 21+.

College Night
The Aquarium. Guest DJs spin all sorts of tunes at this relatively new venue at 10pm.

Encore Lounge
Michelle Curie plays blues and jazz at the piano bar.

Funk and Groove
Bill's Bar. DJ Tim Collins spins live funk, soul and hip-hop. 9pm. $5, 18+.

Groove Lounge
Downstairs at The Exchange. This lounge has it all—house, funk and soul.

Hedonism
Upstairs at The Exchange. DJ Infinite and DJ Luca provide the soundtrack for you to be naughty to. 21+.

Latin Night
The Aquarium. This aquatic-themed Davis Square club offers dance lessons from 9pm-10pm.

Mason
Hiberbnia. Perfect Downtempo and house music, complete with funky breaks.

Pravda 116
Spend the night at one of the city's most decadent hot spots—set to beats by DJ Alex and DJ Felix. 21+.

Thursdays

Aquarium
The Kiss 108 FM dance party. 10pm. $3.

An Tua Nua
Top 40, old school, hip-hop, house and soul spun by DJ Tim Collins.

Backstage
Tonight's adrenaline high features special guests spinning top-40 dance and club classics. 10pm, $5. 21+.

Big Easy
New Orleans-themed nightspot with billiards. 9pm.

Charlie's Angels Night
Polly Esther's. Dance to '70s, '80s or '90s tunes. 8pm, $5.

DJ Tim Ryan and DJ David James make Spin Cycle at Axis a rockin' Friday night. 10pm, $12, 19+.

Chrome
Axis. Resident DJs John Debo and Ali Ajami spin house and trance. 10pm, $10. 19+.

College Night
The Exchange. Bring your college ID and party to house, hip-hop, R&B and reggae. 9pm, 19+.

Downtempo Lounging
The Modern. DJ Ricky Fatts spins while you enjoy the raw bar and vodka bar. 9pm-2am, 21+.

Embassy Thursday Nights
DJ Anthony hosts Latin Lounge. 10pm, $15, 19+.

Encore Lounge
Michelle Curie plays blues and jazz at the piano bar.

Europa
Enter Club Destiny for DJ Rip's house and trance.

Fashion House
Aria. Fashion shows and DJ Roger spinning house. It's also Greek Night in the Angel Room. $10, 21+.

Graduate School Night
Pravda 116. DJ Maric spins tunes to relax you.

Heaven
Comedy Connection Backstage. Music by DJs Johnny C and Freddie C. Proper dress. 10pm. No cover.

Hibernia Thursdays
DJ Jeremy spins loopy, trippy, trip-hop. 7pm.

Il Panino
A social playground for young professionals. 9pm. 21+.

International Thursday
Avalon. A mixed crowd fills this nightspot with DJ Manolo and progressive Euro House. 10pm, $15. 19+.

Latin Quarter
The Roxy. You know it's time to get down when the Roxy breaks out Latin dance mixes. 10:30pm, 21+.

The Modern
International Thursdays features R&B classics. 10pm, $15, 19+.

Speed
Karma. Resident DJs Bruno spin house to an edgy crowd. 10pm, $12. 19+.

Sugar Shack
The best music from three decades pounds through the festival atmosphere where every day is Mardi-Gras.

Sweetwater Cafe
Live bands perform while guests sip margaritas.

The List
Lava Bar. *Lavabar.com*. DJ 7L and guests along with Verse/D bring you soul and funk. 10pm. 21+.

Underground
Bill's Bar. DJ Mark Hamilton showcases up and coming acts and established bands. 9pm. Cover varies, 18+.

Venu
DJ Nailz spins to a huge college crowd. 19+.

Fridays

Aquarium
DJ Lu spins today's hottest dance hits.

An Tua Nua
DJ Vinny puts together a great night of top-40 hits and your favorites from the '70s, '80s and '90s.

American Karma
Karma. All-star American top-40 remixes with DJ Tim Collins, live on STAR 93.7. 9pm, $8, 19+.

Avaland
Avalon. Everything about this screams "Party!" With Ali Ajami and special guest DJs. 10pm, $15. 19+.

Backstage
DJ Jonny C spins top-40. 10pm, $5. Proper dress, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans–themed nightspot has some of the best mainstream DJs in town.

Buzz Fridays
Buzz. Roger M lays down Latin house tracks while DJs pay homage to the house music gods. 11pm, $15. 19+.

Cabaret
Encore Lounge. John O'Neil and Jan Peters sing showtunes and cabaret.

Envy
This popular destination is filled with a mass of sweaty 'n' ready dancers. 9pm, $5 after 10pm. 21+.

Exchange Fridays
The Exchange. Up High, Tiziano and Maurizio, play house trip while DJ G-Squared opens the Vault. 9pm.

Focus at Hibernia
Cocktails with Alan Strack and deep house. 10pm, 21+.

Life
Lava Bar. Dance to a different drummer with DJ Fran Englehardt's deeply rooted, soulful rhythms. 10pm.

Mondo Bar
Roxy. International and house music with resident DJs Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. 10:30pm, 21+.

NYC Jukebox
All the disco and rock you can handle. 9pm, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ Mario spins current dance music at this hot spot.

Plush
Aria.

Revolution
Embassy. Find Latin and progressive Euro House here with DJ Eddie K. 10pm, $15, 19+.

Spin Cycle
Axis. Glitzed-out club hoppers shake it to the beats of DJ Tim Ryan and DJ David James. 10pm, $12. 19+.

Sugar Shack
DJs and specialty drinks, dancing 'til 2am.

Sweetwater Cafe
DJs KC and Jonesey entertain on two floors.

Venu
The scene is elegant for this jacket-required international romp. Get your Gucci on as DJ Arsit spins. 21+.

Saturdays

Aquarium
Saturday night dance party with DJs. 10pm. $5.

An Tua Nua
DJ Tim Collins mixes top-40, hip-hop, house and soul.

Downtown
Avalon. Resident DJs Manolo and Mattie O. gyrate your arse with hits and club classics. 10pm, $15. 21+.

Backstage
DJ Freddie C spins top-40 dance and club classics. 10pm. $5. Proper dress, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans–themed nightspot has live bands all weekend. Thirsty? There are four bars to boot.

Blues
Encore Lounge. Shake off your blues and listen to honky-tonk, classic and contemporary rock.

Classic Saturdays
Embassy/The Modern. DJ Eddie K puts out classic Euro House for the A-list. 10pm, $15, 19+.

Club Juliana
Boogieing cuties converge on Boston's newest Latin Night starting at 10pm. Dress to impress. $10.

Club Nicole
The mob is thick for this exclusive trendsetter. DJ Alex spins Eurohouse. Jackets required. 21+.

Club Piteko
Fajitas & Ritas' hot spot juggles sounds. $7. 21+.

Downtown Saturdays at Avalon
DJ Monolo spins progressive house. 10pm, $15, 21+.

Envy
DJ Tom Baxter blasts top-40, house and dance. 9pm, $5.

Elements of Life
Karma. Guest DJs spin house while DJ Justin Hoffman spins hip-hop, funk and soul. 10pm, $15, 19+.

Exchange Saturdays
Guest DJs spin house, hip-hop and top-40 tunes.

Hibernia Saturdays
Steve Porter whips the crowd into a frenzy. 10pm. 21+.

Indulgence
Aria. DJ Raffi spins house and club top-40. In the Angel room, DJ Roger spins Latin and Eurohaus. $10, 21+.

Lava Bar
Anything Goes. DJ Fran and Kris Kono unite with high-energy house and Latin beats. 10pm, 21+.

Miami Club Night
Club Joy/Yesterday's. Get a taste of Miami nightlife. 9:30pm (ladies free before 11pm), $10. 21+. Ladies, 19+.

Mischief
The Modern. Feeling mischievous? Ultra lounging with decadent desserts and erotic electronica. 21+.

Mythos
Venu. It's Greek International night with DJ Yorgo Jr. spinning the hits from the famous party islands.

NYC Jukebox
Disco and rock hits. 9:30pm, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ Mario provides current dance jams.

Roxy Saturdays
High-energy house and dance by DJ Adilson. 9pm, 21+.

Saturday Night Fever
Polly Esther's. Groove to three decades' worth of beats in the laser-lit Club DVD. 8pm, $10. 21+.

Smile
Bill's Bar. DJ Bruno takes over. 10pm. $12, 19+

Sugar Shack
Spice up your night with '70s, '80s and '90s dance music as DJ Rich Centi spins the hottest sounds.

Sweetwater Cafe
Music from DJs KC and Jonesey on two floors.

Who's on First?
The latest and greatest in hip-hop, reggae, R&B and Latin house with DJ Lil' Mike, 10:30pm, $12. 18+.

X night
Axis. Hear DJs Mike Giosciaand David James spin alternative rock and hits from the '80s. 10pm, $10. 21+.

Sundays

Backstage
Urban Night. T Clark spins hip-hop, reggae and old school. Doors open at 10pm, $10. 21+.

Common People
An Tua Nua. Brit-pop, new wave, indie and more with DJ Adrienne. 9pm, $3. 19+.

Encore Lounge
Saddle up to the piano bar and listen to Michael Kreutz play showtunes.

Il Panino
This night features music by DJ Alex of Boston Beat and DJ Roger M. No cover, 21+.

Lava Bar
Pandora's Box (Club Courtesy). DJ Vinny and Sir Richard and Sterling spin '60s Exotica, loungecore, psychedelic flowerpop and Motown. 10pm. 21+.

Living Room
Aria. DJ Raffi spins Eurohouse. In the Angel Room, DJ Franklin spins Latin. $10, 21+. Proper dress.

Red Square Lounge
Pravda 116. Party in the front bar that is transformed into a comfortable lounge. 10pm-2am.

Reggae Sundays
Bill's Bar. DJ K-Don spins some of the best reggae around. 10pm. $10. 21+.

Salvation
An intimate night, courtesy of DJ Soul. $5.

Venu
Carnival comes to Boston every Sunday as DJ Adilson brings the heat of Rio to Venu. 21+.

Club Venues

AnTua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (262-2121).*
Aquarium *65 Holland St., Somerville (623-3200).*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (437-0300).*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424).*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437).*
Backstage *245 Quincy Place, Boston (726-1110).*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678).*
Buzz/Europa *51-67 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939).*
Club Juliana *20 Hudson St., Boston (542-4411).*
Club Nicole *40 Dalton St., Boston (236-4746). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*
Club Piteko *25 West St., Boston (426-1222).*
Club Stella *1234 Soldiers Field Rd., Brighton (254-0554).*
Comedy Connection *Faneuil Hall, Boston (726-1110).*
Embassy *36 Lansdowne St., Boston (536-2100).*
Encore Lounge *279 Tremont St. Boston (338-7699).*
Envy *25 Boylston Place, Boston (542-3689).*
Europa *51 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939).*
Exchange *148 State St., Boston (726-7601).*
Hibernia *25 Kingston St., Boston* (292-2333).
Karma *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9595).*
Lava Bar *575 Comm. Ave., Boston (267-7707).*
NYC Jukebox *275 Tremont St., Boston (542-1123).*
Oskar's *107 South St., Boston (542-6756).*
Polly Esther's *262 Friend St., Boston (720-1966).*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (482-7799).*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699).*
Salvation *20 Hudson St., Boston (781-668-2392).*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510).*
Sweetwater Cafe *5 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2515).*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (338-8061).*
Vertigo *126 State Street, Boston (723-7277).*

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

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Music

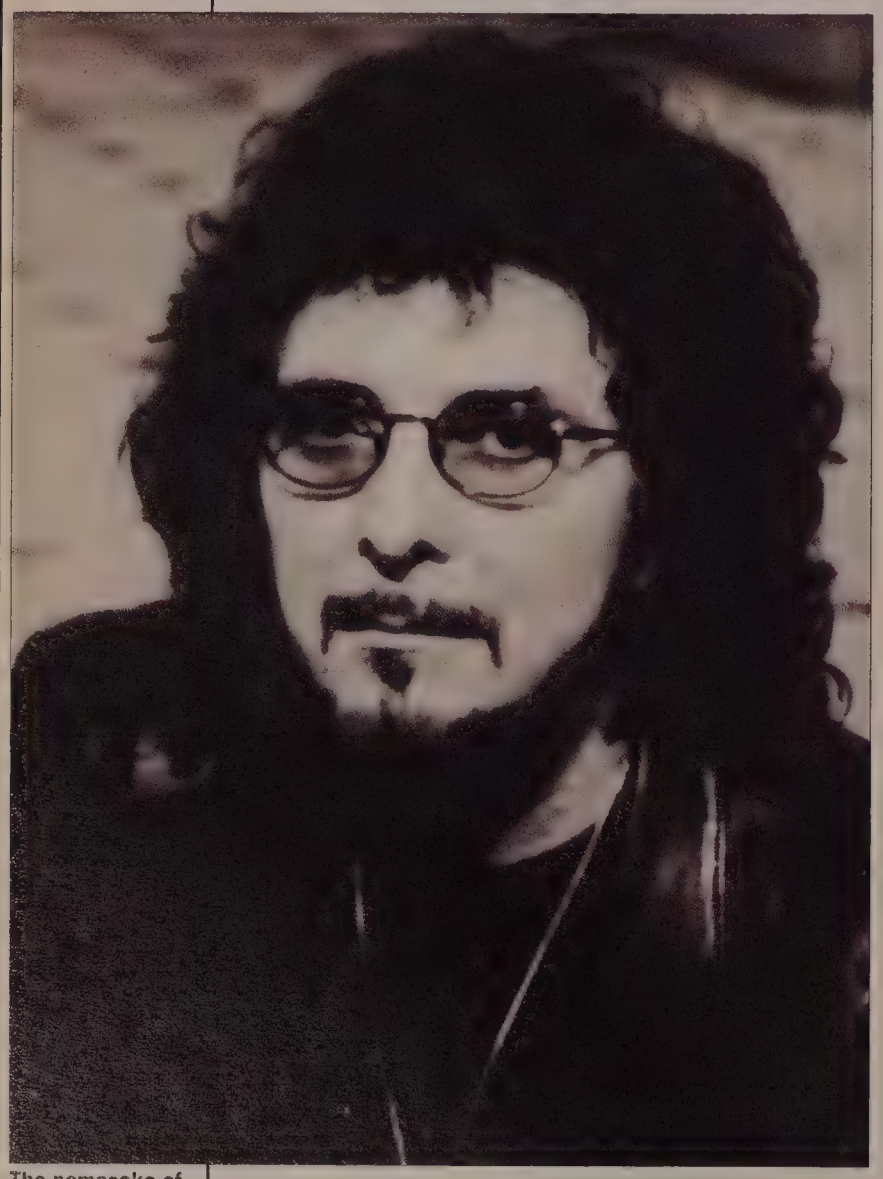
IOMMI AND FRIENDS

Black Sabbath guitarist Tony Iommi's solo debut is backed up by a litany of rock veterans. BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

He's a guitarist who has been worshipped by rock fans worldwide since the late '60s, even if he's not exactly a household name. But he had a plan: Make a CD with a cast of young, popular singers.

No, we're not talking about Carlos Santana, whose *Supernatural* recently shot him into Grammy-winning fame. We're talking about Black Sabbath guitarist Tony Iommi, whose new solo debut, *Iommi*, boasts such alt-rock stars as Smashing Pumpkins head Billy Corgan, Foo Fighters/Nirvana swing man Dave Grohl and Pantera's Phil Anselmo, as well as veterans like Billy Idol and Sabbath foil Ozzy Osbourne.

"A few people have said that it's a heavy version of the Santana thing, but I've had the idea for a few years," says Iommi, whose solo project was delayed by a reunion tour of the original Black Sabbath. "It's just more or less that he beat me to it."



The namesake of the new album, *Iommi*, even invited Ozzy to come and play.

What Iommi shares most with Santana is status as the architect of a guitar tone that shaped rock music for the past 30 years. "I more or less had a sound before I actually got together with Black Sabbath," Iommi says. "Then I really felt something as soon as we played, like 'God, this is great.'

"When we first came out as Black Sabbath, nobody was doing anything like that," he adds of the band that spawned heavy metal and grunge. "It was just the whole mood of it, just because it was heavy and loud and doomy. It just hit a spot with everybody."

Certainly, Iommi's thick, crushing riffs hit a spot with singers like Corgan and Henry Rollins, who grew up with that influence and got to add their lyrics and vocals over that guitar. In Corgan's case, he picked up a bass in the studio and they hashed out "Black Oblivion" soon after. "In the morning, we came up with a riff, and in the afternoon we were putting it down to tape, and Billy was writing the lyrics while I was doing some overdubs," Iommi says.

"They did all the lyrics and melodies they were singing," he says of his collaborators. "I wouldn't ask somebody to come in and join me on a track and tell them what to do. The whole purpose of it was the amalgamation of it all, to see what happens.

"You never know what you're letting yourself in for when you're getting involved with other people," says the affable Iommi on a recent promotional visit to Boston. "So it was actually great to get into the studio together and really click—and we all did. It's amazing. I was very impressed with the way each one of them worked; just the different characters and the way they took the songs on.

"I wanted a selection from old to new [singers], which I've got," he says. "The only one I couldn't get was Tom Jones. I wanted to get him on, but he was too busy at the time doing his own project."

Given the range of guests, there's a surprising continuity to the disc, which starts strong with Rollins' sneer-to-riff "Laughing Man (in the Devil Mask)," the emotionally dynamic "Meat" with singer Skin of Skunk Anansie, and the melodic majesty of Grohl's "Goodbye Lament." And there's a familiar chemistry in the Osbourne track "Who's Fooling Who."

"I didn't actually intend to have Ozzy on the record," Iommi says. "I'm really glad he did it. But we were sitting down together one day, and Ozzy said, 'Aren't you going to have me on the album?' I said, 'Ah, sure.'" Sabbath drummer Bill Ward was also there, and wanted in as well. Other drummers on the CD include Kenny Aronoff and Matt Cameron (reunited with Soundgarden bassist Ben Shepherd), and Queen guitarist Brian May even injects some licks of his own. "He's my old friend," Iommi says. "If I had missed him, he would have killed me."

Despite marshaling an array of '70s rock legends for the album, "there's no way you could have done this in the '70s," says Iommi, who saved his killer riffs for such classics as "Iron Man," "Paranoid" and "War Pigs" with Sabbath. He says he caught flack from his mates when he appeared on a record by Procol Harum's Bobby Harrison that even enlisted Tower of Power. "Everybody was into their own band, and if you ventured out of that band, you were a traitor."

But times have changed, even if the sound of his Gibson SG remains timeless. "The original guitar I keep under lock and key, and it will remain there unless somebody offers me $100,000 for it, and then it will go," says Iommi, before he demurs, "No, I'll keep that. That's my history there." iB

Tony Iommi

The new album, *Iommi*, hits stores Oct. 17.

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fax (859-1446); by mail to Calendar/Music; or by email to music@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, phone numbers and nearest T stops. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double check dates and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

Concerts

The Gregg Allman Band
Avalon, Oct. 24
BBMak
Avalon, Oct. 26
Kenny Chesney
Symphony Hall, Oct. 28
Ani DiFranco and Sara Lee
The Orpheum, Oct. 26, 27
Dropkick Murphys
Worcester Palladium, Oct. 28
Four Bitchin' Babes
The Sanders Theatre, Oct. 21
Gwar and the Misfits
Worcester Palladium, Oct. 21
Hatebreed and Slipknot
Avalon Ballroom, Oct. 30
Hootie and the Blowfish and Virginwool
Avalon Ballroom, Oct. 25
Branford Marsalis
The Somerville Theater, Oct. 24
Keb Mo
Berklee Performance Center, Oct. 26
Moby
Avalon Ballroom, Oct. 19
Monster Jam featuring Lil'Kim, Destiny's Child and Jay-Z
FleetCenter, Oct. 31
Omara Portuondo
The Orpheum, Oct. 25
Sonny Rollins
Berklee Performance Center, Oct. 27
Chris Smither
Somerville Theater, Oct. 28
The String Cheese Incident
The Orpheum, Oct. 28
Barbarito Torres
The Orpheum, Oct. 25
Robert Walter's 20th Congress and Soulive
Avalon Ballroom, Oct. 20
Rhonda Vincent and the Rage
Somerville Theater, Oct. 26
George Winston
Berklee Performance Center, Oct. 21

CONCERT HALLS

Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Berklee Performance Center *136 Mass. Ave., Boston (747-2261). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center/ICA.*
FleetBoston Pavilion *290 Northern Avenue, Boston (734-9000). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
FleetCenter *One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (624-1000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Worcester Palladium *261 Main St., Worcester (508-797-9696).*

Rock, Jazz and Blues

Wednesday, Oct. 18

The Attic Joe Deveau and Lovescream, $5, 21+.
Avalon BT, Hooverphonic, 9pm, $15, 18+.
Bill's Bar Gruvis Malt and Distant Relatives.
Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Bob the Chef's Hakim Law Jazz Quartet and special guests, 6pm.
Club Passim Willy Porter with Teddy Goldstein, 8pm.
Common Ground What A Way to Go-Go, 10pm.
Harpers Ferry Ron Levy's Wild Kingdom with special guests, 9:30 pm, $3.
Henessy's Johnny Bahama Night.
House of Blues Oteil and the Peacemakers.
The Irish Embassy Pub Machinery Hall, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Johnny D's Cephas and Wiggins.
Kirkland Cafe Bedlam.
Lilli's The Woggles and the Mayflies USA, 8pm, $7.

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Preview

A Decade of Damn Fine DJs

Ninja Tune celebrates with a Coldcut tour

The Ninja Tune anniversary tour comes to the Middle East Oct. 18, bringing legendary electronica duo Coldcut (DJs Matt Black and Jon More) out of a multi-year hiatus. The Ninja Tune label has been one of the strongest indies throughout the course of its history, steadily contributing to the evolution of trip-hop and promoting the careers of artists like DJ Food and Kid Koala. In the music, art and programming scenes, Coldcut is synonymous with innovation, and their live performances in urban breakbeat styles are usually described as mind-blowing. The show promises to be a full-on multimedia extravaganza, with Coldcut's live act being a synchronized audio/visual experience. An added bonus: DJ D.K., producer for the Ninja Tune Solid Steel radio show, is opening. ***Middle East Downstairs, 8pm, $15.***

Linwood Gaza Strippers, the Dragons and Lamont, 10pm, $7, 21+.
Middle East U: Damon and Naomi, $8, 18+. D: The Ninja Tune 10th anniversary tour featuring Coldcut, DJ D.K. and special guests, 8pm, $15.
Oak Bar Steve Soares, 8pm.
Paddy Burke's Pub Tom Hegarty, 8pm.
Rack Search Party, no cover.
Toad 'Lil Memphis, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Jumblies, Ari, Vanessa Carlton and Tigersaw, $6.
Les Zygomates Dave Phillips, 5pm.

Thursday, Oct. 19

Bill's Bar Delta Clutch; Senor Happy and Feedback.
Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Bob the Chef's James Aldridge Quintet, 7:30pm.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, 21+.
Club Passim Rounder in the Round with Bill Morrissey, Ray Wylie Hubbard and Jules Shear, 8pm.
Common Ground Evolution with DJ Ryan, 10pm.
Coogan's Bluff Bruce Jacques.
Grand Canal Swinging Johnsons.
Harpers Ferry Slipknot, 9:30pm, $5.
Henessy's Chente.
House of Blues Tony Levin.
The Irish Embassy Pub Jabe, 10pm, 21+.
Johnny D's Say Zuzu; The Silos.
Jose McIntyre's Me and Julio.
Kendall Cafe North Dakota, 9pm; John McBreen Band, 10pm and Sacred Raisin Cakes, 11pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe George Levas Group.
Lilli's The Pernice Brothers with Mike Daley rom Whiskeytown, 8pm, $8.
Linwood Modifiers, Red Planet and Gift Horse 10pm, $5, 21+.
Middle East U: Pedro the Lion, Julie Dorion and Damien Jurado, 6pm; Death Crab for Cutie and TW Walsh, 10pm, $7, 18+.
Milky Way Canannes.
Oak Bar Steve Soares, 8pm.
Paddy Burke's Pub Tom Carroll, 8pm.
Paradise C60.
Parkers Bar Vocalist Rose Jamison with pianist Rick Shilling, 7pm, no cover, 21+.
Toad View from Here, no cover.
Les Zygomates Alon Yavnai and Ernesto Diaz, 5pm; the Alon Yavnai Trio, 8pm.
White Horse Tavern Larger Than Life and Hip Hop.
Wonder Bar Leo Blanco, 9:30pm, 21+.

Friday, Oct. 20

The Attic The Allstonians and Lovewhip, 21+.
Big Easy Bar Cat Tunes, 9pm, 21+.
Bill's Bar Missing Joe, John Faye Power Trip and Fools Rush In, $8.
Black Rose Sunday's Well and Celtic Clan.
Bob the Chef's Rusty Scott Quartet, 7:30pm.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, 21+.
Club Passim Barbara Kessler with Shecky, 8pm.
Common Ground Stymie, 10pm.
Coogan's Bluff Central Basement.
Grand Canal Pig Pen.
Green Dragon Tavern Dog House.
Harpers Ferry Young Neal and the Vipers with special guests Mission of Blues, 9:30pm, $6.
Henessy's Me and Julio, 5pm.
House of Blues Ian Moore.
The Irish Embassy Pub Chapter In Verse, 10pm, 21+.
Johnny D's Donna Angelle and the Zydeco.
Jose McIntyre's The Return.
Kendall Cafe Frank Barter, 9:30pm; Pierce Woodward, 10:30pm; Search Engine, 11:30pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe Fikes, Drew Ambrose, Becky Chace and the Mickey Bliss Organ Combo.
Lilli's Hybrasil, 8pm, $10, 21+.
Linwood The Gravy, the X-Impossibles and the Mockingbirds, $7, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Realia and Vocal Tonic, 7pm; Wide Iris, 9pm, 21+.
Middle East U: Free Heat and Thought Industry, $10, 18+.
Mr. Dooley's Alan and Tommy.
Oak Bar Steve Soares Trio, 8:30pm.
Paddy Burke's Pub Focal, 9:30pm.
Parkers Bar Vocalist Rose Jamison with pianist Rick Shilling, 7pm, Free, 21+.
Purple Shamrock World Premier Band.
Sky Bar Drunk Stuntmen and the Ware River Club, 9:30pm, 21+.
Toad The Coots, no cover.
Les Zygomates The Kim Trusty Duo, 5pm; Ron Murphy, 9pm, no cover.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic Chronicles, 9:30pm, 21+.

Saturday, Oct. 21

Aquarium Sugarfoot, 10pm.
Avalon Shaggy, 7pm, $20.25, 18+.
Axis At the Drive-In, Murder City Devils, Sunshine, 6pm, $8.
The Attic Laurie Geltman with Almost Speechless, 21+.
Big Easy Syndicate, 9pm, 21+.
Black Rose Frank Ryan, Sunday's Well and Celtic Clan.
Bob the Chef's Jose Ramos and the Special Blend, 7:30pm.
Cantab Lounge Litle Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, 21+.
Club Passim Paul Rishell and Annie Raines, 8pm.
Common Ground Soul Work, 10pm.
Coogan's Bluff Van Go Cart.
Grand Canal Cape Fear.
Green Dragon Tavern Day's @ Dawn.
Harpers Ferry Pressure Cooker with special guests, 9:30, $6.
Henessy's Sessuin, 4pm.
Jacob Wirths The Jay Sweet Trio.
Johnny D's Swinging Steaks.
Jose McIntyre's Pig Pen.
Kendall Cafe Amy Fairchild, 9:30pm; Charlie in the Box, 10:30pm and Deb Talan, 11:30pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe River Gods, Solomon and Plastic Cheese.
Linwood Margie's B-Day Party, Waltham, Every Second and OHM, $7, 21+.
Lizard Lounge The Weisstronauts, Sool and Stuart Davis, 9pm, 21+.
Middle East U: Three Day Threshold, the Red Telephone, the High Ceilings and Major Major, $10, 18+. D: Uncle Sammy, Foxtrot Zulu and Soup, $10, 18+.
Mr. Dooley's Alan and Tommy.
Oak Bar Steve Soares Trio, 8:30pm.
Paddy Burke's Pub Focal and Tom Carroll.
Parkers Bar Vocalist Rose Jamison with pianist Rick Shilling, 7pm, no cover, 21+.
Purple Shamrock Second Story.
Toad Trailor Park, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Bird Gets in the Smile, Idiot Toaster and Susan Said, $4.
Les Zygomates David Eure, 6pm; Jim Bridges, 10pm, no cover.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30pm, 21+.

Sunday, Oct. 22

Acton Jazz Cafe Jazz Jam with Melissa Kassel and friends, 4pm, $5; Miller David Jamrogs Visiont Trio, 8pm, $5.
Avalon The Beautiful South and Shivaree, 7pm, $20, 18+.
Axis No Use For A Name, Swinging Utters, One Man Army and Big Wig, 3:30pm, $10.
Bill's Bar Paul Wayne, 11:30pm.
Black Rose Frank Ryan and Celtic Clan.
Bob the Chef's Sunday Jazz Bruch with Nat Simpkins and B3 Jazz Trio, 11am-3:30pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm, 21+.
Club Passim Ellen Schmidt and Luara Gold, 7:30pm.
Harpers Ferry Rockett Band, 9:30pm, $5.
Henessy's Owen Nolan, 5pm.
Johnny D's Blues Jam and Salsa dancing with Rumba NaMa.
Kendall Cafe Robbie Fulks, 8pm, $10.
Middle East U: Tristeza, Helms and Mercury Programs, 8:30 pm, $7, 18+.
Mr. Dooley's Freddie White.
Paddy Burke's Pub Tom Carroll, 8pm.
Paradise PJ Olsson and the Twilight Singers featuring Greg Dulli, 8pm, $10, 18+.
Rack Chad LaMarsh, 9:30pm.
Toad Christian McNeill, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Bird Gets the Smile, Idiot Toaster, Quit and Susan Said, $4.
White Horse Tavern Joel Cage, 8pm.
Wonder Bar The Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30pm, 21+.

Monday, Oct. 23

Bill's Bar Monsta Monday with Death Threat, Hope Conspiracy, 100 Demons and Cannae, 9pm, $8.
Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Cantab Lounge Geoff Bartley's open-mic, 8pm; Scott Alarik, 9:30pm, 21+.
Harpers Ferry Joe DeVeau Band, 9:30pm, $2.
House of Blues Sally Taylor, 10pm, $10, 18+.
The Irish Embassy Pub Juke Box, 10pm, 21+.
Johnny D's Twang.
Kendall Cafe XGuru, no cover.
Lizard Lounge The Fringe, 10pm, 21+.
Middle East U: The Faint, Runner and Thermo Dynamics, $7, 18+.
Toad Shwang, 8pm; Tim Gearan, 10:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Other Side of the Bear Acoustic Series with Jay Allen, Jim and Mitch of Triple Thick, $3.
Les Zygomates The Chuck Langford Duo, 5pm; Lovewhip, 9pm.
Wonder Bar The Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30pm, 21+.

Tuesday, Oct. 24

Bell in Hand Tavern Greg, 7:30pm.
Black Rose Eugene Byrne.
Cantab Lounge Howie Tarnower and Boston City Limits, 9pm; Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 10pm, 21+.
Harpers Ferry Another Planet and friends, 9:30pm, $3.
Henessy's Owen Nolan.
House of Blues Al Kooper, 10pm, $15, 18+.

British pop trio BBMak play at Avalon Oct. 26.

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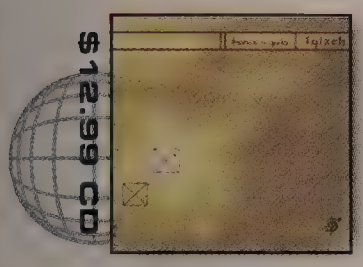


Body & Soul Vol. 3
Various Artists

Danny Tenaglia
Global Underground: London

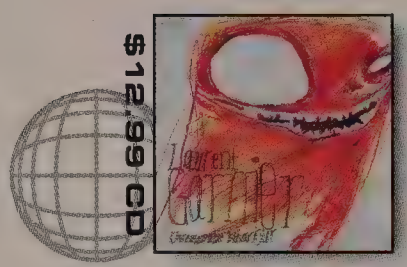
2-CD Set

Dave Ralph
Love Parade (Berlin)

The HX Project
DJ Alex Lauterstein

2-CD Set

Laurent Garnier
Unreasonable Behaviour



Paul Oakenfold
Perfecto Presents Another World

2-CD Set

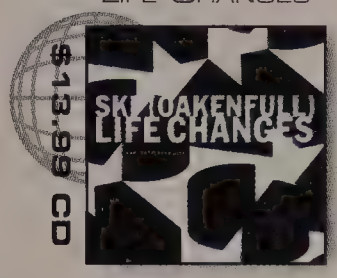
Party Time 2001
Various Artists

2-CD Set

Global Groove: Push It
Mixed By DJ Warren Gluck
Various Artists

Razor N' Guido
Present: Dancefloor

Ski (Oakenfull)
Life Changes



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- Avon, CT at 380 W. Main Street 860-678-9400

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Preview

Sturm & Twang

SCOTS bring hillbilly rock to the Middle East

"You make me wanna walk—like a camel!" howls Rick Miller of Chapel Hill, N.C.'s infamous Southern Culture on the Skids. For more than a decade and a half, the SCOTS have made a name for themselves as a high-voltage live act as well as prolific producers of albums and singles, all of which raucously revel in the backcountry aspects of "white trash" America. They've got songs that pay homage to pop culture figures from snack-cake icon Little Debbie to legendary masked Mexican wrestler El Santo, and when Mary (on bass, pictured here with the bottle) starts throwing Twinkies and fried chicken into the crowd, you know the Southern hospitality's flowing like cheap wine.

After hitting big on the radio a few years back with "Soul City," they won scores of new fans, but Southern Culture on the Skids actually began back in the 1980s with a couple of self-released singles and an album. It took a while, though, for the band to cohere into its current hillbilly-punk style. A turning point was the '91 release of their second full-length album, *Too Much Pork for Just One Fork*. A much sought-after classic (last seen on Ebay for over $100!), it was the band's first release with Rick as lead singer, and was also the introduction of down-home dreamboat Mary Huff on bass. The disc lifted its guitar sound straight from the swampy Southland of Creedence Clearwater Revival, its lyrical content from the hick towns and trailer parks that spawned it, and its vocals straight from the beer bellies of Rick and Mary.

Over the years, SCOTS has refined (and roughened) their sound and approach through a strict program of steady touring, constant drinking, making sure to practice every once in a while and producing song after good old song about—well, about what they know: Southern culture on the skids. These include gems like "Fried Chicken and Gasoline," "Moonshine Martinis" and, of course, "White Trash." Catch them (and probably some chicken) downstairs at the Middle East Oct. 25.
—Mister Graham

The Irish Embassy Pub Bakpak Nite, cover varies, 10pm, 21+.
Johnny D's Leon Rosselson.
Kirkland Cafe Chris Zahnleiter Jazz Trio.
Middle East U: Neko Case and Her Boyfriends, Kelly Hogan And the Pinevalley Cosmonauts, $8, 18+. D: Fear and Lost City Angels, 8:30pm, $10, 18+.
Oak Bar Steve Soares, 8pm.
Paddy Burke's Pub Dave Smyth, 7pm.
Paradise Ozric Tentacles and Star People, 8pm, $16, 18+.
Rack Stu Sinclair, 8pm.
Scullers Abby Rabinovitz, 8pm and 10pm.
Toad Uncle Trouble, no cover.
Les Zygomates Brian McCree and Frank Wilkins, 5pm; The Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm.
White Horse Tavern Fools Rush In, 9pm.
Wonder Bar Mike Mckenna Trio, 9:30pm, 21+.

Wednesday, Oct. 25

Axis Virtuoso, Iyadonna and Clinton Sparks, 7L and Esoteric, Skitzofreniks, Shuman, Reks, Elliot Ness and Ray Barboza, 8pm, $10, 18+.
Bell in Hand Tavern Nat Walkins, 8pm.
Black Rose Eugene Byrne.
Bob the Chef's Hakim Law Jazz Quartet and Special Guests, 6pm.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm, 21+.
Club Passim New Faces with the MacVitties, Ari, Mieka Pauley, Laura Kemp and Cactus Highway.
Common Ground What A Way to Go-Go (Mod Night with DJ Vin), 10pm.
Harpers Ferry Ron Levy's Wild Kingdom w ith special guests, 9:30pm, $3.
Henessy's Johnny Bahama Night with Me and Julio.
The Irish Embassy Pub Hamilton, 10pm, 21+.
Johnny D's Dave Alvin and the Barrence Whitfield Trio.
Kirkland Cafe Carla Patullo and Honey Deluxe.
Middle East U: Sunday's Best, the Movies and Paris Texas, $7, 18+. D: Southern Culture on the Skids, 8pm, $12, 18+.
Oak Bar Steve Soares, 8pm.
Paddy Burke's Pub Tom Hegarty, 8pm.
Paradise An Evening with Steve Howe, 8pm, $10, $12, 18+.
Rack Big City Beat, no cover.
Scullers Larry Watson, 8pm and 10pm.
Toad The Cranktones
Les Zygomates The Chuck Langford Duo, 5pm; The Issi Rozen Trio, 8pm.
Wonder Bar Leo Blanco, 9:30pm, 21+.

Thursday, Oct. 26

Aquarium Blues Jam with Tom Hostge, Mike Avery and Lenny Ball, 8pm, $5.
Avalon Mak and Jessica Riddle, 7pm, $17.
Bell in Hand Tavern Central Basement, 9pm.
Bill's Bar Peter Yorn with Eric Marcos and Normal Noises, Don Dilego and the Salvation Army, 9pm, $7.
Black Rose Eugene Byrne.
Bob the Chef's Nat Simpkins' B3 Jazz Trio, 7:30pm.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, 21+.
Club Passim Peggy Seeger, 8pm.
Common Ground Evolution with DJ Ryan, 10pm.
Coogan's Bluff Novakane.
Grand Canal Swinging Johnsons.
Harpers Ferry Entrain, 9:30pm, $10.
Henessy's Chente.
House of Blues Princess of Babylon.
The Irish Embassy Pub Empty Stage, cover varies, 10pm, 21+.
Johnny D's Graham Parker.
Jose McIntyre's Me and Julio.
Kendall Cafe Mike Previti, 9pm; Mercy James, 10pm; Paula Kelley, 11pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe Nell Bryden, Jenny Can't Stop and Clampetts.
Linwood Kevorkian, Pivot and Blind Toad, no cover.
Middle East D: X-Ecutioners and Souls of Mischief, $22, 18+.
Oak Bar Steve Soares, 8pm.
Paddy Burke's Pub Tom Carroll, 8pm.
Paradise C60, 7th Rail Crew, 8pm, $8, 18+.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett.
Rack The Cattunes, 6pm.
Scullers John Pizzarelli.
Sweetwater Cafe Jim Devlin, 5pm.
Toad The Jennifer Matthews Band
Les Zygomates Alon Yavnai and Ernesto Diaz, 5pm; The Alon Yavnai, 8pm.
White Horse Tavern Larger Than Life and Hip Hop.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford Review, 9:30pm, 21+.

Friday, Oct. 27

The Attic Superhoney with the Jibe, 21+.
Bell in Hand Tavern Zen Flower, 9:30pm.
Big Easy Bob's Day Off, 9pm 21+.
Bill's Bar Garage Dogs CD-release, Make Lisa Rich with and the Darlings, 9pm, $8.
Black Rose The Crossing and Eugene Byrne.
Bob the Chef's Dutch's Treats, 7:30pm.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, 21+.
Club Passim Joel Cage and Robby Baier, 8pm.
Common Ground The Allstonians and Costume Ball, 10pm.
Coogan's Bluff Figure Four.
Grand Canal Idiot Box.
Green Dragon Tavern Swinging Johnsons.
Harpers Ferry Entrain with special guests Lydia Warren Band.
Henessy's Me and Julio, 5pm.
House of Blues Milo-Z.
The Irish Embassy Pub Pig Pen, 10pm, 21+.
Johnny D's Neon Grandma.
Jose McIntyre's Central Basement.
Kendall Cafe Kristin Plater, 9:30pm; Clare Burson, 10:30pm; John Haydon Band, 11:30pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe Big Ray and the Futuras, Gein and the Graverobbers, Kenne Highland Clan, Mickey Bliss Organ Combo and Joan Hathaway's 3 Ring Circus.
Lilli's A Rounder 30th Anniversary event featuring Joe Ely, Slaid Cleaves and Tarbox Ramblers, 8pm, $20, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Charlie Chesterman and the Legendary Motorbikes and Ray Mason Band, 8:30pm, $6.
Milky Way The Black and White Vampire Ball with Happy Halloween.

Folk rocker Ani DiFranco performs with Sara Lee for two shows at the Orpheum Oct. 26 and 27.

Mr. Dooley's Patsy and Tony.
Oak Bar Steve Soares Trio, 8:30pm.
Paddy Burke's Pub Focal and Tom Carroll.
Paradise Superdrag and the Gravel Pit and Dragstrip Courage, 8pm, $10, 18+.
Purple Shamrock Thomas Park.
Rack Hebee Jebees, 6:30pm.
Rhythem & Muse Mark Erelli, $8.
Roxy Squirrel Nut Zippers, Charlie Hunter, $20, 7pm.
Scullers John Pizzarelli.
Toad The Armadillos, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Bettie Serveert, Star Ghost Dog and Santa's Boyfriend, $7.
Les Zygomates John Kordalewski, 5pm; Sun Steel featuring Ron Reid, 9pm, no cover.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic Chronicles, 9:30pm. 21+.

Saturday, Oct. 28

Aquarium Draw the Line, 10pm.
Avalon Elliott Smith, 7pm, $17, 18+.
Bell in Hand Tavern Spunky Monkey, 9:30pm.
Big Easy The Mix, 9pm, 21+.
Black Rose Tony O'Riordan, the Crossing and Eugene Byrne.
Bob the Chef's Sonny Watson Quartet, 7:30pm.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, 21+.
Club Passim Jim's Big Ego, 7pm and 10pm.
Common Ground Lovewhip, 10pm.
Coogan's Bluff Complaints.
Green Dragon Tavern 4 On The Floor.
Harpers Ferry Michigan Black Snake with guests Clarias, 9:30pm, $6.
Henessy's Seussuin, 4pm.
Johnny D's Brave Combo.
Jose McIntyre's Off the Wall.
Kendall Cafe Derek Schanche, 9:30pm; Army of Jasons, 10:30pm; The Fly Seville, 11:30pm, $5.
Lilli's Doughty (of Soul Coughing), 8pm, $10, 21+.
Linwood Halloween show with Rock City Crimewave, Cracktorch, Swamp Witch Revival and the (tribute band) Misfits.
Lizard Lounge Live From Lars Vegas with Lars Vegas and Auto Body, 9pm, 21+.
Middle East U: Tobin Sprout, $10, 18+.
Mr. Dooley's Patsy and Tony.
Oak Bar Steve Soares Trio, 8:30pm.
Paddy Burke's Pub Focal and Tom Carroll.
Paradise Superdrag.
Purple Shamrock Felix Brown.
Toad Holt Hopkins, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Mistle Thrush and My Own Worst Enemy CD-release party, $7.
Les Zygomates Carolyn Wilkins, 6pm; Henrietta Robinson, 10pm.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30pm, 21+.

Sunday, Oct. 29

Avalon Artistdirect.com Ritual Expo, 12:30pm, $10.
Bell in Hand Tavern Zen Flower, 7:30pm.
Bill's Bar Reggae Sunday with Shaka Black, 9pm, $10, 21+.
Black Rose Tony O'Riordan and Eugene Byrne.
Bob the Chef's Sunday Jazz Brunch with Sonny Watson Quartet, 11am-3:30pm.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm, 21+.
Club Passim Ray Wylie Hubbard, 7:30pm.
Harpers Ferry The Rockett Band, 9:30pm, $5.
House of Blues Elements of Hip Hop.
Johnny D's Blues Jam and Salsa dancing with Rumba NaMa.
Kendall Cafe Bedlam, 2pm; Mark Duplass, 8pm; Pat Burtis, 9pm.
Mr. Dooley's Freddie White.
Paddy Burke's Pub Tom Carroll, 8pm.
Rack Chad LaMarsh, 9:30pm, no cover.
Toad Cherry Snake, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Copperpot, Something Ira, Love Scream and Renata, $4.
White Horse Tavern Nate Watkins, 8pm.
Wonder Bar The Joe Mcmahon Experience, 9:30pm, 21+.

Monday, Oct. 30

Bill's Bar Mass Destruction Tour with Chainsaws and Children, More Machine than Man, Mekanizm and Eulogy XL, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Cantab Lounge Geoff Bartley's Open Mike, 9pm; Steve Brooks, 9:30pm, 21+.
Harpers Ferry Wedding Band Showcase with four bands, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Irish Embassy Pub Juke Box, 10pm, 21+
Johnny D's Wall of Grass.
Kendall Cafe XGuru, no cover.
Lizard Lounge The Fringe, 10pm, 21+.
Middle East U: Toxic Narcotic, Big Bubba, the Profits, A Global Threat and Short Lived, $6, 18+.
Toad Shwang, 8pm; Tim Gearan, 10:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Jesse of the Fly Seville, Ad-Frank and North Dakota, $3.
Les Zygomates Tim Ingles, 5pm and Peter Parcek, 9pm.
Wonder Bar The Joe Mcmahon Experience, 9:30pm, 21+.

Tuesday, Oct. 31

Avalon Common and the Spooks, 8pm, $17, 18+.
Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Cantab Lounge Adam Dewey and Crazy Creek, 9pm; Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 10pm.
Harpers Ferry Another Planet, 9:30pm; $3.
Henessy's of Boston Owen Nolan.
The Irish Embassy Pub Bakpak Nite, 10pm, 21+.
Johnny D's Mark Simos, Bruce Molsky and Rushard Eggleston.
Kendall Cafe Kara Tondorf's Acoustic Oktoberfest, $4.
Kirkland Cafe Chris Zahnleiter Jazz Trio.
Middle East U: 13 Crimson Ghosts, the Hangmen, Photon Torpedos and 13 Ghosts, $7, 18+. D: J. Mscis, 8pm, $12.
Oak Bar Steve Soares, 8pm.
Paddy Burke's Pub Dave Smyth, 7pm.
Rack Stu Sinclair, 8pm.
Scullers Orquesta Aragon, 8 and 10pm.
Toad Uncle Trouble , no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place 8th Wonder, Chimpira and the National Blue, $6.
Les Zygomates Brian McCree and Frank Wilkins, 5pm; the Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm.

SOUTHERN CULTURE ON THE SKIDS: D. KENT THOMPSON, DIFRANCO: PAUL ROBICHEAU

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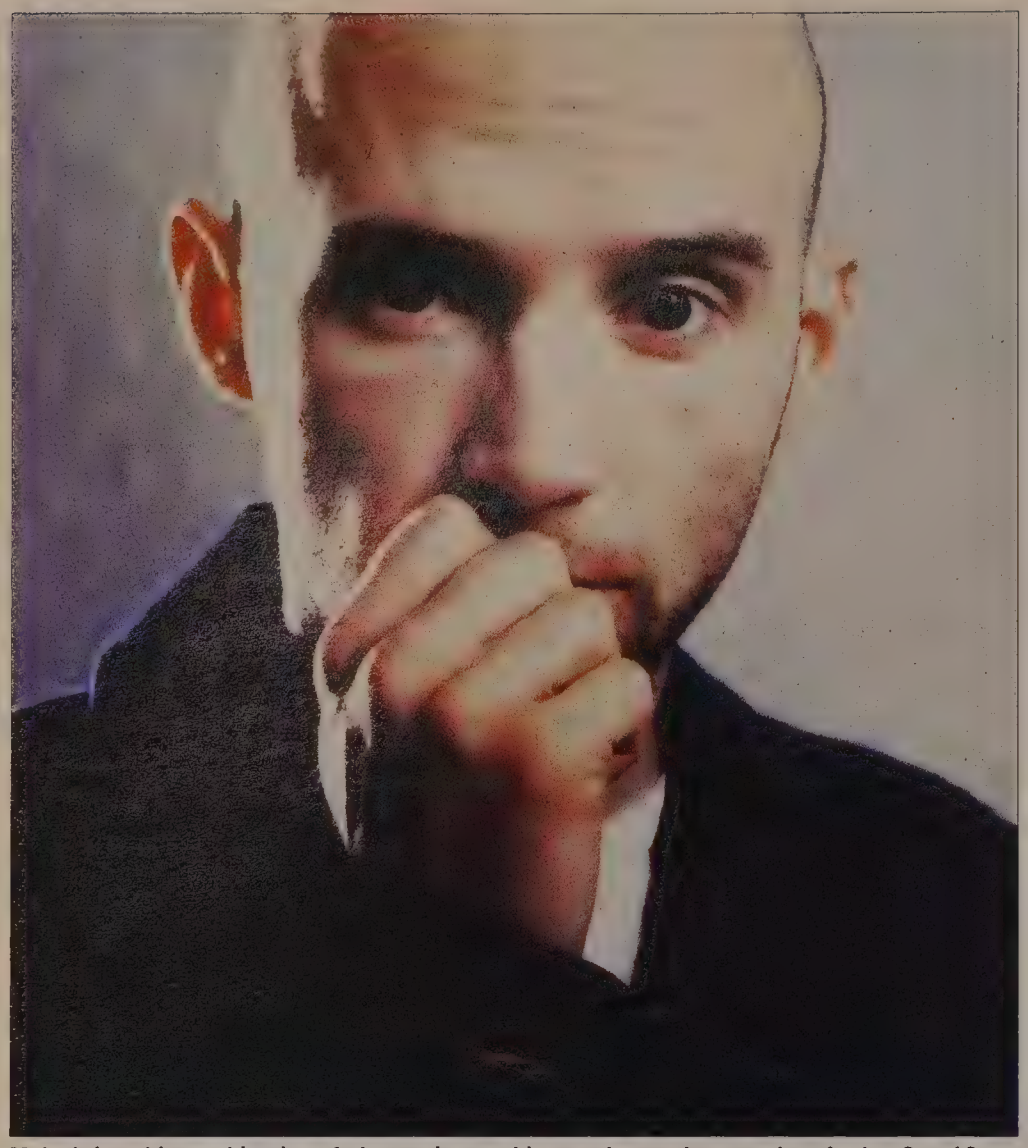

Moby brings his combination of electronica, ambient techno and pop rock to Avalon Oct. 19.

Music Venues

An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (262-2121). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Attic *107R Union St., Newton (964-6615). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Center.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Bell in Hand Tavern *45-55 Union St., Boston (227-2098). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (743-2286). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-6204). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave.*
The Bull and Finch Pub *84 Beacon St., Boston (227-9605). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Coogans Bluff *173 Milk Street., Boston (451-7415). MBTA: Orange Line to State Street.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
Good Life Central *720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston (451-2622). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (367-0055). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket or North Station.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Jacob Wirth's *31-37 Stuart St., Boston (338-8586). MBTA: Green Line to Boyslton.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Davis Square, Somerville (776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Kirkland Cafe *425 Washington St., Somerville (482-4920). Red Line to Davis.*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Lilli's *608 Somerville Avenue in Somerville (591-1661). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
The Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (267-8644). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.*
The Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard.*
McGann's Pub *197 Portland St., Boston (227-4059). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Milky Way Lounge and Lanes *405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
O'Brien's *3 Harvard Ave, Allston (782-6245). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
The Playhouse Lounge *74 Warrenton St., Boston (482-2227). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (227-2060). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (725-1051). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Regatta Bar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Rhythm & Spice *315 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (497-4308). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square.*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Central.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Rd., Cambridge (562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sidney's Grill *20 Sydney, Cambridge (494-0011). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boston.*
Tir na nÓg *366A Somerville Ave., Somerville (628-4300). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Toad *1912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (497-4950). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential Center.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Wally's Cafe *427 Mass. Ave., Boston (424-1408). MBTA: Green Line to Symphony.*
Western Front *353 Western Ave., Cambridge (492-7772).*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard Ave., Allston (351-COOL). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Les Zygomates *129 South Street, Boston (542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*

classical music

Advice to Contributors

Submit information labeled Classical by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Classical Music or e-mail to classical@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers Web site information and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to deadline. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers

Information for the music section is compiled from many different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to doublecheck dates and times.

Wednesday, Oct. 18

Boston University Concert Series
Tsai Performance Center, 685 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-8724). 8pm. Faculty concert featuring Michelle La-Course on viola and Nadine Shank on piano.

Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts
Church of St. Paul, 138 Tremont St., Boston (482-4826). 12:15pm. MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. Music in Cathedral Series with Kumi Donaghue, soprano, and James Busby, organ.

Longy School of Music Concert Series
One Follen St., Cambridge (876-0956). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Showcase Series concert featuring Aaron Copland in honor of his 100th birthday.

Thursday, Oct. 19

Boston University Concert Series
Tsai Performance Center, 685 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-8724). 3pm. Faculty Concert with Scott Hartman on trombone and John Ferguson on piano.

BSO Concert Series
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (638-9280). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Ilan Volkov conducts with Olli Mustonen on piano and Valdine Anderson, soprano.

Midday Organ Recital
Adolphus Busch Hall, Harvard University, Cambridge (495-4544). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 12:15pm. The Harvard Organ Society opens a celebratory season with works by J.S. Bach and Jan Koetsier.

Longy presents Leslie Amper Oct. 18 at its Copland tribute.

Friday, Oct. 20

Boston University Concert Series
B.U. Theater Studio 210, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (266-0800). 6:30pm. The Opera Institute Fringe Festival features *Trouble in Tahiti* by Leonard Bernstein.

BSO Concert Series
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (638-9280). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 1:30pm. Ilan Volkov conducts with Olli Mustonen on piano and Valdine Anderson, soprano.

Fridays at Trinity Concert Series
Trinity Church, Copley Square, Boston (536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 12:15pm. Trinity's weekly concert series features a broad range of music.

Handel and Haydn Society
Horticultural Hall, 300 Mass. Ave., Boston (262-1815). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. The Handel and Haydn Society opens its 186th season with Mendelssohn's *Elijah.*

Saturday, Oct. 21

Boston University Concert Series
Boston University Theatre Studio 210, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (266-0800). 6:30pm. The Opera Institute Fringe Festival features *Trouble in Tahiti* by Leonard Bernstein.

BSO Concert Series
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (638-9280). 8pm. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Ilan Volkov conducts with Olli Mustonen on piano and Valdine Anderson, soprano.

Gardner Concert Series
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 2 Palace Rd., Boston (566-1401). 1:30pm. Featuring award-winning violinist Shunsuke Sato and Robert Koenig on piano.

Longwood Symphony Orchestra
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (536-2412). 8pm. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Benefit concert for The Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund (CCRF), with flutist Jacques Zoon and cellist Ronald Feldman conducting.

Sunday, Oct. 22

Boston University Concert Series
Boston University Theatre Studio 210, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (266-0800). 6:30pm. The Opera Institute Fringe Festival features *Trouble in Tahiti* by Leonard Bernstein.

Emmanuel Music Concert Series
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (536-3356). 10am. Weekly Bach cantata featuring the orchestra and chorus of Emmanuel Music.

Gardner Concert Series
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 2 Palace Rd., Boston (566-1401). 1:30pm. The Complete Major Piano Works of Franz Schuber, with Seymour Lipkin on piano.

Handel and Haydn Society
Horticultural Hall, 300 Mass. Ave., Boston (262-1815). 3pm. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. The Handel and Haydn Society celebrate its 186th season with Mendelssohn's *Elijah.*

Monday, Oct. 23

Boston University Concert Series
Tsai Performance Center, 685 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (353-8724). 8pm. Faculty concert featuring Horia Mihail on piano.

Wednesday, Oct. 25

Boston Conservatory Concerts
8 The Fenway, Boston (912-9142). 8:30pm. The Conservatory opens a new music series Chamber Brass Ensembles from Around the World.

Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts
Church of St. Paul, 138 Tremont St., Boston (482-4826). 12:15pm. MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. Music in the Cathedal Series featuring Tatiana Chausovo on organ.

Thursday, Oct. 26

Boston University Concert Series
Tsai Performance Center, 685 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-8724). 8pm. Boston University Symphony and Chamber Orchestras.

Midday Organ Recital
Adolphus Busch Hall, Harvard University, Cambridge (495-4544). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 12:15pm. The Harvard Organ Society opens thier season with works by Bach and Koetsier.

Friday, Oct. 27

Boston University Concert Series
Boston University Theatre Studio 210, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (266-0800). 6:30pm. Opera Institute Fringe Festival.

Fridays at Trinity
Trinity Church, Copley Square, Boston (536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 12:15pm. Trinity's weekly concert series features a broad range of music.

Saturday, Oct. 28

Boston Early Music
Copley Theatre, 225 Clarendon St., Boston (661-1812). 8pm. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Director and violin soloist Andrew Manze performs the music of Bach, Handel and others.

Boston University Concert Series
Boston University Theatre Studio 210, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (266-0800). 6:30pm. Opera Institute Fringe Festival.

Gardner Concert Series
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 2 Palace Rd., Boston (566-1401). 1:30pm. Soprano Elizabeth Keusch and pianist Roberto Poli perform.

The New England Philharmonic
1972 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (868-1222). 8pm. This 24th season opening concert features soprano Jayne West and others.

Sunday, Oct. 29

Boston University Concert Series
Boston University Theatre Studio 210, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (266-0800). 3pm. Opera Institute Fringe Festival.

Emmanuel Music Concerts
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (536-3356). 10am. Weekly Bach cantata featuring the orchestra and chorus of Emmanuel Music.

MIT Concert Series
Wong Auditorium, MIT, Cambridge (253-4705). 4pm. MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. 7pm. MIT's Heritage of the Arts of Southasia presents a music from South Asia.

Monday, Oct. 30

Boston University Concert Series
Tsai Performance Center, 685 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-8724). 8pm. Muir String Quartet with Michele Levin.

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How to use this section
The following listings contain information that is subject to change. Contact the organization for changes in specific events.

Boston's acclaimed chorus Coro Allegro performs at Symphony Hall Oct. 20 with the Boston Cecilia and the Handel & Haydn Society. At right is Coro Allegro artistic director David W. Hodgkins.

CLUBS, BARS & HANGOUTS

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years these folks have been crankin' out some of the best Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. It's well worth a visit—if not for the three separate dance floors then for all the male dancers. 9pm, $15, 21+.

Buzz (Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays)
51 Stuart St. in the Theatre District, Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. On Saturday nights this place boasts two dance floors, two DJs, a pool room and a lounge. Two levels of dancing and schmoozing will keep the boys busy until 2am. 10pm, $5, 21+.

Chaps (Daily)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. www.chapsofboston.com. Sun.: Dance music of DJ Danae Jacovidis; Mon.: Grand Baby and Grand Piano night; Tue.: Retro DJ night; Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adielson Caesar; Thu.: DJs Billy and Fran, High Energy Dance; Fri.: Taboo Erotique with DJ Sammy; Sat.: High Energy Dance, DJ Danae Jacovidis.

City Girl Cafe (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri: 11am- 9pm; Sat: 10am-9pm; Sun: 10am-7pm. A small (five tables), laid-back cafe in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated. This cozy spot is home to a mixed gay/hetero crowd that lounges about, munching on sandwiches. Brunch on Saturday and Sunday, 10am-2pm.

Club Cafe (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-0966). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 11:30am-2am; Sat. 2pm-2am; Sun., 11am-2am. This trendy South End spot draws a mixed crowd that comes for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back (Moonshine). It's a dressy bunch that likes to mingle. No cover, 21+. •Carol O'Shaughnessy performs with Steve Heck, Dottie Dean or David Sparr, Thursdays. the first Wednesday of evey month. It's a two-hour drag variety show hosted by Drag-on Showgirl Diamond Dunhill and her friends. It's a great idea for bachelorette parties. 9pm, 21+.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (542-4494). Mon.-Fri., 3pm-2am; Sat., 1pm-2am; Sun., 12pm-2am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This is your friendly neighborhood bar with a quiet setting. It's best known for scrumptious Sunday brunches (12-4pm). This simple joint has all of the trappings of a true bar: smoky and dark. The place starts hopping as it gets closer to 2am.

Fritz (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Stroll in for a quiet drink or a rowdy night on the town. The folks here are friendly—and really into sports. Not only does Fritz have Direct TV set up with sets scattered about, it's also home base to a great softball league. 12pm, no cover, 21+.

Jacques
79 Broadway, Boston (426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. If you're looking to relax with a friendly crowd of gays and straights, and you like to mingle with disco-dancing drag queens, then you've found the place. Sun. and Mon. are local band nights. Tues. through Sat., however, divas rule the stage. 10:30pm, $4, weekends $6, 21+. •Sundays host the Drag-on Showgirl Showcase featuring Diamond Dunhill, Destiny and special guest divettes with their new, expanded 90-minute show. Bachelorette parties welcome. 10:30pm, 21+.

Lava Bar (Saturdays)
575 Commonwealth. Ave., Boston (267-7707). The Lava Bar's Tabu night boasts DJ Fran spinning out high-energy house with a taste of Latin beats. 10pm.

The Lizard Lounge (Wednesdays)
1667 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. "Marlene Loses It at the Lizard" is the title of this eclectic evening of poetry, live music and theater. 10pm, $5 cover, 21+.

Luxor (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (423-6969). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from the latest music scenes and classic old movies—compiled by the bar's own VJ. Downstairs is Jox. No cover, 21+.

Machine (Fridays, Saturdays)
1256 Boylston St., Boston (536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 10pm-2am; Sun., 7pm-midnight. www.ramrodboston.com/machine. This is one of Boston's best gay bars, where you will find your friends dancing every weekend. Fri.: NYC DJ/Producer Darrin Friedman spinning. Sat.: Resident DJ Brad Gwynn.

Man Ray (Thursdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (864-0400). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed.-Fri., 9pm; Sat., 10pm. A bustling hot spot caters to a young, alternative clientele. Two dance floors fill up on Thursdays for Campus, a predominantly male night where DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen take over. 10pm, $8 for 19+, $5 for 21+.

119 Merrimac (Daily)
119 Merrimac St., Boston (367-0713). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Sat., 10:30am-2am; Sun., 12pm-2am. This male cruise bar is the place to stop for drinks before or after FleetCenter events. Shoot a leisurely game of pool or play the video games. Merrimac features DJs playing hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s. 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. On Thursday nights, the Midway offers Kristen Porter's Dyke Night with 25 percent of the proceeds benefitting the Lesbian AIDS Project of Mass. The cafe always has something brewing—live bands, DJs and drag-queen parties. The party starts at 8pm, no cover, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (494-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Central. On Monday, a bartender not only mixes drinks but strips too. Male strippers are featured Wed.-Sat. Mon. is Gothic night; Tue. is techno; and Thu. is college night. On Fridays DJ Sam Sampson spins, and on Sat. hear DJ Brad Gwynn. 5pm, no cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (266-2986). Green Line to Kenmore. 12pm-2am. www.ramrodboston.com. The largest leather bar in the East enforces a tight dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room). Sun.: buffet and man-dance with DJ Brad Gwynn. Mon.: pool tournament and pizza. Tue.: Spice 4 Life with DJ Kal Muzak. Wed.: Twitch with DJ SGT Dennis. Thu.: Primal Dance with DJ James Hughes. Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danaw Jacovidis. Sat.: With DJ Dennis Sargent.

Chaps welcomes partiers to dance to the tunes of top Boston DJs every night of the week.

BOOKS

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge. (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Fri., 10am-8pm, Sat., 10am-6pm, Sun. 12-6pm. New England's oldest women's bookstore offers a wide selection of literature. Its author series continues throughout the fall. •Oct. 24, 6pm **Pam Rogers**, author of *Robin Hood Was Right*.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12pm-6pm. Boston's literary gay and lesbian bookstore.

SHOWS & EVENTS

Boston Film • Video Foundation Festival
1126 Boylston St. #201 (536-1540). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Oct. 25, 7:30pm. Laura Colella discusses her experience at the Sundance Institute and shows *Stay Until Tomorrow*, which has been described as *Breakfast at Tiffany's* meets *Day for Night*. In *In My Father's Church*, Charissa King shows footage from a documentary about Methodist pastors who marry gay couples.

Coro Allegro
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1492). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Oct. 20, 8pm; Oct. 22, 3pm. Boston's acclaimed chorus for members and friends of the gay, lesbian and bisexual communities performs at Symphony Hall with the Boston Cecilia and the Handel & Haydn Society. Christopher Hogwood leads the chorus and period instruments in an exciting program featuring Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. Soloists include James Morris, Christine Brewer, Marietta Simpson and Gregory Turay.

Laffan Halloween Dance
Best Western Hotel, Rt. 128, Waltham (666-1922). Oct. 21, 8pm-12am. $10. Get decked in your Halloween costume and party with other lesbians for fun and networking. Meet great girls at this guaranteed-to-be-fun Halloween dance. Cash bar.

Mixing Business with Pleasure
The Cyclorama, 539 Tremont St., Boston (236-4222). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Oct. 21, 10am-5pm. www.gbbc.org. This year's Greater Boston Business Council Expo, the fifth annual GBBC Expo and Entertainment Festival, brings together business consumers in a convenient marketplace where you can talk to businesses that value the patronage of the gay, bisexual and transgender community. It includes seminars ranging from vacationing in South Africa and building your own wine collection to marketing your own start-up business. The main stage features local performances as well as book readings.

Queer Chick Smut
Lizard Lounge, 1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Oct. 19. Pussy-Whipped Publications and Stool Solutions present a literary event: **Muff! It's What's for Dinner**. The night features erotic readings by authors including Jaclyn Friedman, Amie M. Evans, Amatul Hannan, Dawn Daughtery and Jean Powers. This isn't clean-cut, but it's still good stuff.

ONGOING

Am Tikva
(883-0893). www.amtikva.org. A community of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered Jews.

Bawl
This lesbian softball league offers opportunities to join teams in both the recreational and competitive divisions. Call Liz (508-628-5477).

Best Foot Forward
Ballet Etc. Dance Studios, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (522-1444). MBTA: B Green Line to Washington St. For gays/lesbians/bisexuals of all swing skill levels.

Boston Glass
Community Center, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Daily 8-10pm. Support groups and social activities for adolescents ages 13-25.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). www.chiltern.org/chiltern. A 1,400-member gay club with hiking, biking, camping, skiing and other outdoor activities.

Common Bond
(781-433-7023). A support group for gay/lesbian/bisexual current or former Jehovah's Witnesses.

Community Rainbow
Boston Living Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston. 7:45 pm. An organization whose mission is to advocate for the community. Meets Thursdays.

Cosmetically-Correct
Laurel's Restaurant, 142 Berkeley St., Boston. www.egroups.com/community/cosmeticallycorrect. A social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month, 7:30pm. Lipstick optional.

Dykes Who Hike
(522-6185). This hiking group is for lesbians in the Boston area who want to conquer the wilderness.

East Coast Wrestling Club
With more than 160 members, this is an extraordinarily popular New England spot for gay male wrestlers. Call Marc at 401-467-6737, or go online at *http://members.tripod.com/~ecwc* or e-mail *ecwc@juno.com*.

Fenway Community Health Center
(927-6057). The center is currently conducting a study to help HIV/AIDS patients take medication on time. Participants receive $95.

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (824-4266). www.frontrunnersboston.org. A running club for the LGBT community meets Saturdays.

Gay Volleyball
Cambridge (822-2148). Sundays, 6pm, $7. Typically seven teams play on three courts. Teams are made up each week depending on who shows up. Mostly men, but women are welcome.

Gender Free Contra Dancing
First Church of Jamaica Plain (448-2429). www.piac.net/users/latte/lcfd/. Come one, come all to evenings of contra and square dancing.

Hump Day
Skupper Jacks in Acton. Every third Wednesday at 5:30pm, Boston's gay, lesbian and transgendered come together to hang. For more information, contact *Tom.Evans@digital.com.*

Latino Social Groups
Latino Gay Men's Project (350-6900 ex. 125) and the Women's Social Group (350-6900 ex. 124).

Long Yang Club
(825-5677) www.longyangclub.org/boston. Boston's club for Gay Asian Men and their friends. Bringing the East and West together.

OOPS
Melting Pot Coffee House, 2 Belgrade Ave., Roslindale (323-4123). Out on the Parkways invites one and all to come on down for some dinner and coffee.

PFLAG
Fenway Community Health Center, 7 Haviland St., Boston (547-2440). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets every fourth Monday, 6:30-8:30pm.

Queer Corps
131 Clarendon St., 4th floor, Boston (450-1676). A community-mobilization project by and for queer men who are age 25 and under. Tuesdays, 6-8pm.

Tennis4all
Boston's gay and lesbian tennis club, with monthly tournaments and pizza socials. Call Ted at 779-7231.

HOGWOOD: BERTA A. DANIELS, CHAPS: ADAME GEREMIA

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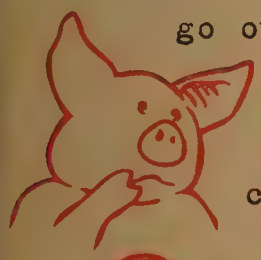

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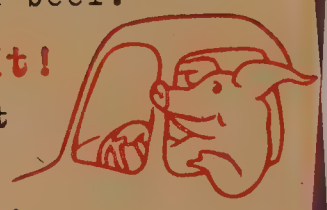

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body&mind

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information by mail, fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/ Mind, or electronically to bodymind@improper.com. *Include a brief but thorough description of the event, time, date, location and directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.*

EVENTS

Dance of Universal Peace
First Church Congregational, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (876-6883). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Oct. 20, 7:30-9:30pm. $6. Simple, joyous and meditative circle dances honor the spiritual traditions of the world. All dances are taught and accompanied by live music.

Flower Readings
College of Spiritual Knowledge, Masonic Center, 32 Church St., Watertown (923-4334). Oct. 28. "Flower readings" are well-known English medium and psychic **Peter Close**'s specialty.

Shiatsu School Open House
Charles River School of Shiatsu, 180 Mass. Ave., Arlington (781-643-1545). Oct. 27, 5-9pm. Free. Experience a shiatsu mini-session for free and watch tai chi demos at this new learning center for Asian healing and martial arts.

The Transformative Power of Crisis
Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). Oct. 25, 7:30pm. Free. Therapists **Robert M.** and **Jane Alter** discuss how to approach the trials and tribulations of life with an open, empowered attitude.

CLASSES

Ayurveda: India's Medical Tradition
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Oct. 21, 9:30am-3pm. $45. Ayurvedic medicine is one of the oldest and most comprehensive health care systems. Its goal is to maintain a balanced body and mind in coordination with one's unique constitution. Ayurvedic healthcare pays attention to sleep, eating and the emotions and their relationship to healthfulness. Join rehabilitation specialist **Loretta Levitz** and learn to identify your individual needs.

Dating 101
Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Oct. 21, 1:15-3:30pm. $39. Well-known author and psychotherapist **Sharyn Woolf** teaches you how to be a smooth player in the game of love.

Kripalu Danskinetics Celebration
Green Street Studios, 185 Green St., Cambridge (974-7606). www.bethdance.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Parking at Pearl and Green. Oct. 29, 7-8:30pm. $15 or $25 for two.* Experience Kripalu Danskinetics, a form of expression in which gentle Kripalu yoga meets outrageously fun dance.

Meditation and Chanting
The Yoga Studio, 74 Joy St., Boston (523-7138). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. Oct. 29, 11am-1pm. $15. This class in mindfulness meditation with **Connie Harris** will focus on breathing and the serenity of being in the present moment. This exploration will address the inner voice that is reflected in the chanting of ancient songs.

Personal Development & Self Care
Wellspace, Fresh Pond Mall, Cambridge (876-2660). www.wellspace.com. *Oct. 26, 7:30-9pm. $5.* Many sense they could function better in life, work and relationships. However, it's not always clear what your specific strengths and weaknesses might be or how to go about using your gifts to their fullest extent. This interactive evening with **Dr. Malachy Shaw-Jones** will help you begin to clarify your personal development goals and identify the resources for the task.

Therapeutic Writing
New England School of Acupuncture, 40 Belmont St., Watertown (926-1788 ext. 5). www.nesa.edu. *Oct. 29, 9:30am-5:30pm.* It has been discovered that writing can have a positive effect on the immune system. Psychologist and writer **Pamela Post** has personally experienced this and hosts this class to allow you to do the same through imagery, music, poetry and other creative outlets.

ONGOING

Activity-Based Relaxation
New Directions for Yoga, Health and Psychotherapy, 5 Harvard Ave., Brookline (738-1648). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. Saturdays, 7-8 pm, Sundays, 6-7pm, or Mondays, 10-11 am. $20 per class. For adults who enjoy being young at heart. Learn relaxation techniques while enjoying the process. Play games, explore scents and learn various fun ways to bring relaxation and stress management into your daily life.

Dance Friday
Rug Cutter's Studio, 23 Main St., Watertown (924-7276). www.dne.org. *MBTA: #57, 70 or 71 bus. Fridays, 8:30pm-12am. $7.* Dance any way you want to, even barefoot, to all kinds of music.

Lunch Time Yoga
The Yoga Studio, 74 Joy St., Boston (523-7138). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. Tue., 12-1pm. Thu., 1-2pm. Spend your lunch getting healthy with ease. Grab a yogurt and spend some time being good to yourself.

Maintain Health
The Marino Center for Progressive Health, 2500 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6225). www.marinocenter.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Porter Square.* The Marino Center has the following ongoing groups and classes: Adult psychotherapy, Tuesdays: 5-7pm; Kripalu yoga, Mondays: 6-7:30pm; Hatha Yoga, Wednesdays: 6-7:30pm; Qi Gong, Wednesdays and Fridays: 6-7am.

Move Your Body
Dance Complex, 536 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-9363). http://cambridge.zami.com/dancecomplex. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. $8-13.* Some folks may find yoga too sophisticated of an exercise but would still like to work on moving the body. Why not try one of the following drop-in classes at the Dance Complex. Stretching: Mondays, 6-7pm, and Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30pm; Tai Chi: Fridays, 9:30-11am.

Yoga/Allston
Beacon Light Yoga Center, 215 Brighton Ave., Allston (739-0717). Sunday through Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. $18 per session (call ahead). If you've wanted to try yoga, then come down to the peaceful and inviting environment of this yoga center.

Yoga/South End
Union United Methodist Church, 485 Columbus Ave., (522-7199). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential or Orange Line to Back Bay. $15/class. Join anytime. Certified Kripalu yoga teacher **Patrice Flesch** teaches mixed-level classes in a spiritual setting. Increase flexibility, relieve stress, build strength, relax and enjoy yourself at any of these ongoing drop-in classes: Tuesdays at 7pm, Wednesdays at 12pm and on Saturdays at 10am.

RETREATS

Andrew Cohen
Impersonal Enlightenment Fellowship Boston, Foxhollow, Berkshires, Mass. (800-376-3210). Oct. 27-29. Investigate the nature of enlightenment and the liberating potential of spiritual inquiry with author and spiritual teacher **Andrew Cohen**.

Embodying the Soul
Linda Marks, Newton (965-7846). Oct. 20-21, 11 hours. In an emotionally safe environment, you will have a chance to bring the spiritual together with the physical through meditation, movement, exercises and body-centered psychotherapy. This retreat focuses on allowing healing to occur from the inside out.

Improvising Life

Veteran star of stage, screen and television Alan Arkin (above) offers a workshop on the spontaneous art of improvisation called "Crossing the Chasm from Theater into Life: A Forum in Improvisation" Oct. 21. According to Arkin, "Creativity is what takes place the moment you transcend technique." He writes that "This is true of all human endeavor, whether art, sport or science. In improvisation there are only a few techniques—you must rely on your intuition and your attentiveness. Just as in life." Through lecture and exercises, Arkin shows us how to experiment, share, play and grow. *Omega Institute, Arlington Street Church, 351 Boylston St., Boston (800-944-1001).* www.omega-inst.org. *Oct. 21. $145.*

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Children. Or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

TO SEE

Barney's Musical Castle and The Wiggles
Worcester's Centrum Center, 50 Foster St., Worcester (508-755-6800). Oct. 25-27, 7pm; Oct. 28, 11am and 2:30pm; Oct. 29, 1:30pm and 5pm. $10-$25. Barney and his pals invite the audience to sing and dance to classic Barney songs. The Wiggles perform at intermission.

Halloween Farces and Comedies
The French Library and Cultural Center, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (26-4351). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Free. Oct. 31, 5pm. Take a peek behind the scenes of your favorite fairy tales.

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow
The Orpheum Foxborough, Foxborough (508-543-2787). Oct. 25-26. This timeless spooky story is full of thrills, chills and laughter.

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus
FleetCenter, Boston (931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Tue.-Fri., 7pm; Sat., 11:30am, 3:30pm, 7pm; Sun., 12:30pm and 4:30pm. Through Oct. 23. $11-$37. Performers from all over the world make this the Greatest Show on Earth.

Wilma the Witch
Lyric Stage Company of Boston, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Oct. 23-24, 11am. $7. Once Upon a Time presents 45-60-minute audience-participatory children's performances.

THINGS TO DO

Witches, Fishes and Fun
New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, Boston (973-5200). Oct. 28, 9am-5pm. Children ages 3-11 admitted free with costume. Take part in the great pumpkin hunt, face painting, spooky animal tours and arts and crafts.

Fright Fest
Six Flags New England, Route 159, 1623 Main St., Agawam, Mass. (413-786-9300). Fri., 5-10pm; Sat.-Sun., 11am-10pm. Oct. 6-31. $36.99. The park turns into a Halloween playground with haunted houses, a trail of terror and Houdini's Ghost Town.

Halloween Costume Parade
Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). Oct. 30, 3:30pm. Join a Halloween parade walk with Winnie the Pooh.

Halloween Haunt Jaunt
Meet at Granary Burying Ground, Tremont Street and Bromfield Street, Boston (635-7383). Oct. 29, 1-2pm. Free. Take your costumed kids on a scavenger hunt within the burying ground.

Spooky World
Deep in the Woods, Foxboro Stadium, Route 1, Foxboro, Mass. (978-838-0200). $23.50. Fri.-Sun., 6-11pm. Through Oct. 31. Visit Spooky World's 60 acres of haunted terror, including four haunted houses, three ghoulish museums and nightly horror celebrity guests.

Boo at the Zoo and Zoo Howl
•Stone Zoo, 149 Pond St., Stoneham (781-438-5100). Oct. 21-22. Throw on a costume and trick or treat with real, live animals. *•Franklin Park Zoo, 1 Franklin Park Road, Boston (541-LION). Oct. 28, 11am-3pm.* Gather for goblin games, spooky storytelling, creepy crafts and costume costumes.

The Wiggles perform between acts at *Barney's Musical Castle* in Worcester Oct. 25-29.

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

To Watch

Boston Bruins
•FleetCenter. Tickets: 931-2000
Oct. 20 (Away): Calgary Flames, 9pm.
Oct. 26 (Home): Washington Capitals, 7pm.
Oct. 28 (Home): Toronto Maple Leafs, 7pm.
Oct. 29 (Away): New York Rangers, 7pm.
Oct. 31 (Away): New York Islanders, 7:30pm.

Boston Celtics
•FleetCenter. Tickets: $10-$75. Call 228-6000
Oct. 27 (Home): Orlando Magic, 7pm. Pre-season.

New England Patriots
•Foxboro Stadium. Tickets: 931-2000
Oct. 22 (Away): Indianapolis Colts, 1pm, CBS.

Events

Boston Mayor's Cup
Boston Parks & Recreation Department, Franklin Park, Boston (566-7600). www.usatfne.org. *Oct. 22, 10:30am.* A five-kilometer race for women and an eight-kilometer race for men hosted by USA Track & Field New England.

An Evening with Champions
Bright Hockey Center, Harvard University, Cambridge (493-8172). www.digitas.harvard.edu/~ewc. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Oct. 20, 8pm; Oct. 21, 2pm; Oct. 21, 8pm. $25.* This year's show, hosted by 1992 Olympic silver medalist Paul Wylie, will feature such skaters as Alexei Urmanov, Elena Berezhnaya, Anton Sikharulidze, Kyoko Ina and John Zimmerman.

Halloween Fun Run
West End of Faneuil Hall, Boston (800-966-0444). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Oct. 31, 7pm. $30, $35 after Oct. 25. Join the folks from the IMPROPER in this costumed run along the streets of Boston. Proceeds benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Join us for a party afterward at the Rack.

Head of the Charles
Along the banks of the Charles River, Cambridge. www.horc.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Oct. 21, 1:30-4pm; Oct. 22, 7:50am-3:40pm.* Last year more than 300,000 spectators watched some of the best rowers in the world from the banks of the Charles River.

Walk As One: Unite to Fight Hate
Wang YMCA of Chinatown, 8 Oak St. West, Boston (227-9155). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. www.nccjboston.org/walkasone. *Oct. 29. 12pm.* Join 3,000 walkers on a five-mile journey through Chinatown, South End and Bay Village neighborhoods to take a stand against bias, bigotry and racism.

Trick or Treat Trot
Roslindale Village at the Roslindale Commuter Rail stop (Needham Line), Roslindale (327-4065). www.roslindale.net/trot. *Oct. 28, 10am. $12, $15 on the day of the race.* This five-kilometer costumed race is followed by a free pasta luncheon, a sidewalk sale and musical entertainment.

WWF: Raw Is War
FleetCenter, Boston (931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to South Station. Oct. 30, 7:45pm. $18-$40. The World Wrestling Federation returns to the FleetCenter with another nationally televised event.

Women's Soccer Challenge
FleetCenter, Boston (931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to South Station. Oct. 29, 6pm. $17.50-$37.50. America's premier players go head-to-head against top international stars in an explosive indoor soccer match. Catch US National Team favorites Mia Hamm, Brandi Chastain, Briana Scurry, Julie Foudy, Carla Overbeck, Michelle Akers, Kristine Lilly and Joy Fawcett.

To Play

BASKETBALL

Basketball City
Adjacent to North Station and the FleetCenter (742-6700). Corporate, midday and weekend leagues.

Co-Ed Indoor Basketball
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 224). Sun.-Thu. nights at various locations. All levels welcome.

U.S. National Team star Kristine Lilly plays at the Women's Soccer Challenge Oct. 30.

Leagues in Waltham, Dedham and Brookline. Co-ed teams now forming.

The Corporate League of Boston
(566-7808).

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333). Practice and workout programs for all levels in Greater Boston.

South End Fitness Center League
(534-5823).

Women's Basketball League
(661-9622). Tuesdays 5:30-7pm and Sundays, 6-7:30pm.

BOXING

Boxing Workout
Vinny Greco's Powerhouse Gym, 125 Walnut St., Watertown (972-1711). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Enjoy the workout of a boxer—or become one yourself. Participate in one-on-one instruction in a supervised, safe environment with Boston Sport Boxing Club.

FOOTBALL

Australian Rules Football
Boston Australian Rules Football Club. Thu. evenings and Sat. mornings, Cambridge (781-440-9266). www.BostonDemons.org. No experience necessary.

Indoor Flag Football
BSSC, Indoor Sports Center in Revere (789-4070). Sundays.

HIKING/WALKING

The Appalachian Mountain Club
Gorham, N.H. (603-466-2727). Hikes and huts in the White Mountains. •Monthly AMC Young Members meetings at AMC headquarters, 4 Joy St., Beacon Hill (523-0655). Second Thursday of every month, 6-10pm, $3. Potluck. BYOB.

Boston Ski & Sports Hiking Trips
(789-4070). •Oct. 22, 6am, $20: Mt. Washington. Hike the Northeast's largest mountain at a great time of year. You must be in excellent shape and be prepared...it may be snowing at the summit. Approximately 7 miles round trip.

New England Walkers
39 Oakland Rd., Brookline (731-9889). www.members.tripod.com/NEWALKERS. This 200-member club hosts race-walk events and clinics. Weekly walks at M.I.T. indoor track on Wednesdays at 7pm.

Walking Group
(247-8267). This group sponsors weekly walks on Wednesday evenings in the Back Bay. Meet new people while getting exercise.

HOCKEY

Co-ed Floor Hockey
BSSC (789-4070). Individuals and teams, co-eds, all levels in Newton. Co-ed teams now forming.

ICE SKATING

Learn to Skate
Lessons available at 16 MDC rinks in Greater Boston (781-890-8480). www.iceskatingclasses.com. Wait a minute—it seems that fall just got here and now it's time for ice skating lessons already?

RUGBY

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
Cambridge (781-340-2192). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.bwrfc.org. *Tue. and Thu. evenings.* No experience necessary.

Old Gold Rugby Club
Newton (742-0678). www.oldgoldrugby.com. *Tue. and Thu., 6:30-8:30pm.* New and experienced players welcome. Games on Saturdays.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
(499-4835). Weekly runs year-round. Serious drinkers with a running problem.

Boston Road Club Weekly Races
(781-646-8955). Sundays. Starts at Wells Ave. in Newton.

Fresh Pond Weekly Road Races
Fresh Pond Reservation. Saturdays, 10am. Choose between a 2.5- or 5-mile run.

Khoury's Thursday Night Runs
East Somerville. (351-5682). 4.13 miles. 7pm at Khoury's Bar.

NikeTown Boston Running Club
200 Newbury St., Boston (267-3400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Three-to-five-mile loops. Starts at 6:30pm. Monthly mini-clinics as well.

SOCCER

BSSC Soccer
BSSC (789-4070, ext. 225). Co-ed teams for both indoor and outdoor soccer.

SOFTBALL

80-Team Softball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 222). Monday through Thursday evenings at 6:30pm. Join as an individual or as a team.

SWIMMING

Boston Athletic Club Swim Workouts
653 Summer St., Boston (269-4300). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon. and Wed. 6:15-7:15am.

The Charles River Park Club Morning Masters
Charles River Park, Boston (450-9810). Mon., Wed., Fri. 6:30-7:45am.

The Mason Masters Swim Program
The Mason Pool, 159 Norfolk Ave., Roxbury (236-4923 or 450-9810) Mon.-Fri. 7:30-8:30pm. An early-morning masters swim program led by Alex Primilsky, coach of numerous world, national and Olympic champions.

TENNIS

Boston Tennis Club
Located next to North Station, Boston (742-6700). Adult and youth clinics, socials, open play and matching. Come with balls.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Boston Ski & Sports Club
(789-4070).

Boston Ultimate Disc Alliance
(928-0882). www.buda.org. The season's almost over, but sign up early for the spring league.

VOLLEYBALL

Adult Co-ed Volleyball League
Waltham YMCA (781-894-5295). Monday nights, began Sept. 13. All levels welcome at this friendly co-ed league.

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club, (789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. at various locations. Co-ed indoor 6-on-6 leagues. Four different levels of play. Pick-up games, clinics and tournaments also available. •Co-ed pickup games Tuesdays and Fridays at West Newton Armory, 1137 Washington St. $5.

Co-ed Volleyball-Waltham
Waltham YMCA, 725 Lexington St, Waltham (781-894-5295). Monday nights.

WATER SPORTS

Boston Sailing Center
54 Lewis Wharf, Boston (227-4198). Year-round lessons and racing programs for all abilities.

Community Boating
21 David Mugar Way, Boston (523-1038). www.community-boating.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. Open Mon.-Fri. 1pm-sunset; Sat.-Sun. and holidays, 9am-sunset. April 1-Oct. 31.* Sailing, windsurfing and kayaking on the Charles River for only $190 per season, including instruction. What a bahgain!

Courageous Sailing Center
Charlestown Navy Yard (635-4505). Lessons are offered here year-round.

WRESTLING

Men's Adult Wrestling
Boston Union, 48 Boylston St., Boston (482-1122). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm; Saturdays 1-3:30pm. All skill levels. Coaching available.

go away
TRAVELING NEAR AND FAR

NORTH OF BOSTON

Haunted Happenings
Various locations, Salem, Mass. (978-744-0013). www.salemhauntedhappenings.com. *Through Oct. 31. Prices vary.* Don't miss Salem's annual Halloween fright fest. •Oct. 20: Show off your spooky duds at the Pickering Wharf Costume Contest. •Oct. 20-21: Brush up on your ESP and witchcraft at the Psychic Fair. •Oct. 21: Sharpen your hook and polish your peg leg for today's Pirate Festival. •Oct. 20-21: Pick up some ghoulishly good treasures at the Bizarre Bazaar. •Oct. 27: Say it with us: "Mua-ha-ha-ha." Good. Now practice for tonight's Bewitched Ball.

SOUTH OF BOSTON

King Richard's Faire
Route 58, South Carver, Mass. (508-866-5391). www.kingrichardsfaire.net. *Oct. 18-31, weekends only, 10:30am-6pm. Adults $20, children 5 and up $10.* Enjoy Medieval entertainment, edibles and shopping at this fair for the Renaissance lovers. Period beggars, guards and royalty surround you as you watch knights jousting on horseback. Feast on spit-roasted turkey legs and wine to refresh your spirit, and shop for hand-blown glass, candles and pottery.

WEST OF BOSTON

Harvest Time
Old Sturbridge Village, One Old Sturbridge Village Road, Sturbridge, Mass. (508-347-3362). Oct. 21-22, 9am-5pm. Price varies. Pitch in as farmers dig out potatoes and turnips during this harvest of the heirloom vegtables. Pick and husk corn and thresh and winnow rye using 19th-century tools.

Haunted Knights and Parade of Ghouls
Higgins Armory Museum, 100 Barber Ave., Worcester, Mass. (508-853-6015). Oct. 28, 2-3:30pm. Enter through creaky castle doors to meet scary ghosts from past centuries. March in the *Parade of Ghosts*.

CAPE & THE ISLANDS

Nantucket Ghost Walks
The Antheneum, India Street, Nantucket, Mass. (508-325-8855). Oct. 27-29, 7pm-8:30pm. $10. Investigate Nantucket's ghouly side on a ghost walk through the city's haunted past. Muffle your screams as you tour well-known haunted sites and cemeteries.

Cape Cod Trick or Treat Stroll
3 Main St., Village Green, Falmouth, Mass. (508-548-1191). Oct. 29, 1pm. Free. Be sure to don a costume for this stroll down Main Street.

mark your daytimer
UPCOMING EVENTS

CITYSCOPE

Boston Snow Sports Expo
Nov. 16-19, Bayside Expo Center

Enchanted Village
Nov. 20, City Hall Plaza

MUSIC

Buffalo Tom
Nov. 2, Paradise

Rancid
Nov. 7, Avalon

Bon Jovi
Nov. 8, FleetCenter

Dar Williams
Nov. 19, Orpheum

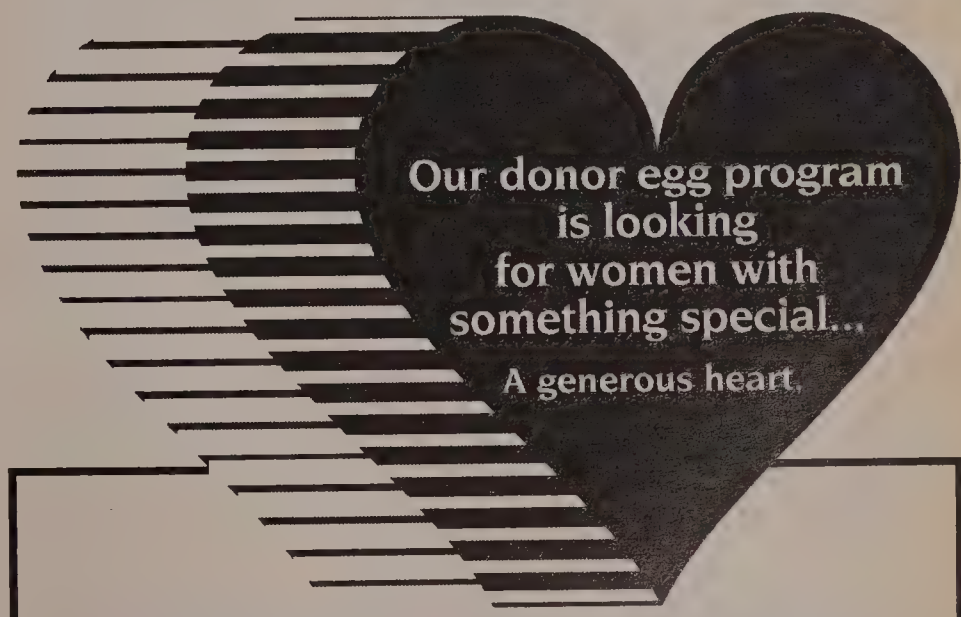
Paul Simon
Dec. 1-3, Orpheum

Jon Bon Jovi, Nov. 8.

THEATER

Dinner with Friends
Nov. 4-19, Wilbur Theatre

Annie
Nov. 7-12, Wang Theatre



You have the opportunity to give the gift of childbirth to an infertile couple. Boston IVF is looking for egg donations from healthy women between the ages of 21 and 34. Donors will be required to take medication and undergo a minor surgical procedure. Donors will be compensated for their time and effort. Participation is completely confidential.

For more information, call us at (781) 434-6500 M-F, 9-5 p.m.
Serious inquiries only.

Boston IVF
"Bringing a Little Joy To Life"
One Brookline Place, Brookline, MA 02146
Accessible by Green Line Ⓣ

Improper Impersonals

If everyone kept their feelings bottled up like warm beer, we'd soon have antisocial behavior exploding all over the place and ruining the upholstery. So send us your letters of love and spleen, and we'll print them for the world to see. Heck, it's better than making a fool of yourself in person. And IT'S FREE! Pick up a pen or keyboard (hint: we like the fact that e-mailed messages mean that we don't have to risk ruining our manicures by—ugh—typing) and write to:

IMPROPER IMPERSONALS
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116
FAX: 859-1446 **E-MAIL:** impersonals@improper.com
Recent correspondence follows.

Laura
Take this quiz.
When you left for Toronto you took:
A. My love
B. Your trainer
C. My dignity
D. (destroyed) Our friendship
E. A condom
F. All of the above
—Goodbye, Adam

A long shot....
We met at Hennessey's on a
Wednesday night,
You were so cute, and about
my height.
You looked great in your button-
down shirt,
I was the blonde who was wearing
a skirt.
The date? I think it was around
late July.
My friend was leaving, I was saying
good-bye.
I don't remember your name,
just where you work.
(Hope your boss at Houghton-Mifflin
isn't a jerk.)
Your cast and crutches didn't
bother you at all,
You still managed to dance.
You had a ball.
I've been hoping to meet you
again somewhere,
But haven't been having much
luck out there.
I'm not crazy or psycho if that's
what you think,
Just wish I got your digits to
go out for a drink.
—missedmychanc58
@hotmail.com

Robert
I cannot wait to see you... soon.
—Andrea

To Jon
I just wanted to thank you for pursuing me and inadvertently showing me what a jackass you are, because I never would have guessed from the looks of you. At least you proved to me that dogs really are like their owners. Your dog Sammy is nondescript, but good at kicking up attention, either by entertaining or annoying every living thing in the dog park. Have fun in your dog park.
—You know who

Backbay Tribe Fan and Dog Brownie
It was the second day of the Red Sox/Tribe doubleheader, about 6:40 pm. at the corner of Comm. Ave. and Berkeley. You with your dog, Brownie, me with a friend. He was wearing a Tribe hat, me a Tribe shirt. You stopped us to talk about the game. You're from Youngstown, I'm from Wooster. We talked about the Indians blowing a seven run first inning lead. I was at the game, you listened to the live feed from your computer. We were also worried about Finley pitching the second game. You and Brownie were going to drown your sorrows in a can of Amstel Light and I was off to the game. I wanted to ditch my friend (he's not really into baseball), and take you to Fenway with me. If you would like someone other than Brownie and a can of beer to help cheer for Cleveland, email this transplanted Ohioian.
—sophietee@aol.com

Belated and Bummed in Belmont
You were: tall, blonde and truly awe-inspiring. We: just happened to be in the Patriots' north parking lot Sunday night after the Vikings game. Your tomboy look (a tight, gray T-shirt with loose, baggy overalls; and your baseball cap stylishly worn backwards) only emphasized your true beauty and the essence of your bubbly girl-next-door charm Remember that stranded red Jeep? I confess: I only pulled out of the line to exit the lot because I thought that YOU were somehow connected with the red Jeep group. I thought, hoped, or prayed (choose one) that you may have noticed me when we got out and gave them a jump-start. I certainly noticed you... in fact, more than a week later, I can still clearly see you playing catch with another woman who lined up about 15-20 yards away from you. During the 30 minutes that I was lucky enough to watch your friendly game of catch, you dropped exactly two and only TWO of her passes. After watching you for a few minutes, I was really tempted to toss my own pass at you but it looked to me like you had come to the game with the Jeep-guys or the group of guys parked next to them. But just after I had turned on to Route 1, someone in my car said that he had spoken with both groups of guys about you. According to that second, third and fourth-hand information, you "seemed to be a free agent," "might be from Southie" and that your group didn't include ANY guys. Well, if perchance this humble message does successfully make it through all of the grinding monotony between us, I sincerely hope that you decide that "after further review," we might still have a play or two to run... together.
—Eyekneedit@aol.com

Blonde Beauty
Late Saturday night (9/23/00, around 1am), I was headed down the main stairs of the Big Easy, sweaty and disheveled from a great night of dancing... You were a vision in a perfectly pressed white-checkered blue dress shirt. As you ascended the stairs, you glided towards me. You stopped to ask me why my friend and I were leaving, reaching for my hand. Dumbfounded by your delicate touch, I answered briefly, but I was cut off by an overbearing guard who wanted traffic to keep moving. Though a stranger, you glided in like a warm, familiar breeze. Close to me, you gracefully leaned towards me, gently brushing your lips against mine. Catching me off guard just long enough to leave me speechless, you disappeared with your friends. I returned to look for you a minute or two later, but you were gone. And I've been thinking of you ever since. Where are you?
—stillwishyouwerehere
@yahoo.com

Back Bay Bikes
You were working behind the counter at Back Bay Bikes, describing your philosophy on dating and your dream man ("I don't believe in this opposites-attract crap. I want a man that's just like me, but with a huge..."). I was buying something; can't remember now because all I've thought about has been how damn sexy that sounded. Then at the register I got a look at you, and I haven't stopped thinking about you and what you said since. I'm not interested in dating, or having a girlfriend. Anything else, however, is open for discussion.
—Beatnik2001@aol.com

Boston Females
This goes out to that special guy, the special guy I see every morning...in the mirror. No, I'm not some egotistical jerk, I'm merely a guy who grabs the IMPROPER every two weeks to read the Impersonals and see if some cute girl-next-door type noticed me somewhere. I do this to no avail, so I decided to put my own in to satisfy myself. I see myself on the Red Line every morning stuffed in between some sweaty obese guy and a kid with a backpack bigger than himself, then off to Starbucks and then to work. Amongst all the wannabe-rich, parental-supported, fake yuppie stiffs, I am nothing but a pierced, tattooed loser. I just want all of you to know that I am more of a catch than any of you lame-o's will ever get and if I go amongst you unnoticed, I do not mind, because I am smarter, funnier, and much more fun to hang out with than any of you Abercrombie-shopping, no-personality drones. At least I notice, and I suppose that's all that matters.
—theintelligentloser
@hotmail.com

Rockie Horoscope

OCTOBER 18 – 31, 2000
BY ROCKIE GARDINER

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22
Fire needs air to burn bright and you provide both right now. There'll be divine moments while your Venus ruler in Sag is supported by inspirational Neptune this weekend. Surround yourself with artwork, rise above pedestrian concerns. You'll have heartfelt generosity, an appreciation of the finer things, and the smarts to know how to get them when Venus aligns with expansive Jupiter at the new moon. Trust in your good luck, but don't come on too strong while Venus joins with passionate Pluto next weekend. Such a display of power is liable to overwhelm us.

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21
Nobody has it in for you personally. It's simply Mercury turning retrograde in your sign that is making you the focal point of our frustration. Chances are you're the sign we can't get through to, the one who is losing packages and misplacing order forms. Because it's been years since Mercury examined your past with such diligence, feelings of paranoia are probably justified. Let's hope you're not running for office because a juicy sex scandal can break when Venus wraps her legs around your Pluto co-ruler next weekend. But if you're not...

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21
You might not notice that Mercury is retracing its path through your Scorpionic unconscious unless you are undergoing hypnosis or spend a lot of time in the confessional. But if you have no incriminating secrets to reveal, feel free to be your careless, swaggering self. You have permission from the cosmos to indulge like there's no tomorrow while pleasure-loving Venus is opposing your Jupiter ruler. Next weekend: the urge to purge.

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20
You'll be practically bulletproof during this Mercury-retrograde period. Unless you have a lot riding on a young person's success, you can get away with all kinds of questionable behavior. Miscommunication may become annoying, but since the Goat is no longer a kid, you know how to handle the inevitable Mercury-retrograde delays, errors, even rumors about your family. However, hot times with friends, no matter how expensive and outrageous, will not reflect badly on your good name. If you are a high-profile athlete, you should know these things.

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18
One fabulous fantasy after another and excellent reasons to act them out. Be sure to dress up for whatever the occasion demands when beauteous Venus connects with imaginative Neptune in Aquarius this weekend. That is about as alluring and artistic a vibe that you can project and still walk the street. Thursday, however, might be strange because your Uranus ruler turns direct after hiding your innate outrageousness under a bushel basket for the past five months. An improbable situation, and poof, you could disappear in a cloud of smoke.

PISCES
FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19
Even though diplomatic Libra is fast coming to an end, the object right now is to strengthen the alliance between Aquarius and Pisces. Use romance, glamor and excellent artistic efforts to close the deal. Once watery Scorpio begins Sunday night, you'll feel more comfortable in your own skin and may even welcome being challenged when the sun squares your idealistic Neptune ruler on the 26th. Flip-flopping friends can spook you, but only because you're so sensitive to, and turned by, the nuances of sexual power plays. Will you, or won't you?

ARIES
MARCH 20-APRIL 19
It may be more difficult to see things clearly once the sun enters Scorpio Sunday night, so address matters of the heart well before a seasonal concern with conspiracy theories and the Dark Side sets in. No matter what costume you're wearing, Rams tend to play the hero at Halloween. Keep reminding yourself that while your Mars ruler is still in Virgo, you can do detailed work exceptionally well. Also allow your critical eye free rein because no one will take offense while you are in this dedicated craftsman mindset. After the election, it's a different story.

TAURUS
APRIL 20-MAY 20
Every now and then the Bull leaves practical matters behind and ventures into the mystic. This weekend when you're feeling fey and looking fabulous can be one of those magical times. Aesthetics and artistry have greater meaning in your life, and even a cynical partner is happy to go along for the ride. How long does this trip last? Another week or until the changes set into play at the Scorpio new moon next Friday shows that you've gone way over the top for that partner's comfort. Confine your intensity to the bedroom, please.

GEMINI
MAY 21-JUNE 20
With your Mercury ruler in retrograde, going over territory you've recently passed through, the experienced Twin knows better than to push forward, especially on matters dealing with recreation, risk or the kids. Let the dust settle before you make a move or try to reach an informed decision because, once Mercury goes direct on Election Day, you'll probably revise your conclusions. Instead, focus on the pleasures of having loving Venus in your marriage house for the next four weeks. Attractive, talented people; successful social situations.

CANCER
JUNE 21-JULY 22
Mercury retrograde shouldn't mess you up too much. The planet of communications retreating into Scorpio makes the next three weeks a good time to reconnect to the family, to reach out to relatives who have neglected you and your scene and vice-versa. The reunion could be a little bumpy, but a Scorpionic death-rebirth vibe promises there'll be a healthy resurgence of powerful emotions. Also look forward to a hot, steamy scene as affectionate Venus and passionate Pluto come together in your house of pleasures and playmates.

LEO
JULY 23-AUGUST 22
Having such a vivid imagination shouldn't go to waste; if nothing else, start dressing for Halloween immediately. Artists, musicians and poets are being challenged to achieve a higher level of accomplishment by a tense square between idealistic Neptune and your sun ruler. You could retreat into a world of fantasies, go on a movie marathon or seek spiritual solace from the usual sources, but why blow a good opportunity to express your vision to co-workers and clients? Coming soon; high drama at home, a family affair.

VIRGO
AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22
The current crusade you're on is scheduled to end just before the election, which is when Mars leaves your sign and enters conciliatory Libra. That doesn't leave much time to achieve perfection, let alone significant reform. Better pick the most essential facet of the problem as you see it and vigorously promote that. Meanwhile, since your Mercury ruler is retrograde in your money house, you'd better let a financial matter proceed at its own pace. You'll see the situation in a new light after the Scorpio new moon on the 27th.

Curious about the future? Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30 to 40+ pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise over the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $42.50 per report to: ROCKIE GARDINER, 1021 N. Genesee, #1, West Hollywood, CA 90046. *www.rockiehoroscope.com.* Read my daily forecast online at www.laweekly.com.

DEWAR'S ROCKS
HIGHLANDER APPEARANCES:

THURSDAY, 10/19
Jose McIntyre's 6-7pm
The Purple Shamrock .. 7:15-8:15pm

FRIDAY, 10/20
The Black Rose 6-7pm
Houlihans 8:30-9:30pm
Hennessy's 9:45-10:45pm
Sweetwater Cafe 11pm-12am

SATURDAY, 10/21
The Kinsale 8:30-9:30pm
Cleary's Pub 9:45-10:45pm

THURSDAY, 10/26
Jose McIntyre's 6-7pm
The Purple Shamrock .. 7:15-8:45pm
Coogins Bluff 8:30-9:30pm
Clarke's 9:45-10:45pm

FRIDAY, 10/27
The Black Rose 6-7pm
The Rack 7:15-8:15pm
Houlihans 8:30-9:30pm
McGanns 9:45-10:45pm

SATURDAY, 10/28
Hennessy's 7:15-8:15pm
The Kinsale 8:30-9:30pm

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November and December, 2000

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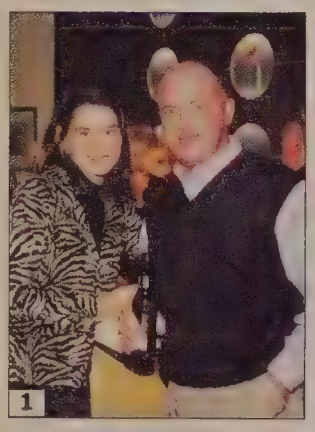
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN's client-related promotions and events

Tuesday, October 3, **Anheuser-Busch Brewing Co**. featured models from the **Ford Modeling Agency** as hosts at their hospitality tent at the **2000 Presidential Debate** at the University of Massachusetts in Boston.

The Ford Models enjoying Budweiser beer: **Susan Jackson, Chrissy McGrath, Michelle Martin, Kate Thatcher, Megan Griffeth, Kristin Collins**, and **Suse E. Trevithick**.

On Thursday, September 28th, Hingham's hippest night spot, **Stars** (owned by Eatwell Inc.), celebrated the opening of their second location on Huntington Ave. **Eatwell** also owns the well-known **Tosca Restaurant** of Hingham and **Waterworks** on Quincy's Marina Bay.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1. **Stephanie Lawlor** of The Boston Globe Calendar with her husband **Robert**, a Brookline police officer.
2. **Ed Kane**, president of Eatwell Inc., with his girlfriend, **Noria Morales**.
3. **Denise** and husband **Will McDonough** , columnist for The Boston Globe.
4. **Greg McKenna**, Guitarist for Letters to Cleo with Axis Bartender, **Amy Thwang** and **Kevin McKenna**, a computer Engineer.
5. **Eric Aulenback**, General Manager of The Alley, with his girlfriend **Kimberly Zimmer**, **Matt Maloney**, of Standard Register and **Dawn Ohanian**. Both women are 5th grade teachers at the Field School in Weston.

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Monday, October 2, **Governor Cellucci** hosted a special reception at the State House prior to the **2000 Presidential Debate**. Various sponsors provided food and beverages for the evening.

1. Chef **Diego Orsono**, Butterfish owners **Christopher** and **Samantha Bussell**.
2. Executive sous chef **Stephanie Brown**, executive chef **Tom Barton**, banquet manager **Mark Trahter**, all of Sebastians Catering.
3. **Michael Glick**, Director of Food & Beverage, The Colonnade, **Jenniffer Ucci**, soirées & special events and chef **Antoine Camin** of Brasserie Jo.
4. **Kathryn A. Shehade**, Director of Public Relations and Marketing at Bricco Restaurant, North End.

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On Thursday, September 21, an outrageously large crowd joined **E! Entertainment's** Jules Asner for the taping of "Wild On The Rack" TV show.

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1. **Jules Asner** of E! Entertainment.
2. **Walter McCarty** of The Boston Celtics.
3. **Lorraine Marino, Jeanne Sullivan, Alison Nolan** and **Bonnie Powers** from Modern Continental.
4. **Jimmy Tye** & **Paul Canavan** of United Liquors with **Carol Francolini** Developing Manager for Stella Artois from Labatt U.S.A.

VINCENT DELLARAZO (ANHEUSER-BUSCH, 2000 PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE); KERRY BRETT HURLEY (STARS); WENDY SEMONIAN (E! ENTERTAINMENT)

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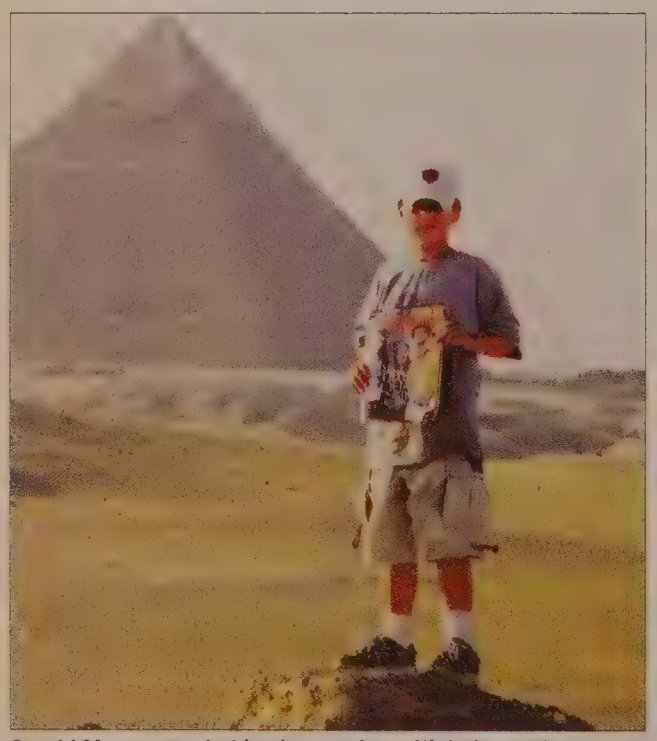
Lorraine Smith photographed Neil Hall in front of the Longaberger Basket Co. headquarters in unexpectedly Kafkaesque Newark, Ohio. And yes, there are huge bologna sandwiches in there.

From left to right: David Piper, Somerville resident Ayesha Mattv and Lark Pien bring the Boston's Best issue to Islamabad, Pakistan's best place to face Mecca, the Faisal Mosque.



Gerald Martone took this picture of son Nicholas at the Pyramids in Cairo, Egypt, in August. "Hey, Dad, next time we're on vacation in August, can we go someplace hotter?"

Bostonian Liz First-Raddock is currently an expatriate in Tokyo, and when seven months pregnant and on vacation in Bali (as shown here) she catches up on news from home with THE IMPROPER.

MIT graduate student Adam Rzepniewski (left) and professor of mechanical engineering Steven Dubowsky at NASA's Simulated Mars Yard at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif.

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138 Portland Street, Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, near the Fleet Center and Faneuil Hall, Common-wealth features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am -1 am.

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Ma Soba Asian Cuisine & Sushi

156 Cambridge Street on Beacon Hill, Boston, 973-6680. Enjoy premium sushi and Ma Soba's unique blend of contemporary and traditional Asian cuisine prepared by award-winning chefs. Relax with a fine wine selection from Ma Soba's comprehensive wine cellar in a setting described as "strikingly attractive and ultra urbane" by the Boston Herald. Open daily: Sun-Wed until 10:30pm, Thurs-Sat until 11:00pm. When in Harvard Square, visit Ma Soba Express at 30 Dunster St. for quick-service pan Asian noodles and rice platters.

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223 Columbus Ave. 867-9300. Acclaimed chef/owner Jamie Mammano's South End restaurant. The design is both elegant and informal, resonating with the ambiance of Provence. Mistral features a crisp linen dining room as well as a casual lounge and bar. Serving dinner Mon-Sun beginning at 5:30pm - 11pm. Late night menu served Thurs-Sat 11pm-12midnight. Reservations recommended-private dining available.

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199 Clarendon St., Copley Sq., 536-3500; 2 Brookline Pl., Brookline, 232-8887; and 55 Needham St., Newton, 964-4244. Enjoy fresh grilled seafood flown in from around the world, in a casual, comfortable atmosphere. Specialties include blackened tuna sashimi, Skipjack's moonfish, Maryland crabcakes, lobsters and gingered calamari. Swing with the infamous Winiker Orchestra and enjoy our Jazz Brunch every Sunday, 11 am - 3 pm in Boston. Also performing in Brookline every Fri. and Sat. evenings from 6 - 10 pm. Reservations accepted and discounted underground parking in Boston and Brookline.

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256 Moody St. Waltham 781-647-4000 Top Ten Reasons To Visit Watch City: 10. At the top of Waltham's restaurant row 9. Easy access from Rt.128 & Masspike 8. Free parking 7. The Embassy Cinema next door 6. Award winning chef & brewers 5. www. watchcitybrew.com 4. Live music Wed & Thurs. nights 3. Great grilled seafood, steaks & burgers 2. Only female owned brew pub in USA 1. Great beers, great food, always a great time.

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BRUNCH

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101 Atlantic Ave., Boston 723-5101. A waterfront live jazz brunch is the perfect Sunday start at Atlantic 101 from 11:30am - 2:30pm featuring a creative a la carte menu and soothing live jazz. Sample favorites as Eggs Benedict, Huevos Rancheros, or try out our crowd pleasing Poached Eggs with Maine Crab Cakes, Smoked Bacon and Creole Mustard Hollandaise. Burgers, crepes and Lobster round out the menu as well. Call 723-5101 for reservations. Atlantic 101 also features live piano and vocals at night, Tuesday through Saturday. Lunch daily from 11:30am-2:30pm. Dinner daily from 5:00-10:30pm.

Museum of Science - Skyline Room

Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston, MA 02114. Powers of Nature, October 6-March 4. Enjoy Sunday brunch in the beautiful Skyline Room overlooking the Charles River at noon, then experience the amazing Mugar Omni Theater: Wild California at 2pm. Tickets are $28 for Adults, $26 for Seniors/ Children. Brunch only is $20. On-site parking is included. Reservations recommended, call (617)723-2500.

Skipjack's

199 Clarendon St., Copley Sq., 536-3500; 2 Brookline Pl., Brookline, 232-8887; and 55 Needham St., Newton, 964-4244.Swing with the infamous Winiker Orchestra and enjoy our Jazz Brunch every Sunday, 11 am - 3 pm in Boston. Located at 199 Clarendon St. at Copley Square. Indulge yourself with our delicious Smoked Salmon and Caviar Tasting served on a warm corn blini, or our Fresh Crab Pie made with eggs and jack cheese. Do not forget to sample our award-winning clam chowder. Validated parking available. Reservations accepted. Call 617-536-3500.

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755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300. Speak your voice on Sunday afternoons at the best brunch in the Back Bay. With an eclectic style all it's own, Vox Populi offers the perfect atmosphere for the comfortably sophisticated lounger in everyone. Enjoy the first floor bar and fireplace lounge, the second floor bar overlooking bustling Boylston St., or the elegant second floor dining room (outdoor patio dining available sesonally). One of Back Bay's most prominent establishments, Vox Populi truly speaks the popular voice.

The Wrap & Smoothie Bar

137 Mass Ave., Boston (at Berklee School of Music), 369-9087; 71 Mt. Auburn St., Harvard Square, 354-5838; 1940 Beacon St., Cleveland Circle, 739-0340; 82 Water St., Financial District, 357-9013. The Wrap serves delicious, freshly prepared wraps, burritos and salads as well as healthy and refreshing smoothies. Voted Boston's Best 1998 & 1999 by The Improper Bostonian. Fresh ingredients, great taste, healthy options - words we live by!

Last Scene Here

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

At the Gardner Museum, from top: The grand entrance; Anne Hawley and Jack Gardner; a festive jester; and Lee and Cokie Perry.

An appropriately elaborate feast was served at tables sumptuously decorated like 17th-century Dutch still-lifes, and period performers entertained throughout the evening. In fact, only two things were missing for absolute historical accuracy: large quantities of animal dung and a certain tension between Protestants and Catholics.

NOT EXACTLY KOSHER...

Given that the **Young Friends of the Public Garden** chose to hold their **Swing into Fall Gala** on Rosh Hashana, they deserve to be called Green-Loving Goyim on the Verge of Middle Age. That said, the evening was perfectly lovely—a by-the-book dinner-dance at the **Four Seasons**, honoring horticulturalist **David Hynes** for keeping our parks sparkling.

Seen swanning around the ballroom: patrician party pair **Maud** and **Andrew Cabot**, Fidelity scions **Abbie**, **Beth** and **Edward Johnson**, Beacon Hillions **Karyn** and **Kevin Lamb**, Nashville-born thoroughbred **Trevania Henderson** and her affable other half, **John**, hyperactive tractor heir **Stephens Dunne** and his unsinkable wife, **Molly**, gentleman farmer **Peter Creighton**, kilt-sporting kitchen god **Robert Fathman** and numerous pre-facelift socialites who blinked uncomprehendingly when wished a Happy New Year. Memo to next year's planning committee: a Yom Kippur brunch is always nice.

PERHAPS IT'S JUST AS WELL...

It's rare that a party in Boston is considered fabulous enough for the *New York Times* to cover, but the **Rembrandt Ball** at the **Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum** was.

The white-tie hoo-ha began in the cloisters surrounding the courtyard, where guests could view the museum's new Rembrandt exhibit or use some superior bubbly to wash down hors d'oeuvres like deviled quail's eggs topped with caviar. Following cocktails, guests were led outside and into a tent where the Dutch town of Leiden (circa 1630) was faithfully re-created, complete with minstrels, jesters and serving girls with peaches-and-cream complexions.

The guest list, meanwhile, boasted the likes of museum director **Anne Hawley**, "Mrs. Jack" descendant **John L. Gardner**, the achingly lovely **Stephanie Warburg** and her husband, **Jonathan**, Cambridge plutocrats **Graham** and **Anne Gund**, low-profile gazillionaire **Amos Hostetter**, the **Dutch Ambassador to the U.S.**, the **Lord of Harberton Manor**, **His Royal Highness Prince Amin of Somewhere**, **Mr. and Mrs. William Poorvu**, the **Eyk van Otterloos**, and lots of others with vaguely recognizable, impressive or utterly unpronounceable names.

At the Swing Into Fall Gala: Jen Smartt and Francois de Costerd (above); Robert Fathman.

I Think I Ken party, from top: Bethany Cantin (left) and Renee Adams; Jose Juves (left) and Kent Keatinge; Norma Seraphin and Joe Greene.

MATTEL MASTERPIECE THEATER....

The laughter you might've heard emanating from **Axis** one recent evening was for ***I Think I Ken***, a pants-wettingly funny play from New York that did a one-night engagement to benefit the **AIDS Action Committee**.

A twist on the Barbie and Ken myth (she copes with perfection by shooting up heroin, and he falls for every gym boy who gets his butt waxed), it skewers the plasticity of the dating scene and gives political correctness a poke in the eye with a sharp stick (especially in scenes with Differently Abled Becky, Black Christy and Kira the Asian doll).

Seen splitting their sides in the audience: Massport flack **Jose Juves** and the enchanting **Allison Waldron**, incorrigible media hound **B. Maynard Scarborough**, Renaissance woman **Bethany Cantin**, mahogany goddess **Renee Adams**, Haitian hepcat **Ferguson Heriveaux**, big-haired beauty **Lisa Rebello**, bodacious TV personality **Toni Senecal**, Pho Republique owner and faux Republican **Jack Bardy**, and numerous other groovy people.

Rumor has it that the cast (a quartet of comic geniuses named **Allan Tibbetts**, **Leah Gray**, **Marianne Forti** and **Ivan Davila**) will come back for a return engagement. If they do, bring Depends.

At the BLO party, top: Ruth Wells.
At Studio 54, bottom: Carnage from the search for the rubber rats; *Survivor* host Jeff Probst.

CADS 'R US...

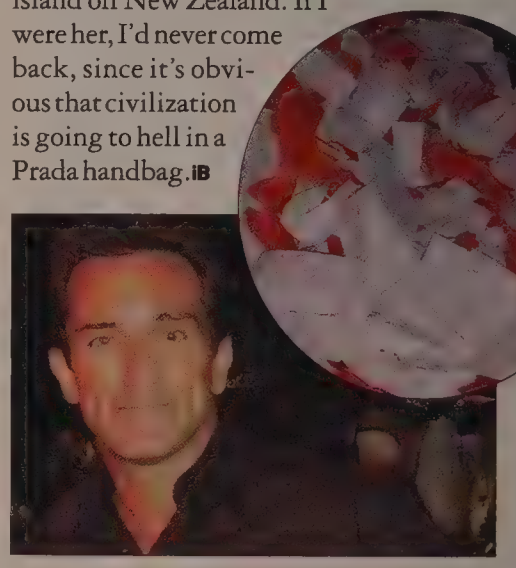
The **Boston Lyric Opera** launched its new season with a pre-performance dinner at the **Four Seasons**, followed by the opening night of Puccini's proto-feminist tear-jerker about men behaving badly, ***Madama Butterfly***.

Like moths to a flame, all the opera buffs were there, among them: the scintillating **Susan Poduska** and her technocrat husband, **Bill**, mustachioed muchacho **Sherif Nada** and his stunning spouse, **Mary**, philanthropic party pair **Joanne** and **Charles Dickinson**, bubbly board member **Susan Eastman**, the soon-to-be-married **Hod Irvine** and **Cassandra Henderson**, and so on and so forth. Dinner was delicious. The opera was beautiful. And overall, it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening, especially for one dedicated to the proposition that all men are pigs.

WELTSCHMERTZ FOR THE ZEITGEIST...

How could we pass up an invitation combining three of the most overhyped phenomena in human history—a launch party for an Internet site, held at **Studio 54**, with *Survivor* host **Jeff Probst** as a celebrity guest?

The event, which marked the debut of the Boston-based e-tailing venture ***Smartbargains.com***, was a bit like *Lord of the Flies* meets the bridal sale at Filene's Basement. A hundred or so New Yorkers, amped up on caffeine, attacked a pile of shopping bags in search of rubber rats. Those who found them continued on to the next round, which involved tearing through a pile of boxes, a few of which contained status goods by the likes of Manolo Blahnik and Fendi. The grand prize winner—a student named **Brianne Murillo**, from the Bronx—received a one-week vacation on a private island off New Zealand. If I were her, I'd never come back, since it's obvious that civilization is going to hell in a Prada handbag. IB



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Kids should not smoke. Nor should they have access to tobacco products. We believe there is broad agreement on this important issue.

At Philip Morris USA, we are committed to dealing responsibly with the complex problem of underage smoking. There is no single, easy answer to this issue. Many experts suggest the best way to address underage smoking is through broad-based, integrated approaches that include communications, education, community involvement and access prevention.

As part of our commitment to play a role in reducing underage smoking, we have created a Youth Smoking Prevention Department whose sole purpose is to develop and support programs to help reduce the incidence of youth smoking. We've dedicated significant resources—over $100 million last year—toward initiatives based on the key components listed above. We are spending another $100 million against these initiatives in 2000.

Our effort includes support for school-based programs, one of which has been recognized for prevention excellence by the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other national organizations. We're also running national advertising campaigns: one that encourages kids not to smoke, and one that urges parents to talk to their kids about not smoking.

To help prevent minors' access to tobacco products, we support and help fund the Coalition for Responsible Tobacco Retailing's nationwide "We Card" retailer education and training program. This effort has helped train over 500,000 retail store employees to reject attempted purchases by minors.

Working to help prevent youth smoking is important and it's the right thing to do for our company and for our employees. It's also the right thing to do on behalf of our shareholders and our adult customers. Everyone has a stake in solving the problem of underage smoking. At Philip Morris USA, we are working to help find answers.

For more information about our youth smoking prevention efforts, visit our Web site at www.philipmorrisusa.com. If you don't have Internet access, please call 1-877-PMUSAWEB.

TOBACCO TODAY

one in a series

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN

METRO-BOSTON'S INTERCONTINENTAL GUIDE TO ENTERTAINMENT AND CULTURE

NEW OUTLOOK PROMPTS MISH MICHAELS TO CHANGE CHANNELS

OUR MAN IN AFRICA

A special report from Tanzania on Boston's Reverend Charles Stith—our premier ambassador

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

THANK GOD IT'S THURSDAY!

An Improper guide to the night that really rocks the city

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HIGH-TECH HOOKERS

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NOVEMBER 1 – 14, 2000

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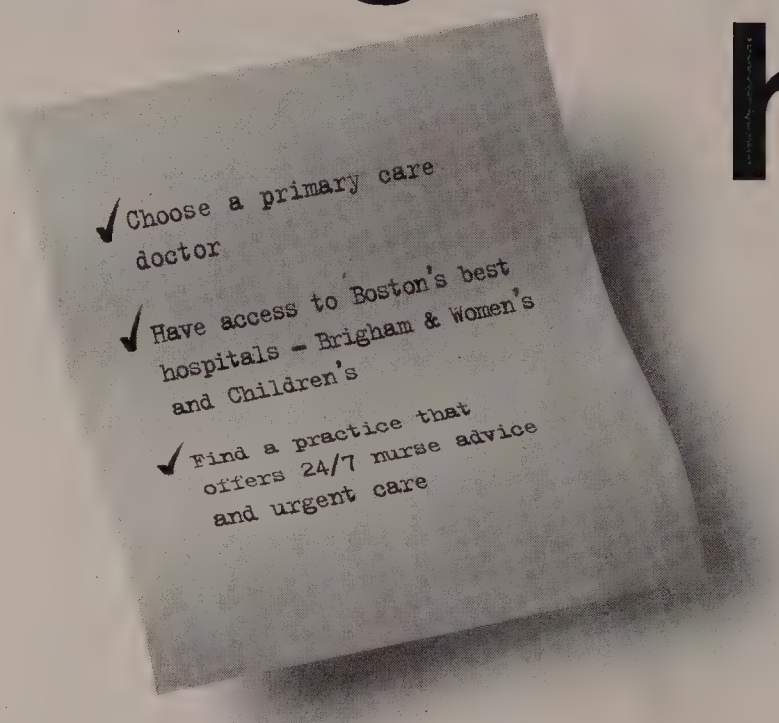

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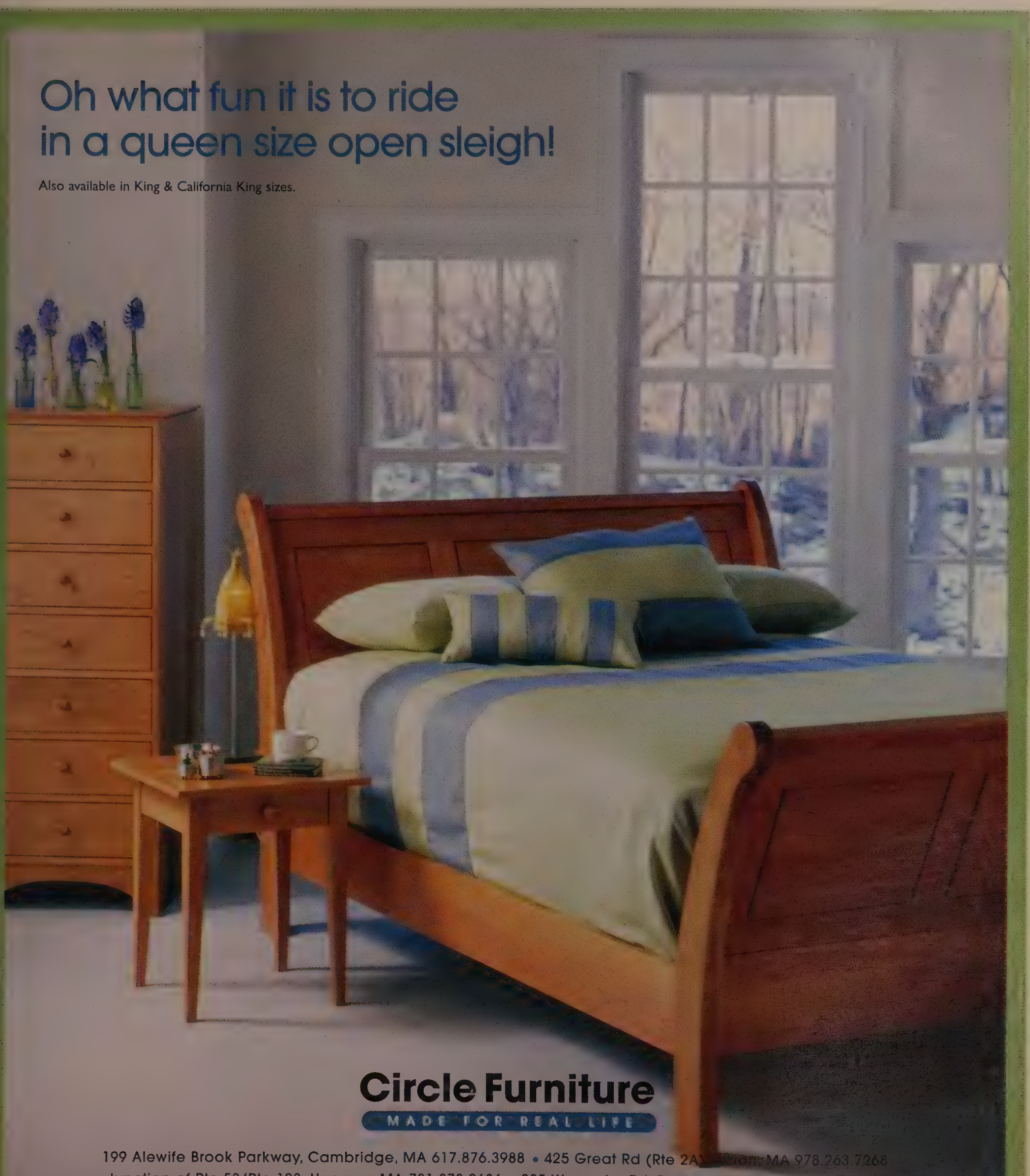

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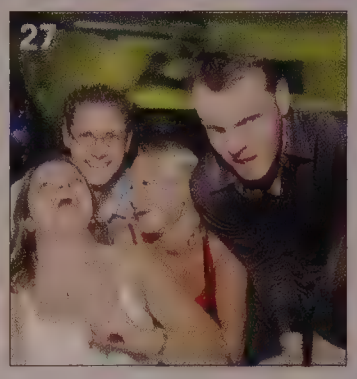

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With boots like those, she's not your average soccer mom.

On the Cover:
Photograph of Charles Stith for THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN by
Tracy Powell

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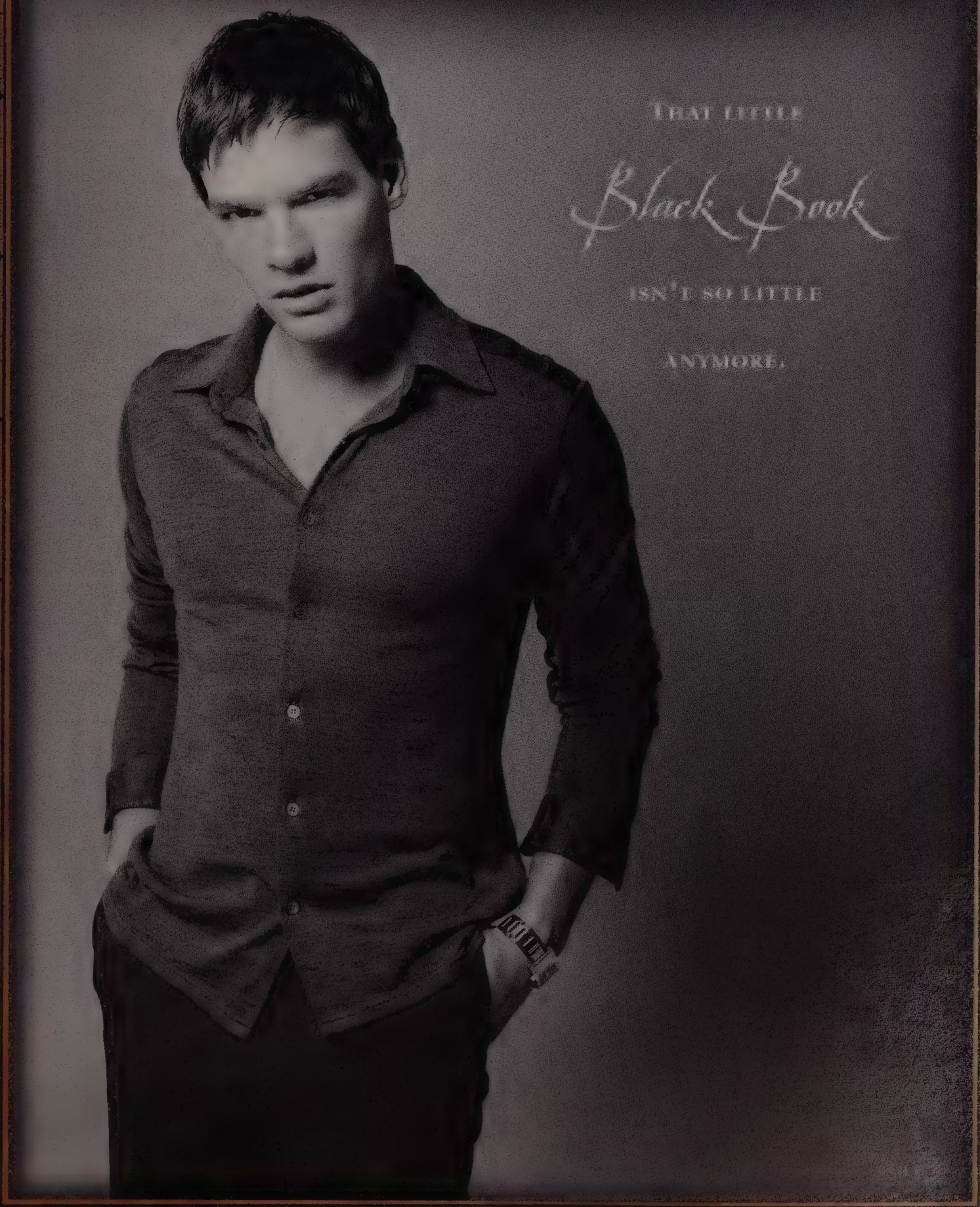
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE

FASHION: JÖRG MEYER; MISH MICHAELS: TRACY POWELL; THURSDAY NIGHT: DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN



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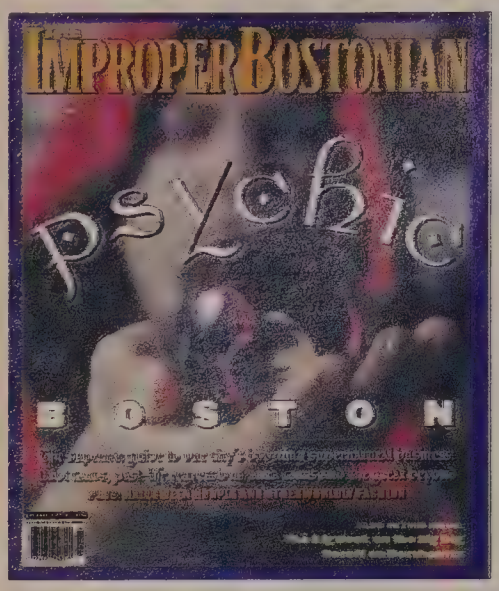

"YOUR MAGAZINE CAN BE INFORMATIVE, ENTERTAINING AND AMUSING, BUT MANY TIMES YOU SEEM TO BE PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN PROMOTING YOURSELVES AND THE VACUOUS, SUPERFICIAL TRENDS THAT ARE SPLASHED ACROSS YOUR GLOSSY COVERS."

—BARRY HART
CAMBRIDGE

FAN MAIL

The degree to which you focus upon and promote your own magazine is truly sickening. In the Oct. 18-21 issue, you ran your regular feature, "Improper Sightings," along with the feature on Page 8 showing Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert (R-Illinois) holding an issue with the smug caption about him wanting to read THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN rather than listen to the debates. What is one to make of this excessive egocentricity and self-adulation?

Your magazine can be informative, entertaining and amusing, but many times you seem to be primarily interested in promoting yourselves and the vacuous, superficial trends that are splashed across your glossy covers. Oh well. This observer can only conclude your publication is little different from most of the celebrity-obsessed and trite mass media in this country.

—BARRY HART
Cambridge

MUCUS MUSINGS

I just wanted to comment on your photo shoot with your lovely nude model. I do not understand the photo on Page 36. If you are going to show a $48,000, fancy yellow-diamond ring, I would think you would photograph it in such a way that it doesn't look like a piece of dried snot.

This photo says nothing visually about the model or what it is your article is trying to convey (other than her sheepish grin and lack of cleavage). Having worked in the jewelry business for over eight years, I guess I just don't get the point of your article, unless it was to sell the nude model to the marketplace at large (or at small)... Anyway, I just thought I would give you an improper thought for your improper paper.

—DON BUSTON
Lynn

HOT MANALE

In reference to the "Stick to the Steaks" review of Fleming's in the Oct. 4 issue: When (in an effort to out-cool your audience) you are throwing around obscure restaurant references that (1) don't really fit and (2) few Bostonians are likely to get, at least get the name right. It's Pascal's Manale, not Pascal Manale's.

—JUDITH KEEFE
Via e-mail

COFFEE TALK

I wasn't quite sure what to think of Ezra's recent "Flunkoccino" article. It was funny, of course, but I thought you guys at IB hated Starbucks. Didn't you oh-so-subtly refer to Starbucks as "those charmless Seattle coffee houses"? What do you care about Coffee College, anyway? It's like complaining about not being invited to a party you didn't want to go to in the first place. Not that I'm defending the chain—I like Starbucks, but sometimes my wallet prefers Dunkin' Donuts.

—RACHEL BOYD
Via e-mail

Coffee College should have admitted Ezra. Maybe then its students wouldn't have needed so much coffee. Starbucks is a big bloated corporation anyway. I'm from California, where small coffee shops are abundant. Now that I have relocated, I still try to frequent the smaller places—unless I'm in a hurry and Dunkin' Donuts is right there.

—RENAE MARTINEZ
Via e-mail

CONTRIBUTORS

TRACY POWELL

In his own words: "When not spending time on my hog farm in the south of France, I enjoy taking pictures. Hog farming and photography have always been passions in my life. Of course, I also enjoy yachting and piloting my private jet to exotic locales."

Beyond his love of hogs and the high life, Tracy Powell has been a regular contributor to THE IMPROPER since 1998. He shot our "Boston's Beloved Bartenders" cover in the spring of 1999, and once again came up with some amazing images of our current cover guy, Rev. Charles Stith, ambassador to Tanzania.

Tell Us What You Think

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SUBTLE CHANGE

Jasmine Sola

CITY LIMITS

Good stuff, glamour and goings-on

BY ERIN HAGEDORN AND JULIE SHORT

AROUND TOWN

ELECTION HOOHAH

The results are in for **7-11**'s Presidential Coffee Cup Poll taken during the month of September: While 21 percent of convenience coffee drinkers selected the "I'm Voting for Bush" cups, 20 percent opted for Gore cups. Mind you, 7-11's not the only one cashing in on the election buzz. At **General Cinemas**, you can cast your vote by choosing either a "democrat" or "republican" straw at the concession stand. General Cinemas tells us that its straw vote has accurately predicted the election outcome every four years since 1968. (Gore's ahead, with 55 percent of movie-goers' votes.) At the **Tini Bar** at the Charles Hotel, patrons (many of them from the JFK School of Government next door) can choose between a non-alcoholic Bloody Mary named for Bush—dubbed either the Virgin George or the Texas Star, depending on your political leanings—and Gore's Bombay gin with dry vermouth and stuffed green olives, called the Good Stiff or the Voice of Reason. So far the vote is close, says the Charles Hotel's Hannah Lefkowitz. Over at **Banana Republic** stores, big spenders can cast their vote by purchasing pairs of elephant-print or donkey-clad boxers. Finally, if all this talk about politics makes you hungry, stop by **Mr. Dooley's** for a Gore Burger, described by owner John J. Somer as a "standard no-frills burger" with hot ham, Swiss cheese, sauteed onions and a special sauce, or sample a Bush Burger, a quarter-pound of Texas prime beef and smoked cheddar smothered in a spicy Tabasco sauce.

THIS JUST IN

THROW LIKE A GIRL

A New England Storm hopeful at the tryouts.

Women's sports—long disregarded by some in the sports-fanatic half of the population—are finally being accepted as mainstream alternatives to the Sox, Bruins or Celtics. (The World Cup champs are a prime example.) The latest team to break into the male-dominated industry is an all-female professional football league, the WPFL. These gals put on the pads and helmets and go out there to win. Will it fly with the fans? Providence attorney Melissa Korpacz thinks so. She's the owner and general manager of the **New England Storm**, which is plunging headlong into its first season with upcoming games Nov. 5 and Dec. 2, 9 and 23 in Providence, the team's home base. Korpacz recruited top Division I, II, III and club female athletes to try out for her team and later trimmed the team down to 65. Reading through the list of the six opposing teams (Austin Rage, Miami Fury and Tampa Tempest among them), we gather that these women have some serious aggression issues to work out. But a more pressing question is: Will there be an all-male cheering squad? *www.womensprofootball.com* or *www.newenglandstorm.com.*

NEW IN TOWN

ANOTHER CENTRAL KITCHEN

Fans of the much-acclaimed chef **Rene Michaelena** (formerly of La Bettola) are eagerly crossing the river to get a taste of his latest culinary endeavor, **Centro**, which opened Oct. 24 in Central Square. The new Italian bistro is certainly easy to find—on Mass. Ave, right next door to the Good Life Central, a restaurant that morphs into a swinging watering hole at night.

The two boîtes are more than just neighbors, though. **Brian O'Neil**, proprietor of the Good Life, opened Centro with Michaelena, and the two restaurants are connected by a breezeway, sharing bathrooms and a kitchen. But tiny Centro—with just a smattering of tables—has a much more intimate, relaxed feel than the lively Good Life. The decor is simple, with wooden tables and sparse decorations, and the food is sublime. Slather some garlicky white-bean spread on homemade bread and sip chianti while you contemplate the simple menu of antipasti, pasta, meat dishes and desserts. Our recommendations are the grilled calamari for starters, followed by either the spinach fusilli with roasted chicken and pancetta or the halibut with mushroom ragu and porcini sauce. Of course, we couldn't turn down (a whopping four) desserts hand-delivered by chef Michaelena himself. Our faves? The creme caramel and the warm chocolate tarta. Try both and waddle home with a smile. *720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (868-2405).*

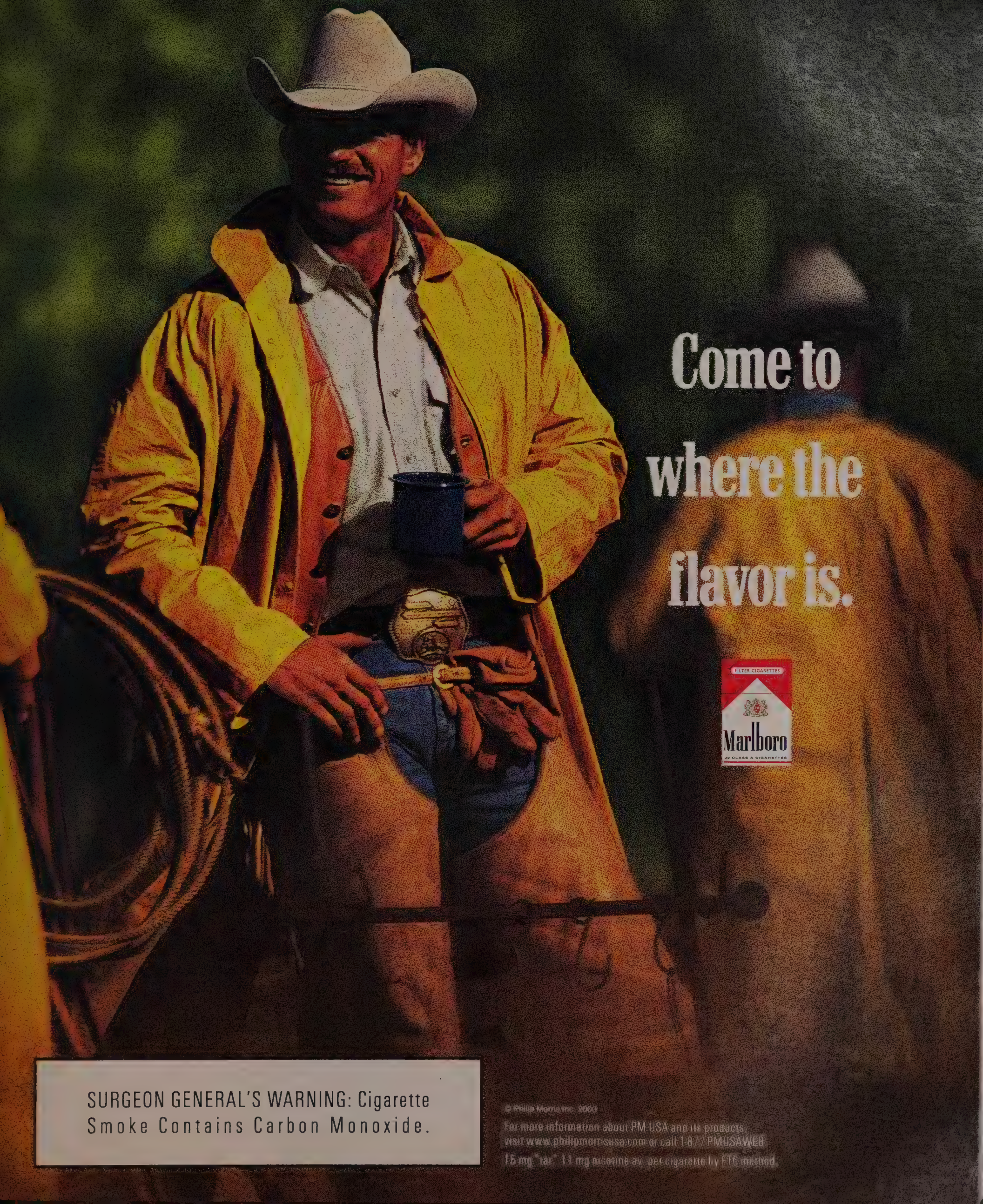
Rene Michaelena and Brian O'Neil

ALL THE BUZZ

REBEL YELL

Boston's annual Redneck Festival has been held at the Middle East for the past three years, but this year rednecks will drive their jacked-up Chevys clear over to the Fenway where they'll storm the Linwood. The celebration will feature 18 rough-and-tumble bands that are gearing up to kick some rock 'n' roll ass over three jam-packed days Nov. 9-11. Hightlights include **Throttle** on Thursday night, **Quintaine Americana** (above) on Friday and **Scissorfight** on Saturday. Beyond the raucous rock, there will be spoken-word events all three nights, courtesy of **Tim Catz** (Roadsaw) and heavy-metal minstrel **Duncan Wilder Johnson.** The move to the Linwood is good timing for the buzzworthy club, which also boasts fab barbecue fare in its restaurant. After a year and a half in operation, the restaurant has been completely revamped. Spearheaded by the new executive chef Ken Goodman (of Tremont 647 and the East Coast Grill), there's a new menu—still with the finger-lickin' Southern cuisine, but spruced up and featuring some lighter offerings. Early festival-goers get to sample the good ol' barbecue-style redneck food—for free. So throw on your John Deere hat, and sample some rock, Linwood-style. *Nov. 9-11 at the Linwood, 69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (267-8644). 9pm, $6.*

BUSH & GORE: TRACY POWELL, CENTRO: LUCIANA CEDRONE, FOOTBALL: COURTESY OF THE NEW ENGLAND STORM, REDNECK: GAIL RUSH



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IMPROPERSPEAKING

BY ELLEN O'BRIEN

The sign at the Good Life restaurant and bar in the Back Bay has been rendered unreadable; meanwhile, notices on the front door tell the story of a temporary closing.

THE NOT-SO-GOOD LIFE

The **Good Life** restaurant on St. Botolph St. in the Back Bay will be closed for the next three weeks while owner **Brian O'Neill** revamps the only Good Life spot that has struggled (the Central Square and Financial District locations are booming). The spot will get a new name—**St. Botolph's Bar and Grill**—and chef **Rene Michelena** (of Centro and formerly of La Bettola) will create a new menu. A big, flat-screen TV will show nonstop sports downstairs. The key ingredient to success, says O'Neill, will be the new menu, which is much needed at this competitive location.

NEWSMAN GETS NOD

If you had to line up five guys (and gals) who know the city best, you'd likely start with anyone who has spent some time "cruising" as a news photographer. So there's no dispute that **Bill Brett** (yes, a brother to State Rep. **James Brett**) knows these streets better than anyone. The veteran ***Boston Globe*** photographer was just named associate editor of the paper. That means he'll weigh in on each day's news decisions and join the likes of prize-winning photojournalist **Stan Grossfeld**, political columnist **David Nyhan** and heavyweight sportswriter **Will McDonough**. Let's hear it for the guy who knows everyone in town—and also the quickest route to every square in the city.

Boston Globe veteran photographer Bill Brett smiles about his new job.

BONFIRE VANITY

Just when you thought you had your fill of celebrity chef **Todd English**, we bring you more news from his kingdom. You know all about those **Park Plaza** renovations, of course. Well, last week English closed a deal for hotel space where he will locate yet another restaurant. Finally, we hear, he has decided on a name. The restaurant, **Bonfire**, will open on the right side of the Park Plaza Hotel (the old Café Rouge space) in mid-March, 2001. The menu will be influenced by all the traditional cattle-ranging regions of the world. The space is primo, no doubt about it. Now English only needs to find the time to train a new culinary army.

WEB WINNERS

The Massachusetts Interactive Media Council held its fifth annual awards last week, and the mood this year was slightly more sober than in years past. Perhaps that's because guests couldn't help wondering how many dot-com guests were missing at this year's gala, following the, er, correction in the market. There were plenty of highlights, however. **Penn Jillette**, of the renowned magician team Penn and Teller, lit up the room with a fire-swallowing stunt. And the lavish mashed-potato station at the buffet provided ample amusement during the pre-awards schmoozefest. Top honors went to ***thetruth.com.*** Created by ***circle.com***, the Web site is dedicated to exposing the horrors of tobacco. The winner in the social online community category, so important to those of us who look to bond online, went to the ***dailyjolt.com***. And for online business community building, the winner was ***bullhorn.com***. **DoubleDecker Studios** spiced up the awards with a cheeky multimedia intro and closer. All in all, not your average dry-chicken dinner.

BOYS ONLY

We're still trying to digest the rules that dictate meetings of the **Les Amis d'Escoffier Society**. We just found out that some bigtime boyos had a society, with membership capped at 75 people. That means no new entries unless someone resigns or passes on. There are two annual dinners each year. Can't make one? You're out. **Serge Denis**, Le Meridian Hotel manager; **Anthony Athanas** (Anthony's restaurant) and his four sons; self-described arts advocate **Mark Goldweitz**; University of Massachusetts President **William Bulger** (we hope he doesn't get picketed by any women at Amherst); and hotelier **Roger Saunders** all attend these dinners where the conversation is restricted. No personal news. No career talk. No religion, No politics. Oh, yeah, don't mention any deals you have going. What's left? We figure it must be the latest plot twists in *Ally McBeal*,

Hotelier Roger Saunders, restaurant legend Anthony Athanas and University of Massachusetts President William Bulger have a nice chat about absolutely nothing.

or those new, shaggy-look hairdos women are sporting.

FASHIONABLE FIT

No good salespeople want to attach their names to this one, but we've witnessed bizarre (stranger than usual) behavior in women's shoe departments in recent weeks. Women who have been pumping up their calves with aerobics and free weights for years are now trying to fit into the fall fashion must: the knee-high boot. A veteran salesman who requested anonymity (so as not to offend his department-store employer) confirmed that women are stretching, tugging and, in some cases, ripping the boots in order to get them over their calves—and near their knees. "It's ridiculous," says our source. "It's just not going to happen for some of them." We stopped one **Saks Fifth Avenue** shopper, **Lorraine Sullivan**, who told us this new footwear problem was as bad as the return of the pump. "I don't know which is worse—that the killer pumps that crunch my feet are back in fashion or that my knee-high boots stop at my ankle," she explains. Luckily, the microfiber ones stretch a bit, so she can still look oh-so-mod.**iB**

There's no slim pickins of slick, knee-high boots this season.

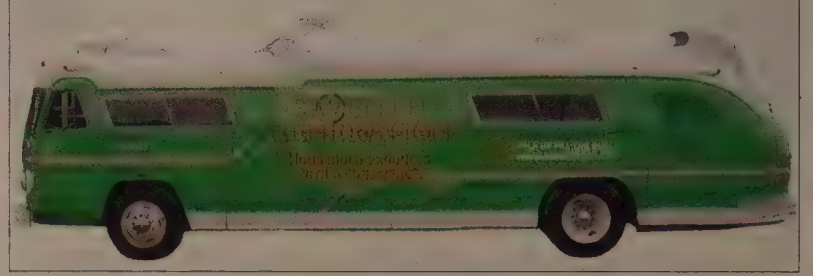
Speaking of Boston

Got an inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to speaking@improper.com

TALKIN' ABOUT THIS GENERATION

Seventh Generation, the company that makes "safe for you and safe for the environment" household products, is touring around Boston in a bus this week. Why? Good question. Turns out this market is ripe with eco-conscious types who will be targeted at local **Bread & Circus** and **Shaws** grocery stores. You can get guidebooks advising you how to create a "toxic-free" home, as well as giveaways.

In a rare paper-towel buy-back program, company reps will take your (unused) chlorine-bleached toilet paper and paper towels and replace them, free, with their environmentally sound non-bleached products. They are planning on sending the chlorine-bleached paper back to the manufacturers with a note asking them to do their part in making our world safer. That ought to go over just great. All you household cleaners, get more information at *www.seventhgen.com* and find out when the bus plans to make a stop at a store near you.



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Boston Internet BY GEOFFREY JAMES

Invasion of the Cyberhookers

The world's oldest profession has embraced the world's newest medium.

Boston is being invaded by out-of-state hookers, if you can believe the advertisements posted on *www.newengland-exotics.com*. If the name of this site sounds familiar, it may be because one of its former advertisers, a dominatrix named Barbara Asher, allegedly dismembered and disposed of the body of a client who died while visiting her Quincy apartment dungeon. Maybe some of the bad publicity has stuck to the local "exotic escorts," because the site now features a crowd of out-of-towners, mostly from Las Vegas or Miami.

Newengland-exotics.com, based in Lynn, bills itself as "the largest selection of adult entertainment and exotic related services in New England and surrounding area," a claim which I'm certainly in no position to question. The site's owner—who appropriately enough gave his name as "John"—says that the site gets from fifteen to twenty thousand unique visitors a day. "That comes out to over a quarter of a million hits a day," he brags, obviously pleased with the success of his venture.

The site is the local franchise for a chain of Web sites, each focused on a particular city or region of the country. As you might expect, our local site seems sparsely populated when compared with the barrage of bimbos available in Los Angeles and New York City. Like the larger sites, the local Boston variety gives the photos, descriptions and contact information for several dozen "massage experts, escorts, after-hour girls, strippers, private dancers, bachelor party entertainers, fetish girls, (and) BD/SM girls" according to the home page. These enterprising individuals (mostly female) run the gamut from Julia Roberts-like pretty women to the downright coyote ugly. Most of the photos are stamped with a certificate of authenticity confirming that the picture on the page is an actual recent photo of the person running the ad. "We have to see the girls in person before we put the seal on," John insists.

> "THE INTERNET HAS DEFINITELY CHANGED THE WAY THAT I DO BUSINESS," SAYS ONE WOMAN. "I CAN FLY INTO BOSTON, MAKE HALF-A-DOZEN DATES, AND BE OUT OF TOWN WITH A FEW THOUSAND DOLLARS BEFORE THE POLICE ARE EVEN AWARE THAT I'M HERE."
> —*ANONYMOUS BOSTON CALL GIRL*

In the past, the only way that hookers could advertise was to put a personal ad in newspapers that were desperate enough (or tacky enough) to run them. Because there was no way of telling whether the goods would live up to expectations, "johns" tended to stick to local providers who had acquired a reputation for good service. Today, however, many working girls have e-mail addresses, toll-free numbers, and even their own Web sites—making it practical for them to build a multiple-city clientele. And there are also a number of Web sites that provide online reviews penned by satisfied (and dissatisfied) customers, making it less likely for the "john" to end up buying the proverbial pig in a poke.

"The Internet has definitely changed the way that I do business," says one woman who asked not be named, "I can fly into Boston, make half a dozen dates, and be out of town with a few thousand dollars before the police are even aware that I'm here." One reason that Boston's a popular destination for Las Vegas hookers (according to this woman) is that "there's not much high quality talent in New England." I was unable to confirm this assessment, but I did find one negative Web review of a local woman who goes by the name "Michaela" who (according to the reviewer) kept adding additional charges to her original fee. (Evidently a big no-no.)

There is at least one relatively famous Boston-based Internet call girl, a woman named "Heather," whose Web site is *www.bostonescort.com*. Catering primarily to high-tech CEOs, "Heather" has apparently gotten into touring her talents. If her Web site can be believed, she's currently in Paris "attending the latest fashion shows and entertaining investors."

As I look at all this highly interesting economic activity, I'm reminded of how difficult it's been for legitimate businesses to figure out how to make money on the Internet. While most dot-com e-tailers are struggling to make some kind of profit before their venture capital dries up, these adult Web sites—and the service providers who advertise upon them—are apparently having little problem generating income. In fact, all the cool things that the Internet was supposed to make possible—globalization, entrepreneurialism, better customer service, and so forth—appear to be well represented in this new wave of high tech whoremongering.

In short, it's a little ironic that today's most sophisticated technology seems best suited for promoting the world's oldest profession. **iB**

Geoffrey James (*www.geoffreyjames.com*) is the author of numerous books as well as the co-host of *Funny Business*, heard Saturdays 10pm to 12am on WRKO-AM (680).

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Totally Sick

Stay the hell away from me

I don't know if you've noticed, but everyone's sick. I know this to be true because wherever I go, I hear adults talking earnestly about the quality of their phlegm. At home and at work, I cannot escape. For the past couple of weeks, I've emerged from the plastic bubble surrounding my bedroom and donned my biohazard suit to have breakfast with my roommates, both of whom are infectious. Dave, in particular, has a cough of such barking violence that when he walks by the harbor, seals try to mate with him. He complains that the constant coughing is making his back hurt, so I guess there are downsides, too.

After leaving my germ den I walk to work. Thankfully I don't have to take the T, because the T is a germophobe's worst nightmare. The trains are veritable germ orgies, filthy petrie dishes of pestilence. I'm pretty sure that if terrorists ever release anthrax into our subway system, it will immediately be eaten by the bigger, heartier diseases that already live down there. "Attention passengers. The next train will be delayed several minutes while we remove a large bacterium from the tracks. Thank you for your patience."

THE T IS A GERMOPHOBE'S WORST NIGHTMARE. THE TRAINS ARE VERITABLE GERM ORGIES, FILTHY PETRIE DISHES OF PESTILENCE.

When I get to work, the place is deserted because everyone's home sick. I'm lying, of course. As if anyone would actually refrain from coming into work just because once they get there, they vomit all over the floor. With all due respect to Senior Editor Ellen, with whom I share an office, it was not long ago that she rushed from the room and, with grace commensurate with her lofty editorial position, blew major chunks all over the hallway. I've been known to have that effect on women, but I think there were factors going on in this case other than my nausea-inducing attractiveness, because she actually took a sick day soon thereafter. Once a day she'd call in sounding like the Cryptkeeper, so I'm inclined to believe that she wasn't spending the day getting a manicure.

Personally, I try to avoid sick days not because of any particularly well-developed work ethic, but because daytime TV is so insipid. "The Price Is Right" is actually OK (If I ever get on the show, I hope I get to play Plinko. I've got a strategy—let's leave it at that). But after Barker's Beauties are done fawning over the second Jet-Ski/pop-up camper/lawn gnome prize package, and Bob's reminded you to ruin your pet's sex life with elective surgery, you're pretty much left with soaps. And if you're only home for one day, then you don't know that Angela is sleeping with Troy to spite her uncle, Lord Dungcliffe, who wrested away the estate that was to be hers until her parents died in a suspicious ballooning accident on the eve of her 18th birthday.

So when the soaps start I break out the cold medicine, and I'm not talking about wimpy-ass non-drowsy stuff. I want cold medicine that carries a warning reading something along the lines of, "Do not sign binding contracts while using this product. Do not get near anything made by Cuisinart when using this product. In fact, do not attempt to operate anything more dangerous than your remote control while using this product. Upon taking this product, user might want to see if all that hype about *Dark Side of the Moon* syncing up with *The Wizard of Oz* is for real, because user is about to feel pretty groovy, man." Then I want to fall asleep for a few hours and wake up with a Formula 44D hangover, which, if anything, makes you feel more like a space traveler than having a liquor hangover. One morning last week after a demented night on cough syrup, I commented that it was amazing how not-hungry I was considering that I'd only had two cups of coffee for breakfast. Then it was pointed out to me by my ever-observant fellow tenants that I'd just eaten a bowl of Cheerios no more than two minutes earlier, and, like, was I ducking restarted? Well, they said something like that; as I mentioned, I was a little out of it.

Unfortunately, no magic elixir can provide me with what I really crave when I'm under the weather: pity. Just—cough, cough—pity me, please. Regard me as you would a baby bird with a broken wing. Could you fetch me some orange juice and Echinacea, and confirm my suspicions that I am possibly the most unfortunate organism in the entire universe? Hold me. I'm sick. What? You're sick? Arraggghh! I feel for you. Now get away from my bubble. iB

You think that's funny?

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HOLLAND MARK
ADVERTISING

Proper Bostonians

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

The Centennial Celebration of Symphony Hall was held Oct. 12 at—you guessed it—Symphony Hall.

1. An overview of the performance.
2. **Mark Volpe**, managing director of the BSO, and Governor **Paul Cellucci**.
3. **Bob Mahoney**, vice chairman of Citizens Bank, and **Heather Campion**, vice president and director of corporate development for Citizens Bank.
4. **Marcia Brown** and husband **Robin**, general manager of the Four Seasons.
5. **John Williams**, Boston Pops conductor laureate; **Seiji Ozawa**, music director of the BSO; and **Keith Lockhart**, conductor of the Boston Pops.
6. **Jennifer Gower**, manager of Mistral, and **Christopher Myers**, owner of Radius.
7. **Marshall Carter**, chairman of State Street Bank and his wife, **Missy**.
8. From left: **Bill Leith**, BSO trustee and overseer at the MFA, and his wife, **Barbara**; **John Cullinane**, founder of Cullinet Software Inc., and his wife, **Diddy**, co-chair of the event.

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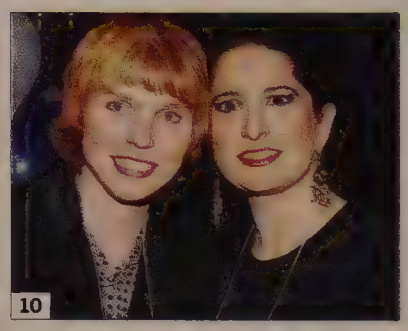
The third annual benefit for battered-women service organization Casa Myrna Vazquez (CMV) was held Oct. 19 at Aria.

9. From left: **Maritza Otero** and her sister, **Damaris Otero**, administrative assistant and account executive, respectively, for Neighborhood Health Plan; **Penny Sullivan**, finance assistant for Golden Care, and **Norina Bennett**, executive assistant for CMV.
10. **Robbin McKay**, program assistant for residential, clinical and communities for CMV and **Betty Herschman**, CMV manager of grants.
11. **Shiela Moore**, executive director for CMV, and **Charles Coe**, poet and author of *Picnic on the Moon*.
12. **Susanna Kaysen** (l), author of *Girl, Interrupted*, and **Jodi Wolin**, director of development for CMV.

9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12

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FALL/WINTER 2000 & 2001 AUCTIONS

NOVEMBER 2000

FINE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
November 5, 12 noon - Boston

AMERICAN & EUROPEAN PAINTINGS
November 10, 7 p.m. - Boston

DISCOVERY
November 16, 7 p.m. - Bolton
November 17, 10 a.m. -Bolton

DISCOVERY
November 30, 7 p.m. - Bolton

DECEMBER 2000

DISCOVERY
December 1, 10 a.m. - Bolton

ORIENTAL RUGS & CARPETS
December 2, 12 noon - Boston

FINE CERAMICS
December 9, 11 a.m. - Boston

TOYS & DOLLS COLLECTABLES
December 9, 10 a.m. - Bolton

FINE JEWELRY
December 12, 12 noon -Boston

DISCOVERY
December 14, 7 p.m. - Bolton
December 15, 10 a.m. -Bolton

JANUARY 2001

AMERICAN INDIAN & ETHNOGRAPHIC ART
January 6, 10 a.m. - Bolton

DISCOVERY
January 11, 7 p.m. - Bolton
January 12, 10 a.m. - Bolton

ENGLISH & CONTINENTAL FURNITURE & DECORATIONS
January 13, 11 a.m. - Boston

JUDAICA & SILVER
January 30, 12 noon - Boston

FEBRUARY 2001

STUDIO PAINTINGS
February 1, 7 p.m. - Bolton

DISCOVERY
February 8, 7 p.m. - Bolton
February 9, 10 a.m. - Bolton

AMERICAN FURNITURE & DECORATIVE ARTS
February 25, 11 a.m. - Bolton

MARCH 2001

AMERICAN & EUROPEAN PAINTINGS & PRINTS
March 9 - Boston
Session I-Prints & Photography, 4 p.m.
Session II-Paintings, 7 p.m.

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Soroff/On

Larry Kasanoff

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Film producer, perennial adolescent and multi-media mogul Larry Kasanoff is CEO of Threshold Entertainment, an intellectual property management company that develops and produces movies, television programs and Web sites, billing itself as the premier entertainment provider for guys aged 8 to 35. Among its triumphs are the *Mortal Kombat*, *G.I. Joe*, *Duke Nukem* and *Conan the Barbarian* franchises, while the company has also created such Internet games as *You Suck*, *Must Be Destroyed* and *Galaxy Grand Prix* (all of which can be accessed through *thethreshold.com*) Prior to founding the company, Kasanoff was a hugely successful film producer, involved with such blockbusters as *True Lies*, *Platoon* and *Dirty Dancing*. Born and raised in Jamaica Plain, he received a B.A. from Cornell and an M.B.A. from Wharton. He lives in Los Angeles.

Jonathan Soroff: *Would you describe yourself as an 18-year-old trapped in a Hollywood mogul's body?*

Larry Kasanoff: Well, my tastes haven't changed since I was 16, but I always knew I wanted to make entertainment. I used to stay up late watching TV, and my parents would say, 'Go to bed! You have school in the morning!' I was like, 'No. This is more important, because this is what I'm going to do.'

JS: *What do you say to people who accuse your films and video games of promoting violence?*

LK: My answer is, 'Get a life.' We make big, broad entertainment, which I think the world needs more of. My job isn't to cure the world of all its ills. My job is to entertain. And I really don't think there's a threat of a four-armed gorgon from the parallel realm of Outworld invading our school systems.

JS: *I'm sure we'll get letters about that.*

LK: Well, seriously, there is NO correlation between any kind of violence on TV, in the movies, or other entertainment and in the real world. There just isn't. We love what we do and make no apologies for it. I think what we do is great.

JS: *What are the three things the average 18 to 25-year-old male wants?*

LK: Action. Babes. And a really fun story that ties 'em together.

JS: *Is the Internet the future of movies?*

LK: It's the future of entertainment, because it affords the ability to reach a worldwide audience directly—no middle man—and that audience can interact. Everything we do now—movies, TV, animation—we launch first on the Internet to see how people like it.

JS: *Who would win in a barfight: Duke Nukem or the Terminator?*

LK: (Laughs) That's like asking which of your children do you like better. If it was the first Terminator, I'd have to say Duke, because Duke is good and in our movies good tends to prevail. If it was the second Terminator, I don't think they'd fight. They'd team up and beat the hell outta some aliens.

JS: *OK: Conan vs. GI Joe?*

LK: GI Joe, because he's actually a team of the most elite soldiers in the world. GI Joe isn't the name of one soldier. It's the name of a counter-terrorist group.

JS: *Well, the G.I. Joe with Kung Fu grip is gay, right?*

LK: No!

JS: *Oh, c'mon! At the very least, it's a 'don't ask, don't tell' situation.*

LK: I'm not saying guys named José don't hit on him, but no.

JS: *How many parents in America hate you?*

LK: Can I tell you something? In all the years I've done this for a living, the only negative letter I ever got—ever, with all the stuff I've done—was from Casey Kasem. The American Top 40 guy. He was offended that the terrorists in *True Lies* were Lebanese, or whatever his background is. That's it.

JS: *Grossest, goriest thing you ever thought up?*

LK: Hmmm. Probably the scene in a *Mortal Kombat* movie where a statue turns into a creature, and this guy steps on it. Its guts turn into a torrent of maggots and bugs and gross things sliding out. The funny thing is that we did a whole martial arts movie with no one but us responsible for making sure the human beings were safe. But when we shot that scene, there was this organization there to make sure the maggots were treated properly.

JS: *The female wrestler you handle, Sable? Are her breasts real?*

LK: If it interests you, visit our site and play our new game show, *Are Those Real?*

JS: *OK. Your motto is 'No Crying. No Hugging. No Learning,' but doesn't the fact that your film* Beowulf *is based on a character from English literature violate that?*

LK: That's like saying *Terminator II* teaches you bioengineering. We don't care if you learn something. Just don't do it on our time.

JS: *So how much did Mortal Kombat make?*

LK: The franchise, in gross retail, is over $4 billion.

JS: *All the film deals you've ever been involved with were profitable. Can anyone else make that claim?*

LK: I don't know. Y'know, I went to Wharton to understand the business aspect of all this stuff, and obviously, it helped.

JS: *In fact, you attended two Ivy League institutions. Exactly what does it say about you in the alumnae newsletters?*

LK: They're probably rolling over in their graves. At Cornell, I had a phenomenal sociology professor. I was her research assistant for four years. She was a media watchdog, and she used to say, 'You're gonna grow up to be one of the bad guys. I just know it.'

JS: *Most politically correct thing about Duke Nukem?*

LK: Actually, deep down, he reveres women. But in the movie, he's gonna wear a T-shirt that says, 'Hold My Beer While I Do Your Girlfriend.'

JS: *I assume you drive like you're playing a video game. When was your last ticket?*

LK: I used to get three a day, but I'm better now.

JS: *Any response from the U.S. Postal Service on Pete the Pissed-Off Postal Worker?*

LK: They seem to like him. Y'know, Pete's job is to deliver mail. The fact that he might need to blow up a house to do it isn't his fault.

JS: *Your site 'You Suck,' allows people to send e-mails telling someone they suck. Who are your top three?*

LK: I've got a huge list. Spend a day in Hollywood and you would, too.

JS: *How about top three things that Must Be Destroyed?*

LK: Pokemon, past, present and future. All those teenybopper boy bands. And we have to just decimate Regis Philbin. If I turn on the television and see his face one more time...

JS: *A lot of the stuff you do is best appreciated while completely stoned. How much dope-smoking goes on at Threshold?*

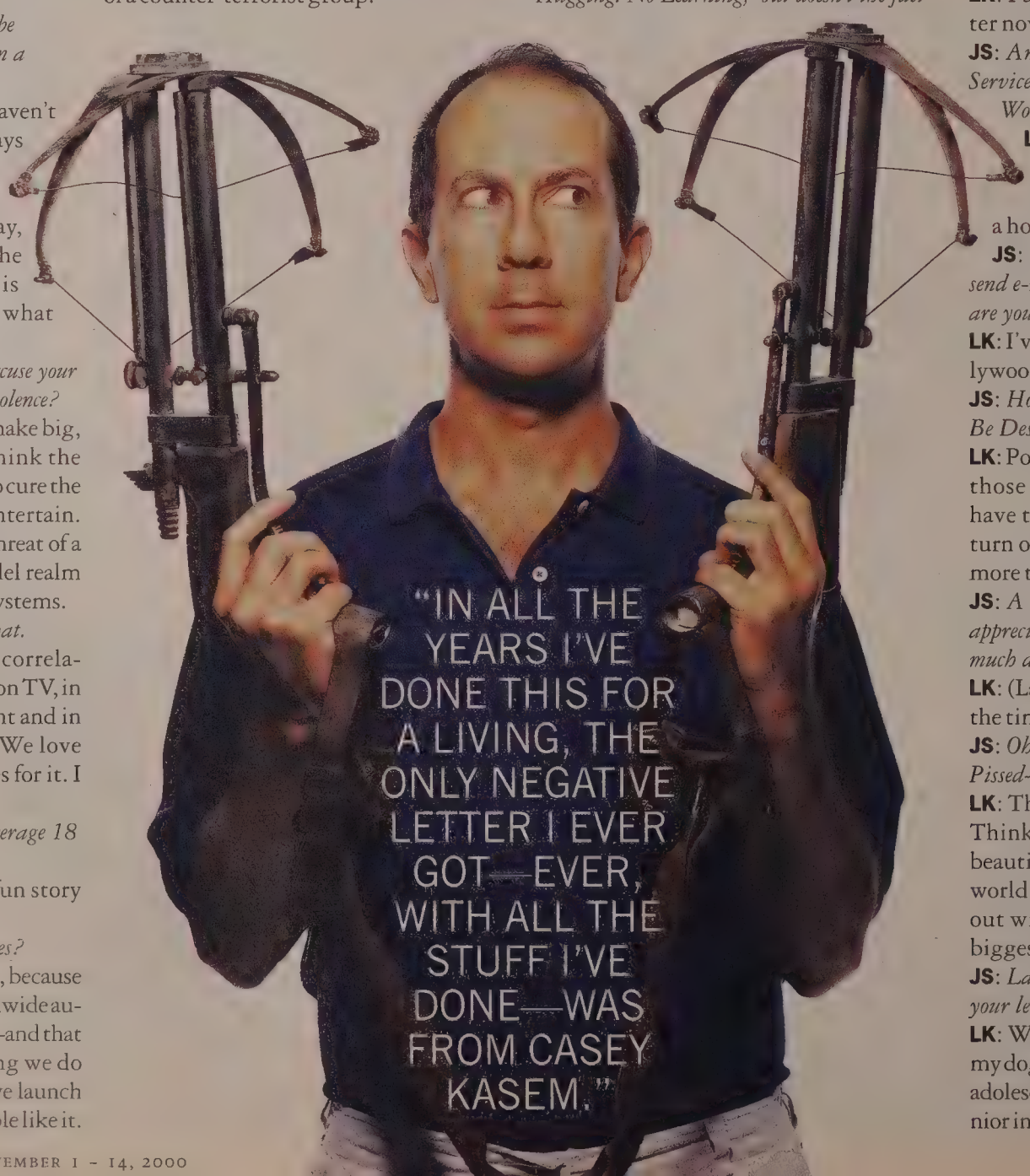
LK: (Laughs) Actually, none. We work all the time.

JS: *Oh, horseshit! Someone thought up Pete the Pissed-Off Postal Worker without smoking?!*

LK: This is more fun than getting stoned. Think about it. We get to meet the most beautiful girls in the world, fly all over the world and drive the coolest cars. We hang out with the best martial artists and the biggest movie stars. It's as good as it gets!

JS: *Last question: On a scale of 1 to 10, rate your level of maturity.*

LK: Well, my longest relationship was with my dog, and my tastes haven't changed since adolescence. I'd say, somewhere around a senior in high school. iB



LARSEN & TALBERT/LAMOIN

Mish Forecasts Big Changes

Mishelle Michaels will leave 7 News for new job—and new life

BY ELLEN O'BRIEN

If this life went on forever, Mish Michaels would likely spend it forecasting the local weather. On weekends, she would continue doing the double shift, going home to change clothes and nap between broadcasts, the way she has for years on 7 News. Since 1992, the 31-year-old meteorologist has been winning points with viewers for her genuine enthusiasm for science, her authoritative tone and her fashionable style.

This month Michaels will move on, choosing not to renew her contract at WHDH-TV (Channel 7). Instead Michaels will work solely for the Weather Channel, forsaking her current job for a less demanding stint as the host of *Atmospheres*—a program that will highlight issues such as avalanche safety, the ozone layer , rain forest ecosystems and more. The reasons for her departure, says Michaels, are complex, but they largely stem from a new outlook on life, a shift in perspective that happened when two family members died last year. Sometime this fall, she says, she realized that the passion she brought to her job and the hours she spent preparing forecasts were draining too much of her time. With the same kind of conciseness that helped her score high marks with viewers, she explains: "Life is not an infinite proposal."

There were other offers from local stations, yes. Ones that would allow her to be free on weekends? Yes, but those jobs would mean she'd miss dinner instead. "I was dreading that choice," she says. "I didn't want to leave the Channel 7 team of meteorologists. I grew up there. I spent so many formidable years there," she says. Perhaps recalling her on-air look when she began broadcasting at 7 News in 1992, Michaels quips: "I mean, my hair improved there."

Michaels says she wasn't looking for a way to leave Channel 7 as much as she was searching for a job that would not require the long hours and deep commitment that live forecasts require. Simply put, she wanted more time for her family, friends and her fiancée. "No matter what, broadcasting has a high level of sacrifice," says Michaels. "Harvey[Leonard]has made huge sacrifices, not being able to have dinner with this children for years. I have made a lot of sacrifices—missing christenings and weddings."

In the past year, the price of those sacrifices seemed to grow larger, says Michaels. "I lost two of the people closest to me, and I realized that life does not go on forever." Her aunt, who lost a battle with breast cancer, was Michaels' traveling companion, mentor and the one person she telephoned every day. "I just adored her," says Michaels. "She was the product of the '60s and just helped to carve out the person I am in so many ways. Michaels' grandmother, her father's mother, was her spiritual connection to India and her ancestry. "She was just a very spiritual woman," Michaels explains. "She transcended time and space here on earth." Following those losses, Michaels says she found herself reflecting on how she spends each hour. "I think there is a life lesson to be told about how time is precious," says Michaels. "None of us are immune to it." What about all those viewers who watched her steadily improve over the years, and came to recognize her as a single-name sensation—*Mish?* "They can watch the Weather Channel," she says, laughing at the notion that television viewers are attached to her. Indeed, she says: "It's a very different time in television. There are no more legends. It's a medium of change now. There's such a high turnover. Change is status quo."

> "I lost two of the people closest to me, and I realized that life does not go on forever."

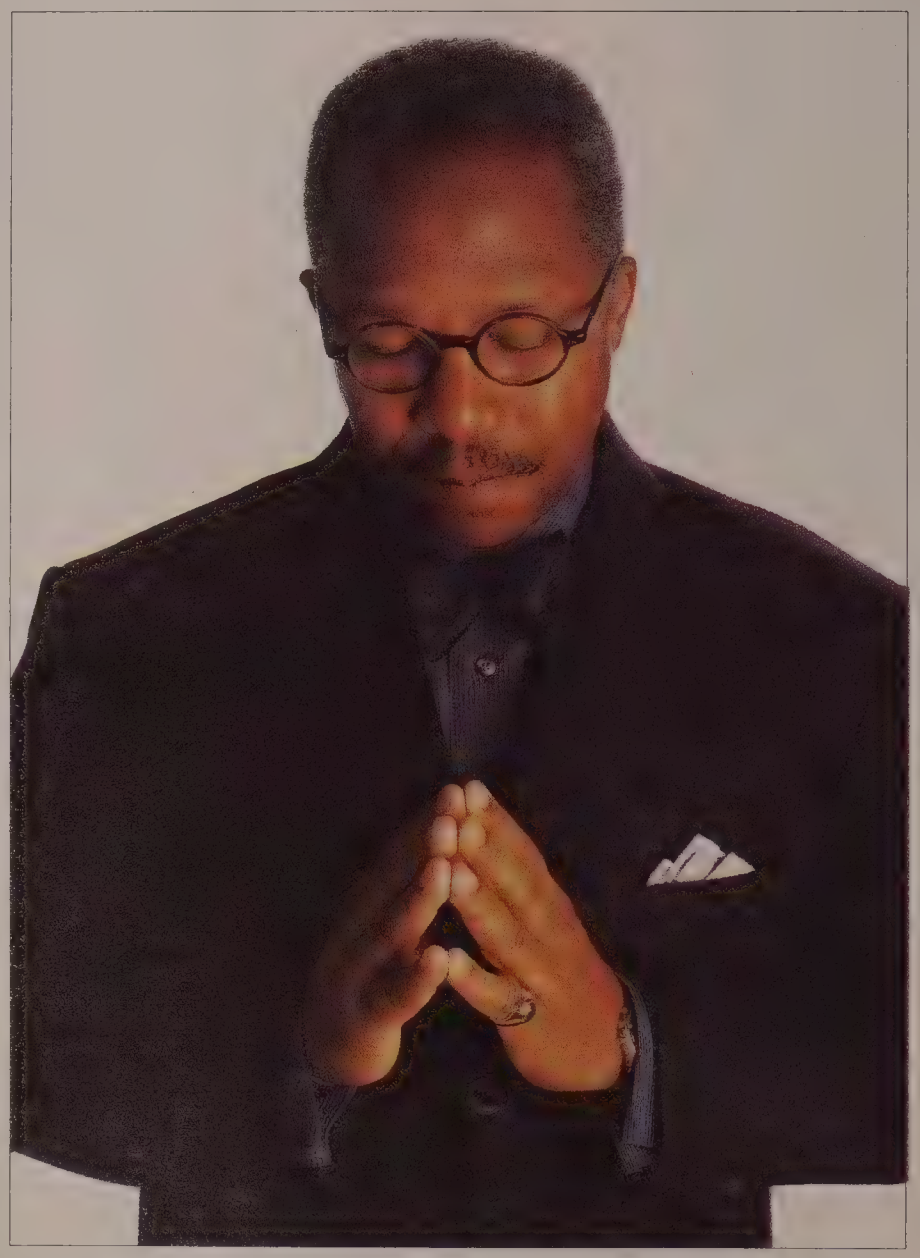
And some changes will bring more balance to a busy woman's life. Michaels' fiancée, a local entrepreneur, has a large extended family. Michaels' own parents live in upstate New York. Born in Calcutta and educated at Cornell University, Michaels holds a bachelor of science degree in meteorology. While at 7 News, Michaels earned a graduate degree in education from Harvard University. She was named Big Sister of the Year. She hosts an annual fund-raiser for the Pine Street Inn—Santa's Sock Hop. She was nominated for a New England Emmy. And she will be hard for 7 News to replace. General manager Michael Carson says he is "working on a replacement," and Michaels is assisting in the process. Carson says he is figuring Michaels will be a frequent on-air substitute replacement for other News 7 meteorologists after her Nov. 26 formal departure. As for Michaels, she is designing her new Cambridge office as a "weather-nerd's space," complete with maps, charts and white clouds painted on a blue ceiling. She calls her new gig a "dream job."

Indeed, she says: "I feel like my guardian angels up there must be hard at work." iB

TRACY POWELL

Our Man in Africa

Charles Stith is both politician and preacher. From influencing Boston's elite circles to serving as ambassador to Tanzania, this former South End minister has the Midas touch. BY JONATHAN SOROFF



Whether it was divine intervention or sheer luck, Rev. Charles Stith was not in his office the morning the bomb went off.

On August 7, 1998, at 10:39am, operatives of Saudi Arabian terrorist Osama Bin Laden pulled up to the United States embassy in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, in a truck loaded with dynamite.

The ensuing blast created a damage zone stretching a mile wide.

In addition to the embassy itself, which was effectively reduced to rubble, the explosion blew off the facade of the consular residence. Significant damage was also sustained at the Russian ambassador's residence, the Nigerian and Zambian missions, and the home of the British High Commissioner. Blessedly, the children who normally play in a nearby schoolyard were on vacation. Twelve people were killed and 85 injured (none American).

As horrific as that was, the simultaneous attack on the U.S. embassy in Nairobi killed 213 people and injured nearly 5,000.

Several months earlier, President Clinton had appointed his friend Stith—the former minister of Boston's historic Union United Methodist Church in the South End—to be the new U.S. ambassador to Tanzania. Had the confirmation process not taken so long in the Senate, Stith might have already taken up his post. Had Stith been in his office in Dar Es Salaam when the bomb went off, the embassy would have been filled with personnel working with their new ambassador. The bureaucratic red tape of congressional approval probably saved many lives, including Stith's.

Stith, a prominent leader of Boston's black community, is as much a politician as a preacher, a man with charisma and so-called people skills that rate off the charts. A notoriously snappy dresser with a penchant for bowties, he's equally at home on a golf course, playing 18 holes with a CEO, as he is at the pulpit, ministering to an inner-city congregation. For years, he was a veritable fixture in the dining room of the Four Seasons, where he buttonholed the Boston breakfast crowd to enlist support for the Organization for a New Equality (ONE)---a national group (which he founded) that expands economic opportunities for minorities and women. His ability to wield clout and forge strong bonds within the city's most powerful circles was evident at the farewell party held for him at the Brookline home of former BankBoston Vice President Ira Jackson. Among the guests: Congressman Joe Moakley, FleetBoston CEO Chad Gifford, Wang Center CEO Josiah Spaulding Jr. and the late Anti-Defamation League Director Lenny Zakim, to name a few.

On the morning of the terrorist attack, Stith was golfing in St. Maarten, an annual family tournament he attends with his wife and their two children. "I got a call from the State Department," he recalls, "saying, 'Mr. Ambassador, your embassy has been bombed.'" Overnight, Stith's job description went from encouraging economic development in one of the world's poorest countries to leading a cleanup effort in the wake of one of the biggest disasters ever to befall American diplomacy abroad. Dar Es Salaam, or "Place of Peace," is a city of 3 million people on the Indian Ocean. Its streets are lined with grimy, ersatz art-deco buildings, and shops, called "dukas," which are essentially colorful, third-world convenience stores. The air is thick with exhaust fumes and the streets crowded with traffic. At intersections, vendors hawk everything from newspapers and cashews to lovebirds. To an arriving American, the culture shock is immediate and overwhelming. Having flown from Boston through Zurich, it was surreal to realize that I had traveled two days and spent 19 hours in the air, only to be standing back on what was technically sovereign American soil when I arrived at the ambassador's home.

I had come to Africa with a close friend of the Stiths to find out how one of Boston's most respected (and best-dressed) men-of-the-cloth was faring in his role as U.S. ambassador.

On the day of our arrival, the unfailingly gracious Dr. Deborah Prothrow Stith, the ambassador's wife, offered us a welcome that was both effusive and sincere. Like her husband, she has an uncanny ability to make whomever she's speaking to feel as if they are the most fascinating person alive. A short while later, her husband returned from the temporary embassy to join us for lunch. His southern drawl was evident even when he pronounced the Swahili phrase "Asante sana," or "thank you very much," to a servant. The dignified bearing and impeccable manners haven't changed, and Stith looked supremely at ease as he showed us around the mansion that has been his home for the past two years. In the rear of the main house, there is a guest house that fashion designer Alexander Julian decorated as a favor to the Stiths. Julian (whose understated but boldly colored men's clothing Charles favors) and his wife, Meg, are only two in a steady stream of friends from Boston who have visited the Stiths in Tanzania. Family snapshots—of the Stith's son skiing in Vermont, or their daughter running cross-coun-

Opposite page: Rev. Charles Stith stands outside the former U.S. embassy in Tanzania, the target of a terrorist attack more than two years ago. Twelve people died in the blast.

ABOVE: TRACY POWELL, OPPOSITE: JONATHAN SOROFF

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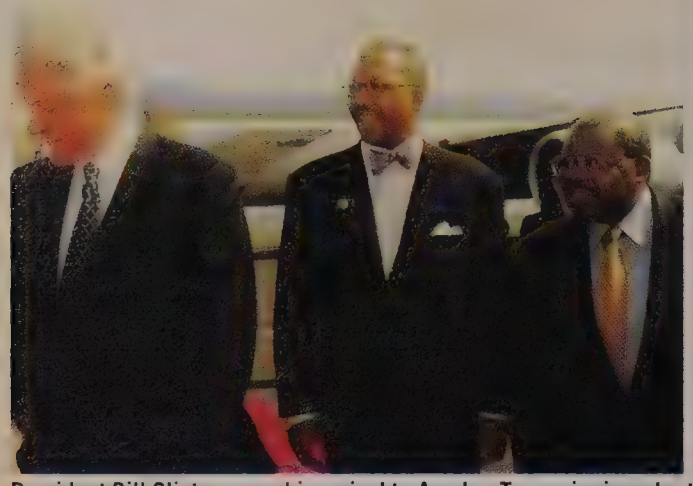
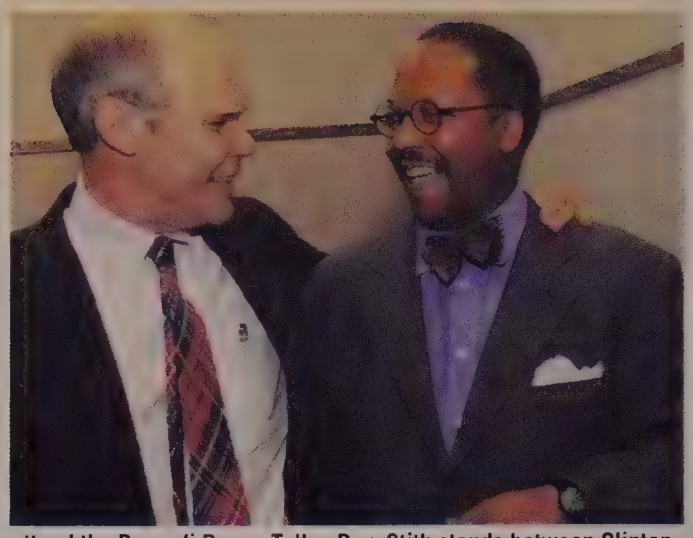
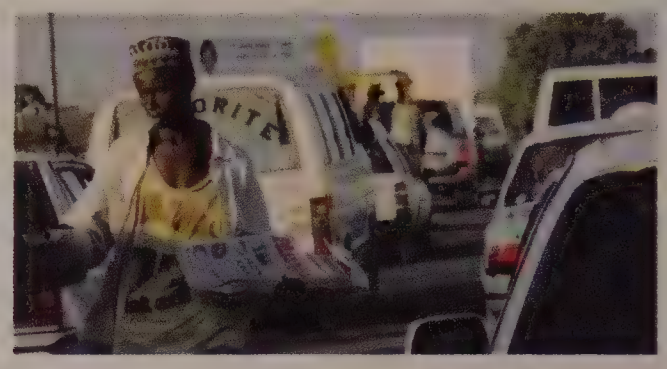




President Bill Clinton upon his arrival to Arusha, Tanzania, in order to attend the Burundi Peace Talks. Rev. Stith stands between Clinton and Tanzanian President Benjamin W. Mkapa. At right, Stith and Democratic adviser James Carville at a 1996 ONE event. On Nov. 29, the organization will present the Medal of Hope to Federal Reserve CEO Cathy E. Minehan. Below, a street vendor in Dar Es Salaam.

"I'll be like Superman back on Krypton. Once Clinton's out of office, I lose my superpowers."



try—as well as of Charles with luminaries like Nelson Mandela, Bishop Desmond Tutu, Jesse Jackson, Madeleine Albright, Ted Kennedy and, of course, President Clinton and Vice President Gore—add a personal touch to the home. In the library, a copy of *American Ambassadors in a Troubled World* sits on the desk, while a bookcase holds a reproduction of the famous Iwo Jima statue, presented, as Stith says, "by my Marines, after my first year on the job." While the first floor is best suited for official functions, the second floor is family space. A veranda overlooks the electric-blue Indian Ocean, and Charles spends his private time puffing on fine cigars and staring out at the water. Because of the bombing, the Stiths requested art for the residence that would reflect the themes of reconciliation and healing such as a room divider, emblazoned with ladies' gloves, representing hands reaching out to one another.

VISIBLE VOID

One indication of the Stiths' enduring influence in the Boston community is the fact that although they haven't been living here for the past two years, the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children will honor them—"for the example they provide of the strength and commitment of family love"—at its annual fund-raiser on Nov. 2. Describing the void left by their stay in Africa, their friend Frances Moseley says, "They're among a handful of African American couples who could pull together the best cross-section of Boston, usually in support of the nonprofit sector. They drew from academic circles, the faith-based community, the medical and corporate communities, politicians, celebrities and nationally recognized figures."

Moseley, who is the managing director of empowered philanthropy at State Street Global Advisors, says, "You'd walk into their house, and there would be a crowd that cut across every social and economic barrier and every generation, from people in their twenties to people in their seventies. And deals were cut, allegiances were formed, that have enriched the city of Boston in ways you can't imagine."

For 25 years, the Stiths have called Boston home, since Charles attended the Harvard Divinity School, receiving a Master of Theology degree in 1977. Born and raised in St. Louis, he graduated from Baker University in Kansas and the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, where he met and married his equally accomplished wife. A Texas native, she graduated from Spelman College in Atlanta and earned her M.D. from Harvard Medical School in 1979, serving as state commissioner of health in the Dukakis administration. For the past two years, she has maintained her position as a dean and professor at the Harvard School of Public Health, in addition to the numerous duties of an ambassador's spouse, which has required shuttling back and forth between Dar Es Salaam and Cambridge on a regular basis.

The Stiths have two children: Percy, a student at Morehouse College who spent a year in Dar Es Salaam serving as his father's unofficial aide de camp, and Mimi, who finished high school in Dar Es Salaam and now attends Spelman College. The immediate family also includes Deborah's mother, Mildred Prothrow—a disarmingly charming and genteel woman who handles the quotidian details of the ambassador's residence and is quite possibly the most popular member of Dar Es Salaam's insular, parochial social scene. Abdul Haji, the hugely rich owner of Tanzania's Land Rover concession, jokingly refers to her as "my girlfriend" and insists that she join him for coffee on an almost daily basis.

Before becoming an ambassador, Stith had risen to prominence as the senior minister at Union United Methodist Church in the South End. As a founder and former national president of the ONE, he entered the quasipolitical nonprofit arena, working to expand business opportunities for the disenfranchised. He has served on numerous boards, including the national advisory boards of FannieMae and Fleet InCity Bank, and, locally, the board of the Wang Center and the editorial board of WCVB-TV. His awards and honors include Boston's Paul Revere Bowl and the key to the city of Cincinnati. But perhaps most relevant to his current duties: He's the author of a book titled *Political Religion*. He has also been published in the *New York Times*, the *L.A. Times* and the *Chicago Sun Times*, as well as the *Boston Globe* and *Boston Herald*, espousing progressive liberal policies within a framework of traditional family values.

In the 1980s, his star in the ascendant, he first met kindred spirit and then-governor Bill Clinton, through their mutual friend, Laura Rockefeller Chasin, at her home in Cambridge. The two men immediately hit it off, according to Stith, because of a shared affinity for "policy and people." When Clinton won the White House, he offered Stith his first presidential assignment, as a member of the U.S. delegation to monitor the first democratic elections in South Africa, in 1994. However, his appointment as ambassador, he says, was both unexpected and unsought.

"I got a call one day from the White House," he relates, talking over dinner at an Indian restaurant in Dar Es Salaam. "They wanted to talk about ambassadorships, and I assumed they were talking about two friends I'd recommended. "I joked, 'Are you offering me the Court of St. James or Paris?' They said, 'Both of those are open.'

"I said, 'Let's start this conversation again.' They asked, 'Would you consider representing your country?' A few days later, the president called me at home and said, " 'We want you to go to Tanzania. We want to make the African Growth and Opportunity Initiative work. I think you can do that.' " He eventually accepted, after hashing out the logistics with his wife and kids.

"It's funny," Deborah says. "On my 40th birthday, I had thought of all these things I'd wanted to do in my life but probably never would. One of them was living in Africa, and now, here I am." For Charles, the appointment meant coming full circle, since he had received his calling to the ministry while on a visit to Africa. "When I was 20, I did a mission here to build churches, and on a trip to Mount Kilimanjaro, I got the call."

STAR STATUS

Upon his arrival in Africa, Stith says, he realized there were some "blessings in disguise" resulting from the embassy bombing. Dar Es Salaam and Nairobi were likely chosen as targets because they were considered low-security diplomatic posts. One result of the explosion was that the State Department has rethought its security guidelines. For instance, all U.S. embassies are now required to be situated on a minimum of 20 acres, with the buildings a safe distance from the street. (The new, permanent embassy in Dar Es Salaam is being constructed on a site that was formerly a drive-in movie theater.)

Meanwhile, for Tanzania itself, the incident proved to be something of a boon. As Stith puts it, "In the 30 days after the bombing, there were more high-level contacts between Washington and Dar Es Salaam than in the 30 years before it." Although the Saudi terrorists seemed to have had help from inside the country, Tanzanians, in general, revere America as the world's most prosperous and powerful nation. Deborah Stith recalls Tanzania's founding president, Julius Nyerere, commenting at a dinner hosted by the Stiths: "I wish Tanzanians could vote for the U.S. president. That's how much who's in office in Washington affects things over here."

Most Americans, on the other hand, don't know or care much about Tanzania, East Africa's largest country. It is home to 120 indigenous tribes, including the Maasai—cattle-herding nomads who believe that every cow on earth belongs to them and who follow age-old grazing routes, living in huts made of earth and cow dung. The primary language is Swahili, a derivative of Arabic that developed from the natives interacting with merchants from the Middle East during the days of the spice trade. Relatively speaking, Tanzania is the only calm spot in one of the world's most volatile regions, the keystone for stability in an area wracked by ethnic conflict and devastating corruption. To the north, Kenya is slowly falling apart, its once-vibrant economy, based largely on tourism, in ruins due to a degenerating political situation and widespread crime. To the west, Tanzania borders Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi, three of the most troubled spots in Africa. It's a testament to Tanzania's

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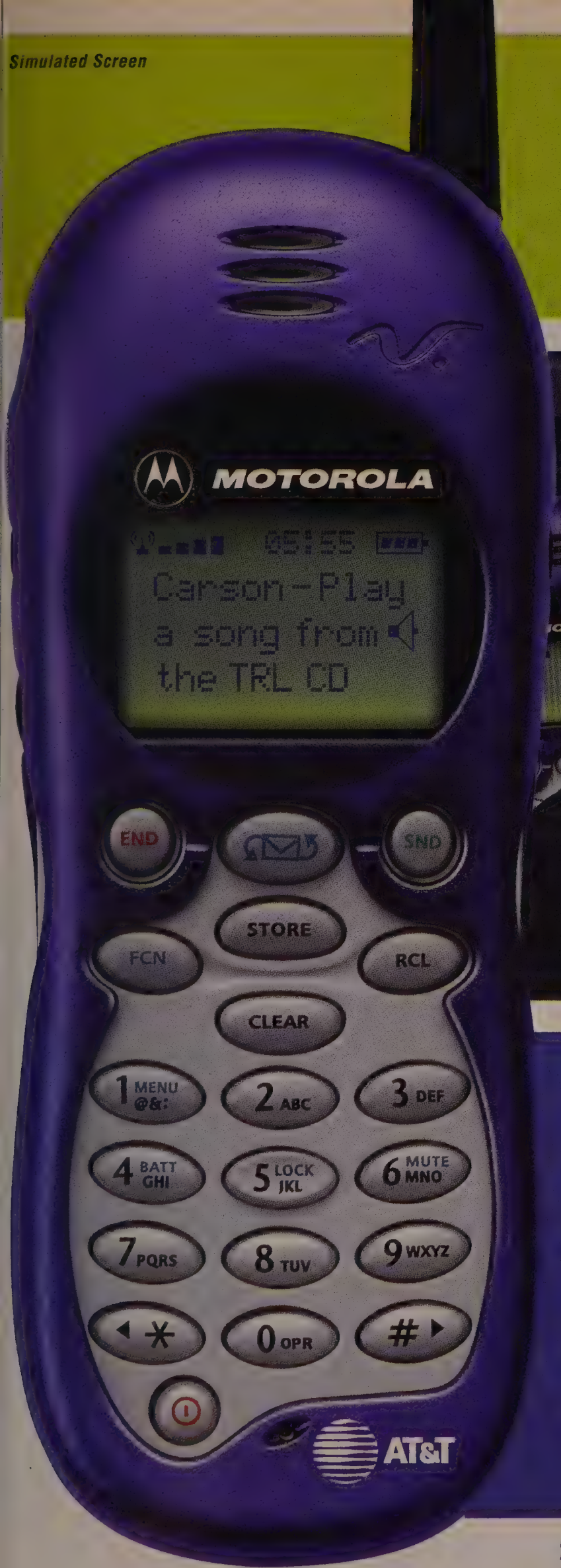

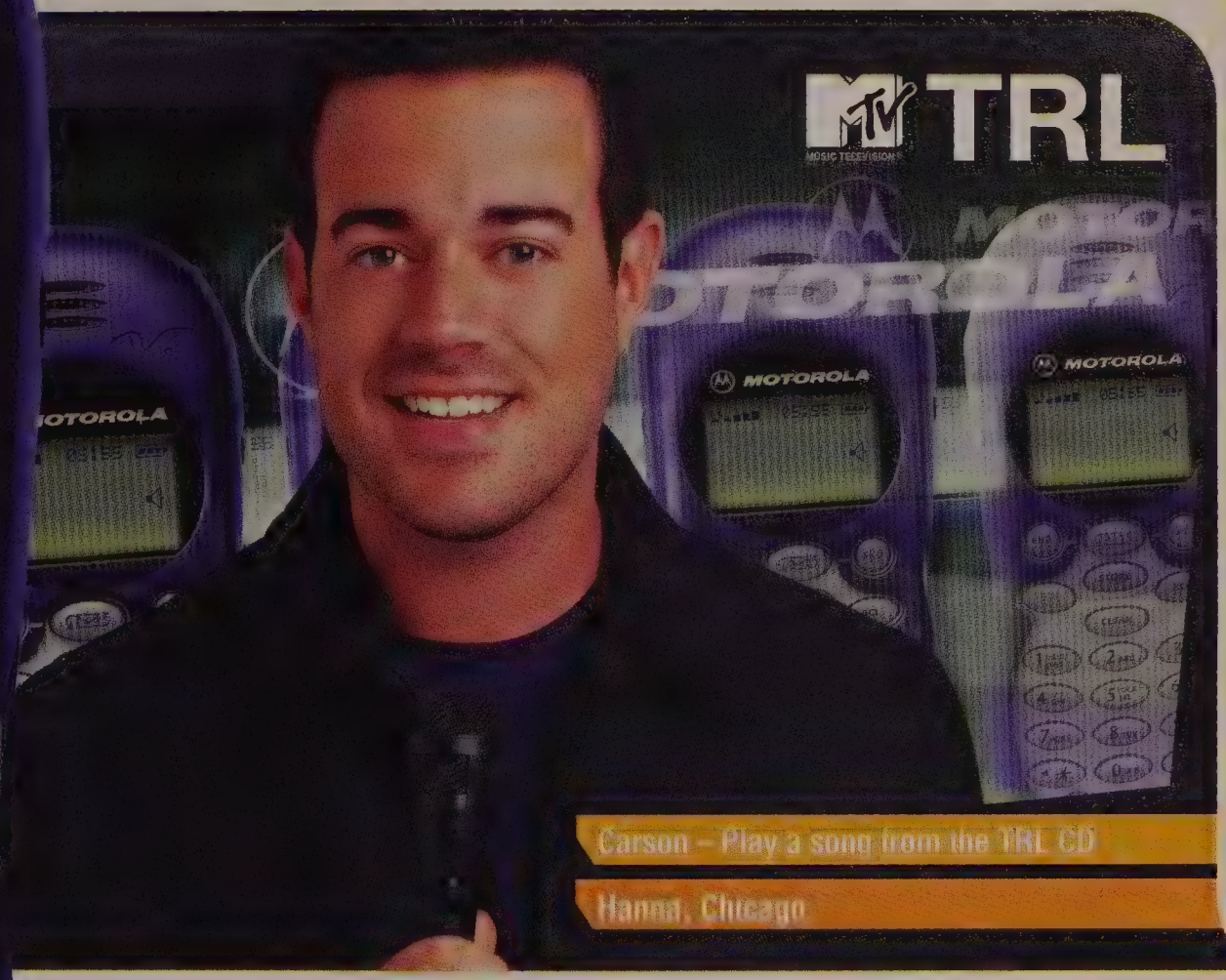

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comparative solidity that both the Burundi Peace Talks and the Rwandan genocide trials are taking place in Arusha—Tanzania's second largest city. In fact, it was Arusha, with Charles Stith by his side, that President Clinton visited on his trip to Africa in September. Tanzania also has enormous, unexplored economic potential: untapped mineral wealth—including nickel, copper, cobalt, iron, coal and other base metals—precious and semiprecious stones (the highly prized gem Tanzanite takes its name from the country), and other natural resources. Eighty percent of its land area is arable and ideal for ranching, coffee production or farming, but only six percent is under cultivation. The country has the only major ports, serving six of its landlocked neighbors. To most westerners, however, Tanzania's greatest wealth lies in its natural beauty and opportunities for eco-tourism. In addition to Kilimanjaro, it is home to the Serengeti, perhaps the planet's most famous wildlife sanctuary; the Ngorongoro Crater, which has been described as "the eighth wonder of the world"; the Selous, the largest game reserve in the world and Africa's oldest; as well as hundreds of miles of pristine coastline, not to mention the exotic spice islands, Zanzibar and Pemba.

Those are just a few of the reasons that Tanzania can be considered crucial to American interests in Africa. There are those who would argue that Stith is not qualified to represent U.S. interests in such a pivotal place, and indeed, the American tradition of mixing political appointees (like Stith) with career diplomats in the foreign service is thought by many to be a recipe for disaster. In the past, it has resulted in embarrassing scenarios like the owner of fast-food franchises from the Midwest dealing with matters of geopolitical import, after donating enough money to a winning presidential campaign and being named Ambassador to Wherever. Stith, however, was chosen by Clinton for his ability to articulate and enact policy, and in his own defense, he says, "U.S. non-career diplomats, if they're any good, force the career guys to think outside the box."

Rev. Charles Stith relaxes on the veranda of his Tanzanian residence. He still enjoys bow-ties and fine cigars. Below, Stith and his wife, Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith.

"They're among a handful of African-American couples who could pull together the best cross-section of Boston."

—FRANCIS MOSELEY, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF EMPOWERED PHILANTHROPY AT STATE STREET GLOBAL ADVISORS

By all accounts, Stith has succeeded admirably in his job. Under his watch, Tanzania became the first sub-Saharan African country to receive debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, and he was instrumental in arranging a visit by Tanzanian President Mkapa to the United States, where he met with President Clinton and various corporate executives. Stith's efforts to increase economic opportunity and foreign investment—including a reverse trade mission he conducted to London, at which 48 foreign corporations showed up, out of a hoped-for 25—have begun to bear fruit, and companies that were formerly handling their African operations out of Europe have made moves to conduct business on Tanzanian soil.

Perhaps the best measure of Stith's success, however, is that throughout Tanzania, even in remote areas, his name is widely recognized and admired. For example, at a safari lodge in the Serengeti, I told a young waiter that I was in the country visiting the U.S. ambassador. Visibly impressed, he said, "Reverend Charles Stith?!?" Similarly, a policeman in Stonetown, the capital of Zanzibar, began to give me a hard time about photographing the former Sultan's palace but backed down when I invoked the ambassador's name. On the streets of Dar Es Salaam, his official car attracts the kind of attention usually reserved for heads of state, while ripples of excitement and hushed whispers spread through restaurants when he walks through the door. It's not an exaggeration to say that here in Boston, Stith is recognized as a prominent black minister, but in Tanzania, he's a rock star.

For Stith, a typical day in Dar Es Salaam begins at 4:30am, when he awakes and logs onto the Internet to send and answer e-mails, and then scans the world's newspapers. After breakfast, his driver and bodyguard, Heeza, is waiting, holding open the door of a gray, armor-plated Chevy Surburban with tinted, bulletproof windows and doors so heavy they require a concerted effort to open and close. He is then driven to the temporary embassy: a heavily fortified facility protected by uniformed Marines who salute him as he enters, passing through a security checkpoint that includes a metal detector and a blast-proof door.

There is, he says, no normal routine at work, where any number of prosaic tasks or dire emergencies might require his attention. On the wall behind his desk are five clocks set to different time zones: Dar Es Salaam, Washington, D.C., Greenwich Mean Time and Stuttgart, Germany (where U.S. defense operations are carried out). A television is tuned to CNN and a chess set sits on a coffee table. The blinds next to his desk remain drawn to foil possible attempts at espionage, since the building next door belongs to the Russian government. There is a sense one gets, as Stith discusses his responsibilities, that he's been given his dream job. He exudes an obvious pride in the office, not surprising when you consider that he is an American dignitary on a continent from which his ancestors were once taken to the United States as slaves.

"I can honestly say there's nothing about the job I don't love," says Stith. "I like to be in bed by 9:30, 10pm, so some of the diplomatic receptions last a little too long for me. But other than that, it's a lot of fun." As in Boston, Deborah Stith has helped her husband navigate his new social circles. On July Fourth, for instance, she had sawdust hauled into the garden and the couple hosted a red, white and blue, all-American hoe-down, complete with cowboy hats and barbecue. The American embassy staff, foreign diplomats and local officials were still chattering about it for weeks afterward. Of course, the Stiths have encountered some delicate social situations during their time in Tanzania. When they arrived, the Palestinian ambassador, due to seniority, was the dean of Dar Es Salaam's diplomatic corps, at a time when the United States had yet to establish official ties with Palestine. The State Department also requires the Stiths to avoid contact with anyone connected to the Cuban and Libyan embassies, which can be tricky in a community as small and parochial as Dar Es Salaam.

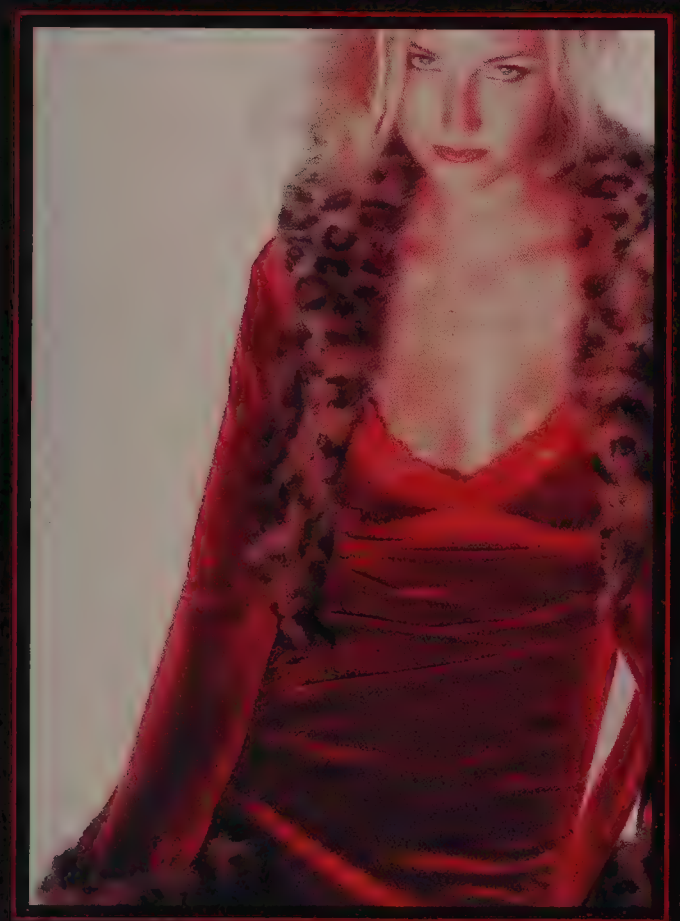
In January, Stith plans to resign his post and return to Boston. When asked why, he says, "I'll be like Superman back on Krypton. Once Clinton's out of office, I lose my superpowers."

So what's next? Friends and associates speculate on a run for public office, a move to Washington to be closer to the policy-making establishment, another diplomatic posting (if Gore is elected), a return to one of his previous positions (as either a minister or head of a nonprofit organization), and several people who know him have suggested that he'll write a book about his experiences in Africa. But when questioned about his plans for the future, the ambassador just smiles the enigmatic smile of a man who knows when the diplomatic thing to do is to keep his mouth shut and his options open. iB

The IMPROPER BOSTONIAN would like to thank Swissair, which offers two daily nonstop flights from Boston to Zurich with incomparable first-class service, and flights to Dar Es Salaam from its hub in Zurich three times a week.

JONATHAN SOROFF (2)

ARIA



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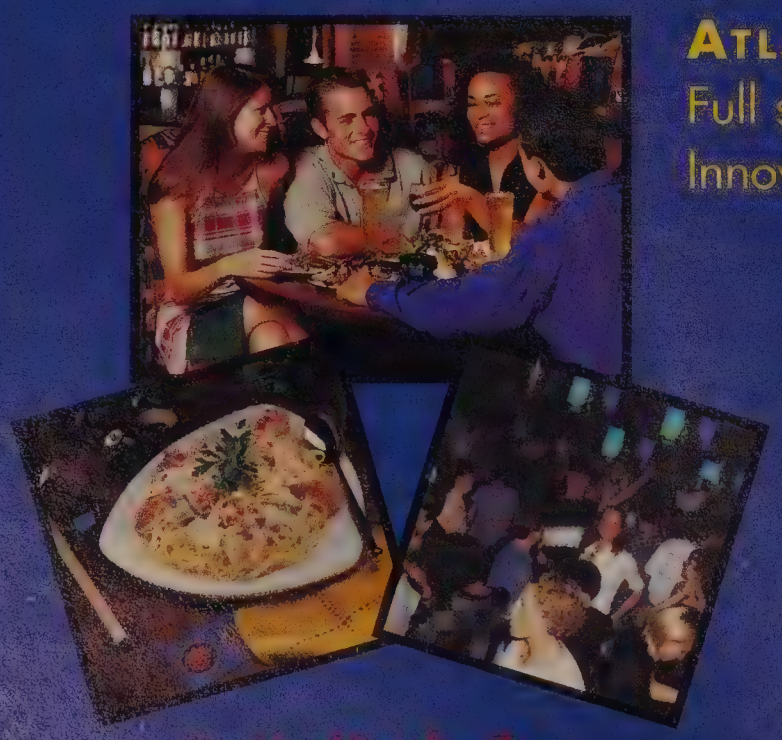

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THANK GOD IT'S THURSDAY

Boston comes alive on Thursday nights—partying professionals let loose when the workweek is not quite over. We sent a team to find out why some say weekends are for amateurs.

BY EZRA DYER AND BARBARA MATTALIANO • PHOTOGRAPHS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

Someone once said there's a reason you shouldn't buy a car that was finished on a Friday: The crew on the assembly line was likely not razor-sharp because they were out on the town the night before. Fact or fiction? How many people really do whoop it up on Thursdays? Or, like the notion that drinking hard liquor before beer puts you in the clear (free of a hangover, that is), is this notion rooted in myth?

Turns out that, at least in Boston, Thursday nights do bring out the office workers, CEOs, couples and singles searching for a dance partner. Plenty of people apparently do sacrifice being at the top of their game on Fridays. Leave your downtown office on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, and you'll see people scurrying for their trains and health clubs (unless, of course, they're true hipsters who prefer to venture out when nocturnal haunts are less populated). Come Thursday, there is a distinct quickening of the pace in these parts. Club managers confirm that Thursdays have become their busiest nights. As Abe & Louie's bartenders observe, Thursday is the night when the greatest number of Bostonians pack their restaurant and bar. Armed with this anecdotal and nonscientific evidence, we commissioned a task force to further explore the question: Why Thursdays?

First we scoured the city to find out why some of the busiest spots were so popular and whether club-hopping with the pros was possibly worth feeling queasy on Fridays. When patrons were asked to explain their Thursday-night enthusiasm, some offered the simplest of explanations. "Everybody in the city wants to go out after four days of working," said Ken Barnet, a 37-year-old principal consultant at PricewaterhouseCoopers, whom we interrupted sipping champagne at Sonsie. Apparently, others had been contemplating this issue before we probed them, and had slightly more complex answers.

"On Thursdays, there's a better crowd," guaranteed Bill Soule, a 30-year-old video editor who was kicking back at The Rack. "People just go out to have a good time. On Saturdays, people are just trying to get drunk and pick each other up."

As the investigation continued, devotees of Thursday nights became more introspective, venturing to insult those who go out on a Friday or Saturday evening. Jill Gedra, 27, a private-events director for Radius, didn't soften her assessment: "Fridays and Saturdays are amateur nights." Francis Neville, a 39-year-old marketing director at Booz-Allen & Hamilton, concurred while drinking port at the North End cigar bar, Stanza dei Sigari. "There's a professional crowd out on Thursday nights," she said. "Friday is amateur night, and Saturday is date night."

We were willing to take Neville's word for it regarding Saturdays, but how did Fridays become amateur nights? Plodding on with determination, we discovered the reasoning behind this urban legend. Steve Sherman, a 33-year-old chief technology officer for DotClick Corp., was interviewed at Vox Populi. On Thursday nights, he said, "there's a lot more people you know in the bars. It's the people who live in Boston who are out. The weekend crowd brings in people from the suburbs." Ah, the suburbs. Who amongst us wants to fritter away a precious night with people from...Wayland?

"The people who go out on Thursdays are great," said Cindy Lewis, a 33-year-old new media manager at Digitas. "There's always a professional crowd out with the intent to have fun," she added. Then, the insult: "You get the bridge-and-tunnel crowd on the weekends."

OK, so Thursday nights are not as crucial a rallying point as a consensus on a new ballpark. But we'll take hometown pride wherever we can find it. We suggest adding Thursday nights to the short list of things that unite Bostonians in passion, along

The man known as DJ Manolo spinning at International Thursdays at Avalon. We were inspired to dance until closing.

TRACY POWELL

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200 Boylston St., Boston (351-2053)
Capital Grille
359 Newbury St., Boston (262-8900)
The Federalist
XV Beacon St., Boston (670-2515)
Mistral
223 Columbus Ave., Boston (867-9300)
Radius
8 High St., Boston (426-1234)

LOUD TALKING

Caprice
275 Tremont St., Boston (292-0080)
Pravda 116
116 Boylston St., Boston (482-7799)
Graduate School Night
Silvertone
69 Bromfield St., Boston (338-7887)
Sonsie
327 Newbury St., Boston (351-2500)
Vertigo
126 State St., Boston (723-7277)

NET TERRITORY

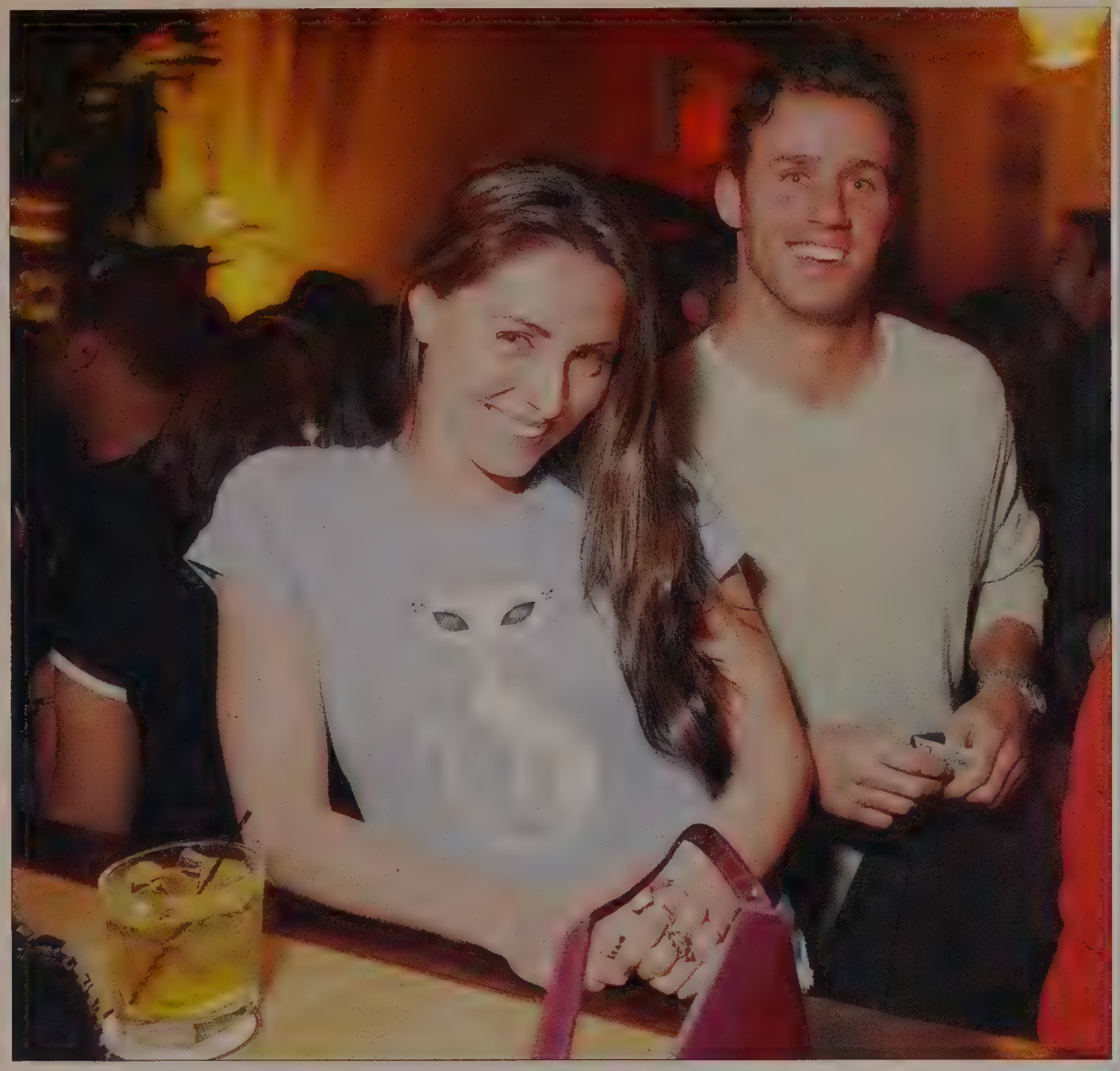
Kendall Café
233 Cardinal Medeiros Way, Cambridge (661-0993)
Man Ray
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (864-0400)
Campus Night
Miracle of Science
321 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (868-2866)
People's Republic
876 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (492-8632)
West Side Lounge
1680 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (441-5566)

CRUSH HOURS

Daisy Buchanan's
240 A Newbury St., Boston (247-8516)
The Hill Tavern
228 Cambridge St., Boston (742-6192)
The Rack
24 Clinton St., Boston (725-1051)
Mark Morris & the Cattunes 6-10pm; DJ Reeves 10pm-2am
West Street Grille
15 West St., Boston (423-0300)

STRICT HIPSTERS

Aria
246 Tremont St., Boston (338-7080)
Fashion House
Franklin Café
278 Shawmut Ave., Boston (350-0010)
Midway Café
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (524-9038)
Kristen Porter's Dyke Night
Pho Republique
1415 Washington St., Boston (262-0005)
Sophia's
1270 Boylston St., Boston (351-7001)
The Best of Latin Live
The Wonder Bar
189 Harvard Ave., Brighton (351-2665)
Live Jazz 9pm-2am



Above, Abe & Louie's bar manager Michael Ray stirs it up; at right, some of the beautiful people at Barcode; below, Avalon Thursday-night revelers

with meter maids and Central Artery traffic.

Some clubs have capitalized on the Thursday-night phenomenon; at Avalon, International Thursdays rock the house. The Midway Cafe in Jamaica Plain sponsors Kristen Porter's Dyke Night. Other restaurant, bar and club managers say their places are mobbed Thursday nights—regardless of whether there's a theme—for reasons they can't explain.

To thoroughly investigate the Thursday-night frenzy, we assigned a party of five, lead by Ezra Dyer and Barbara Mattaliano, to collect a representative sampling of this popular night in varying venues. We chose seven spots, and determined to hit every one of them over the course of one Thursday night.

We wanted to sample bars ranging from kicked-back Wallys to buttoned-up Abe & Louie's; places that charge $3.25 for a Bud to ones that serve cosmopolitans in bud vases and glass ice buckets.

At the B-side, we sipped a pretty sidecar from a glass rimmed in pink sugar. We saw the shimmering hair and sensuous skin of the women at Barcode. We huddled with the hepcats at Lizard Lounge, danced to DJ Manolo at Avalon, and admired the swarthy men in Armani, sipping gin-and-tonics at the Florentine Cafe. Our choices of nightspots offered us a close-up look at what drives Bostonians toward some of the city's favorite Thursday destinations.

We couldn't possibly get to every Thursday hot spot; while we were at Abe & Louie's, some of their regular customers had already moved onto Mistral. Instead of Avalon, some swingers were likely mingling in the Angel room at Aria, or listening to Latin jazz at Sophia's. It's true we could have told our friends who like Barcode to head to Caprice for similar fun. In the South End, we missed out on Thursdays at Pho Republique, a definite scene, they say. Still, we tested our schmoozing stamina at seven places that offered a good mix of Boston's varying styles, attitudes and social sets. We didn't arrive at the Florentine Cafe in the North End until 8:30pm. This meant we had already departed from the timetable kept by true Thursday-night partiers who head to their favorite place straight after work. This makes sense, of course. Merely by loosening your necktie or putting down that briefcase at the bar, you already have something in common with others who have opted to suffer through the next day at work.

Still, the Florentine Café was a great starting point. Everyone in the IMPROPER crowd (save Ezra) had a martini and the chocolate version got rave reviews. We could hear each other talk amid the professionals of all ages relaxing after work. The table of friendly men who looked distinctly Mediterranean would have no doubt have tried to pick up Barbara if our crack team hadn't been running out the door to the B-Side.

Having dashed across town to Cambridge, we walked into the stylish B-Side lounge ready for more research. Shortly thereafter we were reprimanded when our photographer, Derek, stood on a barstool to snap a photograph. (We briefly discussed whether the quality of pictures might deteriorate as our photographer did his part to sample cocktails for fact-gathering purposes; but we quickly agreed no one cared).

The B-Side was filled with techies and attorneys, students and yuppies who work and live nearby. After our last drinks were poured, we poured into our car, directing the driver to the Lizard Lounge at the other end of Cambridge. We got a thrill walking down the stairs into this subterranean haunt where we hoped to mingle with saxophonists and poets. Alas, we showed our ignorance by arriving too early for the the famed crowd (apparently the place is in full swing at midnight). We did, however, catch Club d'Elf, a group lead by bassist Mike Rivard. We knew these guys had to be good because the IMPROPER's music writer, Paul Robicheau was lurking in the shadows. After inspection of the crowd, we wondered whether we should have worn berets and brought clove cigarettes. At the very least, next time, we swore to arrive fashionably late.

We left intent on fitting in at the next place. No such luck. Perhaps it was apparent to the Abe & Louie's crowd of big-deal players that Ezra is really just a punk who still has roommates and a shirt that he had to give back to the magazine's fashion editor at the end of the night. The Abe & Louie's crowd was solidly comprised of filet-mignon types, young professionals who seemed to know one another from the black-tie charity circuit. There was an air of clubby secrecy; >>

Why Thursday?

Clubbers explain why this night is their favorite.

Marcy Harris, Kelly Warner and Tina Margetis, at Barcode

Warner: "We just go out right after work. We usually go out Thursday, recuperate on Friday, and then go out again on Saturday."

Margetis: "But Saturday is more of a date night, so it seems like the crowd isn't as relaxed."

Lamont Bullock, Aaron Poindexter and Ali Howard, at Wally's

Poindexter: "It's the early weekend—it's ventilation night. You vent all your frustrations. And all the potential lovers are out. The early bird catches the worm."

Suzanne and Michelle at Abe & Louie's. (Too wary of Ezra to provide last names)

Suzanne: "Everybody else goes out on Thursday, so why not you?"

Michelle: "It's better than staying home and watching must-see TV. It's either this, or going out and playing bingo."

Club Hopscotch

7 Spots in 6 Hours

Facts and highlights from the seven spots we hit over the course of the night.

Florentine Café
227-1777
www.2nite.com/florentine
Three Reasons To Go: European décor and clientele; smooth service; proximity to a plethora of North End eateries

B-Side Lounge
354-0766
www.bsidelounge.com
Three Reasons To Go: U-shaped bar promotes the checking-out of other patrons; old-school hard boiled eggs at the bar; it's retro without really trying

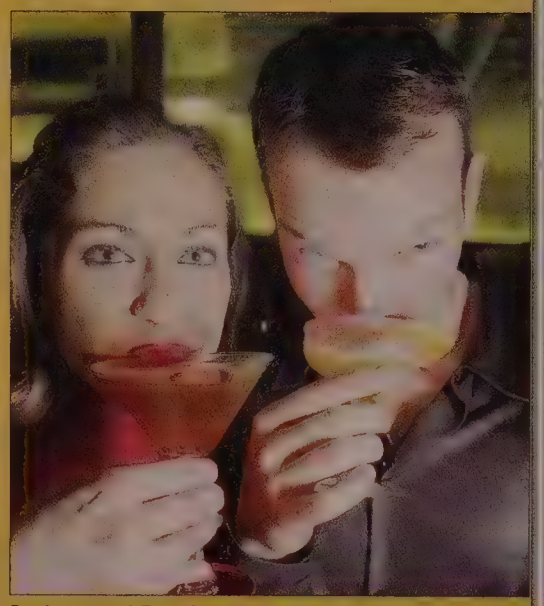
Lizard Lounge
547-0759
Three Reasons To Go: Club d'Elf; knowing you're the real deal on the music scene; dim, smoky corners facilitate discreet rendezvous

Abe & Louie's
536-6300
www.great-food.com/abelouies/index/html
Three Reasons To Go: You're looking for your trophy wife/sugar daddy; romantic, if disturbing music in the bathrooms; and the game's always on—in more ways than one

Barcode
421-1818
www.barcodeboston.com
Three Reasons To Go: You so horny; high-class drunk eats; sweatiness not a problem (this place is downright chilly)

Wally's Café
424-1408
www.wallyscafe.com
Three Reasons To Go: Cheap drinks; a surprisingly diverse crowd; bongos if you're feeling musicical (and you know who to talk to)

Avalon
262-2424
www.avalonboston.com
Three Reasons To Go: DJ Manolo, lasers and lasers


Barbara and Ezra hard at work.

Dinner is served at the B-Side Lounge.

at least one table of patrons refused to have their photo taken.

Ezra had a single, curious complaint. "The bathroom music was intensely disturbing. Lyrics like 'stopping now and then to share a lover's sigh, you and I.' clearly violate mens-room etiquette." Of course, immediately afterwards he broke into a little soft-shoe, and once he and his new friend had completed their first waltz, we continued to our prime-time destination—Barcode.

"There were so many people there. The crowd was highly stylin' and flirtatious," reported Barbara. It certainly was appropriate that the temperature was cold at Barcode because it was something of a meat market. Ezra took advantage of the mood and found a new appreciation for his shirt after so many hotties asked him for permission to run their hands over the fabric. No more complaints from him.

By now, our team of researchers were struggling to retain a sense of journalistic propriety. Over at Wally's, a hole-in-the-wall jazz spot in the South End, the IMPROPER team was reduced to a state of anarchy. Barbara joined the band and played bongos while Derek shot so much film, Kodak's stock went up two points.

The crowd at Wally's was refreshingly diverse: Black people and white people hanging out together. Cool.

Finally, knowing that Avalon is a place to be seen on Thursdays, we progressed to Landsowne Street. There we danced with hard-core clubbers to throbbing bass and lasers until 2am. Shaking our stuff on the crowded dance floor, we congratulated ourselves on a eventful whirlwind of a night. A Thursday night well spent. And so were we. **iB**

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Sweetwater Cafe

the SUGAR SHACK

Bishop's Pub

Harvard Gardens
bar & restaurant

boymeetsgirl

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PRODUCED BY SAMANTHA HOUSE • PHOTOGRAPHS BY JÖRG MEYER

Opposite page: merlot sweater by Kieran, $98; French Connection tutti-frutti wool skirt, $132; Planisphere red patent leather shoes, $99.

This page: On her, Sharagano brown zip printed jacket, $265; Sharagano brown printed jaquard skirt, $154; Two Lips khaki mules, $75. On him, Theory walnut double-layer shirt, $185; Theory walnut pants, $220; CK Khaki sweater vest, $98.

On her: Tova-Celine black cheetah blouse, $166; Sharagano black pleated skirt, $154; Mark Modavi black patent leather shoes, $129. On him: Theory black double-layer button-down shirt, $185; black bedford pants, $98.

Fashion Assistant: Cristina Silva

Models: Ruby Rose and Lamar for Ford Model Management

Clothing available at:
Jasmine Sola
344 Newbury St.
Boston
867-4636

Sola Men
333 Newbury St.
Boston
450-9484

Jasmine Sola
Men/Women
39 Brattle St.
Cambridge
354-6043

Sola Shoes
329 Newbury St.
Boston
437-6466
37 Brattle St.
Cambridge
354-6043

On her: Theory black-and-white print blouse, $165; French Connection black ecru tweed pants, $120. On him: Theory black seth jacket, $340; gray clam pants, $89; 4U gray turtleneck sweater, $98.

The Holiday Gift GUIDE

November & December Issues

1. **HANDMADE MONKEY SEATED WITH BOWL** $285, a Set of four **PALM TREE COASTERS** $45 and an **ARICULA SQUARE NEEDLEPOINT PILLOW** designed by Nina Campbell $180. Available at La Ruche, 168 Newbury St., Boston 536-6366.

2. **WORLD'S BEST STAINLESS POCKET NAIL NIPPER WITH LEATHER CASE** $16. Available at Stoddard's, 50 Temple Place, Boston 426-4187; also at Copley Place and the Mall at Chestnut Hill.

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4. **VELVET STOCKINGS** made locally in Allston to be featured in upcoming movie "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas" with Jim Carrey $44. Available at The Flat of the Hill, 60 Charles St., Boston 619-9977.

5. **COCKTAIL SHAKER** $160, **NUTBOWL** $65 and **MARTINI TRAY** $110. Available at St. John Boutique, 292 Boylston St., Boston 338-6130 www.stjohnknits.com.

6. **MBTA TROLLEY ORNAMENT** by Landmark Creations $24 (in a red gift box). Available at The Faneuil Hall Heritage Shop, Zero Faneuil Hall Sq., Stall 13, Boston (in the cellar of Historic Faneuil Hall) 723-1776 (800-588-3844 for more styles).

7. **SWAN BOAT ORNAMENT** by Landmark Creations $28 (in a red gift box). Available at The Faneuil Hall Heritage Shop, Zero Faneuil Hall Sq., Stall 13, Boston (in the cellar of Historic Faneuil Hall) 723-1776 (800-588-3844 for more styles). www.TheLittleRedBox.com.

8. **ASSORTED SWISS ARMY CLASSICS**, red and blue $22, sterling $80. Largest selection in NE. Available at Stoddard's, 50 Temple Place, Boston 426-4187; also at Copley Place and the Mall at Chestnut Hill.

9. **BATU HARMONY COLLECTION** by John Hardy with 18k yellow gold, peridot & green tourmaline: **EARRINGS** $4,000, **NECKLACE** $2,400 and **ENHANCER** $2,000. Available at Shreve, Crump & Low, 330 Boylston St., Boston 267-9100 and the Mall at Chestnut Hill 965-2700.

10. **SLATKIN & COMPANY HOLIDAY POTPOURRI** $30 (available in four other scents) & **MATCHING VOTIVES** $9 each. Available at The Flat of the Hill, 60 Charles St., Boston 619-9977.

11. Under 12 inches and years of pleasure. **SMALL WORKS ART SALE** (November 24- December 25). Available at the Copley Society of Boston, 158 Newbury St., Boston 536-5049.

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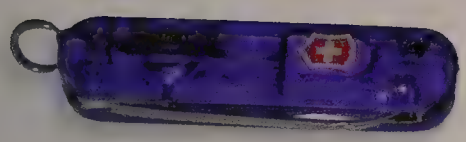

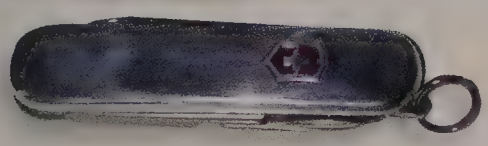

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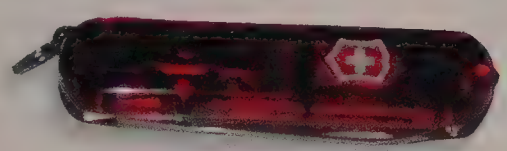

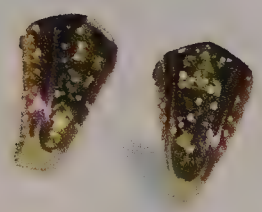

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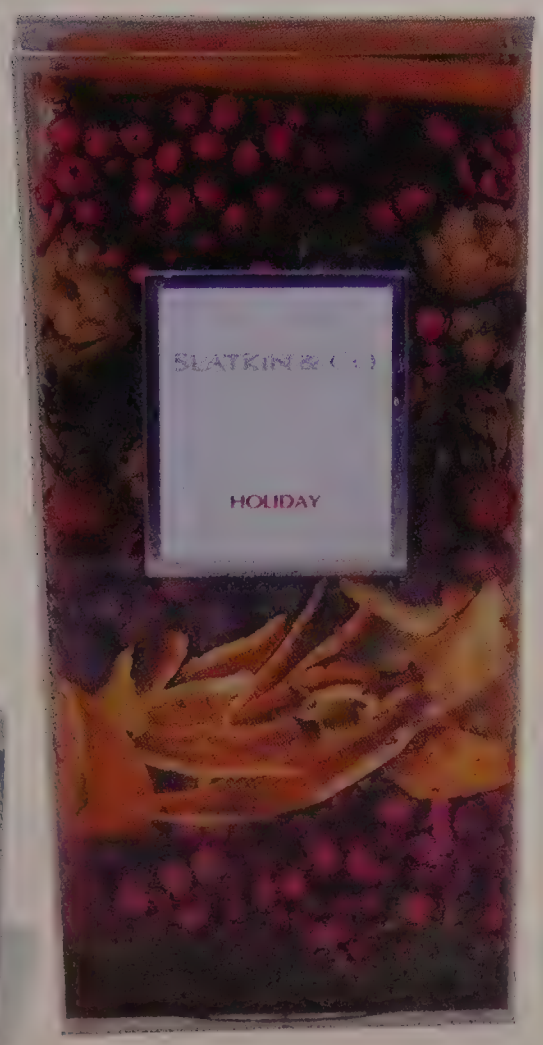

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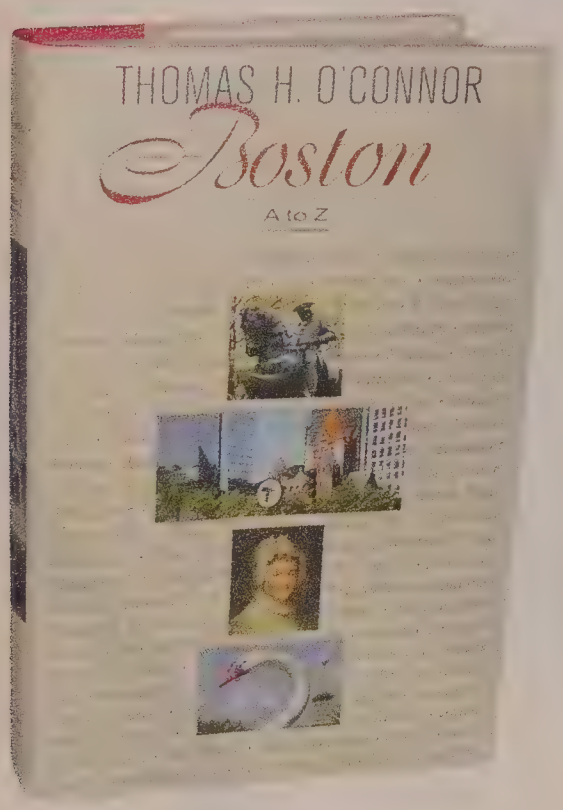
Mopsy

Serendipitous shopping: Our unfettered correspondent seeks out the salubrious and the cerebral.

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY



HONEY FITZ TO THE RITZ

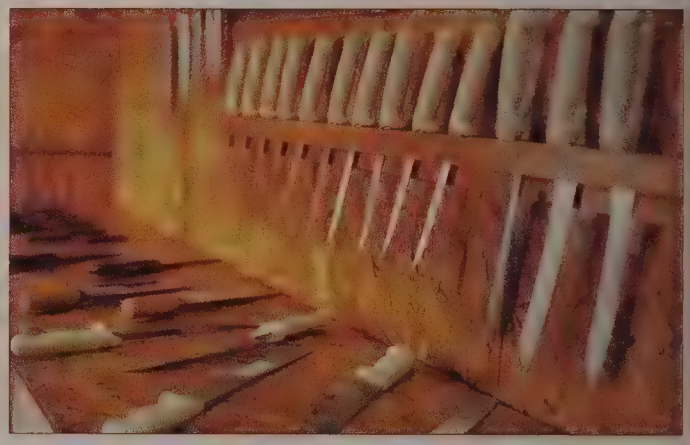
"Boston A to Z," by Thomas H. O'Connor, is a compendious, alphabetic collection of All Things Here.

Thomas O'Connor, university historian and professor emeritus from Boston College, has done what all emeriti should do: made his vast learning available in a manageably brief and interesting form. In each several-pages-long entry, O'Connor paves the city with mini-biographies of its many historical figures, from John and Sam Adams to Quaker Mary Dyer, (hanged on the Boston Common in 1660) to the outrageous jailbird-politician James Michael Curley. Institutions that characterize our town are detailed, including things Bostonishly proper (The Somerset and Chilton Clubs) and improper (sexily tawdry Scollay Square), as well as the many footprints on Boston's cultural and aesthetic landscape: the earth-colored Trinity Church or the lovably garish Citgo sign—our own little flash of Vegas. Always, as the book shows, there has been a sort of fire-and-ice dialectic between a Bostonian staidness of style on one side, and rebellion, opposition and innovation on the other. Take Isabella Stewart Gardner: She exhibited both tendencies (and, among other things, walked a leashed lion down Tremont Street). New religions, the invention of college co-op programs, rebellion against the old country, a bustling city wrapped by an enormous leafiness and Filene's Basement. Boy, are we ever the Hub!

LOOK SHARP

Siroco Sharpening Service at 533 Medford Street, Somerville (628-6071) does quality scissor and knife grinding.

The swords of summer—your hedge clippers, flower nippers and that hidden servant of chomping, the blade on your lawn mower: all of those things need sharpening. It's best to do it now, so they can bite zestily into the garden greenery come spring. Siroco Sharpening Service has been in the business for generations; its beautiful antique pushcart, on display, commemorates its immigrant roots. Backstage is where Siroco, Pere and his two sons restore the biting edge to professional and personal knives and scissors. The whirring 30-inch aluminum-oxide, water-cooled wheel keeps the temper of the steel while restoring value. Hair scissors worth $250 deserve to be kept in excellent trimming health, and even a home cook knows how much more inviting meat, carrots or an onion seems when the blade is glinting and laser bright. Think of your power mower or old-fashioned push one; that ever-duller paper cutter, or pinking sheers no longer in the

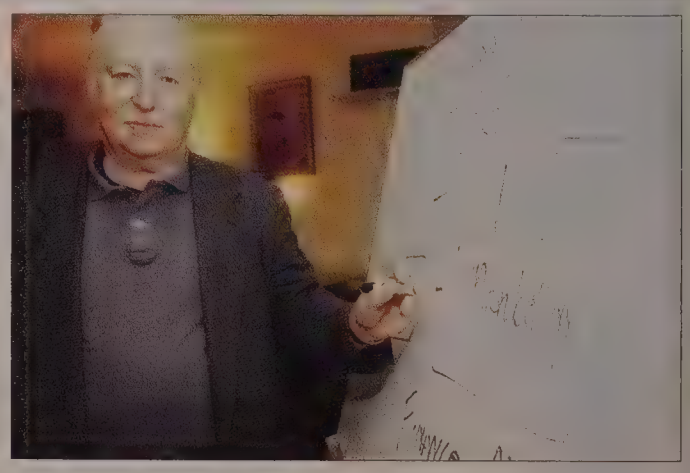


pink—and bring them back to life. The Sirocos, real craftsmen, take apart many of the scissors, and take pride in the microscopically curled edge they produce. Moreover, charming topical poetry adorns the store's window.

HOW AM I DOING, COACH?

Businesses young and old need coaching. "Leveraged Thinking" is Mel Epstein's class at the Cambridge Center for Adult Education. His "Managers' & Enterpreneurs' Weekly Coaching Group" (Course code: MMTG) starts Nov. 9. Call 547-6789 to register.

Business consultant, coach and a man who delights in facilitating spicy occasions (he once organized an evening of cigar appreciation that included a talk by a psychiatrist!), Mel Epstein specializes in all sorts of business strategizing. His company, Leveraged Thinking, has given more than 2,000 seminars and worked with small, medium and huge businesses, including Copy Cop. This CCAE coaching course will help participants anywhere along the continuum from gleam-in-the-eye businesses, or baby ones, on through "adult" enterprises needing specific correction. Past Mel ventures have included teaching a manager to work as a coach with her own employees; helping a company in which commission-seeking workers were dissipating the business's unified mission; turning a brick-and-human-contact business into a Web-based one; and coaching separate departments to work better



as a team. He even worked with one small-business woman who designed an interestingly made canvas bag of various adaptable configurations and helped her find manufacturing and financing. Then, Epstein-encouraged, she trod the trail of upscale stores along the East Coast, and successfully sold those bags to the appropriately fancy places.

WENDY MIMRAN: KNIVES, COACH

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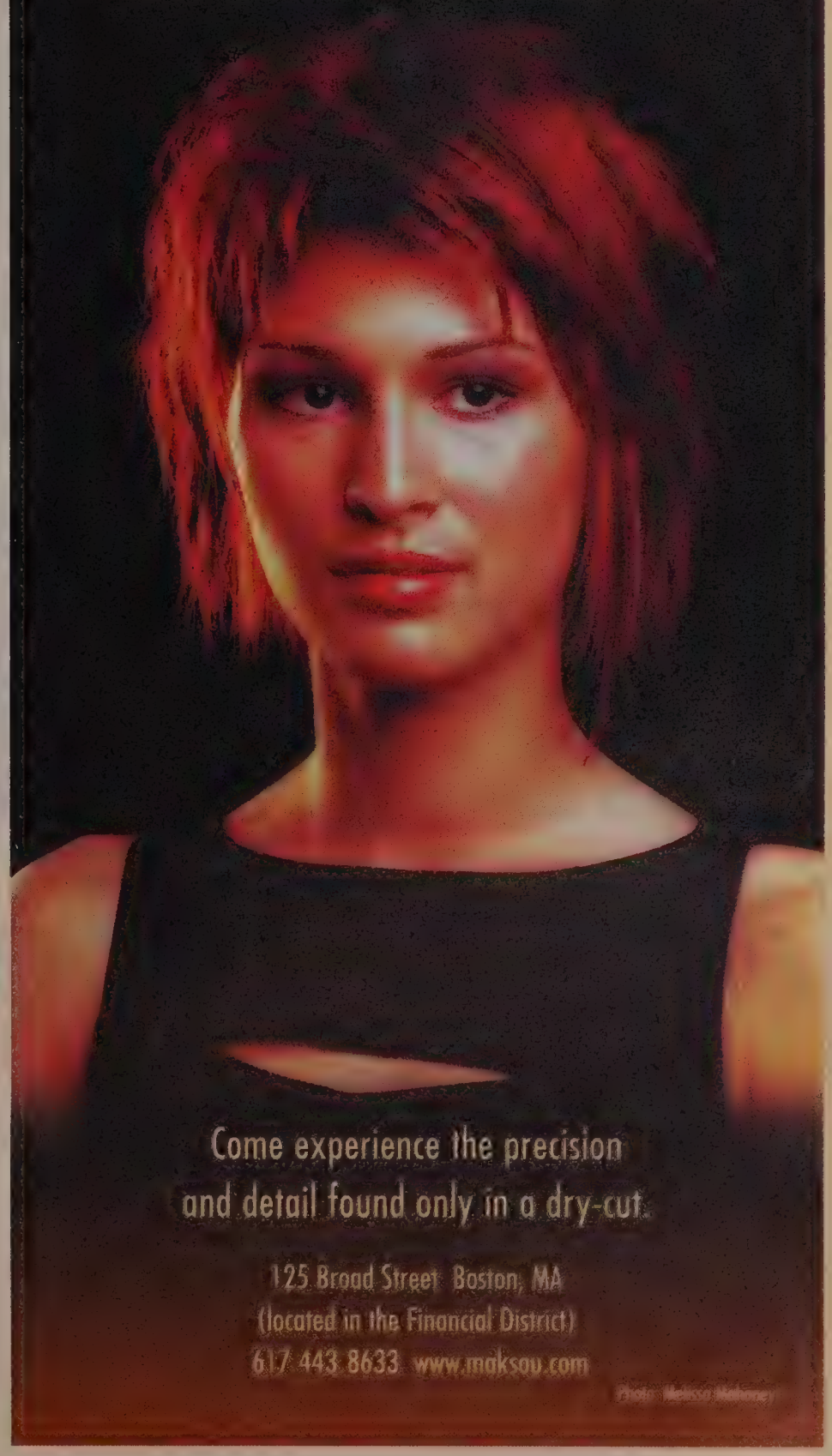

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Photo: Melissa Mahoney

INSIDE: The Husbands' mountainous wedding cake; the big picture at Radius

Left: Chef/owner Larry Kessel keeps things moving. Opposite page: Pan-seared red snapper; Atara's attention-grabbing sign

REVIEW

Ascending the Throne

With the polishing of a few of its minor jewels, Atara's crown will be securely in place.

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI

A bright, eye-catching sign marks the entrance to Atara, a new restaurant on Commonwealth Avenue in Brighton. Filling the space formerly occupied by Uva, Atara has sought to move the ambiance and cuisine up a notch while preserving the character of the restaurant as a reasonable, friendly place to dine. In some respects, it has succeeded, and in others, it has failed.

The late Uva boasted an extensive wine list and an enlightened, consumer friendly wine pricing policy: $10 over wholesale. Whether or not it scrupulously adhered to that policy I cannot confirm, but I did find the wine selection and prices most inviting when I reviewed Uva a couple of years ago. While Atara—the word means "crown" in Hebrew—has retained a reasonably complete wine list, with a number of offerings in the $20 range, pricing is now more aggressive, particularly at the lower price levels. For example, the 1999 McGuigan Shiraz Bin 2000, a somewhat flabby Australian, sells for $26, a markup of more than four times wholesale. Of better quality, and of better value, was the Cave de Tain St. Joseph ($34) a good, sturdy northern Rhone. St. Joseph is the only one of its northern Rhone brethren, Cote Rotie, Hermitage and Cournas, whose tannins are soft enough to be drunk relatively young.

In terms of décor the makeover of Atara has been substantial. An exposed brick wall is hung with artistically composed black-and-white photos. Tall, ceiling-height windows dressed with handsome white draperies look out onto Commonwealth Avenue. Seating is at leatherette banquettes, large round tables or booths. Substantial cotton napkins, gathered into heavy, silver-plated napkin rings in the shape of crowns, grace wooden tables. Gone is the butcher-block paper that covered the tables in Uva, but despite its upscale aspirations, Atara has not replaced the paper with tablecloths. Uva used to serve its premium wines in elegant Riedel stemware, but Atara makes do with standard-issue restaurant glassware.

Atara's appetizers range in price from gazpacho at $4.50 to mussels at $9; pizzas from $9 to $13; and main courses from $14.50 to $18. Considering the reasonable prices of the main courses, the pasta prices—$11 to $19—seem high.

There are a couple of dandy appetizers. Marcia's chicken wings ($8.50), a pile of 10 moist, assertively flavored wings that had been marinated in garlic, soy, ginger and sherry, proved that chicken wings can be spicy without being lethally hot. They were served on a bed of tender, flavorful bok choy. The quesadilla of the day ($6) contained roasted mushrooms, tomatoes, scallions and pepperjack cheese. Accompanied by a mild salsa, it was conveniently cut into four generous quarters that perfectly accommodated our party. Atara's four-cheese, roasted-garlic and arugula pizza ($10) was a thin, crispy-crusted treat, with a mellow, flavorful combination of Asiago, Swiss, fontina, and mozzarella. A rectangle measuring 10 by 12 inches, it amply served three as an appetizer. Angel-hair pasta in a plum tomato sauce with roasted garlic and fresh herbs ($11) featured good, al dente cappellini—anyone who has tried to produce al dente angel hair at home knows how difficult it is—but the sauce was insipid, and, we thought, too sweet. It could have used a good dusting of grated Parmesan cheese, but unfortunately, none was forthcoming.

Main courses included a half-roasted chicken ($14.50) with a ragout of leek and wild mushrooms, together with mashed potatoes flecked with chives. The mushroom-leek combination was creative and enjoyable, but the presentation of the dish, following the tiresome Boston practice of using mashed potatoes as a base for mounting other components, was annoying.

Another main course, the veal meatloaf ($14.50), consisted of two thick slices of

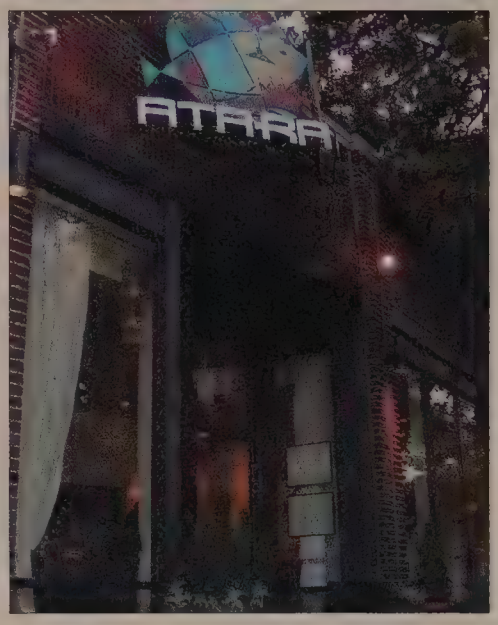
BRAD ZIEGLER

subtly flavored meatloaf alongside and on top of a mound of mashed potatoes and broccoli rabe, with a rich portobello mushroom glaze and several meaty slices of marvelously textured portobello mushrooms. Again, the verticality of the dish distracted and detracted.

Most successful among the main courses was the roasted halibut ($18), a magnificent slab of firm, flaky-fleshed halibut flanked by two extraordinary accompaniments: buttery Savoy cabbage with carmelized pearl onions, scallions and minced carrots, seasoned with garlic and soy; and roasted potatoes in a basil emulsion sauce. The buttery richness of the cabbage, mellow sweetness of the carrots and onions, and the mild garlic made a particularly felicitous combination.

The least successful part of Atara's menu was its desserts. Bearing the substantial price tag of $7.50, they were disappointing in the extreme. The "classic crème brulee" was perfunctory, exhibiting decent texture but pale flavor. Two of the offerings, the Atara banana split and "coffee and donuts"—both provocatively described on the menu—came up short. The banana split consisted of a split banana and a white- chocolate crepe resembling a banana, banana ice cream and bittersweet chocolate. The crepe was doughy, its filling was unrecognizable as white chocolate, and the banana ice cream had little flavor. The ensemble could have been rescued by a generous ladle of bittersweet chocolate sauce, but the sauce, while good, was sparse. "Coffee and donuts" suggested great promise, described as "cappuccino semifreddo with cinnamon-sugar beignets." We immediately fantasized a trip to the Café Du Monde in New Orleans. Alas, we awoke to find the beignets to be heavy, dry cylinders of fried dough. While the semifreddo was pleasant, it got lost in their company.

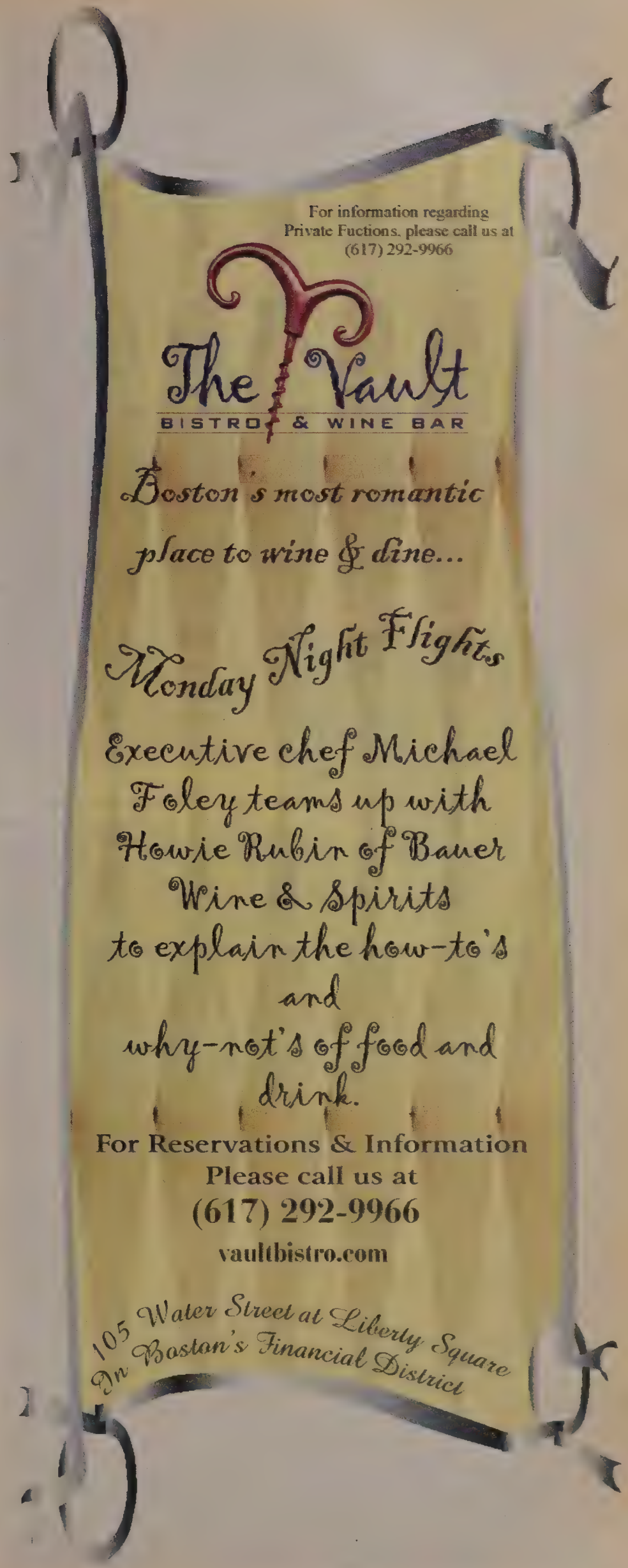
Service at Atara varied from excellent one evening to inconsistent the next. Tableware was replaced meticulously



with the changing courses, but on one evening the interval between appetizers and main courses seemed interminable. Overall ambiance was comfortable and friendly, helped along by the presence of families with small children on Sunday evening. The bar and lounge that occupies one half of the restaurant hosts an organized singles affair on Monday nights, and the place has a neighborhood feel about it. Its drawbacks are eminently remediable. A return to Uva's wine policy, or something approximating it, an improvement in the desserts, and some price relief on both the pastas and desserts could make this a solid restaurant resource for the neighborhood. **iB**

Atara

1418 Commonwealth Ave., Brighton
(566-5670)
HOURS Mon.-Wed., 5:30-10:30pm; Thu., 5:30-10:30pm; Fri.-Sat., 5:30-11; Sun., 11am-3pm, 5:30-9pm
RESERVATIONS recommended
CREDIT CARDS all major
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE yes
PARKING valet
LIQUOR LICENSE beer and wine



FOOD: BRAD ZIEGLER; EXTERIOR: RITA GREELEY

DISH

Hey, Locke Me Ober!

Remakes, cakes & maybe a "Pi"

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

The Grande Dame of hotels, **The Ritz-Carlton**, has officially announced that it will close discreetly while undergoing a full body make-over. Meanwhile, the future of the Grande Dame of Boston restaurants continues to be the subject of whispered rumors. Will the venerable **Locke-Ober** revitalize itself as a club for **Seth Greenberg**? A hotel for **Paul Roiff**? A restaurant for **Lydia Shire**? Or a wax museum for wiener schnitzel? Right now, it's anyone's guess.

Are we having fondant yet? You wouldn't expect **Andy Husbands**, chef/owner of **Tremont 647**, to top off his own recent nuptials with a standard-issue vanilla wedding cake. And so he, his bride, and their lucky guests feasted on the most impressive cake new pastry chef **Jean-Paul Lapierre** could create: seven tiers of kahlua-soaked devil's food filled with mocha butter cream and draped with 28 pounds of fondant imported from Switzerland. It must have tasted as good as it looked; the entire seventy-pound cake was devoured in mere minutes.

Julia Child, Michael Schlow and his parents.

Another sweet tooth story has an irresistible whiff of conspiracy about it: pastry chef **Paul Connors**' dentist has been doing a bit of free-lancing at **Radius** on Saturday nights. Could this be why Connors' blueberry-filled cornbread flan is garnished with oh-so-sticky nuggets of caramelized popcorn? Can we anticipate Radius-brand crème fraiche toothpaste?

Seriously, folks, Radius co-owner **Christopher Myers** is always coming up with new ideas. His latest: a walk-up window behind Radius that would dispense a daily sandwich and soup to professional folks who, given a choice, would rather eat their cell phones than order a Happy Meal. And the name of the window? "Pi," of course.

Now, on to the big picture (literally) at Radius: an enormous portrait of owner/chef **Michael Schlow**, commissioned by the **Robert Mondavi Winery** to honor the six winners of The Robert Mondavi Culinary Award of Excellence for 2000. The life-size painting was unveiled at Radius' first Guest Chef Dinner, along with portraits of two of the other winners—**James Laird** of **Restaurant Serenade** in New Jersey, and **Robert Sulatycky** of **Truffles** at The Four Seasons, Toronto—both of whom joined Schlow in the kitchen. Honored guests included **Robert** and **Margritt Mondavi**, and culinary goddess **Julia Child**.

New Tremont 647 pastry chef Jean-Paul Lapierre works on the behemoth 70-pound, Kahlua-soaked, Swiss fondant-gilded devil's food cake destined for the Husbands wedding.

Schlow seems genuinely humbled both by the award and by being immortalized on canvas at the tender age of thirty-six. As for the likeness, "I knew it was me," he says. "I look like I'm deep in thought." Mostly, he's overwhelmed by the sheer scale of the life-size painting. When the huge crate containing the portrait was delivered, "Christopher thought it was a live, prize-winning heifer," says Schlow.

Words on the Wing: The "back story"—what goes on behind the scenes during the filming of a particular movie, or a celebrity's sordid past—is all the rage these days, at least on cable television. Less trivial, in fact far more relevant to each of us, is the story behind the food we eat, specifically the critical importance of sustainable cuisine. And *that*, patient reader, is the rationale behind what may be the first restaurant-based lending library in the country, right here in Boston. **Chris Douglass**, chef/owner of **Icarus**, is offering diners the opportunity to "check out" a tasty tome, at no charge, for a two-week period. The library menu currently includes dozens of titles, including **Alice Waters**' *Chez Panisse Cookbook* and *Cod: A Biography of the Fish That Changed the World*, by **Mark Kurlansky**.

Calling all lost souls! **Limbo** is slated to open in December, across the street from the still-under-construction **Mantra** on Temple Place. Expect an Asian/Continental-influenced "grazing menu" and live jazz, in an ultra-opulent setting that encompasses two floors' worth of food, fun, and frenzy. How *low* can you *go?* IB

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant?
Send it to *dish@improper.com*

WINE

Wine Can Make a Just Dessert

BY SANDY BLOCK MW

Even though sweet wines have a natural appeal that broadens out beyond the average wine drinker to the substantial percentage of people who are hooked on sugar, the dessert wine category remains stagnant today. Even most regular wine drinkers view this as a specialty that they'd rather not bother with and restaurateurs report that few of their customers ever order after-dinner wines, with the exception of ports. But savored for its own delicious flavors or matched up with the proper dessert, a small glass of sweet, nectar-like wine makes a phenomenal conclusion to a meal.

One of the factors preventing people from exploring these pleasurable combinations is their uncertainty about which wines complement which desserts. In my experience a few general principles apply. First, the wine should be sweeter than the dessert or there is little chance you'll enjoy it. When the sugar in the dish is stronger, the wine loses flavor and tastes thin and harsh. Extremely sweet desserts, particularly those containing chocolate, are difficult but not impossible to match. Second, acidity in the dessert diminishes our perception of sugar in the wine, so that fruits or other dessert dishes whose sugars are balanced with tart, lively flavors will make the dessert wine taste less sweet. Third, there are many cheeses that you can enjoy after dinner which feature high levels of tangy saltiness, making them a natural partner for a wide variety of dessert wines. In other words, the wine itself can be the dessert.

The perfect matches, those where the flavors echo one another uncannily, or where the wine supplies an element missing in the dessert, are impossible to predict unless you do this type of matching professionally, and even then it takes a rare talent to get it right. So the following guidelines should be taken as points to begin your exploration, rather than as definitive pronouncements about what you're going to like.

The worst that could happen? You decide that you don't like the wine with the food but you discover some incredible new categories of sweet wine that you can enjoy on their own.

Apricot desserts: Muscat de Beaumes de Venise
Apple Tart: Moelleux Vouvray
Citrus fruits and desserts incorporating them (lemon mousse): Moscato d'Asti
Pineapple and fruit-filled tarts: German Riesling Auslese
Peaches, nectarines (peach tarts): Muscat de Rivesaltes, German Riesling Auslese
Pears (poached): Moelleux Vouvray, Coteaux du Layon, Quarts de Chaume
Dried fruits (raisins, dates, figs) and nuts: Tawny Port
Blue Cheeses: Late Bottled Vintage Port, Madeira
Red fruits (strawberries): Barsac, Shiraz Port
Biscotti: Vin Santo
Light, angelfood cakes: Monbazillac
Rum Cake: Recioto della Valpolicella
Custards (vanilla): Sauternes, Barsac
Crème Brulee, Flan: Muscat de Rivesaltes, Tawny Port, Sweet Sherry
Cheesecake: Sauternes, Late Bottled Vintage Port
Honey-based flavors: Tawny Port, Madeira
Nut tarts (pecans): Monbazillac, Sauternes, Aged Tawny Port
Bittersweet chocolate: Vintage Character Port, Banyuls, Malaga
Milk Chocolate: Aged Tawny Port, Late Bottled Vintage Port
Zabaglione: Sweet Marsala
Vanilla Ice Cream: Pedro Ximenez Sherry IB

WENDY MIMRAN (2)

Tastings BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for tastings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

EVENTS

An Evening in Andalucia
Rauxa, 70 Union Square, Somerville (623 9939). Nov. 7. $45 with wine pairings/$35 without. Chef **Jeff Tenner** of Ciento Tapas in Portsmouth, N.H., presents this multi-course meal paired with Spanish wines.

Danish Festival of Marten Gas
Maison Robert, 45 School St., Boston (227-3371). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Nov. 10, 6:30pm. $35. Enjoy a unique Scandanavian celebration.

Gingerbread House Competition
World Trade Center, Northern Avenue, Boston (742-3973). Fri., 12-8pm; Sat., 9am-pm; Sun., 9am-5pm. Nov. 3-5. $8. The Gingerbread House Competition showcases creations from the region's top restaurants.

Guest Chef Tom Gutow
Maison Robert, 45 School St., Boston (227-3371). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Nov. 8. $60 (dinner only), $90 (with five flights of wine). Guest chef **Tom Gutow** of the Castine Inn in Maine offers a prix fixe menu, accompanied by wines of his choosing.

Harpoon Brewery Dinner
Tremont 647, 645-647 Tremont St., Boston (266-8588). Nov. 6, 7pm. $70. Sample different varieties of Harpoon with passed appetizers.

Lost Brewery Tour
Tremont Brewery, 50 Terminal St., Charlestown (646-3479). Nov. 4, 11am-4pm. $40 (includes a tour via motorcoach, lunch at Doyle's). Visit nearly one dozen century-old former breweries.

Martini Dinner
West Side Lounge, 180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (441-5566). Nov. 14, 6:30pm and 9pm. $40, $45 at the door. Enjoy a three-course, three-martini dinner.

Meet the Chef Event
Elizabeth Bishop Wine Resource Center, 808 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (353-9852). Nov. 8, 6-9pm. $40. **Stan Frankenthaler**, chef of the new Salamander in Boston, shares culinary secrets.

Northwest Fest: Brewers Dinner
Redbones, 55 Chester St., Somerville (628-2200). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Nov. 12, 14, 15, 7pm. $40 (includes dinner and beer). The best hand-crafted beers from the Northwest will be on all 24 taps throughout the month.

Rioja Wine Dinner
Tapeo, 266 Newbury St., Boston (267-4799). Nov. 7, 6:30pm. $50. Wine educator Dellie Rex speaks as guests dineon four courses of Spanish cuisine matched with wines of Murrieta, El Coto and Conde de Valdemar.

A Taste of the Federalist
BCAE, 5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Nov. 6, 6-9pm. $60. Federalist chef de cuisine **Stefano Zimei** offers samples of delicacies being served at his restaurant in the XV Beacon Hotel.

Ultimate Dinner
The French Library and Cultural Center, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (266-4351). Nov. 14, 6:30pm. $50. **Paul O'Connell**, chef/owner of Chez Henri, presents this cooking demo.

Second Saturday Brewery Dinner
Cambridge Brewing Company, One Kendall Square, Building 100, Cambridge (494-1994). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. Nov. 11. $35. Enjoy five courses plus 5 different beers.

Single Malt and Scotch Whisky Extravaganza
The Ritz Carlton, TK, Boston (800-890-1991). www.smwsa.com. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Nov. 2. $75. This evening features more than 30 whiskies from Scotland's most prestigious distilleries.

Sunday Morning Cooking Class
Williams-Sonoma, 100 Huntington Ave., Boston (262-3080). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Nov. 12, 10:30am-12pm. David Blessing, chef de cuisine of the Four Season's Aujourd'hui presents a menu of seasonal fare highlighting game meats, autumn veggies and a chestnut shortcake.

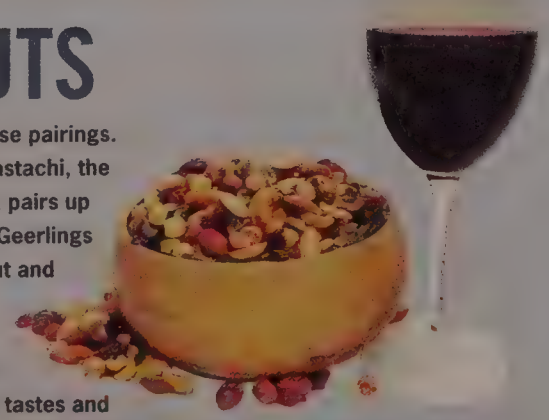
The Taste of Buzzard
Elizabeth Bishop Wine Resource Center, 808 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (353-9852). Nov. 4, 11am-3pm. $60. Tour Buzzards Bay Bewing of Westport, Mass., with master brewer **Dan Kahn**.

Wine Dinner Series
Up Stairs at the Pudding, Cambridge (864-1933). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Every other Wednesday at 7pm. $70. The Wine Dinner Series features flights of wines complemented by Chef **Deborah Hughes**' cuisine. •Nov. 1: Oregon Pinot Noir. •Nov. 15: Sonoma's top Merlot.

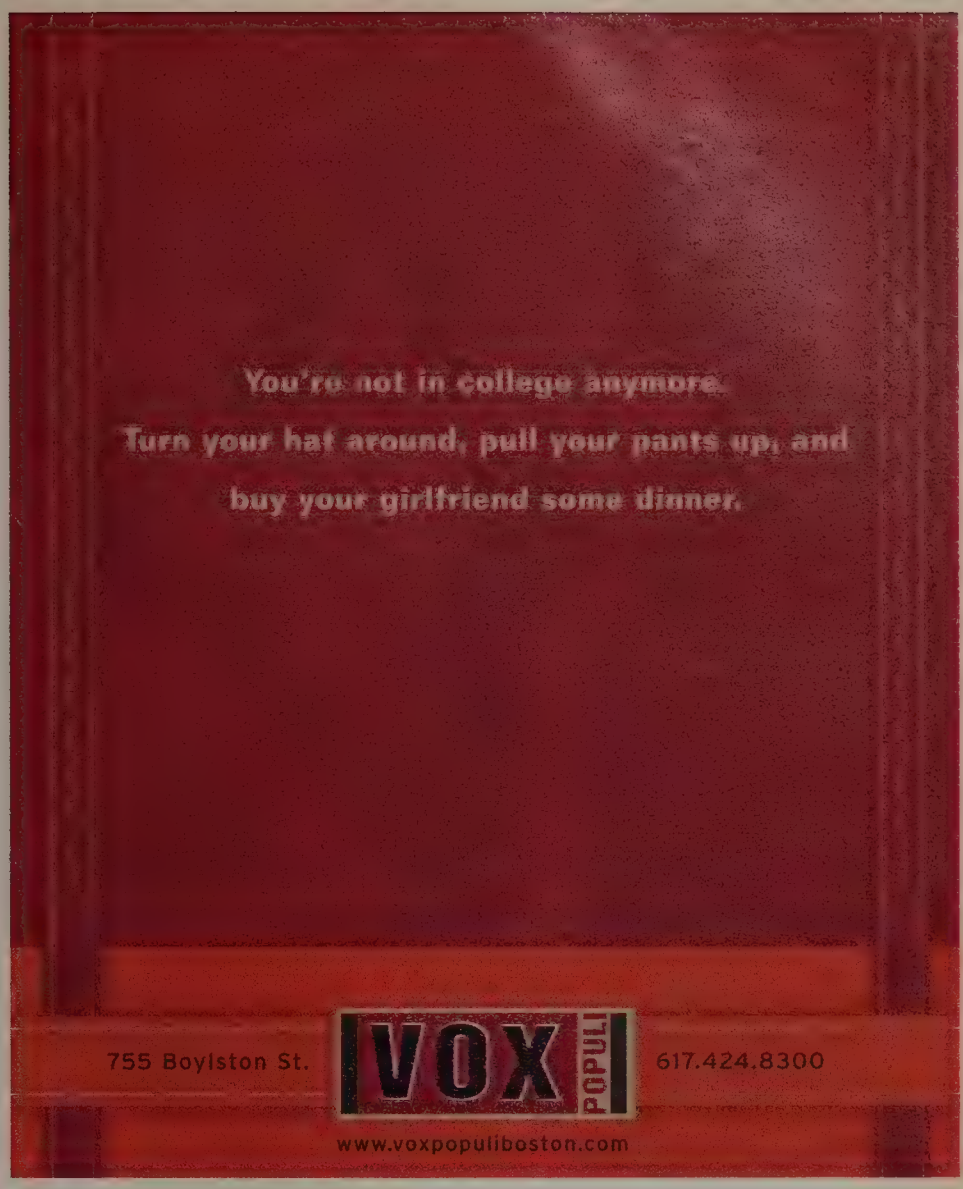
Wine Tasting Party
Crate & Barrel, 48 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789), ext. 1). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Nov. 4, 8-10:30pm. $21/$38 per couple. This wine tasting party offers music, dancing and merriment.

TASTY TIDBIT

GRAPE NUTS



We've all heard of wine and cheese pairings. But what about wine and nuts? Fastachi, the ten-year-old epicurean nut store, pairs up with the specialty wine boutique Geerlings & Wade to offer Grape Nuts, a nut and wine tasting series, Thursdays through Nov. 9. The idea: wine and nuts compliment each other based on their natural colorings, tastes and textures. Nov. 2 features spicy flavorings. Munch on lightly salted roasted pecans and wasabi peas while sipping Baywood Cellars' Symphony, a light white wine with herbal and tangy character, and Summers' zinfandel, a fresh and fruity wine. The series ends Nov. 9 with tart flavored wines and nuts. A cranberry nut mix accompanies a Ramsey chardonnay with high acidity and rich fruity flavors and a Tria Vlognier with scents of apricot and fresh peach, and a crisp steely finish. *218 Newbury St., Boston (330-1212). 6-8pm.*



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Stop the killing of Greyhounds! Please vote yes on Question 3!

THE

inside RACK

Every Monday — "Celebrity Night" hosted by Back Bay Beat.Com's S.J. Torres featuring Chad LaMarsh. Join The Rack, Back Bay Coyote girls, and Fox Sports FOX SPORTS NET for gridiron football, pool and nightlife that can't be beat. It's a night you will never forget or may not be able to remember!

Tuesday, November 7th — "Election Day" Al or George W? Who will it be? Drink heavily, watch the results, at least the day won't be a total loss! Music by Nate Wadkins. Stop the killing of Greyhounds! Please vote yes on Question 3!

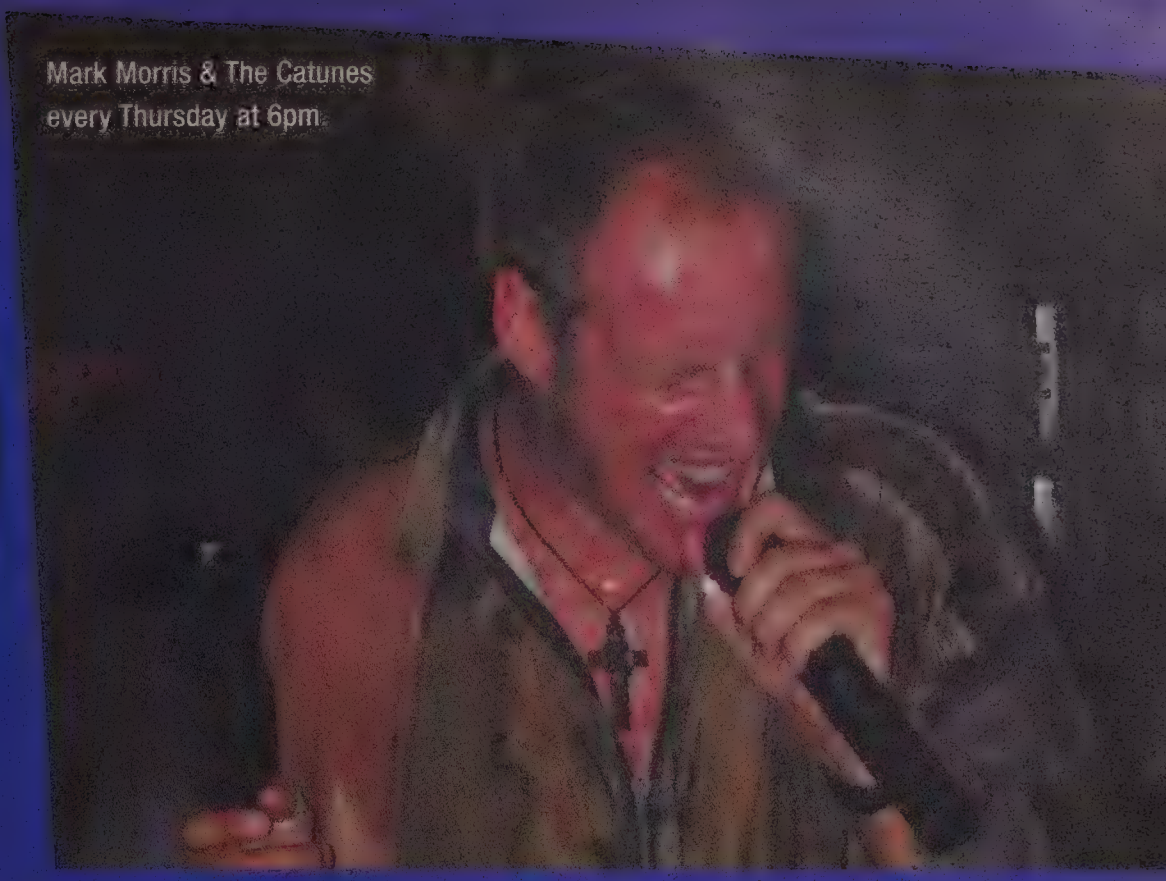
Wednesday, November 8th — "Jazz After Work" featuring Paul Broadnax. Join the Boston Business Journal, WMEX, and Citysearch.com to benefit the Home for Little Wanderers.

Tuesday, November 14th — "Barstool Confessions" Searching for Host for exciting new T.V show to be filmed here at The Rack. Now is your chance to be a star! Auditions 4- 7:30pm. Call for details.

Dawson's Creek star Kerr Smith with Danielle, Trisha and Marta

24 Clinton Street, Boston 02109 617.725.1051 www.therackboston.com

Miss October Playmate Nicole Van Croft and Keith LaBonte



RACK

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Amy Zolak

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Chef David Daniels

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agenda

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN OR OUT IN BOSTON.

Dangerous Curves

The MFA's new *Art of the Guitar* exhibition strikes a chord among Boston art and music enthusiasts. (See Art.)

Erin and Julie

THE CALENDAR GIRLS'

improper picks

Too busy (or just too lazy) to plan your own schedule? Life doesn't get easier than this.

Wednesday, Nov. 1

Erin: Photographer **Annie Leibovitz** discusses her work, *Women*, at Wordsworth Books. (See Books & Poetry.) Also, avant-chamber trio **Rachel's** play at the Brattle with experimental electronic act **Matmos**. (See Music.)
Julie: Director **Sam Weisman** talks about his Hollywood career and his new movie with Danny Devito. (See Education.)

Thursday, Nov. 2

Erin: **Paule Marshall** reads from *The Fisher King*, a tale of '50s exiled jazz musician Sonny-Rett Payne. (See Books & Poetry.)
Julie: Marilu Henner and Tom Wopat star in the Wang Theatre's tale of romance and rivalry, ***Annie Get Your Gun***. (See Performing Arts.)

Friday, Nov. 3

Julie: **Robert Schimmel**, "1999's Best Male Stand-up" is at the Comedy Connection. (See Comedy.) Or get a jump-start on your holiday shopping at the World Trade Center's **Christmas Festival** (See CityScope.)
Erin: It's also **Heidi**'s CD-release show at T.T.'s. (See Music.)

Saturday, Nov. 4

Erin: The **Shaolin Warriors**, a group of 20 fighting monks from China, perform at the Orpheum Theatre. (See Dance.)
Julie: The **Steppin' Out Gala** receates jazz nightclubs of the '40s, '50s and '60s at the World Trade Center. (See CityScope.)

Sunday, Nov. 5

Julie: The **Black Memorabilia & Art Sale** at the Reggie Lewis Track & Athletic Center features the work of 40 black artists from around the country. (See CityScope.)
Erin: The **Boston Jewish Film Festival** is in full swing. Today, *Maelstrom* and *King of the Jews* screen at the Coolidge. (See Film.)

Monday, Nov. 6

Erin and **Julie**: It's the Calendar Girls' two-year anniversary. We're going low-key. We're seeing the **James Cagney** film *Each Dawn I Die* at the BPL. Then we're off to the MFA's new exhibit, ***Dangerous Curves: Art of the Guitar***, which opened yesterday. (See Art.)

Tuesday, Nov. 7

Julie: "The sun'll come out tomorrow, bet your bottom dollar that tomorrow, there'll be sun."
Erin: Julie's favorite musical, ***Annie***, must be in town. But I'd rather see **Matt Abts** of Gov't Mule play at the Paradise. (See Music.)

Wednesday, Nov. 8

Julie: One of Mozart's best-loved operas, ***Don Giovanni***, is at the Shubert. (See Performing Arts.) Plus, **Bon Jovi** is at the FleetCenter.
Erin: The Middle East Upstairs has an incredible show tonight—**Deltron 3030**, which features Del Tha Funky Homosapien, Kid Koala and the Automator. (See Music.)

Thursday, Nov. 9

Julie: Dana Delany and Rita Wilson star in the Wilbur Theatre's ***Dinner with Friends***. (See Performing Arts.) Also, **Paul Van Dyk** is at Axis.
Erin: The classic black-and-white 1931 film ***Dracula***, starring Bela Lugosi, is set to music by **Philip Glass** and **Kronos Quartet**. At the Orpheum—today only. (See Film.)

Friday, Nov. 10

Julie: Kick off the ski season with a **Boston Ski & Sports** bash at the Marriott. (See Sports.) Or, the Boston Rock Opera's ***Jesus Christ Superstar***, is at Mass. College of Art. (See Performing Arts.)
Erin: The fourth **Red Neck Festival** is at the Linwood this year, spread out over three days. Tonight's highlight is **Quintaine Americana**. (See City Limits.)

Saturday, Nov. 11

Julie: **Cambridge Opera** offers a detective concert narrated by local mystery writers at Longy School of Music. (See Performing Arts.)
Erin: Bid on cartoons by unknown, Pulitzer Prize-winning and syndicated cartoonists at *Editorial Humor*'s **Comic Art Charity Auction**. (See CityScope.) And **Bob Dylan** is playing in Lowell.

Sunday, Nov. 12

Julie: It's the last night to see the hysterically funny musical about the modern-day mating game, **I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change** at the Stuart Street Playhouse. (See Performing Arts.)
Erin: The Sugan Theatre Company's production of ***The Beauty Queen of Leenane*** is about an Irish town "where you can't kick a cow without someone bearing a grudge for 20 years." At the BCA. (See Performing Arts.)

Monday, Nov. 13

Julie: America's top gymnasts come to Boston direct from Sydney, Australia for the **2000 Gymnastics Champions Tour** at the FleetCenter. See Dominique Moceanu and Shannon Miller, among others. (See Sports.)
Erin: *Antiques Roadshow*'s **Leigh** and **Leslie Keno** come to the Brattle to talk furniture.

Tuesday, Nov. 14

Julie: Some political bigwigs are in town to discuss "**What Happened in Last Week's Election**" at the JFK Library, examining the election results and their effect on the country's future. (See Education.)
Erin: Jacques Tati's famous character, M. Hulot, wanders through an unrecognizable modern Paris in the French film ***Playtime*** at the HFA. (See Film.)

CITYSCOPE **50** • PERFORMING ARTS **54** • ART **58** • FILM **62** • BOOKS & POETRY **68** • EDUCATION **69** • DANCE CLUBS **70** • MUSIC **74** • CLASSICAL MUSIC **80** • GAY & LESBIAN **82** • BODY & MIND **84** • CHILDREN **84** • SPORTS **84** • GO AWAY **85**. EDITED BY: **ERIN HAGEDORN:** Art, Books & Poetry, Dance, Dance Clubs, Film, Gay & Lesbian, Go Away, Music. EDITED BY: **JULIE SHORT:** Children, CityScope, Comedy, Education, Go Away, Sales & Fashion, Sports, Tastings, Theater. ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY: **Laurel Kirtz** Body & Mind • **Paul Sherman:** Film Capsules

cityscope

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a list of festivals, events and benefits taking place in the Boston area by date.

Festivals, Events Expos & Benefits

Thursday, Nov. 2

The Emerald City: The Greening of Boston
Massachusetts Horticultural Society. 300 Mass. Ave., Boston (426-7980). 6-9pm. $40, $50 at the door. Boston GreenSpace celebrates past achievements and toasts to future successes. Some 10 individuals and three organizations dedicated to Boston's green and open spaces are recognized. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, dessert and refreshments while listening to music by a live jazz trio.

Friday, Nov. 3

The 14th Annual Christmas Festival
World Trade Center, Northern Avenue, Boston (742-3973). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Fri., 12-8pm; Sat., 9am-pm; Sun., 9am-5pm. Nov. 3-5. $8. This festival features everything a holiday shopper could desire all under one roof. Exhibitors include traditional and contemporary craftsmen from around the country, selling their holiday crafts. Don't miss the Gingerbread House Competition, showcasing creations from the region's top restaurants, bakeries and culinary schools. Proceeds from the sale of houses benefit the Home for Little Wanderers.

Fine Furnishings
Rhode Island Convention Center, One Sabin Street, Providence, R.I. (401-846-1115). Nov. 3-5, 10am-6pm. $10. Buy handcrafted furniture and accessories for the home, office and garden from more than 200 furniture-makers and craftspeople.

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Fridays. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

Singles Club Dance
The Knights of Columbus Hall, corner of Winslow and Prescott streets, Arlington (781-721-1886). www.fun-funfun.org. *8:30pm-12:30am. $10.* Singles in their '30s, '40s and '50s dance to the music of DJ.

Thursday, Nov. 4

Steppin' Out Gala
World Trade Center, Northern Avenue, Boston (931-2000). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. $150. This black-tie fund-raiser celebrates Boston's rich jazz heritage with the recreation of 10 historic nightclubs from the '40s, '50s and '60s. Dance instructors provide dance demos.

Thursday, Nov. 9

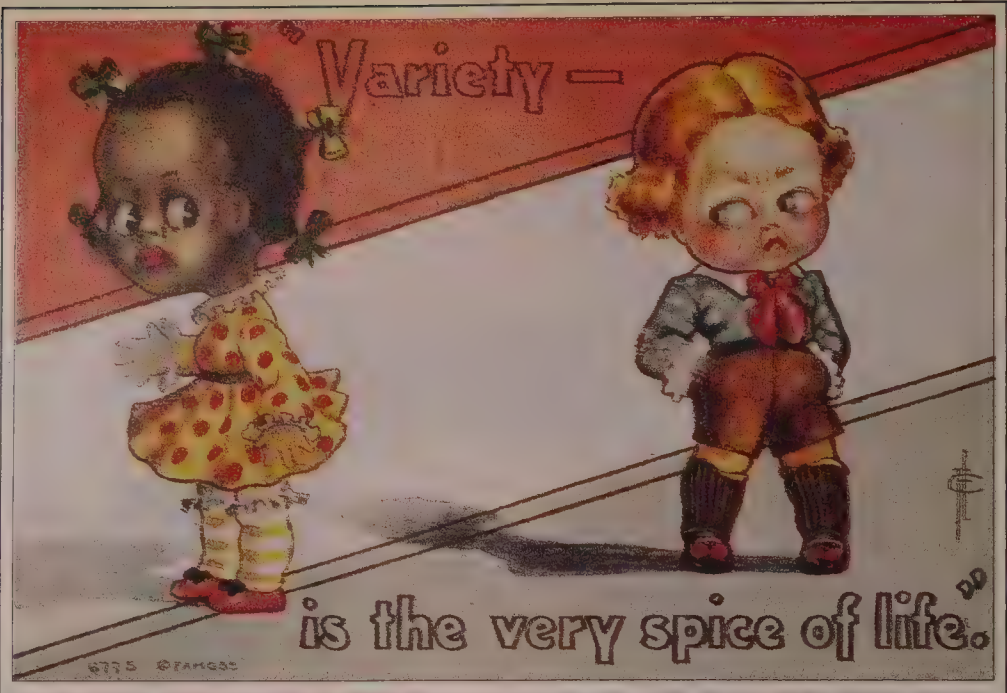
Eternity Ring Benefit
Adamas Fine Jewelry, 23 Lincoln St., Newton Highlands (558-8899). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 6-8pm. Free. The Eternity Ring Collection pays tribute to notable Boston women who have contributed to the community. All proceeds from sales benefit Breast Cancer Research.

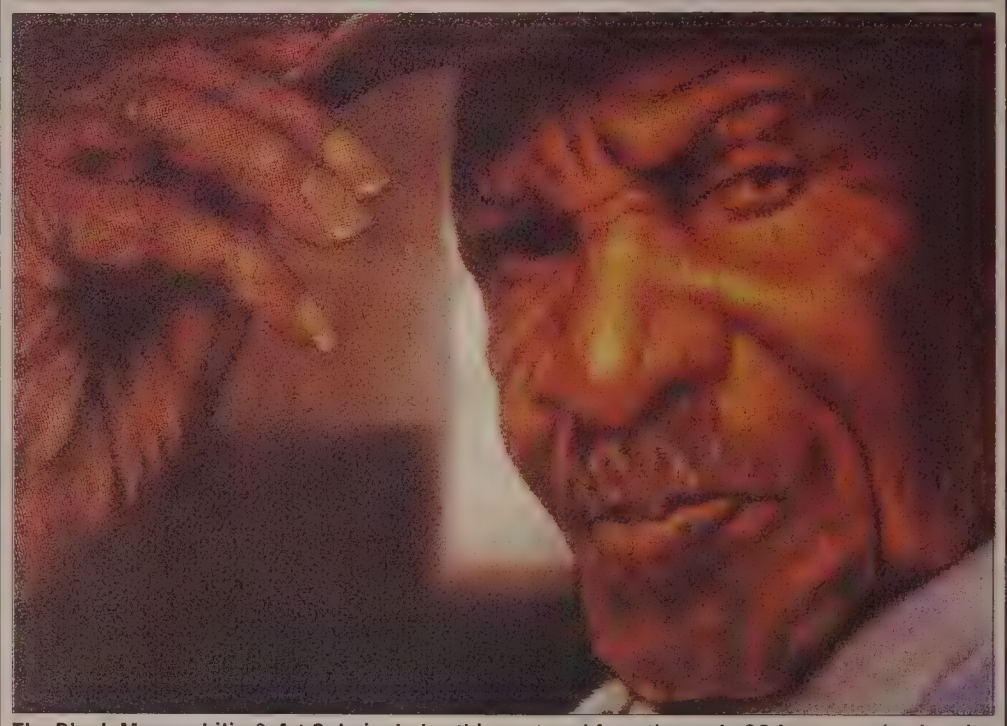
Friday, Nov. 10

Snow Season Kick-Off Party
Cambridge Marriott, Kendall Square, Cambridge (789-4070). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. Nov. 8pm-1am. Kick off the ski season with the Boston Ski & Sports Club. There's a DJ, cash bar and a live band. Check out what's hot for the upcoming season at exhibits and a Helly Hansen snow fashion show.

Saturday, Nov. 11

Comic Art Charity Auction Reception
Prudential Tower, 50th Floor, 800 Boylston St., Boston (666-2888). www.cartooncontest.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. 7-11pm. $75. Editorial Humor* sponsors this benefit for the National Braille Press. Pulitzer Prize-winning and syndicated cartoonists from around the world have contributed their original artwork for this event. A buffet dinner is followed by an auction.





The Black Memorabilia & Art Sale includes this postcard from the early 20th century (top) and a pastel painting by Curis James titled *Sunday Morning* (below). The show runs Nov. 3-5.

Black in America

Boston hosts a memorabilia and art show

Want to buy a notebook that Malcom X scribbled in? How about an original Aunt Jemimah cookie jar? These items as well as other rare collectibles will be sold at the Black Memorabilia & Art Sale, which features up to 40 contemporary fine artists and memorabilia dealers from across the country. Other items available include original slave items, such as chains and manacles, and blackamoors (European figurines of black people in servant attire). Also on sale are new works by artists Paul Goodnight, Larry Poncho Brown and Kevin Henderson. View, and perhaps take home, celebrated artwork and memorabilia steeped in black history. *Reggie Lewis Track & Athletic Center, 1350 Tremont St., Boston (282-0600). MBTA: Orange Line to Roxbury Crosssing. Nov. 3, 7-10pm; Nov. 4, 10am - 6pm; Nov. 5, 11am-5pm. $100 (Nov. 3) and $5 (Nov.4 and 5). —Hillary Chabot*

Fall Fandango
Children's Museum, 300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (788-1550). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. 8:30pm-12:30am. $50/$60 at the door. This annual event hosted by the GIFT Foundation (Giving Inspiration for Tomorrow) benefits the Travis Roy Foundation. Enjoy music by Entrain, an open bar, a silent auction and hors d'oeuvres.

Not Quite First Night
Locke Ober, 3 Winter Place, Boston (542-1399). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park. 8:30pm-1am. $45/$55 at the door. This creative black tie "mock" New Years Eve celebration features light dining, dancing, performances and a midnight countdown.

Single Professionals Thanksgiving Cocktail Party and Dance
The View at the Seaport Hotel, 150 Northern Ave., Boston (781-446-0234). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. 8pm-12am. $15. Business attire required. Open to all single professionals 35- to 50-years-old, this event features complimentary hors d'oeuvres, a champagne tasting, door prizes, live music and dessert at 12am.

Veteran's Day Parade
This annual parade starts on Commonwealth Avenue at Hereford Street and ends at Columbus Avenue and Arlington Streets. Veterans' organizations, marching and high school bands, as well as citizens participate. If you haven't seen this stirring parade, make this the first year. It'll bring tears to your eyes.

Sunday, Nov. 12

Second Sundays
Veronique Restaurant, 20 Chapel St., Brookline (312-5410). MBTA: D Green Line to Longwood. 2-5pm. This monthly singles party features Buena Vista wines, a beginner's wine discussion and live Brazilian jazz.

Monday, Nov. 13

2000 Gymnastics Champions Tour
FleetCenter, Boston (931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. 7pm. $19-$45. Immediately following the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia, the top gymnastics medal winners embark on a tour. Anchored by Dominique Mociano, Shannon Miller, Venessa Atler, Morgan White and Blaine Wilson, the tour also incorporates international medal winners and a few surprise guests.

Tuesday, Nov. 14

Ann Taylor Fashion Show
The Regal Bostonian Hotel, Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (523-3635). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 6pm. $25. This event featuring Ann Taylor's 2000 winter/holiday line benefits Bay Cove Human Services, Small Wonders Program.

Rally

Massachusetts Interfaith Prison Pilgrimage
(978-544-3564 or 978-356-9395). Nov. 8-11. For three weeks, the MIPP will walk to the state's major prisons to protest the spiritual, psychological, emotional and physical suffering which incarcerated people endure. Join the pilgrimage along the way. •Nov. 8: Cambridge and Boston (Middlesex County Prison) •Nov. 9: Boston, Dorchester, Jamaica Lain, Roxbury and Dedham (Norfolk County Prison, Suffolk County Prison, Nashua State Jail and South Bay). •Nov. 10: Boston State House. •Nov. 11: Rally at Franklin Park.

Volunteer

ABCD Inc.
(357-6000). Seeks tutors in reading, math, science, writing and social studies.

AIDS Action Committee
(888-332-AUTO or (450-1235). Turn your old car into a tax-deductible donation. Volunteer meeting held Sept. 7, 5:30-9pm.

Big Sister Association
161 Mass. Ave., 2nd Floor, Boston (236-8060). www.bigsister.org. Offer support and friendship to a girl between the ages of 7 and 15. Info sessions: Nov. 1, 6-7pm; Nov. 8, 12-1pm.

Boston Cares
(263-CARE). More than 70 volunteer opportunities are available in Greater Boston.

Boston Living Center
(236-1012). HIV/AIDS service organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Community Servings
(445-7777). Help prepare and deliver meals for individuals and families dealing with AIDS.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

Friday Night Supper Program
Arlington Street Church, corner of Arlington and Boylston streets, Boston (536-7050, ext. 22). Need volunteers to help prepare, cook and serve meals on Fridays, 5-7pm.

The Greater Boston Food Bank
(427-5200). Groups needed to sort donated food.

Horizons Initiative
(287-1900). Volunteers needed to play with children living in shelters. Commit to two hours per week for six months.

Jewish Community Volunteer Program
(558-6585). Volunteers are needed to share fun times with an isolated senior.

Junior Achievement
(367-6891). ckraft@ja-easternmass.org. Volunteers needed to teach kids about business.

Juvenile Diabetes Foundation
www.talbots.com. *Through Dec. 24.* Purchase a plush snowman and Talbots will donate a percentage of the sale to the JDF.

Mass. Eating Disorder Association
(558-1881). Volunteers needed for four hours per week for help line, assisting clinical staff and special events.

Mass. Substance Abuse Info Helpline
(536-0501, ext. 201). Volunteers needed to talk over the phone with persons affected by alcoholism and substance abuse.

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist elders with such tasks as reading, shopping and basic home repairs.

Pine Street Inn
(521-7626). Seeking volunteers to serve meals and act as receptionist for homeless guests.

Prison Book Program
(423-3298). Answer letters from inmates and fill requests for books on various topics.

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NOVEMBER 9-12, 2000

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Boston Center for The Arts - 539 Tremont Street

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• Paintings • Works on Paper • Sculpture • Ancient Art • Fine Prints • Studio Furniture, Glass & Ceramics • Photography

GALA PREVIEW To Benefit

THE GILLETTE CENTERS FOR WOMEN'S CANCERS AT DANA-FARBER/PARTNERS CANCERCARE

Thursday November 9, 6pm – 9pm Admission - $100

Buffet, refreshments, music and first choice of the works on view.

WEEKEND SHOW

Friday & Saturday 11-8, Sunday 11-6, $10, children under 12 free

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Acme Fine Art (MA)	Depot Square Gallery (MA)	McGowan Fine Art (NH)
Galerie Adriana Schmidt (Germany)	Fusco & Four (MA)	Newzones Gallery of Contemporary Art (Canada)
Edwin J. Andrews Fine Art (FL)	F.A.N. Gallery (PA)	Claire Oliver Fine Art (PA)
Barton-Ryan Gallery (MA)	Susanna J. Fichera Fine Art (MA)	Pentimenti Gallery (PA)
Brown • Corbin Fine Art (MA)	La Gailery (France)	Port 'n Starboard (ME)
Center Street Studio (MA)	Gallery Alina (MA)	Post Road Gallery (NY)
Childs Gallery (MA)	Gallery at Langer Place (NH)	Questroyal Fine Art (NY)
Clark House Gallery (ME)	Gallery NAGA (MA)	Richardson-Clarke Gallery (MA)
Clarke Galleries (VT)	Genovese/Sullivan Gallery (MA)	Sitta Fine Art (MA)
Clifford • Smith Gallery (MA)	Gladwell & Company (England)	Bernard Toale Gallery (MA)
Cooley Gallery (CT)	Greenwich Gallery (CT)	Tobai International (IL)
Countess and Goat (MA)	Heinley Fine Arts, Ltd. (MA)	Tom Veilleux Gallery (ME)
The Crane Collection (MA)	Jasins Gallery & Co. (MA)	The Walker Collection (CA)
Cricket Hill Associates (NY)	Robert Klein Gallery (MA)	West Wind Fine Art (VT)
Jeanne Davidson Fine Prints (NY)	Mackus Company (OH)	

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or at The Roxy on the Night of Show

ELIADES OCHOA

Y CUARTETO PATRIA

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Tuesday November 14 Doors at 7pm All Ages Reserved Seating

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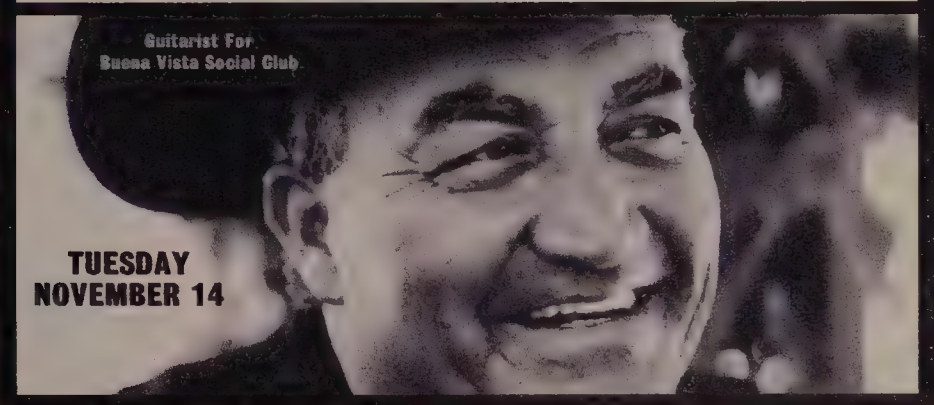
or Berklee Box Office - 617.747.2261
or at Berklee on the Night of Show



TUESDAY NOVEMBER 14

Allman Brothers Member & Guitar Prodigy

DEREK TRUCKS BAND

plus ANOTHER PLANET

plus SETH YACOVONE BAND

THE SOMERVILLE THEATER, 55 DAVIS SQUARE, SOMERVILLE
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 25 Doors at 7pm All Ages Reserved Seating

Ticketmaster - 617.931.2000 or www.ticketmaster.com
At the HOB Box Office - 617.497.2229 or at the Somerville Theater - 617.625.4088
and at the Theater on the Night of Show

Cod have mysteriously appeared around town as part of the Cavalcade of Cod exhibit.

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic
(577-1111). Needs volunteers to record textbooks at East Cambridge studio, days and evenings.

Red Cross Young Professionals
(375-0700, ext. 280). Help coordinate fun social events to benefit the American Red Cross.

Rosie's Place
(442-9322). Volunteers needed for the dining room, clothing room, the groceries program and office work.

United Services Organization (USO)
(720-4949). Volunteers needed to welcome Navy ships, participate in hospital visits, provide office support, coordinate receptions and assist with events.

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Seeks individuals to assist legal immigrants and refugees to become naturalized citizens.

Tours/Cruises

Big Dig and South Boston Waterfront
Boston (426-1885). Saturdays, 11am. Through Nov. 4. $8. Learn about casting basins, slurry walls, bridges and tunnels and the history of the South Boston waterfront.

Bike! Boston
Meet at Commonwealth Avenue Mall, between Gloucester and Hereford streets, Boston (695-2153). Tours leave daily at 10am and 2pm. $20. Come with a bicycle. See the city by bike. Tour guides speak through FM transmitters.

Boston Bike Tours
On Boston Common (308-5902). Daily 9:30am-6:30pm. Daily two-hour tours, Mon.-Sat., 1-3pm; 4-6pm. Low-impact, guided sightseeing tours of Boston on bicycles. Rentals available.

Boston Duck Tours
Prudential Center, Boston (723-DUCK). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. April-November. $21. The 80-minute tour on amphibious landing crafts takes groups through downtown and makes a final splash into the Charles.

Sights to See

Boston Tea Party Ship and Museum
Congress St. Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Open daily, March-May and Sept.-Nov., 9am-5pm; closed Dec.-March. $8, $7 students, $4 children. A replica of one of the ships emptied by colonists (disguised as Indians) during the Dec. 16, 1773 tea raid.

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Fifth Floor, Boston (353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), Oct.-March, 7:30-8:30pm; April-Sept., 8:30-9:30pm. Free. BU's astronomers are available to answer questions and assist with telescopes as you check out Orion, Cassiopeia and the Big Dipper.

Bunker Hill Monument
Monument Square, Charlestown (242-5641). Open daily 9am-5pm. Free. The 221-foot monument honors the men who died in the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Christian Science World Headquarters
Massachusetts and Huntington avenues, Boston (450-2000). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential. Tue.-Sat., 9:30am-4pm, Sun., 11am-2pm. Tour the Mother Church of Christian Science—a giant basilica that seats 3,000 worshippers; a 700-foot-long reflecting pool; and a photo exhibit.

Copp's Hill Burial Ground
Hull and Snowhill streets, Boston. MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Open dawn-dusk. Admission free. From Boston's second-oldest cemetery, you can see all the way across the Inner Harbor to Charlestown.

John Hancock Observatory
200 Clarendon St., Boston (572-6429). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open Mon.-Sat., 9am-11pm, Sun., 10am-11pm (May-Oct.) and noon-11pm (Nov.-April). Admission $6. The tallest building in New England (62 floors) offers an awesome view.

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (566-7937). Wed.-Sun. 10 am-[illegible]pm. Visit the birthplace and early boyhood home of the nation's 35th president.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat. 10am-2pm. Admission free. Alongside Boston's first Anglican church—a gloomy granite apparition—you'll find a burial ground with equally ominous-looking headstones.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (635-3105). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Open daily, 9am-5pm. Guided tours every half-hour, starting at 9am. Free. Known as the "Cradle of Liberty," Faneuil Hall—we're talking about the part above the eatery—was the site of many an angry man ranting and raving about the damn British in the mid-1700s.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily, 9 am-5pm. Free. Here, Paul Revere saw two lanterns shining on April 18, 1775, indicating that the British troops were crossing the Charles River to Lexington and Concord via boat.

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays, 10am-4pm; weekends, 10am-5pm. $3. A thousand fed-up men gathered in this church to decide whether or not to send three ships full of tea back to England. Guess what? They didn't. •*Voices of Protest* traces the use of Old South Meeting House over three centuries for religious, political and social debate. •Middays at the Meeting House, a lunchtime music series. Thursdays, 12:15-1pm. $4.

Paul Revere House
19 North Square, Boston (523-2338). Nov. 1-April 14, 9:30am-4:15pm; April 15-Oct. 31, 9:30am-5:15pm. Built in 1680 and owned by Paul Revere from 1770 to 1800, this house offers a self-guided tour with illustrated text panels and museum interpreters.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-10pm, Sun. noon-10pm. $4, $3 seniors and students. Check out Boston's only 360-degree view tower. The view here (50 floors up) is slightly better than that of rival John Hancock. The Skywalk has recently completed $250,000 in renovations, offering new displays and exhibits.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8am-6pm. Free. Designed by H.H. Richardson and constructed in 1877, the huge Romanesque church in Copley Square offers free organ concerts on Fridays at 12:15pm.

Museums

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June, Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm; June-Aug., daily, 10am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm. $5, children and seniors $3: See *Arthur's World* from the popular television series and children's books. This infamous aardvark is one of many hands-on favorites.

Harriet Tubman House
566 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-8610). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. Weekdays, 8am-8pm. Free admission. The Harriet Tubman Museum exhibits a collection of this influential black leader's achievements.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (929-4523). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily 9am-5pm (last film begins at 3:55pm). $8. This permanent collection on the life and legacy of President John F. Kennedy offers a re-created world of the early 1960s with period settings and 25 dramatic multimedia exhibits.

Good enough to eat: The 14th annual Christmas Festival at the World Trade Center features a gingerbreadhouse competition showcasing creations from the region's top restaurants Nov. 3-5.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (739-1200) www.afroamnuseum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays 10am-4pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.* This place is bustling after its recent endowment of more than $1 million to restore the meeting house's hallowed sanctuary. See the African Meeting House, the oldest black church in America.

Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun., 9am-12pm.* This Harvard museum is made up of four factions: The **Botanical Museum**, **The Museum of Comparative Zoology**, the **Mineral & Geological Museum**, and the **Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology**. A number of exhibitions tie together all four of these distinct collections. The most famous is the Botanical Museum for its glass flowers collection—more than 3,000 models of more than 480 plant species. •New at Museum of Natural History: *Beauty on the Wing: The Double Lives of Butterflies*. Butterflies of every size, shape and color from all parts of the world are on display. Through March 4. •New at the Peabody: *Diverse Traditions: Early Navajo Rugs and Pueblo Embroidery*. Through Nov. 26.

Museum of Our National Heritage
33 Marrett Road, Route 2A, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.mnh.org. *Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 12-5pm. Free.* Explore history through pop culture. Topics range from Revolutionary artifacts to the latest in jigsaw-puzzle-solving techniques and American circus posters. •Opened July 21: *Made in Massachusetts*. See items commonly found in homes during the past three centuries.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu., 9am-5pm; Fri., 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children. Omni Theater, Hayden Planetarium or laser shows all $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children.* Find out how much you weigh on the moon, strap yourself into a space module or sift through sand on an archaeological dig. Enjoy 600 hands-on exhibits. •*Powers of Nature*: an exhibit on earthquakes, severe storms and volcanoes. Opened Oct. 6. •Ongoing at the Mugar Omni Theater: *Adventures in Wild California*.

Charles Hayden Planetarium
Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children. Time of show changes daily.* Don't miss the daily laser shows to the music of the Beastie Boys, Pink Floyd, Korn, Tool, Jimi Hendrix and Nine Inch Nails.

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St. (in Larz Anderson Park), Brookline (522-6547). MBTA: D Green Line to Reservoir, to bus #51. April-Oct., Wed.-Sun., 10am-5pm; Nov.-March, Wed.-Sun., 10am-4pm. $5. This 1888 carriage house is the automobile buff's paradise.

Nichols House Museum
55 Mount Vernon St., Boston (227-6993) Tues.-Sun., 12:15-4:15pm; guided tours on the half hour. $5 adults, children under 12 free admission. Catch a glimpse of 19th- and early 20th-century life on Beacon Hill.

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (720-3290). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily, 9am-5pm. $3. Built in 1713, this original seat of colonial government was the place where pre-Independence Bostonians first heard the *Declaration of Independence* read.

Sports Museum of New England
FleetCenter, Boston (624-1234). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. $5. Exhibits of the great sports traditions of the Boston Garden, FleetCenter and Celtics.

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (426-1812). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, bus 93 to Navy Yard. Nov.-April 30: Open daily, 10am-5pm. Free. Learn about the oldest commissioned warship's 200-year history through hands-on.

Pulitzer Prize winner Tony Auth's cartoon is up for sale at the Comic Art Charity Auction Nov. 11.

Zoos & Gardens

Arnold Arboretum
125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain (524-1718). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open weekdays: 9am-4pm; weekends: 12-4pm. Free. Commune with nature and more than 14,000 exotic trees, shrubs and flowers.

Franklin Park Zoo
1 Franklin Park Road, Boston (541-LION). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open Oct.-March daily 10am-4pm; April-Sept. weekdays 10am-5pm, weekends and holidays 10am-6pm. $7. A 72-acre oasis of green in the city with waterfalls, lush vegetation, gorillas, leopards, hippos and free-flying birds.

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard, transfer to #71 or #73 bus. Daily, 8am-7pm (summer) and 8am-5pm (winter). Free. Rest in peace among the grave sites and crypts of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes, "Battle Hymn of the Republic" author Julia Ward Howe and Winslow Homer, among other famous Americans.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (973-5200). www.neaq.org. *MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Early Sept.-June: Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. and holidays, 9am-6pm. $12.50.* Boston's biggest fish bowl has much more than just goldfish. In the three-story saltwater tank swim turtles, sharks, eels and the occasional mermaid (or mer-male).

Roger Williams Park Zoo
1000 Elmwood Ave., Providence, R.I. (401-785-3510). South on I-95 from Providence to exit 17 (Elmwood Ave.). $6, $3.50 seniors and children. Daily. Nov.-March, 9am-4pm. April-Oct., 9am-5pm. Lions and tigers and a 150-pound baby polar bear named Triton. Oh my! More than 600 birds and mammals inhabit the African plains and rain forests.

Stone Zoo
149 Pond St., Stoneham, Rte. 93 North, Exit 34 (781-438-5100). Mon.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. and holidays, 10am-6pm. $6 adults, $4 children. There's still plenty to see here—even though everybody's favorite polar bear has passed on to that great iceberg in the sky.

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Theater
JUST OPENED

Annie
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 7:30pm; Sat., 2pm and 7:30pm; Sun. 1pm. Nov. 7-12. $35-$65. "It's a Hard Knock Life" for little Annie and her orphan friends.

Annie Get Your Gun
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2pm and 8pm; Sun., 7pm. Through Nov. 5. $30-$70. Marilu Henner and Tom Wopat star in this classic tale of the romance and rivalry of the Wild West, featuring such songs as "There's No Business Like Show Business," "Old-Fashioned Wedding" and "Anything You Can Do, I Can Do Better."

The Beauty Queen of Leenane
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-5000). Wed.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2pm and 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Nov. 2-18. $18-$23. In their cottage in County Galway, where "you can't kick a cow without someone bearing a grudge for 20 years," single Maureen and her manipulative, ill mother, Mag, engage in a bitter but hilarious battle of wills in this Súgán Theatre Company production directed by Eric Engel. When a handsome neighbor offers Maureen a chance to escape, the final battle for control begins.

Company
Riverside Theatre Works, 45 Fairmount Ave., Hyde Park (361-7024). Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Nov. 3-19. Hard-Line Productions presents Stephen Sondheim's musical comedy.

Danny and the Deep Blue Sea
Institute of Contemporary Art Theater, 955 Boylston St., Boston (26-5152). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Through Nov. 19. $21. The Boston premiere of a play written by John Patrick Shanley, Oscar-winning author of *Moonstruck*, is a gut-wrenching love story about two of society's rejects who are incapable of tender emotion but are able to probe within themselves to find forgiveness, which offers hope of a better future.

Dinner with Friends
Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont St., Boston (426-4008). Nov. 4-19. Dana Delany, two-time Emmy winner for *China Beach*, comes to town with Rita Wilson, Daniel Stern and Kevin Kilner. This rueful comedy tells the story of two 40-something couples whose friendship becomes fractured when one couple announces they're divorcing. The show was a hit in New York, where the post-show discussion/therapy sessions with audience members were sometimes even more popular than the show itself.

Don Giovanni
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Nov. 8, 7:30pm; Nov. 10, 7:30pm; Nov. 12, 3pm; Nov. 14, 7:30pm; Nov. 17, 7:30pm; Nov. 19, 3pm and Nov. 21, 7:30pm. $27.50-$108. The Boston Lyric Opera presents one of Mozart's best loved operas sung in Italian with English subtitles. It tells the story of the legendary Sevillan womanizer Don Juan Tenorio, admired by men for his courage and by women for his sexual prowess, who lives for conquest but pays dearly for his sins in the end.

Fiddler on the Roof
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Rd., Beverly, Mass. (978-921-6351). Tue., 8pm; Wed., 2pm and 8pm; Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2pm and 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Oct. 31-Nov. 19. $18-$56. Set in a Jewish village on the eve of the Russian Revolution, this winner of nine Tony Awards revolves around Tevye, the philosophical dairyman trying to marry off his daughters and come to terms with a dramatically changing world. The score includes such favorites as "Sunrise, Sunset," "Matchmaker, Matchmaker" and "If I Were a Rich Man."

Grease
Lowell Memorial Auditorium, 50 E. Merrimack St., Lowell (978-454-2299). Nov. 16, 8pm. Cindy Williams and Eddie Mekka from *Laverne & Shirley* star in this classic.

Sugan Theatre's *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* plays at Boston Center for the Arts Nov. 2-18.

The Heiress
Vokes Players of Wayland, Route 20, Wayland (508-358-4034). Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat. 2pm and 8pm. Through Nov. 11. $10-$12. Set in 1850, this romantic drama tells the compelling story of the effects of a stern, controlling parents upon his kindhearted yet pathologically shy daughter.

Hello, Dolly!
Wheelock Family Theatre, 200 The Riverway, Boston (879-2147). Fri., 7:30pm; Sat.-Sun., 3pm. $10-$17. Winner of a record 10 Tony Awards, *Hello, Dolly!* offers a brilliant musical score, gorgeous costumes and dazzling dancing waiters.

Jesus Christ Superstar
Boston Rock Opera, Tower Auditorium, Mass. College of Art, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston (423-NEXT). MBTA: E Green Line to Longwood. Nov. 9-11, Nov. 16-18, 8:30pm. $20. Boston Rock Opera offers this dark, and at times controversial, interpretation of the last seven days in the life of Jesus Christ. It features a powerful rock score and razor-sharp libretto.

Long Day's Journey Into the Night
Leland Center, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Nov. 1-18. The Delvena Theatre Company presents this tragic masterpiece by and about one of America's greatest (and only Nobel Prize-winning) playwright Eugene O'Neill. The story is based on O'Neill's own family and is set in New London, Conn., during one day in the summer of 1912.

Marx in Soho
Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (353-5443). Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Nov. 9-19. $18. Leftist Howard Zinn presents his new show featuring Marx in present-day New York City.

Requiem Pour Srebrenica
C. Walsh Theater, 55 Temple St., Boston (800-224-6432). MBTA: Red Line to Park. Nov. 2-4, 8pm. $25. The Massachusetts International Festival of the Arts presents this meditation on the unfathomable terrors of war. Three women from three generations, dressed in heavy black coats and boots, occupy a starkly industrial steel set that underscores the harshness of the events and the townspeople's vulnerability.

Scrooge
Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton (244-0169). Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Nov. 3-Dec. 10. $21. A song and dance spectacular based on Charles Dickens' *Christmas Carol*.

Songs for a New World
Copley Theater, 225 Clarendon st., Boston (437-7731). Nov. 1, 8pm; Nov. 12, 7pm. $35. This series of songs is about that one moment in time when an individual must make a choice: take a stand or turn around and go back. During the show, writer Jason Brown transports the audience from the deck of a Spanish sailing ship in 1492 to a ledge above New York's Fifth Avenue.

Stonewall Jackson's House
New Repertory Theatre, 54 Lincoln St., Newton Highlands (332-1646). $25-$33. Adam Zahler directs Jonathan Reynold's controversial lampoon of political correctness.

NOW RUNNING

A...My Name Will Always Be Alice
Lyric Stage Company of Boston, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4pm and 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Through Nov. 18. 20-$26. This bawdy and insightful show offers music ranging from gospel to country and western and rock to pop ballads. The musical numbers and sketches portray friends, rivals and sisters.

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). Wed.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 7pm and 10pm; Sun., 3pm and 6pm. $39-$49. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to get its point across with tribal rock music, performance art, humorous antics, props (including plastic tubes and Twinkies) and three men painted blue.

A Fair Country
Huntington Theatre, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (266-0800). Through Nov. 26. Young playwright Jon Robin Baitz tells the story of the Burgess family; white Americans living in South Africa in 1977 who struggle to keep their tenuous ties to each other in the face of emotional and political turmoil. Surrounded by violence and longing for escape, they find themselves becoming increasingly corrupted by the apartheid system they oppose.

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change
Stuart Street Playhouse (formerly the 57 Theatre), 200 Stuart St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 5pm and 8:30pm; Sun., 3pm and 7pm. Through Nov. 12. $25-$45. Everything you've secretly thought about dating, romance, marriage, lovers, husbands, wives and in-laws but were afraid to admit is celebrated in this absolutely hilarious musical review of the modern-day mating game.

The Performance Cult
Back Alley Theater, 1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1253). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. Sundays, 7:30pm. Through Dec. 17. $7. Actors, dancers and storytellers will present a series of short, original vignettes. Each one lasts no longer than 10 minutes. See character work, dance, monologues, movement, singing and sound work. Each performer must base his or her work on the truth.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 6:30pm and 9:30pm; Sun., 3pm and 7:30pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This hilarious whodunit is set in a unisex hair salon. The production holds the record as the longest-running play in the history of Boston theater.

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?
Trinity Repertory Theater, 201 Washington St., Providence (401-521-1100). Tue., 7pm; Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm and 7pm. Through Nov. 12. $22-$40. After a faculty party in a New England college town, George and Martha invite Nick and Honey home for a nightcap. "One quick drink" turns into a wild night of shocking power games that turn on a dime and change rules at whim, as the whisper-thin social facade shatters to reveal the secrets connecting their lives. This Edward Albee psychological masterpiece reinvented 20th-century American drama.

The musical review of the modern-day mating game, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, plays at the Stuart Street Playhouse through Nov. 12.

BEAUTY QUEEN: BRENDA HUGHES

UNIVERSITY THEATER

Joan of Arc
Wellesley College, Alumnae Hall, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2000). Nov. 8, 5pm; Nov. 9, 7pm; Nov. 10-11, 8pm; Nov. 11-12, 2pm. $15. This new musical, set during the last year of Joan's life, explores her strength, her courage, her visions and voices and her final dark night of the soul.

Major Barbara
Spingold Theater, Brandeis University, Waltham (781-736-3400). Commuter Rail to Brandeis/Roberts. Tue.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm and 7pm. Through Sept. 24. $14.50-$18.50. Written in 1905 by George Bernard Shaw, Major Barbara is a study of ideals, power and poverty as seen through the life of Barbara, a Salvation Army missionary, and her father, a millionaire munitions maker.

Noises Off
Emerson Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (824-8000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Nov. 10-11, Nov. 16-18, 8pm. $12-$18. Everything that can go wrong with a theater production does as a second-rate theater company produces a third-rate romantic farce.

INTERACTIVE THEATER

Mystery Cafe
290 Congress St., Boston (781-320-0040). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Fri., 7:30pm; Sat., 7pm. Ongoing. $36. The interactive murder mystery, *Murder on the Campaign Trail*, is a parody of Campaign 2000.

Mystery Cruise: Murder on the Ocean Queen
Ft. Independence, Long Wharf, Boston (781-320-0040). Cruise departs Saturdays, 8pm. $49/person, includes dinner and cruise. Gather clues during a Harbor cruise, meet characters and interrogate suspects as you attempt to piece together the answer to the mystery.

PERFORMANCE ART

Flying and Flowing: Horizontal and Vertical
Mobius, 354 Congress St., Boston (542-7416). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Nov. 3-4. $9. A performance by D. Franklin and Milan Kohout.

Virtual Motion
Mobius, 354 Congress St., Boston (542-7416). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Nov. 9-11, 8pm. This one-man, hyper-opera employs both traditional live singing and experimental lip-synch techniques set to a riveting score.

Dance
SHOWS AND EVENTS

Antigone's Dream
Sorenson Center for the Arts, 231 Forest St., Babson Park, Wellesley (824-8000). Nov. 2, 7pm. Nov. 3-4, 8pm. $20-$30. Paula Josa-Jones has received rave reviews for her choreography of Sophocles' *Antigone*. The performance evokes parallels between ancient and modern heroines through the expression of dreams.

Aparna Sindhoor and Dancers
Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center, 41 Second St., Cambridge (577-1400). MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. Nov. 10-11, 8pm. $15. Sindhoor is a dancer and choreographer who utilizes different forms of expression to address modern issues. The performance will be in Bharatanatyam, which is a classic dance form of India.

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Preview

Mystery Opera

Cambridge Opera reaches out to mystery fans, music lovers and longtime opera fans with their upcoming original detective mystery musical concert Nov. 11. Narrated by mystery writers William G. Tapply (author of *Scar Tissue*), Archer Mayor (Lt. Joe Gunther series), Barbara Neely (Blanche White series) and Katherine Hall Page (Faith Fairchild series), the show includes songs, arias and duets from *Turadot*, *La Boheme*, *La Traviata*, *South Pacific*, *My Fair Lady* and *The Merry Widow*. Soprano Guiping Deng, who made her debut in the Boston Lyric Opera as Madame Butterfly, stars. *Edward Pickman Hall, Longy School of Music, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (547-1141). www.cambridgeopera.com. Nov. 11, 8pm. $25. —N.G.*

Shaolin Warriors
Orpheum Theatre, Boston (876-4275). Nov. 4, 8pm. $30-$40. The Shaolin Temple in China is the birthplace of Ch'an Buddhism but is equally well known today for being the home of China's legendary fighting monks. Now in a choreographed theater production, these 20 monks practise this sacred and deadly art form with perfect precision, grace and magic.

JOIN IN

Club Joy
533 Washington Street, Boston (354-5780). Saturday nights. This Latin nightspot now offers classes: salsa, merengue, bachata and more.

Dance Friday
Rug Cutter's Studio, 23 Main St., Watertown (924-7276). Fridays, 8:30pm-12am. $7 adults, $4 teens, children free. Join in the dancing to all types of music—even dance barefoot—in this family-friendly and smoke- and alcohol-free environment.

English Country Dance
Park Avenue Congregational Church, Park Avenue at Paul Revere Road, Arlington (354-1354). Wednesdays, 7:30-10:30pm. $6 adults, $5 members, $3 students. Enjoy country dancing with music by Bare Necessities.

Four on the Floor and Just Swing It
Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. •Saturdays, 9pm-1:30am, $12, $10 after 11:30pm. Join in a variety of dance moves—here you'll find jazzy mambos, swing dancing, cheeky cha chas and sassy salsa numbers. *•Tuesdays, 10pm-1:30am. $6. Ages 19 and older.* Featuring the Black Tie Affair Orchestra, this is a great night of swing dancing. You can bring your own music.

Israeli Dancing
Temple Israel of Boston, Longwood Ave. at Plymouth Street, Boston (566-3960). MBTA: D Green Line to Longwood. Nov. 5 and 19, 11am-12pm. $5. All levels welcome, even those with no experience. Vladimir Foygelman instructs.

Latin Night
Johnny D's, 17 Holland St., Somerville (776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Sundays, lessons at 9pm, dancing at 10pm. $8 lessons, $6 dancing. Lessons for salsa are packed at this Davis Square hangout. Stick around for live music by Gilberto Rivera and Rumva Na Ma.

New England Contras and Squares
VFW Hall, 688 Huron Ave., Cambridge (354-1340). Thursdays, 8-11pm. $5. Learn to square dance to live music, then do-si-do your partner with confidence.

Scottish Country Dance
YWCA, 7 Temple St., Cambridge (484-0950). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mondays, 7:45-10:15pm. $6 adults, $5 students. Dance like a true Scot after some fine lessons. And don't forget your kilt.

Tango Rialto
Rialto, Charles Hotel, One Bennett Street, Cambridge (661-5050). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thursdays, 10:30pm-1:30am. $10. One of Boston's most popular restaurants, Rialto in Harvard Square, opens its doors to tango dancers of all levels and backgrounds for nights of light hors d'oeuvres and lots of dancing.

Why Choose One?
Dance Caliente, 170 Washington St., Arlington (781-646-1233). Mon. and Tue. $25 for one course, $55 for a five-week course. Learn it all at this multidance studio where you can pick up salsa, swing, tango or the fox trot.

TICKETS

Bostix
(723-5181) www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of Faneuil Hall); Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth); and Harvard Square (in the Holyoke Center arcade at 1350 Mass. Ave).* Same-day tickets half-price.

Next Ticketing
(423-NEXT). www.boston.com/next.

Ticketmaster
(931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(247-1300 or 800-442-1854). This is a good place to get tickets if a show is sold out at the box office.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail info. to comedy@improper.com. *Include address, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a description of the performances or comedians. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (248-9700). www.comedyconnectionboston.com. *MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed., 8pm; Thu., 8:30pm; Fri. and Sat., 8pm, 10:15pm; Sun., 7pm. $8-$10 (weekend prices vary).* The oldest comedy club in Boston draws big-name, national comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •Nov. 1: Boston Headliners •Nov. 2, 8:30pm, $12: Frank Santos, the "R-Rated Hypnotist" •Nov. 3: Robert Schimmel, "1999's Best Male Standup" •Nov. 4, 6pm, 8pm and 10:15: Robert Schimmel •Nov. 5, 9:15pm, $12/$15 at the door: Black Comedy Explosion hosted by Jonathon Gates •Nov. 6: Showcase with Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz •Nov.7: Don Gavin •Nov. 8, 8:30pm, $12: Frank Santos, the "R-Rated Hypnotist" •Nov. 9, $18: John Valby, a.k.a. "Dr. Dirty" •Nov. 10: Paul Nardizzi •Nov. 11, 9:15pm, $12/$15 at the door: Black Comedy Explosion hosted by Jonathon Gates •Nov. 12: Showcase with Paul Nardizzi & Robbie Printz •Nov. 13: Don Gavin •Nov. 14, 7pm, $20: *Jay Mohr, Pay It Forward.*

The Comedy Studio
The Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu.-Sun., 8pm. $5-$7. Sketch comedy troupes and local comedians perform. •Nov. 2: Tim McIntire hosts Thursday Night Fights: Tournament of Champions. Jim Collition vs. John Keating with guests Dan Mintz, Ian Helfich, Sam Walter, Mike Dorval, Rob Reuter, Mike Arlington • Nov. 2: Brendan Small, star of the Cartoon Network's "Home Movies" hosts Matt Jablow, Sam Walter, Shane Kinney, Dan Levy, Greg Johnson, Ryan Stiecher • Nov. 4: Stand-up comedy starring Rick Jenkins with Chenda Li, Dave Hutchings, Benari Poulten, Sam Walter, Clark Elefteriadis, Michelle Pierce • Nov. 5: sketch and stand-up comedy with Ron Able, Tom Caswell, Ross Garmil, Sam Walter, Jan Davidson, Steve Walsh • Nov. 9: Tournament of Champions, starring Tim McIntire: Kyria Abrahams vs. Sean Lily with guests Sebastian Marks, Greg Rodriguez, Mike Prior, Fred Vannis, Alan Besnoff • Nov. 10: Brendon and Larry hosts Kelly Fattman, Walter Dixon, Ellen Stone, Ben Boime, Chris Walsh, Stephanie Wishnick • Nov. 11: Women of Color, featuring Deb Farrar-Parkman, Lakshmi Balachandra, Malene Welch, Bethany van Delf, Sandy Asai, Alana Devich, Janet Cormier • Nov. 12: Stand-up with Amanda Hall, Maryanne Belemonte, Bethany van Delf, Ben Murray, Alanna Devich, Gerroll Bennett, Shelby Sims and Dot Dwyer.

Dick Doherty's Comedy Vault
Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun., 9pm. $10. Features local stand-up comedians. Thursdays: Stand-up comedy.

Nick's Comedy Stop
100 Warrenton St., Boston (482-0930). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. $10-$22. The talent here is not quite as big-name as the Comedy Connection, but the crowds are just as enthusiastic. Wednesdays: Open-mike at 8:30pm • Nov. 2, 8:30pm: Frank Santorelli, Matt B, Katy Grady • Nov.3, 8:45pm: Frank Santorelli, Matt B, Katy Grady • Nov. 4, 8:45pm: Frank Santorelli, Matt B, Katy Grady • Nov. 9, 8:30pm: Kevin Knox, Mike Donovan, Paul Keenan • Nov. 10, 8:45pm: Mike Donovan, Jim Dunn, Eric Hurdler • Nov. 11, 8:45pm: Mike Donovan, Jim Dunn, Eric Hurdler.

IMPROV COMEDY

Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston (263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Thu., 8pm; Fri. and Sat., 8pm and 10pm. Main Stage: $10-$15.* Now playing on the main stage is the critically acclaimed improvisational and sketch comedy show—voted one of Boston's best improvisational comedy troupes. •Wednesdays, 8pm: The Improv Asylum Training Center graduate show, *Gary's Pocket*, followed by the Improv Asylum Touring Company. $10.

ImprovBoston at Back Alley Theater
1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1253). MBTA: Red Line to Central. $12. Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe makes things up as it goes. ***•Election***: Fridays, 8pm, through November. Based on audience participation, troupe members adopt party platforms and run on them throughout the course of the show, with all the requisite political shenanigans. ***•TheatreSports***: Fridays, 10:30pm. Witness two local improvisation troupes compete for bragging rights in this no-holds-barred, improvisational fight.

Magicians & Spirits
Green Street Grill, 280 Green St., Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Shows every Tuesday at 9pm. $10 cabaret show ($5 with dinner). At 10pm, the cabaret show begins upstairs with local and national magicians reading minds, making birds appear out of nowhere and levitating objects onstage.

COMEDY SHOWS

Battle of the Sexes
290 Congress St., Boston (426-1999). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Saturdays, 10:30pm. $15-$18. A participatory comedy.

Comic Come Home VI
Orpheum Theatre, One Hamilton Pl., Boston, (346-5900). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Nov. 18, 8pm. $35.50- $125.50. Presented by Tudor Investment Corporation to benefit the Cam Neely Foundation. Hosted by Denis Leary, the show includes performances by Jim Breuer, Eddie Brill, Anthony Clark, Lenny Clarke, Wali Collins, Dane Cook, Adam Ferrara, Don Gavin and Jay Mohr.

Robert Klein
Jewish Theatre of New England, Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, 333 Nahanton St., Newton Centre (965-5226). Nov. 11, 8pm; Nov. 12, 2pm and 7pm. $30. Obie, Tony and Grammy award nominee, Robert Klein brings his dry intelligent brand of humor to the stage.

Joey & Maria's Comedy Wedding
Tremont House Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Fri. and Sat., 7:30pm. Ongoing. $39-$45. Join the fun at this absolutely zany Italian wedding. Big hair and blue tuxedos optional.

Murder on the Campaign Trail
Mystery Cafe Dinner Theater, 290 Congress St., Boston (781) 793-9700. Fridays at 7:30pm; Saturdays at 7pm. Ongoing. $36 (Includes dinner and show). See this mystery parody of Campaign 2000.

Some 20 Shaolin warriors practice their sacred and deadly art at the Orpheum Theatre Nov. 4.

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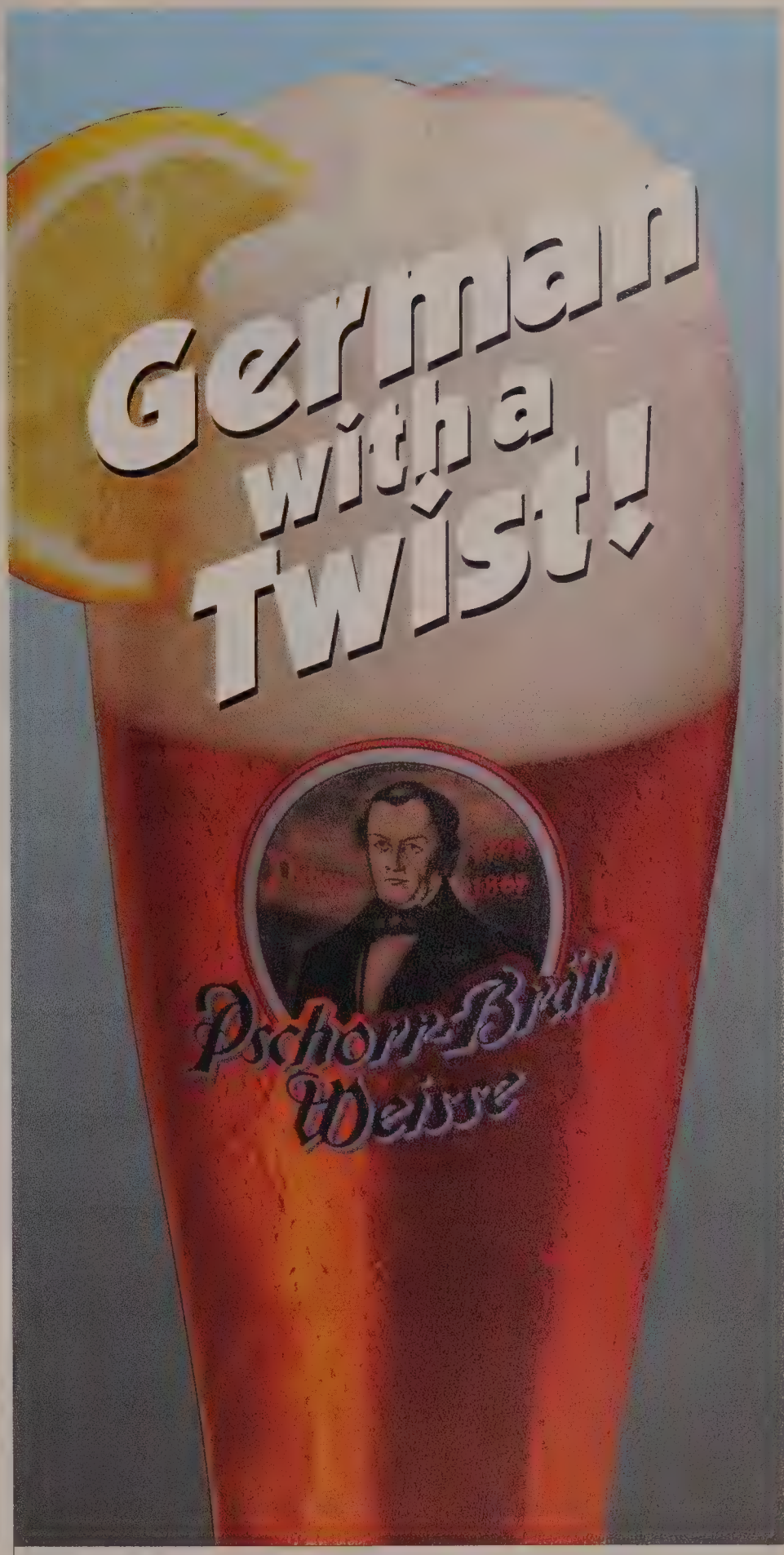

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Advice to Readers
The following is a partial list of the largest art museums, art institutes and galleries in the Boston area. The • symbol denotes a temporary exhibition.

Museums

Art Institute of Boston
Lesley College, 700 Beacon St., Boston (585-6600). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. www.lesley.edu. *Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm; Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun., 12-5pm.* •*Mightier Than The Sword: Political Satire, Caricatures and Cartoons*, features work by Jules Feiffer, Ed Sorel, Dan Wasserman and Robert Grossman. Nov. 13-Jan. 21.

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5. $3 students and seniors; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. The Sackler houses textiles that represent a new, post-classical era in *The Rich Life and the Dance: Weavings from Roman Byzantine and Islamic Egypt.* Through Jan. 14. •*Antoin Sevurguin and the Persian Image* features more than 45 photographs of Persian life. Also on exhibit is ancient Islamic and Asian art, an array of Neolithic bronze Buddhas, Greek pottery and Hellenistic sculpture.

Boston Public Library
900 Boylston St., Boston (536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. •*The Brinks' Job*, a show of photographs from the Print Department's *Herald*-Traveler Photo Morgue of "Boston's Crime of the Century," includes courtroom sketches of the trial, crime scene photos and mug shots. Through Dec. 31 in the Wiggin Gallery Balcony. •Drawings and prints by Harold Tovish shows through Dec. 31 in the Wiggin Gallery. •In celebration of the centenary of Symphony Hall, the Music Department displays musical and non-musical events that have taken place in Symphony Hall through the years in *100 Years at Symphony Hall*. Through Dec. 31 in the Koussevitzky Room, West and South Galleries.

DeCordova Museum
51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln (781-259-8355). •*Photography in Boston 1955-1985* celebrates 30 years of photographic history in Boston and features works by more than 60 Boston area photographers—with a total of more than 230 pieces on display. •Elsa Dorfman's *No Hair Day* is also on display through Jan. 21, 2001.

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. •A show of Japanese photographer Daido Moriyama's work includes nearly 200 black-and-white photographs of post-war Japan. Through Nov. 5. •*Before and After the End of Time: Architecture and the Year 1000* runs through Dec. 31. This looks at the beginning of Romanesque architecture in Europe. •*Dürer's Passions* is a collection of the prints and drawings of Albrecht Dürer's *Passion of Christ*. Through Dec. 3. •*Philip Guston: A New Alphabet* focuses on a four-year period in the artist's life (1968-1972). Through Feb. 4. •*Franz Marc: Horses* shows through March 18.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (266-5152). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Wed.-Sun., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-9pm. $6. $4 students and seniors. •In the group exhibition *Customized: Art Inspired by Hot Rods, Low Riders & American Car Culture*, artists examine the imagery and the attitude of American car culture, using hot rod and low rider culture for inspiration. Through Dec. 31. •Free guided walk-throughs take place each Thursday at 6:30pm.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (566-1401). www.boston.com/gardner. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun., 11am-5pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, under 18 free. Guided on Fridays, 2:30pm.* •*Rembrandt Creates Rembrandt: Art and Ambition in Leiden, 1629-1631* comprises 10 paintings, including the Gardner's early *Self Portrait*, and 10 etchings from collections in the U.S. and Europe. The show illuminates Rembrandt's evolving styles. Through Jan. 7, 2001.

McMullen Museum of Art
140 Comm. Ave., Newton (552-8587). MBTA: B Green Line to Boston College. Mon-Fri., 11am-4pm; Sat.-Sun., 12-5pm. Boston College presents *Forbidden Art: The Postwar Russian Avant-Garde* through Dec. 10.

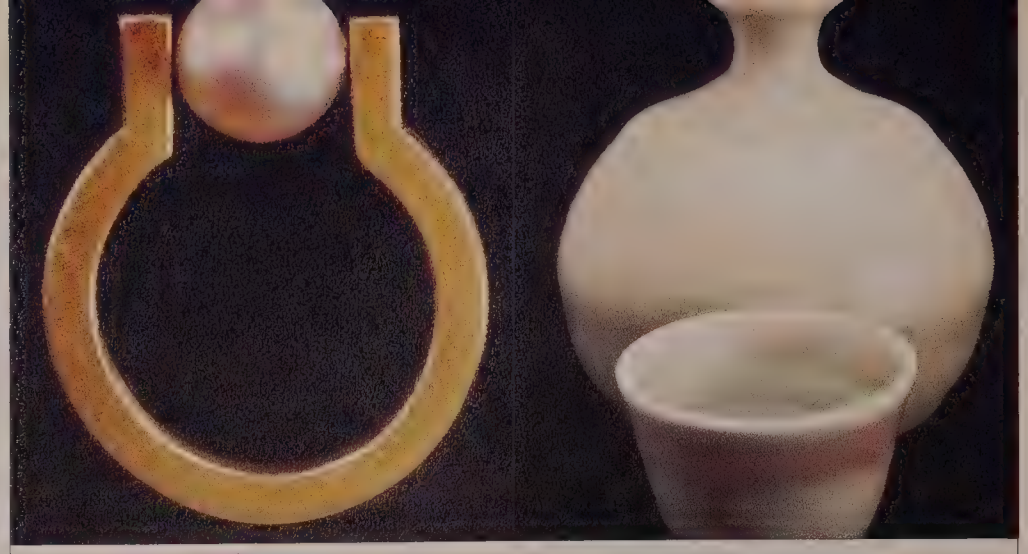
MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5pm, weekends 12-5pm. $3, $1 students, seniors and children. The museum's permanent exhibits include *Flashes of Inspiration: the Work of Harold Edgerton*, and *Gestural Engineering* and *Cultural Engineering: the Sculptures of Arthur Ganson*, the mechanical engineer/choreographer. •Enjoy an interactive excursion into the world of artificial intelligence in *Robots and Beyond: Exploring Artificial Intelligence at MIT*. •On the last Sunday of the month, explore oceanography, astronomy, the science of buildings and other mysteries of science from 2-4pm. Call 452-2827 for details.

Museum of Bad Art
580 High St., Dedham (325-8224). Mon.-Fri., 6:30-10pm, Sat., and Sun., 1-10pm. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. The one and only museum that boasts "art too bad to be ignored." A favorite is *Lady Chardonnay*, a piece illuminating a poodle-headed dancer.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Mon.-Tue., 10am-4:45pm; Wed., 10am-9:45pm, Thu.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun., 10am-5:45pm. West Wing only, Thu.-Fri., 5-9:45pm. $12, students and seniors $10.* •*Van Gogh to Mondrian: Dutch Works on Paper*, brings together some 100 works on paper by more than 40 Dutch artists. Through Nov. 5. •*Christian Boltanski: Reflection* a haunting installation by the French artist runs through Nov. 12. •*Dangerous Curves: Art of the Guitar* shows Nov. 5-Feb. 25, 2001. •*Legendary Collectors: Dorothy and Herbert Vogel.* Opens Nov. 1. •*Japanese Artists: Amateurs or Professionals* displays through Dec. 10.

The Revolving Museum
288-300 A St., Boston (439-8617). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed.-Fri., 12-5pm. •Sculpture, work on paper and veneer are featured in *Surface Metaphors* by Elise Mannella. Through Jan. 12. •Tunnel Vision presents *P3: Poetry & Photography Push Cart* on Nov. 2.

The Somerville Museum
1 Westwood Road, Somerville (666-9810). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Thu., 2-7pm; Fri., 2-5pm and Sat., 12-7pm. Free. •*Build* is a series of paintings, sculptures, prints and drawings by artists Matthew Brackett, Kathleen Finlay, Robin Mandel, Rachel Rush and Theresa Spadafora. Nov. 12-Dec. 22.



Art/Craft 2000

On Nov. 3-5, the Boston Center for the Arts presents a show of fine art and functional and contemporary craft. The third annual event offers art enthusiasts the chance to view the work of more than 100 New England artists and meet the creators.

Galleries
FINE ART

Allston Skirt Gallery
129 Braintree St., Allston (254-7027). www.allstonskirt.com. MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. •Roberta Paul and Amy Podmore present *New Work*. Nov. 3-Dec. 23.

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (536-4465). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tues.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •*Contemporary Portraits* includes works by Lennart Anderson, Ben Aronson, Will Barnet, David Bates, Brett Bigbee, Gideon Bok, Bernard Chaet, Elaine deKooning, Aaron Fink, Philip Grausman, Jack Levine, Louisa Matthiasdottir, Scott Prior and others. Through Nov. 8. •Gyorgy Kepes' *Photographs, 1950s-1980s* shows Nov. 11-Dec. 6.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (247-0610). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm; Sun., 1-5pm. •*Landscapes:* Mary Sipp-Green's open landscapes show Nov. 1-30.

Artesano Gallery
757A Beacon St., Newton (558-2783). Tue. and Wed., 10am-6pm; Thu.-Sat., 10am-7pm. This contemporary gallery features original works from international artists. Now featuring Sargadelos ceramics from Spain.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., 5th Floor, Boston (262-4490). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5:30pm. •Maggi Brown's *New Paintings* shows through Nov. 29.

Barton-Ryan Gallery
38 Newbury St., 4th Floor, Boston (867-0662). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5:30pm. •The current show by Lissa Houck is titled *Improbable Botanicals and Landscapes.* Through Dec. 2.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0800). MBTA: Green Line. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm. •It's Kentucky art in 3-D and 2-D during the *Kentucky Folk Art* show, featuring 11 artists. Nov. 1-28.

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (482-2477). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 10:30am-5:30pm. •*The Ingres Drawings, Restored* by Kathleen Gilje shows Nov. 1-25.

Beth Urdang Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 11am-5pm. •*Allan D'Arcangelo: Paintings and Prints, 1962-1975* displays Nov. 11-Dec. 8.

Boston Center for the Arts
539 Tremont St., Boston (787-2637). Friday, 2-9pm; Saturday, 10am-6pm; Sunday, 10am-5pm. •The third annual marketplace features work from more than 100 artists and craftspeople. Nov. 3-5 •The *Fourth Annual Boston International Fine Arts Show* exhibits 17th- through 20th-century paintings, mixed media, works on paper and sculpture. Nov. 9-12.

Boston University Art Gallery
855 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-3329). MBTA: B Green Line to B.U. West. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat. and Sun., 1-5pm. The 56 objects and 17 photographs in *Differences Preserved: Reconstructed Tombs from a Liao and a Song Tomb* come from two sets of tombs in northern China. Also showing is *Of Battle and Beauty: Felice Beato's Photographs of China*, a series of images photographed in 1860 during the second Opium War. Nov. 3-Dec. 17.

Bromfield Art Gallery
560 Harrison Ave., Boston (451-3605). Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. •*Rods, Rocks and Raku* by Kim Bernard. •*Crows, Numbers and Men* by Jim Giddings shows Nov. 1-Dec. 2.

Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center
541 Second St., Cambridge (577-1400). Mon.-Fri., 9:30am-5:30pm. The works of Telsa Borrero, Ana Uribe, Josefina Jacquin Bates, Jairo Barragán (Naide) and Jorge Olarte show in *Colombians: Between Emotion, Nation & Immigration*. Through Nov. 22.

Carpenter Center
24 Quincy St., Cambridge (495-3251). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9:30 am-11:30pm. Work by artists exploring the space of landscape and architecture is featured in *Inside/Out*. Through Nov. 19.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (236-2255). www.chappell-gallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tues.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm. •*Deep Glass* by Catherine Rahn displays through Nov. 11.

Childs Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (266-1108). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 9am-6pm; Mon. and Sat., 10am-5pm. •The Main Gallery shows paintings in *New England Women Artists*. Also showing is Frank W. Benson's *The Sporting Art Tradition* and the woodcuts of Durrer in the Alcove. Through Nov. 11.

Clark Gallery
145 Lincoln St., Lincoln (781-259-8303). Tue.-Sat., 10am-5pm. The gallery represents 30 regional artists. •Ruth Bauer shows her *New Paintings* with John Eric Byers' exhibit, *Studio Furniture*. Through Nov. 22.

Clifford Smith Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 3rd Floor, Boston (695-0255). www.cliffordsmithgallery.com. *Wed.-Sat., 11am-6pm.* •This double exhibit features Rachel Perry Welty's *Recent Work* and Christopher Broughton's *Small Paintings*. Nov. 1-25.

Crosstown Arts Inc.
One North Square, Boston (720-0100). www.crosstown.com. *Tue.-Fri,. 9am-5pm. Sat., 9am-1pm or by appointment.* •*Strategy: Paintings and Drawings* by Megan McNaught shows Nov. 4-Dec. 23.

Crystal Fine Art
93 Summer St., Suite 4L, Boston (728-9818). www.crystalfineart.com. *MBTA: Red and Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Tue.-Fri., 11am-6pm.* •*Candace Whittemore Lovely*'s work shows through November.

Eclipse Gallery
167 Newbury St., Boston (247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9am-5pm. •Naomi Rubin's *Black and White Photography* runs through Nov. 25.

Equator Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (266-4110). www.equator-gallery.com. *Tue.-Thu., 12-6pm; Fri.-Sun., 11am-7pm.* Watercolors by Benito Huillcahuamán, woodcarvings by L. Almeida and L. Potosí and ceramics with pre-Columbian motifs by Sasha Raiz. Ongoing.

Fort Point Arts Community
300 Summer St., Boston (423-4299). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Fri., 10am-3pm; Sat., 12-5pm. More than 200 artists display their paintings, sculptures and photography. Through Nov. 10.

Galerie d'Orsay
33 Newbury St., Boston (266-8001). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. •M.L. Snowdon exhibits her bronze sculptures in *The Legacy Rodin*, which runs Nov. 11-Dec. 10.

Gallery @ Green Street
141 Green St., Jamaica Plain (522-0000). www.jameshull.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm; Tue., Wed. and Thu., 6-9pm.* •James Hull and Douglas Weathersby present an installation. Through Nov. 25.

Gallery Bershad
99 Dover St., Somerville (629-9400 ex. 3). www.bershad.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Davis.* •On display is *Naked & Nude* through Nov. 3-Dec. 1.

Gallery NAGA
67 Newbury St., Boston (267-9060). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. www.gallerynaga.com. *Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Lorie Hamermesh's work, *Veiled Passions*, runs through Nov. 11.

Gallery Seventy-Nine
79 Newbury St., Boston (262-5918). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-6pm; Sat., 12-5pm. •Michelle Giargiari's exhibit, *Frozen Music*, runs through Nov. 30.

Genovese Sullivan Gallery
47 Thayer St., Boston (426-9738). Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. MBTA: Orange Line to N.E. Medical Center. •Malcom Wright exhibits functional ceramics and sculpture in *Looking into Clay*. Through Nov. 1.

Gibbs Gallery
41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm. •*All That Remains: A Photographic Exploration of America's Abandoned Places*, features the work of Nancy Engberg, Ed Esleek and Maxine L. McDonald. Through Nov. 3.

Gurari Collections
91 Charles St., Boston (367-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. This gallery has an impressive collection of 16th- to early-20th-century etchings, engravings and drawings.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St. Boston (536-6339). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 10am-6pm; Sat., 10am-5pm. •There is an assortment of 18th- and 19th-century historic and decorative antique engravings and lithographs on display.

HallSpace
31 Norflok Ave, Boston (989-9985). Fri.-Sat., 12-5pm. On display is Ilona Anderson's exhibit, *Drawing in Thread.* Through Nov. 25.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (262-0550). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. yezerski@ziplink.net. •Work by Gene Flores and Susan Derges show Nov. 3-28.

Hurst Gallery
53 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (491-6888). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sat., 12-6pm. Thu., 12-7pm and by appointment. Visitors are greeted with a wide variety of art and artifacts from six continents. •*Of*

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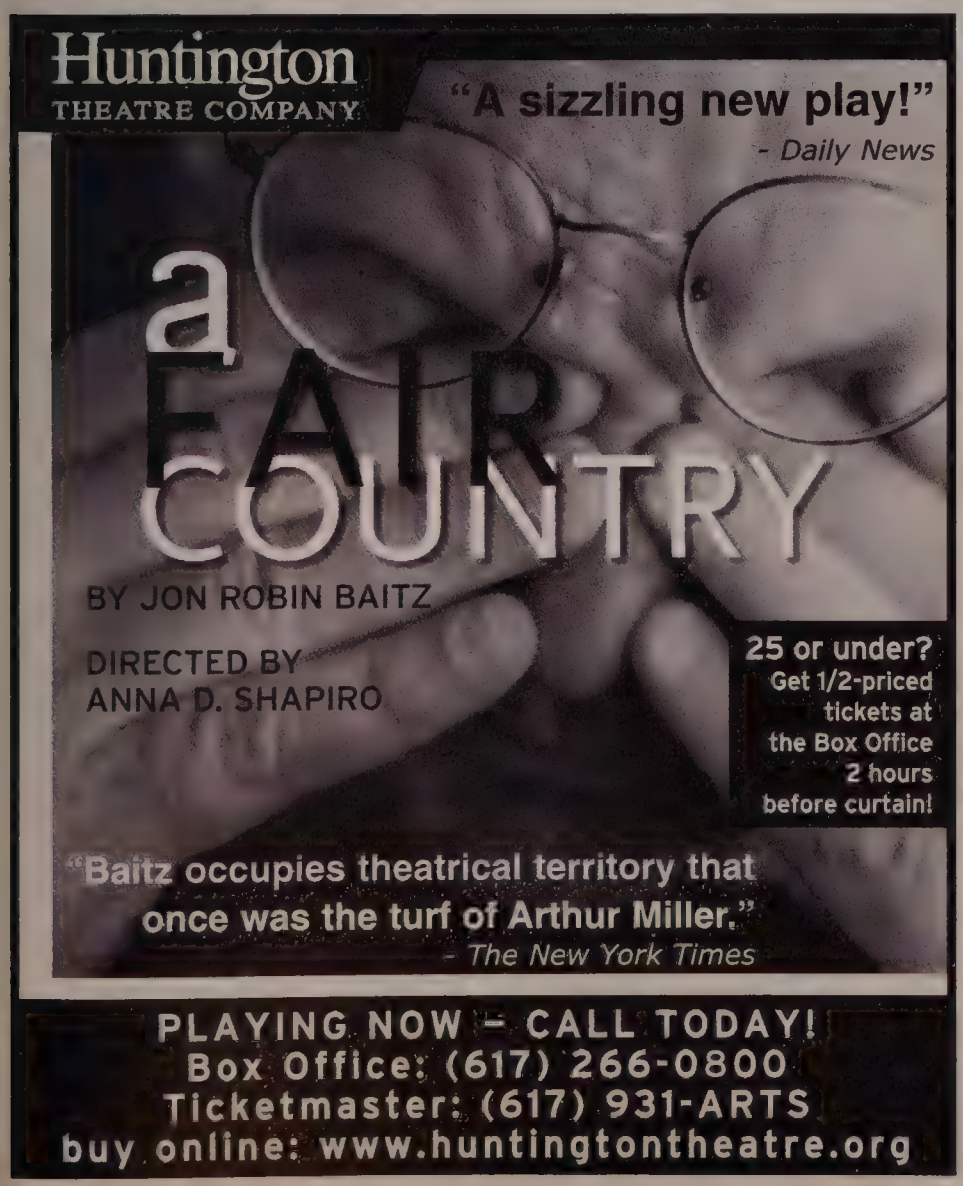
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Land, Sea and Sky: Animals in the Art of the Ancient Americas is an exhibition of pre-Columbian art from Peru, West Mexico and Mesoamerica. Through Dec. 2.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (375-0076). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. A selection of vintage posters shows. Ongoing. Work by artist Stasys Eidrigevicius displays for one day only, Nov. 14, 6-9pm.

Judy Ann Goldman
14 Newbury St., Braton (424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tues.-Sat. 10:30am-5:30pm. View large photographs of flowers at *Kunie Sugiura: Nature Desired* through Nov. 4.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 Saint Stephen St., Boston (247-1719). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue.-Sat., 1-5pm. •Kaji Aso displays his *Watercolor Exhibit* through Nov. 16.

Kingston Gallery
37 Thayer St., Boston (423-4113). Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. Lookout: Carolyn Wirth's sculpture shows Nov. 1-25.

Lyman-Eyer Gallery Inc.
1347 Washington St., West Newton (964-3470). Tue.-Fri., 4-7:30pm; Sat., 11am-7:30pm; Sun., 11am-5pm. •*Cooley & Maisel—the Landscape* features new work by Jacob Cooley and Mary Beth Maisel, with an installation by Sarah Ashodian. Through Nov. 12.

Mercury Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (859-0054). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat., 10am-6pm. •*New Photographs*, a series of works by Phillip Jones, is on display through Nov. 17.

Mills Gallery
539 Tremont St., Boston (426-8835). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sun., 1-4pm; Thu.,-Sat., 7-10pm. •*Twice Born: Beauty*, an exhibition of paintings and photographs by contemporary artists that explores the resurgent interest in beauty, shows through Nov. 5.

Mobius
254 Congress St., Boston (542-7416). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. www.mobius.org. *Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm.* •Milan Kohout and David Franklin perform in *Flying and Flowing*, performance art on the brink of extinction. Through Nov. 4. •*Copper Objective*: art installation by artist Yin Peet. Nov. 1-25. •Marilyn Arsem's *Report From Afield: Recent Site-Specific Performances/Installations in Germany*. Nov. 6. •*Virtual Motion*: David Rodwin's "hyper-opera" with non-realistic movement and a technological theme. Nov. 9-11. •Videospace shows *Noh TV*, an electronic music, video and dance performance curated by Walter Wright. Nov. 14.

MPG
285 Newbury St., Boston (437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-5pm. •*East Coast/West Coast*: Paintings by Nicholas Kilmer and Duncan Simcoe. Nov. 3-Dec. 4.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (266-4835). www.nielsen gallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* Founded in 1964. •Jon Imber's *Landscape: Primary Perceptions*, Anne Harris' *Works on Paper* and Jane Smaldone's *New Paintings* are on exhibit through Nov. 13. •Joan Snyder's work, *Monoprints and Miniatures*, shows through Nov. 25.

Out of the Blue Gallery
168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun., 12-7pm. This gallery, owned and operated by several artists, always has a variety of interesting artwork and art-related events going on. •Poetry readings take place every Saturday, and the gallery hosts a rotating guest list of jazz musicians every Wednesday.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (236-4497). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •*Drawings* by Linda Etcoff shows Nov. 3-Dec. 2.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (267-9473). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun., 1pm-5pm. •*Mallory Lake: Italy Light and Shadow* is a series of Tuscan-inspired landscapes. Through Nov. 8. •*In A Different Light, Genesis in the Art of Samuel Bak*: Nov. 11-Dec. 31.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (266-3321). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. www.richardsonclarke.com. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5pm. •Judith Belzer's, *New Paintings* is on display through Nov. 13.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (267-7997). www.Robert Klein-Gallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 10am-5:30pm; Sat., 11am-5pm. •D.W. Mellor's *Still Life* shows through Nov. 25.

Rolly-Michaux
290 Dartmouth St., Boston (536-9898). Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm. •*20th Century Master Graphics* features Marc Shagall, Sonia Delaunay, Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso and Joan Miro. Nov. 1-30.

Sherman Gallery
775 Comm. Ave., Boston (358-0295). MBTA: B Green Line to B.U. West. Tue.-Fri., 11am-5pm; Sat. and Sun., 1-5pm. •*The Deep End of the Gene Pool*. The upcoming exhibition is Ann Tracy Montero's lushly painted installation pieces. Through Nov. 17.

Space 12 Gallery
12 Union Park St., Boston (423-9760). Wed., 1-5pm, 6-9pm; Thu., Fri. and Sat., 1-5pm. •Star Nigro's work, *Dimensional Photography*, is on exhibit through Nov. 25.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (450-0321). www.stgeorge-gallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-5pm.* Artist William St. George displays his lush and colorful paintings.

Touch of France
173 Newbury St., Boston (247-6966). MBTA: Green line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-7pm; Sun., 10am-6pm. This gallery imports contemporary French artists' works, including paintings from famous painters M. Tigrane, R. Kefflin, C. Ferrer and striking dried-flower arrangements made near Saint Tropez.

Via Gallery
83 Newbury St., 2nd Floor (424-6200). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-4pm. •Rosa Lasaosa's black-and-white, mixed-media installation shows through Nov. 11. • Also on exhibit is *The Latin Show* featuring artists Marisa Boullosa and Paula Barragan from Nov. 17-Dec 30.

Vose Gallery
238 Newbury St., Boston (536-6176). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 8am-5:30pm; Sat., 9am-4pm. •More than 130 works are exhibited in *The Boston Art Club, 1855-1950*, which runs through Dec. 1.

Zeitgeist Gallery
312 Broadway St., Cambridge (876-2182). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu.-Sun., 2pm-7pm. The gallery displays a variety of local artists' work. •A Playground Jazz Series takes place on Friday nights. •Monday is literary night with the Stone Soup Poets performing. •Every Wednesday is a figure-drawing session. •Sunday is a vegan potluck supper, with live music and poetry.

Mallory Lake's series of Tuscan-inspired landscapes shows at the Pucker Gallery.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2051). Tues.-Sat., 11am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. •A multimedia installation, *Cold War Modern: the Domesticated Avant-Garde*, explores the avant-garde in art, music and design in the United States between 1945 and the early '60s. Through June 10, 2001. *Divine Mirrors: The Madonna Unveiled*, an exhibit that looks at the unifying theme of the Madonna in art, begins Nov. 4 and runs through Nov. 26.

Gallery One
New England School of Photography, 537 Commonwealth Ave, Boston (437-1868). 9am-5pm. daily. •Chris Faust's photographic exhibit *Midwest Perspectives: Landscape as Artifact* runs through Dec. 1.

Photographic Resource Center
602 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-0700). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford. Tue.-Sun., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-8pm. •*The Nature of Things*, a year-long exhibit from the Arboretum archives, displays through Sept. 8, 2001.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., Fourth Floor, Boston (267-7997). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 10am-5:30pm. •D.W. Meller's *Still Lives* represents decades of still-life photos taken in Prague, Amsterdam and London. Through Nov. 25.

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DRUG INTERACTION

Requiem for a Dream is not habit-forming. BY PAUL SHERMAN

Director Darren Aronofsky gave his first film, π, an appealing heightened reality through its visual edge. But that arthouse hit also had a penetrating story about a skid row mathematician obsessed with finding a numerical logic to the Bible and the world, which matched its herky-jerky black-and-white style. And, at least in a small way, marrying unconventional production values to an appropriate story primed audiences for *The Blair Witch Project*. The way Aronofsky conveyed the urgency of his mathematician was certainly important to the creative success of π. In his new adaptation of Hubert (*Last Exit to Brooklyn*) Selby's drug story, *Requiem for a Dream*, Aronofsky again fills his screen with characters plunging over the edge of rationality, but this time it's an exercise in style over substance.

Quick cuts galore, sped-up film, the wholesale use of a wide-angle lens and the occasional split screen are just some of the visual ploys the director uses to show the distorted realities of his Coney Island characters in *Requiem*. They include a rather nondescript protagonist, Harry (Jared Leto), his infomercial-watching mother (Ellen Burstyn), his girlfriend Marion (Jennifer Connelly) and his best friend Ty (Shawn Wayans). Split-screen dominates the opening, in which Harry and his mother have one of their apparently regular arguments because he wants to pawn her TV. He prevails, and he and Ty wheel away the set on its stand to exchange it for money that they immediately use to buy heroin.

In one of the movie's more successful devices, Aronofsky uses a quick-cut succession of images and sounds (drugs cooking in a spoon, readying a hypodermic needle, etc.) to quickly sum up the drug-taking process, and this one- or two-second montage becomes a[n] audio-visual Pavlovian mantra for the characters' regular trips to oblivion. Harry and Ty decide to chase their dream of getting rich by selling drugs, and soon they and Marion (a rich kid bent on defying her bourgeois parents) are swimming in drugs and money.

Aronofsky sets up a parallel situation for Harry's mom, who gets a phone call telling her she's been selected to be "on TV," and then obsesses about losing weight so she can fit into a beloved old red dress for her appearance. A prescription for diet pills soon follows, along with a frightening jump in her energy level and hallucinations as severe as any heroin addict's (though hers involve her favorite self-help infomercial and the food in her refrigerator).

Maybe back in 1978, when Selby's original story was published, equating narcotics addiction with prescription-drug addiction might have been an outlaw statement. But in the years since, in which the terms "detox" and "Betty Ford Clinic" have long ago entered the vernacular, that's become a pretty ho-hum premise on which to hang a movie. Similarly, the movie's desire to portray the horrors that sometimes come with taking drugs, not having drugs to take, or trying to get drugs is all familiar territory, and this particular treatment lacks the dark humor of, say, David Cronenberg's *Naked Lunch*. Such horrors include dementia for the mother, illness for Harry and sex acts for Marion (including a scene that earned the movie an NC-17, so it's been released unrated).

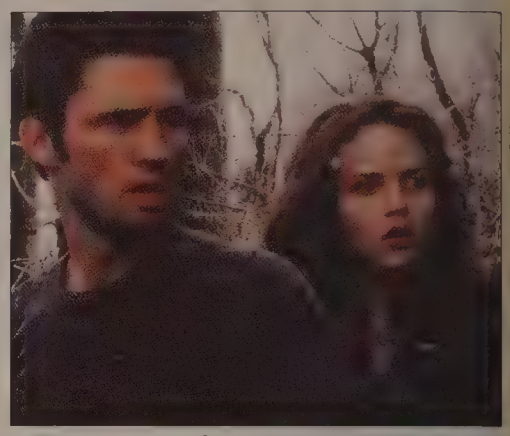
But even beyond the perhaps outdated points the movie makes, *Requiem* fails in its more basic story elements. Harry is a vague character with little definition (does he turn to drugs because he has an annoying Jewish mother who wants him to become a professional?), so you never really feel strongly for him. Marion is also defined only by her family background and the desire to open a clothes store, while Ty isn't defined at all (poor Wayans landed a semi-dramatic role, then got nothing to do). That leaves a significant amount of action with the mother, which means that the film devotes about 30 or 40 minutes to exhibiting the woman's foolishness, something that could have been achieved in five or ten. iB

Requiem for a Dream ★★

Written by Darren Aronofsky and Hubert Selby, Jr. Based on Selby's novel. With Jared Leto, Ellen Burstyn, Jennifer Connelly and Shawn Wayans. Not Rated. Lion's Gate Films.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN



Jeff Donovan and Erika Leerhsen say "What's that scary thing!" in *Book of Shadows: Blair Witch 2*.

Bamboozled ★★
Great first half, lousy second half. That's what you get when writer-director Spike Lee comes up with a fertile premise and a script that doesn't flesh it out. The fertile part is Damon Wayans as a TV writer fed up with his network's thirst for stereotypical blackness. So he proposes a blackface minstrel show to expose their narrow concept of African-Americans. To his horror, the show becomes a big hit. But even as a satire, this movie never convinces you that such a show could be a success. And when the second half tries to add character-driven drama, too, it never gives you enough information to empathize with the writer's dilemma. You never know how much of the show Wayans is actually writing (network meddling and an all-white staff of writers are referred to), and without that crucial information, the drama remains entirely vague.

Best in Show ★★★
Christopher Guest strikes again. The co-creator of *This Is Spinal Tap* and driving force of *Waiting for Guffman* supplies another laugh-filled, mostly improvised fake documentary, this time about people "showing" dogs in a prestigious Philadelphia dog show. These canine-obsessed folks include a stressed-out yuppie couple (Parker Posey, Michael Hitchcock), a Carolina hayseed (director-cowriter Guest), and SCTV vets Eugene Levy (who co-wrote) and Catherine O'Hara, who play another daffy husband and wife team, as they did in *Guffman*. Not having the musical-parody component of *Tap* and *Guffman* gives this film a little less to offer, but it's usually very funny, with comedy vets Michael McKean, Larry Miller and Fred Willard making memorabe contributions. And Guest's Harlan Pepper, a fly-fishing aspiring ventriloquist, adds another great to his gallery of unforgettable characters.

Billy Elliot ★★½
The Full Monty premise of English working-class characters trying to scrape up some dignity for themselves gets a decent reworking in this story, set in 1984 in a northern mining town. The title character (a delightful Jamie Bell) is the son and brother of striking coal miners, and his desire to take up ballet shakes their already-threatened masculinity. Although director Stephen Daldry sometimes clumsily injects some borderline fantasy sequences, and this has the predictability of a formula film, the lad's plight comes across with sincerity. So do the performances of Gary Lewis as his tough-skinned dad and Julie Walters as his equally flinty ballet teacher.

Book of Shadows: Blair Witch 2 ★★
The *Blair Witch Project* sequel amusingly draws from its predecessor's success, with a new group of people on a tour of the original's woodsy locations who have their own hellish experience (It also draws from director Joe Berlinger's earlier documentary, *Paradise Lost*). But self-referential plotting only gets it so far. This is a much more conventional group-dying-one-at-a-time story, and its hyper jumps between reality and hallucination and between past, present and future never adds up to much.

The Contender ★
Rod Lurie, the L.A. film critic turned writer-director, is making a career of ripping off Cold War thrillers from his youth, turning *Fail-Safe* into *Deterrence* last year, and now *Advise & Consent* into this inept D.C. potboiler. In this post-Clinton political thriller, the confirmation hearings of a female senator (Joan Allen) to fill the vacant vice-presidency turns into an ambush led by a scheming congressman (Gary Oldman). But if real-life hardball politics were as transparent as they are here, charlatans would be rooted out before they even made it to Washington. And few movies have as bogus a climax and as many poor performances from dependable actors (like Jeff Bridges) as this one does.

WITCH: ABBOT CENSER

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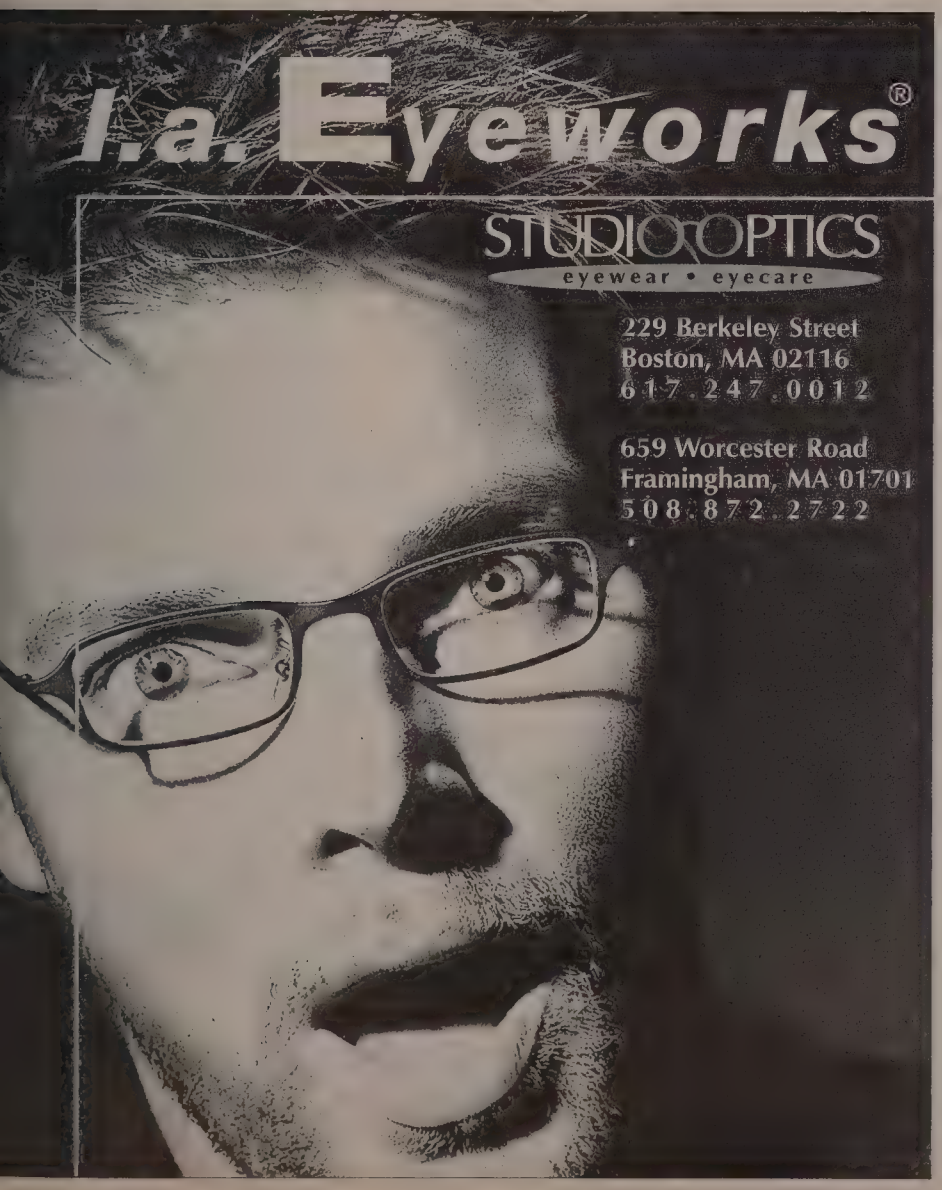

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Above: Bela Lugosi stars in *Dracula*. Below: Philip Glass leads the live musical score.

Preview

Dracula

Classical for classic

Once again, Philip Glass adds an aural dimension to a classic film—this time with the help of the Kronos Quartet. The live music adds even more thrills and chills to the 1931 film *Dracula*, directed by horror specialist Tod Browning and starring Bela Lugosi (far and away the scariest arch vampire). *Orpheum Theatre, Nov. 9, 7:30pm. $25-$50.*

Dr. T & The Women ★★
Robert Altman makes a poor Altmanesque movie about a Dallas gynecologist (Richard Gere) and the women driving him round the bend. It's Altmanesque because it has the sort of overlapping dialogue and large-case action the director pioneered in *M*A*S*H* and *Nashville*. It's poor because the tale penned by Anne Rapp isn't as funny as *M*A*S*H* or as involving as *Nashville*—not by half. Too many of the characters are here only to be mocked, like the doc's unstable wife (Farrah Fawcett), tipsy sister-in-law (Laura Dern) and all of his high-society patients. Then, of course, there's the problem of trying to sympathize with any character played by Richard Gere, an obstacle that *Dr. T* does not overcome.

The Legend of Drunken Master ★★★
After a decade of making more-modern stories, Jackie Chan made a very entertaining return to the traditional kung fu period piece in 1994's *Dragon Master 2*, sequel to one of the movies that made him a star in the late 1970s. Now, it has received an English dubbing and a new title for a belated American theatrical release. The latest version survives the translation just fine, and the film remains a blast. As the young purveyor of "drunken boxing" martial arts, Chan shows his usual resourcefulness in action and comedy, while Anita Mui is a hoot as his rowdy stepmom.

Meet The Parents ★★★
Just as John Cusack had *High Fidelity*, so Ben Stiller has *Meet the Parents*: A comedy in which he's playing the same sort of character he already has several times, but one which is so well done that it's still really entertaining. As a male nurse trying to impress the parents of the girlfriend he wants to marry (Teri Polo)—especially her intimidating dad (Robert DeNiro)—Stiller falls victim to similar misadventures as those in *Flirting With Disaster* and *There's Something About Mary*. But the interplay between Stiller and DeNiro is priceless. As in *Analyze This*, DeNiro shows great comic timing.

Pay It Forward ★
Yes, we're all emotionally scarred. But in this beyond-bad heartwarmer, that notion is conveyed by giving Kevin Spacey's social studies teacher burn scars over most of his body and by starting the movie with Helen Hunt's alcoholic single mom in hideous make-up that makes her look like a Halloween witch (so we can see her improved state of mind in her later improved looks). Such boneheaded literalness kills the story of Hunt's character's son (Haley Joel Osment of *The Sixth Sense*), who comes up with a social studies project to make society better, by having people repay favors by doing one for someone else, not for the person who did one for them (hence, paying it forward). The result is perhaps the most unconvincing, sappy human-interest story ever overstated.

Remember the Titans ★★
The real-life story of an Alexandria, Va., high school football team's 1971 racial integration—and state championship—gets the full-blown Hollywood treatment. Denzel Washington is the determined black coach installed in place of the veteran white coach (Will Patton) who begrudgingly becomes his assistant. The new coach forges a united team by making sure his players get to know each other and get beyond their fears. Director Boaz Yakin (*Fresh*), making his first studio movie, shovels on the story pretty thickly at times, even though the word "Vietnam" is never uttered (odd for a movie set in 1971 with 30 or 40 young men soon to be of draft age). But sometimes the conviction outweighs the hokum, particularly in the friendship between a black lineman (Wood Harris) and a white lineman (Ryan Hurst).

Rififi ★★★½
Blacklisted American director Jules (*Brute Force*) Dassin's 1955 French thriller—in re-release at the Brattle Theatre through Nov. 8—is one of the great heist movies. The centerpiece of the terse tale of thieves organizing, carrying out and then reaping the consequences of a jewelry store robbery is the heist scene. Played out with no dialogue or music, it's a fascinating, gripping sequence.

Two Family House ★★★
Set in 1956 Staten Island, writer-director Raymond De Felitta's film is smart, big-hearted drama. Michael Rispoli, a familiar face from his supporting roles in everything from *While You Were Sleeping* to *The Sopranos*, shines as an Italian-American Ralph Kramden chasing his dream of opening a tavern in the first floor of the house he buys. Along the way, race relations, marital squabbles and a romantic surprise all affect his destiny. Bittersweetly uplifting without being manipulative.

The Yards ★★★
Mark Wahlberg offers what might be his best performance yet as a Queens ex-con trying to keep his nose clean, but predictably attracting trouble again. Yet director and co-writer James Gray's sure hand keeps this basic plot from drifting into cliché. As he did with his earlier *Little Odessa*, Gray's lyrical grimness and understated direction turns this New York story—which also stars Joaquin Phoenix, Charlize Theron and James Caan—into a steadily simmering crime thriller.

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Cinemas
214 Harvard Ave. (277-2140). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
Trapelo Rd. (484-1706). Red Line to Harvard, 73 bus.

BOSTON

Boston Film • Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (536-1540). Green Line to Hynes.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.

Cheri
50 Dalton St. (536-2870). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Fenway Theatre General Cinema
201 Brookline Ave. (424-6266). MBTA: Green Line to Fenway or Kenmore.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum Of Science, Omni Theater
Science Park (723-2500). Green Line to Science Park.

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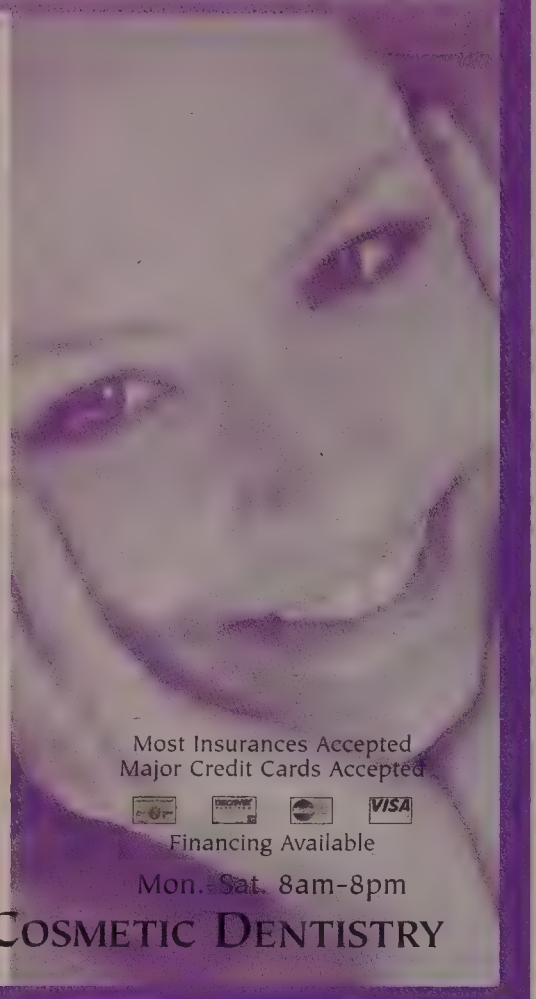

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Coolidge Corner
290 Harvard St. (734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theater
40 Brattle St. (876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (495-4700). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Sq. (494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony Theater
10 Church St. (864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

SOMERVILLE

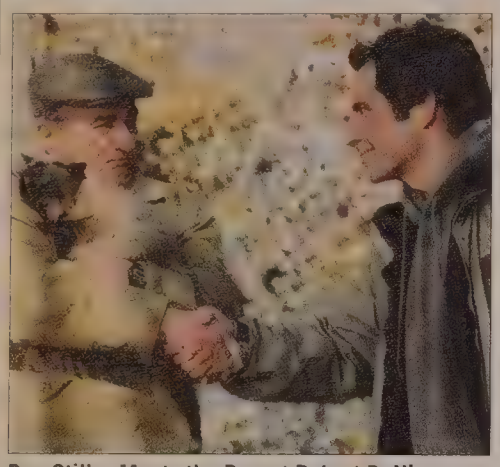
Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Sq.

Somerville Theater
55 Davis Square (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston. (277-2500). B Green Line to Chestnut Hill.

West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (964-6060).



Ben Stiller Meets the Parent Robert DeNiro.

Alternatives & Revivals

Advice to Contributors

Submit film listings by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers

Although film listings are correct at the time of publication, they are subject to change. Doublecheck showtimes by calling the theater or 333-FILM.

Brattle Theater

Most shows are $7, including double features.

Sundays: Marlene on Screen

•Nov 1 and 2, 1:30 and 3:30pm **Destry Rides Again** *1939.* George Marshall directs Dietrich and Jimmy Stewart in this Western spoof. Here, Stewart is out to tame an unruly town.

Special Engagements

•Nov. 2-9, 5, 7:30 and 10pm (Sat. and Sun. matinee 2:30pm) **Rififi** *1955.* This film is a classic heist story, with memorable characters and a legendary 30-minute sequence without dialogue.

•Nov 2-9, 10pm **Gimme Shelter** *1970.* This documentary covers the '69 concert with the Rolling Stones when the Hell's Angels served as security. The concert also featured Tina Turner and Jefferson Airplane.

Boston Public Library

The Immortal James Cagney

•Nov. 6, 6pm **Each Dawn I Die** *1939.* Cagney plays a reporter who is framed for manslaughter and winds up in prison. He subsequently meets a hardened prisoner (George Raft), and the two become friends.

•Nov. 13, 6pm **The Roaring Twenties** *1939.* Cagney is a bootlegger who runs into two old army buddies. The film also stars Humphrey Bogart, Priscilla Lane and Jeffrey Lynn.

***Simon Magus* screens Nov. 9 at the Museum of Fine Arts as part of the Boston Jewish Film Festival.**

Coolidge Corner Theater

Feature Engagements

•Nov 8 **The Wind Will Carry Us** *1999.* Director Abbas Kiarostami tells the story of a group of city folk who arrive at a small village in Iran to await the death of a 100-year-old woman.

Boston Jewish Film Festival

•Nov. 4, 7pm **Cours Toujours** *1999.* A French comedy about a couple that has trouble deciding on the best circumcision ritual. •Also showing: 9:15pm **Vulcan Junction** *1999.* Set in Israel in the 1970s, this film is about a group of friends who dream of leaving the suburbs.

•Nov. 5, 2pm **Maelstrom** *1998* and **King of the Jews** *2000. Maelstrom* follows a Dutch Jewish family from 1938 to 1942 using clips of family footage to show the Nazi takeover in Holland. •Also showing: 4pm **J.S. Bach in Auschwitz** *1999.* Michel Daeron's documentary examines the situation at Auschwitz using the testimonies of 12 of the Auschwitz Orchestra musicians. •Also showing: 7pm **Carfare City** and **The Pleasures of Urban Decay** *1999.* Ben Katchore acts as a guide through images of urban landscapes. •Also showing: 9pm **Barracks** *1999.* This film follows a small group of Soviets positioned in the mountains shortly after Stalin's death.

•Nov. 6, 6:30pm **The Jazzman from the Gulag** *1999.* Child prodigy and jazz musician Eddi Rosner is persecuted by the Nazis yet maintains his love of music. •Also showing: 8:30pm **Man of Ashes** *1986.* This story of a young man and his friends in a small Tunisian town portrays an unusually positive relationship between groups of Arabs and Jews.

•Nov. 7, 6pm **The Lost Lover** *1999.* A young girl discovers the connection between a young visitor and her parents' seemingly inexplicable sadness. •Also showing: 8:30pm **Les Yeux Baisses** *2000.* This film is the story of two friends who struggle with a troubled past.

•Nov. 8, 6pm **What I Saw in Hebron** *1999.* The documentary follows the director's grandmother and her written account of the Hebron Massacre of 1929. •Also showing: 8pm **Left Luggage** *1998.* Two Jewish families collide in this story set in Antwerp, when the daughter of Holocaust survivors becomes a nanny for an Orthodox Jewish family.

•Nov. 9, 6pm **Here Am I** *1999.* Drawn from the story of the binding of Issac in Genesis, this is the tale of a boy and a silent man who flee from their ruined village. •Also showing: 8pm **Paragraph 175** *2000.* This award-winning documentary reveals the seldom talked about history of homosexual persecution during World War II. •Also showing: 10pm **The Einstein of Sex** *1999.* This is the story of Jewish socialist Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld, best known for establishing the first gay political association.

•Nov. 10, 11am **Molly: The Goldbergs** *1950.* This film is based on a warm-hearted television series about the trials of a working class Jewish family.

•Nov. 10, 1:30pm **Sam Spiegel Shorts Program.** This is a presentation of retrospective work from the Sam Spiegel film school in Jerusalem, featuring *Cock Fight, In Broad Daylight, The Storyteller, Jerusalem* and *Sea Horses.*

•Nov. 11, 7:30pm **Inside Out** *1998.* When a Jewish woman's car breaks down in a small South African town, she is talked into directing the locals' Christmas play. •Also showing: 9:30pm. **Total Love** *2000.* Three friends concoct the ultimate love drug, TLV, and all fall in love with the same woman.

•Nov. 12, 1pm **Brownsville: Black and White** *2000.* Local filmmaker Richard Broadman tells a tale of racial separation in post World War II New York. •Also showing: 4pm **Fighter** *2000.* Two Czech survivors of World War II return to Europe to retrace one survivor's escape route. •Also showing: 7pm **Kippur** *2000.* An Israeli Air Force first aid team attempts to rescue a pilot in Syrian territory.

Harvard Film Archive

Boston Jewish Film Festival

•Nov. 7, 9pm **Desire to Know** *2000.* This film portrays the story of three secular Russians who find their way to Orthodox Judaism.

•Nov. 8, 9pm **Abraham Ravett Program.** This program features three films: *Everything's for You, In Memory* and *The March.*

Séance Screenings

•Nov. 12, 7pm **Two-Lane Blacktop** *1971.* This is the bizarre story of two men who drive cross country in their '55 Chevy looking for car races to drive in. They're both extremely devoted to their purpose, and the irony of this film is that they only speak when absolutely necessary.

New German Cinema

•Nov 1, 9pm **Kings of the Road** *1976.* Director Wim Wenders' road movie follows a mechanic and his partner as they drive through small towns along the border of the former East and West Germanies.

•Nov. 7, 9:30pm **The American Friend** *1977.* When a man is diagnosed with leukemia, he agrees to become a hitman to regain his family fortune. Zimmerman and the man who lures him into this shady subculture play roles parallel to those of the U.S. and Germany post-World War II.

•Nov. 13, 9pm **The Lost Honor of Katherine Blum** *1975.* Katherine is a young German maid who meets and has an affair with a man who is suspected of terrorism the day after they begin a relationship. Somehow, she is suspected, and the film centers around her plea for democracy and individual rights.

Recent Activist Cinema

•Nov. 3, 7pm and Nov. 10, 9pm **Butterfly** *2000.* This documentary tells the story of Julia "Butterfly" Hill, the young woman who protests the harvesting of old-growth forests by lumber companies. •Also showing: 9pm **This is What Democracy Looks Like** *2000.* This 70-minute documentary captures the series of events that transformed the Seattle WTO protests into the beginning of a new movement.

•Nov. 10, 7pm Nov. 12, 9pm **Trade Off** *2000.* The film introduces us to the organizers and power players on both sides of the "Battle in Seattle" demonstration with an on-site source of narration.

Topics in Film: Architecture

•Nov. 7, 7pm **The Fountainhead** *1949.* When an idealistic man is expelled from architecture school because he does not fit in, he struggles to retain his artistic integrity and pursue his talent elsewhere.

•Nov. 14, 6pm **Playtime** *1967.* The lovable Monsieur Hulot has to contact an American official in Paris, but gets lost in a maze of modern architecture that is filled with the chaos of the usual tourists.

Film and Visual Representation

•Nov. 1, 7pm **Craig's Wife** *1936.* This is the story of a domineering woman who marries for money in order to manipulate her own power and wealth.

•Nov. 8, 7pm **Tout Une Nuit** *1982.* This film traces the actions of two dozen people in the wordless atmosphere of a dark night in Brussels.

Non-Fiction Film

•Nov. 6, **Our Trip to Africa** *1966* and **Land of Silence and Darkness**, *1971. Our Trip* is the commissioned travelogue by filmmaker Peter Kubelka at the request of a German travel company. In *Land of Silence and Darkness,* director Herzog looks into the world of the deaf and blind population by focusing on a 56-year-old subject who is part of the community.

•Nov. 13, 7pm **W.R.: Mysteries of the Organism** *1971.* The plot centers around two young Yugoslavian girls who are not the typical "good girls." One is a politico, the other a sexpot, and the story line includes an affair with a visiting Russian skater.

Museum of Fine Arts

Boston Jewish Film Festival

•Nov. 2, 6pm **Borders** *1999.* This film documents the volatility surrounding the borders of Israel, Palestine and the surrounding countries. •Also showing: 7:30pm **All My Loved Ones** *1999.* This is the story of a family's decision to send their son to England.

•Nov. 5, 10:30am **Children's Program.** Four short films designed for a younger audience include: *Almonds and Wine, god@heaven, Personal Goals* and *Something from Nothing.* •Also showing: 12 pm **Timbrels and Torah's** *2000* and **Women of the Wall** *1999.* The film deals with women's transitions from midlife to their senior years. *Women* chronicles the struggle of women to pray at the *kotel,* or Western Wall. •Also showing: 2pm **Peace of Mind** *1999.* This looks at the friendships of seven Israeli and Palestinian teenagers who meet in America and struggle to maintain their relationships across political lines. •Also showing: 4pm **Scottsboro: An American Tragedy** *1999.* This tells of the Scottsboro rape trial, and the impact of Jewish defense attorney, Samuel Leibowitz.

•Nov. 9, 6pm **Emile Habibi-I Stayed in Haifa** *1997.* A documentary about the life of Habibi and his concern with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. •Also showing: 8pm **Simon Magus** *1999.* A film about a struggling village in the late 19th-century and the romantic quest of two men for the same woman.

•Nov. 10, 12pm **Jews and Buddhism** *1999* and **L.A. Mohel** *1999.* In *Jews,* Sharon Stone narrates the story of the history and connections of Judaism and Buddhism. *Mohel* is a short film about circumcision in America. •Also showing: 1:30pm **Hephzibah** *1998.* This is the life story of once-child prodigy Hephzibah Menuhin, from her youth in California to her later years on an Australian sheep farm and campaigning for human rights in London.

Boston Festival of Films from Iran

•Nov. 10, 6:15pm **Tales of an Island: The Lost Cousin** and **Testing Democracy** *2000. Lost Cousin* is a surreal fairy tale about the sea, a beautiful bride and a haunted filmmaker. *Testing Democracy* portrays the filmmaker participating in elections that hold the promise of change.

•Nov. 10, 8pm **Smell of Camphor, Fragrance of Jasmine** *1999.* This black-humored script follows a filmmaker who has not made a feature in more than 20 years. Then, while making a documentary for Japanese TV about Iranian burial customs, he decides to plan his own funeral.

•Nov. 11, 10:30am **Willow and Wind** *1999.* Adults and children alike will appreciate this story about a boy who encounters a terrible storm while on a mission to replace a broken window in his schoolhouse.

•Nov. 11, 2:15pm **Mokarrameh, Memories and Dreams** *1999* with **And There Was Creation** *2000. Mokarrameh* is a widow living in rural Iran who creates her first piece of art—a portrait of a cow—using mud and dung. *And There Was Creation* looks at other female Iranian painters as they speak about their lives as artists.

•Nov. 11, 4pm **The Girl in Sneakers** *1999.* This is the story of a 15-year-old runaway who is lost in the maze of Tehran. Shocking and direct, it neither condemns teenage idealism nor embraces the mundane nature of the adult world.

Also Showing

•Nov. 3, 6:30pm **Miss Blindsight: The Wingwall Auditions** *2000* and **Dog Days** *2000. Miss Blindsight* is what director Wendy Snyder MacNeil calls the focus of her film: a blind artist who photographs all she cannot see. *Dog Days* is the story of a suburban family surviving the last days of a future war.

•Nov. 3, 8pm and Nov. 4, 1pm **What's Cooking?** *2000.* Directed by Gurinder Chadha, this is the story of how four minority families—black, Jewish, Asian and Latino—must deal with gun violence, cheating spouses and lesbian lovers in the middle of Thanksgiving preparations.

•Nov. 4, 11am **Iditarod...A Far Distant Place** *2000.* The film documents the great lengths—both literal and mental—that mushers and dogs must traverse in the snowy, challenging climate of the notorious Iditarod Dog Sled Race.

•Nov. 4, 3pm **Arthur Rimbaud, a Biography** *1991.* Director Richard Dindo portrays this French poet, who is considered one of the great "immoral" poets of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

•Also showing: 8pm **Simon Magus** *1999.* Simon is an outcast in the Jewish community because he claims that the devil talks to him and that he can put a curse on crops.

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READINGS & SIGNINGS

Wednesday, Nov. 1

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
279 Harvard St., Brookline, (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner, 7pm. Free. **Eileen Myles**, author of *Chelsea Girls*, reads from her latest work, *Cool For You*. Myles is known in literary circles for being able to capture a moment, no matter how wrenching it is.

Wordsworth Books Reading Series
30 Brattle St. #1, Cambridge (354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 5:30pm. Free. **Mark Salzman**, author of *Lying Awake*, and photographer **Annie Leibovitz** (*Women*) speak at this special event.

Thursday, Nov. 2

Barnes and Noble Author Event
660 Beacon St., Reading Room Level 5, Boston (236-7421). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 12pm. Free. Author **Paule Marshall** reads from *The Fisher King: A Novel*. Marshall tackles the saga of an exiled jazz musician in the 1950s.

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
279 Harvard St., Brookline, (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free. Former veterinarian **Baxter Black** reads from his new book, *Cactus Trucks and Cowboy Philosophy*. This book is a collection of his poetry, songs and "wisdom," in which he deals with topics such as naked wrangling.

Harvard Book Store Author Series
The Bunting Institute, 34 Concord Ave., Cambridge (661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. **André Schiffrin** discusses *The Business of Books*. Also speaking is journalist **Nicholas Lemann** (*The Big Test*).

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. If you missed the lunchtime reading, here's another chance to hear author **Paule Marshall** read from *The Fisher King: A Novel*.

MIT's Writer's Series
Bldg. 10, Room 250, 77 Mass Ave. Cambridge (253-7894). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7 pm. Free. Pulitzer Prize winner **Jhumpa Lahiri** reads from her acclaimed work, *Interpreter of Maladies*.

New Words Bookstore Event
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 6pm. Free. **Becky Thompson** reads from *Mothering Without a Compass*, a story about a white lesbian who became a mother of an African American boy.

Rhythm and Muse Poetry
403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-6622). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook. 7:30pm. Free. Local poet **Anne Carroll Fowler** speaks as part of the Poets Share Reading Series. It's followed by an open-mike session.

Wordsworth Books Reading Series
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 5:30pm. Free. Author **Joseph Ellis** discusses his novel, *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation*.

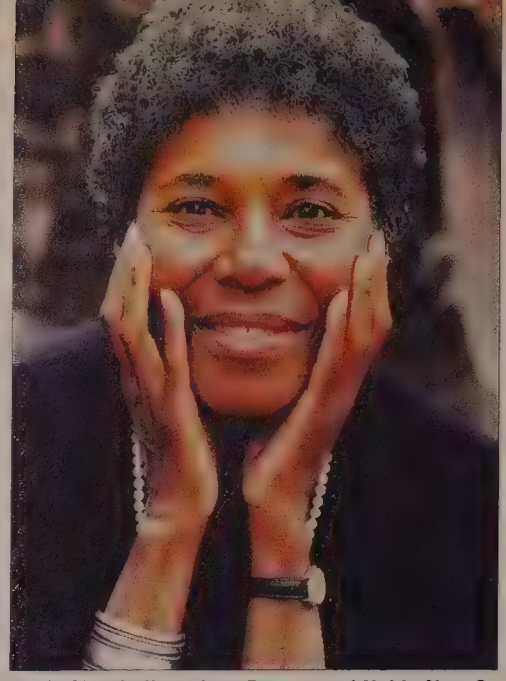
Friday, Nov. 3

New Words Bookstore Series
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 6pm. Free. The legendary indie poet **Eileen Myles** speaks about her book, *Cool For You*, about an Irish American girl trying to leave home.

Saturday, Nov. 4

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 6pm. Free. Revolutionary Voices editor **Amy Sonnie** and contributors host a reading of their collection of prose, poetry and artwork.

Blacksmith House Poetry Series
56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). 8:30pm. $8. Story teller **Laura Packer** and folk songwriter **Terry Kitchen** perform at Mixed Media, an evening of story and song.



Paule Marshall reads at Barnes and Noble Nov. 2.

Sunday, Nov. 5

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 3pm. Free. The bookstore brings together two leading writers of biography to celebrate the achievements of women. **Leslie Sills** talks about *In Real Life: Six Women Photographers* and **Liz Ketchum** talks about *Into a New Country: Eight Remarkable Women of the West*.

Monday Nov. 6

Blacksmith House Poetry Series
56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). 8:30pm. $3. Poets **Richard Jones** and **Erin Belieu** reads from their works, *The Blessing* and *One Above and One Below*.

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free. **Jonathan Lethem** and **Thisbe Nissen** read from their latest works. Lethem's *Motherless Brooklyn* won the National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction and Nissen's *Out of the Girl's Room and Into the Night* won the 1999 John Simmons Short Fiction Award.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free. Cambridge local **Lily King** reads from her first novel, *The Pleasing Hour*, about a young New Hampshire girl who sets out to be an au pair in France.

Wednesday, Nov. 8

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
279 Harvard St., Brookline, (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free. Boston resident **Lisa Carey** reads from her second novel, *In the Country of the Young*. A story of third generation Americans in Maine, who are visited by the ghost of one of their shipwrecked ancestors.

Grolier Poetry Series
Lower Common Room, Adams House, Entry C, 26 Plympton St., Cambridge (547-4648). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8-9pm. $2. **Joyce Wilson**, **Jean Pedrick** and **John Hildebidle** read from Nadya Aisenberg's posthumous collection, *Measures*. Aisenberg founded the Rowan Tree Press and taught at Wellesley and Tufts University.

Harvard Book Store Author Event
Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston St., Boston (661-1515). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6pm. **Peter Davison**, poetry editor of *The Atlantic Monthly*, reads from his new collection, *Breathing Room Poems*.

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. Cambridge's **Lily King** reads from her first novel, *The Pleasing Hour*, about a young New Hampshire girl who becomes an au pair in France.

Somerville Central Library
79 Highland Ave., Somerville (628-2313). 7pm. Free. Press poets **Doug Holder**, **Peter Desmond**, **Robert K. Johnson**, **David Pratt**, **Don DiVecchio** and **Lainie Senechal** read from their respective works.

Thursday Nov. 9

Barnes & Noble Author Event
660 Beacon St., Boston (236-7421). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Reading Room Level 5. 7pm. Free. **Ronald Tiersky** holds a discussion on his book, *Francois Mitterrand: The Last French President*.

Borders Bookshop Author Event
824 School St., Boston (557-4476). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. 6:30 pm. Free. Border's presents A Tapestry of Voices, with readings from UMass Lowell instructor **Michael Casey**, president of the New England Poetry Club **Diana Der-Hovanessian**, *Back to Back* author **Deborah Kang-Dean** and *The Ten Lights of God & Multitudes* author **Afaa M. Weaverer**.

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
279 Harvard St., Brookline, (566-6660). MBTA: C Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free. **David Ferry**, considered to be in the top of his field, reads from his book, *Dwelling Places: Poems and Translations*. **Fred Marchant** also reads from his new book, *Full Moon Boat*.

Harvard Book Store Author Event
Harvard Info Center. The Holyoke Center, 1350 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. **Gerald Holton** speaks about his latest work, *Einstein, History and Other Passions*.

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. **Jennifer Brown Baverstam** reads and discusses her translation of *City of My Dreams* by Per Anders Fogelstrom.

MIT's Writer's Series
Bldg. 10, Room 6-120, 77 Mass. Ave. Cambridge (253-7894). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7 pm. Free. **Siri Hustvedt** reads selections of her poetry.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free. **Ann Hood**, author of six novels including *Ruby* and *Somewhere Off the Coast of Maine*, reads from her latest effort, *Do Not Go Gentle: My Search for Miracles in a Cynical Time*.

New Words Bookstore Event
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 6pm. Free. Widely published author and dancer **Donna Allegra** reads from her novel, *Witness to the League of Blond Hip Hop Dancers*, a portrait of black lesbians set against the backdrop of West African jazz and hip-hop.

Friday Nov. 10

Grolier Poetry Series
Arthur M. Sackler Museum Lecture Hall, Cambridge (547-4648). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. $5. *Minding the Darkness: A Poem for the Year 2000* is the final installment of **Peter Dale Scott**'s trilogy, *Seculum*. Scott has won many awards for his poetry and also served as a Canadian diplomat for four years.

Harvard Book Store Friday Forum
1256 Mass. Ave, Cambridge (661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. **Martha Nussbaum** discusses her research as well as her new book, *Women and Human Development*.

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. Author **Joe Lavin**

Bestsellers

HARDCOVER FICTION
1. **The Night Listener** by Armistead Maupin
2. **The Amber Spyglass** by Philip Pullman
3. **When We Were Orphans** by Kazuo Ishiguro
4. **Shopgirl : A Novella** by Steve Martin
5. **A House Named Brazil** by Audrey Schulman
6. **Ghostwritten** by David Mitchell
7. **Lying Awake** by Mark Salzman
8. **Make Way For Ducklings** by Robert McCloskey
9. **Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban** by J.K. Rowling
10. **Perish Twice** by Robert B. Parker

HARDCOVER NON-FICTION
1. **On Writing** by Stephen King
2. **Brunelleschi's Dome** by Ross King
3. **The Business of Books** by Andre Schiffrin
4. **Nothing Like It in the World** by Stephen E. Ambrose
5. **The Beatles Anthology** by The Beatles
6. **Nine and Counting: The Women of the Senate** Edited by Barbara Mikulski and Kay Bailey Hutchison
7. **Black Mass** by Dick Lehr
8. **The Best American Recipes 2000** by Suzanne Hamlin and Fran McCullough
9. **Oy Vey!: The Things They Say!:** a compilation by Andrews McMeel Publishing
10. **Rules for Aging** by Roger Rosenblatt

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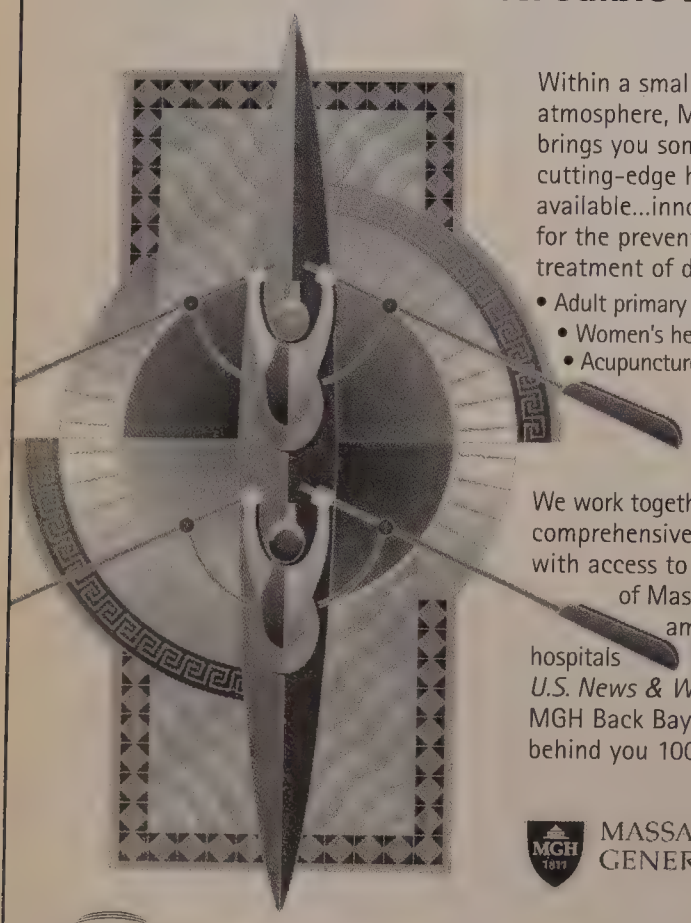

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holds a discussion and reads from his new book, *But I Digress...Humor Columns From The Web*. This local writer also appears in the *Globe* and the *Herald*.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Acclaimed journalist and and award-winning director **Dana Sachs** reads from her book, *The House on Dream Street: Memoir of an American Woman in Vietnam*.

Saturday Nov. 11

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 5:30pm. **Carrie Brown** reads from her third novel, *The Hatbox Baby*.

Sunday Nov. 12

New Words Bookstore Event
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 6pm. **Elizabeth Stark** reads from her story of the love between an independent girl and Sasha, her shy next door neighbor, in the novel *Shy Girl*.

Monday Nov. 13

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. **Andrew Sobel** is on hand to discuss his latest work, *Clients For Life*, which is acclaimed for its content on how to improve client relations in business.

Brattle Theatre Event
30 Brattle St. #1, Cambridge (354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 5:30pm. Free. Wordsworth sponsors the Antiques Roadshow's **Leigh** and **Leslie Keno**, who are appearing to support their new book, *Searching for Masterpieces of American Furniture*.

Tuesday Nov. 14

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
Coolidge Corner Theater, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. $2. English novelist **Jeanette Winterson** reads from her soon-to-be-released book, *The Powerbook*.

Griot's Corner Poetry Event
256 Brattle St., Cambridge. (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. $15. A griot is a storyteller in traditional West African culture whose role is to preserve the oral history of the village. This oral storytelling event features **Steve Quintana**, who presents a workshop on Santeria, the traditional religion of Cuba.

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. **Jean Roverol** discusses her book about struggling Hollywood screenwriters in the 1950s, *Refugees From Hollywood*.

ONGOING

Agape, Tuesdays
The Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (266-6710). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8pm-10pm. Every Tuesday, this somewhat sophisticated poetry group gathers to share versions of their latest work.

Cantab Lounge, Wednesdays
738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8-10pm. $3. Wednesday nights at the Cantab always pack in more than 30 poets in just two hours for open mike and a slam.

Club Passim, Tuesdays
47 Palmer St., Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. $5. All open-mike fanatics must experience this open-mike night—a training ground for up-and-coming poets. Sign up Tuesdays, 7:30pm.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Night, Sundays
1667 Mass Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. $4 cover. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes for the featured poet.

O'Brien's Pub, Mondays
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. A mix of rock and spoken word is performed one Monday a month at 9pm—the performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry Night, Saturdays
Out of the Blue Gallery, 168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. Every Saturday is poetry night, and a spoken-word and music event also takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month. It features music by Rob Gonzalez and poetry by Nola Kelley.

Rhythm and Muse Open Mike, Thursdays
403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-6622). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook. A headlining poet is followed by an open-mike session every first Thursday of the month.

Stone Soup Poetry Night, Mondays
Zeitgeist Gallery, 312 Broadway St, Cambridge (227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7:30pm. $3. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets have served up soothing inspirations with their weekly readings. Keep the good vibes going Mondays with a wealth of featured writers.

education

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Education. Or e-mail information to education@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

CLASSES/LECTURES

Wednesday, Nov. 1

The Missing Middle
Cambridge Forum, The First Parish, 3 Church St., Cambridge (495-2727). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. **Theda Skocpol**, professor of sociology at Harvard University, examines the impact of federal policies that target either the very poor or the very rich.

An Evening with Director Sam Weisman
First and Second Church, 66 Marlborough St., Boston (267-4430). 7-9pm. $27. **Sam Weisman** has directed more than 150 television episodes and several films, including The *Out-of-Towners* and *George of the Jungle*. His latest is *What's the Worst That Could Happen?* with Danny Devito.

Thursday, Nov. 2

America's First Families
John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (929-4500). 5:30-7pm. Author **Carl Anthony** takes a close look at America's first families in the White House from the Adams to the Clintons.

Campaign 2000: The Election That Will Change the Past
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). 12:15-1pm. $5. **Bruce Schulman**, professor of history at B.U., examines the impact of the 2000 election on our historical view of the presidency.

Landscape as Art
CCAE, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). 8pm. $5. Frederic Law Olmsted's influence in Boston is so profound that it is visible in almost every part of the city where there are trees. Join artist **David Rollow** as he examines Olmsted's work in words and pictures.

Our Bodies, Ourselves: Then and Now
BAEP, 115 Greenough St., Brookline (730-2700). 7-9pm. $5. **Joan Ditzion**, founder, board member and co-author of all editions of *Our Bodies, Ourselves*, discusses the history of the Women's Health Book Collective.

Saturday, Nov. 4

Spend Smart
John Hancock Conference Center, 40 Trinity Place, Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 10am-1pm. $38. Learn tips on how to improve your financial situation without getting a pay raise. Explore 101 proven ways to save on all aspects of your life.

Wednesday, Nov. 8

The End of Homework
Cambridge Forum, The First Parish, 3 Church St., Cambridge (495-2727). 7:30pm. Educators **Etta Kralovec** and **John Buell**'s new book argues that in today's schools, homework has become a burden that does not help students learn but undermines their social and emotional health. [editor's note: Are they serious??]

Gas, Food & Lodging: A View Inside from the Roadside
Boston Architectural Center, 320 Newbury St., Boston (262-5000). 6pm. Architect **Daniel Vieyra**, author of *Fill 'Er Up: An Architectural History of America's Gas Stations*, speaks on American roadside architecture.

Thursday, Nov. 9

Wall Street and Biodiversity
New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, Boston (973-5200). 7pm. Free. **Robert Costanza**, Ph.D., asks: Why does the state of the global economy have such influence on the health of the environment.

Tuesday, Nov. 14

What Happened in Last Week's Election?
John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (929-4500). 5:30-7pm. **Mickey Edwards**, former Republican congressman from Oklahoma; **Paul Kirk**, former chairman of the DNC; and **Rick Davis**, former campaign manager for Senator John McCain, examine the election results and their effect upon the country's political future.

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Nights

Mondays

Ceremony
An Tua Nua. Pounding goth and industrial music shakes the house.

Cabaret
Encore Lounge. Show tunes and Cabaret.

Language
Hibernia. This incredible drum and bass night is heated up with Cosmo. 8pm. 21+.

Monsta Monday
Bill's Bar. DJ Kaptain Krunch kicks off the week. 9pm. $5. 18+.

Sissy K's
The Financial District's hot spot has live acoustic music downstairs and DJs spinning top-40, R&B and dance upstairs. $5.

Static
Axis. DJ Jay Ine delivers Hardhouse and UK Progressive. Plus a drag/strip event with Mizery. 10pm, $5. 19+.

Vertigo Mondays
Vertigo. Caesar and Giorgio throw a chic party for those who want to never stop dancin'. Dress slick. 10pm. No cover.

Tuesdays

Fat Tuesdays
Bill's Bar. This off-the-hook night features DJ Chaos scratching out hip-hop. 10pm. $12, 18+.

Flaunt
Aria. Hip-hop and R&B with guest DJs. 19+, $10.

The Forum
Lava Bar. Join Mission Control and support the local DJ scene as home-grown talents share the floor. 10pm. 21+.

Got Milk?
Venu. If you're chic you'll be at Venu for Milk—a devilishly hip party with DJ Osheen. Dress is funky. 21+.

Lot 36
Embassy. DJ Eddie K. heats things up with progressive Euro House at the city's hot club. 10pm. $15. 19+.

Hibernia
The DJ Lounge is perfect for a relaxed night out on a Tuesday. 7pm.

Mingle Tuesdays
The Modern. This spot screams sophistication. With DJs, a raw bar, vodka bar and late lounge. 10pm. 21+.

Showtunes
Encore Lounge. Bobby Femino plays the classic piano bar show tunes.

Sissy K's
The Financial District's hot spot has live acoustic music downstairs and DJs spinning top-40, R&B and dance upstairs. $5.

Wednesdays

Backstage
DJ Jonny C. spins top-40 dance. 10pm, no cover. 21+.

College Night
The Aquarium. Guest DJs spin all sorts of tunes at this relatively new venue at 10pm.

Encore Lounge
Michelle Curie plays blues and jazz at the piano bar.

Funk and Groove
Bill's Bar. DJ Tim Collins spins live funk, soul and hip-hop. 9pm. $5. 18+.

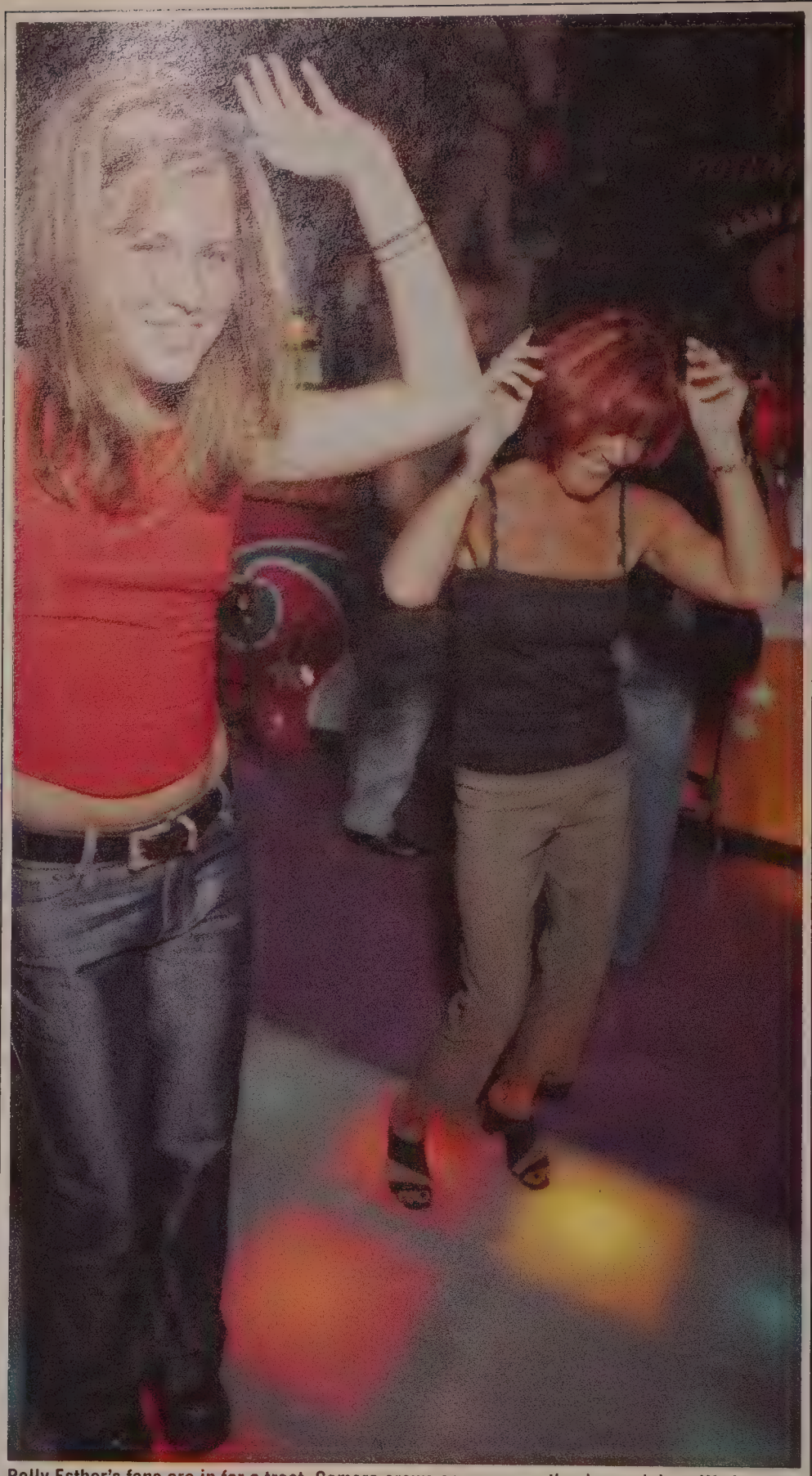
Groove Lounge
Downstairs at The Exchange. This lounge has it all—house, funk and soul.

Hedonism
Upstairs at The Exchange. DJ Infinite and DJ Luca provide the soundtrack for you sweaty and ready dancers to be naughty to. 21+.

Latin Night
The Aquarium. This aquatic-themed Davis Square club offers dance lessons from 9pm-10pm.

Mason
Hiberbnia. Perfect Downtempo and house music, complete with funky breaks.

Pravda 116
Spend the night at one of the city's most decadent hot spots—set to beats by DJ Alex and DJ Felix. 21+.



Polly Esther's fans are in for a treat. Camera crews converge on the danceclub on Wednesday nights to film clubbers for the USA network's new dance show, *House Party USA*.

Preview

House Party

Polly Esther's puts Boston in the dance TV national spotlight

Attention *Solid Gold* wannabes: Your 15 minutes may have arrived. As of Oct. 18, Wednesday nights at Polly Esther's are footage nights—and that's not some sort of dancing euphemism. Polly Esther's is producing a club version of *American Bandstand*, filming dancers from each of the 14 Polly Esther's/Culture Club nightclubs across the country for their weekly national TV show, *House Party USA*. Clubbers can still gear up in mod outfits—dressing as your favorite Brady never gets old.

And if you're a night owl, you just might get to see yourself on the tube—*House Party* airs Sunday nights at 2am on the USA network, beginning Nov. 5. Each episode shows roughly two weeks after the taping. *House Party USA* is hosted at a different Polly Esther's each week, but the biggest House Party of them all will be here in Boston Nov. 29.

Sissy K's
The Financial District's hot spot has live acoustic music downstairs and DJs spinning top-40, R&B and dance upstairs. $5.

Thursdays

Aquarium
The Kiss 108 FM dance party. 10pm. $3.

An Tua Nua
Top 40, old school, hip-hop, house and soul spun by DJ Tim Collins.

Backstage
Tonight's adrenaline high features special guest DJs spinning all sorts of top-40 dance and club classics. 10pm, $5. 21+.

Big Easy
This hot New Orleans-themed nightspot has it all—even billiards. 9pm.

Charlie's Angels Night
Polly Esther's. Dance to '70s, '80s or '90s tunes. 8pm, $5.

Chrome
Axis. Resident DJs John Debo and Ali Ajami spin house and trance. 10pm, $10. 19+.

College Night
The Exchange. Bring your college ID and party to house, hip-hop, R&B and reggae. 9pm, 19+.

Downtempo Lounging
The Modern. DJ Ricky Fatts spins while you enjoy the raw bar and vodka bar. 9pm-2am, 21+.

Embassy Thursday Nights
DJ Anthony hosts Latin Lounge. 10pm, $15, 19+.

Encore Lounge
Michelle Curie plays blues and jazz at the piano bar.

Europa
Enter Club Destiny for DJ Rip's house and trance.

Fashion House
Aria. Fashion shows and DJ Roger spinning house. It's also Greek Night in the Angel Room. $10, 21+.

Graduate School Night
Pravda 116. DJ Maric spins tunes to relax you.

Heaven
Comedy Connection Backstage. Music by DJs Johnny C and Freddie C. Proper dress. 10pm. No cover.

Hibernia Thursdays
DJ Jeremy spins loopy, trippy, trip-hop. 7pm.

Il Panino
A social playground for young professionals. 9pm. 21+.

International Thursday
Avalon. A mixed crowd fills this popular nightspot as DJ Manolo pumps out progressive Euro House. 10pm, $15. 19+.

Latin Quarter
The Roxy. You know it's time to get down when the Roxy breaks out Latin dance mixes. 10:30pm, 21+.

The Modern
International Thursdays features R&B classics. 10pm, $15, 19+.

Sissy K's
The Financial District's hot spot has live acoustic music downstairs and DJs spinning top-40, R&B and dance upstairs. $5.

Speed
Karma. Resident DJs Bruno spin house to an edgy crowd. 10pm, $12. 19+.

Sugar Shack
The best music from three decades pounds through the festival atmosphere where every day is Mardi-Gras.

Sweetwater Cafe
Live bands perform while guests sip margaritas.

The List
Lava Bar. *Lavabar.com*. DJ 7L and guests along with Verse/D bring you soul and funk. 10pm. 21+.

Underground
Bill's Bar. DJ Mark Hamilton showcases up and coming acts and established bands. 9pm. Cover varies, 18+.

Venu
DJ Nailz spins to a huge college crowd. 19+.

Fridays

Aquarium
DJ Lu spins today's hottest dance hits.

An Tua Nua
DJ Vinny puts together a great night of top-40 hits and your favorites from the '70s, '80s and '90s.

American Karma
Karma. All-star American top-40 remixes with DJ Tim Collins, live on STAR 93.7. 9pm, $8, 19+.

Avaland
Avalon. Everything about this place screams "Party!" With Ali Ajami and special guest DJs. 10pm, $15. 19+.

Backstage
DJ Jonny C spins top-40. 10pm, $5. Proper dress, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans–themed nightspot has some of the best mainstream DJs in town.

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November 16-18

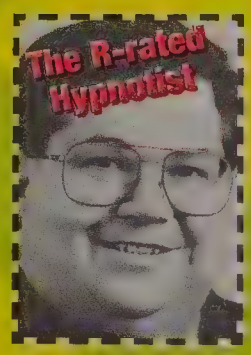
JIM BREUER
November 19

CRAIG SHOEMAKER
November 24-25

JEFF DUNHAM
December 1-3

MARGARET CHO
December 8-9

ANTHONY CLARK
December 27



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Buzz Fridays
Buzz. Roger M lays down Latin house tracks while DJs pay homage to the house music gods. 11pm, $15. 19+.

Cabaret
Encore Lounge. John O'Neil and Jan Peters sing showtunes and cabaret.

Envy
This popular destination is filled with a mass of sweaty 'n' ready dancers. 9pm, $5 after 10pm. 21+.

Exchange Fridays
The Exchange. Up High, Tiziano and Maurizio, play house trip while DJ G-Squared opens the Vault. 9pm.

Focus at Hibernia
Cocktails with Alan Strack and deep house. 10pm, 21+.

Life
Lava Bar. Dance to a different drummer with DJ Fran Englehardt's deeply rooted, soulful rhythms. 10pm.

Mondo Bar
Roxy. International and house music with resident DJs Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. 10:30pm, 21+.

NYC Jukebox
All the disco and rock you can handle. 9pm, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ Mario spins current dance music at this hot spot.

Revolution
Embassy. Find Latin and progressive Euro House here with DJ Eddie K. 10pm, $15, 19+.

Sissy K's
This new hot spot has live acoustic music downstairs and DJs spinning top-40, R&B and dance upstairs. $5.

Spin Cycle
Axis. Glitzed-out club hoppers shake it to the beats of DJ Tim Ryan and DJ David James. 10pm, $12. 19+.

Sugar Shack
DJs and specialty drinks, dancing 'til 2am.

Sweetwater Cafe
DJs KC and Jonesey entertain on two floors.

Venu
The scene is elegant for this jacket-required international romp. Get your Gucci on as DJ Arsit spins. 21+.

Saturdays

Aquarium
Saturday night dance party with DJs. 10pm. $5.

An Tua Nua
DJ Tim Collins mixes top-40, hip-hop, house and soul.

Downtown
Avalon. Resident DJs Manolo and Mattie O. gyrate your arse with hits and club classics. 10pm, $15. 21+.

Backstage
DJ Freddie C spins top-40 dance and club classics. 10pm. $5. Proper dress, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans–themed nightspot has live bands all weekend. Thirsty? There are four bars to boot.

Blues
Encore Lounge. Shake off your blues and listen to honky-tonk, classic and contemporary rock.

Classic Saturdays
Embassy/The Modern. DJ Eddie K puts out classic Euro House for the A-list. 10pm, $15, 19+.

Club Juliana
Boogieing cuties converge on Boston's newest Latin Night starting at 10pm. Dress to impress. $10.

Club Nicole
The mob is thick for this exclusive trendsetter. DJ Alex spins Eurohouse. Jackets required. 21+.

Club Piteko
Fajitas & Ritas' hot spot juggles sounds. $7. 21+.

Downtown Saturdays at Avalon
DJ Monolo spins progressive house. 10pm, $15, 21+.

Envy
DJ Tom Baxter blasts top-40, house and dance. 9pm, $5.

Elements of Life
Karma. Guest DJs spin house while DJ Justin Hoffman spins hip-hop, funk and soul. 10pm, $15, 19+.

Exchange Saturdays
Guest DJs spin house, hip-hop and top-40 tunes.

Hibernia Saturdays
Steve Porter whips the crowd into a frenzy. 10pm. 21+.

Indulgence
Aria. DJ Raffi spins house and club top-40. In the Angel room, DJ Roger spins Latin and Eurohaus. $10, 21+.

Lava Bar
Anything Goes. DJ Fran and Kris Kono unite with high-energy house and Latin beats. 10pm, 21+.

Miami Club Night
Club Joy/Yesterday's. Get a taste of Miami nightlife. 9:30pm (ladies free before 11pm), $10. 21+. Ladies, 19+.

Mischief
The Modern. Feeling mischievous? Ultra lounging with decadent desserts and erotic electronica. 21+.

Mythos
Venu. It's Greek International night with DJ Yorgo Jr. spinning the hits from the famous party islands.

NYC Jukebox
Disco and rock hits. 9:30pm, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ Mario provides current dance jams.

Roxy Saturdays
High-energy house and dance by DJ Adilson. 9pm, 21+.

Saturday Night Fever
Polly Esther's. Groove to three decades' worth of beats in the laser-lit Club DVD. 8pm, $10. 21+.

Sissy K's
The hot spot has acoustic music downstairs and DJs spinning top-40, R&B and dance upstairs. $5.

Smile
Bill's Bar. DJ Bruno takes over. 10pm. $12. 19+

Sugar Shack
Spice up your night with '70s, '80s and '90s dance music as DJ Rich Centi spins the hottest sounds.

Sweetwater Cafe
Music from DJs KC and Jonesey on two floors.

Who's on First?
Some of the latest and greatest in hip-hop, reggae, R&B and Latin is hosted by Lil' Mike, 10:30pm, $12. 18+.

X night
Axis. Hear DJs Mike Gioscia and David James spin alternative rock and the hits from the '80s. 10pm, $10. 21+.

Sundays

Backstage
Urban Night. T Clark spins hip-hop, reggae and old school. Doors open at 10pm, $10. 21+.

Common People
An Tua Nua. Brit-pop, new wave, indie and more with DJ Adrienne. 9pm, $3. 19+.

Encore Lounge
Saddle up to the piano bar and listen to Michael Kreutz play showtunes.

Evening in the Velvet Lounge
Trio. Oscar's Sunday night has moved to the newest hot spot in town, where you can kick back and lounge. No cover, 10pm.

Il Panino
This night features music by DJ Alex of Boston Beat and DJ Roger M. No cover, 21+.

Lava Bar
Pandora's Box (Club Courtesy). DJ Vinny and Sir Richard and Sterling spin '60s Exotica, loungecore, psychedelic flowerpop and Motown. 10pm. 21+.

Living Room
Aria. DJ Raffi spins Eurohouse. In the Angel Room, DJ Franklin spins Latin. $10, 21+. Proper dress.

Red Square Lounge
Pravda 116. Party in the front bar that is transformed into a comfortable lounge. 10pm-2am.

Reggae Sundays
Bill's Bar. DJ K-Don spins some of the best reggae around. 10pm. $10. 21+.

Salvation
An intimate night, courtesy of DJ Soul. $5.

Venu
Carnival comes to Boston every Sunday as DJ Adilson brings the heat of Rio to Venu. 21+.

Club Venues

AnTua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (262-2121).*
Aquarium *65 Holland St., Somerville (623-3200).*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (437-0300).*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424).*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437).*
Backstage *245 Quincy Place, Boston (726-1110).*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678).*
Buzz/Europa *51-67 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939).*
Club Juliana *20 Hudson St., Boston (542-4411).*
Club Nicole *40 Dalton St., Boston (236-4746). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*
Club Piteko *25 West St., Boston (426-1222).*
Club Stella *1234 Soldiers Field Rd., Brighton (254-0554).*
Comedy Connection *Faneuil Hall, Boston (726-1110).*
Embassy *36 Lansdowne St., Boston (536-2100).*
Encore Lounge *279 Tremont St. Boston (338-7699).*
Envy *25 Boylston Place, Boston (542-3689).*
Europa *51 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939).*
Exchange *148 State St., Boston (726-7601).*
Hibernia *25 Kingston St., Boston (292-2333).*
Karma *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9595).*
Lava Bar *575 Comm. Ave., Boston (267-7707).*
NYC Jukebox *275 Tremont St., Boston (542-1123).*
Oskar's *107 South St., Boston (542-6756).*
Polly Esther's *262 Friend St., Boston (720-1966).*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (482-7799).*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699).*
Salvation *20 Hudson St., Boston (781-668-2392).*
Sissy K's *6 Commercual St., Boston (248-6511).*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510).*
Sweetwater Cafe *5 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2515).*
Trio *174 Lincoln St., Boston (357-TRIO).*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (338-8061).*
Vertigo *126 State Street, Boston (723-7277).*

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—*Bon Appétit* magazine, June 2000

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FUNDAMENTAL FOLK

Greg Brown eschews genre-jumping and modern gimmicks to stay true to folk's roots. BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

Greg Brown ponders the role of a folk troubadour in the new millennium. "There's something really kinda comical and brave about it these days," he admits, before recalling a comment by Bob Dylan that "One person with a guitar can still have so much power."

"[With] all this amazing techno stuff that you see on TV, and what's done with production," Brown says, "there's something still so powerful about one or two people beating on a wooden box."

Brown could well be referring to himself and guitar partner/producer Bo Ramsey, who play the Somerville Theatre Nov. 10, the same night Dylan happens to be across town for a closed show at Boston University. Like Dylan, Iowa-native Brown is widely regarded as a

Brown believes in the power of one man and a guitar.

singer-songwriter at the top of his class, not so much for beating his box as for infusing songs with witty, insightful poetry. His 1996 album *Further In* earned a four-star review from *Rolling Stone*. Brown received Grammy nominations for both 1993's *Friend of Mine* (a collaboration with New England peer Bill Morrissey) and 1997's *Slant 6 Mind*. And his new CD *Covenant* hypnotizes with its own resonant power of simplicity. Yet Brown gladly lurks under the radar.

"One thing I like about folk music is it's off in the shadows," says Brown, 51, from his Iowa home. "It is still kind of a community-based thing and one thing I like about my gigs, and going around, is getting these various communities of people together."

"One thing that used to trouble me when I looked at the scene in general was that I saw a lot of old farts such as myself, and I thought, 'Hmm, we need some young blood,'" adds Brown, crediting Ani DiFranco as an independent artist who has brought new life to the folk scene. "I hope it will continue that way: Bring new elements to it, but keep that community-based feel, and keep it out of the hands of Sony."

He just finished a short tour with DiFranco and Gillian Welch, and DiFranco is recording a Brown tribute album with Lucinda Williams and others. "It's going to be interesting to hear all these different versions of the songs," he says. "I've heard Lucinda's. She did a song called 'Lately' and just did a beautiful job on it. It made me proud to have written that song."

Brown should be proud of many of his songs. *One Night*, a recently re-released live recording from 1982, reminds of his early mastery, evidenced by such gems as "Canned Goods" (about one grandmother who put "a taste of summer" in jars) and "Ella Mae," about his grandmother on his father's side.

"My dad's brothers and sister and his folks were wonderful storytellers, and his mother was a poet and a naturalist," says Brown, whose father was a Pentecostal preacher, while his mother played electric guitar. "A lot of people, if they want to be a writer or a performer of one kind or another, they kinda have to run that parental gauntlet. And in my case, my parents were very supportive."

While blues and rock'n'roll were fair game in the house, he says, "There was a lot of church music. It was really hill music mostly. Southern Iowa, that little area down there, has a lot more in kin with, say, Appalachia or Tennessee. Just north of there, you get out of that music pretty quick. But it's all coal-mining country. Poor dirt, and poor people. Little farms, grubby little farms."

You can still hear a grubby drawl in Brown's deep, distinct voice, matched by bluesy grooves inspired by Tony Joe White ("Polk Salad Annie") on *Covenant*.

"I think of a covenant as a loving agreement as opposed to a contract," Brown says. "The songs are just about the ways we try to love each other, and when it works and when it doesn't work, and why."

But his vignettes truly come to life onstage. "Life changes," he says, "and if I have a song that I can take out and it can change according to that night and mood and the feeling in the theater, if the song has that kind of life to it, it will last."

Brown is taking a year off from performing in 2001, however, to garden, collaborate with friends and explore a new way of writing (in the wake of a new limited-edition book of his notebook "scraps"). "I don't really want to talk about it because it's not fully formed," Brown says of the writing. "I'm superstitious, so I don't want to scare it off." iB

Greg Brown

Plays the Somerville Theater Nov. 10.

Advice to Contributors

Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fax (859-1446); by mail to Calendar/Music; or by email to music@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, phone numbers and nearest T stops. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers

Information for the music section is compiled from different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double check dates and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

Concerts

Agent Orange
Nov. 11, Axis

A.F.I., Rancid and the Distillers
Nov. 7, Avalon

Badly Drawn Boy
Nov. 3, Paradise

Greg Brown and Mustard's Retreat
Nov. 10, Somerville Theatre

Buffalo Tom
Nov. 2, Paradise

Burning Spear and his Burning Band
Nov. 9, Roxy

Deep Banana Black Out and Foxtrot Zulu
Nov. 11, Worcester Palladium

Bob Dylan
Nov. 11, Tsongas Arena

Little Feat and Jiggle the Handle
Nov. 3, Worcester Palladium

Indigenous and Joe Bonamassa
Nov. 10, Paradise

Bon Jovi and Less Than Jake
Nov. 8, FleetCenter

Sammy Hagar
Nov. 4, Avalon

Eliades Ochoa and Cuarteto Patria
Nov. 14, Berklee Performance Center

Foo Fighters and Queens of the Stone Age
Nov. 9, Worcester Palladium

Less Than Jake
Nov. 9, Worcester Palladium

Natalie MacMaster
Nov. 10, Sanders Theatre

The Mingus Big Band
Nov. 3, Berklee Performance Center

Peter Murphy
Nov. 6, Axis

The Shaolin Warriors
Nov. 4, Orpheum

The Rachels and Matmos
Nov. 1, Brattle Theatre

Rock Stock
The Sheila Divine, Six Going on Seven, Rical Schools United by Fate, the Movie Life, Steady Roosevelt, River City High, Slower Than Seasons, Around the World, 5th Hour Hero and the Log Six
Nov. 5, Worcester Palladium

311
Nov. 5, Avalon

Mark Turner
Nov. 2, Berklee College of Music

Type O Negative
Nov. 1, Avalon

Whirling Dervishes of Turkey
Nov. 1, Sanders Theatre

Stephen Fearing plays at Club Passim Nov. 5.

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◀ Dimitri From Paris
Disco Forever [14"/3cd set]
French mixmaster Dimitri is back with a monumental 3 disc homage to the best of today's underground disco. Features tracks from Brainstorm, Milton Hamilton, Eastside Connection, and more.

◀ Linkin Park
Hybrid Theory
[9"/cd]
Built on an aggressive hard rock foundation, flavored with hip-hop vocal stylings and electronic flourishes, check out "One Step Closer" from Linkin Park's first album.

◀ Samantha Mumba
Gotta Tell You [12"/cd]
17 year old Samantha Mumba breaks out on her debut album with sass & attitude and the skillz to back them up. Check out the hot single "Gotta Tell You!"

◀ DJ Hurricane
Don't Sleep [12"/cd]
World-renowned turntablist DJ Hurricane comes correct on Don't Sleep. Featuring guest appearances by Adrock, Black Thought, Talib Kweli, Rah Digga, Public Enemy, and Xzibit.

Doves ▶
Lost Souls [12"/cd]
Manchester pop trio Doves release their eagerly awaited first full length album, after receiving rave, "next big thing" reviews in the English press.

Martin Sexton ▶
Wonder Bar [12"/cd]
Well regarded for his breathtaking song writing and remarkable vocal skills, Martin Sexton follows up his critically acclaimed album "The American" with a collection of 11 new songs.

Nelly Furtado ▶
Whoa Nelly! [8"/cd]
The songs on Canadian born, Portuguese firebrand Nelly Furtado's debut album range from R&B to hip hop inflected Brazilian grooves, to traditional Portugese Fado. Don't miss this multi-cultural musical thrill ride.

Mocean Worker ▶
Aural & Hearty [9"/cd]
The third album from Mocean Worker is a diverse collection of sonic experiments, featuring guest vocals from Carol C and U2's Bono.

Poe ▶
Haunted [9.98/cd]
On the long-awaited follow-up to her striking debut album, HELLO, Poe sets out on a musical path which she calls "a journey towards intimacy." This widely-varied album is a celebration of the songwriter's art.

Nick Warren ▶
Global Underground: Amsterdam
[12"/cd]
DJ Nick Warren delivers a banging set from one of Europe's party capitals. Features tracks from Soul Mekanik, Fluke, H-Bomb, and Ariane.

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CONCERT HALLS

Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Berklee Performance Center *136 Mass. Ave., Boston (747-2261). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center/ICA.*
Brattle Theatre *40 Brattle Street, Cambridge, (876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
FleetCenter *One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (624-1000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Orpheum *1 Hamilton Place, Boston, (482-0680). MBTA: Green Line to Park.*
Paradise *967 Comm. Ave., Boston (562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Babcock.*
Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Somerville Theater *55 Davis Square, Somerville (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Symphony Hall *301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1492). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony.*
Worcester Palladium *261 Main St., Worcester (508-797-9696).*

Rock, Jazz and Blues

Wednesday, Nov. 1

Avalon Simon Says, and Type O Negative, 8pm.
Black Rose Celtic Clan, 9pm.
Clerys Karaoke with Tricia Kelly, no cover.
Club Passim Carl Cacho and Stanley Matis, 8pm, $10.
Common Ground What a Way to Go-Go (mod night with DJ Vin), 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff Scott Damgaard, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort The Jennerators, 7pm.
Good Life Cambridge Weepin' Willie and his Allstar Band, no cover.
Good Life Downtown Rockabilly featuring Lil' Memphis.
Green Dragon Tavern Greg Schuler, cover varies.
House of Blues Sax Gordon with Duke Robillard.
Irish Embassy Machinery Hall, 10pm.
Kirkland Cafe Twisted Rico Acoustic Revue with Jay Wightman and friends, $5.
Lilli's The Makers and the Insomniacs, $8.
Lizard Lounge Residency with Francine, cover varies.
Middle East U: Idaho, the Country Teasers and Emetrex, $7, 18+.
Purple Shamrock Karaoke, 9pm.
Regattabar The Garrison Fewell Quartet, 8:30pm, $10.
Scullers La Orquesta Aragon, 8 and 10pm, $24.
Sky Bar Stick Figures and Generic, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Toad Krewe Deroux, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Vogonz, Rosemary Crass, Crazy Mary and Kevin MacDonald, 8pm, $4, 21+.
White Horse Tavern Equitone, 9pm, no cover.
Wonder Bar Leo Blanco, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Tim Ingles Trio, 7pm; Peter Parcek, 9pm.

Thursday, Nov. 2

Bill's Bar DJ Bim Inc. and Sound Vibration, Canine, 10:30pm, $8, 21+.
Black Rose Celtic Clan, 9pm.
Bob the Chef's Carl Smitty Smooth Group, 7:30pm.
Club Passim Teddy Golstein and Josh Ritter, 8pm, $10.
Common Ground Solid Ground with DJ Kevin, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff Bruce Jacques, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort Booty, 7pm.
Good Life Cambridge Mickey Bones and the Jump Crew, no cover.
Good Life Downtown Jose Ramos and the Special Band, no cover.
Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies.
Johnny D's Dave Weckl, 9pm.
Jose McIntyre's Me & Julio, 9pm.
Kirkland Cafe Laffing Freemen, Daft Samuel and Duncan Rhys Liancourt, $5.
Lilli's DJ Vinny presents the Hate Bombs and the Invisible Men.
Linwood Sea of Green on the Music Cartel, the Silent Goodbye and the Bismark.
Lizard Lounge Club D'Elf, cover varies.
McGann's Eddie Dillon Band.
Middle East U: Zyrah's Orange and Moonboot Lover, $7, 21+. D: Dread Zeppelin and Quick Fix, $10. 18+.
Paradise Buffalo Tom and Ivory Coast, 8pm, $15, 18+.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett, 9pm, $3.
Regattabar Sonabo, 8:30, $10.
Scullers Chuck Mangione, 8 and 10pm, $24.
Sky Bar Revelation, Lustre and Song Hospital, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Toad Grits Reunion, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Moonraker, Ours, Bleu and Pony, $7.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford Review, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Mark Greel, 5pm; the Tim Ingles Trio, 8pm.

Friday, Nov. 3

The Attic Pressure Cooker with Trailer Park.
Berklee Performance Center Mingus Big Band, 7pm, $30.
Bill's Bar Jack Iee and Diversity, 10:30pm, $8, 21+.
Black Rose Sunday's Well, 9pm; Celtic Clan, 9pm, $5.
Bull and Finch Kevin Kirrane, 9:30pm, 21+.
Club Passim Brook Williams, 8pm, $12.
Common Ground Averi with the Jazz Farmers, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff Thomas Park, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort Beantown Bar Band, 7pm; Soul City, 10pm, no cover.
Good Life Cambridge Patrice Williams and her band, no cover.
Good Life Downtown Issi Rosen Quartet, no cover.
Green Dragon Tavern Brick Park, cover varies.
Harpers Ferry Mudhens.
House of Blues Sherman Robertson, 10pm.
Irish Embassy Flynn, 10pm.
Johnny D's Edable Gray, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's Pig Pen, 9pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe Audiants, Michael Oliver and the Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
Lilli's Soulwork with Dr. Awkward, $7.
Lizard Lounge Big Lazy with the Brett Rosenberg Problem.
McGann's DJ Static.
Middle East U: The Real Kids, the Peasants and Bottleneck Drag, $8+, 18+. D: Roadsaw, Nebula and Warhorse, $8, 18+.
Paradise Badly Drawn Boys, 8pm, $10, 18+.
Purple Shamrock Felix Brown, 9pm, $5.
Regattabar Tiger's Baku, 8 and 10:30pm, $12.
Scullers Chuck Mangione, 8 and 10pm, $26.
Sky Bar 3 Percent, Spookie Daily Pride and I'm Thirsty, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Times Far From Blue, 10pm.
Toad Tobin Bridge, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Rocketscience, Heidi CD-release show, Favorite Atomic Hero and Paid to Fake It, $7.
Wonder Bar The Johnny Chronic Chronicles, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates George Russle, 5pm; Ron Murphy, 9pm, no cover.

Saturday, Nov. 4

Axis A3, 7pm, $12, 18+.
Bill's Bar Tropical Fire, 10:30pm, $8, 21+.
Black Rose Frank Ryan, Sunday's Well and Celtic Clan, 9pm, $5.
Bull and Finch Matt Browne, 10pm, 21+.
Club Passim Charlie Farren, 8pm, $12.
Common Ground Who's the Fat Guy? 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff Central Basement, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort The Jennerators, 7pm; Tigerlily, no cover.
Good Life Downtown Groover Mooney featuring Patti Unitas, no cover.
Green Dragon Tavern Virgil Cain.
Harpers Ferry Levon Helm and the Barn Burners, Mudhens.
House of Blues Dave Hole, 10pm.
Irish Embassy DJ Static.
Johnny D's Bellevue Cadillac, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's Block Head, 9pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe Eighteen Abbey, Dr. Nancy Mroczek and Widows, $5.
Lilli's Actual Proof and the Living Daylights.
Linwood Jucifer, Random Road Mother and Sinners Club.
Lizard Lounge Kevin So.
McGann's DJ Cadillac.
Middle East U: Ms. Pigeon, Cheerleadr, Volition and Mocking Birds, $7, 18+. D: Rustic Overtones, Fighting Gravity and Granian, $10, 18+.

The Automator (above), Kid Koala and Del Tha Funkee Homosapien comprise Deltron 3030.

Preview

3030 Vision

The Automator, Tha Funkee Homosapien and Kid Koala set their sights on the Middle East

Dan Nakamura, a.k.a. Dan the Automator, has worked with a broad spectrum of rappers and musicians during his career. He's done remixes for alternative acts like Depeche Mode and the Jon Spencer Blues Explosion, but he's mainly made a name for himself as one of hip-hop's premier producers. In 1995, with Kool Keith, he put together the Dr. Octagon album, which shot the pair into the spotlight in both underground hip-hop and indie-rock scenes. This year, with Prince Paul (another seminal rap jack-of-all-trades), he formed the Handsome Boy Modeling School, and the pair released an album which featured a range of artists including Sean Lennon, Grand Puba and Sadat X of Brand Nubian, Mike D of the Beastie Boys, DJ Shadow, El-Producto of Company Flow and Father Guido Sarducci.

For his latest undertaking, the Automator recruited Handsome Boy alumni Del Tha Funkee Homosapien and Kid Koala. With Del ("Deltron Zero") as the MC, Koala ("Skiznod the Boy Wonder") as the DJ and Dan at the helm of the mixing board (as "the Cantankerous Captain Aptos"), the trio comprise Deltron 3030, which is the name of both the group and the album on Nakamura's 75 Ark records. In keeping with the Handsome Boy ethic, the disc is littered with guest stars, from "Money" Mark Nishita, keyboardist for the Beasties, and Damon Albarn of Blur (who provides an eerily Alec Guiness-like narration), to Boston's own Mr. Lif. (Does this mean we can expect a guest appearance by Lif during the show? Our Magic Eight-Ball says, "Signs point to yes.")

Layered with the Automator's usual sweeping sonic textures and decadently produced beats, the tracks on *Deltron 3030* provide an ideal backdrop for Del's confident, sometimes gruff, baritone voice, and Kid Koala's turntable expertise. The album is also interesting in the way it—almost—follows in the footsteps of Mike Ladd's highly recommended Infesticons project from earlier this year. In no way imitating or replicating that album, Deltron 3030's creators present another, different set of sci-fi scenarios and pseudonyms. In a genre generally bereft of the "concept album" now fairly common in rock, these albums are part of a fairly small group in hip-hop. They are worthy of attention for their themed collections of guest artists as well as for their individual merits. Fans of one are definitely encouraged to pick up the other—and fans of *Tommy* or *Pink Floyd: The Wall* are also strongly encouraged to give 'em a listen. *Middle East Downstairs, Nov. 8, 8pm, $22, 18+.*
—Mister Graham

I WOULD RATHER DIE OF THIRST THAN DRINK FROM THE CUP OF MEDIOCRITY.

In Fermentum Veritas

ANNO STELLA ARTOIS 1366

LEUVEN BELGIUM

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Canadian fiddling dynamo Natalie MacMaster performs Nov. 10 at Sanders Theatre.

Purple Shamrock Van Go Cart, 9pm, $5.
Regattabar The Donna Byrne Quintet, 7 and 9:30pm, $14.
Sanders Theater Patty Larkin and David Wilcox, 8pm, $21.
Sky Bar 128 Columbia Projects and friends, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Toad The Franc Graham Band, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Lost Cause, the Ducky Boys with the Last Stand CD-release show, $8, 21+.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30, 21+.
Les Zygomates Kim Trusty, 6pm; Teresa Ines, 10pm.

Sunday, Nov. 5

Avalon Zebrahead, 311, 7pm, $25.
Bill's Bar K-Don and friends.
Black Rose Frank Ryan and Celtic Clan, 9pm.
Clerys The Freelance Bishops, 9pm.
Club Passim Stephen Fearing CD-release show, 8pm.
Dick's Last Resort Gospel Brunch, 10am; Rob Gonzalez, 7pm.
Good Life Cambridge The Grant Langford Trio Sunday brunch, no cover.
Green Dragon Tavern The Swinging Johnsons.
Johnny D's Blues Jam, 4:30pm.
Lizard Lounge Poetry slam hosted by Samantha Libby, 7:30pm; poetry jam featuring the Jeff Robinson Trio, 9pm.
Paradise Eleanor McEvoy, 8pm, $10, 18+.
Purple Shamrock DJ Massi, 9pm.
Rhythm & Spice K-Don and Friends, 11:30pm, 21+.
Scullers Metro featuring Chuck Loeb, Metro, Mitchel Forman, Victor Bailey and Wolfgang Haffner, 7 and 9pm, $18.
Toad One Riot One Ranger, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Daft Samuel, Planeside, Boatyard Resin and Fooled By April, $4.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30pm, 21+.

Monday, Nov. 6

Axis Peter Murphy, 6pm, $15, 18+.
Bill's Bar One King Down and Shutdown.
Black Rose Tony O'Riordan, 9pm.
Club Passim Boris McCutcheon, 8pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort Beantown Bar Band, 7pm, no cover.
House of Blues Weepin' Willie, 9pm.
Irish Embassy Juke Box, 10pm.
Lizard Lounge The Fringe.
Middle East U: Burt Nielson Band and Mountain of Venus, $5, 18+.
Toad Shwang featuring Anita Suhanan, 8pm, Tim Gearan and band, 10:30pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Other Side of the Bear Acoustic Series with Dave Aaronoff of the Details and guests, $3.
Wonder Bar The Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Tim Ingles, 5pm.

Tuesday, Nov. 7

Avalon A.F.I., Rancid and the Distillers.
Black Rose Sunday's Well, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort Brick Park, 7pm, no cover.
Irish Embassy Bakpak Nite, 10pm.
Johnny D's Fishman Transducer night, 8:30pm.
Kirkland Cafe Chris Zahnleiter Jazz Trio.
Lizard Lounge Residency with Jennifer Kimball.
Middle East U: Citizen Fish, River City Rebels and Suspect Device, 18+ $8.
Paradise The Jayhawks, Warren Hayes, Matt Abts of Gov't Mule and Kevin Kinney, 8pm, $15, 18+.
Toad The Brett Rosenberg Problem, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Kid Tested, Raymond and the 520's.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trip, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Brian McCree and Frank Williams, 5pm; the Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm.

Wednesday, Nov. 8

The Attic Dreadnaught and Honeypot, $3, 21+.
Axis Mourning Windows with Nuno Bettencourt, 7pm, $10, 18+.
Bob the Chef's Hawkins Law Jazz Quartet, 6pm.
Clerys Karaoke with Tricia Kelly.
Common Ground What a Way to Go-Go, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff James McKenna, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort The Jennerators, 7pm.
Good Life Cambridge Weepin' Willie and His Allstar Band, no cover.
Good Life Downtown RockaBilly Wednesday featuring the Cranktones, no cover.
Green Dragon Tavern Greg Schuler.
Harpers Ferry The Radiators.
House of Blues Shake Senore, 9pm.
Irish Embassy Hamilton, 10pm.
Johnny D's Eugene Chadbourne, 8:30pm.
Kirkland Cafe Hiring Fair; Jacob's Play.
Lilli's Cave In and the Cancer Conspiracy, $7.
Lizard Lounge Francine.
McGann's Cray Dempsey Hedge School and Dereck Sons of Erin.
Middle East U: Movietone (ex-Flying Saucer Attack), the Dave Grany Show, K. and Naysayer, $7, 18+. D: Deltron 3030 (featuring Del tha Funky Homosapien, Kid Koala and the Automator), Ugly Ducklings, People Under the Stairs, 8pm, $22, 18+.
Regattabar The John Payne Saxophone Choir, 8:30pm, $8.
Scullers Fairport Convention with Dave Pegg, Chris Leslie, Simon Nichol and Ric Sanders, 8 and 10pm, $18.
Toad Sticky, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Mekanizm, Scissorkiss CD-release show, Freezepop, Gein and the Graverobbers, $6.
Les Zygomates Mat Gordy, 5pm.

Thursday, Nov. 9

Avalon Pat McGee Band.
Axis Paul Van Dyk.
Bill's Bar DJ Bim Inc. and Sound Vibration.
Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Carl Smitty Group, 7:30pm.
Common Ground Solid Ground with DJ Kevin, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff Bruce Jacques, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort Black Snake, 7pm.
Good Life Cambridge Jose Ramos and the Special Blend Band, no cover.
Good Life Downtown Mickey Bones and the Jump Crew, no cover.
Green Dragon Tavern The spitting Vinnies.
Irish Embassy Six Mile Bridge, 10pm.
Johnny D's Graham Parker, 9pm.
Jose McIntyre's James McKenna, 9pm.
Kirkland Cafe Synergy, Com'on Man, David Falk and Bill's Band, $5.
Lilli's Magic 12 CD-release party with Thalia Zedek and Chris Brokaw (Come), Francine and Laurel Kirtz, the baton twirler, $7.
Linwood Throttle, Steelhead, Liquor Tricks, Rev. Glasseye and His Wooden Leg, Ogre Daryl Shepard Acoustic, with spoken word by Tim Catz and Duncan Wilder Johnson, $6, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Say Zuzu with special guests.
McGann's Eddie Dillon Band.
Middle East U: Element 47, Black Helicopter, the Swallows and Virgil Cane, $7, 18+.
Paradise Richard Ashcroft.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett, 9pm, $3.
Regattabar The Dame Vannatter Quartet, 8pm, $12.
Rhythm & Spice DJ Bim Inc. and Sound Vibration, 10:30pm, $8, 21+.
Avalon Zebrahead, 311, 7pm, $25.
Sky Bar Boot Factor Five and One Big Mess, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Toad Skunk, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Ours, Paula Kelley and Star Hustler, $7.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford Review, 9:30pm, 21+.

Indie rockers Rachel's play at the Brattle Nov. 1.

Les Zygomates Mark Greel, 5pm; the Jinga Trio, 8pm.

Friday, Nov. 10

The Attic Carla Ryder with Julie Ford, $3, 21+.
Bill's Bar Caribbean Cruize Band.
Black Rose Celtic Clan, Sunday's Well, 9pm, $5.
Bob the Chef's Herman Johnson Quartet, no cover.
Bull and Finch Kevin Kirrane, 9:30pm, 21+.
Common Ground Sugarcoat with Adios Pantalones, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff DJ Keith, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort Beantown Bar Band, 7pm, Booty, 10pm.
Good Life Cambridge Nick Goumas Quintet, no cover.
Good Life Downtown Waldron Ricks Quartet, no cover.
Green Dragon Tavern Dog House.
Harpers Ferry Sugar Ray and the Bluetones.
House of Blues Bernie Worrell and the Woo Warriors, 10pm.
Irish Embassy DJ Cadillac, 10pm.
Johnny D's Superhoney, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's Thomas Park, 9pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe Porn, Inner Pink, T-Flight Davis and Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
Linwood Quintaine Americana, Milligram, Give Violent James, Elbow, Ghetto Thunder and Jabe, with spoken word by Tim Catz and Duncan Wilder Johnson, $6, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Pretty Cool Chair.
McGann's DJ Static.
Middle East U: Dan Bern and James O'Brien, 8pm, $15, 18+.
Paradise Indigenous and Joe Bonamassa.
Purple Shamrock Marcels, 9pm, $5.
Regattabar Irma Thomas.
Rhythm & Spice Caribbean Cruz Band, 10:30pm, $8, 21+.
Scullers Toots Thielemans Quartet featuring Kenny Werner, Jay Anderson and Adam Nussbaum, 8 and 10pm, $22.
Sky Bar Violet Tide, Marie's Children and Waver, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Toad David Johnston Band, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Raging Teens and Cave Catt Sammy, $8.
Les Zygomates Yasko and Archie Kubota, 5pm; David Eure, 9pm.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic Chronicles, 9:30pm, 21+.

Saturday, Nov. 11

The Attic Zoux with Almost Speechless and T Flight Davis, $3, 21+.
Axis Agent Orange, 6pm, $10, 18+.
Bill's Bar Danny Tucker.
Black Rose Frank Ryan, Celtic Clan, Sunday's Well, 9pm, $5.
Bob the Chef's Herman Johnson Quartet, 7:30pm.
Bull and Finch Matt Browne, 10, 21+.
Common Ground Pressure Cooker, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff The Return, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort The Jennerators, 7pm.
Good Life Cambridge Patrice Williams and Her Band, no cover.
Good Life Downtown Freelance Bishops, no cover.
Harpers Ferry Babaloo.
House of Blues Tom Tom Club, 10pm.
Irish Embassy DJ Static, 10pm.
Johnny D's Superhoney, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's Tad Poole, 9pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe Lyres, Classic Ruins and Downbeat Five, $6.
Linwood Scissorfight, Rock City Crimewave, Suicide Contest, Cash Monies and the Jetsetters, There, with spoken word by Tim Catz and Duncan Wilder Johnson, $6, 21+.
Lizard Lounge The Electric Logs with the Pineapple Ranch Hands.
McGann's DJ Cadillac.
Middle East U: The Damn Personals and Selby Tigers, $7, 18+. D: Big Sandy and His Fly Rite Boys, Flying Neutrinos and Kings of Nuthin', $10, 18+.
Paradise The Neilds.
Purple Shamrock Felix Brown, 9pm, $5.
Regattabar Irma Thomas.
Rhythm & Spice Danny Tucker, 10:30pm, $8, 21+.
Scullers Toots Thielemans Quartet featuring Kenny Werner, Jay Anderson and Adam Nussbaum, 8 and 10pm, $22.
Sky Bar Say Hi to Lisa, High Ceilings, Nemochrome, the Audiants, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Toad John Haydon and Ten Worlds, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Papas Fritas, Capital City and Soul-Junk, $8.
Les Zygomates Whoshebe, 6pm; Henrietta Robinson, 10pm.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30pm, 21+.

Sunday, Nov. 12

Bill's Bar DJ Evalast.
Black Rose Frank Ryan and Sunay's Well, 9pm.
Bob the Chef's Nat Simpkinski Jazz Brunch, no cover.
Dick's Last Resort We Are Persuaded, 10am; Rob Gonzalez, 7pm, no cover.

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The Whirling Dervishes of Turkey perform Nov. 1.

Good Life Cambridge The Grant Langford Trio Sunday Brunch, no cover.
Green Dragon Tavern The Swinging Johnsons.
House of Blues Massmainia CD-release party, 6pm, $7.
Johnny D's Blues Jam, 4:30.
Lilli's Jazz Heritage Festival with the Iguanas, $10.
Lizard Lounge Poetry slam hosted by Samantha Libby, 7:30pm; poetry jam featuring the Jeff Robinson Trio, 9pm.
Paradise The Jayhawks, 8pm, $14, 18+.
Purple Shamrock DJ Massi, 9pm.
Toad High Lonesome Twang and the Pinetops, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Weston and Blue Meanies, $7.
Wonder Bar The Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30pm, 21+.

Monday, Nov. 13

Bill's Bar Hatebreed.
Black Rose Tony O'Riordan, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort Brick Park, 7pm, no cover.
House of Blues Blues Audience 9th Anniversary Party, 9pm.
Irish Embassy Juke Box, 10pm.
Lizard Lounge The Fringe.
McGann's The Furey's.
Middle East U: 90 Day Men, 18+. D: The Sea and Cake and Broadcast 8pm, $12, 18+.
Scullers Eric Jackson, 7pm, $150 donation to WGBH.
Toad Shwang featuring Anita Suhanan, 8pm; Tim Gearan and band, 10:30pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Other Side of the Bear Acoustic Series, cover varies.
Les Zygomates Michael Taylor, 5pm, no cover.
Wonder Bar The Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30pm, 21+.

Tuesday, Nov. 14

Black Rose Celtic Clan, 9pm.
Irish Embassy Bakpak Night, 10pm.
Johnny D's Maria Sangiolo and Cheryl, 8:30pm.
Kirkland Cafe Chris Zahnleiter Jazz Trio.
Lilli's Alejandro Escovedo with Paula Kelley, $8.
Lizard Lounge Jennifer Kimball.
McGann's Boston's Slainte.
Middle East U: Uz Jsme Doma, $7, 18+. D: Fastball, John Wesley Harding and Matthew Ryan, 8pm, $12, 18+.
Purple Shamrock Karaoke, 9pm.
Regattabar Matthias Lupri Quartet, 8:30pm, $10.
Scullers Tuck and Patti, 8 and 10pm, $20.
Sky Bar Mason's Sleepwalkers, Solo Mission and Nothing Yet, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Toad The Brett Rosenberg Problem, 10:30pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Delicate Awol, Vanessa Carlton and Tumbledry, $6.
Les Zygomates Brian McCree and Frank Wilkins, 5pm; the Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trip, 9:30, 21+.

Music Venues

An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (262-2121). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Attic *107R Union St., Newton (964-6615). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Center.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Bell in Hand Tavern *45-55 Union St., Boston (227-2098). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (743-2286). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-6204). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave.*
The Bull and Finch Pub *84 Beacon St., Boston (227-9605). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Coogans Bluff *173 Milk Street., Boston (451-7415). MBTA: Orange Line to State Street.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
Good Life Central *720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston (451-2622). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (367-0055). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket or North Station.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Jacob Wirth's *31-37 Stuart St., Boston (338-8586). MBTA: Green Line to Boyslton.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Davis Square, Somerville (776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Kirkland Cafe *425 Washington St., Somerville (482-4920). Red Line to Davis.*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Lilli's *608 Somerville Avenue in Somerville (591-1661). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
The Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (267-8644). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.*
The Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard.*
McGann's Pub *197 Portland St., Boston (227-4059). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Milky Way Lounge and Lanes *405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
O'Brien's *3 Harvard Ave, Allston (782-6245). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Paradise *967 Comm. Ave., Boston (562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Babcock.*
The Playhouse Lounge *74 Warrenton St., Boston (482-2227). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (227-2060). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (725-1051). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Regatta Bar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Rhythm & Spice *315 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (497-4308). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Central.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Rd., Cambridge (562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sidney's Grill *20 Sydney, Cambridge (494-0011). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boston.*
Tir na nÓg *366A Somerville Ave., Somerville (628-4300). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Toad *1912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (497-4950). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential Center.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Wally's Cafe *427 Mass. Ave., Boston (424-1408). MBTA: Green Line to Symphony.*
Western Front *353 Western Ave., Cambridge (492-7772). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard Ave., Allston (351-COOL). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Les Zygomates *129 South Street, Boston (542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*

classical music

Advice to Contributors

Submit information labeled Classical by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Classical Music or e-mail to classical@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers Web site information and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to deadline. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers

Information for the music section is compiled from many different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to doublecheck dates and times.

Thursday, Nov. 2

Midday Organ Recitals
Adolphus Busch Hall, Harvard University, Cambridge. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. (495-4544). 12:15pm, free. Harvard faculty, staff and students perform in honor of long-time organist E. Power Biggs.

Symphony Hall Centennial Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (638-9288). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Christoph Eschenbach conducts performances of Stravinsky's Concerto for piano and winds, Saariaho's Chateau de l'aime and Beethoven's Fourth Symphony.

Friday, Nov. 3

Boston Classical Orchestra
Faneuil Hall, Boston (423-3883). MBTA: Green Line to Government. Center. 8pm, $15-$42. Steven Lipsitt conducts Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No.3, Garfein's Places to Live and Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4.

Fridays at Trinity Concert Series
Trinity Church, Boston (536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 12:15pm. Trinity's weekly concert series this week features Rafael Ferreyra.

Mithas Fall Concert Series
MIT's Wong Auditorium, Cambridge (253-4705). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. 7pm. $15. Violinist M.S. Gopalakrishnan and his daughter, M. Narmada, perform his distinctive style.

Symphony Hall Centennial Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (638-9288). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Christoph Eschenbach conducts performances of Stravinsky's Concerto for piano and winds, Saariaho's Chateau de l'aime and Beethoven's Fourth Symphony.

Saturday, Nov. 4

Emmanuel Music Concert Series
15 Newbury St., Boston (536-3356). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 8pm, $15.50, $24.50 or $40.50. Craig Smith conducts this performance featuring Beethoven's Violin Concerto in D major and Schubert's Mass in E flat major.

Symphony Hall Centennial Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (638-9288). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Christoph Eschenbach conducts performances of Stravinsky's Concerto for piano and winds, Saariaho's Chateau de l'aime and Beethoven's fourth symphony.

Itzhak Perlman plays at Symphony Hall Nov. 12.

Sunday, Nov. 5

All Saints Concert
Trinity Church, Copley Square, Boston (536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. $10 or $15. The performance features Mozart's Mass in C minor and Morten Lauridsen's Lux Aeterna.

Boston Classical Orchestra
Faneuil Hall, Boston (423-3883). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. $15-$42. 3pm. Steven Lipsitt conducts Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No.3, Garfein's Places to Live and Mendelssohn: Symphony No.4.

Chameleon Arts Ensemble
First and Second Church, 66 Marlborough St., Boston (427-8200). 4pm. Francis Poulene performs a variety of pieces including Clarinet Quartet and Brahms' Piano Quartet in G minor.

Emmanuel Music Concert Series
15 Newbury St., Boston (536-3356). MBTA Green Line to Arlington. 10am. The weekly Bach cantata features Craig Smith as he conducts the ensemble.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall at New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (536-2412). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 2pm, 4:30pm and 8pm. Free. The Ken Pierce Baroque Dance Company plays, with performances of Bach's Goldberg Variations and Keyboard Concerti.

Tuesday, Nov. 7

Symphony Hall Centennial Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (638-9288). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Christoph Eschenbach conducts performances of Stravinsky's Concerto for piano and winds, Saariaho's Chateau de l'aime and Beethoven's fourth symphony.

Thursday, Nov. 9

Fogg Art Museum
Calderwood Courtyard, Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge (489-2062). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. $20. Hille Perl, viola da gamba, and Michael Behringer, harpsicord, perform Johann Bach's sonatas.

Symphony Hall Centennial Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (638-9288). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Andre Previn conducts performances of Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 and Mahler's Symphony No. 5.

Friday, Nov. 10

Cantata Singers
Jordan Hall at New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (267-6502). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3pm. $15, $26 or $42. The Cantata Singers, directed by David Hoose, perform Bach's Ich hatte viel Bekummernis and Harbison's Four Psalms.

Symphony Hall Centennial Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (638-9288). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Andre Previn conducts performances of Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 and Mahler's Symphony No. 5.

Saturday, Nov. 11

Symphony Hall Centennial Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (638-9288). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Andre Previn conducts performances of Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 and Mahler's Symphony No. 5.

Sunday, Nov. 12

Cantata Singers
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (267-6502). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3pm. $15 or $42. The Cantata Singers, directed by David Hoose, perform work by Bach and Harbison.

Emmanuel Music Concert Series
15 Newbury St., Boston (536-3356). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 10am. Craig Smith conducts the weekly Bach cantata.

New York Collegium
Jordan Hall at New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (536-2412). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 7:30pm. Music written for the 18th-century court orchestra of King August of Saxony is performed.

Symphony Hall Centennial Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (638-9288). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Violinist Itzhak Perlman performs a tribute to Jascha Heifetz.

Monday, Nov. 13

Boston Classical Orchestra
Faneuil Hall, Boston (423-3883). 3pm. $15, $25 or $100. Steven Lipsitt directs performances of Handel, Mozart, Haydn and others.

Tuesday, Nov. 14

Symphony Hall Centennial Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (638-9288). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Performances of Mozart's Piano Concerto and Mahler's Symphony No. 5.

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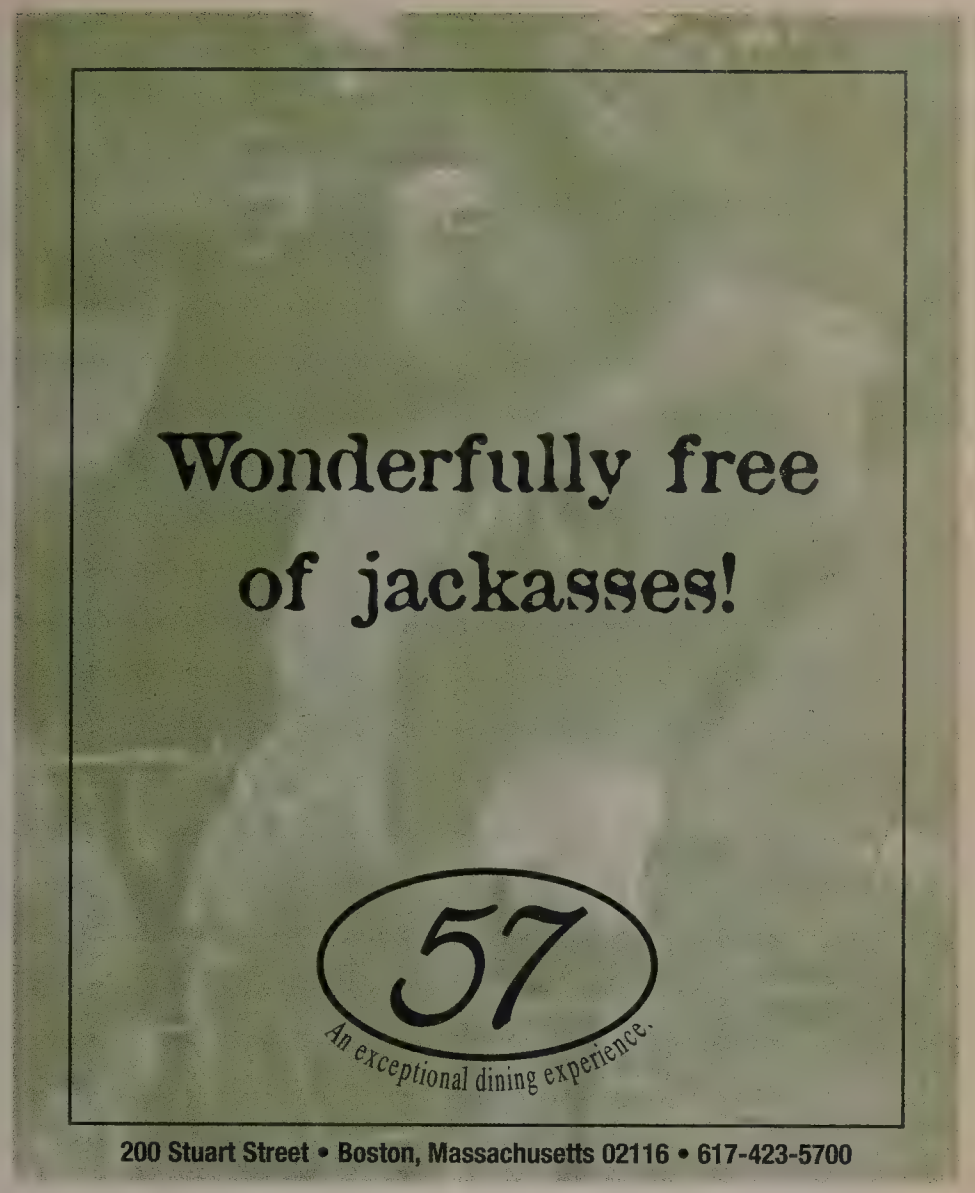

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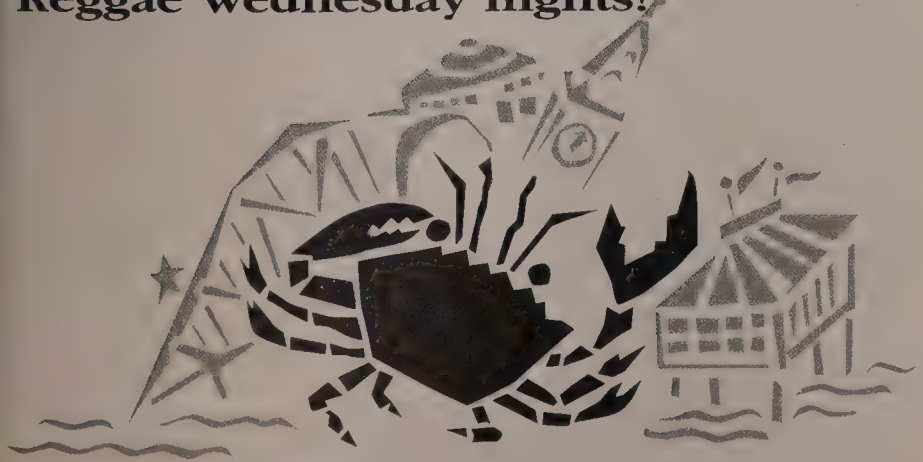

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gay&lesbian

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How to use this section
The following listings contain information that is subject to change. Contact the organization for changes in specific events.

CLUBS, BARS & HANGOUTS

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years these folks have been crankin' out some of the best Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. It's well worth a visit—if not for the three separate dance floors then for all the male dancers. 9pm, $15, 21+.

Buzz (Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays)
51 Stuart St. in the Theatre District, Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. On Saturday nights this place boasts two dance floors, two DJs, a pool room and a lounge. Two levels of dancing and schmoozing will keep the boys busy until 2am. 10pm, $5, 21+.

Chaps (Daily)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. www.chapsofboston.com. Sun.: Dance music of DJ Danae Jacovidis; Mon.: Grand Baby and Grand Piano night; Tue.: Retro DJ night; Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adielson Caesar; Thu.: DJs Billy and Fran, High Energy Dance; Fri.: Taboo Erotique with DJ Sammy; Sat.: High Energy Dance, DJ Danae Jacovidis.

City Girl Cafe (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri: 11am- 9pm; Sat: 10am-9pm; Sun: 10am-7pm. A small (five tables), laid-back cafe in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated. This cozy spot is home to a mixed gay/hetero crowd that lounges about, munching on sandwiches. Brunch on Saturday and Sunday, 10am-2pm.

Club Cafe (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-0966). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 11:30am-2am: Sat. 2pm-2am; Sun., 11am-2am. This trendy South End spot draws a mixed crowd that comes for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back (Moonshine). It's a dressy bunch that likes to mingle. No cover, 21+. •Carol O'Shaughnessy performs with Steve Heck, Dottie Dean or David Sparr, Thursdays. the first Wednesday of every month. It's a two-hour drag variety show hosted by Drag-on Showgirl Diamond Dunhill and her friends. It's a great idea for bachelorette parties. 9pm, 21+.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (542-4494). Mon.-Fri., 3pm-2am; Sat., 1pm-2am; Sun., 12pm-2am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This is your friendly neighborhood bar with a quiet setting. It's best known for scrumptious Sunday brunches (12-4pm). This simple joint has all of the trappings of a true bar: smoky and dark. The place starts hopping as it gets closer to 2am.

Fritz (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Stroll in for a quiet drink or a rowdy night on the town. The folks here are friendly—and really into sports. Not only does Fritz have Direct TV set up with sets scattered about, it's also home base to a great softball league. 12pm, no cover, 21+.

Jacques
79 Broadway, Boston (426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. If you're looking to relax with a friendly crowd of gays and straights, and you like to mingle with disco-dancing drag queens, then you've found the place. Sun. and Mon. are local band nights. Tues. through Sat., however, divas rule the stage. 10:30pm, $4, weekends $6, 21+. •Sundays host the Drag-on Showgirl Showcase featuring Diamond Dunhill, Destiny and special guest divettes with their new, expanded 90-minute show. Bachelorette parties welcome. 10:30pm, 21+.

The largest leather bar in the East, Ramrod offers clubbers a party scene into the wee hours.

Lava Bar (Saturdays)
575 Commonwealth. Ave., Boston (267-7707). The Lava Bar's Tabu night boasts DJ Fran spinning out high-energy house with a taste of Latin beats. 10pm.

The Lizard Lounge (Wednesdays)
1667 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. "Marlene Loses It at the Lizard" is the title of this eclectic evening of poetry, live music and theater. 10pm, $5 cover, 21+.

Luxor (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square. Boston (423-6969). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from the latest music scenes and classic old movies—compiled by the bar's own VJ. Downstairs is Jox. No cover, 21+.

Elizabeth Stark reads from her novel *Shy Girl* at New Words Bookstore Nov. 12. Her book tells the story of the relationship between an independent girl and her shy next door neighbor.

Machine (Fridays, Saturdays)
1256 Boylston St., Boston (536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 10pm-2am; Sun., 7pm-midnight. www.ramrodboston.com/machine. This is one of Boston's best gay bars, where you will find your friends dancing every weekend. Fri.: NYC DJ/Producer Darrin Friedman spinning. Sat.: Resident DJ Brad Gwynn.

Man Ray (Thursdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (864-0400). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed.-Fri., 9pm; Sat., 10pm. A bustling hot spot caters to a young, alternative clientele. Two dance floors fill up on Thursdays for Campus, a predominantly male night where DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen take over. 10pm, $8 for 19+, $5 for 21+.

119 Merrimac (Daily)
119 Merrimac St., Boston (367-0713). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Sat., 10:30am-2am; Sun., 12pm-2am. This male cruise bar is the place to stop for drinks before or after Fleet Center events. Shoot a leisurely game of pool or play the video games. Merrimac features DJs playing hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s. 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. On Thursday nights, the Midway offers Kristen Porter's Dyke Night with 25 percent of the proceeds benefitting the Lesbian AIDS Project of Mass. With DJ each week And drag king shows, $2, 10pm.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (494-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Central. On Monday, a bartender not only mixes drinks but strips too. Male strippers are featured Wed.-Sat. Mon. is Gothic night; Tue. is techno; and Thu. is college night. On Fridays DJ Sam Sampson spins, and on Sat. hear DJ Brad Gwynn. 5pm, no cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (266-2986). Green Line to Kenmore. 12pm-2am. www.ramrodboston.com. The largest leather bar in the East enforces a tight dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room). Sun.: buffet and man-dance with DJ Brad Gwynn. Mon.: pool tournament and pizza. Tue.: Spice 4 Life with DJ Kal Muzak. Wed.: Twitch with DJ SGT Dennis. Thu.: Primal Dance with DJ James Hughes. Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danaw Jacovidis. Sat.: With DJ Dennis Sargent.

BOOKS

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge. (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Fri., 10am-8pm, Sat., 10am-6pm, Sun. 12-6pm. New England's oldest women's bookstore offers a wide selection of literature. Its author series continues throughout the fall. •Nov. 2, 6pm: **Becky Thompson** reads from her new book, *Mothering Without a Compass*. •Nov 3, 6pm: **Eileen Myles** discusses *Cool For You*. •Nov. 4, 3pm: **Annie Sonnie** and other contributers read from *Revolutionary Voices*. •Nov 5, 3pm: **Leslie Sills** presents work from *In Real Life: Six Women Photographers* and **Liza Ketchum** reads from her book *Into a New Country: Eight Remarkable Women of the West*. •Nov 9, 6pm: **Donna Allegra** reads from her book, *Witness to the League of Blond Hip-Hop Dancers*. •Nov 12, 3pm: **Elizabeth Stark** reads from *Shy Girl*.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12pm-6pm. One of Boston's best literary gay and lesbian bookstores.

SHOWS & EVENTS

Bisexual and Bi Curious Men's Group
The Fenway Community Health Center, 7 Haviland St., Boston (267-0900). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Nov. 7, 7pm. Men who are bisexual (or think they might be) are invited to meet and discuss bisexuality.

Boston Jewish Film Festival
Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Nov. 9, 6pm. ***Here Am I.*** Drawn from the story of the binding of Issac in Genesis, the story is the tale of a boy and a silent man who flee from their ruined villiage. It's followed by ***Paragraph 175***, an award-winning documentary that tells of the hidden history homosexual persecution during World War II. Also showing is ***The Einstein of Sex***, the story of Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld, a Jew anda socialist, who was known as the founding father of homosexuality and who established the first gay political association.

Cabaret
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6741). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Nov. 3, 8-11pm. Local cabaret performer Will McMillian gives a whopping performance—and better still, audience members are encouraged to join him. Don't forget to bring some sheet music along so you can strut your stuff.

ONGOING

Am Tikva
(883-0893). www.amtikva.org. A community of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered Jews.

Bawl
This lesbian softball league offers opportunities to join teams in both the recreational and competitive divisions. Call Liz (508-628-5477).

Best Foot Forward
Ballet Etc. Dance Studios, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (522-1444). MBTA: B Green Line to Washington St. For gays/lesbians/bisexuals of all swing skill levels.

Bi Space
The Living Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston. (236-1012). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Nov 11, 7-9pm. $2. A friendly discussion space to meet other bisexuals and discuss bisexual issues.

Boston Glass
Community Center, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Daily 8-10pm. Support groups and social activities for adolescents ages 13-25.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). www.chiltern.org/chiltern. A 1,400-member gay club with hiking, biking, camping, skiing and other outdoor activities.

Common Bond
(781-433-7023). A support group for gay/lesbian/bisexual current or former Jehovah's Witnesses.

Community Rainbow
Boston Living Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston. 7:45 pm. An organization whose mission is to advocate for the community. Meets Thursdays.

Cosmetically-Correct
Laurel's Restaurant, 142 Berkeley St., Boston. www.egroups.com/community/cosmeticallycorrect. A social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month, 7:30pm. Lipstick optional.

Dykes Who Hike
(522-6185). This hiking group is for lesbians in the Boston area who want to conquer the wilderness.

East Coast Wrestling Club
With more than 160 members, this is an extraordinarily popular New England spot for gay male wrestlers. Call Marc at 401-467-6737, or go online at *http://members.tripod.com/~ecwc* or e-mail *ecwc@juno.com.*

Fenway Community Health Center
(927-6057). The center is currently conducting a study to help HIV/AIDS patients take medication on time. Participants receive $95.

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (824-4266). www.frontrunnersboston.org. A running club for the LGBT community meets Saturdays.

Gay Volleyball
Cambridge (822-2148). Sundays, 6pm, $7. Typically seven teams play on three courts. Teams are made up each week depending on who shows up. Mostly men, but women are welcome.

Gender Free Contra Dancing
First Church of Jamaica Plain (448-2429). www.piac.net/users/latte/lcfd/. Come one, come all to evenings of contra and square dancing.

Hump Day
Skupper Jacks in Acton. Every third Wednesday at 5:30pm, Boston's gay, lesbian and transgendered come together to hang. For more information, contact *Tom.Evans@digital.com.*

Latino Social Groups
Latino Gay Men's Project (350-6900 ex. 125) and the Women's Social Group (350-6900 ex. 124).

Long Yang Club
(825-5677) www.longyangclub.org/boston. Boston's club for Gay Asian Men and their friends. Bringing the East and West together.

OOPS
Melting Pot Coffee House, 2 Belgrade Ave., Roslindale (323-4123). Out On the Parkways invites one and all to come on down for some dinner and coffee.

PFLAG
Fenway Community Health Center, 7 Haviland St., Boston (547-2440). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets every fourth Monday, 6:30-8:30pm.

Queer Corps
131 Clarendon St., 4th floor, Boston (450-1676). A community-mobilization project by and for queer men who are age 25 and under. Tuesdays, 6-8pm.

Tennis4all
Boston's gay and lesbian tennis club, with monthly tournaments and pizza socials. Call Ted at 779-7231.

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body&mind

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information by mail, fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/ Mind, or electronically to body-mind@improper.com. *Include a brief but thorough description of the event, time, date, location and directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.*

Brother Devananda lectures on the teachings of Paramahansa Yogananda Nov. 3 in Cambridge.

EVENTS

Holistic Expo Newton 2000
Newton Community Service Center, 492 Waltham Street, West Newton (558-9450 or 527-0247). www.centerforbalance.org. *Nov. 11, 10am-5pm. $5.* This event sponsored by Rainbow Reflections is a holistic and alternative health extravaganza. There are energy healers, intuitive readers, crystal retailers, healthy food and lectures all day long on auras, yoga, meditation, magnets, herbs and more.

Marion Woodman: To Heal or to Cure?
Omega Institute in Boston, Arlington Street Church, 351 Boylston St., Boston (800-944-1001). www.omega-inst.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Nov. 4, 9am-5pm. $ 145.* Jungian psychologist **Marion Woodman**, one of the world's most profound thinkers, hosts this day-long intensive focusing on holistic healing as a source of renewal within our culture and global village. Explore the questions: How do we hear the voice of the soul? What is the role of love in the healing process? How do we work with our body/mind split?

Yoga Meditation: The Way to Inner Peace
Sheraton Commander Hotel, 16 Garden St., Cambridge (781-894-9664). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Nov. 3, 8pm; Nov. 5, 9:30am and 3pm. Participate in a public lecture serieson the universal teachings of Paramahansa Yogananda, author of the spiritual class, *Autobiography of a Yogi*. The opening talk will be by **Brother Devananda**, a longtime monk from the Self-Realization Fellowship. A service will take place on Sunday.

CLASSES

Explore Your Dreams Workshop
The Center for Balance, 857 Washington Street, Newtonville (527-0247). www.centerforbalance.org. *Nov. 6, 6:30-8:30pm. $35.* Did you know that 10 years of your life is spent dreaming? This workshop suggests practical techniques that will help you remember your dreams and teach you how to identify personal meaning from themes, images and symbols. The workshop ends with a hypnosis session to aid you with future dream recall.

Gratitude Workshop
Dr. Lore Peters in Arlington (781-641-1102). Nov. 4, 10am-4pm. This day-long workshop is a chance to appreciate life and a myriad of other things through art, writing, dialogue and quiet reflection at a local state forest.

Manifesting Your Vision Workshop
Green Street Studios, 185 Green St., Cambridge (974-7606). www.bethdance.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Parking at Pearl and Green. Nov. 5, 2-4pm. $20.* This workshop includes Kripalu Danskinetics, yoga, journal writing and visualizations. Deeply relax your body and mind and open the power of imagination.

Practical Ways to a Simpler Life
New England School of Acupuncture, 40 Belmont St., Watertown (926-1788 ex.5). www.nesa.edu. *Nov. 4, 9:30am-5pm. $95.* Overextending yourself leads to health problems like a weak immune system, adrenaline addiction or losing your sense of self. But you can have a simpler lifestyle that meets all your qualifications. This workshop helps you address needs, methods and fears related to simplifying your life.

Yoga for Depression
BKS Iyengar Center, 240A Elm St., Suite 23, Somerville (666-9551). www.yoganow.net. *MBTA: Red Line to Davis.* Come join yoga expert **Karin Stephan** for a holistic health approach to the age-old condition known as melancholy.

Watercolor and Chakras
Brookline Adult and Community Education, Devotion School, 345 Harvard St., Brookline (730-2700). MBTA: C Green Line to Harvard St. Nov. 2 (three Thursdays), 6:30-9pm. $71. The Chakras are the seven major energy centers which connect and integrate consciousness with the physical body. The life energy flows through these centers, and the stimulation of the chakras helps with muscle tension and spiritual well-being. This class is for anyone who wishes to release or enhance their creative energy, to cross the bridge from the "heart chakra" to the "expression chakra."

LECTURES

Cancer Preventive Eating
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Smith Family Room, 44 Binney St., Boston (800-533-3787). Nov. 1, 6-8pm. If you want the low-down on what foods you eat that cause cancer and what reduces cancer risk, attend a lecture hosted by Dana-Farber nutritionists .

Chi Kung and Meditation
The Healing Tao Center of Boston, 440 Somerville Ave., 2nd floor, Somerville (628-6570). Nov. 5. Join the director of the center, **Marie Favorito**, for this workshop sponsored by the Cambridge Health Associates. She's been teaching this graceful art that helps sculpt the body, enhance the senses and supercharge the immune system for 16 years.

Dao De Ching, Taoism and Chinese Medicine
New England School of Acupuncture, 40 Belmont St., Watertown (926-1788 ex.5). www.nesa.edu. *Nov. 1, 6:30-8:30pm.* This intro lecture features the most popularly translated text of all the Chinese philosophies. The Dao De Ching focuses on nature and natural rhythms as well as encouraging balance in physical health.

Health 101
Cambridge Naturals, 1670 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (492-4452). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Nov. 4, 5, 12. Call for times. Free. If you need more insight on different alternative practices, attend one of these introductory lectures. They take place in the evenings and the next three will address herbalism, homeopathy and Chinese herbs.

Herbs or Acupressure?
Harvest Co-op Market, Community Room, 581 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (661-1580). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Nov. 7-8, 6pm. The Harvest Co-op wants to help you to be better informed in regard to health, so they provide lectures on many health topics. On Tuesday, **Olive Walker** talks on All about Herbs, and on Wednesday find out what acupressure is and how it can advance your health with **Leonard Blickstein**.

ONGOING

Activity-Based Relaxation
New Directions for Yoga, Health and Psychotherapy, 5 Harvard Ave., Brookline (738-1648). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. Sat., 7-8 pm, Sun., 6-7, or Mon., 10-11 am. $20 per class. For adults who enjoy being young at heart. Learn relaxation techniques while enjoying the process. Play games, explore scents and learn various fun ways to bring relaxation and stress management into your daily life.

Early Morning Yoga
Roni Brissette, 57 Waverley St., Brookline (738-9561). Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30pm. Call to register. Skip the coffee and feel energetic and peaceful all day with some early morning yoga.

Maintain Health
The Marino Center for Progressive Health, 2500 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6225). www.marinocenter.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Porter.* The Marino Center has the following ongoing groups and classes: Adult psychotherapy, Tuesdays: 5-7pm; Kripalu yoga, Mondays: 6-7:30pm; Hatha Yoga, Wednesdays: 6-7:30pm; Qi Gong, Wednesdays and Fridays: 6-7am.

Meditation and Healing Circle
Pinchas Baram, Coolidge Corner Area. (232-8070). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Sundays, 6pm. Free. This gathering happens twice monthly for an evening of sacred chanting, prayer, meditation, visualization, breathing and healing techniques along with readings from Kabbalistic texts.

RETREAT

Tantra Yoga
CCAE, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). Nov. 4, 10am-6pm. $83. Tantra yoga interweaves life with love. This retreat is a chance to practice this through massage, breathing, sufi dancing, chanting and art appreciation. Feast on a zen potluck lunch afterward.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Children. Or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

TO SEE

King Arthur
Lyric Stage Company of Boston, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Nov. 11-12, 11am. $7. Once Upon a Time presents 45-60-minute audience-participatory children's performances.

THINGS TO DO

New England Aquarium
New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, Boston (973-5200). •Nov. 4-5, 9:30am, ages 3-5, $8 plus admission: **Crocodile Smiles Preschool Explorers Class**. This one-hour program combines a story, a hands-on activity and a take-home art project or closer look at live animals. •Nov. 10, 7pm, $45 plus admission: **Family Sleepover**. Enjoy an evening of aquatic exploration, midnight snacks and pillowcase art. •Nov. 11, 10am and 11am, $10 plus admission: **Behind-the-Scenes Guided Tour**. This 45-minute tour includes a lookat the Food Room, the aquarium's "fish kitchen." •Nov. 11, 10am, ages 5-9, $8 plus admission; **Sharks Explorers Class**. Investigate animals and habitats with hands-on aquatic activities.

Children's Book Author Appearance
Limited Editions, 1176 Walnut St., Newton Highlands (965-5474). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. Nov. 4, 2-4pm. Children's book author Rose Lewis signs her new book, *I Love You Like Crazy Cakes.*

Children's Hour: Sweet Potatoes
JFK Library & Museum, Columbia Point, Dorchester (929-4523). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Nov. 11, 10:30am. Free. Susie Burke presents songs with themes of friendship, the environment and a child's sense of self. Children are encouraged to participate with singing, clapping and movemment games.

Powers of Nature
Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu., 9am-5pm; Fri., 9am-9pm. Through March 1, 2001. $10, $7 seniors and children.* This new exhibition features hands-on components, live radar and satellite images, videos and artifacts that help unravel the mysteries of weather. Expect hurricanes, tornadoes, blizzards, hail, earthquakes and more.

Saturday Scholars
Museum of Natural History, 26 Oxford St., Cambridge (495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Saturdays.* •Nov. 4, 9-11am, ages 4-5: **Animal Hide and Seek**. With stories, games, live animals and specimens, discover camouflage mimicry, warning coloration and amazing animal tricks. •Nov. 4, 9am-12pm, grades K and 1: **Toys and Games Around the World**. Play toys and games from around the world. •Nov. 11, 9am-12pm, grades 2 and 3: You be the archaeologist and solve mysteries surrounding the ancient Maya. •Nov. 11, 9am-12pm: **Sharks, Whales and Sea Monsters**. Learn about sea monsters.

The *Powers of Nature* exhibit hits the Museum of Science like a storm through March 2001.

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

To Watch

Boston Bruins
•FleetCenter. Tickets: 931-2000
Nov. 2 (Home): Chicago, 7:30pm, NESN
Nov. 4 (Home): Atlanta, 7pm, NESN
Nov. 5 (Away): Toronto, 7:30pm, UPN 38
Nov.9 (Home): Ottowa, 7pm, NESN
Nov. 11 (Home): Nashville, 7pm, UPN38

Boston Celtics
•FleetCenter. Tickets: $10-$75. Call 228-6000
Nov.1 (Home): Detroit, 7pm, NESN
Nov.2 (Home): Toronto, 7:30pm, NESN
Nov.4 (Away): Cleveland, 7:30pm, NESN
Nov. 7 (Away): Toronto, 7pm, NESN
Nov. 10 (Home): New York, 7:30pm, NESN
Nov. 11 (Away): Philadelphia, 8pm, NESN

New England Patriots
•Foxboro Stadium. Tickets: 931-2000
Nov. 5 (Home): Buffalo Bills, 1pm, CBS
Nov. 12 (Away): Cleveland Browns, 1pm, CBS

Events

USA Track & Field New England Cross Country Championships
Boston Parks & Recreation Department, Franklin Park, Boston (566-7600). www.usatfne.org. *Nov. 12, 10am.* Watch the masters 8K, men's 10K and women's 6K races.

2000 Gymnastics Champions Tour
FleetCenter, Boston (931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Nov. 13, 7pm. $19-$45. Immediately following the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia, the top gymnastics medal winners embark on a tour. Anchored by Dominique Moceanu, Shannon Miller, Venessa Atler, Morgan White and Blaine Wilson, the tour also incorporates international medal winners and a few suprise guests.

Snow Season Kick-Off Party
Cambridge Marriott, Kendall Square, Cambridge (789-4070). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. Nov. 8pm-1am. Kick off the ski season with the Boston Ski & Sports Club. There is a DJ, cash bar and a live band. Check out what's hot for the upcoming season at exhibits and a Helly Hansen snow fashion show.

To Play

BASEBALL

Henry's Baseball Club
(781-891-0621). Players ages 17-30 sought for 2001 season. Also needs coaches and volunteers.

BASKETBALL

Basketball City
Adjacent to North Station and the FleetCenter (742-6700). Corporate, midday and weekend leagues.

Co-Ed Indoor Basketball
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 224). Sun.-Thu. nights at various locations. All levels welcome. Leagues in Waltham, Dedham and Brookline. Co-ed teams now forming.

The Corporate League of Boston
(566-7808).

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333). Practice and workout programs for all levels in Greater Boston.

South End Fitness Center League
(534-5823).

Women's Basketball League
(661-9622). Tuesdays 5:30-7pm and Sundays, 6-7:30pm.

BILLIARDS

Become a Pool Shark
Meet at Jillian's Billiards Club, 145 Ipswich St., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Three classes on Tuesdays, beginning Nov. 7. 6:30-8:30pm. $70. Pro Bob LeBlanc teaches the basics with an hour of instruction and an hour of practice.

Gymnast Elise Ray competes in the Gymnastics Champions Tour at the FleetCenter Nov. 13.

BOXING

Boxing Workout
Vinny Greco's Powerhouse Gym, 125 Walnut St., Watertown (972-1711). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Enjoy the workout of a boxer—or become one yourself. Participate in one-on-one instruction in a supervised, safe environment with Boston Sport Boxing Club.

FOOTBALL

Australian Rules Football
Boston Australian Rules Football Club. Thu. evenings and Sat. mornings, Cambridge (781-440-9266). www.BostonDemons.org. No experience necessary.

Indoor Flag Football
BSSC, Indoor Sports Center in Revere (789-4070). Sundays.

HIKING/WALKING

The Appalachian Mountain Club
Gorham, N.H. (603-466-2727). Hikes and huts in the White Mountains. •Monthly AMC Young Members meetings at AMC headquarters, 4 Joy St., Beacon Hill (523-0655). Second Thursday of every month, 6-10pm, $3. Potluck. BYOB.

New England Walkers
39 Oakland Rd., Brookline (731-9889). www.members.tripod.com/NEWALKERS. This 200-member club hosts race-walk events and clinics. Weekly walks at M.I.T. indoor track on Wednesdays at 7pm.

Walking Group
(247-8267). This group sponsors weekly walks on Wednesday evenings in the Back Bay.

HOCKEY

Co-ed Floor Hockey
BSSC (789-4070). Individuals and teams, co-eds, all levels in Newton. Co-ed teams now forming.

ICE SKATING

Learn to Skate
Lessons available at 16 MDC rinks in Greater Boston (781-890-8480). www.iceskatingclasses.com. Wait a minute—it seems that fall just got here and now it's time for ice skating lessons already?

OUTDOOR PREPAREDNESS

Wild Women Outfitters
397 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington (781-641-5776). •Nov. 9, 7pm: Eagle Creek shows you "How to Pack." •Nov. 11, 2pm: Wildly Functioning Mechanics—How to Read Your Feet.

RUGBY

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
Cambridge (781-340-2192). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.bwrfc.org. *Tue. and Thu. evenings.* No experience necessary.

Old Gold Rugby Club
Newton (742-0678). www.oldgoldrugby.com. *Tue. and Thu., 6:30-8:30pm.* New and experienced players welcome. Games on Saturdays.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
(499-4835). Weekly runs year-round. Serious drinkers with a running problem.

Boston Road Club Weekly Races
(781-646-8955). Sundays. Starts at Wells Ave. in Newton.

Fresh Pond Weekly Road Races
Fresh Pond Reservation. Saturdays. 10am. Choose between a 2.5- or 5-mile run.

Khoury's Thursday Night Runs
East Somerville. (351-5682). 4.13 miles. 7pm at Khoury's Bar.

Logan Post 5K
1194 Broadway, West Somerville (283-3292). Every Thursday at 7:10pm.

NikeTown Boston Running Club
200 Newbury St., Boston (267-3400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Three-to-five-mile loops. Starts at 6:30pm. Monthly mini-clinics as well.

SNOW SPORTS

Ski & Board Weekends
BSSC (789-4070). The Boston Ski & Sports Club offers day and weekend trips throughout the winter. •Wednesdays, Saturdays or Sundays this winter. 5:30am/6am bus departures from Newton, Newburyport and Tewksbury. •First weekend trip is Nov. 23-26: Thanksgiving at the Loaf. Trip includes roundtrip transportation and lift tickets

SOCCER

BSSC Soccer
BSSC (789-4070, ext. 225). Co-ed teams for both indoor and outdoor soccer.

SOFTBALL

80-Team Softball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 222). Monday through Thursday evenings at 6:30pm. Join as an individual or as a team.

SWIMMING

Boston Athletic Club Swim Workouts
653 Summer St., Boston (269-4300). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon. and Wed. 6:15-7:15am.

The Charles River Park Club Morning Masters
Charles River Park, Boston (450-9810). Mon., Wed., Fri. 6:30-7:45am.

The Mason Masters Swim Program
The Mason Pool, 159 Norfolk Ave., Roxbury (236-4923 or 450-9810) Mon.-Fri. 7:30-8:30pm. An early-morning masters swim program led by Alex Primilsky, coach of numerous world, national and Olympic champions.

TENNIS

Boston Tennis Club
Located next to North Station, Boston (742-6700). Adult and youth clinics, socials, open play and matching. Come with balls.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Boston Ski & Sports Club
(789-4070).

Boston Ultimate Disc Alliance
(928-0882). www.buda.org. The season's almost over, but sign up early for the spring league.

VOLLEYBALL

Adult Co-ed Volleyball League
Waltham YMCA (781-894-5295). Monday nights, began Sept. 13. All levels welcome at this friendly co-ed league.

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club, (789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. at various locations. Co-ed indoor 6-on-6 leagues. Four different levels of play. Pick-up games, clinics and tournaments also available. •Co-ed pickup games Tuesdays and Fridays at West Newton Armory, 1137 Washington St. $5.

Co-ed Volleyball-Waltham
Waltham YMCA, 725 Lexington St, Waltham (781-894-5295). Monday nights.

WATER SPORTS

Boston Sailing Center
54 Lewis Wharf, Boston (227-4198). Year-round lessons and racing programs for all abilities.

Courageous Sailing Center
Charlestown Navy Yard (635-4505). Lessons are offered here year-round.

WEIGHT TRAINING

Weights for Women
Metropolitan Fitness, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-3006). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Every Wednesday, 6-7:30pm, beginning Nov. 1. Eight sessions. $200. This semi-private class offers personal training for women. Individuals will be paired according to ability. Beginners to experts welcome.

WRESTLING

Men's Adult Wrestling
Boston Union, 48 Boylston St., Boston (482-1122). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm; Saturdays 1-3:30pm. All skill levels. Coaching available.

go away

TRAVELING NEAR AND FAR

NORTH OF BOSTON

Cornucopia of Kindness
The Hawthorne Hotel, 18 Hawthorne Blvd., Salem, Mass. (978-744-4080). Nov. 2, 7-10pm. Sample local restaurants' fare and check out unique items up for auction. The event benefits Citizens for Adequate Housing, Inc. CAH develops affordable housing for homeless families.

SOUTH OF BOSTON

Newport Storytelling Festival
Newport Beach Rotunda, Portsmith Middle School and Normandy Bird Sanctuary, Newport, R.I. (401-847-5148). Nov. 3-5. $5 (Fri. and Sun.) and $10 (Sat.). Reknown storytellers converge upon Newport for a weekend of tales and drama. Begins 7pm on Friday with spooky nighttime stories. On Saturday, Marilyn Murphy presents "Elizabeth I: In Her Own Words" at 8pm. The weekend winds down Sunday at 2pm with family stories at the Normandy Bird Sanctuary.

1620 English Tavern Dining
Plymoth Plantation, Plymouth, Mass. (508-746-1622). Nov. 4 and 11, 5:30pm. Have an early Thanksgiving feast with passengers from the Mayflower as you travel back to 1620. Learn of the trials and tribulations faced by these pilgrims as well as their hopes and expectations for settlement in the New World. The menu consists of things such as chine of pork, roast beef, turkey, rice pudding and many more traditional dishes.

Predators of Fall
Bristol County Natural History Center, Dighton, Mass. (800-NARR-BAY). 5-9pm. $7. Save the Bay sponsors this nighttime hike as a way for the public to gain insight into predatory animals that are widely feared and misunderstood, such as hawks, snakes, bobcats, owls and coyotes. As night falls, the walk takes you through meadows and wooded trails as you learn to make owl and coyote calls.

WEST OF BOSTON

The Autumn Table
Gedney Farm, Route 57, Marlborough, Mass. (413-229-8316). Nov. 5. $100. Enjoy a variety of dishes in a collaboration of the best Berkshire chefs including Peter Prett of Wheatleigh and Kris Rowe of the Inn on the Green. In addition to top regional cheeses and wines, the menu consists of heirloom produce and meat.

CAPE & THE ISLANDS

Nantucket Noel & Christmas Stroll
Nantucket, Mass. (508-228-0659). Nov. 23-Dec. 31. Festivities for this annual month-long celebration begin the day after Thanksgiving with the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and continue through New Year's Eve with theatrical performances, concerts, holiday exhibitions and the Christmas Stroll. Dec. 1-3.

mark your daytimer

UPCOMING EVENTS

CITYSCOPE

Boston Snow Sports Expo
Nov. 16-19, Bayside Expo Center

Enchanted Village
Nov. 20, City Hall Plaza

MUSIC

They Might Be Giants
Nov. 18, Avalon

Dar Williams
Nov. 19, Orpheum

Cherry Poppin' Daddies
Nov. 21, Axis

Medeski Martin and Wood
Nov. 30, Orpheum Theatre

Paul Simon
Dec. 1-3, Orpheum

Improper Impersonals

If everyone kept their feelings bottled up like warm beer, we'd soon have antisocial behavior exploding all over the place and ruining the upholstery. So send us your letters of love and spleen, and we'll print them for the world to see. Heck, it's better than making a fool of yourself in person. And IT'S FREE! Pick up a pen or keyboard (hint: we like the fact that e-mailed messages mean that we don't have to risk ruining our manicures by—ugh—typing) and write to:

IMPROPER IMPERSONALS
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116
FAX: 859-1446 E-MAIL: impersonals@improper.com

Recent correspondence follows.

To Jill from Marblehead
After I paid to answer your personal ad, you showed up 25 minutes late and then stuck me with the tab. Go find a sucker for your next date. You weren't even pretty like your ad said. Women like you disgust me. I hope you enjoyed the double zeros on your answering machine.
—J.

Red Line, One Month Ago
I saw you for the first time on the Red Line about a month ago. We got on the first car at Davis. You sat on the right of me and when you went to get off at Kendall/MIT we smiled at each other. I couldn't say anything because I was so into how beautiful I thought you looked. The next day we saw each other again. I stood next to you and just a little behind you. I said hi, but once again no words would come out. When you got off at your stop, I told you to have a nice day. Since then I haven't seen you, and I so much want to see you again. I really like you and I would love to get to know you. I was carrying a green backpack and had on blue jeans and a black T-shirt, and I have brown hair and blue eyes.
—Gary

Oooh, oooh, oooh #13
You took my breath away, as you walked through Green Door #66. Write back and tell me of your fascination with dead animals...
—Girl whose lucky # is 13

She's Just My Ex...
Many years, thousands of miles, who would have thought that our paths would cross yet again? Kismet, fate, destiny, an attraction we'll never completely understand. You feel it too. Don't we deserve another chance? It won't be easy; people we care for will be hurt. A price I am willing to pay to achieve all-encompassing, lifelong happiness. The next move is yours; I am waiting.
—R

To Tattooed Lady from Boston
Now every time I close my eyes, I see your thrilling tattoo. You captivate me and have since the first moment I laid my weary eyes upon your graceful mark. Sorry I am clueless when it comes to starting a conversation or striking up an acquaintance. All I could do was keep staring. I couldn't think of a thing to say. You are the only one who has moved me to write. Hope to hear from you.
—Greg at supin3@hotmail.com

To the Tattooed Guy
I cannot believe that I am even writing this because this is so completely outside the realm of me. You were got on the Orange Line at Back Bay on Oct. 3 around 8:30 in the morning. We missed one train and took the next. You: white guy with short sleeved shirt, jeans and tattoos with another guy friend with short dreds who sat down. I stood back to back with you. Me: long black sweater and short hair. You had good vibes. Drop me an email.
—onthetrain@hotmail.com

Me:
blondish hair, green eyes, glasses. Infinitely clumsy (stepped on your foot, sorry!) You: adorable but with a squashed foot. (I think you were reading an ad for the *Wall Street Journal*). Both of us: Riding the B line 6-ish (I think your watch said 6:30) on the Saturday the trains were broken. I was too shy and embarrassed to ask for more than the time. If you read this and remember me favorably, please get in touch.
—moxierowl@yahoo.com

KEVIN!
Big Black Cat, scratching down your back, you fixed my workout in seconds flat! What else can you do with those hands? You make Planet Fitness bearable with your foppish hair and chiseled face. You make dumbell curls sexy. I haven't seen you at night—where art thou? Dinner? Workout?
—kseltzman@hotmail.com

Roundhead,
I dream of you from a not so distant cubicle. If only you would stop escaping to California, with your girlfriend, and look my way...
—Your Toy Angel

Friday the 13th...
is my new lucky day. Congress and State heading towards the North End. You: attractive, dark-haired eavesdropper. Me: brown hair, red skirt, glasses, speaking too loudly. I was telling my friend that it was impossible to meet "a man of substance" at a bar. You passed us and told me this was untrue. Prove it. Meet me for drinks? First round's on me...
—loudtalker73@hotmail.com

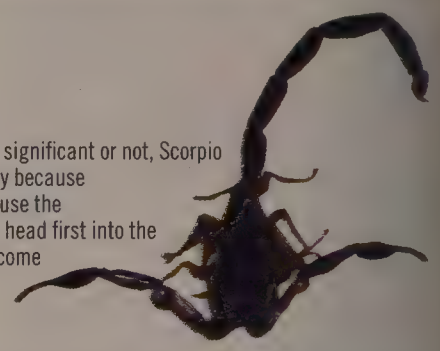
Gillette Girl
I've finally have found someone worth writing an Impersonal to. I can't stop thinking of what a great opportunity I have in front of me, and I just don't have the guts to act on it. We've both been on co-op at Gillette now for 4 months, and I look forward to the chance of seeing you each and every day. I've seen you around the NU campus many times, but never realized how hot you were until I started noticing you every day at Gillette. I was on the elliptical machine next to you at the gym the other day. I always want to stop and talk to you, but the only word I can ever come up with is "hi." You work in K building (I think) have dark brown hair, rather tanned skin and you really know how to dress. I have brown hair, blue eyes and work in K building also. I'll apologize up front for always staring at you, but I can't help myself; you're beautiful. You know who I am. I would love to go out for a drink or two sometime and get to know you, if I could only come up with the words to ask you. Please write to me and give me a reason to make an ass out of myself and ask you out for a drink.
—wishihadtheguts@hotmail.com

Jordan's Furniture
Sunday, Oct. 8, 3pm. I was shopping with two blonde female friends when you came through the showroom pushing a stroller with an adorable child. You had someone who appeared to be your mother by your side. We looked at each other, smiled and continued in opposite directions only to stop again, turn and look again. Wow, I thought, is this woman really taking an interest in me? My two friends noticed the eye contact and said "Do you want us to sit here and wait till she comes through again?" "Yes," I replied nervously, not knowing exactly what I was going to do. You came past again. We smiled at each other, said hello and continued on our way. My two spies noticed the eye contact and exchange and, equally important, that you were not wearing a wedding ring. But I was perplexed as to how to approach you with your mother always at your side. I thought you had gone down to the first floor so I waited. Then, after 10 minutes, I went to the elevator to go to the second floor to find you. When the elevator doors opened, I was stunned to see you there (mother at your side) and I froze with nothing to say except "How are you doing?" I watched you leave in a white sedan and have been disappointed with myself ever since for letting shyness get the better part of a normally outgoing person. Somehow I just hope you, or one of your friends, reads the IMPROPER. You're a beautiful brunette and were wearing black pants and a short black leather jacket. Let's get past the simple hellos and have a conversation over dinner.
—john@cambridgegraphics.com

Rockie Horoscope

NOVEMBER 1 – 14, 2000

BY ROCKIE GARDINER



SCORPIO
OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21
Happy birthday. No matter how old you are, whether the year is significant or not, Scorpio 2000 commemorations carry heavy weight and import. Partially because Mercury in your sign is turning direct on the 7th, partially because the Scorpio sun, by squaring Uranus on the 8th, is catapulting you head first into the future. Some may be upset by changes at home, some will welcome the freedom. Thanks to a basic stability (your Mars co-ruler has support from rock-solid Saturn) underlying crucial relationships, you'll land on your feet.

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21
Go shopping, get a good haircut, forget how erratically the world is spinning. While you have delectable, deliciously romantic Venus in your sign (only until the 12th) take advantage of your ability to look surprisingly good. Have a pre-holiday makeover, buy art for the house, make some art, too. Friends who are normally oblivous can benefit from Mercury flipping on Election Day. A shock of recognition midweek can run up the spine of your relatives, but it won't phase you.

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20
Ambitious goats born on January 18, 19 or 20 can take over the world as soon as they realize that they have the support of their devoted Saturn ruler and militant Mars. But if you have no desire to dominate the scene, if all you want to do is score points with horny guys and father figures, then you're in luck. This is the weekend to make a favorable impression. Ensure that it remains a good one by keeping your mouth relatively shut. Mercury turning direct can transmit mixéd signals and the wrong information that results in an expensive proposition.

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18
Like Leo, you have a strong response to the periodic tremors shaking up your scene when the sun aligns with Uranus, your ruling planet. Such a disruptive event is scheduled for the 8th. But even if you emerge unscathed, if an earthquake doesn't hit home, if the election doesn't strike terror in your heart, you'll still feel something new has begun. Marshalling this energy and putting it into a creative context could keep you busy until your birthday, which is the next time you're going to feel this stirred. Onward and upward.

PISCES
FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19
Despite the glyph, two fish headed in different directions, it is the ribbon connecting them that makes me realize all of you are of one mind. An idea, a question is put out there and, in no time, every Fish picks up on it. Perhaps this is also a result of Mercury being retrograde in Scorpio, another water sign; maybe it's simply an innate ability to read minds. Anyway, the answer to the question, "When will Mars be in Pisces so I can get my eyes-nose-mouth-ears-face done?" is: from mid-December 2001 until mid-January 2002.

ARIES
MARCH 20-APRIL 19
Yes, you're strong, but you are not invincible. Although your Mars ruler is being supported by the entire Saturnian power structure, you are still subject to delusional flights of fancy. Watch that rich imagination of yours, especially when you are visualizing the next career move. Projecting is a valuable attribute of filmmakers and polltakers, but if you are a working stiff, you can't let yourself get carried away. Spin doctors and makeup artists are exceptions; they do well when nebulous Neptune has free rein. Incidentally, are you still wearing your Halloween mask?

TAURUS
APRIL 20-MAY 20
Sociable and philosophical is not that odd a combination; who says party conversation can't rise above dish? While your Venus ruler is in fancy-free Sagittarius, you'll pull in folks who see the bigger picture and have higher hopes, the professors and world travelers. Unfortunately this phase of your life passes all to quickly; by next weekend, Venus will be attracting tried-and-true traditionalists, people who diligently practice until they get it right. Knowing what rigors lie ahead, and the company you're going to keep, go for broke while you can.

GEMINI
MAY 21-JUNE 20
Enough indecision and unconscious errors! Your Mercury ruler is getting ready to change direction again, so things are going to be questionable and annoying at least through Election Night. Don't let these flips upset your schedule, or your home life, any more than they need to. The erratic sun-Uranus square Wednesday can disrupt everybody's belief system. No one can be certain that the candidate who is leading in the polls will be the one who takes office. Meanwhile, there are more pretty people to spend time with. Lucky you.

CANCER
JUNE 21-JULY 22
Those spiritual brothers and sisters you value so highly return the favor when they offer to plug you into their networks of peers and pals. Because Mercury is getting ready to turn around, delay making connections until the 7th. Although putting off the initial contact doesn't guarantee success, it does tip the scales a bit more in your favor. Periods of retrograde are best spent finishing up old business, checking in with old friends or checking out the ex.

LEO
JULY 23-AUGUST 22
Topsy-turvy at worst, slightly inconvenienced at best. Your semi-annual adjustment is scheduled for mid-week when your sun ruler and unpredictable Uranus (in your house of partners, no less) put the screws to each other. Don't count on the people you spend a lot of time with to be much help; they'll be reacting to an unexpected occurrence at the same time you are. In fact, they're probably contributing to whatever is upsetting you. Mercury flipping forward after three weeks of showing you the old neighborhood serves as an exclamation point to the entire experience.

VIRGO
AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22
Virgins, especially those born close to the Libra cusp, have enormous energy, determination and the power to harness the powers that be. To learn a lot and stay effective in this period of transition, stick to the old guard, the reverend fathers and time-honored practices, the practical Saturnian stuff you still need to master. Once your Mercury ruler turns direct on the 7th, you'll have a reason to use the knowledge you've gleaned from an old-boy network, no matter which culture it comes from.

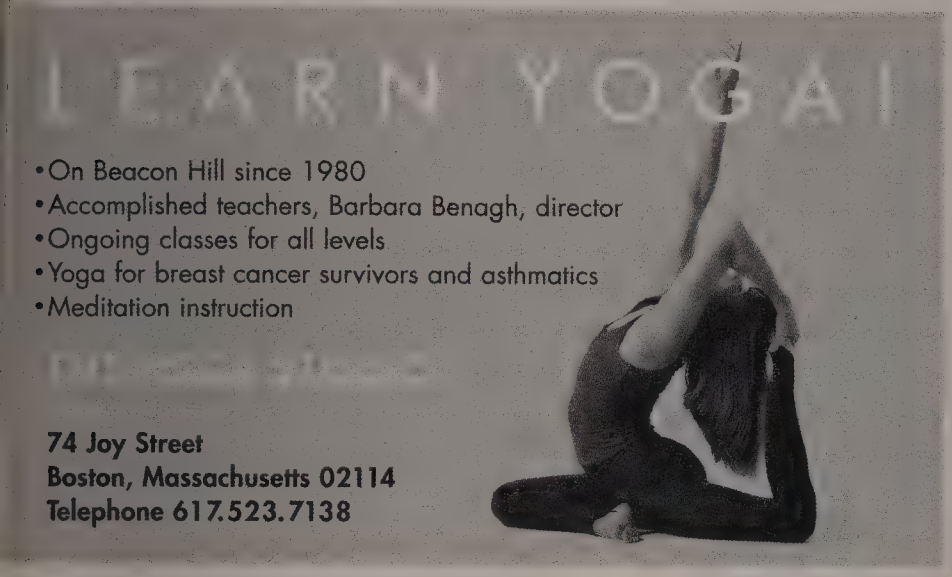
LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22
Yes, it feels weird out there and people are wired, but you can avoid the worst of the changes going down on a personal level. Stay focused on sharing what you know with folks you'd like to know better. Hang out, go for coffee. Your Venus ruler is in Sagittarius for such a short time, use the visit to expand your interests and list of interesting people. And don't worry about being shy. Gutsy Mars enters Libra on the 3rd and doesn't leave until winter arrives.

Curious about the future? Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30 to 40+ pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise over the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $42.50 per report to: ROCKIE GARDINER, 1021 N. Genesee, #1, West Hollywood, CA 90046. *www.rockiehoroscope.com.* Read my daily forecast online at *www.laweekly.com.*

RIKKI WARD

gina@ginacigar.com

GINA CIGAR



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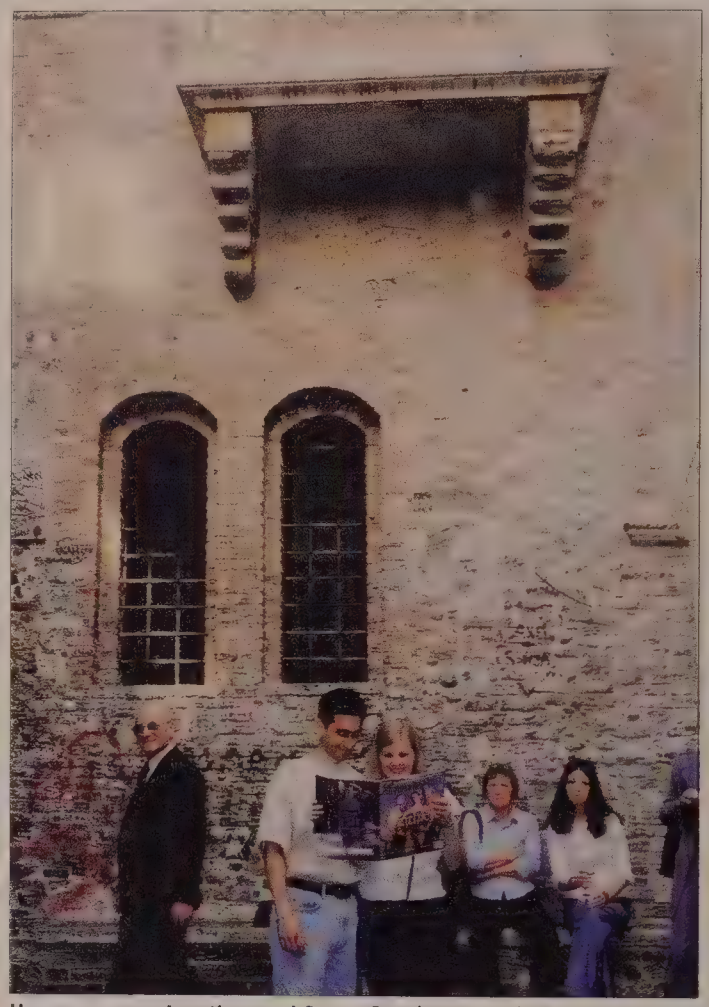
Improper Sightings

Unlike the rest of your friends, we want to see the photos from your next trip.

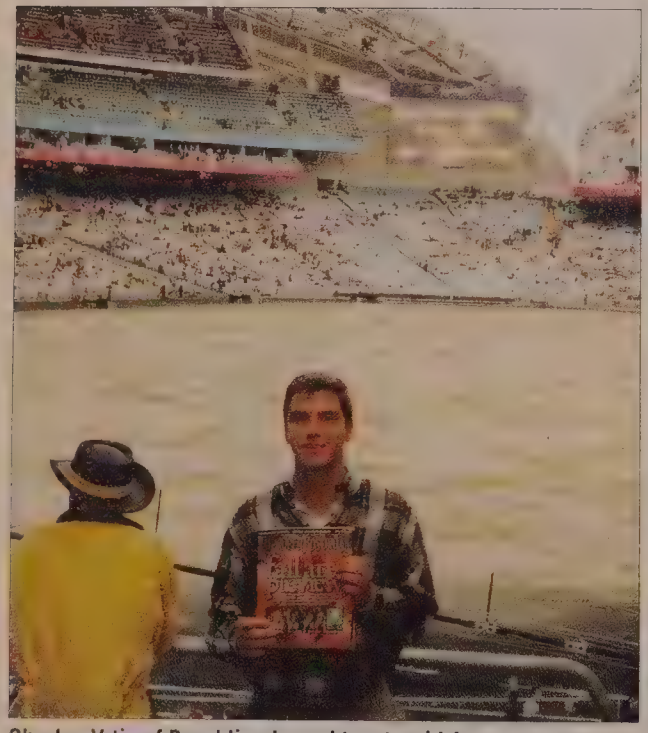
Where do you take us? We want to know! Send us a picture of you or a friend, or better yet, someone famous reading THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN and tell us where you were. The more creative you are, the faster we'll publish your pic! (Hey, we have no shame!)

Points to William Wallace for traveling to Scotland, dressing in full regalia and convincing innocent foreign tourists to pose for this.



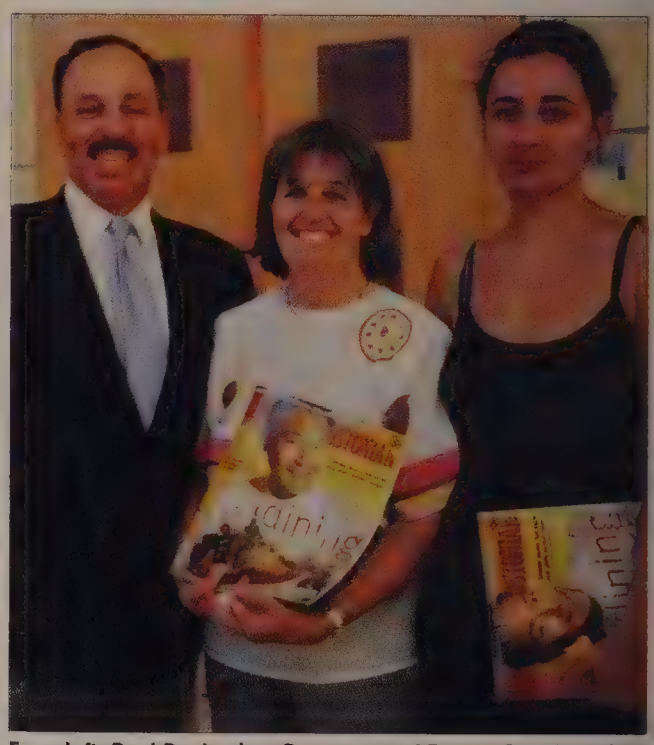
Honeymooners Jonathan and Susan Parziale pose in front of the balcony from *Romeo & Juliet* in Verona, Italy. Awwwww...

From left: Bryan Parsons, a Playboy bunny and John Holland at a Playboy-themed pit stop on the Boston-to-New York AIDS Ride.



Charles Vrtis of Brookline brought a steroid-free IMPROPER to Sydney for the opening ceremonies of the Summer Olympics.

Laura A. Kelly photographed a chilly Stacey Potwin at Coca-Cola world headquarters in Atlanta moments before she was devoured.



From left: Paul Boghosian, Baroness and Deputy Speaker of the British House of Lords Caroline Cox and Kali Kinga.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:
Loading the Aludium Q36 Pumpkin Modulator at the World Championship Punkin' Chunkin', Nov. 3-4 in Lewes, Del. The Q36 holds the record pumpkin throw, at 4,026 feet.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116.
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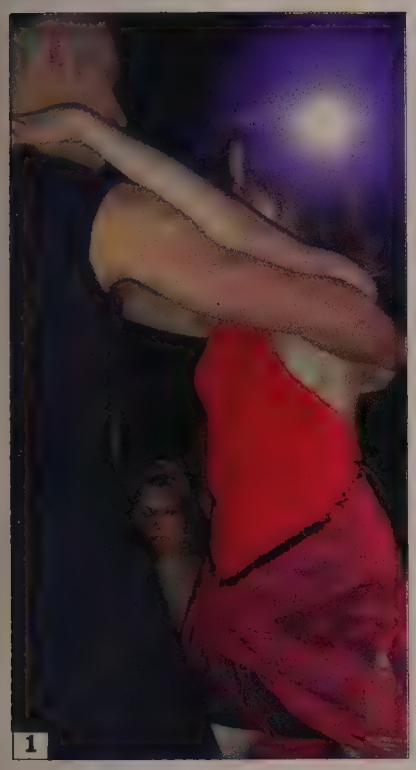
improperazzi

The Improper Bostonian's client-related promotions and events

On Thursday, Oct. 19, party goers strutted their hottest fashions at the **Pravda** One Year Anniversary party. Pravda threw a sizzling fashion show, produced by Samantha House of ***The Improper Bostonian***. The show featured clothing of **Louis Boston** and was hosted by Kim O'Nasch of ***As the World Turns***. It was a perfectly packed party with plenty of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and dancers.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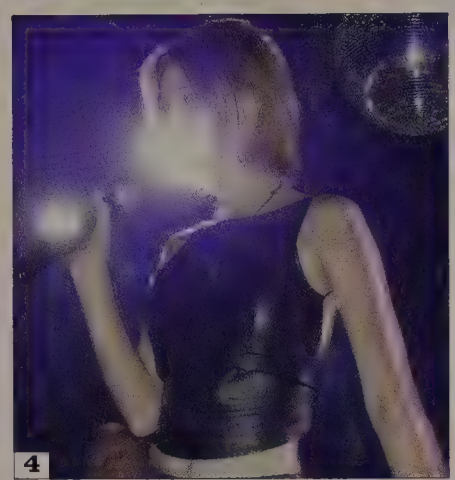
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1. Latin dancers **Chris Johnston** and **Regina**, of Supershag Productions.
2. Model **Annette Rosario** of Q Models, NYC.
3. **Mahiar Sabokrooh** of Needham; **Brian O'Donnell**, general manager, Pravda; **Veronica O'Quinn** of Pravda.
4. Host **Kim O'Nasch**, of *As the World Turns*.
5. **Arron Saxe** of Sophia's; **Erica Sabatini** of Boston; **Kate McNicholas** of Boston.
6. **Michael Morris** of Kingston, R.I.; **David Fleming**, senior regional sales Director, Brooktrout Technology; **Andy Morris** of KForce.com and **Scott Dunlap**, executive vice president of Warner Chilcott.

Many friends gathered at **The Rattlesnake Bar & Grill** on Oct. 16 to celebrate the restuarant's 10th anniversary while dancing to the sounds of **Caveman Ken**. Proceeds from the event went to the "Red" McNichols Education Fund.

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1. **Jay Gardener** and **Tony Castagnozzi,** owners of the Rattlesnake.
2. **Steve Heffron** of Department of Transition Systems, **Jim Holmwood** of Restaurant Brokers of America, and **Bob LeBlanc** of Melrose-Wakefield Hospital, with Rattlesnake's bartender extraordinare, **Bobby Carroll**.
3. Rattlesnake waitresses **Katherin Joyette** and **Elizabeth Pothier**.

On Friday, Oct. 20, **Sudiko Marketing Group** hosted the 16th Annual Regatta Ball. Over 1,100 **Head of the Charles** revelers crossed the bridge a day early to celebrate at the **Hyatt Regency** on Memorial Drive while dancing to the tunes of **Madhouse**.

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1. **Diane Mantouvalos**, co-founder of Sudiko Marketing Group.
2. **Jason Marra** of People Soft. **Tom Ruff** of Workscape with **Craig Cloutier** of Allstate Insurance Co.
3. **Amy Finsilver,** assistant GM at 15 Beacon with **Pam Blessing**, catering manager of the 4 Seasons Hotel.
4. **Dana D'Alfonso,** a business manager at WGBH.

WENDY SEMONIAN (RATTLESNAKE, SUDIKO); CAESY NASTRO (PRAVDA)

BARS, CLUBS, RESTAURANTS & BRUNCH

The following are paid advertisements. Please check times and prices in advance. If you'd like to have your restaurant listed, please call The Improper Bostonian Advertising Dept. at 859-1400.

BARS

Billiards

Boston Billiards Club

126 Brookline Ave., 536-POOL. Ranked #1 in the country by Billiards Digest. Free lessons on Mon., 7:30pm - 9pm. Boston Billiards Club House leagues on Mon. and Tues. "In The Biz" night on Sun. and Mon. for patrons in the hospitality industry. Ladies' night on Wed. Featuring a menu of light fare such as grilled chicken sandwiches and appetizers, along with beer, wine, cocktails and a variety of non-alcoholic beverages.

The Rack

24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998,1999 &2000 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, Mark Morris & The Catunes, and BaHa Brothers.

Beer Specialty Bars

Sunset Grill & Tap

130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 254-1331. Something's always brewing at Best of Boston's award winning ber bar. Here you'll find the largest selection on the East Coast-112 taps and 380 microbrews and exoic imports. Join our beer club and enjoy every style of beer under the sun. Take advantage of the yards, cask conditioned beer, flight samples, vintage and new beers, seasonals, meads, ciders, etc. Full menu until 1am. Experience our beer festival 365 days a year.

Brew Pubs

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Co.

138 Portland St., Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is now the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, a block from the FleetCenter and steps from Faneuil Hall, Commonwealth Fish & Beer features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

General

BARCODE

955 Boylston St., Boston, 421-1818. Enjoy the intimate, windowed dining room or a signature cocktail in the lounge. BARCODE offers a creative martini selection, a balanced and affordable wine list and both bottled and draft beer. Drinks are available until 2 am daily, food served until 1 am.

Cactus Club

939 Boylston St., 236-0200. Get a taste of the Southwest in Boston. Specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, Cajun Catfish. Sample the firewater menu while you are there, including Coyote Killer (Light and dark rum, peach schnapps, ginger beer and mixed juices), or a Chambord Margarita. The daring may go for a dip in the Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Amex, Diners Club, MC and Visa. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurants, in Framingham, Waltham and Needham. www.cactusclub.com.

Harvard Gardens

316 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114, 617-523-2727. A wonderfully relaxed haven located opposite MGH on the back side of Beacon Hill. Serving the finest cocktails and most comfortable food in town. Plant yourself in a comfy booth, a cozy banquette, or at our fully loaded bar and escape from your everyday troubles. Doing it nice & easy 7 days a week - 11am-2am. Major credit cards accepted. Valet parking available.

Encore Lounge

279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 338-7699 A new twist on Boston's Cabaret Tradition! Live Music 7 nites a week 9:30pm-1am (til 2am on Saturdays). Always open mike! Party where the Stars go after the Show!Monday: Michael Larson & Dorothy Miller (Cabaret), Tuesday: BobbyFemino (Piano Bar), Wednesday & Thursday: Michelle Curry (Piano Bar) Friday: John O'Neil & Jan Peters (Cabaret), Saturday: DesPres & DeGraff (Contemporary Cabaret) Sunday: Michael Kreutz (Piano Bar)

Ma Soba Asian Cuisine & Sushi

156 Cambridge Street on Beacon Hill, Boston, 973-6680. Enjoy premium sushi and Ma Soba's unique blend of contemporary and traditional Asian cuisine prepared by award-winning chefs. Relax with a fine wine selection from Ma Soba's comprehensive wine cellar in a setting described as "strikingly attractive and ultra urbane" by the Boston Herald. Open daily: Sun-Wed until 10:30pm, Thurs-Sat until 11:00pm. When in Harvard Square/ Cambridge, visit Ma Soba Express at 30 Dunster Street for quick-service pan Asian noodles and rice platters.

Roxy

279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 338-7699 We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

Sweetwater Cafe

3 Boylston Place, 351-2515. A classic American bar featuring Boston's best bands and DJ's nightly. A favorite Boston bar for 15 years with two floors of entertainment, an outdoor patio and world class margaritas. Always great music and cold beer, never a dress code. Available for private functions of any kind. (Credit cards: Am Ex, Visa, MC, Diner's) Tues. - Sat. 5 pm - 2 am. Located in "The Alley."

The Big Easy Bar

1 Boylston Place, Boston, 351-7000. Informal. Located in Boston's version of Bourbon Street, "The Alley." The Big Easy Bar is a hot new New Orleans style bar featuring Boston's best live bands and disc jockeys nightly playing music you know and love. Relax in a lounge, listen to the band, play billiards, hang at the bar or dance the night away. The Big Easy Bar has something fun for everyone. Great beer selection, 22 oz. Hurricanes, 4 huge bars, 2 lounges, a balcony, plenty of seating, and a large dance floor. Wed. - Sat. 8 pm - 2 am.

The Rack

24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998,1999 & 2000 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, Mark Morris & The Catunes, and BaHa Brothers.

The Sugar Shack

1 Boylston Place, 351-2510. "Home of Boston's Best Party." Set in the middle of a mini-Bourbon Street, The Sugar Shack celebrates Mardi-Gras year-round with a carefree, reckless, spontaneous and unpretentious attitude. Carnival lights, confetti, beads, specialty drinks, live bands and Disc Jockeys playing classics, motown, R&B, funk, disco, and old school hip hop from the last three decades mixed with the best of today's top 40. Home of young professional, young alumni, 20 something hipsters who desire cold beer, cocktails, classic party tunes and unadulterated fun!!

Vox Populi

755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300.
Speak your voice at this comfortably sophisticated Back Bay restaurant and bar. With an eclectic style highlighted by rich, vibrant colors and rustic antiques, Vox Populi offers a hip, sleek and intimate atmosphere. Enjoy the first floor bar and fireplace lounge, the second floor bar overlooking bustling Boylston St., or the elegant second floor dining room, (Outdoor patio dining available sesonally). One of Back Bay's most prominent establishments, Vox Populi truly speaks the popular voice.

Comedy

The Comedy Connection

245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 248-9700. The Comedy Connection located in the heart of historical Faneuil Hall features the biggest names in comedy with apearances by Jon Stewart, Chris Rock, Wendy Liebman and Jay Mohr. Located on the second floor of the Quincy Market Building, the Connection offers the best in local and national stand-up seven nights a week. For more information call 617-248-9700.

Wine Bars

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar

105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston,
292-0966. The hip meeting spot in the Financial District for after work, dinner, late night, or a seductive tryst. The Vault offers some of the most exclusive wines in Boston, which complement the creative American Cuisine prepared by Chef Michael Foley. Can't decide on a wine? Relax and compare with our Tasting Flights featuring selections from different reds and whites. So what are you waiting for? Call an old friend, a client, or a co-worker and meet for cocktails at The Vault today.

RESTAURANTS

Backstage

245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 248-9700. Faneuil Hall's hottest restaurant and nightclub offers the very best in Americana food. Located adjacent to the Commedy Connection you can dance the night away every Wednesday through Sunday with Top 40 and dance classics by DJ's Jonny and Freddi C. For more information call 726-1110.

BARCODE

955 Boylston St., Boston, 421-1818.
BARCODE offers creative food and drink with a truly unique, casual style and atmosphere. Simple yet exotic and flavorful, Executive Chef George Leu's menu features a variety of French bistro fare touched with Asian influences. Dinner served daily 5 pm - 1 am, bar open daily 4:30pm - 2:00am.

Cactus Club

939 Boylston St., 236-0200. Get a taste of the Southwest in Boston. Specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, Cajun Catfish. Sample the firewater menu while you are there, including Coyote Killer (Light and dark rum, peach schnapps, ginger beer and mixed juices), or a Chambord Margarita. The daring may go for a dip in the Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Amex, Diners Club, MC and Visa. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurants, in Framingham, Waltham and Needham. www.cactusclub.com.

Caliterra

89 Broad St., Boston, 348-1234, at the New Wyndham Boston Hotel. Caliterra is heating up the dining climate of Boston's financial district. Our Cal-Ital fare combines contemporary Northern California traits with hearty Tuscan classics and the freshest New England seafood. We accommodate groups in our private dining room, and private parties in our exclusive wine rooms. Enjoy libations in our spacious Caliterra lounge. Reservations recommended. Valet parking available. Breakfast available Mon. - Fri., 6:30 - 11 am; Sat. & Sun., 7 am - 12 noon. Child's breakfast is free with an adult. Lunch daily 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Dinner nightly 5 - 10 pm. Located one block from Boston Harbor and Quincy Marketplace.

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Co.

138 Portland Street, Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, near the Fleet Center and Faneuil Hall, Common-wealth features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am -1 am.

The Elephant and Castle

161 Devonshire St., Financial District, Boston, 350-9977. English style Pub offering over 100 types of beer, great food and the financial district's most comfortable bar. Specialties include beer battered fish and chips and shepherd's pie. We also offer a great selection of single malt scotches and a variety of cigars. We have two levels of operation with our lower level providing private rooms for both business meetings and after work parties.

Harvard Gardens

316 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114, 617-523-2727. A wonderfully relaxed haven located opposite MGH on the back side of Beacon Hill. Serving the finest cocktails and most comfortable food in town. Plant yourself in a comfy booth, a cozy banquette, or at our fully loaded bar and escape from your everyday troubles. Doing it nice & easy 7 days a week - 11:30 am - 2 am.

Iguana Cantina

313 Moody St., Waltham, 781-891-3039; 1656 Worcester Rd., Rt. 9, Framingham, 508-875-1188; and 66 Chestnut St., Needham, 781-444-9976. The Iguana Cantina serves a variety of Caribbean, Tex-Mex and Southwestern fare. The atmosphere is fun and the food is tasty. Visit our website at www.theiguanacantina.com.

Ma Soba Asian Cuisine & Sushi

156 Cambridge Street on Beacon Hill, Boston, 973-6680. Enjoy premium sushi and Ma Soba's unique blend of contemporary and traditional Asian cuisine prepared by award-winning chefs. Relax with a fine wine selection from Ma Soba's comprehensive wine cellar in a setting described as "strikingly attractive and ultra urbane" by the Boston Herald. Open daily: Sun-Wed until 10:30pm, Thurs-Sat until 11:00pm. When in Harvard Square, visit Ma Soba Express at 30 Dunster St. for quick-service pan Asian noodles and rice platters.

Mistral

223 Columbus Ave. 867-9300. Acclaimed chef/owner Jamie Mammano's South End restaurant. The design is both elegant and informal, resonating with the ambiance of Provence. Mistral features a crisp linen dining room as well as a casual lounge and bar. Serving dinner Mon-Sun beginning at 5:30pm - 11pm. Late night menu served Thurs-Sat 11pm-12midnight. Reservations recommended-private dining available.

Shenandoah Rest., Marketplace Cafe, Brewskellar Pub

Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston 227-1272. Located in the North Market Building of Faneuil Hall, Shenandoah Restaurant, The Marketplace Cafe, and Brewskellar Pub have something for everyone. Whether you're interested in a casual dinner on one of Boston's largest outdoor patios or the quiet more elegant surroundings of Shenandoah Restaurant, we offer it all. Having a function? We cater personally to all events you may be planning. Visit us soon and let us surprise you.

Skipjack's

199 Clarendon St., Copley Sq., 536-3500; 2 Brookline Pl., Brookline, 232-8887; and 55 Needham St., Newton, 964-4244. Enjoy fresh grilled seafood flown in from around the world, in a casual, comfortable atmosphere. Specialties include blackened tuna sashimi, Skipjack's moonfish, Maryland crabcakes, lobsters and gingered calamari. Swing with the infamous Winiker Orchestra and enjoy our Jazz Brunch every Sunday, 11 am - 3 pm in Boston. Also performing in Brookline every Fri. and Sat. evenings from 6 - 10 pm. Reservations accepted and discounted underground parking in Boston and Brookline.

Sunset Grill & Tap

130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 254-1331. Don't just come for Boston's Best Beer Selection featuring 112 taps and 380 microbrews. Come also to enjoy Boston's award winning steam beer burgers and famous curly fries, original buffalo wings and giant nachos. Still hungry? Try our juicy BBQ steak tips, grilled fish, homemade pastas, tender Yankee ribs or our sizzling fajitas. Full menu until 1 am.

The Rack

24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Market-place Boston, 725-1051. Winner of Improper's 1997, 1998,1999 & 2000 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar

105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-9966. A wonderful secret hidden in Boston's Financial District. The Vault offers contemporary American cuisine and an extensive and exclusive affordable wine list. Come in and enjoy creative dishes prepared by Chef Michael Foley. Lunch Mon. - Fri. from 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Dinner Mon. - Wed. from 5:30 - 10:30 pm, Thurs. - Sat. from 5:30 - 11 pm. Closed Sun.

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Speak your voice at this comfortably sophisticated Back Bay restaurant and bar. With an eclectic style highlighted by rich, vibrant colors and rustic antiques, Vox Populi offers a hip, sleek and intimate atmosphere. Enjoy the first floor bar and fireplace lounge, the second floor bar overlooking bustling Boylston St., or the elegant second floor dining room. (Outdoor patio dining available sesonally). One of Back Bay's most prominent establishments, Vox Populi truly speaks the popular voice.

Watch City Brewing Co.

256 Moody St. Waltham 781-647-4000
Top Ten Reasons To Visit Watch City:

10. At the top of Waltham's restaurant row 9. Easy access from Rt.128 & Masspike 8. Free parking 7. The Embassy Cinema next door 6. Award winning chef & brewers 5. www. watchcitybrew.com 4. Live music Wed & Thurs. nights 3. Great grilled seafood, steaks & burgers 2. Only female owned brew pub in USA 1. Great beers, great food, always a great time.

The Wrap & Smoothie Bar

137 Mass Ave., Boston (at Berklee School of Music), 369-9087; 71 Mt. Auburn St., Harvard Square, 354-5838; 1940 Beacon St., Cleveland Circle, 739-0340; 82 Water St., Financial District, 357-9013. The Wrap serves delicious, freshly prepared wraps, burritos and salads as well as healthy and refreshing smoothies. Voted Boston's Best 1998 & 1999 by The Improper Bostonian. Fresh ingredients, great taste healthy options - words we live by!

BRUNCH

Atlantic 101

101 Atlantic Ave., Boston 723-5101. A waterfront live jazz brunch is the perfect Sunday start at Atlantic 101 from 11:30am - 2:30pm featuring a creative a la carte menu and soothing live jazz. Sample favorites as Eggs Benedict, Huevos Rancheros, or try out our crowd pleasing Poached Eggs with Maine Crab Cakes, Smoked Bacon and Creole Mustard Hollandaise. Burgers, crepes and Lobster round out the menu as well. Call 723-5101 for reservations. Atlantic 101 also features live piano and vocals at night, Tuesday through Saturday. Lunch daily from 11:30am-2:30pm. Dinner daily from 5:00-10:30pm.

Museum of Science - Skyline Room

Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston, MA 02114. Powers of Nature, October 6-March 4. Enjoy Sunday brunch in the beautiful Skyline Room overlooking the Charles River at noon, then experience the amazing Mugar Omni Theater: Wild California at 2pm. Tickets are $28 for Adults, $26 for Seniors/Children. Brunch only is $20. On-site parking is included. Reservations recommended, call (617)723-2500.

Skipjack's

199 Clarendon St., Copley Sq., 536-3500; 2 Brookline Pl., Brookline, 232-8887; and 55 Needham St., Newton, 964-4244.Swing with the infamous Winiker Orchestra and enjoy our Jazz Brunch every Sunday, 11 am - 3 pm in Boston. Located at 199 Clarendon St. at Copley Square. Indulge yourself with our delicious Smoked Salmon and Caviar Tasting served on a warm corn blini, or our Fresh Crab Pie made with eggs and jack cheese. Do not forget to sample our award-winning clam chowder. Validated parking available. Reservations accepted. Call 617-536-3500.

Sunset Grill & Tap

130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 254-1331. "Beer's not just for breakfast anymore." At the Sunset Super Sunday Brewers Brunch, try our thick-cut French toast, potato skins and eggs, eggs benny, crispy quesadillas or our All You Can Eat Brunch Taco Bar, including a free Sunday paper and your first beery mary or mimosa. Full menu also available. 112 taps, 380 microbrews.

Vox Populi

755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300.
Speak your voice on Sunday afternoons at the best brunch in the Back Bay. With an eclectic style all it's own, Vox Populi offers the perfect atmosphere for the comfortably sophisticated lounger in everyone. Enjoy the first floor bar and fireplace lounge, the second floor bar overlooking bustling Boylston St., or the elegant second floor dining room (outdoor patio dining available sesonally). One of Back Bay's most prominent establishments, Vox Populi truly speaks the popular voice.

The Wrap & Smoothie Bar

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CLASSIFIEDS

GENERAL CLASSIFIEDS

TAKE A TOUR
Stop just thinking about owning your own business! Take your first step & tour our Boston office! Prime territories are still avail. in Boston suburbs. Call to learn about an industry that's growing 20% annually,
617-742-8787, ext.225

HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO BE A GAME-SHOW CONTESTANT?
Get your own Game Show going at your party or event with THE GAME SHOW. We send in the system & Host/DJ/MC. Want the best DJ's? Get them all & See it all at www.games-r-us.com or www.decadesofdance.com or call (508) 877-85DJ.

LEADERS WANTED
National marketing group expanding in the Boston area. Seeking someone who has owned or operated a business, or has experience in marketing, teaching or public speaking.
Call 617-747-4452.

DRIVERS!
Auto Delivery Company needs you! We are looking for responsible part time drivers to deliver cars in local area. GREAT JOB FOR STUDENTS, retirees and others looking to work many days or just one! Casual atmosphere, T-access, parking provided. Located in South Boston. $7 per hour. Driving records checked for free! Clean driving record preferred. Call Jim at 1.800.666.9007 ext 102.

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The best way to meet locally. Record and listen to personal ads FREE! Call
(781) 860-7441, code 6150, 18+.

ALL KINDS OF SINGLES!!
Why not meet? It's Always FREE - To Record, Browse & Send Msgs! 617-338-9900, Code 6070, 18+

ABSOLUTE GAY & BI FUN!!
Easy, Private & Always FREE - To Record, Browse & Send Msgs! 617-423-6666, Code 5030, 18+

Butterfish

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617 497-5511

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(617) 354-2020

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- Write a Cookbook
- Be a Food Stylist
- Teach Culinary Arts

You are cordially invited to attend an Open House

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Last Scene Here

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

At the BSO, from top: Caroline Smedvig and James Taylor; Marie Pettibone, Bill Poorvu and Gabriella Baranek; Peter Duchin and Bea Flammia; Kate Shamon and Drew Martin.

JUST DON'T ASK ME TO BLOW OUT THE CANDLES...

A hundredth anniversary only comes along every hundred years or so, which explains why the **BSO** pulled out all the stops for its celebration of the **Centennial of Symphony Hall**.

Where else could you see **Seiji Ozawa**, **John Williams** and **Keith Lockhart** playing a six-handed piano piece, or dance to **Jessye Norman** singing "'Swonderful" with **Peter Duchin** accompanying her? Add to that a feast prepared by four of the city's celebrity chefs—**Michael Schlow** of Radius, **Jamie Mammano** of Mistral, **Ed Gannon** of Aujord'hui and **Daniel Bruce** of the Boston Harbor Hotel—and you begin to get a sense of what a piss-elegant, supremely entertaining evening it was.

Among the high and mighty spotted sipping, supping or spinning around the dance floor: acoustics expert and symphony stalwart **Leo Baranek** and his stunning wife, **Gabriella**, who was largely responsible for planning the whole affair, mega-philanthropists **John** and **Diddy Cullinane**, platinum-selling crooner **James Taylor** and the BSO's **Caroline Smedvig**, supermarket tycoons **Avram** and **Carol Goldberg**, bubbly blonde Louisburg Square resident **Catherine O'Connell**, radio hipster **Ron della Chiesa** and his irresistible other half, **Joyce**, banking bigwig **John Hamill**, entertainmentatrix **Dixie Whatley** and super-smoothie **John Mascia**, MFA grand poobah **Malcolm Rogers**, paintings peddler **Bill Vose** and the swanlike **Marcia**, scintillating socialite **Cokie Perry** (in rubies and diamonds) and husband **Lee** (sporting the Order of Ferdinand and Isabella, which he received from the King of Spain), patrician party pair **Hope Baker** and **Dexter Burley**, and the eternally enchanting **Joanne Dickinson**, who said, "I'll probably miss the next centennial, so I thought I'd come to this one."

A wise choice, since it's probably the last time, for a while at least, that anyone will hear "Ain't Too Proud To Beg" in Symphony Hall.

ARS LONGA, PARTY BREVIS...

The patrons' preview party at the **Cyclorama for Artcetera**—the biannual auction benefiting the **AIDS Action Committee**—was choc-a-block with aesthetes and arbiters of good taste, among them: gallery owner and event chair **Bernie Toale** and Coolidge Corner Theater savior **Joe Zina**, honorary chair and paintings framer **David Murphy**, banking scamp **Peter Nee**, patron lady bountiful **Joan Parker**, investment guru and art collector **Sheryl Marshall** and her affable other half, **Howard Salwen**, Cambridge writer **Margo Howard**, MFA curator **George Shackelford**, and so on and so forth.

While the artwork up for bids was the main attraction, Cartier donated a gold bracelet as a raffle prize, which generated a good deal of interest and some of the evening's choicest exchanges. For instance:

"The tickets are only $50 and the bracelet's worth $2,500. If you win, you can give it to your significant other."

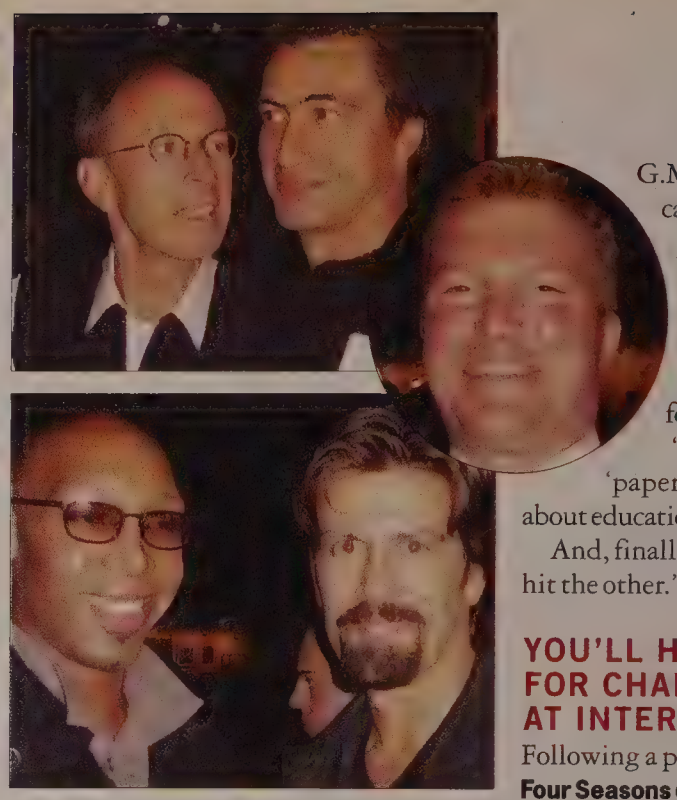
"I don't have one."

"Oh. Then you could give it to me."

EVERYONE'S A PUNDIT....

The entertainment potential of the final presidential debate seemed dubious, at best, until the invitation arrived to watch it at Democratic stalwart **Dick Friedman**'s party at the **Tini Bar** in the Charles Hotel.

Guests donned red or blue badges to indicate their party affiliation, guzzled liberally at the open bar and ate election-themed nibblies like potato pancakes (which presumably represented Lieberman) and cocktail weenies (which presumably represented Bush).



At the Artcetera party, from top: Bernie Toale and Joe Zina; George Shackleford; Gilbert Hickman and Michael Tilley.

Among the political junkies on hand: **Sen. John McCain**, who peeked in for a second-and-a-half before wandering off to do post-debate commentary on CNN, JFK School executive director **Catherine McLaughlin**, Clinton aide **Patti Ogle**, Mayor Menino's press secretary, **Carole Brennan**, rock'n'roll production god **Jon Rosbrook** and MCA promo babe **Lisa Mastrianni**, white-hot stockbroker **John Talanian**, inexplicable G.O.P. supporter **Julius Babbitt**, man of leisure **Paul Pultorak**, NPR pundit **Phillip Martin**, fashion model and policy wonk **Hollis Colby**, numerous earnest-looking poli-sci types from Harvard, and hotel G.M. **Mike Doyle**, who diplomatically opted out of expressing any political opinion by saying, "I'm Canadian. I can't vote."

Overheard during the course of the evening:

"Gore acts like he's running for sheriff, not president."

"Did I just hear Bush say 'paper-filler-outer' while talking about education?!"

And, finally: "I'd love to see one of them hit the other."

At the Tini Bar, clockwise from top: Dick Friedman and Catherine McLaughlin; Phillip Martin; Lisa Mastrianni, Jon Rosbrook and Patti Ogle.

YOU'LL HAVE TO SETTLE FOR CHAMPAGNE AT INTERMISSION...

Following a pre-performance dinner at the **Four Seasons** (and an earful of Russian blandishments from the legendary ballerina **Natalia Dudinskaya**), the **Boston Ballet** launched its production of ***La Bayadere***, the achingly beautiful love story about an Indian temple dancer and some poor shmoe who's engaged to the Rajah's daughter.

Seen swooning in the audience: Norwegian National Ballet director **Paul Podolski**, blue-blooded balletomane **Joan Wheeler**, fun-loving philanthropists **Kay** and **Peter Lyons**, board chair **Susan Friedman**, ballet overseer **Tom Leavitt**, the super sparkly **Stewart Clifford**, the supremely lady like **Cathryn Keith**, artist-about-town **Dave-O**, the stunning **Deena Hamilburg**, and numerous other people whose names regularly appear in boldfaced print.

A post-performance reception was held back at the Four Seasons, where guests nibbled desserts and discussed the ballet, the consensus of opinion being uniformly positive.

As one guest put it: "The only thing that could've made it better was if they passed around the opium pipe the hero was smoking at the beginning of Act III." **iB**

At The Four Seasons, from left: Kay and Peter Lyons with Jill Goldweitz; Stewart Clifford.

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TOM FORD

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hip-hop NOW!

Local heroes **MR. LIF** (left) and **ESOTERIC** style and profile at Biscuithead Records, Boston's only music store devoted to hip-hop.

An overview of hip-hop: from the MTV-driven variety to the exploding underground scene. The IMPROPER profiles Boston's rising stars, discusses the culture of hip-hop and tackles the question of race.

BY ANDREW GRAHAM AND RACHEL STRUTT

PLUS: A preview of the hip-hop awards at Karma

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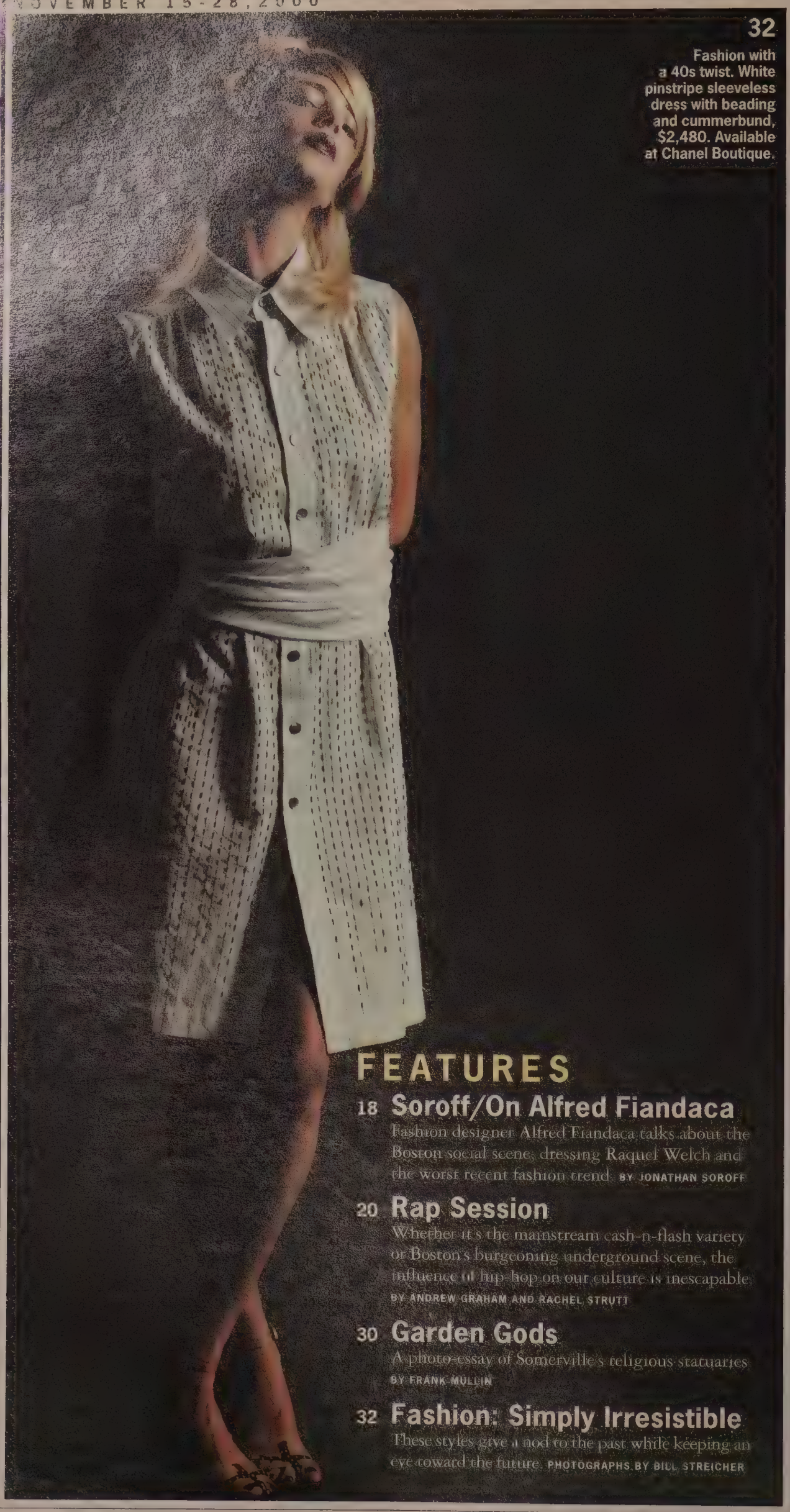

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Photograph of Mr. Lif and Esoteric for THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN by **Paul Lyden**; shot at Biscuithead Records.

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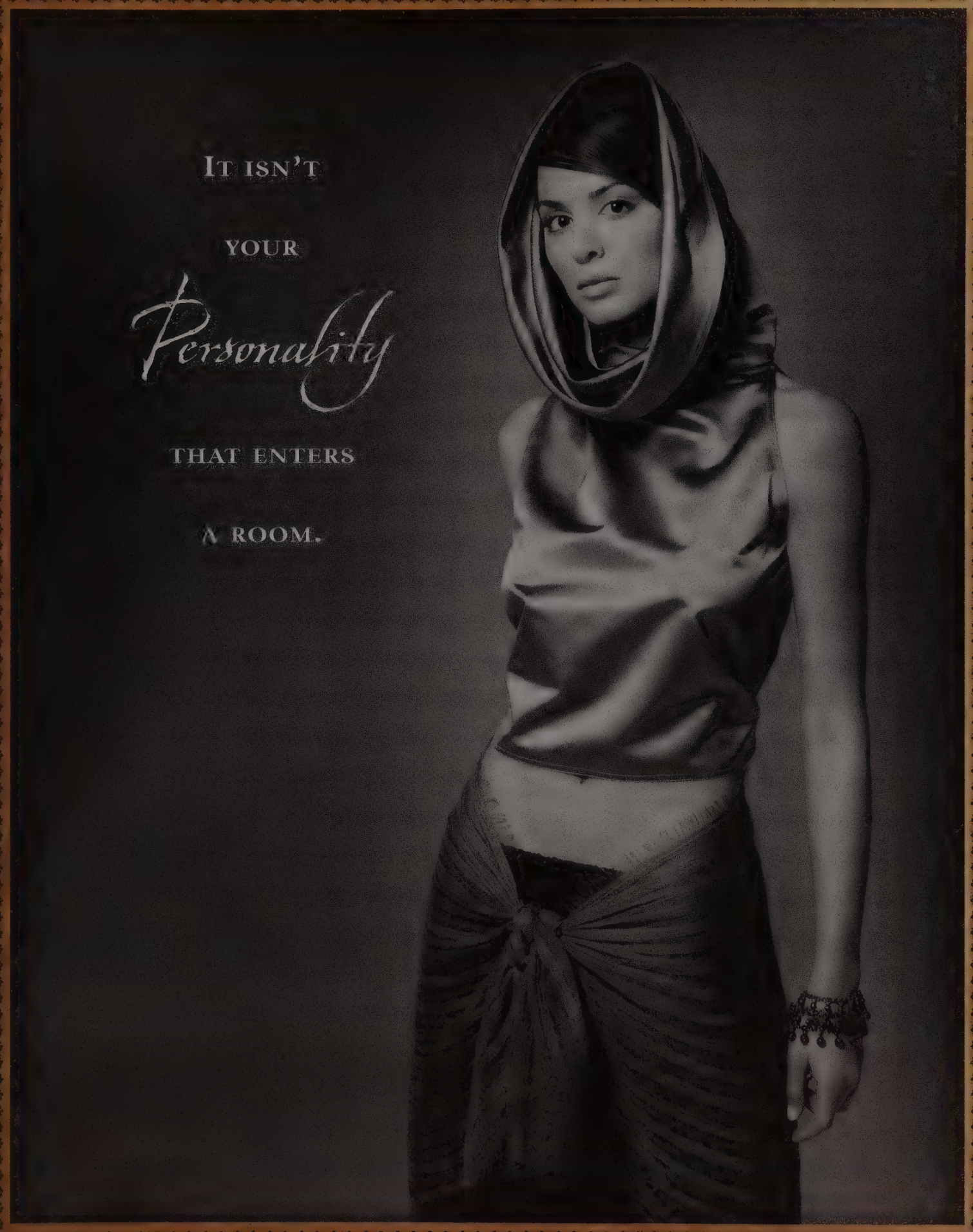
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE

BILL STREICHER



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Letters

THERE'S A FLY IN MY REVIEW

I always cringe before reading anything by a food critic—I think the critics' qualifications to write about restaurants are rarely if ever in proportion to the size of their bullhorns. Having said that, I was especially moved by the review of Atara [in the Nov. 1 issue, at right]. The critic mentioned Uva a few times, and stated that he wished Atara had the same extremely aggressive pricing on its wine list that the former restaurant had. He then went on to reveal an example of a markup he didn't agree with. I'm all for the Ralph Naders of the world, but let's revisit restaurant economics: There are two sources of income for a restaurant: food and beverage. There are about a million ways money goes out—guests incur a cost just putting their butt in a seat. Making only $10 on every bottle of wine means an operator better be making a very healthy (i.e., absurd) profit on the food; otherwise, they'll be out of business... like Uva. The last thing is not only did your critic, but also the critic at the *Globe*, fail to mention that the dessert the former wrote about and the latter loved ("Coffee and Donuts") is one of the signature dishes of Chef Thomas Keller at the French Laundry in California, something both were completely remiss in not mentioning.

—VIRGINIA WOOD
Boston

DUDE DIGS THE DIG. DIG?

First off, I find the majority of your magazine's articles to be very interesting, and I look forward to each new issue. A lot of the stories about Boston's neighborhoods and the local lore are a revelation to me and my friends. That said, I do harbor something of a fascination with monstrous construction projects, and so I particularly enjoyed Ellen O'Brien's recent article, "Who Wrote the Book of Dig?" Somehow I know that Dan McNichol's book is going to find its way onto my coffee table soon.

—GEORGE CRAWLEY
Arlington

MAKING ONLY $10 ON EVERY BOTTLE OF WINE MEANS AN OPERATOR BETTER BE MAKING A VERY HEALTHY (I.E., ABSURD) PROFIT ON THE FOOD; OTHERWISE, THEY'LL BE OUT OF BUSINESS...LIKE UVA.

—*VIRGINIA WOOD*
BOSTON

CRITICAHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Once again your magazine has shown how lame it is. In the recent issue, there was a blurb on a local guy who was up for "Sexiest Bachelor in America." You went on to say that the guy is "27, straight and single" and then you added, "making him a hot commodity in this town." One can only guess that you were implying that, by the time a guy is 27, if he's straight, more than likely he'll be married, and if not, then it must be because he's gay? And before you go and retort with some immature remark to me, allow me to say that that's another problem I have with the IB. I notice that whenever anyone has anything negative to say about your mag, nine times out of 10, instead of just accepting the criticism (which is usually merited), like a 7-year-old child, you feel the need to lash back at the writer with some sarcastic remark. Grow! Up!

—NAME WITHHELD
Editor's Note: *I know you are, but what am I?*

E-PARKING? NOT YET...

Nice job on the column about Mass. moving to create an e-government to handle annoying bureaucratic procedures [Boston Internet, Oct. 18]. In this day when Internet start-ups and 25-year-old CEOs get all the headlines (first for making millions of dollars, and then for losing it all), it's nice to see that you have searched and found some of the more important and influential people involved with the Internet here in Boston. The DMV's David Lewis proves that thinking about the organization of vast amounts of information is not about IPOs and flashy Web graphics, it's about providing people access to information in a way that is useful, comfortable and empowering. Thanks, IMPROPER BOSTONIAN and Geoffrey James. Now if I could only find a Boylston Street parking space on a Thursday night via the Internet.

—CHRIS ST. CYR
Via e-mail

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ANDREW GRAHAM

Residence: Somerville.
Sign: Pisces.
Turn-ons: Horseback riding, needlepoint and keeping it real.
Turn-offs: Litterbugs, smokers and phony people.
Fave musical acts: Steely Dan, Neil Young and, of course, Frank Sinatra.
Hobbies: Photography and long walks in the rain.
Mr. Graham's encyclopedic hip-hop knowledge is brought to bear on our cover story, starting on Page 20.

Tell Us What You Think

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CITY LIMITS

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BY ERIN HAGEDORN AND JULIE SHORT

NEW IN TOWN

COURTING NEW SEAFOOD FANS

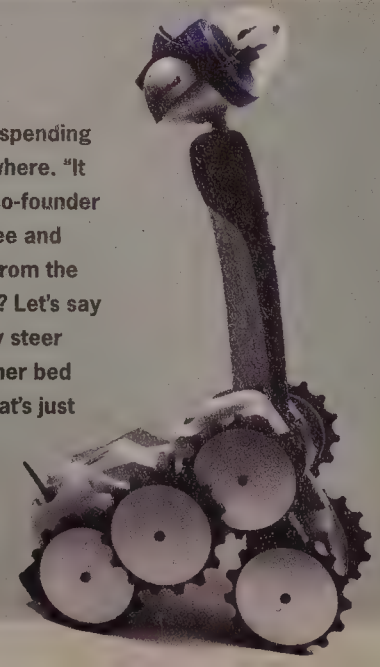
Sure, it sounds more like a law firm than a seafood restaurant, but McCormick & Schmick's, which opened in the Park Plaza Hotel last month, is set to give Legal Seafoods (which is right across the street) some serious competition. Even Legal loyalists will be impressed by the melt-in-your-mouth seared yellowfin tuna, salmon stuffed with Bay shrimp and the Maine lobster roll stuffed with sweet, tender meat. "Our menu is a little more daring than Legal's," says diplomatic general manager Howard Rosenberg. "But I think there is certainly enough demand for both."

The 300-seat restaurant hails from the Pacific Northwest, where 30 years ago, Bill McCormick and Doug Schmick converted Jake's Famous Crawfish restaurant into the first of the 31-restaurant chain that McCormick & Schmick's is today. The menu changes daily, depending on the day's catch. On a typical day you'll find Washington Dungeness crab, California Hog Island oysters and Oregon Bay shrimp. Four huge dining rooms are bathed in dim, warm lighting and decorated with a nautical theme—dark wood paneling, model ships and mounted fish. But the best part may be the "social hours" (blue laws forbid the term "happy hour") 4-6pm, Mon.-Fri. and after 10pm, Mon.-Thu. For just $1.95, you can get half-pound cheeseburger and fries, steamed mussels with garlic chili sauce, seared New York steak, oyster shooters and lots more. That said, we rest our case. *34 Columbus Ave., Boston (482-3999).*

THIS JUST IN

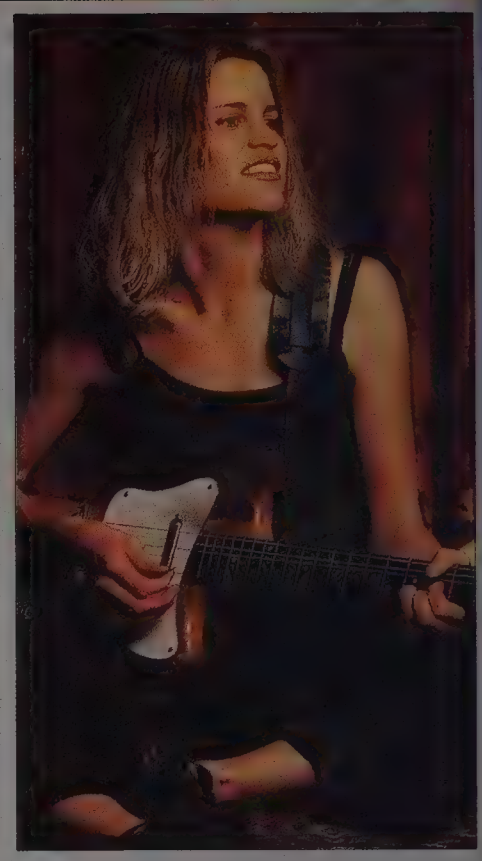
HIGH-TECH PET

The latest high-tech toy will arrive just in time for the winter holiday mass-spending spree. **IRobot** is a remote-controlled robot that you can operate from anywhere. "It lets you be in two places at one time," says Helen Greiner, president and co-founder of the Somerville-based iRobot company. Using a Web browser, you can see and hear everything that iRobot does. You can even control the high-tech pet from the computer, moving it around your house and making it perform tasks. Why? Let's say you're away on business and want to say goodnight to your gal-pal: Simply steer iRobot into her bedroom (keeping your fingers crossed that she's snug in her bed alone) and whisper sweet nothings to her through the microphone. Or if that's just too freaky, you can use it to check up on elderly relatives or a sleeping kid upstairs (yes, these 'bots can climb stairs too). The possibilities are endless. Test-drives in a simulated apartment are available in early December; visit www.irobot.com. You can also order one now for the "special deal" of $4,995. *1-888-7ROBOTS.*



AROUND TOWN

BARGAIN BASEMENT



The **Cambridge Common** and the **Lizard Lounge** have come up with a bargain deal for food and music enthusiasts. Sunday's Best at the Lizard Lounge is a new series featuring a sumptuous brunch upstairs at the Cambridge Common and live music down below at the Lizard Lounge from 12-2pm—all for one brunch price. With the two-for-one special, you get to see the show and have breakfast (without eggs) for $8.95 (with eggs, it's $11.95). The featured performer through Nov. 22 is NYC-based singer songwriter Andrea Maybaum. She began performing in clubs at age 16 in LA and has exercised her performing abilities in the theater as well, for the European traveling ensemble's version of *Hair*. Uptight patrons beware—Maybaum almost always sings barefoot. So if the sight of naked feet turns your stomach, you might want to skip the free music this time around. *The Cambridge Common and Lizard Lounge, 1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-0759).*

ALL THE BUZZ

GOURMET GUIDES

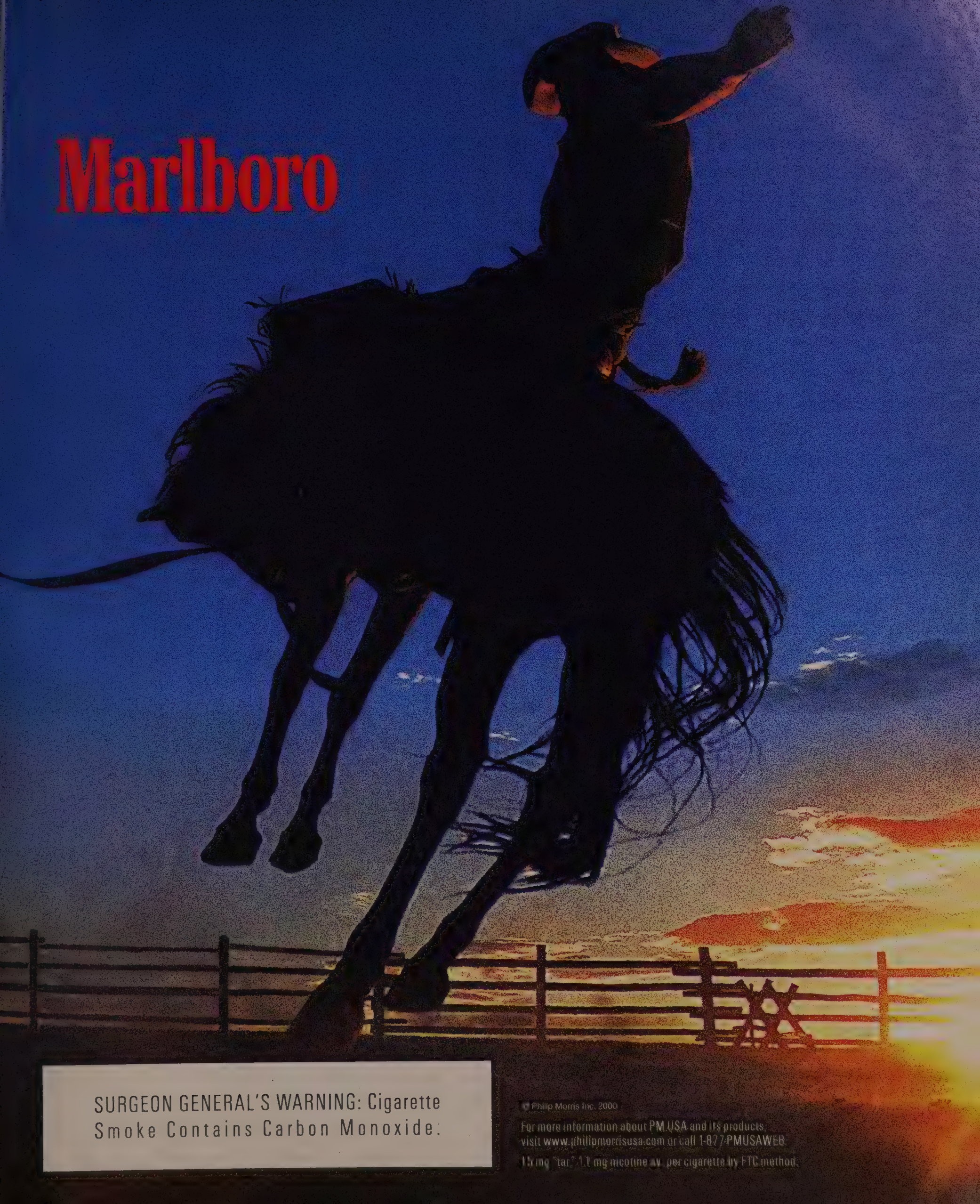
New restaurants are popping up practically every other day. Lucky for us, two food-savvy entrepreneurs have come up with a solution for overwhelmed diners. *Boston Menus* appeared on the stands in late October, rivaling the nearly 2-year-old *Where to Eat*. What's the difference? Not much, at first glance. Both give the basics: venue and cuisine of more than 100 restaurants. In fact, it would seem that *Boston Menus* has launched a direct attack on *Where to Eat*'s target audience. Not so, claims Chris Botello, founder of *Boston Menus*, who says his book is "unlike any other dining guide that we've seen," because it prints the actual menus. True, the competition simply includes tasty excerpts from restaurants' menus, minus exact prices. But it also gives a bit of history of each place. At the moment, restaurateurs must pay to be in *Where to Eat*, which is available for $6.95 at more than 700 locations, while food establishments in the $6 *Boston Menus* are listed for free. Let the food-listing wars begin.

INCOMING

WRITE 'N' ROLL

The Rock Bottom Remainders have penned some of their generation's classic novels, and these multitalented authors are also into classic rock. For those not familiar with the concept, it's essentially a bunch of authors who have temporarily quit their day jobs to show off their affinity—not necessarily their musical talent—for rock tunes. On their latest tour, the Remainders team up with New England Revolution captain John Harkes for a rock 'n' roll charity concert to benefit Boston's inner-city youth. Headlined by **Stephen King**, (pictured with Kathi Kamen Goldmark) the band's line-up this time around boasts best-sellers Mitch Albom (*Tuesdays with Morrie*), Amy Tan (*The Joy Luck Club*), as well as Matt Groening (*The Simpsons*), humorist Dave Barry and more. Roger McGuinn (the Birds) does a set as well. *Nov. 16, 7:30pm at Roxy (800-965-4827). $50.*

LIZARD LOUNGE: TRACY POWELL, CHEF: MIKE KEAR, KING: SUSANNE MOSS



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IMPROPERSPEAKING

BY ELLEN O'BRIEN

NO PARKING, BABY!

The ICA's revved-up, hot-rod Halloween shindig was not your average, buttoned-up charity affair. Yes, ticket sales went to a good cause (the **ICA**), but the charity-ball stereotype ends there. Revellers were raucous at the **Art Inspired by Hot Rods** event, and the young crowd included plenty of people who don't usually travel in the city's "society circles." Perhaps the young philanthropists were inspired by the rock bands performing (**Kay Hanley**, formerly of Letters to Cleo, celebrated her debut solo). Then, featured artist **Jimi V** appeared as a gold-lamé Elvis character. The director of the New Group (the ICA's membership association for young people), **Aaron Sherer**, said the year-old project has attracted 100 active members. "Most of the people had kind of lost interest in other organizations and were looking for something where they could have a more substantive role." The art enthusiasts have traveled to major private collections and visited with the owners. Above, from left to right: **Almie Samuelson**, **Meris Gebhardt** and **Anne Marie Rahm** dressed the part as pink hot-rod groupies.

NEWS FLASHES

Boston Globe investigative reporter **David Armstrong** is leaving his plum job as a special-projects reporter to work for the ***Wall Street Journal,*** a surprise move that has *Globe* editors grieving—and searching for a replacement. Armstrong's new deal will allow him to remain in Boston. A former ***Boston Herald*** reporter with a knack for using his computer to find damaging public records, Armstrong's most recent claim to fame was his devastating assessment of the Boston Fire Department's practices—complete with pictures of former Commissioner **Martin F. Pierce**'s dog apparently enjoying his taxpayer-funded, escorted walk. One group that won't be sorry to see Armstrong leave the *Globe* is the bad-boy cops who were spotlighted in Armstrong's series on the difficulties of firing police officers in Massachusetts. Much higher up in the *Globe* food chain, the venerable **Thomas F. Mulvoy**, managing editor for News, has requested a company buyout—even though he was not someone the *Globe* was hoping would exit early. Mulvoy is known affectionately as "the Monsignor" by staffers who appreciate that he holds up strict newspaper standards and maintains a no-nonsense approach to journalism. For many years, Mulvoy served as judge when a sportswriter, for example, filed a story with a four-letter word in it—and we don't mean "ball." In the newsroom, **Brian Mooney,** one of that dying breed of authoritative Boston reporters who knows that **Kevin White** wasn't a Celtics player, was told his signature political column was being eliminated. And Living/Arts staffer **Diane White** was also informed that her humor column was no longer wanted by the paper. Wait a second. That's not so funny.

WE'VE GOT CRAIG

If you go to San Francisco, or even somewhere closer to home, like New York City, then your friends will rave about *www.craigslist.com.* (If they don't, you need new friends.) Now Boston has been added to the cities where this popular site exists, and it's slowly being discovered by those who know its excellent reputation. Started former Silicon Valley IBM software engineer **Craig Newmark** (certified nice guy and high scorer in the Valley's "best bachelor" poll), the site was voted by Forrester Research this year as the Web site with the best job board in a poll of 50 similar sites. What's different about it? The site stands out for its no-advertising policy. Craigslist has no banner ads—no ads at all. It's a free online community (unless you are an employer posting a job) for people in Boston, and new to Boston, looking for an apartment, job, dance partner and pet sitter.

The 25-person company brought in $6 million in revenues last year. Its goals are to give users "a sense of trust and

Newmark puts Boston on his list.

even intimacy" and "down-to-earth values" when using the Net. Add to that to the company's nonprofit ventures, the matching of venture capitalists to dot-orgs, and you've got a feel-good online connection that you can tell your friends about.

LAW & ORDER

Thanks to Suffolk County District Attorney **Ralph Martin's** office politics, we don't need to watch *Law & Order* on television—we get all the behind-the-scenes stuff we need right here in town. When defense attorney **Robert A. George** missed a scheduled day in court this month, Martin's prosecutors protested loudly. So George had to explain to Superior Court Judge **Christine McEvoy** (in front of plenty of press) why he stood her up the day before. Turns out he had a stellar excuse. Martin's office had given him permission. And his star witness was another D.A.—Bristol County's **Paul Walsh,** who told the judge he negotiated the day off because he and George were at a crucial point in another case. Martin's office was left holding the bag, and now observers are wondering how long McEvoy will take this under advisement and who she might call from Martin's office to sort it out. She is, after all, a friend to Superior Court Judge **Maria Lopez.** And the courthouse halls have been verrrry chilly since Martin slammed Lopez repeatedly in the press after her recent controversial and unpopular decision in a child molestation case. Is it payback time? Who knows? But it's fun watching.

Bob George had his day in court.

BIG STEPS

On Nov. 18, the Big Sister Association will honor seven Boston leaders at their annual fall ball. The **Big Sister Achievement Award** will be presented to Dr. **Deborah A. Frank**, founder and director for the Grow Clinic for Children at Boston Medical Center; **John P. Hammill**, chairman and CEO of Sovereign Bank New England; **Jody Adams, Karen Haskell and Michela Larson**, partners in the Sapphire Group (owners of Rialto & Red Clay restaurants); **Dorothy Terrell**, senior vice president of worldwide sales and president of the Services Group at Natural Microsystems Corp.; and **Jeannette Neill** (above, wearing her stage make-up), founder and artistic director of the Jeannette Neill Dance studio, where city teens have found their way for years. The studio funds a dance scholarship group for teens. **iB**

Speaking of Boston

Got an inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to speaking@improper.com

SAMANTHA'S IN THE HOUSE

By popular request, our fashion editor, Samantha House, will answer questions from fashion-curious readers each issue. Confused about cufflinks? Can't match accessories? Ask Sam.

Q. I just moved here from Washington, D.C. I've noticed people don't dress for the theater. I've seen men and women wearing sneakers! Is this appropriate here? *—marieguzman@mail.com*

Sam Says: No. It is an unwritten rule to dress for the theater, no matter where you live. Casual to cocktail attire is allowed, and appreciated, by the players at any show, no matter how small. This means a jacket for men, definitely, and a tie for evening performances. Women can wear dresses or pants. No sneakers. Dress well this theater season, and maybe others will follow suit. *Send your fashion inquiries to speaking@improper.com.*

ICA: FRANK MULLIN; GEORGE: KERRY BRETT HURLEY; SAMANTHA: RITA GREELEY

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What's in a Name?

Massachusetts is still looking for a catchy high-tech nickname.

The Boston area is undergoing something of an identity crisis when it comes to high tech. While the area is a major center of research and development for the computer industry, there doesn't seem to be an appropriate name that's sticking. Everyone knows where Silicon Valley is, and the New York high-tech community is known in blatant copycat fashion as Silicon Alley. But Boston seems stuck without the kind of memorable regional identifier that would give the area a sense of identity.

Not long ago, I heard Governor Cellucci use the term "dotcommonwealth" to refer to the region's high-tech community. This name was, according to *www.dotcommonwealth.com* created by a "coalition of leading technology associations to promote Massachusetts as a center for technology innovation and leadership." This coalition is attempting to "focus its efforts on unifying the technology community [and] commissioning research to identify our strengths." It even has a motto: "The State of Things to Come."

In opposition to "dotcommonwealth," the *Boston Globe* has been trying to establish "Digital Mass" as the regional moniker with its *www.digitalmass.com* Web site. The idea behind this name is that high-tech businesses are reaching "critical mass"—a phrase borrowed from particle physics that refers to the point at which a nuclear reaction becomes impossible to stop. In business lingo, "critical mass" is the point at which success is guaranteed—exactly what is supposed to be happening here.

The problem, of course, is that both terms are monumentally lame.

There's probably not a single person outside the state who knows (or cares) that Massachusetts is technically a commonwealth rather than a state. In fact, I'd wager that most people who don't watch the History Channel haven't the slightest idea what a "commonwealth" is. ("Prithee, Reverend Mather, woulds't thou forge me a commonwealth?...") Adding a "dot" to the name makes it even less appropriate, especially since the crash of the dot-com stocks earlier this year has made doing business on the Internet look about as stable as a two-legged stool.

Digital Mass isn't much better. The "Mass" part of the name makes it sound either like a Web site for the Catholic church or a lump of melted-down floppy disks. To make matters worse, the term "Digital" recalls one of the area's most publicized failures of the early 1990s: Digital Equipment Corp. Back then, of course, the region's high-tech businesses were nicknamed "Route 128," a phrase that nobody wants to use anymore, probably because it conjures up depressing memories of the days when minicomputers from local companies like Digital and Data General kicked major butt in the market.

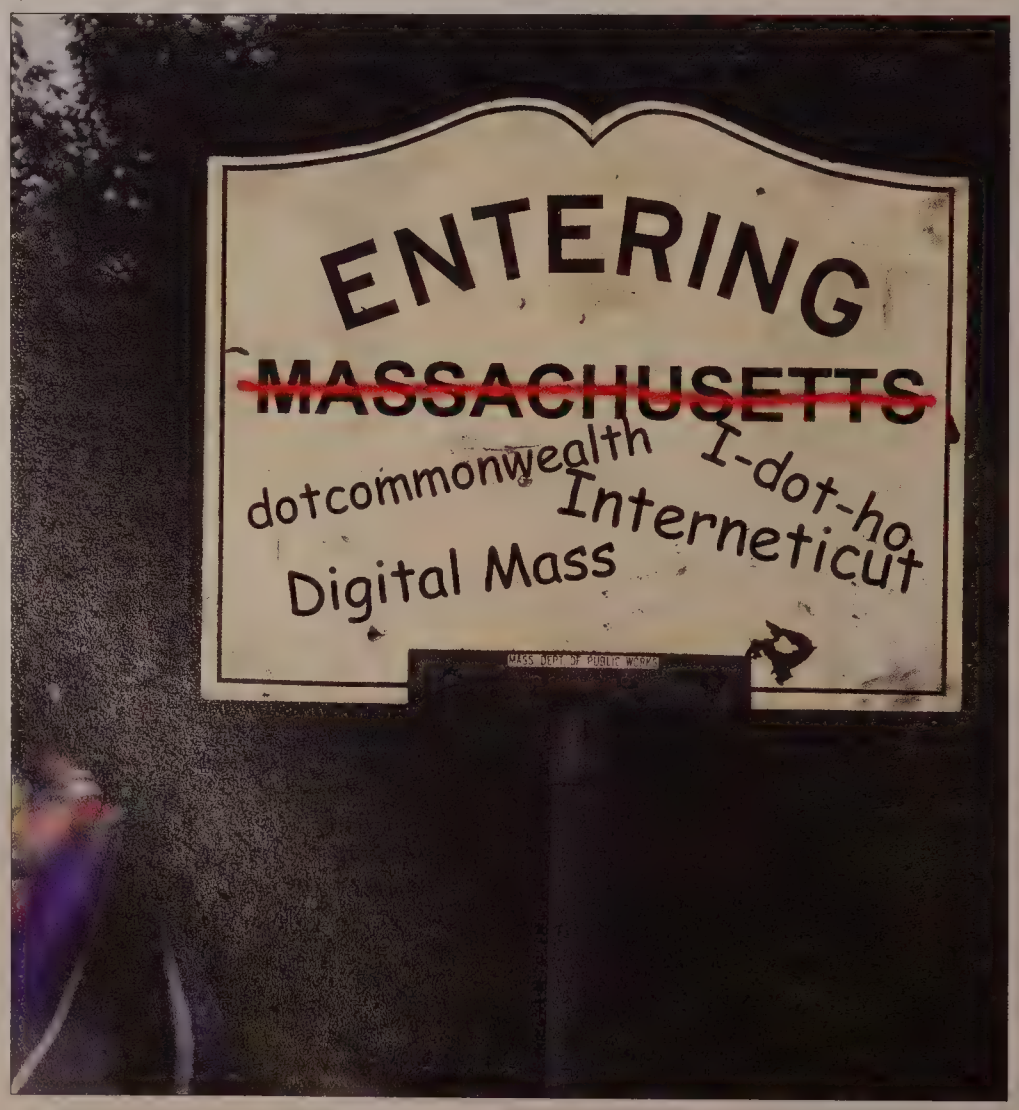
Since it seems that neither dotcommonwealth nor Digital Mass is likely to catch on, it looks as if our hub's high-tech community is going to have to suffer without a regional nickname, at least for the time being. Any ideas?

BETTER IN 3-D?

Every once in a while I run across a Web site that's so weirdly fascinating that I have to share it with the world. In this case, the site is *www.activeworlds.com*, a site that shows how Web pages would look if they were in three dimensions.

The company provides software products and online services that permit Internet users to enter, move about and interact with others in a computer-generated, three-dimensional virtual environment. Unlike a two-dimensional environment, which permits movement on a computer screen only along flat horizontal and vertical axes (up, down, left and right), a three-dimensional virtual environment enables users to move forward and backward. In addition, users are also able to create objects and structures that other users can see, and move in real time.

EVERYONE KNOWS WHERE SILICON VALLEY IS, BUT BOSTON SEEMS STUCK WITHOUT THE KIND OF MEMORABLE REGIONAL IDENTIFIER THAT WOULD GIVE THE AREA A SENSE OF COMMUNITY.



Rick Noll, founder and CEO of the company, recently spent an hour with me on the telephone, guiding me around some of the worlds that his company and its customers have created. One of these, entitled "Rick's World," is a virtual re-creation of Rick's Café from the movie *Casablanca*. Another, called "Van Gogh" was exactly like walking inside a Van Gogh painting. In both worlds, I could see Noll as an animated figure (I was listening to him on the phone).

People can choose how they're represented on the screen, so I attempted to annoy him by taking on the appearance of a woman in tight blue jeans and a halter top. (He did not comment, however.) People inside the various "worlds" can chat with each other (text or voice), interact with objects, play games, shop and even construct their own buildings and structures. Though the application needs a separate browser, it's only a single megabyte download, and the application runs acceptably through a regular dial-up modem.

Noll says that more than 200 colleges and universities are now using his software, some of them in architectural classes that allow students to build—and walk through—virtual buildings. A number of businesses are also developing 3-D Web sites and at least one movie company (Sony) built a 3-D online representation of a monster movie. Another application that Noll doesn't talk about much are X-rated sites—a seemingly natural application for the technology. "We license our technology to a few of those guys," he admits.

TAKE THAT, YOU SISSY

As long as I'm writing about virtual worlds, I can't pass up the opportunity to plug one of my favorite sites, *www.sissyfight.com*. It's not as fancy as the Active Worlds environments, but it is a lot funnier. I'll let the Web site speak for itself in this case:

"So, this game, SiSSY FiGHT 2000, is a lot like life. You're out on the playground, and all these annoying girls are trying to, like, attack you and harsh you out. But you can't let them. You have to, like, do to them what they totally are trying to do to you. You've gotta majorly dis them and mess with their faces and like seriously crush their self esteem until everybody knows that they are mega-loser sissies and you are, like, 'the mack.' Y'know?"

And they say that the female is the gentler sex... iB

Geoffrey James (*www.geoffreyjames.com*) is the author of numerous books, as well as the co-host of *Funny Business*, heard Saturdays 10pm to 12am on WRKO-AM (680).

PHOTODISC

WWW.MAGNERSCIDER.COM

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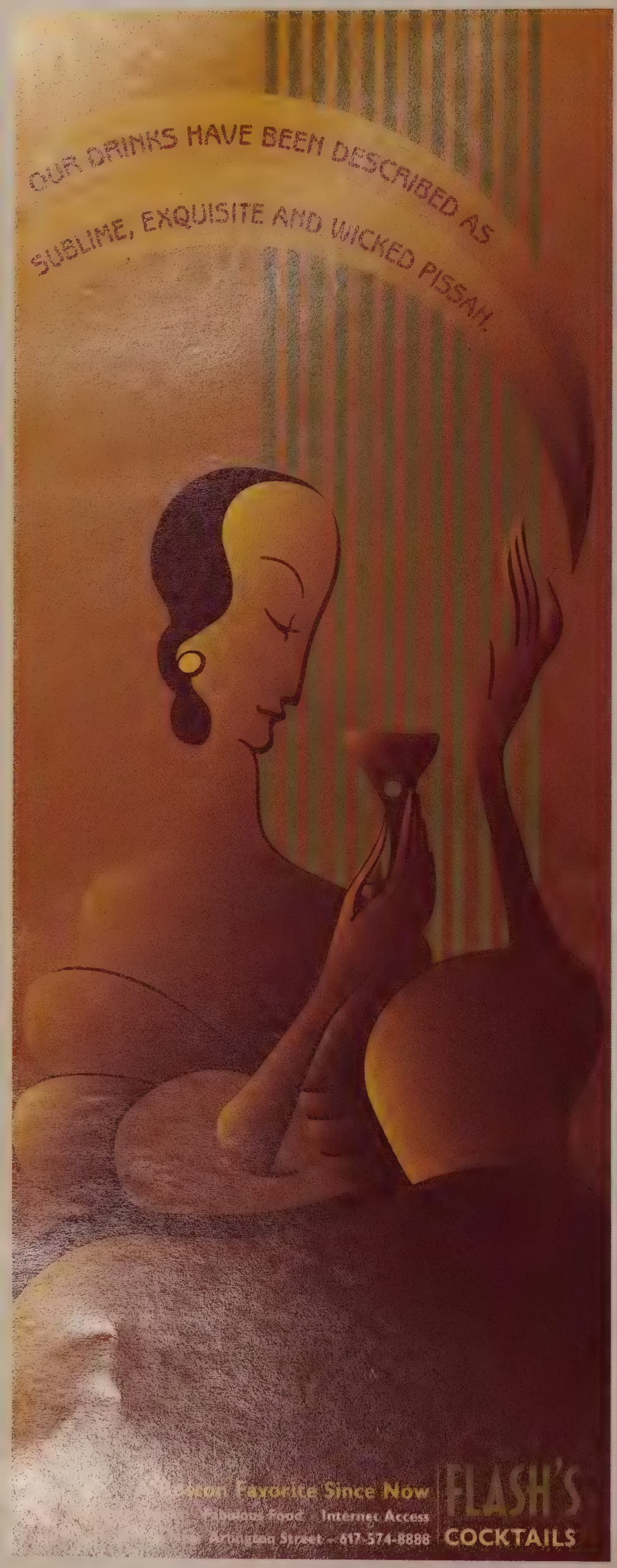
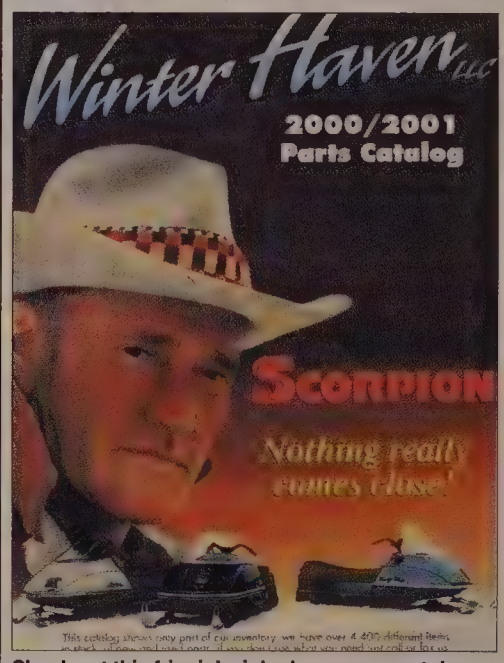


Ezra BY EZRA DYER

Junk-Mail Reject

You know you're a loser when you don't even get catalogs.

I know lots of people probably get agitated because they receive so many catalogs, but that's not a problem for this guy. The last interesting catalog I got I took off a plane. It was chock full of things that you wouldn't think of buying on a plane, like a $7,000 greenhouse. I wanted to call and ask how many greenhouses they'd sold to insane people (that group would include anyone who buys a greenhouse from a catalog while en route from Tampa to Newark, by the way), but I lost it. And no matter how many new catalogs end up crammed in the mailbox and



Check out this friggin' wicked awesome catalog.

stacked in the doorway, they never seem to be addressed to me. Actually, that's not entirely true. Sometimes a few of them will say "Resident." Oh, and I got one the other day for snowmobile parts. The remainder are sent to my roommates, Dave and Scott. This means that in some faraway database there is a profile of the three of us, and mine is marked "not suitable to receive catalogs," which is a slight on par with getting denied entry to a World Wrestling Federation event for being too inbred.

I don't get the catalogs, but I like to look through them before I throw them in the fireplace, so let's go on a little shopping spree with the latest batch of holiday editions.

I think I need a Bosch blender, only $1,399 from the Frontgate catalog. I'm sure I don't need to tell you how tough it is to find a good blender for less than $1,400. And its stainless-steel finish will complement my Viking portable grill (a bargain at only $5,295). I'd tell you about the Frontgate catalog in greater detail, but some of the other stuff in there is really expensive.

Of course, I'll need food. Some people go to the supermarket to buy their ham. Me, I get my ham the old-fashioned way: through the mail. Not only am I too lazy to leave my apartment to buy my ham, I really can't be bothered with slicing it once it arrives. So I picked up the Harry and David catalog and bought myself a 12-pound presliced ham ($84.95)—"so easy, it practically serves itself®." In just seven business days, I'll be enjoying myself some ham. And if the slices prove too difficult to handle, I'll just throw those babies into the blender.

Next I picked up the Gardener's Eden catalog. I'm glad Scott got it, because it's just so darling. I'm not going to actually buy anything from Gardener's Eden, but I might frame the page with the little girl and the puppy sitting under the Christmas tree. I'll hang it up next to my Anne Geddes posters.

As fabulous as the Gardener's Eden catalog is, I'll bet Scott's jealous, because Dave got the Soft Surroundings catalog. Soft Surroundings carries soft nice things like sheets and baby booties and Item G on Page 31, the "stretch lace jazz panty." Or Item A on Page 16, "your boyfriend's sweater." Or Item A on Page 50, the velvet overalls, which earn the rare, three-cloud "ultimate softness" rating.

The demographic folks may have me pegged as a non-Pottery-Barn-shopping, snowmobile-riding redneck, but I'm pretty sure they've decided that Dave and Scott are women.

Women with children. We've also got a copy of the Creative Kidstuff catalog, which is mostly filled with nonviolent, educational, not-really-toys. Example: "Groovy Boys" dolls for boys. "Here Jimmy, run along with your doll! Enjoy your beating from the other boys who don't play with dolls!" My favorite selection is the "Radio Control Airship Extreme," a radio-controlled blimp whose racy flame paint job would have been extremely politically incorrect about 60 years ago. "Hey kids, can you say, 'Oh, the humanity!'?"

As I plow through the catalogs, my life seems strangely empty without Pavlov's cat feeder ($29.95 from Alsto's, although I'd need a cat, too), and a chrome trash can ($369 from Hold Everything), and a 50-pair shoe rack ($59.98 from Get Organized!). But how am I going to pay for this stuff?

My roommates get a lot of credit-card offers, too. **iB**

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Proper Bostonians BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

The Institute of Contemporary Arts' Hot Rod Rally! Benefit Party was held Oct. 31. The ICA created a hot-rod rally atmosphere to promote its new exhibition, Customized: Art Inspired by Hot Rods, Low Riders & American Car Culture.

1. **Sarah Waggener** and **Robert Amesbury**, both VA's for the ICA.
2. **Isabella Rossi**, assistant gallery manager for the ICA, and **Chuck Veranas**, contributing editor for *Street Rodder Magazine*.
3. **Christina Bohigian**, student at UMass, and **Ilias Prictsoulis**, owner of Long Island in Worchester.
4. **Anne Weeks**, arts editor for *The Weekly Dig*, and **Shaun Wolf Wortis**, singer for the band Slide.
5. **Chris Austin**, men's-wear specialist for Gucci, and **Amanda Peterson**, operations specialist for Gucci.
6. **Kay Hanley**, local rocker.
7. From left: **Tom Baker**, ICA committee member; **Nina Jung**, director of event services for Rafanelli Events, and **Raphael Jaimes-Branger**, artist.
8. Party guests mingle.

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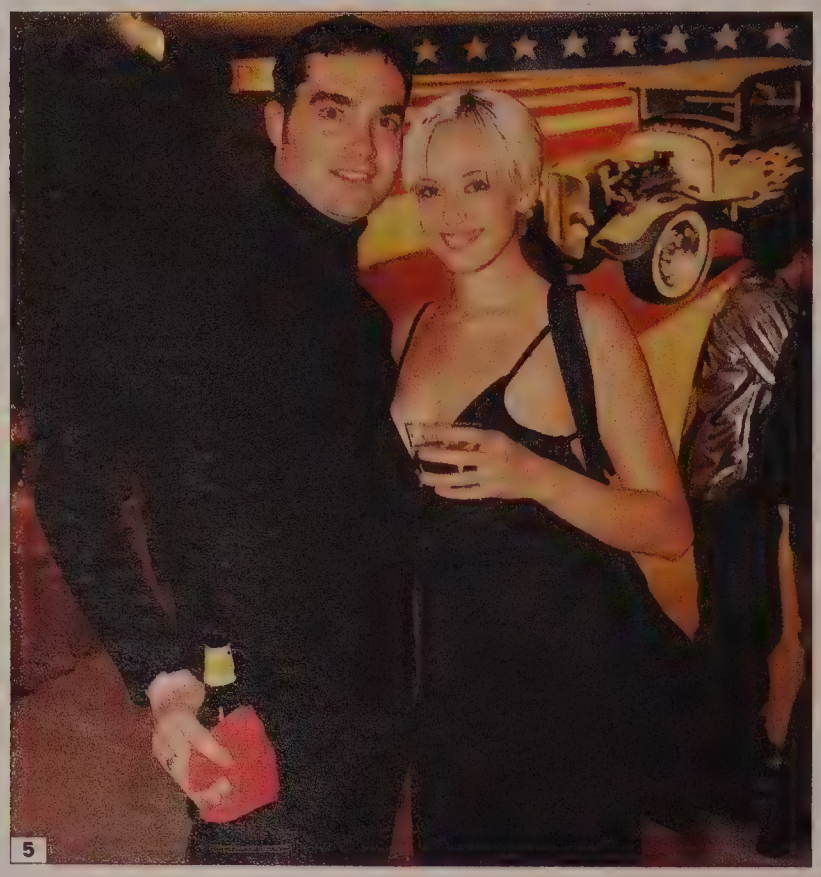
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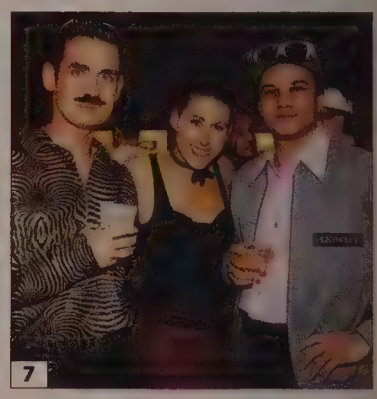
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MSPCC's A Family Affair fundraiser was held at the Copley Marriott Nov. 2.

9. **Nick Walker**, student at the Lincoln School in Brookline; his mom, **Liz**, WBZ-TV news anchor; **Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith**, professor and associate dean at the Harvard School of Public Health, and husband **Charles Stith**, ambassador to Tanzania.
10. **Ian Reynolds**, associate at Bain Capital; **Erika Tower**, public relations pro for Porter Novelli; **Shana Stevens**, of Millennium Pharmaceuticals human resources, and **John Maldonado**, associate at Bain Capital.
11. **Joan Kennedy**, former MSPCC honoree, **Cynthia** and **Nader Darehshori**, CEO of Houghton Mifflin.
12. **Vanessa Childs** and **Steve Farragher**, assistant and associate, respectively, at Parthenon Capital.

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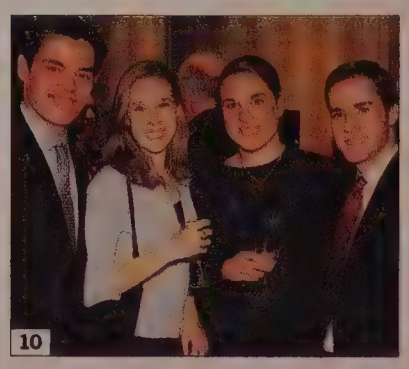
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November 30, 5:30 p.m.- Bolton

DECEMBER 2000

DISCOVERY
December 1, 10 a.m. - Bolton

ORIENTAL RUGS & CARPETS
December 2, 12 noon - Boston

FINE CERAMICS
December 9, 11 a.m. - Boston

TOYS & DOLLS COLLECTABLES
December 9, 10 a.m. - Bolton

FINE JEWELRY
December 12, 12 noon -Boston

DISCOVERY
December 14, 5 p.m. - Bolton
December 15, 10 a.m. -Bolton

JANUARY 2001

AMERICAN INDIAN & ETHNOGRAPHIC ART
January 6, 10 a.m. - Bolton

DISCOVERY
January 18, 7 p.m. - Bolton
January 19, 10 a.m. - Bolton

JANUARY 2001, *continued*

ENGLISH & CONTINENTAL FURNITURE & DECORATIONS
January 13, 11 a.m. - Boston

JUDAICA & SILVER
January 30, 12 noon - Boston

FEBRUARY 2001

STUDIO PAINTINGS
February 1, 7 p.m. - Bolton

DISCOVERY
February 8, 7 p.m. - Bolton
February 9, 10 a.m. - Bolton

AMERICAN FURNITURE & DECORATIVE ARTS including the folk art collections of Ken and Brenda Fritz, Peter Brams, and Milton Simpson
February 24, TBA - Bolton
February 25, 11 a.m. - Bolton

MARCH 2001

AMERICAN & EUROPEAN PAINTINGS & PRINTS
March 9 - Boston
Session I-Prints & Photography, 4 p.m.
Session II-Paintings, 7 p.m.

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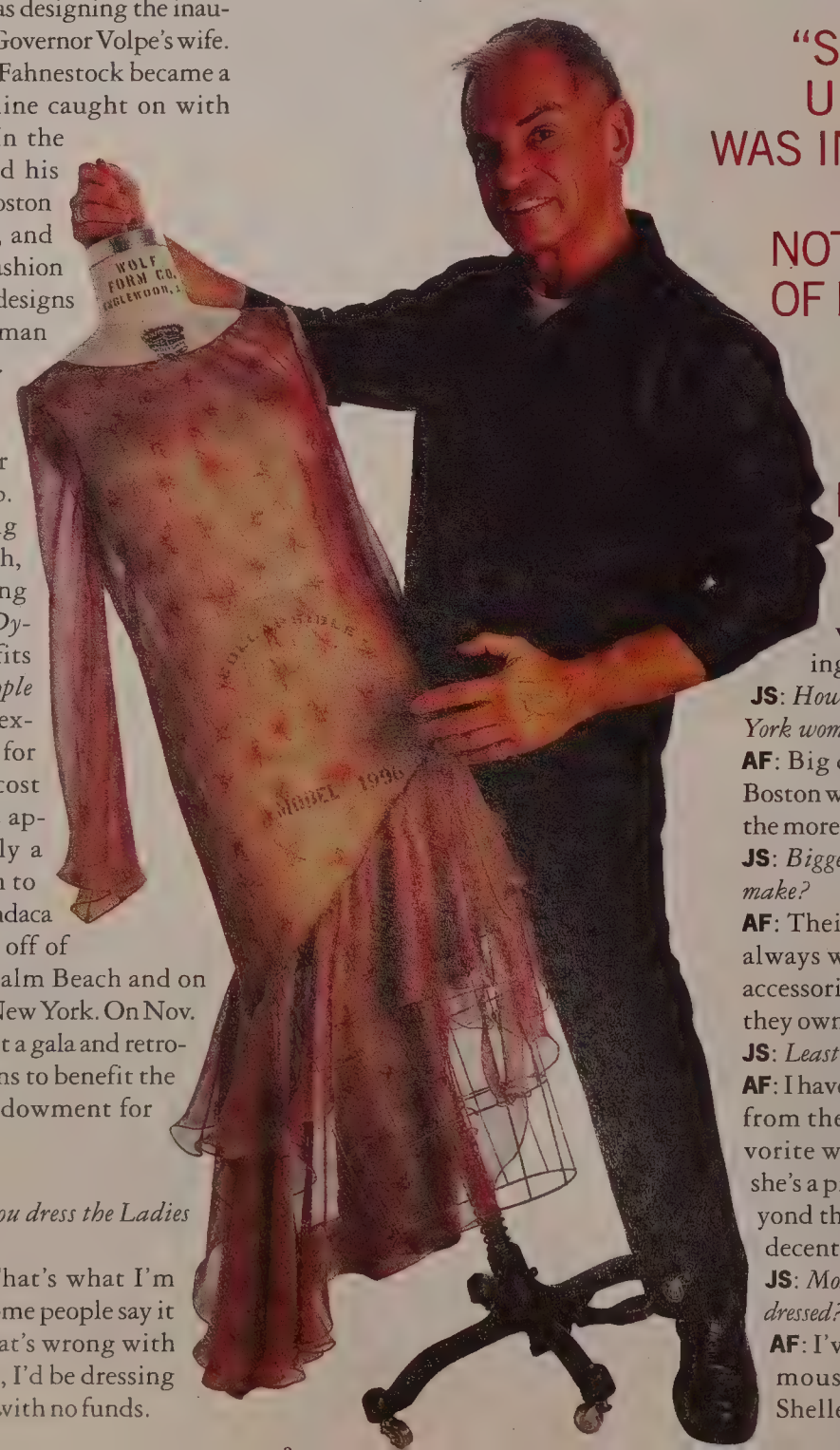
Alfred Fiandaca

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Born and raised in East Boston, designer Alfred Fiandaca wanted to be a fine artist but was destined for a career in fashion. The fourth generation of his family to be in the clothing business, he began working at age 9 with his father, a Cambridge tailor whose clients included Joseph Kennedy and his sons. After graduating from East Boston High, Fiandaca received a scholarship to the Museum School and then studied at Mass College of Art before attending design school at the Fashion Institute of Technology and Traphagen in New York. In 1959, he began creating custom-made clothing at Saks Fifth Avenue with the wife of the owner, Sophie Gimbel. In 1960, he returned to Boston and went into business for himself. His first big break was designing the inaugural gown worn by Governor Volpe's wife. Blue-blood Frances Fahnestock became a customer, and his line caught on with Boston socialites. In the early 60s, he moved his business from East Boston to Newbury Street, and accolades from the fashion press helped land his designs in Bergdorf-Goodman and stores in Japan. Despite a few bumps in the road, the trajectory of his career has been primarily up. Known for dressing the Ladies Who Lunch, he designed clothing for Joan Collins on *Dynasty*; one of his outfits was dubbed by *People* magazine the most expensive ever made for TV, because it cost $3,500 and Collins appeared in it for only a minute. In addition to Newbury Street, Fiandaca operates boutiques off of Worth Avenue in Palm Beach and on Madison Avenue in New York. On Nov. 10, Mass Art will host a gala and retrospective of his designs to benefit the Alfred Fiandaca Endowment for Fashion Design.



Jonathan Soroff: *You dress the Ladies Who Lunch...*

Alfred Fiandaca: That's what I'm credited with, and some people say it like it's a curse. What's wrong with that? Without them, I'd be dressing women in bluejeans with no funds.

JS: *Best-dressed woman you know?*

AF: I'll have to pass, because I'll forget someone I love.

JS: *Most scandalous thing that ever happened in your boutique?*

AF: Well, there was the time I was dressing Henry Ford II's wife, Christina, and he came in with his new girlfriend. That was kind of a tight situation in a tiny shop.

JS: *Worst horror story?*

AF: Oh, the most terrible story I've ever heard was in San Francisco. A woman came in to a shop and tried on one of my suits with a matching chiffon blouse. The next day, the salesgirl went into the fitting room and there was a terrible stench. She opened one of the antique boudoir drawers, and the woman had defecated in it and used the chiffon blouse to wipe herself. Well, the sales girl didn't know what to do, so she sent the blouse to the cleaners. Two weeks later, it was back on the rack with the suit, and another woman came in and bought it to wear to a luncheon. Turns out it was her best friend who used it as toilet paper. Can you imagine her chagrin when she saw her girlfriend wearing it?

JS: *That's truly disgusting. So describe the average member of the Boston-Nantucket-Palm Beach social scene.*

AF: There are definitely two different schools of women. One is very social and absolutely wonderful. If a dress goes wrong, she'll apologize and say, "I have other clothes in my closet. I'll wear something else." Then there's the other kind,

"SHE DIDN'T WEAR UNDERWEAR. SHE WAS IN THE DRESSING ROOM, WEARING NOTHING BUT A PAIR OF HIGH HEELS, AND I WAS THINKING, 'MY GOD. I'M THE ENVY OF EVERY STRAIGHT MAN ON EARTH!'"

who gets totally hysterical, calling her husband to beat me up.

JS: *How do Boston women differ from New York women, fashionwise?*

AF: Big difference. I think it's security. Boston women are safe. They tend to go for the more conservative.

JS: *Biggest fashion faux pas most women make?*

AF: Their shoes and handbag are almost always wrong for the outfit. They don't accessorize; they just wear things because they own them.

JS: *Least favorite fashion designer?*

AF: I have a hard time separating the work from the person, so I guess my least favorite would be Donna Karan, because she's a pig, and I have trouble getting beyond that. But I think everyone's done a decent collection at one time or another.

JS: *Most fascinating woman you ever dressed?*

AF: I've dressed a lot of interesting, famous women, but I think maybe Shelley Winters is the most fascinating. She was so goddamned honest and such fun.

JS: *How about biggest fashion disaster in the public eye?*

AF: I guess Shelley Winters wins again.

JS: *Tell me a story about her.*

AF: One time, I went with two assistants to her hotel room, and she was wearing a nightgown slit up the back, held together only at the collar, because it didn't fit her. So she said, "On the off chance that one of you gentlemen might be straight, I don't want to turn you off, so could you turn around?"

JS: *You also dressed Raquel Welch?*

AF: Yup. She didn't wear underwear. She was in the dressing room, wearing nothing but a pair of high heels, and I was thinking, "My God! I'm the envy of every straight man on earth!"

JS: *Favorite fashion icon: Audrey Hepburn, Jackie O, Grace Kelly...*

AF: Oh, God. They're all dead!

JS: *True. Ever told a client that she couldn't have a dress?*

AF: All the time. I had one client who picked out six dresses from my last collection and every one was wrong. I talked her out of them.

JS: *How do you diplomatically tell someone, "That outfit makes you look like a slut, or your butt's too big for that..."*

AF: Diplomatically?! I guess sometimes you can be diplomatic, but most of the time I'm just blunt—"Hey, honey, that ass could carry a tray!"

JS: *Most interesting women's underwear you've ever seen?*

AF: Ethel Kennedy with a safety pin holding her bra together.

JS: *Chicest city in the U.S.?*

AF: I think it's Chicago.

JS: *Favorite female body part?*

AF: Breasts.

JS: *Favorite item of clothing to design?*

AF: Something seductive.

JS: *Is black the new black?*

AF: Black is for insecure, financially unstable women.

JS: *Hmmm. Finish this sentence: (Blank) is fashion death.*

AF: A skirt and sweater set. How many uniforms can you own?

JS: *Worst fashion offense—nude pantyhose, white shoes after Labor Day...*

AF: Having your black G-string show through your white polyester pants.

JS: *Celebrity on whom you'd most like to do a makeover?*

AF: That list is endless.

JS: *Favorite fashion magazine?*

AF: I don't read them. Never have.

JS: *Worst trend in recent memory?*

AF: Cargo pants. I hate them.

JS: *Describe your ideal woman.*

AF: Secure. Attractive, not necessarily beautiful. Has a sense of herself. And has no age.

JS: *Plastic surgery: pro or con?*

AF: When it's done well, it's fine...the first time. But stop there. I see so much of it in Palm Beach—there's enough skin left over to make three more people. **iB**

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RAP session

Above: Raising the roof at Bill's Bar; below: Virtuoso (left) and Esoteric bust a rhyme at the Middle East; right: Esoteric (left) and Mr. Lif, two of Boston's lyrical luminaries.

WHETHER IT'S COMMERCIAL OR UNDERGROUND, HIP-HOP IS COMMANDING BOSTON'S ATTENTION. BEYOND THE BAD PRESS, THE LOCAL SCENE OFFERS HOPE AND A NEW RACIAL AWARENESS. BY ANDREW GRAHAM AND RACHEL STRUTT

Hip-hop makes the news when things go wrong. Hip-hop makes the news when there's violence at a rap show. Hip-hop makes the news when its stars are arrested, suspected or even in the vicinity of a crime scene. A local case in point: When Boston Celtics player Paul Pierce was stabbed at the Buzz Club in September, local police and media immediately honed in on local rap group Made Men as possible suspects. Ultimately, Tony Hurston, an associate of Made Men, was among those charged.

In response to this incident, Reverend Al Sharpton, the New York civil rights leader, traveled to Boston in late October and decried what he believes is a national trend of portraying hip-hop artists as troublemakers. (Later that same week, Sharpton participated in a national hip-hop conference in Harlem, which addressed the negative image of rap.) Sharpton has a valid point when it comes to racial profiling, but Made Men—who have a history of leading a sometimes violent, gangsta-rap lifestyle—weren't quite the easiest hip-hop group to defend.

Indeed, much of today's mainstream, commercial hip-hop is difficult to defend; a lot of it is not only violent in content, but arguably socially irresponsible in its blatant glorification of over-the-top materialism. Turn on MTV these days, and you'll see videos filled with bouncing Caddies, bikini-clad booty dancers and gold-and-diamond-studded sneers from a main character who yammers on about his loot, his women and his cash flow. Chains. Beepers. Cell phones. These icons of materialism are essential hip-hop accessories. Add to this the incidents of rap-related violence in recent years, and is it any wonder hip-hop gets a bad rap?

"Media is geared toward the negative, especially when it comes to hip-hop," says Kevin Johnson, an educational counselor with UMass program Project Reach who works with kids at Dorchester High School. "I think hip-hop has positive and negative influences on kids. Since the mid '80s, a lot of hip-hop has been about vulgar materialism."

The sad truth is that, nationally and locally, the bad boys of rap get most of the media attention while some of the brightest hip-hop stars, those who offer a more positive and diverse image of hip-hop, fly beneath the radar. Mainstream artists like Mos Def, Common or Lauryn Hill aren't featured in headlines or evening news stories.

A prime local example of talent is Mr. Lif. His lyrics are insightful and intelligent, focusing more on mental health than material wealth. The beats, most often produced by Lif himself, are rough, sparse and gripping—and completely different from the jiggy hooks of Will Smith or Puff Daddy.

Having just returned from the CMJ (College Music Journal) conference in New York, Lif joins us at Carberry's in Central Square. He's come straight from the bus station and carries a large duffel bag. He wears baggy jeans and a hooded black sweatjacket. In a word: unassuming.

Modest and thoughtful, Mr. Lif hardly exudes the flash-n-cash bravado conveyed in your typical rap video. And Lif is not alone: Boston offers much more than Made Men and MTV-style hip-hop. The underground scene is vital and vibrant, and it's about to explode.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF RHYME

Like jazz, blues and rock and roll, hip-hop emerged from African-American roots. Also like those genres, it was at first resisted, then embraced, by mainstream white America. As Steve Perez, hip-hop booker at Bill's Bar, sums up: "Like any other form of black music, it gets more popular, and then whites latch onto it." Oedipus, music director at local modern-rock station WBCN, adds, "Elvis did it with rock, and it's happening again: The white man is co-opting black music and whitewashing it."

Like rock and roll, rap was a new and different form of musical expression, initially rejected by many who swore it was "not music" and treated it as a passing fad. But rap had >>

PHOTOGRAPH BY PAUL LYDEN
PHOTO ASSISTANT: KEVEN LAWSON

...political agenda, and more of a chip ...nsider than any of Chuck Berry or ...rd's songs ever did. Led by groups ... Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five, and later, by Public Enemy, early rap strove to enlighten and empower black America. It was out of this ethos that hip-hop culture gradually emerged. A new set of styles, sounds and looks expanded on the empowering and iconoclastic themes of rap, and developed into an overarching black culture, including film, fashion, literature and art. Very simply, hip-hop encompasses rap music, not vice versa.

The question at the moment is: Will rap follow jazz, blues and rock and roll down the slippery slope of a homogenizing white American culture and become yet another style of black music to be appropriated by whites and gradually subsumed into the culture at large? Will rap music become innocuous enough to be heard in elevators and supermarkets, its fangs pulled and its energy sapped, just another type of the white noise that surrounds us every day? And will the hip-hop ethos similarly become diluted in the mainstream?

Or is that already happening?

This question has been addressed in recent films, nationally and locally. Spike Lee's latest work, *Bamboozled*, was recently raising eyebrows in local theaters. An audacious satire in which a minstrel show becomes a hit TV show, the film questions our culture's representation of black America. "Gangsta-rap videos definitely have evolved into the 21st century's minstrel show," says Lee in an Oct. 20 *Boston Globe* article. On the local level, DeMane Davis recently co-directed a film titled *Lift* with Khari Streeter. Filmed in Boston this past May—featuring local MC Esoteric—*Lift* is about a young black woman who shoplifts. "The theme of the film is materialism," says Davis. "Everyone looks great, but no one really is great. It's about unveiling the truth. Underneath the layers of clothing and jewelry, there are hurt, wounded people."

Film. TV. Radio. Fashion. Hip-hop is inescapable. "Mainstream hip-hop is a machine," says Bill's Bar's Perez matter-of-factly. "It's humongous. Rock and roll kids wear baggy pants and speak late '80s ebonics. Elmo raps." And as many white Americans drop phrases like "what up, dog?" and "get my groove on," the often unsettling, politically charged and racially divisive music that Chuck D of Public Enemy once called "black America's CNN" has become white America's MTV.

From left to right: Truth, Papa D! and Karma, the three major players at Brick Records, the city's premier hip-hop label.

INDEPENDENTS

As with any musical movement whose advent is marked by stringent opposition to the social status quo (like rock and roll and punk), rap began as an underground movement. But rap music eventually caught the attention of the major labels, and within three years (arguably) of its inception, rap was producing its first destined-to-be mainstream stars like the Fat Boys or the Sugarhill Gang. Today, some of the earliest independent rap labels like Tommy Boy, Jive and Def Jam (now Island/Def Jam) are enormous corporations, all with numerous platinum-selling records and artists in their catalogs.

By the middle of the '90s, long after it had become obvious that it was no fad, rap had become a legitimate and widely accepted musical genre. In fact, it was becoming so popular that some involved in the hip-hop scene felt that it was losing direction. By that point, most of the smaller and independent rap labels had been bought up by the majors, and rap's "underground" cache had all but disappeared. But a resurgence of independent rap labels offered evidence of a return to the down-low, non-mainstream spirit of early rap.

In New York City, labels like Fondle 'Em and Rawkus began carving out a reputation for releasing gritty, street-oriented records by artists whose attitudes and sounds were antithetical to the music (rap or otherwise) heard on MTV and commercial radio.

Here in Boston, Josh Gagne, aka Truth Elemental, was feeling the same sense of frustration with the huge difference between rap music on the radio and the rap music being made by people he knew in Boston. The desire to present Boston hip-hop to the world led to the founding of Brick Records, today Boston's foremost hip-hop label. Currently run by Truth and Papa D! (aka Steve DeFalco), Brick has put out 12 records by artists whose names are a rogues' gallery of major local rap talent including Mr. Lif, The Skitzofreniks, Reks, Insight, T-Ruckus and Virtuoso.

"The reason I started Brick was, in 1996, there wasn't much going on," says Truth. "We were there when the whole independent thing got started," Truth goes on. "Right now, independent records are a dime a dozen." That hasn't stopped Brick from becoming one of the East Coast's most talked-about and listened-to hip-hop labels. Its second full-fledged release, a col-

"Hip-hop started as a black culture, and it should remain a black culture. If it's not black, it loses its foundation. White people can participate in it, but we have to be conscious of that."

PAPA D! OF BRICK RECORDS

DEB DILA

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WEB SITES

undergroundhiphop.com
Boston-based Web site has gained national attention and even attracted big-name sponsors like Elektra. It features chat rooms, message boards, reviews on new singles, audio samples and a store.

maxpages.com/bostonhiphop
Boasting that it's "representin' Beantown," this site pays special attention to Boston artists. Although some of its links are outdated, maxpages gives current shows and events, news reviews and club info.

brickrecords.com
Brick Records is a local independent hip-hop label whose site offers a discography of its releases. It also provides a complete list of upcoming shows, merchandise and some good links for more hip-hop news and events.

RADIO

WERS (88.9 FM)
Emerson College's station gives more airtime to hip-hop, than any other college station. Every weeknight from 8-11pm, WERS plays continuous hip-hop including underground, local and commercial.

WBOT (97.7 FM)
Looking for solid hip-hop radio? This relatively new station claims to play all hip-hop, all the time. Brockton-based WBOT specifically caters to the urban market.

WJMN (94.5 FM)
Commonly referred to as "Jam'n 94.5," this popular station presents a new local hip-hop and R&B showcase called "Lyrically Boston." The show, hosted by the 5 Footer, airs on Sunday nights 11:30pm-12am.

MUSIC STORES

Biscuithead Records
Located on 93 Mass. Ave., this is Boston's definitive hip-hop store. It offers all the independent hip-hop releases, plus mix tapes, slip mats, T-shirts and DJ equipment.

Newbury Comics
Any of the chain's stores is a relatively safe bet for finding a decent selection of hip-hop, including a wealth of vinyl.

CLUBS

Middle East
This club usually features hip-hop shows once or twice a month. Next up are Rambo and the Hit Makers on Nov. 26., and Mr. Lif and Company Flow on Dec. 7. Call 864-3278 for more info.

Bill's Bar
This Lansdowne Street club hosts local hip-hop acts one Wednesday each month. On Dec. 13, the Micronots from Georgia will be supported by Boston acts. Call 421-9678 for more info.

House of Blues
Local hip-hop acts can be seen here about once a month. Next up is a WERS-sponsored show, Next up: Elements of Hip-Hop on Nov. 26. Call 491-BLUE for more info.

AWARDS

Biscuithead Records will host the first Boston Hip-Hop Awards at Karma on Dec. 5th with acts DJ Kraze and EDO. G performing. They will present about 20 awards, including a hall of fame, best underground and best single. Call 421-9595 for more info.

PUBLICATION

Punchline
This Connecticut-based newspaper is a free monthly that covers everything from rap to reggae to R&B. It features album reviews, news about new and old artists, and a concert calendar that lists most upcoming shows in the New England area. —*Lauren Glaser*

lection of tracks by local artists titled *Rebel Alliance* got heads nodding from coast to coast, and put Brick Records—and Boston—on the map. Twelve records in less than five years—quite a change from five years ago, when there was little or no documentation of the local underground rap scene. But that's not the only change. "In the early '90s, the whole makeup of the crowd was a lot different; still black-oriented, with fewer white kids," says Truth, who, like his two partners at Brick Records, is white. "I don't want to say it's the reverse of that [now], but definitely at shows, you see a lot more white people. At least half and half, or more white people than other ethnicities."

Truth's partner in Brick records, Papa D!, is more direct: "The scene nowadays is mostly white college kids, which I think is very unfortunate; I don't think the music that a lot of us are making is really targeted specifically toward them." He's even-handed about it, though: "It's not *not* [targeted] to them, though." Whatever the target, white college kids are proving to be the bull's-eye. Five or so years ago, it would have been somewhat remarkable to find many white college kids with rap sections in their CD collections. Today, it's not surprising to find Dr. Dre, Jurassic 5 and Beastie Boys CDs next to each other on a dorm-room shelf.

BELIEVE THE HYPE

More than ever, hip-hop is driving Boston's airwaves, conveying the genre's current cultural dominance. Jam'n 94.5 (WJMN FM) is a perennial ratings player and claims to offer Boston's best hip-hop. But since December of '99, the city's first black-owned radio station, Hot 97.7 (WBOT FM), has provided Jam'n with some strong competition. Nationwide, there are only a small number of hip-hop-heavy stations, so the fact that Boston has two suggests a city hungry for hip-hop.

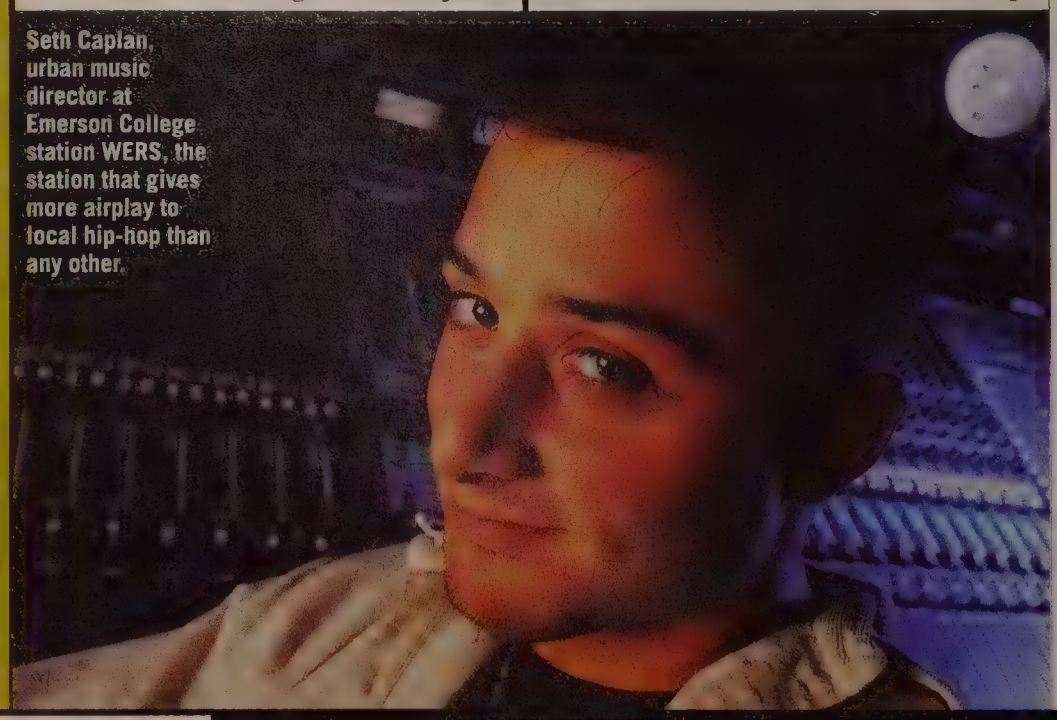
"BOT plays a lot of the same music we do," says WJMN music director Michele Williams. "Their target audience is African American." Apart from racial demographics, WJMN is more poppy and mainstream: You'll hear Christina Aguilera on WJMN, but never on WBOT. WJMN does give some airtime to local hip-hop, however. Sunday nights, from 11:30pm to 12am, "Lyrically Boston" showcases local hip-hop acts. WBOT, on the other hand, does not have a hip-hop show dedicated to local music.

WBCN, with its almost completely white audience, has incorporated hip-hop into its programming mix for a few years now, whether it's a straight-up rap act like Cypress Hill or Eminem, or a hip-hop-inspired band like the Beastie Boys or Limp Bizkit. Such gradual programming shifts reveal hip-hop's steady infiltration into mainstream rock.

Above: Akrobatik, a Boston artist whose Rawkus 12-inch is charting at No. 6 on the CMJ hip-hop charts; below: DJ Bruno and Billy Cammarano of Biscuithead Records.

Boston's airwaves not only show hip-hop's pervasiveness, but its divisiveness. "Hip-hop is a lot more relatable these days," says Williams. "It's more lyrical with lots of upbeat samples. It has more mass appeal."

However, many local underground hip-hop players argue that WJMN-style hip-hop is vapid and stale. Take Papa D! of Brick Records: "It's like night and day," he says, of the mainstream-vs.-indie debate. "They're two completely different forms of music. [Brick Records] tries to stick to roots of hip-hop; we try and be creative lyrically and with our beats, even with our record design. Mainstream is more about putting out what's hot right now and then getting a million acts to do the same thing."



Seth Caplan, urban music director at Emerson College station WERS, the station that gives more airplay to local hip-hop than any other.

Seth Caplan, urban music director at Emerson College's station (88.9 WERS FM), which plays hip-hop every night from 8-11pm, says, "I'm here to help local artists get out further. Since the mid-'80s, when the show started, WERS became a place for local artists like Lif, Akrobatik and EDO. G to be heard and grow. WJMN and WBOT play some of the music we play, but we solely dedicate ourselves to underground and local hip-hop."

"In Boston, the underground scene is at the point where it's ready to spill over nationally. Many local artists have reached the point in the industry where they're going on to the next level. Lif and Akrobatik are starting to do it. EDO. G has done it already and he's about to do it again." Caplan continues excitedly, "Wherever they go, they're taking the Boston hip-hop name and style and giving it the name it truly deserves."

NIGHTCLUBBING

Beyond local radio, Biscuithead Records, Boston's only hip-hop record store devoted exclusively to hip-hop, also plays a prominent role in promoting the local scene. Billy Cammarano (aka DJ Mastermillions), who is co-owner with Bruno, says: "We have a little bit of everything here, but Boston is a very intelligent town—just think of all the colleges—so our hip-hop is a little more mental. It's more intelligent, the rhymes are well thought-out." On Dec. 5 at Karma, Biscuithead will take a big step toward establishing Boston as a major hip-hop town when it presents the Boston Hip-Hop Awards, the first of its kind. "It's to show our appreciation to

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those who deserve it," Cammarano adds, "and to get some publicity for Boston."

When it comes to club booking around town, hip-hop is also flexing its muscle. Jeff Marshall, general booking agent for Bill's Bar, says, "hip-hop has always been a predominantly Afro-American culture, but with crossover acts and MTV, it's become much more visible. It's never been as out front as it has over the past year."

Over at Gamelan Productions, a local booking firm, director of marketing Howard Turkenkops is similarly sanguine on hip-hop. "We started to book hip-hop about a year and half ago, following its move into mainstream culture. It's moving into the consciousness of people who go out and see all kinds of music. Most of our Middle East shows have either sold out or come close. I feel it's growing and that the old stigmas associated with rap are being shed."

From a booker's perspective, the potential for violence at hip-hop shows is not the issue it was just a few years back. "People turn it into a racial issue, but that's not what it's all about," says Marshall. "There's the potential for violence with all sorts of music. A pop-rock show can easily turn into a mosh pit. But at our recent hip-hop shows, they just dance; the whole break-dance thing is coming back."

Steve Perez adds: "Boston clubs were afraid of doing hip-hop; the scene, for years, was associated with gangs. There was the Paul Pierce incident recently. Well, those people were the scene for years. When I started doing shows, I had to show that there was a new hip-hop scene, one based on poetics, music and a good vibe." Commenting on the growing hip-hop club scene, Perez adds, "It's all very indie right now; it reminds me of how punk rock used to be."

Off the record, however, a few bookers and club owners say that they do get a little more nervous about hip-hop shows. And as anyone who goes to hip-hop shows will attest: Security is beefed up, much more so than your average rock show. What's more, hip-hop gig-goers are almost always frisked at the doors. Occasionally, a weapon is confiscated. More often it's simply a joint.

BOSTON UNDERGROUND

One of the most prominent MCs on the local scene is Mr. Lif, also known as Jeff Haynes. Prolific and profound, Lif is a uniquely intelligent and articulate voice on the scene. It's easy to see, both when talking with him and hearing his music, why he and the commercial mainstream are incompatible.

"What sells is the same thing that's been selling in Hollywood for years: sex, violence, murder, the whole gangster image. And labels aren't ever really looking to break ground, so they're going to stick to that."

There are exceptions whom Lif mentions: Outkast, Gang Starr—"And then you got Common. Major label cat, [but] when his video comes on BET, it's almost alien. There's no scantily-dressed women just shaking and jumping around."

The difference between "major" and "independent" labels is significant. "Independent" does not necessarily mean "underground," which carries an air of subversion, of conscious avoidance of the mainstream. "Independent" simply implies the lack of affiliation with corporate money or a major label. Lots of rap on independent labels is just as saturated in stereotypical commercial values as any on a major label.

What, then is so great about the hip-hop underground? For one thing, it's where a lot of innovations in rap take place. Without the hindrance of major label "tried-and-true" formulas to adhere to, underground producers have more freedom to create and work with more interesting beats. The underground is also where MCs are awarded points for flow, not flash; for content, not cash.

Take Mr. Lif's early single "Madness in a Cup." The beat is based on a sample from the Rolling Stones' "Monkey man," and Lif's lyrics reveal his down-to-earth approach. "Some MCs got 40oz. hearts and blunt brains and their frames are supported by a spine of cocaine/while I'm rollin' dimes with your mind..."

It's the kind of consciously different hip-hop that Brick records was going for when it released the *Rebel Alliance* collection. That record not only introduced a number of significant artists (Mr. Lif, 7L & Esoteric, Virtuoso, but also introduced the Boston hip-hop scene to itself. Until *Rebel Alliance* came out, promoters, fans and artists in the Boston underground scene had little to show for their efforts; by releasing it, Brick not only put its own crew in the spotlight, nationally and locally, it also established Boston as a city worthy of note in the rap community.

With the *Rebel Alliance* as a catalyst, the Boston scene has caught fire. In the relatively short time since its release, new artists have begun to make waves in what was once virtually a desert. As Truth says, "hip-hop in Boston is very fertile right now." The local Skitzofreniks have established a name for themselves nationally and internationally; UK hip-hop label Bad Magic has just released a 12-inch of theirs. Virtuoso has joined Esoteric and Mr. Lif on a track by DJ Vadim, of California's Ninja Tune Records. Another group, the Porn Theater Ushers, has been gaining international notice; a track of theirs was remixed by European notaries Rae and Christian.

"To me, it was cool that New York cats—especially cats that had worked with major labels—were interested in doing projects with us, because they liked the quality of what we put out," says Truth. But Brick's priorities remain primarily local. "Our first priority will always be the artists that are in our crew, that came up with us."

RACE MATTERS

Esoteric describes the Boston underground hip-hop scene as "lots of people from the outskirts—Cambridge, the suburbs, the greater Boston area. Mattapan, Dorchester, Roxbury: they're less present." Papa D! points out that, for the most part, rap shows in the area are in the Cambridge and downtown Boston area.

"Unfortunately, there aren't shows where the kids live—in Dorchester, Roxbury and Mattapan—they're not going to travel to Cambridge. *I* barely want to go to Cambridge."

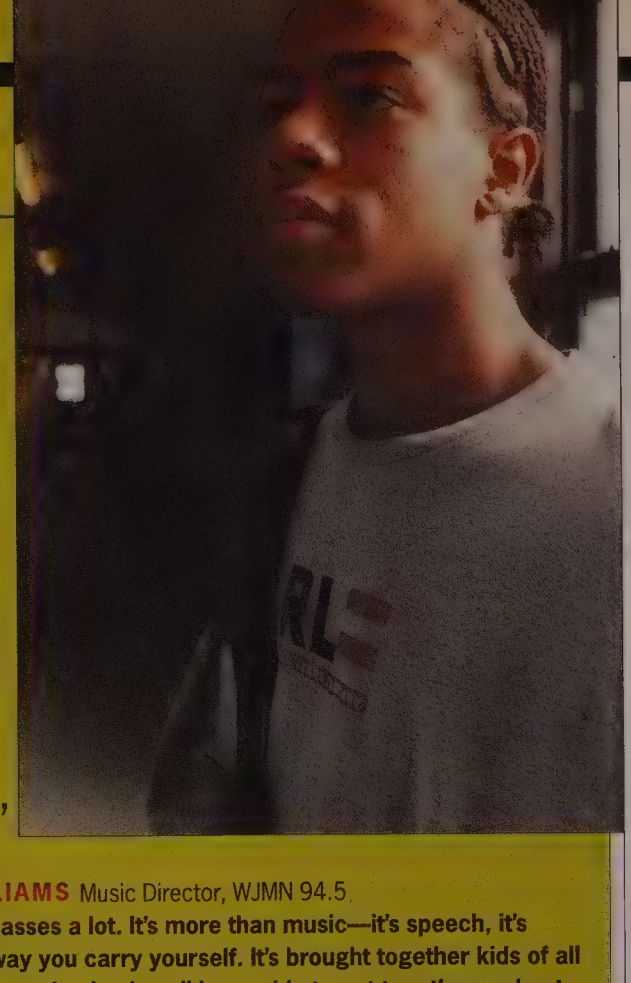
Boston hip-hop shows are packed with white college kids for some obvious reasons: They're old enough to get in to the largely 18-and-up shows; they're hearing hip-hop more than ever, both on college radio and the Internet; and, in general they're better off financially than the average kid living in a city neighborhood. Esoteric offers additional insight: "I think what attracts white crowds [to local underground hip-hop] is the less threatening nature of the environment and the music."

Mr. Lif is justifiably torn between appreciating the support of his current (largely white) audience and wishing he could reach more of the black community. "As a black man..." Lif falters for a moment, before taking a different approach. "Entertainment on major labels seems to be what the black community embraces. It's just there all the time—cats know Jay-Z and DMX a hundred years before they'll ever know about myself or Akrobatik."

Over in Dorchester, tutor Kevin Johnson supports this: "The kids I come in contact with know a lot more about a mainstream act like Made Men than they do Mr. Lif."

Of course you can't properly evaluate the present scene without looking to the past. As Steve Perez of Bill's Bar notes, "Boston has the rap of being racist. There have never been black clubs—it's always been a rock and rol

WHAT IS HIP-HOP?



JONATHAN CHARLOT
Student, Dorchester High School
"It's a street thing. It's a life thing. Some people take the stress out of their lives and rap about it. Look at Eminem: It may be bad, it may have swears, but it's about life. It makes me think."

MICHELE WILLIAMS Music Director, WJMN 94.5
"Hip-hop encompasses a lot. It's more than music—it's speech, it's clothing, it's the way you carry yourself. It's brought together kids of all races and backgrounds; they've all been able to get together and get really excited about it."

PATRICK PETTY Store Owner, House of Culture
"Hip-hop is fashion and music; it dictates one to the other. It is the kids from the streets. It is the kids who come from the real neighborhoods, not those with all the resources. They speak about what they see, they dress to express how they feel, they keep it real. It is a culture within a culture; it is the voice of the kids from the inner city."

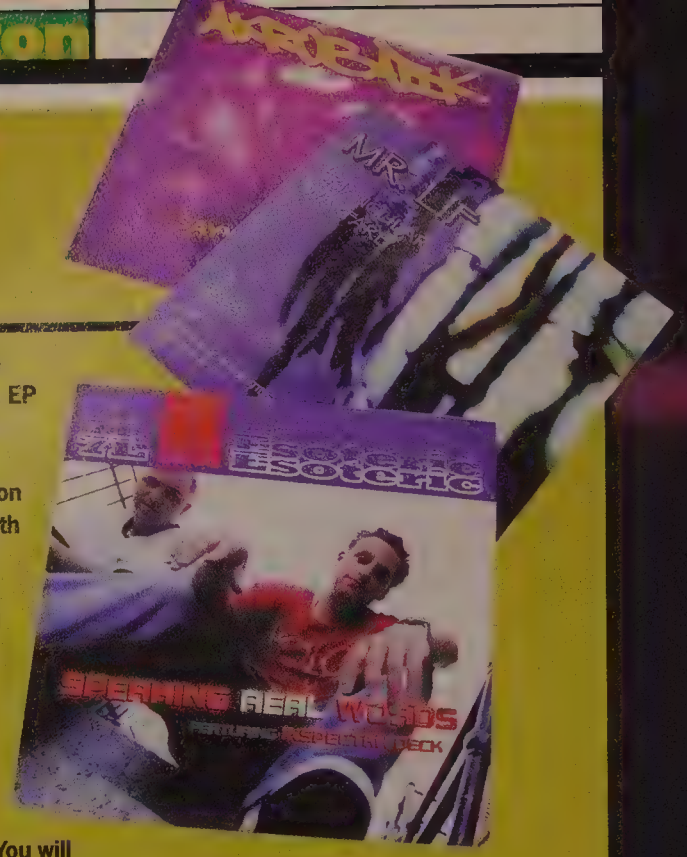
KEVIN JOHNSON Teacher in Project Reach program, Dorchester High School
"It's a way of life, a way of evaluating the world, of thinking about relationships and knowledge. It's a way of conveying how you view the world to the world. It's almost spiritual, but in the mainstream, that's lost. A lot of the message has been lost in many ways—through exploitation and the media."

CASSANDRA FOSTER Assistant Store Manager, Guess
"It is the future of most youth. It is more like a way of living than just music. It is speaking the truth about things and being straightforward about issues that others avoid. It is a subculture with its own music and fashion, but it is a little more truthful than most music these days."

CHARLOT, WENDY MIMRAN; WILLIAMS, DEB DI

PRAVDA 116

THE BEAT STREET BREAKDOWN



Before you hit the scene, familiarize yourself with some basic definitions. EP is short for "extended play," a fairly archaic term that simply means "a record or CD that's got a few songs on it but not enough to call it a full-length album." A 12-inch is a single, generally featuring two or three songs. The MC is the rapper. The DJ works the turntables. The producer is the one who puts the beats together. The beats are what the rapper rhymes over. Often, the DJ or MC is also the producer. The MC is rarely, if ever, the DJ. Vinyl is good for hip-hop. CDs are so-so. You will get the most out of the Boston hip-hop scene if you own a record player. Here is some recommended listening to get you started. Beyond these discs, also check out EDO. G, Skitzofreniks, Porn Theater Ushers, Reks and D-Tension.

MR. LIF Triangular Warfare [BRICK RECORDS] The prolific Mr. Lif has yet to release two records on the same label. This will change on Nov. 28, when his EP, *Enters The Colossus*, comes out on Def Jux Records. Run by NYC underground legend El-P of Company Flow, Def Jux just released a 12-inch by Lif, featuring recent standout live track, "Front on This." Lif gained national fame when Grand Royal Records released his "Farmhand" single, which featured a brilliant sampling of a banjo track and a slamming beat. As good as all of these are, our favorite is still the "Triangular Warfare" EP, released on Boston's Brick Records. The title track is a sinister battle rhyme, punctuated with orchestral stabs, while *Arise*, produced by El-P, is a rage against man's inhumanity to man and the planet. "Inhuman Capabilities" features Akrobatik and is a shining example of the heights the pair are able to reach when playing against and with each other's lyrical flows. Lif's unique voice and thought-provoking lyrics come across most effectively on the latter two cuts, and El-P's envelope-pushing production pushes *Arise* over the top, making it an undeniably essential artifact of the Boston scene.

"Climb out of your darkness, the light is quite clear
You're still too concerned with jewels and hype gear
But I'm-a drop my thoughts until you open your eyes...Arise"
—Mr. Lif, from "Arise"

7L & ESOTERIC Speaking Real Words EP [DIRECT RECORDS] Collecting tracks from three of their 12-inch releases, this record (available on CD for those of you without phonograph technology) covers a lot of ground. It features guest appearances by local heroes like Virtuoso and national figures like the Wu-Tang Clan's Inspectah Deck. From the bombastic "Learn from the Druid" to the demanding and unforgettable beats on "Be Alert" (which features the notorious sample from the Transformers' cartoon), this disc showcases some of the best that local rap has to offer. MC Esoteric's style hearkens back to the early days of hip-hop, while DJ & producer 7L is decidedly middle-period in approach, with beats crafted skillfully along the lines of pioneers like Gang Starr's DJ Premier.

"I'm taking it back/to a time when it was cool to call hip-hop rap"
—Esoteric, from "Speaking Real Words"

AKROBATIK Say Yes Say Word [DETONATOR RECORDS] Also to be included in the "undeniably essential" category is this self-produced classic track by Akrobatik. He's got other records worth picking up—his first record, which features "Ruff Enuff," is worth seeking out (good luck finding it) and his most recent release, a 12-inch on Rawkus featuring his World Wide Web sleeper hit "Internet MCs." But it was "Say Yes Say Word" that put Ak on the map in Boston, and beyond. The catchy hook and chorus ("Now if you lovin' hip-hop, say yes/and if you feelin' hip-hop, say word"), the crafty wordplay and a beat that takes you right back to Big E. Fresh's "The Show" all add up to a classic track, which is required listening for anyone curious about the Boston sound. Akrobatik is a skilled MC and a talented producer, and his growth as an artist is readily heard on each consecutive release. His latest, titled simply The EP, collects some of the 12-inch tracks and includes some new ones.

"Elementary school like rotary phones and Roto-Rooter
I'm still I got provisions for the future"
—Akrobatik, from "Say Yes Say Word"

Steve Perez, who books hip-hop shows at Bill's Bar says the scene is "all very indie right now; it reminds me of how punk rock used to be."

town." True enough. But might hip-hop—whether mainstream or the local underground variety—be playing a role in mitigating longstanding racial tensions?

On the one hand, there's the *de facto*, "it is what it is" view, courtesy of Jeff Marshall: "It's a really cool mix of culture," he says. "It's black, white, Asian, male, female—it's really mixed up." Then there's Papa D!, who again offers the dissenting opinion. "I encourage every artist and everyone involved in the business [to remember] that hip-hop started as a black culture, and that it should remain a black culture. If it's not black, it loses its foundation. White people can participate in it, but we have to be conscious of that."

Although other white hip-hop fans are not as fervent as Papa D!, there is a palpable sense of "white guilt" regarding the appropriation of black music. Even white Boston high-school students are conscious of "stealing" from the black community.

"I'd like to say that our support [of rap] makes a difference," says Steve Crowe, 18, a student in Boston's Another Course to College program. "But I'd think Talib Kweli, Common Sense or Mos Def would like to look out at the audience and see a lot more black fans." His thoughtful classmate, Ben Cohen, 17, adds: "Hip-hop started as an urban music form. We feel a bit of remorse...we don't want to get blamed for stealing the music from black culture, like we have so many other music forms."

The irony is that some African Americans are less concerned about the color of hip-hop. "It's ridiculous to say whites are 'appropriating' hip-hop," says Richard Torres, a Brooklyn, NY-based music writer. "Eminem is just as valid as Wu-Tang Clan. He comes from Detroit, he's a poor white kid. So hip-hop is as much his music as anyone else's."

Likewise, Jonathan Charlot of Dorchester compares Eminem favorably to any black rapper: "I don't look at him as if he's white, cuz he's one of them."

Then there's Mr. Lif. When answering the question "What is hip-hop?" Lif gives an answer which is both exclusive and inclusive. He starts, "it's, like, the culture of young Americans," then pauses briefly, and resumes. "I mean, young *black* Americans, who created something out of nothing, from an impoverished state, and followed their heart so that they could provide themselves with a voice. And it's just a very raw form of music—kick, snare, hi-hat, some samples and some rhymes. That's what it is to me."

Can hip-hop walk this line between exclusion and inclusion? Can hip-hop—whether mainstream or the burgeoning underground scene—continue to offer an identity for Boston's black community without losing its roots? In our city's schoolrooms, nightclubs, record stores and streets, these are some of the issues being addressed. Of course, these questions can't be answered today, but it is promising that such questions are being posed—and with surprising sensitivity.

So while Fred Durst of Limp Bizkit sings about "the nookie," local artists like Mr. Lif and 7L & Esoteric prove that hip-hop is about more than just bombast, big cars and bravado. **iB**

TOP RIGHT, TRACY POWELL

PRAVDA 116

EXIT

Garden Gods

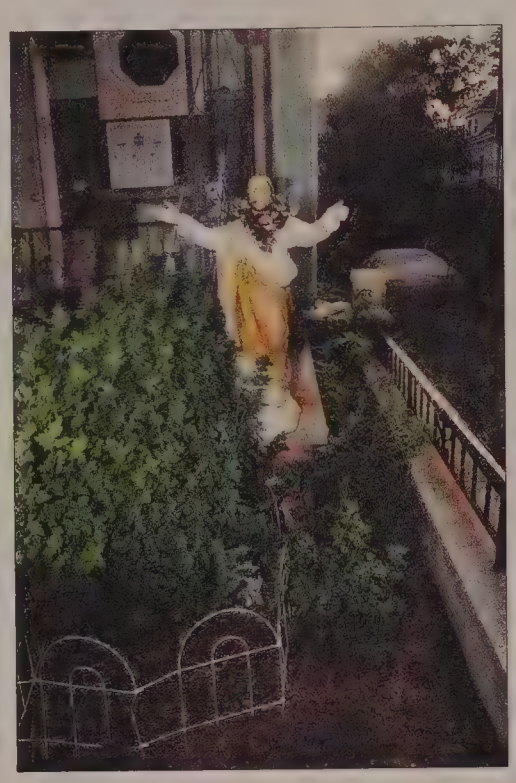
In the Winter Hill neighborhood of Somerville, lawns are populated with countless Christian icons—and at least one floating Buddha. PHOTOGRAPHS BY FRANK MULLIN

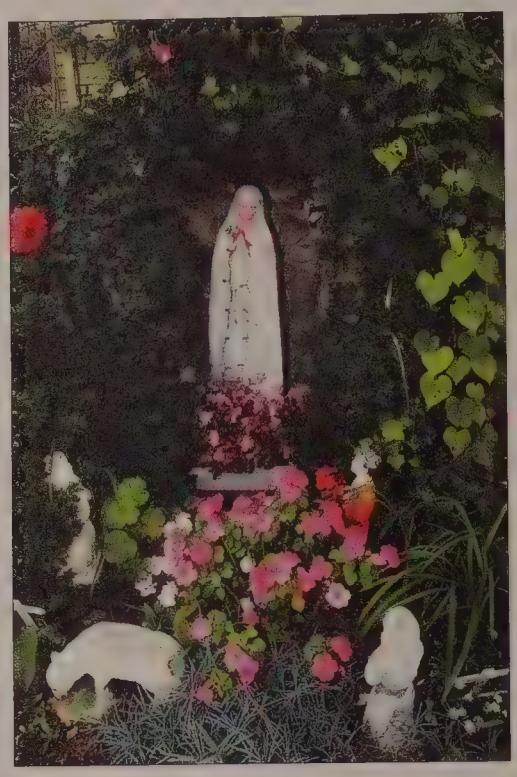
In bustling and increasingly gentrified Somerville, the small neighborhood of Winter Hill—with its sizable Italian-American population—stretches between Broadway and Union Square. Corresponding to the area's demographics, there are numerous Christian statues punctuating residents' gardens—sharing lawn space with the occasional pink flamingo and birdbath. On a short stretch of School Street, between Medford Street and Broadway, for example, there are precisely three statues of the Virgin Mary and two statues of St. Francis of Assisi.

The Virgin Mary is certainly the most ubiquitous icon along School and adjoining streets, but there are also several statues of St. Anthony and Jesus nearby. And over on Thurston Street, which runs parallel to School Street, a magnificent Buddha emerges from a bush in front of a large, well-kept home, reflecting the increasing diversification of Somerville.

Generally, Winter Hill's religious statues are situated within niches—whether a stone grottos, a store-bought structure or a Hula-Hoop wrapped with twinkling lights. Sometimes religious statues are part of elaborate shrines and are joined in the foreground by kneeling figures, flowers and lights. The iconography of these garden gods is extremely consistent: One Virgin Mary is just like the next in expression, pose, gesture and vestments. This visual consistency is integral to the sacred power of the icon; it also ensures recognition among the faithful.

A Winter Hill passer-by might consider a religious lawn statue as quaint or perhaps even gaudy. But for the faithful, these icons embody a transcendental, redemptive spirit. As Fanni Grassa, an Italian American who has lived in the neighborhood for 43 years, explained while sweeping leaves by her Virgin Mary statue: "It offers protection. We have the Virgin Mary here and a St. Anthony protecting the driveway." —*Rachel Strutt*





"We got the statue when we bought the house, in 1968. We have it because we are Christian. We believe in God. Also, I have three sisters who are nuns."—Connie Renda

Connie Renda (in print dress) has lived on School Street with her family since 1968. She poses here with four of her visiting sisters: Angela Dovidio, of Reading, Mass; and Sister Maria Liliana, Sister Maria Florence and Sister Maria Fausta, who are nuns at San Franciscan Cappuccine convent in Palermo, Sicily. They are five of seven sisters who were all born in the same house in Palermo.

"I wanted to put the Buddha in the house, but it was too heavy so we put it outside. There, it protects the children as they walk on the crosswalk to the school across the street. In the springtime, it's very pretty because the forsythia bush is covered in yellow flowers. My husband gave it that shape to make it look like a lotus blossom."

Diep Le has lived on Thurston Street with her family since 1995.

This page: Black check jaquard tuxedo jacket, $1,770; black check jacquard velvet slim pants, $630; black fine-poplin French-cuff, pleat-front evening shirt, $540. All available at Gucci.

Opposite page, on her: Yellow pinstriped dress with beading and cumberbund, $2,075. Available at select Chanel Boutiques. On him: Black tricorn jacquard velvet tuxedo jacket, $1,770. Available at Gucci. Black tricorn jacquard velvet slim pants. Available at Gucci.

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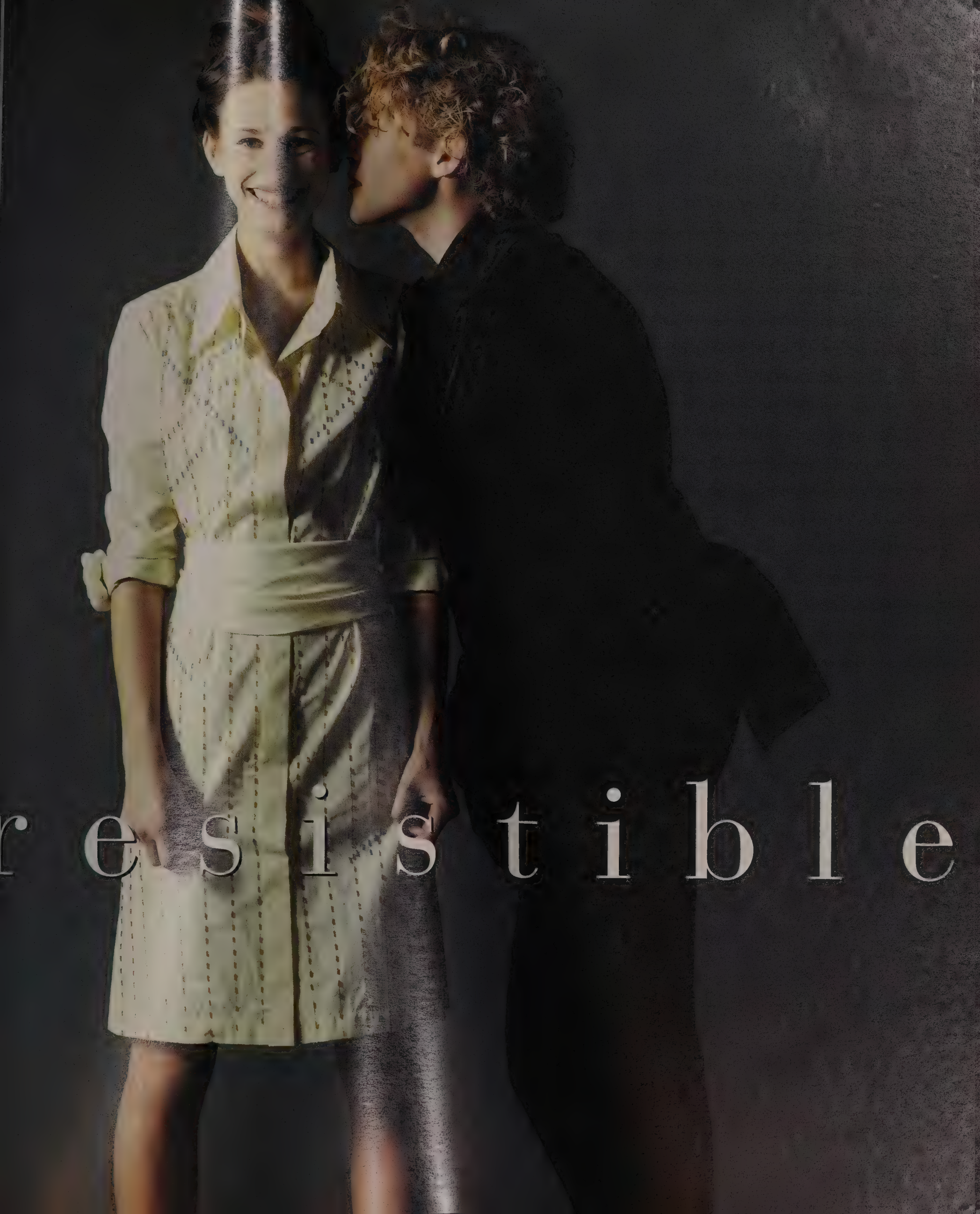

r e s i s t i b l e

Black heavy silk gazaar asymmetric front-ruffle dress, $1,475; white heavy silk gazaar with right front ruffle dress, $1,475; silk sandal with strass tiger ornament, $675. All available at Gucci.

Blue lace dress, $2,215. Available at select Chanel Boutiques.

This page, on him: White fine-poplin French-cuff, pleat-front evening shirt, $540; black hopsack evening pants wih grossgrain trim, $500. All available at Gucci.
On her: Logo print pastel dress. Available at Chanel Boutiques.

Opposite page, on him: Black double wool and cashmere belted coat, $2,830. Available at Gucci.
On her: Both are wearing white and black floral print dresses with bustle, $2,935. Available at select Saks Fifth Avenue Stores.

Chanel Boutique
5 Newbury St.
859-0055

Gucci
Copley Place
247-3000

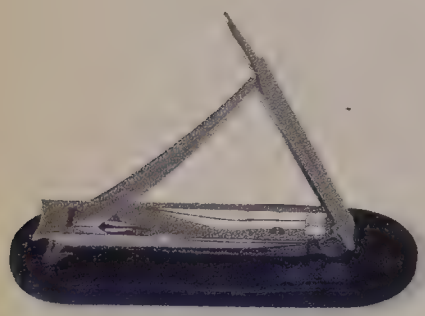
Saks Fifth Avenue
Prudential Center
262-8500

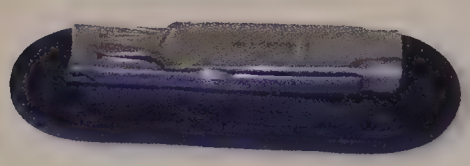
Models: Dana Hunt and John Flanagan for MMA. Sonny Caltazzo and Emilie Klein for Reinhard.

VELVET STOCKINGS made locally in Allston to be featured in upcoming movie "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas" with Jim Carrey $44. Available at The Flat of the Hill, 60 Charles St., Boston 619-9977.

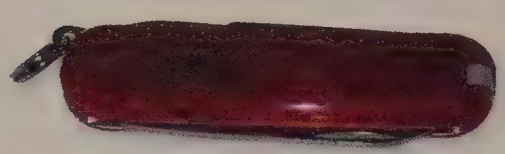
Mason Pearson, finest all-natural **BRISTLE HAIRBRUSH**, from London, $95. At Stoddard's, 50 Temple Place, Boston 426-4187; also at Copley Place and the Mall at Chestnut Hill.

The Holiday

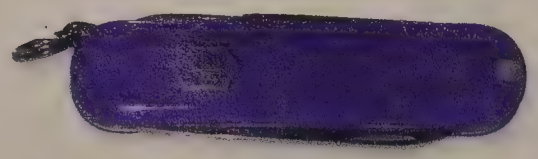




WORLD'S BEST STAINLESS POCKET NAIL NIPPER with leather case $16.50. At Stoddard's, 50 Temple Place, Boston 426-4187; also at Copley Place and the Mall at Chestnut Hill.



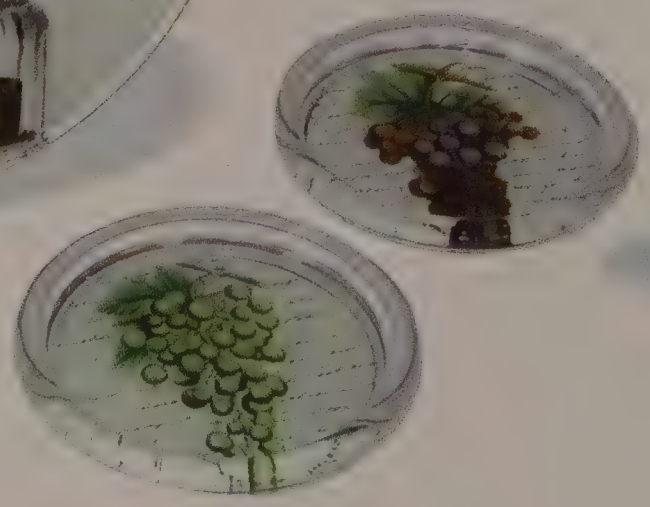
CLASSIC SWISS ARMY POCKET KNIFE with blade, file, scissors and key ring. Red or blue, $13.95. Sterling $80. At Stoddard's, 50 Temple Place, Boston 426-4187; also at Copley Place and the Mall at Chestnut Hill.



Under 12 inches and years of pleasure. **SMALL WORKS ART SALE** (November 24-December 25). Available at the Copley Society of Boston, 158 Newbury St., Boston 536-5049.

JAMESON IRISH WHISKEY WITH COCKTAIL SHAKER HOLIDAY GIFT PACKAGE available where wines and spirits are sold. www.jameson.ie

JOHN DERIAN CHEESE PLATTER $190; **RED AND WHITE WINE COASTERS** $48 each. Available at La Ruche, 168 Newbury St., Boston 536-6366.



BANG & OLUFSEN'S BEOCOM 6000 CORDLESS TELEPHONE, $475, can accommodate up to five additional phones, $325 each, with just one phone jack. Available at Bang & Olufsen Newbury Street, 30 Newbury Street, Boston, 262-4949.

Gift Guide

November & December Issue

SWAN BOAT ORNAMENT by Landmark Creations $28 (in a red gift box). Available at The Faneuil Hall Heritage Shop, Zero Faneuil Hall Sq., Stall 13, Boston (in the cellar of Historic Faneuil Hall) 723-1776 (800-588-3844 for more styles). www.TheLittleRedBox.com.

MBTA TROLLEY ORNAMENT by Landmark Creations $24 (in a red gift box). Available at The Faneuil Hall Heritage Shop, Zero Faneuil Hall Sq., Stall 13, Boston (in the cellar of Historic Faneuil Hall) 723-1776 (800-588-3844 for more styles). www.TheLittleRedBox.com.

HANDMADE MONKEY SEATED WITH BOWL $285, a Set of four **PALM TREE COASTERS** $45 and an **ARICULA SQUARE NEEDLEPOINT PILLOW** designed by Nina Campbell $180. Available at La Ruche, 168 Newbury St., Boston 536-6366.

Mopsy

Serendipitous shopping: Our unfettered correspondent seeks out the salubrious and the cerebral.

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY

A MESSAGE IN THE BOTTLE OF ANOMALIES

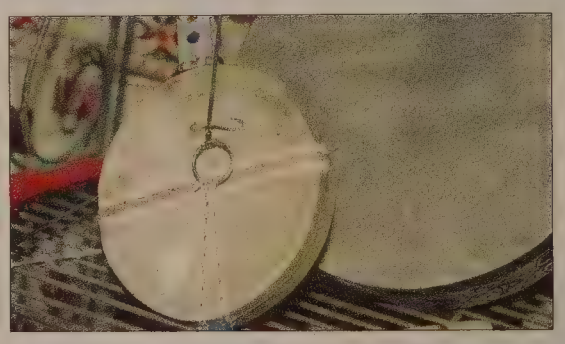
PEER is the organization and newsletter of the Program for Extraordinary Experiences Research, which explores alien contact and much more. For information: 497-2667, or *www.peermack.org*.

Psychiatrist John Mack, the Pulitzer Prize–winning biographer of Lawrence of Arabia, has received attention both derisive and laudatory for his most recent subject: people who claim to have had contact with aliens. For those who have been beckoned by the skinny green finger of those apparently supernatural beings, Mack's willingness to listen, appreciate and understand—rather than to diagnose and marginalize—has been a boon. He's written two books about this, most recently *Passport to the Cosmos* (released in paperback earlier this month). Like another Cambridge dweller before him, William James, Mack takes a wide and attentive look at the whole variety of experiences that are extraordinary, anomalous, uncanny, spiritual, religious, shamanistic and ecological. Hearing about alien contact ("It was like air going through air; my cells were wide open") is fascinating and thought provoking. But even for people who might be skeptical about abduction per se, PEER offers a pathway back to certain notions held dear in the 1960s. Such as the idea held by Castaneda, and many indigenous people, that certain "alternate realities" truly and honorably exist; that in trance states we can receive exotic wisdom ; and that the planet, supersensitive to our cruel treatment, requires extreme respect. The Program for Extraordinary Experiences Research is weaving a relationship between science, philosophy, healing and art.

THE SHELTERING SKY, CAMBRIDGE

The Moroccan Bazaar at 2302 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, evokes spicy warmth through furniture and other Moroccan fixings. 661-0644.

Those things that conglomerate, in shades of earthy red and camel yellow, to make up that rich feeling of Morocco (see *The Sheltering Sky* for a full dose) are here in North Cambridge. Foremost, it's an atmospheric furniture store with exotic objects—such as round or rectangular ceramic tables with colored mosaic bits embedded in them—that you could happily fit into your non-desert condo. And unlike most kitchen or dining-room tables, these can also withstand porch weather. A much lower table with wooden balustered fretwork can be sat around upon fat little pillows. The walls are covered with colorfully ornamental bowls, pretty as pictures, in which food can be served. Moroccan musicians might be found plucking here on the beautiful stringed instruments (say, a *rebab*) or the ancient-looking drumlike ones. Moroccan Bazaar has enormous tea sets made of a silver-colored nickel, with trays, teapots and bowls for mint. There are ruglike blankets and blankety rugs, including rough-hewn brown-and-white sheepskins. Try on a flowing, silky caftan or jellabah for a lounging around in regal queen's fashion, or use one to dress up for a very fancy ceremonial occasion.



WEDDING TOAST

Split Verse, Poems to Heal Your Heart, edited by Meg Campbell and William Duke, is about divorce.

The cleated footprints that walk across the hearts of the divorced are beautifully, bitterly, painfully, defensively—sometimes bracingly—recorded in this collection of poems written from the ravaging front lines of divorce. Sherman Pearl describes the "simple surgery" that cuts the couple in two: "My portion has/half a house in the background/yours the other half and look! on the lawn, midway/where we'd stood together,/half a child." A father, lamenting his divorce from the mother of his grown-up son recalls the child's conception in a hotel that is now burned out: "Loved your mother then," he says, in tight-lipped pain. And he adds, redeemingly: "You are the best thing I have done." Breathtaking loneliness aches off these pages, love gone sour, but never erased. Children leave bravely sad messages to Daddy on the answering machine. Longing, lingering attachments are so prevalent, it's almost a relief to read Peter Wade's cynical "Rant." "I'm really pissed that you're unfazed...you smiled at me with the condescending sympathy of an outplacement counselor." And there's an edgily sexy end-of-intimacy poem by William Duke. Meg Campbell recommends people take these poems "preventively," considering the abyss before they take a leap into commitment.

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INSIDE: Draghi leaves Marcuccio's; Tanks a Lot: Kiss of the Lobster Woman

In the bustling dining room, patrons get friendly at shared tables. Below: Jasper White himself brandishes a couple of soon-to-be-tasty crustaceans while shucker Will Cooper looks on. Opposite page: Pan-roasted lobster.

REVIEW

A Shack for All Seasons

You don't have to visit the Cape to find top-notch seafood

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRAD ZIEGLER

The leaves have fallen. Frost decorates the car in the morning. An icy wind whips off Boston Harbor. Summer is gone but not forgotten. How could we forget, when Jasper White has brought us summer that lasts all year long in his marvelous new restaurant, Summer Shack. Cheek-to-cheek with the Alewife T Station in Cambridge and marked by colorful, eye-catching signs, Summer Shack is easy to locate from afar. Unfortunately, it is not so easy to negotiate one's way into its parking lot off busy Alewife Parkway. T riders have it easy, having to contend with only a short walk across the street.

The restaurant is housed in a building that was formerly home to a Polynesian eatery, Aku Aku. In fact, an Aku Aku mural has been preserved on the wall across from the restrooms. Summer Shack's main dining room and open kitchen occupy a huge, gymnasium-like space with metal girders and rafters, industrial-type light fixtures, weather-beaten paneling and corrugated metal roofing over an authentic clam shack near the entrance. A mural in vibrant colors graces one wall, next to the chalkboard list of specials. Seating is at long, shared tables and at banquettes and booths upholstered in bright turquoise and yellow vinyl. Carrying forward the rustic, casual atmosphere, tables are covered with brown butcher paper, wine is iced in galvanized steel buckets and condiments are brought in red plastic buckets. Colorful balloons litter the landscape. In a gesture of gentility, there are big, white, absorbent cotton napkins. Casual as the dining room atmosphere is, the kitchen is state of the art, lined with imposing aluminum steamers and a custom designed "lobster line"—a serious platform for good, honest, well-prepared seafood produced and directed by upscale-inspired White.

The wine list presents an array of reasonably priced vintages, mostly but not exclusively white, including a 1999 Sancerre ($24), crisp and refreshing, and a full-flavored, full-nosed Alsacian Riesling from Pierre Sparr ($25). Many Americans associate Riesling with the cloyingly sweet plonk of Germany sold under the generic name Liebfraumilch, and they are pleased to learn that Alsacian Reisling is vinified dry, with good balance and structure, and makes a wonderful accompaniment for fish.

Dinner starts on the right foot with superb clam chowder ($4 a cup). We find many clam chowders too thick and floury, since some seem to think thickness an adequate substitute for flavor and fullness. Summer Shack's clam chowder is intensely flavorful but light and delicate, a cross between traditional New England clam chowder and the clear-broth brew known as Rhode Island. Another estimable starter was the mussels in herbed broth ($8), two dozen plump, clean mollusks in a deftly herbed broth containing, but not dominated by, garlic and seasoned with bay leaf and other herbs. The broth was so good we felt compelled to finish it with a spoon after the mussels were eaten.

Baccala fritters ($6) were not as successful, having lingered in the fryer just a few moments too long. Grilled clams in garlic butter ($12.50), on the other hand, were incomparable. Arrayed like tenpins on a triangular trivet, these tasty littlenecks were well-nigh perfect in texture and taste, resilient but not chewy, with the garlic complimenting but not overpowering the clams. Finally, a small order of smelts ($6) yielded five fresh, crisp little critters, lightly breaded and delectable, complemented by a lemon wedge and a small bowl of well-constructed and tangy, not sweet, tarter sauce.

Jasper White has cooked and written about lobster extensively, so we thought it would border on actionable neglect to visit the Summer Shack without sampling his signature dish, pan-roasted lobster ($30). This one-pound crustacean had been doused in Bourbon, roasted to a succulent turn and carefully cut into quadrants with the shells pre-cracked to facilitate eating. The flesh was tender and nutlike, but what was most memorable was the remainder of the cooking liquid left behind when we had dispatched the lobster meat and licked the lingering essence from the shells and our fingers, a sauce which we greedily mopped up with the restaurant's trusty, crusty house-made rolls.

Among Summer Shack's main courses, the wood-grilled grouper ($16) was first rate. Firm yet moist, it was served without extraneous sauces or garnishes that would have detracted from its impeccable freshness and classic simplicity. Yellow and green squash slices and a slaw of cabbage, onions and oranges were fine accompaniments that did not bury or overwhelm the fish, as is too often the case in many restaurants. Another wood-grilled special was the fresh swordfish ($18), a thick, moist steak enlivened with saffron and accompanied by a rich, earthy ratatouille.

A regular offering, flounder dore with almonds ($15) was described on the chalkboard as "line caught," to suggest freshness (rather like "day boat" scallops); that is, fish that was not caught at sea and left on ice for a long period, but went from fishing line to table in a matter of hours. This delicate fish was bathed in egg, gently sautéed to a light golden brown and accompanied by a generous mound of buttery, slivered nuts. Fried golden trout benefited from similar treatment, but this time the garnish was mushrooms and parsley, and the sautéeing liquid was olive oil.

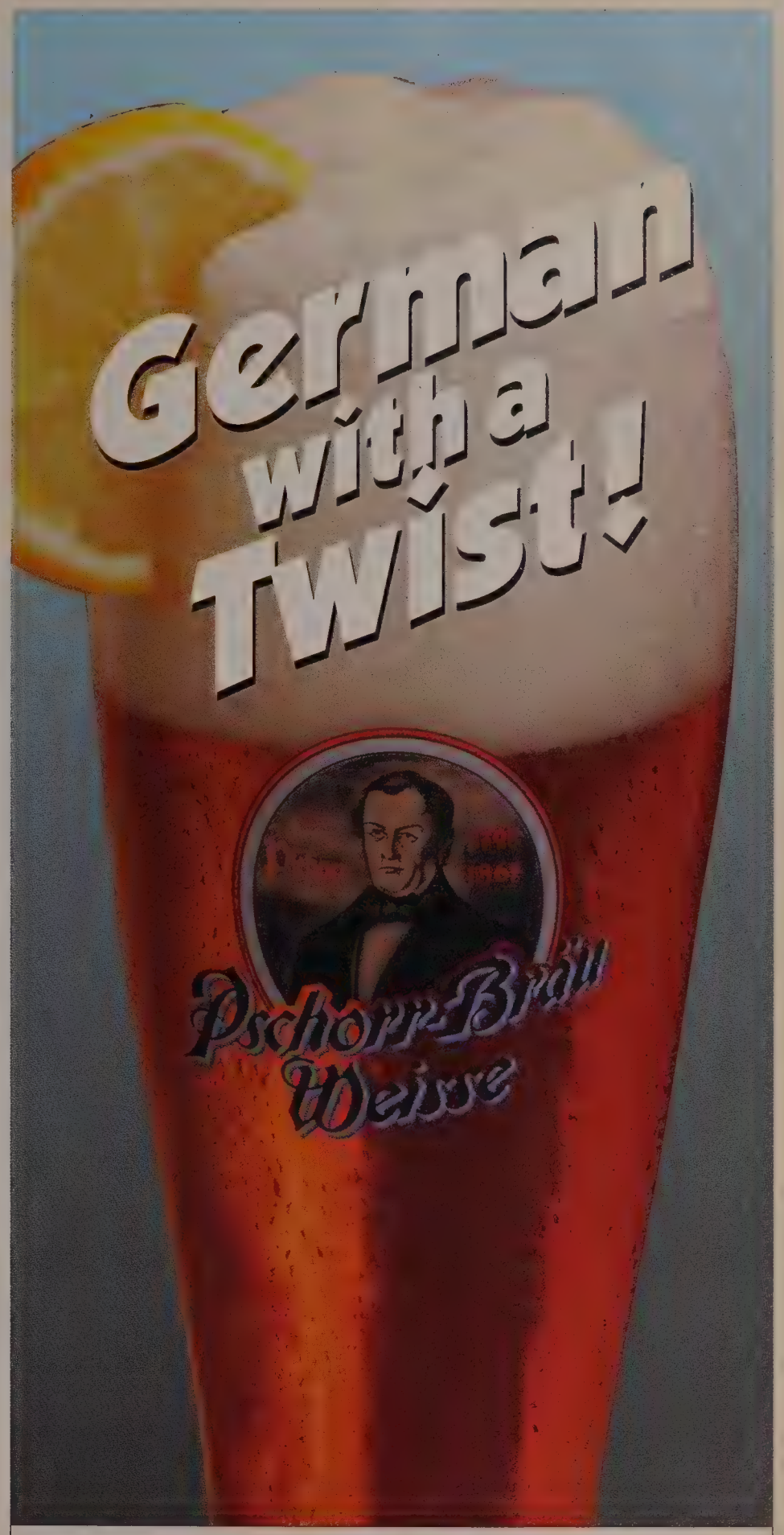
Finally, there was the bouillabaisse ($15). Purists might complain that true bouillabaisse cannot be found more than 10 miles from the French port of Marseilles, but Summer Shack's bouillabaisse might shake this belief. This melange of firm-fleshed fish—some rich, some lean—tender squid, sweet mussels, potatoes, onions and fennel was garnished with a small thicket of garlic-encrusted croutons. A side order of butternut squash was luscious, buttery and suffused with nutmeg. French fries were a mixed bag. One evening, with a lackluster fish and chips, they were tired and cold, but on another evening, ordered on the side ($4), they were flawless—hot, fresh and handcut.

Summer Shack's desserts included milk-chocolate silk pie ($4.50), a wedge of velvety, creamy chocolate, accompanied by soft whipped cream and a mint leaf. Less successful was the Dutch apple pie a la mode ($5.25), which arrived formless, cool and lackluster, clearly not worth the price.

Service on both of our visits to Summer Shack was excellent, despite the fact that this is a huge restaurant, seating over 300 diners. The waiters and waitresses were well informed, energetic and full of enthusiasm—an enthusiasm well merited in view of the quality of the food they were serving. There is an excitement, an electricity in the air, as if people are all enjoying themselves—hosts, cooks, waiters, waitresses and diners. It is impossible to avoid being swept up in a wave of exuberance reflected in and accompanied by the food. Factor in the reasonable prices and family-friendly ambiance, and this one's a keeper. **iB**

Jasper's Summer Shack

149 Alewife Brook Parkway, Cambridge
(520-9500)
HOURS Mon.-Thu., 5-10pm; Fri.-Sat., 5-11pm; Sun, 12-9pm
RESERVATIONS no
CREDIT CARDS all major
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE yes
PARKING free parking
LIQUOR LICENSE full bar



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DISH

Four More Years—Not

Draghi ends term at Marcuccio's

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

So far, Charles Draghi has made an impact not only on Marcuccio's, but on restaurants around the city.

Just as the president doesn't own the White House, many chefs don't own their own restaurants, despite appearances to the contrary. Most fans of **Marcuccio's** in the North End simply assumed that chef, sommelier and general manager **Charles Draghi** was also proprietor. In fact, the prospect of earning a stake in the business was what drove Draghi to also take on the responsibilities of accounting, wine-list development, and public-relations duties for four years, helping to create one of the most respected Italian restaurants in town.

Now Draghi is hard at work on his own business plan, "trying to find a really nice space and investors," and helping out in the kitchen of another restaurant "basically as a drone, working a kitchen line. It's a nice little break. I don't have to take the restaurant home with me every night," he says.

Although he's focused on the future, Draghi expresses satisfaction with his legacy at Marcuccio's. He expects **Roberto Dias**, formerly his sous-chef, to maintain Draghi's demanding standards, and describes the kitchen staff as "the best cooking line in the city." Nevertheless, he acknowledges that, to many regular patrons, his presence was an essential part of the Marcuccio's experience. "I'm not sure how long the restaurant will keep going," he says. "It's my food, but without me."

Meanwhile, Draghi notes the influence of his no-butter/no-cream cooking style on menus around town, specifically mentioning the roasted-vegetable sauce at **Biba** and **Les Zygomates**. "I get no royalties, but how much would I have to pay to the people I stole from?" he laughs.

Why don't lobsters scream when they're dropped into a cauldron of boiling water? "No vocal chords," says **Amie Farrar**, the line cook at **Jasper's Summer Shack** who is stationed by the bubbling pots and charged with fielding lobster-related questions five nights a week.

So maybe the lobsters would scream, if only they could. But Farrar, perky and chipper, her hair tucked into a lobster-printed cap, is a reassuring presence to the kids who "get all upset" at the lobsters' fate. And she's an able chronicler of lobster lore, having learned everything she needs to know about the crustacean from **Jasper White** himself.

What's the most frequently asked question? Adults, predictably, ask where the lobsters are from, and Farrar is young and earnest enough (at age 25) to resist responding with "the ocean." Kids, however, see the creatures flailing their heavy claws as they're lifted out of the tank and want to know "if we put the rubber bands on by ourselves... Thank God, we don't," says Farrar, adding, "I haven't been snapped yet."

We snapped to attention ourselves when a little birdie (a chicken lobster?) whispered in our ear that Jasper plans to open two more Summer Shack locations.

National seafood chain **McCormick & Schmick** has opened in the Park Plaza Hotel. The place still looks a lot like former occupant **Legal Seafoods**, but with some gorgeous beveled glass and rows of booths that nearly qualify as private dining areas once the velvet curtains enclose the space. Sic transit gloria mahi mahi: Next door, the former location of **The Legal C Bar** is now home to an Irish-themed pub. iB

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant? Send it to dish@improper.com

Tastings BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for tastings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

EVENTS

Beaujolais Nouveau Release Party
Brasserie Jo, 120 Huntington Ave., Boston (425-3240). Nov. 15, 11pm-1am. At the stroke of midnight, cancan dancers will kick-step through the restaurant to present the release of the George Duboeuf's 2000 Beaujolais Nouveau.

Bomboa One-Year Anniversary
Bomboa, 35 Stanhope St., Boston (236-6363). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Nov. 20, 6pm ($60) and 8pm ($90). To celebrate Bomboa's one-year anniversary, chefs **Tony Ambrose** from Ambrosia, **Seth Woods** of Aquitaine, **Ken Oringer** of Clio and **Felino Samson** of Third World Productions join Bomboa chef/co-owner **E. Michael Reidt** for a multiple-course meal.

Champagne & Caviar
Boston Learning Society, 1089 Great Plain Ave., Needham (508-636-3423). Nov. 28, 7pm. $37. Chef **Kerry Romaniello** of Westport Rivers teaches this champagne and caviar seminar.

Chocolate Daze
Elizabeth Bishop Wine Resource Center, 808 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (353-9852). Nov. 15-16, 10am-5pm. $300. The White House's assistant pastry chef teaches techniques in melting, tempering, handling and storing chocolate.

Dickens Dinner
Omni Parker House, 60 School St., Boston (725-1600). $99 per couple (dinner only), $159 per couple (dinner and performance). Nov. 25, 6pm. Executive chef **Gerry Tice** re-creates the five-course Victorian dinner that Charles Dickens attended during his stay at the hotel in 1868. Afterward, attend *A Christmas Carol*.

An Evening with Julia Child
Elizabeth Bishop Wine Resource Center, 808 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-9852). Nov. 19, 3-5pm. $40. **Julia Child**, author of *Julia Child's Kitchen Wisdom*, speaks.

Guest Chef Cooking Demos
Williams-Sonoma, 100 Huntington Ave., Boston (262-3080). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. •Nov. 18, 12-2pm: **Elaine Sullivan** and **Charlie Esposito** sign their book, *The Black Dog Summer on the Vineyard Cookbook*. •Nov. 19, 10:30am-12pm: **Peter Platt**, executive chef of the Wheatleigh Hotel in Lenox, Mass., prepares the perfect turkey. •Nov. 21, 12-1pm: **Julia Child** signs her book *Julia Child's Kitchen Wisdom*.

Kowloon's 50th Anniversary
Kowloon, Saugus (781-233-0077). Mondays and Wednesdays, throughout November. Kowloon rolls back the prices to 1950 in celebration of its anniversary. Combo plates include egg roll, fried rice and chow mein for 95 cents.

Moet & Chandon Champagne Dinner
Julien, 250 Franklin St., Boston (451-1900, ext. 7120). Nov. 15, 7pm. $85. Moet & Chandon champagnes will be paired with a three-course menu prepared by executive chef **Mark Sapienza**.

Northwest Fest: Brewers Dinner
Redbones, 55 Chester St., Somerville (628-2200). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Nov. 15, 7pm. $40 (includes dinner and beer). The best handcrafted beers from the Northwest will be on all 24 taps throughout the month. Among the guest speakers will be **Dick Cantwell** from Elysian and **Fred Bowman** of Portland Brewing.

Perfect French Bistro Cuisine
BCAE, 5 Comm. Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Nov. 16, 6-9pm. $60. Brasserie Jo's chef de cuisine **Antoine Camin** offers food and wine samples from the menu.

Radius Guest Chef Series
Radius, 8 High St., Boston (426-2526). Nov. 15. **Tom Colicchio** of New York's Gramercy Tavern collaborates with Radius chef **Michael Schlow** on a tasting menu.

Thanksgiving Without Turkey?
BCAE, 5 Comm. Ave., Boston (267-4430). Nov. 20, 6-9pm. $54. Chef Diane Manteca of the Brickyard Cafe teaches you how to prepare a vegetarian Thanksgiving meal.

A Taste of Jamaica Plain
Cedar's Hall, 61 Rockwood St., Jamaica Plain (524-2555). Nov. 16, 6:30-10pm. $25. Enjoy food from all over the world cooked by JP's best eateries, and live music, dancing and cash bar.

Three-Course Beaujolais Meal
Maison Robert, 45 School St., Boston (227-3371). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Nov. 16, 7pm. $45 (four courses). A casual dinner in the Cafe at Maison Robert celebrates the arrival of the brash, young 1999 Beaujolais in the United States.

Wine Tastings
The Wine Bottega, 341 Hanover St., Boston (227-6607). •Nov. 17, 5-8pm: Wines for Feasting. Meeting the challenge of Thanksgiving dinner. Nov. 24, 5-8pm: Wines of the Antipodes.

TASTY TIDBIT

N.Y.-STYLE MARKET

Residents of Coolidge Corner have been peering through the frosted windows of the yet-to-be-opened Zathmary's specialty-foods market for months. "What do you think it is?" one woman asked her companion as I passed by last week. I knew the answer. As soon as the sign went up above the door, I'd been eagerly awaiting the opening of the second incarnation of the popular Needham market. Well, the wait is finally over. As of Oct. 31, a team of chefs has been serving up their specialties—from sushi and pizza to freshly baked breads, gourmet sandwiches and comfort food in the open-kitchen format. There's a 20-foot salad bar, a stone hearth pizzeria, a deli, a full-service cheese department and an espresso and tea bar, "all under one roof," says owner Michael Szathmary (pictured above, center). Take your food to go or eat in the self-service cafe. *299 Harvard St., Brookline (731-8900). —J.S.*

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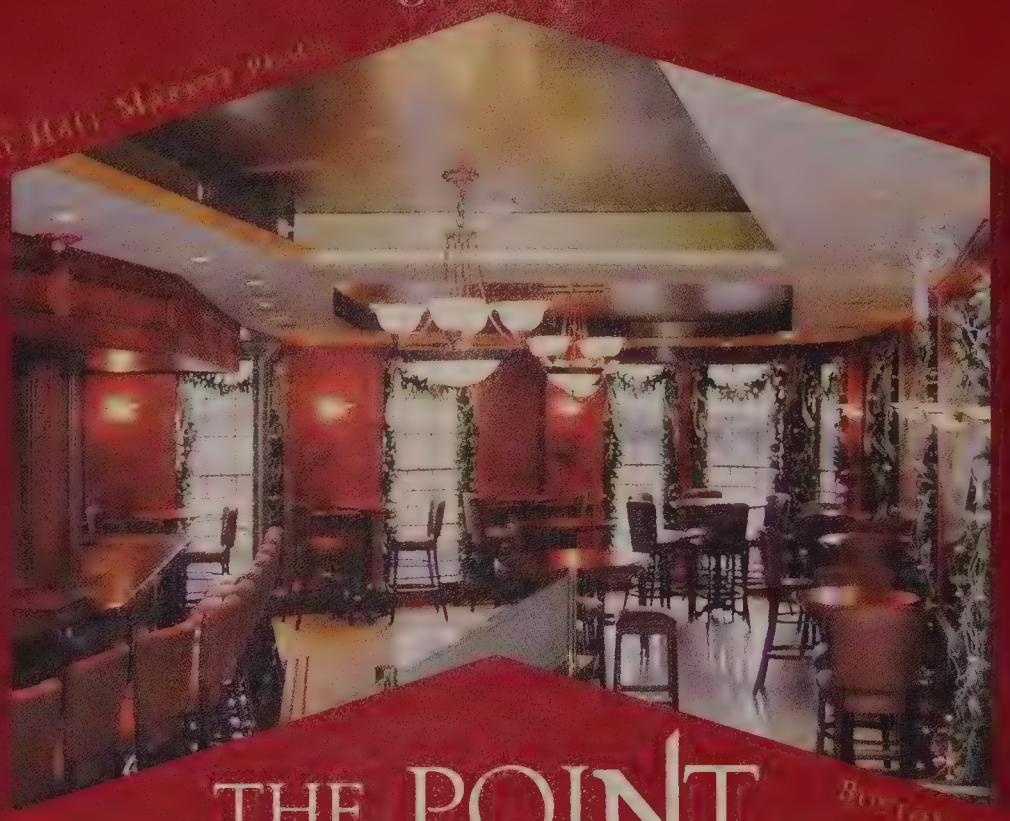

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—*Bon Appétit* magazine, June 2000

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agenda

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN OR OUT IN BOSTON.

They Might Be Giants
TMBG play at Avalon (not Constantinople) Nov. 18.

improper picks

Too busy (or just too lazy) to plan your social schedule? Life doesn't get easier than this.

Wednesday, Nov. 15

Erin: *What's Up Magazine* hosts a benefit concert upstairs at the Middle East. **Hip Tanaka, Gel, Simon** and **Three Day Threshold** perform. (See CityScope.)
Julie: Channel 7 News political editor Andy Hiller moderates **Election 2000: A Review and Forecast**, with Congressman Barney Frank. (See Education.)

Thursday, Nov. 16

Julie: **Celebrate Courage** is a night of fashion, local music and a silent auction at the Milky Way to benefit the Faulkner Hospital. (See CityScope.)
Erin: A bunch of authors go classic rock at the Roxy's **Rocks for Kicks** charity concert. The band's got Stephen King, Mitch Albom, Amy Tan, Matt Groening, Dave Barry and more. (See City Limits.)

Friday, Nov. 17

Julie: Safar Coiffure and Jean Paul Gautier present an extravagant **Winter Fashion Show** tonight at the Roxy. (See CityScope.)
Erin: The incredible turntabalist **DJ Spooky** mixes up his special blend of electronica and hip-hop tonight at Lilli's in Somerville. It's supposed to be a great show. (See Music.)

Saturday, Nov. 18

Erin: Denis Leary hosts the **Comics Come Home VI** benefit at the Orpheum with Jay Mohr, Anthony Clark and Don Gavin. (See Comedy.) Then, at midnight, the Coolidge screens '50s horror flick ***Monster from Green Hell***—with giant wasp mutants. (See Film.)
Julie: The **Boston Snow Sports Expo** features exhibits and demos, Olympic medalists, extreme sport athletes and equipment displays. (See CityScope.)

Sunday, Nov. 19

Julie: Get your holiday shopping done early at the **Ellie Fund Private Shopping Night** at the Chestnut Hill Mall. Stores offer discounts of 10 percent to 50 percent. (See CityScope.)
Erin: The Puppet Showplace Theater presents the **Puppet Slam**, a night of adult puppet cabaret. Also, Dana Delany (from *China Beach*) is in town for ***Dinner with Friends***. (See Performing Arts.)

Monday, Nov. 20

Julie: Support the Mass. Bicycle Coalition, a nonprofit dedicated to making us more bike-friendly, at the **Bike Night** benefit at the West Street Grill. (See CityScope.)
Erin: Former poet laureate **Robert Pinsky** reads new works at the CCAE. (See Books & Poetry.) Also, here's another chance to see the rockumentary ***This Is Spinal Tap***. Tonight at the Brattle. (See Film.)

Tuesday, Nov. 21

Julie: **Cherry Poppin' Daddies** make a pit stop at Axis. (See Music.)
Erin: The Boston Lyric Opera presents one of Mozart's best-loved operas, ***Don Giovanni***, sung in Italian with English subtitles, at the Shubert Theatre. (See Performing Arts.)

Wednesday, Nov. 22

Julie: ***A Fair Country*** at the Huntington Theatre is the powerful story of white Americans living in South Africa in 1977. (See Performing Arts.)
Erin: **Marilyn Manson**, the **Union Underground** and **Godhead** are at the Tsongas Arena in Lowell tonight. (See Music.)

Thursday, Nov. 23

Julie: If you're not celebrating at home, we suggest heading down to Plimoth Plantation for a **New England Thanksgiving Buffet**. (See Go Away.)
Erin: **Mighty Sam McClain** sums up the spirit of the House of Blues, as the soul man stops by tonight to help celebrate the HOB's eighth anniversary. (See Music.)

Friday, Nov. 24

Julie: 'Tis the season of **holiday tree lightings**: Check out the festivities at Downtown Crossing and Harvard Square. (See CityScope.)
Erin: Avalon hosts the **Reggae Winterfest** with Beenie Man. (See Music.) Or celebrate Symphony Hall's centennial at a concert conducted by James Conlon. (See Classical.)

Saturday, Nov. 25

Julie: **The Christmas Tubas** is one of my favorite events of the season: About 120 tuba players from all over New England perform at Faneuil Hall. (See CityScope.)
Erin: Hirokazu Koreeda's film ***Afterlife*** returns to the Brattle—it's the story about a group of dead people having to choose only one memory to keep for eternity. (See Film.)

Sunday, Nov. 26

Julie: The **Christmas Craft Show** at the Bayside Expo Center features 300 exhibitors selling traditional and contemporary arts and crafts. (See CityScope.)
Erin: Charles Dickens' great-great-grandson comes to town to perform all 26 characters in ***A Christmas Carol*** at the Tremont Temple. (See Performing Arts.)

Monday, Nov. 27

Julie: Go see the **Enchanted Village**, a small, snow-covered New England town populated by children, animals and Santa Claus at City Hall Plaza. (See CityScope.)
Erin: The James Cagney film series at the BPL continues with ***The Bride Came C.O.D.*** (See Film.)

Tuesday, Nov. 28

Julie: **Susan Abrams** reads from her book, *The New Success Rules for Women*, at Barnes & Noble. (See Books & Poetry.)
Erin: I've got it! I'd go see indie Rockers **Yo La Tengo** at Roxy. (See Music.) Plus, ***Death of a Salesman*** begins its run at the Shubert. (See Performing Arts.)

CITYSCOPE **48** • PERFORMING ARTS **54** • ART **58** • FILM **62** • BOOKS & POETRY **68** • EDUCATION **69** • DANCE CLUBS **70** • MUSIC **74** • CLASSICAL MUSIC **84** • GAY & LESBIAN **86** • BODY & MIND **88** • CHILDREN **88** • SPORTS **88** • GO AWAY **90**. EDITED BY: **ERIN HAGEDORN:** Art, Books & Poetry, Dance, Dance Clubs, Film, Gay & Lesbian, Go Away, Music. EDITED BY: **JULIE SHORT:** Children, CityScope, Comedy, Education, Go Away, Sports, Tastings, Theater. ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY: **Laurel Kirtz** Body & Mind • **Paul Sherman:** Film Capsules

cityscope

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a list of festivals, events and benefits taking place in the Boston area by date.

Festivals, Events & Expos

Thursday, Nov. 16

Boston Snow Sports Expo
Bayside Expo Center, 200 Mt. Vernon St., Dorchester (781-890-3234). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Nov. 16-17, 4-10pm; Nov. 18, 11am-9pm; Nov. 19, 11am-7pm. $10. The Snow Sports Expo presents the best of the white winter world—skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, cross-country and telemark skiing and snow tubing. There will be interactive exhibits and demos, Olympic medalists, extreme-sport athletes, ski resort and equipment displays and ski adventure videos.

The Heineken Ampt Music Series
Lilli's, 608 Somerville Ave., Somerville (591-1661). 9:30pm. In celebration of the regional diversity of American music, Heineken USA presents the first-ever Ampt Music Series, featuring local bands The Gentlemen, The Pills and Waltham. An award presentation will also take place.

Friday, Nov. 17

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Fridays. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

Winter Fashion Show
The Roxy. 279 Tremont St., Boston (247-333). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 11pm. Safar Coiffure, together with Jean Paul Gautier, present this night of fashion, showcasing the winter collection.

Saturday, Nov. 18

Faneuil Hall Lighting Ceremony and Arts Celebration
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (737-3500). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 11:30am-6pm. Enjoy the music of the season performed by handbell ringers, the Boston Symphony Orchestra and acapella choirs all day long. Festivities conclude with the lighting ceremony. Mayor Thomas M. Menino and other special guests flip the switch to turn on more than 200,000 holiday lights.

Festival of Trees
5 Pleasant St., Route 93, exit 48 to Route 213, Methuen, Mass. (978-685-8878). Nov. 17-25. $5. More than 100 Christmas trees will light up downtown Methuen for a week of holiday celebrations.

Hoffman Artists' Open Studio
160 North Washington St., 8th Floor, Boston (232-4974). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Nov. 18-19, 12-6pm. Free parking on Sunday. Former Castignetti Building artists banded together when their studios were converted into luxury condos and moved into the Hoffman Building. At this open studio event, artists will display their paintings, sculpture, photography, architecture, jewelry and designs. Purchase gifts or simply browse.

Tibetan Cultural Festival
UMass Boston, Snowden Auditorium, Wheatley Building, First Floor, 100 Morrissey Blvd., Boston (628-1285). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. 2-6pm. Free. Learn about Tibetan culture while watching traditional Tibetan dancers perform and Tibetan monks from India carry out Buddhist ceremonies. Speakers will discuss the country and its people.

Monday, Nov. 20

Enchanted Village
City Hall Plaza, Boston (635-3911). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Nov. 20-Jan. 1. $1. The small snow-covered New England town is populated entirely by children, teddy bears, animals and Santa Claus. Performers entertain the crowd.

The Museum of Science's newest IMAX, *Adventures in Wild California*, plays through January, 2001.

Wednesday, Nov. 22

Gobble Gobble Thanksgiving Gathering
Juke Box, 275 Tremont St., Boston (312-5410). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 9pm-2am. $10. Join the J Connection, a social club for Jewish professionals in their 20s and 30s, for a night of dancing and hors d'oeuvres.

Friday, Nov. 24

Charles Square Holiday Tree Lighting
The Charles Hotel Courtyard, One Bennett Street, Cambridge (864-1200). 4:30pm. Cambridge's official holiday tree will be lit with more than 12,000 sparkling lights at 6pm. Thousands of people come each year to this widely anticipated holiday festival of light, song, food—and Santa, of course. Enjoy an afternoon of live musical entertainment.

Christmas Craft Show
Bayside Expo Center, 200 Mt. Vernon St., Dorchester (508-359-6545). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Fri. 10am-9pm; Sat.-Sun., 10am-6pm. Nov. 24-26. $7. It's the 30th year of this traditional and contemporary arts and crafts show featuring 300 exhibitors.

Downtown Crossing Holiday Tree Lighting
59 Temple Place, Boston (482-2139). Holiday bell chiming, choirs, concerts and a visit from Santa create a free outdoor festival as Filene's, Macy's and Downtown Crossing get decked out for Christmas and the holidays. Storefront windows spotlight classic stories along Summer Street.

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Fridays. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

Saturday, Nov. 25

A Christmas Carol Re-enactment
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Citizen Community Stage, Boston (737-3500). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Saturdays, 12:30 and 2:30pm, through Dec. 16. Throughout the season, Charles Dickens will represent the spirit of Christmas past at Faneuil Hall Marketplace. The performance will include a reading and re-enactment of *A Christmas Carol*.

Christmas Tubas
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Citizen Community Stage, Boston (737-3500). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 2pm. Approximately 120 tuba players from all over New England will perform a variety Christmas carols at the West End of the Marketplace between Quincy Market and Faneuil Hall.

Holiday Open House
Westport Rivers Vineyard & Winery, 417 Hixbridge Road, Westport (508-636-3423). 10am-6pm. Enjoy tractor hayrides, cookie decorating, food samples, wine tasting, Christmas caroling and free coffee.

Tuesday, Nov. 28

Boston Job Fair
Bayside Expo Center, 200 Mt. Vernon St., Dorchester (781-297-5222). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. 11am-4pm. Some 135 exhibitors include Ames Department Store, Avon, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, FleetBoston and Foxwoods Resort and Casino.

Benefits

American Ireland Fund Gala
Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Ave., Boston (574-0720). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Nov. 16, 6:30pm. $750. This benefit supports the American Ireland Fund.

Annual Grand Cathedral Ball
Community Center, 162 Goddard Ave., Brookline (731-6633). Nov. 25, 8pm-12:30am. $45. The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral of New England invites you to enjoy a continuous gourmet buffet and music by Orfeas.

Bike Night
West Street Grill, 15 West St., Boston (542-BIKE). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. Nov. 20, 6-10pm. $15. Festivities include musical entertainment, a charity auction, raffles and food—all to benefit the Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition/MassBike, a nonprofit dedicated to making Massachusetts more bike-friendly.

Celebrate Courage
Milky Way Lounge, 401 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (522-0054). Nov. 16, 8pm. $30 (includes one drink and snacks). Pluto retail store hosts this evening of fashion, music and reverence. Local musicians perform, and a silent auction includes gifts from local artists, restaurants and vendors. Proceeds benefit the Sagoff Center at Faulkner Hospital.

Celebrate, Honor, Rejoice!
Boston Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Ave., Boston (236-8060). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Nov. 18, 7pm-12am. $175. The Big Sister Association of Greater Boston's fall gala honors a diverse group of five outstanding community leaders, including Jody Adams, Karen Haskell and Michela Larson of Rialto and Red Clay restaurants; Dr. Deborah Frank, founder of the Grow Clinic for Children at Boston Medical Center; John Hamill, chairman/CEO of Sovereign Bank New England; Jeannette Neill, co-founder of Boston Youth Moves; and Dorothy Terrell of Natural MicroSystems Corp. Jorge Arce & Humano perform.

A Celebration Benefit Concert
Museum of Our National Heritage, 33 Marrett Road, Route 2A, Lexington (781-861-5275, ext. 511). Nov. 17, 7:30pm. $25-$100. This benefit concert with young performers Avery Griffin (baritone) and Stephen Shey (violin) and Mia Chung on piano benefits the Lexington Christian Academy's music program.

Children's Trust Fund Gala Fund-Raiser
The Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Ave., Boston (727-8957, ext. 310). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Nov. 18, 6:30pm-12am. $100 (ages 35 and under), $150. Join the CTF for an evening of dining and dancing to the music of the Tom LaMark Orchestra. Bid on unique gifts at the live and silent auctions.

Ellie Fund Private Shopping Night
The Mall at Chestnut Hill, 199 Boylston St., (781-444-7771). MBTA: D Green Line to Chestnut Hill. Nov. 19, 6:30-9:30pm. $10. Get your holiday shopping done early at this private shopping night, featuring discounts of 10 percent to 50 percent at many stores. There will be live entertainment and food samplings. Proceeds benefit the Ellie Fund.

The Eye Ball
The Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Ave., Boston (912-2569). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Nov. 17, 6pm. $250. This annual fund-raiser for the Schepens Eye Research Institute features dinner, dancing to the music of the Bo Winiker Orchestra and entertainment.

Franciscan Children's Hospital Young Professionals Council Social
Abe & Louie's, 793 Boylston St., Boston (254-3800, ext. 5674). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Nov. 16, 6-9:30pm. $10-$15. Celebrate the season of thanks and giving with these young professionals. Admission includes hors d'oeuvres, dancing and a raffle drawing. Proceeds will be used to sponsor a holiday party for the kids at Franciscan Children's Hospital.

Teddy Bear Tea
The Boston Tea Party Ship & Museum, Congress St. Bridge, Boston (269-7171). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Nov. 26, 12-5pm. $10/$5 for children. Bring a new teddy bear. Tea, cocoa and cookies will be served every half hour. Children can listen to a storyteller talk about how Thanksgiving was celebrated in colonial times. The Teddy Bear Drive distributes 3,500 teddy bears to less-fortunate children.

What's Up Magazine Benefit Concert
Upstairs at the Middle East, 472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (267-1575). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Nov. 15, 9pm. $6. Local bands Hip Tanaka, Gel, Simon and Three Day Threshold will perform to benefit *What's Up Magazine*, which is sold by homeless and disadvantaged individuals.

Volunteer

ABCD Inc.
(357-6000). Seeks tutors in reading, math, science, writing and social studies.

AIDS Action Committee
(888-332-AUTO or 450-1235). Turn your old car into a tax-deductible donation. Volunteer meeting held Sept. 7, 5:30-9pm.

Big Sister Association
161 Mass. Ave., 2nd Floor, Boston (236-8060). www.bigsister.org. Offer support and friendship to a girl between the ages of 7 and 15. Info sessions: Nov. 18, 11am-12pm; Nov. 28, 6-7pm.

Boston Cares
(263-CARE). More than 70 volunteer opportunities are available in Greater Boston.

Boston Living Center
(236-1012). HIV/AIDS service organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Community Servings
(445-7777). Help prepare and deliver meals for individuals and families dealing with AIDS year-round and at Thanksgiving.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

Friday Night Supper Program
Arlington Street Church, corner of Arlington and Boylston streets, Boston (536-7050, ext. 22). Need volunteers to help prepare, cook and serve meals on Fridays, 5-7pm.

The Greater Boston Food Bank
(427-5200). Groups needed to sort donated food.

Horizons Initiative
(287-1900). Volunteers needed to play with children living in shelters. Commit to two hours per week for six months.

www.dewars.com

Rocks.

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Boston's Best 1997 — The Improper Bostonian Magazine

Boston's Best 1998 — The Improper Bostonian Magazine

Boston's Best 1999 — The Improper Bostonian Magazine

Boston's Best 2000 — The Improper Bostonian Magazine

E! Entertainment's "Wild on The Rack"

Exotic, Erotic Halloween Ball!

inside RACK THE

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Tuesday, November 14th — "Barstool Confessions". Searching for Host for exciting new T.V. show to be filmed here at The Rack. Now is your chance to be a star! Auditions 4- 7pm. Call for details.

Friday November 17th — "Boarding for Breast Cancer" BOARDING FOR BREAST CANCER Winter is upon us so don't let cabin fever get you down. It's time to bust out the snowboards and skis. Come celebrate the arrival of the new season after the Boston Snowsports Show. Enter a chance to ride away with a state of the art 2001 Salomon Snowboard SALOMON SNOWBOARDS, a stylish Bonfire UTA jacket, or topping pair of Smith Sport goggles and glasses SMITH. All raffle donations go to support The Boarding For Breast Cancer Foundation, to promote Breast Cancer awareness and education 10pm- 2am.

Tuesday, November 28th — Join Boston Ski & Sports for their Annual Pool Tournament. DJ and dancing . 7pm-9pm.

Judges Jonathan Soroff and Jay Severin taking their jobs very seriously

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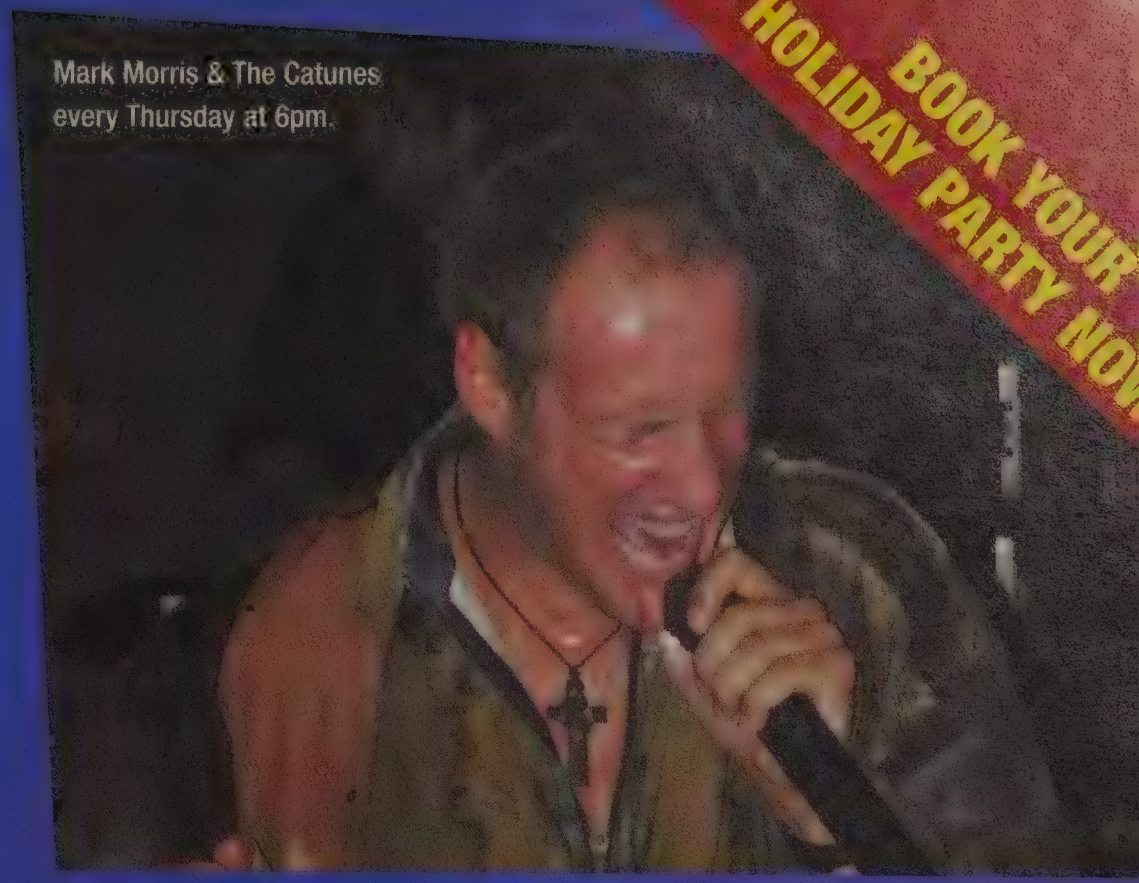

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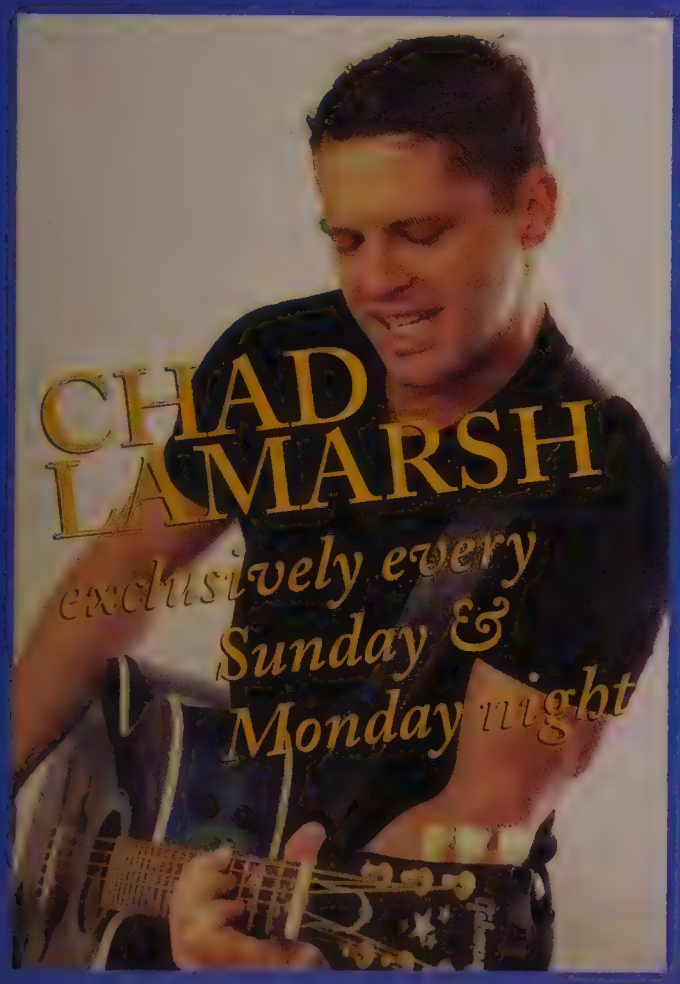
RACK

Inside Track's Gayle Fee and Laura Raposa with Boston's Most Eligible finalist Bailey.



Scott Zolak and Max Lane judge our Exotic Erotic Halloween Costume Contest along with party animal Bruce Mittman, Improper Bostonian's Jonathan Soroff and 96.9's Jay Severin.

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Jewish Community Volunteer Program
(558-6585). Volunteers are needed to share fun times with an isolated senior.

Junior Achievement
(367-6891). ckraft@ja-easternmass.org. Volunteers needed to teach kids about business.

Juvenile Diabetes Foundation
www.talbots.com. *Through Dec. 24.* Purchase a plush snowman, and Talbots will donate a percentage of the sale to the JDF.

Mass. Eating Disorder Association
(558-1881). Volunteers needed for four hours per week for help line, assisting clinical staff and special events.

Mass. Substance Abuse Info Helpline
(536-0501, ext. 201). Volunteers needed to talk over the phone with persons affected by alcoholism and substance abuse.

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist elders with such tasks as reading, shopping and basic home repairs.

One with One
(254-1691). Tutor/mentor an immigrant to improve English skills and prepare for work in an American business.

Pine Street Inn
(521-7626). Seeking volunteers to serve meals and act as receptionist for homeless guests.

Prison Book Program
(423-3298). Answer letters from inmates and fill requests for books on various topics.

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic
(577-1111). Needs volunteers to record textbooks at East Cambridge studio, days and evenings.

Red Cross Young Professionals
(375-0700, ext. 280). Help coordinate fun social events to benefit the American Red Cross.

Rosie's Place
(442-9322). Volunteers needed for the dining room, clothing room, the groceries program and office work.

United Services Organization (USO)
(720-4949). Volunteers needed to welcome Navy ships, participate in hospital visits, provide office support, coordinate receptions and assist with events.

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Seeks individuals to assist legal immigrants and refugees to become naturalized citizens.

Tours

Arboretum Evergreens
Meet at Arnold Arboretum, Walter Street Gate, Jamaica Plain (635-7383). Nov. 18, 1-2:30pm. Free. Take a walk through the conifer section of the arboretum. Rangers will cover basic botany and teach you why these trees stay green all year long.

Boston Beer Museum
30 Germania St., Jamaica Plain (522-9080). Tours on Thu.-Fri., 2pm; Sat., 12pm, 1pm and 2pm. $2. Tour the Sam Adams brewery and the Boston Beer Museum.

Boston Duck Tours
Prudential Center, Boston (723-DUCK). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. April-Nov. $21. The 80-minute tour on amphibious landing crafts takes groups through downtown and makes a final splash into the Charles.

Ghosts & Gravestones Tour
Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Ave., Boston (269-7150). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Thu.-Sun. at dusk, through Nov. 26. Two hours. $29. An 18th-century gravedigger takes you through the city's burial grounds.

Sights to See

Boston Tea Party Ship and Museum
Congress St. Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Open daily, March-May and Sept.-Nov., 9am-5pm; closed Dec.-March. $8, $7 students, $4 children. A replica of one of the ships emptied by colonists (disguised as Indians) during the Dec. 16, 1773 tea raid.

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Fifth Floor, Boston (353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), Oct.-March, 7:30-8:30pm; April-Sept., 8:30-9:30pm. Free. BU's astronomers are available to answer questions and assist with telescopes as you check out Orion, Cassiopeia and the Big Dipper.

Bunker Hill Monument
Monument Square, Charlestown (242-5641). Open daily 9am-5pm. Free. The 221-foot monument honors the men who died in the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Christian Science World Headquarters
Massachusetts and Huntington avenues, Boston (450-2000). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential. Tue.-Sat., 9:30am-4pm, Sun., 11am-2pm. Tour the Mother Church of Christian Science—a giant basilica that seats 3,000 worshippers: a 700-foot-long reflecting pool; and a photo exhibit.

Festival of Trees lights up Methuen Nov. 17-25.

Copp's Hill Burial Ground
Hull and Snowhill streets, Boston. MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Open dawn-dusk. Admission free. From Boston's second-oldest cemetery, you can see all the way across the Inner Harbor to Charlestown.

John Hancock Observatory
200 Clarendon St., Boston (572-6429). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open Mon.-Sat., 9am-11pm, Sun., 10am-11pm (May-Oct.) and noon-11pm (Nov.-April). Admission $6. The tallest building in New England (62 floors) offers an awesome view.

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (566-7937). Wed.-Sun. 10 am-4:30pm. Visit the birthplace and early boyhood home of the nation's 35th president.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat. 10am-2pm. Admission free. Alongside Boston's first Anglican church—a gloomy granite apparition—you'll find a burial ground with equally ominous-looking headstones.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (635-3105). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Open daily, 9am-5pm. Guided tours every half hour, starting at 9am. Free. Known as the "Cradle of Liberty," Faneuil Hall—we're talking about the part above the eatery—was the site of many an angry man ranting and raving about the damn British in the mid-1700s.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily, 9 am-5pm. Free. Here, Paul Revere saw two lanterns shining on April 18, 1775, indicating that the British troops were crossing the Charles River to Lexington and Concord via boat.

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays, 10am-4pm; weekends, 10am-5pm. $3. A thousand fed-up men gathered in this church to decide whether or not to send three ships full of tea back to England. Guess what? They didn't. •*Voices of Protest* traces the use of Old South Meeting House over three centuries for religious, political and social debate. •Middays at the Meeting House, a lunchtime music series. Thursdays, 12:15-1pm. $4.

Paul Revere House
19 North Square, Boston (523-2338). Nov. 1-April 14, 9:30am-4:15pm; April 15-Oct. 31, 9:30am-5:15pm. Built in 1680 and owned by Paul Revere from 1770 to 1800, this house offers a self-guided tour with illustrated text panels and museum interpreters.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-10pm, Sun. noon-10pm. $4, $3 seniors and students. Check out Boston's only 360-degree view tower. The view here (50 floors up) is slightly better than that of rival John Hancock.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8am-6pm. Free. Designed by H.H. Richardson and constructed in 1877, the huge Romanesque church in Copley Square offers free organ concerts on Fridays at 12:15pm.

Museums

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June, Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm; June-Aug., daily, 10am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm. $5, children and seniors $3: See *Arthur's World* from the popular television series and children's books. This infamous aardvark is one of many hands-on favorites.

Harriet Tubman House
566 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-8610). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. Weekdays, 8am-8pm. Free admission. The Harriet Tubman Museum exhibits a collection of this influential black leader's achievements.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (929-4523). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily 9am-5pm (last film begins at 3:55pm). $8. This permanent collection on the life and legacy of President John F. Kennedy offers a re-created world of the early 1960s with period settings and 25 dramatic multimedia exhibits.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (739-1200) www.afroam museum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays 10am-4pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.* This place is bustling after its recent endowment of more than $1 million to restore the meeting house's hallowed sanctuary. See the African Meeting House, the oldest black church in America.

Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun., 9am-12pm.* This Harvard museum is made up of four factions: The **Botanical Museum**, **The Museum of Comparative Zoology**, the **Mineral & Geological Museum**, and the **Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology**. A number of exhibitions tie together all four of these distinct collections. The most famous is the Botanical Museum for its glass flowers collection—more than 3,000 models of more than 480 plant species. •New at Museum of Natural History: *Beauty on the Wing: The Double Lives of Butterflies*. Butterflies of every size, shape and color from all parts of the world are on display. Through March 4. •New at the Peabody: *Diverse Traditions: Early Navajo Rugs and Pueblo Embroidery*. Through Nov. 26.

Museum of Our National Heritage
33 Marrett Road, Route 2A, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.mnh.org. *Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 12-5pm. Free.* Explore history through pop culture. Topics range from Revolutionary artifacts to the latest in jigsaw-puzzle-solving techniques and American circus posters. •Opened July 21: *Made in Massachusetts*. See items commonly found in homes during the past three centuries.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu., 9am-5pm; Fri., 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children. Omni Theater, Hayden Planetarium or laser shows all $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children.* Find out how much you weigh on the moon, strap yourself into a space module or sift through sand on an archaeological dig. Enjoy 600 hands-on exhibits. •*Powers of Nature*: an exhibit on earthquakes, severe storms and volcanoes. Opened Oct. 6. •Ongoing at the Mugar Omni Theater: *Adventures in Wild California*, through January, 2001.

Charles Hayden Planetarium
Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children. Time of show changes daily.* Don't miss the daily laser shows to the music of the Beastie Boys, Pink Floyd, Korn, Tool, Jimi Hendrix, Nine Inch Nails, among others. It's a trip.

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St. (in Larz Anderson Park), Brookline (522-6547). MBTA: D Green Line to Reservoir, to bus #51. April-Oct., Wed.-Sun., 10am-5pm; Nov.-March, Wed.-Sun., 10am-4pm. $5. This 1888 carriage house is the automobile buff's paradise—the country's oldest private collection of antique autos.

Nichols House Museum
55 Mount Vernon St., Boston (227-6993) Tues.-Sun., 12:15-4:15pm; guided tours on the half hour. $5 adults, children under 12 free admission. Catch a glimpse of 19th- and early 20th-century life on Beacon Hill.

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (720-3290). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily, 9am-5pm. $3. Built in 1713, this original seat of colonial government was the place where pre-Independence Bostonians first heard the *Declaration of Independence* read. •*Burning Issues: A History of Boston Through Fire.* Now on exhibit.

Sports Museum of New England
FleetCenter, Boston (624-1234). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. $5. Exhibits of the great sports traditions of the Boston Garden, FleetCenter and Celtics.

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (426-1812). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, bus 93 to Navy Yard. Nov.-April 30: Open daily, 10am-5pm. Free. Learn about the oldest commissioned warship's 200-year history through hands-on activities—hoist a sail, take the wheel, fire a cannon or swing in a hammock.

Zoos & Gardens

Arnold Arboretum
125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain (524-1718). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open weekdays: 9am-4pm; weekends: 12-4pm. Free. Commune with nature and more than 14,000 exotic trees, shrubs and flowers.

Franklin Park Zoo
1 Franklin Park Road, Boston (541-LION). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Open Oct.-March daily 10am-4pm; April-Sept. weekdays 10am-5pm, weekends and holidays 10am-6pm. $7. A 72-acre oasis of green in the city with waterfalls, lush vegetation, gorillas, leopards, hippos and free-flying birds.

Lyman Estate Greenhouses: Orchid Sale
185 Lyman St., Waltham (781-891-4882, ext. 244). Nov. 17-18, 10am-4pm. Purchase and view hundreds of common and hard-to-find varieties in bloom.

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard, transfer to #71 or #73 bus. Daily, 8am-7pm (summer) and 8am-5pm (winter). Free. Rest in peace among the grave sites and crypts of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes, "Battle Hymn of the Republic" author Julia Ward Howe and Winslow Homer, among other famous Americans.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (973-5200). www.neaq. org. *MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Early Sept.-June: Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. and holidays, 9am-6pm. $12.50.* Boston's biggest fish bowl has much more than just goldfish.

Roger Williams Park Zoo
1000 Elmwood Ave., Providence, R.I. (401-785-3510). South on 1-95 from Providence to exit 17 (Elmwood Ave.). $6, $3.50 seniors and children. Daily. Nov.-March, 9am-4pm. April-Oct., 9am-5pm. More than 600 birds and mammals inhabit the African plains and rain forests.

Stone Zoo
149 Pond St., Stoneham, Rte. 93 North, Exit 34 (781-438-5100). Mon.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun. and holidays, 10am-6pm. $6 adults, $4 children. There's still plenty to see here—even though everybody's favorite polar bear has passed on to that great iceberg in the sky.

See where the first operation with anesthesia was successfully conducted Nov. 18.

Innovation Trail

On November 18, Boston History Collaborative offers Bostonians the opportunity to travel the Innovation Trail to the centers of Boston's greatest innovations. See the Pioneer Telephone Museum at City Hall Plaza, where Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone. Stop at Mass General, where the first operation with anesthesia was successfully conducted. The tour continues to Genetown, USA, the center of genome research, and the Financial District, where both commercial banking and mutual funds got their start. Other stops include MIT and Northeastern, where the first innovative startups were devised, Harvard, the first college in the English colonies and the hub of development for today's computing devices, and GTE, where both the Internet and e-mail were invented. Amazing city we live in, eh?

Museum of Science, Boston (574-5950). MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Nov. 18, 10am-12:30pm. $25. —Liz Clark

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Theater

JUST OPENED

Arcadia
Dudley House, Harvard University, Cambridge (496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.go.to/dudleydrama. *Nov. 17, 9pm; Nov. 18-19, 8pm. $3.* This comical tale of science and love takes place in both the early 19th century and the modern times. In this production by Harvard grad students, a dining hall is transformed into a unique performance space.

Antigone
American Repertory Theatre, Loeb Stage, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (495-2668). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 2 and 7pm. Nov. 24-Jan. 9. $25-$59. Forces of redemption and reconciliation clash in Sophocles' timeless myth, as the human instinct for love struggles to overcome the human instinct for violence, enmity and revenge. When a civil war leaves rebels bloody and unburied on the battlefield, Antigone—daughter of the cursed house of Oedipus—must defy her uncle the king by burying her fallen brother, leader of the defeated faction.

The Beauty Queen of Leenane
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-5000). Wed.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Nov. 2-18. $18-$23. In their cottage in County Galway, where "you can't kick a cow without someone bearing a grudge for 20 years," single Maureen and her manipulative, ill mother, Mag, engage in a bitter but hilarious battle of wills in this Súgán Theatre Company production directed by Eric Engel. When a handsome neighbor offers Maureen a chance to escape, the final battle for control begins.

A Christmas Carol
Tremont Temple, 88 Tremont St., Boston (824-8000). Nov. 25, 2 and 8pm; Nov. 26, 2pm. $25 and $30. Gerald Charles Dickens returns to the historic Tremont Temple where his great-great-grandfather first introduced Boston audiences to the now-classic holiday tale. He'll play all 26 characters.

Death of a Salesman
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 1 and 7pm. Nov. 28-Dec. 10. $45-$75. Brian Dennehy and Elizabeth Franz reprise their Tony Award-winning roles in Arthur Miller's tale of Willy Loman, a traveling salesman who rode "on a smile and a shoeshine" and now, facing the twilight of his life, must confront his failures and his family's struggle with success, integrity and the elusive American dream.

Glengarry Glen Ross
Footlight Club, Eliot Hall, 7A Eliot St., Jamaica Plain (524-3200). Nov. 17-18, 8pm. $15. Times are tough at the real estate company Premiere Properties. To initiate a little competition among sales agents, the company comes up with a sales incentive program: the winner gets a new Cadillac and the loser is fired. David Mamet wrote this tough, bitter drama about men competing against each other and against life.

The Golden Dreidl: A Klezmer Nutcracker
Regattabar, The Charles Hotel, Cambridge (876-7777). Nov. 26, 3 and 5pm. $14. This innovative performance featuring WGBH's Ellen Kushner and the Shirim Klezmer Orchestra gives a unique twist to Tchaikovsky's classic. Little Sara goes to a Chanukah party, where she is given a mysterious dreidel. That night, the dreidel comes alive and leads her into a world where the Tree of Life is dying.

The Gondoliers
Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (824-8000). Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Nov. 24-26. $15-$65. Gilbert and Sullivan's rollicking comic opera is set amidst the romantic canals of Venice. This production will be fully staged and sung in English.

Grease
Lowell Memorial Auditorium, 50 E. Merrimack St., Lowell (978-454-2299). Nov. 16, 8pm. Cindy Williams and Eddie Mekka from *Laverne & Shirley* star in this classic.

Puppet Slam
Puppet Showplace Theater, 32 Station St., Brookline (731-6400). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. Nov. 18, 8pm. $8. The Boston area's original adult puppet cabaret will challenge your concept of puppetry.

Gary Cherone (Judas), Chris Mascara (Jesus) and Valerie Forgione (Mary) star in the Boston Rock Opera's presentation of *Jesus Christ Superstar* at the Tower Auditorium at MassArt through Nov. 18.

Preview

Jesus Christ Superstar

A rockin' version of biblical proportions

The Boston Rock Opera (BRO) has packed this classic with such rock 'n' roll big shots as former Extreme and Van Halen vocalist Gary Cherone, appearing as Judas Iscariot, and Mistle Thrush's Valerie Forgione as Mary Magdelene. The dark, and at times controversial, telling of the last seven days in the life of Jesus Christ also features BRO veterans Peter Moore as Pontius Pilate, Mick Maldonado as Caiaphas, Pat McGrath as King Herod and T Max as Annas. BRO has consistently earned rave reviews for its stripped-down rock 'n' roll stagings of *Superstar*, which features a powerful rock score and razor-sharp libretto. The show hasn't been in town for four years, so those of you jonesing for a *Superstar* fix, wait no more. This run at the Tower Auditorium promises the best sound, sightlines and staging yet. Rock out to music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Tim Rice. Sing it with us: "B-R-O Sup-er-star. Do you be-lieve who they say you are?" *Boston Rock Opera, Tower Auditorium, Mass. College of Art, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston (423-NEXT). MBTA: E Green Line to Longwood. Nov. 16-18, 8:30pm. $20. —Hillary Chabot*

Daniel Stern, Rita Wilson and Dana Delany in *Dinner with Friends* at the Wilbur through Nov. 19.

NOW RUNNING

A...My Name Will Always Be Alice
Lyric Stage Company of Boston, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4 and 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Through Nov. 18. 20-$26. This bawdy and insightful show offers music ranging from gospel to country and western and rock to pop ballads. The musical numbers and sketches portray friends, rivals and sisters.

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). Wed.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 7 and 10pm; Sun., 3 and 6pm. $39-$49. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to get its point across with tribal rock music, performance art, humorous antics, props (including plastic tubes and Twinkies) and three men painted blue.

A Christmas Carol
Trinity Repertory Theater, 201 Washington St., Providence (401-456-0000). Tue., 7pm; Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2 and 7pm. Through Dec. 24. $36-$45. Trinity Repertory Theater's 24th annual production of the holiday classic. The Cratchit family and Tiny Tim, and the incorrigible Ebenezer Scrooge's redemption through the visits of the ghosts of Jacob Marley and Christmases past, present and future are all wrapped up with singing, dancing, and fun-filled special theatrical effects.

Company
Riverside Theatre Works, 45 Fairmount Ave., Hyde Park (361-7024). Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Through Nov. 19. Hard-Line Productions presents Stephen Sondheim's musical comedy.

Danny and the Deep Blue Sea
Institute of Contemporary Art Theater, 955 Boylston St., Boston (266-5152). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Through Nov. 19. $21. The Boston premiere of a play written by John Patrick Shanley, Oscar-winning author of *Moonstruck*, is a gut-wrenching love story about two of society's rejects who are incapable of tender emotion but are able to probe within themselves to find forgiveness.

Dinner with Friends
Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont St., Boston (931-2787). Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30pm. Through Nov. 19. $25-$68.50. Dana Delany, two-time Emmy winner for *China Beach*, comes to town with Rita Wilson, Daniel Stern and Kevin Kilner. Beginning in the gourmet Connecticut kitchen of international food writers Karen and Gabe, this rueful comedy tells the story of two 40-something couples whose friendship becomes fractured when one couple announces they're divorcing.

Don Giovanni
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Nov. 17, 7:30pm; Nov. 19, 3 and Nov. 21, 7:30pm. $27.50-$108. The Boston Lyric Opera presents one of Mozart's best-loved operas sung in Italian with English subtitles. It tells the story of the legendary Sevillan womanizer Don Juan Tenorio, admired by men for his courage and by women for his sexual prowess, who lives for conquest but pays dearly for his sins in the end.

A Fair Country
Huntington Theatre, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (266-0800). Tue.-Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 2 and 7pm. Through Nov. 26. $12-$55. Young playwright Jon Robin Baitz tells the story of the Burgess family, white Americans living in South Africa in 1977 who struggle to keep their tenuous ties to each other in the face of emotional and political turmoil. Surrounded by violence and longing for escape, they become increasingly corrupted by the apartheid system they oppose.

Fiddler on the Roof
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Rd., Beverly, Mass. (978-921-6351). Tue., 8pm; Wed., 2 and 8pm; Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Through Nov. 19. $18-$56. Set in a Jewish village on the eve of the Russian Revolution, this winner of nine Tony Awards revolves around Tevye, the philosophical dairyman trying to marry off his daughters and come to terms with a dramatically changing world. The score includes such favorites as "Sunrise, Sunset," "Matchmaker, Matchmaker" and "If I Were a Rich Man."

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change
Stuart Street Playhouse (formerly the 57 Theatre), 200 Stuart St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 5 and 8:30pm; Sun., 3 and 7pm. Ongoing. $25-$45. Everything you've secretly thought about dating, romance, marriage, lovers, husbands, wives and in-laws but were afraid to admit is celebrated in this absolutely hilarious musical review of the modern-day mating game.

The Performance Cult
Back Alley Theater, 1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1253). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. Sundays, 7:30pm. Through Dec. 17. $7. Actors, dancers and storytellers will present a series of short, original vignettes. Each one lasts no longer than 10 minutes. See character work, dance, monologues, movement, singing and sound work. Each performer must base his or her work on the truth.

Hello, Dolly!
Wheelock Family Theatre, 200 The Riverway, Boston (879-2147). Fri., 7:30pm; Sat.-Sun., 3pm. Through Nov. 26. $10-$17. Winner of a record 10 Tony Awards, *Hello, Dolly!* offers a brilliant musical score, gorgeous costumes and dazzling dancing waiters.

Jesus Christ Superstar
Boston Rock Opera, Tower Auditorium, Mass. College of Art, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston (423-NEXT). MBTA: E Green Line to Longwood. Nov. 16-18, 8:30pm. $20. Boston Rock Opera offers this dark, and at times controversial, telling of the last seven days in the life of Jesus Christ. It features a powerful rock score and razor-sharp libretto.

A Long Day's Journey Into Night
Leland Center, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Through Nov. 19. The Delvena Theatre Company presents this tragic masterpiece by and about one of America's greatest (and only Nobel Prize-winning) playwright, Eugene O'Neill. The story is based on O'Neill's own family and is set in New London, Conn., during one day in the summer of 1912.

Marx in Soho
Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (353-5443). Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Through Nov. 19. $18. Leftist Howard Zinn presents his new show featuring Marx in present-day New York City.

SUPERSTAR: CHARLIE PICKETT; DINNER: CRAIG SCHWARTZ

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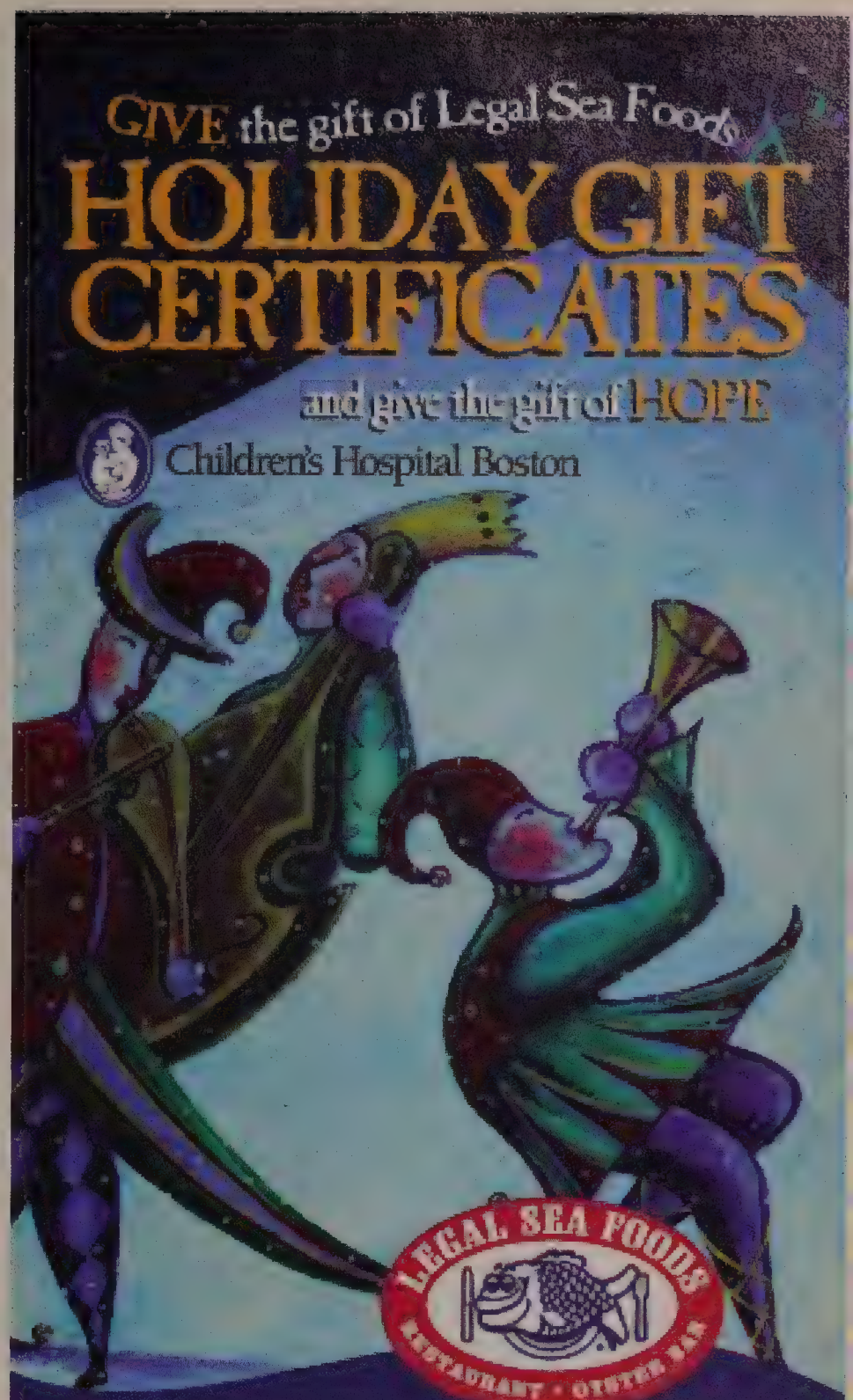

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Scrooge
Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton (244-0169). Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Through Dec. 10. $21. A song-and-dance spectacular based on Charles Dickens' *Christmas Carol*.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 6:30 and 9:30pm; Sun., 3 and 7:30pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This hilarious whodunit is set in a unisex hair salon. The production holds the record as the longest-running play in the history of Boston theater.

Stonewall Jackson's House
New Repertory Theatre, 54 Lincoln St., Newton Highlands (332-1646). Nov. 15-Dec. 17. $25-$33. Adam Zahler directs Jonathan Reynold's controversial lampoon of political correctness.

UNIVERSITY THEATER

Kiss of the Spider Woman
Agassiz Theatre, Radcliffe Yard, 10 Garden St., Cambridge (496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Nov. 16-18, 8pm. $8. Plagued by the horror of their confinement, two prisoners relive old-movie glamour in a thrilling quest for hope and love in this haunting musical.

Major Barbara
Spingold Theater, Brandeis University, Waltham (781-736-3400). Commuter Rail to Brandeis/Roberts. Tue.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2 and 7pm. Through Nov. 19. $14.50-$18.50. Written in 1905 by George Bernard Shaw, Major Barbara is a study of ideals, power and poverty as seen through the life of Barbara, a Salvation Army missionary, and her father, a millionaire munitions maker.

Merrily We Roll Along
Spingold Theater, Brandeis University, Waltham (781-736-3400). Commuter Rail to Brandeis/Roberts. Tue.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2 and 7pm. Nov. 28-Dec. 3. $11.50-$15.50. This musical exploration of the lives of three friends begins in the present and traces the journey back through each milestone. Meet Frank, Mary and Charlie as they begin life full of hope, dreams and enthusiasm about the future.

Noises Off
Emerson Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (824-8000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Nov. 16-18, 8pm. $12-$18. Everything that can go wrong with a theater production does, as a second-rate theater company produces a third-rate romantic farce.

The Sorcerer
Student Center Sala de Puerto Rico, 84 Mass. Ave., 2nd Floor, Cambridge (253-0190). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. Nov. 16-17, 8pm; Nov. 18, 2 and 8pm; Nov. 19, 2pm. $9. A Gilbert & Sullivan Players production.

Student-Written One Act Plays
Kresge Little Theater, 48 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (253-2908). Nov. 16-18, 8pm. $8. This is a presentation of original MIT student-written and -directed plays.

INTERACTIVE THEATER

Mystery Cafe
290 Congress St., Boston (781-320-0040). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Fri., 7:30pm; Sat., 7pm. Ongoing. $36. The interactive murder mystery, *Murder on the Campaign Trail*, is a parody of Campaign 2000.

Mystery Cruise: Murder on the Ocean Queen
Ft. Independence, Long Wharf, Boston (781-320-0040). Cruise departs Saturdays, 8pm. $49/person, includes dinner and cruise. Gather clues during a Harbor cruise, meet characters and interrogate suspects as you attempt to piece together the answer to the mystery.

CABARET

So Kaye
56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789, ext. 1). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Nov. 18, 8pm. $12. John O'Neil sings the songs of Danny Kaye.

AUDITION

The Visit
Arlington Friends of the Drama Playhouse, 22 Academy St., Arlington Center (646-5922). Nov. 16, 7:30 and Nov. 18, 2pm. Production dates: Feb. 2-11. The cast of this absurdist comedy, moving tragedy and a macabre parable on the meaning of justice and authority will include 20 to25 male and female actors.

Dance

SHOWS AND EVENTS

African Dance Performance
The Dance Complex, 536 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-9363). MBTA: Red Line to Cambridge. Nov. 17-18, 8pm. $12. Liz Roncka and Olivier Besson give an improvisational dance performance with an African theme.

Contemporary Dance Concert
CMAC, 41 Second St., Cambridge (577-1400). MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. Nov. 17-18, 8pm. $15. New England choreographers Lillian Carter, Lorraine Chapman, Carol Somers and Jody Weber perform cutting-edge modern dance. The performance is followed by a reception and a silent auction.

The Nutcracker
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Nov. 24-Dec. 31. You know the holiday season has officially begun now that the Boston Ballet has kicked off its annual performance of Tchaikovsky's holiday classic. See sashaying sugar plums, whirling candy canes and marching mice in the timeless Christmas story.

JOIN IN

Club Joy
533 Washington St., Boston (354-5780). Saturday nights. This Latin night spot now offers classes: salsa, merengue, bachata and more.

Dance Friday
Rug Cutter's Studio, 23 Main St., Watertown (924-7276). Fridays, 8:30pm-12am. $7 adults, $4 teens, children free. Join in the dancing to all types of music—even dance barefoot—in this family-friendly and smoke- and alcohol-free environment.

English Country Dance
Park Avenue Congregational Church, Park Ave. at Paul Revere Road, Arlington (354-1354). Wednesdays, 7:30-10:30pm. $6 adults, $5 members, $3 students. Enjoy country dancing with music by Bare Necessities.

Four on the Floor and Just Swing It
Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. • Saturdays, 9pm-1:30am, $12, $10 after 11:30pm. Join in a variety of dance moves—here you'll find jazzy mambos, swing dancing, cheeky cha chas and sassy salsa numbers. • *Tuesdays, 10pm-1:30am. $6. Ages 19 and older.* Featuring the Black Tie Affair Orchestra, this is a great night of swing dancing. You can bring your own music.

Israeli Dancing
Temple Israel of Boston, Longwood Ave. at Plymouth Street, Boston (566-3960). MBTA: D Green Line to Longwood. Nov. 19, 11am-12pm. $5. All levels welcome, even those with no experience. Vladimir Foygelman instructs.

Latin Night
Johnny D's, 17 Holland St., Somerville (776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Sundays, lessons at 9pm, dancing at 10pm. $8 lessons, $6 dancing. Lessons for salsa are packed at this Davis Square hangout. Stick around for live music by Gilberto Rivera and Rumva Na Ma.

New England Contras and Squares
VFW Hall, 688 Huron Ave., Cambridge (354-1340). Thursdays, 8-11pm. $5. Learn to square dance to live music, then do-si-do your partner with confidence.

Scottish Country Dance
YWCA, 7 Temple St., Cambridge (484-0950). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mondays, 7:45-10:15pm. $6 adults, $5 students. Dance like a true Scot after some fine lessons. And don't forget your kilt.

Tango Rialto
Rialto, Charles Hotel, One Bennett Street, Cambridge (661-5050). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thursdays, 10:30pm-1:30am. $10. One of Boston's most popular restaurants, Rialto in Harvard Square, opens its doors to tango dancers of all levels and backgrounds for nights of light hors d'oeuvres and lots of dancing.

TICKETS

Bostix
(723-5181) www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of Faneuil Hall); Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth); and Harvard Square (in the Holyoke Center arcade at 1350 Mass. Ave).* Same-day tickets half-price.

Next Ticketing
(423-NEXT). www.boston.com/next.

Ticketmaster
(931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(247-1300 or 800-442-1854). This is a good place to get tickets if a show is sold out at the box office.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail info. to comedy@improper.com. *Include address, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a description of the performances or comedians. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (248-9700). www.comedyconnection-boston. com. *MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed., 8pm; Thu., 8:30pm; Fri. and Sat., 8pm, 10:15pm; Sun., 7pm. $8-$10 (weekend prices vary).* The oldest comedy club in Boston draws big-name, national comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •Nov 15, 8pm: Don Gavin •Nov. 16, 7pm, $20: Jay Mohr •9pm, $12: Frank Santos the "R-rated Hypnotist" •Nov. 17, 8 and 10pm, $25: Jay Mohr •Nov. 18, 8 and 10:45pm, $28: Jay Mohr. •Nov. 19, 5 and 7pm, $20: Jim Breuer •Nov. 20: Showcase, hosted by Kevin Knox •Nov. 21: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz •Nov. 22: Don Gavin •Nov. 24: Craig Shoemaker, "The Lovemaster" •Nov. 25: Craig Shoemaker, "The Lovemaster" •Nov. 26, $12 adv./$15 at door: Black Comedy Explosion hosted by Jonathon Gates •Nov. 27: Showcase, hosted by Kevin Knox •Nov.28: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz.

The Comedy Studio
The Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu.-Sun., 8pm. $5-$7. Sketch comedy troupes and local comedians perform. •Nov. 16: Tim McIntire hosts Thursday Night Fights: Tournament of Champions. Val Kappa vs. Tony V with guests Travis Wallace, Teresea Craggan, Dan Levy, Kelly McFarland, Shane Kinney, Eric Falconer and Brian Giles. • Nov. 17: Larry and Brendon with guests: Teresea Craggan, Sulman, Greg Bogis, John Curtin, David Walsh and Tim Collins. • Nov. 18: Stand-up comedy with Tony Moschetto, Ian Maisel, Teresea Craggan and Tom Morello. • Nov. 19: "Thank Gladys" sketch comedy and stand-up comedy from Tammy Two-Tone, Lakshmi Balachandra, Teresea Craggan and Walter Driscoll. • Nov. 24: Brendon and Larry host Steve Calechman, Chris Walsh, David Walsh and Matt O'Connor • Nov. 25: Standup comedy starring Rick Jenkins, Steve Calechman, Chengda Li, Rob Reutwe, Mike Baker and Kelly Fattman. • Nov. 26: Sketch comedy from "Bloody Mayhem" and stand-up from TJ Griffin, Tony Moschetto, Jim Celeste, Andrew O'Feish and Steve Calechman.

Dick Doherty's Comedy Vault
Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun., 9pm. $10. Features local stand-up comedians. Thursdays: Stand-up comedy.

Jay Mohr is at the Comedy Connection Nov. 17.

Nick's Comedy Stop
100 Warrenton St., Boston (482-0930). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. $10-$22. The talent here is not quite as big-name as the Comedy Connection, but the crowds are just as enthusiastic. Wednesdays: Open-mike at 8:30pm • Nov. 16, 8:30pm and Nov. 17-18, 8:45pm: Kevin Knox, Mike Coleman, Stephanie Peters • Nov. 24-25, 8:45pm: John David, Tom Hayes, Paul Keenan.

IMPROV COMEDY

Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston (263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Thu., 8pm; Fri. and Sat., 8pm and 10pm. Main Stage: $10-$15.* Now playing on the main stage is the critically acclaimed improvisational and sketch comedy show—voted one of Boston's best improvisational comedy troupes. •Wednesdays, 8pm: The Improv Asylum Training Center graduate show, *Gary's Pocket*, followed by the Improv Asylum Touring Company. $10.

ImprovBoston at Back Alley Theater
1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1253). MBTA: Red Line to Central. $12. Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe makes things up as it goes. • ***Election***: Fridays, 8pm, through November. Based on audience participation, troupe members adopt party platforms and run on them throughout the course of the show, with all the requisite political shenanigans. • ***TheatreSports***: Fridays, 10:30pm. Witness two local improvisation troupes compete for bragging rights in this no-holds-barred, improvisational fight.

Magicians & Spirits
Green Street Grill, 280 Green St., Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Shows every Tuesday at 9pm. $10 cabaret show ($5 with dinner). At 10pm, the cabaret show begins upstairs with local and national magicians reading minds, making birds appear out of nowhere and levitating objects onstage.

COMEDY SHOWS

Battle of the Sexes
290 Congress St., Boston (426-1999). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Saturdays, 10:30pm. $15-$18. A participatory comedy.

Comics Come Home VI
Orpheum Theatre, One Hamilton Place, Boston (346-5900). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Nov. 18, 8pm. $35.50-$125.50. This benefit for the Cam Neely Foundation is hosted by Denis Leary and includes performances by Jim Breuer, Eddie Brill, Anthony Clark, Lenny Clarke, Wali Collins, Dane Cook, Adam Ferrara, Don Gavin and Jay Mohr.

Joey & Maria's Comedy Wedding
Tremont House Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Fri. and Sat., 7:30pm. Ongoing. $39-$45. Join the fun at this absolutely zany Italian wedding. Big hair and blue tuxedos optional.

Murder on the Campaign Trail
Mystery Cafe Dinner Theater, 290 Congress St., Boston (781) 793-9700. Fridays at 7:30pm; Saturdays at 7pm. Ongoing. $36 (Includes dinner and show). See this mystery parody of Campaign 2000.

***A Fair Country*, playing through Nov. 26 at the Huntington Theatre, details the struggles of the Burgess family, white Americans living in politically unstable South Africa in 1977.**

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Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information for gallery and museum listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail to arts@improper.com. *Include opening and closing dates, nearest T stop, price of admission, if any, and telephone numbers. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a partial list of the largest art museums, art institutes and galleries in the Boston area. The • symbol denotes a temporary exhibition.

Museums

Art Institute of Boston
Lesley College, 700 Beacon St., Boston (585-6600). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. www.lesley.edu. *Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm; Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun., 12-5pm.* •*Mightier Than the Sword: Political Satire, Caricatures and Cartoons*, features work by Jules Feiffer, Ed Sorel, Dan Wasserman and Robert Grossman. Nov. 13-Jan. 21.

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. The Sackler houses textiles that represent a new, post-classical era in *The Rich Life and the Dance: Weavings from Roman Byzantine and Islamic Egypt.* Through Jan. 14. •*Antoin Sevurguin and the Persian Image* features more than 45 photographs of Persian life. Also on exhibit is ancient Islamic and Asian art, an array of Neolithic bronze Buddhas, Greek pottery and Hellenistic sculpture.

Boston Public Library
900 Boylston St., Boston (536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. •*The Brinks' Job*, a show of photographs from the Print Department's *Herald*-Traveler Photo Morgue of "Boston's Crime of the Century," includes courtroom sketches of the trial, crime scene photos and mug shots. Through Dec. 31 in the Wiggin Gallery Balcony. •Drawings and prints by Harold Tovish shows through Dec. 31 in the Wiggin Gallery. •In celebration of the centennial of Symphony Hall, the Music Department displays musical and non-musical events that have taken place in Symphony Hall through the years in *100 Years at Symphony Hall*. Through Dec. 31 in the Koussevitzky Room, West and South Galleries.

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-0283-2051). Divine Mirrors: The Madonna Unveiled, an exhibit that looks at the unifying theme of the Madonna in art, runs through Nov. 26. •A multimedia installation, *Cold War Modern: the Domesticated Avant-Garde,* explores the avant-garde in art, music and design in the United States between 1945 and the early '60s. Through June 10, 2001.

DeCordova Museum
51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln (781-259-8355). •*Photography in Boston 1955-1985* celebrates 30 years of photographic history in Boston and features works by more than 60 Boston area photographers—with a total of more than 230 pieces on display. •Elsa Dorfman's *No Hair Day* is also on display through Jan. 21, 2001.

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. •A show of Japanese photographer Daido Moriyama's work includes nearly 200 black-and-white photographs of post-war Japan. Through Nov. 5. •*Before and After the End of Time: Architecture and the Year 1000* runs through Dec. 31. This looks at the beginning of Romanesque architecture in Europe. •*Dürer's Passions* is a collection of the prints and drawings of Albrecht Dürer's *Passion of Christ*. Through Dec. 3. •*Philip Guston: A New Alphabet* focuses on a four-year period in the artist's life (1968-1972). Through Feb. 4. •*Franz Marc: Horses* shows through March 18.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (266-5152). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Wed.-Sun., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-9pm. $6, $4 students and seniors. •In the group exhibition *Customized: Art Inspired by Hot Rods, Low Riders & American Car Culture*, artists examine the imagery and the attitude of American car culture, using hot rod and low rider culture for inspiration. Through Dec. 31. •Free guided walk-throughs take place each Thursday at 6:30pm.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (566-1401). www.boston.com/gardner. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun., 11am-5pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, under 18 free.*

M.L. Snowden's bronze sculpture *Sea Creatures* displays at Galerie d'Orsay through Dec. 10.

Guided on Fridays, 2:30pm. •*Rembrandt Creates Rembrandt: Art and Ambition in Leiden, 1629-1631* comprises 10 paintings, including the Gardner's early *Self Portrait*, and 10 etchings from collections in the United States and Europe. The show illuminates Rembrandt's evolving styles. Through Jan. 7, 2001.

McMullen Museum of Art
140 Comm. Ave., Newton (552-8587). MBTA: B Green Line to Boston College. Mon-Fri., 11am-4pm; Sat.-Sun., 12-5pm. Boston College presents *Forbidden Art: The Postwar Russian Avant-Garde* through Dec. 10.

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5pm, weekends 12-5pm. $3, $1 students, seniors and children. The museum's permanent exhibits include *Flashes of Inspiration: The Work of Harold Edgerton*, and *Gestural Engineering* and *Cultural Engineering: the Sculptures of Arthur Ganson*, the mechanical engineer/choreographer. •Enjoy an interactive excursion into the world of artificial intelligence in *Robots and Beyond: Exploring Artificial Intelligence at MIT*. Special interactive activities take place 2-4pm daily. •Researchers from MIT's Artificial Intelligence Lab introduce you to robots that run, walk, hop and balance in *Robots Plus Legs* Nov. 26, 2-4pm. •On the last Sunday of the month, explore oceanography, astronomy, the science of buildings and other mysteries of science 2-4pm. Call 452-2827 for details.

Museum of Bad Art
580 High St., Dedham (325-8224). Mon.-Fri., 6:30-10pm, Sat., and Sun., 1-10pm. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. The one and only museum that boasts "art too bad to be ignored." A favorite is *Lady Chardonnay*, a piece illuminating a poodle-headed dancer.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Mon.-Tue., 10am-4:45pm; Wed., 10am-9:45pm, Thu.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun., 10am-5:45pm. West Wing only, Thu.-Fri., 5-9:45pm. $12, students and seniors $10.* •*Van Gogh to Mondrian: Dutch Works on Paper*, brings together some 100 works on paper by more than 40 Dutch artists. Through Nov. 5. •*Christian Boltanski: Reflection,* a haunting installation by the French artist, runs through Nov. 12. •*Dangerous Curves: Art of the Guitar* shows Nov. 5-Feb. 25, 2001. •*Legendary Collectors: Dorothy and Herbert Vogel.* Opens Nov. 1. •*Japanese Artists: Amateurs or Professionals* displays through Dec. 10.

The Revolving Museum
288-300 A St., Boston (439-8617). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed.-Fri., 12-5pm. •Sculpture, work on paper and veneer are featured in *Surface Metaphors* by Elise Mannella. Through Jan. 12. •Tunnel Vision presents *P3: Poetry & Photography Push Cart* on Nov. 2. •*Virtual Circus* has freaks, musical oddities and performing floozies. Through Jan. 1, 2001.

The Somerville Museum
1 Westwood Road, Somerville (666-9810). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Thu., 2-7pm; Fri., 2-5pm and Sat., 12-7pm. Free. •*Build* is a series of paintings, sculptures, prints and drawings by artists Matthew Brackett, Kathleen Finlay, Robin Mandel, Rachel Rush and Theresa Spadafora. Through Dec . 22.

Galleries
FINE ART

Allston Skirt Gallery
129 Braintree St., Allston (254-7027). www.allston-skirt.com. MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. •Roberta Paul and Amy Podmore present *New Work*. Through Dec. 23.

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (536-4465). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tues.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •Gyorgy Kepes' *Photographs, 1950s-1980s* shows through Dec. 6.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (247-0610). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm; Sun., 1-5pm. •*Landscapes:* Mary Sipp-Green's open landscapes will be displayed through Nov. 30.

Artesano Gallery
757A Beacon St., Newton (558-2783). Tue. and Wed., 10am-6pm; Thu.-Sat., 10am-7pm. This contemporary gallery features original works from international artists. Now featuring Sargadelos ceramics from Spain.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., 5th Floor, Boston (262-4490). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5:30pm. •Maggi Brown's *New Paintings* shows through Nov. 29.

Barton-Ryan Gallery
38 Newbury St., 4th Floor, Boston (867-0662). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5:30pm. •The current show by Lissa Houck is titled *Improbable Botanicals and Landscapes.* Through Dec. 2.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm. •It's Kentucky art in 3-D and 2-D during the *Kentucky Folk Art* show, featuring 11 artists. Nov. 1-28.

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (482-2477). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 10:30am-5:30pm. •*The Ingres Drawings, Restored,* by Kathleen Gilje, shows through Nov. 25.

Beth Urdang Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 11am-5pm. •*Allan D'Arcangelo: Paintings and Prints, 1962-1975* displays through Dec. 8.

Boston University Art Gallery
855 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-3329). MBTA: B Green Line to B.U. West. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat. and Sun., 1-5pm. The 56 objects and 17 photographs in *Differences Preserved: Reconstructed Tombs from a Liao and a Song Tomb* come from two sets of tombs in northern China. Also showing is *Of Battle and Beauty: Felice Beato's Photographs of China*, a series of images photographed in 1860 during the second Opium War. Through Dec. 17.

Bromfield Art Gallery
560 Harrison Ave., Boston (451-3605). Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. •*Rods, Rocks and Raku* by Kim Bernard. •*Crows, Numbers and Men* by Jim Giddings shows through Dec. 2.

Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center
541 Second St., Cambridge (577-1400). Mon.-Fri., 9:30am-5:30pm. The works of Telsa Borrero, Ana Uribe, Josefina Jacquin Bates, Jairo Barragán (Naide) and Jorge Olarte show in *Colombians: Between Emotion, Nation & Immigration.* Through Nov. 22.

Carpenter Center
24 Quincy St., Cambridge (495-3251). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9:30 am-11:30pm. Work by artists exploring the space of landscape and architecture is featured in *Inside/Out.* Through Nov. 19.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (236-2255). www.chappell-gallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tues.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm. •*Spatial Glass* by Martin Rosol. Nov. 18-Jan. 5.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (859-7222). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-5pm. •*New Paintings*: Bill Brauer's work will be on display through Nov. 28.

Childs Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (266-1108). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 9am-6pm; Mon. and Sat., 10am-5pm. •Come see what the curators in the gallery choose as their favorite prints in *We Like It So Much.* Also, *Holiday Works on Paper*, featuring prints and watercolors, as well as *The Watercolors of Paul Parker.* Nov. 15-Jan. 6.

Clark Gallery
145 Lincoln St., Lincoln (781-259-8303). Tue.-Sat., 10am-5pm. The gallery represents 30 regional artists. •Ruth Bauer shows her *New Paintings* with John Eric Byers' exhibit, *Studio Furniture.* Through Nov. 22. •*Salon Show*: See their Annual Group Exhibition, open from Nov. 28-Dec. 2.

Clifford Smith Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 3rd Floor, Boston (695-0255). www.cliffordsmithgallery.com. *Wed.-Sat., 11am-6pm.* •This double exhibit features Rachel Perry Welty's *Recent Work* and Christopher Broughton's *Small Paintings.* Through Nov. 25.

Crosstown Arts Inc.
One North Square, Boston (720-0100). www.crosstown.com. *Tue.-Fri,. 9am-5pm, Sat., 9am-1pm, or by appointment.* •*Strategy: Paintings and Drawings* by Megan McNaught shows through Dec. 23.

Crystal Fine Art
93 Summer St., Suite 4L, Boston (728-9818). www.crystalfineart.com. *MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Tue.-Fri., 11am-6pm.* •*Candace Whittemore Lovely's* work shows throughout November.

Eclipse Gallery
167 Newbury St., Boston (247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9am-5pm. •Naomi Rubin's *Black and White Photography* runs through Nov. 25. •*New Oil Paintings,* by Paul Kerepka, shows Nov. 28-Dec. 30.

Elias Fine Art
120 Braintree St., Allston (783-1888). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. •Tom Huck's work shows through Dec. 23.

Equator Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (266-4110). www.equator-gallery.com. *Tue.-Thu., 12-6pm; Fri.-Sun., 11am-7pm.* A series of woodcarvings by L. Almeida and L. Potosí and ceramics with pre-Columbian motifs by Sasha Raiz. •Peruvian artist Benito Huillcahuamán's vibrant watercolors depict modern-day Cuzco. Ongoing.

Galerie d'Orsay
33 Newbury St., Boston (266-8001). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. •M.L. Snowden exhibits her bronze sculptures in *The Legacy Rodin*, which runs through Dec. 10.

Gallery @ Green Street
141 Green St., Jamaica Plain (522-0000). www.jameshull.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm; Tue., Wed. and Thu., 6-9pm.* •James Hull and Douglas Weathersby present an installation. Through Nov. 25.

Gallery Bershad
99 Dover St., Somerville (629-9400 ext. 3). www.bershad.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Mon.-Fri., 9-6pm; Sat. and Sun., 12-6pm.* •On display is *Naked & Nude* through Dec. 1.

Gallery NAGA
67 Newbury St., Boston (267-9060). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. www.gallerynaga.com. *Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •See David Moore's *Works on Paper* and Ron Rizzi's *New Paintings,* Nov. 17-Dec. 23.

Gallery Seventy-Nine
79 Newbury St., Boston (262-5918). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-6pm; Sat., 12-5pm. •Michelle Giargiari's exhibit, *Frozen Music*, runs through Nov. 30.

Genovese Sullivan Gallery
47 Thayer St., Boston (426-9738). Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. MBTA: Orange Line to N.E. Medical Center. •Matt Harle's *Canyons, Stars* and Fran Siegel's *Frequency*, a sight-specific installation, are open though Nov. 29.

Gibbs Gallery
41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm. •*All That Remains: Photographs of America's*

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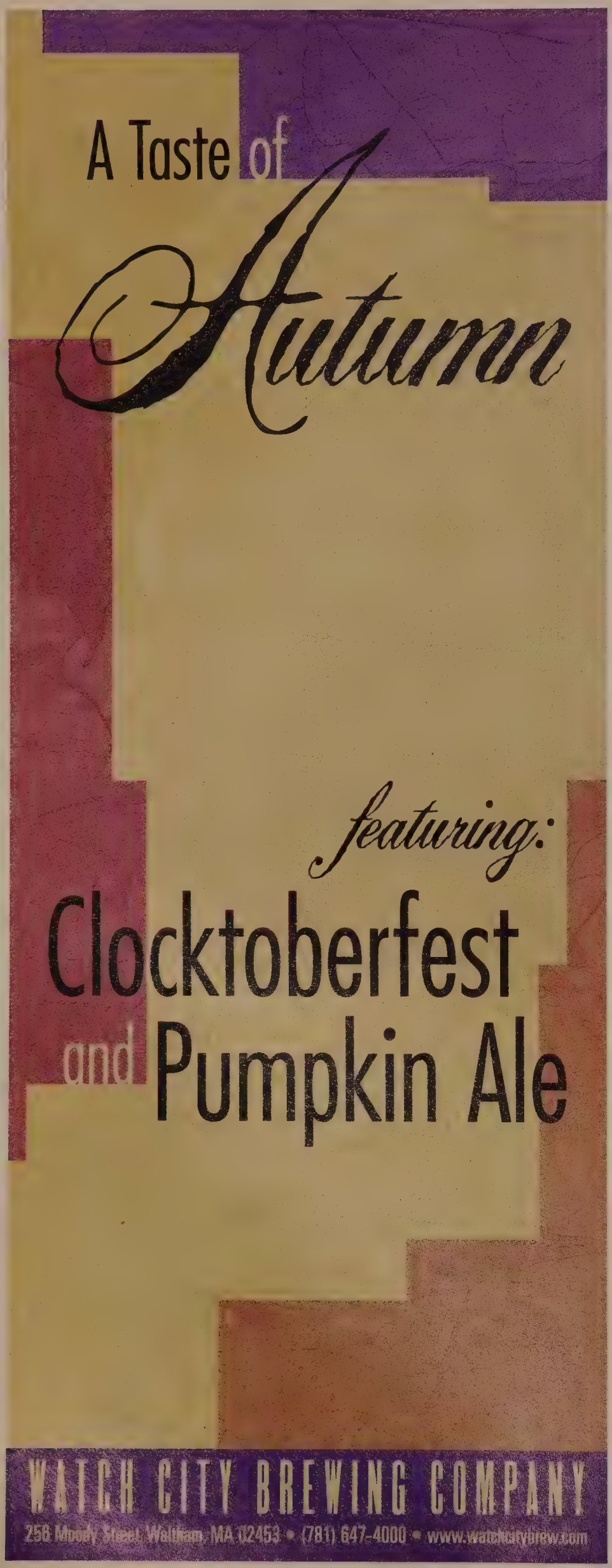

Abandoned Places, includes works by Nancy Engberg, Ed Esleek and Maxine L. McDonald. Through Dec. 1.

Gurari Collections
91 Charles St., Boston (367-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. This gallery has an impressive collection of 16th- to early-20th-century etchings, engravings and drawings.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St., Boston (536-6339). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 10am-6pm; Sat., 10am-5pm. •There is an assortment of 18th- and 19th-century antique engravings and lithographs on display.

HallSpace
31 Norflok Ave, Boston (989-9985). Fri.-Sat., 12-5pm. On display is Ilona Anderson's exhibit, *Drawing in Thread.* Through Nov. 25.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (262-0550). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. yezerski@ziplink.net. •Work by Gene Flores and Susan Derges show through Nov. 28.

Hurst Gallery
53 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (491-6888). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sat., 12-6pm. Thu., 12-7pm, and by appointment. Visitors are greeted with a wide variety of art and artifacts from six continents. •*Of Land, Sea and Sky: Animals in the Art of the Ancient Americas* is an exhibition of pre-Columbian art from Peru, West Mexico and Mesoamerica. Through Dec. 2.

The Equator Gallery now shows vibrant watercolors by Peruvian artist Benito Huillcahuamán.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (375-0076). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. A selection of vintage posters shows. Ongoing.

Judy Ann Goldman
14 Newbury St., Braton (424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tues.-Sat. 10:30am-5:30pm. •*The Pop Years, 1962-1974,* by Allan D'Arcangelo. Through Dec. 6.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 Saint Stephen St., Boston (247-1719). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue.-Sat., 1-5pm. •Kaji Aso displays his *Watercolor Exhibit* through Nov. 16.

Kingston Gallery
37 Thayer St., Boston (423-4113). Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. Carolyn Wirth's sculpture shows through Nov. 25.

Lyman-Eyer Gallery Inc.
1347 Washington St., West Newton (964-3470). Tue.-Fri., 4-7:30pm; Sat., 11am-7:30pm; Sun., 11am-5pm. •See *Lydia Martin-Exhibition Highlight*, featuring trompe-l'oeil and "mischievous realism" through Nov. 29.

Mercury Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (859-0054). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat., 10am-6pm. •*New Photographs*, a series of works by Phillip Jones, is on display through Nov. 17.

Mills Gallery
539 Tremont St., Boston (426-8835). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sun., 1-4pm; Thu.-Sat., 7-10pm. •*Making Ends Meet: An Installation in Six Parts* features work by Bruce Brosnan, Sharon Louden, Mick O'Shea, Linda Price-Sneddon, Daniel Stupar and Traci Wile. Nov. 17-Jan. 21.

Mobius
254 Congress St., Boston (542-7416). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. www.mobius.org. *Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm.* •*Copper Objective*: art installation by artist Yin Peet. Through Nov. 25.

MPG
285 Newbury St., Boston (437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-5pm. •*East Coast/West Coast*: Paintings by Nicholas Kilmer and Duncan Simcoe. Through Dec. 4.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* Founded in 1964. •Joan Snyder's work, *Monoprints and Miniatures,* shows through Nov. 25.

Out of the Blue Gallery
168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun., 12-7pm. This gallery, owned and operated by several artists, always has a variety of interesting artwork and art-related events going on. •Poetry readings take place Saturdays, and the gallery hosts jazz musicians every Wednesday.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (236-4497). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •*Drawings* by Linda Etcoff display through Dec. 2.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (267-9473). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun., 1pm-5pm. •*In a Different Light, Genesis in the Art of Samuel Bak* shows through Dec. 31.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (266-3321). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. www.richardsonclarke.com. *Tue.-Sat., 10am-5pm.* •See the ongoing exhibition of American and European 19th- and 20th-century paintings.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (267-7997). www.Robert Klein-Gallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 10am-5:30pm; Sat., 11am-5pm. •D.W. Mellor's *Still Life* shows through Nov. 25.

Rolly-Michaux
290 Dartmouth St., Boston (536-9898). Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm. •*20th Century Master Graphics* features Marc Shagall, Sonia Delaunay, Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso and Joan Miro. Through Nov. 30.

Sherman Gallery
775 Comm. Ave., Boston (358-0295). MBTA: B Green Line to B.U. West. Tue.-Fri., 11am-5pm; Sat. and Sun., 1-5pm. •*Objects of My Affections*: Paul Gary Goldberg's prints show Nov. 20-Jan. 21, 2001.

Space 12 Gallery
12 Union Park St., Boston (423-9760). Wed., 1-5pm, 6-9pm; Thu., Fri. and Sat., 1-5pm. •Star Nigro's work, *Dimensional Photography*, is on exhibit through Nov. 25.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (450-0321). www.stgeorgegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-5pm.* Artist William St. George displays his lush and colorful paintings.

Touch of France
173 Newbury St., Boston (247-6966). MBTA: Green line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-7pm; Sun., 10am-6pm. This gallery imports contemporary French artists' works, including paintings from famous painters M. Tigrane, R. Kefflin, C. Ferrer and striking dried-flower arrangements made near Saint Tropez.

Trustman Gallery at Simmons College
300 The Fenway, Boston (251-2268). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-Fri., 10am-4:30pm. •*Ephemeral,* art by Mary Hart, shows through Dec. 8.

Via Gallery
83 Newbury St., 2nd Floor (424-6200). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-4pm. •Also on exhibit is *The Latin Show,* featuring artists Marisa Boullosa and Paula Barragan, from Nov. 17-Dec. 30.

Vose Gallery
238 Newbury St., Boston (536-6176). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 8am-5:30pm; Sat., 9am-4pm. •More than 130 works are exhibited in *The Boston Art Club, 1855-1950*, which runs through Dec. 1.

Zeitgeist Gallery
312 Broadway St., Cambridge (876-2182). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu.-Sun., 2pm-7pm. The gallery displays a variety of local artists' work. •A Playground Jazz Series takes place on Friday nights. •Monday is literary night with the Stone Soup Poets performing. •Every Wednesday is a figure-drawing session. •Sunday is a vegan potluck supper, with live music and poetry.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Gallery One
New England School of Photography, 537 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (437-1868). 9am-5pm, daily. •Chris Faust's photographic exhibit, *Midwest Perspectives: Landscape as Artifact,* runs through Dec. 1.

Photographic Resource Center
602 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-0700). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford. Tue.-Sun., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-8pm. •*The Nature of Things,* a yearlong exhibit from the Arboretum archives, displays through Sept. 8, 2001. •*Booked! Arrested Development*: This exhibition of books by Ronald Smart and Davyde, two local artists, runs through Dec. 8.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., Fourth Floor, Boston (267-7997). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 10am-5:30pm. •D.W. Meller's *Still Lives* represents decades of still-life photos taken in Prague, Amsterdam and London. Through Nov. 25.

SPECIAL EVENTS

ArtWorks for AIDS
Harvard University, Carpenter Center, 24 Quincy St., Cambridge (432-5139). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Nov. 27. This display of artworks created by 30 renowned artists from southern Africa explores the theme of HIV in South Africa with an emphasis on women and children.

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Count on *You Can Count on Me* for emotional realism.

BY PAUL SHERMAN

The tragedy of American movies is that the Hollywood machinery exists almost entirely to shove bad movies down people's throats. Since Hollywood now devotes 99 percent of its energy into getting people to theaters on opening weekends, before much feedback about a movie circulates, marketing has become more important than the actual quality of the movie—so much so that good movies are now "problematic." In the case of an independently-produced slice-of-life movie like *You Can Count on Me*—which includes such cast members as Laura Linney (*Congo*, *The Truman Show*) and Matthew Broderick (*Election*, *Glory*)—that means only getting picked up for distribution by a studio's "classics" division for limited release, because it doesn't traffic in the cartoonish view of the world seen in so many of those other McMovies.

Well, thank your lucky stars we're not in Dubuque or some other podunk town that doesn't see movies like *You Can Count on Me*. Like *Almost Famous* or *The Color of Paradise*, this is about as emotionally real as movies get, because it features good people who sometimes do bad things and not-so-good people who sometimes do nice things. And that's the sort of tragicomic world its characters try to navigate. As the old song says, sometimes good guys don't wear white.

Mark Ruffalo plays a not-so-perfect role model to Rory Culkin.

At its core is the relationship between two siblings, Samantha, whom everyone calls Sammy (Linney), and brother Terry (Mark Ruffalo). Writer-director Kenneth Lonergan's movie starts with a quick 1982 prologue in which the siblings' parents are killed in a car crash, before cutting to present-day action. At first it seems as if this prologue is too flimsy to mean much, but you soon realize that being orphaned has affected them in very different ways. Sammy has become very attached to her roots, living in her parents' Victorian house in the same upstate New York town where they grew up. She's now the single mom of an eight-year-old son, Rudy (Rory Culkin), and seems to be maternal in all her relationships with men, probably from having to take care of her younger brother after the crash. Meanwhile, Terry, perhaps from losing his real parents, has become rootless, drifting from place to place and repeatedly tumbling into trouble.

Terry Greyhounds it back home to visit Sammy, though he's really returned just to hit up his sister for money to help out his pregnant girlfriend in Worcester. Sammy convinces him to stick around for a while, though, and get to know his young nephew.

What is perhaps most interesting about what then happens is how the brother and sister affect each other without really knowing it. Asked to help take care of little Rudy at times, Terry does indeed become a caring uncle that the boy looks up to, even if that care is sometimes demonstrated in unconventional ways (like taking the kid to a bar to play pool). And having her drug-taking, lazy brother around loosens up Sammy, who even starts having an affair with her new, nit-picking boss (Broderick).

Such changes come across subtly, and, in a sense, they're not changes at all. Terry doesn't necessarily become a more responsible person, and Sammy doesn't necessarily become more liberated over the course of the story, but they learn something about themselves in the process. This often amusing peek into their day-to-day struggles makes *You Can Count on Me* easy to invest yourself in emotionally and easy to be moved by.

Of course, the total irony is that people screw, take drugs, act selfish, slug each other and tell each other to piss off in *You Can Count on Me*. But I guess because they do these things in human ways, instead of the cartoonish ways we're more used to seeing in Hollywood movies, that makes this unacceptable to play "at a theater near you." **iB**

You Can Count on Me ★★★½

Written and directed by Kenneth Lonergan. With Laura Linney, Mark Ruffalo, Matthew Broderick, Jon Tenney and Rory Culkin. Rated R. Paramount Classics.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Best in Show ★★★
Christopher Guest strikes again. The co-creator of *This Is Spinal Tap* and driving force of *Waiting for Guffman* supplies another laugh-filled, mostly improvised fake documentary, this time about people "showing" dogs in a prestigious Philadelphia dog show. These canine-obsessed folks include a stressed-out yuppie couple (Parker Posey, Michael Hitchcock), a Carolina hayseed (director-cowriter Guest), and SCTV vets Eugene Levy (who co-wrote) and Catherine O'Hara, who play another daffy husband and wife team, as they did in *Guffman*. Not having the musical-parody component of *Tap* and *Guffman* gives this film a little less to offer, but it's usually very funny, with comedy vets Michael McKean, Larry Miller and Fred Willard making memorable contributions. And Guest's Harlan Pepper, a fly-fishing aspiring ventriloquist, adds another great role to his gallery of unforgettable characters.

Billy Elliot ★★½
The Full Monty premise of English working-class characters trying to scrape up some dignity for themselves gets a decent reworking in this story, set in 1984 in a northern mining town. The title character (a delightful Jamie Bell) is the son and brother of striking coal miners, and his desire to take up ballet shakes their already-threatened masculinity. Although director Stephen Daldry sometimes clumsily injects some borderline fantasy sequences, and this has the predictability of a formula film, the lad's plight comes across with sincerity. So do the performances of Gary Lewis as his tough-skinned dad and Julie Walters as his equally flinty ballet teacher.

Book of Shadows: Blair Witch 2 ★★
The *Blair Witch Project* sequel amusingly draws from its predecessor's success, with a new group of people on a tour of the original's woodsy locations who have their own hellish experience (it also draws from director Joe Berlinger's earlier documentary, *Paradise Lost*). But self-referential plotting only gets it so far. This is a much more conventional group-dying-one-at-a-time story, and its hyper jumps between reality and hallucination and between past, present and future never add up to much.

The Contender ★
Rod Lurie, the L.A. film critic turned writer-director, is making a career of ripping off Cold War thrillers from his youth, turning *Fail-Safe* into *Deterrence* last year, and now *Advise & Consent* into this inept D.C. potboiler. In this post-Clinton political thriller, the confirmation hearings of a female senator (Joan Allen) to fill the vacant vice-presidency turns into an ambush led by a scheming congressman (Gary Oldman). But if real-life hardball politics were as transparent as they are here, charlatans would be rooted out before they even made it to Washington. And few movies have as bogus a climax and as many poor performances from dependable actors (like Jeff Bridges) as this one does.

Charlie's Angels ★★★
The big difference between the 1970s TV show and the movie? The TV show didn't take itself seriously, and sucked; the movie doesn't take itself seriously, and is delirious fun. There's a plot about a kidnapping and some hi-tech software, but that's not important, and the movie sags whenever that plot becomes too central. What's really entertaining here are Cameron Diaz, Drew Barrymore and Lucy Liu camping it up as the dishy, high-kicking, hair-tossling crimefighters. The scenes of their characters' romantic lives are daffy fun, while the martial-arts fight scenes (seemingly inspired by *The Matrix* and *Heroic Trio*) are surprising knockouts, with some of the best action seen all year.

Dancer in the Dark ★★½
Director Lars von Trier's story of a Czech immigrant in 1964 Pacific Northwest is an awful lot like his *Breaking the Waves*. Both are about an otherworldly woman alienated from her setting who's driven to a bizarre personal sacrifice. Bjork is astonishingly emotive as the factory worker who's going blind from a congenital eye condition, and who's secretly saving up for an operation to save her pre-teen son's sight. This tragedy's convincing blue-collar setting and powerful climax are also memorable, although the shaky handheld camera and jump cuts might give you a headache and the fantasy musical sequences (singing and dancing in the face of tragedy, a la *Pennies from Heaven*) only sometimes work.

Just Looking ★★
Directed by Jason Alexander (*Seinfeld*), this comedy set in 1950s New York seems to be pulling itself in two different directions. In one direction, it's the story of a Jewish teen (Ryan Merriman) whose obsession with sex is so strong that he even wants to peep on his mom in the act (eww!). On the other is the quaint sugariness with which Alexander tells the story. Despite some strong performances, the result is *American Pie* for 60-year-olds.

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Drew Barrymore, Bill Murray, Lucy Liu, and Cameron Diaz camp it up in ***Charlie's Angels.***

The Legend of Bagger Vance ★★
Or, *How Matt Got His Swing Back*. Director Robert Redford's Depression-era story finds Matt Damon playing the same sort of fallen golden boy role Redford often did in the 1970s. Here, that's a hotshot golfer who withdrew from life after enduring the horrors of World War I. A dozen years later, he gets a second chance when he's asked to join a high-stakes match that includes Bobby Jones. The dissipated hero's rehabilitation—on the links and in his mind—is facilitated by the arrival of a Yoda-like, wandering caddie-philosopher (the title character, played by Will Smith). But the golf-as-life metaphor is ridiculously overstated, and Bagger is a borderline-offensive "mystical African-American" (à la *The Green Mile*), not a person so much as a convenient plot device.

The Legend of Drunken Master ★★★
After a decade of making more-modern stories, Jackie Chan made a very entertaining return to the traditional kung fu period piece in 1994's *Dragon Master 2*, sequel to one of the movies that made him a star in the late 1970s. Now, it has received an English dubbing and a new title for a belated American theatrical release. The latest version survives the translation just fine, and the film remains a blast. As the young purveyor of "drunken boxing" martial arts, Chan shows his usual resourcefulness in action and comedy, while Anita Mui is a hoot as his rowdy stepmom.

Meet The Parents ★★★
Just as John Cusack had *High Fidelity*, so Ben Stiller has *Meet the Parents*: a comedy in which he's playing the same sort of character he already has several times, but one that is so well done that it's still really entertaining. As a male nurse trying to impress the parents of the girlfriend he wants to marry (Teri Polo)—especially her intimidating dad (Robert DeNiro)—Stiller falls victim to similar misadventures as those in *Flirting with Disaster* and *There's Something About Mary*. But the interplay between Stiller and DeNiro is priceless. As in *Analyze This*, DeNiro shows great comic timing.

Pay It Forward ★
Yes, we're all emotionally scarred. But in this beyond-bad heartwarmer, that notion is conveyed by giving Kevin Spacey's social-studies teacher burn scars over most of his body and by starting the movie with Helen Hunt's alcoholic single mom in hideous makeup that makes her look like a Halloween witch (so we can see her improved state of mind reflected in her later improved looks). Such boneheaded literalness kills the story of Hunt's character's son (Haley Joel Osment of *The Sixth Sense*), who comes up with a social-studies project to make society better, by having people repay favors by doing one for someone else, not for the person who did one for them (hence, paying it forward). The result is perhaps the most unconvincing, sappy human-interest story ever overstated.

Requiem for a Dream ★★
Equating a street-level drug addict with a housewife's prescription-pill addiction was a bolder notion in the 1970s, when Hubert Selby Jr.'s novel came out. But the movie version arrives long after "rehab" and "Betty Ford Clinic" have entered the vernacular. So the film spends 100 minutes making a moot point about its heroin addict (Jared Leto) and his diet-pill-popping mom (Ellen Burstyn). Director Darren Aronofsky, who also wrote the adapted screenplay, tries to juice up the story with the same sort of quick editing and lively camera work that fueled his better *Pi*, but this time the style overwhelms whatever substance is here.

Two Family House ★★★
Set in 1956 Staten Island, writer-director Raymond De Felitta's film is smart, big-hearted drama. Michael Rispoli, a familiar face from his supporting roles in everything from *While You Were Sleeping* to *The Sopranos*, shines as an Italian-American Ralph Kramden chasing his dream of opening a tavern in the first floor of the house he buys. Along the way, race relations, marital squabbles and a romantic surprise all affect his destiny. The film is bittersweetly uplifting without being manipulative.

The Yards ★★★
Mark Wahlberg offers what might be his best performance yet as a Queens ex-con trying to keep his nose clean, but predictably attracts trouble again. Yet director and co-writer James Gray's sure hand keeps this basic plot from drifting into cliché. As he did with his earlier *Little Odessa*, Gray's lyrical grimness and understated direction turns this New York story—which also stars Joaquin Phoenix, Charlize Theron and James Caan—into a steadily simmering crime thriller.

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Cinemas
214 Harvard Ave. (277-2140). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
Trapelo Rd. (484-1706). Red Line to Harvard, 73 bus.

BOSTON

Boston Film • Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (536-1540). Green Line to Hynes.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.

Cheri
50 Dalton St. (536-2870). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Fenway Theatre General Cinema
201 Brookline Ave. (424-6266). MBTA: Green Line to Fenway or Kenmore.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum Of Science, Omni Theater
Science Park (723-2500). Green Line to Science Park.

Nickelodeon
606 Comm. Ave. (424-1500). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford St.

Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle.

Coolidge Corner
290 Harvard St. (734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

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CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theater
40 Brattle St. (876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (495-4700). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Sq. (494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony Theater
10 Church St. (864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Sq.

Somerville Theater
55 Davis Square (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston. (277-2500). B Green Line to Chestnut Hill.

West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (964-6060).

Alternatives & Revivals

Advice to Contributors
Submit film listings by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Although film listings are correct at the time of publication, they are subject to change. Doublecheck showtimes by calling the theater or 333-FILM.

Brattle Theater

Most shows are $7, including double features.

Special Engagements

•Nov. 15 and 16 **George Washington**. This fairytale-like new indie feature recently opened at the New York Film Festival by first-time writer/director David Gordon Green. •Also showing is **Gimme Shelter**. This documentary film covers the '69 concert with the Rolling Stones where the Hells Angels served as security. The concert also featured Tina Turner and Jefferson Airplane.

•Nov. 17-19 **Lawrence of Arabia** *1962.* This epic film of enigmatic adventurer T. E. Lawrence, based on Lawrence's book *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, won seven Oscars. Directed by David Lean and starring Peter O'Toole.

•Nov. 20 **This Is Spinal Tap** *1984.* Here's another chance to see the hilarious rockumentary/mockumentary from director Rob Reiner and writing team Christopher Guest, Michael McKean and Harry Shearer. The spoof follows the legendary heavy-metal outfit Spinal Tap on a U.S. tour.

•Nov. 24-26 **Wings of Desire** *1987.* Wim Wenders' lyrical meditation centers on a pair of angels who wander through the streets of West Berlin. They observe life around them and ponder what it's like to be human.

•Nov. 24 **Faraway So Close** *1993.* Wenders takes up where *Wings of Desire* left off—angel Sander who becomes mortal. Throughout, he explores the polarities that exist in a newly unified Berlin.

•Nov. 26 **Taxi Driver** *1976.* Martin Scorsese teams up with writer Paul Schrader and a slew of all-star actors to create this masterpiece of urban alienation.

Kieslowski Series

•Nov. 21 **Blue** *1993.* The first in the Polish director's Trois Couleurs series that examines life in contemporary Europe. Here, Juliette Binoche loses her family in a tragic accident and moves into a Paris flat to contemplate life.

•Nov. 28 **White** *1994.* The second of the trilogy deals with contemporary French society shows a man dealing with his beautiful wife who wants to divorce him because he can no longer perform in bed. Kieslowski wrote the screenplay with frequent collaborator Krzysztof Piesiewicz.

Recent Raves

•Nov. 22 **Aimee and Jaguar** *1999.* A passionate love grows between two women despite the danger of persecution and raids during the '43/'44 Battle of Berlin.

Brattle Foreign Faves

•Nov. 23 **Run, Lola Run** *1998.* German director Tom Tykwer creates this fast-paced drama in which a young woman runs through the city desperately trying to save her boyfriend's life. •Also showing is **Winter Sleepers** *1997.* Tom Tykwer's romantic drama centers on a young translator who lives with her ski-instructor boyfriend in a mountain villa. The pair get into some trouble when someone steals his car.

•Nov. 25 **Afterlife** *1998.* Japanese director Hirokazu Koreeda creates this moving story about a group of recently deceased people who must choose one memory to take with them into eternity.

Boston Public Library

The Immortal James Cagney

•Nov. 20, 6pm **City for Conquest** *1940.* Cagney plays a New York City truck driver who becomes a boxer and is blinded in a fight. He remains devoted to a younger brother who dreams of becoming a classical music composer, despite his newfound limitations.

•Nov. 27, 6pm **The Bride Came C.O.D.** *1941.* Cagney is a charter pilot in this film where a temperamental heiress must be delivered (by him) to her fiance. Things take a turn for interesting when their plane crashes and they are stranded in the desert.

Coolidge Corner Theater

Feature Engagements

•Nov. 17-30 **The Decalogue** *1989.* The Coolidge shows director's Kryzstof Kieslowski's 10-part series based on the Ten Commandments by looking at individual lives and how the commandments affect them. Two parts of the series air each night, and the program changes every three days. *Nov. 17-19, Parts 1 and 2; Nov. 20-22, Parts 3 and 4; Nov. 23-25, Parts 5 and 6; Nov. 26-28, Parts 7 and 8; Nov. 29-30, Parts 9 and 10.*

Midnight Movies

•Nov. 17 and 18 **Monster from Green Hell** *1957.* From the producers of *Robot Monster* comes the equally inept story about giant wasps spawned from a radiation mishap in Africa.

•Nov. 24 and 25 **Dr. Butcher, Medical Deviate** *1979.* This film stars a mad doctor who plies his trade on an island full of flesh-eating zombies.

Local Film Festival

•Nov. 24, 7pm **Best of the Bests**. The compilation of shorts was culled from festival screenings around the country, and curated by David Nugent. •Also showing: 9pm **Soundtracks Vision**. MassArt and Filmmakers Take Over alumnus Maile presents sound elements in film and video.

•Nov. 25, 8pm **Cityscape**. See what the Cityscape Motion Picture Education's filmmakers have produced thus far. •Also showing: 9:30pm **Coolidge Staff Films**. Dedicated Coolidge staff members bring in a film of their own choice to show a true medley of good movies and different tastes.

•Nov. 25, 2pm and 3pm; Nov. 26, 12pm and 1pm **An Alien Sneezed on Brook Street**. Local filmmaker Peter Rhodes joins forces with Brookline Village families to create a short sci-fi for kids full of action, heartbreak and pizza.

Video Balagan

•Nov. 16, 8pm **Video Interactions**. Curated by local filmmakers Alla Kovgan and Jeff Silva, the film is composed by uniting artists working in various mediums of video, sound, dance and performance.

Harvard Film Archive

Directors in Focus: Amos Gitai

•Nov. 18, 7pm **Esther** *1986.* Director Gitai opens dialogue about present-day conflicts in the Middle East in this film. It is biblical story of Esther punctuated by the sounds of car horns and airplanes of the modern Middle East, and it brings the past and the present together forcibly.

•Nov. 18, 9:30pm **Berlin-Jerusalem** *1989.* Weaving together the plights of two revolutionary-spirited women, the film explores the idea of the Promised Land and it becomes a story of disillusionment and struggle.

•Nov. 19, 9:15pm **Golem-The Spirit of Exile** *1992.* Set in modern day Paris, this is a retelling of the Biblical story of Ruth and its commentary on the theme of exile.

•Nov. 24, 7pm **Devarim** *1995.* The first part of Gitai's trilogy about three Israeli cities, *Devarim* is based on the acclaimed novel by Yaakov Shabati. It is the story of a photographer, a wannabe organ player and a lawyer searching for meaning in his life.

•Nov. 24, 9:15pm **Field Diary** *1982.* A film journal made in the occupied territories right before and during the '82 Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Using interviews with Israeli settlers and Palestinian refugees and through encounters with Israeli soldiers, Gitai fashions a collage of violence in the Middle East.

•Nov. 25, 7pm **Day After Day** *1998.* A comedy about a half-Arab, half-Israeli settler from Haifa, this is the second installment of Gitai's three-city trilogy series.

•Nov. 25, 9pm **American Mythologies** *1981.* Gitai presents the structured power scheme of America at the moment when Ronald Reagan became president in '81.

•Nov. 26, 7pm **Kadosh** *1999.* Gitai presents the third in his trilogy by examining the ultra-Orthodox neighborhood of Mea Shearim, located within Jerusalem. He tells the heartbreaking story of one couple who lives in a society that desperately attempts to guard itself from contemporary life and tourist populations.

•Nov. 26, 9pm **The Arena of Murder** *1996.* Gitai weaves documentary, autobiography, road movie and rock movie together to capture the nature of Israel and the life and death of Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin in the weeks after his '96 murder.

Seance Screenings

•Nov. 12, 7pm **Two-Lane Blacktop** *1971.* This is the bizarre story of two men who drive cross country in their '55 Chevy looking for car races. They're both extremely devoted to their purpose, and they only speak when absolutely necessary.

New German Cinema

•Nov. 15, 9:45pm **Ludwig: Requiem for a Virgin King** *1972.* This is an eclectic meditation on Ludwig the Second of Bavaria—the mad, visionary and aesthetic recluse.

•Nov. 20, 9pm **The Marriage of Maria Braun** *1978.* A parable of post-World War II Germany tells of a war bride who is transformed into a businesswoman.

Recent Activist Cinema

•Nov. 17, 9:30pm **This Is What Democracy Looks Like** *2000.* This 70-minute documentary captures the series of events that transformed the Seattle WTO protests into the beginning of a new movement.

•Nov. 17, 7pm; Nov. 18, 3pm and Nov. 19, 7pm Director Helen Garvy comes to talk about **Rebels with a Cause** *2000.* A documentary that explores the tumultuous '60s, this film focuses on the actions, history and legacy of the Students for a Democratic Society, shedding light on the values that motivate a group of young people to make the world a better place.

Topics in Film: Architecture

•Nov. 15, 7pm **Playtime** *1967.* The lovable Monsieur Hulot has to contact an American official in Paris, but gets lost in a maze of modern architecture that is filled with the chaos of the usual tourists.

•Nov. 28, 7pm **Vive l'Amour** *1994.* Director Tsai Ming-liang follows three love-deprived city dwellers through their comic yet haunting modern city lives.

Non-Fiction Film

•Nov. 20, 7pm **Harlan County** *1976.* This film is a portrait of a coal miners' strike in rural Kentucky. It gave director Barbara Kopple her first big break as well as national visibility for this ongoing labor action issue.

•Nov. 27, 7pm **Sans Soleil** *1982.* This story is constructed around a series of letters sent by a freelance cameraman to an unknown woman. Part diary, part essay, part documentary and part fiction, it is the entertaining tale of intertwining yet distant locales.

Museum of Fine Arts

Festival of Films from Iran

•Nov. 17, 8pm and Nov. 25, 10:30am **The Child and the Soldier** *2000.* A young private and a 14-year-old boy are accused of theft and find themselves handcuffed together, traversing deserts and dusty towns on the way to a Tehran reformatory.

•Nov. 17, 8pm and Nov. 25, 2:15pm **The Red Ribbon** *1999.* Director Ebrahim Hatamikia continues his exploration of the Iran-Iraq war's lasting reverberations in this gripping desert drama.

•Nov. 18, 4pm **Smell of Camphor, Fragrance of Jasmine** *1999.* This black-humored script follows a filmmaker who has not made a feature in more than 20 years. Then, while making a documentary for Japanese TV about Iranian burial customs, he decides to plan his own funeral.

•Nov. 24, 6:15pm **Willow and Wind** *1999.* Adults and children alike will appreciate this story about a boy who encounters a terrible storm while on a mission to replace a broken window in his schoolhouse.

•Nov. 24, 8pm **Daughters of the Sun** *2000.* This film challenges taboos and earns high acclaim for its depiction of the struggles that rural Iranian women face. The film focuses on a young girl who masquerades as a boy to find work.

•Nov. 25, 4:15pm **Tales of an Island: The Lost Cousin** and **Testing Democracy** *2000. Lost Cousin* is a surreal fairytale about the sea, a beautiful bride and a haunted filmmaker. *Testing Democracy* portrays the filmmaker participating in elections that hold the promise of change.

•Nov. 26, 2pm **Mokarrameh, Memories and Dreams** *1999* with **And There Was Creation** *2000. Mokarrameh* is a widow living in rural Iran who creates her first piece of art—a portrait of a cow—using mud and dung. *And There Was Creation* looks at other female Iranian painters as they speak about their lives as artists.

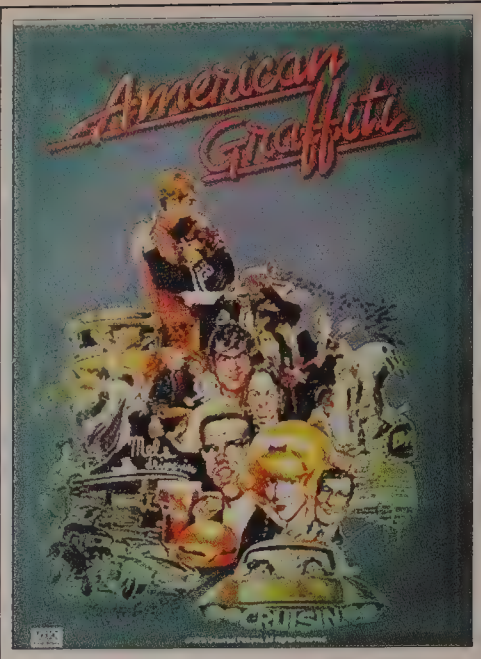
•Nov. 26, 4pm **The Girl in Sneakers** *1999.* This is the story of a 15-year-old runaway who is lost in the maze of Tehran. Shocking and direct, it neither condemns teenage idealism nor embraces the mundane nature of the adult world.

MFA Highlights

•Nov. 16, 6pm **Visiting Film Artist: the Films of Abigail Child**. The head of the film program at the MFA School shows her work in two parts. First, a four-part series included **Perils** *1986;* **Covert Action** *1984;* **Mayhem** *1987* and **Mercy** *1989.* Also showing is **The Surface Noise** *2000,* a film that explores the boundaries between public and private.

•Nov. 16, 8pm; Nov. 18, 2pm and Nov. 26, 12pm **First Person Plural** *1999.* In this film, director Deann Borshay Liem explores her past pre-adopted family and life in California. Going back to her roots in Korea, both viewer and filmmaker uncover astonishing hidden truths about the director.

•Nov. 25, 12:15pm **The Films of Richard Dindo: A Season of Paradise** *1996.* This documentary is the stories of famous South African poet Breyten Breytenbach.



Preview

American Graffiti

Where were you in '62?

The ICA's *Customized: Art Inspired by Hot Rods, Low Riders & American Car Culture*, a show that examines the imagery and the attitude of American car culture, has inspired the Brattle Theatre to bring the '73 hot rod classic *American Graffiti* back to the big screen. Some say that the film's images of cruising coupes single-handedly brought hot rod cars back into the pop-culture spotlight. Although that's a bit questionable, the rock 'n' roll soundtrack sparked a '50s revival. Directed by George Lucas, it's loosely based on his own teenage hot-rodding years in Modesto, Calif., and the film presents a collage of American youth on the brink of maturity. Many of the filmmakers involved with it were part of producer Francis Ford Coppola's American Zoetrope, a small film studio based in San Francisco.

The intensely nostalgic film earned five Academy Award nominations and launched many a career: It stars baby-faced Harrison Ford, Richard Dreyfuss and Ron Howard. It's a look at the innocence of pre-Kennedy-assassination America, captured through a couple of teenagers cruising in their hot rods, eating at Mel's Diner and listening to Wolfman Jack. American Graffiti *shows at the Brattle Nov. 27, 5:15, 7:30 and 9:45 pm.* Customised *displays at the ICA through Dec. 31.*

Harpoon
Christmas Party

Friday, December 1st, 5:30 - 11:00 pm
Saturday, December 2nd, 2:00 - 11:00 pm

Entrance closes by 9:30 pm each night

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READINGS & SIGNINGS

Wednesday, Nov. 15

Borders Bookshop Reading Series
85 Worcester Road, Framingham (508-875-2321). 7:30pm. Free. Northeastern University Professor **James Ross** discusses his book, *Fragile Branches: Travels Through the Jewish Diaspora.* Ross tells of his studies of Judaism in the Amazon rain forest, the hills of India and other remote locations where Jews celebrate their religion.

Borders Bookshop Author Event
300 Boylston St., Newton (630-1120). 7:30pm. Entrepreneur **Lynn Donahue** had no direction early in life. Then she attempted bricklaying and started her own successful masonry company. Donahue talks about this in her workshop, which incorporates her book, *Take Your Dream and Build Your Business.*

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 6pm. $2. **Frances Mayes** talks about her book, *In Tuscany,* a work filled with lush images of the Italian countryside.

Harvard Book Store Author Series
Smith Hall in Rasovsky Hall, 52 Mount Auburn Street, Cambridge (661-1515). 6pm. Free. **Tom Segev**, author and columnist from *Ha'aretz* talks about his book, *One Palestine, Complete: Jews and Arabs Under the British Mandate*, which looks at issues and individuals who affected the political climate in Palestine between 1917 and 1948.

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Explore the world of an American magazine's Israeli correspondent, who crossed the line that separates Israelis from displaced Palestinians. **Wendy Orange** discusses the war-torn country in *Coming Home to Jerusalem.*

Newton Free Library Author Event
330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). 7:30pm. **Dr. Muriel Gillick** speaks about her new book, *Lifelines: Living Longer, Growing Frail, Taking Heart.* A specialist in elderly care, Gillick examines the complications of life as people live far longer than they used to.

Wordsworth Books Reading Series
Brattle Theatre. 40 Brattle St. #1, Cambridge (354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 5:30pm. **Bill Bryson** reads from his novel, *In a Sunburned Country*, a book about the splendors and limitations of Australia.

Wordsworth Books Reading Series
The Cambridge Library, 449 Broadway, Cambridge (354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Editor **Merlin Holland** discusses *The Complete Letters of Oscar Wilde.*

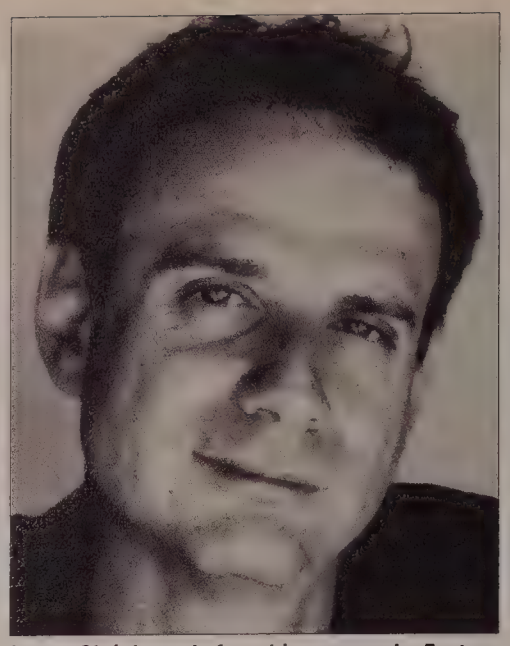
Thursday, Nov. 16

Borders Bookshop Author Event
300 Boylston St., Newton (630-1120). 7:30pm. At a *Globe* staffer event, **Barbara Meltz** talks about her book, *Put Yourself in Their Shoes: Understanding How Your Children See the World.* Meltz has been writing about parenting issues in the *Boston Globe* for more than a decade.

Borders Bookshop Author Event
310-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30pm. **Mitch Albom** talks about his trusted mentor, a college professor at Brandeis University from nearly 20 years ago, in his best-selling book, *Tuesdays with Morrie.*

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
279 Harvard St., Brookline, (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Poet **Stephen Kuusisto** reads from his new work, *Only Bread Only Life*; and poet **Deborah Tall** reads from her book, *Summons.*

Harvard Book Store Author Series
Smith Hall in Rosovsky Hall, 52 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (661-1515). 6pm. Free. **Jonathan Rosen** discusses his book, *The Talmud and the Internet: A Journey Between Worlds*, which looks at how one of the holiest documents in the world could have something to do with the paperless world of the Internet.



James Gleick reads from his new work, *Faster*, at the Boston Public Library Nov. 28, 6pm.

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. **Rabbi Michael Lerner**, described as one of America's preeminent Jewish intellectuals, discusses his book *Spirit Matters: Global Healing and the Wisdom of the Soul* tonight. The book provides a different look at childhood, relationships and work.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer Street, Newton (552-7145), 7pm. Free. **Carol Antoinette Peacock** reads from her book, *Mommy Far, Mommy Near* in celebration of National Adoption Month.

Wordsworth Books Reading Series
Brattle Theatre. 40 Brattle St. #1, Cambridge (354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. **Barry Lopez** reads from his novel, *Light Action in the Caribbean,* a series of short stories that explore human devotion to the land.

Friday, Nov. 17

Grolier Poetry Series
Arthur M. Sackler Museum Lecture Hall, 485 Broadway St., Cambridge (547-4648). 8pm. $5 at the door, $4 in advance, $2 students. Poet **John Ashbury** reads from his book, *One Hundred Multiple Choice Questions.* Also, **Charles North** reads poetry from *The Nearness of the Way You Look Tonight.*

Harvard Book Store Author Series
1256 Mass Ave., Cambridge (661-1515). 3pm. Free. **Sophie Freud** and **Louis Berger** talk about Berger's work, *Freud: Darkness in the Midst of Vision.* The work deals with Freud's difficult personality and the impact it had on both his brilliant and questionable ideas.

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Explore the world of an outcast Hollywood writer in *Refugees from Hollywood: A Journal of the Blacklist Years.* Author **Jean Rouverol** discusses her exile in Mexico City and her struggle to win her career back.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free. **Jennifer Niven** reads from her nonfiction work, *The Ice Master: The Doomed 1913 Voyage of the Karluk.*

Wordsworth Books Reading Series
Brattle Theatre. 40 Brattle St. #1, Cambridge (354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. **Richard Ben Cramer** reads from his novel, *Joe Dimaggio: A Hero's Life*, a look at the ups and downs of the baseball hero's career.

Saturday, Nov. 18

Comicopia Store Author Event
464 Comm. Ave., Boston(266-4266). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 1-4pm. **Brian Wood**, writer of marvel comics *Generation X*, is on hand to talk about his comic book, *Channel Zero.*

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. **Joe Lavin**, who delights readers via his online column, is on hand to talk about his book, *But I Digress...Humor Columns from the Web.*

Newtonville Books Author Event
296 Walnut Street, 296 Walnut Street, Newton. 5:30pm, Free. **G.K. Wuori** reads from his new book, *An American Outrage: A Novel of Quillifarkeag, Maine.* The book centers around the tragedy of police brutality.

Wordsworth Books Reading Series
Brattle Theatre. 40 Brattle St. #1, Cambridge (354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm . Authors **Chris Schlesinger** and **John Willoughby** discuss their novel, *How to Cook Meat,* a cookbook that also delves into the best cooking methods for all kinds of meaty products.

Sunday, Nov. 19

New Words Bookstore Reading Series
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 3pm. Free. The bookstore brings together leading writers to celebrate the achievements of women. **Jean Kilbourne** talks about her novel, *Can't Buy My Love*, a work about ads directed toward women.

Monday Nov. 20

Blacksmith House Poetry Series
56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). 8:15pm. $10. Nobel Prize winner **Robert Pinsky** reads from his new collection, *Jersey Rain*, in a benefit event for the Blacksmith House Poetry Series.

Borders Bookshop Author Event
300 Boylston St., Newton (630-1120). 7:30pm. **Deborah Cohen's** *Just Get Me Through This!* is the first book to address the day-to-day experience of dealing with breast cancer.

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free. Author **Patrick McGrath** reads from his novel, *Martha Peake: A Novel of the Revolution,* a book that explores the life of a headstrong young woman during the 1770s.

Harvard Book Store Author Series
The Holyoke Center, 1350 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm, Free (pick up tickets at 1256 Mass. Ave.) **David Bodanis** speaks about his book $E=MC^2$, in which he gives the history of one of the greatest scientific achievements of all time.

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Professor of Law at Harvard Law School **Robert H. Mnookin** talks about his book, *Beyond Winning: Negotiating to Create Value in Deals and Disputes.* It is a step-by-step guide to conflict resolution.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Free. **Rhonda Huffey**, published in *Ploughshares* and the *Amherst Review*, reads from her debut novel, *Hallelujah Side.*

Tuesday, Nov. 21

Borders Bookshop Author Event
310-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. 6pm. Author **Donald Pfarrer** and filmmaker **Roberto Mighty** talk about the process of making Pfarrer's book, *Temple & Shipman,* into a locally produced movie.

Bestsellers

HARDCOVER FICTION
1. **Prodigal Summer** by Barbara Kingsolver
2. **When We Were Orphans** by Kazuo Ishiguro
3. **The Amber Spyglass** by Philip Pullman
4. **Shopgirl : A Novella** by Steve Martin
5. **Last Precinct** by Patricia Daniels Cornwell
6. **Very Hungry Caterpillar** by Eric Carle
7. **Horns to Toes** by Sandra Boynton
8. **Drowning Ruth** by Christina Schwartz
9. **Make Way for Ducklings** by Robert McCloskey
10. **Boo Who?** by Steve Carpenter, Katy Hall and Lisa Eisenberg

HARDCOVER NON-FICTION
1. **I Know Just What You Mean** by Ellen Goodman and Patricia O'Brien
2. **In the Heart of the Sea** by Nathaniel Philbrick
3. **Blue Day Book** by Bradley Trevor Grieve
4. **Haikus for Jews** by David Badert
5. **Paris to the Moon** by Adam Gopnik
6. **Into the Arms of Strangers** by Mark Jonathan Harris and Deborah Oppenheimer
7. **America's Queen** by Sarah Bradford
8. **Betrayal of Trust** by Laurie Garrett
9. **Robert Kennedy** By Evan Thomas
10. **Power of Gold** by Peter L. Bernstein

Provided by Brookline Booksmith for the week of Oct. 23-29.

BEVERLY HALL

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free. Poet **Laure-Anne Bosselaar** and contributors from the *Milkweed Anthology* read from *Urban Nature: Poems About Wildlife in the City.*

Griot's Corner Poetry Event
256 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. $15. A Griot is a storyteller in traditional West African culture whose role is to preserve the oral history of the village. Kora player and singer **Balla Tounkara** of Mali introduces the West African tradition.

Sunday, Nov. 26

Borders Bookshop
85 Worcester Road, Framingham (508-875-2321). 2pm. Free. Artist **Sylvia Long** celebrates the holiday season with her new book, *Deck the Halls.*

Tuesday, Nov. 28

Barnes & Noble Author Event
170 Boylston St., Newton (965-7621). 7:30pm. Join **Susan Abrams** as she relates some compelling lessons from women who have succeeded in today's tough business environments. She discusses her book, *The New Success Rules for Women.*

Borders Bookshop Author Event
300 Boylston St., Newton (630-1120). 7:30pm. Local lawyer **David S. Brody** is on hand to read from his novel, *Unlawful Deeds.* Local publishing agent and Brody's wife, **Kimberly Scott**, reads from her book, *Papaya Myths,* as well.

Borders Bookshop Author Event
310-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30pm. Author **Bill Edison** talks about the greatest art theft in the world—when two men posing as Boston police officers broke into the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and stole over $300 million worth of art. Edison's premise in his novel *One Bad Thing,* is that the collection never left the Boston area.

Boston Public Library Author Event
700 Boylston St., Boston (536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6pm. Author **James Gleick** reads from his work, *Faster: The Acceleration of Just About Everything,* a book about the frantic pace of millennial life and where it's headed.

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free. Author **Eric Bogosian** reads from his novel, *Mall.* It is the outrageous story of five suburbanites whose lives intersect after one violent and life-altering night.

Newton Free Library
L330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). 7:30pm. **John B. Gregorian**, president of one of the oldest oriental rug companies in North America and author of *Oriental Rugs of the Silk Route,* speaks about the book and the biz.

ONGOING

Agape, Tuesdays
The Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (266-6710). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8pm-10pm. Every Tuesday, this somewhat sophisticated poetry group gathers to share versions of their latest work.

Cantab Lounge, Wednesdays
738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8-10pm. $3. Wednesday nights at the Cantab always pack in more than 30 poets in just two hours for open mike and a slam.

Club Passim, Tuesdays
47 Palmer St., Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. $5. All open-mike fanatics must experience this open-mike night—a training ground for up-and-coming poets. Sign up Tuesdays, 7:30pm.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Night, Sundays
1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. $4 cover. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes for the featured poet.

O'Brien's Pub, Mondays
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. A mix of rock and spoken word is performed one Monday a month at 9pm—the performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry Night, Saturdays
Out of the Blue Gallery, 168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. Every Saturday is poetry night, and a spoken-word and music event also takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month. It features music by Rob Gonzalez and poetry by Nola Kelley.

Rhythm and Muse Open Mike, Thursdays
403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-6622). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook. A headlining poet is followed by an open-mike session every first Thursday of the month.

Stone Soup Poetry Night, Mondays
Zeitgeist Gallery, 312 Broadway St., Cambridge (227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7:30pm. $3. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets have served up soothing inspirations with their weekly readings. Keep the good vibes going Mondays with a wealth of featured writers.

education

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Education. Or e-mail information to education@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

CLASSES/LECTURES

Wednesday, Nov. 15

Banking on the Web
Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston St., Conference Room 5/6, Boston (536-5400, ext. 2296). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6pm. **Douglas Jones** of Cambridge Trust Bank speaks at this Web workshop.

Election 2000: A Review and Forecast
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (373-5800). MBTA: Blue/Orange Line to State. 6:30pm. Free. 7 News political editor **Andy Hiller** moderates as Congressman **Barney Frank** explores the winning factors, missing ingredients, lucky breaks and decisive moments of the 2000 election.

MIMC Behind the Screen: TechSpace
TechSpace, 580 Harrison Ave., Boston (227-2822). 6:30-8:30pm. Free. TechSpace offers entrepreneurs access to office space, services and capital in order to speed new ventures to market—without requiring entrepreneurs to relinquish equity or control. Tour its unique office environment.

Tom Snyder Productions
The Cambridge Center for Adult Education, Harvard Square, 56 Brattle Street, Cambridge (547-6789, ext. 1) www.ccae.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm.* From award-winning shows like *Dr. Katz: Professional Therapist* on Comedy Central and *Squiggle-vision*, **Tom Snyder** has masterfully created tools to aid learning and teaching, building a very successful company in the process. Snyder provides insights into today's software and tech-business environment and prospects.

Thursday, Nov. 16

Boston's Italians
East Boston Branch Library, 276 Meridian St., East Boston (569-0271). 6:30pm. William P. Marchione will discuss the role of Italians in Boston since 1910.

The First Lady: Co-President or Hostess?
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). 12:15-1pm. $5. **Ruth Sheehan**, Northeastern University lecturer, examines how the role of the first lady, from Lou Hoover to Hillary Clinton, has changed from behind-the-scenes adviser and public hostess to political leader and social activist.

Jews in Hollywood
Brookline Adult Education, 225 Greenough St., Brookline, (730-2700). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. 7-8:30pm. $5. Learn how the history of Jews in the United States is linked to the history of motion pictures, in front of and behind the camera.

Mozart and Seduction
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, Harvard Square, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 10:30am. $2. **Jim Smith** explores this musical master's sensual side, offering ways to incorporate his techniques into your own personal life.

Saturday, Nov. 18

***The Boston Globe*'s Money Matters Personal Finance Conference & Expo**
World Trade Center, Boston (888-397-6210). www.boston.com/moneymatters. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. 8am-4pm. $15-45. Call ahead to register.* Whether you're a beginning or experienced investor, you need solid information and in-depth analysis to help you advance your long-term financial goals. Informative tracks, presented by keynote speakers **Don Phillips**, CEO of Morningstar Inc., **Kenneth S. Apfel**, commissioner of Social Security and 25 others, include Financial Independence; Getting Started; Intermediate Investing; Advanced Investing; Planning for Retirement; Living in Retirement; and Online Investing.

Coping with Difficult People
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, Harvard Square, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 11am-5pm. $85. President of Leverage Thinking, **Mel Epstein**, discusses the seven types of difficult people and ways to minimize their demotivating and debilitating effects through tactical intervention.

dance clubs

Advice to Contributors
Submit information by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Clubs or e-mail to clubs@improper.com. Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Nights

Mondays

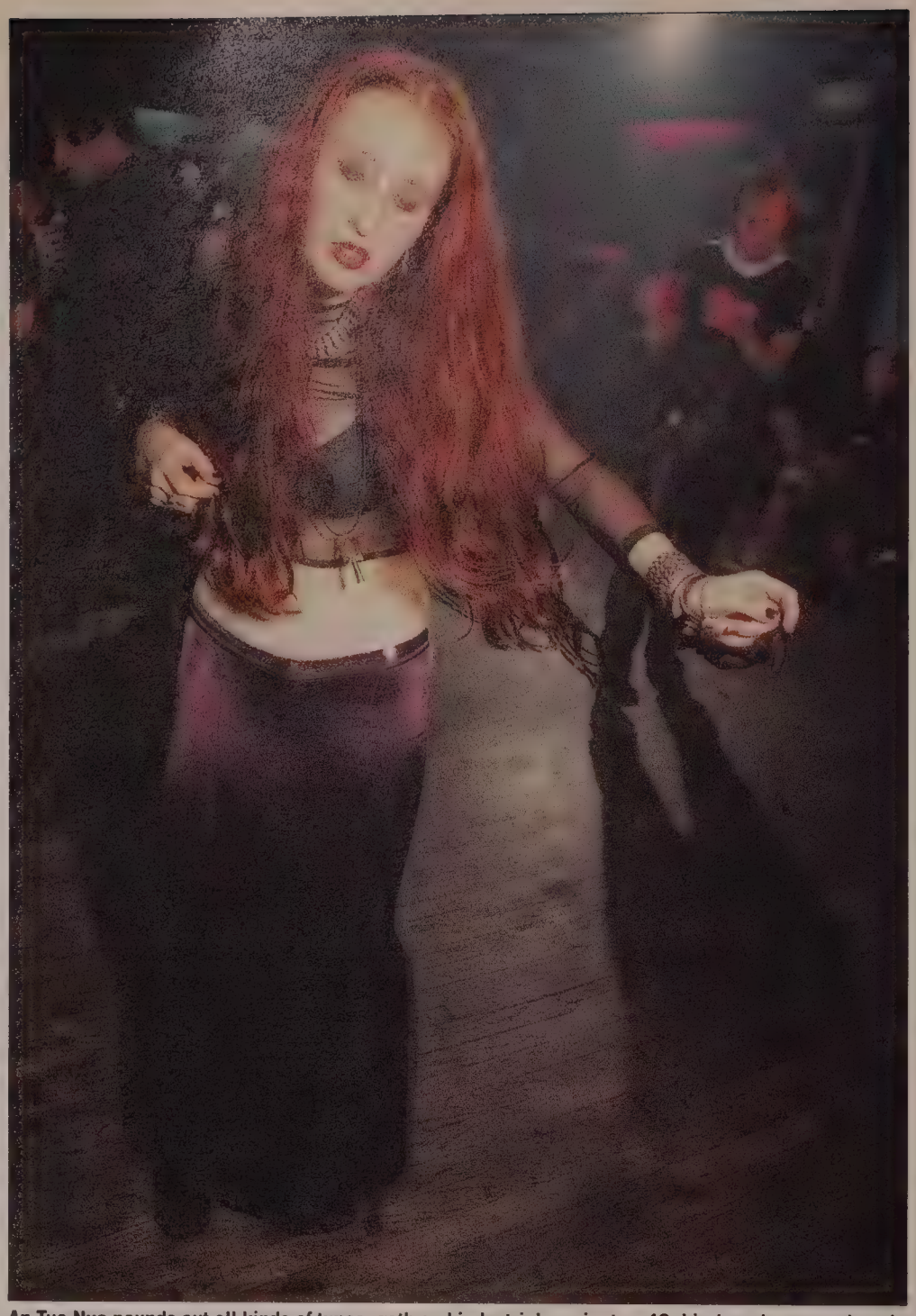
Ceremony
An Tua Nua. Pounding goth and industrial music shakes the house.
Cabaret
Encore Lounge. Show tunes and Cabaret. 9pm-1am.
Language
Hibernia. This incredible drum-and-bass night is heated up with Cosmo. 8pm. 21+.
Monsta Monday
Bill's Bar. DJ Kaptain Krunch kicks off the week. 9pm. $5, 18+.
Sissy K's
The Financial District's hot spot has live acoustic music downstairs and DJs spinning top-40, R&B and dance upstairs. $5.
Static
Axis. DJ Jay Ine delivers Hardhouse and UK Progressive. Plus a drag/strip event with Mizery. 10pm, $5. 19+.
Vertigo Mondays
Vertigo. Caesar and Giorgio throw a chic party for those who never want to stop dancin'. Dress slick. 10pm. No cover.

Tuesdays

Fat Tuesdays
Bill's Bar. This off-the-hook night features DJ Chaos scratching out hip-hop. 10pm. $12, 18+.
Flaunt
Aria. Hip-hop and R&B with guest DJs. 19+, $10.
The Forum
Lava Bar. Join Mission Control and support the local DJ scene as home-grown talents share the floor. 10pm. 21+.
Got Milk?
Venu. If you're chic you'll be at Venu for Milk—a devilishly hip party with DJ Osheen. Dress is funky. 21+.
Hibernia
The DJ Lounge is perfect for a relaxed night out on a Tuesday. 7pm.
Lot 36
Embassy. DJ Eddie K. heats things up with progressive Euro House at the city's hot club. 10pm. $15. 19+.
Mingle Tuesdays
The Modern. This spot screams sophistication. With DJs, a raw bar, vodka bar and late lounge. 10pm. 21+.
Showtunes
Encore Lounge. Bobby Femino plays the classic piano bar show tunes. 9pm-1am.
Sissy K's
The Financial District's hot spot has live acoustic music downstairs and DJs spinning top-40, R&B and dance upstairs. $5.
Sophia's
Free Salsa lessons by Dan Marshall. 9-10pm, followed by dancing. 5pm-2am. no cover. 21+.

Wednesdays

Backstage
DJ Jonny C. spins top-40 dance. 10pm, no cover. 21+.
College Night
The Aquarium. Guest DJs spin all sorts of tunes at this relatively new venue at 10pm.
Encore Lounge
Michelle Curie plays blues and jazz at the piano bar. 9pm.
Funk and Groove
Bill's Bar. DJ Tim Collins spins live funk, soul and hip-hop. 9pm. $5, 18+.
Groove Lounge
Downstairs at The Exchange. This lounge has it all—jazz, house, funk and soul.
Hedonism
Upstairs at The Exchange. DJ Infinite and DJ Luca provide the soundtrack for you sweaty and ready dancers to be naughty to. 21+.
Latin Night
The Aquarium. This aquatic-themed Davis Square club offers dance lessons from 9-10pm.
Mason
Hibernia. Perfect Downtempo and house music, complete with funky breaks.



An Tua Nua pounds out all kinds of tunes: goth and industrial music, top-40, hip-hop, house and soul.

Pravda 116
Spend the night at one of the city's most decadent hot spots—set to beats by DJ Alex and DJ Felix. 21+.
Sissy K's
The Financial District's hot spot has live acoustic music downstairs and DJs spinning top-40, R&B and dance upstairs. $5.
Sophia's
Live Latin band on the first floor beginning at 9:30pm. DJ Eddy K spins best of international music on Sophia's second floor. 5pm-2am. $10. 21+.

Thursdays

An Tua Nua
Top 40, old school, hip-hop, house and soul spun by DJ Tim Collins.
Aquarium
The Kiss 108 FM dance party. 10pm. $3.
Backstage
Tonight's adrenaline high features special-guest DJs spinning all sorts of top-40 dance and club classics. 10pm, $5. 21+.
Big Easy
This hot New Orleans-themed nightspot has it all—even billiards. 9pm.
Charlie's Angels Night
Polly Esther's. Dance to '70s, '80s or '90s tunes. 8pm, $5.
Chrome
Axis. Resident DJs John Debo and Ali Ajami spin house and trance. 10pm, $10. 19+. •Nov. 16 Saeed and Palash with Evolution. •Nov. 23 Dave Seaman and Terry Francis. •Nov. 30 Carl Cox.
College Night
The Exchange. Bring your college ID and party to house, hip-hop, R&B and reggae. 9pm, 19+.
Downtempo Lounging
The Modern. DJ Ricky Fatts spins while you enjoy the raw bar and vodka bar. 9pm-2am, 21+.
Embassy Thursday Nights
DJ Anthony hosts Latin Lounge. 10pm, $15, 19+.
Encore Lounge
Michelle Curie plays great American, blues and jazz at the piano bar. 9pm-1am.
Europa
Enter Club Destiny for DJ Rip's house and trance.
Fashion House
Aria. Fashion shows and DJ Roger spinning house. It's also Greek Night in the Angel Room. $10, 21+.
Graduate School Night
Pravda 116. DJ Maric spins tunes to relax you.
Heaven
Comedy Connection Backstage. Music by DJs Johnny C and Freddie C. Proper dress. 10pm. No cover.
Heaven and Hell
Upstairs at The Exchange. Macgyver spins trance, and DJ Chaos spins hip-hop, reggae and R&B.
Hibernia Thursdays
DJ Jeremy spins loopy, trippy, trip-hop. 7pm.
Il Panino
Mingle and dance at this social playground for young professionals. 9pm. 21+.
International Thursday
Avalon. A mixed crowd fills this popular night spot as DJ Manolo pumps out progressive Euro House. 10pm, $15. 19+.
Latin Quarter
The Roxy. You know it's time to get down when the Roxy breaks out Latin dance mixes. 10:30pm, 21+.
The Modern
International Thursdays features R&B classics. 10pm, $15, 19+. •Nov. 16 *Interview Magazine* party with Chloe Sevigny.
Sissy K's
The Financial District's hot spot has live acoustic music downstairs and DJs spinning top-40, R&B and dance upstairs. $5.
Sophia's
Salsa lessons followed by dancing with guest Latin DJs in Sophia's new basement lounge and dance floor. Live Latin band on the first floor beginning at 9:30pm. DJ Eddy K spins best of Latin on second floor. 5pm-2am. $10. 21+.
Speed
Karma. Resident DJs Bruno spin house to an edgy crowd. 10pm, $12. 19+.
Sugar Shack
The best music from three decades pounds through the festival atmosphere where every day is Mardi-Gras.
Sweetwater Cafe
Live bands perform while guests sip margaritas.
The List
Lava Bar. *Lavabar.com*. DJ 7L and guests along with Verse/D bring you soul and funk. 10pm. 21+.
Underground
Bill's Bar. DJ Mark Hamilton showcases up and coming acts and established bands. 9pm. Cover varies, 18+.
Venu
DJ Nailz spins to a huge college crowd. 19+.

Fridays

An Tua Nua
DJ Vinny puts together a great night of top-40 hits and your favorites from the '70s, '80s and '90s.
Aquarium
DJ Lu spins today's hottest dance hits.
American Karma
Karma. All-star American top-40 remixes with DJ Tim Collins, live on STAR 93.7. 9pm, $8, 19+.
Avaland
Avalon. Everything about this place screams "Party!" With Ali Ajami and special-guest DJs. 10pm, $15. 19+. •Nov. 17 special-guest DJ Marco •Nov. 24 special-guest DJ Dan.
Backstage
DJ Jonny C spins top-40. 10pm, $5. Proper dress, 21+.
Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans–themed nightspot has some of the best mainstream DJs in town.
Buzz Fridays
Buzz. Roger M lays down Latin house tracks while DJs pay homage to the house music gods. 11pm, $15. 19+.
Cabaret
Encore Lounge. John O'Neil and Jan Peters sing showtunes, great American songbook and cabaret. 9pm-1am.
Envy
This popular destination is filled with a mass of sweaty 'n' ready dancers. 9pm, $5 after 10pm. 21+.
Exchange Fridays
The Exchange. Up High, Tiziano and Maurizio, play house trip while DJ G-Squared opens the Vault. 9pm.
Focus at Hibernia
Cocktails with Alan Strack and deep house. 10pm, 21+.
Global Fridays
Roxy. International house featuring local, national and European DJs. 10:30pm. Proper dress and ID.
Life
Lava Bar. Dance to a different drummer with DJ Fran Englehardt's deeply rooted, soulful rhythms. 10pm.
Mondo Bar
Roxy. International and house music with resident DJs Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. 10:30pm, 21+.
NYC Jukebox
All the disco and rock you can handle. 9pm, Casual but neat. 21+.
Pravda 116
DJ Mario spins current dance music at this hot spot.
Revolution
Embassy. Find Latin and progressive Euro House here with DJ Eddie K. 10pm, $15, 19+.
Sissy K's
This new hot spot has live acoustic music downstairs and DJs spinning top-40, R&B and dance upstairs. $5.
Sophia's
Live Latin band begins at 9:30pm on the first floor. DJ Mike C. from Puerto Rico plays Latin Ddance on second floor. DJ Zino spins Miami style Latin House in new basement lounge and dance floor. 5pm-2am. $10. 21+.
Spin Cycle
Axis. Glitzed-out club hoppers shake it to the beats of DJ Tim Ryan and DJ David James. 10pm, $12. 19+.
Sugar Shack
DJs and specialty drinks, dancing 'til 2am.
Sweetwater Cafe
DJs KC and Jonesey entertain on two floors.
Venu
The scene is elegant for this jacket-required international romp. Get on your Gucci as DJ Arsit spins. 21+.

Saturdays

An Tua Nua
DJ Tim Collins mixes top-40, hip-hop, house and soul.
Aquarium
Saturday night dance party with DJs. 10pm. $5.

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

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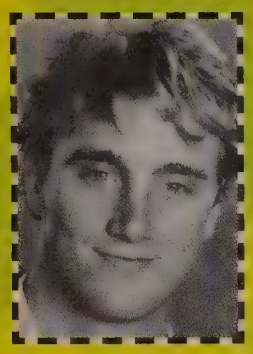


JAY MOHR
November 16-18

JIM BREUER
November 19

CRAIG SHOEMAKER
November 24-25

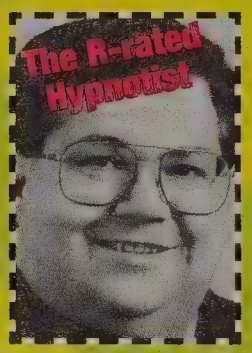
TALENT
November 26

JEFF DUNHAM
December 1-3

MARGARET CHO
December 8-9

ANTHONY CLARK
December 28-31

RICHARD LEWIS
January 11



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Downtown
Avalon. Resident DJs Manolo and Mattie O. gyrate your arse with hits and club classics. 10pm, $15. 21+.

Backstage
DJ Freddie C spins top-40 dance and club classics. 10pm. $5. Proper dress, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans–themed nightspot has live bands all weekend. Thirsty? There are four bars to boot.

Blues
Encore Lounge. Shake off your blues and listen to honky-tonk, classic and contemporary rock. Sit-ins welcome! 9:30-2am.

Classic Saturdays
Embassy/The Modern. DJ Eddie K puts out classic Euro House for the A-list. 10pm, $15, 19+.

Club Juliana
Boogieing cuties converge on Boston's newest Latin Night starting at 10pm. Dress to impress. $10.

Club Nicole
The mob is thick for this exclusive trend-setter. DJ Alex spins Eurohouse. Jackets required. 21+.

Club Piteko
Fajitas & Ritas'. DJ Piteko leads the patry to "Dance like no one is watching" specializing in Cape Verdean music, adding in a mix of samba, reggae, soukous, zouk, hip-hop and roots. $7. 10:30pm. 21+.

Downtown Saturdays at Avalon
DJ Monolo spins progressive house. 10pm, $15, 21+.

Envy
DJ Tom Baxter blasts top-40, house and dance. 9pm, $5.

Elements of Life
Karma. Guest DJs spin house while DJ Justin Hoffman spins hip-hop, funk and soul. 10pm, $15, 19+.

Exchange Saturdays
Guest DJs spin house, hip-hop and top-40 tunes.

Hibernia Saturdays
Steve Porter whips the crowd into a frenzy. 10pm. 21+.

Indulgence
Aria. DJ Raffi spins house and club top-40. In the Angel room, DJ Roger spins Latin and Eurohaus. $10, 21+.

Lava Bar
Anything Goes. DJ Fran and Kris Kono unite with high-energy house and Latin beats. 10pm, 21+.

Miami Club Night
Club Joy/Yesterday's. Get a taste of Miami nightlife. 9:30pm (ladies free before 11pm), $10. 21+. Ladies, 19+.

Mischief
The Modern. Feeling mischievous? Ultra lounging with decadent desserts and erotic electronica. 21+.

Mythos
Venu. It's Greek International night with DJ Yorgo Jr. spinning the hits from the famous party islands.

NYC Jukebox
Disco and rock hits of 80's and 90's. 9:30pm, casual but neat. 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ Mario provides current dance jams.

Roxy Saturdays
High-energy house and dance by DJ Adilson. 9pm, proper dress. 21+.

Saturday Night Fever
Polly Esther's. Groove to three decades' worth of beats in the laser-lit Club DVD. 8pm, $10. 21+.

Sissy K's
The hot spot has acoustic music downstairs and DJs spinning top-40, R&B and dance upstairs. $5.

Smile
Bill's Bar. DJ Bruno takes over. 10pm. $12, 19+

Sophia's
DJ Edwin Mathos spins Latin dance on second floor. Live Latin band on the first floor beginning at 9:30pm, DJ Mike C from Puerto Rico spins best of salsa and merengue in new basement lounge and dance floor. 5pm-2am. $10. 21+.

Sugar Shack
Spice up your night with '70s, '80s and '90s dance music as DJ Rich Centi spins the hottest sounds.

Sweetwater Cafe
Music from DJs KC and Jonesey on two floors.

Who's on First?
Some of the latest and greatest in hip-hop, reggae, R&B and Latin is hosted by Lil' Mike, 10:30pm, $12. 18+.

X Night
Axis. Hear DJs Mike Gioscia and David James spin alternative rock and the hits from the '80s. 10pm, $10. 21+.

Sundays

Backstage
Urban Night. T Clark spins hip-hop, reggae and old school. Doors open at 10pm, $10. 21+.

Common People
An Tua Nua. Brit-pop, new wave, indie and more with DJ Adrienne. 9pm, $3. 19+.

Curve
Hannah's. Three DJs, one vibe. Special guests every week alongside resident DJ Earthrok spinning house, breaks and techno. 10pm. $5. 21+.

Encore Lounge
Saddle up to the piano bar and listen to Michael Kreutz play showtunes and great American songbook.

Evening in the Velvet Lounge
Trio. Oscar's Sunday night has moved to this hot spot, where you can kick back and lounge. No cover, 10pm.

Il Panino
This night features music by DJ Alex of Boston Beat and DJ Roger M. No cover, 21+.

Lava Bar
Pandora's Box (Club Courtesy). DJ Vinny and Sir Richard and Sterling spin '60s Exotica, loungecore, psychedelic flowerpop and Motown. 10pm. 21+.

Living Room
Aria. DJ Raffi spins Eurohouse. In the Angel Room, DJ Franklin spins Latin. $10, 21+. Proper dress.

Red Square Lounge
Pravda 116. Party in the front bar that is transformed into a comfortable lounge. 10pm-2am.

Reggae Sundays
Bill's Bar. DJ K-Don spins some of the best reggae around. 10pm. $10. 21+.

Salvation
An intimate night, courtesy of DJ Soul. $5.

Venu
Carnival comes to Boston every Sunday as DJ Adilson brings the heat of Rio to Venu. 21+.

Club Venues

An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (262-2121). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Aquarium *65 Holland St., Somerville (623-3200). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (338-7080). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center.*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (437-0300). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Backstage *245 Quincy Place, Boston (726-1110). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Buzz/Europa *51 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Club Nicole *40 Dalton St., Boston (236-4746). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*
Comedy Connection *Faneuil Hall, Boston (726-1110). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Embassy *36 Lansdowne St., Boston (536-2100). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Encore Lounge *279 Tremont St. Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Envy *25 Boylston Place, Boston (542-3689). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Europa *51 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Exchange *148 State St., Boston (726-7601). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Fajitas & 'Ritas *25 West St., Boston (426-1222). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park.*
Hannah's *499 Broadway St., Somerville (629-5302). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Hibernia *25 Kingston St., Boston (292-2333). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Karma *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9595). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Lava Bar *575 Comm. Ave., Boston (267-7707). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
NYC Jukebox *275 Tremont St., Boston (542-1123). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center.*
Oskar's *107 South St., Boston (542-6756). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Polly Esther's *262 Friend St., Boston (720-1966). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (482-7799). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Sissy K's *6 Commercial St., Boston (248-6511). MBTA: Blue Line to State.*
Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston (351-7001). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Sweetwater Cafe *5 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2515). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Trio *174 Lincoln St., Boston (357-TRIO). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (338-8061). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Vertigo *126 State Street, Boston (723-7277). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*

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Tuesday Nights:
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FASHION HOUSE

Friday Nights:
PLUSH

Saturday Nights:
SOPHISTICATED INDULGENCE

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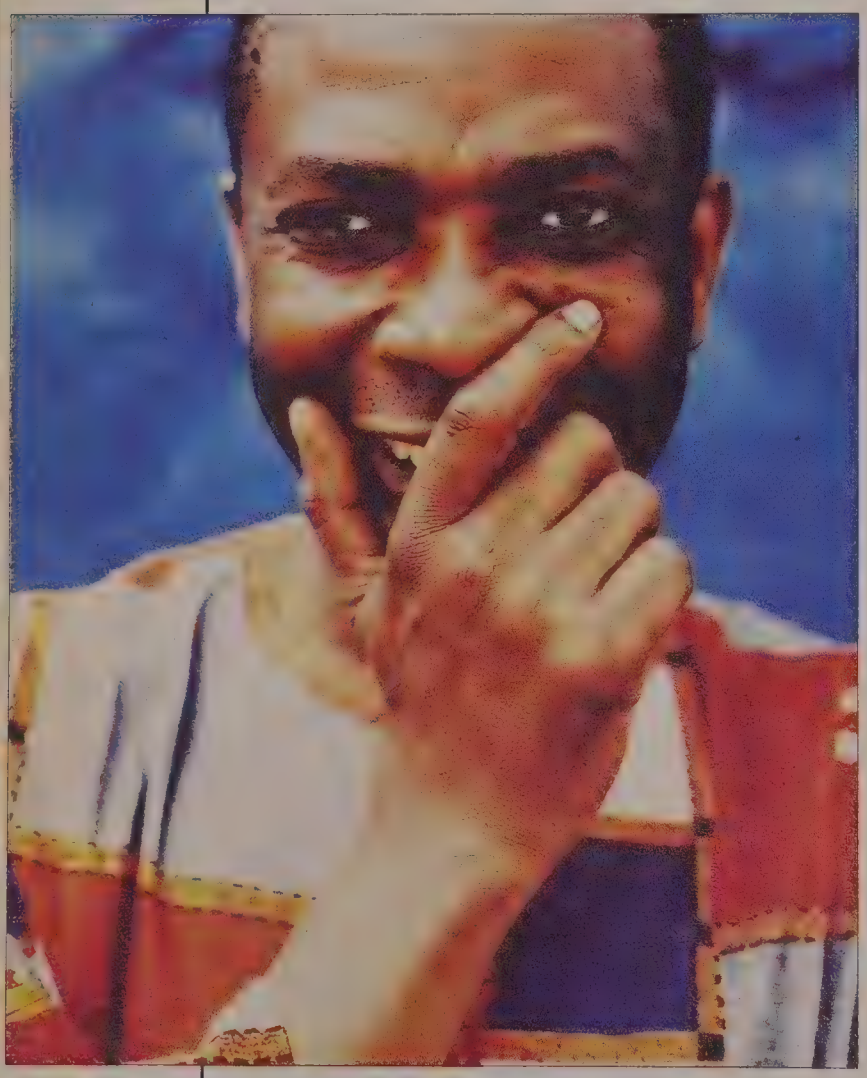
A MULTILINGUAL MESSAGE

No matter what language he sings in, Youssou N'Dour puts meaning behind the melody. BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

Senegalese superstar Youssou N'Dour has a magic touch with duets. He's best known in this country for his soaring vocal on Peter Gabriel's 1985 gem "In Your Eyes"; and that song became a triumphant cross-cultural encore in his joint tour with Gabriel. N'Dour's "7 Seconds," a 1994 duet with Neneh Cherry, also sold more than 2 million copies worldwide as a single.

But N'Dour more justly commands the spotlight on *Joko* (*The Link*), his first U.S. release in six years, and a rare tour with his Super Etoile Band, which hits the Somerville Theatre Nov. 20. *Joko* features the return of Gabriel for a mournful chorus on "This Dream," yet omits additional duets with Wyclef Jean and Sting that graced the CD's European version and might have lifted N'Dour's profile here further—on one level.

"There are hits in any musical language, and for better or worse, I don't really consider myself the kind of artist who's made to make hits," N'Dour says. "When I think of the duets that I do, these are really magnificent encounters. But with this American release, I wanted to present first the songs that perhaps had more meaning for me."



Although "In Your Eyes" came out way back in 1985, N'Dour still gets musical feedback from collaborator Peter Gabriel.

Meaning is a critical element to his music. Among key new tracks on the CD are "Miss," an homage to Senegalese women, and "Mademba (The Electricity Is Out Again)," a criticism of his country's power company, cast in the mbalax style, which blends local and Cuban rhythms with Western pop and reggae.

"Music is a powerful tool to speak to people," says N'Dour, alternating between English and translated French during a phone interview from New York. "And particularly in Africa, when people hear things in a musical setting, they pay attention."

Those messages also cross and transcend languages. N'Dour sings in English, French and his native Wolof, or a mix, sometimes all in the same song. In "My Hope Is in You," he sings the English lyric, "Drop your gun and go to school; do you hear me, brother?" The meaning is universal, though N'Dour has other factors in mind when choosing which language to use.

"Melody first, I think, gives me words," the singer says. "If I have melody, I think about words, and that sometimes means English or Wolof or French." In the case of "My Hope Is in You," he says, "I decided to write some English words and make it international, 'cause I think the message is not just for Senegal."

N'Dour, who holds his own link to Africa's griot caste of singer/storytellers through his mother's lineage, credits continued residency in Senegal for his rich pop fusion.

"Without that, I don't see how I could successfully mix modern and traditional elements," says N'Dour, 41. "Africa has changed a lot in the last 20 years. I think 60 percent of the Senegalese population is young, and effectively, I make music for them. And these young people, they have an appreciation for their roots, and at the same time, they are involved in and connected with the wider world in a way that was unknown to us when we were their age. So it's important to share with them the experience of living in Africa, and being connected internationally."

While marrying danceable rhythms and griot traditions, he also reflects spiritual roots. "I am more attentive in life, and I am more serene and sure of myself, because of what I perceive as my religious duties," N'Dour says. "And these attitudes pervade our entire culture without the weight of any kind of fundamentalism. Islam was introduced into our country by, among others, Cheikh Amadou Bamba, who married religion and culture in a very original way."

As for musical influences, he says, "First, the blues are close to our music, for the space and the improvisational character. It's close in style if not in form. So we feel connected to the blues. Second, I enjoy the music of the 60s, the soul music. This was a very creative period, and I'm very happy that there's been a resurgence in interest in that period, and in Latin music also. African music itself has experienced many new permutations and evolutions, and I listen to a lot of African music too."

Such broad musical interests are something he shares with Gabriel, with whom he toured alongside Bruce Springsteen, Sting and Tracy Chapman for Amnesty International in 1988.

"Whenever either one of us is seeking a new direction musically, we tend to call each other up and talk about it," N'Dour says. "That's actually the deepest connection between us. We both like to take new directions. If music doesn't take new directions, it has the risk of stagnating." iB

Youssou N'Dour

Plays at the Somerville Theatre Nov. 20.

Advice to Contributors

Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fax (859-1446); by mail to Calendar/Music; or by email to music@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, phone numbers and nearest T stops. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers

Information for the music section is compiled from different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double check dates and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

Concerts

Reggae Winterfest with Beenie Man, Elephant Man, Junior Kelly, Singing Melody and Terry Linen
Nov. 24 Avalon

Reggae Winterfest with Beenie Man, Tanto Metro & Devonte and Baby Cham
Nov. 25, Avalon

The Bacon Brothers
Nov. 16, Paradise

Cherry Poppin' Daddies
Nov. 21, Axis

Def Tones
Nov. 21 and 22, Tsongas Arena

Derek Trucks Band, Another Planet and the Seth Yacovone Band
Nov. 15 and Nov. 25, Somerville Theatre

King Crimson
Nov. 20 and 21, Berklee Performance Center

Bruce Hornsby
Nov. 17, Berkeley Performance Center

Marilyn Manson, the Union Underground and Godhead
Nov. 22, Tsongas Arena

moe
Nov. 17, Worcester Palladium

Nile
Nov. 22, Worcester Palladium

Pantera, Kittie and Morbid Angels
Nov. 16, Tsongas Arena

Ratdog
Nov. 25, Worcester Palladium

Reel Big Fish, Catch 22 and Midtown
Nov. 15, Axis

Rock for Kicks with Stephen King and the Rock Bottom Remainders
Nov. 16, Roxy

They Might Be Giants
Nov. 18, Avalon

The Saw Doctors
Nov. 28, Avalon

Dar Williams
Nov. 19, Orpheum Theatre

Yo La Tengo
Nov. 28, Roxy

Indie rockers Yo La Tengo play Nov. 28 at Roxy.

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CONCERT HALLS

Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Berklee Performance Center *136 Mass. Ave., Boston (747-2261). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.*
Orpheum Theatre *Hamilton Place, Boston (482-0650). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Somerville Theatre *55 Davis Sq., Somerville (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Tsongas Arena *300 Arsenal Dr., Lowell (978-848-6900).*
Worcester Palladium *261 Main St., Worcester (508-797-9696).*

Rock, Jazz and Blues

Wednesday, Nov. 15

The Aquarium Block Head, cover varies.
The Attic Xguru and Mappari, 21+.
Axis Reel Big Fish, Catch 22, Midtown, 8pm, $15.
Bill's Bar Funk & Groove with DJ Tim Collins, Edable Gray with Delwin G and Josh Metcalf and Reign Muzik, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
Club Passim David Barrett, the Garden and Nate Borofski, 8pm, $10.
Common Ground Four year anniversary party with What A Way To Go-Go (Mod Night with DJ Vin), 10pm.
Dick's Last Resort The Jennerators, 7pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Michelle Currie 9pm.
Good Life Downtown The Crank Tones, no cover.
Harpers Ferry Government Grown with the Nemitz Brothers, 9:30pm, $3.
Hennessy's Johnny Bahama and Me & Julio, 9:30pm, 21+.

Miss Fortune celebrate the release of their new CD Nov. 17 upstairs at the Middle East.

House of Blues Miracle Orchestra, 9pm, $8, 18+.
Johnny D's Steve Fobert, 8:30pm.
Kirkland Cafe Local Jack, Becky Warren Band and Dumb it Down, $5.
Kitty O'shea's Jimmy Noonan, Chris McGrath and Ted Davis, 6pm.
Lilli's Hybrasil, Crown Victoria (Bill Janovitz formerly of Buffalo Tom), $7, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Residency with Francine, cover varies.
McGann's Amo.
Middle East U: Benefit for *What's Up* magazine with Threeday Threshold and Hip Tanaka, $6, 18+. D: Don Caballero (featuring solo sets from each member followed by a headlining set) and Fred Weaver (of Vineland) acoustic set, 8pm, $8, 18+. C: Bangalore, 7pm; Belly Dancing, 10pm.
Paddy Burke's Tom Hegarty, 8pm; Boston Folk and Singers Club, 9pm.
Rack Search Party, 6pm, no cover.
Regattabar Red, White and Blues with Jayne West& David Ripley, 8pm, $16.
Scullers Tuck & Patti, 8 and 10pm, $20.
Sky Bar Johnny Wishbone with T-House of the Almighty and Canine, 9pm, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Jabe.
Toad The Ken Clark Organ Trio, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Krakow, Bud Baker Band, Laffing Freemen and Pat Burtis Band, $4.
White Horse Tavern Laurie Geltman Band, 9pm.
Wonder Bar Leo Blanco, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Tim Ingles, 5pm; the Phillippe Crittien Trio, 9pm.

Thursday, Nov. 16

Bill's Bar The Underground with DJ Mark Hamilton, Vigilantes with Lost City Angels, Gutterpunx and VD, $7, 9pm, 18+.
Black Horse Tavern Joe Burger.
Black Rose Celtic Clan, cover varies.
Bob the Chef's Carl Smitty Smooth Group, 7:30pm.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the thrillers, 9pm.
Common Ground The Datsuns, 10pm.
Dick's Last Resort Moon Glow, 7pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Michelle Currie 9pm.
Grand Canal The Swinging Johnsons, 9pm, 21+.
Harpers Ferry One Flew East with 84 West, 9:30pm, $4.
House of Blues Fathead plus Soul Work, 10pm, $8, 18+.
Johnny D's Kornog, 9pm.
Kirkland Cafe Modeles; Return of Kathy Duff, $5.
Kitty O'shea's Jimmy Noonan, Chris McGrath and Mike Shorrock, 8pm.
Lilli's Heineken Ampt Music Series with the Gentlemen, the Pills and Waltham, 9:30pm, no cover.
Linwood Nola Kelly with Mike Mriano, Embryonic, Headshot and Sift, 10pm, $5.
Lizard Lounge Club D'Elf, cover varies.
McGann's Eddie Dillon Band, cover varies.
Middle East U: J Church, Ted Leo/Pharmicist, $7, 18+. D: Cinerama (featuring David Gedge from the Wedding Present) and Lilys, $8, 18+. C: Tony Marino Quartet, 7pm; Board of Education, 10pm, no cover.
Paddy Burke's Tom Carroll, 8pm.
Passim Jimmy Lafave, Ben Demerath opens, 8pm, $10.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett.
Rack The Cattunes, 6pm, no cover.
Regattabar The McCoy Tyner Trio with Avery Sharpe and Al Foster, 8:30pm, $18.
Scullers Gato Barbieri, 8 and 10pm, $22.
Sky Bar Car Crash Show, Baby Strange, Prime Rib, Teen Beaters, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Rust Farm.
Toad Todd Thinaud, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Tara Jane O'Neil, oRSo and Clairvoyance, $7.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford Review, 9:30pm, 21+.

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Les Zygomates Lenny Stallworth, 5pm. Sun Steel featuring Ron Reid, 8pm, no cover.

Friday, Nov. 17

The Attic Soulwork with Little Horse, 21+.
Bill's Bar Chubby, Blow Me Down, Frigate and Chronic Overboogie, $8.
Black Horse Tavern Who's the Fat Guy.
Black Rose Celtic Clan & The Crossing .
Bob the Chef's Paulo Danay Jazz Quartet and special guests, 7:30pm.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the thrillers, 9pm.
Club Passim Josh White Jr., elijah Wald opens, 8pm, $12.
Common Ground Stymie, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff Magnus, 10pm.
Dick's Last Resort Beantown Bar Band, 7pm; Tigerlilly, 10pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge John O'Neil or Jan Peters, 9pm.
Grand Canal The Swinging Johnsons, 9pm, 21+.
Green Dragon Classic Trax, 9:30pm, $3, 21+.
Harpers Ferry Boston Horns CD-release party with the Stumble , 9:30pm, $6.
Hennessy's Me & Julio, 5pm, $5, 21+.
House of Blues Matt "Guitar" Murphy, 10pm, $15, 21+.
Johnny D's Kornog and Milo Z, 9pm, $10.
Kirkland Cafe Bell Tones, $5.
Kitty O'shea's Tom Courtney and Alan Loughnane, 9:30pm.
Lilli's DJ Spooky, 9pm, $15, 21+.
Linwood Vanity Press, Kippertin and Kitty Kill, 10pm, $6.
Lizard Lounge Edith and the Shelly Winters Project, cover varies.
Middle East U: Reverse, Missing Joe, Miss Fortune CD-release show and Something Ira, $7, 18+. D: Bim Skala Bim and Part One, $8, 18+. C: The Curtains, no cover.
Paddy Burke's Focal, 9:30pm.
Paradise The Sheila Divine and Six Going on Seven 8pm, $10.
Purple Shamrock The Return.
Rack Hebee Jebees, 6:15pm, no cover.
Regattabar The McCoy Tyner Trio with Avery Sharpe and Al Foster, 8 and 10:30pm, $20 .
Scullers Gato Barbieri, 8 and 10:30pm, $25.
Sky Bar Sand Machine, Fools Rush In, the Cautions, The Halogens, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg The Benders.
Toad Armadillos, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Helicopter Helicopter, Dragstrip Courage, the Decals CD-release show and Calendar Girl, $7.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chonic Chronicles, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates John Kordalewski, 5pm; the Thomas Hebb Trio, 9pm.

Saturday, Nov. 18

Bill's Bar Lab CD-release show with the Winefeild, 7:30pm, $7.
Black Horse Tavern Sky Blues, cover varies.
Black Rose Happy Hour Frank Ryan, Celtic Clan and the Crossing .
Bob the Chef's Sonny Watson Quartet, 7:30pm.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the thrillers, 9pm.
Common Ground Erl Shibe 5, 10pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort The Jennerators, 7pm; Part-time Lovers, 10pm.
Encore Lounge DesPres and DeGraff Revue, 9:30pm.
Good Life Downtown The Chiara Civello Quartet, no cover.
Grand Canal Happy Millionaires, 9pm, 21+.
Green Dragon The Swinging Johnsons, 9:30pm, $3, 21+.
Harpers Ferry Slipknot, 9:30pm, $7.
House of Blues Hubert Sumlin, 10pm.
Johnny D's Wildest Dreams, 9:45pm.
Kendall Cafe Lis Harvey, 9:30pm, $5.
Kitty O'shea's CJ Stevens and friends, 4pm; Courtney and Alan Loughnane, 9:30pm.
Lilli's Banco de Gaia, State of Benegal, 9pm, $10, 21+.
Linwood North East Performer Compilation CD-release party, the Dubnicks, Chubby and Neptune, 10pm, $6.
Lizard Lounge Four Piece Suit, cover varies.
Middle East U: Elf Power and the Glands, 7pm; Lamont, Crack Torch and Sinner's Club, 10pm, $7, 18+. D: Man or Astroman?, Tyro and the Causey Way, $10, 18+. C: The Curtains, no cover.

The Causey Way play Nov. 18 downstairs at the Middle East with Man or Astroman? and Tyro.

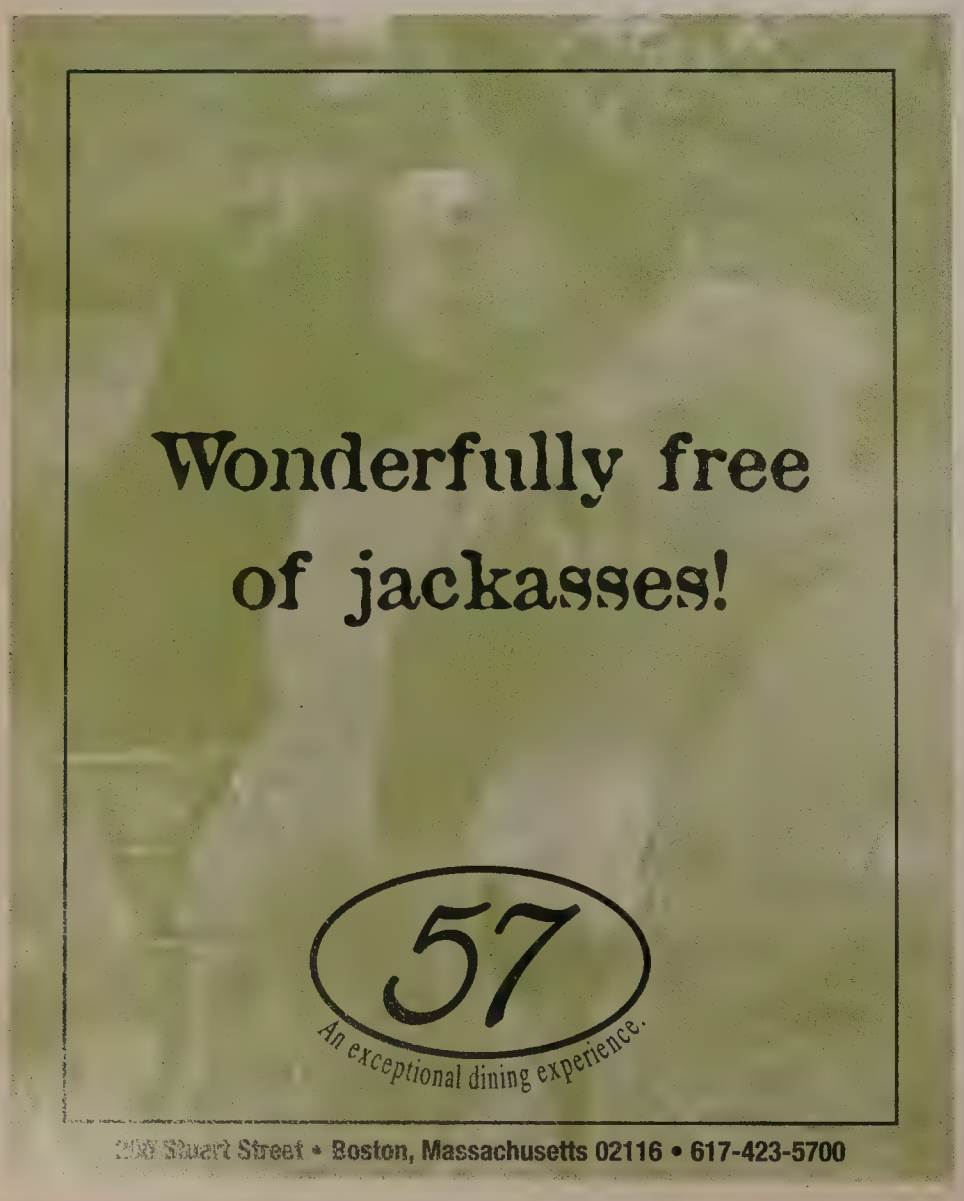
Paddy Burke's Focal, 9:30pm.
Paradise The Sheila Divine and Orbit, 8pm, $10.
Passim Live From New York, it's Saturday Night! with Anne Heaton, sam Shaber, Teddy Goldstein, Andrew Kerr, Edie Carey and Ina May Wool. 7pm, $12
Purple Shamrock Thomas Perk, cover varies.
Regattabar The McCoy Tyner Trio with Avery Sharpe and Al Foster, 8 and 10:30pm, $22 .
Scullers Gato Barbieri, 8 and 10:30pm, $25.
Sky Bar Medea Connection, Inhale Mary, The Gravy, Little A, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Christian McNeil of Hybrasio.
Toad Sonicrush, 7pm; the Jennifer Mathews Band, 10pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Popgun Seven CD-release party and Love Whip, $7.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Nadine Chase, 6pm; Valerie Stephens, 10pm, no cover.

Sunday, Nov. 19

Bill's Bar Reggae with Errol Strength, $10, 21+.
Black Rose Happy Hour, Frank Ryan and Celtic Clan.
Bob the Chef's Sunday Jazz brunch with Sonny Watson Quartet, 11am-3:30pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blues Band, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort Silver Lining gospel brunch, 10am; Rob Gonzalez, 7pm, no cover.
Harpers Ferry Rockett Friends, 9:30pm, $5.
House of Blues Vibewise, 9pm, $6, 18+.
Johnny D's Blues jam, 4:30pm; salsa dancing with lessons , 9pm.
Kitty O'shea's Tina Lech amd Friends, 8pm.
Lilli's Shake Senora and Dead Cat Bounce, $5, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Poetry slam hosted by Samantha Libby, 7:30pm; poetry jam featuring the Jeff Robinson Trio featuring Ren Jender, 9pm.
Middle East U: The In Out, Bobby Conn and Cheer-Accident, $7, 18+. C: Noah Maltsberger, 1pm; Luther "Dinty" Child and friends, 4pm; Gianna Viscardi, 7pm and Balla Tounkara, 10pm, no cover.
Paddy Burke's Tom Carroll, 8pm.
Passim Family Folk Choral, 3pm, $5; Ragas of the Evening, 7:30pm, $12.
Rack Chad LaMarsh, 9:30pm-1:30am, no cover.
Regattabar The McCoy Tyner Trio with Avery Sharpe and Al Foster, 7 and 9pm, $18.
Tír na nÓg Traditional Session.
Toad The Benders, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Water Section and the Humming, $4.
White Horse Tavern Dave Foley, 8pm, no cover.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30pm, 21+.

Monday, Nov. 20

Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Cantab Lounge Geoff Bartley's Open Mike, 8pm. Cindy Kaza, 9:30pm.
Club Passim Arabesque Presents the Al Gardner Armenian Band, 7:30pm, $8.



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Missing Joe play Nov. 17 at the Middle East.

Dick's Last Resort Brick Park, 7pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Michael Larson and Dorothy Miller, 9pm-1am.
Harpers Ferry Booty Juice, 9:30pm, $2.
House of Blues Rick Russell, 9pm, $6, 18+.
Kitty O'shea's CJ Stevens and friends, 8pm.
Lizard Lounge Improvisatoinal-jazz with the Fringe, cover varies.
Middle East U: Rose of Sharon, the Firebird Band, the Up On In and the Fashion Colt, $7, 18+. D: Salt on the Tounge Dance Company. C: Ho Bynum-McLaughlin Quartet, 7pm; the Out Side, 10pm, no cover.
Purple Shamrock Scott Damgaard.
Regattabar The Marcio Faraco Quintet and The Teresa Ines Group, 8pm, $14.
Tír na nÓg Resophonics.
Toad Shwang featuring Anita Suhanan, 8pm ; Tim Gearan and Band, 10:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Other Side Of the Bear Acoustic Series, cover varies.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Tim Ingles, 5pm, no cover.

Tuesday, Nov. 21

The Attic Almost Speechless, 21+.
Black Rose Eugene Byrne.
Cantab Lounge Leicester Flat, 9pm. Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 10pm.
Dick's Last Resort Beantown Bar Band, 7pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino 9-1am.
Harpers Ferry Another Planet & Friends, 9:30pm, $3.
Johnny D's Sandi Hammond, 8:30pm.
Kirkland Cafe Chris Zahnleiter.
Kitty O'shea's Kathleen Connelly, Sean Gannon and Jorge Keith, 8pm.
Lizard Lounge Jennifer Kimball, cover varies.
Middle East U: Brother's Keeper and Poison the Well, 8:30pm, $8, 18+. C: The Haygoods, 7pm; the Mingus Three, 10pm, no cover.
Paddy Burke's Dave Smyth, 7pm.
Plough & Stars The Buckners.
Rack Stu Sinclair, 8-12pm, no cover.
Regattabar The Marcio Faraco Quintet and The Teresa Ines Group, 8pm, $16.
Sky Bar Space 'N, Rosemary Crass, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Gary Wagon.
Toad The Brett Rosenberg Problem, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place On The Lam, Thi Anonymous Richard and Elysium, $4.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Brian McCree & Frank Wilkins, 5-7pm; the Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm, no cover.

Wednesday, Nov. 22

Bill's Bar Funk & Groove with DJ Tim Collins, Three Percent and Loop Dreams, $7, 18+.
Black Rose Eugene Byrne.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
Common Ground What A Way To Go-Go, 10pm.
Encore Lounge Michelle Currie 9-1am.
Good Life Downtown Little Memphis.
Harpers Ferry Clarias with Brother Chameleon, 9:30pm, $3.
Hennessy's Johnny Bahama and Me & Julio, 9:30pm, 21+.
House of Blues Mudhens, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Johnny D's Jerry Joseph, 8:30pm.
Kirkland Cafe Tim Mungenast & his Preexisting Conditions; Babyhead, $5.
Kitty O'shea's Jimmy Noonan, Chris McGrath and Ted Davis, 6pm.
Lizard Lounge Francine, cover varies.
Middle East U: Casa Myrna Vasquez Benefit with Incus, Project Sphere and DJ Addam 18+ $6. D: Unified Theory, 8:30pm, $8, 18+. C: Evan Harlan Trio, 7pm; Belly Dancing, 10pm, no cover.
Paddy Burke's Tom Hegarty, 8pm. Boston Folk Singers Club, 9pm.
Passim Bob Braunewell CD Release, Laura Higgins opens. 8pm, $10.
Rack Hung Jury, 6pm, no cover.
Tír na nÓg Onus B. Johnson.
Toad Flor Fina, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Annual pre-Thanksgiving party with Wide Iris, Jet Plastic, Red Planet and Tidal Wave, $7.
White Horse Tavern Sweet Fish, 9pm, no cover.
Wonder Bar Leo Blanco, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Fred Woodard, 5-7pm; the George Russel Trio, 8-12pm, no cover.

Thursday, Nov. 23

Black Rose Eugene Byrne.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, pm.
Encore Lounge Michelle Currie 9-1am.
Grand Canal Thank, 9pm, 21+.
House of Blues Mighty Sam McClain, 10pm, $15, 21+.
Middle East C: Board of Education, 10pm, no cover.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett.
Rack The Cattunes, 6-9:30pm, no cover.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford Review, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

Friday, Nov. 24

Bill's Bar The Amazing Crowns with Tommy & The Terrors and Black Market Medallions, $8.
Black Horse Tavern The Griffens.
Black Rose The Crossing and Eugene Byrne.
Bob the Chef's Karen Parker Quartet, 7:30pm.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, pm.
Dick's Last Resort Beantown Bar Band, 7pm; Soul City, 10pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge John O'Neil or Jan Peters, 9pm-1:30am.
Grand Canal Plaid Daddy, 9pm, 21+.
Green Dragon 4 On The Floor, 9:30pm, $3, 21+.
Harpers Ferry Lydia Warren Band with the Bluehemians, $6.
Hennessy's Me & Julio, 5pm, $5, 21+.
House of Blues Jeff Pitchell and Texas Flood, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Johnny D's Beatle Juice, 9:45pm.
Kirkland Cafe Curbys; Preston Wayne IV; Joaonzine, $5.
Kitty O'shea's Celtic Clan, 9:30pm.
Lilli's Two Ton Shoe's Thanksgiving party, 9pm, $10, 21+.
Middle East U: Conehead Buddha and Dr Awkward, $7, 18+. D: Headshot, the Curbys, Medicine4Tim and the Pug Uglies, $7, 18+. C: The Room Show, no cover.
Paddy Burke's Focal, 9:30pm.
Passim Bob Franke, 8pm, $14.
Purple Shamrock Novakane
Rack Drew Ambrose, 6:15-10pm.
Scullers Stanley turrentine Quartet w/ James Williams, 8 and 10:30pm, $22.
Sky Bar Friday Nite Fights, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Dave Foley Band.
T.T. the Bear's Place Vibrotica CD-release show, $6.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chonic Chronicles, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates John Kordalewski, 5-8pm. The Skip Smith Trio, 9-12pm, no cover.

Saturday, Nov. 25

The Aquarium Slush Puppies.
Black Horse Tavern Professor Harp.
Black Rose Tony O'Riordan, The Crossing and Eugene King.
Bob the Chef's Karen Parker Quartet, 7:30pm.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, pm.
Dick's Last Resort Parrothead Party with New York Minute, 7pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Despres and DeGraff Revue 9:30-2am.
Good Life Downtown The chiara Civello Quartet.
Grand Canal Fat Tuesday, 9pm, 21+.
Green Dragon Plaid Daddy, 9:30pm, $3, 21+.
Harpers Ferry Vykki Vox, 9:30pm, $6.

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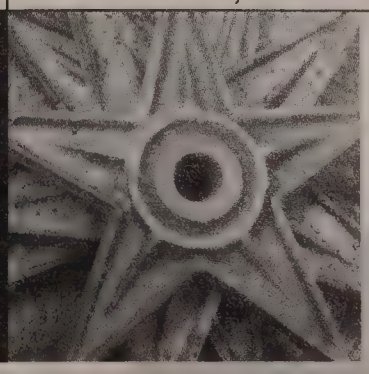

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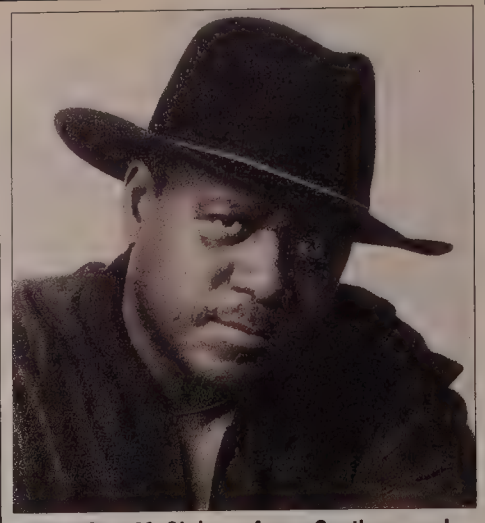

Mighty Sam McClain performs Southern soul-blues for the House of Blues' birthday Nov. 23.

Preview

Blues Bash

The H.O.B. turns 8

For eight years, the House of Blues has been a staple in the Boston blues scene. All this month, the club celebrates its eigth birthday by bringing in a wide range of excellent musicians in all genres. Some highlights are Cuban guitarist and member of the Buena Vista Social Club EliadesOchoa with his band Cuarteto Patria (presented at the Berkelee Performance Center) Nov. 14; Matt "guitar" Murphy Nov. 17; Howlin' Wolf's sideman Hubert Sumlin Nov. 18 and Allman Brothers member Derek Trucks (at the Somerville Theatre) Nov. 25. On the official anniversary date (Nov. 23), soul man Mighty Sam McClain performs.

House of Blues Cabaret Diosa, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Johnny D's Beatle Juice, 9:45pm.
Kirkland Cafe Uprise; Lolita's Bliss and Sarin, $5.
Kitty O'shea's CJ Stevens and friends, 4pm; Celtic Clan, 9:30pm.
Lilli's Duke Robillard and the Munjoy Hill Society, $15, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Lars Vegas, cover varies.
Middle East U: Krank Squad, Chin Strap, Angry Hill and Jafo, $7, 18+. D: Percy Hill and Mori Stylez 18+ $12. C: Freelance Bishops, no cover.
Paddy Burke's Focal, 9:30pm.
Passim Mary Gauthier and Slaid Cleaves, 8pm, $12.
Purple Shamrock Pig Pen.
Scullers Stanley Turrentine Quartet w/ James Williams, 8 and 10:30pm, $22.
Sky Bar Allagash 4, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Christian McNeil Hybrasio
Toad Jason Gardner and Tom Bianchi, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Lockgroove, Emetrex and Asteroid Number Four, $7.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates The Karin Parker Duo, 6pm. Eula Lawrence, 10pm.

Sunday, Nov. 26

Bill's Bar Reggae with Thanksgiving Showcase, $10, 21+.
Black Rose Tony O'Riordan and Eugene King..
Bob the Chef's Sunday Jazz Brunch with Paulo Danay Jazz Quartet, 11am-3:30pm.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
Club Passim Rory Block, 7 and 9pm, $20.
Dick's Last Resort Evelyn McDonald Gospel Group gospel brunch, 10am; Rob Gonzalez, 7pm, no cover.
Green Dragon The Swinging Johnsons, 9:30pm, $3, 21+.
Harpers Ferry Rockett Friends, 9:30pm, $5.
House of Blues Elements of Hip-Hop, 9pm, $8, 18+.
Johnny D's Blues jam 4:30pm; salsa dancing with lessons, 9pm.
Jose McIntyre's
Kitty O'shea's Tina Lech and friends, 8pm.
Lilli's Cosmic Dilemma and the Jinx Motive, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Poetry slam hosted by Samantha Libby, 7:30pm; poetry jam featuring the Jeff Robinson Trio (improvised grooves behind spoken word) featuring Ren Jender, 9pm.
Middle East U: Diecast, 100 Demons, Forced Reality, Brando, Six of Fire, 8pm, $7, 18+. C: Noah Maltsberger, 1pm; Balla Tounkara, 10 pm, no cover.
Regattabar Chad LaMarsh, 9:30-1:30.
T.T. the Bear's Place Fire Engine Red, Euonym and Alchemilla, $4.
White Horse Tavern Nate Wadkins, 8pm, no cover.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30pm,. 21+.

Monday, Nov. 27

Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Cantab Lounge Geoff Bartley's Open Mike, 8pm. Ken Selcer, 9:30pm.
Dick's Last Resort Beantown Bar Band, 7pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Michael Larson and Dorothy Miller, 9-1am.
Harpers Ferry Little House, 9:30pm, $2.
House of Blues Mountain of Venus, 9pm, $6, 18+.
Johnny D's Hot Tamale Brass Band, 8pm.
Kitty O'shea's CJ Stevens and friends, 8pm.
Lizard Lounge Improvisatoinal jazz with the Fringe.
Middle East C: Kara Tondorff and Friends, 7pm; The Out Side, 10pm, no cover.
Purple Shamrock Scott Damgaard.
Toad Shwang featuring Anita Suhanan, 8pm; Tim Gearan and Band, 10:30pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Other Side of the Bear Acoustic Series, cover varies.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30pm,. 21+.
Les Zygomates Michael Taylor, 5-7pm.

Tuesday, Nov. 28

Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Cantab Lounge John McGann and Rushad Eggleston, 9pm. Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 10pm.
Dick's Last Resort Brick Park, 7pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino 9pm-1am.
Harpers Ferry Another Planet & Friends, 9:30pm, $3.
House of Blues Boston Horns, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Johnny D's Jennie Reynolds, Beth Amsel, Darryl Purpose and Rob Laurens, 8:30pm.
Kirkland Cafe Chris Zahnleiter Jazz Trio, $5.
Lizard Lounge Jennifer Kimball, cover varies.
Middle East C: John Lincoln Wright, 7pm; the Coots, 10pm.
Paddy Burke's Dave Smyth, 7pm.
Plough & Stars The Buckners.
Rack Stu Sinclair, 8-12pm, no cover.
Toad The Brett Rosenberg Problem, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Pincushions, Gel and the Crush, $4.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Brian McCree and Frank Wilkins 5-7pm; the Alvin Terry Trio, 8-12pm, no cover.

Music Venues

An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (262-2121). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Attic *107R Union St., Newton (964-6615). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Center.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Bell in Hand Tavern *45-55 Union St., Boston (227-2098). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (743-2286). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-6204). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Club Passim *42 Palmer St., Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA Red Line to Harvard..*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Coogans Bluff *173 Milk Street., Boston (451-7415). MBTA: Orange Line to State Street.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
Good Life Central *720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*

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Preview

Academic Kinetics

DJ Spooky plays his IDM at Lilli's.

DJ Spooky, widely credited a "illbient" pioneer from New York, continues to explore different subgenres of electronic music with a hip-hop tinge. Known as That Subliminal Kid, he's one of the most well known turntablists around. Sort of an avant-garde academic DJ, Spooky blends spoken word with all sorts of beat-oriented sounds. His artistic resume is broad and extensive: After earning degrees in French literature and philosophy, Spooky (né Paul D. Miller) moved to New York where he wrote for *The Village Voice* and *Vibe*, while churning out music influenced by the likes of Sun Ra and Grandmaster Flash and scoring the '98 film *Slam*. He also created all sorts of visual art, mounting visual exhibits at the Whitney Museum in New York.

It wasn't until he formed the NYC illbient collective Soundlab that he gravitated toward hip-hop. Spooky released an album on Asphodel in '96, *Songs of a Dead Dreamer*, followed by remixing gigs for Metallica and Nick Cave. On his second album, *Riddim Warfare*, rapper Kool Keith and Sonic Youth guitarist Thurston Moore collaborated. A six-month project with avant-garde electronic artists the Freight Elevator Quartet resulted in *File Under Futurism*, which came out last year. *See DJ Spooky at Lilli's Nov. 17, 9pm, $15.*

Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston (451-2622). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston (523-1112) MBTA:Green Line to Haymarket.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Jacob Wirth's *31-37 Stuart St., Boston (338-8586). MBTA: Green Line to Boyslton.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Somerville (776-2004).*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Kirkland Cafe *425 Washington St., Somerville (482-4920). Red Line to Davis.*
Lilli's *608 Somerville Avenue in Somerville (591-1661). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
The Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (267-8644). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.*
The Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard.*
McGann's Pub *197 Portland St., Boston (227-4059). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Milky Way *405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
O'Brien's *3 Harvard Ave, Allston (782-6245). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Paddy Burke's *132 Portland St., Boston (367-8370). MBTA:Green Line to North Station.*
Paradise *967 Comm. Ave., Boston (562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Babcock.*
Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (227-2060). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (725-1051). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Regatta Bar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Rhythm & Spice *315 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (497-4308). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Rd., Cambridge (562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sidney's Grill *20 Sydney, Cambridge (494-0011). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Toad *1912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (497-4950). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Western Front *353 Western Ave., Cambridge (492-7772). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard Ave., Allston (351- COOL). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Les Zygomates *129 South Street, Boston (542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*

classical music

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled Classical by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Classical Music or e-mail to classical@ improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers Web site information and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to deadline. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from many different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to doublecheck dates and times.

Thursday, Nov. 16

Accentus Chamber Choir
Church of the Advent, 30 Brimmer St., Boston (912-0400). 8pm. $20 members, $25 non-members. The French Library and Cultural Center presents this 32-member choir dedicated to interpreting rich modern and traditional a cappella choral music.

MIT Guest Artist Series
Room E15-205, 20 Ames St., Cambridge (253-4003). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. 8pm. Free. Enjoy 17th- and 18th-century noels and pastorales.

Friday, Nov. 17

Boston Chamber Music Society
New England Conservatory, Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (536-2412). 7:30pm. This concert features the music of Stravinsky, Borodin and Faure.

Boston Musica Viva
Longy School of Music, 1 Follen St., Cambridge (876-0956). 8pm. Free. Gunther Schuller's *Sonata Serenata* is performed, along with Ezra Sims' *Elegie nach Rilke* featuring soprano Karyl Ryczek.

Boston University Chamber Orchestra
Tsai Performance Center, 685 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-3349). 8pm. Free. Richard Cornell and Kevin Leong conduct Vivaldi's *Symphony No. 2.*

MIT Guest Artist Series
Kresge Auditorium, 48 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (253-2826). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. 8pm. Free. Recently featured in *Chamber Music Magazine*, the Cypress String Quartet performs *Haydn's Op. 76 No.5* as well as other songs tonight.

Symphony Hall Centennial Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (638-9288). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Andre Previn conducts the music of Haydn, Rorem and Mozart.

Saturday, Nov. 18

Berklee College of Music Concert
136 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-7455). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. 8pm.$25. Hear salsa rythms, trombones and backing vocals from the 12-piece Plena Libre.

Boston Philharmonic
New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (536-2412). 8pm. Esther Budiardjo on the piano performs Mozart's *Piano Concerto in G, K453.*

Coro Stella Maris
Church of the Advent, 30 Brimmer St., Boston (978-281-8088). 8pm. $10, $5 students/seniors. The North Shore's early music chamber choir opens its season with choral masterpieces from the Renaissance and 20th-century.

Chorus Pro Musica
Great Hall, Faniel Hall, Boston (267-7442). 8pm. $25, $20, $15. Elizabeth Anker, contralto and Yeghishe Manucharyan, tenor, perform Rachmaninoff's *Vespers*, conducted by Jeffrey Rink.

Emmanuel Music Concert Series
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (536-3356). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 8pm. $20, $30. The Spectrum Singers, with acclaimed soloists Janet Brown, Pamela Dellal, Gerald Gray and Mark Andrew Cleveland, perform works by Haydn and Mozart.

MIT Guest Artist Series
Kresge Auditorium, 48 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (253-2826). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. 8pm. Free. The MIT Wind Ensemble with Young-Nam Kim, Kenneth Radnovsky, MIT chamber and Jazz Ensembles perform at Gunther Schuller's 75th Birthday Concert.

Symphony Hall Centennial Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (638-9288). 8pm. Same program as Nov. 17.

Sunday, Nov. 19

Boston Chamber Music Society
Sanders Theatre, Harvard University, Cambridge (496-2222). 7:30pm. This concert features the music of Stravinsky, Borodin and Faure.

Boston Philharmonic
Sanders Theatre, Harvard University, Cambridge (496-2222). 3pm. Esther Budiardjo on the piano performs Mozart's *Piano Concerto in G.*

Monday, Nov. 20

Boston University Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (888-266-1200). 8pm. $10, $20 or $35. David Hoose conducts a concert featuring Anthony di Bonaventura on piano and Sanford Sylvan.

Tuesday, Nov. 21

Berklee College of Music Concert
136 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-7455). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center. 7:30pm. $35. Tonight King Crimson plays at this long-awaited show.

Symphony Hall Centennial Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (638-9288). 8pm. Same program as Nov. 17.

Friday, Nov. 24

Symphony Hall Centennial Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (638-9288). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 1:30pm. Anja Harteros, soprano, and Pamela Frank, violin, perform Elgar *Symphony No. 1*, conducted by James Conlon.

Saturday, Nov. 25

Symphony Hall Centennial Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (638-9288). 8pm. Same program as Nov. 24.

Sunday, Nov. 26

Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra
Sanders Theatre, Harvard University, Cambridge (661-7067). 3pm. $9-$39. Gunther Schuller conducts the BSO's principal bassist, Edwin Barker.

Tuesday, Nov. 28

Symphony Hall Centennial Concert
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (638-9288). 8pm. Same program as Nov. 24.

The 32-member Accentus Chamber Choir perform Nov. 16 at the Church of the Advent.

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How to use this section
The following listings contain information that is subject to change. Contact the organization for changes in specific events.

CLUBS, BARS & HANGOUTS

Au Tua Nua
835 Beacon St., Boston (262-2121). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. $3-$5. Formerly known as Rira, this club regularly hosts DJ Vinney and Tim Collins and serves up karaoke as well as lots of food. But Sundays are sweet with Honey 'n' Spice Lesbian Nights.

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years these folks have been crankin' out some of the best Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. It's well worth a visit—if not for the three separate dance floors then for all the male dancers. 9pm, $15, 21+.

Buzz (Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays)
51 Stuart St. in the Theatre District, Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. On Saturday nights this place boasts two dance floors, two DJs, a pool room and a lounge. Two levels of dancing and schmoozing will keep the boys busy until 2am. 10pm, $5, 21+.

Chaps (Daily)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. www.chapsofboston.com. Sun.: Dance music of DJ Danae Jacovidis; Mon.: Grand Baby and Grand Piano night; Tue.: Retro DJ night; Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adielson Caesar; Thu.: DJs Billy and Fran, High Energy Dance; Fri.: Taboo Erotique with DJ Sammy; Sat.: High Energy Dance, DJ Danae Jacovidis.

City Girl Cafe (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri: 11am- 9pm; Sat: 10am-9pm; Sun: 10am-7pm. A small (five tables), laid-back cafe in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated. This cozy spot is home to a mixed gay/hetero crowd that lounges about, munching on sandwiches. Brunch on Saturday and Sunday, 10am-2pm.

Club Cafe (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-0966). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 11:30am-2am; Sat. 2pm-2am; Sun., 11am-2am. This trendy South End spot draws a mixed crowd that comes for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back (Moonshine). It's a dressy bunch that likes to mingle. No cover, 21+. •Carol O'Shaughnessy performs with Steve Heck, Dottie Dean or David Sparr, Thursdays. The first Wednesday of every month, Diva-licious. It's a two-hour drag variety show hosted by Drag-on Showgirl Diamond Dunhill and her friends. It's a great idea for bachelorette parties. 9pm, 21+.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (542-4494). Mon.-Fri., 3pm-2am; Sat., 1pm-2am; Sun., 12pm-2am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This is your friendly neighborhood bar with a quiet setting. It's best known for scrumptious Sunday brunches (12-4pm). This simple joint has all of the trappings of a true bar: smoky and dark. The place starts hopping as it gets closer to 2am.

Fritz (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Stroll in for a quiet drink or a rowdy night on the town. The folks here are friendly—and really into sports. Not only does Fritz have Direct TV set up with sets scattered about, it's also home base to a great softball league. 12pm, no cover, 21+.

Jacques
79 Broadway, Boston (426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. If you're looking to relax with a friendly crowd of gays and straights, and you like to mingle with disco-dancing drag queens, then you've found the place. Fri. and Sat. are local band nights. Tues. through Sun., however, divas rule the stage. 10:30pm, $4, weekends $6, 21+. •Sundays host the Drag-on Showgirl Showcase featuring Diamond Dunhill, Destiny and special guest divettes with their new, expanded 90-minute show. Bachelorette parties welcome. 10:30pm, 21+.

Lava Bar (Saturdays)
575 Commonwealth. Ave., Boston (267-7707). The Lava Bar's Tabu night boasts DJ Fran spinning out high-energy house with a taste of Latin beats. 10pm.

'So Kaye

John O'Neil—called one of Boston's "most colorful performers"—pays tribute to the legendary songs of Broadway entertainer Danny Kaye, including his most famous works, *Lady in the Dark*, as well as Hans Christian Anderson. *Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Nov. 18, 8pm. $12.*

The Lizard Lounge (Wednesdays)
1667 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. "Marlene Loses It at the Lizard" is the title of this eclectic evening of poetry, live music and theater. 10pm, $5 cover, 21+.

Luxor (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (423-6969). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from the latest music scenes and classic old movies—compiled by the bar's own VJ. Downstairs is Jox. No cover, 21+.

Machine (Fridays, Saturdays)
1256 Boylston St., Boston (536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 10pm-2am;. www.ramrod-boston.com/machine. This is one of Boston's best gay bars, where you will find your friends dancing every weekend. Fri.: NYC DJ/Producer Darrin Friedman spinning. Sat.: Synergy with special guest DJs.

Man Ray (Thursdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (864-0400). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed.-Fri., 9pm; Sat., 10pm. A bustling hot spot caters to a young, alternative clientele. Two dance floors fill up on Thursdays for Campus, a predominantly male night where DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen take over. 10pm, $8 for 19+, $5 for 21+.

119 Merrimac (Daily)
119 Merrimac St., Boston (367-0713). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Sat., 10:30am-2am; Sun., 12pm-2am. This male cruise bar is the place to stop for drinks before or after Fleet Center events. Shoot a leisurely game of pool or play the video games. Merrimac features DJs playing hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s. 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. On Thursday nights, the Midway offers Kristen Porter's Dyke Night—the women's club alternative. With a DJ and plenty of dancing to '70s, '80s and '90s music, 9pm, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (494-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Central. On Monday, a bartender not only mixes drinks but strips too. Male strippers are featured Wed.-Sat. Mon. is Gothic night; Tue. is techno; and Thu. is college night. On Fridays DJ Sam Sampson spins, and on Sat. hear DJ Brad Gwynn. 5pm, no cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (266-2986). Green Line to Kenmore. 12pm-2am. www.ramrodboston.com. The largest leather bar in the East enforces a tight dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room). Sun.: buffet and man-dance with DJ Joey Bermudez. Mon.: pool tournament and pizza. Tue.: Spice 4 Life with DJ Kal Muzak. Wed.: Twitch with DJ SGT Dennis. Thu.: Primal Dance with DJ James Hughes. Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danae Jacovidis. Sat.: With DJ Dennis Sargent.

BOOKS

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge. (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Fri., 10am-8pm; Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. New England's oldest women's bookstore offers a wide selection of literature. Its author series continues throughout the fall. •Nov. 19, 3pm. Author **Jean Kilbourne** presenta a slide show in conjunction with her new book, *Can't Buy My Love.*

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12pm-6pm. One of Boston's best literary gay and lesbian bookstores.

SHOWS & EVENTS

Sex on Thursdays: Bisexuality
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, Harvard Square, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Nov. 16, 8-10pm. $31. Sex educators **Marshall Miller** and **Dorian Solot** examine the myths about bisexuality, discuss understandings of sexual orientation and explore issues of daily life.

Signs of Love
Combined Jewish Philanthropies, 126 High St., Boston (558-6448). Nov. 29, 7:30pm. $5, including a dessert. Author Leslea Newman explores issues of love, family, identity and sexuality at a Boston Jewish Book Fair program. Newman has written more than 30 books of prose and poetry, including *Out of the Closet and Nothing to Wear*, *Heather Has Two Mommies* (a children's book) and *Signs of Love.*

ONGOING

Am Tikva
(883-0893). www.amtikva.org. A community of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered Jews.

Bawl
(508-628-5477). This lesbian softball league offers opportunities to join teams in both the recreational and competitive divisions. Call Liz.

Best Foot Forward
Ballet Etc. Dance Studios, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (522-1444). MBTA: B Green Line to Washington St. For gays/lesbians/bisexuals of all swing skill levels.

Boston Glass
Community Center, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Daily 8-10pm. Support groups and social activities for adolescents ages 13-25.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). www.chiltern.org/chiltern. A 1,400-member gay club with hiking, biking, camping, skiing and other outdoor activities.

Common Bond
(781-433-7023). A support group for gay/lesbian/bisexual current or former Jehovah's Witnesses.

Community Rainbow
Boston Living Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston. 7:45 pm. An organization whose mission is to advocate for the community. Meets Thursdays.

Cosmetically-Correct
Laurel's Restaurant, 142 Berkeley St., Boston. www.egroups.com/community/cosmeticallycorrect. A social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month, 7:30pm. Lipstick optional.

Dykes Who Hike
(522-6185). This hiking group is for lesbians in the Boston area who want to conquer the wilderness.

East Coast Wrestling Club
With more than 160 members, this is an extraordinarily popular New England spot for gay male wrestlers. Call Marc at 401-467-6737, or go online at *http://members.tripod.com/~ecwc* or e-mail *ecwc@juno.com.*

Fenway Community Health Center
(927-6057). The center is currently conducting a study to help HIV/AIDS patients take medication on time. Participants receive $95.

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (824-4266). www.frontrunnersboston.org. A running club for the LGBT community meets Saturdays.

Gay Volleyball
Cambridge (822-2148). Sundays, 6pm, $7. Typically seven teams play on three courts. Teams are made up each week depending on who shows up. Mostly men, but women are welcome.

Gender Free Contra Dancing
First Church of Jamaica Plain (448-2429). www.piac.net/users/latte/lcfd/. Come one, come all to evenings of contra and square dancing.

Hump Day
Skupper Jacks in Acton. Every third Wednesday at 5:30pm, Boston's gay, lesbian and transgendered come together to hang. For more information, contact *Tom.Evans@digital.com.*

Latino Social Groups
Latino Gay Men's Project (350-6900 ex. 125) and the Women's Social Group (350-6900 ex. 124).

Long Yang Club
(825-5677) www.longyangclub.org/boston. Boston's club for Gay Asian Men and their friends. Bringing the East and West together.

OOPS
Melting Pot Coffee House, 2 Belgrade Ave., Roslindale (323-4123). Out On the Parkways invites one and all to come on down for some dinner and coffee.

PFLAG
Fenway Community Health Center, 7 Haviland St., Boston (547-2440). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets every fourth Monday, 6:30-8:30pm.

Queer Corps
131 Clarendon St., 4th floor, Boston (450-1676). A community-mobilization project by and for queer men who are age 25 and under. Tuesdays, 6-8pm.

Tennis4all
Boston's gay and lesbian tennis club, with monthly tournaments and pizza socials. Call Ted at 779-7231.

PHOTO-ILLUSTRATION BY FREDERICK CHANG, APOLOGIES TO ANDY WARHOL

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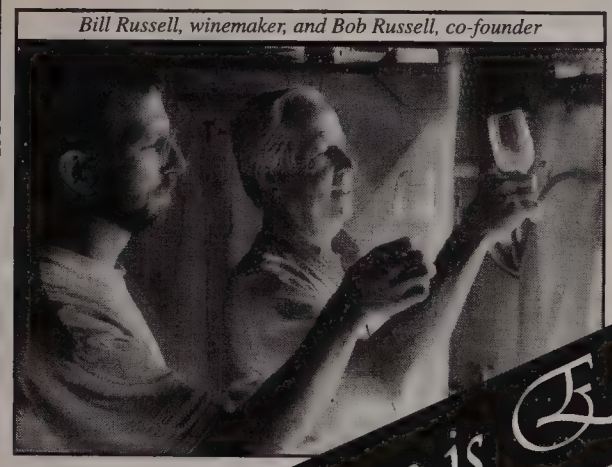

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body&mind

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information by mail, fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/ Mind, or electronically to bodymind@improper.com. *Include a brief but thorough description of the event, time, date, location and directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.*

EVENTS

Dance of Universal Peace
First Church Congregational, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (876-6883). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Nov. 17, 7:30-9:30pm. $6. Simple, joyous and meditative circle dances honor the spiritual traditions of the world. Everyone welcome. All dances are taught and accompanied by live music.

Tapping into the Power of Love
Omega Institute in Boston, Arlington Street Church, 351 Boylston St., Boston (800-944-1001). www.omegainst.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Nov. 18, 9am-5pm. $145.* This workshop with Brian Weiss explores the latest in hypnotic regression therapy to find a new level of healing for our bodies, minds, spirits and relationships. You'll learn regression exercises and healing visualization, along with intuition and right-brain training. The goal of the experience is to open yourself to self-discovery and a greater ability to love.

Zhang Yuan Ming's Medical Qi Gong
Charles River School of Shiatsu, 180 Mass. Ave., Arlington (781-643-1545). Nov. 15, 9am-2pm. $65 each. Grand master of Qi Gong, Kung Fu and teacher of acupuncture, **Zhang Yuan Ming** teaches breathing sets to build up and correct your flow of internal energy. You'll also learn Qi gathering exercises and how to emit Qi to help others.

CLASSES

Danskinetics Celebration
Green Street Studios, 185 Green St., Cambridge (974-7606). www.bethdance.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Parking at Pearl and Green. Nov. 18, 7-9pm. $15 or $25 for two.* Get wild and celebrate your existence with some exhilarating yet restorative yoga and dance.

Giving Thanks for Yoga
BKS Iyengar Center, 240A Elm St., Suite 23, Somerville (666-9551). http://www.yoganow.net. *MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Nov. 23, 9-11am.* $20. Thanksgiving—it's all about stuffing your body full of food. This year, why not give something to your body it can be thankful for as well: yoga. All levels invited.

Healing Emotions, Healing Relationships
New England School of Acupuncture, 40 Belmont St., Watertown (926-1788, ext. 5). www.nesa.edu. *Nov. 11-12, 9:30am-5pm. $165.* Relationships are being redefined in our current age. During this transition, we may find ourselves very frustrated and cynical. But your powerful emotions can be used to heal and open yourself up. Join **Roger Guest**, the director of Boston Shambhala Center, for his insight on the mindful approach to relating.

Healing Touch
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Nov. 18, 9am-6pm. $88. Designed by holistic nurses, Healing Touch uses the meditative mind and a choreography of hand motions to harmonize and balance our own and others' energy fields. Come understand the concepts of chakras, chi and auras with **Kathleen Rosemary**.

Incorporating Astrology into Everyday Life
BCAE, 5 Comm. Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Nov. 28-30, 7-9:30pm. $33 each. Innovative astrologer **Jim Valliere** will demystify astrology for you and teach you how to use it practically to improve your life. He'll be conducting the following classes: Creating Opportunity with Astrology, Relationship Astrology and Astrology of Meditation.

The Tibetan Book of the Dead: The Ultimate Voyage of the Soul
New Acropolis Organization, First Parish Unitarian Church, 3 Church St., Cambridge (591-9959). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Nov. 17, 7:30pm. $5. Engage in this mysterious ancient ritual from Tibet. Enter the world of the *The Tibetan Book of the Dead*, where instructions are given for the transition from life to death. This workshop presents the concepts on these phases of transition. Explore the invisible planes of your own consciousness and conquer your inner demons.

LECTURES

Acupuncture Mini Clinic
Wellspace, Fresh Pond Mall, Cambridge (876-2660). www.wellspace.com. *Nov. 16, 7:30-9pm. $5.* Acupuncture can be a highly effective treatment for many health concerns: anxiety, depression, digestive disorders, headaches, PMS, chronic or acute pain and more. This evening provides an overview of acupuncture philosophy, showing you that the needles are painless. **Forrest Evans** answers questions.

Grand master of Qi Gong, Zhang Yuan Ming is at the Charles River School of Shiatsu Nov. 15.

Health 101
Cambridge Naturals, 1670 Mass. Ave., 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (492-4452). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Nov. 18-19. Call for times. Free. If you need insight on different alternative practices, attend one of these introductory lectures. They take place in the evenings, and the next two will address healthy eating on the run and detoxification based on body type.

Mind, Meditation and Healing
Harvest Co-op Market, Community Room, 581 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-1580). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Nov. 29, 6-8pm. The Harvest Co-op helps you to be better informed by providing lectures on health topics. The next workshop with **Susan Pollock** will feature yoga and focus on the mind's role in holistic health.

ONGOING

Activity-Based Relaxation
New Directions for Yoga, Health and Psychotherapy, 5 Harvard Ave., Brookline (738-1648). MBTA: C Green line to Coolidge Corner. Sat., 7-8 pm, Sun., 6-7pm, or Mon., 10-11 am. $20 per class. Play games, explore scents and learn various fun ways to bring relaxation and stress management into your daily life.

Dance Friday
Rug Cutter's Studio, 23 Main St., Watertown (924-7276). www.dne.org. *MBTA: #57, 70 or 71 bus. Fridays, 8:30pm-midnight. $7.* Dance any way you want, even barefoot, to all kinds of music in this smoke- and alcohol-free environment.

Early Morning Yoga
Roni Brissette, 57 Waverley St., Brookline (738-9561). Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30pm. Call to register. Skip the coffee and feel energetic and peaceful all day with some early morning yoga.

Maintain Health
The Marino Center for Progressive Health, 2500 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6225). www.marinocenter.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Porter.* The Marino Center has the following ongoing groups and classes: Adult psychotherapy, Tuesdays: 5-7pm; Kripalu yoga, Mondays: 6-7:30pm; Hatha Yoga, Wednesdays: 6-7:30pm; Qi Gong, Wednesdays and Fridays: 6-7am.

Group for Families Dealing with Loss and Change
Dr. Lore Peters in Arlington (781-641-1102). A special support time for families to share feelings through the creative arts. Manage the difficulties associated with divorce, trauma, illness or death. Six-week groups meet throughout the year.

Meditation and Healing Circle
Pinchas Baram, Coolidge Corner. Brookline (232-8070). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Sundays, 6pm. Free. This gathering happens twice monthly for an evening of sacred chanting, prayer, meditation, visualization, breathing and healing techniques, along with readings from Kabbalistic texts.

Yoga/Allston
Beacon Light Yoga Center, 215 Brighton Ave., Allston (739-0717). Sunday through Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. $18 per session (call ahead). If you've wanted to try yoga, then come down to the peaceful and inviting environment of this yoga center.

Yoga/South End
Union United Methodist Church, 485 Columbus Ave., (522-7199). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential or Orange Line to Back Bay. $15/class. Join anytime. Certified Kripalu yoga teacher **Patrice Flesch** teaches mixed-level classes in a spiritual setting. Increase flexibility, relieve stress, build strength, relax and enjoy yourself at any of these ongoing drop-in classes: Tuesdays at 7pm, Wednesdays at 12pm and Saturdays at 10 am.

RETREAT

Wishes, Dreams and Inclinations: Making Them Come True
Kripalu Center, Lenox, Mass. (800-741-7353). www.kripalu.org. *Nov. 16-19. $189 tuition, plus three nights room and meals.* Using mind/body exercises, Gestalt, collage, meditation and more, you'll figure out what you truly want and how to make it a reality. Where there's a will, there's a way.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Children. Or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

TO SEE

Pinocchio
Druker Auditorium, Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). Nov. 15, 4pm. Ages 4 and older. Drawbridge Productions presents the puppet show *Pinocchio*.

THINGS TO DO

Brunch with Santa
The Ritz-Carlton, 15 Arlington St., Boston (536-5700). Nov. 25, 11am. $50 adults, $29 children. Enjoy a brunch buffet and photo with Santa.

Charles Square Holiday Tree Lighting
The Charles Hotel Courtyard, One Bennett Street, Cambridge (864-1200). Nov. 24, 4:30pm. Cambridge's official holiday tree will be lit with more than 12,000 sparkling lights at 6pm. Thousands of people come each year to this widely anticipated holiday festival of light, song, food—and Santa, of course.

A Christmas Carol Re-enactment
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Citizen Community Stage, Boston (737-3500). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Saturdays, 12:30 and 2:30pm, through Dec. 16. Throughout the season, Charles Dickens will represent the spirit of Christmas past at Faneuil Hall Marketplace.

Downtown Crossing Holiday Tree Lighting
59 Temple Place, Boston (482-2139). Nov. 24. Holiday bell chiming, choirs, concerts and a visit from Santa create a free outdoor festival as Filene's, Macy's and Downtown Crossing get decked out for Christmas and the holidays.

Enchanted Village
City Hall Plaza, Boston (635-3911). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Nov. 20-Jan. 1. $1. The snow-covered small New England town is populated entirely by children, teddy bears, animals and Santa Claus. Performers entertain the crowd.

Faneuil Hall Lighting Ceremony
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (737-3500). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Nov. 18, 11:30am-6pm. Enjoy the music of the season performed by handbell ringers, the Boston Symphony Orchestra and acapella choirs all day long. Festivities conclude with the lighting ceremony of more than 200,000 holiday lights.

New England Aquarium
New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, Boston (973-5200). •Nov. 18-19, 9:30am, ages 3-5, $8 plus admission: **Crocodile Smiles Preschool Explorers Class**. This one-hour program combines a story, a hands-on activity and a take-home art project or closer look at live animals.

Powers of Nature
Children's Museum, Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu., 9am-5pm; Fri., 9am-9pm. Through March 1, 2001. $10, $7 seniors and children.* This new exhibition features hands-on components, live radar and satellite images, videos and artifacts that help unravel the mysteries of weather. Expect hurricanes, tornadoes, blizzards, hail, earthquakes and more.

Science Tuesday: Water Wizardry
Druker Auditorium, Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (552-7145). Nov. 28, 3:30pm. Ages 5 and older. Stephen Lechner experiments with the Gravity Shield, Delores the Daring Diver, Bubble-Ology and the Gigantifier.

Teddy Bear Tea
The Boston Tea Party Ship & Museum, Congress St. Bridge, Boston (269-7171). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Nov. 26, 12-5pm. $10/$5 for children. Bring a new teddy bear. Tea, cocoa and cookies will be served every half hour. Children can listen to a storyteller talk about how Thanksgiving was celebrated in colonial times. The Teddy Bear Drive distributes 3,500 teddy bears to less-fortunate children.

Wild Adventures
Stone Zoo, 149 Pond St., Stoneham (781-438-5100). Enjoy these family programs at the zoo. •Nov. 20, 10:30-11:30am, 3- to 4-year-olds: Sheep! 3:30-4:30pm, 5- to 6-year-olds: Ladybugs! •Nov. 21, 3:30-4:30pm, 7- to 8-year-olds: Flamingos! •Nov. 22, 3:30-4:30pm, 9- to 11-year-olds: Animals Senses! •Nov. 23, 10:30am-12pm, 12- to 14-year-olds: Animal Enrichment!

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

To Watch

Boston Bruins
•FleetCenter. Tickets: 931-2000
Nov. 16 (Home): New Jersey, 7pm, NESN
Nov. 18 (Home): Minnesota, 7pm, NESN
Nov. 21 (Away): Ottawa, 7pm, UPN-38
Nov. 22 (Away): Detroit, 7:30pm, NESN
Nov. 24 (Home): Carolina, 12pm, NESN
Nov. 26 (Home): Los Angeles, 7pm, NESN
Nov. 28 (Home): Pittsburgh, 7pm, NESN

Boston Celtics
•FleetCenter. Tickets: $10-$75. Call 228-6000
Nov. 15 (Home): Washington, 7pm, FSNE
Nov. 17 (Home): Atlanta, 7:30pm, FSNE
Nov. 18 (Away): Washington, 7pm, FSNE
Nov. 20 (Home): Philadelphia, 7pm, FSNE
Nov. 22 (Home): Houston, 7pm, FSNE
Nov. 24 (Home): Orlando, 7:30pm, FSNE
Nov. 26 (Home): Vancouver, 12:30pm, FSNE
Nov. 28 (Away): Cleveland, 7:30pm, FSNE

New England Patriots
•Foxboro Stadium. Tickets: 931-2000
Nov. 19 (Home): Cincinnati, 1pm, CBS
Nov. 23 (Away): Detroit Lions, 12:30pm, CBS

Events

USA Track & Field Fall National Cross Country Championships
Boston Parks & Recreation Department, Franklin Park, Boston (566-7600). www.usatfne.org. *Nov. 12, 10am.* The National Club Championships include Open Men 10K, Women 6K and Masters 10K.

Billiards Social
The Rack, 24 Clinton St., Boston (789-4070). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Nov. 28. $32 (cash bar and light appetizers). The Boston Ski & Sports Club hosts this social gathering. They'll mix up the teams and rotate tables, so you can meet others as you play.

Second Annual Dog Day Afternoon
Fells Reservation, Winchester (789-4070). Nov. 19, 1:30pm. Free. Explore various trails and let your dog play in a wide-open field.

Mixed Doubles Tennis Parties
Waltham, Mass. (789-4070). Nov. 18, 5:45pm. $40 (includes 2/5 hours of tennis, prizes, appetizers and cash bar). Join the Boston Ski & Sports Club for a fun, competitive night of intermediate and advanced mixed-doubles tennis. Play a 30-minute round and then change partners and opponents.

Ski out West with Boston Ski & Sports Club.

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To Play

BASEBALL

Henry's Baseball Club
(781-891-0621). Players ages 17-30 sought for 2001 season. Also need coaches and volunteers.

BASKETBALL

Basketball City
Adjacent to North Station and the FleetCenter (742-6700). Corporate, midday and weekend leagues.

Co-Ed Indoor Basketball
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 224). Sun.-Thu. nights at various locations. All levels welcome. Leagues in Waltham, Dedham and Brookline. Co-ed teams now forming.

The Corporate League of Boston
(566-7808).

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333). Practice and workout programs for all levels in Greater Boston.

South End Fitness Center League
(534-5823).

Women's Basketball League
(661-9622). Tuesdays 5:30-7pm and Sundays, 6-7:30pm.

BILLIARDS

Become a Pool Shark
Meet at Jillian's Billiards Club, 145 Ipswich St., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Three classes on Tuesdays, beginning Nov. 28, 6:30-8:30pm. $77. Pro Bob LeBlanc teaches the basics with an hour of instruction and an hour of practice.

BOXING

Boxing Workout
Vinny Greco's Powerhouse Gym, 125 Walnut St., Watertown (972-1711). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Enjoy the workout of a boxer—or become one yourself. Participate in one-on-one instruction in a supervised, safe environment with Boston Sport Boxing Club.

FOOTBALL

Australian Rules Football
Boston Australian Rules Football Club. Thu. evenings and Sat. mornings, Cambridge (781-440-9266). www.Boston Demons.org. No experience necessary.

Indoor Flag Football
BSSC, Indoor Sports Center in Revere (789-4070). Sundays.

HIKING/WALKING

The Appalachian Mountain Club
Gorham, N.H. (603-466-2727). Hikes and huts in the White Mountains. •Monthly AMC Young Members meetings at AMC headquarters, 4 Joy St., Beacon Hill (523-0655). Second Thursday of every month, 6-10pm, $3. Potluck. BYOB.

New England Walkers
390 akland Rd., Brookline (731-9889). www.members.tripod.com/NEWALKERS. This 200-member club hosts race-walk events and clinics. Weekly walks at M.I.T. indoor track on Wednesdays at 7pm.

Walking Group
(247-8267). This group sponsors weekly walks on Wednesday evenings in the Back Bay.

HOCKEY

Co-ed Floor Hockey
BSSC (789-4070). Individuals and teams, co-eds, all levels in Newton. Co-ed teams now forming.

ICE SKATING

Learn to Skate
Lessons available at 16 MDC rinks in Greater Boston (781-890-8480). www.iceskatingclasses.com.

ROCK CLIMBING

Indoor Rock Climbing
BSSC in Woburn, Mass. (789-4070). Nov. 18, 9am. $75. Includes three hours of instruction for beginners, all equipment and a free day pass (with gear rental).

RUGBY

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
Cambridge (781-340-2192). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.bwrfc.org. *Tue. and Thu. evenings.* No experience necessary.

Old Gold Rugby Club
Newton (742-0678). www.oldgoldrugby.com. *Tue. and Thu., 6:30-8:30pm.* New and experienced players welcome. Games on Saturdays.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
(499-4835). Weekly runs year-round. Serious drinkers with a running problem.

Boston Road Club Weekly Races
(781-646-8955). Sundays. Starts at Wells Ave. in Newton.

Fresh Pond Weekly Road Races
Fresh Pond Reservation. Saturdays, 10am. Choose between a 2.5- or 5-mile run.

Khoury's Thursday Night Runs
East Somerville. (351-5682). 4.13 miles. 7pm at Khoury's Bar.

Logan Post 5K
1194 Broadway, West Somerville (283-3292). Every Thursday at 7:10pm.

NikeTown Boston Running Club
200 Newbury St., Boston (267-3400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Three-to-five-mile loops. Starts at 6:30pm. Monthly mini-clinics as well.

SNOW SPORTS

Ski & Board Weekends
BSSC (789-4070). The Boston Ski & Sports Club offers day and weekend trips throughout the winter. •Wednesdays, Saturdays or Sundays this winter. 5:30/6am bus departures from Newton, Newburyport and Tewksbury. Nov. 18: Sugarbush. Nov. 25: Sunday River. •First weekend trip is Nov. 23-26: Thanksgiving at the 'Loaf. Dec. 1-3: Sunday River. Trip includes round-trip transportation and lift tickets.

SOCCER

BSSC Soccer
BSSC (789-4070, ext. 225). Co-ed teams for both indoor and outdoor soccer.

SOFTBALL

80-Team Softball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 222). Monday through Thursday evenings at 6:30pm. Join as an individual or as a team.

SWIMMING

Boston Athletic Club Swim Workouts
653 Summer St., Boston (269-4300). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon. and Wed., 6:15-7:15am.

The Charles River Park Club Morning Masters
Charles River Park, Boston (450-9810). Mon., Wed., Fri. 6:30-7:45am.

The Mason Masters Swim Program
The Mason Pool, 159 Norfolk Ave., Roxbury (236-4923 or 450-9810) Mon.-Fri., 7:30-8:30pm. An early-morning masters swim program led by Alex Primilsky, coach of numerous world, national and Olympic champions.

TENNIS

Boston Tennis Club
Located next to North Station, Boston (742-6700). Adult and youth clinics, socials, open play and matching.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Boston Ski & Sports Club
(789-4070).

Boston Ultimate Disc Alliance
(928-0882). www.buda.org.

VOLLEYBALL

Adult Co-ed Volleyball League
Waltham YMCA (781-894-5295). Monday nights, began Sept. 13. All levels welcome.

BSSC Volleyball League
BSSC (789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. at various locations. Co-ed indoor 6-on-6 leagues. Four different levels of play. Pick-up games, clinics and tournaments also available. •Co-ed pickup games Tuesdays and Fridays at West Newton Armory, 1137 Washington St. $5.

Co-ed Volleyball-Waltham
Waltham YMCA, 725 Lexington St., Waltham (781-894-5295). Monday nights.

WATER SPORTS

Boston Sailing Center
54 Lewis Wharf, Boston (227-4198). Year-round lessons and racing programs for all abilities.

Courageous Sailing Center
Charlestown Navy Yard (635-4505). Lessons are offered here year-round.

WEIGHT TRAINING

Weights for Women
Metropolitan Fitness, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-3006). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Wednesdays, 6-7:30pm. Eight sessions. $200. This semi-private class offers personal training for women.

WRESTLING

Men's Adult Wrestling
Boston Union, 48 Boylston St., Boston (482-1122). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm; Saturdays 1-3:30pm. All skill levels welcome. Coaching available.

go away

TRAVELING NEAR AND FAR

NORTH OF BOSTON

Home for Thanksgiving
House of Seven Gables, 54 Turner St., Salem, and Salem Pioneer Village, Forest River Park, Salem (978-744-0991). Nov. 24-26. $8, House of Seven Gables; $7, Pioneer Village; $13, Combo ticket. Experience an authentic harvest festival with food, games and festivities in the tradition of the very first Thanksgiving in the 1700s.

SOUTH OF BOSTON

New England Thanksgiving Buffet
Plimoth Plantation, Plymouth (508-746-1622). Nov. 23, 11am, 2:30pm and 6pm. Everything from soup to nuts will be served in this yummy and traditional 1600s-era New England feast.

Railroad Hobby Show: Rail-a-Rama
White's Hospitality Center, 66 State Road (junction of Routes 24 and 195 East, Exit 9, to Route 6 West), Westport (361-4445). Nov. 19, 9:30am-3:30pm. Explore the magic of trains, with dealers, displays, operating models and a 100-seat video theater.

Showcase of Nations
Plymouth Center, Plymouth (508-746-2334). Nov. 18, 11am. With some 50 nations from all parts of the world and 40 Native American tribes from the West, Mexico and Canada representing, this annual holiday parade features marching bands, floats and costumes with an international flavor.

WEST OF BOSTON

Bright Nights at Forest Park
Forest Park, Sumner Ave., Springfield (413-733-3800). www.brightnights.org. *Sun.-Thu., 6-9pm; Fri.-Sat., 6-11pm. Nov. 17-Jan. 7.* Take a 2.5-mile drive and see more than 350,000 twinkling lights.

CAPE & THE ISLANDS

Portuguese Harvest Festival
Navigator Club, 55 Ashumat Road (off Sandwich Road), East Falmouth (508-540-2170). Nov. 18, 12pm-12am. The Portuguese-American Association of Falmouth once again delivers this rich cultural event. Portuguese dancing and ethnic music will be included in the annual celebration of the Portuguese harvest season.

Pilgrim Monument Lighting
Pilgrim Monument, High Pool Hill, Provincetown (508-487-1310). Nov. 22, 5:30-7pm. Built between 1907 and 1910 to acknowledge the first Pilgim landing in Provincetown in 1620, this monument and museum stands tribute to settlers' first stop in what would become America. Now the annual lighting of the monument commemorates that fateful day as well as the five-day stay the Pilgrims had in P-town before moving across the bay and settling in Plymouth.

mark your daytimer

UPCOMING EVENTS

CITYSCOPE

Tree Lighting Ceremony
Dec. 2, Prudential Center

MUSIC

Medeski, Martin and Wood
Nov. 30, Orpheum Theatre

Paul Simon
Dec. 2-3, Orpheum Theatre

Mighty Mighty Bosstones
Dec. 6-10, Axis

Dave Matthews Band, FleetCenter, Dec. 11.

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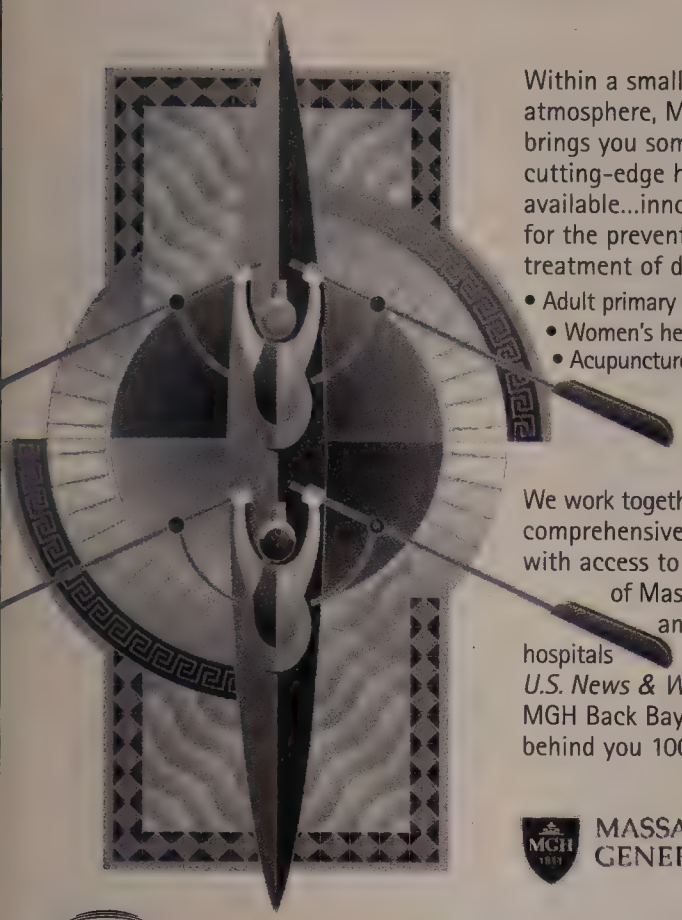

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If everyone kept their feelings bottled up like warm beer, we'd soon have antisocial behavior exploding all over the place and ruining the upholstery. So send us your letters of love and spleen, and we'll print them for the world to see. Heck, it's better than making a fool of yourself in person. And IT'S FREE! Pick up a pen or keyboard (hint: we like the fact that e-mailed messages mean that we don't have to risk ruining our manicures by—ugh—typing) and write to:

IMPROPER IMPERSONALS
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116
FAX: 859-1446 **E-MAIL:** impersonals@improper.com

Recent correspondence follows.

CC Ya
I was eating with my friend at Uno's and in walks you! You go to BU and have a very philosophical mind...We drank on my roof and talked about our lives... After weeks of non-stop hanging out I messed it all up! Do you know who you are yet? Well, the acting and modeling career of mine that you once laughed at has launched and I am moving out to L.A. for a spot on a little national television show. Nothing that major. But before I do go, I just want to tell you that I actually thought you were "the one," and I did have some good feelings about us. Well, you'll see me soon, but unfortunately I won't be seeing you! Take care of yourself, and of course your dog, Alex, too!
—CC

Copley T Stop
6:30pm (10/20/00) To Mystery Man with Cute Dog: I came over to you asking if I could pat your dog but that was a lame excuse. Yes, your dog was awfully cute and friendly, but so were you! I was hoping to chat some more but my train arrived so I left but I managed to smile and wave before the train pulled away from the station. Maybe I'll see you again at the train station, but it would be kinda nice if you gave me a hint as to when you might be there!
—Astell joprie@prodigy.net

Goddess on the Red line
I first noticed you sitting on the other side of the tracks. The door stopped right in front of me. You took a seat. Someone's hat was in the seat next to you. I stood near you. Then someone moved the hat and took the seat. When they got off I sat beside you. I could feel your warm glow. I'm very sensitive to things like that. I peeked over at the book you were reading, *When the Wind Blows* by James Patterson. Your beautiful red hair and pale skin blew me away. I should have said something. I should have stayed on for another stop or two. I want to be a warm gentle breeze for you. On Friday you justified my existence. Thank you.
—my_raison_d_etre @hotmail.com

Dearest Maria
SCOOP MY POOP!
Love,
—Fleming

Squirrel Nut Zippers
You were standing by the sound board in your tight tank top with your tall, blonde friend. I was standing behind you with a blue shirt and brown jacket. We made eye contact several times but I couldn't make myself go to you and tell you how pretty you are. It's like telling an angel they're heavenly. I missed the whole show because I was daydreaming about holding you. Then you left quickly with people familiar to you. I could tell in your eyes you had a hint of something for me... I haven't stopped thinking of you since, so go for it, and email me.
—bostonguy@netcitizen.com

Locke-Ober Benefit
Oct. 28, I was standing (in a silver cowboy hat)...You were there (in a big orange pumpkin suit)...Two worlds collided... OK, enough with the cheesy INXS references...We were both at the Make-a-Wish Foundation benefit, but you left early... So what does a pumpkin turn into at midnight? Whatever it is, I'd like a second chance to meet you.
—Leavethehaton@hotmail.com

Luke (a.k.a. Bakery/ Cheese Man)
I have been sweet on you for over a year. I want to do stuff and hang out with you. I can't tell if you feel the same. I don't know much about you except for where you work and that you are a ski instructor somewhere. Seeing you is definitely the highlight of my day, I just don't know how to tell you.
—tach912@hotmail.com

Smelling of Incense
Tuesday, Oct. 24, buying incense at the stand on Mass. Ave., around 5:00. We chatted as we decided which scents to buy, finally both settling on the "potpourri" approach of mixing-and-matching. The giant cloud of smoke kept blowing into my face and clothes, making me smell like incense for days. That was OK, though, because every time I smelled it I thought of you and I wished I had asked you out for coffee right then and there. Any chance to make up for that lost opportunity?
—smellyguy4u@hotmail.com

Can I get a...
I'm sending a big, juicy "FUCK YOU" to the two chicks who incessantly chatted throughout the ENTIRE Ani DiFranco Concert on Oct. 27. Yeah, you two, by the nose-bleed seats, standing there in your *Friends* outfits and MTV hairdos. I really, really didn't wanna have to get in yer faces and I didn't. I just glared at you two off and on, while you ignored everyone, encased in your self-centered, little worlds. What were you two morons doing there? You are obviously NOT true Ani fans. You have no class.
—Anonymous

Halloween House of Blues
We met at the House of Blues in Cambridge on Halloween night. Me: tall, blond hair, blue eyes, an army uniform. You: attractive, dark-haired, doctor's outfit. Your friend asked me for a Guinness button that I had gotten—you didn't have one. I gave you mine. We met later on for a while. Your friends were leaving, and you were about to go as well. We hugged and you gave me a little kiss on the cheek. I'd love to hear from you again.
—Chris, at dubliner24_99@yahoo.com

Justin B. from the Cafeteria
You are the only reason I go to "the Caf" every day! You are so mad cute!!!
—massguy72@hotmail.com

Mr. Phillip Morris Co.
We had a perfect date, Temple Bar & House of Blues—on Friday the 13th no less. Reggae is always a perfect opener. And you're a great kisser. You called me once and then never again. So, I've been obsessing. That's not indicative of my personality but I can't get you off my mind. Not looking to leap into the unknown? Or maybe you just didn't like me after all. I wore my tight sheer shirt and my make-my-boobs-look-bigger bra. I'm auditioning for wife, not some transient. You hurt my feelings. Say what you're thinking and if you're not sure, say that. But don't make me get off at the exit then leave me at the first gas station. Let me reiterate, you hurt my feelings: Have a great life in Philly.
—Gin and Tonic 4 Limes

Snowsuit Lady Outside Symphony Hall
First of all, it was ridiculous enough that you and your husband VIOLATED the spirit of the evening by having your car handy (and illegally parked!) throughout the night so you could stay warm while the rest of us earned our place in line by freezing in the wind and snow while waiting for Holiday at Pops tickets to go on sale. Then you go and CUT in line once the box office was open for business? What is wrong with you (besides that hideous snowsuit you were wearing)? Did you even feel an ounce of remorse or regret when the girl you cut in front of started CRYING because she heard you purchase the tickets she had her heart set on? What a wonderful way for you to display the spirit of the season. As I said to you as you skulked away, YOU'RE DESPICABLE.
—LFE

Rockie Horoscope

NOVEMBER 15 – 28, 2000
BY ROCKIE GARDINER

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21
Lighten up. Your Mars co-ruler is urging you to use your network of friends to soar above the murky waters you tend to wallow in when the sun is in Scorpio. Air and fire, intelligence and spirit, are the elements that will make this holiday memorable; Gemini and Sagittarius are the signs that'll provide opportunities to escape and enjoy. However, first you may have to deal with the urge to get the best of someone or a pressing need to buy your way out of a tricky romantic situation or see that "justice" is served.

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21
You'll get a boost of energy, both physical and intellectual, while adventurous Mars supports your Jupiter ruler this weekend. If you're on the verge of committing to someone (in business or in life), you'll get a push now. Convenient? Maybe not, but you can follow up with your own agenda after the holiday weekend is over. A new moon in Sag on the 25th inaugurates a full lunar cycle of personal growth that is closely tied to "gets along with others." Recharging your batteries during reclusive Scorpio seems to be working.

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20
This fortnight, the Force, in the guise of peer group support, is not with you. While the sun opposes your Saturn ruler, obstacles you didn't know about can pop up in the oddest places, especially on the playing field or in a concert venue. Check to see if something similar happened at the end of July when Saturn was sitting on the same spot it is now. No matter how you try to avoid it, there'll be friction (and heat generated) when horny Mars challenges Venus in your sign on the 22nd. Who will you bump into on your way home for the holiday?

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18
A significant breakthrough, a high score on the emotional scale as Mars trines Jupiter in air signs, and they in turn fortify your Aquarius birth planets in a Grand Air Trine. Yes, that's a big deal, that's why it's capitalized. This infusion of balls and brains should get you over whatever hump you need to surmount, past the resistance put up in your Scorpio midheaven, the place where your employer and the family's reputation reside. Surprises on the 25th when Mercury says something that shakes you up. A new career opportunity follows.

PISCES
FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19
Fish should glide through the entire Thanksgiving event without encountering friction. Good, this way you won't spoil the gravy or slam into your sister. A sense of fair play dominates your relationships right now, so assume you'll be the peacemaker when the rest of your crew pulls rank or gets rank. Expect a certain amount of hanky-panky and a juicy scandal while assorted genders play footsie under the table. Not you, you'll come out of the weekend with your reputation for saintliness intact.

ARIES
MARCH 20-APRIL 19
Take off on your big—well, bigger than a Pee-Wee—adventure this week while your Mars ruler and expansive Jupiter form a rewarding trine. If you, the eternal freelancer, ever harbored thoughts of becoming an entrepreneur, now would be a good time to launch a project, preferably in partnership. Mars in your Libra marriage house emphasizes the advantage of having two minds working out one problem. However, differences may surface just before Thanksgiving. Blame an eye for beauty, too many invitations or perhaps a cherished memory of make-up sex.

TAURUS
APRIL 20-MAY 20
Picking up every stitch that was dropped while Mercury was retrograde in your Scorpio house of close relationships? Don't be dismayed if you're stopped dead in your tracks while trying to close the gap between the two of you. You can clear the air and excite the senses on the 22nd, but first you may have to fight another round in the battle of the sexes. It can't be helped; when Venus and Mars aren't on friendly terms, neither are you.

GEMINI
MAY 21-JUNE 20
Push comes to shove when energetic Mars favors enthusiastic Jupiter in your sign this weekend. It's time to get off your duff, stop conceptualizing and take action. The rewards are already sitting there, waiting to be claimed. You might even get tacit approval from that powerful presence —your partner in crime—on Thanksgiving. The feast is followed by unaccountable shifts in mood, odd games invented to psyche someone out. The Sagittarius new moon on the 25th introduces another potential partner or a willing co-worker. For that alone you should give thanks.

CANCER
JUNE 21-JULY 22
Family solidarity shows up this weekend, so honor clan traditions while everyone is in the proper mood. The long Thanksgiving weekend might become fractious and too unpredictable for a sentimental crab. Girls and boys get down and dirty midweek because their hormones are acting up and each team wants to triumph over the other. You could catch flak from both sides since Venus in Capricorn and Mars in Libra are poised to blame the Moon Child for whatever goes wrong. Are you willing to play (without hamming it up too much) the martyr?

LEO
JULY 23-AUGUST 22
Every now and then, like now, when your sun ruler faces off against staid, sensible Saturn, you feel the pressure to conform, to accept something simply because that's the way it is. Get through this weekend without raising a ruckus or pissing off an authority figure, and you'll be rewarded as the month ends. How well do you have to behave at Thanksgiving? Be gracious and gentle with the guests whose heads are in the clouds. Douse them with a heavy dose of fantasy and drag them to every glamorous event you can. Sagittarius is your time to sparkle.

VIRGO
AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22
Virgins born in August might see real money, a major reward for being in the right place at the right time and—this is key—asserting yourself. The September-born just get the glory, not the gelt. You can ask, but because your Mercury ruler is under the influence of erratic Uranus, you might not get the answer you expect. Wait until the 27th to go all out. Meanwhile, the holiday weekend could be fraught with tension. Women, especially those who rule the roost, feel they are under attack; men think they should be appreciated more. This, too, shall pass.

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 31
Feeling feisty? Mars in Libra is trying to get the best of your Venus ruler, currently in your Capricorn house of competitive siblings and fine china. How you reconcile the conflict is beyond me, but you'll find a way to project a stronger sense of self while placating the female forces gathered at your table. Once this predictable (and periodic) battle is over, go shopping for stuff that can heal a sore spot, e.g., a computer game you can lose yourself in or a series of salt wraps and mud baths.

Curious about the future? Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30 to 40+ pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise over the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $42.50 per report to: ROCKIE GARDINER, 1021 N. Genesee, #1, West Hollywood, CA 90046. *www.rockiehoroscope.com.* Read my daily forecast online at www.laweekly.com.

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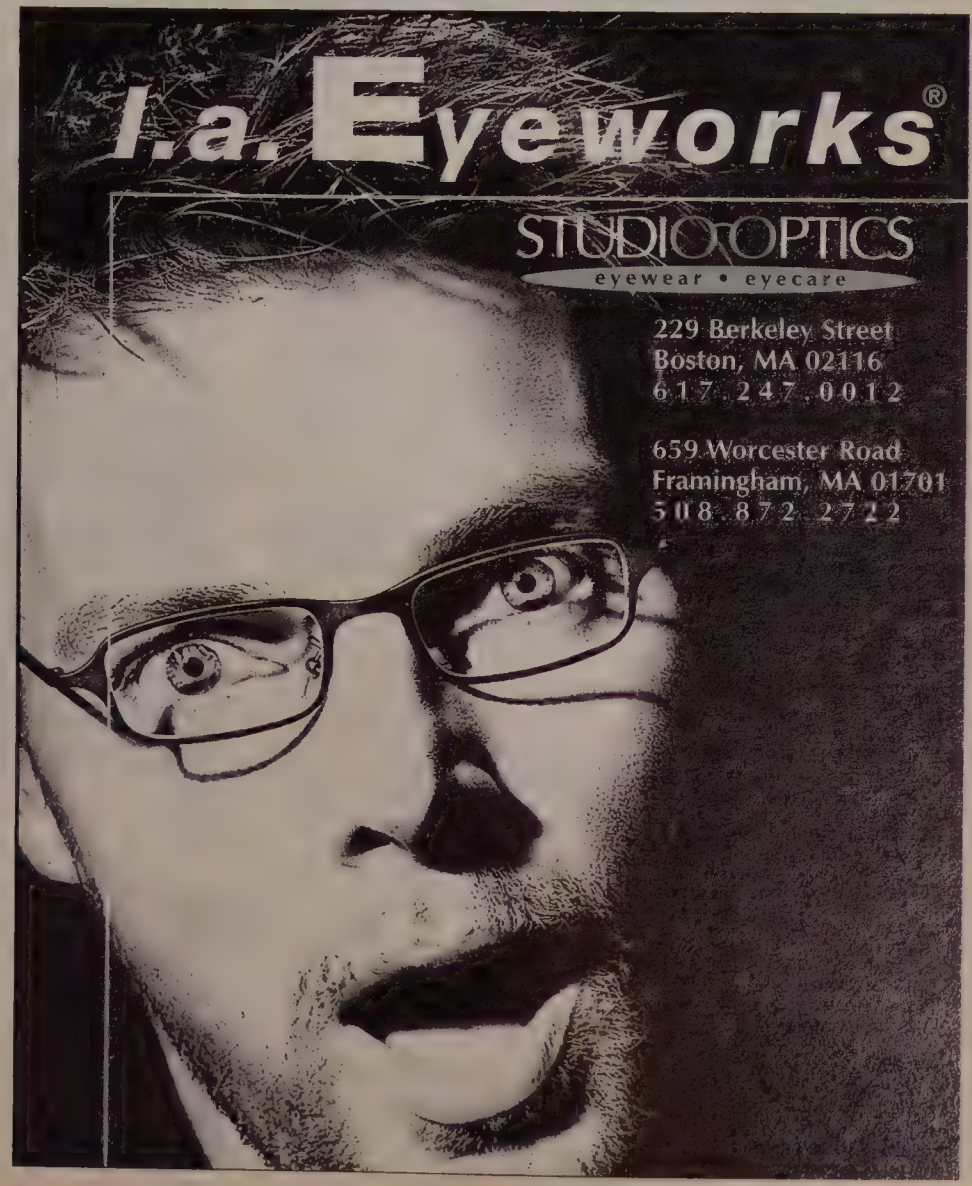
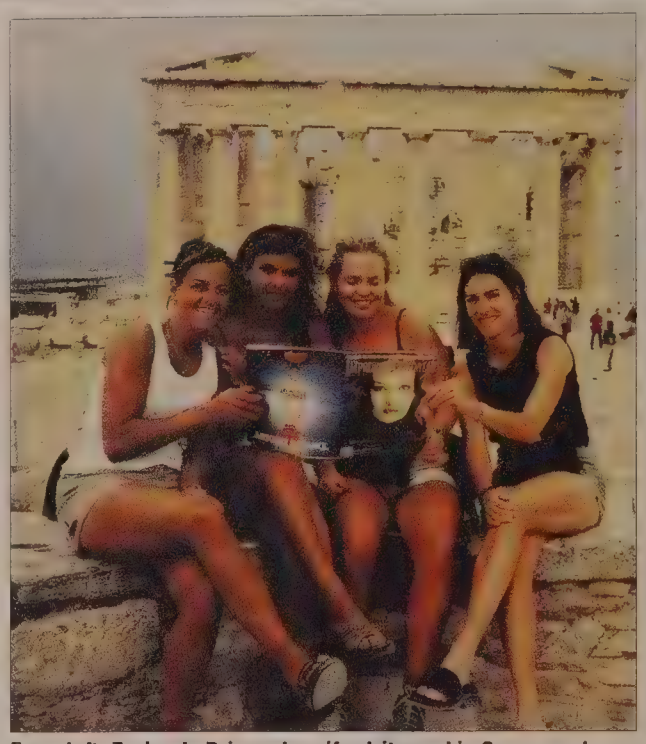


Improper Sightings

Unlike the rest of your friends, we want to see the photos from your next trip.

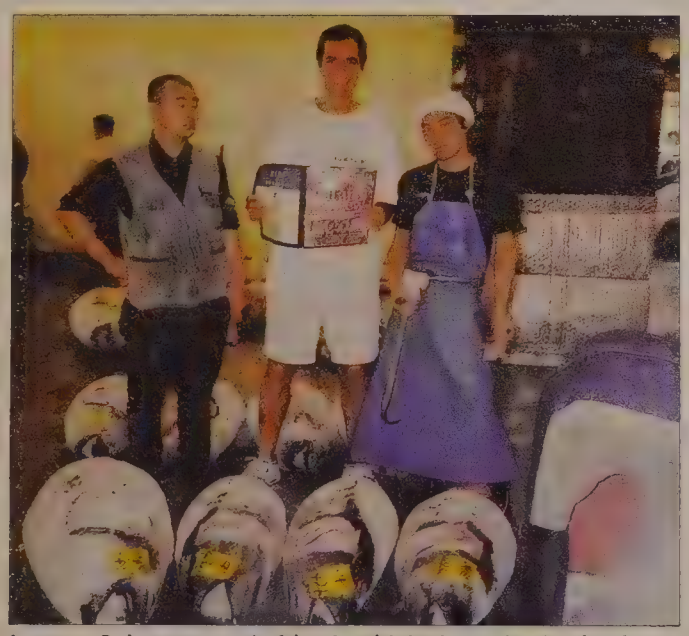
Where do you take us? We want to know! Send us a picture of you or a friend, or better yet, someone famous reading THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN and tell us where you were. The more creative you are, the faster we'll publish your pic! (Hey, we have no shame!)

Alex (l) and David Reznikov stand a safe distance away from the fog-enshrounded Arenal Volcano in Costa Rica.



From left: Enrica LoPriore, Jennifer Iritano, Liv Gagne and Beverly Bucchieri tore the roof off the Acropolis in Athens.

Sid Holbrooke, chief of staff to Governor Rowland of Connecticut, casts his vote for THE IMPROPER.



Jacques Sciammas made friends with bad-ass, hook-wielding fishmongers at the world's biggest fish market in Tokyo.

From left to right: Minuteman Masters Swim Club members Brian McSweeney, Caleb Davis, Ina Lieckfeldt, Matt Camelio, coach Rich Axtell (on the dog), Al Keith (on the ground), Al Prescott, Steve Lyons and Nate McBride at the Nationals in Maryland.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:

Judging the kindest competitor at the 13th Annual Cannabis Cup, Nov. 20-24 in Amsterdam. Extra bonus points if the time stamp on the photo says "4:20."

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116.
Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail and photo location. All photos become the property of THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE and will not be returned.

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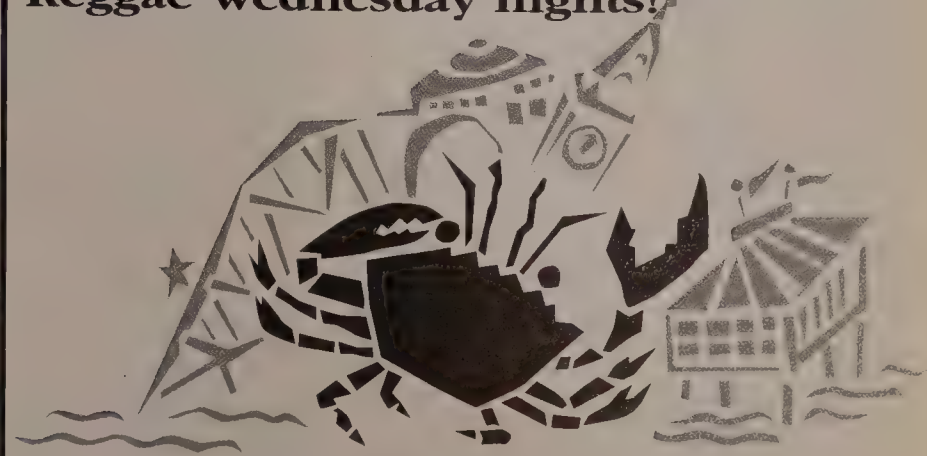

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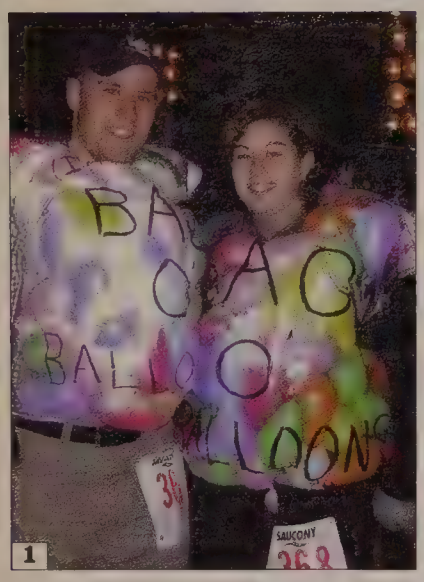
The Improper Bostonian's client-related promotions and events

On Halloween night, **The Improper Bostonian** presented the **6th Annual Halloween Fun Run** (a three-mile ghoulish jaunt around the Boston Common) to benefit **The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation**. **The Rack**, a major sponsor of the event, hosted the exclusive post race party along with Cha-Chi Loprete of **WBCN**. Some additional sponsors included **MFS Investment Management, Amstel Light** and **Bacardi**.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1. **Jason Humphrey** of Hemisphere Financial Service and **Jennifer Lanza** a research assistant at Massachusetts General Hospital.
2. **Liz Dixon** of Brighton and **Sam Bigelow**, a musician from Beacon Hill.
3. Sisters **Karen** and **Katie Lynch**.
4. **Cha-Chi Loprete** of WBCN with **Karen Kelly**, director of special events for Cystic Fibrosis.
5. **Chris Karlson** of the Summer House in Nantucket, **Katherine Morse** owner of Flat of the Hill, **Chris Kling** partner at Nectarsecor.com and cheerleader **Cindy Cimenelli**.

The Big Easy Bar in **The Alley** hosted a bash on Thursday, November 2nd in celebration of their 3rd anniversary with live music by **Five Helena** and DJ **Matt Phipps**.

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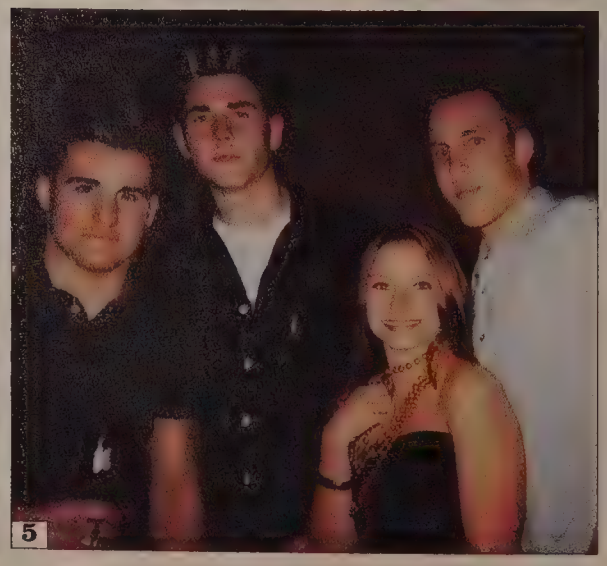
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1. Big Easy Bartenders **Aaron Houle; Suzie Schwartz;** and **Christian Gianaris.**
2. **Evan Mann**, an Emerson student; actor **Jimmy Owens**; and **Gareth Reynolds**, an Emerson student.
3. **Derek Shine**, a Big Easy bartender; **Daren Smith**, Marketing Director for The Alley; and **Jake Winslow**, a Big Easy bartender.
4. Administrative Assistant **Stacy Caine**, Medical Sales Rep. **Danielle Dunn** and Marketing Coordinator **Julie Steiner**.
5. **Eric Swick** a Harvard University student; **Tom Clements** of Bridgewater;, **Christa Patrylak** of Los Angeles ; and **Russ Sullivan** of Roselle Park, NJ.

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Boston Billiards Club
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General

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245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 248-9700. The Comedy Connection located in the heart of historical Faneuil Hall features the biggest names in comedy with apearances by Jon Stewart, Chris Rock, Wendy Liebman and Jay Mohr. Located on the second floor of the Quincy Market Building, the Connection offers the best in local and national stand-up seven nights a week. For more information call 617-248-9700.

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137 Mass Ave., Boston (at Berklee School of Music), 369-9087; 71 Mt. Auburn St., Harvard Square, 354-5838; 1940 Beacon St., Cleveland Circle, 739-0340; 82 Water St., Financial District, 357-9013. The Wrap serves delicious, freshly prepared wraps, burritos and salads as well as healthy and refreshing smoothies. Voted Boston's Best 1998 & 1999 by The Improper Bostonian. Fresh ingredients, great taste, healthy options - words we live by!

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Last Scene Here

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

At the Latin Gala, clockwise from top: Toby Roover (l), Cindy Gruber and Gloria Ross; Kim Carrigan (l) and Liz Walker; the Wild Women of Vermont.

PAGING RICKY RICARDO...

Latin-themed parties often seem half-assed, as if guacamole and a few piñatas are enough to transport people South of the Border, but **The Wellness Community** wasn't fooling around, and it went all out for its 10th annual **Latin Gala and Auction** at the **Westin**.

Greeters dolled up like Carmen Miranda directed guests toward a frozen-drinks bar and a buffet groaning under the weight of empañadas and quesadillas. The ballroom was tarted up like a cantina in some Latin American banana republic. And, yes, there were piñatas, but inside each (which sold for $50) was a chance to win a Cartier wristwatch (which typically sell for a big pile of pesos).

Tag-teaming TV anchors **LizWalker** and **Kim Carrigan** conducted the live auction before dinner, while a sizzling salsa band played afterward, and all the gringos gamely tried to cha-cha, with varying degrees of success.

Present and accounted for: Frugal Fanny (a.k.a. **Kathleen Doxer**) and her mustachio'd muchacho, **Orren**, videographer-about- town **Richard Tilkin**, Cartier party boy **Chris Shepherd**, the exquisite **Lydia Cottrell**, preppy laugh-riot **Trip Elmore**, co-chairs **Cindy Gruber**, **Toby Roover** and **Gloria Ross** (who did a bang-up job), and a Newburyport restaurateur who bid $10,000 on an auction item, prompting someone to mutter, "He'll have to sell a shitload of clam strips to make that back."

KISSING THE HAND THAT FEEDS YOU...

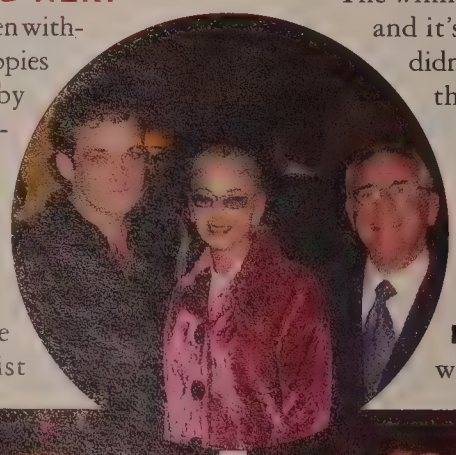
Through the **FleetBoston Celebrity Series**, the **Mark Morris Dance Company** did a short run at the **Shubert**, and a post-performance reception was held at **Finale**, where the dancers and big shots mixed and mingled over champagne and dessert.

Among those onhand were the hugely stylish **Ellen Zetcher**, with her husband, Talbots CEO **Arnold** (whose company underwrote the whole thing), and many of his underlings and executives, who whispered among themselves, speculating on whether the shoes Morris wore during a drag number were from their store.

When asked about it, the always tactful Morris tossed a theatrical look in the Zetchers' direction and exclaimed, "I wouldn't wear anything else!"

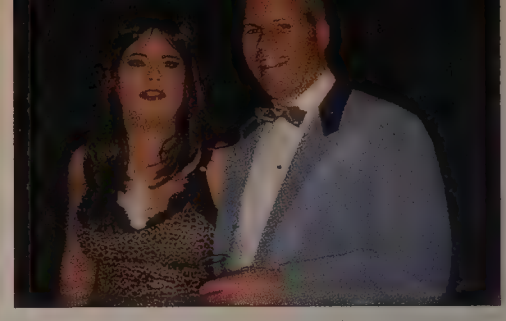
WHERE'S JAMIE LEE CURTIS WHEN YOU NEED HER?

It wouldn't be Halloween without a bunch of upper yuppies altering themselves by donning elaborate costumes and imbibing copious amounts of booze to benefit the **Athenaeum**.



The annual do, held at **Locke Ober**, drew the likes of exhibitionist playboy **Charlie Hale**, indie record label founder **Terra Friedrichs**, raven-haired seductress **Alexis Soulios**, South End gadfly **Keith Creamer**, Cary Grant impersonator **Christopher Harris**, cohabitating proud new home owners **Simon Vining** and the fabulous **Dawn Weyant** (who missed the opportunity to have him dress up as Tony Orlando, so that she could go as herself), and numerous others who were unrecognizable because of masks, makeup or the fact that they don't get out much.

Madcap hilarity ensued, and no one got arrested, but there's always next year.



At the Locke Ober benefit party for the Athenaeum. Left: A group of revellers donned costumes ranging from conventional to "what the—?" Right: Lovely lady Brian Szela and Keith Creamer.

HALLOWEEN, THE PORN VERSION...

Meanwhile, it's amazing that no one got arrested at the **Erotic, Exotic Costume Contest** thrown by **E! Entertainment TV** and **Stella Artois** beer at **The Rack**.

Hosted by **Lynn Hoffman** of Mix 98.5, it was judged by radio bigwigs **Jay Severin** and **Bruce Mittman**, Patriots **Max Lane** and **Scott Zolak**, and yours truly, who was confused as to what, exactly, was erotic about a guy riding an emu, or some chucklehead from Saugus dressed up like a chucklehead from Southie.

That said, there were belly dancers and flashers, numerous dominatrixes, and one guy sporting a prosthetic penis of improbable dimensions and two women in nude bodystockings, attached to a foam background, the other side of which was printed like a cover of Penthouse promising a hot lesbian layout inside.

The winners took home $1,500, and it's a pretty safe bet they didn't tell their parents where the money came from.

Top, at Finale: Mark Morris (l) with Ellen and Arnold Zetcher. Bottom, at The Rack's Erotic, Exotic Costume Contest, from left to right: M.L. Bramucci and Paul Piselli; and the guy riding an emu.

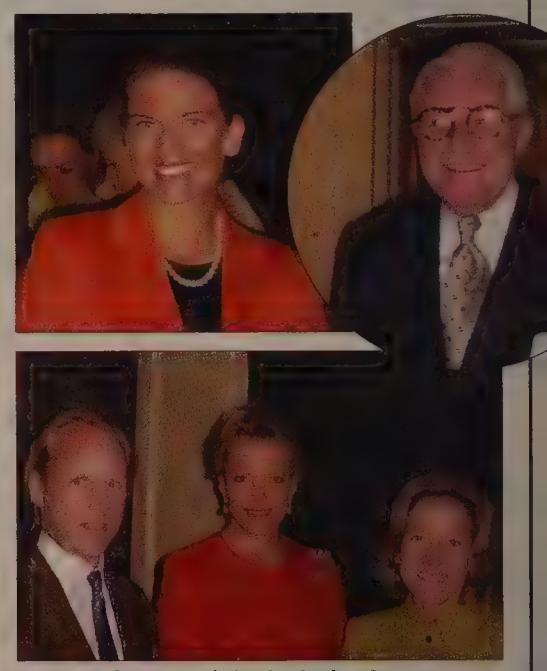
PRICEY KNICK-KNACKS, ANYONE?

The grande dame of antique shows, the **Ellis Memorial**, got underway at the **Park Plaza Castle** with a preview party featuring all the usual folderol: exquisite and extortionately expensive bric-a-brac, tasteful money-eyed folk, and a raw bar that keeps the long-suffering spouses of compulsive collectors from complaining too loudly about that $40,000 Anglo-Sinhalese, exotic-wood dowery chest that will look fabulous in the guest house.

The show also included several special events, like the brunch at the **Ritz** for **Princess Michael of Kent** (a cousin of Liz), who looked beautiful and earned her keep with a fascinating slide show and lecture about the royal mistress Madame de Pompadour.

Engrossed by the presentation were such avatars of good taste as Sotheby's factotum **Bill Cottingham** and his wife, **Sally Fay**, the enormously stylish **Michelle Talbot**, newly-wed **Allison Johnson** (nèe Neder, who married Fidelity scion Ed a few weeks before and was just back from her honeymoon), the eternally gracious **Sandy Krakoff**, delightful North Shore denizen **Maria Hutchins** and dapper interior decorator **David Webster**, to name a few.

It's not often that a Caesar salad comes with a history lesson from a British royal, making it a lovely afternoon, even if the Caesar salad tasted like it was prepared in the kitchen of an English boarding school. There will always be an England, but there's no reason to cook like them. iB



At the Ellis Memorial, clockwise from top: Allison Johnson; David Webster; Bill Cottingham, HRH Princess Michael of Kent, and Sally Fay Cottington.

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Photograph for THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN by **Bill Streicher**

Assistant: **Mary O'Malley**
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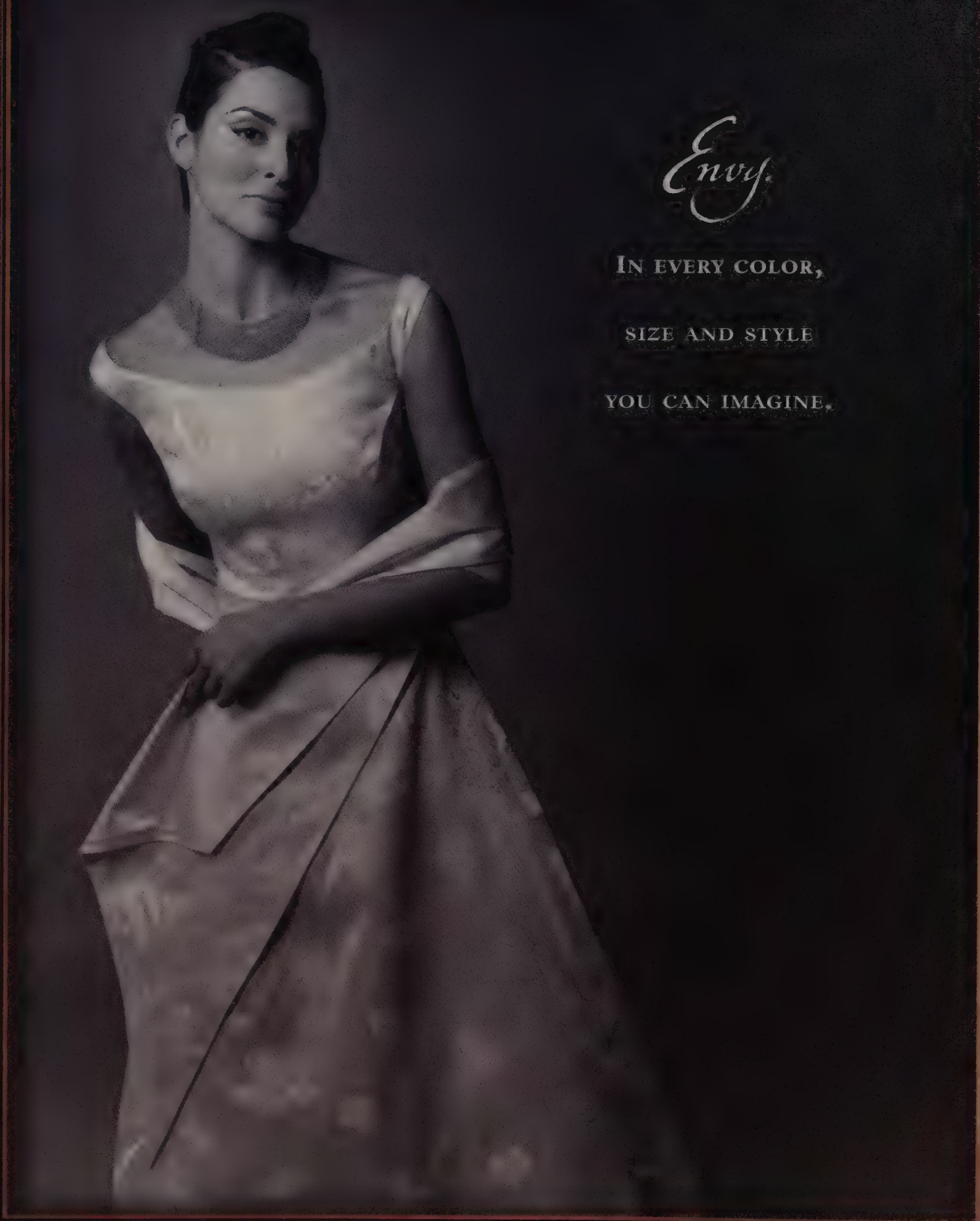

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letters

"I WAS VERY IMPRESSED WITH THE ARTICLE IN THE LATEST ISSUE ABOUT BOSTON HIP-HOP. BUT YOU FAILED TO NOTE ONE COLLEGE RADIO STATION THAT HAS BEEN SUPPORTING HIP-HOP SINCE THE MID-'80s, WHEN EDDIE 'Q' MATTHEWS AND OTHER NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY DJs STARTED THE *SOUL'S PLACE* PROGRAM..."

—ROB ALPERT, WRBB DJ

HIP-HOP KNOWLEDGE

I was very impressed with the article in the latest issue about Boston hip-hop. But you failed to note one college radio station that has been supporting hip-hop since the mid-80s, when Eddie "Q" Matthews and other Northeastern University DJs started the *Soul's Place* program, where every night from 8pm to 12am DJs would play hip-hop. That tradition was extended in the mid-90s, when I began my morning show, *The Rob and Gang Show*, which also played hip-hop—both commercial and underground, with a strong focus on local. Today, WRBB 104.9FM still plays hip-hop with Papa D! and myself focusing on local hip-hop artists Saturday and Sunday, respectively, 12 to 3pm. WRBB has a long history of profiling rising stars in Boston long before any other radio station, and that tradition is alive and well today.

—ROB ALPERT, WRBB DJ AND FORMER NEWS DIRECTOR/ENGINEER
via e-mail

HIP-HOP STATIC

I was hoping to read about Boston's underground hip-hop scene and enjoy Andrew Graham's "encyclopedic hip-hop knowledge." However, Mr. Graham's book is out of print. I did not see one word about The Kreators, Joint Venture, K.T. or Iyadonna, just to name a few artists. I also failed to find any mention of the first and only uncensored music video show in Boston, which we co-produce. It's called *Strickly Hip-Hop*, and our video company tapes 90 percent of all hip-hop shows in Boston. Sorry, we missed your message that you called to interview us. Please, if you are going to do a cover story—cover the story.

—CHARLES AND CELESTE JOHNSON, HIS AND HER KHONCEPTS
Via e-mail

HAM CATALOGS FOR ALL

I read Ezra's "Junk-Mail Reject" article yesterday after having the IMPROPER sitting on my desk for days, and when I got home, I found the Harry and David catalog in my mailbox. I opened it up, and there was the $84.95 pre-sliced ham. How's that for a coincidence? Thanks for writing about the things we all experience every day in this great city.

—CHRISTINA MITAKIS
via e-mail

FURIOUS OVER FIANDACA

What a bitchy, woman-hating troll that Fiandaca is (Soroff On, Nov. 15). That old queen should take a look in the mirror before he makes judgments about what color is for "insecure, financially unstable women." What a truly inappropriate thing to say! Sorry, Alfred, if we didn't all grow up with money in our backgrounds! Really lacking on our end, huh? What a nasty-sounding-looking-acting, stupid man he is, if man is what he is. And, frankly, he's a dog to look at, so we know where he is coming from!

—ANNA VANNI
Malden

THURSDAY-NIGHT THEORIST

I loved your article on the nightlife of Thursday nights (Nov. 1). When I was in college I always wondered why students like to party more than just Friday and Saturday nights. I could never come up with a better answer than, "Hey, they just like to party." But recently I entered the big, bad corporate world and realized that even top execs go out on Thursday nights! So I came up with the theory that corporate America has made Thursday nights much more accessible to their lifestyles by adding "casual Fridays" into the mix. With casual Fridays, you can sleep later, never worry about putting on makeup or a tie, and go into work looking like a slob. Granted, not everyone does get to dress down on Fridays, which may deter them from going out the night before and coming into work looking like they got hit by a bus. I know from personal experience that it takes me about 15 minutes less to get ready when I don't need to worry about putting on a suit and can just throw on jeans, which in turn leads to more sleep from the long night before. If a T-shirt and jeans were allowed every day, I don't think I'd ever take a night off from partying!

—JEFF MEGARGELL
Medford

SIGHTED: A TUBBY VIRGIN

I enjoyed Rachel Strutt's piece on the Virgin Marys that adorn the lawns in my Winter Hill neighborhood. She missed one of my favorites, though, in which the white grotto that Mary is emerging from is actually the inside of one of those pedestal bathtubs that has been sawed in half. Talk about your pure Virgins!

—WAYNE JONES
Somerville

CORRECTIONS

The flags that appeared on the cover of the Nov. 1 issue were provided by Flagraphics of Somerville (776-7549). Our bad, Flagraphics.

Due to incorrect information, in last issue's cover story Esoteric was mistakenly identified as the star of the movie Lift. Lift *stars Esoteric's doppelgänger and fellow local rapper Beyonder.*

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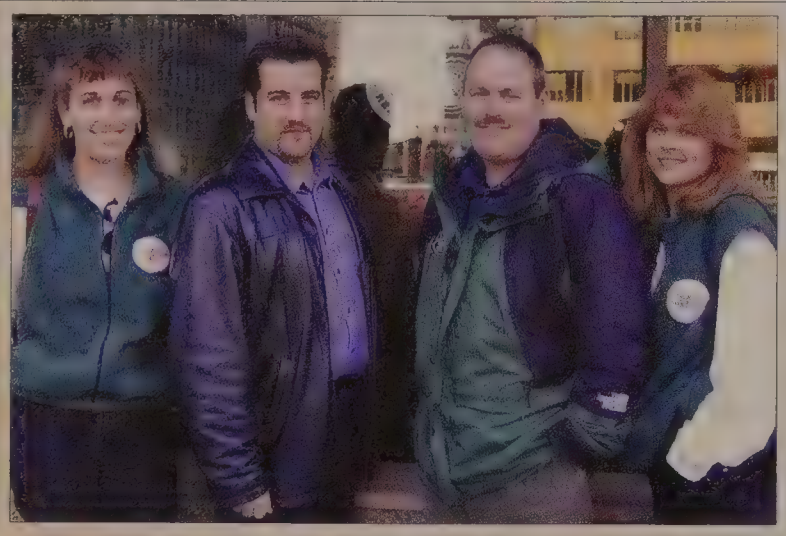
IMPROPERSPEAKING

BY ELLEN O'BRIEN



SOX STOCK SCORES WITH BOSTON FANS

OK, so it worked in Green Bay, where the team used to pass the hat in the stands to collect dollars for uniforms. But that was the '20s and we're not so sure what fans, never mind **Red Sox** team owner **John Harrington**, would say these days about such fund-raising schemes when it comes to public ownership of the Sox. Regardless, **Highland Shore Media** man **Don Moorhouse** (above, left) and Worcester-based radio exec **Tom Davis** (flanked by corporate teammates **Heather Jones**, far left, and **Lesa Withanee**) have been recruiting pledges—more than $2 million to date—for the Red Sox New England Xchange (RNX), a corporation dedicated to buying the hometown heartbreakers. Davis and friends ran their plan by Major League Baseball and the Securities and Exchange Commission to make sure they didn't break any rules. (They can't accept cash yet.) "I can tell you that we have two investment banks, or investment businesses, that are interested in underwriting this for us. This is very real," says Moorhouse.

This month, Moorhouse was told by park officials to stop handing out "Take Stock in our Sox!" pamphlets at the Public Garden but he continues his word-of-mouth and windshield-papering campaign. "We are talking about a public stock offering—a voting stock," explains Moorhouse. So does this mean THE IMPROPER'S suggested batting order might get used if we invest? Not exactly, Moorhouse says: "But we are talking about electing a Board of Governors and voting on stadium issues." The high-roller Red Sox price being bandied about is in the $300 million range. That's a lot of fans.

WSJ NEW ENGLAND BUREAU CLOSES

Journalists across the city were saddened to hear that the ***Wall Street Journal*** decided to close down the paper's New England bureau. The reporting and writing were standout, a *WSJ* memo stated; but the bureau simply wasn't generating enough revenue to justify the cost. That's a blow to a team of reporters who provided competitive coverage of city and state affairs. (The IMPROPER gave them a nod as best local news operation this year after **Geeta Anand** scored a talk-of-the-town interview with former Big Dig exec **Jim Kerasoites**; Anand is among those staffers headed to New York for the *Journal*, but there's no guarantee there will be room for every New England reporter within the *WSJ* New York walls. There will still be *WSJ* types working in Boston, but the staffers who had been exclusively giving *the Boston Globe*, *the Boston Herald* and other media outlets a run for their money will no longer be reporting on the Hub. In other news for newsies, ***Boston Herald*** hell-on-heels reporter **Andrea Estes** is walking across town to *The* ***Boston Globe*** and its South Shore bureau. All the folks in federal court who are used to Estes and the *Globe*'s **Shelley Murphy**, who go head-to-head in an old-fashioned scramble for underworld scoop each day, will miss Estes—(and South Shore selectmen are no doubt double-checking their tax returns right about now).

And finally, in a curious display of Hollywood-like machismo, veteran copy editor **Bob MacDonald** reportedly hauled off and socked rock writer and Names & Faces co-author **Jim Sullivan** in a parking-lot drama at the end of what must have been a long and frustrating day. Allegedly, *Globe* execs are wondering which workplace rules apply in this case—and what Sullivan may have said when joking about MacDonald's hindered vision and trademark eye patch? Strange, we know. MacDonald and Sullivan declined comment to the IMPROPER. One thing is for sure: the *Globe* can never be accused of detouring too far from the rough-and-tumble roots of daily newspaper work.

Don't call her Mrs. Hanks.

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER?

So we're sitting at this year's annual Big Sister benefit, the one honoring do-gooders, women and the first-ever male honoree, Sovereign Bank CEO **John Hamill**, and we realize that WCVB-TV's **Liz Walker** gets these master-of-ceremonies gigs because she's actually good at it (she got off a great zinger about WCVB-TV's move to make her their daytime, not prime-time, newscaster). Then we start to wonder: Who among us would bid more than $1,000 to eat dinner with "hizzoner" Mayor **Tom Menino** and his wife, **Angela**? We found out American Express honcho **Larry Post** and Hamill's wife, **Kathryn**, upped the ante during the evening. In the end, the Hamills prevailed and **Salamander** restaurant will serve as the backdrop for the fearsome foursome. The night's silent auction brought in an impressive $25,000.

EXIT STAGE LEFT

Who says Bostonians are celebrity starved? We do. The mid-month Wilbur Theater audience who sat down to *Dinner with Friends*, **Donald Margulies'** Pulitzer Prize-winning play, were apparently impressed to the point of giddiness when Hollywood phenomenon **Tom Hanks** arrived to watch his wife, **Rita Wilson,** in her stage performance. So much so, the big-screen star had to move to a seat with a lesser view to escape all the attention the audience should have been paying to that night's players. In other parts of town, television's talking head **Bryant Gumbel** started his holiday shopping at the Equator Gallery on Newbury Street, where the NBC morning newsman bought two vases designed by owner **Sasha Raiz**.

SAMANTHA'S IN THE HOUSE

The IMPROPER'S Fashion Editor helps readers look fabulous all year long. Please send your inquiries to letters@improper.com

Q. Dear Samantha: I have a question about cufflinks. I have several pairs, including an awesome claddagh set that I found in Ireland this summer. The problem is finding French cuff shirts without taking out a personal loan to pay for them. Any suggestions? Thanks, Gary.

A. This is a little tricky, though I applaud your determination to wear French cuffs—a classy touch, especially at holiday time! In Copley Place, visit Thomas Pink for French cuffs for men and women. For bargain browsing, go to your computer and log onto *www.Bigscoop.com*, *www.bluefly.com* and *www.storequest.com* for great guides to discount items.

KING ROCKS ROXY

On the mend following a near-fatal accident last year when a car struck him, horror-writer **Stephen King** rocked along with other writing sensations and singing legends like '60s guy **Roger McGuinn** of **The Byrds** at a **New England Revolution** charity event for city kids who score both goals and good grades.

Wearing big wig, author Scott Turow belts out a song while Stephen King strums.

A BOSTON THRILLER

We have a winner! Cityscape Motion Picture Education, the Roxbury film school, tells us that movie producer **Roger Corman** (*Little Shop of Horrors* and *Wild Angels* are among his credits) has selected the screenplay of Boston attorney **Mark Dickison** for his next project. Corman and his crew will begin shooting *The Strangler's Wife* —a thriller about a woman who starts to suspect she may be married to a modern-day Boston Strangler—in April. Dickison beat out 100 other New England screenwriters in his first screenwriting attempt. Not bad for a guy with a full-time job. iB

Speaking of Boston

Got an inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to speaking@improper.com

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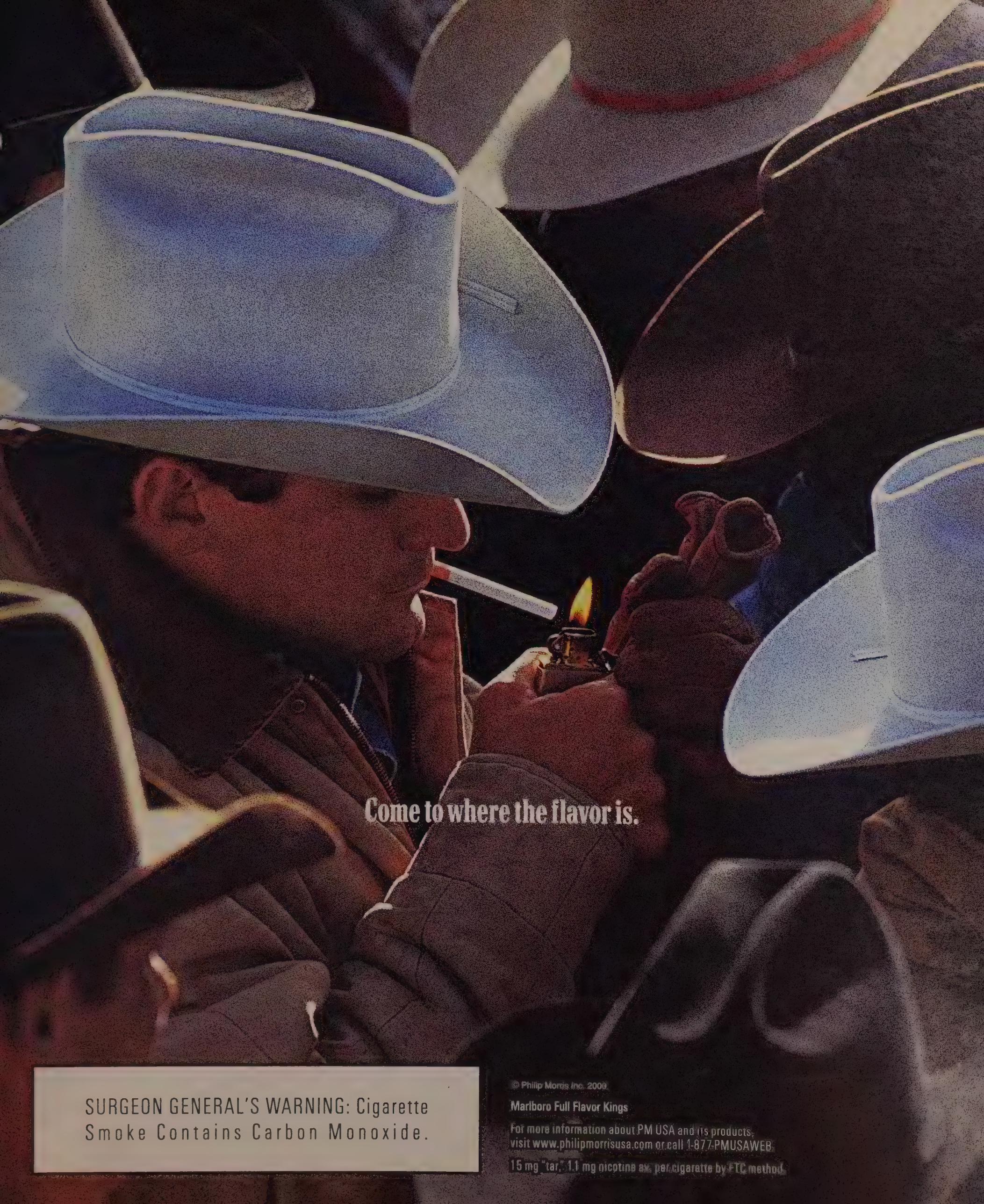

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CITY LIMITS

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BY ERIN HAGEDORN AND JULIE SHORT

Foreground: Josh Madell (co-owner) and David Day (manager)

NEW IN TOWN

KRAUTROCK AND BEYOND

When you enter **Other Music**, next door to the House of Blues, think quality, not quantity. The small space, which is filled with specialized CDs and LPs in seemingly disparate musical genres, is a rare music junkie's delight. Like its Manhattan counterpart, Boston's Other Music—which opened early in November—specializes in hard-to-find alternative, underground and experimental music, as well as imports and out-of-print rarities. "We basically cloned the New York store and are letting it transform as our customers request things and as we grow to represent the local scene," says manager David Day. "One of the reasons we opened here is that we had a nice cyber crowd from Boston as on-line customers. Other than that, it's word-of-mouth—people come in and see what we have and get excited. The music really sells itself."

Music is organized under various categories, such as: **In** (more traditional music, whether it be rock, instrumental or punk); **Out** (things like noise and free jazz); **Electronica** (abstract experimental, trip-hop, techno); **La Decadanse** (loungy international pop); **Krautrock** (German '70s rock); or **Psychedelia** ('60 and '70s and modern drone psychedelia). It's also got an impressive selection of hard-to-find magazines to match off beat musical tastes; you'll find *Trickfactor*, *Sleaze Nation* and *Apeman* (an English hip-hop magazine). Watch for plenty of in-store appearances—Yo La Tengo plays Nov. 29, 1pm. *90 Winthrop St., Cambridge (491-4419). Mon.-Sat., 11am-9pm; Sun., 11am-7pm.*

LOCAL PERSONALITIES

HIKE FOR HOPE

On Jan. 1, while the rest of us are nursing serious hangovers, two 20-something Bostonians will lead a group of 12 on a 4,400-mile hike from the southern-most point of Florida to Canada's Gaspé Peninsula—a journey that only two people have ever completed on foot.

Other than an exhausting 10-month workout, the point is to raise money and awareness for Oxfam, an organization that strives to combat hunger, poverty and social injustice around the globe. "We want to inspire our generation to get out there and do more than simply consume," says Dakota LaCroix (right), who met his fellow leader, Mike Smith, while working at the 1369 Coffee House in Central Square. LaCroix hopes to raise $10,000 per hiker to cover basic expenses—the rest will be donated to Oxfam.

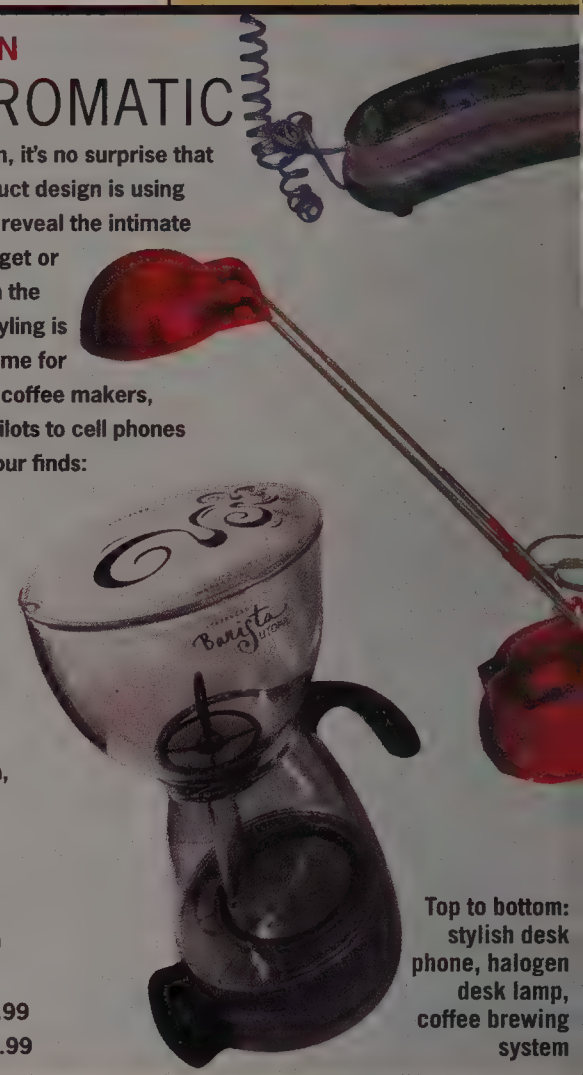
If they're successful, the Hike for Hope 2001 team will be the youngest and largest group to complete the entire Eastern Continental Trail. Does LaCroix foresee the formation of dramatic alliances like our pals on *Survivor*? Exactly the opposite, he says confidently. "Our goal is to keep the group together." Along the way, the crew will record its journey with a digital camera and laptop computer. You can follow along by reading journal entries and watching video clips from the trail at their Web site, *www.hikeforhope2001.org*. To make a donation, call 876-4493.

AROUND TOWN

MAC-CHROMATIC

In this age of voyeurism, it's no surprise that the latest trend in product design is using translucent colors that reveal the intimate innerworkings of a gadget or machine. It started with the iMacs, and now such styling is all over the shelves in time for the holiday rush—from coffee makers, microwaves and PalmPilots to cell phones and beepers. Some of our finds:

Urban Outfitters
e-fortune, $15
n Extension halogen desk lamp, (on sale) $14.99
key chain/radio, $20
Starbucks
Barista Utopia Vacuum Coffee Brewing System, $169
True Value
RCA Universal Remote, $11.99
Extension cords, $2.49
Radio Shack
Clear Trim Phone, $24.99
Stylish Desk Phone, 29.99



Top to bottom: stylish desk phone, halogen desk lamp, coffee brewing system

ALL THE BUZZ

MIX AND MATCH

You're hip, young, fashionable and have cash to spare, but nowhere to spend it. Banana Republic's too pedestrian and a trip to Hermes would blow your budget. Fear not. Bostonians finally have an option that covers the middle ground: **Intermix**, the ultra-hip New York boutique that opened on Newbury Street in mid-November.

Offering high-end fashion at affordable prices (read $185 for a sweater and outfits under $500), Intermix's collection includes those hard-to-find-in-Boston Jimmy Choo shoes, Frankie B. pants and Earl Jeans. "Customers would travel to New York simply to shop at our store," says CEO Khajak Keledjian. That trek is no longer necessary for Bostonians who seek cutting-edge fashion—from women's shoes and handbags to sportswear and evening wear.

"We mix designer and nondesigner labels together to create the Intermix look," says Keledjian, revealing the fashion theory behind the store's moniker. Celeb devotees include fashionistas Cameron Diaz, Gwyneth Paltrow, Julia Roberts and Madonna, "but anyone who's fashion-conscious will shop here," says Keledjian. "Our customer is look-driven. She will eat bagels for the rest of the week in order to wear a hip pair of pants." (We're guessing that's bagels *sans* cream cheese.) *186 Newbury St., Boston (236-5172).*

TOP LEFT: DEB DILA; BOTTOM RIGHT: ANDREW SWAINE

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A Bad Case of Jetson-Lag

Despite its high gee-whiz quotient, home networking won't play in Boston.

There are definitely times when the high-tech crowd on the West Coast might as well be from another planet, as far as New England is concerned. They're always coming up with so-called technological "breakthroughs" that are utterly impractical for anyone living anywhere close to Boston. Case in point: Microsoft is currently touting a concept that it calls "home networking." The idea is that everybody should replace all the electronic devices in their homes with ones that can be wired together in order to provide "enhanced control and integration."

Here are some of the scenarios that Microsoft envisions, taken verbatim from the company's Web site:

Consider the advantage of a thermostat digitally connected to an alarm clock: the heat automatically turns up shortly before you wake, even if you set your alarm clock to wake you an hour early one morning. The heat then goes down as you get ready for bed.

At first glance, this sounds really neat, but then the reality of New England kicks in. Suppose, for example, that you and your honey are about to go for some late-night romping, in which case you'd prefer not to literally freeze your buns off. All of a sudden, you've got to cozy up to some tiny LCD screen and reprogram the thermostat, even though your alarm clock thinks that you're asleep and under the covers. Now, despite the fact that I worked as a computer programmer for 10 years, I'm the kind of person who will go for months without programming the time on my VCR. I'm not going to want to take the time to reprogram my home network, especially when I've got other things on my mind. That kind of stuff might play well in balmy Seattle, but I can't see screwing around (as it were) with some fancy alarmo-thermostat (or whatever) during a cold New England winter.

Consider the benefits to a "smart" kitchen: the refrigerator knows you're out of milk and places an order with the online grocer. This is home networking...bringing convenience and fun to your life.

This scenario raises all sorts of interesting questions. How does the refrigerator know that you're out of milk? By the absence of a carton? What if the carton is empty but still in the refrigerator? What if the milk simply goes sour? What if you decide you want skim milk? And where the heck are these online grocers? Do they deliver to my hometown, where I can't even get decent pizza delivered? Or maybe the milk will arrive by Fedex, hey? What's ridiculous about this scenario is that 40 years ago, people in New England actually did have milk delivered—by milkmen. Back then, people left the next day's order in the empty bottles on the doorstep. I guess that computerizing that ordering process will somehow make milk delivery profitable again, despite the fact that milk delivery was driven out of business 40 years ago. All of that aside, however, I must state that I've never considered ordering milk—by computer or otherwise—as a vast source of fun in my life, but maybe that's just me.

THE IDEA THAT MY COMPUTER IS GOING TO TALK TO THE COMPUTER AT, SAY, MEL'S FURNACE REPAIR, IS LIKE SOME KIND OF BIZARRE *STAR TREK* NIGHTMARE.

You wake at 6 a.m. to a view of the mountains and a current ski report: snow is falling and the powder is piling up. You send an alert via your alarm clock to your children's alarm clocks and the coffeepot. The coffee starts brewing, you hear the patter of steps upstairs as the kids get out of bed, and soon you're all off to an early start to the mountains for a day of skiing.

A lovely view of snow in the mountains—now there's a West Coast concept if I ever heard one. When it snows in New England, the powder isn't piling up in the freakin' mountains, it's piling up in your freakin' driveway, and you're going to have get your butt out of bed and shovel it if you're going to get to work. As for the rest of the scenario, I want to know how a person who's so lazy that he can't get out of bed to make coffee and wake the kids will have the energy to spend a day skiing. Is this person employed? Why aren't the kids in school? Let's face it: This family isn't going anywhere, and the closest they'll come to getting exercise is maneuvering the controls of the Playstation connected to the bedroom TV. Maybe there are families that fit Microsoft's profile in Seattle, but I've never heard of any near Boston.

Even Bill Gates will concede that technology has its limits, especially in Third World countries.

Imagine that your furnace is slightly overheating; it sends a message to terminals in your home and at your office alerting you and asking if a repairperson should be contacted. You simply respond, 'Yes,' and your UPnP home network contacts the service company and arranges the repair while coordinating with your online calendar.

I laughed so hard when I read this scenario that I almost busted a gut. Has anyone on the West Coast ever tried to get a New England handyman out to the house to some work? Evidently not, because then they'd know that if a workman arrives within 24 hours of the appointed time it's a minor miracle. The idea that my computer is going to talk to the computer at, say, Mel's Furnace Repair, is like some kind of bizarre *Star Trek* nightmare. The reality is that good ol' Mel is going to show up "sometime in the next two days" and that he'll "give a call before coming over."

Oddly enough, there is one person on the West Coast who seems to be figuring out that "breakthroughs" like home networking might not be as useful as advertised. That person is none other than that Bill Gates who (perhaps not coincidentally) actually lives in a custom-built home that's completely networked. Anyway, Gates recently tossed cold water on a West Coast rah-rah technology conference (the kind where home networking would be seriously discussed) by pointing out that people in the Third World don't have much use for computers. "Do you people have a clear idea of what it means to live on $1 a day?" he hectored at the startled faithful. "You're just buying food; you're just trying to stay alive."

Of course, the world's richest man trying to explain to a bunch of dot-com millionaires what it's like to be poor is easily as absurd as home networking, and the Third World is certainly very different from New England, but it's still nice to know that somebody on the West Coast—even if it's only Bill Gates—is finally beginning to understand that, in the big scheme of things, reality always trumps technology .iB

Geoffrey James (*www.geoffreyjames.com*) is the author of numerous books as well as the co-host of *Funny Business*, heard Saturdays 10 to midnight on WRKO, AM 680.

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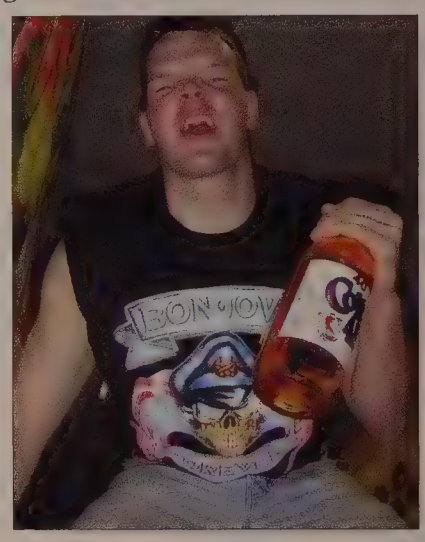
Ezra BY EZRA DYER

Blaze of Jovi

New Jersey's greatest export hits Boston

Where have all the good bands gone? Whatever happened to Whitesnake, Warrant, Def Leppard and Poison? Can I no longer Pour Some Sugar on my Cherry Pie? It's definitely 18 and Life to Go without Skid Row in my life. Where is Tesla now when I need a Love Song? Well, worry not, my big-hair-havin', black-acidwash-jeans-wearin', Monte Carlo SS-drivin' brethren. One man still rocks harder than a mobile home during a heated domestic dispute. Ladies and gentlemen, give it up for Mr. Jon Bon Jovi!

When my old college roommate, Matt, e-mailed me to say he had an extra ticket to the Bon Jovi concert at the FleetCenter, I initially had mixed feelings. But after a little soul searching, I decided to live on a prayer and get in touch with my inner-New Jersey. I was pleased with my decision, until later that day Matt e-mailed a picture of Jon Bon himself, circa 1986, sporting a big perm and wearing cut-off jean shorts. Note to self: When a picture attachment arrives with the comment "I didn't know guys could get camel-toe," don't open it.



When the night of the concert rolled around, I was psyched for the show and yet grieved that I threw out my white Reebok hi-tops with the big tongues years ago. And there was no time to grow a passable molester mustache or even the weakest of mullets. To make matters worse, it turns out that my wardrobe is as lacking in Bon-Jovi-appropriate attire as it is in Prada suits. I had to settle for a pair of ripped jeans, a gray long-sleeve T-shirt and the promise that I would find some fly Bon Joviwear at the show.

Which I did. Fortified with several cups of Bad Medicine punch, I immediately made a beeline for the tee-shirt vendor. I was dismayed to find that the majority of the merchandise was...tasteful. Most of the shirts said simply, "Bon Jovi 2K." What? Understated apparel at a Bon Jovi concert? For a moment, I pondered bribing a passing concertgoer for his Cabot High Class of '92 sweatshirt (complete with the signatures of all his classmates—sweet), but then I spotted the object of my desire: Grinning skull, American flag and "Bon Jovi Forever" slogan. After getting the vendor's assistance in the removal of my new shirt's unsightly sleeves—an operation he apparently had plenty of experience with—it was off to catch the first song: "Livin' on a Prayer."

It wasn't long before the woman in front of me turned around and shot me a dirty look, probably because my index-and-pinky-finger devil horns kept getting caught in her ENORMOUS HAIR. "You can give me dirty looks all you want, 'cause I don't remember paying for an obstructed-view seat, Cousin It," I didn't say out loud, because her murderous-looking boyfriend was also staring me down.

That unpleasantness aside, from the outset I enjoyed myself in a smug, ironic way. "The vast majority of the cretins in here are serious about this," I thought, "whereas my attendance at this event is predicated purely on an appreciation for 80s excess and an admittedly troubling nostalgia for 6th-grade dances." But somewhere between "You Give Love a Bad Name" and "Bed of Roses", my attitude changed. Maybe it was the lights or the noise or the boxes on either side of the stage filled with groupies jumping like an overstocked trout pond. Whatever the case, at some point I paused to reflect on why Bon Jovi is still filling the FleetCenter while the vast majority of his non-overdosed contemporaries have been relegated to playing Atlantic City casinos with Toto. I was mulling over this weighty question when the music stopped, and JBJ actually left the stage—before playing "Blaze of Glory." Let me attempt to adapt this time-honored concert ritual to the printed page: Goodbye.

Ez, you rule! Come back! Tell us more about Bon Jovi! I want to have your baby!

OK, I'm back (*crazed cheering everywhere*). So, as I was saying, my haughty, less-Aquanet-than-thou attitude toward both Bon Jovi and everyone around me started to change. As the chorus reached its crescendo and scenes from *Young Guns* played on giant screens behind the stage, my mocking devil-horns grew earnest. I wished I actually had a lighter. And I looked down at my T-shirt, and the grinning skull looked up at me, and we agreed that "Bon Jovi 2K" is weak. No, it's definitely Bon Jovi Forever. **iB**

You think that's funny?

Lay your hands on this: ezra@improper.com.

rush hour rome

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Proper Bostonians BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

The opening night party for Donald Margulies' Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Dinner with Friends* was held Nov. 8 at Ambrosia. Chef Tony Ambrose played host to cast members Dana Delany, Kevin Kilner, Daniel Stern and Rita Wilson. *Dinner with Friends* will be at the Wilbur Theatre for a three-week engagement Nov. 4 through 19.

1

2

1. **Donald Margulies**, Pulitzer Prize winning writer of *Dinner with Friends*, and actress **Rita Wilson**.
2. **Meeghan Holaway** (l), *Dinner with Friends* understudy; actor **Kevin Kilner** and actress **Dana Delany**.
3. From left: **Gus Almeida**, banquet manager for the Westin Hotel; **Heather Mitchell**, editor at Porter Sargent Publishers; **Anjealetta Williams**, model at Maggie Inc., and **Erhan Inanilir**, banquet coordinator at the Westin Hotel.
4. From left: **Jennifer Lee**, special events coordinator at Broadway in Boston/SFX Theatrical; **Karen Conner** and her husband, **Bill**, president of Broadway in Boston/SFX Theatrical, and **Jennifer Kelley**, assistant marketing manager for Broadway in Boston/SFX Theatrical.
5. **John Maschia**, owner of Bomboa restaurant, and **Dixie Watley**, entertainment reporter for Channel 5.

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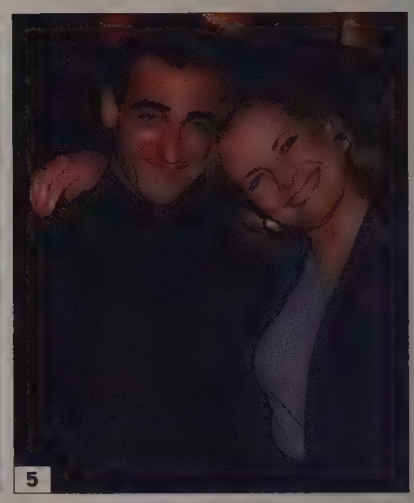
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The 19th Annual American Ireland Fund Dinner was held Nov. 16 at the Marriott. About $2 million was raised at Boston's largest charity dinner.

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6. **Jack Cronin**, independent management consultant; **Peggy Quilty**, RN at the Judge Baker Children's Center; **Cheryl Cronin**, partner at Holland & Knight; and **Dennis Quilty**, partner at McDermott, Quilty & Miller.
7. **Constance Hubbell**, president & CEO of the Hubbell Group, in Norwell; **David Mugar**, CEO of Mugar Enterprises; and **Robin Pelissier**, owner of Robin's Nest, an interior design company in Hingham.
8. **Mia** and **Bob Matthews**, real estate developer.
9. **Beth** and **Joe Kennedy**, CEO of Citizens' Energy Group, and **Chris** and **Bill Cunningham**, president of Capital Partners.
10. Attorney General **Tom Reilly**; **Anne Finucane**, executive vice president of FleetBoston; **Terry Murray**, CEO of FleetBoston and his wife, **Suzanne**.
11. **Tom Butler** (l), director of community affairs for Massport and **Chris Horan**, equity trader for Fidelity.
12. **Robert Popeo**, partner at Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glouvsky and Popeo, and his wife, **Brenda**.
13. **Elizabeth Feather**, tutor, and attorney **Herb Holtz**.
14. **Bob Kraft**, owner of the New England Patriots, and his wife, **Myra**.

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VERSACE

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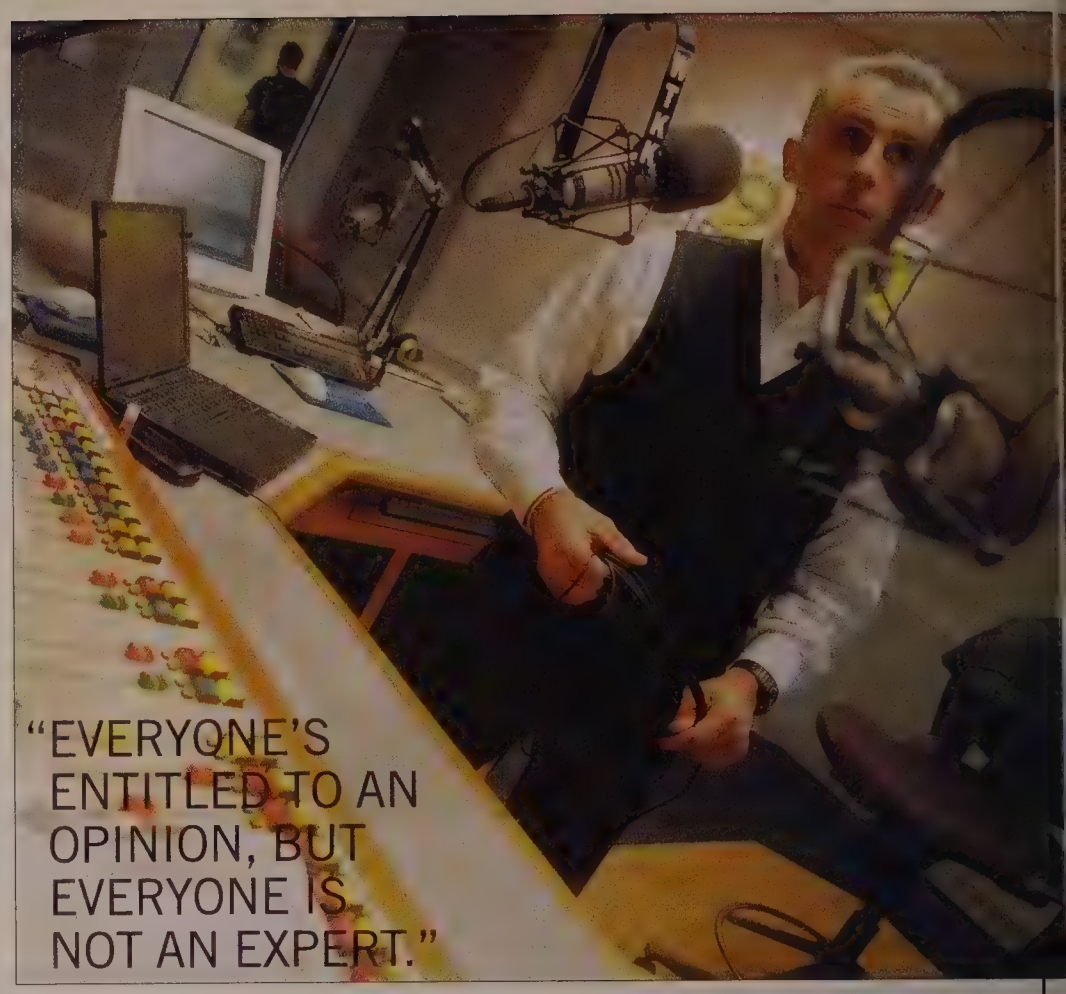
Soroff/On

Jay Severin

BY JONATHAN SOROFF



Talk-radio host and former political consultant Jay Severin was born and raised in Manhattan, where he was tutored for much of his early education because he performed professionally in theater and on television. As a teen, he met Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin and became involved in movement politics, participating in anti-war and civil rights protests, which got him arrested 50 times. After graduating in the first class of men at Vassar, in 1974, he worked as a session musician and toured with rock'n'roll bands, until attending graduate school at BU. He then worked for David Garth, "the granddaddy of all political consultants," leaving to start his own firm in 1980. He quickly rose to prominence as a media strategist, developing political commercials and advising candidates in more than 100 campaigns—for governor, congressman, senator and president (including George Bush's failed 1980 White House bid). By the mid-'80s, the people behind political campaigns had become objects of interest, and Severin had formed relationships with many journalists who relied on him for an irreverent and insightful read on the political scene. By 1994, he was hosting his own radio show from New York, syndicated to hundreds of markets nationwide. He was a correspondent for the BBC, appears regularly as a political analyst on MSNBC and has appeared or been quoted in every major media outlet imaginable. Dividing his time between Boston and New York, he hosts *Extreme Games* on 96.9 Talk FM, from 3-6pm weekdays.

Jonathan Soroff: *You describe yourself as a libertine libertarian. What's the most decadent thing you've ever done?*
Jay Severin: Have sex with three women, which I've done on a number of occasions.
JS: *Government interference in your life that you resent the most?*
Jay S.: Half of what I earn being taken from me.
JS: *Some people say that on the air you sound arrogant. Any comment?*
Jay S.: I'm sorry about that. I don't admire arrogance; it's a vice, not a virtue. But in my defense, I would argue earnestly that a more precise characterization would be bombastic. I'm very opinionated. I know exactly what I believe. And I think there's an entertainment quotient to what I do. In an out-of-court settlement, I'd settle for bombast.
JS: *Is Rush Limbaugh a big, fat idiot?*
Jay S.: No. He's a hero of mine. We disagree in substantial ways. I'm not a conservative. But I think the world of him. I wouldn't be in radio without him.
JS: *What punishment does Dr. Laura deserve?*
Jay S.: Virtue is its own reward, and vice is its own punishment. Or maybe vice is its own reward. But I can't criticize her. I don't agree with what she says, but I believe that she believes it's the truth.
JS: *Who would you rather sleep with: Howard Stern or Don Imus?*
Jay S.: Yikes. I hate to be old-fashioned, but sex with a man doesn't appeal to me. If they were both women, I'd find Imus more interesting.
JS: *Besides cab drivers who speak English as a second language, who listens to talk radio?*
Jay S.: As an industry standard? Overweight, conservative, religious white men, over the age of 65, named Chuck. But as far as we can tell, my listeners are 30 years younger, 30 to 40 percent female, and largely libertarian. That's what happens if you're lucky enough to be on the FM band in the Boston market.
JS: *Dirtiest trick you've ever pulled as a political consultant?*
Jay S.: I never pulled any dirty tricks. It sounds incredible, I know. I was always tough but fair, and I produced some very tough negative advertising. Probably the toughest was against Mario Cuomo in his race for governor of New York, which he lost to Pataki. The *Times* did a story, which I'm very proud of, calling the ad the most effective political TV spot, maybe ever. It just hammered him. It was all true, but presented in a very creative way.
JS: *Most scandalous or depraved thing you witnessed in politics?*
Jay S.: A composite of the hundred different times I saw a public servant sell out someone or something theretofore dear to him in order to go up a couple of points in the polls. I don't want to sound like a Pollyanna, but principle is important to me, and having seen that enough, I realized I was using my talents, such as they are, in a process that didn't turn me on a lot.
JS: *Would you describe yourself as a media whore?*
Jay S.: If that's the same as being a media slut, absolutely. Maybe the most dangerous place in America to be is between me and a TV camera.
JS: *Are you a pot smoker?*
Jay S.: I was, from about 14 to 20. I smoked pot like a chimney. But I reached a point where I didn't enjoy it anymore. If I did, I'd still be smoking it. And I think it's an obscenity that there are laws against drug use.
JS: *Name one thing the average citizen doesn't realize about the political process and should.*
Jay S.: That it's a business, and in the same way that in *The Godfather*, they say, "It's not personal; it's business," just before killing someone.
JS: *Biggest asshole in American politics?*
Jay S.: Hillary Clinton. She also has probably the biggest ass in American politics, so it's one housing the other.
JS: *Current pet peeve?*
Jay S.: Not enough college-aged girls are crazy about middle-aged radio personalities.
JS: *What's your IQ?*
Jay S.: I have no idea.
JS: *Usually people like you do. Should stupid people be allowed to reproduce?*
Jay S.: Yeah, I reckon. But they shouldn't be allowed to vote. I have no problem with a Constitutional amendment saying that someone who shows up to vote—a psychotic, soaked in his own urine, with no idea what he's doing there—shouldn't be able to cancel out my vote.
JS: *Funniest anecdote from your life in politics?*
Jay S.: Easy. I was caught once, by a United States senator, en flagrante delicto with his daughter, in his office on Capitol Hill.
JS: *You Jolly Roger'd his daughter in his office?!*
Jay S.: Yup. And his reaction was something like, "As soon as you finish, we need to go over those new poll numbers." True story. It should've put me off politics right there.
JS: *Priceless. What's your favorite political quote of all time?*
Jay S.: Benjamin Disraeli stood up in Parliament once and said, "Half of this body are asses." After being forced to offer an apology, he stood up and said, "Half of this body are not asses."
JS: *How do you feel about the new phenomenon of citizen pundits?*
Jay S.: As someone who takes the political process fairly seriously, I regard it as an obscenity, because that person has nothing to say that will enlighten me.
JS: *That sounds arrogant.*
Jay S.: Well, if you ask an average citizen who they're voting for and why, that's one thing. But when you ask him for political analysis, it encourages the notion that all opinions are equal. Everyone's entitled to an opinion, but everyone is not an expert.
JS: *What do you think being a political junkie says about you as a person?*
Jay S.: That I take a keen interest in the factors that impact my life on a daily basis. It seems to me that not caring about media and politics is to not care about the spaceship in which we're traveling. I suppose it makes me a kind of geek, but of the various sorts of geekdom, it's not so bad.
JS: *What's more exciting—sex or politics?*
Jay S.: I find them hard to differentiate, but if I must, sex is more exciting than anything.
JS: *If you could govern your fantasy republic, what would it be?*
Jay S.: I'd like to be the ruler of Nymphomania—the place to where very attractive, oversexed young women who need a strong ruler get banished.
JS: *Last question: Ever plan to run for office?*
Jay S.: Neither humanity nor my own selfish interests would be served by that. I'd have to take a pay cut, have diminished influence, behave like an adult, and enjoy the favors of fewer young girls. **iB**

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Jerkplace

Politics

In the tough search for talent, CEOs hunt for all-stars who can play nice. Workers with sharp elbows, big egos and bad attitudes need not apply.

BY ELLEN O'BRIEN • PHOTOGRAPHS BY DEB DILA

A roller coaster, tilt-a-whirl economy fueled by more money and opportunities than anyone could have predicted means workplace doctrines are rewritten each day—or so we're told. Job-jumping upstarts, those software and finance geniuses who still get carded at bars, have overhauled everything from dress codes to the traditional kiss-ass code of behavior around the boss. But however quickly things may be changing in today's workplace, a single old-school rule persists through the most dizzying of business days: Wherever you work, there's bound to be a jerk.

Not always as conspicuous as Steve Martin's Hollywood version of *The Jerk* (who was perplexed about his ethnic origin and just about everything else), today's workplace jerk discourages, alienates and angers peers. In a tight market where job satisfaction, just like money, proverbially *talks*, jerks are feared more than ever by CEOs. Why? Because jerks can prompt valuable employees to walk straight to the nearest competitor.

Knowing companies are fighting as much for top talent as they are customers, executives across the nation are seeking cutting-edge ways to guarantee that new hires—especially top execs—aren't disliked by colleagues. At the same time, progressive businesses are working to rehabilitate those employees who may have become jerks without realizing it. Whether longtime or neophyte jerks, these are the men and women about whom employees complain when they kick off their shoes at the end of the day, the ones who have been given, in some cases, morose nicknames for their ability to spread pain throughout the organization: "Cancer Man," "The Poser" and "The Terminator" were among the examples cited by local corporate employees who requested anonymity.

In Boston, the consulting firm Akibia Inc. recently created a massive hiring campaign with a "No Jerk" theme. "We just said we wanted to work with the best people, and we wanted to be very restrictive. Then, by making it hard to get a job with us, everyone seemed to want to get a job with us," explains Adam Honig, company co-founder and president of Akibia's consulting division. The company, a "total solution provider" (TSP) dedicated to Internet-enabled customer relationship management for high-technology and financial firms, plans to hire 200 people in the next six months. Founded in June 1998, Akibia, employs about 460 people around the world. "As far as we can see, we want to hire every great person we can find," boasts Honig.

The 33-year-old Long Island native discovered his fondness for identifying jerks during his last business venture, when he worked almost exclusively with a guy who was, put simply, a jerk. There's no other way to say it, explains Honig matter-of-factly."I just couldn't take working with this guy anymore," he says. "I didn't feel like anyone should work with a jerk."

The Akibia company Web site states: "We all work hard and spend a lot of time alongside our colleagues, so anyone with a bad attitude should not apply." So how does one define a "jerk"? Even Honig has to spend some time mulling the correct definition. First off, there's the obvious challenge: How can Honig be sure that he is not someone whom colleagues might consider, um, a jerk? "That's a good point," he acknowledges, offering a non-jerk response, measured by its good humor. "But I think I would have heard about it by now. We encourage that type of feedback."

"A jerk has trouble collaborating with people and having meaningful discussions about what is important," Honig continues. "If someone could only see one solution to a problem, then they might be a jerk."

Since its debut, the No-Jerk hiring campaign clearly has not hurt Akibia, which is booming these days. Just look at its roster of giant-sized clients, which includes names like Bose, Akamai and Monster.com.

Akibia is not alone. The pace of technological advances means that companies cannot afford not to know, trust and keep talent. One person deserting a project, in a market where truly talented types can choose from dozens of job offers, can stall results, reduce morale—and cost a lot in profits while the search for a replacement drags on.

IS EVERYBODY HAPPY?

While many American companies that have been around the better part of the century have experimented, and examined, workplace satisfaction and its correlation to productivity (Kellogg's was among the first to give six-hour workdays a try.), the astonishing number of new companies entering the marketplace means executives must compete in the area of human resources like never before. For startups, long hours and a frenetic level of energy often combine for unprecedented employee stress. These days, your co-workers are likely to be the people you see more than, for better or worse, your spouse or neighbors.

Consultants, like doctors, chefs and college professors all suffer from similar image problems; they are often stereotyped as arrogant. Whether or not the description is accurate, Akibia's clients seem to like the No-Jerk policy because it filters out, they believe, people who might march into their offices with an arrogant, know-it-all attitude.

Indeed, the filtering process at Akibia is rigorous. Wannabes meet between five to eight colleagues before a thumbs-up vote is tallied, and Honig swears the vote of an entry-level employee is weighted equally with that of a CEO.

If the idea of a jerk-free workplace sounds super ambitious, given the lack of attention many senior managers have paid to the issue over the years, it is.

"The reality is that a lot of companies think that if they have changed their dress code then they have changed their image," says psychologist and Babson College business professor Joseph Weintraub. "But changing your outfit doesn't change who you are on the inside," says Weintraub, who is also president of the Newton consulting firm Organizational Dimensions. Weintraub warns that the current emphasis on hiring and keeping employees who are not troublesome, intellectually insecure, petty or paranoid, should not be confused by CEOs as a formula for building homogenized, polite teams of perennially smiling employees.

"If you hire people who are all like each other, one [could] predict that you will have less conflict, but you will also have less productivity," predicts Weintraub. "If [a team] has different perspectives and more diversity, then it is likely to have more conflict but, managed properly, it will get more done. The point is, you can still have diversity—*and* no jerks."

A workplace scholar, Weintraub says employees report leaving jobs due to "interpersonal office difficulties" nearly as often as they cite the size of their paychecks as reason for quitting.

Workplace politics can get so horrible, companies receive nasty monikers from disgruntled employees. Through his research, Weintraub hears sad metaphorical assessments of workplaces, including the most familiar: prison. But there are plenty more. "One group told me recently," says Weintraub, "'We're like roller-derby. You go around in circles. You knock people down. You get knocked down. And you keep going. What's the point?'"

So what is the point? And how do you avoid ending up in a roller-derby-style workplace? That's where Weintraub comes in. He's one of a growing league of specialists who are hired to train company managers how to conduct an insightful and worthwhile hiring interview, and how to help employees learn new skills and find new roles within organizations.

Weintraub says that many written personality assessment tests "are actually pretty good—and people love analyzing other people." However, he adds, "That puts people in amateur psychologists' roles that they have no business being in."

Apart from smart hiring techniques, Wientraub asks the question, Can you redeem the firmly ensconced jerkplace manager we all know and despise?

Yes, says Weintraub, admitting his bias while working as a consultant to businesses who pay him to figure out how to salvage the unpopular but knowledgeable worker. The answer can be found in a commitment to openness on behalf of upper management, a willingness to change and a constant emphasis on personal and professional growth.

Our cast:

The Creep

The Snob

The Slob

The Boss

MODELS, FROM LEFT: ERIK HAMLET, TOM FAY, SUZE & MICHAEL J. VISELLI OF FORD MODEL MANAGEMENT

All those cliff-falling, trust-building and potato-sack-racing weekends managers nationwide seemed to have seized as the answer to finding their true, nurturing, intellectually secure selves are not likely to provide solutions, he says.

"Rocks and ropes aren't the answer, really," says Weintraub. "It's about training and coaching, developing managers and leaders through mentoring."

CHOOSE YOUR FRIENDS WISELY

At Babson's Center for Career Development, Director Len Morrison guides soon-to-be graduates on how to assess a company and themselves, looking out for the jerk factor on both sides of the interviewing table.

"It's so easy to get a job these days," says Morrison. "And tougher to get the right one." Morrison, an M.B.A. who spent more than a decade in banking before arriving at higher education, is familiar, of course, with the sensational buzz Akibia got from its advertised No-Jerks policy. Unfortunately, Morrison says, we are a long way off from widespread progressive hiring and human-resource practices. "We hear a lot about it. But how many companies are actually doing it?" Still, Morrison says: "There is more of an emphasis [on filtering out jerks] because employers are realizing how much it costs to lose people. They just can't afford to lose them. Particularly now, when there's less of an aversion to short-term employment."

Sure enough, that classic interview question, "So, where do you see yourself in five years?" doesn't seem as relevant in a career world where professionals can job-hop every two years—or sometimes more often—and still be held in high regard.

Beyond Akibia's hiring campaign, other companies are building their own jerk-free forces using something called "viral marketing," says Morrison.

This phenomenon works something like this: A company's most recent hire spreads the good word about his or her new job among friends. These friends—"people someone know and can vouch for"—then come aboard. Waltham's Giant Loop, a fiber-optic company, latched onto a Babson M.B.A. during an internship less than a year ago, and then sent him forward to recruit friends and peers he respected. That grassroots approach is how the company brought its initial troop of 20 on board; it now has about 200 employees.

CHIEF PEOPLE OFFICERS

For those working in human resources, like Christina Luconi at @stake, the concept of hiring employees who are nice people has transformed H.R. departments from the place where you go to inquire about your dental plan to the place where you find out, for example, whether you're perceived as unreasonable or defensive by your peers. Luconi, who holds an undergraduate degree in psychology, and a master's degree in organizational development from Boston University, has heard it all when it comes to so-called progress in human resources.

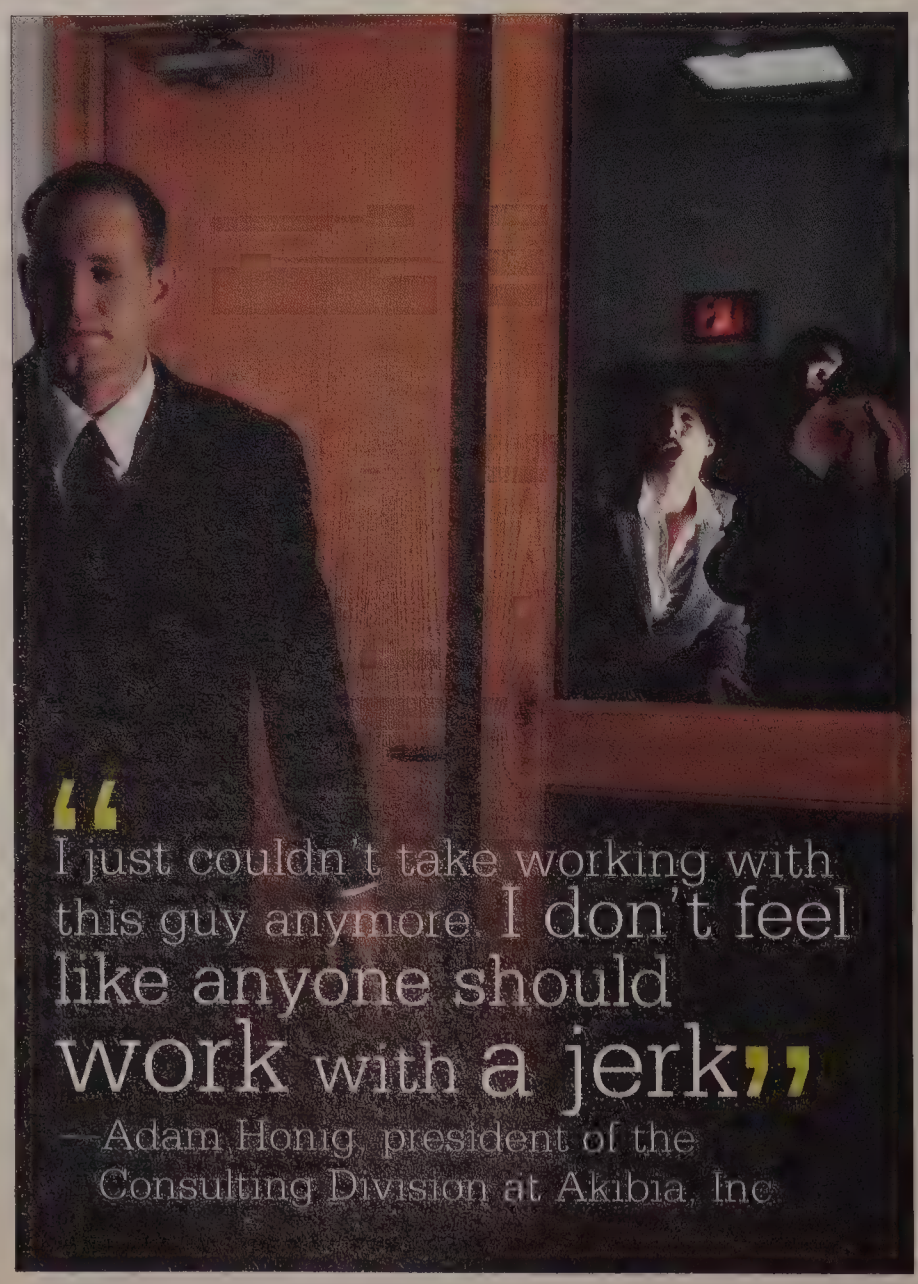
"I think a lot of people are throwing out a lot of terms," says Luconi. "I think the dangerous part is that a lot of people are talking about this great stuff but don't know how to do it." Working under the title of chief people officer, Luconi then leans dangerously near one of those popular terms she only a few minutes ago derided. "It's about 'strategic thinking,'" she offers.

Luconi's employer is among the hundreds of companies nationwide that ask applicants to take the PI test, one personality test used by many companies to quickly size up a candidate's ability to lead, compromise and consider an opposing point of view. "We probe each other," says Luconi. "We ask each other 'Why did you like her?' 'Why would he be good in a start-up?' 'Who could he work with?' Who would like working with him?'"

"One of the things that I really like is that we do these quarterly morale surveys. People are unbelievably frank," says Luconi. They range from 'I hate the person I am working for' to 'I want more feedback.' But they only work because we listen to them."

So how important is the jerk factor in today's workplace? There's heaps of anecdotal evidence to be found at Monster.com—which regularly logs thousands of responses to its workplace polls. When asked whether people had made close friends in the workplace, about 90 percent of respondents reported affirmatively. What's more, nearly half of those respondents ranked their co-workers among their closest friends, citing corporate travel and long hours as reasons why they had become so close with workplace peers. It's not surprising: In an age when boundaries between the workplace and the home are so blurred, and the marketplace often requires a 24-7 business mentality, you want to like your coworkers. Who wants to take a weeklong business trip with a jerk?

"There really isn't any room to take people for granted in this climate," says Luconi matter-of-factly. "If they don't like the people they work with, we're in trouble." iB



Know Thyself

The Predictive Index test helps employers find more of the right stuff

Companies can use a variety of personality tests to get a sense of whether an employee will "play well" with others, and here we take a look at one of the most commonly used ones: The Predictive Index (PI) .

The PI provides participants with 86 adjectives, and asks people simply to identify those they believe describe them—and describe how they believe their colleagues perceive them.

The test was developed by military man Arnold Daniels in the 1950s, when he was sent to Harvard Business School to study management statistics. Daniels' daughter, Dinah, continues her father's work at Praendex, Inc., a Wellesley consulting company. Given its age, the PI has been updated many times, says Dinah Daniels, who continually warns companies against using the PI as their sole indicator of an employee's potential to fit in well within an organization. The results should be shared, and used as corporations grow, or attempt to resolve conflict, says Daniels.

One person who recently became acquainted with the PI test is Andy Schmidt, who says he found the results "eerily correct." Schmidt, who joined the Internet security company @stake in February as a project manager, or, as he says, "chief cheerleader and traffic cop," was not yet comfortable telling THE IMPROPER what, if anything, his PI results may have highlighted as potential weaknesses.

The two-page test, accompanied by a minimal set of instructions, is, indeed, simple.

It took this journalist less than five minutes to complete the PI. Once it was submitted to Daniels, some of the personality traits Daniels attributed to me could have, like a psychic's prediction that you want to live a long life, applied to many people. Despite my cynicism (a personality trait the PI did not identify), my initial reaction to the test echoed Schmidt's. It was eery and insightful, given the little information I had provided.

The results of my PI test were helpful, in my opinion, because their arrival provided an opening to a thoughtful, if slightly uncomfortable, conversation with a co-worker. I ran the results by my colleague and officemate, columnist Ezra Dyer. We agreed with the following assessment: "You are intense, results-oriented person with a sense of urgency." Ezra says: "Sounds good so far."

I "have developed a high level of expertise in my field," and am hypervigilant when it comes to being "aware of mistakes made by myself—and others." Ezra says I don't dwell on mistakes, but do always manage to mention them when I find them. I like "analyzing and improving processes." Yep, says Ezra. "You make me check on stuff that I don't think needs it," he explains. Now here's Ezra's favorite part: Delegating is not the easiest thing for me to do. ("Right on," says Ezra!) Not surprisingly, I may sometimes be perceived as being "too authoritative." "Does that mean bossy?" Ezra asks. "Yup. I can see that happening," he offers. Still, I am open to criticism and not likely to get defensive about critiques of my work, or judgment. "That's true. That's fair," says Ezra. These days, the PI test showed, I am working on trying to be a little more empathetic, curbing my criticism and letting people find their own way more often. (I had recently confided this attempt to change in friends.) Has Ezra noticed? He excitedly says he has! (For the record, I am not in charge of Ezra's holiday bonus.)

"The best way for the PI to be effective is for upper-level management to embrace it," Daniels says. "Sometimes the top-level management is the problem." —*E.O.*

ON SUZE: WHITE BLOUSE BY STEPHANIE B., TWEED SUIT BY AGAINST GRAVITEE—PROVIDED BY JASMINE SOLA, 344 NEWBURY STREET
ON MICHAEL: SHIRT BY THEORY, WOOL PANTS BY CALVIN KLEIN; ON TOM: WHITE SHIRT, RED TIE, NAVY SUIT AND BELT ALL BY CALVIN KLEIN; ON ERIC:

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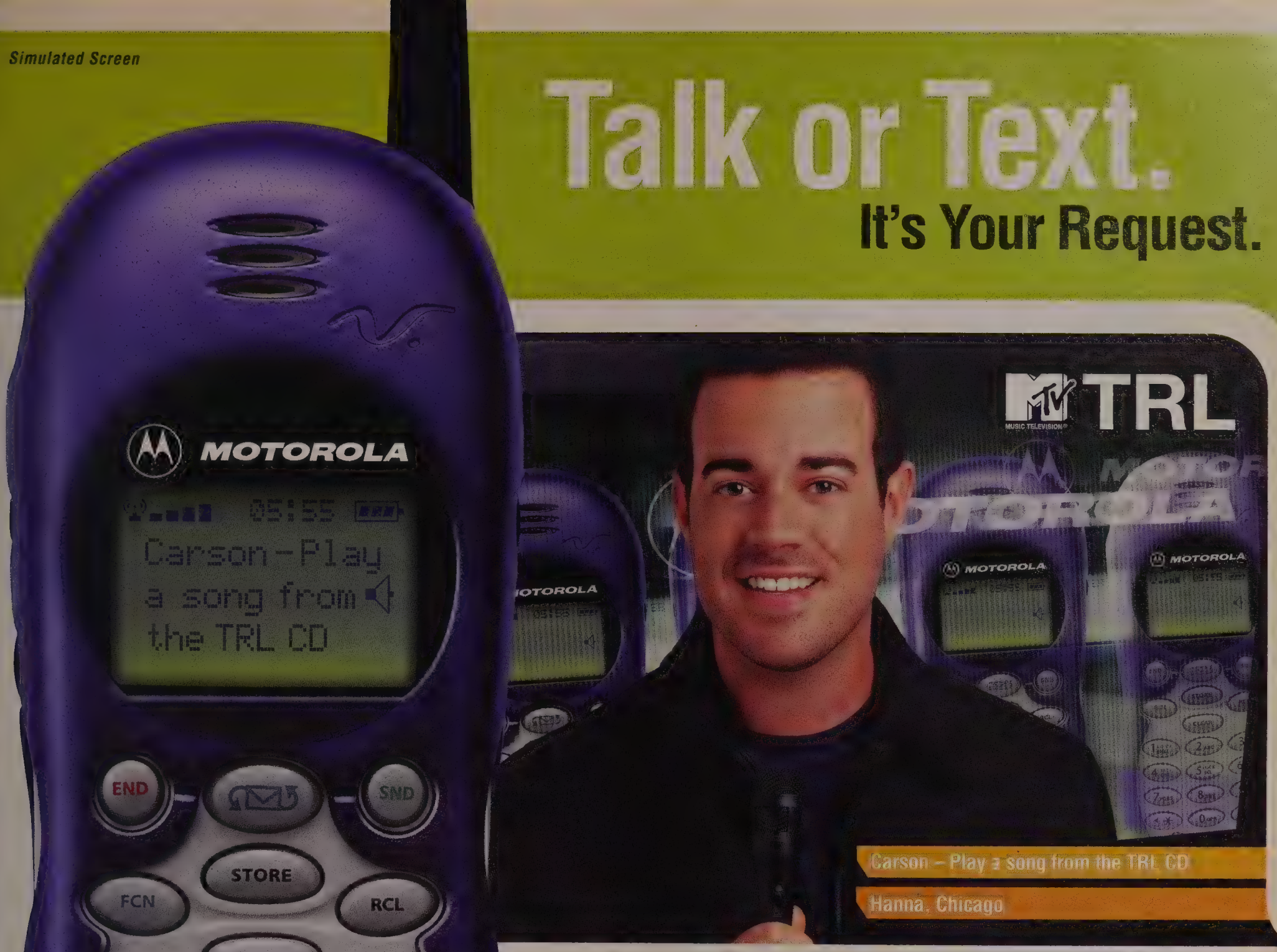

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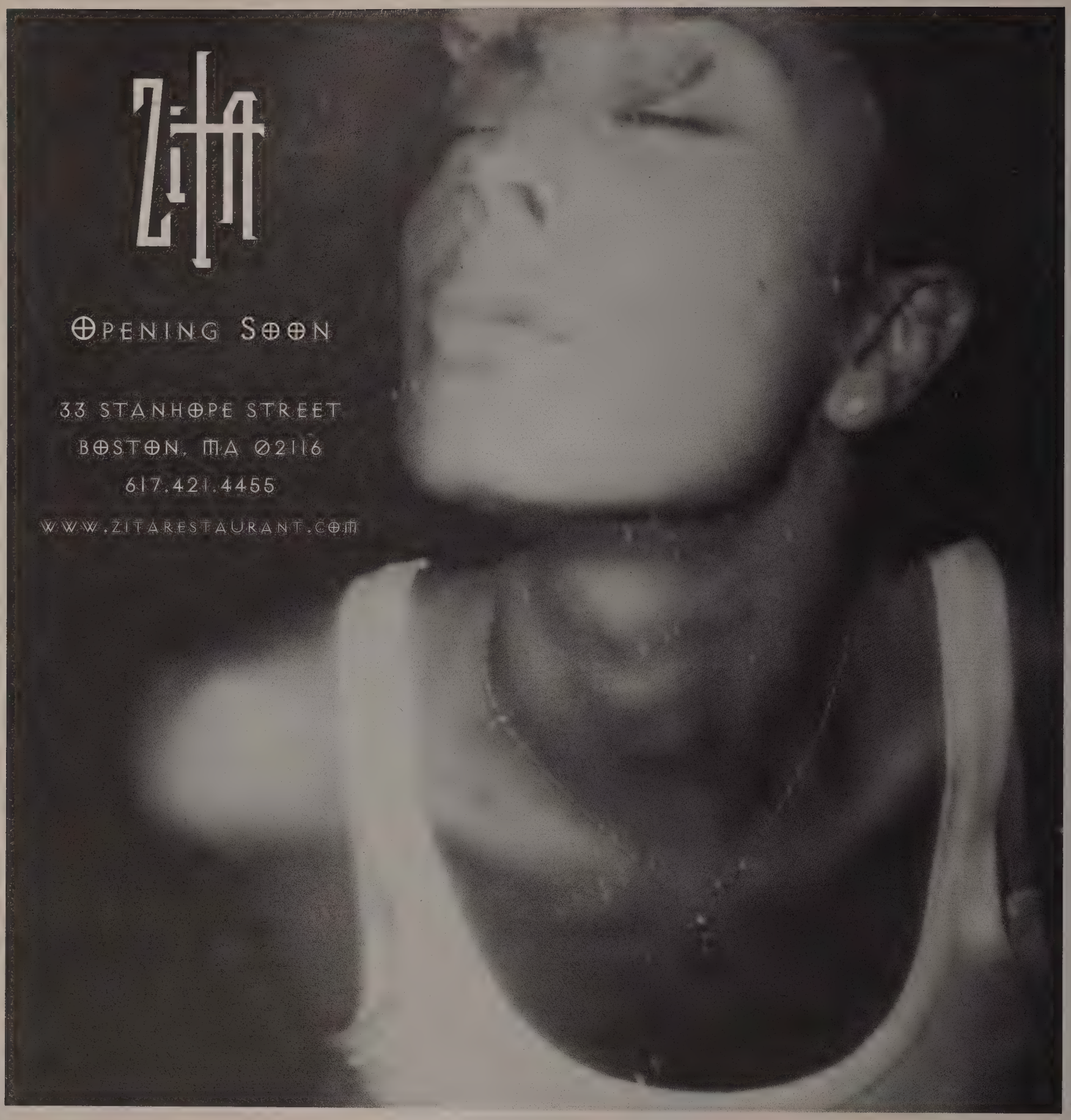
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Snow Tunes

A Holiday Fashion Musical in Five Acts

Photographs by Bill Streicher • Produced by Samantha House

Genevieve Rossi,
WB56 feature reporter, stars in

I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus

Obviously, jolly old St. Nick does not live on milk and cookies alone.

Dr. Genevieve: Black Cappotelli overall coat by Emporio Armani, 5936. Abstract, velvet Madison sofa, available at Restoration Hardware, $1,495.

DR. JULIE CHOI
plays the lead in

Blue Christmas

The silly chump forgot to get a flu shot.
Now he's under the weather and feeling blue…
until Dr. Choi makes a house call, that is.

This page, on her: Express Diamante bra, $400, Emporio Armani sequined mini wrap skirt, $778; on Kevin: three-buttoned slate suit, $995; blue cotton button-front shirt, $125; blue silk tie, $85; all by Hugo Boss.

Opposite page, on Dr. Choi: White Emporio Armani Tuxedo jacket, $598; Emporio Armani white sequined pants, $898; on Mike: his own J. Crew skivvies, not available for sale.

KEVIN LEMANOWICZ,
FOX25 meteorologist, appears in

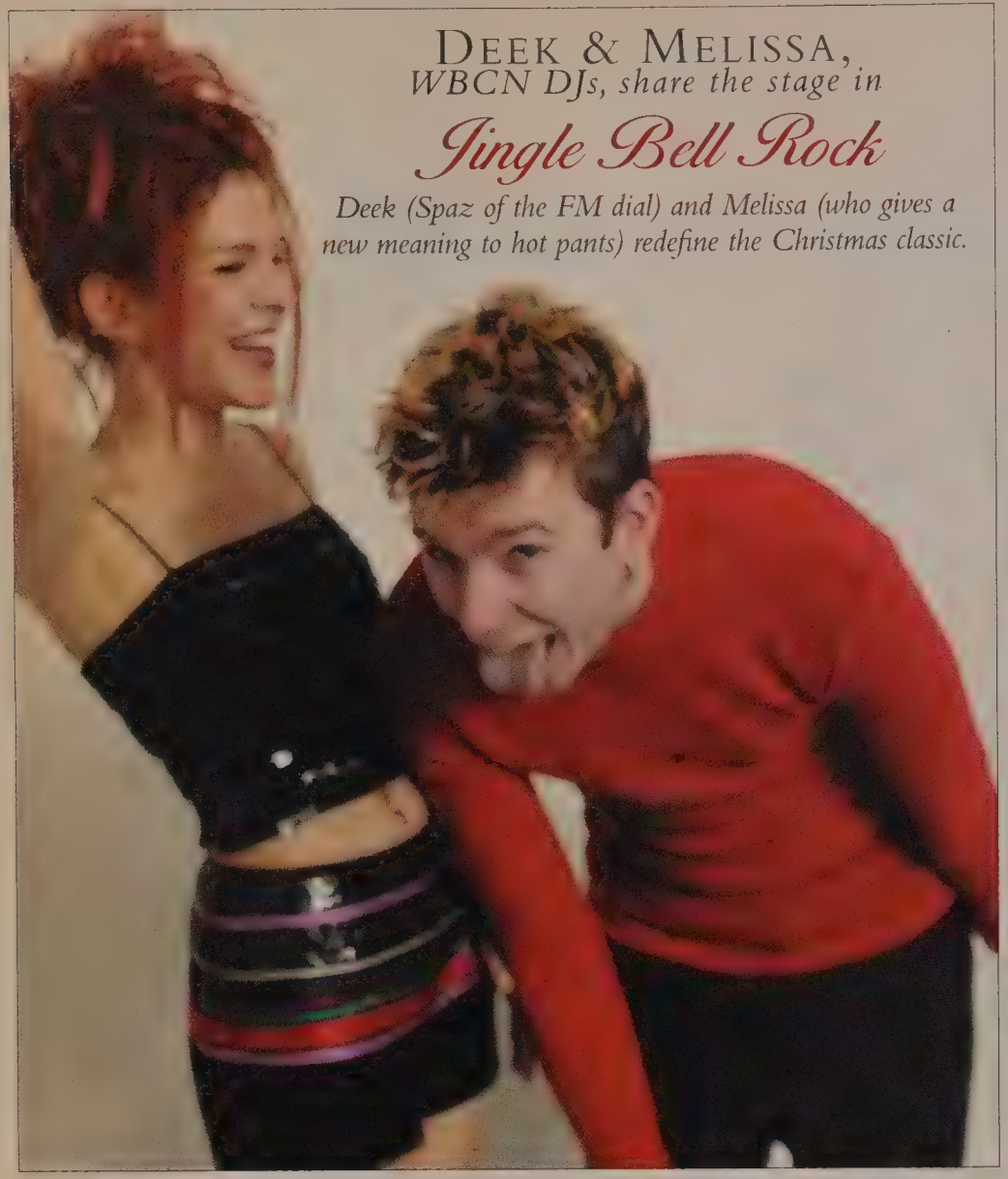
Baby, It's Cold Outside

Just as Kevin forecasted, it's well below freezing and snowing furiously. To prove his meteorological merit, the weather wiz drags his coquettish leading lady outside. From there, things get really nippy…

DEEK & MELISSA,
WBCN DJs, share the stage in

Jingle Bell Rock

Deek (Spaz of the FM dial) and Melissa (who gives a new meaning to hot pants) redefine the Christmas classic.



MATT BURNS,
Owner of Aquitaine Bis, presents

Let It Snow

The weather outside may be frightful, but at least you're not trapped inside a globe filled with water and little plastic snowflakes. On the other hand, you're not trapped with Matt Burns, either. Sorry.

This page, on Matt: black sweater with glovelettes and hood by Emporio Armani, $398; red corduroy pants by Emporio Armani, $298.

Opposite page, on Melissa: black tank with sequins by Emporio Armani, $498; multicolored sequined hot pants by Emporio Armani, $648; on Deek: red mock turtleneck by Emporio Armani, $148; black pants by Emporio Armani, $198.

Emporio Armani
210 Newbury St.
262-7300

Hugo Boss
Copley Place
266-7492

Express
84 Newbury St.
437-1377

Restoration Hardware
711 Boylston St.
578-0088

Hair: Charles Maksou for Maksou Artisan
125 Broad St.
443-8633

Models: Weathergirl for Ford Model Management and Michael Kopech, our stripped-down IMPROPER intern.

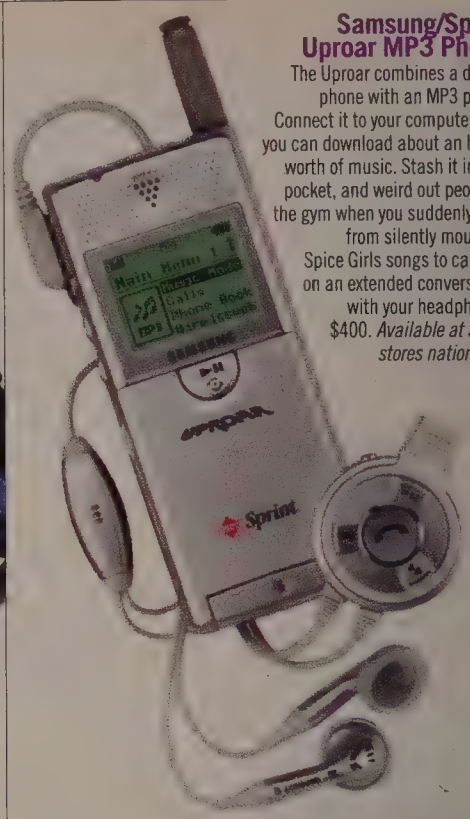
INSPECTING gadgets

CELL PHONE LOSING ITS LOOKS? PALMPILOT TOO PASSÉ? ATTENTION, TECHNO-CHIC SHOPPERS: HERE ARE SIX ESSENTIAL ACCESSORIES.

BY EZRA DYER

i-O i-glasses LC

They might not really be "virtual reality" goggles, but the i-glasses do provide the illusion that you're watching an 80-inch TV from 11 feet away. And, provided you're not too ensconced in your movie or video game, we found that they also make a for a great conversation starter. $399. *Available at* www.i-glasses.com.

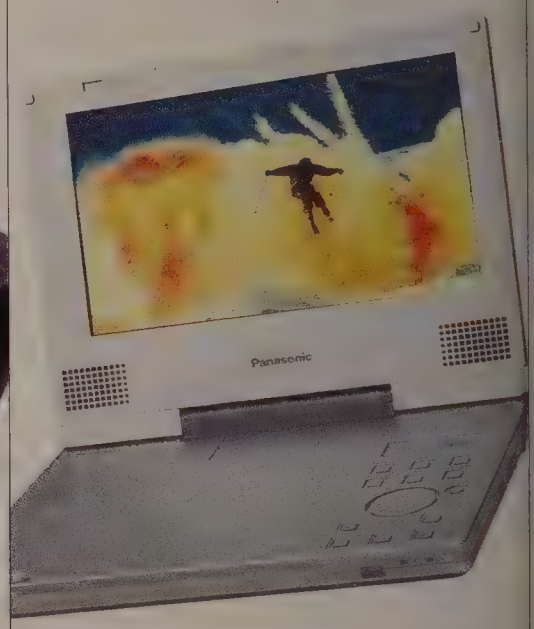


Samsung/Sprint Uproar MP3 Phone

The Uproar combines a digital phone with an MP3 player. Connect it to your computer, and you can download about an hour's worth of music. Stash it in your pocket, and weird out people in the gym when you suddenly shift from silently mouthing Spice Girls songs to carrying on an extended conversation with your headphones. $400. *Available at Sprint stores nationwide.*

Casio Wrist Camera

Anyone harboring James Bond fantasies has to love the idea of a wristwatch camera. With 1MB of memory, the WQV1-CR can store up to 100 images, albeit small ones. So if installing the ejector seat in the family Taurus is taking longer than you expected, try this. $199. *Available at JC Penney.*

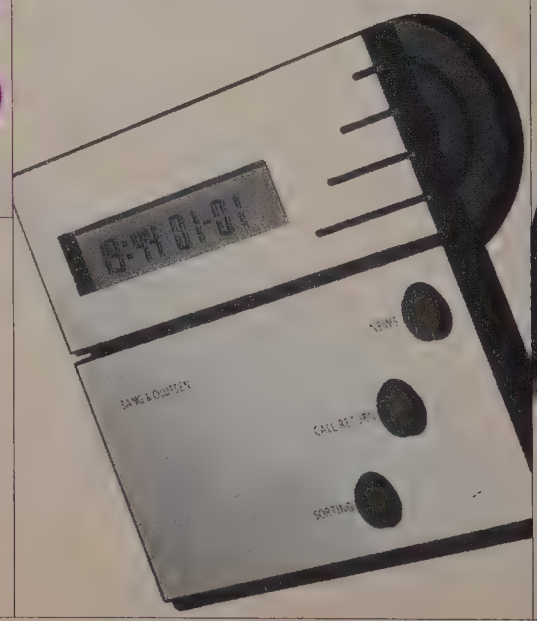


Panasonic Portable DVD Player

The DVD-LV75 combines a DVD player and a 7-inch screen in a tiny package. So screw the in-flight movie—the battery lasts four hours. $1,299. *Available at Tweeter, Etc., 350 Boylston St., 262-2299.*

Bang & Olufsen BeoTalk 1200

If you wish you had an answering machine that would announce who's calling and give that caller one of three different messages (or a busy signal) depending on who they are, then check out BeoTalk 1200. Apologies to bosses, telemarketers and mother-in-laws everywhere. $195. *Available at Bang & Olufsen, 30 Newbury St., 262-4949.*



Philips Pronto Remote

Point your other remotes at the Pronto, press their buttons, and this alpha remote will learn how to perform those functions. It can also send multiple commands at once, such as "turn everything off; the (insert Boston team here) just lost, and I'm going to bed." $399. *Available at Tweeter, Etc., 350 Boylston St., 262-2299.*

TOP LEFT: PHOTOGRAPH BY LUIS MATOS

CURIOSITY. REWARDED.

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THE Snow Must Go On

From slippery slopes and horse-drawn sleigh rides to hideaway inns and mountaintop dinners, we offer you seven weekend getaways packed with adventure—plus the inside scoop from the locals. BY JULIE SHORT

'Tis the season to get sucked into the endless cycle of holiday hoopla: the gift buying, tree-trimming, turkey basting . . . the to-do list goes on and on. This winter, don't let yourself be completely mowed over by this madness. Carve out some time from your busy schedule to get away from the tired routines of winter. • It's simple: Pack your car and head north to explore New England's picturesque Christmas-card country. On the following pages, we suggest seven winter weekend excursions—each packed with a whopping dose of adventure—for city-dwellers who need some fresh mountain air and an escape from the urban overload. Don't mistake these for generic weekend getaways, however. We went straight to the northern natives and asked them to recommend the "must-sees" and "must-dos" in their respective towns. From the top of New Hampshire's Mount Washington to the harbors of Camden, Maine, we sought out the best New England has to offer when it comes to skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, sleigh rides and skijoring (part dog sledding, part cross-country skiing). Now we offer you an inside scoop on all things snow-white. >>

A lone snowboarder tears down a trail at the Stowe Mountain Resort, home to the new Burton Method Center, in northern Vermont.

Adventures in the Wild

Where can you go in New England and feel like you're a character in a Jack London novel? Bethel, Maine. Be among the first to try the new fusion snowsport known as skijoring at the Telemark Inn (left) or experience the thrill of mushing on a dog sledding adventure to Umbagog Lake (top right). Groups snuggle up under a warm blanket on a horse-drawn sleigh ride in Mount Washington Valley, N.H. (bottom right).

Killington, VT

Seven Mountains, Sleigh Rides and Starry Skies

First things first: This is world-renowned downhill skiing territory. "If you're going to drive three hours or so, there's no better place to ski—the terrain is unequalled," says Somervillian Tom Karlhuber, who has skied every big-name mountain on the East Coast. He's a reliable, if somewhat biased, source. He and his wife, Cate, were childhood sweethearts in this small Green Mountain skiing village.

Offering seven peaks, Killington has bragging rights to more skiing mileage than any other resort on the East Coast. That's a total of 200 trails (including the legendary Downdraft, Ovation and Outer Limits) and two half-pipes for snowboarders. And at 3,150 feet, Killington boasts the greatest vertical drop in the East.

If downhill isn't your speed, there are 50 kilometers of cross-country skiing to be had at Mountain Meadows, an 1850s lakefront mountain lodge. Trails lead from the property into the surrounding national forest.

For a nighttime excursion, the Karlhubers recommend a moonlit, horse-drawn sleigh ride at the Mountain Top Inn in nearby Chittenden. As many as 10 people can huddle under a blanket and share a 45-minute ride through the pristine Green Mountain woods ($15 per person).

When it comes to noshing, regular Killington visitors head to the aptly named Peak Restaurant. On Wednesday nights, you can take a heated gondola to the top of the mountain for a breathtaking view as you dine—an experience Tom Karlhuber says is the rural alternative to eating at the top of the Prudential, "only the stars in Killington are five times more brilliant." Make reservations early, though; tables fill quickly during the peak season. For another unique dining excursion, head to McGrath's Irish Pub on the legendary Appalachian Trail. Reachable by Route 4 , this curiously situated pub is carved into a mountain ledge. Once inside, patrons must navigate a huge, 1.2-billion-year-old boulder in the corner of the bar—as they sip Guinness and perhaps step to traditional Irish tunes.

Among some of the most flavorful characters in Killington are Tom Karlhuber's parents, Manfred and Jeanne, owners of the Snowed Inn. The enthusiastic couple dispenses advice on ski trails to the visitors at their German-style guest house. Removed from the bars that populate Access Road, the Snowed Inn offers a hearty breakfast for guests before they head to the slopes. No visit to Killington is complete, though, without a stop at Blanche and Bill's for blueberry pancakes and a "mean poached egg," says Cate. Blanche serves customers in her tiny ranch-style home; it may not be luxurious but there's always a line. (Mention the Sox, and you'll become one of Blanche's best friends.) *Killington Chamber of Commerce (802-773-4181 or 800-337-1928).* www.killingtonchamber.com.

Stowe, VT

Moonlight Travels, the Burton Method Center and New-Age Massage

In December, Stowe, Vt., comes alive with the sound of music and the soft schussing of cross-country skis. While Maria and Captain Von Trapp won't welcome you at the door, their spirit is alive at the Trapp Family Lodge and Cross-Country Ski Touring Center. This is one of the premier cross-country resorts in the United States, says Jim Tabor, an avid skier and a former contributing editor to both *Outside* magazine and *Ski Magazine*.

If Killington is for downhillers, Stowe is for cross-country adventurers. Referring to the Trapp Family Lodge and its 65 kilometers of Austrian-quality groomed trails, Tabor says, "Only in St. Anton, Austria, would you find a resort like this." It's pricey, warns Tabor ($240 per night), but "it's money well spent." The trails begin, literally, at your back door. Or, if you choose to stay elsewhere, you can simply buy a day ski pass for $15.

In the evening, Tabor suggests heading down the road to the Top Notch Lodge for a jaunt with Charlie Horse Sleigh Rides. Here, two Belgian draft horses take you across snow-swept open farmland and into the woods. End the evening with live music at the swinging Rusty Nail.

In the morning, a visit to the Dutch Pancake House is essential (*The New York Times* declared it "the world's most decadent breakfast") before pointing your ski tips down Stowe Mountain Resort's 48 trails. If you've always toyed with the idea of giving snowboarding a try, sign up for a class at Stowe's new Burton Method Center, which "teaches you how to snowboard...pain-

SKIJORRING: MIKE BRINSON; SLEIGH: BOB GRANT

free," says Tabor. The center was created by Jake Burton, founder of the largest snowboarding company in the world. Noting that many first-time snowboarders become discouraged and give up after day one, the center's goal is to have neophytes maneuvering the slopes after one day—with minimal face-plants in the snow.

After a day on the slopes, warm up at Cold Hollow Cider Mill, just a short distance away in Waterbury Center, where you can watch cider being made and munch on donuts deemed top-notch by *Gourmet* magazine. Tabor also suggests a visit to Ben & Jerry's ice-cream factory nearby, where you can take a tour and gobble free samples.

Shopping is a must at the Stowe Craft Gallery, which sells high-quality Vermont crafts. Tabor offers a tip for shoppers: Back in the '60s, world champion skier Marvin Moriarty used to wear woolen ski caps knitted by his mother. "Soon everyone wanted one," Tabor says. Now you can buy your own at Moriarty Hat and Sweater Shop on Main Street.

Finally, a favorite among those who know how to luxuriate—the Stoweflake Mountain Resort now offers the newest trend in massage therapy: La Stone, a technique that uses heated and chilled flat stones to relax the muscles. For $110, you can be one of the first in New England to experience 80 minutes of this West Coast phenomenon. *Go Stowe (802-253-7321 or 800-GO-STOWE);* www.gostowe.com

Trailblazing
Rocky Freda of Sun Valley Sports in Bethel, Maine, takes groups on snowmobile treks along groomed trails through the woods and into the mountains (left). The sport of choice in Camden, Maine, is tobogganing down a 400-foot chute at the Camden Snow Bowl.

New London, NH

Snowshoe Capital of America

This spot was picked specifically for what it lacks: crowds. Bonnie Betters-Reed, a Newton resident who has owned a winterized cabin in New London for seven years, says, "Mt. Sunapee is what those other resorts were like 20 years ago. It's far more peaceful here—we're certainly not known for our nightlife."

Then what is the appeal of this town 90 minutes north of Boston? "It's just the quintessential New England town," says Betters-Reed. Stroll into the Morgan Hill bookstore and co-owners Peggy and Connie will join you for a cup of coffee and a discussion of their latest reads. If you have a bit more time, the quaintest of inns, the Hideaway, is favored for its upscale brunch, says Betters-Reed. Conversely, you can head down Route 11 to the Blackwater Junction diner to mingle with truckers and try some homemade hash.

New Londoners have dubbed their town as "The Snowshoe Capital of America." Indeed, the area offers long, meandering trails through forests and around lakes. You may not see moose, but you'll likely see their footprints in the snow. There's also plenty of cross-country skiing opportunities: The Norsk Ski Touring Center offers 85 kilometers of groomed trails, lessons, rentals and moonlit tours, as does the nearby Eastman Ski Touring Center in Grantham. You can ice skate on the village green next to the New London Inn—or head down to Lake Sunapee and skate on the frozen ice. (Rumor has it that Arnold Schwartzenegger just built a huge house overlooking the water. What's more, rocker Stephen Tyler, with his cottage on the lake, has long been a fan of the area.)

Antique lovers know the Sunapee region as a place where a "trail map" is necessary for shoppers who want to peruse the dozen or so shops filled with imported furniture, fine china, paintings and jewelry. For information on other bargains and local events, pick up a *Kearsarge Shopper* at Cricenti's Market when you pull into town, advises Betters-Reed. *New London/Lake Sunapee Region Chamber of Commerce (603-526-6575 or 800-258-3530).* www.newlondonareanh.com.

Williamstown, MA

Friday Night Skiing and Saturday Night for Parties of Two

There's no reason to cross state borders to find winter wonders. If you head west (and slightly north) from Boston, you'll eventually reach Williamstown, Mass.—known by many as home to Williams College. But it's also an outdoor lover's paradise.

Both Brodie Mountain and Jiminy Peak (the largest ski and snowboard resort in southern New England) offer skiing under the stars. "On Friday nights, they generally have cheap lift-ticket deals," says outdoor enthusiast Robin Hibbert, who's lived in the area for two years. You'll find that Williamstown itself is pretty quiet after dark: "It's not a destination for people who want nightlife, action and a raucous good time," cautions Hibbert. "It's more of a place to go with a significant other."

Mt. Greylock, the state's largest, looms over the town, providing the backdrop for a plethora of outdoor activities. In the winter, locals strap on snowshoes or cross-country skis and take to the old logging roads that traverse the area. Hibbert suggests visitors start at the Mountain Goat outdoor store on Water Street, where you can pick up a trail map and rent snowshoes. To rent cross-country skis, you'll have to detour to downtown North Adams on your way into Williamstown. Another helpful guide to the trails is the *Williams College Outing Guide*, which you can find at any bookstore in town.

When you're ready to come in from the cold, spend a few hours at North Adams' fabulous MassMOCA, an enormous, 27-building historic mill complex that's been converted into a center for visual, performing and mixed-media art. "It has very few traditional, framed art pieces," says Hibbert. "Even those who are generally not 'art people' appreciate the large-scale creations." Her favorite? A pipe organ made of plastic bags and dryer hoses.

So where to stay? Couples on a budget can bypass the crème de la crème like the Orchards or the Williams Inn and still relax in style. A less expensive overnight is available at the 1896 House, a former milking barn, or the Maple Terrace, a family-owned motel that's relatively cheap. *Northern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce (413-496-9602),* www.villagebeautiful.com/index.html.

Mt. Washington Valley, NH

Skiers' Paradise

Count 'em, *seven* downhill ski resorts—Cranmore, Wildcat, Bretton Woods, Black Mountain, Attitash/Bear Notch, King Pine and Shawnee Peak—and *six* cross-country ski resorts with some 450 kilometers of trails, all within a 25-mile radius. Winter travelers know the White Mountains are a one-stop wonder.

Our extra-special find? A star-gazing cross-country ski tour led by an astronomer at the Mount Washington Valley Ski Touring and Snowshoeing Center. Down the road, the Great Glen Trails at Pinkham Notch has some of the most spectacular cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in the area, with yurts (warming huts) along the trails, says Marti Mayne of the Mount Washington Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Another offbeat option is Great Glen's ecological tours up Mount Washington in heated snow coaches. "It's amazing to be on top of the mountain in 90-mile-an-hour winds," says Mayne. "On a clear day, you can see four states and Canada." There's also the Jackson Ski Touring Foundation (which has been rated one of the best in the

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country year after year, says Mayne) and nearby Bretton Woods for challenging cross-country skiing.

Corridor 9, the state-maintained snowmobile trail, runs through Mount Washington Valley. "It's excellent terrain," reports Mayne. You can rent snowmobiles from Profile RV in North Conway or Bartlett Snowmobile Rentals in nearby Bartlett. To travel the old-fashioned way, board a horse-drawn sleigh at Nestle Nook Recreation or the Stables at the Farm by the River.

Keep in mind that many area hotels, such as the Snowvillage Inn, the Darby Field Inn and the 1785 Inn, offer affordable cross-country skiing and snowshoeing packages. Call one of two reservation services: the Open Door Group or Country Inns in the White Mountains for more information.

It's easy to exhaust yourself in these parts, but it's also easy to unwind. In fact, the Mount Washington Valley is known as "Martini Country" for its numerous establishments dedicated to the perfect mix. Who knew? Then again, this is a region where nightlife is a priority. Pub crawlers spill out of dozens of downtown night spots that feature live music and comedy acts; favorites include the Red Parka Pub in Glenn and the Common Man in Ashland. *Mount Washington Valley Chamber of Commerce (603-356-3171).* www.4seasonresort.com or www.skimtwashingtonvalley.com.

Bethel, ME

Skijoring and Saunas in the Snow

Want to be among the first to experience the newest snow sport to hit the U.S.? Head up to Bethel, Maine, where the Telemark Inn offers "skijoring." Ski-what? you ask. Skijoring—a combination of cross-country skiing and dog sledding.

Wearing a harness that connects them by rope to one or two dogs, skijorers push off using their ski poles as if they're cross-country skiing. The huskies help the skier keep his or her momentum on a tour of the inn's 20 kilometers of trails. Built as a millionaire's private wilderness estate at the turn of the century, the Telemark Inn is situated on 360 acres of private forest just 10 miles outside of Bethel. But be warned: The remote location is not for everyone. "It's the most beautiful place in this area," says Glenn Kerr, manager of the Great American Ski Renting Co. and a nine-year resident of the area, "but it's very isolated." The Adirondack-style lodge offers guests a chance to fully immerse themselves in the natural environment. At night, sit by a roaring fire and chat with owner Steve Crone or relax in a wood-fired sauna. The Telemark also offers ice skating on a private pond and romantic, horse-drawn sleigh rides.

Want to play Iditarod? Climb aboard a dog sled and experience the thrill of mushing on a day-trip offered by Mahoosuc Guide Service. "It's a really different way to be out in the snow if you're not on skis," says Kerr. For $175, owners Kevin Slater and Polly Mahoney will lead you along the trails to Umbagog Lake and then set you up with a hearty lunch cooked over an open campfire. Another option for dog sledding is Winter Journeys in Waterford.

If you're yearning to simply ski, then Sunday River resort is just down the road, with 126 trails and a new, state-of-the-art half-pipe for snowboarders. Bethel also bills itself as the No. 1 destination for nordic skiing in Maine, with five ski centers and more than 100 kilometers of trails.

Try Carter's Cross Country Ski Center, says Kerr, for trails that offer an "awesome view of Sunday River." Or try the Sunday River Inn and Cross-Country Ski Center, which is run by a self-proclaimed old codger named Steve White and offers private rooms or dorm-style lodging. Don't miss the wood-fired hot tub.

Recently Bethel has seen a boom in snowmobiling, which is permitted on groomed trails in the White Mountain National Forest. Rocky Freda, owner of Sun Valley Sports, takes groups of seven—outfitted with helmets, snowsuits and boots—on motorized treks through the mountains to the Great Grisley, which Kerr says has "awesome food and a huge ski bar atmosphere." After the ride-and-dine deal, snowmobilers get back on their sleds and rev up the mountain to watch fireworks launched from Sunday River.

For evening entertainment and live music, head to the bars on the mountain. "There's definitely not as much nightlife in Bethel as there is at some other resorts," says Kerr. "But that's because the skiing is so good, you don't need to go out." *Bethel Chamber of Commerce (800-442-5826).* www.bethelmaine.com *and* www.telemarkinn.com.

Camden, ME

Tobogganing by the Sea

The Maine coast in the winter? Too brutal! you say. Not true. Indeed, this town is for the romantics among us. Bundle up in your winter wool and drive four hours north to this charming village situated between the ocean and the mountains.

The most popular way to keep warm outdoors in Camden is a toboggan ride at the Snow Bowl, a small resort with only 10 trails but boasting an awesome view of the ocean from the peak. One dollar lets you careen down a 400-foot chute. Lest you mistake tobogganing for child's play, on Feb. 2-4, the resort will host the 11th annual U.S. National Toboggan Championships.

A popular daytrip begins with a carry-out gourmet sandwich from the Smiling Cow followed by a drive up the coast to the Farnsworth Art Museum in Rockland. It's worth a visit, if only for its collection of art by the Wyeth family (you know, N.C., Andrew and Jamie). In the evening, relax with a beer, music and good grub at the Sea Dog Brewery back in Camden. "It's really homey, with decorations from 40 years ago," says Bostonian Heather Michalowski, whose family has owned a cottage in Camden for generations. "There's even a picture of my Mom when she was little."

Michalowski recommends that visitors stay overnight at Abigail's B&B, a mid-1800s-era, Federal-style home with four-poster beds, fireside tea and a jacuzzi, located just a short walk from Camden Harbor. If you and a significant other want a more secluded experience, she suggests taking a 20-minute ferry to a true New England treasure: the Dark Harbor House on Islesboro Island. The old-fashioned mansion has a wrap-around porch and a huge fireplace and serves gourmet breakfasts to overnight visitors. "The island isn't touristy at all," says Michalowski. "It's like Nantucket was before it became commercialized." *Rockland-Thomaston Area Chamber of Commerce (800-562-2529 or 207-596-0376).* www.midcoast.com/~rtacc. iB

Stowe Aways
If Killington is known for downhill, then Stowe, Vt., is for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The Trapp Family Lodge and Cross-Country Ski Touring Center is one of the premier cross-country resorts in the U.S., with 65 kilometers of Austrian-quality groomed trails.

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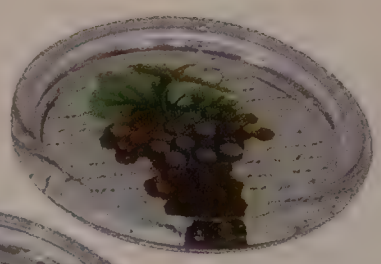

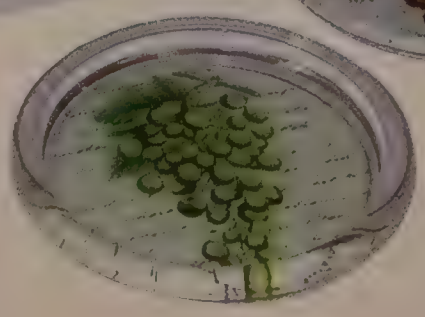

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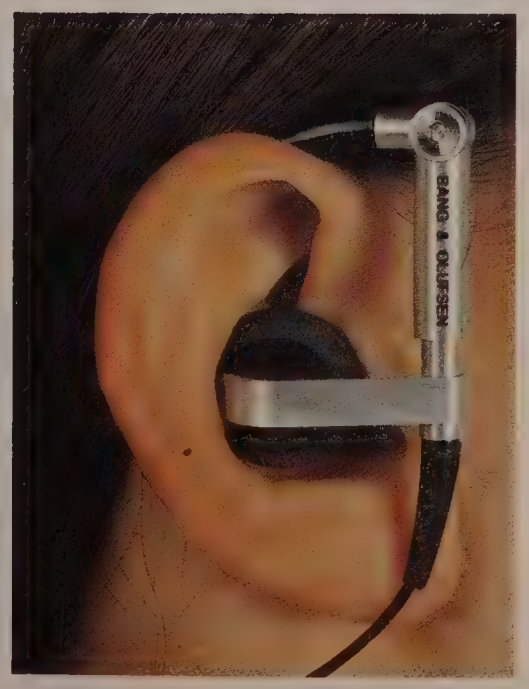

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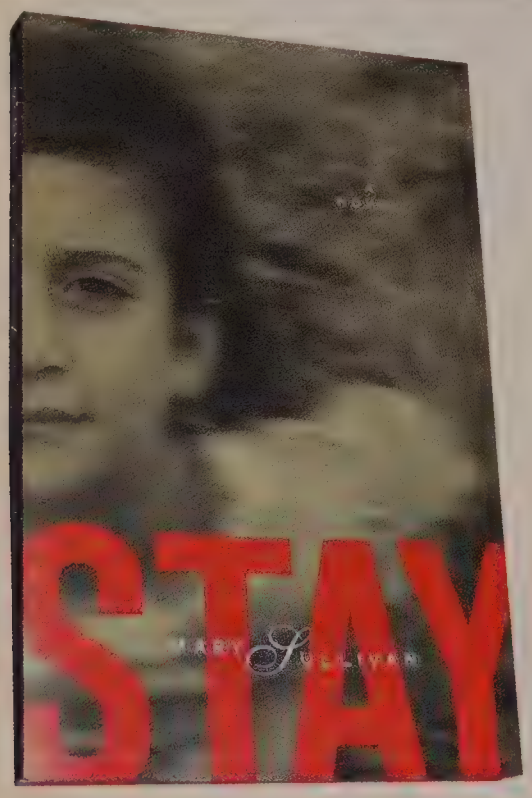
Mopsy

Serendipitous shopping: Our unfettered correspondent seeks out the salubrious and the cerebral.

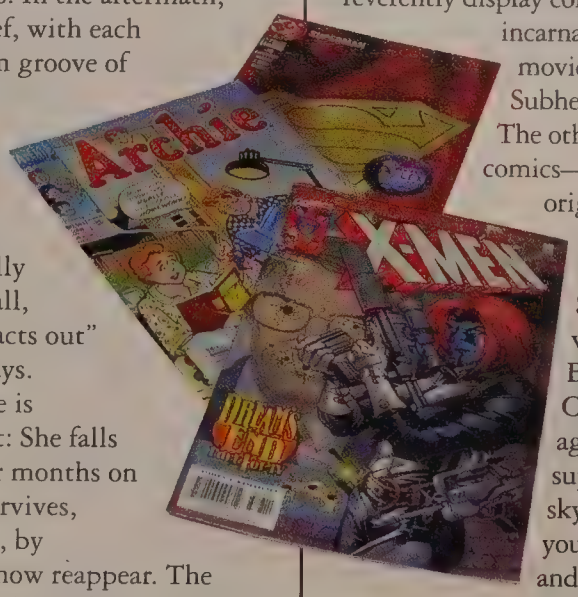
BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY



A DEATH IN THE FAMILY

Cambridge novelist Mary Sullivan writes about a large family in the aftermath of the death of a twin in *Stay*.

Large families have so much surface area, such variety, that any event radiates far and wide. In this first novel by Mary Sullivan, *Save*, the pivotal event in question is the death of protagonist Emily Stone's twin brother, Ham. Jumping from a bridge together to complete a picturesque photo orchestrated by their father, Ham crashes and drowns. In the aftermath, the family eerily diverts its grief, with each member entering his or her own groove of denial. The innocently coping, religious mother quickly has a replacement baby. One bold sister, Elizabeth Ruth, puts herself in the path of a cynical, difficult neighbor who eventually rapes her. The father, hated by all, takes refuge in the bottle and "acts out" his guilt and grief in violent ways. Surviving twin Emily's response is paradoxically the most eloquent: She falls mute and simply stays silent for months on end. Magically thinking, she survives, though in a much reduced state, by imagining that Ham will somehow reappear. The elephant of this family's tragedy hangs broodingly in every room, and in that classic way, no one talks about it. Sullivan movingly elaborates the way grief can grow sideways, metastasizing in its evil reach.



TICKLE YOUR GINGER-PICKLE FANCY

Shalimar, at 571 Mass. Avenue in Cambridge (868-8311) is like a general store, gone Indian.

As it drifts Gap-wards, Central Square needs all the ethnicity and flavor it can maintain. Shalimar, the aromatically named Indian store qualifies as exotic, and it's really three stores in one. In the front, you'll find an extensive ABC of spices (heavy on the "C" —cumin, coriander, cinnamon, curry powder, cardamom), sold in plastic bags. Big, leaning burlap bags of basmati rice and quantities of red lentils lure you into thinking of getting an Indian cookbook and going spicy. Even more so, the array of relishes like hot mango, garlic, tamarind, lime pickle and chutneys are literally mouth watering. Shoppers, Indian and otherwise, cruise the store, gazing carefully at the highly differentiated possibilities. Things like ghee (a clarified butter), bitter melon (cucumber-shaped, but sizzling with prickly bumps) and paneer, (tightly packed cubes of cheese) would be hard to find elsewhere. A different-tasting ice cream (is it the Ben and Ghandi's of India?) comes in mango and pistachio and is delicious. Midstore, they sell dresses, including sari cloth, and fancy, feminine, fairy-tale dresses, all tulle, silk and sparkle. In the back, take-out includes Indian sweets, as sweet as the dresses.

BAM! WOW! SOB!

Injecting the joys of comics and superhero statues into the edges of Davis Square, Comicazi is at 380 Highland Avenue, Somerville (666-2664).

Even as its exuberant, colorful sign was being hammered on, Comicazi's doors opened and joyful customers, grown-up ones, started tumbling in. "Oh, no, I've given up comics, and now you've opened a comic store right across the street," groaned one, smiling. This un-grungy store has two missions. One is to reverently display collectible statues and other 3-D incarnations of superheroes from comics and movies alongside what might be called Subheroes (like Bart, as doll or Pez dispenser). The other is to provide racks and racks of comics—some dating back to when the price was originally 10 cents, circa the '50s, and contemporary ones, including "saucy" selections like Cherry. Muscular, sexy, very Super, and amazingly beautiful are the valuable statues of the men and women of Bat, Spider, and Cat. Alongside DC Comics' ever-hapless Archie and his busty, aggressive, henpecking girlfriends, the superheroes—with their huge, shadowy, sky-scraperish perspectives—vividly remind you of the pop art they inspired. The X-Men and others shuttling between movies, comics and statues seem godlike and eternal. Fantasy-distorted politics and righteous anger zoom through the various arts here. And prices are reasonable. One avid customer is signed up for 900 comic titles per month.

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INSIDE: Cookbook time; Partridge's Perdix; the Bodean dispute; staying away from chic wines

Above: Patrons enjoying themselves in the bustling, brick-lined dining room. Opposite page: New England seafood cassoulet; chef/owner Rob La Grassa.

REVIEW

Solar to Lunar

Eclipse's appealing lunch menu gives a good hint of what's to come at dinner.

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRAD ZIEGLER

You can say that Eclipse "musseled" its way onto my culinary radar screen. In search of a new and different place to meet someone for lunch recently, I recalled the advance notice that a public relations representative for Eclipse had sent to me toward the end of the summer about a new restaurant near Downtown Crossing. Despite some confusion about its address (the notice mentioned both Governor's Alley and 42 Bromfield Street), the restaurant is actually located at 42 Province Street, about midway between Post Office Square and the State House. Were its only offering the Prince Edward Island Mussels—clean, sweet mollusks gently steamed in an aromatic broth of white wine, tiny zucchinis, muted garlic, a touch of tomato and a dose of fennel—it would still be worth the walk from the Financial District. Accordingly, it is not surprising that Eclipse is teeming with satisfied patrons at lunch. So impressed were we at lunch that we decided to give it a try for dinner as well.

Eclipse is the reincarnation of former Governor's Alley, a modest eatery whose chef, Culinary Institute of America graduate Rob La Grassa, bought it and transformed the space into a well appointed, comfortable restaurant and bar. Decked out in exposed bricks, with dark wood and etched glass dividers between booths, large, acoustically efficient picture windows, and tables dressed with crisp, white napery, it conveys a feeling of refinement. Bright abstract prints illuminated by small spotlights grace one end of the dining room. The adjoining bar features more dark wood, with a touch of stained glass and ceiling fans with frosted tulip light fixtures.

A tiny loaf of moderately sweet, spicy dark bran bread was served on a diminutive bread board as we perused the menu. A carefully selected wine list, with bottle prices dipping to an incredibly low-for-Boston price of $18, included such favorites as Vega Sindoa 1998 ($19), a Cabernet-Tempranillo blend from Spain, with a lovely bouquet and good, forward fruit. Only slightly less enjoyable was a Pervini Bizantino from Italy's South ($22), based on the Primivo grape, which Italians claim to be the forerunner to America's Zinfandel. Along with the wine, our waitress, a young Tipperary lass with a pleasant brogue, brought an *amuse bouche* of baked brie with apples, raisins, cranberries and grapes. The gesture was both surprising and appreciated in a town where menu prices have pushed the boundaries of reasonableness and few things are provided gratis.

For dinner appetizers, the three-clam chowder ($7) was spectacular. The intensely flavored broth was creamy but light, robustly redolent of chopped littlenecks, chunks of bacon and herbs, and garnished with three large, sweet cherrystones and three crispy fried clams. Nantucket Scallops on the half shell ($9) arrived in an eye-catching presentation: six lovely scallop shells containing scallops ceviche—shellfish "cooked" by chemical action of lime juice rather than heat—felicitously combined with chopped peppers, capers and olive oil. Last, but certainly not least, was the Maine Jonah crab cake ($8), a pillow of meaty, moist crabmeat and diced vegetables. Unencumbered by filler, the delicate nutlike flavor of the crab prevailed. The crisp fresh potato sticks that accompanied it provided just the right touch.

With dinner appetizers batting 1,000, we awaited our main courses with some apprehension. In our experience, many new restaurants do quite well with their starters and then fade in the stretch, serving main courses that cannot sustain their own high standards. Not so at Eclipse. The pan-seared venison ($24), an array of tender, rare slices of farm-raised venison, was accompanied by grilled pears and a wild rice fritter. The mildly tangy, succulent game and the firm, sweet pears complemented each other quite nicely.

Beef eaters are not ignored at Eclipse. As one would expect of a restaurant courting business diners from nearby offices, it offers a credible steak. Dry-aged New York Sirloin ($28) with roasted garlic-stilton butter and herb-crusted potato, consisted of a thick, tender, well-seared slab of beef, medium rare as ordered. The herb-crusted potato, despite being slightly overbrown, was interesting and enjoyable, but the biggest treat accompanying the steak was the mountain of sliced sautéed mushrooms, unannounced on the menu and all the more appreciated for that.

Finally among the main courses was Chef La Grassa' s signature dish: New England seafood cassoulet ($24). This magnificent melange of seafood, served hot in a stainless-steel casserole, consisted of a generous hunk of sweet lobster, slices of firm monkfish and a wedge of salt cod braised with spicy Spanish sausage, smoky morsels of bacon, succulent mushrooms, al dente carrots and zucchini, rich "cranberry" beans and onions. The whole ensemble was sprinkled lightly with bread crumbs and browned under a broiler in the manner of a true cassoulet.

Eclipse's desserts included a Boston cream pie ($7.50) that strove to be just a little too different. Resembling a contrived French pastry, it failed to deliver the anticipated comfort level of this traditional confection. Better was the fallen chocolate cake ($9), a small cylinder of ultra-light chocolate cake surrounded a pool of raspberry coulis and garnished with a mint leaf. While pleasant, it was underwhelming in view of its aggressive price.

The $6 price tag for Eclipse's mussels appetizer at lunch may well be the best restaurant deal in all of Boston. Dinner prices, on the other hand, are aggressive, with dinner appetizers verging on double figures and all but two main courses in the $20s. By the time we got the check, with $4 added for a cappuccino, and $9 for the midget chocolate cake, the bargain mussels seemed a remote memory. Chastised by a reader in our last issue for failing to appreciate the reality of restaurant economics that dictate egregious markups for wines, the configuration of Eclipse's prices set us thinking. Apparently restaurants feel they must make an election between subsidizing food prices with large wine markups or vice versa. Since we are much more willing to skip dessert than wine, Eclipse's election has our vote. **iB**

Eclipse

42 Province St., 426-3333

HOURS 11:30am-2:30pm, 6-10:30pm Mon-Fri; 6-10:30pm Sat; closed Sun

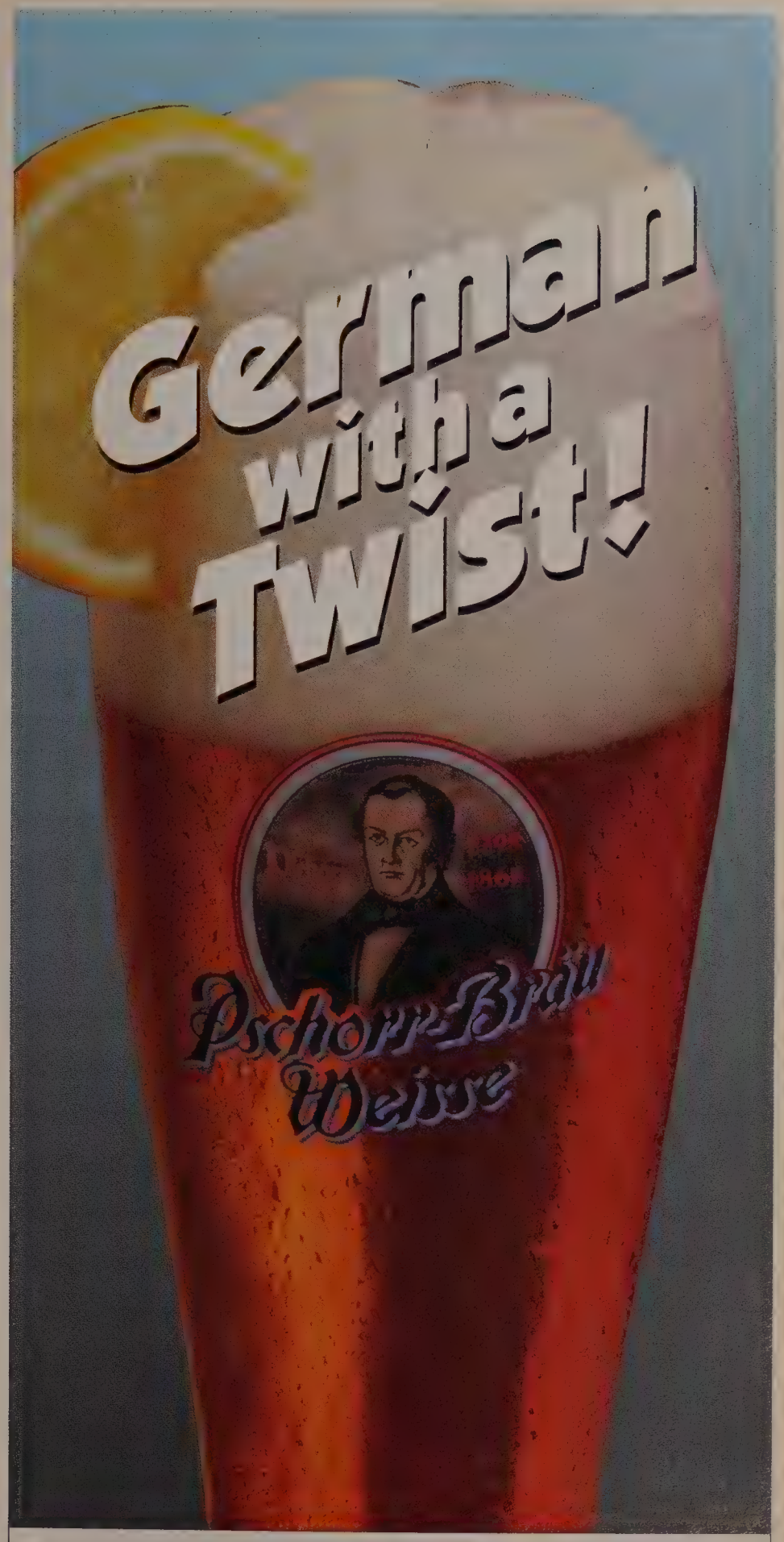
RESERVATIONS recommended

CREDIT CARDS all major except Discover

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE yes

PARKING validated after 5pm, Mon-Fri

LIQUOR LICENSE full bar



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DISH

Read it and Eat

Partridge builds a Perdix...Meet Margo... Is that a beer in the woods?

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

From left: Mark Bittman, Ambrosia chef/owner Tony Ambrose and Jean Georges Vongerichten ring in cookbook season—and Bittman and Vongerichten's new cookbook, *Simple to Spectacular.*

'Tis the season of the cookbook. Seriously heavy, sleekly jacketed, fabulously photographed, and easy to gift-wrap, they can inspire home-based culinary greatness...or intimidation-based plans for dining out.

If *The Olives Dessert Table* sends sugar-crazed hordes to all the outposts of **Todd English**'s empire, know that Todd and his army are prepared. Reinforcement has arrived in the form of **Heather Macdonald**, who recently rejoined the **Olives** gang as pastry sous chef after a year as pastry chef at **Harvest**. Macdonald, who was with Olives for two years before crossing the river to Cambridge, will work under pastry chef **Paige Retus** to create desserts for Olives, **Figs** and **KingFish Hall**. She'll also be pastry chef at **Bonfire**, the 300-seat Boston steakhouse English plans to open in mid-March. Note to Heather: Please bring back the chestnut crème brulee.

Moderation, thy name is **Margo**: In a city of high-priced hotel restaurants, a new bistro bucks the trend. On the first floor of the Harborside Inn at 185 State Street, chef **Christopher Isley**'s most expensive dish is wood-grilled lobster with herbal gnocchi, green onions, tomato and lemon butter, for $21. Isley's background includes stints at **Metropolis** in the South End, **Atlantica** in Cohasset, and **FireKing Bistro** and **Tosca**, both in Hingham. Though the Margo menu is based on classic New England dishes—lobster chowder, codfish cakes with Boston baked beans—seasonal specialties embrace influences ranging from Provencal (Pont L'eveque cheese with stewed figs, arugula and olive-oil crostini) to Italian (homemade pumpkin ravioli in a pumpkin brodo with broccoli rabe).

On a smaller scale, and even more reasonably priced, is **Perdix** in Jamaica Plain. chef/owner **Tim Partridge**, formerly of the **West Side Lounge**, **The Back Eddy** and **The East Coast Grill**, has taken over the space of the former **Center Street Café** and plans to open "a really European-looking, nice and accessible and affordable" spot by the middle of December. Expect "simple, Mediterranean-American food," with most entrees ranging from $14 to $17, and "under $20 on everything," says Partridge. He stresses simplicity, but "sensible" defines his approach even more clearly. "It doesn't have to be $30 to be good," he says. As for the restaurant's name, "Perdix" is Latin, from the Greek, for "partridge."

Speaking of partridge, it's featured on chef **Jacky Robert**'s fall menu at **Maison Robert**. Not just any partridge, either, but wild Scottish birdies, along with other game birds and wild hares, offered as daily specials.

And finally, something even wilder. You may know that **Boston Beer Co.**, brewer of Sam Adams beer, is facing two lawsuits in connection with its marketing of BoDean's Twisted Tea. First, BoDean's Sauces, a Virginia barbecue sauce company, sued for trademark infringement. A few weeks later, the Milwaukee-based BoDeans rock band filed a suit seeking to force Boston Beer to drop the BoDeans name, hand over all materials bearing the BoDeans mark and pay unspecified monetary damages.

Although this might seem a better opportunity for cross-promotion—a CD/BBQ sauce/beverage gift pack—than litigation, there's an even more deliciously absurd plot thickener out there. See, there's this guy named **Bodean** who runs a wild-boar hunting guide service in East Texas. I don't know what kind of music he listens to, what he drinks or what kind of sauce he uses to baste his hogs, but from the photo on his Web site, I'd guess he was in possession of the name first. Think he'd like to take a shot at this?

Bodean's Hog Hunts (www.bodeanshoghunt.com). IB

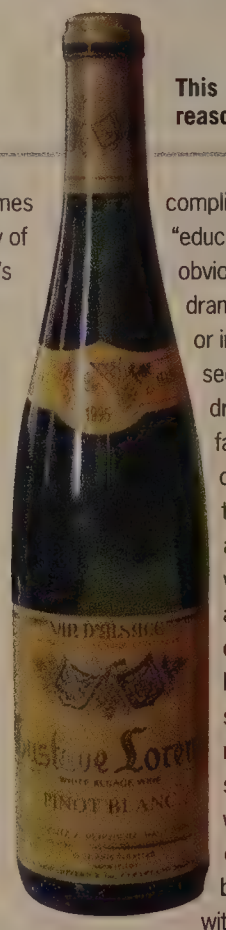
Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant? Send it to *dish@improper.com*

WINE

Racing the Trends

BY SANDY BLOCK, MW



This 1995 Gustave Lorentz ($9) is a reasonably priced Alsatian pinot blanc.

Escalating prices have a lot of wine drinkers crying into their cabernet recently. It's a frequent topic of conversation, but frankly, it's a boring dead end. Brands that were great finds, reasonably priced and delicious, suddenly hit the big time and along the way to culthood jump two to three times in cost. Bottles that virtually no one beyond a small fraternity of wine journalists have ever seen will hit triple digits, but you won't find them anyway because the winemaker doles each out individually to hand-selected customers. Why is this a big deal? The facts are that when everyone wants the same thing, it becomes expensive, and if you were the first one in but you don't want to play at the new higher- stakes table, you should just move on to something else. With wine this should never be a problem because there are always worthy replacements waiting in line to be discovered. All you have to do is glance around any decent store, or pick up the list at most quality restaurants, and the odds are you will be looking at some potentially great finds. Professional buyers select what to carry only after tasting and comparing for value. The fact that a seemingly infinite number of brands and wine styles from virtually everywhere are available in Boston may drive some people over the edge with confusion, but it's also a strength. There's always something good on the horizon and there's never a reason to chase the hot brand, or grape variety, as prices rocket skyward. Unless, of course, you love it and feel comfortable paying.

What causes prices to go up in a particular sector? Supply and demand. Demand is loosely related to quality, which is very difficult to define, but it's influenced by other factors as well: marketing skill, reputation, fashion and the opinions of famous writers filtering down to store and restaurant owners. The rarest wines seem to have a life of their own. But these trophy bottles are not consumed anyway. They're bought, traded, sold, shown off and discussed, rather than opened and enjoyed with dinner. Some people find satisfaction in owning these wines because the labels confer status in the weird little world of fully obsessed wine fanatics. But for most of us it's a distracting obstacle. Only about 10 percent of the adult population consumes all the wine anyway and the great majority of this group has little interest in some critic's abstract opinion about a wine. Most want concrete information, such as knowing which wine is going to make tonight's dinner more delicious. The key is understanding how a wine's dominant flavors and other characteristics affect potential enjoyment of particular dishes. A broad topic indeed, and one shrouded in myth and misconception. The most arrogant falsehood we have spread is that the wine that I, the wine expert, enjoy is the one you should like too because, in some sense, it's "better." This is insanity and because the attitude is so widespread, it represents a major obstacle to more people enjoying wine.

The bottom line is that people don't want to have to work too hard just to be able to enjoy something. We drink wine despite the efforts of the wine industry, which is constantly spreading the message that wine is complicated and that you have to be "educated" to appreciate it. This is obviously nonsense. For centuries people drank wine without any understanding of or interest in the esoteric issues that seem to concern us today. People drank the local wine, period. We have far more choices, which makes decisions more complicated. But there's no reason to turn it into a "right and wrong" issue. So here's a type of wine that seems to be broadly appealing when I taste it with consumers, that does not cost a lot because it has not attained cult status, and that seems to work with a multitude of dishes, cutting across the spectrum from fish, to vegetables to white meats: Alsatian pinot blanc. It doesn't matter what brand. Try a bottle the next time you want a wine with dinner, particularly if there are some spicy or slightly sweet-flavored accents to the dish, and let me know what you think. IB

AMBROSIA: WENDY MIMRAN

Tastings BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for tastings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

EVENTS

Cabaret Dinner
Bomboa, 35 Stanhope St., Boston (236-6363). Dec. 4, 8:30-11pm. $40. The Focus on Families Foundation offers this night of samplings from Bomboa's new late-night menu and music by cabaret artist Erica Leopold.

Caliterra Themed Dinners: Oysters
Caliterra, 89 Broad St., Boston (348-1234). Nov. 29-Dec. 15. Caliterra offers themed dinners. This month's menu focuses on oysters.

Discover the Pasta-bilities
Monica's, 143 Richmond St., Boston (227-0311). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. $50. Chef George Mendoza offers a four-course meal of homemade pasta with wine pairings and dessert (sweet potato, queen's paste and butterscotch pastas!).

A French Christmas in Cambridge
The Elephant Walk, 2067 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (492-6900); 900 Beacon St., Boston (247-1500). Dec. 3, 11 and 13. •Dec. 3, 10am-1pm: **Chef Gerard Lopez** shares his baking secrets during a cooking class at the Cambridge location. •Dec. 11: Celebrate a French-Vietnamese Christmas at the Beacon Street restaurant. •Dec. 13: Chef Lopez shares a feast reminiscent of his childhood in France.

French Regional Cooking: Alsace
The French Library and Cultural Center, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (912-0400). Dec. 4, 6:30pm. $85. Chef/owner **Raymond Ost** of Sandrine's prepares a three-course dinner from the Alsace region of France, matched with wine.

Guest Chef Cooking Demos
Williams-Sonoma, 100 Huntington Ave., Boston (262-3080). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. •Dec. 2, 12-2pm: **Steve Johnson** of The Blue Room. •Dec. 3, 10:30am-12pm: **Bradley Brown**, pastry chef of the Garden of Eden, demonstrates cookie-making recipes. •Dec. 9, 12-2pm: **Fernando Concalves** makes cake sculptures.

Harpoon Christmas Party 2000
Harpoon Brewery, 306 Northern Ave., Boston (888-HAR-POON, ext. 3). www.harpoonbrewery.com. *Dec. 1, 5:30-11pm; Dec. 2, 2-11pm. $10.* Good tidings and fresh beer await more than 3,000 holiday revelers. Hot food warms the bellies under the heated tent outside the brewery.

Kowloon's 50th Anniversary
Kowloon, Saugus (781-233-0077). Mondays and Wednesdays, through the end of November. Kowloon rolls back the prices to 1950 in celebration of its anniversary. Combo plates include egg roll, fried rice and chow mein for 95 cents.

Meet the Chef: Todd English
Elizabeth Bishop Wine Resource Center, 808 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-9852). Dec. 4, 6-9pm. $60. Chef **Todd English** introduces his new cookbook, *The Olives Dessert Table*, with **Paige Retus**, his pastry chef and co-author.

Second Saturday Brewery Dinner
Cambridge Brewing Company, One Kendall Square, Building 100, Cambridge (494-1994). www.cambrew.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. Dec. 9, seatings from 6-10pm. $35.* Enjoy a five-course meal with five half-pints of beer and a tableside visit from brewer **Will Meyers**.

Soprano Sippings
Angelo's Ristorante, 575 Boylston St., Boston (536-4045). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tuesdays, 5-9pm. $45. Four foods from the menu are paired with four wines from international vineyards.

Wine Dinner Series
Up Stairs at the Pudding, Cambridge (864-1933). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Every other Wednesday at 7pm. $70. The Wine Dinner Series features flights of wines complemented by Chef **Deborah Hughes**' cuisine. •Nov. 29: Sonoma Merlot. •Dec. 13: True Millennium Champagne.

Wine Pairing Supper
Cafe Veronique, 20 Chapel St., Brookline (731-4800). MBTA: D Green Line to Longwood. Dec. 5, 6:30pm. $85. Chef **Spencer Haney** prepares a four-course menu paired with five House of Gosset champagnes.

Wine Tastings
The Wine Bottega, 341 Hanover St., Boston (227-6607). •Dec. 1: Fat white wines, big and rich white wines for winter. •Dec. 8: California vs. France.

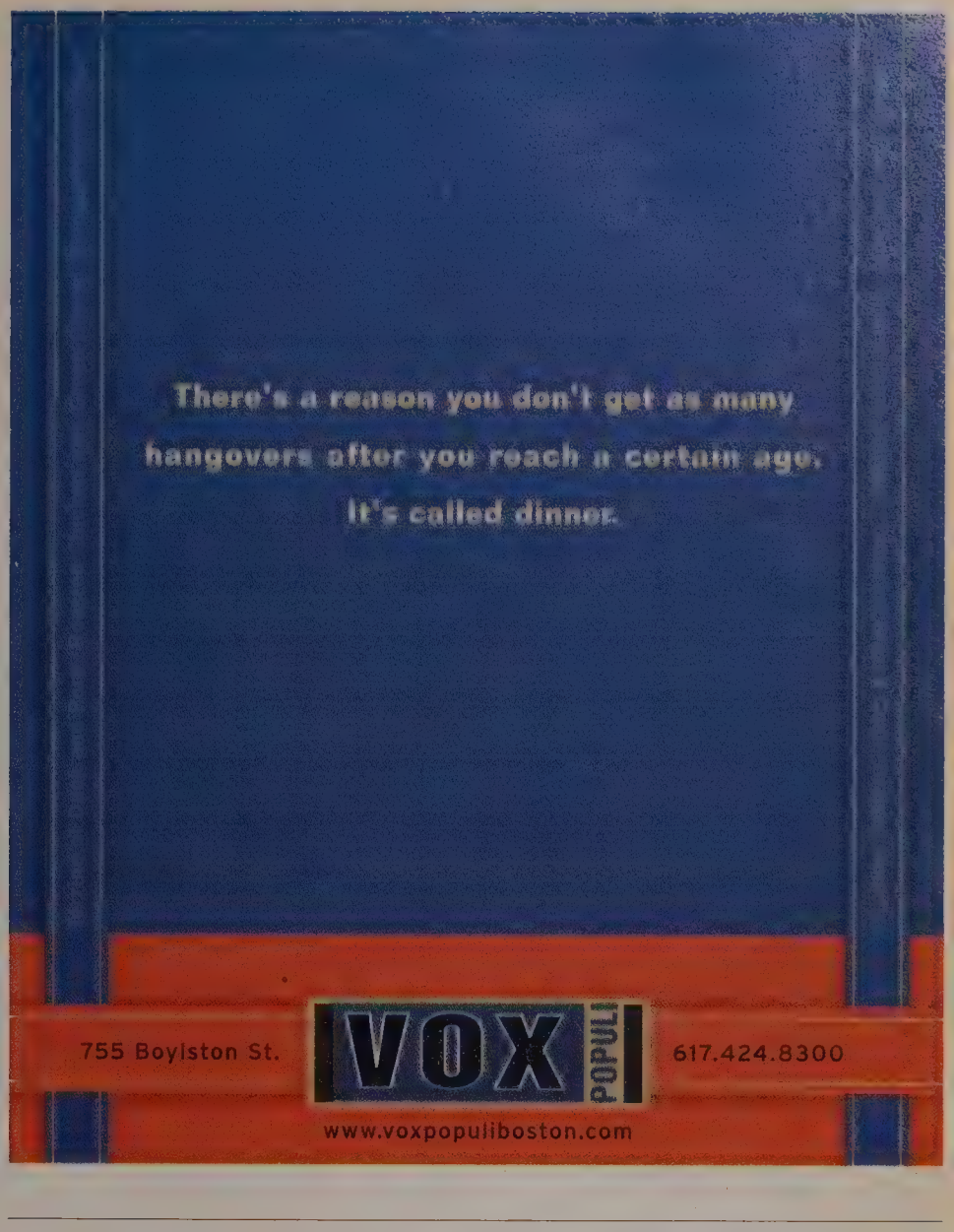
Wine Tasting with Lorenzo
Les Zygomates, 129 South St., Boston (542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Tuesdays, 6 and 8pm. $25. Sommelier **Lorenzo Savona** hosts weekly wine tastings accompanied by hors d'oeuvres. •Dec. 5: Port & Stilton. •Dec. 12: Bordeauxlicious.

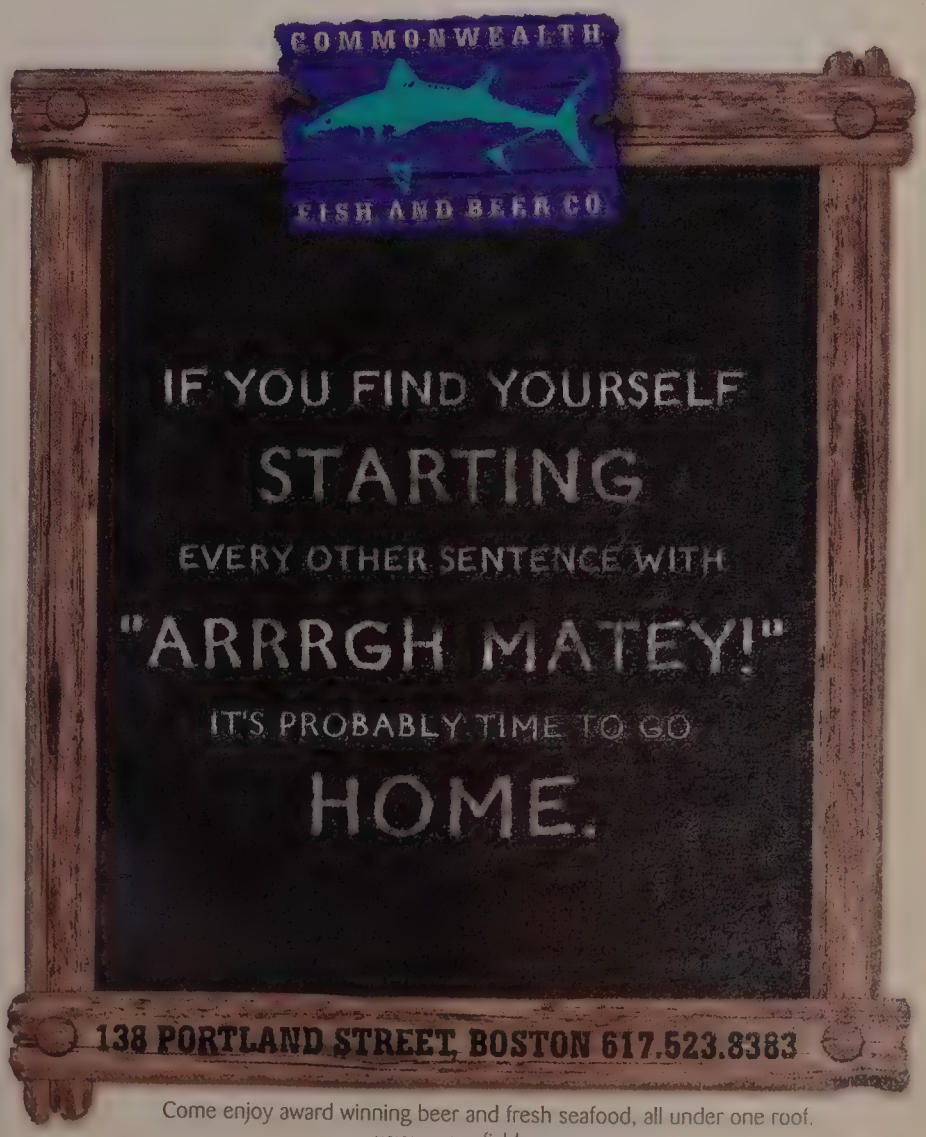
TASTY TIDBIT

WITHOUT RESERVATIONS

It seems only appropriate that a theatrical show based upon the difficulties of getting a reservation at Manhattan's trendiest restaurant should begin with dinner at one of Boston's finest. Make your reservations now (and we mean *now*) for the Wilbur Theatre's special benefit performance of *Fully Committed* Nov. 30. Becky Mode's outrageous send-up stars Mark Setlock as an out-of-work actor who pays his rent by taking phone reservations at a chic four-star restaurant. Before the show, patrons can dine at one of 30 restaurants, including Ambrosia on Huntington, Grill 23, Hammersley's Bistro, Olives, Red Clay, Rialto, Sandrine's and Torch, and then head to the theater for a special 8pm performance followed by a 9:30pm champagne reception. Proceeds benefit the Huntington Theatre Company. *Wilbur Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (266-7900, ext. 2536). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Nov. 30. $125.*

Mark Setlock stars in the Wilbur's *Fully Committed*.





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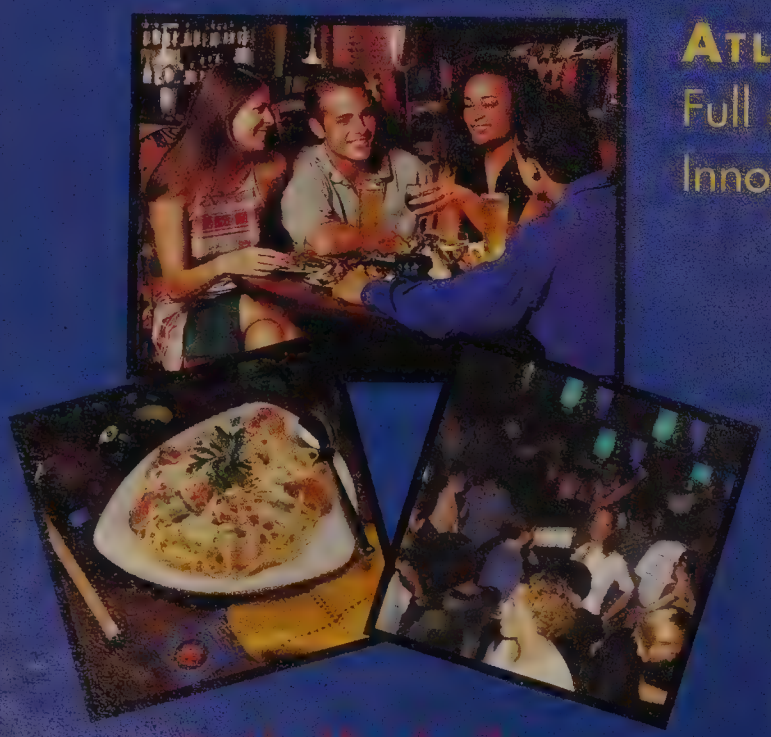

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agenda

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN OR OUT IN BOSTON.

Get Jazzed

Ken Burns talks about his new documentary on the history of jazz Dec. 13 at the Coolidge Corner Theatre.

Erin and Julie

HERMAN LEONARD

THE CALENDAR GIRLS'

improper picks

Too busy (or just too lazy) to plan your own schedule? Life don't get easier than this.

Wednesday, Nov. 29

Julie: Kick off the holiday shopping season at the opening night gala for **Crafts at the Castle**. (See CityScope.)
Erin: The **WBCN Xmas Rave** takes over most rock venues across town. Catch Collective Soul at the Orpheum, the Dandy Warhols at T.T.'s, Insane Clown Posse at Avalon and more. (See Music.)

Thursday, Nov. 30

Julie: **Copley Square's holiday tree** is illuminated tonight with pomp and circumstance. (See CityScope.)
Erin: The **World AIDS Day Medicine Wheel** at the BCAE is a 24-hour, interactive art installation and vigil with dancing and singing starting at 11pm. It kicks off tomorrow's World AIDS Day events. (Gay & Lesbian.)

Friday, Dec. 1

Julie: South Boston author **Michael Patrick MacDonald** talks about *All Souls* at the BCAE. (See Books.) It's also the Boston Ski & Sports Club's **Holiday Dinner Dance**. (See City Scope.)
Erin: The mysterious musical outfit **Godspeed You Black Emperor!** perform at the Somerville Theatre. (See Music.)

Saturday, Dec. 2

Erin: Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* is set in modern-day, hip-hop culture in ***Rome & Jewels*** at the Emerson Majestic. (See Dance.)
Julie: Tonight and tomorrow, **Paul Simon** sings at the FleetCenter. (See Music.) Also, six Boston folk stars compete for the coveted crown in the rock opera ***Miss Folk America***. (See Performing Arts.)

Sunday, Dec. 3

Erin: The Brattle has a double feature of ***The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*** and ***Raiders of the Lost Ark***. (See Film.)
Julie: Newbury Street twinkles with holiday lights and festivities at the **Holiday Stroll**. (See CityScope.) And the Copley Theatre has John Kuntz's ***SantaLand Diaries***.

Monday, Dec. 4

Julie and **Erin**: **MassArt's Holiday Sale** of ceramics, glass, paintings, prints and jewelry is a great place to begin your holiday shopping. There's also a Jimmy Fund benefit at the Paradise with **Kay Hanley**, **Thurmon Munson**, **Carlton Fisk** and **Slide**. (See Music.)

Tuesday, Dec. 5

Erin: Photographer **Annie Leibowitz**'s last scheduled appearance was a bust. But she's back to talk about her book of photos at Wordsworth. (See Books & Poetry.)
Julie: Attention singles: head to the Top Kat Lounge for the **Seven-Minute Date** and **Holiday Dance**. (See CityScope.)

Wednesday, Dec. 6

Julie: **The Mighty Mighty Bosstones** play at Axis for the next five nights. (See Music.)
Erin: The Wilbur Theatre's new Broadway hit, ***Fully Committed***, depicts the difficulties in getting a reservation at Manhattan's trendiest restaurant. (See Theater.)

Thursday, Dec. 7

Julie: The **HoHoHo Gala** benefit for Midnight Santa features a martini bar and hors d'oeuvres at Il Panino. (See CityScope.)
Erin: Have yourself a **Very Merry Lif-mas** show with Mr. Lif, **Company Flow** and others at the Middle East. (See Music.)

Friday, Dec. 8

Julie: Take home one of those fiberglass cods you've seen around town at the **Calvacade of Cod Auction**. (See CityScope.)
Erin: **Black Nativity**, Langston Hughes' retelling of the Nativity story with gospel music, is at the Tremont Temple this week. (See CityScope.)

Saturday, Dec. 9

Erin: The **Cultural Survival Bazaar** at Harvard Law School features arts and crafts from around the world. (See CityScope.)
Julie: The musical parody ***How Mrs. Grinchley Swiped Christmas*** returns to the BCAE. (See Performing Arts.)

Sunday, Dec. 10

Erin: Arthur Miller's ***Death of a Salesman*** at the Shubert stars Brian Dennehy and Elizabeth Franz. (See Performing Arts.)
Julie: Only the first 600 people will be admitted to the annual **Boston Tea Party Re-enactment** at the Old South Meeting House. (See CityScope.)

Monday, Dec. 11

Julie: **The Dave Matthews Band** is at the FleetCenter tonight. (See Music.)
Erin: Local celebs try to sink the 8-ball at Antoine Walker's **Celebrity Pool Tournament** at the Rack. (See CityScope.) Also, the Brattle's **Early Hitchcock** series features *The Lady Vanishes* tonight. (See Film.)

Tuesday, Dec. 12

Julie: The Home for Little Wanderers' **Holiday Party** at Good Time Emporium in Somerville is sure to be a blast. (See CityScope.)
Erin: I love that place. Also, ***Art and the Camera: The Photographs of F. Holland Day*** just opened at the MFA. (See Art.)

CITYSCOPE **48** • PERFORMING ARTS **54**• ART **58** • FILM **62** • BOOKS & POETRY **68** • EDUCATION **70** • DANCE CLUBS **72** • MUSIC **76** CLASSICAL MUSIC **86** • GAY & LESBIAN **88** • BODY & MIND **90** • CHILDREN **90** • SPORTS **90** • GO AWAY **92**.
EDITED BY **ERIN HAGEDORN:** Art, Books & Poetry, Dance, Dance Clubs, Film, Gay & Lesbian, Go Away, Music. EDITED BY **JULIE SHORT:** Children, CityScope, Comedy, Education, Go Away, Sports, Tastings, Theater. ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY: **Laurel Kirtz** Body & Mind • **Paul Sherman:** Film Capsules

cityscope

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a list of festivals, events and benefits taking place in the Boston area by date.

Festivals, Events & Expos

Wednesday, Nov. 29

Brookline Crafts Showcase Preview Reception
86 Monmouth St., Brookline (566-5715). MBTA: C Green Line to St. Mary's. 6-9pm. $20, $25 at the door. Be the first to choose from a selection of fine crafts and gifts by more than 100 artisans and artists as you sample food from the buffet.

Cheers for Children Holiday Auction
Hampshire House, 84 Beacon St., Boston (854-7617). 5:30-9:30pm. $20. Participate in both silent and live auctions to benefit four Boston-based charities with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.

Crafts at the Castle Opening Night Gala
The Castle, Arlington Street and Columbus Avenue, Boston (523-6400). www.artfulgift.com/catc. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 5:30pm. $125.* Donate and bid on items in a silent auction. This year's auction includes small collections of favorite books from Boston celebs.

Rosie's Place Homecoming
Park Plaza Hotel, 64 Arlington St., Boston (442-9322). 12-2pm. Rosie's Place hosts a celebration of its newly renovated home. Attendees include Peter Yarrow of Peter Paul and Mary, Susan Wornick, Liz Walker and Emily Rooney.

Thursday, Nov. 30

Brookline Crafts Showcase
86 Monmouth St., Brookline (566-5715). MBTA: C Green Line to St. Mary's. Thu., 12-9pm; Fri.-Sun., 12-6pm. Nov. 30-Dec. 17. An exhibition and sale of fine crafts and gifts by more than 100 artisans and artists.

Copley Square Holiday Tree Lighting
Copley Square, Boston (536-2101). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 4-5pm. The Salvation Army Brass Ensemble and Jubilee Kids Chorus perform and lead a community carol sing-along before and after the tree-lighting ceremony.

Crafts at the Castle
The Castle, Arlington Street and Columbus Avenue, Boston (523-6400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Nov. 30-Dec. 1, 12-9pm; Dec. 2, 10am-6pm; Dec. 3, 10am-5pm. $10. See a juried exhibition and sale of work by more than 100 national crafts artists working in clay, glass, wood, fiber, leather and metals.

First Light Festival of Brookline
Brookline neighborhoods (730-2050). www.townofbrooklinemass.com. *5-8pm.* Brookline celebrates the kick-off for the holiday shopping season with live performances in every neighborhood, including Brookline Village, Coolidge Corner and Washington Square.

Kowloon's 50th Anniversary Gala
948 Broadway, Saugus (781-233-0077). 6-11pm. $25. Herb Reed and the Platters perform at this celebration benefiting the Joey Fund and the Massachusetts Restaurant Association. Lion dancing, the ancient spiritual Chinese dance featuring three people inside a giant lion puppet, takes place at the restaurant.

Silicon Sidewalk
BasketBall City, 35 Lomansney Way, Boston (720-0540). www.siliconspot.com/sidewalk. *MBTA: Green Line to North Station. 6-10pm. $15, $20 at the door.* This high-tech trade show showcases various Internet companies to a high-tech savvy audience. Enjoy food, drinks, a cash bar and entertainment too.

Venetian Fantasy: A Gala Benefit
Ritz Carlton Hotel, 15 Arlington St., Boston (927-6350). Nov. 30, 7:30 pm. $250. Black-tie. Hosted by Hasbro Inc. Chairman and CEO Allan G. Hassenfeld and his wife, Vivian, the grand event will feature the North American debut of Paris-based painter Roberto Garcia-York's unique and extraordinary costumes for the annual Venice Carnival. Benefits the Rosie's Community Health Endowment Fund.

World AIDS Day: Medicine Wheel
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (269-8382) Nov. 30, 11pm-Dec. 1, 12am. This 24-hour, interactive art installation and vigil of dance, song, ritual and prayer by artist Michael Dowling features 36 pedestals and portable shrines. Processions will take place every hour on the hour of Dec. 1, leaving BCA Plaza and dropping pebbles along the way to create a universal path on which to walk, while chanting or remembering the name of someone affected by HIV/AIDS.

Friday, Dec. 1

Christmas Market 2000
Church of the Redeemer, 379 Hammond St, Chestnut Hill (566-7679). MBTA: D Green Line to Chestnut Hill. Dec. 1, 10:30am-5pm; Dec. 2, 10am-4pm. Some 30 upscale boutiques will sell a wide variety of gifts, crafts and toys.

Harpoon Christmas Party
Harpoon Brewery, 306 Northern Ave., Boston (888-HAR-POON, ext. 3). www.harpoonbrewery.com. Dec. 1, 5:30-11pm; Dec. 2, 2-11pm. $10. Good tidings and fresh beer await the more than 3,000 holiday revelers. Live music warms the spirit and hot food warms the bellies under the heated tent outside the brewery. The Mudhens perform Friday and the Popgun Seven on Saturday.

Holiday Dinner Dance
Veronique Ballroom, 20 Chapel St., Brookline (789-4070). MBTA: D Green Line to Longwood. 7:30pm. $49. The Boston Ski & Sports Club sponsors a gourmet dinner buffet, cash bar, DJ and dancing.

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Fridays. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

World AIDS Day: Community March and Rally
Roxbury Community College, Roxbury (414-4554). Dec. 1, 5-8:30pm. Marchers gather at Roxbury Community College and march to Multicultural AIDS Coalition. Program includes a rally, entertainment and refreshments.

Saturday, Dec. 2

Fete de Noel
The French Library and Cultural Center, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (266-4351). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 10:30am-12:30pm or 1-3pm. $6. Enjoy cookie decoration, films, a raffle, snacks and a visit by Santa Claus himself.

Holiday Fair
First Unitarian Society, 1326 Washington St., Route 16, West Newton Square, Newton (527-3203). 9:30am-3pm. Free. This giant holiday fair features a silent auction, attic treasures, games and toys, books, trees, baked goods, a coffee bar, children's activities and more.

Old South Meeting House Holiday Open House
310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Dec. 2-3, 10am-4pm. Two holiday concerts will be offered each day.

Prudential Center Tree Lighting
Prudential Center, South Garden, Boston (877-276-7884). 6pm. Boston's largest tree is illuminated with great ceremony as the 29th annual gift tree from grateful Nova Scotians lights up the whole city.

Santa Sails Across the Charles
Harvard Boat House, Charles River, Cambridge (491-3434). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 11am-3pm. $50 adults, $25 children, to ride with Santa. Santa sails across the Charles from the Galleria Mall and arrives at the Harvard Boat House with a boatload of gifts. Proceeds benefit Cambridge Family & Children's Services.

Third Annual Holiday Show & Sale
ARTeria Studio, 50 Terminal St., Building #2, Suite 208, Charlestown (242-4485). Dec. 2-3, 11am-5pm. The Artists Group of Charlestown presents this holiday arts and crafts show by 15 members.

Sunday, Dec. 3

Newbury Street Holiday Stroll
Newbury Street, Boston (267-2224). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 11am-4pm. Stroll along Newbury Street at its most glittering of seasons for holiday performances from *The Nutcracker*, holiday carolers and musicians, gifts and sweets galore. Christmas wreaths and unusual Menorahs will be auctioned off to benefit the Women's Lunch Place.

'Tis the season of holiday shopping and festivities in Downtown Crossing.

Tree Lighting on the Boston Common
Boston Common, Tremont Street, Boston (635-4505). MBTA: Green Line to Park. 5:45-7pm. Free. The highlight of the holiday season comes when Mayor Menino switches on the lights to illuminate Boston Common. In its 60th year, this display of lights now includes parades and music. This year's event features Disney characters.

Monday, Dec. 4

MassArt's Holiday Sale
Tower Building Lobby, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston (232-1555). MBTA: E Green Line to Longwood. Dec. 4-8, 10am-7pm. Purchase fine arts and crafts from MassArt students and alums, including ceramics, glass, painting, prints, fiber art and jewelry.

A Night of Cabaret and Delectable Delights
Bomboa, 35 Stanhope St., Boston (236-6363). Dec. 4, 8:30-11pm. $40. The Focus on Families Foundation offers this night of samplings from Bomboa's new late-night menu and music by cabaret artist Erica Leopold.

Tuesday, Dec. 5

Celebrate the Lights on Comm. Ave.
Arlington Street & Comm. Ave., Boston (635-4505). 4:30pm. Mayor Thomas Menino and the Parks & Recreation Department invite you to Celebrate the Lights as Commonwealth Avenue is illuminated for the holiday season. Caroling and hot chocolate begin at 4:30pm with the lights aglow at 5pm.

Seven-Minute Date and Holiday Dance
Top Kat Lounge, 54 Canal St., Boston. MBTA: Green Line to North Station. 6-11pm. $25. Send your age, gender and a check to James J. Williams, JJ Productions, 28 Warren Ave., Suite 2, Somerville, MA 02143-3030. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and cash bar, a 7-minue date event and then swing and salsa lessons, dancing and mingling.

Wednesday, Dec. 6

Make-A-Wish Stories of Light Kick-Off Celebration
Boylston Street side of the Prudential Center, Boston (451-WISH). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. 4:30-5:30pm. Free. Enjoy holiday refreshments and entertainment by the Boston Conservatory Musical Theatre at the ceremonial lighting of the Prudential Center.

MIMC Holiday Charity CyberBrew
The Roxy, 279 Tremont St., Boston (227-2822). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 6:30-10pm. $40. Network with the members of the Massachusetts Interactive Media Council at this holiday charity CyberBrew with hors d'oeuvres and an open bar.

Sausage Guy's 2001 Calendar Benefit
Salsa's Mexican Grill, 118 Dorchester St., South Boston (269-7878). 6-9pm. The Sausage Guy, David Littlefield, unveils his celebrity calendar at this benefit for Stop Handgun Violence and the South Boston Neighborhood House.

Thursday, Dec. 7

Bay Colony Cluster Dog Show
Bayside Expo Center, 200 Mt. Vernon St., Route 93 South, exit 15, Dorchester (556-7747). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Dec. 7-10, 8am-5pm. $10. One of the country's largest AKC events provides holiday shopping for dog lovers, public service booths, puppy breeder referrals, agility and obedience demos and dog shows. More than 12,000 pedigree pooches are expected to compete.

Beacon Hill Holiday Stroll
Corner of Charles and Mt. Vernon streets, Boston (723-6000). MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. 5:30-8:30pm. Local businesses dressed in their holiday finery stay open late. Enjoy free horse and buggy rides, refreshments, a holiday clown, Victorian strolling carolers and holiday festivities. Don't miss the tree lighting and the arrival of Santa.

HoHoHo Gala
Il Panino, 125 High St., Boston (859-8500). www.sudiko.com. *Dec. 7, 7:30-10:30pm. $45, $55 at the door.* Enjoy cocktails, a martini bar, lavish hors d'oeuvres, holiday music, a visit from Santa and a silent auction.

Holiday Stroll & Fair
Center Plaza, City Hall, Boston (247-8221). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 12-2pm. Free. Holiday carolers and costumed characters will deck the halls both inside and outside Center Plaza for this festive event with food and holiday entertainment.

MFA December Exhibition & Sale
School of the Museum of Fine Arts, 230 The Fenway, Boston (267-6100). Dec. 7-10, 12-6pm. With fine art ranging from innovative stocking stuffers to original works by internationally renowned artists, this sale features more than 4,000 original works of art, including jewelry, paintings, sculpture and photography by SMFA alumni, faculty, students and staff.

Friday, Dec. 8

Calvacade of Cod Auction
Mass. College of Art, Huntington Gallery, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-6660). 6pm. $75. The Calvacade of Cod, a public art exhibit consisting of 75 fiberglass cod, ends with this cod auction and reception.

Holiday Open House
Gore Place, 52 Gore St., Waltham (781-894-2798). Dec. 8-10, 11am-3:30pm, 3:30-8pm. The ground floor rooms of this 1806 mansion are decorated for the season and open for viewing. Musical entertainment and refreshments will be offered. Stay for the Candlelight and Holly Celebration at 5:30pm.

Tree Lighting Ceremony
Statue Park, College Avenue and Holland and Elm streets, Davis Square, Somerville. 5-7pm. Watch as Somerville's official holiday tree is illuminated.

Saturday, Dec. 9

Cultural Survival Bazaar
Pound Hall, Harvard Law School, 1563 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (441-5403). Dec. 9, 10am-8pm; Dec. 10, 10am-6pm. This biannual festive bazaar features arts and crafts from all over the world. Some 50 vendors from Guatemala, Thailand, India, Mexico, Morocco, Venezuela and Brazil sell their wares. Proceeds benefit Cultural Survival.

Dance for Christmas 2000
Jorge Hernandez Cultural Center, 85 West Newton, Boston (524-3816). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. 8:30pm. $16, $19 at the door. Dance to the original Afro-Caribbean music of Jorge Arce and Humano.

Harvard Square Holiday Stroll and Holly Fair
CCAE, 42 Brattle St., Harvard Square, Cambridge (491-3434). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Dec. 9 (Holly Fair); Dec. 9, 10am-5:30pm, Dec. 10, 12-5pm (Holiday Stroll). It's the 100th anniversary of the annual Holly Fair, Cambridge's oldest traditional crafts fair. Also, join in the annual Harvard Square Holiday Stroll and enjoy special sales, eggnog and treats, gift wrapping booths, special readings, a free holiday trolley between stores and performances by the Harvard Krokodiles and Harvard Choruses.

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Every Monday — "Celebrity Night" hosted by BackBay Beat.com's S.J. Torres featuring Chad LaMarsh. Join The Rack, Back Bay Coyote girls, and Fox Sports FOX SPORTS NET for gridiron football, pool and nightlife that can't be beat. It's a night you will never forget or may not be able to remember!

Every Friday — Start your weekend off on the right foot join Kiss 108's Billy Costa after work for food, fun, live bands and D.J.'s.

Tuesday, November 28th — Tuesday, November 28th - "Billiards Social". Join Boston Ski & Sports for their Annual Pool Tournament. We will mix up the teams and rotate tables, so you can meet others as you play. DJ and dancing. 7pm - 9pm.

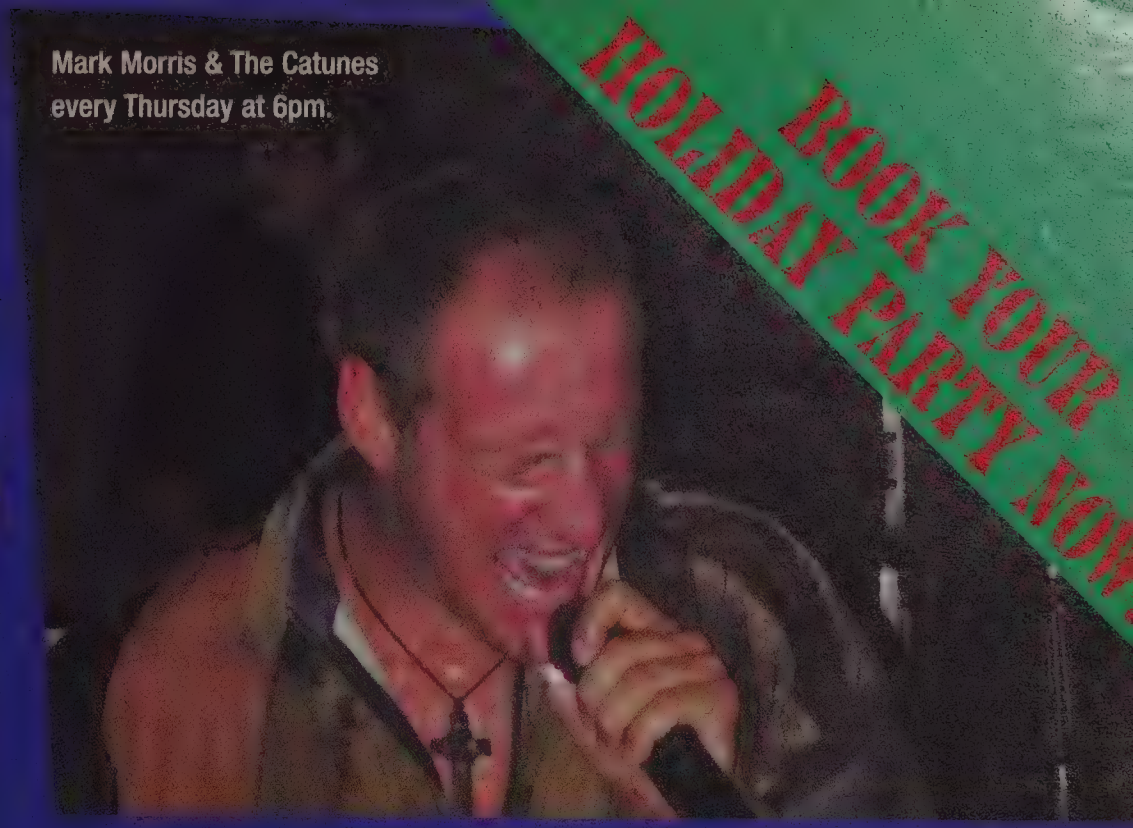
Monday, December 4th — Boston's 1st annual Nightlife Awards presented by BackBayBeat.com & The Rack featuring Chad LaMarsh. Vote for Boston's Best Bar's , Club's, Restaurant's, Bartender's, Hosts/Hostesses, D.J's, Bands, Nightlife Magazines and Nightlife websites on BackBayBeat.com. Votes are hand-counted until December 4th. 8pm - 2am. (Please make sure that you punch the ballots correctly)

Tuesday, December 12th — Celtic's Captain Antoine Walker hosts his First Annual 8-Ball Celebrity Pool Tournament to benefit inner city children. Mix and mingle with Drew Bledsoe, Paul Pierce and Antoine Walker, past and present Celtic's players, as well as players from the Boston Bruins, Red Sox and Patriots. Dance to Chad LaMarsh, DJ Mike Lunardy and Walter McCarty's band, IceStorm. This is an event no sports fan should miss, so get here early! 6:00pm- 2:00am.

Mix 98.5's Gregg Daniels hangs tough with the New York Knickerbockers.

24 Clinton Street, Boston 02109 617.725.1051 www.therackboston.com

Ryan Morris and Nashville Predator's defenseman Cale Hulse.



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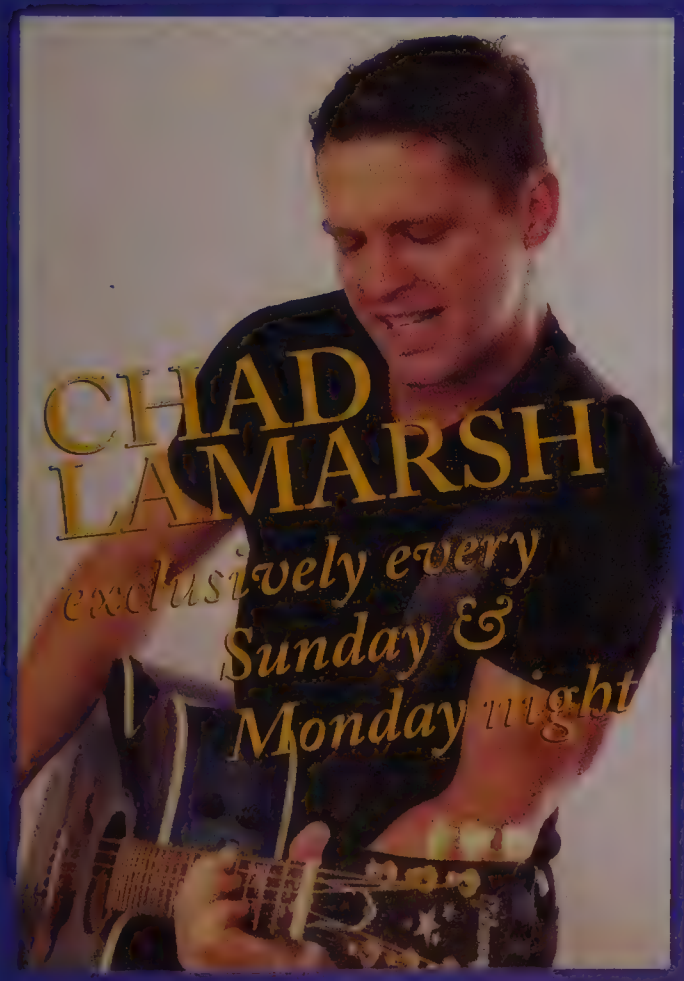

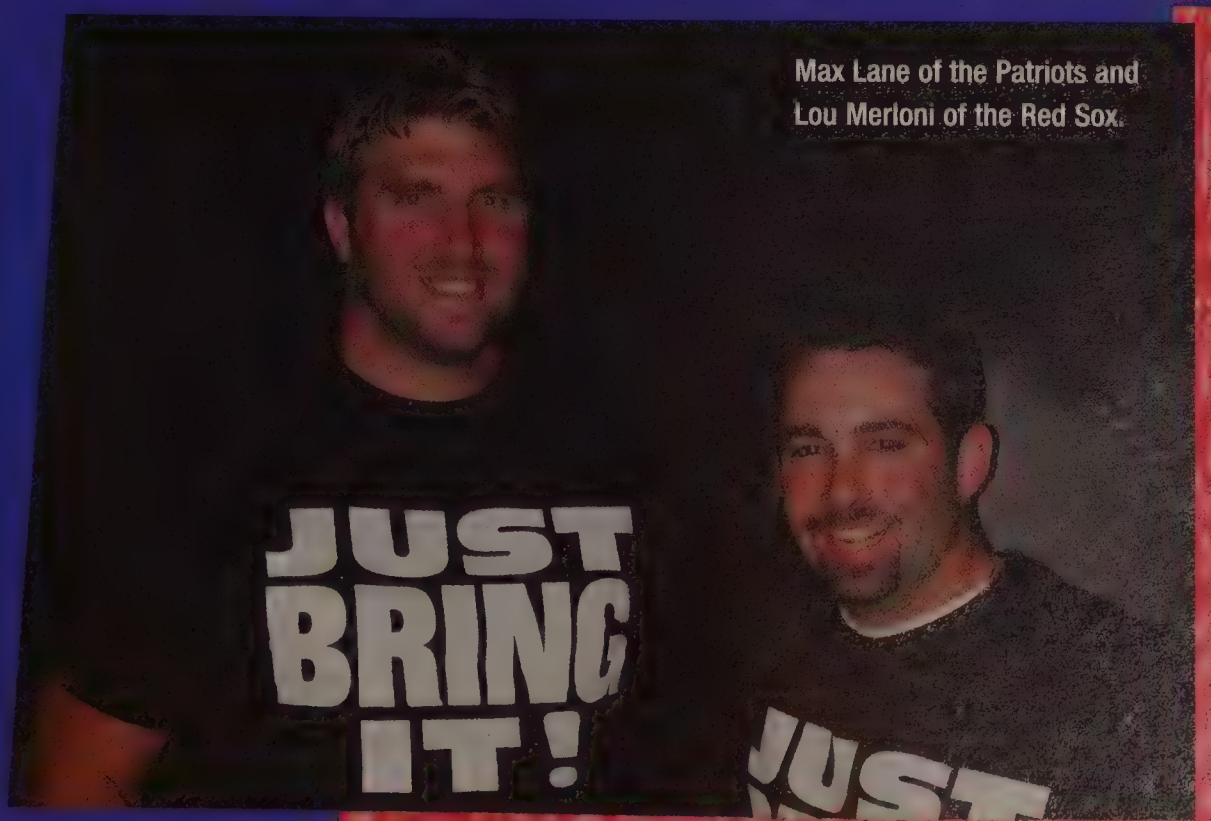

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More than 100 artists exhibit and sell their work at Crafts at the Castle Nov. 30-Dec. 3.

Swedish Yuletide Fair
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (781-237-4557). www.sweaboston.org. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. 10am-4pm. Free.* Enjoy a St. Lucia procession with candle-bearing singers, music and dancing, and then pick up some handmade Christmas crafts.

Sunday, Dec. 10

Cutting for Charity
LIBS Learning Institute of Beauty Science, 867 Boylston St., Boston (365-7947). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. 12-6pm. The Salon at Saks Fifth Avenue, Judy Jetson's Salon, Mia's Nail Salon and Treasure and Hand Nail Salon will donate their services for half price to benefit the Blessed Sacrament Colorguards. Get a haircut, blow-dry, manicure, wax, massage or makeover.

Boston Tea Party Re-enactment
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). 5pm. Only the first 600 people will be admitted. $1. On Dec. 16, 1773, thousands gathered at the Old South Meeting House to discuss the fate of the cargo aboard three ships docked in Boston Harbor. Join as costumed interpreters portray both the Loyalists and Patriots and argue their case for or against the tax.

Monday, Dec. 11

8-Ball Celebrity Pool Tournament
The Rack, 24 Clinton St., Boston (725-1051). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 7pm (VIP reception), 8pm (auction), 8:30pm (tournament). $20. Antoine Walker, Mrs. Massachusetts and local sport celebrities pick up their cue sticks and attempt to sink the 8-ball in an effort to raise funds for Walker's 8 Foundation.

Make-A-Wish Stories of Light Skating Party
Frog Pond, Boston Common, Boston (451-WISH). MBTA: Green Line to Park. 5:30-8pm. Free. Donations welcome. Reception afterward at Hampshire House, 84 Beacon St., Boston. $35 (includes light dinner and complimentary cocktail). Skate on the newly opened Frog Pond to support the second annual Make-A-Wish Stories of Light Holiday Program. Afterward, enjoy a reception at the Hampshire House.

Tuesday, Dec. 12

Holiday Party
Good Time Emporium, 30 Sturtevant St., Somerville (725-5447). 6pm. $15. This benefit for the Home for Little Wanderers includes dinner and dancing.

Ongoing Holiday Happenings

Faneuil Hall Holiday Entertainment
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (737-3500). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. •*A Christmas Carol* Re-enactment: *Saturdays, 12:30 and 2:30pm, through Dec. 16.* Throughout the season, Charles Dickens will represent the spirit of Christmas past. The performance will include a reading and re-enactment of *A Christmas Carol*. •Holiday Classics: *Nov. 30-Dec. 14, 2, 4 and 7pm.* Holiday favorites are performed on the community stage by local groups and musicians from the New England Conservatory and the Berklee College of Music.

Enchanted Village
City Hall Plaza, Boston (635-3911). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Through Jan. 1. $1. The small, snow-covered New England town is populated entirely by children, teddy bears, animals and Santa Claus. Performers entertain the crowd.

Volunteer

ABCD Inc.
(357-6000). Seeks tutors in reading, math, science, writing and social studies.

AIDS Action Committee
(888-332-AUTO or 450-1235). Turn your old car into a tax-deductible donation. Volunteer meetings held Dec. 7, 6-8:30pm; Dec. 13, 1-3:30pm.

Big Brother
(956-0211). Be a Big Brother. Information sessions: Tue.-Wed., 6pm; Thu., 12:15pm; and every other Saturday, 11am.

Big Sister Association
161 Mass. Ave., 2nd Floor, Boston (236-8060). www.bigsister.org. Offer support and friendship to a girl between the ages of 7 and 15.

Boston Cares
(263-CARE). More than 70 volunteer opportunities are available in Greater Boston.

Boston Living Center
(236-1012). HIV/AIDS service organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Community Servings
(445-7777). Help prepare and deliver meals for individuals and families dealing with AIDS during the holidays.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

Friday Night Supper Program
Arlington Street Church, corner of Arlington and Boylston streets, Boston (536-7050, ext. 22). Need volunteers to help prepare, cook and serve meals on Fridays, 5-7pm.

The Greater Boston Food Bank
(427-5200). Groups needed to sort donated food.

Horizons Initiative
(287-1900). Volunteers needed to play with children living in shelters. Commit to two hours per week for six months.

Jewish Community Volunteer Program
(558-6585). Volunteers are needed to share fun times with an isolated senior.

Junior Achievement
(367-6891). ckraft@ja-easternmass.org. Volunteers needed to teach kids about business.

Juvenile Diabetes Foundation
www.talbots.com. *Through Dec. 24.* Purchase a plush snowman, and Talbots will donate a percentage of the sale to the JDF.

Mass. Eating Disorder Association
(558-1881). Volunteers needed for four hours per week for help line, assisting clinical staff and special events.

Mass. Substance Abuse Info Helpline
(536-0501, ext. 201). Volunteers needed to talk over the phone with persons affected by alcoholism and substance abuse.

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist elders with such tasks as reading, shopping and basic home repairs.

One with One
(254-1691). Tutor an immigrant to improve English skills and prepare for work in an American business.

Pine Street Inn
(521-7626). Seeking volunteers to serve meals and act as receptionist for homeless guests.

Prison Book Program
(423-3298). Answer letters from inmates and fill requests for books on various topics.

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic
(577-1111). Needs volunteers to record textbooks at East Cambridge studio, days and evenings.

Red Cross Young Professionals
(375-0700, ext. 280). Help coordinate fun social events to benefit the American Red Cross.

Rosie's Place
(442-9322). Volunteers needed for the dining room, clothing room, the groceries program and office work.

United Services Organization (USO)
(720-4949). Volunteers needed to welcome Navy ships, participate in hospital visits, provide office support, coordinate receptions and assist with events.

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Seeks individuals to assist legal immigrants and refugees to become naturalized citizens.

Tours

Boston Beer Museum
30 Germania St., Jamaica Plain (522-9080). Tours on Thu.-Fri., 2pm; Sat., 12pm, 1pm and 2pm. $2. Tour the Sam Adams brewery and the Boston Beer Museum.

Holly Jolly Christmas Trolley
Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Ave., Boston (269-7150). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Thu., 6:15pm; Fri.-Sat., 6:15pm and 7:30pm; Sun., 6:15pm. Dec. 7-30 (excluding Dec. 24). $25. Snug inside a heated trolley, guests experience the candlelit windows of Beacon Hill, the twinkling lights of the Boston Common, the *USS Constitution* decked out in its holiday finery and the Prudential Center's 50-foot holiday tree. Each tour includes storytelling and caroling and a stop for cookies and hot cocoa at the Frog Pond.

Sights to See

Boston Tea Party Ship and Museum
Congress St. Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Open daily, March-May and Sept.-Nov., 9am-5pm; closed Dec.-March. $8. A replica of one of the ships emptied by colonists (disguised as Indians) during the Dec. 16, 1773 tea raid.

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Fifth Floor, Boston (353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), Oct.-March, 7:30-8:30pm; April-Sept., 8:30-9:30pm. Free. BU's astronomers are available to answer questions and assist with telescopes as you check out Orion, Cassiopeia and the Big Dipper.

Bunker Hill Monument
Monument Square, Charlestown (242-5641). Open daily 9am-5pm. Free. The 221-foot monument honors the men who died in the Battle of Bunker Hill.

John Hancock Observatory
200 Clarendon St., Boston (572-6429). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open Mon.-Sat., 9am-11pm, Sun., 10am-11pm (May-Oct.) and noon-11pm (Nov.-April). $6. The tallest building in New England (62 floors) offers an awesome view.

See this little guy at the Bay Colony Cluster Dog Show Dec. 7-10.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat. 10am-2pm. Admission free. Alongside Boston's first Anglican church—a gloomy granite apparition—you'll find a burial ground with equally ominous-looking headstones.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (635-3105). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Open daily, 9am-5pm. Guided tours every half hour, starting at 9am. Free. Known as the "Cradle of Liberty," Faneuil Hall—we're talking about the part above the eatery—was the site of many an angry man ranting and raving about the damn British in the mid-1700s.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily, 9 am-5pm. Free. Here, Paul Revere saw two lanterns shining on April 18, 1775, indicating that the British troops were crossing the Charles River to Lexington and Concord.

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays, 10am-4pm; weekends, 10am-5pm. $3. A thousand fed-up men gathered in this church to decide whether or not to send three ships full of tea back to England. Guess what? They didn't. •*Voices of Protest* traces the use of Old South Meeting House over three centuries for religious, political and social debate. •Middays at the Meeting House, there's a lunchtime music series. Thursdays, 12:15-1pm. $4.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-10pm, Sun. noon-10pm. $4, $3 seniors and students. Check out Boston's only 360-degree view tower. The view here (50 floors up) is slightly better than that of rival John Hancock.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8am-6pm. Free. Designed by H.H. Richardson and constructed in 1877, the huge Romanesque church in Copley Square offers free organ concerts on Fridays at 12:15pm.

Museums

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June, Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm; June-Aug., daily, 10am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm. $5, children and seniors $3: See *Arthur's World* from the popular television series and children's books. This infamous aardvark is one of many hands-on favorites.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (929-4523). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily 9am-5pm (last film begins at 3:55pm). $8. This permanent collection on the life and legacy of President John F. Kennedy offers a re-created world of the early 1960s with period settings and 25 dramatic multimedia exhibits.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (739-1200) www.afroammuseum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays 10am-4pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.* This place is bustling after its recent endowment of more than $1 million to restore the meeting house's hallowed sanctuary. See the African Meeting House, the oldest black church in America.

Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun., 9am-12pm.* This Harvard museum is made up of four factions: The **Botanical Museum**, **The Museum of Comparative Zoology**, the **Mineral & Geological Museum**, and the **Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology**. A number of exhibitions tie together all four of these distinct collections. The most famous is the Botanical Museum for its glass flowers collection—more than 3,000 models of more than 480 plant species. •New at Museum of Natural History: *Beauty on the Wing: The Double Lives of Butterflies.* Butterflies of every size, shape and color from all parts of the world are on display. Through March 4.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu., 9am-5pm; Fri., 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children. Omni Theater, Hayden Planetarium or laser shows all $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children.* Find out how much you weigh on the moon, strap yourself into a space module or sift through sand on an archaeological dig. Enjoy 600 hands-on exhibits. •*Powers of Nature*: an exhibit on earthquakes, severe storms and volcanoes. •Ongoing at the Mugar Omni Theater: *Adventures in Wild California*, through January, 2001.

Charles Hayden Planetarium
Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. $7.50. Time of show changes daily.* Don't miss the daily laser shows to the music of the Beastie Boys, Pink Floyd, Korn, Tool, Jimi Hendrix, Nine Inch Nails, among others. It's a trip.

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (720-3290). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily, 9am-5pm. $3. Built in 1713, this original seat of colonial government was the place where pre-Independence Bostonians first heard the *Declaration of Independence* read. •*Burning Issues: A History of Boston Through Fire.*

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (426-1812). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, bus 93 to Navy Yard. Nov.-April 30: Open daily, 10am-5pm. Free. Learn about the oldest commissioned warship's 200-year history.

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Theater
JUST OPENED

Black Nativity
Tremont Temple, Tremont and School streets (442-8614). Dec. 1-17. $15-$30. Langston Hughes' dramatic re-telling of the Nativity story with gospel music and a message of peace, joy and inspiration.

Carman: Heart of a Champion
Worcester's Centrum Centre, 50 Foster St., Worcester (229-6000). Dec. 7, 7pm. $5. Contemporary Christian artist Carman shares the Gospel through the story of a retired boxer whose greatest desire is to serve the Lord through an inner-city youth center.

A Christmas Carol
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Rd., Beverly, Mass. (978-921-6351). Fri.,8pm; Sat., 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Dec. 1-23. $18-$56. This original adaptation of the Charles Dickens classic has festive songs, colorful costumes and dazzling special effects.

A Christmas Carol
Orpheum Foxborough, Foxborough, Mass. (508-543-4434). Dec. 13, 10am; Dec. 14, 1pm; Dec. 15, 8pm; Dec. 16, 2pm and 8pm; Dec. 17, 3pm. $14. Rick Lombardo directs this adaptation of Charles Dickens' tale of redemption and good will. Lombardo has designed this production for a cast of seven in a "radio play" presentation, with original lyrics.

Death of a Salesman
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2pm and 8pm; Sun., 1pm and 7pm. Nov. 28-Dec. 10. $45-$75. Brian Dennehy and Elizabeth Franz reprise their Tony Award-winning roles in Arthur Miller's tale of Willy Loman, a traveling salesman who rode "on a smile and a shoeshine" and now, facing the twilight of his life, must confront his failures and his family's struggle with success, integrity and the elusive American dream.

Director's Lab
Threshold Theatre, 791 Tremont St., Boston (469-9339). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave. Nov. 30-Dec. 10 (call for exact times). $15 per show, $25 for two shows, $30 for three. •***The Apollo of Bellac***: A young woman is taught the secret to making men jump by Apollo himself. •***The Transfiguration of Benno Blimpie***: Benno Blimpie takes audiences through his tormented and shockingly humorous childhood in an effort to shed light on his decision to kill himself by way of food. •***Collected Stories***: A graduate student attempts to break through the walls of her emotionally guarded mentor, a famous author. When the student succeeds and then uses the mentor's life as inspiraton for her first novel, the mentor feels horribly betrayed.

Footloose, the Musical
Lowell Memorial Auditorium, 50 E. Merrimack St., Lowell (978-454-2299). Dec. 1, 7:30pm. You remember the popular film—well, this musical is almost as good (minus Kevin Bacon).

Fully Committed
Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont St., Boston (931-2787). Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2pm and 8pm; Sun., 2pm and 7pm. Dec. 1-31. $25-$55. Fully Committed is set in the basement of Manhattan's trendiest restaurant, a place where everyone wants a table for tonight. Mark Setlock, the acclaimed star of the New York production, re-creates this hilarious menagerie of Manhattanites on the make, playing more than 40 characters under the direction of Huntington Theatre's Nicholas Martin.

The High Priest of Infinity
Boston Center for the Arts, The Black Box Theater, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Nov. 30-Dec. 16. StageDoor Theatre presents this drama by David E. Butler. Amid love and violence, a family struggles to stay together.

How Mrs. Grinchley Swiped Christmas
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-5000). Wed., 8pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat. 7and 9pm; Sun. 7pm. Nov. 30-Dec. 16. $20.50. No one ushers in Christmas like drag queen can. Celebrate the holidays with Centastage and Ryan Landry's hysterical musical parody.

Inspecting Carol
Lyric Stage Company of Boston, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4pm and 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Dec. 1-30. $20-$26. This fusion of two classics—Gogol's satirical *The Inspector General* and Dickens' traditional *A Christmas Carol*—takes place in a small midwestern city as a professional theater company rehearses for its 13th version of the annual holiday cash cow. To top it off, the company is nearly bankrupt, an inspector from the National Endowment for the Arts is sent to investigate before approving an annual grant, and an aspiring actor comes into audition and is mistaken for the inspector.

Miss Folk America
The Somerville Theater, 55 Davis Square, Somerville (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Dec. 2. Six Boston folk stars compete for the coveted crown of Miss Folk America in this twisted hybrid of musical pathos and pageant parody. The cast includes Catie Curtis, Jennifer Kimball, Kris Delmhorst, Mary Gauthier, Meghan Toohey and Faith Soloway.

Poona the Fuckdog
TheatreZone, Actors Workshop, 40 Boylston St., Boston (887-2336). www.theatrezone.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Fri., 8pm; Sat., 7 and 10pm. Dec. 1-23. $12, $15 at the door.* Jeff Goode's outrageous fairy tale for grown-ups is a perverse funhouse ride that takes no prisoners as it sends up sex, relationships, television, advertising, politics, religion and fairytales themselves.

Three Farces and a Funeral: The Proposal, The Bear and The Wedding Reception
American Repertory Theatre, Loeb Stage, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (495-2668). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2pm and 8pm; Sun., 2pm and 7pm. Dec. 8-Jan. 14. In this new adaptation of Chekhov's one-act comedies, Robert Brustein has linked three of the most popular with excerpts from the playwright's poignantly romantic love letters.

NOW RUNNING

Antigone
American Repertory Theatre, Loeb Stage, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (495-2668). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2pm and 8pm; Sun., 2pm and 7pm. Nov. 24-Jan. 9. $25-$59. Forces of redemption and reconciliation clash in Sophocles' timeless myth, as the human instinct for love struggles to overcome the human instinct for violence, enmity and revenge. When a civil war leaves rebels bloody and unburied on the battlefield, Antigone—daughter of the cursed house of Oedipus—must defy her uncle the king by burying her fallen brother, leader of the defeated faction.

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). Wed.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 7pm and 10pm; Sun., 3pm and 6pm. $39-$49. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to get its point across with tribal rock music, performance art, humorous antics, props (including plastic tubes and Twinkies) and three men painted blue.

A Christmas Carol
Trinity Repertory Theater, 201 Washington St., Providence (401-456-0000). Tue., 7pm; Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm and 7pm. Through Dec. 24. $36-$45. The Cratchit family and Tiny Tim, and the incorrigible Ebenezer Scrooge's redemption through the visits of the ghosts of Jacob Marley and Christmases past, present and future, are all wrapped up with singing, dancing, and fun-filled special theatrical effects.

Ruff! Jeff Goode's outrageous fairy tale, *Poona the Fuckdog*, is at the Actors Workshop Dec. 1-23.

The Performance Cult
Back Alley Theater, 1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1253). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. Sundays, 7:30pm. Through Dec. 17. $7. Actors, dancers and storytellers will present a series of short, original vignettes. Each one lasts no longer than 10 minutes. See character work, dance, monologues, movement, singing and sound work. Each performer must base his or her performance on the truth.

Scrooge
Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton (244-0169). Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Through Dec. 10. $21. A song and dance spectacular based on Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 6:30pm and 9:30pm; Sun., 3pm and 7:30pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This hilarious whodunit is set in a unisex hair salon. The production holds the record as the longest-running play in the history of Boston theater.

Stonewall Jackson's House
New Repertory Theatre, 54 Lincoln St., Newton Highlands (332-1646). Through Dec. 17. $25-$33. Adam Zahler directs Jonathan Reynold's controversial lampoon of political correctness.

UNIVERSITY THEATER

The Pirates of Penzance
Agassiz Theatre, Radcliffe Yard, 10 Garden St., Cambridge (496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Nov. 30, 8pm; Dec. 1-2, Dec. 7-9, 8pm; Dec. 2-3 and Dec. 9, 2pm. $4-$12. Written on the heels of HMS Pinafore, this musical voyage by Gilbert and Sullivan features pirate parlance and patter-songs.

Merrily We Roll Along
Spingold Theater, Brandeis University, Waltham (781-736-3400). Commuter Rail to Brandeis/Roberts. Tue.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm and 7pm. Nov. 28-Dec. 3. $11.50-$15.50. This musical exploration of the lives of three friends begins in the present and traces the journey back through each milestone, depositing the audience with Frank, Mary and Charlie as they began full of hope, dreams and enthusiasm about the works that awaited them.

Mad Forest
Brimmer Studio Theatre, 60 Brimmer St., Boston (824-8000). Dec. 6-8, 8pm; Dec. 9, 2pm and 8pm; Dec. 10, 2pm. $10. Emerson Stage presents the intertwined stories of two families during the overthrow of the Romanian dictator Ceausescu and the fall of communism in Eastern Europe.

INTERACTIVE THEATER

Mystery Cafe
290 Congress St., Boston (781-320-0040). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Fri., 7:30pm; Sat., 7pm. Ongoing. $36. This interactive murder mystery, *Murder on the Campaign Trail*, is a parody of Campaign 2000.

Mystery Cruise: Murder on the Ocean Queen
Ft. Independence, Long Wharf, Boston (781-320-0040). Cruise departs Saturdays, 8pm. $49/person, includes dinner and cruise. Gather clues during a Harbor cruise, meet characters and interrogate suspects as you attempt to piece together the answer to the mystery.

Dance
SHOWS AND EVENTS

Boston's Other Nutcracker
Emerson Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (824-8000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Dec. 7-30. $9-29. Jose Mateo's Ballet Theatre's rendition of *The Nutcracker* focuses on the dancing rather than the traditional Boston Ballet version, which is more theatrical.

Dance for Christmas 2000
Jorge Hernandez Cultural Center, 85 West Newton St., Boston (524-6338). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Dec. 9, 8:30pm. $16 or $19 at door. Jorge Arce and Humano bring their unique Afro-Carribean style to life in this celebration of their 13th anniversary.

A Dancer's Christmas
Robsham Theater Arts Center, Boston College, Chestnut Hill (552-4800). MBTA: B Green Line to BC. Dec. 8-17. $20. The Boston Liturgical Dance Ensemble, led by Rev. Robert VerEecke, jumps into the Christmas spirit with a festive performance. Twenty children join the cast of 30 students and professionals.

Gamelan Galak Tika
Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center, 41 2nd St., Cambridge (577-1400). MBTA: Green Line to Lechemere. Dec. 8, 8pm. MIT's Balinese music and dance troupe accompanies the Nicola Hawkins Dance Company in a performance of the composition Aneh Tapi Nyata.

Boston Ballet presents the holiday classic *The Nutcracker* at the Wang Theatre, through Dec. 31.

Nicola Hawkins Dance Company
Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center, 41 2nd St., Cambridge (577-1400). MBTA: Green Line to Lechemere. Dec. and 9, 8pm; Dec. 10, 3pm. $15, $12 CMAC members, students and seniors. This troupe of contemporary female dancers is accompanied by local composers and musicians for a weekend of original and distinctive choreography.

The Nutcracker
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St. Boston (695-6950). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Through Dec. 31. Showtimes vary. The Boston Ballet presents its annual rendition of this classic tale, this year with several newly choreographed sections in Act II.

Nocha de Luna y Flor
Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center. 41 2nd St., Cambridge (577-1400). MBTA: Green Line to Lechemere. Dec. 1 and 2, 8pm. $15. Enjoy an evening of flamenco dance and classical songs from Spain.

Rome & Jewels
Emerson Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (824-8000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Nov. 30-Dec. 3. $30-$40. Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* is set in a new generation for Rennie Harris Puremovement's new rendering, which twists and molds the bard's original text with the language of hip-hop culture to create a transcendent tragedy driven by a present-day controversy.

JOIN IN

Club Joy
533 Washington Street, Boston (354-5780). Saturday nights. This Latin nightspot now offers classes: salsa, merengue, bachata and more.

Dance Friday
Rug Cutter's Studio, 23 Main St., Watertown (924-7276). Fridays, 8:30pm-12am. $7 adults, $4 teens, children free. Join in the dancing to all types of music—even dance barefoot—in this family-friendly and smoke- and alcohol-free environment.

English Country Dance
Park Avenue Congregational Church, Park Avenue at Paul Revere Road, Arlington (354-1354). Wednesdays, 7:30-10:30pm. $6 adults, $5 members, $3 students. Enjoy country dancing with music by Bare Necessities.

Flamenco Dance Workshop
Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center, 51 2nd St., Cambridge (577-1400). Dec. 2, 10-1pm, $45. Rachel Lynn Bowman is teaching Sevillanas to those new to flamenco dancing.

Four on the Floor and Just Swing It
Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. •*Saturdays, 9pm-1:30am, $12, $10 after 11:30pm.* Join in a variety of dance moves—here you'll find jazzy mambos, swing dancing, cheeky cha chas and sassy salsa numbers. •*Tuesdays, 10pm-1:30am. $6.* Featuring the Black Tie Affair Orchestra, this is a great night of swing dancing.

Israeli Dancing
Temple Israel of Boston, Longwood Avenue at Plymouth Street, Boston (566-3960). MBTA: D Green Line to Longwood. Nov. 5 and 19, 11am-12pm. $5. All levels welcome. Vladimir Foygelman instructs.

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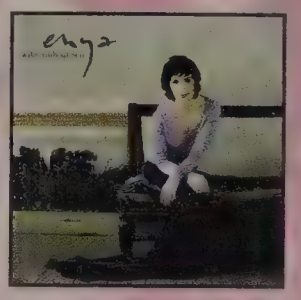

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Latin Night
Johnny D's, 17 Holland St., Somerville (776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Sundays, lessons at 9pm, dancing at 10pm. $8 lessons, $6 dancing. Lessons for salsa are packed at this Davis Square hangout. Stick around for live music by Gilberto Rivera and Rumba Na Ma.

New England Contras and Squares
VFW Hall, 688 Huron Ave., Cambridge (354-1340). Thursdays, 8-11pm. $5. Learn to square dance to live music, then do-si-do your partner with confidence.

Scottish Country Dance
YWCA, 7 Temple St., Cambridge (484-0950). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mondays, 7:45-10:15pm. $6 adults, $5 students. Dance like a true Scot after some fine lessons. And don't forget your kilt.

Tango Rialto
Rialto, Charles Hotel, One Bennett Street, Cambridge (661-5050). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thursdays, 10:30pm-1:30am. $10. One of Boston's most popular restaurants, Rialto in Harvard Square, opens its doors to tango dancers of all levels and backgrounds for nights of light hors d'oeuvres and lots of dancing.

Why Choose One?
Dance Caliente, 170 Washington St., Arlington (781-646-1233). Mon. and Tue. $25 for one course, $55 for a five-week course. Learn it all at this multidance studio where you can pick up salsa, swing, tango or the fox trot.

TICKETS

Bostix
(723-5181) www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of Faneuil Hall); Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth); and Harvard Square (in the Holyoke Center arcade at 1350 Mass. Ave).* Same-day tickets half-price.

Next Ticketing
(423-NEXT). www.boston.com/next.

Ticketmaster
(931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(247-1300 or 800-442-1854). This is a good place to get tickets if a show is sold out at the box office.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail info. to comedy@improper.com. *Include address, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a description of the performances or comedians. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (248-9700). www.comedyconnectionboston.com. *MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed., 8pm; Thu., 8:30pm; Fri. and Sat., 8pm, 10:15pm; Sun., 7pm. $8-$10 (weekend prices vary).* The oldest comedy club in Boston draws big-name, national comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •Nov. 29: Don Gavin. •Nov. 30: Frank Santos, the "R-Rated Hypnotist." •Dec. 1,$21.50, $17.50: Jeff Dunham with Peanut the Woozle• Dec. 2, 8pm: Boston Headliners; 10:30pm, $23: Jeff Dunham

"All-American Girl" Margaret Cho performs at the Comedy Connection Dec. 8 and 9.

•Dec. 3: Black Comedy Explosion, $12-$15 •Dec. 4:Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox •Dec. 5: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Prince •Dec. 7: Frank Santos, the "R-Rated Hypnotist," $12 •Dec. 8: Margaret Cho of *All American Girl*, $22.50 •Dec. 9: Margaret Cho, $22.50 •Dec. 10: Black Comedy Explosion, $12-$15 •Dec. 11: Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox• Dec. 12: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz.

The Comedy Studio
The Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu.-Sun., 8pm. $5-$7. Sketch comedy troupes and local comedians perform. •Nov. 30: Thursday Night Fights: Steve Calechman vs. Ben Joplin, with stand-up from Noonan, Greg Rodriguez, Mike Dorval, Jan Davidson, William McNeill and Lee Ann Prince.• Dec. 1: Brendon Small from *Home Movies* hosts John Shaunessey, Gerroll Bennett, Mike Dorval and Brian Olsen. • Dec. 2: Rick Jenkins, stand-up comedy with Geroll Bennett, Brian Olsen, Mike Dorval, Steve Holda and Ross Garmil. • Dec. 3: Boston Comedy Festival Auditions: Brent Sverdloff, Tammy Two-Tone and Tim McIntire. •Dec. 7: Thursday Night Fights: Round 2, Tim McIntire vs. Michelle Pierce, with stand-up from Dan Sulman, Stephan Scherby, JP Fialla, David Walsh and Lori Feilder.• Dec. 8: Larry Murphy and Brendon Small star with Myq Kaplan, Ellen & Michelle, Lenny Hoffman, Dan Mintz, Ramu and Dan Sulman. •Dec. 9: Sketch comedy with the "Paradox Players" and special guest Chance Langton, with stand-up from Dan Sulman,Dan Levy and Mike Prior. •Dec. 10: Tom Morello, Dan Sulman, Steve Walsh, Deb Farrar-Parkman, Chris Oake, Val Kappa and Chris Walsh.

Dick Doherty's Comedy Vault
Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun., 9pm. $10. Features local stand-up comedians. Thursdays: Stand-up comedy.

Nick's Comedy Stop
100 Warrenton St., Boston (482-0930). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. $10-$22. The talent here is not quite as big-name as the Comedy Connection, but the crowds are just as enthusiastic. Wednesdays: Open-mike at 8:30pm • Nov. 30, 8:30pm: Frank Santorelli from HBO's *The Sopranos*, Kerri Louise and John Turco. • Dec. 1-2, 8:45pm: Frank Santorelli, Kerri Louise and John Turco.

IMPROV COMEDY

Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston (263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Thu., 8pm; Fri. and Sat., 8pm and 10pm. Main Stage: $10-$15.* Now playing on the main stage is the critically acclaimed improvisational and sketch comedy show—voted one of Boston's best improvisational comedy troupes. •Wednesdays, 8pm: The Improv Asylum Training Center graduate show, *Gary's Pocket*, followed by the Improv Asylum Touring Company. $10.

ImprovBoston at Back Alley Theater
1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1253). MBTA: Red Line to Central. $12. Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe makes things up as it goes. •***Election***: Fridays, 8pm, through November. Based on audience participation, troupe members adopt party platforms and run on them throughout the course of the show, with all the requisite political shenanigans. •***TheatreSports***: Fridays, 10:30pm. Witness two local improvisation troupes compete for bragging rights in this no-holds-barred, improvisational fight.

Magicians & Spirits
Green Street Grill, 280 Green St., Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Shows every Tuesday at 9pm. $10 cabaret show ($5 with dinner). At 10pm, the cabaret show begins upstairs with local and national magicians reading minds, making birds appear out of nowhere and levitating objects onstage.

COMEDY SHOWS

Battle of the Sexes
290 Congress St., Boston (426-1999). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Saturdays, 10:30pm. $15-$18. A participatory comedy.

Boston Comedy Festival Auditions
The Comedy Studio at The Hong Kong, 1236 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (661-6507). www.bostoncomedyfestival.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Dec. 3.* The Comedy Studio hosts local auditions for the second annual Boston Comedy Festival. Watch the tryouts.

Joey & Maria's Comedy Wedding
Tremont House Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Fri. and Sat., 7:30pm. Ongoing. $39-$45. Join the fun at this absolutely zany Italian wedding.

Murder on the Ocean Queen
Boston Harbor Mystery Cruise, 1 Long Wharf, Boston (781-793-9700). Saturdays, 8pm. $49. Enjoy the murder and mayhem on this mysterious voyage.

Local actor and playwright John Kuntz stars in David Sedaris' satirical look at Christmas pagentry and all its victims, *The SantaLand Diaries*, at the Copley Theater, Dec. 1-31.

Preview

Elfin Tales

SantaLand cures visions of sugarplum fairies

Sick of all the syrupy sweet holiday tales that pirouette across the stage this time of year? Firefly Productions has the perfect antidote: *The SantaLand Diaries*, humorist David Sedaris' absurdist holiday treat. This satirical look at Christmas pageantry and all its victims stars actor/playwright John Kuntz, best known for his Elliot Norton Award-winning plays *Freaks!* (1998), *Sing Me to Sleep* (1999) and *Starfuckers* (2000). If you missed Kuntz's interpretive dance to "Total Eclipse of the Heart" in *Actorz*, then you definitely ought to catch his latest endeavor at the Copley Theater through the month of December. We caught up with Kuntz last week and asked him a few questions about *SantaLand Diaries* and his thoughts on all the holiday hubbub.

IMPROPER BOSTONIAN: *Can you tell us briefly about the play?*

John Kuntz: It's based on a story by David Sedaris, and it's the funniest thing I've read in my life. This guy goes to New York to write for soap operas, but ends up getting a job as Santa's elf at Macy's. He's jaded and makes fun of all the children and their parents. It's the perfect antidote to *A Christmas Carol*—a scathing satire that pokes fun at all the commercialism of Christmas.

IB: *Can you relate to the main character?*

JK: Oh yeah, I've had humiliating jobs like that. The worst was when I was performing in full drag for a bunch of old people on a sightseeing train in New Hampshire. At one point, I thought they were hissing at the show, but then I realized it was just their oxygen tanks releasing air.

IB: *So you're an actor and a playwright—how did that happen?*

JK: I wasn't getting cast in enough roles—I was always the gay waiter—so I started writing my own work.

IB: *What do you remember of sitting on Santa's lap?*

JK: Screaming and crying. Little babies don't understand what's going on, but their parents are determined to get a photo after they've waited in line for hours.

IB: *When did you stop sitting on Santa's lap?*

JK: In fourth grade, when my sister told me that Santa didn't exist. It's funny that kids really believe there's really a big, fat guy who climbs down their chimney to deliver presents.

IB: *How do you feel about some department stores putting up Christmas decorations as early as late summer?*

JK: Let's put that question on the ballot. It should be outlawed!

IB: *If you could sit on Santa's lap today, what would you ask for?*

JK: I'd wish for three more wishes! No, really, I'd probably do the right thing and wish for peace and love for all mankind.

***SantaLand Diaries* plays at the Copley Theater, 25 Clarendon St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Dec. 1-31. $28-$44. —J.S.**

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Advice to Readers

The following is a partial list of the largest art museums, art institutes and galleries in the Boston area. The • symbol denotes a temporary exhibition.

Museums

Art Institute of Boston

Lesley College, 700 Beacon St., Boston (585-6600). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. www.lesley.edu. *Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm; Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun., 12-5pm.* •*Mightier Than the Sword: Political Satire, Caricatures and Cartoons* features work by Jules Feiffer, Ed Sorel, Dan Wasserman and Robert Grossman. Through Jan. 21.

Arthur M. Sackler Museum

485 Broadway St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. The Sackler houses textiles that represent a new, post-classical era in *The Rich Life and the Dance: Weavings from Roman Byzantine and Islamic Egypt.* Through Jan. 14. •*Antoin Sevurguin and the Persian Image* features more than 45 photographs of Persian life. Also on exhibit is ancient Islamic and Asian art, an array of Neolithic bronze Buddhas, Greek pottery and Hellenistic sculpture.

Boston Public Library

900 Boylston St., Boston (536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. •*The Brinks' Job*, a show of photographs from the Print Department's *Herald*-Traveler Photo Morgue of "Boston's Crime of the Century," includes courtroom sketches of the trial, crime scene photos and mug shots. Through Dec. 31 in the Wiggin Gallery Balcony. •Drawings and prints by Harold Tovish show through Dec. 31 in the Wiggin Gallery. •In celebration of the centennial of Symphony Hall, the Music Department displays musical and non-musical events that have taken place in Symphony Hall through the years in *100 Years at Symphony Hall*. Through Dec. 31 in the Koussevitzky Room, West and South Galleries.

Davis Museum and Cultural Center

Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-0283-2051). •A multimedia installation, *Cold War Modern: the Domesticated Avant-Garde,* explores the avant-garde in art, music and design in the United States between 1945 and the early '60s. Through June 10.

DeCordova Museum

51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln (781-259-8355). •*Photography in Boston 1955-1985* celebrates 30 years of photographic history in Boston and features works by more than 60 Boston area photographers—with a total of more than 230 pieces on display. •Elsa Dorfman's *No Hair Day* is also on display through Jan. 21, 2001. • Also the *Seventh Annual Artists' Market*, featuring jewlery, pottery, glass and ornaments for sale begins Nov. 18 and runs through Dec. 31.

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)

32 Quincy St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. •*Before and After the End of Time: Architecture and the Year 1000* runs through Dec. 31. This looks at the beginning of Romanesque architecture in Europe. •*Dürer's Passions* is a collection of the prints and drawings of Albrecht Dürer's *Passion of Christ*. Through Dec. 3. •*Philip Guston: A New Alphabet* focuses on a four-year period in the artist's life (1968-1972). Through Feb. 4. •*Franz Marc: Horses* shows through March 18. • *Sight-Seeing: Photography of the Middle East and Its Audiences, 1840-1940*, an exhibition that investigates the ways in which images of the Middle East were made available to the broad public, shows Dec. 8-March 18.

Harvard Museum of Natural History

24 Oxford St., Cambridge (496-6972). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun.. 9am-5pm. •The museum presents, *Beauty on the Wing: The Double Lives of Butterflies*, an exhibit that examines the intricacies of butterflies. Dec. 5-March 4.

Institute of Contemporary Art

955 Boylston St., Boston (266-5152). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Sun., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-9pm. $6, $4 students and seniors. •In the group exhibition *Customized: Art inspired by Hot Rods, Low Riders & American Car Culture*, artists examine the imagery and the attitude of American car culture, using hot rod and low rider culture for inspiration. Through Dec. 31. •Free guided walk-through take place each Thursday at 6:30pm.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

280 The Fenway, Boston (566-1401). www.boston.com/gardner. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun., 11am-5pm. $10. $7 seniors, $5 students, under 18 free. Guided on Fridays, 2:30pm.* •*Rembrandt Creates Rembrandt: Art and Ambition in Leiden. 1629-1631* comprises 10 paintings, including the Gardner's early *Self Portrait*, and 10 etchings from collections in the United States and Europe. The show illuminates Rembrandt's evolving styles. Through Jan. 7.

McMullen Museum of Art

140 Comm. Ave., Newton (552-8587). MBTA: B Green Line to Boston College. Mon-Fri., 11am-4pm; Sat.-Sun., 12-5pm. Boston College presents *Forbidden Art: The Postwar Russian Avant-Garde*. Through Dec. 10.

MIT Museum

265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5pm, weekends 12-5pm. $3, $1 students, seniors and children. The museum's permanent exhibits include *Flashes of Inspiration: The Work of Harold Edgerton*, and *Gestural Engineering* and *Cultural Engineering: the Sculptures of Arthur Ganson*, the mechanical engineer/choreographer. •Enjoy an interactive excursion into the world of artificial intelligence in *Robots and Beyond: Exploring Artificial Intelligence at MIT*. Special interactive activities take place 2-4pm daily. •On the last Sunday of the month, explore oceanography, astronomy, the science of buildings and other mysteries of science, 2-4pm. Call 452-2827 for details.

Museum of Bad Art

580 High St., Dedham (325-8224). Mon.-Fri., 6:30-10pm, Sat., and Sun., 1-10pm. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. The one and only museum that boasts "art too bad to be ignored." A favorite is *Lady Chardonnay*, a piece illuminating a poodle-headed dancer.

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Mon.-Tue., 10am-4:45pm; Wed., 10am-9:45pm, Thu.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun., 10am-5:45pm. West Wing only, Thu.-Fri., 5-9:45pm. $12, students and seniors $10.* •*Dangerous Curves: Art of the Guitar* shows through Feb. 25. •An exhibition that presents the multifaceted work of Fred Holland Day is on display titled *Art and The Camera: Photographs of F. Holland Day* and runs Dec. 6-March 25. •*Japanese Artists: Amateurs or Professionals* displays through Dec. 10.

The Revolving Museum

288-300 A St., Boston (439-8617). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed.-Fri., 12-5pm. •Sculpture, work on paper and veneer are featured in *Surface Metaphors* by Elise Mannella. Through Jan. 12. •*Virtual Circus* has freaks, musical oddities and performing floozies. Through Jan. 1.

The Somerville Museum

1 Westwood Road, Somerville (666- 9810). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Thu., 2-7pm; Fri., 2-5pm and Sat., 12-7pm. Free. •*Build* is a series of paintings, sculptures, prints and drawings by artists Matthew Brackett, Kathleen Finlay, Robin Mandel, Rachel Rush and Theresa Spadafora. Through Dec . 22.

Galleries
FINE ART

Allston Skirt Gallery

129 Braintree St., Allston (254-7027). www.allston-skirt.com. MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. •Roberta Paul and Amy Podmore present *New Work*. Through Dec. 23.

Alpha Gallery

14 Newbury St., Boston (536-4465). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tues.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •Gyorgy Kepes' *Photographs, 1950s-1980s* shows through Dec. 6. •Andrew Young presents his exhibit, *New Collages*. Dec. 9-Jan. 3.

Arden Gallery

129 Newbury St., Boston (247-0610). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm; Sun., 1-5pm. •*Landscapes:* Mary Sipp-Green's open landscapes will be displayed through Nov. 30. •Also on display are the works of *Denise Mickilowski* and *Jean Larson* in their self-titled exhibits. Mickilowski's painting shows succulent, hyper-realist fruits and Larson paints graceful flowers floating in abstract color fields. Through Dec. 31.

Artesano Gallery

757A Beacon St., Newton (558-2783). Tue. and Wed., 10am-6pm; Thu.-Sat., 10am-7pm. This gallery features original works from international artists. Now featuring Sargadelos ceramics from Spain. •Taking her inspiration from the flora and fauna of the sea, Alexandra Hart exhibits her jewlery. Dec. 11-30. •Kei Ito displays a collection of bags from London. Dec. 1-14.

***Heart Transplant* by Romanian child prodigy Alexandra Nechita shows at the Dyansen Gallery.**

Bakalar Gallery

MassArt, South Building, 623 Huntington Ave., Boston (879-7333). Mon.-Fri., 10am-6pm; Sat., 11am-5pm. Kunie Sugiura presents her *Photograms*, shadows turned inside out that create entrancing images drawn from nature. Through Dec. 23.

Barbara Krakow Gallery

10 Newbury St., 5th floor, Boston (262-4490). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5:30pm. •*Evidence*, portraits by Hannah Collins, Frank Egloff, Craigie Horsfield and Sa Schloff, is on exhibit Dec. 2-Jan. 20. •*Day Without Art* is an exhibit whose proceeds benefit Boston Pediatric AIDS Project and African AIDS Initiative. Dec. 2-22.

Barton-Ryan Gallery

38 Newbury St., 4th floor, Boston (867-0662). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5:30pm. •The current show by Lissa Houck is titled *Improbable Botanicals and Landscapes*. Through Dec. 2. •*Herself* by Catherine Kehoe is on exhibit Dec. 5-Jan. 14.

Berenberg Gallery

4 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm. •It's Kentucky art in 3-D and 2-D during the *Kentucky Folk Art* show, featuring 11 artists. Through Jan 6.

Bernard Toale Gallery

450 Harrison Ave., Boston (482-2477). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 10:30am-5:30pm. •On display is *Something About the Girl*, photographic works by Joshua Deaner, David Hilliard, Chris Komater, David Leventhal, Mardozo, Linn Underhill and Francesca Woodman. Nov. 29-Dec. 23.

Beth Urdang Gallery

14 Newbury St., Boston (424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 11am-5pm. •*Allan D'Arcangelo: Paintings and Prints, 1962-1975* displays through Dec. 8.

Boston University Art Gallery

855 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-3329). MBTA: B Green Line to B.U. West. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat. and Sun., 1-5pm. The 56 objects and 17 photographs in *Differences Preserved: Reconstructed Tombs from a Liao and a Song Tomb* come from two sets of tombs in northern China. Also showing is *Of Battle and Beauty: Felice Beato's Photographs of China*, a series of images photographed in 1860 during the second Opium War. Through Dec. 17.

B.U.'s 808 Gallery

808 Comm. Ave., Boston (358-0200). MBTA: B Green Line to B.U. Central. Tue.-Sun., 1pm-5pm. •An exhibition based on a book of photographs taken by Ulrich Mack of Pellworn Island off the coast of Germany, titled *Island People*, runs through Jan. 28.

Bromfield Art Gallery

560 Harrison Ave., Boston (451-3605). Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. •*Rods, Rocks and Raku* by Kim Bernard. •*Crows, Numbers and Men,* by Jim Giddings, shows through Dec. 2. •*Small, Smaller, Smallest*, an exhibition of small works by 12 New England artists, runs from Dec. 6-16.

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VALET PARKING

Carpenter Center
24 Quincy St., Cambridge (495-3251). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9:30 am-11:30pm. •*VES Student Show and Sale* is on exhibit from Dec. 7-25.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (236-2255). www.chappell-gallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tues.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm. •*Spatial Glass*, new work by Martin Rosol. Through Jan. 5.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (859-7222). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-5pm. •Artist Tracey Ziegler's exhibits *Etchings*, which master the use of light and color to create mood. Through Dec. 30.

Childs Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (266-1108). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 9am-6pm; Mon. and Sat., 10am-5pm. •The curators display their favorite prints in *We Like It So Much*. Also, *Holiday Works on Paper* feature prints and watercolors; *The Watercolors of Paul Parker* are also presented. Through Jan. 6.

Clark Gallery
145 Lincoln St., Lincoln (781-259-8303). Tue.-Sat., 10am-5pm. The gallery represents 30 regional artists. •*Salon Show* is the gallery's annual group exhibition. Through Dec. 2.

Clifford Smith Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 3rd Floor, Boston (695-0255). www.cliffordsmithgallery.com. *Wed.-Sat., 11am-6pm.* •On display is *Paper Products*, a series that shows works on or of paper, by artists Haluk Akakce, Saul Chernick, Seong Chun, Greg Mencoff, John Powers and Paul Henry Ramirez.

Crafts of the Castle
The Park Plaza Castle, Arlinton St. at Columbus Ave., Boston (523-6400). www.artfulgift.com/catc. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Thu.-Fri., 12-9pm; Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 10am-5pm. $10, seniors $8, under 12 free.* The Family Service of Greater Boston present the 14th annual craft fair, which helps raise funds for the nonprofit charity.

Crosstown Arts Inc.
One North Square, Boston (720-0100). www.crosstown.com. *Tue.-Fri,. 9am-5pm, Sat., 9am-1pm, or by appointment.* •*Strategy: Paintings and Drawings* by Megan McNaught shows through Dec. 23.

Crystal Fine Art
93 Summer St., Suite 4L, Boston (728-9818). www.crystalfineart.com. *MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Tue.-Fri., 11am-6pm.* •*Candace Whittemore Lovely*'s work shows through Dec. 22.

Dyansen Gallery
132A Newbury St., Boston (262-4800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Thu., Sat., 10am-6pm; Fri., Sun., 12-6pm. •The 15-year-old art prodigy Alexandra Nechita displays her work of oil and acrylics. Through Dec. 10.

Eclipse Gallery
167 Newbury St., Boston (247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9am-5pm. •*New Oil Paintings*, by Paul Kerepka, shows Nov. 28-Jan. 31.

Elias Fine Art
120 Braintree St., Allston (783-1888). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. •Tom Huck's work shows through Dec. 23.

Equator Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (266-4110). www.equatorgallery.com. *Tue.-Thu., 12-6pm; Fri.-Sun., 11am-7pm.* A series of woodcarvings by L. Almeida and L. Potosí and ceramics with pre-Columbian motifs by Sasha Raiz. •Peruvian artist Benito Huillcahuamán's vibrant watercolors depict modern-day Cuzco. Ongoing.

Feet of Clay Pottery
21 Station St., Brookline Village (731-3262). 10am-6pm. Twenty local artists have collaborated to present the *Holiday Show and Sale*, which offers a variety of unique pottery. Nov. 30-Dec. 17.

French Library and Cultural Center
53 Marlborough St., Boston (266-4351). Tue.-Thurs. 10am-8pm; Fri.-Sat. 10am-5pm. Jeroen Nelemans explores the multiple facets of photography with Paris as a subject in *Paris in Black and White*, which runs through Jan. 6.

Galerie d'Orsay
33 Newbury St., Boston (266-8001). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. •M.L. Snowden exhibits her bronze sculptures in *The Legacy Rodin*, which runs through Dec. 10.

Gallery @ Green Street
141 Green St., Jamaica Plain (522-0000). www.jameshull.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm; Tue., Wed. and Thu., 6-9pm.* •The gallery shows 150 works of art for $150 each at the third annual Green Street fund-raiser. Dec. 1-14.

Gallery Bershad
99 Union St., Somerville (629-9400 ext. 3). www.bershad.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Mon.-Fri., 9-6pm; Sat. and Sun., 12-6pm.* •On display is *Naked & Nude* through Dec. 1. •As part of the *Naked and Nude* exhibit, Greg Gorman exhibits work from his book, *As I See It*, which explores the essence of masculinity.

Gallery NAGA
67 Newbury St., Boston (267-9060). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. www.gallery naga.com. *Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •See David Moore's *Works on Paper* and Ron Rizzi's *New Paintings*. Through Dec. 23.

Gallery Seventy-Nine
79 Newbury St., Boston (262-5918). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-6pm; Sat., 12-5pm. •Michelle Giargiari's exhibit, *Frozen Music*, runs through Nov. 30. • Also on display is Patrick Lord's *Back Bay Churches*. Dec. 1-Jan. 19. • Billie Wolf's new show, *Painted Constructions*, shows Dec. 1-Jan 19.

Genovese Sullivan Gallery
47 Thayer St., Boston (426-9738). Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. MBTA: Orange Line to N.E. Medical Center. •Matt Harle's *Canyons, Stars* and Fran Siegel's *Frequency*, a sight-specific installation, show though Nov. 29.

Gibbs Gallery
41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm. •*All That Remains: Photographs of America's Abandoned Places* features photographs that capture abandoned mills in Central Massachusetts and includes works by Nancy Engberg, Ed Esleek and Maxine L. McDonald. Through Dec. 1.

Gurari Collections
91 Charles St., Boston (367-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. This gallery has an impressive collection of 16th- to early-20th-century etchings, engravings and drawings.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St., Boston (536-6339). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 10am-6pm; Sat., 10am-5pm. •There is an assortment of 18th- and 19th-century antique engravings and lithographs on display. •Also, the annual *Christmas Window* features Boston Prints. Through Dec. 25.

HallSpace
31 Norfolk Ave., Boston (989-9985). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave. Fri.-Sat., 12-5pm. •On display is *Drawings*, by Steven Muller. Dec. 2-Jan. 6.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (262-0550). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. yezerski@ziplink.net. •Morgan Bulkeley displays his new work, *Walking Sticks*, Paul Heroux's *New Work* and *Paper Prayers 12*, a benefit for the Boston Pediatric/Family AIDS Project and the African AIDS initiative all run from Dec. 1-23.

Hurst Gallery
53 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (491-6888). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sat., 12-6pm. Thu., 12-7pm, and by appointment. Visitors are greeted with a variety of art and artifacts from six continents. •*Of Land, Sea and Sky: Animals in the Art of the Ancient Americas* is an exhibition of pre-Columbian art from Peru, West Mexico and Mesoamerica. Through Dec. 2.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (375-0076). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. A selection of vintage posters is on display. Ongoing.

Janus
77 Harvard St., Brookline (739-5769). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Mon.-Sat, 12pm-8pm; Sun., 12pm-6pm. This Russian American center for the arts exhibits *Images Revealed*, sculpture by Boston-based Russian artist Konstantin Simun.

Judy Ann Goldman
14 Newbury St., Braton (424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat. 10:30am-5:30pm. •*The Pop Years, 1962-1974*, by Allan D'Arcangelo, shows through Dec. 6. •Two masters of modern ceramics, Jun Kaneko and Irvin Tapper, show their works. Dec. 9-Jan. 20.

Kingston Gallery
37 Thayer St., Boston (423-4113). Wed.-Sun., 12-5pm. •On display is *Charge*, a collection of small works by the 22 Kingston Gallery members.

Local Idea Council
107 Brighton Ave., Allston (562-0840). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. Tue.-Thur., 7-9pm. •Examine anonymous New England urbanity in the current exhibit *Plain*, which accentuates the maze-like, disorienting qualities of sameness found on the fringe of city centers throughout New England. Through Dec. 21.

Lyman-Eyer Gallery Inc.
1347 Washington St., West Newton (964-3470). Tue.-Fri., 4-7:30pm; Sat., 11am-7:30pm; Sun., 11am-5pm. •*Lydia Martin-Exhibition Highlight* shows through Nov. 29. •Gallery artists are featured in an exhibit titled *Small Works—A Gift of Art*. Dec. 1-31.

B.U.'s 808 Gallery displays Ulrich Mack's *Island People*.

Mercury Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (859-0054). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat., 10am-6pm. •The gallery presents a mix of artists in *Group Show*, which runs through Dec. 1.

Mills Gallery
539 Tremont St., Boston (426-8835). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sun., 1-4pm; Thu.-Sat., 7-10pm. •*Making Ends Meet: An Installation in Six Parts* features work by Bruce Brosnan, Sharon Louden, Mick O'Shea, Linda Price-Sneddon, Daniel Stupar and Traci Wile. Through Jan. 21.

Mobius
254 Congress St., Boston (542-7416). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. www.mobius.org. *Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm.* •Julia Szabo of the Mobius Artist Group presents *Ripe*, an installation that is inspired by the art of puppetry. Dec. 1-23.

MPG
285 Newbury St., Boston (437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-5pm. •*East Coast/West Coast*: Paintings by Nicholas Kilmer and Duncan Simcoe. Through Dec. 4. •Boston area artists join together to present *Prints and Drawings*. Dec. 8-Jan. 1.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (266-4835). www.nielsen gallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* Founded in 1964. •This exhibition, entitled *The Beginning*, is a collection of the early paintings and drawings of Profirio DiDonna, which focus on still life, religious imagery and the human figure. Dec. 2-Jan. 13.

Out of the Blue Gallery
168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun., 12-7pm. This gallery, owned and operated by several artists, always has a variety of interesting artwork and art-related events going on. •Poetry readings take place Saturdays, and the gallery hosts jazz musicians every Wednesday.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (236-4497). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •*Drawings* by Linda Etcoff display through Dec. 2. •Also a *Group Show* will be on display, featuring a mixture of photography, drawings and painting by seven artists featured earlier in the gallery. Dec. 8-Jan. 13.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (267-9473). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun., 1pm-5pm. •*In a Different Light, Genesis in the Art of Samuel Bak*, a series of 55 images shows through Dec. 31.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (266-3321). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. www.richardsonclarke.com. *Tue.-Sat., 10am-5pm.* •See the ongoing exhibition of American and European 19th- and 20th-century paintings.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (267-7997). www.Robert KleinGallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 10am-5:30pm; Sat., 11am-5pm. •On display is *Holiday 2000*, which features work by more than 36 artists offering art for gift giving. Dec. 1-31.

Rolly-Michaux
290 Dartmouth St., Boston (536-9898). Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm. •*20th Century Master Graphics* features works including those by Marc Shagall, Sonia Delaunay, Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso and Joan Miro. Through Nov. 30.

Sherman Gallery
775 Comm. Ave., Boston (358-0295). MBTA: B Green Line to B.U. West. Tue.-Fri., 11am-5pm; Sat. and Sun., 1-5pm. •*Objects of My Affections* is a collection of Paul Gary Goldberg's prints. Through Jan. 21.

Space 12 Gallery
12 Union Park St., Boston (423-9760). Wed., 1-5pm, 6-9pm; Thu., Fri. and Sat., 1-5pm. •This installment came from the collaboration between Space 12 Gallery and Espacio 52 of Havana, Cuba. The exhibit, titled *Cuba, Cuba*, features five prominent Cuban contemporary artists. Dec. 6-Jan. 27.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (450-0321). www.stgeorgegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-5pm.* Artist William St. George displays several of his lush and colorful paintings.

Studio Soto
300 Summer St., Studio #48, South Boston (423-SOTO). Local artist Kathleen Bitetti presents *Beautyrest*, which touches upon issues of co-dependency. Through Dec. 16.

Touch of France
173 Newbury St., Boston (247-6966). MBTA: Green line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-7pm; Sun., 10am-6pm. This gallery imports contemporary French artists' works, including those by famous painters M. Tigrane, R. Kefflin, C. Ferrer and striking dried-flower arrangements made near Saint Tropez.

Trustman Gallery at Simmons College
300 The Fenway, Boston (251-2268). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-Fri., 10am-4:30pm. •*Ephemeral*, art by Mary Hart, shows through Dec. 8.

Via Gallery
83 Newbury St., 2nd Floor (424-6200). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-4pm. •On exhibit is *The Latin Show*, featuring artists Marisa Boullosa and Paula Barragan, through Dec. 30.

Vose Gallery
238 Newbury St., Boston (536-6176). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 8am-5:30pm; Sat., 9am-4pm. •More than 130 works are exhibited in *The Boston Art Club, 1855-1950*. Through Dec. 29.

Zeitgeist Gallery
312 Broadway St., Cambridge (876-2182). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu.-Sun., 2pm-7pm. The gallery displays a variety of local artists' work. •A Playground Jazz Series takes place on Friday nights. •Monday is literary night with the Stone Soup Poets performing. •Every Wednesday is a figure-drawing session. •Sunday is a vegan potluck supper, with live music and poetry.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Gallery One
New England School of Photography, 537 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (437-1868). 9am-5pm, daily. •Chris Faust's photographic exhibit, *Midwest Perspectives: Landscape as Artifact*, runs through Dec. 1.

Pancopticon, Inc.
435 Moody St., Waltham (781-647-0100). Mon.-Fri., 9am-6:30pm; Thu., 9am-8pm; Sat., 11am-5pm. •The gallery's new space features *American Politics*, an exhibit that includes a wide variety of photographs dealing with the world of politics in America.

Photographic Resource Center
602 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-0700). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford. Tue.-Sun., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-8pm. •*The Nature of Things*, a yearlong exhibit from the Arboretum archives, displays through Sept. 8, 2001. •*Booked! Arrested Development*: This exhibition of books by Ronald Smart and Davyde, two local artists, runs through Dec. 8. • Henry Horenstein and Thomas Gearty created *Sprawl*, an exhibit that reflects upon the spread of urban areas. Through Jan. 11.

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MARQUIS DE BAD

The Marquis de Sade is a limp poster child for free speech in *Quills* BY PAUL SHERMAN

Quills, director Philip Kaufman's yawner about the persecution suffered by the Marquis de Sade, made me yearn for the subtlety of pro wrestling. After all, if someone in this clunker had whacked someone else over the head with a folding metal chair, that would have been taking the cartoonishness down a notch in this poor parable about free speech. You would think that Kaufman, whose great *The Right Stuff* poked fun at gung-ho patriotism while simultaneously being pretty damn convincingly patriotic, would be able to fashion a more genuine and delicately shaded morality play from the story of the Marquis (Geoffrey Rush of *Shine*), who spends most of the movie locked up in an asylum.

But if the Christian Coalition had made an anti-free-speech movie, it couldn't be any more over the top than Doug Wright's pro-expression script, based on his play. Wright doesn't give us characters so much as ideas with legs, and they all turn out to have two left feet.

Geoffrey Rush tries to talk Kate Winslet into a little sadism.

First, there's the frisky Marquis, whose wife has put him into the asylum so he wouldn't have to go to prison for, essentially, not being able to keep it in his pants. Now, de Sade sneaks manuscripts out of the asylum behind the back of the priest (Joaquin Phoenix) who runs it, thanks to the help of the young asylum laundress (Kate Winslet) whom he lusts after. She, for some unknown reason, humors the salacious Marquis by doing so, despite the fact that de Sade's randy act plays like a poor man's Austin Powers imitation (though he's got the bad-teeth part down). Since Winslet brings a pleasing blend of girlish curiosity and womanly suspicion to the role, at least that relationship works.

Then there's the young priest, who's just a symbol of sexual repression. He too lusts after the laundress, though he can't quite bring himself to admit it. His denial and sensual cluelessness to the world around him also extend to the Marquis' writings. Although he thinks he's letting de Sade write his sex-besotted tales to blow off steam—and thinks they're not leaving his room—he has no idea the smuggled manuscript is now the talk of France.

The scandal de Sade's new book causes inspires Emperor Napoleon to send in the third symbolic character, a dubious "head doctor" (Michael Caine) who is, no pun intended, sadistic and unenlightened in his treatment of the mentally ill. The story's desire to turn this de Sade adversary into a villain extends beyond his backward theories. He also has a 16-year-old child bride (Amelia Warner), whom he plucks from a convent and deflowers, just in case we were in any doubt that he's evil. *Puh-leeze*.

After the movie puts these three men in place, the plot just creaks along mechanically: the Marquis tries to keep his writing privileges, the doctor tries to stop him and the priest gets caught in the middle, hoping to hold off use of the doctor's various torture devices and preserve the benevolence he's developed toward the patients. But the priest is eventually overwhelmed by his own struggle to subdue his lust. Meanwhile, a subplot about the doctor's young wife secretly reading de Sade's latest bodice-ripper and then seducing a workman unfurls like some community theater rendition of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* (then again, when de Sade's stuff is read aloud in the movie, it all seems like a bad romance novel).

Quills suffers from the worst kind of well-intentioned, botched liberalism, in which evil comes in easily recognizable packages. In that regard, it reminded me of Rob Reiner's similarly misguided civil-rights drama, *Ghosts of Mississippi*. Beyond that, though, the movie struggles to make any of its characters sympathetic, whether they're the heroes played by Rush and Winslet, or the conflicted character played by Phoenix. It certainly doesn't make any of them interesting. **iB**

Quills ★½

Directed by Philip Kaufman. Written by Doug Wright. With Geoffrey Rush, Kate Winslet, Joaquin Phoenix and Michael Caine. Rated R. Fox Searchlight.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Best in Show ★★★
Christopher Guest strikes again. The co-creator of *This Is Spinal Tap* and driving force of *Waiting for Guffman* supplies another laugh-filled, mostly improvised fake documentary, this time about people "showing" dogs in a prestigious Philadelphia dog show. These canine-obsessed folks include a stressed-out yuppie couple (Parker Posey, Michael Hitchcock), a Carolina hayseed (director-cowriter Guest), and SCTV vets Eugene Levy (who co-wrote) and Catherine O'Hara, who play another daffy husband and wife team, as they did in *Guffman*. Not having the musical-parody component of *Tap* and *Guffman* gives this film a little less to offer, but it's usually very funny, with comedy vets Michael McKean, Larry Miller and Fred Willard making memorable contributions. And Guest's Harlan Pepper, a fly-fishing aspiring ventriloquist, adds another great to his gallery of unforgettable characters.

Billy Elliot ★★½
The Full Monty premise of English working-class characters trying to scrape up some dignity for themselves gets a decent reworking in this story, set in 1984 in a northern mining town. The title character (a delightful Jamie Bell) is the son and brother of striking coal miners, and his desire to take up ballet shakes their already-threatened masculinity. Although director Stephen Daldry sometimes clumsily injects some borderline fantasy sequences, and this has the predictability of a formula film, the lad's plight comes across with sincerity. So do the performances of Gary Lewis as his tough-skinned dad and Julie Walters as his equally flinty ballet teacher.

Bounce ★★
Maybe exes Ben Affleck and Gwyneth Paltrow have been hanging around together and getting themselves in tabloids because they knew this movie wasn't good enough to get people excited on its own. Writer-director Don Roos (the overrated *The Opposite of Sex*) gives us a potentially interesting, but ultimately shallow, story of a hotshot ad exec (Affleck) who gives his airplane ticket to a family man who then dies in a crash. Guilt-ridden, the ad man befriends the young widow (Paltrow) without telling her of his connection to her dead husband, and then falls in love with her. The story tries to delve into the emotional rehabilitation of both the man and the woman after the crash, but the vague, slick film only scratches the surface.

Charlie's Angels ★★★
The big difference between the 1970s TV show and the movie? The TV show didn't take itself seriously, but sucked; the movie doesn't take itself seriously, and is delirious fun. There's a plot about a kidnapping and some hi-tech software, but that's not important, and the movie sags whenever that plot becomes too central. What's really entertaining here are Cameron Diaz, Drew Barrymore and Lucy Liu camping it up as the dishy, high-kicking, hair-tossing crimefighters. The scenes of their characters' romantic lives are daffy fun, while the martial-arts fight scenes (seemingly inspired by *The Matrix* and *Heroic Trio*) are surprising knockouts, with some of the best action seen all year.

The Legend of Bagger Vance ★★
Or, "How Matt Got His Swing Back." Director Robert Redford's Depression-era story finds Matt Damon playing the same sort of fallen golden-boy role Redford often did in the 1970s. Here, that's a hotshot golfer who withdrew from life after enduring the horrors of World War I. A dozen years later, he gets a second chance when he's asked to join a high-stakes match that includes Bobby Jones. The dissipated hero's rehabilitation—on the links and in his mind—is facilitated by the arrival of a Yoda-like, wandering caddie-philosopher (the title character, played by Will Smith). But the golf-as-life metaphor is ridiculously overstated, and Bagger is a borderline-offensive "mystical African-American" (à la *The Green Mile*), not a person so much as a convenient plot device.

Meet The Parents ★★★
Just as John Cusack had *High Fidelity*, so Ben Stiller has *Meet the Parents*: A comedy in which he's playing the same sort of character he's already played several times, but one that is so well done that it's still really entertaining. As a male nurse trying to impress the parents of the girlfriend he wants to marry (Teri Polo)—especially her intimidating dad (Robert DeNiro)—Stiller falls victim to similar misadventures as those in *Flirting with Disaster* and *There's Something About Mary*. But the interplay between Stiller and DeNiro is priceless. As in *Analyze This*, DeNiro shows great comic timing.

Pay It Forward ★
Yes, we're all emotionally scarred. But in this beyond-bad heartwarmer, that notion is conveyed by giving Kevin Spacey's social studies teacher burn

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The Day I Became a Woman **by Marziyeh is part of the Museum of Fine Arts' Iranian Film Festival.**

scars over most of his body and by starting the movie with Helen Hunt's alcoholic single mom in hideous make-up that makes her look like a Halloween witch (so we can see her improved state of mind in her later improved looks). Such bone-headed literalness kills the story of Hunt's character's son (Haley Joel Osment of *The Sixth Sense*), who comes up with a social studies project to make society better, by having people repay favors by doing one for someone else, not for the person who did one for them (hence, paying it forward). The result is perhaps the most unconvincing, sappy human-interest story ever overstated.

Requiem for a Dream ★★
Equating a street-level drug addict with a housewife's prescription-pill addiction was a bolder notion in the 1970s, when Hubert Selby Jr.'s novel came out. But the movie version arrives long after "rehab" and "Betty Ford Clinic" have entered the vernacular. So the film spends 100 minutes making a moot point about its heroin addict (Jared Leto) and his diet pill-popping mom (Ellen Burstyn). Director Darren Aronofsky, who also wrote the adapted screenplay, tries to juice up the story with the same sort of quick editing and lively camera work that fueled his better π, but this time the style overwhelms whatever substance there is.

Two Family House ★★★
Set in 1956 Staten Island, writer-director Raymond De Felitta's film is smart, big-hearted drama. Michael Rispoli, a familiar face from his supporting roles in everything from *While You Were Sleeping* to *The Sopranos*, shines as an Italian-American Ralph Kramden chasing his dream of opening a tavern in the first floor of the house he buys. Along the way, race relations, marital squabbles and a romantic surprise all affect his destiny. It's bittersweetly uplifting without being manipulative.

What's Cooking? ★★
This movie sure ain't. Director Gurinder Chadha did ethnic comedy in her bright British movie *Bhaji at the Beach*, but for her American debut she goes multi-ethnic, and the result is frustratingly generic. This ensemble comedy-drama follows four families (Vietnamese-American, Jewish, African-American, Latino) as they go through Thanksgiving family gatherings, but its conflicts are mainly poor melodrama from the *Soul Food* school of overkill. Chadha has assembled a fine cast (Alfre Woodard, Julianna Margulies, Kyra Sedgwick, Mercedes Ruehl, Maury Chaykin and more), but its bevy of B-list names and its mediocre quality make it seem like a cable movie that somehow snuck into theaters.

You Can Count On Me ★★★½
Playwright Kenneth Lonergan's debut as writer-director is a wonderfully ungimmicky comedy-drama about two grown siblings. Laura Linney and Mark Ruffalo are terrific as the rooted sister and the rootless brother who have an unusual effect on each other after they're reunited, when he makes an extended visit to her upstate New York home. He starts bonding with her young son (a great Rory Culkin) in oddball ways, while she starts loosening up, even having an affair with her petty, married boss (Matthew Broderick). With characters whose moral shading goes beyond black and white and emotions that are as lifelike as movies get, it's both fun and substantial. Why can't more movies be like this?

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Cinemas
214 Harvard Ave. (277-2140). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
Trapelo Rd. (484-1706). Red Line to Harvard, 73 bus.

BOSTON

Boston Film • Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (536-1540). Green Line to Hynes.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.

Cheri
50 Dalton St. (536-2870). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Fenway Theatre General Cinema
201 Brookline Ave. (424-6266). MBTA: Green Line to Fenway or Kenmore.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum Of Science, Omni Theater
Science Park (723-2500). Green Line to Science Park.

Nickelodeon
606 Comm. Ave. (424-1500). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford St.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle.

Coolidge Corner
290 Harvard St. (734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theater
40 Brattle St. (876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (495-4700). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Sq. (494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony Theater
10 Church St. (864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Sq.

Somerville Theater
55 Davis Square (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston St. (277-2500). B Green Line to Chestnut Hill.

West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (964-6060).

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Advice to Readers

Although film listings are correct at the time of publication, they are subject to change. Doublecheck showtimes by calling the theater or 333-FILM.

Brattle Theater

Most shows are $7, including double features.

Mondays: Early Hitchcock

•Dec. 4, 5:30, 7:15 and 9pm **The 39 Steps** *1935.* In this sly film, a bickering man and woman find themselves handcuffed together and wind up falling in love.

•Dec. 11, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30pm **The Lady Vanishes** *1938.* A kindly old woman disappears from a train, leading an inquisitive young woman and her companion into a bizarre web of intrigue.

Tuesdays: Kieslowski

•Dec. 5, 5:15, 7:30 and 9:40pm **Red** *1994.* When a beautiful model crosses paths with a reclusive, retired judge whose dog she runs over with her car, a strangely touching relationship develops.

•Dec. 12, 7:45 and 9:45pm **Double Life of Veronique** *1991.* Kieslowski directs Irene Jacob in this film, where Jacob plays two different women who never meet, yet affect each other's lives profoundly.

Wednesdays: Recent Raves

•Nov. 29, 4:30 and 7:45pm **Time Regained** *1999.* This is an adaptation of Marcel Proust's masterwork, *Remembrance of Things Past*, a surreal meditation on the distance between physical sensation and memory.

•Dec. 6, 4:30 and 8pm **Sunshine** *1999.* This award-winning film stars Ralph Fiennes in three different roles: father, son and grandson. It is the story of a Jewish family living in Hungary during the 20th century.

Thursdays: Foreign Faves

•Nov. 30, 7:20pm **The 400 Blows** *1959.* This is the bittersweet story of young Antoine who must make sense of the world, despite neglectful and thieving parents.

•Also showing: 5:15 and 9:15pm **Jules and Jim** *1962.* In pre-World War I Paris, a woman juggles love affairs with two students. When they meet again after the war, they fall back into their shifting love triangle.

•Dec. 7, 7:20pm **City of Lost Children** *1995.* This mystical and dark film takes place at a carnival, when a strongman teams up with a young urchin girl to rescue her beloved little brother. •Also showing: 5:15 and 9:30pm **Day of the Beast** *1995.* When a priest believes that the antichrist will be born on Christmas, he recruits help from a psychic and a heavy-metal fan.

Fridays and Saturdays: Special Engagements

•Dec. 1 and 2, 7:30pm (Sat. matinee 3:15pm) **Maltese Falcon** *1941.* Bogart is on the trail of the infamous black bird, in John Huston's private-eye classic. •Also showing: 5:15, 9:45 (Sat. matinee 1:15pm) **Notorious** *1946.* Hitchcock's thriller has Cary Grant playing a secret agent who coerces Ingrid Bergman into helping him.

•Dec. 3, 12:30 and 6pm **The Good, the Bad and the Ugly** *1966.* Set during the Civil War, three desperate lowlifes seek hidden loot. •Also showing: 3:30 and 9pm **Raiders of the Lost Ark** *1981.* Director Steven Spielberg with Harrison Ford and other notables deliver the classic Indiana Jones tale.

•Dec. 8-10, 4, 5:45 and 7:30pm **Sound and Fury** *2000.* Josh Aronson creates this film that exposes a real-life conflict in deaf communities. When two brothers and their wives try to decide if their deaf children should receive an implant treatment, a passionate controversy ensues. •Also showing: 9:30pm **Princess Mononoke** *1997.* In this animated film, a young warrior embarks on a quest to uncover the mystery of a curse and encounters Princess Mononoke, a young woman raised by wolves.

Boston Public Library

Jewish Identity and Culture Film Series

•Dec. 4, 6pm **Jakob the Liar** *1999.* Robin Williams stars as a poor shopkeeper who pretends to have a secret radio in the Polish ghetto in 1944, linking inhabitants to the outside world.

•Dec. 11, 6pm **Yentl** *1983.* Barbra Streisand stars in this dramatic musical as Yentl, a Jewish girl who disguises herself as a boy in order to study in a religious seminary.

Coolidge Corner Theater

Feature Engagements

•Nov. 29 and 30 **The Decalogue** *1989.* The Coolidge shows director's Kryzstof Kieslowski's 10-part series based on the Ten Commandments.

•Dec. 8-15 **A Hard Day's Night** *1964.* Richard Lester directs John, Paul, George and Ringo in this famous rock 'n' roll musical. Follow the Beatles on "a day-in-the-life" as they experience the rigors of fame.

The Films of Leos Carax

•Dec. 1-7. •**Polax** *1999.* An innovative adaptation of Melville's book, *Pierre, or the Ambiguities*, sees Pierre as a young author who lives with his mother. She upsets his plans to marry an exotic and wild woman. •**Boy Meets Girl** *1984.* Carax's first feature is a love story disguised as a neo-expressionistic thriller. •**Mauvais Sang** (*Bad Blood*) *1986.* Alex is hired to steal a fatal virus that can be transferred by touch, but the story begins when he meets Anna, the girlfriend of a gangster, and is seduced by her charms. •**Lovers on the Bridge** *1992.* This is a love story between an artist who is going blind and a reclusive street performer. It features a re-creation of Paris' Point-Neuf bridge, made specifically for the film.

Midnight Movies

•Dec. 1 and 2, **2000 Maniacs** *1964.* Legendary gore-master Herschell Gordon Lewis directs this *Brigadoon*-gone wrong: a story of a fictional town that appears once every 100 years with a singular purpose: to kill Yankees in horrible, gruesome ways.

•Dec. 8 and 9, **Mondo Teen** (*Teenage Rebellion*) *1967.* Mad on drugs, sex and rock 'n' roll, this documentary travels the world looking for crazed kids to film.

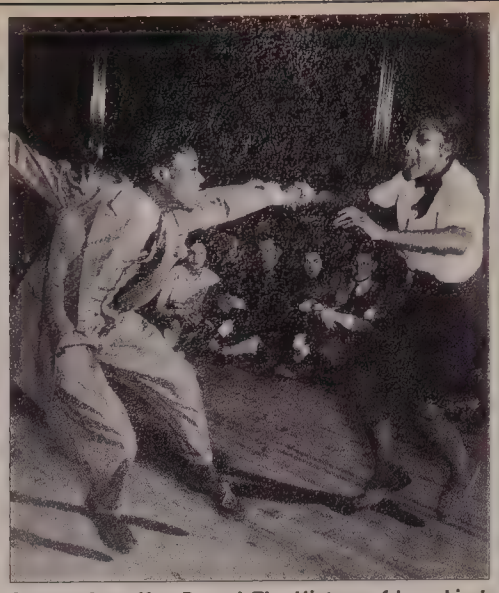
Director's Cut

•Nov. 29, 7:30pm **The Brightest of BU.** Three short films from B.U.'s film department sreen, including *Testament*, *The State's Conception* and *Cuppa Cabby, Piece o' Pie*, the story of a Wizzichuck Bay cop high on java who takes the audience into his crazy world of UFO sightings.

Video Balagan

•Nov. 30, 5:30pm **Locals: Up and Coming**. Works by the "next generation of visual explorers."

•De c. 7 **Western European Winds**: Experimental cinema from Portugal.



Scenes from Ken Burns' *The History of Jazz*: Lindy Hoppers in 1938 (left) and Billie Holiday on stage in Rochester, New York in 1957. Burns talks about the film Dec. 13, 6pm, at the Coolidge.

Preview

All That Jazz

A cinematic dose of history from Ken Burns

When Ken Burns releases a documentary in multiepisodic installments, history buffs and film fans are glued to their TV for weeks. Burns—writer, director and documentary filmmaker for more than 20 years—once again brings his vast array of knowledge and his passion for American history to life in his new documentary about jazz. On Dec. 13, 6pm, Burns shows a highlights version of the marathon *The History of Jazz*, at the Coolidge Corner Theatre.

Known for his cinematic projects that are equally visually stunning as they are informative are *Baseball* (1994), *The Civil War* (1990) and Academy Award-nominated *Brooklyn Bridge* (1981). With *Jazz*, a PBS special airing in January, Burns tells yet another uniquely American story, taking viewers on a visual exploration through the culture, politics and dreams that gave birth to the quintessential American music. *Jazz* is Burns' third epic documentary, a 10-part work that follows this American art form from its origins in blues and ragtime through the streets of New Orleans and its evolution to swing, bebop and fusion. Over the last six years, he and his team have delved into the history of jazz—starting with the birth of jazz at the dawn of the 20th century, incorporating the political events that shaped the music: the Harlem Renaissance, the Depression and the New Deal, World War II, the youth culture of the '60s, the civil rights movement and beyond. Throwing their personal experiences into the mix are jazz greats Wynton and Branford Marsalis, Gary Giddins, Stanley Crouch, Margo Jefferson, Ossie Davis, Abbey Lincoln, Jackie McLean, Gerald Early, Artie Shaw and Mercedes Ellington. Of course, the soundtrack is incredible—from Louis Armstrong and Thelonious Monk to Billie Holiday and Miles Davis.

Harvard Film Archive

Directors in Focus: Amos Gitai

•Nov. 29, 9pm **The Petrified Garden** *1993.* Shot in Leningrad at a time of transformtion, this is the story of an art dealer who travels to post-Soviet Russia in search of the mythical figure of meaning, the *Golem.*

New Films from the European Union

•Dec. 1, 7pm and Dec. 6, 9:15pm **April** *1998.* Director Nanni Moretti presents this satire on the state of contemporary society in Italy. The plot portrays a filmmaker dealing with his own midlife crises. •Also showing: **Thomas in Love** *2000.* Pierre-Paul Renders depicts a reclusive 30-something whose psychiatrist and insurance company take an active role in creating his social life, hooking him up with an Internet dating service.

•Dec. 2, 7pm **Bread and Roses** *2000.* Maya, an illegal alien from Mexico, cleans high-rise offices of lawyers and entertainment executives and becomes involved with a union activist. •Also showing: 9:15pm **Angels of the Universe** *2000.* This Icelandic version of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* is Fridrik Thor Fridriksson's statement about his schizophrenic brother.

•Dec. 3, 7pm **Skin of Man, Heart of Beast** *1999.* Director Helene Angel's award-winning film is a powerful study o the destructive effects of violence on a rural, working-class family.

•Dec. 8, 7pm **Earth and Water** *1999.* Panos Karkanevatos depicts an illiterate shephard who lives in the wilds of Macedonia and develops a passionate relationship with a local girl. •Also showing: 9:15pm **Night Shapes** *1998.* This bitter comedy set in Berlin weaves three stories over the course of one night during the Pope's visit to th German capital.

•Dec. 9, 7pm **Aberdeen** *2000.* This black comedy examines the relationship between a snobbish young woman and her estranged alcoholic father.

•Dec. 9, 9pm **Alone** *1999.* An estranged mother and daughter come together again when the mother brings her tyrannical husband to a nearby hospital and installs herself in her daughter's apartment.

Theater into Film

•Dec. 10, 7pm **Antigone/Rites of Passion** *1991.* Dancer-choreographer-filmmaker Amy Greenfield addresses Sophocles' tragedy of family honor, guilt and revenge in this dazzling adaptation of a classic text.

Topics in Film: Architecture

•Dec. 5 and 6, 7pm **The Belly of an Architect** *1987.* This film chronicles the self-destructive decline of an American architect in Rome who gets way off track when an obsession with his stomach causes him to lose his wife, his creativity and his sanity.

•Dec. 12, 7pm **Wings of Desire** *1987.* This is the story of two angels who descend to Earth to eavesdrop on the lonely populace in the streets of pre-unified Berlin.

•Also showing: 9:30pm **Wintersleepers** *1997.* Four 20-somethings are brought together in a snowy village in the Alps where two romantic liaisons ensue, a child is born and another killed.

New German Cinema

•Dec. 4, 9pm **Men** *1985.* When a middle aged businessman leaves his wife after she confesses to an affair, he moves in with her lover for retribution.

•Dec. 5, 9:15pm **Nobody Loves Me** *1995.* This film tells the story of a death-obsessed airport security guard. Also preoccupied with finding herself a man, she goes out with her landlord. Predictably, things go awry.

•Dec. 11, 9pm **Run, Lola, Run** *1998.* This film simultaneously enacts three resolutions to its thriller plot line when a small-time gang courier loses his money bag, and he and his girlfriend (who rushes to his aid) have 20 minutes to find it.

Non-Fiction Film

•Dec. 4, 7pm **Forest of Bliss** *1987.* This poetic work creates a portrait of the ancient Indian city Benares. Occupying the time between two sunrises, the film captures the multitudes at work, play and prayer.

•Dec. 11, 7pm **Pictures from a Revolution** *1992.* This is a Nicaraguan survey of the life of the people there who have survived years of economic isolation and attacks by the Contras.

Museum of Fine Arts

Festival of Films from Iran

•Dec. 1 and 2, 12pm **16 Decisions**. This portrait of a Bangladeshi society focuses on 18-year-old Selina, who was married off and sent away from home at age 12.

•Dec. 1, 7:30pm **The Day I Became a Woman** *1999* and **The Day My Aunt Was 111** *1997. The Day I Became Woman* is three stories of women's strength and defiance in the talented Makhmalbaf family, Iran's clan of auteurs. *The Day My Aunt Was 111* is a family project.

•Dec. 2, 1:30pm **How Samira Made "The Blackboard"** *2000.* Samira Makhmalbaf's brother has created a documentary explaining what the title suggests as well as how Samira's role as a filmmaker evolved.

•Dec. 2, 3:30pm **The Blackboard** *1999.* Samira's second feature tells the story of two Kurdish Muslim teachers who struggle to find students in the hardened land of fugitives in the stony mountains of Kurdistan.

•Dec. 8, 6pm **One More Day** *1999.* An illicit relationship blossoms at a Tehran bus stop as a man and woman who wait there each day discover their growing dependence on each other.

•Dec. 9 , 10:30am **Daughter of the Son** *2000.* This film depicts the challenges that Iranian women face. It focuses on a young girl who dresses as a boy in order to work as an apprentice to support her family.

Other Film Offerings

•Nov. 30, 6pm and Dec. 9, 12:30pm **First Person Plural** *1999.* In this film, director Deann Borshay Liem explores her past pre-adopted family and life in California. Going back to her roots in Korea, both viewer and filmmaker uncover astonishing hidden truths. •Nov. 30, 7:30pm **The Gambler**. This is an adaptation of Dostoyevsky's novel about a period of 27 despair-filled days in a writer's life.

•Dec. 7, 6pm **The House Under the Rocks**. When a Soviet POW returns home a widower to a young son and a hunch-backed sister-in-law, he must learn to get on with his life. •Also showing: 8pm **Tears of Stone**. The true story of the Leif family tells of musical genius set aside when the father of this family faces Nazi persecution.

•Dec. 8, 7:45pm **Honour of the House**. This film dissects family rivalries that have reached damaging proportions. Narrated by the mother, this is the story of two sisters, one living in domestic drudgery who will do anything to bring the other one down with her.

•Dec. 9, 2pm **Children of Nature**. This lyrical film centers on an aging couple who escape their retirement home and travel back toward the Icelandic coast where they first met and were childhood sweethearts.

•Dec. 9, 4pm **Movie Days**. This is a unique portrait of the childhood of Director Fridrik Thor Fridriksson. Like Fridriksson, it floats around in the dream world of cinema in early '60s America.

LINDY HOPPERS: CORNELL CAPA; BILLIE HOLIDAY: PAUL J. HOEFELER

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READINGS & SIGNINGS

Wednesday, Nov. 29

Borders Bookshop Author Event
300 Boylston St., Newton (630-1120). 7pm. **Bruce Fries** explains how MP3s and the Internet are revolutionizing the music industry. He reads from his book, *MP3 and Internet Audio Handbook.*

Boston Jewish Book Fair Event
Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, 333 Nahanton St., Newton (558-6448). 1pm. Join author **Barbara Kessel** as she shares stories of Jews raised as gentiles who later discovered their Jewish roots—the subject matter of her work, *Suddenly Jewish.*

Boston Jewish Book Fair Event
Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, 333 Nahanton St., Newton (558-6448). 7:30pm. Author **Leslea Newman** explores issues of love, family, identity and sexuality in her book, *Signs of Love.*

Boston Public Library Author Series
700 Boylston St., Rabb Lecture Hall, Boston (536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6pm. Author **Stella Dong** gives a talk—with illustrations—about her book, *Shanghai 1942-1949: The Rise and Fall of a Decadent City.*

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. It's a poet extravaganza on ***DAD*** night, where poets from the first two issues of the poetry magazine ***DAD*** read their work.

Michael Patrick MacDonald reads from *All Souls* Dec. 1, 7pm, at the Arlington St. Church.

Harvard Book Store Author Series
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. **Mary Sullivan** discusses her first novel, *Stay*, a story about a young girl stunned into silence after her brother drowns in the sea off Martha's Vineyard.

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Listen to novelist **Kimberly Scott** read from her book, *Papaya Myths*, and author **David Brody**, who reads from his legal thriller, *Unlawful Deeds.*

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. **Barry Moser**, an engraver, painter, designer and illustrator, reads from his new book, *In the Face of Presumptions: Essays, Speeches and Incidentals.*

Thursday, Nov. 30

Borders Bookshop Author Event
310-24 School St., Boston (557-7188). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. 6pm. Welcome the winter season with these chilly readings from local author **Lawrence Millman**, who shares traveling experiences in his books, *Northern Latitudes* and *Last Places.*

Boston Jewish Book Fair
Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, 333 Nahanton St., Newton (558-6448). 7:30pm. Rabbi **Joshua Hammerman** discusses his book, *Thelordismy shepard.com* and the effects the Internet is having on religious beliefs and practices.

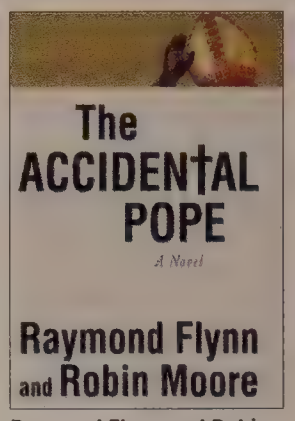
Tufts Library Author Events
Austin Room., Tisch Library, Medford (800-326-4001). 3:30pm. Author **Andre DuBus III** reads from his novel, *House of Sand and Fog*, a tale that captures the dark side of immigration in the late 20th-century.

Friday, Dec. 1

BCAE Event
Arlington Street Church, Arlington St., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 7pm. $29 or $49. Author **Michael Patrick MacDonald**, raised in South Boston, reads from his book *All Souls: A Family Story from Southie.*

Borders Bookshop Reading Series
85 Worcester Road, Framingham (508-875-2321). 3pm. Children's author **Barbara McClintock** signs copies of her new book, *A Little Princess*, a retelling of the Fances Hodgson Burnett classic.

Harvard Book Store Author Series
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Author **Stephen Greenblatt** talks about his new book, *Practicing New Historicism*, which looks at the importance of a historical and cultural genre when criticizing literature.



Raymond Flynn and Robin Moore discuss their book Dec. 6 at Borders, Newton.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. Author **Tom Standage**, science correspondent for *The Economist*, reads from his book, *The Neptune File: A Story of Astronomical Rivalry & the Pioneers of Planet Hunting*, which chronicles the events surrounding the discovery of the eighth planet.

Sunday, Dec. 3

Boston Jewish Book Fair
Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, 333 Nahanton St., Newton (558-6448). 7:30pm. $5. Tonight there is a panel discussion with **Moshe Waldoks** on Amy Dockser Marcus' book, *The View from Nebo—How Archaeology Is Rewriting the Bible and Reshaping the Middle East .*

Grolier Poetry Series
Fogg Art Museum, Namburg Room, 485 Broadway St., Cambridge (547-4648). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. Free. Celebrated performance poet **Anne Waldman** reads from her new collection of poetry, *Marriage: A Sentence.*

National Poetry Slam
MIT, Kresge Auditorium, Building W16, 77 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (253-8844). 7pm. Bring your verse and your attitude. National Poetry Slam Champion **Lisa King** hosts the slam, and **Letta Neely** is a special guest poet.

Monday, Dec. 4

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. After ordering that plush, Guatemalan Sheep rug, jaunt over to the Coop and hear the stories behind the famous Peterman catalogue in **John Peterman**'s book, *Peterman Rides Again: Adventures Continue with the Real "J. Peterman" Through Life and the Catalogue Business.*

Boston Jewish Book Fair
Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, 333 Nahanton St., Newton (558-6448). 7:30pm. First-time novelist **Nomi Eve** discusses her book, *The Family Orchard*, and author **Myla Goldberg** talks about her newest work, *Bee Season.*

Wordsworth Books Reading Series
30 Brattle St., #1. Cambridge (354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 5pm. Join author **Anne Fadiman** as she discusses her new novel, *Ex Libris*, a collection of essays that celebrate language.

Tuesday, Dec. 5

Barnes & Noble Author Event
660 Beacon St., Boston (236-7421). 7pm. Author, neuroscientist and linguist **Steven Pinker** will discuss his book *Words and Rules: The Ingredients of Language*, which marvels at how simple language is used to create both love sonnets and tax forms.

Boston Jewish Book Fair
Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, 333 Nahanton St., Newton (558-6448). 7:30pm. Celebrate America's love of sports, theater and politics with **Scott Simon**, author of *Home and Away: A Memoir of a Fan.*

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30 pm. Tonight, NPR's *It's Only a Game* contributor **Charlie Pierce**, series editor of *The Best American Sports Writing*, **Glenn Scout** and curator of the New England Museum of Sports **Richard Johnson** read from their book, *Red Sox Century: 100 Years of Red Sox Baseball.*

Wordsworth Books Reading Series
30 Brattle St. #1, Cambridge (354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Join photographer **Annie Leibowitz** as she discuss her book *Women*, which includes photos of Jerry Hall and Elizabeth Taylor.

Wednesday, Dec. 6

Borders Bookshop Author Event
300 Boylston St., Newton (630-1120). 7:30 pm. Former Mayor and Ambassador to the Vatican **Raymond Flynn** and co-author **Robin Moore** talk about their book, *The Accidental Pope*, the fictional story of how a Cape Cod fisherman accidentally becomes Pope.

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. If you missed **Steven Pinker** in yesterday's venue, catch him at the Coop reading *Words and Rules: The Ingredients of Language.*

Harvard Book Store Author Series
Boston Public Library, Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (661-1515). Authors **Alvin F. Pouissant** and **Amy Alexander** talk about the well-received *Lay My Burden Down: Unraveling Suicide and the Mental Health Crisis Among African Americans*, an accessible look at the psychological anguish of African Americans.

Wordsworth Books Reading Series
30 Brattle St. #1, Cambridge (354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Author **Elijah Wald** discusses his book, *Josh White*, the biography of one of the best-known folk-blues artists of his day.

Thursday, Dec. 7

Borders Bookshop Author Event
300 Boylston St., Newton (630-1120). 7 pm. **Jeff Drayer M.D.** talks about his new book, *The Cost Effective Use of Leeches, and Other Musings of a Medical School Survivor*, a collection of tounge-in-cheek essays on the author's four years of rigorous training.

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
279 Harvard St., Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Comedian **Jonathan**

Bestsellers

HARDCOVER FICTION
1. **In the Country of the Young** by Lisa Carey
2. **The Blind Assassin** by Margaret Atwood
3. **The Amber Spyglass** by Philip Pullman
4. **Lying Awake** by Mark Salzman
5. **When We Were Orphans** by Kazuo Ishiguro

HARDCOVER NON-FICTION
1. **In Tuscany** by Frances Mayes
2. **A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius** by Dave Eggers
3. **Red Sox Century** by Glen Stout
4. **In Lieu of Flowers** by Henry Cobb
5. **The Mystery of the Aleph** by Amir Aezel

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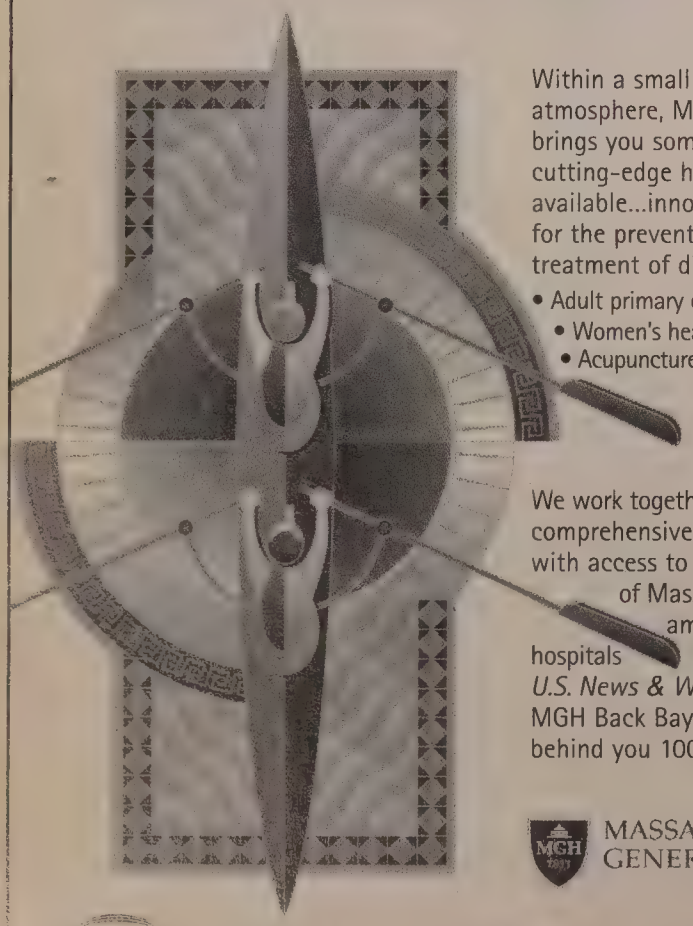

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Katz, creator of the hit cartoon show *Dr. Katz*, reads from his book about what can—and can't—be done in a lifetime in *To-Do Lists of the Dead.*

Harvard Book Store Author Series
Sackler Museum, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Tickets required, free at bookstore. One of the current great thinkers, Canadian **Noam Chomsky**, discusses his book *New Horizons in the Study of Language and the Mind.*

Lesley University Poetry Series
Welch Auditorium at Marran Theatre, 29 Everett St., Cambridge (349-8520). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. **Vox Pop** perform their *Polyphonic Poetry*, which are set to roots music from around the world. The group, led by poets Catherine A. Salmons and Elizabeth McKim, speak, chant and sing their works to all sorts of bardic music.

Rythm and Muse Poetry
403A Centre St., Jamaica Plain (522-3407). MBTA: Orange Line to Stonybrook. 7:30pm. Poet **Bernadette Davidson** will read some of her poems as part of the Poets Share series. An open mike will follow the reading.

Wordsworth Books Reading Series
30 Brattle St. #1, Cambridge (354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. **Susan Khan**, author of *Reproducing Jews*, speaks about assisted conception in Israel.

Friday, Dec. 8

Grolier Poetry Series
Arthur M. Sackler Museum Lecture Hall, 485 Broadway St., Cambridge (547-4648). 8pm. In exile since the 1989 Tiananmen incident, **Bei Dao** lectures and reads from his collection of essays, *Blue House.*

Sunday, Dec. 10

Borders Bookshop Reading Series
85 Worcester Road, Framingham (508-875-2321). 3pm. **Leslie Sills** explores the achievement of women in her book *In Real Life: Six Women Photographers.*

Monday, Dec. 11

Wordsworth Books Reading Series
30 Brattle St. #1, Cambridge (354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. For those of you who love the spooky-ookies, authors **Stephen Jay Gould** and **Rosamond Wolff** talk about their book, *Crossing Over*, about learning to communicate fearlessly with the dead.

Tuesday, Dec. 12

Wordsworth Books Reading Series
30 Brattle St. #1, Cambridge (354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. **Alan Lightman, Robert Atwan, Cheryl Strayed** and **Andre Aicman** will talk about their contributions to *The Best American Essays 2000.*

ONGOING

Agape, Tuesdays
The Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (266-6710). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8pm-10pm. Every Tuesday, this somewhat sophisticated poetry group gathers to share versions of their latest work.

Cantab Lounge, Wednesdays
738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8-10pm. $3. Wednesday nights at the Cantab always pack in more than 30 poets in just two hours for open mike and a slam.

Club Passim, Tuesdays
47 Palmer St., Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. $5. All open-mike fanatics must experience this open-mike night—a training ground for up-and-coming poets. Sign up Tuesdays, 7:30pm.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Night, Sundays
1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. $4 cover. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes for the featured poet.

O'Brien's Pub, Mondays
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. A mix of rock and spoken word is performed one Monday a month at 9pm—the performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry Night, Saturdays
Out of the Blue Gallery, 168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. Every Saturday is poetry night, and a spoken-word and music event also takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month. It features music by Rob Gonzalez and poetry by Nola Kelley.

Rhythm and Muse Open Mike, Thursdays
403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-6622). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook. A headlining poet is followed by an open-mike session every first Thursday of the month.

Stone Soup Poetry Night, Mondays
Zeitgeist Gallery, 312 Broadway St., Cambridge (227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7:30pm. $3. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets have served up soothing inspirations with their weekly readings. Keep the good vibes going Mondays with a wealth of featured writers.

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Education. Or e-mail information to education@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

CLASSES/LECTURES

Wednesday, Nov. 29

Architecture in the Auto Age: Boston Lost and Living
The Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). www.ccae.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. $5.* Local author of *Lost Nation* and *Asphalt Nation* and regular editorial writer for *The Boston Globe*, **Jane Kay Holtz** explores the making and breaking, decline and depaving of Boston and the nation as we enter the 21st century. She shows the building of Boston in boom and bust and discusses the car's impact on the city.

Breakfast with Champions
Peabody & Arnold, 50 Rowes Warf, 7th Floor, Boston (536-0700 x 235). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8-9am. $15. The Center for Women & Enterprise hosts its monthly networking breakfast, presenting **Janet Kraus**, the CEO and co-founder of Circles, a national concierge service.

Climates and Cultures
Cronkhite Center Living Room, 6 Ash St., Cambridge (495-8212). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 4pm. Free. Radcliffe Fellow Cynthia Enloe leads a talk on what feminists see when they look at women's lives inside the state.

The Land That Could Be: Environmentalism and Democracy in the 21st Century
Raytheon Amphitheater, Egan Center, Northeastern University, Boston (373-5800). 6:30pm. Free. Lawyer and environmentalist **William Shutkin** hopes to engage people in the lives of their communities to finally build a society with a physical environment that both reflects and reinforces the social ideals upon which it is based.

America's Response to Juvenile Crime
Cambridge Forum, 3 Church St., Cambridge (495-2727). www.cambridgeforum.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. Free.* **James Alan Fox**, Lipman Family Professor of Criminal Justice at Northern University, discusses trends in juvenile crime and justice.

Thursday, Nov. 30

Freedom Suspended: Step into the Shoes of President Abraham Lincoln
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). www.oldsouthmeetinghouse.com. *MBTA: Blue Line to State. 12:15-1pm. $5.* Join **David Smailes**, **Derek Nelson** and **Wendy Lement** in an interactive re-creation of the historic debate surrounding the *writ of habeas corpus.*

Silicon Sidewalk
BasketBall City, 35 Lomasney Way, Boston (720-0540). www.siliconspot.com/sidewalk. *MBTA: Green Line to North Station. 6-10pm. $15, $20 at the door.* Mixing business and pleasure, this high-tech trade show showcases various Internet companies to CEOs, investors, established companies, job-seekers, young startups, students and everyone in between.

Wednesday, Dec. 6

Teaching to the Test
Cambridge Forum, 3 Church St., Cambridge (495-2727). www.cambridgeforum.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. Free.* Educator **Gary Orfield** of the Civil Rights Project at Harvard University explores the impact of high-stakes testing on the ability of public schools to educate our children.

Ordinary Heroines
Cronkhite Center Living Room, 6 Ash St., Cambridge (495-8212). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 4pm. Free. Harvard University's **Lisa Dodson**, **Kathleen Coll** and **Deborah Belle** come together for a panel presentation about low-income women in a wealthy nation.

Downtown Superhighway Tunnels
BCAE, 5 Comm. Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 7-9pm. $29. Big Dig insider **Dan McNichol** discusses the Big Dig and the history of highway construction in Boston.

Starting a Business?
BCAE, 5 Comm. Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 6-8pm. $19. President of My Agent, **Gunnar Wieboldt** gives tips on how to start a business, including raising money, developing a business plan, recruiting, legal issues and marketing.

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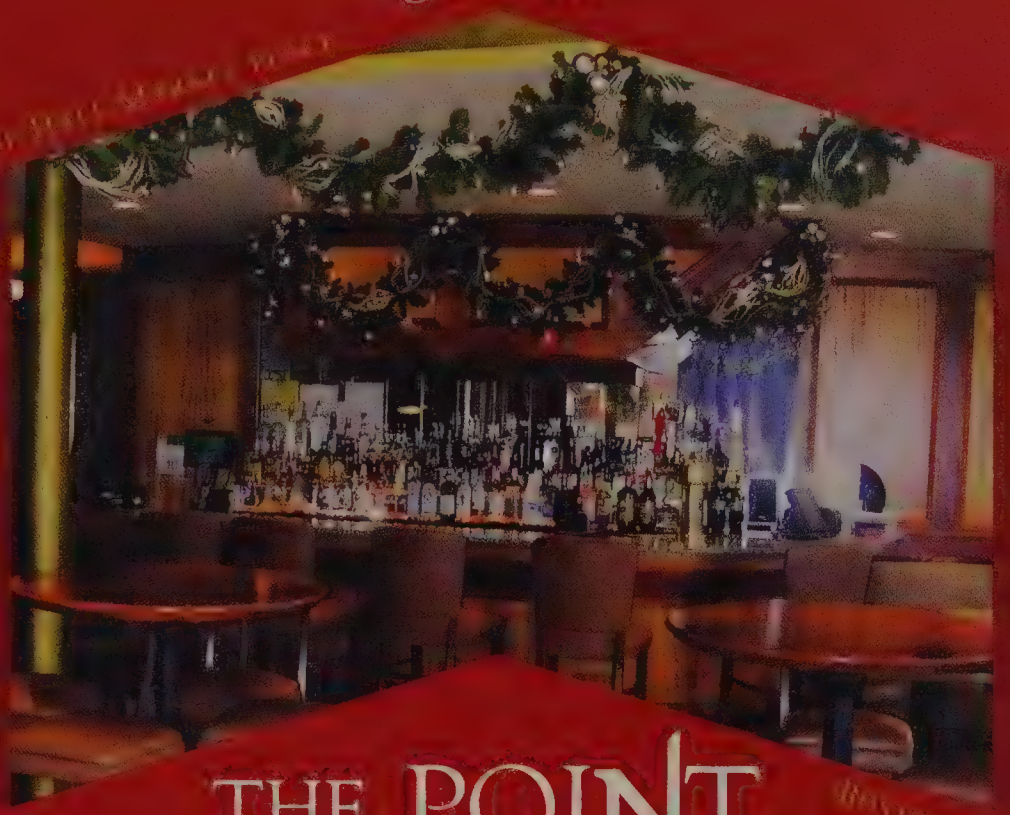

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dance clubs

Advice to Contributors
Submit information by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Clubs or e-mail to clubs@improper.com. Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Nights

Mondays

Ceremony
An Tua Nua. Pounding goth and industrial music shakes the house.

Cabaret
Encore Lounge. Show tunes and Cabaret with Michael Larson and Dorthy Miller. 9pm-1am.

Language
Hibernia. This incredible drum-and-bass night is heated up with Cosmo. 8pm. 21+.

Monsta Monday
Bill's Bar. DJ Kaptain Krunch kicks off the week. 9pm, $5, 18+.

Sissy K's
The Financial District's hot spot has live acoustic music downstairs and DJs spinning top-40, R&B and dance upstairs. $5.

Static
Axis. DJ Jay Ine delivers Hardhouse and UK Progressive. Plus a drag/strip event with Mizery. 10pm, $5, 19+.

Vertigo Mondays
Vertigo. Caesar and Giorgio throw a chic party for those who never want to stop dancin'. Dress slick. 10pm. No cover.

Tuesdays

Fat Tuesdays
Bill's Bar. This off-the-hook night features DJ Chaos scratching out hip-hop. 10pm. $12, 18+.

Flaunt
Aria. Hip-hop and R&B with guest DJs. 19+, $10.

The Forum
Lava Bar. Join Mission Control and support the local DJ scene as home-grown talents share the floor. 10pm. 21+.

Got Milk?
Venu. If you're chic you'll be at Venu for Milk—a devilishly hip party with DJ Osheen. Dress is funky. 21+.

Hibernia
The DJ Lounge is perfect for a relaxed night out on a Tuesday. 6pm.

Lot 36
The Modern/Embassy. DJ JC spins Latin House for a trendy crowd. 10pm. $10. 19+.

Showtunes
Encore Lounge. Bobby Femino plays the classic piano bar show tunes. 9pm-1am.

Sissy K's
The Financial District's hot spot has live acoustic music downstairs and DJs spinning top-40, R&B and dance upstairs. $5.

Sophia's
Free Salsa lessons by Dan Marshall. 9-10pm, followed by dancing. 5pm-2am. No cover. 21+.

What's Up Night
An Tua Nua. Join this weekly dance party/fund-raiser with local DJs Skinny B and Ray, hosted by *What's Up Magazine*. $5, 19+.

Wednesdays

Backstage
DJ Jonny C. spins top-40 dance. 10pm, no cover. 21+.

College Night
The Aquarium. Guest DJs spin all sorts of tunes at this relatively new venue at 10pm.

Encore Lounge
Michelle Curie plays blues and jazz at the piano bar. 9pm.

Funk and Groove
Bill's Bar. DJ Tim Collins spins live funk, soul and hip-hop. 9pm. $5, 18+.

Groove Lounge
Downstairs at The Exchange. This lounge has it all—jazz, house, funk and soul, not to mention a whole lot of attitude.

Hedonism
Upstairs at The Exchange. DJ Infinite and DJ Luca provide the soundtrack for you sweaty and ready dancers to be naughty to. 21+.

Latin Night
The Aquarium. This aquatic-themed Davis Square club offers all sorts of specialty drinks, loud music and dance lessons from 9-10pm.

Put your hands in the air and wave 'em around like you just don't care at Faneuil Hall's Backstage, Wednesday through Sunday nights.

Mason
Hibernia. Perfect Downtempo and house music, complete with funky breaks. 6pm.

Pravda 116
Spend the night at one of the city's most decadent hot spots—set to beats by DJ Alex and DJ Felix. 21+.

Sissy K's
The Financial District's hot spot has live music downstairs and DJs spinning top-40, R&B and upstairs. $5.

Sophia's
Live Latin band on the first floor beginning at 9:30pm. DJ Eddy K spins best of international music on Sophia's second floor. 5pm-2am. $10. 21+.

Thursdays

An Tua Nua
Top 40, old school, hip-hop, house and soul spun by DJ Ren Justice.

Aquarium
The Kiss 108 FM dance party. 10pm. $3.

Backstage
Tonight's adrenaline high features special-guest DJs spinning all sorts of top-40 dance and club classics. 10pm, $5. 21+.

Big Easy
This hot New Orleans-themed nightspot has it all—even billiards. 9pm.

Charlie's Angels Night
Polly Esther's. Dance to '70s, '80s or '90s tunes. 8pm, $5.

Chrome
Axis. Resident DJs John Debo and Ali Ajami spin house and trance music. 10pm, $10. 19+. •Nov. 30 DJ Carl Cox.

College Night
The Exchange. Bring your college ID and party to house, hip-hop, R&B and reggae. 9pm, 19+.

Downtempo Lounging
The Modern. DJ Ricky Fatts spins while you enjoy the raw bar and vodka bar. 9pm-2am, 21+.

Embassy Thursday Nights
DJ Anthony hosts Latin Lounge. 10pm, $15, 19+.

Encore Lounge
Michelle Curie plays great American, blues and jazz at the piano bar. 9pm-1am.

Europa
Enter Club Destiny for DJ Rip's house and trance.

Fashion House
Aria. Fashion shows and DJ Roger spinning house. It's also Greek Night in the Angel Room. $10, 21+.

Graduate School Night
Pravda 116. DJ Maric spins tunes to relax you.

Heaven
Comedy Connection Backstage. Music by DJs Johnny C and Freddie C. Proper dress. 10pm. No cover.

Heaven and Hell
The Exchange. Macgyver spins trance, and DJ Chaos spins hip-hop, reggae and R&B.

Hibernia Thursdays
DJ Jeremy spins loopy, trippy, trip-hop. 6pm.

Il Panino
Mingle and dance at this social playground for young professionals. 9pm. 21+.

International Thursday
Avalon. A mixed crowd fills this popular night spot as DJ Manolo pumps out progressive Euro House. 10pm, $15. 19+.

Latin Quarter
The Roxy. You know it's time to get down when the Roxy breaks out its sexy Latin dance mixes. 10:30pm, 21+.

The Modern
International Thursdays features Progressive Euro House. 10pm, $15, 19+.

Sissy K's
The Financial District's hot spot has live acoustic music downstairs and DJs spinning top-40, R&B and dance upstairs. $5.

Sophia's
Salsa lessons followed by dancing with guest Latin DJs in Sophia's new basement lounge and dance floor. Live Latin band on the first floor beginning at 9:30pm. DJ Eddy K spins best of Latin on second floor. 5pm-2am. $10. 21+.

Speed
Karma. Resident DJs Bruno spin house to an edgy crowd. 10pm, $12. 19+.

Sugar Shack
The best music from three decades pounds through the festival atmosphere at Sugar Shack where every day is Mardi-Gras.

Sweetwater Cafe
Live bands perform while guests sip margaritas.

The List
Lava Bar. *Lavabar.com*. DJ 7L and guests along with Verse/D bring you soul and funk. 10pm. 21+.

Underground
Bill's Bar. DJ Mark Hamilton showcases up and coming acts and established bands. 9pm. Cover varies, 18+.

Venu
DJ Nailz spins to a huge college crowd. 19+.

Fridays

An Tua Nua
DJ Vinny puts together a great night of top-40 hits and your favorites from the '70s, '80s and '90s.

Aquarium
DJ Lu spins today's hottest dance hits.

American Karma
Karma. All-star American top-40 remixes with DJ Tim Collins, live on STAR 93.7. 9pm, $8, 19+.

Avaland
Avalon. Everything about this place screams "Party!" With Ali Ajami and special-guest DJs. 10pm, $15. 19+.

Backstage
DJ Jonny C spins top-40. 10pm, $5. Proper dress, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans–themed nightspot has some of the best mainstream DJs in town.

Buzz Fridays
Buzz. Roger M lays down Latin house tracks while DJs pay homage to the house music gods. 11pm, $15. 19+.

Cabaret
Encore Lounge. John O'Neil and Jan Peters sing showtunes, great American songbook and cabaret. 9pm-1am.

Envy
This popular destination is filled with a mass of sweaty 'n' ready dancers. 9pm, $5 after 10pm. 21+.

Exchange Fridays
The Exchange. Upstairs, Brothers Tiziano and Maurizio deliver an onslaught of House. G-Squared spins Hip-Hop and R+B in the Vault. 9pm.

Focus at Hibernia
Cocktails with Alan Strack and deep house. 10pm, 21+.

Global Fridays
Roxy. International house featuring local, national and European DJs. 10:30pm. Proper dress and ID.

Life
Lava Bar. Dance to a different drummer with DJ Fran Englehardt's deeply rooted, soulful rhythms. 10pm.

Mondo Bar
Roxy. International and house music with resident DJs Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. 10:30pm, 21+.

Nocturnal Friday
Bill's Bar. Get in on the action with Guest DJs' best live music and bands. 9pm, 18+.

NYC Jukebox
All the disco and rock you can handle. Casual but neat. 9pm. 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ Mario spins current dance music at this hot spot.

Revolution
The Modern. Find Latin and progressive Euro House here with DJ Eddie K. 10pm, $15, 19+.

Sissy K's
This new hot spot has live acoustic music downstairs and DJs spinning top-40, R&B and dance upstairs. $5.

Sophia's
Live Latin band begins at 9:30pm on the first floor. DJ Mike C. from Puerto Rico plays Latin dance on second floor while DJ Zino spins Miami style Latin house in a basement lounge and dance floor. 5pm-2am. $10. 21+.

Spin Cycle
Axis. Glitzed-out club hoppers shake it to the beats of DJ Tim Ryan and DJ David James. 10pm, $12. 19+.

Sugar Shack
DJs and specialty drinks, dancing 'til 2am.

Sweetwater Cafe
DJs KC and Jonesey entertain on two floors.

Venu
The scene is elegant for this jacket-required international romp. Get on your Gucci as DJ Arsit spins. 21+.

Saturdays

An Tua Nua
DJ Ren Justice mixes top-40, hip-hop, house and soul.

Anything Goes
Lava Bar. DJ Fran and Kris Kono unite with high-energy house and Latin beats. 10pm, 21+.

Aquarium
Saturday night dance party with DJs. 10pm. $5.

Backstage
DJ Freddie C spins top-40 dance and club classics. 10pm. $5. Proper dress, 21+.

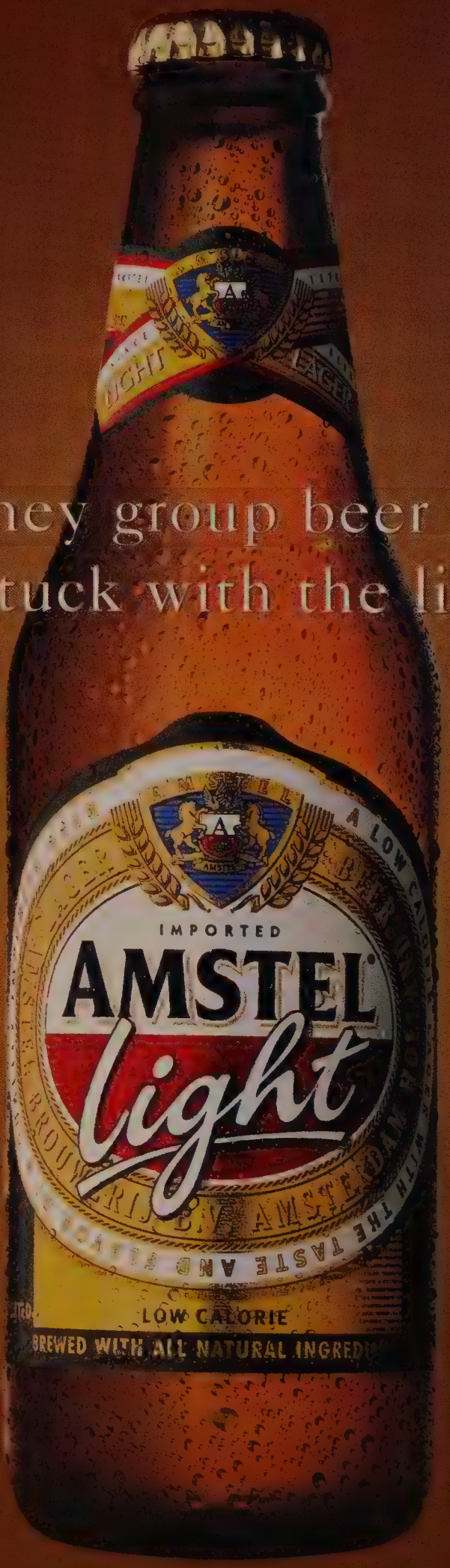
Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans–themed nightspot has live bands all weekend long. Does non-stop dancing make you thirsty? There are four bars to boot.

Blues
Encore Lounge. Shake off your blues and listen to honky-tonk, classic and contemporary rock. Sit-ins welcome. 9:30pm-2am.

Classic Saturdays
Embassy/The Modern. DJ Shiuan Lee puts out funky house for a mix of international students,

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

Until they group beer by taste,
we'll be stuck with the light beers.



The beer drinker's light beer.

© 2000 Amstel USA White Plains NY 10606 The beer drinker's light beer is a trademark of Amstel USA

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local scenesters and, of course, Boston's A-list. 10pm, $15, 19+.

Club Juliana
Boogieing cuties converge on Boston's newest Latin Night starting at 10pm. Dress to impress. $10.

Club Nicole
The mob is thick for this exclusive trend-setting night. DJ Alex spins Eurohouse. Proper dress is a must and jackets are required for the guys. 21+.

Club Piteko
Fajitas & Ritas. DJ Piteko leads the party to "dance like no one is watching," specializing in Cape Verdean music, adding in a mix of samba, reggae, soukous, zouk, hip-hop and roots music. $7. 10:30pm. 21+.

Downtown
Avalon. Resident DJs Manolo and Mattie O. gyrate your arse with the latest hits and club classics. 10pm, $15. 21+.

Envy
DJ Tom Baxter blasts out top-40, house and dance music. 9pm, $5.

Elements of Life
Karma. Guest DJs spin house while DJ Justin Hoffman spins hip-hop, funk and soul. 10pm, $15, 19+.

Exchange Saturdays
DJ Rafii S. melts the tables upstairs with house and international tracks. In the vault, weekly guest DJs play hip-hop, R&B and top-40 tunes.

Hibernia Saturdays
Steve Porter whips the crowd into a frenzy with progressive house. 10pm. 21+.

Indulgence
Aria. DJ Raffi spins house and club top-40. In the Angel room, DJ Roger spins Latin and Eurohaus. $10, 21+.

Miami Club Night
Club Joy/Yesterday's. Get a taste of Miami nightlife. 9:30pm (ladies free before 11pm), $10. 21+. Ladies, 19+.

Mischief
The Modern. Feeling mischievous? Ultra lounging with decadent desserts and erotic electronica. 21+.

Mythos
Venu. It's Greek International night with DJ Yorgo Jr. spinning the hits from the famous party islands.

NYC Jukebox
Disco and rock hits of '80s and '90s. 9:30pm, casual but neat. 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ Mario provides current dance jams.

Roxy Saturdays
High-energy house and dance by DJ Adilson. 9pm, proper dress. 21+.

Saturday Night Fever
Polly Esther's. Groove to three decades' worth of beats in the laser-lit Club DVD. 8pm, $10. 21+.

Sissy K's
The hot spot has acoustic music downstairs and DJs spinning top-40, R&B and dance upstairs. $5.

Smile
Bill's Bar. DJ Bruno takes over. 10pm. $12, 19+

Sophia's
DJ Edwin Mathos spins Latin dance on second floor. Live Latin band on the first floor beginning at 9:30pm, DJ Mike C from Puerto Rico spins best of salsa and merengue in new basement lounge and dance floor. 5pm-2am. $10. 21+.

Sugar Shack
Spice up your night with '70s, '80s and '90s dance music as DJ Rich Centi spins the hottest sounds.

Sweetwater Cafe
Music from DJs KC and Jonesey on two floors.

Who's on First?
Some of the latest and greatest in hip-hop, reggae, R&B and Latin is hosted by Li'l Mike, 10:30pm, $12. 18+.

X Night
Axis. Hear DJs Mike Gioscia and David James spin alternative rock and the hits from the '80s. 10pm, $10. 21+.

Sundays

Backstage
Urban Night. T Clark spins hip-hop, reggae and old school. Doors open at 10pm, $10. 21+.

Common People
An Tua Nua. Brit-pop, new wave, indie and more with DJ Adrienne. 9pm, $3. 19+.

Curve
Hannah's. Three DJs, one vibe. Special guests every week alongside resident DJ Earthrok spinning house, breaks and techno. 10pm. $5. 21+.

Encore Lounge
Saddle up to the piano bar and listen to Michael Kreutz play showtunes and great American songbook.

Evening in the Velvet Lounge
Trio. Oscar's Sunday night has moved to this hot spot, where you can kick back and lounge. No cover, 10pm.

Il Panino
This night features music by DJ Alex of Boston Beat and DJ Roger M. No cover, 21+.

Lava Bar
Pandora's Box (Club Courtesy). DJ Vinny and Sir Richard and Sterling spin '60s Exotica, loungecore, psychedelic flowerpop and Motown. 10pm. 21+.

Living Room
Aria. DJ Raffi spins Eurohouse. In the Angel Room, DJ Franklin spins Latin. $10, 21+. Proper dress.

Red Square Lounge
Pravda 116. Party in the front bar that is transformed into a comfortable lounge. 10pm-2am.

Reggae Sundays
Bill's Bar. DJ K-Don spins some of the best reggae around. 10pm. $10. 21+.

Salvation
An intimate night, courtesy of DJ Soul. $5.

Sissy's
U: DJ Dave Jordan plays Top 40 and Hip-Hop tunes. D: Martini Bros., 4-8pm; Gregg Luttrell, 9pm-1am.

Venu
Carnival comes to Boston every Sunday as DJ Adilson brings the heat of Rio to Venu. 21+.

Club Venues

An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (262-2121). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Aquarium *65 Holland St., Somerville (623-3200). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (338-7080). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center.*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (437-0300). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Backstage *245 Quincy Place, Boston (726-1110). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Buzz/Europa *51 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Club Nicole *40 Dalton St., Boston (236-4746). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*
Comedy Connection *Faneuil Hall, Boston (726-1110). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Embassy *36 Lansdowne St., Boston (536-2100). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Encore Lounge *279 Tremont St. Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Envy *25 Boylston Place, Boston (542-3689). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Europa *51 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Exchange *148 State St., Boston (726-7601). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Fajitas & Ritas *25 West St., Boston (426-1222). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park.*
Hannah's *499 Broadway St., Somerville (629-5302). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Hibernia *25 Kingston St., Boston (292-2333). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Karma *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9595). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Lava Bar *575 Comm. Ave., Boston (267-7707). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
NYC Jukebox *275 Tremont St., Boston (542-1123). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center.*
Oskar's *107 South St., Boston (542-6756). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Polly Esther's *262 Friend St., Boston (720-1966). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (482-7799). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Sissy K's *6 Commercial St., Boston (248-6511). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State.*
Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston (351-7001). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Sweetwater Cafe *5 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2515). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Trio *174 Lincoln St., Boston (357-TRIO). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (338-8061). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*

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- **Solomon Pond Mall** Marlborough (off I-290) 508-303-3666
- **Avon, CT** at 380 W. Main Street 860-678-9400

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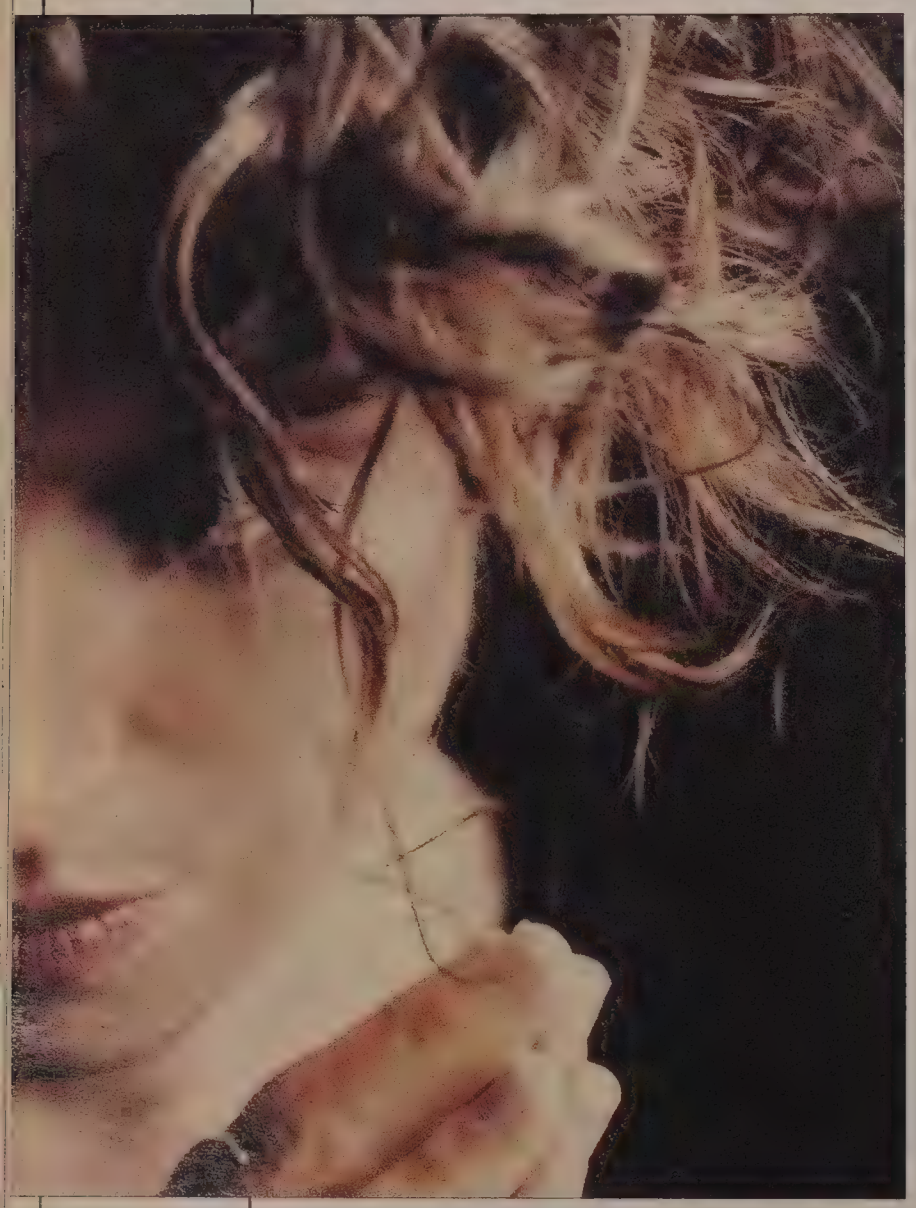
THE NEXT STAGE

From open-mike nights in tiny clubs to huge concerts, Jess Klein's music is gaining momentum. BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

Jess Klein was announced as the promoter's "secret weapon" when she took the stage at the Fuji Rock Fest this summer. In addition to playing in front of about 50,000 people, on a bill that included Moby, Sonic Youth and the Foo Fighters, she had a bit of added pressure. The emcee's announcement was in Japanese.

"So I didn't even know what they were saying," laughs Klein, who hasn't seen much of her Jamaica Plain home in the midst of touring to promote her new CD, *Draw Them Near*. "It was really comfortable for me actually, because there was this huge stage, and I felt I didn't have to hold back in any way. It was definitely the largest audience I ever performed for, so even though I was performing solo, I really felt liberated."

It's a big stretch from the tiny stage of Harvard Square's Club Passim, where Klein cut her teeth and returns Dec. 15, followed by a Jan. 13 date at A Joyful Noise coffeehouse in Lexington. "I am definitely comfortable in that setting , and I love that it's intimate," Klein says by phone from a hotel room in Madison, Wisconsin. "I'm lucky to do both."



Jess Klein is currently touring to support her new album, *Draw Them Near*.

She's lucky to be a singer-songwriter, in fact. Far from touring alongside a charming, well-distributed album, the 26-year-old Klein would be doing Lord-knows-what today if she hadn't borrowed her father's guitar (with the knowledge of only three chords) for a trip to Jamaica six years ago.

"For the first time in my life, I didn't know why I was going somewhere," says Klein, who discovered an open-mike-style Monday gathering of dub poets, and was taken under their wing. "I don't know if it was the novelty of 'OK, here's a white girl from the U.S. Let her do whatever she wants to do in our group.' They were very supportive.

"There's less of a division between regular life and being a musician there, like 'Of course you sing and play guitar,'" she says. "Coupled with just being somewhere different from where I grew up, in Rochester, N.Y., those things made me think, 'I can express myself however I choose.' I had studied classical music and jazz, and I danced and drew, and I wrote short stories before then. But at that point, a lot of pieces came together, and the end result was I could write something that really came from a personal feeling."

With a new focus, she decided to move to Boston upon her return. "There are a ton of open mikes, so I started going to those as often as I could," says Klein, who eventually landed gigs at the Kendall Café and Club Passim, while listening to more experienced songwriters and watching others perform.

"I learned about being concise and choosing words carefully," she says. "And I started working with a voice teacher, who helped me both physically and mentally, to let the song come through me and not let my ego or tense muscles or whatever get in the way of the performance."

Nonetheless, her condensed experience doesn't quite prepare the listener for the grace, depth and accessibility Klein displays on *Draw Them Near*, which was recorded in Nashville with a studio band including guitarist Will Kimbrough (Kim Richey), bassist Brad Jones (Matthew Sweet, Ron Sexsmith), Wilco drummer Ken Coomer, and producer George Howard on various instruments. Klein's vocals also convey a country-tinged flavor closer to Emmylou Harris than Ani DiFranco.

"My really early stuff sort of sounds more like what I'm doing now," Klein says. "In seeking out great songs and songwriters, I did listen to a lot of alt-country, and Emmylou Harris sings so many great songs."

In preparing to record between the lines of country, folk, soul and rock, she adds, "We listened to a few albums that we thought were good starting points, in terms of sound. We listened to [the Rolling Stones'] *Exile on Main Street* a lot, and when we were thinking of 'Little White Dove,' I was thinking about [Rod Stewart's] 'Maggie May.' So in that way, we could seek out players who could do that, but that could also do other things."

Klein and her band cover a lot of ground, from her rocking "Goodbye Goodbye" and Stax-like soul of "Love Is Where You Find It" to the fragile "Song for an Angel" and "I'll Be Alright," which deals with moving on from a relationship. "Every song is personal to some extent," she says. "The more personal the emotion, the more likely that people will connect to it." iB

Jess Klein

Plays at Club Passim Dec. 15.

Advice to Contributors

Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fax (859-1446); by mail to Calendar/Music; or by email to music@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, phone numbers and nearest T stops. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers

Information for the music section is compiled from different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double check dates and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

Top Billing

Ball in the House
Dec. 1 and 5, FleetCenter

Bangles and Dido
Dec. 7, Orpheum

Boston Hip-Hop Awards with Royce Da 5'9", EDO.G and DMG Chamion DJ Craze, Porn Theater Ushers
Dec. 5, Karma

Buzzcocks
Dec. 3, Axis

Cash Money Millionaires
Dec. 2, Worcester Centrum

Collective Soul with Fuel and Dust for Life
Nov. 29, Orpheum Theatre (WBCN Xmas Rave)

C60, Sunna and Skin Dive
Nov. 29, Bill's Bar (WBCN Xmas Rave)

Dandy Warhols, SR-71 and Good Charlotte
Nov. 29, T.T. the Bear's Place (WBCN Xmas Rave)

Dave Matthews Band
Dec. 11, FleetCenter

Dio, Yngwie Malmsteen and Doro Pesch
Dec. 8, Worcester Palladium

Disturbed, Union Underground and Linkin Park
Nov. 29, Axis (WBCN Xmas Rave)

Funky Meters
Dec. 11, FleetCenter

Godspeed You Black Emperor!, Bonnie Prince Billy & the Marquis de Tren
Dec. 1, Somerville Theatre

Harvard Group for New Music Concert
Dec. 2, Paine Hall, Harvard University

Hot Tuna (Jorma Kaukonen and Jack Cassady)
Nov. 30, Paradise

Insane Clown Posse with P.O.D. and Crazytown
Nov. 29, Avalon (WBCN Xmas Rave)

Jimmy Fund Benefit with Kay Hanley, Thurmon Munson, Carlton Fisk and Slide
Dec. 4, Paradise

Rickie Lee Jones
Dec. 6, Berklee Performance Center

Jorma Kaukonen
Nov. 30, Paradise

Liquid Todd and Deisel Boy
Nov. 29, Karma Club (WBCN Xmas Rave)

Shane MacGowan and the Popes
Nov. 30, Avalon

Slaves on Dope and Shuvel
Dec. 2, Worcester Palladium

Melissa Ferrick, Howie Day
Dec. 8, Paradise

Richard Marx
Dec. 3, Paradise

Nickelback
Dec. 6, Avalon

The Magnetic Fields
Dec. 7 and 8, Somerville Theatre

Medeski Martin and Wood
Nov. 30, Orpheum Theatre

Megadeth, Sevendust and Staind
Dec. 8, Worcester Centrum

Mighty Mighty Bosstones with Seventeen
Nov. 29, Lilli's (WBCN Xmas Rave)

Mighty Mighty Bosstones
Dec. 6-10, Axis

Jane Olivor
Dec. 9, Berklee Performance Center

The Offspring
Dec. 13, Worcester Centrum

Orgy, Vast and 6 Gig
Nov. 29, Orpheum Theatre (WBCN Xmas Rave)

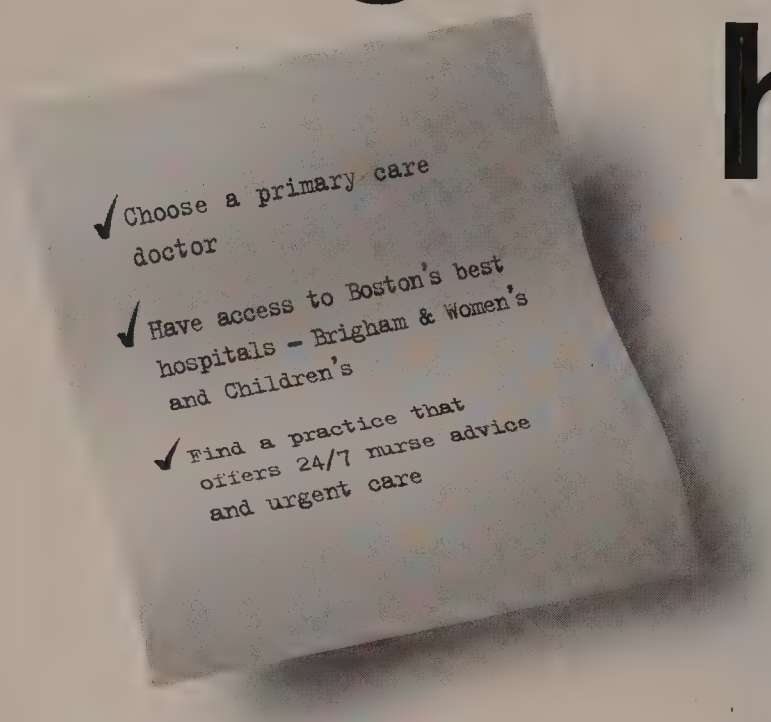
Rancid and Heidi
Nov. 29, Middle East (WBCN Xmas Rave)

Paul Simon
Dec. 2 and 3, Orpheum Theatre

Faith Soloway
Dec. 2, Somerville Theater

JESS KLEIN: ANDRIANA MEYER

3 things you can do right now to safeguard your health



Good health is something worth protecting. In fact, you can do something right now, today, to begin living a healthier life. Start by choosing a doctor you can trust. One who has access to world-class hospitals like Brigham & Women's and Children's Hospital Boston. A doctor whose practice offers urgent care and a 24/7 nurse advice line.

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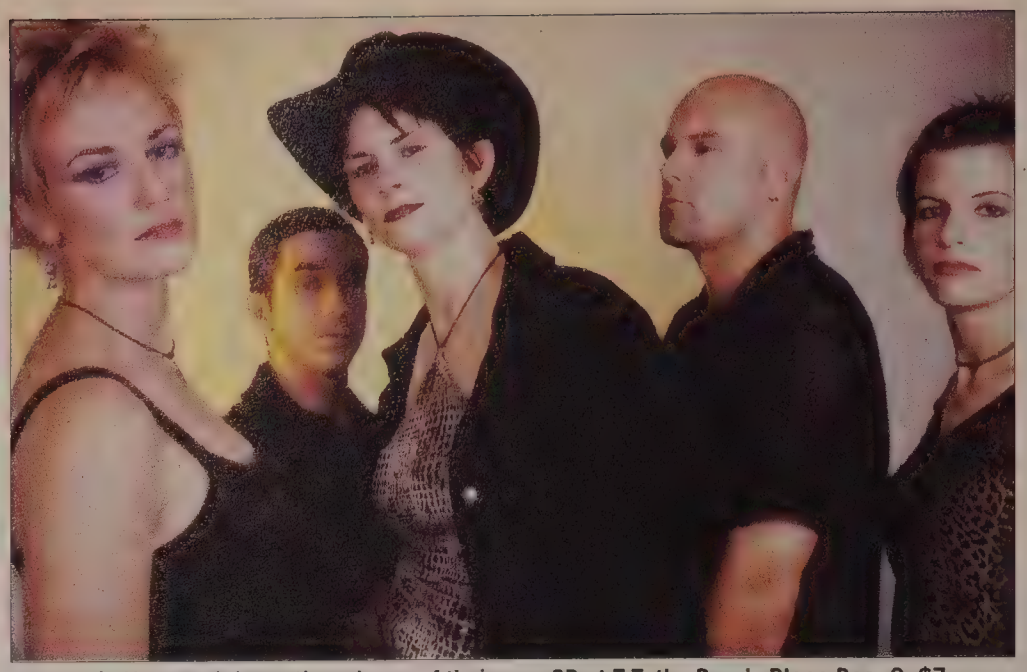
Virtuoso, Segue, Duncan Wilder Johnson, RC/DC and Josh Metcalf
Nov. 29, Jorge Hernandez Cultural Center
Voices of Mali with Habib Koite, Bamada and Oumou Sangare
Dec. 3, Somerville Theatre
Warren Zevon
Dec. 1, Paradise

Rock, Jazz and Blues

Wednesday, Nov. 29

Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
Clerys Karaoke with Tricia Kelly.
Club Passim Jason Harrod CD-release show with Small Potatoes, 8pm, $10.
Common Ground What a Way to G-Go (Mod Night with DJ Vin), 10pm, cover varies.
Encore Lounge Michelle Currie 9pm-1am.
Harpers Ferry Teague Septet and the Oak Street Jam Band, $3.
House of Blues Pressure Cooker, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Johnny D's Volkov Trio, 8:30pm.
Kendall Cafe Jenny Bruce, 8:30pm, Aruna, 9:30pm and Liz Debiase, 10:30pm, $4.
Kirkland Cafe Katie Barbato and the Complaints, $5.
Lilli's WBCN Xmas rave with the Mighty Mighty Bosstones and Seventeen, 9pm, $15, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Francine with special guests Merrie Amsterberg and Baby Ray.
Middle East U: Caustic Resin, the Beatings, $7, 18+. D: WBCN Xmas Rave with Rancid and Heidi, 8pm, $15, 18+. C: Acoustic Narcotic (featuring members of Toxic Narcotic), 7pm; Belly Dancing, 10pm, no cover.
Milky Way Courtney Grey presents Mercury: downtempo, soulful grooves, guest poets & musicians weekly, 9pm, no cover.
Oak Bar Steve Soares.
Paddy Burke's Tom Hegarty, 8pm, Boston Folk and Singers Club, 9pm.
Rack Sweet Fish, 6-10pm, no cover.



Chapter in Verse celebrate the release of their new CD at T.T. the Bear's Place Dec. 9, $7.

Scullers Nelson Rangell, 8 and 10pm, $16.
Sky Bar Ruby Lashes, the Operators and Center of the Earth, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub Brian McCree Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place WBCN Xmas Rave with the Dandy Warhols, SR-71 and Good Charlotte, $10.
Wonder Bar Leo Blanco, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Carolyn Wilkins, 5-7pm; the Larry Roland Trio, 8-12pm, no cover.

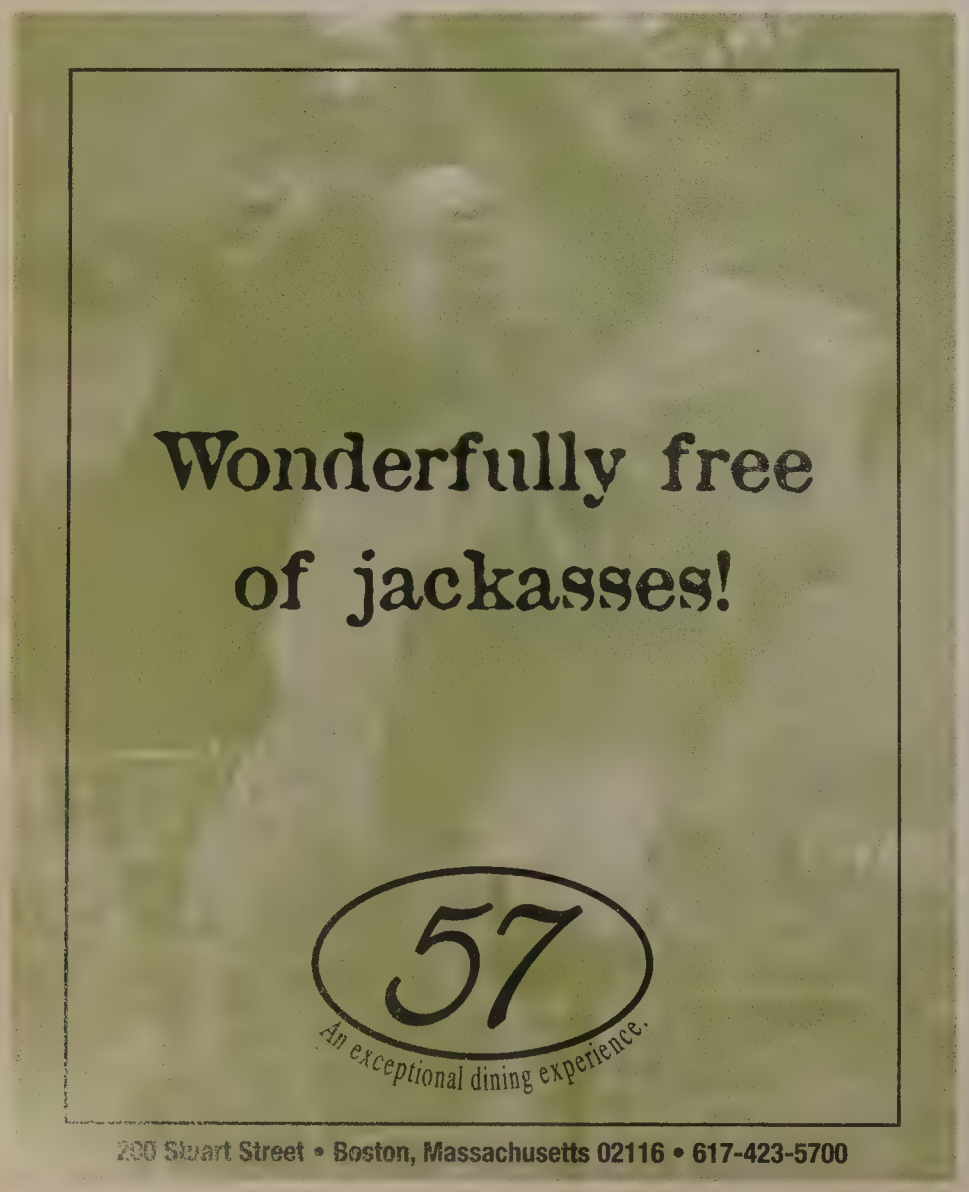
Thursday, Nov. 30

Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Carl Smitty Smooth, 7:30pm.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers.
Club Passim Peter Mulvey, Mark Erelli opens, 7 and 10pm, $12.
Encore Lounge Michelle Currie, 9pm-1am.
Harpers Ferry Entrain, Another Planet and special guests, $15.
House of Blues Young Neal and the Vipers, 10pm, $8, 21+.
Johnny D's Klezperanto, 9pm.
Kendall Cafe O'Leary and Lalli CD release party, 8:30pm. Janet Connernay, 10pm and Trikona, 11pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe Embolism, John Gray and Julie Ford, $5.
Lilli's Abunai CD-release party, 27 and the Brother JT 5, 9pm, $7, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Volition and The Mockingbirds, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Middle East U: Cutthroats 9 (ex-Unsane), Throttle and Liquor Tricks, $7, 18+. D: Drexel CD-release show, Mancain, Lane Meyer and Fastlane, $7, 18+. C: Tony Marino Quartet, 7pm; Board of Education, 10pm, no cover.
Oak Bar Steve Soares.
Paddy Burke's Tom Carroll, 8pm.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett, 9pm, $3.
Rack Chad LaMarsh, no cover.
Rhythm & Spice Barbados' Independence Day.
Scullers Jane Monheit, 8 and 10pm, $15.
Sky Bar Hurricane Jane, Volition and Mocking Birds, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub Brian McCree Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Aaron Perrino of the Sheila Divine, Ours and Brian Charles, $7.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford Review, 9:30pm.
Les Zygomates Mark Greel, 5-7pm; the Jinga Trio, 8-12pm, no cover.

Friday, Dec. 1

Black Rose U: Celtic Clan. D: Sunday's Well, $5.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cooks and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Club Passim Geoff Muldar CD-release show, 8pm, $15.
Common Ground Honey Pot with Edable Gray, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff Complaints, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort Cut the Mullet, 7-10pm; Soul City, 10pm-2am, no cover.
Johnny D's King Chango, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's The Return, 9pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe Fred's Bowling Bowl and Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
Lilli's Uncle Sammy, Schleigho and Division Street, 8:30pm, $10, 21+.
Linwood Reverse and Blood Shot.
Lizard Lounge Paved Country CD-release party with the Darlings, Asa Brebner and Pat Hammil.
Middle East U: Treehouse Union, One Flew East, Groove Homes Band and Deci Funk, $7, 18+. D: MOP and Afu-Ra, $20, 18+.
Milky Way Loopdreams, Plexus, DJ Seishi, 9pm, $8.
Oak Bar Steve Soares.
Purple Shamrock Marcels, 9pm, $5.
Rack Hit Squad, 6-9:30pm, no cover.
Rhythm & Spice Danny Tucker, 10:30pm, $8.
Ryles Jazz Club U: Latin American Christmas Party. D: Brazilian Dance Party.
Sky Bar Primrose Path, Amusia and Zola Turn, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub Brian McCree Trio, 9pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Tugboat Annie and the Red Telephone, $8.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic Chronicles, 9:30pm.

LIZ LINDER



WINTER Blues Back

Frostbite

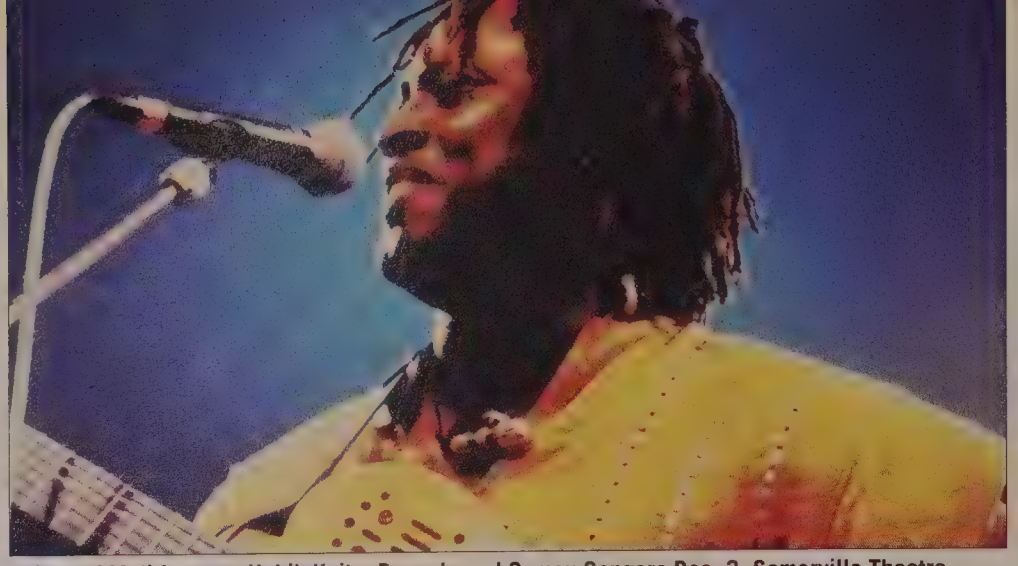
from the WATCH CITY

Saturday, Dec. 2

Bill's Bar The Juliana Theory.
Black Rose Frank Ryan, Celtic Clan and Sunday's Well, $5.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook, 9pm.
Club Passim Christopher Williams, 7 and 10pm, $12.
Common Ground Soul Work, 10pm.
Coogan's Bluff Thomas Park, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort Rob Gonzalez, 7-10pm; Hipsocket, 10pm-2am, no cover.
House of Blues Wild Magnolias, 10pm.
Jacob Wirths The Jay Sweet Trio.
Johnny D's November Project, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's Van Gogh Cart, 9pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe Rootin' Tootin' Country Jamboree with Nobody, Honktonk Heroes and Louvin Spoonful, $5.
Lilli's The Upper Crust, Countess and Volition, 9pm, $10, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Michelle Malone with special guest The Jennier Matthews Band.
Middle East U: Johnny Wishbone, Canine, Absinthe and Purge DI, $7, 18+. D: Rippopatomus, Soulwork, Sugardaddy, DaVinci and the Wrong Crowd, 8:30pm, $8, 18+.
Milky Way Mango's Latin Dance Club, free salsa lessons, 5:30pm. $7.
Oak Bar Steve Soares.
Purple Shamrock World Premier Band, 9pm, $5.
Rack DJ Vinny, no cover.
Rhythm & Spice Jamdown, 10:30pm, $8.
Ryles Jazz Club Wildest Dreams.
Sky Bar Stymie, Hyptonic and 128 Columbia Projects, 9pm, $5, 21+.
St. John's Church Songs from the American Songbook with Shelly Neill and more, 8:30pm, $12.
Top of the Hub Brian McCree Trio, 9pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place AM Stereo, Major Major, Make Lisa Rich and the Sunbathers, $7.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30pm, 21+.

Sunday, Dec. 3

Bill's Bar Jemi-Iand special guests, 11:30pm, 21+.
Black Rose HH: Frank Ryan. Down: Sunday's Well.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blue Jam, 9pm.



Voices of Mali features Habib Koite, Bamada and Oumou Sangare Dec. 3, Somerville Theatre.

Club Passim Christopher Williams, 7:30pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort Evelyn McDonald Gospel Group, 10am-3pm; Rob Gonzalez, 7pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Blues Jam and Salsa Dancing with Rumba NaMa, 4:30-8:30pm.
Lizard Lounge Poetry Slam with Jeff Robinson Trio.
Middle East U: Rainer Maria, the Ivory Coast, Aerialist and the Common Cold $7, 18+.
Milky Way Mystic Reggae featuring DJ Magnum, Lisa & Robin, DJ Jesse James, 9pm, $5.
Rack Chad LaMarsh, 9:30pm-1:30am.
Ryles Jazz Club Brazilian Jazz with Anita Coelho.
Top of the Hub Jazz Piano Trio, 8pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Thermal Power In Canada, OK Go, Mean Red Spiders and Offensive Jill, $5.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30pm, 21+.

Monday, Dec. 4

Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Cantab Lounge Geoff Bartley's Open Mike, 8pm; Terry Tufts of Canada, 9:30pm.
Dick's Last Resort Brick Park, 7pm.
Lilli's Rock Bottom, 9pm, $2, 21+.
Milky Way Mixology, 9pm, no cover, 18+.
Rack Chad LaMarsh, no cover.
Top of the Hub Jazz Piano Trio, 8pm.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30pm, 21+.

Tuesday, Dec. 5

Black Rose Eugene Byrne.
Cantab Lounge Sandy Sheehan, 9pm • Bluegrass Pickin Party, 10pm.
Dick's Last Resort Cut the Mullet, no cover, 7pm.
Johnny D's Jazz Bass Guitar Night, 8pm.
Kirkland Cafe Chris Zahnleiter Trio.
Lilli's Mars Music Lounge Residency with the Anti-Jazz Raygun and Naftule's Dream, 9pm, $6, 21+.
Lizard Lounge The Cambridge Music All-Stars.
Middle East U: Error Type:11, Garrison, Prizefighter and Asciento, $7, 18+.
Milky Way The World Famous Mary Mary's All Star Karaoke, 9pm, $3.
Oak Bar Steve Soares.
Rack Stu Sinclair, no cover.
Ryles Jazz Club Black Sea Salsa Band.
Sky Bar Raymond, the Fairplan and Fooled by April, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place T-Flight Davis, Fixation and Nothing Yet, $4.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30pm, 21+.

Wednesday, Dec. 6

Black Rose Eugene Byrne.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
Clerys Karaoke with Tricia Kelly.
Common Ground What a Way to Go-Go (Mod Night with DJ Vin), 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff Scott Damgaard, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort The Jennerators, 7pm.
Encore Lounge Michelle Currie 9pm-1am.
Johnny D's Either Orchestra, 8:30pm.
Kirkland Cafe Twisted Rico Acoustic Revue with Jay Wightman, $5.
Lilli's Chauncey, Army of Jasons and the Crocketts, 9pm, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Meghan Toohey and the Red Telephone with special guests Jen Cohen.
Middle East U: Crushworthy, Pondering Jud, $6, 18+.
Milky Way Mercury, 9pm, no cover.
Oak Bar Steve Soares
Rack Hung Jury, 6-9:30pm, no cover.
Ryles Jazz Club Jazzaniva, Brazilian Jazz and Bossanova.
Sky Bar Feedback, Runner and the Thermodynamics, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Cloud Art and Now Is Now, 9pm; Nancy S. Mroczek, PhD, 10:40pm, $4.
Wonder Bar Leo Blanco, 9:30, no cover, 21+.

Thursday, Dec. 7

Black Rose Eugene Byrne.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff Bruce Jacques, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort Lonely Gus and One Night Stand, 7pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Michelle Currie, 9pm-1am.
Johnny D's Emmylou Harris, Steve Earle, Bruce Cockburn and Nanci Griffith, 9pm.
Jose McIntyre's Me & Julio, 9pm.
Kirkland Cafe Executrix, $5.
Lilli's Poppa Chubby and Sandra Hall, 9pm, $12, 21+.
Lizard Lounge CD-release party for the Heygoods with Asa Brebner, Laurie Sargent, Billy Conway, Dana Colley, Ellen Cross, Jim Fitting, Tom Halter and Peter Johnson.

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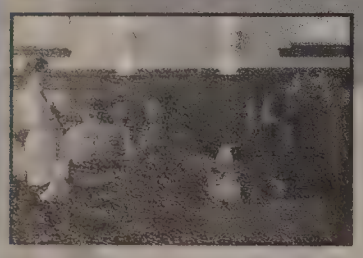

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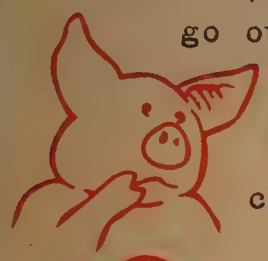

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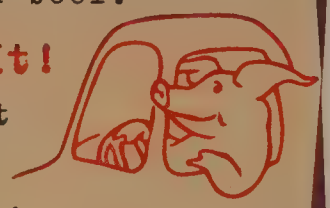

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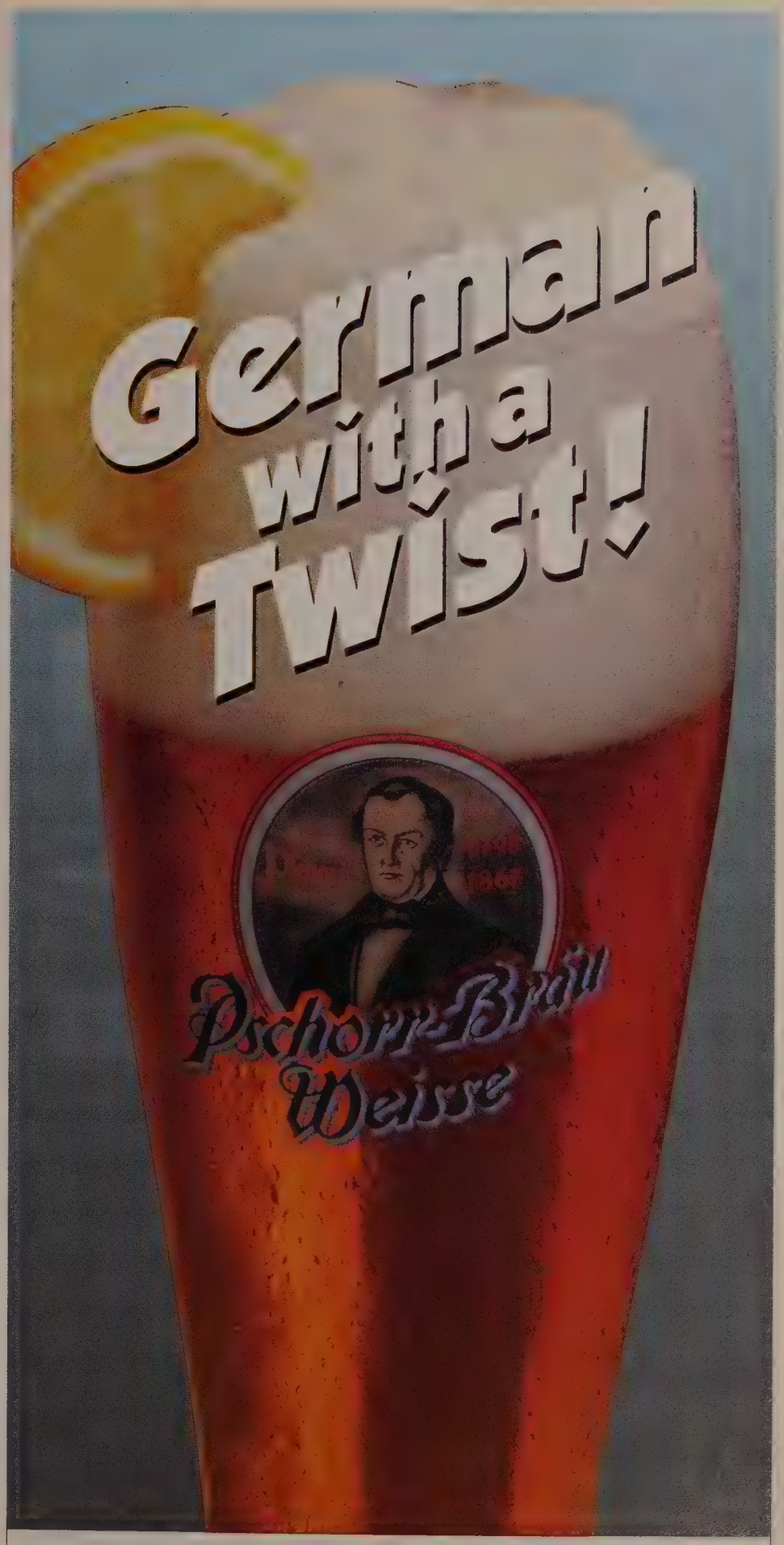

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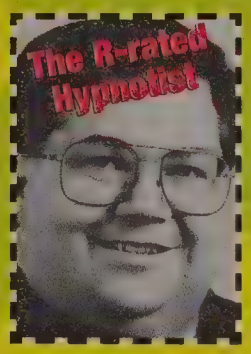

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Stephin Merritt of the Magnetic Fields performs all of his *69 Love Songs* Dec. 7 and 8.

Preview

Tainted Love

The Magnetic Fields play their *69 Love Songs*

Pop rocker Stephin Merritt has been the mastermind behind several musical projects—as composer, producer and instrumentalist/vocalist for the 6ths' *Wasps Nests* album, while recording all sorts of solo projects on his own four-track. Merritt is perhaps best known for his alterna-rock outfit the Magnetic Fields, which formed a decade ago in Boston and includes a slew of rotating guest lyricists and musicians. The group will perform each of the tracks on last year's album, *69 Love Songs*, Dec. 7 and 8 at the Somerville Theatre.

Merritt wrote, produced, played several instruments, and occasionally sang on *69 Love Songs*, a three-disc collection of sentimental, reflective tunes fit for modern lovers. It's an opus of diverse romantic pop tunes, all with a synth-pop tinge, that explore the emotional aspects that spring from love—the sticky sweet to the brokenhearted, the "come back" aspect of love to the "get out." The result is a collection that pays tribute to the history of love songs, while twisting and turning them into ultra-modern ballads. At times poetically introspective, the song "A Chicken with Its Head Cut Off" sentimentally proposes, "We don't have to be stars exploding in the night or electric eels under the covers; We don't have to be anything quite so unreal; let's just be lovers." Although the lyrics can at time take a turn toward the banal ("Reno Dakota" laments, "You have just disappeared; It makes me drink beer"), Merritt delivers the words with such straightforward sincerity that they surpass the "guy pining for a long-gone gal" cliché.

Merritt constructs love songs that are both timeless and refreshingly new and strange, with a mix-match of sounds—a banjo, ukilele, accordian, cello, flute—and elements of folk and blues for a rich melodic texture. Better hurry—tickets are selling fast. *The Middle East presents the Magnetic Fields at the Somerville Theatre Dec. 7 and 8, $18. —E.H.*

Middle East U: The Frogs, $8, 18+. D: A Very Merry Lif-mas with Mr. Lif, Company Flow, Cannibal Ox, Illin' P and Fakts and One, $10, 18+.
Milky Way UV Ray of New York, featuring DJ Deimer, DJ Static, DJ Seishi, $10.
Oak Bar Steve Soares.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett, 9pm, $3.
Rack Catunes, no cover.
Rhythm & Spice DJ Bim Inc. & Sound Vibration, 10:30pm-1:30am, $5, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Maeve Soain.
Sky Bar Gulliver Foyle, Smokstik, Hideous Playthings, Kid Tested, Zippergirl, the Lashes and Lisa Bastoni, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Generic, All the Queen's Men and Johnny Young, $6.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford Review, 9:30pm, 21+.

Friday, Dec. 8

Black Rose Up: The Crossing. Down: Eugene Byrne. 9pm, $5.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Club Passim Kris Delmhorst and Deb Talan opens, 8pm, $12.
Common Ground The Allstonians, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff The Return, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort Cut the Mullet, 7-10pm; Soul City, 10pm-2am, no cover.
Johnny D's Sue Foley, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's Second Story, 9pm, $5.
Kirkland Cafe XYGoatZ, Classic Ruins, Alabama Frank and the Mickey Bliss Combo, $5.
Lilli's The Sugarman 3 and Topaz, 9pm, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Laurie Sargent.
Middle East U: Mark Hamilton's B-Day Bash with Hybrasil, Francine and Banjo Spiders. 18+. D: Groove Collective and Shake Senora, $12, 18+.
Milky Way Aisler Set, Aden, Girlfriendo, Comit Gain, 9pm, $8.
Oak Bar Steve Soares
Purple Shamrock Pig Pen, 9pm, $5.
Rack Drew Ambrose, 6-9:30pm, no cover.
Rhythm & Spice Jack Lee and Divercity, 10:30pm-1:30am, $8, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Brazilian Dance Party.
Sky Bar Amelia White, Zoe Lewis, CD Collins and the Rockabetties, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio with Greg Hopkins, 9pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Black Heart Procession, Octant and Charlene, $8.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic Chronicles, 9:30pm, 21+.

Saturday, Dec. 9

Black Rose HH: Tony O'Riordan. Up: The Crossing. Down: Eugene Byrne. 9pm, $5.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Club Passim Kris Delmhorst, 8pm, $12.
Common Ground The Joint Chiefs, 10pm, cover varies.
Coogan's Bluff Pig Pen, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort The Jennerators, 7-10pm; Booty, 10pm-2am, no cover.
Jacob Wirths The Jay Sweet Trio.

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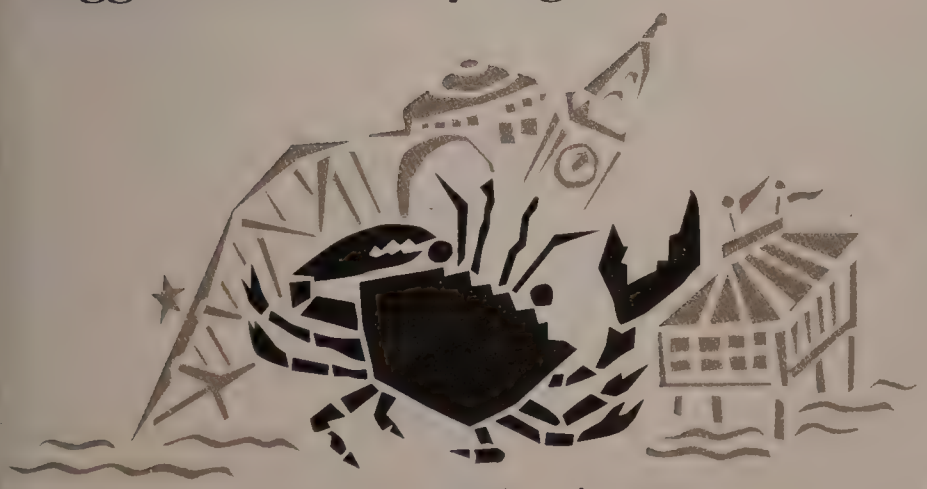

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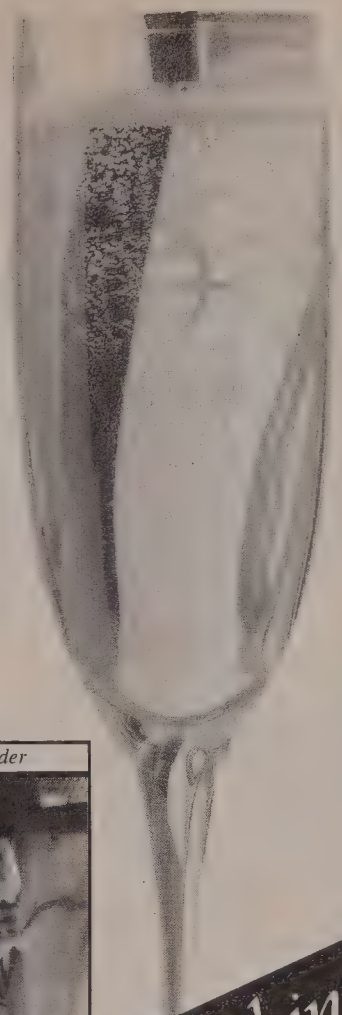

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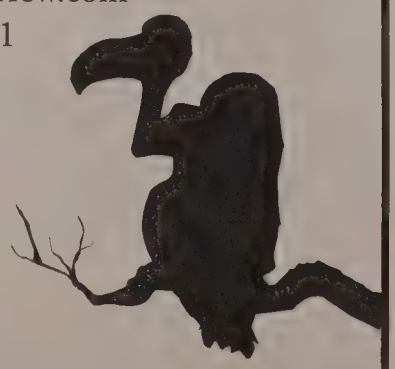

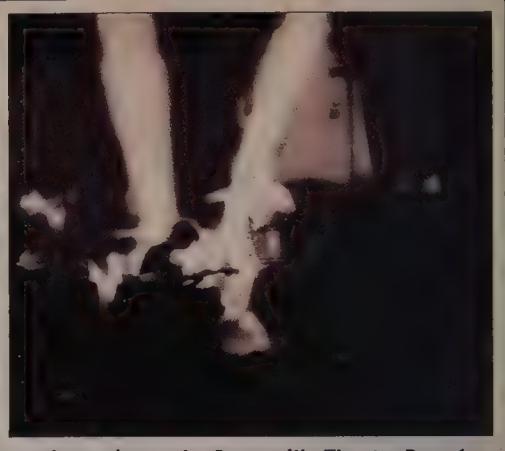

Enigmatic Godspeed You Black Emperor! bring post-rock passion to the Somerville Theater Dec. 1.

Preview

Slow Riot

Godspeed You Black Emperor! remain analog in a digital world

What is there to say about a band that refuses to pose for promotional photos, doesn't send out press releases or the standard official band bio, doesn't release singles or videos, doesn't even have a singer, and, in fact, never expected to be a band in the first place? In general, one wouldn't think there'd be much to say at all—it's hard to imagine a group like that getting anywhere in the music business. Quebec's Godspeed You Black Emperor!, fortunately, are the exception that proves the rule. By moving at their own wary pace, GYBE have built up a rather large following—in Canada, the U.S. and overseas as well (last year they sold out the prestigious Royal Festival Hall in London two nights in a row), and they've still been able to maintain a fairly low profile. As far as the "music business" goes, though, it's not much of an issue: They simply don't see themselves as part of it.

A Luddite sensibility and an affection for outdated technology are a couple of the defining characteristics of this nine-member ensemble. Using the standard rock triumvirate of electric guitar, bass and drums (well, two of each, actually), as well as cello, violin, trumpet and by-now anachronistic analog tape loops, they create haunting, evocative songs that are somewhat difficult to categorize. Drawn-out and dreamlike, some start off quietly and build to triumphant crescendos; others simply roll through the speakers with the churning power and eerie whistle of a distant train. It's a scruffy, bleary-eyed combination of rock, post-rock, jazz and chamber music, consciously both alienating and appealing in its lack of lyrical content. Think of it as music for a hangover on a rainy day after a night you spent with your closest friends.

Their most recent release, November's double album *lift your skinny fists like antennas to heaven* followed two years after their last EP, *slow riot for new zero kanada*, and improves on their already impressively mature sound. Last year they filled the Middle East upstairs from wall to wall, turned out all the lights save for one bare bulb, and performed lit by flickering film loops from three different projectors. It was an unforgettable show; their performance at the Somerville Theater Dec. 1 should be just as memorable. —*Andrew Graham*

Johnny D's Jimmy D. Lane, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's Off the Wall, 9pm, $5.
Lilli's The Bentmen with Mistle Thrush, 9pm, $10, 21+.
Linwood Barbero, Media Connection and Re Breather.
Lizard Lounge Dennis Brennan with special guests The Confidence Men.
Middle East U: Star Ghost Dog, Jr Corduroy, the Good Life (members of Cursive & Bright Eyes), $7, 18+. D: Buffalo Tom, $10, 21+.
Milky Way Mango's Latin Dance Club, free salsa lessons, 8:30pm, $7.
Oak Bar Steve Soares
Purple Shamrock Novakane, 9pm, $5.
Rack Vinny, no cover.
Rhythm & Muse April Hall, 9pm, $10.
Rhythm & Spice Caribbean Cruize Band, 10:30pm-1am, $8, 21+.
Sky Bar Mark Hamilton's Birthday Party with Fools Rush In, the Decals and the Silent Goodbye, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, with Richie Hart, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Chapter In Verse CD-release party with the Shelley Winters Project and Juniper's Daughter, $7.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30pm, 21+.

Sunday, Dec. 10

Bill's Bar Michael Rose, 11:30pm, 21+.
Black Rose HH: Tony O'Riordan. Down: Eugene Byrne.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
Club Passim Connie Kaldor, 7:30pm, $15.
Dick's Last Resort Evelyn McDonald Gospel Group, 10am-3pm; Rob Gonzalez, 7pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Blues Jam, 4:30pm; salsa dancing with Rumba NaMa, 9pm.
Lizard Lounge Poetry Jam featuring the Jeff Robinson Trio.
Middle East U: Victory at Sea and Poem Rocket, $7, 18+.
Milky Way Mystic Reggae, 9pm, $3.
Rack Chad LaMarsh, 9:30pm-1:30am, no cover.
Rhythm & Spice Caribbean Vibes with DJ Everlast, 10pm-1am, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub Jazz Piano Trio, 8pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Mo Matching Drapes, Heather Waters, Katie Barbato and Flavor Sergeant, $4.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30, no cover, 21+.

Monday, Dec. 11

Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Cantab Lounge Geoff Bartley's Open Mike, 8pm; Terry Tufts from Candada, 9:30pm.
Club Passim Lis Harvey, 9pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort Brick Park, 7pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Hot Tamale Brass Band, 8pm.
Middle East U: New Music Night with Laffin Freemen, the Humming, Nel Bryden and the Warren Drews, $6, 18+.
Rack Chad LaMarsh, no cover.
Top of the Hub Jazz Piano Trio, 8pm.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30pm, 21+.

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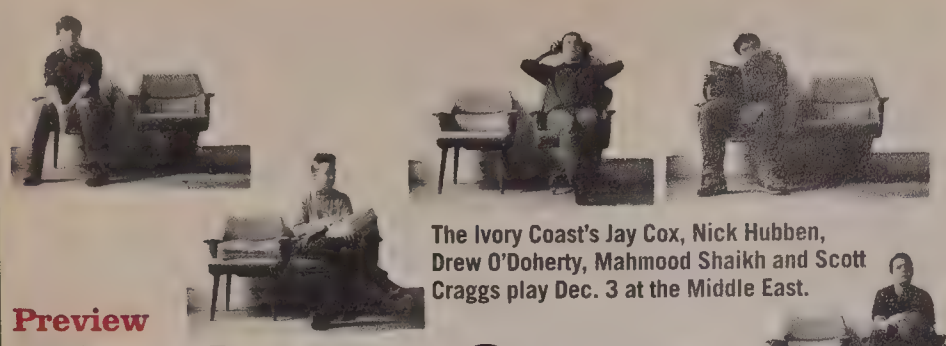

The Ivory Coast's Jay Cox, Nick Hubben, Drew O'Doherty, Mahmood Shaikh and Scott Craggs play Dec. 3 at the Middle East.

Preview

The Ivory Coast

Straight-up pop-rock songwriting, classic rock guitar, subtle dub, occasional hints of jazz. This is only part of the sonic mix swirled around by indie rockers the Ivory Coast on their recent debut CD, *The Rush of Oncoming Traffic* on Big Wheel Recreation. "We all come from very different backgrounds," says drummer Mahmood Shaikh, "so we all bring something very different to the band; it's definitely a collaborative effort." The band recently returned from a frenetically paced fall tour in the Midwest where they shared bills with Hey Mercedes and Jets to Brazil. Sample the band's singular sound Dec. 3, at the Middle East upstairs when they play with Rainer Maria, Aerialist and the Common Cold. *472 Mass. Ave, Cambridge (864-3278). —R.S.*

Tuesday, Dec. 12

Black Rose Eugene Byrne.
Cantab Lounge Sandy Sheehan, 9pm; Bluegrass Pickin Party, 10pm.
Dick's Last Resort Cut the Mullet, 7pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Kate Cambell and also Pat Burtis, 8:30pm.
Kirkland Cafe Chris Zahnleiter Trio.
Lilli's Mars Music Lounge Residency with the Anti-Jazz Raygun and Naftule's Dream, 9pm, $6, 21+.
Oak Bar Steve Soares
Rack Stu Sinclair, no cover.
Sky Bar Ordinary Man, Carry the Zeo and Pincushions, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Kitty in the Tree and Schism, $4.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30pm, 21+.

Music Venues

Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Attic *107R Union St., Newton (964-6615). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Center.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Bell in Hand Tavern *45-55 Union St., Boston (227-2098). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Berklee Performance Center *136 Mass. Ave., Boston (747-2261). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center/ICA.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (743-2286). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-6204). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave.*
The Bull and Finch Pub *84 Beacon St., Boston (227-9605). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Coogans Bluff *173 Milk Street., Boston (451-7415). MBTA: Orange Line to State Street.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
FleetCenter *One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (624-1000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Good Life Central *720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston (451-2622). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (367-0055). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket or North Station.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Jacob Wirth's *31-37 Stuart St., Boston (338-8586). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Davis Square, Somerville (776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jorge Hernandez Cultural Center *85 West Newton St., Boston (524-3816). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Kirkland Cafe *425 Washington St., Somerville (482-4920). Red Line to Davis.*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Lilli's *608 Somerville Avenue in Somerville (591-1661). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
The Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (267-8644). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.*
The Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard.*
McGann's Pub *197 Portland St., Boston (227-4059). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Milky Way Lounge and Lanes *405 Centre St., JP (524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
O'Brien's *3 Harvard Ave, Allston (782-6245). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Orpheum Theatre *Hamilton Place, Boston (482-0650). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
The Playhouse Lounge *74 Warrenton St., Boston (482-2227). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Paradise *967 Comm. Ave., Boston, (562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Babcock St.*
Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (227-2060). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (725-1051). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Regatta Bar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Rhythm & Spice *315 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (497-4308). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Central.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Rd., Cambridge (562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sidney's Grill *20 Sydney, Cambridge (494-0011). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Somerville Theatre *55 Davis Sq., Somerville (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boston.*
Tir na nÓg *366A Somerville Ave., Somerville (628-4300). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Toad *1912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (497-4950). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential Center.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Wally's Cafe *427 Mass. Ave., Boston (424-1408). MBTA: Green Line to Symphony.*
Western Front *353 Western Ave., Cambridge (492-7772). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard Ave., Allston (351-COOL). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Worcester Palladium *261 Main St., Worcester (508-797-9696).*
Les Zygomates *129 South Street, Boston (542-5108).*

classical music

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled Classical by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Classical Music or e-mail to classical@ improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers Web site information and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to deadline. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from many different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to doublecheck dates and times.

Wednesday, Nov. 29

FleetBoston Celebrity Series
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave, Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm, $35. World-renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma is joined by pianist Emanuel Ax in this performance.

Thursday, Nov. 30

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 10:30am and 8pm. Seiji Ozawa conducts the BSO as they perform works by Beethoven and Mozart.

Charness Family Quintet
Rabb Auditorium, 700 Boylston St., Boston (536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 2pm. Free. This family quintet performs their fourth concert in the greater Boston area.

MIT Chapel Concert Series
MIT Chapel, opposite 77 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (253-2826). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. 12pm. A series of 17th- and 18th-century noels are pastorales are performed.

NEC Honors Orchestra
Jordan Hall at New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (267-6502). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Stanislaw Skrowaczewski conducts the NEC Honors Orchestra in works by Gunther Schuller and Bruckner.

Friday, Dec. 1

The Boston Cecilia
Church of the Advent, Boston (232-4540). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 8pm. $11-$38. This performance of A European Christmas is led by diretor Donald Teeters. It features both new and old compositions.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 1:30pm. Seiji Ozawa conducts the BSO in works by Beethoven and Mozart.

Celebrity Series of Boston
Jordan Hall at New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (267-6502). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. The Julliard String Quartet performs.

Classical Music At MIT
Kresge Auditorium, 48 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (253-2826). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. 8pm. The MIT Wind Ensemble performs under the direction of Frederick Harris with the MIT Concert Choir.

Fridays at Trinity
Trinity Church, Boston (536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 12:15pm. Trinity's weekly concert series features Mark Dwyer.

Handel & Haydn Society
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-3605). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 7:30pm. $25-$68. The Handel & Haydn Society performs its 147th rendition of Handel's *Messiah,* led by conductor Julian Wachner.

Saturday, Dec. 2

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 2 and 8pm. Seiji Ozawa conducts the BSO in performing Beethoven's First Symphony and Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 2.

Classical Music At MIT
Kresge Auditorium, 48 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (253-2826). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. 8pm. $5. The MIT Concert Choir performs the music of Aaron Copland with the MIT Wind Ensemble.

Handel & Haydn Society
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-3605). MBTA: E Green line to Symphony. 3pm. $25, $39,$49 or$68. Same program as Dec. 1.

Longwood Symphony Orchestra
Jordan Hall at New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (332-7011). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Pianist Alicia Gabriela Martinez performs with the Longwood Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Francisco Noya.

Yo-Yo Ma performs Nov. 29 at Symphony Hall.

Sunday, Dec. 3

Bach Festival
Tsai Performance Center, 685 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-8724). MBTA: B Green Line to B.U. East. 7pm. Steven Ansell, Michelle LaCourse and Michael Licin perform several sonatas as well as *Brandenburg Concerto No. 6.*

Celebrity Series of Boston
Jordan Hall at New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (267-6502). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 2pm. Polar Express/Elijah's Angel perform.

The Boston Cecilia
All Saints Church, Brookline (232-4540). 8pm. $11-$38. This performance of *A European Christmas* is led by diretor Donald Teeters. It features both new and old compositions.

Gardner Sunday Concert Series
The Gardner Museum, 280 The Fenway, Boston (566-1401). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 1:30pm. $17. Ute Selbig, soprano, is accompanied by pianist Gertraud Gelssler. Selbig is the leading soprano for the Dresden State Opera.

Handel & Haydn Society
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-3605). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 7:30pm. $25, $39,$49, $68. Same program as Dec. 1.

Monday, Dec. 4

Bach Festival
Tsai Performance Center, 685 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-8724). MBTA: B Green Line to B.U. East. 7pm. Peter Zazofsky and John Daverio perform *Complete Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin.*

Handel & Haydn Society
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-3605). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 7:30pm. $25, $39,$49 or $68. Same program as Dec. 1.

Wednesday, Dec. 6

Musique a Midi
The French Library and Cultural Center, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (266-4351). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 12:15pm. Free. Piano Recital by Sergey Schepkin features Bach's Goldberg variations.

Friday, Dec. 8

BEMF Concerts
Church of the Advent, 30 Brimmer St., Boston (661-1812). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 8pm. As part of the Boston Early Music Festival, the Tallis Scholars perform two works from Tudor England, under the direction of Peter Phillips.

Celebrity Series of Boston
Jordan Hall at New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (267-6502). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3 and 8pm. Vienna Choir Boys perform.

Saturday, Dec. 9

BEMF Concerts
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 8pm. As part of the Boston Early Music Festival, the Tallis Scholars perform under the direction of Peter Phillips .

Sunday, Dec. 10

Boston Pops Holiday Concert
Worcester's Centrum Centre, 50 Foster St., Worcester (508-755-6800). 1:30pm. $25 or $35. The Boston Pops give their traditional performance of holiday favorites.

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Submit information including telephone numbers and nearest T stop by fax to (859-1446), mail or e-mail to gaylesbian@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted by phone.*

How to use this section
The following listings contain information that is subject to change. Contact the organization for changes in specific events.

CLUBS, BARS & HANGOUTS

Au Tua Nua
835 Beacon St., Boston (262-2121). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. $3-$5. Formerly known as Rira, this club regularly hosts DJ Vinney and Tim Collins and serves up karaoke as well as lots of food. But Sundays are sweet with Honey 'n' Spice Lesbian Nights.

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years these folks have been crankin' out some of the best Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. It's well worth a visit—if not for the three separate dance floors then for all the male dancers. 9pm, $15, 21+.

Buzz (Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays)
51 Stuart St. in the Theatre District, Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. On Saturday nights this place boasts two dance floors, two DJs, a pool room and a lounge. Two levels of dancing and schmoozing will keep the boys busy until 2am. 10pm, $5, 21+.

Chaps (Daily)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. www.chapsofboston.com. Sun.: Dance music of DJ Danae Jacovidis; Mon.: Grand Baby and Grand Piano night; Tue.: Retro DJ night; Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adielson Caesar; Thu.: DJs Billy and Fran, High Energy Dance; Fri.: Taboo Erotique with DJ Sammy; Sat.: High Energy Dance, DJ Danae Jacovidis.

City Girl Cafe (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri: 11am- 9pm; Sat: 10am-9pm; Sun: 10am-7pm. A small (five tables), laid-back cafe in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated. This cozy spot is home to a mixed gay/hetero crowd that lounges about, munching on sandwiches. Brunch on Saturday and Sunday, 10am-2pm.

Club Cafe (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-0966). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 11:30am-2am; Sat. 2pm-2am; Sun., 11am-2am. This trendy South End spot draws a mixed crowd that comes for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back (Moonshine). It's a dressy bunch that likes to mingle. No cover, 21+. •Carol O'Shaughnessy performs with Steve Heck, Dottie Dean or David Sparr, Thursdays. The first Wednesday of every month, Diva-licious. It's a two-hour drag variety show hosted by Drag-on Showgirl Diamond Dunhill and her friends. It's a great idea for bachelorette parties. 9pm, 21+.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (542-4494). Mon.-Fri., 3pm-2am; Sat., 1pm-2am; Sun., 12pm-2am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This is your friendly neighborhood bar with a quiet setting. It's best known for scrumptious Sunday brunches (12-4pm). This simple joint has all of the trappings of a true bar: smoky and dark. The place starts hopping as it gets closer to 2am.

Fritz (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Stroll in for a quiet drink or a rowdy night on the town. The folks here are friendly—and really into sports. Not only does Fritz have Direct TV set up with sets scattered about, it's also home base to a great softball league. 12pm, no cover, 21+.

Jacques
79 Broadway, Boston (426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. If you're looking to relax with a friendly crowd of gays and straights, and you like to mingle with disco-dancing drag queens, then you've found the place. Fri. and Sat. are local band nights. Tues. through Sun., however, divas rule the stage. 10:30pm, $4, weekends $6, 21+. •Sundays host the Drag-on Showgirl Showcase featuring Diamond Dunhill, Destiny and special guest divettes with their new, expanded 90-minute show. Bachelorette parties welcome. 10:30pm, 21+.

Lava Bar (Saturdays)
575 Commonwealth. Ave., Boston (267-7707). The Lava Bar's Tabu night boasts DJ Fran spinning out high-energy house with a taste of Latin beats. 10pm.

The Lizard Lounge (Wednesdays)
1667 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. "Marlene Loses It at the Lizard" is the title of this eclectic evening of poetry, live music and theater. 10pm, $5 cover, 21+.

Luxor (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (423-6969). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from the latest music scenes and classic old movies—compiled by the bar's own VJ. Downstairs is Jox. No cover, 21+.

Machine (Fridays, Saturdays)
1256 Boylston St., Boston (536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 10pm-2am;. www.ramrod-boston.com/machine. This is one of Boston's best gay bars, where you will find your friends dancing every weekend. Fri.: NYC DJ/Producer Darrin Friedman spinning. Sat.: Synergy with special guest DJs.

Man Ray (Thursdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (864-0400). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed.-Fri., 9pm; Sat., 10pm. A bustling hot spot caters to a young, alternative clientele. Two dance floors fill up on Thursdays for Campus, a predominantly male night where DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen take over. 10pm, $8 for 19+, $5 for 21+.

119 Merrimac (Daily)
119 Merrimac St., Boston (367-0713). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Sat., 10:30am-2am; Sun., 12pm-2am. This male cruise bar is the place to stop for drinks before or after FleetCenter events. Shoot a game of pool or play the video games. Merrimac features DJs playing hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s. 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. On Thursday nights, the Midway offers Kristen Porter's Dyke Night—the women's club alternative. With a DJ and plenty of dancing to '70s, '80s and '90s music, 9pm, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (494-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Central. On Monday, a bartender not only mixes drinks but strips too. Male strippers are featured Wed.-Sat. Mon. is Gothic night; Tue. is techno; and Thu. is college night. On Fridays DJ Sam Sampson spins, and on Sat. come hear DJ Brad Gwynn. 5pm, no cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (266-2986). Green Line to Kenmore. 12pm-2am. www.ramrodboston.com. The largest leather bar in the East enforces a tight dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room). Sun.: buffet and mandance with DJ Joey Bermudez. Mon.: pool tournament and pizza. Tue.: Spice 4 Life with DJ Kal Muzak. Wed.: Twitch with DJ SGT Dennis. Thu.: Primal Dance with DJ James Hughes. Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danae Jacovidis. Sat.: With DJ Dennis Sargent.

BOOKS

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge. (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Fri., 10am-8pm; Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. New England's oldest women's bookstore offers a wide selection of literature. Its author series continues throughout the fall.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12pm-6pm. One of Boston's best literary gay and lesbian bookstores.

SHOWS & EVENTS

Boston Gay Men's Chorus
New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (424-8900). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Dec. 9, 8pm; Dec. 10, 3 and 8pm. $12-$35. Celebrate the holidays with the acclaimed 150-voice Boston Gay Men's Chorus—plus the sounds of an organ and brass instruments—in *Gloria,* a concert of festive classical works, carols and holiday favorites. The program includes the world premiere of Craig Carnahan's Hodie, *Bass Gloria.*

GLBT Parenting Workshop: Adoption 101 for GLBT Prospective Parents
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland Street, Boston (927-6243). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Nov. 29, 6:30pm. Free. Learn more about adoption choices and the process itself. There is information on domestic and international adoption, costs, agencies that are gay friendly and more.

How Mrs. Grinchley Swiped Christmas
BCA Theatre at the Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont Street, Boston (536-5981). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Dec. 1-17; Wed., Thu. and Fri., 8pm; Sat., 7 and 9pm; Sun., 7pm. $20.50. A pair of men dressed as cartoon hookers and one "fag-hag" make for one bawdy, hilarious and heartwarming holiday show. Ryan Landry and the Gold Dust Orphans team up for the annual musical parody.

You will obey! Go see *How Mrs. Grinchley Swiped Christmas* at the BCA Theatre.

Venetian Fantasy: A Benefit for the Fenway Community Health Center
Ritz Carlton Hotel, 15 Arlington St., Boston (927-6350). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Nov. 30, 7:30pm. $250. Black-tie. Hosted by Hasbro Inc. Chairman and CEO Allan G. Hassenfeld and his wife, Vivian, this gala event is the North American debut of Paris-based painter Roberto Garcia-York's unique and extraordinary costumes, made for the annual Venice Carnival.

World AIDS Day: African AIDS Initiative
Trinity Church, Copley Square, Boston (496-5998). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Dec. 1, 6-9pm. This evening dedicated to increasing awareness of AIDS in Africa is hosted by Reverend Samuel Lloyd. Speakers include professor of Afro-American Studies and Philosophy at Harvard University K. Anthony Appiah, Ms. Belynda Dunn of the AIDS Action Committee, Jacqueline Maloney of the Sisters' Project, Boston Councilman Michael Ross, State Senator Diane Wilkerson and U.S. Senator John Kerry.

World AIDS Day: Candlelight Vigil
City Hall, 187 Winnisimmet St., Chelsea (884-3238). Dec. 1, 6-8 pm. Marchers gather at Roxbury Community College for the 8th annual march to the Multicultural AIDS Coalition. There is a rally, a slew of entertainment and refreshments.

World AIDS Day: Community March and Rally
Roxbury Community College, Roxbury (414-4554). Dec. 1, 5-8:30pm. One of the biggest AIDS Day events, this march and rally starts at Roxbury Community College.

World AIDS Day: Medicine Wheel
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (269-8382). Nov. 30, 11pm-Dec. 1, 12am. This 24-hour, interactive art installation and vigil of dance, song, ritual and prayer by artist Michael Dowling features 36 pedestals and portable shrines. Processions take place every hour on the hour, leaving the BCA and dropping pebbles to create a "universal path," while chanting or remembering the name of someone affected by HIV/AIDS.

World AIDS Day: MIT Women's League
MIT, Lobby 10, 77 Mass. Ave, Cambridge, (253-3656). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Dec. 1, 10am-4pm. A day of activities includes a viewing panel from the Names Project memorial quilt, information tables and a Chocolate Buffet fund-raiser to benefit the pediatric AIDS unit of the Children's Hospital.

ONGOING

Am Tikva
(883-0893). www.amtikva.org. A community of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered Jews.

Bawl
(508-628-5477). This lesbian softball league offers opportunities to join teams in both the recreational and competitive divisions. Call Liz.

Best Foot Forward
Ballet Etc. Dance Studios, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (522-1444). MBTA: B Green Line to Washington St. For gays/lesbians/bisexuals of all swing skill levels.

Bi-Curious Men's Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland Street, Boston (927-6032). 7pm. For men who are bisexual or think they might be, meets the second Tuesday of every month. Free and confidential.

Boston Glass
Community Center, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Daily 8-10pm. Support groups and social activities for adolescents ages 13-25.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). www.chiltern.org/chiltern. A 1,400-member gay club with hiking, biking, camping, skiing and other outdoor activities.

Common Bond
(781-433-7023). A support group for gay/lesbian/bisexual current or former Jehovah's Witnesses.

Color Me Healthy/Sano y Salvo
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland Street, Boston (927-6244). 6pm. This discussion group for men of color meets the first Thursday of each month.

Coming Out Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland Street, Boston (927-6202). A short-term (10-12 week) group for men and women to discuss issues related to coming out.

Community Rainbow
Boston Living Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston. 7:45 pm. An organization whose mission is to advocate for the community. Meets Thursdays.

Cosmetically-Correct
Laurel's Restaurant, 142 Berkeley St., Boston. www.egroups.com/community/cosmeticallycorrect. A social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month, 7:30pm. Lipstick optional.

Dykes Who Hike
(522-6185). This hiking group is for lesbians in the Boston area who want to conquer the wilderness.

East Coast Wrestling Club
With more than 160 members, this is an extraordinarily popular New England spot for gay male wrestlers. Call Marc at 401-467-6737, or go online at *http://members.tripod.com/~ecwc* or e-mail *ecwc@juno.com.*

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (824-4266). www.frontrunnersboston.org. A running club for the LGBT community meets Saturdays.

Gay Men Over 40
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland Street, Boston (927-6202). Fridays, 12pm. An ongoing group for gay men age 40 and older working on life stage issues.

Gay Volleyball
Cambridge (822-2148). Sundays, 6pm, $7. Typically seven teams play on three courts. Teams are made up each week depending on who shows up (mostly men, but women are welcome).

Gender Free Contra Dancing
First Church of Jamaica Plain (448-2429). www.piac.net/users/latte/lcfd/. Come one, come all to evenings of contra and square dancing.

HIV Counseling and Testing
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland Street, Boston (267-0159). Anonymous HIV antibody testing and pre- and post-test counseling.

Hump Day
Skupper Jacks in Acton. Every third Wednesday at 5:30pm, Boston's gay, lesbian and transgendered individulas come together to hang. For more information, contact *Tom.Evans@digital.com.*

Latino Social Groups
Latino Gay Men's Project (350-6900 ext. 125) and the Women's Social Group (350-6900 ext. 124).

Long Yang Club
(825-5677) www.longyangclub.org/boston. Boston's club for Gay Asian Men and their friends bring the East and West together.

Male Survivors of Sexual Assault
(800-834-3242). This free 10-week program is held in conjunction with the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center for male survivors of adult sexual assault.

OOPS
Melting Pot Coffee House, 2 Belgrade Ave., Roslindale (323-4123). Out On the Parkways invites one and all to come on down for some dinner and coffee.

PFLAG
Fenway Community Health Center, 7 Haviland St., Boston (547-2440). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets every fourth Monday, 6:30-8:30pm.

Psychotherapy Group for Lesbians
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland Street, Boston (927-6202). Tuesdays. An ongoing group for lesbians working on self-esteem and intimacy issues. The group is facilitated by a mental health professional.

Queer Corps
131 Clarendon St., 4th floor, Boston (450-1676). Tuesdays, 6-8pm. A community-mobilization project by and for queer men who are age 25 and under.

Sexual Health
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland Street, Boston (927-6238). A new program that started in October, this is a short-term support and education group for gay and bisexual men.

Tennis4all
Boston's gay and lesbian tennis club, with monthly tournaments and pizza socials. Call Ted at 779-7231.

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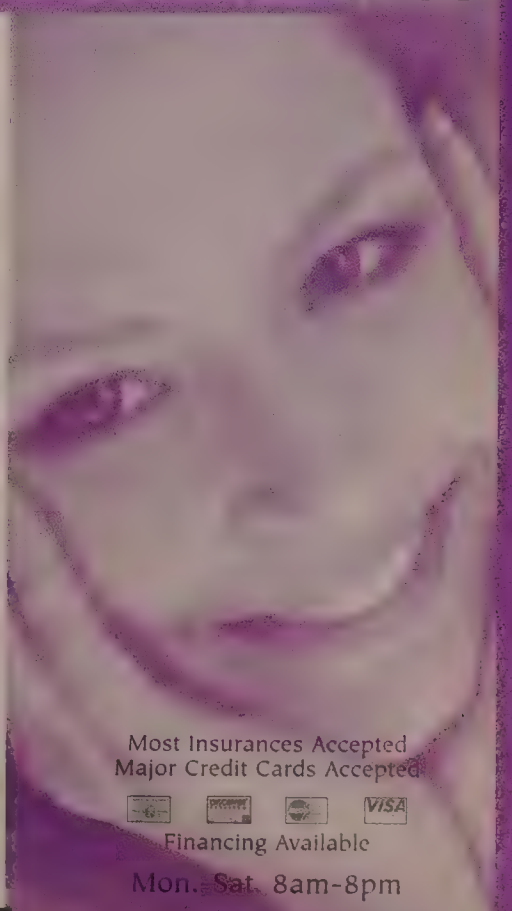

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Submit updated information by mail, fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/ Mind, or electronically to body-mind@improper.com. *Include a brief but thorough description of the event, time, date, location and directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.*

EVENTS

Dance of Universal Peace
First Church Congregational, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (876-6883). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Dec. 1, 7:30-9:30pm. $6. Simple, joyous and meditative circle dances honor the spiritual traditions of the world. Everyone is welcome.

Soulful Sundown
First and Second Church, Marlborough and Berkeley streets, Boston (267-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Dec. 10, 5:30pm. $6. Singer-songwriter **Kendra Flowers** performs at this worship series exploring the arts, spirituality and social justice.

Talking to the Other Side
Omega Institute in Boston, Arlington Street Church, 351 Boylston St., Boston (800-944-1001). www.omega-inst.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Dec. 2, 10am-4:30pm. $125.* The bonds of love between people are the link that allows world-renowned medium and bestselling author **James Van Praagh** to make the connection between the earth and the spirit world. In this workshop Van Praagh shares his unique experiences of life and death and demonstrates his extraordinary gift.

CLASSES

Awaken the Ground of Compassion
Cambridge Dzogchen Center, First Church in Cambridge Congregational, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (623-9866). www.cambridgedzogchen.org. *Dec. 2, 9am-4pm. $55.* This daylong seminar with **Lama John Makransky** will focus on the Tibetan practices of heart training and tantric imaging to help you uncover your hidden resources of compassion.

Beat Holiday Stress
Brookline Adult and Community Education, Brookline High, 115 Greenough St., Brookline (730-2700). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. Dec. 6, 7-9pm. $31. There are a lot of duties and "have-to's" that can envelop you during the season of joy. But this workshop could be the best gift to yourself this year. Learn to identify stress it triggers and practice some calming and communication techniques.

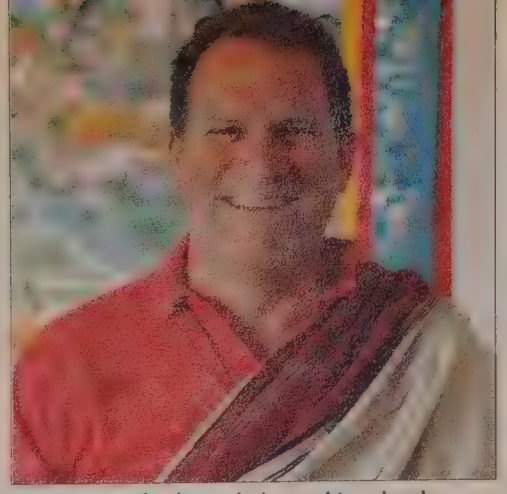
Carpal Tunnel and Repetitive Strain
BKS Iyengar Center, 240A Elm St., Suite 23, Somerville (666-9551). http://www.yoganow.net. *MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Dec. 3, 12-4pm.* $45. Investigate the root problem associated with repetitive motion injury. Learn exercises to help with the pain and find out how yoga can help.

Danskinetics Celebration
Green Street Studios, 185 Green St., Cambridge (974-7606). www.bethdance.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Parking at Pearl and Green. Dec. 2, 7:30-9pm. Dec. 10, 3-4:30pm. $15 or $25 for two people.* Get wild and celebrate your existence with some exhilarating yet restorative yoga and dance.

Hong Family Five Qi Gong with Steve Jackowicz
Charles River School of Shiatsu, 180 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington (781-643-1545). www.dellepro.dellhost.com/CharlesRiverShiatsu. *Dec. 2, 10am-5pm; Dec. 3, 9am-4pm; Dec. 9-10. $95 for one day or $175 for both.* Qi is the life energy that flows through you. This weekend focuses on development of Qi sensitivity and the Tai Chi six-posture Qi Gong set. Working with your Qi flow can help you feel more alive.

Incorporate Astrology into Everyday Life
Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Nov. 28, 29, 30. 7-9:30pm. $33 each. Innovative astrologer **Jim Valliere** will demystify astrology for you and teach you how to use it practically to improve your life. He'll be conducting the following classes: Creating Opportunity with Astrology, Relationship Astrology and Astrology of Meditation.

Taoism and Chinese Medicine
New England School of Acupuncture, 40 Belmont St., Watertown (926-1788, ext. 5). www.nesa.edu. *Dec. 10, 1-5pm. $40.* The 2,000-year-old text, the *Tao Te Ching* by Lao Tzu, is the most widely translated of all the classic Chinese philosophy. This workshop will introduce you to its fundamental principles and how these ideas can benefit your health and interactions.



Western meditation scholar and teacher Lama Surya Das speaks in Cambridge Dec. 11.

LECTURES

Introduction to Philosophy and Metaphysics
New Acropolis Organization, First Parish Unitarian Church, 3 Church St., Cambridge (591-9959). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Dec. 1, 7:30pm. Explore the most profound questions regarding our existence and the eternal quest for self-actualization. Questions explored include: What is the true "inner" nature of the human being? Where does the soul come from, and what happens to it after death?

Lama Surya Das
Cambridge Friends Meeting House, 9 Longfellow Park, Cambridge (623-9866). www.cambridgedzogchen.org. *Dec. 11, 7:30-9:30pm.* This night hosted by the Cambridge Dzogchen Center is a great chance to hear one of the foremost Western meditation scholars and teachers speak. Tonight's lecture will focus on nonviolence, forgiveness and cleansing anger from the heart.

Thursday Evening Health Lectures
Wellspace, Fresh Pond Mall, Cambridge (876-2660). www.wellspace.com. *Nov. 30, Dec. 7 and 11, 7:30-9pm.* The local palace of holistic health hosts informative lectures on varied alternative health topics. The next three will address these subjects in the order in which they take place: Emotional Release Techniques for Stress, Introduction to the Philosophy of Yoga and Living Your Full Potential.

What Is Enlightenment?
Impersonal Enlightenment Fellowship Boston, 38 Cameron Ave., Suite 100, Cambridge (492-2848). www. andrewcohen.org/boston. *Dec. 10, 4pm.* Investigate the nature of enlightenment and the liberating potential of spiritual inquiry with author and spiritual teacher **Andrew Cohen**.

ONGOING

Activity-Based Relaxation
New Directions for Yoga, Health and Psychotherapy, 5 Harvard Ave., Brookline (738-1648). MBTA: near D Green Line to Brookline Village and C Green line to Coolidge Corner. Sat., 7-8 pm, Sun., 6-7, or Mon., 10-11 am. $20 per class. For adults who enjoy being young at heart. Learn relaxation techniques while enjoying the process. Play games, explore scents, and learn various fun ways to bring relaxation and stress management into your daily life.

Dance Friday
Rug Cutter's Studio, 23 Main St., Watertown (924-7276). www.dne.org. *MBTA: #57, 70 or 71 bus. Fridays, 8:30pm-midnight. $7.* Dance any way you want to, even barefoot, to all kinds of music in this smoke- and alcohol-free environment.

Early Morning Yoga
Roni Brissette, 57 Waverley St., Brookline (738-9561). Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30pm. Call to register. Skip the coffee and feel energetic and peaceful all day with some early morning yoga.

Maintain Health
The Marino Center for Progressive Health, 2500 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6225). www.marinocenter.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Porter.* The Marino Center has the following ongoing groups and classes: Adult psychotherapy, Tuesdays: 5-7pm; Kripalu yoga, Mondays: 6-7:30pm; Hatha Yoga, Wednesdays: 6-7:30pm; Qi Gong, Wednesdays and Fridays: 6-7am.

Meditation and Healing Circle
Pinchas Baram, Coolidge Corner Area. (232-8070). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Sundays, 6pm. Free. This gathering happens twice monthly for an evening of sacred chanting, prayer, meditation, visualization, breathing and healing techniques along with readings from Kabalistic texts.

Yoga/Allston
Beacon Light Yoga Center, 215 Brighton Ave., Allston (739-0717). Sunday through Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. $18 per session (call ahead). If you've wanted to try yoga, then come down to the peaceful and inviting environment of this yoga center.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Children. Or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

TO SEE

Oliver!
C. Walsh Theatre, Suffolk University, 55 Temple St., Boston (424-6634). www.bostonchildrenstheatre.org. *Dec. 9-10, 16-17 and 27-30, 2pm. $10-$16.* The Boston Children's Theatre presents this Broadway musical based on Charles Dickens' tale. All roles are performed by students in grades 4 through 12.

THINGS TO DO

Children's Story Hour and Craft
The Harvard Coop, 1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (499-2000). Free. •Dec. 2, 11am: *Snow Tree* by Caroline Repchuk. Decorate a paper tree. •Dec. 9, 11am: *Mr. Crispy's Story of the First Candy Canes* by Sally R. Manley. Marble-paint a candy cane.

***A Christmas Carol* Re-enactment**
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Citizen Community Stage, Boston (737-3500). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Saturdays, 12:30 and 2:30pm, through Dec. 16. Throughout the season, Charles Dickens will represent the spirit of Christmas past with *A Christmas Carol*.

Copley Square Holiday Tree Lighting
Copley Square, Boston (536-2101). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Nov. 30, 4-5pm. The Salvation Army Brass Ensemble and Jubilee Kids Chorus perform and lead a community carol sing-along before and after the tree-lighting ceremony. Arthur the Aardvark makes an appearance.

Enchanted Village
City Hall Plaza, Boston (635-3911). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Nov. 20-Jan. 1. $1. The snow-covered small New England town is populated entirely by children, teddy bears, animals and Santa Claus. Performers entertain the crowd.

Fete de Noel
The French Library and Cultural Center, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (266-4351). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Dec. 2, 10:30am-12:30pm or 1-3pm. $6. Enjoy cookie decoration, films, a raffle, snacks and a visit by Santa Claus himself.

***The Nutcracker* Brunch**
The Ritz-Carlton, 15 Arlington St., Boston (536-5700). Sat., 10am; Sun., 11am. Dec. 2-3, 9-10 and 17. $50 adults, $29 children. Enjoy a buffet brunch with Clara and Fritz. The Boston Ballet Nutcracker Players re-enact the story of this ballet classic.

Planet of the Penguins
New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, Boston (973-5200). www.neaq. org. *MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Dec. 2-3. $12.50.* This event highlights penguins, with live animal programs, crafts and educational activities and talks by penguin experts.

Santa Sails Across the Charles
Harvard Boat House, Charles River, Cambridge (491-3434). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 11am-3pm. $50 adults, $25 children, to ride with Santa. Santa sails across the Charles from the Galleria Mall and arrives at the Harvard Boat House with a boatload of gifts and good cheer. Proceeds benefit Cambridge Family & Children's Services.

Saturday Scholars
Museum of Natural History, 26 Oxford St., Cambridge (495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Saturdays.* •Dec. 2, 9-11am, ages 4-5: Wonderful Winter. Learn how animals survive the winter and meet some animals from the Arctic. •Dec. 2, 9am-12pm, grades K and 1: **I Dig Dinosaurs**. From tyrannosaurus to triceratops, learn the latest dinodata. Why did dinosaurs disappear—or did they? •Dec. 9, 9am-12pm, grades 2 and 3: **Jaws and Claws**. Which animals can see in the dark, use sonar, sense body heat or smell blood? Meet animal predators. •Dec. 9, 9am-12pm: **Walking with Warriors**. Gain a deeper appreciation for native technology.

Wild Adventures
Franklin Park Zoo, 1 Franklin Park Road, Boston (541-LION). Enjoy these family programs at the zoo. •Dec. 6, 10:30-11:30am, 3- to 4-year-olds: Winter Sleep. 3:30-4:30pm, 5- to 6-year-olds: Warthogs. •Dec. 7, 3:30-4:30pm, 7- to 8-year-olds: Camels. •Dec. 8, 3:30-4:30pm, 9- to 11-year-olds: Jungle. •Dec. 9, 10:30am-12pm, 12- to 14-year-olds: Biodiversity and the Web of Life.

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

To Watch

Boston Bruins
•FleetCenter. Tickets: 931-2000
Dec. 1 (Away): Washington, 7pm, NESN
Dec. 2 (Home): Washington, 7pm, UPN 38
Dec. 4 (Away): Atlanta, 7:30pm, UPN 38
Dec. 6 (Away): Pittsburgh, 7:30pm, NESN
Dec. 8 (Away): Columbus, 7:30pm, NESN
Dec. 9 (Home): New York, 7pm, UPN 38
Dec. 12 (Home): Buffalo, 7pm, NESN

Boston Celtics
•FleetCenter. Tickets: $10-$75. Call 228-6000
Dec. 1 (Home): Minnesota, 7:30pm, FSNE
Dec. 3 (Home): L.A. Clippers, 12:30pm, FSNE
Dec. 5 (Away): Orlando, 7:30pm, FSNE
Dec. 8 (Home): Indiana, 7:30pm, FSNE
Dec. 10 (Home): Denver. 6pm, FSNE

New England Patriots
•Foxboro Stadium. Tickets: 931-2000
Dec. 4 (Home): Kansas City, 9pm, ABC
Dec. 10 (Away): Chicago, 1pm, CBS

New England Storm, Women's Football
•Mount Pleasant Stadium. Tickets: (888) 630-0598
Dec. 2 (Home): New York Sharks, 1:05pm
Dec. 9 (Home): New York Galaxy, 1:05pm

Event

Yuletide Stride
Charles Street, Boston. www.mindspring.com/~frontrunners/pages/yts2000/yts00_more.htm. *Dec. 3, 12pm. $15-$25.* The Yuletide Stride is a five-mile road race to benefit people with HIV and AIDS.

To Play

BASEBALL

Henry's Baseball Club
(781-891-0621). Players ages 17-30 sought for 2001.

BASKETBALL

Basketball City
Adjacent to North Station and the FleetCenter (742-6700). Corporate, midday and weekend leagues.

Co-Ed Indoor Basketball
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 224). Sun.-Thu. nights. All levels welcome. Leagues in Waltham, Dedham and Brookline.

The Corporate League of Boston
(566-7808).

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333). Practice and workout programs for all levels in Greater Boston.

South End Fitness Center League
(534-5823).

Women's Basketball League
(661-9622). Tue. 5:30-7pm, and Sun., 6-7:30pm.

BOXING

Boxing Workout
Vinny Greco's Powerhouse Gym, 125 Walnut St., Watertown (972-1711). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Enjoy the workout of a boxer—or become one yourself. Participate in one-on-one instruction in a supervised, safe environment with Boston Sport Boxing Club.

FOOTBALL

Indoor Flag Football
BSSC, Indoor Sports Center in Revere (789-4070). Sundays.

HIKING/WALKING

The Appalachian Mountain Club
Gorham, N.H. (603-466-2727). •Monthly AMC Young Members meetings at AMC headquarters, 4 Joy St., Beacon Hill (523-0655). Second Thursday of every month, 6-10pm, $3. Potluck. BYOB.

HOCKEY

Co-ed Floor Hockey
BSSC (789-4070). Individuals and teams, co-eds, all levels in Newton. Co-ed teams now forming.

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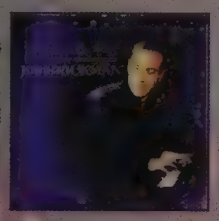

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- **24 Winter Street** Downtown Crossing 617-357-8444
- **The Mall at Chestnut Hill** 617-964-8109
- **Solomon Pond Mall**, Marlborough (off I-290) 508-303-3666
- **Avon, CT** at 380 W. Main Street 860-678-9400

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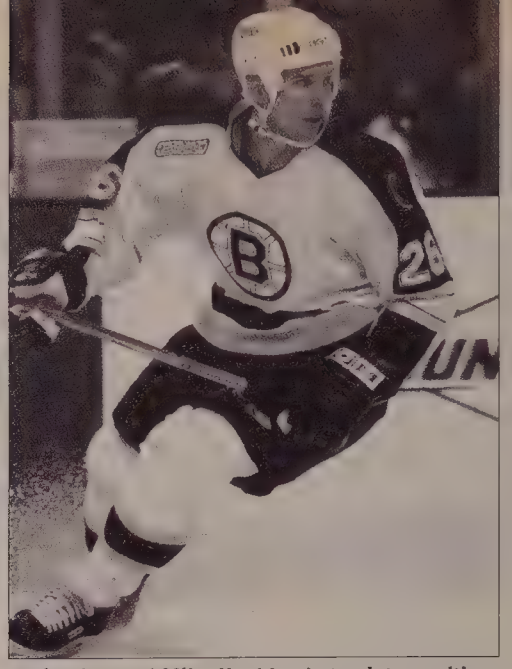

Bruins forward Mike Knuble skates into position.

go away

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Lessons available at 16 MDC rinks in Greater Boston (781-890-8480). www.iceskatingclasses.com. Wait a minute—it seems that fall just got here and now it's time for ice skating lessons already?

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
(499-4835). Weekly runs year-round. Serious drinkers with a running problem.

Boston Road Club Weekly Races
(781-646-8955). Sundays. Starts at Wells Ave. in Newton.

Fresh Pond Weekly Road Races
Fresh Pond Reservation. Saturdays, 10am. Choose between a 2.5- or 5-mile run.

Khoury's Thursday Night Runs
East Somerville. (351-5682). 4.13 miles. 7pm at Khoury's Bar.

Logan Post 5K
1194 Broadway, West Somerville (283-3292). Every Thursday at 7:10pm.

NikeTown Boston Running Club
200 Newbury St., Boston (267-3400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Three-to-five-mile loops. Starts at 6:30pm. Monthly mini-clinics as well.

SNOW SPORTS

Ski & Board Weekends
BSSC (789-4070). The Boston Ski & Sports Club offers day and weekend trips throughout the winter. • Wednesdays, Saturdays or Sundays this winter. 5:30am/6am bus departures from Newton, Newburyport and Tewksbury. Dec. 2 and Dec. 6: Okemo. Dec. 3: Mt. Snow. Dec. 9: Loon. Dec. 10: Mt. Snow. • Weekend trips include roundtrip transportation and lift tickets. Dec. 1-3: Sunday River. Dec. 8-10: Sugarloaf.

SOCCER

BSSC Soccer
BSSC (789-4070, ext. 225). Co-ed teams for both indoor and outdoor soccer.

TENNIS

Boston Tennis Club
Located next to North Station, Boston (742-6700). Adult and youth clinics, socials, open play and matching. Come with balls.

BSSC Tennis
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070). $40. Play mixed doubles in Waltham on Saturday nights. Price includes 2.5 hours of play and appetizers.

VOLLEYBALL

Adult Co-ed Volleyball League
Waltham YMCA (781-894-5295). Monday nights, began Sept. 13. All levels welcome at this friendly co-ed league.

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club, (789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. at various locations. Co-ed indoor 6-on-6 leagues. Four different levels of play. • Co-ed pickup games Tuesdays and Fridays at West Newton Armory, 1137 Washington St. $5.

Co-ed Volleyball-Waltham
Waltham YMCA, 725 Lexington St, Waltham (781-894-5295). Monday nights.

WRESTLING

Men's Adult Wrestling
Boston Union, 48 Boylston St., Boston (482-1122). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm; Saturdays 1-3:30pm. All skill levels. Coaching available.

NORTH OF BOSTON

Salem Trolley
191 Essex St., Salem (978-744-5469). www.trolleydepot.com. *Dec. 8-31.* Take an anything-but-ordinary ride through the streets of Salem. Ebenezer Scrooge will make an appearance, leading trolley-riders through the town. Actors portray the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future.

Jingle Bell Tour
Footprints Walking Tour, Bearskin Neck, Rockport (978-546-7730). Fri.-Sun., 10am and 1pm. Join Footprints on their holiday walking tour and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies at the end of each tour—plus a visit with Santa.

SOUTH OF BOSTON

Christmas Festival of Lights
LaSalette Shrine, 947 Park St., Attleboro (508-222-5410). Fri.-Sat., 5-10pm; Sun.-Thu., 5-9pm. In 1852, the missionaries of Our Lady of LaSalette built this shrine as a perpetual remembrance of the Virgin Mary. A century-and-a-half later, the shrine is home to the largest religious Christmas display of lights in the East. It's a knock-your-socks-off display.

A Victorian Christmas
Fall River Historical Society, 451 Rock St., Fall River (508-679-1071). Tour the museum and see the holiday displays, authentic Victorian down to the last holly branch.

WEST OF BOSTON

Holly Celebration
Gore Place, 52 Gore St., off Route 20 (Main Street), Waltham (781-894-2798). Dec. 8-9, 5:30-8pm. When the ground floor rooms of this 1806 mansion are decorated for the holiday, it's a sight to see. Find out for yourself as this National Historic Landmark holds its own holiday celebration, 19th-century style. Festivities will include a candlelit, cozy atmosphere, refreshments, music and more.

Bright Nights at Forest Park
Forest Park, Sumner Avenue, Springfield (413-733-3800). www.brightnights.org. *Sun.-Thu., 6-9pm; Fri.-Sat., 6-11pm. Through Jan. 7.* Take a 2.5-mile drive and see more than 350,000 twinkling lights on display.

CAPE & THE ISLANDS

Hyannis Harbor Lighting
Ocean Street, Hyannis Harbor, Hyannis (508-362-5230). Dec. 2. Hyannis' boats and harbor will be lit to mark the beginning of this year's holiday season.

Falmouth Christmas Parade
Falmouth Mall, Route 28, Falmouth (508-548-8500). Dec. 3, 1pm. Join the residents and businesses of Falmouth in an old-fashioned town parade, complete with floats, Girl and Boy Scouts and even four-legged friends from local greyhound racing territory.

Nantucket Noel & Christmas Stroll
Nantucket, Mass. (508-228-0659). Nov. 23-Dec. 31. Festivities for this annual monthlong celebration begin the day after Thanksgiving with the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and continue through New Year's Eve with theatrical performances, concerts, holiday exhibitions and the Christmas Stroll, Dec. 1-3.

mark your daytimer

UPCOMING EVENTS

CITYSCOPE

Menorah Lighting Celebration
Dec. 21, Boston Common

First Night Boston
Dec. 31, Downtown

THEATER

Godspell
Dec. 19-Jan. 7, Shubert Theater

MUSIC

98 Degrees
Dec. 13, Avalon

Barenaked Ladies
Jan. 1, FleetCenter

Bo Diddley
Jan. 10, Museum of Fine Arts

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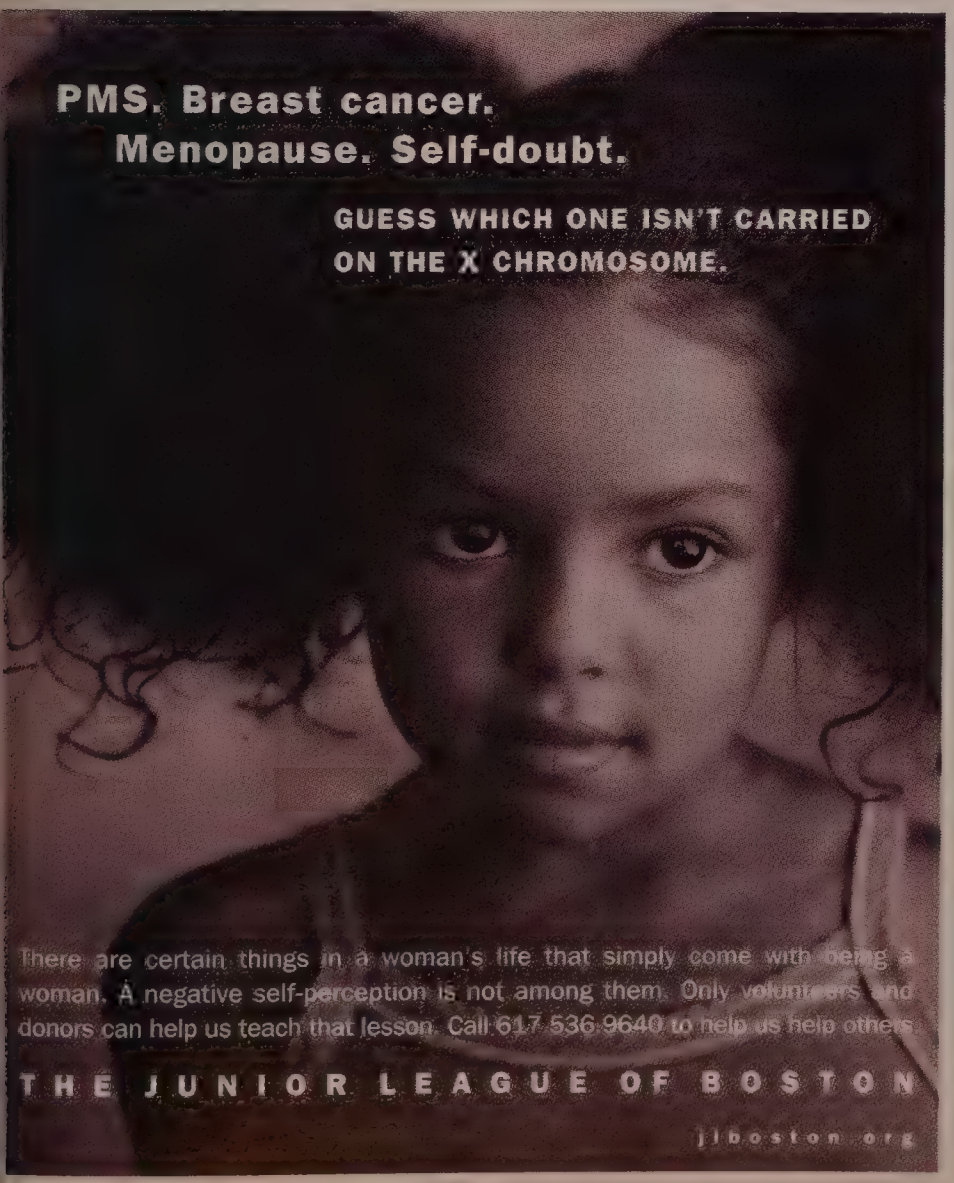

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Information on the web: www.revels.org

Improper Impersonals

If everyone kept their feelings bottled up like warm beer, we'd soon have antisocial behavior exploding all over the place and ruining the upholstery. So send us your letters of love and spleen, and we'll print them for the world to see. Heck, it's better than making a fool of yourself in person. And IT'S FREE! Pick up a pen or keyboard (hint: we like the fact that e-mailed messages mean that we don't have to risk ruining our manicures by—ugh—typing) and write to:

IMPROPER IMPERSONALS
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116
FAX: 859-1446 E-MAIL: impersonals@improper.com
Recent correspondence follows.

To the handsome red-haired EMT
You were on board the Red Line to Alewife on Oct. 26. Your quick response and gentle touch when a passenger collapsed (at my feet) saved the day. You were skilled, caring and didn't mention your name when you exited at Porter Square. I hope you'll be there when I finally cave in en route to Davis Square.
—Impressed

Cottonwood Guy
My girlfriends and I come into the Cottonwood on Berkeley St. every Wednesday and Friday night just to get a look at you. It's not hard considering you are the first person we see when we walk in. You are tall and handsome with brown hair and brown eyes, nice butt and a smile that makes all of us melt. My friends and I feel like little schoolgirls whenever you seat us at our table. I don't know anything about you except your name (Kevin), but I hope that someday I will be brave enough to approach you. Till then I look forward to seeing you.
—Schoolgirl Girl

T Person
I'm going to miss you and our morning chats. My shift changes next week and the A.M. just wont be the same. I know I can never be with you; you're not the cheating type (darn). I just hope that your man realizes just how lucky he is. Thanks for always making the morning rides into the city a little more tolerable.
—Coffee Man

Shared Glances
I saw you Nov. 3 in Government Center. We both got on the C Train. I sat in a single seat, and you sat with your friend two seats away from me on the other side. I was listening to my Walkman, and you were chatting with your friend. He got off, and you and I started sharing glances. You were wearing a grayish suit, a yellow Eddie Bauer fleece underneath your suit jacket. You had a gold ring on a finger, and dark-brown hair. I had short shoulder-length hair up in a barrett, and a grayish sweater on with a white shirt underneath, and khaki pants. You then sat facing me and I to you. I stood up, getting ready to get off my stop and gave you a slight smirk; it was at the Fairbanks stop. I then got off at Washington Square and hoped you were getting off too, but you stayed on. I could have kicked myself for not putting my number and name on a piece of paper and handing it to you, but I am a coward. I would like to hear from you if possible. If you know who you are, and those glances were of interest, please email me!
—slstevenson@hotmail.com

Beautiful Cheerleader
Oct. 28: I was at a friend of a friend's Halloween party in Davis Square and saw you, the most beautiful girl in the world. You were a cheerleader with brown hair and pony tails. I didn't have a costume; I was wearing a black leather jacket, jeans and my *Les Mis* T-shirt (and the air of a man suddenly smitten). I wanted to say hello, but we didn't stay long. Besides, you were in the kitchen surrounded by people I didn't know. I'd love to see you again and get to know about you. I have an extensive Pog collection and like to lift weights. Tell me, did the "W" on your shirt stand for Wonderful?
—dirkd71@hotmail.com

Cracker Jack Girl
Halloween night at The House of Blues, you took me by surprise. Before I arrived, I lost my mask, and my friend never showed up, but my luck changed when our eyes met and your grace, smile and charm melted me completely. With a costume to shield my shyness, we talked, and with each word I was gathering momentum to ask you out. But before I asked, you got called to the stage as a finalist in the costume contest, being the loveliest woman there. Evidently the man in the hardhat thought so too. By the look on your face, I thought you wanted my tall, dark Zorro to come and rescue you. I knew this more so when we said good-bye, as I had to leave (Fortune seemed to have been playing games with me that evening). Emmie, I never got your number or gave you mine, and I can't shake your smile or soft touch from my mind. So instead of continuing to kick myself for not taking action, I throw hope to the wind and wonder if you will see this message and get in touch.
—Peter at h2OpoloBoston@yahoo.com

Ojos Azules
So, you say you can't let people get close to you? I've got news for you—they already are. If love comes from respect, admiration and affection, it's safe to say that we all love you, some of us even more than others. I could do my job in half the time I put in; I stay the extra hours to spend time with you, losing sleep and pulling out my hair in the process because I'm so eager to get to know you better. I wish you would just trust me, because of all the people I have ever known, you're the only one I would take huge measures to never let down. If you give me half a chance when summer comes, I know I could make it worth it. No pressure, of course, because I don't want to scare you off. From the bottom of my heart, you're a wonderful human being, a hell of a boss and a great catch. You're one in a million, and if it's not me, God bless the lucky woman that gets you for keeps. Know I'm trying to make you smile and know I care.
—A Happy Employee

To BSWW
Who would have thought that your beautiful angel face could have hidden such a thoughtless heart.
—A real sweetheart.

Newbury Street Chronicles
It was September. You sat next to me at the bar at Trident, ordered a large side of fries with ketchup AND Tabasco. You: straight brown hair, waifish, penetrating eyes. Now I am not the most outgoing guy, but I pulled myself together, took a deep breath, leaned over seductively and uttered, "Can I borrow the Tabasco?" End of story, I'd never see you again, right? Not in Boston. Just two months later I'm nearly speed-walking because I'm late to meet some friends, when I sense someone gaining on me from behind. I look back over the right shoulder, you pass on the left. My neck snaps back just in time to see, oh my God, the girl from Trident! You duck into Friday's as my friends stop me on the sidewalk. I dragged them in but you were lost in the crowd. If you see this, e-mail me.
—trident123@att.net

Bitch Who Stole My Wallet
You know who you are, you selfish, ignorant, fat bitch! From what the restaurant tells me, it was not the first time this has happened in their establishment. Why do I know it was probably you who stole that other woman's wallet as well? Are you proud to be a thief? What's the matter, are you too lazy and above everyone else to find a respectful way to earn a living? You're such a slimy, scum-sucking, low-life pig! You didn't think I would be smart enough to think back and figure out what happened and remember how out of place you looked at such a classy establishment in your old trashy clothes smoking that disgusting cigarette, did you? You're going down, bitch, and it's just a matter of time. Enjoy what little time you have left out in society. Soon your fat low-life ass will be in jail!

Rockie Horoscope

NOVEMBER 29 – DECEMBER 12, 2000
BY ROCKIE GARDINER

SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21
Happy birthday to the Centaurs who will make a discernible difference in the way we, the people, deal with decay, disease and the abuse of power. As the Sag sun and regenerative Pluto merge this week, you become a force to be reckoned with. If ever you needed to rid yourself of a nasty habit or tap into the source of creative energy, now would be the time to follow through. The rest of us could take off on a wild ride when Mercury in Sag opposes our Jupiter ruler midweek. Where is the partnership headed?

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20
Don't let a downer mood on Friday, when Mercury and your Saturn ruler are in opposition, ruin your weekend. "Bad" news, as we've all come to realize, can suddenly turn into a blessing. So by Monday night, when Saturn is rewarded by magnetic Venus in your sign, you could be sitting on top of the world. Self-satisfaction and serenity become you. Ask for a reward befitting your position, because right now, chances are you won't be denied. Colleagues need to show how powerful they are; your boss wants to surprise you.

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18
It can get pretty exciting this weekend, especially if you're trying something new. While gutsy Mars favors your Uranus ruler, you'll have the courage and determination to go beyond whatever limits you once set for yourself. Unusual, state-of-the-art and ground-breaking are the criteria that matter. You also get help from above as the sun and powerful Pluto join forces in your career midheaven. If you want a favor, ask, or better still, subtly suggest it. But don't ask for money; that's not part of the present picture.

PISCES
FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19
Success rears its Medusa-like head this week. What are you willing to risk and who will you piss off in your pursuit? Don't invest your boss or the parents with too much power, even though the sun-Pluto conjunction at the top of your chart makes them appear more manipulative than usual. If you don't want to stand up to them, you can always pull a disappearing act or, like a Fish, wriggle out of an iffy situation. Next weekend is much more intellectually and socially rewarding. As for more money, that's up to your guardian angel.

ARIES
MARCH 20-APRIL 19
Eloping? Resigning? Don't be surprised by spur-of-the-moment decisions and radical—even for you—behavior. This week, while your curious Mars ruler is aligned with freedom-loving Uranus, you'll want to hang with your weirder friends, promote grass-roots politics and social reforms. You're liable to wind up on the wilder, sexier side of the street without realizing that you're looking for adventure and whatever comes your way. Money, however, clearly comes from film and music ventures and, around the full moon, the stuff that dreams are made of.

TAURUS
APRIL 20-MAY 20
Tried, true and traditional—these are the values you cherish everytime your Venus ruler is befriended by stable Saturn. And while you're not always this conservative, doeesn't it feel good to play it safe and feel secure? Especially during the holiday seasons when parties bring out the worst and folks feel free to step over the line. Your attitude changes after Venus enters Aquarius on the 8th. Strict boundary lines get erased and you become more concerned about the rest of humanity. You're also willing to pay handsomely for being among the privileged.

GEMINI
MAY 21-JUNE 20
Right now you're in the thick of relationship heaven, or, if you're trying to extricate yourself from one, hell. As the sun and powerful Pluto meet in your Sag marriage house, every move you two make can have far-reaching repercussions. The desire to lick wounds, repair the damage done and restore equanimity arises this strongly only once a year, so go for it. Your Mercury ruler can be sobering while it opposes Saturn this weeeknd, but by Wednesday, when your guy is in fiery Sag, look for an exciting, educational, even an exquisite experience.

CANCER
JUNE 21-JULY 22
Your date/mate and your friends finally get on the same page, establishing mutual appreciation for each other and more harmony for you. No matter how much time and attention another relationship (e.g., the kid before Christmas) demands, keep your eye on the progress your sweetie is making with your pals. Continued friction in the family circle as long as irritating Mars is in Libra, but there's a good chance someone will find the courage to rebel against tiresome traditions and set you all free. Otherwise, plenty of partying and fooling around.

LEO
JULY 23-AUGUST 22
Sexual tension is running high, sparks are flying and almost everyone—siblings, neighbors, partners, even you—is growing more passionate, also more determined to get their own way. As your sun ruler joins manipulative Pluto in "hail fellow, well met" Sagittarius, the playful Leo pussycat can turn into a holy terror: My place. My party. I won't take "no" for an answer. With so much psychic strength to fall back on, you could seek out the source of a toxic situation that's been eating at you, clean the slate and start fresh well before the new year.

VIRGO
AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22
Too many mood swings—from down on Friday, dreamy and reclusive on Wednesday and way over-the-top on Thursday—can make you more nervous than you usually get during the holiday season. Adjust your medication accordingly. Going shopping, particularly on the Net, while you're so gung-ho could instantly propel you light years ahead of your co-workers, and, incidentally, put you deeper in debt. State-of-the-art electronic gadgets call out your name, and if you have an itch to take flying lessons, now's the time to scratch it.

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22
Fighting mad or fighting for the truth? Macho Mars in Libra continues to incite, inflame and make you hornier than you've been in a while. Luckily, courageous Mars is on friendly terms with the Uranian future, making this an excellent time to take a risk, to bet on yourself, your creativity and your kids. Or to have a one-nighter. How much capital will it take? It depends if the Sagittarius sun-Pluto conjunction is cleaning out your money house or resurrecting it. Either way, you're about to relearn the value of a dollar.

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21
There's some Libran energy filtering through to you, adding "fairness" to your perpetual search for "the truth" and what it means. While your Mars co-ruler is favored by unpredictable and erotic Uranus this weekend, all sorts of surprises lie in wait. You're also especially powerful (do you really need to hear this?) because the sun is conjuncting your Pluto co-ruler. Now would be a good time to set a revolutionary plan in motion, update your electronic toys and replenish the source of your strength. Taking over the world is optional.

Curious about the future? Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30 to 40+ pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise over the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $42.50 per report to: ROCKIE GARDINER, 1021 N. Genesee, #1, West Hollywood, CA 90046. *www.rockiehoroscope.com*. Read my daily forecast online at www.laweekly.com.

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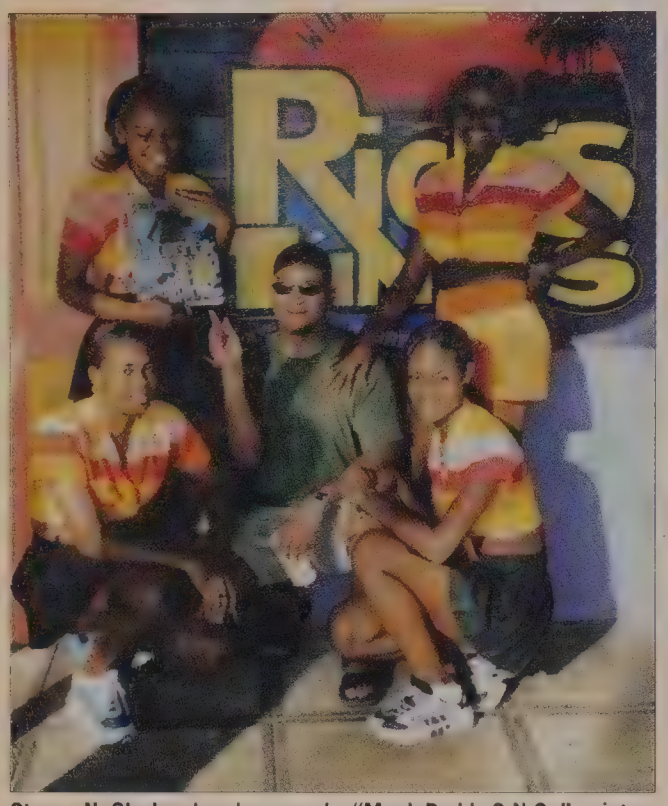
Improper Sightings

Unlike the rest of your friends, we want to see the photos from your next trip.

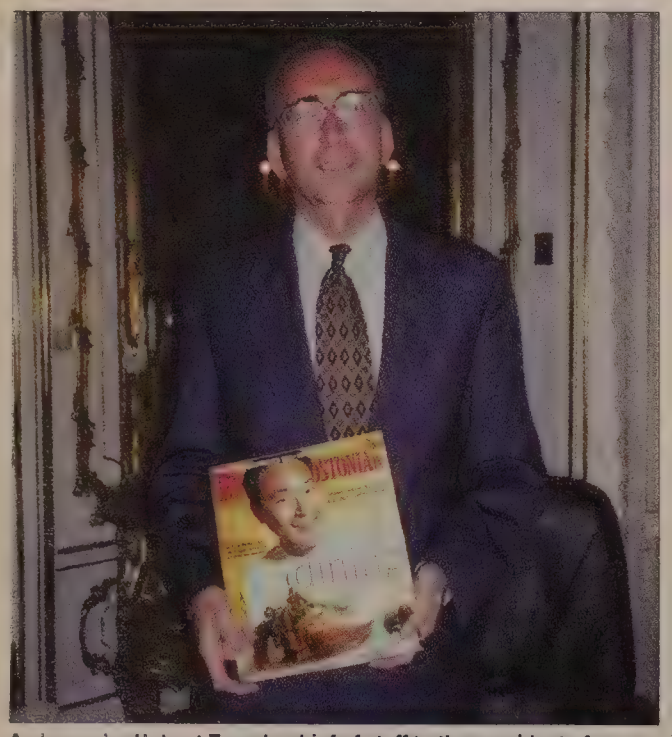
Where do you take us? We want to know! Send us a picture of you or a friend, or better yet, someone famous reading THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN and tell us where you were. The more creative you are, the faster we'll publish your pic! (Hey, we have no shame!)



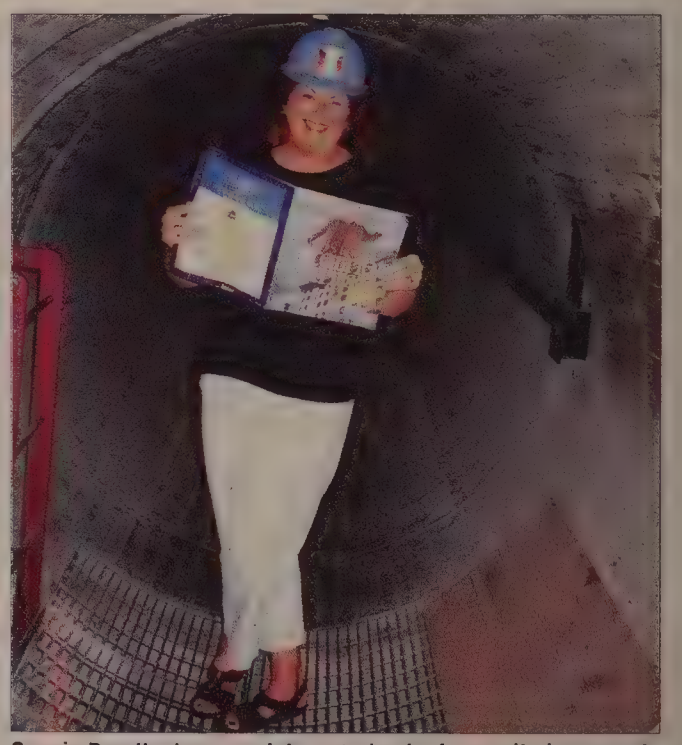
Steven N. Clark, who also goes by "Mack Daddy S.N.C.," points to the reason for his popularity at Rick's Cafe in Negril, Jamaica.

Koren Blanchard gets the IMPROPER Tourist of the Year award for taking a picture in front of a sign warning not to take photos.

Wayne Maceyka travelled to Munich to share the IMPROPER and a little beer with an authentic Bavarian lady at Oktoberfest.



Ambassador Helmut Tuerck, chief of staff to the president of Austria, gets IMPROPER in the presidential palace in Vienna.



Connie Perullo does a quick spot-check of a ventilation tunnel inside the Hoover Dam. Frankly, the plywood worries us.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:
Celebrating the inventor (and the invention) of the earmuff at the 23rd Annual Chester Greenwood Day, Dec. 2 in earmuff-happy Farmington, Maine.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116.
Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail and photo location. All photos become the property of THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE and will not be returned.

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN's client-related promotions and events

1

2

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4

1. **Meghan**, Click Models of Boston.
2. **Tashou**, Click Models of Boston.
3. **Blair Buckley**, marketing assistant, modeling Ann Taylor.
4. **Angie**, Click Models of Boston, and **Rick Wardell**, PR & marketing manager of the Bostonian Hotel.
5. **Robert River**, general manager of the Bostonian; **Kim Khazei**, 7News Anchor, and **Meryl Langbort**, development director at The Small Wonders Program.

5

On Nov. 14 **The Regal Bostonian Hotel** held its 4th annual **Ann Taylor** Fashion Show to benefit The Small Wonders Program at Bay Cove Human Services.

PHOTOS: JACK FOLEY

Sandra Curzi
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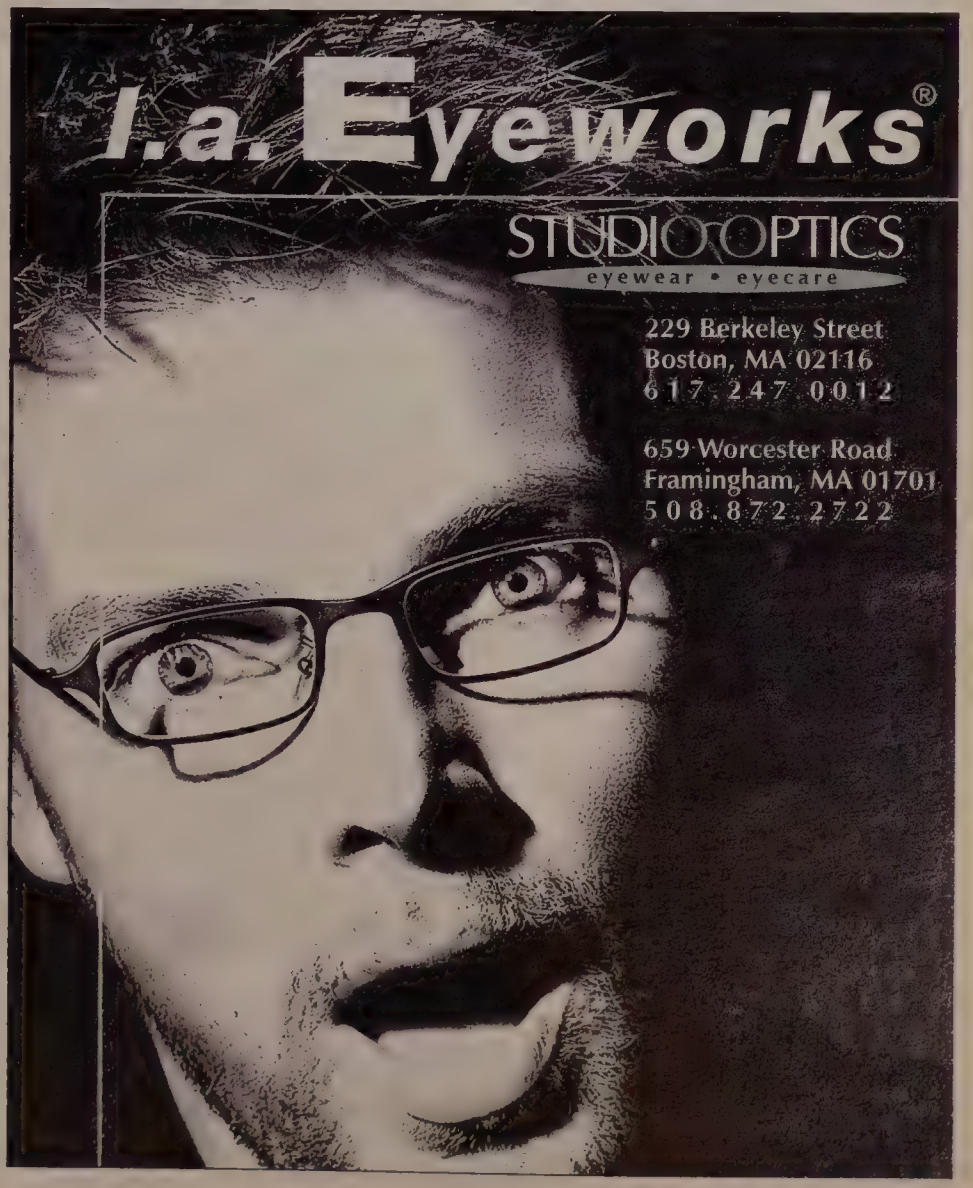

BARS, CLUBS, RESTAURANTS & BRUNCH

The following are paid advertisements. Please check times and prices in advance. If you'd like to have your restaurant listed, please call The Improper Bostonian Advertising Dept. at 859-1400.

BARS

Billiards

Boston Billiards Club

126 Brookline Ave., 536-POOL. Ranked #1 in the country by Billiards Digest. Free lessons on Mon., 7:30pm - 9pm. Boston Billiards Club House leagues on Mon. and Tues. "In The Biz" night on Sun. and Mon. for patrons in the hospitality industry. Ladies' night on Wed. Featuring a menu of light fare such as grilled chicken sandwiches and appetizers, along with beer, wine, cocktails and a variety of non-alcoholic beverages.

The Rack

24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998,1999 &2000 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, Mark Morris & The Catunes, and BaHa Brothers.

Beer Specialty Bars

Sunset Grill & Tap

130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 254-1331. Something's always brewing at Best of Boston's award winning ber bar. Here you'll find the largest selection on the East Coast-112 taps and 380 microbrews and exoic imports. Join our beer club and enjoy every style of beer under the sun. Take advantage of the yards, cask conditioned beer, flight samples, vintage and new beers, seasonals, meads, ciders, etc. Full menu until 1am. Experience our beer festival 365 days a year.

Brew Pubs

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Co.

138 Portland St., Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is now the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, a block from the FleetCenter and steps from Faneuil Hall, Commonwealth Fish & Beer features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

General

BARCODE

955 Boylston St., Boston, 421-1818. Enjoy the intimate, windowed dining room or a signature cocktail in the lounge. BARCODE offers a creative martini selection, a balanced and affordable wine list and both bottled and draft beer. Drinks are available until 2 am daily, food served until 1 am.

Cactus Club

939 Boylston St., 236-0200. Get a taste of the Southwest in Boston. Specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, Cajun Catfish. Sample the firewater menu while you are there, including Coyote Killer (Light and dark rum, peach schnapps, ginger beer and mixed juices), or a Chambord Margarita. The daring may go for a dip in the Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Amex, Diners Club, MC and Visa. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurants, in Framingham, Waltham and Needham. www.cactusclub.com.

Harvard Gardens

316 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114, 617-523-2727. A wonderfully relaxed haven located opposite MGH on the back side of Beacon Hill. Serving the finest cocktails and most comfortable food in town. Plant yourself in a comfy booth, a cozy banquette, or at our fully loaded bar and escape from your everyday troubles. Doing it nice & easy 7 days a week - 11am-2am. Major credit cards accepted. Valet parking available.

Encore Lounge

279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 338-7699 A new twist on Boston's Cabaret Tradition! Live Music 7 nites a week 9:30pm-1am (til 2am on Saturdays). Always open mike! Party where the Stars go after the Show!Monday: Michael Larson & Dorothy Miller (Cabaret), Tuesday: BobbyFemino (Piano Bar), Wednesday & Thursday: Michelle Curry (Piano Bar) Friday: John O'Neil & Jan Peters (Cabaret), Satruday: DesPres & DeGraff (Contemporary Cabaret) Sunday: Michael Kreutz (Piano Bar)

Roxy

279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 338-7699 We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

Sweetwater Cafe

3 Boylston Place, 351-2515. A classic American bar featuring Boston's best bands and DJ's nightly. A favorite Boston bar for 15 years with two floors of entertainment, an outdoor patio and world class margaritas. Always great music and cold beer, never a dress code. Available for private functions of any kind. (Credit cards: Am Ex, Visa, MC, Diner's) Tues. - Sat. 5 pm - 2 am. Located in "The Alley."

The Big Easy Bar

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24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998,1999 & 2000 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, Mark Morris & The Catunes, and BaHa Brothers.

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Comedy

The Comedy Connection

245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 248-9700. The Comedy Connection located in the heart of historical Faneuil Hall features the biggest names in comedy with apearances by Jon Stewart, Chris Rock, Wendy Liebman and Jay Mohr. Located on the second floor of the Quincy Market Building, the Connection offers the best in local and national stand-up seven nights a week. For more information call 617-248-9700.

Wine Bars

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar

105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston,
292-0966. The hip meeting spot in the Financial District for after work, dinner, late night, or a seductive tryst. The Vault offers some of the most exclusive wines in Boston, which complement the creative American Cuisine prepared by Chef Michael Foley. Can't decide on a wine? Relax and compare with our Tasting Flights featuring selections from different reds and whites. So what are you waiting for? Call an old friend, a client, or a co-worker and meet for cocktails at The Vault today.

RESTAURANTS

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245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 248-9700. Faneuil Hall's hottest restaurant and nightclub offers the very best in Americana food. Located adjacent to the Commedy Connection you can dance the night away every Wednesday through Sunday with Top 40 and dance classics by DJ's Jonny and Freddi C. For more information call 726-1110.

BARCODE

955 Boylston St., Boston, 421-1818.
BARCODE offers creative food and drink with a truly unique, casual style and atmosphere. Simple yet exotic and flavorful, Executive Chef George Leu's menu features a variety of French bistro fare touched with Asian influences. Dinner served daily 5 pm - 1 am, bar open daily 4:30pm - 2:00am.

Cactus Club

939 Boylston St., 236-0200. Get a taste of the Southwest in Boston. Specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, Cajun Catfish. Sample the firewater menu while you are there, including Coyote Killer (Light and dark rum, peach schnapps, ginger beer and mixed juices), or a Chambord Margarita. The daring may go for a dip in the Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Amex, Diners Club, MC and Visa. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurants, in Framingham, Waltham and Needham. www.cactusclub.com.

Caliterra

89 Broad St., Boston, 348-1234, at the New Wyndham Boston Hotel. Caliterra is heating up the dining climate of Boston's financial district. Our Cal-Ital fare combines contemporary Northern California traits with hearty Tuscan classics and the freshest New England seafood. We accommodate groups in our private dining room, and private parties in our exclusive wine rooms. Enjoy libations in our spacious Caliterra lounge. Reservations recommended. Valet parking available. Breakfast available Mon. - Fri., 6:30 - 11 am; Sat. & Sun., 7 am - 12 noon. Child's breakfast is free with an adult. Lunch daily 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Dinner nightly 5 - 10 pm. Located one block from Boston Harbor and Quincy Marketplace.

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Co.

138 Portland Street, Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, near the Fleet Center and Faneuil Hall, Common-wealth features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am -1 am.

The Elephant and Castle

161 Devonshire St., Financial District, Boston, 350-9977. English style Pub offering over 100 types of beer, great food and the financial district's most comfortable bar. Specialties include beer battered fish and chips and shepherd's pie. We also offer a great selection of single malt scotches and a variety of cigars. We have two levels of operation with our lower level providing private rooms for both business meetings and after work parties.

Harvard Gardens

316 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114, 617-523-2727.
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Iguana Cantina

313 Moody St., Waltham, 781-891-3039; 1656 Worcester Rd., Rt. 9, Framingham, 508-875-1188; and 66 Chestnut St., Needham, 781-444-9976. The Iguana Cantina serves a variety of Caribbean, Tex-Mex and Southwestern fare. The atmosphere is fun and the food is tasty. Visit our website at www.theiguanacantina.com.

Mistral

223 Columbus Ave. 867-9300. Acclaimed chef/owner Jamie Mammano's South End restaurant. The design is both elegant and informal, resonating with the ambiance of Provence. Mistral features a crisp linen dining room as well as a casual lounge and bar. Serving dinner Mon-Sun beginning at 5:30pm - 11pm. Late night menu served Thurs-Sat 11pm-12midnight. Reservations recommended-private dining available.

Shenandoah Rest., Marketplace Cafe, Brewskellar Pub

Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston 227-1272. Located in the North Market Building of Faneuil Hall, Shenandoah Restaurant, The Marketplace Cafe, and Brewskellar Pub have something for everyone. Whether you're interested in a casual dinner on one of Boston's largest outdoor patios or the quiet more elegant surroundings of Shenandoah Restaurant, we offer it all. Having a function? We cater personally to all events you may be planning. Visit us soon and let us surprise you.

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199 Clarendon St., Copley Sq., 536-3500; 2 Brookline Pl., Brookline, 232-8887; and 55 Needham St., Newton, 964-4244. Enjoy fresh grilled seafood flown in from around the world, in a casual, comfortable atmosphere. Specialties include blackened tuna sashimi, Skipjack's moonfish, Maryland crabcakes, lobsters and gingered calamari. Swing with the infamous Winiker Orchestra and enjoy our Jazz Brunch every Sunday, 11 am - 3 pm in Boston. Also performing in Brookline every Fri. and Sat. evenings from 6 - 10 pm. Reservations accepted and discounted underground parking in Boston and Brookline.

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105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-9966. A wonderful secret hidden in Boston's Financial District. The Vault offers contemporary American cuisine and an extensive and exclusive affordable wine list. Come in and enjoy creative dishes prepared by Chef Michael Foley. Lunch Mon. - Fri. from 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Dinner Mon. - Wed. from 5:30 - 10:30 pm, Thurs. - Sat. from 5:30 - 11 pm. Closed Sun.

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The Wrap & Smoothie Bar

137 Mass Ave., Boston (at Berklee School of Music), 369-9087; 71 Mt. Auburn St., Harvard Square, 354-5838; 1940 Beacon St., Cleveland Circle, 739-0340; 82 Water St., Financial District, 357-9013. The Wrap serves delicious, freshly prepared wraps, burritos and salads as well as healthy and refreshing smoothies. Voted Boston's Best 1998 & 1999 by The Improper Bostonian. Fresh ingredients, great taste, healthy options - words we live by!

BRUNCH

Atlantic 101

101 Atlantic Ave., Boston 723-5101. A waterfront live jazz brunch is the perfect Sunday start at Atlantic 101 from 11:30am - 2:30pm featuring a creative a la carte menu and soothing live jazz. Sample favorites as Eggs Benedict, Huevos Rancheros, or try out our crowd pleasing Poached Eggs with Maine Crab Cakes, Smoked Bacon and Creole Mustard Hollandaise. Burgers, crepes and Lobster round out the menu as well. Call 723-5101 for reservations. Atlantic 101 also features live piano and vocals at night, Tuesday through Saturday. Lunch daily from 11:30am-2:30pm. Dinner daily from 5:00-10:30pm.

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Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston, MA 02114. Powers of Nature, October 6-March 4. Enjoy Sunday brunch in the beautiful Skyline Room overlooking the Charles River at noon, then experience the amazing Mugar Omni Theater: Wild California at 2pm. Tickets are $28 for Adults, $26 for Seniors/ Children. Brunch only is $20. On-site parking is included. Reservations recommended, call (617)723-2500.

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Last Scene Here BY JONATHAN SOROFF

WITH FRIENDS LIKE THEM...

As always, the **Steppingstone Foundation**'s annual fall gala—which began with a champagne reception at **Shreve, Crump and Low** and continued with general mayhem in the rooftop ballroom of the **Parker House**—was a black-tie hoo-ha of epic proportions.

Prominent among the throng: real estate scion **Tedd Saunders**, gentleman farmer **Peter Creighton**, medical venture capitalist **Dennis McCoy**, the effervescent **Wendy Pierce** and her affable other half, **Chip**, professional party planner **Bryan Rafanelli**, professional party-goer **Bob Palmer**, newlyweds **Barbie** and **Andrew Goodman**, dot-com-ocrat **Doug Fleishman** and his gal, **Val Glauber**, and Salomon Smith-Barney trader **James Cafferty**, who paid $175 in the silent auction for the dubious honor of having his co-worker, **John Murray**, mentioned in this column.

So what, exactly, does that tell us about John Murray? That either his colleagues think of him as the type who likes to see his name in print or they enjoy humiliating him publicly. Either way, he has our sympathy.

FASHION ACCOMPLISHED...

Surviving 40 years in the fashion business is a bit like surviving a swim in shark-infested waters with an open jugular vein, which explains why **Mass College of Art** held a black-tie gala to honor clothing designer **Alfred Fiandaca**.

A graduate of the school, he's been dressing the Ladies Who Lunch in Boston, New York and Palm Beach for the past four decades, and the tribute evening, which raised money for a scholarship in his name, began with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, continued with a sit-down dinner and a fashion show on a three-tiered circular runway and ended with a big disco cha-cha that went into the wee hours.

Spotted among all the air-kissing and general fabulosity: Fiandaca's son, **Alfred Jr.**, and his daughter, **Michelle**, his associate **Caroline Collings**, party stalwarts **Joanne** and **Charles Dickinson**, southern thoroughbred **Trevania Henderson** and her husband, **John**, Brahmin hipster **Tim Cabot** (looking dapper even on crutches) and his stunning spouse, **Sarah**, stylist to the stars **Mario Russo**, brunette glamazon **Martha O'Brien** and her car-dealer paramour, **George Albrecht**, interior design avatar **Anthony Catalfano**, tireless theater-goer **Sam Adler** (in a super-suave velvet smoking jacket), Back Bay socialites **Bert** and **Rosalie Cohen**, art dealer **Pat Stavaridis**, TV news hound **Jorge Quiroga** and wife **Barbara**, news anchor **Natalie Jacobson**, legendary restaurateur **Bette Arnold** (showing cleavage in front AND in back), and just about every other well-dressed, well-heeled, relentlessly social person in the greater Boston area.

The evening's most amusing remark:

Spotting two prominent women, one guest said, "Oh, look. Here come Botox and Detox."

At Avalon, from top: Ollie on the runway; a model flashing; the Don King lookalike.

FASHION ACCOMPLISHED, PART II...

Plenty of dogs delude themselves into thinking they've got what it takes to model, but very few do. Two notable exceptions: **Ollie**, a spirited pit-bull/boxer mix, and **Seamus**, a gorgeous brown rottweiler, who stole the show when unrepentant playboy **Ari Feinstein** teamed up with celebrity stylist **Dean Mellen** to stage a fashion show featuring clothing from Feinstein's Brookline store, **Leila**, at **Avalon**.

Seen in the audience: restaurateur and hepcat **Babak Bina** of Lala Rokh, TV vixen **Toni Senecal** of Extra!, investment guru **David Ilan Weis**, fitness mogul **Jason Klein**, and a guy who looked like a white version of Don King, complete with gravity-defying, blue-gray hair.

The clothing was beautiful. The people were, too. And, with the possible exception of the canines, everyone seemed to agree that a steamy, sizzling nightclub was the ideal place to spend a Thursday night.

THE EMPEROR'S NEW WINE...

As far as excuses to throw a party are concerned, there are worse ones than the annual arrival of the **Beaujolais Nouveau**.

Every November, the official date on which the young (and invariably mediocre) wine can legally be uncorked gives French people everywhere (and those who love to party with them) a quasi-legitimate reason to turn an otherwise uneventful evening into an opportunity to drink to excess.

Never mind that the **French Library**'s attempt to create the world's longest can-can line at **Brasserie Jo** didn't quite work out (I'm no *Guinness Book of Records*, but it wasn't even close).

There was plenty of Plonk de Plonk to quaff (following the obligatory Gallic bloviating), and congenial elbows to rub, like those belonging to celebrity chef **Rene Michelena**, the bold and beautiful **Danielle Wray**, food scribe **Alex Shapiro**, restaurateur **Katie Childs** of Silvertone, oenophile **Janet Goff**, the oh-so-suave **Dennis Charolle**, **Hunter the Wonder Dog** (a surprisingly well-behaved Weimaraner), and lots of people whose teeth were stained purple from wine.

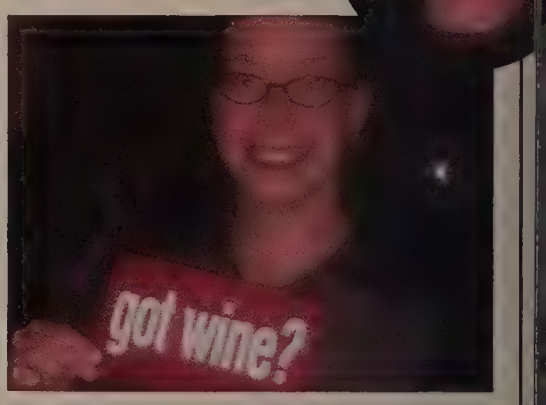
Typical of the evening's conversations:

"Did you try the Beaujolais Nouveau?"

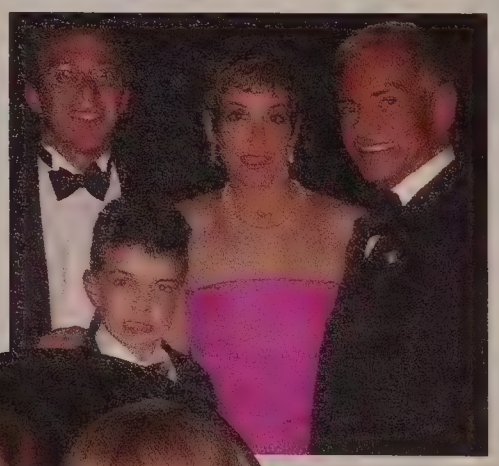
"Yeah. That's why I'm drinking Pommerol."

"Yeah. I'm drinking Veuve Clicquot."

And, from a guest sipping a glass of water: "This? It's Chateauneuf du Tap." **iB**



At the Beaujolais Nouveau party, from top: Hunter and Danielle Wray; Alex Shapiro; Katie Childs.



At the Fiandaca party, clockwise: Anthony Catalfano, Caroline Coco and Stephen Kapfhammer; Alfred Fiandaca (r) and family; the fashion show; shrimp on the Barbie. Center: Margaret Sutphin (l) and Caroline Collings.

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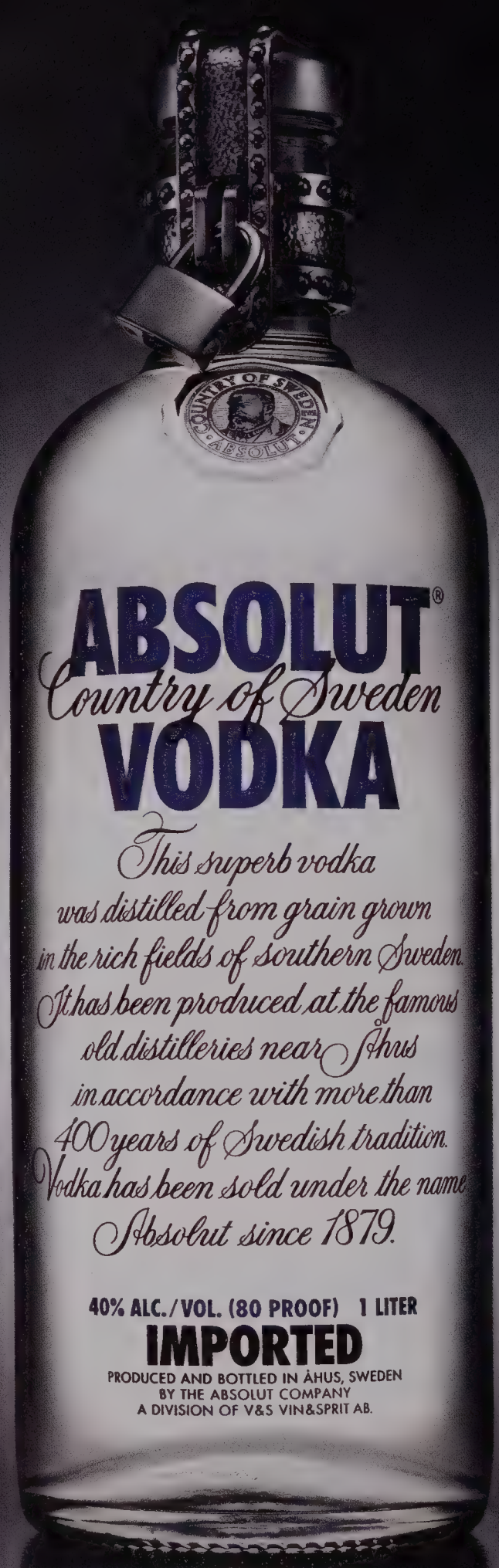

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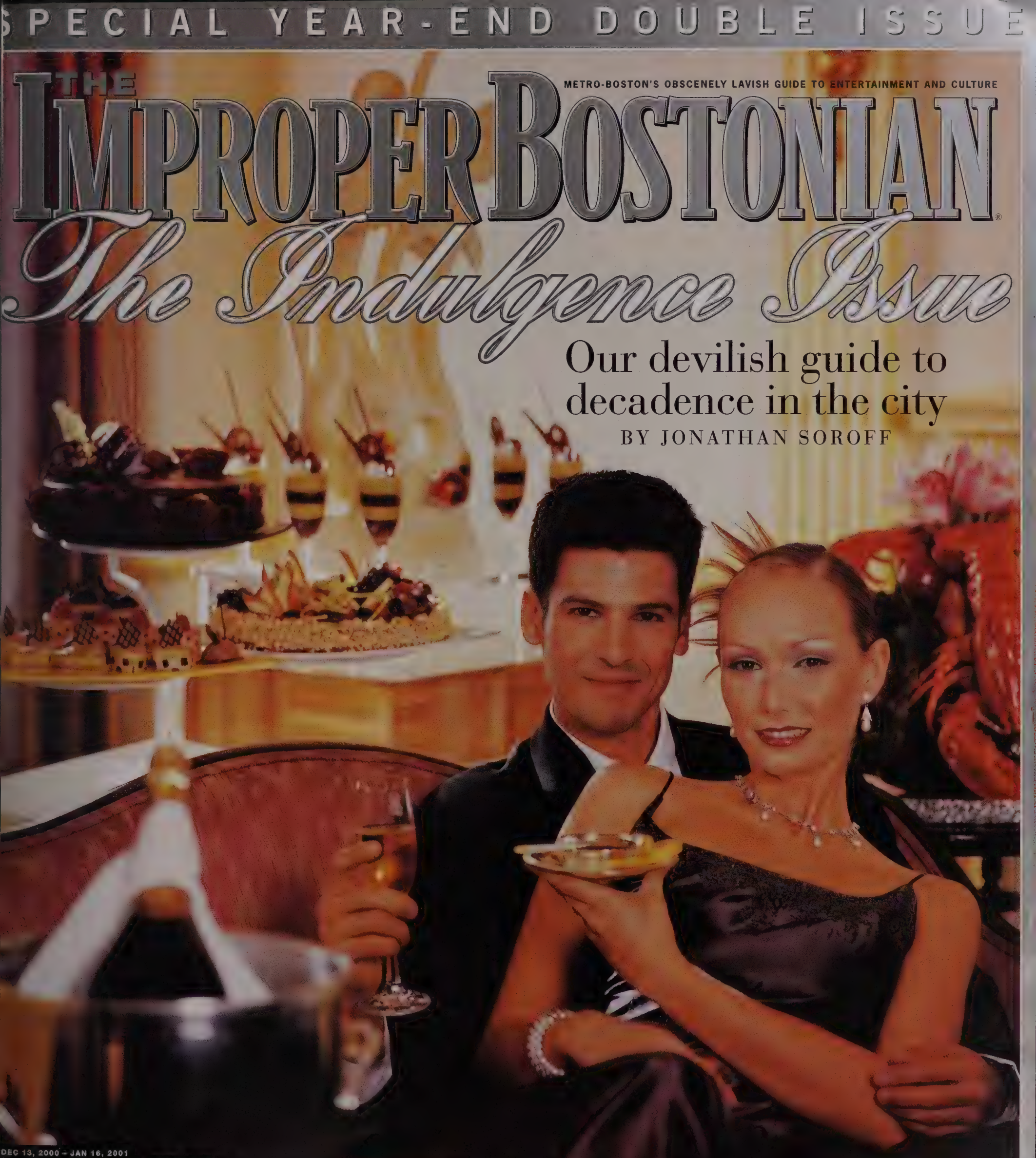
The Indulgence Issue

Our devilish guide to decadence in the city

BY JONATHAN SOROFF



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Indulgence starts at Dorfman's. Below, left: Red Room. Below, right: Volunteers step up.

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On the Cover:
Photograph for THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN by **Tracy Aiguier**

Location: **The Ritz Carlton Hotel** 15 Arlington Street, Boston
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Hair cut and styling (On Matt): **Dirk Diegel/Vidal Sassoon**
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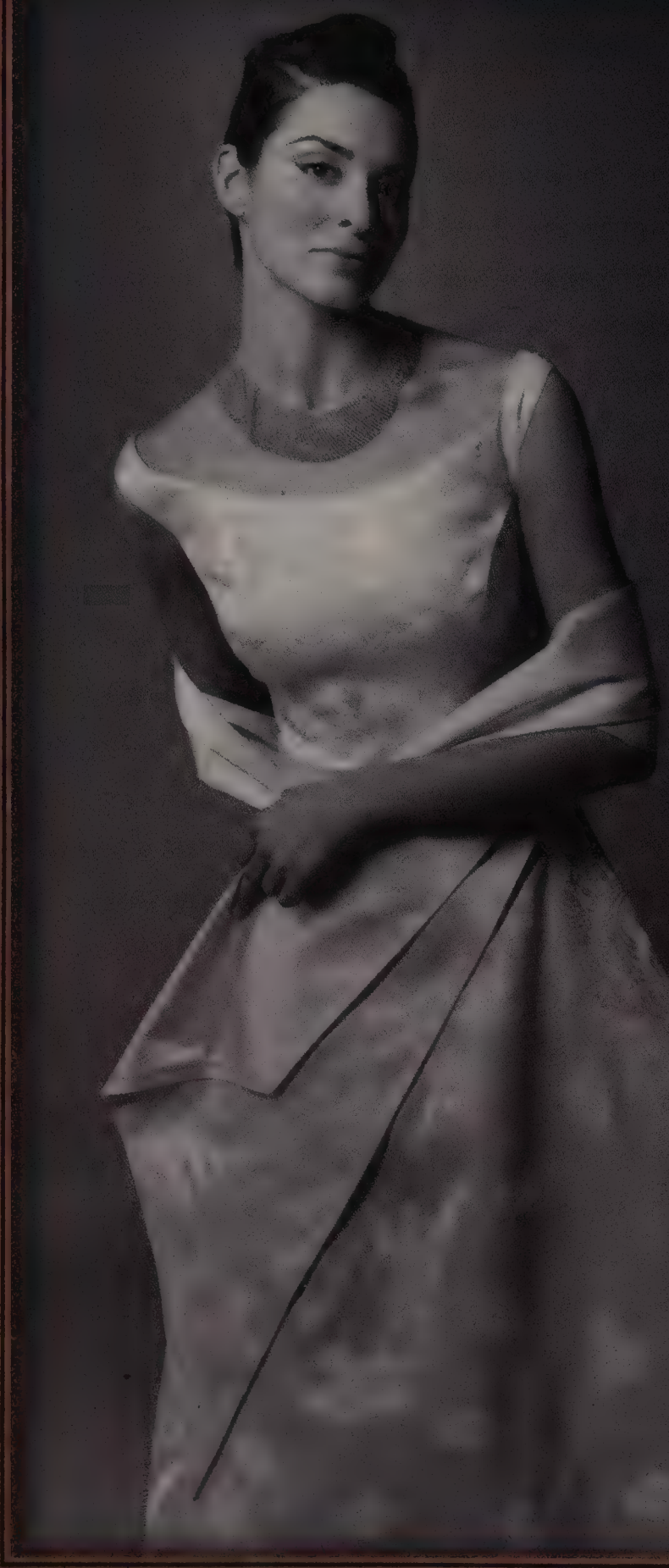

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letters

THIS HEADACHE HAS SEVERIN WRITTEN ALL OVER IT

I used to think the IMPROPER BOSTONIAN was a pretty hip and somewhat alternative magazine until I read Jonathan Soroff's interview with talk-radio host Jay Severin. All I can imagine is that the magazine has fallen on really hard times and you are grasping for material—any material. One only needs to listen to Severin's show once to realize he is a purveyor of hurtful and hateful ultra-right-wing trash very much in the style of Dr. Laura. Speaking of Dr. Laura, Severin mentions her in this interview, and I quote: "But I can't criticize her. I don't agree with what she says, but I believe that she believes it's the truth." Way to go Jay; Hitler believed that his ideas on the Jews were also the truth. Severin would probably not criticize him either. The one time I listened to this show, Severin abused and hung up on the people who did not agree with him, and high fived those that did. Very enlightened. This also happened to be the day after the USS *Cole* incident, and Severin's take on this was "get the Army over there and start killing people." Very diplomatic; maybe he should run for office—which, by the way, was a question posed to him by the ever-insightful Soroff. At any rate, allow me to recommend some material for future Soroff interviews. How about David Duke (Klan in a Suit)? That should make lively reading, but if it's too strong (which I doubt) you may want to give Dapper O'Neil a shot (if he can still speak), and make sure you ask him his opinion on civil unions and gays in the military. This magazine is really scraping the bottom of the barrel, and you may want to consider folding up your tent and going home.

—DON STEVENSON, FORMER READER
Charlestown

[SEVERIN] MAKES DR. LAURA SOUND LIKE A GIRL SCOUT... HE IS NO BOSTONIAN TO BE PROUD OF.

—TOM AND PAUL
BOSTON

We always enjoy Soroff/On. But as former Jay Severin listeners, we are sickened and saddened by Jay's misinformed views and opinions of people living with HIV and AIDS. About a year ago, in a desperate public plea for ratings, Jay stated that all people living with HIV and AIDS should be removed from society and put in confinement. He makes Dr. Laura sound like a Girl Scout. As we write this, World AIDS Day is only 24 hours away and we remember the countless friends, family and coworkers we lost during the height of the AIDS epidemic. It's now 2000, but this disease still brings out the very *worst* in people. People like Jay Severin. He is no Bostonian to be proud of.

—TOM AND PAUL
Boston

WHUT?

How lightly the Americans take terrorism. To yuck it up over the attempted humor of someone's flagrant disobedience of a rule that attempts to protect against murderers (Improper Sightings, Nov. 29 issue) is only validating the disobedience further. I love Improper Sightings, but I believe you've overstepped this time.

—BARBARA FRASCA
Beverly

Editor's note: *The sign in that picture reads "No foto-terrorism: Dear guests, We are very pleased with your attention. We'd love to keep that feeling, so don't use our selling items just for your photographs." Funny, this is precisely what appears to be going on here. How that relates to murderers, we're not sure.*

CORRECTION

In the Nov. 29 issue of Ellen O'Brien's column, Improper Speaking, television newscaster Liz Walker was mistakenly identified as representing WCVB-TV (Channel 5) at this year's Big Sister gala. Walker is a WBZ-TV (Channel 4) news anchor. We regret the error.

Tell Us What You Think

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TRACY AIGUIER

Tracy Aiguier has been shooting fashion in Boston for slightly more than 10 years. Her advertising and editorial work have appeared in *Town & Country*, *Martha Stewart Living*, *Platinum* magazine, *Where* magazine, and the IMPROPER BOSTONIAN, among others. In addition, she regularly shoots catalogs for national companies.

An avid supporter of the local fashion design community, Tracy serves as press liaison for Boston FashionWeek and counts Boston-based designers Ches, Denise Hajjar and Alfred Fiandaca among her clients. She has shown her work in solo exhibitions on Newbury Street as well as in group shows.

Tracy lives in Milton with her husband, architect Sean Stewart and their two children, Kendall (10) and Casey (7). She is also an active volunteer in the public school.

Special thanks to the Ritz-Carlton, especially executive chef Richard Rayment, executive pastry chef Henri Masterov, chef Garde Mange, Sergio Jean and Caron LeBrun. Without their assistance, our Indulgences cover story would have been decidedly less indulgent. We're sure that when the new Ritz-Carlton, Boston Common opens in 2001 on Tremont St., countesses everywhere will find it an equally compelling destination.

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Andrew Graham
Most likely to endanger himself and others

Bill Marks
"Don't touch my IROC"

Erin Hagedorn
Most likely to warm up for Tiffany on her mall tour

Ezra Dyer
Most likely to kick your ass, dork

Julie Betters
Most likely to...

Julie Short
Most likely to lose on Star Search

Rommel Alama
Foreign kid everyone suspects is a NARC

Kim Gavrilles
Most likely to be at the center of a political scandal

Samantha House
Most likely to be first on the Bon Jovi tour bus

Alison Morant
"Don't stand so close to me...cutie"

Robert "Coach" Phillips
"There is no 'I' in team"

Laurel Kirtz
Most likely to "experiment" in college

Michele Parente
Most likely to marry her prom date

Rachel Strutt
Most likely to steal your prom date

Rita "Ludes" Greeley
Homeroom Angel

Paul Robicheau
"He was a hard-headed man, he was brutally handsome"

Scott Oldham
Most likely to meet Molly Ringwald after school

Jeff Gill
Has wet dreams about Don Johnson

Wendy Semonian
Most likely to show off her Flashdance *moves*

Paul Sherman
"John Hughes is genius"

Barbara Mattaliano
Most likely to live in a material world

Carolyn Faye Fox
Most likely to quote Our Bodies, Our Selves

Bob Semonian
Principal Bob

Out of the past, comes a new beginning. Happy Holidays from the class of '85

THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN

Jonathan Soroff
Homecoming Queen

Karen Dana
Most likely to drive a getaway car

J. Charles Mokriski
Most likely to start a food fight

Kathleen Walker
LuvU4eva...BFF... 2good 2 4get...golden

Mopsy Strange Kennedy
"Girls just wanna have fun"

Kerry Brett Hurley
Fave saying: "Are we there yet, Papa Smurf?"

Happy Holidays

our friends who made

so much

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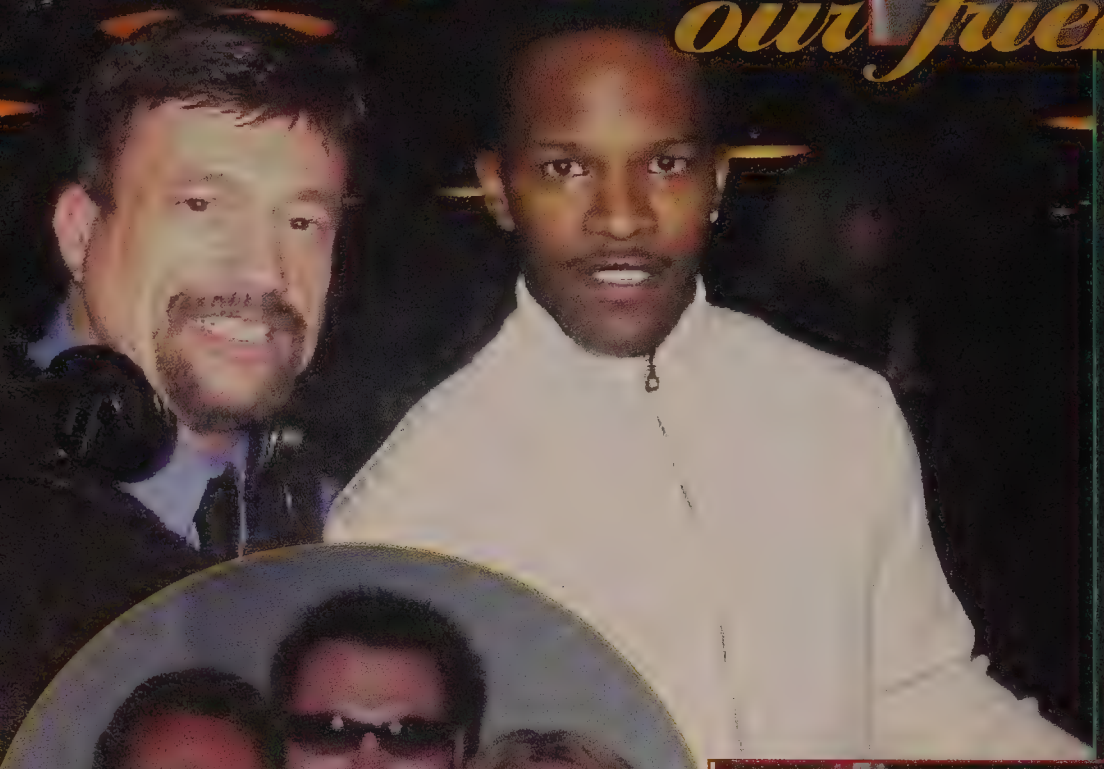

to all of this year fun!

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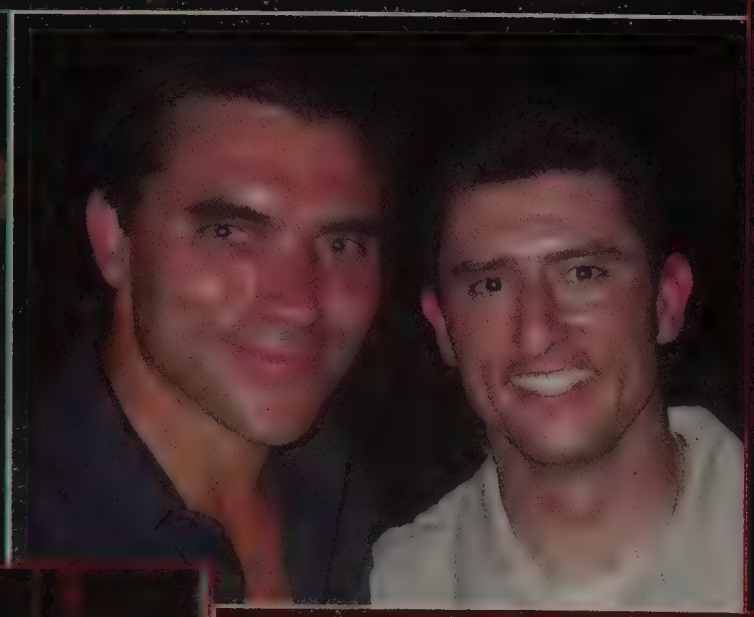
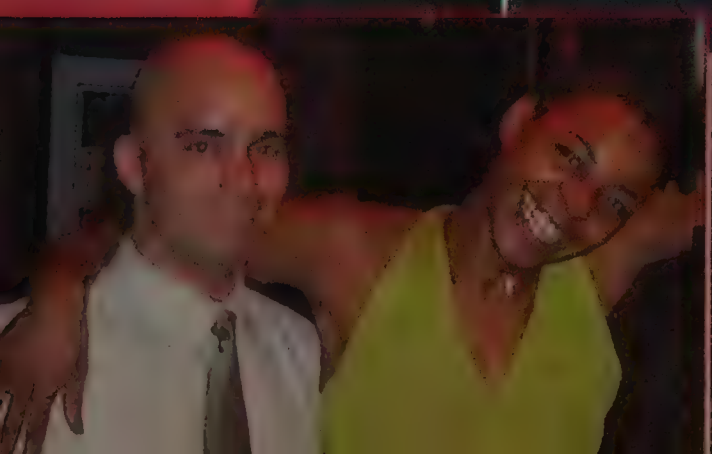




IMPROPER SPEAKING

BY ELLEN O'BRIEN

FOLLOW THAT LIMO!

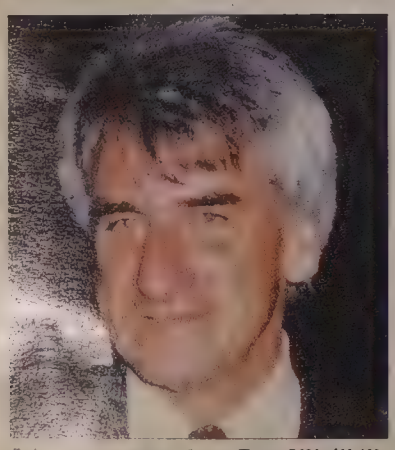
Leaving **Mistral** after a particularly festive evening, this IMPROPER editor found herself freezing on a street corner, whistling in the wind for that rare taxi. Then, along came a driver in a nice suit and a spiffed-up, small luxury vehicle. No meter. No taxi medallion. No problem, says the chauffeur. "But shouldn't I be worried about getting in an unregulated vehicle with a stranger?" I ask. "Well," says the name-dropping driver, "**Seth Greenberg** is among my clients." (For the record, Greenberg says our guy is definitely not his driver. "I think he must have been just dropping my name," says the city's premier club owner.)

Turns out this underground limo service is part of what Boston police say is the quickest-growing scam in the city. "First of all, it is illegal," says **Mark Cohen**, director of the Licensing Division. "In the city of Boston, in order to pick up on the street, you have to be regulated." Unless (and this is important) the ride is prearranged (which is why the helpful driver gave me a card and suggested I call next time). Apparently my would-be driver broke the law when he attempted an unscheduled pickup. "When you put the booming economy and a shortage of taxis together, it's ripe for this kind of service to grow," says Cohen. "My concern is with public safety," he says. Have there been alleged assaults involving unregulated drivers and passengers? Yes, says Cohen. Why haven't the coppers fined more of these rogues? Turns out the arresting officer would have to witness the car stop on the street for a customer and see the customer climb inside.

Why are transportation officials all riled up about these "service providers"? Traffic, of course. These cars pile up in front of fancy hotels and restaurants without traditional taxi stands, says Cohen. "We believe there are hundreds and hundreds of them. They're changing the flow of traffic on a Friday night in this city," says Cohen. For now, Cohen says, that advice about accepting ride from a stranger (or one without a legitimate city license) should apply.

NO BIG O'NEILL BASH

While eavesdropping at a certain so-popular Italian eatery last week, we overheard that **Tom O'Neill III** (formerly of **McDermott & O'Neill** public relations and now with **GPC/O'Neill & Associates**)

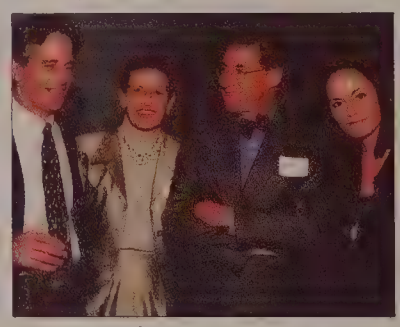


Sh[illegible] news from Tom O'Neill III

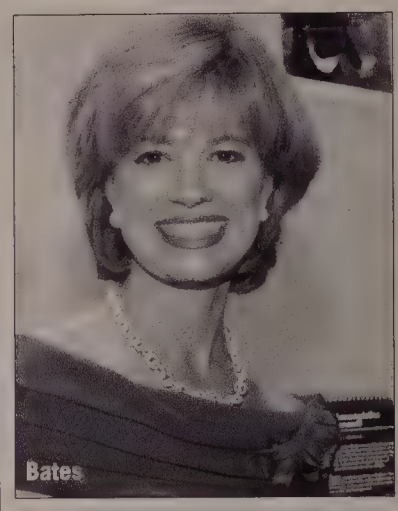
would not be hosting his annual holiday party for public relations folks, flacks, pols and players this season. Why not? we wailed. We heard from a catty competitor that O'Neill was plum out of cash this holiday season. "That's crazy," says O'Neill, reminding us of the billions that back GPC. It's true that there is no party this year, but O'Neill says the cancellation is due to legal liability with a crowd that size. "We had, I think, 3,000 people last year. Frankly, legal counsel says that there is too much liability. Number two, it takes the better part of six people, full-time, to make that happen. Maybe we'll do something next year; we'll see what the reaction is." Well, *our* reaction is that we have only **George Regan**'s holiday party at **711 Boylston** to fall back on—Regan can't stand O'Neill so right now he is likely somewhere gloating.

OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE 'HOODS

Now for two charitable items pulled from our huge stacks of stuff sent from flacks. More bluebloods than you could shake a bow-tie at recently assembled for a noble cause: the Charles River Basin parklands. A notably well-informed lecture on the status of the 18-plus miles was delivered by urban planner **Renata von Tscharner.** She founded the **Charles River Conservancy**, dedicated to building public-private partnerships to restore the precious land. It's good timing: The state recently pledged $35 million toward the urban parklands. Also thinking green this winter is **WZLX—FM 100.7**, which will donate proceeds of the charity CD, *From the Tracks,* to the **Walden Woods Project** and **Franciscan Children's Hospital**. The CD is a collection of 10 "unreleased and rare live performances" by artists like **Aerosmith**, **Don Henley**, **Boston** and the **Allman Brothers**.



Shaw and Elizabeth Sprague flank Renata von Tscharner and Joe Barbieri at the Charles Hotel event.



Bates

AN EYE-OPENING CHANGE AT WBZ-TV

OK, so she has talked to other local stations, but we can't say for sure how soon you might see longtime **WBZ-TV** (Channel 4) anchor **Suzanne Bates** on your television screen again. (Bates resigned Dec. 2 from Channel 4 and says she is forging ahead with a corporate consulting company, and sleeping later.) "I've been getting up for nine years at three in the morning," says Bates. The TV anchor (whose eyelid lift last year made news) started her WBZ career 13 years ago—on the day of the 1987 stock market crash. By the way, the CBS affiliate was doubly damned in this column last month. Not only did I mistakenly identify WBZ legend **Liz Walker** as a WCVB anchor, but I also attached **Bryant Gumbel** to the wrong network. Apologies. Anyone worth their Boston accent should know that Walker is at WBZ.

COURTROOM CHATTER

As we go to print, there is still speculation about whether Vice President **Al Gore** will surrender his effort to reverse fortune in Florida. Inside the hallways of justice, the speculation related to the election is centered on Boston Democrats in danger of losing with Gore. With Bush as president, U.S. Attorney **Donald K. Stern** (a Democrat) would likely lose his day job. That leaves Republicans speculating about who might get Gov. **Paul Cellucci's** nod for the seat. Here's an angle: Turns out Plymouth County District Attorney **Michael Sulivan** (a Republican) is a good buddy of **Andrew Card**, the Massachusetts pol headed to a high-ranking White House slot (Chief of Staff) for Bush. Hmmm. But then there is Suffolk County D.A. **Ralph Martin** (a Republican) who has a line of veteran, established Republicans in his corner—**William F. Weld** and **Wayne Budd**, to name a few. Could Card be the trump card? Maybe. **iB**

Speaking of Boston

Got an inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to speaking@improper.com

NOT YOUR FATHER'S PARTY INVITE

As we party-hop our way through the season, we have to congratulate Boston City Councilor **Mike Ross,** whose oh-so-slick party invitations said so little—but told a lot about the 29-year-old Beacon Hill Democrat. First off, Ross and his campaign manager, **Jeff Bellows**, designed the invitations on their own. "We wanted them to be very hip," says Bellows, referring to the artistic endeavor. Beckoning partiers to join this city's young professionals at **Vox**, the invite had us fooled into thinking we had been invited to a **Gucci** party at first. Then we realized the recycled **Mickey Roache** was the first guest to arrive, and that it was a political fund-raiser after all. All the Young Friends of Beacon Hill and Young Friends of Mike Ross apparently partied until all hours, raking in cash for the kid from Newton who has made affordable housing his thing. Ross, our invite read, represents a new generation in Boston politics. (Then again, can't you just imagine **Dapper O'Neil** hosting an arts-and-crafts party for his holiday card making?)

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CITY LIMITS

Good stuff, glamour and goings-on

BY ERIN HAGEDORN AND JULIE SHORT

NEW IN TOWN

STAR STRUCK

For months now, there's been a buzz around town about the opening of Whiskey Park, the latest in a chain of bars owned by **Rande Gerber** (yup, that's Cindy Crawford's husband). Now that it's finally open for business (as of Dec. 6 with little fanfare), we're eagerly checking our mailbox for a much-coveted invite to the grand-opening party at the end of January. Will it be an all-out glam-and-glitz celeb affair? Gerber isn't telling, but if the popularity of his other bars with their A-list clientele—from Bono to Naomi Campbell—is any indication, then Boston will certainly be star-struck.

In the meantime, we've got a bar (designed by the same guy who did Lenny Kravitz's house) with all the trimmings of a posh New York night spot—with mirrored ceilings, leather day beds with fur pillows, metallic walls and a VIP lounge. It's the kind of place where sophistication rules supreme; where patrons know to order a Cosmopolitan instead of an Amaretto sour. The main bar's where the action is, says Gerber. "It's for singles looking for a high-energy feel." To appeal to conservative Brahmins, Whiskey Park also has an adjacent smaller bar, with dark walnut paneling, cozy leather couches and soft lighting—a gentleman's lounge, if you will. In both, patrons can find an intimate corner to relax and order food from the Park Plaza Hotel's kitchen. In April, you'll also be able to choose delicacies from the menu of Todd English's new restaurant, Bonfire, on the other side of the hotel.

Gerber's pretty much guaranteed to score with this one, judging from the success of his other Whiskey-themed bars in New York, L.A., Chicago, Aspen and New Orleans. "Sure, the name doesn't hurt," says Gerber. "But it's the experience that's going to keep people coming back." *Park Plaza, Boston (542-1482). Daily, 4pm-2am.*

Rande Gerber, owner of Whiskey Park, the Park Plaza's posh new bar.

ALL THE BUZZ

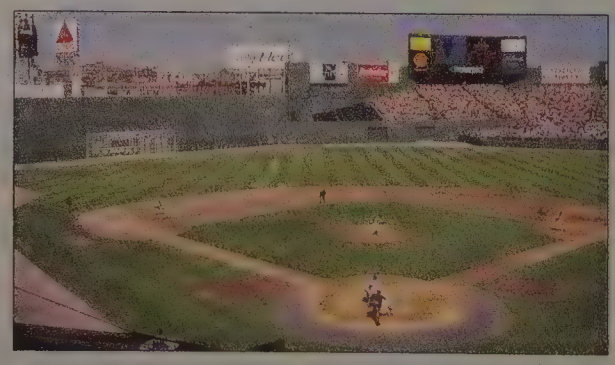
PAINTING THE TOWN RED

Newbury St. socialites tell us that Sonsie may be losing its exclusive edge as primo hotspot with neighboring Vox Populi, BarCode, Capital Grille, 711 and even Abe & Louie's encroaching on the beautiful-people-with-bottomless-trust-funds market. On a recent Saturday night, the line to get into Vox was enough to make owner Joe Quattrocchi see double dollar signs. But Sonsie has launched a counter-attack with the opening of its Red Room, a upscale cocktail lounge downstairs, away from the hustle-and-bustle of the bar we voted "Boston's Best People-Watching." The quiet, softly lit Red Room has been decorated in a spectrum of red hues—from the cozy furniture to the velvety walls. Waiters flitter about and take drink orders from patrons sitting at tables and disappear behind a glowing red wall to fill orders. Watch out, Sonsie kin: The swanky Red Room is rumored to be emerging as *the* new night spot. *327 Newbury St., Boston (351-2500). Wed.-Sun., 6pm-1am.*

THIS JUST IN

FIELDS OF DREAMS

We've found the perfect gift for the baseball fanatic: From Jan. 10-14, 28 lucky men and women will meet in Fort Myers, Fla., for the first-ever Sportscaster Fantasy Camp. Created by former Providence, R.I. anchor/reporter Joe Rocco, the camp is tailor-made for Sox fans: Former Hall of Famers Ferguson Jenkins, Brooks Robinson, Bernie Carbo and Bill Lee are among the players scheduled to attend. Campers learn what it takes to be a play-by-play baseball broadcaster or television sportscaster with the help of some of the most seasoned professionals in America: Nick Charles of CNN, George Grande of Fox Sports-Ohio (and voice of the Cincinnati Reds) and Gene Lavanchy (left), sports director at WHDH-TV Boston. At the end, campers interview



the former major league all-stars and Hall of Famers and get to call a game alongside their favorite sports broadcaster. "It's for anybody who's ever watched a game on TV or listened on the radio and thought they could do better," says Rocco. "It's the ultimate sports vacation for the person who has everything." For $2,695, it oughta be. *(401-944-5220).*

AROUND TOWN

LET IT SNOW

Unless you've got connections with the higher powers, it's awfully hard to count on a white Christmas. But this year, a few forward-thinking folks have figured out how to beat Mother Nature to the punch. The Backyard Blizzard home snowmaker transforms a barren backyard into a winter wonderland—using a garden hose and two electrical outlets. Disheartened by the lack of snow in their own backyards, Natick's Charles Santry and Herman Dupre adapted the technology of ski resort snowmaking into a slightly less extravagant piece of machinery. The Blizzard produces up to an inch of snow per hour. "My kids played in over six feet of Blizzard snow when a majority of New England hadn't had a flake," says Santry. A winter wonderland will cost you, as the machine is $2,995 *(877-989-SNOW).*

THE DISSED LIST

WHERE'S THE VOTE?

With all the hoopla surrounding the election, most voters can't stomach another mention of chads and dimpled ballots. But some Bostonians have felt left out of the controversy due to one simple fact: They weren't permitted to vote. Take physician Dan Soroff, who registered to vote when he got his driver's license as part of the Mass. "motor voter" program. But when he arrived at his Beacon Hill voting station, he was turned away because the RMV had not passed on his registration. "The woman told me they'd had the same problem all over the state," says Soroff. Our inquiries at the RMV revealed that out of 24,000 people registered to vote using the "motor voter" program, 38 voters were turned away from the polls. How many voters encountered problems and didn't register a complaint? Who knows. "People change their address [on] their drivers licenses and assume it carries over to their voter registration. It does not," explains the RMV's Jamie Dunbar. (This explanation, of course, doesn't explain Soroff's recent plight.) This time round, we figure non-voters are better off—at least they can look at the election and say, "Not my fault."

WHISKEY PARK: RITA GREELEY, RED ROOM: TRACY POWELL
FENWAY: COURTESY OF THE BOSTON RED SOX

rush hour nyc

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WHAT'S THE RUSH?

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Calling All Psychos

Easy online access to public information causes a stir in New Hampshire.

Merrimack, N.H. The citizens of this sleepy bedroom community hit the proverbial ceiling when they learned that their property assessment data—including homeowners' names, color photographs of their houses and diagrams showing exterior dimensions—had been made available on the town's Web site, *www.ci.merrimack.nh.us*.

In a town meeting that resembled the peasants-storming-the-castle scene from a Frankenstein movie, 650 residents demanded to be removed from the site, complaining that the information would prove to be a godsend for burglars. Despite the fact that the information on the site was public record, the powers-that-be in Merrimack concluded that discretion was the better part of valor and pulled the data from the site.

Once again, New Hampshire had become a battleground in the fight for Internet privacy. The state's heavy involvement in the privacy issues issue began last year when a stalker from Nashua used information gathered on the Internet to locate and murder a young woman named Amy Boyer. The case received so much local and national publicity that Senator Judd Gregg (R-N.H.) sponsored a new law covering the use of social security data on the Web. Unfortunately, "Amy Boyer's law" (as it's been dubbed) doesn't do much to keep Social Security information private. Instead, the bill specifically allows local and state governments to sell public records that have Social Security numbers on them—a provision that has privacy advocates up in arms.

Federal agencies are theoretically bound by the Privacy Act of 1974, which requires them to adopt minimum standards for the collection and processing of personal information and to publish detailed descriptions of these procedures. It also limits the making of such records available to other public and private parties and requires agencies to make records on individuals available to them upon request, subject to certain conditions and exclusions. However, the Privacy Act didn't prevent the Social Security Administration from hosting an Internet application that allowed people to check their Social Security information on the Web, using a Social Security number as the identifier. That application let anyone who possessed a person's Social Security information—such as a vindictive ex-spouse—to check on that person's employment history. The sudden availability of this information on the Internet created an public outcry, according to privacy advocate Evan Hendricks, who runs the Web site *www.privacytimes.com*.

CONSUMERS FLIPPED OUT AND PROTESTED WHEN THEY LEARNED THAT THEIR PHOTOS HAD BEEN DOWNLOADED FROM THE DMV.

State and local governments aren't bound by the Privacy Act of 1974, and frequently sell (or make available for free) the information they gather about their citizens. A large number of these interchanges between government and individuals are public record—meaning that the data is available to anybody who wants to see it. Depending upon state and local regulations, campaign contributions, divorce filings, legal depositions, property transfers and other highly personal facts are available to anyone who'll take the time and trouble to visit the appropriate government agency, fill out a couple of forms and (sometimes) pay a nominal fee. Such procedures are expensive to implement, however, which is one reason why state and local governments would like to put them online.

Making the public record too public, however, can make the public angry. Witness the case of Nashua-based Image Data LLC, which built a fraud prevention system that allowed retail stores to a check a database of driver's license photos to make certain that the person cashing the check was the person whom he or she claimed to be. Consumers flipped out and protested loudly when they learned that their photos had been downloaded from the computers at the local Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), which had sold the data in a completely legal transaction. The furor was so intense that the company actually changed its business model and moved to a voluntary model that allows consumers to opt out of the system.

Senator Judd Gregg's information privacy law doesn't keep Social Security numbers all that private.

Ironically, the very citizens who are most fearful about privacy violations also want the superior service that might result from a cyber-government. According to a nationwide survey of 1,005 adults conducted by Peter D. Hart Research, around 60 percent of U.S. citizens believe that local government would be more effective if citizens could use the Internet to register their cars, pay parking tickets, fill out forms and apply for permits. About 50 percent think it would be a good idea to allow citizens to vote online and to have government auctions on the Internet. At the same time, only 51 percent of the Americans polled said that they could trust their local government "to do what is right all or most of the time," suggesting that there's little trust in the ability of local government to use the Internet appropriately.

And no wonder. The General Accounting Office (GAO) recently conducted a computer security review of the federal government's major agencies. The GAO flunked seven out of 24 agencies—including the departments of Justice, Labor, Interior, Agriculture, and Health and Human Services. In almost every test, auditors were able to gain unauthorized access that "would allow intruders to read, modify or delete data for whatever purpose they have in mind," according to a GAO report. If the federal government can't get its computers working right, is it reasonable to expect local and state government to do any better?

People thus have something of a love/hate relationship with the idea of putting government online. I experienced this push/pull feeling a couple of years ago when, as research for an article, I wanted to find out who had given money to Judd Gregg's last Senate campaign. It took me two hours to dig through the two-foot stack of paperwork at the state house in Concord, but I eventually found what I wanted—a set of $1,000 donations from the families of two of the richest high-tech CEOs in the state. I remember thinking at the time that it would have made my job easier if I could have retrieved this information directly off the Web. On the other hand, I wasn't so sure that I'd be too happy if my nosy neighbors could (with a few clicks of a mouse button) find out that I dedicated $100 to Jerry Brown's 1988 presidential campaign—a quixotic lapse that, if it became generally known, might result in me being ostracized in my highly conservative neighborhood. **iB**

Geoffrey James (*www.geoffreyjames.com*) is the author of numerous articles and books on high-tech business. He is also the co-host of *Funny Business*, Boston's only all-comedy talk-radio program, heard Saturdays 10 to midnight on WRKO, AM 680.

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Ezra BY EZRA DYER

Can I Get a Recount?

The votes are in, and I'm lukewarm.

Confession: I have a problem. Everyone seems to be really good looking, and it pisses me off. Maybe it's just my imagination, but every time I go into a bar like The Rack I feel an intense urge to leave and go get pec implants, liposuction, strategic hair removal/grafting and possibly a face transplant. Sure, I get told that I'm the best-looking guy in there, but Mom always says stuff like that. Wouldn't it be helpful if there were some way to accurately judge yourself vis-a-vis the competition, so that you don't sidle up next to someone at the bar who is—how to put this gently?—out of your league, Lyle Lovett-face.

Enter *amihotornot.com*. I know, as Web trends go, this one's already in the nursing home with all those variations on the "Wassup" ads and the fried-chicken head from McDonald's. But you know I'm always a little behind the curve on the latest thing. Party on, Garth!

Anyway, if you're unfamiliar with the site (i.e., you live in an off-the-grid shack in North Dakota), it allows you to upload a picture of yourself and have visitors rate your attractiveness on a scale of 1 to 10. On the other side of the coin, you can also rate others.

What others thought: 5.7. What I think: I hate the Internet.

That's how I got sucked in, by rating the women of *amihotornot.com*. Despite the fact that I wasn't drinking, I immediately discovered that my scores were beer-goggle friendly. "Seven," I would say. "What others thought: 2.2," would come the response. Damn. Obviously, my standards needed to be adjusted. And the only way to accomplish that was through practice. It took a lot of determination, commitment and office time, but now I usually come within .2 points of the "what others thought" rating. I'm merciless. Got a harelip, a lazy eye, or—as in the case of one unlucky lady on the site—two prosthetic arms? Sorry, babe, that's gonna cost ya. There's no room for sympathy on *amihotornot.com*.

With that in mind, it was with a bit of trepidation that I posted my own pictures on the site. That's right, I put up more than one. I figured I'd submit one picture that I thought looked pretty suave, along with a deliberately bad "control" picture. The results were disturbing. The sleazy picture finished at 4.8, the good one at 5.7. That's not much of a spread. So do I look OK even when I'm looking skanky, or do I look skanky even when I'm trying to look good? And either way, I'm not a 6? *Amihotornot.com*, you make me feel so damn unpretty.

I began bitching about my scores to anyone who would listen. "There are a lot of '1' votes, so I bet some people just look at the pictures and give everyone a 1," I told Managing Editor Rachel. "Whatever you want to say to make yourself feel better," she replied.

"I assume that scoring system is on a scale of 1 to 6, like the US Figure Skating Association's" offered my friend Will. Ha ha, thanks. Another friend, Ned, lives in Manhattan, and he informed me that "In New York, the question isn't amihotornot, it's amIsohottheladieswon'teventhinktoaskif Iamaninvestmentbankerornot." Obviously, if I lived in New York (and wore better clothes, and stopped trying to get Natural Light in bars, etc.) I would regularly get asked if I am an investment banker.

After this humbling score, I had to try again. This time, I picked out a truly heinous reject from last issue's Bon Jovi column for the bad shot. And I made the decent picture better—and much smaller, about a fifth the size of the first one—on the theory that having three of your pores take up someone's entire monitor is going to be scary no matter how good you think the picture is.

The results: Bad pic, 4.5. Good pic, 7.4. The 7.4 makes me "hotter than 70 percent of the men on this site." Hmmm. So the least-detailed picture garnered the highest score. Does this mean that I fall into the category of "good from afar, but far from good"? Would I be even more attractive if I had a tiny, shrunken head? And what if I showed some skin, or wore a hat, or was standing in a big pile of money?

I must be hotter. I must increase my rating. It can happen. If I went from the 5's to the 7's just by changing my picture, imagine what some minor cosmetic surgery and a professional photo shoot could do. Not to mention the aforementioned liposuction and laser hair removal.

And then, maybe then—after I'm at least an 8—I'll get to work on this "personality" thing. iB

You think that's funny?

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Proper Bostonians

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

The Four Seasons Annual Holiday Party was held Nov. 30 at the Four Seasons Boston.

1. **Dennis Perriccio**, musician; **Mary Callanan**, **Frank Ridley** and **Melanie May**, all actors; **Sean Crowley**, student at Emerson College; and **Pat Stout**, musician.
2. **Christine Rua** and **Julian Cole**, both musicians.
3. **Robin Brown**, general manager of the Four Seasons.
4. **Katherine O'Kieffe** and **Mark Burns**, recruiting coordinator and recruiting director, respectively, for Arthur Andersen Consulting, and **Cathi Russell**, conference planner for McKinsey & Co.
5. **Daniel Ferrara**, national account manager for American Airlines; **Bruce Miller**, director of corporate travel for FleetBoston; **Bill Malone**, magician; and **Carl Wimmer**, sales manager for American Airlines.
6. **Donna Goodison**, reporter for the *Boston Business Journal*; **Pat Moscaritolo**; president & CEO for the GBCVB and **Peg Williamson**, operations manager for HA-LO Branded Solutions in Newton.
7. **Barbara Spencer**, special events manager for the Four Seasons Hotel; **Bryan Rafanelli**, owner of Rafanelli Events; and **Barbara Lemperly Grant**, director of the Chanel boutique.

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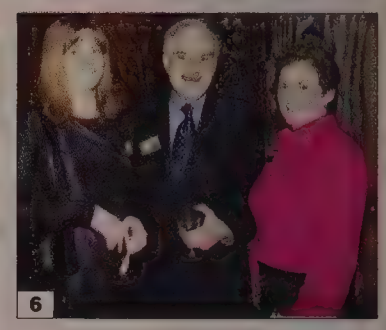
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The Children's Hospital League Festival 2000 was held Dec. 2 at the Westin Hotel. About 650 party-goers attended the silver anniversary reception and silent auction.

8. **Amy Drucker** and **Carolyn Rudolph**, both Children's Hospital League members; Rudolph's husband, **Greg**, sales manager for Area Lighting Research, and **Stephanie D'Angelo**, Children's Hospital League member.
9. **Taryn** and **Bill Valle**, president and CEO of WVA Inc.
10. **Susan Kalish**, teacher at the High Rock preschool in Needham; her husband, **Bob**, financial planner for Northeast Financial Planning; and **Maddy Jacobson**, president of the Children's Hospital League.
11. **Steve Scari**, senior managing director at Bear Stearns, his wife, **Robin**; **Michael Simches**, managing partner at Seed Partners, and his wife, **Wendy**.
12. **Paul Noel**, owner of Paul Noel Designs in Charlestown; **Donna Gendrau**, sales representative for Stark Carpet Design, and her husband, **Bob**, vice president of Office Furnishing & Systems.
13. **Mark Stephenson**, vice president of sales and operations for Giant Loop Inc., in Waltham, and his wife, **Lara**.

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Soroff/On

Jay Leno

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Tonight Show host Jay Leno was born in New Rochelle, NY, and raised in Andover, where he attended Andover High. After graduating from Emerson College, he worked for a short while in the car business before deciding to devote himself full-time to stand-up comedy. His first guest appearance on *The Tonight Show* was on March 2, 1977, and he was named exclusive guest host in 1987. Eight years ago, he was crowned Johnny Carson's successor, and during Leno's tenure, the show has won several Emmy Awards. He continues to perform in Las Vegas and on college campuses. The author of *Leading With My Chin*, he has also published four versions of *Headlines*, a series of books and desk calendars featuring absurd newspaper headlines, and *Police Blotter*, a book of humorous police stories, with the proceeds going to charity. He and his wife, Mavis, live in Los Angeles, where he collects classic cars and motorcycles.

Jonathan Soroff: *OK. Worst guest of all time—an animal that peed on your desk, maybe?*

Jay Leno: No! Those are the best guests—animals that pee or might attack at any moment. The worst guests are confused supermodels.

JS: *Most awkward or embarrassing incident?*

JL: I went over to sweep Winona Judd off her feet, and when I picked her up, I fell over backwards and she fell on top of me.

JS: *If you were a car, what kind would you be?*

JL: Probably a late '20s Bentley.

JS: *So, do you resent the expression "Taking it on the chin?"*

JL: (Chuckle) I don't take it personally.

JS: *Most difficult interview ever?*

JL: Well, I once got a letter from Gorbachev. He wanted to be on the show. So I said, "OK, but let's have dinner first." So I go to this restaurant to meet him, and it's me, Raisa, Gorbachev and an interpreter. Gorbachev doesn't speak English. So I'm introduced to Raisa and I say, "Nice to meet you. You were obviously a teen bride. You must've married a much older man" There's this great silence. The interpreter says something in Russian, and Gorbachev looks really pissed off. So I say, "What happened?" The interpreter says, "He wants to know why you feel he looks so old." So I said, "No. What I was saying is that you obviously married a young girl." More Russian. And Gorbachev looks even madder. The interpreter says, "His wife does not behave like a young girl." I said, "We're totally off on the wrong foot here." It was just obvious this was never gonna work.

JS: *How bizarre.*

JL: I've got another. I got a call from Bishop Desmond Tutu's agent...

JS: *Bishop Tutu has an agent?!*

JL: Yeah. So he says Bishop Tutu would love to be on your show. I said, "Y'know, we're more entertainment. I think of him in terms of civil rights and apartheid..." His agent goes, "Forget that crap. He's got a lot of funny stories about being stuck at the airport."

JS: *Very bizarre. So does Johnny Carson's ghost haunt you?*

JL: Johnny Carson's not a ghost. He's just fine.

JS: *You know what I mean.*

JL: Well, *The Tonight Show*'s sort of like the America's Cup—don't lose it and don't screw it up for the next guy. In my mind, this'll always be Johnny Carson's show. He set the standard. So I'll be the guy who came after him, and whoever comes after me will be the guy who came after the guy who came after Johnny.

"THOSE ARE THE BEST GUESTS—ANIMALS THAT PEE OR MIGHT ATTACK AT ANY MOMENT. THE WORST GUESTS ARE CONFUSED SUPERMODELS."

JS: *Where do you go after hosting* The Tonight Show? *That's pretty much the top.*

JL: You go to the Chateau DeVille in Framingham. Lombardo's. The Casa di Fiore function room on Route 128...

JS: *Oh, I'll keep my eyes peeled.*

JL: Seriously. I'm a stand-up comic and this just happens to be a day job that people seem to think is going very well. If it falls through—hey, I'm back on the road.

JS: *Any pet peeves with the audience?*

JL: When people are so politically correct that you have to explain where the joke is going before you get there, so that they don't prejudge you.

JS: *What happens off camera that people watching might not realize?*

JL: Everything does tend to happen on camera, because we're live on tape. The only time we tend to edit or bleep is if someone uses an obscenity.

JS: *Best example of that?*

JL: Jeez, there's a lot. This is our 2,000th show this month, and it happens pretty often. I had someone on the show—I think it was Sophia Loren, but I wouldn't swear to it—Anyway, she goes, "How you say in America, 'What the fuck?'" I was like, "Whoa!!!!"

JS: *Who would you rather sit next to on a long flight: David Letterman or Conan O'Brien?*

JL: With my luck, I'd probably get stuck in the middle seat between the two of them.

JS: *How would you describe what you do?*

JL: Good food at sensible prices.

JS: *What about the influence talk shows have on the political process?*

JL: That kind of amazes me, because it's not really what we're there to do. If you want that kind of show, watch *Nightline*. Our job is—after the news, which is terribly depressing—here's a laugh before you go to bed. That's all it's supposed to be.

JS: *How many babies do you guess have been conceived while your opening monologue has played in the background?*

JL: That question seems a bit 1950s. These days, you have people watching at the Hellfire Club, whipping each other.

JS: *Who's the funniest person you know?*

JL: There are people who make me laugh no matter what they do, like Fred Willard. Seinfeld is one of those guys who I can talk to on the phone for a long time. We kinda know what sets the other one off, and we can go back and forth forever. A conversation with a comedian is much more fun than talking to a civilian.

JS: *Well, excuse me.*

JL: (Laughs) It's just that the pace is faster. You can make obscure references that nobody else will get. Sometimes I'll talk to Arsenio Hall, and the only people I can joke about this job with are people who did it. There are no more than a handful, and some things just seem incredibly funny to us.

JS: *Anyone who intimidated you as a guest?*

JL: I wasn't intimidated, but having grown up in Massachusetts, I had John F. Kennedy Jr. on the show, and I remember being in eighth grade at Andover Junior

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High, hearing about the assassination. I remember watching the footage of John Jr. saluting his father's casket. At no point in my life did I think our paths would ever cross, so it was just really strange when he was on the show. I remember my Mom crying, and feeling so sorry for this little boy.

JS: *Anything about Massachusetts you miss?*

JL: Lots. It's the funniest, oddest place in the world. That no-nonsense New England quirkiness. I always tease people here about New England therapy—"Here's a gun. There's the barn. Go in and work out the problem."

JS: *Any complaints about L.A.?*

JL: I go back to my high school and all my teachers are still there. In L.A., not only is the school where my wife went not there anymore, the hill that it was on is gone, too. It's like the whole city's in the witness protection program.

JS: *If you could interview anyone from history, who would it be?*

JL: Jim Backus.

JS: *(Laughing) Mr. Magoo? Interesting choice!*

JL: Well, y'know, does Jonas Salk have funny stories?

JS: *Maybe about getting stuck in airports. So has anyone ever refused to be on your show?*

JL: Oh, sure. Lots of people. Jack Nicholson doesn't do these shows. We only had Barbra Streisand once, via satellite.

JS: *Anyone you'd never have back?*

JL: We had a rock group once. I won't say who it is, but they were really rude and abusive to our interns. One girl wanted an autograph and this guy signed it and threw it on the ground, said, "Pick it up." She was crying. She was so hurt, so I said, "Let's not have them back again."

JS: *How do you handle it when you hate the movie or show of an upcoming guest?*

JL: You say, "Well, you were good." You find a way around it, maybe pretend you didn't see it. Fake it.

JS: *How do you deal with prima donnas?*

JL: The trick to doing these shows is that you can't be a star. You have to be a fan. It's "The Tonight Show *with* Jay Leno," not *starring* Jay Leno. So the trick is to put the focus on your guest, and you get divas every once in a while, but it's seven or eight minutes. You can get through that. And a lotta times, there's more to the story. They're perfectionists, or have some neurosis and they honestly can't function if things aren't just so. That's alright.

JS: *People ever drink booze out of those mugs? Anybody need chemical alteration?*

JL: Yeah, a lot of people do Ecstasy before coming on. No, seriously, sometimes people request wine or whatever. Sure.

JS: *One thing you'd switch channels from your own show to watch?*

JL: Well, I don't sit like Narcissus, staring at my own reflection in the pool. I'll watch Dave, or Conan, or *Nightline*. I like argumentative shows, like *Politically Incorrect*...

JS: *Judge Judy?*

JL: No. I like to feel like I'm learning something. There's a certain Calvinist streak. I think of myself as inherently lazy, so if I'm gonna watch something, I might as well learn something from it as well.

"[I PLAYED] A WHOREHOUSE IN DORCHESTER. THE OWNER THOUGHT IT'D BE A GOOD IDEA TO HAVE A STAND-UP COMIC ENTERTAINING THESE VERY TOUGH GUYS WAITING TO GET LAID. I JUST RAN AWAY."

JS: *OK. Worst gig you ever played?*

JL: A whorehouse in Dorchester. The owner thought it'd be a good idea to have a stand-up comic entertaining these very tough guys waiting to get laid. I just ran away.

JS: *Sounds pretty bad.*

JL: Yeah, but here's the worst: We used to get ten bucks from the state [of Massachusetts] to perform at birthday parties in state facilities. So I went out to this mental hospital, and I'm doing a show for criminally insane people. Imagine telling jokes to a guy, chained to the wall, sitting in his own urine, naked. And I'm like, "Hey! Ever been to McDonald's?"

JS: *How about weird fan encounters, people standing by the stage door?*

JL: Yeah, they're fine. I did have one situation, though. This lady wrote me a letter saying her son wanted to be an actor, blah, blah, blah. He's nine years old. I call the kid up to give him some encouragement and advice. Two months later, my assistant says "Jay, So-and-So's here to see you." I say, "Huh?" The woman has sold her house in Arizona and moved here because I promised I'd put her kid in movies. They're still here; they come by every couple of weeks. That happens more often than you might think.

JS: *Ever have guests whom you have no clue who they are?*

JL: Sure. It happens a lot with music. "My next guest has sold more records than Elvis and the Beatles combined! Please welcome..." And I'm like, Who the hell is this?

JS: *Ever get called on it?*

JL: Not really. I'm pretty honest about it, and this isn't like the '60s, when there were three networks. Now there are countless outlets and nobody can know all that stuff.

JS: *One last question: Best Christmas present you ever got?*

JL: Well, it's not a present, per se, and it might be a bit schmaltzy, but we still have all of our Christmas trees. After Christmas, we'd plant them along the driveway. So when I go visit my parents' house, I still have every Christmas tree from age 9 to 22. Some are like 30 or 40 feet tall now. **iB**

Happy Holidays

from the staff members of

Coogan's Bluff

Jose McIntyre's

The Black Rose

RÓISÍN DUBH

clerys

The Purple Shamrock

We invite you to celebrate your holiday with us!

"Where Irish eyes are always smiling"

JOSE MCINTRYE'S
Thurs. Dec 14, 6pm-2 am
THE FINANCIAL DISTRICT'S HOTTEST HOLIDAY FIESTA:
Margaritas and Mistletoe
Join Hosts Neil White from 98.5 FM
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ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S BASHES
Sun. Dec 31, 8pm-2am

COOGAN'S BLUFF
Band: Pocket Trash, DJ: Keith Dennehy
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JOSE MCINTRYE'S
Band: Syndicate, DJ: John Triganli

Both Bashes include Open Bar,
Champagne Cocktails, Appetizer Buffet.
Advance Ticket Purchase Only.
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Diamonds at Dorfman's and Fleet Center suites,

These are a few of

La Stone massages and Ritz-Carlton treats...

my favorite things

Countess Laodomia Maribucci's over-the-top holiday indulgences

(AS TOLD TO JONATHAN SOROFF.)
PHOTOGRAPH BY TRACY AIGUIER

So I turned to my beloved butler (an absolute MacGyver around the house, with buns that look simply scrumptious in his cutaway coat) and said, "Fausto, take the rest of the month off."

I know. You're thinking, "How generous! How madcap! How ever did she manage?"

Well, darling, it wasn't easy, what with 18 rooms overlooking the Public Garden that need constant to-do-ing, but that's what illegal immigrants are for, *n'est-ce pas?*

It's holiday time, after all! Time for making grandiose gestures! Time to indulge ourselves shamelessly! Time to shop until that nervous nelly at the credit card company calls to ask if we meant to spend seven-figures in a single afternoon!

I mean, honestly—what's the point of making New Year's resolutions unless you've done something wickedly indulgent?

So while Fausto hustled off to St. Barths to run around the beach in a banana hammock, I got into the spirit of the season. I had my secretary make a list. I checked it twice. I stuck a bottle of bubbly on ice. Then I proceeded to scour the city for the most over-the-top gifts to spoil the people I love the most. >>

LOCATION: THE RITZ CARLTON HOTEL, 15 ARLINGTON STREET, BOSTON
MODELS: STACY DEVANEY/FORD MODEL MANAGEMENT; MATT COURIER/CLICK MODEL OF BOSTON; MAKEUP: LEAH SAN SOUCI/ENNIS; HAIR: STACY'S HAIR STYLED BY MOIRA GOINS/VIDAL SASSOON, MATT'S HAIR CUT AND STYLED DIRK DIEGEL/VIDAL SASSOON; JEWELRY PROVIDED BY VINTAGE JEWELRY, GIFTS & ANTIQUES— COOLIDGE CORNER, BROOKLINE; CLOTHING PROVIDED BY LORD & TAYLOR; FOOD PROVIDED BY THE RITZ CARLTON

Hammacher Schlemmer is offering a one-of-a-kind, floating, portable pod. You can relax on the deck or inside the luxury cabin.

one

HEAVENLY PIECES

Of course, that list begins with me, so I popped into **Dorfman's** on Newbury Street, the most *ut* ("utmost" in uppercrustese) jeweler in town. That adorable Barbara told me that a "whopper" of a diamond ring—15 carats, cushion-cut—had sold for $1 million only days before, so I settled for something a little more sporty: a ruby and repousse gold necklace with matching bracelet, ring and earrings. I need new *bijoux de plage* for Nantucket, and it was only 58 grand and change. Besides, the pendant can be worn separately as a brooch. There were some other cute things: a 7.5-carat emerald-cut diamond ring for $250,000, a sapphire, diamond and emerald necklace for $280,000, and an $85,000 pair of cabochon diamond-and-emerald earrings that were too Chestnut Hill for words. But I opted for the more unusual: a strand each of South Sea, Golden and Tahitian pearls for $345,000 (they're the size of grapes, and that bosomy dowager look is in, in, in!) and a black and white diamond butterfly pin that was nothing special until I saw it twinkling on my lapel—$38,500 later, it was mine.

I also stocked up on stocking stuffers for the boys: diamond, enamel and mother-of-pearl cufflinks and matching studs (only $7K) and a $500 hand-etched sterling cigar cutters. (Who says I'm not practical?) More important, I solved the problem of what to give that genius stockbroker who makes me such oodles and scads of money. The one thing he doesn't have is time to waste, so (I'm really too clever!) I got him a $45,500 Patek Phillipe Grand Complication Watch with a perpetual calendar and the ability to predict astronomical events like eclipses (but unfortunately not downticks in the stock market). Also—I just couldn't resist—I got him a gold-plated, electronic hourglass containing 2,000 sparkling rough-cut diamonds. Dorfman's has already sold five or six this season at $10,000 a pop—(P.S. Batteries not included).

A sumptuous caviar snack at the Ritz Carlton.

two

CAVIAR INDULGENCE

Of course, by that point, I was absolutely exhausted, so I went across the street to the **Ritz Carlton.** That hotel, I tell you, is just simply divine. They do this thing in the bar called Caviar Indulgence, and after settling in at Table 11 in the corner (they wouldn't dare put me anyplace else), I ordered a 1990 bottle of Veuve Clicquot Grande Dame and some nibblies. Before I knew it, I'd polished off an ounce of Ossetra, Sevruga and Beluga, scooped atop freshly made blinis like clouds. I just adore the way they serve the accompaniments (egg, onion, crème frâiche and chives) in little radicchio boats, and I was just about to slip one of those darling little horn caviar spoons into my purse when that handsome rascal Leon handed me a tab for $445. Snacks sure are pricey these days, but what the hell—the Ritz whacks a good sturgeon.

three

ROOM AT THE INN

Time for a nap, so I headed home. Seeing myself in the mirror in the foyer made me feel like a bloated tick, which naturally reminded me of my sister, Flavia. Ever since she got caught *en flagrante delicto* with that ski instructor, she hasn't been able to show her face in Gstaad, so I booked her a week at **Twin Farms** in Barnard, Vt. Don't tell me you haven't heard of it! Oh, my dear, it's the most absolutely beyond inn in New England, with room for only 28 guests in cottages scattered across 300 gorgeous acres. It's owned by an eccentric Hawaiian named Thurston Twigg-Smith (of all things), and his art collection is all over the place. There's a private ski mountain, an ice skating rink, a pub, a gym, a helipad and a chef who's absolutely to die for (he used to work at The Point at Saranac Lake). Each room is decorated differently, but since Flavia's always had a thing for swarthy men, I booked her Meadow Cottage, which is done up like a Moroccan king's traveling palace, with a tented ceiling, mosaic tiles, moucharaby screens and dizzying fabrics. It's $1,250 a night, which is about what Flavia spends on gigolos.

four

TOYS FOR YACHTS

Speaking of which, Thor's been a tad sullen lately, and I think I have a way to buck him up. Those devilishly clever people at the **Neiman-Marcus** catalog are offering a bona fide **submarine**, a 118-foot luxury vessel that sleeps 11, can travel to a depth of 1,000 feet, has a submerged range of 160 miles and speed of 15 knots. On the surface it looks just like a normal yacht, and it even has a cruising range of 3,000 miles (good enough to get us to Marbella). The nice lady at Neiman-Marcus said that no one's actually purchased one yet, although some bigshot flew in on his private jet for a look-see. Just think, for a cool twenty mill, Thor will have a toy no one else has. If that doesn't make him go down, I don't know what will.

Too bad Neiman's already sold out all 200 of the limited edition 2002 Ford Thunderbirds (for $41,995) and the MV Agusta F4 Strada motorcycles ($22,000). But I did get lucky when I bought my chef a sterling silver frying pan for $1,500 bucks. Turns out they're positively flying off the shelves here in Boston, and now darling Pierre won't have to suffer any chef envy. Isn't catalog shopping fun?

five

BACHELOR PODS

Another one-of-a-kind plaything I found was the **Aquatic Pod Suite** from **Hammacher Schlemmer**. Y'know how my nephew fancies himself James Bond? Well, for $91,100 they have this glass-bottomed bachelor pad. Imagine a floating flying saucer, anchored off the beach. At night, spotlights shine from the submerged lower portion, lighting up the deep, dark ocean. But I fell in love with the interior—central air conditioning, a mini-bar, an audio/video system, king-size bed, toilet and shower, not to mention an outdoor terrace for sunbathing. Perfect for bikinis and martinis on Skiathos!

six

F.A.O. SCHWARZ FANTASY

Of course, much as I'd like to, I can't forget that no-neck mouth-breathing little monster that my stepmother gave birth to six years ago (at least her thighs will never be the same). So I called **F.A.O.** and had them send a gas-powered, child-size **Range Rover** to his boarding school in Switzerland. It's got a 5-horsepower engine, rear disc brakes, a roll bar and full suspension, carpet, a leather-wrapped steering wheel, stereo and working headlights, and at $19,500, it's a small price to pay to keep the peace with Daddy. Who knows—maybe the little brat will drive off the side of an Alp.

seven

OH COME YE MERRY GENTLEMEN

Speaking of keeping the peace with Daddy, I thought of the perfect little holiday spirit booster for him (which will incidentally

OPPOSITE PAGE: DORFMAN'S & LINGERIE: BERTA DANIELS; MODEL: TACHOU/CLICK MODEL OF BOSTON

make the stepmother go ballistic). For $600, **All-Star Celebrities** will send two gorgeous strippers (and a big, beefy bodyguard) to his house for a private show. It's pretty much by-the-book—no touching without permission—but since Daddy's in a wheelchair thanks to you-know-who, it doesn't make much difference. I know he'll enjoy it anyway, since that's how he met wives four through six.

eight

TO ME, FROM ME

As soon as I hung up with them, my personal shopper from the **Saks 5th Avenue Club** called to say that a new shipment of Manolos and Jimmy Choos had arrived. You know what a shoe whore I am (I make Imelda look like an amateur), but, I thought, without Fausto here to find space in my closet, I'd better not. So I started to decline, until she began describing a pair of suede pumps (it was better than phone sex!) and I realized—much to my embarrassment—that I still hadn't given her my monthly order (and here it was the 3rd of December already!). I remembered how we shopped together, she and I, so that she could learn all about me and my impeccable taste, and then save me oodles of time all year round. I sighed and said, "Your taste is almost as exquisite as mine, sweetie. Send over 10 pairs you like," and then hung up, feeling rather proud of myself for having joined the club in the first place!

nine

MACHO, MACHO MEN

It was time for my weekly hair appointment, which got me thinking about what to get Phranque (pronounced "Frank") for Chanukah. It had to be something special, since he keeps me looking like a glamour-puss all year long (even during the Bad Hair Days of summer). He does that whole "I'm a macho straight guy, even though I cut hair for a living" thing, so I called the **FleetCenter** to find out about booking what they call a luxury box. I can't imagine what's luxurious about watching grown men getting all sweaty in front of cheering riff-raff, but I know Phranque would love it. Turns out, $225,000 gets you the box for a whole year, and there's room for 17 people, with a fridge and a fully stocked bar, waiters to bring you food (there's even a gofer who'll fetch you sushi, or whatever) and all sorts of audiovisual gimmickry that lets you see instant replays from different angles. Of course, booze and food is extra, and when I saw a picture of the rather routine interior, I asked if I could send my decorator over, but they didn't seem too keen on the idea. Oh, well. By the way, they keep two luxury suites available for nightly rentals, which, for $3,500, make the perfect holiday tip for the mailman or the paper boy.

ten

SIMPLY DIVINE

Without Fausto around, the house just seemed so empty, so I checked into **XV Beacon Street** for a few days of deluxe pampering. For just $3,500, I rented the whole floor—one room for me, and four for my luggage—decorated by that darling of the in-crowd, Celeste Cooper, with fireplaces, whirlpool tubs, 300-count Italian sheets and a mini-bar containing everything from champagne and gourmet goodies. I just adore the little extras here: silver-chrome heated towel racks, custom-blended lip balm and a buckwheat eye pillow. No wonder it's the favorite place to stay among jet-setting Arab royals and major Hollywood egos. Best of all, that divine little nook, the

Barbara Dorfman wears the diamond butterfly pin and showcases the battery-operated hourglass loaded with diamond [illegible] so popular this year.

Ten Indulgences Under $1,000

Rare luxuries for a one-of-a-kind holiday

Lush cashmeres, imported chocolates, soothing spa treatments and the good feeling of giving. For luxuries available in Boston for less than $1,000, sample this decadent list of gifts you can share—or wrap for yourself.

1. CHÂTEAU MOUTON-ROTHSCHILD PAUILLAC 1982: $1,000
Supple and sweet, the city's sommeliers glow about this wine's currant, plum and anise flavors. Its long finish goes on and on, but we won't. Call your favorite wine seller for this special-order purchase and pour a sample yourself.

2. FOUR SEASONS HOTEL: $725 HOLIDAY SPECIAL
This way, you can treat the Bristol Lounge like your living room. At this five-star, five-diamond hotel, take advantage of a special holiday offer: an overnight stay, for two in one of the hotel's Executive Suites and a day in the hotel health spa. Continental breakfast, valet parking and holiday cookies included. 200 Boylston St., 338-4400.

3. FRESH FLOWERS: $600
Each month, a seasonal flower arrangement is delivered to your doorstep. Your local florist may offer this service. We found ours for $600 at The Antique Vase, 723-2209; $499 at Dutch Flower Garden, 426-3925; and $600 at Winston Flowers, 541-1100.

Indulge in holiday designs at Newbury Street's Top Drawer lingerie boutique.

4. CHOCOLATE BELGIAN INDULGENCE AT CARDULLO'S GOURMET SHOPPE: $525
Aptly named, the Belgian Indulgence is a basket of chocolates courtesy of Jean Neuhaus, whose name is synonymous with exquisite chocolates worldwide. Available at 6 Brattle St., Cambridge, 491-8888.

5. ALAN ROULEAU COUTURIER: $445
There's something so royal about having custom-made items in your wardrobe. Visit Alan Rouleau and discover his trademark cashmere and Egyptian-cotton shirts. 91 Newbury St., 424-6555.

6. MY AGENT INC.: $400
Giving yourself, or someone else, more time in their week, is a terrific splurge. For $200, Register at My Agent Inc., and purchase four weeks at the monthly rate ($200). Once your groceries, dry cleaning and car-washing are done by someone else—and you've enjoyed the three additional hours offered each month for special errands (housecleaning, shopping, babysitting)—you're likely to buy this gift for all 12 months. 81A West Cedar St., 367-3805.

SALUT! Celebrate your holiday bonus with a $1,000 bottle of Chateau Mouton Rothschild Pauillac (1982).

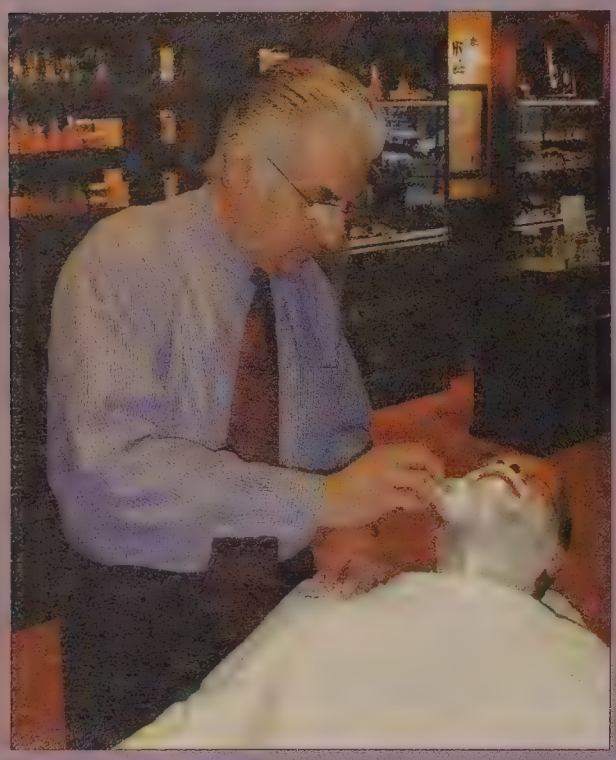
7. BELLA SANTE DAY SPA ROYAL TREATMENT: $377
This queen-for-a-day (or king) package includes a facial, massage, body buff, pedicure and manicure. (We suggest upgrading the massage to La Stone; have steaming river rocks stroked and pressed against your body during an 80-minute, $125 massage.) 38 Newbury St., 424-9930.

8. TOP DRAWER LINGERIE SET: $328
Designer Lise Charmel, popular for her ornate embroidery on lingerie pieces, is featuring satin, high-cut tap shorts with a delicate leaf pattern with matching bras and garters. Top Drawer, 164 Newbury St., 267-7001.

9. PADRON SERRIE DE ANIVERSARIO 1964-PYRAMID CIGARS: $310 (BOX OF 24)
The draw is easy, the smoke is medium-bodied, cool, rich and plentiful with a slight peppery flavor, and the burn is so even it looks artificial.

10. SANTA'S HELPER: $1,000
Sure, we're blowing the whole budget here, but the warm-and-fuzzy feelings you get in return are priceless. Choose a charity with children in need of toys on their list (**Toys for Tykes** or the **New England Home for Little Wanderers** perhaps). Then walk to **F.A.O. Schwarz** and splurge. Shop for nieces and nephews, but double up for children you don't know. Just buy two of the following: a comfy pink-satin and white-cotton sleeping bag shaped like a ballet slipper ($199); two Bead Bucket Jewelry Makers ($60); Leggo Soccer ($150); Simpsons Clue board game ($19.99) and a bright red dump trucks for toddlers ($40). Now go buy four $15-boxes of Holiday Cards at **Children's Hospital** or any **Filene's**. Proceeds go to the **Children's Trust.** That's exactly $1,000 spent on several priceless, charitable gifts. Finally, donate your frequent flier miles to the **Make-a-Wish** foundation (*www.wish.org*) *and* help fly sick children to dream destinations.—*Ellen O'Brien and Barbara Matttaliano*

L'Occitane en Provence is filled with fabulous fragrances for bath and body. Below, barber Gregory Zorian provides Ronald C. Howard with a classic hot shave at Gregory's.



Ten Indulgences Under $100

Sensory pleasures that won't break the bank

Soak in jasmine suds, treat your pet to pretty paws and let the pros rejuvenate your body and soul.

1. CAKE, PORT, JAZZ: $100

For a devilish mix of gastronomy and aural indulgence, head to Les Zygomates, where you and yours can enjoy a warm chocolate gateau with cinnamon ice cream and a port flight (four fabulous samples apiece) all while soaking up live jazz. Les Zygomates, 129 South St., 542-5108.

2. DEEP TISSUE MASSAGE AT CANDELA: $90

A deep tissue massage at Candela will relieve your stress almost instantaneously. A massage therapist will heartily knead your aching bod in a way that benefits all muscle tissue. 28 Arlington St., 426-6999.

3. FLAKE OUT—GREAT FACIALS UNDER $100

Let's face it; all this city shopping and party hopping can mean gritty skin. Facials are a must. At 30 Newbury St., a $70 Sandra Curzi facial includes a beauty lesson, 645-4305. At 37 Newbury St., Daryl Christopher Spa, savor a $65 salt rub for total-body exfoliation, 424-0250. Or, find your way to the Salon at Saks 5th Avenue in the Prudential Center and see the sought-after Bonnie for a $77 expert exfoliation and a glowing holiday face., 262-8500.

4. DIVINE BUBBLES AT L'OCCITANE EN PROVENCE: $71

Steep yourself in a foaming bath scented with mandarin jasmine, black currant or verbena leaf—only some of the scents in the Gardens of L'Occitane bath collection. All bath sets—including eau de toilette, lotion and foaming bath—are made from herbs cultivated in monks' herb gardens in Provence. A set will cost you $71 .L'Occitane en Provence, 179 Newbury St., 424-6344.

5. PRETTY TOES (AND PAWS): $40

Head to Brookline Grooming on Harvard Street, where you can treat your dog to a toenail clipping and polishing for a mere $10. Then you pop into Nouveau Nails (just a few doors down), where you can sit in a massage chair and get a manicure and pedicure for $30 (by appointment only). Brookline Grooming and Pet Supplies, 148 Harvard St., 738-6682; Noveau Nails, 142 Harvard St., 232-0756

6. HOT SHAVE AT GREGORY'S BARBER SHOP: $40

When Hollywood's Tom Hanks was in town, he stopped at Gregory's, where a hot lather and shave evokes a bygone era. 745 Boylston Street., 236-4885.

7. BRAZILIAN WAX AT HIGHSTYLE: $25

Owner Mely Hill will remove your bikini-line hair with her expert, almost painless touch, and you'll be ready for Rio! 200 High St., 261-7101.

8. WWW.KOZMO.COM: PRICE VARIES

Join the slackified cyber ranks. These orange-clad cats will deliver to your door for just $1.99; spend more than $30 and the service is free. Order cool stuff like the *The Gladiator* in DVD (4.49), or a Ben & Jerry's cookie dough ice-cream bar ($1.75); 1-877-Go Kozmo.

9. AURAL PLEASURE AT MARS RECORDS: FREE (SORT OF)

The perfect pick-me-up Visit Mars Music on Newbury Street., a small but fabulous record boutique that features a vetted selection perfect for music snobs. Here's the real indulgence: They'll let you listen to any CD and almost any record—a rare treat since most record stores only offer preselected listening stations. 299 Newbury St., 266-4270. The challenge is to leave without a towering stack of CDs and vinyl.

10. GOT BEER?: FREE (SORT OF)

Take a tour of the Harpoon Brewery and learn about Harpoon's history and the brewing process. Along the way, sample Harpoon's many brews including the hearty Winter Warmer. Every Fri. and Sat. at 1pm. Harpoon Brewery, 306 Northern Ave., 574-9551; If you choose to buy, it's $7 for a sixer and $22 for a case. —*Rachel Strutt and Barbara Mattaliano*

Federalist restaurant, is on the ground floor. One night, I ordered a $14,000 bottle of 1907 Heidsieck Monopole Champagne to have with my dinner, and I honestly can't say which was more delicious. If you do decide to leave the hotel for whatever reason (waxing, electrolysis, minor plastic surgery), be sure to use one of the hotel's Mercedes sedans.

eleven

PARTY PLANNING

It was while I was staying at the Fed that I remembered my annual holiday party. I'd invited 400 people for cocktails and then promptly forgotten all about it, and now Fausto wasn't even around to fix everything. Thank God for **Concierge of Boston**! I keep them on a $6,000 annual retainer just for little emergencies like this. One call, and they sent one of those "Mr. No-Problem" men right over. In no time, he helped me wade through a gazillion menus from caterers and worked up a fabulous wine list (he even found me a case of Chateau Margaux for only $18,000), arranged for 50,000 Castillian roses to be flown in from Colombia, hired a cellist for the dining room and a mariachi band to play "Feliz Navidad" endlessly out on the sidewalk, located those marvelous beeswax candles from France and found the exact right dress for me to wear! In

Next year, let a seasoned concierge like Gordon Jones (right, with client Tom Johnson) plan your holiday fête—from picking a spot (why not the Fed's hallowed wine cellar?) to arranging limo service for your esteemed guests.

fact, I loved him so much, I kept him around for a few days , and if I didn't adore Fausto more than life itself, I just might have kept him round-the-clock.

twelve

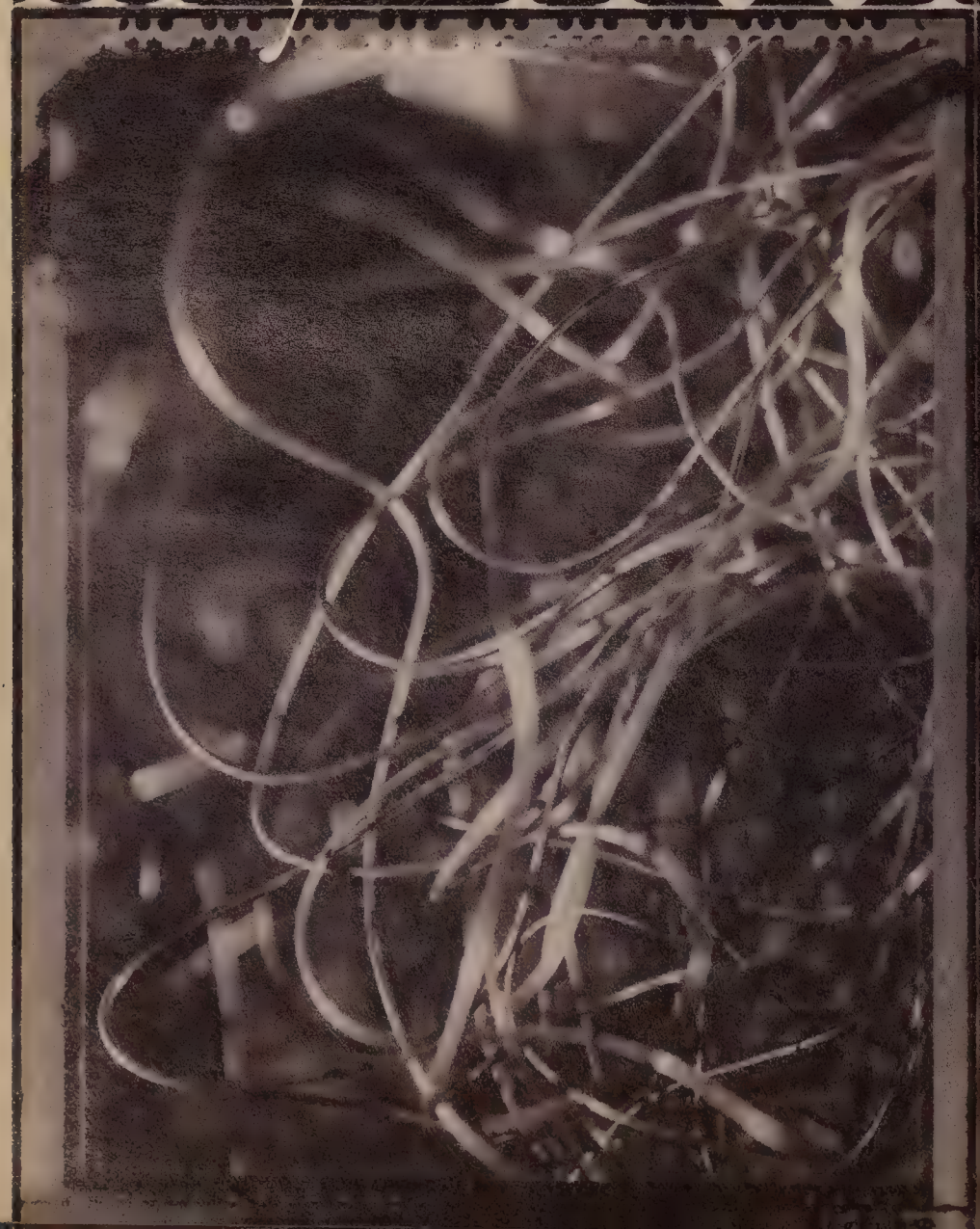
SPIRIT OF THE SEASON

Well, when I finally checked out of the hotel and returned home, there was a big pile of newspapers cluttering my front door, and despite the fact that Fausto wasn't around to iron them and put them on my breakfast tray, I gave them a quick glance. It was shocking! Who knew there was so much hardship in the world, and at Christmastime, no less! Those **Globe Santa** stories had me boo-hooing into my champagne flute, and so I pulled out my checkbook and started scribbling donations like mad: a million bucks to the **AIDS Action Commit-tee** and a hundred thousand to those little rascals in the **Big Brothers-Big Sisters** programs. I dashed off pledges to the **Walk for Hunger** and the women at **Casa Myrna Vasquez.** I gave to the **Salvation Army** (I think they need the money for new outfits, because the red things they wear on street corners are sooo Nancy Reagan), the **New England Home for Little Wanderers** (I just love children with the initiative to take a hike), and two charities called **Rosie's Place** and the **Pine Street Inn,** which, as far as I can tell, put people up when they have no place else to go, like when they're redecorating. Putting the cap back on my fountain pen, it occurred to me that there's no greater holiday indulgence than feeling like you've done something wonderful for someone else. Of course, I can't mail the donations until Fausto gets home, since he knows how to work those stamp thingies. Happy Holidays, darling, and don't forget to do something fabulous—for yourself and others! iB

CURIOSITY. REWARDED.

OP. natural orange, peach and ginger flavored spirit with aquavit, 35% alc./vol. (70 proof). © 2000 V&S Vin & Sprit AB. All rights reserved. Imported by Crillon Importers Ltd., Paramus, NJ 07652 www.op-up.com Ad by Gigante Vaz Partners.

my little sister



BEFORE I BECAME A BIG SISTER TWO YEARS AGO, I HAD A CLEAR VISION of what my little sister would be like: a shy, dark-skinned girl with bony knees, white knee socks, long black braids and dainty fingers. I would take her to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and watch her face light up as we walked around the glorious courtyard. Then we'd get some cucumber sandwiches at the café and pretend that we were dignified people having afternoon tea.

I don't know where this fantasy came from. As a girl I certainly wasn't dainty, and I was much more interested in climbing fences than learning about fine art. But still, there was a golden glow cast over the whole picture: *Single, thirtysomething woman does good for society and basks beneath an expansive arch of goodness*. Most of all, I believed, when my little sister and I were together, we would be swept far away from our problems, protected by a sort of magical world of our own.

I couldn't have been more wrong.

The picture usually looks like this: Ashley, who is 12, bounds from the front door of her apartment building wearing sweatpants, platform sneakers and a denim jacket that is at least four sizes too big. She climbs into my Toyota, says "Hi, Sis!" and quickly changes the radio station from my preprogrammed college rock station to Jam'n 94.5. When I ask her where she wants to go, she predictably says, "Uh, McDonald's?" I roll my eyes. "What about something healthy," I moan. Before going to lunch, we head out to TJ Maxx, where she holds up every sheer leopard-print blouse in the store and, to the amusement of other shoppers, loudly pronounces, "Susan, I think you really *need* this."

We hang out for four hours, ducking into one store after another, and then end up under the golden arches of McDonald's, where she "Supersizes" everything. After I take her home, to the cramped apartment she shares with two sisters and her parents, I go home and am struck by the silence of my space. Sometimes I have no idea whether she has had a good time.

Becoming a big sister is not something to be taken lightly, and I am reminded of that every time Ashley calls me at 7:30 on a Sunday morning, anxiously ready to plan our day. There is a fairly long application process: filling out forms, attending orientation, meeting with social workers, undergoing a criminal-records check,

One-to-one mentoring programs provide meaningful connections for kids growing up in a tough world.

BY SUSAN ABBATTISTA • PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEPHEN SHEFFIELD

and making a "dry run" to check out the neighborhood of the potential little sister. If all goes as planned, you can be matched with a girl in about five months, though sometimes the wait can be longer.

"Big sisters come from all walks of life," says Sara Guastello, manager of public communications at the Big Sister Association of Greater Boston, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary next year. "The average big sister is in her 30s and has a busy professional life, and she's doing this to create balance in her life." But, Guastello adds, big sisters can also be as young as 20 or in their 70s, and some are stay-at-home mothers.

To be a big sister, you must meet with your little sister at least every two weeks for a year. After that time, both big and little sisters are asked if they would like to renew their match. If they agree, as Ashley and I did, then they set up their own guidelines for meeting. Consistency and follow-through are essential.

"We want women to be fully aware of the commitment that's required," Guastello explains. "If a woman is undergoing changes in her life—if it's a hectic time, or maybe a parent is sick—this may not be something that's right for her at this time."

Indeed, looking back on my own experience, I was asked to wait six months before being matched. I had just gone through the breakup of a five-year relationship, had moved from Cambridge to Somerville and had also changed jobs. I had hoped that having a little sister would provide some companionship and—facing the reality of the biological clock—I realized that relating to a young person was an opportunity I might not get through parenting. The social worker asked me to come back when things were more stable. When I did return, I was deemed "ready" for a match.

The screening process is rigorous—for good reason. These children have already suffered much loss and hardship, whether it be financial troubles, a parent with a drug problem or the presence of physical or emotional abuse in the home. And so a mentor who does not follow through as promised can only compound a child's disappointment and sense of neglect.

Ernestine Stanton, a 54-year-old homemaker who has been a big sister to 9-year-old Aja for about two and a half years, puts it this way: "We all have our families, but sometimes we just need to reach outside and speak to someone else." Aja has slowly shifted from being shy and introverted to calling her big sister when something upsetting happens. "We are in a position now where she trusts me," Stanton says, "and whatever issues are going on, we can share them

to come up with some solutions. By sharing, it makes it easier for her to face whatever happens."

Another big sister I spoke with, Myoko Costello, who is 26 years old and works as an activities coordinator at ES International Language School in Brighton, echoes Stanton's sentiments. Her little sister, 10-year-old Katryna, was having problems at home and had to move in with her aunt. "During that time, I hadn't heard from her and didn't know where she was," Costello says, "and then one day out of the blue, she called me. That's when I felt that yes, I have gained her trust." Over time, Katryna has learned that despite what happens at home or in school, her big sister is a stable presence.

Across the country, there is a crushing need for such one-to-one mentoring relationships. The Big Sister Association is joined by the Big Brothers of Massachusetts Bay to help address that need in the greater Boston area. Although Big Brothers and Big Sister operate independently in Massachusetts, both are members of the national Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, one of the oldest mentoring programs in the country. (Locally, there are several organizations that provide mentors, including the Jewish Big Brother & Big Sister Association.) "There are differences between the agencies, but we have so much in common," says John Pearson, president and CEO of Big Brothers of Mass Bay. "We all thrive on the power of one human being taking an interest in the development of another."

What the organizations share most is providing hope at a time when children need it most: government support for after-school programs is shrinking; single parenting is on the rise; crime and drug use are persistent menaces; sexual promiscuity is more common at younger ages; and parents are overwhelmed by trying to make ends meet. Meanwhile, organizations that have traditionally provided mentors—churches, synagogues, colleges, community groups and some corporations—can barely keep up.

Children in need usually fit a common profile: Almost half live at or below the poverty level, a large number of them (about 60 percent) are children of color, and most live in a single-parent household headed by a female. Big Sister aims to provide girls with a positive female role model other than the mother; Big Brothers tries to provide a male model in situations where none is present in the boy's life.

In the Boston area, about 750 girls have a big sister, but 250 are still waiting. And while about 960 boys have a big brother, about 500 boys are on the waiting list. A boy or girl can wait two months to about a year, depending on where a child lives or whether a suitable match is found.

Research indicates that the presence of one caring adult—in a consistent, professionally supported relationship—is critical to child development. In 1995, an independent study conducted by Philadelphia-based private research group Public/Private Ventures (P/PV) examined nearly 1,000 children. Half of the sample belonged to the Big Brothers or Big Sister mentoring program, and half did not. The study found that little brothers and sisters who were matched for one year were 46 percent less likely than their peers to use illegal drugs, 27 percent less likely to start drinking and 52 percent less likely to skip a day of school. Children who had mentors were also more trusting of parents and guardians, less likely to lie and had better relationships with their peers.

But making this type of commitment is not easy for adults with jam-packed schedules. For those that cannot give that kind of time, Big Sister has some other volunteer opportunities. In fact, the organization has developed new volunteer models to recruit more women. A new program called Team Enhanced Approach to Mentoring (TEAM), for example, pairs groups of girls with groups of women at middle schools around Boston, so they can engage in activities that address issues in girls' lives.

Big Brothers of Massachusetts Bay, which was founded in 1949 and is one of the largest one-to-one male mentoring agencies in the country, is also striving to expand its reach. "We used to say that we wanted you to spend three to four hours each week for a year," says John Pearson. "But studies have shown that other models—meeting a couple of times a month instead—can be just as effective." The typical big brother commitment, then, is twice a month for a nine-to-12-month period.

At Big Brothers, the average age of a volunteer is in the 25-to-35 range, though the full range is 18 to 70 years old. Recently the agency has tried to recruit more men over age 50. "It's not so much that we look at the age of the man, but the boy inside the man," Pearson says.

Another way to increase the number of matches is by emphasizing that when it comes to cultural differences between a child and an adult, color is only skin deep. "Many men fear that they cannot relate to today's kids," says Pearson. "There might be a guy who lives in the suburbs and thinks about mentoring an African-American or Latino who lives in the urban core, and the guy might think, 'I don't know if I'd be accepted by one of them.' But we have many successful cross-race and cross-cultural and cross-community matches."

While the agencies serve a common need generated by the same set of societal factors, there are some interesting differences in their philosophies. The Big Sister program, for example, puts volunteers through a training program that teaches ways of relating to girls. In my training session, we received a packet containing extensive materials about active listening, using open-ended questions and speaking with "I" statements. ("I feel disappointed that you lied to me...")

The Big Brothers program, meanwhile, does not require any sort of training in communication. Although men must be interviewed twice, attend an information session and undergo a criminal check, there is no role playing. Instead, the emphasis is placed on being friends and having fun. It is expected that positive role modeling occurs as a natural byproduct of just being together.

Pearson attributes that approach to gender differences—the way males bond and learn. "If we feminize the male relationship, we'll look at a situation and say, 'Gee, they missed an opportunity to talk about their emotions.' But if you ask the man and the boy, they feel a strong connection based on the activities they do together, whether they communicated the way women might, or not."

Though it is tempting to divide mentoring along gender lines, I spoke with several big sisters and brothers and found the differences between them to be a bit more subtle. In other words, there were big sisters who told me about their fun activities, and there were big brothers who were well-aware of a gradual "opening up" in their little brothers' communication abilities.

"My number-one goal is to be his friend," says Sean Burns, 27, a sales associate at Experience.com in Boston and a big brother to 12-year-old David. "In the course of doing that, I tend to be a role model as well. When David was 10, he was very much a little boy. Now he's 12 and he's starting to talk about girls. In the beginning, he wouldn't have necessarily turned to me first; he would go to his mother. And now there are a lot of things he won't ask her about. He'll ask me."

Gender differences aside, the most important element seems to be the consistent presence of a caring adult in a child's life. In the two years that I have known Ashley, we have grown to be companions and confidantes. And we did have what I would call that "golden moment." Early in our match, on one spring day, we sat on the porch of the triple-decker where she lived with her immediate family, her grandmother and some cousins. We strung little pink hearts on elastic bands and made ankle bracelets that we slipped on over our bare feet. Ashley had just turned 11, and she got a new black-and-white puppy for her birthday. I was beginning a romantic relationship with a longtime crush. The air was warm, birds fluttered on the telephone lines, and our bikes lay in the grass. And though I couldn't say for sure how my being there would affect her future—and the choices she would make as an adult—we were both content, and that held promise.

...we head out to TJ Maxx, where she holds up every sheer leopard-print blouse in the store and, to the amusement of other shoppers, loudly pronounces, "Susan, I think you really *need* this."

Fast-forward two-or-so years to today. We are sitting across from each other in a booth at Bickford's on Broadway, near the Medford line. Ashley orders a breakfast that can feed an army. I am digging into a huge waffle. I notice that Ashley's face has matured; her gaze is more serious.

I realize we have both experienced a lot of changes in our time together: One year ago, the landlord of Ashley's triple-decker raised the rent, and her family was forced to move to a high-rise on the other side of town. In the process, the cousins and grandmother were dispersed, and Ashley had to give up her beloved dog. I, meanwhile, recently endured the end of that romantic relationship that had once seemed so promising.

At Bickford's, Ashley and I pass the syrup back and forth. Our conversation goes something like this.

"Christmas! I'm going to put, like, 200 things on my list!"

"Hmm."

"I won't be able to get them *all*, but last year my new dad got me a PlayStation, and it cost, like a hundred dollars...."

There is a short lull in the conversation. Ashley looks up at me: "I think you must get lonely. I want you to know that my family will always be there for you. If you need food, or anything. Even money!" I look directly at her and smile.

We head out to see *Charlie's Angels* at the Assembly Square Mall. Afterward we are running across the parking lot, leaping, kicking, karate-chopping our invisible enemies. Ashley's coat is flying open, we are laughing, and the sky is the burnt-orange shade of a winter sunset. And I realize that I can't protect her from loss and change, but I can be there when it happens. We are good friends—and fierce, battling warriors. **iB**

To find out more about mentoring, call the Big Sister Association at 236-8060, Big Brothers of Massachusetts Bay at 542-9090, or the Jewish Big Brother & Big Sister Association at 965-7055.

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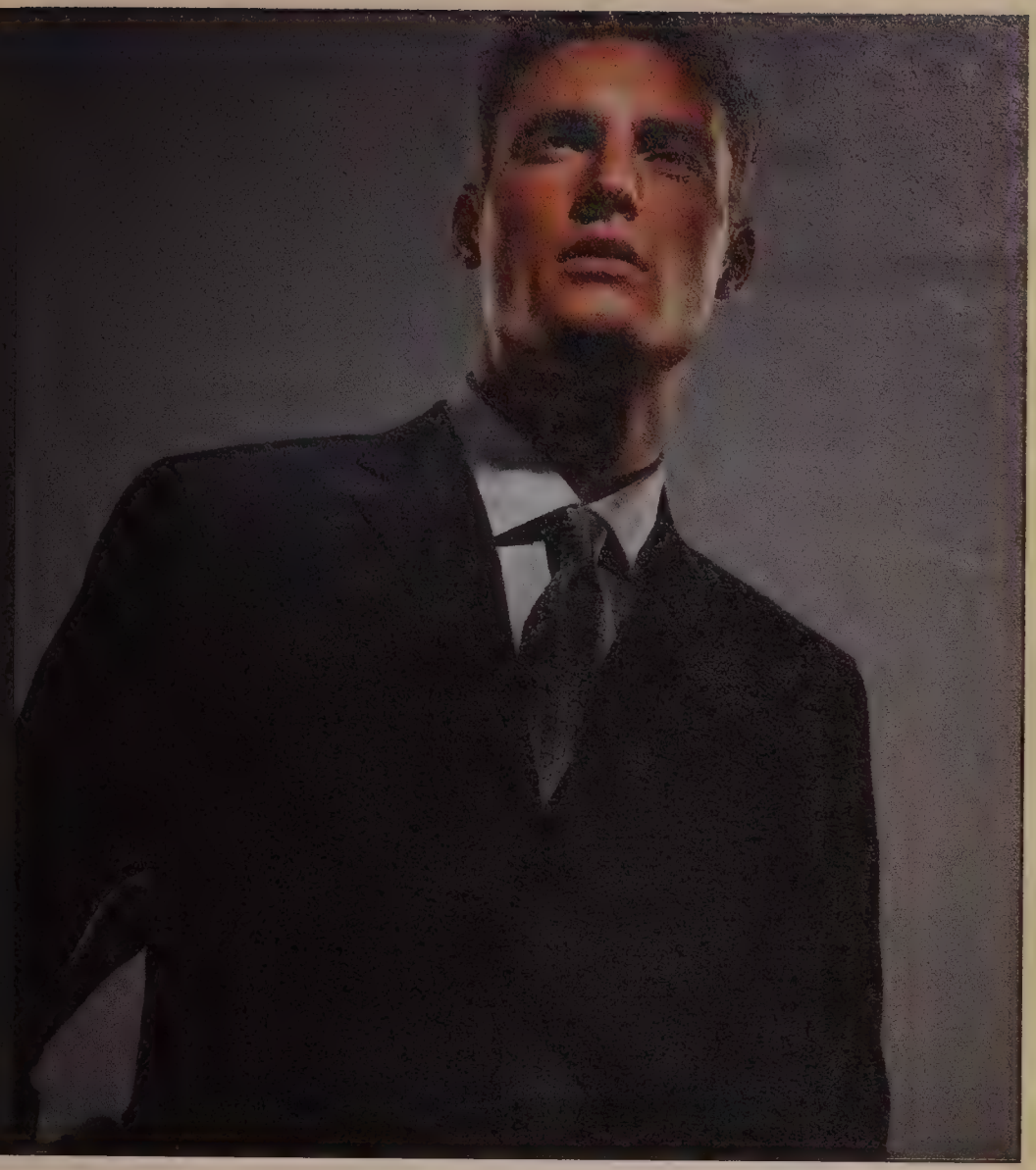

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Marian High School students give their time at the Pine Street Inn with director of volunteer programs Peg Drisko-Johnson (middle). From left: Liz Kelley, Luke Duncan, Tiffany Dodd and Melissa Norton.

HELP!

A clip-and-save reference guide to volunteering in Boston. BY ERIN HAGEDORN

IT SEEMS ALL WE EVER HEAR ABOUT THESE DAYS ARE YOUNG professionals with plenty of money—or young professionals in danger of losing their millions. Many of us do not keep as close watch on those less fortunate—the sick, the elderly, the needy children and the homeless. Come holiday time, we are reminded of the blessings that surround us, as well as the needs of the less fortunate. This year, follow the example set by those who volunteer all year long, and learn the priceless feeling that comes with donating your time and yourself.

To get started, get online (see our suggestions below) or dial **Catholic Charities** *(482-5440, ext.2274)*. It offers hundreds of volunteer opportunities across the city. Another great resource is **Boston Cares** *(236-CARE)*. The group publishes a project calendar listing 70 to 80 volunteer opportunities all around Boston. These projects require only a one-time commitment. Volunteers serve the hungry, tutor teens and adults, package meals for people living with HIV/AIDS, spruce-up parks and more. What follows is just a small sampling of those in need of volunteers.

TUTORING

Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts
(888-466-1313). The adult literacy program is a private non-profit organization that addresses the spectrum of current concerns, such as educating our workforce for the 21st century.

Partners in Education
(451-6145). Help with after-school programs and assist teachers in the classroom. Volunteer once or on a regular basis. Every year, it places 3,000 volunteers . At **Compass** *(542-2333)*, the focus is on tutoring 6- to 22-year-olds.

HEALTH CARE

Jimmy Fund
(800-52-JIMMY). Jimmy Fund volunteers have several ways of helping children with cancer—from passing Jimmy Fund collection canisters to movie-goers to helping with events like the Scooper Bowl, Pan-Massachusetts Challenge, Boston Marathon and the Jimmy Fund Walk. You can also volunteer directly through the **Dana-Farber Cancer Institute** one day a week for four hours to help patients living with cancer *(632-3307)*.

Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries
(541-1259). This program provides job training and placement services to those in need. Volunteers are needed to hold donation drives, sort donations and assist at monthly auctions.

CHILDREN

Big Brothers of Massachusetts Bay and The Big Sister Association of Greater Boston
Big Brothers (542-9090); Big Sister (236-8060) Both groups provide children with an adult volunteer, who serves as a companion, friend and role model.

The Home for Little Wanderers
(267-3700). Help support, restore or create a nurturing environment for children at the largest child welfare agency in New England, serving 10,000 children and families each year. Volunteers mentor and tutor children ages 4 through 21.

HIV/AIDS PROGRAMS

AIDS Action Committee
(437-6200). Buddy volunteers can work one-on-one with people living with HIV. Hotline volunteers field calls from those with questions about the disease and where to go for support and proper care. Volunteers are also needed for the Food & Nutrition Center, HIV Health Library, office administration and as leaders in support group.

Community Servings
(445-7777). The popular program needs volunteers to help prepare and deliver meals year-round for individuals and families dealing with AIDS.

ANIMALS

MSPCA
(522-7400). The Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has responded to cruelty complaints and conducted legislative efforts on behalf of animals since 1868. The group runs eight animal shelters and three animal hospitals, relying on volunteers to care for abandoned animals and to work as office assistants. For other volunteer oppurtunities working with animals, check out the **Animal Rescue League of Boston** *(781-461-8015)*.

FOOD ASSISTANCE/ FOOD PANTRY

Greater Boston Food Bank
(427-5200). Join this team of more than 7,000 volunteers and help feed those in need. Opportunities are available six days a week (flexible hours). Volunteers sort and prepare food and provide administrative support.

Project Bread
(723-5000). From stuffing envelopes to staffing the FoodSource Hotline (a four-month commitment), there are thousands of opportunities here, including support for the annual Walk for Hunger in May.

ELDERLY

Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly
(451-2404). The Little Brothers organization is committed to relieving isolation and loneliness in the elderly; it'slooking for men and women to visit regularly with an elderly person, assist with errands and visit during the holidays.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Habitat for Humanity
(524-8891). An affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, this is a non-profit, Christian, volunteer-based organization dedicated to building low-cost homes. You can work on construction, fund-raising and database development .

Samaritans of Boston
(536-2460). Help stop suicide by becomming a part of this 24-hour befriending service. You learn the skills necessary for staffing the hotline in an extensive training course. Teens are also neeed for Samariteens.

ENVIRONMENT

Massachusetts Audubon Society
(983-8500). This is the largest conservation organization in New England, concentrating its efforts on protecting the nature of Massachusetts. Also check out the **Sierra Club** *(423-5775)* and the **Save the Harbor/Bay** *(451-2860)*.

SHELTERS

Pine Street Inn
(521-7626). The inn provides street outreach, emergency shelter, health care, job training and housing to 1,300 daily. Volunteers are needed as clinic receptionists, literacy tutors and and meal servers.

Rosie's Place
(442-9322). A sanctuary for poor women and those in need of shelter, Rosie's Place provides permanent and overnight housing, lunch and dinner and help finding employment.

Boston Rescue Mission Inc.
(482-8819). This shelter for homeless men and women in the financial district operates as an emergency shelter (Oct. through June). The post-detox program provides a temporary home for men and women waiting to go into a halfway house. **iB**

www.volunteer

Get online to find out who needs you now.

www.volunteermatch.org/citymatch/boston
Allows a potential volunteer to search thousands of opportunities by zip code, category and date, then sign up directly via email.

www.charityamerica.com
The Natick-based site allows people to donate items to charities, find volunteer opportunities and make donations online. There are links to 50 Boston-area organizations.

www.volunteersolutions.org
You can search for a volunteer opportunity that matches your skills, interests, time availability and location preference.

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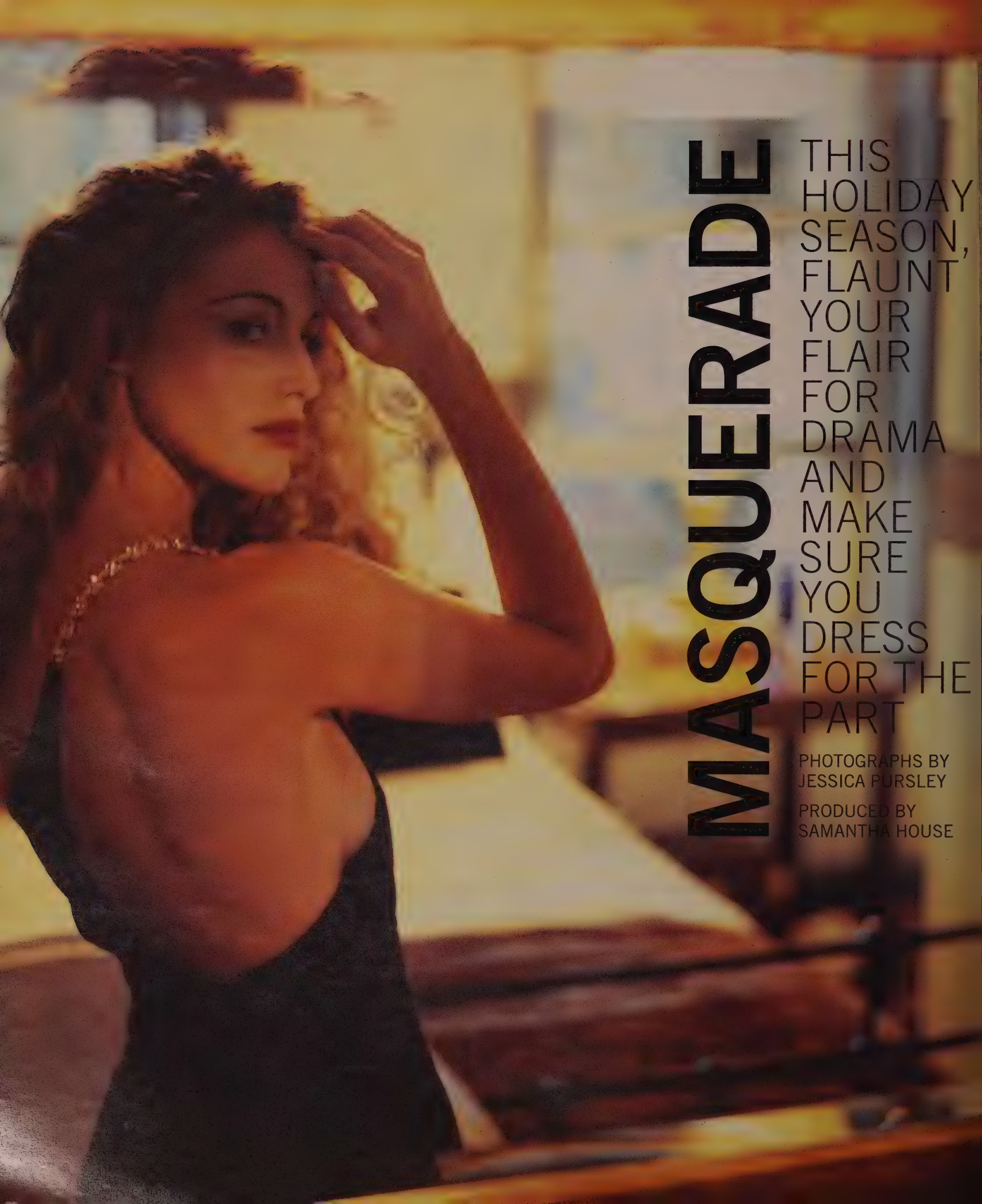

MASQUERADE

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, FLAUNT YOUR FLAIR FOR DRAMA AND MAKE SURE YOU DRESS FOR THE PART

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JESSICA PURSLEY

PRODUCED BY SAMANTHA HOUSE

This page: Laundry sequined evening gown, $280; available at Saks Fifth Avenue.

Opposite page: Jessica McClintock rhinestone and gold shoulder-strap black evening gown, $106; available at Jessica McClintock boutiques.

Bill Blass black stretch tuxedo jacket and pants, $199; Lady Enyce gold choker necklace; both available at Bloomingdale's

Ralph Lauren wool plaid Irish evening gown, $240; Ralph Lauren black suede Karolyn shoes, $105; available at Bloomingdale's.

Ralph Lauren black evening Sedona gown, $270; earrings and necklace by Christian Dior; Donna Karan black fishnet stockings, $12; all available at Bloomingdale's.

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Saks Fifth Avenue
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Prudential Center

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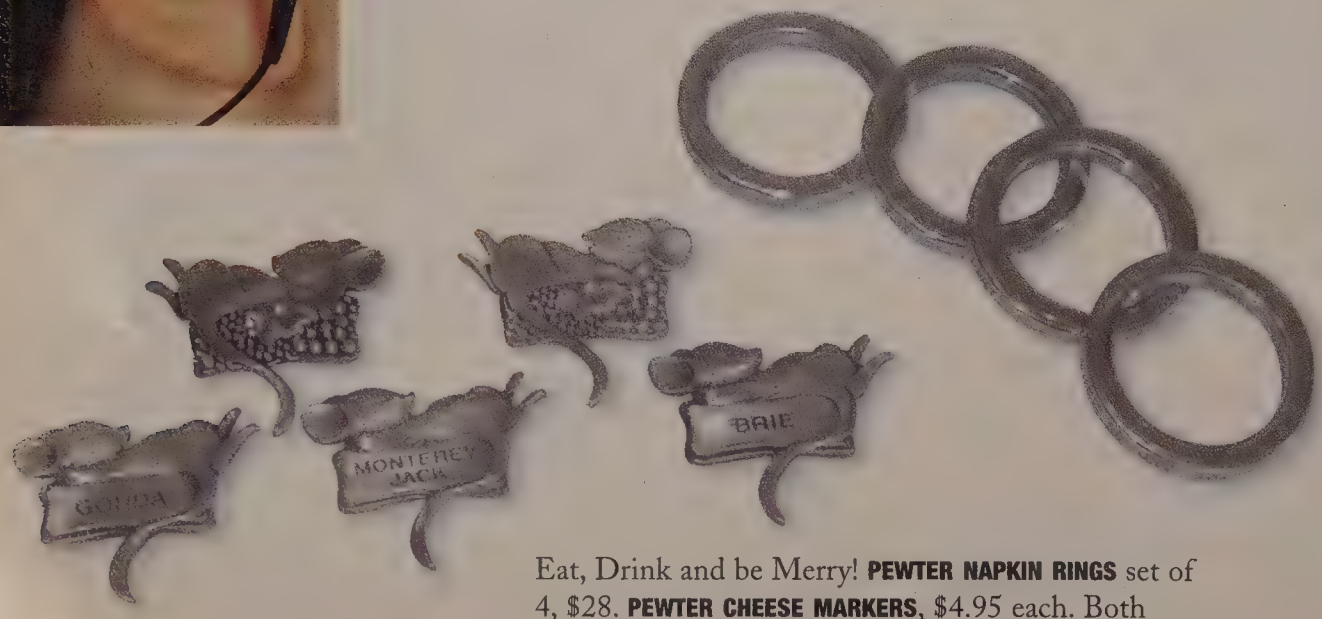

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MBTA TROLLEY ORNAMENT by Landmark Creations $24 (in a red gift box). Available at The Faneuil Hall Heritage Shop, Zero Faneuil Hall Sq., Stall 13, Boston (in the cellar of Historic Faneuil Hall) 723-1776 (800-588-3844 for more styles). www.TheLittleRedBox.com.

WOODCARVINGS BY ECUADORIAN ARTIST LUIS POTOSI, round $250, rectangle $450. Available at Equator Gallery, 218 Newbury Street, Boston 266-4110.

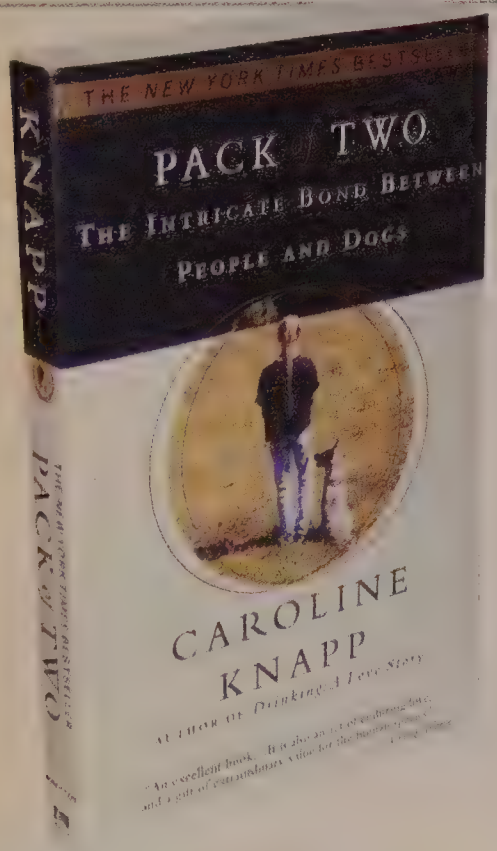
Gift Guide

BLOOM COSMETICS FROM AUSTRALIA. Prices range from $6-$30. Available at The Flat of the Hill, 60 Charles Street, Boston 619-9977.

Mopsy

Serendipitous shopping: Our unfettered correspondent seeks out the salubrious and the cerebral.

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY



LITTLE DOGS MEAN A LOT

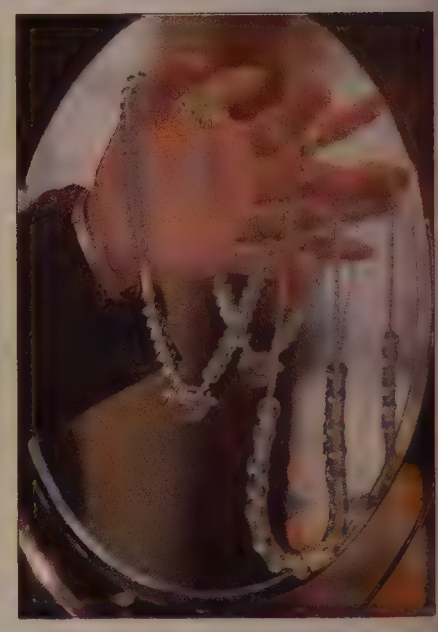
Now in paperback, *Pack of Two*, by Caroline Knapp, chronicles the author's affection and connection with her canine.

Newly sober, recently broken up with her boyfriend, and inhabiting the bleak landscape brought on by the death of her parents, journalist Caroline Knapp felt a void in her life. And then, miraculously, this void assumed a particular shape—a dog-shape—into which shepherd-mix Lucille dropped. Knapp has always written compellingly about the layered angst and ache in her life. Here she addresses: How much is "enough" when it comes to love, food, drink, parental affection and friendship? As a furry, therapeutic presence, Lucille seemed to effortlessly provide an answer. The dog was the soft landing Knapp fell into: Never wanting babies (a problem with her ex-boyfriend), Lucille drew out, and redirected, Knapp's maternal feelings. About the famous "unconditional love" of dogs, Knapp points out that this loyalty also involves responsibility and reciprocity. She writes, too, about her fellow dog-o-philes, often the formerly lonely, who feel faintly guilty that their dogs mean so much, but meanwhile glory in their exuberant dog-lover community. Why argue with fulfillment, just because your companion, offering loyalty and un-crazy affection, is not an English-speaker? While Knapp worries about substituting dogs for people, the message of her heart just gets deeper and deeper. "What a sweet pea she is, my good dog."

STERLING QUALITIES—AND TOPAZ ONES

The Silver Woman at 49 Union Street in Piccadilly Square in Newton (969-9699) is a little jewel box of jewelry, starring silver.

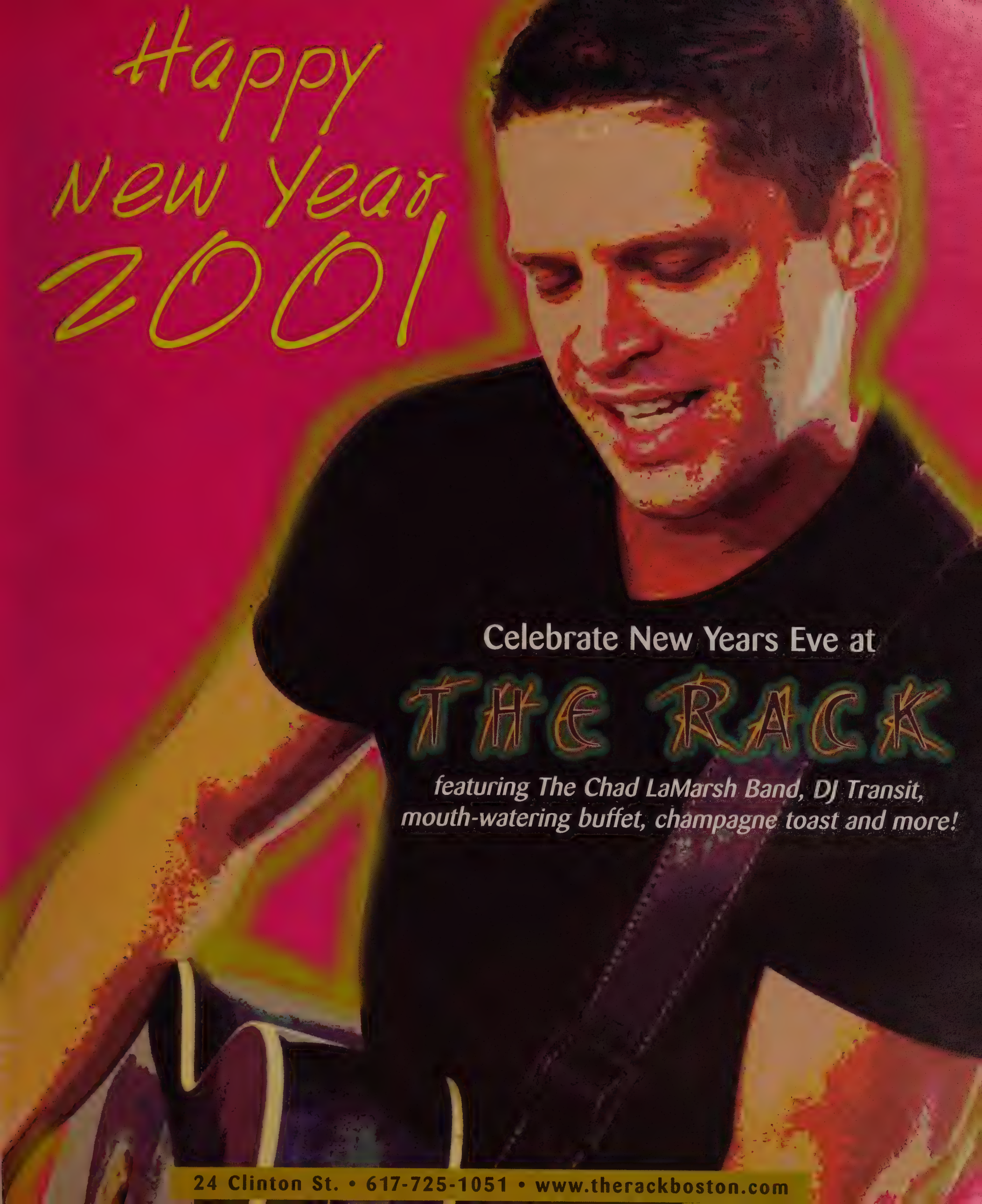
Think of jewelry this Christmas; a blessing to get and an interesting thing to give. Come and cruise this cozy shop, featuring silver as the main ingredient underlying beautiful pieces ranging from unique works of art to traditional semi-precious stones, and on to surprisingly inexpensive rings and things. You'll find Navajo and Zuni necklaces with real, veined turquoise stones (not tourist-trap fakey-blue ones), and earrings that gently rain silver droplets. Of course, true to the store's theme, sterling silver chains and necklaces abound. And all kinds of complex necklaces rivet the eye: a length of blue topaz wrapped in gold; twisty splurges of little brownish-orange stones that look like spun sugar; strands of gray pearls; they're variously sexy, moody and dramatic. Watermelon tourmaline is mouthwatering. Estate jewelry, under glass, reveals such treasures as a vintage, segmented Peugeot ladies' watch, and an old-fashioned charm bracelet, treasure-crammed that, says owner Pam, "tells someone's whole life story." Poised between high-glamour and accessible and affordable, The Silver Woman also has glitz and rhinestones, and some jewelery for men. New things come in weekly, and even the fancier designer pieces drop in price, into your happy lap.



AMAZING REVELS, HOW SWEET THE SOUND

The Christmas Revels have been around for 30 years. Their latest CD was recorded at the Washington Christmas Revels in 1998. *Behold That Star!* can be ordered on line at *www .revels.org*.

Since the Revels began at Harvard's cavernous Sanders Theater, its many sequelae and tendrils—educational outpourings, CDs, songbooks, even the group's logo—emanate the feeling of that big old dark buffalo of a building. Within it, John Langstaff, the Revels' founder, conjures up a combination of Prospero and a comforting Father Christmas.This latest CD, *Behold That Star*, is neither medieval nor Celtic, and is subtitled *An American Song Quilt*. It focuses on the decades following the Civil War, and the songs celebrate the community of African Americans living in "alley communities" alongside other immigrants. The CDs gospel songs, lullabies, and work songs are variously joyful, somber, embattled. The choral songs uplift you ("As Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"), as if gravity had briefly abated. "Children Go Where I Send Thee" is a thrilling call-and-response, and "Amazing Grace," written by an abolitionist sea captain in 1764 who rejected the slave trade that was his living, sneaks up, from an ominously humming chorus, to produce its signature shiver. Other songs are pranceable with fiddles and banjoes. They're all guaranteed to be moving. Listening, the songs make you feel like you're moving, slowly side-to-side, together with the very community these songs are about.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INSIDE: The scoop on the Pudding; more cookbook action; Gwen Butler readies Zita

With live music (from a three-piece trio) and stylish decor in keeping with its chic Leather District location, the Trio dining room provides a suitable setting for Robert Fathman's culinary creations. Opposite page: Fathman serves up proscuitto-wrapped tuna.

REVIEW

Triple Threat

Trio scores with unique ambiance, an all-star chef and solid value.

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRAD ZIEGLER

Its entrance on Lincoln Street is marked by an unobtrusive, hammered metal T, for Trio. Trio takes its name, apparently, from the three-piece combo that provides live music in this exciting new eatery in the Leather District, a neighborhood near South Station named not for the attire of its avant-garde residents but for the shoe industry that dominated it decades ago. Trio's stylishly minimalist décor, with exposed bricks and rafters, black and silver ductwork, an upholstered settee encircling a major structural column, shiny copper bars, a long upholstered banquette, gossamer scrims radiating from a cut-glass electric-candle chandelier, and crisp white tablecloths and napkins, provide a suitable platform for the inspired cuisine of Robert Fathman, late of the over-the-top, hyper-luxurious Federalist on Beacon Street.

An inexperienced, but sincere and earnest, wait staff, smartly attired in black, brought crisp-crusted, warm rolls (from Jessica's bakery in Woburn) while we perused the wine list. The list is geographically diverse and features a number of selections at consumer-friendly prices (miraculously for Boston, a half-dozen are in the low $20's). On one night, we availed ourselves of an excellent, earthy red, a 1996 Girabelle Corbieres from the South of France ($22), and on another visit enjoyed a crisp, lively white, Vernaccia di San Gimignano, from Tuscany, also $22. Unfortunately, wines by the glass are pricey—a little less than one-third the bottle price for a small glass—with none lower than $7.

Trio' s appetizers include a generous order of Prince Edward Island Mussels ($11). Served in a large white bowl, covered by an inverted bowl used to collect the empty shells, these two-dozen large, clean, fresh-tasting mussels were accompanied by provocative but delicious broth redolent of cilantro, with an intriguing, mellow sweetness punctuated by the distinctive kick of chili oil. We were so taken with the broth that we requested a spoon to finish it off after consuming the mussels.

A second appetizer, duck leg with white beans, fried sage, and roasted garlic ($12) constituted a mini cassoulet. The crisp skin and luscious, fall-off-the-bone tender flesh of the duck, combined with the al dente texture of the beans and the mellow sharpness of roast garlic to provide a treat well-suited to the Corbieres.

The main courses, labeled "entrees"—a common malapropism—included superb pan-roasted cod fish ($17). This thick slab of snow white, firm-fleshed fish, dusted with herbs, was surrounded by a heavenly melange of creamed corn, apple-smoked bacon, and mashed potatoes—a spectacular melding of sweet, salty, starchy and savory flavors. Roasted chicken breast ($17) was a small breast quarter with wingbone intact, the succulently moist flesh covered

within golden brown skin, accompanied by garlicked escarole and creamy polenta, garnished further with nuggets of smoky, rich hamhocks.

Moving to the higher priced choices from Trio's very reasonably priced menu, we tried the butter braised lobster with tasso ham, corn milk, fingerling potatoes, and littleneck clams ($25). Taking on the serious competition of Greater Boston' s renowned purveyors of lobster—Jasper White, Todd English, Jacky Robert—Chef Fathman acquits himself quite well indeed. This beautifully presented whole lobster, with the tail split and the claw and knuckle meat removed from the shells for easy eating, was bathed in a delicious, delicate sauce, creamy without cream, pleasantly sweet from the corn, with salty chunks of pancetta and slices of small elongated potatoes. In a gesture to fusion cuisine, it was enhanced by the presence of western Asiatic spices like coriander, cumin, and cilantro.

Last, and far from least, was the 16-ounce grilled sirloin steak ($26). Perfect in texture, rare and tender, it was served on the bone, which added to its hearty, robust beef flavor. Accompanied by tiny spears of asparagus and creamy mashed potatoes, Trio' s steak could have held its own with the most exalted cuts of Boston's toniest and priciest steakhouses.

Excellence did not stop with the main courses. Desserts (all three we tried were priced at $8) started with a pineapple upside down cake, a thick slice of grilled pineapple covered a round of dense cake, topped with full-flavored coconut ice cream sprinkled with toasted coconut. A good, but sparse, crème anglaise, spiked with rum, surrounded it, and a caramelized sugar geyser ornament towered above it. This dessert, the confectionery equivalent of a piña collada, was a little dry, notwithstanding the ice cream and sauce. A second dessert, the lemon curd Napoleon, consisted of flaky, super light pasty triangles layered with a tangy lemon pudding, a dessert at once satisfying, refreshing and so light as to be almost ethereal. Finally, and perhaps most enjoyable, was the warm chocolate cake, accompanied by burnt caramel ice cream and whipped cream. This dark chocolate cylinder was both moist and light, with intense, bittersweet chocolate flavor.

Despite our enthusiasm for Trio's food, we had a few minor reservations about the venue. First, there is no barrier between the principal bar and the dining tables, which made cigarette smokers at the bar both annoying and treading close to the line drawn by Boston's non-smoking ordinance. Our telephone inquiries about the starting time for the live music provided by Trio' s electric guitar, bass, and drums yielded misinformation. We were told that the music commenced at 5pm one Saturday evening, and in fact it was slightly after 7pm when the band started up. Finally, the waitstaff, while well intentioned, is just finding its way. We trust its sincerity will overcome its inexperience. Outweighing these minor quibbles were the culinary craftmanship of Fathman and the substantial value represented by Trio's reasonable prices. Applying the French criterion of "rapport qualité-prix," Trio is well worth a special trip to this corner of Boston. **iB**

Trio

174 Lincoln St. 357-5333.

HOURS Mon.-Fri., 11:30am-2pm; Tue.-Sat., 5-10pm; Sun., 10pm-1am, appetizers only

RESERVATIONS recommended

CREDIT CARDS all major except Discover

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE no

PARKING valet Thu.-Sun.

LIQUOR LICENSE full bar

DISH

Pudding on the Splits

UpStairs at the Pudding to move in June

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

For almost 20 years, it was a harmonious marriage of Ivy League tradition and graciously eccentric Cantabrigian hospitality. Then one partner—in this case Harvard University—decided it wanted more space; specifically, more office space. Now, unless you're a college football team, Harvard is one formidable opponent.

So **Mary-Catherine Deibel** and **Deborah Hughes**, co-owners of **UpStairs at the Pudding**, hired their own Harvard-educated lawyer. They encouraged support from fans of the restaurant, who responded with a flood of letters to Harvard. And throughout the legal wrangling, they displayed grace under pressure, refusing to take cheap shots at the powerful landlord demanding their eviction.

Finally, "thanks to a bunch of lawyers," says Deibel, a "win-win" agreement was reached just before Thanksgiving. The Pudding will stay put until June 17, after which it plans to move to a larger space whose location is a closely guarded secret.

"We cannot say who it is, where it is...absolute secrecy is demanded," says Deibel. The new spot isn't yet a done deal, although a formal announcement is expected within a month or so.

Also unresolved is the name question. If it's not UpStairs at the Pudding, who and where will it be? "A lot of people think we should take the name with us," says Deibel, pointing out that people don't play much cricket at Longwood Cricket Club. More important, the new location will showcase "the same style of hospitality and food" that's earned the Pudding an enduring place in many people's hearts, if not an enduring location in Harvard Square.

Above all, says Deibel, "we're happy to end the ambiguity" about the Pudding's status. We're happy, too.

Over the river, in Boston, **Stan Frankenthaler** is opening his new **Salamander** on Dec. 21 at Trinity Place. Meanwhile, he says his first cookbook—*The Occidental Tourist*—is "in Simon & Schuster's hands, and will be out in May. The goal was to turn it in before the restaurant opened, so ...whew!"

Juggling cookbook-writing and restaurant-opening has been keeping **Didi Emmons**, formerly of the **Delux Café** and author of the wonderful *Vegetarian Planet*, fully occupied. Emmons says her second book will "lower the bar" for at-home entertaining that's casual, convivial and community-oriented. The emphasis will be on food that's "simple, but restaurant-trendy," ranging from "super-fabulous hip appetizers like edamame guacamole" to "no-brainers like macaroni and cheese."

With both a new cookbook and restaurant on the way, Stan Frankenthaler's been busy lately.

As for the restaurant-opening prospect, Emmons and a partner are "trying to buy the food service" at an unnamed, cozy spot in Harvard Square. Emmons envisions a menu based on "a simple concept for a small space: very global, very ethnic, vegetarian-organic Indian and Middle Eastern pizza, soups" and other light lunch fare.

What's *not* happening: **Barbara Lynch**'s plan to take over the site of the former European restaurant in the North End. Lack of valet parking, wildly expensive construction costs and other complications added up to Lynch's decision to stay put at **No. 9 Park** for the foreseeable future.

Gwen Butler, the poster girl for "Who Wants to Be a Restaurateur?" plans to have **Zita** up and running by mid-December. The former **Federalist** bartender has hired the former executive chef from the **Capital Grille** on Newbury Street, **Christian Guide**, to run the kitchen of her Stanhope Street eatery. In keeping with the whimsical/ miraculous circumstances of Butler's windfall (a Swiss investor who stopped by the bar at the Fed befriended Butler and granted her wish of opening her own place), the menu offers a "Box of Burgers" filled with filet mignon and Brie "sliders," and the interior design is based on church architecture. iB

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant?
Send it to dish@improper.com

Tastings BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for tastings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

EVENTS

Caliterra Themed Dinners: Oysters
Caliterra, 89 Broad St., Boston (348-1234). Dec. 16-Jan. 15. Caliterra offers themed dinners. This month's menu focuses on chestnuts: chestnut soup, chestnut-risotto-stuffed game and white-chocolate cheesecake with a chestnut crust.

Chocolate Bar Buffet with Santa
Cafe Fleuri, Le Meridien Hotel, 250 Franklin St., Boston (451-1900). Dec. 16. A visit by Santa and caroling by Victorian carolers complements the holiday chocolate bar buffet with light and dark chocolate mousses, cakes, tortes, eclairs, crepes, ice cream, pies and fondue.

Entertaining with Coffee
Starbucks, 222 Cambridge St. and 755 Boylston St., Boston, and 36 JFK St., Cambridge (227-2959). Dec. 13, 6pm. Free. Starbucks coffee and tea specialists teach guests how they can use the many different brewing methods at home. Taste the differences between the brewing methods.

Fete de Rois (Feast of Kings)
Maison Robert, Old City Hall, 45 School St., Boston (227-3370). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Jan. 5, 7pm. $35. A champagne toast kicks off this three-course meal served communally in the cafe. The table crowns a king and queen to preside over the festivities, and a favor is hidden inside one person's cake to bring good luck for the year ahead.

Guest Chef Cooking Demos
Williams-Sonoma, 100 Huntington Ave., Boston (262-3080). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Free. •Dec. 16: **Stefano Zimei** from the Federalist at 15 Beacon.

New Year's Day Jazz Brunch
Dick's Last Resort, 55 Huntington Ave., Prudential Center, Boston (267-8080). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Jan. 1, 10am-3pm. $14.99 per person. Shake the confetti out of your hair and stave off that hangover with a brunch of fluffy omelets and piping hot waffles.

Reggae and Raw Night
Atlantic 101, 101 Atlantic Ave., Boston (723-5101). Tuesdays, 5-7pm. Sample oysters on the half shell, fresh clams and jumbo shrimp for $1.01 each as you listen to reggae and Caribbean music.

Second Saturday Brewery Dinner
Cambridge Brewing Company, One Kendall Square, Building 100, Cambridge (494-1994). www.cambrew.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. Jan. 13, seatings from 6-10pm. $35.* Enjoy a five-course meal with five half-pints of beer and a tableside visit from brewer **Will Meyers**.

Soprano Sippings
Angelo's Ristorante, 575 Boylston St., Boston (536-4045). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tuesdays, 5-9pm. $45. Four foods from the menu are paired with four wines from international vineyards.

Tapas Thursday
241 Hanover St., Boston (781-659-4165). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. www.bricco.com. 4-7pm. Enjoy complimentary tapas while sipping martinis, cosmopolitans and specialty drinks.

Wine Dinner: Casa Lapostolle
Stonehedge Inn, 160 Pawtucket Blvd., Tyngsboro (978-649-4400). Dec. 18, 7pm. $75. Alexandra Marnier-Lapostolle, owner of the Casa Lapostolle winery in Chile joins guests for tasting of her merlot, cabernet sauvignon, chardonnay and sauvignon blanc wines.

Wine Dinner Series
UpStairs at the Pudding, Cambridge (864-1933). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Every other Wednesday at 7pm. $70. The Wine Dinner Series features flights of wines complemented by Chef **Deborah Hughes**' cuisine. •Dec. 13: True Millennium Champagne. •Jan. 9: 2001 Inaugural Champagne Dinner.

Wine Tastings
The Wine Bottega, 341 Hanover St., Boston (227-6607). •Dec. 15: blends, familiar, unusual and bizarre. •Dec. 29: all kinds of bubbly, including champagne, sparkling wine and frizzante.

Wine Tasting with Lorenzo
Les Zygomates, 129 South St., Boston (542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Tuesdays, 6 and 8pm. $25. Sommelier **Lorenzo Savona** hosts weekly wine tastings accompanied by hors d'oeuvres. •Dec. 19: Barolo Bender III.

TASTY TIDBIT

CELEBRITY CHEFS

Searching high and low for a right holiday gift for that foodie friend of yours? Look no further than the Fairmont Copley Plaza's Celebrity Chefs Culinary Program. The hotel brings together nine chefs and cookbook authors, including Chris Douglass of Icarus, Salamander's Stan Frankenthaler, E. Michael Reidt of Bomboa and Joanne Weir, host of *Weir Cooking in the Wine Country*, for a nine-week program Jan. 13-March 10. Designed for all food lovers, whether novices or experienced cooks, participants learn the secrets of master chefs, as well as some of the basic techniques of cooking. Each two-hour class features a chef presenting his or her specialties and includes a sampling of the prepared dishes paired with matching wines. *Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Ave., Boston (267-5300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. $40 per class, $320 for the series. Saturdays, 1-3pm. Jan. 13-March 10. —J.S.

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the words to.

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agenda

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, WHAT'S IN AND WHAT'S AROUND BOSTON

IMPROPER PICKS

The Calendar Girls, Erin and Julie, bring you the highlights of an event-packed holiday season

MUSIC

Pure Lunacy

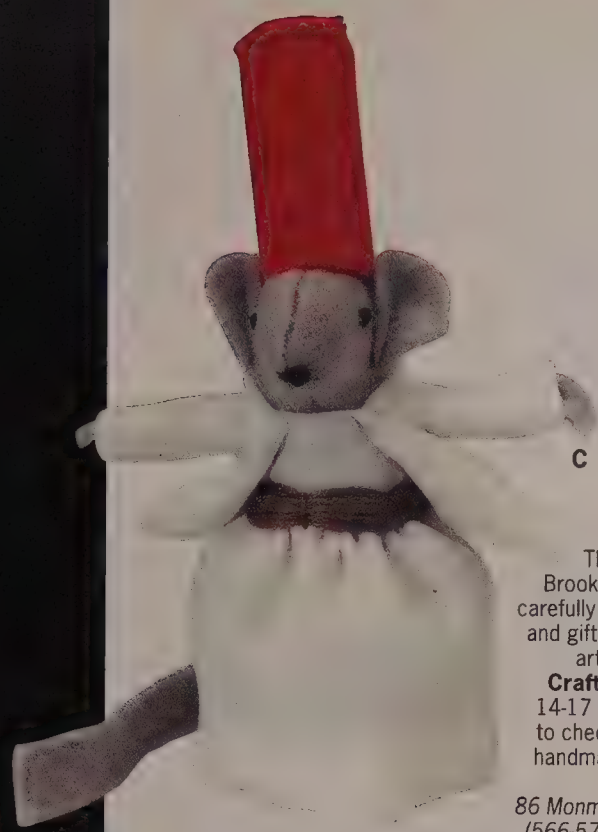
Headed up by Dean Wareham of slowcore Galaxie 500 fame, Luna has been creating beautiful, often haunting, pop-rock tunes for more than a decade. With five albums under their belt, Wareham and cohorts Sean Eden, Lee Wall and Britta Phillips—who recently replaced bassist Justin Harwood (far left)—create tunes that are alternately somber and spirited, and set apart from other indie rock fare by Wareham's eerie, understated and mesmerizing vocals. Luna will play at the Middle East on the 30th, before returning to homebase New York City to perform a New Year's show. *Dec. 30 at the Middle East downstairs. $10.*

CITYSCOPE **54** • PERFORMING ARTS **62** • ART **68** • FILM **74** • BOOKS & POETRY **82** • EDUCATION **83** • DANCE CLUBS **84** • MUSIC **88** • CLASSICAL MUSIC **98** • GAY & LESBIAN **100** • BODY & MIND **102** • CHILDREN **102** • SPORTS **102** •AROUND TOWN **104**. EDITED BY: **ERIN HAGEDORN:** Art, Books & Poetry, Dance, Dance Clubs, Film, Gay & Lesbian, Music. EDITED BY: **JULIE SHORT:** Children, CityScope, Comedy, Education, Sports, Tastings, Theater. ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY: **Laurel Kirtz** Body & Mind • **Paul Sherman:** Film Capsules

FILM

American Music

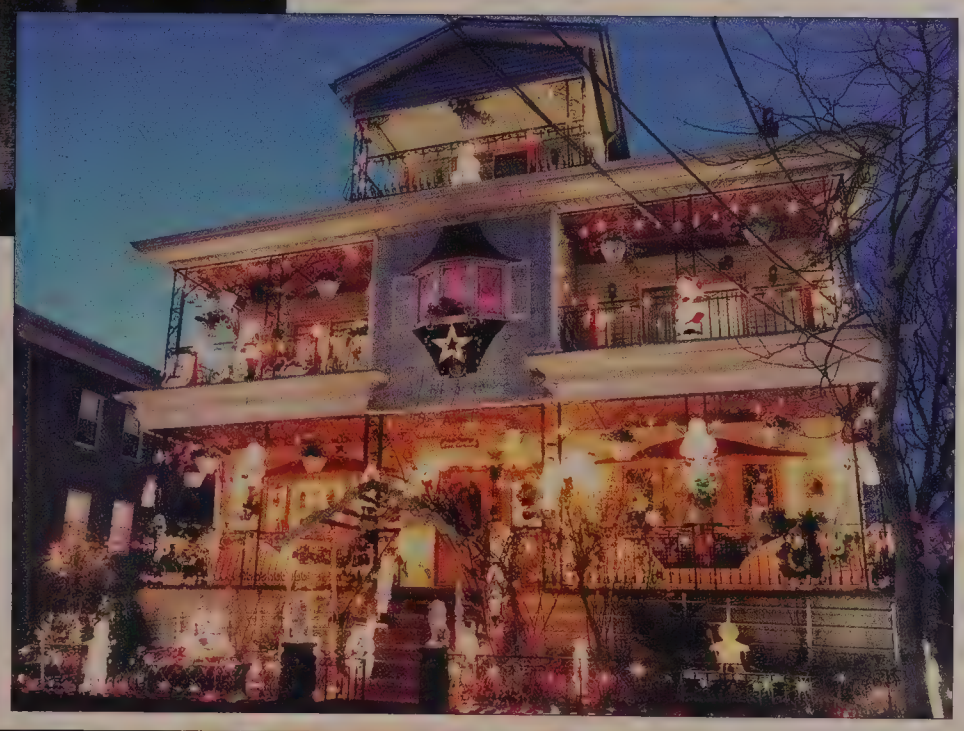
Ken Burns—writer, director and documentary filmmaker for more than 20 years—once again brings his passion for American history to life in his new documentary on jazz. On Dec. 13 at 6pm, Burns shows a special highlights version of the marathon *The History of Jazz* at the Coolidge Corner Theatre and talks about the project, which was six years in the making. With *Jazz*, Burns tells yet another uniquely American story, taking viewers on a visual journey through the culture, politics and dreams that gave birth to the quintessentially American music. Jazz, we learn, evolved from blues and ragtime in the streets of New Orleans and then evolved to incorporate elements of swing, bebop and fusion. Burns' third epic documentary, *Jazz* airs on PBS in January in 10 separate episodes. *Dec. 13, 6pm, Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St. (734-2500).*



CITYSCOPE

Holiday Shopping

The art faculty of the Brookine Arts Center has carefully selected the crafts and gifts of more than 100 artisans for its annual **Crafts Showcase.** Dec. 14-17 is the last weekend to check out two floors of handmade gifts—an array for any budget. *86 Monmouth St., Brookline (566-5715). Thu., 12-9pm; Fri.-Sun., 12-6pm.*



CITYSCOPE

Somerville Aglow>>

Come Dec. 1, the city of Somerville emits an unearthly glow as residents heap countless strings of garishly-colored lights onto trees and rooftops and sport glowing plastic statues of baby Jesus and Santa in yards. It's one-upmanship gone awry. Non-Somervillians can catch a glimpse of the residents' holiday folk artistry aboard the city arts council's 45-minute **Illuminations Tour** Dec. 16. The tour has quadrupled in size since its inception three years ago, so book your tickets early. *Purchase tickets at McIntyre and Moore Booksellers, 255 Elm St., Somerville (625-6600). Tours leave Somerville City Hall at 4:30pm, 5pm, 5:45pm, 6:15pm, 7pm, 7:30pm, 8:15pm and 8:45pm. $10.*

CITYSCOPE

<<Dig This Tour

For all the taxpayer dollars that have been pumped straight down into the dark recesses of the **Big Dig**, it would be mighty nice to find out what's really going on down there. Here's your chance: On Dec. 31, **First Night** button holders can walk down a ramp and see 10 lanes of (yet-to-be bumper-to-bumper) traffic under Atlantic Avenue. "People will be very surprised—it's an incredibly vast expanse," says Bob Bliss of the Mass. Turnpike Authority. It's the first time thousands of people will be allowed in this Big Dig netherworld. Lest you be fooled into thinking the project is near completion, Bliss warns, "The southbound lanes won't be open until 2003 and the northbound in 2004." *Dec. 31, 1-5pm. www.firstnight.org.*

more hot picks

BODY & MIND

Dr. Feel Good

You know that alternative medicine has finally hit the mainstream when the stodgy physicians over at Harvard Medical School host a conference entitled **Spirituality & Healing in Medicine**. For three days, participants can listen to lectures and attend workshops supporting (with scientific evidence) the effects of spirituality on healing. It's a real boon for the touchy-feely among us to have actual MDs discussing topics like "Buddhist Spiritual Healing Practices" and "The Application of Spirituality in Healthcare." *Westin Hotel, 10 Huntington Ave., Boston (432-1525). Dec. 16-18. $325.*

PERFORMING ARTS

Reserve Early

Ever try to book a reservation at Rialto for Saturday night? Good luck. You'd have to call at least a month in advance, according to the apologetic reservationist. Wait a minute, folks—this is Boston we're talking about, not Manhattan. Now that our fair city has become a top dining destination, it's not surprising that a show about the difficulties of getting a reservation would strike a familiar chord. The off-Broadway hit ***Fully Committed*** stars Mark Setlock (above) as Sam, an out-of-work actor who mans the reservation desk at Manhattan's trendiest restaurant. Setlock plays some 40 characters—an endless stream of VIPs and V-V-VIPs. Written by Becky Mode, a former actress, waitress and coat girl herself, *Fully Committed* mocks the self-important diner in all of us. *Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont St., Boston (931-2787). Through Jan. 7. $22-$55.*

Down-Home Christmas

For a holiday experience that's the antithesis of *The Nutcracker*, join the **Revels** on the front porch for an Appalachian Christmas—complete with Tennessee lullabies and the unique sounds of a long-necked banjo. Don't worry—this ain't no redneck fest. Set in the mountains of Appalachia during the 19th-century—when the Underground Railroad was thriving—*Revels* celebrates the courage of the African Americans who traveled on the "Gospel Train." Enjoy Appalachian songs, folk tales and clogging, along with hymns, spirituals and a mountain mummers' play. *Sanders Theatre, Harvard University, Cambridge (496-2222). Dec. 15-30.*

ART

Diddley Daddy

Guitar maverick **Bo Diddley**'s contribution to the development of the electric guitar in rock music is celebrated in the MFA's *Dangerous Curves: The Art of the Guitar* exhibition, which runs through Feb. 25. The exhibition displays more than 130 guitars from 1590 to today and includes video concert footage and recorded guitar samples. On Jan. 10, Diddley will take to the museum's stage, talk with Bob Santelli (of the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame), play some tunes and show off his famed custom-made guitars. Whether he can still wow audiences with his trademark beat and stage antics is up for debate, but for someone who just celebrated his 72nd birthday, the $40 admission is worth the chance to see a legend. *465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). Jan. 10, 7:30pm.*

MUSIC

Alternative Traditions

Rock opera meets the Broadway musical in the **Trans-Siberian Orchestra**'s Christmas Eve and Other Stories concert Dec. 21. The brainchild of former Aerosmith producer Paul O'Neill, the symphonic rock group unites a 60-piece orchestra, a giant chorus and rock 'n' rollers to create holiday-spirited orchestral-rock albums. The inspirational carols are sappy-sweet, but tis the season to get away with such an irresistible schlocky performance. *Orpheum Theatre (931-2000). Dec. 21, 7:30pm. $30-$40.*

CITYSCOPE

I Dip, You Dip, We Dip

Almost a century ago, seven middle-aged men took a casual swim in Dorchester Bay on New Year's day; now it's a tradition. Every year, about 200 **L Street Brownies** brave freezing temperatures and icy waters regardless of Mother Nature's disposition—if a frozen bay threatens to thwart dippers, the bathers simply cut holes in the ice. Join more than 1,000 onlookers at the hypothermic swim Jan. 1, 12pm. *K Street Beach, South Boston (635-5104).*

The *Real* Millennium

Hey, if we have one thing to be grateful for this year as the hour of New Year resolutions rolls around again, it's that we're all still here. Admit it—you were just a tad nervous that the sky would fall down as the clock struck midnight last year. And then when nothing happened, perhaps a bit disappointed? Well, get over it and put on your dancing shoes 'cause it's time to party like it's 2001. There are plenty of activities going on—from fireworks cruises, poetry slams and airborne comedians to country line dancing and rockin' parties. Take your pick. We've highlighted some of our favorite FirstNight activities (designated by $FN), which are free with a $15 button, as well as some of the bigger parties going on around town. Enjoy!

ART

Open Studios
Visit the following museums free during First Night: Institute of Contemporary Art (11am-5pm), the Museum of Fine Arts (10am-1pm), Museum of Science (4-7pm), Old South Meeting House (10am-4pm), New England Aquarium (9am-12pm), Old State House Museum (1-4pm), Harrison Gray Otis House Museum (1am-4pm, 5-9pm), USS Constitution Museum (10am-5pm).

COMEDY

Airborne Comedians
Two incredible jugglers couple their dexterity with an outrageous sense of humor. They travel the globe juggling lawn chairs, electric guitars, bird baths and more. *6-6:45pm and 7:45-8:30pm. Emerson Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston. $FN.*

ImprovBoston
These actors take you on a roller coaster performance as your ideas are shaped into scenes, songs and stories to entertain the entire audience. *Dubois Auditorium at the Tufts School of Medicine, 145 Harrison Ave., Boston. 9-9:30pm and 10-10:30pm. $FN.*

Mrs. Potato Head Show
South Park meets *The Golden Girls* in this collection of songs, skits and monologues. *Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston. 7:45-8:30pm, 9-9:45pm, 10:15-11pm. $FN.*

TheatreSports
You make the call in this sporting match featuring two teams of comedic athletes competing for laughs and points, with a referee keeping things moving and calling fouls. *Dubois Auditorium at the Tufts School of Medicine, 145 Harrison Ave., Boston. 7-7:30pm and 8-8:30pm. $FN.*

CRUISES

New Year's Eve Cruise Extravaganza
The four-hour festivities will include entertainment on each deck: two live bands, creative hors d'oeuvres, a four-course dinner with white glove service, champagne, delectable desserts and a front row spot for the spectacular fireworks display on the Boston Harbor. *Odyssey Cruise Lines, Rowes Wharf, Boston (654-9744). 8pm-1am. $199.*

Party Cruise
Includes prime rib and hand-carved turkey buffet, DJ and dancing, a cash bar, champagne toast, party favors and fireworks at midnight. *Massachusetts Bay Lines, 60 Rowes Wharf, Gate C, Boston (542-8000). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Boarding 8pm; sailing 9pm-12:30am. $85.*

FILM

Festival of International Short Films
This First Night favorite is a stellar collection of short films from 2000, curated especially for First Night by the MFA's Bo Smith. Line up early for this one, friends. *Museum of Fine Arts, Remis Auditorium, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston. 1:15, 2:30, 3:45 and 5pm. $FN.*

MUSIC

Angry Salad
This Boston-based band performs fun rock/pop songs with catchy lyrics and melodies. *Hynes Convention Center Auditorium, Exhibition Hall B, 900 Boylston St., Boston. 10pm-12am. $FN.*

Aztek Trip
An energetic and unique mix of modern and active rock, Aztek Trip has shared the stage with 311, the Goo Goo Dolls, Blink 182 and Local H. *Hynes Convention Center Auditorium, Exhibition Hall A, 900 Boylston St., Boston. 7:30-9:30pm. $FN.*

Ball in the House
This unique group sings acapella to mimic the sounds of instruments while mixing it up with '70s funk, '80s hip hop and '90s pop and rhythm and blues. *10-10:45pm, 11:15pm-12am. The Orpheum Theatre, One Hamilton Place, Boston. 7:30-9:30pm. $FN.*

The Dave Foley Band
Dave Foley is a traditional honky-tonk revivalist. *9-9:45pm; 10:15-11pm. CityPlace/Transportation Building, 10 Park Place, Boston. 7:30-9:30pm. $FN.*

Immersion Music Salon
A collaboration between electronic musicians and video artists, the Immersion Music Salon presents a new kind of performance art for the digital future. *Hynes Convention Center Auditorium, 900 Boylston St., Boston. 3-11pm. $FN.*

Julie Kaufmann Dancin': Country Western Line Dancing
Break out your cowboy boots and dance to the music of country favorites Shania Twain, Garth Brooks and the Dixie Chicks. Lessons offered. *Hynes Convention Center Auditorium, Exhibition Hall C, 900 Boylston St., Boston. 7-9pm. $FN.*

Mickey Bones and Jump Crew
Mickey Bones and his jiving Jump Crew leads swing dancing with instruction by Jack Lynch. *Hynes Convention Center Auditorium, Exhibition Hall C, 900 Boylston St., Boston. 9:30-11:30pm. $FN.*

Upper Crust
Revel with home-grown royalty as Boston's own Upper Crust roque & roll all night in ruffles and powdered wigs. It's power pop for the 18th century that works well in the 21st century. *The Orpheum Theatre, One Hamilton Place, Boston. 7:30-8:15pm and 8:45-9:30pm. $FN.*

Weepin' Willie
The House of Blues presents this distinguished bluesman whose smooth vocals and delivery capture the grit, grace and elegance of the blues. *Berklee Performance, 136 Mass. Ave., Boston. 6-6:45pm and 7:15-8pm. $FN.*

A couple makes the most of their New Year's kiss at the Back in Black gala (top). First Night features a Grand Procession and a fireworks extravaganza.

OUTDOORS

Big Dig Tunnel Tours
See the Selects page for more information. *Faneuil Hall, State Street, Boston. 1-5pm. $FN.*

The Fantastic Future Laser Light Show
A shimmering symphony of laser lights (choreographed to a rousing musical score) illuminate the night sky. *Parade Ground, Boston Common. 5pm-12am. $FN.*

Fireworks
End the year with a bang—don't miss two dazzling fireworks displays. In addition to the spectacular midnight finale over the Boston Harbor, you can catch the family version over the Common at 7pm. *Boston Common Ballfield, 7pm; Marriott's Customs House and Boston Harbor, 11:59pm. $FN.*

Ice Sculptures
This year's celebration features four monumental ice sculptures. See *Night Sky* created by Steve Rose/Ice Effects at the Frog Pond, *Ice Berg* by Don Chapelle at the Lafayette Mall on the Boston Common, and *First Night Celebrates*, two ice sculptures in Copley Plaza created by Eric Fontecchio and Alfred Georgs. *Boston Common: Frog Pond, Lafayette Mall and Railroad Mall; Copley Plaza. $FN.*

PARADE

Grand Procession
This Mardi Gras-style parade features marching bands, floats, music, puppets and cultural displays. Hot spot for viewing include Boylston's side streets and the Boston Common. *Boylston Street at Gloucester Street to Charles Street and on to Beacon Street. 5pm. $FN.*

PARTIES

Back in Black
Back in Black 2001 is better than ever before now that it has taken over ... the mall! MALL-Ennium will feature the now-famous Back in Black balloon drop, party favors, hearty hors d'oeuvres, DJs and much more. *CambridgeSide Galleria, Cambridge (542-VOICE). $60 by Dec. 18, $70 after Dec. 18, $80 at the door; $95 VIP tickets. 8pm-2am.*

Caribbean Bash
DJ D Connection spins classic and contemporary reggae, soca and R&B favorites. The Soca Boys & Girls Rhythm Section, a 10-piece percussion ensemble, will provide live music, and the Ahteebah Dancers will perform in bright and elaborate costumes. *Cyclorama, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (542-1399). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. 8-11pm. $FN.*

Club 2001
Pulsing lights and pop music transform this room into a high-voltage nightclub. *Hynes Convention Center Auditorium, Exhibition Hall A, 900 Boylston St., Boston. 7:30-12am. $FN.*

House of Blues New Year's Celebration
96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (491-2100, ext. 111). $125 plus cash bar. More than 200 casually-dressed guests will dance to the tunes of Muddy Waters alumnus Luther "Guitar Junior" Johnson and the Jones Brothers. You'll find three floors with gourmet food stations and party favors.

New Year's Eve Fund-Raiser
This fund-raiser for the Gregory Avedikian Educational Fund to help Armenian students receive a quality education features the talents of Onnik Dinkjian, Johnny Berberian, Roger Krikorian, Mal Barsamian and Bruce Gigarjian. *Hellenic Cultural Center, 25 Bigelow Ave., Watertown (781-326-5764). $40, $50 at the door.*

New Year's 2001
Enjoy an appetizer buffet, open bar, DJ and live music from Syndicate. *Jose McIntyre's, Milk Street, Boston (451-7400). $75 in advance, $100 at the door.*

North East Brewing Company
A raw bar plus other sumptuous food stations are in the offering at this New Year's celebration. Enjoy an open bar and a champagne toast as you dance to the sounds of the Jimmy Rosco band and DJ Tom Santos. *1314 Commonwealth Ave., Allston (566-6699). MBTA: B Green Line. $100.*

Roxy First Night
This New Year's blowout will feature a laser light show with dry ice, special Roxy dancers, party favors, NY House DJ Adilsson, a champagne toast at midnight, and a continental breakfast. *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-ROXY). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 8pm. $69.*

Sparkle of Elegance
This third annual New Year's Eve gala will include a cocktail reception, elegant dinner and dancing. A jazz trio will entertain during the cocktail reception. Proceeds benefit the Ellie Fund. *Swissotel, One Avenue De Lafayette, Boston (781-444-7771). 7pm-2am. $100, $60 after 9:30pm. Black tie optional.*

2001: A Dick's Odyssey
Party at the bar and dance to the rockin' sounds of Brick Park. Plus, there's a champagne toast at midnight. *Dick's Last Resort, 55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. 8pm-2am. $15.*

PERFORMANCES

Boston Poetry Slam
Poets perform their original work for open critique by audience members. *Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston. 6:30-7:15pm, 9-9:45pm; 10:15-11pm. 7:45-8:30pm. $FN.*

The Junk Man
Donald Knaack, a.k.a. "the Junk Man," hails from a remote village of Croatia. He uses his unusual talent for creating percussion instruments from junk (everything from remnants from his war-torn country to bits of local yard trash found here in Boston). For First Night, he creates an original and fully operational "Play Station" made of scraps and junk collected throughout the three-day festival itself. *Hynes Convention Center, 900 Boylston St., Boston. 8:45-9:30pm. $FN.*

Earth Drum Council
Bring drums and percussion instruments to this night of drumming with the Earth Drum Council—or simply come and dance. *Hynes Convention Center, 900 Boylston St., Boston. 10-11:30pm. $FN.*

Subway Gods
Subway riders may notice an odd site in the T stations this month. The masked and elaborately costumed figures Ariadne and her clones—guides from the underground Labyrinth of ancient Crete—roam freely, bringing Boston's underground community of subway riders either to their next destination or to safety at the end of the year 2000. Look for these First Night street performers on the subway nearest you.

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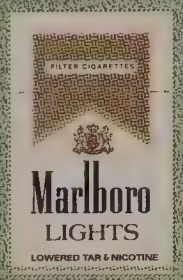

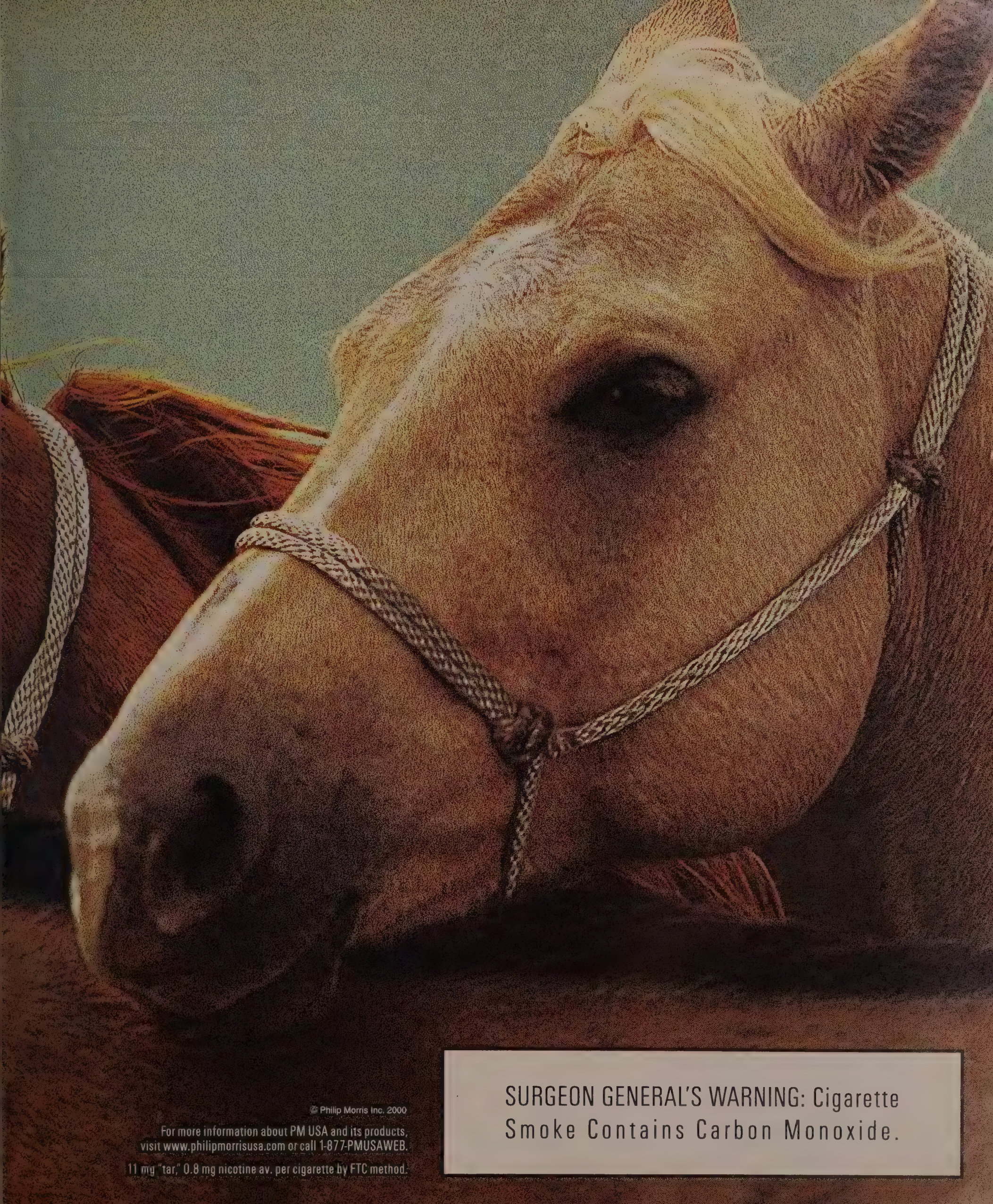

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FESTIVALS, BENEFITS & BIG EVENTS

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Advice to Readers
The following is a list of festivals, events and benefits taking place in the Boston area by date.

Thursday, Dec. 14

Blood, Sweat & Gears
Sugar Shack, Boylston Place, Boston (710-4437). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 7-11pm. $10. Make-A-Wish Foundation of Greater Boston hosts this party with the band Blood, Sweat & Gears, musical guests Attack of the Heart Attacks and Jennifer Kearny.

Brookline Crafts Showcase
86 Monmouth St., Brookline (566-5715). MBTA: C Green Line to St. Mary's. Thu., 12-9pm; Fri.-Sun., 12-6pm. Through Dec. 17. An exhibition and sale of fine crafts and gifts by more than 100 artisans and artists.

Rock & Wrap Party
Polly Esther's, 262 Friend St., Boston (457-8575). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. 7:30pm. $25. Bring an unwrapped gift for a child. The Combined Jewish Philanthropies Young Leadership Division's annual party includes a cash bar. Dietary laws observed.

Friday, Dec. 15

Brazilian Fund-Raiser
Dante Alighieri Club, 41 Hampshire St., Cambridge (783-8001). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. $8. Brazilian band Kara a Kara plays *forro* and *pagode* dance music and DJ Amarildo spins more Brazilian sounds at this fund-raiser for the Brazilian Immigrant Center.

MFA Fridays
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Fridays. $10. Enjoy an evening of live jazz and cocktails as you mingle with other single Bostonians.

$ale of the $entury
Bayside Expo Center, 200 Mt. Vernon St., Boston (877-718-4647). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Jan. 15-17. Find deals on all types of name-brand products: consumer electronics, car stereos and accessories, video games, leather products, jewelry, perfumes, personal care items, cell phones and designer clothing and shoes.

13th Annual SnowBall
Park Plaza Hotel, 64 Arlington St., Boston (931-2000). www.scaboston.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 8:30pm-2am. $60, $70 at the door. VIP Black Diamond Reception, 7-8:30pm, $100.* Santa Claus Anonymous' huge ball features live music by John Keegan and Madhouse, a DJ, a casino, light hors d'oeuvres, cigar bar and cash bar.

Saturday, Dec. 16

Holiday Open House
Wellesley Historical Society, 229 Washington St., Wellesley (781-235-6690). 1:30-3:30pm. The 1824 Dadmun McNamara House will be decorated for the holidays, with a Victorian Christmas display complete with tree, period toys and hands-on games.

Illuminations Tour
Purchase tickets at McIntyre and Moore Booksellers, 255 Elm St., Somerville (629-4840). Tours leave Somerville City Hall at 4:30pm, 5pm, 5:45pm, 6:15pm, 7pm, 7:30pm, 8:15pm and 8:45pm. $10. This 45-minute tour celebrates the folk-artistry of the many Somerville residents who transform their houses and yards with strings of holiday lights and illuminated ornaments.

34th Street Express
South Station, Boston (361-4445). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. 7am-10:30pm. $65. Take this special Amtrak train to New York City. Sponsored by the Mystic Valley Railway Society, the special train features seating for 500 passengers, "Illusions of Grandeur" magic tricks performed at your seat, a complete snack bar and restrooms. Add on a seat at *Radio City Christmas Spectacular* or *A Christmas Carol* at the Paramount Theatre.

Sunday, Dec. 17

Irish Cultural Centre's Eighth Annual Christmas Ball
Marriott Hotel, Newton (333-4972). 3pm (cocktails), 4pm (dinner). One of the highlights of the Boston Irish Christmas season supports the sports, literary and musical programs at the Irish Cultural Centre. Enjoy music by the Bruce Peterson Orchestra until 9pm.

Nightclub entrepreneur Seth Greenberg (left) and Andy Rudnick ladle up matzo ball soup.

Preview

Matzo Ball

All that ... and a bowl of soup

You're a nice single *mensche* (guy) looking for a *shayna punim* (nice girl) to share your life with, so where do you turn? To the Matzo Ball, of course. Now in its 14th year, the Matzo Ball is the largest Jewish singles event in America. Run by the Society of Young Jewish Professionals (SYJP), it is the brainchild of local entrepreneur Andy Rudnick whose inspiration for this event was matched only by his desire to meet a Jewish girl. Today it draws more than 2,500 people and has a serious reputation for making matches. Rudnick himself can attest to that, since he met his now-wife Catherine at Matzo Ball 1997. *Avalon, 15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Dec. 24, 8pm. $20, $25 at the door. —E.B. Solomont*

Holiday Open House
Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, 99 Warren St., Brookline (566-1689, ext. 221). 1-4pm. Free. Enjoy refreshments, holiday displays and music.

Thursday, Dec. 21

Menorah Lighting and Celebration
Boston Common (424-1190). www.ci.boston.ma.us. *MBTA: Green Line to Park. Dec. 21, 4:30pm; Dec. 22, 2:30pm; Dec. 23, 7pm; Dec. 24, 4:30pm; Dec. 25-28, 5:15pm.* Celebrate the start of Hannukah.

Spags Christmas Bash
The Big Easy, One Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 8pm. $10. This benefit for the Arthritis Foundation and Rosie's Place features a live performance by J.D. Billy & Ken.

Trish McEvoy Appearance
Giuliano Day Spa, 338 Newbury St., Boston (262-2220). 11am-4pm. Internationally acclaimed cosmetic expert Trish McEvoy makes a personal appearance as she introduces her full line of cosmetics to Newbury Street.

Sunday, Dec. 24

Christmas Eve Service
King's Chapel, 58 Tremont St., Boston (227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. 4:30 and 10:30pm. Enjoy carols and a candelight service.

Christmas at Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Participate in a manger service

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and tree lighting. Children are invited to assemble the manger scene as the Christmas story is retold. The Festival Holy Eucharist is a half-hour of music before a candlelight celebration.

A Classy Christmas Eve
Ryles Night Club, 212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (312-5410). 8pm. $15, $20 at the door. DJ Larry Falk spins music at this night of dancing with gourmet cuisine by the S&S Deli. Sponsored by the J Connection, a social group for Jewish professionals in their 20s and 30s.

Matzo Ball
Club Avalon, 15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 8pm. $20, $25 at the door. See the box on this page.

Sunday, Dec. 31

New Year's Eve
See page 54 for listings.

Monday, Jan. 1

L Street Brownies Dip in the Bay
L Street Gym, 1663 Columbia Road, South Boston (635-5104). Around 11:30am. What started out 95 years ago as a casual dip in the Dorchester Bay by seven middle-aged men—clad only in tiny bathing suits—has become something of an international New Year's phenomenon. More than 200 L Street Brownies, including women and children, will (voluntarily) brave freezing cold temperatures and plunge into the icy bay.

Wednesday, Jan. 3

After-Work Social
Sophia's Latin Club, 1270 Beacon St., Boston (312-5410). 6-9pm. $10. This after-work social networking events features different opportunities for young professionals to view art, hear speakers, listen to music, take dance lessons and more.

Friday, Jan. 5

World of Wheels Motorsports Expo
Bayside Expo Center, Boston (367-3555). MBTA Red Line to JFK/UMass. Jan. 5-7. The 27th annual installment of this eventwill display custom vehicles, as well as replacement parts, accessories and automotive gadgets.

Saturday, Jan. 13

U.S. Figure Skating Championships
FleetCenter, Boston (931-2000). www.boston2001.com. *MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Jan. 13-20.* For a schedule of events, check out the Web site.

Sunday, Jan. 14

Second Sundays
Veronique, 20 Chapel St., Brookline (312-5410). MBTA: D Green Line to Longwood. $10. BostonEventGuide.com sponsors this monthly wine sampling for young professionals with live jazz and light hors d'oeuvres.

The Prudential holiday tree celebrates 29 years of glow this year.

Ongoing Holiday Happenings

Holiday Tree on the Boston Common
Boston Common, Tremont Street, Boston (635-4505). MBTA: Green Line to Park. The Boston Common's tree and display celebrates its 60th year.

Celebrate the Lights on Commonwealth Avenue
Arlington Street & Comm. Ave., Boston (635-4505). Celebrate the Lights as Commonwealth Avenue is illuminated for the holiday season.

Holiday Tree Lighting on CopleySquare
Copley Square, Boston (536-2101). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 4-5pm. The Copley Square tree stands proud in the shadow of the Trinity Church.

Downtown Crossing Holiday Tree Lighting
Downtown Crossing, Boston (800-4-EVENT-2). MBTA: Red or Orange Lines to Downtown Crossing. Through Jan. 31. Free. Holiday bell chiming, choirs, concerts and visits from Santa creates a fun and free outdoor festival as Filene's, Macy's and other Downtown Crossing stores get dressed for Christmas and the holidays. Holiday windows spotlight classic stories along Summer Street.

Enchanted Village
City Hall Plaza, Boston (635-3911). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Through Jan. 1. $1. The make-believe, snow-covered New England town is populated entirely by children, teddy bears, animals and Santa Claus. Performers entertain the crowd.

Faneuil Hall Holiday Entertainment
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (737-3500). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. •*A Christmas Carol Re-enactment: Saturdays, 12:30 and 2:30pm, through Dec. 16.* Throughout the season, Charles Dickens will represent the spirit of Christmas past. The performance will include a reading and re-enactment of *A Christmas Carol*. •Holiday Classics: *Nov. 30-Dec. 14, 2, 4 and 7pm.* Holiday favorites are performed on the community stage by local groups and musicians from the New England Conservatory and the Berklee College of Music.

Holiday Lights and Sights
Meet at the Boston Common Visitor Information Center, Tremont Street, Boston (635-4505). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Dec. 14 and Dec. 17, 4:30-5:30pm. See the Boston Common in a whole new light on a twilight tour down a tree-lit path.

Holiday Skating at the Frog Pond
Frog Pond, Boston Common, Boston (635-2121). MBTA: Red Line to Park. Sun.-Thu., 10am-9pm; Fri.-Sat., 10am-10pm. $3. Skate rentals $5, lockers available for $1. Dec. 25-Jan. 1. After skating, warm your tummy and toes in the Frog Pond Cottage with mugs of hot chocolate.

Holly Jolly Christmas Trolley
Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Ave., Boston (269-7150). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Thu., 6:15pm; Fri.-Sat., 6:15pm and 7:30pm; Sun., 6:15pm. Dec. 7-30 (excluding Dec. 24). $25. Snug inside a heated trolley, guests experience the candlelit windows of Beacon Hill, the twinkling lights of the Boston Common, the *USS Constitution* decked out in its holiday finery and the Prudential Center's 50-foot holiday tree. Each tour includes storytelling and caroling and a stop for cookies and hot cocoa at the Frog Pond.

Prudential Center Tree Lighting
Prudential Center, South Garden, Boston (877-276-7884). Boston's largest tree—a gift from grateful Nova Scotians is illuminated each night with great ceremony.

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Tickets

Bostix
(723-5181) www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of Faneuil Hall) and Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth).* Same-day tickets half-price.

Next Ticketing
(423-NEXT). www.boston.com/next.

Ticketmaster
(931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(247-1300 or 800-442-1854). This is a good place to get tickets if a show is sold out at the box office.

Theater

JUST OPENED

Black Nativity
Tremont Temple, Tremont and School streets (442-8614). Through Dec. 17. $15-$30. Langston Hughes' dramatic retelling of the Nativity story with gospel music and a message of peace, joy and inspiration.

Cafe Society
The Theatre Cooperative, 277 Broadway, Somerville (623-0861). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Through Dec. 16. $15. In this satire on the social life of city dwellers, presented by the Mill 6 Collaborative, Karen is sucked into a double-espresso friendship with Lucy, the young countergirl at Voulez-Vous Cafe, who belligerently befriends her caffeine-addicted customers.

A Child's Christmas in Wales
Lyric West Theatre, Massachusetts Bay Community College, Wellesley (288-7889). Fri., 8pm; Sat.-Sun., 2 and 5pm. Through Dec. 23. $10-$29. Based on the famous story by the great Welsh poet Dylan Thomas, this production depicts a young boy's remembrances of Christmases past in his tiny Welsh fishing village in the early 20th century.

A Christmas Carol
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Rd., Beverly, Mass. (978-921-6351). Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2pm and 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Through Dec. 23. $18-$56. This original adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic holiday tale has festive songs, colorful costumes and dazzling special effects.

Aysan Celik stars in the American Repertory Theatre's production *Antigone* through Jan. 17.

A Christmas Carol
Orpheum Foxborough, Foxborough, Mass. (508-543-4434). Dec. 13, 10am; Dec. 14, 1pm; Dec. 15, 8pm; Dec. 16, 2pm and 8pm; Dec. 17, 3pm. $14. Rick Lombardo directs this adaptation of Charles Dickens' tale of redemption and goodwill. Lombardo has designed this production for a cast of seven in a "radio play" presentation, with original lyrics.

The Christmas Revels
Sanders Theatre, Harvard University, Cambridge (496-2222). www.revels.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Dec. 15-17; Dec. 20-23; Dec. 26-30.* Set in the 19th century in the mountains of Appalachia at the time of the Underground Railroad and celebrating the courage of the African Americans who traveled on the "Gospel Train," this year's Revels captures the warmth of an Appalachian Christmas.

The Complete History of America (Abridged)
Lyric Stage Company of Boston, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4pm and 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Jan. 5-Feb. 3. $20-$26. Three men cover nearly 400 years of history in Act One and then race through the 20th century in Act Two, careening through the 1920s, '30s and '40s via a radio show that includes cowboys, Al Capone and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Disney on Ice: Beauty and the Beast
FleetCenter, Boston (931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Dec. 26-29. Times vary. $14-$42. Be swept away to a storybook French village with a young woman, her eccentric father, a mysterious castle, enchanted objects and a hairy beast.

Encore
•John Hancock Hall, 180 Berkeley St., Boston (542-9155). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Dec. 14-15, 10:30am and 12:30pm. •Berklee Performance Center, 136 Mass. Ave., Boston. Dec. 15, 10:30am; Dec. 20-21, 10:30am. Five dramatic adaptations of classic short stories include Edgar Allan Poe's "The Tell Tale Heart"; Guy de Maupassant's philosophical and ironic drama, "The Necklace"; Washington Irving's highly spirited tale, "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"; W.W. Jacobs' "The Monkey Paw"; and Mark Twain's "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County."

Fully Committed
Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont St., Boston (931-2787). Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2pm and 8pm; Sun., 2pm and 7pm. Through Jan. 7. $25-$55. Fully Committed is set in the basement of Manhattan's trendiest restaurant, a place where everyone wants a table for tonight. Mark Setlock, the acclaimed star of the New York production, re-creates this hilarious menagerie of Manhattanites on the make, playing more than 40 characters under the direction of Huntington Theatre's Nicholas Martin.

Gonzo Night School
Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (499-6991). Wed.-Sun., 8pm. Jan. 3-21. $15. Joe Smith's one-man show has lots of pieces. You put them together: a nihilistic mime with a drinking problem who teaches tae kwan do, interpretive dance inspired by Chinese food, compulsive chalkboard licking, a mute janitor named Zarko, a squeaky chair and lots of little shards of broken glass.

The God Show
Institute of Contemporary Art, 955 Boylston St., Boston (931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Dec. 14-31. $22. Poking fun at everything from Christianity to Buddhism, this one-man (and 20-character) show intertwines religious theatrics, monologues and interviews with outrageous male and female characters, such as the Virgin Mother's secretary, God's accountant and Satan himself.

Godspell
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue., 8pm; Wed., 2 and 8pm; Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat.-Sun., 2 and 8pm. Nov. 28-Dec. 10. $35-$65. This contemporary telling of the story of the Gospel according to St. Matthew includes a celebrated score from the Academy Award-winning composer Stephen Schwartz.

Hedda Gabler
Huntington Theatre Company, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (266-0800). Tue.-Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun. 2 and 8pm. Dec. 29-Jan. 28. $12-$55. This powerful drama is about a proud and complex woman searching for passion and meaning in her life.

Henry Flamethrowa
Trinity Repertory Theater, 201 Washington St., Providence (401-456-0000). Tue., 7pm; Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm and 7pm. Jan. 5-Feb. 4. $28-$40. This gripping drama is the story of a very unusual sister and brother. She lies in a coma, and people come from all over the country seeking her miraculous healing powers. Alone in his room, Henry loses himself in his books. If she is the instrument of the Virgin's divine mercy, will he become the instrument of God's terrible vengeance?

The High Priest of Infinity
Boston Center for the Arts, The Black Box Theater, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Through Dec. 16. StageDoor Theatre presents this drama by David E. Butler. Amid love and violence, a family struggles to stay together.

Holidaze: A Christian, a Jew and a Ho, Ho, Homo Too!
Lyric Stage Company of Boston, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Dec. 18-19, 7:30pm. $16. Kathy St. George, Bobbie Steinbach and Robert Saoud return for the third time in their campy holiday musical revue.

How Mrs. Grinchley Swiped Christmas
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-5000). Wed., 8pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat. 7 and 9pm; Sun. 7pm. Through Dec. 17. $20.50. No one ushers in Christmas like a drag queen can. Celebrate the holidays with Centastage and Ryan Landry's hysterical musical parody.

Poona the Fuckdog
TheatreZone, Actors Workshop, 40 Boylston St., Boston (887-2336). www.theatrezone.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Fri., 8pm; Sat., 7 and 10pm. Through Dec. 23. $12, $15 at the door.* Jeff Goode's outrageous fairytale for grown-ups is a perverse funhouse ride that takes no prisoners as it sends up sex, relationships, television, advertising, politics, religion and fairytales themselves.

The Stronger and Creditors
The Works Theater, 255 Elm St., Somerville (776-7383). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Dec. 14-16, 8pm; Dec. 17, 3pm; Jan. 4-6 and Jan. 11-13, 8pm; Jan. 7 and 14, 3pm. The Portal Theater Company presents this play by August Strendberg, directed by Rachel Shatil.

Tour de Force
John Hancock Hall, 180 Berkeley St., Boston (542-9155). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Dec. 21-21, 10:30am. Five dramatic adaptations of classic short stories include Edgar Allan Poe's haunting "The Fall of the House of Usher"; Ambrose Bierce's stunning examination of a condemned man's final moments, "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge"; Richard Connell's gripping tale of two hunters locked in mortal combat, "The Most Dangerous Game"; the wry wit of Saki in "The Mouse"; and O. Henry's perfect crime gone awry in "The Ransom of Red Chief."

NOW RUNNING

Antigone
American Repertory Theatre, Loeb Stage, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (495-2668). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2pm and 8pm; Sun., 2pm and 7pm. Through Jan. 17. $25-$59. Forces of redemption and reconciliation clash in Sophocles' timeless myth, as the human instinct for love struggles to overcome the human instinct for violence, enmity and revenge. When a civil war leaves rebels bloody and unburied on the battlefield, Antigone—daughter of the cursed house of Oedipus—must defy her uncle, the king, by burying her fallen brother, leader of the defeated faction.

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). Wed.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 7pm and 10pm; Sun., 3pm and 6pm. Call for special holiday hours. $39-$49. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to get its point across with tribal rock music, performance art, humorous antics, props (including plastic tubes and Twinkies) and three men painted blue.

A Christmas Carol
Trinity Repertory Theater, 201 Washington St., Providence (401-456-0000). Tue., 7pm; Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm and 7pm. Through Dec. 24. $36-$45. The Cratchit family and Tiny Tim, and the incorrigible Ebenezer Scrooge's redemption through the visits of the ghosts of Jacob Marley and Christmases past, present and future, are all wrapped up with singing, dancing and fun-filled special theatrical effects.

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change
Stuart Street Playhouse (formerly the 57 Theatre), 200 Stuart St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 5pm and 8:30pm; Sun., 3pm and 7pm. Ongoing. $25-$45. Everything you've secretly thought about dating, romance, marriage, lovers, husbands, wives and in-laws but were afraid to admit is celebrated in this absolutely hilarious musical review of the modern-day mating game.

Inspecting Carol
Lyric Stage Company of Boston, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4pm and 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Through Dec. 30. $20-$26. In this fusion of two classics—Gogol's satirical *The Inspector General* and Dickens' traditional *A Christmas Carol*—a professional theater company rehearses for its 13th version of the annual holiday cash cow. To top it off, the company is nearly bankrupt, an inspector from the National Endowment for the Arts is sent to investigate before approving an annual grant, and an aspiring actor comes in to audition and is mistaken for the inspector.

John Kuntz plays a dispirited elf in David Sedaris' absurdist holiday treat, *The SantaLand Diaries*, at the Copley Theatre.

Preview

Holiday Overload

'Tis the season of holiday classics, chock full of syrupy sweet sugarplum fairies and dancing rodents. Enough already! you cry. How many times can you watch Clara dance with the nutcracker before you hang yourself on the giant Christmas tree?

Pull up a chair and calm yourself with a stiff glass of eggnog, my friend. We offer alternatives that would make your Great-Aunt Esther cringe. The bawdier, the better is our philosophy (but Esther may disagree). See the listings for more information about each show.

***How Mrs. Grinchley Swiped Christmas* at the Boston Center for the Arts:** No one ushers in Christmas quite like a drag queen can. Ryan Landry stars in this musical parody as the fag-hag Mrs. Grinchley.
• Esther's review: Despicable.

***Holidaze: a Christian, A Jew and a Ho, Ho, Homo Too!* at the Lyric Stage:** This trio comes together for an irreverent, poignant and humorous take on the loving spirit of the season in this campy musical revue.
• Esther's review: Oh dear, it's another one about...homosexuals. Is this appropriate holiday discussion?

***The SantaLand Diaries* at the Copley Theater:** David Sedaris' absurdist holiday treat is about life in Macy's SantaLand, as seen through the eyes of one of Santa's jaded elves.
• Esther's review: A bit mean-spirited, wouldn't you say?

***Inspecting Carol* at the Lyric Stage:** Playwright Daniel Sullivan has merged two classics, Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* and Gogol's *The Inspector General*, into a play-within-a-play scenario.
• Esther's review: The best of the four, if I had to choose—but it's no *Nutcracker*.

There you have it. Follow Great-Aunt Esther's advice if you'd like (*The Nutcracker* plays at the Wang Theatre and the Emerson Majestic Theatre), or rebel and leave your tottering aunt and her rocker behind. —*J.S.*

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Mark Twain's "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County" is just one of five dramatic interpretations of short stories featured in the production *Encore* at John Hancock Hall Dec. 15

The Performance Cult
Back Alley Theater, 1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1253). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. Sundays, 7:30pm. Through Dec. 17. $7. Actors, dancers and storytellers present a series of short, original vignettes. Each one lasts no longer than 10 minutes.

The SantaLand Diaries
Copley Theater, 225 Clarendon St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Dec. 1-31. $28-$44. Based on a story by NPR humorist David Sedaris and starring John Kuntz, this absurdist holiday treat is about life in Macy's SantaLand, as seen through the eyes of one of Santa's elves. It's the perfect antidote to *A Christmas Carol*—a scathing satire that pokes fun at all the commercialism of Christmas.

Scrooge
Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton (244-0169). Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Dec. 26-30. $21. A song and dance spectacular based on Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm ; Sat., 6:30pm and 9:30pm; Sun., 3pm and 7:30pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This hilarious whodunit is set in a unisex hair salon. The production holds the record as the longest-running play in the history of Boston theater.

Stonewall Jackson's House
New Repertory Theatre, 54 Lincoln St., Newton Highlands (332-1646). Through Dec. 17. $25-$33. Adam Zahler directs Jonathan Reynold's controversial lampoon of political correctness.

Three Farces and a Funeral: The Proposal, the Bear and the Wedding Reception
American Repertory Theatre, Loeb Stage, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (495-2668). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2pm and 8pm; Sun., 2pm and 7pm. Through Jan. 14. $25-$59. In this new adaptation of Chekhov's one-act comedies, Robert Brustein has linked three of the most popular with excerpts from the playwright's poignantly romantic love letters.

UNIVERSITY THEATER

Agamemnon
Agassiz Theatre, 10 Garden St., Cambridge (496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Jan. 5-6, 2:30; Jan. 7, 8pm; Jan. 11-12, 8pm. $5. This classical tragedy comes alive in an innovative mixed-media spectacle.

COMING SOON

The Phantom of the Opera
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun. 2 and 7:30pm. Jan. 17-Feb. 11. $16-$71. A masked figure lurks beneath the catacombs of the Paris Opera House, exercising a reign of terror over all who inhabit it. He falls madly in love with an innocent young soprano and devotes himself to creating a new star by nurturing her extraordinary talents and employing all of the devious methods at his command.

Dance

SHOWS AND EVENTS

Boston's Other Nutcracker
Emerson Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (824-8000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Through Dec. 30. $9-29. Jose Mateo's Ballet Theatre's rendition of *The Nutcracker* focuses on the dancing rather than the traditional Boston Ballet version, which is more theatrical.

Boston Moves
Emerson Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (824-8000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Jan. 12, 7pm; Jan. 13, 8pm; Jan. 14, 2pm. $18, $22 or $27. This annual dance celebration features some of Boston's most innovative and daring choreographers.

A Dancer's Christmas
Robsham Theater Arts Center, Boston College, Chestnut Hill (552-4800). MBTA: B Green Line to BC. Through Dec. 17. $20. The Boston Liturgical Dance Ensemble, led by Rev. Robert VerEecke, jumps into the Christmas spirit with a festive performance as 20 children join the cast of 30 students and professionals.

The Nutcracker
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St. Boston (695-6950). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Through Dec. 31. Showtimes vary. The Boston Ballet presents its annual rendition of this classic tale, this year with several newly choreographed sections in Act II.

Twelve Dancers Dancing
The Dance Complex, 536 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (354-0225). Dec. 16, 8pm and Dec. 17, 7pm. $14. A holiday themed dance event features work from 14 choreographers, including Rozann Kraus, Rainbow Tribe and Impulse Dance.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail info. to comedy@improper.com. *Include address, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a description of the performances or comedians. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (248-9700). www.comedyconnectionboston.com. *MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed., 8pm; Thu., 8:30pm; Fri. and Sat., 8pm, 10:15pm; Sun., 7pm. $8-$10 (weekend prices vary).* The oldest comedy club in Boston draws big-name, national comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •Dec. 14: Frank Santos, the "R-Rated Hypnotist," 8:30pm, $12 •Dec. 15: Gary Gulman •Dec. 16: Gary Gulman •Dec. 21: Frank Santos "R-Rated Hypnotist," 8:30pm, $12 •Dec. 22-23: Boston Headliners •Dec. 26: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz •Dec. 28: Anthony Clark, 7pm •Dec. 29: Anthony Clark, $22 •Dec. 30: Anthony Clark, $22 •Dec. 31: Anthony Clark, 7pm, $38, 9pm, $50 •Jan. 1: Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox •Jan.2: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz •Jan.3: Don Gavin •Jan.4: Frank Santos, the "R-Rated Hypnotist," 8:30pm, $12 •Jan.7: "The Black Comedy Explosion," hosted by Jonathan Gates, $12 adv./$15 at door •Jan.8: Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox •Jan. 9: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz •Jan. 10: Richard Lewis, 7pm, $22.50 •Jan. 11: Frank Santos "R-Rated Hypnotist," 8:30pm, $12 •Jan. 12: Bob Marley •Jan. 13: Bob Marley •Jan. 14: Sheryl Underwood, BET's "Comic View," 7pm and 9pm •Jan. 15: Amateur Showcase, hosted by Kevin Knox •Jan. 16: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz.

The Comedy Studio
The Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu.-Sun., 8pm. $5-$7. Sketch comedy troupes and local comedians perform. •Dec. 14: Second round of Thursday Night Fights starring Tim McIntire. Guests: Be-

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FLASH'S
COCKTAILS

Based on Dylan Thomas' story, *A Child's Christmas in Wales* is at Lyric West Theatre through Dec. 23.

nari Poulten, Tony Moschetto, Stephanie Wishnick, Paul Shea, Shane Kinney and Greg Rodriguez. •Dec. 15: Brendan Small hosts David Walsh, John Curtin, Arthur Januario, Mike Sweeney and Matt Jablow. •Dec. 16: Stand-up comedy featuring Walter Dixon, Tammy Two-Tone, Joe Dinkin, Tim Collins, Steve Walsh and Jim Celeste. •Dec. 17: Tony V Christmas show. •Dec. 21:Thursday Night Fights, round 2, starring Tim McIntire. Guests: TJ Griffin, Sam Walker, Mike Arlington and Kelly Fattman. •Dec. 22: Brendon Small with Rick Harris, BethanyVan Delf, Thomas Mitchell, Steve Holda, Tom Morello andEric Riley Moore. •Dec. 23: All-Women Show featuring Dot Dwyer, Teresea Craggan, Bethany Van Delf, Shelby Sims, Kelly McFarland, Jan Davidson and Alana Devich. •Dec. 28: Thursday Night Fights, round 2, starring Tim McIntire. Also stand-up from Sam Walter and Chris Walsh. •Dec. 29: Brendon Small and Larry Murphy, sketch and musical comedy. Guests: Craig Zeltzar, Dave Greenberg, Kim & Josh and Val Kappa. • Dec. 30: Eric Falconer, Pat O'Shea, Matt Jablow, Greg Boggis and Sam Walter. •Jan.4: Tim McIntire hosts Tom Clark, Ron Eble, Chris & Dave Walsh and James Patterson. •Jan.5: Brendon Small hosts DJ Hazard, Sam Walter, Laura Kolling, Tom Morello, Loiue Wynz and Jim Celeste. •Jan. 6: DJ Hazard headlines with Malene Welch, Adam Pearlman, Katie Grady, Greg Rodriguez and Dave Hutchings. •Jan. 7: Sacrificing Virgins. Ten first-time comedians. •Jan 11: Tim McIntire's Thursday Night Fights with stand-up guests: Val Kappa, Tony Moschetto, Dan Sulman, Ben Johnson, Thomas Mitchell and Greg Buchanan. •Jan. 12: PS Absurdo, starring Eugene Mirman and Brendon Small with guests Eric RileyMoore, Colin Cohen, Scott Carney, Dan Newbower, Benari Poulten and Ira Proctor. •Jan. 13: Eugene Mirman headlines, with Deb Farrar-Parkman, Ira Proctor, Mike Dorval, Teresa Craggan and Ben Boime. •Jan. 14: Comics Workout: Steve Calechman, John Fisch, Teresa Craggan, Dan Savage, Julie Perkins and Jay Hall.

Dick Doherty's Comedy Vault

Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun., 9pm. $10. Features local stand-up comedians. Thursdays: Stand-up comedy.

Nick's Comedy Stop

100 Warrenton St., Boston (482-0930). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. $10-$22. The talent here is not quite as big-name as the Comedy Connection, but the crowds are just as enthusiastic. Wednesdays: Open-mike at 8:30pm • Dec. 28: Paul Nardizzi (who appeared on NBC's *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*), Robbie Printz, Doug Poland, 8:30pm, $10. • Dec. 29: Paul Nardizzi, Robbie Printz, Doug Poland, 8:45pm, $14.• Dec. 30: Robbie Printz, Dave Andrews and Mark Scalia, 8:45pm, $15.

IMPROV

Improv Asylum

216 Hanover St., Boston (263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Thu., 8pm; Fri. and Sat., 8pm and 10pm. Main Stage: $10-$15.* Now playing on the main stage is the critically acclaimed improvisational and sketch comedy show—voted one of Boston's best improvisational comedy troupes. •Wednesdays, 8pm: The Improv Asylum Training Center graduate show, *Gary's Pocket*, followed by the Improv Asylum Touring Company. $10.

ImprovBoston at Back Alley Theater

1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (576-1253). MBTA: Red Line to Central. $12. Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe makes things up as it goes along. • ***TheatreSports***: Fridays, 10:30pm. Witness two local improvisation troupes compete for bragging rights in this no-holds-barred, improvisational fight.

Magicians & Spirits

Green Street Grill, 280 Green St., Cambridge (876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Shows every Tuesday at 9pm. $10 cabaret show ($5 with dinner). At 10pm, the cabaret show begins upstairs in the newly renovated Green Street Grill with local and national magicians reading minds, making birds appear out of nowhere and levitating objects onstage.

INTERACTIVE SHOWS

Battle of the Sexes

290 Congress St., Boston (426-1999). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Saturdays, 10:30pm. $15-$18. A participatory comedy.

Joey & Maria's Comedy Wedding

Tremont House Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Fri. and Sat., 7:30pm. Ongoing. $39-$45. Join the fun at this absolutely zany Italian wedding, complete with food and hysterics. Big hair and blue tuxedos optional.

Murder on the Campaign Trail

*Mystery Cafe Dinner Theater, 290 Congress St., Boston (781) 793-9700. Fridays at 7:30pm; Saturdays at 7pm. Ongoing. $36 (Includes dinner and show).*See this mystery parody of Campaign 2000.

Mystery Cafe

290 Congress St., Boston (781-320-0040). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Fri., 7:30pm; Sat., 7pm. Ongoing. $36. This interactive murder mystery, *Murder on the Campaign Trail*, is a parody of Campaign 2000.

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Museums

Art Institute of Boston
Lesley College, 700 Beacon St., Boston (585-6600). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. www.lesley.edu. *Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm; Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun., 12-5pm.* •*Mightier Than the Sword: Political Satire, Caricatures and Cartoons* features work by Jules Feiffer, Ed Sorel, Dan Wasserman and Robert Grossman. Through Jan. 21.

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. The Sackler houses textiles that represent a new, post-classical era in *The Rich Life and the Dance: Weavings from Roman Byzantine and Islamic Egypt.* Through Jan. 14. •*Antoin Sevurguin and the Persian Image* features more than 45 photographs of Persian life. Also on exhibit is ancient Islamic and Asian art, an array of Neolithic bronze Buddhas, Greek pottery and Hellenistic sculpture.

Boston Public Library
900 Boylston St., Boston (536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. •*The Brinks' Job*, a show of photographs from the Print Department's *Herald*-Traveler Photo Morgue of "Boston's Crime of the Century," includes courtroom sketches of the trial, crime scene photos and mug shots. Through Dec. 31 in the Wiggin Gallery Balcony. •Drawings and prints by Harold Tovish show through Dec. 31 in the Wiggin Gallery. •In celebration of the centennial of Symphony Hall, the Music Department displays musical and non-musical events that have taken place in Symphony Hall through the years in *100 Years at Symphony Hall*. Through Dec. 31 in the Koussevitzky Room, West and South Galleries.

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-0283-2051). •A multimedia installation, *Cold War Modern: the Domesticated Avant-Garde,* explores the avant-garde in art, music and design in the United States between 1945 and the early '60s. Through June 10.

DeCordova Museum
51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln (781-259-8355). •*Photography in Boston 1955-1985* celebrates 30 years of photographic history in Boston and features works by more than 60 Boston area photographers—with a total of more than 230 pieces on display. The *Seventh Annual Artists' Market*, featuring jewelry, pottery, glass and ornaments for sale, begins Nov. 18 and runs through Dec. 31. •Elsa Dorfman's *No Hair Day* is also on display through Jan. 21.

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free to all on Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. •*Before and After the End of Time: Architecture and the Year 1000* runs through Dec. 31. This looks at the beginning of Romanesque architecture in Europe. •*Philip Guston: A New Alphabet* focuses on a four-year period in the artist's life (1968-1972). Through Feb. 4. •*Franz Marc: Horses* shows through March 18. •*Sight-Seeing: Photography of the Middle East and Its Audiences, 1840-1940*, an exhibition that investigates the ways in which images of the Middle East were made available to the broad public, shows through March 18.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
24 Oxford St., Cambridge (496-6972). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm. •The museum presents, *Beauty on the Wing: The Double Lives of Butterflies*, an exhibit that examines the intricacies of butterflies. Through March 4.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (266-5152). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Wed.-Sun., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-9pm. $6, $4 students and seniors. •In the group exhibition *Customized: Art Inspired by Hot Rods, Low Riders & American Car Culture*, artists examine the imagery and the attitude of American car culture, using hot rod and low rider culture for inspiration. Through Dec. 31. •Free guided walk-throughs take place each Thursday at 6:30pm.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (566-1401). www.boston.com/gardner. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun., 11am-5pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, under 18 free. Guided on Fridays, 2:30pm.* •*Rembrandt Creates Rembrandt: Art and Ambition in Leiden, 1629-1631* comprises 10 paintings, including the Gardner's early *Self Portrait*, and 10 etchings from collections in the United States and Europe. The show illuminates Rembrandt's evolving styles. Through Jan. 7. •Also on exhibit is *Isabella Stewart Gardner's Holiday Table*, which is a recreation of Gardner's holiday table, set for elegant dining with china, glassware and silver. Through Jan. 7.

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5pm, weekends, 12-5pm. $3, $1 students, seniors and children. The museum's permanent exhibits include *Flashes of Inspiration: The Work of Harold Edgerton*, and *Gestural Engineering* and *Cultural Engineering: the Sculptures of Arthur Ganson*, the mechanical engineer/choreographer. •Enjoy an interactive excursion into the world of artificial intelligence in *Robots and Beyond: Exploring Artificial Intelligence at MIT*. Special interactive activities take place 2-4pm daily. •On the last Sunday of the month, explore oceanography, astronomy, the science of buildings and other mysteries of science, 2-4pm. Call 452-2827 for details.

Museum of Bad Art
580 High St., Dedham (325-8224). Mon.-Fri., 6:30-10pm, Sat., and Sun., 1-10pm. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. The one and only museum that boasts "art too bad to be ignored." A favorite is *Lady Chardonnay*, a piece illuminating a poodle-headed dancer.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Mon.-Tue., 10am-4:45pm; Wed., 10am-9:45pm, Thu.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun., 10am-5:45pm. West Wing only, Thu.-Fri., 5-9:45pm. $12, students and seniors $10.* •*Dangerous Curves: Art of the Guitar* shows through Feb. 25. •An exhibition that presents the multifaceted work of Fred Holland Day is on display, titled *Art and The Camera: Photographs of F. Holland Day* and runs Dec. 6-March 25. •*Boston 1900*, an exhibit that looks at our artistic, literary and cultural city at the beginning of the 20th century, is on display through March 18. •*Color Field Painting* shows through Jan. 29.

The Revolving Museum
288-300 A St., Boston (439-8617). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed.-Fri., 12-5pm. •Sculpture, work on paper and veneer are featured in *Surface Metaphors* by Elise Mannella. Through Jan. 12. •*Virtual Circus* has freaks, musical oddities and performing floozies. Through Jan. 1.

The Somerville Museum
1 Westwood Road, Somerville (666-9810). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Thu., 2-7pm; Fri., 2-5pm and Sat., 12-7pm. Free. •*Build* is a series of paintings, sculptures, prints and drawings by artists Matthew Brackett, Kathleen Finlay, Robin Mandel, Rachel Rush and Theresa Spadafora. Through Dec. 22.

Preview

His Day Has Come

Photography of Holland Day at the MFA

The Museum of Fine Arts' *Art and the Camera: The Photographs of Holland Day* (Dec. 6-March 25), is the most comprehensive exhibition of the work of Fred Holland Day (1864-1933) to date. A Bostonian, Day was a pioneering art photographer at the turn of the 20th century who worked with the Boston Bohemians, a circle of friends who shared a love for the Arts and Crafts movement, Symbolist literature, art and humor. He's credited for his prominent role in uniting contemporary art and printing (the exhibition highlights several book designs he made at Boston publishing house Copeland & Day). But Day is best known for helping elevate photography to a fine art form.

***Art and the Camera* showcases Day's early interest in the pictorialist crusade in the mid-1880s to make photography acknowledged as a form of fine art, especially notable are his series of men and women from the immigrant tenements of Boston, African-Americans he met while traveling, and images of youths invoking the myth of Orpheus and other classical themes. Day's religious themed works and (once-highly controversial) images of sensual male figures are also included in the Boston exhibition, which is the show's only American venue.**

If you aren't familiar with Holland Day's photography, you aren't alone. Art historians theorize that Day's evocative work isn't as well known as other pioneering photographers of his time because of his stormy relationship with the volatile Alfred Stieglitz. During the 1890s, Day was friendly with Stieglitz, who was the best-known photographer of the period. Stieglitz was a fan of Day's work until 1899, when a rivalry developed over the promotion of art photography. The rift left Day outside of Stieglitz's influential circle of associates, and out of *Camera Work*, Stieglitz's influential journal of photography. What's more, in 1904, Day's Boston studio at 23 Irvington Street burned down, along with some 2,000 negatives and many photographs. History may not have treated Day kindly, but the MFA's upcoming exhibit, which includes 125 of his photographs and 25 other pieces of his artwork, takes a step toward lauding the photographer properly. *See the travelling exhibition at the MFA through March 25. After Boston, the exhibition goes to the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam and continues to the Museum Villa Stuck, Munich.*

Galleries
FINE ART

Alianza
154 Newbury St., Boston (262-2385). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-5pm. On exhibit is Jerry Berta's *Dinner Show*. Through Jan. 1.

Allston Skirt Gallery
129 Braintree St., Allston (254-7027). www.allston-skirt.com. MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. Roberta Paul and Amy Podmore present *New Work*. Through Dec. 23. •*Pretty Funny*, a collection of paintings and photographs on humor by artists David Robbins and Scott Reeder, shows Jan. 6-Feb. 24.

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (536-4465). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •Andrew Young presents his exhibit, *New Collages*. Through Jan. 3.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (247-0610). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm; Sun., 1-5pm. •On display are the works of *Denise Mickilowski* and *Jean Larson* in their self-titled exhibits. Mickilowski's painting shows hyper-realist fruits and Larson paints flowers floating in abstract color fields. Through Dec. 31. •Tom Paiement presents his *New Works* Jan. 2-31.

Artesano Gallery
757A Beacon St., Newton (558-2783). Tue. and Wed., 10am-6pm; Thu.-Sat., 10am-7pm. The gallery features original works from international artists. •Kei Ito displays a collection of bags from London. Through Dec. 14. •Taking her inspiration from the flora and fauna of the sea, Alexandra Hart exhibits her jewelry. Through Dec. 30.

Bakalar Gallery
MassArt, South Building, 623 Huntington Ave., Boston (879-7333). Mon.-Fri., 10am-6pm; Sat., 11am-5pm. Kunie Sugiura presents her *Photograms*, shadows turned inside out that create images drawn from nature. Through Dec. 23.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., 5th floor, Boston (262-4490). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5:30pm. •*Day Without Art* is an exhibit whose proceeds benefit Boston Pediatric AIDS Project and African AIDS Initiative. Through Dec. 22. •*Evidence*, portraits by Hannah Collins, Frank Egloff, Craigie Horsfield and Sa Schloff, display through Jan. 20.

Barton-Ryan Gallery
38 Newbury St., 4th floor, Boston (867-0662). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5:30pm. Herself by Catherine Kehoe is on exhibit through Jan. 14.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm. •It's Kentucky art in 3-D and 2-D during the *Kentucky Folk Art* show, featuring the work of 11 artists. Through Jan 6.

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (482-2477). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 10:30am-5:30pm. •On display is *Something About the Girl*, photographic works by Joshua Deaner, David Hilliard, Chris Komater, David Leventhal, Mardozo, Linn Underhill and Francesca Woodman. Through Dec. 23.

Boston University Art Gallery
855 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-3329). MBTA: B Green Line to B.U. West. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat. and Sun., 1-5pm. •The 56 objects and 17 photographs in *Differences Preserved: Reconstructed Tombs from a Liao and a Song Tomb* come from two sets of tombs in northern China. •Also showing is *Of Battle and Beauty: Felice Beato's Photographs of China*, a series of images photographed in 1860 during the second Opium War. Through Dec. 17.

B.U.'s 808 Gallery
808 Comm. Ave., Boston (358-0200). MBTA: B Green Line to B.U. Central. Tue.-Sun., 1pm-5pm. •An exhibition based on a book of photographs taken by Ulrich Mack of Pellworn Island off the coast of Germany, titled *Island People*, runs through Jan. 28.

Bromfield Art Gallery
560 Harrison Ave., Boston (451-3605). Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. •*Small, Smaller, Smallest*, a collection of small works by 12 New England artists, shows through Dec. 16. •Lynne Johnson's work, *Wall Surface Facade: Painted and Printed Structures* and Adrea Hoelscher's *Urban Memories* shows Jan. 3-27.

Carpenter Center
24 Quincy St., Cambridge (495-3251). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9:30 am-11:30pm. •*VES Student Show and Sale* takess place through Dec. 25.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (236-2255). www.chappell-gallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tues.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm. •*Spatial Glass*, new work by Martin Rosol. Through Jan. 13. •On display are self-titled exhibits by *Naomi Shioya* and *Akihiro Isogai*. Through Jan. 20.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (859-7222). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-5pm. •Artist Tracey Ziegler's works, *Etchings*, utilize the use of light and color to create strange moods. Through Dec. 30. •George Gabin's *New Works* is on display Jan. 4-30.

Childs Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (266-1108). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 9am-6pm; Mon. and Sat., 10am-5pm. •The curators display their favorite prints in *We Like It So Much*. Also, *Holiday Works on Paper* is a collection prints and watercolors and *The Watercolors of Paul Parker* will also be presented. Through Jan. 6.

Clark Gallery
145 Lincoln St., Lincoln (781-259-8303). Tue.-Sat., 10am-5pm. The gallery represents 30 regional artists. •*Annual Salon Show* is a group exhibition featuring gallery artists and invited guests. Through Dec. 21.

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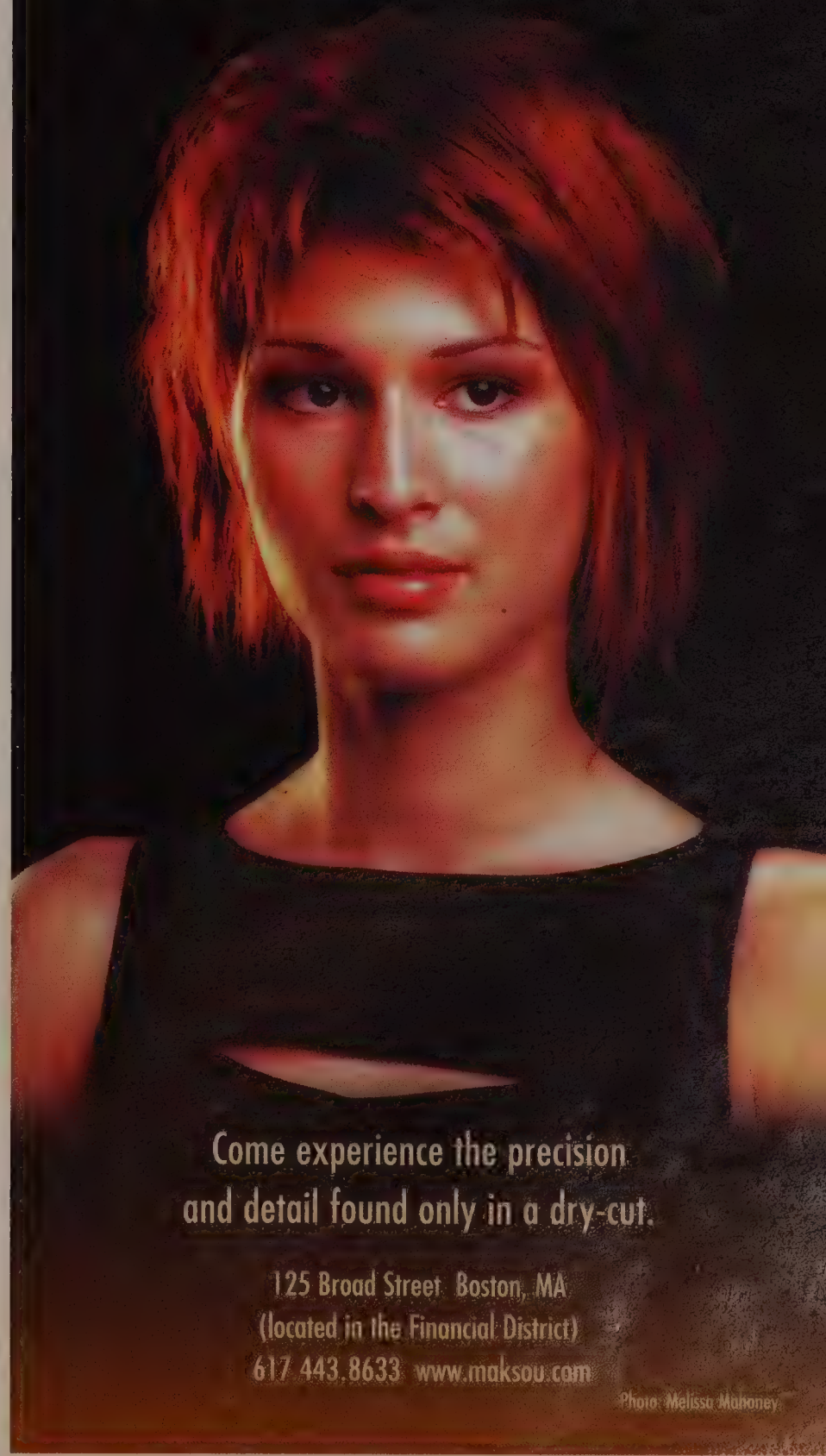

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•Catlin Rockman's work, *Consuming Image*, and John Bisbee's *New Sculpture* are on display Jan. 2-25.

Clifford Smith Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 3rd Floor, Boston (695-0255). www.cliffordsmithgallery.com. *Wed.-Sat., 11am-6pm.* •On display is *Paper Products*, a series that shows works on or of paper, by artists Haluk Akakce, Saul Chernick, Seong Chun, Greg Mencoff, John Powers and Paul Henry Ramirez. Through Dec. 31.

Crosstown Arts Inc.
One North Square, Boston (720-0100). www.crosstown.com. *Tue.-Fri.. 9am-5pm, Sat., 9am-1pm, or by appointment.* •*Strategy: Paintings and Drawings*, by Megan McNaught, shows through Dec. 23. •Peter Inglis' *Cast Forms* is on display Jan. 6-Feb. 16.

Crystal Fine Art
93 Summer St., Suite 4L, Boston (728-9818). www.crystalfineart.com. *MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Tue.-Fri., 11am-6pm.* •*Candace Whittemore Lovely*'s work, oils on canvas, shows through Dec. 22.

Dyansen Gallery
132A Newbury St., Boston (262-4800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Thu., Sat., 10am-6pm; Fri., Sun., 12-6pm. •On display is *The Street Scenes of Paris*, by artist Andre Renoux, and a collection of new European paintings. From Jan. 1-31.

Eclipse Gallery
167 Newbury St., Boston (247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9am-5pm. •*New Oil Paintings*, by Paul Kerepka, shows through Jan. 31.

Elias Fine Art
120 Braintree St., Allston (783-1888). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm. •Tom Huck's work shows through Dec. 23.

Equator Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (266-4110). www.equatorgallery.com. *Tue.-Thu., 12-6pm; Fri.-Sun., 11am-7pm.* A series of woodcarvings by L. Almeida and L. Potosí and ceramics with pre-Columbian motifs by Sasha Raiz. •Peruvian artist Benito Huillcahuamán's vibrant watercolors depict modern-day Cuzco. Ongoing.

French Library and Cultural Center
53 Marlborough St., Boston (266-4351). Tue.-Thu. 10am-8pm; Fri.-Sat., 10am-5pm. •Jeroen Nelemans explores the multiple facets of photography with Paris as a subject in *Paris in Black and White*, which runs through Jan. 6.

Preview

Snowglobe-o-Rama

Spherical winter scenery surrounds Gibbs Gallery

The Gibbs Gallery exhibits *Winter Wonderland*, a display that explores the magic of snowglobes and their many uses. They can be used as paperweights, reminders of places once visited, or just compact, self-reliant little communities unto themselves. You can take home any number of more than 100 watery globes, donated by friends and members of the gallery who plucked them from the corners of the globe: the Sydney Opera House, Eiffle Tower or a sunny (yet still snowy) ocean setting of Puerto Rico inside. In addition to the many gen-u-ine snowglobes available, gallery artists have rendered their own versions of the tourist tokens using photography, painting and sculpture. Artist-in-residence Amy Goodwin created an old-fashioned snowdome with a fairy princess inside, and Edith Allen displays her winter-inspired artwork out of cut paper. The gallery is also transformed into a winter wonderland, where visitors enter through a wall of snow, stroll through the snow-lined gallery with snowflakes and stars hanging around them. All the globes and works of art are also for sale. *Gibbs Gallery, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). Dec. 15-Jan. 26. Mon-Fri, 9am-6pm. —H.C.*

Galerie d'Orsay
33 Newbury St., Boston (266-8001). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. •On display is the *Holiday Exhibition*, a collection of creations from around the world. Through Dec. 24. •*Modern Masters*, a collection of etchings and lithographs, shows Jan. 1-31.

Gallery @ Green Street
141 Green St., Jamaica Plain (522-0000). www.jameshull.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm; Tue., Wed. and Thu., 6-9pm.* •The gallery shows 150 works of art for $150 each at the third annual Green Street fund-raiser. Through Dec. 14. •Henry Samelson and Hannah Barrett's works, a series of oil on canvas, display Dec. 20-Jan. 20.

Gallery Bershad
99 Dover St., Somerville (629-9400 ext. 3). www.bershad.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Mon.-Fri., 9-6pm; Sat. and Sun., 12-6pm.* •*Modern Modular*, a collection of works that invest in, confront or speak to the analytical grid of modernism, shows through Jan. 12.

Gallery NAGA
67 Newbury St., Boston (267-9060). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. www.gallery naga.com. *Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •David Moore's *Works on Paper* and Ron Rizzi's *New Paintings*. Through Dec. 23. •Peter Brooke's work, *Mylars*, Amy Devers' *New Furniture* and Keith Washington's *New Paintings* show Jan. 5-27.

Gallery Seventy-Nine
79 Newbury St., Boston (262-5918). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-6pm; Sat., 12-5pm. •On display is Patrick Lord's *Back Bay Churches*. Through Jan. 19. •Billie Wolf's show, *Painted Constructions*, shows through Jan. 19.

Genovese Sullivan Gallery
47 Thayer St., Boston (426-9738). Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. MBTA: Orange Line to N.E. Medical Center. •Deborah Davidovits' *Recent Sculpture and Drawings* is on display through Jan. 9.

Gibbs Gallery
41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm. •*Winter Wonderland: The Frosty World of Snowdomes*, a collection of actual snowglobes and artists' interpretations of snowglobes, shows Dec. 15-Jan. 26.

Gurari Collections
91 Charles St., Boston (367-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. This gallery has an impressive collection of 16th- to early-20th-century etchings, engravings and drawings.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St., Boston (536-6339). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 10am-6pm; Sat., 10am-5pm. •There is an assortment of 18th- and 19th-century antique engravings and lithographs on display. •Also, the annual *Christmas Window* features Boston Prints. Through Dec. 25.

HallSpace
31 Norfolk Ave., Boston (989-9985). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave. Fri.-Sat., 12-5pm. •On display is *Drawings*, by Steven Muller. Through Jan. 6.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (262-0550). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. yezerski@ziplink.net. •Morgan Bulkeley displays his new work, *Walking Sticks*. Also, Paul Heroux's *New Work* and *Paper Prayers 12*, a benefit for the Boston Pediatric/Family AIDS Project and the African AIDS initiative, shows through Dec. 23. • On display is Mark Mennin's *Man Children*, marble sculptures, and *Simply Complex*, monochrome paintings from Los Angeles. Jan. 5-30.

Hurst Gallery
53 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (491-6888). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sat., 12-6pm. Thu., 12-7pm, and by appointment. Visitors are greeted with a variety of art and artifacts from six continents. •On exhibit is *Iridescent Glass from Antiquity*, a varied collection of ancient blown glass from the Roman period. Through Jan. 20.

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Konstantin Simun, a Russian artist, shows *Sitting Chair* and other sculptures at Janus.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (375-0076). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. A selection of vintage posters is on display. Ongoing. •The seventh annual holiday poster show is titled *Let It Snow*, and has vintage ski posters from New England. Dec. 14-Jan. 31.

Janus
77 Harvard St., Brookline (739-5769). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Mon.-Sat, 12pm-8pm; Sun., 12pm-6pm. •This Russian American center exhibits *Images Revealed*, sculpture by Boston-based Russian artist Konstantin Simun. Through Jan. 13.

Judy Ann Goldman
14 Newbury St., Braton (424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. •Two masters of modern ceramics, Jun Kaneko and Irvin Tapper, show their works. Through Jan. 20.

Kingston Gallery
37 Thayer St., Boston (423-4113). Wed.-Sun., 12-5pm. •On display is *Charge*, a collection of small works by the 22 Kingston Gallery members. Through Jan. 13.

Local Idea Council
107 Brighton Ave., Allston (562-0840). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. Tue.-Thu., 7-9pm. •Examine anonymous New England urbanity in the current exhibit, *Plain*, which accentuates the maze-like, disorienting qualities found on the fringe of city centers in New England. Through Dec. 21.

Lyman-Eyer Gallery Inc.
1347 Washington St., West Newton (964-3470). Tue.-Fri., 4-7:30pm; Sat., 11am-7:30pm; Sun., 11am-5pm. •Gallery artists are featured in *Small Works—A Gift of Art*. Through Dec. 31. •Deborah Barlow's *Exploring the Obscure* and Rita Tavilla's *Poetry in Motion* show Jan. 2-21.

Mercury Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (859-0054). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat., 10am-6pm. •The gallery presents Joseph Solman's paintings, *Portrait Retrospective*. Dec. 13-Jan. 4. • Also on display is *New Paintings*, by Jon Marshall. Jan. 13-Feb. 1.

Mills Gallery
539 Tremont St., Boston (426-8835). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sun., 1-4pm; Thu.-Sat., 7-10pm. •*Making Ends Meet: An Installation in Six Parts* features work by Bruce Brosnan, Sharon Louden, Mick O'Shea, Linda Price-Sneddon, Daniel Stupar and Traci Wile. Through Jan. 21.

Mobius
254 Congress St., Boston (542-7416). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. www.mobius.org. *Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm.* •Julia Szabo presents *Ripe*, an installation that is inspired by the art of puppetry. Through Dec. 23. •*Maternal Exposure (Don't Forget the Lunches)* is an intstallation by Monica Block and Zofia Burr. Jan. 10-Feb. 3.

MPG
285 Newbury St., Boston (437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-5pm. •Local artists join together to present *Prints and Drawings*. Through Jan. 1. •A national competition of work by emerging artists, *New Art 2001 @ MPG*, runs Jan. 5-29.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •This exhibition, titled *The Beginning*, is a collection of the early paintings and drawings of Profirio DiDonna. Through Jan. 13.

Out of the Blue Gallery
168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun., 12-7pm. This gallery, owned and operated by several artists, always has a variety of interesting artwork and art-related events going on. •Poetry readings take place Saturdays, and the gallery hosts jazz musicians every Wednesday.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (236-4497). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •*2000 Review* will be on display, featuring a mixture of photography, drawings and paintings. Through Jan. 14.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (267-9473). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun., 1pm-5pm. •*In a Different Light, Genesis in the Art of Samuel Bak*, a series of 55 images, shows through Dec. 31. •Welsh potter Phil Rogers' work, *Tradition Renewed*, exhibits Jan. 6-Feb. 7.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (266-3321). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. www.richardsonclarke.com. *Tue.-Sat., 10am-5pm.* •See the ongoing exhibition of American and European 19th- and 20th-century paintings.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (267-7997). www.RobertKleinGallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 10am-5:30pm; Sat., 11am-5pm. •On display is *Holiday 2000*, which features work by more than 36 artists offering art for gift giving. Through Dec. 31.

Rolly-Michaux
290 Dartmouth St., Boston (536-9898). Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm. •*Fine and Rare Prints: Etchings and Lithographs* from the 1930s to the '60s shows through Dec. 31.

Sherman Gallery
775 Comm. Ave., Boston (358-0295). MBTA: B Green Line to B.U. West. Tue.-Fri., 11am-5pm; Sat. and Sun., 1-5pm. •*Objects of My Affections* is a collection of Paul Gary Goldberg's prints. Through Jan. 21.

Space 12 Gallery
12 Union Park St., Boston (423-9760). Wed., 1-5pm, 6-9pm; Thu., Fri. and Sat., 1-5pm. •This installment came from the collaboration between Space 12 Gallery and Espacio 52 of Havana. *Cuba, Cuba,* features five Cuban artists. Through Jan. 27.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (450-0321). www.stgeorgegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-5pm.* Artist William St. George displays several of his paintings. Ongoing.

Studio Soto
300 Summer St., Studio #48, South Boston (423-SOTO). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Viewings by appointment. Local artist Kathleen Bitetti presents *Beautyrest*, which touches upon issues of co-dependency. Through Dec. 16.

Touch of France
173 Newbury St., Boston (247-6966). MBTA: Green line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-7pm; Sun., 10am-6pm. This gallery imports contemporary French artists' works, including those by famous painters M. Tigrane, R. Kefflin, C. Ferrer and striking dried-flower arrangements made near Saint Tropez.

Via Gallery
83 Newbury St., 2nd Floor (424-6200). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-4pm. •*The Latin Show* features work by Marisa Boullosa and Paula Barragan. Through Dec. 30. •Via's two-year anniversary show includes Teresa McCue's *Recent Works in Pastel* and Richard Swiatlowsky's *Giclee Prints*. Jan. 5-30.

Vose Gallery
238 Newbury St., Boston (536-6176). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 8am-5:30pm; Sat., 9am-4pm. •More than 130 works are exhibited in *The Boston Art Club, 1855-1950*. Through Dec. 29.

Zeitgeist Gallery
312 Broadway St., Cambridge (876-2182). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu.-Sun., 2pm-7pm. The gallery displays a variety of local artists' work. •A Playground Jazz Series takes place on Friday nights. •Monday is literary night with the Stone Soup Poets performing. •Every Wednesday is a figure-drawing session. •Sunday is a vegan potluck supper, with live music and poetry.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Gallery One
New England School of Photography, 537 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (437-1868). 9am-5pm, daily. •*Workshop Exhibition*, a show of selected works by workshop students, shows through Jan. 7.

Pancopticon Inc.
435 Moody St., Waltham (781-647-0100). Mon.-Fri., 9am-6:30pm; Thu., 9am-8pm; Sat., 11am-5pm. •The gallery's new space features *American Politics*, an exhibit that includes a wide variety of photographs dealing with politics in America. Through Jan. 20.

Photographic Resource Center
602 Comm. Ave., Boston (353-0700). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford. Tue.-Sun., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-8pm. •*The Nature of Things*, a yearlong exhibit from the Arboretum archives, displays through Sept. 8. •Henry Horenstein and Thomas Gearty curate *Sprawl*, an exhibit that reflects upon the spread of urban areas. Through Jan. 11.

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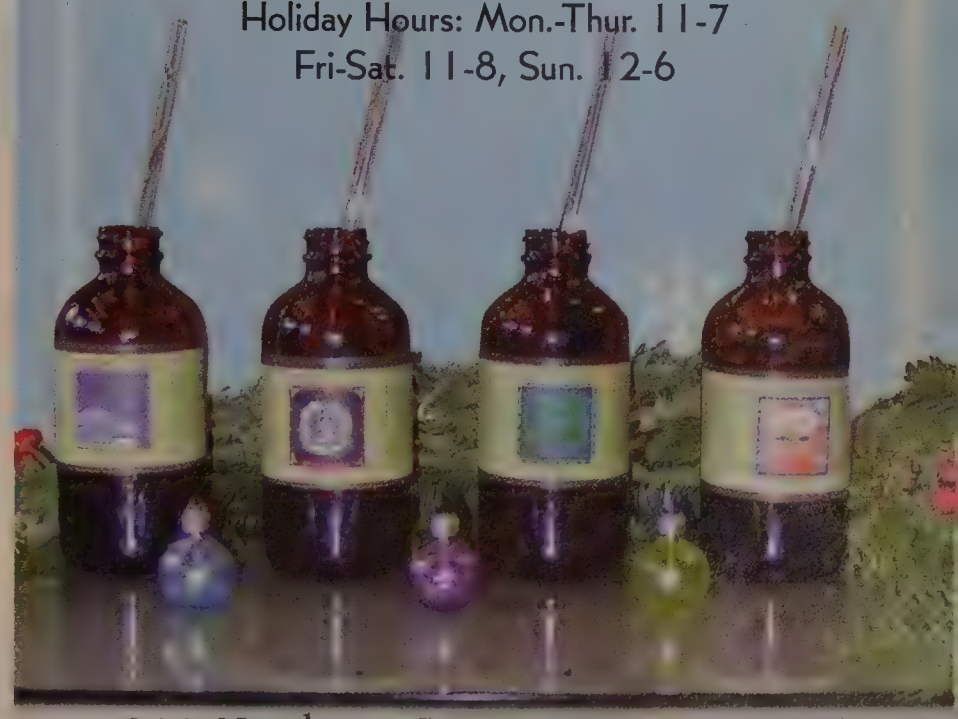

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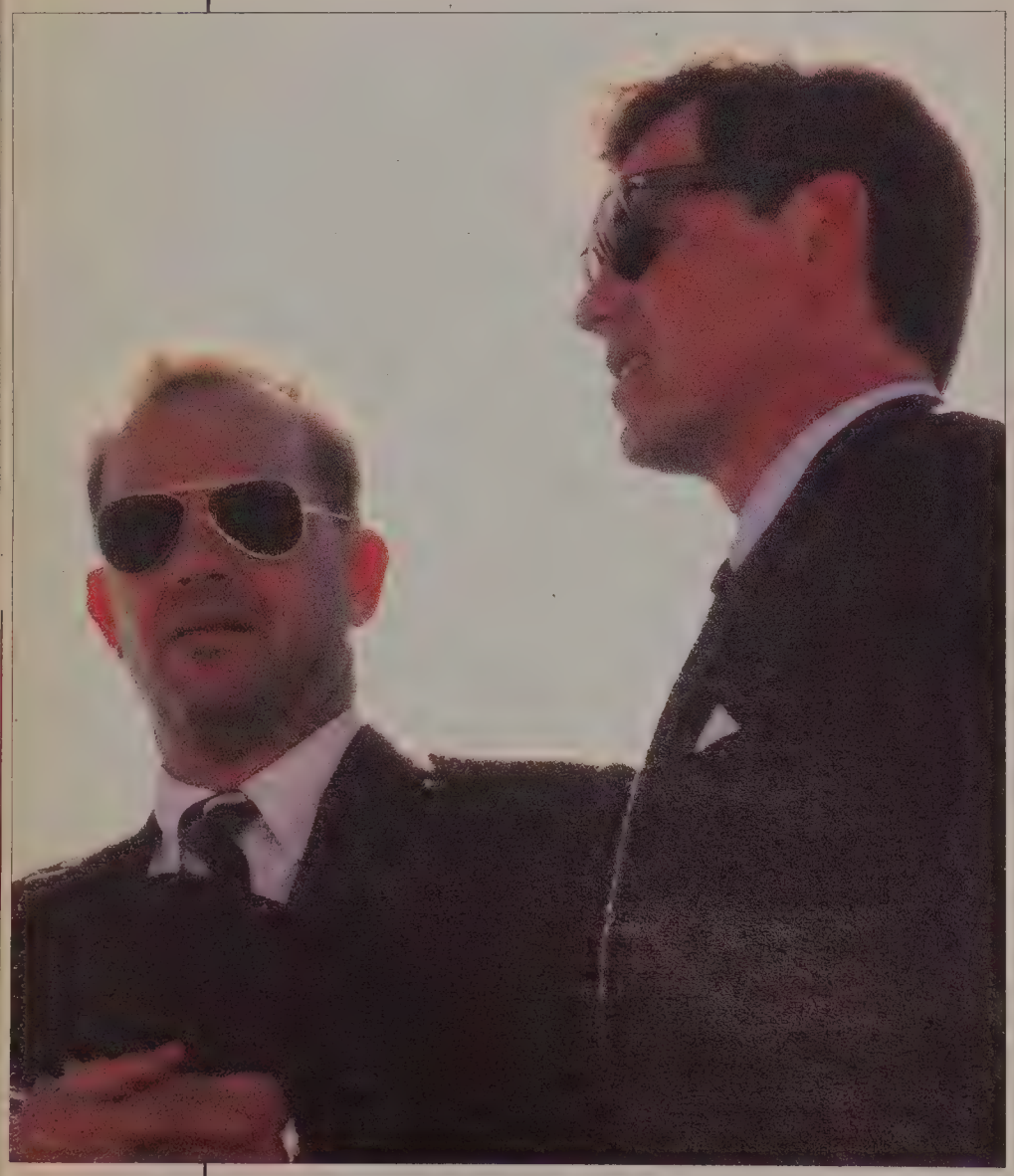
Film

KENNEDY COMRADES

Thirteen Days finds thrills in the Cold War. BY PAUL SHERMAN

Kevin Costner may be misguided at times—just ask anyone who saw *For Love of the Game*, *The Postman* or *Wyatt Earp*. But he's no dummy. For his best movie in several years, the Cuban Missile Crisis thriller *Thirteen Days*, co-producer Costner was wise enough to not play President John F. Kennedy or Attorney General Bobby Kennedy. Instead, he plays the Kennedys' right-hand man Kenny O'Donnell, the "special assistant" who, at least as the movie portrays it, was essentially the third most powerful man in the country and the Kennedy brothers' most trusted adviser, since he was an old friend who didn't need to bullshit them for political gain.



Kevin Costner plays Kenny O'Donnell, shrewdly leaving the role of JFK to Bruce Greenwood.

Some versions of what transpired when the Americans faced off with the Soviets, after the United States discovered that the U.S.S.R. was installing offensive missiles in Cuba, might have cut out O'Donnell, or merged him into a composite with other members of JFK's so-called "Irish Mafia." So his presence here as our point of identification gives *Thirteen Days* an interesting wrinkle, but not a gratuitous or distracting one.

In fact, nothing in *Thirteen Days* seems gratuitous or distracting. Hardly. Proceeding in a perhaps predictable chronological fashion—anything else would be silly—director Roger (Costner's *No Way Out*) Donaldson's movie pulls us into the inner sanctums of American policy-making during the October 1962 crisis, in the tradition of a backroom thriller that was made around the same time as these real events, John Frankenheimer's *Seven Days in May*. *Thirteen Days* starts on the day U-2 reconnaissance photos reveal the installation of the missiles in Cuba, and our government tries to figure out how to get them removed quickly. The film continues through the struggle to keep the news from the public as long as necessary and covers the Washington in-fighting between factions who preferred a military solution to the crisis and those who wanted a more political resolution.

Writer David Self no doubt immersed himself in the many hours of recordings of the meetings between Kennedy, his aides, cabinet members and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, sometimes quoting them verbatim. (Though then-Vice President Lyndon Johnson, who reportedly was in the discussions yet shows up in the movie only after everything is settled, is apparently majorly dissed, and Kennedy's portrayal as an anti-military president will probably be disputed by some.) While the shorthand, schoolbook version of the crisis says that Kennedy went on TV and revealed Soviet leader Kruschchev's plan, and then the Russians, caught in the act, dismantled the missiles, the full story turns out to be more complex.

And more thrilling, complete with standoffs at sea, an American death, secret unwritten deals and a tense United Nations showdown. *Thirteen Days* is one of the few fictionalized movies to present Jack Kennedy as a flesh-and-blood leader—as the great documentary *Crisis*, about school integration in Alabama, did. Bruce Greenwood (*Double Jeopardy*) does a terrific job at keeping JFK human and not giving us JFK the icon (he even tones down the Yankee accent, something Costner unfortunately does not do). Steven Culp (TV's *JAG*) is just as good, embodying the younger brother's brash ambition. As central as anything else in the film is the relationship between often-cautious Jack (who'll be blamed if the face-off escalates into World War III) and bolder Bobby, who often pushes his brother into taking stands against trigger-happy military men like General Curtis LeMay, who went on to be George Wallace's hawkish running mate in the 1968 presidential election.

Where does Costner's character fit into all of this? While the periodic action of Kenny O'Donnell the family man is hardly the most gripping the film has to offer, it does widen its emotional perspective a bit, supplying a humanity that colder thrillers like *The Contender* sorely miss. And there's a spark in the writing in scenes between O'Donnell and both Kennedys, a genuine friendliness we don't often see in historical or political movies. iB

Thirteen Days ★★★

Directed by Roger Donaldson. Written by David Self. With Kevin Costner, Bruce Greenwood and Steven Culp. Rated R. New Line Cinema.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

A Hard Day's Night ★★★★
There seems to be no particular reason for the theatrical re-release of the classic Beatles comedy, which was supposed to happen last year. But who cares? Capturing some of the spontaneity of the French New Wave, the irreverence of English comedy and the kaboom of Beatlemania, this often-imitated film is definitely one to revisit again and again. And it's still better than most of the grotty competition.

Bounce ★★
Maybe exes Ben Affleck and Gwyneth Paltrow have been hanging around together and getting themselves in tabloids because they knew this movie wasn't good enough to get people excited on its own. Writer-director Don Roos (the overrated *The Opposite of Sex*) gives us a potentially interesting, but ultimately shallow, story of a hotshot ad exec (Affleck) who gives his airplane ticket to a family man who then dies in a crash. Guilt-ridden, the ad man befriends the young widow (Paltrow) without telling her of his connection to her dead husband, and then falls in love with her. The story tries to delve into the emotional rehabilitation of both the man and the woman after the crash, but the vague, slick film only scratches the surface.

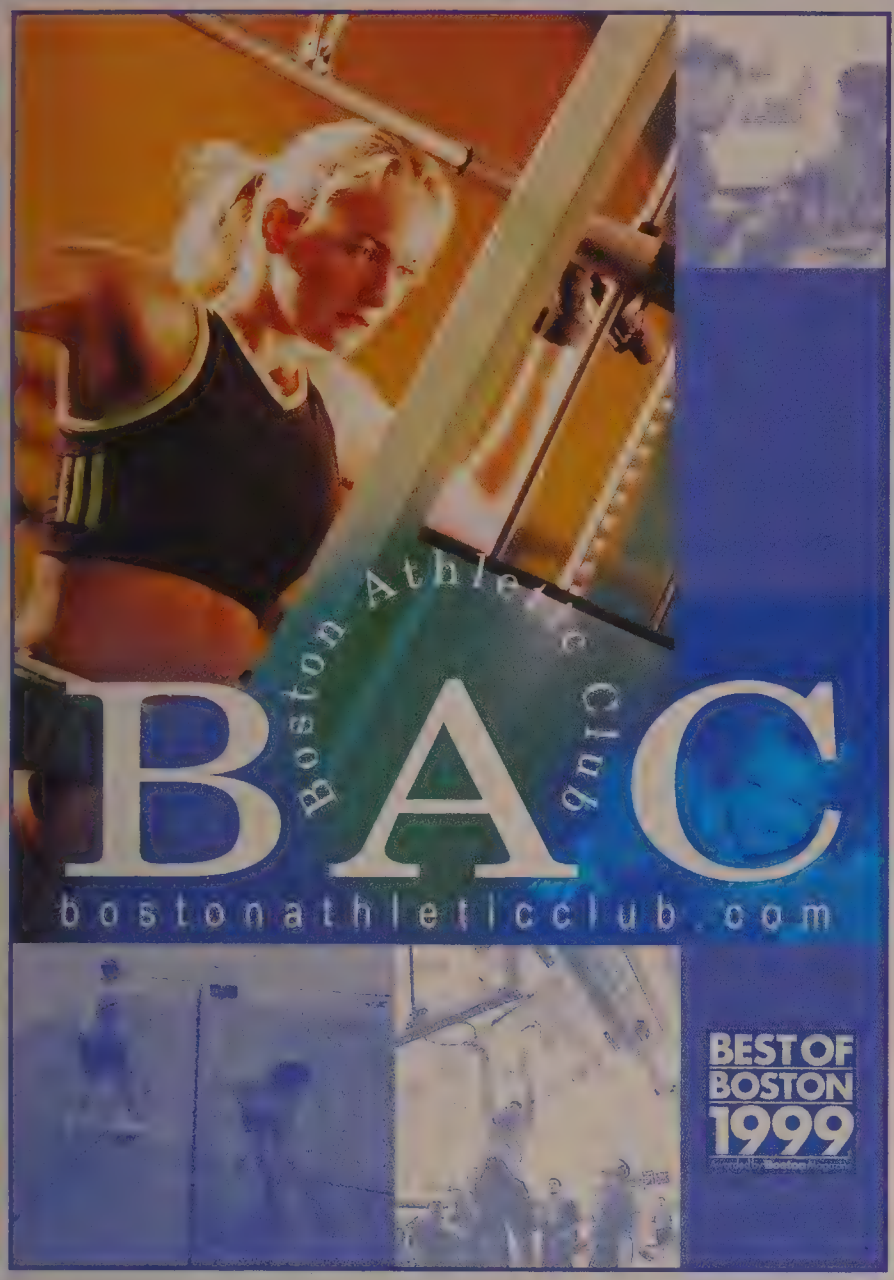
Charlie's Angels ★★★
The big difference between the 1970s TV show and the movie? The TV show didn't take itself seriously, but sucked; the movie doesn't take itself seriously, and is delirious fun. There's a plot about a kidnapping and some hi-tech software, but that's not important, and the movie sags whenever that plot becomes too central. What's really entertaining here are Cameron Diaz, Drew Barrymore and Lucy Liu camping it up as the dishy, high-kicking, hair-tossing crimefighters. The scenes of their characters' romantic lives are daffy fun, while the martial-arts fight scenes (seemingly inspired by *The Matrix* and *Heroic Trio*) are surprising knockouts, with some of the best action seen all year.

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon ★★★½
What do you get when you combine a skilled dramatic director like Ang Lee (*Eat Drink Man Woman*), an innovative action choreographer like Yuen Wo-Ping (*The Matrix*) and stars like Chow Yun-Fat (*Hard-Boiled*) and Michelle Yeoh (*Supercop*)? A dynamo in which the scenes between the wild, high-flying fight face-offs are almost as potent as the "action." In this story, centering around a stolen sword, the battles unfurl not only between the characters—in beautifully choreographed exchanges—but also within those characters' souls. The leads all find themselves dealing with the struggle between their romantic desires and societal obligations, which gives the film a sorrowful undercurrent. To add to the eclectic feel, Yo-Yo Ma performs the score's cello solos.

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas ★★
Jim Carrey has some hilarious moments as the Christmas-hating title character—I'd man the anti-yule barricades with him any day. But when Carrey's not onscreen, the movie just lies there like its bloated sets. Director Ron Howard, whose strength has always been realism and not fantasy—as anyone who saw *Willow* can attest—turns those non-Carrey scenes shrill and claustrophobic (does every camera angle have to be a bland medium shot?). The result packs little of the simple charm of Chuck Jones' animated version of the Seuss story. The movie's credibility is also hurt by the fact that it pushes the message that Christmas isn't about commercialism, it's about people, yet it has indulged in more marketing tie-ins than any other recent film.

The Legend of Bagger Vance ★★
Or, "How Matt Got His Swing Back." Director Robert Redford's Depression-era story finds Matt Damon playing the same sort of fallen golden-boy role Redford often did in the 1970s. Here, that's a hotshot golfer who withdrew from life after enduring the horrors of World War I. A dozen years later, he gets a second chance when he's asked to join a high-stakes match that includes Bobby Jones. The dissipated hero's rehabilitation—on the links and in his mind—is facilitated by the arrival of a Yoda-like, wandering caddie-philosopher (the title character, played by Will Smith). But the golf-as-life metaphor is ridiculously overstated, and Bagger is a borderline-offensive "mystical African-American" (à la *The Green Mile*), not a person so much as a convenient plot device.

Quills ★½
It's fitting that director Philip Kaufman's Marquis de Sade movie takes place in an asylum, because few films have such delusions of grandeur that they totally can't support. In this limp biscuit, the liberated libido of the randy Marquis (Geoffrey Rush, doing a bad Austin Powers, circa 1800) must struggle in a world run by the repressed (the asylum's secretly lustful priest, played by Joaquin Phoenix) and the hypocritical (the de-



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2000 Tops

The year's best films

This was not the best year for movies, so there was no great crunch of films vying for the "Best-of" list. One disclaimer, though: a Dec. 1 deadline meant I hadn't seen many year-end releases yet.

Chuck & Buck. A disarmingly compassionate movie about a simpleminded stalker and his conflicted target, and the struggle between childhood and adulthood raging within all of us.

Almost Famous. Cameron Crowe's autobiographical look at his days as a teen rock journalist is the best-written movie of the year. It makes you feel every little thing its protagonist is going through is simple, which is something most movies fail to do.

The Color of Paradise. On a visual storytelling level, nothing this year could compare with Iranian director Majid Majid's near-beatific film about a blind eight-year-old boy. Awe-inspiring.

You Can Count on Me. A little nugget of realism among big boulders of escapism. Laura Linney and Mark Ruffalo are terrific as grown, opposite-minded siblings who start to have strange effects on each other when they reunite after several years apart.

Wonder Boys. You don't expect emotional realism like *You Can Count on Me*'s in a Michael Douglas movie, but you got it in this very affecting comedy-drama. You also don't expect a focus on the messiness of everyday life in a studio release. A major surprise.

But I'm a Cheerleader. Satire and message make great bedfellows in this story of a popular girl who's sent to a gay teen rehab camp because her parents fear she's a lesbian.

Erin Brockovich. With an environmental legal battle at its center and a hero battling big business, the story recalls *A Civil Action*. But the mix of the legal and the personal is much more involving here, and Julia Roberts is damn good.

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon. The phenomenal action sequences will just lift you out of your seat, the Michelle Yeoh and Chow Yun-Fat performances will move you.

The Virgin Suicides. Sofia Coppola's directorial debut takes a few wrong steps along the way, but captures the clumsiness of being a 13-year-old more intimately—and more hauntingly—than most any other movie.

The Original Kings of Comedy. A genuinely feel-good movie, and not just because the stand-up comedy of Steve Harvey, D.J. Hughley, Cedric the Entertainer and Bernie Mac is so funny. After a while, the movie just becomes this great celebration of life. —*PS*

bauched "head doctor" played by Michael Caine, who's sent in to bring order to the asylum). It's hard to believe this was made by the same director who made *The Right Stuff*, because every character, every emotion and every point it makes are cartoonish and unconvincing.

The Shadow of the Vampire ★★½
This fictionalized look at the making of the classic silent vampire film, *Nosferatu*, has an interesting exploration of the extreme lengths some people will go to create art, some amusingly dark comedy and intense performances from John Malkovich and especially Willem Dafoe. But it also takes a ridiculous amount of creative license, its fiction offering the notion that German director F.W. Murnau (Malkovich) casts a real vampire (Dafoe) in the film, without telling anyone else. What did the great Murnau (who later made *Sunrise*, the most lyrical of all silent movies) do to deserve to be portrayed as a lunatic who might gladly put the lives of his cast and crew in danger? (Why not just make a movie about the making of *Saving Private Ryan* in which Steven Spielberg forces his cast to use live ammunition?) The movie's execution is entertaining, its concept reckless and disturbing.

The 6th Day ★★
How do you say "deja vu" in Austrian? That's the most pertinent question to this Arnold Schwarzenegger sci-fi action film with a plot that is mostly cobbled together from past Arnold hits like the two *Terminator* movies and *Total Recall*. This futuristic story about a guy who returns home to discover he's been illegally cloned, and then does battle with the bad-science heavies (Tony Goldwyn, Robert Duvall) who did it, is respectable most of the time, but, like its star, is generally big and clumsy. The bad guys are dull, the action is unimaginative and female presence is minimal. Although it's about cloning, this works better as a time-travel movie: If you pretend it's 1988, it'll seem much more original.

Unbreakable ★★
After making a very involving movie with a cool twist ending (*The Sixth Sense*), writer-director M. Night Shyamalan now gives us a mildly involving movie with a terrible twist ending. The best thing about his latest is his ability to tell a story in a very intimate manner. From the sound design to the blue-collar locations, Shyamalan knows how to pull you in. He does so through much of this tale of the unscarred, lone survivor (Bruce Willis) of a horrific train crash, who's contacted by a frail comic book collector (Samuel L. Jackson), who tries to convince the lucky guy he may be a real-life counterpart of the comic book invincible superheroes. The drama isn't as contrived as the premise makes it sound... until the ending, which sours most everything that comes before it.

You Can Count On Me ★★★½
Playwright Kenneth Lonergan's debut as writer-director is a wonderfully ungimmicky comedy-drama about two grown siblings. Laura Linney and Mark Ruffalo are terrific as the rooted sister and the rootless brother who have an unusual effect on each other after they're reunited, when he makes an extended visit to her upstate New York home. He starts bonding with her young son (a great Rory Culkin) in oddball ways, while she starts loosening up, even having an affair with her petty, married boss (Matthew Broderick). With characters whose moral shading goes beyond black and white and emotions that are as lifelike as movies get, it's both fun and substantial. Why can't more movies be like this?

Alternatives & Revivals

Advice to Contributors
Submit film listings by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Boston Public Library

"Life in the Shtetl: Jewish Identity and Culture" Film Series
Dec. 18, 5:30pm **Fiddler on the Roof** *1971*. Norman Jewison's version of the stage musical stars Topol as Tevye, the good-hearted family man trying to preserve his Jewish heritage.

James Cagney on Film: Part 2
•Jan. 8, 6pm **The Strawberry Blond** *1941*. Biff Grimes is crazy about Virginia Brush, but when his pal Hugo Barnstead marries her himself, he learns that having what one wants and wanting what one has can be two very different things.

Brattle Theater

Most shows are $7, including double features.

Mondays: Early Hitchcock
•Dec. 18, 7:15pm **Murder!** *1930*. This whodunit features an actor called to jury duty for a murder trial. Convinced that the accused woman is innocent, he decides to do some investigating of his own.
•Dec. 18, 5:30 and 9:15pm **Blackmail** *1929*. This film is England's first "talkie." It is a classic tale of attempted rape, murder, and, of course, blackmail.

Tuesdays: Kieslowski
•Dec. 19, 7:20pm **Camera Buff** *1979*. A factory worker buys a movie camera to record his newborn daughter's development, and soon becomes obsessed with filmmaking.
•Dec. 19, 5:30 and 9:30pm **Short Film About Love** *1988*. A young postal worker falls for an older woman—and it turns into a feature-length version of the Decalogue Six: Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery.

Wednesdays: Recent Raves
•Dec. 13, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30pm **Chutney Popcorn** *1999*. This comedy is about a twenty-something Indian-American woman who agrees to act as a surrogate mother to her sister's child.
•Dec. 20, 5:15 and 8pm **Madadayo** *1993*. Set in Japan from World War II to the early '60s, this is the story of an aging, retired professor and the group of students who faithfully visit him each birthday.

Thursdays: Foreign Faves
•Dec. 14, 7:30pm **Persona** *1966*. A nurse begins to identify with her mentally ill patient and has a nervous breakdown. •Also showing: 5:30 and 9:15pm **Wild Strawberries** *1957*. This Ingmar Berman clas-

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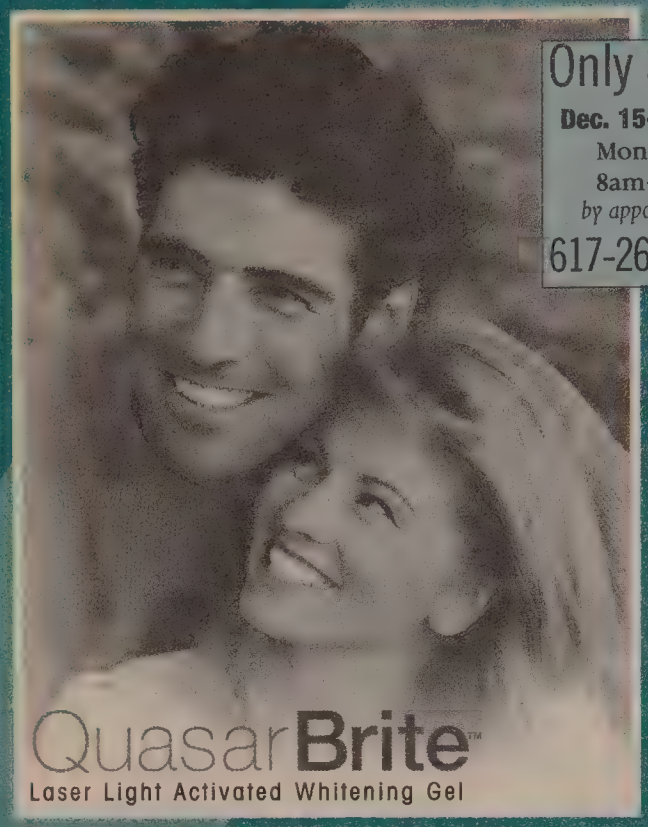

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sic is a charming rememberance of past loves by an aging professor.

•Dec. 21, 7:30pm **The Bicycle Thief** *1948.* A father and son trek through war-devastated Rome in search of the stolen bicycle that is the key to their survival.

•Also showing: 5:30 and 9:15pm **The Garden of the Finzi-Continis** *1970.* This is a haunting drama about an aristocratic Jewish family in Nazi-occupied Italy.

Fridays and Saturdays: Special Engagements

•Dec. 15 and 16, 7:15pm (Sat. matinee 2:15pm) **Rear Window** *1954.* A bedridden photographer is entertained by watching his neighbors. Things get crazy when he thinks he witnesses a murder. •Also showing: 4:30 and 9:30pm **Vertigo** *1958.* Jimmy Stewart falls in love with a woman and then witnesses her death.

•Dec. 17, 3:15 and 7:30pm **Bell, Book and Candle** *1958.* A Manhattan publisher falls in love with a bona-fide witch. •Also showing: Dec. 17, 1, 5:15 and 9:30pm **Scrooge** *1970.* This film is a retelling of Dickens' classic *A Christmas Carol.* It stars Albert Finney, Alec Guiness, David Collings and Richard Beaumont.

•Dec. 22-24, 4:45, 7;15 and 9:45pm (Sat. and Sun. matinee 2:15) **It's Wonderful Life** *1946.* Jimmy Stewart as a small-town businessman who faces financial and familial ruin until an angel answers his prayers and teaches him a lesson or two.

Premiere Engagements

•Dec. 25-31, 4:30 and 8pm (Fri., Sat. and Sun. matinee 1pm) **Yi Yi** *2000.* Through three generations of a family, director Edward Yang explores the conflicts and anxieties of modern life in Taiwan.

•Jan. 1-7, 5:30, 7:45 and 10pm (Mon., Sat. and Sun. matinee 1 and 3:15pm) **Nowhere to Hide** *1999.* This chase film depicts cops trying to catch a master of disguise in a deadly pursuit.

Coolidge Corner Theater

Director's Cut

•Dec 20, 7:30pm **I Was a Teenage Filmmaker**. From the high-school filmmakers of Vermont's Fledgling Films—who write, direct, shoot, and act in their own professional-level videos—comes four short films. *Carlin Fell* is a day-in-the-life of a teen outcast. *Night Out* is a wacky comedy in which a romantic evening at a restaurant turns nightmarish. *Perfect 10*, a mockumentary, shows a teenage girl convinced by her boyfriend to undergo plastic surgery. *Losing Sleep* is about Vermont's homeless teenage girls.

Feature Engagements

•Dec. 13 and 14 **A Hard Day's Night** *1964.* Richard Lester directs John, Paul, George and Ringo in this famous rock 'n' roll musical. Follow the Beatles on "a day-in- the-life" as they experience the rigors of fame and popularity.

•Dec 15-21 **Orfeu** *1999.* Brazilian director Carlos Diegues brings the the story of the legend of Opheus and his love for the nymph Eurydice to the modern era.

•Opening Dec 22 **Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon** *2000.* Chow Yun-Fat stars in Ang Lee's classic warrior story/martial arts film. With choreographer Yuen Wo-Ping (*The Matrix*), and an atmospheric soundtrack featuring Yo-Yo Ma.

•Opening Dec 25 **Malèna** *2000.* From the Academy Award-winning director of *Cinema Paradiso* comes this story about a young man who lives in a quiet village in Sicily. His life changes forever when he falls in love with a beautiful young war widow. Because of her, he learns many more life lessons than he bargained for.

Human Rights Watch Film Festival

•Jan. 12, 7pm and Jan. 14, 9pm **Invisible Revolution** 2000. Director Beverly Peterson drops us into the front lines of the very raw youth subculture of skinheads, gutter-punks and mainstream kids.

•Jan. 12, 9pm and Jan. 14, 7pm **This is What Democracy Looks Like** *2000.* This documentary captures the raw energy of the WTO protests, while making clear their global and historic significance.

•Jan. 13, 5:30pm **Homeland** *2000.* A portrait of contemporary Native American life, focusing on four Lakota Indian families living on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

•Jan. 13, 7pm and Jan. 14, 3pm **Daring to Resist** *1999.* Three Jewish women reflect on their lives in Holland, Poland and Hungary during World War II, when they refused to remain passive in the face of Nazi genocide.

•Jan. 13, 9pm and Jan. 14, 5pm **Bye Bye Africa** *1999.* This docu-drama is about art, life and despair in the growing free market of Chad. It tells the story of Haroun and his trip home following the death of his mother.

•Jan. 14, 12pm **The Circle** *2000.* Following several women characters, the film explores a woman's place in Iranian society.

Midnight Movies

•Dec. 15 and 16, 12am **The Sadist** *1963.* The legendary Arch Hall Jr. stars in this terrifying tale of a disturbed young man who holds three high school teachers hostage just for fun.

Civilisées **documents the the civil war in Lebanon. It shows Jan. 12, 8pm at the MFA.**

Preview

Oh, the Humanity

A Series of Films with a Conscience

Spread over four days, the Boston chapter of the Human Rights Film Festival screens 14 films from 10 countries at the Museum of Fine Arts, the Coolidge Corner Theatre and the International Institute of Boston. The showcase includes fiction, documentaries and animated works that all incorporate human rights themes. The festival (which runs in Boston Jan. 11-14) is international in scope, and is already established in New York and London. Question-and-answer sessions with several of the filmmakers promote discussions following screenings.

The opening night event at the MFA features *Before Night Falls* by artist-turned-director Julian Schnabel. His work examines the life of Cuban writer Reinaldo Arenas, a political dissident and openly gay man, and raises issues of intricacies of creativity and survival in 1960s Cuba. See the film listings at the Museum of Fine Arts, the International Institute of Boston and the Coolidge Corner Theatre for detailed descriptions of films and showtimes.

www.hrw.org/iff/ boston.html. Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St. Brookline, (734-2500); International Institute of Boston, One Milk St., Boston, (695-9990); MFA, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (369-3770), $8.

Special Engagements

•Dec. 13, 6pm **Jazz** *2000.* Brookline Booksmith presents this highlights version of Ken Burns' new epic documentary. He'll be on hand to discuss this project, which was six years in the making.

Harvard Film Archive

Directors in Focus: Luis Bunuel

•Dec. 15, 7pm **Un Chien Andalou** (*Andalusian Dog*) *1927.* Set in a Parisian apartment, the action spirals outward to critique the Church, bourgeois morality and the norms of making art. •Also showing: **L'Age d'Or** (*The Golden Age*) *1930.* The film begins with a Surrealist exposé of the social institutions that stifle love. It concludes with a modern tale of a Surrealist man who attempts to liberate himself from morality.

•Dec. 15, 9pm and Dec. 21, 7pm **The Paradoxes of Bunuel** *1997.* This documentary about director Bunuel by Jorge Amat is replete with the subversive charm and bite of its subject.

•Dec. 16, 7pm **The Exterminating Angel** *1962.* This film is the story of an aristocratic couple who have in-

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vited their friends for supper after the opera. Somehow, the guests get trapped in the salon, and without their servants, begin to lose their moral compass.
•Dec. 16, 9pm **Belle de Jour** *1967.* This is an adaptation for Joseph Kessel's late 1920s novel that focuses on the plight of a surgeon's frigid wife who ends up working in a brothel.
•Dec. 18, 9pm and Dec. 20, 7pm **Regarding Bunuel** *2000.* Produced with the help of family, friends and colleagues of Bunuel from across the world, this new portrait of the filmmaker captures the life of one of the most complex figures of international cinema.
•Dec. 19, 7pm **Las Hurdes** *1932.* This is a portrait of the mountainous region of Las Hurdes and the people who live there. •Also showing: **Simon of the Desert** *1965.* A darkly humorous parable about the life of an obscure saint who achieves new heights in his asceticism by perching atop a tall pillar in the desert.
•Dec. 19, 9pm **The Prisoners of Bunuel** *2000.* Dutch filmmaker Ramon Gieling and his crew return to Las Hurdes to explore the region anew.
•Dec. 20, 9pm **The Milky Way** *1968.* This is a picturesque tale about a pair of tramps who set off from Paris on a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela.
•Dec. 21, 9pm **The Phantom of Liberty** *1974.* The film begins with a prologue set in Toledo, as drunken French troops murder citizens and desecrate the church.
•Dec. 22, 7pm **The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie** *1972.* Bunuel's most successful film is an ironic comedy of manners about a group of European elites who fail to obtain bodily nourishment.
•Dec. 22, 9pm **The Obscure Object of Desire** *1977.* Told in flashbacks, this is the tale of a widower who falls for a maid.

Seance Screenings

•Dec. 14, 7pm **The Golem** *1920.* In 16th-century Prague, a rabbi creates a monster out of clay to help his people fight against the emperor's expulsion of Jews from the ghetto.

Theater into Film

•Dec. 17, 7pm **Oedipus Rex** *1967.* Director Pier Paolo Pasolini translates Sophocles' play himself, and supplements the prologue and dialogue to set this story in modern times.

The Moving Image: Film and Visual Representation

•Dec. 13, 7pm **Blade Runner** *1982.* In a decaying, hi-tech L.A. of 2019, former cop Rick Deckard is responsible for terminating a group of renegade "skin jobs"—genetically engineered androids who have returned to earth from the colonies they were sent to serve. Directed by Ridley Scott, with Harrison Ford.

Non-Fiction Film

•Dec. 18, 7pm **Sink or Swim** *1990.* In this resonant autobiographical work, director Sue Friedrich combines the formal innovations of experimental filmmaking with the emotional power of narrative to explore a father-daughter relationship. •Also showing: **The Tourist** *1991.* Director Robb Moss creates a film contrasting his travels abroad on film-shooting assignments with his role as a husband on the homefront.

Peter Watkins Films

•Jan. 11, 7pm **The War Game** *1965.* This movie is a fictional, worst-case scenario docu-drama about a nuclear war and its aftermath, centering on a typical English city.
•Jan. 12, 7pm and Jan. 14, 9pm **Privilege** *1967.* This is an account of 1970s England where the all-powerful welfare state manipulates the masses through pop culture.
•Jan. 12, 9pm and Jan. 13, 7pm **Punishment Park** *1971.* This film is from the vantage of a documentary film crew, which purports to be covering a team of soldiers who escort a bunch of hippies and draft-dodgers in a capture the flag type game.
•Jan. 13 and Jan. 16, 9pm **The Gladiators** *1970.* Warrior generals of the future program violent acts into an international computer and watch their teams murder one another.
•Jan. 11, 9pm and Jan. 14, 7pm **Culloden** *1964.* This film is a reconstruction of the Battle of Culloden, the last battle to take place on British soil.

Upcoming Features

•Jan. 7, 7pm **Lady with a Dog** *1960.* A banker named Dmitri contrives to meet a young woman who he sees walking her dog. Soon, the two—neither of whom are happily married—are involved in a passionate affair.
•Jan. 8, 7pm **Time Indefinite** *1993.* Ross McElwee directs this love song to both his family and his new wife with reflections on marriage, childbirth and families.
•Jan. 16, 7pm **Once Upon a Time, Cinema** *1992.* An Iranian cinematographer emulates an historic Western figure. Through his worship of cinema, this film pays homage to the genre and the industry.

The International Institute of Boston

Human Rights Watch Film Festival

•Jan. 13, 12:45pm **Bread and Roses** *2000.* Set in Los Angeles during the recent city-wide janitor strike, it tells the story of illegal immigrant Maya and her experience working in America.
•Jan. 13, 2pm **La Boda** *2000.* This intimate documentary follows Elizabeth Luis, a 22 year old Mexican-American migrant farmworker, in the weeks leading up to her wedding. Also showing is **Our House in Havana** 2000. A vivacious 68-year-old Cuban, who, after 38 years living in the United States, decides to return to Cuba to search for her house and her neighborhood.
•Jan. 13, 4pm **Good Kurds, Bad Kurds** *2000.* Filmmaker and journalist Kevin McKiernan went to northern Iraq to cover the uprising against Saddam. No one was covering the war in Turkey, so he decided to research it.

Museum of Fine Arts

Festival of Films from Iran

•Dec. 16, 3:45pm **One More Day** *1999.* An illicit relationship blossoms at a Tehran bus stop as a man and woman who wait there each day discover their growing dependence on each other.

Films of Karoly Makk

•Dec. 14, 6pm **The Films of Karoly Makk: Love Each Other** *1995.* An apocalyptic vision of Budapest at the end of the millennium.
•Dec. 16, 11am **Liliomfi.** This romantic comedy tells a tangled mess of a story that occurs when a celebrated actor and the nephew of a professor fall in love with the professor's foster daughter.

Human Rights Watch Film Festival

•Jan. 11, 7pm **Before Night Falls** *2000.* Director Julian Schnabel adapts writer Reinalso Arenas' autobiography. It gives an account of his life as a political dissident, openly gay man and how he was harassed, imprisoned and physically abused because of it.
•Jan. 12, 5:30pm **Crazy** *1999.* Dutch UN soldiers tell their stories of emotional devastation during the peacekeeping missions in security zones such as Cambodia, Lebanon, Rwanda, Bosnia and Korea.
•Jan. 12, 8pm **Civilisées** *1999.* Randa Chahal Sabbag was 20 years old when the civil war in Lebanon began and 40 years old when it ended. Her life and her experience are the basis for a powerful and eloquent film.

Other Film Offerings

•Nov. 30, 6pm and Dec. 9, 12:30pm **First Person Plural** *1999.* Director Deann Borshay Liem explores her past before she lived with her adoptive family in California. Going back to her roots in Korea, both viewer and filmmaker uncover astonishing hidden truths.
•Nov. 30, 7:30pm **The Gambler**. This is an adaptation of Dostoyevsky's novel about 27 despair-filled days in a writer's life.
•Dec. 7, 6pm **The House Under the Rocks**. When a Soviet POW returns home a widower to a young son and a hunch-backed sister-in-law, he must learn to get on with his life. He eventually does, choosing to remarry and make some life-altering decisions for the entire family.
•Dec. 7, 8pm **Tears of Stone**. This is the true story of the head of the Leif family, a true musical genius who must choose between his music, Nazi persecution and saving his family's life.
•Dec. 8, 7:45pm **Honour of the House**. This film dissects family rivalries that have reached damaging proportions. Narrated by the mother, it's the story of two sisters, one living in domestic drudgery, who will do anything to bring the other one down with her.
•Dec. 9, 2pm **Children of Nature**. This heartwarming, lyrical film centers on an aging couple who escape their retirement home and travel back toward the Icelandic coast where they first met and were childhood sweethearts.
•Dec. 14, 7:45pm **Songcatcher** *2000.* This films is about a headstrong, turn-of-the-century musicologist who sets off on a trek to Appalachia to uncover musical secrets.
•Dec. 15, 7:45pm; Dec. 16, 1:30pm; Dec. 21, 5:30pm; Dec. 22, 8pm; Dec. 23, 1pm; Dec. 24, 2:30pm; Dec. 27, 1pm; Dec. 28, 3:30pm; Dec. 29, 1pm and Dec. 30, 1pm **Children of the Marshland** *1999.* Set in the Loire region in the 1930's, it is two friends' tale of friendship, mortality and the inevitablity of fate.
•Dec. 21, 7:45pm; Dec. 22, 5:45pm; Dec. 23, 3:30pm; Dec. 24, 12pm; Dec. 27, 3:15pm; Dec. 28, 1pm and 6pm; Dec. 29, 3:5pm and 7:45pm and Dec. 30, 3pm **Under the Sun**. The existence of a trio of rural characters in a Swedish countryside is interrupted by the arrival of a mysterious woman.
•Dec. 27, 5:45pm; Dec. 28, 8:20pm and Dec. 29, 5:45pm **Beautiful Sunday**. On one unusual Sunday, the relationship between an eclectic group is explored: A young couple; a half-American, half-Japanese girl; an old woman and a landlady.
•Dec. 31, 1:15, 2:30, 3:45. and 5pm. The **First Night Film Program** offers 45 minutes of films.

Scenes from *It's a Wonderful Life*: Jimmy Stewart as George Bailey offers Mary the moon; argues with his forgetful uncle about a money; and celebrates angel wings with his family.

Preview

It's a Wonderful Scrooge

The Brattle brings back the holiday classics

What's Christmas without a visit from the ghost of Christmas past and a helping of Zuzu's petals? At the Brattle, you'll witness the stories of one man who's got nothing and finds he has it all, the other has it all and realizes he's got nothing. We're talking about George Bailey and Ebenezer Scrooge, the heroes of two of the best-loved, most-often-told Christmas stories. *It's a Wonderful Life*, the 1946 Frank Capra Christmas fable with Jimmy Stewart as George Bailey, tells the story of a despairing family man trying to escape his Bedford Falls existence. An initial flop at the box office, the film's popularity grew after it was shown repeatedly on TV (stations could air the film for free because its copyright expired due to a clerical error). The sentimental tale hinges on a visit from George's inept guardian angel, Clarence, who shows him how much his life has mattered. *It's a Wonderful Life* is based on an expanded Philip Van Doren Stern short story, "The Greatest Gift," which was originally written for a Christmas card.

Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* has been remade more than a dozen times—starring everyone from Mickey Mouse to the Muppets and Bill Murray. This 1970 version, *Scrooge*, is a lavish musical written by Leslie Bricusse, with Albert Finney hamming it up as the miserly Ebenezer, who has a change of heart after getting creeped out by unpleasant spirit visitations on Christmas Eve. Like George Bailey, Ebenezer comes to realize that, as Clarence the angel says, "One man's life touches so many others, when he's not there it leaves an awfully big hole." *Scrooge*: Dec. 17, 1, 5:15 and 9:30pm; *It's a Wonderful Life:* Dec. 22-24, 4:45, 7;15 and 9:45pm (Sat. and Sun. matinee 2:15pm).

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Cinemas
214 Harvard Ave. (277-2140). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
Trapelo Rd. (484-1706). Red Line to Harvard, transfer to the 73 bus.

BOSTON

Boston Film • Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (536-1540). Green Line to Hynes.
Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.
Cheri
50 Dalton St. (536-2870). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.
Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.
Fenway Theatre General Cinema
201 Brookline Ave. (424-6266). MBTA: Green Line to Fenway or Kenmore.
Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.
Museum Of Science, Omni Theater
Science Park (723-2500). Green Line to Science Park.
Nickelodeon
606 Comm. Ave. (424-1500). MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford St.
Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle.
Coolidge Corner
290 Harvard St. (734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theater
40 Brattle St. (876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.
Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (495-4700). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.
Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Sq. (494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.
Loews/Sony Theater
10 Church St. (864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Sq.
Somerville Theater
55 Davis Square (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston St. (277-2500). B Green Line to Chestnut Hill.
West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (964-6060).

A heartfelt thanks
to our dedicated staff
and
best wishes from the
management team:

James Mohn
John Newton
Brad Johnson
Matthew Ellis
Nate Olin

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books& poetry

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Submit information by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Books. Or e-mail to books@improper.com. *Include details of dates, times, prices, nearest T stop and telephone numbers. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

READINGS & SIGNINGS

Wednesday, Dec. 13

Boston Jewish Book Fair Event
Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, 333 Nahanton St., Newton (558-6448). 7:30pm. **Rabbi Carl Perkins** adresses Judaism as a way of life in his book, *Embracing Judaism.*

Brookline Booksmith Author Event
Coolidge Corner Theatre, Brookline (566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 6pm. $2. **Ken Burns** discusses his book, *Jazz: An Illustrated History*, a collection of more than 500 pictures of jazz greats that accompanies his new documentary, *Jazz*. He'll also show highlights from the film.

Thursday, Dec. 14

Borders Bookshop Author Event
151 Andover St., Peabody (978-538-3003). For the green thumb on your holiday list, consider seeing **Ruah Donnelly**, plant fanatic and author of *The Adventurous Gardener*, who can fill you in on all types of flora.

Borders Bookshop Author Event
300 Boylston St., Newton (630-1120). 7:30 pm. Author **Bill Edison** asks whether one can an otherwise good man do something evil in his mystery novel, *One Bad Thing.*

Boston Jewish Book Fair
Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, 333 Nahanton St., Newton (558-6448). 7:30 pm. **Rabbi Samuel Chiel** discusses the healing power of psalms in his book, *For Thou Art With Me: The Healing Power of Psalms.*

Harvard Coop Author Series
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Tonight, join **Jeanne McDermont** as she reads from her book, *Babyface: A Story of Heart and Bones*, about her baby who had a rare disease.

Harvard Book Store Author Series
Charles Hotel, 1 Bennett St., Cambridge (661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7-9 am. Authors **Adrian Slywotsky** and **David J. Morrison** explain how to improve your business skills and productivity by adopting a Digital Business Design, in their book, *How Digital Is Your Business?*

McIntyre and Moore Reading
255 Elm St., Somerville (628-2313). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. 7pm. Poets **Marc Goldfinger** and **Jack Powers**, read from a new anthology, *City of Poets: 18 Boston Voices.*

Friday, Dec. 15

Soft Skull Press Reading
Gallery Bershard, 99 Dover St., Somerville (629-9400 ext. 3). www.bershad.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Davis. 7-11pm. $7.* This alternative publication has put out works by punk poets, radical revolutionaries and more. Tonight, **Todd Colby**, **Eileen Myles** and others read their work set to rock 'n' roll tunes.

Saturday, Dec. 16

Borders Bookshop Reading Series
85 Worcester Road, Framingham (508-875-2321). 2pm. Meet children's illustrator and author **Dean Morrissey**, who reads from his book, *The Christmas Ship* today. At 3pm, authors **Glenn Stout** and **Richard Johnson** explore the angst that goes hand in hand with being a Red Sox fan. They'll also talk about the Sox lore and superstirions found in their work, *The Red Sox Century.*

New Words Bookstore
Cambridge Public Library, 449 Broadway St., Cambridge (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. $5. A book release celebration for *Best Lesbian Erotica 2001*, a steamy collection of sexy lesbian fiction, is held tonight. Host **Jaclyn Friedman**, plus contributors **Toni Amato** and **Karin Pomerantz** are on hand for a discussion.

Benjamin Zander, conductor of the Boston Philharmonic, and his wife Rosamund, discuss their inspirational work, *The Art of Possibility*, at Borders in Framingham Dec. 19, 7:30pm.

Sunday, Dec. 17

Borders Bookshop Reading Series
85 Worcester Road, Framingham (508-875-2321). 1pm. **Gary Braver**, a Northeastern professor, discusses *Elixir*, a thriller about a medicinal chemist who travels to New Guinea and finds a blossom that prolongs life.

Tuesday, Dec. 19

Borders Bookshop Author Event
300 Boylston St., Newton (630-1120). 7pm. Enrich your emotional life and communication skills with the help of **Dr. Arthur Ciaramicoli**'s book, *The Power of Empathy: A Practical Guide to Creating Intimacy, Self-Understanding and Lasting Love*, which highlights empathy as the driving force behind love.

Borders Bookshop Reading Series
85 Worcester Road, Framingham (508-875-2321). 7:30pm. Join husband and wife team **Rosamunde** and **Benjamin Zander**, conductor of the Boston Philharmonic, in a discussion about their book *The Art of Possibility*, which looks at different ways of making your dreams come true.

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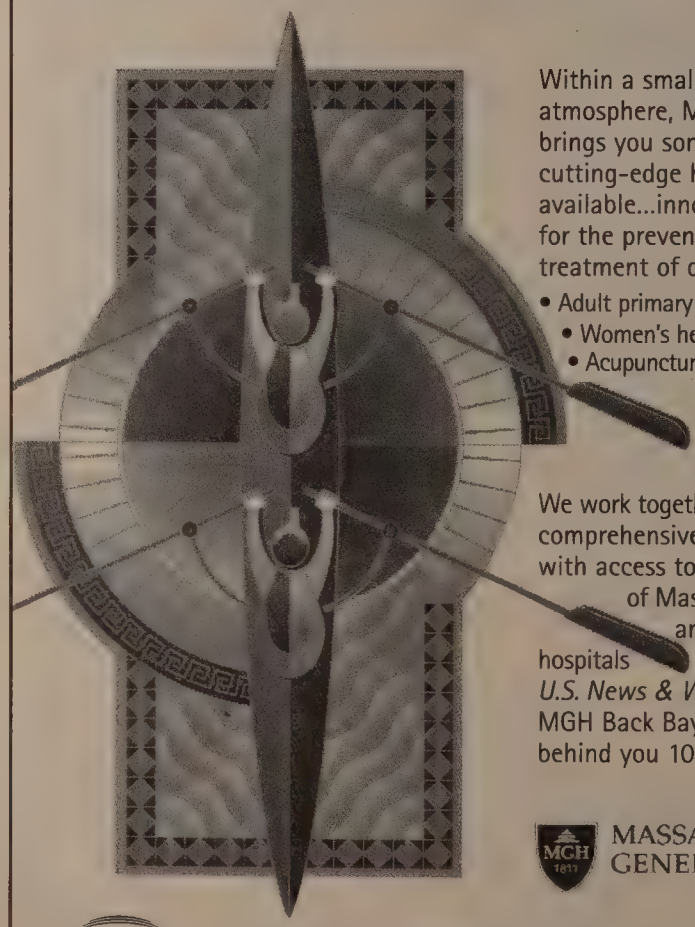

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Tuesday, Jan. 9

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (244-6619). 7:30pm. **Anita Shreve** reads from her book, *Fortune's Rocks*, about an upper-class Boston teenager who falls in love with a blue-collar worker.

Monday, Jan. 10

New Words Bookstore
Cambridge Public Library, 449 Broadway St., Cambridge (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Author **Rebecca Walker** reads from her book, *Black, White, and Jewish*, about her childhood as the daughter of legendary African-American writer Alice Walker.

Tuesday, Jan 16

Wordsworth Books Reading Series
30 Brattle St. #1, Cambridge (354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Author **Peggy Huddleston** reads from her book *Prepare for Surgery, Heal Faster*, a work that helps people deal with the rigours of surgery and recovery.

ONGOING

Agape, Tuesdays
The Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (266-6710). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8pm-10pm. Every Tuesday, this somewhat sophisticated poetry group gathers to share versions of their latest work.

Cantab Lounge, Wednesdays
738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8-10pm. $3. Wednesday nights at the Cantab packs in more than 30 poets in just two hours for open-mike and a slam.

Club Passim, Tuesdays
47 Palmer St., Cambridge (492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. $5. All open-mike fanatics must experience this open-mike night—a training ground for up-and-coming poets. Sign up Tuesdays, 7:30pm.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Night, Sundays
1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. $4 cover. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes for the featured poet.

O'Brien's Pub, Mondays
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard St. A mix of rock and spoken word is performed one Monday a month at 9pm—the performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry Night, Saturdays
Out of the Blue Gallery, 168 Brookline St., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. Every Saturday is poetry night, and a spoken-word and music event also takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month. It features music by Rob Gonzalez and poetry by Nola Kelley.

Rhythm and Muse Open Mike, Thursdays
403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-6622). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook. A headlining poet is followed by an open-mike session every first Thursday of the month.

Stone Soup Poetry Night, Mondays
Zeitgeist Gallery, 312 Broadway St., Cambridge (227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7:30pm. $3. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets have served up soothing inspirations with their weekly readings. The good vibes keep going Mondays with a wealth of featured writers.

Bestsellers

HARDCOVER FICTION
1. **When We Were Orphans** by Kazuo Ishiguro
2. **Prodigal Summer** by Barbara Kingsolver
3. **Licks of Love** by John Updike
4. **Perish Twice** by Robert B. Parker
5. **The PowerBook** by Jeanette Winterson
6. **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone** by J.K. Rowling

HARDCOVER NON-FICTION
1. **Founding Brothers** by Joseph J. Ellis
2. **Black Mass** by Dick Lehr
3. **Me Talk Pretty One Day** by David Sedaris
4. **E=mc²** by David Bodanis
5. **Brunelleschi's Dome** by Ross King
6. **Look-Alikes** by Joan Steiner

Provided by Brookline Booksmith for the week through Dec. 4.

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Education. Or e-mail information to education@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

CLASSES/LECTURES

Wednesday, Dec. 13

Boston: Lost and Living in the Auto Age
Ford Hall Forum, 716 Columbus Ave., Boston (373-5800). MBTA: Blue Line to State. 6:30pm. Free. **Jane Holtz Kay** traces the evolution of Boston from the barren and swampy peninsula of colonial New England to the still-evolving metropolis of today, providing a multi-dimensional view as development in the city heats up and the Big Dig winds down.

Harboring Boston's Future
Boston Public Library's Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston, Boston (951-1433 x 221). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6pm. Free. **Vivien Li**, Boston Harbor Association's executive director and the harbor's articulate advocate, describes the possible futures for this critical resource.

Living Strenuously
Cambridge Forum, 3 Church St., Cambridge (495-2727). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 4pm. Free. Author **Bill McKibben** examines our culture's fascination with eternal youth and relates this to trends in extreme sportism, adventure travel and recreational danger. Open discussion and book signing following the speaker presentation.

Thursday, Dec. 14

How Digital is Your Business? Creating the Company of the Future
Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge (661-0372). www.harvard.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7-9am. $90.* **Adrian Slywotzy** and **David J. Morrison** of Mercer Management Consulting show that "the path to success in this new era is a surprising one that focuses on reversing the way business is traditionally done and harnessing the remarkable tool of digital business design."

Saturday, Dec. 16

Inside Skeletons
Harvard Museum of Natural History, 26 Oxford St., Cambridge (495-2341). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 9am-12pm. $27-30. Take an in-depth look at the wonder of skeletons: Examine human bones to see how they form, grow and function. Compare the skeletons of frogs, bats, whales and owls to learn how their bones are designed to help them perform amazing feats and survive in the wild.

Monday, Jan. 8

The Meaning of Love in the Modern Age
Brookline High, 115 Greenough St., Brookline (730-2700). MBTA: Green Line to Brookline Hills. Mondays, 7-9pm. $92. Instructor **Marcelo Hamam** aims to throw light on the relationship between freedom, equality, feminism and the possibility of romantic love. Discussions are informed by readings from Rousseau and Freud.

Thursday, Jan. 11

Tales of the Jazz Age: The Works of F. Scott & Zelda Fitzgerald
Brookline Adult and Community Education, Devotion School, 345 Harvard St., Cambridge (730-2700). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. Thursdays, 7-9pm. $92, must pre-register. Legendary for living at the very outer limits of propriety, E. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald were icons of the Jazz Age. Instructor **Susan Gorman** asks us to look for the hazy line where biography ends and invention begins. Readings include a selection of the Fitzgeralds' novels, short fiction, essays and letters.

Sunday, Jan. 14

Zoo Veterinary Medicine
Meller-Danforth Education, Roger Williams Park Zoo, 1000 Elmwood Ave., Providence, RI (401-785-3510). 2pm. Free with the price of zoo admission. Get a glimpse into the fascinating world of zoo veterinary medicine. Every day is a new challenge. One minute you might be administering care to a frog, and the next you might be vaccinating a giant elephant. After that, who knows?

dance clubs

Advice to Contributors
Submit information by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Clubs or e-mail to clubs@improper.com. Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Nights

Mondays

Ceremony
An Tua Nua. Pounding goth and industrial music shakes the house.
Cabaret
Encore Lounge. Show tunes and Cabaret with Michael Larson and Dorthy Miller. 9pm-1am.
Language
Hibernia. This incredible drum-and-bass night is heated up with Cosmo. 8pm, 21+.
Monsta Monday
Bill's Bar. DJ Kaptain Krunch kicks off the week. 9pm, $5, 18+.
Sissy K's
The Financial District's hot spot has live acoustic music downstairs and DJs spinning top-40, R&B and dance upstairs. $5.
Static
Axis. DJ Jay Ine delivers Hardhouse and UK Progressive and a drag/strip event with Mizery. 10pm, $5, 19+.
Vertigo Mondays
Vertigo. Caesar and Giorgio throw a chic party for those who never want to stop dancin'. Dress slick. 10pm. No cover.

Tuesdays

Fat Tuesdays
Bill's Bar. This off-the-hook night features DJ Chaos scratching out hip-hop. 10pm, $12, 18+.
Flaunt
Aria. Hip-hop and R&B with guest DJs. 19+, $10.
The Forum
Lava Bar. Join Mission Control and support the local DJ scene as home-grown talents share the floor. 10pm. 21+.
Got Milk?
Venu. If you're chic you'll be at Venu for Milk—a devilishly hip party with DJ Osheen. Dress is funky. 21+.
Hibernia
The DJ Lounge is perfect for a relaxed night out on a Tuesday. 6pm.
Lot 36
The Modern/Embassy. DJ JC spins Latin House for a trendy crowd. 10pm, $10, 19+.
Showtunes
Encore Lounge. Bobby Femino plays the classic piano bar show tunes. 9pm-1am.
Sissy K's
The Financial District's hot spot has live acoustic music downstairs and DJs spinning top-40, R&B and dance upstairs. $5.
Sophia's
Free Salsa lessons by Dan Marshall. 9-10pm, followed by dancing. 5pm-2am. No cover. 21+.
Tuesday Night Live
The Exchange. Live funk quartet Uncle Trouble rocks along with a complimentary buffet. 8pm.
What's Up Night
An Tua Nua. Join this weekly dance party/fundraiser with local DJs Skinny B and Ray, hosted by *What's Up Magazine*. $5, 19+.

Wednesdays

Backstage
DJ Jonny C. spins top-40 dance. 10pm, no cover. 21+.
College Night
The Aquarium. Guest DJs spin all sorts of tunes at this relatively new venue at 10pm.
Encore Lounge
Michelle Curie plays blues and jazz at the piano bar. 9pm.
Funk and Groove
Bill's Bar. DJ Tim Collins spins live funk, soul and hip-hop. 9pm, $5, 18+.
Latin Night
The Aquarium. This aquatic-themed Davis Square club offers all sorts of specialty drinks, loud music and dance lessons from 9-10pm.
Mason
Hibernia. Perfect Downtempo and house music, complete with funky breaks. 6pm.
New Music
The Druid. Mellow out with top US and European acoustic acts. 9pm.

Preview

Heaven & 7L

DJ 7L takes over Hell at the Exchange

A couple of months ago, the Exchange introduced Heaven & Hell, their weekly Thursday night event. Just a few weeks ago, the night's fires were stoked by the addition of DJ 7L (the record-spinning half of local hip-hop act 7L & Esoteric). 7L presides over Hell, the downstairs section of the club, spinning rap, reggae and R&B. Upstairs, DJ Chaos reigns in Heaven (as he has since, well, since The Beginning), and spins sets with more of a house feel. But he's got a similar hip-hop background to 7L, so count on a night full of sounds like the ones that fill Bill's Bar on Fat Tuesdays, when the two pair up over there.

Pravda 116
Spend the night at one of the city's most decadent hot spots—set to beats by DJ Alex and DJ Felix. 21+.
Rockout
Emily's. Rock trivia game show and live local rock bands. 8pm, $5, 21+.
Service Industry Night
The Exchange. A night dedicated to those service professionals is hosted by DJ Luca and DJ Suge White. 10-11pm is a champagne reception. 21+.
Sissy K's
The Financial District's hot spot has live music downstairs and DJs spinning top-40 and R&B upstairs. $5.
Sophia's
Live Latin band on the first floor beginning at 9:30pm. DJ Eddy K spins best of international music on Sophia's second floor. 5pm-2am, $10, 21+.

Thursdays

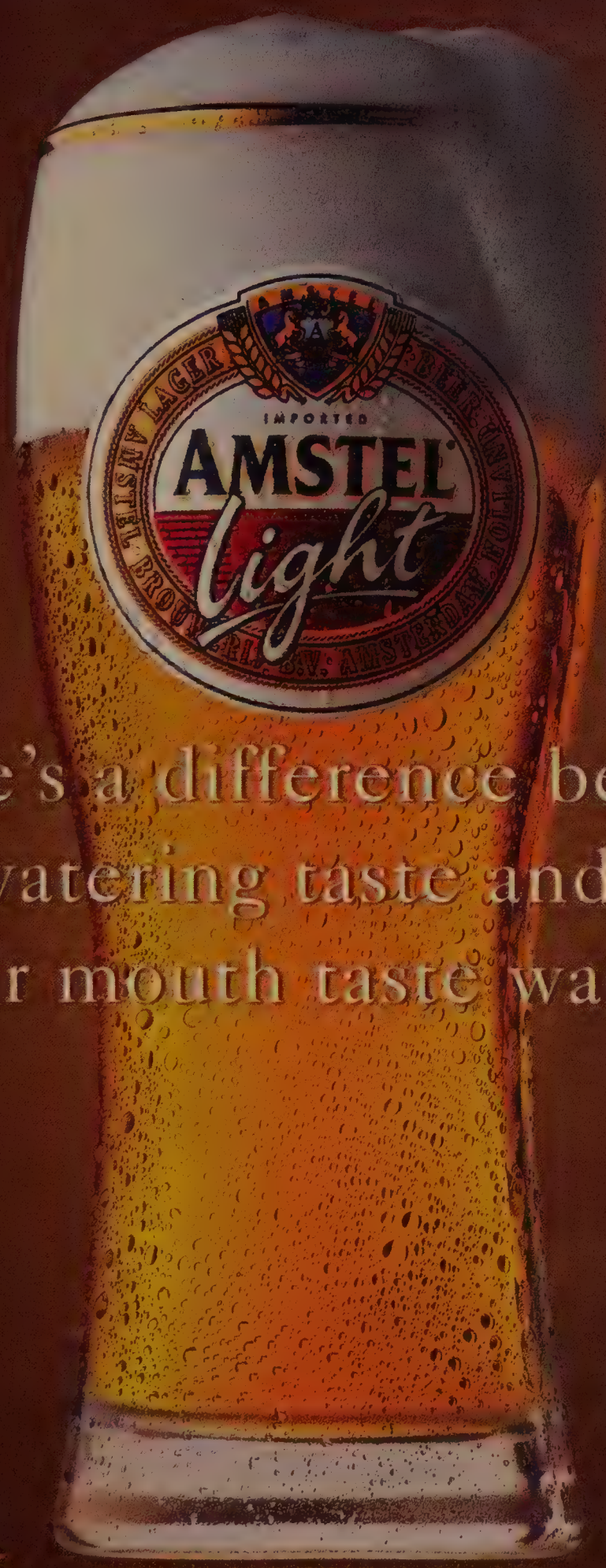
An Tua Nua
Top-40, old school, hip-hop, house and soul spun by DJ Ren Justice.
Aquarium
The Kiss 108 FM dance party. 10pm, $3.
Backstage
Tonight's adrenaline high features special-guest DJs spinning all sorts of top-40 dance and club classics. 10pm, $5, 21+.
Big Easy
This hot New Orleans-themed nightspot has it all—even billiards. 9pm.
Charlie's Angels Night
Polly Esther's. Dance to '70s, '80s or '90s tunes. 8pm, $5.
Chrome
Axis. Resident DJs John Debo and Ali Ajami spin house and trance music. 10pm, $10, 19+.
Downtempo Lounging
The Modern. DJ Ricky Fatts spins while you enjoy the raw bar and vodka bar. 9pm-2am, 21+.
Embassy Thursday Nights
DJ Anthony hosts Latin Lounge. 10pm, $15, 19+.
Encore Lounge
Michelle Curie plays great American, blues and jazz at the piano bar. 9pm-1am.
Europa
Enter Club Destiny for DJ Rip's house and trance.
Fashion House
Aria. Fashion shows and DJ Roger spinning house. It's also Greek Night in the Angel Room. $10, 21+.
Graduate School Night
Pravda 116. DJ Maric spins tunes to relax you.
Heaven
Comedy Connection Backstage. Music by DJs Johnny C and Freddie C. Proper dress. 10pm. No cover.
Heaven and Hell
The Exchange. DJ Chaos plays house and DJ 7L spins hip-hop, reggae and R&B. 19+.
Hibernia Thursdays
DJ Jeremy spins loopy, trippy, trip-hop. 6pm.
Il Panino
Mingle and dance at this social playground for young professionals. 9pm. 21+.
International Thursday
Avalon. A mixed crowd fills this popular night spot as DJ Manolo pumps out progressive Euro House. 10pm, $15, 19+.
Latin Quarter
The Roxy. You know it's time to get down when the Roxy breaks out its sexy Latin dance mixes. 10:30pm, 21+.
The Druid
Mr. Doug Nice plays trippy deep house. 10pm.
The Modern
International Thursdays features Progressive Euro House. 10pm, $15, 19+.
Sissy K's
The Financial District's hot spot has live acoustic music downstairs and DJs spinning top-40, R&B and dance upstairs. $5.
Sophia's
Salsa lessons followed by dancing with guest Latin DJs in Sophia's new basement lounge and dance floor. Live Latin band on the first floor beginning at 9:30pm. DJ Eddy K spins best of Latin on second floor. 5pm-2am, $10, 21+.
Speed
Karma. Resident DJs Bruno spin house to an edgy crowd. 10pm, $12, 19+.
Sugar Shack
The best music from three decades pounds through the festival atmosphere at Sugar Shack, where every day is Mardi-Gras.
Sweetwater Cafe
Live bands perform while guests sip margaritas.
The List
Lava Bar. Verse/D bring you soul and funk. 10pm. 21+. *For more info, see Lavabar.com.*
Underground
Bill's Bar. DJ Mark Hamilton showcases up and coming acts and established bands. 9pm. Cover varies, 18+.
Venu
DJ Nailz spins to a huge college crowd. 19+.

Fridays

An Tua Nua
DJ Vinny puts together a great night of top-40 hits and your favorites from the '70s, '80s and '90s.
Aquarium
DJ Lu spins today's hottest dance hits.
American Karma
Karma. All-star American top-40 remixes with DJ Tim Collins, live on STAR 93.7. 9pm, $8, 19+.
Avaland
Avalon. Everything about this place screams "Party!" With Ali Ajami and special-guest DJs. 10pm, $15. 19+.
Backstage
DJ Jonny C spins top-40. 10pm, $5. Proper dress, 21+.
Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans–themed nightspot has some of the best mainstream DJs in town.
Buzz Fridays
Buzz. Roger M lays down Latin house tracks while DJs pay homage to the house music gods. 11pm, $15. 19+.
Cabaret
Encore Lounge. John O'Neil and Jan Peters sing showtunes, great American songbook and cabaret. 9pm-1am.
Envy
This popular destination is filled with a mass of sweaty 'n' ready dancers. 9pm, $5 after 10pm. 21+.
Exchange Fridays
The Exchange. Upstairs, Brothers Tiziano and Maurizio deliver an onslaught of House. G-Squared spins Hip-Hop and R&B in the Vault. 9pm.
Focus at Hibernia
Cocktails with Alan Strack at 6pm, and deep house by Shelter at 10pm, 21+.
Global Fridays
Roxy. International house featuring local, national and European DJs. 10:30pm. Proper dress and ID.
Life
Lava Bar. Dance to a different drummer with DJ Fran Englehardt's deeply rooted, soulful rhythms. 10pm.
Mondo Bar
Roxy. International and house music with resident DJs Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. 10:30pm, 21+.
Nocturnal Friday
Bill's Bar. Get in on the action with Guest DJs' best live music and bands. 9pm, 18+.
NYC Jukebox
All the disco and rock you can handle. Casual but neat. 9pm. 21+.
Pravda 116
DJ Mario spins current dance music at this hot spot.
Revolution
The Modern. Find Latin and progressive Euro House here with DJ Eddie K. 10pm, $15, 19+.
Sissy K's
This new hot spot has live acoustic music downstairs and DJs spinning top-40, R&B and dance upstairs. $5.
Sophia's
Latin bands begin at 9:30pm on the first floor. DJ Mike C. from Puerto Rico plays Latin dance on the second floor while DJ Zino spins Miami style Latin house in a basement lounge and dance floor. 5pm-2am. $10. 21+.
Spin Cycle
Axis. Glitzed-out club hoppers shake it to the beats of DJ Tim Ryan and DJ David James. 10pm, $12. 19+.
Sugar Shack
DJs and specialty drinks, dancing 'til 2am.
Sweetwater Cafe
DJs KC and Jonesey entertain on two floors.
Venu
The scene is elegant for this jacket-required international romp. Get on your Gucci as DJ Arsit spins. 21+.

Saturdays

An Tua Nua
DJ Ren Justice mixes top-40, hip-hop, house and soul.
Anything Goes
Lava Bar. DJ Fran and Kris Kono unite with high-energy house and Latin beats. 10pm, 21+.
Aquarium
Saturday night dance party with DJs. 10pm. $5.
Backstage
DJ Freddie C spins top-40 dance and club classics. 10pm. $5. Proper dress, 21+.
Big Easy Bar
This New Orleans–themed nightspot has live bands all weekend long. Does non-stop dancing make you thirsty? There are four bars to boot.
Blues
Encore Lounge. Shake off your blues and listen to honky-tonk, classic and contemporary rock. Sit-ins welcome. 9:30pm-2am.
Classic Saturdays
Embassy/The Modern. DJ Shiuan Lee puts out funky house for a mix of international students, local scenesters and, of course, Boston's A-list. 10pm, $15, 19+.
Club Juliana
Boogieing cuties converge on Boston's newest Latin Night starting at 10pm. Dress to impress. $10.
Club Nicole
The mob is thick for this exclusive, trend-setting night. DJ Alex spins Eurohouse. Proper dress is a must and jackets are required for the guys. 21+.
Club Piteko
Fajitas & Ritas. DJ Piteko leads the party to "dance like no one is watching," specializing in Cape Verdean music, adding in a mix of samba, reggae, soukous, zouk, hip-hop and roots music. $7, 10:30pm, 21+.
Downtown
Avalon. Resident DJs Manolo and Mattie O. gyrate your arse with the latest hits and club classics. 10pm, $15. 21+.
Envy
DJ Tom Baxter blasts out top-40, house and dance music. 9pm, $5.
Elements of Life
Karma. Guest DJs spin house while DJ Justin Hoffman spins hip-hop, funk and soul. 10pm, $15, 19+.
Exchange Saturdays
DJ Rafii S. melts the tables upstairs with house and international tracks. In the vault, DJ G-Squared plays hip-hop, R&B and top-40 tunes.
Hibernia Saturdays
Steve Porter whips the crowd into a frenzy with progressive house. 10pm. 21+.
Indulgence
Aria. DJ Raffi spins house and club top-40. In the Angel room, DJ Roger spins Latin and Eurohaus. $10, 21+.
Miami Club Night
Club Joy/Yesterday's. Get a taste of Miami nightlife. 9:30pm (ladies free before 11pm), $10. 21+. Ladies, 19+.
Mischief
The Modern. Feeling mischievous? Ultra lounging with decadent desserts and erotic electronica. 21+.
Mythos
Venu. It's Greek International night with DJ Yorgo Jr. spinning the hits from the famous party islands.
NYC Jukebox
Disco and rock hits of '80s and '90s. 9:30pm, casual but neat. 21+.
Pravda 116
DJ Mario provides current dance jams.
Roxy Saturdays
High-energy house and dance by DJ Adilson. 9pm, proper dress. 21+.
Saturday Night Fever
Polly Esther's. Groove to three decades' worth of beats in the laser-lit Club DVD. 8pm, $10. 21+.



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The Original Sports Saloon

Sissy K's
The hot spot has acoustic music downstairs and DJs spinning top-40, R&B and dance upstairs. $5.

Smile
Bill's Bar. DJ Bruno takes over. 10pm. $12, 19+.

Sophia's
DJ Edwin Mathos spins Latin dance on the second floor. DJ Mike C from Puerto Rico spins salsa and merengue in the basement lounge. 5pm-2am, $10, 21+.

Sugar Shack
Spice up your night with '70s, '80s and '90s dance music as DJ Rich Centi spins the hottest sounds.

Sweetwater Cafe
Music from DJs KC and Jonesey on two floors.

Who's on First?
Some of the latest and greatest in hip-hop, reggae, R&B and Latin is hosted by Li'l Mike, 10:30pm, $12, 18+.

X Night
Axis. Hear DJs Mike Gioscia and David James spin alternative rock and the hits from the '80s. 10pm, $10, 21+.

Sundays

Backstage
Urban Night. T Clark spins hip-hop, reggae and old school. Doors open at 10pm, $10. 21+.

Common People
An Tua Nua. Brit-pop, new wave, indie and more with DJ Adrienne. 9pm, $3, 19+.

Curve
Hannah's. Three DJs, one vibe. Special guests every week alongside resident DJ Earthrok spinning house, breaks and techno. 10pm, $5, 21+.

Encore Lounge
Saddle up to the piano bar and listen to Michael Kreutz play showtunes and great American songbook.

Evening in the Velvet Lounge
Trio. Oscar's Sunday night has moved to this hot spot, where you can kick back and lounge. No cover, 10pm.

Il Panino
This night features music by DJ Alex of Boston Beat and DJ Roger M. No cover, 21+.

Lava Bar
Pandora's Box (Club Courtesy). DJ Vinny and Sir Richard and Sterling spin '60s Exotica, loungecore, psychedelic flowerpop and Motown. 10pm. 21+.

Living Room
Aria. DJ Raffi spins Eurohouse. In the Angel Room, DJ Franklin spins Latin. $10, 21+. Proper dress.

Red Square Lounge
Pravda 116. Party in the front bar, transformed into a comfortable lounge. 10pm-2am.

Reggae Sundays
Bill's Bar. DJ K-Don spins some of the best reggae around. 10pm, $10, 21+.

Salvation
An intimate night, courtesy of DJ Soul. $5.

Sex
The Exchange. Deep house, funk and soul classics spun by different DJs every week.

Sissy's
U: DJ Dave Jordan plays top-40 and hip-hop tunes. D: Martini Bros., 4-8pm; Gregg Luttrell, 9pm-1am.

The Druid
May the luck of the Irish be with you as you listen to a Seisiun with Shay Walker and friends. 5pm.

Venu
Carnival comes to Boston every Sunday as DJ Adilson brings the heat of Rio to Venu. 21+.

JOIN IN AND DANCE

Club Joy
533 Washington Street, Boston (354-5780). Saturday nights. This Latin nightspot now offers classes: salsa, merengue, bachata and more.

Dance Friday
Rug Cutter's Studio, 23 Main St., Watertown (924-7276). Fridays, 8:30pm-12am. $7 adults, $4 teens, children free. Join in the dancing to all types of music—even dance barefoot—in this family-friendly and smoke- and alcohol-free environment.

English Country Dance
Park Avenue Congregational Church, Park Ave. at Paul Revere Rd., Arlington (781-662-6710). Wednesdays, 7:30-10:30pm. $6 adults, $5 members, $3 students. Enjoy country dancing with music by Bare Necessities.

Four on the Floor and Just Swing It
Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. •Saturdays, 9pm-1:30am, $12, $10 after 11:30pm. •Tuesdays, 10pm-1:30am, $6. A low-key night out, Ryles offers a variety of dance moves—jazzy mambos, swing dancing, cheeky cha chas and sassy salsa numbers.

Israeli Dancing
Temple Israel of Boston, Longwood Ave. at Plymouth St., Boston (566-3960). MBTA: D Green line to Longwood. Dec. 17, 11am-12pm. $5. Learn the art of Israeli Dance with Vladimir Foygelman. All levels are welcome.

Latin Night
Johnny D's, 17 Holland St., Somerville (776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Sundays, lessons at 9pm, dancing at 10pm. $8 lessons, $6 dancing. Lessons for salsa are packed at this Davis Square hangout. Stick around for live music by Gilberto Rivera and Rumba Na Ma.

New England Contras and Squares
VFW Hall, 688 Huron Ave., Cambridge (354-1340). Thursdays, 8-11pm. $5. Learn to square dance to live music, then do-si-do your partner with confidence.

Scottish Country Dance
YWCA, 7 Temple St., Cambridge (484-0950). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mondays, 7:45-10:15pm. $6 adults, $5 students. Dance like a true Scot after some fine lessons. And don't forget your kilt.

Tango Rialto
Rialto, Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge (661-5050). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thursdays, 10:30pm-1:30am. $10. Rialto opens its doors to tango dancers for nights of light hors d'oeuvres and lots of dancing.

Why Choose One?
Dance Caliente, 170 Washington St., Arlington (781-646-1233). Mon. and Tue., $25 for one course, $55 for a five-week course. Learn it all at this multidance studio where you can pick up salsa, swing, tango or the fox trot.

Club Venues

An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (262-2121). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Aquarium *65 Holland St., Somerville (623-3200). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (338-7080). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center.*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (437-0300). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Backstage *245 Quincy Place, Boston (726-1110). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Buzz/Europa *51 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Club Nicole *40 Dalton St., Boston (236-4746). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*
Comedy Connection *Faneuil Hall, Boston (726-1110). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Embassy *36 Lansdowne St., Boston (536-2100). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Emily's *48 Winter St. Boston (423-3649). MBTA: Green Line to Park St.*
Encore Lounge *279 Tremont St. Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Envy *25 Boylston Place, Boston (542-3689). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Europa *51 Stuart St., Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Exchange *148 State St., Boston (726-7601). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Fajitas & Ritas *25 West St., Boston (426-1222). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park.*
Hannah's *499 Broadway St., Somerville (629-5302). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Hibernia *25 Kingston St., Boston (292-2333). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Karma *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9595). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Lava Bar *575 Comm. Ave., Boston (267-7707). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
NYC Jukebox *275 Tremont St., Boston (542-1123). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center.*
Oskar's *107 South St., Boston (542-6756). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Polly Esther's *262 Friend St., Boston (720-1966). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (482-7799). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
The Druid *Inman Square, Cambridge (497-0965). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Sissy K's *6 Commercial St., Boston (248-6511). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State.*
Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston (351-7001). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Sweetwater Cafe *5 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2515). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Trio *174 Lincoln St., Boston (357-TRIO). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (338-8061). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*

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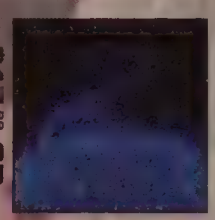

Emmylou Harris
Red Dirt Girl
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- **Harvard Square**, Cambridge 617-868-9696
- **24 Winter Street**, Downtown Crossing 617-357-8444
- **The Mall at Chestnut Hill** 617-964-8100
- **Solomon Pond Mall**, Marlborough (off I-290) 508-303-3666
- **Avon, CT** at 380 W. Main Street 860-678-9400

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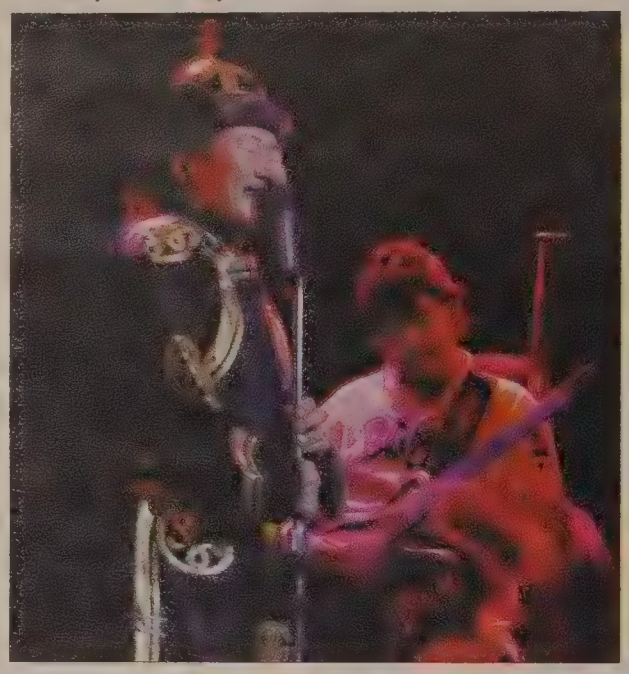
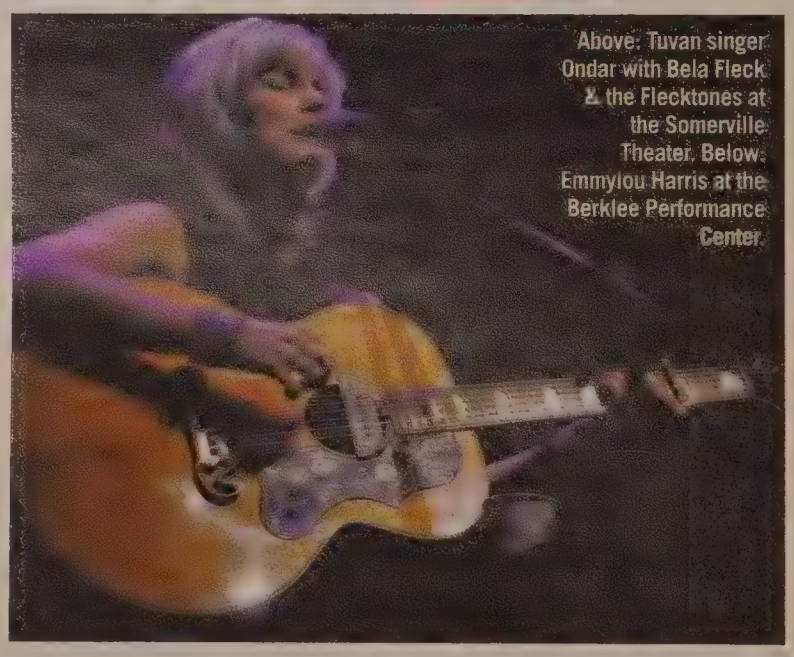
MAKING A LIST

With 2000 behind us, these were the year's best shows.

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

Maybe it has something to do with the true starting date of the new Millennium, but the year 2000 suddenly seems like it happened in a flash. The same went for its concerts, which often seemed to occur at coinciding times, making some likely favorites impossible to catch. At least that's the way it went for me this year, when travel and tough choices led me to miss such promising targets as Santana, Nine Inch Nails, Sonny Rollins, Tina Turner and Moby, not to mention December shows, which unfortunately exceed my deadline.





Above: Tuvan singer Ondar with Bela Fleck & the Flecktones at the Somerville Theater. Below: Emmylou Harris at the Berklee Performance Center.

Nonetheless, I've limited my list of top shows to the Boston area, omitting such out-of-state experiences as jazz fests in Montreal and New Orleans, and Phish's New Year's soiree in the Florida Everglades. Technically, that Phish bash was 1999, but it overlapped into 2000 with a midnight-to-dawn set that by itself was unmatchable in concept and content. If the Vermont band didn't have a new CD on the way (and some great shows to follow), it would have been a more fitting cap to Phish's first 17 years than a recent fall tour, which lead into an extended hiatus.

So, without further ado, here are my top 10 shows of the year 2000:

1) Patti Smith, Avalon, June 2. The shamanistic spirit of New York's rock poet flourished on tour, as her intimate, incendiary passion transcended that of rich CD *Gung Ho*.

2) James Carter Electric Project, Scullers Jazz Club, Aug. 10. *Layin' in the Cut*, a jazz-funk jaunt a la Ornette Coleman, was a fine blueprint, but didn't prepare for the road-honed ferocity of this sax hotshot's first set, cracked open with a half-hour ride through "Terminal B."

3) Emmylou Harris, Berklee Performance Center, Oct. 17. With her clarion voice gracing folky, ethereal soundscapes, Harris proved herself as a heavenly interpreter and more, backed by a crack band featuring guitar ace Buddy Miller.

4) Medeski Martin & Wood, Jordan Hall, May 17. Dumping the hippie-funk for its free-flying acoustic roots, this New York trio refreshed its creative chemistry in a way that also informed the electronic edge of new CD, *The Dropper*.

5) Richard Thompson, Somerville Theatre, Oct. 19. He's great with a band, but no one commands a stage solo quite like Thompson, whose razor-sharp wit and guitar work made this WUMB benefit a treat, notably when he departed from dark songcraft for "I Agree With Pat Metheny," a rib-tickling addendum to Metheny's published diatribe against Kenny G.

6) King Sunny Ade, Somerville Theatre, April 30. This West African bandleader's sinuous big-band grooves sounded as mesmerizing today as when he first played Boston in 1983.

7) Dave Douglas Sextet/David S. Ware Quartet, Museum of Fine Arts, May 20. Two aggressive leaders of today's New York avant-garde and their top-rank bands lived up to the art-museum setting with probing sets under a courtyard tent. Tip for 2001: trumpeter Douglas will be back with his accordion-and-strings group at the Regattabar Jan. 23.

8) AC/DC, FleetCenter, Aug. 8. Angus Young and his hard-rockin' mates may have lost a step, but they still blew away the competition; by the time the group cranked up "Whole Lotta Rosie," the roof seemed to be levitating.

9) Bela Fleck & the Flecktones, Somerville Theatre, Nov. 14. This banjo pioneer and his virtuosic combo reached a higher plane with their wacky fusion of jazz, bluegrass, pop and world music, even without help from Tuvan singer Ondar, extra horns and percussionists over a four-night stand.

10) Yes, FleetBoston Pavilion, July 21. Prog-rock dinosaurs are sometimes better off not trying to be something else. So for one tour, Yes resurrected the cream of its 20-minute suites from the '70s, with chops and vigor evoking that heyday. iB

The Top Ten Discs for 2000

To see which albums made the cut, turn to page 90.

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fax (859-1446); by mail to Calendar/Music; or by email to music@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, phone numbers and nearest T stops. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double check dates and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

Top Billing

Barenaked Ladies
Dec. 31 and Jan. 1, FleetCenter
Blonde Redhead
Dec. 16, Somerville Theater
Bo Diddley
Jan. 10, Museum of Fine Arts
BB King
Jan. 10, Lowell Auditorium
Sammy Hagar
Jan. 12, Lowell Auditorium
Ibrahim Ferrer, Rubén González and Omara Portuondo
Jan. 2, Orpheum Theatre
Chick Corea
Dec. 21-23, Regattabar
Corrosion of Conformity, Clutch, Flybanger and Sixty Watt Shamen
Dec. 22, Worcester Palladium
Disco Biscuits
Dec. 31, Worcester Palladium
Endo and Nothingface
Dec. 16, Axis
Nina Gordon
Dec. 17, Paradise
98 Degrees
Dec. 13, Avalon
Joe Jackson
Dec. 16, Orpheum Theatre
The Offspring, Cypress Hill and MxPx
Dec. 13, Worcester Centrum Centre
7th Rail Crew, Gangsta Bitch Barbie, C60 and Colepitz
Dec. 15, Worcester Palladium
Donny Osmond and Jim Brickman
Dec. 16, Shubert Theater
Martin Sexton
Dec. 19, Somerville Theatre
Shirim Klezmer Orchestra
Dec. 25, Coolidge Corner Theater
Squirrel Nut Zippers
Dec. 14, Paradise
Trans-Siberian Orchestra
Dec. 21, Orpheum Theatre
Virginia Coalition
Dec. 28, Paradise

Rock, Jazz and Blues

Wednesday, Dec. 13

Bill's Bar Funk & Groove with DJ Tim Collins, Stymie and DJ Incision, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Black Rose Eugen Byrne.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
Club Passim Barbara Lipke and Michael Anderson, 8pm, $10.
Coogan's Bluff James McKenna, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort The Jennerators, 7pm.
Good Life Cambridge T.W.'s Thang, no cover.
Good Life Downtown The Cranktones, no cover.
Harpers Ferry The Humming with special guests, $3.
Johnny D's South Catherine Street Jug Band, 9pm.
Kendall Cafe Panhead, 9pm; Wide Iris, 10pm; Volition, 11pm.
Kirkland Cafe Eric Fontana, Licia Sky and Bedlam, $5.
Lizard Lounge Residency with Meghan Toohey and the Red Telephone.
Middle East U: Enon, $7, 18+. D: House of Blues presents Victor Wooten, 8pm, $18, 18+. C: Belly Dancing, 7pm, no cover.
Rack Hit Squad, 6-9:30pm, no cover.
Sky Bar Army of Jasons, My Own Worst Enemy and Sorry Jar, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30pm.
Tir na nOg Rust Farm, 10pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Getaway, 9pm; Upperhand, 9:50pm; Mason's Sleepwalkers, 10:40pm; Invisible Downtown, 11:30pm, $4.

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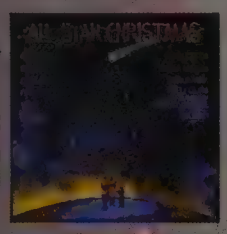

Baha Men
Who Let The Dogs Out
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Billy Gilman
Classic Christmas
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Songs From Dawson's Creek Vol 2.
Various Artists
$13.99 CD

Bob Dylan
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$19.99 2-CD set

Funkmaster Flex
Mix Tape Vol 4
60 Minutes Of Funk
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The Best Of The Lyricist Lounge 2
Various Artists
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Strictly The Best Vol. 25
Various Artists
$11.99 CD

Strictly The Best Vol. 26
Various Artists
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Top 10 Discs for 2000

Narrowing a list of the year's top albums can be subjective and difficult, beyond simply representing the broad range of popular music genres. Hip-hop provocateur Eminem proved both brilliant and basely disturbing on the Marshall Mathers LP. Radiohead's *Kid A* hit haunting peaks, while whetting the appetite for another disc from that band in the spring. Here, however, are my Top 10 picks from the CD crop of Y2K:

OutKast's latest album, titled *Stankonia*.

1) **Dave Holland Quintet**, ***Prime Directive*** (ECM). Small-group jazz that's intelligently conceived (with vibraphone as well as horns in the mix), and near-telepathic in its collective improvising.

2) **PJ Harvey**, ***Stories From the City, Stories From the Sea*** (Island). Somewhere between a New York pilgrimage and her English seaside home, Polly Jean lightens up for her most accessible CD to date, without losing her dark, sexy edge.

3) **Badly Drawn Boy**, ***The Hour of Bewilderbeast*** (XL/Beggars Banquet). The wondrous debut of British bloke Damon Gough, whose eclectic, plaintive cycle of love songs nods as much to the Beatles and Bacharach as to Elliott Smith and Sebadoh.

4) **U2**, ***All That You Can't Leave Behind*** (Interscope). A sleek and soulful recasting of the band's mid-'80s sound and spirit.

5) **OutKast**, ***Stankonia*** (LaFace/Arista). A saucy, full-slam production from an Atlanta hip-hop duo whose booty calls, topical jabs and P-Funky fun go over the top and around the bend with help from the Goodie Mob, Erykah Badu and others.

6) **Merrie Amsterburg**, ***Little Steps*** (Zoe). Graceful, melancholic folk-pop from a Boston songstress who can invade the listener's consciousness with her ethereal soprano.

7) **Youssou N'Dour**, ***Joko (The Link)*** (Nonesuch). Senegal's golden voice returns with socially conscious Afro-pop, richly textured with traditional and modern elements.

8) **Deftones**, ***White Pony*** (Maverick). A more mature alt-metal outfit expands the dynamics of its brutal yet cerebral rock.

9) **Either/Orchestra**, ***More Beautiful Than Death*** (Accurate). A glorious rebirth for this Boston big band, bringing African and Latin rhythms and exotic textures to its broad palette.

10) **Shelby Lynne**, ***I Am Shelby Lynne*** (Island). A seductive, enigmatic set of post-country ambitions, suggesting Dusty Springfield's Memphis soul with Phil Spector's production for starters, and showcasing Lynne's wide-screen vocals.

—Paul Robicheau

MICHAEL LAVINE

White Horse Tavern Equitone, no cover.
Les Zygomates Jim Dowder, 5pm; Carolyn Wilkins, 8pm, no cover.

Thursday, Dec. 14

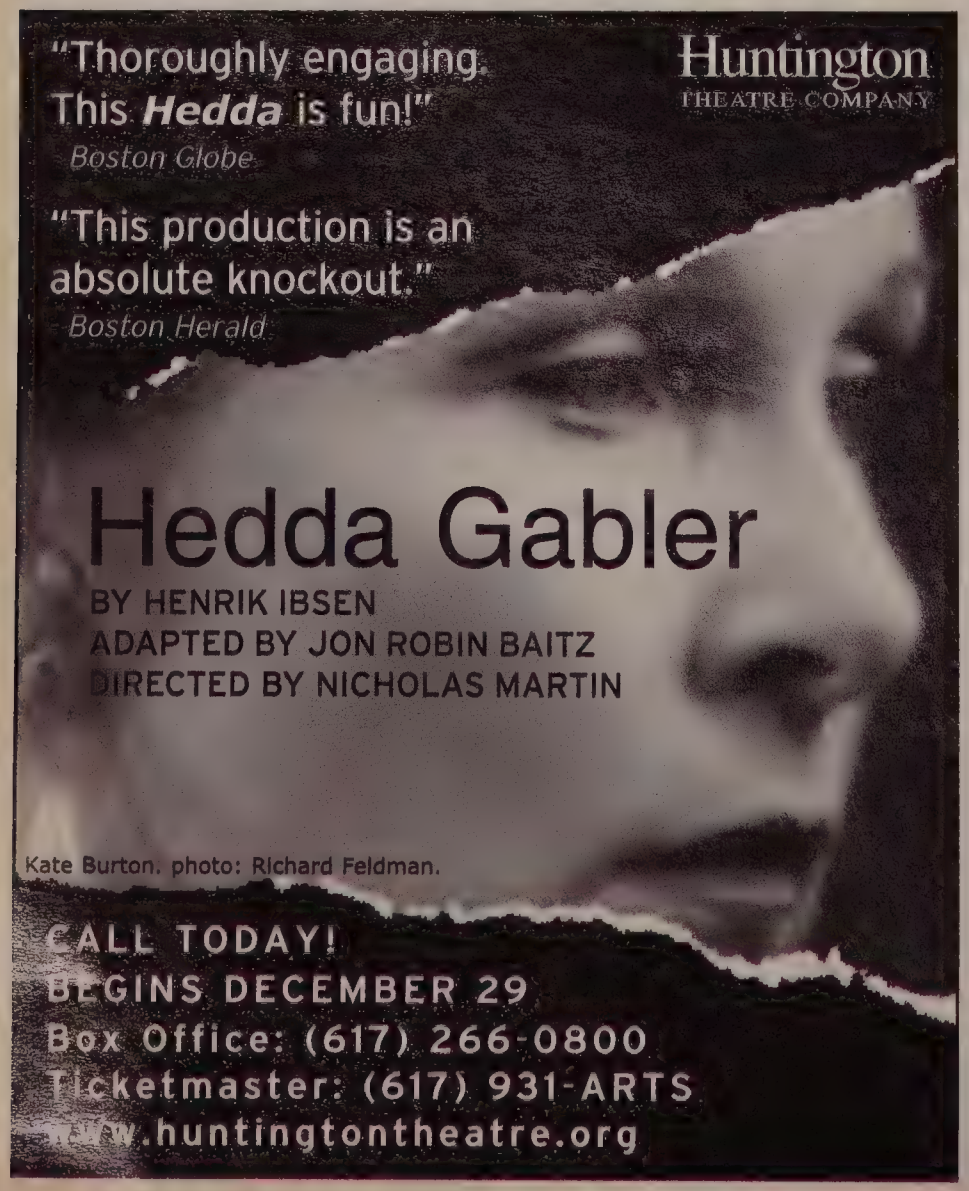
Black Rose Eugene Byrne .
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Club Passim Alastair Mook, Pastures of Plenty-The Roots of American Folk Music, 8pm, $10.
Coogan's Bluff Bruce Jacques, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort Blues food, 7pm, no cover.
Good Life Cambridge Jose Ramos and the Special Blend, no cover.
Good Life Downtown Mickey Bones and the Jump Crew, no cover.
Harpers Ferry Allagash4 with special guests, $5.
House of Blues Blue Hornets, 10pm, $7, 21+.
Johnny D's John Cale, 9pm.
Jose McIntyre's James McKenna, 9pm.
Kendall Cafe Sheffer Stephens, 8pm; Dave Llewellyn, 9pm; Sam Shaber, 10pm; Trina Hamlin, 11pm.
Kirkland Cafe Grubstake; Los DIablos; Bed, $5.
Lizard Lounge Club D'elf, 10pm, cover varies.
McGann's Dub Station.
Middle East U: Bright, L'altra, Mark Robinson and Pulse Programing $7, 18+. C: Board of Education, 7pm, no cover.
Milky Way
Radioboston's Universal Holiday Bowl to proceed the Make a Wish Foundation with Stimulant, Jennifer Tefft and Shecky, 8pm.
Sky Bar Strange Habitat, Delwin G. and Josh Metcalf, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Tir na nOg Onus B. Johnson, 10pm.
Top of the Hub Chris Taaylor Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Fire Show (ex-Number One Cup), 9:20pm; the Fly Seville, 10:20pm; the Push Kings, 11:20pm, $8.
Les Zygomates The Alon Yavnai Duo, 5pm and 8pm, no cover.

Friday, Dec. 15

Bill's Bar Who's The Fat Guy with One Flew East and 128 Columbia Project, 9pm, $8.
Black Rose Up: Dave Foley; Down: Eugene Byrne.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Club Passim Jess Klien, 8pm, $15.
Coogan's Bluff Central Basement, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort Cut The Mullet, 7-10pm. Funky Town, 10pm-2am, no cover.
Good Life Cambridge Freelance Bishops, no cover.
Good Life Downtown Grant Langford Quintet, no cover.
Harpers Ferry Moon Boot Lover with Viperhouse, $6.
House of Blues Duke and the Drivers, 10pm, $16, 21+.
Johnny D's Pressure Cooker, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's Thomas Park, 9pm, $5.
Kendall Cafe Dave Dersham, 9:30pm. Kara Tondorf, 10:30. Lemonpeeler, 11:30pm.
Kirkland Cafe Bad Ron's Christmas Spectacular with Big Ray and the Futuras; RPM's; Kenne Highland Clan; Milo Jones, $5.
Lizard Lounge Reverse, 9pm, cover varies.
Middle East U: Karate, Ida and Helms, $8, 18+. D: Hip-Hop Fest 2000 with Akrobatik, Reks, Rip-Shop, Shuman, Porn Theater Ushers, 7L and Esoteric, Breez Evahflowin,' Sage FranciS, Skitzofreniks and more. Hosted by EdO.G, music by DJ Fakts 1 & Goodfella, 8:30pm, $10, 18+. C: Will Daley, 10pm, no cover.
Purple Shamrock World Premier Band, 9pm, $5.
Rhythm & Spice Carribean Cruize Band, 10:30pm, $8.
Sky Bar Averi, Pure Fiction cd release, 707, Stone Soup, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Rocketscience, 12pm; Dragstrip Courage, 11pm, Miss Fortune, 10pm; Something Ira, 9pm, $7.
Tir na nOg The Benders, 10pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Something Ira, 9pm; Miss Fortune, 10pm; Dragstrip Courage, 11pm; Rocketscience, 12pm, $7.
Les Zygomates John Kordalewski, 5pm; the Chuck Langford Trio, 9pm, no cover.

Saturday, Dec. 16

The Attic Marie's Children, $3, 21+.
Bill's Bar The Underground with FNX DJ Mark



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Black Rose John Corcoran, the Crossing and Eugene Byrne.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Club Passim Catie Curtis, 7and 10pm, $15.
Dick's Last Resort Rob Gonzalez, 7-10pm; Blue Soul, 10pm-2am.
Good Life Cambridge The Cha Cha Allstars, no cover.
Good Life Downtown Chiara Civella and friends, no cover.
Harpers Ferry Harpers Christmas Party with the Mud Hens and One Flew East, $6.
House of Blues Duke and the Drivers, 10pm, $16, 21+.
Johnny D's Toni Lynn Washington, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's Comlaints, 9pm, $5.
Kendall Cafe Melissa Morris, 9:30pm. Dana Edelman, 10:30pm. Cactus Highway CD-release show, 11:30pm.
Lilli's The Pernice Brothers and Star Hustler, $8.
Lizard Lounge Fuzzy and Freinds Christmas extravaganza.
Middle East Christmas Mass (Upstairs/Downstairs night). U: Year of Our Lord, Anodyne, Warhorse and Cattlepress. D: Scissorfight, Converge, Milligram, 5ive, Old Man Gloom and Reverse, $10, 18+. C: The Bluebirds, 10pm, no cover.
Purple Shamrock Second Story, 9pm, $5.
Rack Vinny Peruzzi.
Rhythm & Spice Tropicl Fire, 10:30pm, $8.
Sky Bar Carla Ryder, Quick Ones, Deb Altman, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Tir na nOg Jabe, 10pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Kickbacks CD-release show, 9pm; the Scrimshander, 10pm; the Drive By Truckers, 11pm; Slobberbone 12pm, $8.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30pm, 21+
Les Zygomates George Russel, 6pm; the David Eure Trio, 10pm, no cover.

Sunday, Dec. 17

Bill's Bar Reggae Sunday Christmas special, 9pm, $10, 21+.

Helms play upstairs at the Middle East Dec. 15. Also on the bill are Karate and Ida. $8, 18+.

Black Rose John Corcoran and Eugene Byrne.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
Club Passim Lorraine and Bennett Hammond, 7:30pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort Silver Lining (Gospel Brunch) 10am-3pm; Rob Gonzalez, 7pm, no cover.
Harpers Ferry Coal Boilers, $3.
House of Blues Elements of hip-hop, $8, 9:30pm, 18+.
Johnny D's Blues Jam and salsa dancing with Rumba NaMa, 9pm.
Kendall Cafe Adriana Balic, 8pm; Jude Crossen, 9pm; Michael Aaron, 10pm.
Lizard Lounge The Jeff Robinson Trio, 10pm.
Middle East U: Chris Collingwood (of Fountains of Wayne), $10, 18+. D: Hot Snakes and Cave In, $10, 18+.
Rack Chad LaMarsh, 9:30pm, no cover.
Tir na nOg Mary Westbrook-Geha performs Handel's Messiah, 10pm, $25, including roast pork loin dinner.
T.T. the Bear's Place Lake Boone, 9pm; the Warren Drews, 9:50pm; Hazzard County, 10:40pm; Ensimismada, 11:30pm, $4.
White Horse Tavern Virg and Josh of Equitone, no cover.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon experience, 9:30pm, 21+.

Monday, Dec. 18

Bill's Bar Monsta Monday with Death Threat and E Town Concrete, 9pm, $5, 18+.
Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Cantab Lounge Geoff Bartley's open mike, 8pm.
Club Passim Arabesque Holiday Concert, 7:30pm, $8.
Common Ground Terry Tufts from Canada, 9:30pm.
Dick's Last Resort Cut The Mullet, 7pm, no cover.
Harpers Ferry Go Man Go, $2.
House of Blues Passionate Gypsies, 9pm, $6, 18+.
Johnny D's Hot Tamale Brass Band, 8pm.
Kendall Cafe Kay Hanley, Jules Verdone, Dave Wanamaker, Ed Valauskas.
Lizard Lounge The Fringe, 10pm, cover varies.

Chick Corea comes to the Regattabar Dec. 21-23.

Middle East U: New Music Night with Second Call, Dirty Lil' Trollops, Only Minutes Left and Akita, $6, 18+. C: The Out Side, 7pm.
Rack Chad LaMarsh, no cover.
Tir na nOg Vinal Ave. String Band, 10pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Other Side of the Bear Acoustic Series with Brian Michael Roff, T.W. Walsh, Drew O'Doherty and California Stadium, $3.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Carolyn Wilkins, 5pm; Red Beans, 9pm, no cover.

Tuesday, Dec. 19

Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Cantab Lounge Bluegrass Pickin Party, 10pm.
Club Passim Aengus, a celtic holiday concert, 7:30pm, $15.
Dick's Last Resort Brick Park, 7pm, no cover.
Harpers Ferry Another Planet & Friends, $3.
Johnny D's Old Time Night with Dixie Butterhounds and Adam Dewey, 8:30pm.
Kendall Cafe Mark Nelson.

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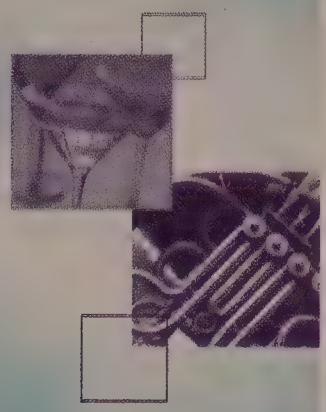

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Lizard Lounge Front Royale with Chasing Gray, 10pm, cover varies.
McGann's Slainte.
Middle East U: T Flight Davis, Pat Burtis Band and Alchemilla $6, 18+.
Rack Stu Sinclair, 8pm-12am.
Sky Bar Live Wire, Jordan's Wake, Local Radio, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Tir na nOg Jabe, 10pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place After This, 9pm, $4.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Brian McCree and Frank Wilkins, 5pm; the Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm, no cover.

Wednesday, Dec. 20

Bill's Bar Funk & Groove with DJ Tim Collins, Colonel Mustard and Dr. Pocket, 9pm, $5, 18+.
Black Rose Sudnay's Well.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
Club Passim David Rovics, 8pm, $10.
Coogan's Bluff Scott Damgaard, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort The Jennerators, 7pm.
Harpers Ferry Cosmic Dilemma with Typhoon Ferry, $3.
House of Blues Michelle Wilson and the Evil Gal Festival, 9pm, $8, 18+.
Johnny D's Brother Chameleon, 8:30pm.
Kendall Cafe David Culiner, 9pm; the Puzzlebusters, 10pm.
Kirkland Cafe Lammerguyer; Pete Lyons; Felonius Funk, $5.
Lilli's "Trash" DJ event.
Lizard Lounge Residency with Meghan Toohey and the Red Telephone, 10pm, cover varies.
Middle East U: Words For Snow, Migration Trap, Slow Fore and Kolya, $6, 18+. C: Belly Dancing, 10pm, no cover.
Rack Search Party, 6-9:30pm, no cover.
Sky Bar Science Park, Freeze Pop nad the William Academy, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Tir na nOg Freddie White, 10pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Elsewhere, 9pm; Innerpink, 9:50pm; Carry the Zero , 10:40pm; Headrush, 11:30pm, $4.
White Horse Tavern Sweet Fish, no cover.
Wonder Bar Leo Blanco, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates The Jim Dower Trio, 5pm and 8pm, no cover.

Thursday, Dec. 21

Bill's Bar The Underground with FNX DJ Mark Hamilton and Controlled Aggression, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Club Passim Richard Cambridge's Poet's Theater presents 100 Poets Turning the World, 8pm, $10.
Common Ground Bruce Jacques, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort Moon Glow, 7pm, no cover.
Harpers Ferry Megalodon with guests, $4.
House of Blues Ricky "King" Russell, 10pm, $8, 21+.
Jose McIntyre's The Return, 9pm.
Kendall Cafe Kevin Griffin, 9pm. North Dakota, 10pm. Dancing Davids, 11pm.
Kirkland Cafe Jack's Smirking Revenge; Kristian Montgomery; Puzzlebusters, $5.
Lilli's Quintanine Americana, Throttle and Delta Clutch.
Lizard Lounge 3 Ball with the Confidence Men.
McGann's Eddie Dillon Band.
Middle East U: Nom De Plume, Common Thrill and Winterboy, $7, 18+. D: M.D.C., the Casualties, Toxic Narcotic, Violent Society and the Profits, $8, 18+. C: Board of Education, 7pm.
Rack Catunes, no cover.
Sky Bar Reverend Glasseye and his Wodden Legs, Hip Tanaka, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Tir na nOg Dave Foley Band, 10pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Brett Rosenberg Problem, 9:30pm; the Details, 10:30pm; Bleu, 11:30pm, $7.
Wonder Bar Great Langford Review, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates The Alon Yavnai Duo, 5pm and 8pm, no cover.

Friday, Dec. 22

Bill's Bar Gruvis Malt with Groove Selector and Neurotrash, 9pm, $7.
Black Rose Up: The Crossing. Down: Sunday's Well.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Club Passim Aine Miogue, 8pm, $12.
Common Ground Second Story, 9pm.

7L & Esoteric, Rip Shop and more join Akrobatik (above) for the Middle East's Hip-Hop Fest Dec. 15.

Preview

How many MCs?

EDO.G hosts a night of chill thrills and ill skills

Is there such a thing as a tradition that's long overdue? Rap music has been around for so many years, it's hard to believe that we're only just coming around to the Second Annual Hip-Hop Fest. On Friday, Dec. 15, DIF Entertainment and Detonator Records are once again presenting a showcase of some of the Boston area's most established and noteworthy MCs and DJs—as well as some still on their way up. And this year's lineup is just as impressive as 1999's. (DIF Entertainment has been doing an impressive job organizing historically significant shows in the area; not only did they present the first Hip-Hop Fest back in 1999, but they also brought Eminem to the Middle East just a week before his *Slim Shady* LP was released.) Local legend EDO.G hosts the festivities, and the night features performances by 7L & Esoteric, Reks, Breez Evahflowin (a Detonator recording artist from NYC), Shuman, DJ Fakts-1, Skitzofreniks and Rip Shop, among others. And then, of course, there's Akrobatik. Fresh from recording a 12" single release on New York's Rawkus Records and an EP release on Detonator, Akrobatik has been busy lately, translating his powerhouse live shows into a solid body of recorded work.

This year's Fest will offer a high-profile opportunity for some of the area's rising stars to flex their skills. There will be newer faces like Reks, who has gained a rep for his freestyle prowess, and Rip Shop, another member of the Rawkus community. But the Boston hip-hop tradition will be maintained by the presence of old-to-new-school stalwart EDO.G, whose new single, "Sayin' Something," produced by DJ Premier of Gang Starr fame, has been burning up the airwaves locally and nationally. Join in this continuing tradition of excellence at the Middle East, and be a part of local hip-hop history. *The Middle East downstairs, Dec. 15, 8:30pm. $10 advance or $12 doors, 18+. —Andrew Graham*

Dick's Last Resort Booty, 8pm-2am, no cover.
Harpers Ferry The Boston Horns with Sugar Coat, $6.
House of Blues Sugar Ray Norcia Band featuring Duke Robillard, 10pm, $12, 21+.
Johnny D's Murali Coryell, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's Off The Wall, 9pm, $5.
Kendall Cafe Teddy Goldstein, 9:30pm. Typhoon Ferri, 10:30pm. Tobin Bridge, 11:30pm.
Lizard Lounge The Humming with the Pierce Woodward Trio.
Middle East U: Stocklan, Plank 63 and Danny Gallahger, $7, 18+. C: The Room Show, 10pm, no cover.
Purple Shamrock Thomas Park, 9pm, $5.
Rhythm & Spice Jamdown, 10:30pm, $8.
Sky Bar Bully Pulpit, the 520's and Prime Rib, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic Chronicles, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Alan Rowe, 5pm the Skip Smith Trio, 9pm, no cover.

Saturday, Dec. 23

Black Rose Tom O'Carroll, the Crossing and Sunday's Well.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Coogan's Bluff Blockhead, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort Rob Gonzalez, 8pm-2am.
House of Blues Bruce Katz Band, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Johnny D's Sleepy LaBeef, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's Pig Pen, 9pm, $5.
Kendall Cafe Adam Ezra, 9:30pm. Becky Chase Band, 10:30pm. Den of Thieves, 11:30pm.
Kirkland Cafe Decals; Downbeat 5; Chris Ware Band, $5.
Lilli's Brother Cleve's Holiday party.
Linwood Say Zulu, 9pm.
Middle East C: Jason Gardner, 10pm, no cover.
Rack Vinny Peruzzi.
Sky Bar 3 Percent, Dreadnaught and Segue, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Tir na nOg Christian MacNeil, Duke Levine and Jimmy Ryan, 10pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place T.T.'s Third Annual Free Holiday Party with the Bucktones, no cover.
Les Zygomates Sixth anniversary party, with several bands, 5pm, no cover.

Sunday, Dec. 24

Middle East C: Noah Maltsberger, 1pm; Balla Tounkara, 10pm, no cover.

Monday, Dec. 25

Dick's Last Resort Brick Park, 7pm.
Middle East C: The Out Side, 7pm, no cover.

Tuesday, Dec. 26

Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Cantab Lounge Bluegrass Pickin Party, 10pm.
Dick's Last Resort Cut the Mullet, 7pm, no cover.
EHarpers Ferry Another Planet and friends, $3.
House of Blues Greg Hodde and the Blue Miracles, 9pm, $6, 18+.
Kendall Cafe Mark Nelson, $5.
Kirkland Cafe Chris Zahnleiter Jazz Trio.
McGann's Slainte.
Middle East U: Sol Patch and Lloyd's Hill, $6, 18+. D: Allstonians, Riddle Band, Tropical Fire, Vibe Tribe and Danny Tucker Band, 8pm, $8, 18+.
Sky Bar Buxton, The Mulligans, 9pm, $5, 21+.
T.T. the Bear's Place Colonel Mustard, 10:40pm, $4.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Brian McCree and Frank Williams, 5pm; the Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm, no cover.

Wednesday, Dec. 27

Bill's Bar Funk & Groove with DJ Tim Collins, Distant Relatives and Boatyard Resin, 9pm, $5, 18+.
Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Club Passim New Faces with Thea Hopkins, G.T. Arpe, Mark Brine, Scott Meyers and Boris McCutcheon, 8pm, $16.
Coogan's Bluff Scott Damgaard, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort The Jennerators, 7pm, no cover.
Harpers Ferry Coal Boilers, $3.
House of Blues Kwanzaa Celebration, $8, 10pm.
Johnny D's Dr. Akward, 8:30pm.
Kendall Cafe Celia, 9:30pm; Honest Bob, 10:30pm.
Kirkland Cafe Analouge Trio; Gein and the Somerville Bottleopeners; Dumb it Down, $5.
Lizard Lounge Residency featuring Meghan Toohey and the Red Telephone.

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Middle East U: Thickly Settled, Rosemary Crass and Choo Choo Larouge , $6, 18+. C: Belly Dancing, 10pm, no cover.
Sky Bar XYgoatZ, Butterscott, Lorraine De La Rocca, 9pm, $5, 21+.
T.T. the Bear's Place Swiss Bomb, 9pm; Poetry & the Modeles, 9:50pm; Nemochrome , 10:40pm, $4.
Wonder Bar Leo Blanco, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates The Larry Roland Trio, 5pm and 8pm, no cover.

Thursday, Dec. 28

Bill's Bar The Underground with FNX DJ Mark Hamilton, the Pilfers and River City Rebels, 9pm, $8, 18+.
Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Club Passim Hottest from the Campfire with Deb Talon and Beth Amsel, 8pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort Frame of Mind, 7-10pm, no cover.
Harpers Ferry Apartment Three with guests, $4.
House of Blues Addison Groove Project, 10pm, $8, 18+.
Johnny D's Freelance Bishops and Colonel Mustards, 8:30pm.
Jose McIntyre's Me & Julio, 9pm.
Kendall Cafe Jesse Perkins, 9pm; Gloria Deluxe, 10pm; On the Drop, 11pm.
Middle East U: Devour, Steelhead and Retina, $7, 18+. D: Tree , $8, 21+. C: Board of Education, 10pm, no cover.
Rack The Return, 6-9:30pm, no cover.
Tir na nOg Onus B. Johnson, 10pm.
Wonder Bar Great Langford Review, 9:30, 21+.
Les Zygomates The Alon Yavnai Duo, 5pm; the Alon Yavnai Trio, 8pm, no cover.

Friday, Dec. 29

Black Rose Up: Sunday's Well. Down: Celtic Clan.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Club Passim Lori McKenna, 8pm, $15.
Coogan's Bluff Baldwater, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort Classic Trax, 8pm-2am.
Harpers Ferry Jeff Pitchell and Texas Flood with Wolfman & Tink, $6.
House of Blues Commander Cody, 10pm, $10.
Jose McIntyre's Tad Poole, 9pm, $5.
Kendall Cafe Joel Aberbach, 9:30pm. Shiner Jones, 10:30pm.
Kirkland Cafe Funk and Soul Review: Jo Jo Starr; Uprise; Synergy; Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
Lilli's Paula Kelly's Holiday Party event with Francine.
Lizard Lounge Make Lisa Rich, 9pm, cover varies.
Middle East U: Calendar Girl, Say Hi to Lisa, AM Stereo, the Modifiers and Offensive Jill, 8:30pm, $7, 18+. D: Jiggle and Pretty Cool Chair, $10, 18+. C: Grubsteak, 7pm, no cover.
Purple Shamrock The Return, 9pm, $5.
Sky Bar Wide Iris, Toyboat, Katrin, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Les Zygomates Alan Rowe, 5pm; Eula Lawrence, 9pm, no cover.

Saturday, Dec. 30

Black Rose Frank Ryan, Sunday's Well and Celtic Clan.
Club Passim Ellis Paul, 7pm and 10pm, $20.
Coogan's Bluff Figure Four, 9pm.
Dick's Last Resort Classic Trax.
Harpers Ferry Members of Two Ton Shoe & Co., $6.
House of Blues NRBQ, 10pm, $15, 21+.
Johnny D's Slipknot, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's Blockhead, 9pm, $5.
Kendall Cafe Eric Underwood, 9:30pm. More, 10:30pm. The Heygoods, 11:30pm.
Kirkland Cafe Deadheads Delight: Psychedelic Conspiracy; Electric Humus, $5.
Lilli's The Declas pre-New Year's Eve fiesta.
Lizard Lounge Lars Vegas with Big Lazy.
Middle East D: Luna, $10, 21+. C: Noah Maltsbergerk, 10pm, no cover.
Purple Shamrock Felix Brown, 9pm, $5.
Rack Vinny Peruzzi.
Scullers Chuck Loeb with Kim Waters, 8 and 10pm, $20.
Sky Bar Playing for Audrey, Labb, Euonym, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Alan Rowe, 5pm; Eula Lawrence, 9pm, no cover.

Sunday, Dec. 31

The Attic Party with the Mudhens, $35.
Bill's Bar DJ Tim Collins spins at this party with hats, noise makers and a champagne toast at midnight, 8pm, $10, 21+.
Harpers Ferry New Year's Eve Party with Entrain and the Lydia Warren Band, $60.
House of Blues New Year's Eve bash with Luther "Guitar Jr." Johnson and the Jones Brothers, 7pm.
Johnny D's Superhoney, 9pm.
Kendall Cafe The Gladstones.
Lilli's The Amazing Crowns, $15, 21+.
Middle East U: New Years Eve with Darkbuster, Speed Devils, the Skels, Lost City Angels, 8:30pm, $10, 21+. D: New Years Eve with Babaloo, $25, 21+. C: Balla Tounkara, 10pm, no cover.
Scullers Chuck Loeb with Kim Waters, 9pm, $35.
T.T. the Bear's Place New Years Eve Party featuring the Figgs, the Gravel Pit and the Gentlemen, $20.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30pm, 21+
Les Zygomates Jazz and funk New Year's bash, 7pm.

Preview

Postmodern Rock

A few years back, Blonde Redhead's noisy, dissonant guitars frequently earned the band comparisons with Sonic Youth (not shabby as comparisons go). But more recently, Blonde Redhead has moved into a new sonic territory, one that is much more melodic in mood and experimental in scope. A recent EP titled *Mélodie Citronique* showcases this new direction, with its five quiet love songs inspired by European pop and lounge music. The first track, "En Particulier" is dripping in French coolness; a few songs later, there's "Chi É e non É," a fun foray into Italian folk-pop. The final track, "Four Damaged Lemons," features ethereal electronic wails layered over simple, spare drumming, and lyrics that speak of longing and dysfunction: "You'll be the freak and I'll keep you company," sings female vocalist Kazu Makino. Postmodern and seductive, Blonde Redhead's recent material promise an intriguing live show. *Blonde Redhead play at the Somerville Theater Dec. 16, 7pm, $12. —Rachel Strutt*

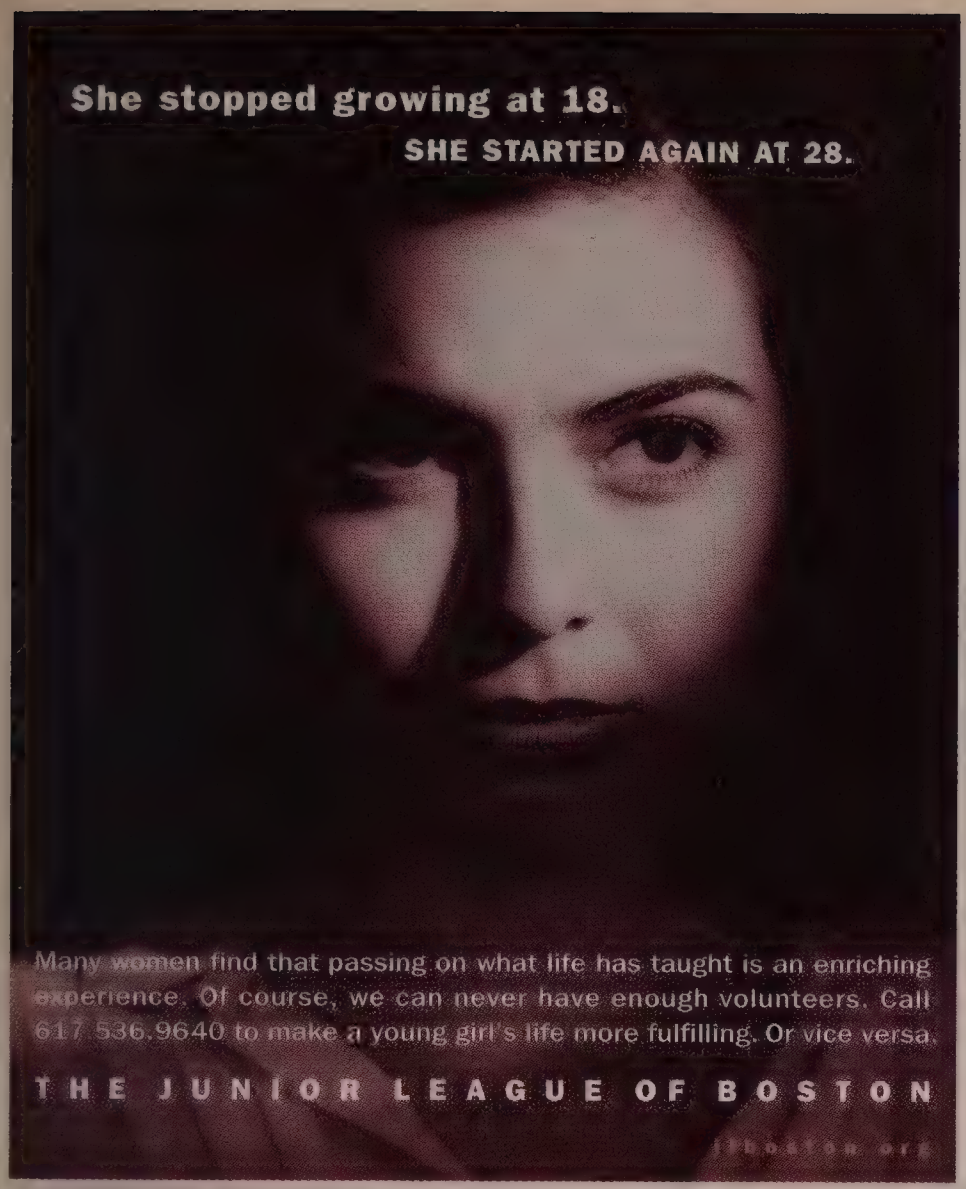
Preview

The Lore of Folk

Local songwriter Mike Barrett has earned himself something of a cult following around town (and in Ireland) for his off-kilter songwriting and outrageous, lively performances. When we caught his show the Littlest Bar (where he's been for four years) during his regular Monday stint, the place was packed with Barrett enthusiasts ready for another helping of his highly satirical tunes. Those who got turned away at the door can catch one of his other regular stints: Sunday at the Baggot Inn during the day, and at Mr. Doolie's at night; and Thursday nights at the Squealing Pig, where he's performed regularly for more than two years. Always upbeat—and politically incorrect bordering on offensive—he's most well known for his "Wankin' Song"—one of several Irish-inspired tunes. Another favorite is "Pissed in Boston," a ditty about the amusing folks working at local Irish pubs. *Check out his Web site at* www.wankinsong.com *and his CDs at* www.CDfreedom.com. *—Erin Hagedorn*

Music Venues

An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (262-2121). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Attic *107R Union St., Newton (964-6615). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Center.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Bell in Hand Tavern *45-55 Union St., Boston (227-2098). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Berklee Performance Center *136 Mass. Ave., Boston (747-2261). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center/ICA.*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (743-2286). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-6204). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave.*
The Bull and Finch Pub *84 Beacon St., Boston (227-9605). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Coogans Bluff *173 Milk Street., Boston (451-7415). MBTA: Orange Line to State Street.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
FleetCenter *One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (624-1000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Good Life Central *720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston (451-2622). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (367-0055). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket or North Station.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Jacob Wirth's *31-37 Stuart St., Boston (338-8586). MBTA: Green Line to Boyslton.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Davis Square, Somerville (776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jorge Hernandez Cultural Center *85 West Newton, Boston (524-3816). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Kirkland Cafe *425 Washington St., Somerville (482-4920). Red Line to Davis.*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Lilli's *608 Somerville Avenue in Somerville (591-1661). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
The Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (267-8644). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.*
The Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard.*
McGann's Pub *197 Portland St., Boston (227-4059). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Milky Way Lounge and Lanes *405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
O'Brien's *3 Harvard Ave, Allston (782-6245). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Orpheum Theatre *Hamilton Place, Boston (482-0650). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
The Playhouse Lounge *74 Warrenton St., Boston (482-2227). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Paradise *967 Comm. Ave., Boston, (562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Babcock St.*
Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (227-2060). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (725-1051). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket.*
Regatta Bar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Rhythm & Spice *315 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (497-4308). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Central.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Rd., Cambridge (562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sidney's Grill *20 Sydney, Cambridge (494-0011). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Somerville Theatre *55 Davis Sq., Somerville (625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (351-2510). MBTA: Green Line to Boston.*
Tir na nÓg *366A Somerville Ave., Somerville (628-4300). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Toad *1912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (497-4950). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Top of the Hub *In the Prudential Tower, Boston (536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential Center.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Wally's Cafe *427 Mass. Ave., Boston (424-1408). MBTA: Green Line to Symphony.*
Western Front *353 Western Ave., Cambridge (492-7772). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard Ave., Allston (351-COOL). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Worcester Palladium *261 Main St., Worcester (508-797-9696).*
Les Zygomates *129 South Street, Boston (542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*



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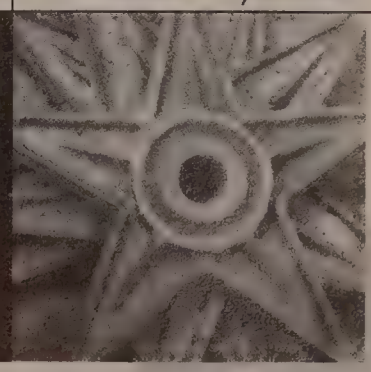

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classical music

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled Classical by fax (859-1446), mail to Calendar: Classical Music or e-mail to classical@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, telephone numbers Web site information and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to deadline. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Wednesday, Dec. 13

Music in the Cathedral
Diocesan Center, 138 Tremont St., Boston (482-4826 ext. 1103). MBTA: Red Line to Park St. 12:15pm. $2. The concert features a performance by organist Ester Kwok.

NEC Symphony Orchestra
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (484-9200). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8pm. Free. Richard Hoenich Directs Bartok's Concerto No. 2, as well as Richard Strauss' *Death and Transfiguration* and Albert Roussel's *Petite Suite.*

Friday, Dec. 15

Boston Baroque: Handel's Messiah
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (484-9200). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8pm. $19-$53. This rendition of the Boston Baroque features soloists Sharon Baker, Margaret Lattimore, Mark Tucker and Dean Ely.

Fridays at Trinity
Trinity Church, Copley Square, Boston (536-0944 ext. 311). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 12:15-12:45pm. Free. Performances by international organists includes works by Michael Lizorette of Worcester.

A Procession of Carols
Old South Church, 645 Boylston St., Boston (267-7442). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8pm. $15-$25. The Chorus *pro Musica* performs seasonal classics including works by Gabrielli and Rachmaninoff.

Saturday, Dec. 16

Boston Baroque: Handel's Messiah
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (484-9200). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8pm. $19-$53. Same program as Dec. 15.

Sunday, Dec. 17

Beethoven Entre Nous
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (912-0400). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. 8pm. $20-$25. Pianist Paul-Antré Bempéchat performs *Sonata in E Major, Opus 109, Sonata in A-flat Major, Opus 110, Sonata in C Minor* and *Opus 111.*

Candlelight Carol Services
Trinity Church, Copley Square, Boston (536-0944 ext. 311). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 4 and 7pm. Free. The Trinity Choir performs with strings and woodwinds in a traditional candlelight carol service.

Deck the Hall: A Family Christmas Concert
First Congregational Church, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (492-8902). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. $10. Free ages 17 and under. Get into the holiday spirit with the Spectrum Singers as they present a varied program of seasonal favorites.

Harvard University Choir
Memorial Church, Harvard University, Cambridge (495-5508). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 5pm. Free. The public is invited to attend the 91st annual Christmas Carol Services.

MIT Women's Chorale Annual Holiday Concert
Killian Hall, 160 Memorial Dr., Boston (253-1614). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. 3pm. Performances includes Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*, Rutter's *Dancing Day*, Hanukah songs and music by Bach. A reception follows the concert.

Wednesday, Dec. 20

Music in the Cathedral
Diocesan Center, 138 Tremont St., Boston (482-4826 ext. 1103). MBTA: Red Line to Park St. 12:15pm. $2. This annual tradition includes a Messiah sing-along.

Irish Tenors Christmas Spectacular
Lowell Memorial Auditorium, 50 Merrimack St., Lowell (978-937-8688). 8pm. $35-$75. The 60-piece orchestra is accompanied by Tenors Ronan Tynan, Anthony Kearns and Finbar Wright.

Thursday, Dec. 21

An American Christmas
First Unitarian Society of Newton, Newton, (262-2092). 7:30pm. $22-$36. An inspiring anthology of authentic American hymns, anthems, spirituals and Shaker songs.

The Chorus pro Musica performs the classics in A Procession of Carols at the Old South Church Dec. 15.

Christmas Eve and Other Stories
Orpheum Theatre, One Hamilton Place., Boston (547-0620). MBTA: Red Line to Park. 10am. $30.50-$40.50. The Trans-Siberian Orchestra, featured on the soundtrack and in Dr.Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, performs their original musical production, a mixture of Rock Opera and Broadway musical.

The Chick Corea New Trio with Avishai Cohen and Jeff Ballard
Regattabar, One Bennett St., Cambridge (661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 and 10pm. $20. Premier pianist Corea joins with bassist Cohen and Drummer Ballard in a piano trio.

Friday, Dec. 22

An American Christmas
First Church Congregational, Cambridge, (262-2092) MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. $22-36. Same program as Dec. 21.

The Chick Corea New Trio with Avishai Cohen and Jeff Ballard
Regattabar, One Bennett St., Cambridge (661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 and 10:30pm. $22. Same program as Dec. 21.

Fridays at Trinity
Trinity Church, Copley Square, Boston (536-0944 ext. 311). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 12:15-12:45pm. free. Performances by organists from all over the country and abroad, the music includes a broad range of organ literature. Featuring local musician, Brian Jones.

Saturday, Dec. 23

An American Christmas
Church of the Covenant, Boston (262-2092). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 7:30pm. $22-$36. Same program as Dec. 21.

The Chick Corea New Trio with Avishai Cohen and Jeff Ballard
Regattabar, One Bennett St., Cambridge (661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 and 10:30pm. $24. Same program as Dec. 21.

Thursday, Dec. 28

The Philippe Crettien Quartet
Regattabar, One Bennett St., Cambridge (661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8:30pm. $10. The Quartet features saxist Phillipe Crettien, guitarist Rick Peckham, bassist Dave Zinno, drummer Bob Gullotti and trombonist Jeff Galindo.

Friday, Dec. 29

The New Black Eagle Jazz Band
Regattabar, One Bennett St., Cambridge (661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 and 9:30pm. $12. The Jazz Band return to wind down the year in a mellow mood, allowing for generous helpings of New Orleans jazz.

Fridays at Trinity
Trinity Church, Copley Square, Boston (536-0944 ext. 311). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 12:15-12:45pm. Free. Performances by international organists feature Richard Hill.

Sunday, Dec. 31

Gala New Year's Eve Concert
Sanders Theatre. 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. $22-$51. The concert features Vivaldi's *Gloria* with soloists Sharon Baker and Sandra Eddy, Vivaldi's *Concerto for two violins*, Op. 3, No. 11 from *L'estro armonica* with soloists Julie Leven and Daniel Stepner and two pieces by Handel. The audience is invited to enjoy complimentary champagne at the intermission.

Monday, Jan. 1

Gala First Day Concert
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. $22-$51. Same program as Dec. 31.

Friday, Jan. 5

Russian Romanticism
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (349-0086). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. 7:30-9:45pm. $18-$42. Variations of Duruflé's music, Rachmaninov's Suite for two pianos, Opus 17, and Mozart's Clarinet Quintet in A major, K.581. There is a brief discussion before the performance.

Fridays at Trinity
Trinity Church, Copley Square, Boston (536-0944 x 311). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 12:15-12:45pm. free. Performances by international organists features Douglas Marshall of Needham.

Sunday, Jan. 7

Russian Romanticism
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (349-0086). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. 7:30-9:30pm. $18-$42. Same program as Jan. 5, but there won't be a discussion.

Friday, Jan. 12

Baroque Violin and Mozart 40
Faneuil Hall, Boston. MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 3pm. $18-$42. Boston Classical Orchestra's music director Steven Lipsitt conducts *Sinfonietta* by Piston, *Violin Concerto No. 2* by Bach and Mozart's *Symphony No. 40.*

Fridays at Trinity
Trinity Church, Copley Square, Boston (536-0944 ext. 311). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 12:15-12:45pm. Free. Performances by international organists includes a broad range of organ literature. The spotlight is on local musician Laurence Carson.

Simply Mozart
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston. (262-1815). MBTA: Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $19-$52. Flutist Christopher Krueger and harpist Alison Attar perform the *Overture to Marraige of Figaro, K. 492, Concerto for Flute* and *Harp in C Major, K. 299* and *Symphony No. 38 in D Major, K. 504.*

Sunday, Jan. 14

Baroque Violin and Mozart 40
Faneuil Hall, Boston. MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 3pm. $18-$42. Same program as Jan. 12.

Simply Mozart
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston. (262-1815). MBTA: Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $19-$52. Flutist Christopher Krueger and harpist Alison Attar perform the *Overture to Marraige of Figaro, K. 492, Concerto for Flute* and *Harp in C Major* and others.

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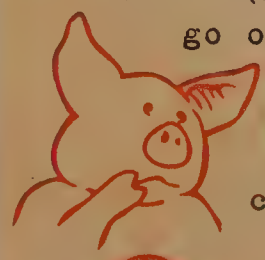

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How to use this section
The following listings contain information that is subject to change. Contact the organization for changes in specific events.

CLUBS, BARS & HANGOUTS

Au Tua Nua
835 Beacon St., Boston (262-2121). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. $3-$5. Formerly known as Rira, this club regularly hosts DJ Vinney and Tim Collins and serves up karaoke as well as lots of food. But Sundays are sweet with Honey 'n' Spice Lesbian Nights.

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years these folks have been crankin' out some of the best Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. It's well worth a visit—if not for the three separate dance floors then for all the male dancers. 9pm, $15, 21+.

Buzz (Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays)
51 Stuart St. in the Theatre District, Boston (482-3939). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. On Saturday nights this place boasts two dance floors, two DJs, a pool room and a lounge. Two levels of dancing and schmoozing will keep the boys busy until 2am. 10pm, $5, 21+.

Chaps (Daily)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. www.chapsofboston.com. Sun.: Dance music of DJ Danae Jacovidis; Mon.: Grand Baby and Grand Piano night; Tue.: Retro DJ night; Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adielson Caesar; Thu.: DJs Billy and Fran, High Energy Dance; Fri.: Taboo Erotique with DJ Sammy; Sat.: High Energy Dance, DJ Danae Jacovidis.

City Girl Cafe (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri: 11am- 9pm; Sat: 10am-9pm; Sun: 10am-7pm. A small (five tables), laid-back cafe in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated. This cozy spot is home to a mixed gay/hetero crowd that lounges about, munching on sandwiches. Brunch on Saturday and Sunday, 10am-2pm.

Club Cafe (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (536-0966). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 11:30am-2am; Sat. 2pm-2am; Sun., 11am-2am. This trendy South End spot draws a mixed crowd that comes for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back (Moonshine). It's a dressy bunch that likes to mingle. No cover, 21+. •Carol O'Shaughnessy performs with Steve Heck, Dottie Dean or David Sparr, Thursdays. The first Wednesday of every month, Diva-licious. It's a two-hour drag variety show hosted by Drag-on Showgirl Diamond Dunhill and her friends. It's a great idea for bachelorette parties. 9pm, 21+.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (542-4494). Mon.-Fri., 3pm-2am; Sat., 1pm-2am; Sun., 12pm-2am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This is your friendly neighborhood bar with a quiet setting. It's best known for scrumptious Sunday brunches (12-4pm). This simple joint has all of the trappings of a true bar: smoky and dark. The place starts hopping as it gets closer to 2am.

Fritz (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Stroll in for a quiet drink or a rowdy night on the town. The folks here are friendly—and really into sports. Not only does Fritz have Direct TV set up with sets scattered about, it's also home base to a great softball league. 12pm, no cover, 21+.

Jacques
79 Broadway, Boston (426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. If you're looking to relax with a friendly crowd of gays and straights, and you like to mingle with disco-dancing drag queens, then you've found the place. Fri. and Sat. are local band nights. Tues. through Sun., however, divas rule the stage. 10:30pm, $4, weekends $6, 21+. •Sundays host the Drag-on Showgirl Showcase, featuring Diamond Dunhill, Destiny and special guest divertes with their new, expanded 90-minute show. Bachelorette parties welcome. 10:30pm, 21+.

Lava Bar (Saturdays)
575 Commonwealth. Ave., Boston (267-7707). The Lava Bar's Tabu night boasts DJ Fran spinning out high-energy house with a taste of Latin beats. 10pm.

Reinalso Arenas is harrassed and abused due to his openly gay lifestyle in *Before Night Falls*, part of the Human Rights Watch Film Festival. At the Coolidge Corner Theatre Jan. 11, 7pm.

The Lizard Lounge (Wednesdays)
1667 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. "Marlene Loses It at the Lizard" is the title of this eclectic evening of poetry, live music and theater. 10pm, $5 cover, 21+.

Luxor (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (423-6969). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from the latest music scenes and classic old movies—compiled by the bar's own VJ. Downstairs is Jox. No cover, 21+.

Machine (Fridays, Saturdays)
1256 Boylston St., Boston (536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 10pm-2am;. www.ramrod-boston.com/machine. This is one of Boston's best gay bars, where you will find your friends dancing every weekend. Fri.: NYC DJ/Producer Darrin Friedman spinning. Sat.: Synergy with special guest DJs.

Man Ray (Thursdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (864-0400). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed.-Fri., 9pm; Sat., 10pm. A bustling hot spot caters to a young, alternative clientele. Two dance floors fill up on Thursdays for Campus, a predominantly male night where DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen take over. 10pm, $8 for 19+, $5 for 21+.

119 Merrimac (Daily)
119 Merrimac St., Boston (367-0713). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Sat., 10:30am-2am; Sun., 12pm-2am. This male cruise bar is the place to stop for drinks before or after FleetCenter events. Shoot a game of pool or play the video games. Merrimac features DJs playing hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s. 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. On Thursday nights, the Midway offers Kristen Porter's Dyke Night—the women's club alternative. With a DJ and plenty of dancing to '70s, '80s and '90s music, 9pm, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (494-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Central. On Monday, a bartender not only mixes drinks but strips too. Male strippers are featured Wed.-Sat. Mon. is Gothic night; Tue. is techno; and Thu. is college night. On Fridays DJ Sam Sampson spins, and on Sat. come hear DJ Brad Gwynn. 5pm, no cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (266-2986). Green Line to Kenmore. 12pm-2am. www.ramrodboston.com. The largest leather bar in the East enforces a tight dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room). Sun.: buffet and man-dance with DJ Joey Bermudez. Mon.: pool tournament and pizza. Tue.: Spice 4 Life with DJ Kal Muzak. Wed.: Twitch with DJ SGT Dennis. Thu.: Primal Dance with DJ James Hughes. Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danae Jacovidis. Sat.: With DJ Dennis Sargent.

BOOKS

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge. (876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Fri., 10am-8pm; Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. New England's oldest women's bookstore offers a wide selection of literature. Its author series continues throughout the fall. •Dec. 16, 7pm, $5: A celebration of the release of *Best Lesbian Erotica 2001,* the latest installation in the sizzling series edited by Tristan Taormino, featuring host **Jaclyn Friedman**, **Toni Amato** and **Karin Pomerantz**. •New Words event at the Cambridge Public Library Jan. 10, 7pm: Author **Rebecca Walker** reads from her book, *Black, White, and Jewish*, about her childhood as the daughter of legendary African-American writer Alice Walker. *449 Broadway St., Cambridge.*

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12pm-6pm. One of Boston's best literary gay and lesbian bookstores.

SHOWS & EVENTS

Fever! New Year's Dance
Sons of Italy Ballroom, Winchester (781-648-0722). Dec. 31, 9pm. $20. This New Year's dance celebration for women takes place on the huge 2,500 square-foot hardwood dance floor in the Sons of Italy Ballroom. There's a cash bar, seating for hundreds of people and several tables reserved for single women who want to network and meet other singles. There's also an hors d'oeuvres table with from fresh veggies, dips, imported cheeses, crackers and a salsa bar. Early arrivals can join a group of women for a line dance lesson at 8:30pm when DJ Dee teaches the "Tush Push." DJ Dee spins, and there's a complimentary champagne toast at midnight.

Gay Dads and Their Kids
Zeitgeist Gallery, 312 Broadway St., Cambridge (876-2182). MBTA: Red Line to Central. A photography exhibition, *Gay Dads and Their Kids,* is the result of a year-long project by Gretje Ferguson, who photographed gay fathers and their children in their own homes. The black-and-white images show through Dec. 31.

Holidaze: A Christian, a Jew and a Ho, Ho, Homo Too!
Lyric Stage Company of Boston, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Dec. 18 and 19, 7:30pm. $16. Kathy St. George, Bobbie Steinbach and Robert Saoud return for the third time in their campy holiday musical revue.

How Mrs. Grinchley Swiped Christmas
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (426-5000). Wed., 8pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., 7 and 9pm; Sun., 7pm. Through Dec. 17. $20.50. No one ushers in Christmas like a drag queen can. Celebrate the holidays with Centastage and Ryan Landry's hysterical musical parody.

Human Rights Watch Film Festival
Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St. (734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Jan. 11, 7pm. *Before Night Falls* is director Julian Schnabel's adaptation of writer Reinalso Arenas' autobiography: an account of his life as a political dissident and the harassment, improsonment and abuse he faced for being openly gay.

ONGOING

Am Tikva
(883-0893). www.amtikva.org. A community of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered Jews.

Bawl
(508-628-5477). This lesbian softball league offers opportunities to join teams in both the recreational and competitive divisions. Call Liz.

Best Foot Forward
Ballet Etc. Dance Studios, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (522-1444). MBTA: B Green Line to Washington St. For gays/lesbians/bisexuals of all swing skill levels.

Bi-Curious Men's Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland Street, Boston (927-6032). 7pm. For men who are bisexual or think they might be, meets the second Tuesday of every month. Free and confidential.

Boston Glass
Community Center, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston (266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Daily 8-10pm. Support groups and social activities for those ages 13-25.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). www.chiltern.org/chiltern. A 1,400-member gay club with hiking, biking, camping, skiing and other outdoor activities.

Common Bond
(781-433-7023). A support group for gay/lesbian/bisexual current or former Jehovah's Witnesses.

Color Me Healthy/Sano y Salvo
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland Street, Boston (927-6244). 6pm. This discussion group for men of color meets the first Thursday of each month.

Coming Out Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland Street, Boston (927-6202). A short-term (10-12 week) group for men and women to discuss issues related to coming out.

Community Rainbow
Boston Living Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston. 7:45 pm. An organization whose mission is to advocate for the community. Meets Thursdays.

Cosmetically-Correct
Laurel's Restaurant, 142 Berkeley St., Boston. www.egroups.com/community/cosmeticallycorrect. A social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month, 7:30pm. Lipstick optional.

Dykes Who Hike
(522-6185). This hiking group is for lesbians in the Boston area who want to conquer the wilderness.

East Coast Wrestling Club
With more than 160 members, this is an extraordinarily popular New England spot for gay male wrestlers. Call Marc at 401-467-6737, or go online at *http://members.tripod.com/~ecwc* or e-mail *ecwc@juno.com.*

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (824-4266). www.frontrunnersboston.org. A running club for the LGBT community meets Saturdays.

Gay Men Over 40
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland Street, Boston (927-6202). Fridays, 12pm. An ongoing group for gay men age 40 and older working on life stage issues.

Gay Volleyball
Cambridge (822-2148). Sundays, 6pm, $7. Typically seven teams play on three courts. Teams are made up each week depending on who shows up (mostly men, but women are welcome).

Gender Free Contra Dancing
First Church of Jamaica Plain (448-2429). www.piac.net/users/latte/lcfd/. Come one, come all to evenings of contra and square dancing.

HIV Counseling and Testing
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland Street, Boston (267-0159). Anonymous HIV antibody testing and pre- and post-test counseling.

Hump Day
Skupper Jacks in Acton. Every third Wednesday at 5:30pm, Boston's gay, lesbian and transgendered individuals come together to hang. For more information, contact *Tom.Evans@digital.com.*

Latino Social Groups
Latino Gay Men's Project (350-6900, ext. 125) and the Women's Social Group (350-6900, ext. 124).

Long Yang Club
(825-5677) www.longyangclub.org/boston. Boston's club for Gay Asian Men and their friends bring the East and West together.

Male Survivors of Sexual Assault
(800-834-3242). This free 10-week program is held in conjunction with the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center for male survivors of adult sexual assault.

OOPS
Melting Pot Coffee House, 2 Belgrade Ave., Roslindale (323-4123). Out on the Parkways invites one and all to come on down for some dinner and coffee.

PFLAG
Fenway Community Health Center, 7 Haviland St., Boston (547-2440). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets every fourth Monday, 6:30-8:30pm.

Psychotherapy Group for Lesbians
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland Street, Boston (927-6202). Tuesdays. An ongoing group for lesbians working on self-esteem and intimacy issues. The group is facilitated by a mental health professional.

Queer Corps
131 Clarendon St., 4th floor, Boston (450-1676). Tuesdays, 6-8pm. A community-mobilization project by and for queer men who are age 25 and under.

Sexual Health
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland Street, Boston (927-6238). A new program that started in October, this is a short-term support and education group for gay and bisexual men.

Tennis4all
Boston's gay and lesbian tennis club, with monthly tournaments and pizza socials. Call Ted at 779-7231.

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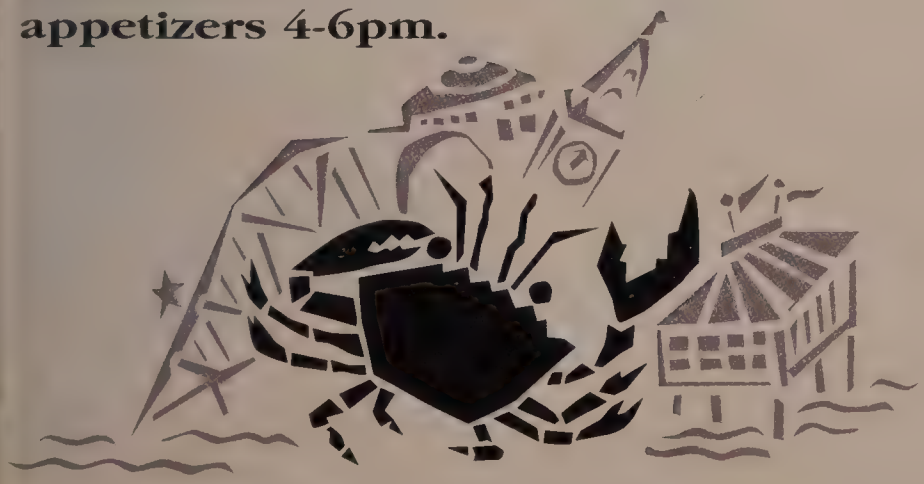

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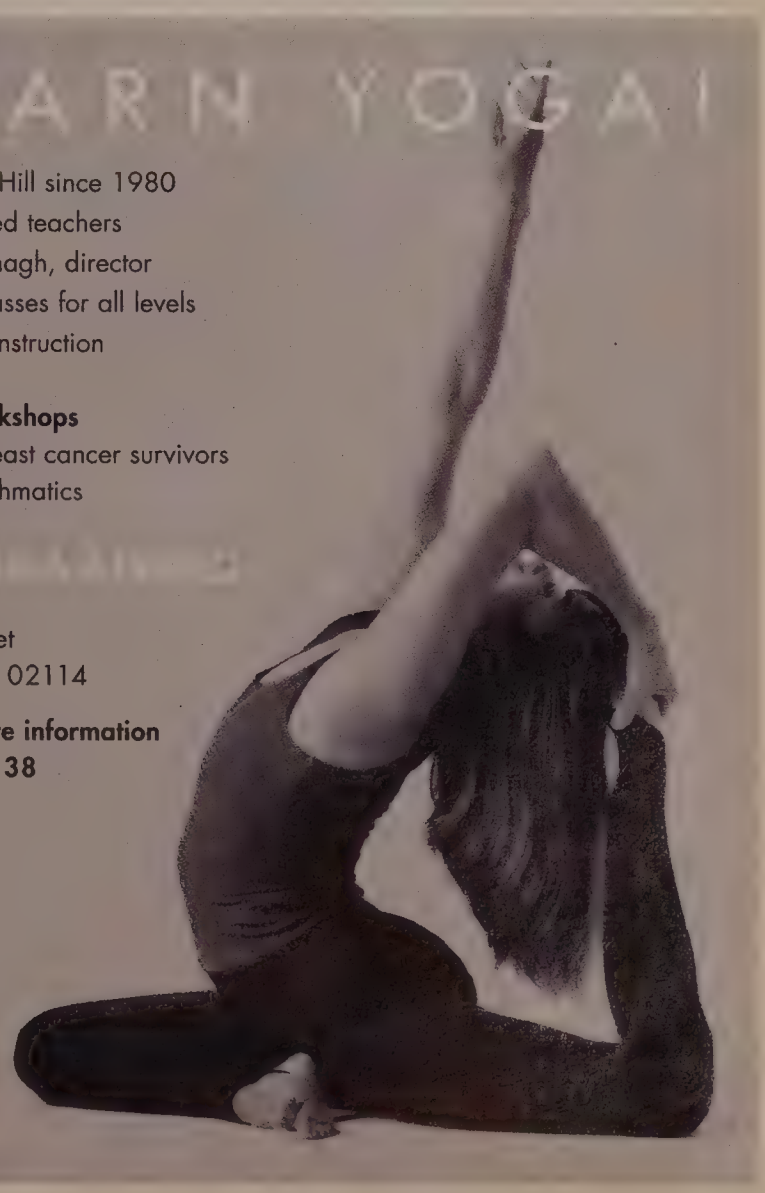


body&mind

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information by mail, fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/ Mind, or electronically to bodymind@improper.com. *Include a brief but thorough description of the event, time, date, location and directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.*

EVENTS

Ammachi's Satsang New Year Celebration
Yoga for Life, 50 Beharrell St., West Concord (978-371-0942). www.ammachi.org. *Dec. 31, 7:30am-2pm.* This event, taking place only 20 minutes from Cambridge, can be a peaceful alternative to what is normally a hectic holiday season. **Ammachi** is an inspiring example of humility, compassion, simplicity, patience, devotion, love and the spirit of selfless service. And hey—prayer, meditation, eating, devotional singing and blissful dancing can certainly make a party when enough people show up.

Dance of Universal Peace
First Church Congregational, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (876-6883). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Dec. 15 and Jan. 5, 7:30-9:30pm. $6. Simple, joyous and meditative circle dances honoring the spiritual traditions of the world. Everyone is welcome. All dances are taught and accompanied by live music.

Shiatsu School Open House
Charles River School of Shiatsu, 180 Mass. Ave., Arlington (781-643-1545). www.dellepro.dellhost.com/CharlesRiverShiatsu. *Jan. 7, 13-3pm. Free.* Enjoy mini-shiatsu 10-minute sessions and tai chi demonstrations. Tour the school and meet the faculty and staff.

Spirituality and Healing in Medicine
Westin Hotel, 10 Huntington Ave., Boston (432-1525). www.med.harvard.edu/conted. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley Square or Orange Line to Back Bay. Dec. 16-18. $325.* For more than 30 years Harvard Medical School has studied the effects of mind/body interactions. This work led to the consideration of the healing effects of spirituality. This course, directed by **Herbert Benson**, president of the Mind/Body Medical Institute, will address spiritual mind/body approaches to health care through lecture, workshop and discussion groups.

CLASSES

Massage For Couples
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Jan. 8, 7:30-10pm. $72 per couple. You and a significant other can learn basic Esalen/Swedish massage strokes during this lecture, discussion, demonstration and supervised practice. The focus will be primarily on the back, neck and shoulders (instead of the inner thighs) and will feature centering and relaxation exercises.

Pranayama Workshop: A Benefit Workshop with Peentz Dubble
BKS Iyengar Center, 240A Elm St., Suite 23, Somerville (666-9551). www.yoganow.net. *MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Jan. 13, 1-4pm. $35.* Experience the movement of *prana* (life force) with selected asanas that will prepare you to elongate, refine and distribute the breath in pranayama. Beginners to pranayama are welcome, but one year of Iyengar yoga is required. Proceeds from this workshop will benefit the BKS Iyengar Yoga Center.

Shoulder Openers
BKS Iyengar Center, 240A Elm St., Suite 23, Somerville (666-9551). http://www.yoganow.net. *MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Dec. 17, 2-4:30pm. $28.* Work toward increasing mobility and restoring lost movement. Freeing the shoulder girdle releases tension and blocked energy in the arms, shoulders, upper back and neck. Expand the chest and increase lung capacity. Excellent for those with rounded shoulders, collapsed chest and neck tension. All levels invited.

LECTURES

Bringing Meditation to Life
Shambhala Meditation Center, 646 Brookline Ave., Brookline (734-1498). www.shambhala.org/center/boston. *MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. Wednesdays, 7pm. Free.* This series focuses on meditation practice, the insight arising out of it and ways this insight can be applied to everyday life. Upcoming topics will be: •Dec. 13: "Sexuality and Spirituality" •Dec. 20: "Psychotherapy and Buddhism" •Dec. 27: "Surrender, Relaxation and the Integrity of Wakefulness" •Jan. 03: "Mindfulness and the Creative Process" •Jan. 10: "Creating Enlightened Society."

Go spiritual on New Year's Eve: Sing and dance with Ammachi at Yoga for Life Dec. 31.

Esoteric Alchemy and Astronomy: Keys to Transformation and Spiritual Rebirth
New Acropolis Organization, First Parish Unitarian Church, 3 Church St., Cambridge (591-9959). MBTA: Red to Harvard. Dec. 15, 7:30pm. $5. Cover all the bases at this lecture, starting with the 12 archetypes represented by the signs of the zodiac, moving onto alchemical symbolism along with Plato's myth of the metals and the categories of personality types, eventually leading to the transmutative process and the evolution of the inner man. Deep.

Living in Full Potential
Wellspace, Fresh Pond Mall, Cambridge (876-2660). www.wellspace.com. *Dec. 14. 7:30-9pm. Free.* Is there any aspect of life that wouldn't be better by increasing your feelings of well-being and peace of mind? An understanding of three simple principles can create this remarkable difference by facilitating access to our innate wisdom, creativity and everyday contentment. This talk is for anyone interested in feeling better, no matter what the circumstances.

ONGOING

Yoga/Allston
Beacon Light Yoga Center, 215 Brighton Ave., Allston (739-0717). Sunday through Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. $18 per session (call ahead). If you've wanted to try yoga, then come down to the peaceful and inviting environment of this yoga center.

Yoga/South End
Union United Methodist Church, 485 Columbus Ave., (522-7199). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential or Orange Line to Back Bay. $15/class. Join anytime. Certified Kripalu yoga teacher **Patrice Flesch** teaches mixed-level classes in a spiritual setting. Increase flexibility, relieve stress, build strength, relax and enjoy yourself at any of these ongoing drop-in classes: Tuesdays at 7pm, Wednesdays at 12pm and on Saturdays at 10am.

RETREATS

Dance Meditation Retreat
Candlewood Center, Cape Cod, Mass. (888-220-4208) Dec. 26, 6pm-Dec. 31, 2pm. $225. Saturday only, $95. Pre-registration is required. This special retreat focuses on dance as a healthy exercise for the body and mind. Try moving yoga, slow flow movement, belly dance, trance dance and deep relaxation. The Center is very peaceful with a private beach.

Kripalu Danskinetics Rejuvenation Weekend
Kripalu Center, Lenox, Mass. (800-741-7353). www.kripalu.org.or www.bethdance.com. *Dec. 29-Jan. 1. $210 tuition, plus three nights room and meals.* Slow down after the busy holiday season with a whole weekend of yoga, Danskinetics, meditation, making new friends, delicious vegetarian food, deep relaxation and restoration for your body and soul. Rest, reflect, clarify goals and intentions for the upcoming year and learn tools to manifest your heart's desire with powerful guided visualizations and unique writing exercises.

Ten-Day Meditation Retreat
St. Stephen Priory, Dover, Mass. (628-1702). www.dzogchen.org/retreats. *Jan. 5-14. Registration is required.* **Lama Surya Das** and **Charles Genoud** will address the Three Vital Points: teachings on View, Meditation and Action of the Natural Perfection. The retreat consists of daily teaching and guided meditation along with opportunities for dialogue with the teachers. The retreat is silent and intensive, but ample space is available for individual practices such as yoga or tai-chi.

Zen One-Day Retreat
Cambridge Zen Center, 199 Auburn St., Cambridge (576-3229). MBTA: Red Line to Central. www.cambridgezen.com. *Dec. 16.* Break away from your own mental slavery. Learn about Zen Buddhism with assistance from one of the CZC's guiding teachers, **Jane McLaughlin-Dobisz**. Sh's been a student of Zen master Seung Sahn since 1982, has practiced extensively in the U.S., Europe, and Asia, and has studied Buddhism of the Tibetan tradition in Nepal.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Children. Or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

TO SEE

Children's Hour
John F. Kennedy Library & Museum, Columbia Point, Dorchester (929-4523). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Free. •Dec. 16, 10am and 1pm: ***Sorcerer's Apprentice***, presented by the National Marionette Theatre. •Jan. 13, 10:30am: ***A Tribute to Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*** Songs, dances, stories and history from Africa, the days of slavery and the civil rights movement.

Children's Theatre
Lyric Stage, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. •Dec. 16-17, 11am. $7: ***The Nutcracker***. •Jan. 13-14: ***The Wizard of Oz***.

Disney on Ice: Beauty and the Beast
FleetCenter, Boston (931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Dec. 26-29. Times vary. $14-$42. Be swept away to a French village with a lovable cast of characters on ice.

Gumboots
Colonial Theater, 106 Boylston St., Boston (426-9366). MBTA Green Line to Boylston. Jan. 4-14. $25-$55. This tale of South African miners includes unique blend of percussive dance and song.

Oliver!
C. Walsh Theatre, Suffolk University, 55 Temple St., Boston (424-6634). www.bostonchildrenstheatre.org. *Dec. 16-17 and 27-30, 2pm. $10-$16.* A Broadway musical based on Charles Dickens' tale.

Puppet Showplace Theatre: Beauty and the Beast
32 Station St., Brookline (731-6400). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. Dec. 16-17, Dec. 23-24, 1 and 3pm; Dec. 15, 7:30pm; Dec. 26-30, 1 and 3pm. $12. This romantic comedy tells the story of how a beloved daughter became a princess. •Jan. 6-7, 1 and 3pm: ***Cinderella*** by the Tanglewood Marionettes. •Jan. 13-14, 1 and 3pm: ***Raven and the Village Without Daylight*** by the Starbird Theatre.

THINGS TO DO

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June: Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5pm, Fri., until 9pm; June-Aug.: daily, 10am-5pm, Fri., until 9pm. $5, children and seniors $3: The Children's Museum offers multicultural celebrations: •Jan. 5-6: Three Kings Day •Jan. 7: Japanese New Year •Jan. 28: Chinese New Year.

Children's Story Hour and Craft
The Harvard Coop, 1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (499-2000). Free. •Dec. 2, 11am: ***Snow Tree*** by Caroline Repchuk. Decorate a paper tree. •Dec. 9, 11am: ***Mr. Crispy's Story of the First Candy Canes*** by Sally R. Manley. Marble-paint a candy cane.

A Christmas Carol Re-enactment
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Citizen Community Stage, Boston (737-3500). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Saturdays, 12:30 and 2:30pm, through Dec. 16. Throughout the season, Charles Dickens will represent the spirit of Christmas' past with *A Christmas Carol*.

Chocolate Bar Buffet with Santa
Cafe Fleuri, Le Meridien Hotel, 250 Franklin St., Boston (451-1900). Dec. 16. A visit by Santa and caroling by Victorian carolers complements the chocolate bar.

Enchanted Village
City Hall Plaza, Boston (635-3911). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Nov. 20-Jan. 1. $1. The snow-covered small New England town is populated entirely by children, teddy bears, animals and Santa Claus.

The Nutcracker Brunch
The Ritz-Carlton, 15 Arlington St., Boston (536-5700). Sat. 10am; Sun. 11am. Dec. 17. $50 adults, $29 children. Enjoy a buffet brunch with The Boston Ballet Nutcracker Players as they re-enact the classic.

Wild Adventures
Franklin Park Zoo, 1 Franklin Park Road, Boston (541-LION). •Dec. 13, 10:30-11:30am, 3- to 4-year-olds: Animal Textures. 3:30-4:30pm, 5- to 6-year-olds: Reindeer. •Dec. 14, 3:30-4:30pm, 7- to-8-year-olds: A Mystery Animal. •Dec. 15, 3:30-4:30pm, 9- to 11-year-olds: Animal Disguises. •Dec. 16, 10:30am-12pm, 12- to 14-year-olds: All About Habitats.

sports

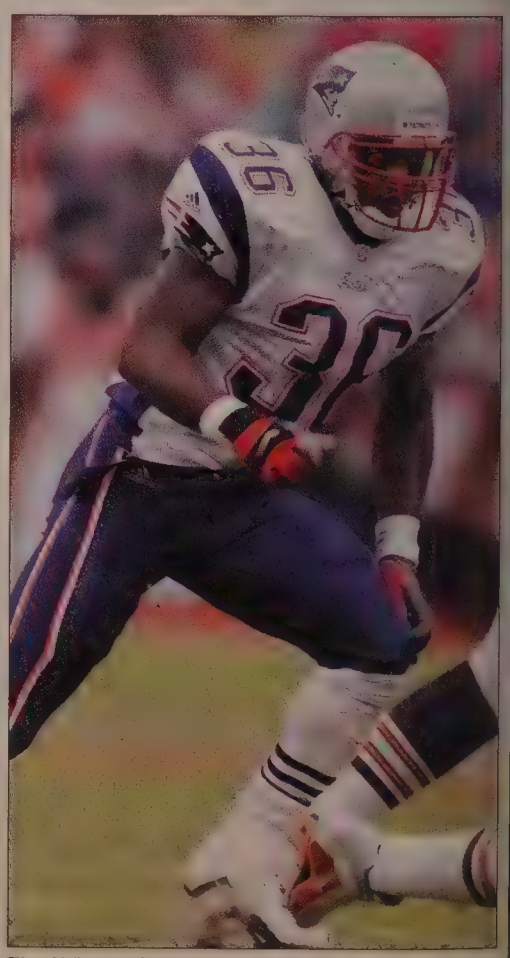
Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by fax (859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

To Watch

Boston Bruins
•FleetCenter. Tickets: 931-2000
Dec. 16 (Home): Carolina, 7pm, NESN
Dec. 19 (Home): Philadelphia, 7pm, NESN
Dec. 21 (Home): Toronto, 7pm, NESN
Dec. 23 (Home): Detroit, 7pm, NESN
Dec. 27 (Away): N.Y. Islanders, 7:30pm, NESN
Dec. 29 (Away): Florida, 7:30pm, NESN
Dec. 30 (Away): Tampa Bay, 7:30pm, UPN-38
Jan. 1 (Away): Buffalo, 2pm, UPN-38
Jan. 5 (Away): Washington, 7pm, NESN
Jan. 6 (Home): Dallas, 7:30pm, UPN-38
Jan. 9 (Home): Pittsburgh, 7pm, NESN
Jan. 10 (Away): Montreal, 7:30pm, NESN
Jan. 13 (Home): N.Y. Rangers, 1pm, NESN
Jan. 16 (Away): New Jersey, 7:30pm, UPN-38

Boston Celtics
•FleetCenter. Tickets: $10-$75. Call 228-6000
Dec. 13 (Home): Chicago, 7pm, FSNE
Dec. 15 (Home): Sacramento, 7:30pm, FSNE
Dec. 16 (Away): Charlotte, 7:30pm, FSNE
Dec. 18 (Home): Dallas, 7pm, FSNE
Dec. 20 (Home): New Jersey, 7pm, FSNE
Dec. 21 (Away): New York, 8pm, FSNE/TNT
Dec. 23 (Away): Milwaukee, 8:30pm, FSNE
Dec. 26 (Away): Detroit, 7:30pm, FSNE
Dec. 28 (Away): New Jersey, 7:30pm, FSNE
Dec. 30 (Home): Orlando, 1pm, FSNE
Jan. 2 (Away): Atlanta, 7:30pm, FSNE
Jan. 3 (Home): New York, 7pm, FSNE
Jan. 5 (Home): Golden State, 7:30pm, FSNE
Jan. 6 (Away): Miami, 7:30pm, FSNE
Jan. 8 (Home): Portland, 7pm, FSNE
Jan. 10 (Home): Miami, 7pm, FSNE
Jan. 12 (Home): Toronto, 7:30pm, FSNE
Jan. 15 (Away): Minnesota, 3:30pm, FSNE

New England Patriots
•Foxboro Stadium. Tickets: 931-2000
Dec. 17 (Away): Buffalo, 1pm, CBS
Dec. 24 (Home): Miami, 1pm, CBS
(end of regular season)



The N.E. Patriots play at Foxboro Dec. 24. Safety Lawyer Milloy pursues his opponent (above).

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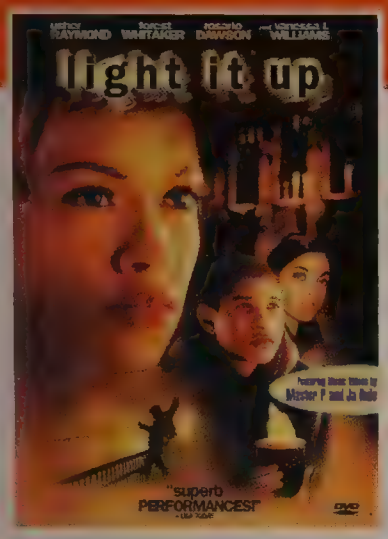
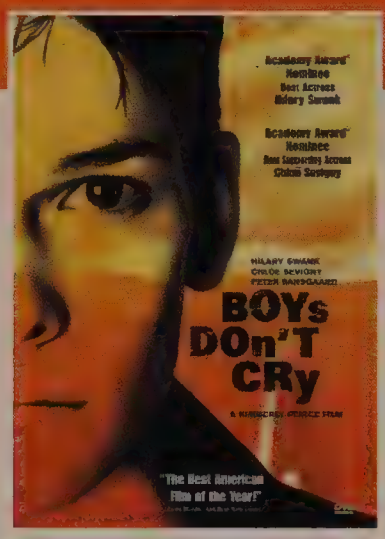
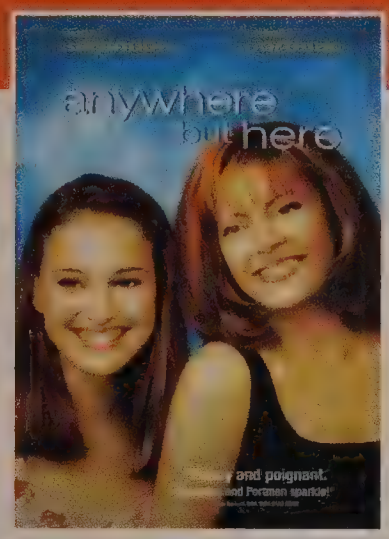


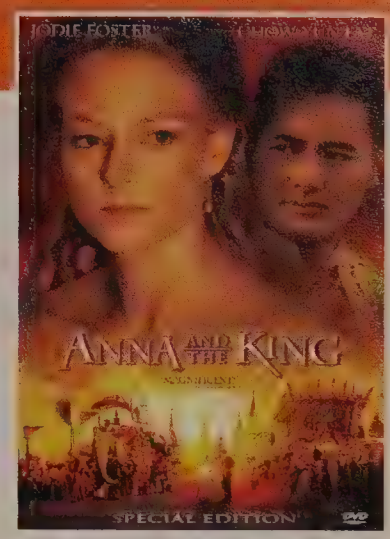
Light It Up



Boys Don't Cry



Anywhere But Here



Anna and the King

kozmo.com

delivery in under an hour.

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Events

Boston University Winter Series
Boston (353-2911). Call Bruce Lehane. *Dec. 16, 10/11am.* Take part in this 3-kilometer/1-mile run.

Fresh Pond 5K/2.5 mile
Cambridge (494-1633). Northmedfordclub.com, *Dec. 16, 10am.* A 2.5 kilometer run through Cambridge.

Santa Scamper
West Roxbury (323-3200 ex. 412), $12 pre registration, $15 race day, Dec. 17 12pm, www.parkwayrunning com. Join in on the holiday running action in this 5-kilometer race.

Somerville First Night 5K Foot Race
Davis Square, Somerville (508-775-0143). www.clydesdale.org/onlineapp!ications/Somerville-FirstNight5Km.html. *Dec. 31, 11:35pm.* Run this 5-kilometer race, and then head to the Burren or Redbones afterward for libations.

To Play

BASEBALL

Henry's Baseball Club
(781-891-0621). Players ages 17-30 sought for 2001 season. Also need coaches and volunteers.

BASKETBALL

Basketball City
Adjacent to North Station and the FleetCenter (742-6700). Corporate, midday and weekend leagues.

Co-Ed Indoor Basketball
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 224). Sun.-Thu. nights at various locations. All levels welcome. Leagues in Waltham, Dedham and Brookline. Co-ed teams now forming.

The Corporate League of Boston
(566-7808).

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333). Practice and workout programs for all levels in Greater Boston.

South End Fitness Center League
(534-5823).

Women's Basketball League
(661-9622). Tuesdays, 5:30-7pm and Sundays, 6-7:30pm.

BOXING

Boxing Workout
Vinny Greco's Powerhouse Gym, 125 Walnut St., Watertown (972-1711). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Enjoy the workout of a boxer—or become one yourself. Participate in one-on-one instruction in a supervised, safe environment with Boston Sport Boxing Club.

FOOTBALL

Australian Rules Football
Boston Australian Rules Football Club. Thu. evenings and Sat. mornings, Cambridge (781-440-9266). www.Boston Demons.org. No experience necessary.

Indoor Flag Football
BSSC, Indoor Sports Center in Revere (789-4070). Sundays.

GOLF

CityGolf
38 Bromfield St., First Floor, Boston (357-GOLF). The new CityGolf has doubled the number of golf simulators and added 50 percent more hitting bays and a putting green and retail area.

HIKING/WALKING

The Appalachian Mountain Club
Gorham, N.H. (603-466-2727). Hikes and huts in the White Mountains. •Monthly AMC Young Members meetings at AMC headquarters, 4 Joy St., Beacon Hill (523-0655). Second Thursday of every month, 6-10pm, $3. Potluck. BYOB.

HOCKEY

Co-ed Floor Hockey
BSSC (789-4070). Individuals and teams, co-eds, all levels in Newton. Co-ed teams now forming.

ICE SKATING

Learn to Skate
Lessons available at 16 MDC rinks in Greater Boston (781-890-8480). www.iceskatingclasses.com. Snowy weather is rapidly approaching. There's no better time to learn how to skate.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
(499-4835). Weekly runs year-round. Serious drinkers with a running problem.

Boston Road Club Weekly Races
(781-646-8955). Sundays. Starts at Wells Ave. in Newton.

Fresh Pond Weekly Road Races
Fresh Pond Reservation. Saturdays, 10am. Choose between a 2.5- or 5-mile run.

Khoury's Thursday Night Runs
East Somerville. (351-5682). 4.13 miles. 7pm at Khoury's Bar.

Logan Post 5K
1194 Broadway, West Somerville (283-3292). Every Thursday at 7:10pm.

NikeTown Boston Running Club
200 Newbury St., Boston (267-3400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Three-to-five-mile loops. Starts at 6:30pm. Monthly mini-clinics as well.

SNOW SPORTS

Ski & Board Weekends
BSSC (789-4070). The Boston Ski & Sports Club offers day and weekend trips throughout the winter. •Wednesdays, Saturdays or Sundays this winter. 5:30am/6am bus departures from Newton, Newburyport and Tewksbury. •Dec. 16: Mt. Snow •Dec. 17: Stratton •Dec. 20: Stowe •Dec. 23: Wildcat •Dec. 27: Sunday River •Dec. 29: Wildcat •Dec. 30: Sunday River •Jan. 3: Okemo •Jan. 6: Sunday River •Jan. 7: Mt. Snow •Jan. 10: Sugarbush •Jan. 13: Okemo •Jan. 14: Sunday River •Jan. 15: Sunapee. •Weekend trips include round-trip transportation and lift tickets. •Dec. 15-17: Jay Peak •Dec. 29-Jan. 1: Quebec •Jan. 5-7: Sunday River •Jan. 12-15: Sugarloaf-ML King.

Ski Market Trips
860 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (731-6100). $50. SkiMarket Underground offers trips with round-trip transportation, a lift ticket and dinner (on Wednesday and Thursday trips). •Dec. 17: Killington •Jan. 7: Killington •Jan. 10: Sunday River •Jan. 14: Sunday River.

SOCCER

BSSC Soccer
BSSC (789-4070, ext. 225). Co-ed teams for both indoor and outdoor soccer.

SWIMMING

Boston Athletic Club Swim Workouts
653 Summer St., Boston (269-4300). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon. and Wed. 6:15-7:15am.

The Charles River Park Club Morning Masters
Charles River Park, Boston (450-9810). Mon., Wed., Fri. 6:30-7:45am.

The Mason Masters Swim Program
The Mason Pool, 159 Norfolk Ave., Roxbury (236-4923 or 450-9810) Mon.-Fri. 7:30-8:30pm. An early morning masters swim program led by Alex Primilsky, coach of numerous world, national and Olympic champions.

TENNIS

Boston Tennis Club
Located next to North Station, Boston (742-6700). Adult and youth clinics, socials, open play and matching.

BSSC Tennis
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070). $40. Play mixed doubles in Waltham on Saturday nights. Price includes 2.5 hours of play and appetizers.

VOLLEYBALL

Adult Co-ed Volleyball League
Waltham YMCA (781-894-5295). Monday nights, began Sept. 13. All levels welcome at this friendly co-ed league.

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. at various locations. Co-ed indoor 6-on-6 leagues. Four different levels of play. Pick-up games, clinics and tournaments also available. •Co-ed pickup games Tuesdays and Fridays at West Newton Armory, 1137 Washington St. $5.

Co-ed Volleyball-Waltham
Waltham YMCA, 725 Lexington St, Waltham (781-894-5295). Monday nights.

WRESTLING

Men's Adult Wrestling
Boston Union, 48 Boylston St., Boston (482-1122). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm; Saturdays 1-3:30pm. All skill levels. Coaching available.

around town

Sights to See

Boston Tea Party Ship and Museum
Congress St. Bridge, Boston (338-1773). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Open daily, March-May and Sept.-Nov., 9am-5pm; closed Dec.-March. $8.

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Fifth Floor, Boston (353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), Oct.-March, 7:30-8:30pm; April-Sept., 8:30-9:30pm. Free.

Bunker Hill Monument
Monument Square, Charlestown (242-5641). Open daily 9am-5pm. Free.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June, Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm; June-Aug., daily, 10am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm. $5, children and seniors $3.

Dreams of Freedom
One Milk St., Boston (338-6022). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Mon.-Sun., 9:30am-6pm. $7.50.

John Hancock Observatory
200 Clarendon St., Boston (572-6429). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open Mon.-Sat., 9am-11pm, Sun., 10am-11pm (May-Oct.) and noon-11pm (Nov.-April). $6.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (929-4523). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily 9am-5pm (last film begins at 3:55pm). $8.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat. 10am-2pm. Admission free.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (739-1200) www.afroammuseum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays 10am-4pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.*

Museum of Natural History
260 Oxford St., Cambridge (495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun., 9am-12pm.*

Museum of Science and the Charles Hayden Planetarium
Science Park, Boston (723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu., 9am-5pm; Fri., 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children. Omni Theater, Hayden Planetarium or laser shows all $7.50, $5.50 seniors and children.*

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (635-3105). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Open daily, 9am-5pm. Guided tours every half hour, starting at 9am. Free.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily, 9 am-5pm. Free.

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays, 10am-4pm; weekends, 10am-5pm. $3.

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (720-3290). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily, 9am-5pm. $3.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sat. 10am-10pm, Sun. noon-10pm. $4, $3 seniors and students.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8am-6pm. Free.

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (426-1812). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, bus 93 to Navy Yard. Nov.-April 30: Open daily, 10am-5pm. Free.

Volunteer

ABCD Inc.
(357-6000). Seeks tutors in reading, math, science, writing and social studies.

AIDS Action Committee
(888-332-AUTO or 450-1235). Turn your old car into a tax-deductible donation. Volunteer meetings held Dec. 19, 6-8:30pm.

Big Brother
(956-0211). Be a Big Brother. Information sessions: Tue.-Wed., 6pm; Thu., 12:15pm; and every other Saturday, 11am.

Big Sister Association
(236-8060). www.bigsister.org. Offer support and friendship to a girl between the ages of 7 and 15. Information session: Dec. 20, 6-7pm.

Boston Cares
(263-CARE). More than 70 volunteer opportunities are available in Greater Boston.

Boston Living Center
(236-1012). HIV/AIDS service organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Cambridge School Volunteers
(349-6794). Volunteers are needed in the Cambridge public schools in kindergarten through grade 12 for two hours a week between 7:30am and 4pm.

Community Servings
(445-7777). Help prepare and deliver meals for individuals and families dealing with AIDS during the holidays.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

Friday Night Supper Program
Arlington Street Church (536-7050, ext. 22). Help prepare, cook and serve meals on Fridays, 5-7pm.

The Greater Boston Food Bank
(427-5200). Groups needed to sort donated food.

Horizons Initiative
(287-1900). Play with children living in shelters. Commit to two hours per week for six months.

Jewish Community Volunteer Program
(558-6585). Volunteers are needed to share fun times with an isolated senior.

Junior Achievement
(367-6891). ckraft@ja-easternmass.org. Volunteers needed to teach kids about business.

Mass. Eating Disorder Association
(558-1881). Volunteers needed for four hours per week for help line, assisting clinical staff and special events.

Mass. Substance Abuse Info Helpline
(536-0501, ext. 201). Talk over the phone with persons affected by alcoholism and substance abuse.

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist elders with such tasks as reading, shopping and basic home repairs.

Pine Street Inn
(521-7626). Seeking volunteers to serve meals and act as receptionist for homeless guests.

Prison Book Program
(423-3298). Answer letters from inmates and fill requests for books on various topics.

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic
(577-1111). Needs volunteers to record textbooks at East Cambridge studio, days and evenings.

Red Cross Young Professionals
(375-0700, ext. 280). Help coordinate fun social events to benefit the American Red Cross.

Rosie's Place
(442-9322). Volunteers needed for the dining room, clothing room, the groceries program and office work.

SafeLink
(521-0114). Volunteers needed for this new 24-hour domestic violence program. Training begins in January.

Teddy Bear Drive
(269-7171). www.teddybeardrive.org. *Through Dec. 25.* Drop off new teddy bears for distribution to local shelters. See Web site for locations.

United Services Organization (USO)
(720-4949). Volunteers needed to welcome Navy ships, participate in hospital visits, provide office support, coordinate receptions and assist with events.

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Seeks individuals to assist legal immigrants and refugees to become naturalized citizens.

mark your daytimer

UPCOMING EVENTS

CITYSCOPE

Spinazzola Gala
Jan. 19, World Trade Center

THEATER

Penn & Teller
Feb. 13-25, Shubert Theatre

MUSIC

Sol Y Canto
Feb. 24, Symphony Hall

Gary Burton
Jan. 20, Symphony Hall

Penn & Teller

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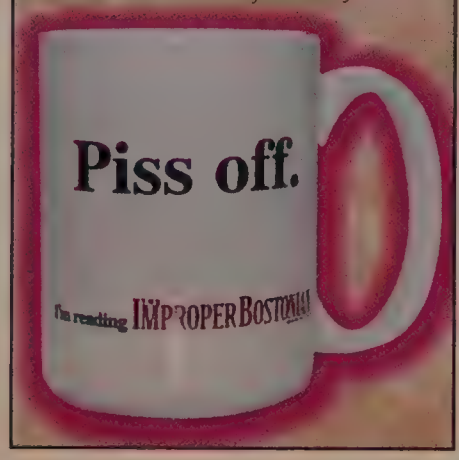

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A generous heart.

You have the opportunity to give the gift of childbirth to an infertile couple. Boston IVF is looking for egg donations from healthy women between the ages of 21 and 34. Donors will be required to take medication and undergo a minor surgical procedure. Donors will be compensated for their time and effort. Participation is completely confidential.

For more information, call us at (781) 434-6500 M-F, 9-5 p.m.
Serious inquiries only.

Boston IVF
"Bringing a Little Joy To Life"
One Brookline Place, Brookline, MA 02146
Accessible by Green Line Ⓣ

Improper Impersonals

If everyone kept their feelings bottled up like warm beer, we'd soon have antisocial behavior exploding all over the place and ruining the upholstery. So send us your letters of love and spleen, and we'll print them for the world to see. Heck, it's better than making a fool of yourself in person. And IT'S FREE! Pick up a pen or keyboard (hint: we like the fact that e-mailed messages mean that we don't have to risk ruining our manicures by—ugh—typing) and write to:

IMPROPER IMPERSONALS
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116
FAX: 859-1446 E-MAIL: impersonals@improper.com

Recent correspondence follows.

Hey, Half 'n Half Girl
I really enjoyed meeting you, however briefly. Your intelligence, good looks and sense of humor immediately charmed me. At the same time (after work, on Nov. 10, in Newton), you and your sister seemed to be enjoying your drinks, apps and our informal conversation (?). I went off in search of my vanished friends—only to find you gone before I could come back and get to know you better. How stupid of me. I'm still curious and hope that maybe you are too? Next time I'll be sure to stick around, and the potato skins will be on me.
—badwrapper@hotmail.com

Beautiful Young Lady
Who takes the No. 7 bus from South Boston every morning with me. You have shoulder length blonde hair and a Thomson Financial bag. We occasionally make eye contact, but because of my shyness I panic. You can find out who I am by looking up my profile on Yahoo. I hope to get over my shyness and finally say hello, or you can break the ice by saying hello first. Hopefully I won't fall apart if that happens.
—http://profiles.yahoo.com/poopiepantz2001

Saffron Man
I have to tried to find you. Newbury Street: Nov. 30, 9pm. I was there with some girlfriends. When I looked up after being seated, I noticed you smiling at me. You: Handsome, short blond hair, dark sweater, great smile. Me: Long blond hair, charcoal sweater, flushed cheeks, smiling back at you. I should have come over, I know. I am too shy. I got so nervous that I started random conversations with my friends. I spoke of New Year's plans, my trip to Big Sur and about the Anais Nin book I was reading. The whole time, I was looking at you. If you want to spend another cold night, eating warm, spicy food, this time, with me, then email.
—sclaire2000@yahoo.com

Morning Person
It was around 10am two weeks ago on a Thursday night. You were getting out of a cab on W. Broadway and I was waiting to get in. When you got out we caught each others eyes (you looked stunning in your workout gear) and chatted about being neighbors and about possibly meeting on the T someday. But you go to work an hour later than I do, so we parted ways. I was a little tired and forgot to see if you wanted to meet for a drink. I know (I'm a goof). Please let me make it up, and say you'll meet me a little later than 9am.
—southietaxi@hotmail.com

Lava Bar, Oct. 25
Many thanks to the kind girl who brought me a bottle of water, and an apology to anyone offended by my disorderly behavior. And thanks to my friend G. for making sure I got home safely.
—Girl in the pink blouse

To the shining star outside Symphony Hall
You have truly evoked the true spirit of the season from your last Impersonal entry. Thank you so much for caring enough to put to paper the thoughts I've been harboring since the "snowsuit" incident. (It was just an awful suit, wasn't it?) Your understanding made all of the angst worth it...I laughed right out loud as I was reading it on the T. Many thanks to you—my family and I will enjoy our Holiday Pops tradition much more this season than all of the others! Have a wonderful holiday season!
—Sarah B, #1 crying girl

Auburn Hair/Thin/ Cantab Lounge
After you danced the night away at the Cantab on Sept. 11, you went outside and joined your friends in their effort to get a cab. Inspired probably by too much to drink, you lifted up your black skirt to get a cabbie's attention and, unsurprisingly, it worked. I waved good-bye and have since been wondering about a girl who seems to have an invigorating approach to life.
—Jac2703@cs.com

Ex-boyfriend and the roommate you're screwing:
Hosehead: When you asked me to marry you, I thought of the fate your last wife suffered and my answer came to me. I really have no interest in ending up murdered, or worse, married to a convicted liar. I wish now, though, that I had said yes, so when you started screwing my roommate I could sue the hell out of you for all that money you say you inherited. I wish your crazy bitch sister had cut your whole damn arm off. Your songs suck. You'll never be a rock star. You're a sloppy lay. You're sucking up good air for the rest of us. I see now that I should have taken my father's advice and kicked your broke-as-a-joke, no job, alcoholic, thieving, bong-resin crackpipe ass to the curb months ago when I first busted you stealing and lying. Pigvomit: I warned you. Do not dare come weeping to me when you realize that he'll screw anything, even something as scabby and socially inept as you. You're insufferable. He's not attracted to you. He's hustling you like the pathetic unfuckable that you are. I thought about wishing that you'd both end up in a miserable tableau, broke, placated with cheap weed and 40oz bottles of Schlitz, dinners of frozen hot wings and Goya beans. I was going to wish that you, Dirtybutt, would come to realize that he makes fat jokes behind your back, and that you'd learn that it isn't normal or acceptable to nail your roommate's boyfriend, no matter how much you need the emotional assurance that someone can stand to touch you. I'm now wishing something much more diabolical on the both of you, intolerable cretins that you are: I hope you get pregnant. Smooches,
—The one down the hall

Road Trip
Nov. 27, it was your first trip to NYC. We sat next to each other on the 6:30am bus out of South Station. You were spending Thanksgiving with friends in Brooklyn and you brought homework you were never going to touch. I was joining my family in the suburbs and was facing drama centered around a sibling. We laughed about the "weed" guy sitting behind us and the broken bus VCR. In fact, when you weren't napping, we laughed and talked a lot. It felt good and seemed natural. The trip ended too soon at Port Authority with you offering me your uneaten breakfast. I declined because I wanted to ask you out. But before I did, one of your friends arrived. We shook hands (you flashing that amazing smile and me sorry to see you go) and said our good-byes. I realize your time in Boston is short, but so is life. I regret not asking you out when I had the opportunity. I don't like living in regret. Please contact me.
—peterpan630@yahoo.com

Chris in Salem
We first bumped into each other in the crowded pass-through on the train back from Thanksgiving break. I was stealing glances of your goatee, labret and wrist tattoo. Later you asked me for gum, we chatted, we waited in line for food, even though you didn't want anything. At South Station, I showed you where your roommate might be picking you up. I was about to give you my number when something stopped me—I've been kicking myself ever since. I'll be looking for you at ManRay, but email me in the little time you allow for the computer...
—David, shyatsouthstation@hotmail.com

Rockie Horoscope

DECEMBER 13, 2000 – JANUARY 16, 2001
BY ROCKIE GARDINER

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21
Assorted aspects of your life—communication skills, trendsetting stylistic choices, sexual desire and physical energy, the body politic—flow with an ease and grace not usually associated with this hectic time of year. Is someone else handling the Centaur's reins, planning your birthday celebration? While you keep an eye on the future, let a significant other deal with the present, and the presents, too. Don't spread yourself any thinner than is absolutely necessary to get through the holidays. Precious moments with yourself, for your self, are key.

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20
Like Santa, Jesus or the angel on top of the tree, you can hover above the holiday hysteria the rest of us are subject to, and not show up until the winter solstice celebrations begin. Even after Capricorn kicks in, there are a few days when your presence is not absolutely required. But once the sun is eclipsed by the new moon on Christmas Day, you're back in business managing our transition into the real millennium. Well, someone has to do it. Many wonderful gifts if you drop hints, show pictures, hum tunes. Not all of us are mindreaders.

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18
There's a wonderful time in store if you get into the holiday spirit. And with everything going your way, there's no valid reason to drag out your old curmudgeon persona. You're radiating such good vibes and high ideals because magnetic Venus is in your sign. The goddess of love is also making you the object of erotic fantasy and fabulousness. While low-key Aquarians might be embarrassed by the attention, the true troopers, the performers in the group, will respond in kind. Best days to be you: the 19th and 23rd.

PISCES
FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19
So much beauty, such spirituality and lofty idealism only comes once a year, during the annual Venus-Neptune conjunction when your ruling planet and the goddess of love merge. You'll benefit from their happy marriage throughout the weekend, but if you don't go too over the top and become mawkish, you can probably prolong an angelic image until the Christmas presents are unwrapped and chaos descends once again. On the other hand, and there always is one, there will be crucial information about cashing in on your next career move at the new moon on the 25th.

ARIES
MARCH 20-APRIL 19
An aura of saintliness, the halo you rarely get to wear, is sporting your name for another week. As soon as your Mars ruler enters sexy, secretive Scorpio on the 23rd you can go back to your wicked, wicked ways. Until then, maximize your present popularity and focus your attention on a life-long goal, because, sometimes these aims are attainable with less effort than you think it takes. The winter solstice marking the rebirth of the sun is always key for cardinal signs such as yours. Do something special on Thursday to commemorate the coming of the light.

TAURUS
APRIL 20-MAY 20
It's your talent for music and the visual arts that is particularly prominent right now. Might this be the time for a change of career or will singing in the Christmas choir and making ornaments for the tree fill the bill? Although the stubborn Bull usually is the last to admit it, once earthy Capricorn kicks in, you tend to focus on purely practical matters, e.g., year-end gains and losses. However, because your Venus ruler is cruising through a Neptunian sea of confusion, you're probably not seeing too clearly; idealizing and overromanticizing, too.

GEMINI MAY 21-JUNE 20
A well-balanced holiday menu of events, nothing particularly thrilling, but none to throw you off your feed, either. Relationships and your reactions remain your prime motivating force, but, for a change, you'll focus on having a good time for yourself while busily providing happy memories for the others. You're headed for an epiphany on Christmas Day, one of those moments when you GET IT. Until then, enjoy the opportunities to hook up with adventurous playmates and attractive intellectuals. No oxymoron here.

CANCER
JUNE 21-JULY 22
Crabs, more than the rest of us, regulate their lives by the changing seasons, the phases of the moon and the flow of the tides. The winter solstice might not have quite the impact that the summer solstice, and the beginning of Cancer, does. However, it shifts your focus to significant others in your field of work and the debt you owe them. Where does skiing fit in? Capricorn rules the knees, so make sure you're in shape and fairly flexible before you start schussing. The partial solar eclipse on Christmas Day is major; pay attention to your interior dialogue.

LEO
JULY 23-AUGUST 22
It's playtime for performing felines just in time for the holidays. Christmas itself might be a bit weird because of the partial solar eclipse/Capricorn new moon. Lions don't do well when their sun ruler isn't shining bright; if, in spite of encouraging planetary contacts, you're feeling depressed, "ain't no sunshine" could be why. Hang with air and fire signs, even though some are full of hot air, to circumvent the blues and the blahs. One of them, Aquarius or Aries? is looking especially attractive and emitting signals.

VIRGO
AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22
The pendulum doesn't swing very far—from the neighbors' to your house all the way to the kids and how to entertain them, i.e., from the third to the your solar fifth house. No other interests loom large enough to distract you, to keep you from your appointed rounds. Well, maybe you'll spare a moment to commemorate the winter solstice and welcome the different energy that steady-as-she-goes Capricorn provides. After the Sagittarius party-till-you-drop marathon you've been on dwindles down, you'll relax enough to experience the quiet joy of Christmas 2000.

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22
One last hurrah on Monday as feisty Mars in your sign provides the motivation and endurance you may need right about now to get through the worst of the holiday horrors. Compensate by concentrating on unusual recreational pastimes with exotic and attractive playmates. While your Venus ruler travels through tech- and folk-friendly Aquarius, whatever is new or out-of-the-ordinary will appeal to and appease the beast within. But not much past New Year's Day.

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21
Listen to your inner voice, especially if it tells you what to buy, or when to sell. While other signs may get hunches, when it comes to them panning out, none has the track record Scorpio does. This is also the time to bring more music and art into the house, and to share your taste—be it popular or punkish—with family members. Enjoy the tail end of what has been a very harmonious period; as of the 23rd, Mars leaves Libra and fair play for Scorpio and seven weeks of unbridled self-determination.

HOLIDAY SALE, $5 OFF. Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30 to 40+ pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise over the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $37.50 per report to ROCKIE GARDINER, 1021 N. Genesee Ave., #1, West Hollywood, CA 90046. *www.rockiehoroscope.com*. Read my daily forecast online at *www.laweekly.com*.

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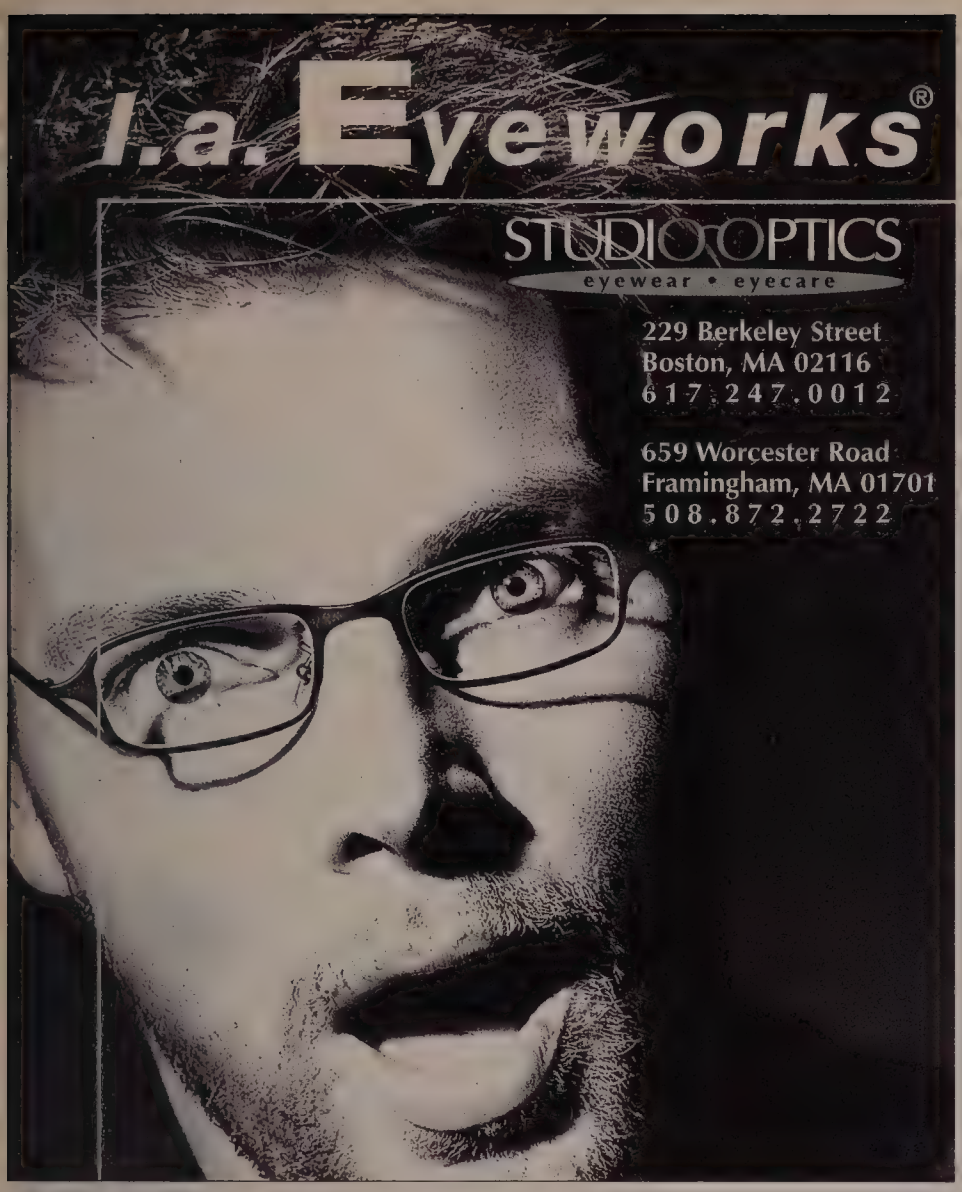

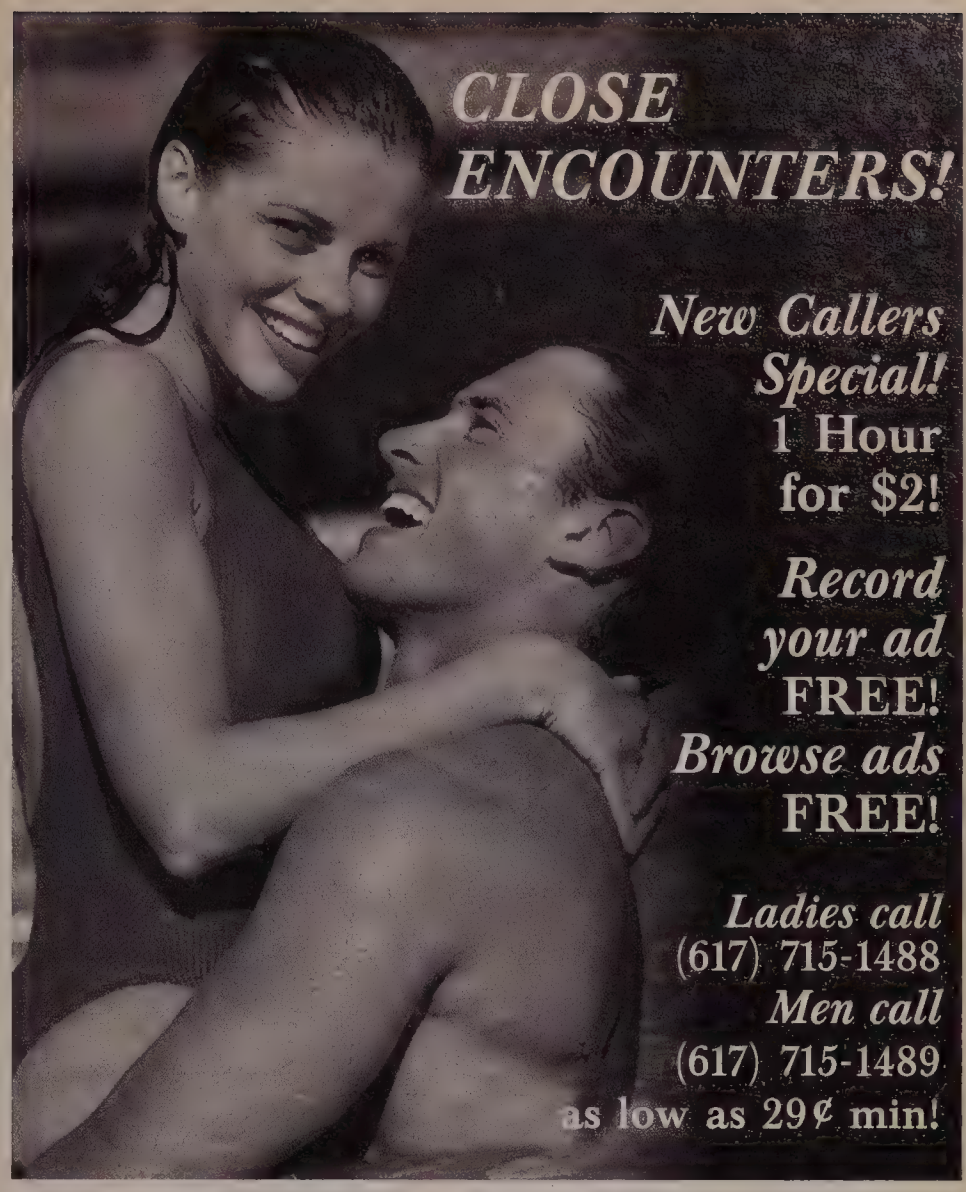

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Improper Sightings

Unlike the rest of your friends, we want to see the photos from your next trip.

Where do you take us? We want to know! Send us a picture of you or a friend, or better yet, someone famous reading The Improper Bostonian and tell us where you were. The more creative you are, the faster we'll publish your pic! (Hey, we have no shame!)

We begin our Eastern European edition of Improper Sightings at Armenia's Lake Sevan with (from left) Julie Manoogian, Onnig Dombalagian, Aram Aslanian, Josh Tevekelian, Rose Hoosian and Lucy Hoosian.

Meanwhile, over on the other side of Armenian tourist hotspot Lake Sevan are (from left) Francis Barsoumian, Joseph Tirinkian, Nigoghos Atinizian and Arman Maseresian.

From left: Tamara Harling, Tonya Chen and Elena Galdan-Friedman are in there like swimwear in San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua, which, we know, is not technically part of Eastern Europe. Shut up.

Shavarsh Kocharyan, a member of Armenia's Parliament, is actually not at Lake Sevan.

Members of the Stabilization Force of the US National Support Element in Taszár, Hungary, Specialist Micki Quinn (l) and Master Sergeant Wendell M. Graham take a short break from kicking ass.

Heather Mitchell (l) and Ewa Panszczyk look packed for Warsaw. They're Warsaw packed. Ha.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:
Trying to contain his or her excitement at *Noche de los Rabanos* (Festival of the Radishes), held Dec. 23 in wild 'n crazy, radish-loving Oaxaca, Mexico.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116.
Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail and photo location. All photos become the property of The Improper Bostonian Magazine and will not be returned.

improperazzi

The Improper Bostonian's client-related promotions and events

The Mall at Chestnut Hill produced their First Annual Charity Night on November 19th to benefit 54 charities.

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1. **Click Model of Boston**, Holiday Fashion Show sponsored by Filene's.
2. **Judy Beals**, (left) Executive Director of Jane Doe, Inc., with shoppers.
3. **Treacy Curlin** and **Donna Gribble** at Boston Ballet's "Share the Magic" donation table.
4. **Robert Rutkauskas**, DVP, Fashion Director for Filene's.

On the evening of Sunday, December 3, the 16th Annual Joey O'Donnell Film Premiere was held at **General Cinema** following a cocktail reception at the **Atrium Mall** at Chestnut Hill. The event raised $400,000 to benefit "The Joey Fund" at the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

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1. **Jim Lifton**, of the Cactus Club and Iguana Cantinas, with **Joe O'Donnell**, president of Boston Concession Group, founder of the Joey Fund and national board member of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.
2. **Paul Del Rossi**, president of General Cinema Theatres; **Joe O'Donnell**; Master of Ceremonies **Charlie Austin** of WBZ; and **"Boomer" Norman Esiason**, NFL commentator and founder of the Boomer Esiason Foundation, which benefits the Cystic Fibrosis.
3. **Mike Barnicle**, on-air personality for "The Mike Barnicle Show" on WTKK 96.9 fm.
4. **John Spooner**, author and senior V.P. of Salomon Smith-Barney, with his wife, **Susan**.

PHOTOS: CHESTNUT HILL MALL, DANNY PITTS; THE JOEY FUND, WENDY SEMONIAN, AMY O'TOOLE

BARS, CLUBS, RESTAURANTS & BRUNCH

The following are paid advertisements. Please check times and prices in advance. If you'd like to have your restaurant listed, please call The Improper Bostonian Advertising Dept. at 859-1400.

BARS

Billiards

Boston Billiards Club
126 Brookline Ave., 536-POOL. Ranked #1 in the country by Billiards Digest. Free lessons on Mon., 7:30pm - 9pm. Boston Billiards Club House leagues on Mon. and Tues. "In The Biz" night on Sun. and Mon. for patrons in the hospitality industry. Ladies' night on Wed. Featuring a menu of light fare such as grilled chicken sandwiches and appetizers, along with beer, wine, cocktails and a variety of non-alcoholic beverages.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998,1999 &2000 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, Mark Morris & The Catunes, and BaHa Brothers.

Beer Specialty Bars

Sunset Grill & Tap
130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 254-1331. Something's always brewing at Best of Boston's award winning ber bar. Here you'll find the largest selection on the East Coast-112 taps and 380 microbrews and exoic imports. Join our beer club and enjoy every style of beer under the sun. Take advantage of the yards, cask conditioned beer, flight samples, vintage and new beers, seasonals, meads, ciders, etc. Full menu until 1am. Experience our beer festival 365 days a year.

Brew Pubs

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Co.
138 Portland St., Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is now the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, a block from the FleetCenter and steps from Faneuil Hall, Commonwealth Fish & Beer features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am - 1 am.

Irish Bars

Mr. Dooley's Boston Tavern
77 Broad St., Boston, 338-5656. Hailed by the Globe as "the gem of the Financial District," Mr. Dooley's is a favorite meeting place for young professionals. The authentic Irish pub with over 13 imported beers on tap has been voted "Boston's Best Burgers" and "Best Cheap Eats." Open daily until 2am, featuring live bands every Fri. through Sun. night. "A great place for a pint and a chat."

The Grand Canal
57 Canal St., Boston, 523-1112. Hailed as the "crown jewel in the Irish pub empire of John Somers," this premiere Irish Bar features over fifty micro brews, an extensive wine list, a full international menu, and Boston's best appetizer menu. The Grand Canal hosts "Boston's Best Bands," and features Boston's only 12 foot video screen playing Bruins, Celtics, Patriots and Red Sox games. Enjoy a true "Irish Pub Experience."

Hennessy's of Boston
25 Union Street, Boston, 742-2121. Boston's most authentic Irish pub next to Faneuil Hall serves a great menu with daily specials and Irish traditions. A huge bar with an extensive beer and wine list, Hennessy's has Boston's best appetizer menu. Enjoy live entertainment five nights a week with pop bands direct from Ireland. Hennessy's of Boston, "Purveyor's of Fine Food and Spirits," are part of the Somers' Pubs Fleet.

The Green Dragon
11Marshall St., Boston, 367-0055. Hailed "Headquarters of the Revolution," this favorite after work meeting place is famous for it's "giant cocktail drink special menu." A comfortable place serving lunch and dinner and highly acclaimed Irish breakfast every Sat. & Sun. from 11am to 3pm. The tavern boasts over 15 beers on tap, 20 different bottled "breakies" and imported Irish brews. Live music and entertainment every Thursday through Sunday night.

General

BARCODE
955 Boylston St., Boston, 421-1818. Enjoy the intimate, windowed dining room or a signature cocktail in the lounge. BARCODE offers a creative martini selection, a balanced and affordable wine list and both bottled and draft beer. Drinks are available until 2 am daily, food served until 1 am.

Cactus Club
939 Boylston St., 236-0200. Get a taste of the Southwest in Boston. Specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, Cajun Catfish. Sample the firewater menu while you are there, including Coyote Killer (Light and dark rum, peach schnapps, ginger beer and mixed juices), or a Chambord Margarita. The daring may go for a dip in the Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Amex, Diners Club, MC and Visa. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurants, in Framingham, Waltham and Needham. www.cactusclub.com.

Harvard Gardens
316 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114, 617-523-2727. A wonderfully relaxed haven located opposite MGH on the back side of Beacon Hill. Serving the finest cocktails and most comfortable food in town. Plant yourself in a comfy booth, a cozy banquette, or at our fully loaded bar and escape from your everyday troubles. Doing it nice & easy 7 days a week - 11am-2am. Major credit cards accepted. Valet parking available.

Encore Lounge
279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 338-7699 A new twist on Boston's Cabaret Tradition! Live Music 7 nites a week 9:30pm-1am (til 2am on Saturdays). Always open mike! Party where the Stars go after the Show!Monday: Michael Larson & Dorothy Miller (Cabaret), Tuesday: BobbyFemino (Piano Bar), Wednesday & Thursday: Michelle Curry (Piano Bar) Friday: John O'Neil & Jan Peters (Cabaret), Satruday: DesPres & DeGraff (Contemporary Cabaret) Sunday: Michael Kreutz (Piano Bar)

Roxy
279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 338-7699 We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

Sweetwater Cafe
3 Boylston Place, 351-2515. A classic American bar featuring Boston's best bands and DJ's nightly. A favorite Boston bar for 15 years with two floors of entertainment, an outdoor patio and world class margaritas. Always great music and cold beer, never a dress code. Available for private functions of any kind. (Credit cards: Am Ex, Visa, MC, Diner's) Tues. - Sat. 5 pm - 2 am. Located in "The Alley."

The Big Easy Bar
1 Boylston Place, Boston, 351-7000. Informal. Located in Boston's version of Bourbon Street, "The Alley." The Big Easy Bar is a hot new New Orleans style bar featuring Boston's best live bands and disc jockeys nightly playing music you know and love. Relax in a lounge, listen to the band, play billiards, hang at the bar or dance the night away. The Big Easy Bar has something fun for everyone. Great beer selection, 22 oz. Hurricanes, 4 huge bars, 2 lounges, a balcony, plenty of seating, and a large dance floor. Wed. - Sat. 8 pm - 2 am.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 725-1051. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998,1999 & 2000 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, Mark Morris & The Catunes, and BaHa Brothers.

The Sugar Shack
1 Boylston Place, 351-2510. "Home of Boston's Best Party." Set in the middle of a mini-Bourbon Street, The Sugar Shack celebrates Mardi-Gras year-round with a carefree, reckless, spontaneous and unpretentious attitude. Carnival lights, confetti, beads, specialty drinks, live bands and Disc Jockeys playing classics, motown, R&B, funk, disco, and old school hip hop from the last three decades mixed with the best of today's top 40. Home of young professional, young alumni, 20 something hipsters who desire cold beer, cocktails, classic party tunes and unadulterated fun!!

Vox Populi
755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300.
Speak your voice at this comfortably sophisticated Back Bay restaurant and bar. With an eclectic style highlighted by rich, vibrant colors and rustic antiques, Vox Populi offers a hip, sleek and intimate atmosphere. Enjoy the first floor bar and fireplace lounge, the second floor bar overlooking bustling Boylston St., or the elegant second floor dining room, (Outdoor patio dining available sesonally). One of Back Bay's most prominent establishments, Vox Populi truly speaks the popular voice.

Comedy

The Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 248-9700. The Comedy Connection located in the heart of historical Faneuil Hall features the biggest names in comedy with apearances by Jon Stewart, Chris Rock, Wendy Liebman and Jay Mohr. Located on the second floor of the Quincy Market Building, the Connection offers the best in local and national stand-up seven nights a week. For more information call 617-248-9700.

Wine Bars

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar
105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston,
292-0966. The hip meeting spot in the Financial District for after work, dinner, late night, or a seductive tryst. The Vault offers some of the most exclusive wines in Boston, which complement the creative American Cuisine prepared by Chef Michael Foley. Can't decide on a wine? Relax and compare with our Tasting Flights featuring selections from different reds and whites. So what are you waiting for? Call an old friend, a client, or a co-worker and meet for cocktails at The Vault today.

RESTAURANTS

Backstage
245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 248-9700. Faneuil Hall's hottest restaurant and nightclub offers the very best in Americana food. Located adjacent to the Commedy Connection you can dance the night away every Wednesday through Sunday with Top 40 and dance classics by DJ's Jonny and Freddi C. For more information call 726-1110.

BARCODE
955 Boylston St., Boston, 421-1818.
BARCODE offers creative food and drink with a truly unique, casual style and atmosphere. Simple yet exotic and flavorful, Executive Chef George Leu's menu features a variety of French bistro fare touched with Asian influences. Dinner served daily 5 pm - 1 am, bar open daily 4:30pm - 2:00am.

Cactus Club
939 Boylston St., 236-0200. Get a taste of the Southwest in Boston. Specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, Cajun Catfish. Sample the firewater menu while you are there, including Coyote Killer (Light and dark rum, peach schnapps, ginger beer and mixed juices), or a Chambord Margarita. The daring may go for a dip in the Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Amex, Diners Club, MC and Visa. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurants, in Framingham, Waltham and Needham. www.cactusclub.com.

Caliterra
89 Broad St., Boston, 348-1234, at the New Wyndham Boston Hotel. Caliterra is heating up the dining climate of Boston's financial district. Our Cal-Ital fare combines contemporary Northern California traits with hearty Tuscan classics and the freshest New England seafood. We accommodate groups in our private dining room, and private parties in our exclusive wine rooms. Enjoy libations in our spacious Caliterra lounge. Reservations recommended. Valet parking available. Breakfast available Mon. - Fri., 6:30 - 11 am; Sat. & Sun., 7 am - 12 noon. Child's breakfast is free with an adult. Lunch daily 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Dinner nightly 5 - 10 pm. Located one block from Boston Harbor and Quincy Marketplace.

Commonwealth Fish & Beer Co.
138 Portland Street, Boston, 523-8383. This revamped restaurant-brewery is the hottest casual seafood spot in Boston. Located in the historic Bullfinch Triangle, near the Fleet Center and Faneuil Hall, Common-wealth features fresh, flavorful, innovative fish & seafood dishes and authentic barbeque. Great food, hand-crafted beers & ales and an inspiring physical space makes this a Boston original. Mon. - Thurs. and Sun. 11:30 am - midnight, Fri. and Sat. 11:30 am -1 am.

The Elephant and Castle
161 Devonshire St., Financial District, Boston, 350-9977. English style Pub offering over 100 types of beer, great food and the financial district's most comfortable bar. Specialties include beer battered fish and chips and shepherd's pie. We also offer a great selection of single malt scotches and a variety of cigars. We have two levels of operation with our lower level providing private rooms for both business meetings and after work parties.

Harvard Gardens
316 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114, 617-523-2727. A wonderfully relaxed haven located opposite MGH on the back side of Beacon Hill. Serving the finest cocktails and most comfortable food in town. Plant yourself in a comfy booth, a cozy banquette, or at our fully loaded bar and escape from your everyday troubles. Doing it nice & easy 7 days a week - 11:30 am - 2 am.

Iguana Cantina
313 Moody St., Waltham, 781-891-3039; 1656 Worcester Rd., Rt. 9, Framingham, 508-875-1188; and 66 Chestnut St., Needham, 781-444-9976. The Iguana Cantina serves a variety of Caribbean, Tex-Mex and Southwestern fare. The atmosphere is fun and the food is tasty. Visit our website at www.theiguanacantina.com.

Mistral
223 Columbus Ave. 867-9300. Acclaimed chef/owner Jamie Mammano's South End restaurant. The design is both elegant and informal, resonating with the ambiance of Provence. Mistral features a crisp linen dining room as well as a casual lounge and bar. Serving dinner Mon-Sun beginning at 5:30pm - 11pm. Late night menu served Thurs-Sat 11pm-12midnight. Reservations recommended-private dining available.

Shenandoah Rest., Marketplace Cafe, Brewskellar Pub
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston 227-1272. Located in the North Market Building of Faneuil Hall, Shenandoah Restaurant, The Marketplace Cafe, and Brewskellar Pub have something for everyone. Whether you're interested in a casual dinner on one of Boston's largest outdoor patios or the quiet more elegant surroundings of Shenandoah Restaurant, we offer it all. Having a function? We cater personally to all events you may be planning. Visit us soon and let us surprise you.

Skipjack's
199 Clarendon St., Copley Sq., 536-3500; 2 Brookline Pl., Brookline, 232-8887; and 55 Needham St., Newton, 964-4244. Enjoy fresh grilled seafood flown in from around the world, in a casual, comfortable atmosphere. Specialties include blackened tuna sashimi, Skipjack's moonfish, Maryland crabcakes, lobsters and gingered calamari. Swing with the infamous Winiker Orchestra and enjoy our Jazz Brunch every Sunday, 11 am - 3 pm in Boston. Also performing in Brookline every Fri. and Sat. evenings from 6 - 10 pm. Reservations accepted and discounted underground parking in Boston and Brookline.

Sunset Grill & Tap
130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 254-1331. Don't just come for Boston's Best Beer Selection featuring 112 taps and 380 microbrews. Come also to enjoy Boston's award winning steam beer burgers and famous curly fries, original buffalo wings and giant nachos. Still hungry? Try our juicy BBQ steak tips, grilled fish, homemade pastas, tender Yankee ribs or our sizzling fajitas. Full menu until 1 am.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Market-place Boston, 725-1051. Winner of Improper's 1997, 1998,1999 & 2000 Boston's Best awards. 1998 Boston Magazine's Best of Boston award. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

The Vault Bistro & Wine Bar
105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston, 292-9966. A wonderful secret hidden in Boston's Financial District. The Vault offers contemporary American cuisine and an extensive and exclusive affordable wine list. Come in and enjoy creative dishes prepared by Chef Michael Foley. Lunch Mon. - Fri. from 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Dinner Mon. - Wed. from 5:30 - 10:30 pm, Thurs. - Sat. from 5:30 - 11 pm. Closed Sun.

Vox Populi

755 Boylston Street, Boston, 424-8300.
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Watch City Brewing Co.

256 Moody St. Waltham 781-647-4000
Top Ten Reasons To Visit Watch City:
10. At the top of Waltham's restaurant row 9. Easy access from Rt.128 & Masspike 8. Free parking 7. The Embassy Cinema next door 6. Award winning chef & brewers 5. www. watchcitybrew.com 4. Live music Wed & Thurs. nights 3. Great grilled seafood, steaks & burgers 2. Only female owned brew pub in USA 1. Great beers, great food, always a great time.

The Wrap & Smoothie Bar

137 Mass Ave., Boston (at Berklee School of Music), 369-9087; 71 Mt. Auburn St., Harvard Square, 354-5838; 1940 Beacon St., Cleveland Circle, 739-0340; 82 Water St., Financial District, 357-9013. The Wrap serves delicious, freshly prepared wraps, burritos and salads as well as healthy and refreshing smoothies. Voted Boston's Best 1998 & 1999 by The Improper Bostonian. Fresh ingredients, great taste, healthy options - words we live by!

BRUNCH

Atlantic 101

101 Atlantic Ave., Boston 723-5101. A waterfront live jazz brunch is the perfect Sunday start at Atlantic 101 from 11:30am - 2:30pm featuring a creative a la carte menu and soothing live jazz. Sample favorites as Eggs Benedict, Huevos Rancheros, or try out our crowd pleasing Poached Eggs with Maine Crab Cakes, Smoked Bacon and Creole Mustard Hollandaise. Burgers, crepes and Lobster round out the menu as well. Call 723-5101 for reservations. Atlantic 101 also features live piano and vocals at night, Tuesday through Saturday. Lunch daily from 11:30am-2:30pm. Dinner daily from 5:00-10:30pm.

Museum of Science - Skyline Room

Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston, MA 02114. Powers of Nature, October 6-March 4. Enjoy Sunday brunch in the beautiful Skyline Room overlooking the Charles River at noon, then experience the amazing Mugar Omni Theater: Wild California at 2pm. Tickets are $28 for Adults, $26 for Seniors/ Children. Brunch only is $20. On-site parking is included. Reservations recommended, call (617)723-2500.

Skipjack's

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Last Scene Here

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

At the Cartier party, from top: Kelley and Paul Verrochi; Lisa Mastrianni modeling jewels for Santa; Jeannie Flynn.

SIZE MATTERS...

Super swanky and absurdly crowded—that about sums up **Cartier**'s annual holiday party.

A benefit for the **Epiphany School**, it was held at the jeweler's newly redesigned Newbury Street store and attracted the likes of Cartier's president and CEO, **Alain Viot**, bachelor-about-town **Bob Palmer**, interior design guru **Douglas Truesdale**, the naturally carbonated **Kate Shamon**, Internet advertising sage **Duncan Hughes**, non-profit princess **Kelley Verrochi** and her gazillionaire husband, **Paul**, the enormously chic **Hoda Abou-Jamra**, ubiquitous boy wonder **Domenic Puopolo** with stunning makeup artist **Coco Grace**, petite blonde Beacon Hillion **Tess Atkinson**, the statuesque **Katie Steckler**, preppy hipster **John Sharpe**, real estate mack daddy **Bruce Percelay**, boyish HBS student **Chris Laitala** (whose gorgeous wife, **Laura**, works at the store), Clark Kent lookalike **Mark Childs**, and so on and so forth, through the list of young, social, charitable Bostonians.

In addition to free-flowing bubbly and some very tasty hors d'oeuvres, waiters circulated with large buckets of Beluga and Ossetra (a plus at any party), and guests could pose for pictures on Santa's lap while wearing a $1.9 million sapphire and diamond necklace and a $2.3 million, 75-carat canary diamond ring.

"I think you should buy it for your wife," suggested one guest to another, but in true Boston style, the wife piped in with, "Anything over 20 carats is just vulgar."

ART APPRECIATION...

Mardi Gras may be months away, but there was more than a whiff of it at **Venetian Fantasy**—a benefit for the **Fenway Community Health Endowment**.

The ballroom of the **Ritz-Carlton** was decorated with the extraordinary and over-the-top costumes that Parisian artist **Roberto Garcia-York** has designed for Carnival in Venice, and guests "oohed" and "ahhed" over his creations throughout dinner. Among those in attendance: honorary chairs **Alan** and **Vivien Hassenfeld** (a.k.a. Mr. and Mrs. Hasbro Toys), the philanthropic **Jaimes-Branger** brothers, **Raphael** and **Ricardo**, hot patootie **Carolina Tress Balsbaugh** and impish interior designer **Manuel de Santaren**, kabuki socialite **Marilyn Riseman**, bon vivant art collector **Arnold Sapenter**, improbably handsome hairstylist **Gary Croteau**, investor and adventuress **Enid Beal**, the eternally smiley **Tom Eberhardt** and his equally affable other half, **Dan Burns**, AIDS crusader **Ken Mayer**, Brahmin party pair **Zenas** and **Susan Crocker**, home furnishings designer **Eliot Wright**, and numerous equally fabulous others.

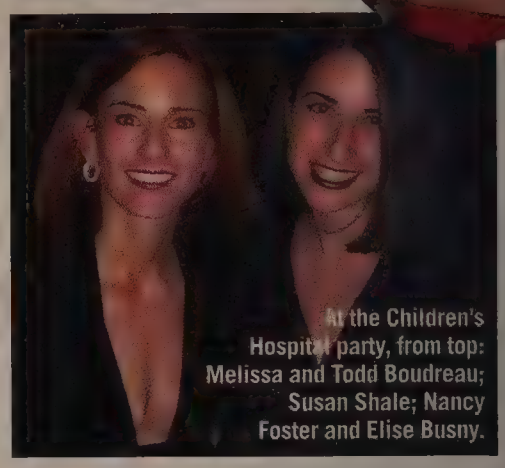
Documentary filmmaker **Meg Tallon** may have won the raffle prize (a gorgeous glass vase), but the award for getting into the spirit of Carnival went to the woman who hiked up her skirt during dinner to show her tablemates the tattoos on each of her thighs. Apparently, a pattern connects the two just below her navel, but that's the sort of thing you don't get to see until after dessert.

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS ...

It's somewhat ironic but proof-positive of what a fabulous Christmas party it was that at least half of the guests at **Festival 2000**, a benefit for the **Children's Hospital League**, were Jewish.

Held at the **Westin**, the annual black-tie dinner-dance features designer Christmas trees and wreaths, elaborate gingerbread houses and a block-long silent auction, and this year attracted such bright, young things as the impossibly beautiful **Melissa Boudreau** and her attorney husband, **Todd**, clothing designer **Denise Hajjar**, co-chair **Nancy Foster**, committee member **Honey Ente**, the hale and hearty **Greg Rudolph** with wife, **Carolyn**, legal eagle **Bob Sherman** and his stunning spouse, **Ellen**, the perfectly charming

At the Venetian Fantasy party, clockwise: Zenas and Susan Crocker; a tattooed thigh; Alan Hassenfeld and Barbara Quiroga; Hoda Abou-Jamra with Roberto Garcia-York and his wife.



At the Children's Hospital party, from top: Melissa and Todd Boudreau; Susan Shale; Nancy Foster and Elise Busny.

Mark and **Elise Busny**, brunette bombshell **Susan Shale,** and party fixture **Lynne Smith**, as always sporting a kooky costume she designed for the occasion.

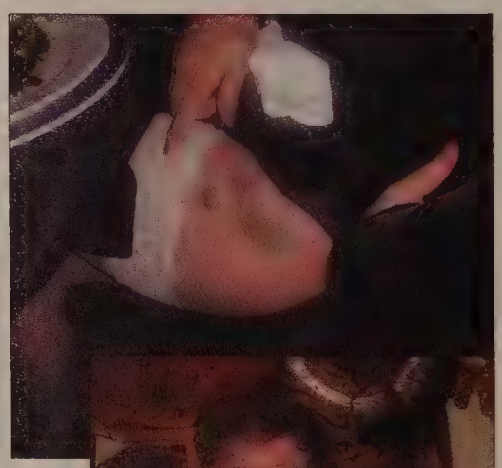
All in all, quite an evening, but it did beg the question: Why no designer menorahs?

BAD ASS ALERT...

A friend informs us that a woman of some renown was spotted recently at Club Cafe, asking male patrons if she could squeeze their butts on the pretext that she was writing a story for this magazine.

While we applaud her ingenuity and initiative, we feel it's our duty to inform our readers that at no time has the IMPROPER BOSTONIAN endorsed or conducted such a survey.

We'd also like to point out, as an F.Y.I. for the lady in question, that the men who frequent Club Cafe are more apt to enjoy squeezing each other's butts than to have theirs fondled by a member of the opposite sex.



WHO'S THAT GIRL?

On page 79 of *The New Yorker*'s Dec. 4 issue, a pair of photographs from an upcoming art exhibit appears above the caption: "Showcase by Jessica Craig-Martin...The artist's shots of swanky affairs in places like Southampton and L.A. appear in 'Party Pictures: From Studio 54 to Cannes 2000,' at Lawrence Rubin Greenberg Van Doren, from December 13th."

In both pictures, the camera focuses on the subjects' chests and their faces are cropped out, but the top photo is unmistakably of Boston model and swanlike socialite **Hollis Colby** with retired banker and former Bostonian **Ed Allinson**.

How can we be so sure? We'd recognize that décolletage anywhere. Besides, we called Hollis to confirm. iB

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